



APPLETON PARKS, RECREATION, & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

APPLETON MEMORIAL PARK SCHEIG CENTER MASTER PLAN REPORT APPLETON, WISCONSIN









DECEMBER 31, 2015 PROJECT #15.001



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1	PAGE
Introduction	1
General Information Existing Site Features and Conditions	
City of Appleton Community Parks Locations Scheig Center Existing Aerial Map	
Concerns General Overview	3
Maintenance and Safety	
-Pavement and Hardscape Conditions	
-Entries and Accessibility	
-Site Structures	
-Site Drainage	
Garden and Plant Management -Garden Plantings	
-Overgrowth and Replanting Areas	
-Donor Recognition Features	
Solutions and Recommendations	9
Comprehensive Redevelopment Plan	
-Overall Park and Scheig Center Master Plan	
-Access and Connections -New Planting Areas	
-Site Structure Relocation	
-Reduction of Paved Surfaces	
Ongoing maintenance practices	
Photo Documentation	12
Photo Documentation Overview Map	
Photo Logged Routes of Existing Site Conditions	
Conclusion	13
SECTION 2	PAGE
Appendices	14
A. The Scheig Center – Site Master Plan	
B. Appleton Memorial Park – Overall Site Master Plan C. Site Maintenance Plan	

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

General Information

The Scheig Center was initially founded in 1992 as "The Gardens" and served as a public garden of horticulture and recreation for the Fox Cities. The garden was, and still is, part of the Appleton Memorial Park, which is currently the largest of Appleton's four community parks. From 1994 to 2014, a non-profit organization known as The Gardens of the Fox Cities had leased the land from Appleton to operate as a botanical garden and arboretum. The 35 acres of park land showcased the natural beauty of plants from all around the state of Wisconsin.

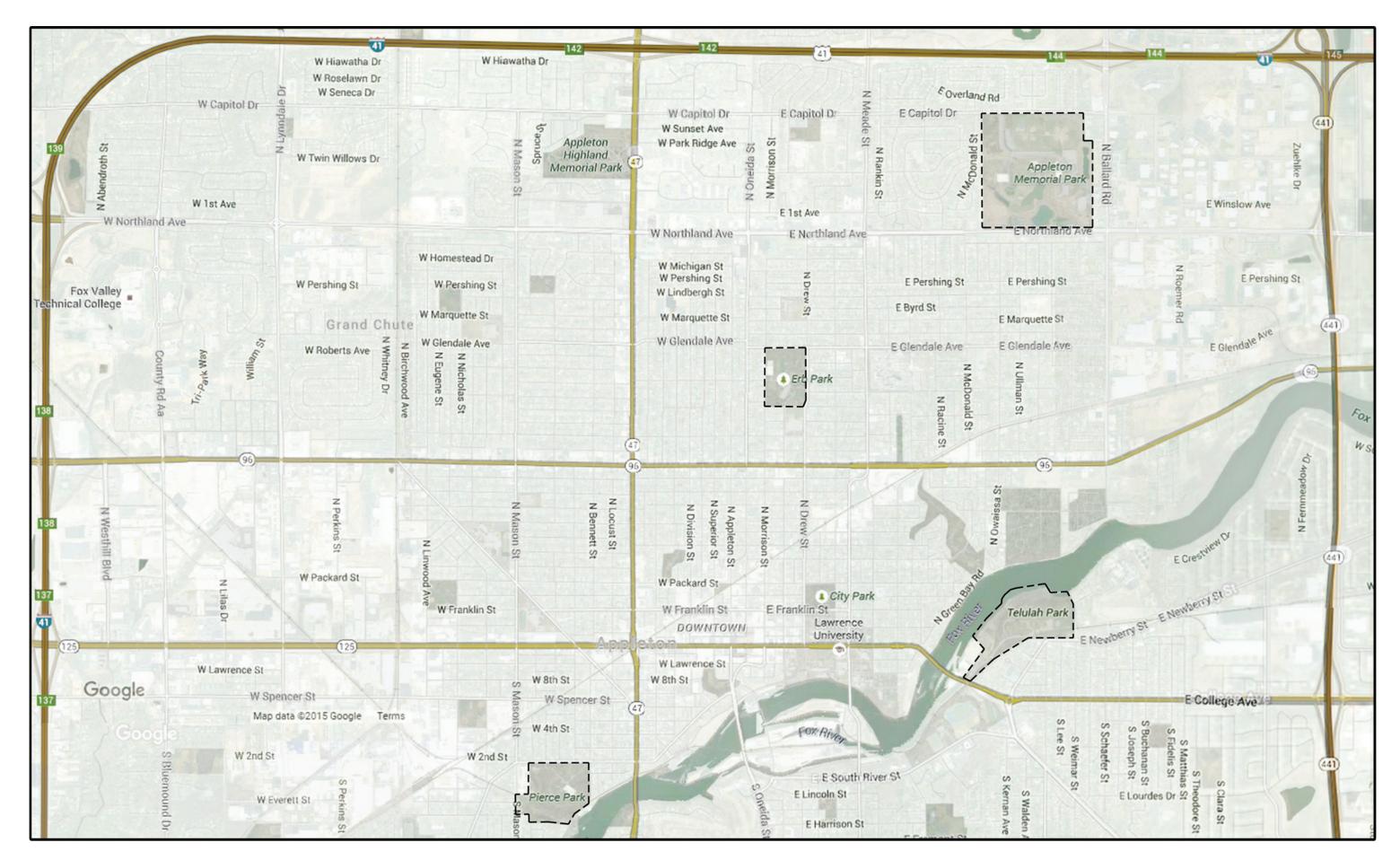
In the summer of 1996, the Henry & Mary Scheig Learning Center, now officially called the "Scheig Center", was constructed and opened to the public. Designed by Architect Charles Montooth, the building is one of several projects completed by the Taliesin Architects of Spring Green, Wisconsin. The Taliesin Architects' mission is to preserve the architectural ideologies of the renowned Wisconsin-born Architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. In many ways the Scheig Center exemplifies the Prairie-esque design style of Wright's architecture through the utilizing of overhanging eaves, clearstory windows, and large stone massing.

Existing Site Features and Conditions

The Scheig Center site is generally bounded by a storm water management swale to the north, a sledding hill to the east, an expansive prairie to the south, and residential property to the west. The surrounding landscape integrates a number of natural elements including gardens, prairies, wooded areas, wetlands, hiking trails, and water features. The garden displays are adjacent to an expanse of brick pavers which have become severely deteriorated over the years and are in need of reduction and refurbishment. Garden areas have been added by groups over the years, and are not maintained to proper standards. The garden plantings are currently in a state of over growth in some areas.

The 5,658 square foot public park facility is available to the public as a rental venue and has been used for events such as family reunions, company meetings, graduations, weddings, and other various events with a capacity of up to 75 people.

Maintenance of the gardens surrounding the Scheig Center is completed by the City of Appleton Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Management Department as well as the assistance of volunteers within the community.



CITY OF APPLETON COMMUNITY PARKS LOCATIONS



SCHEIG CENTER EXISTING AERIAL MAP

CONCERNS

General Overview

Much of the Scheig Center's hardscape has become a safety hazard and maintenance burden due to natural deterioration through the years. Several areas of brick and tiled pavement have been heaved and/or damaged over time, creating dangerous risks of tripping and falling. Furthermore, the amount of existing hardscape is so immense that preserving or replacing it would be a high capital improvement cost. It could be greatly reduced by simply scaling back the amount of hard surface.

Similarly, the garden displays surrounding the Scheig Center are expansive and require a great deal of upkeep. Over time these gardens have become cluttered by vegetative overgrowth from a lack of regular maintenance. Untrimmed plantings have overtaken walking paths and hindered access for visitors of the Scheig Center. Site features such as signage, donor recognition monuments, structural elements, and prominent garden components have become visibly obstructed as well. By trimming back the existing plantings and/or removing excess vegetative sprawling, the overall garden display would become much more distinct and manageable.

Maintenance and Safety

Pavement and Hardscape Conditions

The extensive area of hard surfaces has become unleveled over time as a result of the harsh freeze/thaw cycles that are characteristic of Wisconsin winters and questionable sub surface conditions. As the ground has shifted, the hardscape has become dislodged and resulted in missing and/or broken materials. These materials need to be replaced and/or reset on a leveled base course as needed to ensure a continuous safe walking path for visitors of the Scheig Center.

• Loose, broken, and missing paver tiles are commonplace around the Veteran's Memorial Garden. These disturbances in the hardscape offer a serious risk of falling injury for those observing the garden display. The most noticeable and severe circumstances occur along the perimeter of the stone river feature (see Figure 1). As a result of the way the paver tiles overhang the stone river, many of them have fallen off the ledge and shattered. Unless these hanging tiles are addressed, the chance of injury for visitors will be a serious concern.



Figure 1

 Previously constructed base course underneath the existing hardscape at the Scheig Center has allowed for vertical shifting of the material (see Figure 2). As the tiles and/or bricks continue to move, the size of the gap between them will increase and allow for Wisconsin's freeze/thaw cycle to crack and break the material even more. The base course must be releveled in order to reduce the heaving of the tiles and maintain level walking conditions.



Figure 2

Entries and Accessibility

With the existing site configuration, the only way to access to the Scheig Center is via a pedestrian walkway that protrudes through the Veteran's Memorial Garden. Currently, there is no vehicular access to the facility for maintenance workers and the adjacent parking lot is not conducive to larger vehicle traffic. As the City of Appleton continues to explore the redevelopment of Appleton Memorial Park as a unified entity, the need for improved site access is significant. By relocating the parking lot closer to E. Witzke Boulevard, the level of visual connectivity to the site will greatly increase. Furthermore, the reconfigured parking lot will be more serviceable to the southwestern section of the Appleton Memorial Park on a larger scale.

The current entrance to the Scheig Center from E. Witzke Boulevard does not promote clear accessibility to the site for the public. The deeply recessed parking lot and vegetative brush suggest that the drive is more of a private drive than public access (see Figure 3). By reconfiguring the site entrance layout, the Scheig Center would increase its visibility and, therefore, accessibility to potential future visitors. Furthermore, the addition of a service drive would provide maintenance vehicles with a



Figure 3

more functional connection to the rest of the site and, as a result, increase the efficiency of labor. Circulation could be restricted from the public via a service drive to the plaza areas by utilizing bollards and gates.

• The entrances to the Scheig Center building itself are also in need of reconstruction. The existing foundations beneath the stoops have settled significantly and have created unsafe pedestrian access for those using the facility (see Figure 4). The hard scape immediately adjacent to the building is also in disrepair and should be recessed away from the building's exterior walls to create a more noticeable entry point for visitors.



Figure 4

Site Structures

Many of the site's existing structures such as donor plaques, trellises, and monuments have become deteriorated and/or obstructed by overgrown vegetation. These features need to be replaced and/or relocated as indicated by the redeveloped site master plan for their use to remain functional to the overall site. For structures which remain relevant to the redeveloped Scheig Center, replacement features should be selected so as to ensure the safety of garden visitors as well as reduce the need for future maintenance.

With the proposal of the new Scheig Center master plan, there are several gardens which will need to be removed entirely to improve the overall safety and maintenance of the facility. Of these, the Wisconsin Water Feature garden display presents one of the most sever risks of injury to observers. The wooden boardwalk is both extremely unleveled, making it an issue for ADA compliance, and lacks any sort of barrier to prevent individuals from falling into the water below (see Figure 5). Additionally, the lack of water flow has led to a buildup of algae and requires constant maintenance and upkeep. The Scheig Center will benefit from eliminating this garden feature in the interest of both safety and maintenance.



Figure 5

- While some existing structural features need to be removed entirely, others need only to be relocated to remain functional. The existing Family Garden is currently situated far away from the building and in the way of the proposed public parking lot redevelopment. As of now, the Family Garden is not in a prominent location and, with vegetation surrounding it, the wooden bench seems difficult to utilize (see Figure 6). With the relocation of the garden, these correlated structures would either have to be replaced in kind and relocated, or eliminated altogether.
- The majority of the existing structural features at the Scheig Center are built from wood materials including trellises, information kiosks, garden signage, and the "Welcome to the Scheig Center" entry feature (see Figure 7). Over the years, these wooden structures have been weathered by the harsh Wisconsin elements and their structural stability must be reconsidered. To ensure these features will be safe for visitors, we recommend replacing them with durable, weather-resilient materials or eliminating them to reduce capital costs and the expense of future maintenance.



Figure 6



Figure 7

Site Drainage

The Scheig Center facility and surrounding hardscape currently necessitates a great deal of concern regarding the management of storm water drainage. As of now, the roof's downspouts extend out onto the brick pavers which is where the water is being deposited (see Figure 8). This setup leads to a serious risk of tripping injury for visitors. Also, the deposited water is not being properly removed from the site and may result in further deterioration of the hardscape. The water from the roof drains needs to be directed towards a more suitable area of deposit while the existing plastic inlets in the hardscape



Figure 8

need to be replaced and releveling to ensure proper drainage.

Garden and Plant Management

Garden Plantings

There are currently many circumstances at the Scheig Center where vegetative growth has allowed garden plantings to infringe on adjacent elements such as walking paths, structures, plantings, and a variety of other neighboring site features. Consequently, the ability for visitors to safely access and observe each of the gardens has become a real issue. Trimming back the overgrowth would not only make these garden displays more available to visitors but also to those who are responsible for garden maintenance. The proposed site master plan also recommends relocating some of the gardens in order to increase their level of connectedness to the rest of the site. Likewise, several existing site features have also become visually hindered by vegetation and require being relocated according to the master plan to maximize their value. By simply relocating these existing elements, the Scheig Center gardens will ultimately increase the level of functionality and aesthetics while simultaneously lowering the burden of upkeep.

• The existing Scheig Center garden displays are thematically designed with specific vegetation to create a unique identity to each area of the overall garden configuration. Over time, the plantings have become overcrowded making it difficult to distinguish each specific plant as it relates to the overall concept of the garden (see Figure 9). To ensure that the plantings are pertinent to their respective garden and not an invasive species, the garden displays need to be trimmed back, removed, and reassessed.

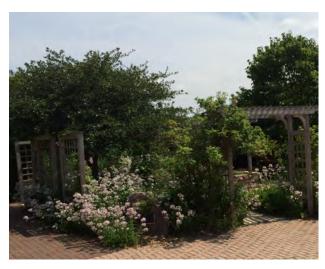


Figure 9

Overgrowth and Replanting Areas

The site master plan outlines the relocation of several garden displays to improve the overall connectedness of the gardens. Some of the existing gardens are located far from the building and are difficult for visitors to get to such as the Shrub & Flower Garden, and the Prairie Rose Garden display. By reducing the amount of hard surface area as previously



Figure 10

mentioned, there is opportunity for these gardens to be brought much closer to the facility for visitors to access. For instance, the area of undistinguished vegetation alongside the Scheig Center building can be repurposed as the new location for the Shrub and Flower garden display (see Figure 10).

Donor Recognition Features

The Scheig Center gardens contains many different site features that are utilized for monuments and donor recognition. Some of these elements include a "Scheig Center" entry stone, a "Contractor's Association" stone plague, and several garden display stone markers (see Figure 11). As the vegetation has grown, many of these features have been visually overtaken and need the surrounding plantings to be trimmed back. Furthermore, the master plan suggests the relocation of a handful of gardens and, therefore, any accompanying stone feature should be transported along with it. However, by removing these features during the site redevelopment, the aesthetics of the gardens can be significantly improved without any capital cost.



Figure 11

SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Comprehensive Redevelopment Plan

Overall Park and Scheig Center Master Plan

The new Scheig Center master plan is part of a comprehensive redevelopment plan for the Appleton Memorial Park as a whole. By integrating these two projects, the City of Appleton will have established a cohesive landscape that supports public functions on both levels. The redesign of entrances, accesses, parking, pathways, and circulation will only enhance the experience for visitors to the facility and park. By restructuring the garden displays in a more systematic arrangement, the gardens will be more accessible for both visitors and maintenance workers. Reducing the volume of existing hardscape will minimize the capital cost of materials as well as future maintenance expenses for the City of Appleton Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Management Department. Finally, the replacement of existing site structures with more durable, weather-resilient materials will allow the Scheig Center facility to sustain a safe and functioning environment for many years to come.

Access and Connections

As part of the overall redevelopment plan for Appleton Memorial Park, one of the main priorities for improving the Scheig Center in relation to the park is establishing stronger connections and accessibility. Under the current site conditions, the Scheig Center is visually obstructed from both vehicular traffic and the rest of the park by the arborvitae and cedar trees to the east of the existing drive. The long drive extending from the road to the public parking lot creates uncertainty for potential visitors attempting to locate parking and entry to the Scheig Center facility. Furthermore, the existing site configuration does not lend to easy access for maintenance staff. To enhance the connectedness of the Scheig Center to the rest of Appleton's Memorial Park, we propose the following:

- Remove and replace existing parking lot with the newly proposed public parking lot located closer to E. Witzke Boulevard and the remaining southern edge of the park. The new parking lot should be curbed for storm water management and to discourage reckless vehicular activity.
- Create service drive entrance by remove the existing 'Dwarf Tree Garden' on the
 northern edge of the garden displays to create an opening to connect the plaza to
 the proposed parking lot. Install service gate at connection of service drive to
 parking lot to restrict immediate access and install bollards in plaza according to
 the proposed master plan to further limit vehicular traffic.
- Improve walking trail around western perimeter of Scheig Center garden displays to increase connection to the rest of Appleton Memorial Park
- Preserve existing asphalt surface between new public parking lot and existing amphitheater to maintain pedestrian and service accessibility to the park structures and remove upon demolition of the structures.

New Planting Areas

With the proposed development of a new public parking lot to service the southwestern portion of Appleton Memorial Park, some of the existing gardens further from the facility will have to be relocated and/or removed. And yet, the new locations for many of these gardens will be enhanced by increasing their connectedness to the overall layout of the site. By placing them closer to the inner garden displays, there is a much higher probability the visitors to the Scheig Center will view them. Furthermore, having gardens arranged much closer to the facility will increase the efficiency of maintenance. With the new planting areas adjacent to the building, roof drainage will be able to be deposited into these locations rather than onto the hardscape. For relocating the outer gardens displays, we propose taking the following actions:

- Relocating 'Family Garden' and 'Paper Birch Prairie Display Garden' to the southwest portion of the garden displays encompassing the Scheig Center.
- Develop a stronger connection to the 'Laura A. Batterman Memorial Garden' by repositioning the 'Prairie Rose Garden' adjacent to it.
- Increase the amount of views to the 'Shrub & Flower Boarder Display' by moving it directly beside the Scheig Center's southeast façade.
- Reconstruct the 'Wisconsin Water Feature' by scaling it back to a smaller, more
 manageable pond adjacent to the existing bridge. Reduce/thin out the vegetation
 to increase the openness of the green space.
- Relocate the former 'Shrub & Flower Boarder Display' garden and 'A Garden at the Heart' garden to new planting areas adjacent to the facility. Install a hard connection underneath the stamped concrete to better direct roof drainage away from the building.

Site Structure Relocation

In addition to repositioning the vegetation, several accompanying components need to be moved in order to remain relevant to the site. For instance, the 'Family Garden' includes a bench that functions as both a seating feature as well as a monument for remembering "Hon Andrew & Dorothy Parnell". While some items like this bench are linked to a specific garden, many site features are significant based on their relation to the overall site layout. With the recommended master plan, these components need to be relocated in order to best contribute to the overall arrangement of the site:

- Replace and reposition 'Welcome to the Scheig Center' entry signage to proposed pedestrian entry walking path from new public parking lot.
- Relocating 'Fox Cities Landscape Contractors Association' monument to proposed Scheig Center entry location for increased visibility for visitors.
- Remove and replace existing 'Fox Cities Visitor Information' structure with more durable materials and updated visitor information according the comprehensive redevelopment plan for the Appleton Memorial Park.

There are many other wooden structures at the Scheig Center that are currently in a state of disrepair as they have not been properly maintained. These structures include trellises, fencing, and a variety of other smaller elements. With the proposed removal of the 'Herb Garden', 'Marvin's Garden', and 'Seeds to Market Garden', there is no longer a need for these structures.

Reduction of Paved Surfaces

The extent of hardscape at the Scheig Center is excessive and its present condition lends to severe safety hazards for those visiting the site. By reducing the amount of hardscape to a level which can be easily monitored and repaired, the burden of upkeep should be significantly lessened. Removing and replacing the brick pavers with stamped concrete will create a more durable, level, and uniform surface while still offering aesthetic appeal. Furthermore, recessing the hardscape contiguous to the façade and adding vegetation will create a softer visual buffer and more noticeable entry locations to the building. The following goals will help reduce the amount of hardscape, create safer conditions for visitors, and add aesthetic appeal to the landscape:

- Replace all existing brick pavers surrounding the Scheig Center with stamped concrete surface and connect the proposed service drive from the parking lot through the opening created by the removal of the 'Dwarf Tree Garden'. Replace inlets with water metal grate and set rim elevations level with the stamped concrete to create a contiguous surface.
- Remove brick pavers from the north and southeast façades of the Scheig Center to create room for relocating the 'Shrub & Flower Boarder Display' garden and 'A Garden at the Heart'.
- Recess brick pavers adjoining the northwestern façade near the garage and replace with vegetation to visually screen the entry point from the public.
- Scale back the width of the existing walking path that connects the 'Veteran's Memorial Garden' to the Scheig Center by removing brick pavers and creating a more spacious vegetative buffer.
- Remove and salvage limestone donor pavers from southwestern perimeter of gardens to repurpose for potential new donor recognition display feature.

Ongoing Maintenance Practices

To be written.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

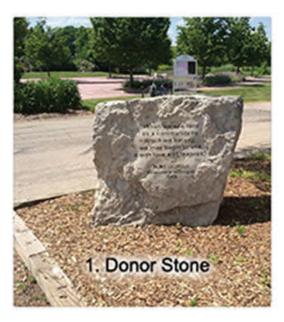
The following pages detail the gardens surrounding the Scheig Center within Appleton Memorial Park. The landscape is divided into four walking routes with photographs detailing the conditions of the gardens, significant site features, the quality of various site structures/features, and areas identified as opportunities for improvements.



PHOTO DOCUMENTATION OVERVIEW

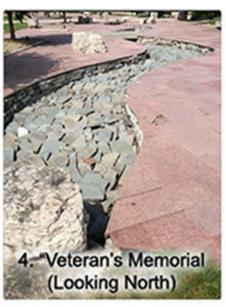
The dashed lines indicate the four routes used to in the following Photo Documentation Section which is divided into four sections. These sections ilustrate general portions of the site including entrances, site structures, the garden displays, and the walking paths.

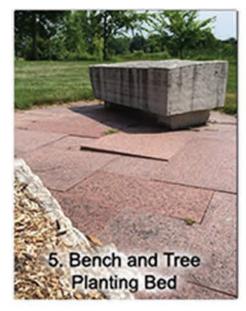




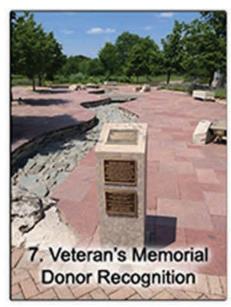










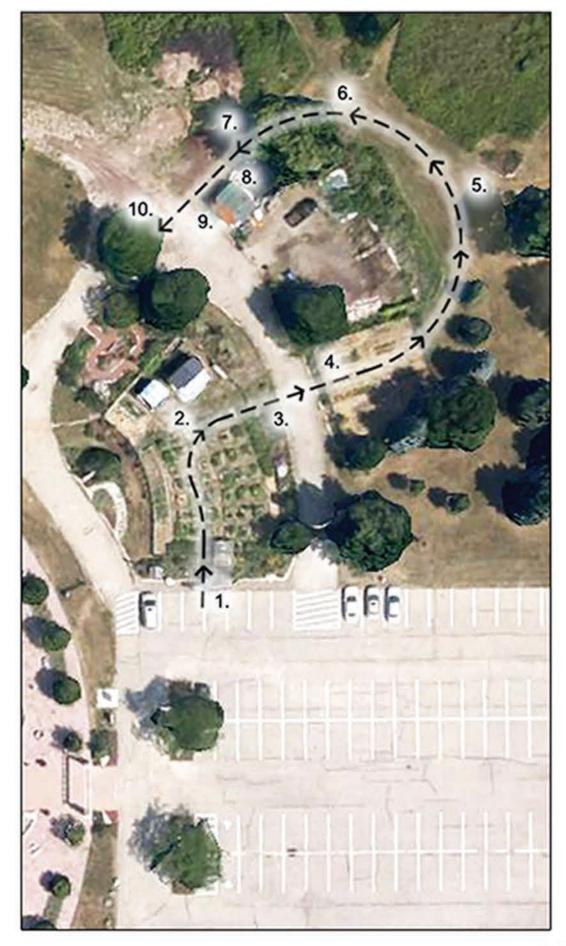








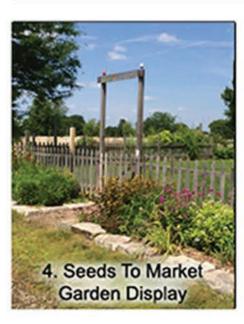
ROUTE A: EXISTING ENTRY AND VETERAN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN DISPLAY

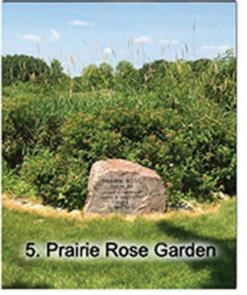


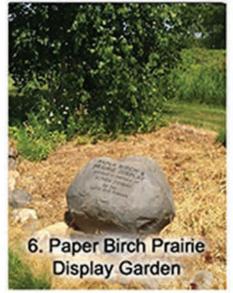


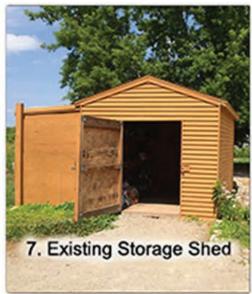










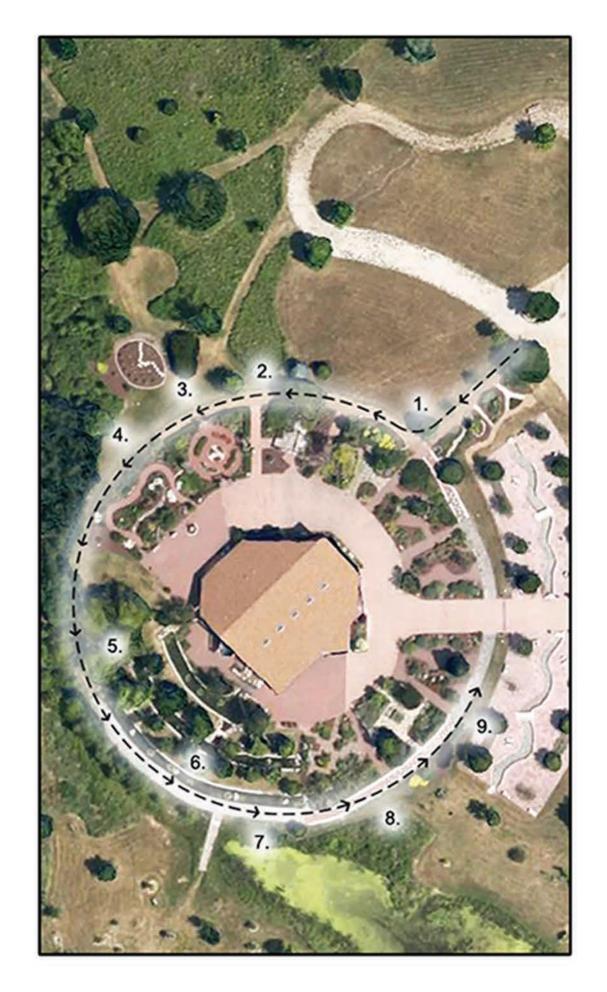


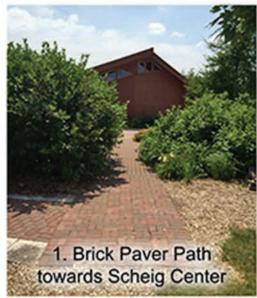






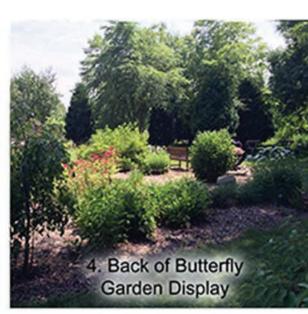
ROUTE B: MARVIN'S GARDEN, SEEDS TO MARKET & OTHER GARDEN DISPLAYS



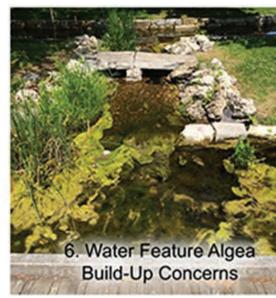




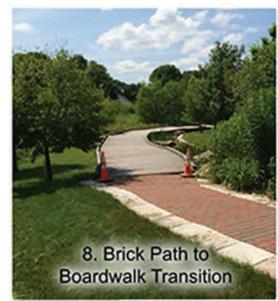


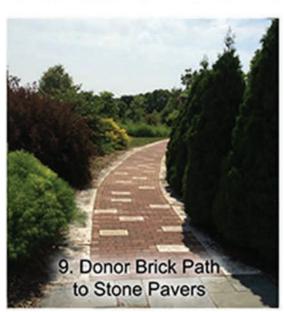












ROUTE C: SCHEIG CENTER PERIMETER WALKING PATHS & GARDENS









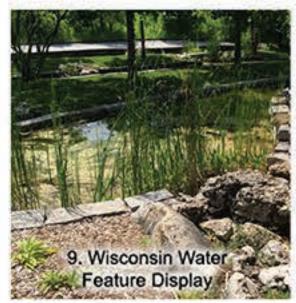












ROUTE D: INNER CIRCLE GARDEN DISPLAYS

CONCLUSION

By incorporating the Scheig Center master plan into the comprehensive redevelopment plan for the Appleton Memorial Park, the result will be a cohesive design that increases the connectivity of the surrounding landscape, decreases the burden of maintenance, and establishes safe, lasting conditions for visitors. The proposed public parking lot and new entry path location would not only improve the entry experience to the Scheig Center, but increase the overall circulation to the southwestern portion of Appleton's largest community park. With the addition of a restricted access service drive, the facility will offer better access for maintenance without the concern of public usage.

The relocation of the outer garden displays to the areas proposed in the master plan will enhance the wildlife experience for visitors. Rather than walking lengthy distances on unleveled pavers, visitors will be able to experience the gardens more extensively and safely. Additionally, the efficiency for maintenance workers will be much improved due to the close proximity of the vegetation. By integrating the external gardens into the existing circular configuration, the landscape surrounding the facility will be significantly enriched through the intentionality of its design.

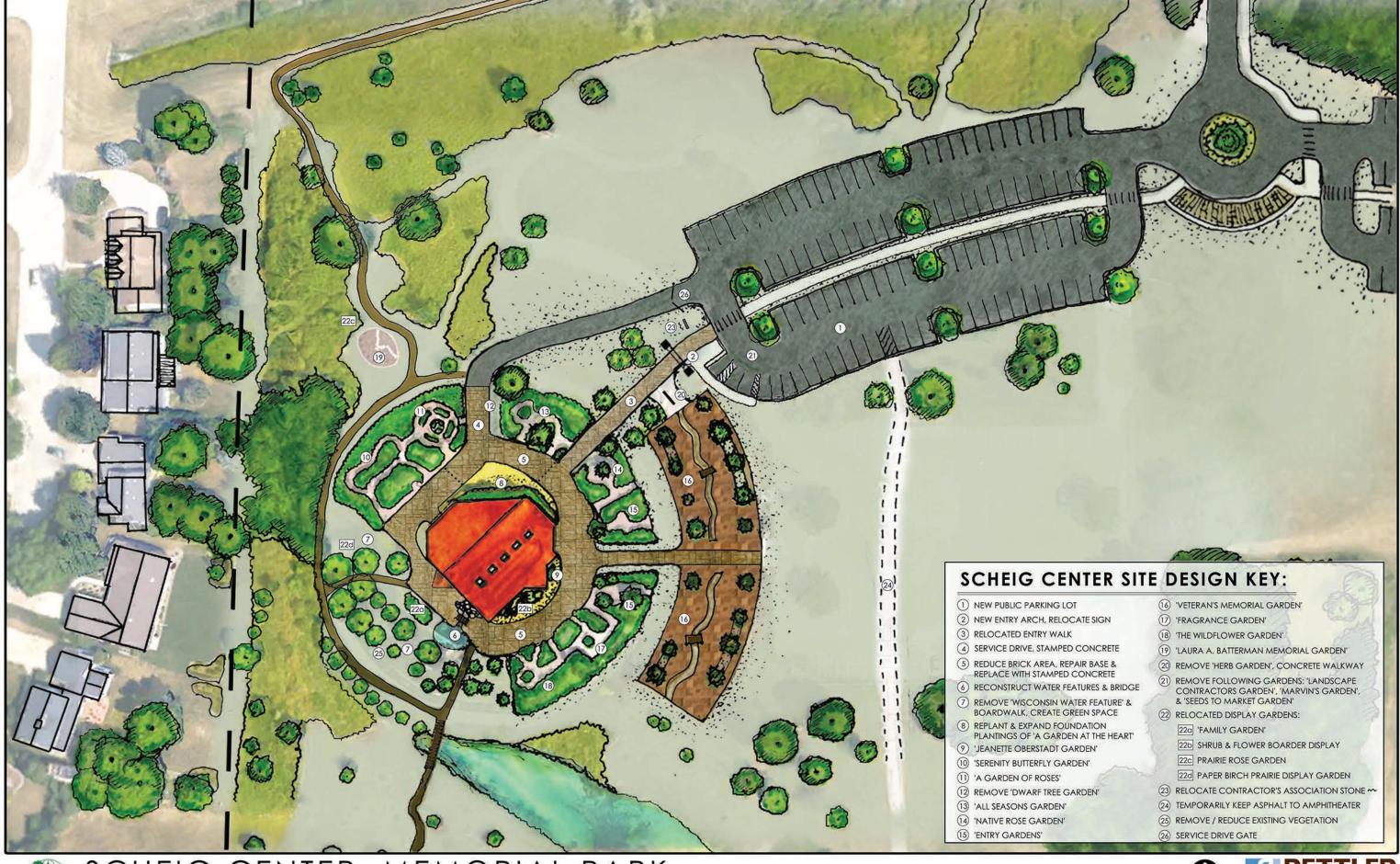
Replacing and/or eliminating the existing structures and hardscape with more durable alternatives will have long-lasting effects on preserving the quality and safety of the facility. By removing the brick pavers and replacing them with stamped concrete, the resulting surface will be more level, durable, and uniform. Furthermore, by recessing the hardscape away from the façade to form a vegetative buffer, we can increase the aesthetics of the landscape while reducing capital costs. Likewise, replacing and/or eliminating the existing structural features with weather-resilient materials will also lower the expenses for maintenance in the future.

Overall, the redevelopment of the Scheig Center as recommended in the master plan will cultivate a more thoroughly integrated landscape within the precincts of Appleton Memorial Park as a whole and provide increased accessibility to the public, safer site conditions for visitors, and reduce the need for frequent maintenance.

SECTION 2

APPENDIX A:

THE SCHEIG CENTER SITE MASTER PLAN









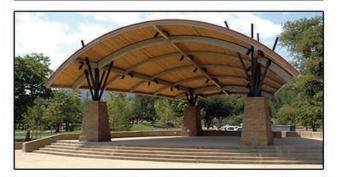
APPENDIX B:

APPLETON MEMORIAL PARK OVERALL SITE MASTER PLAN



CONCEPTUAL SITE DESIGN DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS:

- A 199 STALL PUBLIC PARKING LOT
- B 193 STALL PUBLIC PARKING LOT EXPANSION
- O 11 STALL STAFF / EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT
- NEW AMPHITHEATER STRUCTURE
- PUBLIC RESTROOM / RECREATIONAL RENTAL PAVILION
- (1) ADDITIONAL INDOOR ICE SHEET BUILDING EXPANSION
- **G** BASEBALL/SOFTBALL BATTING CAGES
- H PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
- PUBLIC INFORMATION KIOSKS
- DEDUCATIONAL LEARNING CENTER
- **K** FITNESS / EXERCISE STATIONS
- 25 STALL PUBLIC PARKING LOT
- M PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- N FUTURE PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL UNDER HWY "OO"



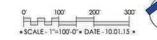








CITY OF APPLETON - MEMORIAL PARK SITE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT • OVERALL SITE MASTER PLAN





APPENDIX C: SITE MAINTENANCE PLAN

SITE MAINTENANCE PLAN

Planting Type	pe Annual Maintenance Schedule								
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	At 2 Years	At 5 Years	At 10+ Years		
Trees and Shrubs					Only prune	Selectively	Replace shrubs		
Planting		Х	Х	Х	lower branches that will create	replace shrubs that have	that have become		
New/Replacement		^	^	^	a hazard.	overgrown.	overgrown.		
Fertilizer	Only when needed			Trees should not be staked					
Mulch		X	X	Х	unless absolutely necessary. Renewal prune woody shrubs to improve shape.				
Pest Control (only as needed)		Х	Х						
Plant Repair	Х	Х	Х	Х	shape. DO NOT SHEAR SHRUBS. Pruning sh be done of trained personnel. Pruning should be done only by trained personnel.	DO NOT			
Pruning	X	×	X	×		SHEAR SHRUBS. Pruning should be done only by trained personnel.			
Perennials/Ornamental Grasses						Divide existing plants to keep them healthy and maintain shape.	Divide existing plants to keep them healthy and maintain shape.		
Planting New/Replacement		X	Х	Х	In areas where establishment is unsuccessful, amend soil and replant.	Replace dead plant material. Change plant species in cases of major dieouts.	Replace dead plant material. Change plant species in cases of major die-outs.		

i lanting Type	anting Type Annual Maintenance Schedule									
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	At 2 Years	At 5 Years	At 10+ Years			
Aeration		April		Sept.	Re-grade sections that		Complete major			
Mowing		Х	Х	Х	may have		renovation of			
Re-sodding		Х	Х	Х	become "bumpy".		turf areas designated for active sports such as ball fields, soccer fields, etc.			
Re-seeding (over- seeding)				Х	Remove lawn from area around tree trunks.					
Weed control (only as needed)		Х		Х						
Fertilization		Х		Х						
Naturalized Areas										
Planting		X		X	Weeding/burns and general management is critical during the first three years of establishment. The goal is to have minimal contact in subsequent years to reduce impact to wildlife habitat. ONLY BURN IN NATIVE GRASS & FLOWER AREAS. Most trees and shrubs cannot typically survive this method of weed control.	Plant species selection should be modified based on success rates.	Long-term management should consider wildlife habitat quality. Plant species selection should be modified based on success rates and aesthetic quality. Replace plants or re- seed as needed.			