

RAINBOW

PARK

Rainbow Park Rejuvenation Project - Overview

Rainbow Park is one of Whistler’s premiere destination resort parks. Designed and constructed some 30 years ago, the Park requires reinvestment to provide long term climate change resilience, respond to evolving and ever increasing visitor demands, improve public safety, and to address ageing and failing infrastructure.

The design for the rejuvenated park was informed by the following:

- Official Community Plan (2018)
- Whistler Summer Experience Plan (2021)
- Climate Action “Big Moves” Strategy (2020)
- Parks Master Plan “Outside Voice” community engagement process (2018/19)
- Recreation and Leisure Master Plan (2015), and
- Lived and observed experiences.

The rejuvenation project is comprised of three construction phases:

- Phase 1 – commenced in April 2022, fully complete summer 2023.
- Phase 2 – scheduled to occur between spring and autumn 2023.
- Phase 3 – scheduled to occur between spring and autumn 2023.

All phases are expected to be fully complete by June 2024.

Need for Change

Parks visitation has grown rapidly in recent years, with significant increases noted during summer 2020 and 2021. The pressures on our parks require that they are more robust and accommodate greater number of visits within the same footprint. There were more than 176,000 visits to the four destination parks (Lost Lake Park, Rainbow Park, Lakeside Park and Alpha Lake Park) in summer 2021. This represents a 35% increase from the 130,000 visits in summer 2020, and a 77% increase from the 99,000 visits in summer 2019.

Table 1 – Visitors to RMOW Parks, Yearly Comparison

	Summer 2019	Summer 2020	Summer 2021	Change 2019-2021
Lost Lake Park	24,700	32,900	55,700	+125%
Lakeside Park	26,500	35,400	41,000	+55%
Rainbow Park	33,200	40,900	52,200	+57%
Alpha Lake Park	15,100	21,300	27,500	+82%
All 4 Parks	99,500	130,400	176,400	+77%
Resident	23,200	23,600	23,300	+0%
BC	44,500	97,200	121,800	+174%
Canada	9,300	8,200	26,700	+187%
US & International	22,500	1,300	4,600	-80%

Funding

All three phases of the Rainbow Park rejuvenation are 100% funded by the Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI).

The Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI) program is managed by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. The program is intended to support small, tourism-based municipalities to build and diversify their tourism infrastructure, deliver exceptional visitor experiences and incorporate sustainable tourism practices and products.

The RMI program funds projects outlined and approved in the communities Resort Development Strategy (RDS) which result in the following key outcomes for resort-based communities:

- Extend or diversify communities’ tourism seasons
- Increase/return visitation
- Improve the sustainability of the tourism sector
- Enhance the visitor experience

The RDS is approved by the province and covers 3 years of project and operational spending. Whistler’s current RDS spans 2022 to 2024.

Rainbow Park rejuvenation meets several goals of Whistler’s Resort Development Strategy including:

- Goal 1 Maintain visitor satisfaction levels
- Goal 2 Continue to create a diverse and inclusive tourism offering
- Goal 3 Mitigate impacts of climate change and invest in climate resiliency
- Goal 5 Maintain resident satisfaction rates with Whistler as a place to live

The project also aligns with the project supports outlined by the Province including:

- **Diversity & Inclusion:** The completed project will enable use by a broader number of community members and guests by providing improved accessible path networks, docks and infrastructure that serves all users. Materiality and wayfinding are being considered in the context of universal accessibility which is a significant improvement over the current park facility.
- **Sustainability:** The project will focus on creating a robust park space that can accommodate increasing visitation and a frequency and intensity of weather events that are challenging the current infrastructure. The project will also raise the site grades to alleviate seasonal flooding / inundation to ensure that impacts of spring and fall freshet events have a less significant impact on park assets.

Phase 2

Overview

Encompasses the core park area generally located between the railway tracks and the lakefront, but excludes the dog off leash area, heritage cabins and event area.

Focusses on climate change adaptation, accessibility and inclusivity, strengthening the role of Valley Trail as a recreational amenity and gateway to the Park, an increased number and variety of gathering places user experiences, and park drainage.

Construction is anticipated to occur between spring and autumn 2023.

Given the large scope of Phase 2 rejuvenation it will be necessary to close the park to the public during the construction period. Valley Trail closures may also be required.

Significant closures allows for the overall construction window to be compressed thus reducing the impact of closures to the public, and achieves cost efficiencies.

A more definitive timeline and park closure details will be provided as the project advances towards the construction phase.

Status

Currently in the Development Permit and Contract for Construction Management Services stage.

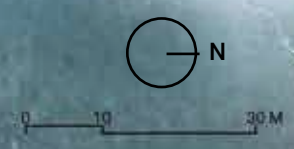
Timeline

- April to December 2022 – Schematic design through to RFP for Construction Management Services
- September 2022 – Development Permit submission
- December 2022 - Council Administrative Report
- January 2023 – Council presentation
- Spring to Autumn 2023 – Anticipated construction period.

RAINBOW PARK CONCEPT PLAN

LEGEND

- 1 Expanded food truck plaza with tables and chairs
- 2 Re-graded lawn with increased shade opportunities and hammocks
- 3 Expanded beach with sit logs and wall
- 4 Re-located volleyball court
- 5 Accessible picnic area
- 6 New large dock with SUP launch, hammock netting and accessible lift
- 7 New picnic area with shade sail
- 8 Expanded dock with accessible path and lift
- 9 New picnic tables
- 10 Naturally revegetated area



Scope of Work/Big Moves

Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Improvements

- Modest environmental initiatives are implemented including expanding the creek's riparian vegetation, re-vegetating underutilized remnant lawn areas, tree planting, geese natural beach barriers, and switching the irrigation supply from primarily potable water to primarily non-potable water.

Accessibility and Circulation Improvements

- Park, beach and lake access is improved for persons with mobility challenges through provision of improved parking and access areas in Phase 1, a hard surface pathway to the beach and docks, addition of dock lifts and potential use of beach mats.

Valley Trail

- The Valley Trail is relocated outside of the railway right of way, flipped with the beach volleyball amenity, given a sinuous vs straight alignment, and widened from 3.0m to 4.0m.

Gathering Places

- New, expanded and improved gathering places offer additional and a broader range of experiences.

Beach Area

- The beach area is expanded into the lawn area and enhanced with seat walls, logs and low vegetation, with improved access for persons with mobility challenges.

Main Lawn Area

- The main lawn is smaller in area however it provides a more diverse range of experiences and amenities including shade, views, and edges for viewing out into each space.

Docks

- Existing north dock is improved and a new large dock is added to the south end of the beach.

Park Drainage

- The park raised slightly and re-graded to provide improved drainage.

GENERAL LEGEND	
KEY	DESCRIPTION
	LIMIT OF WORK
	PROPERTY LINE
	MATCHLINE

PROGRAM LEGEND	
KEY	DESCRIPTION
1	FOOD TRUCK PLAZA
2	RE-GRADED LAWN
3	EXPANDED BEACH
4	RE-ORIENTED VOLLEYBALL COURTS
5	DOCK
6	DOG RUN



RAINBOW PARK SITE PLAN



AERIAL VIEW OF PARK - LOOKING SOUTH-WEST

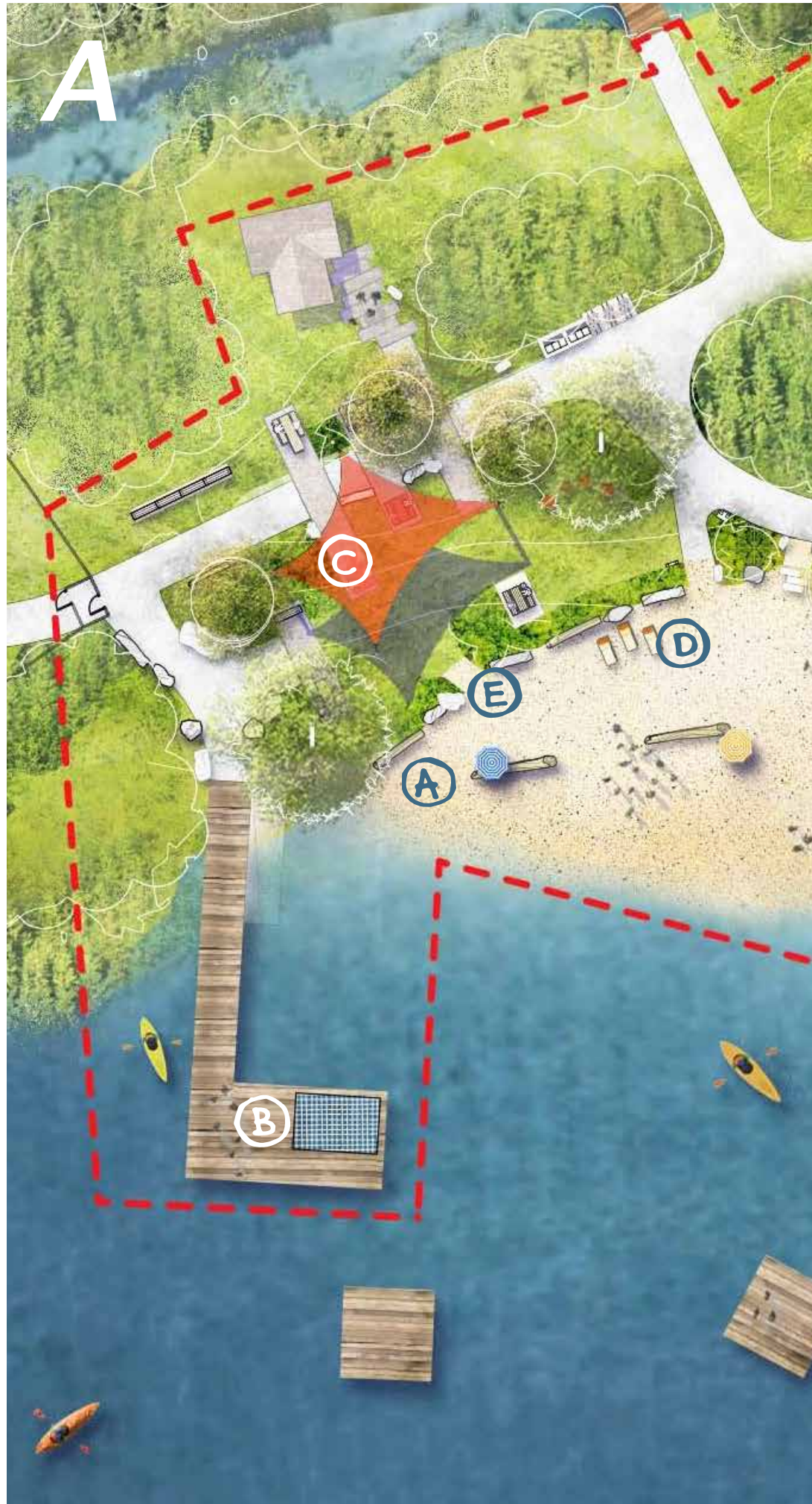
RAINBOW PARK KEY PLAN

A

B

C





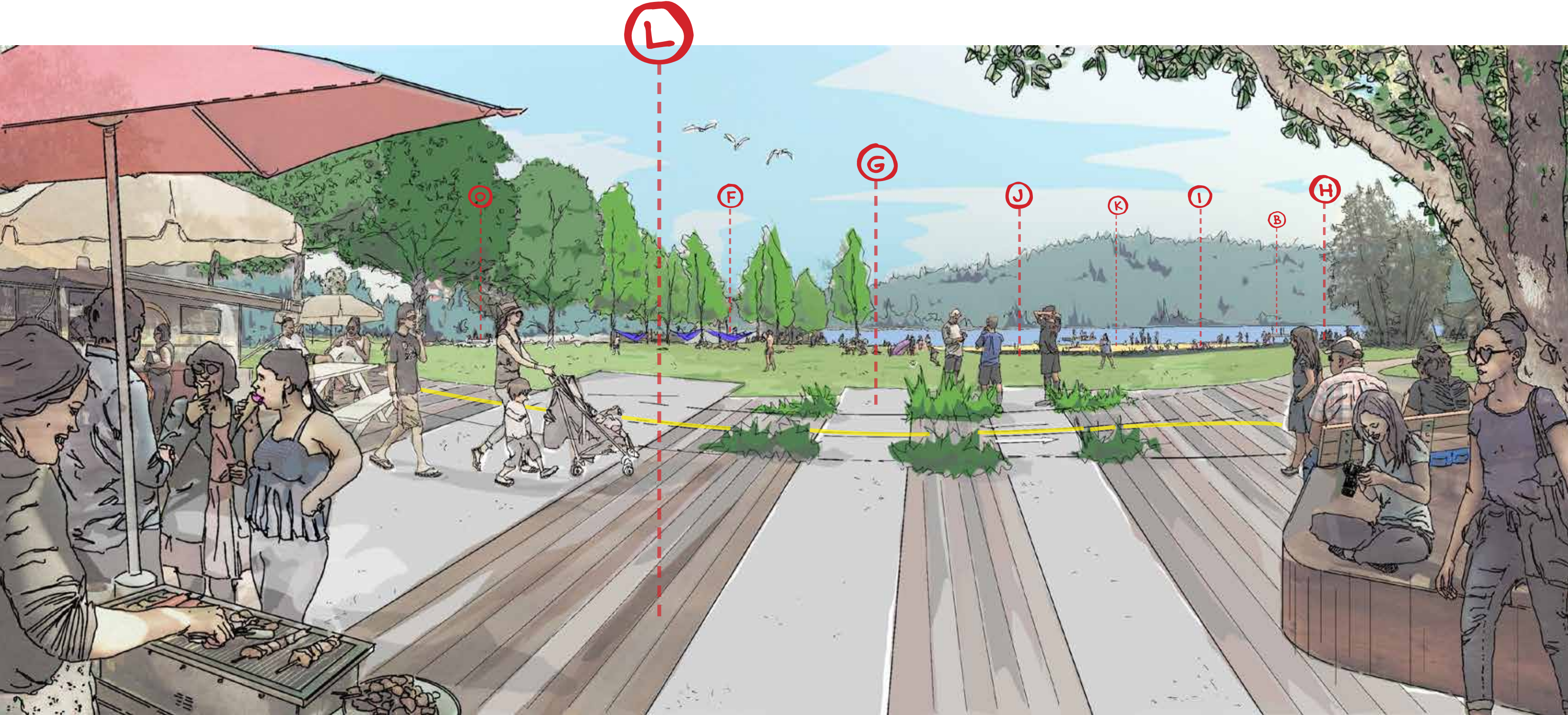


VIEW FROM BENEATH NEW SHADE SAIL PICNIC AREA - LOOKING NORTH



VIEW FROM NEW DOCK AT SOUTH END OF BEACH - LOOKING NORTH



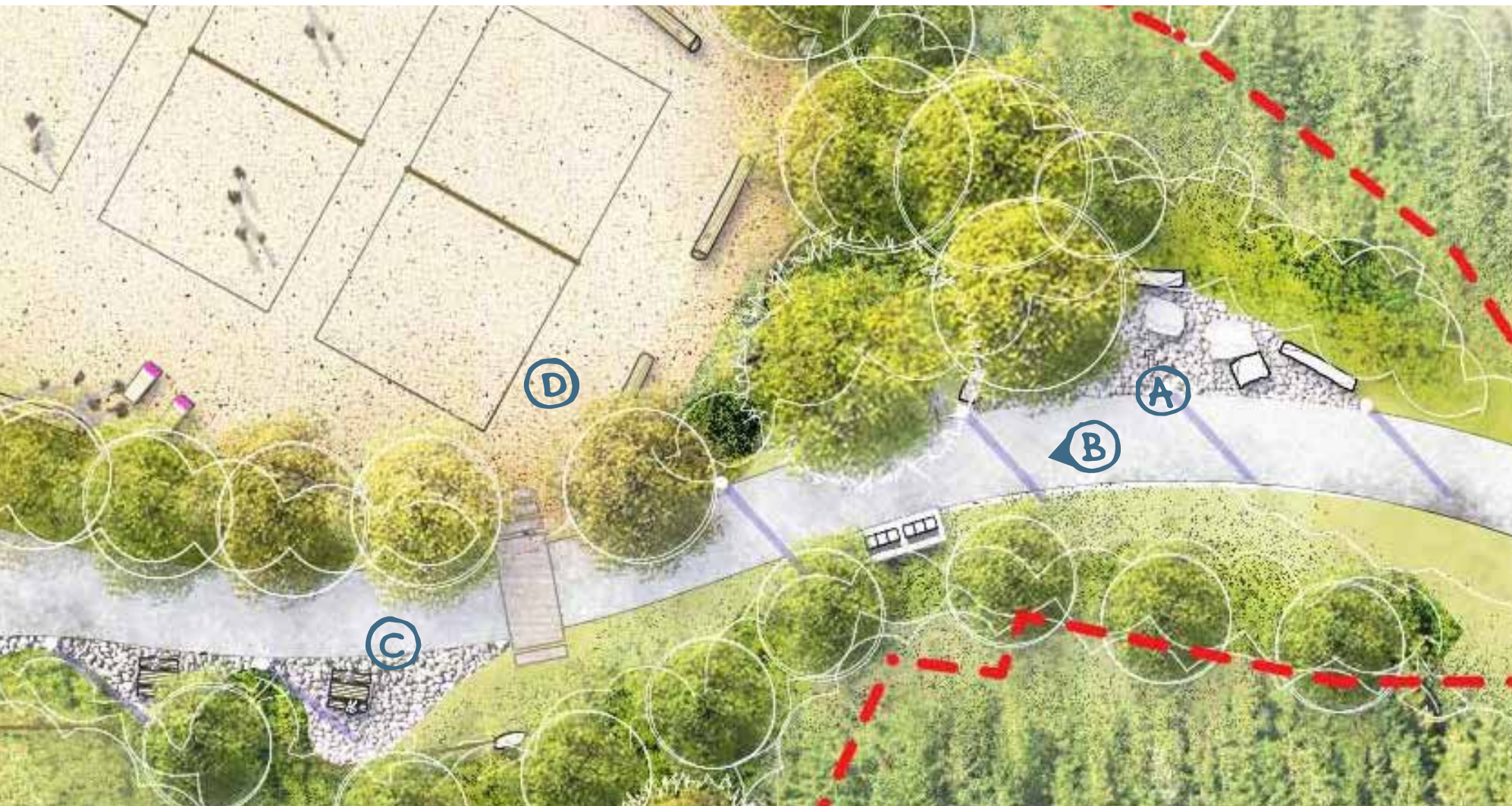


VIEW FROM NEW FOOD TRUCK PLAZA - LOOKING EAST TO ALTA LAKE



VIEW FROM HAMMOCK GROVE - LOOKING SOUTH

C






WHISTLER
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