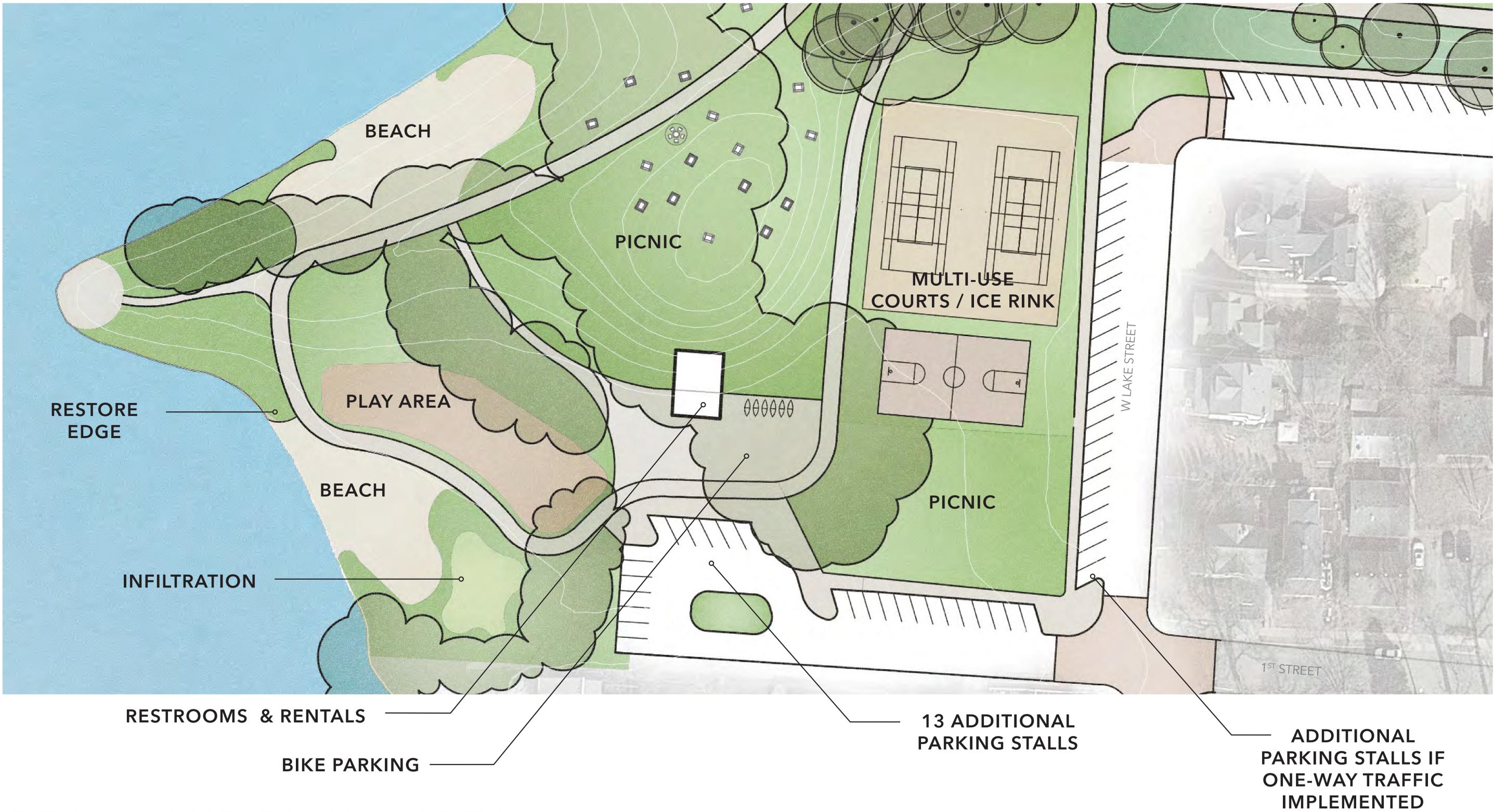


BEACH AND PICNIC AREA **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

The beach and picnic area sit on a significant knoll within The Commons. This area is an important neighborhood and community destination. The tennis courts, play area, beach, picnic area and restroom/changing building are all showing signs of age. The following issues were identified as areas for improvement:

- Current run-off contributes to frequent beach closings
- Significant erosion on knoll under the existing tree canopy
- Invasive species on knoll hillside along lake edge
- Limited winter recreation opportunities
- Courts are striped for single sport
- More parking is needed
- Restroom building is run down, not ADA accessible and unwelcoming



BEACH AND PICNIC AREA IMPROVEMENTS

DESIGN PRINCIPLES BEACH AND PICNIC AREA

IMPROVEMENTS:

The beach and picnic area offer an important amenity for residents and the master plan envisions a series of improvements that will maintain the natural character of this zone of the park, while better addressing ecological and recreational opportunities. Proposed enhancements include:

- New stalls on West Lake Street and at playground drop-off area add parking capacity with minimal impact on green space.
- A restroom building with space for rental of equipment (i.e. paddle boards, kayaks, skates/skies) and space for a winter warming house. The building would be accessed from roundabout and provide a central hub for activity. A new picnic pavilion for family gatherings would be located at the top of the hill grade.
- Upgrade existing play equipment to address universal accessibility and modern play.
- Provide pretreatment infiltration of road runoff to improve water quality at the beach.
- Enhanced picnic facilities on top of knoll.
- Bike parking.
- Shoreline improvements to minimize erosion into lake.
- Elimination of invasive species on knoll.
- Move courts away from Lake Street to provide improved green buffer and re-purpose for multi-use activity, such as an ice rink.



BEACH AND PICNIC AREA **EXISTING**

This view taken from the top of the existing knoll illustrates how the existing beach has extended almost to the top of the knoll and created erosion issues, the limited amount of picnic tables, the unwelcoming restroom building and the invasive species along the knoll hillsides adjacent to the Lake.



BEACH AND PICNIC AREA IMPROVEMENTS

A SUMMER RESPITE

The proposed illustration reflects a Minnesota fall day with enhanced picnic opportunities, restoration of vegetation between the beach and the top of the knoll and removal of invasive species along the lake edge.



BEACH AND PICNIC AREA **EXISTING**

This view is taken from the existing roundabout illustrating the difficult access to the existing restroom/changing building, erosion on the hillside and the one dimensional use of the existing court area.



BEACH AND PICNIC AREA IMPROVEMENTS

A WINTER DESTINATION

This illustration reflects a transformation of this area into a community winter destination with improved access to the restroom/warming house, outdoor fire pit, direct access to a winter skating area on the courts and the family picnic pavilion on top of the restroom building.