

WELCOME TO THE PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE!

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

PROJECT SCOPE + STUDY AREA:

This planning project is focused on expanding open space opportunities and improving vehicular, biking, and walking connections for the neighborhoods surrounding the Mason Park and Church-Dodge areas.

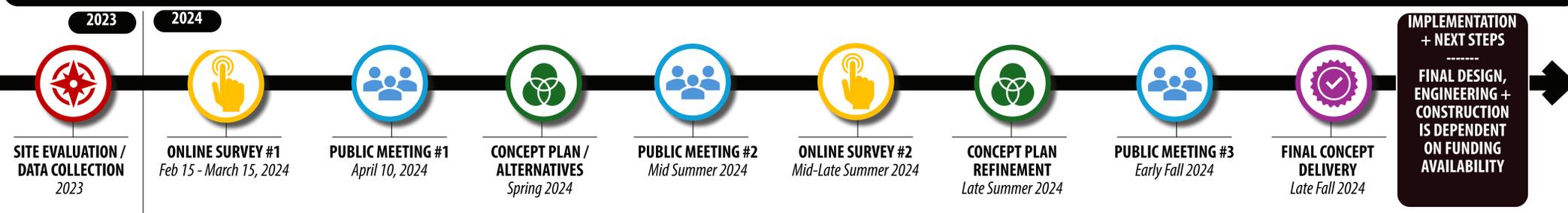
The study area includes the properties highlighted on the map (at right) and described below.

-  Existing Mason Park Area
-  Mason Park Expansion Area (former Railroad Embankment)
-  Church-Dodge Intersection Area

Throughout this study, the City is seeking public feedback about desired improvements via online surveys and public meetings. The result of this study will be a Concept Plan that will be used by the City to guide future improvements within the Mason Park and Church-Dodge Area.



ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE



EXISTING MASON PARK

Mason Park is a City owned park located south of Church Street, between the former Railroad Embankment and Florence Avenue. Existing park features include a field house, basketball courts, tennis courts, a baseball field, a soccer field, and a playground. Mason Park also includes an undeveloped sloped parcel of property, located south of Davis Street and east of the former Railroad Embankment.



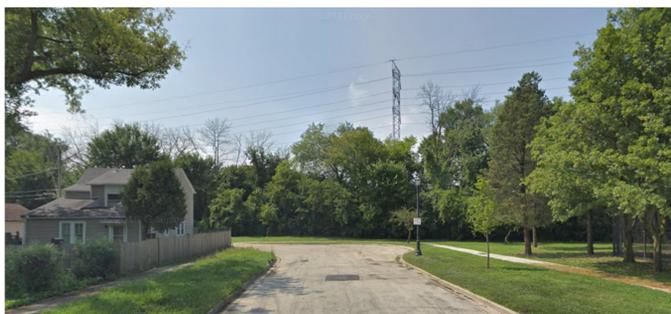
MASON PARK EXPANSION AREA

This former railroad Right of Way (the Mayfair Cut-off) dates back to the late 1880s. The line was discontinued in the 1980's and the land was subdivided and sold to private owners. This property also includes high tension electrical transmission lines. At the time of its original construction, the Mayfair Cut-off was located west of the majority of Evanston's populated area. The City has since expanded westward and the embankment now bisects much of the City's west side. At Mason Park the embankment disrupts neighborhood access, resulting in safety and security concerns. Over the past several years, the City purchased many of the former Right-of-Way parcels to correct these issues and reconnect neighborhoods.



CHURCH-DODGE INTERSECTION

The Church-Dodge Intersection is located nearby to active businesses, neighborhoods, and Evanston Township High School (ETHS). This busy intersection accommodates vehicles, buses, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The intersection often feels congested and lacks continuous flow for all users.



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements

City of Evanston, IL



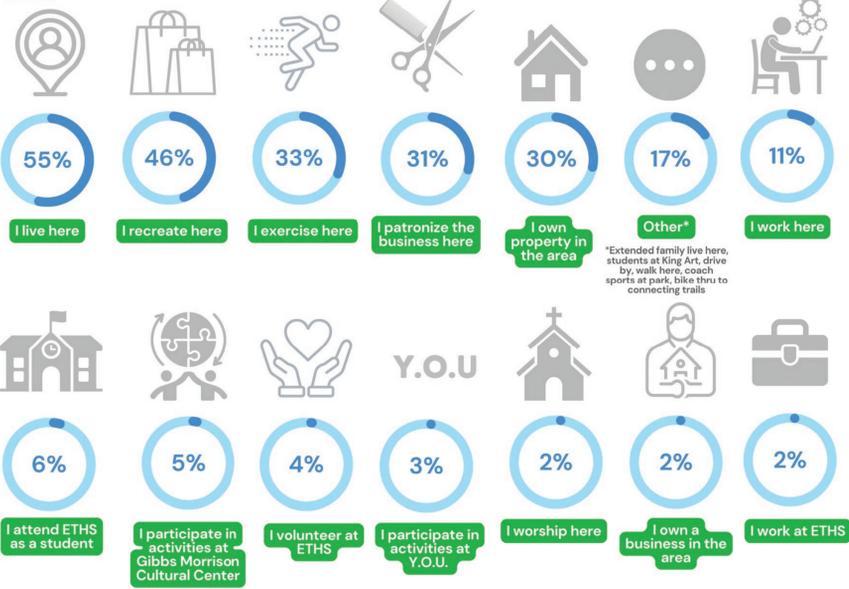
Survey Results (1 of 2)

Survey Dates February 15th - March 15th 2024

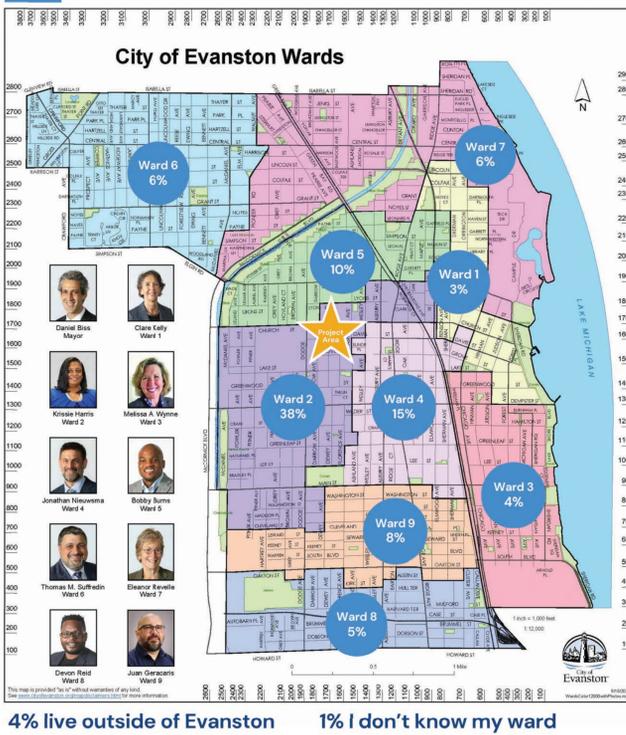
446 Participants

Demographics

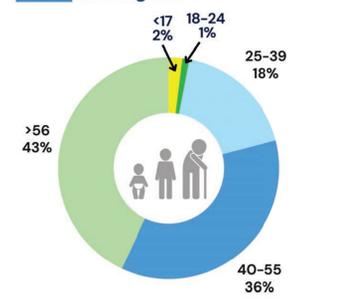
Q1 How are you connected to the Mason Park and Church-Dodge area? (Select all that apply)



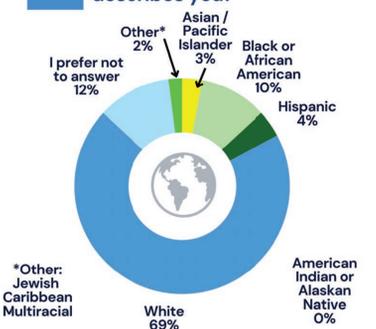
Q2 Please identify your neighborhood below (Select One)



Q3 What age group do you belong to?

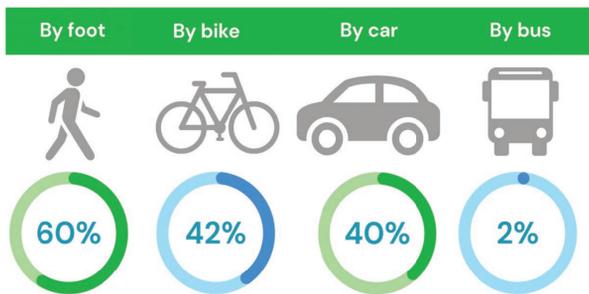


Q4 Which race or ethnicity best describes you?

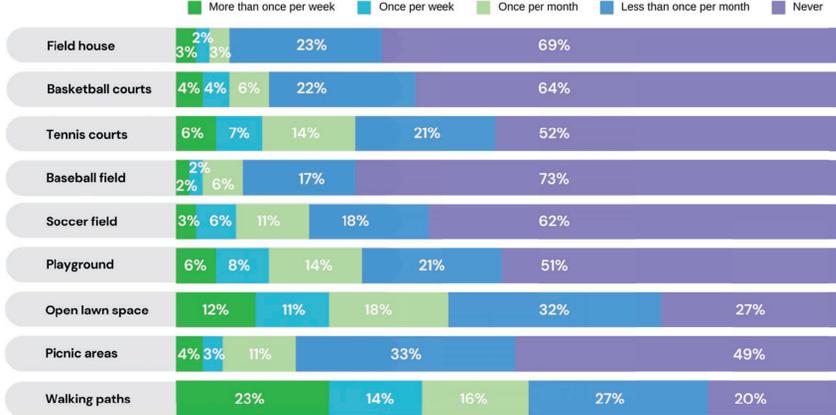


Existing Mason Park

Q5 How do you currently access Mason Park? (select all that apply)

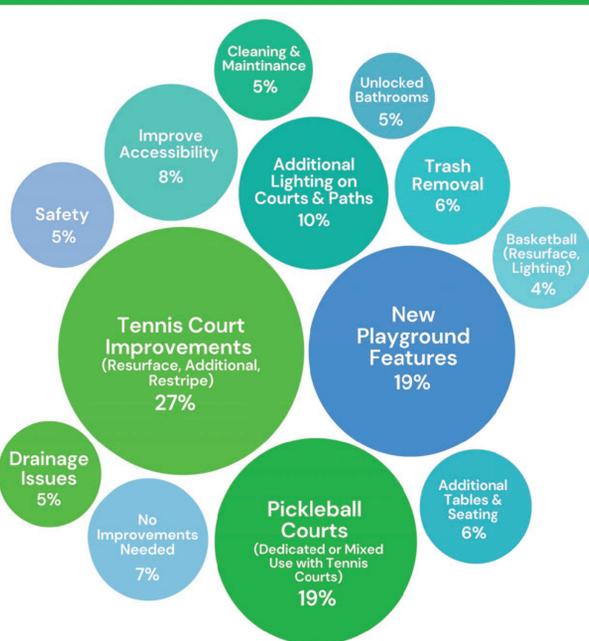


Q6 Below is a list of facilities at Mason Park. Please identify how frequently you and/or your family use these facilities.



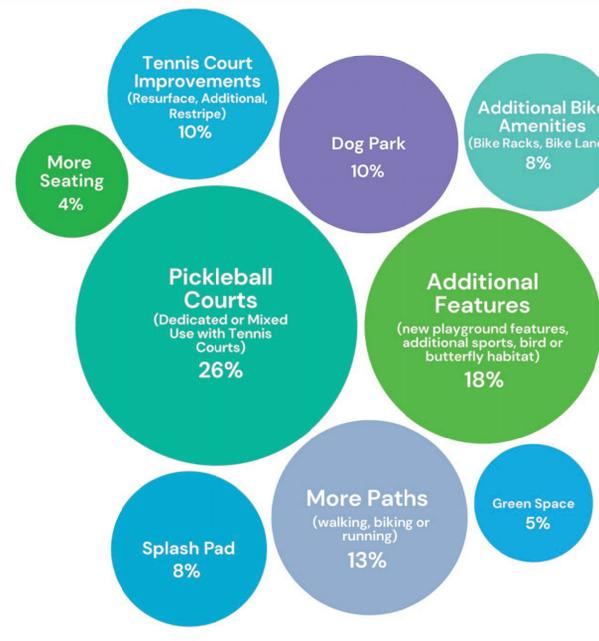
Q7 Are any improvements needed to the existing facilities at Mason Park?

Keywords reiterated the most are highlighted in the circles below; the size of the circles indicates the frequency/popularity of the response. Some community provided inputs are listed below



Q8 Do you have suggestions for additional recreational functions or features to be added to the Mason Park area?

Keywords reiterated the most are highlighted in the circles below; the size of the circles indicates the frequency/popularity of the response. Some community provided inputs are listed below



"Better lighting at night - we should be using Dark Sky approved lighting to keep the light focused on the ground."
 "Yes, there needs to be more frequent maintenance and cleaning in the area - there is a lot of trash laying around and things are generally dirty"
 "The baseball field is in horrid shape and constantly collects water even in the lightest rain. It becomes a giant mud pit that is both unplayable and very messy"
 "New playground equipment and a splash pad would be awesome"
 "The tennis courts are cracked and need resurfacing. These courts are most often used for pickleball and not tennis, so it would make sense to convert them to dedicated pickleball courts. 4 (maybe 6?) pickleball courts could replace the 2 tennis courts. If the footprint were expanded, this could potentially be 6-8 pickleball courts, with the embankment proving a good wind block. This is a centrally located park could provide better access to pickleball for Evanston residents."

"Additional pickle ball courts and perhaps bocce ball courts, an inexpensive and international sport that will appeal to large segments of our diverse population."
 "Circle or semicircle of benches that would be inviting for older residents as they walk the pathways, watch sports from a distance. It would be great to have a motion-activated splash fountain! Not everyone goes to the lakefront to cool off and there are no outdoor pools in Evanston—a neighborhood feature like this would be amazing"
 "Green space is good"
 "Better biking connectivity between West bound biking on Davis to the two way lane on Church west of the park"



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements

City of Evanston, IL



COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

Survey Results (2 of 2)

Survey Dates February 15th - March 15th 2024

446 Participants

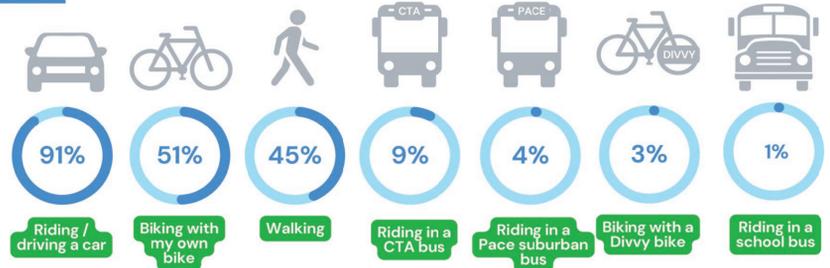
Church-Dodge Intersection Area

Q9 How frequently do you use the Church-Dodge intersection area? (select one)

Every day
Multiple times per week
Once per week
Once every two weeks
Once per month
Less than once per month
Never



Q10 What modes of travel do you use? (select all that apply)



1% Other: Skateboard

Q11 Describe any concerns you may have when traveling through the Church - Dodge Intersection area. (select all that apply)



13% of Respondents reported 'other' concerns, including the following responses:

"Intersection needs marked no left turns when school starts/stops with enforcement to ease traffic backups."
 "It never seems safe."
 "Too many people double park waiting/dropping off kids and too much stop and go traffic due to crossing guards and pedestrians crossings."

Mason Park Expansion (Former Railroad Embankment)

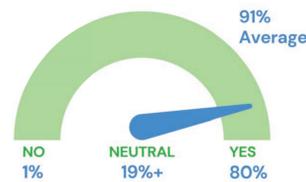
Q12 Describe your perception of the embankment area. (select one)



10% of Respondents reported 'other' perceptions, including the following responses:

"Cuts the neighborhood in half, some security concerns for students, under used."
 "It seems useless and is a barrier."
 "green space for birds; Provides greening and privacy for my neighborhood."
 "It certainly can be improved with walking and or biking trails while still maintaining much of the dense greenery."
 "both ugly and overgrown and poses safety security, and rodent concern."

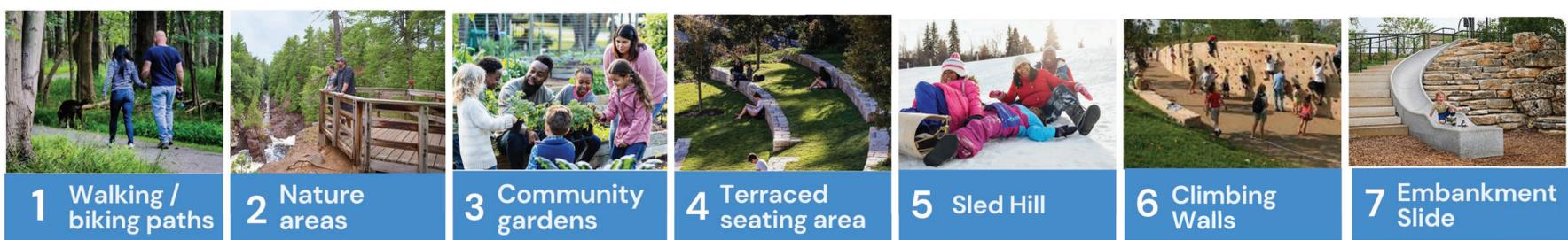
Q13 The City is evaluating the feasibility of providing a walking / biking path through the embankment at Davis Street. Below is an example of this concept. Would this feature be of value to the neighborhood?



Q14 The Edible Acre Community Garden is currently located at the southeast corner of Dodge Avenue and Davis Street. The City and Evanston Township High School are evaluating the feasibility of relocating the Edible Acre Community Garden to a larger property at the northeast corner of Dodge Avenue and Lake Street. In your opinion, would this relocation and expansion be of value to the neighborhood?



Q15 The embankment area offers potential for expanded open space opportunities. Below is a list of potential uses. Please rank these functions in the order of your preference (drag your most preferred to the top of the list)



Open-Ended Comments

Q16 Do you have any other suggestions for expanded open space opportunities? Please enter them here.

- Key Themes:**
- Build upon the naturalized character of the site and incorporate sustainable materials and practices. Preserve quality trees, incorporate native plantings and invite birds and wildlife.
 - Incorporate safety measures and additional lighting as practical.
 - Accommodate multi-generational community users, residents, local businesses and ETHS students/staff.
 - Plan for continued cleaning and maintenance of the area.
 - Establish walking paths and connections that bring the community together and connect us with the natural environment.

Q17 If you have any additional comments about this project, please add them here.

- Key Themes:**
- Alleviate traffic congestion at Church / Dodge.
 - Establish clearer bike routes and connections along Church Street.
 - Improve pedestrian connections throughout the area, including safer passageways between the neighborhoods and ETHS.
 - Make use of this opportunity to connect with the natural surroundings and unique neighborhood.
 - Continue open lines of communication with the community and general interest for this project.

"Maintain and prune existing trees in the park, especially on the hill."
 "I would love to see the city incorporate sustainable materials and solutions into this project."
 "A combination of walking path with community garden would serve students and the residents."
 "Trash cans need to be available please to keep the spaces nice. Open areas without trash cans exponentially decrease their beauty and value b/c layers of trash sets the scene."
 "Native plantings, bird or nature preserve."
 "I think the embankment area has a lot of potential for naturalized areas. I myself enjoy walking through it, but think it definitely needs to be cleaned. Most of the trees are dead, but we could plant new ones. It would be very nice and pretty if we did that. People could volunteer to help clean it out and re-plant trees and plants, and it would be a nice community project."

"Great ideas!! Very excited to see some of the ideas put forward about 15 years ago bearing fruit. I like the idea of an opening in the embankment so that high school students have an easier—and less dangerous—access to the high school than Dodge and Church intersection. But I worry about security at night."
 "Reconfigure the bike lanes on Church Street. They need to be marked better as do the car lanes."
 "Let's connect our neighborhoods!"
 "I think it's important to be more inclusive to the people who live on the west side of the embankment, and it should be a HIGH priority to create a safe pathway through the woods to the high school. It's ridiculous that hasn't been a priority a long time ago with 50 many kids cutting through there every day, in all weather conditions. I also think the park serves as a natural habitat for wildlife, and that should be kept as is. Also, the garbage disposal company needs to stay hidden. It's ugly, noisy, and stinky. We certainly don't want that to be an even bigger nuisance."



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements

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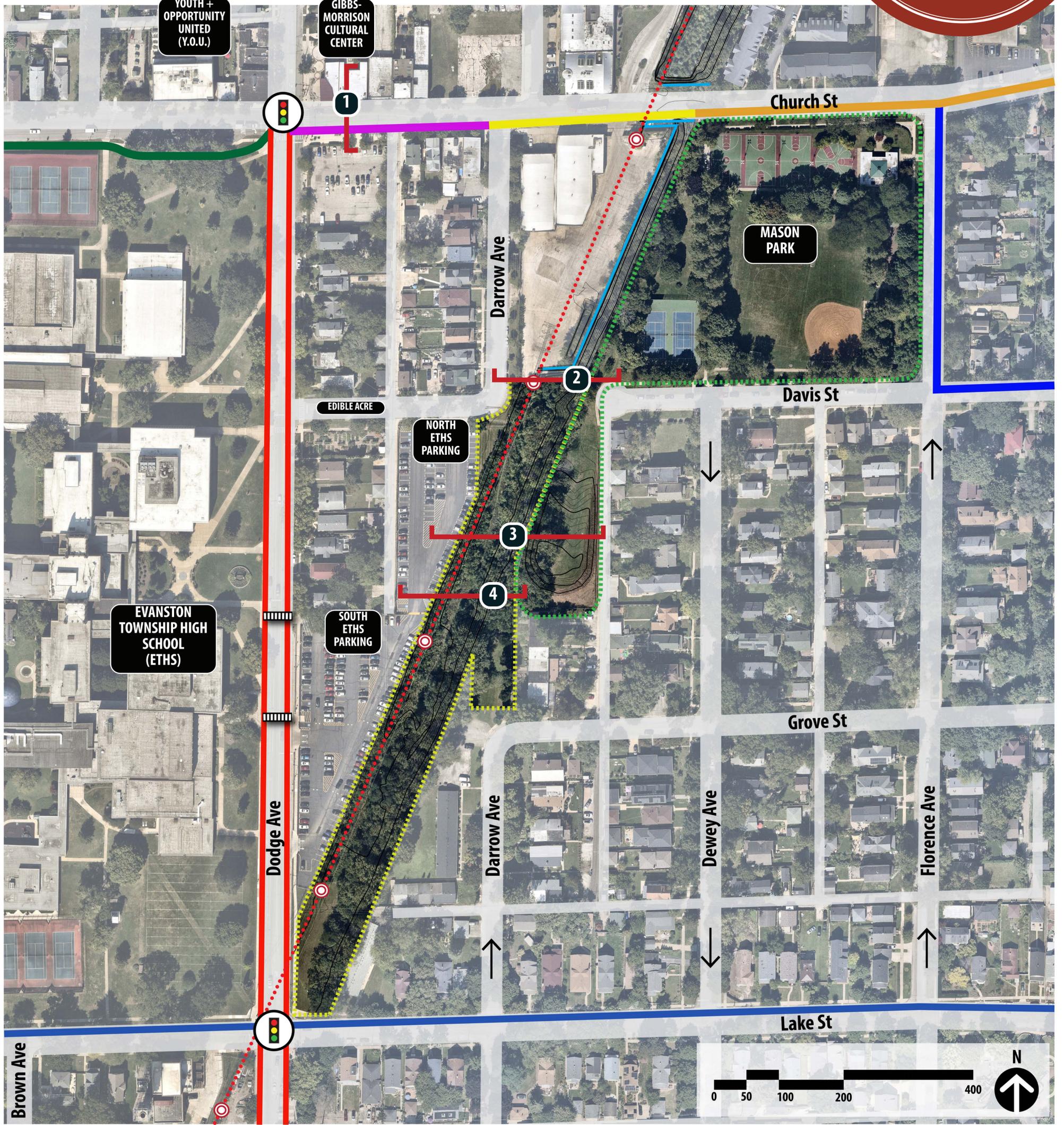


EXISTING CONDITIONS | MAP

-  Existing Traffic Signal
-  Existing Mid-Block Crossing
-  Embankment Wall
-  Mason Park Expansion Area
-  Existing Mason Park
-  ComEd High Tension Tower/ Overhead Wires
-  Section Elevations (See Section Exhibits)

- ### Bike Facilities
-  Existing Signed Bike Route
 -  Existing Bike Lane
 -  Existing Protected Bike Lane
 -  Existing Off-Street Cycle Track (2-Way)
 -  Existing On-Street Cycle Track (2-Way)
 -  Existing Bike Path
 -  Existing Bike Route

**INPUT ACTIVITY:
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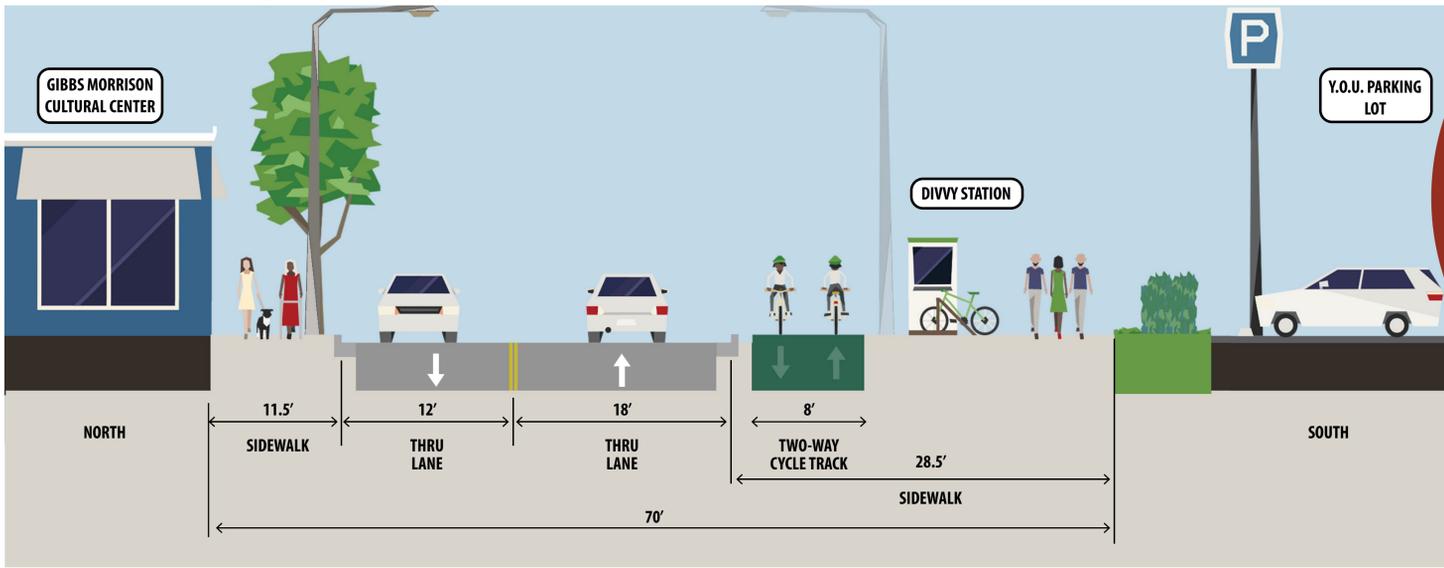
Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements City of Evanston, IL



EXISTING CONDITIONS | SITE SECTIONS

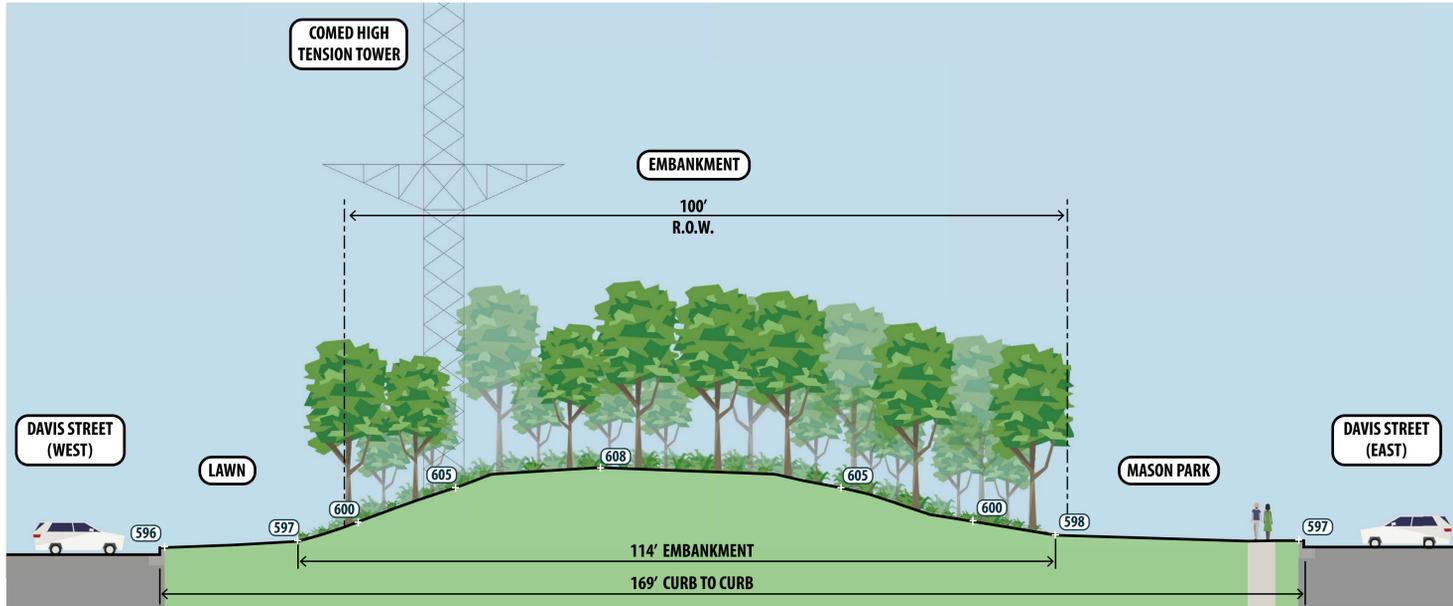
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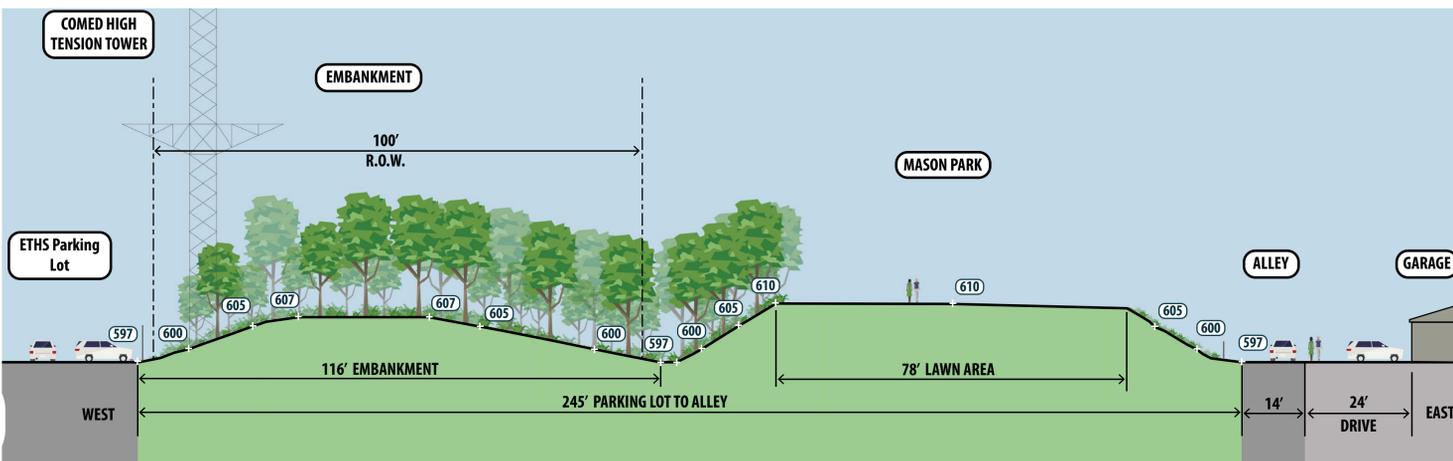
SECTION 1: CHURCH STREET EAST OF DODGE AVENUE, LOOKING EAST

2



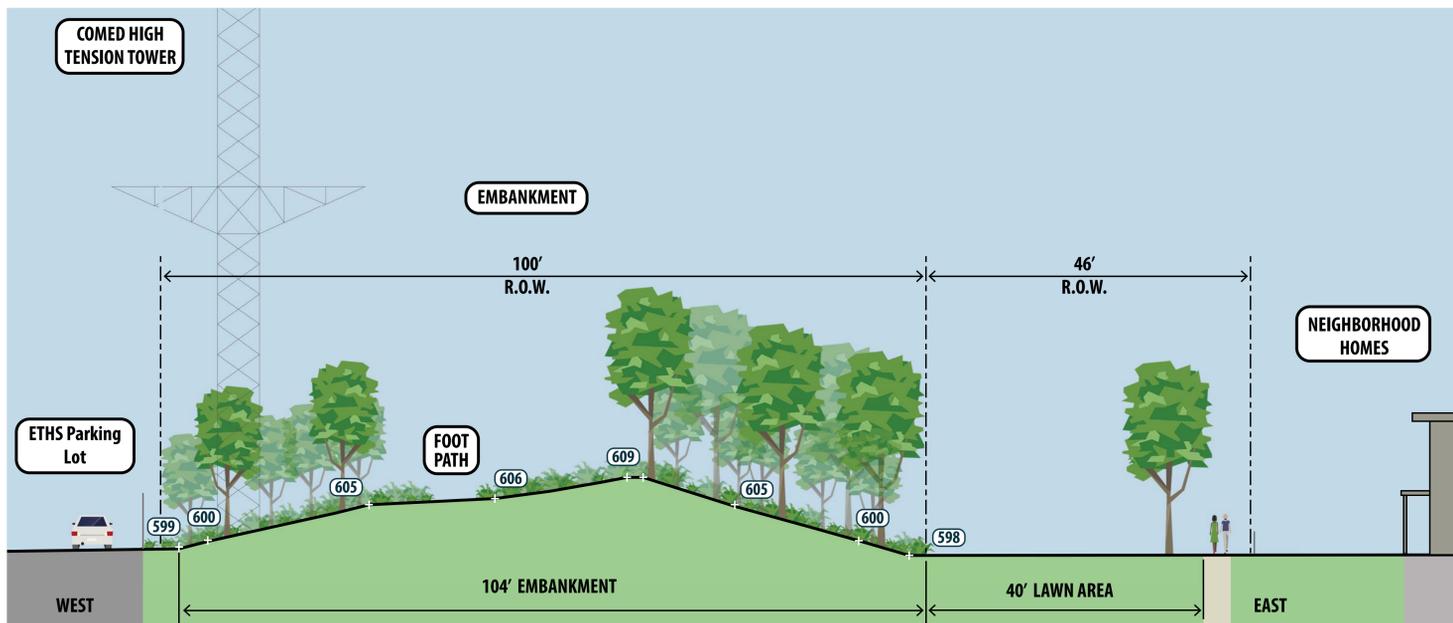
SECTION 2: EMBANKMENT BETWEEN EAST/WEST DAVIS STREET, LOOKING NORTH

3



SECTION 3: EMBANKMENT BETWEEN ETHS (NORTH) PARKING LOT AND MASON PARK/ALLEY (EAST), LOOKING NORTH

4



SECTION 4: EMBANKMENT BETWEEN ETHS (SOUTH) PARKING LOT AND NEIGHBORHOOD HOMES, LOOKING NORTH



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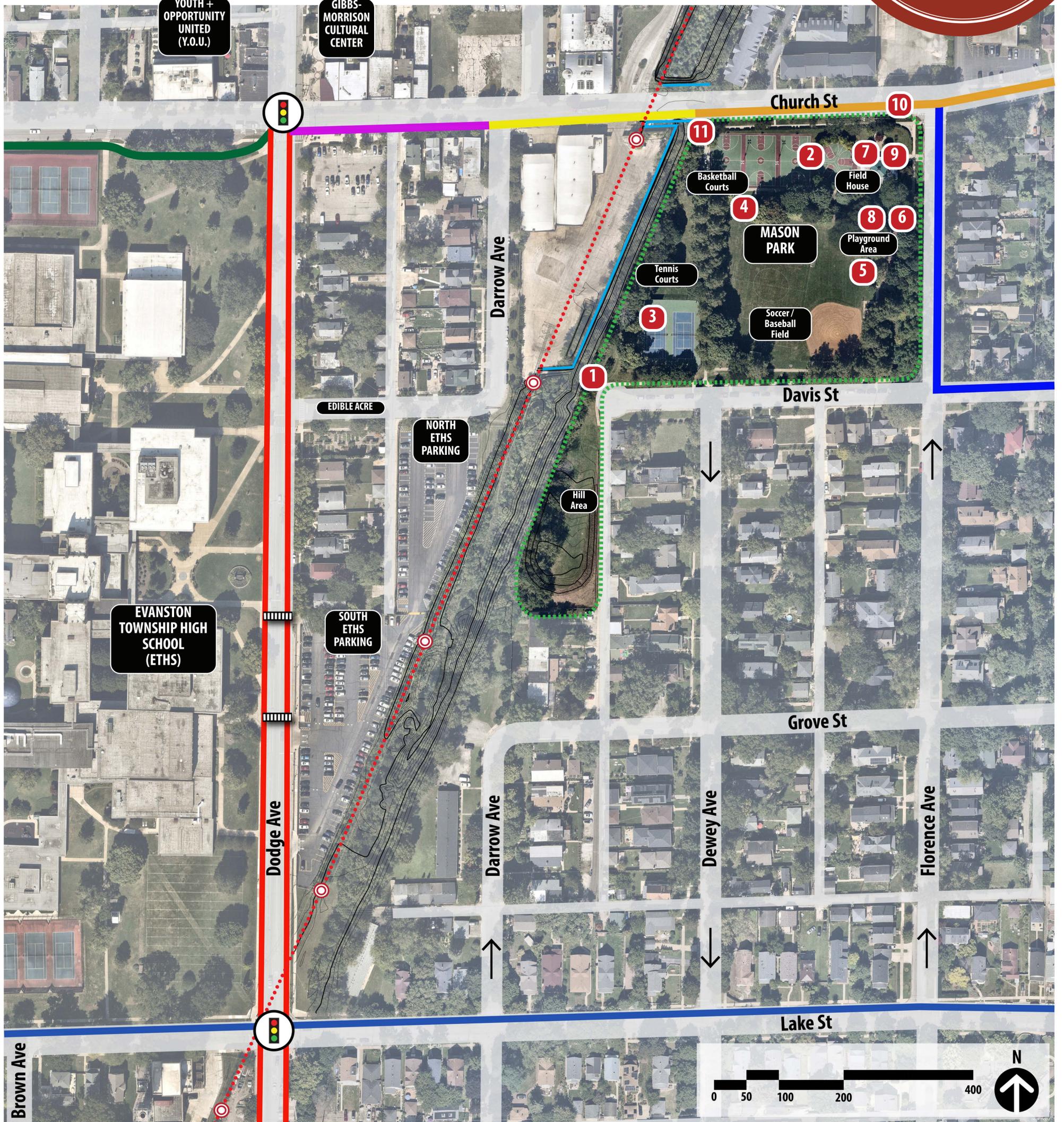
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 Site Photograph Locations

**INPUT ACTIVITY:
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COMMENTS**



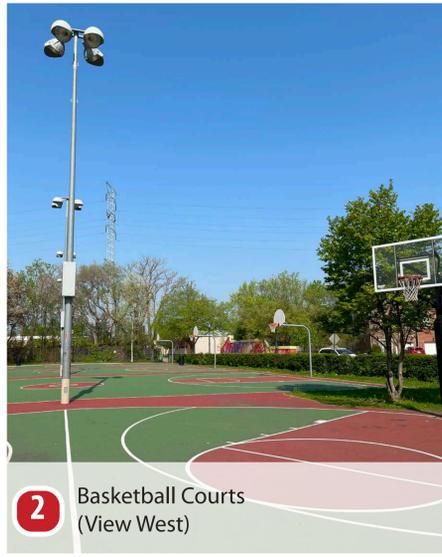
Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements City of Evanston, IL



EXISTING MASON PARK AREA | SITE PHOTOS



1 Davis St Along Mason Park Property / Base of Embankment (View South)



2 Basketball Courts (View West)



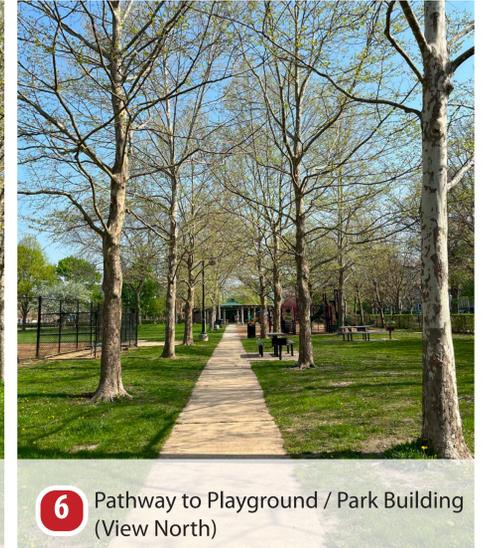
3 Tennis Courts (View North)



4 Soccer / Baseball Field (View East)



5 Baseball / Soccer Field (View West)



6 Pathway to Playground / Park Building (View North)



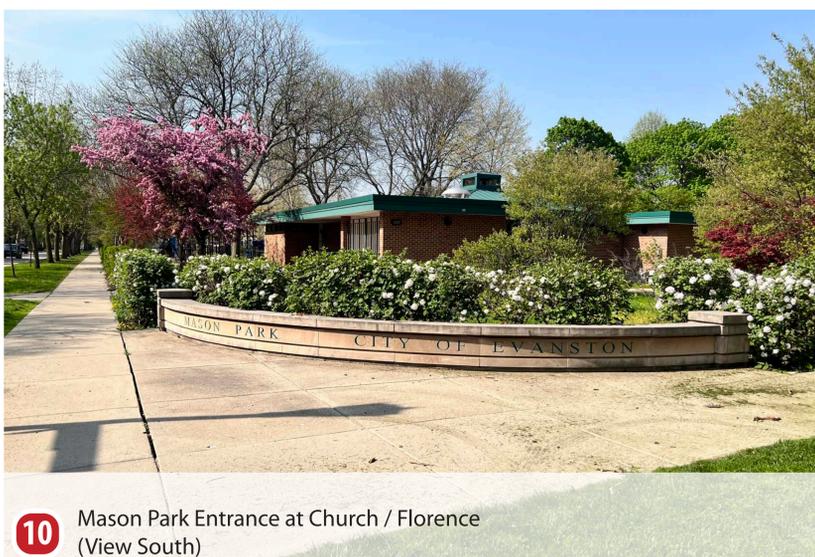
7 Pergola (View East)



8 Playground (View North)



9 Park Building (View West)



10 Mason Park Entrance at Church / Florence (View South)



11 Basketball Court + Soccer Field (View South)

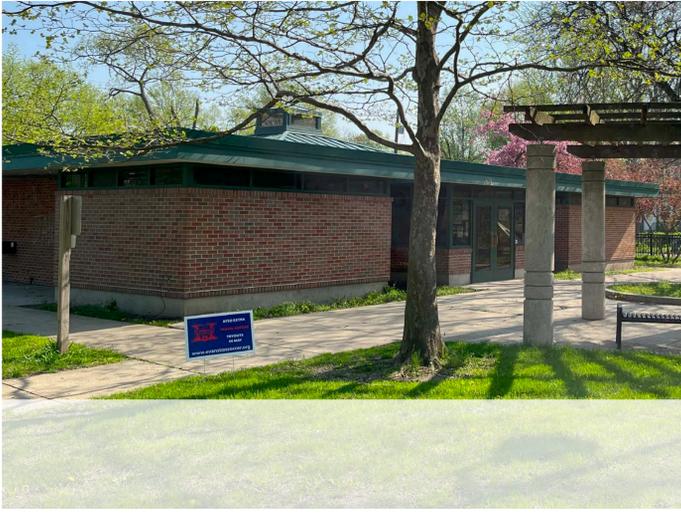


Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements City of Evanston, IL



EXISTING MASON PARK AREA | OPPORTUNITIES

ENHANCE EXISTING FIELD HOUSE / BATHROOMS



ENHANCE / REPLACE EXISTING PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT



ADD A DOG PARK



ADD PICKLEBALL



ADD FITNESS / EXERCISE STATIONS



USE EXISTING SLOPE FOR A SLED HILL



USE EXISTING SLOPE FOR AN EMBANKMENT SLIDE



USE EXISTING SLOPE FOR A CLIMBING WALL



ADD TERRACED SEATING



ADD BIOSWALES / RAIN GARDENS



ADD PLAY MOUNDS



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements
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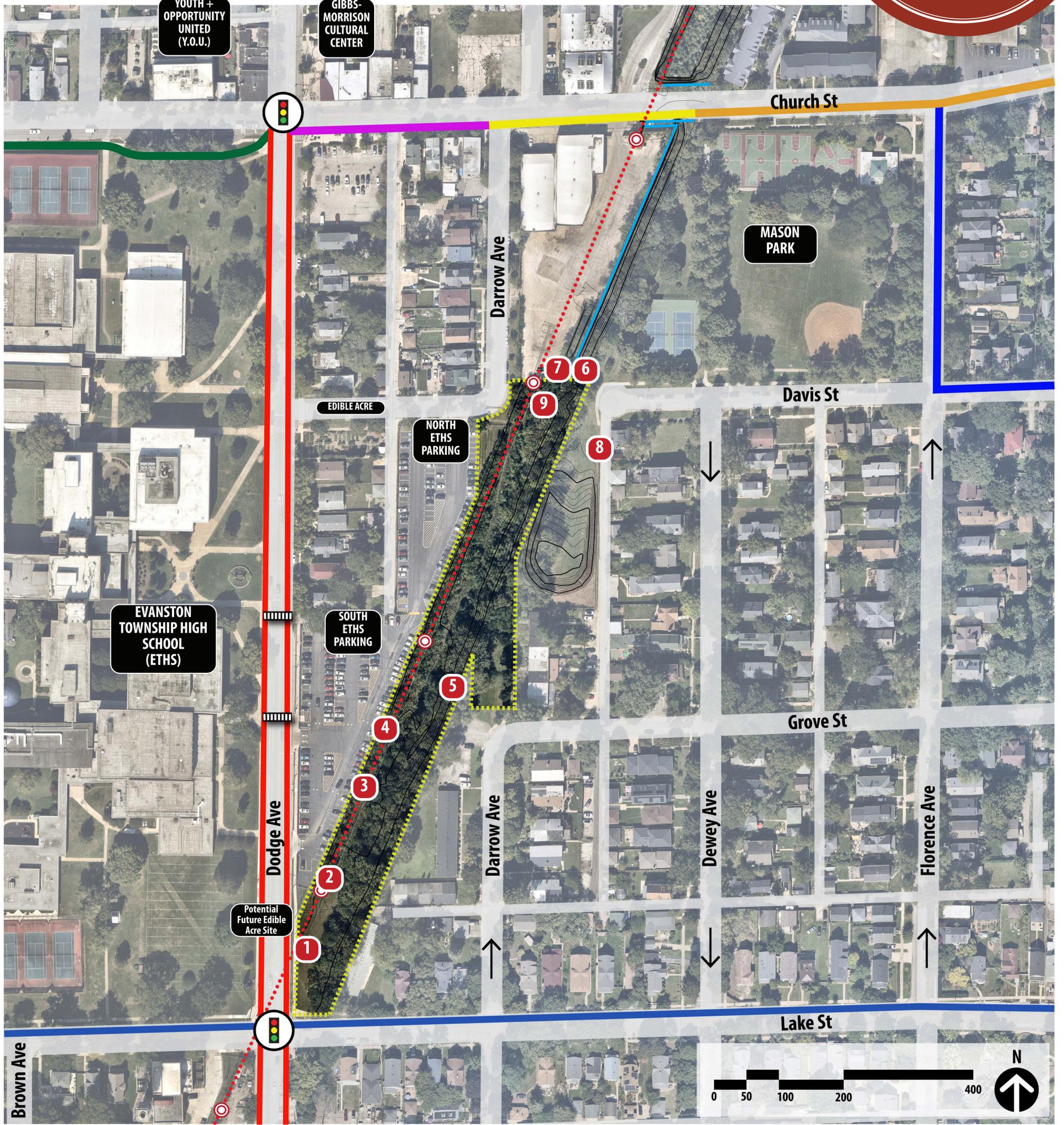


MASON PARK EXPANSION AREA | MAP

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-  Existing Mason Park
-  ComEd High Tension Tower/ Overhead Wires
-  Section Elevations (See Section Exhibits)

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 -  Existing Bike Path
 -  Existing Bike Route
-  Site Photograph Locations

**INPUT ACTIVITY:
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NOTES TO ADD YOUR
COMMENTS**



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements City of Evanston, IL



MASON PARK EXPANSION AREA | SITE PHOTOS

INPUT ACTIVITY:
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NOTES TO ADD YOUR
COMMENTS



1 South End of Embankment at Lake / Dodge Intersection (View North)



2 Embankment / South ETHS Parking (View North)



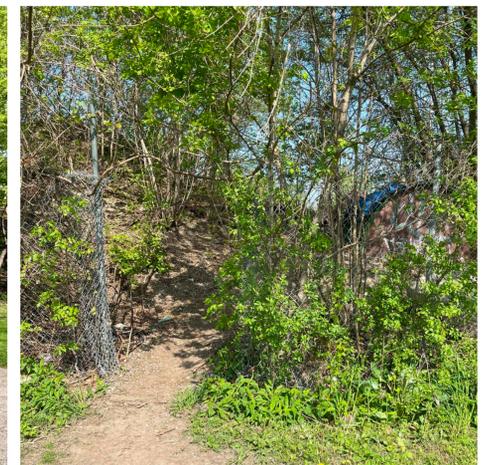
3 Embankment / South ETHS Parking Lot (View North)



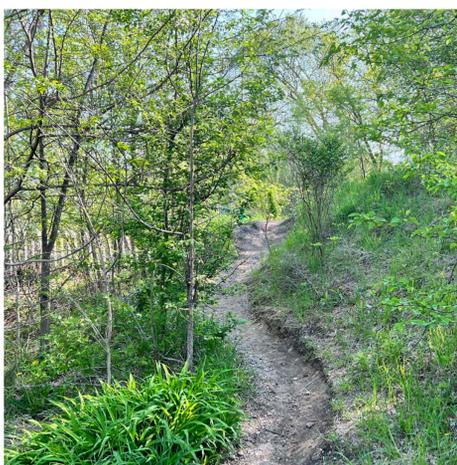
4 Embankment / South ETHS Parking Lot (View South)



5 Private Drive West of Grove St Along Embankment (View West)



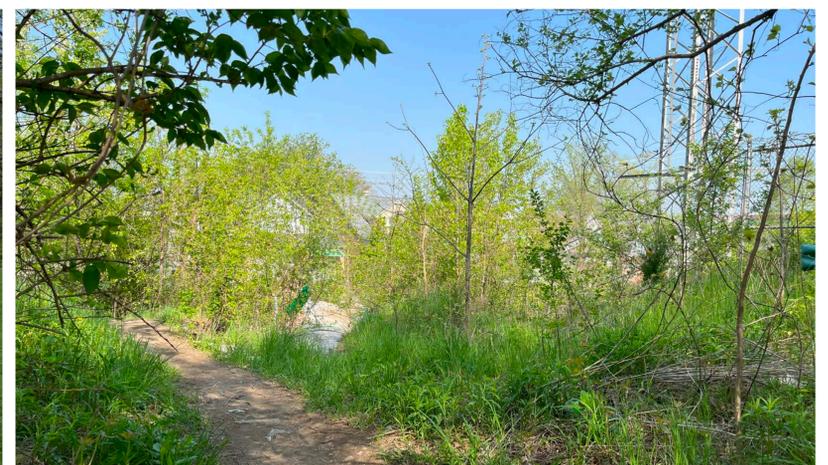
6 Worn Dirt Path Over Embankment (View West)



7 Worn Dirt Path Over Embankment (View South)



8 Alley South of Davis St Along Mason Park Property (View South)



9 Worn Dirt Path Over Embankment (View West)

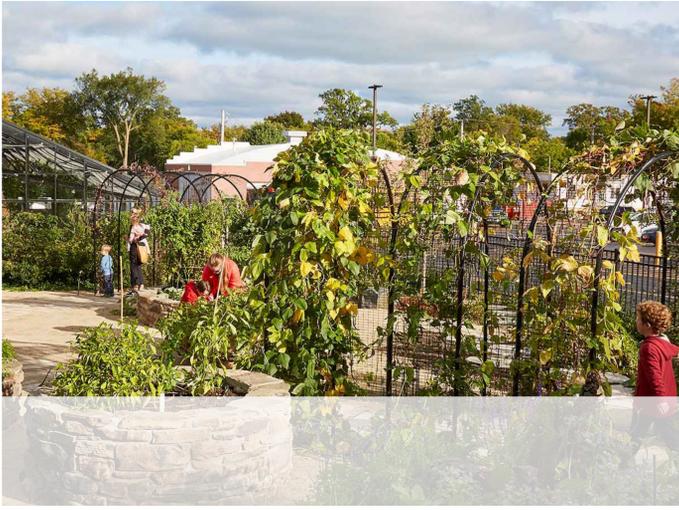


Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements
City of Evanston, IL



MASON PARK EXPANSION AREA | OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY GARDEN / DEMONSTRATION GARDEN



INPUT ACTIVITY:
USE UP TO (4) STICKERS TO
SELECT YOUR PREFERRED
ENHANCEMENTS

USE THE POST-IT NOTES TO ADD
YOUR COMMENTS

URBAN TRAIL



NATURE TRAIL



FITNESS / EXERCISE STATIONS



OVERLOOK



SHADED SEATING



BENCH SWINGS



NATURE BASED PLAY



SCULPTURE GARDEN



BOARDWALKS + BENCHES



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements
City of Evanston, IL



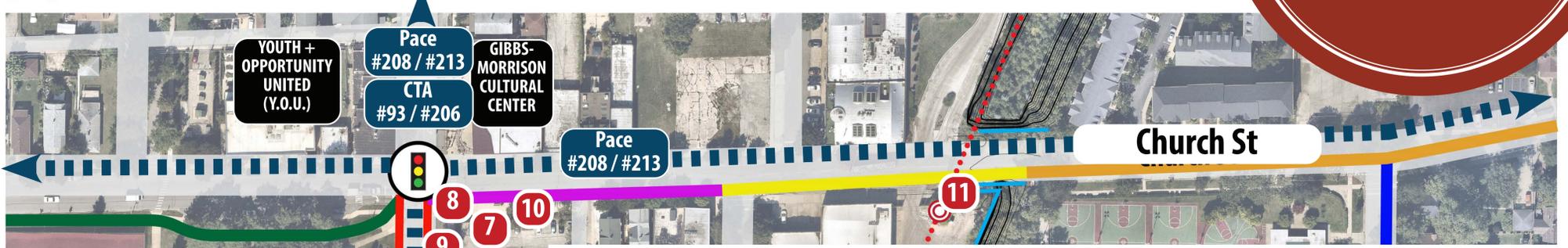
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**INPUT ACTIVITY:
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CHURCH STREET / DODGE AVENUE INTERSECTION ENLARGEMENT



CHALLENGES:

- Eastbound through traffic has an excessive delay during the AM rush. The lack of a dedicated left turn lane for eastbound traffic potentially contributes to the delay.
- Westbound through traffic has an excessive delay during the AM rush. The lack of a dedicated left turn lane for westbound traffic potentially contributes to the delay.
- The change from street level to sidewalk level can cause confusion for bicyclists and pedestrians.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Consider adding a dedicated left turn lane for eastbound and westbound motorists on Church Street at Dodge Avenue.
- Consider creating a dedicated lane for bicyclists through the intersection.

INTERSECTION TRAFFIC COUNTS

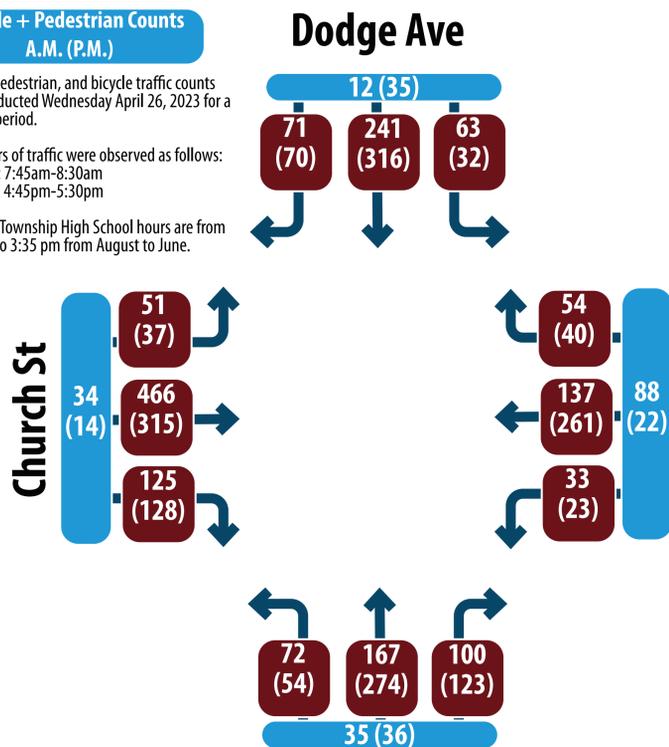
Vehicular Counts
A.M. (P.M.)

Bicycle + Pedestrian Counts
A.M. (P.M.)

Vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic counts were conducted Wednesday April 26, 2023 for a 24-hour period.

Peak hours of traffic were observed as follows:
AM PEAK: 7:45am-8:30am
PM PEAK: 4:45pm-5:30pm

Evanston Township High School hours are from 8:00 am to 3:35 pm from August to June.



CHURCH / DODGE AREA | SITE PHOTOS



1 Bike Lanes Along Dodge Ave South of Lake St (View North)



2 South West Corner of Dodge Ave / Lake St (View East)



3 Dodge Ave / Lake St (View North)



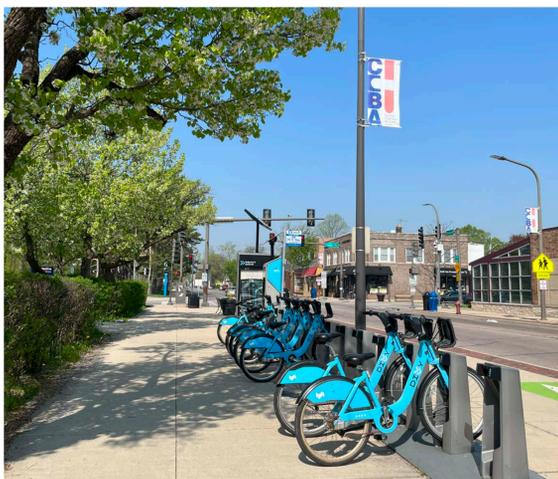
4 Bikes Lanes Along Dodge Ave / ETHS (View North)



5 Sidewalk / ETHS Parking Lot Along Dodge Ave (View South)



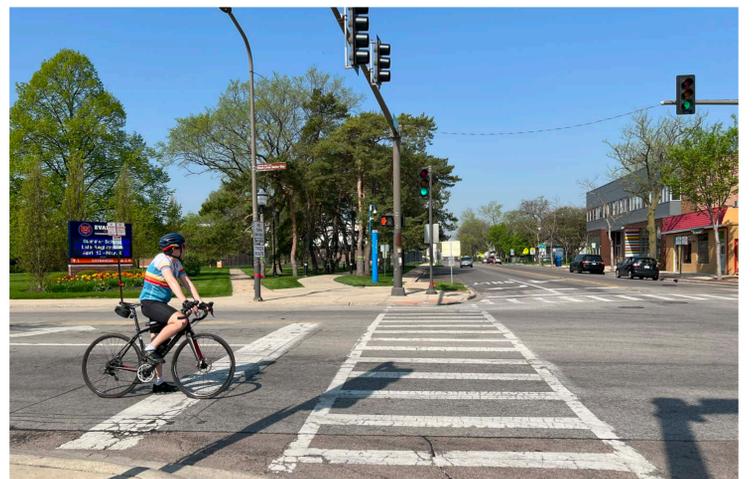
6 Mid-Block Crossing Along Dodge Ave (View North)



7 Divvy Station Along Church St at Dodge Ave (View West)



8 Intersection of Dodge Ave / Church St (View North)



9 Intersection of Dodge Ave / Church St (View West)



10 Off-Street Cycle Track Along Church St at Dodge Ave (View West)



11 Protected Bike Lane along Church Street (View East)

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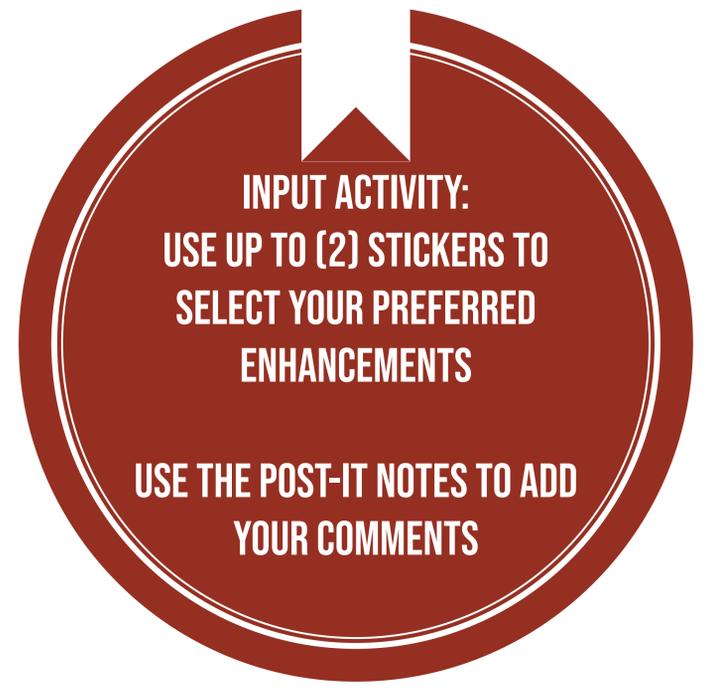
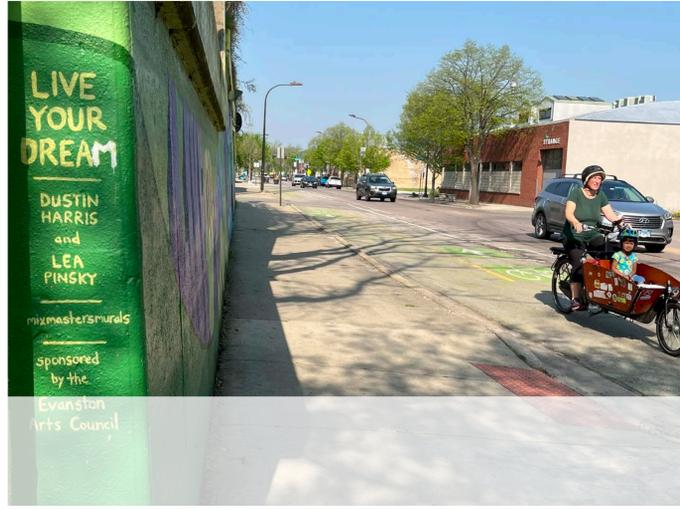


CHURCH / DODGE AREA | OPPORTUNITIES

PROTECTED BIKE LANE



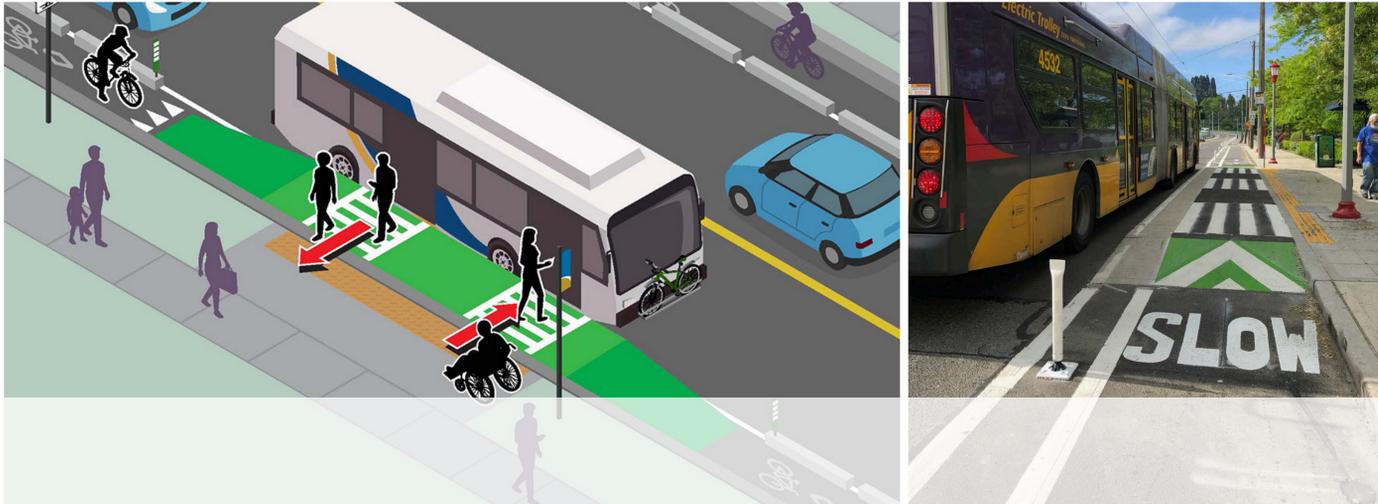
MARKED BIKE LANE



BIKE REPAIR STATION + BIKE RACKS



BUS BULB

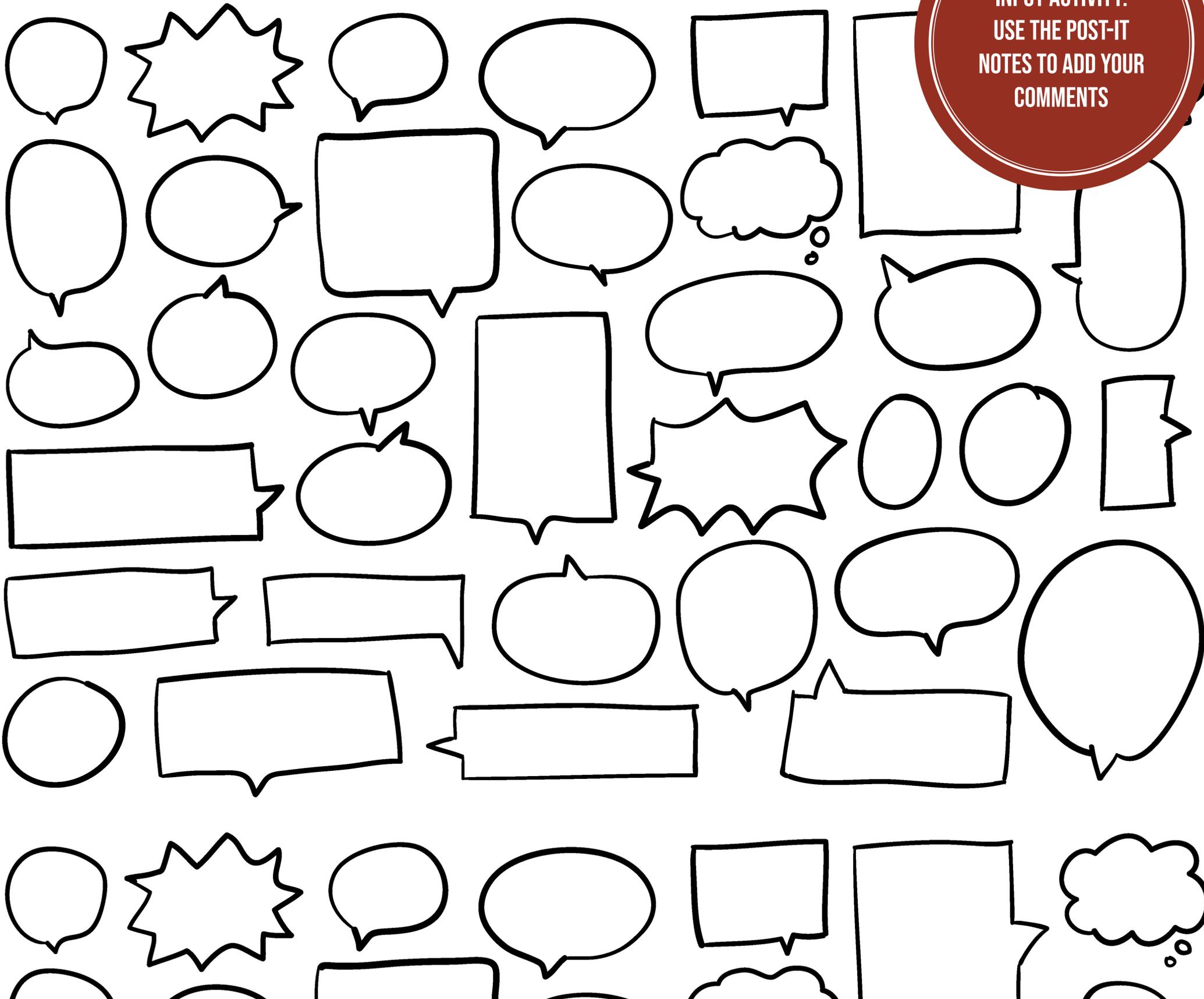


BUS SHELTER + AMENITIES



THANK YOU!

INPUT ACTIVITY:
USE THE POST-IT
NOTES TO ADD YOUR
COMMENTS



NEXT STEPS

Thank you for participating in the Open House!
Initial concepts will be presented at Public Meeting #2, anticipated Summer 2024.
Stay tuned to the project website for more information:



www.cityofevanston.org/MasonChurchDodge

Scan the code with the camera app on your smart phone



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements
City of Evanston, IL

