



AGENDA
ADA Advisory Committee
Thursday, November 20, 2025
3:00 PM
Evanston Public Library: 1703 Orrington Ave.
First Floor Community Room / Zoom

(I) CALL TO ORDER

(II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

(IV) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

New inquiries/grievances:

- Benson Ave. parking
- Snow removal & accessibility
- Brothers K Cafe entrance

Other items:

- CTA Public Hearing for Proposed Capital Projects & Plans update: Patrick H.
- Review of Committee Work Plan: 2026 Areas of Focus
- Parks & Rec Update: Winter registration open/Amilia
- Collaborative training: Neurodivergence & Crisis Response
- DASH & GO: Disabled Adult Social Hour & Gaming Opportunity winter dates
- 2026 ADA Advisory Committee dates
- Next meeting: Thursday, December 18 at Evanston Public Library/zoom

(V) COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

(VI) ADJOURNMENT



**City of
Evanston™
MINUTES**
ADA Advisory Committee
Thursday, October 23, 2025 @ 3:00 PM
Levy Senior Center / Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Murphy Monroe, Aby Karottu, Julia Pantoga, Patrick Hughes, Ted Gram-Boarini, Litrea Hunter, Adrienne Allen

Guests: Miriam McAuley, Carol Schreier, Emma Barron-Zgonc, Alex Harrison, Manny Bernabe, Fred Wittenberg, Ben Bernstein, Julie O'Hara, Tasha Kreft, Carlos Hranicka

Staff present: Yazarri Gutierrez (Senior Services Coordinator), Chris Sous (Assistant City Engineer), Lauren Ruiz (Inclusion & Accessibility Division Manager)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 25 meeting minutes were approved by Litrea Hunter and Ted Gram-Boarini.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A visitor presented information related to District 65 pending school closures and concerns about a lack of accessibility consideration in decision making, requested formal feedback from the Committee/Commission to District 65 emphasizing the need for accessibility to be made a priority.
- A visitor shared accessibility frustrations related to Food 4 Less and long waits for assistance
- A visitor shared concerns about repairs needed for Lincoln Street bridge

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guest speaker: 2026 ADA Capital Improvement Projects

- City project proposals (see attached presentation included in meeting packet)
- Committee/attendee feedback
 - A member emphasized the need for a permanent accessibility solution for the dog beach
 - Attendees discussed the necessity of getting the city to prioritize the ADA Transition Plan and increasing funds dedicated to sidewalk improvement
 - A member inquired about the Committee obtaining more information about

funds put into ADA improvements and projects. City staff described challenges related to separating out these costs including that fact that all projects are in various stages of work, will work to potentially develop ways to identify more cost details in the future

- It was noted that the dog beach accessibility discussion will be scheduled for a City Council meeting in November.

New inquiries/grievances:

- Walgreens service dog/service dog-in-training complaint: Dodge location. Individual was asked to leave. Unable to gather additional details at this time however Walgreens was contacted and accepted information.
- Inaccessible entrance doors at Evanston restaurants: Manager Ruiz and Accessibility Advisors have created a resource to provide to places of public accommodation, visits with locations that have been reported as having difficult entrances to come soon
- Microphone request at Levy: a portable microphone and speaker are now available for public use during meetings and programs. Request at front desk.
- No parking/yield zone request at CJE: this request is being reviewed by Parking Admin, inquiry due to safety concerns for clients at CJE when loading/unloading
- Additional accessible parking at Levy: parking lot is being assessed to determine best layout, electric charging stations to come

Other items:

- CTA Public Hearing for Proposed Capital Projects & Plans (see attachment): Fred W. shared information about an upcoming meeting, urged attendees to submit feedback related to accessibility concerns and request CTA to address Central Street station as soon as possible
- October Advocacy Avenue: Learning Disabilities
- Parks & Rec update: new registration system coming for winter: Amilia SmartRec will be used for all Parks & Rec transactions
- ADA Advisory Committee meeting locations: will continue to meet at the Library due to preferences shared by attendees, ease of in-person and virtual access. Unavailable in April and October so will use alternate location.
- Next meeting: Thursday, November 20 at 3pm, location TBD

5. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- A member shared her concerns about the increased business of the Levy Senior Center parking lot and requested parking to be added in a location where there is not constantly traffic. Crossing the lot is a safety issue.
- A member emphasized the importance of recognizing accessibility improvements completed by the City

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 PM.

2025-26 ADA Advisory Committee Work Plan

Goal 1: Support the City's Disability Services

Goal 1 Overall Objectives	Activities	Resources	Strategy & Actions	Timeframe
1.1) To conduct 22 ADA Advisory Committee meetings in a physically and virtually accessible space in the community between January 2025 and December 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a format to include review and discussion of Disability Services • Broaden perspective of Department-specific services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Coordinator to share developments related to procedures • City Liaisons/staff to attend meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend adjustments to policies and procedures related to Disability Services for the City • Collaborate to create topics of educational interest and guest speaker requests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 guest speakers to attend yearly • 22 ADA Advisory Committee meetings held in the community by December 2026
1.2) To keep informed on accommodation requests, inquiries, and grievances from the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly reviews of communication from the community related to accommodations, inquiries, and grievances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Coordinator to share communication received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New communication as well as progress related to previous communication will be shared at monthly meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing

Goal 2: Promote the Execution of the City's ADA Transition Plan

Goal 2 Overall Objectives	Activities	Resources	Strategy & Actions	Timeframe
2.1) To increase knowledge of the City's ADA Transition Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a review of specified Plan sections at Committee meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA Coordinator to provide specified sections for review prior to the applicable meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Plan sections to ensure understanding and identify Plan guidelines for the City 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion to take place quarterly
2.2) To obtain recommendations related to prioritization of ADA Transition Plan projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare completed/current projects related to accessibility with accommodation requests, inquiries, and grievances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA Liaisons to report completed/current projects quarterly ADA Coordinator to organize this data for review ADA Coordinator to share communication received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas of the Plan that have not received attention/had progress made Create a general priority list based on communication received from community, collaboration from Committee Priority list to be presented to Department Liaisons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General priority list to be completed by May 2025 Action steps to be organized by Liaisons by October 2025
2.3) To increase engagement related to accessibility in upcoming City projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with the Commission to endorse accessibility-related actions Communicate with City leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioners Committee members and attendees ADA Coordinator to link Committee with staff overseeing accessibility-related projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate Committee feedback to Chair/Coordinator of Commission Presentation/action involved City Council meeting date details to be provided by ADA Coordinator Provide Public Comments during City Council meetings on dates of proposed presentations/actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing

Goal 3: Resource and Referral				
Goal 3 Overall Objectives	Activities	Resources	Strategy & Actions	Timeframe
3.1) To increase knowledge of disability-related topics, trends, and concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share personal experiences, ideas, stories at meetings • Bring applicable news stories, articles, resources for discussion to Committee meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members • Community members • News sources • Books, articles, social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge facts and topics at hand which relate to improvement of the City's Disability Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
3.2) To act as a referral source for community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members to have easy access to contact information for ADA Coordinator, Disability Services information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Coordinator • City's ADA/ Disability Services webpage • Flyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide paper flyers to be posted at community centers • Update applicable City websites and social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing

Goal 4: Training and Education				
Goal 4 Overall Objectives	Activities	Resources	Strategy & Actions	Timeframe
4.1) To offer ADA training opportunities for the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize free events promoting advocacy, acceptance, and awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Coordinator • Committee members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community/local organizations to collaborate for activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 training opportunities to take place each year
4.2) To increase community awareness of the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend City events that will provide opportunity to educate the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members • Community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve tables at resource fairs • Attend Ward meetings • Public Comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing

Proposed 2026 CIP and ADA

ADA Advisory Committee



Chris Sous, Assistant City Engineer

October 23, 2025

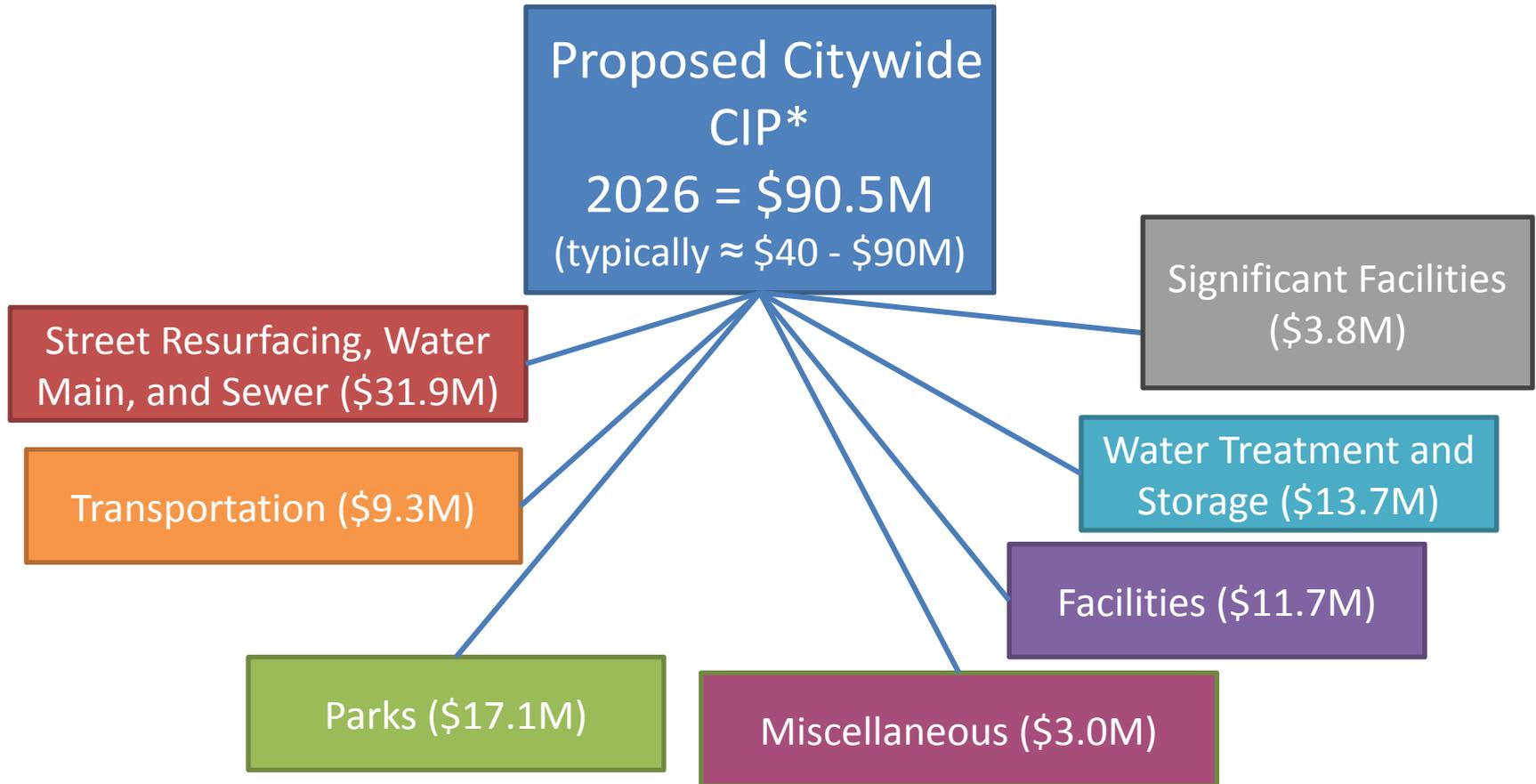
2026 Proposed CIP Schedule

TIMING

ACTION

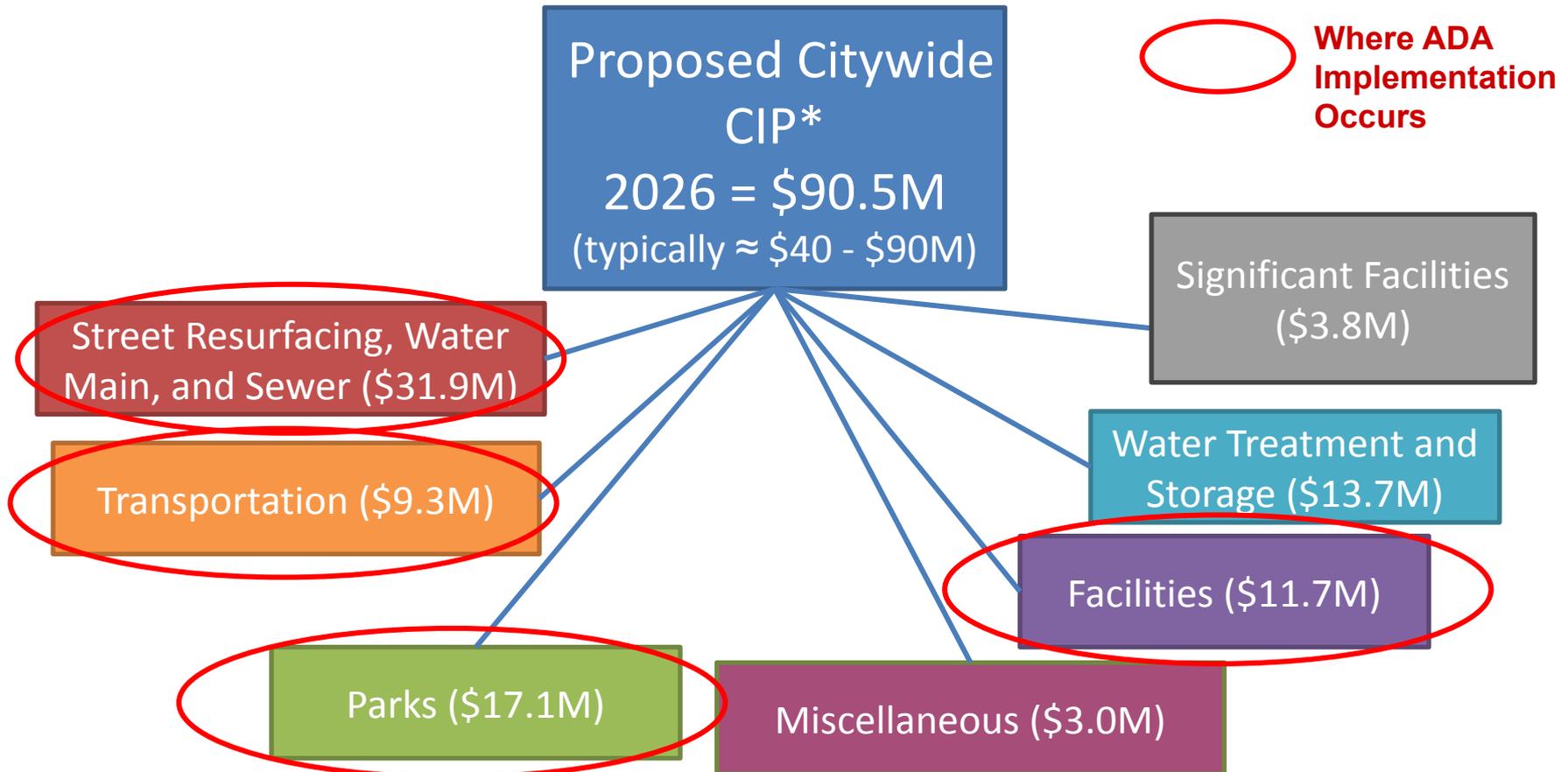
May - July 2025	—————>	Draft CIP Developed
July - Oct 2025	—————>	Presentations to Boards and Commissions
Oct - Nov 2025	—————>	City Council Discussion
November 2025	—————>	Adopt Budget and 2026 CIP
2026 +	—————>	Implementation

Capital Improvement Program Overview



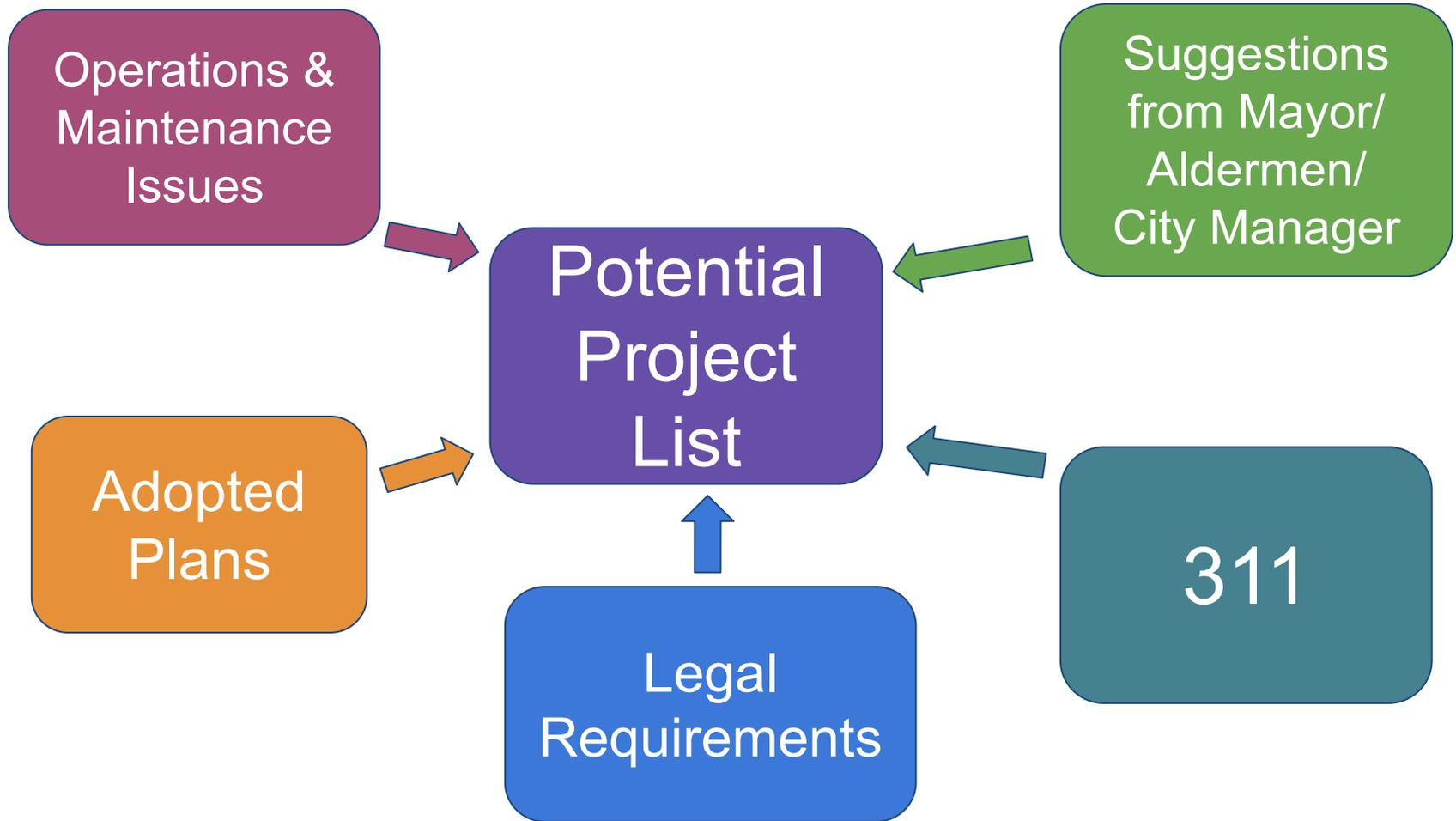
*This list identifies project needs for future prioritization. The City does not currently have the resources to execute every project.

Capital Improvement Program Overview

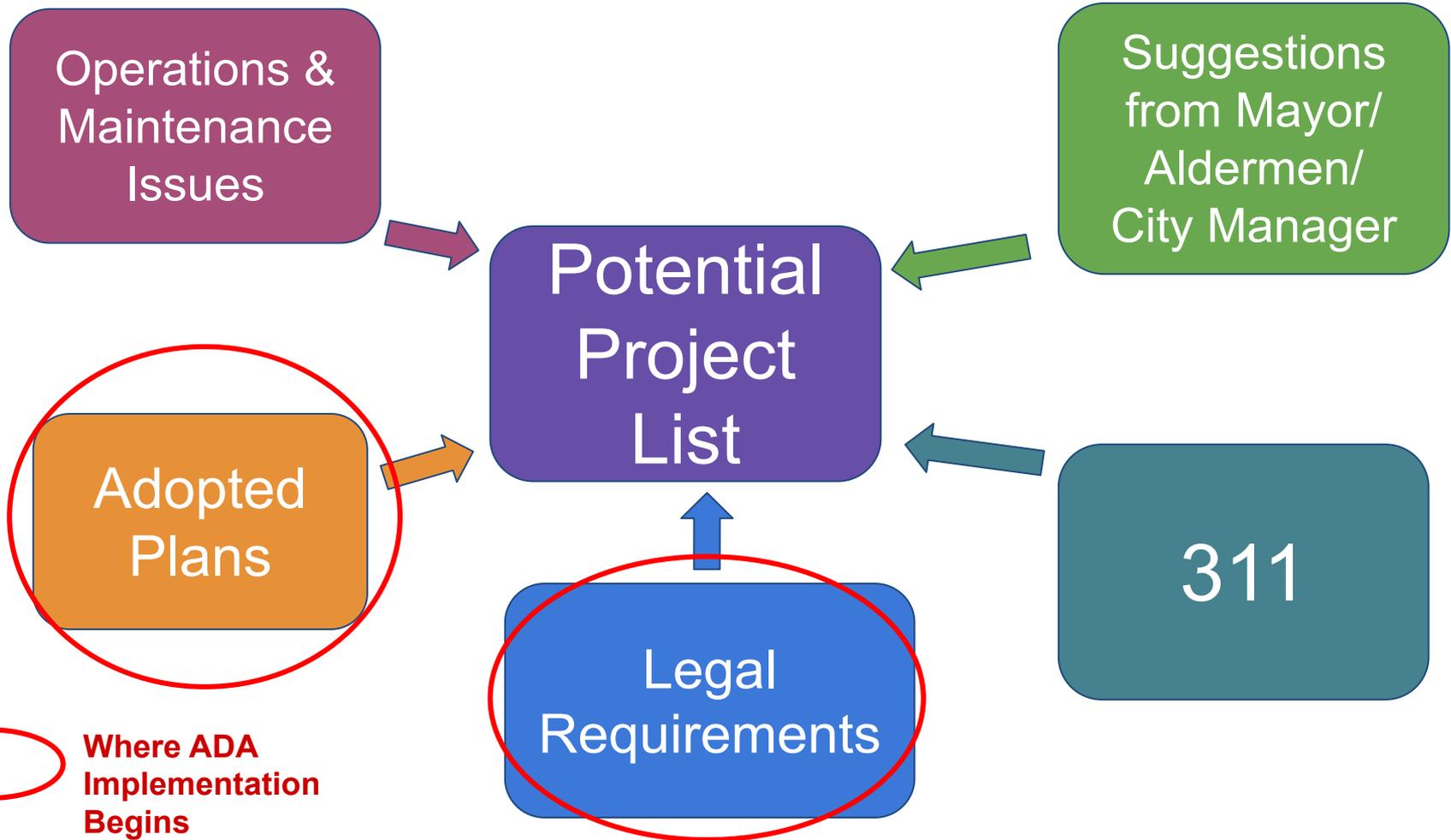


*This list identifies project needs for future prioritization. The City does not currently have the resources to execute every project.

Where Do CIP Projects Originate?



Where Do CIP Projects Originate?



Adopted Plans (Examples)

- Multimodal Plan (2009)
- Climate Action Resilience Plan (2018)
- Streetlight Master Plan (2019)
- **ADA Transition Plan (2022)**
- Sidewalk Improvement Plan (2022)
- Crosswalk Policy (Draft Policy)

Proposed 2026 CIP - ADA Evaluation

Four general categories of disabilities:

- **Physical**
- Behavioral/Emotional
- Developmental
- **Sensory**

CIP generally improves access for two types of disabilities.



Proposed 2026 CIP - ADA Evaluation

Example projects with ADA Improvements:

Physical Disability Improvements	Sensory Disability Improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sidewalk replacement- Park pathways to amenities- Restroom renovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Traffic signal audible indicators- Detectable warning surfaces at intersections- Lighting modernization- Improved signage

Proposed 2026 CIP - ADA Evaluation

Of 99 projects, 43 (43%) include at least some ADA improvements.

Of \$90.5M in proposed budget, \$37.9M (42%) include at least some ADA improvement.

Disclaimers:

- Not all projects will move forward. The CIP needs to be right-sized to match available resources (funding + staff)
- Not every dollar spent on a project goes to ADA Improvement

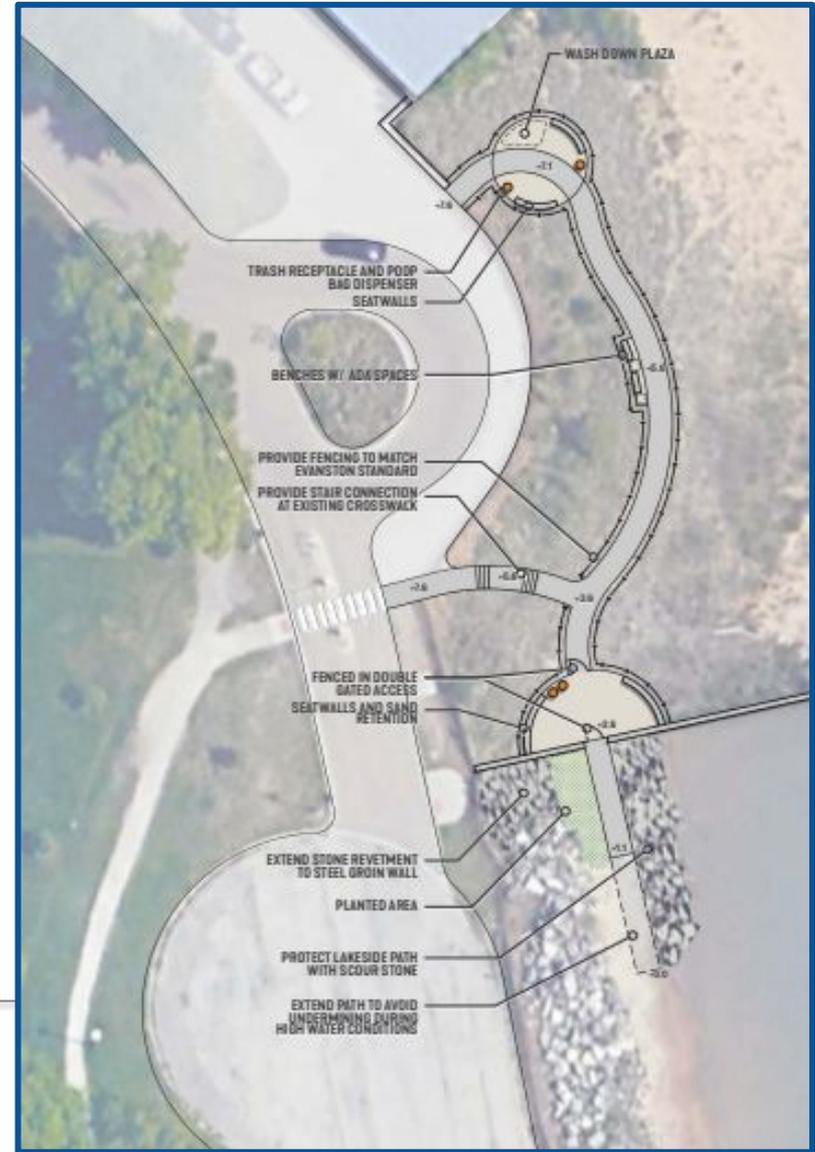
Typical Projects - ADA Improvement Comparison

Streets, Utility, Other Transportation	
<p>Contains ADA Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streetscape/Corridor Improvements - Street Resurfacing - Bus Stop Improvements - Sidewalk Improvements (all) 	<p>Does Not Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead Service Line Replacements - Hydrant Painting - Sewer Repairs
Parks	
<p>Contains ADA Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ADA Dog Beach Access - Public Canoe Launch - Whole Park Renovations - Playground Equipment Replacement 	<p>Does Not Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Court Renovations - Fountain Square Improvements - Parks Lighting Modernization
Facilities	
<p>Contains ADA Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police/Fire HQ Improvements - Locker Room, Kitchen, Interior Renovations - Restroom Renovations 	<p>Does Not Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HVAC - Electrical Evaluations - Roof Repairs

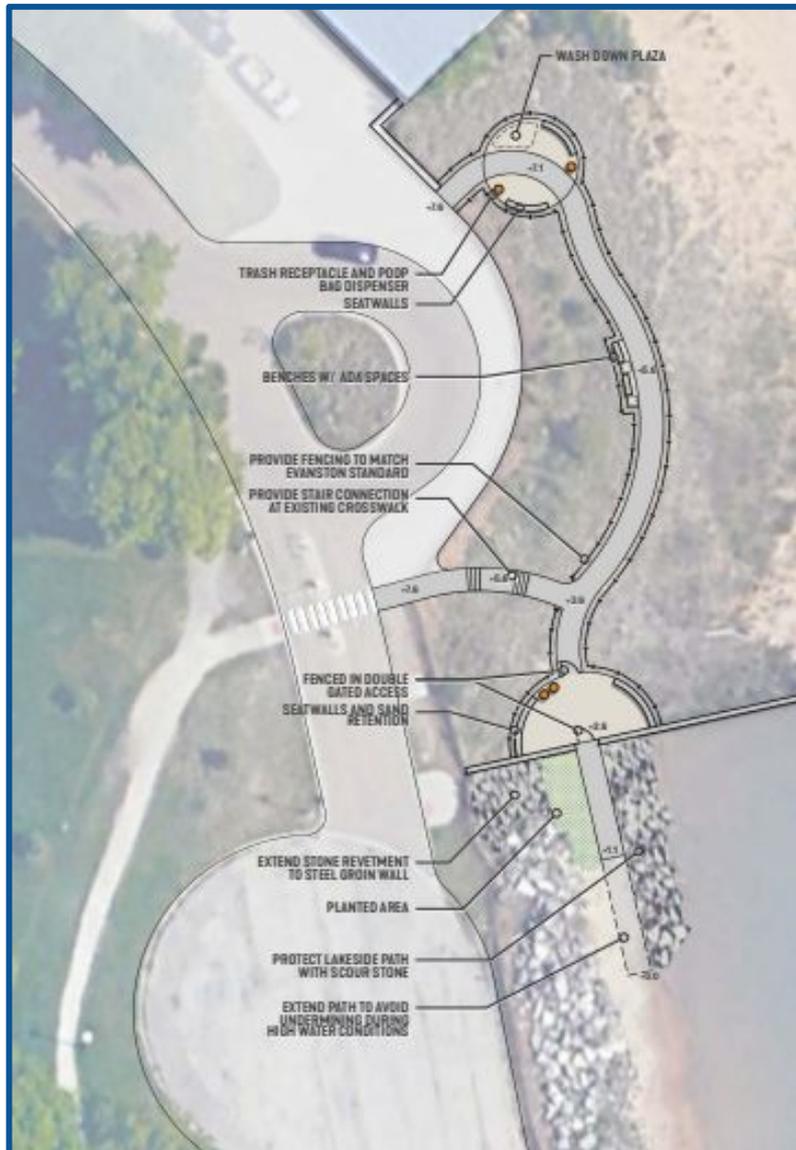
Typical Projects - ADA Improvement Comparison

Miscellaneous	
Contains ADA Improvements: n/a	Does Not Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solar Infrastructure - Fiber Optic - Fleet/Vehicle Charging
Water Treatment Plant	
Contains ADA Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Locker Room Improvements 	Does Not Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treatment Process Improvements - Electrical System/Plant Reliability - Security - Roof Improvements
Significant Facilities	
Contains ADA Improvements: n/a	Does Not Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electrical/ HVAC Improvements

Dog Beach ADA Access - Two Initial Concepts



Dog Beach ADA Access - Initial Criteria

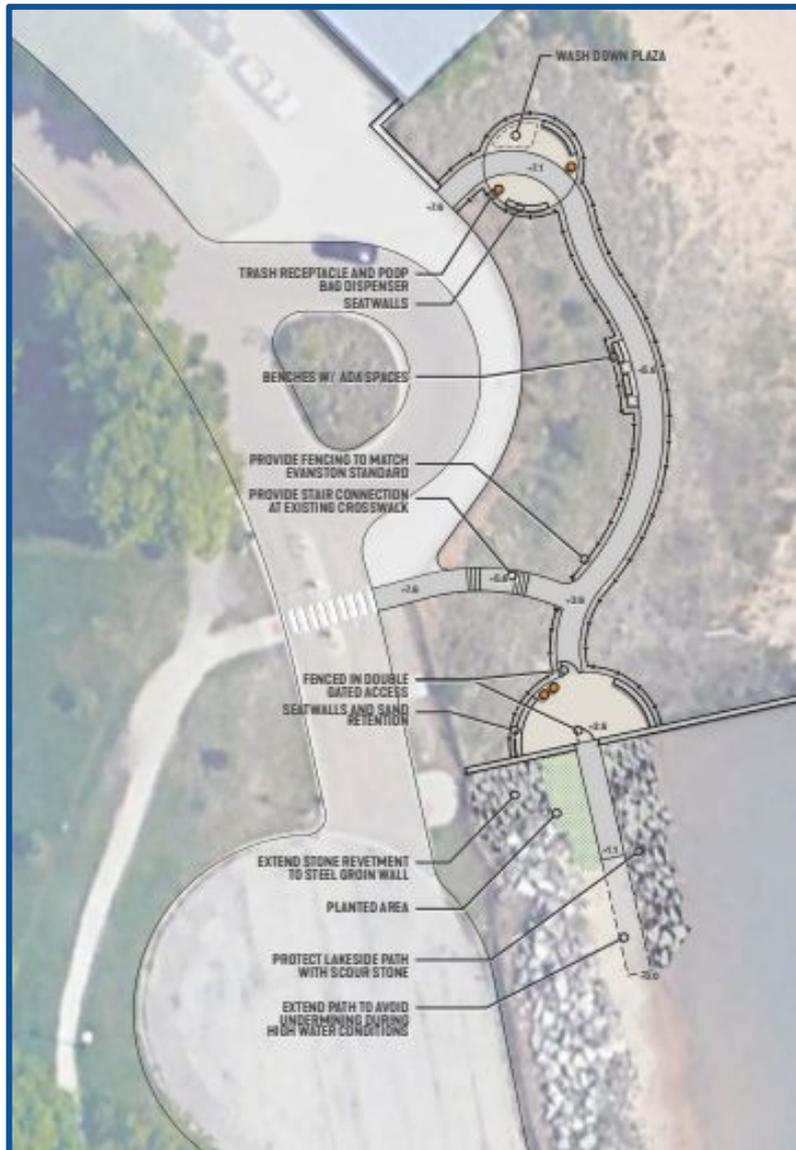


Durable - able to withstand water heights and wave action at high water level.

Stairway access should be provided to reduce congestion on the path.

Minimize footprint on the dog beach.

Dog Beach ADA Access - Preferred Concept



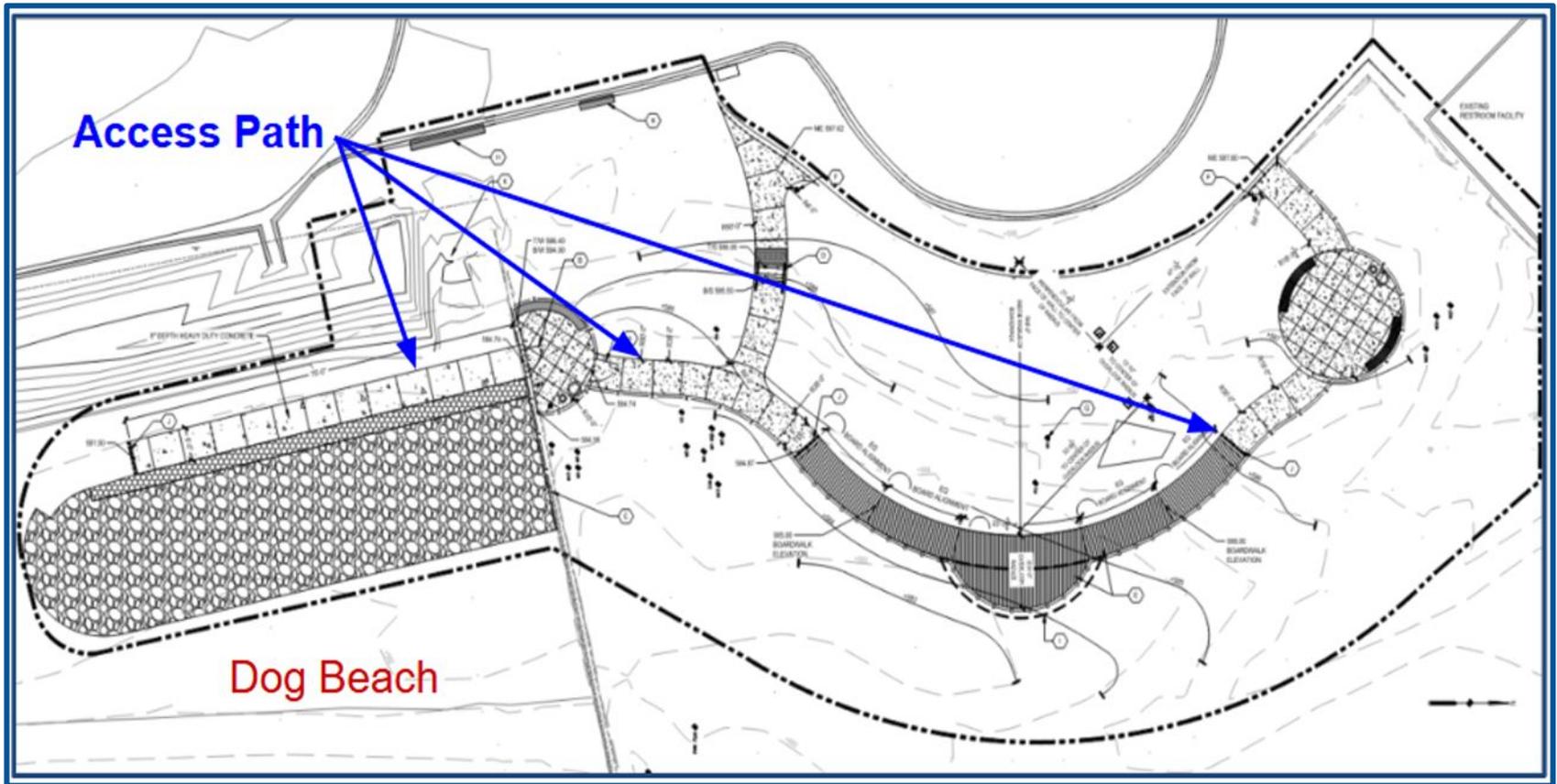
Most of the walkway outside of the wave zone.

- More durable
- Less expensive to build

Incorporates other features:

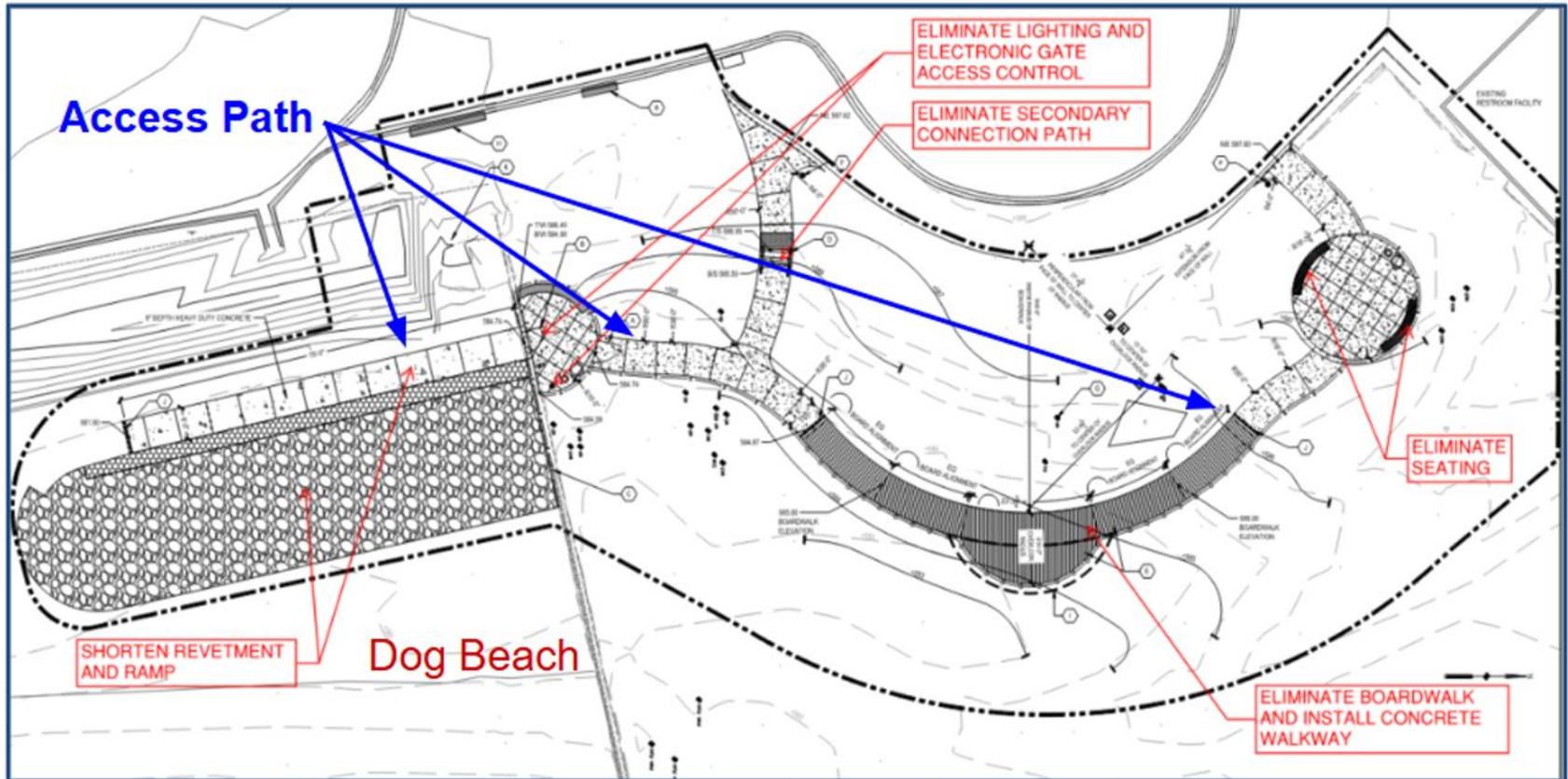
- Cook County requirements
- Security lighting
- Dog wash
- Improved gate access

Dog Beach ADA Access - Value Engineering



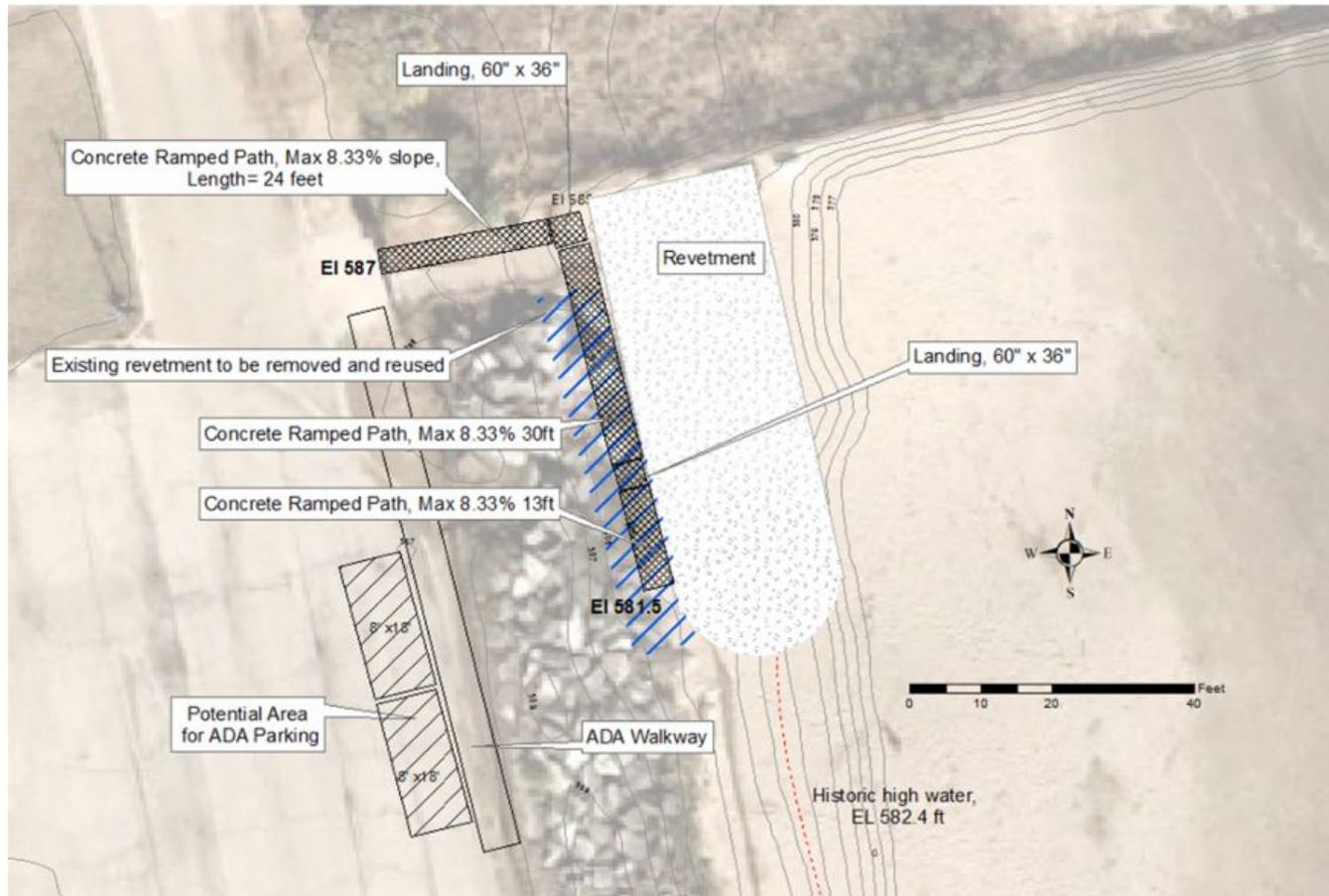
Option #1 Proposed Layout- Rebid the Current Design

Dog Beach ADA Access - Value Engineering



Option #2 Proposed Layout- Value Engineer the Current Design

Dog Beach ADA Access - GEI Consultants, Inc



Option 1A) Modify Existing North Entrance- Permanent Alternative

ADA Dog Beach - Timeline

Dog Beach ADA Access Discussion:

- ★ August 21, 2025 - Parks and Recreation Board
- ★ August 28, 2025 - ADA Advisory Committee

Next Steps:

- ★ City Council Meeting for Discussion and Action.

2026 CIP - Timeline

October 6 - CIP was included in the proposed 2026 budget release.

October 13 - Budget discussion at City Council.

Next Steps:

- City Council Discussion (October-November)
- Adopt Budget and 2026 CIP (November)