



BLUE EARTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD WORK SESSION AGENDA
JANUARY 17, 2017

- 9:00 A.M. Public Works
Mr. Ryan Thilges, County Engineer
- Camping Rate Discussion (1)
- Guaranteed Sand and Gravel Update (2)
- 9:40 A.M. Video on Options for Minnesota Eligibility Technology System
METS (as part of MNSure) Going Forward
Mr. Phil Claussen, Human Services Director
Ms. Angela Youngerberg, Director of Business Operations, Human
Services
- 10:00 A.M. Break
- 10:10 A.M. Victory Drive Memorial Corridor Project Presentation (3)
Ms. Candace Amberg, WSB & Associates
- 10:30 A.M. Tri-County Transit System Update (4)
Mr. Mike Lagerquist, VINE Faith in Action
- 10:45 A.M. Space Planning Discussion
Mr. Tim Edwards, Physical Plant Director
Mr. Robert Meyer, County Administrator
Mr. Justin Steffl, ISG
Mr. Jeremy Wiesen, ISG
- 11:30 A.M. Lunch at Blue Bricks, Mankato
Public Invited to Attend

BLUE EARTH COUNTY 2017 CAMPING RATE PROPOSAL & HISTORY

Year	Regular Camping Fee per Day	Senior Camping Fee per Day	Primitive Camping Fee per Day	Electric Hookup Fee per Day	Water Hookup Fee per Day (NEW)	Reservation Fee	RT Vision Fee (NEW)
1991	\$8.00	\$7.00		\$2.00			
1992	\$8.00	\$7.00		\$2.00			
1993	\$8.00	\$7.00		\$2.00			
1994	\$9.00	\$7.00		\$2.00			
1995	\$9.00	\$7.00		\$2.00			
1996	\$10.00	\$7.00		\$2.00		\$3.00	
1997	\$10.00	\$7.00		\$2.00		\$3.00	
1998	\$10.00	\$7.00		\$2.00		\$3.00	
1999	\$12.00	\$8.00		\$2.00		\$3.00	
2000	\$12.00	\$8.00		\$2.00		\$3.00	
2001	\$12.00	\$8.00		\$2.00		\$3.00	
2002	\$12.00	\$8.00		\$2.00		\$3.00	
2003	\$12.00	\$8.00		\$2.00		\$3.00	
2004	\$13.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$3.00		\$3.00	
2005	\$13.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$3.00		\$3.00	
2006	\$13.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$3.00		\$3.00	
2007	\$13.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$3.00		\$3.00	
2008	\$13.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$3.00		\$3.00	
2009	\$14.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$3.00		\$4.00	
2010	\$14.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$3.00		\$4.00	
2011	\$14.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$4.00		\$4.00	
2012	\$14.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$4.00		\$4.00	
2013	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$4.00		\$4.00	
2014	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$5.00		\$4.00	
2015	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$5.00		\$5.00	
2016	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$5.00		\$5.00	
Proposed 2017	\$17.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00

Survey Results Summary

Guaranteed Sand & Gravel Park Development Survey
Findings



Survey Timeframe

- Survey Open: October 7 to November 18, 2016
- Promotion of Survey
 - County website
 - Link
 - News feature
 - Promoted in Communicator Publication (circulated to parcels in Blue Earth County)
 - Media Coverage
 - Word of mouth
 - Letters to landowners

PARK DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR GUARANTEED SAND AND GRAVEL SITE

Blue Earth County is in the process of purchasing the former Guaranteed Sand and Gravel property south of Mankato in cooperation with the city of Mankato who will own and maintain the Sanger Pit portion of the parcel. MN DNR grant funding, along with shared funding from both the city of Mankato and Blue Earth County made the purchase of the unique and scenic properties possible. The County plans to develop the Guaranteed Sand and Gravel portion into a rustic, low-maintenance park over the next few years and is seeking the public's input regarding features, future amenities and ideas on naming the new park. Ultimately, feed-



back will be reviewed by the Blue Earth County Park Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The Blue Earth County Board will have the final decision on naming and development features of the park. Visit www.blueearthcountymn.gov/parksurvey or search Guaranteed Sand and Gravel Property on the County's website to complete a survey and provide feedback on development of the newest natural resource in Blue Earth County.

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED!
HELP DETERMINE HOW BLUE
EARTH COUNTY'S NEWEST PARK
IS NAMED AND DEVELOPED!**

WWW.BLUEEARTHCOUNTYMN.GOV/PARKSURVEY

For more information contact Public Works at 304-4025.

Survey Questions

Q1) Keeping in mind the rustic nature planned for the park, what amenities would you recommend be considered for its development?

Q2) How often do you think you will use the new park?

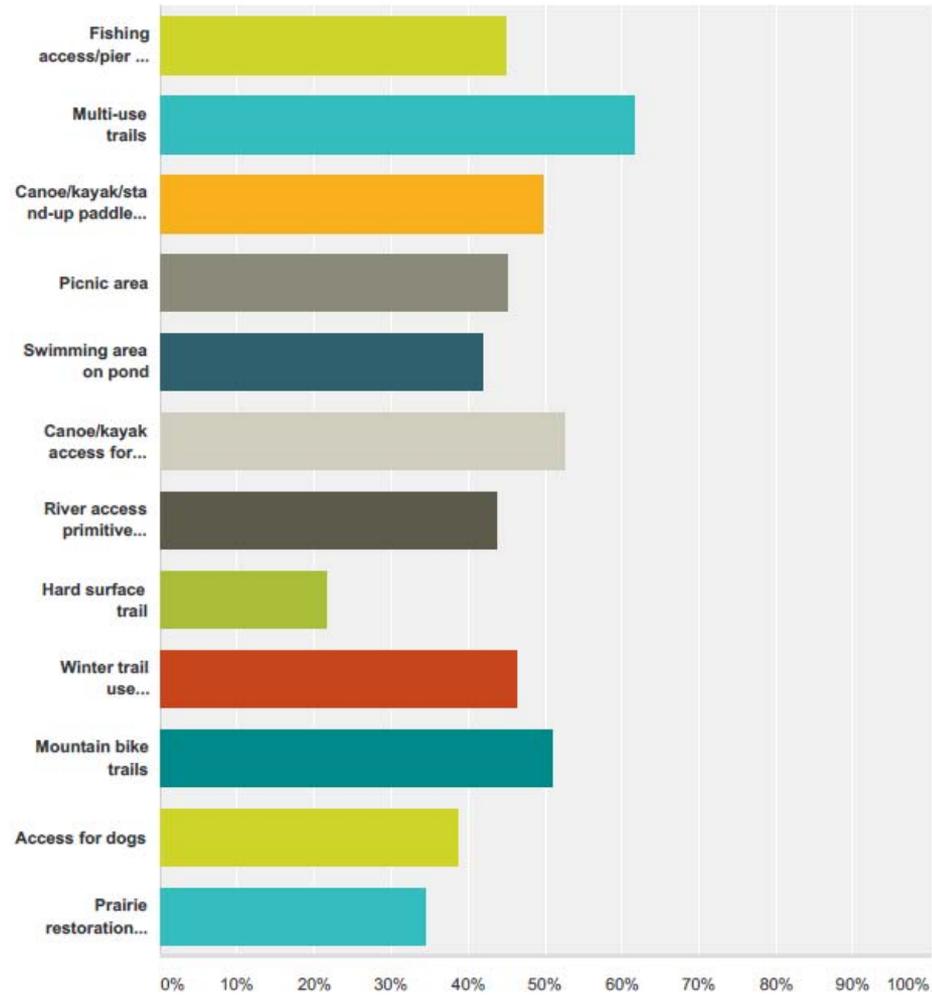
Q3) What type of transportation would you most likely use to access the park?

Q4) Do you have suggestions for naming the park? Is there a historical or other social significance associated to your name suggestion?

Q5) Additional Comments

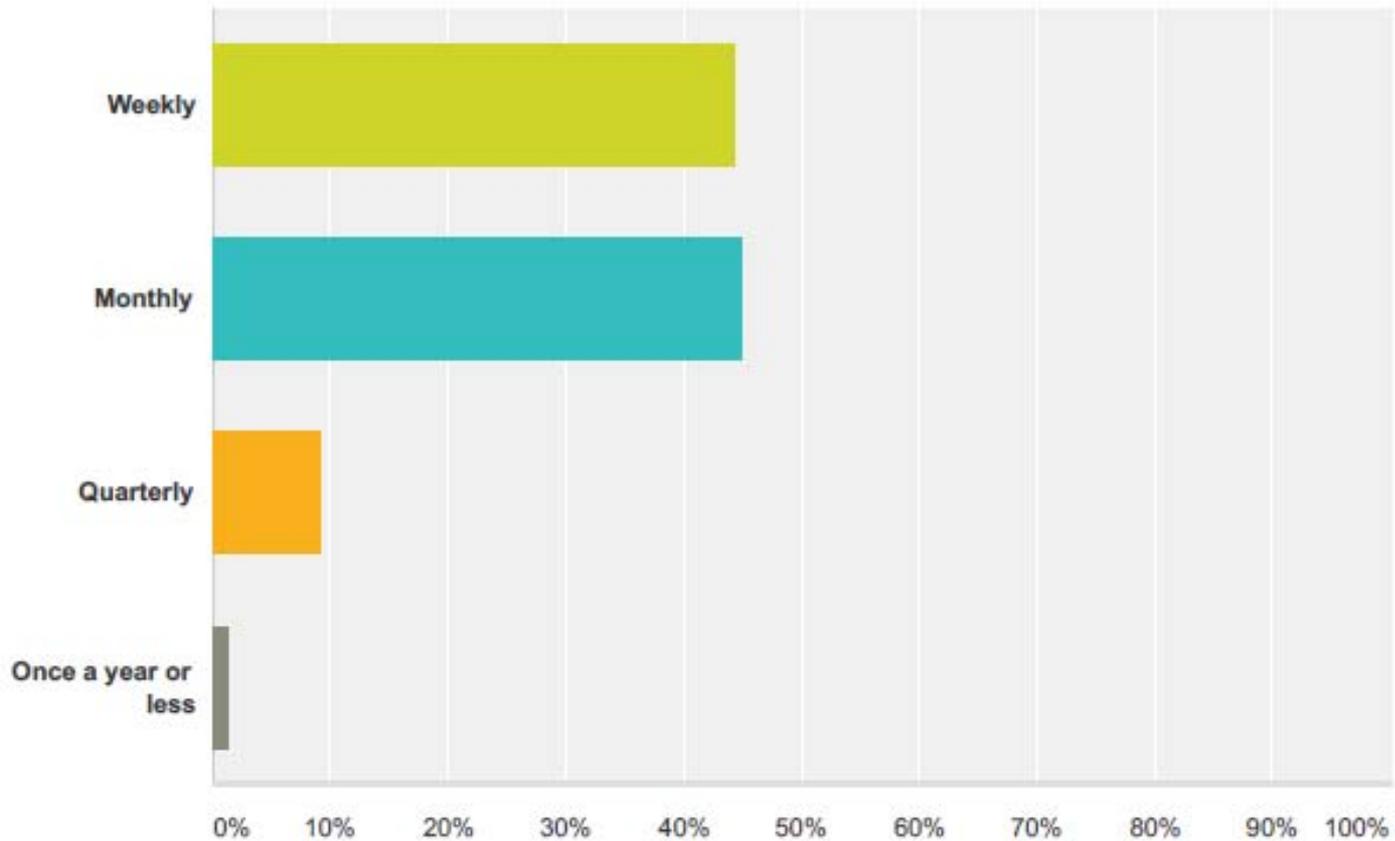
Q1 Keeping in mind the rustic nature planned for the park, what amenities would you recommend be considered for its development?

Answered: 281 Skipped: 0



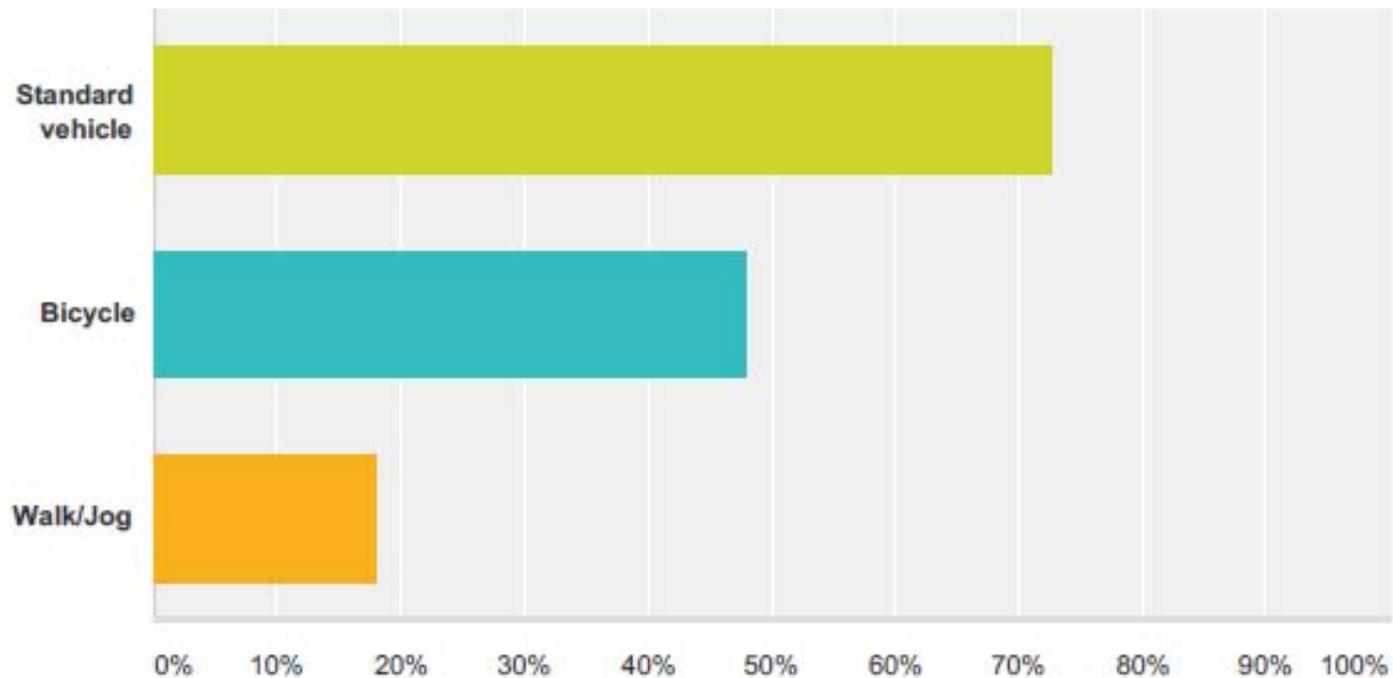
Q2 How often do you think you will use the new park?

Answered: 281 Skipped: 0



Q3 What type of transportation would you most likely use or prefer to use to access the park?

Answered: 281 Skipped: 0



Response Themes

Q5 Additional Comments Summary

Topic	Yes (For)	No (Against)
Horses	5	6
Dogs	1	2
Camping	4	2
Swimming		1
Mountain Bikes	17	2
Fishing Piers/Docks	5	
Rustic	12	
Connect RJT	1	
Walking/Hiking Trails	5	
Canoe/Kayak Access	2	
Star Gazing (stay open a bit after dark)	2	
Allow Private Retailer (Bent River Outfitters)		2
Disc Golf	1	
Cross Country Skiing	1	



Naming Suggestions

Q4 Name Suggestions recommended by BEC Park Board:

- Red Jacket Valley Recreational Park
- Red Jacket Quarry Park
- Twin Rivers Valley Park
- ~~Red Jacket Mill Park~~
- ~~Fort LeHillier Park~~
- ~~Le Sueur River Park~~
- ~~Guaranteed Riverside Park~~
- ~~Red Jacket River Valley Park~~

MNDNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Considerations

- Recreation facilities must be developed within 3 years from acquisition date.
- Boat/canoe access, fishing piers, nature observation areas, picnic shelters, playgrounds, swimming beaches, and trails are eligible recreation facilities.
- Trails must be Non-Motorized
- Blue Earth County agreed to purchase and develop this park as a natural resource based recreation area.
- The DNR grant requires a deed restriction be recorded with the property to notify the public of the grant program requirements.
- The property is to be publicly available to users in accordance with DNR grant requirements.



Discussion

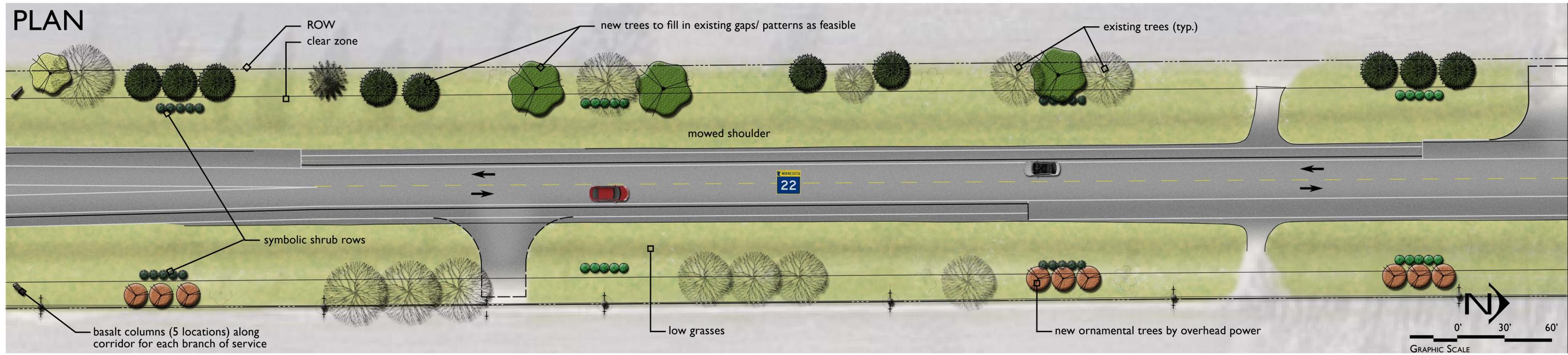
- 2017 Planned Work Items:
 - Relocate & Replace Gate
 - Seasonal Winter Parking Lot
 - Repair Eroded River Bank
 - Refurbish Building
 - Remove Septic Tank
 - Misc. Debris Clean Up
 - Mow & Clear Trails
 - Restoration Areas (Topsoil & Grass)



Park Board Recommendations

- Keep the park rustic in nature.
- Protect the eroding Le Sueur River bank.
- Develop the multi-use trail in 2017.
- Establish prairie grass where possible.
- Work with DNR fisheries to stock ponds.
- Explore other opportunities to work with the DNR on additional amenities, i.e. pier, canoe landing, etc. as funding is available.
- If mountain bike trails are allowed (developed by a private interest groups) keep them separated from the multi-use trails.
- Keep horses out of the park.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times.

Concept One | soldier's formation



CONCEPT DESCRIPTION

Landscape Features:

- Low-grow native grass in corridor
- Install new trees as appropriate and feasible (large trees where there are no conflicts, small trees by power lines, no trees by conflict areas) with seasonal colors and textures, following more formal/linear patterns
- Install sequence of linear shrub rows to signify soldiers standing in formation (align with tree plantings as feasible)

Alternative Hardscape Features (refer to enlargement):

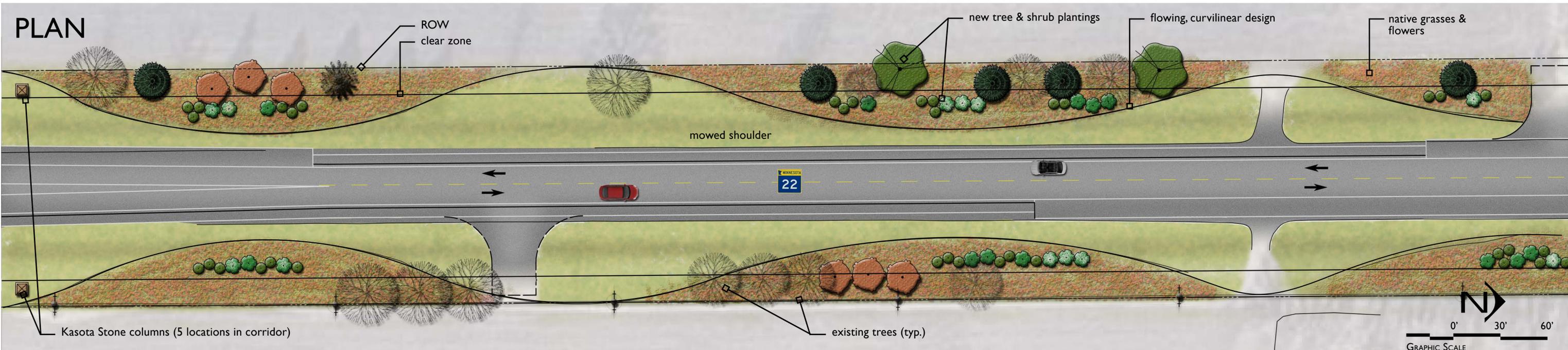
- Northern Gateway: 3 large basalt columns along western edge within ROW
- Southern Gateway / Memorial: 3 large basalt columns in plaza with new monument to match columns
- Corridor Elements: Individual basalt columns on each side of corridor in 5 separate locations to represent 5 branches of service



SECTION-PERSPECTIVE



Concept Two | unbroken



CONCEPT DESCRIPTION

Landscape Features:

- Low-grow native grasses closest to the Highway in contrast to tall native flowers and grasses in a flowing/meandering pattern to represent an unbroken spirit weaving throughout the corridor
- Install new trees as appropriate and feasible (large trees where there are no conflicts, small trees by power lines, no trees by conflict areas) with seasonal colors and textures, following the meandering pattern
- Supplement some of the planting areas with shrubs

Alternative Hardscape Features (refer to enlargement):

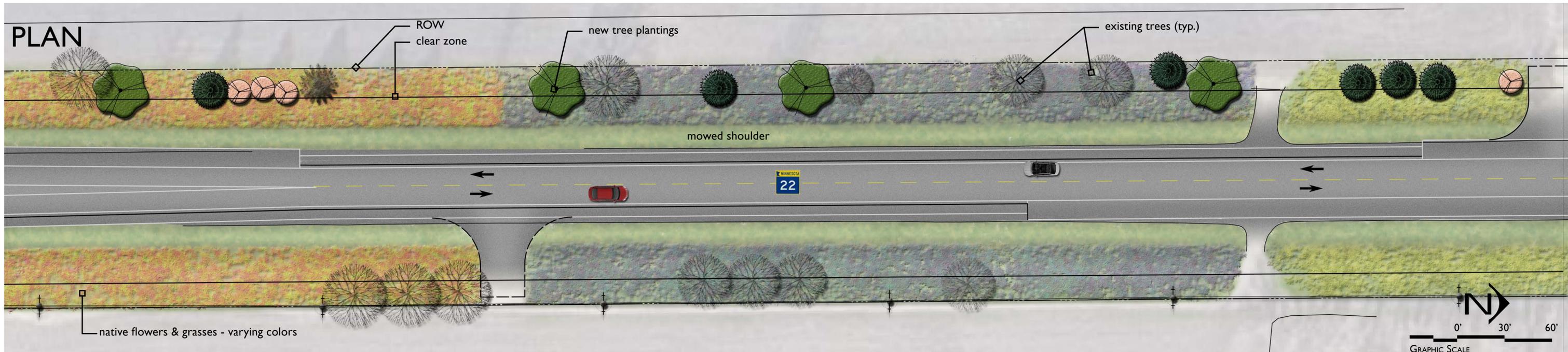
- Northern Gateway: 5 Kasota stone columns with flags for each branch of service along western edge within ROW
- Southern Gateway / Memorial: 5 Kasota stone columns with flags for each branch of service along Mapleton memorial space with new monument to match columns
- Corridor Elements: Individual Kasota stone columns on each side of corridor in 5 separate locations to represent 5 branches of service



SECTION-PERSPECTIVE



Concept Three | healing landscape



CONCEPT DESCRIPTION

Landscape Features:

- Native flowers and grasses throughout the corridor with varying color drifts to change by season and location – these will continue to blend and evolve over time
- Install minimal amounts of new trees as appropriate and feasible (large trees where there are no conflicts, small trees by power lines, no trees by conflict areas) with seasonal colors and textures

Alternative Hardscape Features (refer to enlargement):

- Northern Gateway: Kasota stone column along western edge within ROW
- Southern Gateway / Memorial: New Kasota stone monuments at Mapleton memorial space with plaza

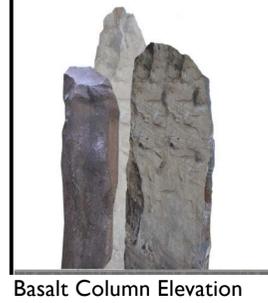
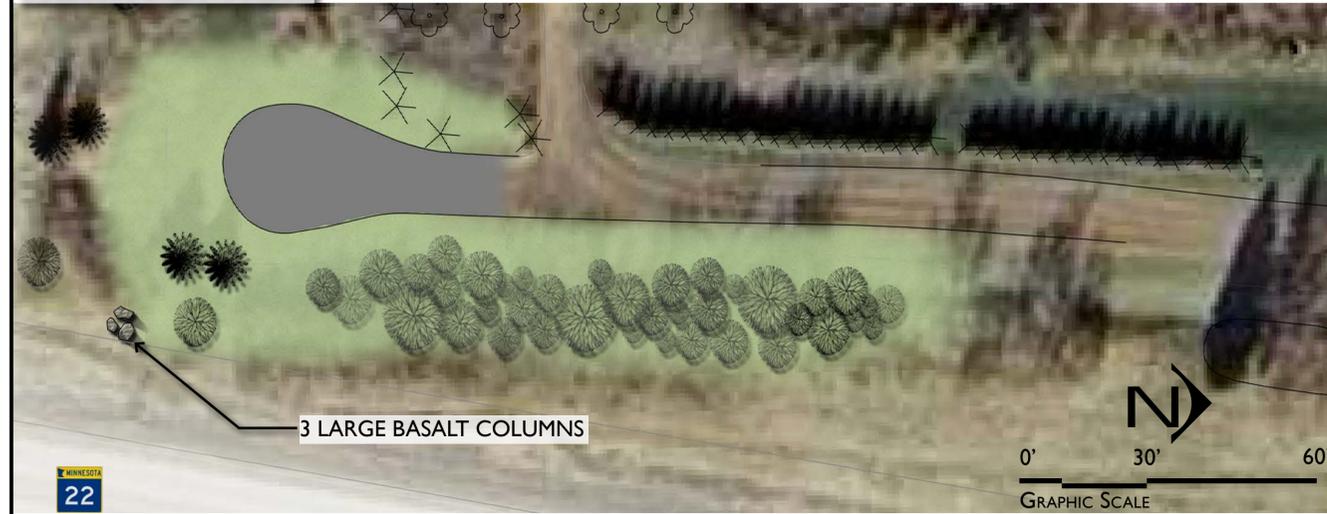
SECTION-PERSPECTIVE



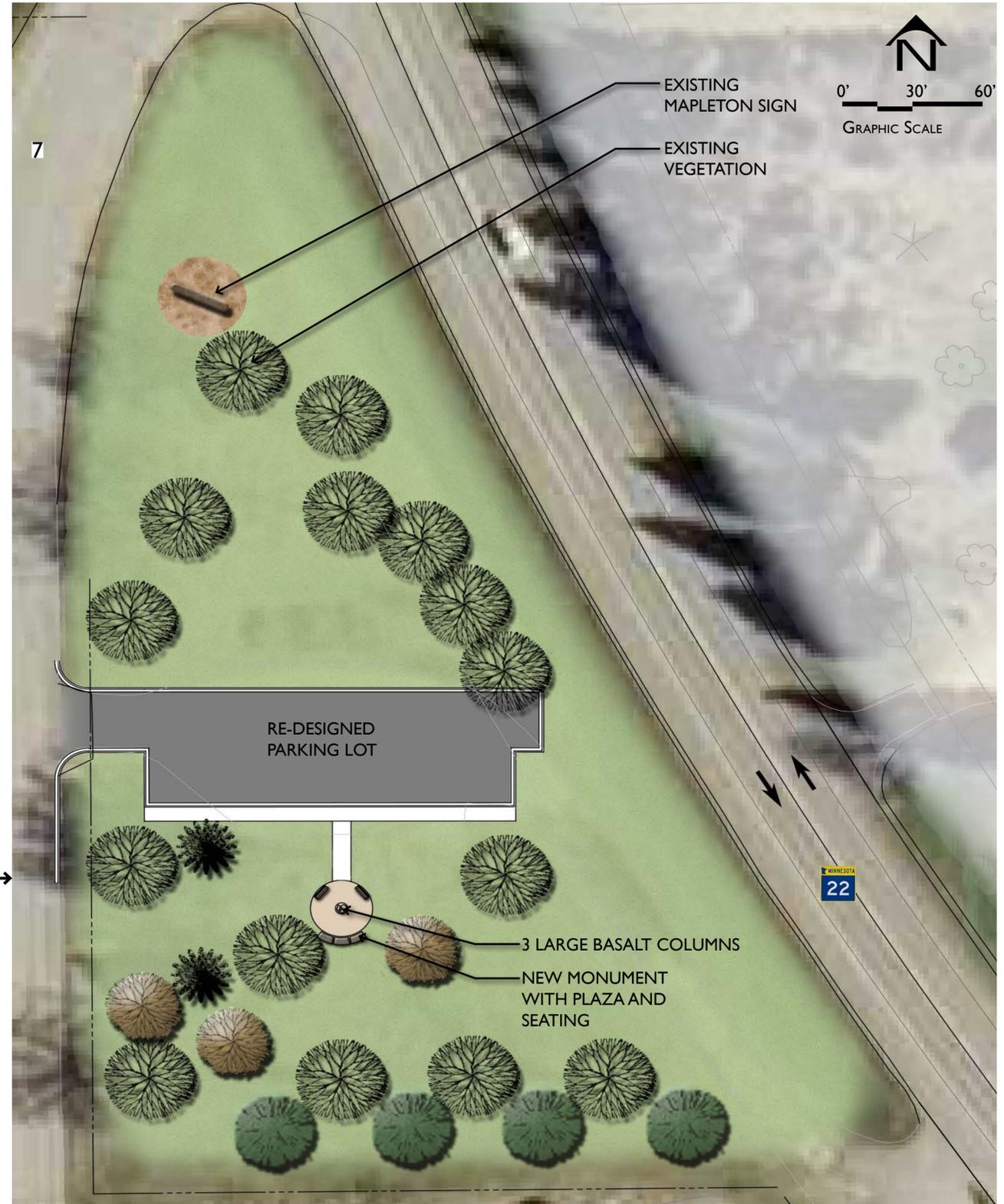
Concept One | monument areas



NORTH OPTION



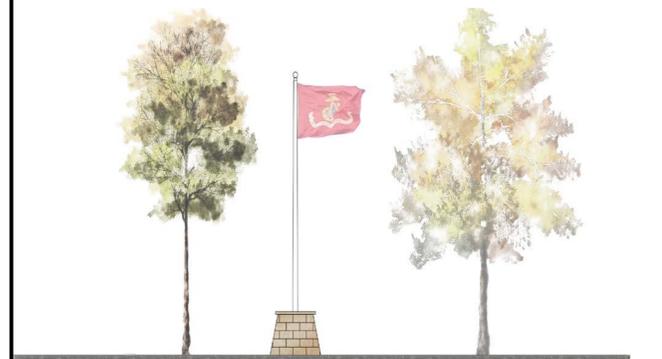
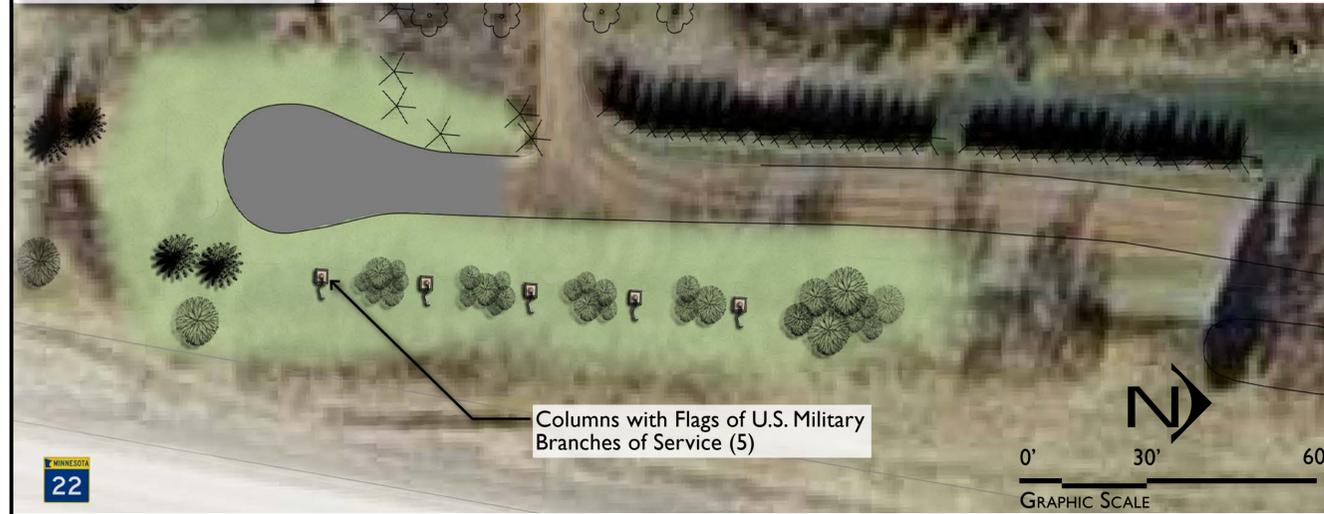
SOUTH OPTION



Concept Two | monument areas

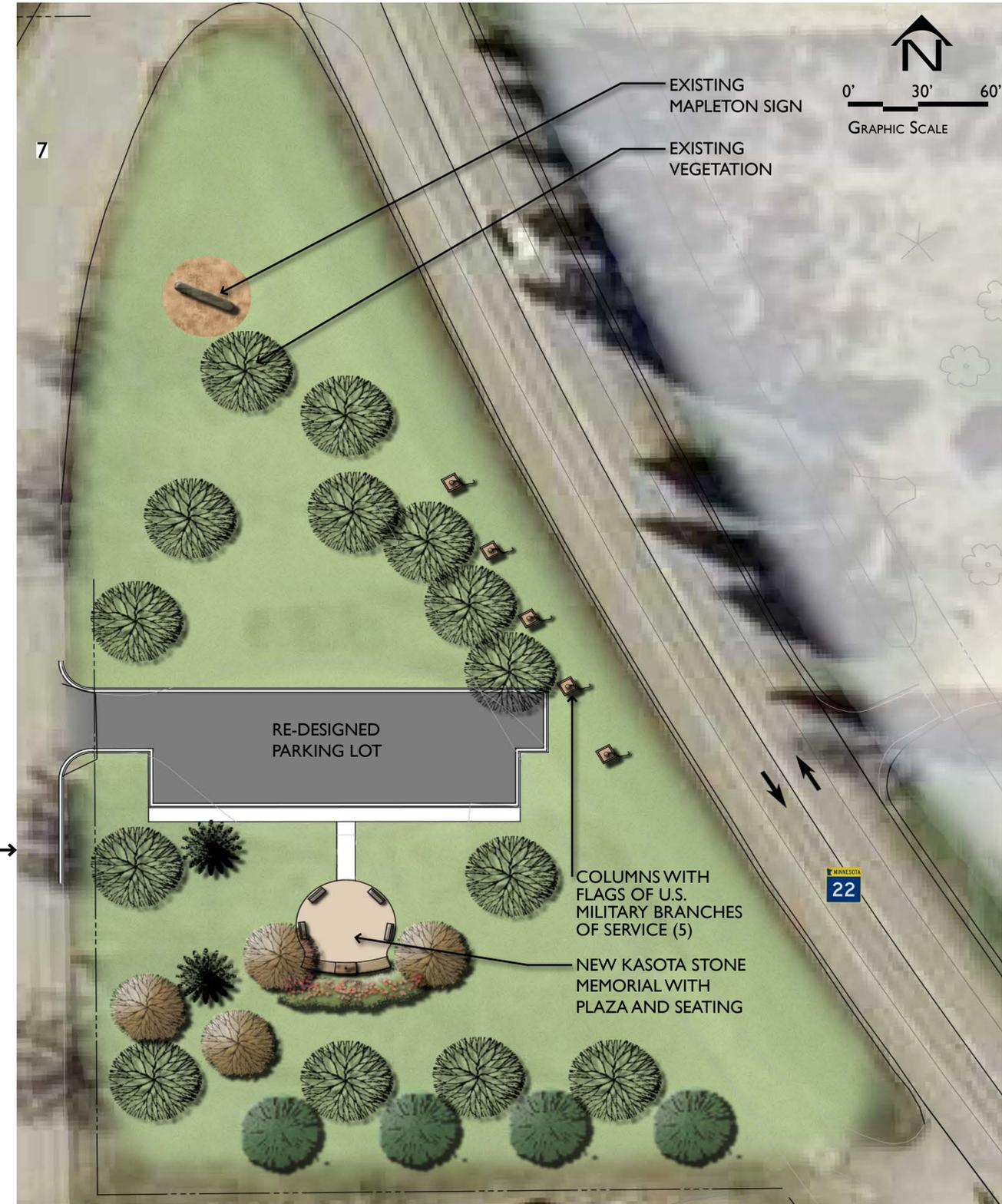
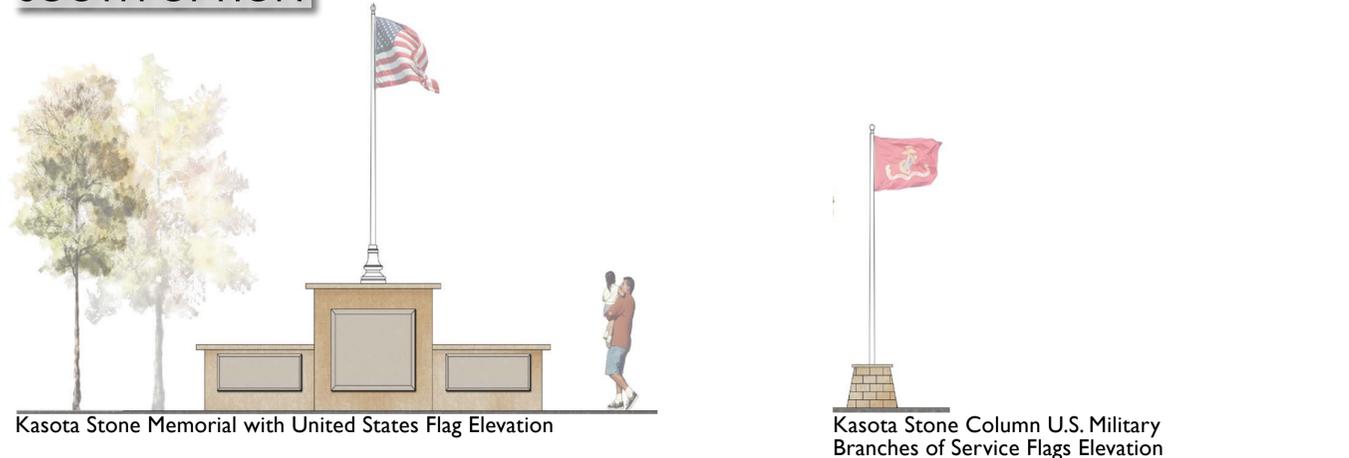


NORTH OPTION



Kasota Stone Column with Flags of U.S. Military Branches of Service

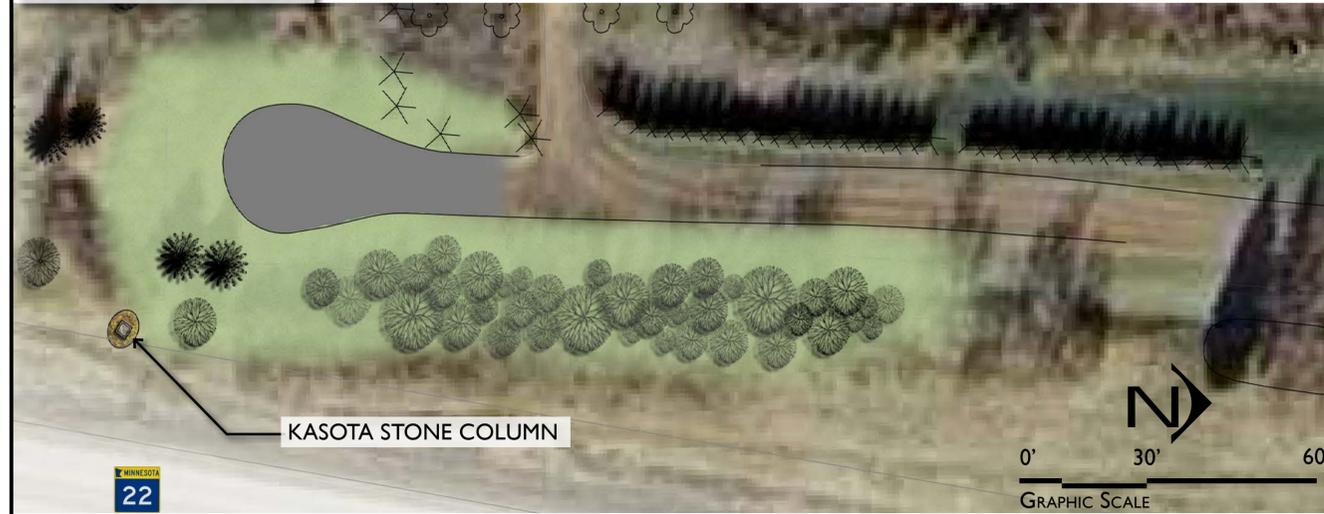
SOUTH OPTION



Concept Three | monument areas



NORTH OPTION

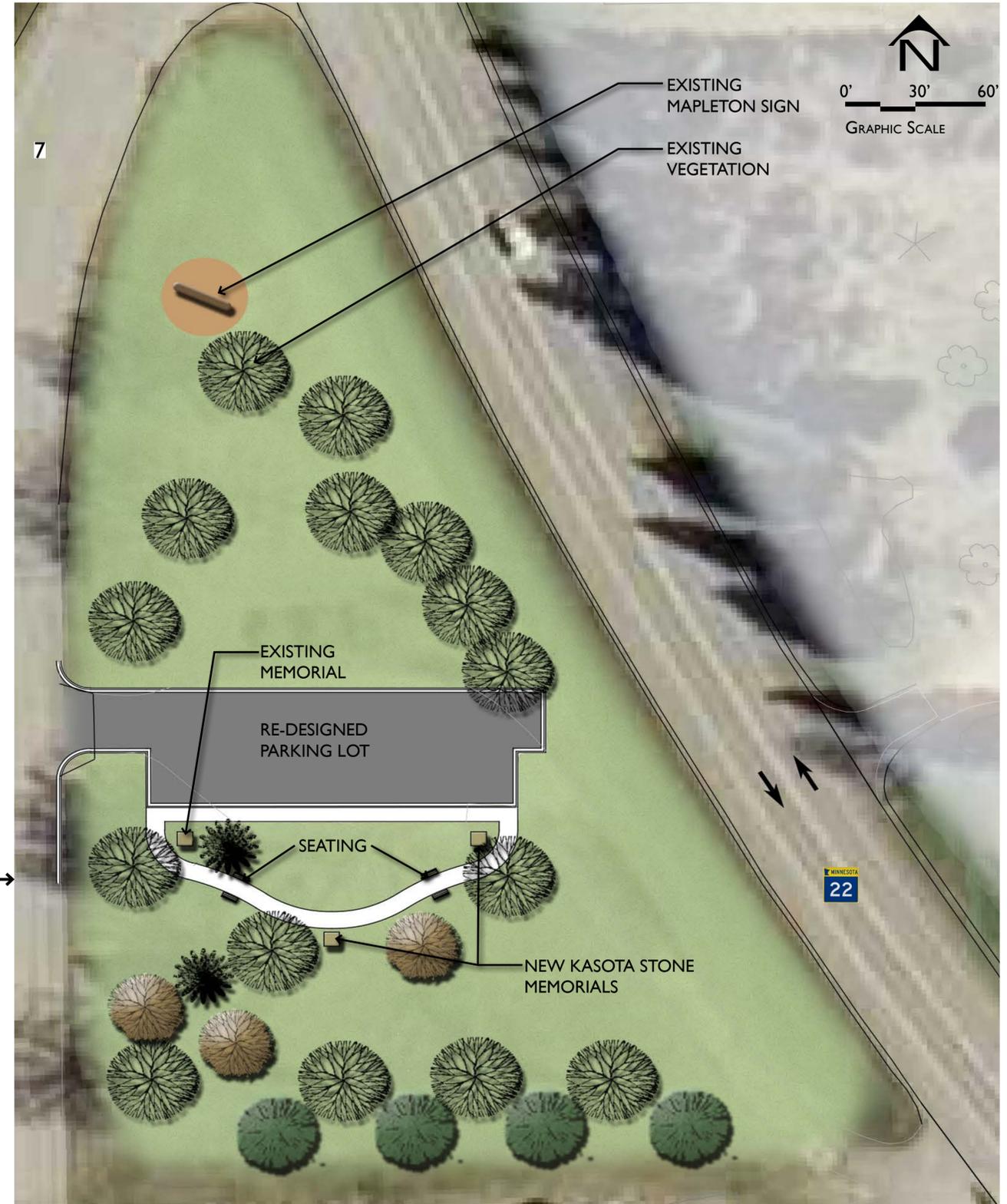


Kasota Stone Column Elevation

SOUTH OPTION



Kasota Stone Memorials Elevation



Countywide public transportation is coming to Blue Earth, Nicollet & Le Sueur Counties.

OVERVIEW

VINE Faith in Action has provided transportation services utilizing volunteers for over 20 years in Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties. We have been operating on MnDOT grants for about 8 years to help provide our services. We have been involved in a MnDOT funded transit study and discussions with local leaders to find a way to establish public transportation in Blue Earth, Nicollet, and Le Sueur county for over two years.

In the fall of 2016, VINE applied for and received a Transit for the Future grant from MnDOT to plan and create the first rural public transportation system in Blue Earth, Nicollet and Le Sueur counties. These counties were some of a handful in MN that did not have county-wide public transit. Within these counties, there is public transportation in the communities of Mankato/North Mankato, St. Peter, and Le Sueur but those programs do not leave the city limits.

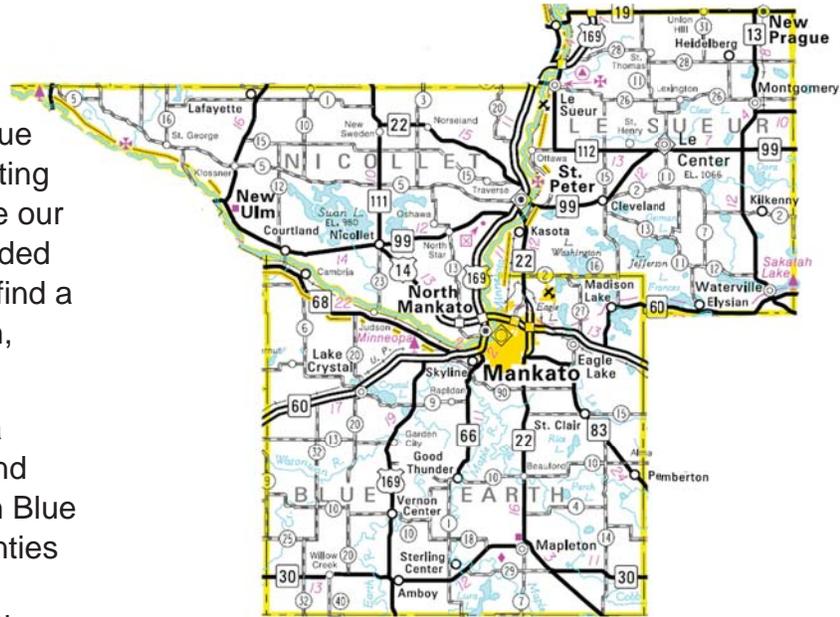
VINE's goal is to partner with local volunteer driver programs and surrounding public transit systems to provide services.

At this time, VINE is working with a Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) made up of the Administrators and Commissioners of the three counties, MnDOT, City of Mankato Public Transit, Aging Services for Communities and Greater Mankato Growth.

The system will start small. Along with the TAC's recommendations, we will use survey results as a building block to create the transit system, to structure routes and utilize our volunteer driver program. We need the knowledge of what people need and want out of the transit program to know how to add service as the years move ahead.

We will be purchasing buses and hope to have one bus in each county by the fall of 2017.

Cost of the program will be subsidized by MnDOT with the local match coming from rider fare's and county support.



TRI-COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

The purpose of the survey is to help us develop routes and times for transit service within the three counties that best fit our rider's needs.

The survey is nine questions and should only take a few minutes to answer.

The survey can be found online at vinevolunteers.com and on Blue Earth, Nicollet & Le Sueur county's websites.

Paper copies of the survey can also be picked up at the VINE Adult Community Center or by calling Paige at 507-386-5573.

We will be collecting data for the survey until the end of the year.

QUESTIONS?

Contact VINE at 507-387-1666 or vine@vinevolunteers.com



TRI-COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

- What is your age?
 under 12 12-17 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 75+
 - What town or township do you live in? _____
 - How do you currently get to your destinations? (please select all that apply)
 I drive myself I use public transit I rely on a family member to drive me
 I rely on a friend or neighbor to drive me I rely on volunteer drivers
 I have what I need delivered Other (please specify) _____
 - If the bus schedule and route were convenient, would you ride the bus to run errands, get to appointments or go shopping?
 Yes No Maybe
 - If the bus schedule and route were convenient, would you ride the bus to work or school?
 Yes No Maybe
 - In what areas are you currently in need of transportation services? (please select all that apply)
 Work trips Medical trips Social trips (visiting friends/family, church, etc.) Shopping
 School/College Twin Cities Metro Preschool/Daycare Other _____
 - At what times are you normally in need of transportation services? (please select all that apply)
- | | 7 am or earlier | 7-9 am | 9-11 am | 11 am-1 pm | 1-3 pm | 3-5 pm | 5-7 pm | 7 pm or later |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Monday | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tuesday | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wednesday | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Thursday | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Friday | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Saturday | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- Where would you like to travel within Blue Earth, Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties? (please be as specific as possible example: From: Nicollet To: River Hills Mall, Mankato or From: my home in Montgomery To: hair salon in Montgomery)
 From _____ To _____
 From _____ To _____
 From _____ To _____
 From _____ To _____
 - What is the average length of time you would need to be at these destinations?
 >1 hour 1-3 hours 3-5 hours 5-7 hours 7+ hours I do not need transportation

If you are interested in receiving more information on the transit system, please provide your contact information.
 Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 Email _____