

# City of Lynchburg Parks and Recreation

## COLLEGE PARK DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Complete the survey! Use  
this QR code



Six features are proposed enhance community recreation, natural beauty, water quality and the ecological health of College Park.

### Overview

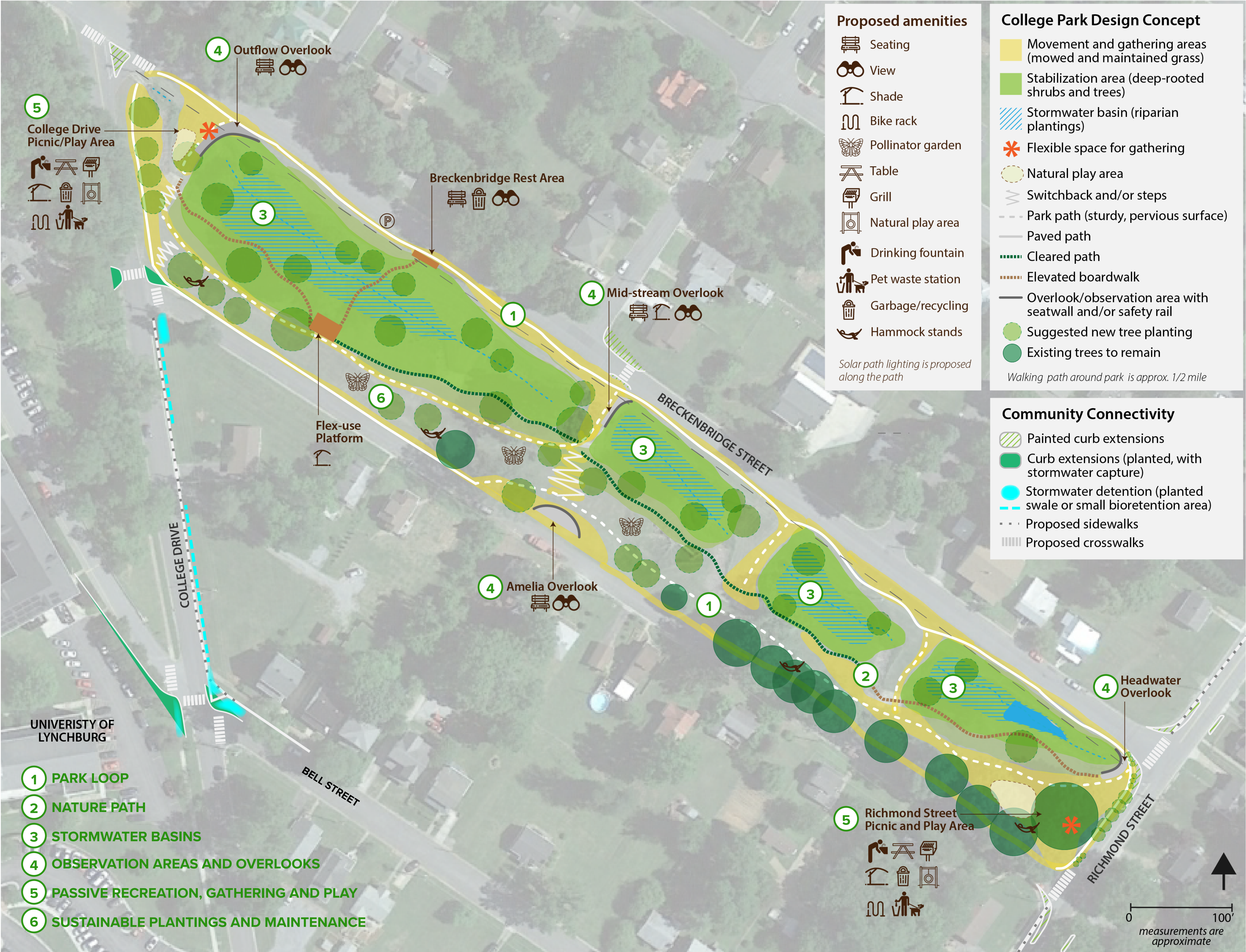
The Draft College Park Master Plan project is designed to:

- Enhance passive recreation opportunities.
- Improve pedestrian connectivity in and around the park.
- Integrate sustainable practices for handling water flow through the ponds to reduce flooding and improve water quality.
- Provide learning opportunities at nature-based stormwater features.
- Enhance the ecology and natural beauty of the park.
- Provide amenities to support a variety of individual and group activities, including gathering, contemplative and educational spaces to supplement nearby parks that offer active recreation facilities.

### Next Steps

Input from community members will help identify priorities and refine the draft master plan for College Park.

Please share your ideas and complete the survey!





# City of Lynchburg Parks and Recreation

## COLLEGE PARK CONNECTIVITY

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### Opportunities to enhance pedestrian access and safety in and around the park

The plan proposes sidewalks, crosswalks and other pedestrian safety features to improve access to College Park from the surrounding neighborhood.

- Curb extensions (or "bump-outs") along Richmond Street, Breckenbridge Street and College Drive can help slow vehicular traffic at proposed street crossings.
- Proposed sidewalks adjacent to the park can improve safe access to the park; they also create part of a 1/2-mile walking loop.
- Crosswalks are proposed at adjacent intersections.



Example of planted curb extension that captures street runoff and narrows crossing distance



Example of painted curb extension

### Several features are proposed to create safe pedestrian connections to the park and improve walkability within the surrounding neighborhood.



#### CURB EXTENSIONS/ BUMP OUTS

Curb extensions (or "bump-outs") narrow the roadway for a short segment to slow traffic and reduce street crossing distance for pedestrians. They can be installed at intersections to tighten the vehicular traffic patterns, or along streets to slow advancing traffic.

Curb extensions can be planted and designed to capture stormwater from the street to improve water quality. These are proposed for College Drive and possibly Breckenbridge Street.

#### CURB EXTENSIONS (PAINTED)

Pavement painting can be used to create visible, non-structural curb extensions to direct traffic to narrowed lanes. These are useful to increase driver awareness and slow traffic on roads where curbs or physical barriers cannot be installed. These are proposed along Richmond Street and at the median at the intersection of College Drive and possibly Breckenbridge Street.

#### CROSSWALKS

Painted crosswalks are proposed at key intersections adjacent to the park to improve pedestrian safety.

#### SIDEWALKS AND PATHS

Sidewalks are proposed along Richmond Street and the east side of College Drive. The perimeter park path will serve as a sidewalk along Breckenbridge Street.



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## COLLEGE PARK WATERSHED HEALTH

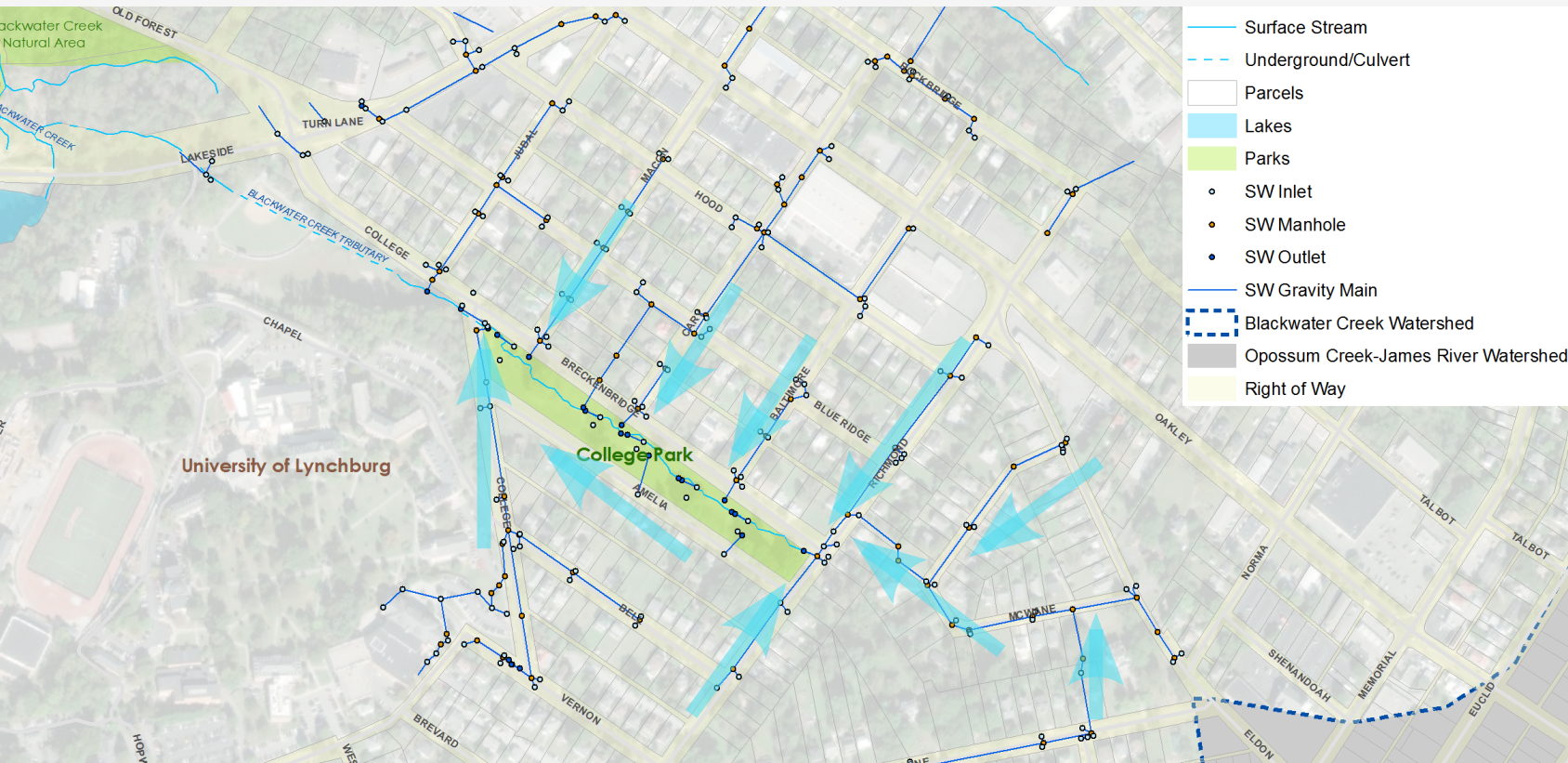
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### Opportunities to reduce flooding and enhance water quality

Water flows from surrounding neighborhoods into the ponds at College Park. Since the original stormwater detention ponds were constructed in the late 1970's, large storm events have become more frequent, causing flooding near the intersection of College Drive and Breckenbridge Street.

Redesigning the pond system and park landscape can increase resilience to larger, more frequent storm events, protecting the neighborhood and downstream waterbodies including Blackwater Creek, College Lake and the Chesapeake Bay.



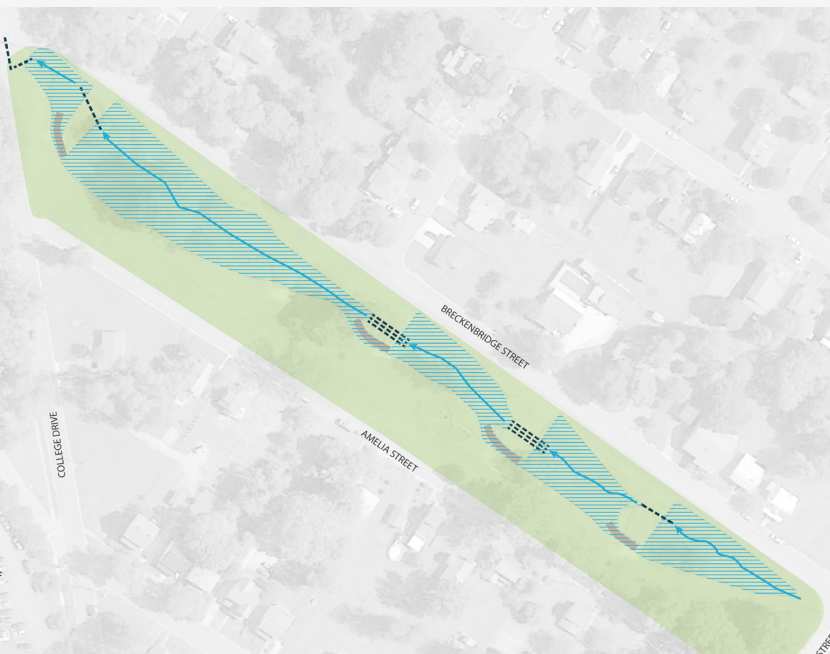
Water flow into and through College Park



Typical (base) water flow through College Park during rain event

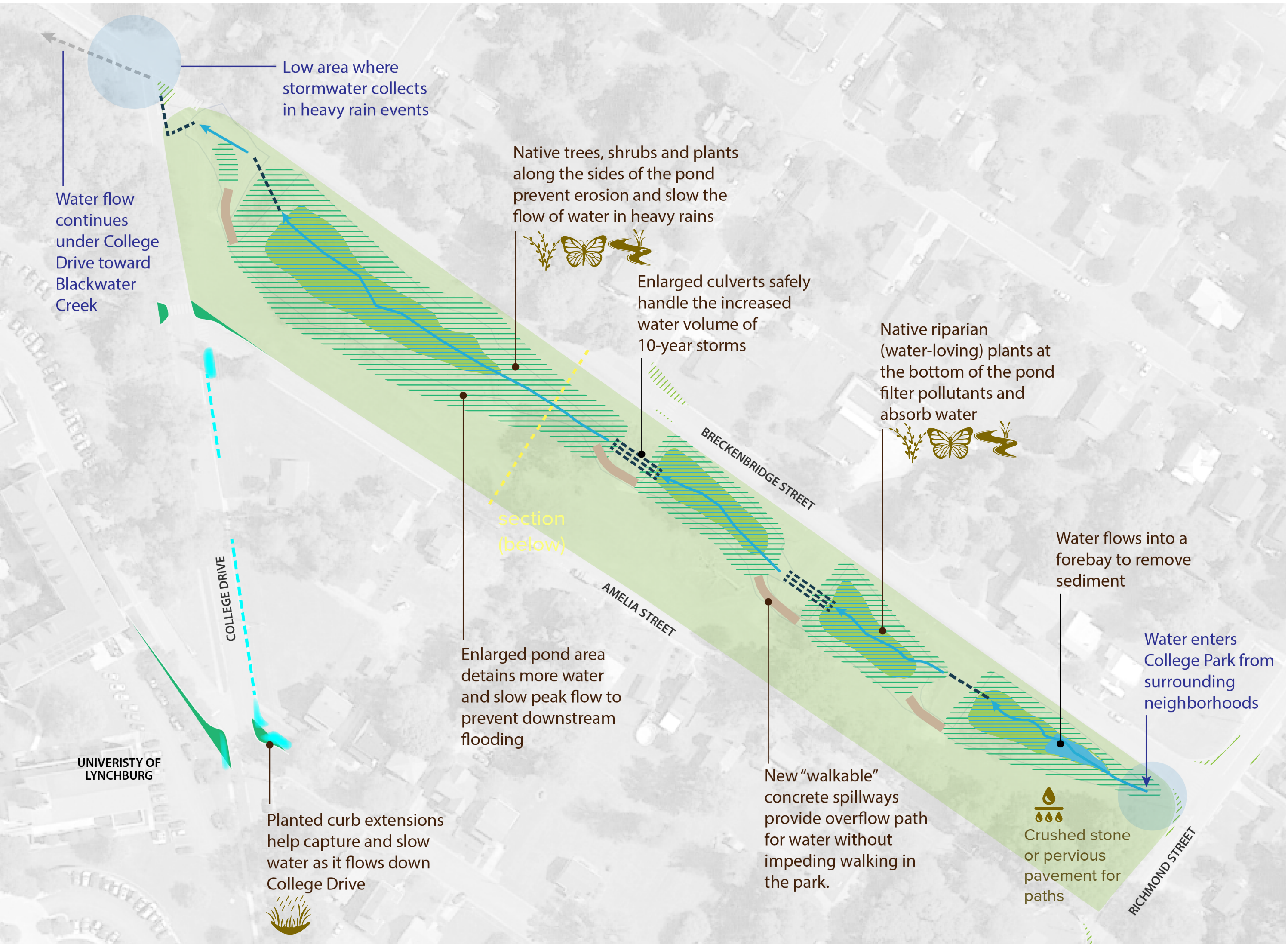


Temporary water flow level during a 2-year storm event



Temporary water flow level during a 10-year storm event

### The proposed design includes several infrastructure improvements and sustainability practices to help manage the volume, flow and/or treatment of stormwater while integrating amenities to improve public spaces and walking safety.



#### Section view of park



#### STREAM RESTORATION

Vegetated buffers on either side of a waterway enhance watershed health by moderating water runoff quantities and improving water quality. The vegetation can intercept, absorb, and infiltrate surface runoff to help moderate the peak runoff rates during rain events, which reduces erosion and sedimentation of the channel.

#### NATIVE PLANTINGS

Planted curbs and swales along streets can capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff from streets to improve water quality. A swale is proposed along the east side of College Drive to slow water flow toward the low point of the drainage area. These areas can be planted with grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees to increase aesthetic and habitat value.

#### PLANTED SWALES and CURB EXTENSIONS

Incorporating vegetation into the landscape is a stormwater management technique that mimics natural drainage. Vegetated areas intercept and infiltrate rainfall to decrease stormwater volumes and can also remove pollutants. Native plants also support pollination and enhance biodiversity.

#### PERVIOUS SURFACES

Pervious materials such as pervious asphalt or crushed gravel provide sturdy surfaces for walking and gathering while reducing stormwater runoff volume, rate, and pollutants.



## 1 PARK LOOP

- A 1/2-mile loop around the park is made up of paved segments (solid white line) and unpaved segments (dashed white line).
- Paved segments can be constructed using permeable pavers, and unpaved segments can be constructed with a sturdy material such as crushed stone.
- The majority of the path (excluding switchbacks) can be constructed for ADA accessibility.



Examples of proposed park loop walking path

## 2 NATURE PATH

- A path of cleared trails and elevated walkways extends from the headwater to the outflow, giving visitors an up-close view of water flow and native plantings with minimal disturbance to the ecological activity.
- The nature path connects to an elevated platform at the west end that can be used for gathering and education or recreational programming and a smaller platform along Breckenbridge that is accessible from off-street parking.
- Switchbacks or steps traverse steep grades to connect the nature path to the accessible loops.



Examples of elevated walkway and platform proposed for nature path



Examples of steps for switchbacks

## 3 STORMWATER BASINS

- A series of ponds planted with native perennials, shrubs and trees slow the flow of stormwater, infiltrate and clean the runoff, and temporarily retain water to prevent downstream flooding.
- The system's flow rate will prevent standing water and mosquito breeding in the ponds.
- Plantings, sloped benches, and protected overlook areas ensure safety in deeper areas of the basins.



Examples of nature-based connected stormwater basins

## 4 OBSERVATION AREAS AND OVERLOOKS

- Observation areas constructed with stone or concrete serve as retaining structures and seating.
- Rails might be necessary for safety.
- Overlooks provide a safe viewing platform to see the park stormwater features from steep slopes.



Examples of overlooks and observation areas

## 5 PASSIVE RECREATION, GATHERING AND PLAY

- Two areas on either end of the park offer a more gentle slope that can serve as gathering spaces and accommodate amenities such as picnic tables, grills, water fountains and small play areas for children.
- Natural materials on the site, such as logs, tree stumps, boulders and soil (even the slope of the park) can be used to create playground features such as balance beams, stepping stones and slides.
- Temporary shade structures can be erected during the summer months in key activity areas until the tree canopy matures.
- A small pavilion can be constructed in the Richmond Street picnic area if needed.



Examples of amenities and spaces for passive recreation

## 6 SUSTAINABLE PLANTINGS AND MAINTENANCE

- High traffic areas such as paths and gathering areas are designated for regular maintenance and mowing.
- Areas not designated for high traffic, riparian plantings or stabilization plantings are to be maintained as meadow conditions or low mow zones, which are mowed less frequently to allow native plants and grasses to grow.
- A tree canopy will be re-established to replace trees recently lost during storms and trees removed during the construction of basins.



Examples of low-mow zones and meadow conditions.  
Portions of the meadow may be maintained as pollinator areas.

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