

## CITY OF WARRENVILLE

### MEMO

To: Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator White  
From: Public Works Director Kuchler *PK*  
Subject: VETERANS MEMORIAL WORKGROUP RENOVATION  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
Date: May 7, 2025

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize the efforts of the Veterans Memorial Workgroup to date and provide the group's recommendations for the renovation of the memorial.

#### **Veterans Memorial Workgroup**

The Veterans Memorial on Stafford Place at Warren Avenue is aging and in need of repairs. Since the memorial is prominent and important to the public, staff recommended convening a workgroup to consider alternatives and to develop a recommendation for City Council consideration. City Council assigned Aldermen Lockett and Augustynowicz to work with City staff.

The workgroup includes City staff, the two elected officials, and representatives from Warrentville in Bloom (WIB and the Veterans of Foreign War / American Legion (VFW / AL). The City engaged with Hitchcock Design Group (HDG) for \$9,500 to assist the workgroup with developing alternatives and costs, and a preferred alternative for City Council consideration. The workgroup met four times between the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025.

Several alternatives were evaluated from minimal repairs (less than \$10,000) up to full reconstruction of the memorial (nearly \$500,000). Ultimately, the workgroup achieved consensus on a preferred alternative (*Attachment A*) with an estimated cost of \$473,084 for design, development of bid documents, and construction.

#### **Funding Considerations**

This workgroup effort was one of the FY25 Strategic Plan Action Initiatives. With no dedicated funding source for this project, design and construction were not included in the Strategic Plan Action Initiatives. The existing memorial was largely possible due to the efforts of volunteers and private donations when it was constructed. The memorial is not part of the Capital Maintenance and Replacement Plan (CMRP), so there is no funding for replacement in the CMRP.

The volunteers who participated in the workgroup expressed optimism that a volunteer effort to solicit donations could raise a lot of money to help fund the project. The City Attorney has advised that if volunteers would like to raise funds to pay for part or all of this project, the City will need to develop and enter into an agreement with the group coordinating this volunteer effort to structure the

monetary and in-kind donations and establish a time frame. This would likely include a list of items and services for the volunteer group to focus their efforts when soliciting donations.

After discussing this with the workgroup, it is clear that a detailed final plan would be helpful in soliciting donations. This would require entering into a contract with HDG to perform this work. Their estimated cost to develop the design further and then turn that into construction documents is approximately \$35,000. This would be a City cost, likely paid out of the special projects funds in the General Fund.

Due to the funding constraints, other City commitments for projects in the next couple of years, and the effort involved in construction, the workgroup discussed the possibility of summer 2027 (FY28) construction with completion in the fall of 2027.

This time frame allows the volunteer group time to solicit donations and investigate if there are any grants available. While it is possible that the group is successful in obtaining enough donations to fund the project, it is likely that there will be a gap between the funds raised and the total estimated cost. The City and the volunteer group will need to monitor progress, and report back to City Council in the future. That would be the appropriate time to discuss what, if any, gap exists in funding and how much, if any, of the project that City Council is willing and able to fund. Depending on the results of that discussion, the project may need to be scaled back.

### **Workgroup Recommendations for City Council**

The workgroup is recommending the following actions for City Council:

1. Direct staff to perform minimal repairs to the Veterans Memorial in FY26 including but not limited to removal and disposal of the fountain, removal and replacement of any unsafe concrete, recoating the entire concrete surface with a uniform color, and securing any loose caps on the retaining walls. Public Works staff and seasonal employees will complete most, if not all, of this work.
2. Endorse the concept (*Attachment A*) as the City's preferred alternative for the reconstruction of the Veterans Memorial.
3. Direct staff to negotiate a contract with HDG to develop design and construction documents to support volunteer solicitation of donations. This expense is not included in the FY26 budget, but would be paid out of the special projects funds in the General Fund.
4. Direct staff and the City Attorney to develop an agreement with the volunteer group that will coordinate the donations.
5. Direct staff to add items in recommendations 3 and 4 to the FY26 Strategic Plan Action Initiatives.

Attachment A

# VETERANS MEMORIAL IMPROVEMENTS

CITY OF WARRENVILLE

JANUARY 2025



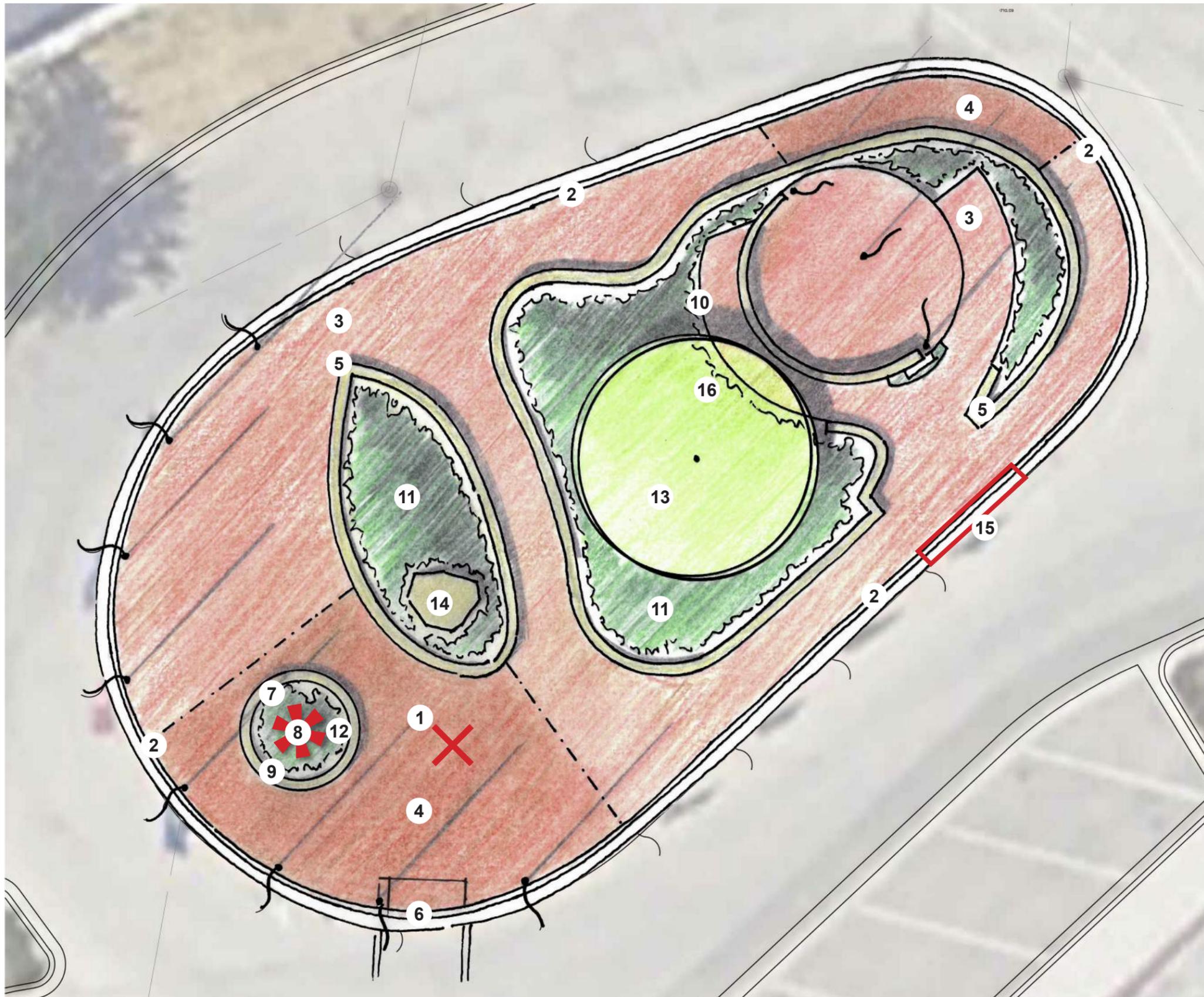






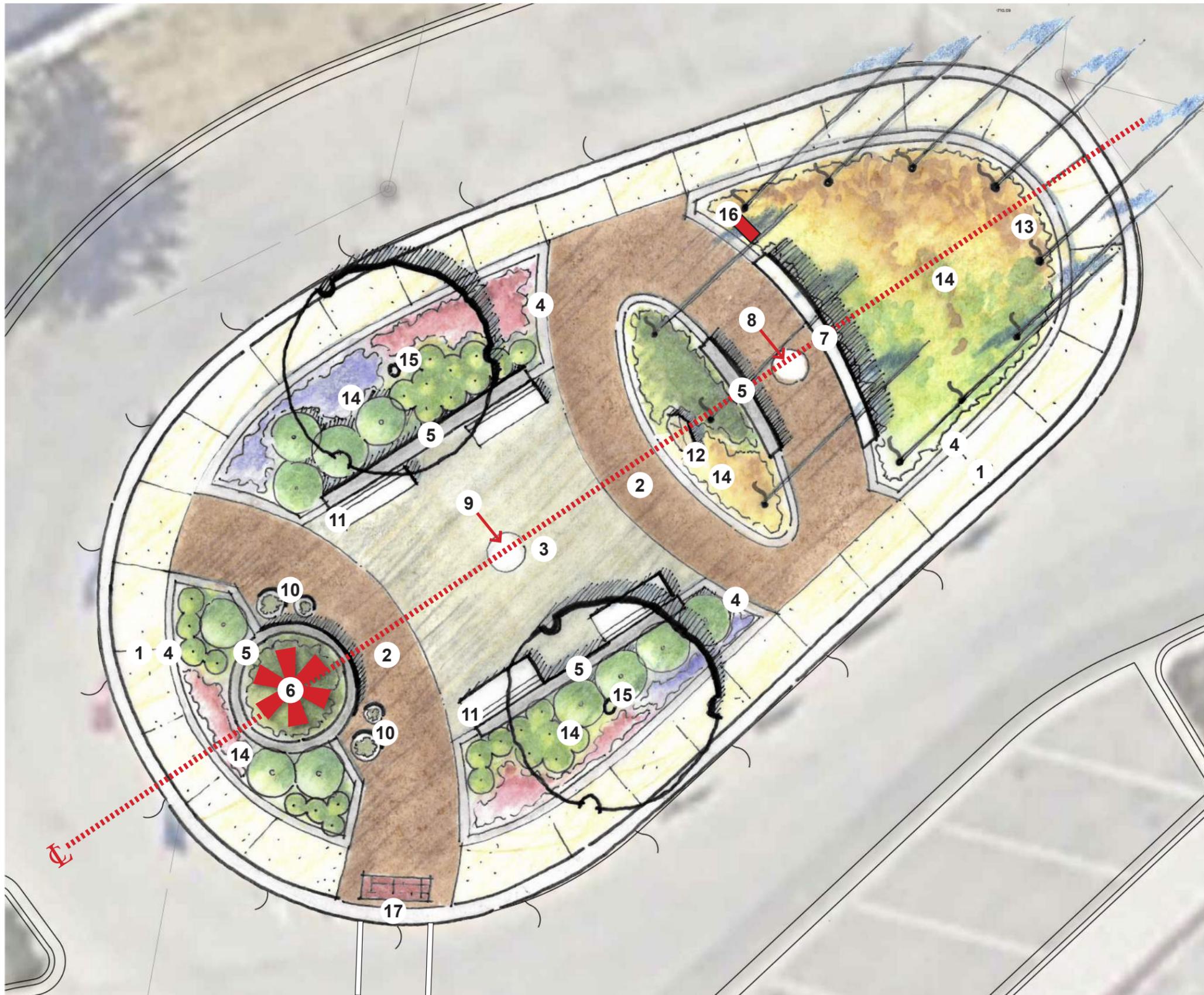
## LEGEND

- 1** Evergreen tree in poor health.
- 2** Plantings on site are overgrown and unkempt. Implement a native-focused, hardy plant pallet with seasonal planters.
- 3** 15 removable flagpoles along perimeter. Consider permanent flag poles (service branches).
- 4** Open space is used for events such as Summer Daze. Consider tables and chairs, and other seating options.
- 5** WWI Plaque currently blocked by vegetation. Relocate plaque or adjust plantings to increase visibility.
- 6** Fountain is currently not in operation and has had ongoing maintenance issues. Consider removing the fountain and capping existing utilities.
- 7** Existing curb cut in fair condition. Replace existing curb cut with barrier curb, and install ADA curb ramp where shown in plans.
- 8** Irrigation semi-functional. Explore options to replace or repair.
- 9** Stamped concrete failing along curb and adjacent to walls. Repave in kind or consider alternative paving options.
- 10** Memorial wall and accompanying plaques in good condition and used as backdrop for events.
- 11** Smaller segmental unit walls around the site are in moderate to poor condition. Explore repair options or replacement with more robust product.
- 12** Transition from ramp to flat surface creates a tripping hazard. Explore options for safer transition.



**LEGEND**

- 1** REMOVE FOUNTAIN AND HAND HOLE, ABANDON EXISTING WATER LINES AND CAP AS REQUIRED
- 2** RESEAL EXPANSION JOINTS
- 3** RE-COAT ALL EXISTING CONCRETE WITH COLOR APPLICATION (BY STAFF)
- 4** NEW COLORED STAMPED CONCRETE
- 5** REPAIR WALL AND RESET AND GLUE CAPS
- 6** STRIPED CROSSWALK AND ADA CURB RAMP WITH DETECTABLE WARNING
- 7** STUB ELECTRICAL FOR SCULPTURE (BY STAFF)
- 8** ETERNAL FLAME SCULPTURE
- 9** CONCRETE PLANTER CURB
- 10** CUT BACK PLANT MATERIAL FROM EXISTING WALKS
- 11** ADJUST PLANT BEDS AND SUPPLEMENT WITH NEW PLANTINGS AS REQUIRED
- 12** NEW PLANTINGS
- 13** EXISTING TREE TO REMAIN
- 14** ADJUST PLANT MATERIAL SO WWI PLAQUE IS VISIBLE
- 15** REPLACE CURB CUT WITH BARRIER CURB TO MATCH EXISTING
- 16** [Not explicitly defined in legend]



LEGEND	
1	CONCRETE PAVING
2	DONOR PAVERS - HERRINGBONE PATTERN
3	DONOR PAVERS - ASHLAR PATTERN
4	CONCRETE PLANTER CURB
5	SEAT WALL
6	ETERNAL FLAME SCULPTURE
7	VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL
8	AMERICAN LEGION SEAL
9	VFW SEAL
10	PLANTER POTS
11	BENCHES
12	WWI PLAQUE AND BOULDER
13	SERVICE BRANCH FLAGS
14	LOW PROFILE NATIVE PLANTING
15	SHADE TREE
16	DONOR PLAQUE SIGN
17	ADA CURB RAMP AND DETECTABLE WARNING













PROPOSED SCULPTURE - ETERNAL FLAME



SERVICE BRANCH FLAGS



AT GRADE SEAL EXAMPLE



VETERANS MEMORIAL LETTERING AND BRONZE SEALS



DONOR PAVER - HERRINGBONE PATTERN



DONOR PAVER - ASHLAR PATTERN



SEGMENTAL UNIT WALL  
UNILOCK - RIVERCREST



SEGMENTAL UNIT WALL  
ROSETTA - KODAH



SEGMENTAL UNIT WALL  
UNILOCK - U-CARA FASCIA



MASONRY WALL(MATCH EXISTING)  
HALQUIST STONE - BROOKFIELD BLEND