

WELCOME!



KEITH
Creek

NEIGHBORHOOD

BLOCK
PARTY



EVENT SPONSORS



PROJECT OVERVIEW



WELCOME TO THE KEITH CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOP!

Region 1 Planning Council has partnered with The Lakota Group, Studio GWA, Hey and Associates, and Strand Associates to conduct a corridor study of Keith Creek. The study will provide recommendations that aim to increase transportation and access to and along Keith Creek, help to mitigate flooding issues, support infrastructure improvements, promote economic development, increase corridor resiliency, and create opportunities for interactive art, education, and recreation near the Creek.

We want your help to create a vision for Keith Creek that will further enhance this important environmental feature. **With your help we will create a vision and make recommendations for land use, environmental considerations, greenway and open space enhancements, design, and quality of life improvements, as well as pedestrian, accessibility, and transportation improvements.**

The boards you see today display key development opportunity sites and preliminary concepts for how they can be transformed to lessen the impacts of flooding and provide benefits to the community.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Please take a bag and give us feedback directly on the following boards using stickers, sticky notes, and pens.

PROJECT TIMELINE

PHASE 1



CORRIDOR ANALYSIS

In this first phase, the project team will analyze existing conditions, gain an understanding of corridor opportunities and constraints, and engage with local stakeholders. The focus of Phase 1 is to establish a dynamic corridor planning process that provides a solid foundation for subsequent phases.

PHASE 2



DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS

In this second phase, the team will collaborate and create a development and improvement framework, along with associated urban design and development, improvement, and mobility concepts. The Team will present these ideas to RPC, community members, and other stakeholders for review and input.



PHASE 3

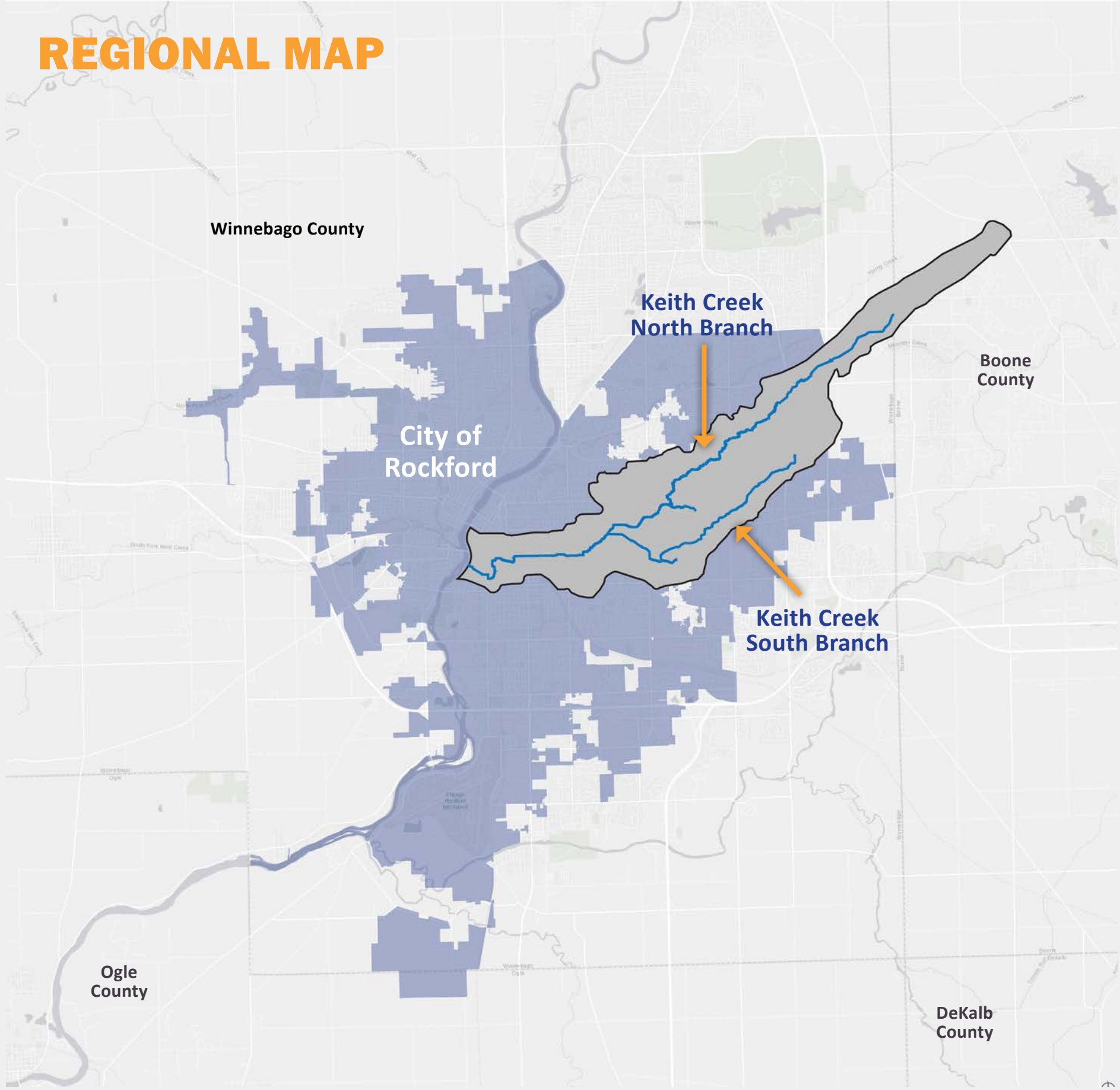
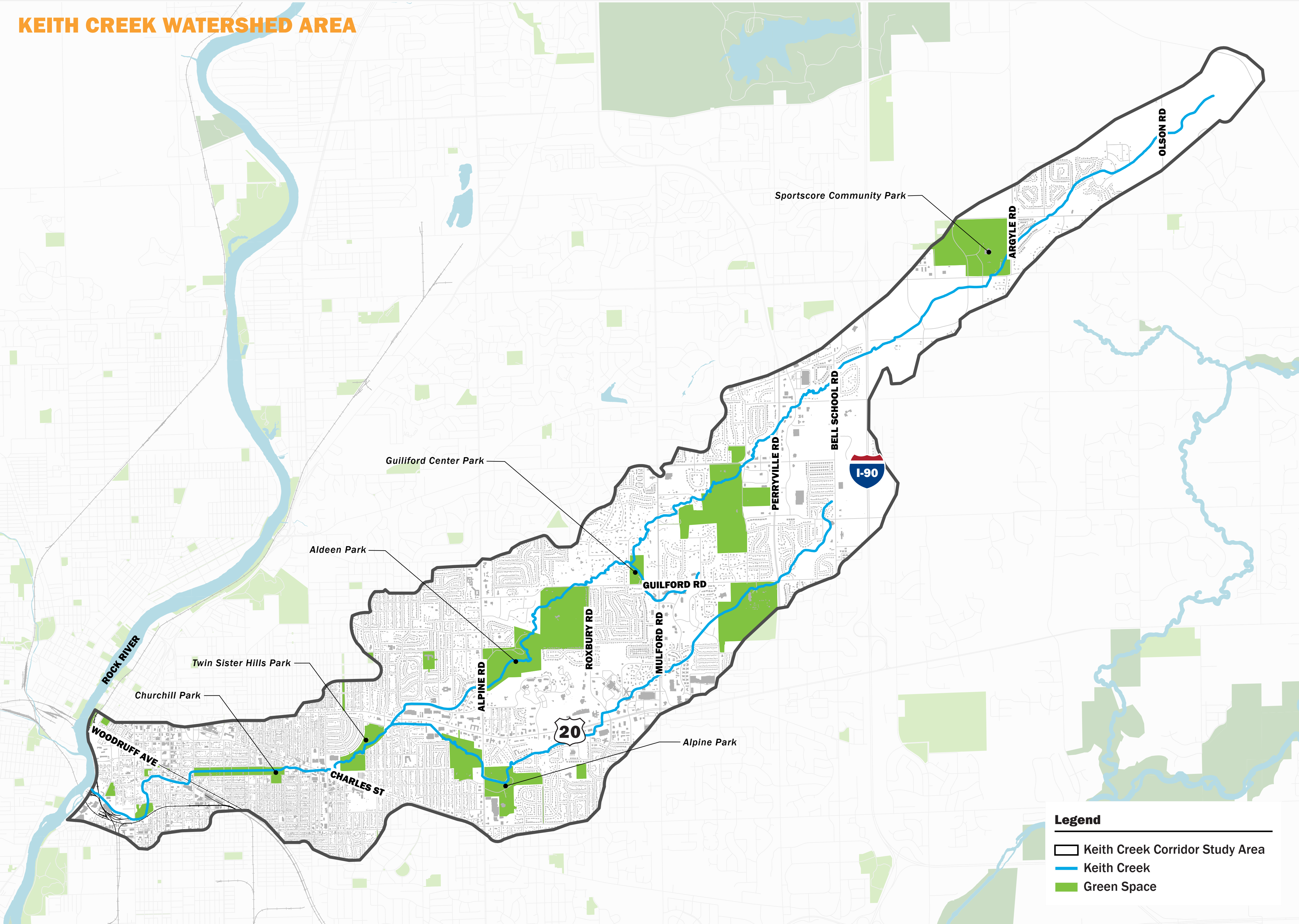


DRAFT AND FINAL REPORT

In the final phase, the team will refine the development and improvement concepts and create a draft and final Keith Creek Corridor Plan. This phase will also include review meetings, preparation of the Implementation strategy and a community open house to review the final draft documents. The team will prepare a Final Plan based on input and present this plan to the RPC and others as necessary.

KEITH CREEK CORRIDOR STUDY

STUDY AREA

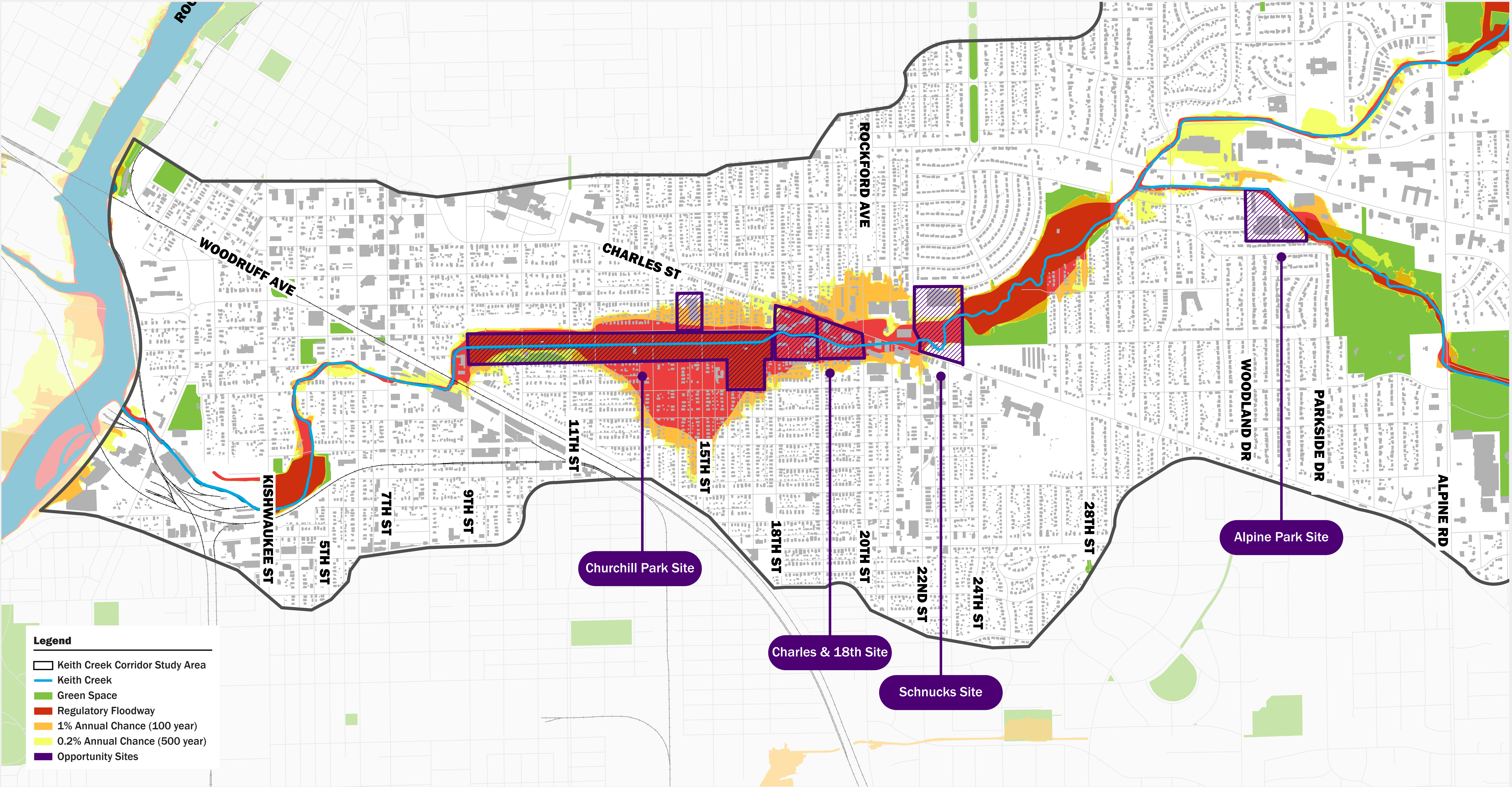


ABOUT KEITH CREEK

- Keith Creek consists of a two-branch creek system.
- The creek is approximately 5 miles long, with over 20 miles of creek channel.
- The eastern sections of the creek run through suburban land uses and there are very few flooding issues.
- The south and west section run through the oldest parts of Rockford. Much of the creek is underground and channelized with persistent flooding in sections.

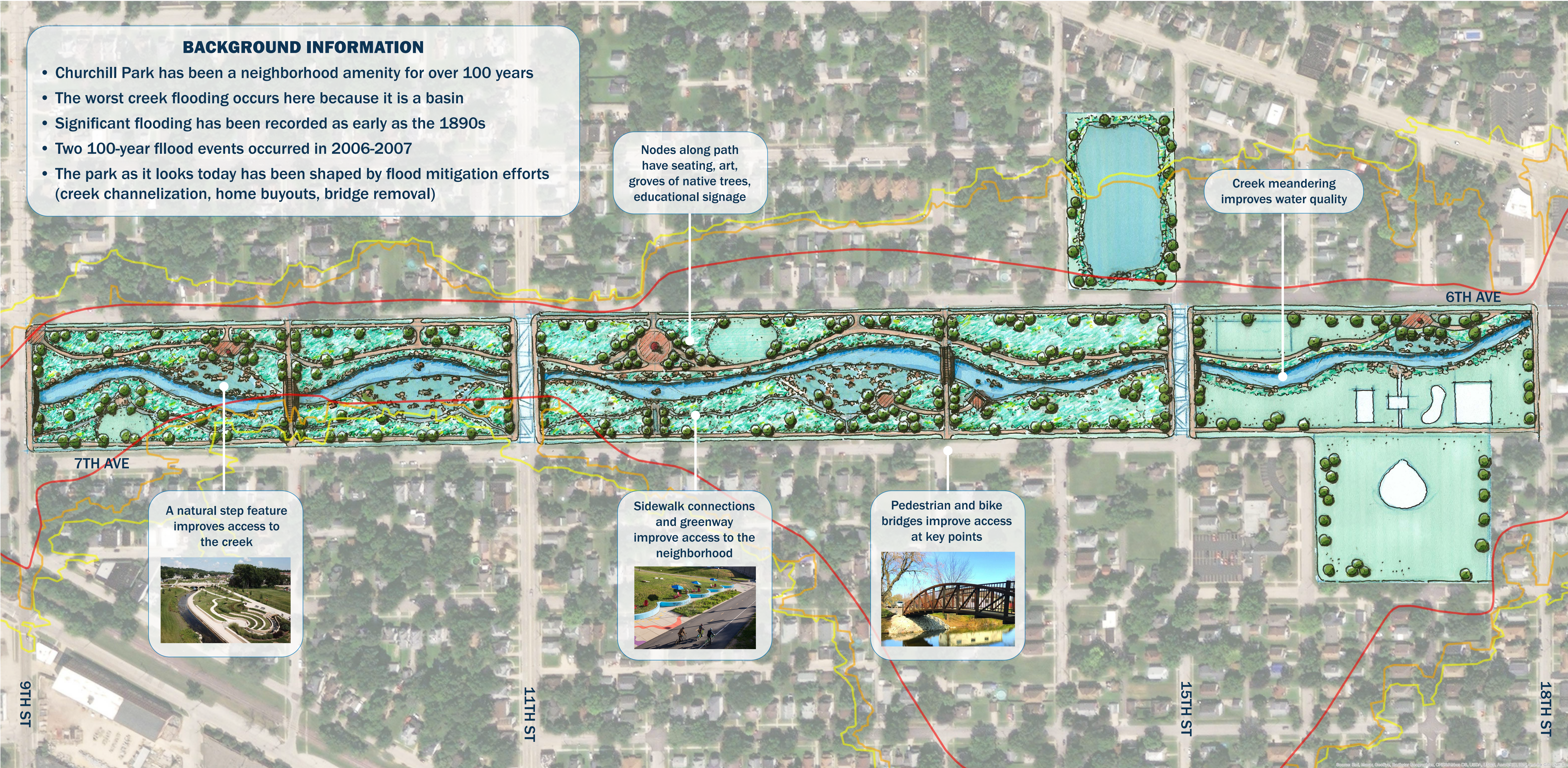
KEITH CREEK CORRIDOR STUDY

OPPORTUNITY SITES

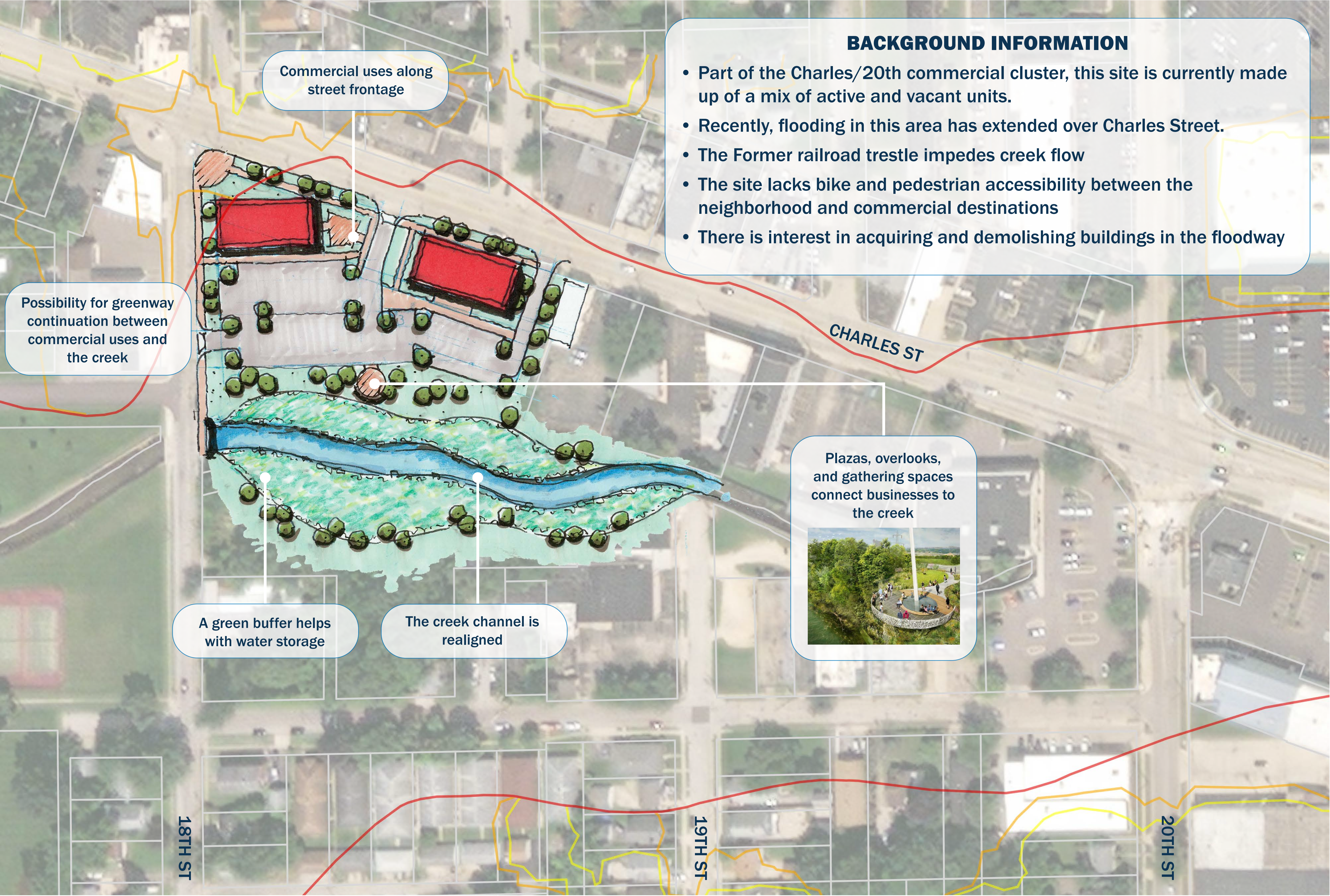


KEITH CREEK CORRIDOR STUDY

OPPORTUNITY SITE: CHURCHILL PARK



OPPORTUNITY SITE: CHARLES & 18TH



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Part of the Charles/20th commercial cluster, this site is currently made up of a mix of active and vacant units.
- Recently, flooding in this area has extended over Charles Street.
- The Former railroad trestle impedes creek flow
- The site lacks bike and pedestrian accessibility between the neighborhood and commercial destinations
- There is interest in acquiring and demolishing buildings in the floodway

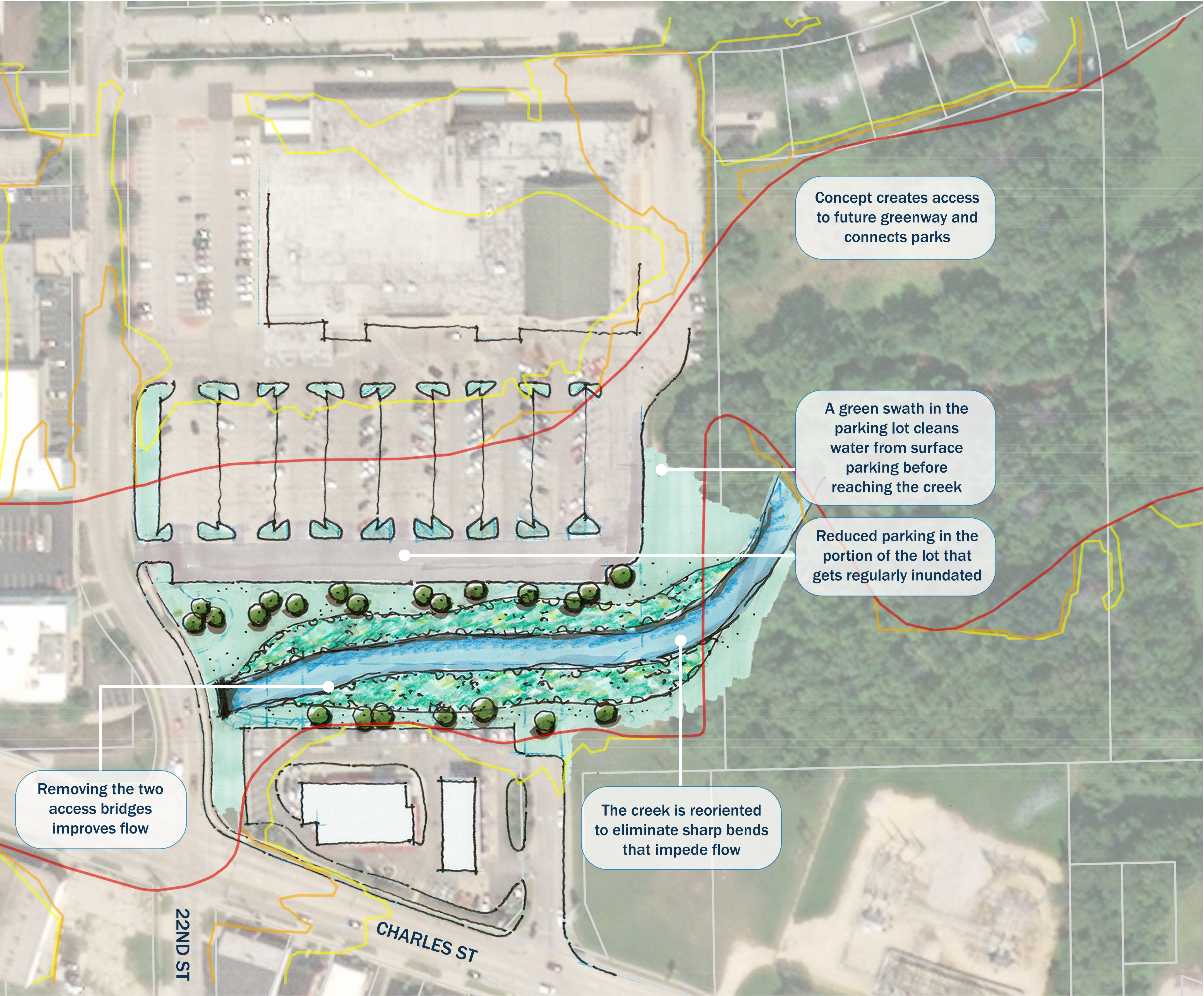
WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED ON THIS SITE?

Use stickers to select your priorities

FEATURE	YOUR PRIORITY
More quality commercial destinations Be specific! Share in the 'what else?' section!	
Recreational Amenities for residents/ customers Additional seating and overlooks	
Bicycle & Pedestrian Access Improve connectivity with a greenway behind commercial uses	
Flood Management & Mitigation Introduce water detention and realigning channel	

WHAT HAVE WE MISSED?

OPPORTUNITY SITE: SCHNUCKS



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- This site is a key commercial destination within the Charles/20th corridor
- There are persistent flooding issues. The site becomes inundated quickly during a flood event.
- It's not uncommon for the parking lot to flood to the store entrance.
- Flooding causes safety issues. In 2018 a flood resulted in a water rescue from a vehicle.
- Culverts and driveways constrain flow, which can worsen flooding.

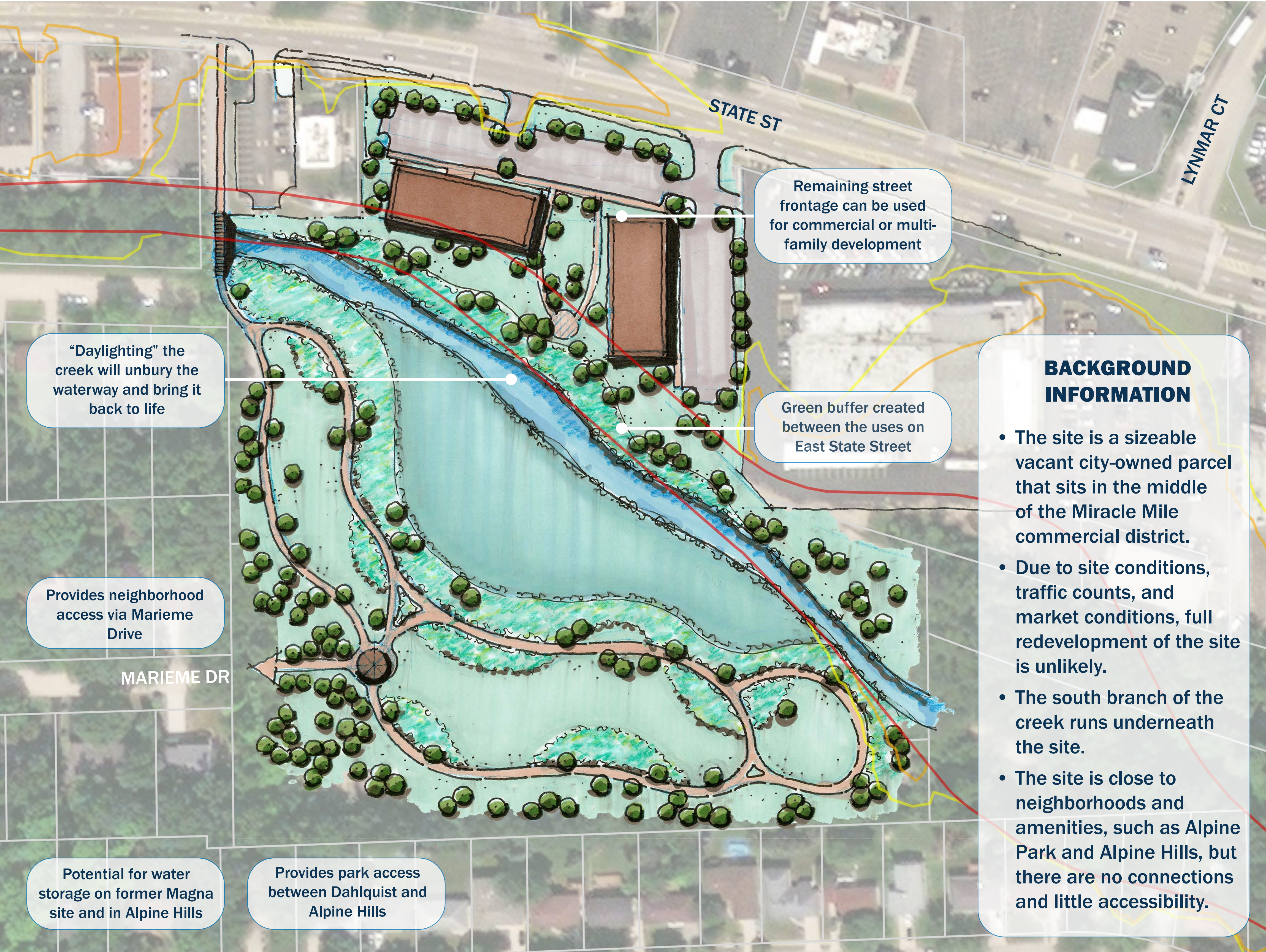
WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED ON THIS SITE?

Use stickers to select your priorities

FEATURE	YOUR PRIORITY
Flood Management & Mitigation Introduce water detention and reduce risk to vehicles and people	
Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Improve connectivity via a greenway	

WHAT HAVE WE MISSED?

OPPORTUNITY SITE: ALPINE HILLS



WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED ON THIS SITE?

Use stickers to select your top priorities

FEATURE	YOUR PRIORITY
Better and more productive land use. Turning a vacant site to commercial or multi-family	
Flood Management & Mitigation Introducing native plantings and green space	
Recreational Amenities Additional seating, overlooks, paths, or picnic lawns	
Natural Conditions Additional trees and native plantings	
Connectivity Improving park and neighborhood access	

WHAT HAVE WE MISSED?

BIG IDEAS



Using the sticky notes provided, share additional goals and visions for Keith Creek and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Learn more about the Keith Creek Corridor Study and get updates by visiting the project website!

