The Plummer Poleyard Project: Breaking down barriers for community restoration

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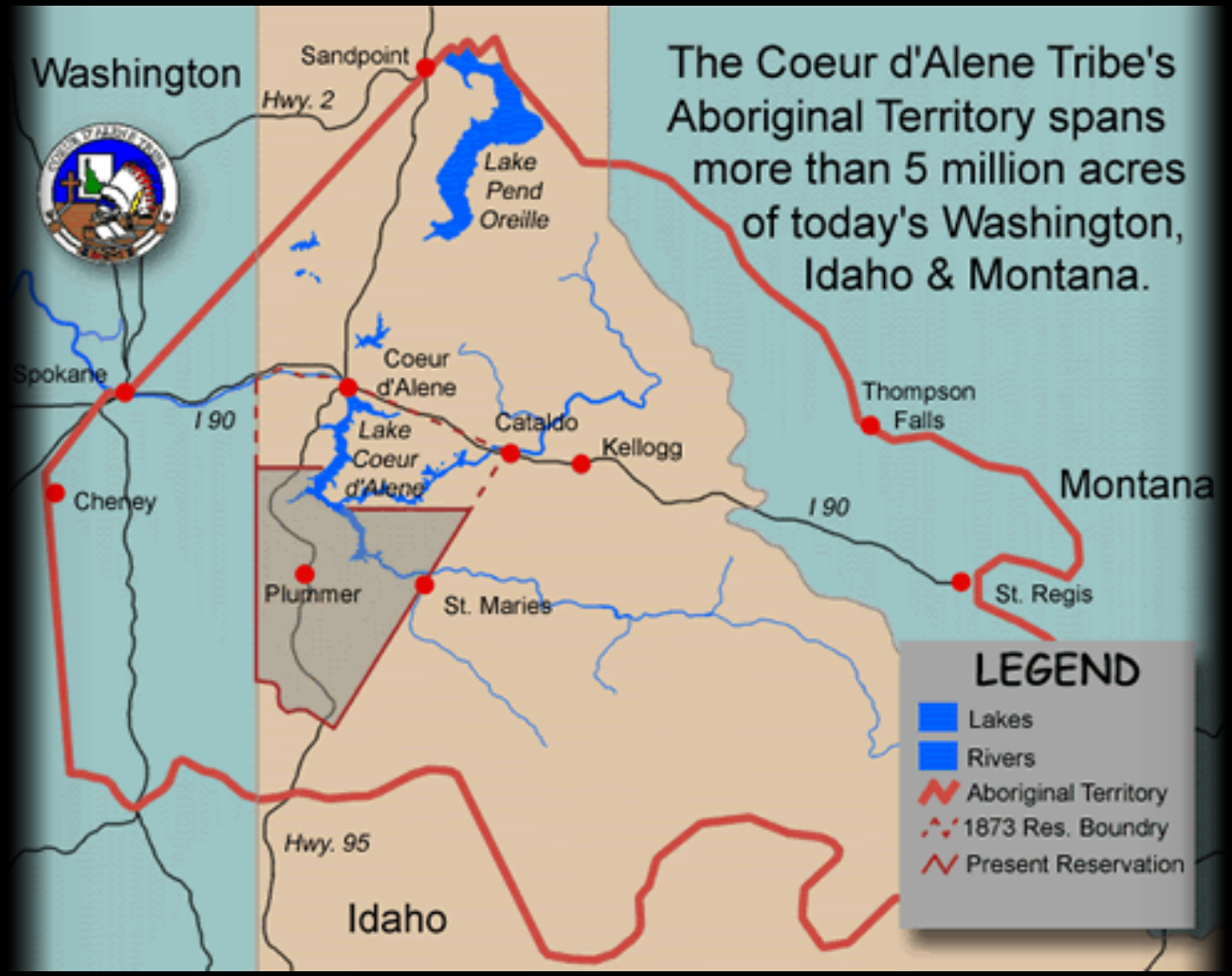
Coeur d'Alene Tribe Environmental Programs Office
Northwest Remediation Conference
April 2, 2025

The schitsu’umsh People



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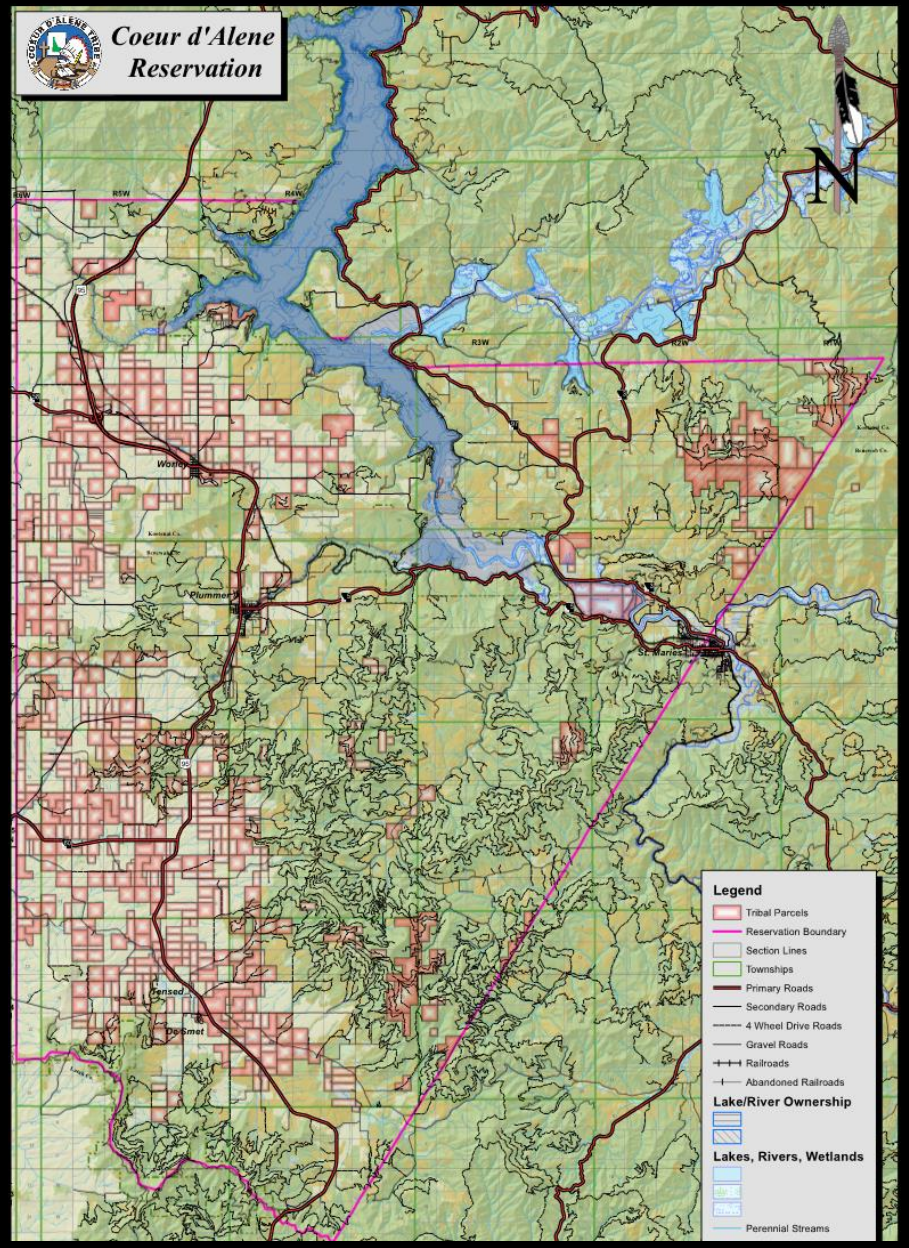
Complicated jurisdiction

- One sovereign nation
- One state
- Two counties
- Four incorporated municipalities (Worley, Plummer, Tensed, St. Maries)
- Two Tribally-administered communities (DeSmet, Agency)
- Fee land, Trust Land, Individual allotments, Tribal allotments, Municipally-owned land, State lands, County lands

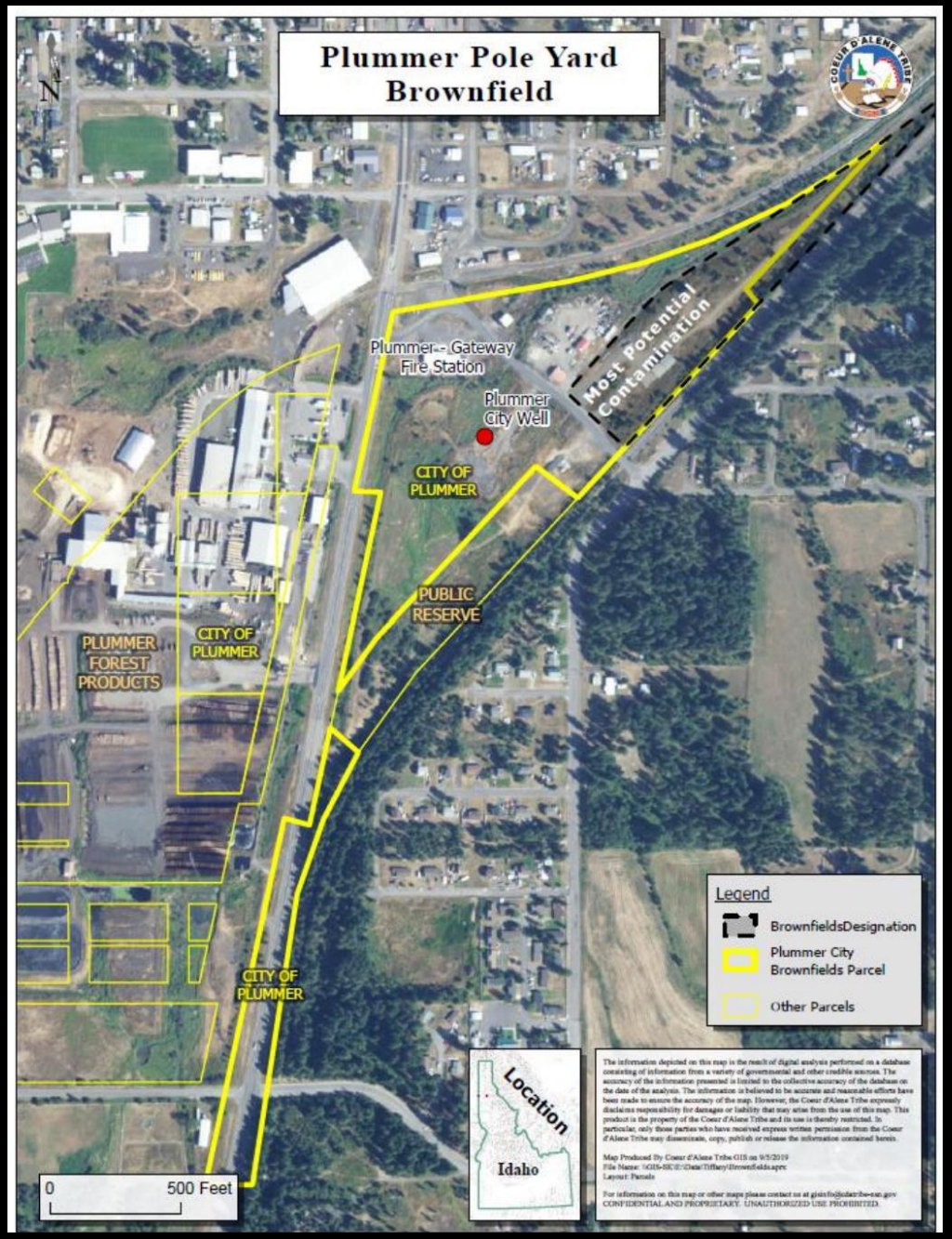


City of Plummer

- Established 1910
- City Council predominantly non-Tribal residents
- Population ~ 1,100
- Employment: Tribal government, clinic, a handful of small businesses (Stimson mill closed 2024)
- Median household income: $52,188 (Idaho median income: $74,636)

Plummer Poleyard Site

- 33-acre Brownfield site owned by the City of Plummer
- Since 1940, used for various wood treatment operations
- 1950s: Union Pacific railroad leased a portion for treating utility poles
- EPA Rapid Removal: 3,460 tons of contaminated soil
- Post-removal plans??



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EPO Program Manager

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Aiyana James

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Dr. Shawna Campbell-Daniels

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Wetlands Specialist
Tyler Opp

Environmental Technician
Ron Torpey

Pesticide Circuit Rider Enforcement
Eric Gjevre

Energy Coordinator
Zachery Miller

Air Quality Coordinator
Brittney Nomee

TERO Seasonal EPO Technician
Mus Torpey

Native Seed Horticulturist
(Vacant)

Stacked utility poles

Creosote Vault

RR ties and concrete for road crossings

Rusted debris pile from RR demolition

CCLR

City of Plummer

COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE

EPA

CENTER FOR CREATIVE LAND RECYCLING

Plummer Pole Yard Second Community Visioning Workshop

The City of Plummer and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Environmental Programs Office once again welcome you to review and provide feedback on visions for the redevelopment of the former Plummer Pole Yard.

This is your opportunity to help transform the Pole Yard for the benefit of the entire community. Children welcome!

Wednesday July 31st 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Coeur d'Alene Tribe Wellness Center
1100 A St, Plummer, ID 83851

For questions or more information contact Gina Baughn:
gina.baughn@cdatribe-nsn.gov (208) 686-2107

4:00 p.m. Dinner will be served
4:30 p.m. Workshop begins
6:30 p.m. Raffle of 10 $50 WinCo gift cards

Attendees must be present to win a gift card

EPA Technical Assistance

- Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization approved TA to Tribe/City for project in late Summer 2024
- Contractors: Tetra Tech and Vita Nuova
- Focus groups, interviews, community meetings
- Final report completed in March 2025

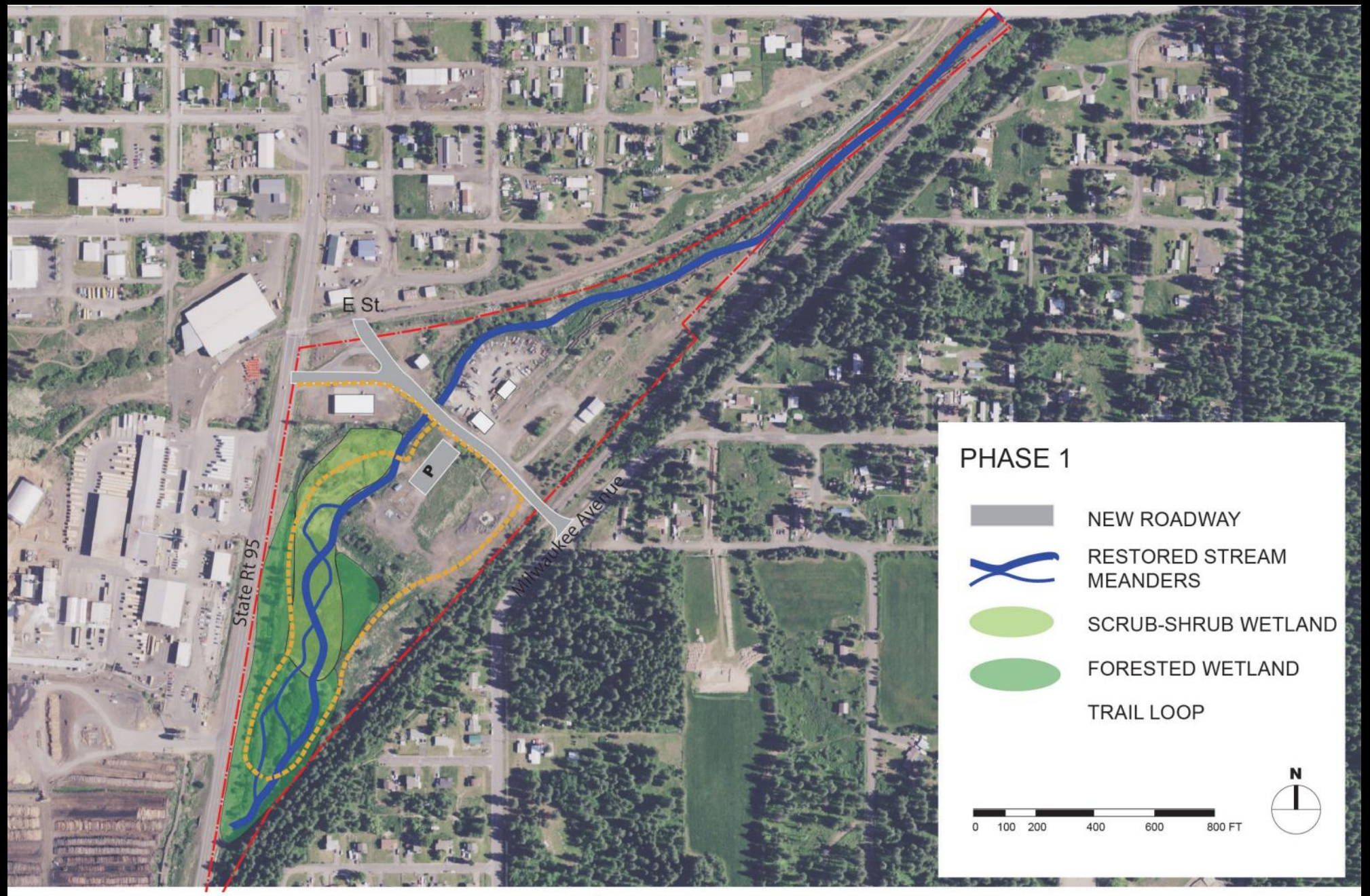

Figure 7: Phase 1 Site Improvements

Tell us how you prefer to use this space:

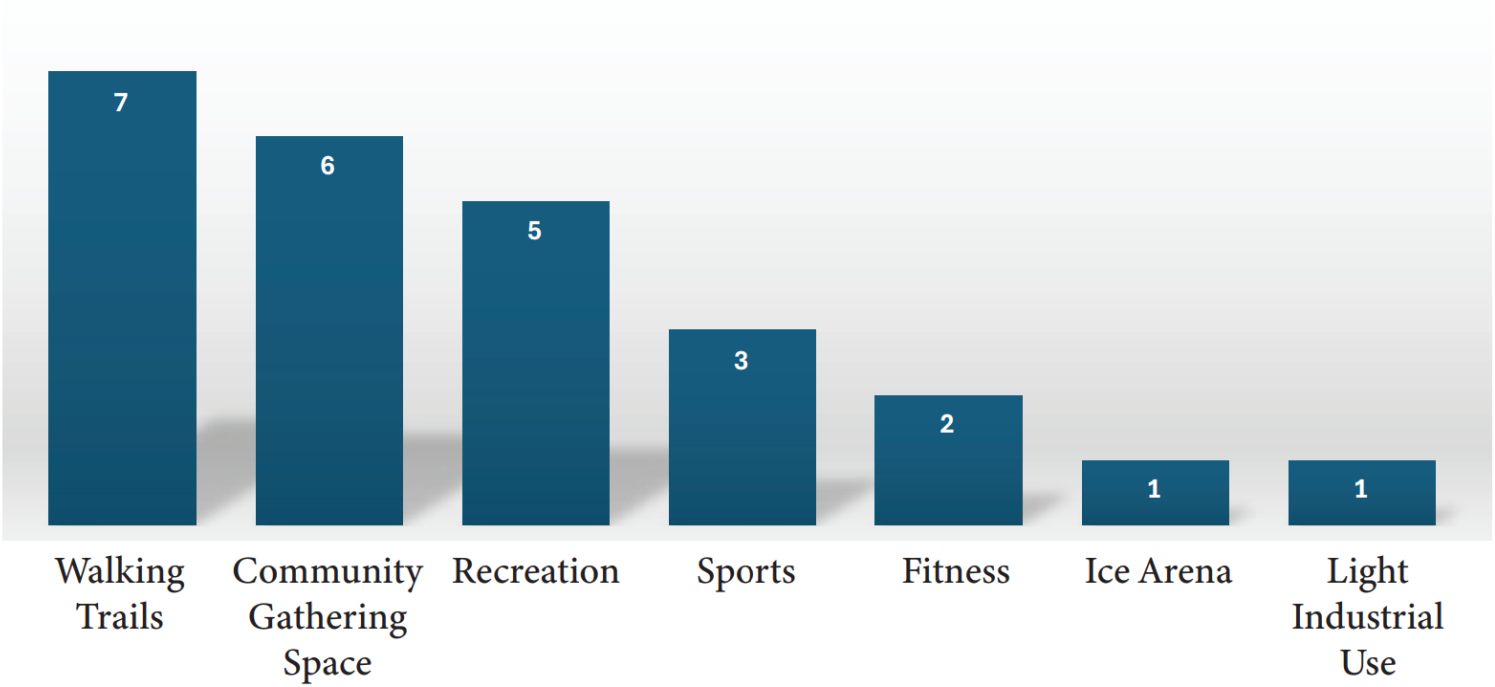

Figure 3: Community Workshop Bar Chart 1

Plummer Pole Yard
Redevelopment Cost Estimates

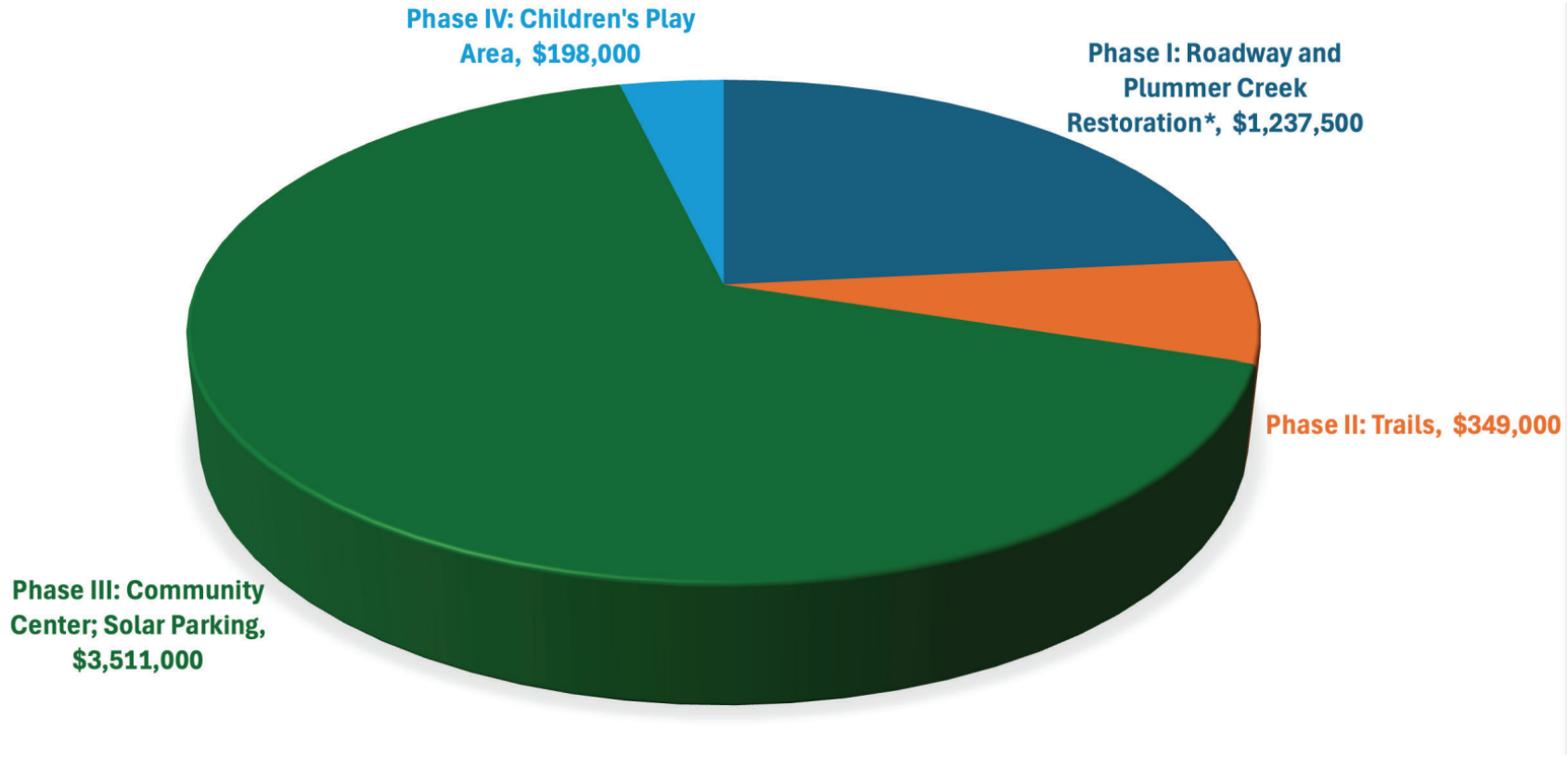

Figure 6: Redevelopment Cost Estimates
(estimate does not include Creek restoration)

Next Steps

- Philanthropy Northwest Thriving Communities proposal (pending)
  - Stormwater design
  - Stream restoration and trail design
  - Solar parking lot
- Recommendations from report:
  - Mission statement
  - Communications plan
  - Develop implementation plan
- Challenges
  - Funding
  - Sustaining relationships
  - Sustaining momentum

Questions?
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Thank you to our partners:
EPA
IDEQ – Steve Gill
CCLR
Alta
TetraTech
Vita Nuova
City of Plummer
Mayor Chris Dohrman
Plummer community members!

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