

# Westgate Design Update

Park at Westgate - Berry Street &  
Myrtle Ave, Saint Paul MN

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation,  
Division of Design and Construction

Liz Hixson, [Liz.Hixson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Liz.Hixson@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



Park Site  
1.5 acres

# Meeting Expectations

Presentation will be brief to allow time for live questions

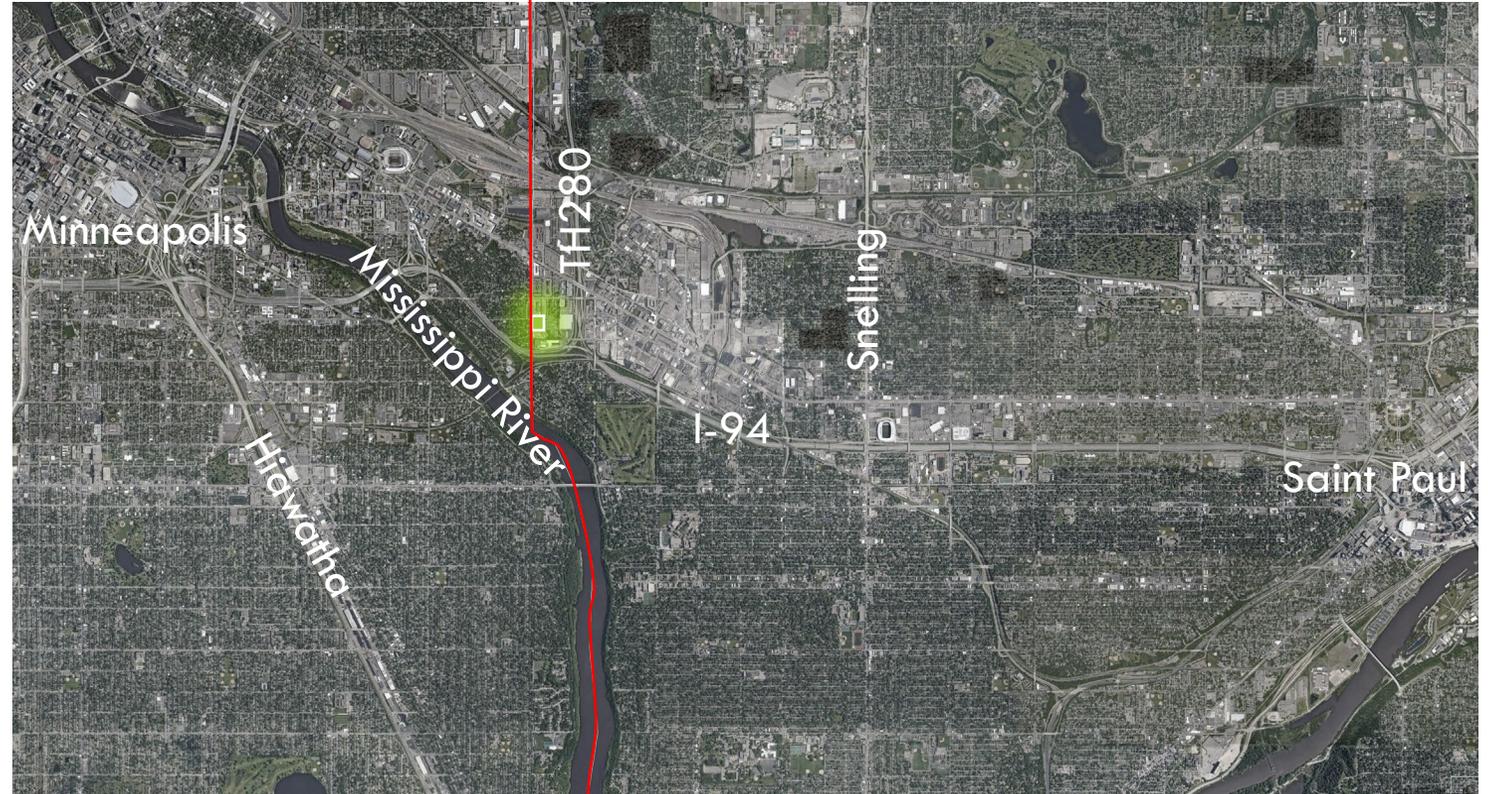
To help the meeting run smoothly, please:

- Keep yourself on mute until the question period
- If you have questions during the presentation, please type them into the meeting chat
- I will break every few minutes to check the chat, review questions, and answer briefly before moving along



# Introduction: Meeting Agenda

- Introduction, Agenda, Goals
- Project Timeline
  - Construction summer 2021
- Park Context
- Area Plans Summary
- Historic Site Context
- Park Design
- Share your thoughts: feedback and questions



# Introduction: Meeting Goals

- Goals:
  - Review previous plans and concept designs
  - Present a revised plan incorporating feedback received to date
  - Gather feedback on the revised design, and priority elements
  - Reserve time for live question and answer
  - Explain next steps



# Project Timeline

## 2008 - 2017

**2008** – Westgate Station Area Plan

**2010-2013** – Light Rail under construction

**2013** - Strategic Stormwater Solutions for Transit Oriented Development

**2014** – Greening the Green Line plan

**2017** – Public Realm Plan creates new street and open space framework

## 2018

Developer agreement for Parkland Diversion, land and partial construction funding to City

- **DECEMBER 2019:** Initial community engagement, design concepts A & B shared

## 2019

- **SUMMER 2019:** Concept refined

Community update in June 2019

Project on hold Fall 2019, developer/contractor not complete – Inform community to expect park in 2021

## 2020 to 2021

- **SUMMER 2020:** Site available, seeded with native plants, land survey completed

- **WINTER 2020-2021:** Develop construction documents; bidding

- **SPRING-FALL 2021:** Park construction

## Future Opportunities

- **FUNDING:** Seek additional resources

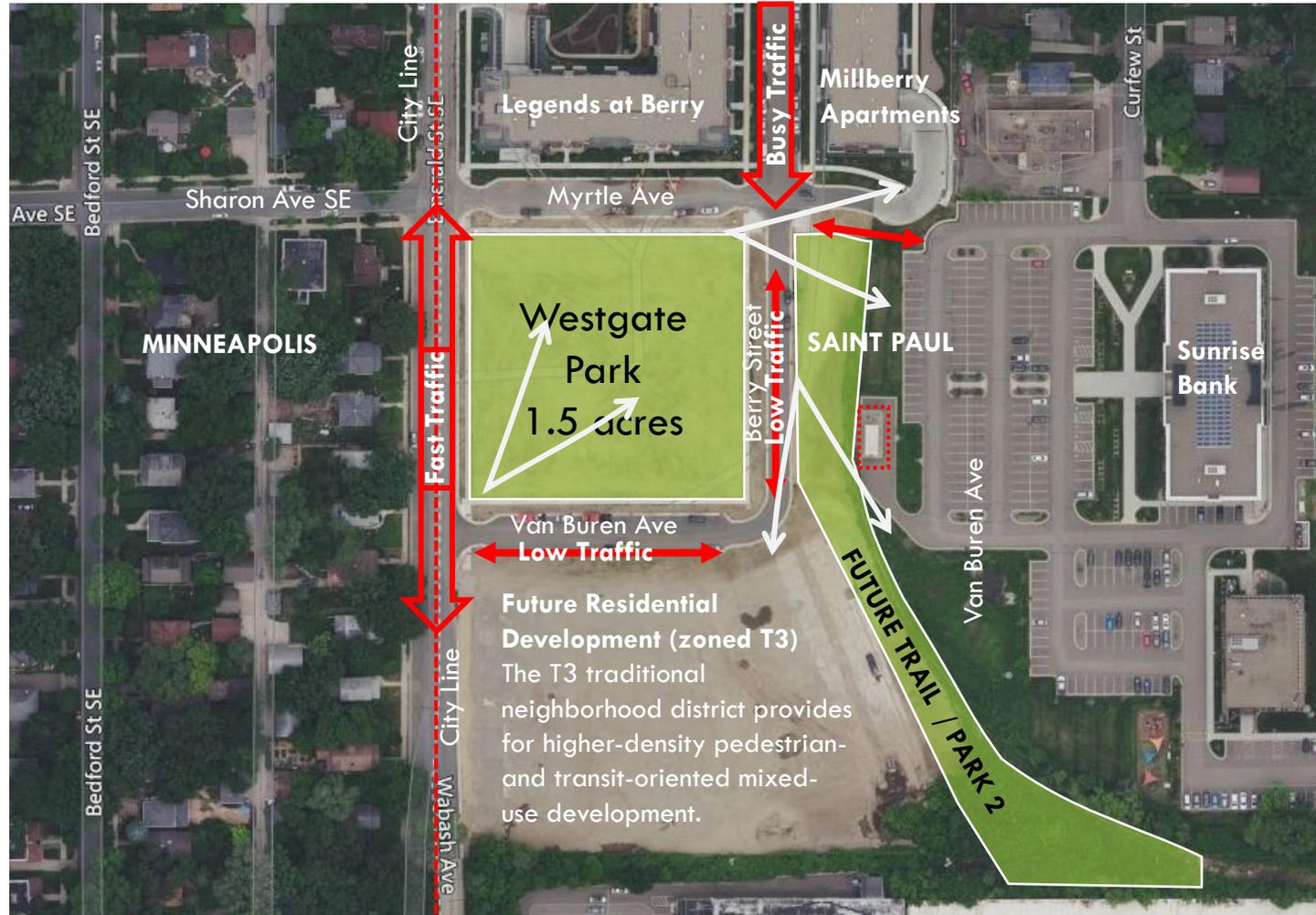
- **ENGAGEMENT:** Update community and request feedback for next phase options

- **DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION:** Build trail and if money allows, add to park

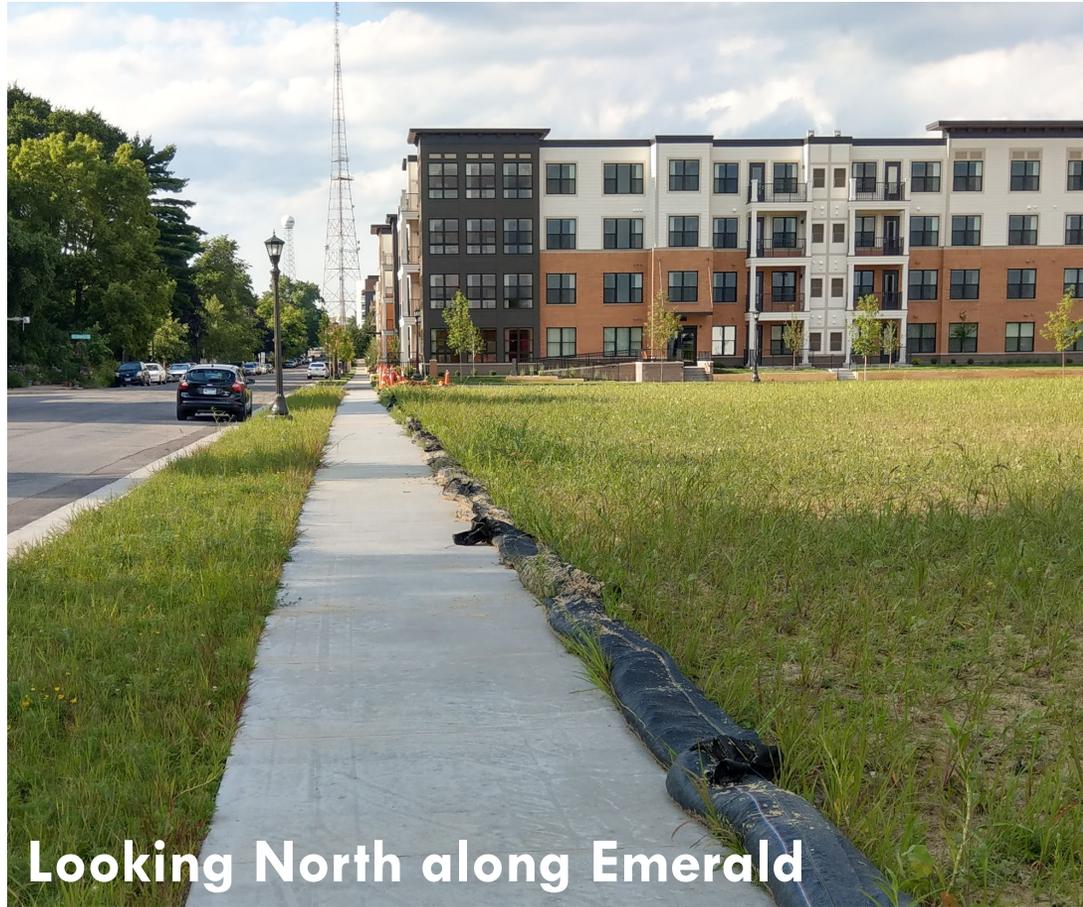
## CURRENT FUNDING AVAILABLE

\$315,000 Construction  
(from Parkland Dedication funds)

# Park Context



# Park Context - Views



**Looking North along Emerald**

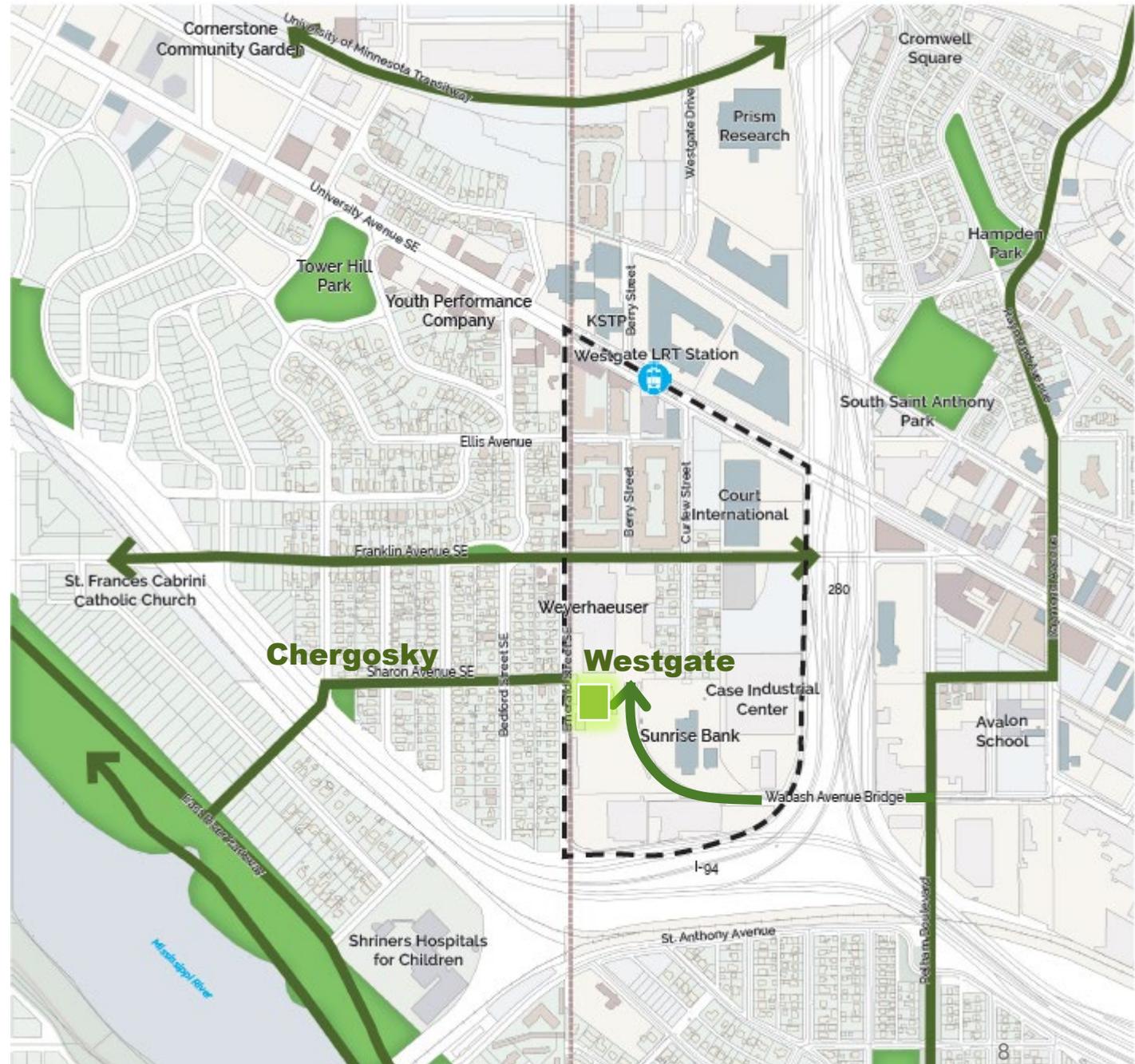


**Looking East along Myrtle**

# Area Plans

- 2008 Westgate Station Area Plan ([link to plan](#))
  - Identified a lack of outdoor gathering spaces, open space noted as a priority improvement
- 2013 Strategic Stormwater Solutions for Transit Oriented Development ([link to plan](#))
- 2014 Greening the Green Line study of park space along light rail train line ([link to plan](#))
- 2017 Westgate Public Realm Plan ([link to plan](#))

[Link to St. Paul PED's background info](#)  
about the Light Rail development



# Area Plans: Public Realm Plan Concepts (2017)



Flexible Lawn Concept (UDA)



Rolling Hills Concept (UDA)

# Park Concept Plans

CONCEPT A



CONCEPT B



# Park Concept Plans

## Feedback from SAPCC (November 2020)

- Activate north west corner
- Create internal pathways
- Native plants as a buffer at Emerald and Van Buren
- Create a place for respite - seating with shade, reduce feeling of open flat site
- Emphasize softscape and native plantings
- Screen views of the cell tower
- Include art or poetry about nature
- Don't emphasize festival street, concept does not fit
- Playground toward middle of the park, not at edge
- Consider stormwater

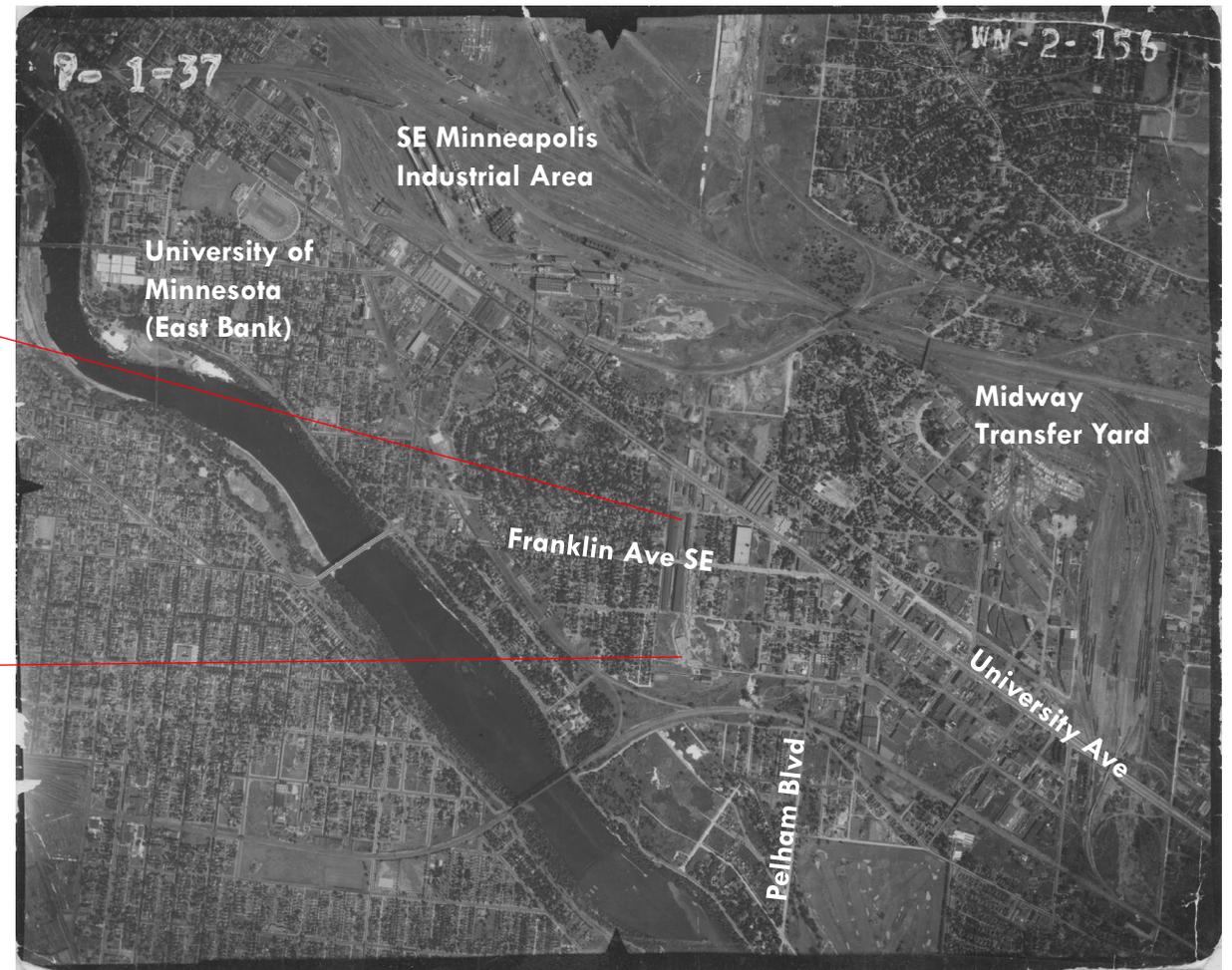
Concept 1 (2019)



Concept 2 (2020)



# Historic Site Context (Aerial from 1937)



U of M Historic Air Photos (MNHAPO) [http://geo.lib.umn.edu/Hennepin\\_County/y1937/WN-2-156.jpg](http://geo.lib.umn.edu/Hennepin_County/y1937/WN-2-156.jpg)

# Historic Aerial Detail



Court  
International  
Building

Franklin Ave

University Ave

Emerald Street

Berry St

Curfew St

Sharon Ave SE

Myrtle Ave

Cromwell Ave

Pelham Blvd

Wabash Ave

1937 Aerial from U of M / MNHAPO

# Weyerhaeuser Lumber Yards (ca. 1953)



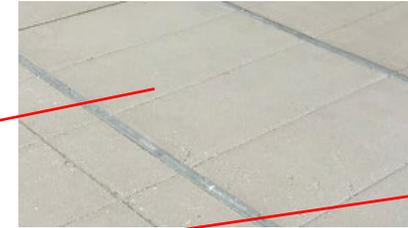
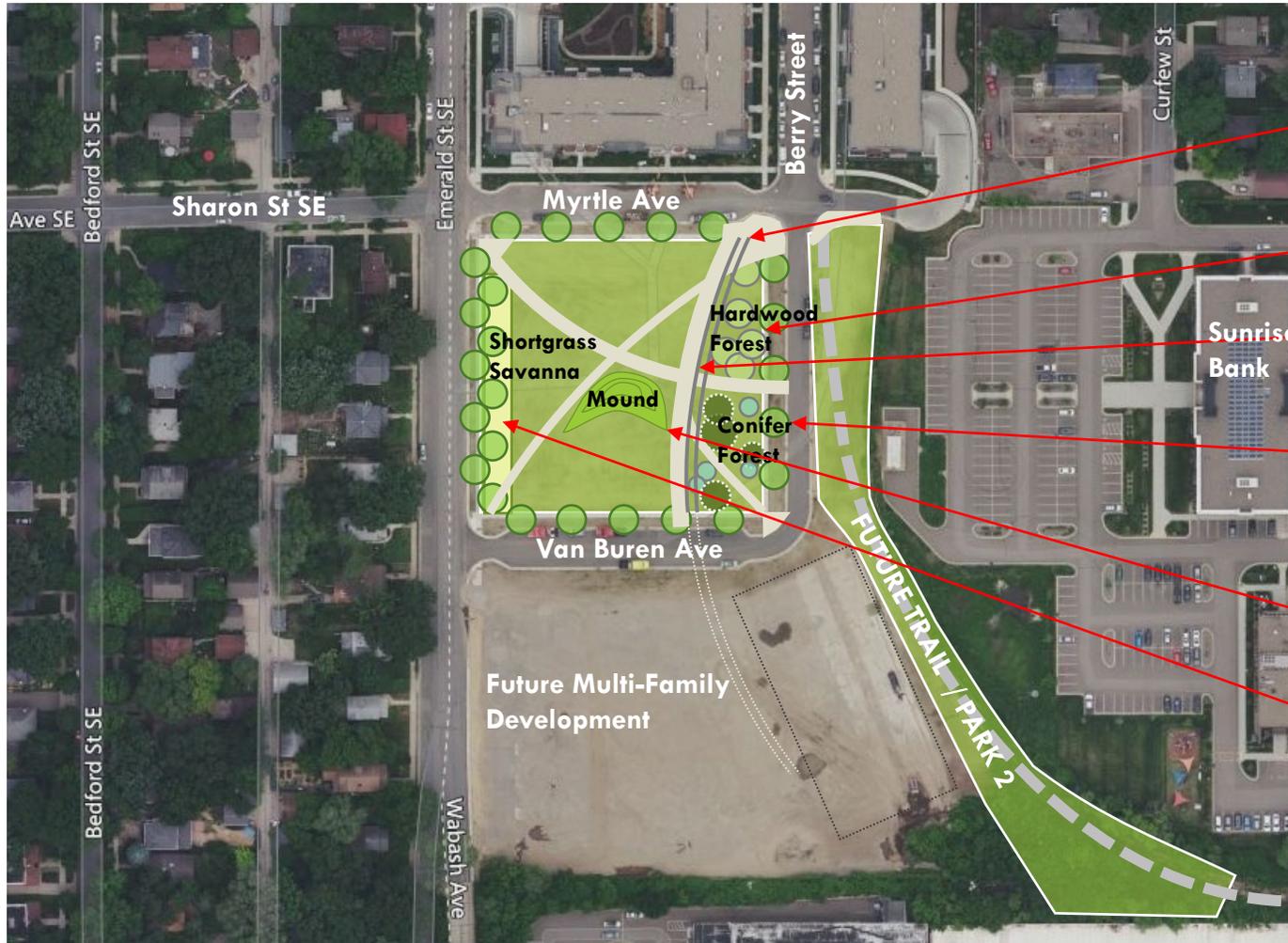
Weyerhaeuser Twin City yards, 2563 Franklin Avenue, St. Paul – found online via MNHS archives, circa 1953. Url: <https://collections.mnhs.org/cms/media?kind=full&irn=10060552>



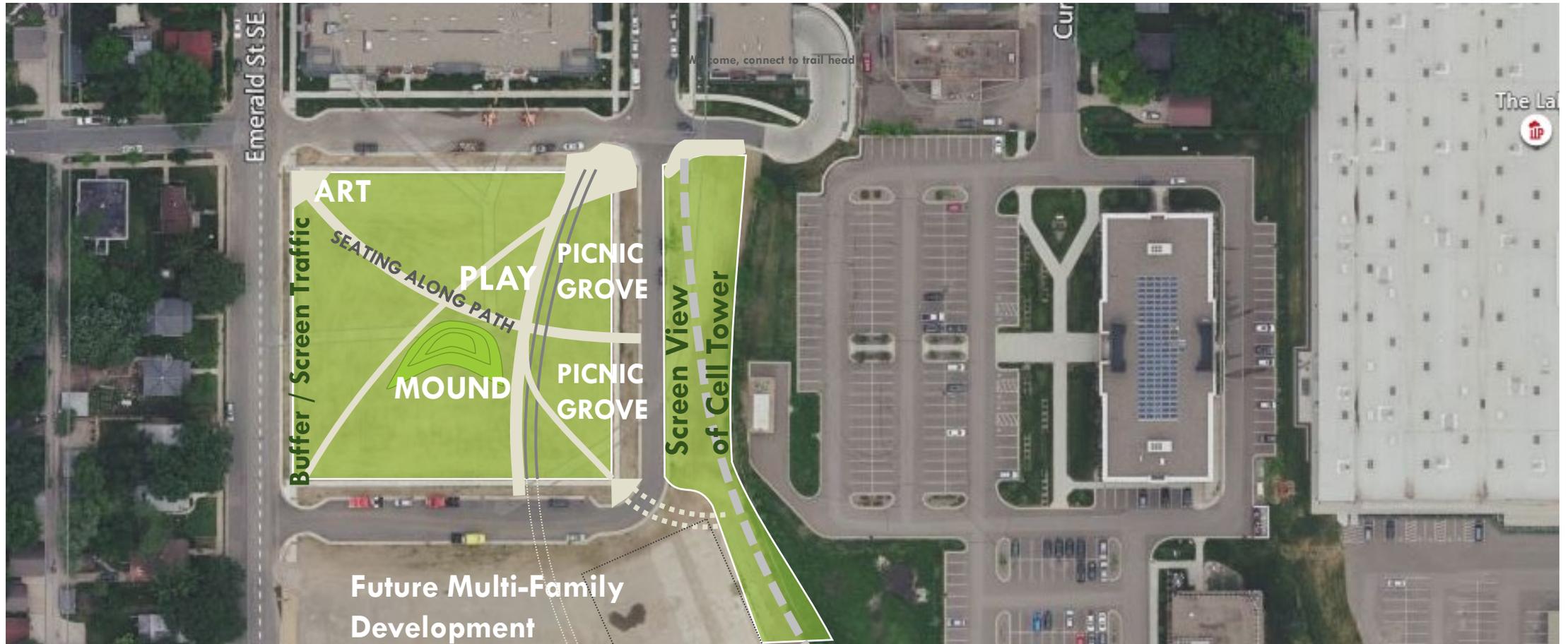
# Westgate Park Design: Merging Rail Lines



# Westgate Park Design: Palette and Plant Communities



# Westgate Park Design: Program



# Westgate Park Design: Enlarged Plan

Trash/Recycle  
Receptacles

Benches

Double Row  
of Trees and  
Shortgrass  
Savanna

Play

Benches

Mound

Open Lawn  
(bee lawn mix)

Hardwood  
Forest

Picnic Tables

Picnic Tables

Coniferous  
Forest

Bike Rack

Trash/Recycle  
Receptacles

Future  
Trail

## LEGEND

- ORNAMENTAL TREE
- PROPOSED DECIDUOUS TREE
- PROPOSED BOULEVARD TREE
- SPRUCE TREE
- PINE TREE
- PLANT BED
- LAWN
- PROPOSED CONCRETE
- EXISTING SIDEWALK

0 10 20 40 FT  
SCALE IN FEET



# Westgate Park Design: Art/Sculpture



<http://www.edelmansculpture.com/railroad-rails.html>



[https://www.shawmut.com/assets/images/back\\_end/portfolio/1\\_1424294801\\_HarvardPlaza-8.jpg](https://www.shawmut.com/assets/images/back_end/portfolio/1_1424294801_HarvardPlaza-8.jpg)

# Westgate Park Design: Furnishings



Ash Dome



Recycle Bonnet



Solid Dome



# Westgate Park Design: Playground



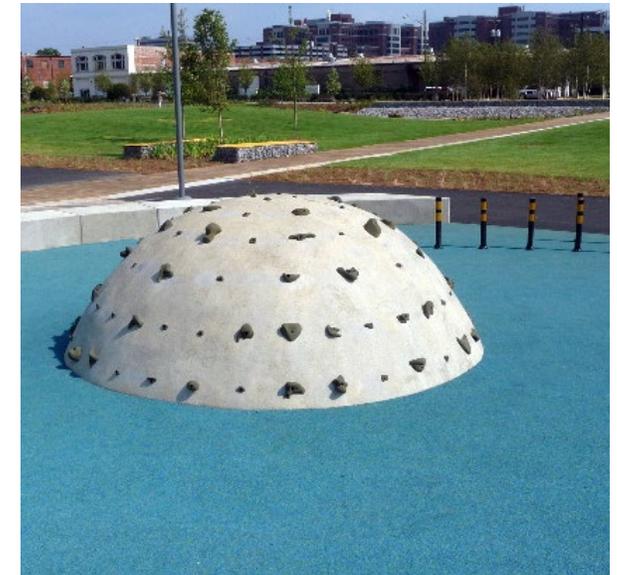
<https://berliner-playequipment.com/us/product/the-globe/>



St. Clair Playground

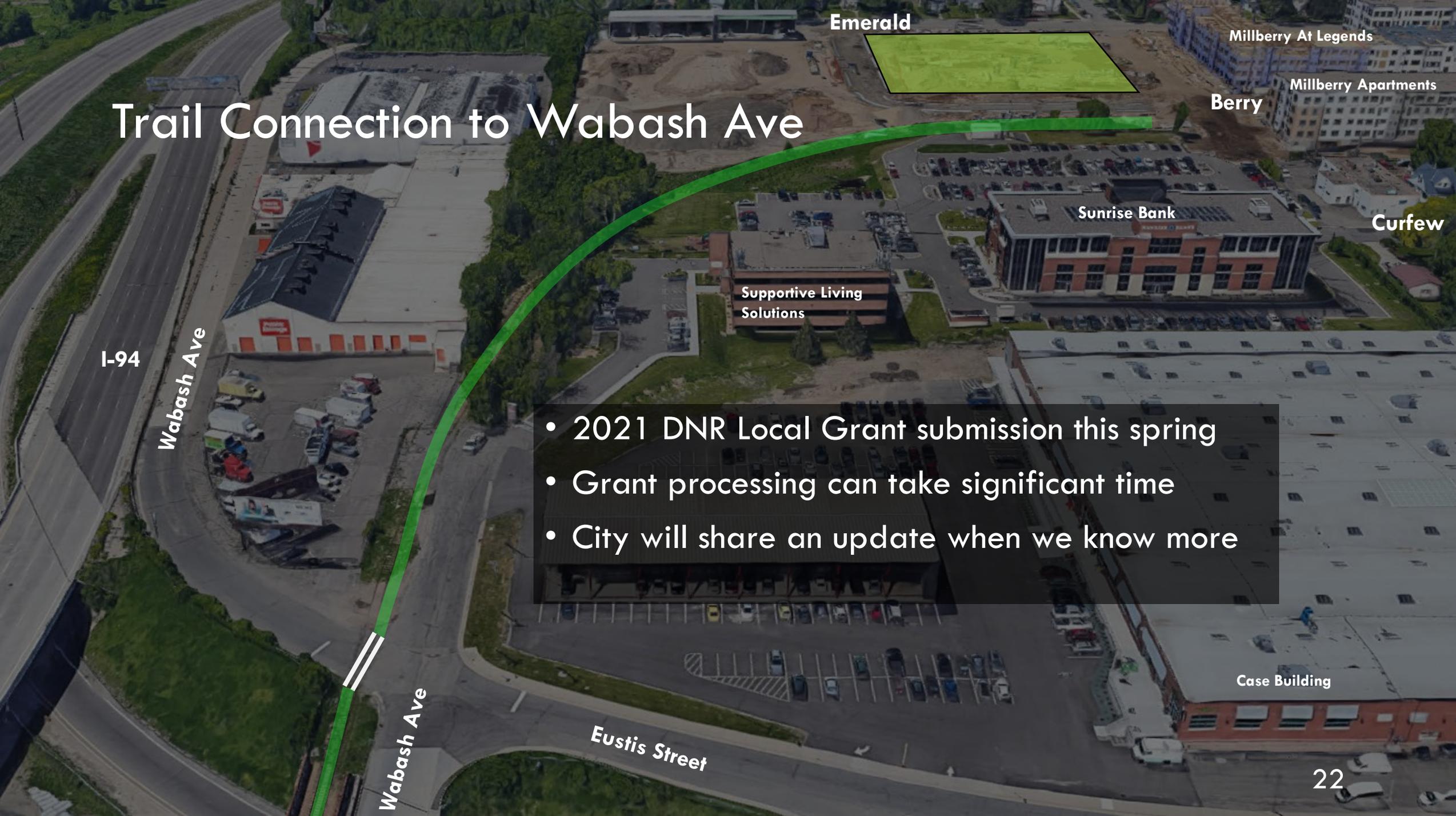


Jimmy Lee Play Area



Railroad Park, Birmingham AL

# Trail Connection to Wabash Ave



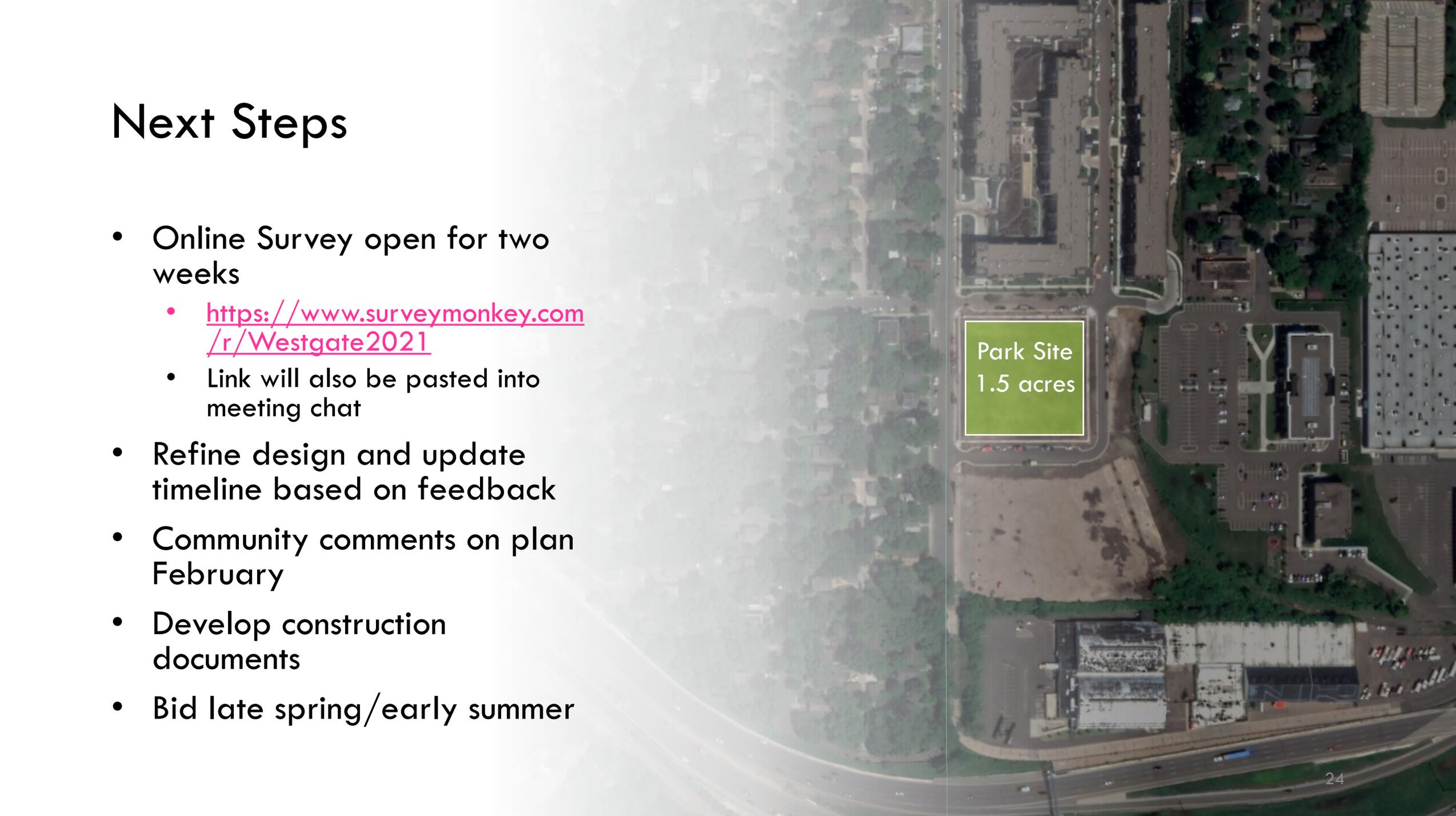
- 2021 DNR Local Grant submission this spring
- Grant processing can take significant time
- City will share an update when we know more

# Share Your Thoughts

- Vote on Park Name
  - [VOTE HERE](#)
  - Link will be pasted into meeting chat
- Please type questions into the meeting chat.
- Next, we will begin time for questions.  
Speak slowly and clearly, and if you are comfortable please turn on your camera while speaking
- Online survey open until Feb 16th
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Westgate2021>
- Survey will ask for your input on:
  - Art options (e.g. Rail reuse, poetry, nature or lumber inspired)
  - Play components
  - Priorities – which option should the City allocate +/- \$40,000 toward?
    - Shade structure/pavilion
    - More play equipment
    - Additional money for public art and artistic benches
    - Additional funds for the Wabash Ave trail
  - Vote on the Park Name
    - Boundary Land
    - Unity Park
    - Westgate Park
    - Western Edge Park
    - Write in (other)

# Next Steps

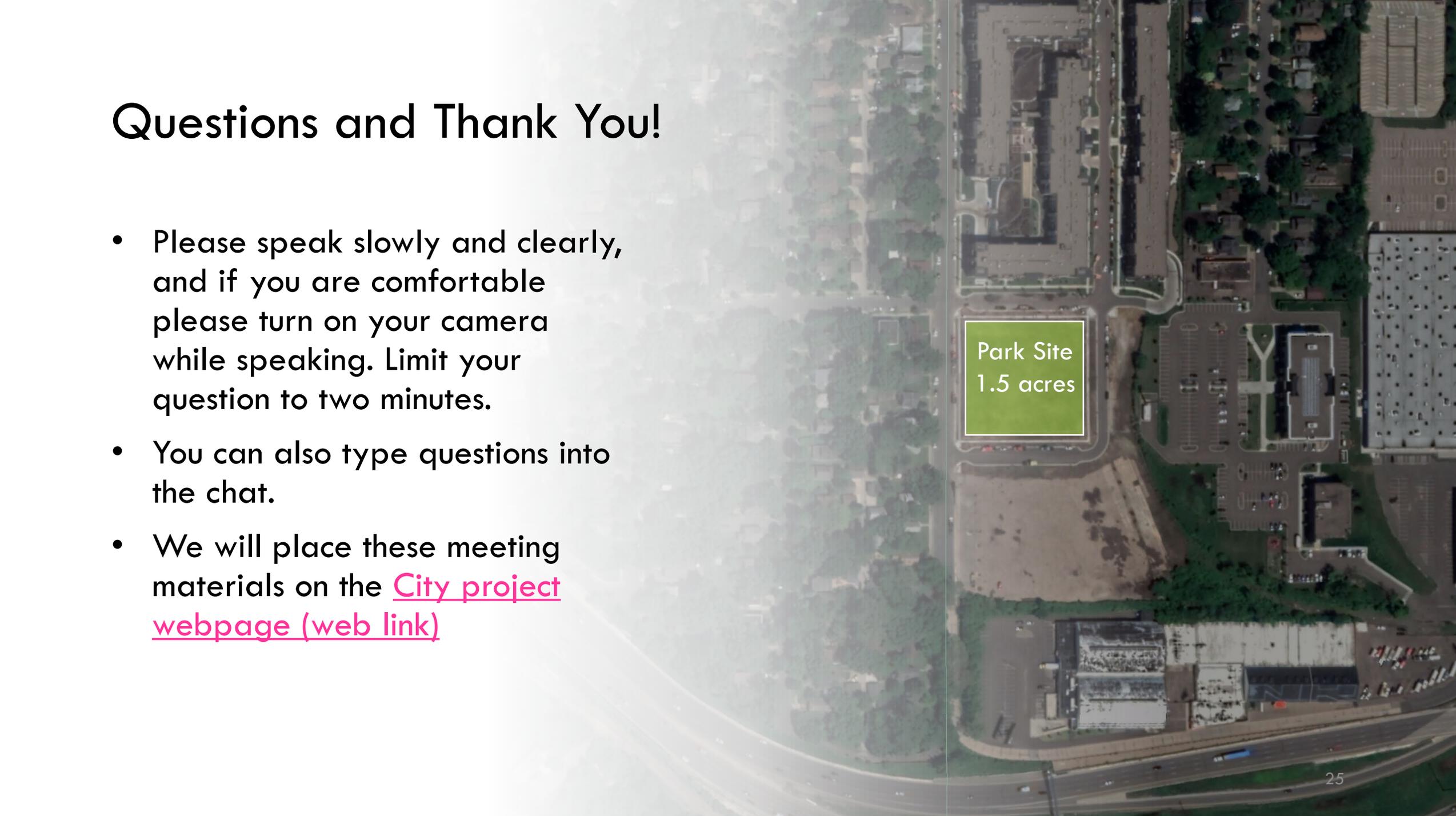
- Online Survey open for two weeks
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Westgate2021>
  - Link will also be pasted into meeting chat
- Refine design and update timeline based on feedback
- Community comments on plan February
- Develop construction documents
- Bid late spring/early summer

An aerial photograph of a residential area. A green rectangular box highlights a specific area, labeled 'Park Site 1.5 acres'. The surrounding area includes houses, trees, and a road. The image is split vertically, with the left side being a faded version of the right side.

Park Site  
1.5 acres

# Questions and Thank You!

- Please speak slowly and clearly, and if you are comfortable please turn on your camera while speaking. Limit your question to two minutes.
- You can also type questions into the chat.
- We will place these meeting materials on the [City project webpage \(web link\)](#)

An aerial photograph of a city area. A green rectangular box highlights a specific area, labeled 'Park Site 1.5 acres'. The surrounding area includes residential buildings, parking lots, and a road. The background is slightly faded to emphasize the text on the left.

Park Site  
1.5 acres