



UNIVERSITY LAKE PARK

2023 Improvements : Wayfinding and Natural Resources

University Area Community Council - 2/1/2023

2018 MASTER PLAN

COMMON THEMES

- University Lake Park is a valued natural area in a rapidly urbanizing area
- The park is being “loved to death”
- Water quality and habitat restoration need to be addressed
- The numerous different recreation interests often experience conflicts
- Signage, boundaries and wayfinding are unclear and need to be improved
- Most park users are responsible, although not all
- Parking does not meet current demand and needs to be addressed
- Better management, maintenance, and enforcement is needed

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Retain the Natural Character***
- **Water Quality, Wildlife, and Natural Resources Management***
- **Trails to Support a Variety of Uses***
- **Improve Signage and Wayfinding ***
- *Parking to Meet Demand (Parking Expanded in 2021)*
- **Maintenance and Amenities***

*2023 Areas of Focus



University Lake Park MASTER PLAN

Trails

Trails are a major visitor attraction to University Lake Park. The park has both paved and unpaved trails and is an important recreation destination and transportation link. Along the park's eastern and southern boundary, a paved multi-use trail links the park to two major greenbelt trail systems: the Chester Creek Trail and the Campbell Creek Trail. Within the park, soft-surface trails offer visitors a more quiet and contemplative experience in nature. Perhaps, the park's main attraction is the popular 1.1 mile University Lake Loop Trail. This loop is designated as an “off-leash” trail, allowing for owners to recreate with and exercise dogs off-leash. On all other trails, dogs are required to be “on-leash”.

Figure 6: Trails and access points at University Lake Park

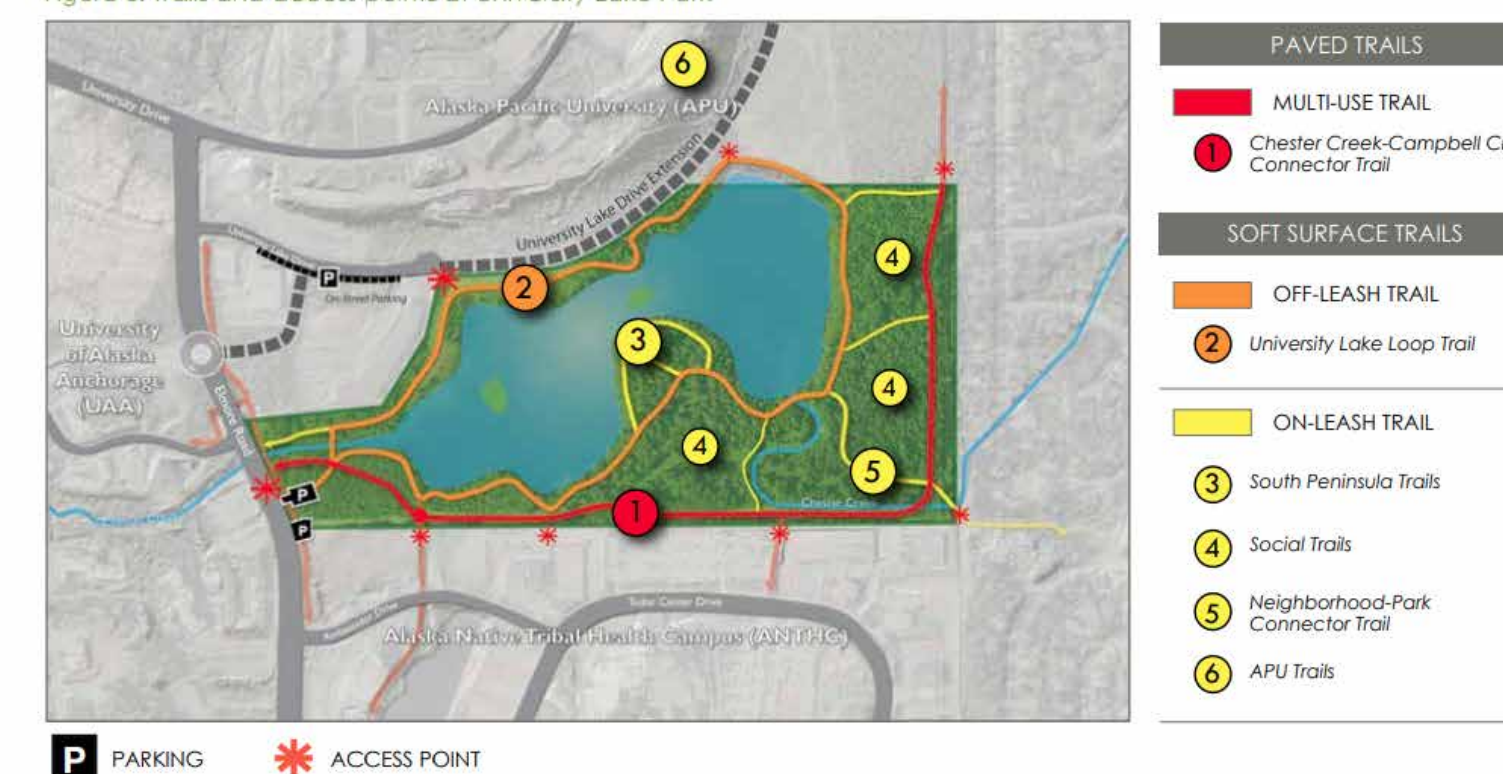
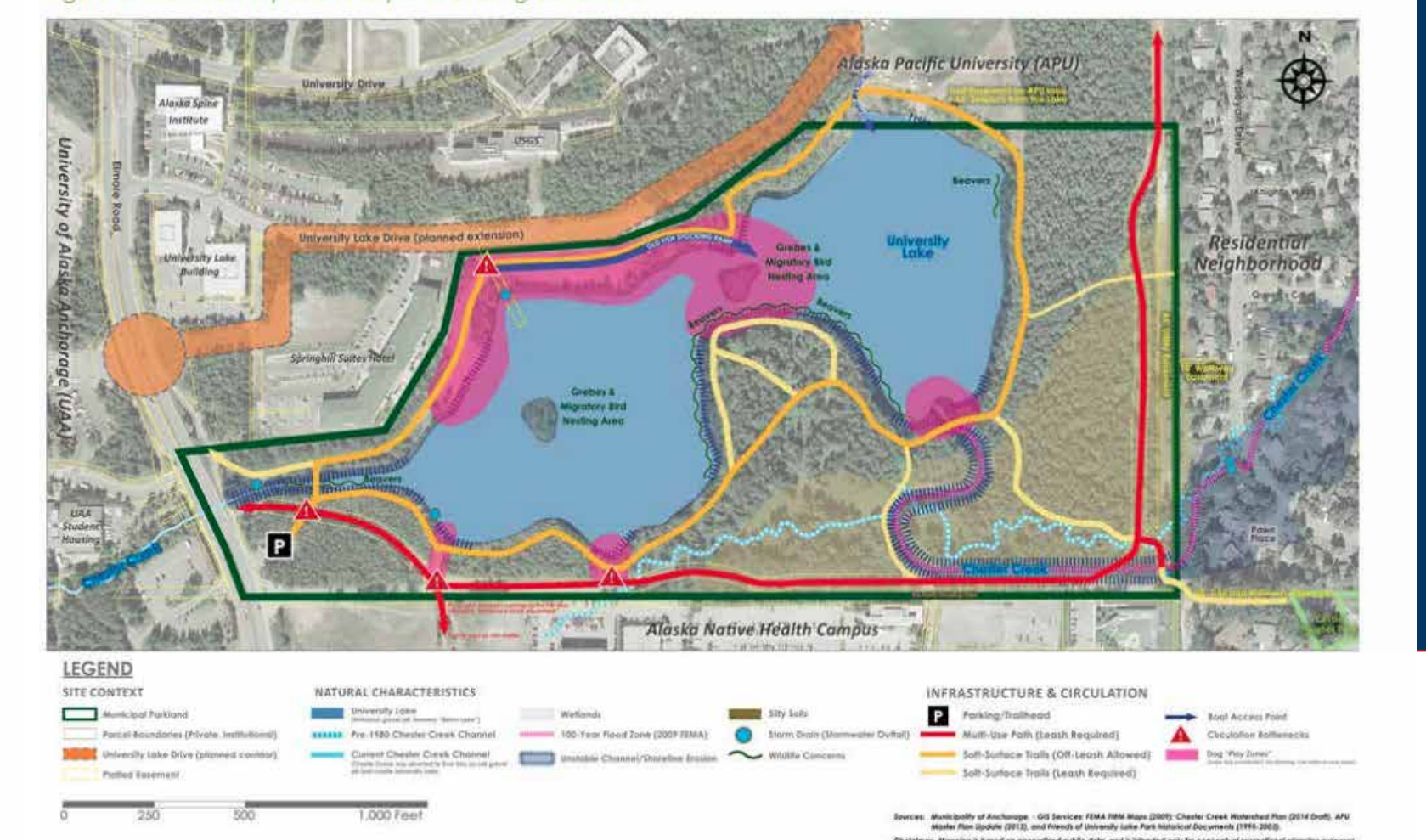


Figure 5: Site inventory and analysis of existing conditions





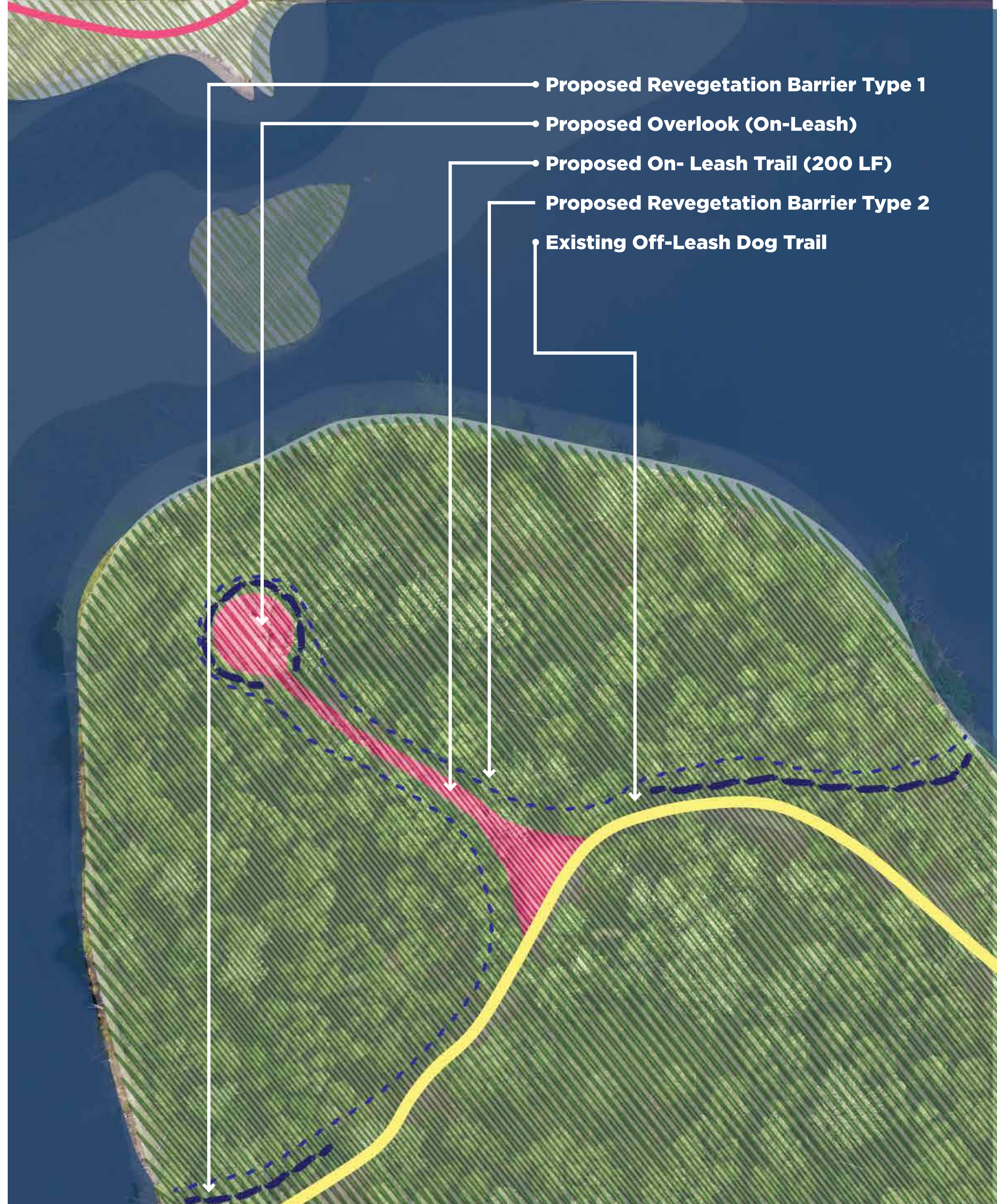
NATURAL RESOURCES





- Sensitive Nesting Bird Habitat
- Erosion Issues
- On-Leash Dog Trails (800LF)
- Off-Leash Dog Trail

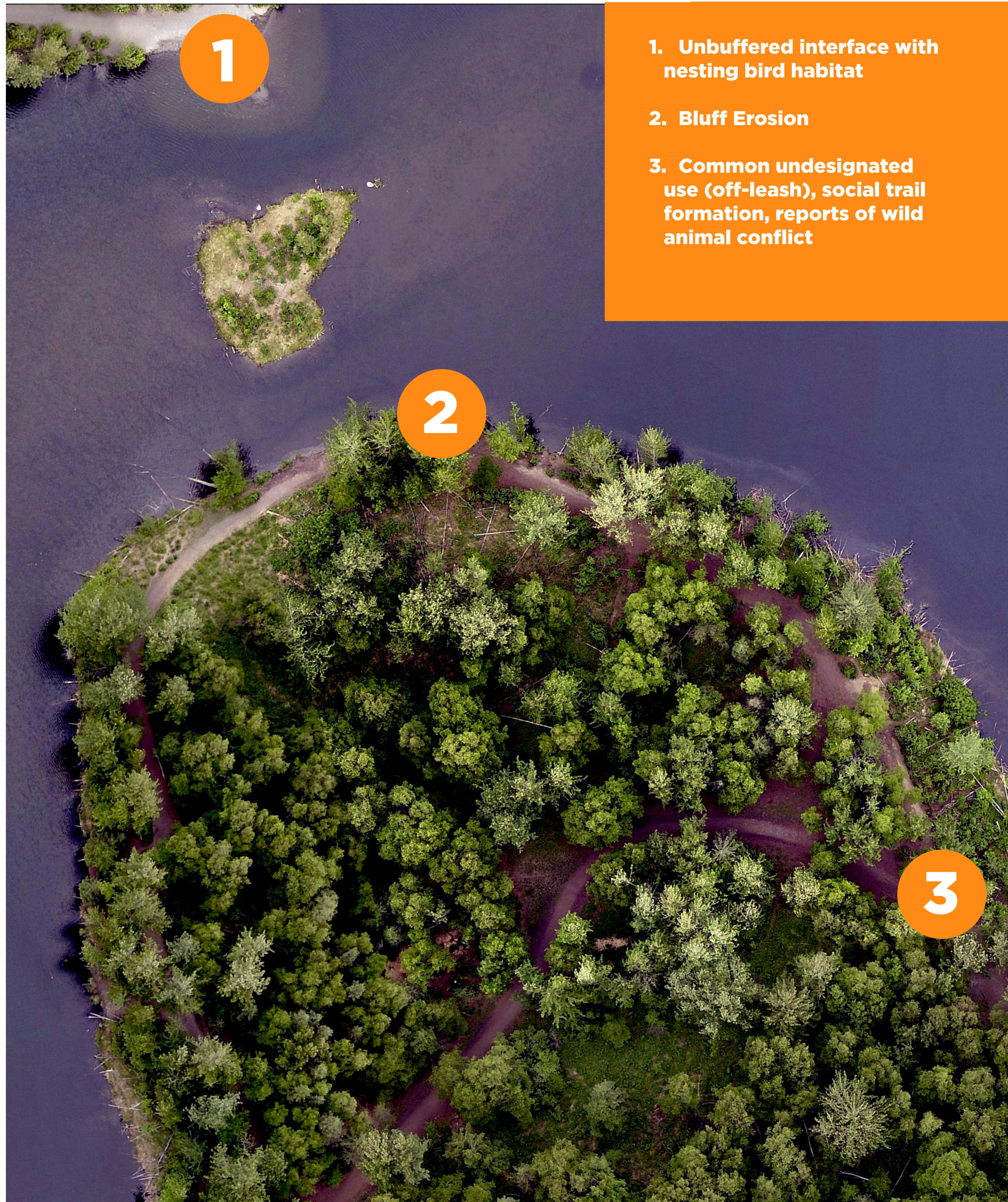
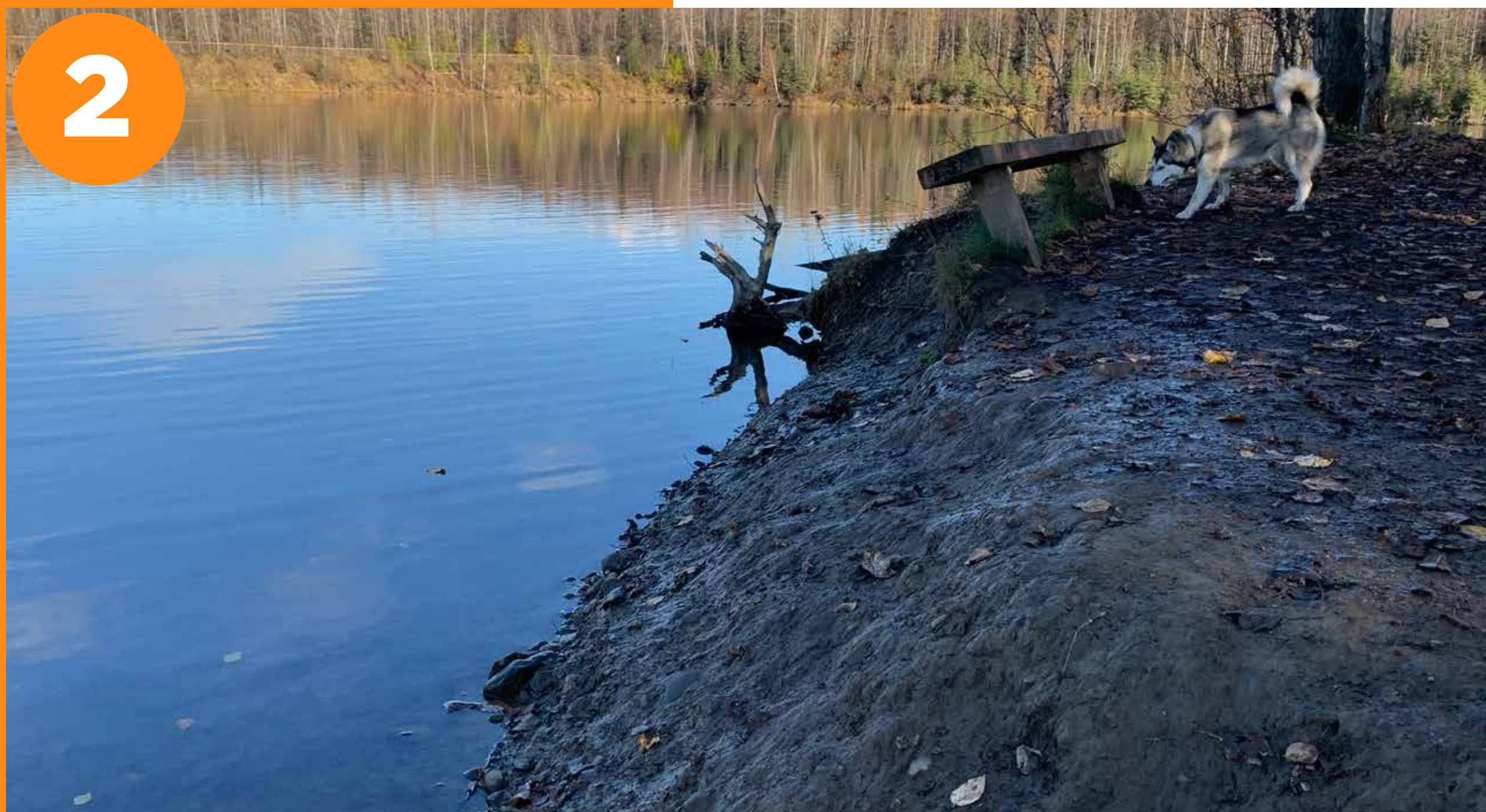
EXISTING



- Proposed Revegetation Barrier Type 1
- Proposed Overlook (On-Leash)
- Proposed On-Leash Trail (200 LF)
- Proposed Revegetation Barrier Type 2
- Existing Off-Leash Dog Trail

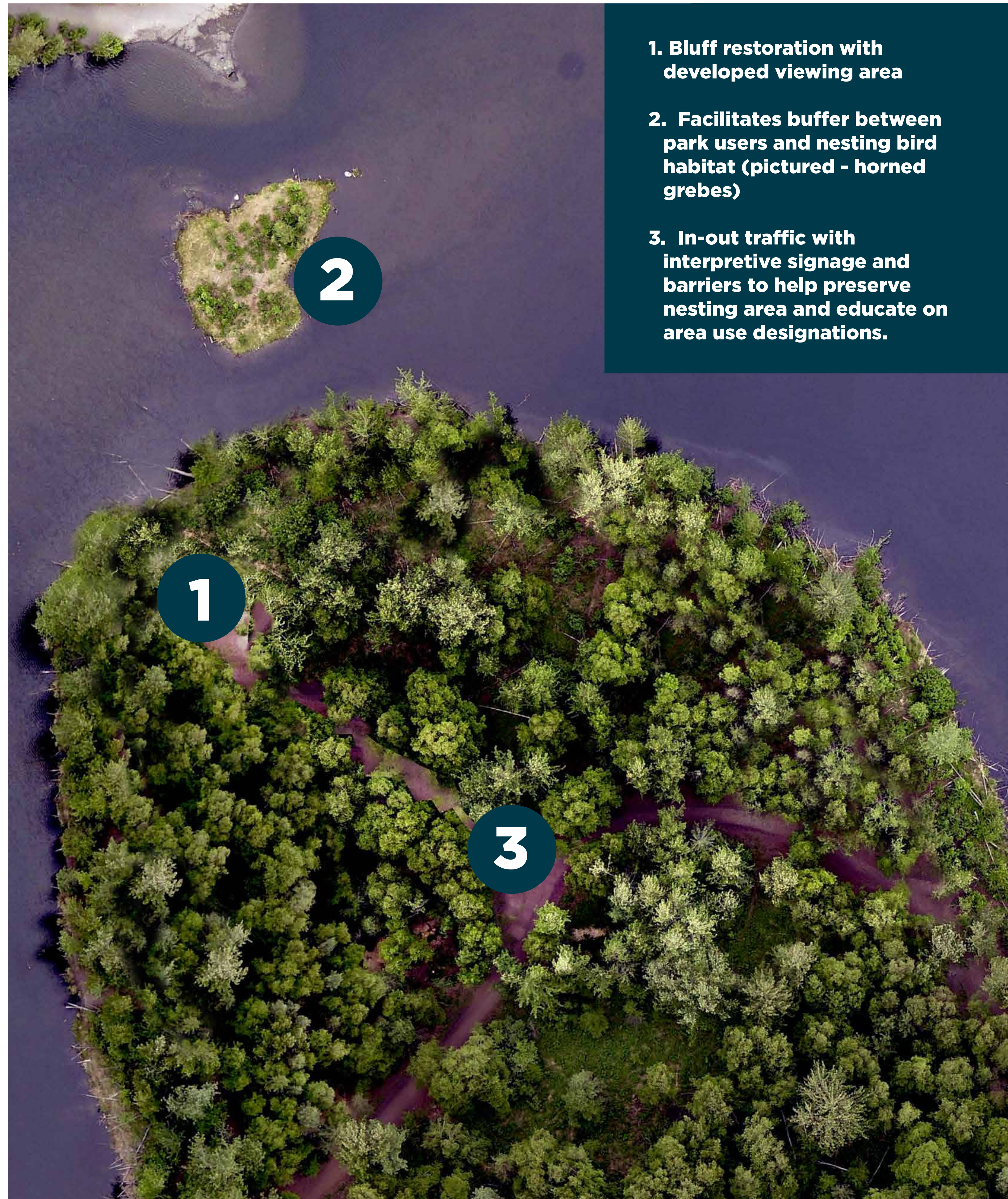
PROPOSED

EXISTING



- 1. Unbuffered interface with nesting bird habitat
- 2. Bluff Erosion
- 3. Common undesignated use (off-leash), social trail formation, reports of wild animal conflict

PROPOSED



1. Bluff restoration with developed viewing area

2. Facilitates buffer between park users and nesting bird habitat (pictured - horned grebes)

3. In-out traffic with interpretive signage and barriers to help preserve nesting area and educate on area use designations.



EXISTING

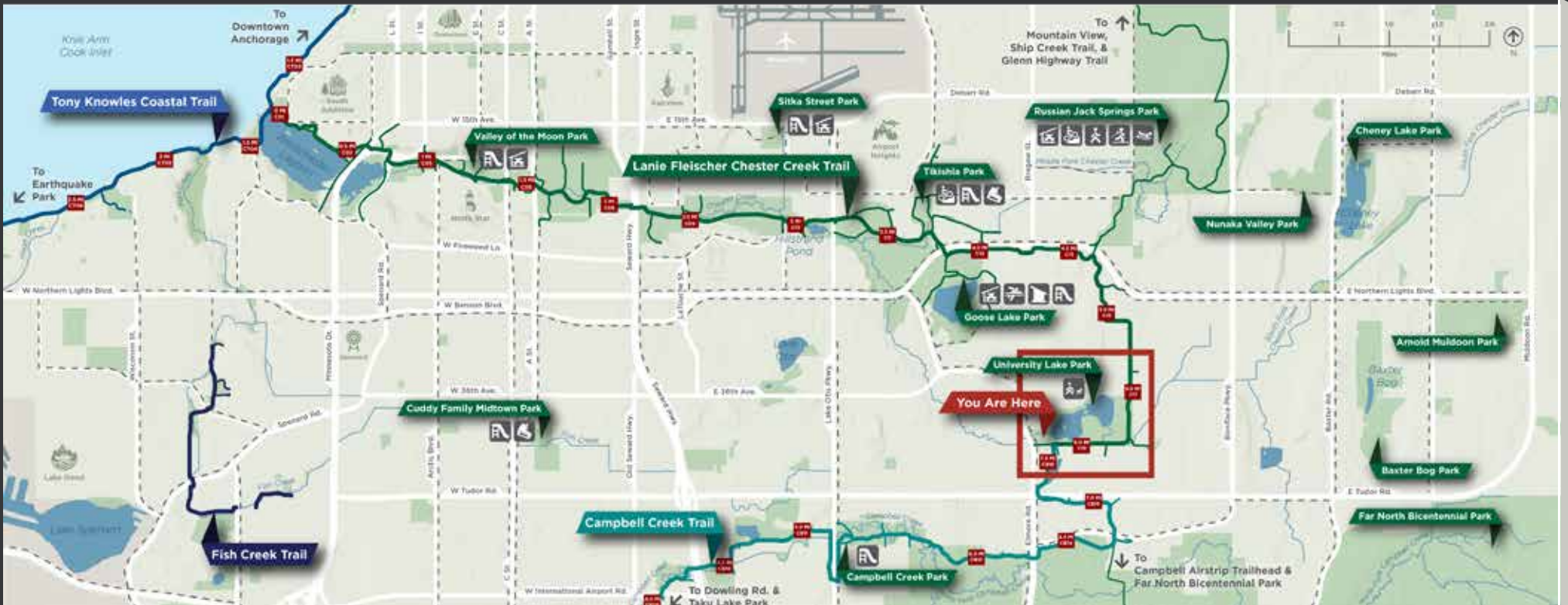
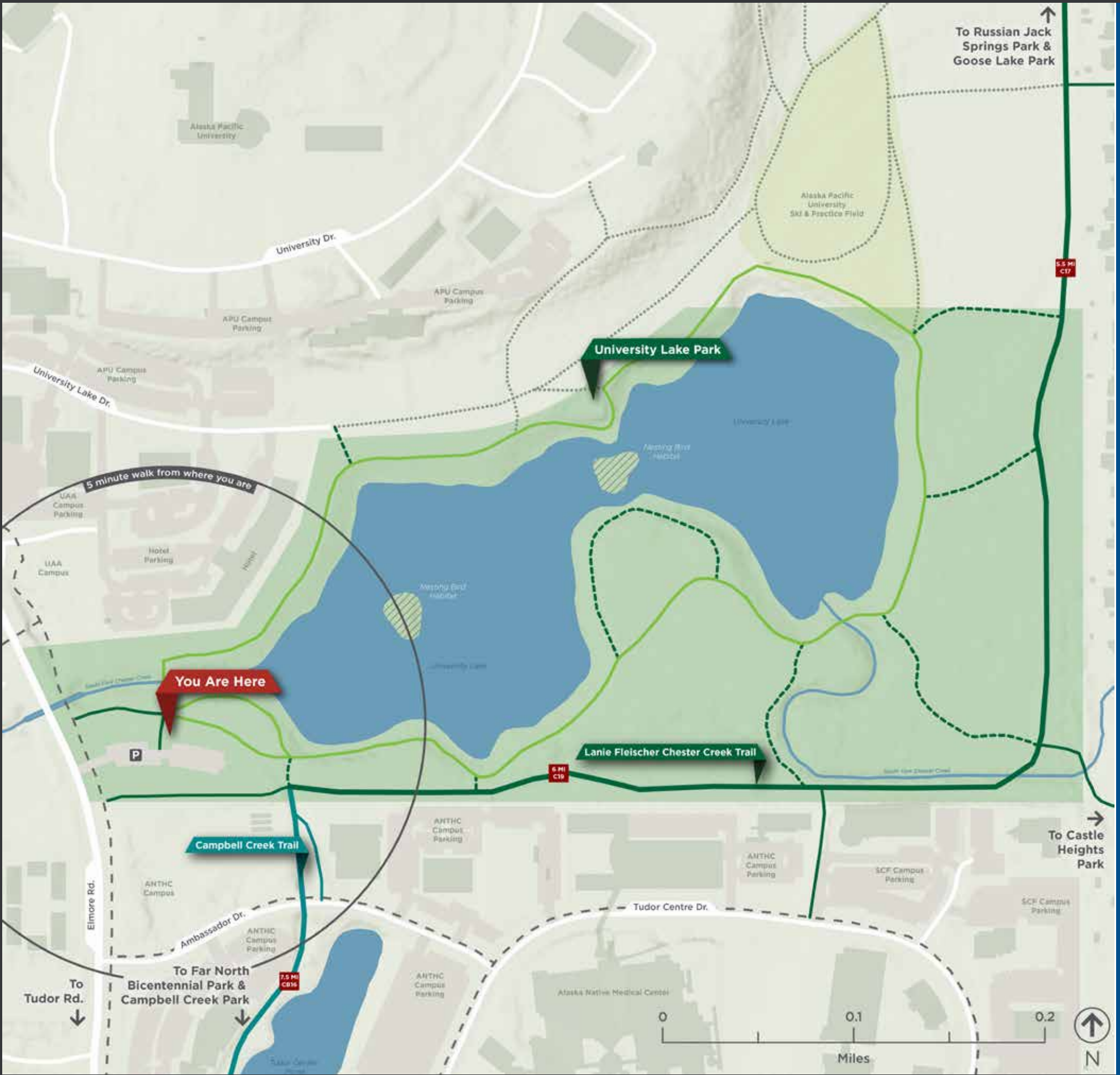
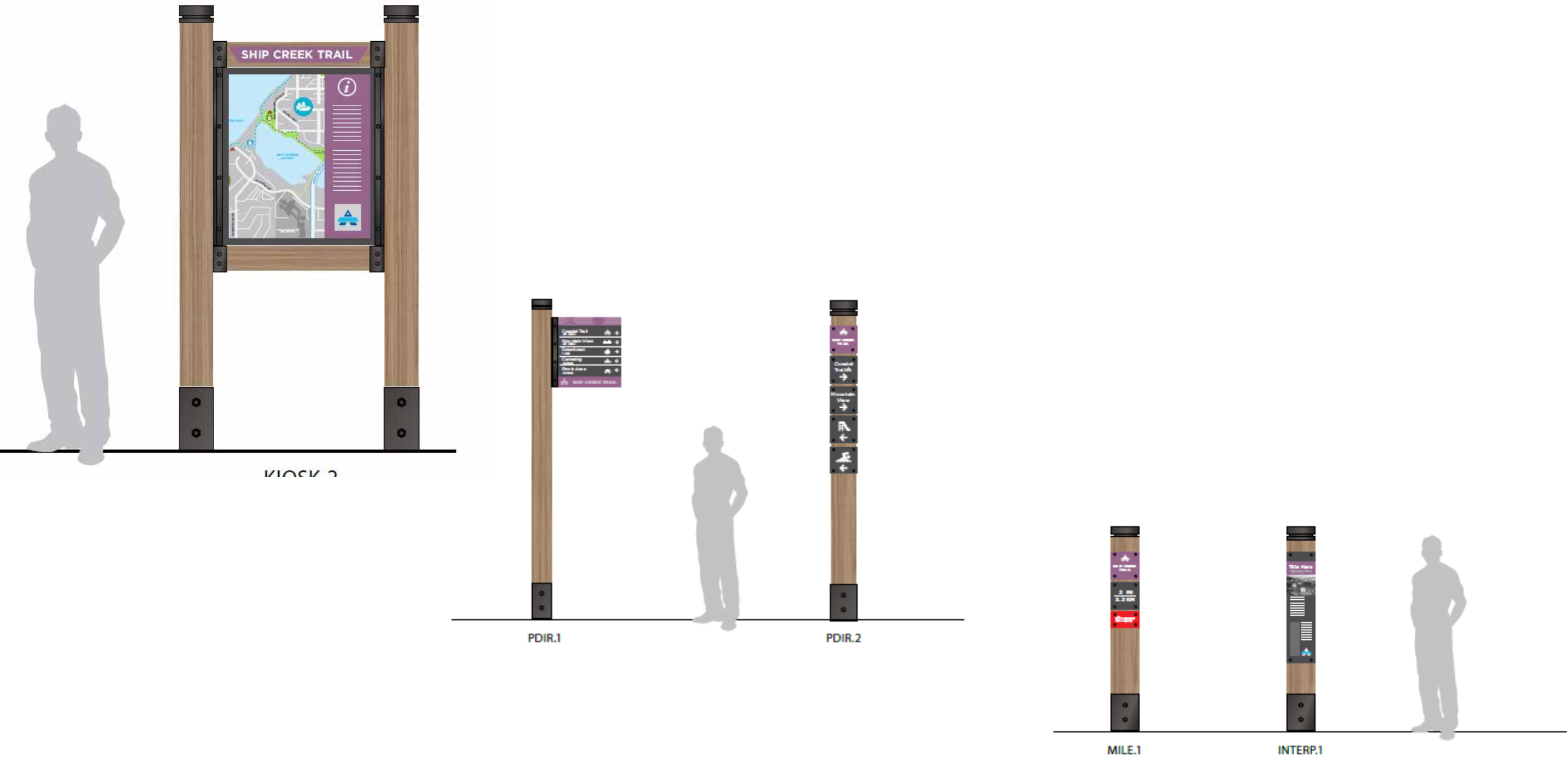


PROPOSED



WAYFINDING





HEALTHY PARKS, HEALTHY PEOPLE

- Help keep the park clean. Pack out your trash and pet waste.
- Do not damage or deface natural resources, structures, or equipment.
- Building of fires is prohibited.
- Respect and enjoy viewing wildlife; give wildlife the right of way.
- Be courteous to other park users.
- Use only those trails dedicated for your activity.

Keep right, except to pass, and alert users ahead of your intention to pass. Yield to uphill traffic.

Preserve Anchorage's world class trails and use paved trails during the spring melt. Damage from foot and tire tracks ruins trails and costs money to repair.

In case of an emergency, Trail Emergency Locators are provided at mile posts. Find the nearest emergency locator number and call emergency services for help.

PARK GUIDE

University Lake Area Trails provide access to:



Multi-Use Trails provide access to:



PARK HOURS

Open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Closed 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Municipality of Anchorage
Parks & Recreation
(907) 343-4355

www.muni.org/departments/parks

Anchorage Park
Foundation
(907) 274-1003

Graffiti Busters
(907) 343-GONE

Police
911
(emergency)
311
(non-emergency)



CAMPBELL CREEK TRAIL

Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex
(1.2 mi/1.9 km)
Campbell Creek Park (2.4 mi/3.8 km)
Taku Lake Park (6.1 mi/9.7 km)

CHESTER CREEK TRAIL

(2.0 mi/3.2 km) Russian Jack Springs Park
(5.0 mi/8.0 km) Ship Creek Trail
(5.8 mi/9.3 km) Westchester Lagoon
(6.2 mi/10.0 km) Tony Knowles Coastal Trail





EXISTING

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PROPOSED