ENGLEWOOD NATURE TRAIL

COMMUNITY MEETING

MAR 28

GROW GREATER ENGLEWOOD

CHICAGO
MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT

AGENDA

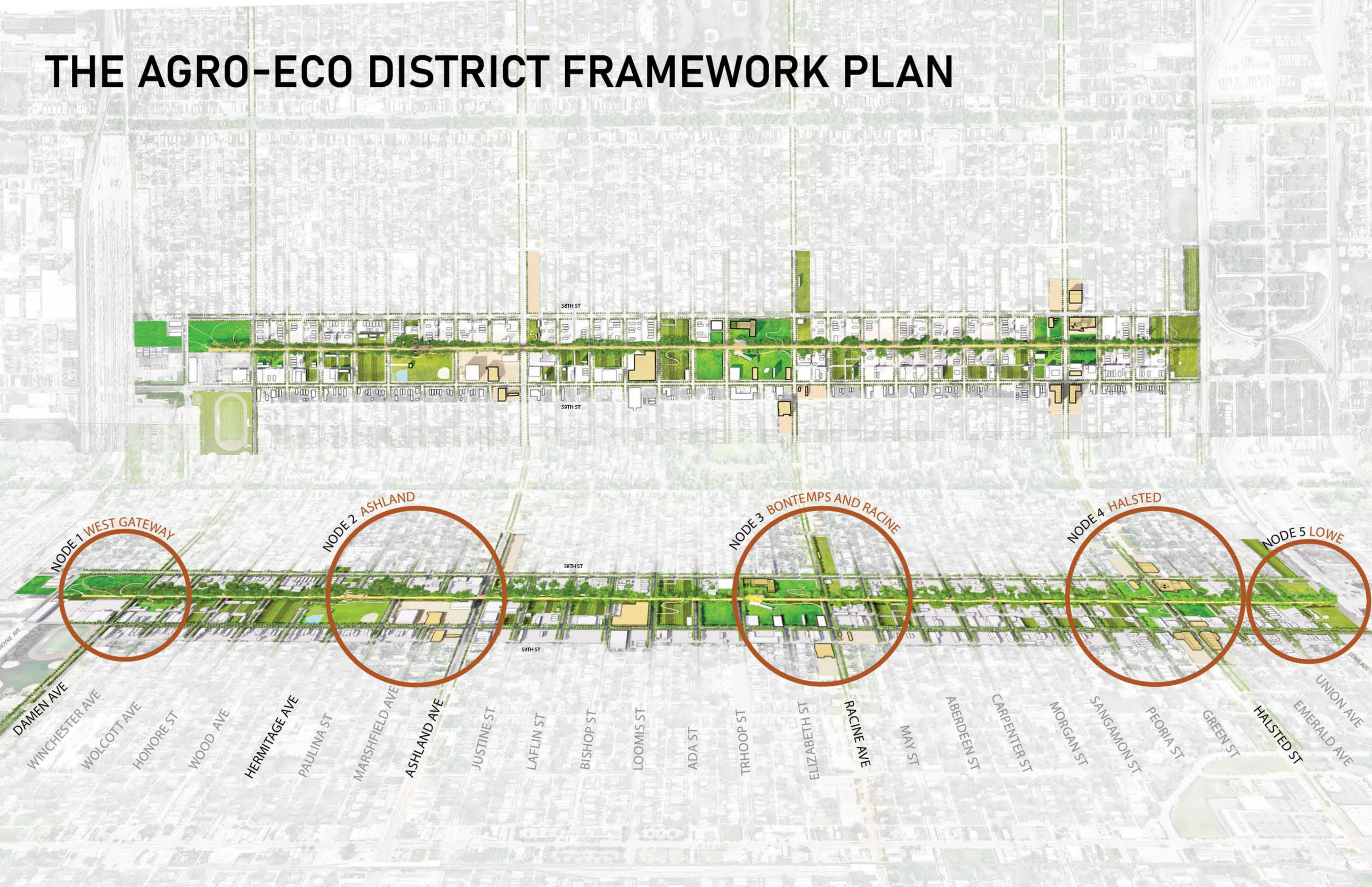
The Agro-Eco District and Framework Plan

Guiding Principles

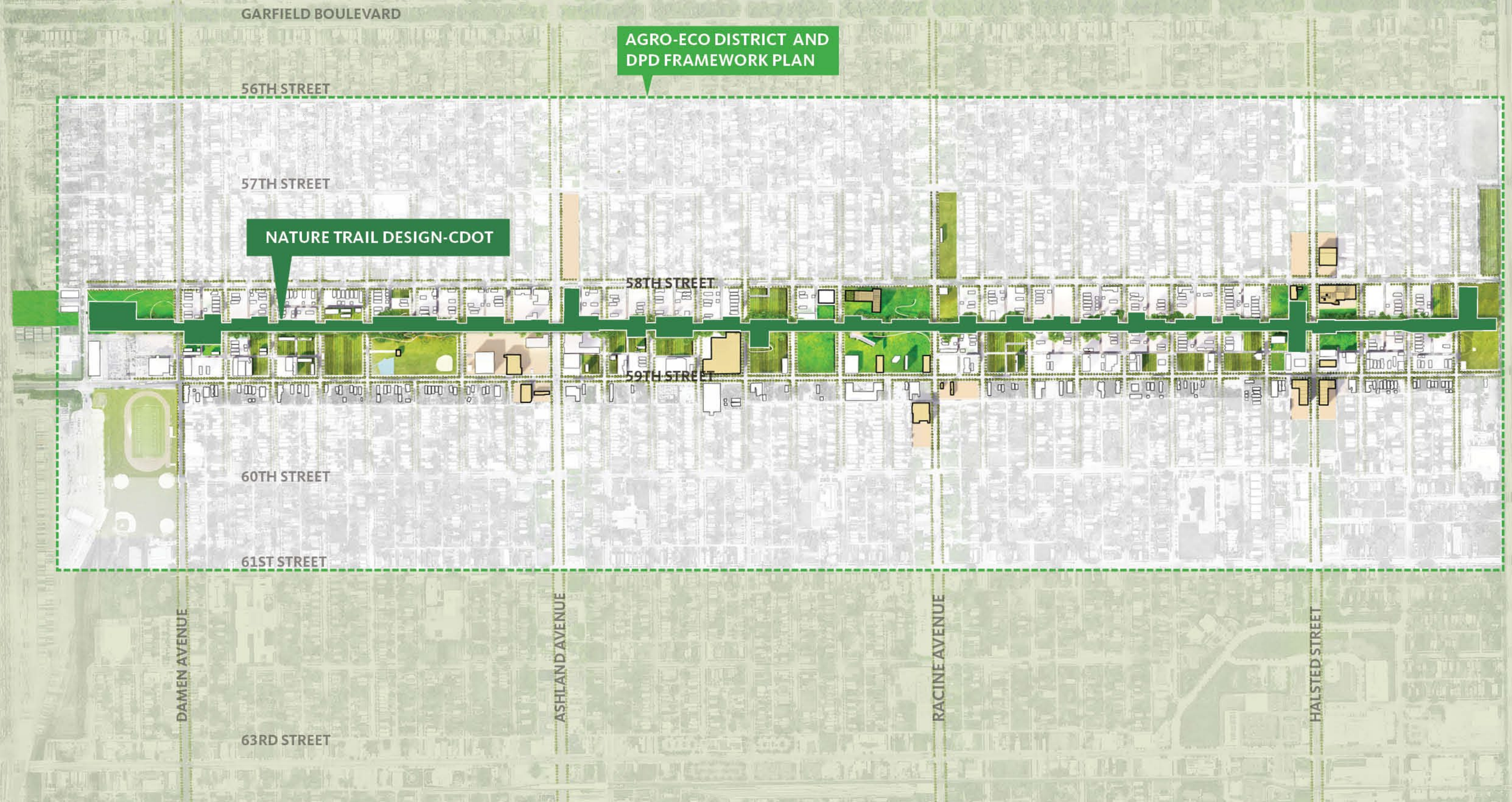
Phase I Nature Trail Design Update

LAND AND ANCESTOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THE AGRO-ECO DISTRICT FRAMEWORK PLAN



THE AGRO-ECO DISTRICT FRAMEWORK PLAN



FRAMEWORK PLAN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. COMMUNITY FIRST

Honor, reflect and build from the rich history of Black culture and the current Black residents of Englewood and West Englewood that ensures accountability and community sustainability.

2. STRENGTH

Preserve and enhance the resiliency of the natural habitat of the trail, adjacent areas and that of the residents.

3. HEALTH AND SECURITY

Create an Agro-Eco district with the Englewood Nature Trail at the center that follows an agroecology approach to improve the social determinants of health of the residents of Englewood and West Englewood by providing a safe place to work, heal, play, celebrate and grow food.

4. STABILIZE

Position the land surrounding the trail to provide a sustainable future and economic security for the current residents of Greater Englewood by providing opportunities to create generational wealth via community investment and by stabilizing housing.

5. PATHWAYS FOR WORK AND WEALTH

Provide economic, educational and career opportunities for residents through the planning, design, remediation, construction and management of the public land and throughout the Englewood Agro-Eco District.

ENGLEWOOD NATURE TRAIL DESIGN

Photo by Patty Wetli

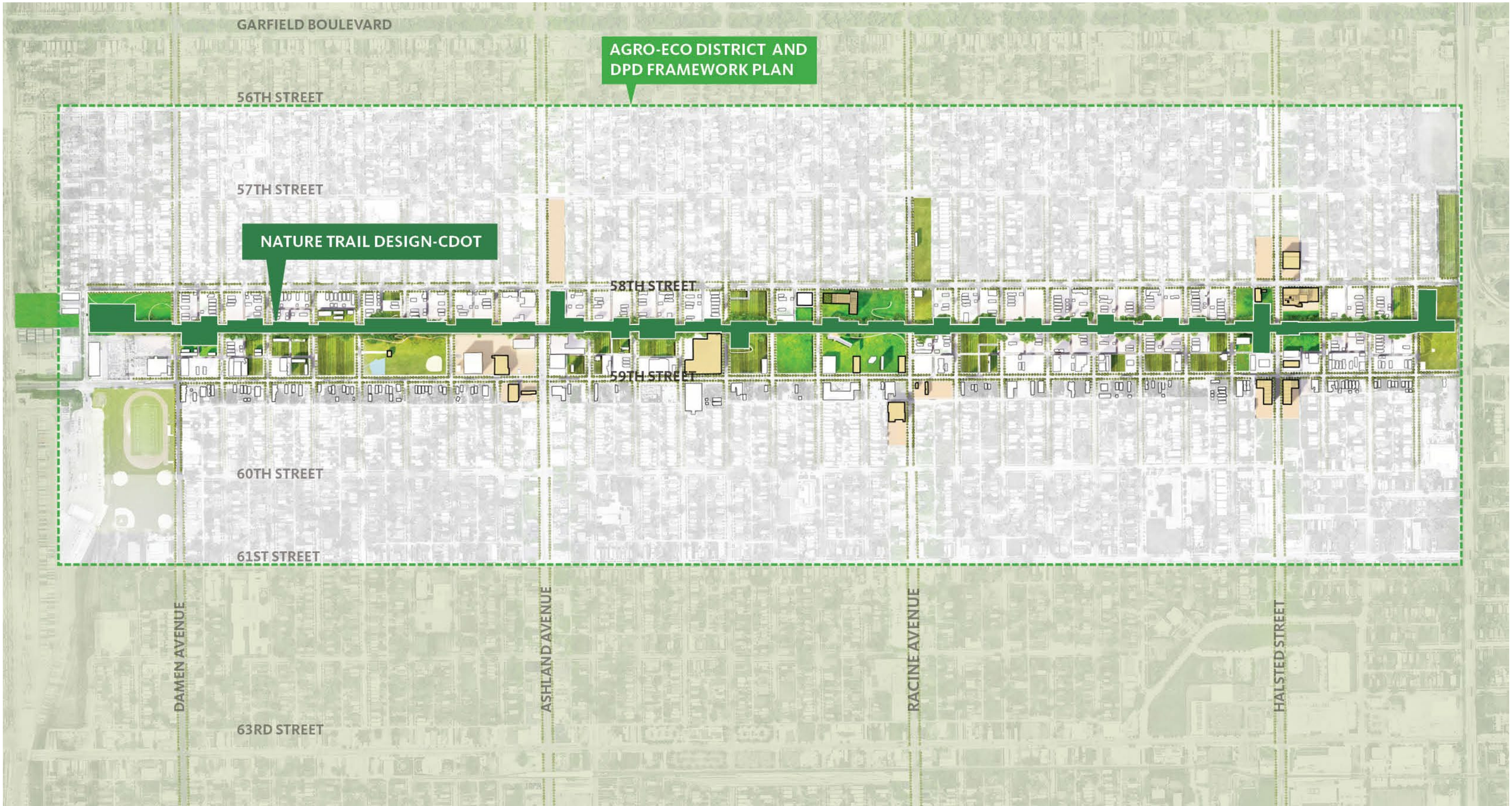
CHICAGO
MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT

WELCOME!

Project Team

CDOT	CITY PROJECT MANAGEMENT
TRANSYSTEMS	CONSULTANT TEAM LEADER, ENGINEERING
DANIEL WEINBACH & PARTNERS	LANDSCAPE DESIGN, ECOLOGY
SMITHGROUP	URBAN DESIGN
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN INTERNATIONAL (EDI)	ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION
INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING INC. (IEI)	STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING, DRAINAGE STUDIES
DYNASTY GROUP	SURVEY AND ROW

PROJECT LIMITS



TYPICAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

PHASE I STUDY: Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Impact Assessment

PHASE II DESIGN: Detailed Engineering

LAND ACQUISITION

PHASE III CONSTRUCTION

Public engagement to occur at each stage of the study

PHASE I SCOPE

PHASE I ENGINEERING

- Conceptual Design of Trail and Access Points
- Bridge and Retaining Wall Inspection
- Landscape Studies
- Survey and Right-of-Way Exploration
- Environmental Investigation and Documentation
- Public Engagement
- Regulatory Approvals

PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

- Grow Greater Englewood (GGE)
- City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
- City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Events (DCASE)
- Chicago Park District (CPD)
- Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

FUNDING

Local

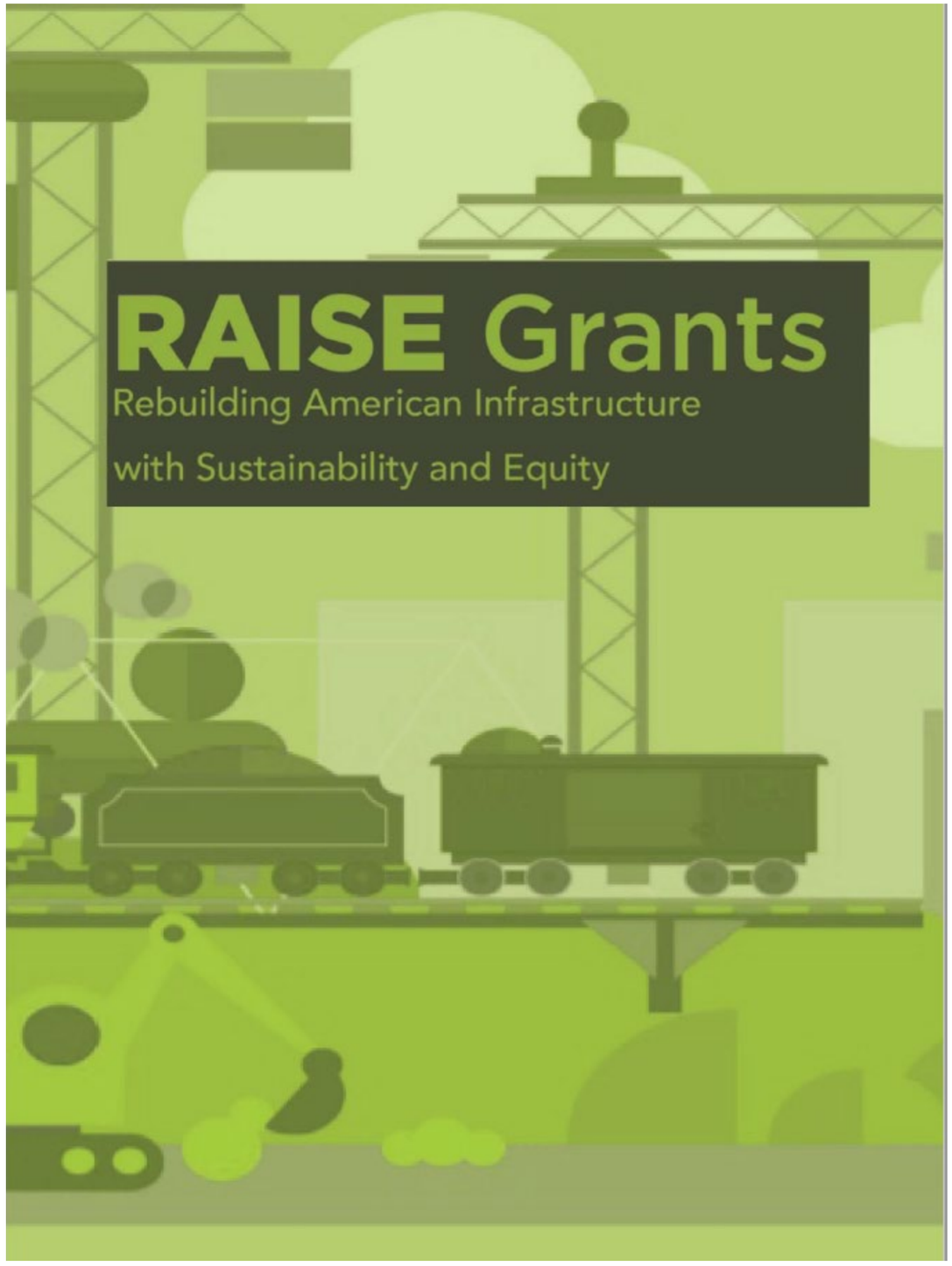
- $6 Million in local funds for design

RAISE

- *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity*
- $20 Million in RAISE funds awarded to City for the application for a multiuse path
- Source: US Department of Transportation (USDOT)
- Requirements: Funding for surface transportation infrastructure projects

OSLAD

- *Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant*
- $407,000 in OSLAD funds awarded to City
- Source: State of IL/IDNR
- Requirements: Funding for public outdoor park, recreation or conservation purposes



PROJECT SCHEDULE

SPRING 2022

Start DPD Framework Plan

FALL 2022

Start CDOT Phase I: Preliminary Trail Engineering and Environmental Study

We are here - Phase I Design
(Schedule detail below)

FALL 2023

End CDOT Phase I:FHWA/IDOT Design Approval Review

Winter 2024

Start CDOT Phase 2: Detailed Trail Design and Engineering

SPRING 2026

Trail Construction Starts

2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026

WE ARE HERE: ***PHASE I PROJECT SCHEDULE (2023)***

2022

DATA COLLECTION / PRELIMINARY DESIGN

PUBLIC MEETING – *March 28, 2023*

REFINE PRELIMINARY DESIGN

PUBLIC MEETING – *Summer 2023*

FHWA/IDOT DESIGN APPROVAL

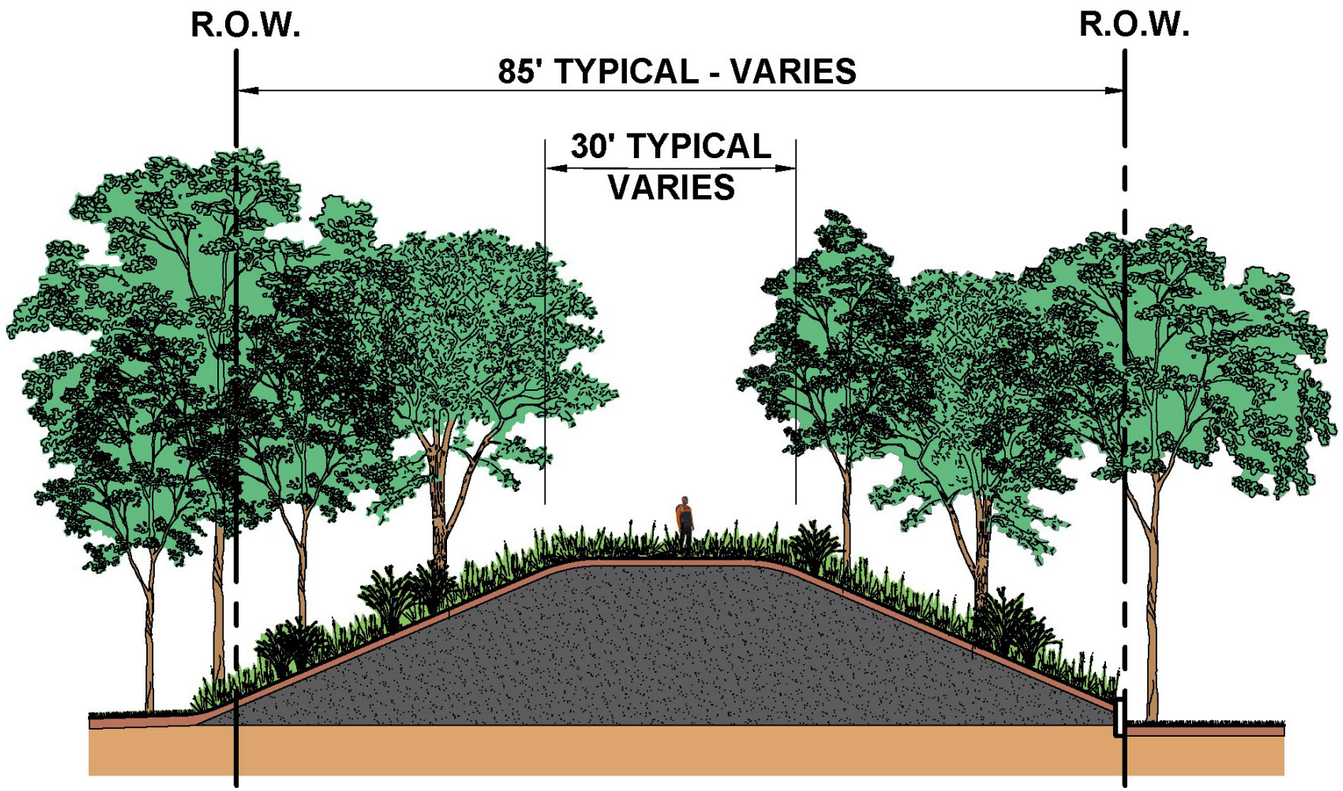
2024

WE ARE HERE

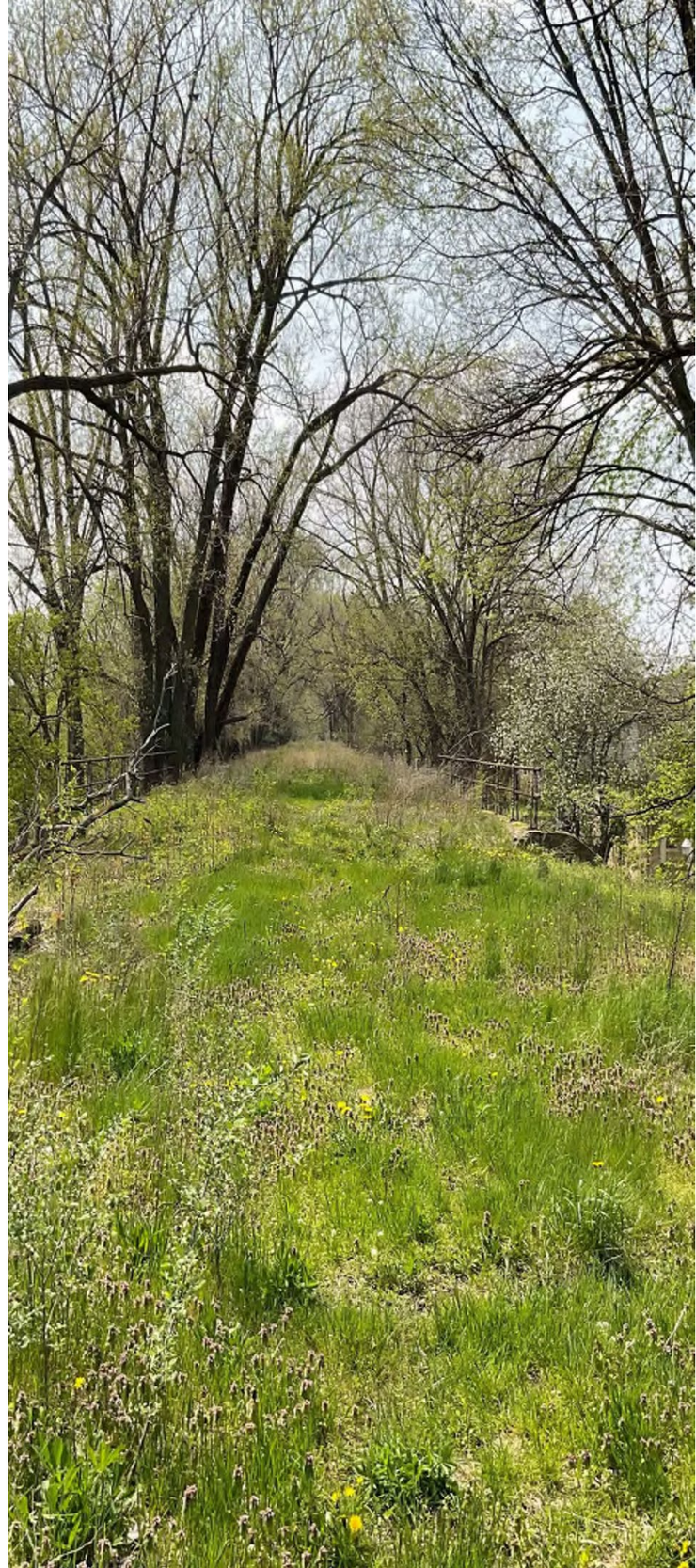
01

EXISTING CONDITIONS

TRAIL FOOTPRINT



- Since it is a former railroad, the property extends in a relatively straight line for the 1.8-mile distance.
- Widths at the top of the embankment ranges between 18’ wide and 45’ wide.
- Widths over the 26 railroad bridges vary between 11’ wide and 29’ wide.
- Widths of existing right-of-way vary between 60’ wide and 150’ wide.



EXISTING VEGETATION

TREES

There are over 1,400 trees along the trail consisting mainly of:

COTTONWOOD

SIBERIAN ELM

MULBERRY

TREE OF HEAVEN

SILVER MAPLE

These trees range from small saplings to mature trees over 60-feet tall.

EXISTING VEGETATION

MAJOR TREE SPECIES

EASTERN COTTONWOOD

75’-100’ Tall

Life Span 60 Years

SIBERIAN ELM

50’-75’ Tall

Life Span 60 Years

MULBERRY

35’-50’ Tall

Life Span 75 Years

EXISTING VEGETATION

UNDERSTORY

The most common natives are:

BONESET

FALSE

ASTER

GOLDENROD

POKEWEED

VIRGINIA CREEPER

The most common non-natives include:

YELLOW TOADFLAX

FOX GRAPE

CREEPING ASTER

There are also many invasive species such as:

QUEEN ANNE'S LACE

POISON IVY

EXISTING VEGETATION

MAJOR UNDERSTORY PLANTS

BONESET

Native Perennial

3’-6’ Tall

Small white flowers

FALSE ASTER

Native Perennial

3’-6’ Tall

Daisy-like flowers, white

GOLDENROD

Native Perennial

2’-5’ Tall

Yellow flowers

POKEWEED

Native Perennial

4’-10’ Tall

Dark Purple Berries

EXISTING SOILS

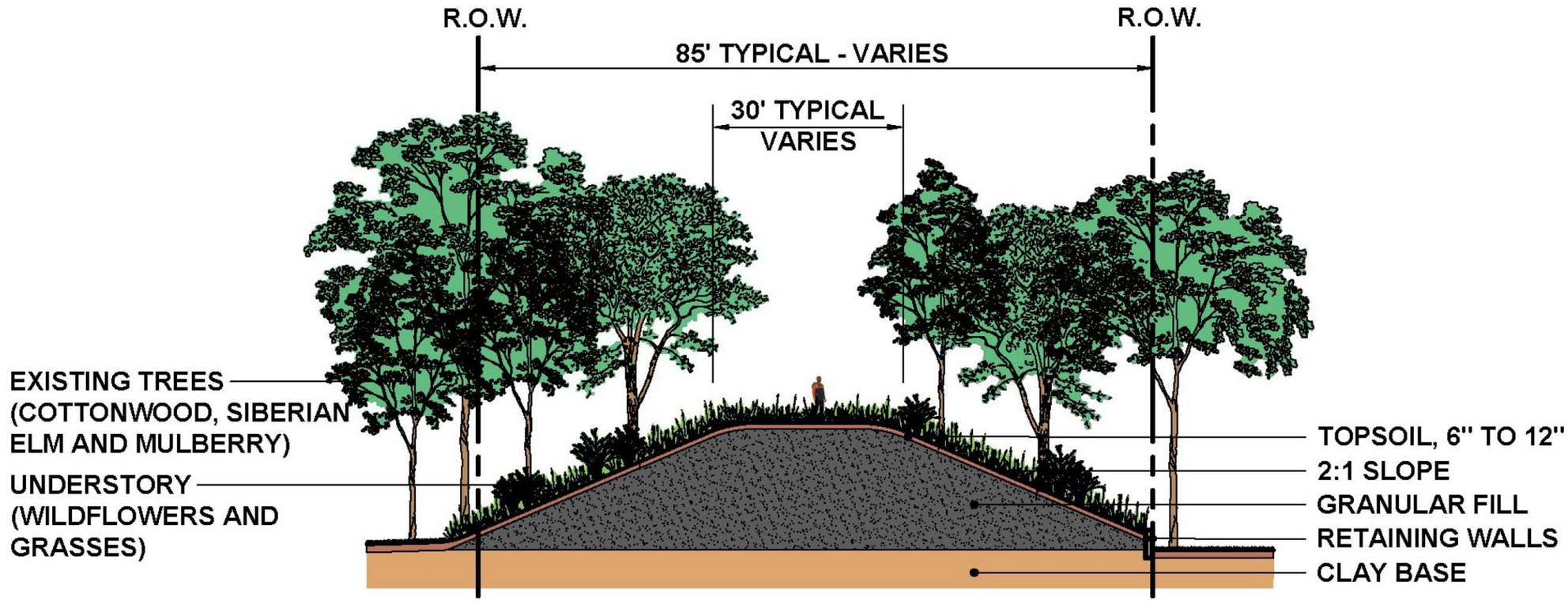
The majority of the embankment is granular fill (8-10 feet deep).

The granular fill was set on top of the original silt/clay soil.

There is a topsoil layer over the entire embankment that has developed over the years.

EXISTING SOILS

EXISTING SECTION



THE TYPICAL SECTION ABOVE ILLUSTRATES THE CURRRENT CONDTION OF A MAJORITY OF THE TRAIL. THE ORIGINAL GRANULAR BASE IS COVERED BY A MINIMAL LAYER OF TOPSOIL AND THE EXISTING VEGETATION IS BASICALLY GROWING OUT OF THE GRAVEL.

SIDE SLOPES & EMBANKMENT

The embankment for the original tracks is very tall and steep.

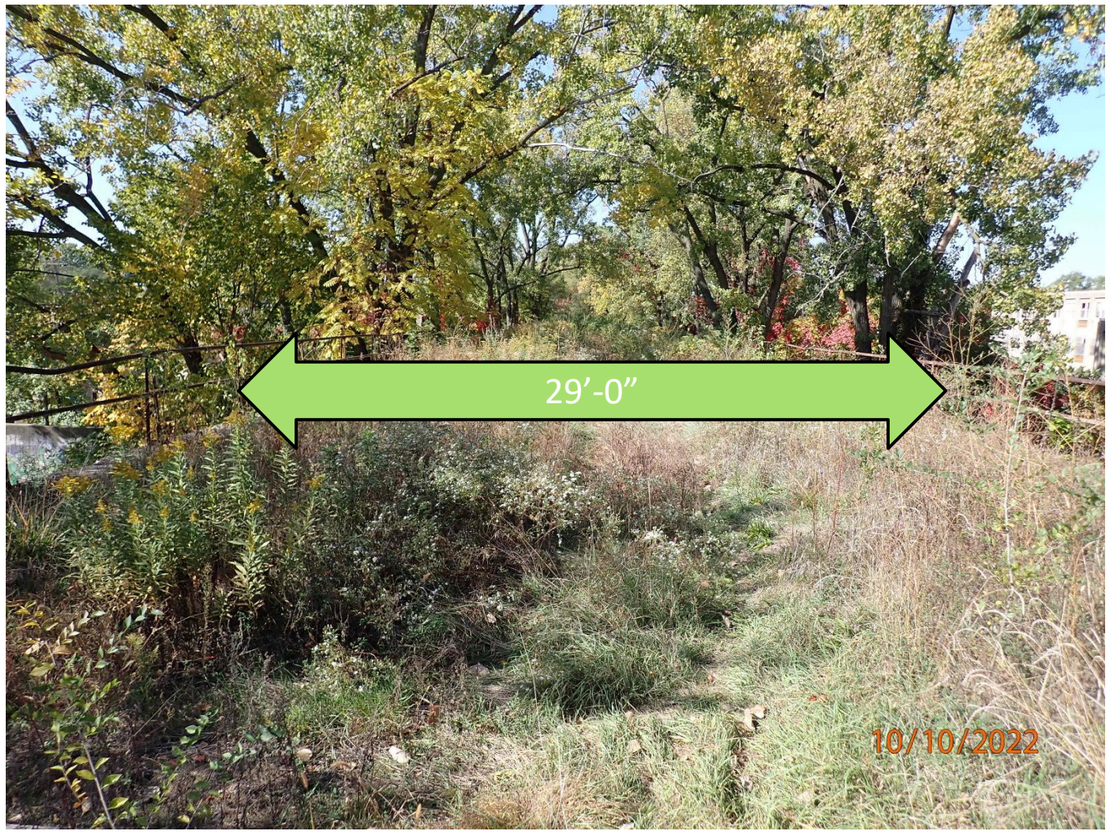
The top of the embankment varies between 11 and 17 feet tall.

EXISTING RETAINING WALLS

AT RIGHT-OF-WAY

There are 8 large (>7 feet tall) and 30 small (<7 feet tall) existing retaining walls along the project corridor.

BRIDGE WIDTHS



29 feet over the concrete bridges

11 feet over the steel bridges
(east of Halsted St)

02

PRELIMINARY DESIGN

TRAIL

DESIGN GUIDELINES

IL Department of Transportation (IDOT) Bureau of Local Roads and Streets (BLRS)Manual

Chapter 42-3.02: Separated, Shared Use and Sidepath Bicycle Paths

IDOT Bridge Manual

IDOT Structural Services Manual

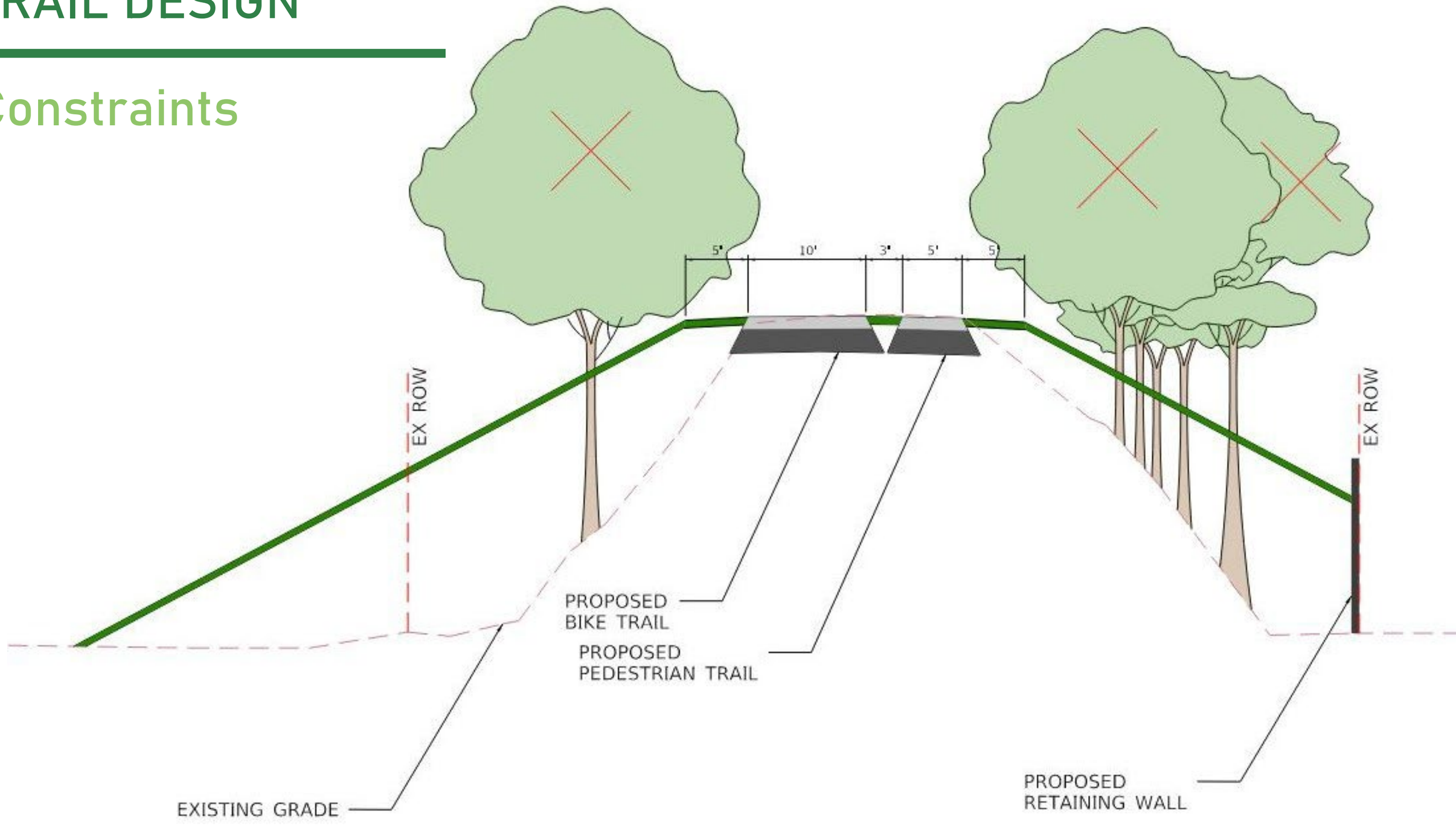
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities

Chapter 5: Design of Shared Use Paths

American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Guidelines

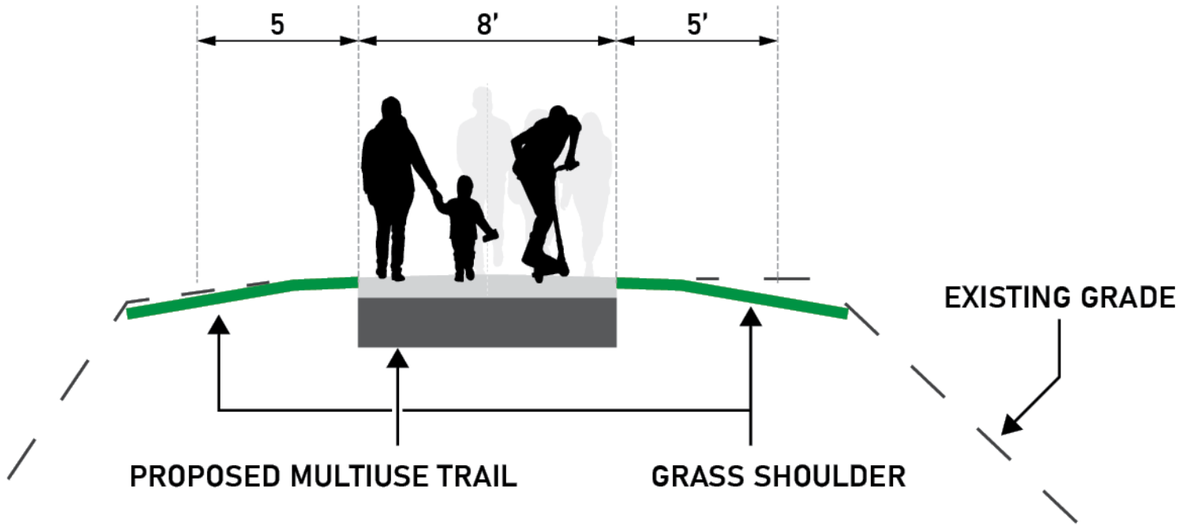
TRAIL DESIGN

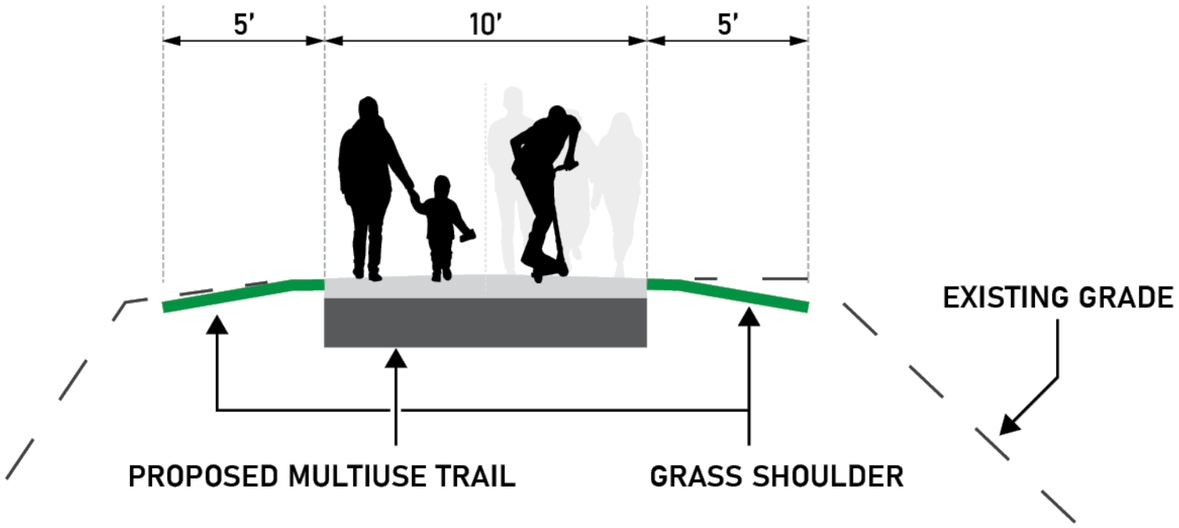
Constraints

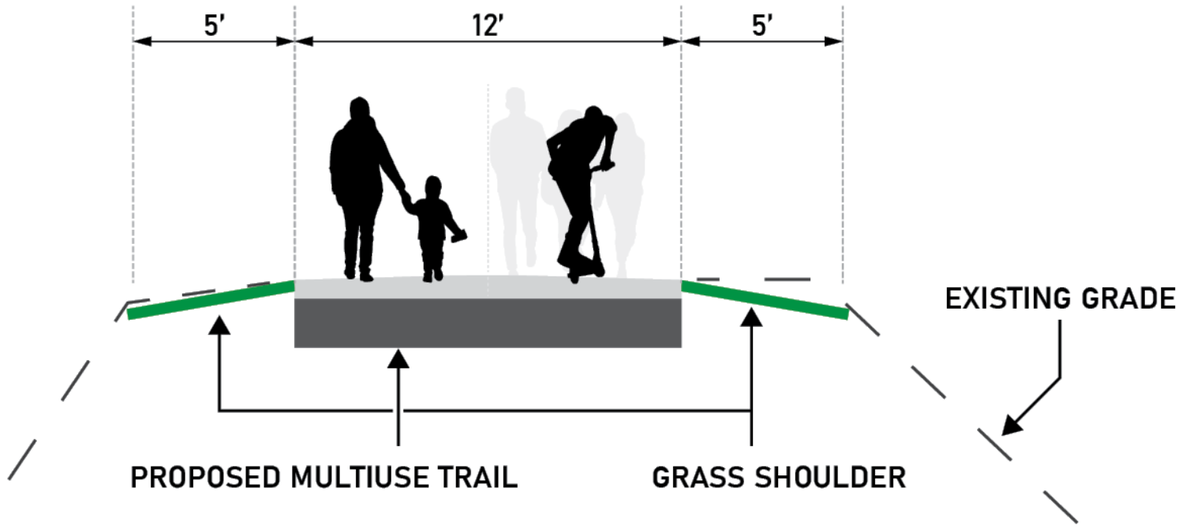


TRAIL DESIGN

TYPICAL





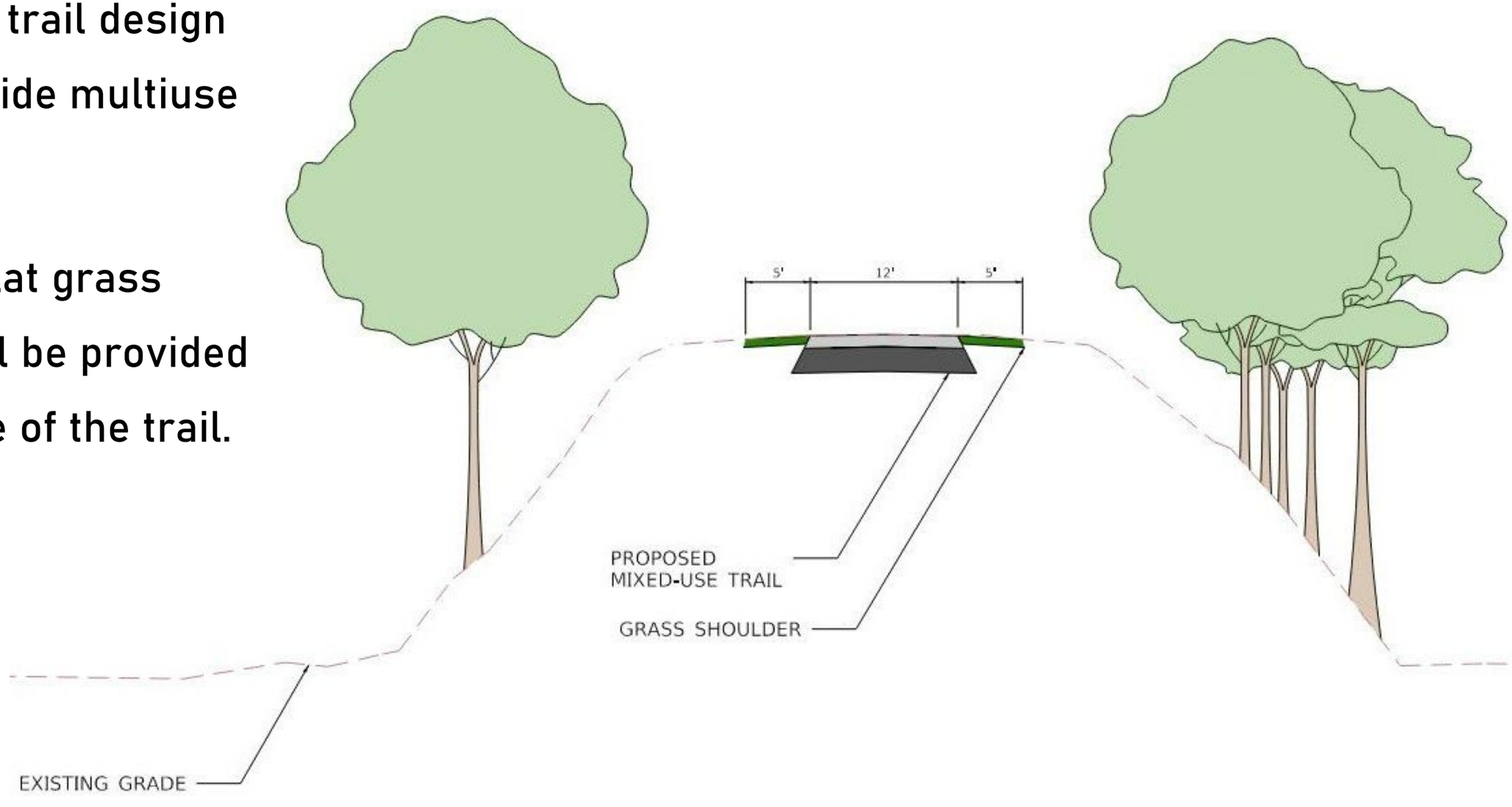


TRAIL DESIGN

CROSS SECTION

The proposed trail design is a 12-foot-wide multiuse trail.

5-foot-wide flat grass shoulders will be provided on the outside of the trail.



SOIL REMEDIATION

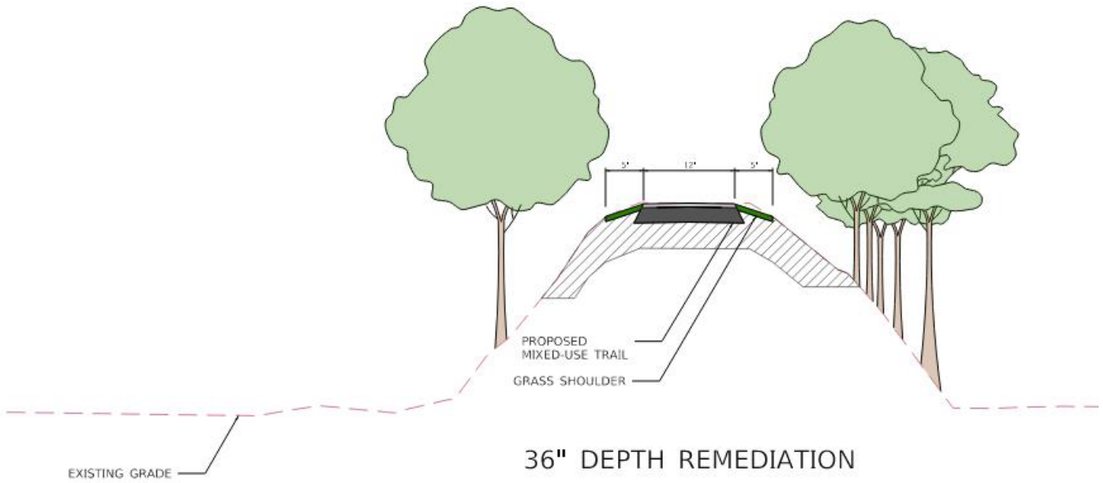
Soil borings done in 2015 indicate that contaminants appear to be randomly distributed along the project corridor.

As a result, it was recommended that some type of soil remediation most likely is needed.

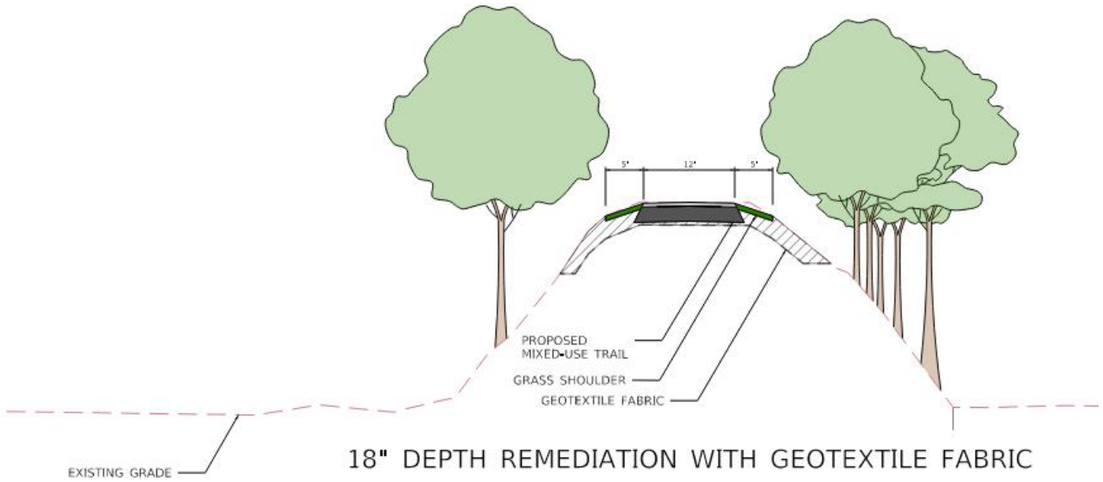
Remediation options could include:

- 36” of soil remediation
- 18” of soil remediation with geotextile fabric barrier
- Full depth remediation - not recommended due to impacts and high costs

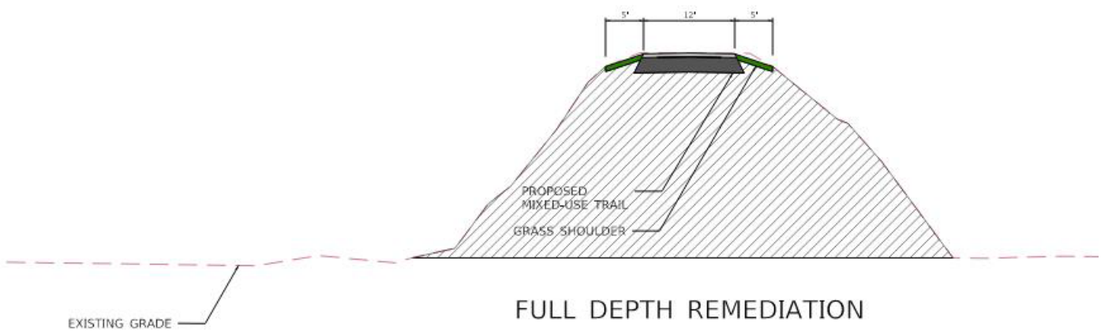
More testing will occur in the next few months.



36" DEPTH REMEDIATION

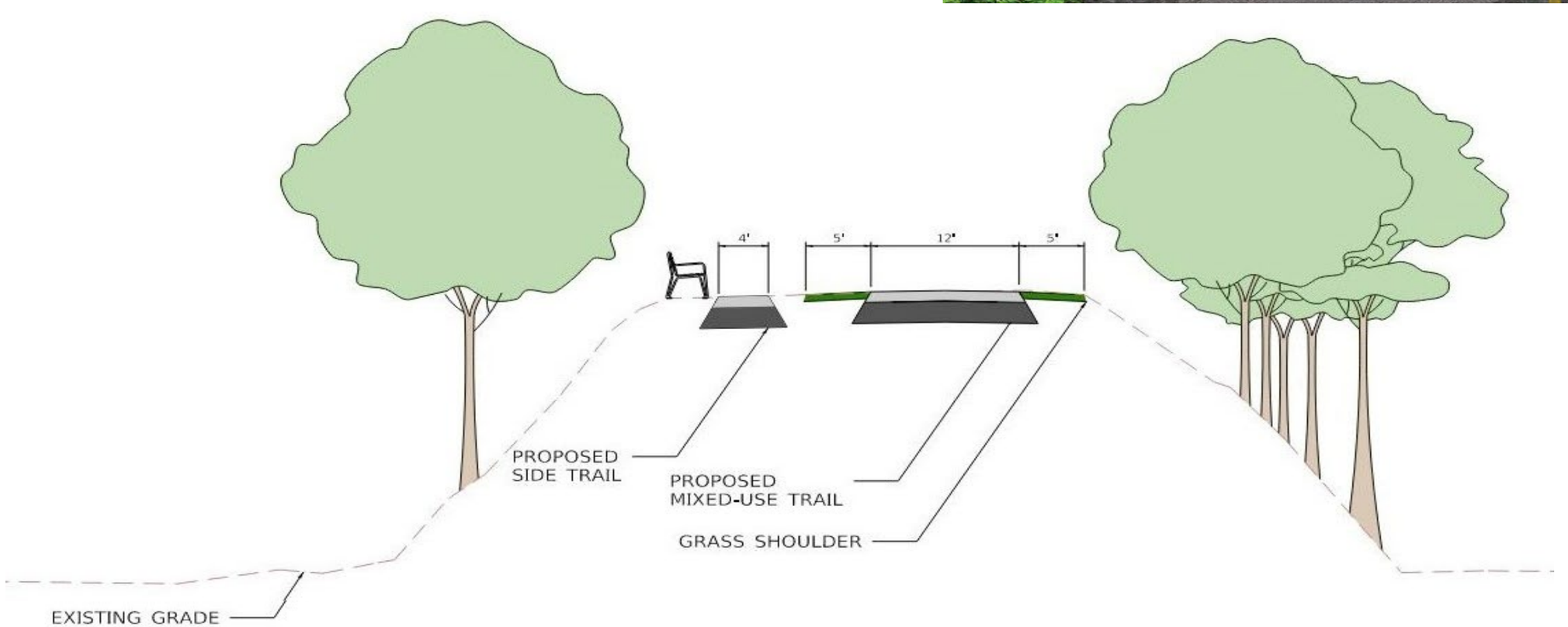


18" DEPTH REMEDIATION WITH GEOTEXTILE FABRIC



FULL DEPTH REMEDIATION

PARKLETTE AND SIDEPATH OPPORTUNITIES



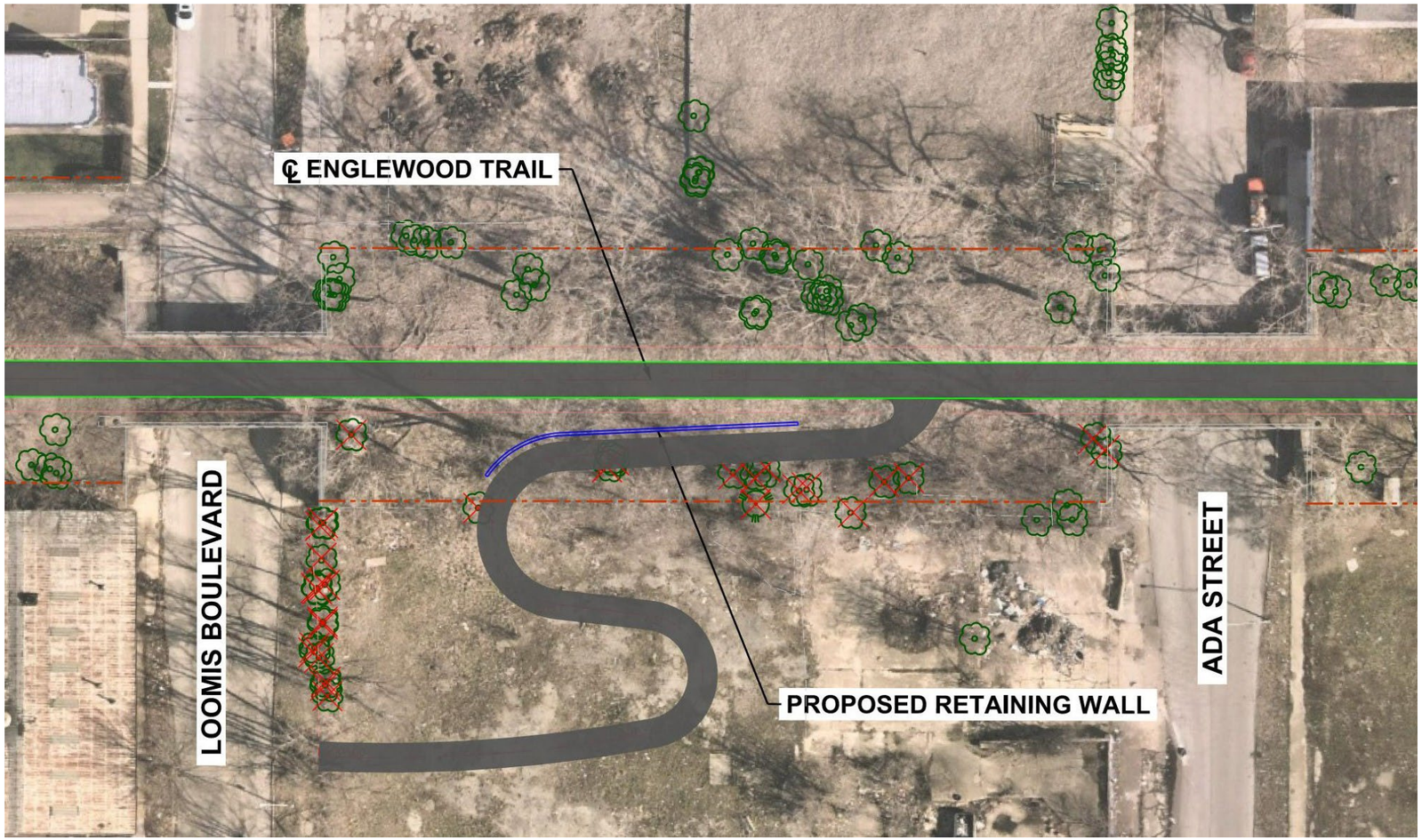
RELATIONSHIP OF TRAIL TO FRAMEWORK PLAN

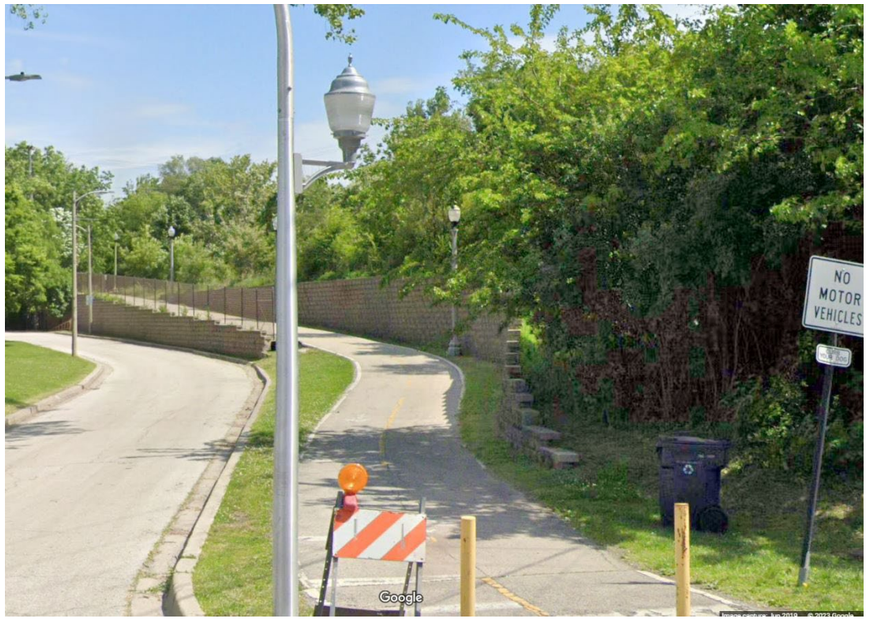
ACCESS POINTS

There are a total of 11 proposed access points to the elevated trail:

- Hoyne Avenue
- Damen Avenue
- Wood Street
- Hermitage Avenue
- Ashland Avenue
- Loomis Boulevard
- Racine Avenue
- Morgan Street
- Halsted Street (North)
- Halsted Street South)
- Lowe Avenue

ACCESS POINTS

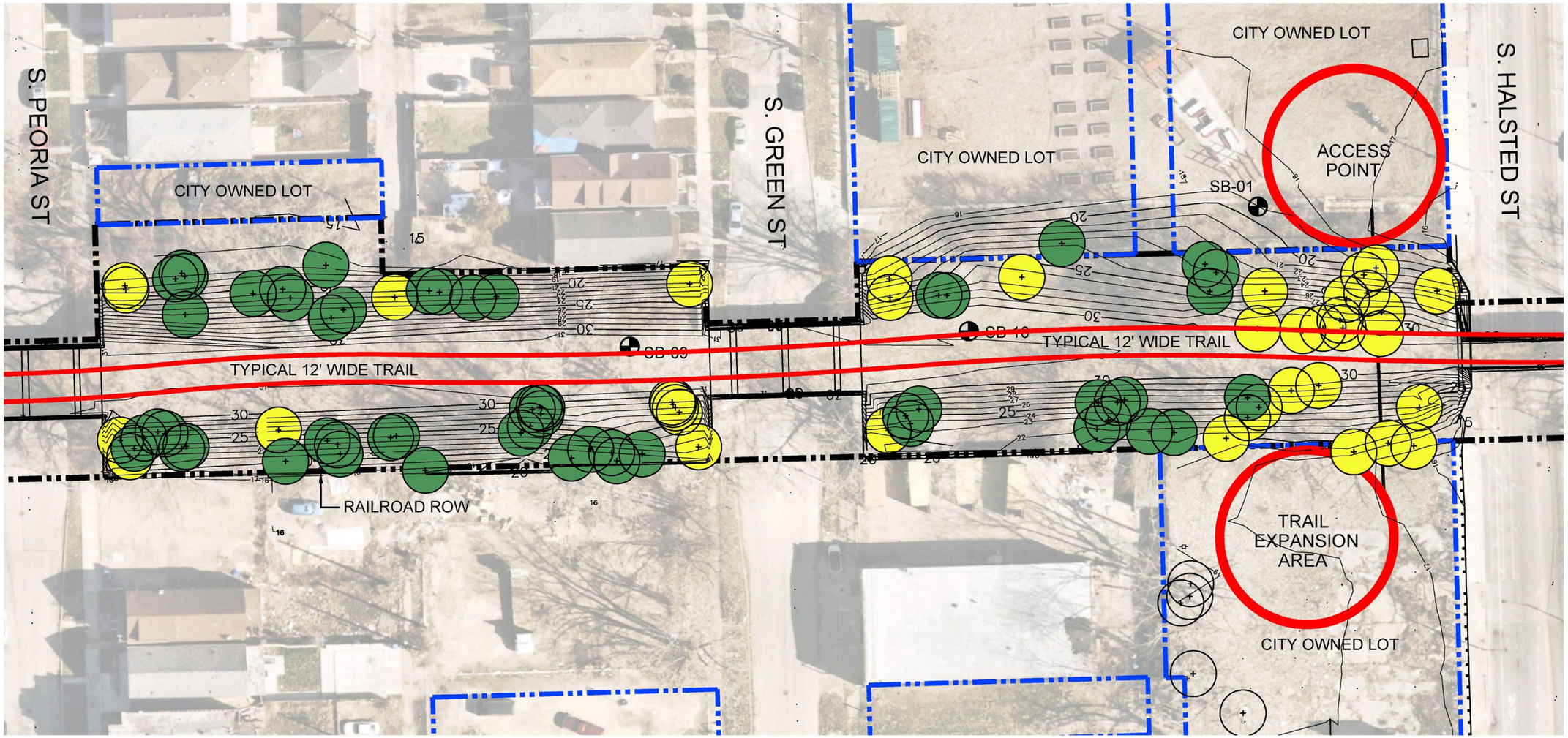




- All access points will have ADA compliant access ramps to get up to the elevated trail structure.

- Some tree loss and embankment impacts are expected in order to construct the proposed access ramps.

EXISTING LANDSCAPE IMPACTS



LEGEND

- SB SOIL BORING
- EXISTING GRADES
- EXISTING TREES TO REMAIN
- EXISTING TREES TO BE REMOVED
- PROPERTY LINES

0 10 25 50 10

SB-09

0 T0 -2'	TOPSOIL
-2' T0 -10'	BLACK SLAG AND GRAVEL
-10' TO -16'	CLAY

SB-10

0 T0 -8'	BLACK SLAG AND GRAVEL
-8' T0 -11'	SANDY CLAY
-11' TO -16'	SILTY CLAY

SB-01

0 T0 -4'	GRAVEL AND ROCK
-4' T0 -6'	GRAVEL WITH CONCRETE
-6' TO -16'	SILTY CLAY

PREDOMINANT EXISTING VEGETATION

TREES	MULBERRY, COTTONWOOD, SIBERIAN ELM AND HACKBERRY
FORBS	BONESET, GOLDENROD AND WILD GINGER
OTHER	NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE GRASSES

TREE GROWTH

BEFORE AND AFTER

New tree planting along the 606 Trail in 2015.

Same trees along the 606 Trail in 2022.

UNDERSTORY

BEFORE AND AFTER

Seeded native forbs & grasses with erosion control blanket and new trees at the time of installation.

Same seeded area with understory forbs & grasses and established plants three years later.

BRIDGE INSPECTION

Steel bridges are located over Halsted Street, Emerald Avenue, Union Avenue and Lowe Avenue.

Concrete bridges are located over the other 22 streets along the Nature Trail corridor.

BRIDGE REHABILITATION

The murals will need to be replaced due to bridge repairs. Coordination has begun with the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE).

03

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

INPUT PLEASE!

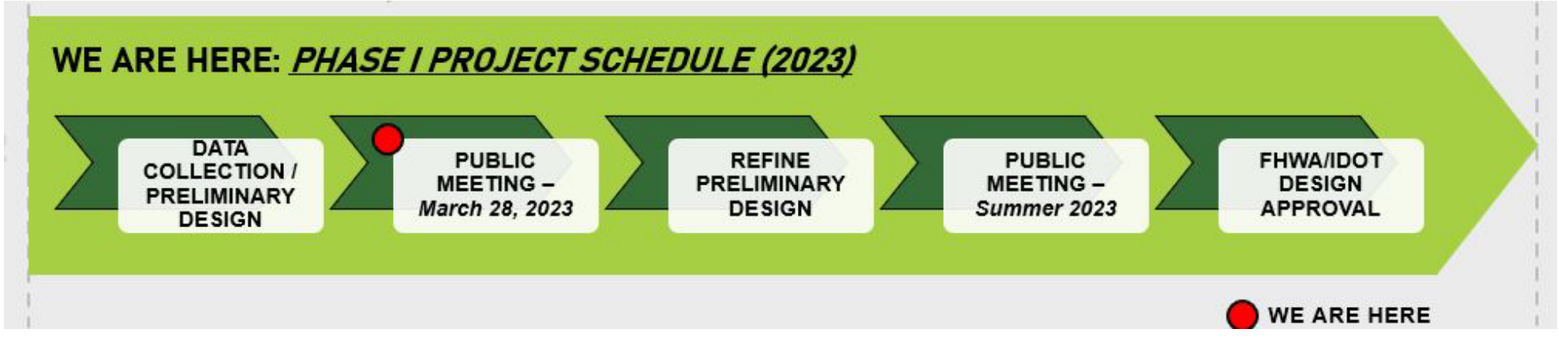
Fill out the comment form or talk to us
and give us your input!

PHASE I PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

Receive Input
Continue Developing Preferred Design Alternative
Public Meeting Summer 2023
Complete Project Development Report Detailing the Preferred Alternative
Submit Project Development Report to FHWA/IDOT for Approval
IDOT/FHWA Design Approval: Winter 2024

PHASE II DESIGN ENGINEERING: Winter 2024

CONSTRUCTION: 2026



GIVE US YOUR INPUT!

FILL OUT COMMENT FORM AND RETURN TONIGHT OR BY APRIL 11, 2023 TO:

www. growgreater.org
connect@growgreater.org