



CARSTENS-CAMENISCH PARK

MASTER PLAN

DECEMBER 2024

**HYLAND HILLS
PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT**

MIG KIOWA ENGINEERING ERO RWS ENGINEERING INTERGROUP ARCHITECTS BIRDIE DISC GOLF AVOCET IRRIGATION

Existing Conditions

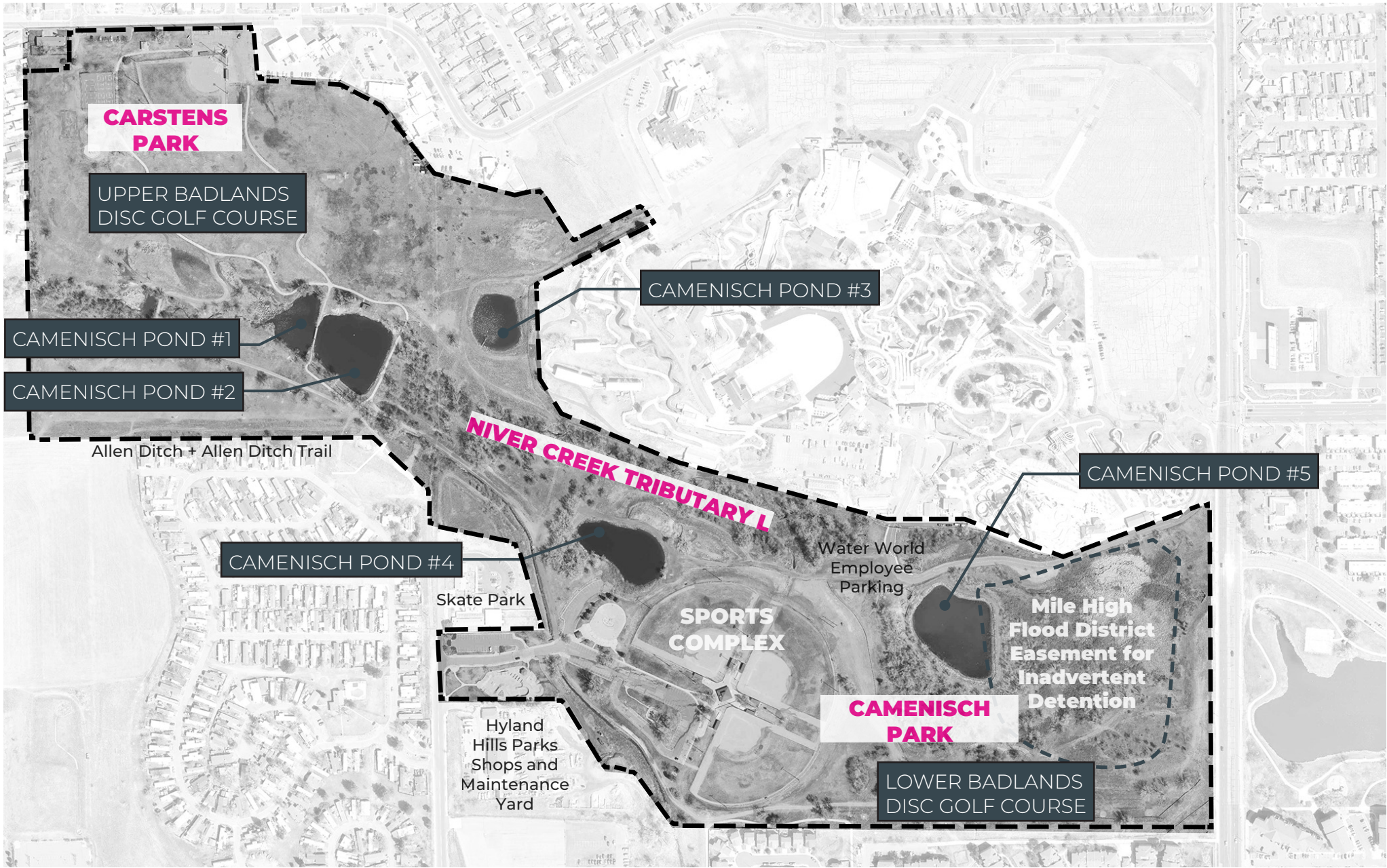
Community Benefits

The existing facilities of Carstens-Camenisch Park already serve as a vital community asset at many scales. Not only does the park serve the neighborhood as a playground, walking trails, and sport courts, it serves the greater region as a large sporting complex, attached skate park, multiple renowned disc golf courses, and a major stormwater detention area.

Carstens Park, located at the northwest corner of the project, serves as a community hub for Federal Heights. It features a baseball diamond, courts for basketball, pickleball, and tennis, a small playground, and shaded shelters perfect for hosting events like Federal Heights’ Summer Socials, birthdays, or graduation parties. The Southeast corner of the site is where the renovated Hyland Hills Sports Complex, associated playground, and nearby skate park are located.

The Niver Creek (Tributary L) serves as an intermediary between these two active areas and provides visitors with relaxing spaces and natural walking trails. This floodplain along the creek and the inadvertent detention basin upstream of Pecos Street protect nearby neighbors from large storm events and serves the greater ecological community as riparian and wetland habitat.

Throughout the entire project area, disc golf courses take advantage of the wooded walks, dramatic topography, and open fields that make this area so special. There are two distinct disc golf courses, the Upper Badlands course that begins at Carstens Park and the Lower Badlands that begins at the Sports Complex Playground. Some construction has removed a few holes from play, but the Lower Badlands is still a well-loved course for Denver players. An alternate course coined the “Blair Witch” is played through the central creek corridor of the site, but is not officially recognized.



Existing Park Overview

Public Outreach Summary

Goals

Public outreach is a crucial component of the park master planning process, aimed at engaging both the residents of Federal Heights and the broader community to gather valuable input on all aspects of the park’s use. By actively involving residents and park users, the goal is to ensure that the park’s development aligns with the needs and preferences of those it will serve.

The public outreach process included two Open House events held concurrently with Federal Heights Summer Socials. Community members were able to share their preferences on key programmatic options, as well as giving longer responses to broader prompts addressing the future of Carstens-Camenisch Park. Both Open House events were followed with an online engagement option that was posted to social media and on physical signs around Carstens-Camenisch Park.



Open House #1

The first Open House was held on July 11, 2024. This Open House included a series of boards that were intended to update the community on the project background, schedule, and planned or potential projects. Another series of boards gave community members the opportunity to express what they value about Carstens-Camenisch Park today, what changes they want to see in the future, and vote on key park program options.

OPEN HOUSE #1 BOARD QUESTIONS AND SUMMARIES:

- » What do you like best about Carstens-Camenisch Park?
 - » Summary: Respondents mentioned trees and the lake and the disc golf course.
- » What would you most like to change or improve in Carstens-Camenisch Park?
 - » Summary: Comments included upgrading the playground, a new basketball court, and drinking water stations.
- » Community comments and suggestions
 - » Summary: Improved disc golf amenities, renovate existing sport courts, requests for splash pad play feature

FACILITY PREFERENCES:

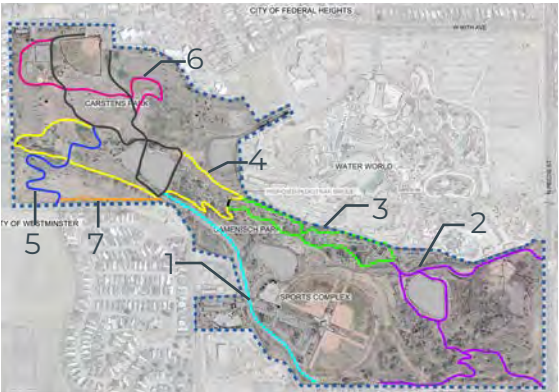
Open House attendees were presented with three (3) boards that encouraged them to place a green dot sticker on their favorite option and a blue dot sticker on their second favorite option. This allowed MIG to see the ranked preferences of the community of options like trails, playground equipment, and park amenities.

The outcome of this ranking process is shown in the grey boxes to the right. See the Appendix for Open House #1 board photos.

- » Which park amenity would you like to see added into the park?
- » Which play equipment type would be most appropriate for the park?
- » What trails would you like to see built within the park?

TRAILS

- 1. Allen Ditch Trail
- 2. East Loop and Connector Trail
- 3. Central Niver Creek Loop Trail
- 4. West Niver Creek Trail
- 5. Westminster Connector Trail
- 6. North East/West Loop Trail
- 7. South Property Line Trail



PARK ELEMENTS

- | PARK AMENITY |
|------------------------------------|
| 1. Renovated Disc Golf Course |
| 2. More Seating and Shade |
| 3. Shade for Play Equipment |
| 4. New Picnic Shelters |
| 5. Single Track Bike Trails |
| 6. Community Gardens |
| 7. More Parking |
| 8. Mini Incline Exercise Hill |
| 9. Low Water Use Landscaping |
| 10. Renovated Basketball Court |
| 11. Exercise Stations |
| 12. Renovated Pickleball Courts |
| 13. Small Amphitheater |
| 14. Additional Walking/ Loop Paths |
| 15. Synthetic Turf Field |

- | PLAY EQUIPMENT |
|----------------------------------|
| 1. Accessible Play |
| 2. Towers with Nets |
| 3. Tree House |
| 4. Obstacle Course Play |
| 5. Multiple Levels of Play |
| 6. Natural Elements |
| 7. All Ages Rock Climbing |
| 8. Nature Inspired Structures |
| 9. Play for Ages 2-5 |
| 10. Large Climbing Elements |
| 11. Colorful/Geometric Structure |
| 12. Animal Inspired Play |

Online Survey #1

An online survey was created for the July 11th Open House so park users had another opportunity to provide suggestions and comments for the Master Plan process. This first digital survey was focused on identifying the park amenities that residents would most like to see added to Carstens-Camenisch Park.

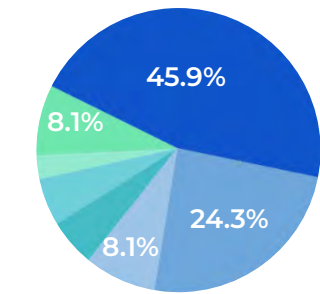
The survey was closed on August 6th. The survey results were used to guide the development of Options 1 and 2, which were presented at Open House #2.

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND SUMMARY OF RESPONSES (40 TOTAL):

- » What do you like best about Carstens Camenisch Park’s features and amenities? (open-ended question)
 - » Summary: Disc golf was mentioned frequently, but other comments mentioned the variety of activities as well as the great view and “natural feel” of the park.
- » What would you like to improve the most in Carstens-Camenisch Park? (open-ended question)
 - » Summary: More amenities like benches, trash cans, and signs in the disc golf courses. Landscaping improvements and shade throughout the park. Renovate playground, existing sport courts, and restrooms.
- » Water conservation is important for Carstens-Camenisch Park. (Select “Strongly Disagree”, Neutral, “Agree”, or “Strongly Agree”).
 - » Summary: The greatest number of people agreed (38%) with this statement. 29% were neutral, 24% strongly agreed, and 9% strongly disagreed.
- » How Important are each of the following amenities for Carstens-Camenisch Park? (rate from 1-5, “Not Important” = 1 and “Very Important” = 5)
 - » Summary: Tree plantings/shade was the most popular (an average score of 4.1) followed by Renovated disc golf course (3.9), New playground equipment (3.8), Renovated restrooms (3.7), and Low-water use landscaping (3.5). The lowest average score was given to Artificial turf for the existing ballfield (1.9).

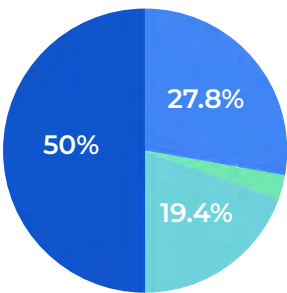
- » Average scores:
 - » Tree plantings/shade: average score 4.1
 - » Renovated Disc Golf Course: 3.9
 - » New playground equipment: 3.8
 - » Renovated restrooms in Carstens Park: 3.7
 - » Low-water use landscaping: 3.5
 - » Renovated basketball courts: 3.2
 - » New picnic shelters: 3.1
 - » More parking: 3.0
 - » Additional walking/loop paths (concrete): 2.9
 - » Renovated pickleball courts: 2.9
 - » Small amphitheater for Movies-in-the-Park, etc.: 2.8
 - » Single-track bike trails: 2.6
 - » Community gardens: 2.5
 - » Artificial turf for the existing ballfield: 1.9

How often do you visit Carstens-Camenisch Park?



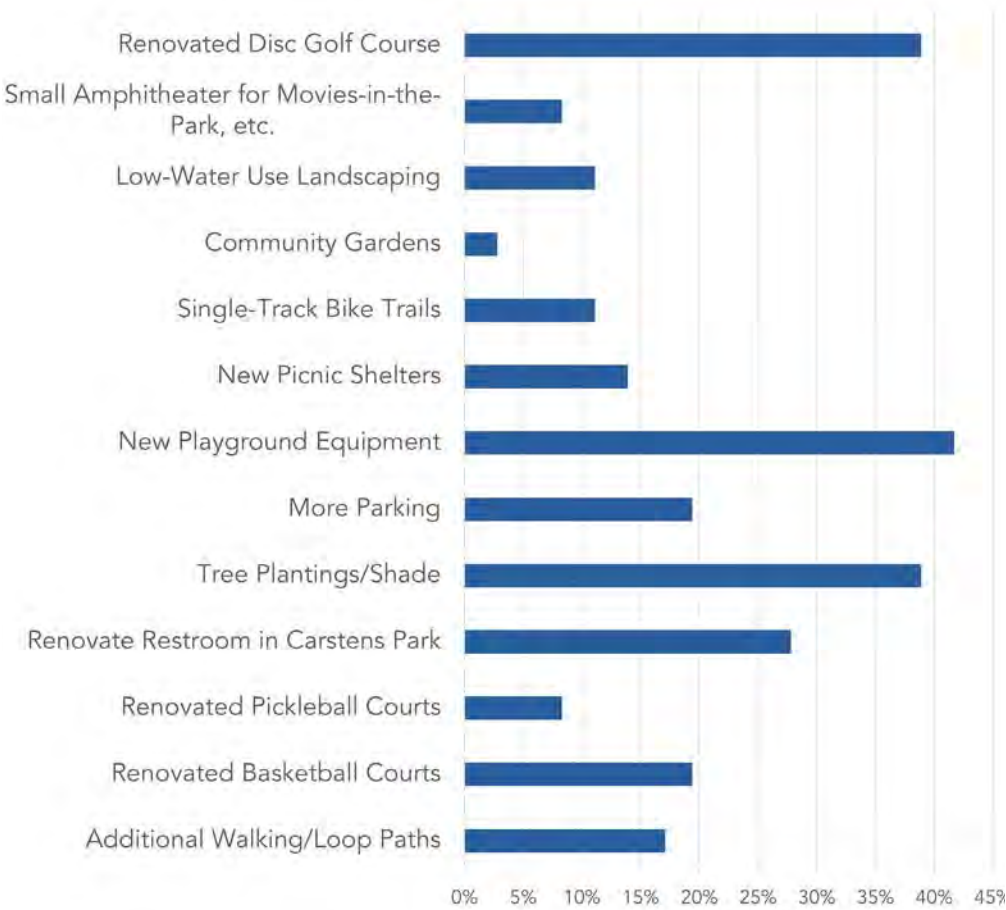
45.9% SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK
24.3% SEVERAL TIMES A MONTH
8.1% DAILY
8.1% ONCE A MONTH
5.4% A FEW TIMES A YEAR
5.4% RARELY
2.7% NEVER

Where are you a resident of?



50% FEDERAL HEIGHTS
27.8% ANOTHER COMMUNITY
19.4% WESTMINSTER
2.8% THORNTON

- » What else would you like to see? What other comments do you have about improvements to the park? (open-ended question)
 - » Summary: Other suggestions include splash pads, tennis courts, exercise amenities, ADA-accessible playgrounds, playgrounds for small children, drinking water, and a large group picnic shelter. Concerns mentioned the cost and capacity for maintenance of any improvements, as well as park visibility.
- » Understanding that resources are limited, which of the following are MOST important to add or upgrade in the park? (select up to 3)
 - » Summary: This question provided the same list of options, but instead asked respondents to only pick their top three. The top three selected overall were New Playground Equipment (42%), Tree Plantings/Shade (39%), and Renovated Disc Golf Course (39%).



Open House #2 and Online Comment Session

The second Open House was held on August 15, 2024. This Open House presented the community with two design options for Carstens-Camenisch Park. The community was then encouraged to give feedback on each design, which was used to create the preferred master plan.

The boards used for Open House #2 were then posted to Konveio, a public outreach website that allows visitors to add comments and suggestions directly onto the boards. The links to these boards were posted to Hyland Hills social media along with the Mile High Disc Golf Facebook page, and each board had English and Spanish translations . The online comment session was open to the public from August 19th through September 10th 2024.



Carstens-Camenisch Park // Master Plan

Open House #2 and Online Comment Session Feedback

- » **Trails**
 - » More trail access points and connectivity around park.
- » **Park Elements**
 - » Tree planting and shade have been consistently noted as one of the top priorities of park users.
 - » Survey results show that users support the neighborhood amphitheater, however need more assurance that the area will be consistently programmed
 - » There is support for the community gardens and accessible playground. There have also been requests for a splash pad or some sort of water play in the park.
 - » Increased bike parking and more secure bike parking options
 - » Drinking fountains or water bottle filling stations.
 - » Increased lighting during the day and night, as well as an emergency blue light station.
- » **Disc Golf**
 - » Overall, option 2 was the preference for those who used the park mostly for disc golf. There is concern about losing the wooded and water elements of Lower Badlands, specifically holes 9-17.
 - » There is a strong preference to keep separate shorter disc golf courses so that a more diverse range of players are able to enjoy the course. Alternate tee pad and basket locations, as well as shorter, more technical holes create an accessible course for players at all levels.
 - » There is support for an optional 24 hole championship course to bring national competitions to Colorado.
 - » Many disc golf users have requested improved tee pads and signage, as well as more benches, shade, dog leash hooks, and trash receptacles around the course.
 - » The original “Badlands” concept is meant to recall a wild west, rugged landscape. Many have noted they would like to see that concept carried through the new improvements.



Hyland Hills Parks & Recreation District 2023 Strategic Plan

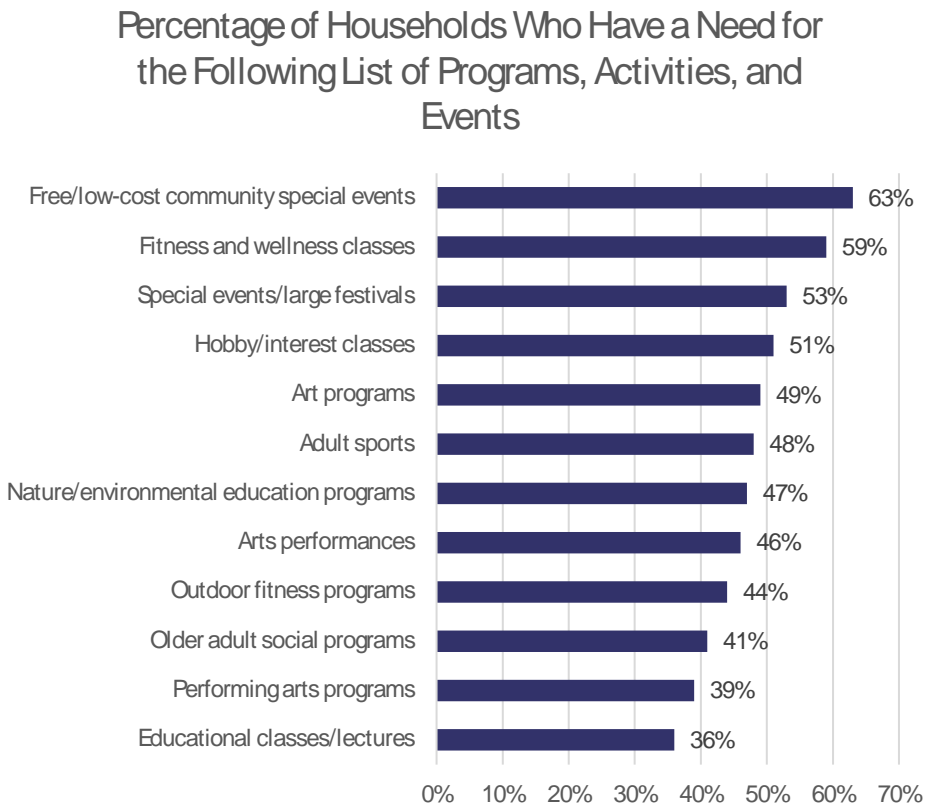
Hyland Hills Parks & Recreation District collaborated with BerryDunn to create a new strategic plan. This plan aimed to incorporate a broad range of voices from the community in order to address impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and serve the community through a lens of equity and inclusion.

Engagement Key Findings

The previous Strategic Plan public engagement explored District recreation facilities and program offerings. Relevant themes and key findings include:

- » **Improvements to Existing Parks and Facilities**
 - » Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for 21 potential actions the District could take to improve the parks and recreation system. Based on the sum of “very supportive” and “somewhat supportive” responses, the following types of improvements received the highest levels of support:
 - » Complete general repairs and increase maintenance (84%)
 - » Add pavilions and shelters or other shade structures (83%)
 - » Improve restroom facilities in existing parks (82%)
 - » Improve ADA/accessibility for people with disabilities (78%)
- » **Shade**
 - » Adding pavilions and other shade structures was one of the most supported improvements to existing parks.
 - » Additionally 21% of respondents noted that a lack of shaded areas were a barrier to park visitation

- » **Environment and Sustainability**
 - » Water conservation is a high priority for residents. The strategies that received the most support include reducing irrigated turf areas, using low water plant material in shrub beds, and planting more trees in key areas for human comfort.
 - » Another identified priority was planting more trees to provide additional environmental and sustainability improvements through cooling, shade, and carbon dioxide absorption.
- » **Program, Activity, and Event Needs**
 - » Respondents would like to see more free or low-cost programming options and events.



Relevant Recommendations

The following recommendations were provided in the 2023 Strategic Plan and align with the Carstens-Camenisch Park Master Plan.

- » **Preserve Our District's Valued Assets**
 - » Develop a transition plan from high-maintenance, water-demanding landscaping to low maintenance, drought-tolerant materials.
 - » Add shade elements to facilities where possible (e.g., trees, shelters, playground canopy).
- » **Align Services With Our District's Evolving Interests**
 - » Provide services and facilities to support access to youth sports.
 - » Increase physical accessibility throughout parks, amenities, and trails.
 - » Invest in the safety and security of parks and facilities.
 - » Improve connectivity to assets throughout HHPRD's system by conducting focused mobility planning, including trail connectivity and wayfinding (signage).
- » **Provide World-Class Experiences**
 - » Improve focus to provide high-quality, exceptional park and facility offerings.
 - » Address highest prioritized maintenance and enhancement needs identified throughout this planning process.

Master Plan Priorities

1

Trail Connectivity

Forming North/South and East/West trail connectivity throughout the park

4

Disc Golf Enhancements

Investing in improved tee boxes, signage, and amenities and creating new course layouts that minimize pedestrian conflict

2

Park Renovation

Renovating existing park facilities such as the playground, restroom, and sport courts

5

Sustainability

Reducing water consumption throughout the park by creating central active lawn areas, and restoring native vegetation communities

3

Visitor Comfort

Enhancing visitor comfort with seating throughout the park, paired with increased tree canopy for shade

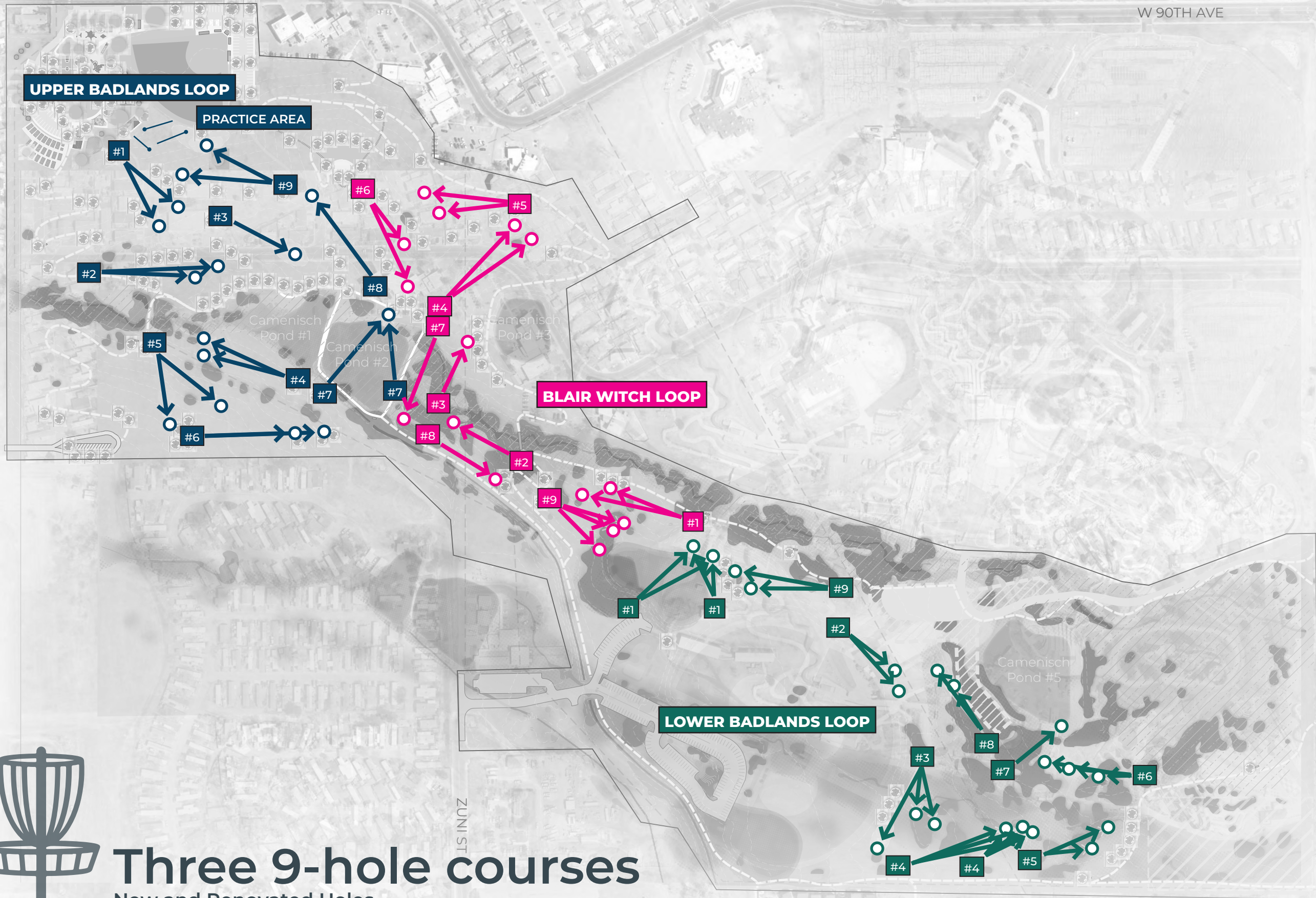
6

Expanded Parking

Additional parking facilities to support sporting events, popular disc golf courses, and a renewed park

CARSTENS-CAMENISCH TOMORROW

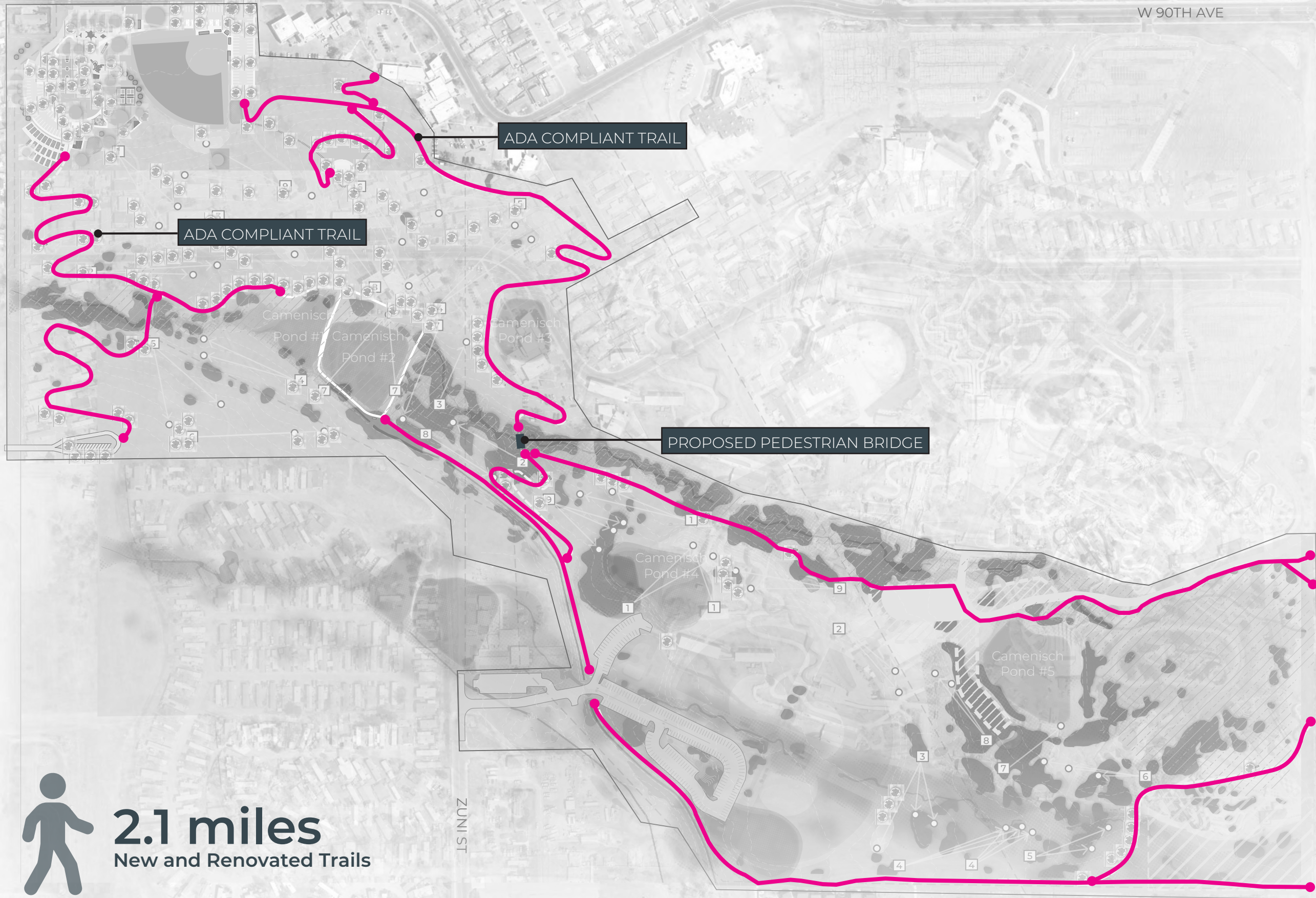




Three 9-hole courses

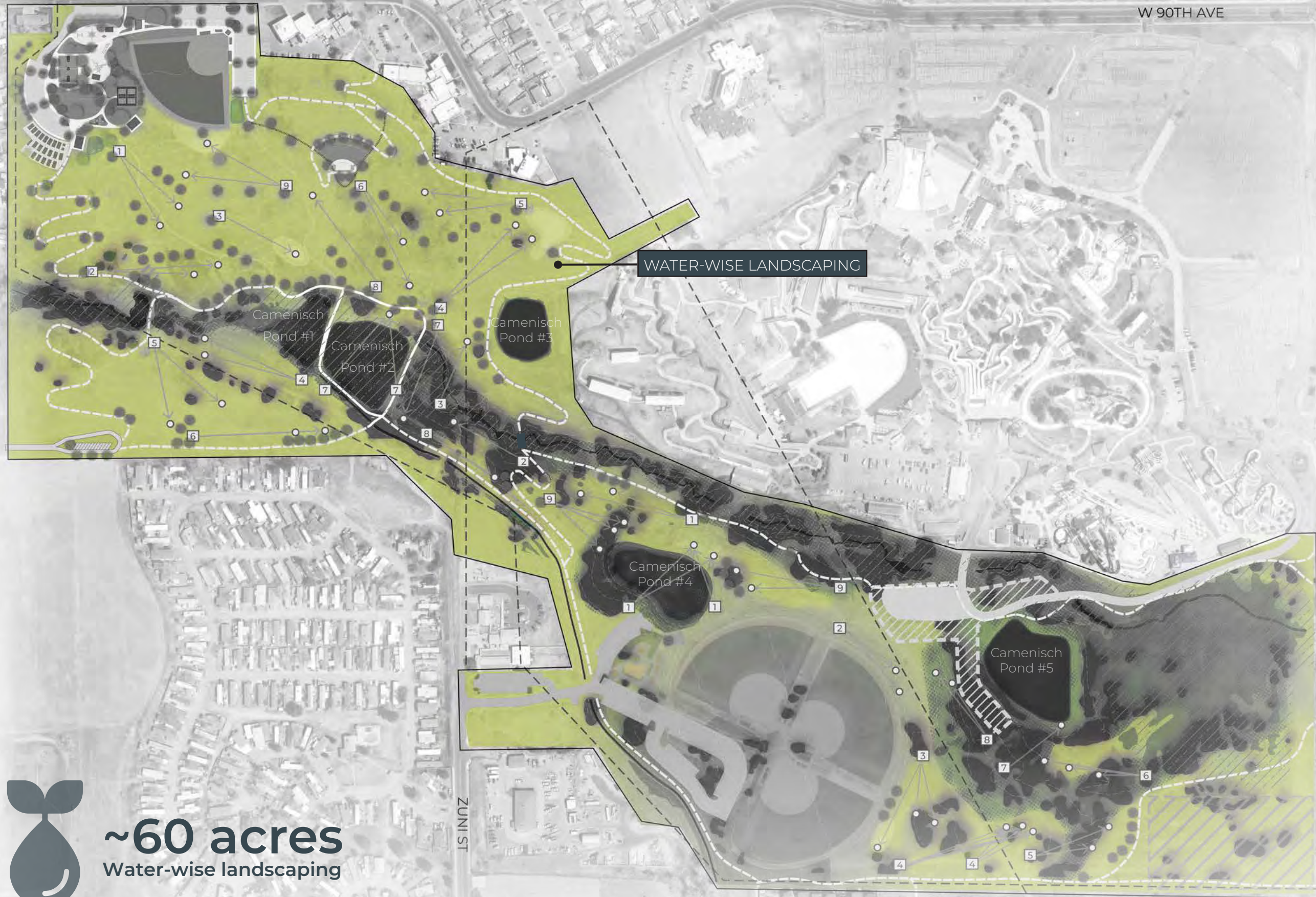
New and Renovated Holes

Disc Golf Course Renovations



2.1 miles
New and Renovated Trails

New Paved and ADA-Compliant Trails



WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING

Camenisch Pond #1
Camenisch Pond #2

Camenisch Pond #3

Camenisch Pond #4

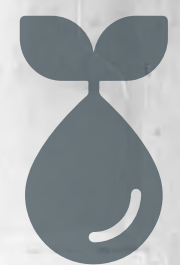
Camenisch Pond #5

W 90TH AVE

W 88TH AVE

N PECOS ST

ZUNIN ST



~60 acres
Water-wise landscaping

Water-wise Landscaping Areas

Carstens Park Renovations

LEGEND

CONCRETE PATH

STRUCTURES

PICNIC SHELTERS

IRRIGATED TURF

SYNTHETIC TURF

WATER-WISE NATIVE LANDSCAPE

EXISTING TREES

NEW SHADE TREES

NEW EVERGREEN TREES

DISC GOLF TEE
*AMATEUR TEE

DISC GOLF BASKET

DISC GOLF THROW LINE

10' X 20' GARDEN PLOT



6 acres
New and Renovated
Park Features

Carstens Park Plan

