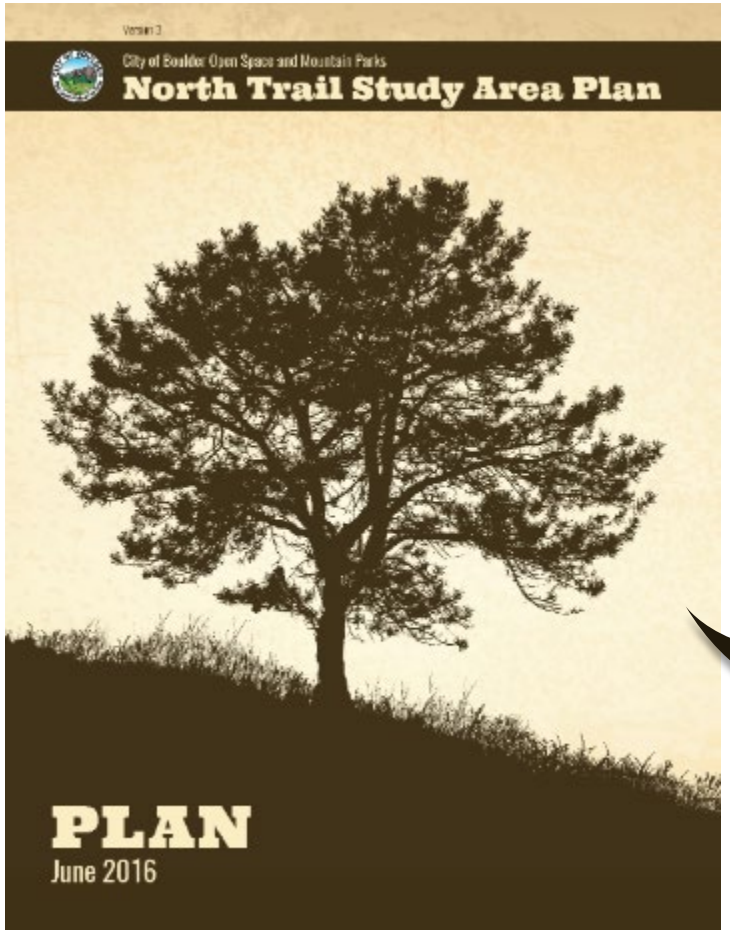
Wonderland Lake Integrated Site Project (ISP)

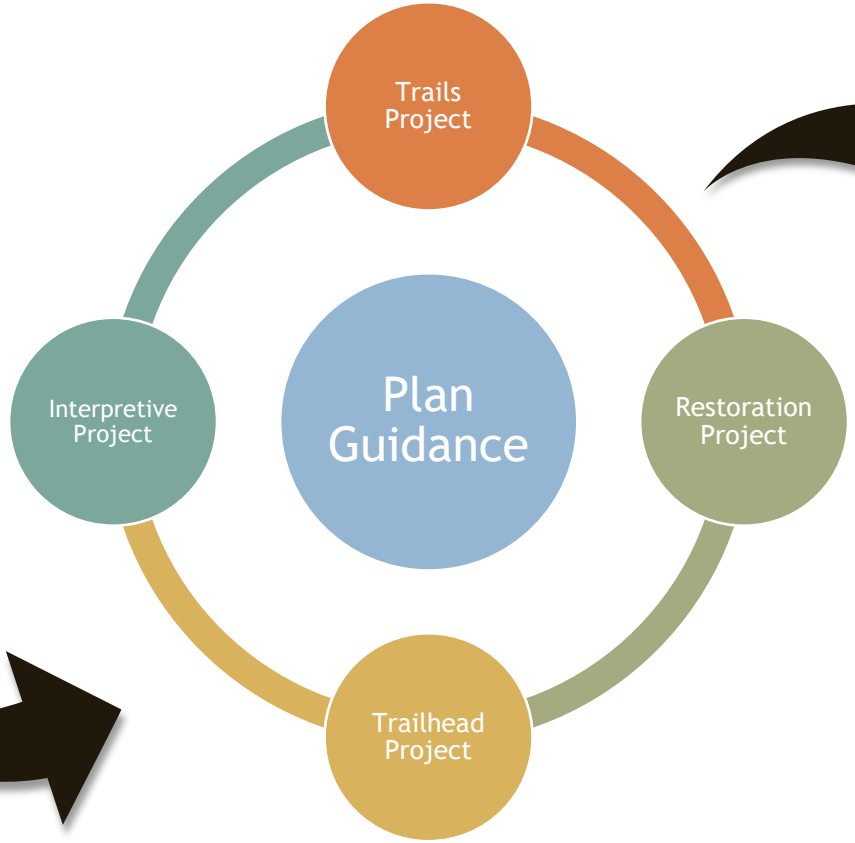
OSBT 10-14-20

Tonight's Purpose

- ❑ Conclude the inclusive engagement process with the community and nearby residents
- ❑ Describe the resulting preferred "package of actions"
- ❑ Request OSBT recommendation to proceed with work-planning and implementation
- ❑ Request OSBT make a recommendation to the city manager regarding the name change proposal

Integrated Site Projects (ISP)





ISP Process

- Clarity about on-the ground actions
- Implementation and Construction

Community Engagement Process

2018
- Previous Process and Pause

June '19
- **Community Engagement Window #1**
- Community shares ideas/actions for the area

July-Nov. '19
- Analysis of shared ideas/actions (OSMP)

Dec. '19
- **Community Engagement Window #2**
- Community provides feedback on preferences on the actions shared in Community Engagement Window #1

Jan-March '20
- Analysis of community preferences and development of a preliminary package of actions that reflect community input from Engagement Window #2 (OSMP).

Aug. '20
- **Community Engagement Window #3**Community provides feedback on a preliminary package of actions (package of actions identified and informed by preferences identified in Engagement Window #2, OSMP operational needs, and the North TSA)

Sept.'20
- Analysis of feedback provided on preliminary package of actions and refinement of package of actions (OSMP).

Oct. 14 '20
- **Open Space Board of Trustees**
- Staff presentation of recommended package of actions to the board
- Board recommendation on potential name change with Public Hearing

★ **We are here!**

Engagement Window #1
Setting the Context and Sharing Ideas (June 2019)

In-person meetings and online input opportunity

108 In Person Attendees

+ 162 Online Participants

= 1,503

Comments Received

Engagement Window #2 -Identifying Preferences (December 2019)

1,503
Comments Received

Questionnaire

Support?

Do not support?

= **728** Responses

Matrix of Options (FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY)				
Shoreline and wildlife habitat protection on the N, W, and S sides of the Lake	Current Condition	Habitat Restoration	Wildlife Habitat	Erosion Management
Trail/Trailside improvements	Benches	Repair Trails	Make Accessible	
Educational Experiences and Interpretive Signs	Sign Content	Sign Location	Sign Quantity	Natural Sciences
Access to Wonderland Lake Area	ADA Access	Public Transit	Bike Racks	
Trailhead and Foothills Nature Center/Facility Improvements	Public Restrooms	Parking Lot	Water Fountain	Nature Center Modifications
Access to, conservation of, and activities on the on the E side of the Lake	ADA Access	Fishing Access	Shade Options	Shoreline Access

Community Generated Ideas

“We Heard …”

Support for more limited improvement that fit with the character of Wonderland Lake.

High - moderate support for actions related to:

- Shoreline and habitat restoration, conservation, and protections
- Lake health
- Repairing trails
- Improved fishing delineation and access
  - *Subgroup support - fishing people*
- Bike racks
- Public restrooms
  - *Subgroup support – those who do not live in North Boulder*
- Water fountain

For many, the existing conditions are adequate.

Low support for actions related to:

- Trailside structures (bird blinds, wildlife observation areas, picnic tables)
- Other trail modifications
- Accessibility improvements
- Other amenities or public use at the Foothills Nature Center

Preliminary Package of Actions

NTSA Framework

728 Responses

"Less is more"

+

OSMP Operational Needs

Preliminary Package of Actions

- Significantly less change than proposed in the previous 2018 concepts
- More minimal infrastructure with much remaining the same to current conditions
- Actions focused on providing visitor amenities with community support, those that provide equitable access and support interests across the community, and those that met OSMP's minimal operational needs
- Pier, boardwalk and wading no longer considered

Engagement Window #3
Refining the Package of Actions (August 2020)

Preliminary Package of Actions

Questionnaire

"Do you....

...support...

...do not support...

...somewhat support...

...the proposed actions for this theme?"

320 Responses

Preliminary Package of Actions - Majority Support

Theme	Support & Somewhat Support	Do not Support
Wetland and shoreline habitat and wildlife conservation and protection on the north, west, and south sides of the Lake	81%	19%
Access to, conservation of, and activities on the on the east side of the Lake (along the dam and peninsula)	71%	29%
Educational Experiences and Interpretive Signs	74%	26%
Wonderland Lake Trailhead and Foothills Nature Center/Facility Improvements	64%	36%

Preferred Package of Actions (August 2020)

Questionnaire Responses

- 320 responses
- Support between 81% and 64%

Refinement

- Affirmed most actions
- Minor modifications to address comments/concerns

Preferred Package of Actions

Preferred Package of Actions: Themes

1. Wetland and shoreline habitat and wildlife conservation and protection on the north, west, and south sides of the Lake
2. Trail/Trailside Improvements
3. Educational Experiences and Interpretive Signs
4. Access to Wonderland Lake Area
5. Wonderland Lake Trailhead and Foothills Nature Center/Facility Improvements
6. Access to, conservation of, and activities on the on the east side of the Lake (along the dam and peninsula)

Wetland and Shoreline Habitat and Wildlife Conservation and Protection on the North, West, and South Sides of the Lake

Wetland and Shoreline Habitat and Wildlife Conservation and Protection on the North, West, and South Sides of the Lake

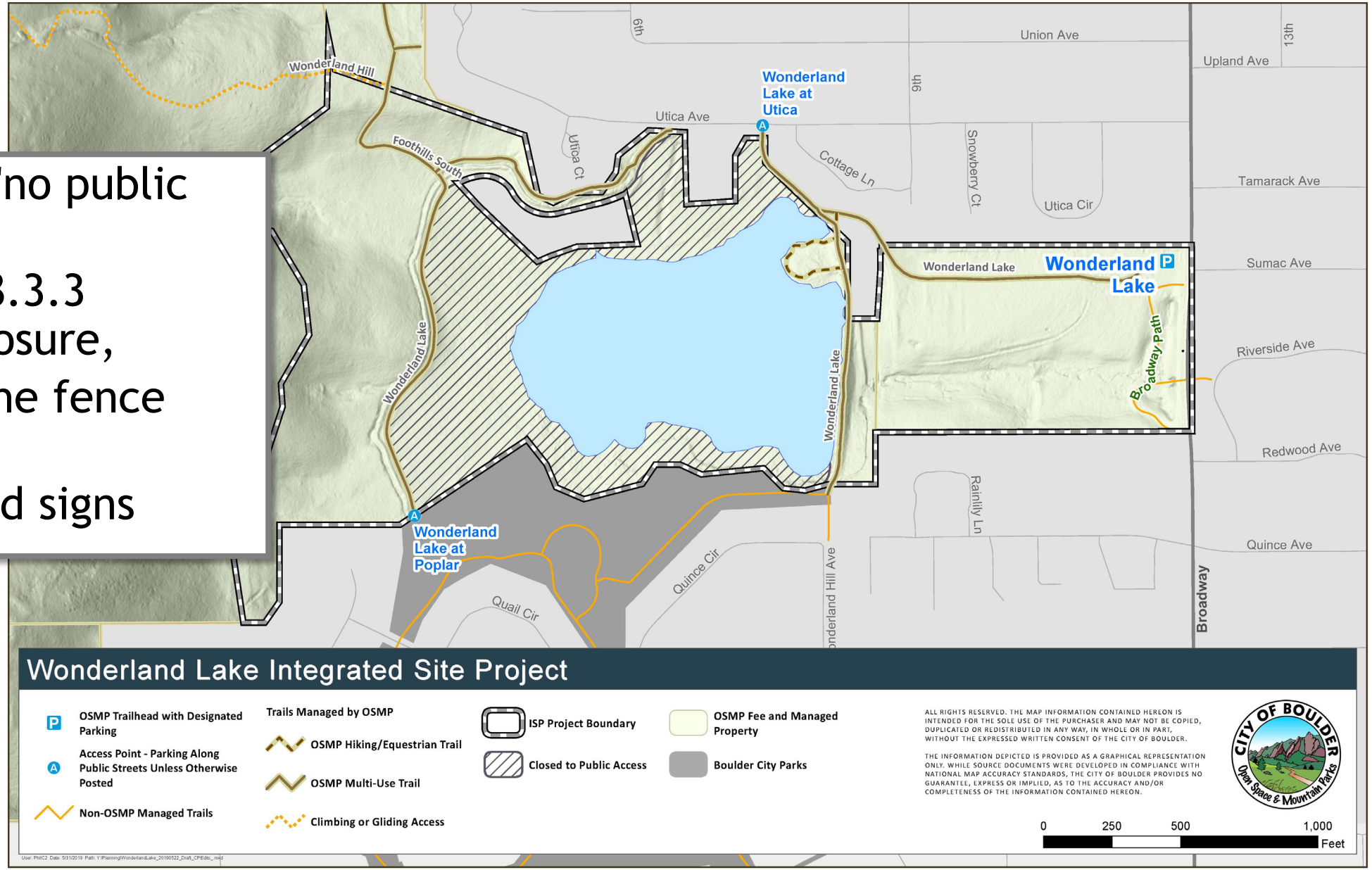
ISP Actions - Operational Needs
#1: Better define the "no public access area“ to protect wetland habitat by: • enacting an 8.3.3 regulatory closure, • completing the fence lines, and • adding limited signs
#2: Prohibit boats and belly boats on Wonderland Lake
#3: Relocate the existing southwest access point further south to eliminate to avoid damaging wetlands ***OR*** *#4:* Add a vehicle turnaround spot near the existing southwest access point

ISP Actions - Community Input
#5: Opportunistically add more woody structure in the lake for fish and amphibian habitat (e.g. downed trees, logs)

ISP Action #1

Better define the "no public access area" by:

- enacting an 8.3.3 regulatory closure,
- completing the fence lines, and
- adding limited signs



ISP Action #3

Potentially, relocate the southwest access point further south to eliminate the need to drive along the trail, and need for a turnaround spot to avoid damaging wetlands

A Designate Access Point

A OSMP Access Point

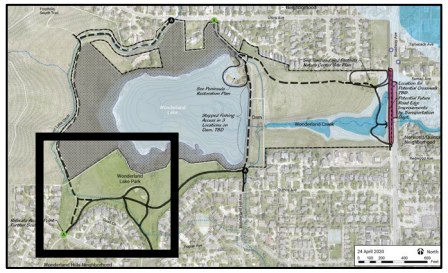
LOCATION MAP

ISP Action #4

If Action #3 (relocate the southwest access point further south) is determined to be infeasible, add a vehicle turnaround spot on the southwest side of the lake near the existing access point.

A Designate Access Point

A OSMP Access Point



LOCATION MAP

ISP Action #2
Prohibit Belly Boats

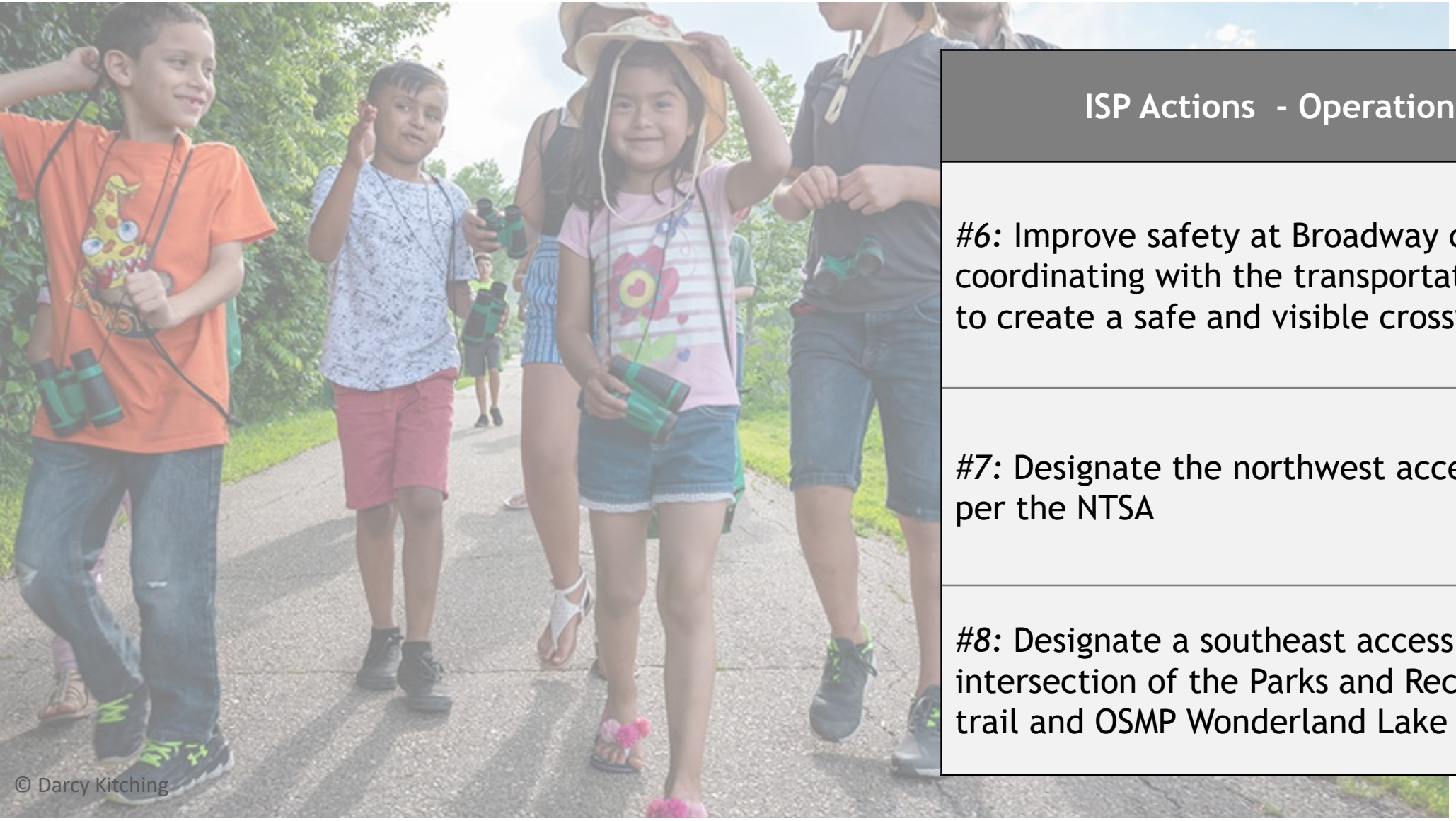
ISP Action #5

Opportunistically add more woody structure in the lake for fish and amphibian habitat (e.g. downed trees, logs)

Access to Wonderland Lake Area

© Darcy Kitching

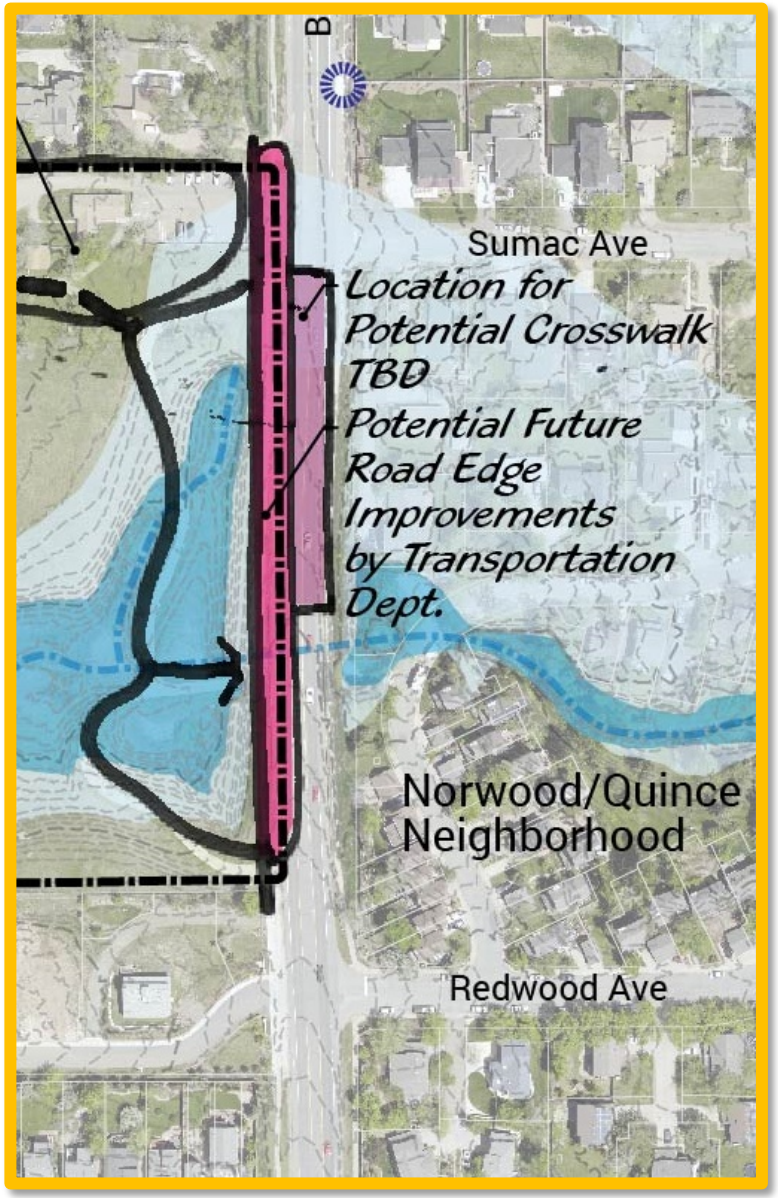
Access to Wonderland Lake Area



ISP Actions - Operational Needs
#6: Improve safety at Broadway crossing by coordinating with the transportation department to create a safe and visible crosswalk.
#7: Designate the northwest access point on Utica per the NTSA
#8: Designate a southeast access point at the intersection of the Parks and Recreation managed trail and OSMP Wonderland Lake Trail

ISP Action #6

Improve safety at Broadway crossing by coordinating with transportation to create a safe and visible crosswalk.



ISP Actions #7 and #8

#7: Designate the northwest access point on Utica per the NTSA

AND

#8: Designate a southeast access point at the intersection of the Parks and Recreation managed trail and OSMP Wonderland Lake Trail

A Designate Access Point

A OSMP Access Point

Trail/Trailside Improvements

Phil Yates

Trail/Trailside Improvements

ISP Actions - Operational Needs

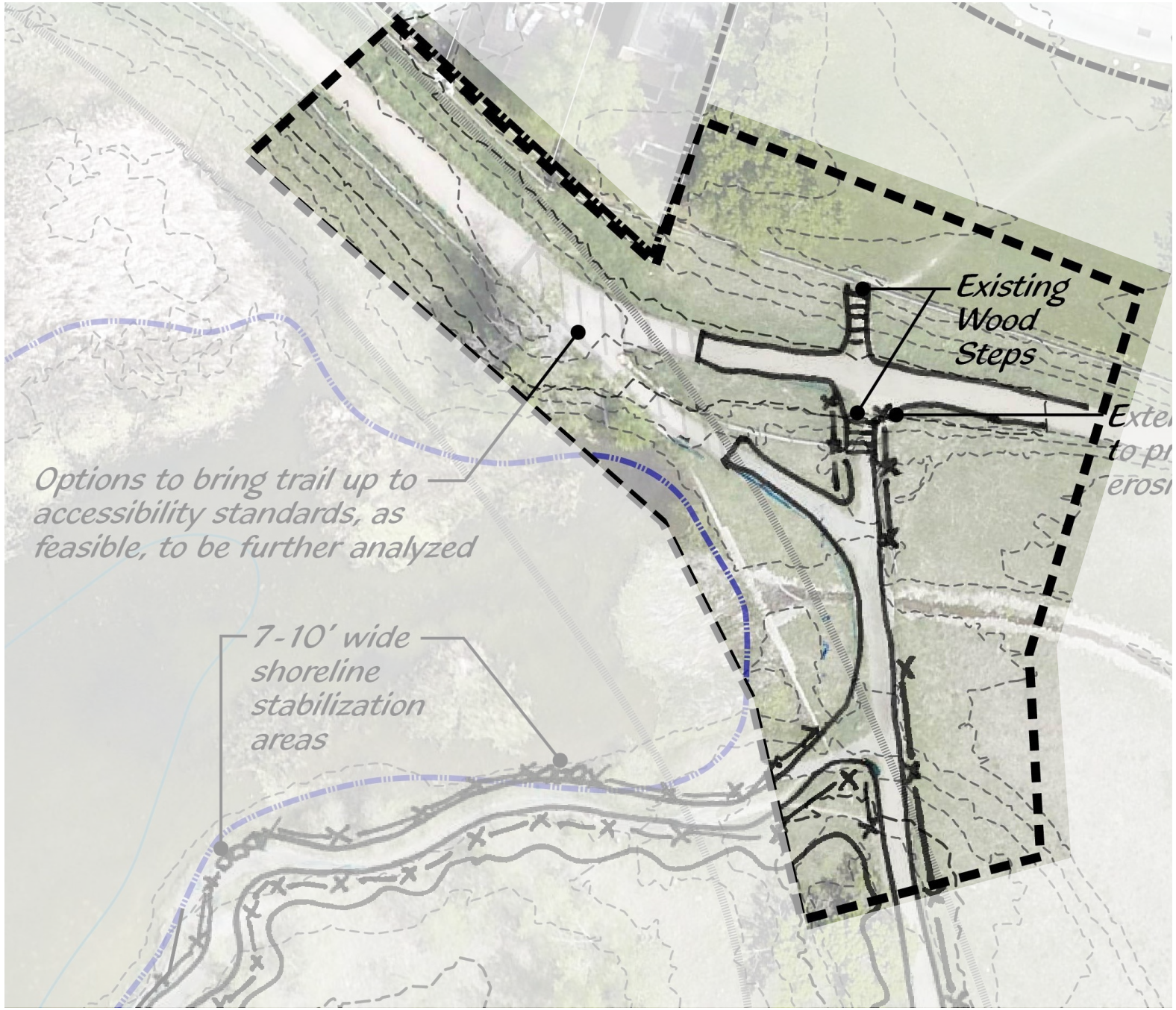
#9: Bring trails up to standards (accessible standard as feasible)

ISP Action #9

Bring trails up to standards (accessible standard as feasible)

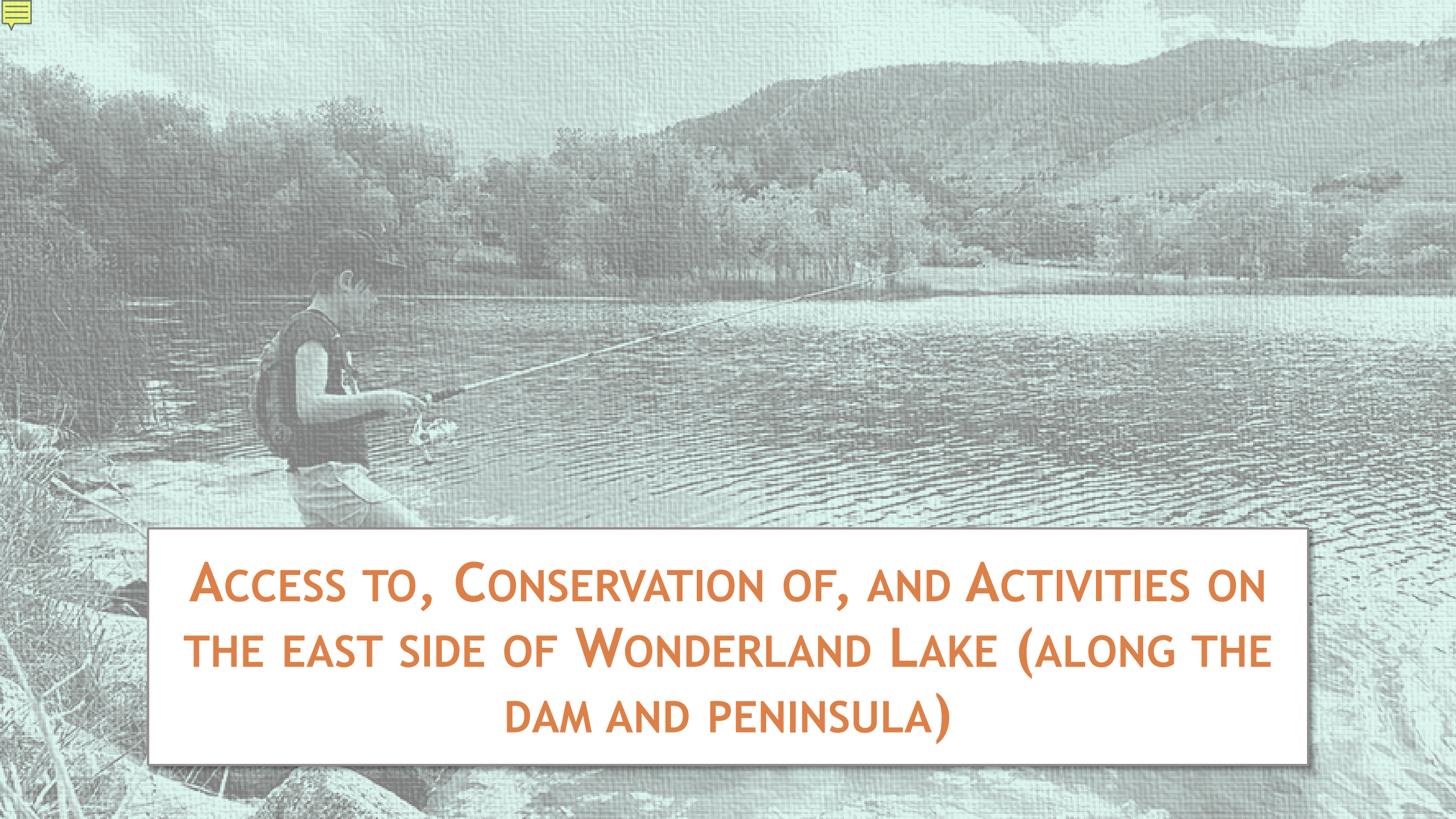
ISP Action #9

Bring the Wonderland Lake Trail and trail on peninsula up to accessible standards <u>as feasible.</u>



Trail Based Educational Experiences

ISP Actions - Operational Need
#9: Bring trails up to standards (accessible standard as feasible)



Access to, Conservation of, and Activities on the east side of Wonderland Lake (along the dam and peninsula)

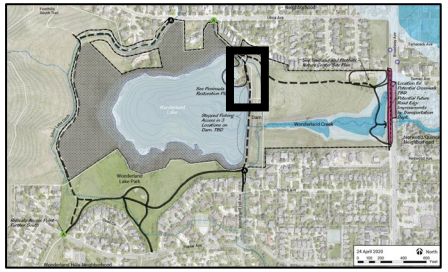
Access to, Conservation of, and Activities on the east side of Wonderland Lake (along the dam and peninsula)

ISP Actions - Operational Needs
#10: Update regulatory signs to accurately reflect regulations and allowed activities.
#11: Extend fencing south along the dam to prevent people from cutting across the spillway.

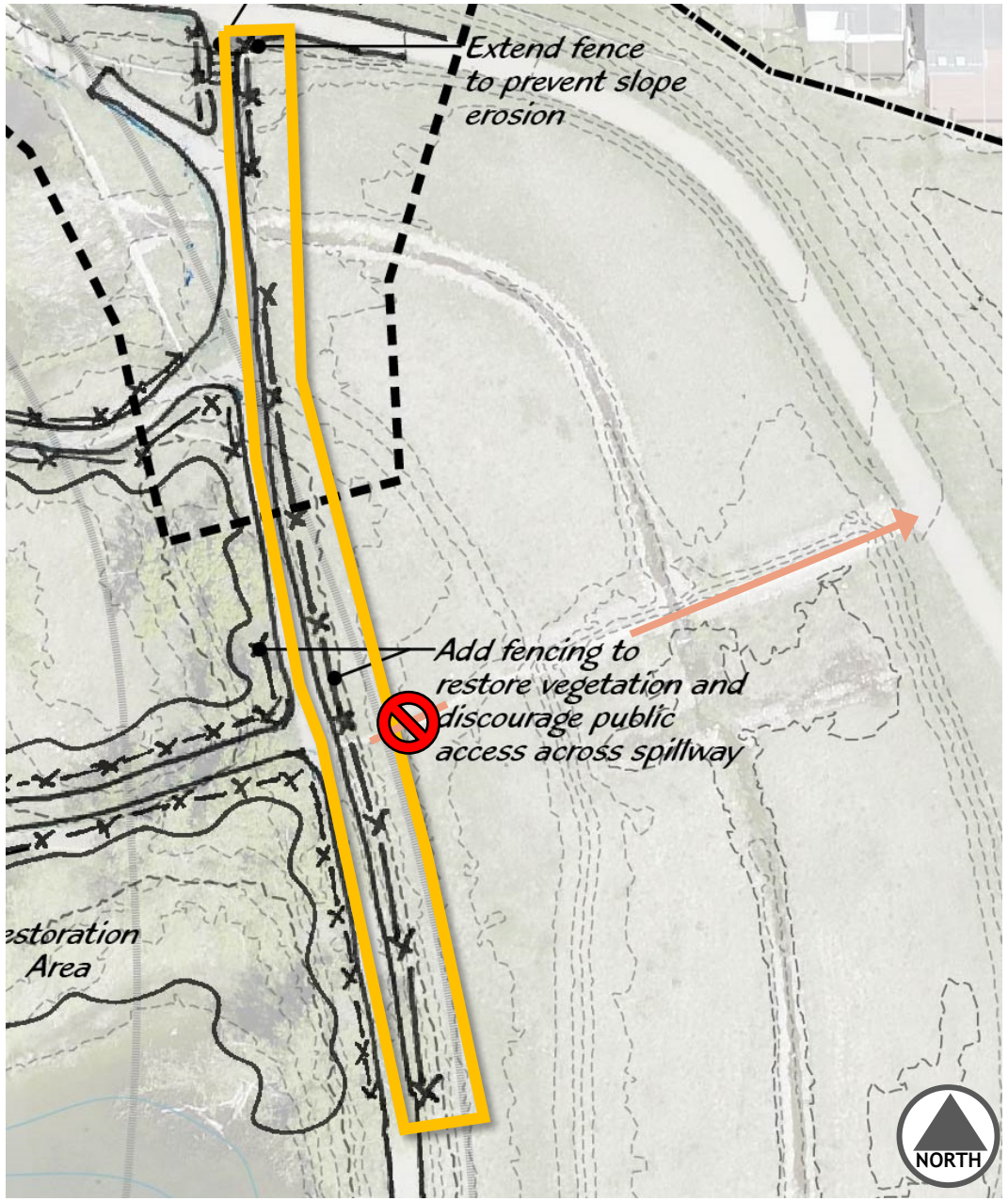
ISP Actions - Community Input
#12: Designate and construct ~~2-3~~ 1-2 fishing access paths, consisting of rocky steps, from the Wonderland Lake Trail down to the water's edge along dam.
#13: Do not prohibit (allow at own risk) ice skating
#14: Do not designate an area on the Wonderland Lake dam for sledding (sledding remains prohibited).
#15: Restore peninsula habitat.
#16: Restore shoreline along the peninsula to manage erosion, improve habitat, and provide a waterfront visitor experience that discourages wading/water access.

ISP Action #11

Extend fencing south along the dam to prevent people from cutting across the spillway.



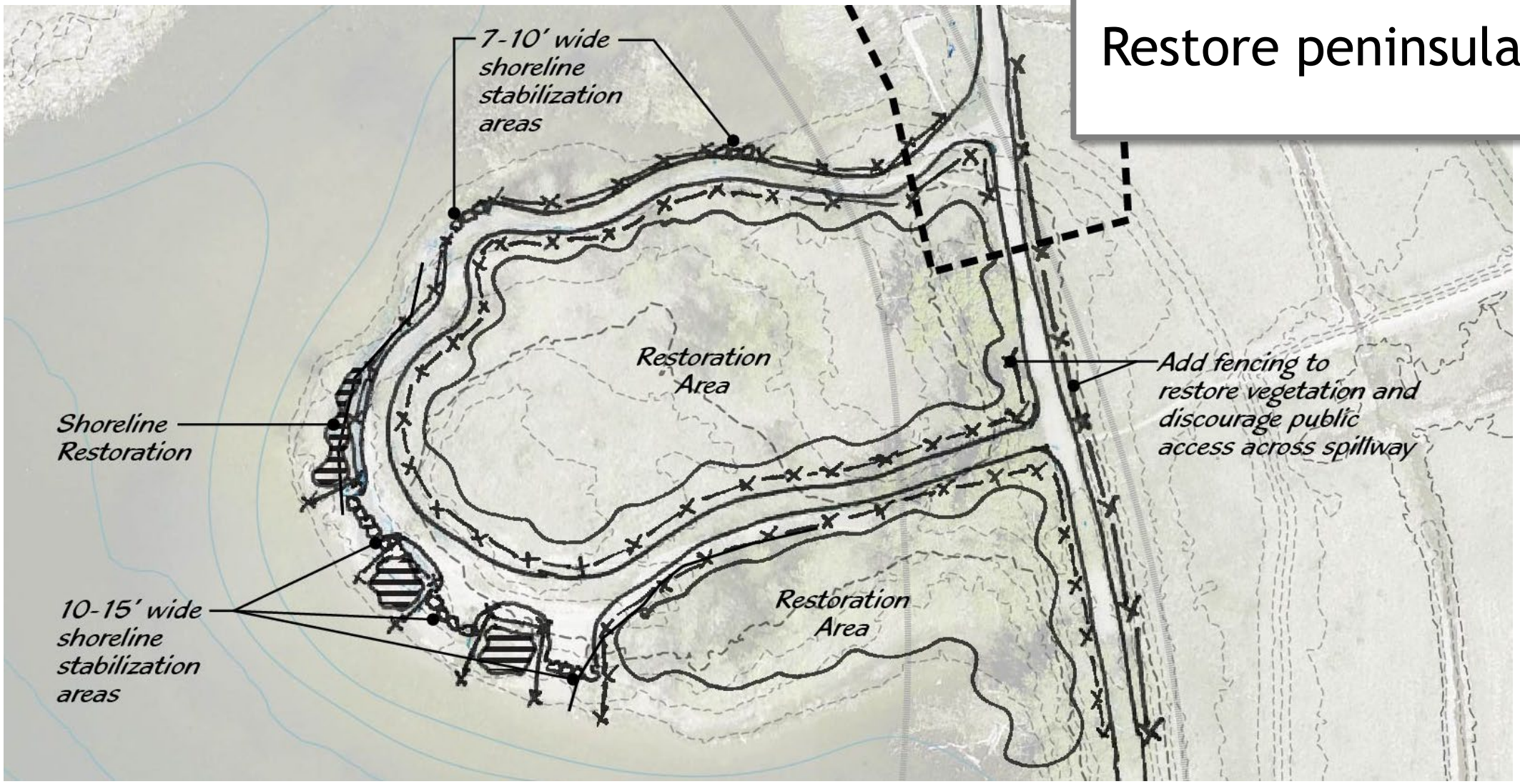
LOCATION MAP



New fencing—x—x—

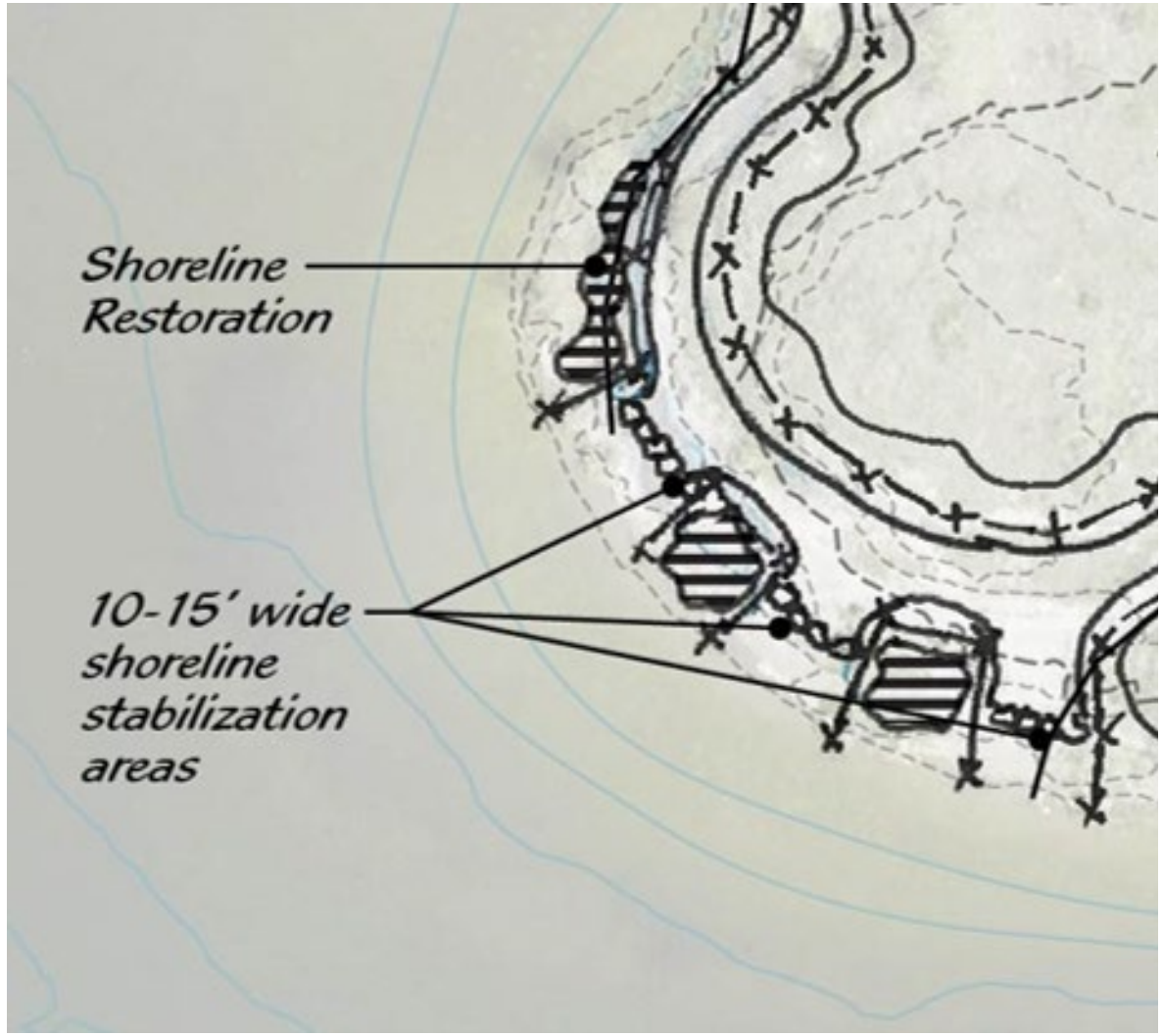
ISP Action #15

Restore peninsula habitat.

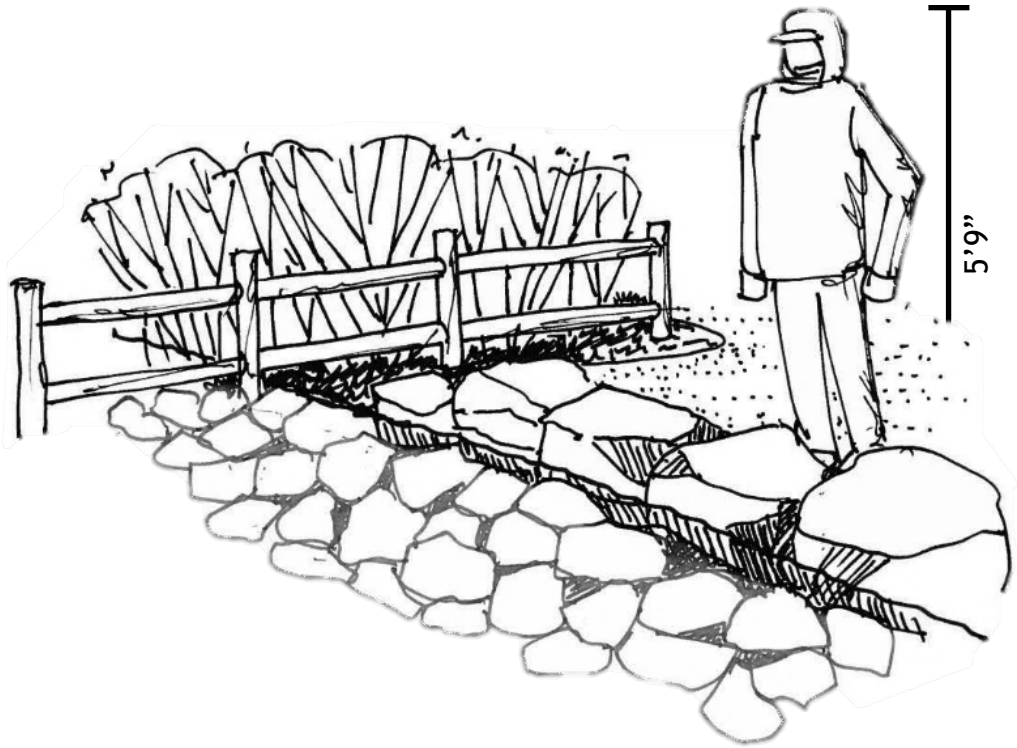


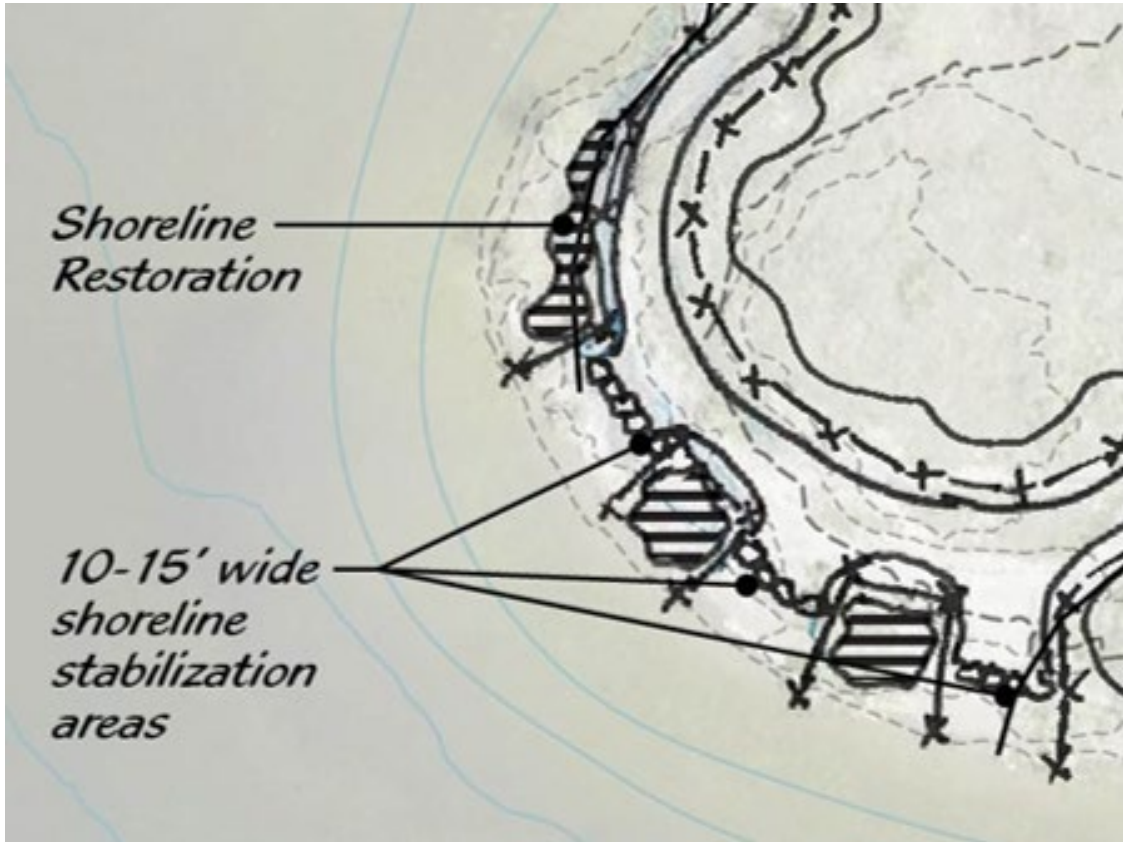
ISP Action #16

Restore shoreline along the peninsula to manage erosion and minimize sedimentation into the lake, improve habitat, and provide a waterfront visitor experience that discourages wading/water access.



ISP Action #16





Restore shoreline along the peninsula to manage erosion, improve habitat, and provide a waterfront visitor experience that discourages wading/water access.

ISP Action #12

Construct ~~2-3~~ 1-2 fishing access paths, consisting of rocky steps, from the Wonderland Lake Trail down to the water's edge along dam.

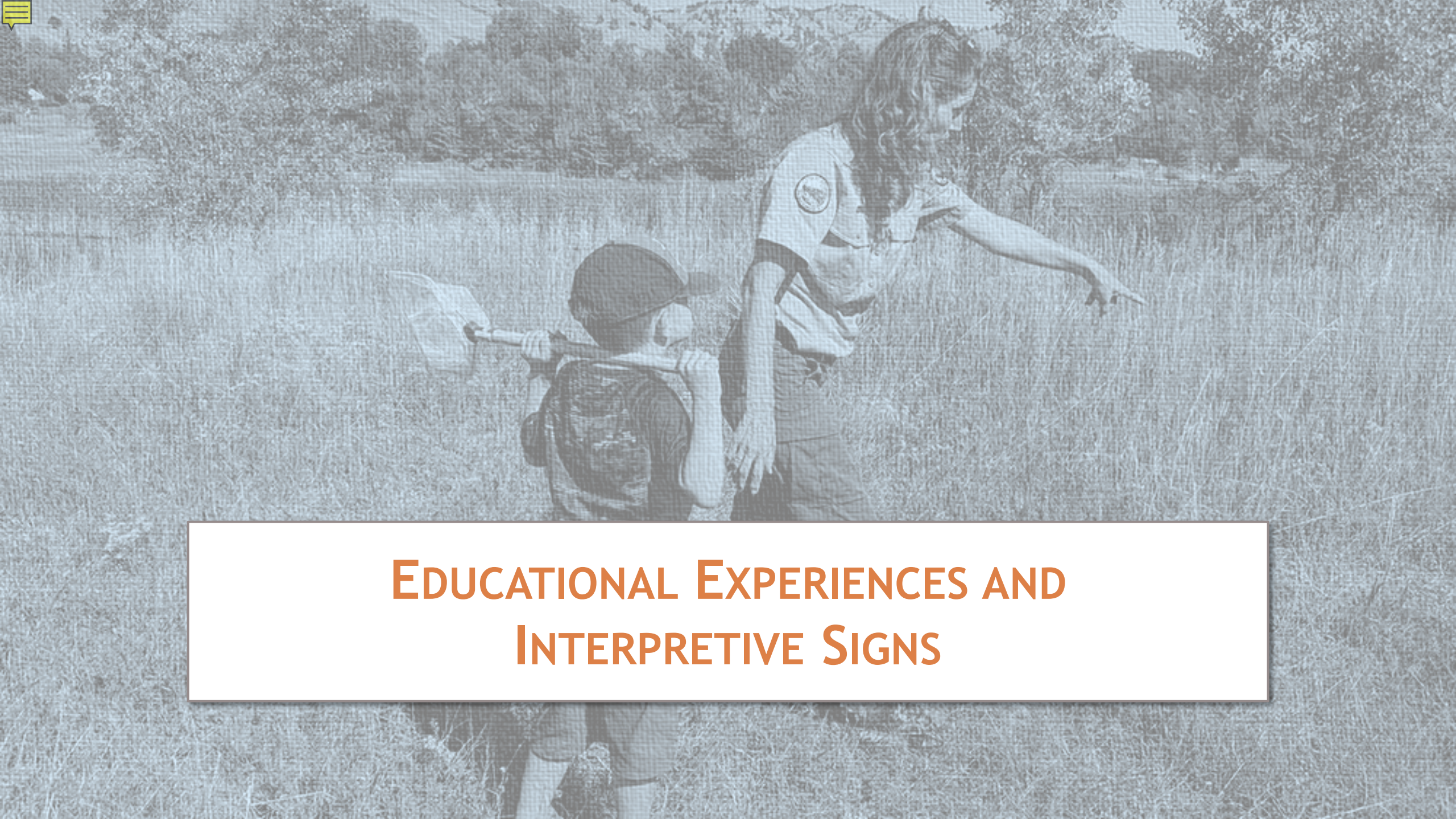
ISP Actions #10, #13, and #14

#14: Do not designate an area on the Wonderland Lake dam for sledding (sledding remains prohibited)

#13: Do not prohibit (allow at own risk) ice skating

#10: Update regulatory signs to accurately reflect regulations and allowed activities

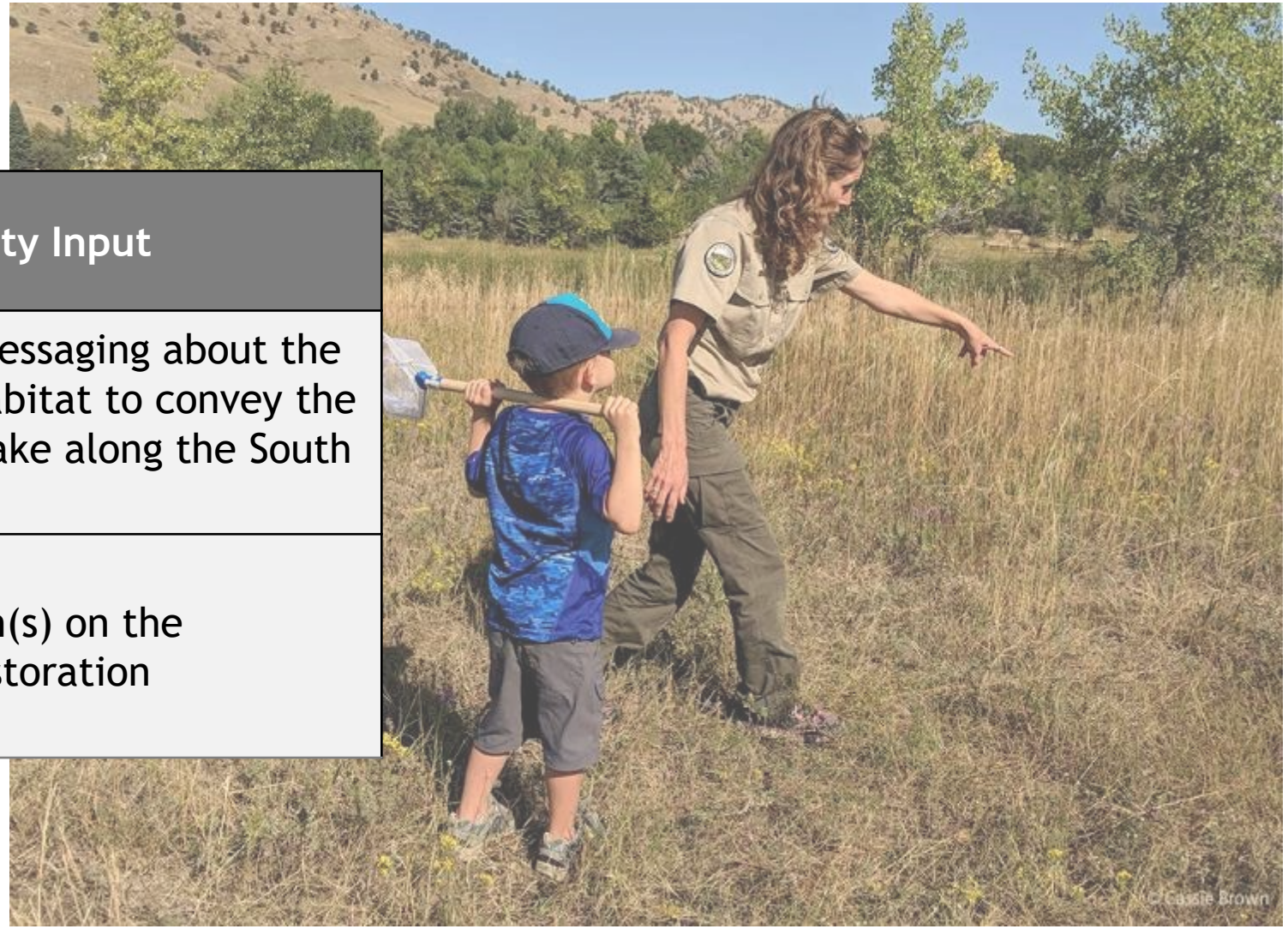
- Sledding (prohibited)
- Ice skating (dangerous and allowed at own risk)
- Fishing (allowed where designated)
- Wading (prohibited)



Educational Experiences and Interpretive Signs

Educational Experiences and Interpretive Signs

ISP Actions - Community Input
#17: Add interpretive signs with messaging about the value of wetlands and shoreline habitat to convey the ecological values of Wonderland Lake along the South and East shoreline
#18: Add temporary education sign(s) on the peninsula about and during the restoration



ISP Action #17

Interpretive Sign Title

This sign for Wonderland Lake may include information about the habitat, wildlife, and plants that call Wonderland Lake home.

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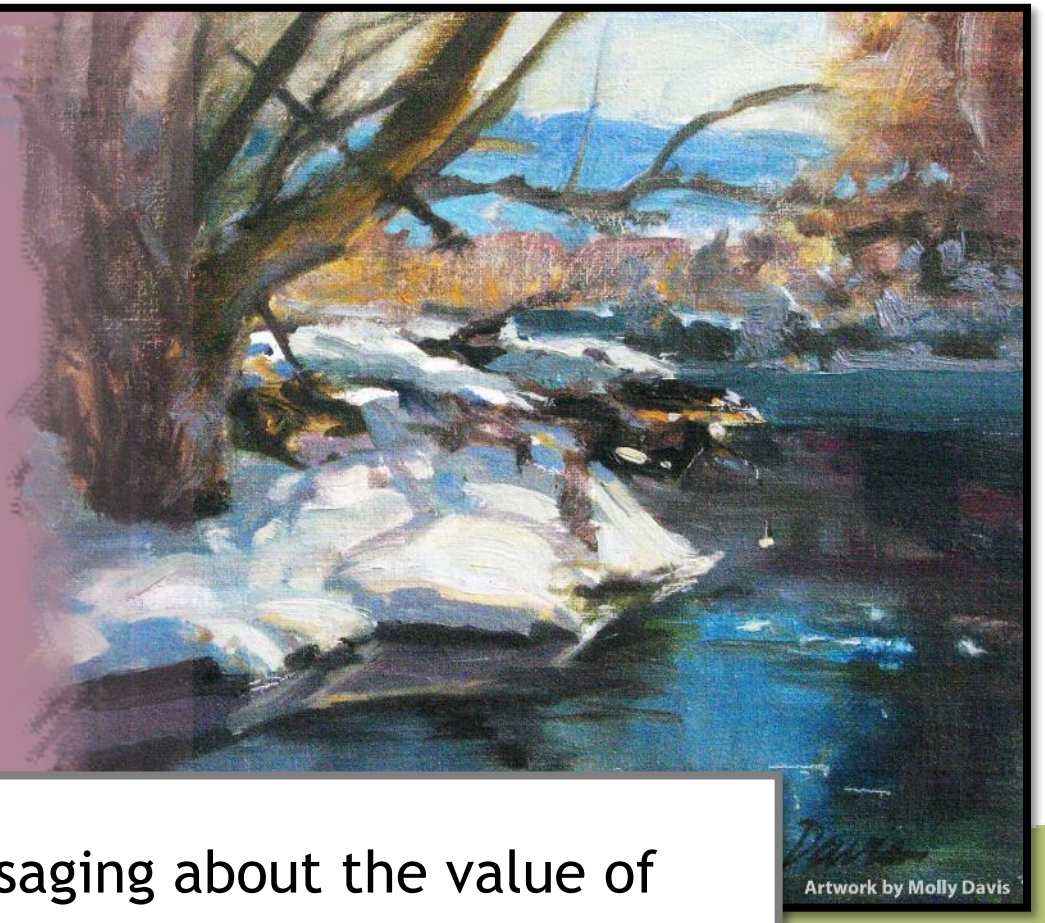


Add interpretive signs with messaging about the value of wetlands and shoreline habitat to convey the ecological values of Wonderland Lake along the South and East shoreline

Wonderland Lake Trailhead and Foothills Nature Center/Facilities Improvements

Wonderland Lake Trailhead and Foothills Nature Center/Facilities Improvements

ISP Actions - Operational Needs
#19: Renovate the Nature Center within the existing footprint/operational area to accommodate OSMP operational needs.
#20: Minor reconfiguration of the parking lot
#21: Replace kiosk and signs.

ISP Actions Proposed for Public Input
#22: Install additional and updated bike racks at the trailhead.
#23: Add public restrooms near the trailhead at the Foothills Nature Center shed site.
#24: Provide a small gathering area with shade trees and small rocks for visitors and small groups near the trailhead kiosk.
~~*#25:* Add a public water fountain at the Foothills Nature Center near the restrooms~~

Wonderland Lake Trailhead and Foothills Nature Center/Facilities Improvements

ISP Actions Proposed for Public Input
#23: Add public restrooms near the trailhead at the Foothills Nature Center shed site.
~~#25: Add a public water fountain at the Foothills Nature Center near the restrooms~~

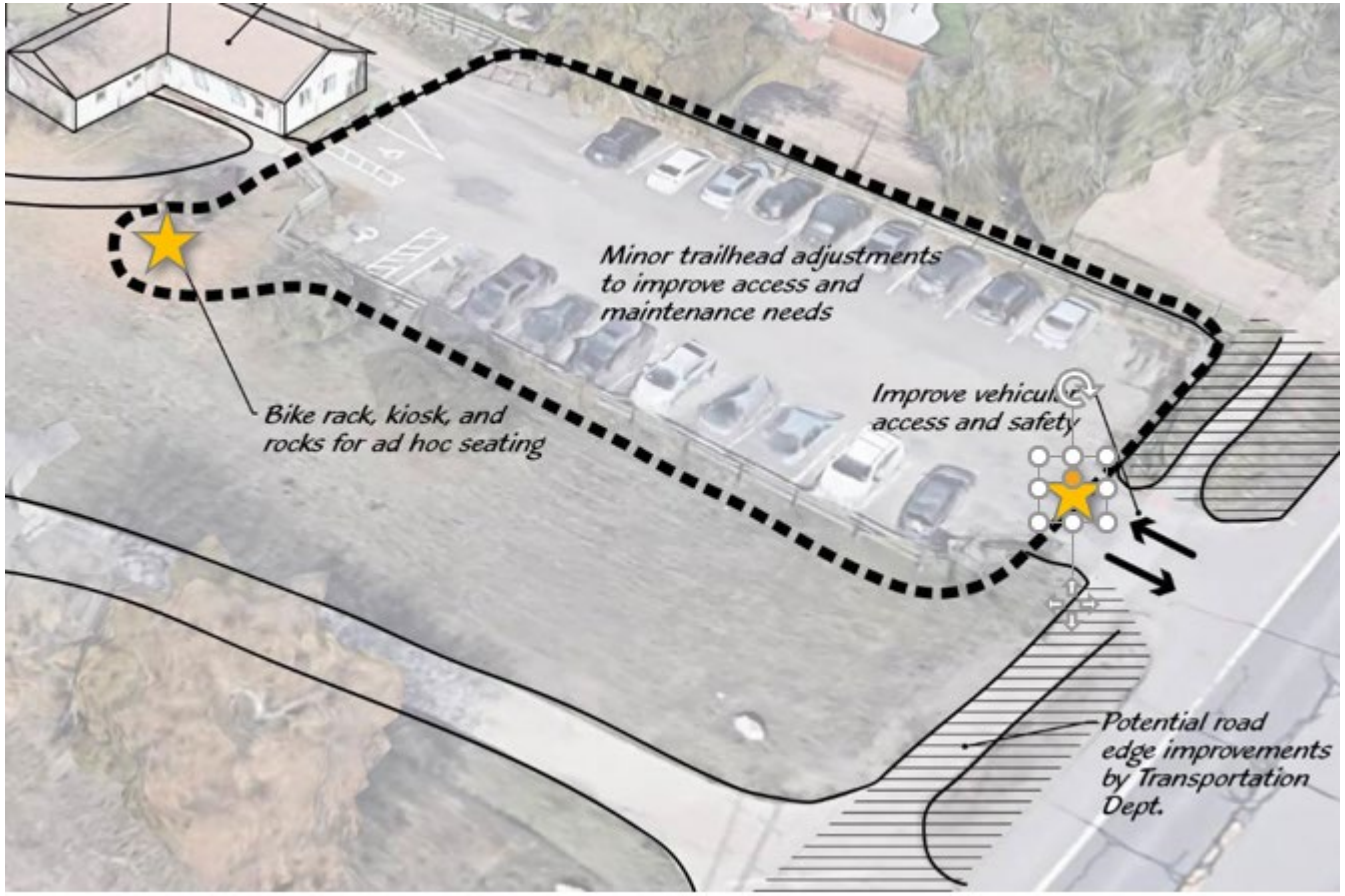
- Restroom/toilet is a "standard facility" at trailheads with high levels of visitation (water fountain is an "optional facility")
- Majority of participants support it (69%)
- Community concerns can be addressed through design features and maintenance and operational protocols.
- Planned updates include installing plumbed facilities to support OSMP staff operations.

ISP Actions #20 and #21

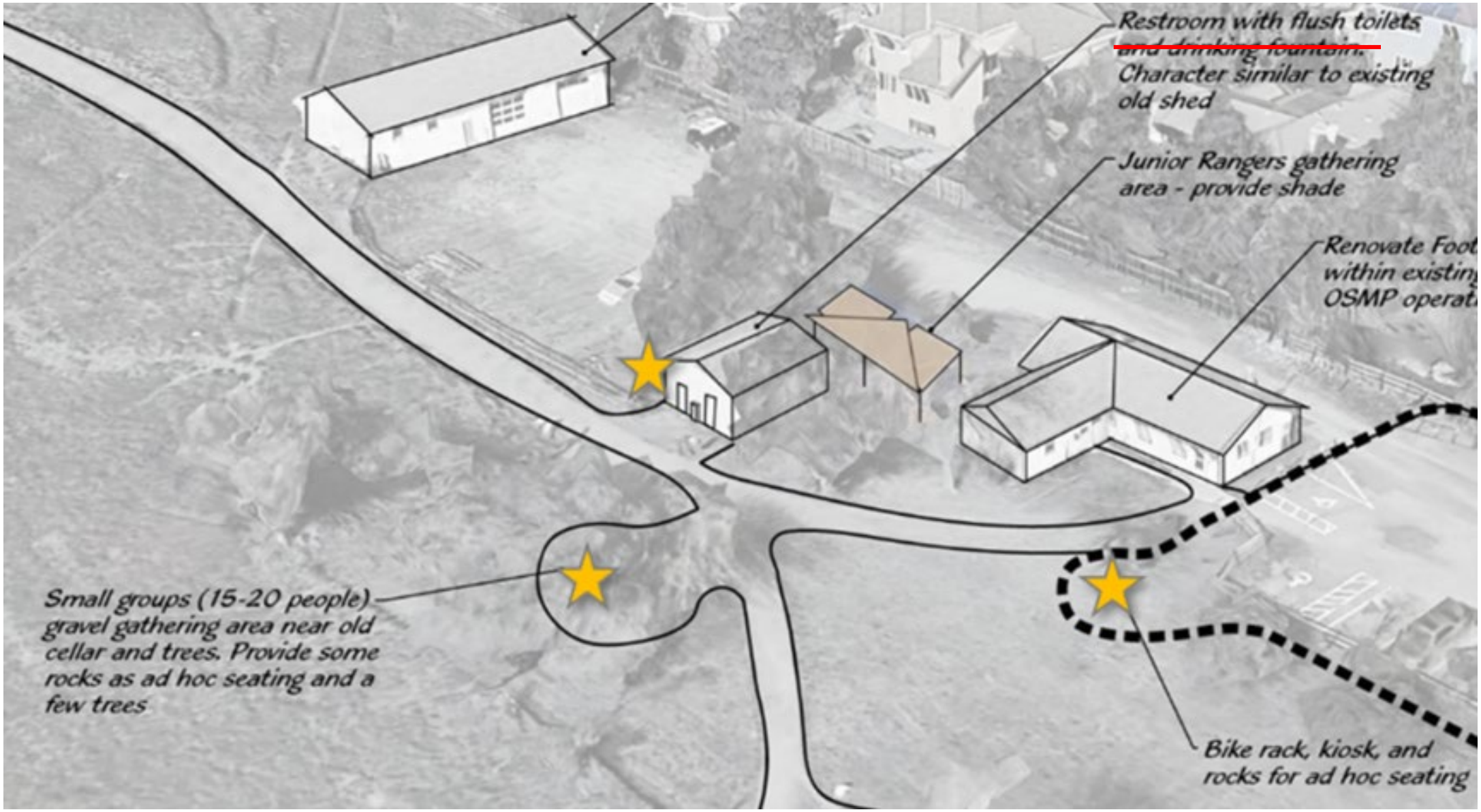
#20: Minor reconfiguration of the parking lot.

AND

#21: Replace kiosk and signs.

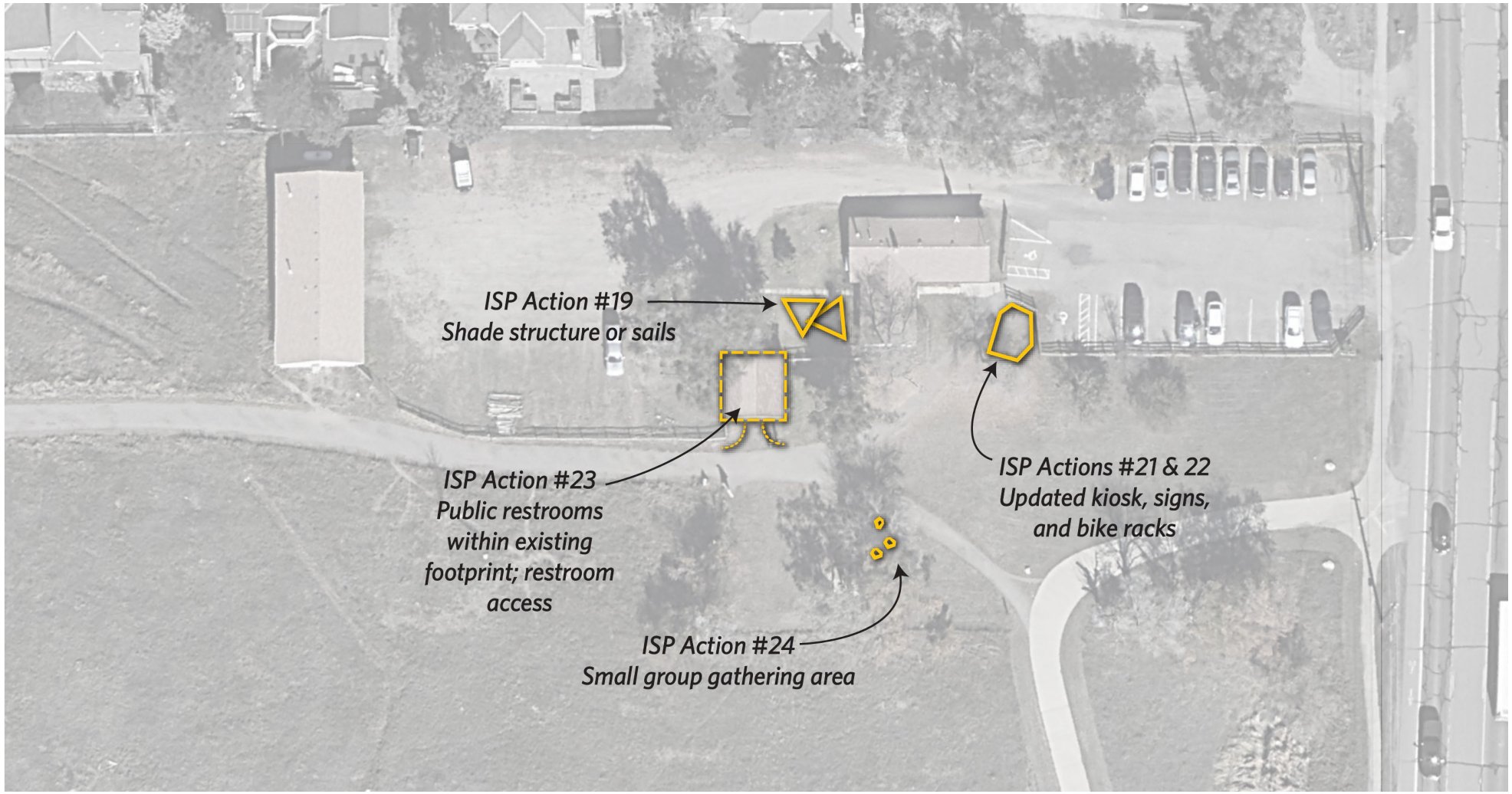


ISP Actions #19, #22, #23, and #24



Existing Conditions

FNC Development in Preferred Package of Actions



Community Requested Name Change

Community Request for a Name Change to Wonderland Lake *Wildlife Sanctuary*

Outdated signs across the OSMP system removed

↓

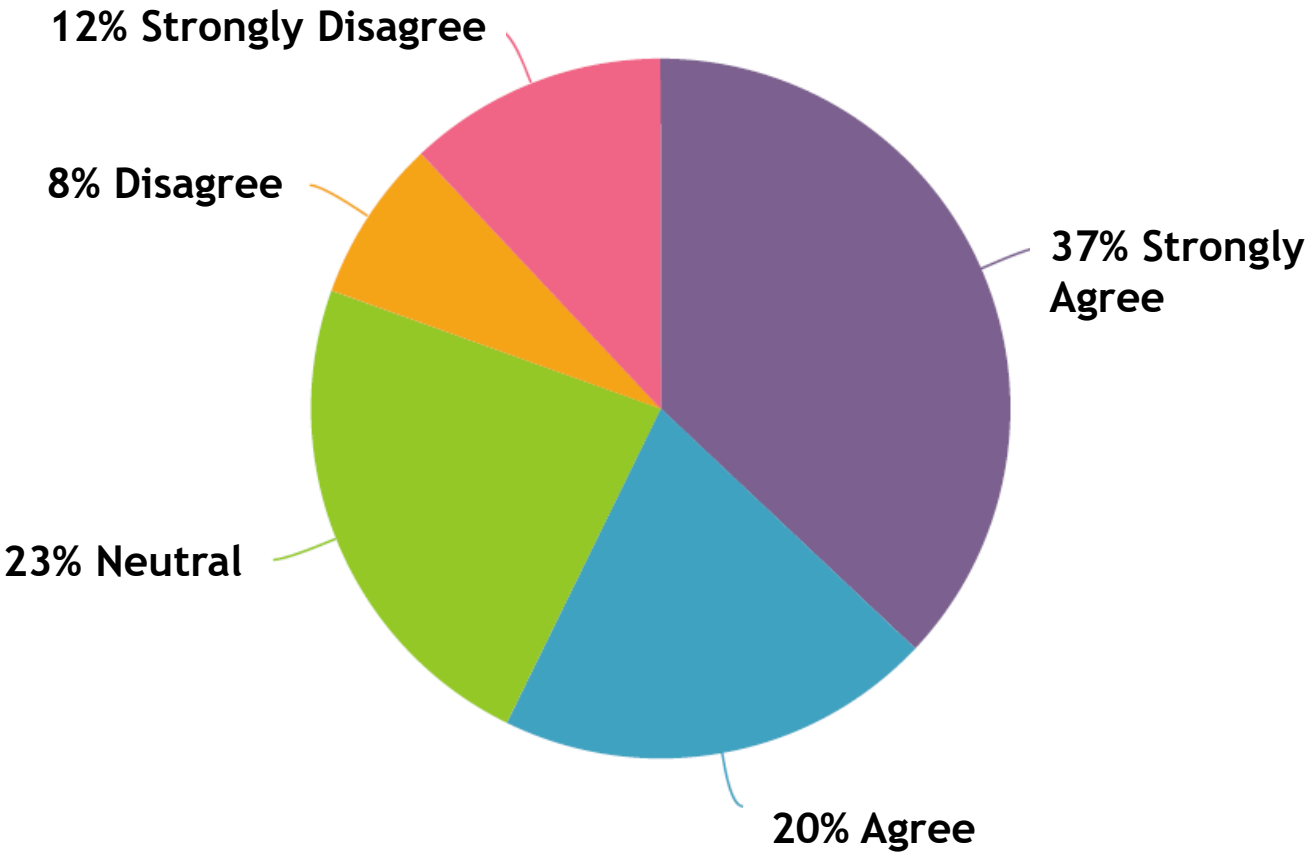
Community Petition and Name Change Request

↓

Inclusion of this request into the ISP process

What We Heard - Engagement Window #2:
Name Change Request

"How much do you agree or disagree with a community-generated application to rename Wonderland Lake to the "Wonderland Lake Wildlife Sanctuary?" Please note that a name change would not have an effect on how the area is managed or change the Management Area Designation."

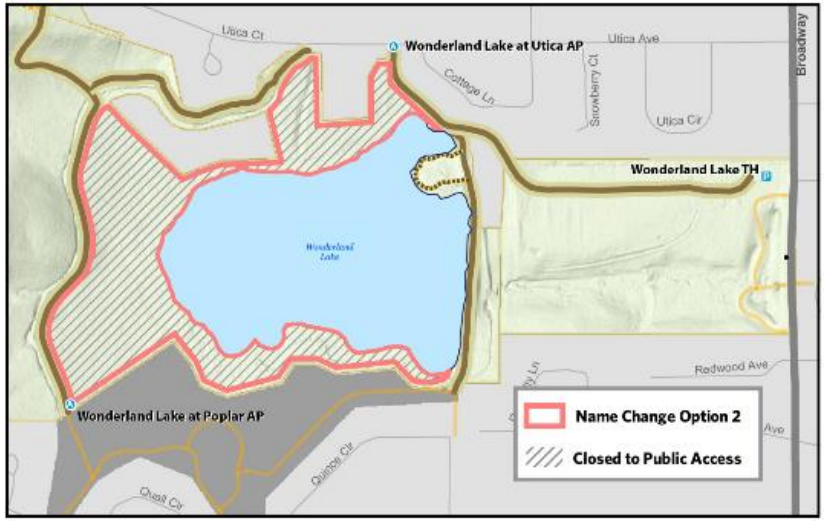


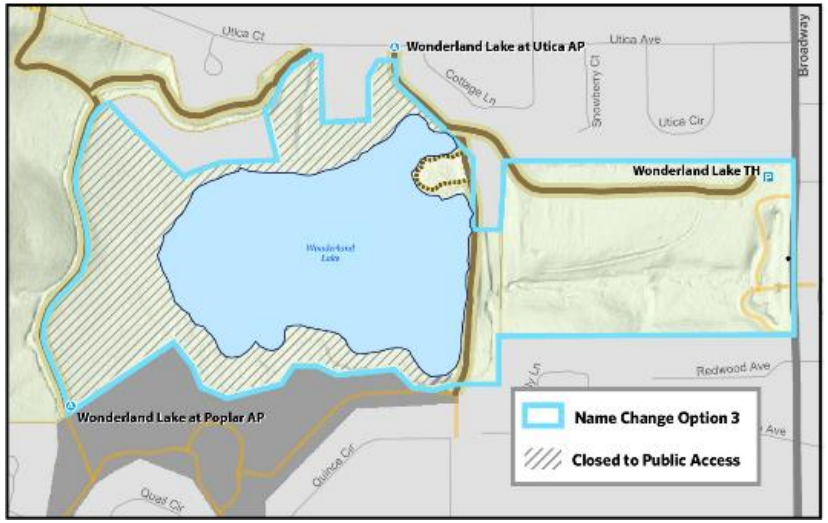
Request for a Name Change to Wonderland Lake *Wildlife Sanctuary*

- No regulatory or policy meaning
- Will not influence OSMP's management
- OSMP's management area designations per the Visitor Master Plan include:
  - Agricultural Areas
  - Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs)
  - Natural Areas
  - Passive Recreation Areas (Wonderland Lake)
    - to provide a high level of public access,
    - maintain or improve recreational and educational opportunities, while protecting and preserving resources,
    - accommodate high levels of visitor use with appropriate infrastructure and services.

Request for a Name Change to Wonderland Lake *Wildlife Sanctuary*

3 Name Change Options
Option 1: No Name Change
Option 2: Applied to closure area around the lake
Option 3: Applied to entire ISP/Wonderland Lake area

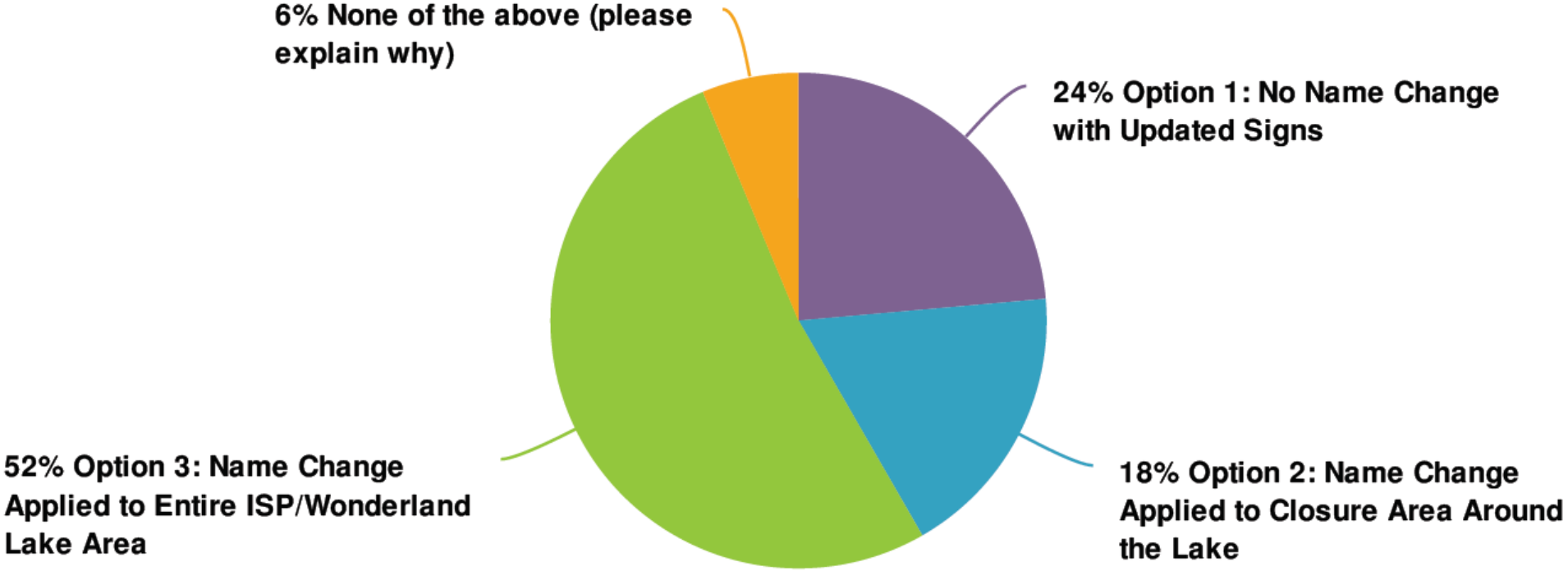




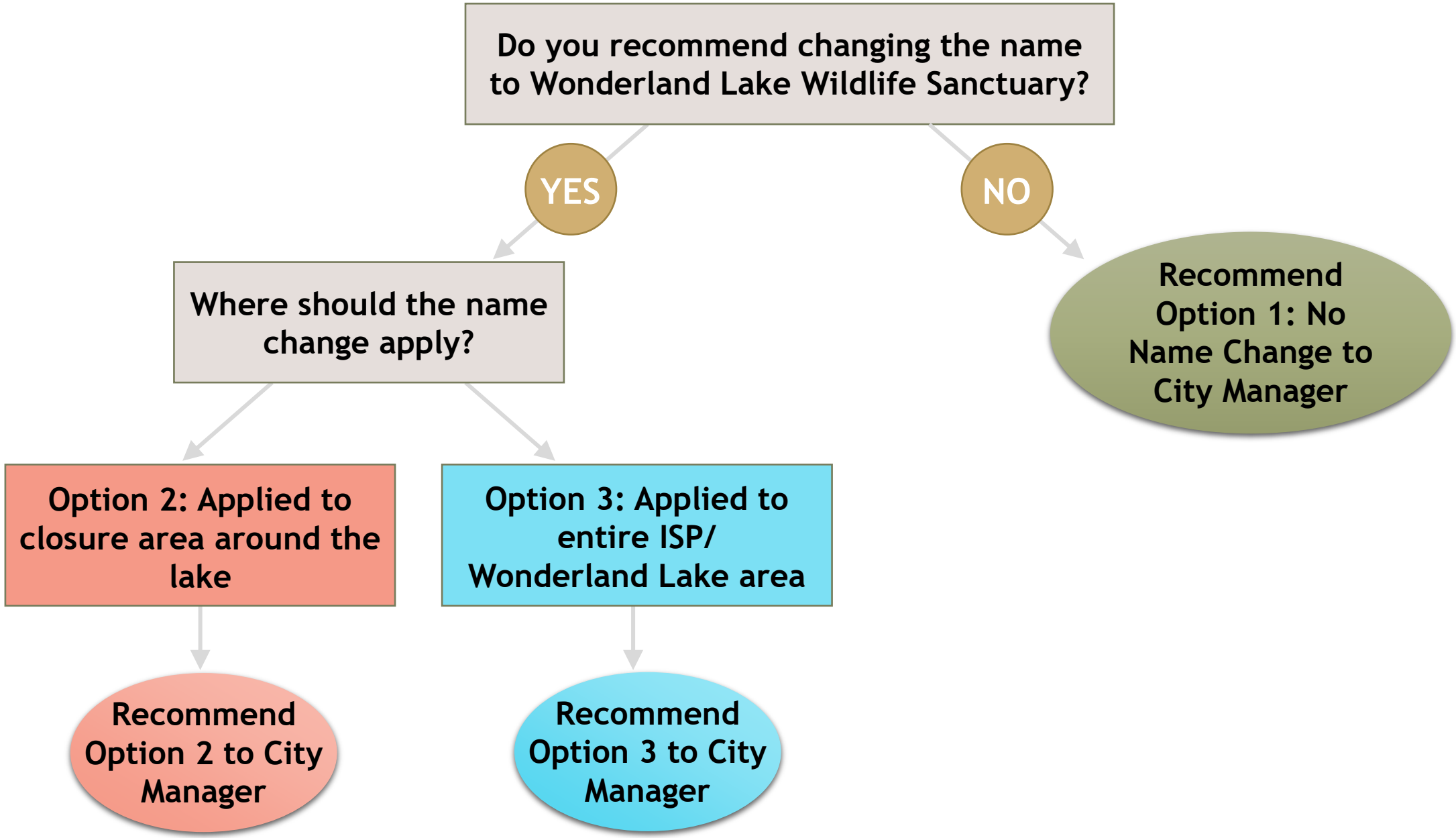
List of Considerations

What We Heard – Engagement Window #3: Name Change Request

"Which name change option do you support?"



Name Change Process



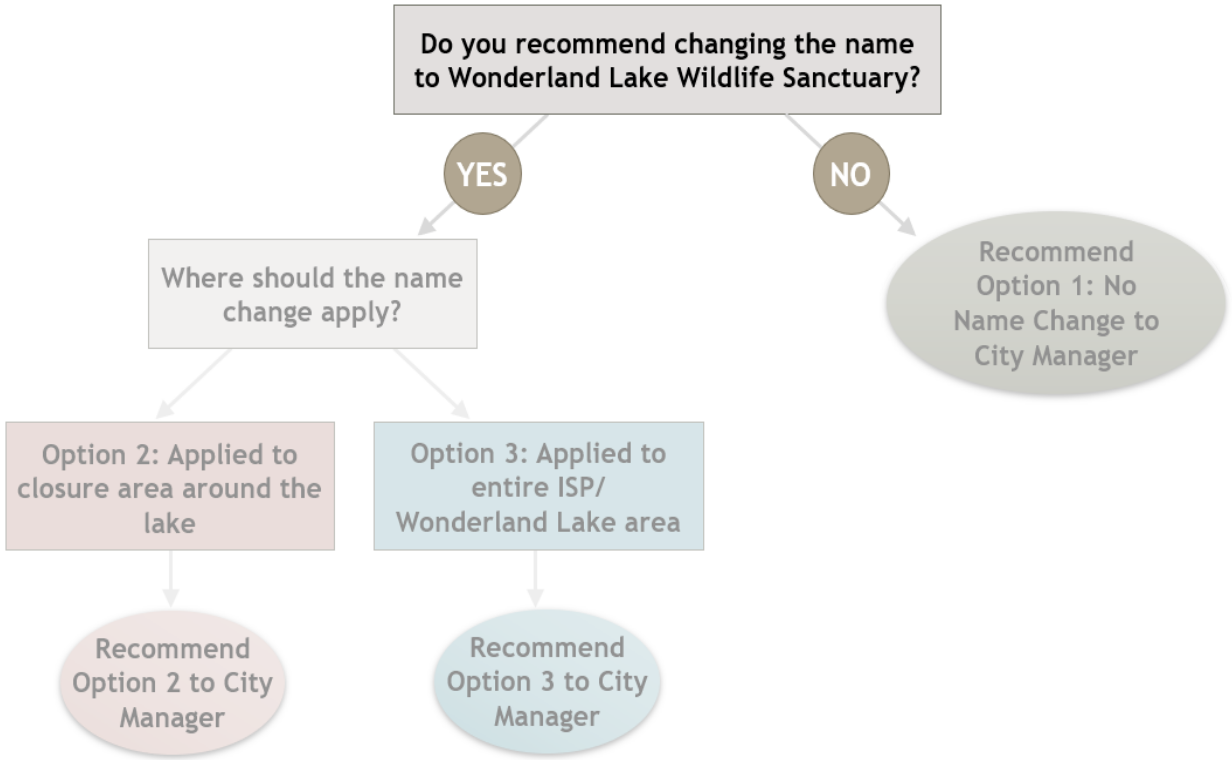
Name Change - Potential Misunderstanding around Management Expectations

Key Consideration:

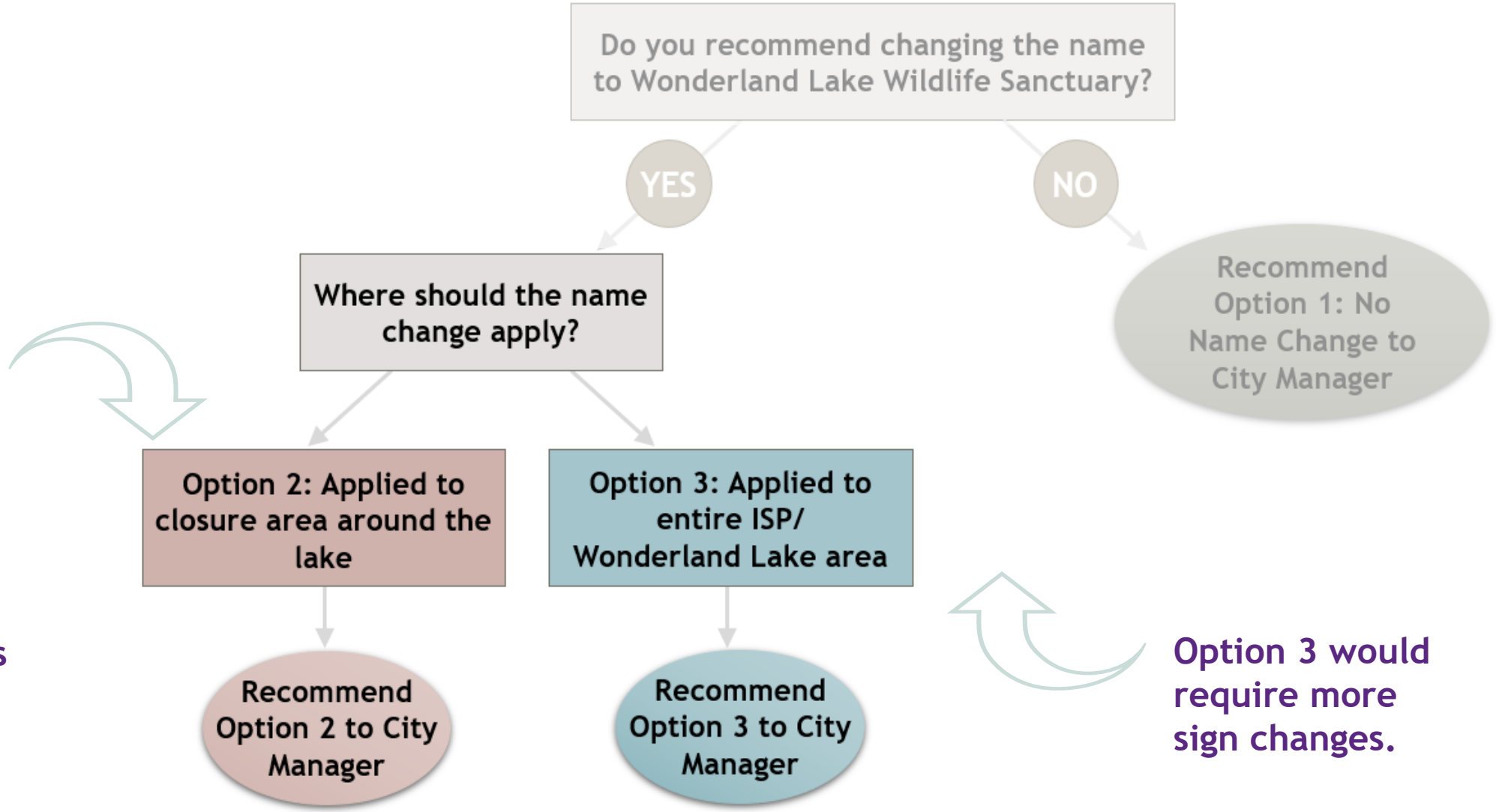
- Will not influence OSMP's management of the area
- No regulatory or policy meaning

Potential Management Implications/ Community Expectations:

If yes, community expectations for management of Wonderland Lake may change and conflict with the management for the area.



Name Change - Potential Management Implications



Option 2 is geographically more consistent with on-the-ground management/ other ISP actions such as signs

Option 3 would require more sign changes.

ISP Action Phasing

Immediate	Mid-Term	Long-Term
Regulatory closure		
Prohibit boats and belly boats	Southwestern access point relocation or add vehicle turnaround	
Lake fish and amphibian habitat	Designate northwest and southeast access points	
	Bring trails up to accessibility standards	
Update regulatory signage		Designate and construct 1-2 fishing rocky steps
Allow ice skating at own risk	Extend fencing along spillway	
Sledding remains prohibited	Restore peninsula habitat	Minor parking lot reconfiguration
	Restore shoreline peninsula habitat and visitor waterfront experience	Update trailhead bike racks
Add interpretive signage		Small group gathering area
	Add temporary peninsula restoration education signage	
	Renovate F.N.C.	
	Replace kiosk and signs	
	Public restrooms	

**Phasing of the Broadway crosswalk to be determined by the City's Transportation Department*

Staff Team

Core Team

- **Kacey French**, Project Manager (2019-2020)
- **Dan Burke**, OSMP Director
- **Steve Armstead**, Deputy Director
- **Mark Davison**, Community Connections & Partnerships Manager
- **Alison Ecklund**, Community Relations Coordinator
- **Whitney May**, Planning and Design Specialist

Interdisciplinary / Subject Matter Expert Team

Community Connections & Partnerships

Gretchen Bolivar, Lead Ranger	**Natasha Steinmann**, Youth Service Learning Coordinator	**Lisa Dierauf**, Education & Outreach Supervisor
Lindsay Young, Ranger Naturalist	**Juliet Bonnell**, Planner I	

Resource & Stewardship

Marianne Giolitto, Wetland & Riparian Ecologist	**Frances Boulding**, Recreation & Cultural Stewardship Supervisor	**Amy Willhite**, Water Resources Administrator
Will Keeley, Senior Wildlife Ecologist	**Colin Leslie**, Human Dimensions Coordinator	

Trails & Facilities

Ben Mayer, Asset Management Supervisor	**Jarret Roberts**, Visitor Infrastructure Supervisor
Ben Verril, Trailheads Program Lead	

Motion Requests:

Staff requests OSBT's consideration of this matter and action in the form of the following motions:

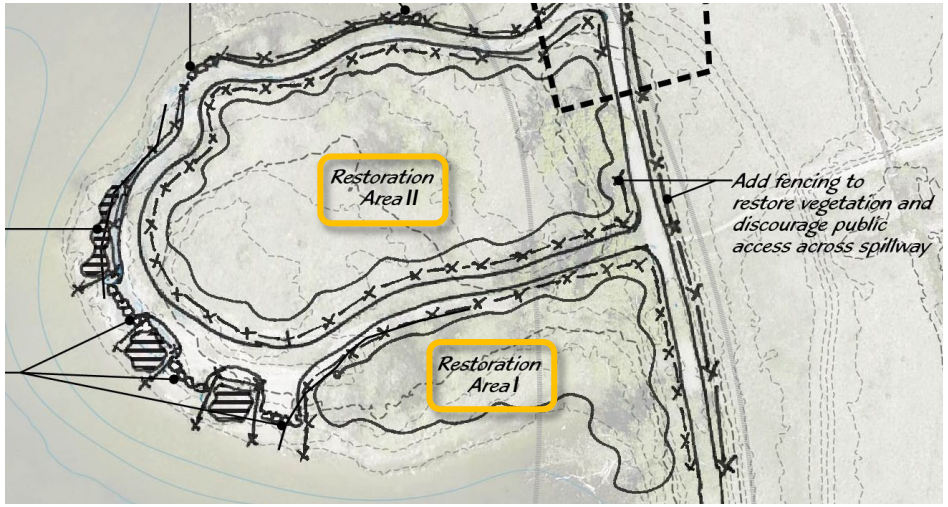
(1) Motion to recommend that staff advance the preferred package of actions for the Wonderland Lake Integrated Site Project into detailed design and execution

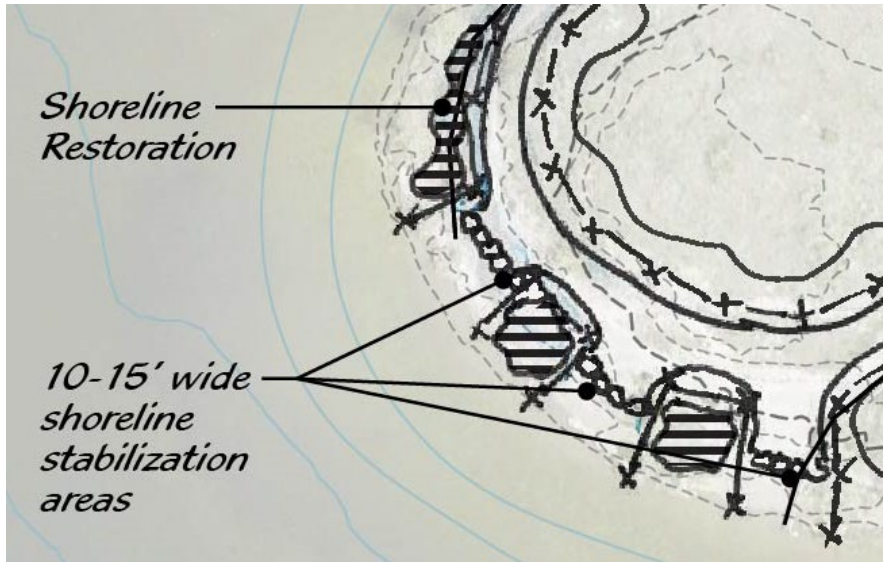
(2) Motion to recommend one of the following options to the city manager – Option 1: No name change, Option 2: Name change applied to area around the lake, or Option 3: Name change applied to the entire ISP/Wonderland Lake area

Restroom Costs and Considerations

	Construction Costs/Considerations	Maintenance Costs/Considerations	Other Considerations
Plumbed	• $30-50K Few places on OSMP system where a plumbed toilet is feasible and less expensive • $0 additional to make public (operational need for them) • Plumbing and sewer already exist	Regular maintenance includes: • Potential contracted locking service approx.$6,500 per year • Contracted cleaning service $11K per year	• Lack of odor and compatibility with close residential neighbors • Plumbed toilets strongly desired for operations and have been incorporated into the Foothills Nature Center operational renovation • Water/sink makes them more hygienic for staff and visitors
Vault	• $70-120K • Costs include excavation for the pit and structure	Regular maintenance includes: • Contracted pumping service approx. $4000 per year • In house cleaning approx. $2,200 per year	• Odor from vault toilet incompatible or a potential source of conflict due to close proximity to neighbors. More frequent pumping would not eliminate odor, it would need to be pumped 1-2 times a week, which is infeasible, to help with odor.

Peninsula Restoration





Focus of peninsula restoration:

- Low cost and low effort
- Includes seeding and fencing

Cost Estimate: $10,000

Focus of shoreline restoration:

- Manage erosion
- Improve habitat
- Provide a waterfront visitor experience that discourages wading/water access

Cost Estimate: $75,000-100,000