

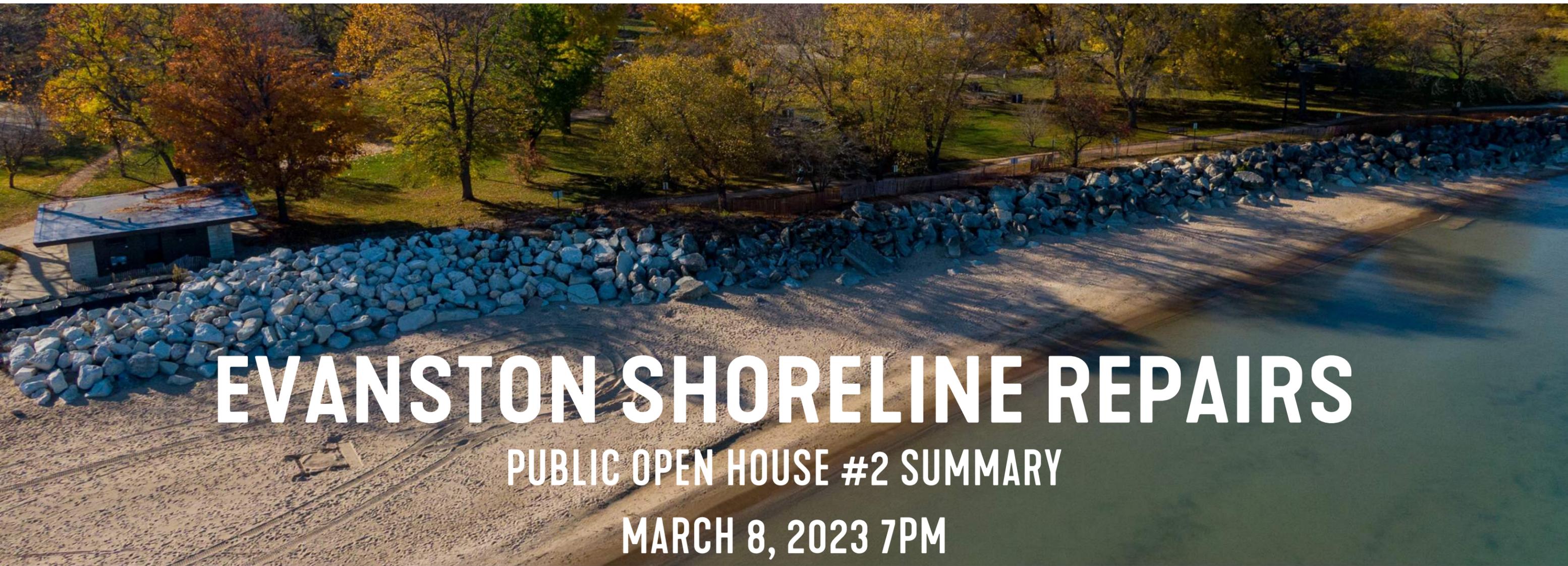
PROJECT Evanston Shoreline Repairs DATE 4/13/2023
PROJECT NO. 13959
PROJECT LOCATION Evanston, IL
SUBJECT Public Open House 2 Summary
PREPARED BY Chris Devick

DISTRIBUTION

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On March 8, 2023 an Open House was held for the Evanston Shoreline Repairs Project. The Open House was held at the Robert Crown Community Center from 7-9pm, in attendance was Mark Wagstaff (Project Principle); Chris Devick (Project manager), Kris Lucias, and Cher Wong from SmithGroup and Stefanie Levine from the City of Evanston. Five stations were set-up to engage and receive input from the public throughout the open house around the potential strategies to be used in addressing the project issues and goals at each of the project sites. During the duration of the evening over 30 people attended the Open House.

Attached are summary graphics related to the input received from the public, copies of the boards used during the open house can be found on the project website. The summary graphics focus on common themes, potential improvement preferences and specific ways that each site is used based on what was heard during the open house. The boards include a summary of information obtained from the community survey, which was available online for 2 weeks in February and received over 1300 responses.



EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2 SUMMARY

MARCH 8, 2023 7PM

WELCOME !

We are glad you are here!
Please look at the various boards around the room and provide your feedback. Feel free to ask any questions about the project.

Your consultant team:



Mark Wagstaff
Principal
SmithGroup



Chris Devick
Project Manager
SmithGroup



Kris Lucius
Design Principal
SmithGroup



Cher Wong
Landscape Architect
SmithGroup

EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

COMMENTARY – POPULAR THEMES



- Naturalization and Enhancement were the preferred design strategies, over Maintain Existing and Replace-in-Kind
- Preservation of existing trees, regardless of design strategy, was a consistently heard message
- Improving facilities such as paths and increasing ADA options were reviewed favorably
- Maintaining or improving views of the lake is an important consideration
- Several commenters mentioned the potential infrastructure costs and maintenance efforts as considerations

EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

DESIGN STRATEGIES COMMENTS

MAINTAIN EXISTING



- This strategy relies on natural recovery of the beaches and repairs to the revetments to address erosion and storm damage
- The City would live with the existing flooding, safety issues and maintenance requirements
- This is the lowest capital cost strategy but there is a trade-off with increasing maintenance over time and the possibility of repeated damage under extreme conditions
- Existing views are maintained, and a popular theme at Public Open House #1 was that residents didn't want the views to be further obstructed

WHA

• “Keep the boat ramp and parking lot as is at Church Street.”

NATURALIZE



- This strategy converts existing parkland into an ecological buffer between the lake and land
- The City would have to modify maintenance practices to address a more dynamic and changeable lakefront
- There are several external funding opportunities that prioritize green infrastructure which could offset some of the capital costs
- There was strong support at the Public Open House #1 for natural improvements and green, resilient solutions

• “Not a fan of the naturalize options. Take space, will look messy and inconsistent over time.”

• “Naturalize wherever you can. Dune grass - beautiful, resilient, no or low maintenance.”

REPLACE-IN-KIND



- This strategy rehabilitates the existing shore protection features and revetments and re-nourishes the beaches.
- The City would reduce flooding and safety risk and add to the lifespan of the shore protection, however, the existing visual barriers between the lakefront parks and the lake itself would remain.
- Support for protecting existing beaches and swimming opportunities was the most commonly received comment at the Public Open House #1.

• “Protect existing beaches and swimming opportunities.”

ENHANCE



- This strategy adds resilience to the lakefront through new shore protection features that reduce risk and improve the user experience
- In many cases the new protection would be higher than the existing structures, but additional enhancements to the parkland would increase access and views to the lakefront
- In general, this would be a higher capital cost strategy, but long-term maintenance requirements would be reduced
- There was strong support at the Public Open House #1 for pedestrian improvements, bicycle access, and new trails and pathways

• “Enhancing makes fiscal sense to me.”

• “Replace in-kind and enhanced are better options. This is an urban environment with little space. Really like the enhanced options.”

EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

STRATEGY TYPE RELATIVE POPULARITY – ALL SITES



KEY TAKEAWAYS

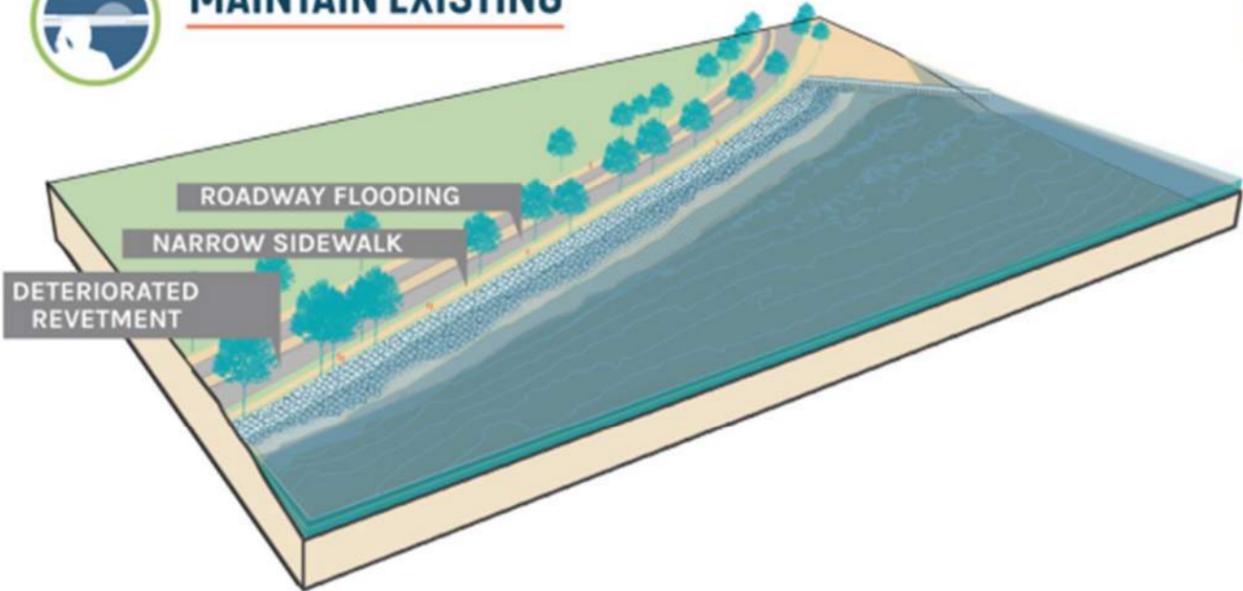
- Strong support for action and change, with overwhelmingly positive response to most design strategies, except Maintain Existing.
- Naturalization and Enhancement were the preferred design strategies, over Maintain Existing and Replace-in-Kind

Note: % of Total “Votes” Cast represents the percentage relative to all votes cast at the public open house across all sites.

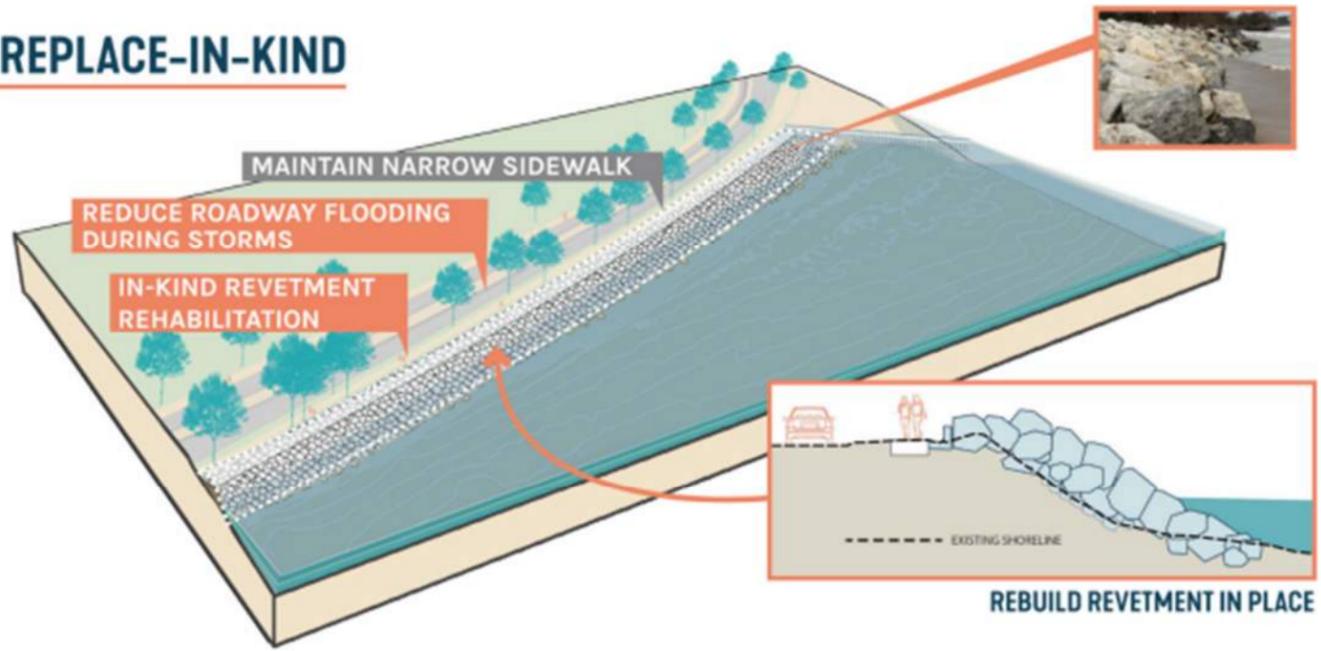
SHERIDAN ROAD – DESIGN STRATEGIES



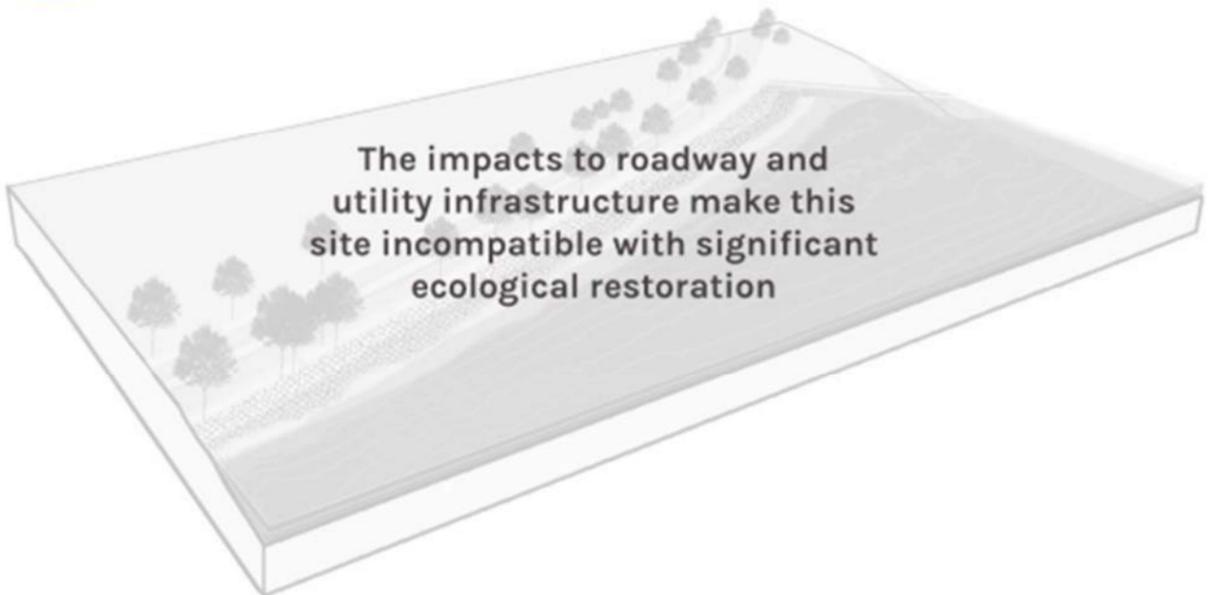
MAINTAIN EXISTING



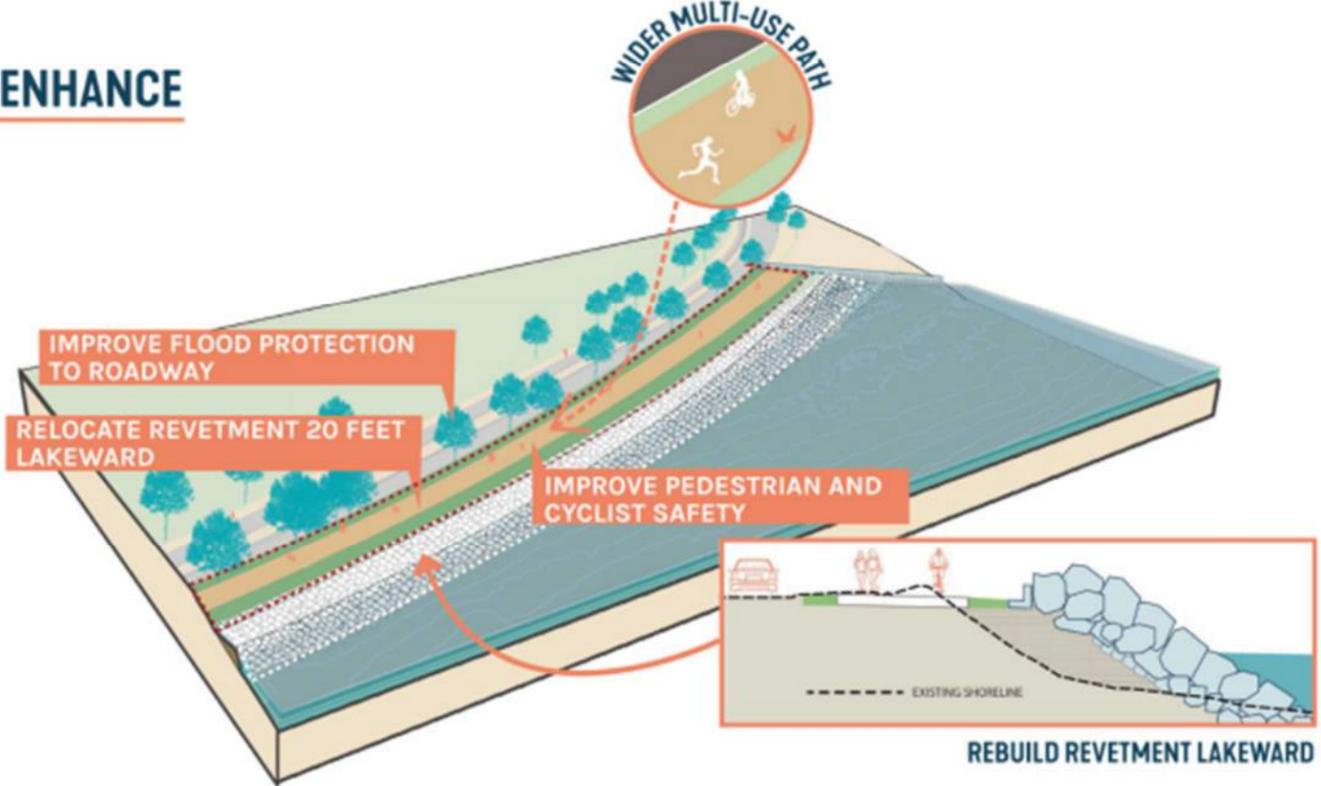
REPLACE-IN-KIND



NATURALIZE



ENHANCE



EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

STRATEGY TYPE RELATIVE POPULARITY – SHERIDAN ROAD

MAINTAIN EXISTING
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	3
Green Dots:	1
Yellow Dots:	2

REPLACE-IN-KIND
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

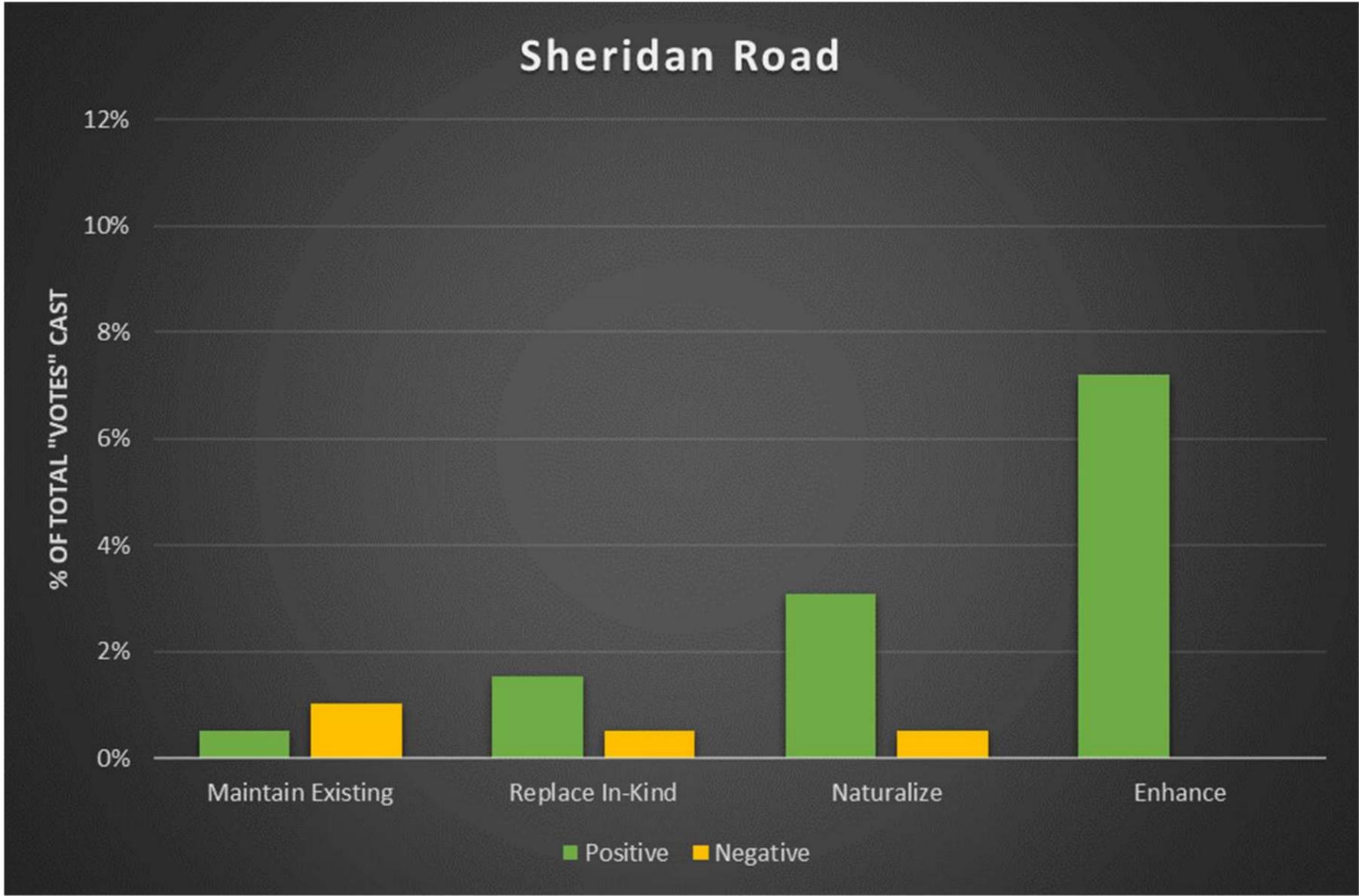
Total Dots:	4
Green Dots:	3
Yellow Dots:	1

NATURALIZE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	7
Green Dots:	6
Yellow Dots:	1

ENHANCE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	14
Green Dots:	14
Yellow Dots:	0



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EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

PUBLIC COMMENT INVENTORY – SHERIDAN ROAD



- No comments received



- Existing is ugly why not improve?
- Favor more green space VS. separated pedestrian + bike paths. Seems as if might be the best here, with some replace in kind



- Would like to see both naturalized + enhancement plans to take place
- Clean up Sheridan waterfront on sidewalk side. Existing stone bulwark holding, protecting road. Do no other work @ Sheridan

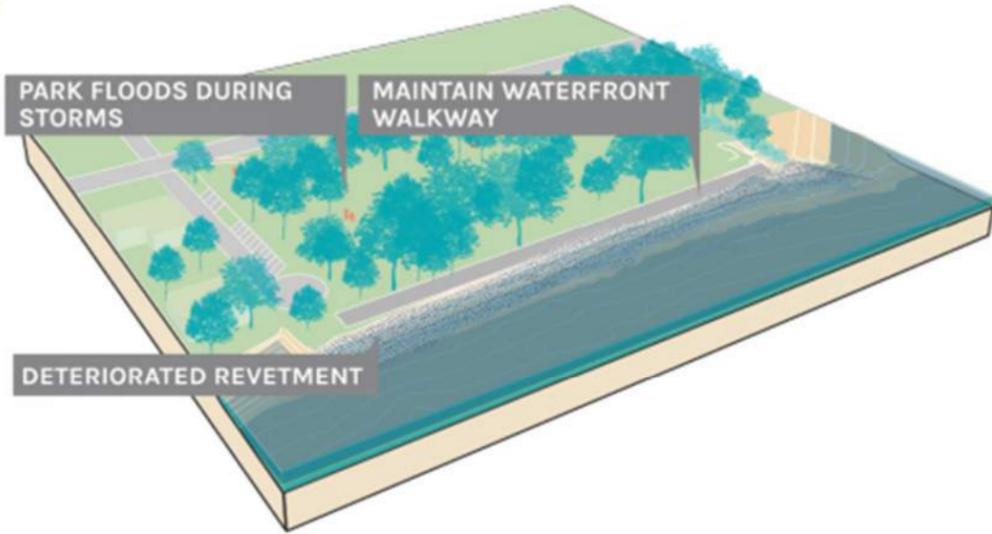


- Wide multi-use path is greatly needed for pedestrian + cycle safety
- This is a critical link for bike communities. Which options attract most grant money? Widen & separate bike & pedestrian lanes please
- Yes to better path, can bikes / walker be separated?
- Hoping that both naturalized + enhancement can take place
- This entrance to our city is in horrible condition! Make it a showpiece
- 2 Separate paths
- Reduce 2 way are traffic to 1 lane to have more pedestrian + bike space
- Biking and walking on sidewalk in both directions can be dangerous. Recommend widening and/or allowing for space for those modes of transport
- Narrow Sheridan. Widen Bike / Ped walkway and add green space.

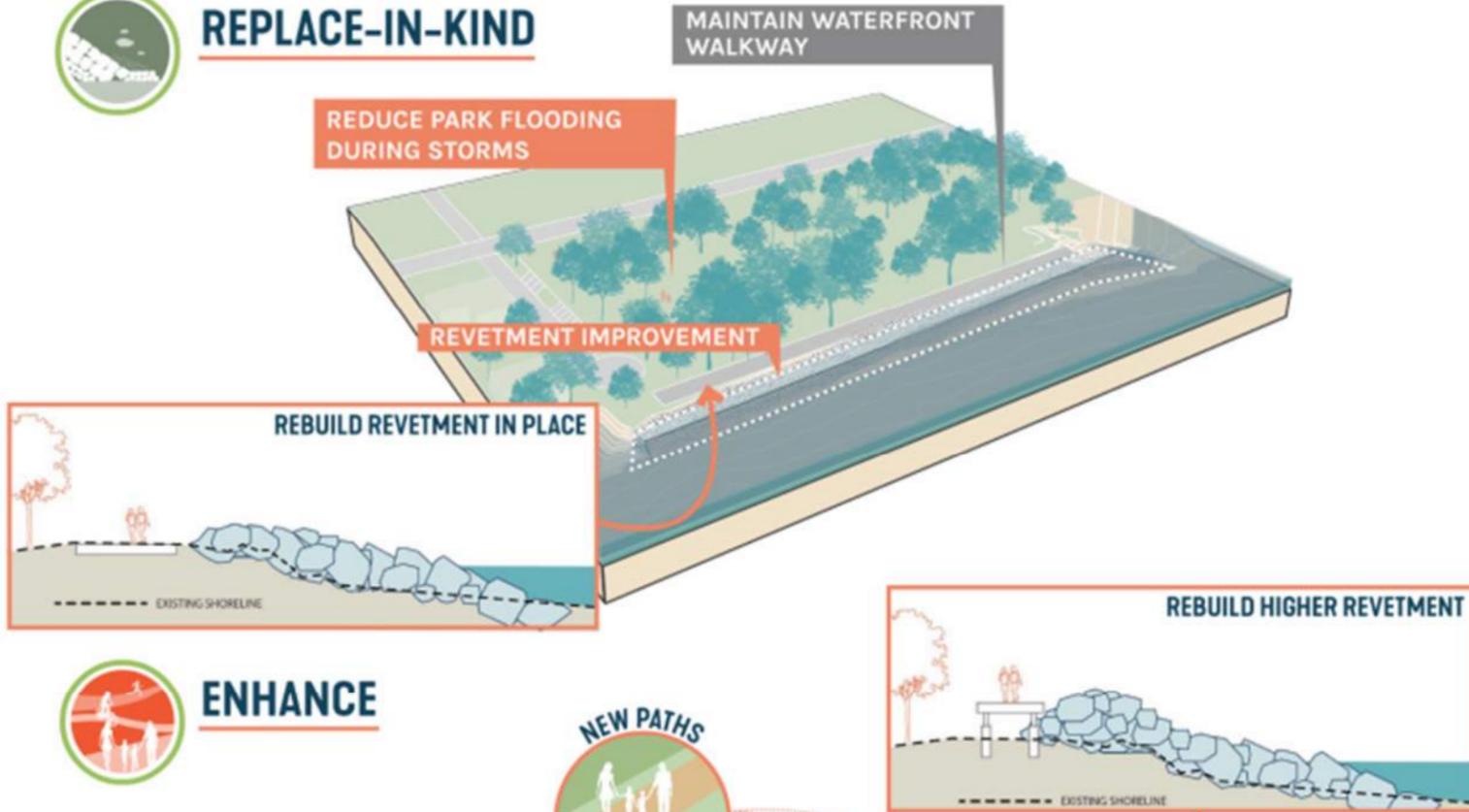
CLARK SQUARE PARK – DESIGN STRATEGIES



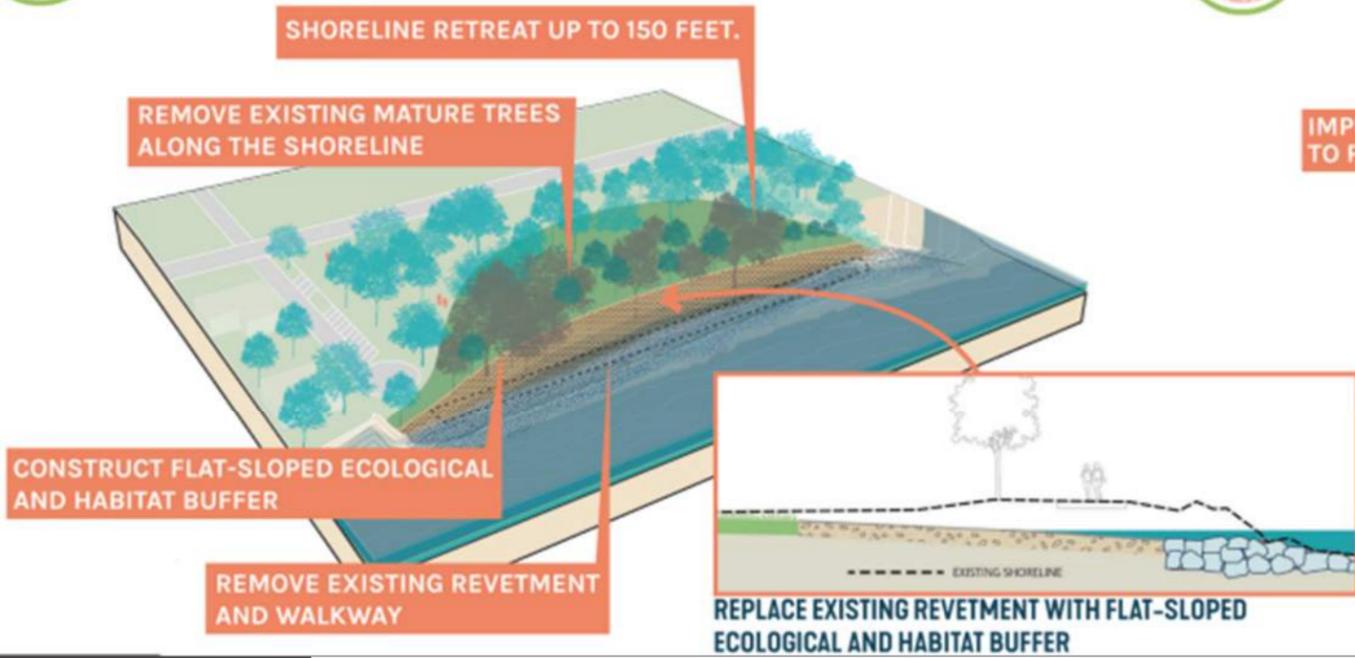
MAINTAIN EXISTING



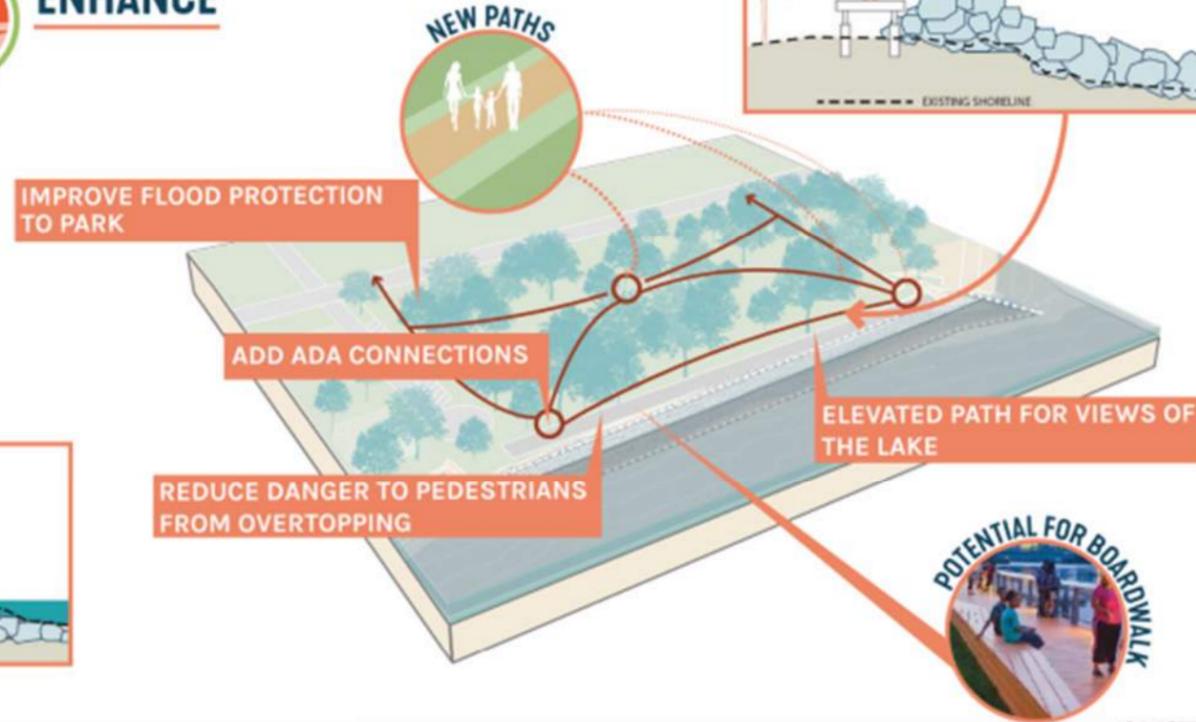
REPLACE-IN-KIND



NATURALIZE



ENHANCE



EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

STRATEGY TYPE RELATIVE POPULARITY – CLARK SQUARE PARK

MAINTAIN EXISTING
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	1
Green Dots:	1
Yellow Dots:	0

REPLACE-IN-KIND
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

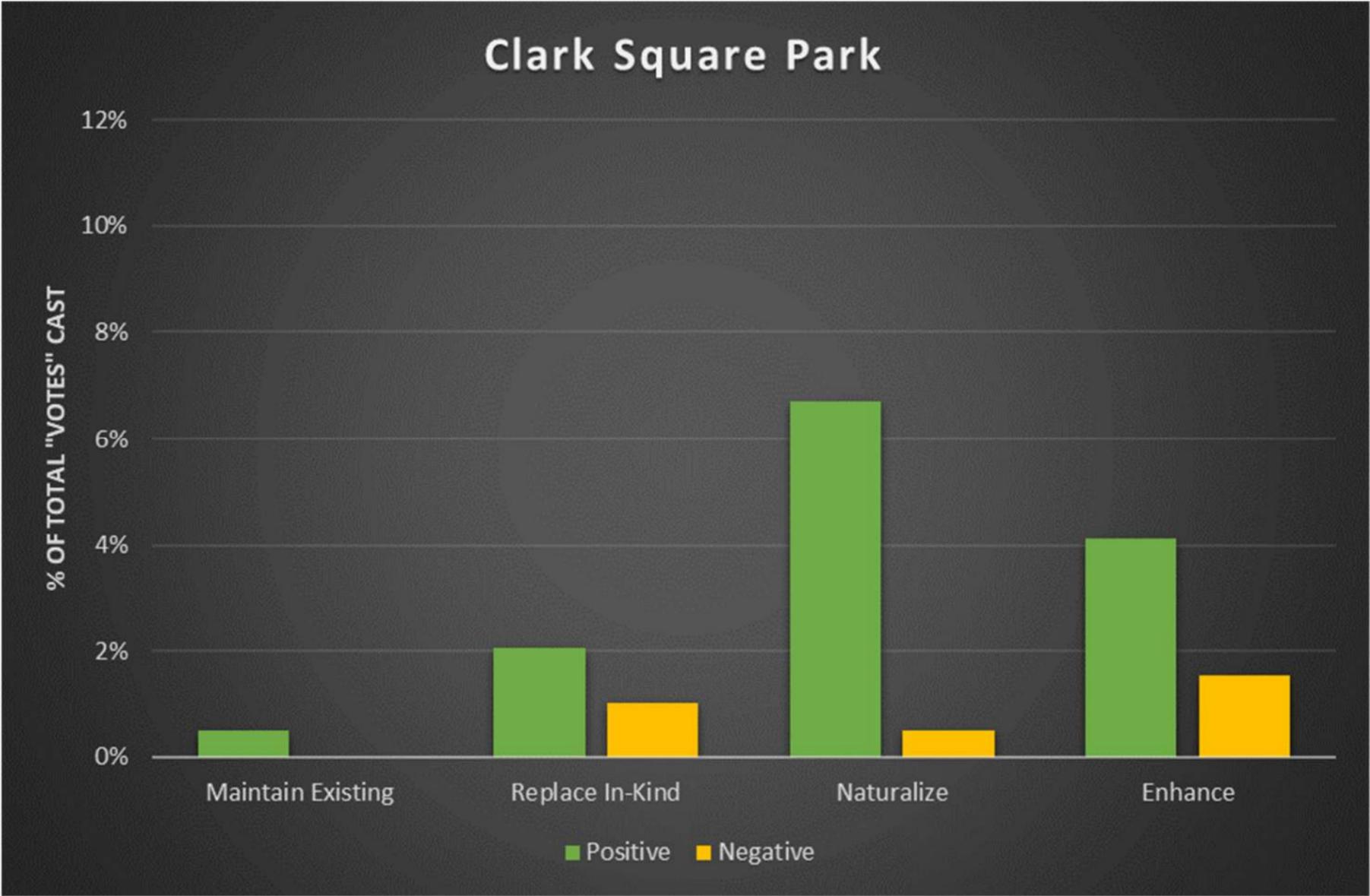
Total Dots:	6
Green Dots:	4
Yellow Dots:	2

NATURALIZE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	14
Green Dots:	13
Yellow Dots:	1

ENHANCE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	11
Green Dots:	8
Yellow Dots:	3



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EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

PUBLIC COMMENT INVENTORY – CLARK SQUARE PARK



- Best option - minimal intervention - so the path gets wet? Just walk more carefully.



- I want trees kept but paths fixed and drainage resolved
- Do not like boardwalks and long benches. Really take away the from natural beauty. A mix of naturalize+replace in kind. Old trees are a treasure, should not cut down.



- With the naturalized option, wouldn't the removal of trees leveling the shore your (sic) creating a new beach?
- Do NOT remove any shoreline mature trees!!
- Naturalized seems to be the best option for Clark Square, maintain vibe, views, low-key style
- Would like to see naturalization combined with enhancement. Win win!
- Naturalize, why remove trees though?
- Make sure you keep views of the lake
- Love this idea as long as there are still pathways further back from shoreline
- Hard to believe - rip out 150 yr-old trees and put down concrete? Pure vandalism - better a car park!



- No boardwalk, no visible artificial raised structures
- Enhance the existing small park & accessibility improve revetment as necessary
- Add a pier for fishing going into the lake
- Prefer this option as it does not remove old trees/ reduce the park space while increasing ADA access and paths.
- Enhance but don't remove mature trees. Elevate path for new ADA pathway, Love flat-sloped concept
- Looks attractive but expansive. Plan for long term mature trees on west side and multi-level tree planting over time.

LEE STREET BEACH – DESIGN STRATEGIES



MAINTAIN EXISTING



REPLACE-IN-KIND



NATURALIZE



ENHANCE



EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

STRATEGY TYPE RELATIVE POPULARITY – LEE STREET BEACH

MAINTAIN EXISTING
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	4
Green Dots:	1
Yellow Dots:	3

REPLACE-IN-KIND
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

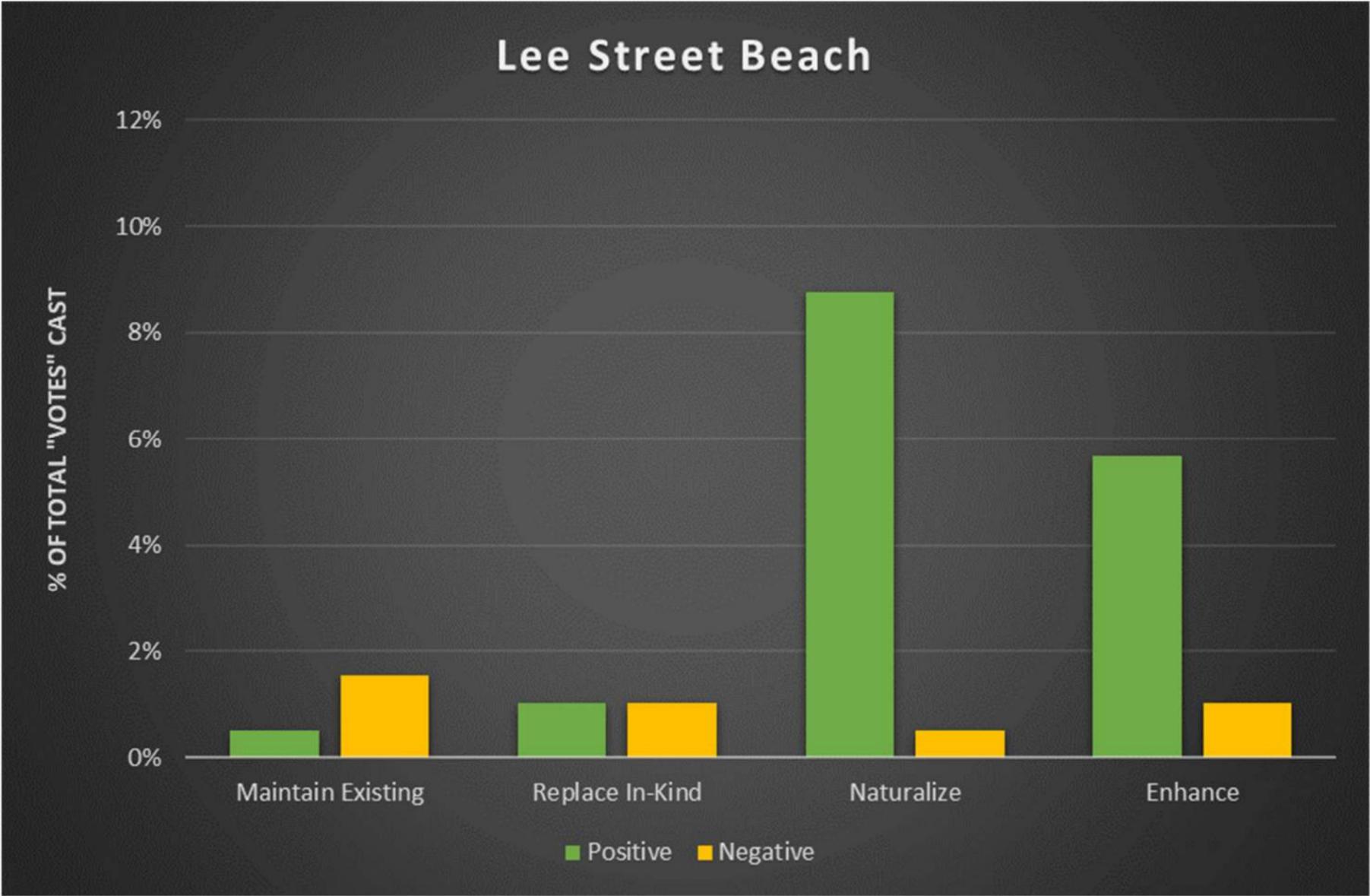
Total Dots:	4
Green Dots:	2
Yellow Dots:	2

NATURALIZE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	18
Green Dots:	17
Yellow Dots:	1

ENHANCE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	13
Green Dots:	11
Yellow Dots:	2



Note: % of Total "Votes" Cast represents the percentage relative to all votes cast at the public open house across all sites.

EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

PUBLIC COMMENT INVENTORY – LEE STREET BEACH



- No comments received



- No comments received



- The naturalize option will adjust with the weather/storms. In a few years will look messy again.
- It would be nice for Evanstonians to see a more naturalized beach environment. Wherever it can be done along with sensible enhancements
- Improve north end to make it swimmable. Rocky area not useful.
- Love to see a dune in Evanston w/native plants! Dunes - this is a yes!
- Naturalize, but not dune if new sand will stay in place
- New Headland and new sand w/new vegetation area
- Any changes to Lee Street Beach should allow for open access. Eliminate all fencing.



- Widen / protect bike/walk path. Improve access to restroom.
- Nice improved access to restroom and expanded beach space to the north. Overlook is bonus.
- The overlook might be all that's left of the beach as the water level gets higher
- It's a heavily used beach, needs upgrading.
- Very popular beach, needs larger swimming area and beach
- Separate bike and walking paths. Ability to see beach and water when sitting on bench.
- Heavily used beach. North end enhancements would be welcome.

ELLIOT PARK – DESIGN STRATEGIES



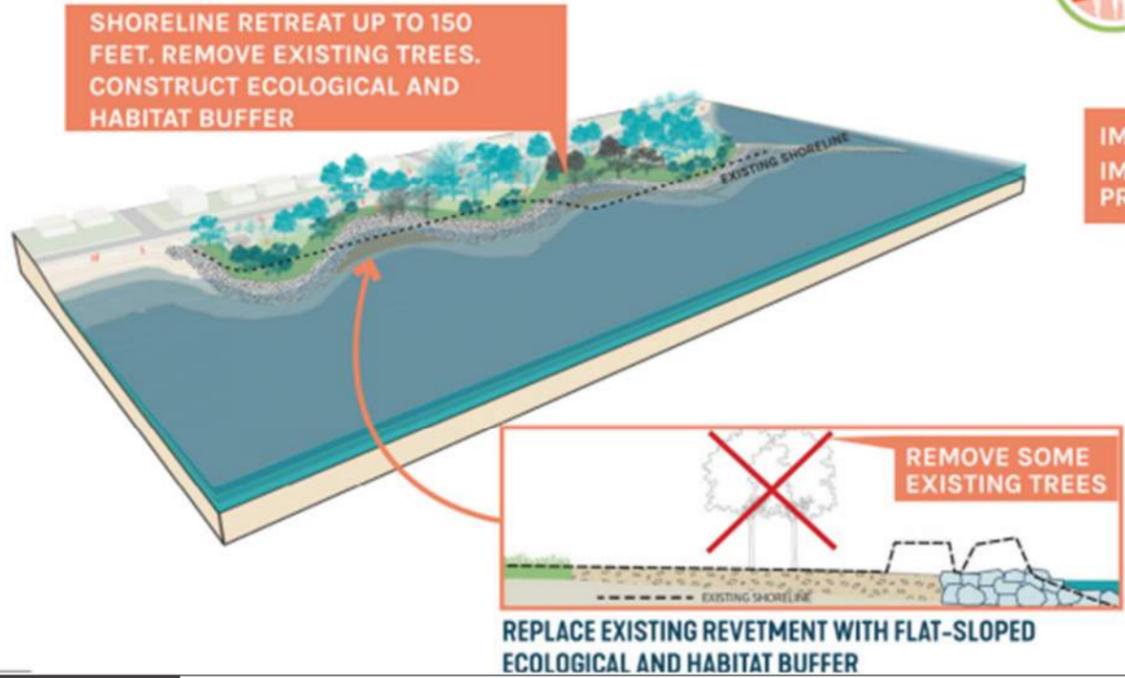
MAINTAIN EXISTING



REPLACE-IN-KIND



NATURALIZE



ENHANCE



EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

STRATEGY TYPE RELATIVE POPULARITY – ELLIOT PARK

MAINTAIN EXISTING
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	1
Green Dots:	0
Yellow Dots:	1

REPLACE-IN-KIND
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

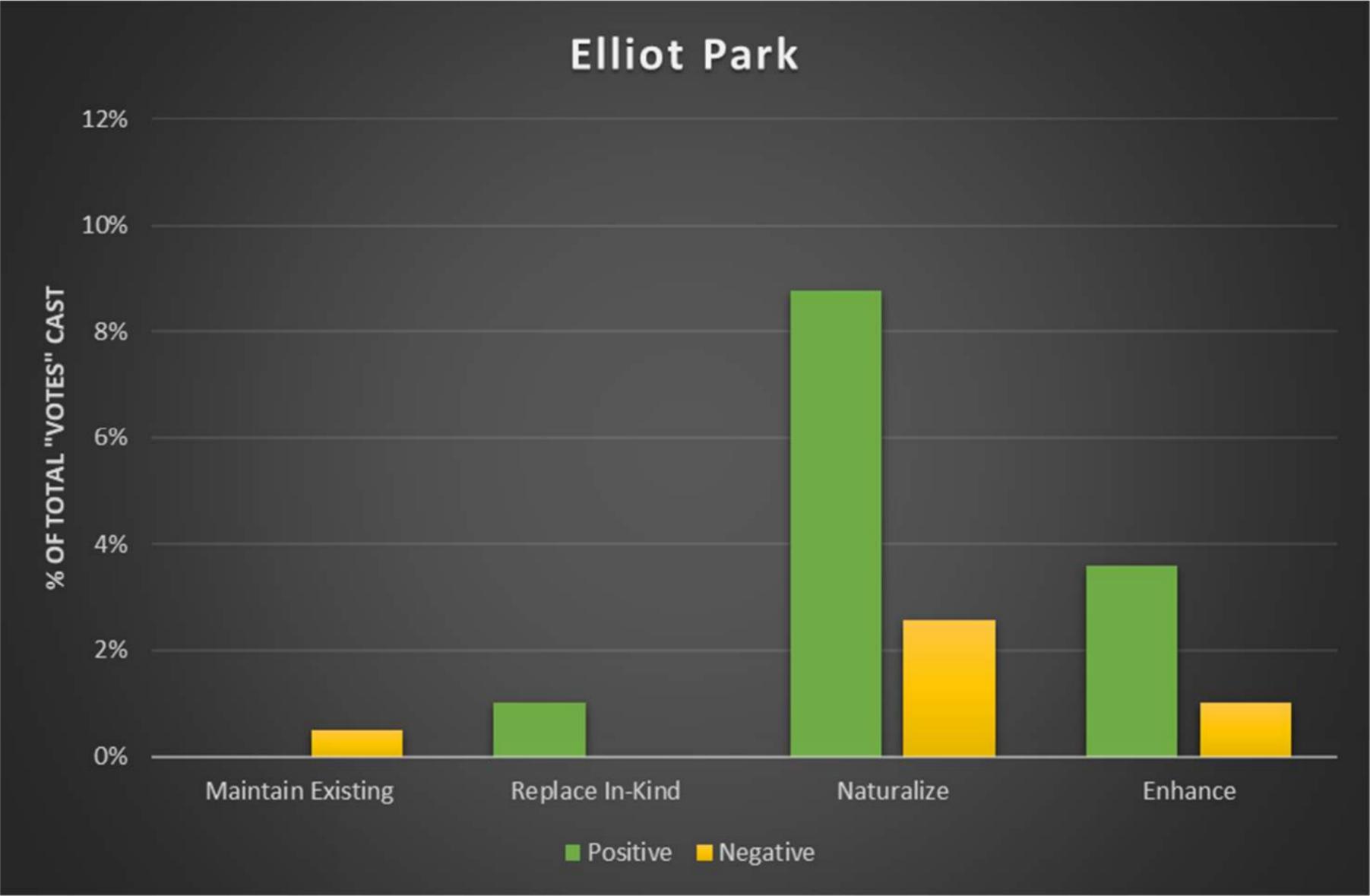
Total Dots:	2
Green Dots:	2
Yellow Dots:	0

NATURALIZE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	22
Green Dots:	17
Yellow Dots:	5

ENHANCE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	9
Green Dots:	7
Yellow Dots:	2



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EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

PUBLIC COMMENT INVENTORY – ELLIOT PARK



MAINTAIN EXISTING

- No comments received



REPLACE-IN-KIND

- Like preserving trees, build up shoreline



NATURALIZE

- Naturalize but keep trees
- Naturalize options not "clean" design. Not suited to the semi-urban environment
- DO NOT remove any existing trees - (they soften the edge and provide shade)
- Naturalize with some paths
- Having at least some parts of our lakefront naturalized is good
- It would be ideal to allow sightlines to the water from further back. No raised revetment. No raised observation deck. No wall of rocks.
- Extend shoreline to keep trees
- Prioritize being able to see the water from the park



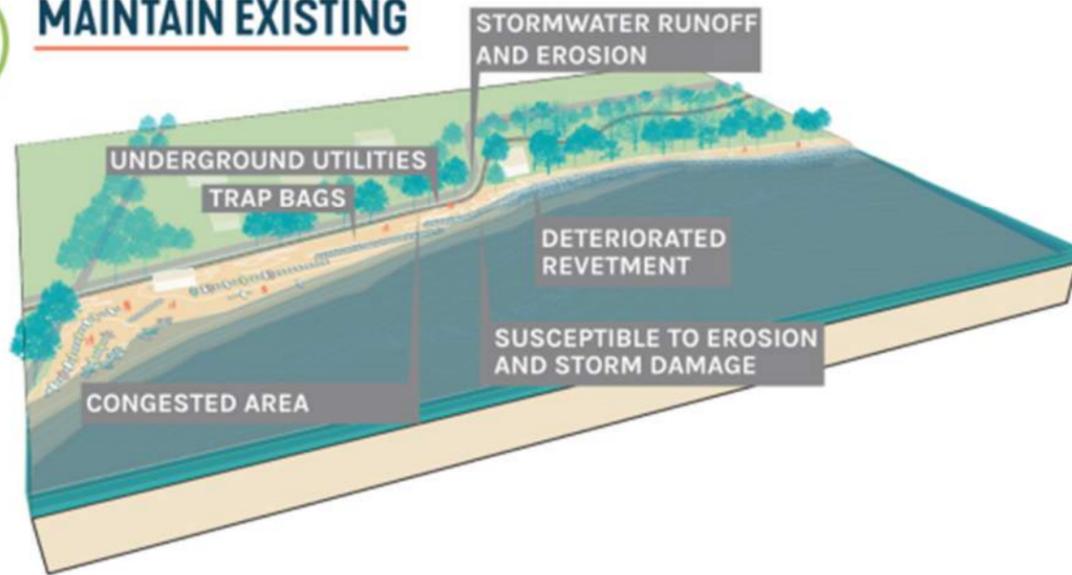
ENHANCE

- Please enhance bird habitat at Elliot Park
- Raise park and revetment to maintain views
- To me okay to lose trees / revetment. Not okay to raise grade and lose trees
- Keep trees
- I like the nature play
- No artificial boardwalk or observation deck
- 12-month walking path with drainage and views of shoreline and seating
- If rebuild larger revetment then raise park height versus artificial boardwalk.

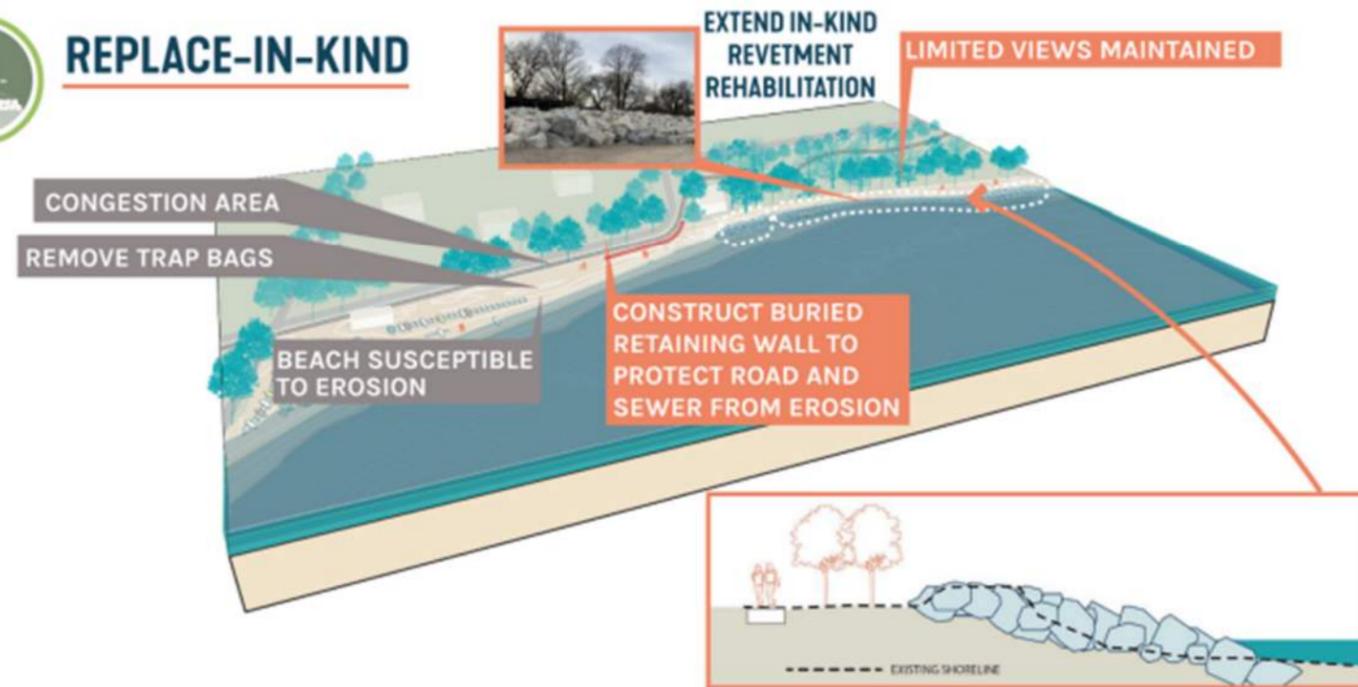
DEMPSTER AND GREENWOOD BEACH – DESIGN STRATEGIES



MAINTAIN EXISTING



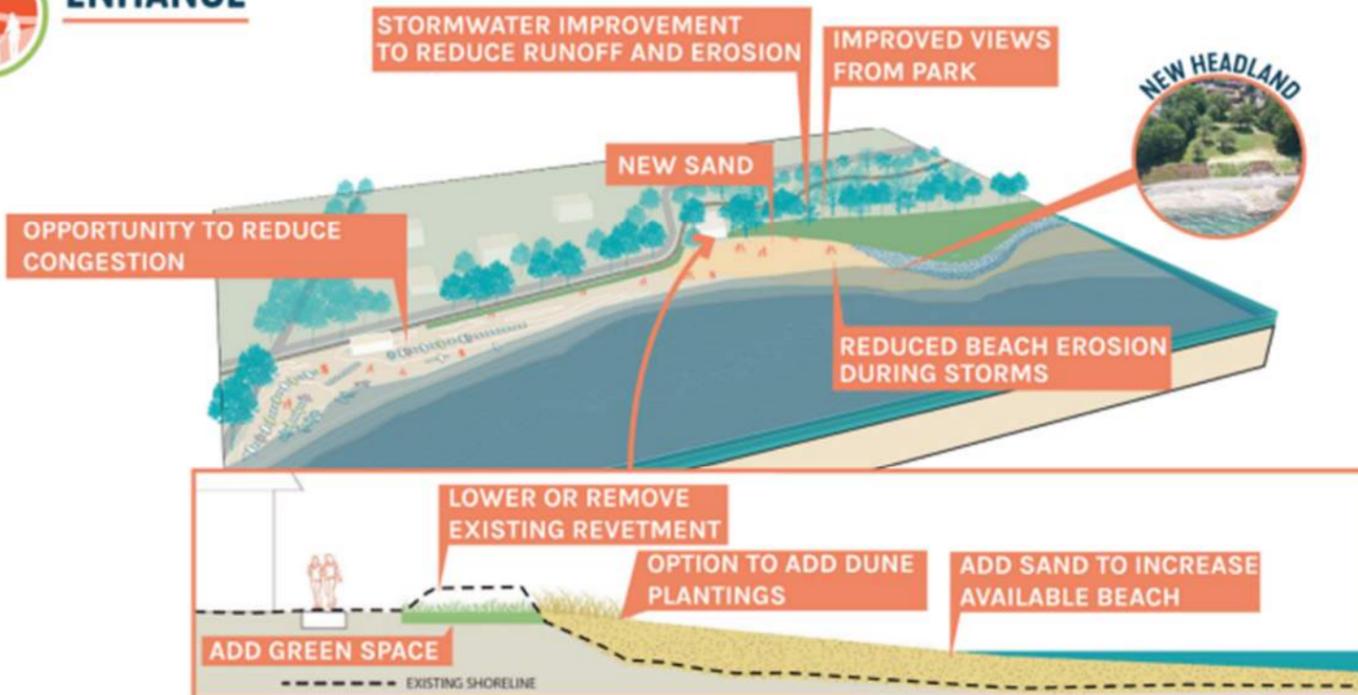
REPLACE-IN-KIND



NATURALIZE



ENHANCE



EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

STRATEGY TYPE RELATIVE POPULARITY – DEMPSTER AND GREENWOOD BEACH

MAINTAIN EXISTING
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	0
Green Dots:	0
Yellow Dots:	0

REPLACE-IN-KIND
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

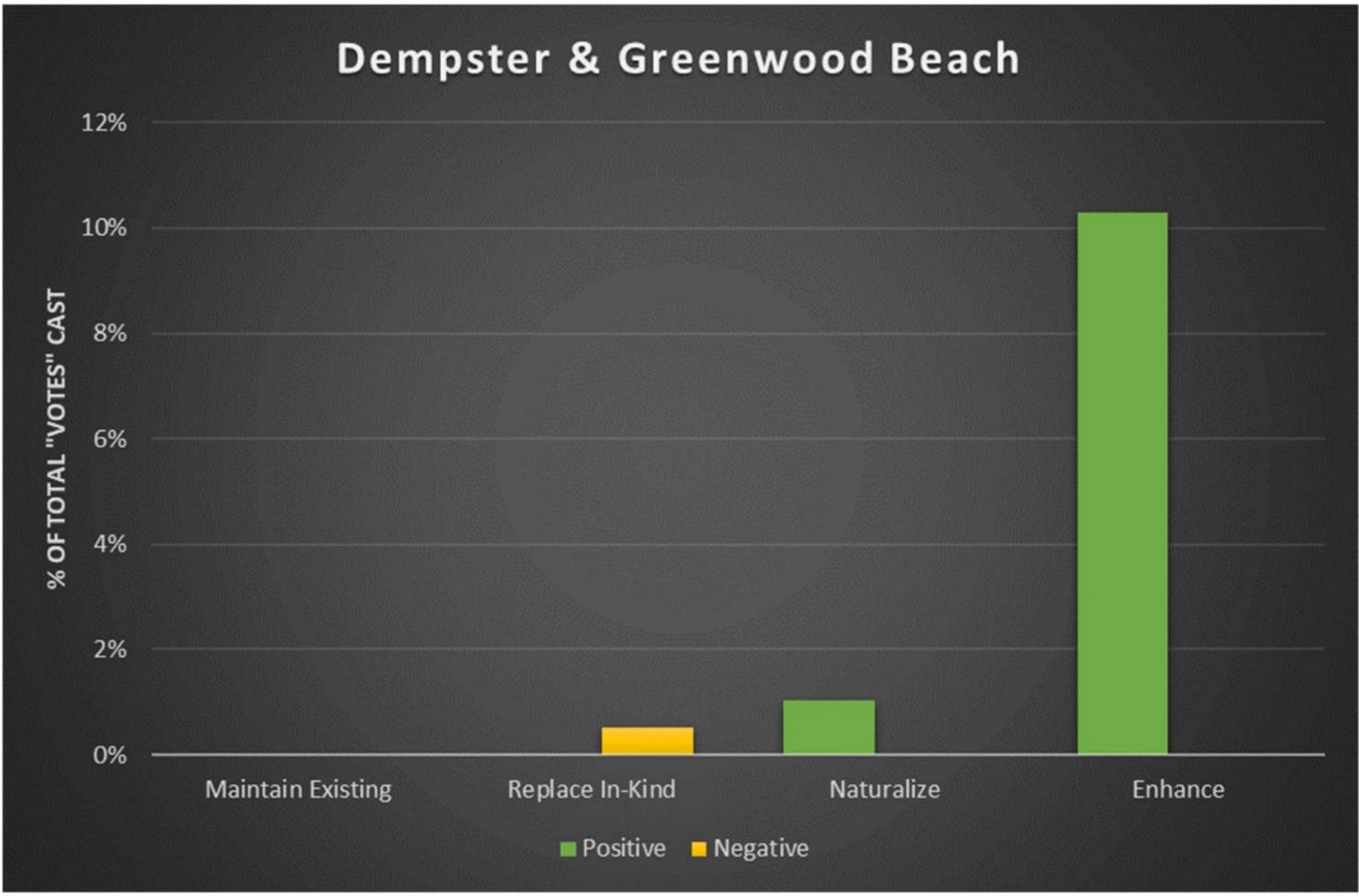
Total Dots:	1
Green Dots:	0
Yellow Dots:	1

NATURALIZE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	2
Green Dots:	2
Yellow Dots:	0

ENHANCE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	20
Green Dots:	20
Yellow Dots:	0



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EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

PUBLIC COMMENT INVENTORY – DEMPSTER AND GREENWOOD BEACH



MAINTAIN EXISTING

- No comments received



REPLACE-IN-KIND

- No comments received



NATURALIZE

- No comments received



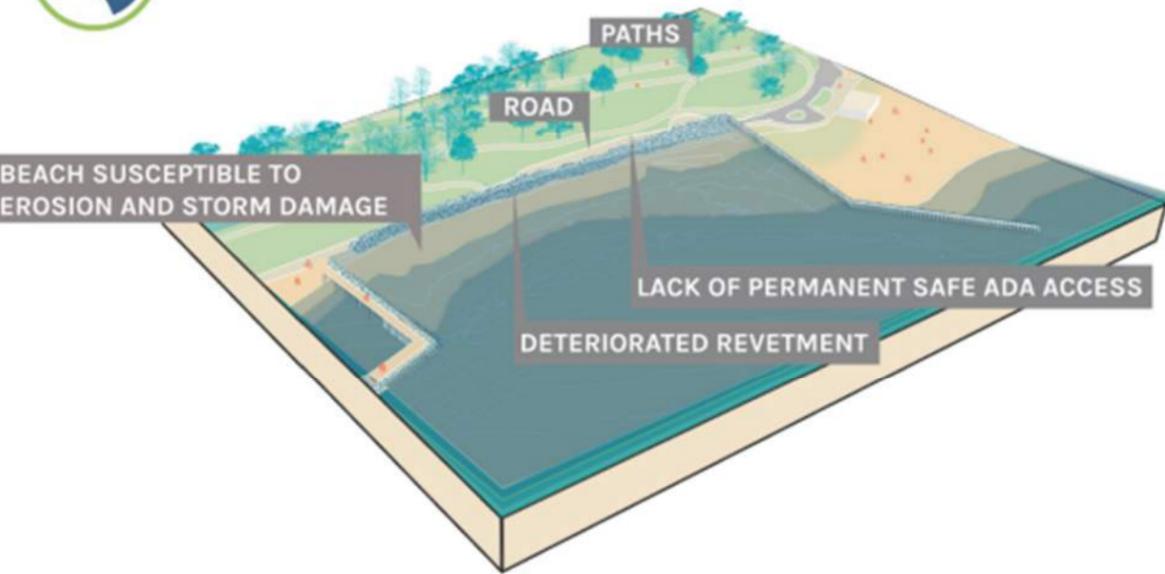
ENHANCE

- Dune plantings appropriate. Please do whenever, where ever you can
- YES; We are investing in the future
- Lower revetment. Add green space. Keep views open
- Continuous walking path from Lee Street up to NU path. Seating with views along full path.
- Keep views open! Add sand to increase available beach
- Enhance. Add dune plantings if can be protected.
- More green. More Space. New Headland.

DOG BEACH – DESIGN STRATEGIES



MAINTAIN EXISTING



REPLACE-IN-KIND

IN KIND REVETMENT REHABILITATION



NATURALIZE



ENHANCE



EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

STRATEGY TYPE RELATIVE POPULARITY – DOG BEACH

MAINTAIN EXISTING
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	2
Green Dots:	1
Yellow Dots:	1

REPLACE-IN-KIND
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

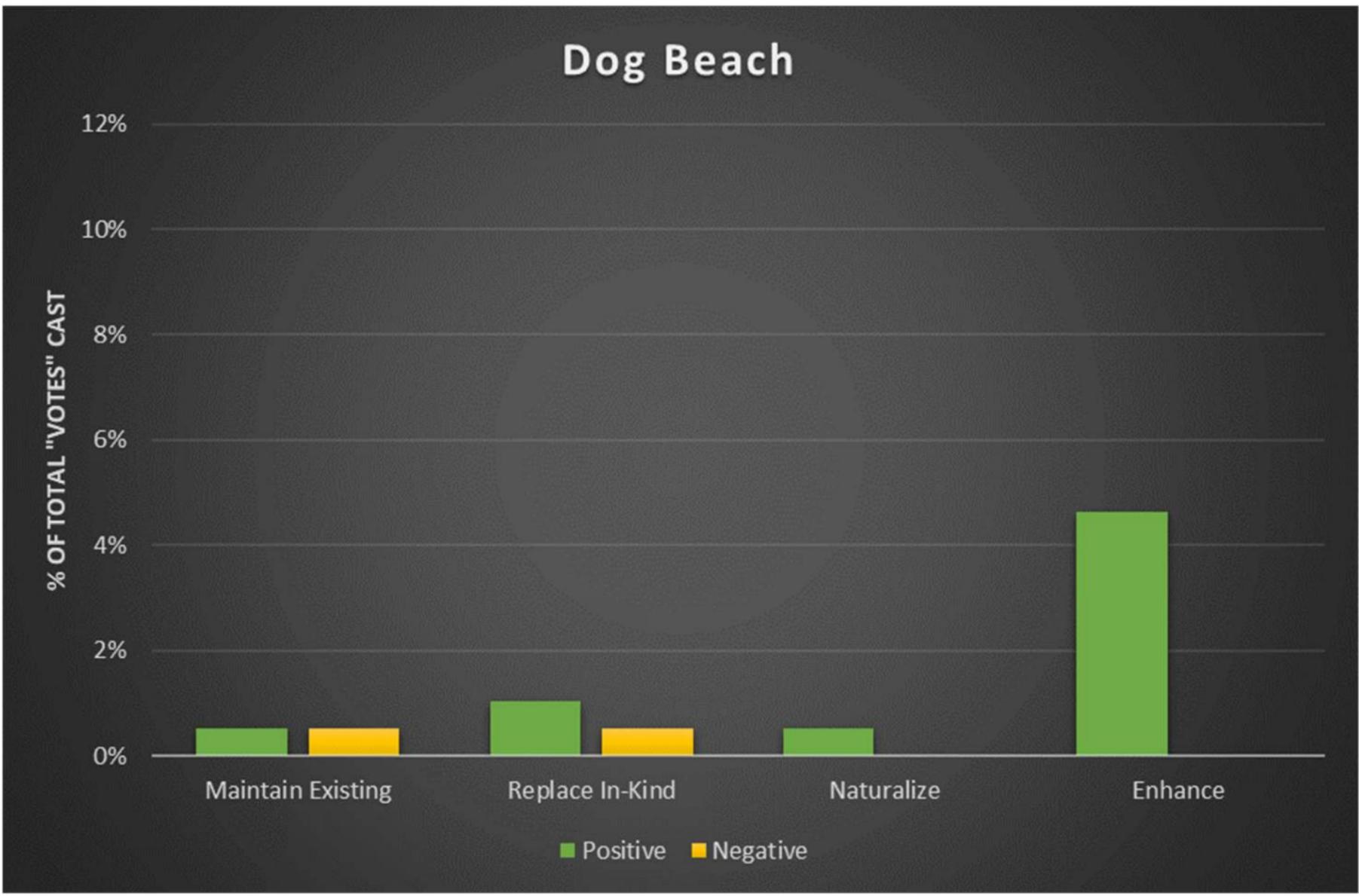
Total Dots:	3
Green Dots:	2
Yellow Dots:	1

NATURALIZE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	1
Green Dots:	1
Yellow Dots:	0

ENHANCE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	9
Green Dots:	9
Yellow Dots:	0



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EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

PUBLIC COMMENT INVENTORY – DOG BEACH



MAINTAIN EXISTING

- Is it still true that many boat ramp users are non-residents?
- The boat ramp and parking area are an amazing asset to the lakefront and should be preserved



REPLACE-IN-KIND

- No comments received



NATURALIZE

- No comments received



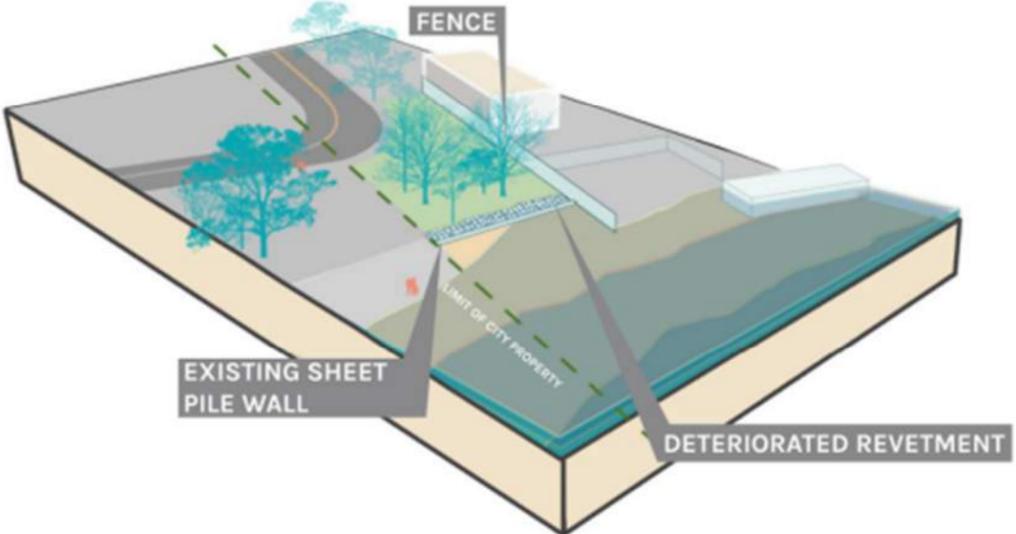
ENHANCE

- How much to enhance? How long will it take?
- If we put in an ADA ramp we might need more than 3 disabled parking spots, especially during peak summer with Clark Street Beach
- Love idea of offshore breakwater. ME TOO!
- Cost is a major consideration. When asked if they want improvements, residents ALWAYS say "Yes"!
- Prioritize offshore breakwater to maintain the beach being stable and the dog beach doesn't go away
- Enhance. ADA - Yes - Get Fed \$. Do the breakwater! See if it lasts.
- Cost benefit consideration on lengthy ADA accessible entrance
- Please keep the Church Street boat launch AND parking lot
- Preserve bird habitat. ADA - not sure if it makes sense here since beach? Does new sand stay in place? Not sure it's worth it.
- Could we extend and change grade on current entrance for ADA ramp? Could save time and money.

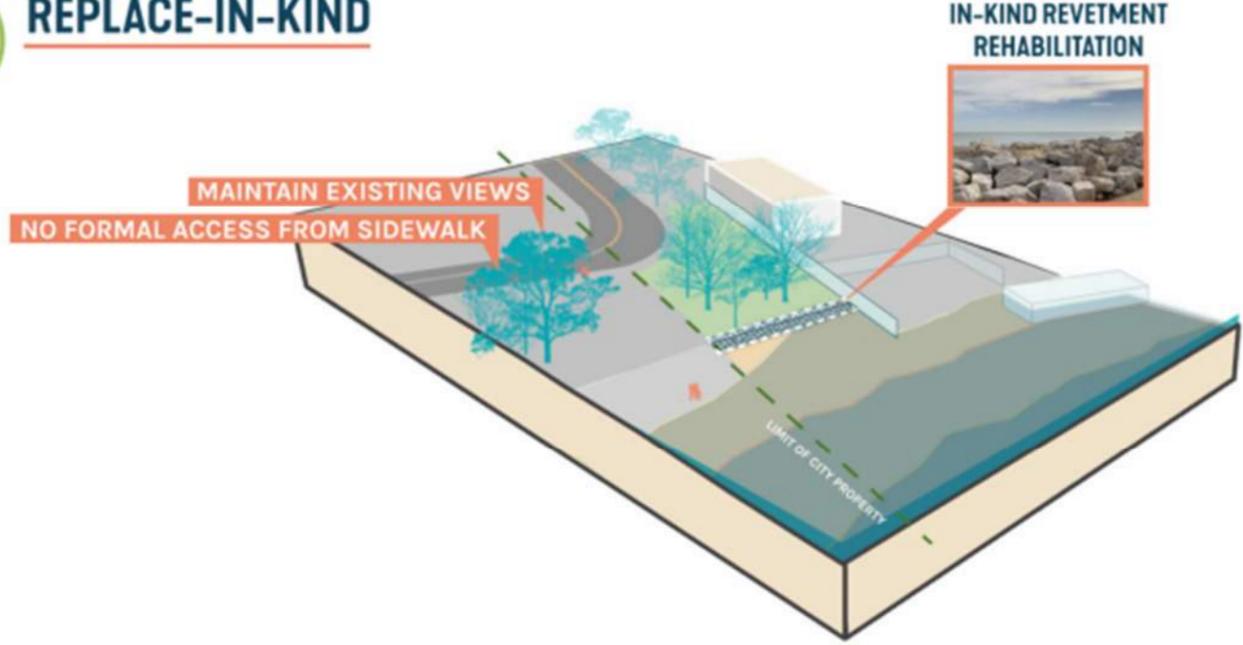
LINCOLN STREET END – DESIGN STRATEGIES



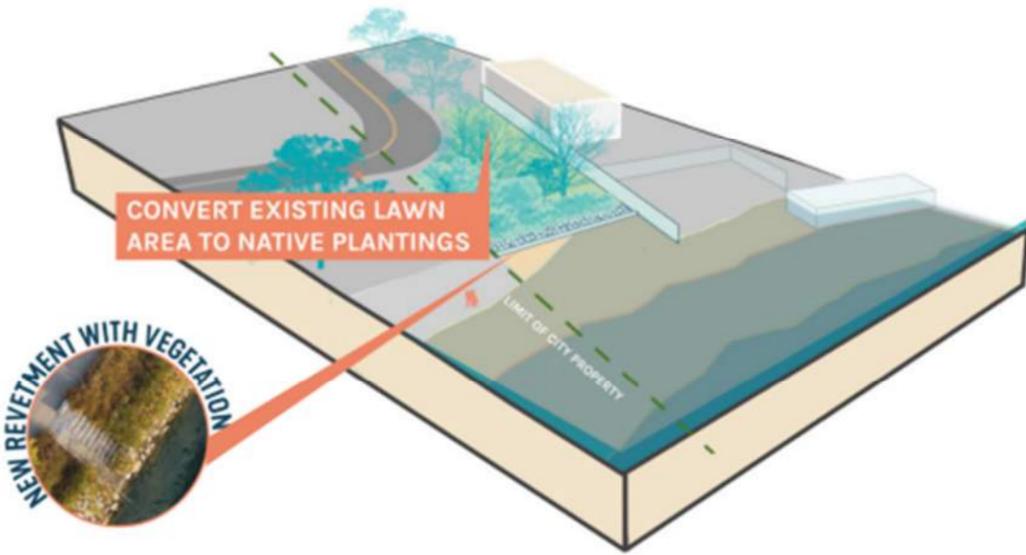
MAINTAIN EXISTING



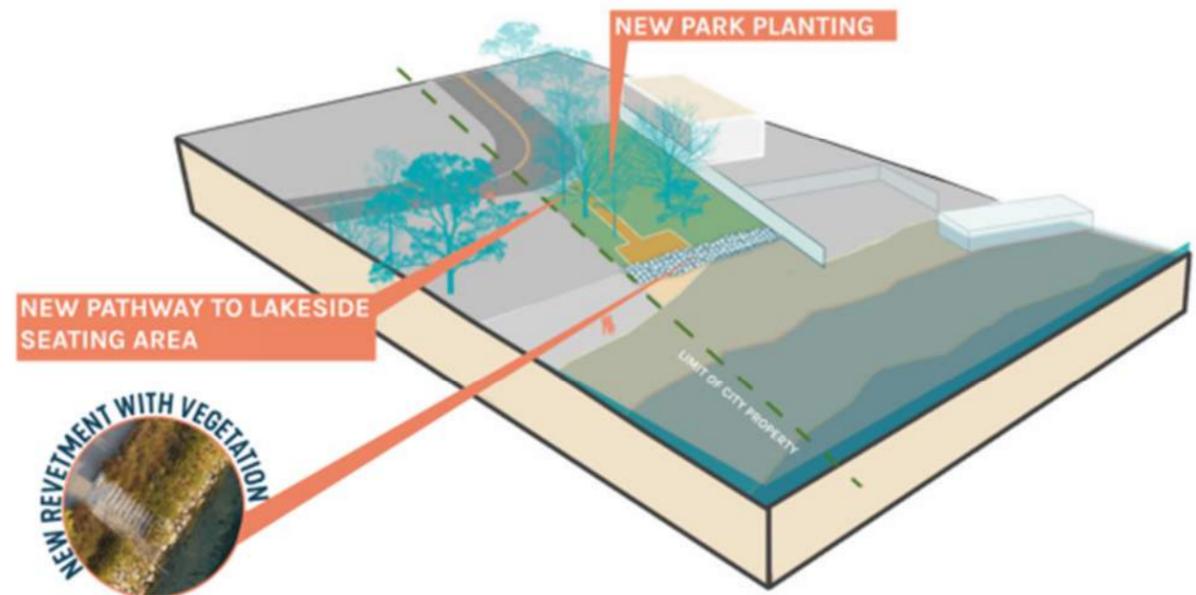
REPLACE-IN-KIND



NATURALIZE



ENHANCE



EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

STRATEGY TYPE RELATIVE POPULARITY – LINCOLN STREET

MAINTAIN EXISTING
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	1
Green Dots:	1
Yellow Dots:	0

REPLACE-IN-KIND
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

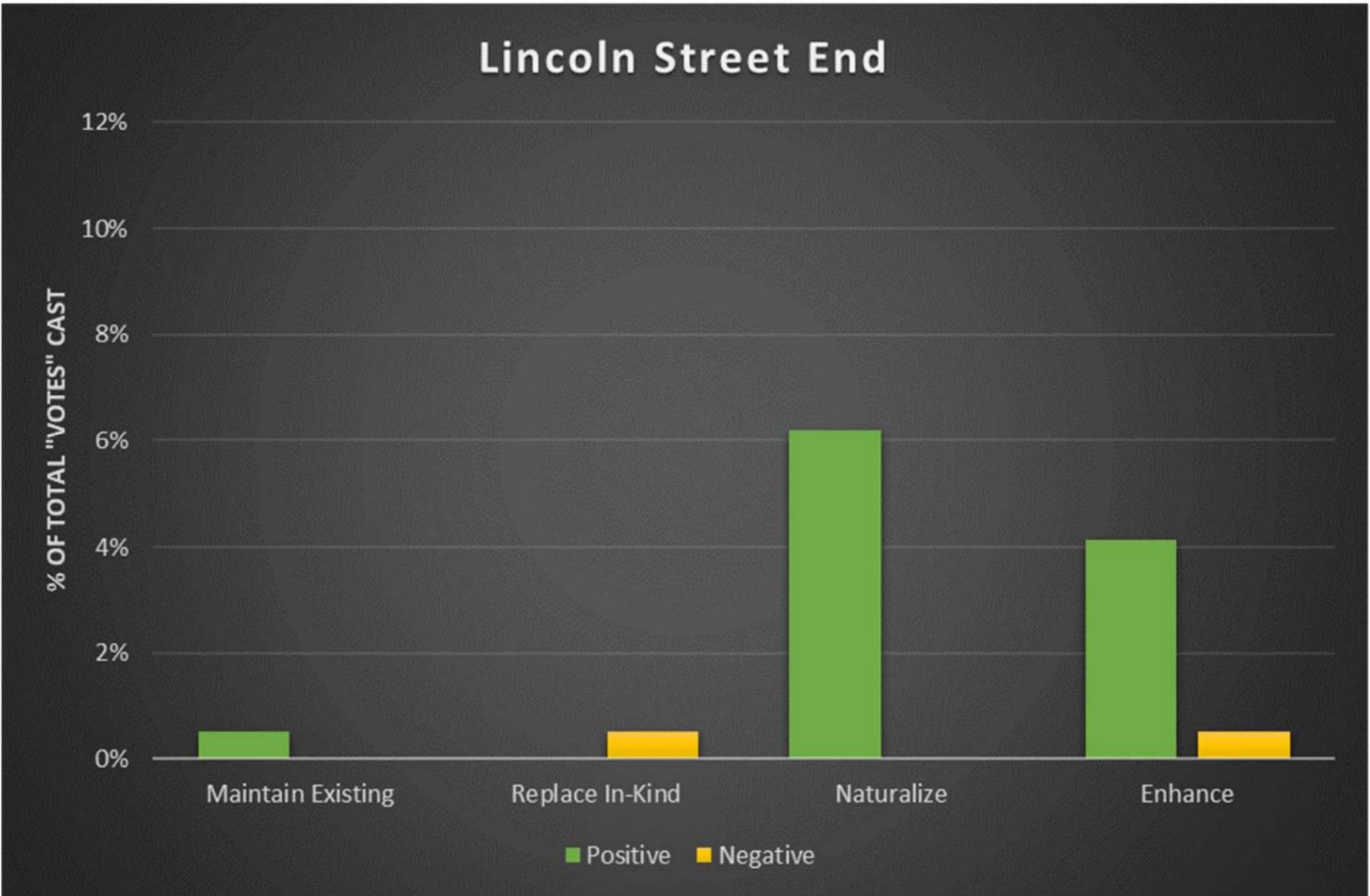
Total Dots:	1
Green Dots:	0
Yellow Dots:	1

NATURALIZE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	12
Green Dots:	12
Yellow Dots:	0

ENHANCE
PLEASE PUT DOTS HERE: ● APPROPRIATE ● NOT APPROPRIATE

Total Dots:	9
Green Dots:	8
Yellow Dots:	1



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EVANSTON SHORELINE REPAIRS- PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2

PUBLIC COMMENT INVENTORY – LINCOLN STREET



MAINTAIN EXISTING

- No comments received



REPLACE-IN-KIND

- No herbicides on revetments



NATURALIZE

- Naturalize & make accessible pathway (ADA). Bird sanctuary
- Naturalize this space would expand the natural area that is next to this space. No need to enhance.
- Perfect area to naturalize. Would be beautiful for the small area.
- Room to have no revetment? If not, no herbicide on revetments.
- More valuable as a natural area than a seating/rec area
- Maintain the beach that Northwestern has now but naturalize from the end of the beach all the way to Lighthouse Beach. Provide a meandering path through naturalized area.



ENHANCE

- Revetment vegetation could be native plant?
- Improve seating and view
- Appropriate native planting would work well here (less human use anyway)
- Too steep for sitting area
- Enhance - Access to lake, seating is a plus
- Provide seating area