

Lake Villa District Library

Outdoor Space Master Plan





PREPARED FOR



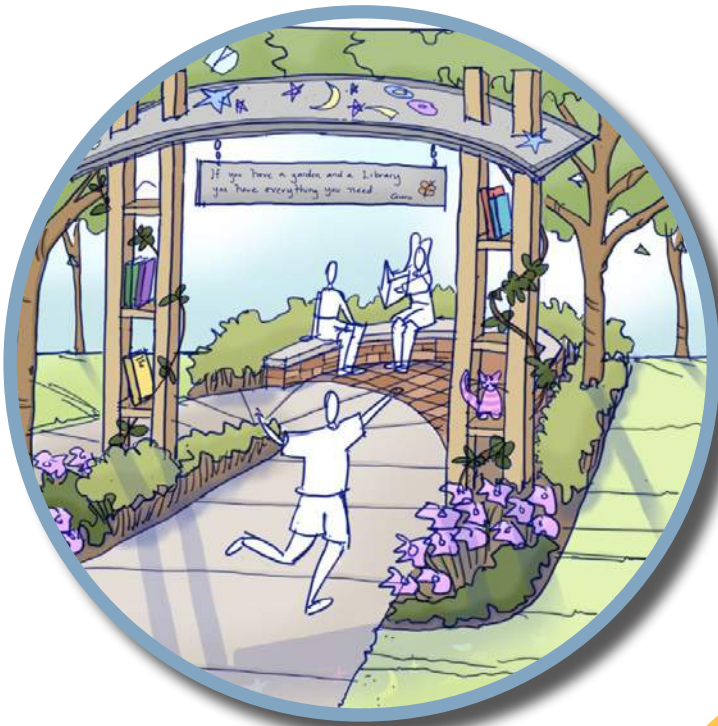
CONSULTANT TEAM



Front cover image by Meg Gruchot

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INTRODUCTION

Background

In August 2019, Lake Villa District Library (LVDL) opened the doors on a state-of-the-art 66,000 SF new facility in Lindenhurst, Illinois. Situated on the east edge of a thirty-acre site on Crooked Lake, the three-story building takes full advantage of the topography of the site, climbs the 30-foot slope and offers commanding views of the surrounding woodland and wetland remnants and adjacent lake. While the building and adjacent parking and stormwater facilities were developed completely, the balance of the site remained untouched.

Once settled in their new home, the Library set out to better understand how patrons and the overall community view and use the new facility, commissioning a LVDL Learning Report and a Community Survey. Respondents' data and the subsequent LVDL Strategic Plan FY2022-FY2024 outlined, in addition to many other wants, desires and directives, the aspiration to be "welcoming and inclusive", the goal to strive to be a "community haven" and the tactic to "have vibrant and inviting spaces to gather and connect" through "enhanced outdoor spaces and trails that connect to other community spaces."

But what should these enhanced outdoor spaces and trails look like? And how can the site specifically reflect what a library landscape should contain to best advance LVDL's mission, strengthen its brand and outreach, and secure its place as a beloved community haven? In fall 2021, the LVDL commissioned this Outdoor Master Space Plan to verify goals, define a program and approach, explore and advance unique design solutions, develop consensus, and document the master plan's process, outdoor space solutions, and their estimated costs, to serve as a guide to the development, protection and restoration of this unique land asset.



The front entrance to the Lake Villa District Library showing the drop off zone and stairs leading up the east parking lot.



View of Crooked Lake from the children's reading area.



View of Crooked Lake from the northwest reading area of the second floor.



View looking south of the library showing open window views to the surrounding natural areas.



Hastings Creek connects to Crooked Lake on the southeast corner of the property.



There are two large detention areas on site created to manage stormwater. The south detention pond is pictured here.



The east parking lot includes a geothermal heating system.

*“We cultivate meaningful relationships resulting in a strong connection to the library, between community members, and with community partners”
Lake Villa District Library goal*

SITE ANALYSIS

Existing Conditions

The site analysis was developed through site walks by the consultant team and additional walks with library staff.

As the new facility is only a few years old, the site hardscape (walks and parking lot) is all in good condition. The main entry is gracious and welcoming with its overhead canopy and whimsical planters – a great introduction to what awaits inside. The paved area to its east appears sparse and underutilized, and could benefit from some additional seating, landscape and shade. The adjacent stepped terraces offer dramatic views to the west, but also appear stark and lack shade. Gravel pathways on the west of the building are too narrow for two-way, pedestrian traffic and have gravel kick-out, weed, and metal edge installation issues and should be replaced with more durable, wider paths. The terrace spaces adjacent to the west side lower level are too small for group activities and they lack basic elements of site furnishings and shade. The built-in planters are too narrow and under the overhang of the building to easily facilitate plants, adding irrigation or repurposing them should be considered.

The location and quantity of parking appears to be more than adequate for normal library operations. Access from the parking lots to the main entry and east entry are good, but getting from the south parking lot to the lower-level

terraces requires a trip completely around or through the building to accomplish in a safe, accessible manner. The building capitalizes on the large lot, it's thirty-feet of grade change, and panoramic views of nature to the north, west and south, providing large areas of windows on every level.

Additionally, there are many access doors on all levels and sides of the building. However, only those doors with vestibules are available for patrons to access adjacent outdoor areas due to the indoor climate control they provide the building when frequently opened. There is a public sidewalk along Munn Road, but no walkways, or even dirt paths that connect the building or parking lots to the site's perimeter, its woodland and wetland remnants or the shore of Crooked Lake, making the majority of the site inaccessible to most library users.



View of the south parking lot with the woodland tree canopy in the background. The south parking lot provides access to the main entrance.



View of Crooked Lake from the east parking lot.



Visitors can access the northern part of the site and west terraces via a curving ramp connected to the east parking lot.



Balconies provide elevated views to Crooked Lake and the woodland around the library.



View looking up to the south parking lot. There is currently no direct access between the south parking lot and the lower level outdoor space.



While the library has several entry points, access to most of these doors is restricted to fire egress only.



View of the public drop off lane, book drop-off, and service entrance. This secondary entrance provides direct access to the east parking lot.



North facade of the building has an inaccessible small courtyard and large windows with views to Crooked Lake.



Existing benches are of high quality but lack backs or armrests.



Existing bike racks



Benches and trash receptacles are located along the walking paths.



Planters are decorated on a seasonal basis.

Site Furnishings & Lighting

Site furnishings on the site vary per component. Bench seating is located at the main entry, in the terraces along the stairway up to the east entry, and along the oval lawn on the west side of the building. While the seating is all of high quality, the concrete benches lack backs and armrests and are placed in areas lacking shade. The benches along the oval have backs and armrests, but are installed too close the path, creating a conflict. They also lack shade. Seating should be added to the east entry.

The variety of seating options should be expanded to include tables (with and without umbrellas) that will accommodate

a variety of group sizes. Bike parking for fourteen near the main entry appears adequate at this time and is easily expandable if demand increases. Trash receptacles appear throughout the site and should be expanded to include recyclable content and as destinations within the site increase.

Site lighting appears adequate for the parking lots and their accessible routes into the building. The balance of the site and gravel and asphalt paths lack lighting. As the site and landscape development increase, strategic use of lighting and power distribution should be deployed to extend the use of spaces into the evening and facilitate events, while restricting the use of lighting in high-quality and remote natural areas of the site.



Light fixtures are located around the existing main loop. Light features should be kept at a minimum to discourage after hour visitors.



Several inlets on site fail to capture water as it travels from the eastern side of the site down to Crooked Lake.



There is a +/- 30 foot drop from the eastern parking lot down to the outdoor walking loop and lake ridge.

Existing Stormwater Facilities

Stormwater facilities on the site are doing their job in most instances. There are a few structures to the west and north of the building that need to be adjusted in order to properly intercept stormwater. Additional inlets will likely be needed as areas of the site develop. The two new stormwater basins are functioning properly, however the underdrains in both basins are already clogging and invasive wetland vegetation is starting to take over the basin bottom.

The native seeding in these areas and in other locations on site does not appear to have taken and the areas are overrun with invasive and low-quality native species

and should be redone to establish high-quality natural areas. The large turf area to the north of the building and into the tree line to the north should be evaluated, as it is mostly sloped and not of much use as an activity area. Exploring managed wetland bottom basins may enhance the desired outcomes of this plan and mitigate the maintenance issues that have already begun to develop in the existing basin bottoms.



Existing rain garden on the eastern side of the south parking lot.



The south detention basin during the summer shows vegetative growth, albeit most is invasive/low quality.

“While the immediate traditional outdoor space offers many opportunities beyond that of a traditional library, perhaps the most unique feature of the site is the nearly 10 acres of natural areas just waiting to be explored and incorporated into library programs.”

Landscape Character

The traditional landscape beds, in general, are in good condition, with only a few areas experiencing poor plant growth or plant losses. Many of the plantings are young and have yet to fill their beds. There are areas where the turf seeding has not established well, with poor or shallow soil and poor drainage as the culprits. Specific species (Pagoda Dogwood, and a few others) are not faring well due to poor site selection and should be replaced with species more adaptable. Rutting deer are damaging young trees (ginkgos and others), especially those near the lake. Many of the evergreen trees placed on site, will either outgrow their location or block important views to the lake and should be removed/relocated.

While the immediate traditional outdoor space offers many opportunities beyond that of a traditional library, perhaps the most unique feature of the site is the nearly 10 acres of natural areas just waiting to be explored and incorporated into library programs. Not only does the property boast natural areas unique to regional library sites, but these areas represent a

diverse set of habitats and ecologic features. Native oak woodlands, undeveloped natural lake shoreline, a tributary stream corridor, wooded wetlands, marsh, and even a remnant sedge meadow all lie just beyond the edge of the mowed turf areas.

These areas have all been anthropomorphically influenced and are in need of restorative care to combat changes in hydrology and encroachment by noxious invasive species, but the opportunities are nearly limitless when it comes to programming the future of the LVDL. A combination of natural areas restoration with access improvements and incorporation of these natural areas into community engagement and educational programming will provide an entirely unique setting. This will greatly aid the library in its goal to become a region leading facility.



View of the existing landscape buffer and the woodland canopy lining the shore of Crooked Lake.



View of the existing wetland area adjacent to Crooked Lake.



Much of the existing foundation landscaping is young but is growing. Some dieback has occurred due to poor soils or drainage issues.



Steep slopes could be enhanced with more landscaping and accessible connections to other pedestrian areas.



This partially enclosed area adjacent to the teen program room is underutilized and could provide some respite space. The evergreen trees are also misplaced and are too close to the walkway.



The existing loop creates an open space that lacks programming or areas to sit comfortably to view the lake.



Existing evergreen trees will block views to the natural areas and the lake once they reach maturity.



The northern landscape and woodland edge are important to enhance and maintain. They provide screening to neighbors to the north of the property.

Overall Site Analysis

- ❶ Crooked Lake is a private lake managed by an association, there is no public access
- ❷ Evidence of natives in remnant sedge meadow, native woodland species observed to be peaking out, buckthorn has taken over areas
- ❸ Consider screening property edge against future development of adjacent property
- ❹ Create access to lower area from the south parking lot
- ❺ Terraces become hot spots during the afternoon, shade is much needed in this area so the outdoor spaces can be used by patrons and employees
- ❻ Gravel path is holding up but edge is creating several tripping hazards, furnishings are too close to the walk, the path is too narrow
- ❼ Large plants placed in locations that block views to the lake, and adjacent spaces
- ❽ Unused open space that would benefit from flexible programming
- ❾ Potential for bike connectivity to support local and regional improvement plans and bike integration
- ❿ Shelter like areas needed to provide shade, reading, rest, and meditation
- ⓫ Storm water inlets set too high to function



- 12 Take advantage of and enhance views from inside the building and terraces
- 13 Screen adjacent neighbors
- 14 Detention ponds / rain gardens have poorly established native seed with invasive species taking over into the landscape buffer, there is some concern over long term function of underdrains for volume below outlet elevation
- 15 Snow piling / staging area during winter months
- 16 Relocated dumpster
- 17 Sculpture creates a quiet space & focal point but lacks planting to support the space
- 18 Under utilized path that leads to a dead end, signs of deer ruts on trunks
- 19 Roof drain outfall in turf
- 20 Wet area with failing plants
- 21 Steep slopes adjacent to building



Existing sculpture begins to create a quiet space & focal point but still lacks furniture and planting to support the space.



South terraces become hot spots during the afternoon. Shade is much needed in this area and elsewhere so the outdoor spaces can be used by patrons and employees.



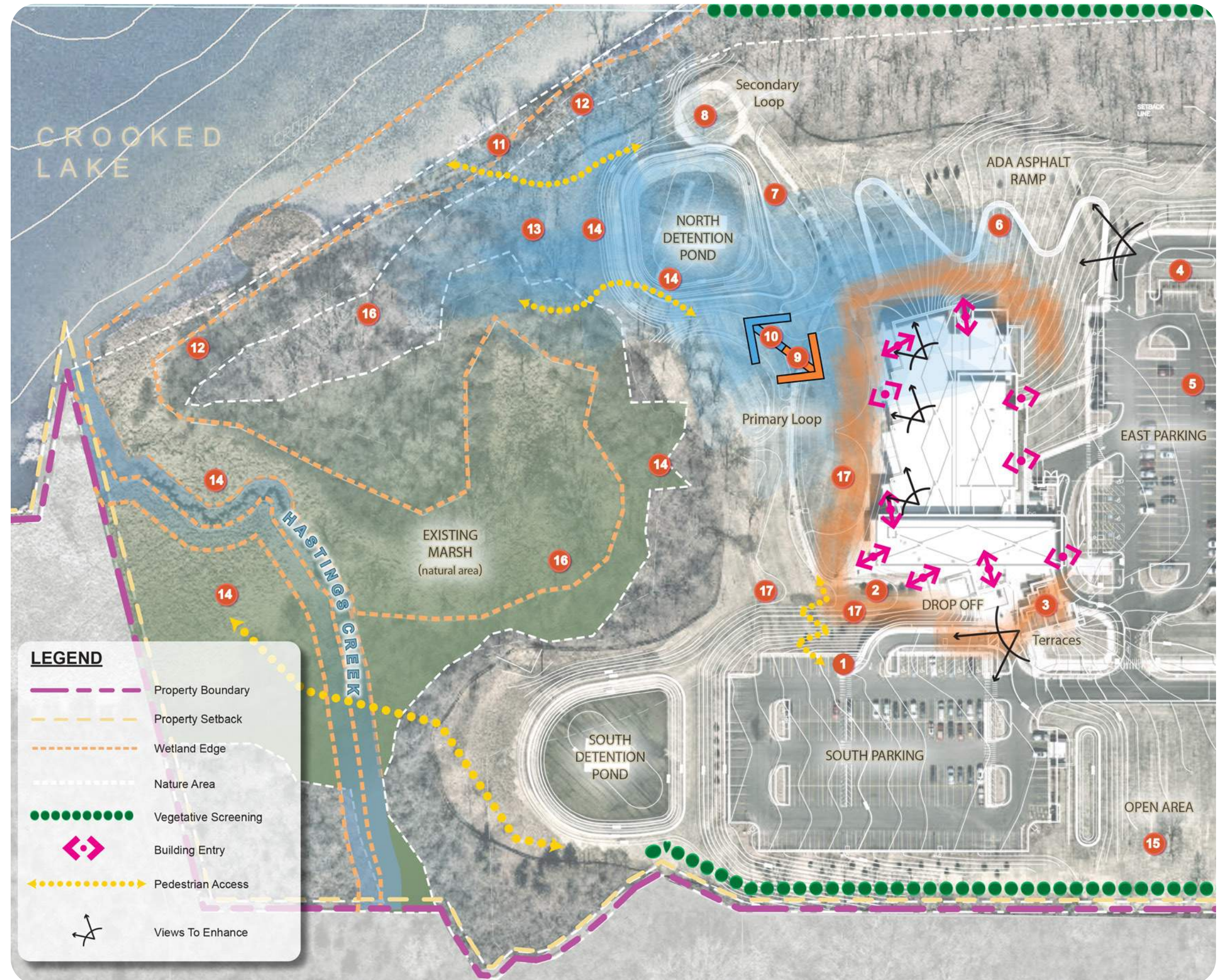
The architectural elements of the building and stairway access door provides opportunities for different activity courtyards.



The existing under utilized path leads to a dead end.

Opportunity Analysis

- 1 Create access from and to parking lot
- 2 Walled area by teenage programming room has potential for outdoor activity with outdoor tables and seating, potential for enclosed play space
- 3 Shade needed but sky access for night time star gazing would be beneficial too, sculpture area would benefit from some planting to create a quiet gathering space
- 4 Propose new landscape plants that will perform better in poor soils with poor drainage or fix damage
- 5 Tell the story of sustainability, including geothermal heating system in the parking lot and features from the building
- 6 Enhance the asphalt path with seating areas to views of the lake, there are not any rest areas on walk that are necessary for ADA accessibility, good area to create an amphitheater or sloped play
- 7 Story walk programming that creates opportunities for curiosity with outdoor reading areas and reading nooks
- 8 Open space could serve for group programming such as council rings for outdoor teaching and story telling
- 9 Create active structured spaces and programming (shown in orange) closer to the building, keep noise level closer to the building away from the neighbors
- 10 Create respite spaces (shown in blue) closer to the lake that take advantages of the quieter environment as the site



becomes more natural, allows for more individualistic activities such as painting, photography, and reading, create more nature play

11 Evaluate trees and shoreline, create a plan to promote successful native ecologies, clear invasive species, declining trees, and reuse felled wood for furnishings

12 Boardwalk and viewing platforms with no direct access to enter the water

13 Bring power to areas to allow phone charging and laptop plug-in and events

14 Add educational signage identifying different plant and animal communities, natural water ways, storm water detention areas

15 Flexible open space that could be used for both temporary and permanent exhibits / activities

16 Restoration efforts should clear out invasive species, stabilize bank edges, and create areas for remnant / restored high quality understory to thrive

17 Improve / enhance drainage. Implement native BMP (Best Management Practices) approaches in some areas



There is opportunity and demand to provide a southern accessible connection to the lower open space area.



Flexible open space in the southeast of the site that could be used for both temporary & permanent exhibits/activities.



Major grade changes on site are both a challenge and a major asset that make this library unique.



The woodland edge on the south side of the property could connect to the public sidewalk on Munn Road.

PROGRAM INPUT & DEVELOPMENT

Background

In order to understand community, library patron, and library staff and management's wants and expectations for the development of the outdoor spaces, public meetings were held with all parties. Participants were able to voice their opinions on what should and should not be considered for inclusion in the master plan. Existing site plans were displayed for attendees to place comments on to denote both potential site opportunities and site restraints.

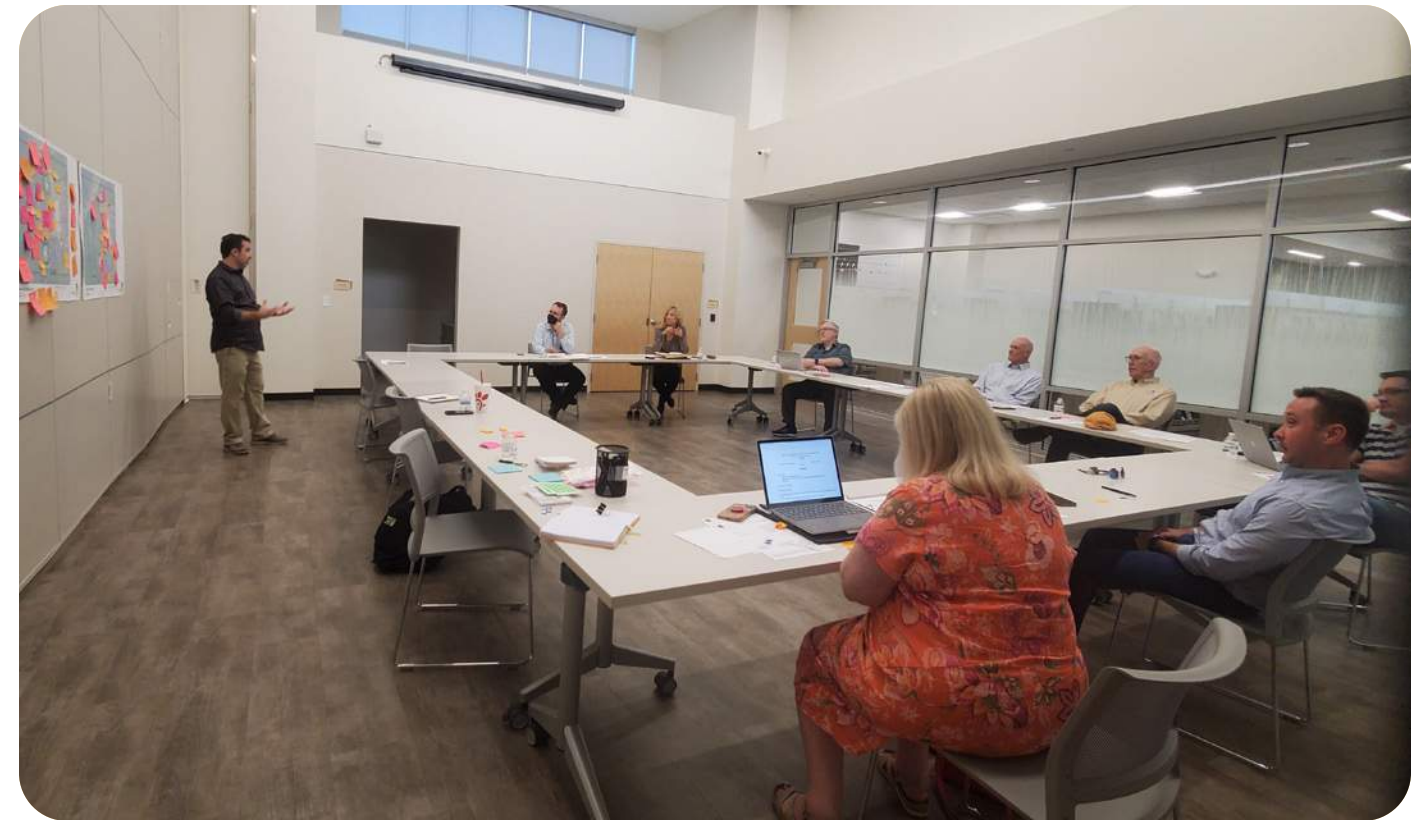
In order to reach as wide a community swath as possible, and in tandem with in-person meetings, programing preferences and usage data was gathered via an online and in-library survey. Participants were asked a series of questions (not duplicating the survey data collected in 2021 LVDL survey) relating to how they currently use and would use the facility if specific types of physical improvements were made. They also could elaborate on what their dream library landscape would contain.

Additionally, a stakeholder committee was established with representation of the Library management and staff, the Library Board, and the Lindenhurst Park District to review milestones within the design process and offer feedback to the consultant team. The comments from all four meetings were documented and the items receiving a consensus of the majority

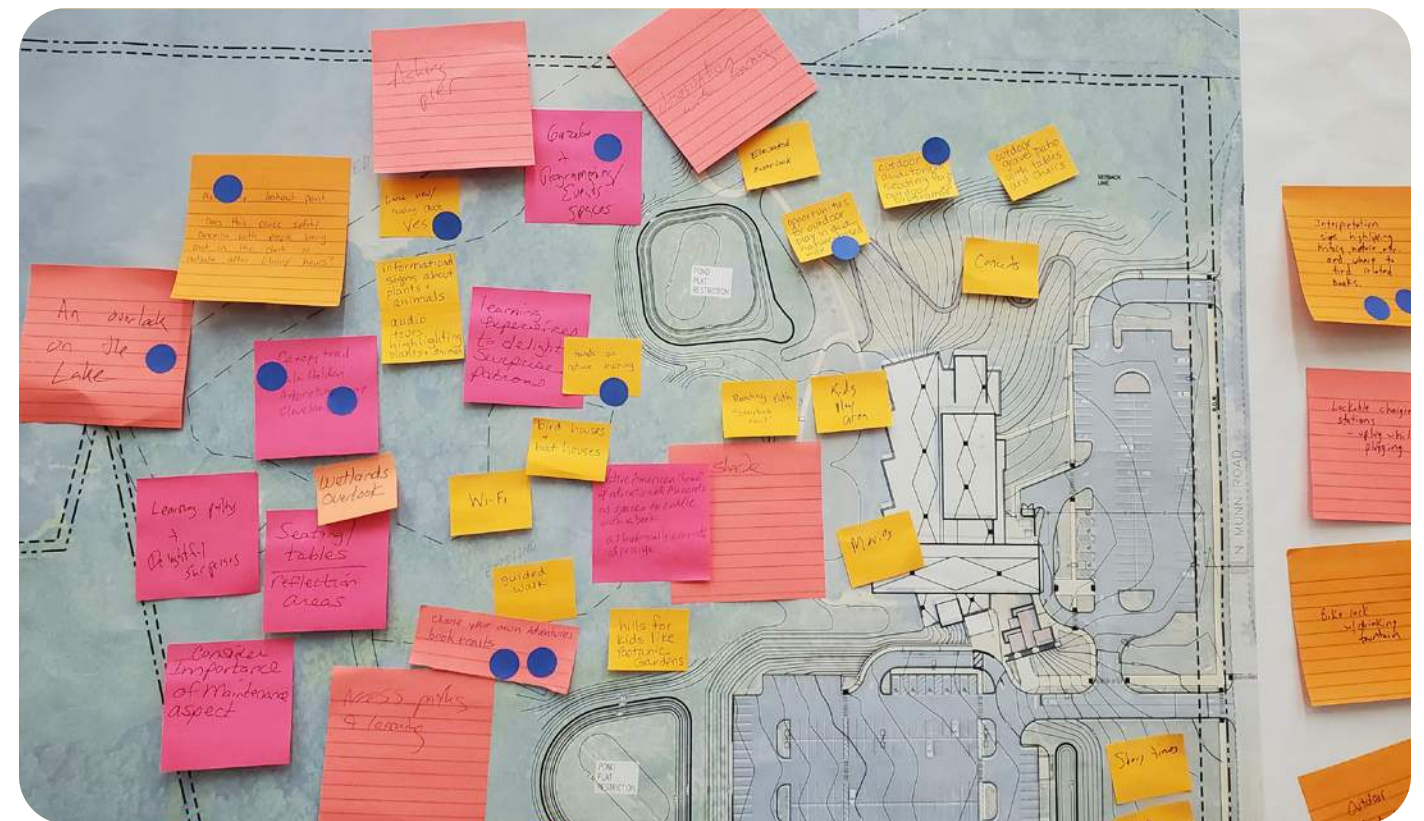
were highlighted as potential program elements. This list was further distilled by the stakeholder committee, producing the following program elements and goals to become the benchmarking for the design:

Overarching Design Principals/Goals

1. Engage all user groups, ages, and abilities
2. Provide destination quality outdoor gathering spaces
3. Encourage exploration, wonder and whimsy
4. Educate thru signage, exhibits and storytelling
5. Improve connectivity and hospitality
6. Enhance the site's natural resources and sustainability
7. Promote environmental stewardship
8. Show and instill community pride
9. Tell the story of a modern library
10. Engage with technology positively
11. Foster collaboration between the Library, local schools, local park districts and other local and county institutions such as the Lake Villa Historical Society.
12. Increase "creature comforts" (i.e. shade, seating, etc.) to increase time spent in outdoor learning areas



The design team met with board members to discuss adjustments, potential, and opportunities on site.



Participants wrote down their notes and placed them on the site map.

**Primary Program Elements
(mandetory for sucess)**

1. Pathway connections (4-8’ widths)

- a. Strong connection to the south parking lot
- b. Connections through the natural areas of the site
- c. Convert main paved routes from gravel to concrete

2. Lake shoreline / creek access

- a. Enhanced engagement with Crooked Lake, but not direct access
- b. Directed access / crossing(s) of Hastings Creek
- c. Enhance and clear views to lake

3. Enhance entry plaza spaces

- a. Increase main entry hospitality / shade
- b. Add shade, comfortable furnishings to plaza terraces
- c. Create a quiet seating area at the entry plaza sculpture

4. Outdoor meeting areas / classroom(s)

- a. Expand outdoor terraces at lower level exit doors for various functions
- b. Take advantage of the enclosed area created by the building and south lot retaining walls to develop an enclosed garden / learning space at the lower level

5. Active areas and quiet respites

- a. Create nature inspired play spaces that minimize the use of traditional playground equipment
- b. Learning experiences should be self-guided and provide opportunities for staff/volunteers to setup learning activities in key areas
- c. Develop activity areas that include support services to ease regular programming
- d. Create quiet spaces that promote reading, contemplation, and conversation

6. Amphitheater / stage

- a. Create venues to host a variety of performances / presentations that complement offerings by other community agencies and organizations and showcase local talent

7. Activity lawn spaces

- a. Develop, grade, and drain lawn areas to increase their health and function as event spaces

8. Shade via trees and shade structures

- a. Plan for the installation of both trees and shade structures to offer shade immediately and in the future. This is especially important during programs that bring large number of attendees; up to +/- 200 people

9. Public art (local artists, permanent and temporary)

- a. Create a variety of sculpture locations for curation by the LVDL

10. Site furniture (evaluate existing and add)

- a. Benches (with backs and armrests)
- b. Tables & Chairs (fixed seating in open areas, moveable seating in secured areas)
- c. Trash / recycle receptacles
- d. Bike Racks

11. Landscape improvements / demonstrative gardens

- a. Develop alternative plantings for areas of the site that are failing
- b. Create a diverse array of new gardens that demonstrate a variety of plant communities
- c. Remove invasive species & trees that are in decline, helping areas of remnant high quality understory to rebound
- d. Protect existing quality tree species (i.e., existing larger oak trees near lake)
- e. Stabilize bank edges along the creek and lake
- f. Implement a native BMP (Best Management Practices) approach in some areas

12. Lighting

- a. Evening activity lighting
- b. Security lighting
- c. Dark-sky compliant

13. Bring power / charging stations into the landscape to for event uses and to leverage technology

14. Repair grading and drainage issues

- a. Regrade or replant areas that are too steep to easily maintain lawn
- b. Adjust / add storm inlets to function better and drain wet areas
- c. Replace soil to the proper soil depth and quality to promote healthy plant growth
- d. Implement BMP (Best Management Practices) approach in some areas

Opportunities

With the Site Analysis completed and the Program developed and approved, design opportunities were explored. A handful of opportunities propose solutions to improve the few existing issues on the site, with the majority looking to take LVDL to the next level in providing services, activities and information to its patrons and the greater community. These opportunities were distilled and prioritized, until only those most mission-driven, promising and popular were advanced into portions of the master plan.



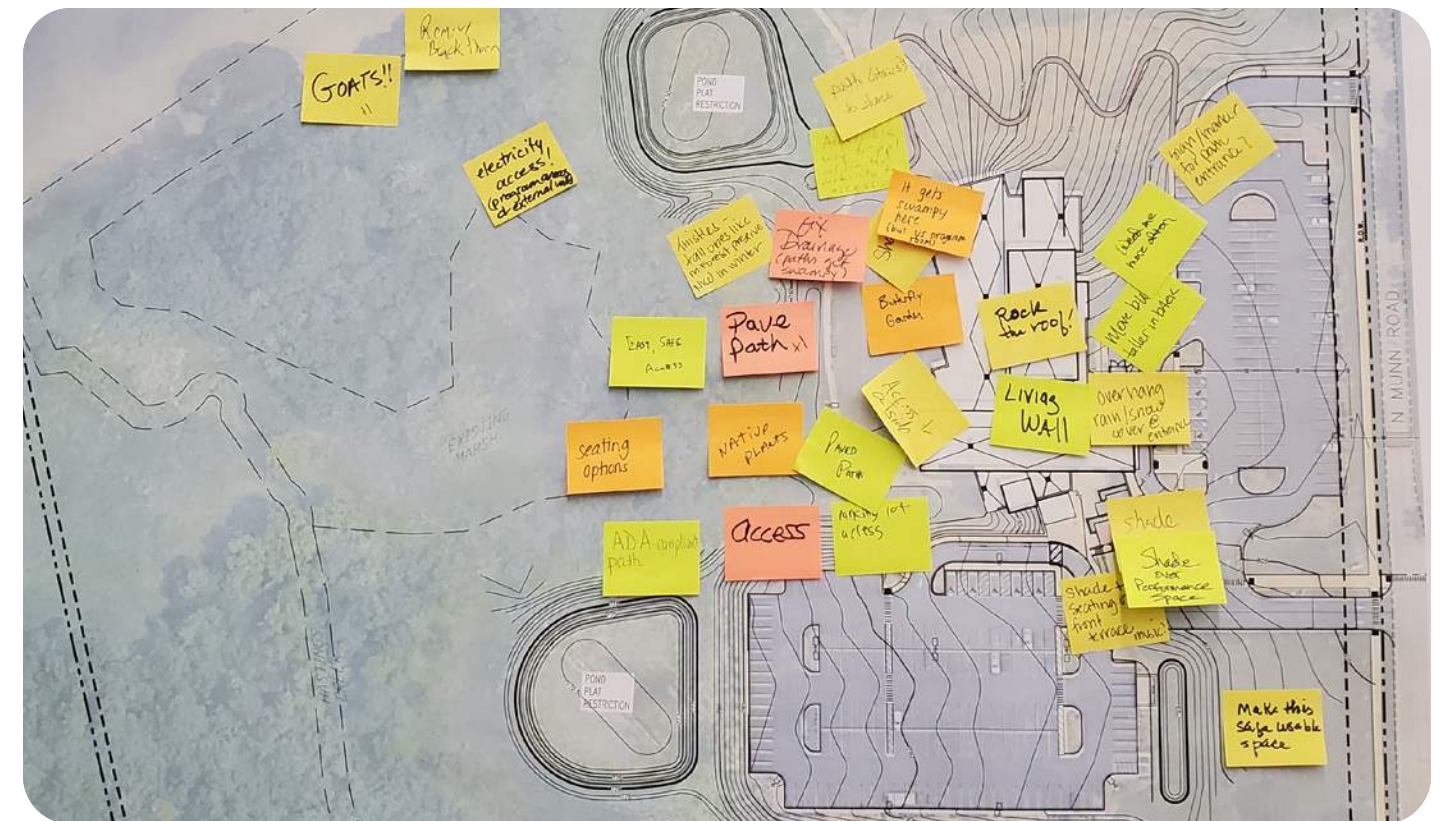
Interactive charettes provided the design team with valuable local knowledge.



The need for shade around the building was mentioned several times.



A staff meeting allowed for the design team to learn directly from the users and programmers of the site.



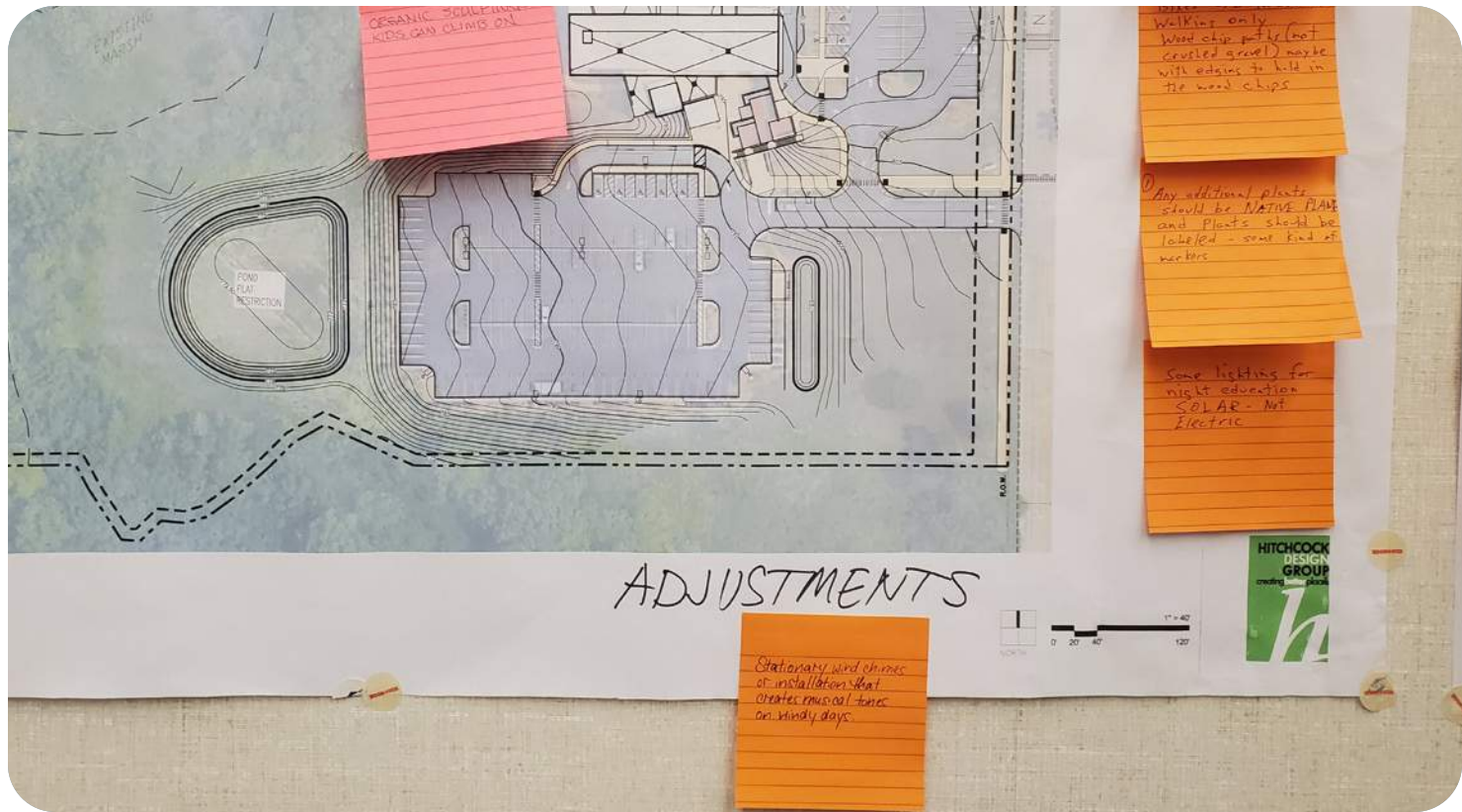
Outdoor space improvements directly outside the building were shown to be the most important for staff.



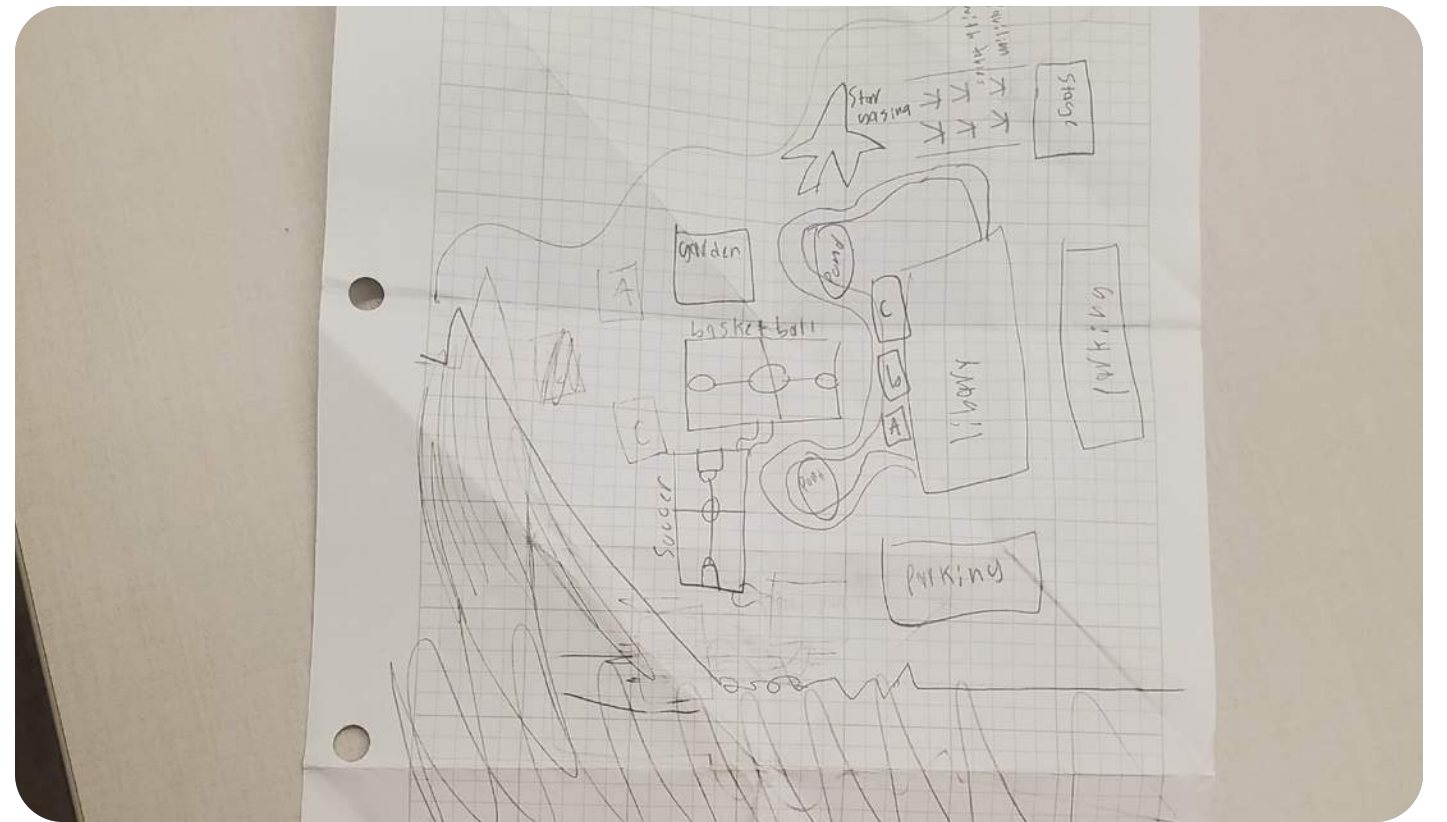
A public meeting allowed for users and neighbors to voice their desires and concerns.



Library patrons value the natural areas around the library and view environmental stewardship as important.



Outdoor exploration and natural experiences are valued by many library patrons.



Some of the youngest library patrons provide some of the best illustrated options for the site.

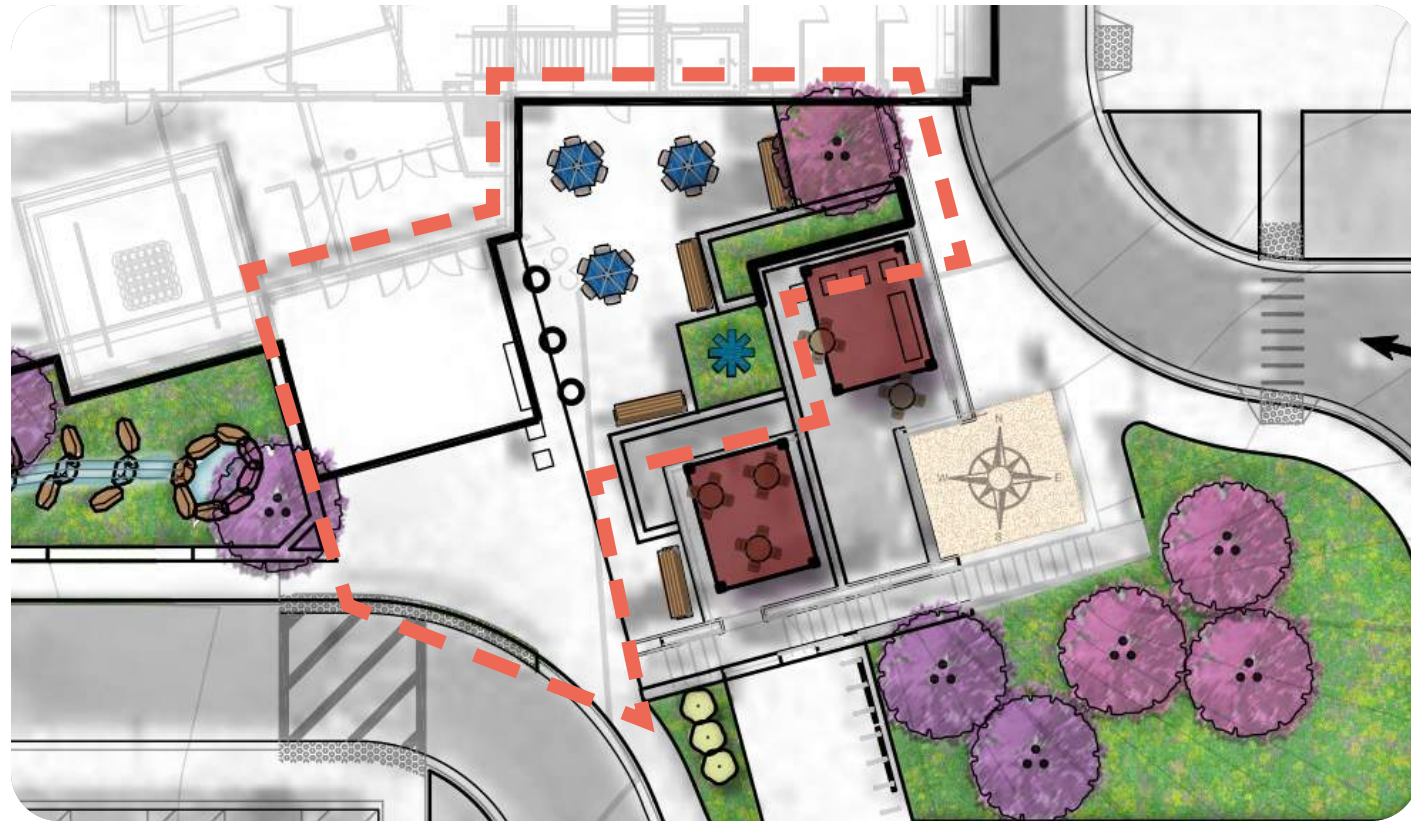
THE MASTER PLAN

Overview

This master plan proposes a series of improvements that create outdoor spaces that will facilitate LVDL in advancing its mission to provide amenities, resources and programming that encourage reading and storytelling, life-long learning, immersion in the arts, physical and emotional wellbeing, and showcase local community and history. The plan is not meant to be cast in stone, but rather to serve as a series of mapped recommendations and guidelines to promote the active use and stewardship of the site by the LVDL community. Over time, user expectations, technologies and trends will change and assessments of this plan and revisions should be made to confirm that these elements remain in the best interests of LVDL, its patrons and the community.

To better understand the order and organization of the master plan elements described, think of the overall site with the library building at it center. The first group of proposed improvements are directly outside the building, and are revealed starting at the main building entry, moving clockwise around the building – the inner loop elements. Further out is another series of improvement creating an outer loop. There are also frequent connection points between the two loops, offering a myriad of pathway routes for travel and discovery.





Plan Enlargement

Main Entry Plaza

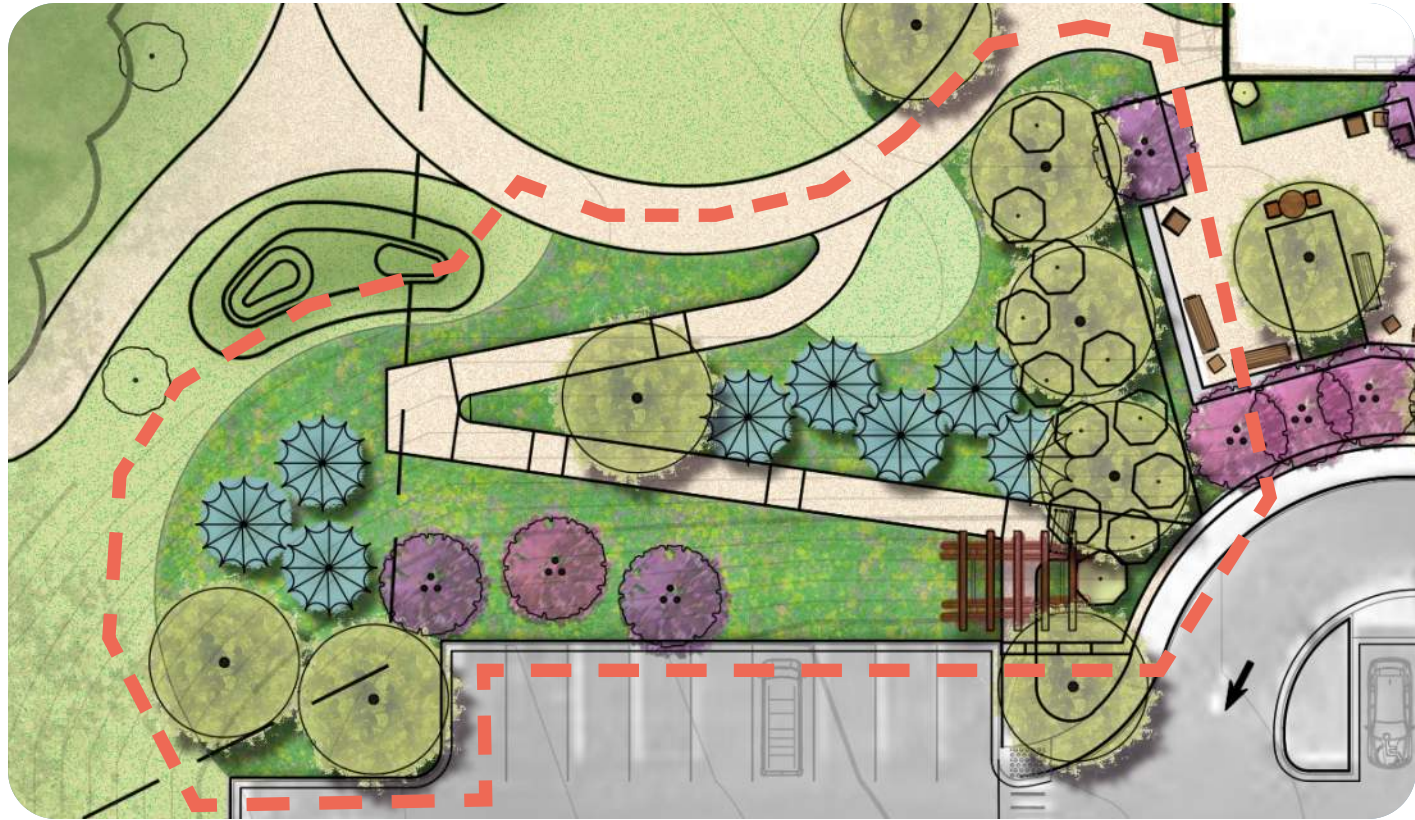
Enhance the hospitality and function of the east half of the entry plaza with the addition of tables and power/charging stations, making it an outdoor gathering and work/study space. Remove select panels of concrete to bring additional landscape planting to the area. Bring shade to this south-facing terrace, placing umbrellas on the new tables and planting flowering/ shade trees, taking care not to obscure the open view of the sky for the adjacent stargazing plaza to the southeast.



Existing entry furnishings.



Existing entry furnishings and landscape beds.



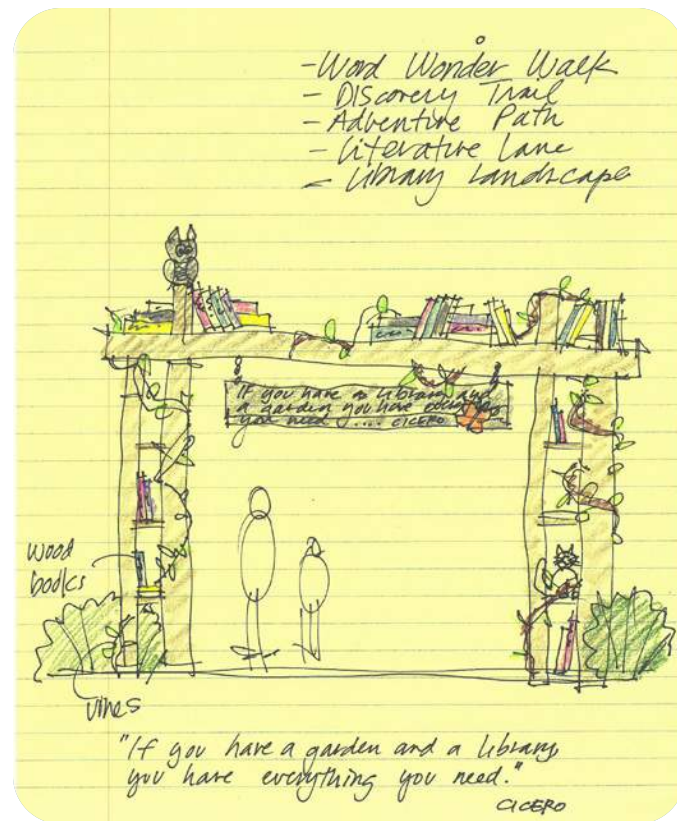
Plan Enlargement



Existing slope and landscape north of the south parking lot.

South Parking Lot Access Ramp

As the areas to the west of the library's lower level are developed, the need for a direct, accessible and welcoming connection becomes more important. Create a six-foot wide concrete ADA-accessible walk to the lower outdoor activity areas and the western natural areas from the south parking lot, main entry plaza and visitor drop-off walk. This access point will feature a custom, whimsical gateway arbor, showcasing a collection of books, vegetation, welcoming animals and introducing guests to the concept of this library garden.



A proposed entry arbor to create a sense of arrival.



Direct access to the library garden from the parking lot via a proposed ADA-accessible walk among new slope planting.



Plan Enlargement

Outdoor Reading Room

Take advantage of the cloistered feeling provided by the two building walls and stone retaining wall to create a quiet outdoor reading room. The addition of a six-foot metal fence creates a west wall and provides a space that can be locked when the library is closed or for special events / rentals. This “secure” space would also allow the tables and chairs to be movable, providing enhanced flexibility in the space’s use, group sizes and amount of sun/shade or solace desired by users. A low stone retaining wall to the south and west helps enclose the space and retains the adjacent slopes, while providing additional seating. A small recirculating stream, falls,

and pool takes advantage of the sloped grade from the main entry and provides calming white noise during the warmer months. Landscape with shade and flowering trees add additional enclosure and shade to this quiet garden room.



Existing entry from the building to the outdoor space.



A proposed quiet reading area with a small water feature to create white noise.



Plan Enlargement

The Great Lawn

Reconfigure and enlarge the existing oval lawn and adjacent path to better accommodate large group events and provide a more resilient and accessible central path system for the west side of the building. Create a series of activity areas surrounding this new circuit walk that appeal to a wide variety of user groups. Along the west edge, create a series of earth berms to function as seating and informal play. On the west side of the path, the center berm will become home to a J.R.R. Tolkien's, *The Hobbit* dwelling facade and garden, the first literary reference garden west of the building, complete with round door, mismatched windows, foundation plantings and planted roof.

As a central hub of activity, the activity courtyards, Book Pavilion, and pathways to other adventures branch off the great lawn's walks in every direction. These improvements will also enhance and improve drainage and patron flow within this space.



Existing great lawn.



Comparable image of berms being used for informal play.



Comparable image of a hobbit house.



Proposed lawn berms for visual interest, informal seating and play. One of the berms west of the main loop path will be home to those from "The Shire".



Plan Enlargement

Activity Courtyards

Anchor the east side of the Great Lawn with three (twenty-two-foot square) shade structures, corresponding to the three windowless portions of the west building façade, to not block views to the west. Each of these structures should also be designed to not block views from the upper levels and provide seating through the combination of low masonry seat walls and movable tables and chairs. Provide landscape areas to further subdivide the three spaces, but not to the level where they cannot function as one larger space when events require additional room. The northern structure will anchor a space adjacent to the indoor children's book collection that serves at



Comparable image of engraved unit paving to showcase authors, books and quotations.

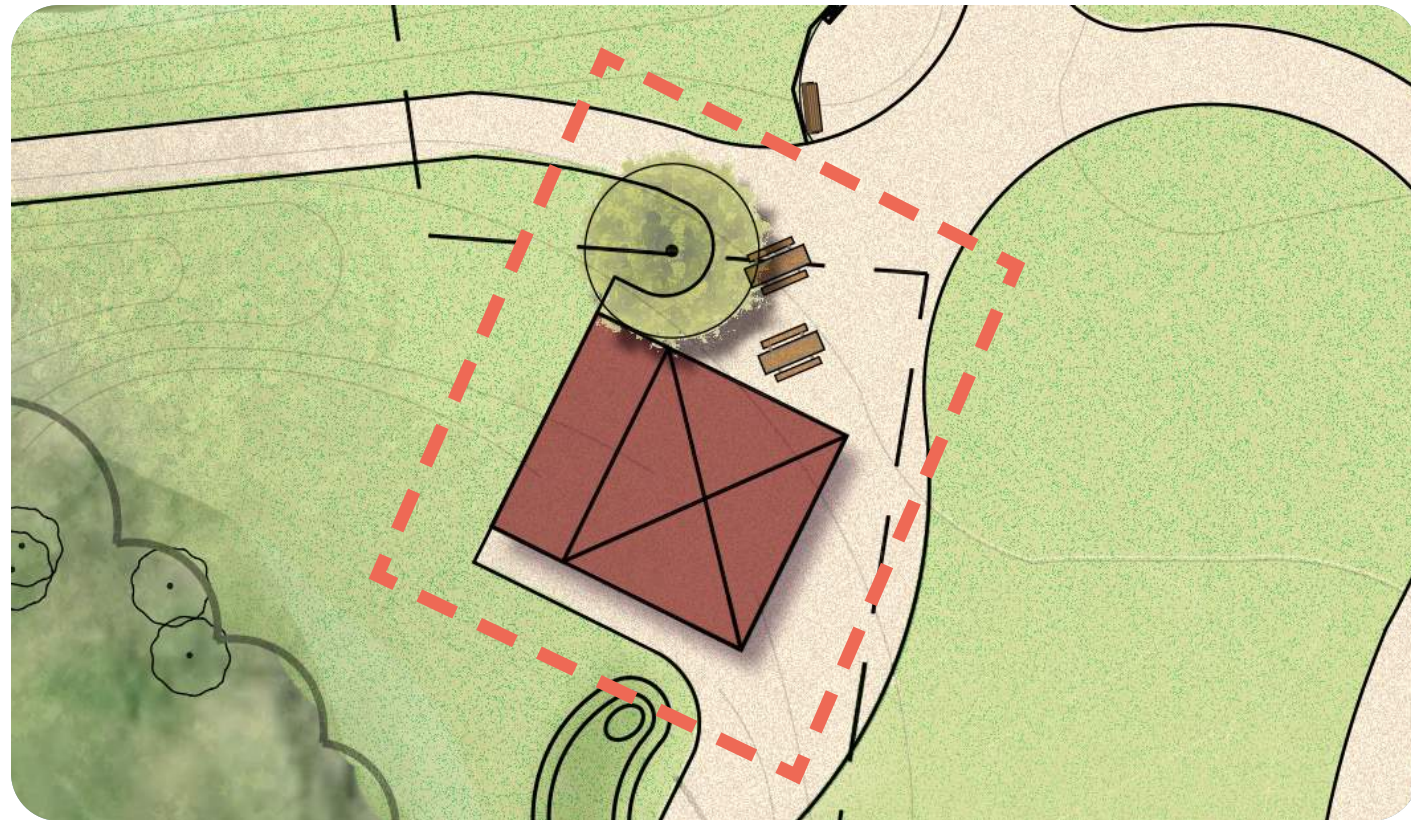
the children's outdoor reading room – an area to host families, story times and other educational and informal activities. Convert the adjacent planter against the building wall into a large bench to serve as the storyteller's perch. The middle shade structure will be similarly designed but with its focus on the Great Lawn to the west. It can anchor events that spill onto the lawn or serve as shady seating for performances held across the Great Lawn in the Book Pavilion. The southern shade structure, again designed to be part of the set of three, is rotated to orient to the shady, inside corner of the building. It will function as a multi-use space directly adjacent to the stairwell and operable, public access door.



Existing area lacks shade and activity spaces.



Proposed shade structures to provide shade while maintaining views to the lake and anchor three activity zones.



Plan Enlargement

Book Pavilion

Create a pavilion between the building and lakefront to serve as an outpost for activities on the west half of the site. Book-shaped in profile, it should contain storage capabilities for often used items, and be able to serve as both a shelter (with picnic tables and other accommodations), and stage (power and basic lighting capabilities) for events and performances, in concert with the adjacent Great Lawn's grass seating areas.



Existing area west of the central lawn and walking path.



Comparable image of a book themed pavilion to serve as outpost for events, concerts and provide storage.



Comparable image of a lawn surrounded by walks serves large events & small, everyday activities.



The proposed great lawn activated by events hosted at the book shaped pavilion.

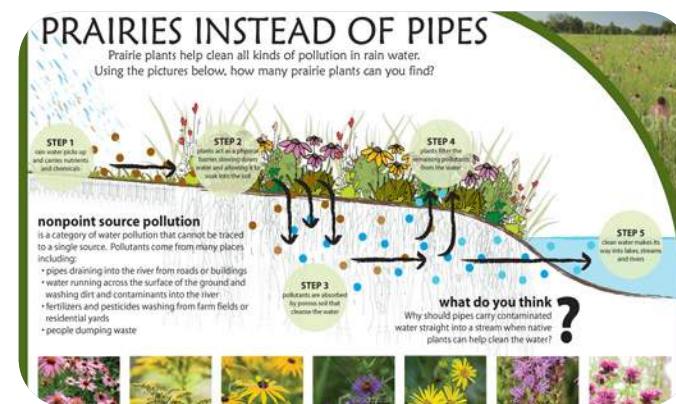


Plan Enlargement

Nature In Literature Loop

Provide specific areas along a path circumnavigating the north detention area. Each stop along the loop will provide both a unique view to an adjacent natural component (Crooked Lake, the woodland, the sedge meadow, a newly planted prairie/savanna, and the replanted detention basin with sky overhead) and a variety of books connected to that part of nature - water, forests, wetlands, prairies/savannas/grasslands and pollinators/ the sky above - via updatable QR codes. Each area will have a small overlook, with educational signage, seating areas and nature related graphics. The one exception, the marsh overlook, will take the form of Mary Pope Osborne's *The Magic Treehouse*

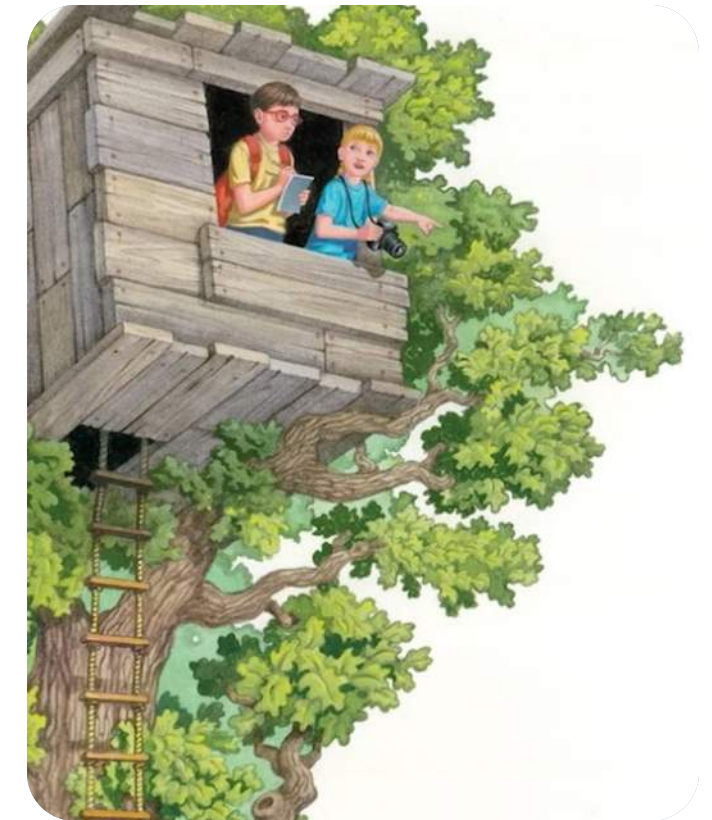
(fifteen feet by twenty feet in size), taking advantage of the slope to the marsh to give the illusion of being up in the tree canopy in a safe, accessible manner. Form will follow function, leaning on these enhanced spaces to resolve noted maintenance concerns in the existing detention area.



Comparable image of interpretive signage to explain concepts / systems and the natural world on site.



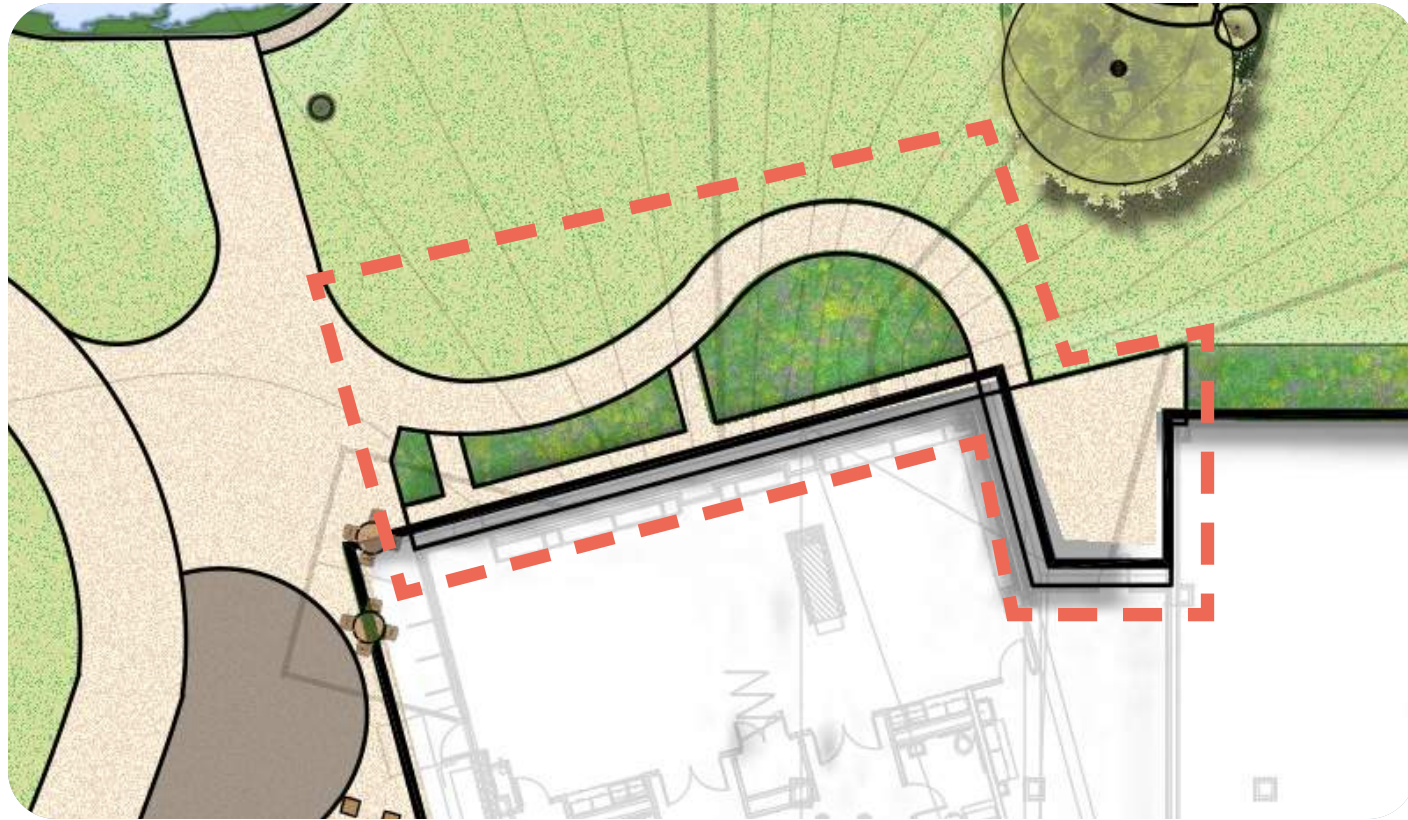
Existing relationship between the marsh and the site.



Inspirational comparable image of Mary Pope Osborne's *The Magic Treehouse*



Proposed magic tree house nestled along the loop path overlooking the marsh.



Plan Enlargement

North Stepped Gardens

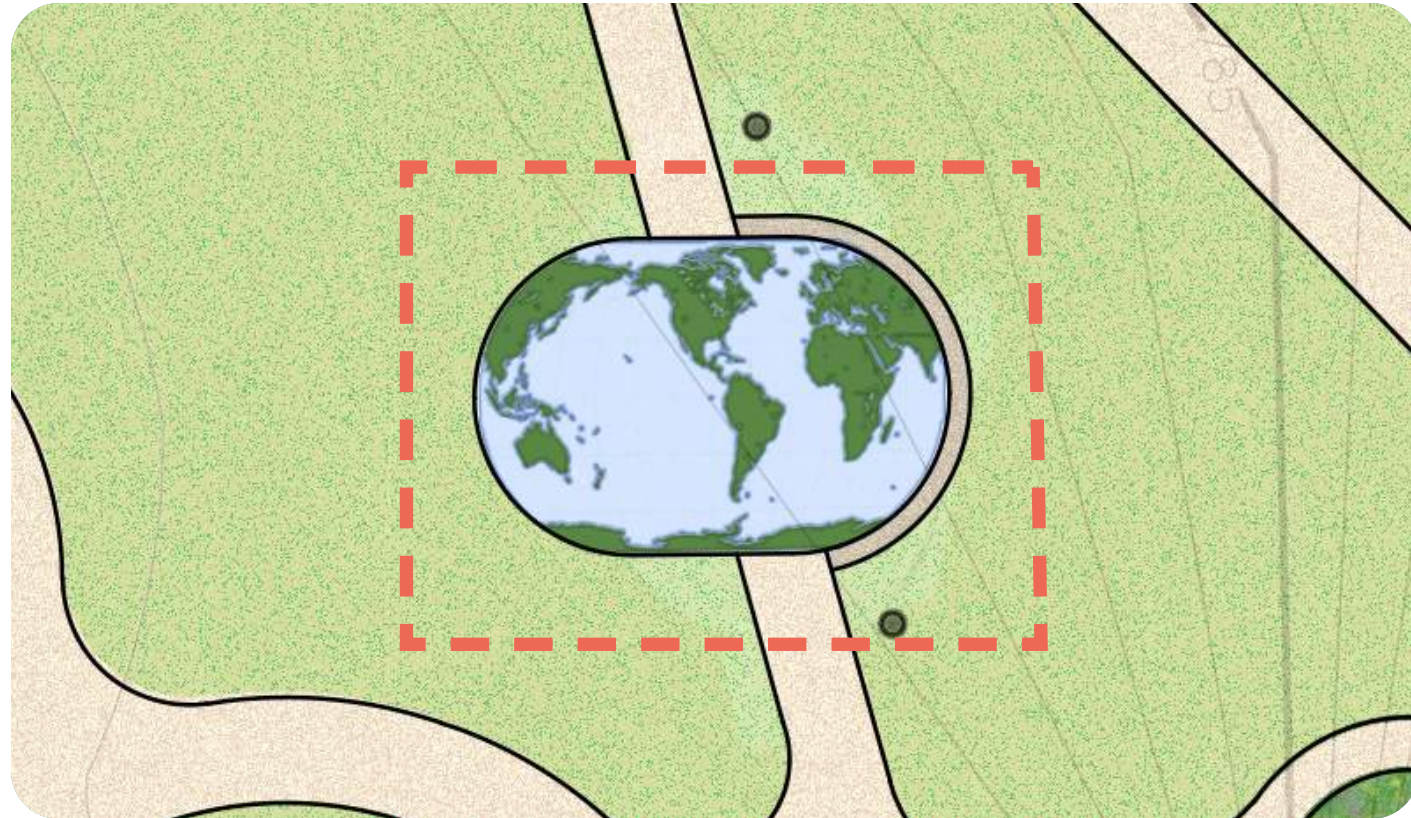
Consider relocating large shade trees planted close to the building and remove/relocate low-branched flowering trees that in time will impede views out the north windows of the building. To the east, underplant remaining bed areas with low shrubs and native perennials. To the west of the second-floor access doors install a series of stepped planters and a stepped path for informal access and install more low shrubs and native perennials that will keep the distant views open and enhance the views directly out the windows.



Existing slope from the east parking lot and north door to the Great Lawn area.



View from inside the library out to the patio and outdoor space, however, this is not a publicly accessible door, only fire egress.



Plan Enlargement

Where in the World Plaza

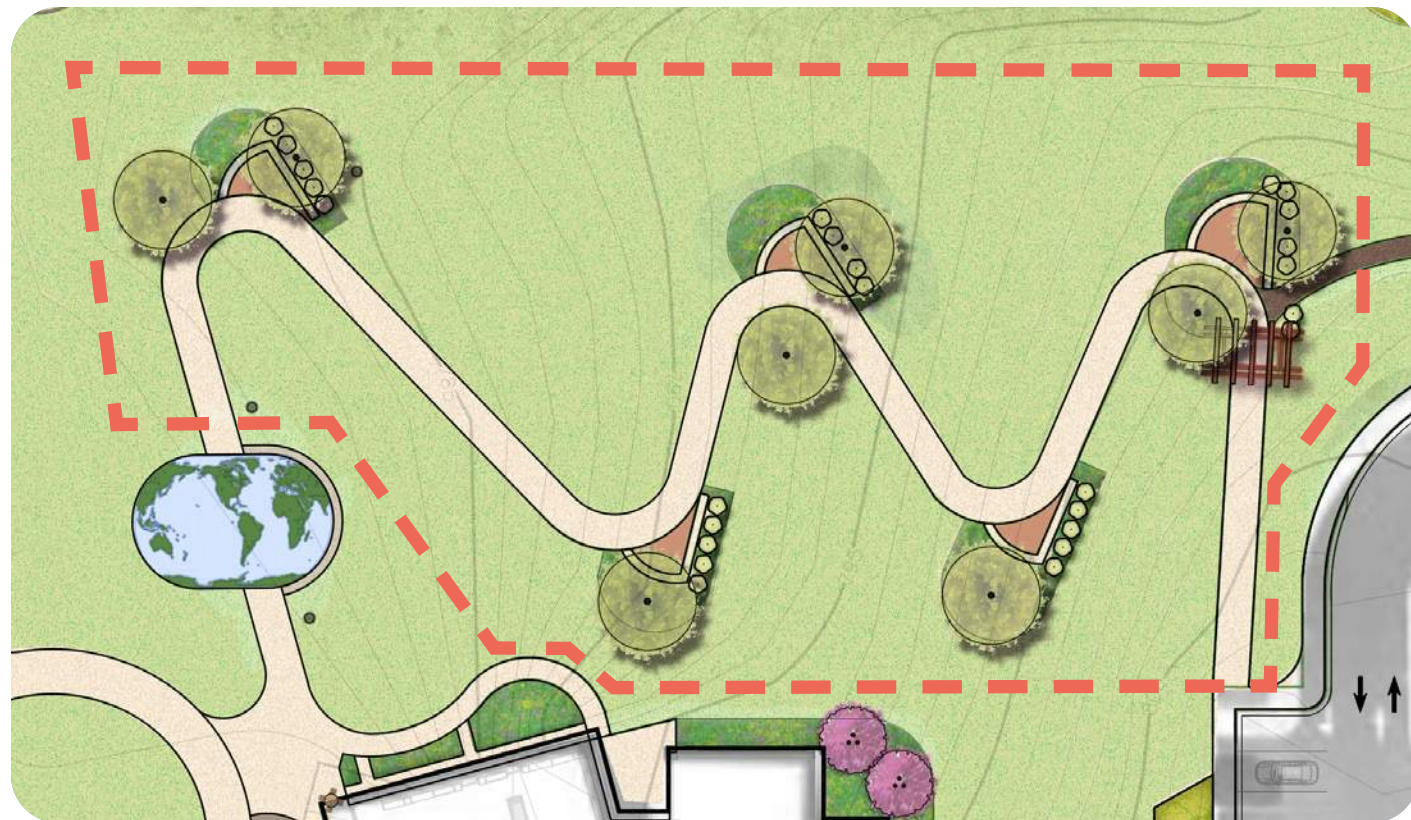
Develop a focal point plaza at the bottom of the Reading Lane (north access ramp) to serve as a place to link literature (fiction and non-fiction) as well as history and current events to the world, and our place in it. This colored concrete plaza contains a map of the world, with LVDL as its center, providing context, perspective and education. The continents should be black in color, allowing various points of interest to be temporarily marked via chalk or tape and keyed to various books, events or programs. A concrete seatwall retains the bottom of the slope to the east and provides seating for formal and informal discussions.



Existing connection between the two paths and the current story walk.



The proposed plaza serves as a transition from the Reading Lane into the activity courtyards and Great Lawn, serving as a learning opportunity about the world and world literature.



Plan Enlargement

Reading Lane (north access ramp)

Reimagine this important accessible link from the east parking lot by widening it to six feet wide minimum and changing the material from asphalt to more permanent concrete. Using the same general alignment, provide required five-foot flat areas for every 30 inches in grade change. At the switchbacks, provide small seating areas utilizing colored concrete paving and low colored concrete walls to retain grade and provide seating. Further backdrop these seating areas with low shrub and perennials beds, including a shade tree at each area. Relocate the primary story walk to the new route to the north, although this existing path can serve as a secondary story walk or to introduce other

information to those winding their way up or down the slope. As the top of the lane represents a major pedestrian entry to the site, it will also feature a custom, whimsical gateway arbor, showcasing a collection of books, vegetation, welcoming animals and introducing guests to the concept of this library garden.



Existing shape of the paths located north of the library.



Proposed entry arbor leading to shaded seating areas for reading and relaxation.

East Side Gardens

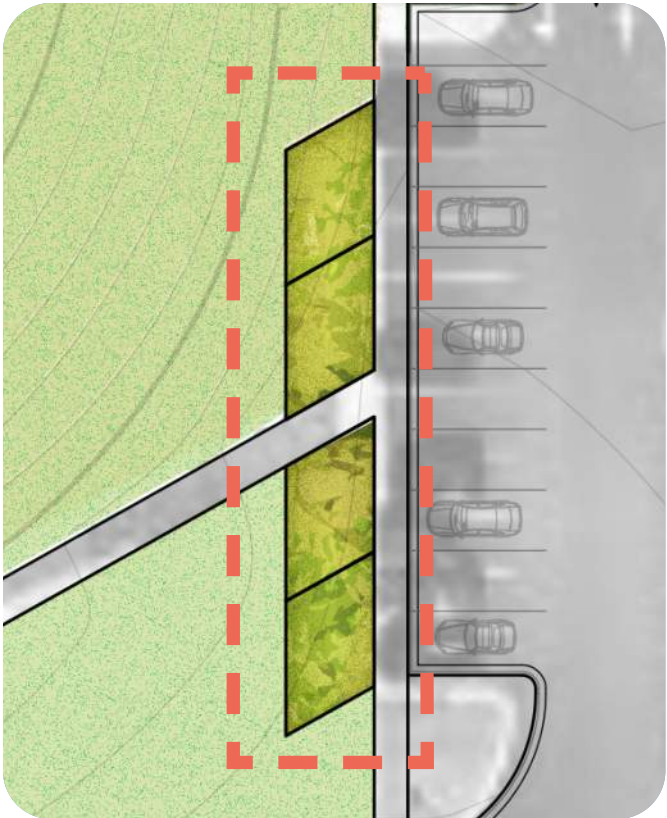
Create destination gardens along the east side of the building, for those who circumnavigate the inner loop path system to enjoy east-side destinations, and for those starting their journeys on the east side experience a sample of things to come. These four gardens are meant to be flexible in design and appeal to a wide variety of library patrons. They are to be bounded on the north, west and south by a low wall to create flat terraces in the sloped east landscape – each accessible from the existing walk. The concept is that any of these gardens can be temporary in nature, and changed as interests ebb and flow, and could be developed in partnerships with local schools, local civic organizations or clubs. Envisioned first are four gardens, situated north to south:

Shakespeare Garden – a small gravel court with a teak bench will anchor the area containing a sample of the one-hundred seventy-five plants mentioned in the works of William Shakespeare. Arbors behind the bench contain roses and other vines, while small shrubs and perennials fill in the boundaries. Temporary (everchanging) or permanent small signs introduce the plants, the verses, and the symbology of the plants. A few shade trees and flowering trees can be added in the adjacent lawn to represent oaks, crabapples and other larger, woody species mentioned in verse.

Herb Garden – a garden for non-fiction readers, it not only will complement the two adjacent gardens in content but is meant to serve as a reference garden for those interested in cooking, herbology and healthy living. A gravel path leads through the space. Small rock outcroppings create the raised, well-draining planting areas preferred by many herbs. Small label signs call out the plant species, common names, and plant uses. Frost-tender annual species can be added in pots or directly planted, but would require additional maintenance for watering, etc.

Alice’s Mad Tea Party Garden – a whimsical take off on the famous Lewis Carroll story, encouraging children of all ages to participate in their own version of a garden tea party in Wonderland. A six-foot tall fence/mural backdrop features characters from the story. A central colorfully painted table and mismatched chairs sit inside four eight-foot posts from which are strung colorful lanterns and playing cards. Plantings consist of tea herbs, (mint, chamomile, etc.) and dwarf and weeping shrubs and small trees, accompanied by a Cheshire Cat, sleeping Dormouse and a few croquet mallets and hoops. Guests are encouraged to bring their own tea sets, rabbit ears and hats – although perhaps they can be checked out from the main desk.

Alphabet Garden – a way to introduce young readers to the world of gardens and botany. Letters A-Z are placed along a simple gravel path, with plants (a combination of small shrubs, perennials, groundcovers and annuals) with names starting the letter, along with small label signs, are placed along the route.



Plan Enlargement



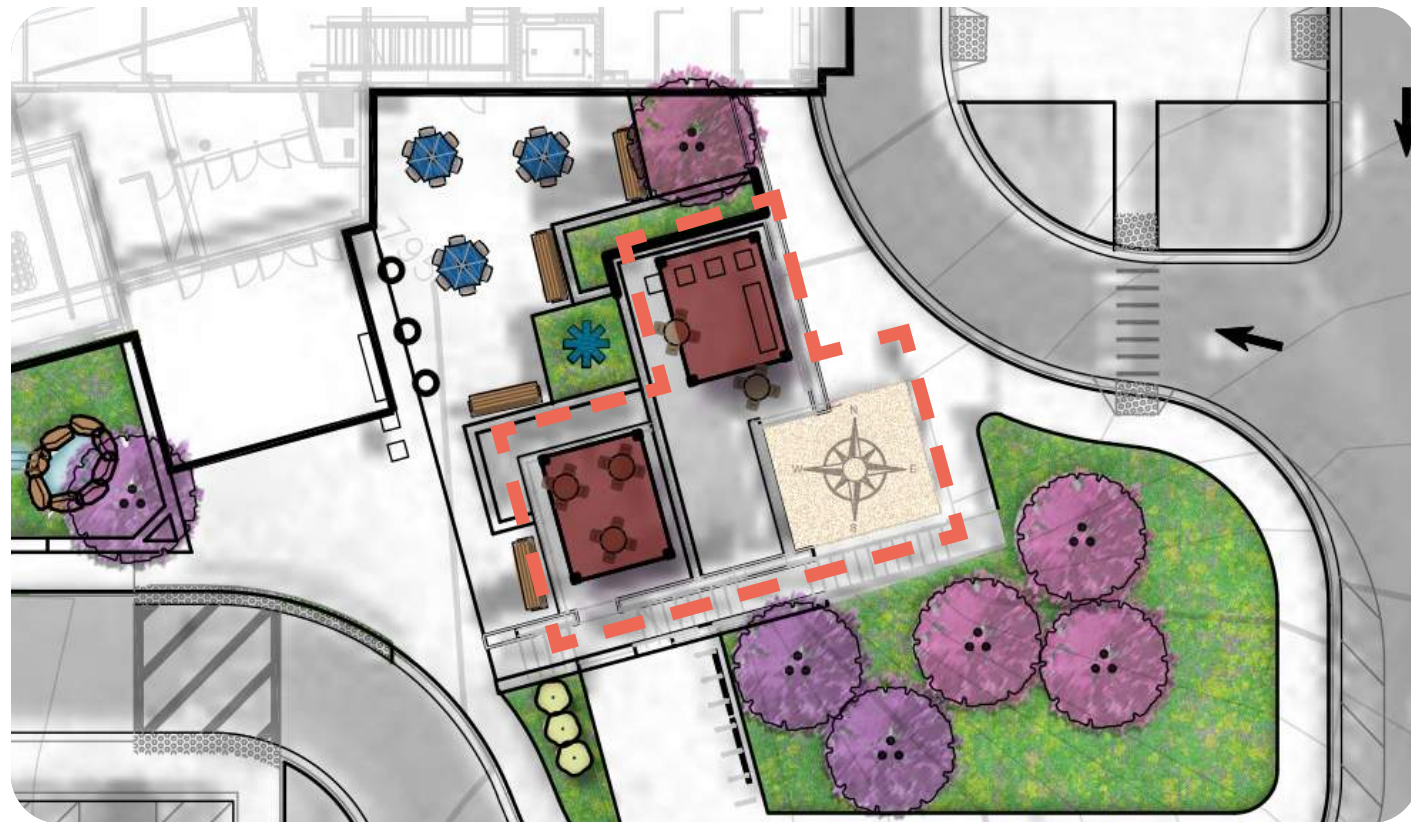
Existing landscape at the east parking lot.



Comparable image of storied landscapes brought to life.



Comparable image of themed gardens can be created to teach or demonstrate a wide range of topics.



Plan Enlargement



The existing terraces located southeast of the library lack relief from the bright sun.

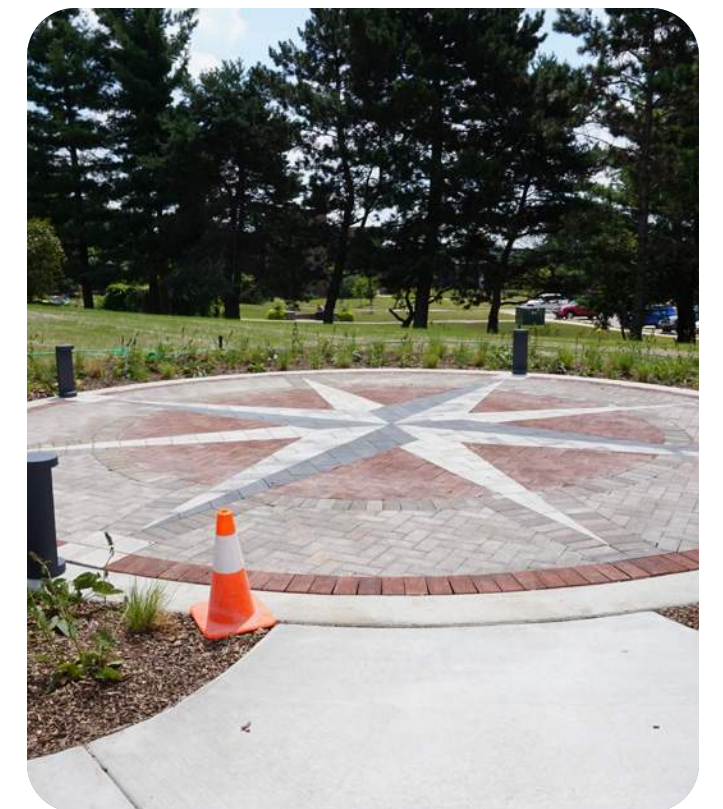
Stepped Terraces

Enhance the hospitality of the two existing lower terraces with the installation of metal (twelve-foot by fifteen-foot) shade structures. These custom structures should have power/charging stations. The metal top panels should have the names of authors or books, or famous quotes laser-cut into them to provide filtered light to the users below. To the south of the stairs, the plantings should be redesigned to replace the failing dogwoods with a species more tolerant of the soil and sun conditions. Benches with backs and armrests should be added to the terraces to provide more comfortable seating. Care should be taken to size both the shade structures and plantings to not obscure

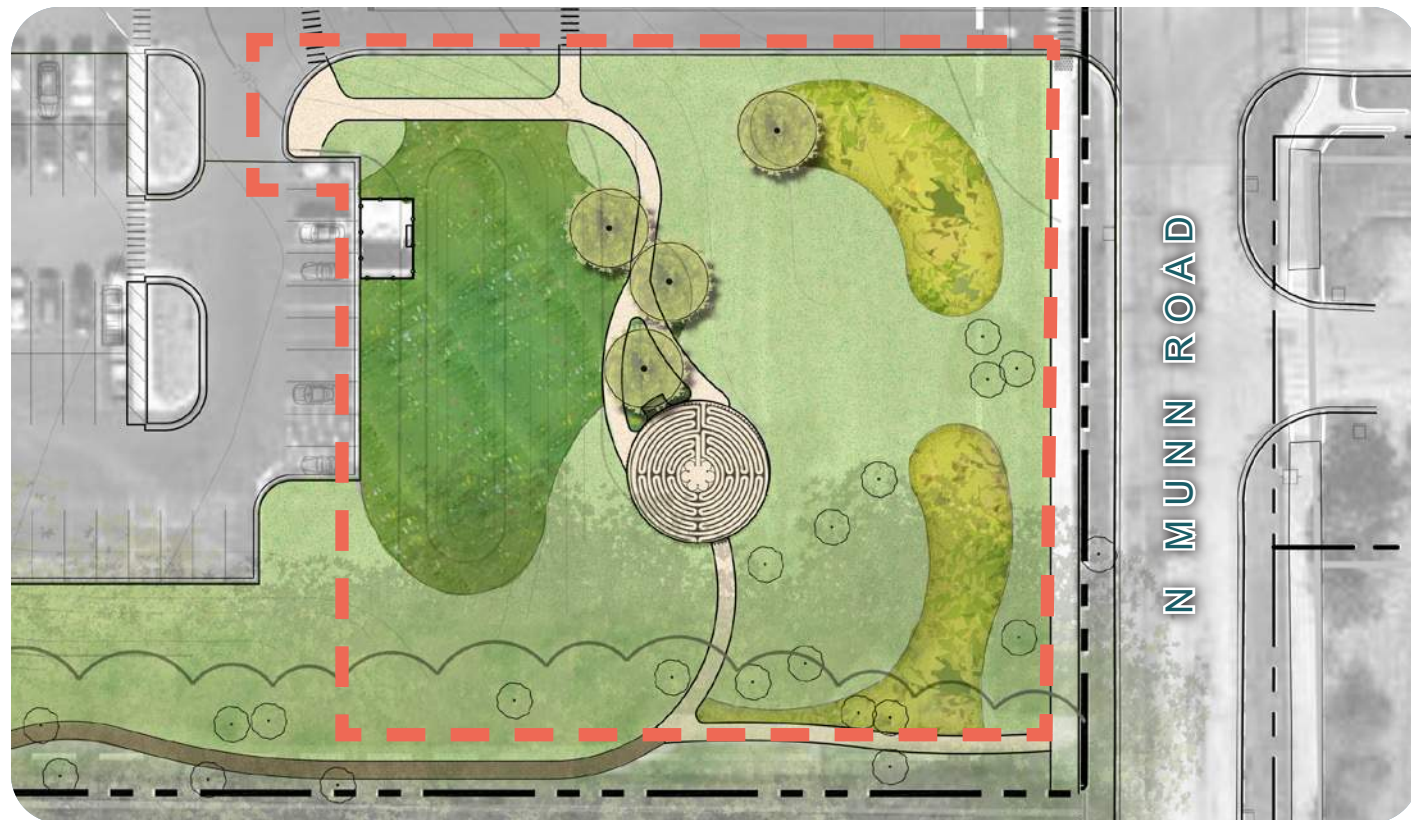
the open view of the sky from the upper skygazing terrace. The upper terrace is to have a compass rose routed and stained into the existing colored, textured concrete to aid stargazers in locating various celestial bodies in the night sky.



Comparable image of a shade structure to provide immediate shade.



Comparable image of a compass rose to aid stargazers.



Plan Enlargement

Community Lawn

Utilize this very visible, but remote area of the site as an informal, multi-function space. Develop an accessible concrete walk from the south parking lot leading to a forty-two-foot diameter concrete plaza with a full-size replica of the famous medieval, meditative Chartres Cathedral (Chartres, France) Labyrinth routed and stained within. Taking a cue from the rain garden east of the parking lot, expand/enhance the prairie vegetation in that area, and add large planting beds of prairie / savanna vegetation further east to visually enclose the space from Munn Road. Trees should be planted to create shade and further enclose the space. A linking path south of the plaza leads to a new path

along the south property line and links to the public sidewalk along Munn Road. The new prairie areas along Munn Road and new landscape beds along the walks are potential places for sculptures to be placed.



The existing lawn off of Munn Road is home to a few picnic tables.



Comparable image of a contemplative labyrinth plaza to anchor the southeast corner of the site.



Plan Enlargement

The Path Not Taken

Create a five-foot wide, gravel path along the south property line to provide the opportunity for circumnavigating the entire thirty-acre site. Connect the path from the public sidewalk along Munn Road west to the pathway at the south stormwater detention area (Raptor's Roost).

This quiet woodland path is the perfect place to encounter low signage with literary verses from Walt Whitman, Aldo Leopold, Alice Walker, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Rachel Carson and, of course, Robert Frost. Due to topography and existing trees, this path cannot be ADA-accessible, but is screened from Route 132 by the woodland to the

south that foreshadows the journey into the wilds ahead.



Existing woodland area south of the community lawn.



Comparable image of crushed stone pathways to create accessible routes.



Plan Enlargement

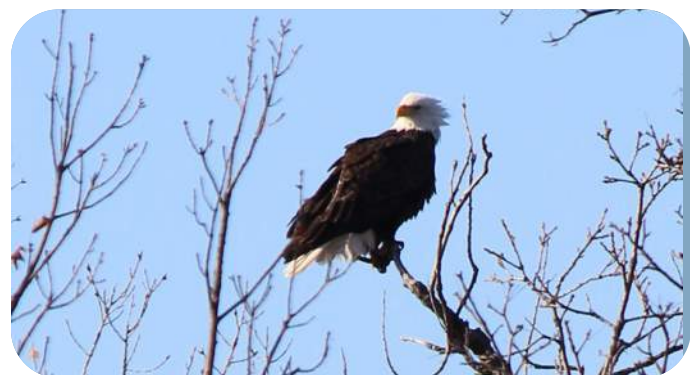


Existing condition of the stormwater basin, showing clogged underdrain.

Raptor's Roost

Enhance the recently seeded prairie and wetland vegetation within this stormwater basin, adding a series of treated lumber poles to create roosts for the variety of bird in the neighboring woods and lakefront. Create a concrete path around the pond, locating an overlook on the west side. To retain the grade from the adjacent parking lot and provide seating, add a low concrete seatwall at the overlook. Plant trees at the seatwall to provide shade and cover for those hoping to catch a glimpse of the raptors and other birds visiting. In the short-term, evaluate the existing dead ash trees and others that currently provide roosting in adjacent areas, keeping those that do not pose a safety threat. This

may postpone the need for new roosting structures for quite some time. Also, consider embracing the wetland bottom developing in this pond as an opportunity to create an enhanced wetland plant, bird, reptile and amphibian habitat in lieu of a prairie habitat.



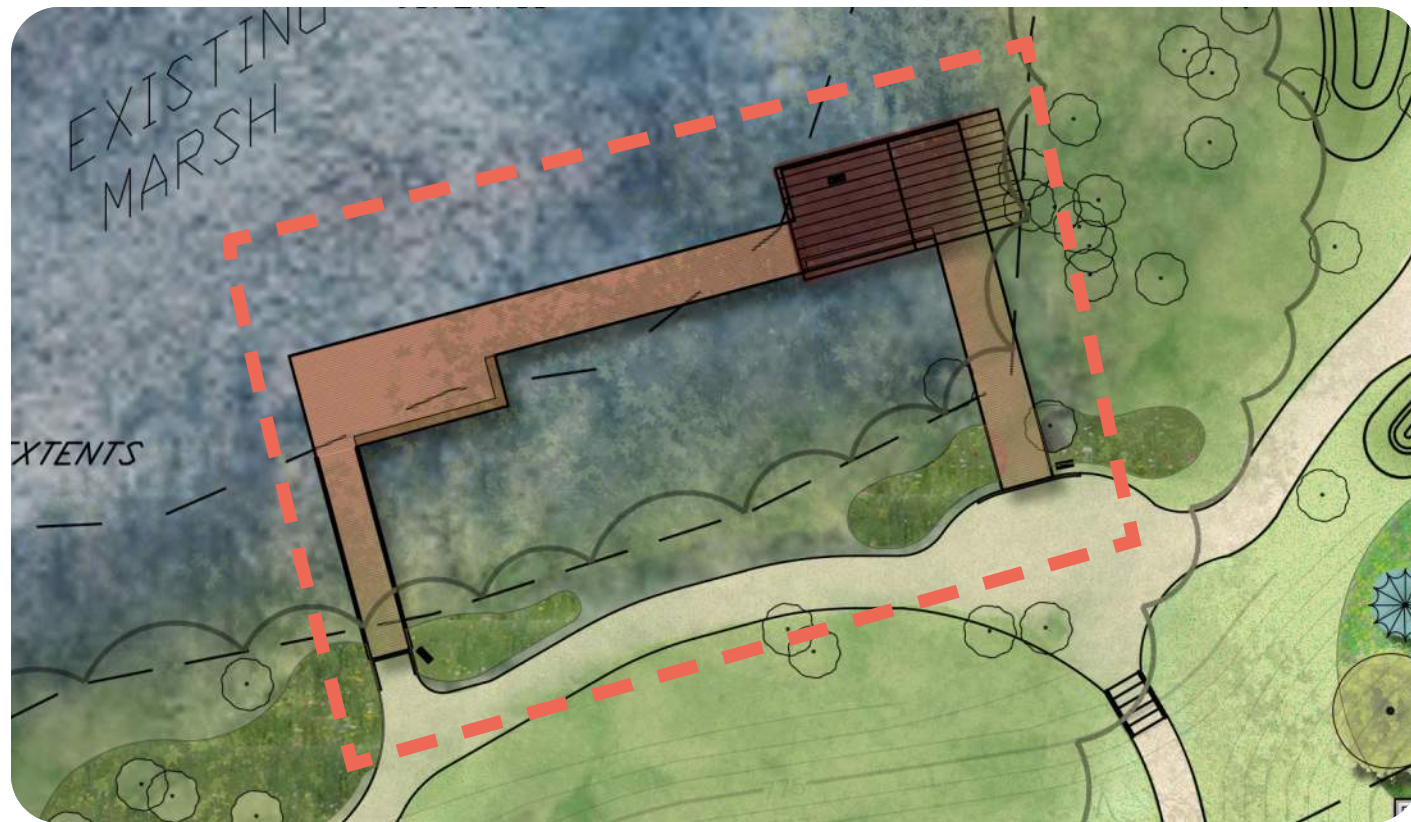
Many visitors and staff have reported raptor sightings.



Comparable image of interactive interpretive raptor signage.



Comparable image of bird perches proposed in wetland / woodland areas.

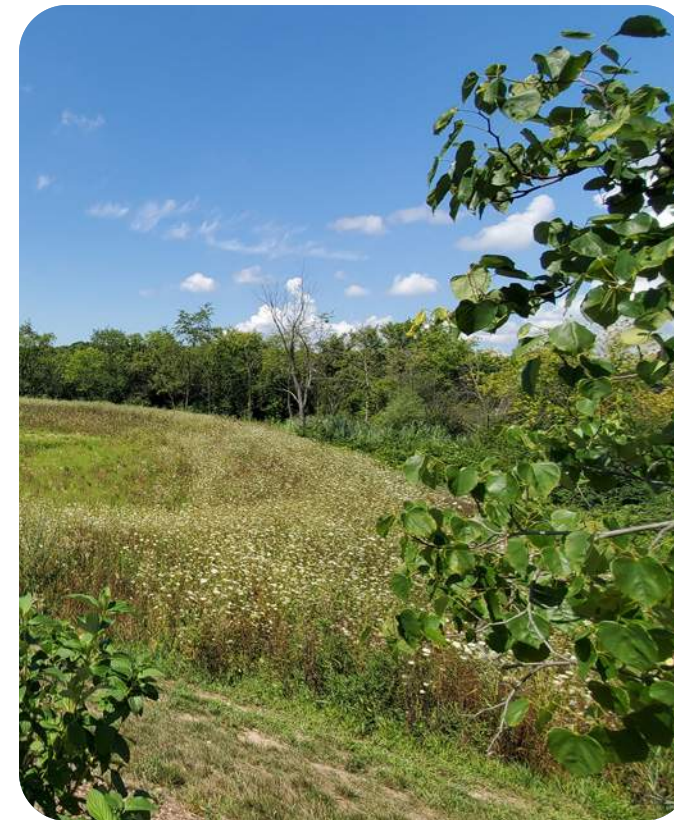


Plan Enlargement

Sedge Meadow Boardwalk

Provide up-close views to this remnant sedge meadow habitat. This wetland represents some of the highest quality ecosystem remaining on site and should be enhanced/restored. Additionally, an eight-foot-wide access boardwalk with sun and shade (and cover) seating areas (roughly twenty-foot by thirty-five-foot each) should be constructed along its transition to offer opportunities to observe the area and the wildlife that calls it home – both above and below water. The boardwalk's construction should be of galvanized metal helical anchor posts to create sure footings with minimal environmental impact within these delineated, jurisdictional wetlands, concrete abutment walls set

outside the wetland delineation area at the connecting concrete walkways, and pressure-treated lumber/ composite lumber for durability and ease of maintenance. Railings should be provided adjacent to slope areas, and toerails for safety elsewhere to keep views open. Built-in wood benches should have backs and armrests for comfort and accessibility.



Existing marsh and surrounding landscape condition.



Comparable image of a marsh overlook with seating and a shade structure.



A view looking north over the proposed marsh boardwalk, interpretive signage, and a shade structure with seating to provide a place to enjoy this unique landscape.



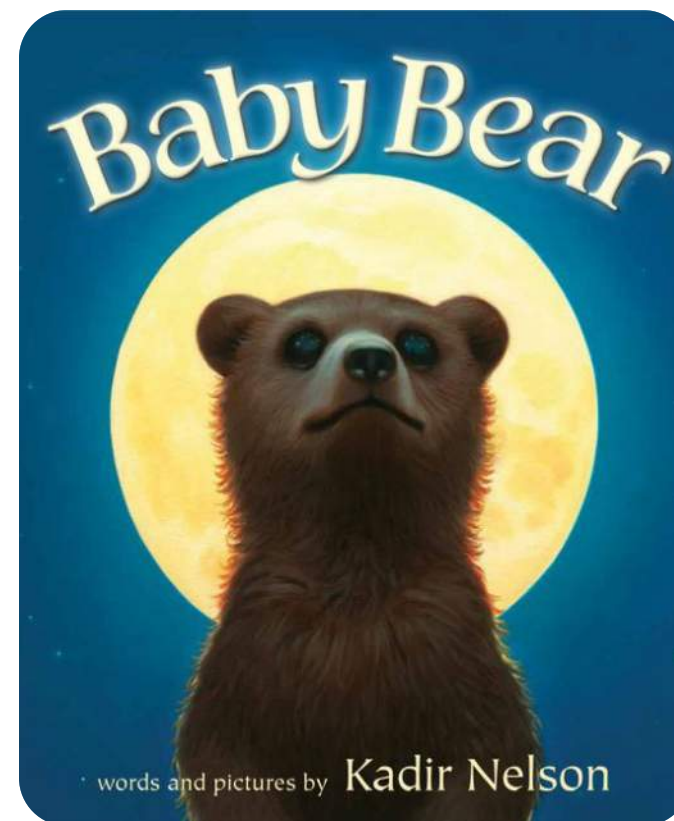
Plan Enlargement

Baby Bear's Path

Recreate the journey taken by Kadir Nelson's *Baby Bear* as he finds his way home along a five-foot wide gravel path. For this rustic recreation of the story in one of the more remote and naturalistic portions of the site, seven of the characters from the book (baby bear, frog, salmon, squirrel, owl, etc.) should be created from cast concrete or carved from wood and placed in sequence to mirror the storyline. As the path nears Hastings Creek, the salmon appears to guide him to his home. A bench at this creek location provides a place to rest and listen to the creek and discuss your version of the journey.



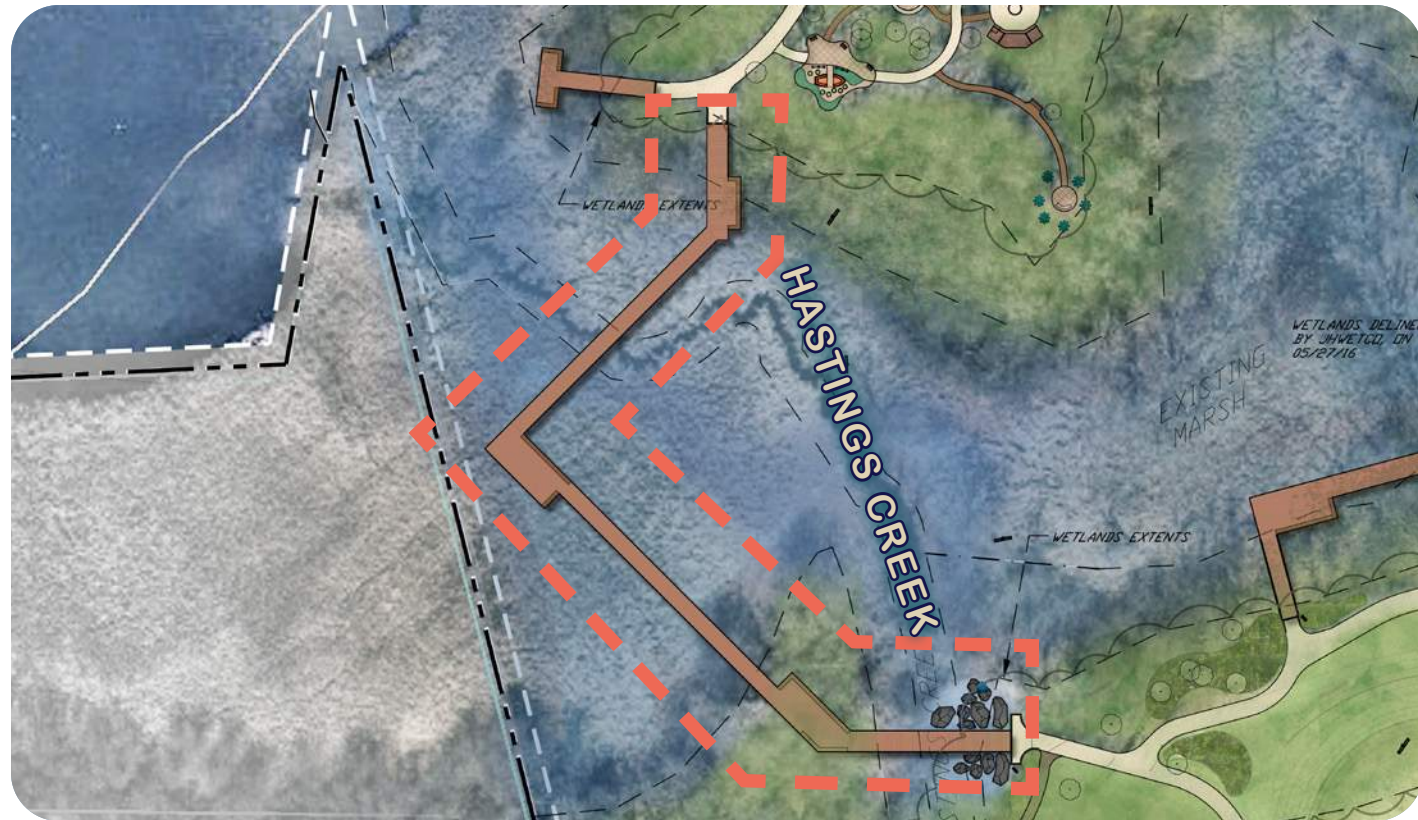
Existing woodland area on the southeast portion of the site.



Kadir Nelson's *Baby Bear*



Comparable image of crushed stone pathways to create accessible routes.



Plan Enlargement

Hastings Boardwalk

Develop an accessible route across Hastings Creek through the southwest corner of the sight via a five-hundred-foot long by eight-foot-wide boardwalk. The boardwalk's construction should be of galvanized metal helical anchor posts to create sure footings with minimal environmental impact within these delineated wetlands, concrete abutment walls set outside the wetland delineation area at the connecting concrete walkways, and pressure-treated lumber / composite lumber for durability and ease of maintenance. Railings should be provided adjacent to slope areas, and toerails for safety elsewhere to keep views open. Provide three separate seating areas

providing different views of this wetland, adjacent woodland and Crooked Lake with built-in wood benches with backs and armrests for comfort and accessibility.



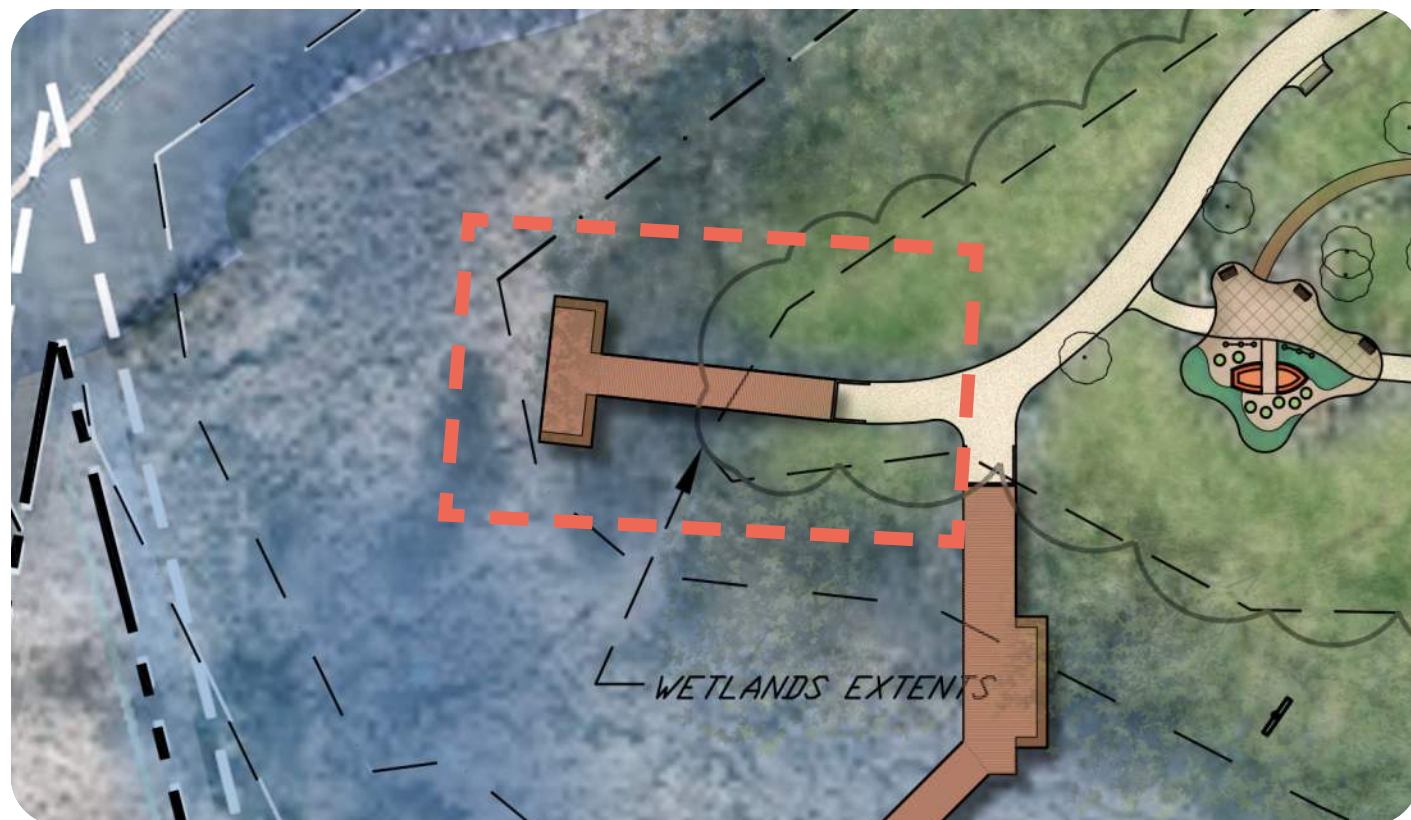
Existing conditions of Hastings Creek.



Comparable image of marsh boardwalk with interpretive signage in restored wetlands.



Comparable image of an overlook and boardwalk with built-in seating and railings where required.



Plan Enlargement

Southeast Lake Overlook

As the Crooked Lake Boardwalk is likely to be a popular destination, provide a smaller overlook for patrons who are looking for a respite or a quiet place to birdwatch. Jutting out fifty-five feet from the existing woodland ridge, this overlook provides seating for about sixteen people on two L-shaped benches, providing views SW over Crooked Lake. It should be constructed in the same manner as the Hastings Boardwalk, as it is in identical conditions. This feature will create the entryway to the wetland and lies well-positioned to host educational gatherings.



Existing conditions of Crooked Lake shoreline.



Comparable image of a quiet lake overlook.



Plan Enlargement

Woodland Wonders/Wanders Path

Construct a series of concrete walks and gravel trails along the wooded ridge above the shoreline of Crooked Lake. Strategically and carefully placed among the existing oak and hickory trees, construct a series of themed activity spaces that encourage exploration, discovery, education and whimsical role-playing. Restore the woodland with the removal of invasive underbrush species and the addition of native shade and understory tree, shrub and perennial species. Provide benches for areas of rest, contemplation and observation. Specifically, these spaces/elements include:

A The Lorax – Place a painted, layered wood, child-size representation of Dr. Suess’ *The Lorax* at the entry to the Woodland Wonders/Wanders Path with small signs referencing his quotes about how to protect the environment and “speak for the trees.” Other books on nature stewardship and conservation should also be listed. Plant a few “Truffula” trees (properly pruned as such) as backdrop, and install a stone engraved with the word “UNLESS”.

B Oak Oasis – Situate a small intimate seating area nestled within an existing grove of trees to provide a quiet respite for reading, bird watching or relaxation. Due to the proximity of the mature trees and tree roots, the paving should be a shallow flagstone or gravel cross-section. Seating would be two, curved, teak or other rot-resistant wood benches for roughly ten people.

C Woodland Stage – Construct an eight-foot by twenty-eight-foot arbor-covered, six-inch raised, wood stage adjacent to a twenty-five-foot diameter concrete or paver plaza to host readings, small events and performances within the woodland setting. The middle section of the stage should have a woodland inspired wood

and metal backdrop screen. Across the plaza from the stage, construct a two-tier set of curved concrete benches to seat approximately thirty people.

D Branch Balance – Create a multi-generational “play” event utilizing at grade or slightly elevated balance planks. Treated wood posts sunk into the ground forty-two inches to provide frost footings at each end of the beams of various lengths, widths and heights. The branching configuration of planks are surrounded with one-foot depth of engineered wood fiber (EWF) mulch as a fall protection surfacing. Place benches at the perimeter of the mulch and install low, native shrubs and perennials to enclose the space.



View looking southwest over the proposed woodland path and various activities incorporated into the woodland wonders area.



Comparable image of the branch balance beams.



Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*



Comparable image of the woodland stage.



Comparable image of the exploration ship.

E Peach Path – Create a narrow, ninety-foot woodland adventure gravel path ending in a small twelve-foot diameter plaza, Peach Point, where the woodland meets the marsh. Surround the plaza with fiberglass or GFRC recreations of the seven characters from the Roald Dahl story who accompany James on his trek to New York City. Plant a dwarf, cold-hardy peach tree next to the plaza. Place a backless curved wood bench in the plaza so guests may face inwards to chat or face outwards to view the characters and the adjacent woods and marsh.

F Exploration Destination – Foster role-playing by creating a replica of the ship at sea from Maurice Sendak's, *Where the Wild Things Are*. Create a five foot-wide by thirteen-foot-long wooden ship in two halves for accessibility. Renamed "Explore", the ship provides deckside seating for roughly twelve passengers and a mast with sail-like flags, surrounded by a EWF area containing spring-based, wood "floating" waterlily disks. Enclose the area with blue-leaved sedges to create the look of water. Place a viewing plaza with seating adjacent for those landlubbers who just want to observe the journey.



View looking northeast over the various proposed activities incorporated into the Woodland Wanders area.



Where the Wild Things Are inspired exploration destination play space.



Plan Enlargement

Crooked Lake Boardwalk

Provide access from the Crooked Lake shoreline ridge, without providing direct access to the water via a ten-foot-wide by one hundred seventy-five-foot-long pressure-treated frame and composite lumber decked elevated boardwalk. Centered in the boardwalk, create two seating areas for approximately fifteen guests each. Provide railings along its entire length to keep visitors safe and provide opportunities for educational signage and recommendations for water-themed readings.



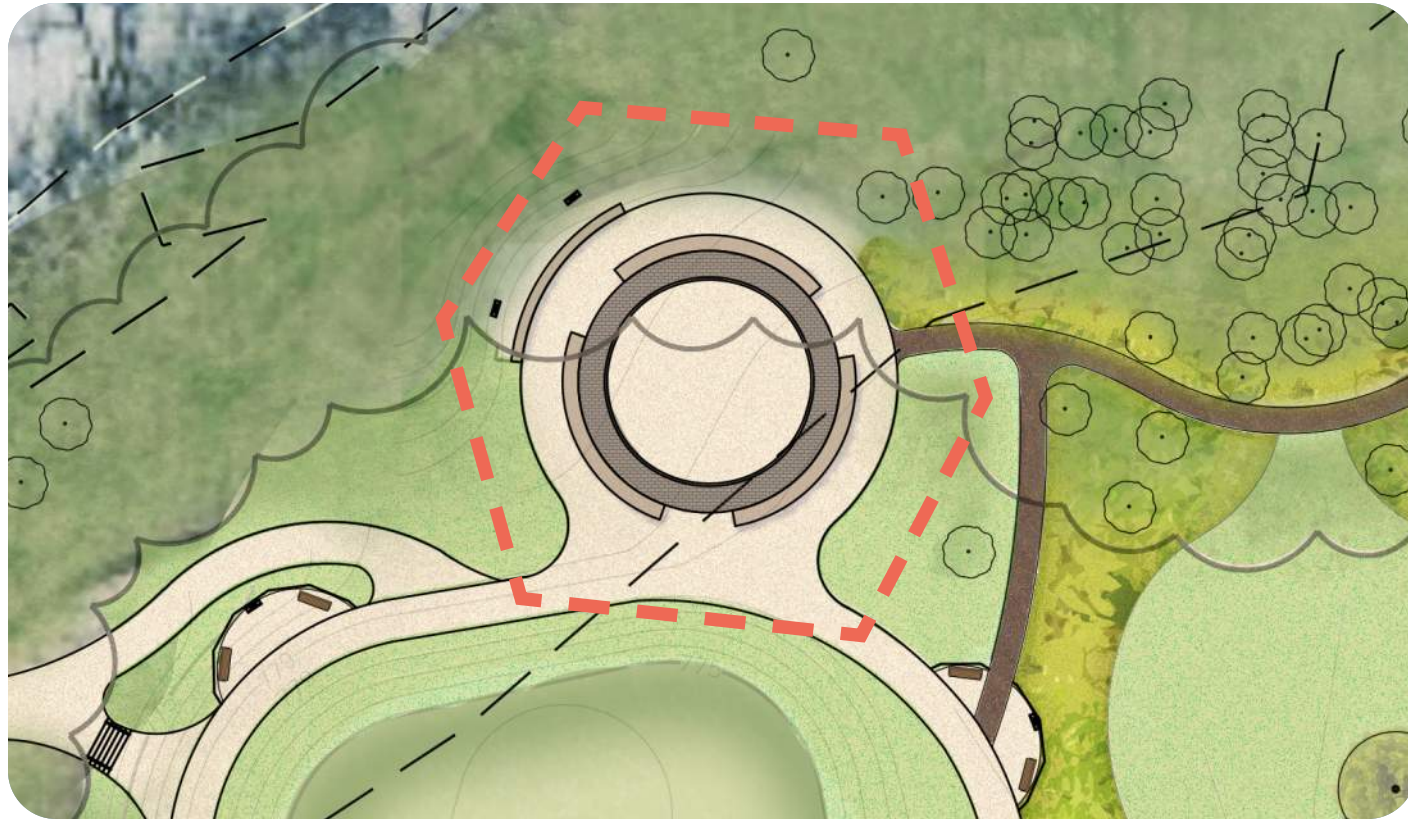
Existing view of Crooked Lake ridge from the site.



Comparable image of interpretive signage to explain concepts / systems and the natural world on site.



Proposed overlook and boardwalk with built-in seating, with railings where required.



Plan Enlargement

Council Ring

Enhance the existing circular gravel path on the ridge above Crooked Lake creating a lakeside gathering area and event space. This council ring will contain circular, stone veneer seatwalls providing seating for +/- sixty people and be bounded by an eight-foot-wide concrete path on the outside and five-foot wide brick paving inside. At the very center of the space, a compacted crushed gravel area will be created to serve as a multipurpose area for events and displays. A fourth curved seatwall segment will be constructed outside of the concrete walk on the lakeside ridge as a place to appreciate the lake views. Educational signage here will tell the history of the lake, the library site and the region.

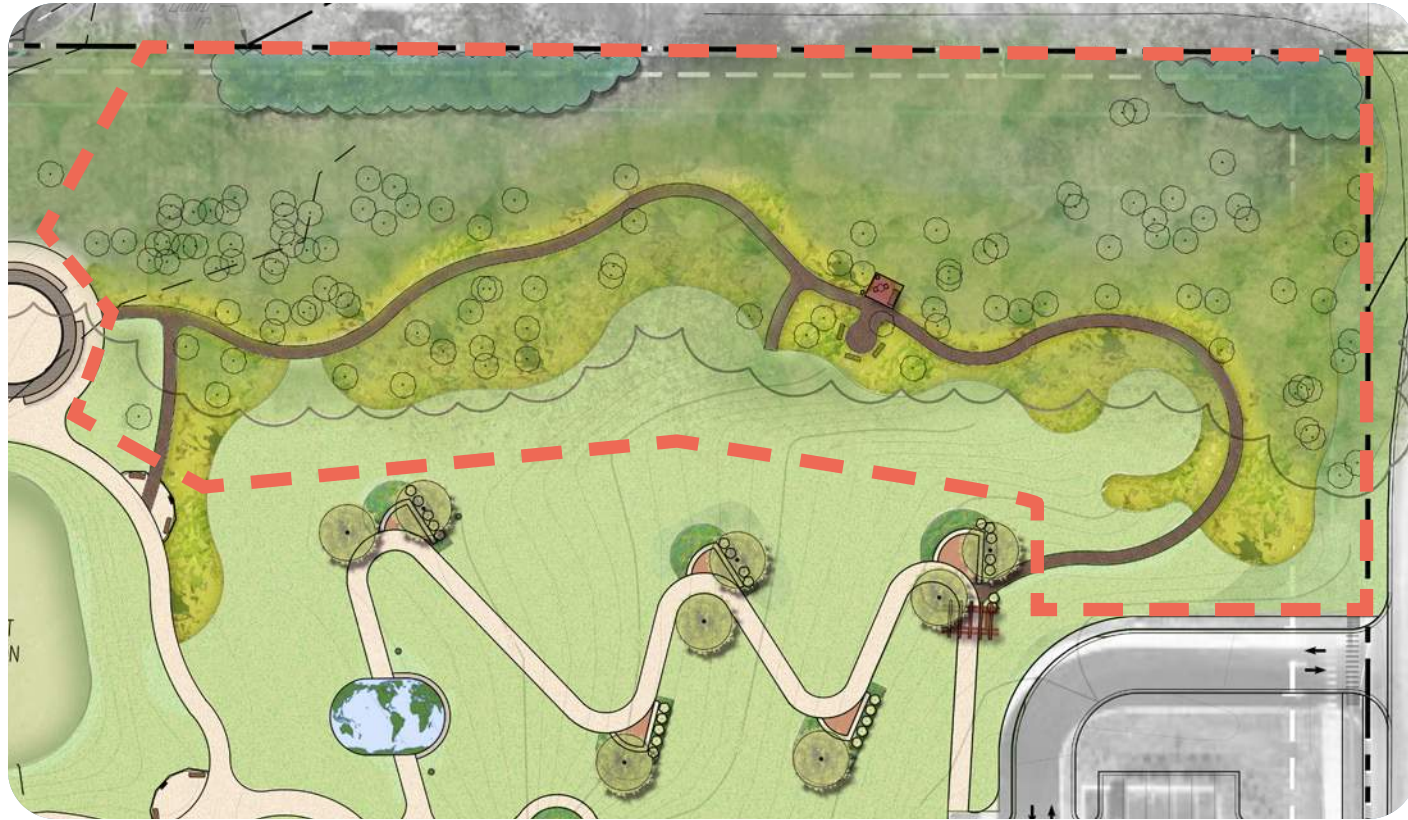
The symbology and geometry of the council ring also creates an opportunity to tell the stories and history of the area's Native Americans. Engraving the pavers in the inner council ring walk with important elements of indigenous people's history and storytelling, with English translations, will begin to create a connection and dialog for understanding. Other concepts for recognition and engagement should be explored with representatives of the area's indigenous people as this area is developed.



Existing circular gravel path and views of the lake.



Comparable image of a council ring for group or community gatherings, exhibits, demonstrations, and views to the lake.



Plan Enlargement

Story Walk

Create a five-foot wide, north gravel path through the linden woodland remnant connecting the walk from the east parking lot walk to the council ring, completing an outer path loop for the property, while also maintaining the key northern woodland screen. The grades in the area exceed ten percent, so this walk will not be ADA-accessible. A large portion of this area is currently mowed lawn, that will be converted to low prairie and low savanna. The story walk will be programmed to provide exhibits along the walk for storytelling in both directions of the path. Midway along the path, a small, ten-foot by twelve-foot playhouse - a nod to A. A. Milne's *House at Pooh Corner*

provides an area to rest and explore, with a small lawn seating area with benches for approximately nine people to gather. In areas adjacent to neighboring homes, plant additional vegetative screening to enhance privacy.



Existing woodland area on the northern end of the property.



Comparable image of a House at Pooh Corner - inspired playhouse along the woodland trail, Hunny Pot included.



Plan Enlargement

Marsh Stewardship

This central marsh and remnant sedge meadow is one of several key ecological site features that warrant protection and enhancement. Restoration may include engagement with local volunteers and environmental stewardship groups to remove and treat invasive species and enhance the natural character of the site. A little TLC in this area will improve views, expand wildlife viewing opportunities, and enhance water quality within the area. Grant funding opportunities may facilitate restoration efforts as well. Beyond the stewardship of this area, restoration will serve to engage patrons and present a variety of programmed learning opportunities.

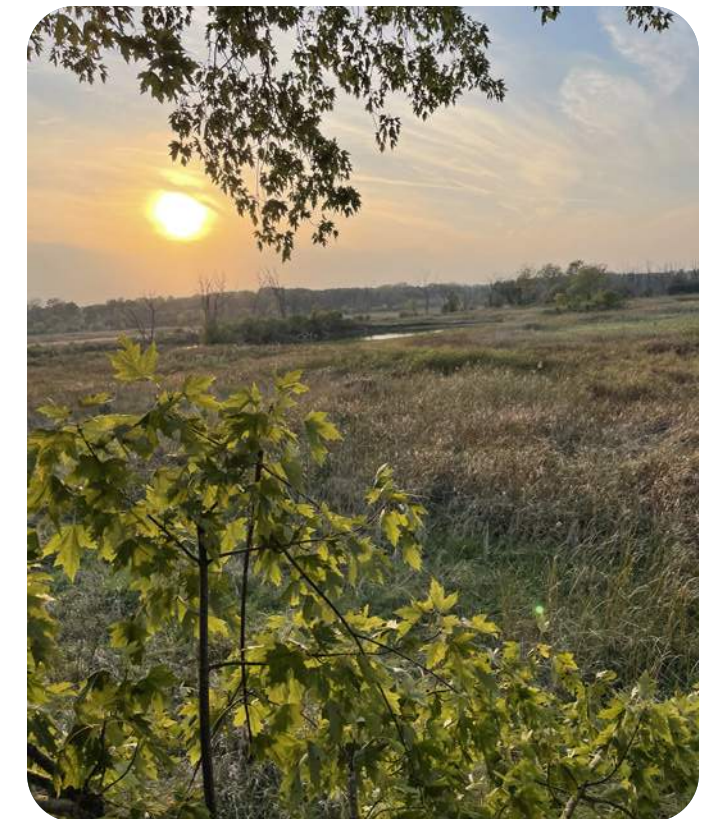
Prescribed work presented in this and the following two areas would include removal of dense invasive shrub stands by hand or with forestry mowing and herbiciding stumps to limit regrowth. Tree Clearing would include invasive/low ecologic value trees, with some snags left for roosting habitat. Restoration of these areas will largely rely on evident existing seed and plant banks in the remnant natural soils but could be supplemented with community specific native seed mixes and live planting in key areas such as the remnant sedge meadow here in Area 24, the stream corridor in Area 25, and the lake shoreline in Area 26.



Existing conditions of the central marsh, showing invasive species.



Existing salamander living in and around the marsh.



Comparable images of what the restored marsh / sedge meadow could look like.



Plan Enlargement

Wetland / Creek Stewardship

Like the remnant sedge meadow to the east, Hastings Creek offers a wide variety of opportunities to truly create a library site that will be the envy of the region. Though the banks and floodplain area are choked with invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle brush, buried within the thicket is a relatively healthy stream ready to be coaxed into vibrance. A walk through this area in spring shows a variety of ephemeral native plants ready to rebound when set free in by the ground-warming sunlight that currently can barely penetrate the invasive blanket. Revegetated banks and small improvements to the stream corridor will arrest erosion, dramatically improve water quality draining to Crooked Lake,

and create an aquatic world of wonder ready to be explored. These stream improvements include minor bank stabilization work, in-stream riffles and other habitat features, and bank seeding and blanketing where necessary.



Existing conditions of Hastings Creek.



Comparable images of what the restored creek could look like.



Plan Enlargement

Woodland / Lakeshore Stewardship

The third wetted gem of the site is the undeveloped Crooked Lake shoreline. While invasive brush has also obscured this area, the shoreline remains poised to recapture its hidden glory. Opening this area up and freeing it from the grips of woody invasive species will open views to the lake and encourage the naturalized shoreline area to thrive and grow. The shoreline of Crooked Lake is largely stable and natural. Supplemental planting in this area will serve to not only increase biodiversity, but also improve upon the viewsheds proposed as part of the plan corridor elements. These revitalized natural habitats will create up close and personal encounters with wading birds, waterfowl,

flocks of swallows dive-bombing emergent insects, the deep bellow of the American Bullfrog, and the periscopic gaze of a raft of turtles moving to bask in the sun on nearshore woody material.



Existing conditions of Crooked Lake shoreline.



Comparable images of what the restored lake shoreline could look like.



Cost Estimate / Phase Areas / Funding Opportunities

The cost opinion for this master plan is broken into phase to isolate costs for definable areas. The costs created represent current costs, with no cost escalation included. The costs reflect specific sizes and materials for each component that will be at the middle to higher end of the range of possibilities of fit and finish. This will provide LVDL with a built environment that is well-detailed and well-constructed, safe and durable. The actual budget for each phase can be adjusted (up or down) during its initial planning steps to account for the final element sizes, quantities and materials selected.

As with any master plan, considerations should be made for the additional resources (staffing and maintenance) that will likely be needed for this more robust outdoor library garden's development. Specifically, consider planning for the long-term management of natural areas should an investment in their restoration be made. Restoration investment will realize immediate benefits for local ecology, water quality, and patron experience, however, the re-encroachment of invasive species can cause restoration to quickly revert to pre-project conditions. If investment is made in these stewardship areas, the LVDL should plan for annual management and maintenance. This could be accomplished with LVDL staff training and expansion, through annual contracted management with a specialty firm, or even with volunteer days to manage invasive species.



Additionally, invasive brush and tree clearing in the three primary identified natural resources stewardship areas could be accomplished in a variety of ways. The presented costs factor in contracted work as part of overall site improvements. However, this work could also be done by LVDL staff, as separate annualized management contracts, or even as part of volunteer efforts. Volunteer efforts could perhaps be done in coordination with other local stewardship groups and organizations such as the Lake County Forest Preserves, Lindenhurst Parks District, or other local groups. Seeding and planting could also likely be largely volunteer work, but costs have been provided for work under the assumption of contractor performance for conservative planning purposes.

There is no specific timeframe for the implementation of this plan. Phasing will depend on LVDL selecting priority areas to construct and earmarking funds to advance the work. Any phase can be completed independently, but there are sequences and adjacencies of implementation that would be more advantageous in minimizing impacts to previously completed construction and maximizing economies of scale for projects within the master plan.

Funding for the stewardship work does open several doors to grant programs and mechanisms aimed at water quality and habitat improvements. Funding for this work can come from a variety of public and even private sources. The Lake County Watershed Management Board offers annual grant funding that may

be very well suited for stream improvements, as does the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through their 319 program. A variety of private resources also exist for habitat and management programs. Outside funding may be an opportunity to pursue larger scale restoration without dedicating library specific funds to this work. While these stewardship areas offer opportunities to create an unmatched library patron experience, the mission of the library is also considered in the proposed efforts and restoration approach, aimed more at preservation and improvement that fits within the scope of the overall site improvements.

	Total Area Master Plan Costs
Area 1 - Main Entry Court	\$73,300
Area 2 - South Parking Lot Access Ramp	\$336,100
Area 3 - Outdoor Reading Room	\$376,500
Area 4 - The Great Lawn	\$459,000
Area 5 - West Side Activity Courtyards	\$672,000
Area 6 - Book Pavilion	\$682,700
Area 7 - Nature in Literature Loop	\$365,800
Area 8 - North Stepped Gardens	\$54,100
Area 9 - Where in the World Plaza	\$101,200
Area 10 - Reading Lane	\$302,700
Area 11 - Eastside Gardens	\$90,200
Area 12 - Stepped Terraces	\$142,600
Area 13 - Community Lawn	\$166,600
Area 14 - The Path Not Taken	\$66,600
Area 15 - Raptor's Roost	\$272,600
Area 16 - Marsh Boardwalk	\$409,100
Area 17 - Baby Bear's Path	\$185,200
Area 18 - Hastings Boardwalk	\$599,300
Area 19 - Southeast Lake Overlook	\$93,700
Area 20 - Woodland Wonder/Wander Path	\$722,100
Area 21 - Crooked Lake Boardwalk	\$290,800
Area 22 - Council Ring	\$265,700
Area 23 - Story Walk	\$244,300
Area 24 - Marsh Stewardship	\$41,600
Area 25 - Wetland / Creek Stewardship	\$167,400
Area 26 - Woodland / Lakeshore Stewardship	\$15,300
Master Plan Total	\$7,196,500

APPENDIX

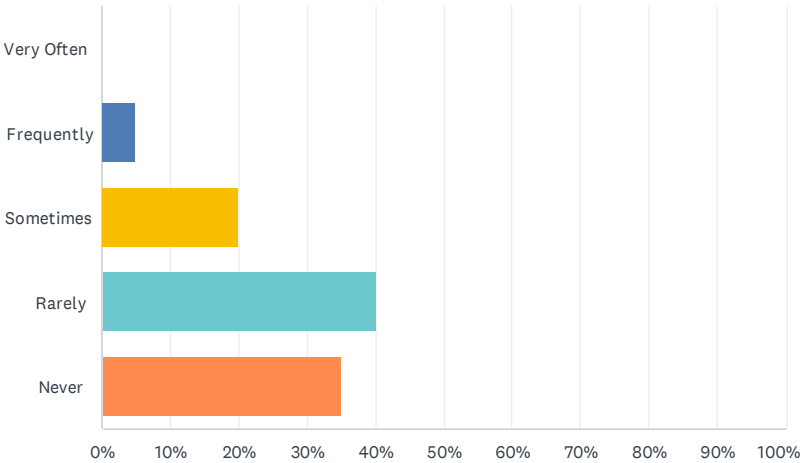
Community Survey

Lake Villa District Library

SurveyMonkey

Q1 How often do you use the Main Entry Plaza seating areas and balconies at the library now?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 1



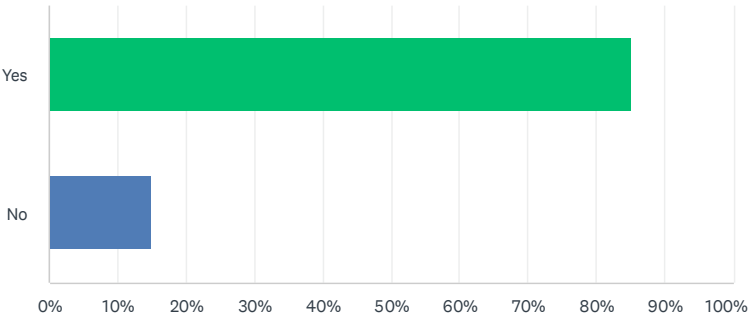
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Often	0.00%	0
Frequently	5.00%	3
Sometimes	20.00%	12
Rarely	40.00%	24
Never	35.00%	21
TOTAL		60

Lake Villa District Library

SurveyMonkey

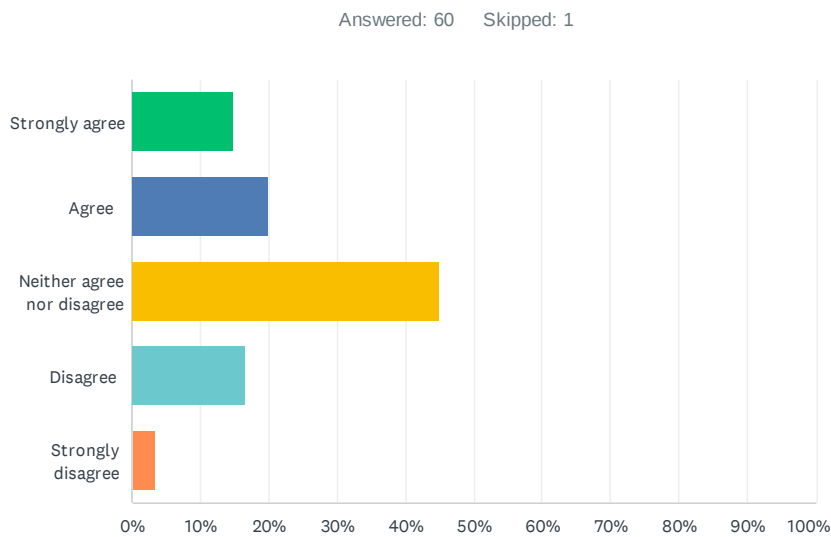
Q2 If they included comfortable seating and shade, would you use these spaces to socialize, work, etc.?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 1



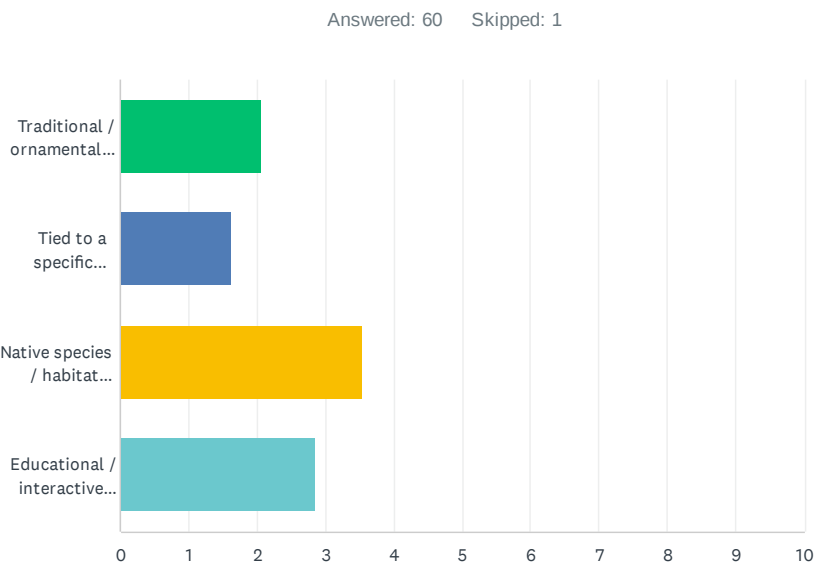
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	85.00%	51
No	15.00%	9
TOTAL		60

Q3 Agree or disagree: I consider technology (phones, laptops, etc.) a distraction when I'm using an outdoor space.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	15.00%	9
Agree	20.00%	12
Neither agree nor disagree	45.00%	27
Disagree	16.67%	10
Strongly disagree	3.33%	2
TOTAL		60

Q4 What landscape style do you feel best fits the Lake Villa District Library's mission and site? Please rank. 1 = best fit, 4 = least appropriate



	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Traditional / ornamental style	10.71% 6	16.07% 9	42.86% 24	30.36% 17	56	2.07
Tied to a specific theme/hobby	1.75% 1	12.28% 7	33.33% 19	52.63% 30	57	1.63
Native species / habitat restoration	61.40% 35	31.58% 18	5.26% 3	1.75% 1	57	3.53
Educational / interactive style	31.03% 18	37.93% 22	17.24% 10	13.79% 8	58	2.86

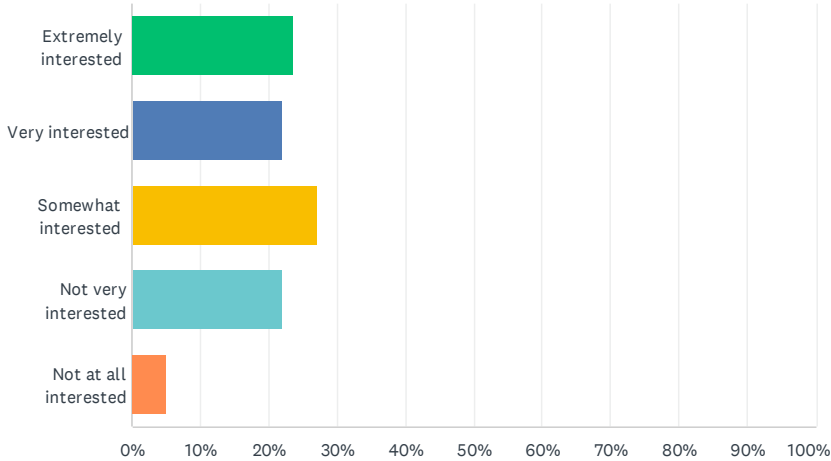
Community Survey

Lake Villa District Library

SurveyMonkey

Q5 How interested would you be in outdoor areas at the library that showcase the area's Native American or European settlers' history?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 2



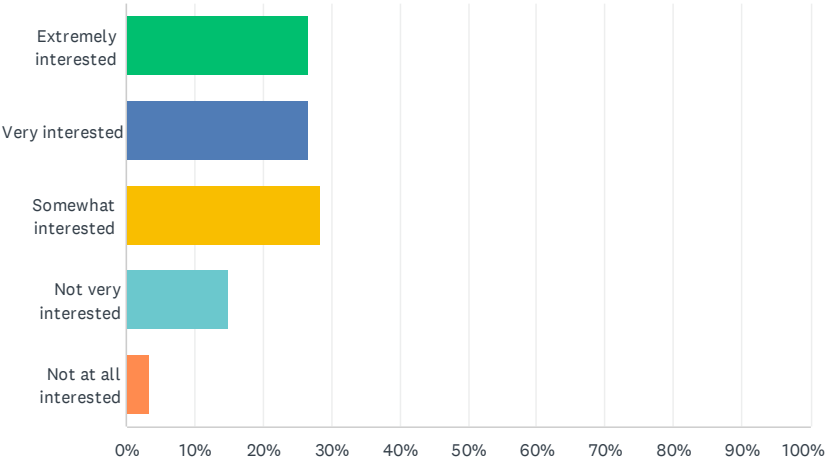
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely interested	23.73%	14
Very interested	22.03%	13
Somewhat interested	27.12%	16
Not very interested	22.03%	13
Not at all interested	5.08%	3
TOTAL		59

Lake Villa District Library

SurveyMonkey

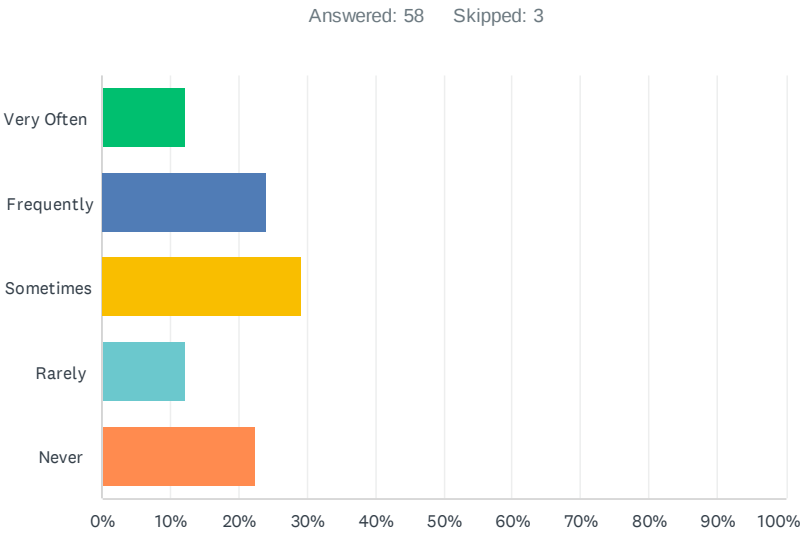
Q6 How interested would you be in outdoor areas at the library that showcase local authors/artists and local cultures?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 1



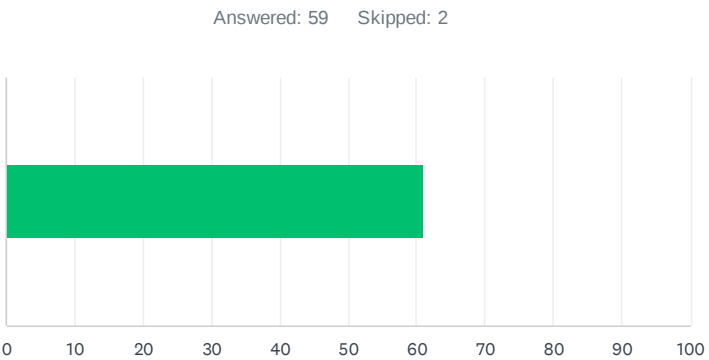
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely interested	26.67%	16
Very interested	26.67%	16
Somewhat interested	28.33%	17
Not very interested	15.00%	9
Not at all interested	3.33%	2
TOTAL		60

Q7 How often would at least one person in your household go to the library to use a nature-based or literature/storybook-themed play space if it were available to you?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Very Often	12.07%7
Frequently	24.14%14
Sometimes	29.31%17
Rarely	12.07%7
Never	22.41%13
TOTAL	58

Q8 Should play spaces be traditional and active or more visually discreet and passive in providing play value? Please use the slider below.



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	61	3,599	59
Total Respondents: 59			
#		DATE	
1	52	5/30/2022 10:56 PM	
2	17	5/28/2022 11:16 AM	
3	50	5/25/2022 5:01 PM	
4	53	5/22/2022 7:08 PM	
5	71	5/22/2022 2:19 PM	
6	55	5/20/2022 12:31 PM	
7	90	5/17/2022 6:25 PM	
8	35	5/14/2022 7:12 PM	
9	40	5/14/2022 1:25 PM	
10	68	5/11/2022 12:58 PM	
11	50	5/10/2022 2:52 PM	
12	6	5/9/2022 11:13 AM	
13	55	5/8/2022 11:00 AM	
14	50	5/7/2022 1:57 PM	
15	71	5/6/2022 2:33 PM	
16	62	5/5/2022 6:08 PM	
17	95	5/5/2022 8:48 AM	
18	99	5/4/2022 7:47 PM	
19	75	5/4/2022 7:31 PM	

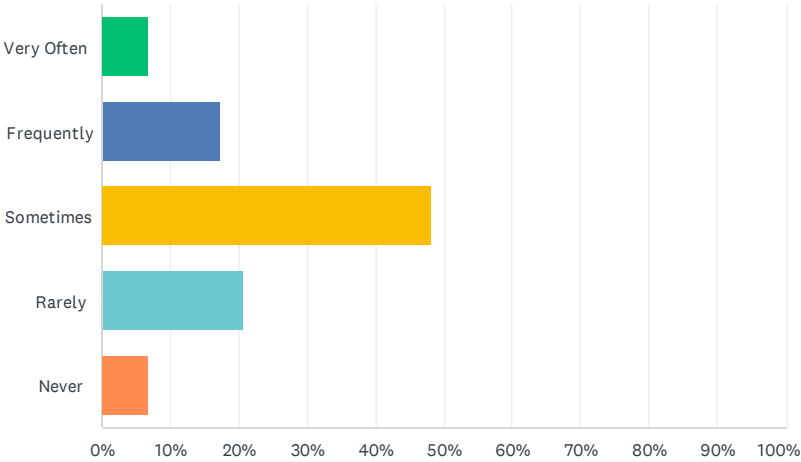
Community Survey

Lake Villa District Library

SurveyMonkey

Q9 How often would you take advantage of items (binoculars, telescopes, magnifying glasses, etc.) to explore the library grounds if they could be checked out from the library?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 3



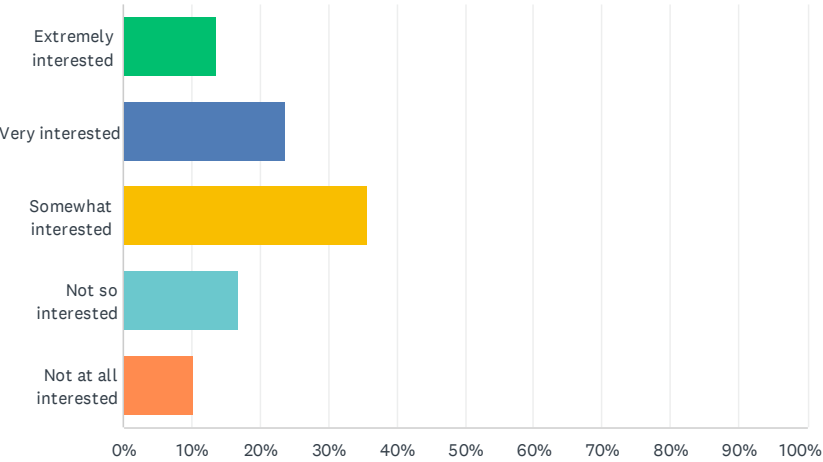
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Often	6.90%	4
Frequently	17.24%	10
Sometimes	48.28%	28
Rarely	20.69%	12
Never	6.90%	4
TOTAL		58

Lake Villa District Library

SurveyMonkey

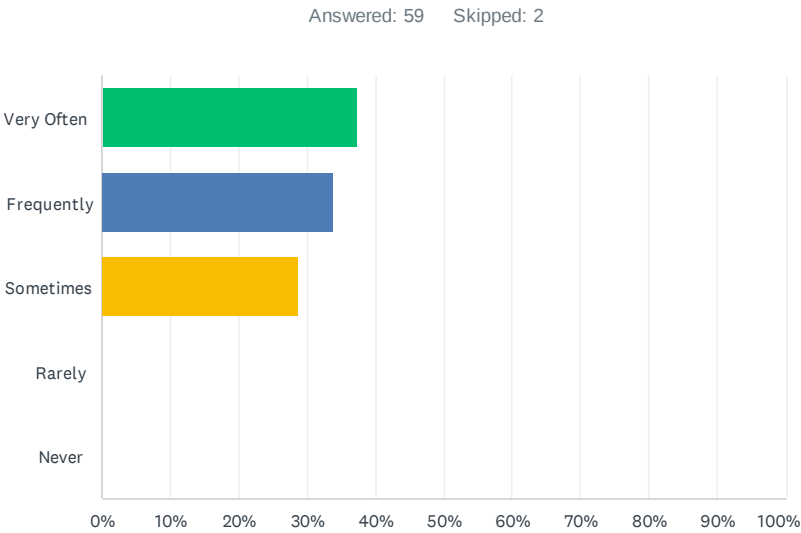
Q10 How interested would you be in Exploration Kits, similar to the take-home kits provided during the pandemic, that could be used to explore the library grounds and then taken home?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 2



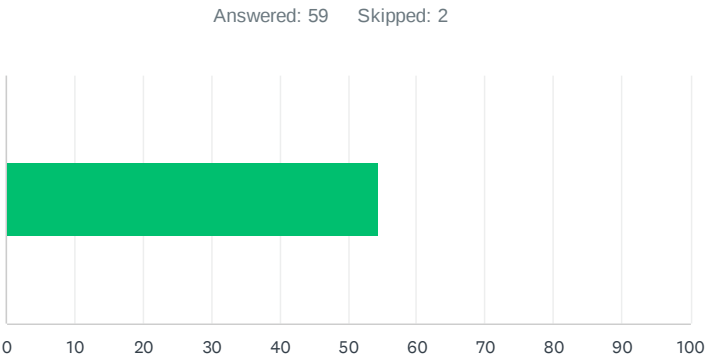
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely interested	13.56%	8
Very interested	23.73%	14
Somewhat interested	35.59%	21
Not so interested	16.95%	10
Not at all interested	10.17%	6
TOTAL		59

Q11 How often would you or anyone in your household go to the library to take a nature walk to view prairie, woodland, or lakefront/wetland ecosystems if that were available to you?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Often	37.29%	22
Frequently	33.90%	20
Sometimes	28.81%	17
Rarely	0.00%	0
Never	0.00%	0
TOTAL		59

Q12 Should access to nature be interpreted through signage or left pristine?



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	54	3,212	59
Total Respondents: 59			

#		DATE
1	47	5/30/2022 10:57 PM
2	63	5/28/2022 11:16 AM
3	5	5/25/2022 5:02 PM
4	20	5/22/2022 7:09 PM
5	2	5/22/2022 2:20 PM
6	52	5/20/2022 12:32 PM
7	70	5/17/2022 6:26 PM
8	85	5/14/2022 7:13 PM
9	70	5/14/2022 1:25 PM
10	79	5/11/2022 12:59 PM
11	100	5/10/2022 2:53 PM
12	62	5/9/2022 11:14 AM
13	52	5/8/2022 11:01 AM
14	75	5/7/2022 1:58 PM
15	75	5/6/2022 2:34 PM
16	50	5/5/2022 6:10 PM
17	50	5/5/2022 8:49 AM
18	36	5/4/2022 7:48 PM
19	75	5/4/2022 7:33 PM

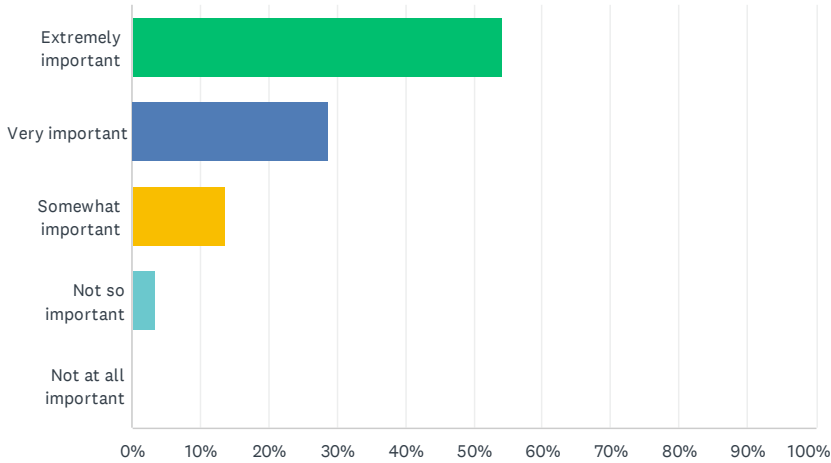
Community Survey

Lake Villa District Library

SurveyMonkey

Q13 How important to you are the use of native plantings at the library?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 2



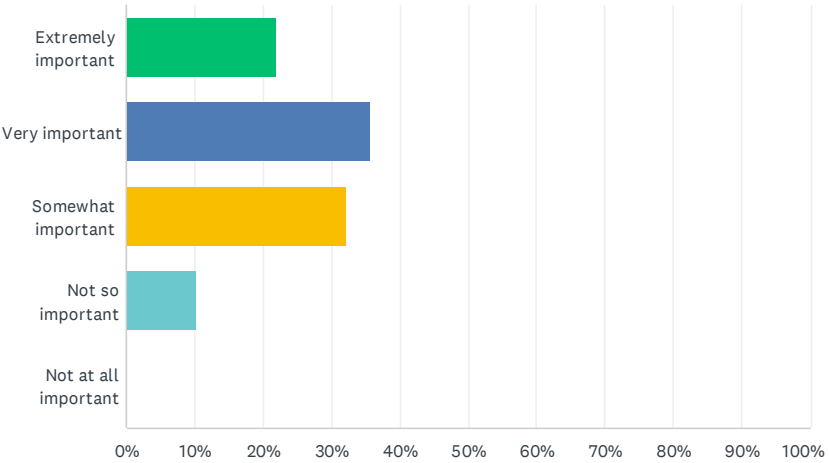
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	54.24%	32
Very important	28.81%	17
Somewhat important	13.56%	8
Not so important	3.39%	2
Not at all important	0.00%	0
TOTAL		59

Lake Villa District Library

SurveyMonkey

Q14 How important to you are events and programs about nature?

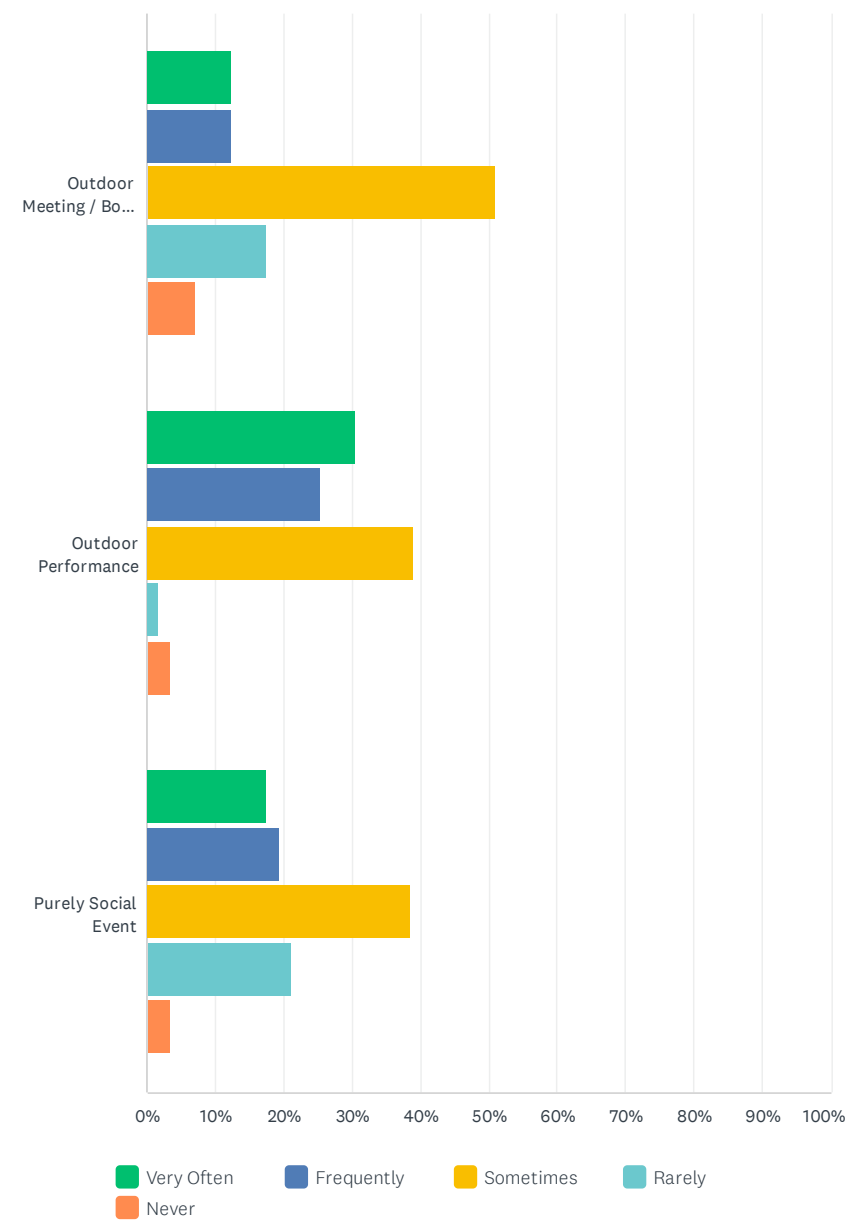
Answered: 59 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	22.03%	13
Very important	35.59%	21
Somewhat important	32.20%	19
Not so important	10.17%	6
Not at all important	0.00%	0
TOTAL		59

Q15 If they were available to you, how often would you or anyone in your household go to the library to attend the following:

Answered: 59 Skipped: 2



	VERY OFTEN	FREQUENTLY	SOMETIMES	RARELY	NEVER	TOTAL
Outdoor Meeting / Book Club	12.28% 7	12.28% 7	50.88% 29	17.54% 10	7.02% 4	57
Outdoor Performance	30.51% 18	25.42% 15	38.98% 23	1.69% 1	3.39% 2	59
Purely Social Event	17.54% 10	19.30% 11	38.60% 22	21.05% 12	3.51% 2	57

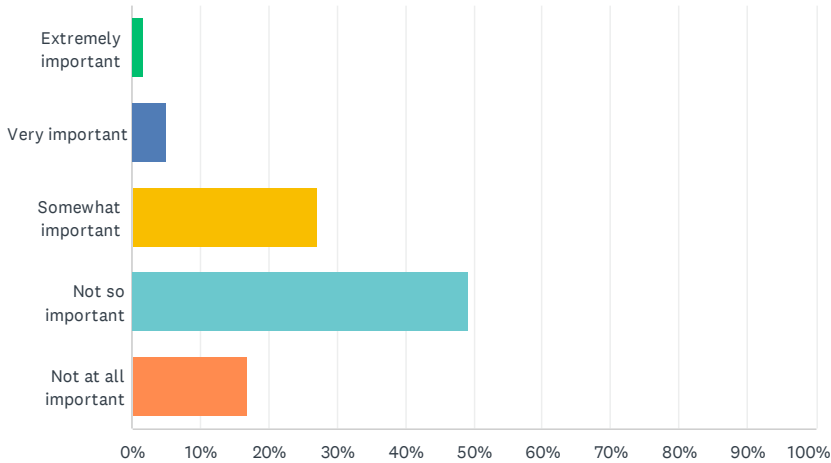
Community Survey

Lake Villa District Library

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Q16 How important are beverages and access to food/snacks during your library visit?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 2



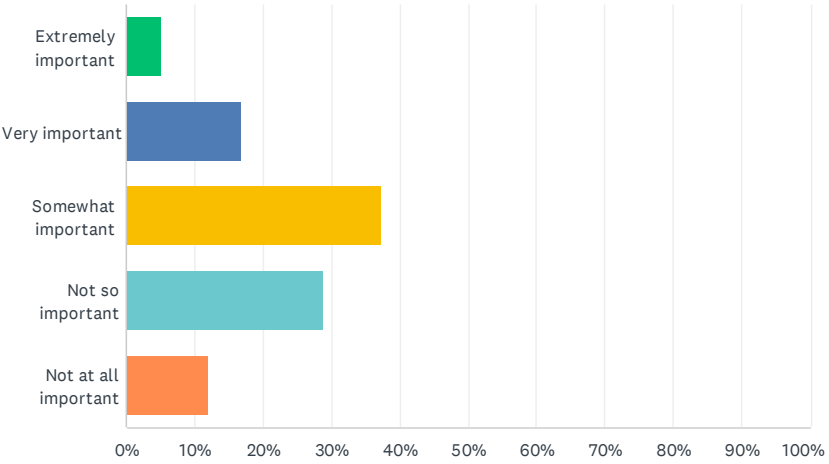
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	1.69%	1
Very important	5.08%	3
Somewhat important	27.12%	16
Not so important	49.15%	29
Not at all important	16.95%	10
TOTAL		59

Lake Villa District Library

SurveyMonkey

Q17 How important is it that the library create outdoor spaces that can be reserved/utilized by private groups or other community organization/institutions?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	5.08%	3
Very important	16.95%	10
Somewhat important	37.29%	22
Not so important	28.81%	17
Not at all important	11.86%	7
TOTAL		59

Q18 Imagine there were no limitations, what would your dream Library Outdoor Space contain?

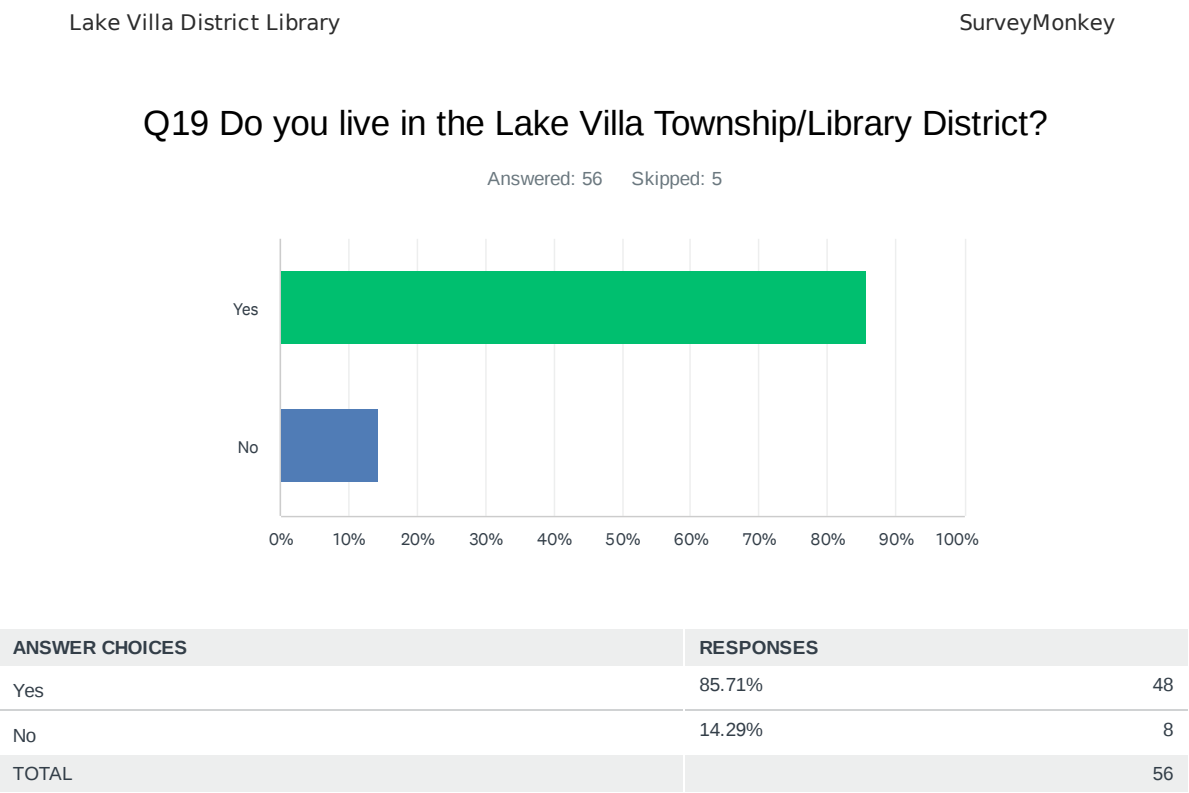
Answered: 44 Skipped: 17

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	A massive amount of native prairie /butterfly attracting plants with meandering paths designed to let children explore.	5/30/2022 11:02 PM
2	I would love a community garden. I think it would be a great way to bring people together and to educate about nature.	5/28/2022 11:17 AM
3	A pergola with flowering vines, a fountain, some smaller private spaces, an area with a Wi-Fi connection, plenty of seating (seniors need that), shaded benches, an area with native plants and identifying signs, someplace to get water, and some solar lights for evening walks.	5/22/2022 7:33 PM
4	1.Shade, comfortable seating where I can PUT MY FEET UP, beautiful views. 2. An area where I could listen to live music outdoors while eating a picnic lunch or dinner 3. An area that people can use in winter to build snowmen. A sledding hill would be awesome. 4 A walking trail with info about native plants along the way	5/22/2022 2:26 PM
5	Prairie & woodland trails, fishing spots on the lake, spots to rest and read out in nature, and near the main entrance, and a few shelters for outdoor library events, meetings and performances. There could also be a small children's play area just outside of the doors of the kids level of the library.	5/17/2022 6:31 PM
6	Picnic tables or patio furniture on a terrace by the lake. Walking paths. Guidebooks to check out that correspond to and explain simply marked locations would be preferable to large signage throughout the outdoor space. A playground or play space with ample shade to avoid hot equipment, seating in shade as well. Heat resistant equipment and poured rubber surfacing would be a dream! Garbage/recycling receptacles near any picnic spaces. A pier for fishing would also be a dream if possible!	5/14/2022 8:00 PM
7	Running water decoration for sound and viewing. Large enough to not be too close to others, but not act like what our Forest Preserve already does.	5/14/2022 1:28 PM
8	Beautiful plants, comfortable seating, semi private areas for relaxing and visiting	5/11/2022 1:00 PM
9	shady area to read outdoors, tree stumps or something cool for kids to sit on nature path to explore garden baby friendly area (closed in somehow.)	5/9/2022 11:25 AM
10	Access from both parking lots and walking paths around the property where each biome can be fully appreciated as its own area. Areas for reading/contemplation but also areas for children to engage with and play in nature and imaginative play, but NO PLAYGROUND. Overlook of the lake. Native plantings and some more traditional or themed sections as well, like a butterfly garden. Community gardening? Like a veg or ornamental bed where the community (perhaps particular groups the library partners with for a season) can maintain and learn from the experience. Outdoor electrical access for staff . Minimalist lights along paths such as guiding path lights/foot lights in order to minimize light pollution for stargazing/enjoying the night. Some interpretive signage about the outdoor space for youth and adults and some featured artistry for patrons' enjoyment outside. Whimsy.	5/7/2022 2:09 PM
11	Undisturbed wetland with some factoid signs about the flora and fauna, closer to the building, a path with hidden things like Disneyland's hidden Mickeys for people to try to find and count them all. An amphitheater near the high brick walls by the parking lot.	5/6/2022 2:37 PM
12	Native plantings with plant identification and information in various forms (handouts, lectures, etc) on how to design, develop and maintain. Access to the lake; a trail or, even more exciting, a canoe/kayak launch. There is an active playground across the street so I don't think one is necessary at the library but a space for outside story time, crafts, etc for the little ones near their "wing" would be appropriate. (I think study areas for students are best inside; less distractions, more supervision).	5/5/2022 8:58 AM

13	Art, sculpture, permanently mounted signage for StoryWalks, outdoor spaces for oversized games like chess, spaces for reading and photography.	5/4/2022 7:51 PM
14	Good views of the water and wetlands, as well as educational material related to the plants and wildlife one could see throughout the space	5/2/2022 7:40 PM
15	I would like good access to the lake shore. I don't think the land should be intensively developed. It should remain as native and natural as possible.	5/1/2022 7:38 PM
16	Community garden and show residents and children how to grow food and native plants for pollinators. A rock garden with stepping stones and small benches/tree stumps for children to explore and engage in imaginary play.	4/29/2022 1:45 PM
17	I would love a 7-circuit or Chartres walking labyrinth. I used to walk the one at Garfield Conservatory when I lived in the city. They are wonderful for meditation and as a metaphor for life. There is a lot to learn from and about them!	4/28/2022 8:12 PM
18	A beautiful native landscape, shaded tables, a fire pit, and a lake and boat rentals.	4/28/2022 12:33 PM
19	I would absolutely love a quiet outdoor area in the shade where I can sit and read as if I'm on vacation. What's nice about being at the library and not in my backyard is I wouldn't feel as if I have some weeding to do or some gardening that is required. I'd love the option to bring an herbal tea with me. If you were to offer a nice caf� serving some nutritious food that would be absolutely amazing.	4/28/2022 10:21 AM
20	trails, frogs, creeks, ponds, lakes, birds	4/28/2022 10:01 AM
21	lake access for canoe/kayak/paddleboard for relaxation; comfortable seating for reading outdoors;	4/27/2022 8:07 PM
22	A simply beautiful place to explore and enjoy nature with hopefully some added shady areas to rest, read, and possibly have a picnic. Space for butterfly gardens, nature trails, native plants, and activities or tools made available for the kiddos to explore the outdoors. A space for outdoor movies or concerts in the summer/fall would be wonderful too!	4/27/2022 8:06 PM
23	Gardens, vegetable and native gardens, walking trails meditation areas (quiet spaces) reading areas. I would like to see the utdoor space natural. Please do not put in playgrounds etc. (no offense to children, I have many of them!) Older people, particularly seniors are very underserved in this area. We already have parks playgrounds and activities for youth. Getting children involved in nature and gardening is very important.	4/27/2022 6:34 PM
24	water features, butterfly garden	4/26/2022 10:11 AM
25	a maze of some sort... perhaps of wildflowers or sunflowers	4/25/2022 5:25 PM
26	- Natural paths with responsible plant ecosystems/restorative gardens - Various access points to neighborhoods/paths nearby - Spaces geared towards certain age groups (play-centric spaces for kids, restorative places for adults, etc) - Informative displays throughout the space that details the nature and history of the area - Art commissioned by local artists	4/25/2022 5:16 PM
27	A quiet space to observe nature. Not disturbing the wildlife	4/25/2022 1:08 PM
28	With no limitations, my dream Library Outdoor Space would contain areas dedicated to quiet spaces surrounded by native plants (e.g., pollinator gardens, tree bathing areas to help reduce stress) as well as social gathering spaces (away from the quiet spaces) that promote getting people outside (e.g., play area for children, small amphitheater for musical/acting performances, and areas for adults to gather to socialize in a nature-based environment).	4/24/2022 3:16 PM
29	Seating / reading area on the lake shore. Shaded and open 3 seasons, heated winter.	4/24/2022 10:58 AM
30	places to sit down and read! In the shade or in the sun!	4/21/2022 7:39 PM
31	Since you have access to the lake, maybe you'd consider a dock on the lake front. If so, my cousin created a dock system that can be put in by one person without getting in the water. They are also located in the midwest! Check it out! https://pierofdnot.com	4/19/2022 11:52 AM
32	Lots of green space/flora. Some beautiful interactive sculptures (perhaps they get you to exercise in some way or learn more about the environment surrounding it). Separate play area for young children so as to keep from disrupting patrons looking for a quiet, contemplative	4/19/2022 11:14 AM

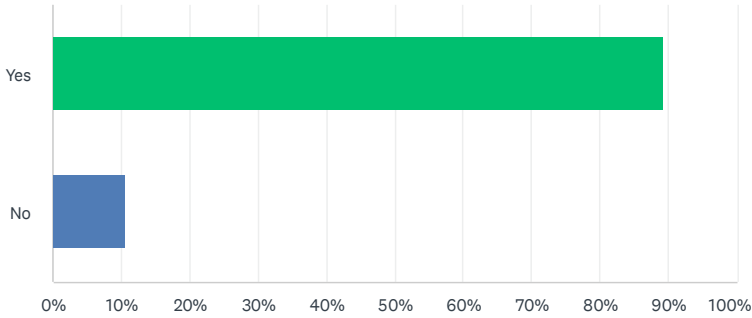
Community Survey

Lake Villa District Library		SurveyMonkey
	walk. Different shaded seating areas/places to picnic. A water element such as a fountain or koi pond would be particularly lovely.	
33	Trees	4/18/2022 2:44 PM
34	be fun to see an English garden setting (not cause of Bridgeton) but in general like at the botanical garden just nice like bleacher setting but all made from grass and nice flower areas. It be nice to have a little pond but i fear of children making their way to it unattended. It be fun to see some type of canopy area for bird watching. Also would love to see an area dedicated to night sky watching.	4/18/2022 1:50 PM
35	I would love to have either a Japanese style garden or full fledged forest with access to seating along a wood chip path. Access to the lake with a board walk would be a fun addition as well.	4/17/2022 10:49 AM
36	A path from my house to the library, first off lol. Then, I've kind of had this idea that there'd be a plaza-stage type space, similar to how they have it set up at Lehman Park for some performances. Just to have a more focused and like, welcoming space for different kinds of groups and events. I also really liked the different nature-themed questions and ideas mentioned through this quiz! If there were like bird feeders or something that'd be cool. Also I'd really like to learn more about the specific kinds of wildlife surrounding the grounds! So anything we do I'd want it to be like conservatory? I heard word of a natural amphitheater? YES. Also, magic comfy seating. I don't know if that is possible in real life but it's so hard to find comfortable seating outside. Also are adult playgrounds a thing?	4/15/2022 5:19 PM
37	A comfortable, shaded seat overlooking natural habitat and water.	4/14/2022 2:21 PM
38	Acres of Native Plants, blooming throughout the seasonsots of birds	4/13/2022 11:31 AM
39	An example of an outdoor space that I would like to see used as a model is the Fort Sheridan Lake County Forest Preserve. It uses displays to share the history of the area while providing a pleasant place to walk.	4/12/2022 9:43 PM
40	A path around the lake leading to connect both parking lots. A path/walkway from the South main parking lot leading down to the lower level path. An open area near the lake that artists, painters, photographers can sit/stand and paint etc. the beautiful landscape around the lake. A permanent covered stage at the North end of the lower level for music, drama's etc. performances. This would bring a lot of people to the library that otherwise might not come and it would make our library very unique and stand out. Would LOVE to see local artists teaching painting classes like those paint and sip (non alcoholic beverages) classes people teach. A lot of people cannot afford going to them. It would be very nice if the library were to offer that so those of us who would love to learn how to paint but cannot afford lessons can experience that. I would LOVE to see my library be very friendly and supportive to the Creative Arts giving not only patrons but artists the opportunities to learn and present their talents and gifts.	4/12/2022 7:09 PM
41	Gravel/sand/woodchip nature trail, frequent seating in all areas for reading or resting plus shade, a children's garden for storytime (NO playground!), possibly a pier or overlook access to the lake, a traditional English type garden, native plants, bird-watching, bird houses, bat houses, a butterfly garden, arbors, a hedge maze!	4/12/2022 3:45 PM
42	I'd love to see the crushed stone paths paved. Perhaps an outdoor band shell for concerts and library story times?	4/12/2022 3:04 PM
43	Places for all ages. Quiet places for people to just be and other spaces for people to gather.	4/12/2022 2:17 PM
44	Flowering plants and lush greenery. A space for kids to play and a quiet area for adults, away from the kids.	4/11/2022 1:00 PM



Q20 Do you currently have a Lake Villa District Library Card

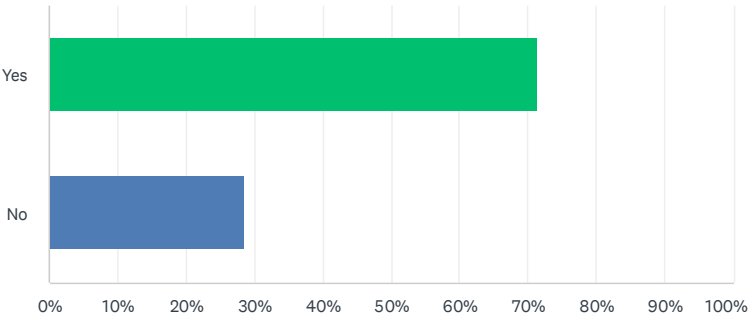
Answered: 56 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	89.29%	50
No	10.71%	6
TOTAL		56

Q21 If no, would enhancing our outdoor spaces make you more likely to seek to acquire a library card?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 33



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.43%	20
No	28.57%	8
TOTAL		28

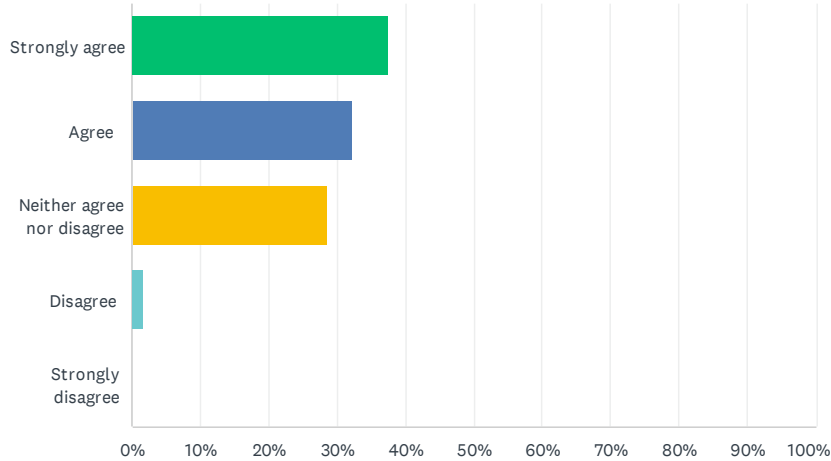
Community Survey

Lake Villa District Library

SurveyMonkey

Q22 Agree or disagree: If the library develops new outdoor spaces, I am more likely to utilize the library.

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	37.50%	21
Agree	32.14%	18
Neither agree nor disagree	28.57%	16
Disagree	1.79%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
TOTAL		56

Meeting Summaries



Meeting Summary

Date: February 17, 2022
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: Teams Video Conference
Attendees: Mikael Jacobsen, LVDL Director (MJ)
Kevin Knodel, LVDL Facility Manager (KK)
Julie Binkley, LVDL Adm. Services Manager (JB)
Paul Schreck, LVDL Board (PS)
Vanessa Villarreal, LVDL Board (VV)
David Mohr, Jr., Lindenhurst Park District Exec. Director (DM)
Dave Frigo, Hitchcock Design Group (HDG) (DF)
Andy Howard, HDG (AH)
Dave Kraft, Hey & Associates (DK)

RE: Lake Villa District Library

Purpose of Meeting:
Project Kick-off: Introduce the stakeholder team, design team, review project goals and potential program elements, schedule, and next steps.

Items Discussed:
Introductions were made, roles reviewed, and the following discussions generated the following comments:

- 1. What are 3-4 things this project can achieve?

- Paul
- Stewardship – lives on a beautiful piece of property – Steward the ground and utilize and preserve the best we can.
 - Get rid of invasives
 - Inviting spaces to draw outside and away from electronics
 - Platforms in tree areas / up in the canopies
 - Indigenous population in the area
 - Any people can learn about the indigenous peoples – cultural resource to the community
- Round Lake pow-wow signs
- Draw kids outside – without their electronics

- Vanessa
- Get rid of invasives
 - Not too much light pollutions – Lake County Astrological Society back
 - Walking and learning
 - Amphitheater



- Bird watching area
- Outdoor movie theater screen on building (fun for summer nights)
- Will see more groups come as we get it going
- Cultural – mixed w/ different communities
- Historical society has a lot of information on indigenous (member catalogues materials)

- Mick
- Is Forest Bathing an option?
 - Places for people to contemplate or be by themselves
 - 1-99 ages – outdoors
 - Don’t want to make a playground but draw children out
 - Can be quiet and draw people to together
 - A lot of different experiences for learning
 - Centered around mission of learning and community
 - Like to tie more w/ schools, camps and other groups
 - Can see it being a stop on the trail – birding groups, etc.
 - Field of dreams – build it and they will come
 - Go a third around the lake and connect to community on the other side
 - Seeing that day in person Dave and Andy – stakeholder meetings and 5% getting excited and gather ideas from the stakeholders.
 - Will invite the community – reach out to Mayors and hear from people who e-mailed
 - HDG lead them through exercises
 - Board will need to go through brainstorming exercises
 - What does it mean to be a Library experience? Can we create a literary library landscape experience?
 - We need to have a gazebo (why and what does it mean to have a gazebo)

- Kevin
- Access from parking lot to tie into whole property
 - Walk around property easily
 - Lakeview is unique opportunity
 - Maintenance conscious

- Julie
- Tying in the educational experience w/ wetland and woods
 - Eagle watch going on lately
 - Bird watching area

- David Mohr, Jr.
- Park District has large properties for mainly play and athletics, but not many that are wooded or unique space to go and be quiet
 - Like the astronomy aspect
 - Keep learning aspect



- Daughter (avid reader) – place to feel with nature and read a book
 - Incorporating hammock spaces (provide posts to hook up hammock (DF – designing Univ. of Illinois Springfield – hammock area)
 - Just finished up a strategic plan, can share
 - 50% users are non-residents for PD – connectivity always come up
 - Hasting Lake and other adjacent properties
 - Unique to connect things along that property
 - Have it ready to go for increasing connectivity to adjacent properties/neighborhoods
 - Intergenerational spaces, places to read / play
 - Library can be a great hub for spaces of all ages
- Dave Kraft
- What do you envision the crossover of events with Forest Preserve or the Lindenhurst PD?
- Dave Frigo
- Changing content and scale for events
 - How much do local schools use library as a field trip and space would allow 30-40 kids to be a little loud
 - Are there local groups that could help with the area / birding clubs?
 - Buffering neighbors to the North / be good neighbors
- Dave Mohr, Jr. –
Willshare strategic plan w/ us and connectivity
focus groups and community survey information
2. Questions to Explore / Study Further:
- Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights [Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights – Outdoors Alliance for Kids](#)
What do you envision students / users learning in the outside space?
Storytelling? Age 0-99
Do you want to invite people to the lake – fishing/access
Create views to the lake (clear buckthorn and open up views)
Shoreline (how to treat it and how much access?
3. Next Steps
Develop content for On-line Survey
Conduct Public input meetings,
Conduct Staff input meeting
Conduct Board input meeting?
- cc: Attendees
 File, HDG

Meeting Summaries



Meeting Summary

Date: August 17, 2022
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Lake Villa District Library, 3rd Floor Conference Room
Attendees: Mick Jacobsen, LVDL
Julie Binkley, LVDL
Paul Schreck, LVDL Board
Vanessa Villareal, LVDL
David Mohr, Lindenhurst Park District
Dave Kraft, Hey & Associates (Hey)
Dave Frigo, Hitchcock Design Group (HDG)
Andy Howard, HDG
Anais Placido, HDG

RE: LVDL Outdoor Space Master Plan

Purpose of Meeting:
To review and discuss two preliminary concepts for the outdoor space master plan.

Items Discussed:
HDG presented the site analysis, opportunities plan, two preliminary concept plans, concept sketches and comparable images for the master plan which generated the following comments:

- In reviewing the two options specific elements were selected as preferred.
 - The Lake Boardwalk (with a smaller Lake Overlook far south)
 - Stargazer Plaza at NE parking lot
 - Art/Energy Walk in SE corner
 - Marsh Boardwalk
 - Continuous looping path through whole site
 - Council Ring near lake (with controllable fire pit)
 - Lawn Berms adjacent to and interwoven with the Great Lawn
 - Outpost Pavilion between building and lake
 - Restoration of as much of the lake shoreline, marsh, prairie, and woodland areas as feasible
 - Need for shade in afternoon in most places
 - Raptor perches in the marsh / detention areas
 - Areas of Children’s gardens as well as areas for children to garden
 - Open up lake views
- Specific items were dismissed.
 - Trees grove to provide shade at entry terrace – will take too long



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- Farmer’s Market / Food Truck staggering along Munn Rd. – those functions can happen internally in existing lots. The pavilion can stay.
- LVDL needs to decide which doors will be allowed egress to outdoor spaces without impacting the alarming of doors, creating wind tunnels in poor weather, and overall building security. HDG stated they could still connect all the spaces, just via outdoor walks.
 - The group had no consensus on the preference for the active vs. quiet, respite spaces to be focused on the north or south ends of the building. There were benefits to both.
 - The group had no consensus on the preference of the large performance stage. Again, there are benefits to both spaces shown on the plans.
 - LVDL noted they are having 110+ patrons at story times and 250+ concert patrons. Most concert patron prefer to bring their own chairs or blankets, vs. structured amphitheater seating.
 - LVDL asked if the stage and pavilion be two sides of the same building. There was also discussion of how transparent the stage area could be to not hide views.
 - In general, walks should be 6’ minimum, with some main walks 8’, and some lesser walks 3’ or just mulch paths.
 - The group like the notion of much of the area from the around the building, to the lake, through the woodland ridge and over to the marsh to be accessible. Other outlying areas may need to be more challenging based on existing topography.
 - Hey noted that much of the march area may need to be boardwalk as that is not considered an impact, but a paved trail is.
 - Hey is working on delineating the balance of the wetlands not currently shown on previous plans. DK noted that there is a nice sedge community remnant in the marsh north of the creek that should be preserved and enhanced. The Canary Reed Grass monoculture that is the majority of the marsh area south of the creek will be hard to restore and might just remain with a boardwalk installed, as it still provides some habitat and respite/educational benefits.
 - Hey noted that it is in the library’s best interest to engage a contractor to restore the native areas. Once they are in good shape, simple annual maintenance Invasive removals, select herbiciding, burning) would suffice to keep them from declining.
 - LVDL asked if the ring of trees around the march is worth saving. HDG/ Hey noted that certain trees of quality species should remain, and new trees planted as a savanna community.
 - Patrons highly prefer the work / study spaces with views to the outdoors. Tutoring, etc. prefer just the opposite, no distracting views.



Meeting Summary

Date: November 14, 2022
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Lake Villa District Library (LVDL), Lindenhurst, Illinois
Attendees: Doug Nieman, LVDL Board
Paul Schreck, LVDL Board
Jennifer Durot, LVDL Board
Jarrod Smith, LVDL Board
Nate Gass, LVDL Board
Mick Jacobsen, Director, LVDL
Julie Binkley, LVDL
Kevin Knodel, LVDL
Unknown guest of Library Board (potential Board candidate)
Dave Frigo, Hitchcock Design Group (HDG)
Anais Placido, HDG

RE: LVDL Outdoor Master Plan

Purpose of Meeting:
Presentation of the 50% Master Plan to the Library Board of Trustees for review and comments.

Items Discussed:
HDG presented the 50% master plan exhibits, which generated the following comments:

1. Could the map of the world be sited so north is true north?
HDG stated it could be rotated to true north.
2. Stargazing plaza is in a busy, bright place, no one has even had the lights turned off to use it at night. Improvements there might be a lower priority.
3. Trees should be added to the main entry reading garden to create shade and make more hospitable.
HDG responded that smaller ornamental trees are slated to be planted to create shade and a garden feel while not blocking the sky for adjacent stargazers.
4. Like the new low trees to be planted south of the south terraces. Can existing trees be moved, so as not to waste them?
HDG stated that depending on the species, size and quality of the tree any tree on site could potentially be moved.
5. Community gardens really aren't our mission, what else could be in that area in the SE corner of the site?



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HDG responded that other types of plantings / gardens could be planted in that area.

6. Overall, there appears to be a good mix of low intensity play vs. the active play previously shown.
7. Overall, the group liked the refocus on literature vs. the previous nature-focused concepts.
8. When presenting to the public later this week, remove the older concepts from the presentation to focus only on the current plan.

HDG to pare down the presentation to the public. HDG will send PDF files of both presentations to Mick to use internally and post on the website.

cc: Mick Jacobsen, LVDL
Dave Kraft, HDG
File, HDG

Meeting Summaries



Meeting Summary

Date: November 17, 2022
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Lake Villa District Library (LVDL), Lindenhurst, Illinois
Attendees: Members of the general public
Members of the Library Board
Mick Jacobsen, Director, LVDL
Dave Kraft, Hey & Associates (Hey)
Dave Frigo, Hitchcock Design Group (HDG)
Anais Placido, HDG
Kendra Teune, HDG

RE: LVDL Outdoor Master Plan

Purpose of Meeting:
Presentation of the 50% Master Plan to the public for review and comments.

- Items Discussed:
- HDG presented the 50% master plan exhibits, which generated the following comments:
1. There are public walk connections to the south and east, could there be one to the north?
Dave (HDG) responded that option was looked at, but the grades in the area are too steep for a walk along the road.
 2. Fishing will not be allowed, correct?
Dave (HDG) responded that is correct, no fishing. Dave (Hey) added that the distance of the boardwalk (off the ridge) from the shore of the lake would not make casting easy, it is too far away.
 3. What does the label Community Garden at the SE corner represent?
Dave (HDG) noted that these would be a series of gardens that might be established or maintained by garden clubs, library groups, etc., with a literature / learning theme, not community vegetable gardens.
 4. Was any consideration given to accessing the small hill at the SW corner of the site?
Dave (HDG) mentioned that it had not been considered, but certainly could be. That was one of the few areas not explored during the preliminary site walk.
 5. How will the plan be implemented? Has a Phase I been decided?
HDG noted that the implementation timeline has yet to be decided. It would be a little as 5 years or as long as 25 years or so, depending on resources (LVDL funds, grants) available, priority areas, and desired phasing. The most economical approach would be to build it in



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fewer, larger phases. Mick mentioned that LVDL has some funding in place, but no timeline has been established.

6. Would a long-term maintenance plan be part of the project? What sort of restoration is being contemplated?
Yes, Dave (Hey) mentioned that this is a library first, so any restorations would need to balance that with the funds available for building the overall plan. The marsh area and woodland remnant are the highest quality areas on the site and best candidates. The wetland were the creek and lake meet are lower quality and may remain, with only a boardwalk added for access.

cc: Mick Jacobsen, LVDL
Dave Kraft, HDG
File, HDG

