

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR GOLDEN GATE



DRAFT
AUGUST 2026

PREPARED BY THE
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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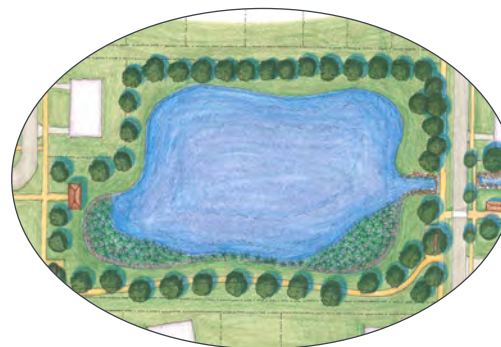


PREPARED BY



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INTRODUCTION

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) is assisting the Martin County Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) with developing Public Open Space Plans for each of the six CRA areas in Martin County. Objectives and Policies within the Martin County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan (CGMP), particularly the following, direct the CRA to develop the Open Space Plans:

- Objective 18.4A. To facilitate attainment of a coordinated system of public open space and recreation areas within the CRAs.
- Policy 18.4A.1. An open space plan that indicates the general location of desired open space and pedestrian and cyclist connectivity through the community shall be prepared for each CRA.

This document is the Public Open Space Plan for the Golden Gate CRA. The plan identifies existing zoning, land use designations, parks, watercourses, and public facilities. The plan has been developed in coordination with the Martin County CRA, Martin MPO, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Growth Management Departments. A detailed analysis of previous plans and recommendations, current and proposed projects, as well as an assessment of current community desires, have all been essential to developing the recommendations in the plan.

The data sets were compiled to create a recommended open space plan to preserve and protect green space, parks, and preserves for the residents of Golden Gate.

In addition to the analytical maps in the report, there is a detailed recommended project list that is keyed to the recommended project location map which includes a brief description of each project as well as the county departments and agencies that will have a role in implementing the projects. There are also detailed, rendered concept plans for six of the specific projects.

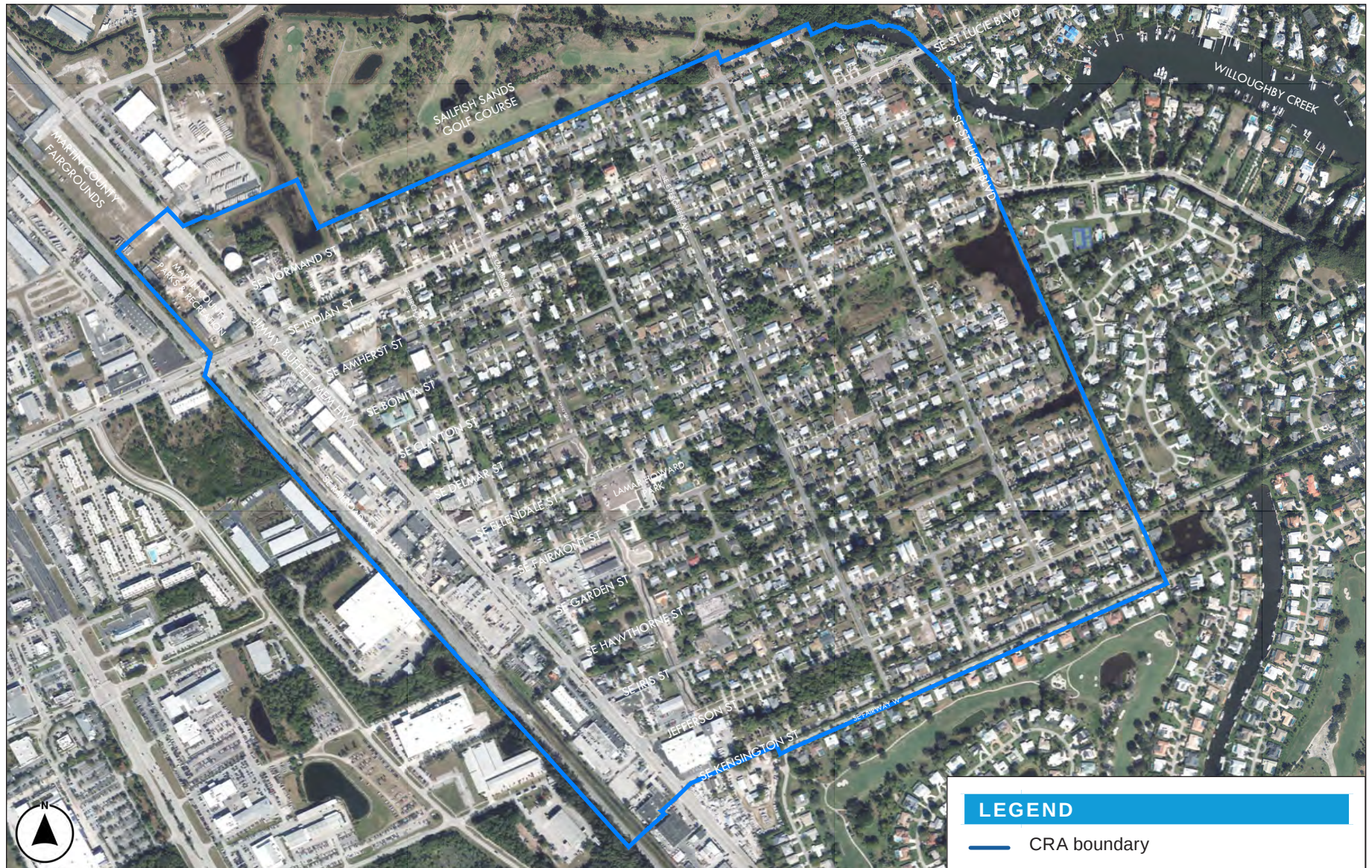
Upon its adoption by the Martin County CRA Board, this Open Space Plan will be a support document to the Golden Gate CRA Plan (updated in October 2009) and will guide future property acquisition, disposition, programming, and open space improvements.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

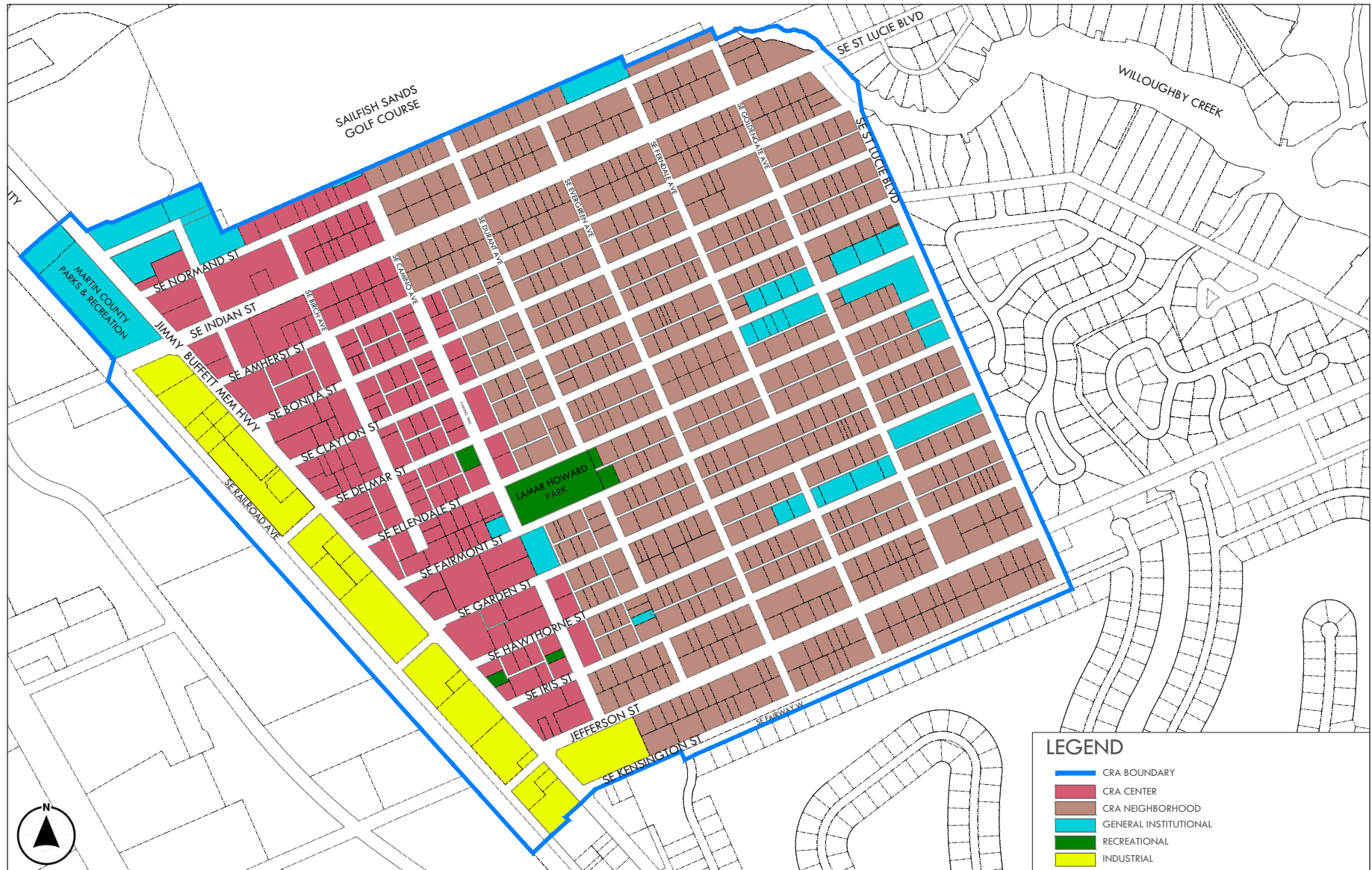


AERIAL IMAGE



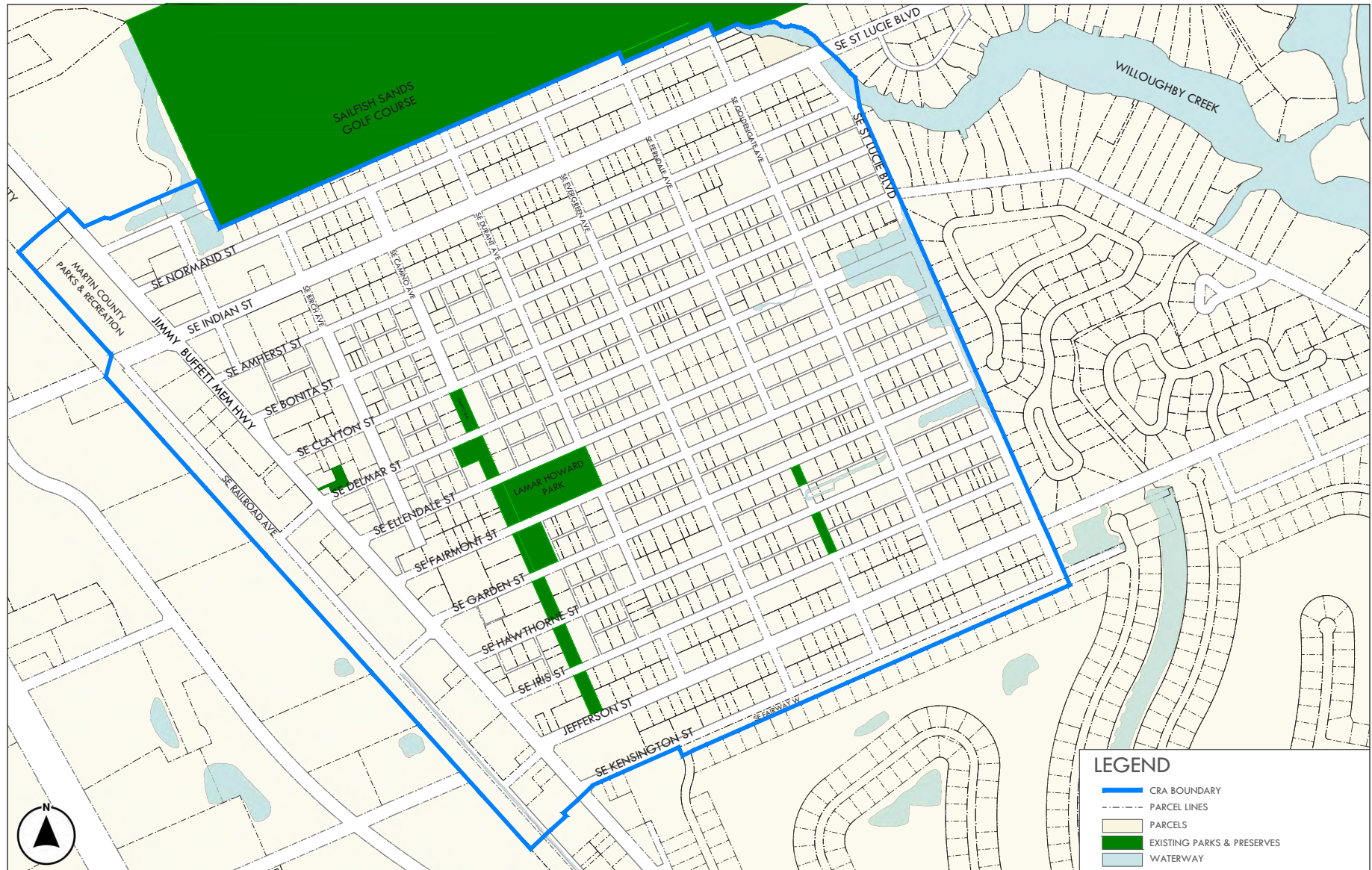
EXISTING CONDITIONS

EXISTING FUTURE LAND USE



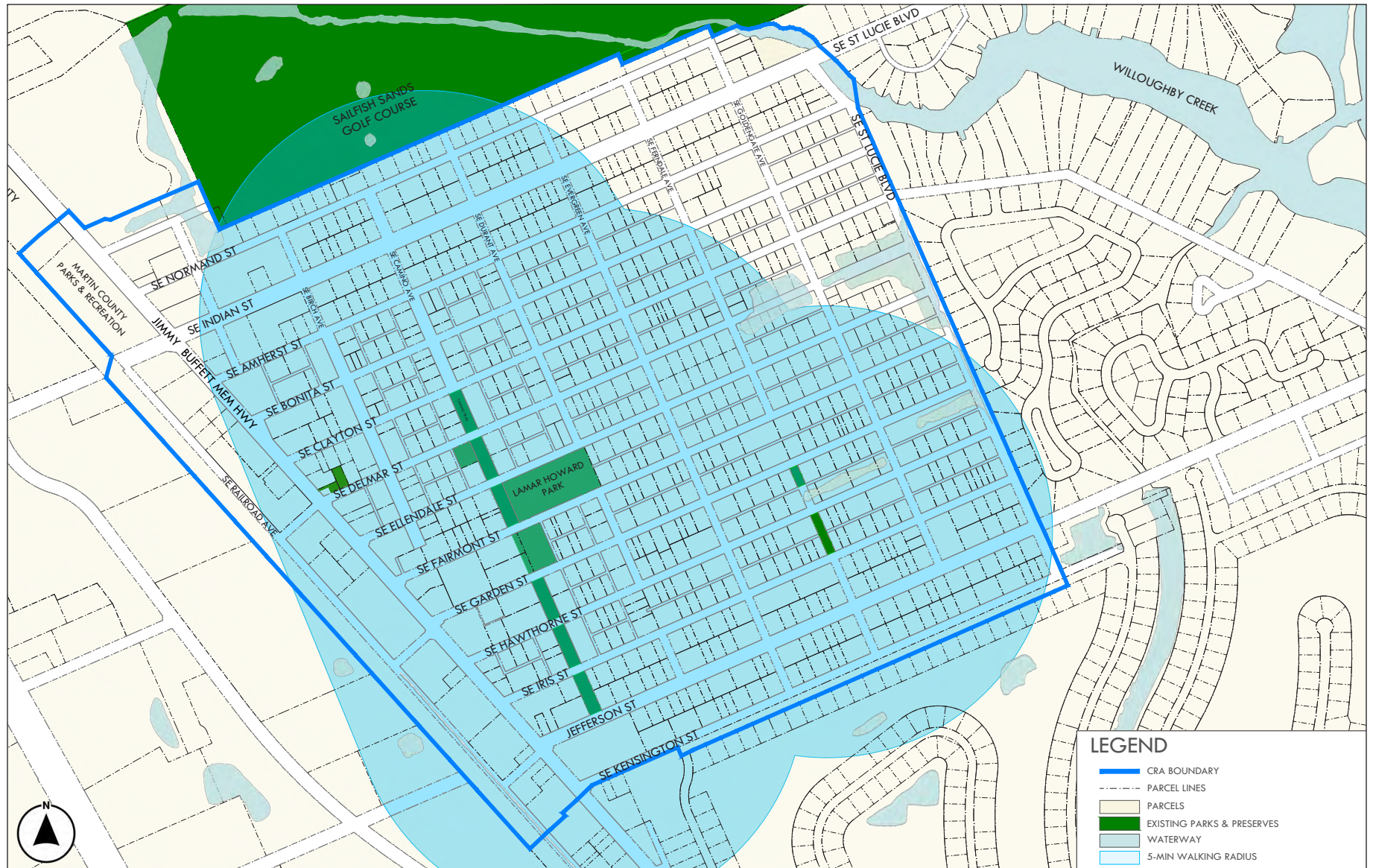


EXISTING PARKS & PRESERVES

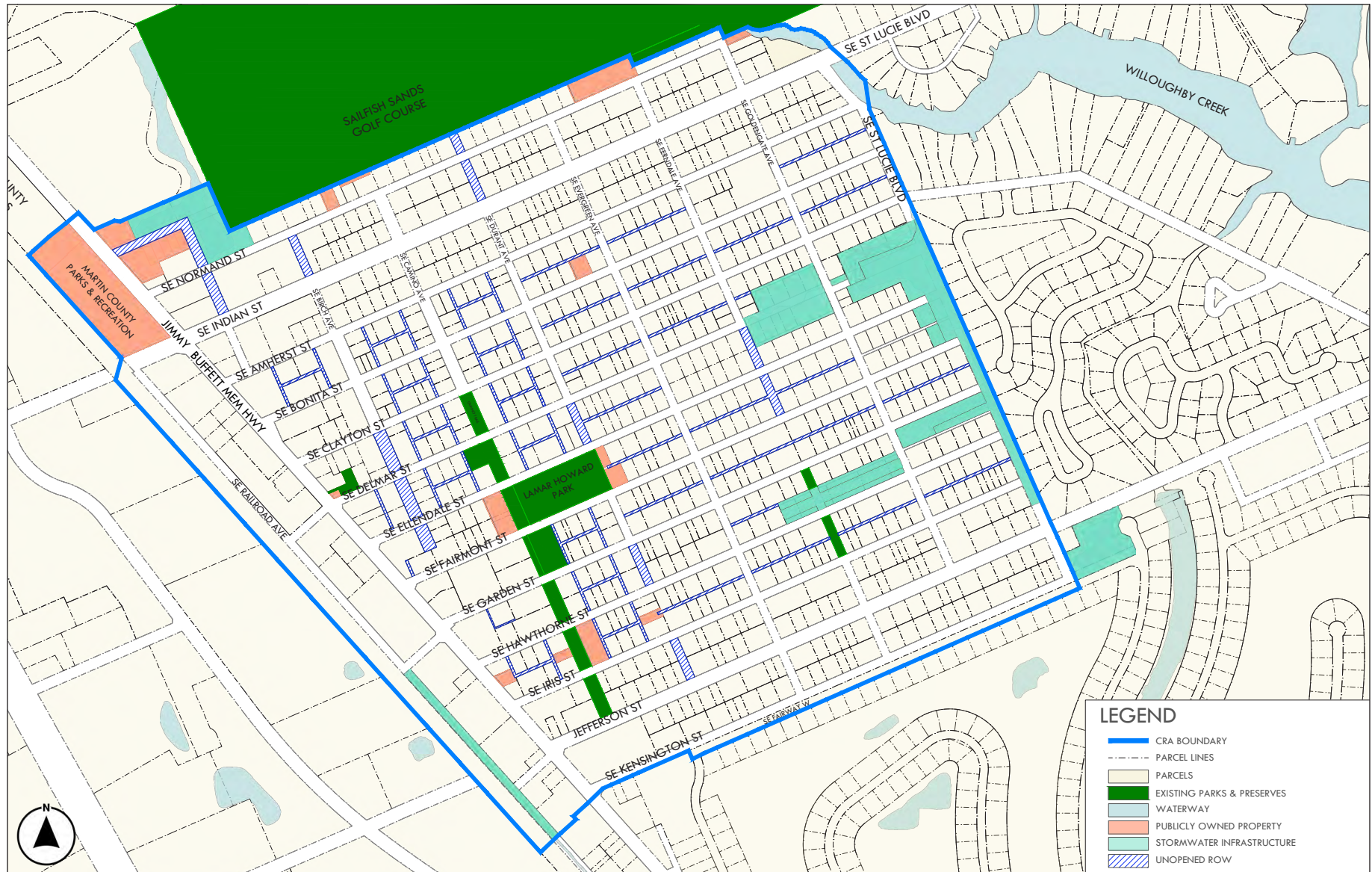


EXISTING CONDITIONS

5-MIN WALKING RADIUS 1/4-MILE CENTERED ABOUT PARKS & PRESERVES



EXISTING PUBLICLY-OWNED LAND



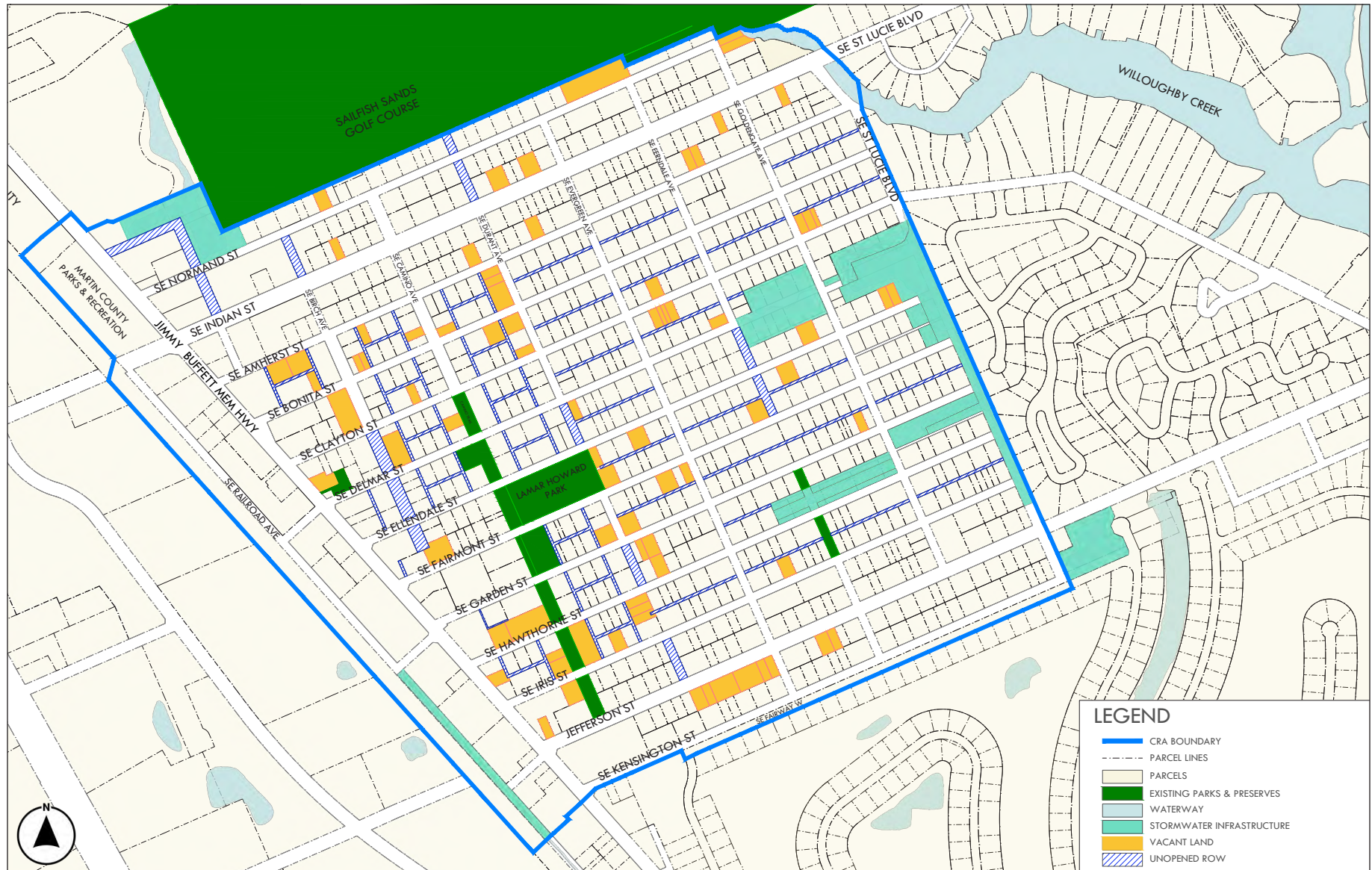
This map illustrates the CRA Boundary for the City of Jacksonville, Florida. The boundary is defined by a thick blue line. The map shows a grid of streets, including SE NORMAND ST, SE INDIAN ST, SE AMHERST ST, SE BONITA ST, SE CLAYTON ST, SE DELMAR ST, SE ELLENDALE ST, SE FARMONT ST, SE GARDEN ST, SE HAWTHORNE ST, SE IRIS ST, JEFFERSON ST, SE KENSINGTON ST, SE FARWAT WY, SE ST LUCIE BLVD, SE GODDARD AVE, SE DUNN AVE, and SE BENDALE AVE. The map also shows existing parks and preserves, including SAULSBURY SANDS GOLF COURSE and JAMES HOWARD PARK. Waterways shown include WILLOUGHBY CREEK and the SAULSBURY SANDS GOLF COURSE. The map includes a legend with the following items:

- CRA BOUNDARY (thick blue line)
- PARCELS (light gray area)
- EXISTING PARKS & PRESERVES (green area)
- WATERWAY (light blue area)
- UNOPENED ROW (hatched area)
- SIDEWALK (pink line)
- PATH OR TRAIL (DASHED UNDER CONSTRUCTION) (orange dashed line)
- PLANNED EAST COAST GREENWAY (green dashed line)

A north arrow is located in the bottom left corner of the map.

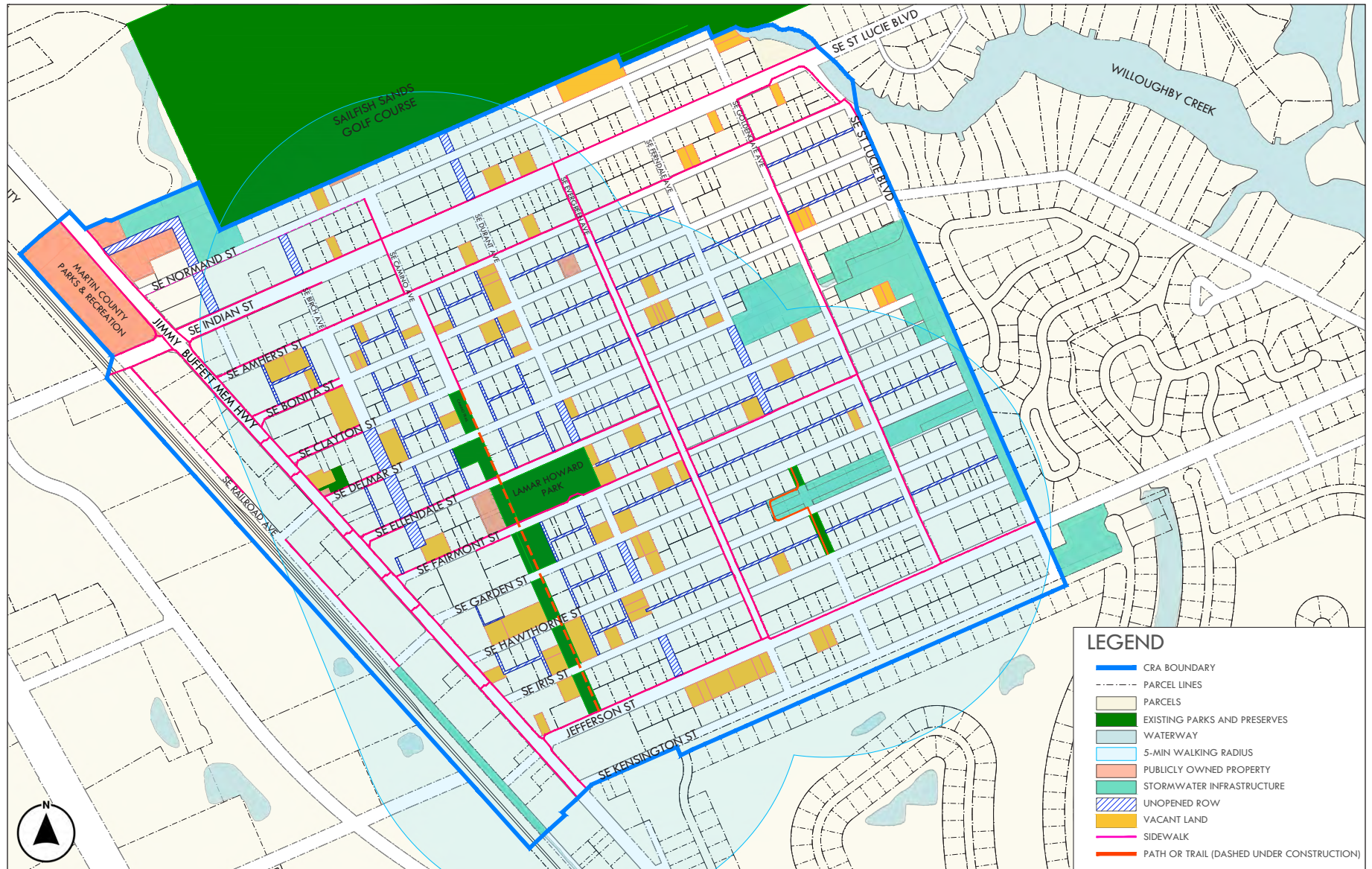


EXISTING VACANT LAND



EXISTING CONDITIONS

COMBINED LAYERS



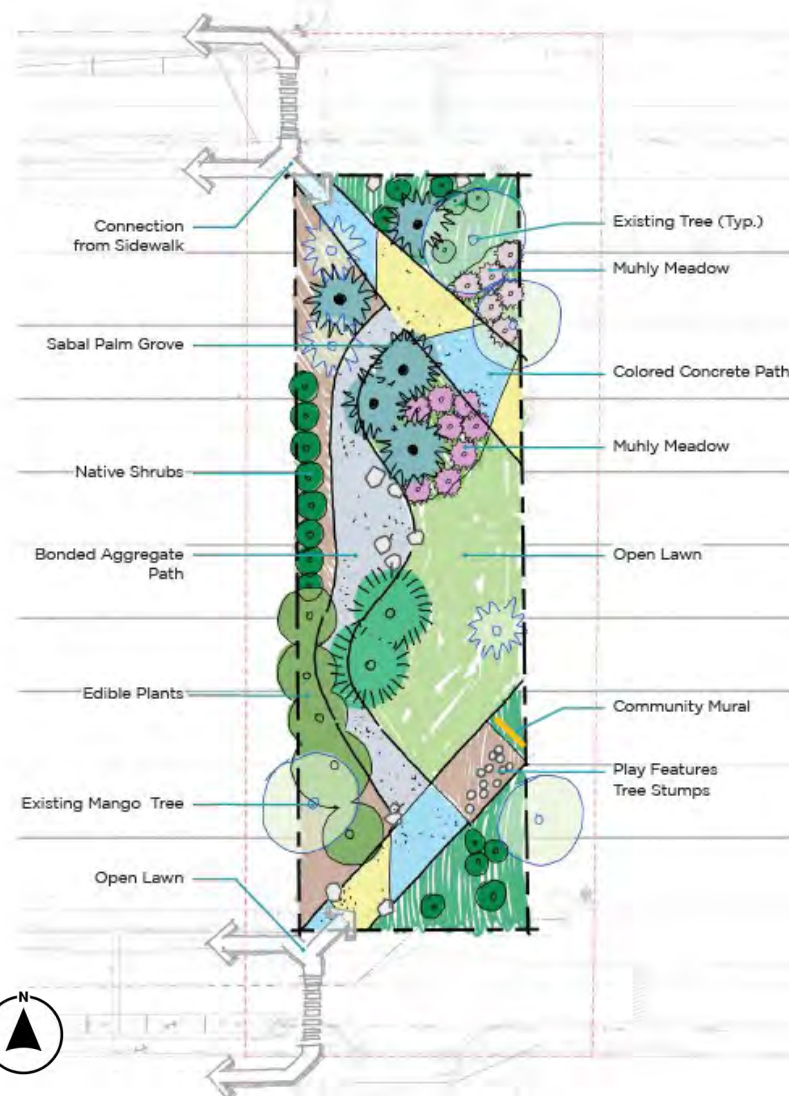
BACKGROUND



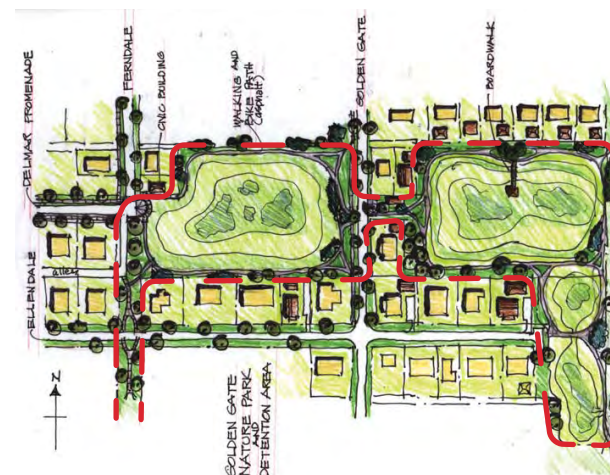
CRA PLAN & VISION



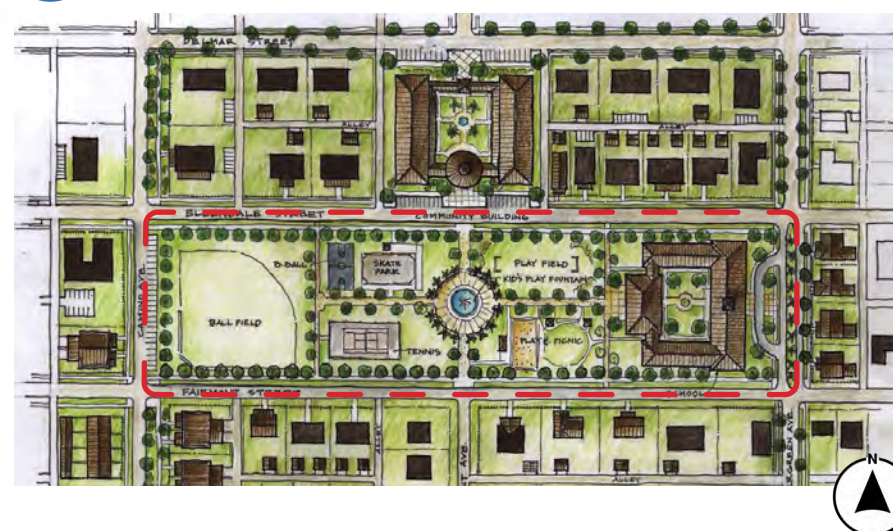
2) BIRCH AVENUE POCKET PARK



3) GOLDEN GATE NATURE PARK & DETENTION AREA



4 LAMAR HOWARD PARK



5

CIVIC BUILDING & PLAZA
(GOLDEN GATE BUILDING)

6

MAIN SQUARE



LEGEND

- CRA boundary
- Existing park, preserve or STA with recreation
- Camino Trail
- Birch Avenue Pocket Park
- Golden Gate Nature Park & Detention Area
- Lamar Howard Park
- Main Square
- State Building & Plaza (Golden Gate Building)

- CRA boundary
- Existing park, preserve or STA with recreation

- 1 Camino Trail
- 2 Birch Avenue Pocket Park
- 3 Golden Gate Nature Park & Detention Area
- 4 Lamar Howard Park
- 5 Main Square
- 6 Civic Building & Plaza (Golden Gate Building)



OPEN SPACE PLAN



RECOMMENDED PROJECT LIST

Key	Rank	Project Name	Description	Stakeholders/Agency Coordination	Included in CRA Plan?*	Included in Current CIP?
A	1	Lamar Howard Park Sensory Area	These two County-owned parcels to the east of the existing Lamar Howard Park could be incorporated with the existing mature trees to remain. The area is an opportunity for a quiet, more nature-based sensory experience in the park. The park can be a tranquil buffer to the neighborhood. Decorative fencing or a wall can control access and ensure safety for children at play. <i>Opportunities for: ADA trail, pedestrian-scaled lighting, native landscaping, informational/educational boards, benches, sensory/balance focused play equipment and fenced play area</i>	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - MC Environmental Resource Division - MC Parks and Recreation	Yes	No
B	2	Barbershop Raingarden Canal	The County-owned parcel is very visible on Dixie Highway and provides an opportunity for landscaping and shading along the street which is infrequent. To the west is a canal where a demonstration rain garden and low impact development features can be showcased with information about stormwater management. <i>Opportunities for: sidewalk, pedestrian-scaled lighting, landscaping, bike repair, informational/educational boards, rain gardens, benches, split rail fence, public art</i>	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - MC Public Works - MC Environmental Resource Division		
C	4	Golden Gate Loop & Golden Gate Nature Park & Detention Area	The Golden Gate Loop is a set of connected sidewalks and paths which connect the stormwater treatment areas (STAs), El Camino, and Lamar Howard Park in a 1-mile trail. The concept illustrates one of the missing links and trailhead. The loop is a part of the Golden Gate Nature Park and detention area and reflects the conceptual stormwater improvements to the site. This public open space is identified in the CRA plan and concept plan is included in the Background as Golden Gate Nature Park & Detention Area. <i>Opportunities for: sidewalk, pedestrian-scaled lighting, landscaping, informational/educational boards, rain gardens, benches, split rail fence, public art</i>	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - MC Public Works - MC Environmental Resource Division - MC Parks and Recreation	Yes - Golden Gate Nature Park & Detention Area	Yes - stormwater improvements

*All projects support CRA goals although some are not specifically called out with detail in the 2009 CRA Plan. Yes indicates more specific details were provided.



RECOMMENDED PROJECT LIST

Key	Rank	Project Name	Description	Stakeholders/Agency Coordination	Included in CRA Plan?*	Included in Current CIP?
D	6	Hawthorn & Garden Nature Park & Detention Area	The nature park and detention area located between Hawthorn and Garden Streets is an existing STA which has planned improvements for additional stormwater capacity. Additional park-like elements could be added with improvements. This public open space is identified in the CRA plan and the concept included in the CRA Plan & Vision Plan. <i>Opportunities for: sidewalk, pedestrian-scaled lighting, landscaping, informational/educational boards, rain gardens, benches, split rail fence, public art</i>	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - MC Public Works - MC Environmental Resource Division - MC Parks and Recreation	Yes	Yes - stormwater improvements
E	8	Shared-use Overpass Connection at Miami & Jefferson	This concept illustrates a shared-use overpass included in the Martin County MPO Long Range Transportation Plan. An open space plaza is illustrated at the end of Jefferson Street where it connects over the tracks to SE Miami Avenue. This connection makes the commercial and industrial centers much more accessible to the Golden Gate neighborhood. The pedestrian overpass is shown with a slope which can accommodate bikes and strollers. <i>Opportunities for: sidewalk, pedestrian-scaled lighting, landscaping, benches, bike repair station, informational/educational boards</i>	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - Martin MPO - MC Public Works		
F	5	Ferndale Passive Park	This County-owned land is an opportunity to create an interesting visual marker at the terminus of Ferndale Ave, provide additional stormwater capacity and treatment, and improve County access to the Sailfish Sands golf course and Willoughby Creek weir. <i>Opportunities for: pedestrian-scaled lighting, landscaping, benches, split rail fence</i>	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - MC Public Works - MC Environmental Resource Division - MC Parks and Recreation		
G	3	Normand Kayak Launch	This narrow parcel provides an opportunity of a neighborhood access point to Willoughby Creek for kayak launch or a place to enjoy manatee sight seeing. <i>Opportunities for: pedestrian scale lighting, landscaping, benches, split rail fence, kayak launch, kayak rental lockers</i>	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - MC Public Works - MC Environmental Resource Division		

*All projects support CRA goals although some are not specifically called out with detail in the 2009 CRA Plan. Yes indicates more specific details were provided.



RECOMMENDED PROJECT LIST

Key	Rank	Project Name	Description	Stakeholders/Agency Coordination	Included in CRA Plan?*	Included in Current CIP?
H	7	Main Square	A square or plaza near the historic Golden Gate building and Dixie Highway would provide a very visible community gathering place and would compliment the existing garden at the Golden Gate Building. This public open space is identified in the CRA plan and concept is included in the Background as <i>Civic Building & Plaza</i> . <i>Opportunities for: pedestrian scale lighting, landscaping, benches, plaza</i>	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - MC Public Works - MC Environmental Resource Division - MC Parks and Recreation - Private Property owners	Yes - <i>Civic Building & Plaza (Golden Gate Building)</i>	
I	10	Kensington Passive Park Gateway	This passive park is just outside the CRA boundary, but accessed through the CRA. A bench or gateway element can compliment the already well maintained STA. <i>Opportunities for: Entryway element, pedestrian-scaled lighting, landscaping, benches, split rail fence</i>	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - MC Public Works - MC Environmental Resource Division		
J	9	Parks & Rec Parcel Intersection Enhancement at Indian Street & Dixie Highway	This site is expected to be vacated by the Parks and Recreation Department within the next five years. At that time, there could be opportunities to enhance the right of way with wider sidewalks, landscaping and gateway elements at the corner of the Indian Street and Dixie Highway. This public open space is identified in the CRA plan and the concept included in the <i>CRA Plan & Vision Plan</i> . <i>Opportunities for: Brownfield mitigation, wider sidewalk, pedestrian-scaled lighting, landscaping including shade trees, bike repair station</i>	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - MC Public Works - MC Environmental Resource Division - MC Parks and Recreation	Yes	
K	In progress	El Camino	El Camino is currently under construction and will provide significant open space in the form of a shared use path, connections to the existing Lamar Howard Park, bioswales and landscaping. The concept plan is included in the Background as <i>El Camino</i> .	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - MC Public Works - MC Environmental Resource Division - MC Parks and Recreation	Yes	Yes
L	In progress	Birch Avenue Pocket Park	This planned pocket park includes pollinators and community art. The concept plan is included in the Background as <i>Birch Avenue Pocket Park</i> . This currently under design and expected to be in construction 2027.	- Golden Gate NAC, CRA - MC Public Works - MC Environmental Resource Division - MC Parks and Recreation	Yes	

*All projects support CRA goals although some are not specifically called out with detail in the 2009 CRA Plan. Yes indicates more specific details were provided.



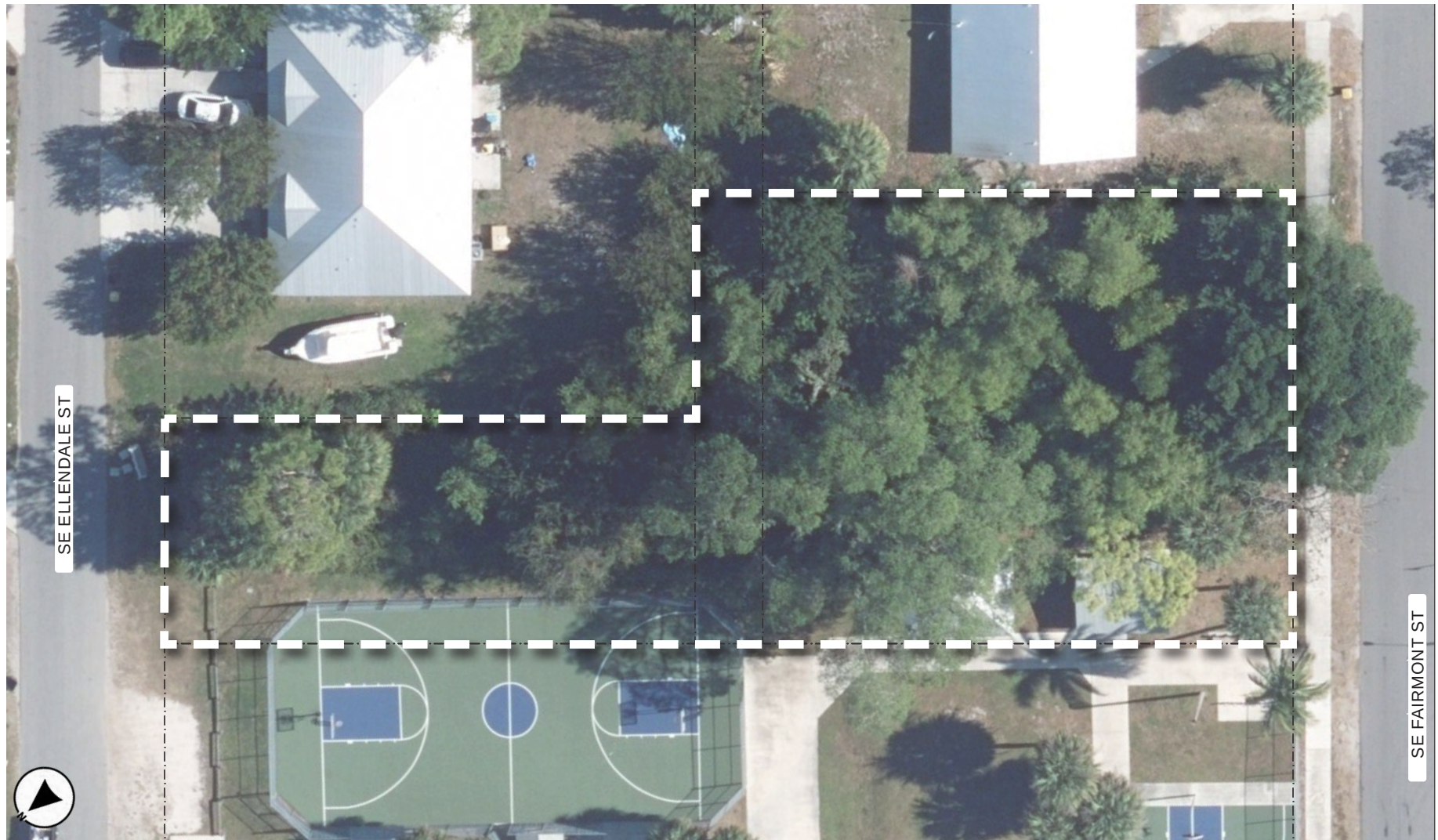
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OPEN SPACE CONCEPTUAL PLANS



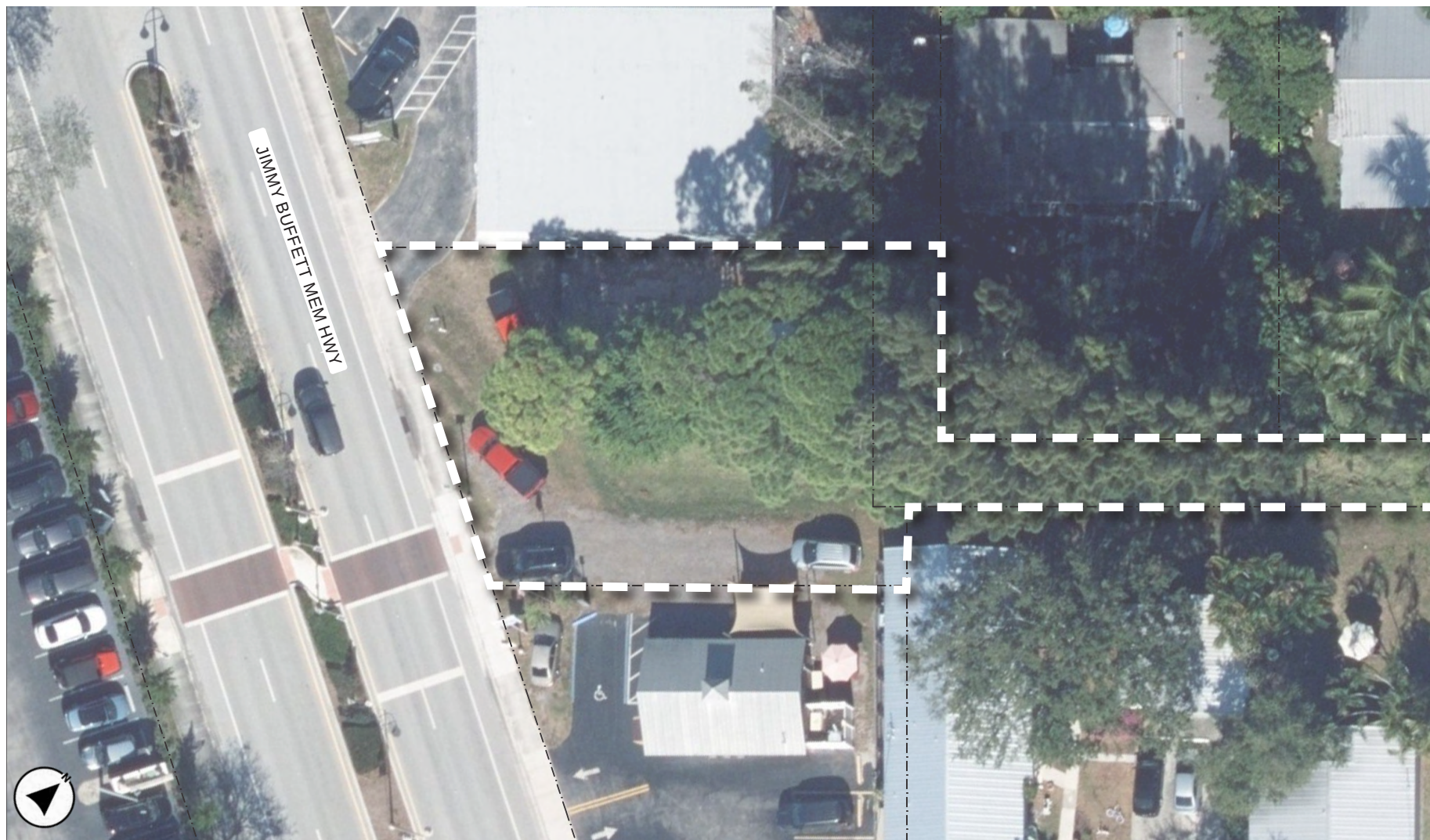
Kensington Passive Park



A LAMAR HOWARD PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS

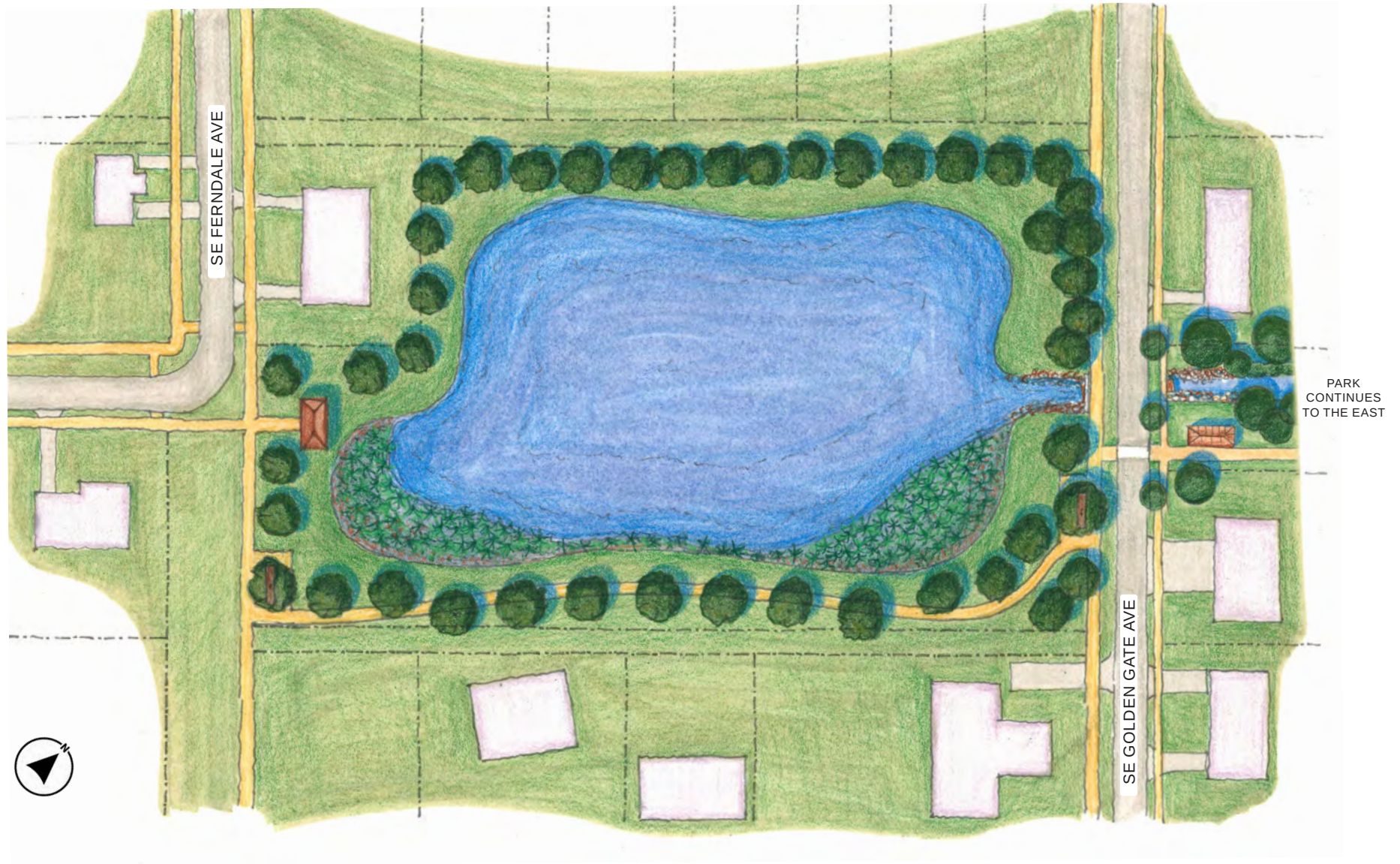
SE ELLENDALE ST

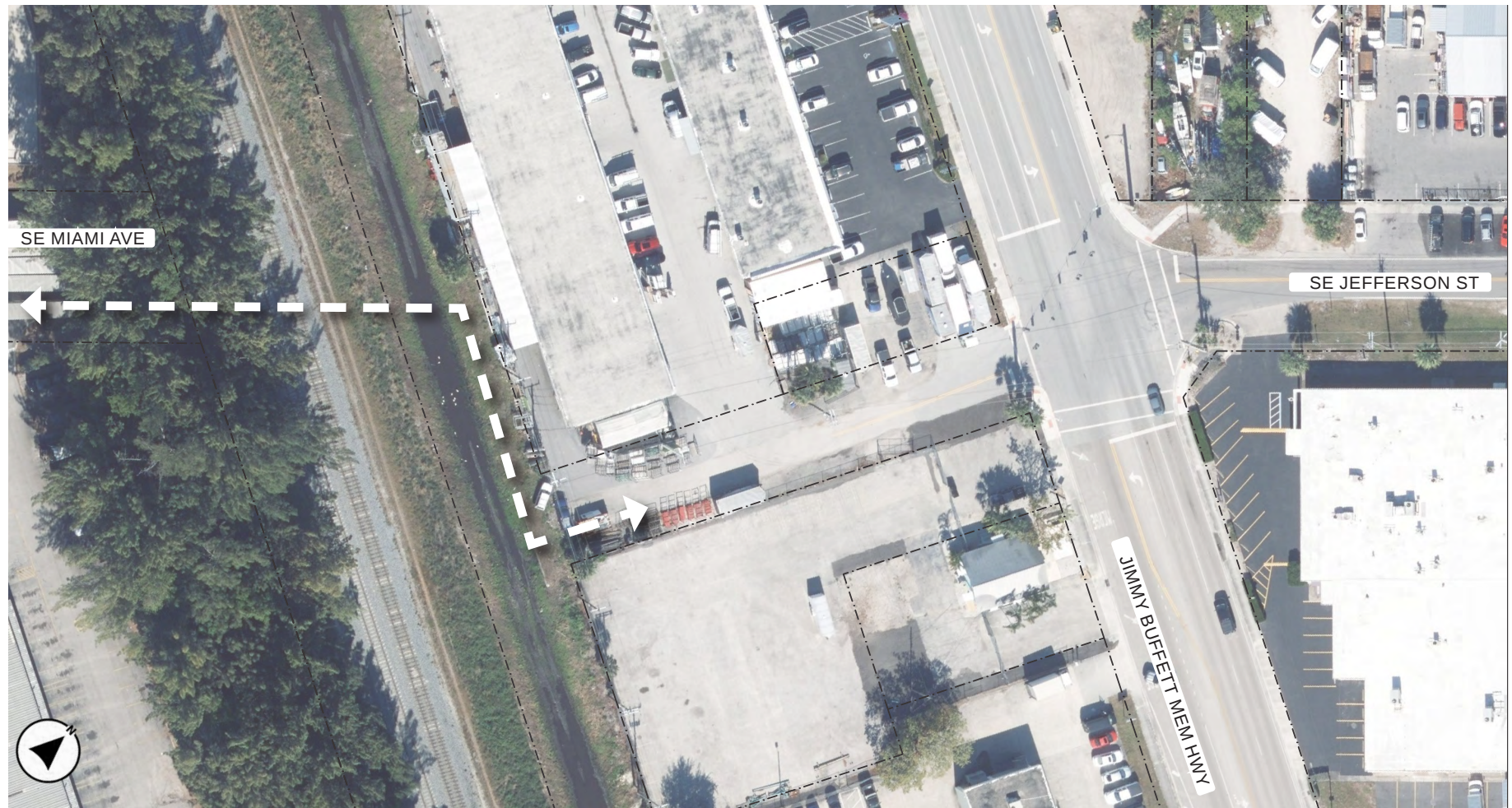
SE FAIRMONT ST

B COUNTY PARCEL ADJACENT TO THE BARBERSHOP CANAL EXISTING CONDITIONS

B BARBERSHOP RAINGARDEN CANAL CONCEPT

C GOLDEN GATE NATURE PARK & DETENTION AREA EXISTING CONDITIONS (WEST PORTION)

C GOLDEN GATE LOOP & GOLDEN GATE NATURE PARK CONCEPT (WEST PORTION)

E SE MIAMI AVE & JEFFERSON ST EXISTING CONDITIONS

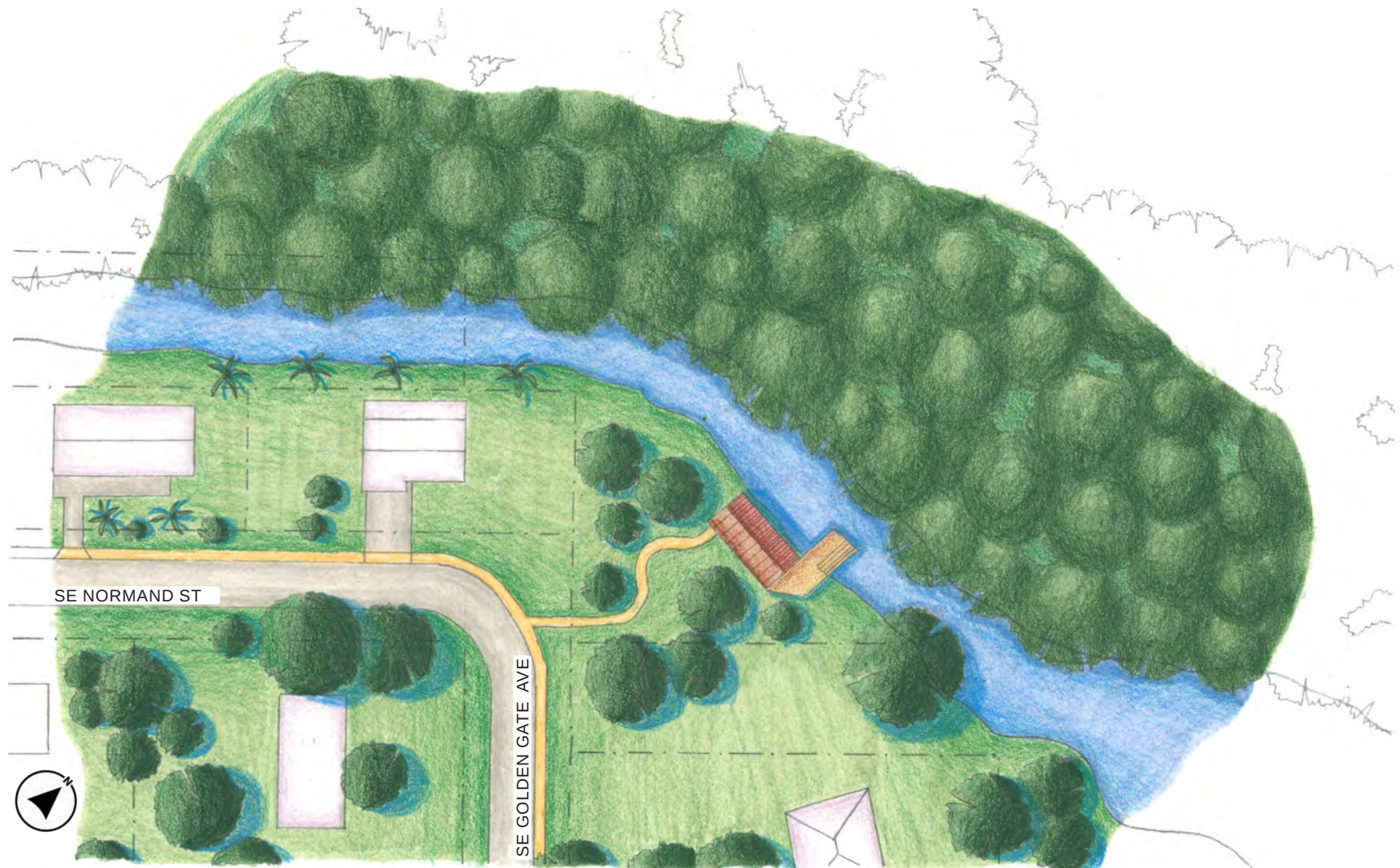
E SHARED USE OVERPASS CONNECTION AT MIAMI & JEFFERSON CONCEPT

F COUNTY OWNED AT FERNDALE AVE EXISTING CONDITIONS



F FERNDALE PASSIVE PARK CONCEPT

G COUNTY-OWNED NORMAND STREET EXISTING CONDITIONS

G NORMAND KAYAK LAUNCH CONCEPT

OPEN SPACE BUILT EXAMPLES & AMENITIES



Lamar Howard Park



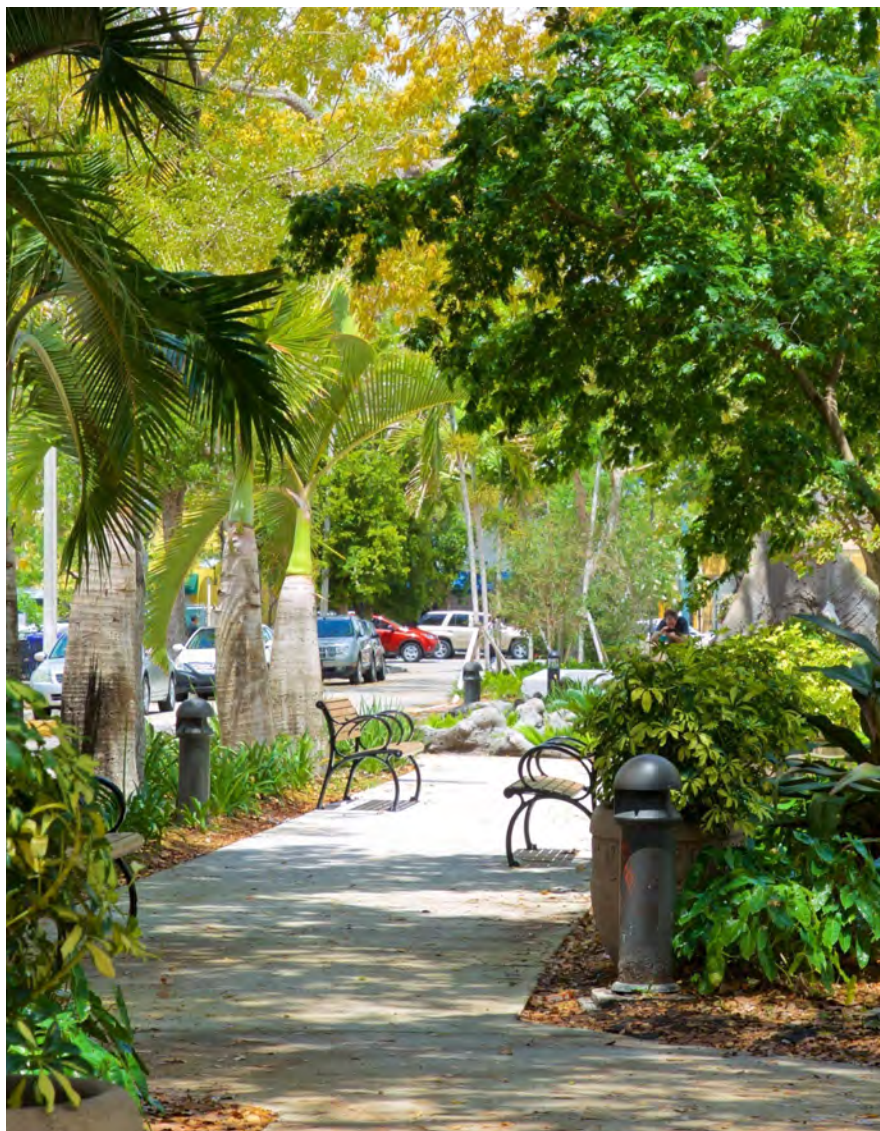


RIPPLE, OLD PALM CITY, MARTIN COUNTY
EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE



RIPPLE, OLD PALM CITY, MARTIN COUNTY
POCKET PARK & SEATING





CUBAN MEMORIAL BOULEVARD PARK, MIAMI, FLORIDA
SEATING, PATH



SAVANNAH SQUARE, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
SEATING, PATH





ABOCOA, JUPITER
GAZEBO



PARC DU CHEMIN DE L'ILE, NANTERRE, FRANCE
PATH & MARSH CONNECTION





DANIEL'S ISLAND, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
TRAIL & WATER VIEWS



RIVER SOMES PARK, CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA
TRAIL & WATER SEATING





SOUNDSCAPE PARK, MIAMI, FLORIDA
TRAIL & LANDSCAPING



RIVER SOMEȘ PARK, CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA
TRAIL & FOOTBRIDGE





BONN SQUARE, OXFORD, UNITED KINGDOM
PUBLIC SQUARE, SEATING, LANDSCAPE



PAVAGLIONE DI LUGO, LUGO, ITALY
PUBLIC SQUARE, SEATING, LIGHTING

