



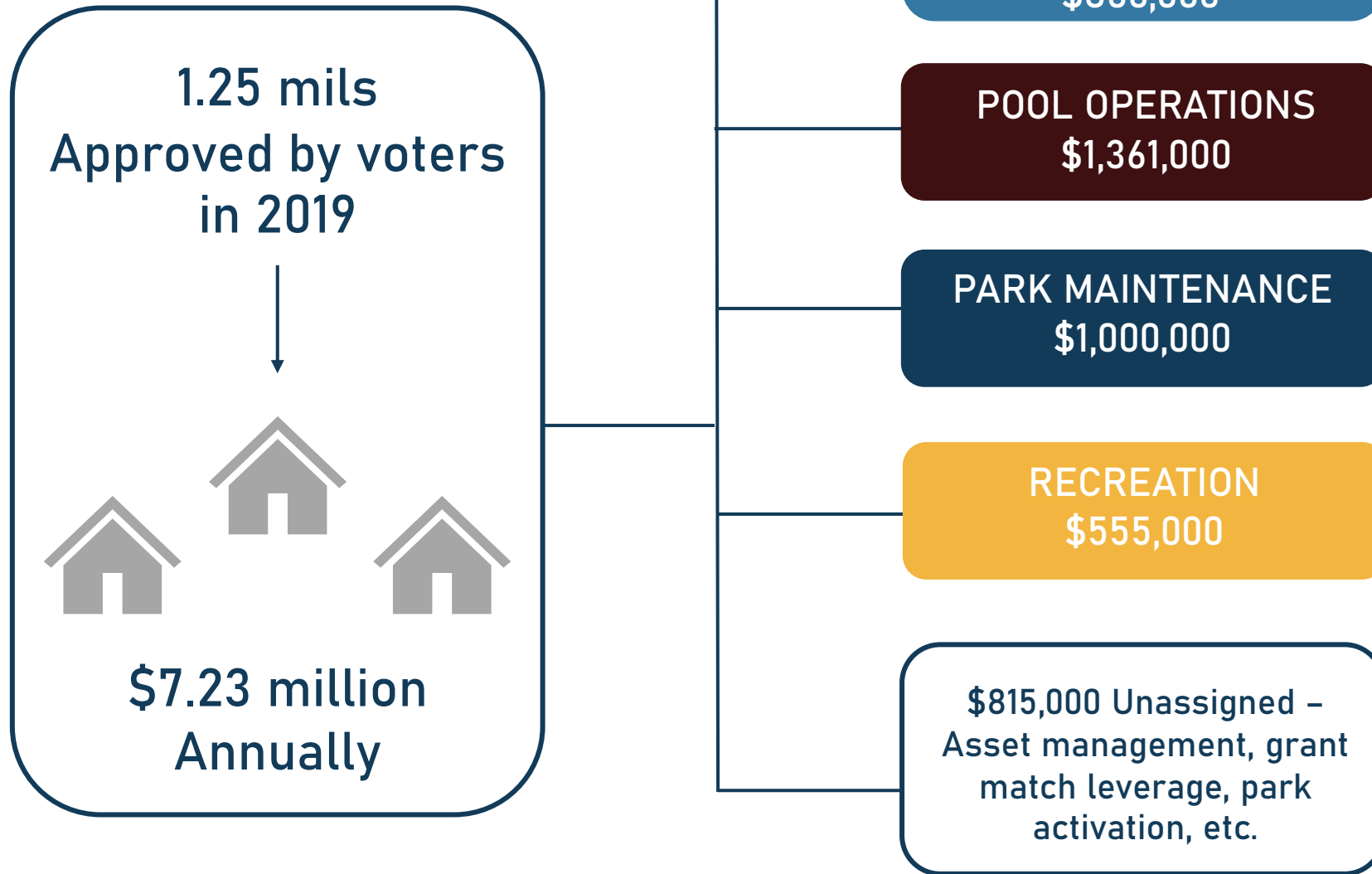
City of Grand Rapids  
Parks and Recreation  
Department

# Parks Millage Update

December 17, 2024



# PARKS MILLAGE OVERVIEW



# FY 2024 IMPACT



## CAPITAL PROJECTS

- 8 Park renovation projects completed
- \$43M+ leveraged investment
- 1,800+ residents involved in design



## POOL OPERATIONS

- 47,685 open swim participants
- 960 swim lesson participants
- Fully staffed all 3 pools (Briggs, MLK, and Richmond)



## PARK MAINTENANCE

- Increased Parks rated A or B from 30% (2018) to 68% (2024)
- Increased park maintenance labor hour investment from 48,830 (pre-2019 Millage) to 71,150 (FY25).
- Implemented Brightly Park Maintenance Software to drive efficiency and asset management. (2,565 preventative and reactive maintenance workorders completed)



## RECREATION PROGRAMMING

- 11,696 free outdoor fitness participants
- 559 summer camp participants
- 5,275 senior programming visits YTD
- 5,118 GR Outside gear library participants YTD



# River Activation Highlights

## Summer Paddling Day Camp & Experiences

- 809 participants
- Over 125 youth
- \$0 cost

## Family Paddle Night

- 400+ participants
- Over 50% BIPOC participation

## Kayaking

- Monthly drop-in kayaking at Riverside Park
- 210 participants in \$5/hour Canal Park kayak Rentals
- Guided kayak trips: Tree ID with Friends of GR Parks, Grand River History with GR Running Tours, Plants & Birds ID with LGROW



# FY 2024 DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION LEVERAGED FUNDING

Camelot Park	Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program	\$479,600
Canal Park	RAP 2.0 MEDC Grant	\$750,000
Canal Park	DDA Monroe North TIFA	\$3,000,000
Leonard to Ann	DGRI Greenway Grant	\$2,459,605
MLK Jr Park	MEDC - State Appropriation funding	\$6,000,000
MLK Jr Park	City ARPA funding	\$10,500,000
MLK Jr Park	City Third Ward Equity Fund and City Capital	\$2,050,000
Ottawa Hills Park	MDNR Trust Fund Grant	\$247,900
Oxford Trail	DGRI Greenway Grant	\$8,000,000
Oxford Trail	City of GR ARPA funding	\$1,000,000
Plaster/Silver Creek	City of GR ARPA funding	\$1,500,000
Richmond Park	Mitten Foundation	\$50,000
Roosevelt Park & Plaza Roosevelt	State Appropriation Funding	\$5,000,000
Sullivan Field	Fans of Valley Field	\$1,000,000
Sullivan Field	RAP 2.0 MEDC Grant	\$680,000
Sullivan Field	State Appropriation Funding	\$1,050,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$43,767,105</b>



# EQUITY-CENTERED CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

Approx. \$2.7 million each year from the Parks Millage is prioritized for capital improvements through a scoring system that balances community and asset management needs.



# FY24: COMPLETED/IN CONSTRUCTION PARK PROJECTS

Highland Park: Parking & Sports Courts

Midtown Green: Park Improvements

Veterans Park: Building Renovations

Cherry Park: Sports Courts

Garfield Park: Basketball Courts

Sullivan Field Improvements: Phase I

Lyon Square

Comprehensive Dog Park Study

Ottawa Hills: New Restroom And Parking Lot Reconstruction



Midtown Green – Nature Play Area



Comprehensive Dog Park Study – Community Report Out



Highland Park – Bike Polo & Basketball Court



# UPCOMING PROJECTS – CONSTRUCTION 2025/2026

Ball Perkins: New Parking Lot & Trail Improvements

Bike Park: New Picnic Shelter, Parking Lot Reconstruction, Bike Trail Improvements

Camelot Park: Splashpad, Shelter, & Restroom

Canal Park: Full Park Reconstruction

Garfield Park: Lodge Improvements \*

Grand River Edges Trail (Leonard to Ann)

Highland Park: Restrooms

Houseman Field: New Playground (Community Build)

Joe Taylor: General Park Improvements

Lincoln Park: Improved site features

*\* Planning/Design Only*





# UPCOMING PROJECTS – CONSTRUCTION 2025/2026 (Cont.)

MLK Jr Park: Full Park Reconstruction

Otsego Drain Basin: New Park Construction

Oxford Trail: Reconstruction and Extension

Plaster Creek: Erosion Control

Plaza Roosevelt: New Park Construction

Richmond Park: New Playground & Parking lot

Roosevelt Park: Lodge Reconstruction & Other Site Improvements

Silver/Plaster Creek Trail \*

Sullivan Field Phase I + II: Full Park Reconstruction

Tremont Greenspace: Small Play Space & Seating



Sullivan Field – Plaza and Museum Space



Plaza Roosevelt – Rentable Shelter Space, Lighting



Plaza Roosevelt – Hammock Grove

\* Planning/Design Only



# CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN: FY27-29

32<sup>nd</sup> Street - New Park Development

Garfield - Reconstruction Of Parking Lots

Aberdeen - Playground And Parking Lot/Circulation Renovations

Huff - Reconstruction Of Parking Lots

Ah Nab Awen - Full Park Reconstruction

Mackay Jaycee - Reconstruction Of Parking Lots/Circulation And New Dog Park

Boston Square - New Park Acquisition

Plaster Creek Trail - Trail Improvements

Campau - Improved Sports Courts

Riverside - Reconstruction Of Parking Lots/Circulation

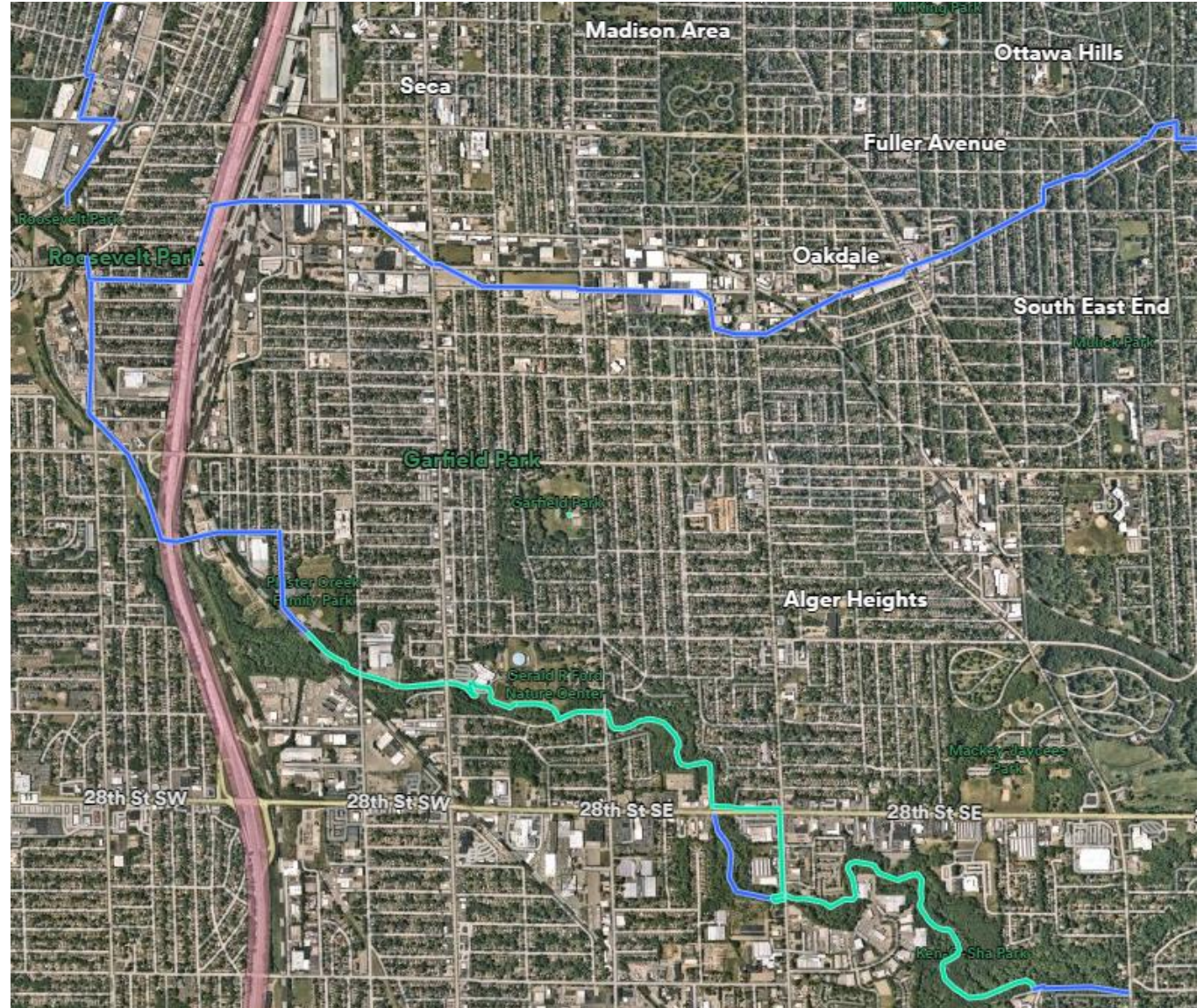
Douglas - General Park Improvements



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: SILVER/PLASTER CREEK

Planning for Silver Creek Corridor and Plaster Creek Trail Improvements

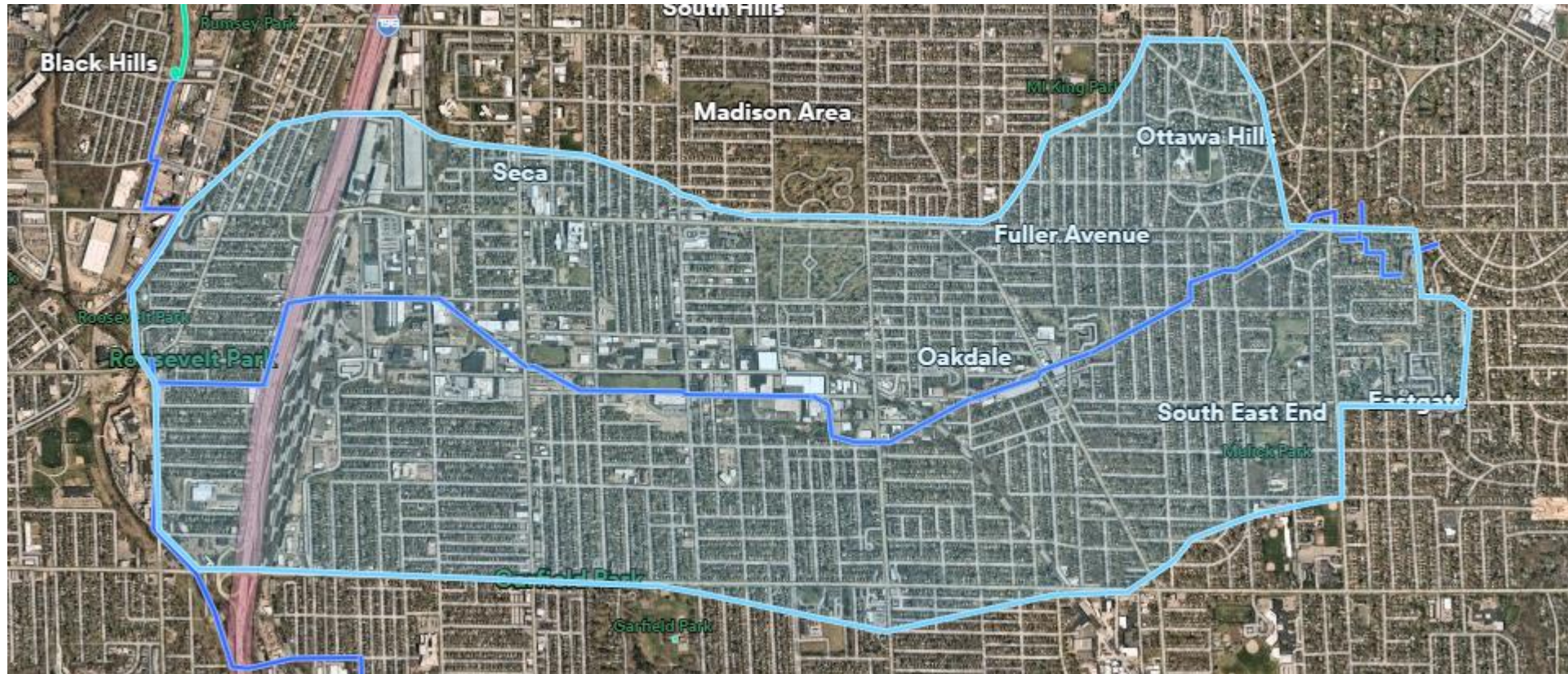
Project investment:  
\$1.5 M City ARPA



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: SILVER/PLASTER CREEK

## Silver Creek

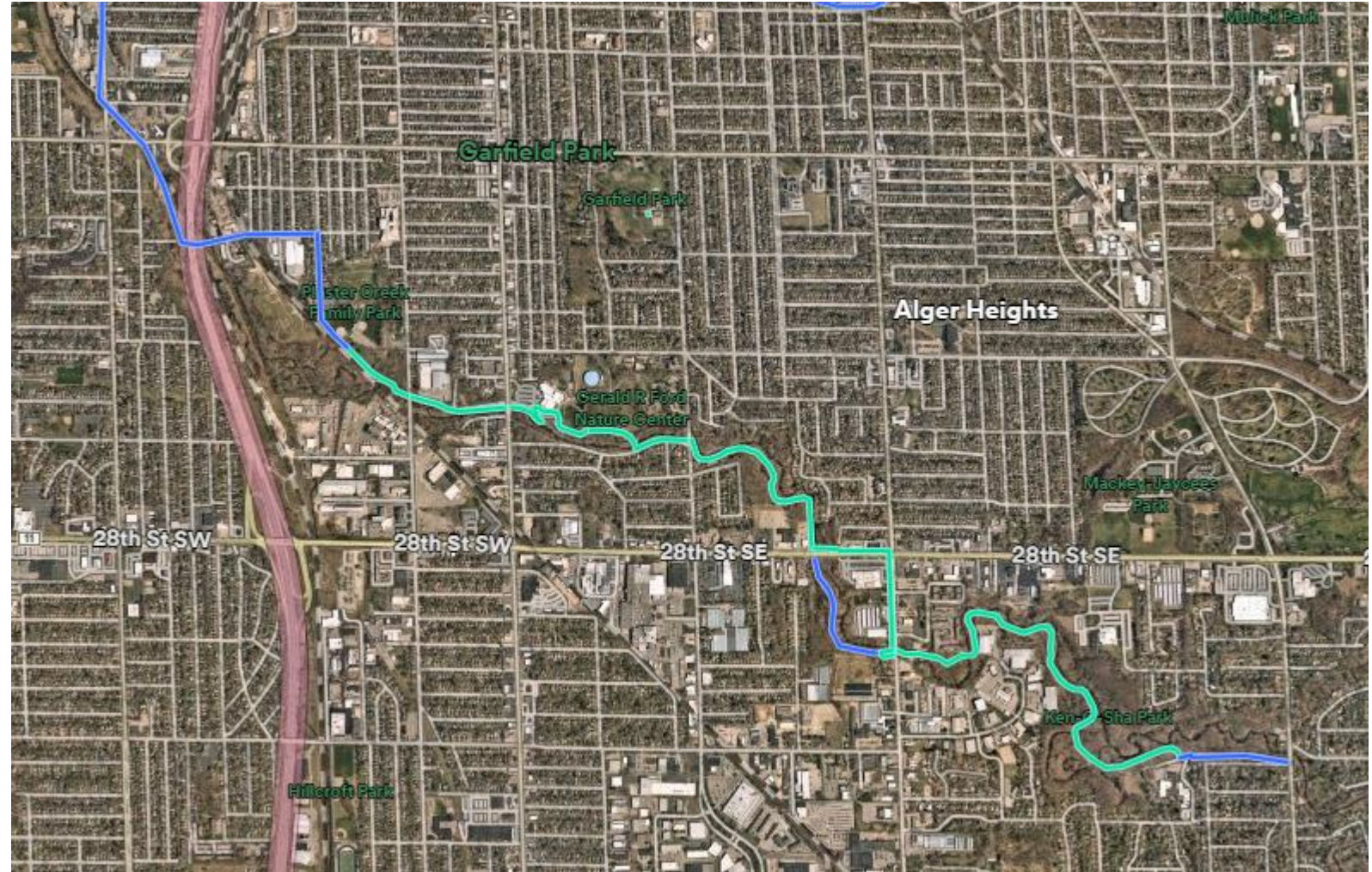
Collaborating with community to develop a framework for an urban greenway project that will improve economic, social, and environmental outcomes for community.



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: SILVER/PLASTER CREEK

## Plaster Creek

Close existing trail gaps and create trail design guidelines for future work.



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: OXFORD TRAIL

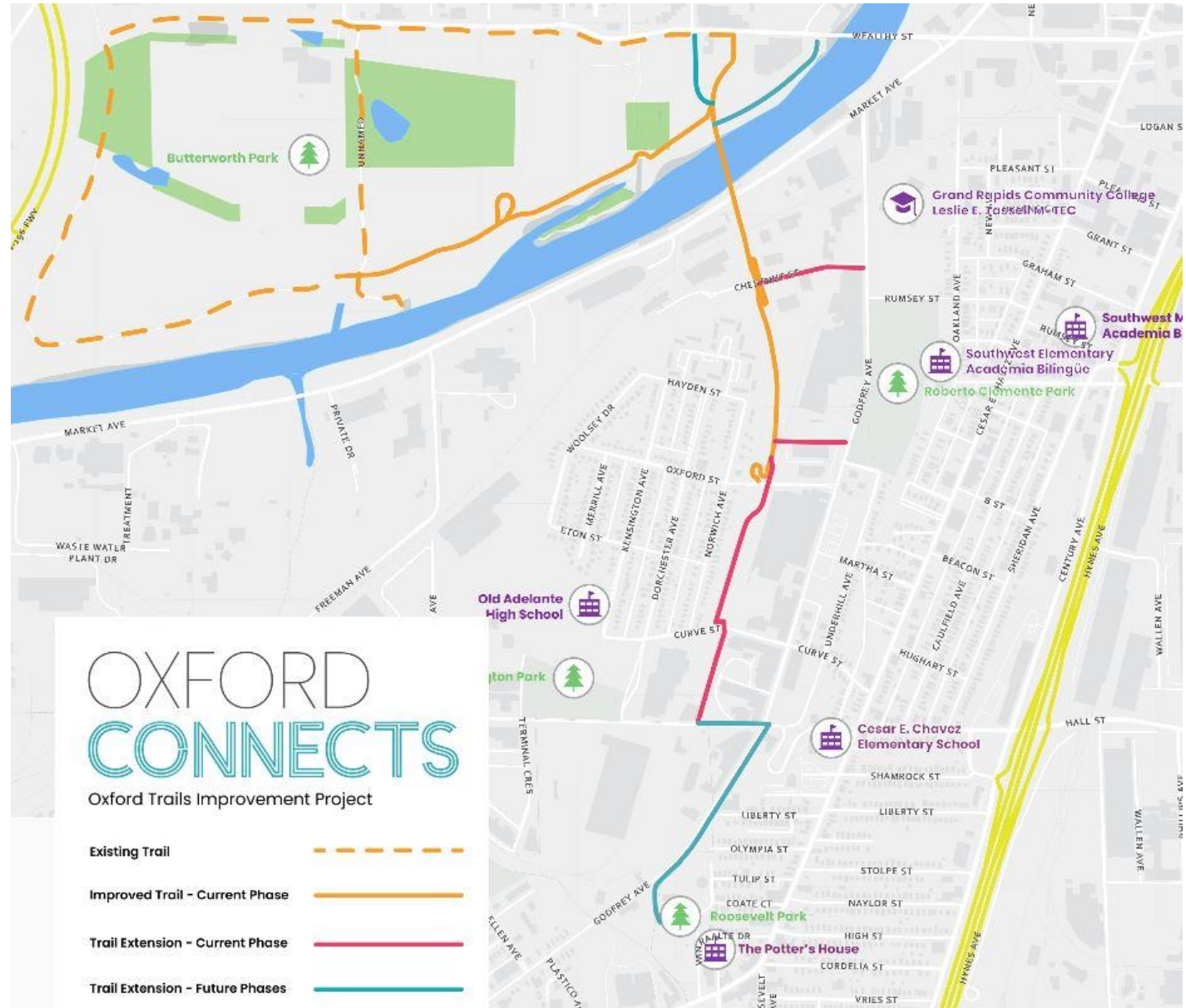
## Project features:

- Existing trail reconstruction
- Trail extension –South to Hall St
- Playground
- Fitness court
- Community event space
- Additional seating and shade
- Community-centered art
- Improved access points
- Restroom

## Project investment:

\$8M Downtown Grand Rapids Inc  
\$1M City ARPA

**\$9M TOTAL INVESTMENT**



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: OXFORD TRAIL – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

6 mini-events

3 community events

500+ event attendees

150+ online survey participants

6,000+ materials distributed

50+ social media posts

150 email subscribers

3,000+ reached online



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: OXFORD TRAIL – EMBEDDING COMMUNITY VOICE

A group of excited and knowledgeable residents were recruited as Neighborhood Leaders. They played a critical role in ensuring that community voice remained at the center of the project. This group:

- Engaged directly with the community
- Led door-to-door canvassing
- Held pop-up events across the city
- Fostered meaningful conversation
- Collected valuable feedback
- Guided the project team on design and engagement



Toni Pointer



Brandon Reyes & Dulce Reyes-Loredo



Mariah Smith



Marvin Cardenas



Josie Daza



Synia Gant-Jordan

Thank you to the Oxford Connects Neighborhood Leaders:

Brandon Reyes, Dulce Reyes-Loredo, Josie Daza, Mariah Smith, Marvin Cardenas, Synia Gant-Jordan, Toni Pointer



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: MLK JR PARK



## Project Features:

- New Lodge Building: Four season recreation, two community offices, two rentable classrooms, rentable event space, fitness room, gymnasium
- New Pool House
- New Playground
- New Fitness Loop
- Reconstructed Parking Lot
- Relocated & Expanded Community Garden

## Project investment:

\$1.2M Parks Millage

\$10.5M City ARPA

\$1M Third Ward Equity Fund (FY23)

\$1.05M City Capital

\$6M MEDC-State Appropriation

**\$ 19,750,000 TOTAL INVESTMENT**

Isaac V. Norris & Associates, P.C.



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: MLK JR PARK – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 1200+ Participants providing direct input.
- 45+ surveys, focus groups, and in person input opportunities.
- 1580+ Households receiving updates via doorhangers or postcards on 3+ occasions.
- 10+ Stakeholder meetings where neighbors provided insight, guidance, and had meaningful conversation about the project.
- 1000+ Project website visitors.



# EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

Indian Trails Golf Course  
Entertainment venue feasibility study  
Presentation early 2025

Belknap Park  
Potential pickleball court expansion

Greenway Trail System  
Future investments in Greenway Corridor



# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

More Investment than ever before!

\$43.7 million in leveraged funds

\$11 million in bond funds

\$2.7 million in Parks Millage funds

Thanks to the

Critical support from:

Grand Rapids Residents

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Key partnerships with:

Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc.

Downtown Development Authority

Fans of Valley Field

Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

Grand Rapids Pickleball Club

Grandville Avenue Art & Humanities

The Right Place

Mitten Foundation





Thank you

