



**Wilmette Park District
Lakefront Committee Meeting**

Monday, June 7, 2021
5:00 p.m. – Online¹

AGENDA

I. Meeting Called to Order:

Members of Committee:

Commissioner Julia Goebel, Chair
Commissioner Cecilia Clarke
Commissioner Todd Shissler

Staff:

Superintendent Emily Guynn
Superintendent Kristi Solberg

II. Approval of Minutes

A. April 5, 2021

III. Communications and Correspondence

IV. Committee Scope and Responsibilities

A. Committee Goals and Objectives

V. Managers' Report

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Shoreline Protection Proposal – *Update*

VII. Public Comment on Item VI

VIII. New Business

A. Lakeview Center Design Concept

IX. Public Comment on Item VIII

X. Next Meeting – TBD

XI. Adjournment

¹This meeting will be held remotely via Zoom. To participate via Zoom on the phone, please call 312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID # 825 8749 8486 and passcode # 049822. If you wish to participate via the Zoom software, please use the same meeting number and passcode. Public Comment will be facilitated on Zoom during the meeting.

If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations to participate in or attend a Wilmette Park District meeting, please notify the Director's Office at 847-256-6100.

Wilmette Park District **Policy for Public Comment**

The Board of Park Commissioners, in its regular or special meetings, is a deliberative body assembled to make decisions on new and pending matters affecting the District. Park Board and Committee meetings are meetings held in public, not a public meeting. The Board invites both oral and written communications from its residents.

To facilitate the conduct of Board/Committee meetings, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A section of each regular meeting is set aside for public comment and will be noted on the agenda as "Recognition of Visitors."
2. During the "Recognition of Visitors" agenda item, audience members should raise their hands and be recognized by the President/Chairperson prior to speaking.
3. When recognized by the President/Chairperson, each audience member should identify themselves and limit speaking to no more than three (3) minutes, unless additional time is granted by the President/Chairperson.
4. Questions are to be directed to the entire Board/Committee.
5. Park Board members may, by addressing the President/Chairperson, interrupt a presenter to obtain clarification and/or further information.
6. A Board/Committee meeting is not a forum for complaints against individual employees. Such matters are handled by directly contacting the Executive Director. Complaints against the Executive Director should be handled by directly contacting the President of the Board of Park Commissioners.
7. During presentation and discussion of agenda items, the President/Chairperson will not recognize speakers in the audience unless the Board/Committee desires additional information from an audience member.
8. When addressing the Board/Committee, all persons permitted to speak shall confine their remarks to the matter at hand and avoid personal remarks, the impugning of motives, and merely contentious statements. If any person indulges in such remarks or otherwise engages in conduct injurious to the civil discourse of the Board/Committee and the meeting, the President/Chairperson may immediately terminate the opportunity to speak. This decision is at the discretion of the President/Chairperson or upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the park board commissioners present.
9. Any person, except a member of the Board, who engages in disorderly conduct during a meeting, may be ejected from the meeting upon motion passed by a majority of the Board present.



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT **Lakefront Committee Meeting Minutes**

Monday, April 5, 2021
Virtual Meeting via "Zoom"

Present

Commissioners/Committee: Chair, Bryan Abbott, Cecilia Clarke and Todd Shissler

Staff: Superintendent of Recreation Emily Guynn and Superintendent of Parks and Planning Kristi Solberg

Additional Staff: Executive Director Steve Wilson, Superintendent of Finance Sheila Foy, Lake Front General Manager Ben Wozney and Executive Administrative Assistant Libby Baker

Visitors:

Absent

None

I. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 4, 2021

Commissioner Clarke moved and Commissioner Shissler seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the February 4, 2021 Lakefront Committee meeting.

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Clarke, Shissler and Abbott. Voting No: none. *Absent*, none; **motion carried**.

III. Public Comment/Recognition of Visitors

Director Wilson facilitated public comment. The Attendance Sheet will become part of the permanent record.

No one from the public in attendance chose to comment.

IV. Communications and Correspondence

None

V. Unfinished Business

A. Gillson Park Master Plan

Director Wilson reported that since the virtual "open-house" the Consultants have largely been working independent of the WPD staff. There was an informal

stakeholders meeting at Lakeview Center between the Consultants and some of the staff under Superintendent Guynn and Solberg, who are directly responsible for operating and maintaining the lakefront. The purpose of this meeting was to add more information to the Consultants input and overall thought process before they start proposing concepts.

Commissioner Abbott asked what the next steps are in regards to the project. Director Wilson advised that the Consultants would hopefully have their proposed concepts ready sometime in the next couple weeks. Commissioner Abbott expressed disappointment in this as he had hoped himself and the other two departing Board members would have had the chance to review them prior to their departure from the Board.

Commissioner Abbott stated that he wouldn't mind opening up the next lakefront committee meeting to the entire Board as a Committee-of-a-Whole as he believes consensus to be important.

VI. New Business

A. Rental Fees for Wallace Bowl, Lakeview Center and Park Permits

Director Wilson advised that Superintendent Guynn's new staff, Ben Wozney and Megan White, have been working very hard reviewing operations such as how we have performed in the past and how we could perform differently in the future. The revitalization of rental offerings within Gillson Park is based on a desire to better meet the needs of the community to create rental opportunities throughout the entire year.

Superintendent Guynn reiterated that the new staff approached current park district offerings with the mindset to create a welcoming, service-oriented style to increasing rentals. As such, staff have created multiple fee structures, along with optional add-on service fees, to serve the various types of locations within the park along with the varied users. She stated that there have been many inquiries, however, there is no official marketing plan or strategy at this point in time. She directed the Committee to the Wallace Bowl proposed fee structure. She advised that this is a new concept. Historically, the park district has not rented out the Wallace Bowl mainly because it is one of the most desirable spaces in-season. There are been many rental inquiries of the Wallace Bowl – specifically, an Easter service and two graduation ceremonies. Due to the inquiries, the staff set up a proposed fee structure based on market value. It was hard to compare as there are not many outdoor amphitheaters of Wallace Bowl's size and uniqueness set along Lake Michigan.

Superintendent Guynn then directed the Committees attention to the proposed fees for in-season rental of the Lakeview Center. She reminded the Committee that what is approved in the current budget are fees relating to off-season rentals. In the past, the Park District has not rented Lakeview Center out from May through September. These months would be considered "in-season".

Superintendent Guynn advised the Committee that the park permit fees included in the packet are the current fees for picnics and special use. It is a standard fee that the park district has had for a while. These permits cover anything south of Lakeview Center (i.e., open green space, picnic shelters, etc.).

Commissioner Clarke asked if these were resident or non-resident fees. Superintendent Guynn advised that the staff elected to have it a flat fee. Generally speaking, in a group rental, if one of the individuals of the group is a resident then the group would get a resident rate regardless. She sees the difference between resident and nonresident fees as a challenge to overcome instead of an opportunity for the park district to rent the space out for increased revenue. A flat fee would perhaps make it a more welcoming experience for the renter. However, she advised that she is open to feedback.

Commissioner Shissler remarked that he was surprised by a flat fee. He suggested that all of the information regarding rentals should be spelled out online via the park district website. He also suggested that the staff come up with a floorplan and interactive photos that potential renters can review that would include the distances and size of each facility and perhaps how many tables would fit in one facility, etc. He advised that he likes the idea and wants to see it be marketed well.

Superintendent Guynn added that if the Committee gives their recommendation to move ahead with the proposed rental fees, that the online marketing strategy would be the next step.

Commissioner Abbott advised that he is not opposed to premiums for nonresidents.

Commissioner Shissler asked Superintendent Guynn if she would feel comfortable with a resident/nonresident fee structure. Superintendent Guynn stated that she would fall in line with the standard 25% increase for nonresidents if asked to create a resident/nonresident fee structure. The 25% would align with programming and would make sense given the fact we do not truly know the market conditions for in-season rentals yet as we have never implemented them. We do not want to price ourselves out of any rental market. Lastly, staff wanted to make these fee proposals as welcoming as possible to get renters into the space. Commissioner Shissler agreed and added that we can always adjust pricing based on the market.

Commissioner Abbott expressed concern that these events could create a potential burden to nearby neighbors. He also added that the Lakeview Center and Wallace Bowl should not be rented out at the same time due to weather conditions and noise levels. When it rains, typically people at Wallace Bowl utilize Lakeview Center for shelter. Superintendent Guynn stated that she does not believe that would be an issue as staff is mindful of events they are booking simultaneously.

Commissioner Shissler thanked the staff for their hard work in creating these proposed fees and stated he would like to see the facilities be rented for revenue purposes but that he is still interested in a resident/nonresident structure.

Commissioner Clarke asked for the staff to elaborate on the different rental inquiries they have received for Wallace Bowl. Ben Wozney answered that the Wilmette Actors Training Studio and North Shore Concert band have inquired, among others.

Commissioner Abbott stated he feels the Wallace Bowl proposed rental fees are too high and are restrictive due to that. Theater groups, for example, do not have that kind of money. He stated if a group would like to put on a free show or concert at Wallace Bowl, they should not be charged for the space as they are benefiting the community. He then asked if the staff anticipates some of these events at Wallace Bowl would charge admission.

Superintendent Guynn advised that these proposed fees are subject to change but that they were built around requests and price points that potential renters have already agreed to, if and when the staff is allowed to move forward. These fees will evolve as more rental inquiries are made and when the park district starts marketing these opportunities. So far, the staff hasn't received any negative push back from the interested parties.

Commissioner Abbott stated that he feels Wallace Bowl is a community asset and not a profit center. He applauds the staff for their work with these organizations that can pay this premium but fears that those who cannot afford these high rental fees would not be able to enjoy this community asset. Commissioner Shissler suggested an appeal process for those who may not be able to afford the fee such as nonprofits or another government agency, etc. Commissioner Clarke expressed concern over this as the public may believe some groups are given preferential treatment.

Superintendent Guynn stated staff will look into creating a resident/nonresident fee structure with a 25% increase for nonresidents. Staff will also look into an exception for school groups and other municipalities in regards to Wallace Bowl rentals such as a lower or no cost option. Staff will also develop a "type" category for Wallace Bowl rentals and bring them back to the Committee every month as staff is learning who wants to use it.

It was unanimously agreed that staff will move forward with the current proposed fee structure so that staff may move forward with operations and be responsive to inquiries. This was not a recommendation to the full Board.

B. Permit Approval Process Discussion

Director Wilson stated that while the new staff at the Lakefront have been working on the new rental fees and their approach to inquiries about renting the Wallace Bowl, Lakeview Center, and other park permits, the dynamic that

has become apparent is that rental space is a competitive market place. In a desire to both secure rentals and serve the community better, staff would like to be more responsive than our current internal practices have allowed for. Specifically, the practice of bringing permit requests in excess of 100 people to a committee for approval.

The Wilmette Park District's Conduct Ordinances reside on the District's website for the public to read at any time. The section that outlines the process for approving permits is Section V. When reading this section, please note that it allows for a longer time period to approve a permit for a gathering in excess of 100 people, but nowhere does it state that the permit must be approved by a Committee or the full Board. The longer time frame for approval was designed to allow for board review in the event that a permit was questionable and needed to have board level consideration prior to approval, such as a loud concert at Wallace Bowl, for example.

It is of Director Wilson's opinion that over time, the staff, and therefore the Board, came to believe that all permits for gatherings in excess of 100 people required Board approval. This has led the District to lose rentals and cause frustration for potential renters. Therefore, staff would like to resume approving such permits at the staff level, with final approval by the Executive Director. Staff will continue to bring permits for anything of a borderline nature to the board for approval, but permits for concerts in line with a children's play, would be approved by staff.

Commissioner Clarke asked how many permit requests does the staff typically get. Director Wilson answered that they get many more requests than the Committee sees because by the time it takes to come before the Committee, the renters no longer have interest in securing a permit. He expects the number to go up in the future as the staff moves to market Wallace Bowl and Lakeview Center as rentals.

Commissioner Abbott stated he does not need to approve every permit but that he would like to see the permits on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Clarke had questions in regards to parking.

Director Wilson stated that what he thinks he is hearing from all three members of the Committee is that there is no desire to operate in line with the way our Ordinance is written and that there is a desire to have some review at a certain number of people be mandated by Ordinance. Therefore, the staff will review the Ordinance and purpose language to the Financial Planning and Policy Committee which will go before the entire Board for approval before it becomes an Ordinance.

VII. Manager's Report

Superintendent Guynn reported on the following:

- Staff has explored temporary trailer washrooms at the Sailing Beach. They've explored trailers non-ADA accessible and ADA accessible. The foot print of the trailers are large and would go significantly into the drive. From a safety and accessibility standpoint, it makes the staff uncomfortable. There will also be a significant operating cost to both of them. The non-ADA trailer is about \$30,500.00 for the season and the ADA accessible trailer is approximately \$46,250.00 for the season. Commissioner Clarke asked that Superintendent Gynn look into alternate trailers as she has seen ones with ramps versus the purposed one which is at ground level.
- Director Wilson explained that whether the District gets a trailer that is ADA accessible or non-ADA accessible, the place where we would need to put it to hook up to both water and electricity would protrude onto the Sailing Beach and the roadway. Therefore, in lieu of a trailer with running water, the staff is suggesting spacious portable units that are similar to what already exists but larger. Commissioner Clarke asked if it is possible to get a portable unit with running water. Superintendent Gynn answered that while there is no water, there are hand sanitizers in the portable units.
- Ben Wozney introduced himself as the new Lakefront Manager. He introduced Megan White, the new Lakefront Supervisor, who comes to the Park District from New Jersey. They've become acclimated to their new positions. They are appreciative of the support from the community. One of the first things they did in their new roles was reach out to the Michigan Shores Country Club and the Coast Guard to talk about operations in the 2021 season. Due to recent good weather, they have put out the patio furniture at Lakeview Center. Currently, they are finalizing over 600 Sailing Contracts. There are 164 people waiting for catamaran spots, 70 are waiting for wind surfer spots, 350 are waiting for kayak spots and 518 are stand up paddle board spots. At the sailing beach, they are repainting the inside of the sailing shack and putting in new cabinets so that it is more user friendly for staff. West Park is helping with the update. All of the part time applications have been posted and they are receiving applications. They have begun interviews for supervisor positions at the sailing beach and the sailing beach will open May 8th.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Lakefront Committee is scheduled for May 3, 2021.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Clarke moved and Commissioner Shissler seconded a motion to adjourn the Lakefront Committee meeting at **8:02 p.m.**

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Clarke, Shissler and Abbott. Voting No, none. *Absent*, none; **motion carried.**

Minutes Approved on TBD

From: [Steve Wilson](#)
To: [Catherine Serbin](#)
Subject: FW: [external] Lakefront citizen surveys 1991, 1985, 2012
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 1:59:57 PM
Attachments: [Lakefront Plans 1981 1999, 2012 .docx](#)

Lakefront packet

Steve Wilson
Executive Director
Wilmette Park District
847-256-9617
swilson@wilpark.org

----- Original message -----

From: Mary Shea <shea735@aol.com>
Date: 6/4/21 1:13 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Steve Wilson <swilson@wilpark.org>
Subject: [external] Lakefront citizen surveys 1991, 1985, 2012

|

Steve, I have sent the letter below to the board members. My head is spinning with all the policy innovations being made between meetings and without votes re additional summer programming at Wallace. Parking needs to be made available in the beach lot for the invited guests, not the already filled Michigan Ave. and not the Upper road) next to the playground. Michigan Shores is still using the lot for valet. Someone can figure this out.

So far the additional events at Wallace have taken place with available spaces remaining at the beach parking lot. If the WPD is going to invite additional guests to additional programs, you need to provide parking, not foist it off on the adjacent streets or the park interior. That very issue is why additional summer programming was suspended in the past. I have sympathy for the staff and the police trying to deal with this escalation of activity well before the summer begins and the lakefront plan is even in place.

Subject: Lakefront citizen surveys 1991, 1985, 2012

To WPD Board members:

As you begin your new term of office I hope you will take the time to inform yourself regarding the attached citizen surveys undertaken in past years. The issues at Gillson remain the same. Some of the goals have been reached, but others have not. The entire Lakefront Report Document prepared by the staff should be made available to you as you wish.

These efforts made by Wilmette citizens to address the issues around management of Gillson are worthy of your attention as they reveal the continuing nature of the challenges of addressing a beloved and finite community asset.

The essence of these carefully conducted studies is preservation of the natural beauty of the park. No new buildings were recommended, no additional parking, limitation of automobile traffic, improvement

of pedestrian safety, a comprehensive landscape plan, preservation of passive use areas, avoidance of creating facilities and programs which are not unique to the lakefront and can be placed at other Park District locations.

The three surveys cited all share the same conclusions. The park was not seen as a development opportunity but rather a treasure, already funded by the taxpayers, with no demand for further monetization.

Thank you for your attention and best wishes for your term of service.

Mary Shea

Lakefront Plan presented to WPD Board in 1981 by the Parks Committee

The planning process included a survey of residents regarding the lakefront conducted in 1980. Analysis was sent to Park Board in June 1980.

Study indicated that :

- 1 Gillson Park has a reasonably good image
2. Automobile traffic within the park should be partially restricted and limited to Wilmette vehicles.
3. Security within the park should be increased
4. The park should be kept as a place for passive types of recreation.
5. There was a need for more washrooms.

Two public hearings were held on 4/24/80 and 9/24/80. The major concerns voiced by the 100 people present were:

1. Traffic flow into and out of park needs improvement.
 2. Parking regulations around the lakefront need review and improvements.
 3. The physical condition of some of the buildings within the park needs improvement.
 4. Attention should be given to the limitation of any further expansion of fencing or paving within the park.
 5. Vehicle access to the lakefront area should be limited.
- Passive use areas within Gillson Park should be preserved.

30 residents attended the second meeting and the following concerns were voiced:

1. Limitation of vehicle access into the park.
2. Increased security within the park was needed.
3. Preservation of the park's natural setting.
4. The need for increased pedestrian and bicycle access into and throughout the park.

"Mission of the Wilmette Park District is to provide and administer a sound, well-rounded public park and recreation system for the benefit of all members of the community within the limits of available financial resources and in accordance with applicable law. To help accomplish this aim the Park District has adopted a set of goals and objectives."

The Lakefront Plan put forth in 1981 by the Parks Committee stated the following goals and objectives

GOAL I Maintain public access to the Wilmette lakefront

1. Limit vehicular traffic while increasing access for pedestrians and cyclists.
2. Facilitate the use of existing non-residential parking areas exterior to the parks.
3. Provide access for the handicapped and senior citizens
4. Monitor the entrances to the parks when needed.
5. Cooperate with other governmental agencies to assure that traffic to and from the parks does not interfere with the residential character of the neighborhood.
6. Limit internal parking of Wilmette residents to the extent permitted by law.

GOAL II. Utilize the unique features of the Wilmette lakefront to provide a broad range of recreational activities designed for Wilmette residents within the applicable law.

Objectives:

1. Create and maintain open areas for play, balancing active and passive recreational opportunities for the public.
2. Emphasize recreational and cultural activities on a year round basis.
3. Emphasize water-oriented recreation activities.
4. Preserve and utilize the Wallace Bowl as a unique and historic amphitheater.
5. Avoid the creation of facilities and programs which are not unique to the lakefront and can be put in place at other Park District locations.

GOAL III. Preserve, maintain and enhance the natural characteristics of the lakefront and adjacent park areas.

Objectives:

- Limit activities which increase or contribute to water, air and noise pollution.
2. Develop measures to prevent further erosion of sand, beach and bluff.
 3. Provide for the long term beautification of the park.

Goal IV. Assure the safety and security of persons and property in the area by working cooperatively with law enforcement agencies.

Objectives:

1. Eliminate vandalism
2. Eliminate litter
3. Eliminate negative uses of the parks:
 - a. Evaluate the impact of lighting
 - b. Evaluate the increased police presence;
 - c. Evaluate the introduction of positive use areas
 - d. Evaluate the motor vehicle speed control measures.

Goal V Involve the public , the Park Board and the staff in a process for periodic review of the Lakefront Plan in recognition of the ever changing needs of our community.

Objectives:

1. Maintain an awareness of plans and actions of other governmental units and seek to coordinate plans and actions whenever feasible and supportive of common goals.
2. Determine the desirability of acquiring additional lake front property in the interest of preserving Wilmette's most unique recreational and aesthetic asset.

(This proposal led to the formation of the East Michigan Ave. Assn. which succeeded in defeating this idea with the cooperation of the Village.

An attempt to seize accreted land at the Bahai property was likewise defeated in the IL State legislature by the Bahai legal team.

Action taken toward Accomplishing the Goals and objectives of the Lakefront plan :

1. Development of new picnic areas
2. Enacting a new picnic fire policy
3. Closing the Middle road to motorized traffic.
4. Work with the Village to eliminate left turns onto Michigan Ave. from the Lake Street exit from the park.
5. Work with the Village to lower curbs at various access points to improve access for cyclists and pedestrians.
6. Cleaning and adding lights to the stairway at the Lake St. entrance to the park.
7. Closing the exit drive from the each parking lot which enters Michigan Ave. between Washington and Lake Sts.
8. Work with village to create higher police visibility within park
9. The addition of a turnaround at the Lake St. entrance of the park.
10. Reduction of the Frisbee Golf course to nine holes and the relocation of the course.
11. Addition of connecting walkways within the park.
12. Installation of a new drainage system at the Wallace Bowl
13. Improve public awareness through the publication of information fliers which are handed out at the entrances to the park and the installation of information centers.
14. Work with the Village to change the parking regulations on Michigan Ave.
15. Allow unrestricted parking in the beach parking lot after 6—PM

1999 Gillson Park Usage Report to Wilmette Park Board from Wilmette Park district Community Relations Committee

In response to community concern regarding usage of Gillson Park the Wilmette Park District Community Relations Committee undertook a joint study with two delegates from the Village Community Relations Commission for the purpose of receiving public comment, gathering relevant facts, and making recommendations to the Park Board. Seven meetings were held and four subsequent workshops were held with members of the community. The comments and suggestions focused on a desire for better enforcement of park rules and village ordinances, need to alleviate over-crowding at the park , especially on weekends, a desire for better communication concerning issues relative to Gillson and concerns as to parking both inside the surrounding neighborhoods.

Attorney for the WPD stated that “prohibiting usage by non-residents or unfairly discriminating against non-residents is not legally permissible.”

Recommendations:

I. ENFORCEMENT

1. Strict enforcement of rules
2. Better training for summer enforcement staff
3. Better supervision of summer staff
4. Expanded period of enforcement should be considered , at the beginning and end of summer season.
5. Consideration should be given to limiting parking on Michigan Ave beginning at 10:30 pm.

6. Animal warden might be able to patrol Gillson on weekends and holidays Village parking enforcement should be encouraged to devote special attention of the park on weekends.

7. Enforcement should be focused on those areas perceived as critical by the public: Illegal swimming, grilling, dogs off leash, parking and littering. Park users need to know that rules will be enforced on a continuing fair and consistent basis.

II. OVER-CROWDING

1. On the busiest days the number of lifeguards should be expanded so as to widen the open beach area and avoid over-crowding.

2. Entry to beach should be better enforced . This requires better training. A hand stamp should be considered.

Better fencing at N and S end of swimming beach would help.

3. An increase in non-resident fees should be considered.

Wilmette is less costly than other communities in offering certain facilities to non-residents.

4. Additional maintenance of the park before and after prime season would minimize the visual impact of over-crowding on the park.

III. Communications

1. Effective signage with universal symbol signage. \$50. fine for illegal swimming.

2. Educate the public about peak times so they can plan visits accordingly. A Park district brochure could be mailed to all Wilmette residents, Village Communicator, handouts , Wilmette Life, a lakefront hotline,

3. Efforts should be made to communicate with staff police the concerns raised in this report so they understand the area of community concern.

4. A follow-up report should be presented by the staff at the end of the summer reporting of the effects of recommendations that are implemented and the public should be invited to a follow-up workshop in the fall to share their views.

IV. Parking

Parking is the area in which it is most difficult to achieve full agreement from park users and neighborhood residents as to the methods that will provide adequate parking for park users but not unduly impact the neighborhood. Careful consideration should be given to the interests of the users and neighborhood residents in implementing these recommendations. In particular, more extensive comments from neighbors should be received before recommending any particular plan for limiting on-street parking to achieve consensus. Attempts to limit parking will only move cars to more distant streets, impacting other neighborhoods.

1. More aggressive enforcement of parking regulations, including tow zones.

2. Village Transportation Commission conduct hearings to consider limiting parking on streets near the park to residents only on weekends during the summer. Consideration might be given to time limits.

3. Overlook Parking:

A. Parking on Overlook might be limited to residents only who display a village sticker or a beach parking sticker. These regulations might be in effect only on weekends.

B. Mixed opinion on committee as to whether parking on Overlook should be limited to residents who have beach parking stickers. It might make it difficult for residents with only a village sticker to visit the park for a short time on the weekend without buying a beach sticker.

4. Consideration should be given to limiting parking in the Upper Road during summer weekends to those with Wilmette stickers, beach parking stickers or harbor stickers. The harbor users who come early in the morning decrease over use of the park since if these spaces were instead available for park users, it would be even more crowded.

There was some support for eliminating parking totally in this area both for safety and aesthetic reasons., although this would eliminate parking for non-residents and perhaps move more cars to on-street parking.

5. The \$20 fine for illegal parking in the street does not seem to be a sufficient deterrent for many illegal parkers. The Village Transportation Commission should consider a significantly greater fine for those parking illegally near the park.

6. The park staff monitors should require that all stickers be permanently affixed to the windshield before a car is allowed into the lot. There was a feeling that there is some sharing of these stickers in households with multiple cars.

7. Re Beach parking stickers, a cooperative program with the village should be explored in which at the time of purchase of the village sticker a resident be given the option of receiving an “enhanced” sticker that will also serve as the beach parking sticker. The additional \$10. Fee would be paid as part of the same check for the village sticker and amounts collected

forwarded by the village to the park district in exchange for a modest collection fee. This might encourage use of the beach parking lot , where space is usually available , instead of neighborhood streets. It would also be a convenience to residents who would only need to purchase one new sticker, and scrape off one old sticker, each year.

8. Signs could be posted at the beach parking lot to encourage use of the south end of the lot which is often not full.

9. Other ideas considered but did not receive significant support. Although meter parking was discussed, it was generally felt that this would not be desirable for several reasons, including aesthetics. Consideration was also given to opening the Middle Road for parking in the three days per year when the beach lot is full and those who have purchased beach parking stickers are unable to find parking accommodations. This proposal created aesthetic and safety concerns.

2011 Lakefront Commission Report

The binder presented to the Board included both the 1981 and 1999 reports mentioned above. Both documents identify issues that are still present today .

The WPD sought 15 volunteers from all geographic areas of the community to serve in an advisory capacity as a Lakefront Commission. Meetings were held from 2010-2011.

There was a community outreach and 125 community members participated in two workshops run by JJR consultants. These meetings outlined the issues for consideration by the Commission.

Summary Report of the Commission felt that improvements should not change the basic characteristics of at Gillson. They reached a strong consensus that there is a need for updating many elements but the work should not include a major expansion of facilities.

The Commission strongly favored maintaining and enhancing the natural elements in both Gillson and Langdon , with an increased emphasis on nature as a reason for visiting the parks. Any building or renovation should have the park's natural elements in the forefront when considering materials scale, and placement. The other major themes that emerged with unanimous support from the members is the need to improve safety of pedestrians, children on bicycles, to take actions to prevent illegal and unsupervised swimming along the Overlook.

Topics summary revealed almost total unanimity of consensus:

Beach access is the major issue in need of attention.

Improved signage,

Maintain current natural areas (wildflowers, dune grasses)

Investigate public transportation options.

Through paving choices or other means discourage fast bicycle traffic but allow for cyclists of all ages in addition to walkers and runners.

Add a walking path through the dune grasses to protect them from trampling

Maintain people's ability to walk the beach.

Improve bird habitat by adding grasses, flowers and shrubs in areas with existing trees.

Develop and maintain a list of acceptable trees for memorial plantings so these plantings are consistent with a coherent landscape plan.

Consider a rain garden or other natural means of absorbing water in problem areas.

Increase and enhance native plantings around oak trees in the neighborhood edge area .

Develop a comprehensive landscaping plan for both Gillson and Langdon parks.

Consensus is to maintain and improve the current built elements but don't add any major new ones.

Update playgrounds

New beach house and sailing shack

Increase use and appeal of Lakeview Center, especially off-season.

Improve aesthetics and safety of pier.

Review and recommend parking options within the park that maintain convenient parking for residents while discouraging parking by non-Wilmette residents. **NO NEW PARKING AREAS ARE RECOMMENDED.**

Rebuild or resurface existing parking areas. Consider water-permeable surfaces.

Add improved pedestrian walkways that connect the various areas of the park and that are wheelchair and stroller accessible.

Fix the park roads so they are efficient and functional. Remove unnecessary ones. Add bike lanes to roads so adult bikers have a place to ride other than sidewalks.

New buildings' appearance should blend with parks natural features.

Add more trash and recycling receptacles throughout the park.
Increase bike racks throughout the park.
Create an attractive vista at both Langdon and Gillson .

Programming was considered to be outside the scope of the Lakefront Plan but the Staff added their recommendations nonetheless. Some items were added to the summary inaccurately by the staff such as adding a beach house at Langdon and bathroom near the tennis court just steps away from Lakeview.

In 2021 the WPD Mission statement had been adjusted as follows:

“To enrich the qualities of community life and promote activities through creative programming for people of all ages and abilities, while protecting open space and natural resources for future generations.”

The word “park” has been eliminated.

From: [Steve Wilson](#)
To: [Catherine Serbin](#)
Subject: FW: [external] The Fat Shallot at Gillson Beach serving alcohol?
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 1:43:14 PM

Can you add to lakefront before sending out?

Steve Wilson
Executive Director
Wilmette Park District
847-256-9617
swilson@wilpark.org

----- Original message -----

From: Cecilia Clarke <cclarke@wilpark.org>
Date: 6/3/21 9:53 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Steve Wilson <swilson@wilpark.org>
Subject: Fwd: [external] The Fat Shallot at Gillson Beach serving alcohol?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: ryriep@gmail.com
Date: Jun 3, 2021 8:59 PM
Subject: [external] The Fat Shallot at Gillson Beach serving alcohol?
To: Cecilia Clarke <cclarke@wilpark.org>
Cc:

Cecilia,
This is a surprise and one that seems fraught with potential disaster.

I'm sure lots of residents will enjoy the opportunity to imbibe but the possible downside has prevented all the previous Boards from taking this step.

Could you share with me, which Board members suggested and/or supported this decision?

I see it as the next step in the seemingly inevitable March towards Ravinia South. I could be mistaken.

Thank you.

Ryrie Pellaton
847-372-8026

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ryriep@gmail.com
Date: June 3, 2021 at 8:52:13 PM CDT
To: Todd Shissler <tshissler@koenigrubloff.com>
Subject: Fwd: The Fat Shallot at Gillson Beach- Open Friday!

Todd,

Wow. Serving alcohol at the beach. I'm sure many people will be happy with it. Lots of potential for disaster.

You still sit on Finance Committee? What did the Districts insurer have to say about it?

Ryrie Pellaton
847-372-8026

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Wilmette Park District <connect@wilpark.org>
Date: June 3, 2021 at 3:47:48 PM CDT
To: Ryriep@gmail.com
Subject: The Fat Shallot at Gillson Beach- Open Friday!
Reply-To: connect@wilpark.org



Come down to the Gillson Beach House and enjoy a scrumptious sandwich lakeside!

The Fat Shallot offers beer, wine and cocktails, online ordering, carry-out, catering and delivery to the immediate area!

Check out the hours of operation, above. For more information about the Fat Shallot at Gillson Beach, [click here](#).

Order Online Here

Wilmette Park District | 1200 Wilmette Ave, Wilmette, IL 60091

Unsubscribe_ryriep@gmail.com

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by connect@wilpark.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!

Memorandum



Date: June 3, 2021

To: Lakefront Committee Members
Commissioner Julia Goebel, Chair
Commissioner Cecilia Clarke
Commissioner Todd Shissler

From: Emily Guynn, Superintendent of Recreation

cc: Steve Wilson, Executive Director
Ben Wozney, Lakefront General Manager

Re: Lakeview Center Comprehensive Plan

Lakeview Center History

The Lakeview Center, located in Gillson Park, was built in 1989. The Lakeview Center's primary use has served many functions over the past 32 years including, but not limited to, lakefront staff offices and customer service location, a support facility and concession stand for Wallace Bowl performances and concerts, a rental venue, a summer camp site, a recreation programming site, and a washroom support for Gillson Park.

Lakeview Center Comprehensive Plan Inception

Since 1989 the Lakeview Center has had two additions; the exterior deck and interior fireplace. In addition, various interior updates have been undertaken in a more reactive manner, instead of with thoughtful, proactive consideration to facility function, long-term goals, or consistent, appropriate interior design.

The Lakeview Center Comprehensive Plan was originally slated as a part of the 2020 Fiscal Year Capital Improvement Plan. The Wilmette Park District contacted Woodhouse Tinucci Architects to create the attached Lakeview Center Design Concept and subsequent phased approach to completion.

Planning Goal and Outcomes

The overall goal of the Comprehensive Plan is to update the Lakeview Center to improve both function and appearance to best reflect the current and future offerings to the community. The Wilmette Park District worked with Woodhouse Tinucci Architects to create the attached Lakeview Center Design Concept and subsequent phased approach to completion. The attached presentation illustrates the current conditions as well as the conceptual updates to the facility. Andy Tinucci will be in attendance for the next Committee meeting to walk the committee and public through the presentation.

In addition to aesthetic updates to the facility, the conceptual design also enhances the usable space within the facility, without changing the exterior footprint of the structure. Currently, the Lakeview Center has approximately 2,300sqft. of usable interior space and 844sqft. of usable exterior space. The proposed updates will increase usable interior spaces to 2,840sqft. and usable exterior spaces to 1,278sqft. This is about a 21% and 40% increase, respectively.

While the work could be accomplished all at one time, staff recognize that the resources of the District are limited and needs to be carefully managed to meet the demands of the overall District. To this end, an option of how to phase the work has been created as well to provide financial flexibility if the Board so desires.

Attached:

- Lakeview Center Design Concept Presentation
- Occupancy Comparison



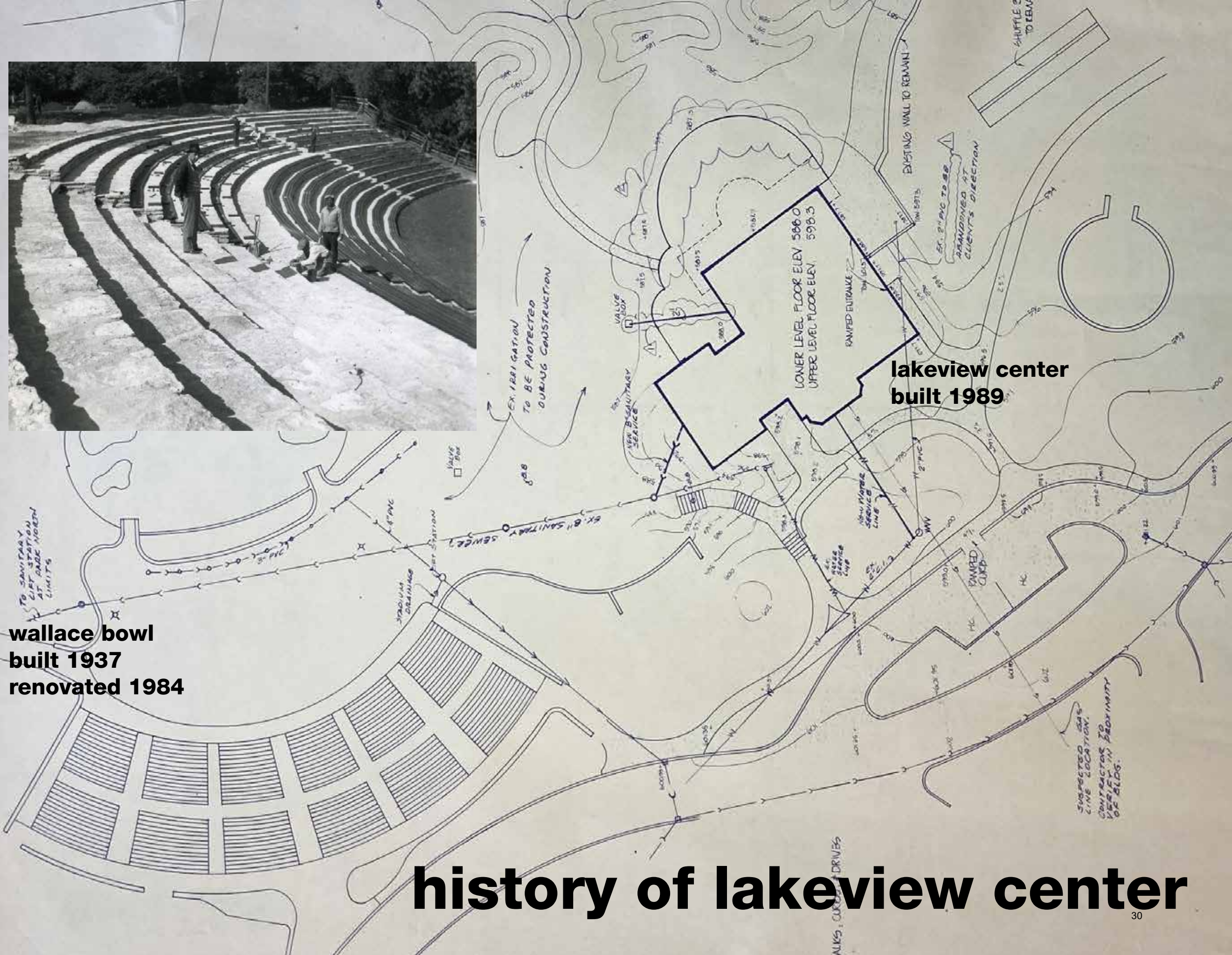
Gillson Park Lakeview Center Renovation





wallace bowl
built 1937
renovated 1984

history of lakeview center



lakeview center
built 1989



Gillson Beach

Gillson Beach House

Wallace Bowl

Gillson Beach Dr

Overlook Dr

Overlook Dr

Overlook Dr

Overlook Dr

Overlook Dr

Overlook Dr

Overlook Dr

Lakeview Center
at Gillson Park

Wilmette Tennis Court

Gillson Park Playground

Gillson Park
Lakefront park
with beach
and water sports

Upper Dr

Michigan Ave

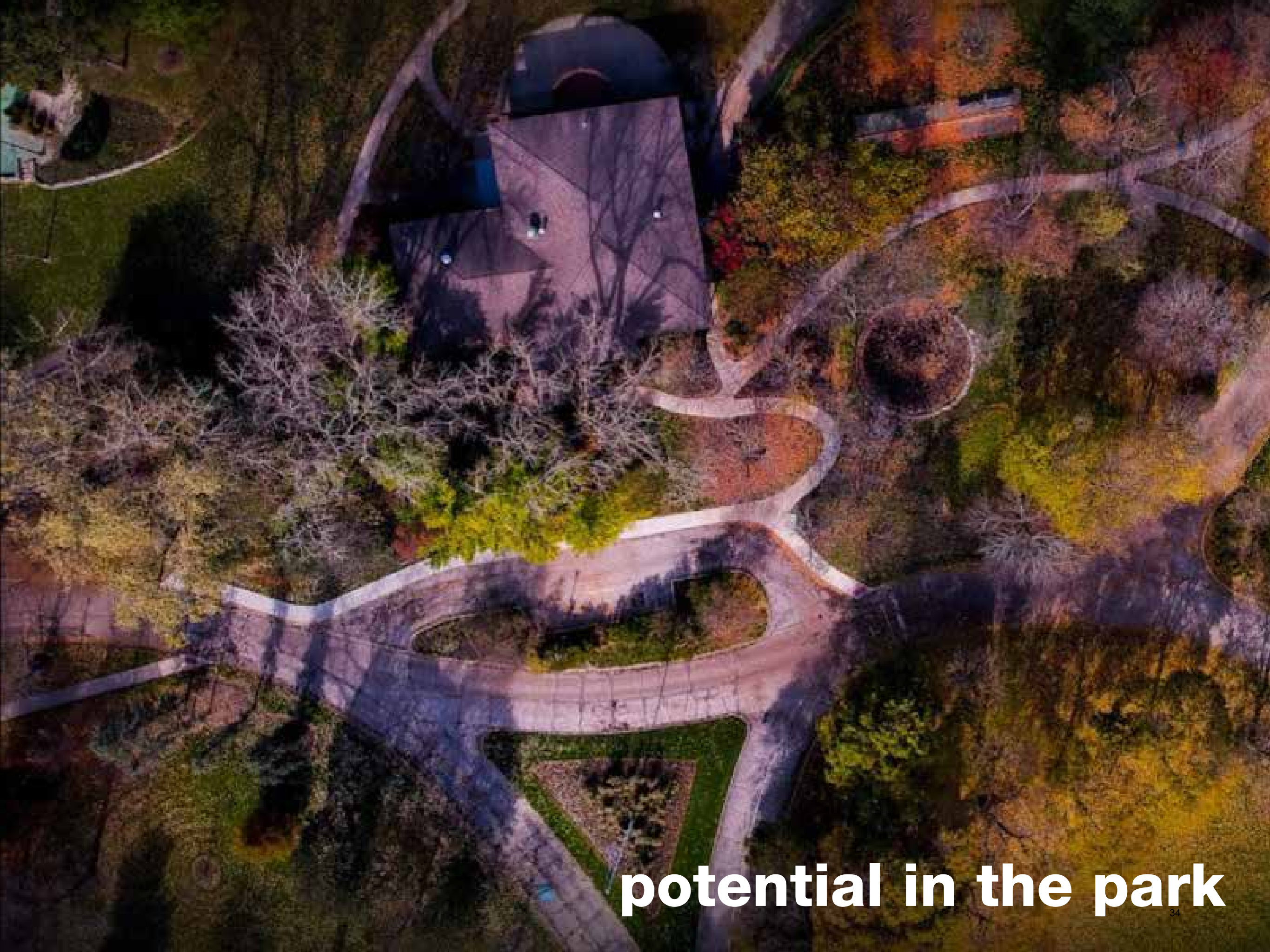
pavillion in the park

THE NEXT STORY LAKEVIEW WILL TELL



THE NEXT STORY LAKEVIEW WILL TELL





potential in the park



lake views

lower level / beach

upper level / michigan ave

accessibility / location



to beach

to the park

to wallace bowl

to the park

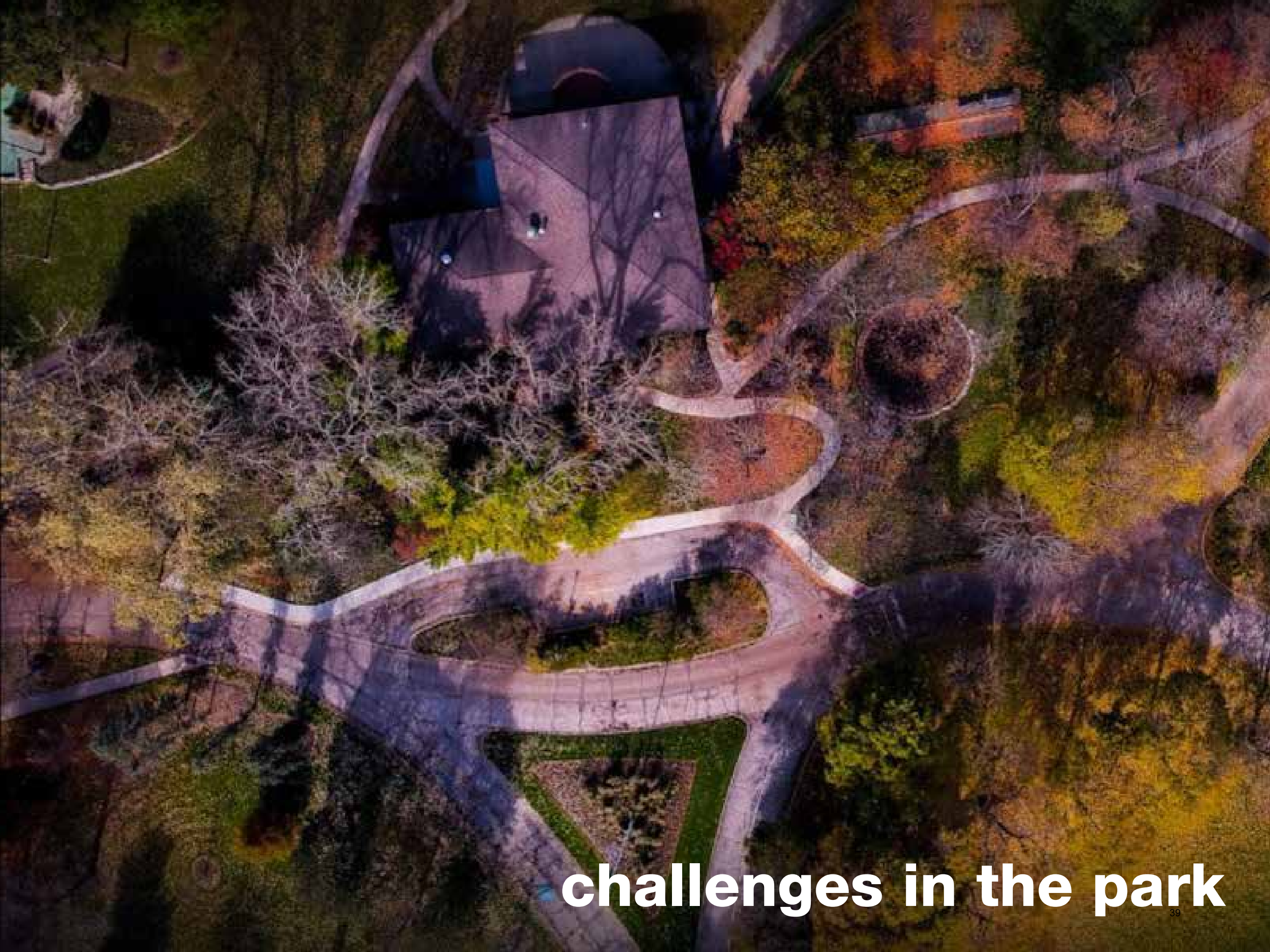
to the village



connections



enhanced program offerings



challenges in the park



**inaccessible lower level
lawn under-utilized**





dark entry - upper level



reception detached from entry



dated finishes



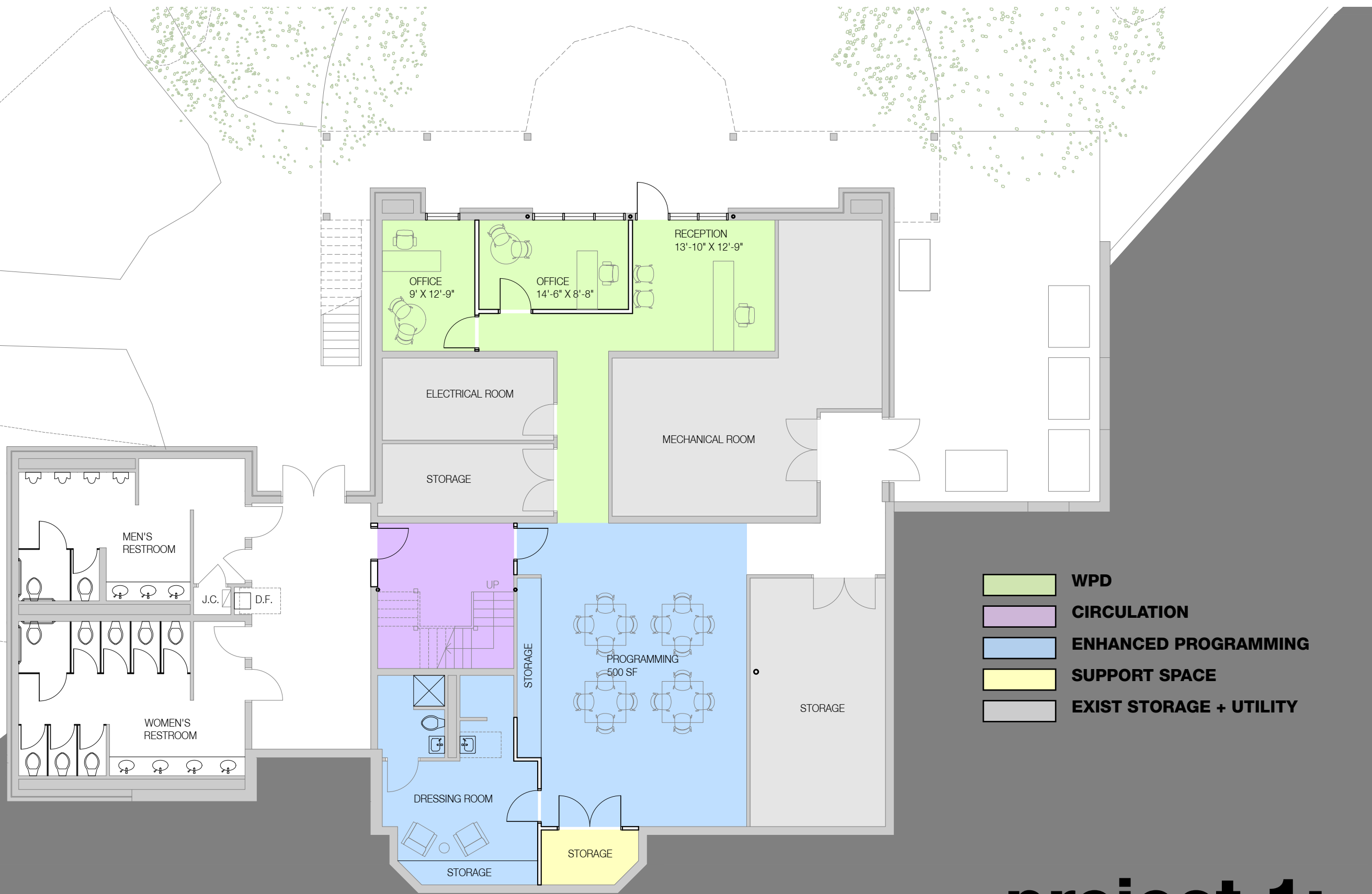
**views from main spaces
need improvement**



lakeview renovation: a phased approach



existing lower level:
an opportunity to re-program and create a new front door

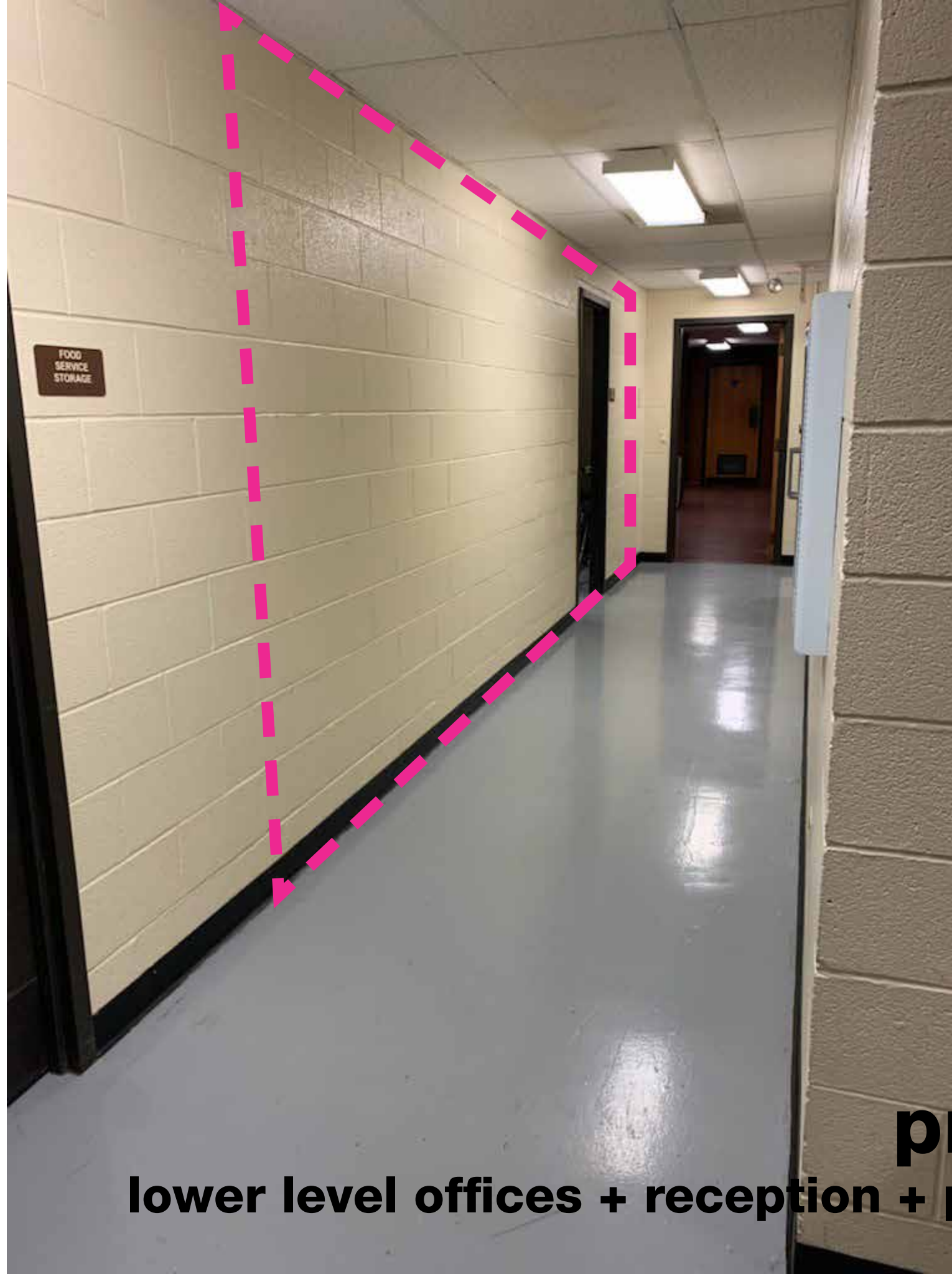


project 1:

lower level offices + reception + programming



project 1:
lower level offices + reception + programming



project 1:
lower level offices + reception + programming



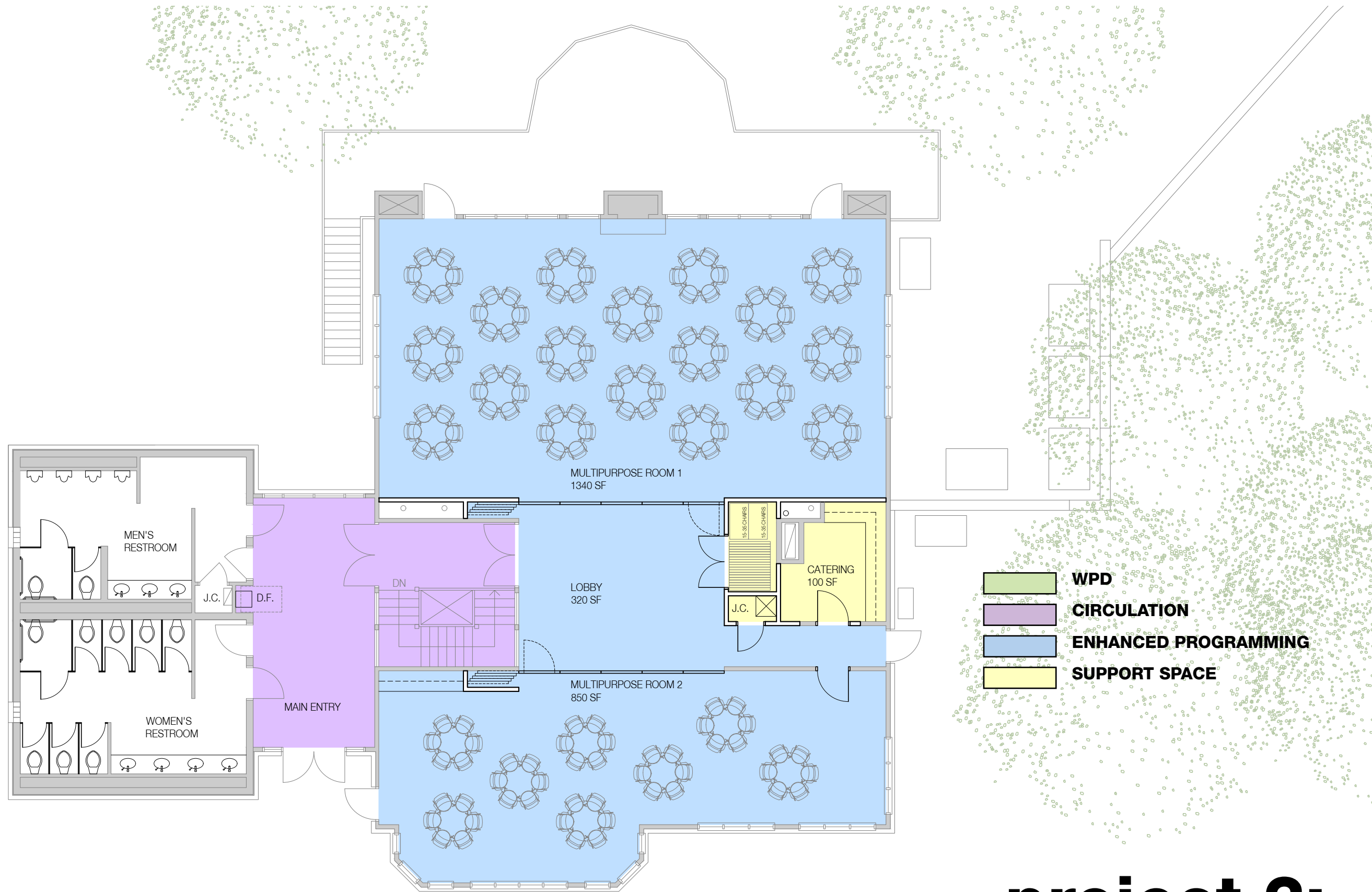
view into opened up programming space

project 1:

lower level offices + reception + programming



**existing upper level:
an opportunity for enhanced program offerings**



project 2:

upper level multipurpose + catering + entry



view into open Lakeview Room

project 2: **upper level multipurpose + catering + entry**



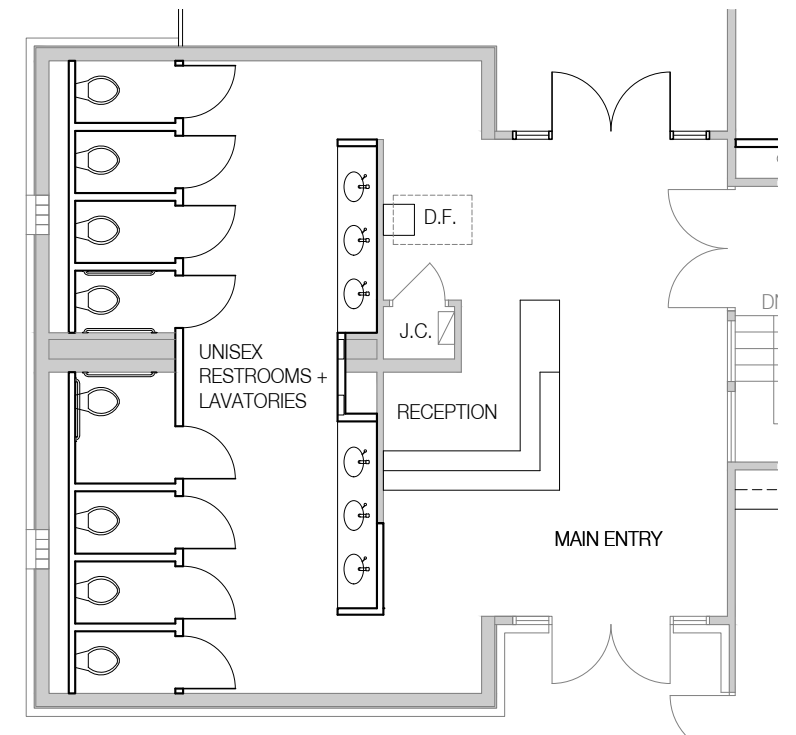
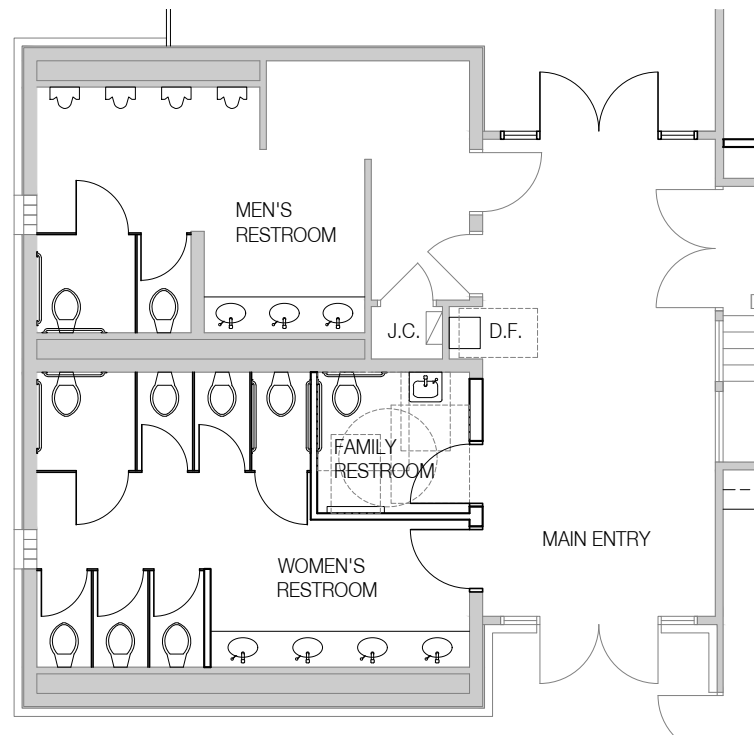
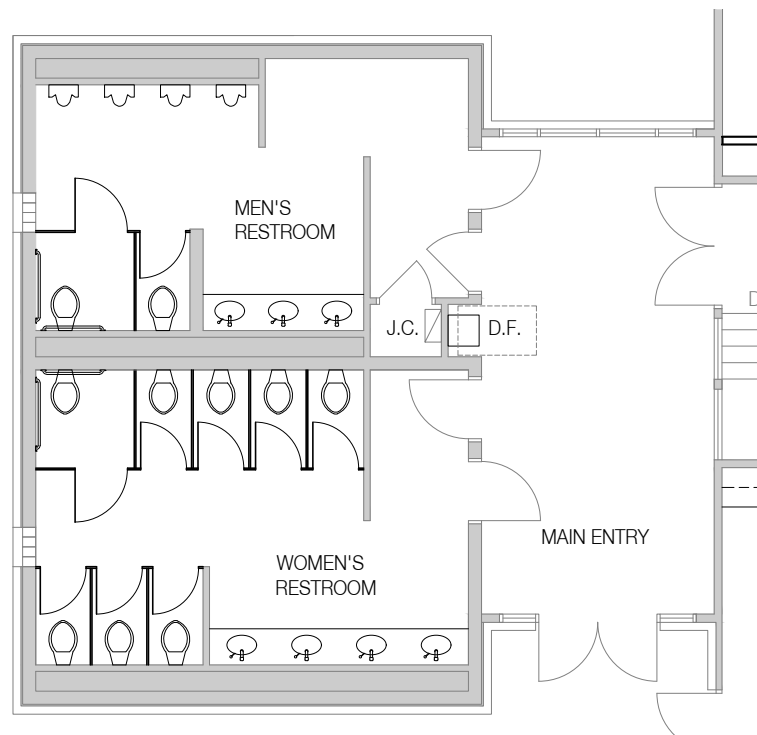
view into partitioned Lakeview Room

project 2: upper level multipurpose + catering + entry

finishes only

finishes + family restroom

gender neutral restrooms

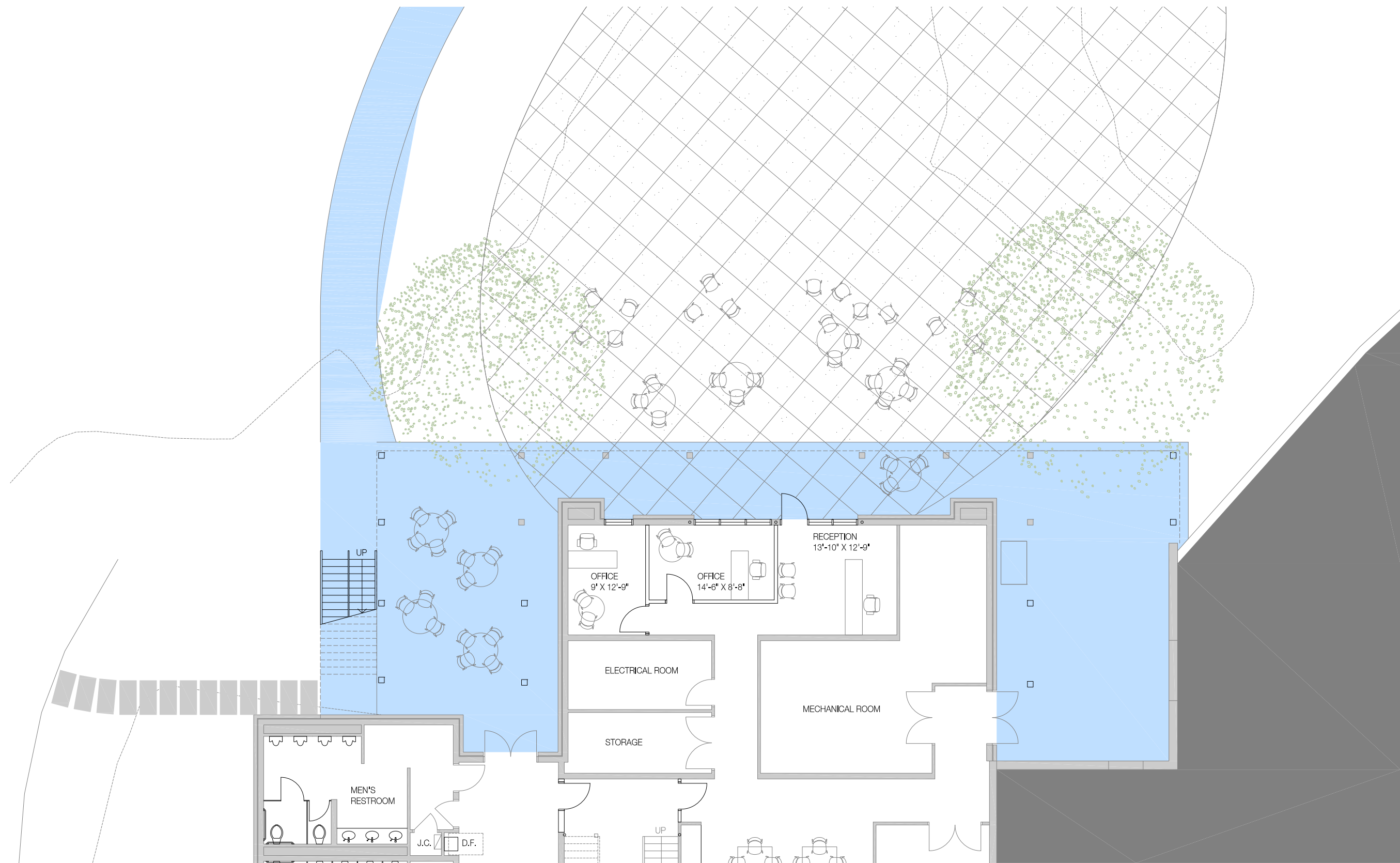


\$85,000

\$128,600

\$179,600

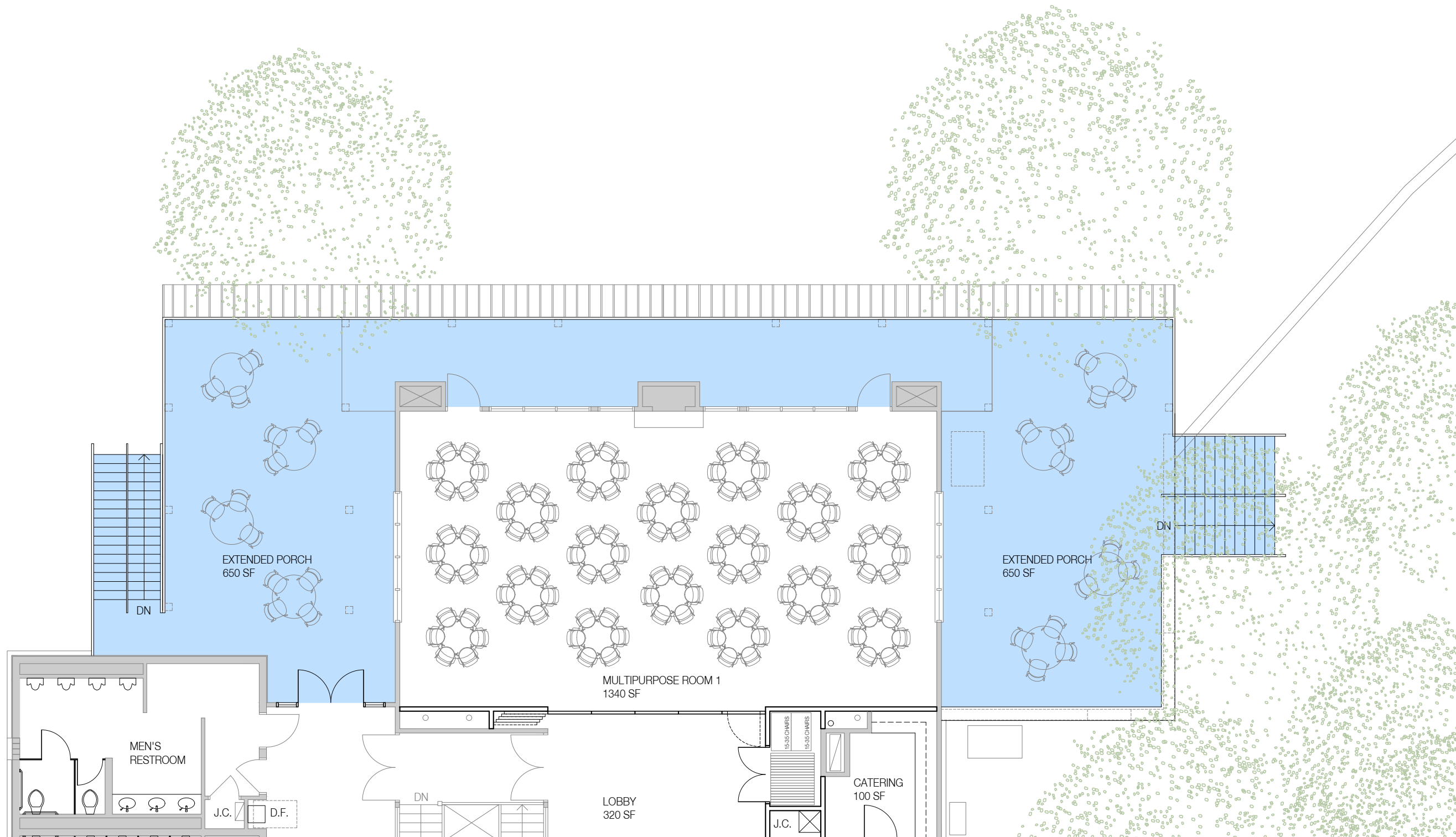
**upper and/or lower level restrooms:
an opportunity to be more inclusive**



improved lower level connection to park

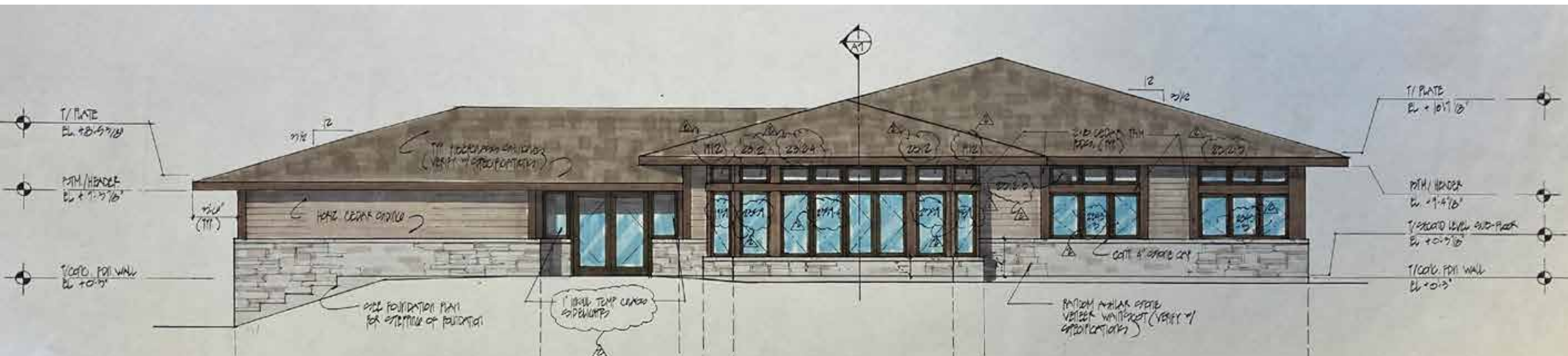
project 3:

exterior painting + landscaping + deck expansion

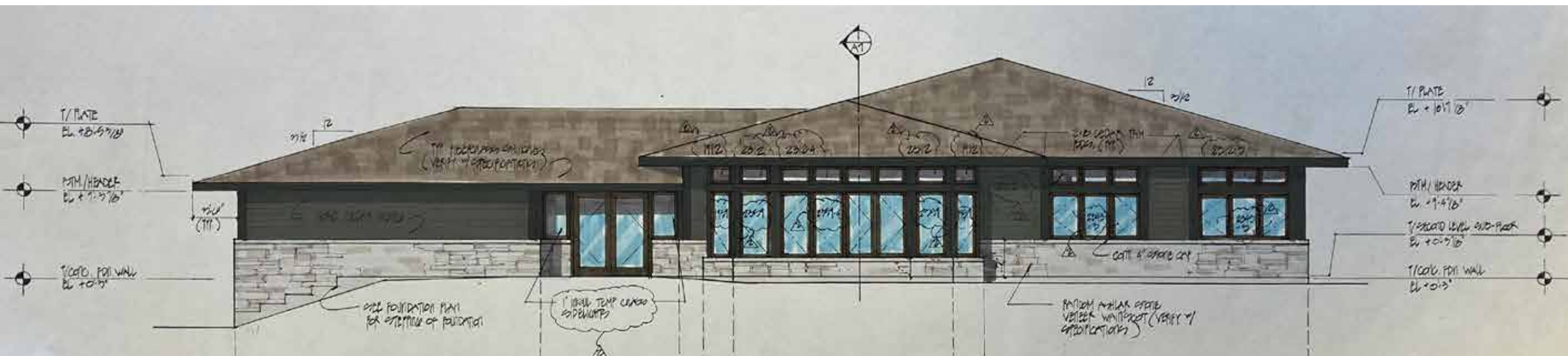


improved upper level deck and park connections

project 3: exterior painting + landscaping + deck expansion



existing south elevation



proposed south elevation

project 3:

exterior painting + landscaping + deck expansion



view of improved Lakeview Center from north

project 3: **exterior painting + landscaping + deck expansion**

	project 1	project 2	project 3
LOWER LEVEL	\$270,000		
UPPER LEVEL		\$337,800	
RESTROOMS	(\$85,000 - \$179,600)	(\$85,000 - \$179,600)	
EXTERIOR			\$220,800

preliminary budget



Gillson Park Lakeview Center Renovation



Occupany Comparison

	Current Maximum Guests (seated)	Proposed Maximum Guests (seated)	Current Maximum Standing	Proposed Maximum Standing	Current Maximum Lecture	Proposed Maximum Lecture
Wilmette Park District-Lakeview						
Gillson Room	26	56	32	140	32	108
Lakeview Room	80	96	100	120	100	100
Gillson / Lakeview Room Combined	106	152	132	260	132	208
Winnetka Community House						
Garden Room	200					
Sheridan Shores Yacht Club						
Upstairs Area/Small Deck	120					
Michigan Shores						
Canterbury Room	140					
East Porch	80					
Dining Room	110					
1898 Room	40					
Kennilworth Assembly Hall						
Hall	75-200					
Evanston Woman's Club						
The Ballroom (2nd Floor)	250					
The Tea Room and Music Room (1st Floor)	120					
Whole Clubhouse						
Glenview Park District						
Lakeview 108 C	50					
Lakeview 108 A	70					
Lakeview 108 B	100					