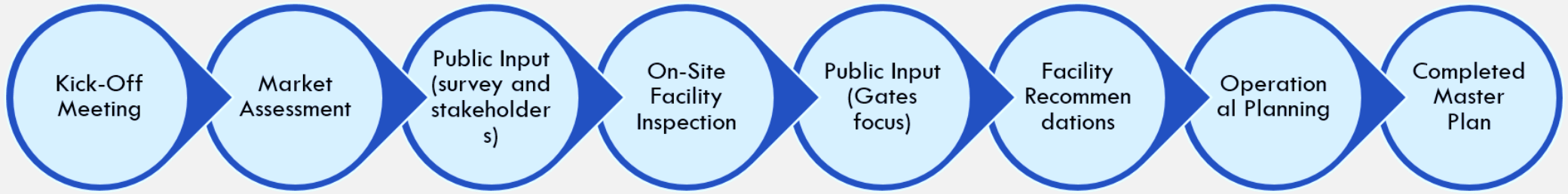
Make A splash

transforming Gates & Byrnes parks

TRANSFORMING GATES PARK & BYRNES PARK

COMING SUMMER 2024



BALLARD*KING & ASSOCIATES LTD

AQUATICS MASTER PLAN PROCESS

BALLARD*KING AND ASSOCIATES · RECREATION PLANNERS

CONDITION OF EXISTING FACILITIES

"If you called me while I was on the ride home tomorrow and told me one of the pools failed, I would not be shocked."

Matt Freeby (AIA)

Aquatic Planner for Water Technologies

WTI

WATER TECHNOLOGY INC.

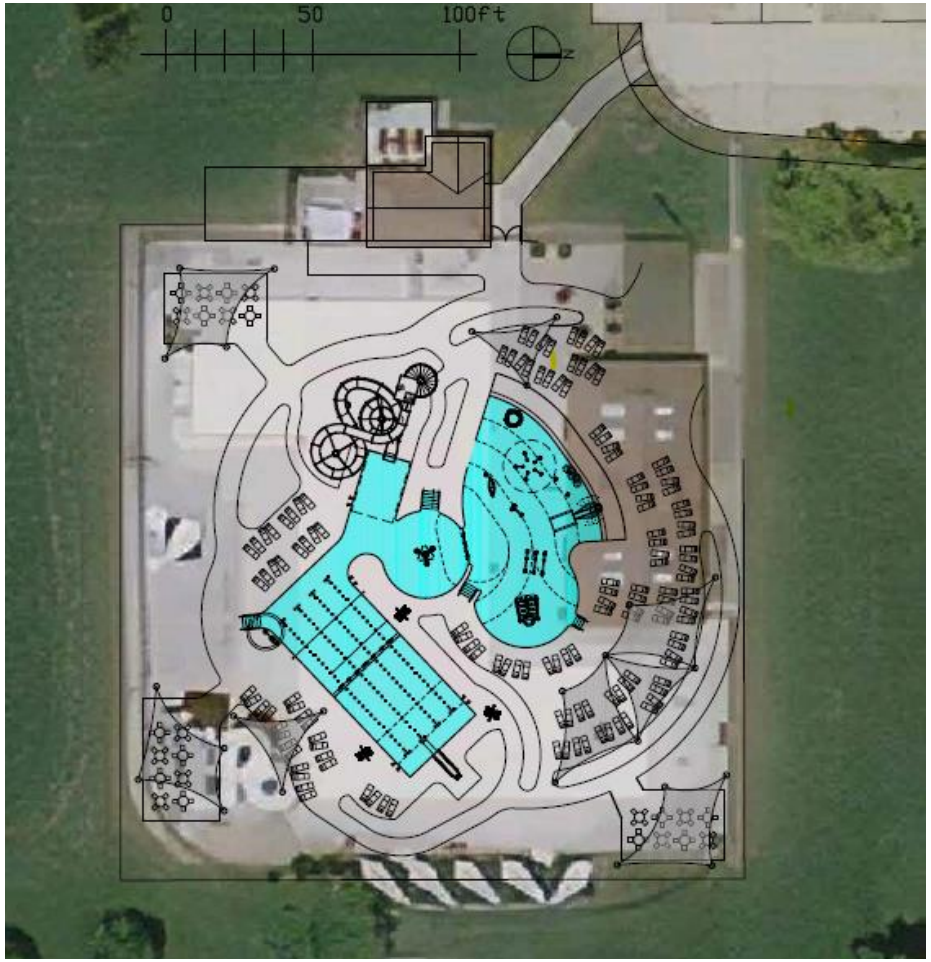
BYRNES PARK POOL: EXISTING CONDITIONS

BYRNES POOL 2019: LOST SEASON

GATES PARK POOL: EXISTING CONDITIONS

PUBLIC INPUT

- Survey – approx. 1,000 responses
- General Public Input meeting
- Gates Park Focus group
- Master Plan process
- 3 evening meetings
  - Initial aquatics meeting
  - “Dream” meeting with focus group
  - Presentation of sketch/layout
- City Council work session
- Leisure Services Commission Public vote on Plan
- City Council Public Vote to adopt Master Plan – February 21, 2022



GATES PARK FOCUS GROUP

- THE PARK SEEMED FORGOTTEN, AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE COMMUNITY FELT FORGOTTEN.
- THERE NEEDS TO BE A TRANSFORMATIONAL INVESTMENT IN THE PARK.
- COMMON ITEMS REQUESTED IN THE PARK…
  - SHELTERS, BETTER WAYFINDING, IMPROVED TRAILS, REFLECTIVE OF COMMUNITY, PLAYGROUND, GATHERING SPACES, FIELDS, OUTDOOR COURTS, SOME TYPE OF WATER.
  - FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS:

    MARVIN SPENCER, ASTOR WILLIAMS, MICKEYE JOHNSON, TIM MOSES, DRE HICKS, DE'CARLOS JOHNSON, FELICIA SMITH-NALLS, WILLIAM MUHAMMAD, JADYN SPENCER WARD 4 COUNCILMAN JEROME AMOS, JR., MAYOR QUENTIN HART.

SHOULD THE CITY BE IN THE BUSINESS OF AQUATICS?

THE CITY OF WATERLOO LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT . . .

- IS COMMITTED TO OFFERING AQUATIC FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS.
- BELIEVES THAT “SWIMMING” IS A LIFE SKILL THAT SHOULD BE OFFERED BY THE CITY.
- CONTENDS THAT SWIM PROGRAM AFFORDABILITY IS AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE A HALLMARK.

FUTURE DIRECTION

BALLARD KING STUDY CONCLUSIONS:

- THE POPULATION WILL SUPPORT:
  - 1 INDOOR AQUATIC CENTER
  - 1.5 OUTDOOR AQUATIC CENTERS
- GATES PARK NEEDS A COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN AND A SPRAY PAD SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THAT MASTER PLAN.
- BYRNES PARK POOL SHOULD BE REPLACED.

EQUITY QUESTIONS: GATES PARK vs BYRNES PARK

- Both parks are considered Waterloo's anchor parks with many features and opportunities.
- Each park will see a new investment of approximately $8 million
- users from throughout the city will be served at both major parks with unique features at each.
- B*K Master plan shows that waterloo does not need 2 outdoor aquatic centers.
- Leisure services partnership with waterloo community schools makes learn to swim programs available to 5^{th}-8^{th} grade students throughout waterloo.
- Gates park focus group has endorsed amenities outlined in master plan.
- Leisure services is Partnering with Met transit for a shuttle or trolley program to connect both parks.

GATES PARK MASTER PLANNING

MARK KUIPER, **RITLAND+KUIPER** LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

RITLAND+KUIPER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

NORTH GATES IMPROVEMENTS

GATES POOL SITE

- Lit Basketball Courts
- Multi-purpose paved rink surrounding basketball courts
- Performance Area
- Inclusive Playground

  A play space that exceeds minimum accessibility to create play experiences in which children and adults of all abilities can interact and recreate.
- Spray Park

SPRAY PAD: GATES PARK

- MARK'S PARK IN DOWNTOWN WATERLOO - EXTREMELY POPULAR, OFTEN OVER-CROWDED
- SPRAY PADS FILL EQUITY GAPS IN COMMUNITIES WITH:
  - EXPANDED HOURS (MID-MORNING TO SUNSET)
  - EXPANDED OPERATING SEASON (EARLY MAY-OCTOBER 1)
  - FREE TO ACCESS

SPRAY PAD: GATES PARK

BASKETBALL · SKATING · AMPHITHEATER

RITLAND+KUIPER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND · SPLASH PAD

① Denali 6M Net Climber

② 5-Bay Variety Swings for All

③ Cruise Line

④ Custom Play Structure

⑤ Unity Dome Climber

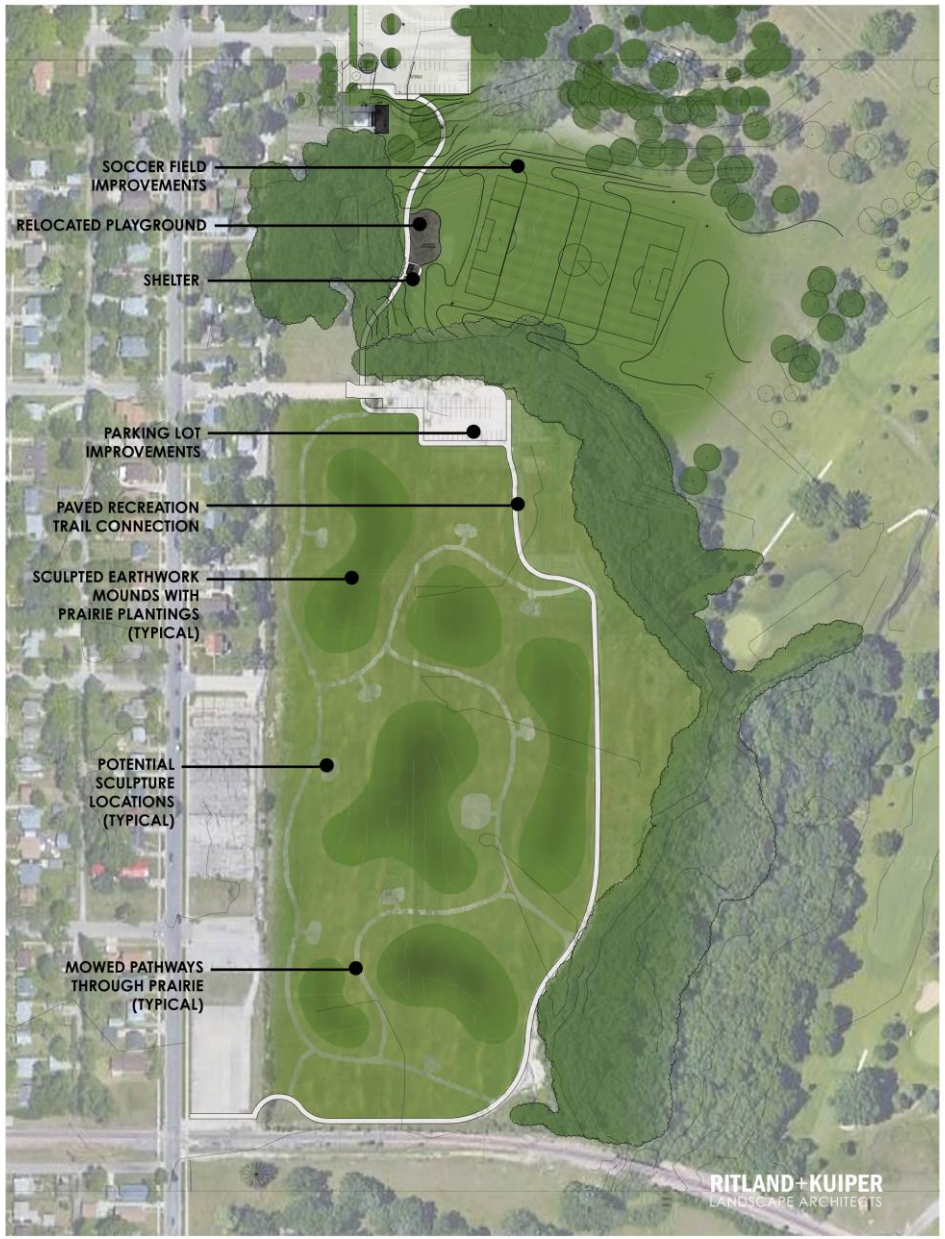
⑨ Unity Teeter

⑥ NEOS 360 Accessible

⑦ Accessible Whirl

⑧ Bambino Playville Play Structure

⑩ Play Tunnel



Gates Park Improvements

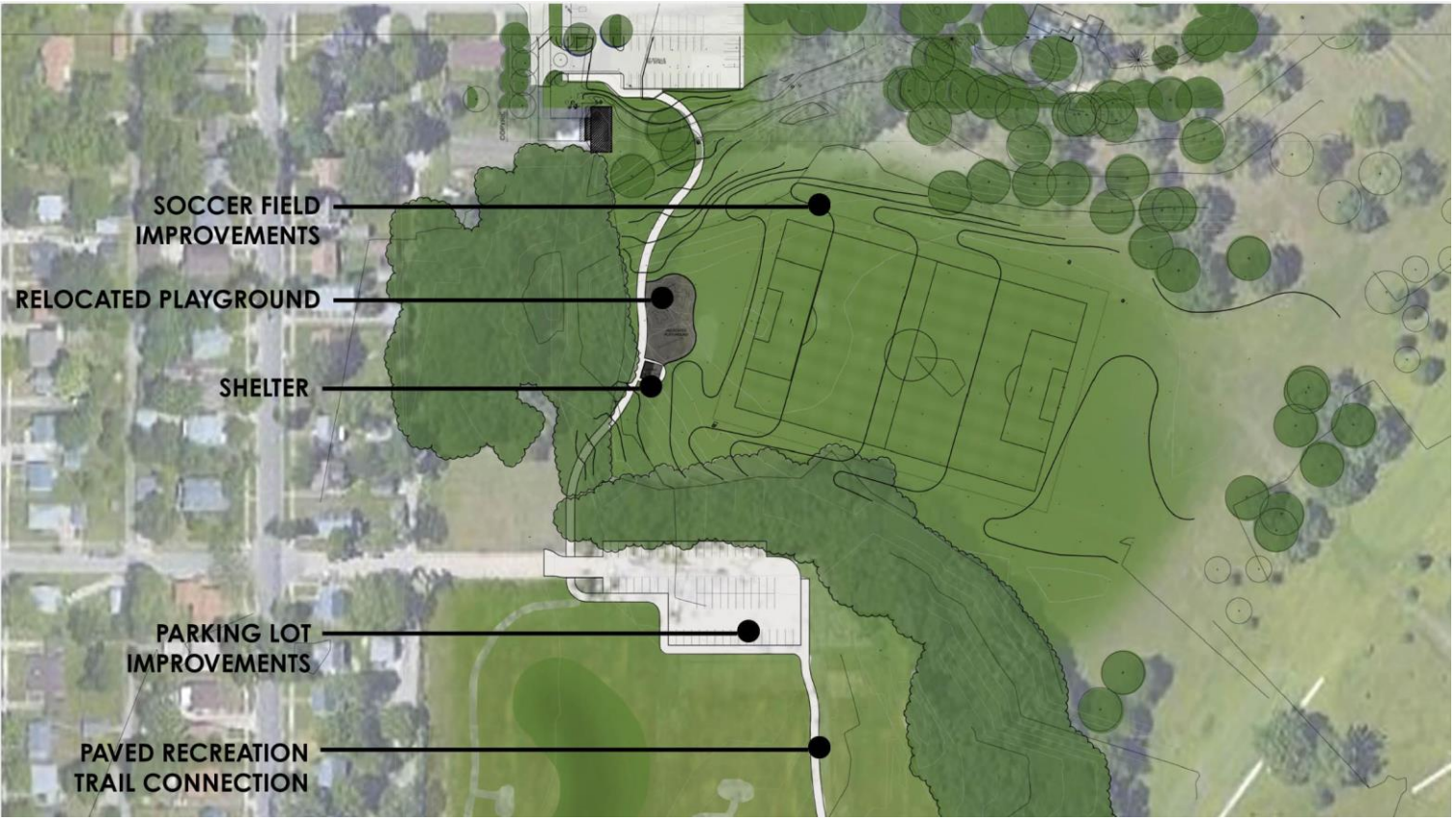
Soccer Field and Sculpture Garden Concept Plan

NORTH

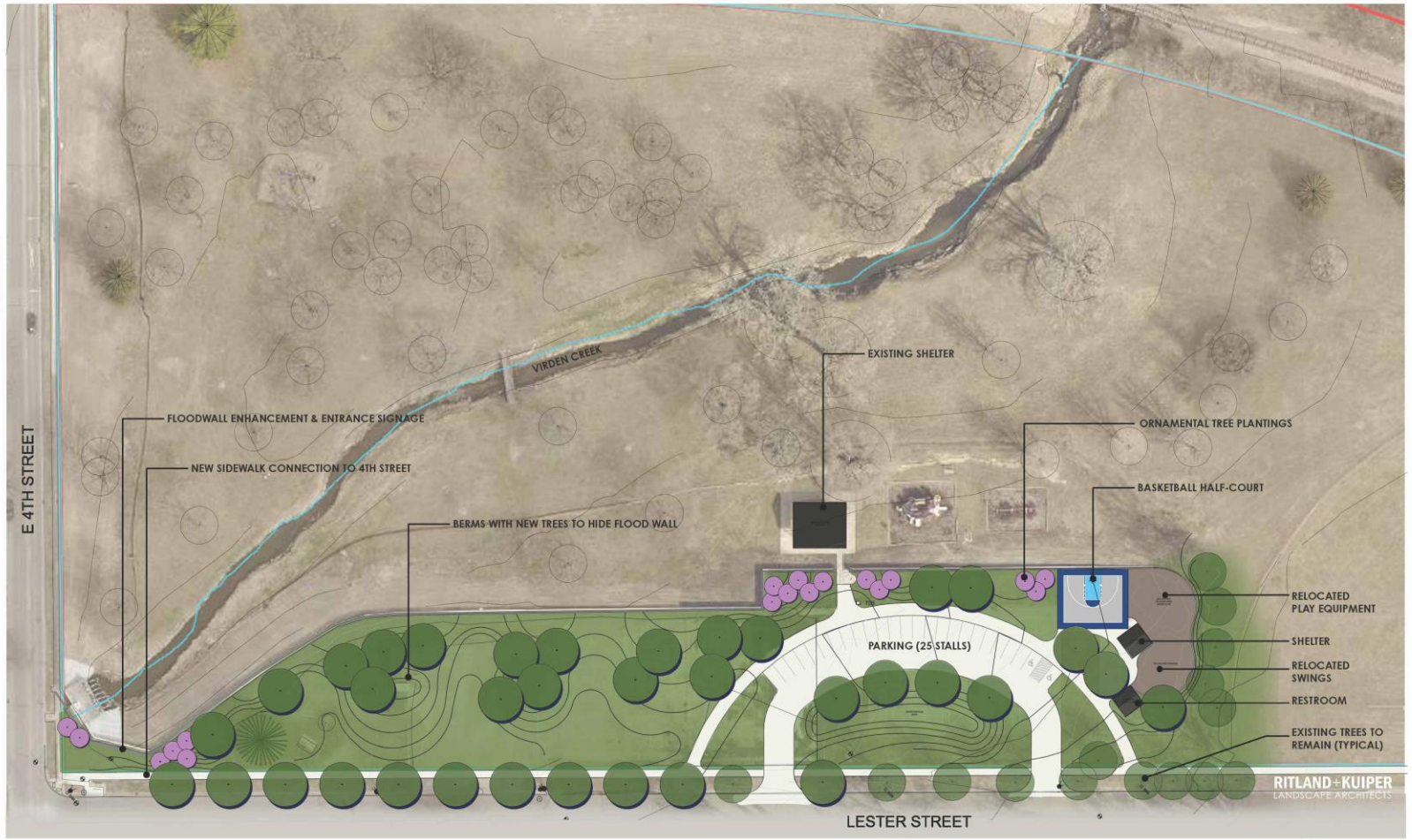
SCALE IN FEET

SOCCER FIELD
PRAIRIE GARDEN
FUTURE SCULPTURE PARK

- Multi-purpose Soccer Field
- Playground
- Shelter
- Parking
- Paved recreation trail connection
- Sculpted earthwork mounds with prairie plantings
- Potential for sculpture garden
- Mowed pathways through prairie


SOCCER FIELD IMPROVEMENTS
RELOCATED PLAYGROUND
SHELTER
PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS
PAVED RECREATION TRAIL CONNECTION

PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS
PAVED RECREATION TRAIL CONNECTION
SCULPTED EARTHWORK MOUNDS WITH PRAIRIE PLANTINGS (TYPICAL)
POTENTIAL SCULPTURE LOCATIONS (TYPICAL)
MOWED PATHWAYS THROUGH PRAIRIE (TYPICAL)



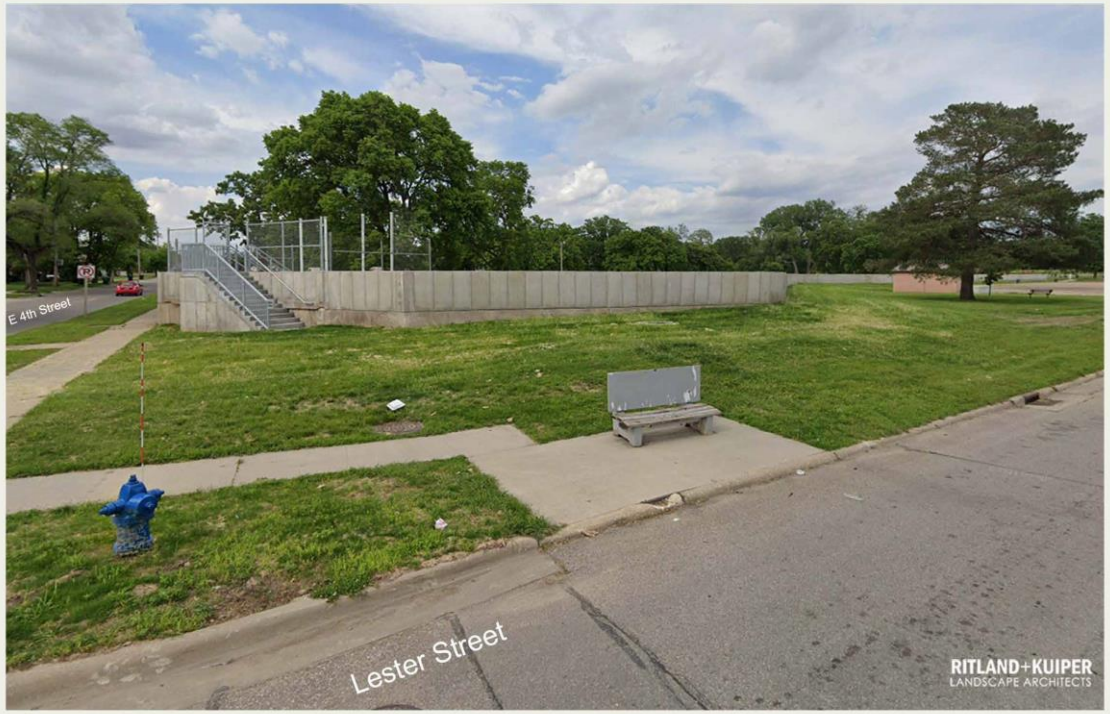
Gates Park Improvements
South End Concept Plan

SOUTH GATES IMPROVEMENTS

LESTER STREET

- Shelters
- Half Basketball Court
- Playground
- Flood wall transformation including new signage

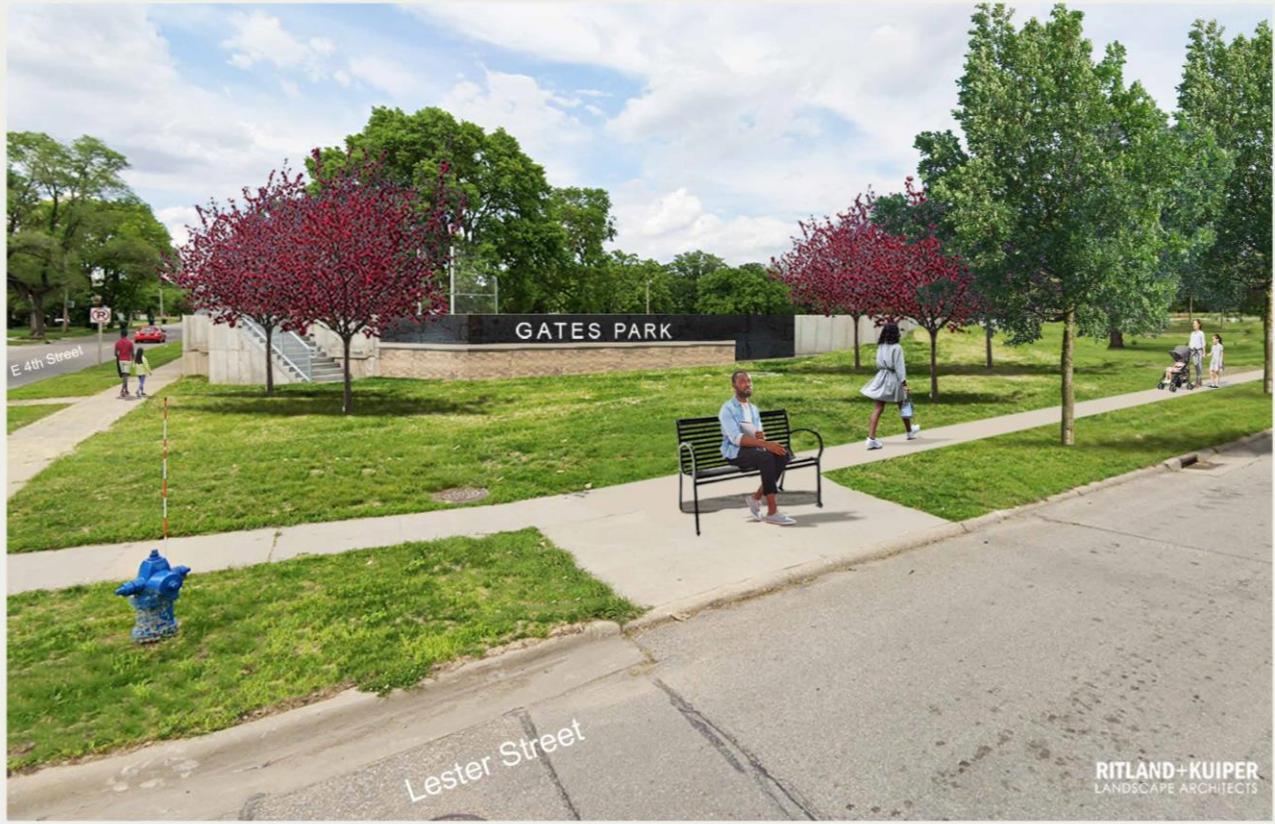
FLOOD WALL TRANSFORMATION



Existing conditions from the corner of E 4th Street and Lester Street looking towards Gates Park

Gates Park Improvements

South End Existing Conditions



Existing conditions from the corner of E 4th Street and Lester Street looking towards Gates Park

Gates Park Improvements

South End Existing Conditions

BYRNES PARK POOL

WATER TECHNOLOGY INC.

BYRNES PARK POOL

- 4-lane, 25-yard Lap Pool
- New Bath House and Concessions
- Slide Tower
- Zero-Depth Entry Play Pool
- New Filtration and Water Treatment Facilities

BYRNES PARK POOL

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

WTI
WATER TECHNOLOGY INC.

BALLARD*KING
& ASSOCIATES LTD

RITLAND+KUIPER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS