

Cheney Lake Park

MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Report June 2003



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Executive Summary

The Municipality of Anchorage created a Master Plan for Cheney Lake Park in 1982. In the twenty years since the plan's acceptance, the park has evolved, and in order to provide for the future development and management of the park, the Municipality of Anchorage secured the services of Land Design North to produce this updated Cheney Lake Park Master Plan. Within a framework of community consensus, this document presents an overall vision that will provide for the logical growth and aesthetic integrity of Cheney Lake Park for the next twenty years and potentially beyond.

Much of this Master Plan effort was driven by public process. In general, the people that were heard within this process spoke of a park that was close to their hearts. Whether comments were from residents that live beside the lake, or from users that come from further afield, all felt the park was a natural gem. The ability to come to an urban park, and recreate in a natural area with low development was what appealed to most everyone. While people had interest in protecting natural features and wildlife,

conserving views, developing areas for quiet contemplation and providing for park activities, there was little interest in any development that meant larger changes to the park, or to the user base to which it appeals.

The overall recommendations of this Master Plan are that management strategies be implemented for the park, specifically the usage of Limits of Acceptable Change, and that a development plan be adopted. The management strategies are related to such issues as shoreline protection and erosion control, water quality, habitat quality and maintenance of the trail system. Development recommendations include such things as the identification of the southern end of the park as the main usage area and location for future park amenities, identification of smaller amenity areas around the park, and the development of design guidelines for site furnishings.

This Master Plan is intended to help to provide a future for Cheney Lake Park where it remains close to the hearts of those involved within this Master Plan process, and a future where it becomes close to the hearts of many others.

Cheney Lake Park is located in east Anchorage, approximately 5 miles from the central business district. It is a forty-five acre park, of which approximately thirty-four acres are water surface. The park is located east of Baxter/Beaver Road, south of East 16th Avenue, north of Colgate Drive and west of the end of Foothill Drive (**Figure 1**). Single and multi-family residential units surround the park.

Cheney Lake is a former gravel extraction site that (since closure in the 1960's) has been inundated with water from ground fed springs, precipitation and storm drainage and run-off from approximately 100 acres of residential land. Historic lake elevations have been generally around 207 feet above mean sea level (MSL) (Montgomery Watson, 1998), but had risen to between 209 and 210 ft. MSL as of 1998. Road and drainage improvements returned this level to where it now stands at 207 ft. MSL. The maximum depth is believed to occur at an elevation of approximately 192 ft. MSL.

Within the 1985 Anchorage Parks, Greenbelt and Recreation Facility Plan document, Cheney Lake Park is referred to as a both a Community Park and a Large Urban Park (Large Urban Park within the Parkland Inventory and a Community Park within the context of the Muldoon Park Planning Area). According to the 1985 Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan, residents of Anchorage should have a Community Park within one to two miles of their residence. Cheney Lake Park serves between 17,000 and 50,000 residents within this one to two mile coverage (**Figure 1**). Five main community councils exist within this outer two-mile radius: Northeast,

Muldoon, Scenic Park, University and Russian Jack, with fractional coverage of Airport Heights and Mountain View.

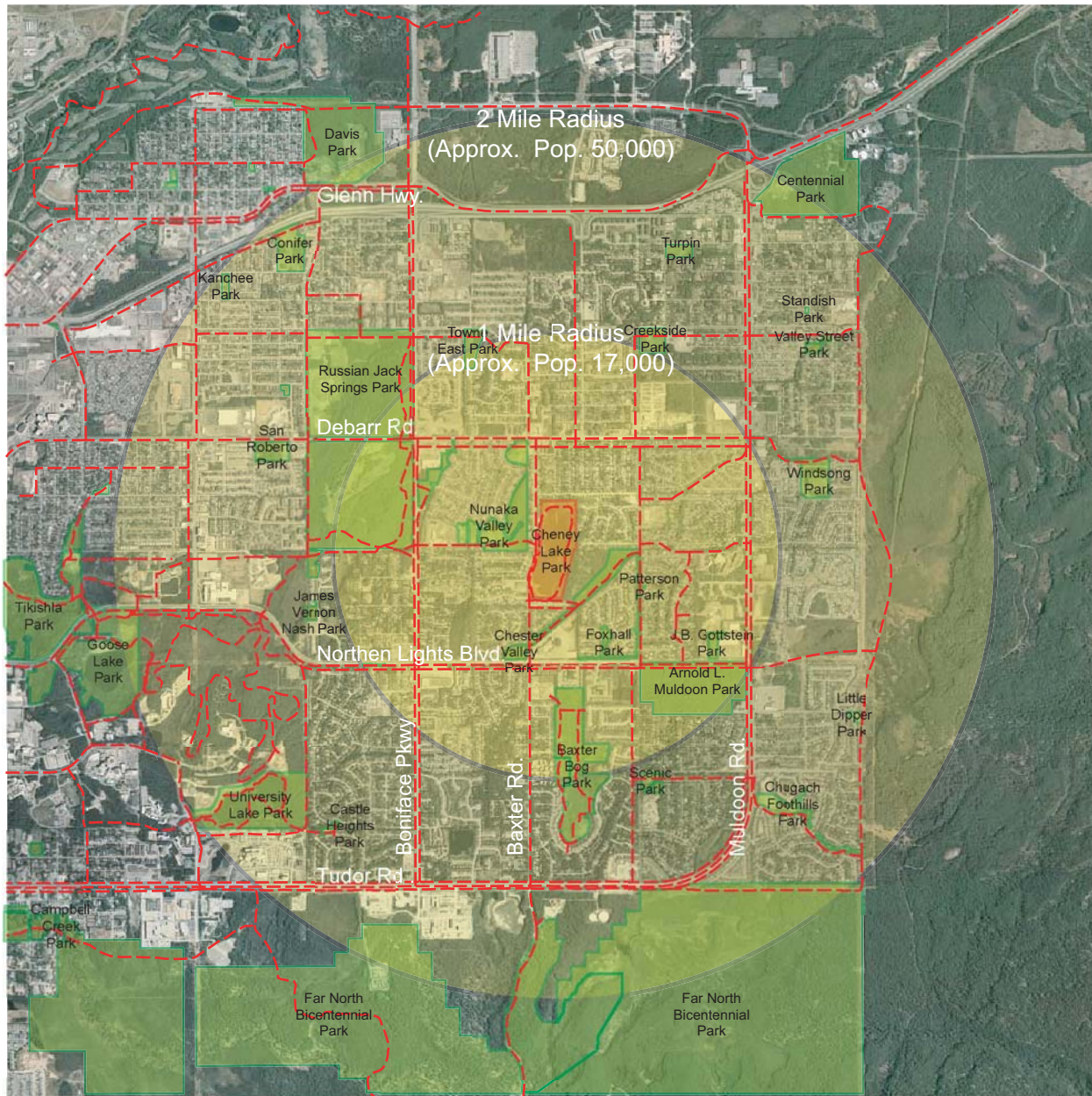
Cheney Lake Park is well connected to adjacent neighborhoods, and into the larger matrix of Anchorage parks and trails. Local park connections include formal paths and entrances, as well as more informal access from people's yards. The main off-street trail connection is to the west through Nunaka Valley Park, and there are numerous on-street connections to the north, south, and west. The other close connection to off-street trails is via Chester Creek to the south of Cheney Lake Park.

A summary of conditions on the site is presented in **Figure 2**. Existing facilities are minimal, and consist of a parking lot adjacent to Beaver/Baxter Road, a children's play area in the southwest corner of the site, two information boards, benches, and numerous types of paths (varying from multi-use gravel paths to small compacted dirt trails).

This document serves as a summary of the public process, and a synthesis of this process into a Master Plan that serves as a guide both for future development and management. This initially takes the form of a synopsis of the needs and desires of the community in regards to how the park needs to grow. Weighing all of these opinions and ideas within the sphere of the needs of the larger community of Anchorage produces a set of actions. Some of these actions are required for the basic ecological health of the park, others provide options for how the park develops, and others try to deal with controversy in an equitable manner.

Introduction

Figure 1 - Regional Context



--- Trail



LARGE URBAN PARKS

Large Urban parks are designed to serve residents from several communities. These parks, which are generally over 100 acres in size, should have a mixture of natural beauty and developed facilities. Extensive wooded areas are often part of large urban parks, lending a sense of the natural landscape to the urban setting. The parks are located within a thirty minute drive of most city residents. Developed facilities are usually those which take advantage of the beauty, terrain and water bodies of the park. The types of facilities often found in large urban parks include golf courses, a picnic area, trails, a nature center, a day camp, boating/swimming areas, and sports. (Municipality of Anchorage, 1985, pp.10)

COMMUNITY PARKS

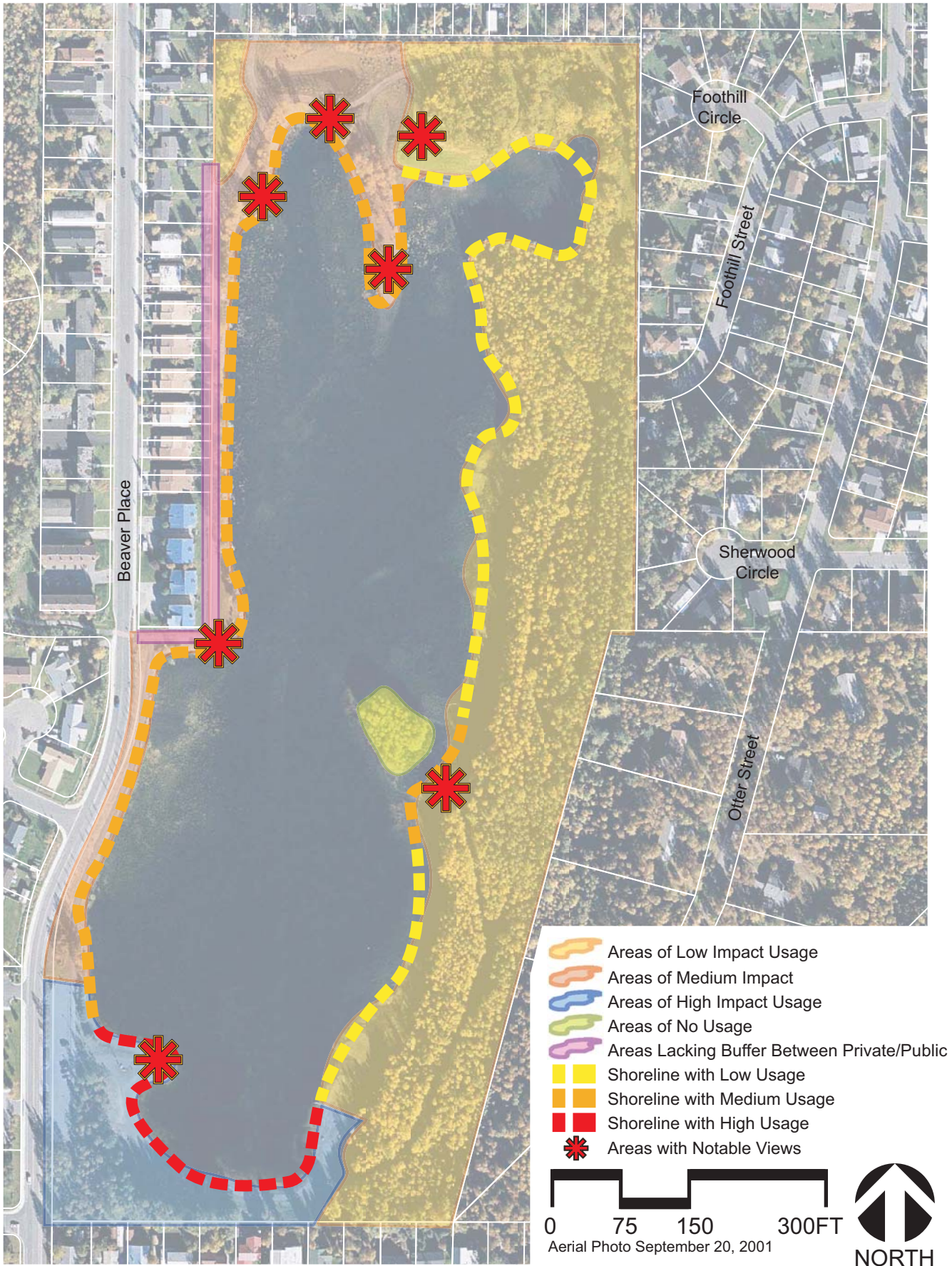
Community parks provide space for those recreational activities which typically cannot be accommodated within a neighborhood park. These parks, which are usually 20 to 100 acres in size, also provide the opportunity for contact with the natural environment by preserving such features as woodlands and waterways. They serve several neighborhoods on a year-round basis. Some community parks share joint use of junior and senior high school outdoor recreational facilities. Neighborhood parks can be designed as a portion of community park space. Physical features commonly found in community parks include: nis facilities; multi-purpose courts (for example, a court for basketball, volleyball and handball); natural open space; and off-street parking. (Municipality of Anchorage, 1985, pp.10)

Community parks should be located and designed to serve several neighborhoods. Such parks are often designed to take advantage of such natural features as lakes, stream courses and views. However, community parks are usually designed for intensive development of sports facilities, including tennis courts, soccer fields, basketball courts, softball fields and baseball fields. In addition to those types of areas, there should be places for a variety of free time activities ranging from kite flying to Frisbee tossing. Some space should be set aside for more passive recreational activities, such as picnicking, walking and enjoying natural surroundings.

Such parks should be found within a one to two mile radius of most Anchorage homes. This would provide an adequate distribution whereby a drive to such a park would not involve going entirely across town. In general, a size of 25 acres or more is viewed as desirable for a community park. The standard for the number of acres per population for community parks varies from one city to another. The National Recreation and Park Association suggested a standard of 2.5 acres per 1,000 persons in 1972. The standard was adopted by Anchorage in the mid-1970's.

Introduction

Figure 2 - General Site Analysis



Summary of Public Process

The update to the Cheney Lake Community Park Master Plan has provided an open public forum that included the following public consultation opportunities:

- Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) organized from all broken down into four main subject areas: environmental issues, access issues, facilities and improvements, and activities. These aspects are treated to cover both development and management issues where necessary.

a) Environmental Issues

Environmental issues pertain to the characteristics of the park that make it a valuable natural area, providing ecological value within an urban setting.

i) Fish Species

The reduction in stocked species (rainbow trout and chinook salmon) has been linked to the presence of Northern Pike within the lake. This also has effects upon the presence of some bird species. Consensus was that the Northern Pike be removed, and the lake be restocked. If it becomes apparent that shoreline vegetation is being adversely impacted by access, then consideration should be given to limiting fishing access to certain. (Refer to Section 6 – Limits of Acceptable Change)

ii) Habitat

Similar to the concern regarding potential habitat damage through fishing access, general habitat quality needs to be monitored to ensure that it is not adversely impacted by park usage. At the minimum, this relates to wildlife and the protection of such areas as nesting habitat. All essential wildlife habitat should be protected from impacts, and the degree of protection should relate to the importance of that

habitat to the species in question. Existing areas of erosion on the site should be revegetated. This may include the need for regrading areas, installation of structures to retain soil, limitation of access, and planting from a palette of various species.

iii) Monitoring

Due to Cheney Lake being one of the few larger bodies of water within Anchorage, and being subject to the pressures of the urban environment, a monitoring regime should be implemented to develop baseline information for future park decisions that will affect, or be affected by, the quality of the water. This information should include water chemistry (including nutrients, potential toxins, dissolved oxygen and other 'normally' measured information), and lake level.

iv) Lake Level

With the alteration of the lake level in 1999, there is concern regarding how the reduced lake level has affected the quality of the park. The public's main concerns with the lake were the observed increased presence of algae and aquatic vegetation species during the summer months. A study should determine whether it is feasible to raise the level of the lake within the current abilities of the drainage system. It was also the desire of the community to investigate the feasibility of dredging the lake to increase water depth. Prior to any action that would change the lake level, it should be established as to whether the water depth is the major contributing factor to the increased presence of algae and aquatic vegetation species.

b) Access Issues

Access issues pertain to the ease of access to and within the park, and the use of the park as a portal to the greater trails and open space system of Anchorage.

Summary of Public Process

i) Trails

The current trail system provides excellent connection and circulation within the park, with a hierarchy of trails that provides for a multitude of needs and recreation types. The trail system should be upgraded to reduce seasonal problems by ensuring that drainage and grading provide a stable surface not susceptible wet conditions. Any trail upgrades or future work should provide for the requirements of ADA accessibility where at all possible. Trails should be monitored for needed maintenance and upkeep to deal with trail widening and the development of social trails that could create undesirable impacts. (Refer to Section 6 – Limits of Acceptable Change).

ii) Overlooks and Boardwalks

In natural areas (mainly the northern and eastern areas of the park), decking and other non-trail pedestrian surfacing should be limited to areas where the impact of park users has the potential to create habitat damage. In such areas, boardwalks, decking and/or overlooks should only be implemented where there is a need to protect natural systems from user impacts.

In areas where park user impacts are the highest, and there is a reduced need for maintaining habitat integrity (mainly western and southern areas of the park), boardwalks, overlooks and other surfacing should be employed for aesthetic purposes) ease of access, and erosion control.

iii) Pedestrian Connections

There are concerns regarding the eastern right of way connections into the park. All access points to Cheney Lake Park should have clear ownership and dedication, and be designed to allow safe access into the park (ADA accessible where appropriate). One main regional connection that needs to

be developed is between the southeast of the park and the Chester Creek Greenway and its paved trail to the east.

iv) Water Access

The main point for water access to Cheney Lake should remain at the southern end of the park. It is also advisable that an access point be provided along the western edge for local users of the park, so that erosion pressure along the bank can be reduced. Residential steps, docks, or other non-park implemented facilities along the lake edge should not be allowed.

v) Parking Area

The majority of people felt that parking for the site is adequate.

c) Facilities and Improvements

Facilities and improvements pertain to the quality of existing site amenities, and what future development may be required to ensure that the park meets the needs of its users.

i) Site Furniture

Benches and picnic tables should be provided at user areas and rest stops. Style and manufacturer of benches should be consistent throughout the park (refer to section 6 - Design Guidelines).

ii) Playground

The current playground needs to be repaired and upgraded to meet playground and safety standards. Costs should be examined to determine whether complete replacement of a structure is more economical in the long-term in comparison to the repair and upgrade of an existing structure.

iii) Shelter

There is currently no desire for the provision of a permanent or temporary shelter within the park. Within the planning for the park, space should be dedicated to the provision of a structure should this ever become a desire, whether temporary, seasonal or permanent. The idea for a winter warming hut potentially combined with a concession boat house should only be considered if use continues to grow, and such development is merited. The potential for this is illustrated in **Figure 5**, illustrating how earlier growth should allow for the potential of a future shelter.

iv) Restroom

A screened surround should be installed for the seasonal portable toilet within the park. This should be developed adjacent to the parking area, in the vicinity of where the portable toilet is currently placed. As with all park development, care should be taken to ensure user safety and allow for easy surveillance without blind spots where people might conceal themselves.

d) Activities

Activities pertain to the opportunities for recreation within the park, and the accompanying management or development issues.

i) Paddleboating

Paddleboating on the lake provides revenue for Parks & Recreation (currently 15% of concession revenues), and a recreational service is provided to the public. The concession has been operated according to past agreements, claims have been dealt with properly, and there has been an identified safety advantage to having a lifeguard and surveillance of the lake.

It is the recommendation that paddleboating should be allowed at Cheney Lake Park, with a new paddleboat agreement developed based upon previous agreements (See **Appendix B**). Recommendations for change of this agreement would include enlarging the existing no paddleboat zone to include a buffer along the eastern shoreline, and an enlarged area to the northeast (see **Figure 13** in **Appendix B**). As well, a limit for the maximum number of paddleboats operating on the lake should be developed based upon the number that can operate upon the lake without adverse effects upon habitat, wildlife or the activities of other park users. This number may change over time if conditions in the park change. (Refer to Section 6 – Limits of Acceptable Change).

ii) Skiing

Existing park trails provide for the needs of users for skiing. There is some interest that ski trails be set on a non-regular basis within the park.

iii) Skating

Existing skating facilities provide for the current needs of skating. There is some interest in a larger area of cleared ice and for lighting of the expansion.

iv) Interpretation

Some desire for interpretive facilities was expressed. The forms that this might take would need to be examined within the context of future opportunities. Initial opportunities for interpretation could enhance efforts for wildlife and habitat protection and erosion control by educating the public about such activities.

Summary of Public Process

v) Wayfinding signage

There is currently little interest in signage beyond the installation of a park map at the park entrance that shows trails and usage areas. Should it be desired in the future, it is recommended that all entrances to the park be marked to show their presence, and wayfinding signage be employed within the park where it might be useful for finding destinations (i.e. the trail entrance that connects to Chester Creek). See **Figure 9** for a character sketch of signage.

e) Basic Assumptions

i) Community park

The park is a community park. Community parks are designated as serving a larger cross-section of the Anchorage population than smaller neighborhood parks. This designation can have a large effect upon what is deemed appropriate for the development of a park.

ii) Natural amenity

The desire of the community is that Cheney Lake Park retain, protect and complement its natural features. This is supported first of all as being the over-riding desire of the community. Secondly, the historical usage of the park has been for its trails, undeveloped spaces and playground. Lastly, the configuration of the land around the lake, existing topography, and some existing uses, preclude the development needs of more active recreation options (i.e. sports fields), and these options are provided for at other parks in the area. Possessing a lake, quality habitat, and an established trail system, Cheney Lake Park provides a unique experience

that is not replicated in the near vicinity. This summary acts as a good synopsis of the Desired Future Conditions (DFC) which are discussed in reference to Limits of Acceptable Change later in this report.

iii) Public vs. private

The privacy and desires of residents adjacent to the park need to be balanced with the needs of the park users. Siting of public facilities should consider adjacent residential patterns and respect private property. Concentrating development efforts at the south and north of the park should reduce unnecessary conflicts between residents and park users. Determination of the appropriateness of facilities within the park will need to carefully balance the desires of the individual with the needs of the community. If development within an area of concern is deemed appropriate, steps should be taken to mitigate effects on residents. Conversely, residents should not treat the park as an extension of their property. No personal development within the park should be allowed. Any desired alterations need to be achieved through the proper park planning and development process.

f) Issues Outside of Master Plan Scope

i) Baxter Rd./Beaver Place

Citizens voiced concerns with the roadway adjacent to the park. Specific issues include: speeding, a desire for lights at the pedestrian crossing, and the safety of the intersection north of the parking lot.

The public process identified the need for a Master Plan that provided both for the growth of the park through a development plan, but also for the upkeep and maintenance of the park through a management plan.

This section provides the refinement of these two plans, and detailed discussion of the elements that each contains. Each of these sections (management and development) identifies fundamental issues or items, develops associated action items to address these issues, and places within a time frame for initiation.

a) Development Plan

As is shown in **Figure 3**, the park is divided into three different types of use: development zones, development restriction zones, and natural zones. Development zones illustrate the areas where the community felt development was appropriate. The extent and types of development are further described within this section. Development restriction zones are areas where there are potential conflicts between residential and park uses. It is recommended that development be avoided in these areas unless potential conflicts can be mitigated. Natural zones are the areas in the park that have higher habitat quality and upon which the park's identity and character are reliant.

A summary of the development plan is presented in **Table 1**, concisely listing topics, items, actions and time frames.

i) South Development Area

The southern area of the site (**Figure 4**) has been identified as the most logical location for the most intensive development. This selection is due to its past uses, access and the amount of area open to development without the need to impact high quality habitat.

Development of this area would logically be phased, progressing at a rate that meets the needs of the community into the future. As Anchorage continues to grow, it is possible that increased usership in the future will create pressures on the park that need to be addressed in order to lessen negative impacts. This is the location at which this impact can be best provided for and absorbed.

Initial improvements to this area include addressing erosion issues, and providing for aesthetics. It is recommended that site furniture be upgraded to meet design guidelines, that portions of the area be revegetated to reduce the amount of open ground, and that plantings be added for aesthetic appeal. It is also important to ensure that the site be designed to ADA standards in order to create a space usable by all in an easy and pleasurable fashion. One aspect of this is creating an easier access into and out of the playground from within the park, where there is currently a steep hill. See **Figure 5A** for an illustration of how this area might look.

The next logical stage would be incorporation of harder surfaces such as concrete, pavers or boardwalk. In addition to improving aesthetics and the user areas, this would also act to reduce the erosion pressures on the shoreline and adjacent vegetated banks. Depending upon the design and available funding, these improvements could begin to shape the area into a more defined park center. Opportunities could include the creation of planting beds, separated areas for different user functions and gathering sizes, and improved water access. There is also the opportunity for incorporating the playground into the shoreline area through better connection, and the utilization of similar

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Table 1 - Development Issues, Actions and Time Frames

Issue	Action	Time Frame
Water Access	a) Provide more developed access point at southern end b) Provide access point at western edge	a) Medium term b) Medium term
Pedestrian Connections	a) Develop connection to Chester Creek from southeast of park	a) Long term
Trails	a) Upgrade paths for proper drainage b) Realign western path to allow better buffering of residential units and alleviate steep slopes to lake	a) Short term b) Medium to long term
Restroom	a) Build surround for portable toilet	a) Medium term
Signage	a) Provide park entry kiosk b) Develop wayfinding signage	a) Short term b) Medium term
Skating	a) Improve light of enlarged skate area	a) Long term
Playground	a) Repair, upgrade and replace as necessary to meet playground safety requirements	a) Short term
South Development Area	a) Repair/prevent erosion b) Provide additional planting c) Replace site furniture per guidelines d) Develop user area per illustrations e) Enhance connection to playground	a) Short term b) Short term (continuing) c) Medium term d) Medium to long term e) Medium term
Northwest Amenity Area <i>(west of peninsula)</i>	a) Repair/prevent erosion b) Provide site furniture c) Develop user area per illustrations	a) Short term b) Medium term c) Medium to long term
North Amenity Area <i>(tip of peninsula)</i>	a) Repair/prevent erosion b) Provide site furniture c) Develop user area as per description/illustrations	a) Short term b) Medium term c) Medium to long term
East Amenity Area <i>(east of island)</i>	a) Repair/prevent erosion b) Provide site furniture c) Develop user area as per description/illustrations	a) Short term b) Medium term c) Medium to long term
Site Amenities	a) Provide benches and litter bins at key points along trail	a) Medium term
Planting	a) Planting as required for erosion control b) Provide buffer planting to delineate residences from the park c) Provide ornamental plantings for aesthetics in the southern development area	a) Short term b) Short to medium term c) Medium to long term

materials and construction techniques. See **Figure 5B** for an illustration of how this area might look.

A final stage would be further refinement of the area (refer to **Figure 5C**). This could include upgrading the materials used, incorporating site elements such as seat walls to provide seating and to help define planting beds, development of a small dock for increasing water accessibility, and the incorporating an area for a seasonal structure to be erected.

Overall, the materials used and the development of this area should be done in a fashion that meets the needs of a high usage area, especially in regards to eliminating erosion of surfaces, damage to any vegetation, and damage to the materials that are used in construction. Plantings should be used for both screening where necessary, and more importantly, for aesthetics. Interaction with the water is an important feature of this park, so some development along the shoreline is essential to allow for a number of ways of utilizing the water (i.e. boating access, interpretation, contemplation). This should also be done in a manner where activity conflicts are reduced (i.e. fishing should be separated from other recreational activities).

The paddleboat concession on the lake needs to be incorporated into the development of the Southern Development Area. There are certain needs inherent to this activity (i.e. water access, paddleboat observation, etc) that need to be considered to ensure that conflicts are minimized. Within provision of facilities for paddleboating, there also lies the opportunity to develop a park amenity for other users, during and after hours of operation. See **Appendix B** for materials relevant to the paddle boating concession.

ii) Northwest, Peninsula and East Amenity Areas Amenity Areas

Amenity areas are locations where benches, picnic tables, litter bins and harder surfacing may be grouped in some combination. These areas should provide a variety of options for usage, individual contemplation, viewing opportunities and family picnics. Construction methods and material types should be chosen to reflect anticipated levels of usage, and the ensuing pressures on the natural habitat. For example, pavers or concrete may be chosen for an area where a picnic table is placed, whereas an area of ADA accessible gravel surfacing may be all that is required around a bench. Delineation of these spaces with surfacing, planting and other methods will hopefully contain activities and reduce the impacts to surrounding vegetation. Efforts should be made to buffer the amenities when close to residential properties.

The amenity areas are chosen so as to provide locations where existing conditions allow for development without adverse impacts on the park, and also to provide areas with a variety of character.

1) Northwest Amenity Area

The intent of the Northwest Amenity Area is to provide a place with the character of more open, regenerating forest that makes use of the excellent views to the southeast (see **Figure 6**). Development should be limited to a few benches, an area of paving, and plantings complimentary to the view and to act as screening from the path and residential units.

2) East Amenity Area

The East Amenity Area has a character reflective of the eastern half of the park (see **Figure 7**). Surrounded by a more

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mature landscape, the area provides a shaded space surrounded by forest, with views of the lake to the northwest and southwest. The existing bank in this area is prone to erosion, so the area should be regraded to reduce erosion potential, or a boardwalk/deck should be erected. Seating should be placed here, with surfacing to delineate the area and limit adverse impact to adjacent habitat.

Access to the island should also be examined. If it is possible to further discourage people from crossing over to the island (especially with reduced water levels), thought should be given to deepening the channel that divides the island from the land, and/or removing more shoreline to extend the distance. Being the only area of the park where habitat is truly isolated, any efforts to maintain or increase this isolation are merited.

3) Peninsula Amenity Area

The Peninsula Amenity Area would be similar to the Northwest Amenity Area, except that it provides more of a water experience, being surrounded by the lake (see **Figure 8**). The built area should provide an area of boardwalk/deck to reduce erosion on the peninsula, and overall treatment of the area should allow for revegetation.

ii) Development Restriction Zone

Development should be restricted along the northwestern edge of the site, where the trail is adjacent to residential property lines (see **Figure 10**). Improvements should only be made relative to the trail, shoreline protection and planting. Restricting the placement of other park amenities from this area should have negligible impact on park use, as other park areas with fewer potential conflicts are better suited for amenities.

The main item of improvement for this area is a realignment of the trail. Doing so would increase buffering between the trail and the property lines, and increase the aesthetics of this area. By lowering the path where possible, a small bank could be created that helps to define property lines. Altering the alignment of the path to a more sinuous line would also add interest, and provide additional areas where there is potential to plant next to the properties. In tandem with these changes, the slope of the lake bank should be examined and altered to reduce erosion and access to the water should be improved. Stairs and a ramp for canoes/kayaks could be provided to ensure safe access to the water without eroding the shoreline.

Revegetation, and planting in general, should be provided to supplement buffering between public and private lands, to frame and develop views, and to ensure shoreline prevention from erosion.

iii) General Trail Issues

While the existing trail system provides the desired amount of routes and access, some changes need to be made. The most important one is to upgrade trails to ensure that they drain properly. This is essential to ensure seasonal trail surface consistency. Developing the trail that connects Cheney Lake Park to the Chester Creek Greenway into a formal trail from its existing social path is also important as a regional connection.

Development of new trails is not currently anticipated, but should usage of the park result in the expansion of the trail network or deterioration of trails, trail closure or improvement should be considered. (Refer to Section 6 – Limits of Acceptable Change)

iv) General Habitat Issues

It is the overall desire of the community to maintain the existing flora and fauna of the park, and to protect and improve it where necessary. Interpretation of the Master Plan can provide two management areas in regard to habitat. The western and southern sides of the park have a higher level of usage, and correspondingly, the habitat values for these areas will be lower. In order to protect a basic level of habitat integrity, the design of these areas will need to anticipate and provide for the pressures of usage. The northern and eastern sides of the park have habitat that is generally of high quality, or in the case of the recently disturbed areas around the detention pond, recovering. Human usage of these areas is lower, and of a transitional nature so impacts are generally of a linear nature along the paths. Any areas that have, or develop, higher usage confined to a particular area, will need to be examined for determine the appropriate design to reduce any impacts.

Evidence of erosion is a good indicator of habitat quality. All areas that currently show erosion should be treated to remove the signs of erosion, and prevent further erosion. This can be done through limiting access and allowing natural regeneration and/or immediate replanting, changing the grade of such areas to reduce the tendency to erode, or developing options such as boardwalk, areas of paving, and/or terracing. Each area should be examined to determine the cause of erosion, and the solution weighed on the merits of how well it deals with the problem and how it is affected by usage needs.

(Refer to Section 6 – Limits of Acceptable Change)

v) Plantings

In addition to the planting required for erosion control and habitat function, there is a desire for buffer planting, ornamental plantings for aesthetics, and general revegetation. It is recommended that only native species be utilized within the majority of the park. Non-native species may be desired for aesthetic reasons within the southern development area of the park. This is a logical area for them, and has the added benefit of being an area easily accessed for the increased maintenance that non-native species may sometimes need (i.e. beds of annual and/or perennial species, and the required pruning and maintenance of flowering species).

No non-native species should be utilized that have the potential to escape from their original planting area (i.e. invasive). It is crucial that no introduced species have the opportunity to compete with the native species present in the park. It is especially important that no non-native aquatic species be introduced. Any riparian or aquatic plantings, or material introduced within 50 feet of the ordinary high water mark of the lake, must be guaranteed to be free from weed or non-native species.

Should any non-native aquatic species be found within the lake, or other non-native species be found within the natural areas of the site, immediate action should be taken to remove them in a manner that prohibits their future presence.

b) Management Plan

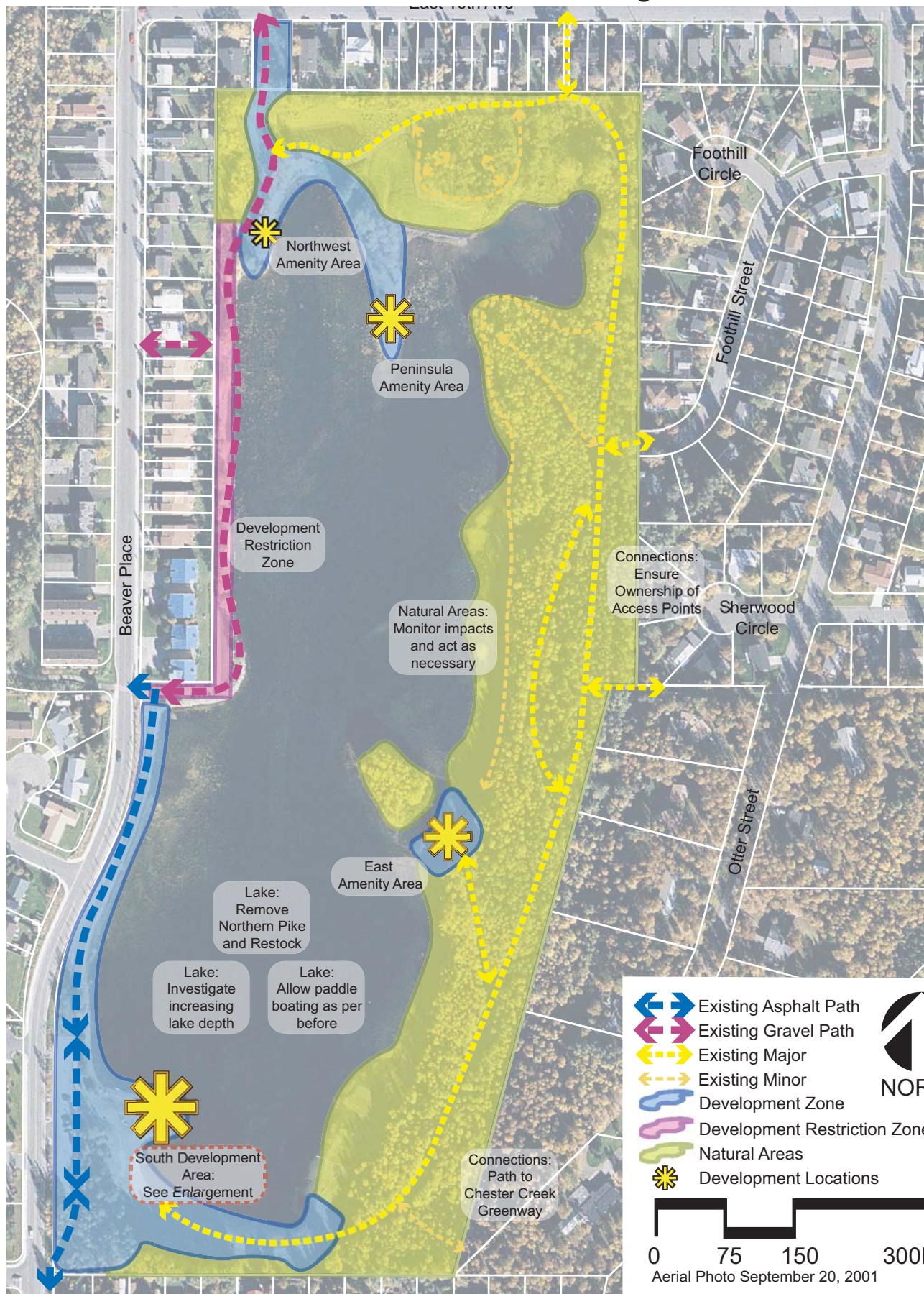
Much of the management plan has been discussed in previous sections. **Table 2** provides a summary of these issues, actions and time frames for implementation.

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Table 2 - Management Issues, Actions and Time Frames

Issue	Action	Time Frame
Habitat	a) Provide erosion repair/prevention b) Limit access to critical wildlife habitat	a) Short term (continuing) b) Short term (continuing)
Fish	a) Remove Northern Pike b) Re-stock c) Monitor shoreline degeneration and limit access if required	a) Short term b) Short term (continuing) c) Short term (continuing)
Monitoring	a) Develop monitoring program	a) Short term (continuing)
Lake Level	a) Examine options to increase lake depth	a) Short term
Litter	a) Provide litter bins and regular trash removal	a) Short term (continuing)
Paddleboating	a) Allow usage as per previous agreements and levels b) Monitor to ensure adherence to agreement	a) Short term (continuing) b) Short term (continuing)
Limits of Acceptable Change	a) Develop limits of acceptable change for any management/development issue where actions may need to react to future conditions (see Section 6 – Limits of Acceptable Change)	a) Same time frame as item investigated

Figure 3 - Overall Master Plan



Master Plan

Figure 4 - South Development Area

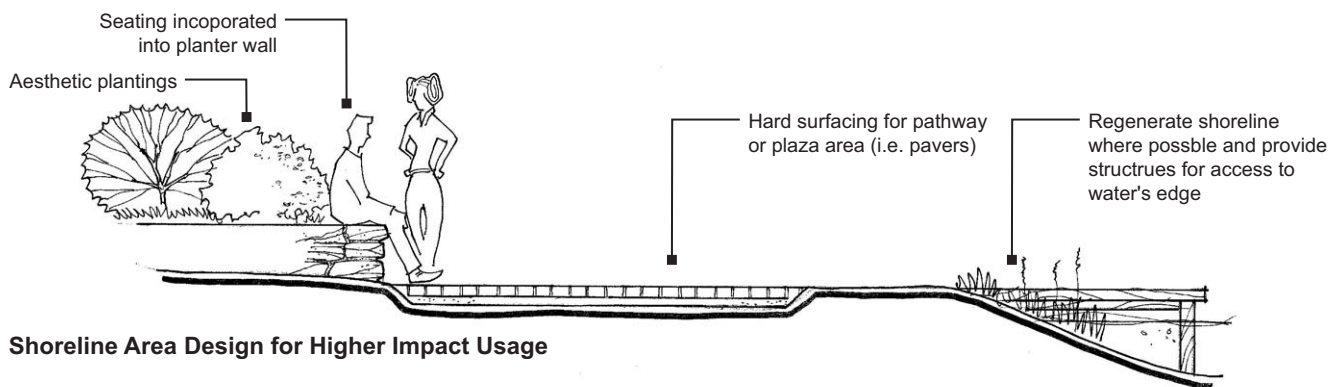
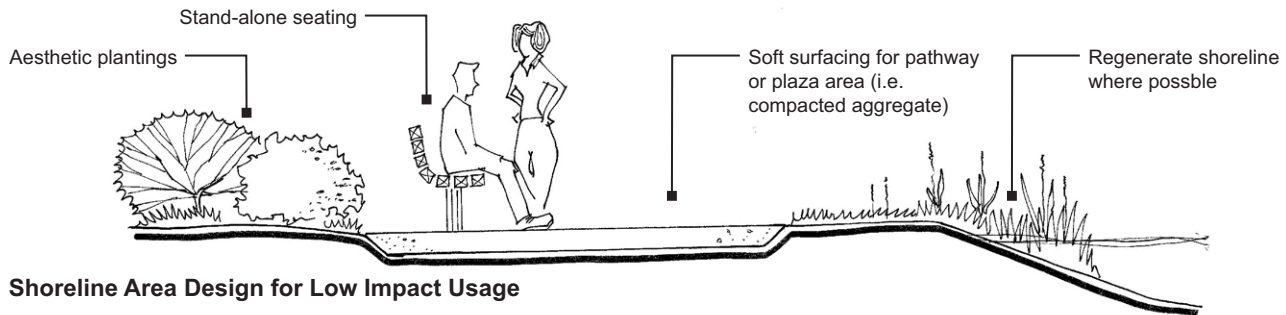
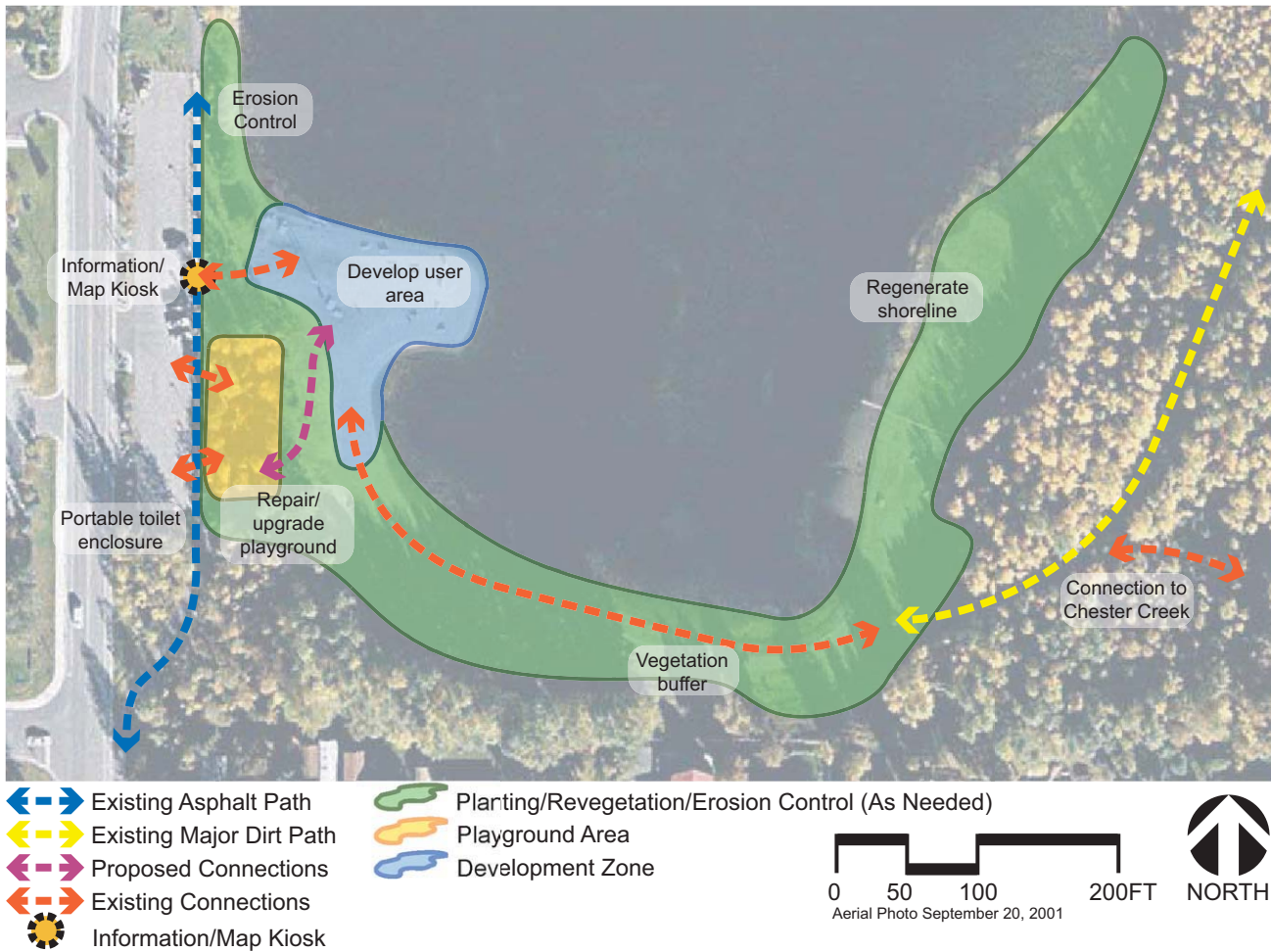
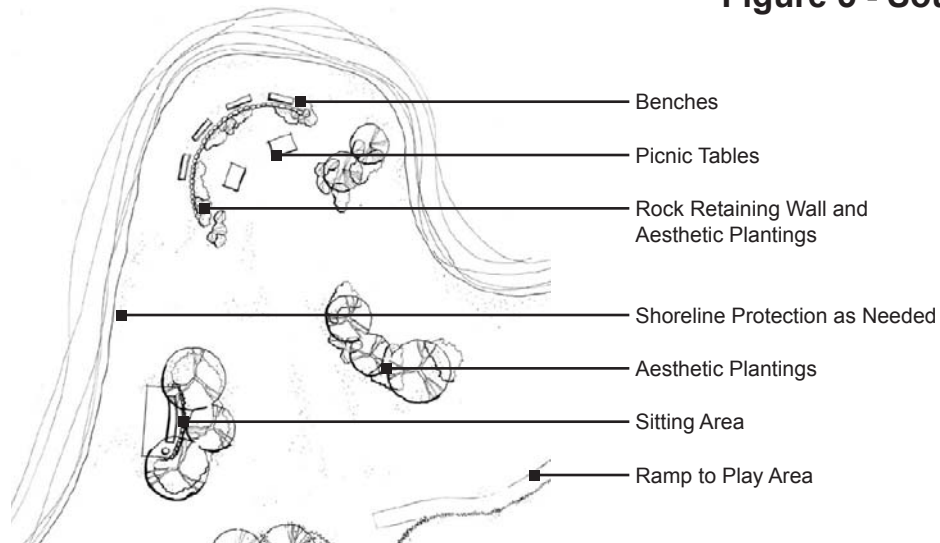
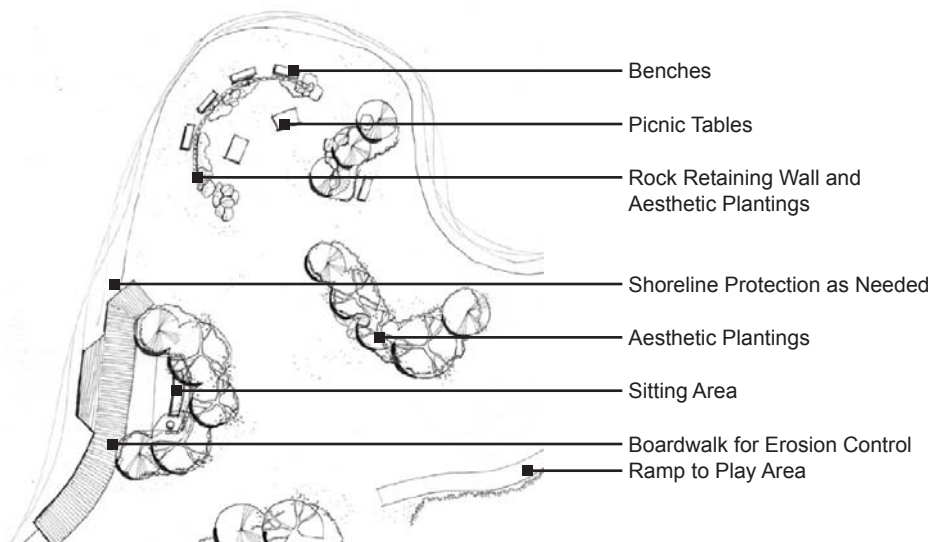


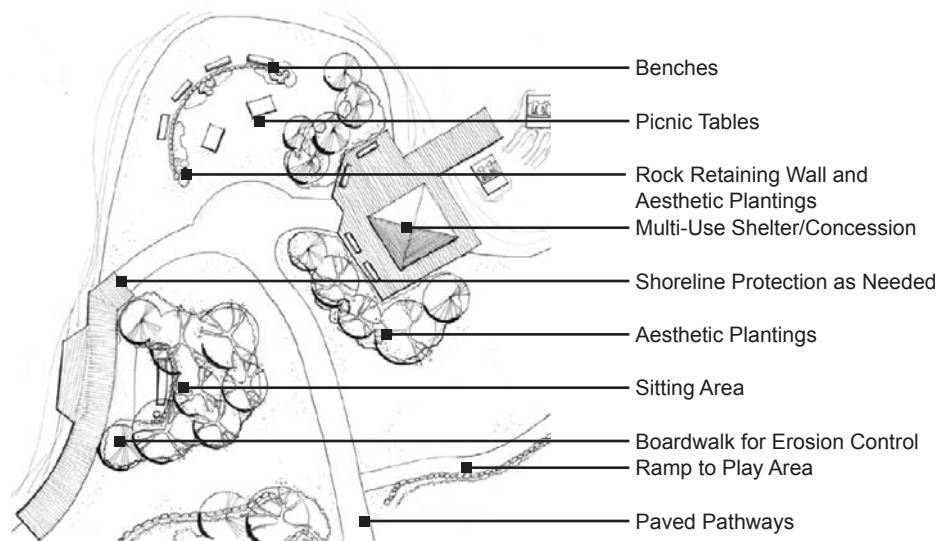
Figure 5 - South Development Models



Low Development Model
Provides Amenity, Aesthetics and Erosion Control



Increased Development Model
Provides Amenity, Aesthetics and Increased Erosion Control



Higher Development Model
Provides Amenity, Aesthetics, Increased Erosion Control and Developed Public Use Area

Master Plan

Figure 6 - Northwest Amenity Area

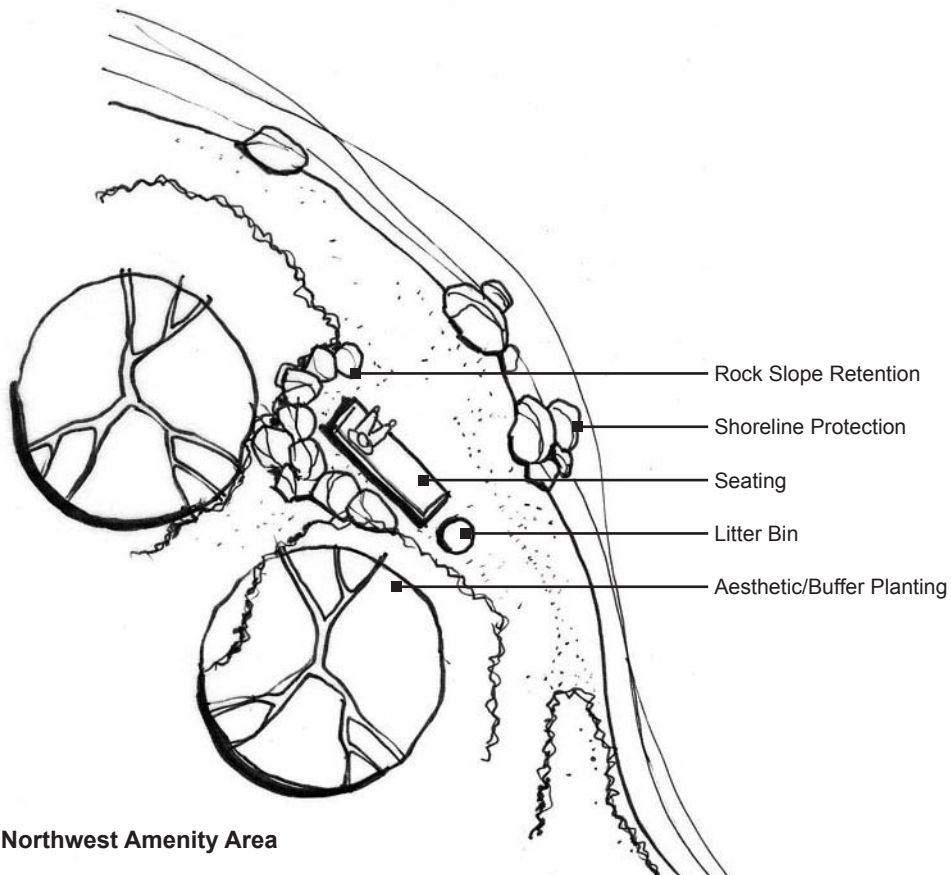
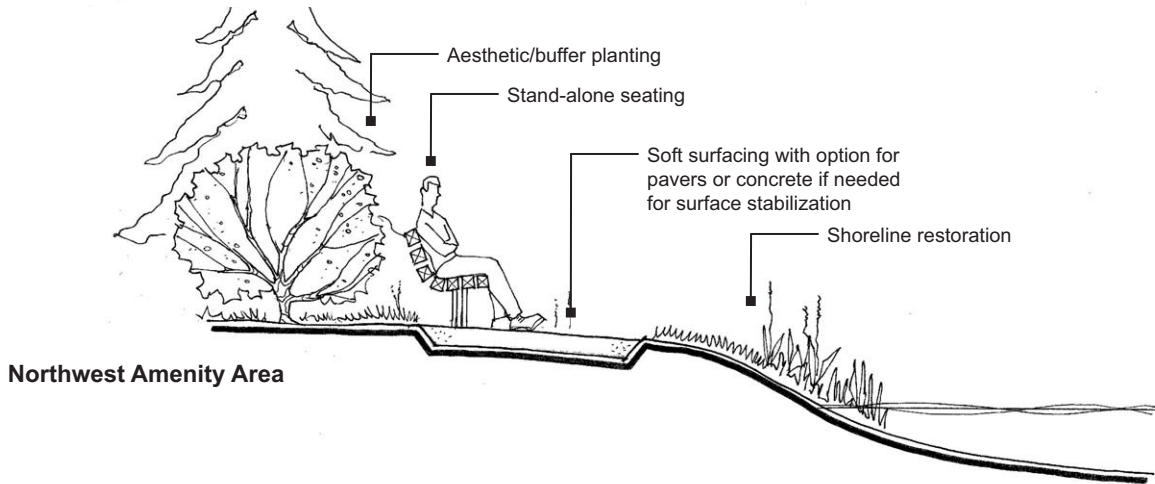
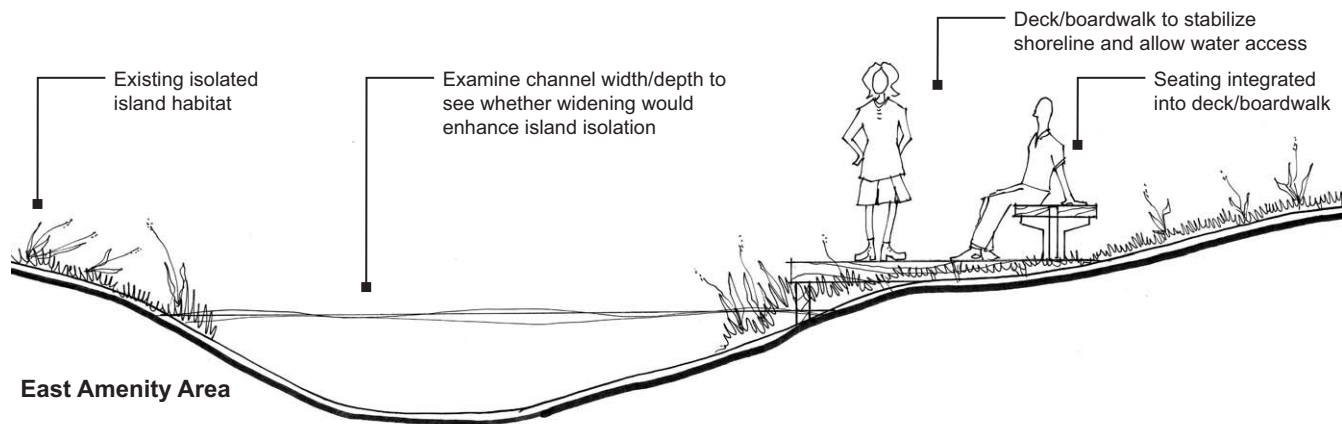
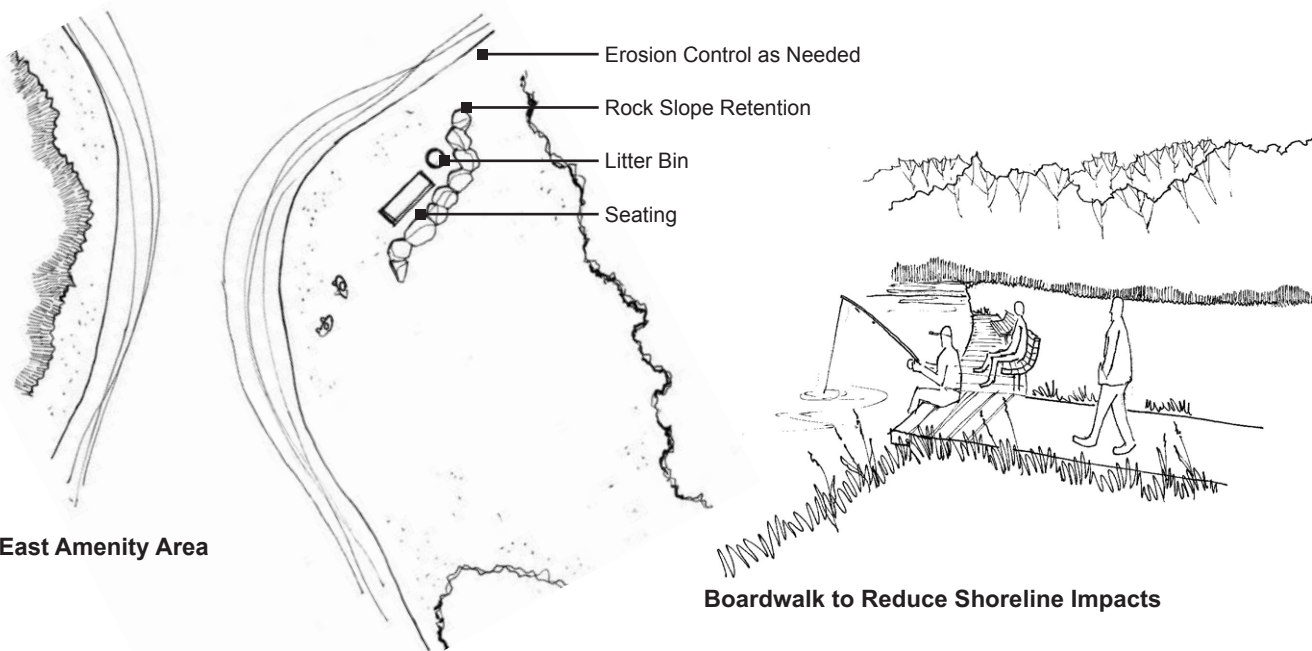


Figure 7 - East Amenity Area

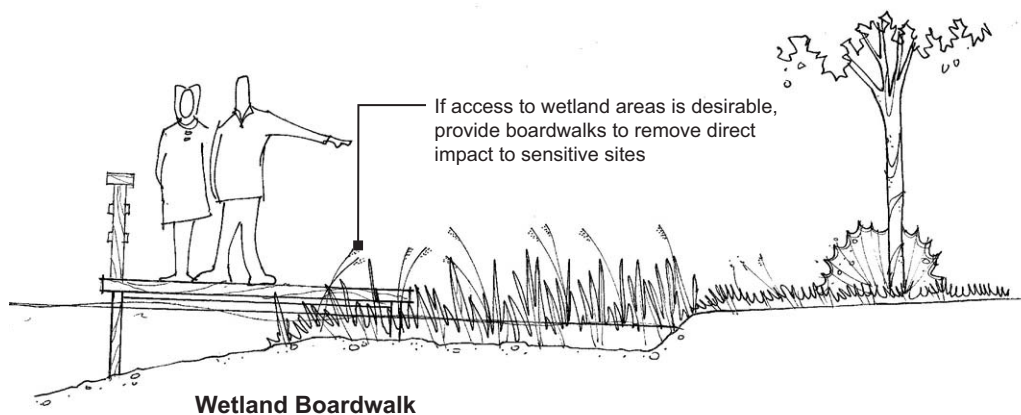


East Amenity Area



East Amenity Area

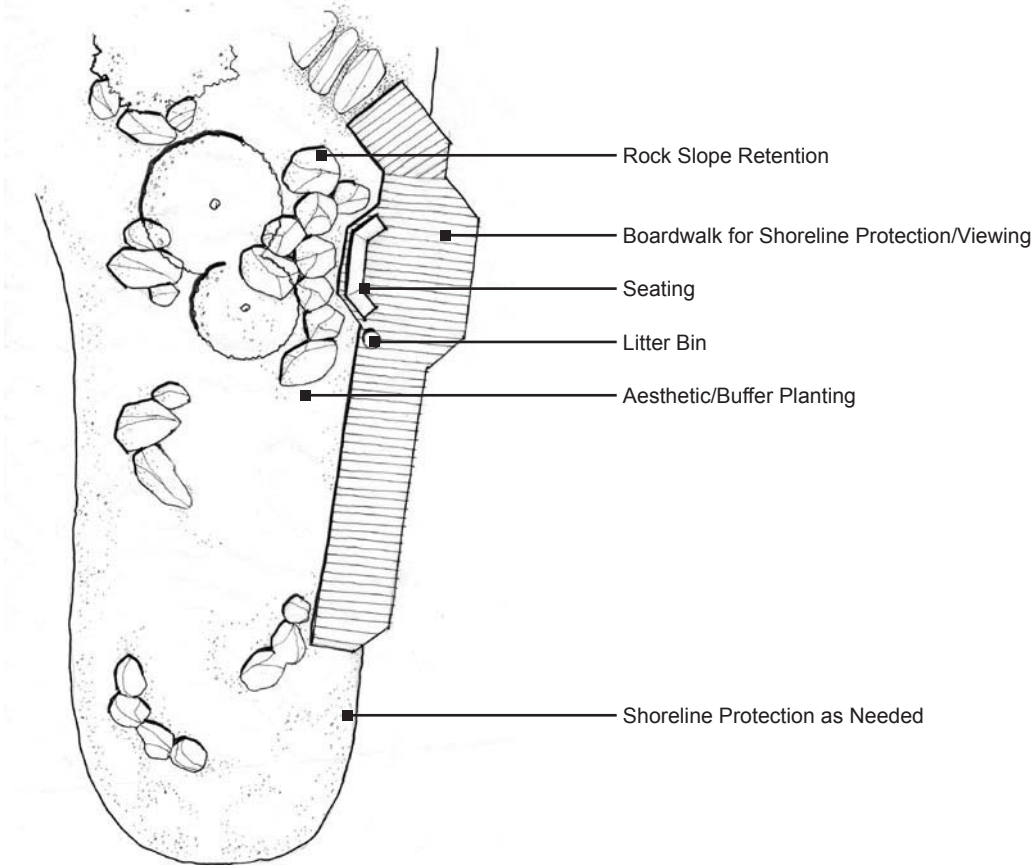
Boardwalk to Reduce Shoreline Impacts



Wetland Boardwalk

Master Plan

Figure 8 - Peninsula Amenity Area



Northwest Amenity Area

Figure 9 - Trail and Signage Character

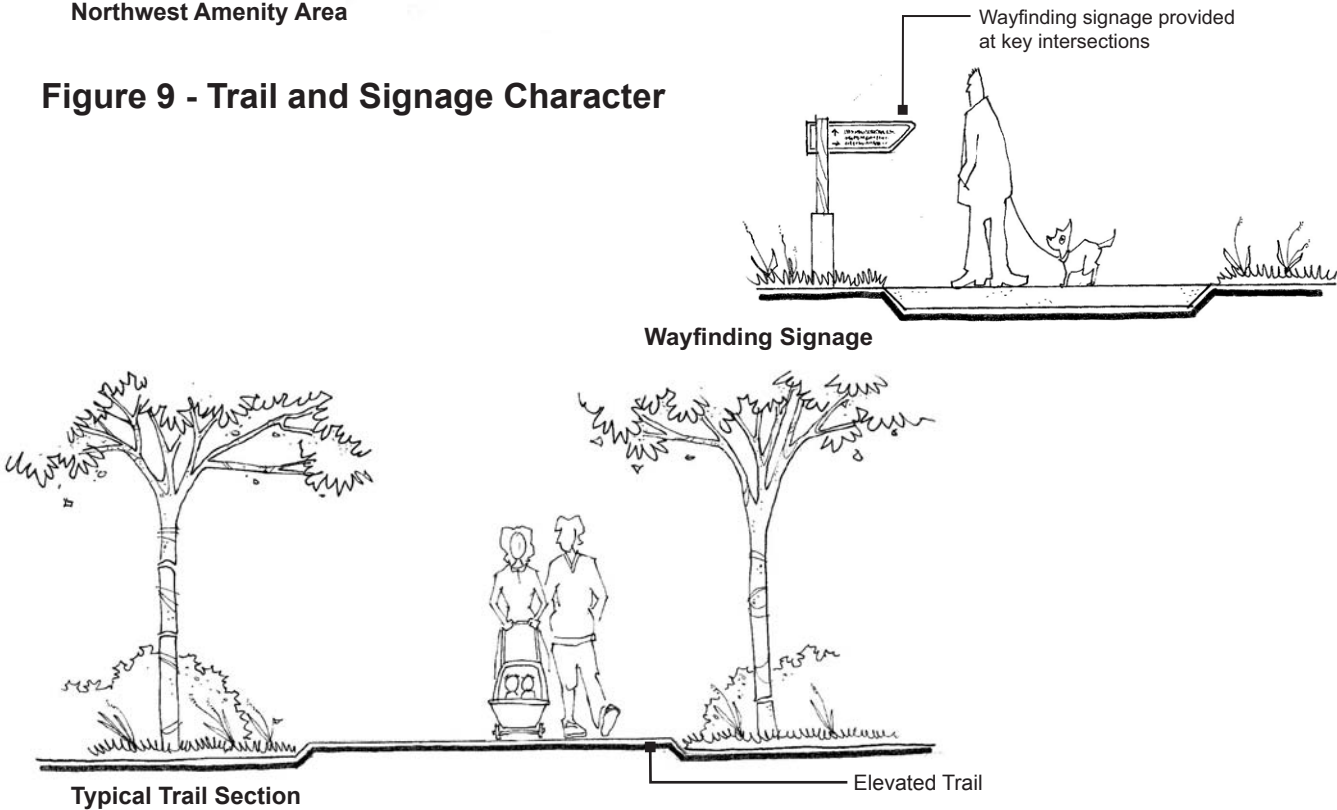
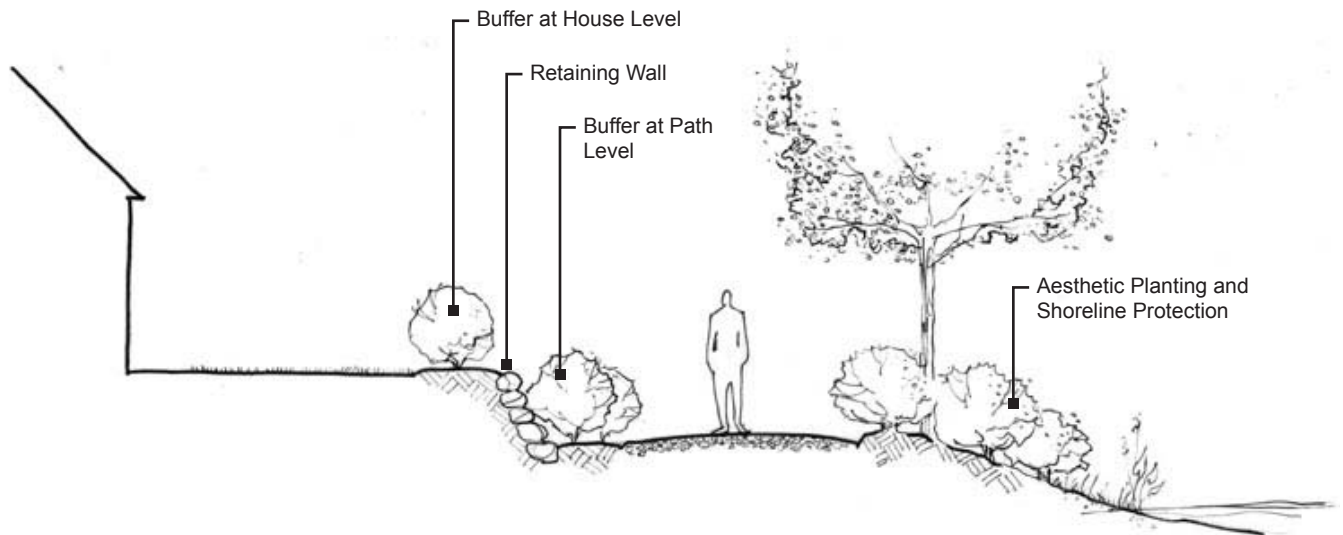
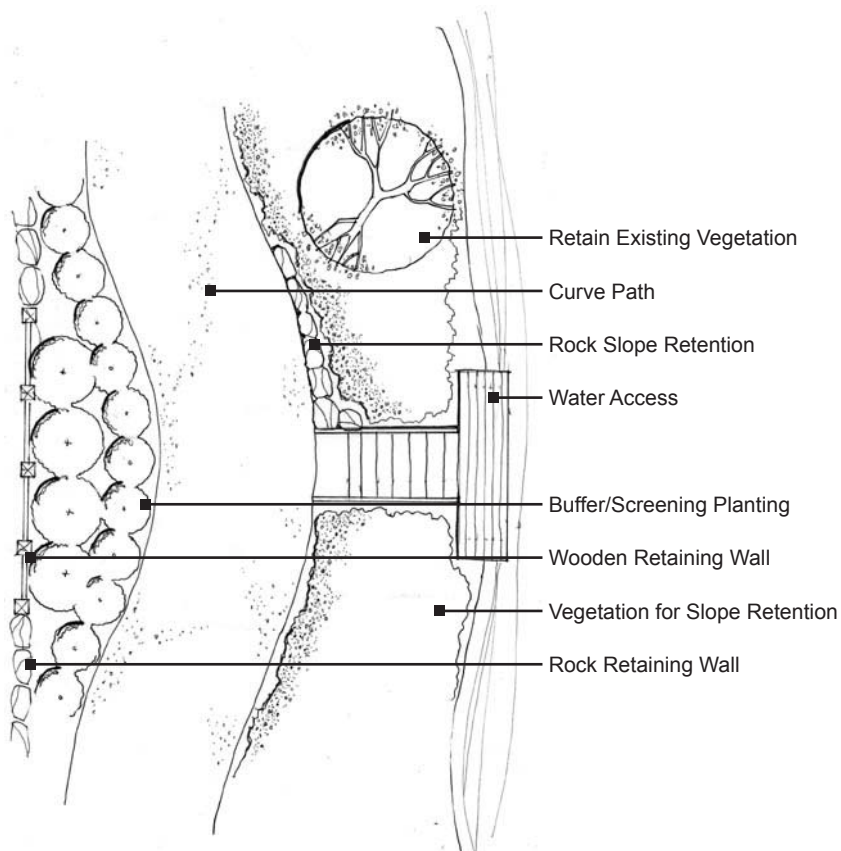
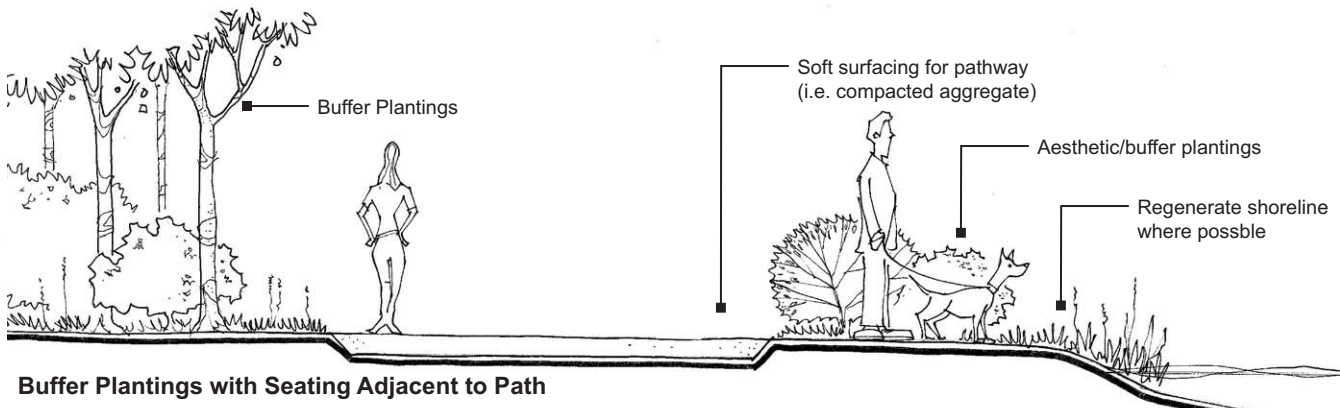


Figure 10 - Western Path along Property Lines

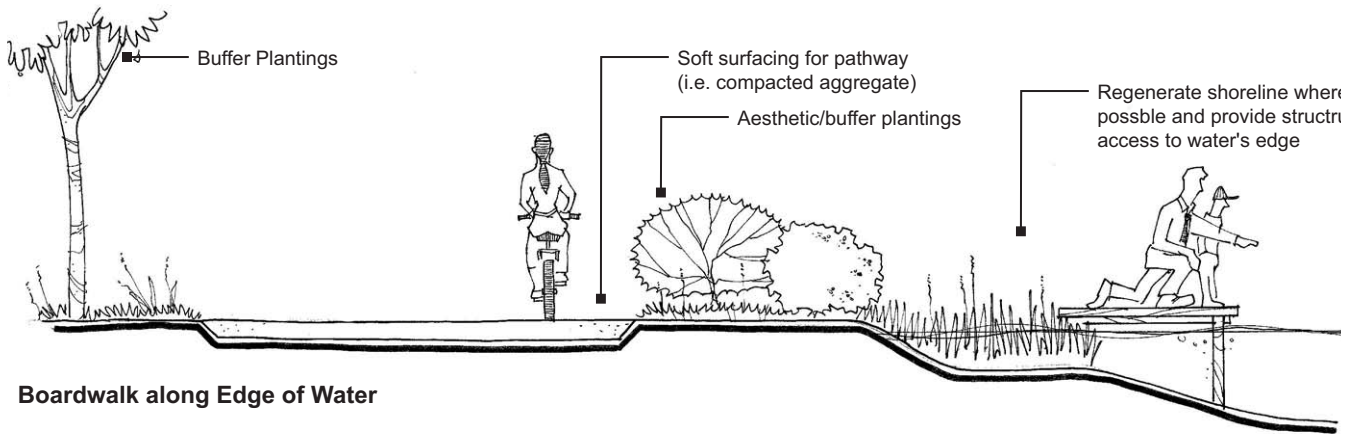


Master Plan

Figure 11 - General Shoreline Path Character Sketches



Buffer Plantings with Seating Adjacent to Path



Boardwalk along Edge of Water

Creation of design guidelines for the park is important to ensure that the park maintains a consistent image into the future. Numerous options for site furnishings are provided in **Figures 12A, 12B and 12C**. It is recommended that a palette of items be chosen for the park, and once any particular item is used, that it should become the standard for the park.

Additionally, conceptual guidance is provided in **Figure 12D** for the addition of a Multi-Use shelter within the South Development Area.

a) Benches

Benches should be provided at development/amenity areas as well as at key points along the trail. Key points should include points of notable views, and where rest areas are needed between seating areas. A style of bench that includes a backless version should be chosen to allow for flexibility of placement of benches, and integration into their locations. Backless benches provide a more transparent profile, and would be ideal for locations where seating should be secondary to the view and not compete with it. Half of the benches are required to meet ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) accessible bench requirements.

b) Picnic tables

Picnic tables should be provided at development/amenity areas where there is a desire for table surfaces in addition to seating. A proportion of the picnic tables should be accessible.

c) Litter receptacles

Litter receptacles should be provided at all areas where benches, picnic tables or other facilities are provided. If it is determined that this does not provide enough litter receptacles, then additional litter receptacles should be

provided at areas where there is a shown requirement.

d) Bicycle racks

A bicycle rack should be provided at the southern end of the site. Additional bicycle racks may be needed if there is an increase in park usage.

e) Signage

Any signage developed for the site should be of a nature that it complements existing site elements, should be appropriate to the natural character of the site, and should provide information in a concise and useful manner.

f) Trail Surfacing

No changes to trail surfaces are currently desired, with the exception of potential improvement to the gravel path on the northwest of the site (to consolidate gravel and provide a more stable surface). Any maintenance, or further trail development, should provide surfaces that are designed to meet ADA requirements.

Trail widths:

Asphalt – 12' wide multi-use pathway
Gravel – 10' wide multi-use pathway
Earth – 6' maximum width compacted and graded to drain

g) Lighting

Lighting should be provided where necessary for public safety. Since the park is closed at night, and the public had demonstrated little desire to light the park further, lighting should be limited to what currently exists around the main park usage area to the southwest. Additional lighting should only be added if it is an aesthetic upgrade to what is currently in use, or if a need for additional lighting is determined (i.e. to illuminate an expanded ice surface).

Design Guidelines

Figure 12a - Victor Stanley Site Furniture



Petoskey Bench



Petoskey Bench and Litter Receptacle



Petoskey Litter Receptacle



Gretchen Bench



Petoskey Picnic Table



Arcata Bench - Backless



Arcata Bench

Design Guidelines

Figure 12b - Fairweather Site Furniture



Cascade Bench



Cascade Bench - Backless



Litter Receptacle



Transit Bench - Backless



Transit Bench



Ribbon Bicycle Rack



Bollard



Picnic Table

Design Guidelines

Figure 12c - Landscape Forms Site Furniture



Petoskey Bench



Petoskey Bench and Litter Receptacle



Petoskey Litter Receptacle



Gretchen Bench



Petoskey Picnic Table



Arcata Bench - Backless



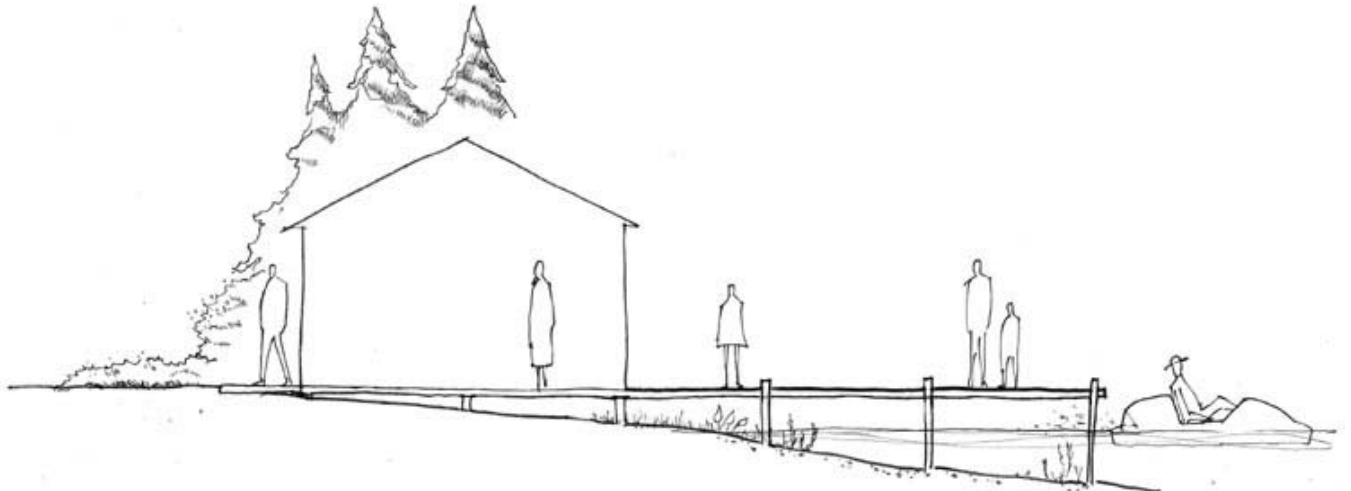
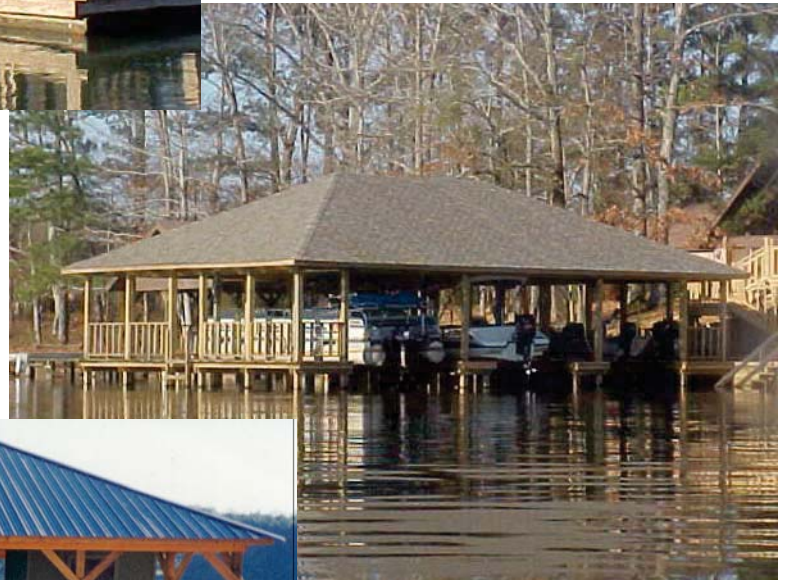
Arcata Bench

Design Guidelines

Figure 12d - Multi-Use Shelter Design Character



Any Shelter to be constructed within Cheney Lake Park needs to be designed so as to fit in with the character of the park, be sized appropriately, be light on the landscape, and either be seasonally removable, or designed for multi-season use. The images on this page are for approximate reference only, and it is recommended that the shelter be of an open design with the potential to close areas of it or all of it.



Limits of Acceptable Change

The following items have been identified as requiring the provision of a Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC). This provides a measurable stage at which action needs to be taken to remediate or re-examine issues. Refer to **Appendix A** for an overview of the LAC Process.

a) Trails

Trails where an LAC should be implemented are of two types: desire lines (small paths generally no more than a foot or two in width) and the main earthen paths of the site (generally around six feet wide). Should desire lines develop a width of more than two feet, they should be examined as to whether they fulfill the role of a main path and can be allowed to widen, whether they should be restricted to a smaller width and revegetated, or whether access should be limited and the path should be revegetated as a whole. Should main paths develop a width of greater than eight feet, they should be examined to see whether they should be surfaced with another material (gravel or pavement), or whether access should be limited and the path margins revegetated.

b) General Erosion

Active erosion control should be implemented at any place where the ground becomes denuded of groundcover in a size greater than four square feet (this does not pertain to trails, see LAC for trails). Erosion control could include: 1) re-grading and revegetation if the area will be open to subsequent user impact, 2) further development utilizing boardwalk/decks or other surfaces to provide a non-erosive surface, or 3) revegetation if the pressures that caused the erosion are removed.

c) Water Quality

Limits of acceptable change for water quality are generally set by local health or environmental departments. Institution of a regular monitoring program would provide the information needed to determine if any further water treatment is required for the lake for ecological and/or human health concerns.

d) Paddleboating

Several aspects of paddleboats on the lake should be covered by limits of acceptable change: the maximum number of boats allowed to be on the lake at any given time, the areas of the lake that paddleboats are allowed to use, and usage of the shore areas for launching paddleboats. A balance between the concerns of other park users, wildlife and habitat value and the maximum number of boats will need to be developed. A similar process will need to be examined to determine the exact (if any) no-paddleboat buffer along the eastern shore of the lake. Shoreline usage for launching paddleboats and operating the concession will need to be monitored to ensure that the quality of the areas used is maintained at the desirable level. For all of these issues, a threshold level of directly linked negative impact will need to be set for triggering changes to paddleboat usage.

Appendix A - Limits of Acceptable Change

The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process is based on the premise that change to the ecological and social conditions of a site will occur over time as a result of natural and human factors. The goal of management is to keep the character and rate of change due to human factors within acceptable levels that are consistent with plan objectives and protection of the site. The primary focus of the LAC system is on maintaining the desired resource conditions, rather than how much use or abuse an area can tolerate. The management challenge is not one of how to prevent human-induced change in the planning area, but rather one of deciding:

1. What changes should occur?
2. How much change will be allowed?
3. What management actions are needed to guide and control it? and
4. How will managers know when the established limits have been reached?

The LAC process can help to supply a vision of what Cheney Lake Park should look like in the future through identifying indicators related to park conditions, establishing monitoring which tracks these indicators over time, and determining what management actions would restore conditions should changes become incompatible with the park's vision. Once in place and functioning, an LAC system would alert managers to unacceptable changes in the park before solutions are too late or too costly.

For monitoring Cheney Lake Park, one or more key indicators should be selected which allow managers to stay attuned to changes in the ecosystem or social setting. For each indicator, a standard value, or threshold, will be set that determines the amount of change that is acceptable. Once

these thresholds are approached, or exceeded, appropriate predetermined management actions should be implemented. The purpose of the indicators and standards is to provide managers with a tool to determine, through monitoring, if the resource values and opportunities specified for Cheney Lake Park are actually being provided.

The LAC process includes the following key components:

- 1. Desired Future Conditions:**
Specification of acceptable, achievable resource and social conditions, defined by measurable parameters (Desired Future Conditions (DFC)).
- 2. Indicators, Standards, and Management Actions:**
Identification of management actions to achieve desired conditions.
- 3. Monitoring and Evaluation:**
Monitoring and evaluation of management effectiveness, field training, and product updates.

The process is dynamic, requires continuous feedback and refinement, and directs reasonable corrective actions to be taken from time to time to address specific problems that threaten the resource or social conditions.

The Cheney Lake Park LAC process will form the foundation for the long-term protection and enhancement of the park-related values of the park. The process will be designed with enough flexibility to allow unique site-specific situations to be addressed and to provide ample opportunity for public involvement and adjustment as the resource and social knowledge base increases. Public interaction with agencies and affected interests is interwoven throughout the technical process.

Appendix A - Limits of Acceptable Change

i) Task I Desired Future Conditions

The Cheney Lake Park LAC process will be used to identify management objectives and to develop trackable, traceable management actions tied to these objectives. To help identify management objectives, Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) are incorporated into the LAC process. DFCs are designed to lay the groundwork for the long-term protection of features and values by providing a concise statement of key elements that indicate the overall health of the park.

ii) Task II Indicators / Standards / Management Actions

Indicators and standards are the heart of the LAC system. Indicators are specific items that will be measured to ensure that the overall desired resource and social conditions are maintained or achieved. The indicators are selected to respond to management and public concerns and to ensure that the Desired Future Conditions are achieved. There is no requirement to develop an indicator for every possible concern (many don't lend themselves to being easily monitored and can be addressed in a different manner). Indicators are selected that are the most important for monitoring the overall health of the Cheney Lake Park system (as defined by the DFCs). Consideration are given to selecting indicators whose measurement (data collection) are simple, straightforward field techniques that can be conducted reliably, with training, by a variety of personnel and volunteers.

An indicator serves as a measuring stick to indicate changes in conditions that occur over time. To be effective an indicator should be judged against the following criteria:

1. **Relevant:** Helps describe the overall health of the Cheney Lake Park system.
2. **An Early Warning Signal:** Alerts managers about trends in conditions before it is too late to act.
3. **Measurable:** Can be stated in quantifiable units.
4. **Specific & Significant:** Detects a change in conditions that reduces the future desirability or ecological viability of the area.
5. **Sensitive & Discriminating:** Detects a change in condition that occurs within one year and as the result of human activities (vs. natural fluctuations).
6. **Reliable:** Can be measured accurately by different observers using the same procedures to collect information.
7. **Cost Effective & Feasible:** Can be measured by field personnel using uncomplicated equipment and straight forward sampling techniques.

Data describing the existing conditions of identified indicators are collected. The purpose of conducting such inventories is to establish existing conditions (baseline) and to establish the range of variability. This information aids in the development of preliminary standards for each indicator. Standards are the "acceptable limits of change" in conditions that can be tolerated in resource and social conditions. Once the standards are approached or exceeded they trigger predetermined management actions that are implemented.

Examples of Indicators:

- Bank erosion.
- Ground cover loss.
- Crowding.
- Amount of ground cover revegetated.

Appendix A - Limits of Acceptable Change

- Habitat quality.
- Trail damage and multiple-trailing. • Travel corridor and tread width.
- User-established social trailing.
- Visitor satisfaction and visitor problems (levels, types and locations).
- Cleanliness (litter and waste).

Selection of Standards

Indicators by themselves do not tell managers whether an observed change is acceptable or unacceptable. Each indicator has an associated standard, a quantifiable measure that dictates at what point change becomes unacceptable. Standards define thresholds or levels at which the amount of change occurring on the Cheney Lake Park Site is deemed acceptable or unacceptable. Standards are selected based on a comparison of an inventory of field conditions to those conditions sought (as defined in the Desired Future Condition Statements). Once data describing the present field conditions are available, meaningful, realistic standards can be determined. It is important to note that for most indicators there are no universally accepted standards and no perfect answer. Standards must be attainable, but must not justify degradation of the resource. Standards do not have to be achieved immediately, but should be attainable within a reasonable time frame. Standards also need to be re-evaluated periodically to determine if they need to be altered because conditions have improved or desired conditions have not resulted.

Establishing Management Actions

When a standard is exceeded, a specific management action may be initiated to maintain desired conditions. However, no standard in and of itself necessarily triggers a restrictive management action. There are

several steps to decide what actions are appropriate. First, indicators, standards, and the monitoring process must be evaluated to determine if they are still valid and the data are reliable. If they are not, they must be adjusted and monitoring continued. If they are valid, the manager must identify the source of the problem and implement actions to resolve it. In general, the manager should select the least restrictive action necessary to reasonably resolve the problem. Finally, after the selected action is implemented, monitoring must continue to evaluate its effectiveness.

Potential problem areas will be identified by the comparison of existing conditions to standards. This helps to identify management actions that could be implemented to achieve desired conditions. Possible actions will be evaluated in terms of their desirable outcomes and undesirable side effects. For any given alternative, there may be a number of potential management actions that could be undertaken to achieve standards. Consideration will be given to the action's effectiveness (will it have the desired result), acceptability (how park users feel about the action), enforceability, and long-term commitment (the probability the action would be sustained).

Example Guidelines for Selecting Management Actions

1. The action follows the guidelines described in the desired future conditions. Appendix A - Levels of Acceptable Change Overview
2. The action maximizes the opportunity for desired experiences while minimizing the burden on the visitor to adhere to many rules.
3. The action ensures the maintenance of the natural resources.

Appendix A - Limits of Acceptable Change

4. The action is fair and equitable to visitors.
5. The action is cost effective and personnel efficient.
6. The action helps reduce conflict among visitors (promoting multi-visitor cooperation).
7. The action utilizes the least restrictive means necessary to resolve the problem.

iii) Task III Monitoring and Evaluation

When implementing the LAC planning system, monitoring takes on a new role of importance and relevance. The LAC plan will essentially become a contract with the public that says this is our shared vision of the resource and social conditions that should be maintained in perpetuity. It is a statement that will manage the park to ensure a sustained flow of public benefits from a well-managed natural resource base. Monitoring is the public's guarantee that managers will continually be taking the pulse of the resource and social conditions. And in the LAC process, it is their guarantee that reasonable

corrective actions will be taken from time to time to address specific problems that threaten the resource or social conditions that they desire to perpetuate. Rather than being perceived as an esoteric technical requirement, monitoring becomes perceived as an essential, practical element of the park management process. To this end, citizens and park user groups may volunteer to become involved in assisting with the monitoring program, partially defraying the labor costs while raising public awareness and cooperation in sound management. To the extent that the public has become informed and involved in the planning process, they will eventually become much more involved in seeing that it is adhered to and carried out. In essence, they will become partners in management. And perhaps more importantly, they will also become a knowledgeable constituency who can help when new situations require adjustments or new decisions to be made to perpetuate the desired future conditions of the Cheney Lake Park Master Plan.

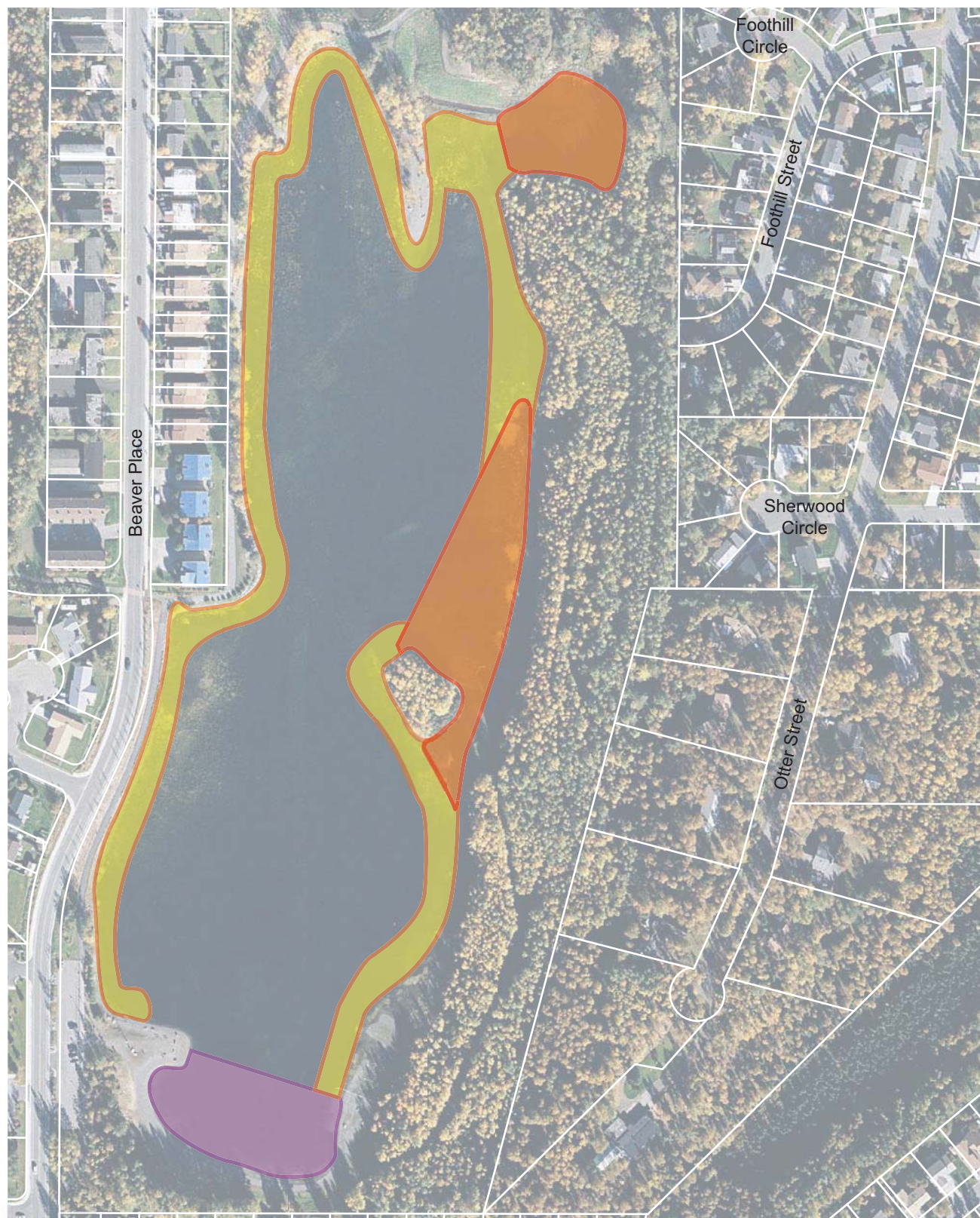
Appendix B - Paddleboat Concession




Existing Paddle Boat Rental Concession Permit Requirements for Cheney Lake.

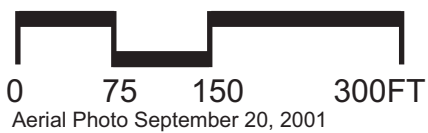
- All revenues collected on site from admissions, donations, concessions or sales are subject to a fifteen percent (15%) of gross sales fees and must be paid to the Municipality of Anchorage, Parks & Recreation within ten (10) days of the month following. Check made payable to M.O.A.
- Concessionaire will be required to have an American Red Cross certified lifeguard on duty at all times during operational hours.
- Permit must be on-hand at site(s) to resolve possible use conflicts/questions,
- The conditions of this permit are subject to changes, revocations or cancellation,
- The concessionaire will be required to post and/or inform all users of the rules,
- Class 3 flotation devices must be worn at all times,
- Park/facility will remain open to the public,
- Paddle Boat users are prohibited from going beyond floating signed areas as identified on the attached map in yellow highlight [note: not attached with this report]. It will be the responsibility of (the concessionaire) to provide, install and replace the signage as necessary,
- Paddle boaters may use the restricted area, located south/southeast of the paddle boat launching area, only if no one is fishing in this area, from land or any type of water craft,
- Concessionaire will be required to remove all boats, weights, and equipment from the site or the bottom of the lake on a daily basis,
- No standing in the boat or transferring from one craft to another,
- No harassing or feeding of water fowl,
- Users may be denied use if, in the opinion of the concessionaire, they are not able to reach and operate the foot paddles efficiently,
- The concessionaire reserves the right to refuse service to anyone,
- Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a responsible person,
- The concessionaire will provide each paddle boat with a litter bag and inform all users to place litter in the bag,
- Paddle boats must be numbered in such a manner to identify the particular craft and/or user,
- During the hours of operation, a cell phone will be available in the event that the Municipality of Anchorage or the public may need to contact the proprietor/operators,
- The concessionaire will be required to develop and implement an Enforcement Policy. A copy of the enforcement policy shall be provided as updates occur,
- No overnight camping (overnight security watches permitted),
- No disturbing nesting areas. Landing on the island only allowed during clean-up,
- Gate to be locked at all times,
- Signage to be taken down at the end of the day,
- No alcoholic beverages allowed,
- Concessionaire responsible for clean-up of the immediate area,

Appendix B - Paddleboat Concession

Figure 13 - Paddleboat Exclusion Zones



-  Existing No-Paddleboating Zone
-  Proposed Additional No-Paddleboating Zone
-  No-Paddleboating Zone When Users Fishing



Appendix B - Paddleboat Concession

- User group will be required to have insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000. General liability, naming the Municipality of Anchorage as the additional insured,
- (Concessionaire) will collect all fees and charges for rentals and sales and will be responsible for all accounting and securing of revenue,
- (Concessionaire) shall maintain such books, records and accounts of rentals and Sales. Municipality of Anchorage shall have the right at any reasonable time to examine and audit all books, records and accounts.
- Signs advertising the event are okay, but must be taken down at the end of the day,
- No driving or parking vehicles over municipal land, except for loading/unloading purposes,
- Concessionaire responsible for additional needs,
- Concessionaire aware of refund or transfers policy,
- If necessary, concessionaire responsible for obtaining noise permits,
- Weights used to anchor the submerged buoys must be retrieved at the end of the season,
- Any violation of permit provisions could result in revocation of the permit,
- Concessionaire will be required to have a designated person (minimum one) to perform no other duties except to watch/observe participants who are in trouble and provide assistance and/or safe rescue,
- Concessionaire will have knowledge of participants' water/swimming skills and comfort level before they participate.

Additional Recommendations Made by this report:

- The area of paddleboating should be limited to: 1) users must remain within sight of the landing/launching area, 2) users must not boat within thirty feet of the shore (except at landing/launching area), and 3) users must not paddleboat in the far northeast of the lake (this and all recommended no-paddleboat zones are clarified in **Figure 13**). It will be the responsibility of the concessionaire to provide, maintain and replace the signage as necessary.

Cheney Lake Park

MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Background Report November 2002



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2002 Background Report

1) Executive Summary

In 1982, the Municipality of Anchorage created a Master Plan for Cheney Lake Park. In the twenty years since, the park has changed modestly, and in order to provide for future development and management of the park, the Municipality of Anchorage secured the services of Land Design North to produce an updated Cheney Lake Park Master Plan. This background report presents and summarizes the information gathered prior to the development of a final master plan.

The master plan process has gathered a substantial amount of information to date. Initially, information was accumulated in as much of a non-biased manner as possible, from existing documentation and site inventory and analysis. Then, the community was consulted through a Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting, followed by a larger public consultation meeting. The CAG group provided refinement of the information gathered by the consultants, in addition to identifying new issues, and providing some insight into priorities. The public consultation meeting provided a larger group of responses for determining what the concerns, needs and desires of the community are in relation to the park and its future. This background report presents a synopsis of the information discovered throughout this 'background' stage of the master plan process.

The phase into which this report now feeds is the development

of a master plan for the park. The process for this will be the presentation of a variety of conceptual options to the public for further discussion and refinement, and then the condensation of these ideas into a final master plan. For the master plan, public ideas and concerns will be weighed against what is considered to be best design practice, what is feasible, and which compromises are equitable to the concerns of the community. The final product will be a synthesis of appropriate design ideas within a framework of community consensus, which will provide park development options to bring the park through the next twenty years.

2) Introduction

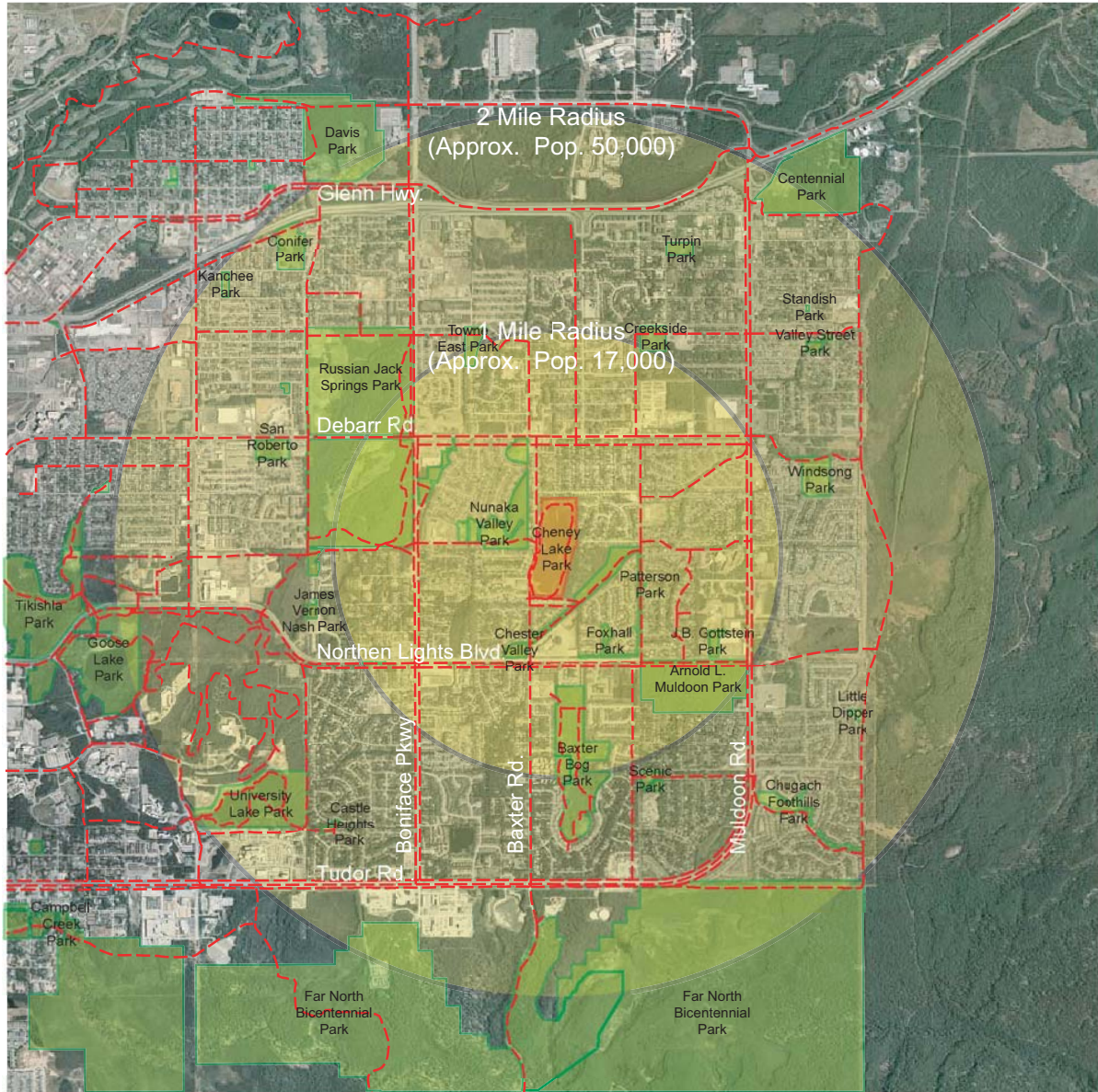
Cheney Lake Park is located in east Anchorage, approximately 5 miles from the central business district. It is a forty-five acre park, thirty-four acres of which are water surface. The park is located east of Baxter/Beaver Road, south of East 16th Avenue, north of Colgate Drive and west of the end of Foothill Drive (**Figure 1**). Single and multi-family residential units surround the park.

Cheney Lake is a former gravel extraction site that (since closure in the 1960's) has been inundated with water from ground fed springs, precipitation and storm drainage and run-off from approximately 100 acres of residential land. Historic lake elevations have been generally around 207 feet above mean sea level (MSL) (Montgomery Watson, 1998), but had risen to between 209 and 210 ft. MSL as of 1998. Road and drainage

Large Urban parks are designed to serve residents from several communities. These parks, which are generally over 100 acres in size, should have a mixture of natural beauty and developed facilities. Extensive wooded areas are often part of large urban parks, lending a sense of the natural landscape to the urban setting. The parks are located within a thirty minute drive of most city residents. Developed facilities are usually those which take advantage of the beauty, terrain and water bodies of the park. The types of facilities often found in large urban parks include Community parks provide space for those recreational activities which typically cannot be accommodated within a neighborhood park. These parks, which are usually 20 to 100 acres in size, also provide the opportunity for contact with the natural environment by preserving such features as woodlands and waterways. They serve several neighborhoods on a year-round basis. Some community parks share joint use of junior and senior high school outdoor recreational facilities. Neighborhood parks can be designed as a portion of community park space. Physical features commonly found in community parks include: nis facilities; multi-purpose courts (for example, a court for basketball, volleyball and handball); natural open space; and off-street parking. (Municipality of Anchorage, 1985, pp.10)

Community parks should be located and designed to serve several neighborhoods. Such parks are often designed to take advantage of such natural features as lakes, stream courses and views. However, community parks are usually designed for intensive development of sports facilities, including tennis

Figure 1 - Regional Context



--- Trail



courts, soccer fields, basketball courts, softball fields and baseball fields. In addition to those types of areas, there should be places for a variety of free time activities ranging from kite flying to Frisbee tossing. Some space should be set aside for more passive recreational activities, such as picnicking, walking and enjoying natural surroundings.

Such parks should be found within

a one to two mile radius of most Anchorage homes. This would provide an adequate distribution whereby a drive to such a park would not involve going entirely across town. In general, a size of 25 acres or more is viewed as desirable for a community park. The standard for the number of acres per population for community parks varies from one city to another. The National Recreation and Park Association suggested a standard

of 2.5 acres per 1,000 persons in 1972. The standard was adopted by Anchorage in the mid-1970's. Note: The 1983 NRPA standard suggested for community parks is 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 people; however, the neighborhood park standard which was suggested was reduced from 2.5 acres per 1,000 to 1 to 2 acres per 1,000 persons.

2002 Background Report

improvements returned this level to where it now stands at 207 ft. MSL. The maximum depth is believed to occur at an elevation of approximately 192 ft. MSL.

Within the 1985 Anchorage Parks, Greenbelt and Recreation Facility Plan document, Cheney Lake Park is referred to as a both a Community Park and a Large Urban Park (Large Urban Park within the Parkland Inventory and a Community Park within the context of the Muldoon Park Planning Area). According to further definition, residents of Anchorage should have a Community Park within one to two miles of their residence. Cheney Lake Park serves between 17,000 and 50,000 residents within this one to two mile coverage (**Figure 1**). Four main community councils exist within this outer two-mile radius: Muldoon, Scenic Park, University and Russian Jack, with fractional coverage of Airport Heights and Mountain View.

Cheney Lake Park is well connected to adjacent neighborhoods, and into the larger matrix of Anchorage parks and trails. Local park connections include formal paths and entrances, as well as more informal access from people's yards. The main off-street trail connection is to the west through Nunaka Valley Park, and there are numerous on-street connections to the north, south, and west. The other close connection to off-street trails is via Chester Creek to the south of Cheney Lake Park.

While designated as a Community Park with a mandate of serving a significant portion of

Anchorage's population, it needs to be recognized that Cheney Lake Park is considered to be a neighborhood park by local residents.

Existing facilities consist of a parking lot adjacent to Beaver/Baxter Road, a children's play area in the southwest of the site, park information kiosk, benches, and numerous types of paths (multi-use gravel paths to small compacted dirt trails).

3) Public Process

The update to the Cheney Lake Community Park Master Plan has provided an open public forum that includes the following processes through final Master Plan adoption:

- Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) organized from all areas served by Cheney Lake Community Park with two meetings to help identify issues and evaluate opportunities.
- Public Open Houses to gather information and ideas for development - two formal meetings
- Presentation and recommendations by the NECC and their park user group
- Presentation and recommendations by the MOA Parks and Recreation Commission, open to the public.
- Presentation and recommendations by the Urban Design Commission, open to the public.
- Final adoption by the Planning and Zoning Commission through public hearing.

4) Previous Documents

a) *Cheney Lake Park Master Plan – January 1982*

This previous creation of a Master Plan for Cheney Lake Park followed a typical process of site analysis, development of a use program, local government and community consultation and synthesis into a concept master plan for the park.

The main concerns of the original site analysis were the noise and hazardous conditions relating to the narrow separation of the western edge of the lake to the road, and the minimal vegetation coverage for the northern edge of the site. At the time, the synopsis of previous public comments on the park stated that the community is "interested in developing trails, picnic and swimming areas, shoreline improvements and parking. Additional citizen input from the community council suggested the inclusion of a warm-up hut, covered picnic shelter and lighting for the trails around the shoreline."

In response to some of these desires, it was stated that a swimming beach was not proposed due to unacceptable water quality conditions. The program did not provide for fishing, boating and waterfowl viewing for similar water quality concerns, focusing rather on non-water related activities¹.

Within the 1982 report, it was stated that "the Parks, Recreation and Open space: Standards, Policies and Guidelines for Development

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for the Greater Anchorage Area describes the goals of a community park as being a place which enables citizens of all ages to observe nature and engage in group, as well as individual, formal as well as informal recreation in a nearby location, while preserving the open space.”

The report concluded with the following site recommendations for Cheney Lake Park: tot lots, shelter and picnic areas, a dock, a warm-up hut, additional parking, a waterfowl island, and paved, lighted trails with an overlook and interpretive boardwalk.

b) Water Quality Monitoring Report – 1998

The intent of this report was to provide background information for the upgrade of Baxter Road and Beaver Place to modern collector standards as established in MOA planning documents. The recommended upgrades included drainage changes that involved rerouting flows into and discharges out of Cheney Lake into the municipal storm drain system. Baseline water conditions were determined for Cheney Lake and Chester Creek to aid in the determination of whether the improvements would have a negative affect on the water quality of any receiving waters.

Drainage improvements were initiated to remediate the following issues for Baxter Road/ Beaver Place:

- intermittent road and pathway flooding,
- drainage system

- maintenance problems, deteriorating storm drain piping associated with high water table in the vicinity of the lake, and
- lack of water quality treatment options due to insufficient elevation differentials

The final drainage recommendations were:

- construct an outlet control for the lake to re-establish historic flows from Cheney Lake towards Chester Creek
- reroute approximately 90% of the storm water currently entering Cheney Lake through the existing outfall near Gill Way (from Basin No.1) to a proposed outfall to be constructed at the north end of the lake near 16th Avenue, and
- provide stormwater treatment at the new 16th Avenue outfall prior to water entering the lake

Sampling of water quality produced the following results that did not conform to water quality standards:

- fecal coliform concentrations exceeded water quality standards from early June through September (based on 30-day average concentrations),
- dissolved oxygen was below water quality standards for one occasion in early July,
- lead exceeded the standard during one occurrence in September, and
- copper, iron and zinc also

exceeded water quality standards. Sampling locations for these were adjacent to the stormwater outfall/inlet and near the lake bottom.

The overall conclusions of the report were that the water quality of discharges to Cheney Lake was not expected to vary significantly from the current conditions. Significant releases of water from Cheney Lake to Chester Creek to re-establish lake level must be made under conditions that will ensure water quality standards are not exceeded. Minor summer releases for on-going lake level maintenance do not appear to cause exceedances to water quality criteria.

c) Anchorage 2020

For information regarding how the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan relates to Cheney Lake Park, see Appendix A.

Footnote:

¹ It should be noted that the support for making this decision is unknown, and any similar application of water quality concerns to determining park usage would need to be further studied

5) Synopsis of Park Changes since 1982 Master Plan and 1998 Water Quality Monitoring Report

In the twenty years since the 1982 Master Plan was written, the site has changed substantially in character, due to natural process and human development. The major

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changes have been a substantial revegetation of the northern part of the site, the grading of the eastern peninsula to create a habitat island, development of a children's play area in the southwestern corner of the site, the installation of multi-purpose

pedestrian paths along the western side of the site, storm sewer improvements (detention basin, treatment swales and a submerged drainage structure) and the purchase of a housing lot in the northwest of the site to allow for stormwater right

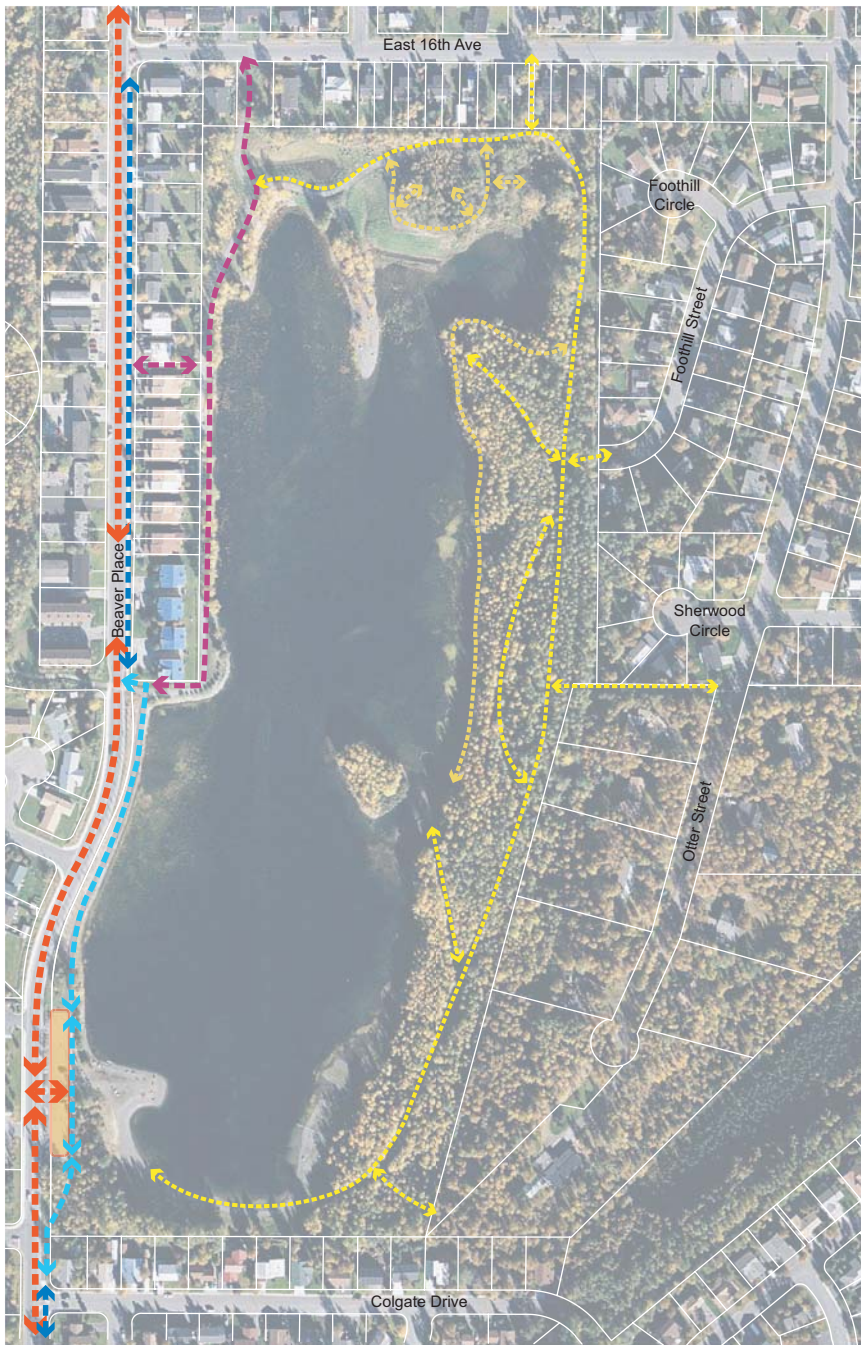
of way into the site as well as circulation improvement. Pathway developments include a paved asphalt path along the western edge of the lake and an internal gravel pathway from this asphalt path to 16th Avenue. Temporary measures were the installation of fencing along the shoreline to allow for habitat regeneration by limiting access. These chain link fences are to be removed in 2003. (The above listing includes the changes implemented for the improvements to Baxter Road/Beaver Place)

6) 2002 Site Analysis

a) Site Access (Figure 2)

Dedicated vehicular access to the site is via the parking lot adjacent to Baxter Road/Beaver place. On-street parking on adjacent neighborhood streets also provides for access to the site. Non-vehicular access to the site includes access to the asphalt pathway from Baxter Road/Beaver Place, with a regional off-street connection to the Anchorage trail system through Nunaka Valley Park to the west, and connections within the vehicle corridor to the south and north. Access to the gravel pathway is via East 17th Ave east of the Beaver Place intersection. Several walk easements provide access to the dirt path network to the north and east of the site, in addition to private access from residential lots through backyard gates.

Vehicular access to the interior of the site is via a gated entry from the parking lot.



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Figure 2 - SITE CIRCULATION



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b) Site and Vegetation Quality (Figure 3)

Numerous areas on the site are currently in an eroded state, and others in conditions that are prone to further or new erosion. The majority of erosion is due to steep bank conditions along the west of the site, and in areas where the shoreline is less steep, but subject to heavy usage. If kept in a vegetated state, these steeper areas would not be subject to such erosion, but due to usage, and potential difficulty in establishing vegetative coverage, are currently eroded.

Vegetative quality can be divided into overstorey and understorey. In general, larger trees are healthy and show few signs of stress or impact from park usage. On the western and southern edges of the park, where usage is higher, the understorey suffers, or is nonexistent where worn away. The northern edge of the site is still regenerating, especially in areas recovering from the construction of the stormwater improvements. The eastern edge of the site has habitat of high quality, with both overstorey and understorey existing in a healthy condition. The northern part of the lake shows varying levels of vegetation quality along the water's edge and within the water. There are signs of aquatic growth, but these seem to have been seasonally dependent, with peak densities in the middle of the summer. Emergent vegetation ranges from wetland areas of good quality, to lower quality areas of developing wetland. With

recent reduction in water levels, emergent vegetation may still be adjusting to a lower water level.

c) Buffer Zones (Figures 3&4)

In general, a vegetative buffer separates park uses

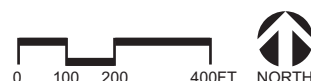
from adjacent residential development. The exception to this is along the entire western edge of the park. A minimal buffer separates Baxter Road/ Beaver Place from the park, and no buffer exists between residential property lines and



CHENEY LAKE PARK MASTER PLAN

Figure 3 - HABITAT, SITE USAGE AND BUFFERS

- █ Areas Lacking Buffer Between Private/Public
- █ Areas of Relatively High Quality Habitat
- █ Areas of High Habitat Quality (undisturbed)
- █ Areas of High Public Usage



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the gravel path along the western edge of the site (for approximately 900 ft.).

The only area where a significant buffer exists between wildlife habitat and human usage is for the waterfowl island, where a

stretch of water lies between it and the shore. Signage is present at one area in the southeast corner that requests people avoid nesting areas.

d) Usage (Figures 4&5)

The southwestern edge of the

park contains the majority of the site's amenities (parking area, playground and active recreation open space). A high level of usage is made evident by areas of erosion and vegetative loss (southwest and western edges). The remainder of the site appears to receive a much lower level of public usage (evidenced by very minor erosion or other damage).

7) Community Consultation

a) Community Advisory Group (CAG)

A Community Advisory Group (CAG) was formed for the master plan effort. The list of CAG participants is included in Appendix B as part of meeting minutes. During initial information acquisition, the CAG was consulted to verify the accuracy of background information and the site analysis. The complete comments from the CAG meeting are given in Appendix B, with a summary given below:

The general consensus of the group was that Cheney Lake Park is a natural area that should provide recreational activities that are passive in nature and are centered around the enjoyment of the natural Alaskan landscape.

The plan should have three key components that include:

- Biological Values – sound science regarding the lake, habitat, and wildlife,
- Recreational Values – quiet passive enjoyment, interpretation and aesthetics that focus on restorative and therapeutic



CHENEY LAKE PARK MASTER PLAN

Figure 4 - GENERAL SITE ANALYSIS



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values, and

- Political Advocacy – local community government with connections to larger park system.

The following is a grouping of the key issues and concerns raised by the CAG:

i) General Park Concepts

- Park should be natural, without much additional development
- Park should be for passive uses, all seasons

ii) Biological Issue

- Lake quality has been reduced since lowering of lake level
- Studies are needed to examine the health of the lake and what can be done to remediate problems such as algal blooms, increased aquatic plants, etc...
- There are noticeably fewer birds within the park, water fowl in particular
- Options for the removal of the Pike population need to be examined
- Desire to look at an ecosystem approach to planning
- Protect sensitive areas

iii) Circulation / Transportation

- Soft dirt trails are preferred over gravel trails
- There are concerns with the new gravel path on the west of the site, mostly regarding aggregate size and compaction, and how it affects comfort of access

iv) Neighborhood Related Issues and Concerns

- Adopt a park – potential for community to help with park maintenance

- Great concern with paddle boats and/or summer concessions
- A desire for no permanent structures
- Concern with vandalism by local youth including cutting of trees and brush, some small

- fires, litter and trash
- Noise
- Obstruction of views by vegetation in the park



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Figure 5 - SITE EROSION

Existing and Potential Areas of Erosion



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v) Specific Opportunities

- Benches to sit on and look at nature, not in view of residents
- Potential for permanent restrooms or screening of portable toilets
- Issue of how to limit access to the shoreline in an aesthetic manner
- Interpretive options
- Signage for the area needs to be unified
- Examination of playground areas for safety standards

vi) Safety

- Safety of various slopes on the site
- Safety issues in regards to design of rock reinforcement of shoreline on west
- Gravel paths

b) Community Advisory Group (CAG) Site Walk

To supplement the meeting with the CAG, the CAG was invited to walk the site with the consultants. A synopsis of issues, discussion and further analysis is given below:

i) Parking Area:

- Approximate size is 42'x336' (approx. room for 33 vehicles)
- 5 garbage cans
- Portable toilet exists at the south end of the parking area (note: this was removed later in the season)
- Opportunity for increased screening on western boundary

ii) Playground Area:

- The playground equipment and area are in need of minor repairs, reconfigurations or upgrades.

iii) Gravel Shore Area to South:

- Area has 1 garbage can, 5 benches (embedded), 2 picnic tables, information kiosk, life jacket station, and signage.
- Needs to be treated to reduce/control erosion
- Opportunity for boardwalk area. Boardwalk can help limit/control access to shoreline, and subsequent erosion
- Integration of planting into any boardwalk/development
- Opportunity to create zones or nodes of activity
- Need a defined palette of site furniture
- Lighting is adequate (but foundations are unsightly and substantially above grade)
- Increase area of cleared ice for skating
- Utilize ornamental plantings to add color
- Opportunity for better connection between playground area and shore area

iv) Western Shore by Road:

- Insufficient buffer between path and road, planting could increase comfort level

v) Area at South of Condominiums:

- Question as to quantity and quality of water discharged by storm outlet
- Opportunity for creating a node within this area. Seating/contemplation area in addition to water access (particularly winter access to ice)
- Need to examine planting types here in relation to screening desires
- Appropriateness of large rock riprap on shoreline

vi) Area East of Condominiums:

- Path surface material, width, and adjacency to property lines
- Insufficient buffer between path and properties
- Issues of homeowner impact on plantings
- Issues of park user impact on homeowners
- Areas of desired access to water are now steep, with access difficulty and erosion issues.

vii) Northwest Area

- Several areas identified as appropriate for user nodes
- Aesthetics of stormwater area were in question, but residents said it looks good now. It appears to be well designed and functional.
- Pine plantings are dead or dying (appears to be wet area)
- Area is in the process of recovering from construction of stormwater improvements
- Area is used as a play area with rough bike loops.

viii) Gravel Peninsula:

- Little understorey (most likely due to substrate)
- Good views from this location

ix) Northeast and East:

- Users say that shoreline habitat is recovering, beginning to resemble prior conditions.
- Large increase in aquatic plant life which is aesthetically unpleasant (northeast in particular)
- Concerns about vegetation removal to expand trail widths

x) Southern End:

- Opportunity to reduce the amount of open space, reduce amount of eroded shoreline

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- Plantings and shoreline treatment

xi) Overall Comments:

- Quantity and diversity of birds is perceived to be reduced. Previously, loons were on the lake. More families of grebes were present. Duck species have changed. Reduction in the number of geese using the lake. Apparent explanation is reduction in the level of the lake, potentially exacerbated by weather conditions.
- Birch trees on the site are having a difficult year (potential pest damage)
- Concern with location of any facilities adjacent to houses on west side of site
- Potential concern with restocking lake with game species, and subsequent increase in park users resulting in shoreline erosion
- Concern with potential increased presence of paddleboat concessionaire
- Signage and site furnishings

c) Public Meeting

A public meeting was held to receive public comment on the park, and the desired direction for its future use. The format of the meeting was an open house where people were given questionnaires, exhibits to look at, and maps on which to express some of their ideas visually.

The overall things about the park that people liked were: having a piece of wilderness within the city, a place of privacy and solitude, the views within the park and to the mountains, the lack of development, a variety of trails, fishing, the presence

of wildlife, quiet, a variety of potential activities, and the playground area.

The overall things about the park that people disliked were: the current water condition, the idea of further development of the park, trail conditions (roots, narrowness, muddy), rock shoreline, lack of skating maintenance, Northern Pike in lake, paddle boating, trash, dog issues (feces and off-leash), traffic on Baxter/Beaver, after-hours use of parking lot, placement and aesthetics of signage, separation between residential units on west and the park, chain-link fencing on east side, people disturbing wildlife, and the unattractive gravel shoreline in areas.

Overall, the responses to the questionnaire were positive, with people illustrating strong concern about the future of their park. The most common theme within comments was the desire for a place of “simple, quiet beauty”. The majority of people felt that the park was already a wonderful place to recreate, but some issues did merit further mention:

i) Lake Level and Water Quality

A number of people commented on the negative change in water quality for the lake. This included an increase in aquatic plant growth, odor issues, and an apparent decrease in bird usage of the lake. Other people did express that the reduction in lake level has produced a decrease in residential flooding, and issues with drainage of the road.

ii) Pedestrian Access

Opinions were mixed in regards to the effectiveness of the gravel path at the west of the site. Some people desired gravel or wood chip surfacing of the other main paths in the park, and there seemed to be overall consensus on examining the improvement of path drainage in areas where it becomes overly wet or muddy. Access from Otter and Sherwood was mentioned as needing to be made safer, and winter access from 16th was noted as being difficult in the winter due to snow piles.

iii) Facilities

Comments on facilities were limited to low impact ideas (benches, trash cans, trail improvements) for the majority of the park, with more development ideas for areas already seeing user impacts (restroom facilities or port-o-potty screening, upgraded play equipment, a small dock, winter warming hut, bicycle rack, etc), generally around the peninsula to the north, and the southern gravel beach area (with the majority of desired development in the south).

iv) Paddleboats

Opinions were split regarding paddleboats. Any implementation of paddleboats would have to be examined in regards to areas of exclusion, number of boats, hours of operation, et cetera. The alternative of canoe/kayak rentals was mentioned.

v) Parking area

The parking area was almost unanimously considered to be adequate for the park. Comments suggested usage of

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neighboring parking areas (local church) for potential overflow needs.

fishing, boating (canoe, kayak, raft and paddleboat), watching wildlife, playing and picnicking.

vi) General activities

The following uses for the park were listed: viewing, bicycling, skiing, running, walking, skating,

In addition to the questionnaire, people were asked to identify various areas on two maps by placing dots on them. The

first map (**Figure 6**) was used to determine areas where passive and active recreation was recommended to occur by the community. The intent of this map was to determine which areas might require more activity-associated development. The assumption is that areas indicated as areas of active use would lend themselves to development such as boardwalks, structures, and recreational equipment, whereas areas of passive recreation would be more low impact items such as trail improvements, benches, trash receptacles and signage, utilized sparsely where their placement would be maximized.

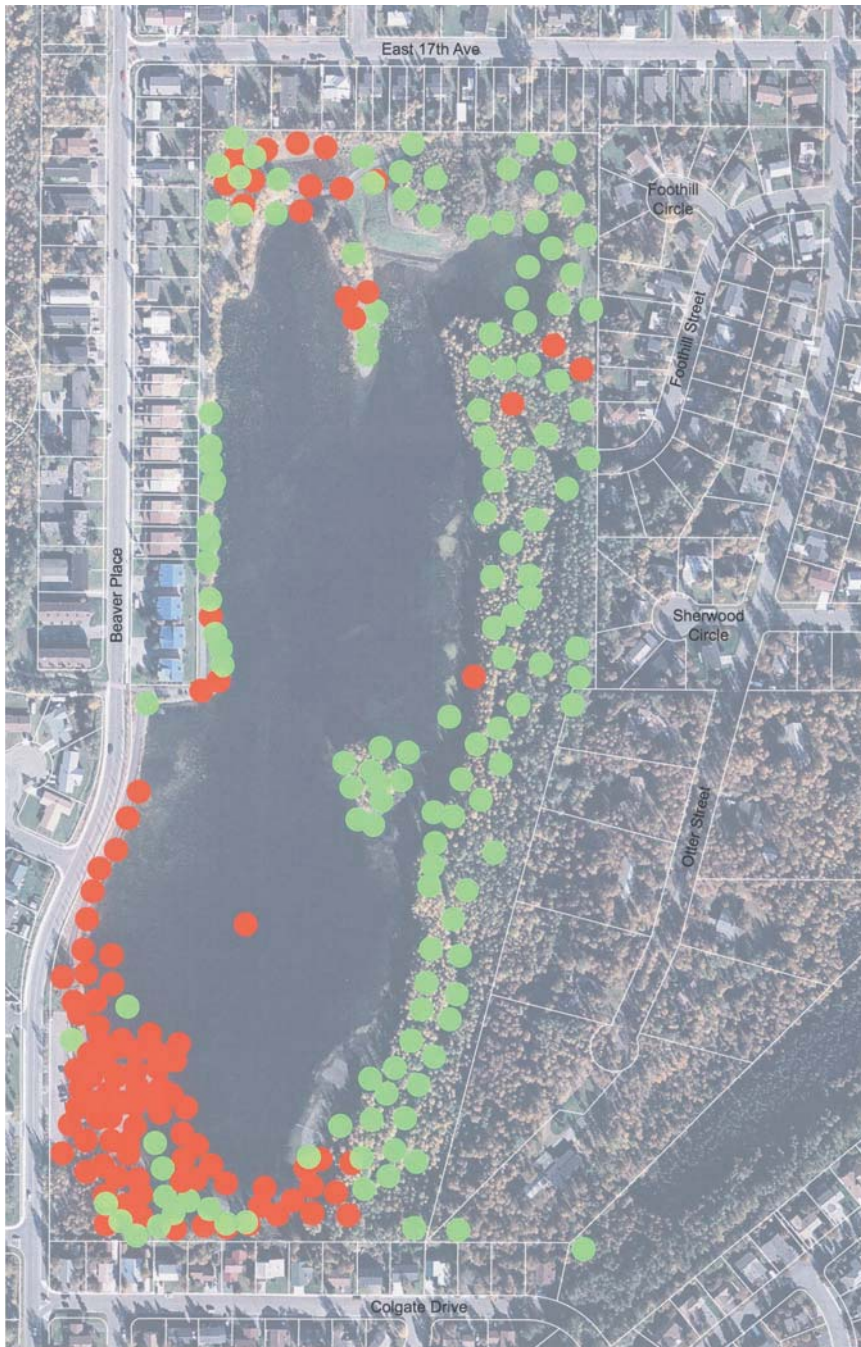
The second map (**Figure 7**) was used to determine areas where the community did not want to see any further development, and also those areas where development in general, or a specific kind was desired (specific indication of use being written onto the dot used). The assumption was similar to the recreation map, in that areas without development might still be suitable for low impact items. The placement of the yellow 'development' dots, was also used to elicit input on the types of development people would like to see, and where.

Complete survey results are given in Appendix C.

8) Expert Communication

a) Fish and Game – Fish Population

The intent is to remove the Northern Pike population from



CHENEY LAKE PARK MASTER PLAN

Figure 6 - DESIRED RECREATION AND RESULTANT FACILITY

- Area of Active Recreation (i.e. Requiring Higher Level of Facilities)
- Area of Passive Recreation (i.e. Requiring Lower Level of Facilities)



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Cheney Lake. Fish and Game is currently examining which method is to be used for the removal of the fish. Once the pike are removed, game species can be stocked the following year. Traditionally in Anchorage, Rainbow Trout are stocked in the summer, and Chinook Salmon are stocked for ice fishing. There is some survival between years, but the fish are stocked at a 'catchable' size, generally around 8". As to the effects of pike removal on aquatic plant growth, there should be no effect from either their removal, or the introduction of trout or salmon.

the adjacent Beaver/Baxter road, and to reduce the effects of a high water table on residential flooding. The post-project lake level was based upon the highest level that the lake could be before water would begin backing

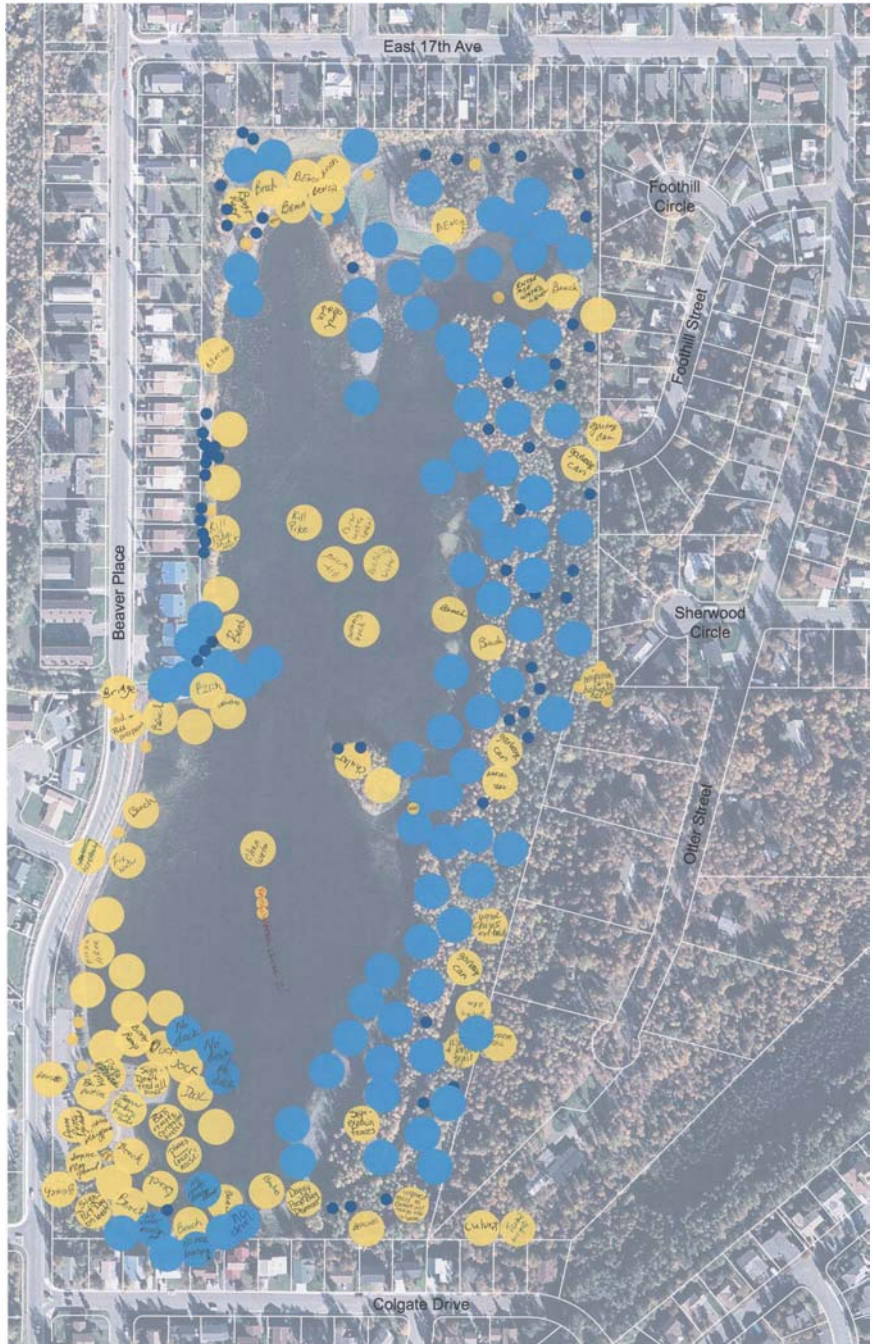
into the culvert adjacent to the Beaver pedestrian crossing on the western boundary of the site. The original intent of the City was to let the system reach an equilibrium after the road and stormwater work, and then potentially experiment with

b) Fish and Wildlife – Habitat

Prior to lake lowering, the amount of vegetation existing close to the lake was the best deterrent to trampling and erosion of the shoreline. The major habitat concern with the lowering of Cheney Lake was that it would create a band around the lake where there was no vegetation, and thus provide easy access to this zone. Without access limitation, vegetation might not have the chance to establish in this area, reducing the amount of shoreline habitat. Since lowering, the combination of fencing some areas, and reduced shoreline usage due to loss of fish stocks, has allowed the shoreline to begin to regenerate. It is assumed that if the vegetation is allowed to establish, shoreline habitat quality will be restored to pre-lowering quality and extent.

c) Public Works

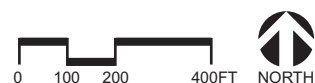
The original intent behind the lowering of the lake level was to solve drainage issues for



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Figure 7 - DEVELOPMENT AREAS

- Area of Desired Potential Development
- Area of Desired Non-Development



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raising the lake level. The lake level could theoretically be raised until issues began to arise again, in order to find the maximum feasible lake level. Drainage for the lake would then be adjusted to maintain the lake close to this level, as long as issues did not arise.

d) Division of Governmental Coordination

Permitting for any improvements in Cheney Lake Park that occur within an area below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) need to be evaluated in regards to the permitting they will require. Depending upon the type of work to be done, there are various cut-off levels that determine the extent of permitting required. These generally involve such information as the number of cubic yards of material to be placed within the OHWM, or other quantifiable impacts to be made. (i.e. bank stabilization activity is less than 500 feet in length, the activity will not exceed an average of one cubic yard per running foot placed along the bank below the plane of the OHWM, and no material is placed in any special aquatic site, including wetlands)

Examples of potentially applicable permits:

- ACOE Nationwide Permits -- 12. Bank Stabilization
- ACOE Nationwide Permits -- 42. Recreational facilities
- General Concurrence GC-37 -- Bank Restoration and Protection
- General Concurrence GC-38 -- Ladders and Steps in Rivers, Lakes and Streams
- General Concurrence GP-93-10 to 93-14 -- Anchorage

Wetlands Management Plan

e) Loon Correspondence

Changes in lake level do affect loons in that they physiologically have a difficult time walking, and thus prefer to have their nests on the edge of a water body, but, loons do exist on water bodies such as reservoirs where water levels can fluctuate substantially. The more important issue in regards to the presence of loons on Cheney Lake may be the food supply. The 8" game fish that are normally stocked into the lake would be ideal for adult loons. If Northern Pike have out competed Rainbow Trout, there may not be an appreciable food supply. As to whether the loons that have been seen historically on Cheney Lake were brooding on the lake, it is unknown, but expert opinion is perhaps that they were feeding on the lake, with nesting elsewhere. Loons do nest in urban areas, but nesting success decreases with disturbance. Another factor in their disappearance from the lake may be that loons have an approximately 15-year existence on lakes, which may have coincidentally coincided with lake level lowering.

f) Playground Area

As part of the Master Plan process, a certified playground inspector (NPSI Certified) did a cursory examination of the playground, and while not doing an official playground audit, made notes of potential issues. The playground area is in need of minor repairs, reconfiguration and/or upgrade. Fall zones do not meet current playground safety requirements, equipment finishes are wearing poorly in

numerous places (exposing wood on some pieces), expanded steel floor panels have broken (exposing steel edges), sand moving apparatus have cables with enough slack for potential entanglement, sand transfer tubing has been broken, a steel roof panel is distorted, and minor vandalism has marred several surfaces.

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Appendix A - Anchorage 2020 Summary

ANCHORAGE 2020 ANCHORAGE BOWL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Issues and statements regarding parks, recreation and open space as relevant to Cheney Lake Park

Natural Setting (introduction, page vii)

Anchorage residents have an experience of city life in the wilderness that no other American metropolitan area can match. Several thousand acres of municipal greenbelts and parkland link settled areas with surrounding natural open space and wildlife habitat in Chugach State Park (the second largest state park in the country) and the 50-square-mile Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. All of these natural features endow Anchorage with a distinctive sense of place at both the neighborhood and citywide scale. This sense of place is imprinted on community lifestyles and attitudes, and is embodied in existing land use and activity patterns.

The Anchorage Bowl contains numerous small lakes and streams, wetlands, and wooded foothills which create local topographic variety and visual interest. The northern boreal forest survives in stands of birch, aspen, and spruce throughout the city.

Anchorage residents enjoy views of an unspoiled coast and distant mountains to the west. The Chugach Mountains rise as high as 5,000

feet a short distance to the east. Mount McKinley, North America's tallest peak, lies 160 miles to the north and is often visible from Anchorage. Long summer days and long winter nights mark the seasonal extremes. Northern Lights often paint the winter night sky.

FAQ (page 5)

Does this Plan protect Anchorage's natural areas and open space?

During the plan development process, citizens identified the protection of natural areas and open space as a high priority. The Plan recommends several action strategies to protect these areas. Further public involvement and financial commitment will be necessary to acquire and preserve additional public open space.

Anchorage 2020-A New Direction (page 9)

Better design standards can raise the quality of development. A strong commitment to protect natural open spaces and critical wildlife habitats will maintain the quality of the natural environment.

Parks, Trails, and Recreation Development (Chapt 2, page 21)

Anchorage's trails, parks, and recreational facilities are major community assets. The extensive trail system attracts both residents and visitor and is currently ranked second in the nation.

Based on responses to the survey, the most important attributes about Anchorage were

- its: (Chapt 3, page 37)
Natural beauty and setting
Trails/parks/greenbelts/open space
Outdoor and recreational opportunities
Cultural facilities & events
Accessibility to the wilderness
Small-town feel with big-city amenities
Friendly, caring people
Beautification/city of lights and flowers
Educational facilities and programs
Economic development/employment opportunities

Design & Environment (page 38)

- Neighborhood Identity and Vitality: A variety of safe, pleasant, and distinctive neighborhoods responsive to the diverse needs of residents, with good access to schools, recreation, natural areas, and community facilities.
Harmony with Nature: An urban place that develops in harmony with its natural setting and is mindful of its natural hazards.
Natural Open Spaces: A network of natural open spaces throughout the community that preserves and enhances Anchorage's scenic vistas, fish, wildlife, and plant habitats and their ecological functions and values.
Water Resources: Water resources and watersheds that are protected and enhanced for their enduring viability and values.
Wetlands: A system of wetlands with functions and values that are preserved and enhanced.
Wildlife: A wide diversity of fish, wildlife and habitats throughout the Municipality that thrives and

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flourishes in harmony with the community.

Urban Wildlife (page 62)

A unique feature of Anchorage is its flourishing populations, of moose, bears, and other mammals usually associated with wilderness areas. Anchorage’s natural setting and its connection to wildlife are highly valued by residents. As a result, both items are significant components of Anchorage 2020.

As urban development increases, there is also an increase in human-wildlife conflicts. These clashes include damage to trees and gardens, traffic accidents and near accidents, and occasional life-threatening situations. Anchorage residents are concerned about these conflicts, but are adamant that wildlife should continue to be permitted to coexist in our urban environment. For the first time, Anchorage’s Comprehensive Plan formally identifies the significance of urban wildlife and recommends implementation strategies to protect and enhance wildlife populations.

While Anchorage 2020 includes an urban wildlife component, wildlife management is the responsibility of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This distinction is recognized in Anchorage 2020 and the separation of management and habitat protection measures is clearly followed. Through a cooperative effort with other agencies, the State adopted an urban wildlife management plan, *Living with Wildlife*.

The Municipality’s efforts focus on habitat protection and design

issues related to wildlife and the reduction of wildlife conflicts. The State addresses wildlife populations, their sustainability, and the minimization of conflicts. The State addresses wildlife populations, their sustainability, and the minimization of conflicts. Both wildlife planning elements are linked and supplement each other.

Planning Principles for Public Facilities and Services (page 66)

Provide parks and sports facilities for a variety of recreational activities in locations that are convenient for users. Promote shared use of community resources, such as schools, recreational and cultural centers, libraries, parks, and churches.

Design & Environment Policies and Strategies (page 81)

Impacts to environmentally fragile areas are minimized. Neighborhoods are connected by the road and trail system and open spaces.

i) Policy #45 (page 82)

Connect local activity centers, such as neighborhood schools and community centers with parks, sports fields, greenbelts, and trails, where feasible.

ii) Policy #50 (page 82)

Healthy, mature trees and forested areas shall be retained as much as possible.

iii) Policy #66 (page 85)

Fish, wildlife, and habitat protection methods shall be addressed in land use planning,

design, and development processes.

- Strategies
- Wildlife Habitat Preservation and Coordination
- Land Clearing, Standards Design for Wildlife
- Natural Open Space Standards
- Wildlife Habitat Standards
- Anchorage Coastal Management Plan

iv) Policy #67 (page 85)

Critical fish and wildlife habitats, high-value wetlands, and riparian corridors shall be protected as natural open spaces, wherever possible.

- Strategies
- Park, Greenbelt and Recreation Facility Plan
- Greenbelt Acquisition Program
- Anchorage Coastal Management Plan
- Wildlife Habitat Preservation and Coordination
- Design for Wildlife
- Conservation Easements
- Natural Open Space Acquisition
- Natural Open Space Standards
- Watershed Planning

v) Policy #68 (page 85)

Water resources and land use planning shall be integrated through the development of watershed plans for Anchorage streams.

- Strategies
- Watershed Planning
- Impervious Surface Mapping
- Storm Water Treatment
- Stream Restoration Projects
- Surface Drainage Management Plan

vi) Policy #69 (page 85)

The municipality shall preserve

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the functions and values of important wetlands, and manage the proper use of low-value wetlands with General Permits, as delineated in the *Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan*.

Strategies
Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan
Wetland Acquisition Priority List
Zoning and Platting Review Process
Watershed Planning
Anchorage Coastal Management

vii) Policy #70 (page 86)

The ecological and drainage functions of Anchorage's aquatic resources shall be protected and, where appropriate, restored.

Strategies
Anchorage Coastal Management Plan
Greenbelt Acquisition Program
Street Maintenance Methods

viii) Policy #71 (Page 86)

Utilize wetlands to manage drainage and improve water quality, where appropriate.

ix) Policy #78 (page 88)

Design municipal facilities frequented by the public, particularly schools, to accommodate year-round multi-purpose activities.

Strategies
Public Facilities Design Standards
Public Focus Centers

x) Policy #86 (page 89)

Encourage public/private collaboration for acquisition, development, and maintenance of recreational spaces, parks,

sports fields, public use facilities, and trails.

Strategies
Public/Private Partnerships
Capital Improvement Program
Process
Park, Greenbelt, and Recreation Facility Plan

Implementation Strategies

i) Design for Wildlife- (page 96)

This strategy responds to the reality that continued development in the Bowl will increasingly impact wildlife and the community must prepare for conflicts. This strategy guides municipal staff to evaluate and, where feasible, modify road, trail, and other facility design standards to incorporate ways of reducing wildlife conflicts. Title 21 could also be modified, such as including a requirement for bear-deterrent trash receptacles on the Hillside.

ii) Public-Private Partnerships- (page 104)

The objective of this strategy is to encourage the public and private sectors to work together to provide cost-effective services and facilities for use by the general public. Possible partnerships include the co-location of public and private facilities within one building; or the use of non-profit organizations to help construct and/or monitor activities at certain facilities, such as sports fields.

iii) Waterbody Setbacks- (page 108)

In order to better manage non-point source water pollution, efforts are needed to enhance non-disturbance setbacks of all waterbodies. Revision of the Land use Regulations (Title 21) and the creation of incentives for landowners are the most likely sources for expanding the setback program. Currently, there are no official lake setbacks, and most creeks carry a 25-foot non-disturbance zone. (Nationwide standards generally cite 100 feet as a minimum distance for effective water quality maintenance.)

iv) Watershed Planning- (page 108)

As an implementation action for this plan and the Municipality's federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, this strategy directs the production of watershed plans for all Anchorage streams. The intent is to link land use decisions with the management of water quantity and quality. Included in these plans will be impervious surface management, floodplain restoration and management, and other watershed specific management elements.

Appendix B – CAG Meeting 1 - Minutes and Summary (Aug. 26/02)

a) Introduction of Citizens Advisory Group

Tom Korosei introduced the planning team of LDN, which included Jeff Dillon, Principal with LDN and Peter Briggs. Members of the CAG introduced themselves (see list below) and their affiliation. Most were

residents of the lake and there were members of the Northeast Community Council.

CAG in Attendance:

Colette Ravinet, Jean Payne, Jack Payne, Shakur-Abdel-Haleem, Yinka Sabree, Jay Brause, Gene Dugan (V.P Cheney Lakeside Homeowners Assoc.), Terry Cummings, Owen Carey, David Nowak, Sheila Selkregg, Norman Hogg, Doris Kirschbaum (No Longer a member as of September 2002)

During the introduction period there were several members who expressed concern with the process to date that included:

- Concerns that lowering of the lake level has contributed to biological degradation and loss of habitat and water fowl
- The introduction of commercial use of the lake has increased congestion and litter while contributing to the loss of bank vegetation and privacy
- That the CAG was an advisory position only and could be a waste of time
- The purpose of the Master Plan for Cheney Lake Park
- That the lake is a “dead lake” with loss of trout due to introduction of pike, loss of wildlife and nesting water fowl due to lowering of the lake, and increased algae and aquatic plant growth – use to have loons
- Reading of excerpts from the Montgomery Watson report regarding lake biology
- Gravel path and rock shoreline – the gravel is hard to walk on and the shoreline is unsafe where one child fell and broke an arm while fishing
- Sediment pond to the north is unsafe with slopes too steep,

standing water and garbage

- Do not want paddle boats
- Kayak not as enjoyable now due to algae and shallow depth
- Loss of scenic qualities of the lake as well as missed opportunities with vistas to mountains – (one focus now is on chain link fences)
- Road project ignored biology report of Montgomery Watson which indicated the lake provided water quality, recreation and wildlife values to the community
- Need to develop a compromise between local neighborhood concerns and greater community use needs

b) Summary CAG Opening Statements:

The group as a whole expressed strong disagreement and dissatisfaction with the results of the road improvement and lake-lowering project. They felt that the biological balance of the lake has been compromised and that key habitat and wildlife values have been compromised.

There was strong sentiment that the lake and surrounding park should focus on nature as much as possible and that the area should not be overdeveloped but maintained in as natural a condition as possible (given the lake started as a gravel pit).

Presentation of Project Approach, Public Involvement and Schedules - Jeff Dillon

Jeff provided a short update on the existing park and how it fits within the larger Anchorage Parks and Open Space System, the public process for the project and the process for development of the Master Plan.

c) Community Park

Within the 1985 Anchorage Parks, Greenbelt and Recreation Facility Plan document, Cheney Lake Park is referred to as both a Community Park and a Large Urban Park (Large Urban Park within the Parkland Inventory and a Community Park within the context of the Muldoon Park Planning Area). According to policy, residents of Anchorage should have a Community Park within one to two miles of their residence. Cheney Lake Park serves between 17,000 and 50,000 residents within this one to two mile coverage. Although Cheney Lake is identified as a community park intended to serve the population of several surrounding neighborhoods it also has the intense focus of local neighborhood values from the immediate surrounding residents.

d) Public Process

Jeff provided an overview of the role of the CAG, which by nature of our local form of government must be advisory in nature. The group is open to anyone who wants to attend. Initial members were selected based on past involvement on Cheney Lake and community related issues. The membership should be expanded to include surrounding Community Councils within the park service area.

The CAG would have two primary purposes, 1) to provide baseline information about use of the lake, and 2) to provide input to the selection of a preferred alternative. The CAG would be advisory in nature only, but help provide the community voice that

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leads to a shared vision. Finally the CAG is the core support and advocacy group that can help steer development forward.

There will be two CAG meetings:

Meeting One (August 26th)
– Background Issues, Concerns, Opportunities and Constraints
– intended to gather information during initial investigations

Meeting two - to provide input regarding plan alternatives (October 2002)

Public Meetings—The high interest exhibited by the public on previous issues regarding Cheney Lake point to the need for public open houses. The meetings will be in an open house format. Notification will go out through public notices in the paper, radio PSA's, door hangers on residents within 500 feet of the park boundary, MOA and/or LDN Web Page, and notice in the Community Council newsletters as time permits.

One at the time of the initial investigation, (Sept. 16, 2002)
One after the development of alternatives, (October 2002)

Northeast Community Council Meetings – Two meetings to act as briefings prior to the actual public meetings. The council meets the third Thursday of the month and the September meeting is full. Given the large number of council members on the CAG it was noted that one of the members could make a short update at the next meeting and request a presentation for the October 17th meeting.

Community Web page – Project

information will be made available to MOA staff for placement on the Municipal Web Page, and/or link to LDN website.

Once the community has identified a preferred alternative development plan for the park and a Master Plan is developed the formal park adoption process will include the following commission reviews.

Park and Recreation Commission
Urban Design Commission
P & Z Meeting

e) Work Products – as part of the Master Planning Process the following key items will be developed

Draft Background Report
Site Analysis
Issues, Opportunities and constraints
Public Comments
Concept Plans – 3 alternatives based on community and CAG input
Preliminary Master Plan with preferred alternative
Draft Final Park Master Plan
Final Master Plan

f) Community Issues and Concerns

Members of the CAG were invited to share their concerns regarding the lake and park. General comments are listed below in order of the appearance and not in order of importance. Duplicate comments are listed only once.

- Benches to sit and look at nature, not in view of residents
- Not overdeveloped
- Adopt a park – neighborhood

wants to help with maintenance – cutting tree branches that block views

- Park should be natural
- Baxter Bog like – low traveled trails
- Soft dirt trails are preferred over gravel trails
- Passive site – quiet enjoyment of nature and wildlife
- Great neighborhood trail system connections – unknown to many
- Water study needed – productivity – low
- Park used summer and winter
- Should have been connected to Chester Creek Trail
- Drainage flowed to Chester Creek until construction blocked flows
- Restrooms with flush toilets would be nice to replace the portable toilets – high cost to maintain a concern
- Biology of the lake suffered – nesting has not reoccurred, smell, fish are not stocked
- Need to have an advocate for the biology of the lake
- Need to Balance biology with aesthetics – views are important asset – both of the lake from surrounding areas as well as to the surrounding mountains
- Bike trail connections but not paved through trail
- Why the fences – or why must they be chain link and not screened – important to protect wetlands while establishing but in the main viewshed of residents and visitors
- Interpretive Trail – talk of a Lydia Selkregg nature interpretive trail system – some funding but limited
- Focus on wildlife and water fowl
- Legal issues include steep slopes at the north end around the biofiltration swale and

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standing water

- The city agreed to raise the lake one-foot after much public outcry – not significant
- Signage for the area needs to be cleaned up and unified – hodgepodge of signs with no common design theme
- Need to thin trees and plant appropriate species in viewsheds and along lake bank to not detract from vistas to mountains and the lake
- The Park and Recreation Commission was not involved in the lake lowering process
- No paddle boats or summer concessions
- No permanent structures
- Road project could have provided fill into the lake to avoid dangerous intersection at Beaver but did not want to get a ACOE permit
- Dredge the lake to make it deeper – this also would require ACOE permit and could damage the biology of the lake further – concern over the stability of the banks and the subsurface of the lake
- Look at historic road system – Beaver was not a through street – should have gone through Patterson
- Some vandalism by local youth including cutting of trees and brush, some small fires, litter and trash
- Restore the dirt path, the new gravel does not work – joggers and walkers preferred this surface and it worked for wheelchairs and baby strollers
- The gravel path is not accessible
- Rock bank is unsafe and does not function as planned
- Outlet pipe seems to discharge road and stormwater to the lake – hot wire was installed to reduce winter freezing

- Did the pipe lower ground water for residents to the west – can this be verified?
- Cancer risk appears higher along the residents of the lake to the east who are on wells – no scientific data available or provided
- Water quality tests showed minor occurrences of contaminants
- The group checks the water level each year with Dick Burton – cost of \$75. Could the city pay this?
- The south end of the lake is clearer than the north end – reasons could be many
- North end is spring fed, does not freeze now that the lake is lowered with possible safety hazard for winter skating use
- Killing the lake to remove pike has some group concern – what about drinking, wildlife, and children?
- Desire to look at an ecosystem approach to planning
- Need to have quiet areas for contemplation
- Nice thoughtful places “This is what I am” Lydia Selkregg
- Look at playground and tot lot – is it appropriate
- Safety concerns
- Protect sensitive areas
- Traffic issues – T intersection and flashing lights

g) Summary Comments

Jeff suggested that the success of Cheney Lake Park rested with creating a shared community vision for the park. The identification of the issues and concerns listed above is an important part in beginning to develop a community-based plan that is responsive to residents and park user needs.

The general consensus of the

group is that Cheney Lake Park in a natural area that should focus recreational activities that are passive in nature and that are centered around the enjoyment of the natural Alaskan landscape.

The plan should have three key components that include: Biological Values – sound science of the lake, habitat, wildlife, Recreation Values – quiet passive enjoyment, interpretation and aesthetics that focus on restorative and therapeutic values Political Advocacy – local community government with connections to larger park system

h) Summary Issues

The following is a preliminary grouping of the key issues and concerns raised by the CAG placed under common categories

i) Biological Issue

- Water study needed – current habitat quality appears low
- Drainage flowed to Chester Creek until construction blocked flows
- Biology of the lake suffered – nesting has not reoccurred, smell, fish are not stocked
- Need to have an advocate for the biology of the lake
- Need to Balance biology with aesthetics – views are important asset – both of the lake from surrounding areas as well as to the surrounding mountains
- Focus on wildlife and water fowl
- Dredge the lake to make it deeper – this would require ACOE permit and could damage

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the biology of the lake further
– concern over the stability of the banks and the subsurface of the lake

- Outlet pipe seems to discharge road and stormwater to the lake – hot wire was installed to reduce winter freezing
- Did the pipe lower ground water for residents to the west – can this be verified?
- The group checks the water level each year with Dick Burton – cost of \$75. Could the city pay this?
- The south end of the lake is clearer than the north end – reasons could be many
- North end is spring fed, does not freeze now that the lake is lowered with possible safety hazard for winter skating use
- Killing the lake to remove pike has some group concern – what about drinking, wildlife, and children?
- Desire to look at an ecosystem approach to planning
- Protect sensitive areas

ii) Circulation / Transportation

- Soft dirt trails are preferred over gravel trails
- Great neighborhood trail system connections – unknown to many
- Should have been connected to Chester Creek Trail
- Bike trail connections but not paved through trail
- Road project could have provided fill into the lake to avoid dangerous intersection at Beaver but did not want to get a ACOE permit
- Look at historic road system – Beaver was not a through street – should have gone through Patterson
- Restore the dirt path, the

new gravel does not work
– joggers and walkers preferred this surface and it worked for wheelchairs and baby strollers

- The gravel path is not accessible
- Traffic issues – T intersection and flashing lights

iii) Neighborhood Related Issues and Concerns

- Adopt a park – neighborhood wants to help with maintenance – cutting tree branches that block views
- The city agreed to raise the lake one-foot after much public outcry – not significant
- Need to thin trees and plant appropriate species in viewsheds and along lake bank to not detract from vistas to mountains and the lake
- The Park and Recreation Commission was not involved in the lake lowering process
- No paddle boats or summer concessions
- No permanent structures
- Some vandalism by local youth including cutting of trees and brush, some small fires, litter and trash

iv) General Park Concepts

- Not overdeveloped
- Park should be natural
- Baxter Bog like – low traveled trails
- Passive site – quiet enjoyment of nature and wildlife
- Park used summer and winter
- Need to have quiet areas for contemplation
- Nice thoughtful places “This is what I am” Lydia Selkregg

v) Specific

Opportunities

- Benches to sit and look at nature, not in view of residents
- Restrooms with flush toilets would be nice to replace the portable toilets – high cost to maintain a concern
- Why the fences – or why must they be chain link and not screened – important to protect wetlands while establishing but in the main viewshed of residents and visitors
- Interpretive Trail – talk of a Lydia Selkregg nature interpretive trail system – some funding but limited
- Signage for the area needs to be cleaned up and unified – hodgepodge of signs with no common design theme
- Look at playground and tot lot – is it appropriate

vi) Safety

- Legal issues include steep slopes at the north end around the biofiltration swale and standing water
- Rock bank is unsafe and does not function as planned
- Intersection at Beaver
- Curve in road
- Gravel path

i) Action Plan

To ensure the plan moves forward, key elements should be broken into the following classifications of action priority:

Short Term Actions – immediate needs that focus on user safety, comfort and building community confidence that include:

- Traffic – flashing light
- Gravel path
- Rock Shoreline
- Algae bloom in lake
- Fences on east side

- Biological Assessment – sound science

Mid Term Actions – 2 to 3 years

Long Term Actions – 3 years or longer

Immediate Actions

To begin implementation of the planning process the following key items will move forward:

- Prepare notes from meeting and provide to CAG
- Lake walk with CAG to identify short term actions and long term opportunities, constraints, concerns and hazards – This will take place August 27th at 6pm from the parking lot on the lake
- Public Meeting Number One – Schedule to be set by MOA staff – target September 16, 17, 18 from 7-9 PM at Creekside Park if available. Public notices need to go out 14 days in advance so meeting will need to be set up by August 30th for this to happen.
- Next CAG meeting to be later this fall (October) once alternatives are prepared
- Identify key environmental factors and concerns – conduct water quality tests
- Conduct water depth test – MOA funding assistance if possible

**Appendix C
– CAG Site Walk
Summary (Aug.
27/02)**

**These comments are a combination of community issues, and comments from LDN staff

Parking Area:

- Approximate size is 42'x336' (approx. room for 33 vehicles)
- 5 garbage cans
- Portable toilet at south end of parking area
- Opportunity for increased screening on west border

Playground Area:

- Has a playground audit been done on the structures and area? If not, Monique Anderson from LDN to go out.

Gravel Shore Area:

- Needs to be treated to reduce erosion
- Opportunity for boardwalk area
- Boardwalk can help limit/control access to shoreline, and subsequent erosion
- Integration of planting into hardening
- Opportunity to create zones or nodes of activity
- Need a defined palette of site furniture
- Lighting is adequate (but foundations are unsightly; substantially above grade)
- Increase area of cleared ice for skating
- Utilize ornamental plantings to add color (trees and the like)
- Area has 1 garbage can, 5 benches (embedded), 2 picnic tables, information kiosk, life jacket station, and signage.
- Opportunity for better connection between playground area and shore area

Western Shore by Road:

- Insufficient buffer between path and road, planting could increase comfort level
- Length of potentilla plantings could be broken to reduce monotone nature

Area at South of Condominiums:

- Question as to quantity and quality of water discharged by storm outlet
- Opportunity for creating a node within this area. Seating/contemplation area in addition to water access (particularly winter access to ice)
- Need to examine planting types here in combination with screening desires
- Appropriateness of large rock riprap on shoreline

Area East of Condominiums:

- Path surface material, width, and adjacency to property lines
- Buffer between path and properties
- Issues of homeowner impact on plantings
- Issues of park user impact on homeowners
- Areas of desired access to water are now steep, with access difficulty and erosion issues

Northwest Area

- Several areas identified as appropriate for user nodes
- Aesthetics of stormwater area were in question, but residents said it looks good now. It appears to be well designed and functional.
- Pine plantings are dead or dying (appears to be wet area)
- Area is in the process of recovering from construction of stormwater improvements
- Channel for stormwater improvements is very linear. Necessity should be examined for potential removal or redesign.

Gravel Peninsula:

- Little understorey (most likely due to substrate)

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-Good location for user node

Northeast and East:

-Users say that shoreline habitat is recovering, beginning to resemble prior conditions.

-Large increase in aquatic plant life; aesthetically unpleasant (especially in northeast)

Southern End:

-Opportunity to reduce the amount of open space, reduce amount of eroded shoreline

-Plantings and shoreline treatment

Overall Comments:

-Quantity and diversity of birds has seen a reduction. Previously, nesting loons were on the lake. More families of grebes were present. Duck species have changed. Reduction in the number of geese using the lake. Apparent explanation is reduction in the level of the lake. (Dry year has most likely exacerbated this further)

-Birch trees on the site are having a difficult year (birch leaf miner a likely suspect)

-Concern with location of any facilities adjacent to houses on west side of site

-Potential concern with restocking lake with game species, and subsequent increase in park users resulting in shoreline erosion

-Concern with potential increased presence of paddleboat concessionaire

-Signage and site furnishings

Appendix D –Public Meeting 1 - Questionnaire Summary (Sept. 16/02)

Station One – Welcome/Project Overview and Background

Question 1. – How far do you live from Cheney Lake Park? (circle one)

- | | |
|----------------------|----|
| A. Adjacent | 29 |
| • Within 500 feet | |
| B. Less than 1 mile | 23 |
| C. 1 to 2 miles | 1 |
| D. More than 2 miles | 2 |

Question 2. – How often do you use the park? (circle one)

- | | |
|---|----|
| A. Daily | 33 |
| • Drive by look at it – walk | |
| • 3-5 times per week | |
| B. Weekly | 20 |
| C. Monthly | 5 |
| D. Yearly | 1 |
| • but will increase in spring to several times a week | |

Question 3. – How do you usually get to the park? (circle one)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| A. Walk | 43 |
| B. Bike | 4 |
| • Need bike trail around lake | |
| C. Drive | 6 |
| D. Bus | 0 |
| E. Other | 3 |
| • Will be walking in spring | |
| • Our land joins the lake | |

Question 4. – How do you typically use Cheney Lake Park? (view from my window, walking, running, canoeing, ice skating, etc.)

- Views along Beaver as I drive, walking, listening to birds on the lake on summer evening, and canoeing occasionally.
- View from my window
- Viewing, would use for picnic if a place was provided, ice skating
- Walking
- Walk, look, enjoy its existence
- Walking, running, canoeing, and view as I drive pass
- I use it during the winter as often as I can to skate and during summer I just walk around it.
- View from my window and walking.
- My front yard
- Walking and ice skating
- Our picture windows overlook the lake
- Walk around park either with my roommate or my dog; occasionally I cross country ski if conditions allow. Also bird watching. I like going all the way around the lake and that the trail behind is unpaved, but I'm not convinced it is safe to walk on alone.
- Running, biking, fishing, and birding
- Skiing, ice skating, biking, walking
- Fishing, walking, and view from my window
- Fishing (summer & winter), teaching grandchildren to fish, and boating
- Walking and biking
- Walking dog, ice skating, and cross country skiing
- Taking grandchildren to play and walking
- Walking, wildlife (i.e. birds) watching, trout fishing, and skiing

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- Walking, fishing for trout until recently, canoeing, ice skating, and bike riding
- Paddleboat rental
- View from window, walk, raft, and bike
- Walking, running and skating
- Fishing
- Canoe, kayak
- Peace and quiet
- Walking, view – I liked it when hot air balloons used it some weekends years ago
- Dog exercise (swimming)
- From my window and through the trees I get to see the naturalness of the lake. I also walk and used to quietly canoe on the lake
- Cheney Lake is the view from the front of my house. We have a boat to row on the lake. I use the path around the lake for my daily exercise, summer and winter. We also fish in the lake
- Nature study and observation sometimes, bird watching. I also like to view the Aurora from the pond because fewer street lights and house lights make it easier to see the Northern Lights display

Question 5. – What three things do you like MOST about Cheney Lake Park?

1.
 - A piece of Alaskan wilderness near our home
 - The view from my window
 - Looks like Alaska inside the city
 - It's beautiful
 - Visual beauty
 - It has wild areas close to home
 - Sunny
 - Location, very accessible to community
 - View
 - Peaceful community
 - Accessibility to quiet lake
 - View
 - Natural setting
 - Boundary between homes/yards and trail/lake
 - It is not overly developed (sidewalks and dirt trail)
 - Quiet in the middle of a busy neighborhood
 - Rather rugged nature of trails on the East side
 - Lack of paved trails
 - Used mainly by small group/families
 - How easy it is to get to for my grandchildren.
 - Fishing lake adjacent to home (bought house specifically for this)
 - Beauty within the city, natural setting, wildlife, etc.
 - Near to my home.
 - Near my house
 - Fishing
 - Waterfowl
 - Beauty is natural; not play area type of park.
 - Trout fishing
 - Location
 - The lake as a natural (yes natural) gem in East Anchorage
 - Fishing
 - Sky and mountains
 - Beauty
 - Fish stocking
 - The view of the lake and mountains is beautiful
 - Nice, unpaved trail! (for most of it)
 - Quiet
 - The wooded trails on east side of lake

- Being able to walk around the lake
- The fact that a large group of us got it bought finally and it wasn't filled in for more housing!!
- Trails on east side of lake
- Wooded, landscaped, attractive
- Natural park setting
- Accessibility to recreation
- The wildlife activity before the shrinking of the lake

2.

- The Monet-like view of the lakes and mountains from Baxter/Beaver (esp. in fall)
- Privacy – feeling that I'm not in Anchorage
- Close to neighborhood
- It's natural
- Natural setting
- It has a great view of the mountains
- Quiet
- Location
- Ducks and geese
- Variety of activities
- Fishing (Get rid of pike!)
- Wildlife
- Birds, ducks, wildlife
- Large wooded 'undeveloped' areas on east side of lake
- Quiet, tranquil in some places (east side of park), chance to see birdlife.
- I like the dirt trails
- Non-motorized
- Presence of birds of prey
- Easy access for people of all ages
- We love to go fishing down there.
- Wildlife habitat (viewing)
- Accessibility
- Trails on the back (east side)
- Beautiful view year round, but especially in the fall.
- Peacefulness – safe place for children
- Low noise level except during commercial operation
- Walking paths
- Fishing
- The setting with east shore wildness
- Walking trail
- Trees
- Wilderness in the city
- My daughter is able to play in the park and watch the birds
- The lake is a respite from the city
- Trees and walkways
- My property borders the lake and is enhanced by its beauty
- Walking, exercising
- All of the trees on the east side
- The fact that it is accessible to the neighborhood
- The trail around the lake
- Small size of developed park
- Park for psychological healthy community
- Trail around the lake
- Waterfowl
- Watching the grebes, ducks and geese
- The fall view from west to east
- Canoeing opportunity, maybe also sailing someday

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3.

- The wideness of the trail in some sections on east side
- The wonderful new landscape
- Natural setting
- It's quiet
- Seeing people enjoying the various appropriate activities
- The path around has great walking/running/skiing trails
- Hockey
- Location
- Serenity
- Easy access
- Natural setting
- Serenity
- Waterfowl on the lake
- Nice landscaping along road
- I can access the lake from several neighborhoods
- Wild trail around lake (not paved)
- No commercially sponsored activities (paddle boats, concessions, etc.)
- Wooded area
- Non-motorized, birds on the lake
- Love to watch the ducks
- Fishing opportunity without having to leave town – close to home
- Potential to support waterfowl, bird life (again)
- Not crowded
- Bird, waterfowl presence, visibility
- Fishing
- User friendly for all seasons
- Park
- Animals/birds/fish
- Beautiful view & site – winter and summer
- Birds
- Proximity to home
- The lower level detracts from the appearance
- It is a convenient place to practice kayaking skills
- Paths in wood
- Access to the lake from my home
- Groomed ice rink
- A good place for family and their children to enjoy a day together
- The playground
- Relatively small # of users, not crowded
- Skating rink
- Solitude
- Very Quiet
- Fishing in the lake
- Family activity around the lake

Question 6. – What three things do you like LEAST about Cheney Lake Park?

1.

- tree roots on trails; hard on trees and my walking
- Nasty water
- Lack of swimming
- The algae
- Discussions suggesting “developing” the park more
- The idea of much more development
- Pollution
- Too shallow
- Algae
- Last time I was there the duck feces was terrible, but it is better this year.
- People trampling nests
- Rocks that were recently put around shore on west side

- Heavy traffic
 - People parked in the lot in evenings (hanging out in their cars).
 - Since the lowering of the lake level, it is not as pretty.
 - Low water levels, rot and odd smell
 - The recent growth of aquatic vegetation within the lake itself
 - Lack of skating maintenance
 - Lower water level
 - All the grass in the lake
 - Pike population
 - Changes to water level have seriously impacted environmental quality
 - Unattractive catchment area to north
 - Pike presence in the lake
 - High noise level when paddleboats in operation
 - Pike
 - Condos on lake
 - That Beaver connects with Baxter Road – Go back to historical disconnect
 - Trash
 - Garbage
 - Goose droppings
 - Trampled down banks
 - Kids in paddleboats making noise, harassing ducks and geese.
 - The birds with fishing line around their legs
 - The fact that a customary (easement? or not?) path goes within 15 feet of my bedroom window.
 - The algae blooms this year were rather unattractive
 - The geese can be a nuisance occasionally
 - Nothing now, do not spoil it with paddle boats dock, storage area
 - Water level has been reduce, causing it to look like a lily pond
 - Trash, people bringing picnics who park and do not take trash w/them
 - Goose and duck droppings
 - Noise level when commercial ventures are in operation
 - All of the gravel at the south end of the park
 - Lack of getting it cleaned up
 - People walking though my backyard
 - Problems with dog droppings
 - Drain system
 - An occasional motorcycle
 - Too many leave dog waste on the trail and all over the park!
 - The muddy place on the east side on the trail
 - Dogs that run loose
 - Shrinking of the lake
- 2.
- wet, boggy on trail sections on SE of lakes
 - Not a great bike riding area
 - Need more beach – picnic areas
 - The trash in the lake
 - Seeing people and kids out in boats and canoes without P.F.D. and/or insufficient skill and/or supervision
 - The few areas on the trail that are wet and boggy
 - Cars
 - Too shallow
 - I am concerned with children crossing Baxter to get to the park.
 - Trash left by people
 - Paddleboats
 - People “loitering, smoking and drinking” in the parking lot
 - Trash needs to be picked up, both in lot and around lake.
 - Lots of traffic noise sometimes
 - At times, too many people

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- The parking lot is not closed at night
 - Disconnect from trails east and west
 - Drunks using park to party in
 - The fishing isn't very good anymore
 - Water levels
 - Large rocks on shore are not safe – gravel path is not functional
 - Not enough garbage cans
 - Trash left, fishing line left by careless fishermen
 - Low water level
 - Pike
 - That it was lowered 2 feet in lake level for a road project.
 - Discarded fishing line that hurts birds
 - Lake scum
 - Low water level contributing to increase of algae
 - Cleaning up after people's animals (right-of-way cuts through my backyard)
 - Improperly placed and unsightly signs
 - The wildlife is practically gone
 - Too much clearing of trees and shrubs of the wooded east side
 - Pond scum
 - The fast traffic on Beaver Place/Baxter
 - No longer stocked because of pike (are they gone now?)
 - The algae on the top of the water
 - Problems with geese and water pollution
 - Garbage
 - The paddle boats
 - Garbage in the water
 - The water runs from Sherwood Circle. Perhaps a culvert can accommodate this run-off or a refuse (An eagle scout project)
 - Dog poop not picked up
 - Bottom growth since shrinking
- 3.
- The idea of it becoming commercialized
 - Narrowness of some trail sections
 - Lack of bicycle rack and playground
 - The poor improvements near the parking lot
 - The trail is too narrow in the winter so it almost closes.
 - Too shallow
 - Growth in the water (algae, etc.)
 - Loose dogs in park
 - How it has changed since the construction project
 - No barrier between some condo lawns and path around lake.
 - Fast traffic (not observing speed limit) on Baxter/Beaver
 - Unleashed dogs and dog feces
 - New chain link fences on east side are extremely unsightly
 - Paved trails
 - Fence on east side detract from lake and weren't necessary until lake was lowered
 - Not enough activity for children
 - Algae/weeds taking over
 - Filtration attempt with swail seems to have failed – there are other entry points for road run off directly into lake. Question the real necessity of this filtration
 - No restrooms
 - The plant surface blooms and no fish (water quality degradation)
 - Noise, radios, etc.
 - High water in ground – adjacent neighborhood
 - Rocks on banks

- Should clean out the junk in the lake
- The lake has been raped of its natural scenery
- Open exposed, noisy west side of lake and people (kids) disturbing wildlife (birds)
- High water in ground
- Walking path that is graveled is too wide; garbage and fishing line left
- Maybe a bench or two above the lake on far side (from Beaver)
- People not cleaning up after their dogs
- Unattractive gravel shores near the developed park
- Grate – outlet
- Anything that destroys the naturalness of the lake
- Goose droppings and stupid people feeding the geese and ducks even with signs that say not to.
- Certain parts of the path muddy when it rains
- Lack of fishing since introduction of Northern pike

Question 7. – Describe your hopes and overall vision for the future of Cheney Lake Park (e.g., a well-cared for neighborhood park, a quiet scenic open space, Anchorage’s best spot for summer boating and winter ice skating, etc.).

- Quiet scenic open space, with wood chips on trails in woods
- Natural
- Landscaped with trees on west side, allow non-motorized boating, stock with fish (get rid of pike), nice picnic areas, and bus stop.
- Simple improvements-tracked ski trail in the winter, no improved paths,- natural, natural.
- Area near parking lot good – beautiful improvements
- Seeing people and kids out in boats and canoes without P.F.D. and/or insufficient skill and/or supervision
- Quiet, scenic open space, with wood chips on trails in the woods.
- I believe that the lake should be maintained as well as possible for skating, and leave it be in summer.
- Summer boating and fishing
- A quiet, scenic open space
- Clean, safe park
- I see a well cared for, accessible lake for children to fish and canoe in. Maintained by the city, stocked trout for fishing, day trips for local schools, quiet setting for ducks, geese, and people.
- Well groomed and maintained
- A quiet scenic open space with the geese and ducks back.
- A well cared for quiet, open space
- A quiet scenic open space that is safe.
- Quiet place with open areas.
- The summer boating and paddleboats plus walking, wooded spaces in summer. I’d like to see the back connecting trails finished.
- Quiet, neighborhood oriented park. The space isn’t big enough to make it “Anchorage’s biggest or best” anything.
- A jewel in a string of pearls running from the hills to the creek and then Russian Jack and Chester, Nunaka, Russian Jack
- Would like to see the lake level returned so the weeds will go down and the birds will return.
- Better fishing, more summer boating, and an ice skating ring would be nice
- Basically what I found when we moved to Anchorage. A lake, within the city that allowed rainbow trout fishing from the shores. The marvel of an excellent fishing lake right here on the east side of Anchorage.
- A park for everyone to use in there own way, healthy fish population, canoeing, ice skating. No commercialization of this park.
- Good fishing
- It’s in desperate need of some thoughtful landscaping in some places, but other than that I think the current usage is fine. I don’t think its big enough to accommodate much more of a boating industry.
- To continue to use Cheney Lake for activities and for fishing, but the lake stocked with trout and salmon.
- Ice skating for children, boating (canoeing), a well-cared for park.
- A well cared for natural park setting
- Trout fishing and a neighborhood park
- Summer boating, winter ice skating, and fishing
- Have neighborhood areas help with cleaning and care – give us some tools to help. A natural east side with

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a family-friendly west side that allows for light water craft use, fishing, skating. No night lighting on east side please!!!!

- A well cared for open space
- Quiet scenic open space, not commercial
- Maintain or improve the existing park
- Return of loons and other wild birds
- I would like to see the entire trail around the lake filled with gravel, like the west side has been
- I hope the lake will heal and that any enhancement will not overwhelm the simple quiet beauty of Cheney
- Put back in its original state and the return of the fish and wildlife especially the ducks, birds, loons and eagle that were there before the interruptions.
- Quiet scenic neighborhood park w/woods to explore and enjoy. STOP, too much clearing of trails creates an ugly super highway through the woods
- Well care for neighborhood park
- Natural setting
- A quiet scenic space but with a well cared for neighborhood park, clean and groomed
- I would not like it with more play equipment. I like it as a quiet fishing spot for kids and their folks.
- A quiet place to enjoy a family walk
- Overall maintenance and cleanliness of the park needs to be improved, will limit additional development of amenities; benches, tables, dock/boardwalk, etc.
- Status Quo, without paddle boats or other commercial activities
- Keep it well maintained. Cheney is too small to be “marketed” as a city attraction. Lots of people and a great big parking lot would ruin the neighborhood park appeal and increase vandalism.
- Remain a quiet scenic neighborhood park without commercial business on or near lake
- I like Cheney Lake just the way it is. I would like to see some of the junks in the lake cleaned up and people use the litter cans
- Please keep it natural. No more paved trails. Paved trails detract from the pond and also require on-going maintenance and repair which equal expense.

Question 8. – Which other parks do you use within the area?

- Bicentennial Park
- Botanical Gardens
- Baxter Bog – biking trail
- Baxter Bog – trail system
- Russian Jack
- What other parks? I go by Goose Lake and University Lake Parks
- Lowenfeld Trail
- Russian Jack on a daily basis
- None
- Within Anchorage I walk the Tony Knowles Trail from Elderberry Park close to Kincaid/Earthquake Parks; Russian Jack
- Russian Jack, Nunaka Valley, and Centennial Parks
- Campbell Tract, University Lake and Goose Lake
- Baxter Bog, around Muldoon Park, and Russina Jack Park
- Nunaka, Russian Jack, areas along most bike trails east, west, midtown, coastal
- Independence Park and University Park
- Bicentennial, Russian Jack, Muldoon Exercise Park, and Baxter Bog (almost daily)
- Goose Lake
- Nunaka Valley, Goose Lake, Chester Green Belt
- Westchester Lagoon, Nunaka Valley, and University Lake

Station Two – Issues/Opportunities

Question 9. – Place your three ORANGE dots on the Station Two Cheney Lake Park map where you prefer to see **active uses encouraged** (e.g., trails, water access, etc.).

Question 10. – Place your three GREEN dots on the Cheney Lake Park map where you prefer to see access, activities, and development limited and **passive uses encouraged** (e.g., natural vegetation/wildlife habitat, informal walking trails, etc.).

Question 11. – Choose a number from 1 to 10 below, reflecting the degree to which you would prefer Cheney Lake Park be maintained as a natural area with only passive uses (choose 1), or be developed into an active recreational area (choose 10), or be balanced somewhere in the middle (choose 2-9):

Natural/Passive

- 1) 23
- 2) 9
- 3) 9
- 4) 3
- 5) 5
- 6) 1
- 7) 2
- 8) 1
- 9) 2
- 10) 2

Improved/Active

- With one good active area and some simple fishing shop

Question 12. Do you feel the existing parking area is appropriate for the park?

If not, how would you improve it?

- Yes, as appropriate as is, add no more parking
- O.K. as is
- It's nice – the high use areas should be made beautiful and simple – more flowers, berries, natural plants, lilacs, and wild roses.
- It seems to work pretty well
- Appropriate, do not add more parking.
- I believe it is fine, people never use it, most of them, use it and live a ten minute walk or less to get to it, they don't need to drive.
- Dig it deeper/or put some water in it.
- Enough parking
- No, possibly lease area across street from church when not used.
- Appropriate
- Yes
- Yes! We don't need more of a paved area – it is a neighborhood park, wherein people can walk, bike, or take a bus to it. There is parking for those who need it.
- It's large enough 99% of the time
- Yes, do not pave around lake please
- Yes, if it is left as a neighborhood park there is adequate access and area
- Yes, leave it as it is. Cheney is a small lake and would not be as nice if a larger parking area were available.
- Seems appropriate for size of park. Additional entrance on 16th should not be changed to allow parking.
- I can't think of anyplace you could add more parking.
- Yes, people can always use parking in Nunaka Valley Park
- Most of the time, but expand it for 20 more cars to help.
- Get parking agreement with Mormon Church and sign accordingly. Don't look to expand lot as it consumes natural landscaping.
- Prefer to keep parking area as is to keep the park more neighborhood friendly
- A bench on the north end by the two pine trees and more garbage pails.
- It is adequate for the park and would become a problem if made larger; more pavement, more noise
- I would raise the water level, stock with fish and bring the birds back
- More extensive natural trails on the eastside
- More grassy areas on the south side
- I feel it is adequate. Too many spaces encourages more people in the area
- Yes, parking is adequate as is. Bollard fence could use some upkeep

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- Leave it as is – Ask the Mormons if their parking lot is available
- Yes, it meets the current need. I have never seen the parking lot full or people needing to park on the street to access the park.

Question 13. – Do you feel that existing pedestrian access within the site is appropriate? If not, how would you like to see it improved?

- Generally appropriate, except for access on the east from Otter & Sherwood. Don't close it please. Make it safer please.
- Less mud-more gravel & pavement
- Improve access at south end along the subdivision to link with Foxhall. Improve the Otter Street access.
- O.K. for now. There is a question about the trail from Otter Street to the park. Who owns it? It's steep condition and maintenance, liability, etc.
- Appropriate
- Access is good and the view off Baxter is unobstructed.
- I'd like to see a bike trail around lake.
- Appropriate
- Yes but develop back connecting trails
- Yes, I think it's adequate. It's a little wilderness within the city. There are plenty of paved paths for walking and cycling throughout the city without paving a path around Cheney lake.
- Yes, if you did any improvement on the trail around the east side just put some gravel
- I think it is fine. I especially like the gravel trail to the east of the lake. Moose and other wildlife inhabit this area and add to the Parks "wow" value to visitors and residents.
- Yes it is appropriate. There is access from 5 points around the lake.
- I would like to see a pedestrian crossing signal at the path coming from Nunaka Valley Park. Some people are not good about stopping at crosswalk.
- A bridge over Beaver where Nunaka Valley Park meets Beaver and current crosswalk exists would be helpful for pedestrian traffic.
- Need bike trails
- Adequate, yes
- No gravel on east side of lake trails
- Works for me, I access mostly via 16th /wolverine. Sometimes in winter the snow berm gets hard to navigate safely, otherwise o.k.
- On my side (across from the lake), there doesn't seem to be any un-owned access available
- Pedestrian access is excellent as is, with paved trail, road crossing etc. No changes required
- North access off 16th needs attention during winter months. Due to snow pile up a big ice hill has to be climbed and negotiated at times to get on the access path.

Question 14. – What effect(s) do you feel the lowering of the lake had on the park? (If any)

- On the plus side, less wet on the south side of lake, the minus side the lake this summer had lots of algae, (or something green/yucky floating).
- None
- The lake is not as healthy. It is not as beautiful, too much algae and bottom plant growth. We should add two feet back.
- I thought it would impair the look of the appearance of the park, but now that it is installed it looks ok so I am satisfied.
- It seems there are more weeds and the lake is less active, but it is less swampy on the south side.
- I noticed the goose/duck population decreased dramatically, I only see a maximum of 5 ducks and 10 geese when I go there.
- It ruined the lake, it is full of algae, and it ruined the fishing.
- Negative
- Growth in/on the water
- It's been a terrible effect! Lowering the level caused vegetation growth choking the lake.
- Since the lake was lowered, bird life has dropped by 75-80% and it is fast becoming clogged with plant life.
- Ruined the lake and park – Birds/ducks are gone – Quiet, dead effect
- It doesn't look so appealing – perhaps additional landscaping with native plants would enhance the area.
- Too much exposed earth – please plant grass, landscape, etc.
- Smells rotten, more algae fewer birds

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- Increased in aquatic weeks (unattractive and indicative of problems with the biology of the area)
- Lowering the lake has changed the lake dramatically. There are lots of weeds that were not there before. The sunlight is able to get to the bottom which encourages the growth.
- More grass and green slime on lake
- Terrible. The algae and weeds are the worst I've ever seen. I am concerned that maintaining the present level may not support the wintering of the trout population once we restore them.
- Very detrimental, heavily impacted wildlife. Golden-eye barrows in Spring moved on. Loons 'visited' only. Many algae blooms, shallow water stagnating. (*Tree removal has resulted in greater traffic noise – natural buffer is gone)
- It killed the lake. (With a little help from northern Pike)
- Hopefully allow for less road damage.
- None, it is back like it was years ago.
- Waterfowl decrease, vegetation decrease, erosion along certain areas, island more exposed to traffic.
- It ruined the trout fishing.
- Improved it, made fishing safer, and allowed room for multi-use of park
- I vigorously fought against this decision as it was driven by engineering rather than ecology concerns. I believe we're beginning to see the results of this emphasis now in reduced waterfowl nesting and increased plant blooms
- It has helped with the scenery and traffic
- Now have fewer birds in numbers and in species. Now have vegetation on lake. Did lose wetlands
- No effect, improved Baxter Road, and improved ground water situation
- Much more algae/weed growth
- The lake is too low, smaller, and the island is smaller
- An improvement reduced the flooding in crawlspaces and adjacent homes and apartment buildings.
- Lost most of the birds and ducks. We are to have loons, no longer.
- I think it caused the ruin of the park
- Made the north end sledgy. All over created too much underwater vegetation and this summer had some sort of bloom floating on the water.
- It has improved the lake and the road improvement has made traffic better.
- Decrease in wildlife especially birds, risk to plant life from erosion, risk to island and other areas previously better protected from humans
- More weeds, less fish, more swampy areas. Much poorer water quality.
- No effect except it seems to have more grunge and it's quite dirty. I'm speaking of the lake itself. I don't see any other bad effects. It also made it easier to walk around the whole lake.
- More algae showed up
- No noticeable effect. Restored lake at earlier levels.
- Algae bloom excess
- Why do you ask now?
- Devastating! Adverse scenic impact and adverse impact on wildlife. Used to see swans, loons and muskrats
- Increased the rate of succession from lake to bog to land. I prefer the lake stage

Question 15. – Do you think the lake's northern pike population should be eradicated and replaced with trout? If so, should fishing be limited to certain areas of the lake to reduce potential shoreline damage?

- I don't really know the pros and cons of this question, so don't much care.
- Fishing should be limited to protect shoreline. (Can they escape)
- Yes! Yes!
- I don't fish so I don't know about this.
- I don't care
- No the fish are fine, let nature take its course.
- Replaced with trout, certain areas set aside for fishing
- Yes please eradicate the trout. Fishing limited to certain areas is a good idea.
- Eradicate the pike! Fishing areas should be designated so nesting areas are effected.
- Fishing activity has decreased to the point that damage by fishermen is no longer a factor.
- Yes – Yes
- Yes and yes. If fishing is encouraged (I don't) then it should certainly be limited to areas already heavily used and away from nesting areas.
- Absolutely! Get rid of the pike! They don't belong in the lake. Limit fishing to the west side.

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- It doesn't matter to me. Fishermen do trample wild areas and leave garbage.
- Eradicate northern pike, Yes! Replace with trout, Yes! Limit fishing to certain areas of the lake, Yes!
- Yes and no, there should be limits on where you can fish.
- Without eliminating the pike population the trout and pike will die. Pike have to feed on other fish and have eradicated the trout population. Yes, eradicate the pike, get rid of the algae/weeds, and then raise the level and restock.
- Yes pike should be eradicated. Fishing should be limited to allow less impact on natural shoreline which is still regenerating.
- 1) Yes and 2) maybe
- Yes to eradicate the pike, no to limits
- Yes. Has the shoreline been damaged in the past by fishing?
- Yes and yes. Perhaps a couple of selectively placed boardwalks designed for fishing would help.
- The pike should be eradicated to limit shoreline damage
- Eradicate pike, replace with trout, no limits on fishing
- Lake was traditionally stocked with trout that created a tremendously wonderful fishing use of lake. Yes, the pike must go. Can they die out for lack of food?
- Yes pike should be eradicated. Pike have become a problem in many lakes.
- Should not fish on Eastside by wetlands
- Fishing is no longer an option, due to weeds and algae
- Areas for fishing from shore should be limited
- Please remove the pike and restock the lake with trout and salmon
- Yes, some shoreline should be protected for wildlife habitat
- Yes, Yes, Yes!!! Limiting access to the lake should be somewhat limited so others can walk, run, etc. without disturbing the fisherman
- I would prefer less fishing. I've seen too many geese and ducks with hooks stuck in them or tangled in fishing line. Also lots of trash in the area of used fishing items.
- Yes, the pike should be poisoned, and the lake restocked with trout. Fishing should not be limited. The only substantial shoreline damage is the gravel bank near the condos which needs erosion control badly
- 1) It would be great to have a trout stocked lake again. I'm just concerned that after all the time and money are spent someone will put another pike or other predatory fish in there and all the effort will have been for naught, and 2) Restrict fishing to certain areas, yes.
- We've enjoy eating pike just as much as trout
- Eradicate pike and restock with trout and salmon. As a neighborhood lake, should be accessible anywhere for fishing
- I like the trout but feel uncomfortable if pike eradication is done by chemical poisoning of the lake. Also, how poisonous would such eradication method or methods be to wildlife, pets, and people (especially children). Fishing should not be limited.

Station Three – Site Development

Question 16. – Do you feel the current facilities are sufficient for the park? If not, what improvements are needed?

- Brush out tree branches (esp. alders) so trails are wide enough to walk side-by-side and snow doesn't weigh down trees to block path in winter
- Wood chips on trails (like Botanical Gardens) covering roots, etc. looks nice, smells nice, feels good.
- Put some kind of fill (gravel?) where existing trail crosses marshy area on SE side of lake.
- Improve and dedicate access on east side from Otter Street and Sherwood.
- It's okay
- Landscaping. Bring back the paddleboats!
- Improve the area near the parking lot, put a few benches around the lake, improve fishing areas at the south end of the lake, leave north and east ends simple and natural, track ski trails around the lake in winter.
- Yes overall, but some trail work on boggy areas and trail clearance is needed. I believe that the amount of development and amenities that are in place are sufficient for the size of the park.
- It is fine as is. No boat docking or paddle boats
- Children love to climb. Fort or other climbing apparatus would be nice.

- Current facilities are sufficient
- They are sufficient
- Better trash facilities are needed
- Yes, do not pave more but develop unpaved connecting areas behind park to connect to others. Overpass for pedestrians needed on Beaver
- A bathroom and more garbage cans be placed in different areas.
- Playground safety should be addressed – otherwise current facilities seem adequate.
- More garbage cans
- No facilities are needed other than the port-a-potties
- Better restroom facilities during summer (winter?)
- Restrooms
- A warming hut for winter ice fishing, skating on the bench area by the parking lot.
- Do not like the port-a-potties, they are unsightly
- For most part playground needs to be looked. There are plenty of safety conditions that need to be addressed.
- Yes, the less development the better
- An outhouse facility on the South side would be nice. Warming hut in winter. Paved trail on N. Side
- Yes. Maybe a bench or two in the far side from Beaver/Baxter. I was glad to see a park official cutting brush and small trees to make the trail wider, therefore less dangerous (from people, not animals)
- I think the park is perfect as it is now.
- Upgrades to playground equipment are needed. Vegetation needs to be cleared from playground over to open it up and let light in. Additional picnic tables/benches, trash cans
- A small dock would be nice for rafts/canoes.
- A bench on the peninsula (The spit). A telescope could be used to view the wildlife and/or the mountains beyond. It might even raise some \$ for parks and rec.

Question 17. – Place YELLOW dots on the Station Three map to note areas within the park suitable for development and improvements. Write a description of the type of improvement you would like to see on your YELLOW dot before placing (i.e. boardwalk, benches, overlooks, etc.).

- Benches
- None of this is needed
- Raising the lake level by 2'

Question 18. – Place BLUE dots on the map to note areas that you think should be kept free of any development or improvements.

- No more development

Question 19. – Cheney Lake Park maintenance and improvement levels depend in part on funding options. Please rank the following options in order of your preference (1 being most favored, 5 being least favored):

___ Existing park funding (i.e. property tax)

- 1) 22
- 2) 9
- 3) 6
- 4) 5
- 5) 1

- There should be a fund in the annual budget.

___ Bond Issue (i.e. for improvements)

- 1) 1
- 2) 16
- 3) 16

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4) 4

5) 4

- Don't need improvements

___ Public/Private partnerships (i.e. rentals, concessionaires)

1) 2

2) 4

3) 6

4) 8

5) 20

- NO NEVER

___ User Fees (i.e. parking fee)

1) 2

2) 3

3) 4

4) 14

5) 18

- A parking fee would keep out loiterers (kids hanging out in their cars in the parking lot).
- Hate this one!
- No parking fees.

___ Voluntary support (i.e., Adopt-a-Park program, Rotary Club project, start a "Friends of Cheney Lake Park" group to hold fundraisers and/or help keep the park clean).

1) 16

2) 11

3) 8

4) 6

5) 2

- Our family would help brush out trail! We've talked about doing it before, but worried we'd get our hands slapped.
- Boy scout, Eagle Scout project

Question 20. – Do you feel that boat rental, or paddleboats should be operating on the lake? Are there conditions that would make this use more acceptable to you (e.g., limited access in certain areas, limited hours of operation)?

- No boathouse, no dock, no hot dog stands, no commercialization, I don't really mind paddleboats, but I don't want it highly commercialized.
- No!
- Yes, limited access
- Some small amount might be ok but not so much that inhibits others using the lake and park
- Paddle boats are ok away from nesting birds
- No they should not be there
- NO NO NO
- Boat rental during limited hours & should be limited to a number accommodate without crowding (take into consideration privately owned boats).
- There should be no paddleboats allowed, canoes, kayaks, and float tubes are acceptable.
- Absolutely not!
- No I feel this would further reduce waterfowl and pleasant, more quiet area. Other lakes have this already.
- Limited access/hours would be good, especially in regards to protecting bird life on the lake. (Too much noise would be harmful, I think)

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- I like the paddleboats. They don't seem to impact the bird life when paddleboats operated several years ago.
- Yes. I was worried about this at first. However, none of my fears were realized. The current owners are knowledgeable and have developed business policies and practices which are good for the lake and Anchorage business.
- Yes, limit hours only by regular park hours
- No, lake is too small now. Paddle boaters and other boaters disturb the wildlife
- Limit hours of operation (between 10am & 10pm), limit access to parking area, and limit # of boats allowed so floaters and boat owners can enjoy the lake.
- They should not be permitted. In the past this activity has not been managed properly, has impacted wildlife, shoreline, and people who are looking for a quiet place to spend family time.
- Limited access on south end of park; limit # of users; limit hours
- Limit boats and rentals
- Paddleboats seem to be enjoyed. I favor as long as it is a clean area.
- No to any commercial enterprises on the lake
- No boat or paddleboat rentals, the lake is too small, but to compromise have limited hours.
- Boat rentals should stay
- Can we make it canoe/kayak rental? Less surface disturbance.
- No, this is a residential area, not commercial. Other lakes can and are used for paddleboats
- O.K. but limit hours and limit number of boats. Maybe 6 boats and close at 10pm.
- A few paddle boats might be acceptable if areas are limited, hours are limited and there is a requirements for adult supervision
- No, the lake is absolutely too small and will further tear down the lake. We do not want paddle boats!!
- No, Absolutely Not. If had to have it, definitely limited hours of operation
- Yes, make better use of lake so more people can enjoy the beauty
- No commercial ventures
- Limited access and limited hours of operation may help in theory
- I don't support any commercial use on the lake
- Yes, but with restrictions on number of boats
- NO, disturb bird habitat
- NO! NO! NO! They terrify the loons. Keep the boats out
- Limited use okay, doesn't seem to cause problems
- Should not be a permanent fixture, no floating docks, etc.
- Rental on paddle boats, maybe only one day a week and not after 8pm. Possible exception for well supervised educational boating classes

Station Four – Where does this go from here?

Please provide any additional comments, concerns or ideas below, or on additional sheets of paper:

- Keep posting meetings in the paper.
- Additional use above the walking trail and swimming area is plenty. More use is more impact to an area already exposed to non-point solutions. Also, the lake as a more peaceful place is a value in itself.
- This was an efficient way of gathering information/suggestions. Thanks
- This beautiful place needs to be maintained. Anchorage is growing rapidly and places like Cheney Lake Park must be kept as a legacy for others.
- Post notices at Cheney Lake. Have meetings at Baxter or Chester Valley.
- I'm quite serious about studying water quality changes. Can we fund this? Raising level of lake to 1999 Historic level.
- Is the dirt path adjacent to 2000 Otter a legal park easement? My plat indicates that it is a utility easement and if so, I do not want the liability for pedestrian access (steepness of slope)
- When the paddleboats and heavy fishing are allowed the users trash the banks of the lake and the trails.
- PLEASE – No commercial activities, Thank You
- Beaver Pl/Baxter Rd has a speed limit of 25 mph. Neither road is capable of handling any more traffic
- In the future please notify a larger area of these meetings. Why was the meeting held so far away from the lake? Why at Creekside instead of Baxter, Nunaka, or Chester valley?
Many people near but not "on" the lake were not notified of this meeting.

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Appendix E – CAG Meeting 2 - Minutes and Summary (Oct. 7/02)

a) Introductions

Tom Korosei of the MOA, Jeff Dillon, Principal with LDN and Peter Briggs presented the work to date for Cheney Lake Park. Members of the CAG in attendance included: Doris Kirschbaum, Jean Payne, Jack Payne, Jay Brause, Terry Cummings, David Nowak, Norman Hogg, Marc Grober, Tess Nott, Gail Braten, Rodney Clark, Rick Miller, David

b) Project Update

work to date was presented by Peter Briggs of LDN. This included a general summary of the results of the questionnaire presented at the Public Meeting, with emphasis on the two maps created through people's application of dots regarding development and recreation.

Discussion of Conceptual Design Options Matrix

A copy of the Cheney Lake Park Master Plan Conceptual Design Options was provided to each member and Peter Briggs. The matrix provided 4 basic issues including: 1) Environment; 2) Access; 3) Facilities and Improvements; and 4) Activities. Each issue statement provided several items that had been raised during the open house and previous CAG meeting regarding park development. A range of development options were then presented to address each major issue and related item that included a low, medium and high level of development (see the Matrix for detail).

c) Specific issues raised by the CAG include:

i) Environmental:

- Lake water level is a critical issue and should be added to the matrix. The option of dredging the lake should be considered as a high development option.
- Public monitoring of the water quality should happen but concern raised over who would be responsible.
- Safety concern over the level of the lake as it relates to the northern section not freezing in the winter and possible skaters falling through thin ice.
- Habitat should relate to more than just the lake and include the shore line and related forested areas on the upland portion of the park.

ii) Access:

- Surfacing of trails should insure that they meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
- Nature trail along eastern wooded portion of the park should remain dirt with some modification to low wet areas.
- Insure that connections to surrounding parks, schools and adjacent neighborhoods is encouraged.
- Safety concerns for crossing along Beaver.
- Insure that trail easements are in place for east access point.
- Show that easement along south boundary is in place.

iii) Facilities & Improvements:

- Concern for trash containers being added without sufficient methods for garbage collection.
- Lighting should consider light pollution of the night sky and minimize glare.

iv) Activities:

- Look at carrying capacity for paddleboats and other active recreational uses.
- Lighting for skiing was not a high priority item and concern over light pollution.
- Skating on lake should look at expanding area if possible.

v) Assumptions

Three basic assumptions were also presented to the CAG about the community's vision for Cheney Lake Park that included:

- The park is a community park serving a wider audience than the immediate surrounding area.
- The park is viewed as a natural area with limited active recreational opportunities. The focus of the park is on nature, enjoyment of the outdoors, passive activities such as walking, hiking, boating and picnic.
- The privacy and the desires of the surrounding residential area must be balanced with the needs of the park users.

Finally the CAG indicated that the plan should not be one that is put on the shelf and not used for further development. An action plan or implementation strategy will be provided as part of the master plan but funding will depend on future park support and community desires.

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Appendix F –Public Meeting 2 - Questionnaire Summary (Oct. 16/02)

Station One – Park User Background Information

Question 1. – Read the three descriptions of Cheney Lake Park that is written below and circle the one you most agree with.

- A. A quiet scenic open space, natural park setting with wildlife, well maintained, with simple amenities with good local access. - 32
- B. A natural open space with a balance of activities for all ages that protects wildlife and habitat, well maintained with good local access. - 9
- C. A natural open space with a balance of activities for all ages that protects wildlife and habitat, well maintained with good local access. - 5
 - A well cared for natural like lake connected to surrounding parks. 4 neighborhoods with mix of activities/all ages with amenities and facilities

Question 2. – In 25 words or less write a description of Cheney Lake Park as to how you would like to see it look in 20 years.

- Well developed landscaping providing secluded areas with beaches for quiet enjoyment. Clean water. Small dock at N. & S. ends of lake for fishing. Small summer waterfowl population.
- Boardwalks, lights, no pike, picnic areas, paddleboats & canoes (limited), ice fishing, and skating in the winter with warm up hut.
- Low impact natural setting. Vegetation thick along busy Beaver Street to cut down on noise, so thick you won't know there is a road there. Some interpretive signage and possible boardwalks, but low key.
- Retain as much water as possible. I'm concerned that the rate of succession may progress fairly rapidly. I prefer a lake over a bog. Please retain the lagoon. Keep it natural.
- Scenic beauty/Limited development/Follow issues and priorities from these community meetings.
- More water and fish in the lake, more geese and ducks, like it used to be.
- Public park with fishing, boating, and restroom shelters. Good wildlife and habitat
- About the same with better fishing and better water quality with lake level as it is today.
- Cheney Lake should look the same in 20 years as it does now
- A quiet scenic open space, natural park setting with wildlife, well maintained, with simple amenities with good local access.
- Less people on lake so the wildlife comes back. (loons, etc.)
- I would like to see Cheney Lake as natural and pristine as possible. Protecting wildlife and providing a setting for children of all ages to see.
- Clean, quiet, yet open for families to recreate on it.
- Still enjoyed and in use by families both in the immediate community and outside of the immediate community. Still photographed and marveled at such a place of beauty in an urban area.
- The same as it does now with higher water level, more wild life (ducks), stocked with trout and land locked salmon
- As it is today, with improvements to currently developed portion such as new picnic tables, playground equipment and the addition of a small dock
- About the same
- I would like to see a minimum of change, but the reality is East Anchorage is slotted for high density. Cheney Lake will have to "keep up" with many changes, like paving trails, to come.
- No commercial activities. Level of lake now after rain is good. Vegetation in lake can't be seen now, good. High level, more beautiful and better for wetland habitat and birds and less erosion
- The same as it is today without the fences
- A natural open space that facilitates recreational opportunities – trout fishing, picnicking, walking, and ice skating
- A well used pretty lake with good water quality, amenities, activities for all ages. Appeal to

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neighbors, pedestrians, and visitors from other neighborhoods.

- Maintain trees and foliage, encourage more birds, ducks and loons. I would like little or no development. Maintain as natural as possible. Maintain quiet and solitude.
- Keep much as it is today, especially if water level and quality are adequately maintained
- Water quality returned, no boat rental concessions, no addition of paving (to current level), Beaver & Baxter Road modified between crosswalk and end of LDS church to reduce vehicle speeding.
- I would like to see Cheney Lake wildlife well preserved with the wild birds, loons, ducks, moose and the trees back in with the trails beside the lake. Also with fishing back.
- No change from the way it looked on 10-16-2002
- I would like to continue seeing the natural beauty and wildlife. Also, would like this park continued for my grandchildren
- Deeper, eliminate aquatic growth near Baxter and in Northeast corner. Well maintained on Baxter sides, natural on eastside.
- A pearl on a string of parks, connected by ski/bike/pedestrian trails, with boathouse and 60 foot observation tower.
- Natural settings, wildlife and wildlife habitat
- I would like to see the lake dredged deeper and have docks to walk on and fish off, along with a bridge across the center.
- I don't want to see much change from how it is right now.
- Quiet, natural, some fishing. No commercialization and no paddleboats
- A place for people and wildlife, reflecting gravel pit origin, not too over refined
- Disneyland of the North
- Much the same, but foster more and larger trees, less muddy paths
- Similar to today without the fences
- No further land developments but maintain present facilities. Keep eastside as natural as possible. Most importantly protect land from over usage and damage erosion
- The same but with no pike and no fences.

Question 3. – Rank the key issues based on how important you see each on being to the future of the park (1 being the most important)

___ Lake Level and Water Quality

1. 39
 - Maintain wildlife habitat
 - Lower level
 - High water quality needed, do not flood local residences
2. 7
3. 0
4. 2

___ Pedestrian Access

1. 5
2. 35
3. 5
 - Settle ownership (Otter Street access) Limit number of entry trails
4. 1

___ New Facilities and Improvements

1. 4

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2. 1

3. 30

- How are improvements defined? No, but depends on type and design of facilities.

4. 4

__ Paddleboats

1. 0

2. 1

3. 3

- Being banned is important

4. 31

- At least limit the number

- Need to ban paddle boats and commercial activity

Station Two – Development Opportunities

Question 4. – Please place one of your BLUE dots on each of the Issue Statements on the boards that has the type of development you prefer to see (e.g., Low, Moderate or High Development for Environmental, Access, Facilities and Improvements and Activities Issues).

Access Issues			
Please place a single dot on your for choice for each issue.			
Issue	Low Development	Medium Development	High Development
Trails	Maintain existing surfacing, but improve the trails to reduce seasonal problems (i.e. mud). 	Surface the trails with gravel (ensure that it meets ADA standards). 	Surface the trails and access points. (Paved).
Overlooks & Boardwalks	Improve higher use areas to reduce erosion, but minimize development. 	Development of boardwalks and overlooks for basic usage (i.e. rest and contemplation). 	Development of boardwalks and overlooks for recreational usage (i.e. Interpretation, water access).
Pedestrian connections	Maintain existing connections, but ensure safety, and ownership, of access routes into park. 	Upgrade secondary access points to the park along eastern side (i.e. signage). 	Develop an additional connection into the park from the southeast, connecting to Chester Creek.
Water Access	Provide limited areas for park users to access water with canoes, kayaks etc... 	Integrate access points into areas where there are boardwalks or other shoreline development. 	Develop a small dock suitable to the desired level of water access.

Activity Issues			
Please place a single dot on your for choice for each issue.			
Issue	Low Development	Medium Development	High Development
Paddleboating	Remove option for commercial use of the lake. 	Allow for paddle boating as per past usage. 	Develop limitations on paddle boat usage (i.e. no boating zones, maximum boats).
Skiiing	No changes 	Set tracks for winter trails. 	Installation of lights along main trail loop.
Skating	No changes 	Expand skating surface area. 	Install new lighting for skating and expand surface area.
Interpretation	Maintain existing connections, but ensure safety, and ownership, of access routes into park. 	Installation of signage with potential for a variety of educational topics. 	Site design driven by interpretive opportunities (i.e. boardwalks to allow children to see wetlands up close).
Wayfinding Signage	No changes 	Park map at parking lot showing trails and usage areas. 	Directional signs throughout park.

Environmental Issues

Please place a single dot on your for choice for each issue.

Issue	Low Development	Medium Development	High Development
Fish <i>A= 15</i>	Removal of Northern Pike without restocking. 	Removal of Northern Pike with restocking. 	Removal of Northern Pike with restocking and restriction of fishing zones.
Habitat	No restrictions to habitat access. 	Increased signage (warning and/or interpretive) to reduce damage to habitat. 	Physically restrict access to areas to eliminate habitat damage (either no access, or possible boardwalk protection)
Monitoring	Monitor for short term to find causes for aquatic growth. 	Monitor for medium term to see how development affects park. 	Long-term monitoring to create future baseline information for future desired changes.
Lake Level	Maintain at present level. 	Examine potential to raise it, with monitoring. 	Pursue dredging the lake to deepen it at same water height.

CHENEY LAKE PARK MASTER PLAN
Public Meeting #2 - October 16, 2002
For more information on the Master Plan go to:
WWW.LANDESIGNNORTH.COM



Facilities and Improvements Issues

Please place a single dot on your for choice for each issue.

Issue	Low Development	Medium Development	High Development
Seating <i>No More Tables</i>	Provision of benches at logical locations within the park. 	Development of areas that incorporate benches with other amenities (i.e. paving, lighting). 	Develop of areas where seating is incorporated into the design (i.e. seat walls around planters).
Picnic tables	Provision of picnic tables at logical locations within the park. 	Development of areas that incorporate picnic tables with other amenities (i.e. paving, lighting). 	Develop of areas where eating areas are incorporated into the design (i.e. tables adjacent to planting beds, seat walls).
Playground	Ensure safety of playground and develop better connections into the park. 	Upgrade existing playground equipment and area as required. 	Replace playground with new facilities.
Shelter	No shelter. 	Design an area for the seasonal usage of a temporary building. 	Provide a permanent structure.
Restroom	No change (retain existing seasonal portable toilet in parking lot). 	Develop a screened area for one portable toilet. 	Provide a permanent restroom facility.

CHENEY LAKE PARK MASTER PLAN
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Question 5. – What three things do you like MOST about the Cheney Lake Park Development Options presented tonight?

- Retaining and exclusive area for waterfowl
 - Beautiful natural site
 - Leaning heavily towards a “low impact” concept
 - The beauty – a good viewing area for Northern Lights
 - Scenic beauty valued/quiet setting
 - The wildlife
 - Fishing
 - Love the public process
 - Restock with trout
 - Maintaining safe play equipment for young children – not adding more nor replacing
 - Options for development
 - Water quality
 - Clearly defined level of development/usage
 - Defined levels of development
 - Trails – maintain existing surface as is
 - Improve tread on pathways
 - Safe pedestrian access
 - Keep natural
 - Well laid out – low impact development

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- Raise or change lake level
- I liked the format because it didn't overwhelm the meeting with the vocal concerns of a vocal few.
- Raise water level
- Paving trails
- Consideration about the level of the lake
- Self-paced familiarization and raw voting input approach
- No commercial vendors on lake
- Minimum Development
- There were several group options for minimal development
- Benches placed along walkway
- Dredge lake low areas
- Wide variety
- Low development of facilities
- Development goes from low to high
- Gravel on marshy areas of trail/walkways
- Care taken to include all amenities
- Openness to low development
- Blue dots
- Options of low impact are most important
- Water level important, dredging may be a good idea
- Reduce mud on path

2.
 - Developing clean lake
 - Close to residence
 - Many of my opinions from last meeting seem to be same as others
 - The lane
 - Low level of development and impact
 - View
 - Boating
 - Natural features of park preserved
 - Dredge the lake to 20 feet in the middle
 - Maintain present lake level
 - Taking the people's views in to consideration
 - Improved trails
 - Opportunity for public input
 - Fish – remove Northern Pike and restock, no access limits
 - Restrict development in front of condos
 - Does a good job of representing a range of options
 - Emphasize wilderness
 - Appreciate opportunity to comment
 - Kill pike, stock trout
 - I liked the visual opinion gathering (dots)
 - Low development
 - Removing pike and restocking
 - Consideration on the upkeep of the trail
 - Reduces probability of unfocused complaint
 - Fishing
 - The option for restrooms might be nice. Port-a-potties, while economical, are ugly
 - Preserving natural beauty
 - Responsive to CAG concerns
 - Monitoring of lake level and quality of water
 - The skating area is fine as it is
 - Lots of issues to choose from
 - Playground safety
 - The range of development listed
 - Green mint

- Enhancing the natural beauty without development
 - Monitoring aquatic growth
 - Leave as it is, or small improvements
- 3.
- Skiing
 - Get rid of pike and stock with trout
 - Boating (canoeing), kayaking, nature walks, and photography. (Thanks for the maples and iris!)
 - Appropriate trail improvements
 - Watching people fish
 - Wildlife
 - Kill the Pike
 - Skating rink
 - The choices for making Cheney Lake an area to be proud of
 - Respecting habitat
 - Level of hope for lake and shore improvement raised by available options.
 - Environmental issues and access issues
 - Erosion protection in high access areas
 - More interpretation/educational panels
 - Paving trails or other form of ADA access on the main part of the trail.
 - Birds, scenic view, mountains
 - No more benches please!
 - Improve trail surfaces
 - Didn't have to endure boring meeting
 - Bring trout back
 - Monitor lake level and leave at present level
 - Use of lake for fishing, boating & skating
 - Trash facilities
 - Low level of development to protect natural habitat for wildlife
 - Benches
 - Short pencil
 - Improving muddy trails
 - Restriction to certain areas to eliminate erosion

Question 6. – What three things do you like LEAST about the Cheney Lake Park Development Options presented tonight?

- 1.
- Dredging
 - Muddy paths
 - Paddleboats
 - Trash
 - Lighted trails
 - Water level
 - Condos in park
 - Allowing paddleboats
 - Signs will be vandalized, no one reads them, delete signs
 - The option for paddle boats. NO PADDLE BOATS!!
 - Digging out lake to make it deeper
 - Paddleboats – commercialization of any type!
 - Paddle boats
 - Trails – pavement
 - Need to address water quality more
 - Over representation of people who live on the lake biases the whole process.
 - Too much emphasis on development
 - No change was not always an option
 - Development of shelter
 - I would have liked a “graffiti” board – a place to write brainstorming thoughts not covered by other

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- displays
 - Paddleboats
 - Develop connection to Chester Creek
 - The raise of the lake level
 - Lack of definition for terms like “monitor for short, medium, or long – term...” (Environmental Monitoring).
 - Paddleboats
 - Too much upgrading of trails, etc.
 - The fish options did not include anything about leaving pike alone. It’s a land locked lake. If the lake isn’t stocked, the pike will eventually die off without new food sources.
 - High development
 - Question #3 and paddleboats issue
 - Any commercial ventures at the park
 - I did not know about other meetings
 - I prefer to not have fishing, they leave trash and I’m tired of seeing geese with hooks in their legs, etc.
 - No one says where the money comes from.
 - Paddleboats
 - Why any changes need to be made
 - Overworking simple attractions
 - Lack of port-a-john in off season option
 - Proposals for lots of development
 - Boardwalks for recreational use
 - Restocking the lake
- 2.
- Paddleboats
 - Lack of gravel & sand on beaches
 - How can we solve or help the high snow problem at Wolverine & 16th entrance?
 - Algae bloom
 - Shelters
 - Flush toilets
 - Wild life
 - Restrooms
 - Adding more playground equipment
 - Limit picnic area to present location
 - Signs
 - Docks
 - Permanent structures
 - Habitat – habitat access restrictions
 - Stocking lake with fish
 - Fishing use seems downplayed
 - Limit fishing and paddleboats
 - Assumed that we wanted a change
 - Development of playground
 - Paved trail
 - Lack of fish
 - Lack of definition for terms like “Logical Locations” (for picnic table siting)
 - Wood chips on trails
 - I don’t want commercial operations on the lake
 - Nothing on the response about where you live, if you use the park now, if you would use it more.
 - High development of facilities
 - No issue on who takes care of improvements and cleans up after all of the people
 - Warming hut
 - No issue presented as to who takes care of anything
 - Didn’t address hunting possibilities
 - New playground facilities

- Adding more benches
- 3.
- Excessive development
 - What is up with the chain link fences along the shorelines on Eastside? Can their purpose be fulfilled in a more aesthetic way?
 - Please no paddleboats or a limited number of paddleboats
 - There is a large unattended water safety issue on this lake and other bodies of water in the Municipality. Children and adults in boats and rafts with no skills and no pfd's
 - Fish – pike
 - Lack of good trails
 - Paving roads/trails
 - Uniformed people
 - Paved trails
 - Southwest connection to Chester Creek
 - Shelter
 - Many options seem very similar
 - Bias in what is environmental, people clearly voted for activities, not environment.
 - Paddleboats
 - Commercial paddleboats
 - Permanent structures
 - Bathrooms
 - I don't want many access restrictions. I kayak from my back door, and would like to explore the lake. Most users seem to respect the owner's property (mostly) as well as the wildlife (again mostly).
 - High development of access to the park.
 - No issue on where the money will come from
 - Developing areas presently in a natural state
 - Dock or boat ramp

Station Three – Where does this go from here?

Please provide any additional comments, concerns or ideas below, or on additional sheets of paper:

- Thank you for the opportunity to make a difference. I am impressed with your method for gathering public opinion. Well done!
- Could develop more pathways on Eastside of lake (on old roads and ramps)
- Safety concern of speeding vehicle traffic on Beaver/Baxter – must be addressed as collateral issue of park development!
- It's scary to have people fishing along the bike trail off Baxter/Beaver. I walk my small child along there and the people fishing cast backwards over the bike trail. I'm afraid of myself or child being "hooked"
- Cheney Lake needs to remain a quiet place for people and wildlife. Today there were 4 trumpeter swans on the east side of the lake. If further development is allowed there will be less wildlife nearby.