



**Northeast Ohio  
Regional Sewer District**

# Lower Shaker Lake Dam Reconstruction

TODAY'S MEETING WILL BEGIN SHORTLY



**Northeast Ohio  
Regional Sewer District**

# NEORSD Podcast

A bi-weekly chat with  
the real people who  
bring our clean water  
work to life.

**[neorsd.buzzsprout.com](https://neorsd.buzzsprout.com)**



**Northeast Ohio  
Regional Sewer District**



# Clean Water Works



A scenic view of a lake with a stone dam structure in the foreground and a forested shoreline in the background. The dam is made of large, rectangular stone blocks, some of which are partially submerged. A black metal fence runs along the top of the dam. In the background, there are many trees with green and yellow leaves, suggesting autumn. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# Lower Shaker Lake Dam Reconstruction

Today's meeting will  
start shortly.

*Photo credit: Denis Zaharija*



A woman with curly brown hair, wearing a blue polo shirt with "NEORS D" on the sleeve, is leaning over a table to assist an older woman with blonde hair and glasses. The older woman is holding a green pen and looking at a document. They are in a room with other people and tables in the background.

Can you save on your sewer bill?

**Utility Assistance  
Resource Fair**

**August 10, 2024**

**(216)881.8247**  
**[neorsd.org/save](https://neorsd.org/save)**

# Lower Shaker Lake Dam Reconstruction

TODAY'S MEETING WILL BEGIN SHORTLY



**Northeast Ohio  
Regional Sewer District**



# Working for Clean Water



**Northeast Ohio  
Regional Sewer District**

[NEORSD.ORG/CAREERS](https://neorsd.org/careers)





# SAVE THE DATE SHARE THE FUN



The award-winning festival of all things water full of free fun, treats, tours, and more for all ages!

## 9.21.2024

IN CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS OFF I-77

## CLEAN WATER FEST

PRESENTED BY  **NEORS D**





# Lower Shaker Lake Dam Reconstruction

Today's meeting will  
start shortly.

*Photo credit: Denis Zaharija*



# Real people. Here to help.

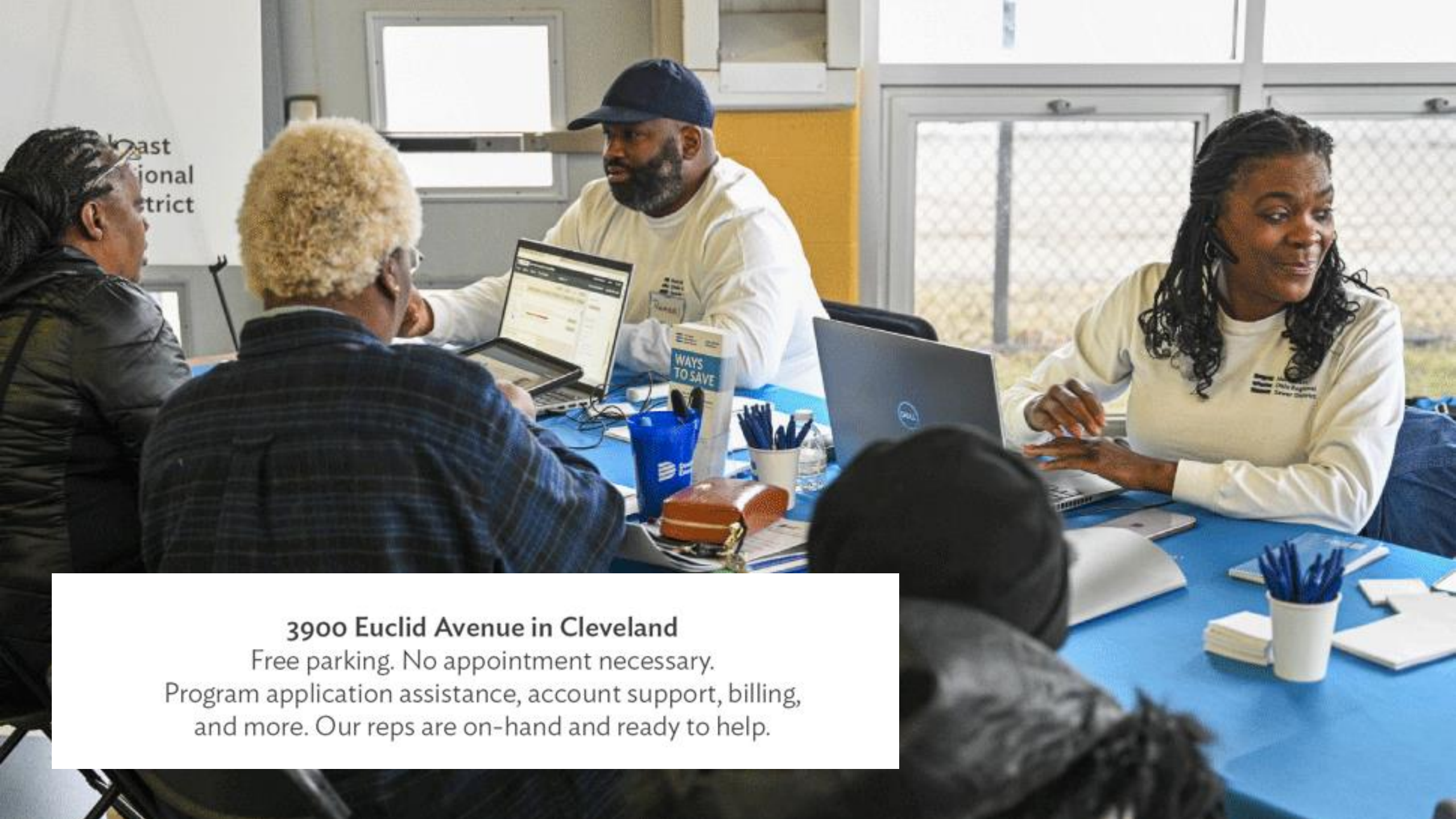


**FIRST SATURDAY**  
OF EVERY MONTH

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**8:00 TO 11:00 A.M.**





**3900 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland**

Free parking. No appointment necessary.  
Program application assistance, account support, billing,  
and more. Our reps are on-hand and ready to help.



A scenic view of a lake with a stone dam in the foreground and a forested shoreline in the background. The dam is constructed from large, rectangular stone blocks and is partially covered with green vegetation. A black metal fence runs along the top of the dam. In the background, there are many trees with green and yellow leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

# Lower Shaker Lake Dam Reconstruction

Today's meeting will  
start shortly.

*Photo credit: Denis Zaharija*



# Lower Shaker Lake Dam Reconstruction

NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT  
MAY 20, 2024



**Northeast Ohio  
Regional Sewer District**

# Glad you're here.

JENN ELTING, SENIOR MANAGER OF COMMUNITY & MEDIA RELATIONS

NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

[ELTINGJ@NEORSD.ORG](mailto:ELTINGJ@NEORSD.ORG)



# Housekeeping

- Tonight's meeting
  - Meet the team
  - Update on the project
  - Recording available at [neorsd.org/LowerLake](https://neorsd.org/LowerLake)





# Housekeeping

- May 21 at Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
  - 2600 South Park Boulevard
  - 11A – 1P and  
5P – 7P
- [neorsd.org/accessibility](https://neorsd.org/accessibility)  
[eltingj@neorsd.org](mailto:eltingj@neorsd.org)



# Public Engagement

- October 2023
  - October 5 Webinar
  - October 7 Open House
- Partner events
  - Take to the Lake, AppleFest, AutumnFest
- Online survey





**Zoom Q&A**  
**askus@neorsd.org**

# Matt Scharver

DIRECTOR OF WATERSHED PROGRAMS  
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

[SCHARVERM@NEORSD.ORG](mailto:SCHARVERM@NEORSD.ORG)



# Tonight's Agenda

- About NEORSD & Project
- Background and Existing Conditions Summary
- Online Survey Results Briefing
- Resources & Park Space
- Pre-Design Update



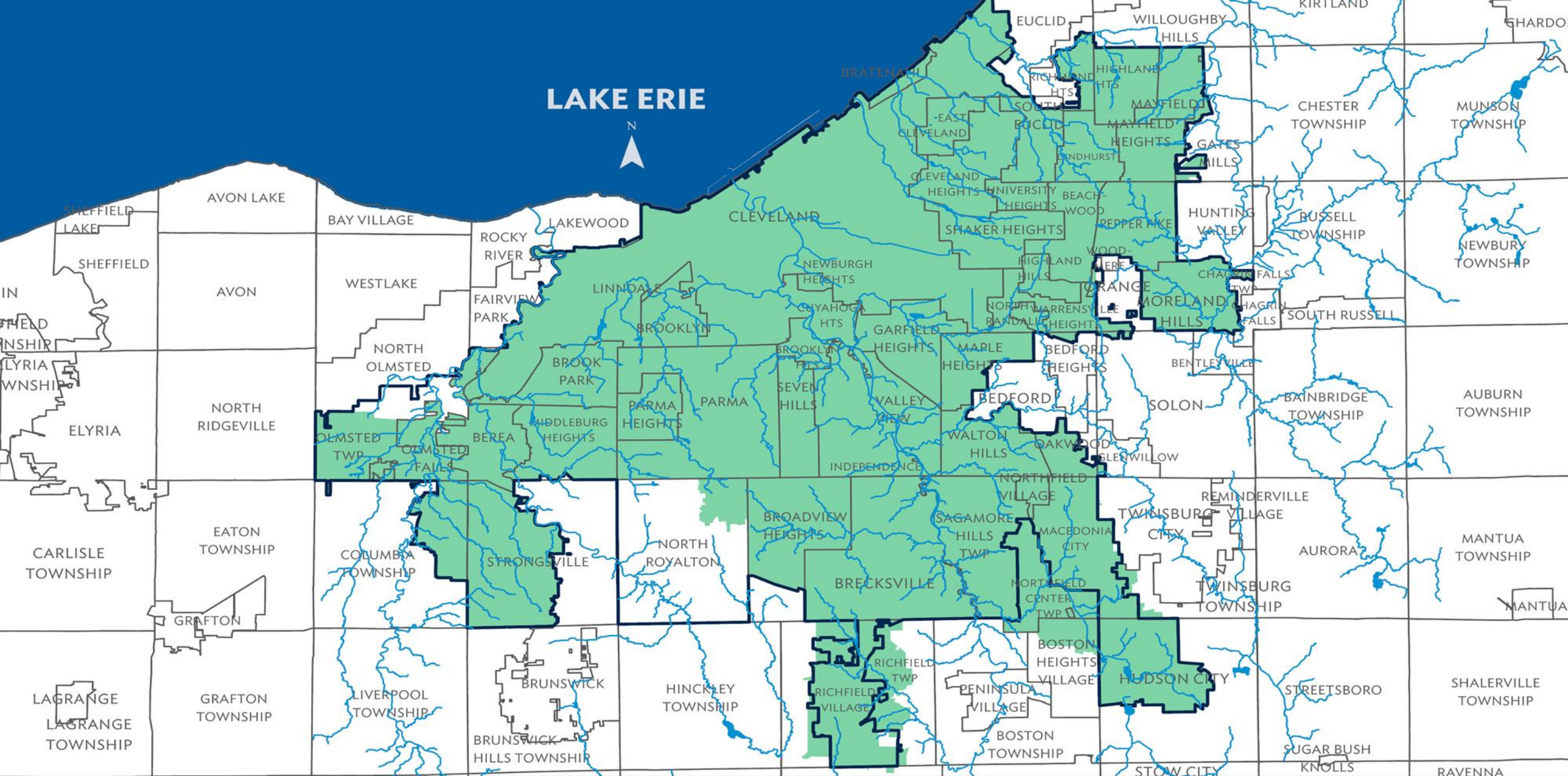
# About NEORS



# NEORSD: At a glance

- **Services:** Sanitary and stormwater management to 63 municipalities, including the City of Cleveland, across 4 counties
- **Governance:** Independent political subdivision of the State of Ohio governed by a 7-member Board of Trustees







**1,000,000 Residents**

# Regional Stormwater Management Program

- Addresses problems related to stormwater runoff from hard surfaces.





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- Runoff contributes to regional stream flooding, streambank erosion, and water quality issues.



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- Addresses problems related to stormwater runoff from hard surfaces.
- Runoff contributes to regional stream flooding, erosion, and water-quality issues.
- Improves our ability to further address stormwater problems that cross community boundaries.





# Roles and Responsibilities

- **Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR):**  
Assess, enforce dam compliance
- **Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights:** Dam owners; responsible to comply with ODNR standards
- **City of Cleveland:** Property owner; long-term lease to Cities of Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights
- **NEORSD:** Regional Stormwater Management Program



# Reasons to Reconstruct Dam

- **Non-compliance with State regulations:**
  - Dam not built to modern engineering standards
  - Class I dam failure would result in probable loss of life and property damage
  - Dam cannot pass Probable Maximum Flood





# Reasons to Reconstruct Dam

- Non-compliance with State regulations
- **NEORSD Chagrin River & Lake Erie Direct Tributaries Stormwater Master Plan findings:**
  - Lower Shaker Lake Dam provides downstream flood control benefit





# Doan Brook Watershed

**Lower Shaker Lake Drainage Area 3,224 ACRES**

**Bratenahl**

**University  
Circle**

**Cleveland**

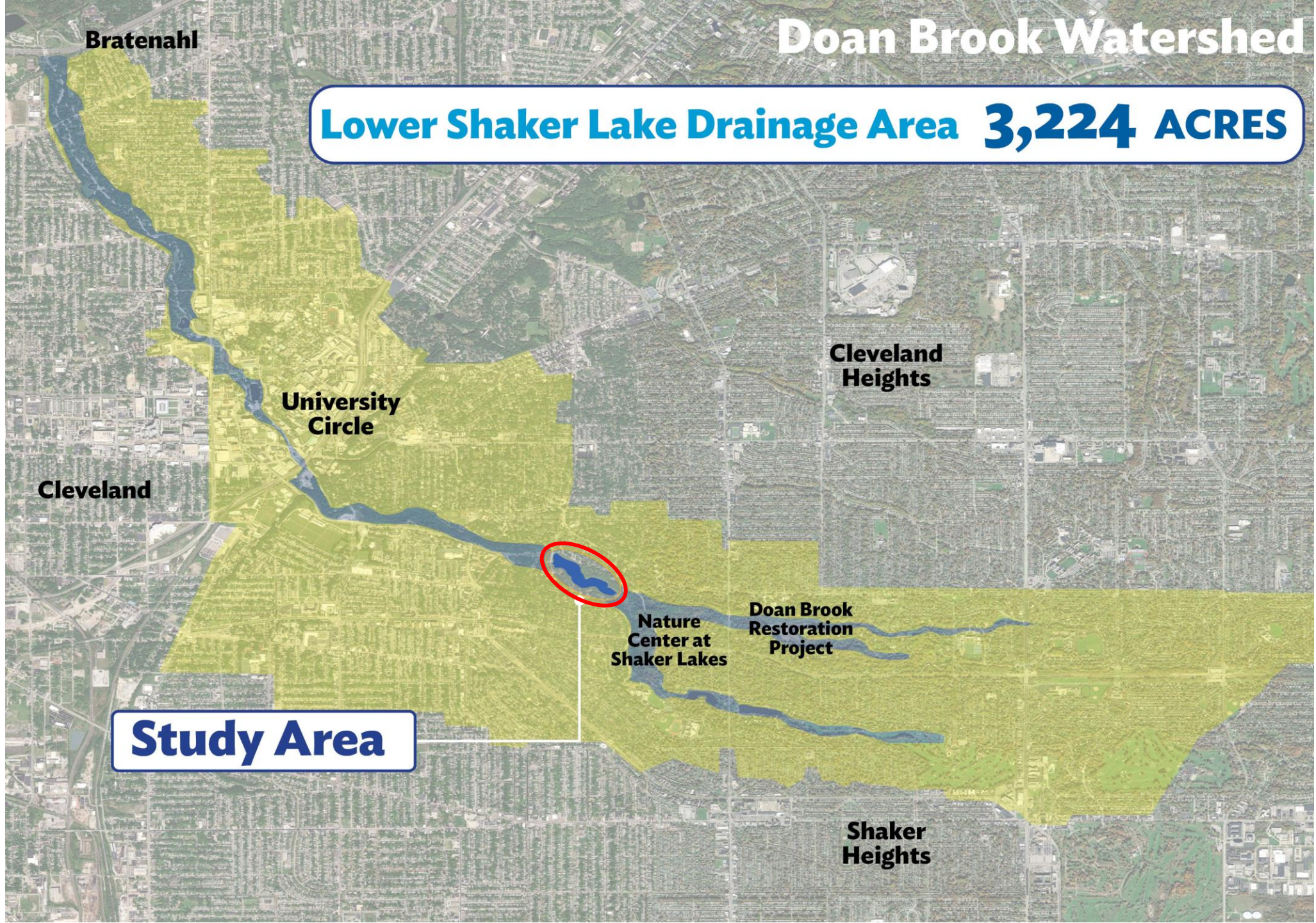
**Cleveland  
Heights**

**Nature  
Center at  
Shaker Lakes**

**Doan Brook  
Restoration  
Project**

**Study Area**

**Shaker  
Heights**





# Project Goals

# Project Goals

- **Address dam safety deficiencies** and bring dam into compliance with State of Ohio regulations.



# Project Goals

- **Reduce flood risk** downstream of the dam and along Coventry Road and North Park Boulevard.





# Project Goals

- **Restore and stabilize Doan Brook** immediately downstream of the dam and Coventry Road.



# Project Goals

- **Integrate dam safety improvements** with consideration to historical and cultural features and park space.

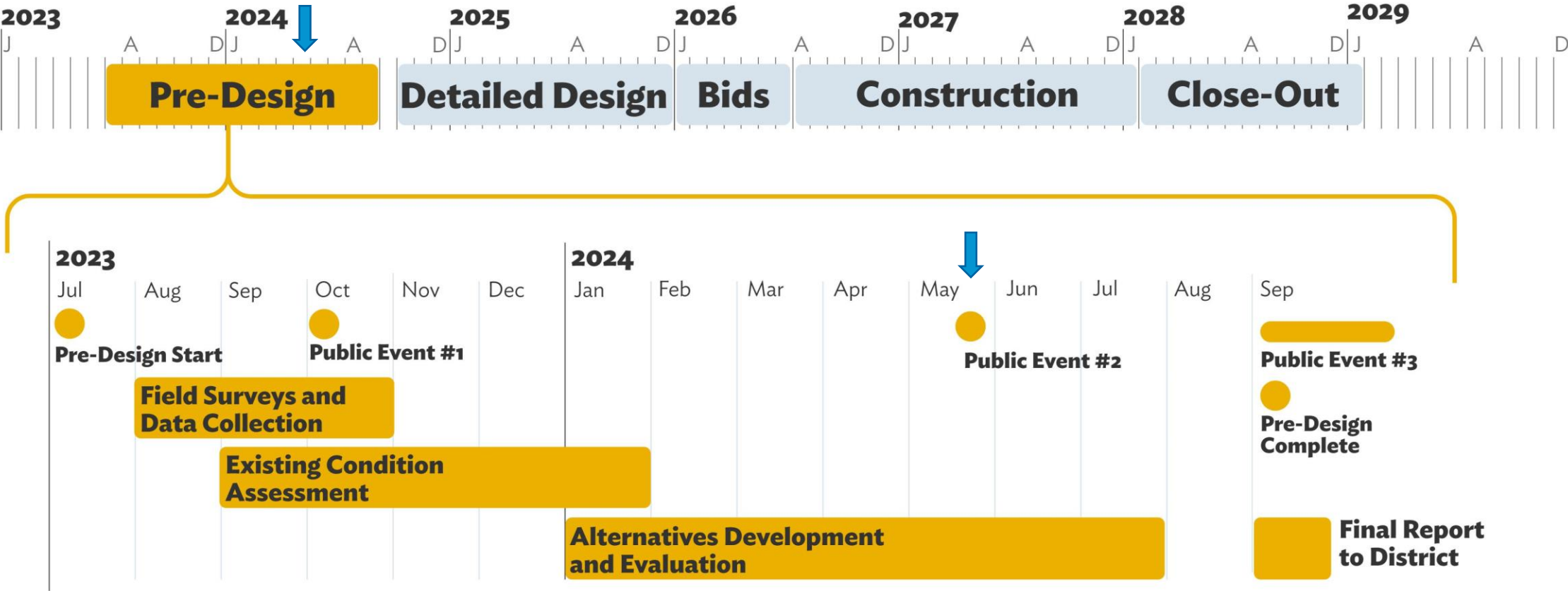


# Schedule



# Pre-Design Phase

## Timeline



# Dam Safety Improvements – Necessary Features

- Overtopping Protection/Armoring
  - Erosion protection of embankment
- Floodwall
  - Containment and directing of flood waters
- Reconstructed Principal Spillway
- Expanded Spillway Capacity
  - Must be able to safely pass the design storm (PMF)



# Background & Existing Conditions Summary

STUDY OF THE EXISTING DAM AND RELATED FEATURES



# Lower Shaker Lake History

- North Union Shaker Community (1822-1889)
- Doan Brook dammed for sawmill, gristmill (1836)
- 187-year-old earthen dam not built to modern standards, noncompliant with state regulations



# Dam Regulation and Classification

- In Ohio, dams are regulated by ODNR's Division of Water Resources - Ohio Dam Safety Program



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# Dam Regulation and Classification

- In Ohio, dams are regulated by ODNR's Division of Water Resources - Ohio Dam Safety Program
- All regulated (non-exempt) dams must meet all ODNR standards
- Classification of regulated dams in Ohio is governed by Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 1501:21



# Dam Classification

Lower Shaker Lake Dam is classified as a Class I (High Hazard Potential) dam

## Ohio's Dam Classification Criteria

| Hazard Potential |             | Height (FT) | Storage (AC FT) | Downstream Hazard Potential                               |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---|
| I                | High        | >60         | >5,000          | Probable Loss of Human Life                               |
| II               | Significant | >40         | >500            | Loss or Damage of High-value Infrastructure of Assets     |
| III              | Low         | >25         | >50             | Damage of Local Roads or Not Otherwise High Valued Assets |
| IV               | Exempt      | <25         | <50             | Dam or Agriculture/Rural Land                             |

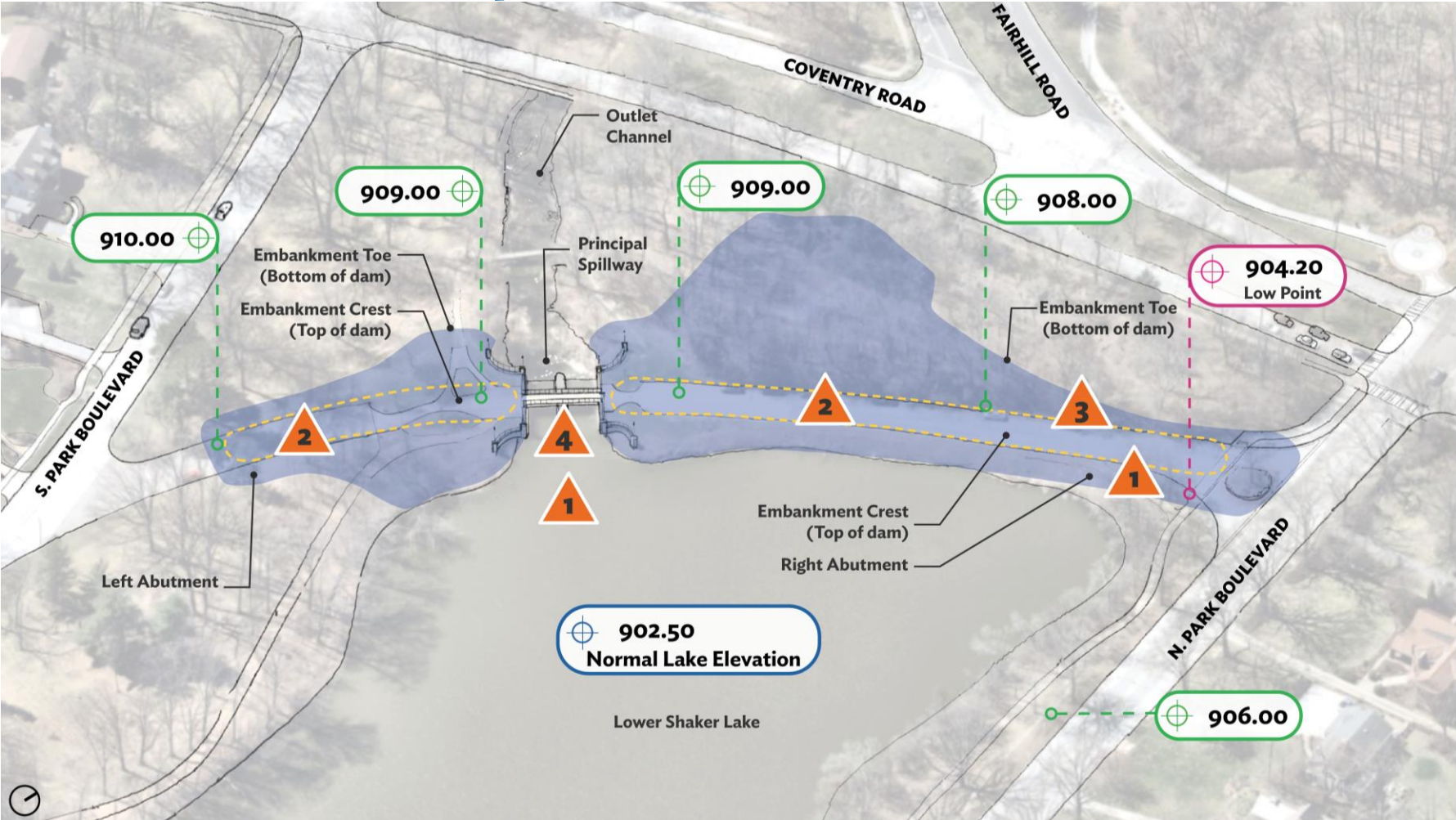
## Lower Shaker Lake Dam Class

| Height (FT) | Storage (AC FT) | D/S Hazard |
|-------------|-----------------|------------|
|             |                 | X          |
|             |                 |            |
|             | 178             |            |
| 17.3        |                 |            |

# Existing Conditions Summary

DAM SAFETY CHALLENGES - OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES – OHIO DAM SAFETY PROGRAM

# Dam Safety Deficiencies



## Dam Safety Deficiencies

- 1** Inadequate Spillway Capacity
- 2** Inadequate Embankment Protection & Uneven Crest Elevation
- 3** Inadequate Embankment Stability/Seepage
- 4** Inadequate Masonry Spillway Stability

 **Embankment Limits**

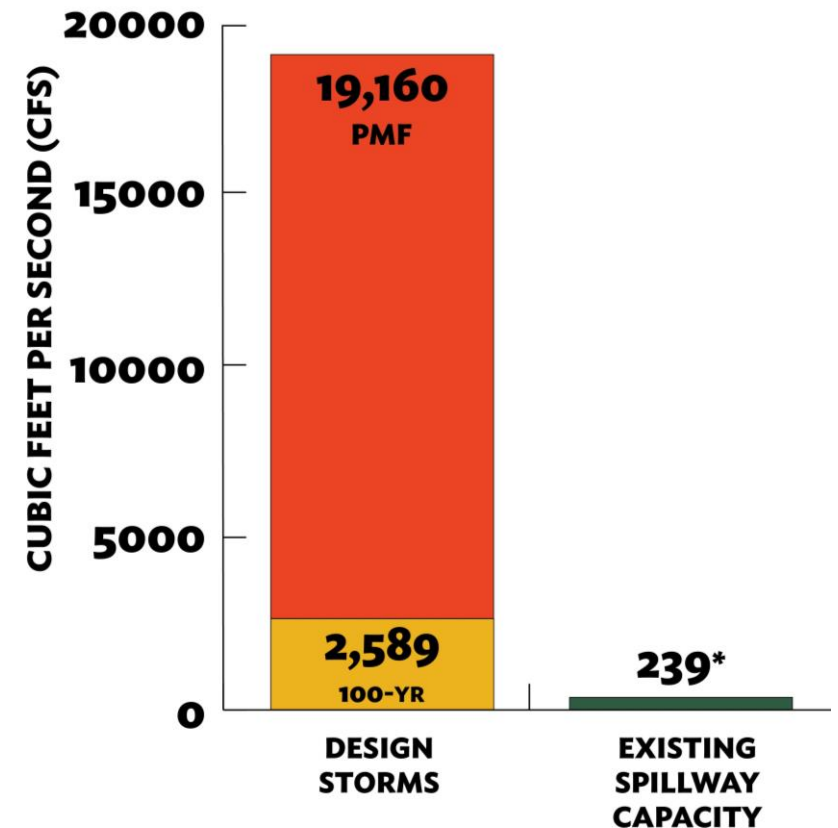


# Dam Safety Deficiencies

## 1 Inadequate Spillway Capacity

- Limited Capacity of Existing Spillway

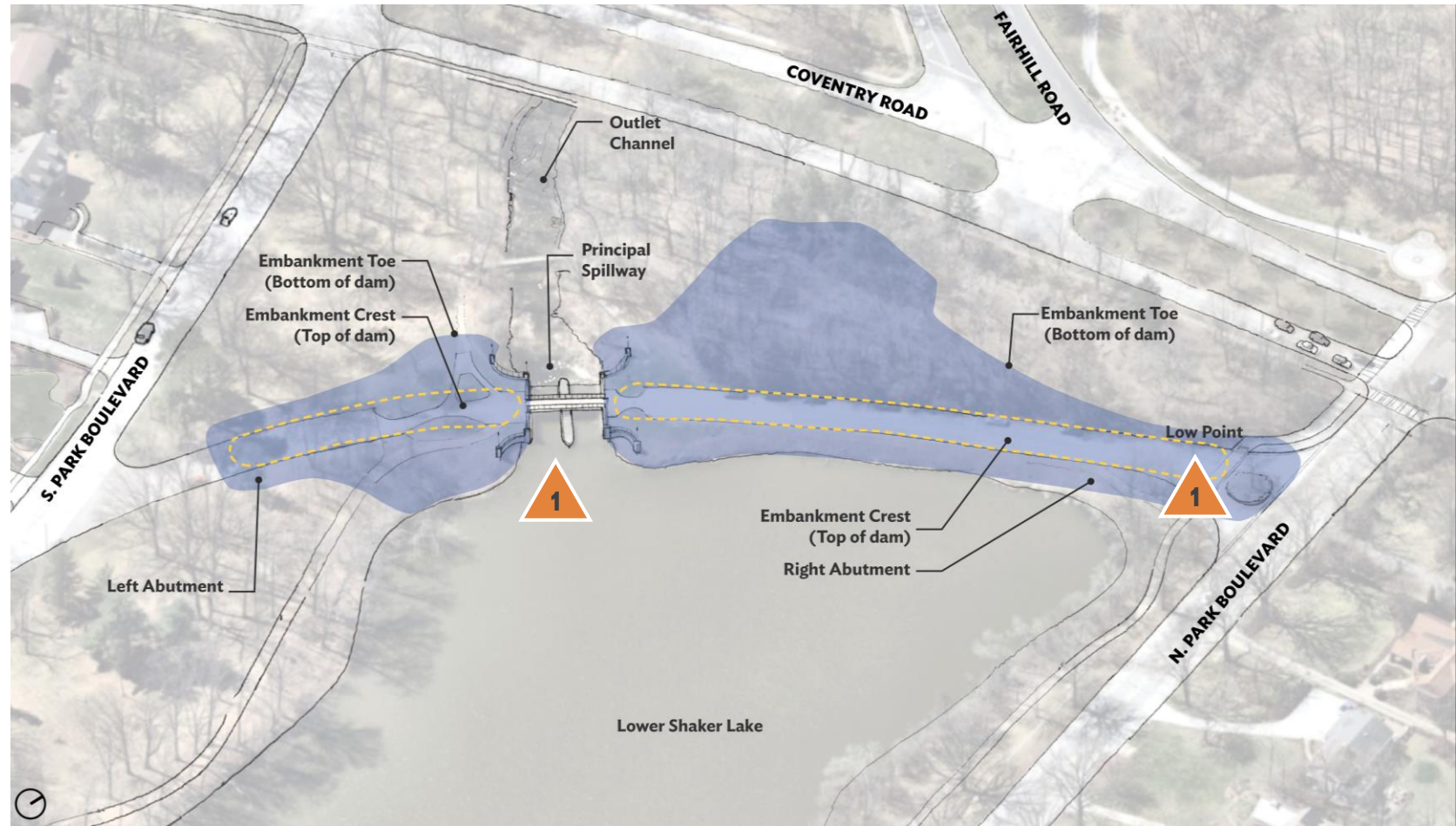
*Maximum Inflow Compared to Spillway Capacity (prior to overtopping)*



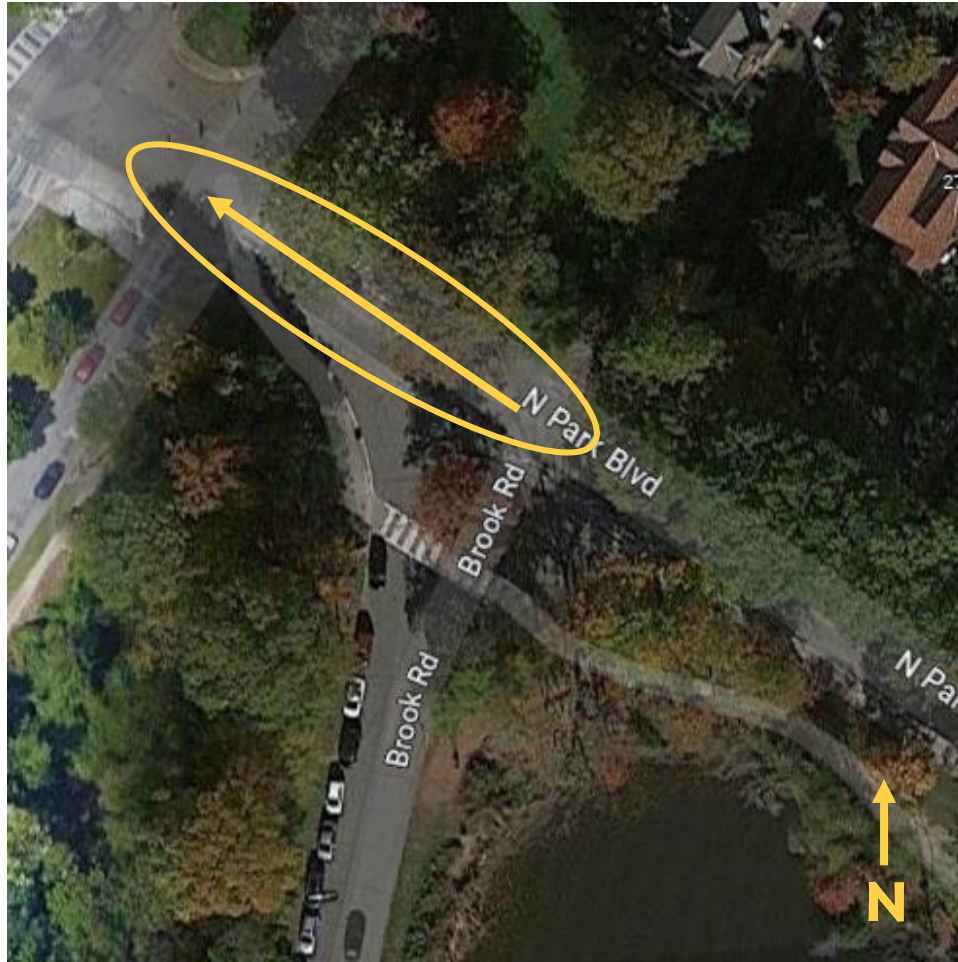
# Dam Safety Deficiencies

## 1 Inadequate Spillway Capacity

- Limited Capacity of Existing Spillway
- “Low Spot” near Right Abutment



# North Park Overtops July 17, 2021

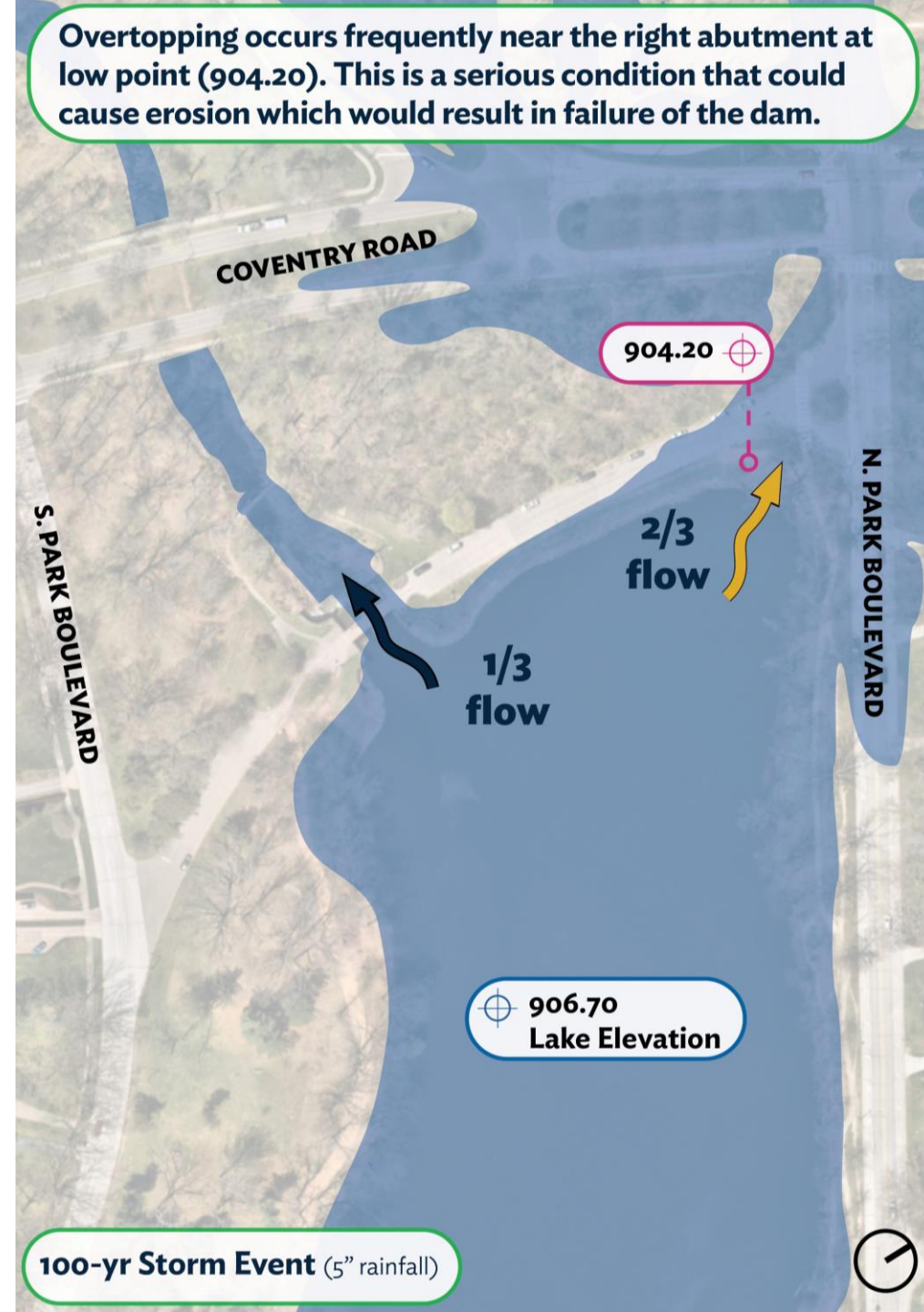




# Challenge of Overtopping

For the 100-yr Storm Event:

- $\frac{2}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> of flow passes over the right abutment (low spot)
- $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> passes through existing principal spillway

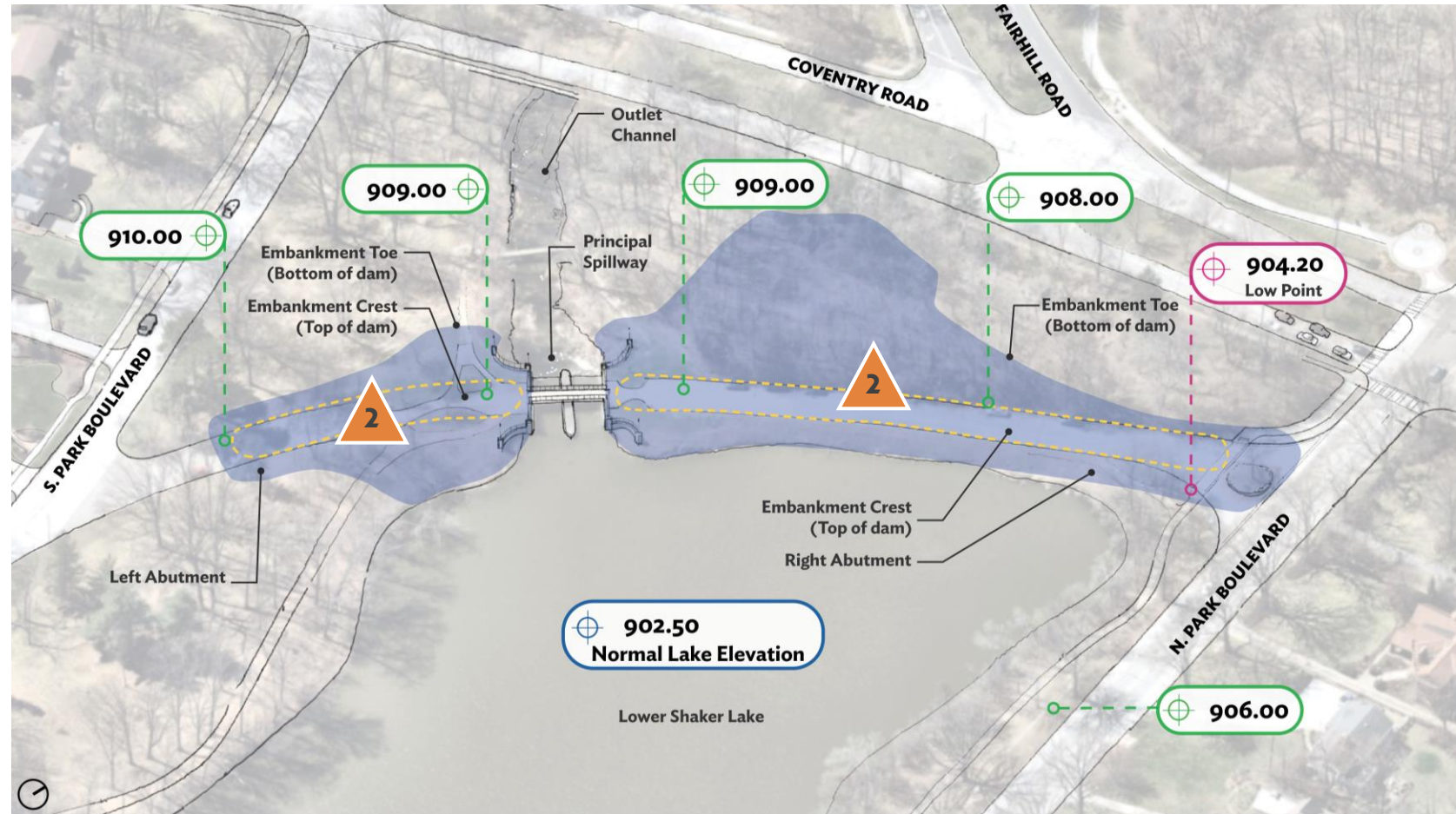




# Challenge of Overtopping

## 2 Inadequate/No Embankment Overtopping Protection

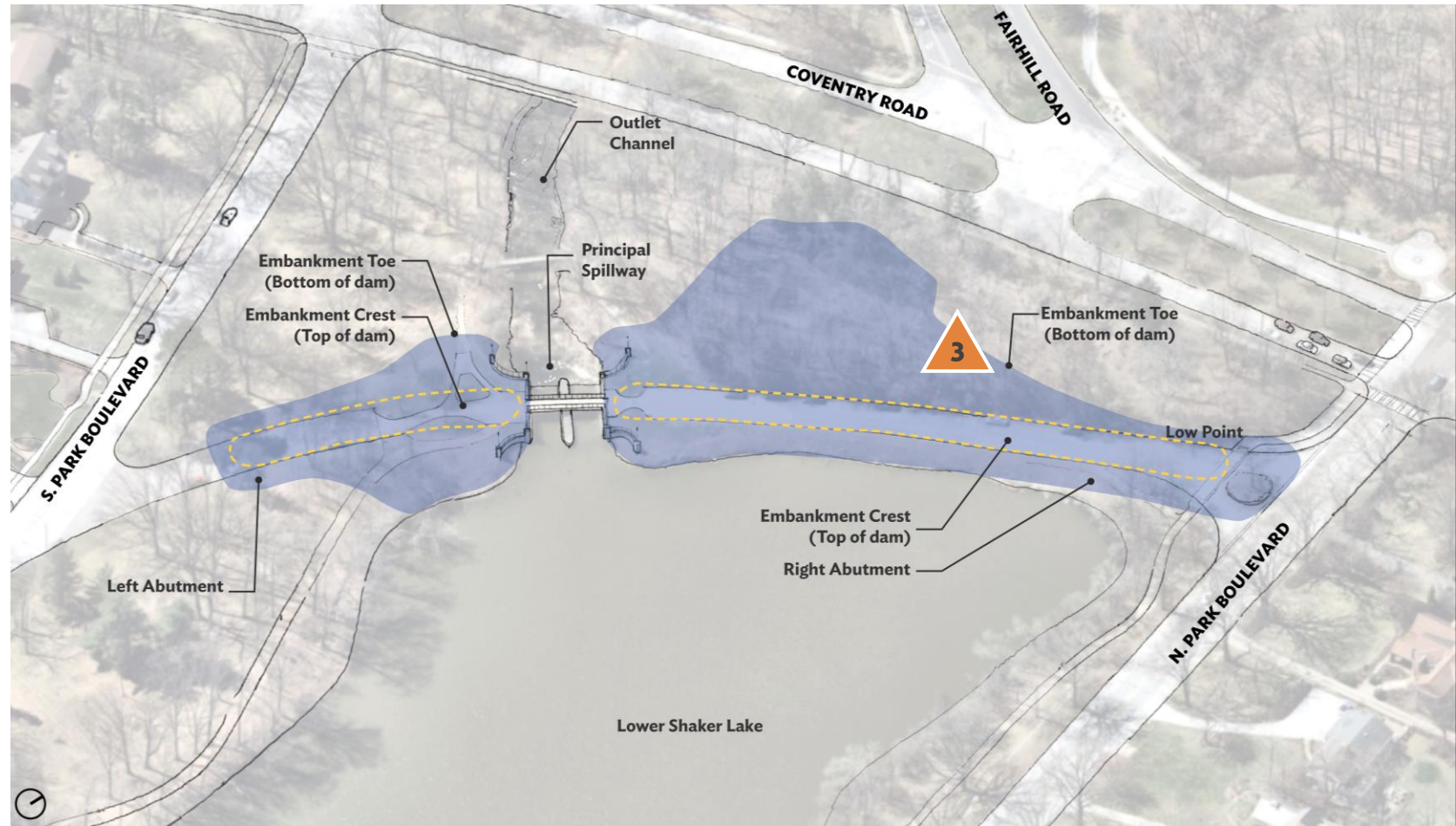
- Not Armored to Resist Erosion
- Irregular Crest Elevation



# Dam Safety Deficiencies

## 3 Inadequate Embankment Stability

- Slope Stability
- Seepage
- Variable Embankment Fill

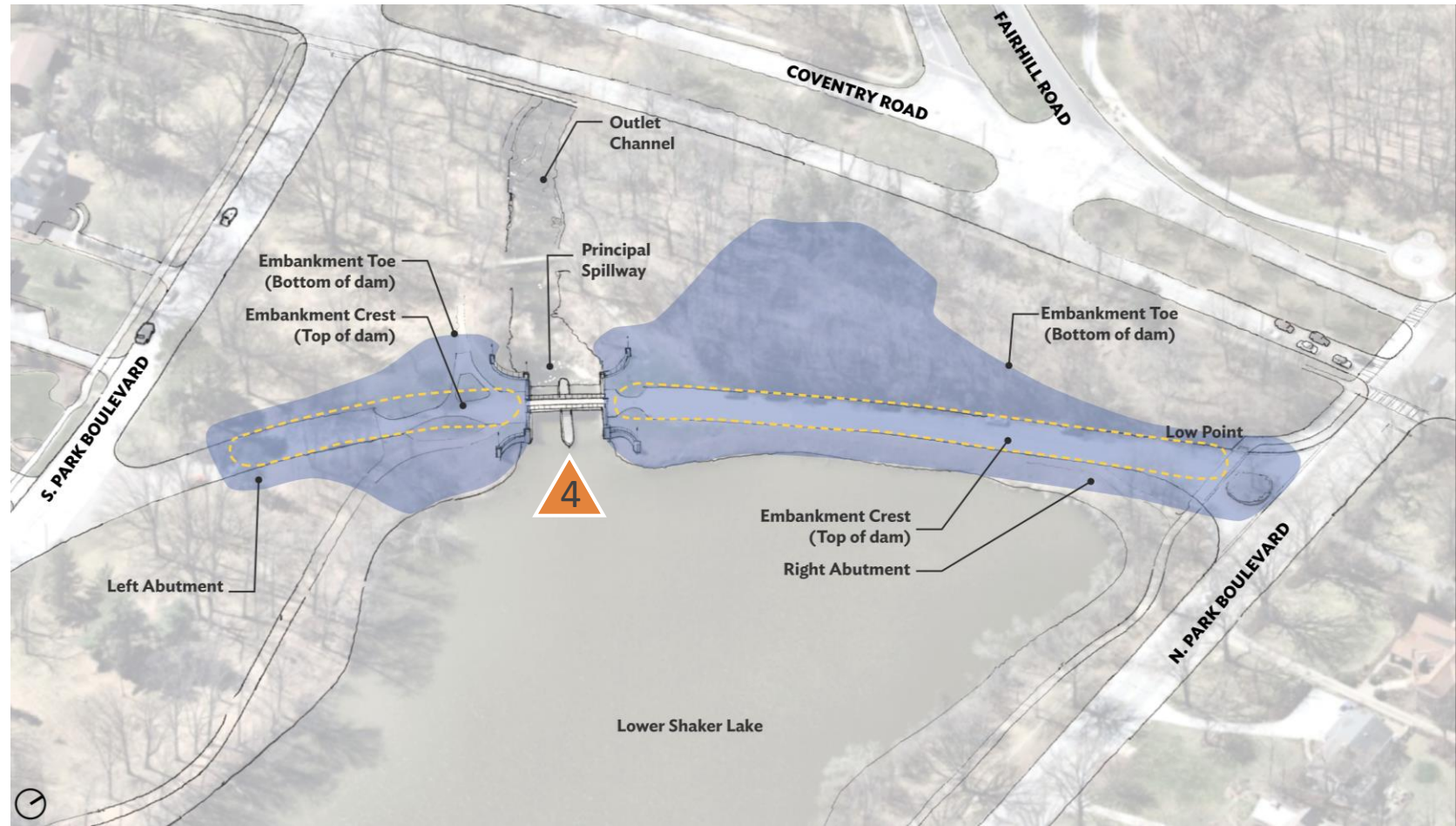




# Dam Safety Deficiencies

## 4 Inadequate Existing Spillway Stability

- Sliding and Overturning
- Undermining at Outlet Channel
- No Internal Seepage Controls



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## 4 Inadequate Existing Spillway Stability

- Sliding and Overturning
- Undermining at Outlet Channel
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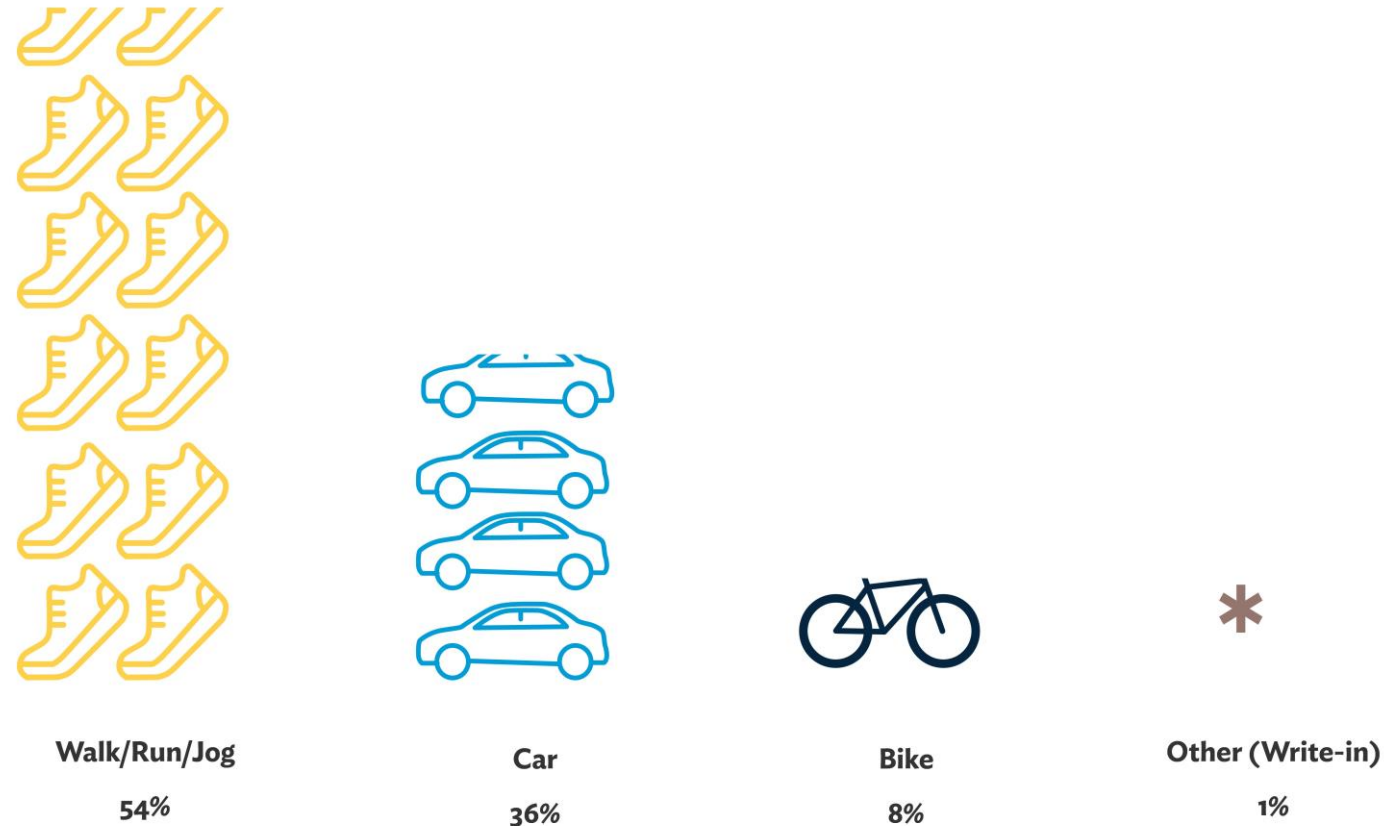


# Survey Results Summary

OCTOBER ON-SITE EVENT

FEBRUARY-MARCH ON-LINE SURVEY

# How Visitors Get to Lower Shaker Lake



"Public Transit" and "Wheels (skates, blades, boards, scooters)" received 1 and 2 responses, respectively. Write-in responses indicated travel depended on season, or was a combination of 1 or more modes.

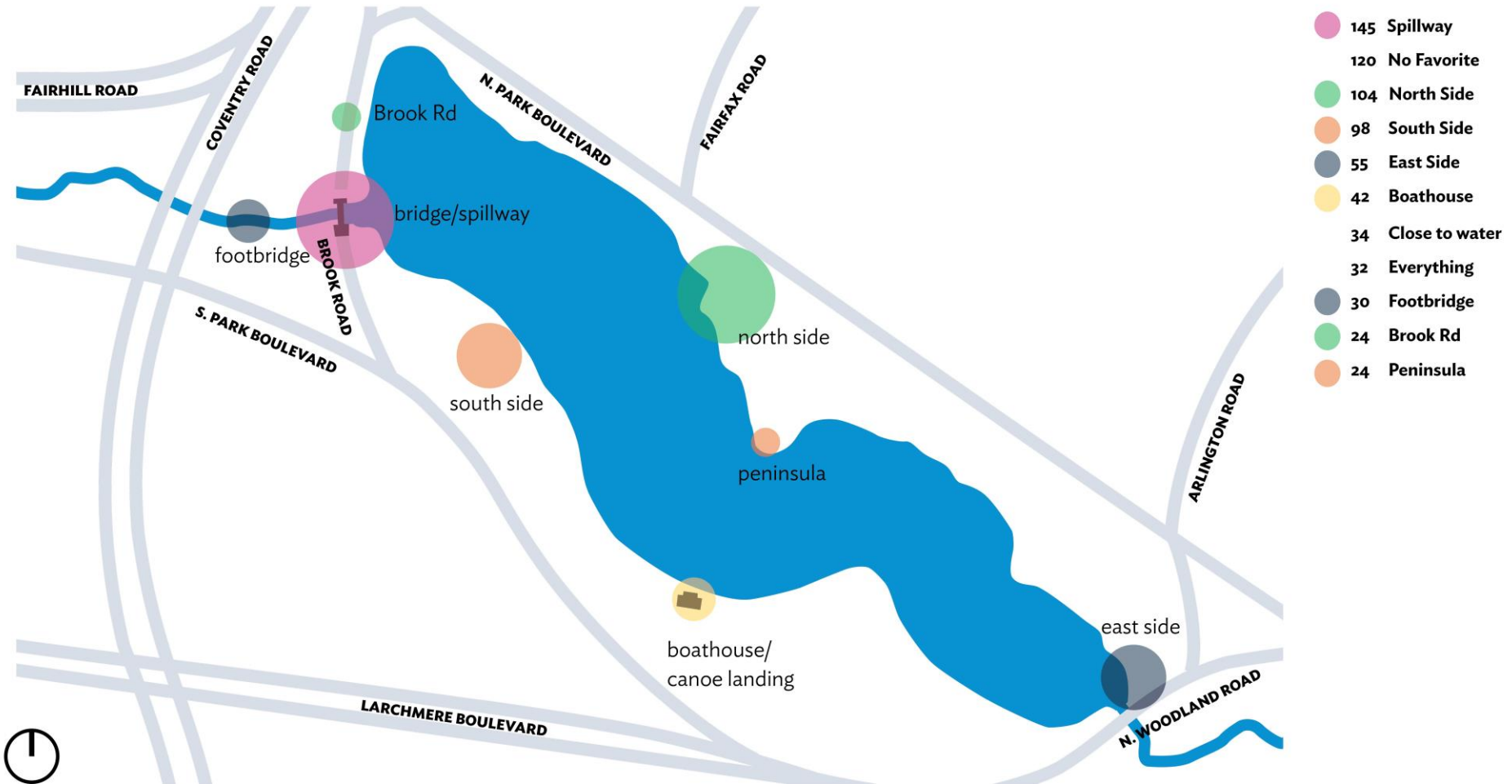


# Visitors' Favorite Thing to Do

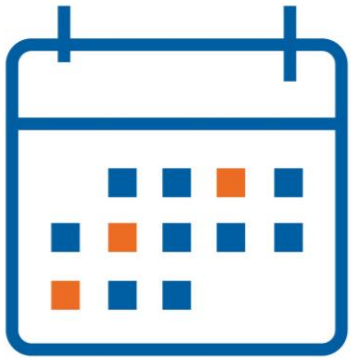




# Visitor's Favorite Spot



# Visitor Data



A majority of surveyed respondents visit weekly



91% of visitors listed walking as an activity engaged in at Lower Shaker Lake

78%

Of surveyed respondents live in immediately adjacent neighborhoods



**Northeast Ohio  
Regional Sewer District**

# Landscape Features



# Landscape Features

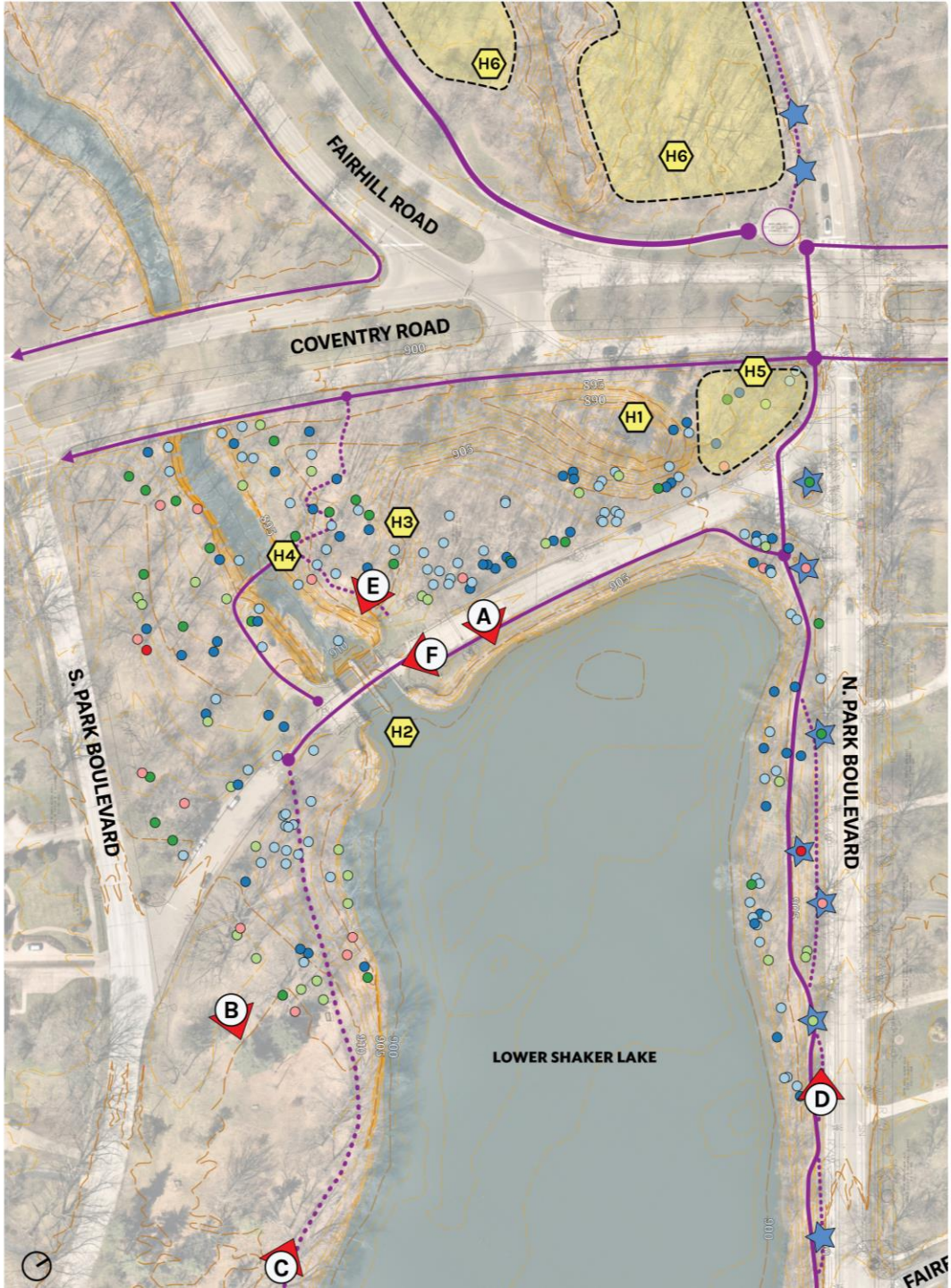
**KEY**

- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS - PAVED
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS - UNPAVED
- CONTOUR - INDEX
- CONTOUR - INTEGER
- NORMAL LAKE LEVEL
- LIBERTY OAK

**SURVEYED TREES (BY DBH CLASS)**

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 8 - 12 IN    | 24.5 - 30 IN |
| 12.5 - 18 IN | 30.5 - 36 IN |
| 18.5 - 24 IN | 36.5 - 42 IN |

|    |                            |
|----|----------------------------|
| H1 | SAWMILL / GARDEN CLUB SITE |
| H2 | SPILLWAY                   |
| H3 | ICEHOUSE                   |
| H4 | FOOTBRIDGE                 |
| H5 | SHAKER MEMORIAL GARDEN     |
| H6 | MILL FAMILY SETTLEMENT     |







**Steven Riedy, PE**  
Project Manager  
Dam Safety & Geotechnical  
HDR



# **Meet the Team**

# Design Team

## HDR

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**Steven Riedy, PE**  
Project Manager  
Dam Safety & Geotechnical



**Jared Deible, PE**  
Dam Safety &  
Geotechnical/Civil

## SmithGroup

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**Chad Brintnall,  
PLA, ALSA**  
Landscape Architecture



**Michelle Johnson**  
Stakeholder & Public  
Communications

## Lawhon & Associates

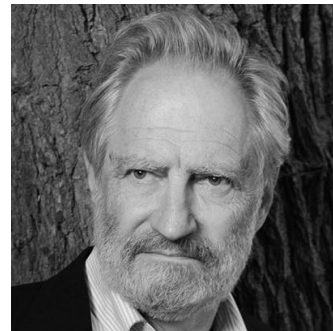
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**Andy Sewell**  
Cultural/Historical

## Bluestone

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**Roy Larick, Ph.D.**  
Cultural/Historical



**Anna Enderle,  
PLA, ALSA**  
Landscape Architecture



# Design Team - Roles



**Prime  
Consultant**



Structural Lead,  
Geotech Peer Review

**SMITHGROUP**

Landscape Architecture,  
Stakeholder & Community  
Engagement



Cultural & Historical  
Stakeholder Engagement



Geotechnical  
Exploration  
& Laboratory Testing

**AECOM**

Dredging & Sediment  
Management



Permitting Guidance, Geomorphology  
& Streambank Stabilization, Tree  
Survey



Topographic Survey,  
Sediment Sampling



Project Controls

# Pre-Design Update

CONSIDERED ALTERNATIVES ARE UNDER DEVELOPMENT

PRESENTED CONCEPTS ARE DRAFT

# Dam Safety Improvements – Necessary Features

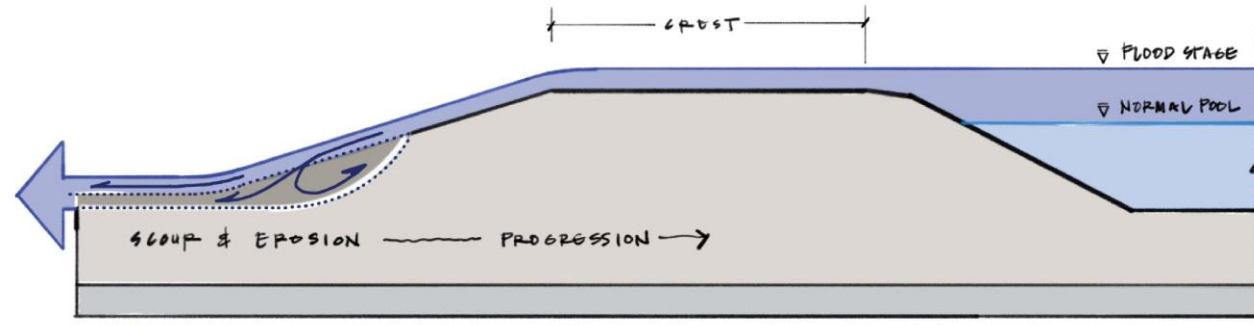
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  - Erosion protection of embankment
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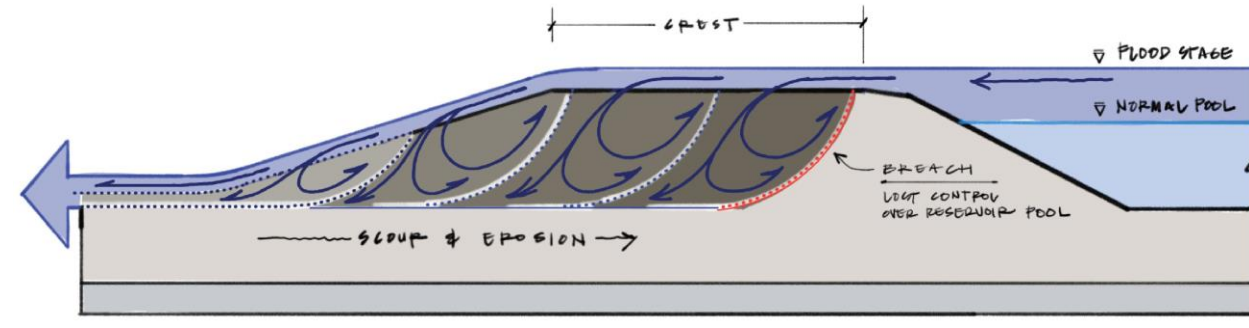
# Overtopping Protection/Armoring

## Problem

Unarmored Earthen Embankment - Initial Stage



Unarmored Earthen Embankment - Breach Stage

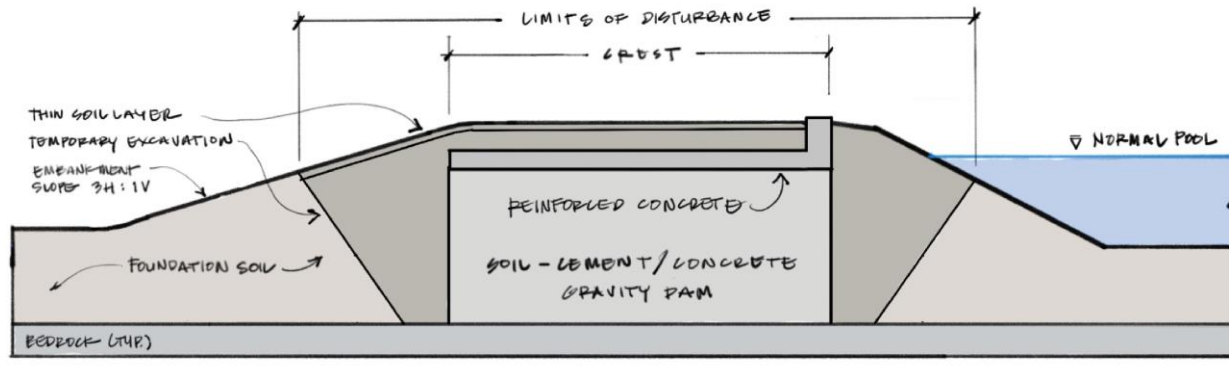




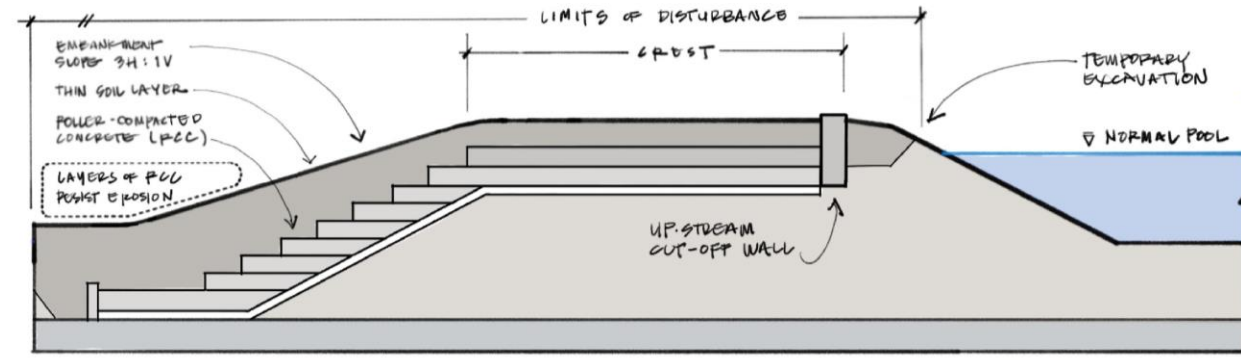
# Overtopping Protection/Armoring

## Typical Solutions

Gravity Dam

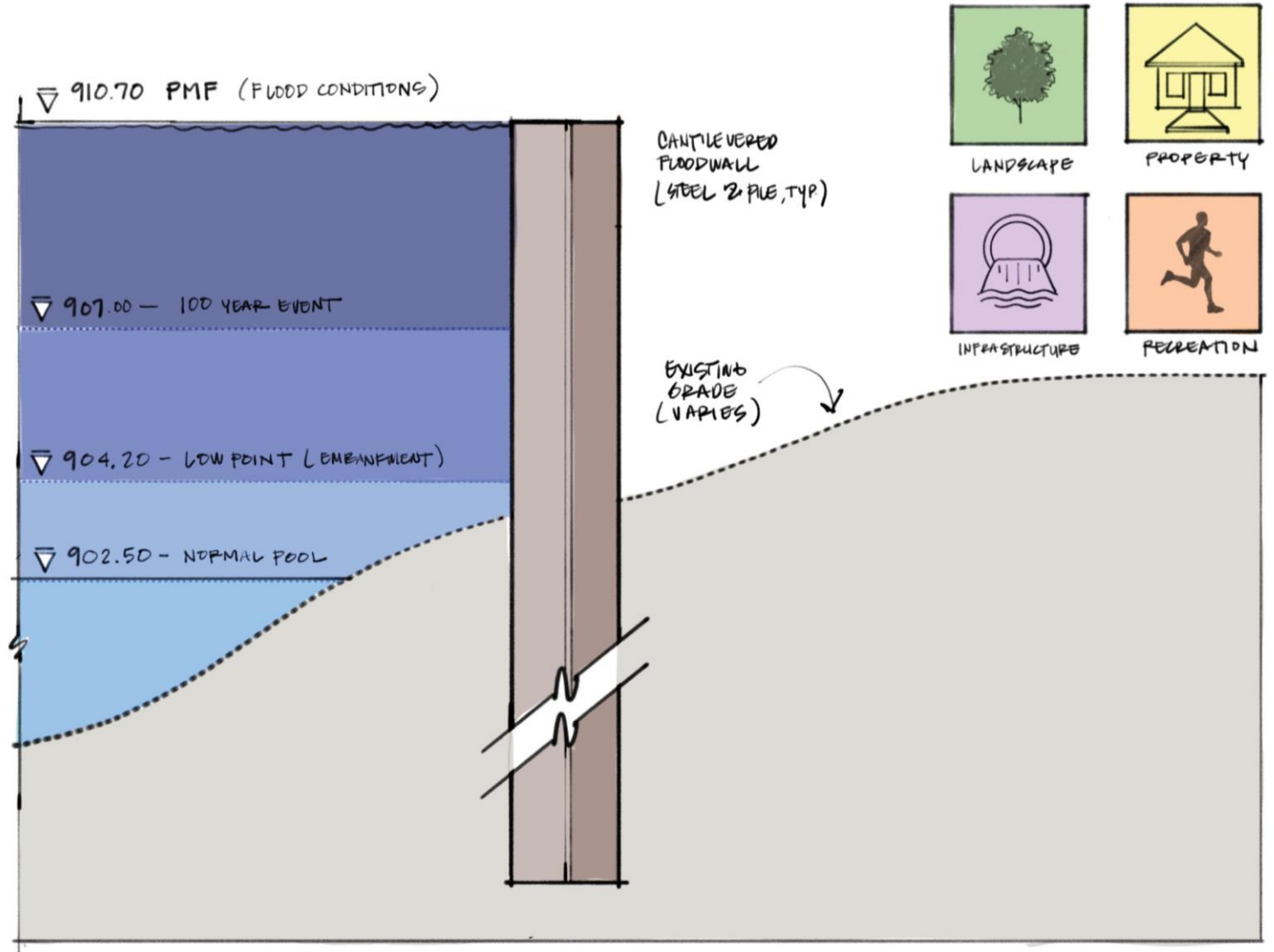


Roller-Compacted Concrete



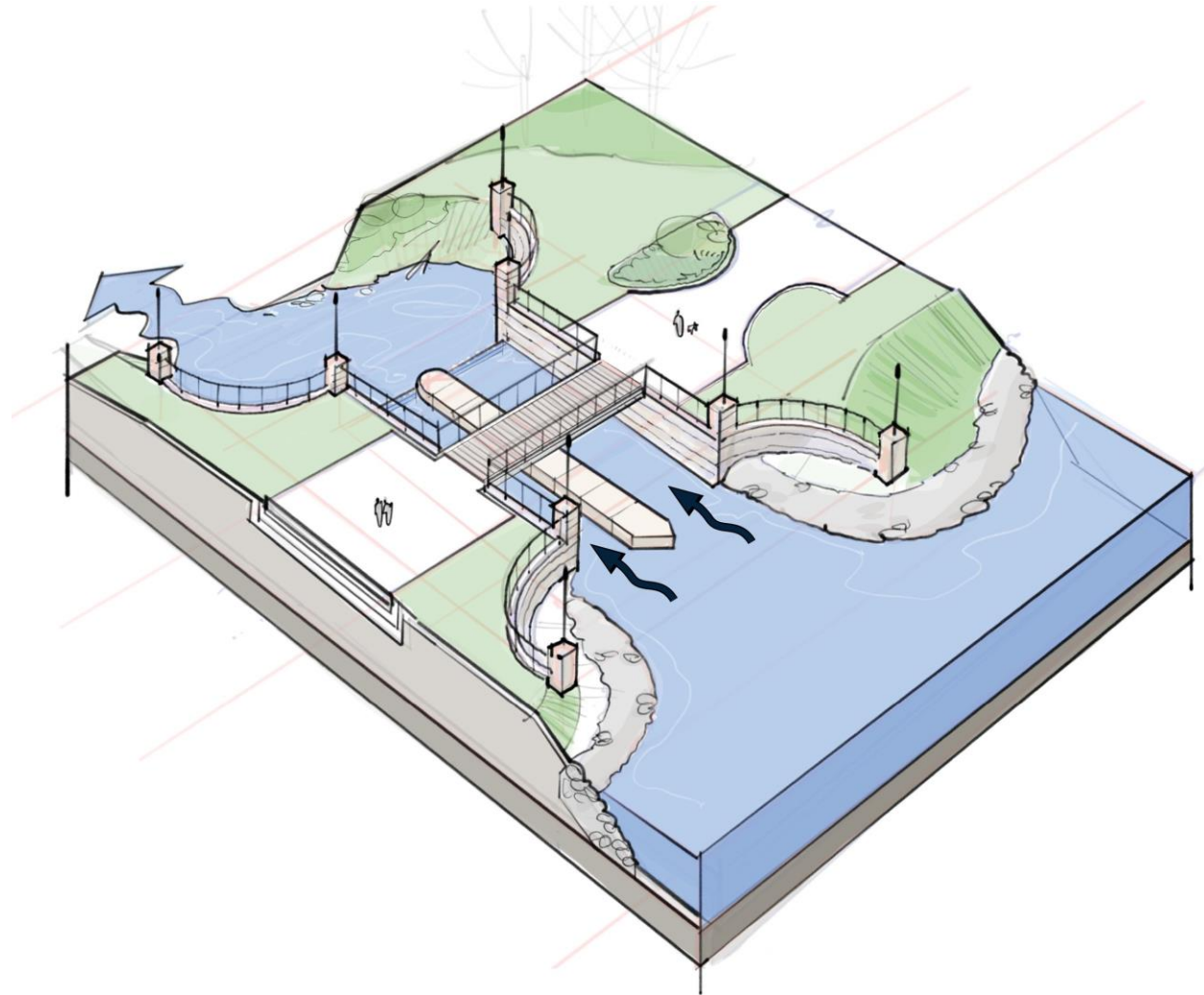
# Floodwall

- Containment of flood waters



# Reconstructed Principal Spillway

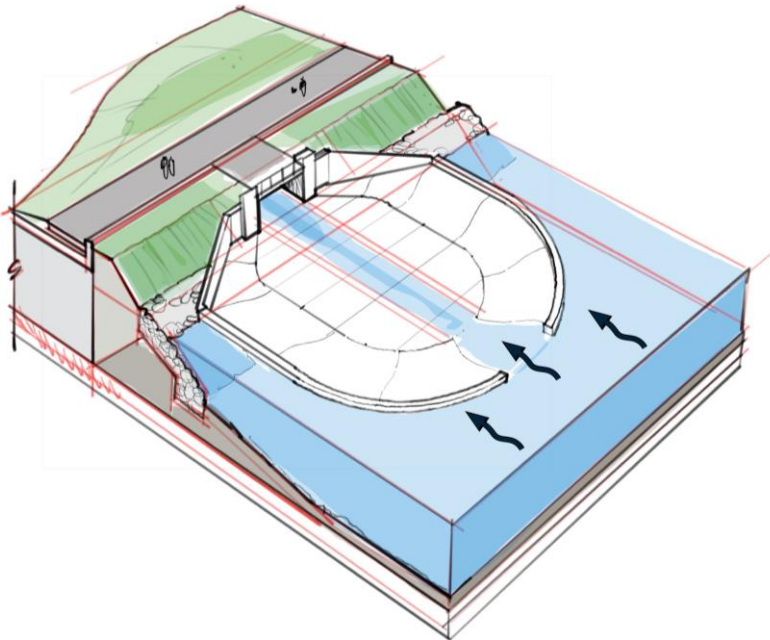
- Conveys most of the low-level flows
- Reconstructed to provide required stability



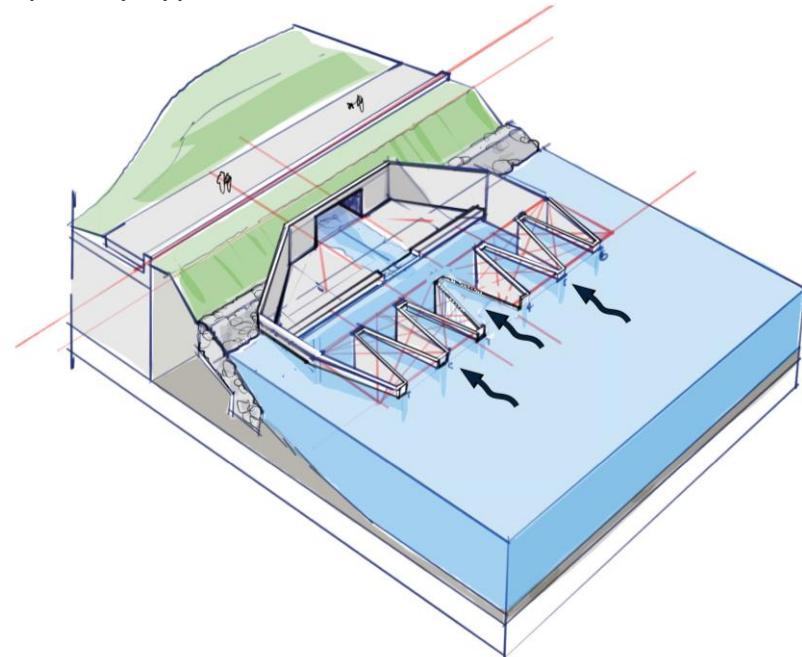
# Auxiliary Spillway

- Used to increase hydraulic capacity
  - Typically used with Principal Spillway

Spillway Type 1



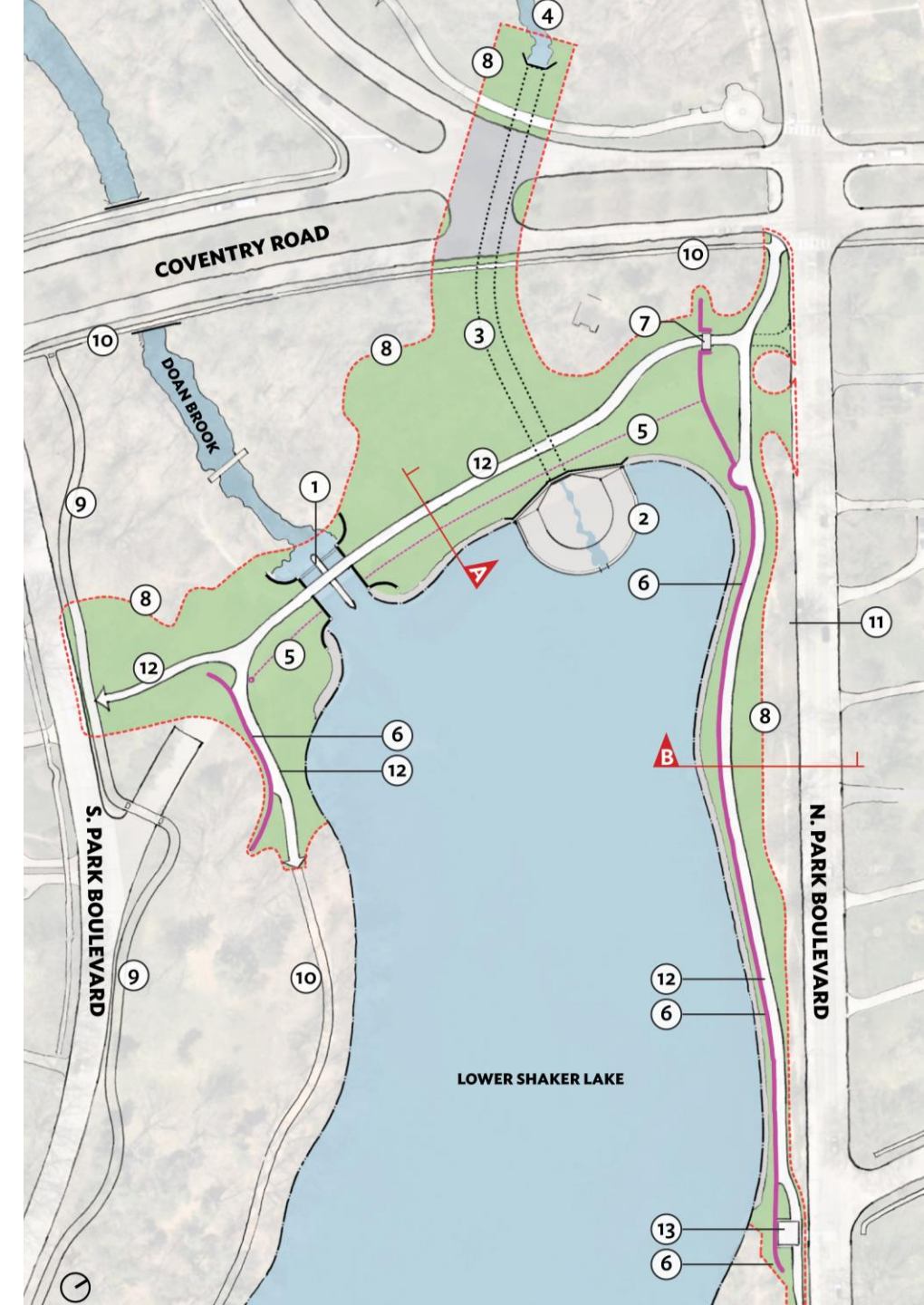
Spillway Type 2





# Concept – Site Framework

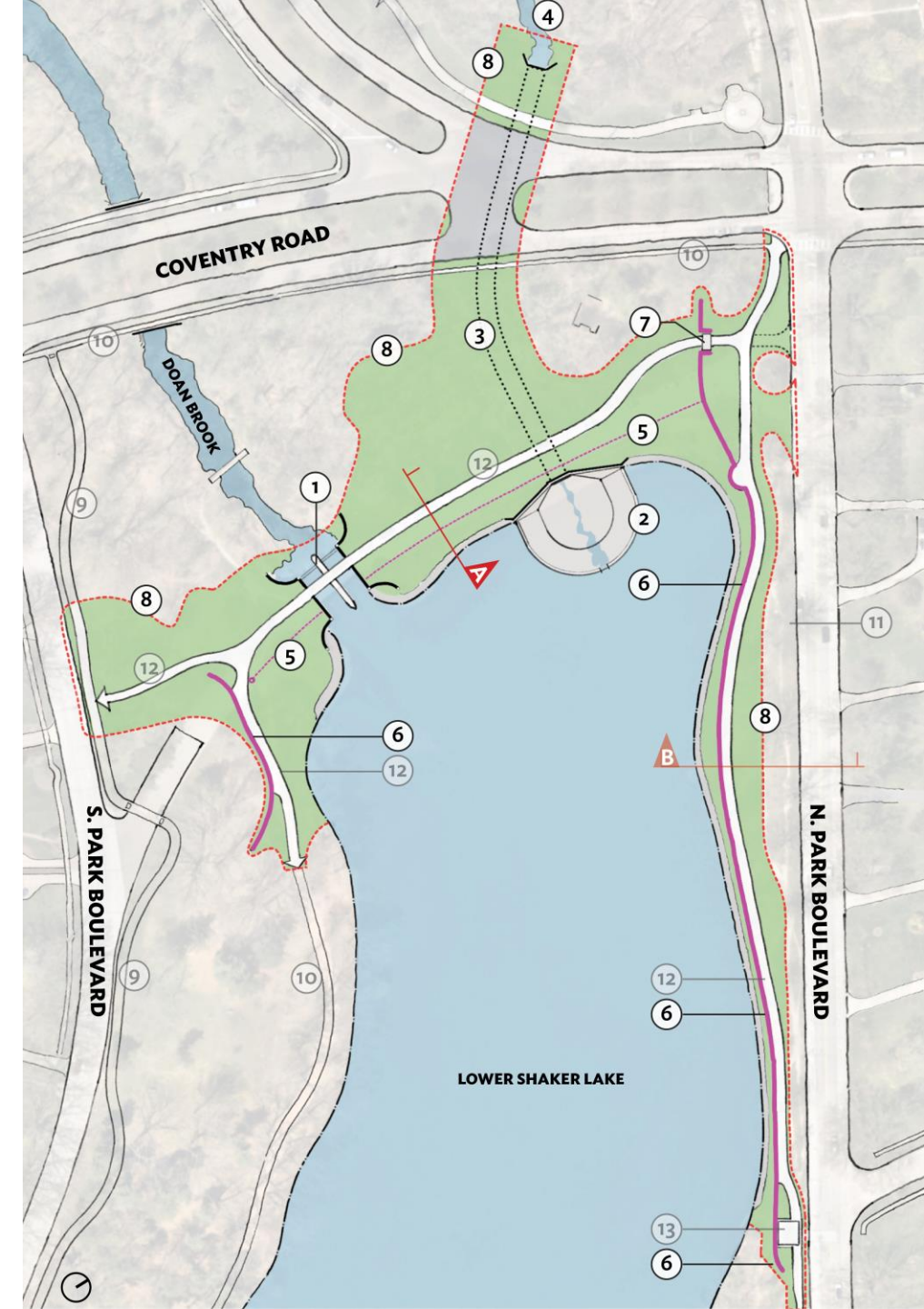
- |   |   |   |                                   |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| ① | RECONSTRUCTED EXISTING PRINCIPAL SPILLWAY | ⑧ | APPROXIMATE PROJECT LIMITS        |
| ② | AUXILIARY SPILLWAY                        | ⑨ | SHAKER HEIGHTS MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL |
| ③ | AUXILIARY SPILLWAY CHUTE                  | ⑩ | EXISTING WALK / PATHWAY           |
| ④ | OUTFALL                                   | ⑪ | EXISTING LIBERTY OAK              |
| ⑤ | GRAVITY DAM (OVERTOPPING PROTECTION)      | ⑫ | PATHWAY CONNECTION                |
| ⑥ | FLOODWALL                                 | ⑬ | TRAIL NODE                        |
| ⑦ | MAINTENANCE & PEDESTRIAN ACCESS           |   |                                   |



# Concept – Site Framework

- ① RECONSTRUCTED EXISTING PRINCIPAL SPILLWAY
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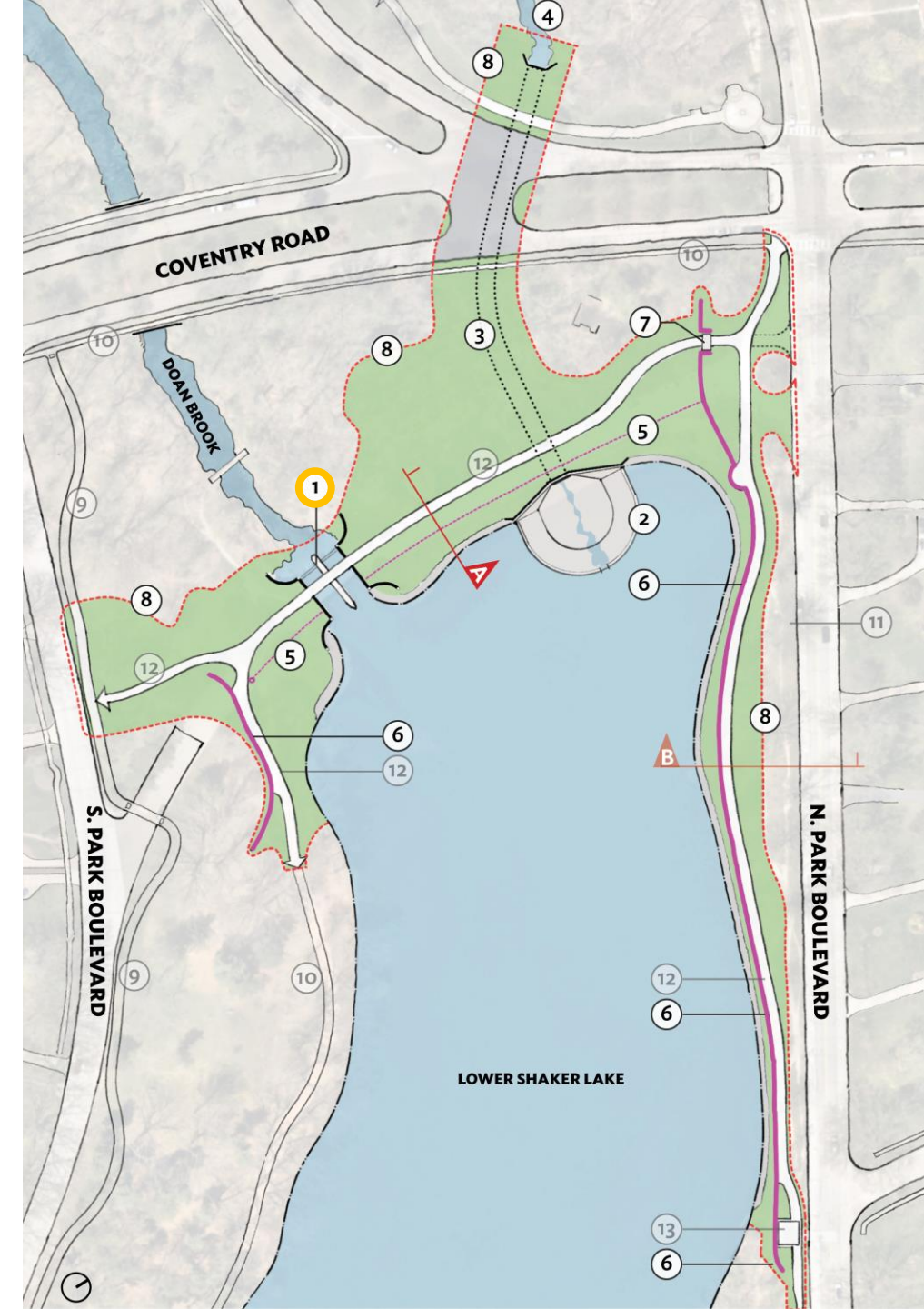




# Concept – Site Framework

- 1** RECONSTRUCTED EXISTING PRINCIPAL SPILLWAY
- 2** AUXILIARY SPILLWAY
- 3** AUXILIARY SPILLWAY CHUTE
- 4** OUTFALL
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- 6** FLOODWALL
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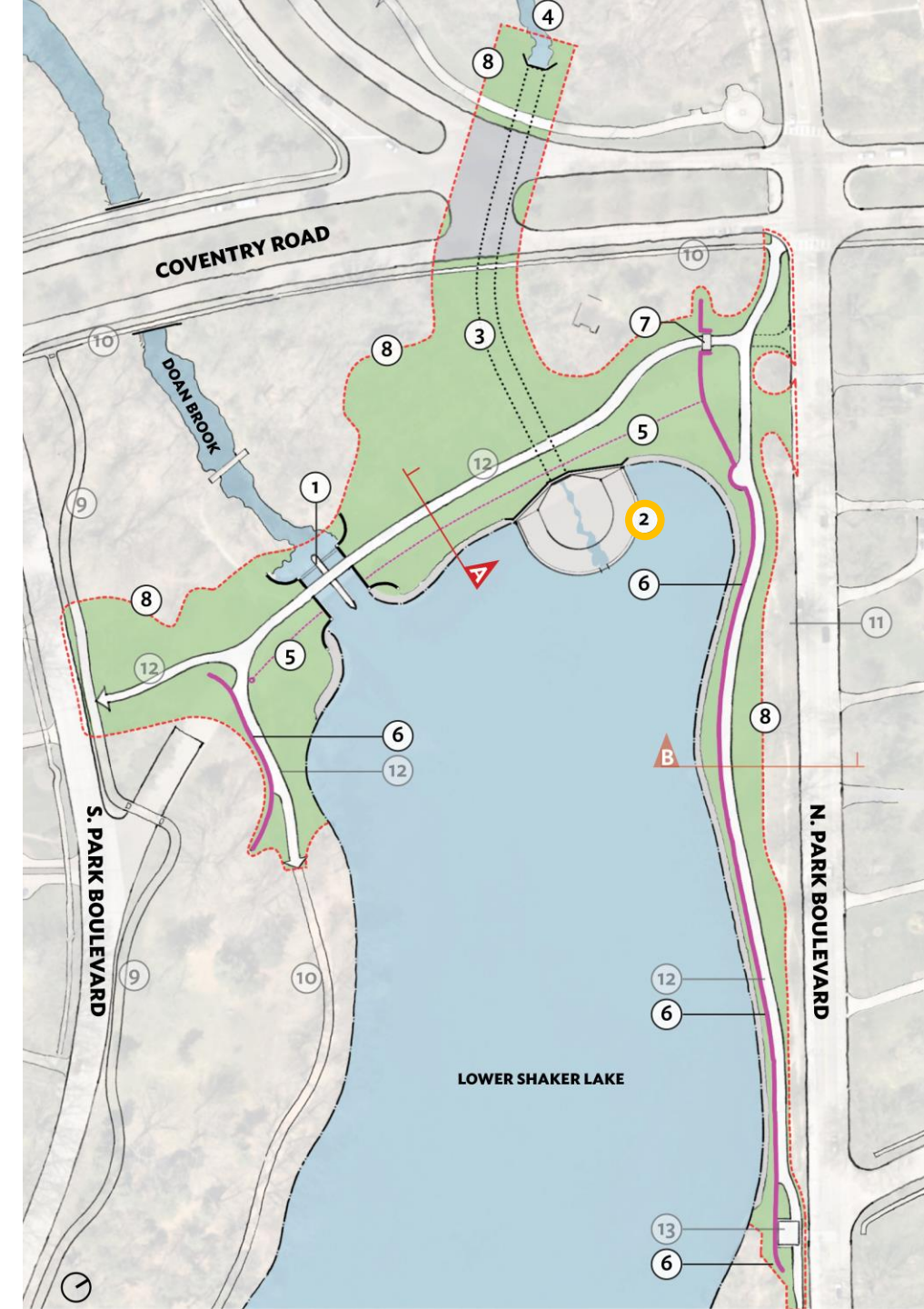
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- 13** TRAIL NODE



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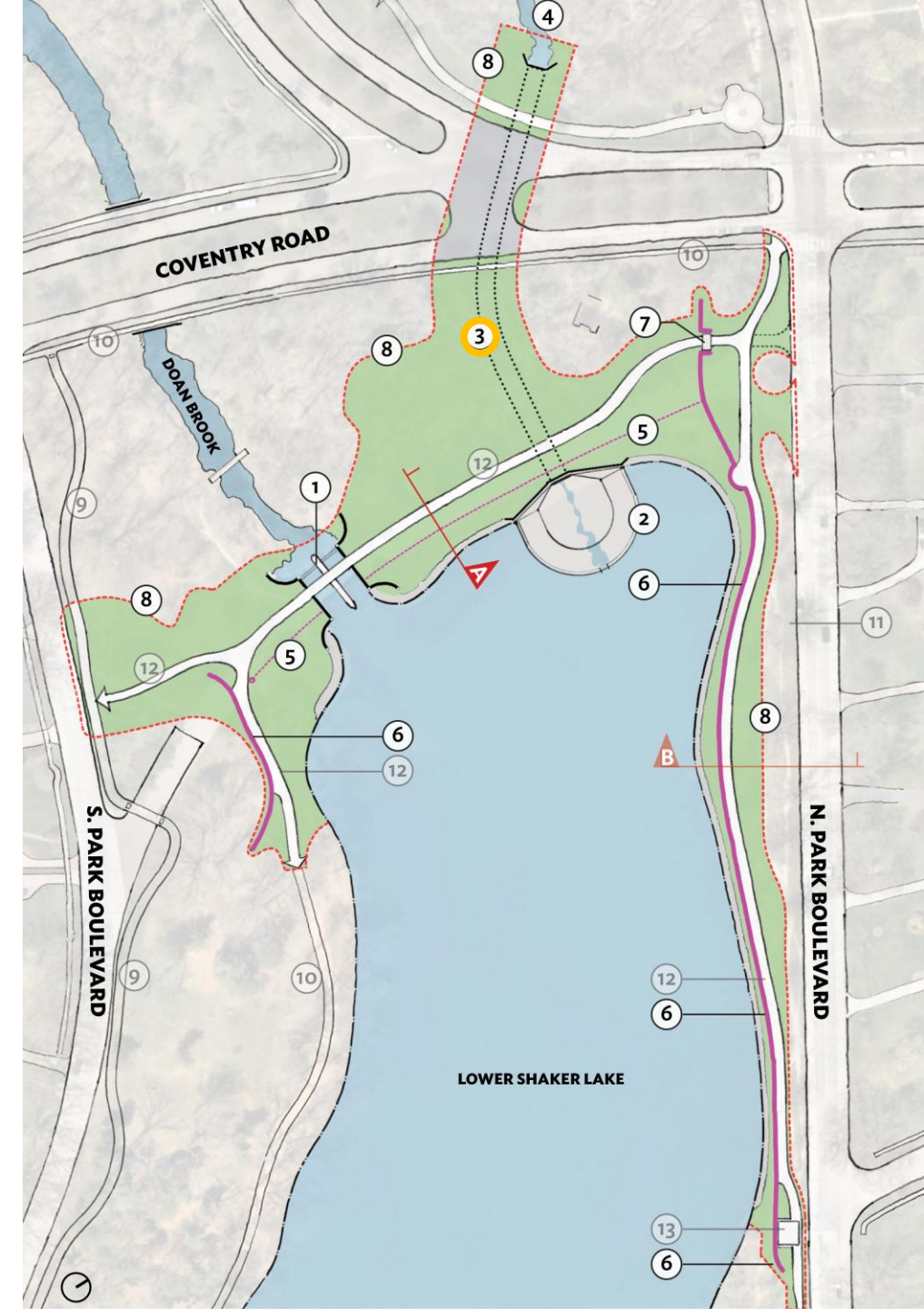




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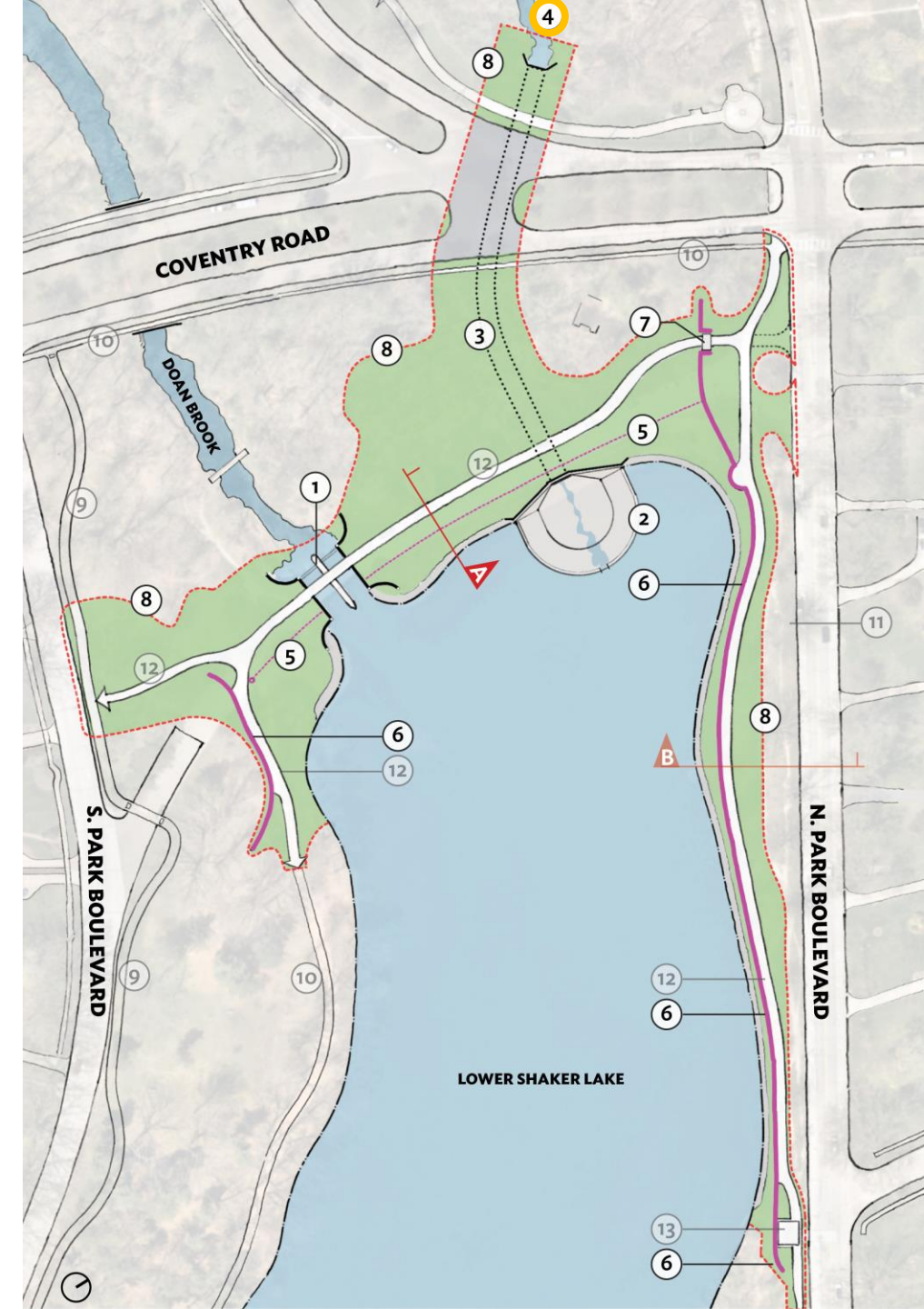
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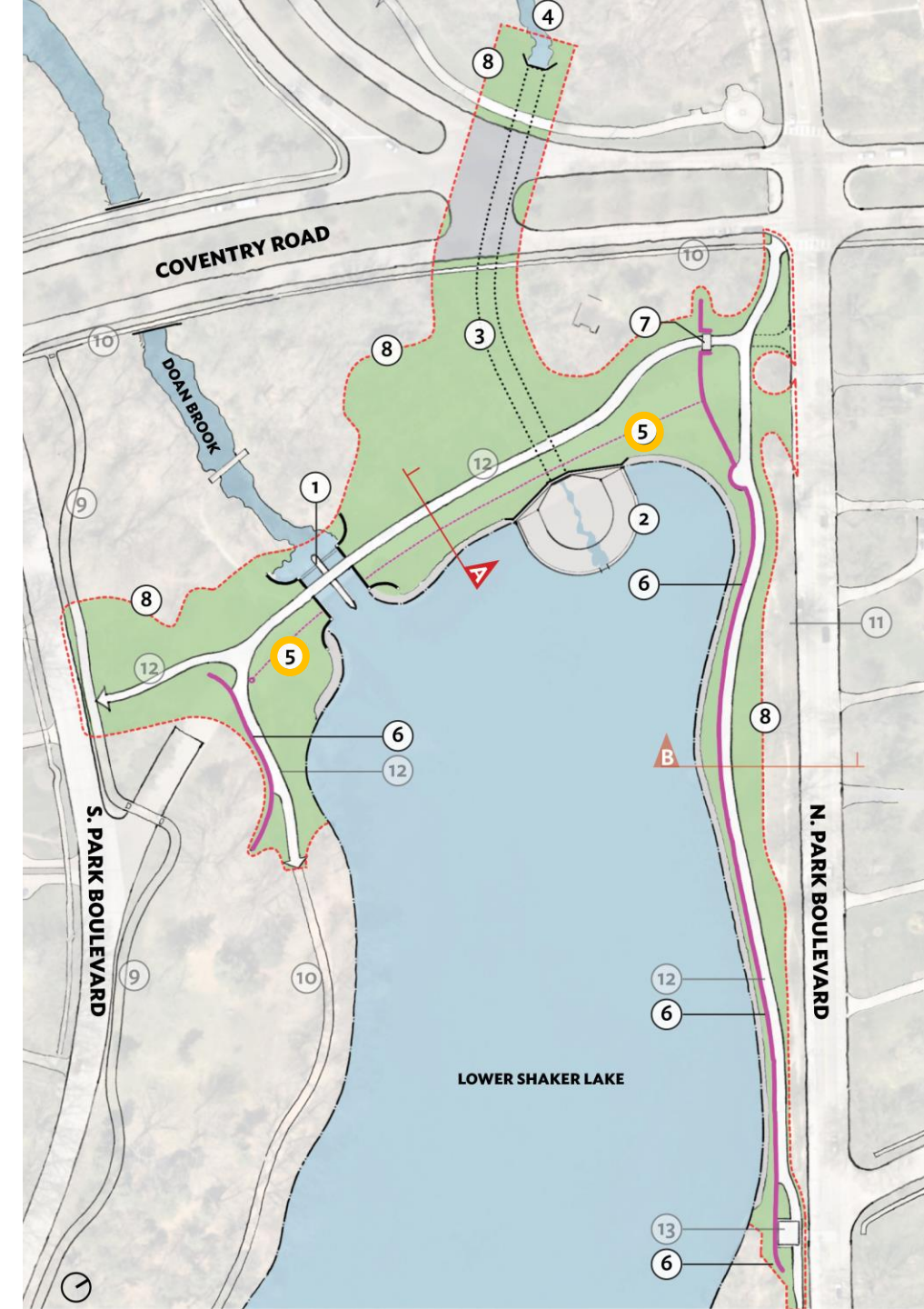




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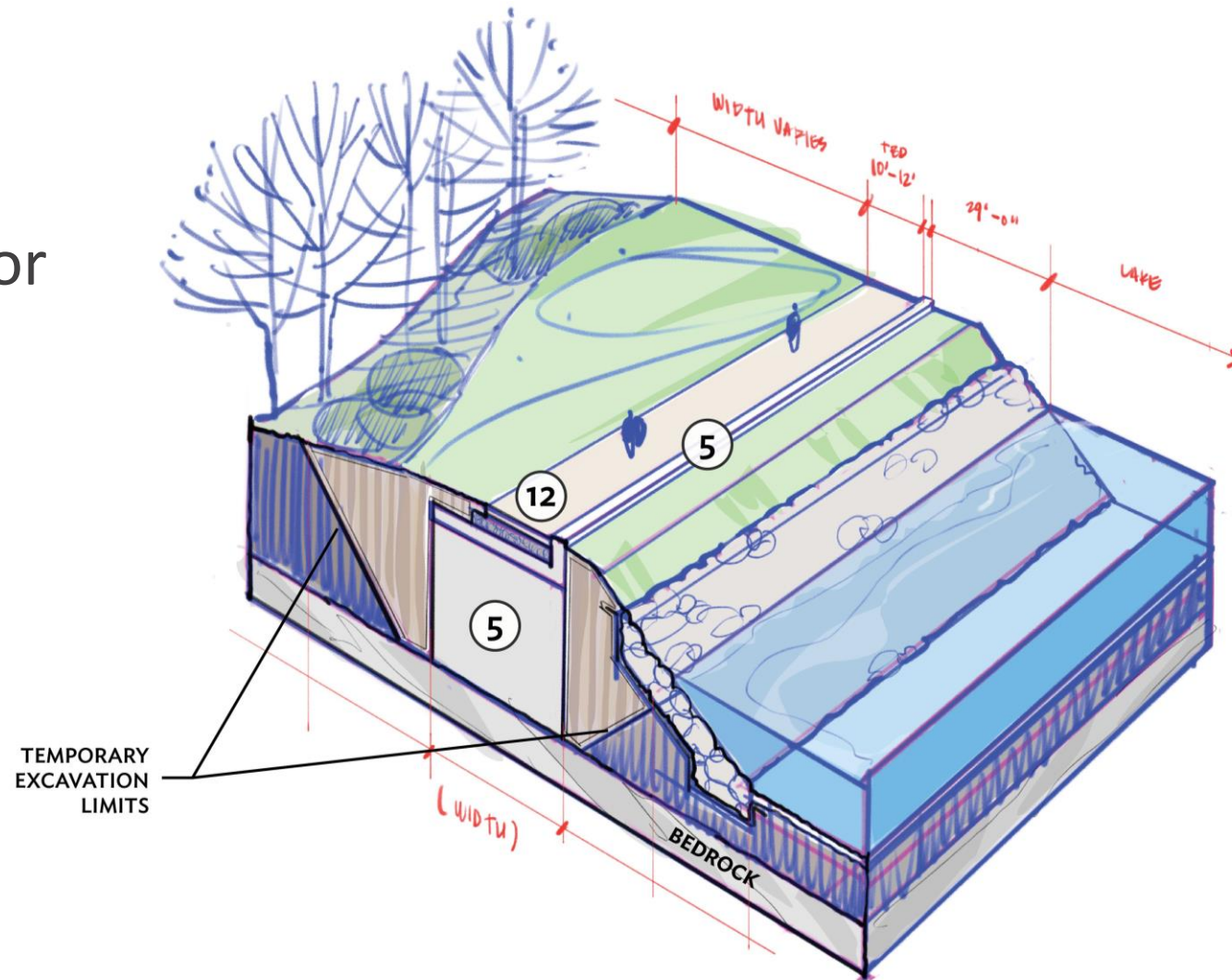
- ⑧ APPROXIMATE PROJECT LIMITS
- ⑨ SHAKER HEIGHTS MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL
- ⑩ EXISTING WALK / PATHWAY
- ⑪ EXISTING LIBERTY OAK
- ⑫ PATHWAY CONNECTION
- ⑬ TRAIL NODE





# Gravity Dam

- Provides overtopping protection for the dam



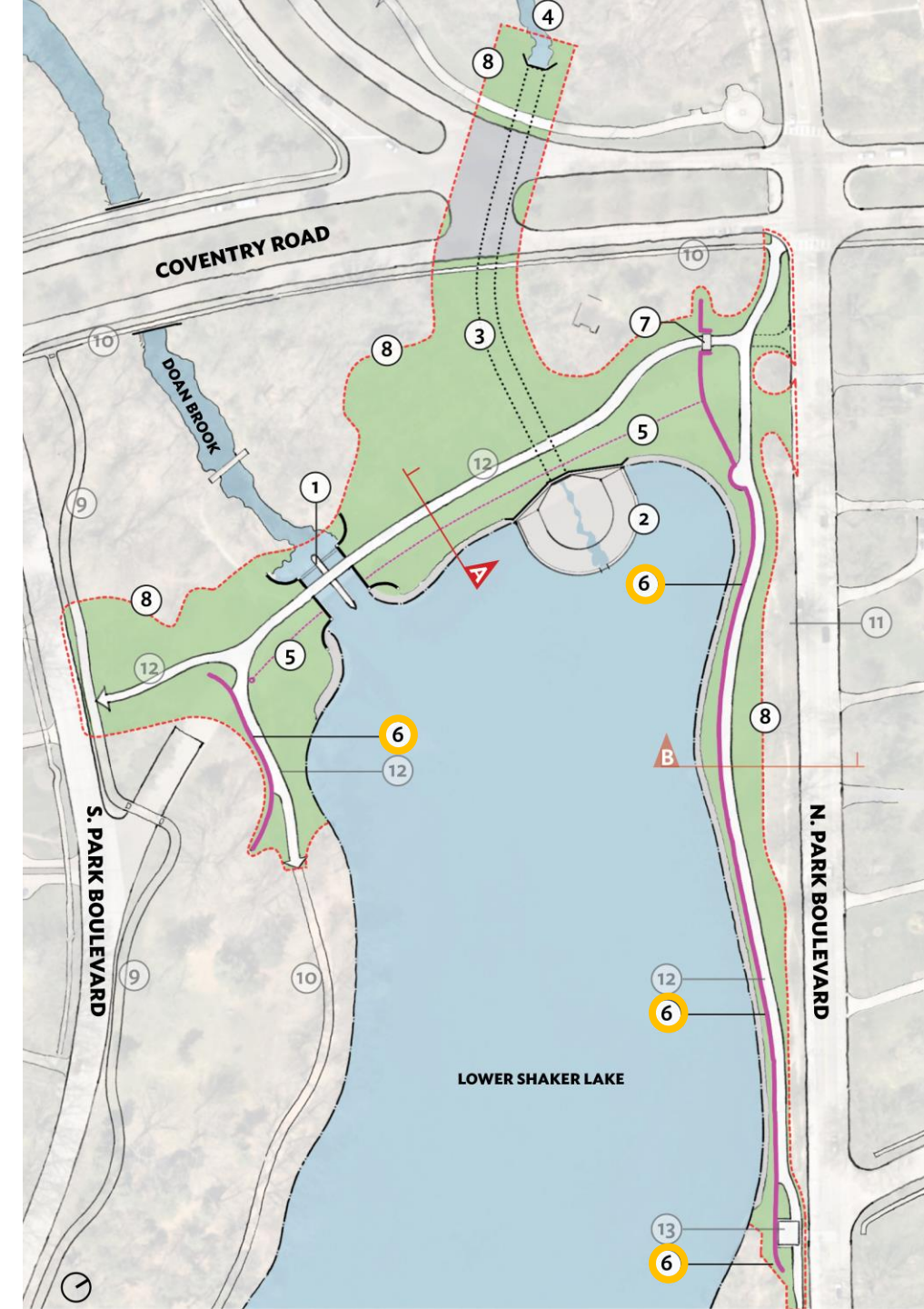
- 1 RECONSTRUCTED EXISTING PRINCIPAL SPILLWAY
- 2 AUXILIARY SPILLWAY
- 3 SPILLWAY
- 4 OUTFALL
- 5 GRAVITY DAM (OVERTOPPING PROTECTION)
- 6 FLOODWALL
- 7 MAINTENANCE & PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- 8 APPROXIMATE PROJECT LIMITS
- 9 SHAKER HEIGHTS MULTIPURPOSE TRAIL (BY OTHERS)
- 10 EXISTING WALK / PATHWAY
- 11 EXISTING LIBERTY OAK (TYPICAL)
- 12 PATHWAY CONNECTION
- 13 TRAIL NODE



# Concept – Site Framework

- ① RECONSTRUCTED EXISTING PRINCIPAL SPILLWAY
- ② AUXILIARY SPILLWAY
- ③ AUXILIARY SPILLWAY CHUTE
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- ⑫ PATHWAY CONNECTION
- ⑬ TRAIL NODE

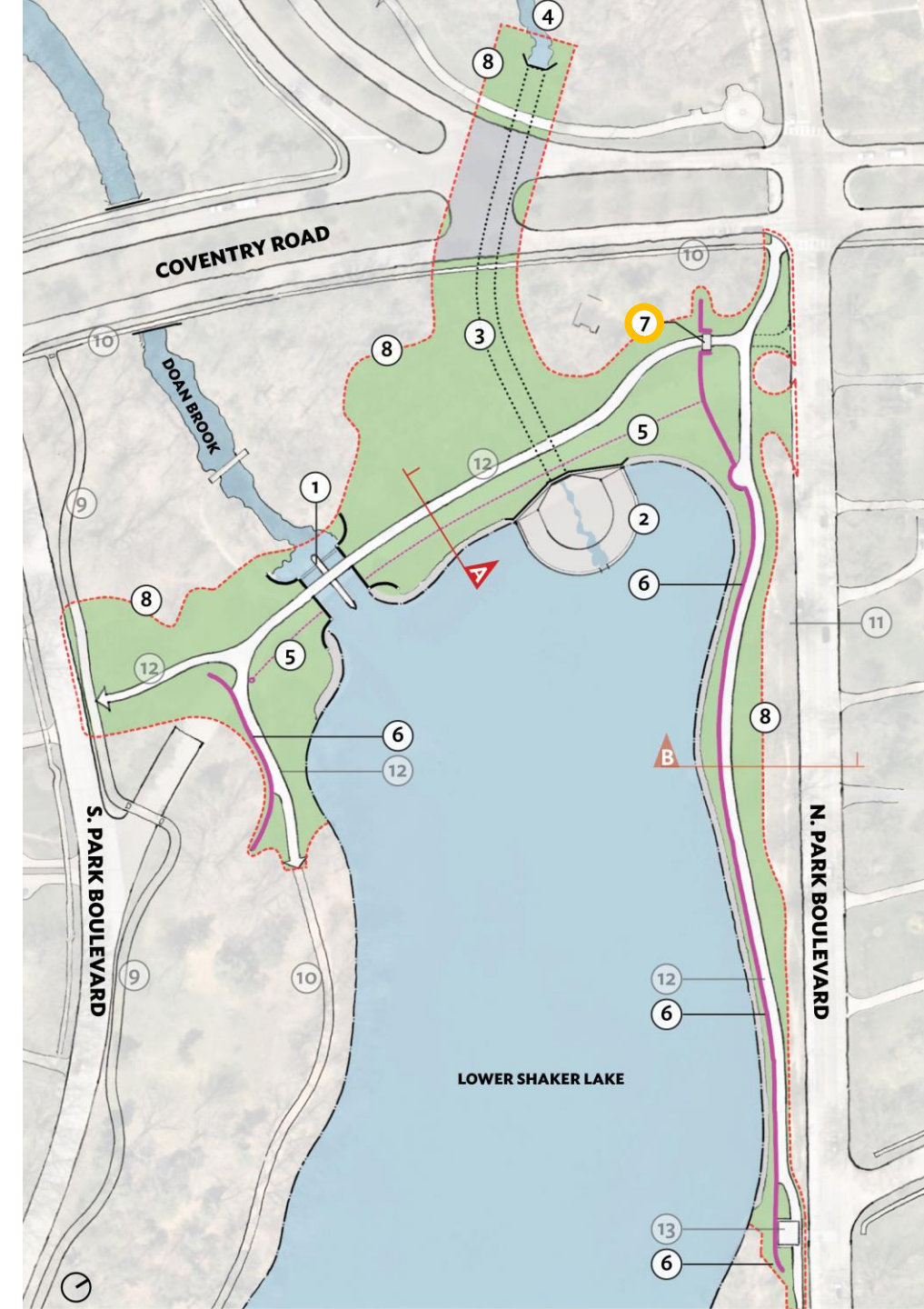




# Concept – Site Framework

- ① RECONSTRUCTED EXISTING PRINCIPAL SPILLWAY
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- ⑫ PATHWAY CONNECTION
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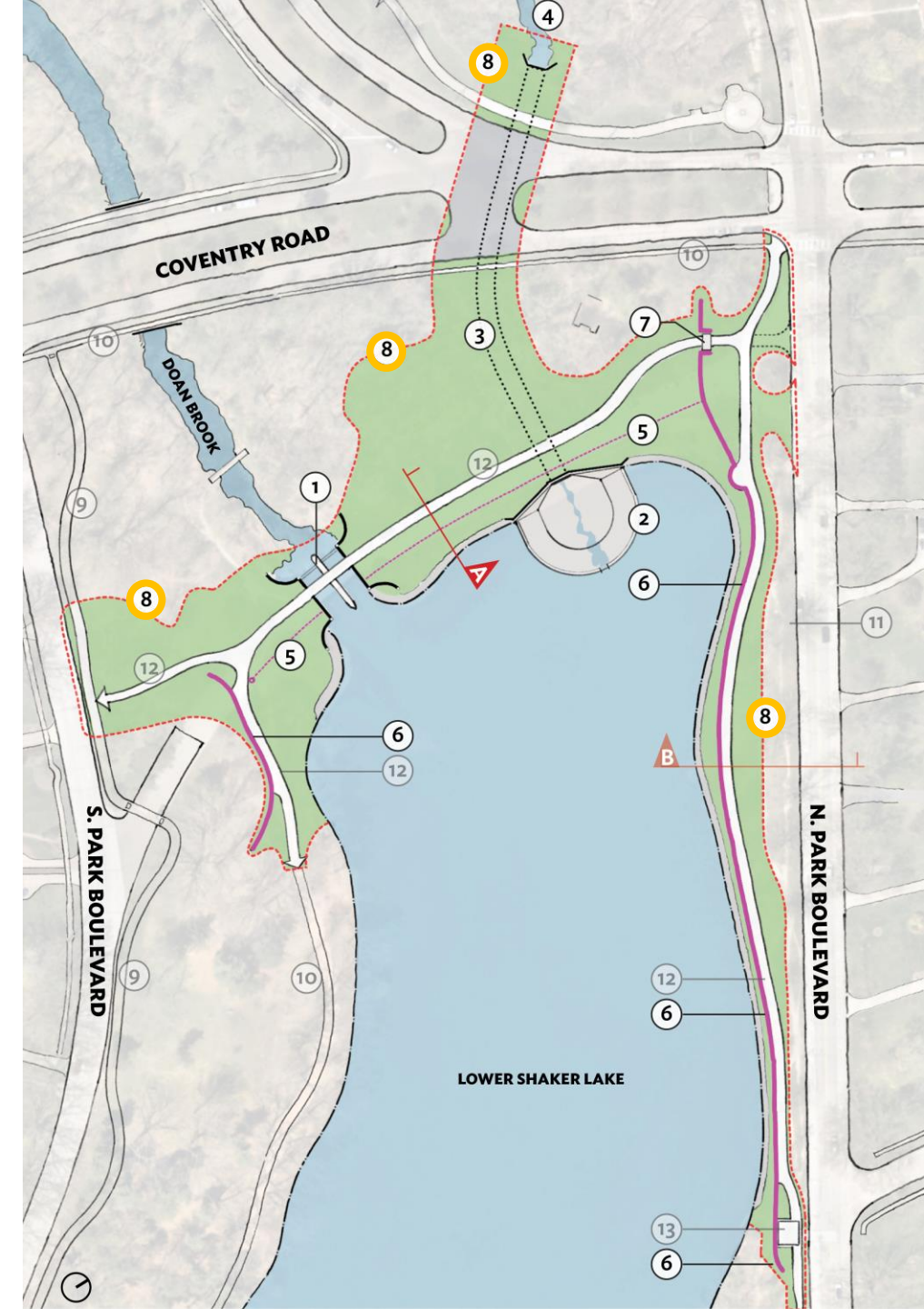




# Concept – Site Framework

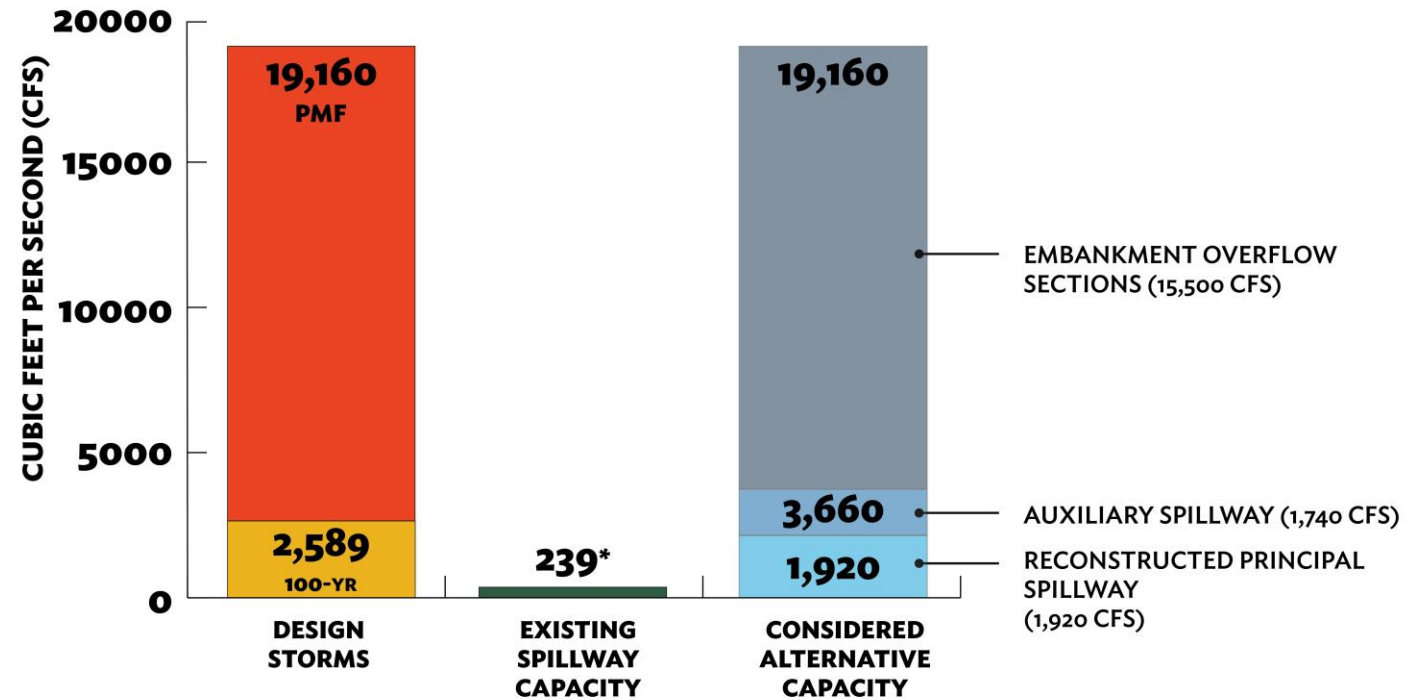
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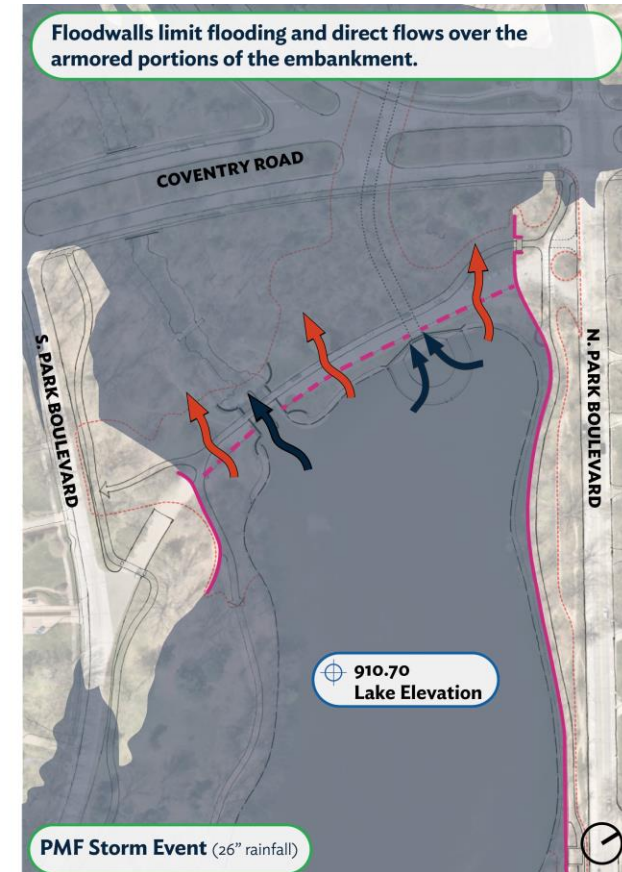
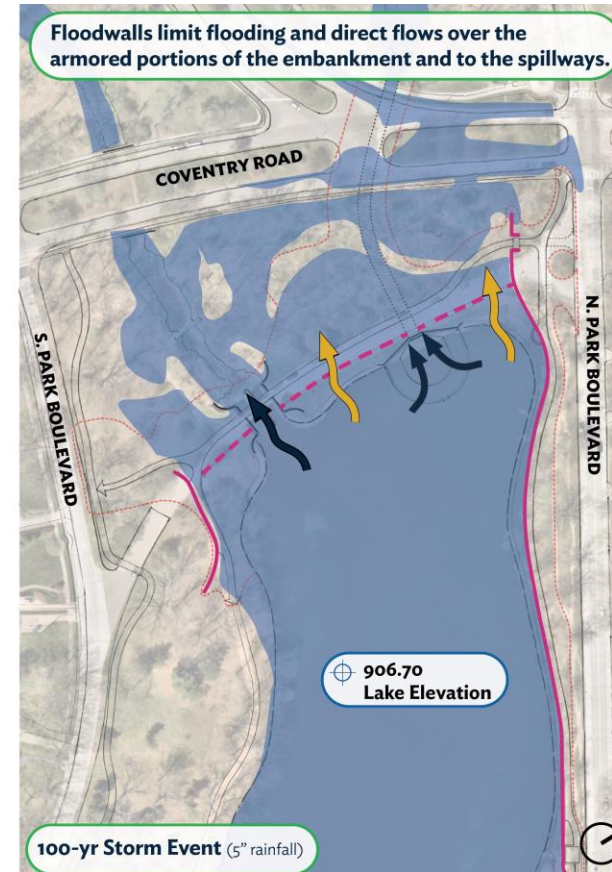
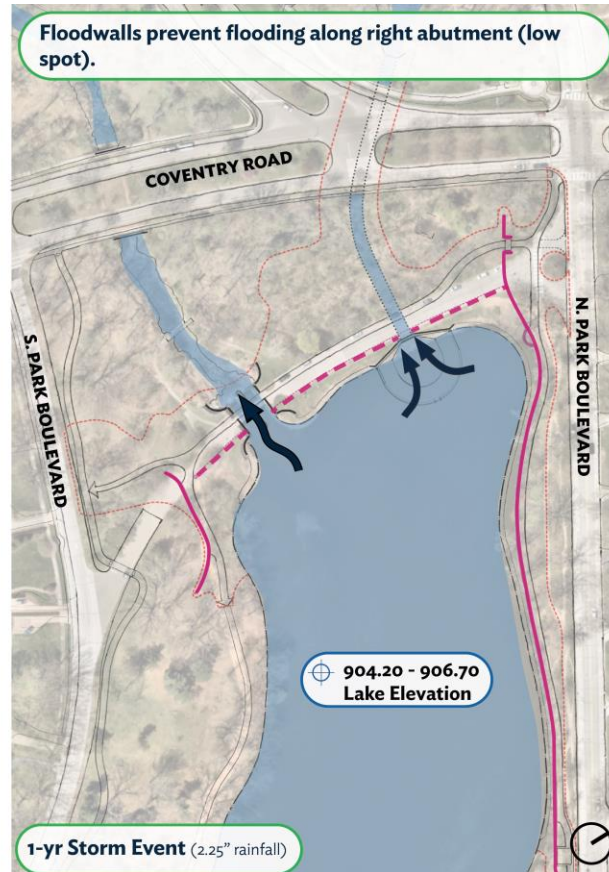
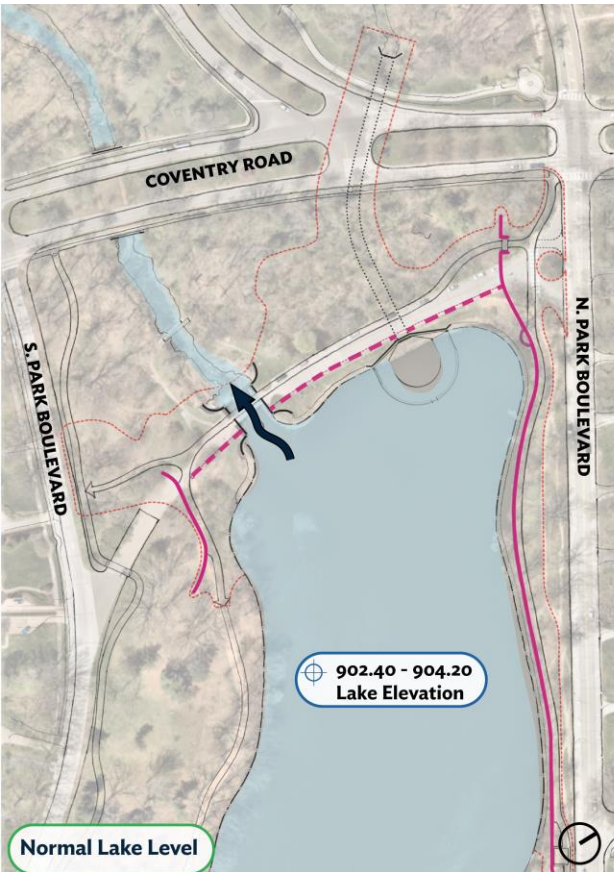
# Dam Operation/Function

- Expanded Spillway Capacity
  - Principal Spillway
  - Auxiliary Spillway
- Embankment Armoring
- Floodwalls





# Dam Operation/Function

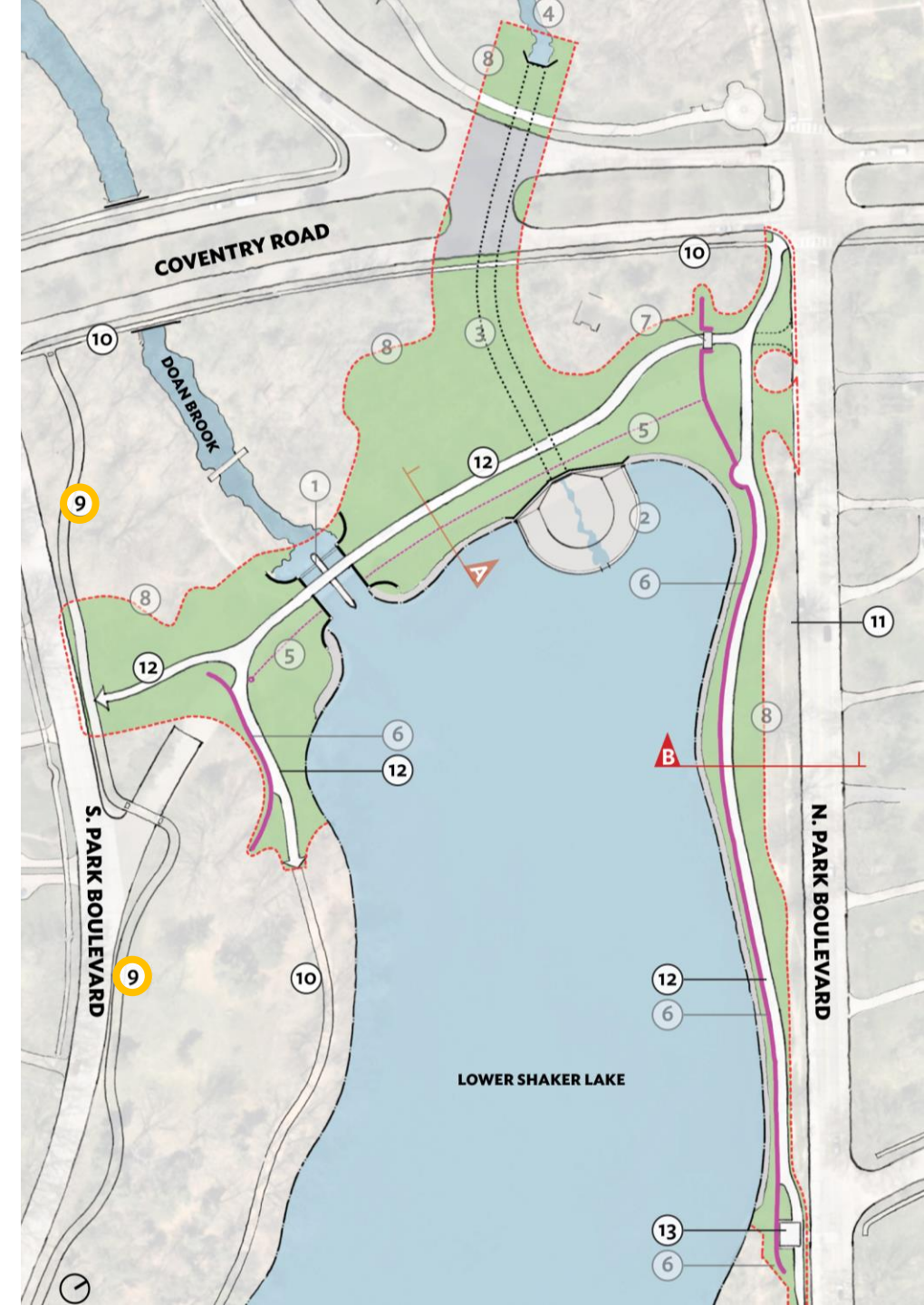




# Concept – Site Framework

- 1 RECONSTRUCTED EXISTING PRINCIPAL SPILLWAY
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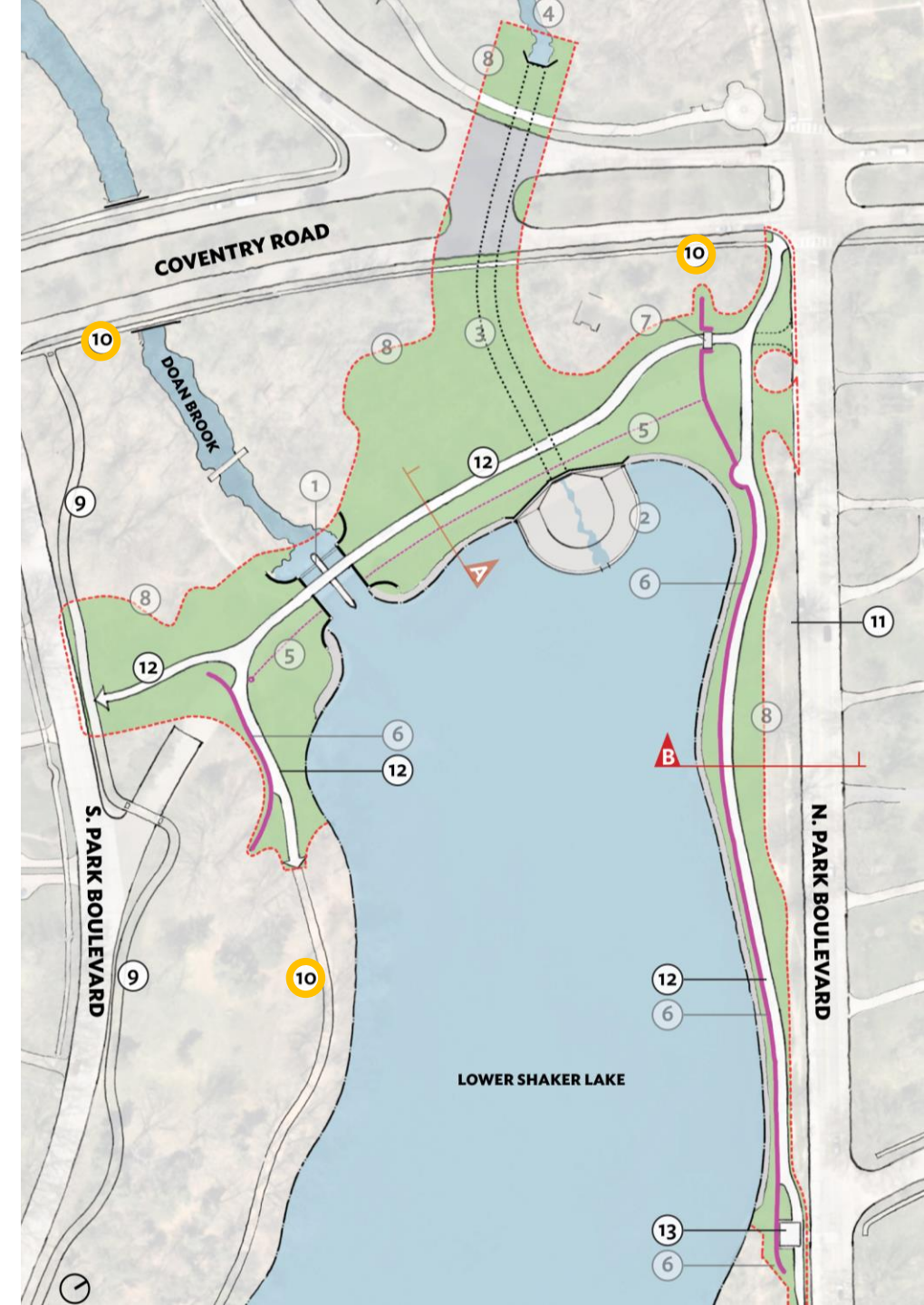
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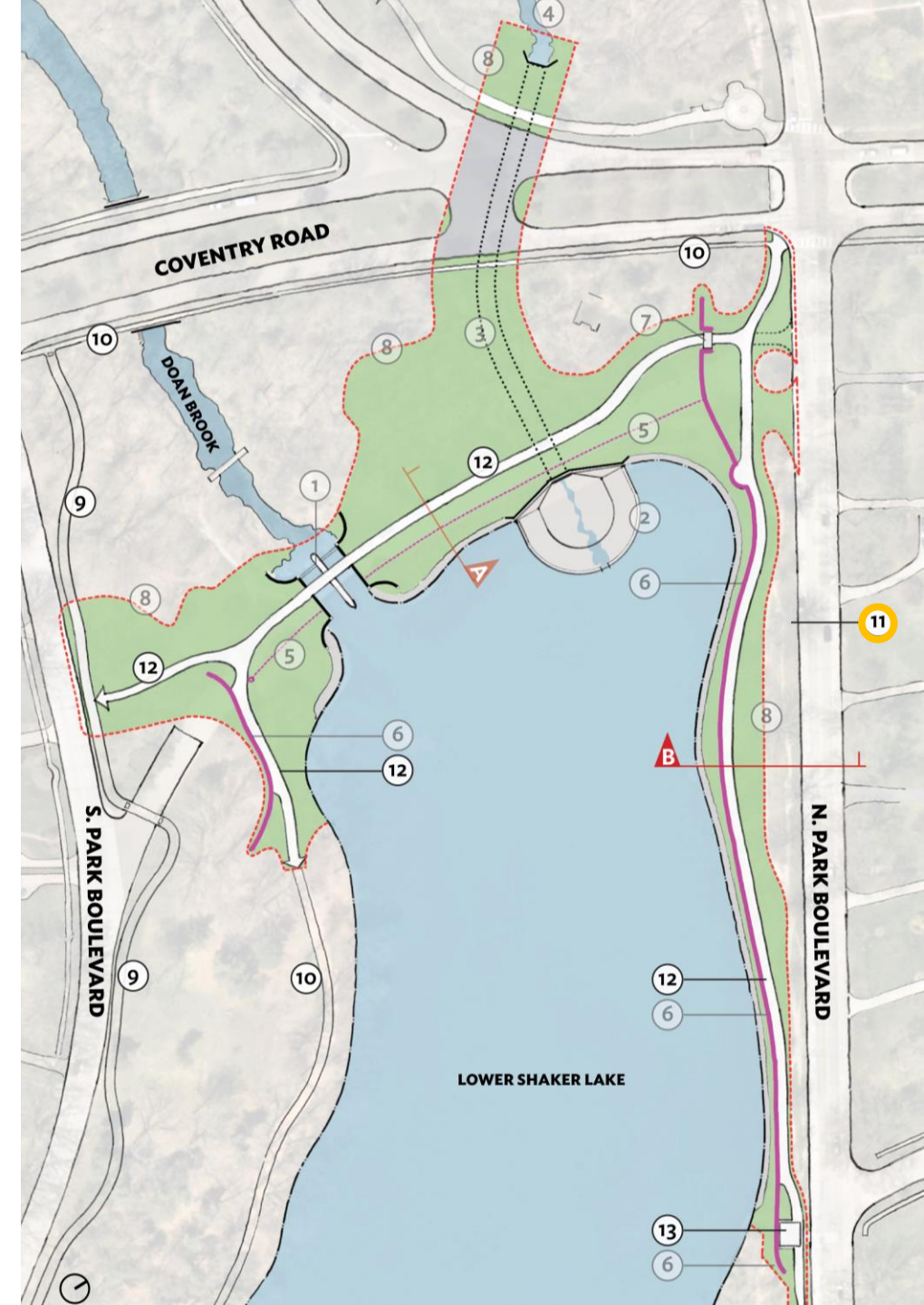
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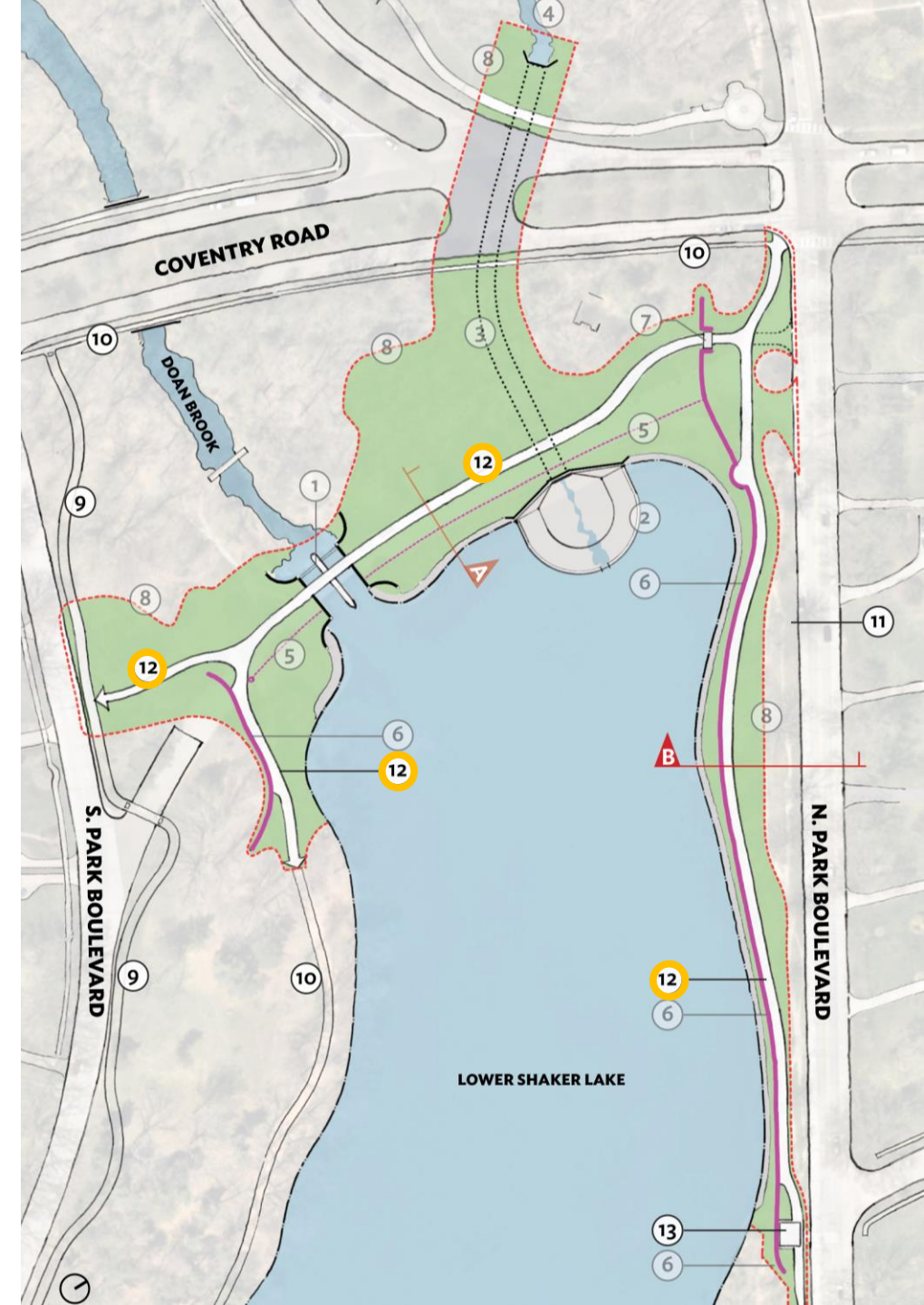
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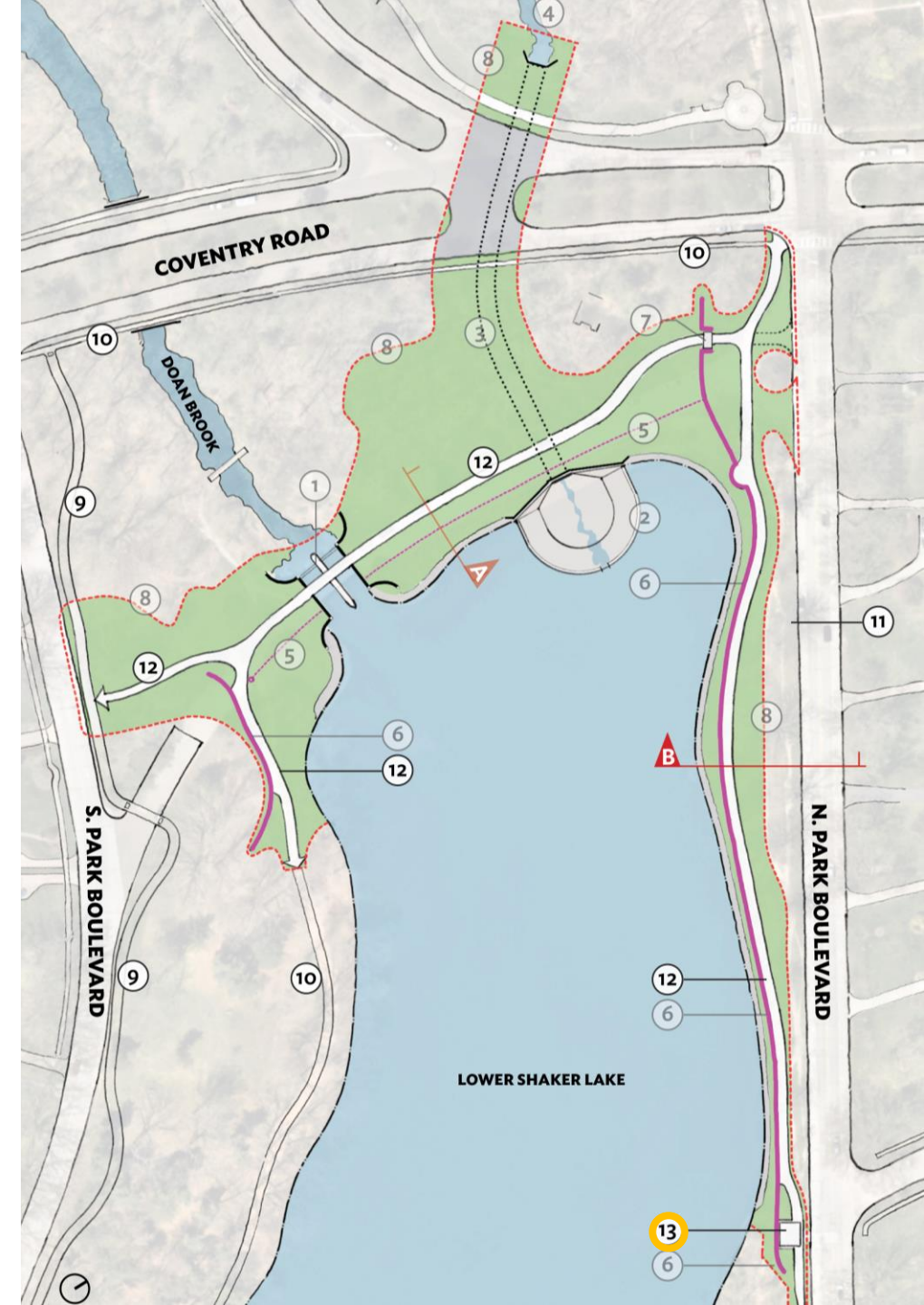
# Concept – Site Framework

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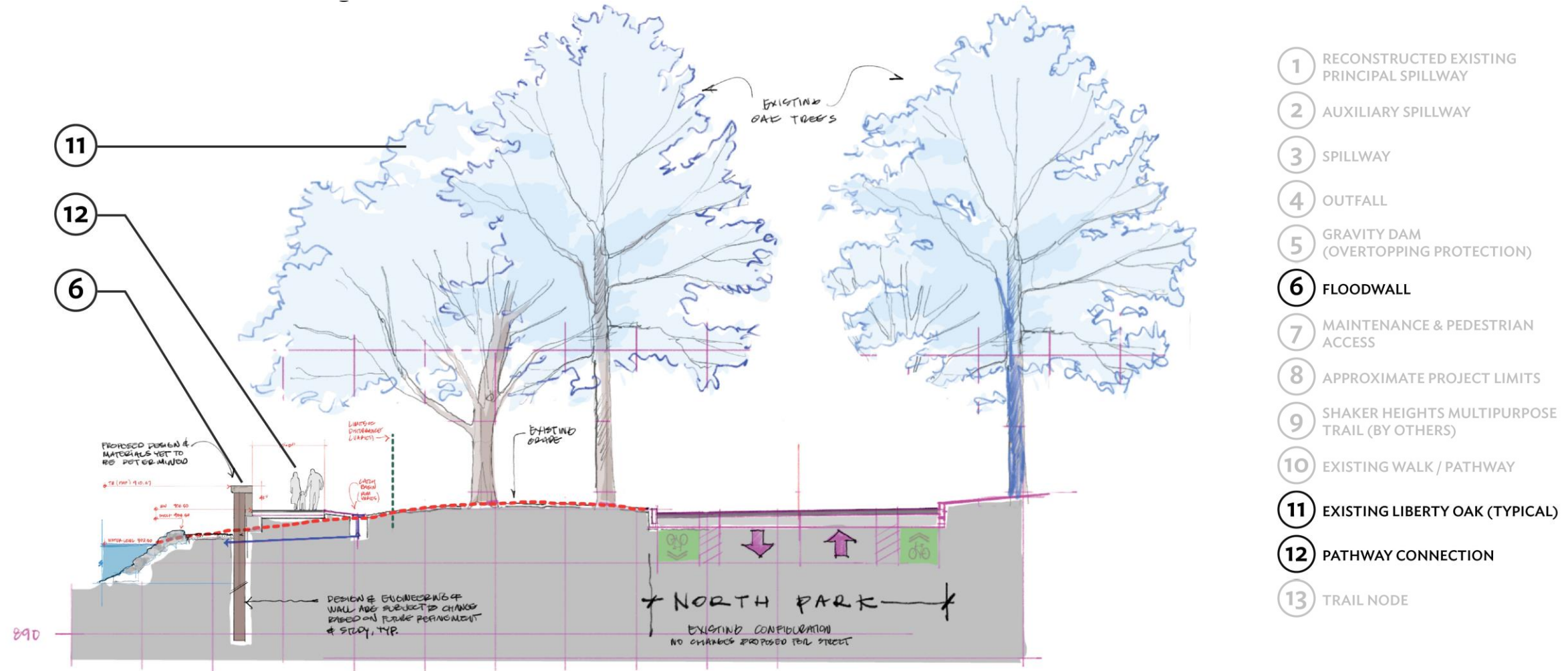
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# Floodwall along North Park Boulevard





# Next Steps

- Continued Concept Development (Pre-Design)
- Evaluation of Alternatives (Pre-Design)
- Next Public Meeting (Fall 2024)
- Detailed Design (Fall 2024)



# Summary of Park Space Changes

- Overtopping Protection / Armoring
- Floodwalls
- Reconstructed Principal Spillway
- Expanded Spillway Capacity



# Summary of Park Space Changes

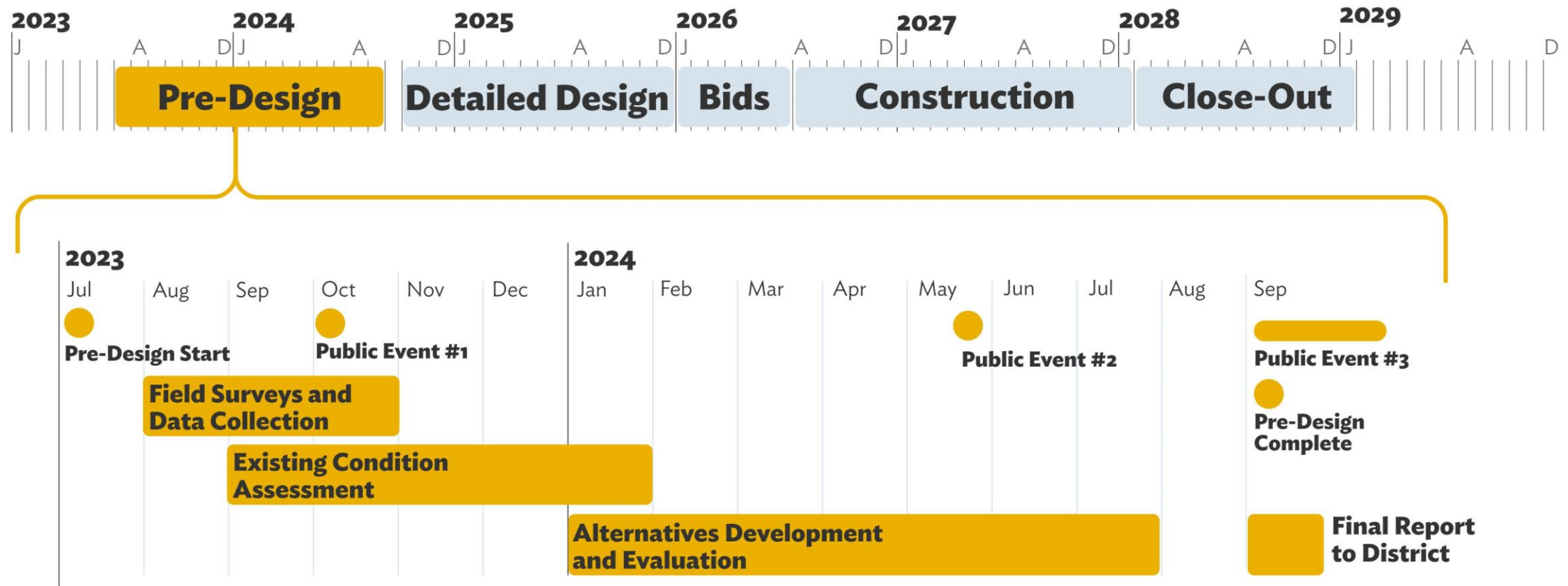
- Brook Road parking eliminated; alternative parking is being explored
- Tree preservation considerations





# Pre-Design Phase

## Timeline



# Public Engagement

# Public Engagement

- May 21 at Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
  - 2600 South Park Boulevard
  - 11A – 1P and  
5P – 7P
- Doan Brook's Take to the Lake
- Pop-up events around town





# [neorsd.org/LowerLake](https://neorsd.org/LowerLake)

PROJECT UPDATES, PRESENTATION RECORDINGS, FAQ AND  
MORE!