



**Wayzata City Council Workshop Meeting Agenda
Wayzata City Hall Community Room, 600 Rice Street
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**

WORKSHOP TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Update on City Manager Recruitment (5:30-6:00 p.m.)
2. Discussion of Resident Request for Downtown Beautification (6:00-6:30 p.m.)
3. Future Discussion Topics (6:30-6:40 p.m.)



City Council Workshop City Council Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: January 20, 2026	WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM: 1
TITLE: Update on City Manager Recruitment (5:30-6:00 p.m.)	
PREPARED BY: Kathy Leervig, City Clerk	
REVIEWED BY:	

DISCUSSION OBJECTIVE:

The City Council will meet with MGT Impact Solutions, LLC to receive an update on the City Manager hiring process and to discuss recommendations for a community interview panel to assist the Council in the final selection process. Council members should be prepared to suggest potential participants for the 5-6 member community panel. MGT will come to the meeting with recommended categories from which to select participants.

2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES RELEVANCE:

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND:

Former City Manager Jeffrey Dahl resigned effective July 17, 2025. The City Council hired MGT Impact Solutions, LLC to assist with the recruitment of a new City Manager. A subcommittee consisting of Mayor Mullin and Councilmember Sorensen has been working with MGT consultants Ellen Hiniker and Pam Dmytrenko to guide the recruitment process. MGT is currently reviewing applications and pre-screening candidates. MGT will be presenting a pool of eight to ten candidates to the City Council on February 5 for consideration and selection for first round interviews on February 12. Final interviews are scheduled for February 26, 2026.

MGT will have materials with more details about the hiring process to distribute at the January 20 meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None



City Council Workshop City Council Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: January 20, 2026	WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM: 2
TITLE: Discussion of Resident Request for Downtown Beautification (6:00-6:30 p.m.)	
PREPARED BY: Aurora Yager, Interim City Manager	
REVIEWED BY:	

DISCUSSION OBJECTIVE:

Discuss the resident request and determine if the Council is interested in a partnership with this group on this project.

2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES RELEVANCE:

Sustain Community Character and Safety

Maintenance of Lake Street is an important factor in Wayzata's character and resident pride.

BACKGROUND:

Over the last few years, many of the dogwoods along Lake Street started exhibiting signs that they were struggling. Some of them were treated, but many died despite these efforts and staff began planning for their replacement.

In the Summer of 2025, a group of residents approached the Mayor noting their desire to see improved plantings along Lake Street, including, but not limited to, the replacement of the failed dogwoods. Since then, this group of residents hired Damon Farber to evaluate the performance of the plantings on Lake Street. Below are two documents that explain their request and include the planting evaluation by Damon Farber.

In a review of the Damon Farber report, staff have the following comments to add for context:

- Some of the areas shown without plant material typically had annuals planted but, due to the time of year, had already been removed for the season. (Sections E.5; C.6)
- Certain planting beds are noted as containing species that are incompatible with the irrigation schedule. The schedule is broken up into 62 zones, meaning most of these issues can be addressed with irrigation system adjustments. (Throughout)
- The beds described in Section D.7 were replanted by staff in late 2025.
- Some of the areas shown are not owned by the City (Sections F.2, F.3, G.4, G.1, G.2, G.3) or maintained by the City (Section G.5 and Section with duplicate G.4 label)

At the workshop, members of this group will be present to review their request with the Council and to answer any questions.

Next Steps

If the Council was interested in exploring this partnership and working on a plan with this group of residents, the following would be next steps:

1. Staff would reach out to this group and create a working group to recommend a revised planting plan for Lake Street.
2. Their recommendations would be brought back to the Council in a workshop for consideration before the summer.
3. If Council supported, the plan would transition into implementation in part or in whole before the 2026 planting season ends.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resident Request Letter - Downtown Plantings
2. Damon Farber - Downtown Plantings

My name is Pam Safar and I am part of a larger group of people who are long time residents of Wayzata. Judy Wright, Mary Aamoth, Terri Huml, Sherry Cooper, and Sue Schwalbach. We would like to form a sort of Public Private partnership with the City to assess, replant, maintain and overall improve the plantings in the beds along Lake St from Barry to the hotel. Most of us walk regularly up and down Lake St and have watched the poor performance and deterioration of the plant material and the dying off of original plants, some of which may not have been the right choice for the environment. We believe the City staff has worked to the best of its ability in these recent years but may not have the time, personnel and or specific expertise to tackle an upgrade of the Lake St planting beds.

We love Wayzata and want not only to enjoy a better look but also want to help put our best foot forward as our city continues to grow. We have contacted other stakeholders in Wayzata-business owners and tenants-who feel the same way and we intend to continue to speak to them to encourage them to join us.

In order to ensure that we start from the right base, our group hired Damon Farber Landscape Architects to assess the current situation in each bed and to prepare the enclosed plant performance evaluation. Plants and conditions in each bed in each block were assessed. This assessment is color coded for ease. This information is crucial to designing the right plants, mulch, irrigation, light and access. It is the perfect base to work from for replanting and also for future maintenance.

We did this mainly to know what the magnitude of this project is and to show others and the city that we are serious and want to be part of the solution. This work product be the start of a plan to make the changes needed in the beds, create a planting plan for beds that need changing and very importantly, make a long term plan for maintaining the beds. We are poised to do this in whatever role the city might decide is most effective for our group.

To date, our group has invested around \$10,000. We are willing to consider a future commitment of 25% of the total project cost up to \$40,000. Our goal is to expand this effort to include additional residents, Wayzata businesses and commercial property owners.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak to the City about this possible partnership.

The assessment from Damon Farber gives color coded detail for each bed and its current status. With this, our group proposes the following steps:

- Align with the City on the process and our involvement. Make action plan for each.
- Obtain a planting plan using the Damon Farber assessment.
- Hold off on ordering plant replacement until we align on a revised approach.
- Arrange for City staff to engage with Colleen to determine her involvement
- Re-evaluate the current City budget for replanting and annual maintenance to align with the revised plan
- Define cost estimates for plantings and maintenance inclusive of additional expertise with a focus from Superior to Barry along Lake St

We strongly recommend that we include/arrange for/hire Colleen Lockovitch at Sustinea to consult. Her experience and reputation is in perfect harmony with our project. Her webpage is sustinea.com. She has vast experience working with cities and parks across the country, lives in our area and has consulted with Excelsior on their gardens.

A specific timeline could be organized so that this work can begin asap for the 2026 season.

RESOURCES:

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sschwal578@gmail.com

JEAN GARBARINI

Damon Farber

jgarbarini@damonfarber.com

COLLEEN LOCKOVITCH

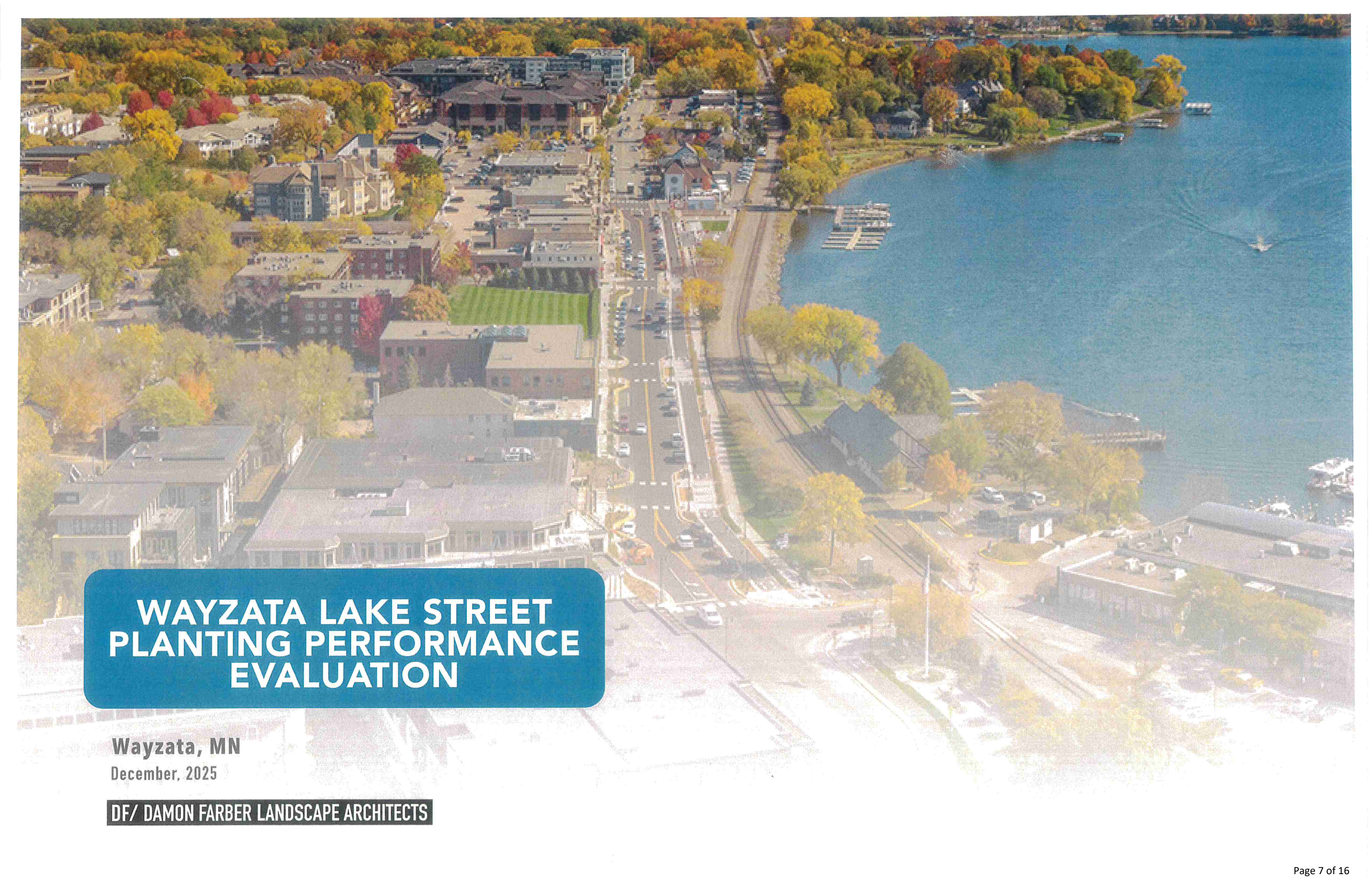
312.208.1822

[sustinea.cOM](http://sustinea.com)

1. We are poised to immediately engage with the City staff to help move this project forward.

2. We are willing to be volunteers at any level.

3. Ms Lockovitch is available to work on this project.



WAYZATA LAKE STREET PLANTING PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Wayzata, MN
December, 2025

DF/ DAMON FARBER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

PLANTING EVALUATION

HEALTHY



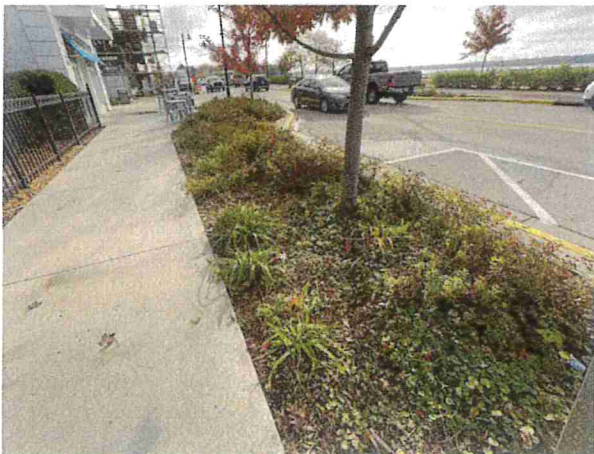
Originally specified plants are healthy and bed is full



PATCHY GROWTH



Planting is moderately healthy but with several areas where plants have failed and weeding or pruning is needed



LESS SUCCESSFUL



Plant species are not ideal for planting bed location



FAILURE



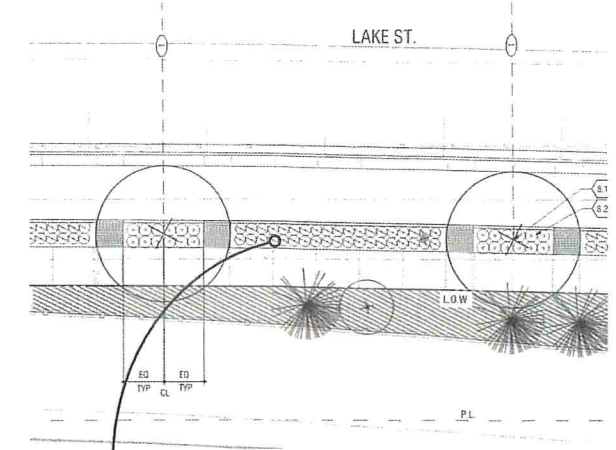
Plant bed is largely empty, plants have been damaged or are not able to thrive in conditions



PLANT SUBSTITUTION



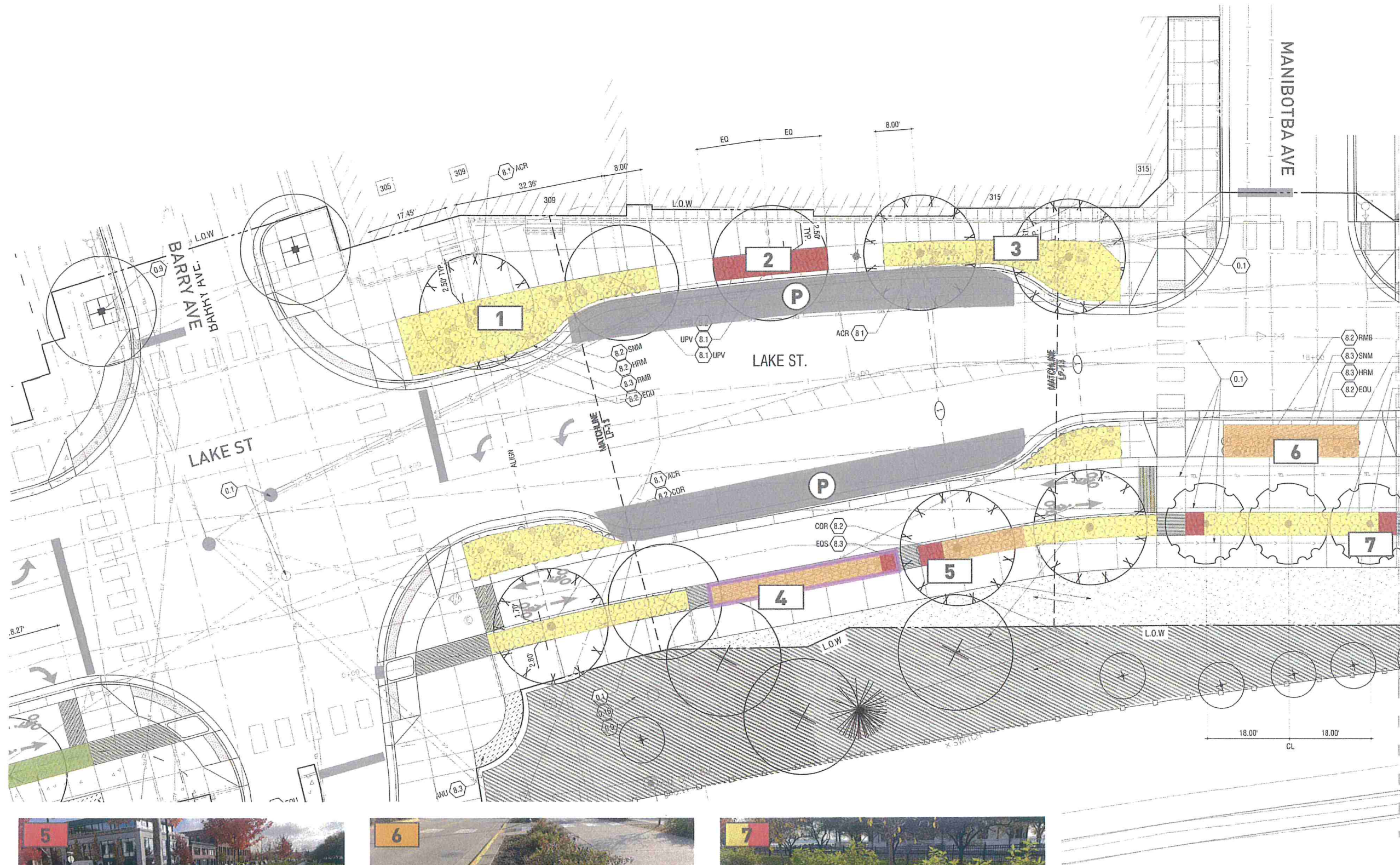
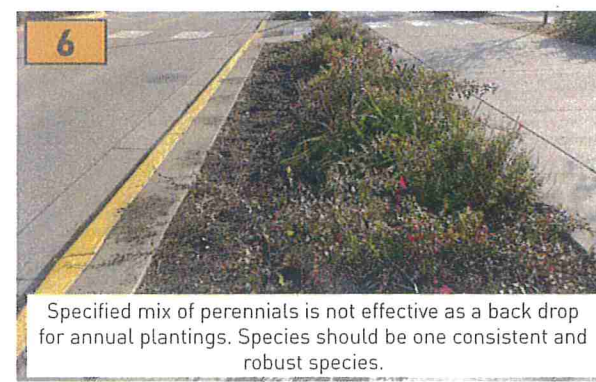
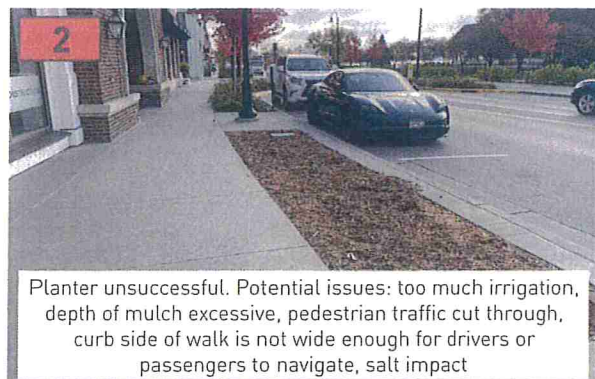
Original specified plants are not extant, a substitute plant has been installed

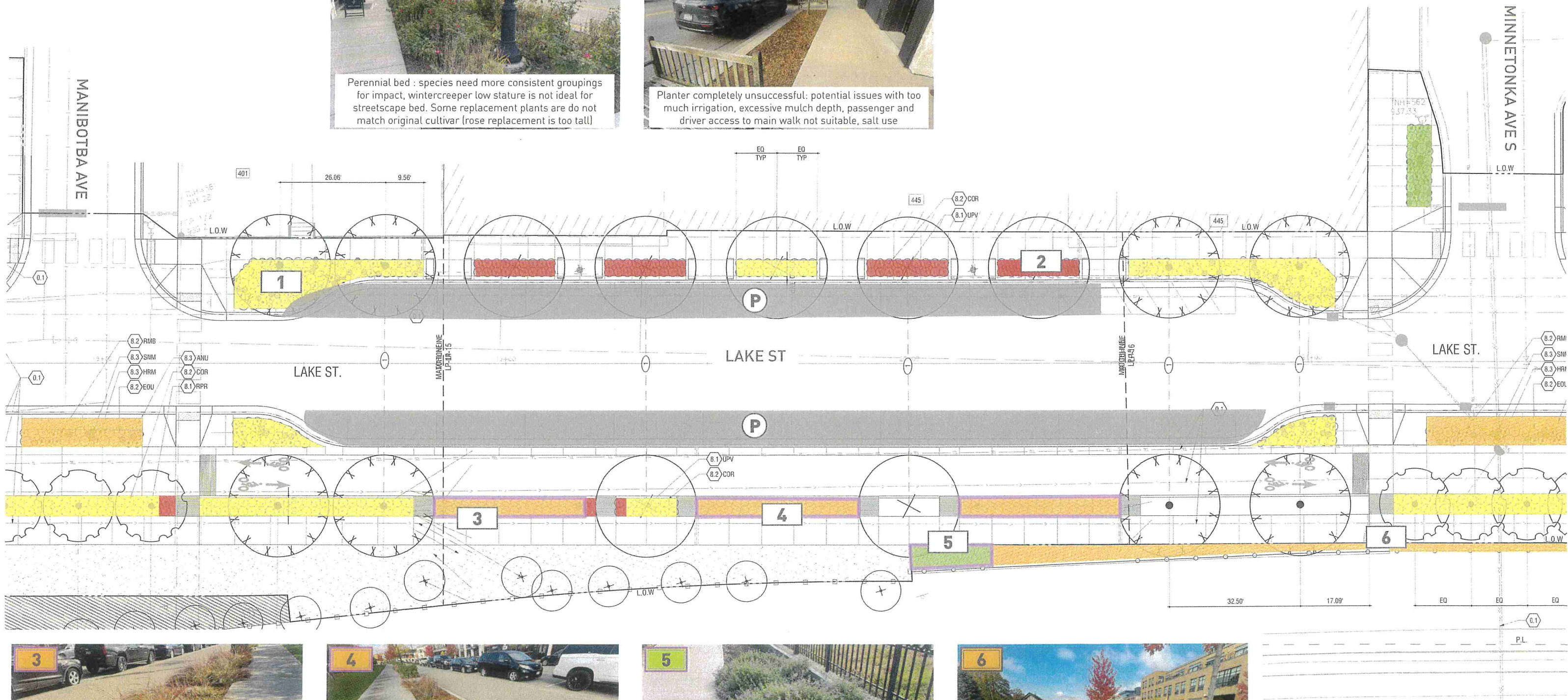


EVALUATION EXTENTS

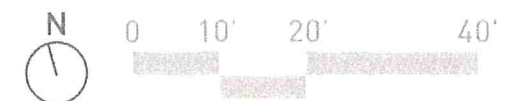
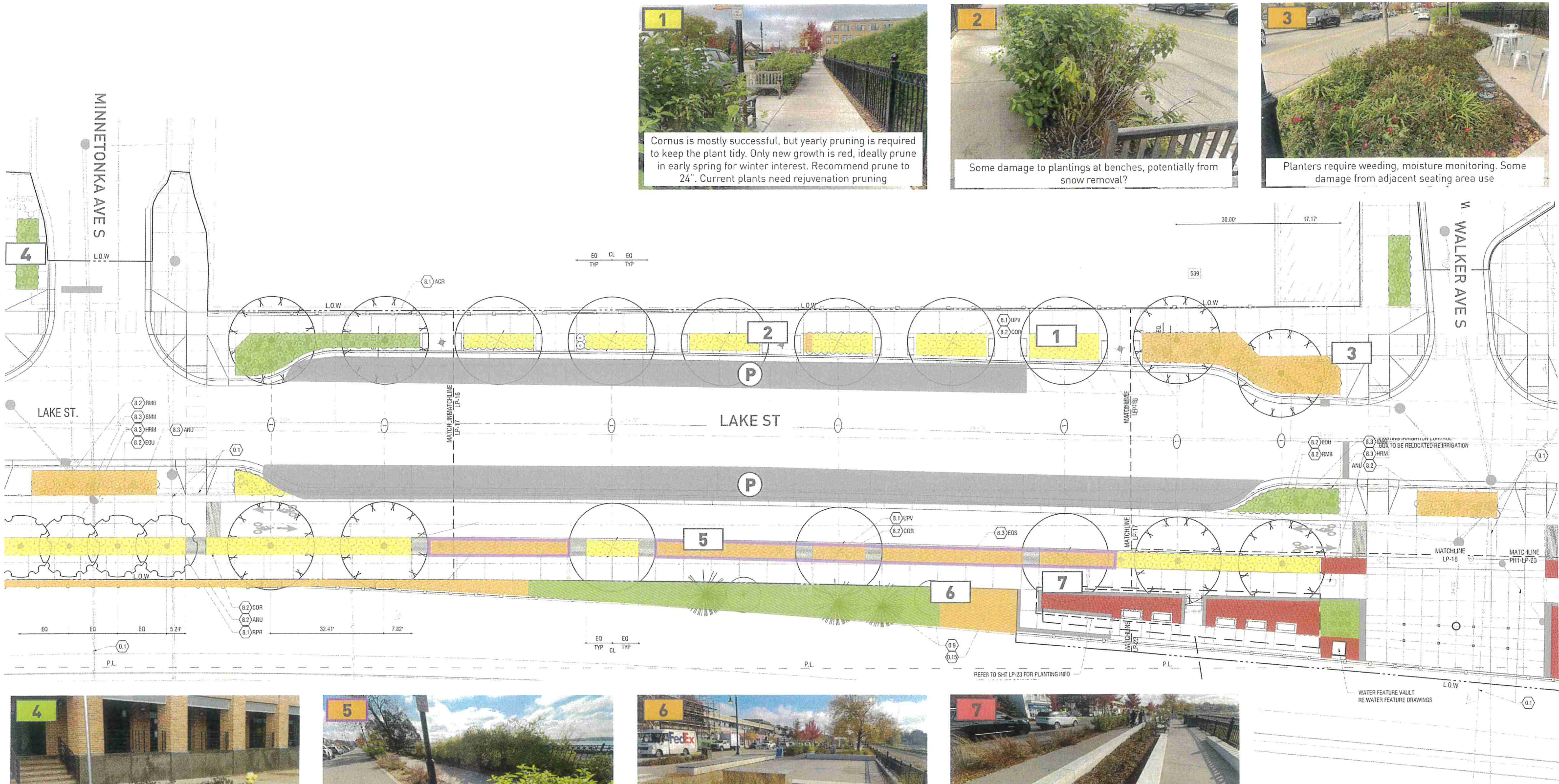


EVALUATION OVERVIEW / B / BARRY TO MANITOBA



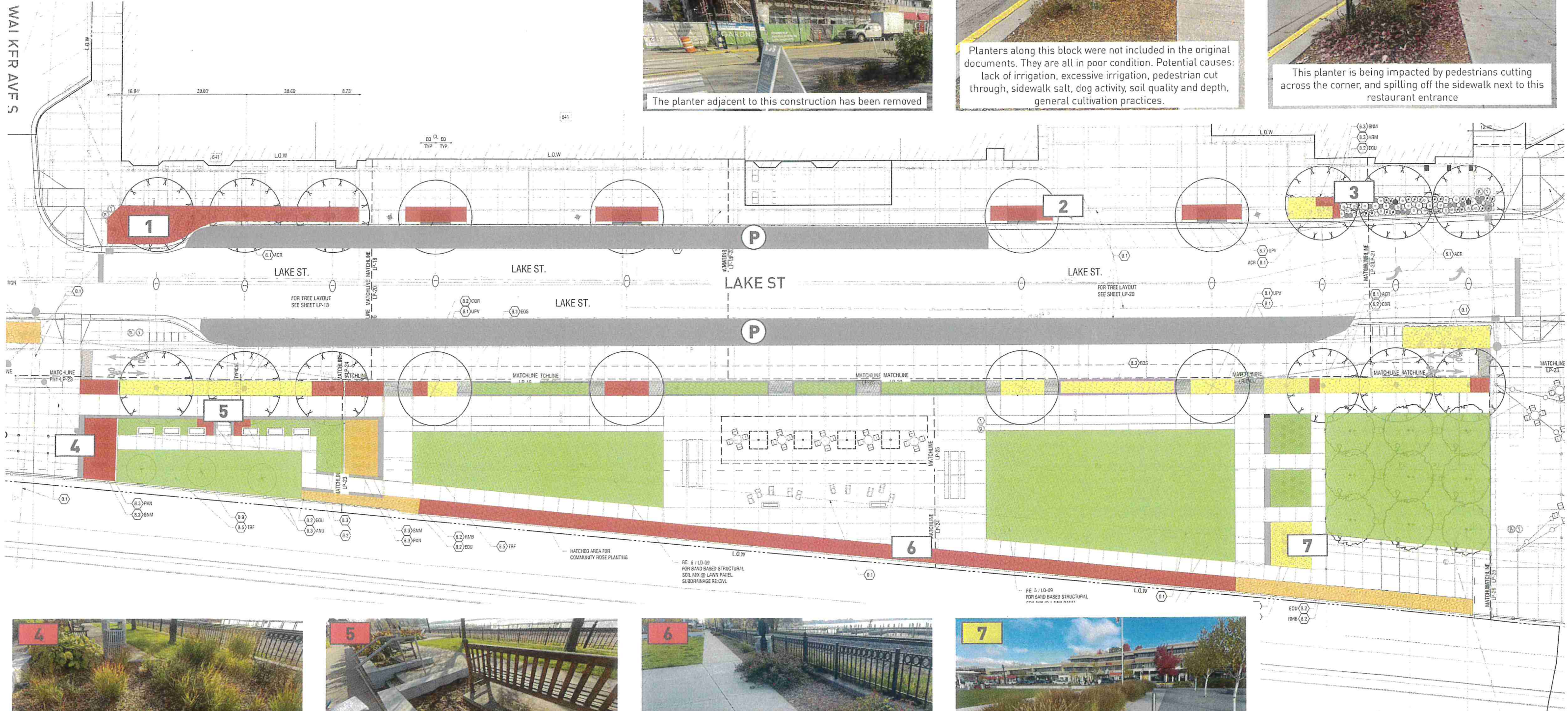


EVALUATION OVERVIEW / D / MINNETONKA TO WALKER



EVALUATION OVERVIEW / E / WALKER TO BROADWAY

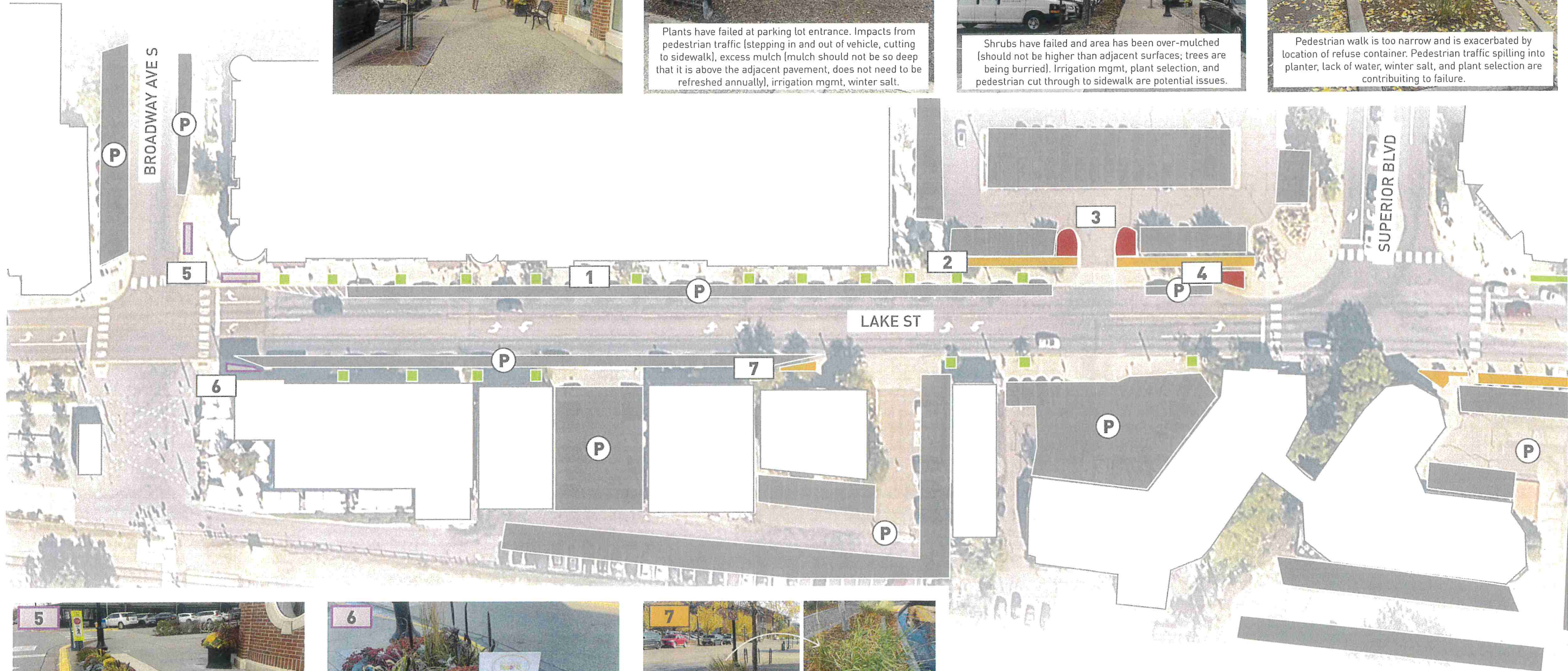
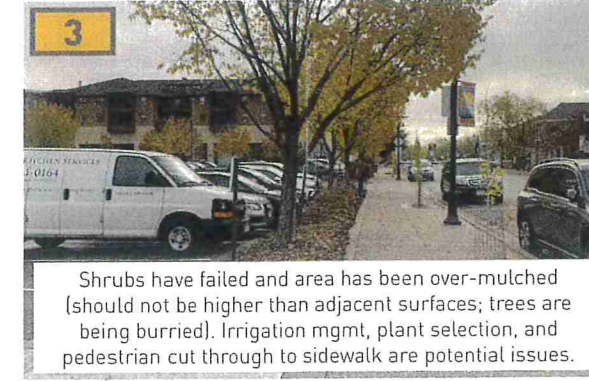
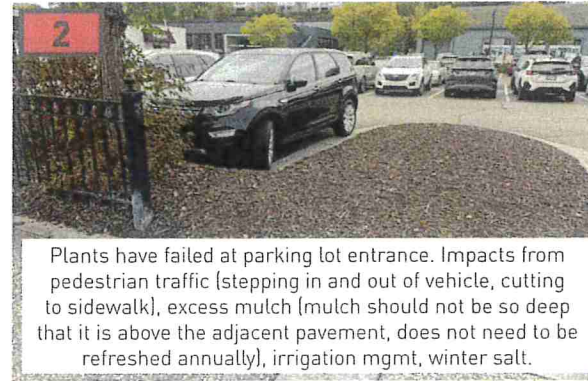
WALKER AVE S



EVALUATION OVERVIEW / F / BROADWAY TO SUPERIOR

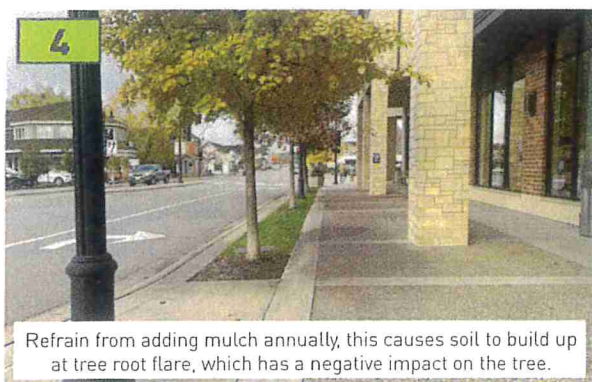
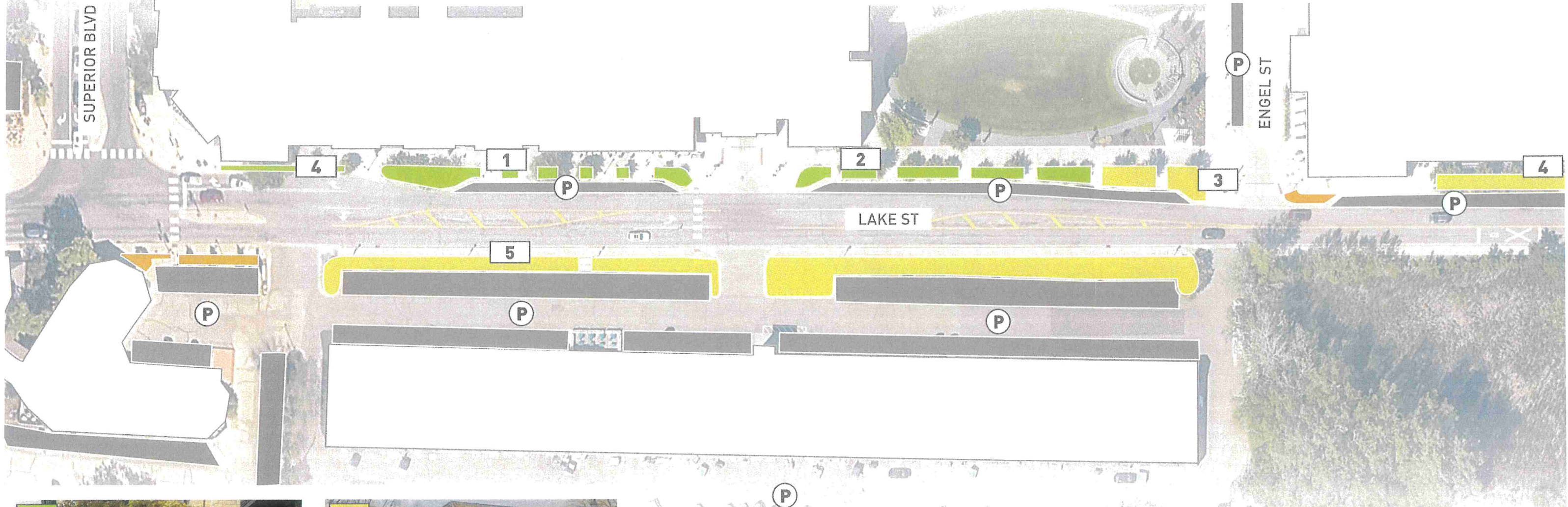
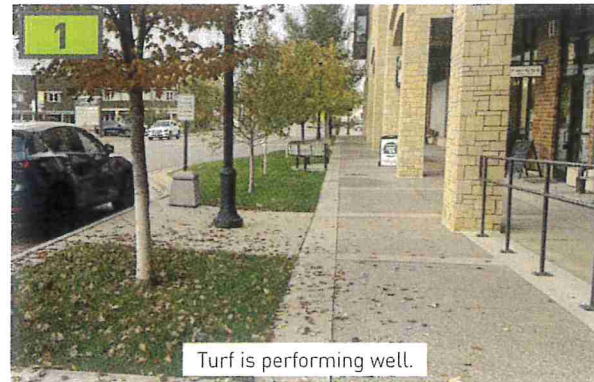
EVALUATION ON THIS PAGE WAS COMPLETED WITHOUT ORIGINAL PLANTING CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT REFERENCE

PRIVATE SEASONAL INSTALLATION



EVALUATION OVERVIEW / G / SUPERIOR TO ENGEL

EVALUATION OF PLANT HEALTH/QUALITY WITHOUT ORIGINAL PLANTING CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS





City Council Workshop City Council Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: January 20, 2026	WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM: 3
TITLE: Future Discussion Topics (6:30-6:40 p.m.)	
PREPARED BY: Aurora Yager, Interim City Manager	
REVIEWED BY:	

DISCUSSION OBJECTIVE:

To discuss and prioritize future workshop and general topics.

2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES RELEVANCE:

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND:

Below is a list of planned workshop topics. These are subject to change:

- January 20 - City Manager Recruitment Community Panel Discussion and Downtown Landscaping Discussion
- February 10 – Parks and Trails Board – Master Plan Update Discussion and Comprehensive Plan RFP
- February 24 - Lake Street Closures - Event Planning Update and PUD Ordinance Discussion
- March 10 - Pre Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting with Hennepin County

ATTACHMENTS:

None