



Heritage Preservation Commission

Thursday, November 20, 2025

6:00 PM

Elk River City Hall

Regular Meeting Agenda

Uppertown Conference Room

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. CONSIDER AGENDA

4. CONSIDER MINUTES
 - 4.1 DRAFT Minutes - October 8, 2025

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Items in which the information is presented by city staff or consultants, then deliberation and action occur. General Business items are not opportunities to receive or provide public input. However, the presiding officer may, at its sole discretion, solicit public feedback.

 - 5.1 Jackson Street Historic Water Tower Site
 - 5.2 Elk River History Trail

6. MOTION TO ADJOURN



**Meeting of the Heritage Preservation
Commission
Held at the Elk River City Hall
Wednesday, October 8, 2025**

Members Present: Acting Chair Zachary Griffiths, Commissioner Jayne Dietz, Commissioner Linda Campbell, Commissioner Gavin Tuckey, Councilmember J. Brian Calva

Members Absent: Commissioner Lance Lindberg

Staff Present: Community Development Director Zack Carlton

Others Present: Olivia Halsne and Zakcq Lockren, Mend Collaborative

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. CONSIDER AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Dietz and seconded by Commissioner Tuckey to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

4. CONSIDER MINUTES

Moved by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Tuckey to approve the following consent items as outlined in their respective staff reports. Motion carried 4-0.

4.1 DRAFT Minutes - September 11, 2025

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Elk River Water Tower Historic Site

Olivia Halsne, Mend Collaborative, presented the finalized Elk River Water Tower Historic Site plan.

Ms. Halsne mentioned that the wall holding up the grade could be a good spot to add signage. **Zakcq Lockren, Mend Collaborative**, added that the wall could also contain engraved bricks with donors' names on them.

Councilmember Calva asked if there would be electricity on site for powering devices. Mr. Carlton discussed the possibility of adding a solar picnic table or including a charging feature on a bench.

Ms. Halsne discussed the water feature which could include a manual-activated hand pump flowing over a stone surface and traveling down a channel along the timeline to the rain garden. Commissioner Dietz asked if the water would run constantly. Ms. Halsne said that it would only run when the pump was activated and be shut off in the winter. Mr. Carlton added that, in discussing with Elk River Municipal Utilities, they suggested a "sampling well". Another consideration is where the excess water from the rain water would overflow if it became too full.

Ms. Halsne reviewed that the proposed price is around \$400,000 with an additional optional \$40,000-\$50,000 that would include construction documents and support, landscape architect, civil engineering, additional cost estimator, and assistance with finding grants and other funding. The additional cost would also include a storytelling and signage specialist. Mr. Carlton asked if the additional cost would include construction administration and periodic inspections.

Mr. Lockren stated the goal was that the city would not pay for the entire cost. Money could be raised from park and open space grants, placemaking grants, history grants, environmental and stormwater grants as well as individual and corporate funding or material donations. Some community fundraising ideas include buying a brick with a name on it, adopting a tree or bench, naming rights, or a time capsule. Grant funding could require a city match.

Mr. Carlton stated that he had spoken to Plaisted and they were interested in helping with hardscape, materials, soils, and rocks.

Councilmember Calva asked about the timeline for fundraising and council approval. Mr. Carlton stated the Heritage Preservation Commission would take a motion to recommend approval and the City Council could formally adopt the concept plan. Mr. Carlton estimated the park completion in 2026 or 2027. Councilmember Calva asked if it could be completed sooner. Mr. Carlton stated he was happy to see it go as fast as possible.

Commissioner Griffiths stated it seemed in the best interest of those who had given community feedback to get the project underway.

Commissioner Dietz asked if an elk statute could be added to the plan.

Moved by Commissioner Tuckey and seconded by Commissioner Campbell to recommend approval of the conceptual plans for the Water Tower Historic Site. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilmember Calva discussed his enthusiasm for fundraising and stated the City Council would be more receptive to the project if funding could be found. Mr. Lockren agreed and stated sponsorship packages could be created.

Commissioner Campbell asked how much liquid the water tower held and suggested the community could be asked to "sponsor a gallon" and watching the total fill up.

Ms. Halsne stated the next step was to create a more detailed timeline of when grants are due and create a fun rendering of the site.

Commissioner Campbell asked if Mr. Carlton knew of any other material discounts or donations in the community. Mr. Carlton stated Spikes & Houles Feed, Seed, & Pet Supply or Steve's Elk River Nursery were possibilities. Commissioner Dietz suggested Furniture and Things for an elk statue. Commissioner Dietz added that the Heritage Preservation Commission could consider "adopting" the park.

Vice Chair Griffiths asked if there was anything the commission should prepare for the Council presentation. Mr. Lockren suggested that anyone who was available should attend the City Council meeting to show support for the project.

The project will be brought to the November 3, 2025 City Council meeting for approval.

6. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Dietz to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Katie Porath.

Zachary Griffiths, Acting Chair

Tina Allard, City Clerk



Request for Action

To
Heritage Preservation Commission

Item Number
5.1

Meeting Date
November 20, 2025

Prepared By
Zack Carlton, Community Development Director

Item Description
Jackson Street Historic Water Tower Site

Reviewed by
Zack Carlton

Action Requested

Review the concept plans for the Jackson Street Water Tower Site.

Background/Discussion

The City Council reviewed the concept plans for the Historic Jackson Street Water Tower site on November 17, 2025. With their review, the HPC should consider the next steps in bringing this project to reality. A few topics to discuss include fundraising efforts led by the HPC, preparing the historical information to be presented on the panels/timeline, and when we may bring a contractor on board for the next phases.

Financial Impact

None

Mission/Policy/Goal

Reflect the culture of citizens and what is important.

Attachments

- I. Final Concept Design Package

The Elk River Vision

A welcoming community with revolutionary and spirited resourcefulness, exceptional service, and community engagement that encourages and inspires prosperity





Elk River Water Tower Historic Site

CONCEPT PLAN

11/07/2025



Historic Water Tower

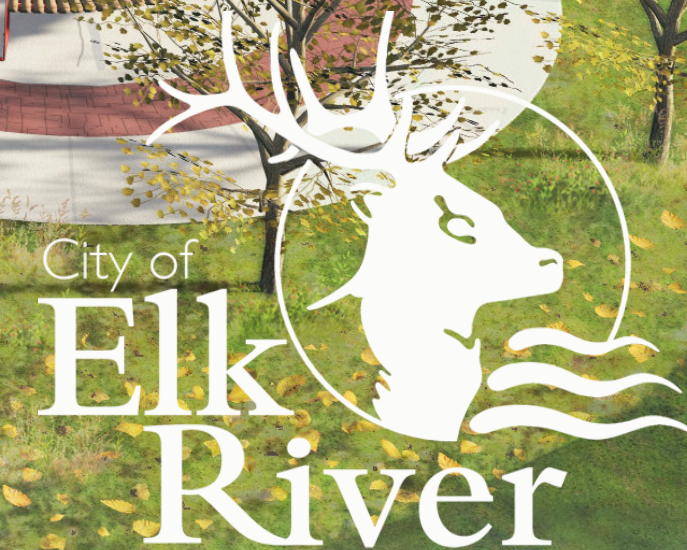


Table of Contents

Project Goals.....	3
Community Voice & Input.....	4
Final Concept.....	7
Experiential Rendering.....	8
Materials & Plantings.....	9
Storytelling.....	10
Furnishings.....	11
Circulation.....	12
Water Feature.....	13
Plant Palette.....	14
Opinion of Probable Cost.....	15
Funding Strategy.....	16



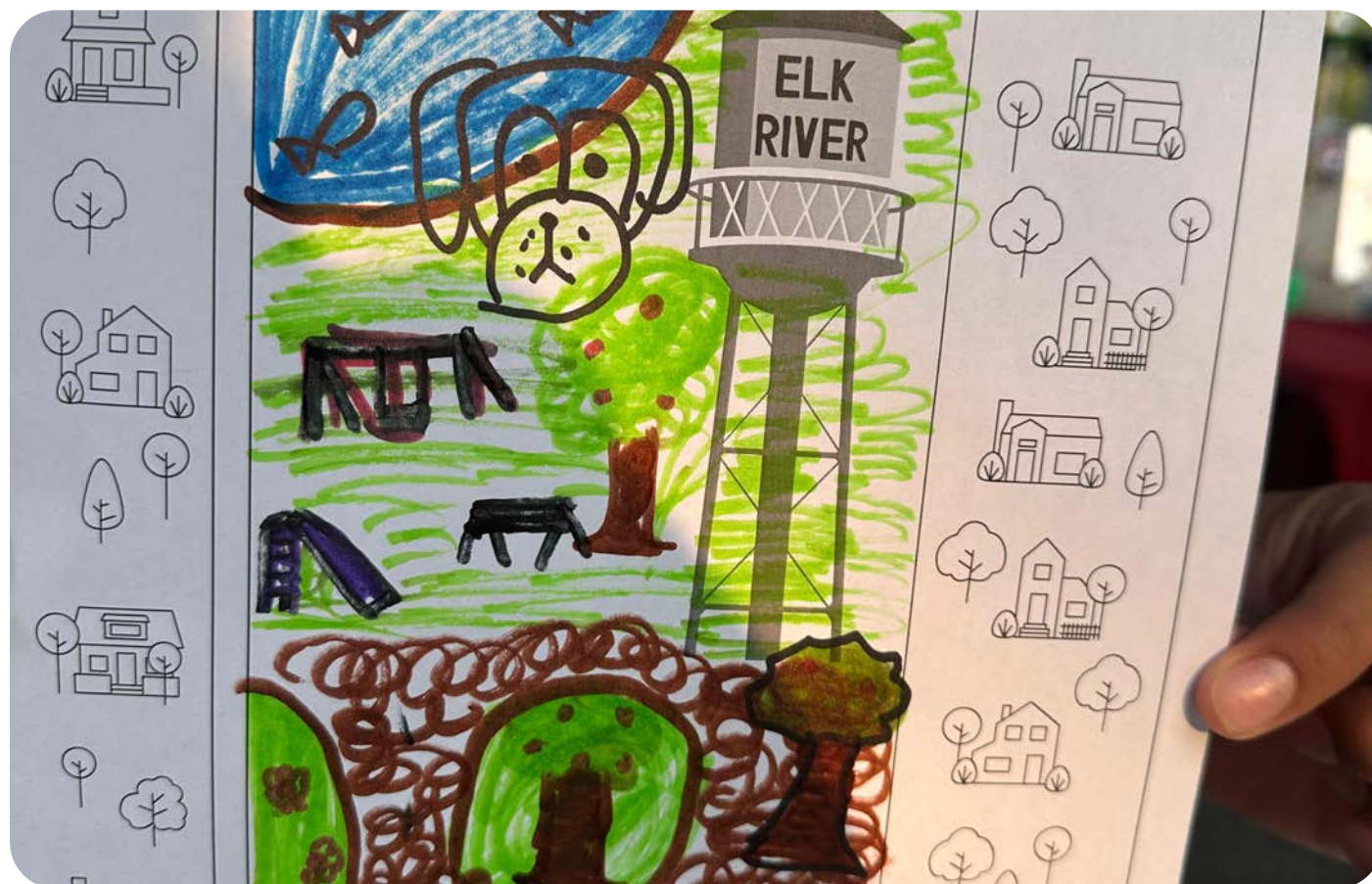
Project Goals

Vision Statement:

Water Tower Historic Site is a welcoming community space that celebrates the iconic water tower, local heritage, and everyday gathering. Designed for all ages, it supports connection, play, events, and ecological systems while reflecting the spirit of the community.

Concept Plan Goals:

- Elk River's history is celebrated through storytelling, art, and interpretive design.
- The site is a symbolic place for the community of Elk River.
- The site is welcoming, inclusive, and accessible for all ages and abilities to experience and enjoy.
- The site is a key stop along a future Elk River Heritage Walk, connecting various historic sites throughout the city.



Community Voice & Input

JULY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES (PRE-DESIGN)

What needs to be here?

- Play
- Pathways
- History & Storytelling

How should history be told?

- Live programs or events
- Interpretive signage and panels
- Public art & Sculpture

What do you want this place to be?

A place to celebrate and preserve Elk River's historic water tower as a symbol of community pride—sharing stories of Elk River's history, as well as educational information about the water tower.


Main programmatic elements:

- Space for small gatherings and learning sessions
- History interpretation and education
- Plantings
- Pathways
- Public art





Community Voice & Input

SEPTEMBER ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES (CONCEPT DESIGN)

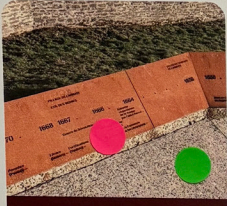
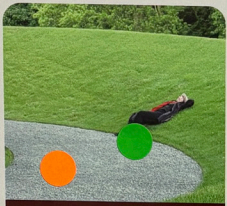


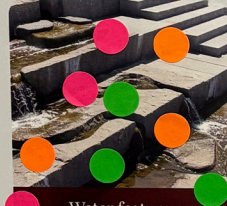
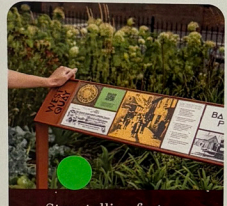
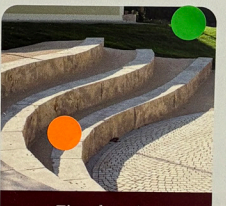



**Elk River Water Tower
Historic Site**

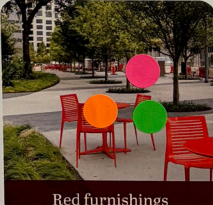
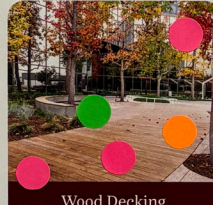
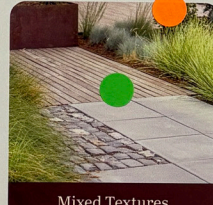
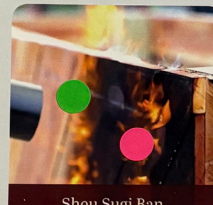



Which programs, materials and plantings do you like the most?
Place dots on your favorite elements.


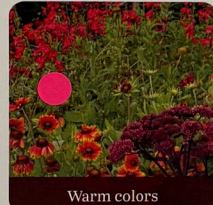


Programs

 Linear timeline signage	 Sloped lawn	 Swing benches	 Elk River map
 Water feature	 Storytelling feature	 Tiered seating	 Water interpretation

Materials

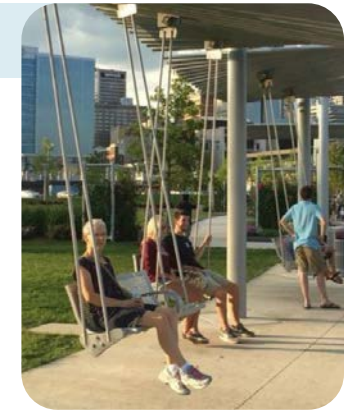
 Red furnishings	 Wood Decking	 Mixed Textures	 Shou Sugi Ban
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Plantings

 Striking reds	 Warm colors	 Movement	 Year-round interest
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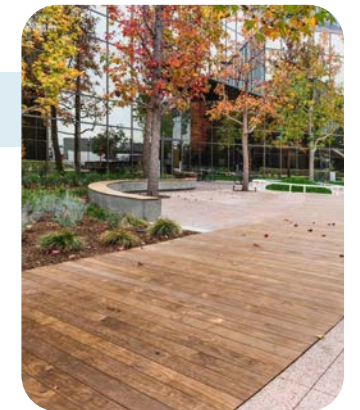
Programming

- Swinging benches are strongly preferred
- Interactive water feature is strongly preferred



Materials

- Softer surfacing, like wood decking, is preferred
- Furnishings that reflect the character of the water tower is preferred

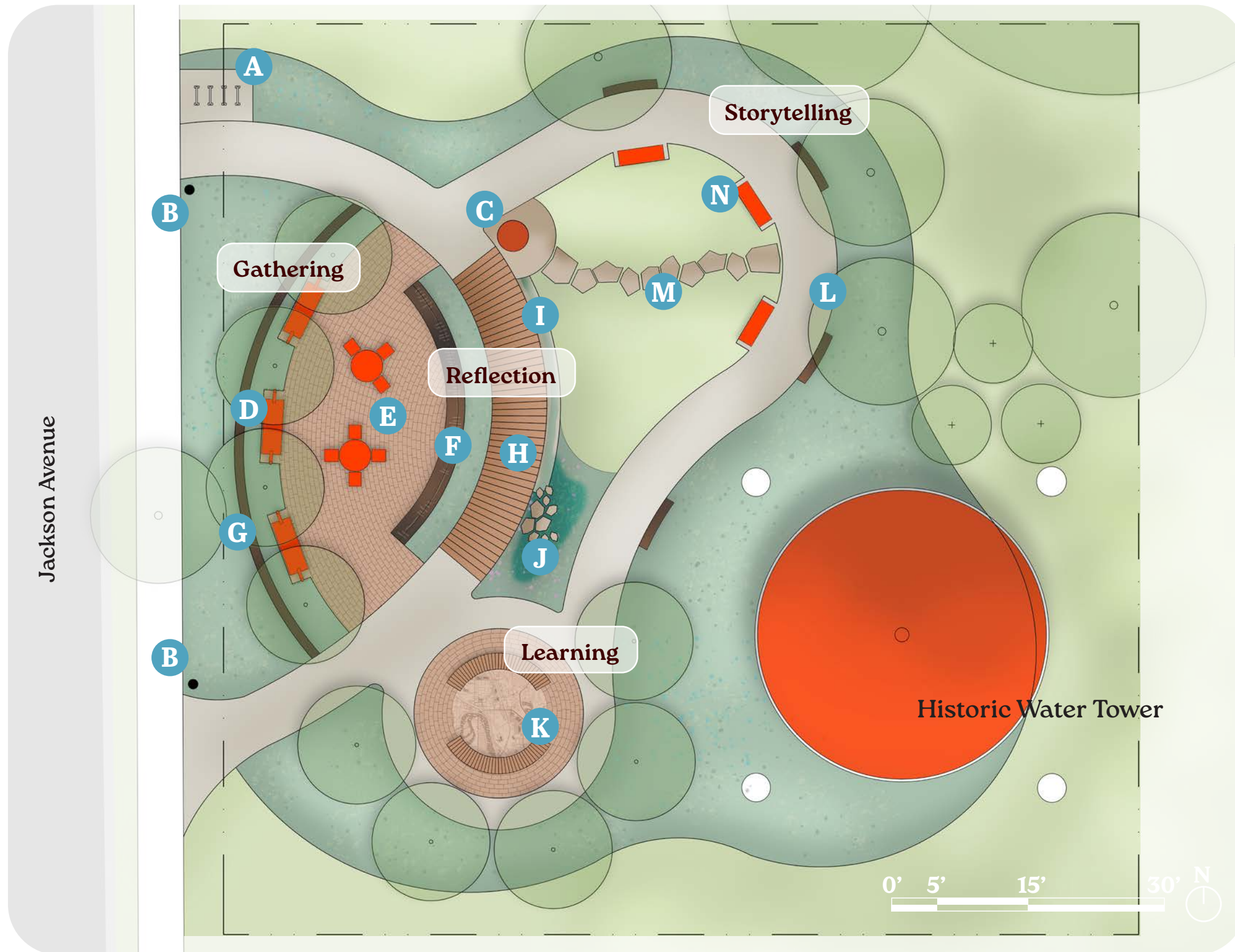


Plantings

- Year-round interest plantings are preferred
- Landscaping that reflects the story of the water tower is strongly preferred



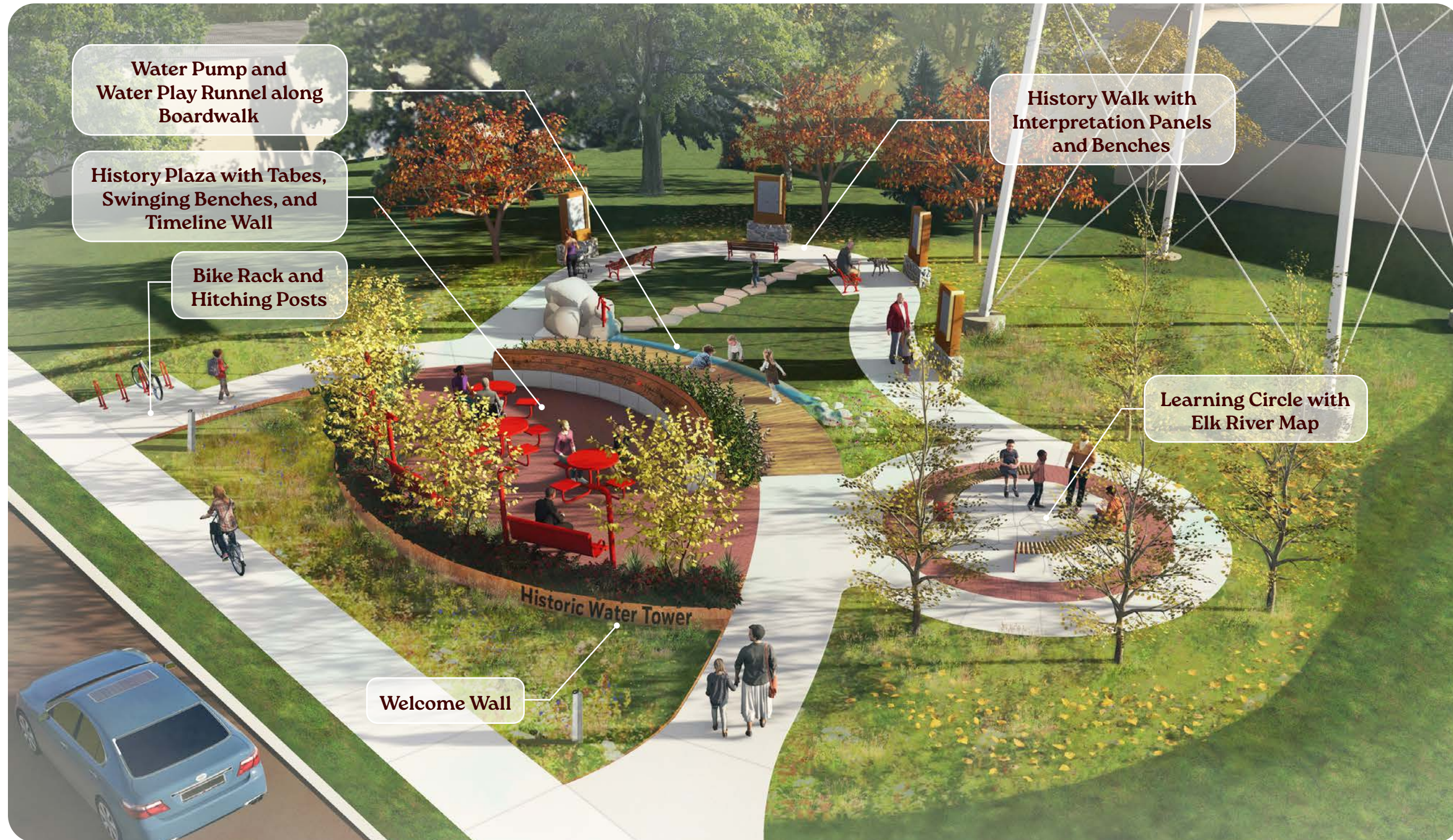
Final Concept



Legend

- A** Bike Racks (4)
See Page 9
- B** Historic Hitching Post
- C** Stone Water Feature
See Page 11
- D** Swinging Benches (3)
See Page 9
- E** Cafe Tables (2)
See Page 9
- F** City History Timeline
See Page 8
- G** Park Welcome Wall
See Page 8
- H** Boardwalk
See Page 11
- I** Interactive Water Runnel
See Page 11
- J** Rain Garden
See Page 11
- K** Outdoor Classroom
See Pages 7, 8, 9
- L** History Walk & Signage
See Page 8
- M** Stepping Stone Path
- N** Benches (3)
See Page 9



Experiential Rendering



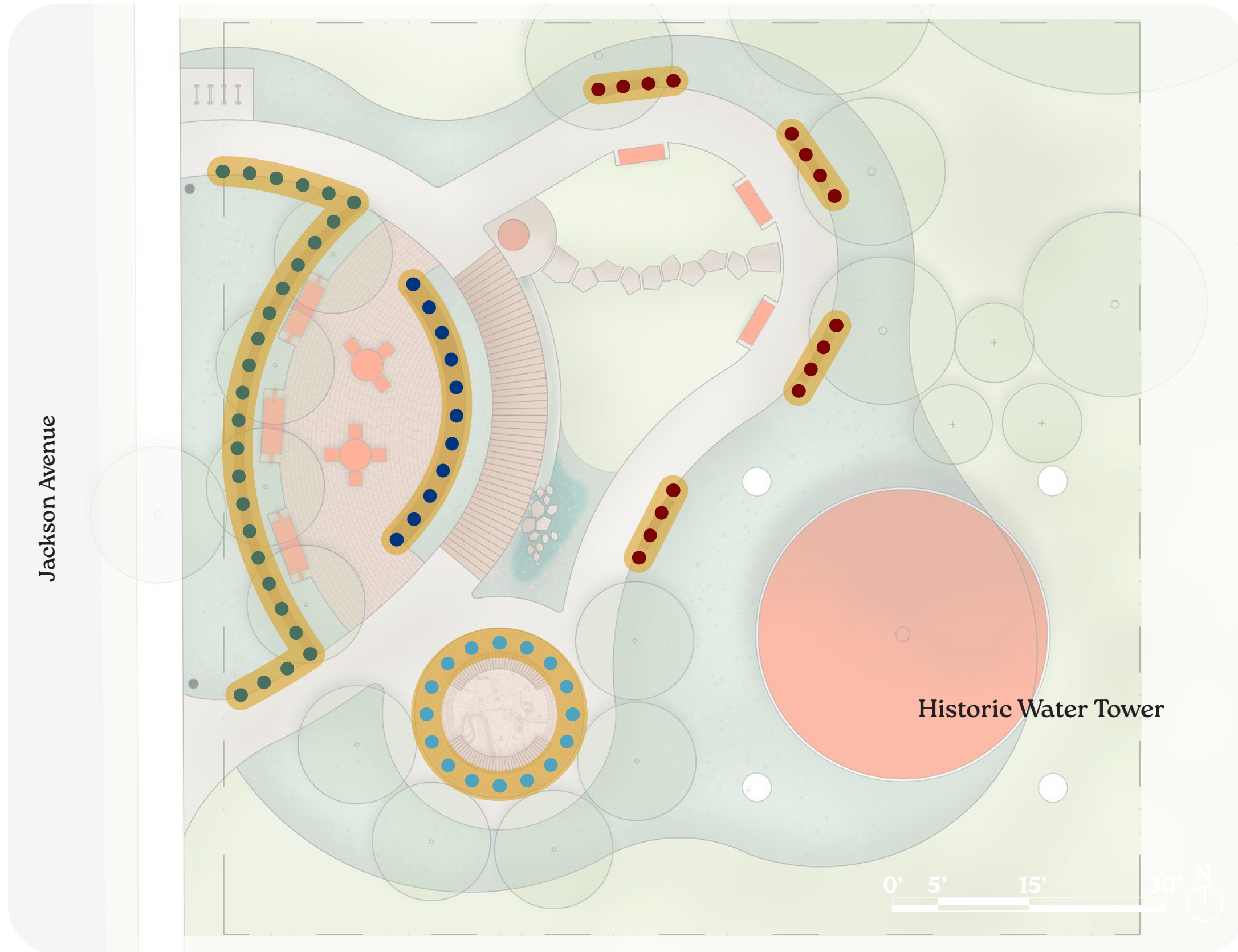
Materials & Plantings



Legend

-  **Concrete**
Broom finished standard
-  **Specialty Concrete**
Stamped integral colored
-  **Wood Decking**
Accoya decking
-  **Stepping Stones**
Natural Limestone
-  **Native Prairie**
Seeded application
-  **Turf Lawn**
Sod rolls
-  **P** **Plant Bed**
See Page 12
-  **R** **Rain Garden**
-  **E** **Evergreen Trees**
See Page 12
-  **O** **Ornamental or Columnar Trees**
See Page 12

Storytelling



Legend

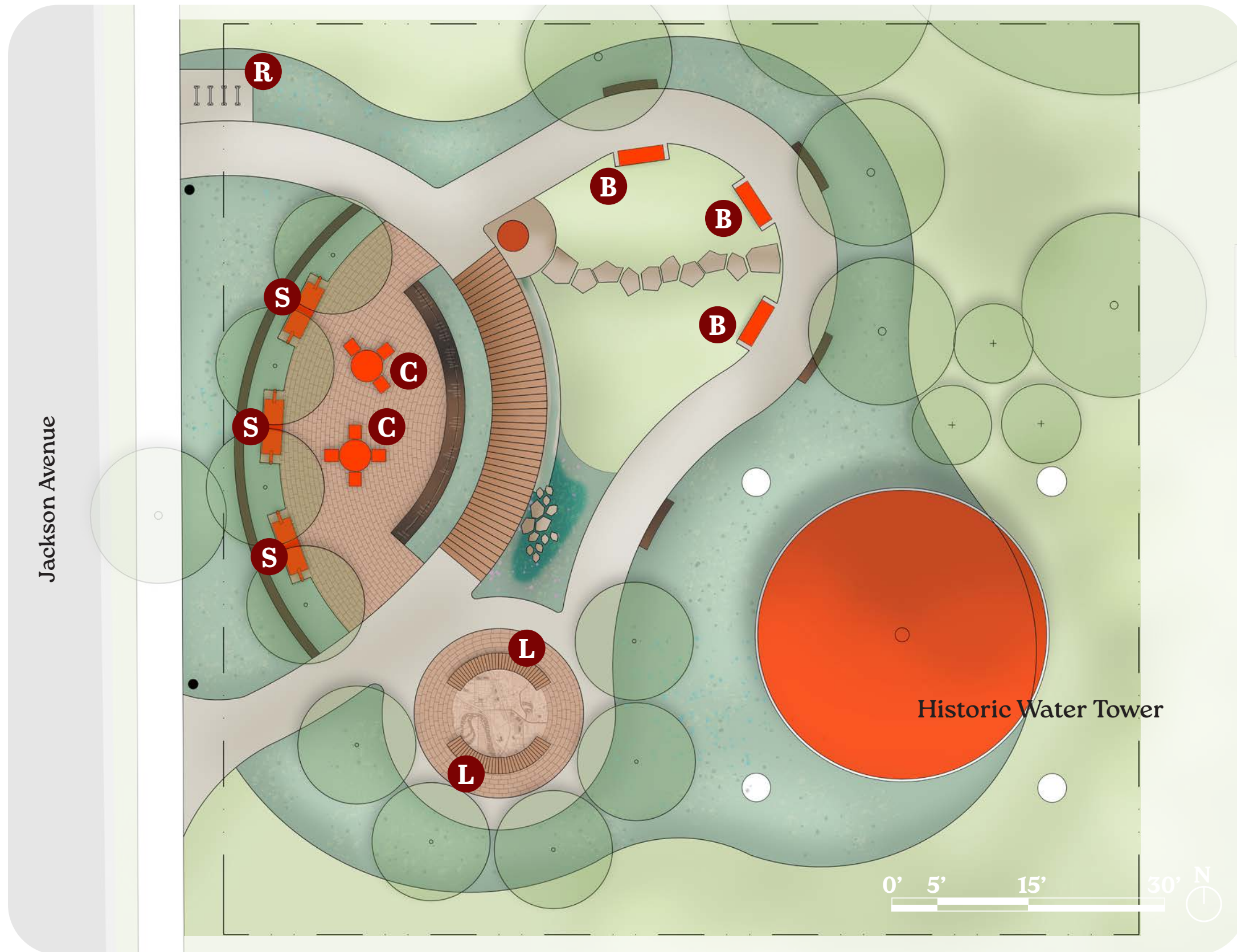
-  Park / Heritage Welcome Wall
 

-  City Timeline
 

-  City Heritage Map
 

-  Story Panels
 

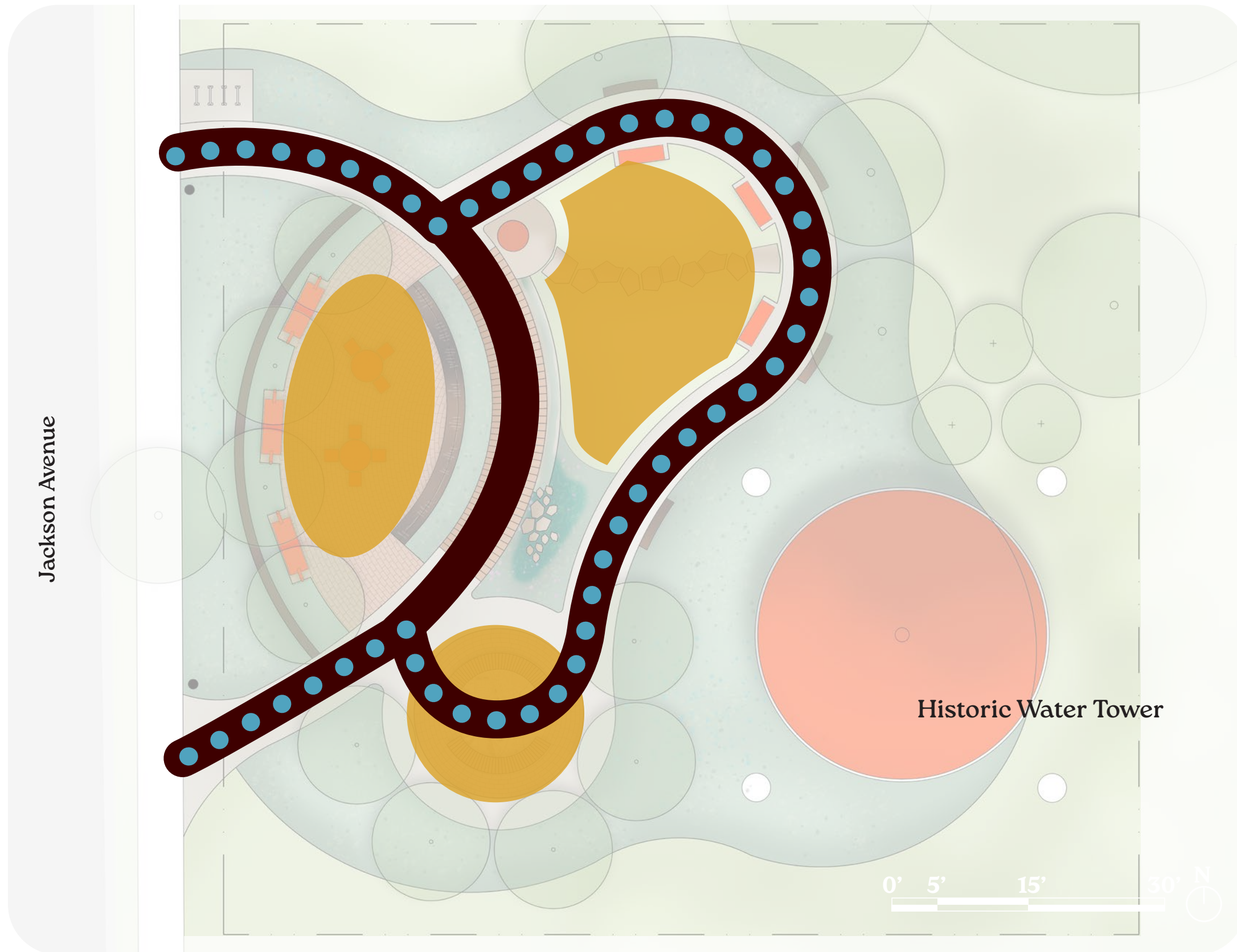

Furnishings



Legend

- S** Swinging Benches (3)
*Wabash Valley In-ground Estate
Perforated Swing Bench in red*
- C** Cafe Tables (2)
*Dumor Table 295 in red (ensure one
ADA compliant)*
- B** Benches (3)
*Flagship 6ft bench with back, cedar
recycled plastic seats, red frame*
- L** Circular Learning Benches
(4, arranged as 2 arcs)
*Vestre 630 Vroom bench top curved
Ø4000in custom red color*
- R** Bike Racks (4)
Dero Hoop Rack in red

Circulation



Legend



Summer Paths

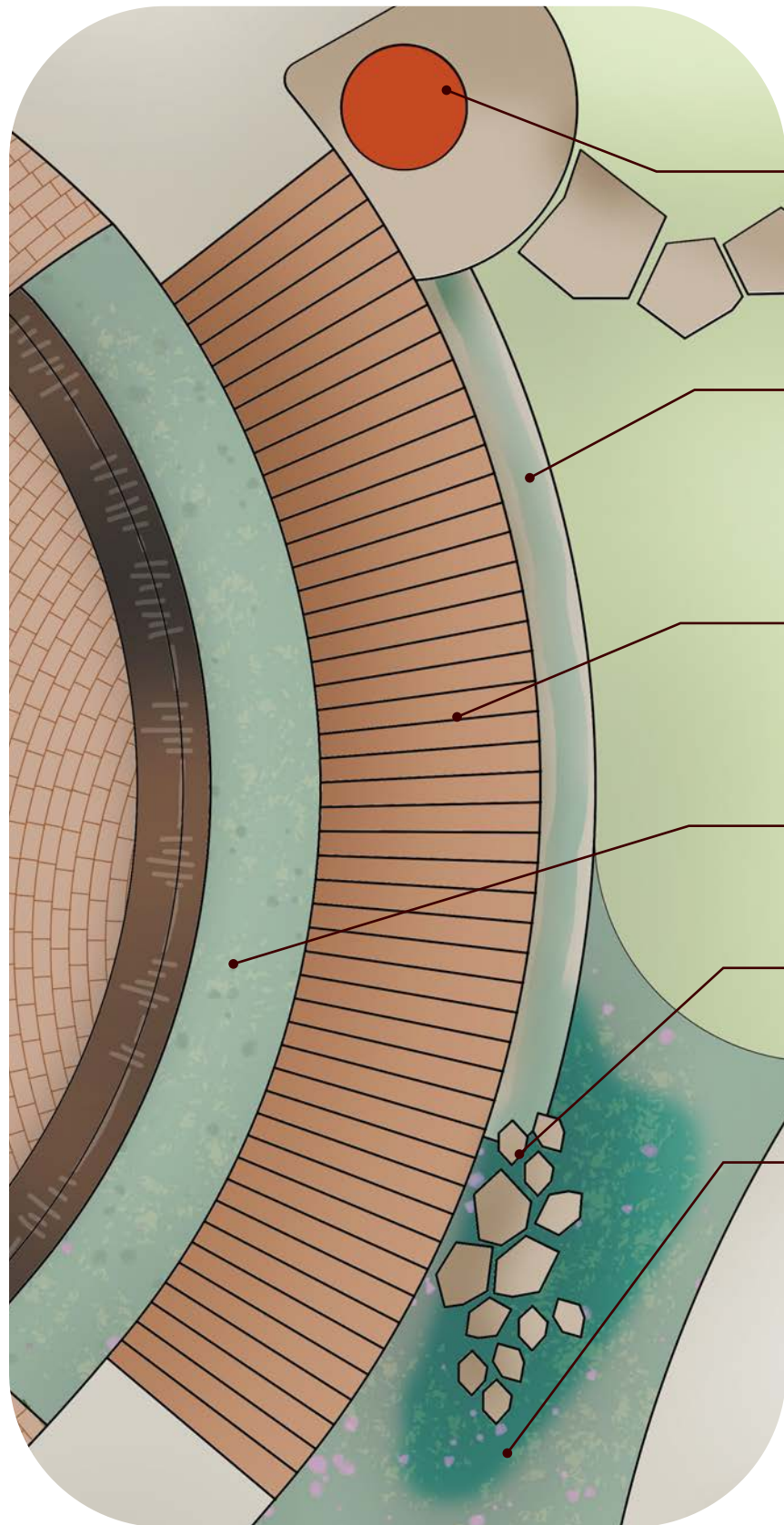


Winter Paths



Gathering Spaces

Water Feature



Manual-activation hand pump positioned over natural stone

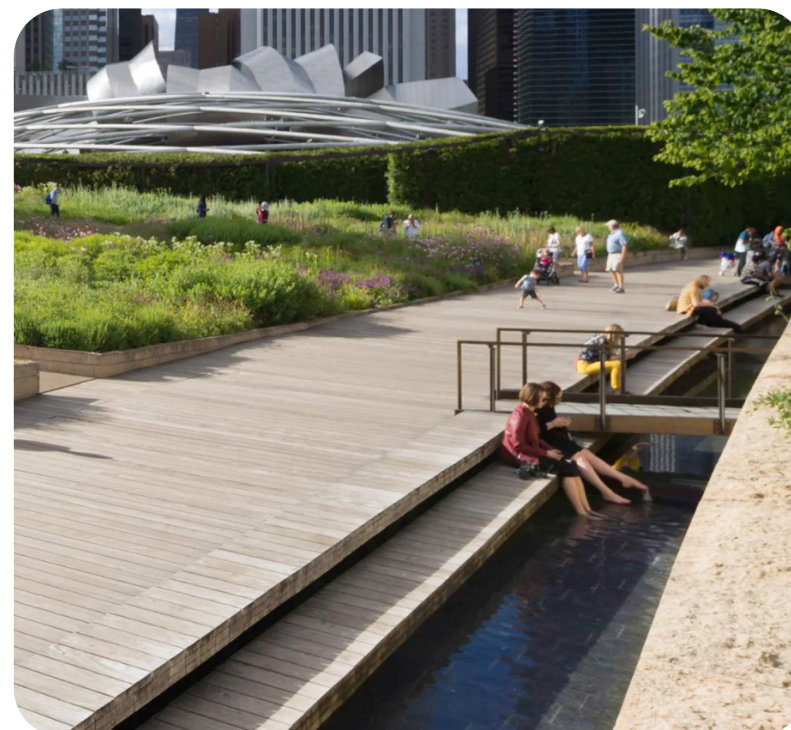
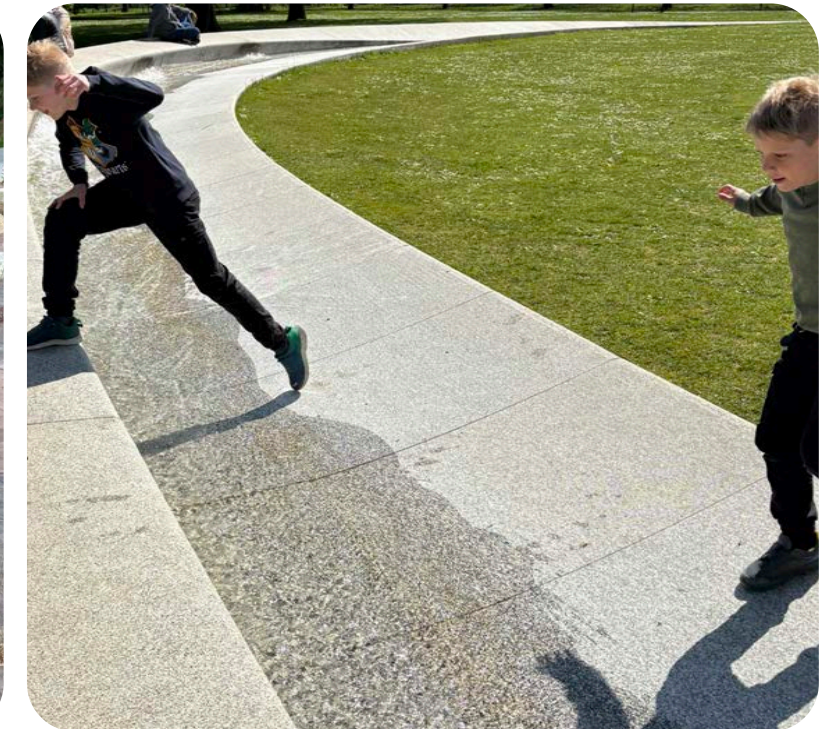
Channelized runnel (concrete) formed to flow water in a natural, fun manner

Wooden boardwalk along channel for water interaction

Planted buffer against timeline wall

Natural stone covered catch basin / drain

Raingarden / Infiltration basin



Plant Palette



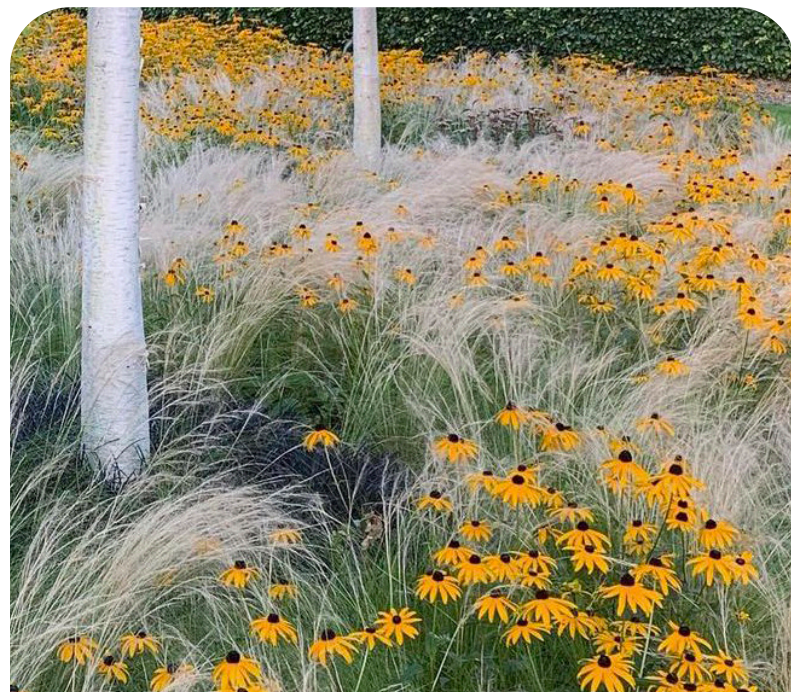
Striking reds



Smoke-like textures



Columnar showy seasonal trees



Movement



Year-round interest



Year-round interest

Opinion of Probable Cost

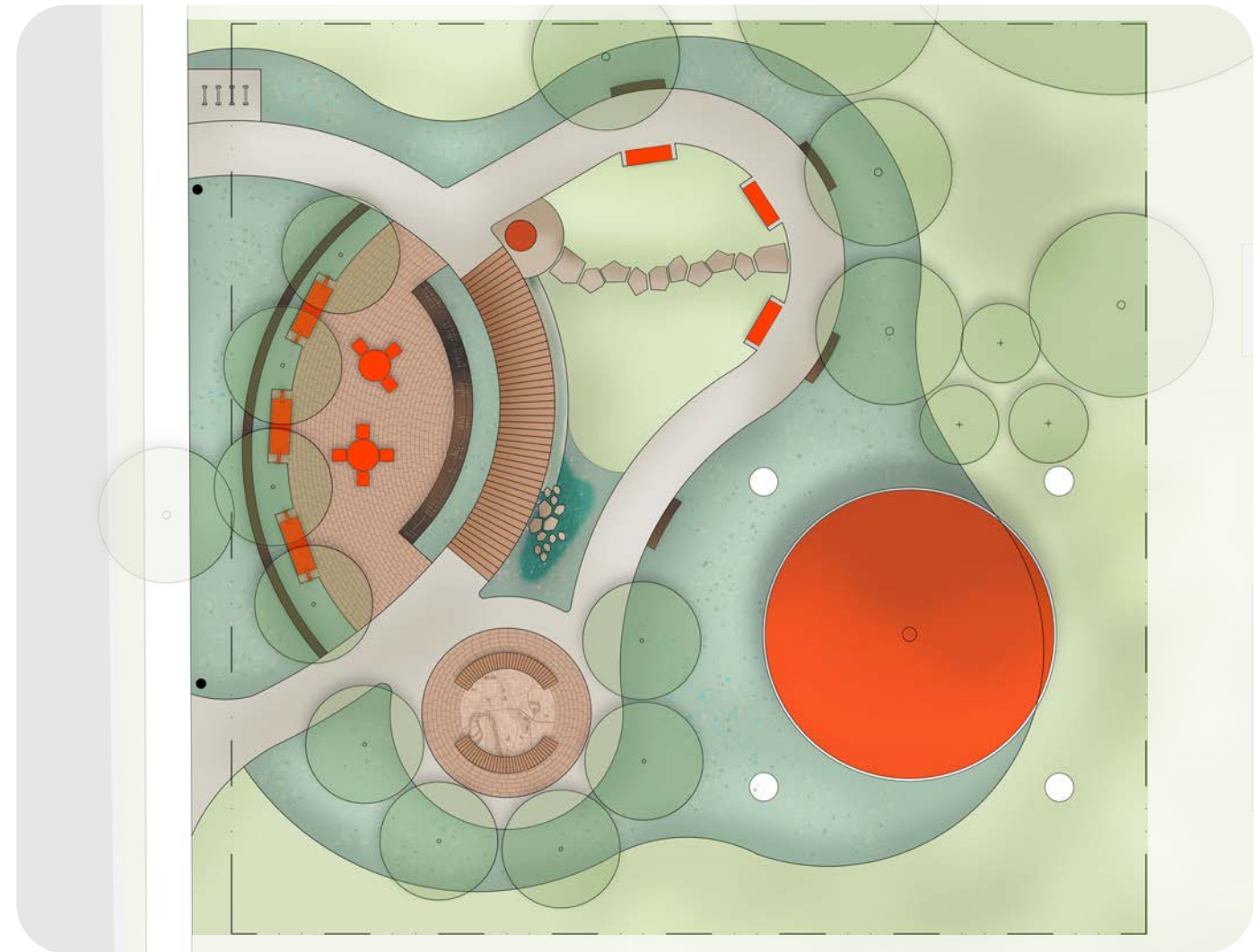
General Construction Conditions	\$14,420.00
Site Preparation and Grading.....	\$13,671.00
Hardscape	\$66,042.50
Plantings / Landscaping.....	\$23,546.80
Lighting / Electrical.....	\$19,525.00
Furnishings.....	\$38,578.75
Special Features	
<i>Signage and Storytelling</i>	\$60,000.00
<i>Interactive Water Feature</i>	\$65,440.00
Subtotal.....	\$301,224.05
Contingencies and OH&P*.....	\$121,865.99
Estimated Construction Total.....	\$423,090.04

Estimated Construction Documentation, Bidding Support, & Construction Administration Cost**	\$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00
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*At this level of design, contingencies are estimated high - around 30%. This is done in effort to set expectations for any fluctuations in construction industry changes in labor costs, materials costs, or unforeseen circumstances.

** Estimated consulting fees for construction documentation includes the following specialties: Landscape Architecture, MEP, Civil Engineering, and Cost Estimation. General consulting fee estimation can be assumed around 12% of total construction cost.

Note: This opinion of probable construction cost is made on the basis of Mend Collaborative's experience and comparable project cost research. However, since Mend Collaborative has no control over the cost of labor, materials, equipment, or services furnished by others, or over the Contractor's methods of determining prices, or over competitive bidding or market conditions, Mend Collaborative cannot and does not guarantee that proposals, bids, or actual construction cost will not vary from this opinion of probable construction cost.



Funding Strategy

STEP-BY-STEP STRATEGY

To fund the new park, we recommend a **layered strategy** that considers these steps:

STEP

The City should begin by pursuing larger grants from the **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission as primary funding sources**. As part of the application process, the City should confirm whether in-kind donations or additional grant funds can be applied toward the required match.

STEP

To support these applications, the City should also pursue additional **regional and national grants focused on historic interpretation, parks, placemaking, and community health**. These secondary funding opportunities can be used to **enhance key elements** of the project, such as bike racks, interpretive features, landscaping, and where allowable, to help meet the matching requirement. While not all programs will align with the project timeline this year, monitoring upcoming grant cycles and shifting program priorities will position the City for ongoing success.

STEP

Establish a clear local fundraising goal, led in partnership with the Heritage Preservation Commission. This effort can pursue contributions from **regional foundations and corporate partners**, as well as financial support from **local businesses** interested in contributing materials or sponsorships.

Additionally, **community-based giving programs**, such as Name Wall efforts, “Adopt-a-Tree” or “Adopt-a-Bench” sponsorships, and naming rights for park features, can deepen neighborhood ownership and broaden support.

STEP

Once external funding sources have been maximized, the City can source the remaining funds needed through its **general fund or capital improvement program**, ensuring the project is fully financed while demonstrating public commitment and leveraging community investment.

This blended approach, anchored by grants, supported by philanthropic and business support, along with grassroots contributions, positions the City to deliver a signature space with broad community support and minimal reliance on municipal dollars.

Funding Strategy

SOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Park and Open Space Grants:

- **MN DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program**
 - 50% up to \$350,000 Opportunity
 - Questions for the DNR: Does in-kind donation or other grants obtained count toward the match?
- **Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission**
 - Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Grant Program for “Regional significance”
- **Minnesota Recreation and Park Association New Initiatives Grant**
 - \$4,000 Opportunity

Placemaking Grants:

- **Project for Public Spaces**
 - Annual, Due in October, \$100,000
 - Doesn't qualify this year (focus is street projects) but criteria changes annually
- **National Association of Realtors**
 - Between \$3,000 to \$7,500 Opportunity
 - 2025 funds committed, program will reopen in 2026
 - A local realtor would need to be a sponsor
- **T-Mobile Hometown Grants**
 - \$50,000 for shovel-ready projects including outdoor spaces, focused on small towns

Environmental / Stormwater Grants:

- **Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District**
- **Metro Blooms (Elk River is a BlueThumb partner)**

History Grants:

- **Minnesota Historical Society**
 - Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants
 - Likely would only fund the interpretive research
- **State Historic Preservation Office**
 - Matching grants, typically for preservation projects, but there may be a way to frame this in that way

Local Fundraising:

- **Local Foundations**
 - Central Minnesota Community Foundation
 - 3M Foundation Grants
 - McKnight Foundation
 - Mortenson Family Foundation
- **Community-Based Support**
 - Name Wall
 - “Adopt a Tree” or “Adopt a Bench”
 - Naming Rights Opportunities
- **Local Business Sponsorships / Donations**
 - The Bank of Elk River (monetary)
 - Allina Health (monetary)
 - Plaisted's (material discounts / donations)
- **Faith or Civic Group Sponsorships/Fundraising**
 - Elk River Rotary Annual Grant
 - Annual Grant Application Window: January 15 through March 30



Request for Action

To
Heritage Preservation Commission

Item Number
5.2

Meeting Date
November 20, 2025

Prepared By
Zack Carlton, Community Development Director

Item Description
Elk River History Trail

Reviewed by
Katie Porath

Action Requested
Start discussions about an Elk River History Trail.

Background/Discussion

During the design process for the Jackson Street Water Tower Site the idea of a historic walking trail rose to the forefront. The framework of a historic trail, potentially anchored by the water tower site, was started a few years ago with the Elk River Historic Walking Tour. A historic trail has the potential to build from that plan and become something more - possibly with the introduction of permanent wayfinding items and permanent historical interpretive sites. The brochures from previous walking tour projects are attached.

Let's kick off this discussion and carry the ideas into the start of 2026 with a focused plan.

Financial Impact
None

Mission/Policy/Goal
Reflect the culture of citizens and what is important.

Attachments

1. Walking Tour Brochure 1
2. Walking Tour Brochure 2
3. Walking Tour Brochure 3
4. Walking Tour Brochure 4

The Elk River Vision

A welcoming community with revolutionary and spirited resourcefulness, exceptional service, and community engagement that encourages and inspires prosperity

(5) Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Address: 1118 4th St NW, Elk River, MN 55330

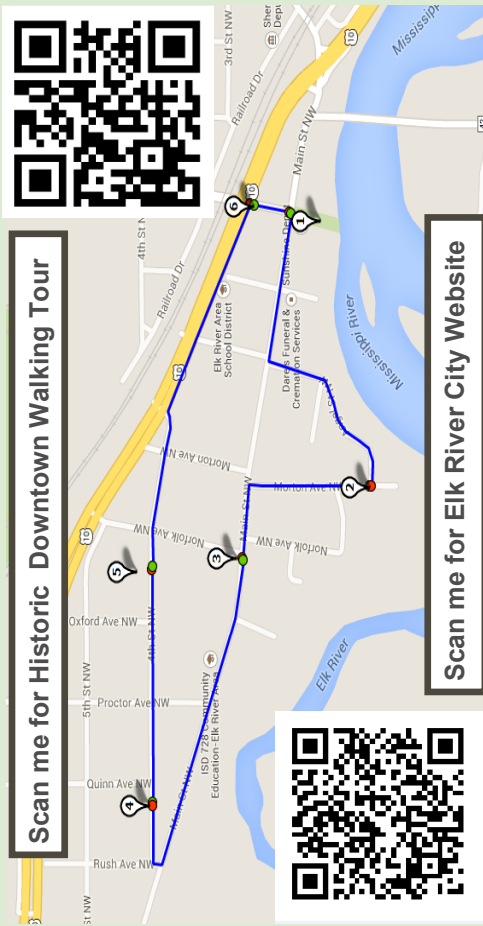
Union Church was established in 1875. The church was built in 1881 at a cost of \$54,000. It is the oldest church building in Elk River. A stained glass window was installed in 1919 in memory of those serving in World War I from Elk River. The window shows the Angel of Life and Flanders Field. In 1923, nine memorial windows were installed. These windows have the names of those who served in World War I. Those with a gold star indicate the person died in battle.



(6) Elk River Water Tower.

Address: Jackson Ave. NW, 4th St. NW, Elk River, MN 55330

The water tower was built in 1920 by the Minneapolis Steel and Machinery Co. as part of an effort to protect Elk River from fire. The water tower's elevated tank is known as a hemispherical bottom, a name derived from its design which includes a half-globe-shaped bottom. The design was common from the 1890s to about 1940. There are five other water towers of this type in Minnesota in the National Register including Elk Rivers.



Check out these local business that carry our map:

- Daddy-O's Elk
- Dental Center
- Old Main Eatery

**ELK RIVER, MN
HISTORIC
DOWNTOWN
WALKING TOUR**

“Powered By Nature”

- Sites on Walking Tour:
1. Rivers Edge Common Park
 2. Bailey Point Nature Preserve
 3. Handke Pit
 4. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
 5. Union Congregational Church
 6. Elk River Water Tower

About Elk River, MN

Elk River is a city in Sherburne County, Minnesota, United States, about 34 miles northwest of Minneapolis. It is situated at the confluence of the Mississippi and Elk Rivers. The population was 22,974 according to the 2010 census. The hardwood-forested hills in which Elk River is situated were pushed up by the last glacier that advanced across Minnesota. These hills are made up of coarse materials which is the reason gravel mining is so prevalent in Elk River, and also the reason much of the area is not considered good farmland. The City of Elk River offers many amenities to its residents, including a small town feeling but close enough to the Twin Cities and St. Cloud. The City boasts two golf courses, Pinewood Golf Course, a municipal nine-hole course, and Elk River Country Club, an 18-hole course. The Elk River Arena is located near the Elk River High School and offers skating to youth and adults, as well as a Spring and Fall Arts and Craft Fair, an arena walking track, and much more. The City of Elk River offers many opportunities to the 55+ year old crowd with an Activity Center and Senior Center. The Elk River Public Library is part of the Great River Regional Library system and the building is a LEED Gold Certified building. The City of Elk River has over 44 parks totaling over 800 acres in various stages of development. While many of these parks are neighborhood parks, there are also some that are gems of community parks.



(1) Rivers Edge Commons Park

Address: 679 Main St, Elk River, MN 55330

River's Edge Commons Park is located in the heart of downtown Elk River, Minnesota. The park connects Main Street to the adjacent Mississippi River and provides a venue for community festivals and concerts in the park, drawing thousands of visitors every year to the downtown area.



(2) Bailey Point Nature Preserve

Address: 1 Morton Avenue Elk River, MN 55330

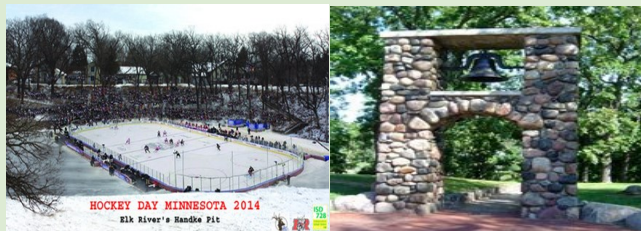
A 24.38-acre nature preserve with over 3,300 feet of natural largely untouched shoreline at the confluence of the Mississippi and Elk Rivers. Some amenities include: adjacent to Water, bird watching, conservation easement, dog waste station, fishing, open space, parking, prairie, scenic views, skiing - cross country, trail – grass, and wooded. Fun Fact. It is the site of the Elk River battle. Two encounters between the Objibwe and Dakotah Native American Tribes took place in the Elk River area in 1772 and 1773. War parties met on the Mississippi banks near the mouth of the Elk River in 1772 and a battle ensued. The following year the two groups met again in the same area with another running battle that ended with



(3) Handke Pit

Address: 1133 4th St NW, Elk River, MN 55330

Handke Stadium, officially named Elk Hi Stadium, is an example of community spirit and co-operation, now on the National Register of Historic Sites. The stadium actually began as a pond, described as a water and muck-filled depression in the otherwise flat terrain. After a near drowning it was drained and filled in the 1920's after many complaints from angry parents of kids who fell through the pond ice. It was then turned into an athletic field, after local farmers volunteered wagons, scrapers and even their own labor. The townspeople got behind the plan as well and Elk Hi Stadium was dedicated in 1925. The stone work was done in the 1930s as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. The school building next to the stadium, now called the Handke Family Center, was built in 1930 and named after Robert Handke, a school superintendent for a quarter century. For more than a century, thousands, including four National Hockey League (NHL) stars, have played in the "pit", as the locals call it. The pit was the site of high school football games, baseball in the spring and summer months and ice skating and sledding in the wintertime. Now days the pit is empty during the summer but come winter months, families and people of every age enjoying the ice rinks below. It was also proudly the site of the 2014 Hockey Day in Minnesota.

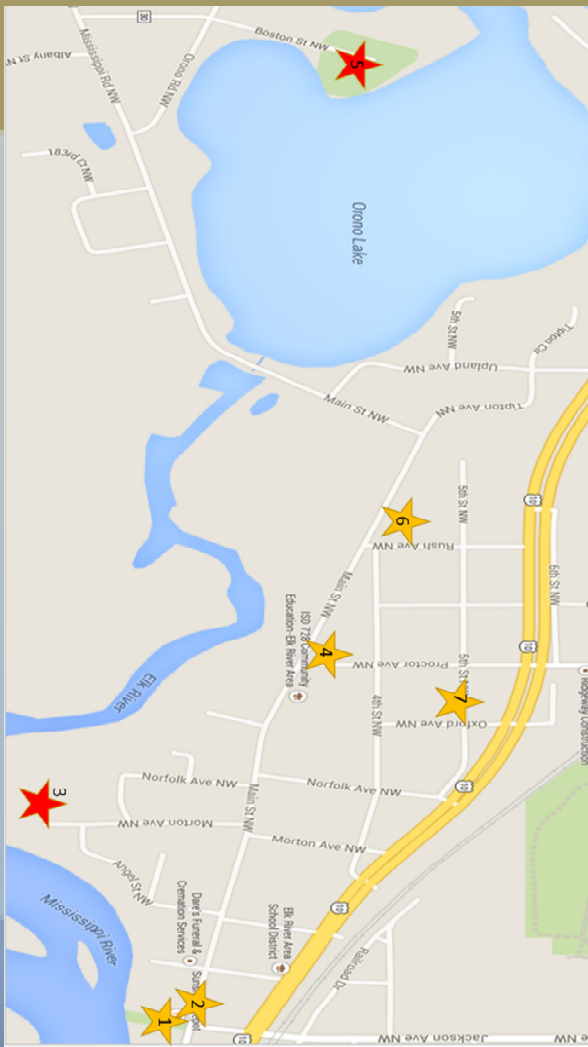


(4) Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Address: 1326 4th Street NW Elk River, MN 55330

The church was established in Orono in 1858. The original name of Trinity Church was suggested by J. H. Foster, one of the builders, in honor of the oldest church in his native town of St. John's, New Brunswick. The church was admitted into the union with the Diocese of Minnesota in 1859, represented by Oliver Kelley (his farm is a Minnesota Historical Society site in Elk River). The original church site was at 1915 Second Street. The church building was moved in 1878 across the street from the present site. The present building was erected in 1891. The Star News at that time reported: "Tuesday last witnessed the dedication of another beautiful little church in Elk River, and adds another mark of civilization to our town." The church was renamed Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Elk River in 1962.





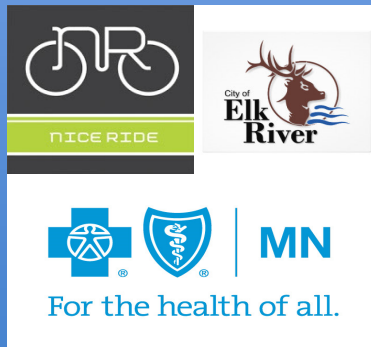
Optional Bike Destinations



Historical Destinations

INCLUDED HISTORICAL SITES

1. RIVERS EDGE COMMONS
2. SUNSHINE DEPOT
3. BAILEY POINT NATURE RESERVE
4. THE HANDKE PIT
5. ORONO CEMETERY
6. HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
7. UNION CONGRESSIONAL CHURCH UCC



Sponsored by Nice Ride

ELK RIVER HISTORIC DOWNTOWN TOUR



Experience the historic tour virtually via Community Walk by scanning this QR code.

5. Orono Cemetery



Established as a township cemetery and burial place for Orono's earliest members. The cemetery contains the remains of 29 civil war and 2 War of 1812 veterans



6. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church was founded over 120 years ago in 1859 by the Century Congregation and evolved in 1891 by the Century Church.



7. Union Congregational Church

Union Congregational was built in 1881. The beautiful stained glass windows that were put in in 1919 are in memory of those who served in WWI. Nine memorial windows were created and each window has the names of the veterans.

2. Sunshine Depot



The Sunshine Depot is the oldest standing building in downtown Elk River today. The only standing building after the 1898 fires. Originally a general drug store, it was refurbished into an Italian restaurant years later.



3. Bailey Point Nature Reserve

The area that comprises the Bailey Point Nature Reserve has had a long and evolving history. The site has Native American roots, was once a golf course and is now navigable via an unpaved path for visitors to appreciate with a low impact.



4. Handke Pit

Elk River is proud of its heritage as hockey town. Handke pit is a local gathering place to play hockey, ice skate, be social and enjoy the outdoors. The 'Pit' as local youths endearingly call it, was the host of Hockey Day Minnesota 2014.

NICE RIDE



The Historic Downtown Tour begins at the Rivers Edge Commons. Nice Ride bicycles can be rented from your current location. Red stars indicate advised bike destinations. Otherwise, lace up your shoes to embark on a historical tour of Elk River!



1.) Rivers Edge Commons

This is a newly constructed community gathering space that hosts outdoor events and is a spot to admire the Mississippi River year-round. The history of downtown Elk River and the Mississippi are intimately intertwined.



Rivers Edge Commons. 679 Main St NW

The Rivers Edge Commons is a great place to take in the scenic views of the Mississippi River, As well as enjoy live music events during the summer months.



Designed by TownMapsUSA.com



For more on the
Whitepoint™
touring app, go to
whitepoint.mobi.



ANDROID APP ON
Google play



DOWNTOWN ELK RIVER HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

Scan the QR code on the back to download the interactive walking tour app!





Bailey Point. 1 Morton Ave

The Bailey Point Nature Preserve has been many things over the years. It was a Native American battleground, a golf course, a camp ground, the high school football field and even the county fair grounds. Now Bailey Point is 26 acre nature preserve along the river with unpaved travels for hiking or cross country skiing in the winter.



Handke Pit

Home of Hockey Day 2014, Handke Pit started out as a small pond. During the 1920's the pond was drained and partially filled in, creating the bowl stadium that is still enjoyed today. Over the decades a countless number kids have skated and played hockey in the pit, including 4 who went on to



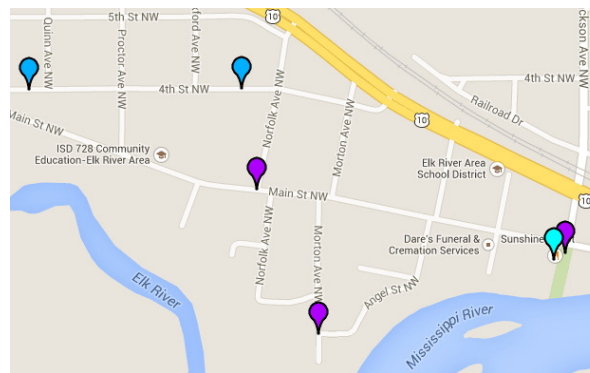
Union Congregational Church

The Union Congregational Church building was built in 1875. The beautiful New England style church has been in Use for over 135 years.



Sunshine Depot

Sue Anderson, the owner of The Sunshine Depot, wants you to know that we offer Informal Dining, Cocktails, and the Best Pizza in the Elk River Area. Stop in and check us out whether you're with your friends our your family.



Holy Trinity Church

Holy trinity was built in 1890-1891. In 1979 Holy Trinity called The Reverend Margo Maris as one of the first woman rectors in the country. Women have been very welcome at Holy Trinity, as four women priests have served Holy Trinity since the late 1970s.



Rivers Edge Commons

What are some interesting historical facts about Elk River?

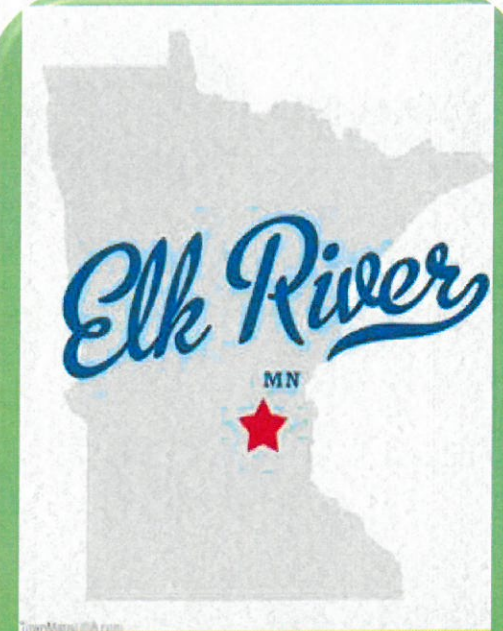
- Elk River was home to Houlton Bank, the first national bank in Sherburne County in 1870, located downtown Elk River.
- W.H. Houlton also co founded the Union Congressional Church in Elk River. 1118 4th St NW
- The infamous box car murderer was hung in Elk River in 1904, one of the last cases in Minnesota.
- Men who fought in the Civil War are buried in the Elk River Cemetery as well as the box car murderer.

FOR MORE INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ELK RIVER, SCAN THIS CODE ON ANY SMART PHONE!

Who We Are

About Us

Elk River is a town north of Otsego and is nestled up by the bend in the Mississippi.



**ELK RIVER
MINNESOTA**

*WAKING TOUR, FUN FOR
EVERYONE!*





Elk River Offers beautiful views and rich history

1. Sunshine Depot
2. Rivers Edge Commons
3. Baileys Point
4. The Handke Pit
5. Union Congressional Church
6. Kemper Drug
7. Water tower

Each one of these places in Elk River offer fun and historical stories for everyone. Scan the QR code or go to www.elkriver.min.us.gov to learn more

What Elk River has to offer

The Sunshine Depot

The Sunshine Depot is one of the oldest buildings in the downtown area. Here you can stop for some great food and drinks! Welcoming atmosphere for everyone! 701 Main Street

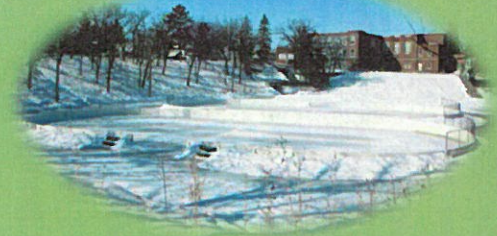
Rivers Edge Commons

This is a beautiful place with an excellent view of the Mississippi River. These commons provide people with a place to sit and relax with beautiful landscaping for everyone to enjoy in the summer. Built in 2007, 679 Main Street

Things to do in Winter as well as Summer! Stop in the old Sunshine Depot after skating on the ice at The Handke Pit!

Baileys Point

Baileys point is a Nature Preserve for fun activities of your choosing. From nature walks to cross country skiing to fishing. Baileys Point can accommodate your nature needs. 506 Freeport Street



Handke Pit

Handke Pit

One of the most popular places in Elk River would be the Handky Pit. This is right next to the old Elk River High School and attracts many to the cool looking ice arena. This includes two ice rinks and ice skating around those rinks. 1133 4th St NW

Union Church

The Union Congressional Church is one of the oldest in Elk River, and welcomes visitors who enjoy stain glass windows for prayer and worship. Built in 1881, located on 1118 4th Street

Kemper Drug

One of the landmarks of Elk Rivers downtown, the original building was built in 1940, but burned down in 1960. 323 Jackson Ave NW

Watertower

Elk River water tower is iconic and is something to look for when walking downtown or driving by, erected in 1920.