



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

BLACKWELL

MASTER PLAN

APRIL 2023

Adopted on April 18, 2023

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Forest Preserve District Of DuPage County

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Prepared for:



**Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (District) was established in June of 1915 and is governed by a seven member Board of Commissioners. Six Commissioners are elected from individual districts, and the President is elected at large by the voters within DuPage County. The purpose of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, as stated in the 2014 Strategic Plan, is;

"...to acquire, preserve, protect, and restore the natural resources of DuPage County while providing opportunities for people to connect with nature"

Each year millions of people visit the preserves to hike, bike, picnic, fish, boat, camp, golf, and attend naturalist and ranger-led programs.

In 2019, the District completed an overall master plan for all of its land holdings, which includes 26,000 acres over 60 different preserves. This plan was formulated by incorporating public outreach, survey efforts and reviews of research, national trends, and state and regional priorities. It was determined that the Forest Preserve District should invest in improving existing natural resources and mission-aligned facilities and experiences. One

of the recommendations to come out of the 2019 plan was to prepare master plan for key, specific preserves that are both large in scale and receive the greatest number of visitors each year. The preserves selected for this effort include Blackwell, Greene Valley and Waterfall Glen. The planning process was split into two (2) work efforts. The first is the Discovery & Analysis stage of work, which included gathering background data, site visits, stakeholder engagement, a market & demographic study and site analysis. The Discovery and Analysis report was completed in October of 2021.

This report document includes work completed during the second planning stage and includes idea generation, refinement and final recommendations that have been vetted with District staff and the Commissioners. This master plan serves as a plan of action or 'road map' for future development at Blackwell and is directly tied to the mission of the Forest Preserve District.

The plan is responsive to the surrounding environment, current and future needs, and interests of the public. Each plan establishes mission-aligned goals and objectives based on demographic and economic trends, physical and natural resources, and specific information gathered during the stakeholder engagement process. The plans emphasize each preserve's

natural and physical resources and unique character. The plans evaluate how each preserve fits into the larger open space network and evaluate site access, circulation, recreational resources and use, agreements and easements and linkages as well as conservation, ecological restoration and education initiatives.

Blackwell Forest Preserve

Blackwell Forest Preserve, located in Warrenville, is 1,366 acres and one of the District's most popular forest preserves. It offers trails, fishing, picnicking, boating, an off-leash dog area, the District's only family campground as well as a youth-group campground. Mount Hoy serves as a winter sports area where visitors can rent snow tubes to sled down the hill and snowshoes to explore the area. In the summer, Mt. Hoy is also used for hiking and hill training. Nearby, a recreational area features a trail-head, archery range, fishing pier, picnic shelter and restrooms. Silver Lake is a popular destination for boating and fishing.

In addition to these recreational amenities, Blackwell contains many natural areas including McKee Marsh and a large-scale restoration project along Spring Brook. This restoration project creates natural resource improvements including re-meandering of the waterway, reconnecting the creek to the floodplain, dam removal and improving habitat. The project will also make improvements to the segment of the West Branch DuPage River Trail that passes through the area. Blackwell is home to satellite offices and work

areas for the District's Grounds Management, Natural Resources Management, Site Operations, Facilities Management and Fleet Management divisions.

It is recognized that a fresh look at Blackwell is needed to identify separate pedestrian connectors between the many amenities that have developed over the years as well as opportunities to improve vehicular circulation. Additionally, other opportunities should be evaluated such as providing separate access to the family campground, additional amenities for campers, trail connections to nearby preserves, modifying the boat launch facilities and eliminating those amenities that are underutilized. With the major natural resource work being done on site, there are great opportunities to capitalize on this work and to enhance the visitor experience.

It is also recognized that support infrastructure such as restrooms, showers, concession buildings, picnic shelters, site utilities and ADA accommodations need upgrades. A separate study has been undertaken to consider options to remedy deficiencies at the Grounds Management and Natural Resources Facility within Blackwell, however the overall preserve master plan has integrated relevant results of that study.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the time of the second stage of this three preserve study, the District began a Clean Energy, Resiliency & Sustainability Plan. While this work is being completed separately, many of the recommendations of that report will need to be considered when implementing the recommendations for the preserve.

Major recommendations of this master plan include:

- Restore natural areas
- Make improvements to the internal trail network to connect recreation areas and create links to the regional trail network
- Improve existing recreational areas including the off leash dog area and kayak launch, boat launch, family and youth campgrounds, sled hill and sand pond.
- Improve the grounds and natural resources complex
- Improve vehicular access to the east side of the preserve
- Improve interpretive signage
- Remove excess paving and convert unneeded turf areas to natural areas
- Improve restroom facilities
- Improve boat storage and address drainage issues



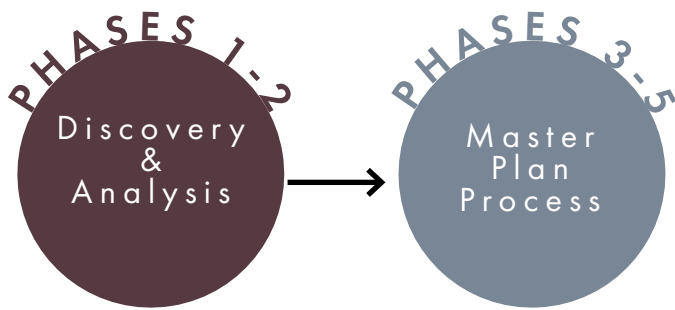
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BACKGROUND & PROCESS

PLAN APPROACH

This plan is a part of a five-phase planning and design process for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. The purpose of the process is to create a comprehensive master plan and vision for the Blackwell Forest Preserve that provides clear direction for future improvements and initiatives.

This document is a summary of Phase 3 - Ideas, Phase 4 - Refinement, and Phase 5 - Delivery. During these phases, the project team developed a conceptual framework plan based on identified opportunities, refined the framework plan and selected high priority areas to study in more detail, facilitated a meaningful public engagement process and delivered an implementation plan. For more information on Phase 1 and 2, see the appendix.



PHASES 3 - 5

Ideas, Refinement and Delivery

Stantec worked closely with FPDDC staff to develop ideas for improvements at Blackwell. Collaboration and communication was critical, and

the staff at the Forest Preserve District were able to provide Stantec with guidance to positively impact the future of the preserve.

Using the Discovery and Analysis findings, Stantec began assessing opportunities and constraints within the preserve and developed ideas and preliminary recommendations vetted by District staff and the public.

Stakeholder Engagement

Using a Public Participation Plan created by Stantec and FPDDC Staff, the team conducted six additional public engagement sessions during this stage of the project. These sessions included focus group meetings, staff, department, and public engagement sessions. The goal was to provide users of the preserves and key stakeholders options to provide their input, some of the sessions were held virtually. In addition to the sessions, a virtual StoryMap (project website) detailing the planning process was available to those interested in finding out more, and a survey was open to the public for response. With over 100 survey responses, more than 3,000 StoryMap views, and nearly 75 attendees at the in person engagement sessions, the project team was able to collect valuable input and important observations and preferences for the Framework Plans. For a more detailed summary of the engagement process, see Chapter 3.

Schedule

See Phases 3-5 Schedule graphic which shows the three final phases of work and some of the key tasks associated with the work.

PHASES 1-2
(Completed
October 2021)

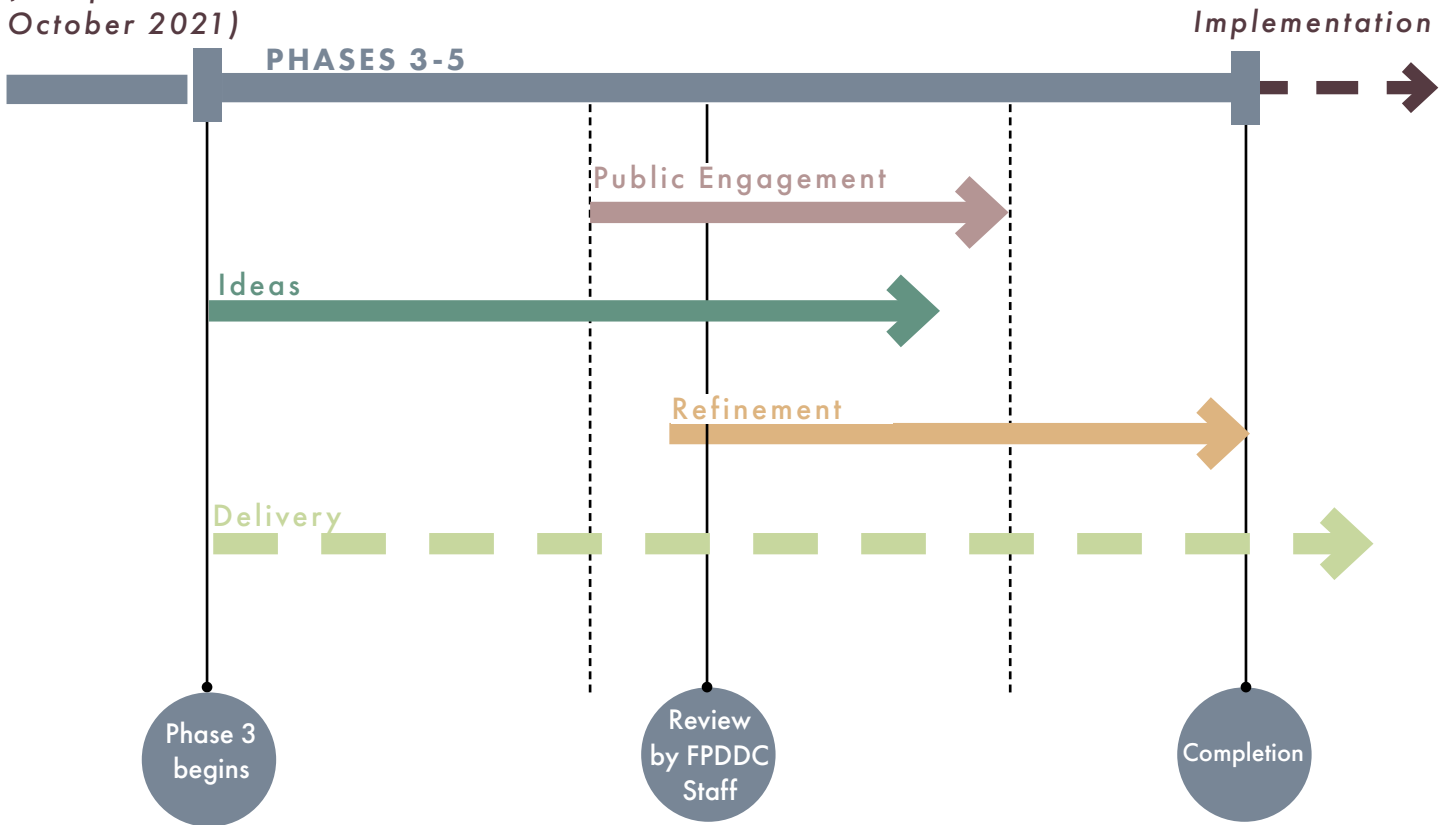


Illustration of Phases 3-5 Schedule

VISION AND GOALS

Parks and Forest Preserves

There are key differences between the purpose, mission, funding, and jurisdictional management of parks and forest preserves.

Parks are typically managed by municipal parks departments or park districts, whereas forest preserves are usually larger tracts of land typically managed by State or County entities, each with different laws, regulations, and funding mechanisms.

Many parks provide active recreation including ball fields, walking paths, water parks and playgrounds, while forest preserves provide resource-based outdoor recreation such as hiking, biking, wildlife watching, camping, off-leash dog areas, picnicking, fishing, and boating.

Forest Preserves are also managed and maintained to protect and preserve natural areas; manage watersheds to provide flood control and enhance water quality; and provide habitat for endangered, threatened, and common native plant and animal species.

VISION STATEMENT

Blackwell Forest Preserve is a regional destination within a larger network of thousands of acres of open space in the heart of west-central DuPage County. With key connections to regional trails, Blackwell links thousands of people to nature. Blackwell protects ecological assets and habitats such as McKee Marsh, oak and hickory woodlands, prairies, grasslands, and wetlands. The preserve provides users with many resource-based recreational opportunities including water and winter sports, camping, archery, wildlife watching, an off-leash dog area and diverse trail experiences. Blackwell also serves a critical role in the District's operations by providing staff support areas and its native plant nursery.

”

GOALS

NATURAL

1

Manage natural areas to increase habitat quality and value

2

Maintain and improve wildlife and insect diversity and quality.

3

Reduce impacts and disturbance to natural resources.

PHYSICAL

1

Improve vehicular access, circulation, and parking.

2

Improve the functionality, efficiency, and connectivity of trails.

3

Provide resource-based recreational opportunities.

4

Make enhancements at the landfill that further the District's mission.

5

Increase operational efficiency by making improvements to support infrastructure.

CULTURAL

1

Recognize significant cultural elements of the preserve.

2

Cultivate awareness and appreciation for native ecosystems and natural resource management efforts at the preserve.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Phase 1 and 2 Summary

Using a Public Participation Plan created by Stantec and FPDDC Staff, the team conducted 16 public engagement sessions. These sessions included focus group meetings, staff department engagement sessions, public engagement sessions, and two by two interviews with commissioners. The goal was to provide users of the preserves and key stakeholders COVID safe options to provide their input, so many of the sessions were held virtually. In addition to the sessions, a virtual StoryMap detailing the planning process was available to those interested in finding out more, and a survey was open to the public for response. With over 600 survey responses, more than 2,000 StoryMap views, and nearly 200 attendees in the engagement sessions, the project team was able to collect valuable input and important observations about the three preserves. For a more detailed summary of the engagement process, see Discovery and Analysis Report.

Phase 3, 4, and 5 Summary In-Person Engagement

An in-person engagement event was held at Blackwell on June 11, 2022 from 3:30-5:30 pm. Stantec prepared boards with graphics and text showing the proposed improvements to help facilitate the event. About 75 preserve users participated and shared comments for different focus areas using post it notes. In addition, Stantec

staff walked around key locations of the preserve to distribute postcards with a QR code that directed people to the StoryMap. The StoryMap included the conceptual framework plans with a survey.

The top 3 issues users expressed were the following:

- Most users would like expansion and improvements to the off-leash dog area and parking lot.
- Additional entry points and trail connections are desired.
- Users are interested in the addition of interpretive elements for historical and conservation efforts.

Virtual Engagement

A virtual engagement was hosted through Zoom on October 11, 2022. The session provided information to the preserve users and to the public about the Preferred Conceptual Framework Plan. Preserve users and the public indicated their preferences and comments live at the end of the meeting. A survey was also created and posted on the StoryMap to receive comments on the proposed improvements.

Engagement results from this event indicated that users are in support of the Preferred Framework Plan.



Images from the In-Person Engagement on October 12, 2022

BLACKWELL

FOREST

PRESERVE

Framework
Plans



FRAMEWORK PLANS

INTRODUCTION

FRAMEWORK PLANS

Introduction

The Blackwell Forest Preserve framework plans were created to guide future improvements in the preserve. These plans address preserve improvements generated from stakeholder and staff input. In addition, the plan identifies potential locations for proposed improvements. While the framework plans are conceptual, they provide a long-term vision for FPDDC staff and help inform the implementation plan.

Initial Conceptual Framework Plan Options

Based on the previous analysis and stakeholder engagement discussions (Stage 1 and 2), Stantec worked with District staff to create a list of desired programmatic amenities and improvements for Blackwell. The refined list helped inform the initial conceptual framework plan options, which indicate the recommended locations of the improvements. Preserve staff and the public then had an opportunity to review and comment on the conceptual framework plans.

Preferred Framework Plan Options

Based on feedback from the framework plan review meeting with District staff and the in-person public engagement session, Stantec completed preferred conceptual framework plans for Blackwell. These include proposed restoration areas and trail network framework plans. Through a series of refinements, the framework plan reflects the natural, physical and cultural goals.

Proposed Restoration Areas

The restoration framework plan prioritizes habitat areas most critical and in need of restoration. Restoration efforts include removing invasive

plants and establishing native plant communities. The goal is to create a diverse habitat to support wildlife, especially those threatened or endangered.

Proposed Trail Network

Proposed Trail Network map includes existing trails, proposed trails, and removed trails. The plan proposes key trail connections enhance connectivity within the preserve. One of the key improvements is a trail loop around Silver Lake, which provides an enriched scenic and recreational experience for preserve visitors. Additional trail connections reflect the desire of users to have greater access throughout the preserve.

Focus Areas

Conceptual framework plans were created for 10 focus areas and these areas were selected due to high use or high importance to the preserve. The focus area plans include more detailed recommendations like proposed structures, site reconfigurations, other facility improvements, and additional studies that need to be completed.

These focus areas are the following:

1. Future Bridge Over Roosevelt Road
2. Off-Leash Dog Area
3. McKee Marsh Maintenance & Grounds
4. Nursery
5. Youth Campground
6. Spring Brook and Ranger Stations
7. Silver Lake, Boat Launch, and Tubing Hill
8. Family Campground and Shelter
9. Parking, Shelter, and Connection to Illinois Prairie Path & St. James Farm
10. Sand & White Ponds, Archery Range, Urban Stream Research Center

Detail Area Plans

Following the completion of the Focus Area plans, District staff identified 4 priority sites within the preserve to explore more detailed design, the enlargement areas include the following:

1. Off-Leash Dog Area
2. Family Campground Expansion and Trail Network Enhancements
3. Boat House Area Improvements
4. Mt. Hoy Tubing Hill




The existing boat launch was identified as highly used amenities in need of redesign

FRAMEWORK PLANS

PROPOSED RESTORATION AREAS





RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

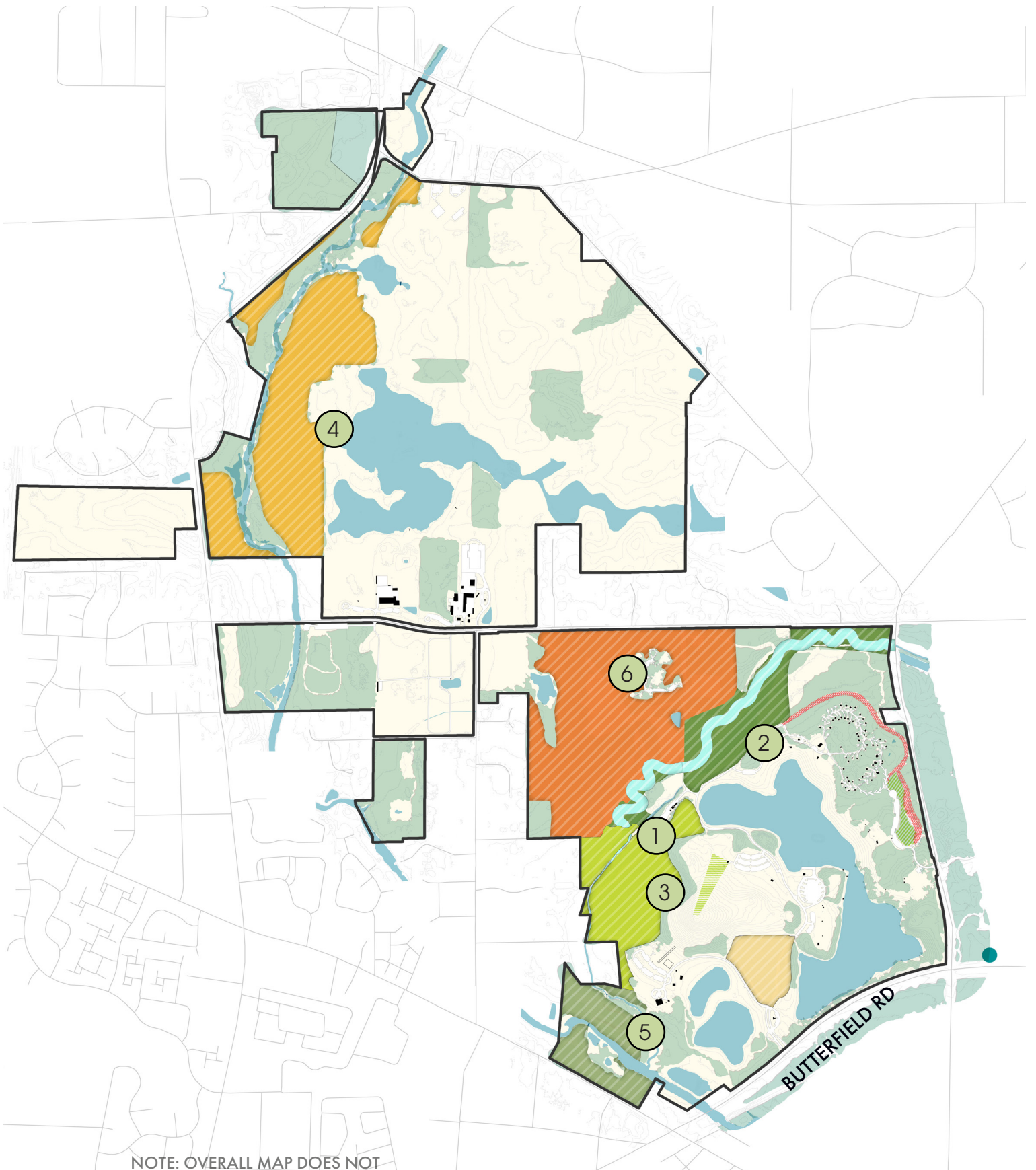
-  **Spring Brook**
-  **Mack Road Marsh**
-  **Spring Brook Woods**
-  **River Savanna North**
-  **Cenacle Grounds**
-  **South Mack Meadow**

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue ecological restoration and identify areas to replace turf grass with native prairie plants

LEGEND

-  PRESERVE BOUNDARY
-  SHRUB MEADOW
-  WATER BODY
-  EXISTING BUILDING



NOTE: OVERALL MAP DOES NOT ILLUSTRATE ALL RECOMMENDATIONS. SEE FOCUS AREAS FOR DETAILED PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS.

FRAMEWORK PLANS

PROPOSED TRAIL NETWORK

TRAIL PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mack Road Trail

- 1 Planned Trail connection along Mack Road.

Silver Loop Trail

- 2 Implement a loop trail around Silver Lake.
- 12 Realign Main Drive to provide separated bike lane from the tubing hill parking lot to North Shelter Parking lot.

Archery Range Connector Trail

- 3 Trail from Silver Lake parking lot to Archery Range / Urban Stream Research Center.
- 6 Trail from entry at Butterfield Road back to the Archery Range / Urban Stream Research Center.

Boat Launch Improvements

- 4 Trail connection to boat house.

East Side Trail, Access, and Parking Lot Improvements

- 5 Trail connection along Winfield Road to connect to St. James Farm trails.
- 9 Trail connection to the road system.
- 10 Trail to replace eastern side of parking lot.
- 11 Convert existing Main Drive to limestone trail on road base, and provide trail connection to existing carriage path and to Mack Road Trail connection.

- 15 Formalize the turf trail into a limestone trail that connects the campground to Mack Road.

- 16 Trail connection to Mack Road.

Roosevelt Road Bridge

- 7 Planned Trail and bridge over Roosevelt Road to West DuPage Woods.

Improve Interpretive Signage

- 8 Expand interpretive opportunities at Urban Stream Research Center.

WBDRT - Silver Lake Loop Connector

- 13 Trail from Main Drive to West Branch DuPage River Trail (through maintenance complex).
- 18 Trail north of Main Drive to West Branch DuPage River Trail.










Mt. Hoy Trail Connection Improvements

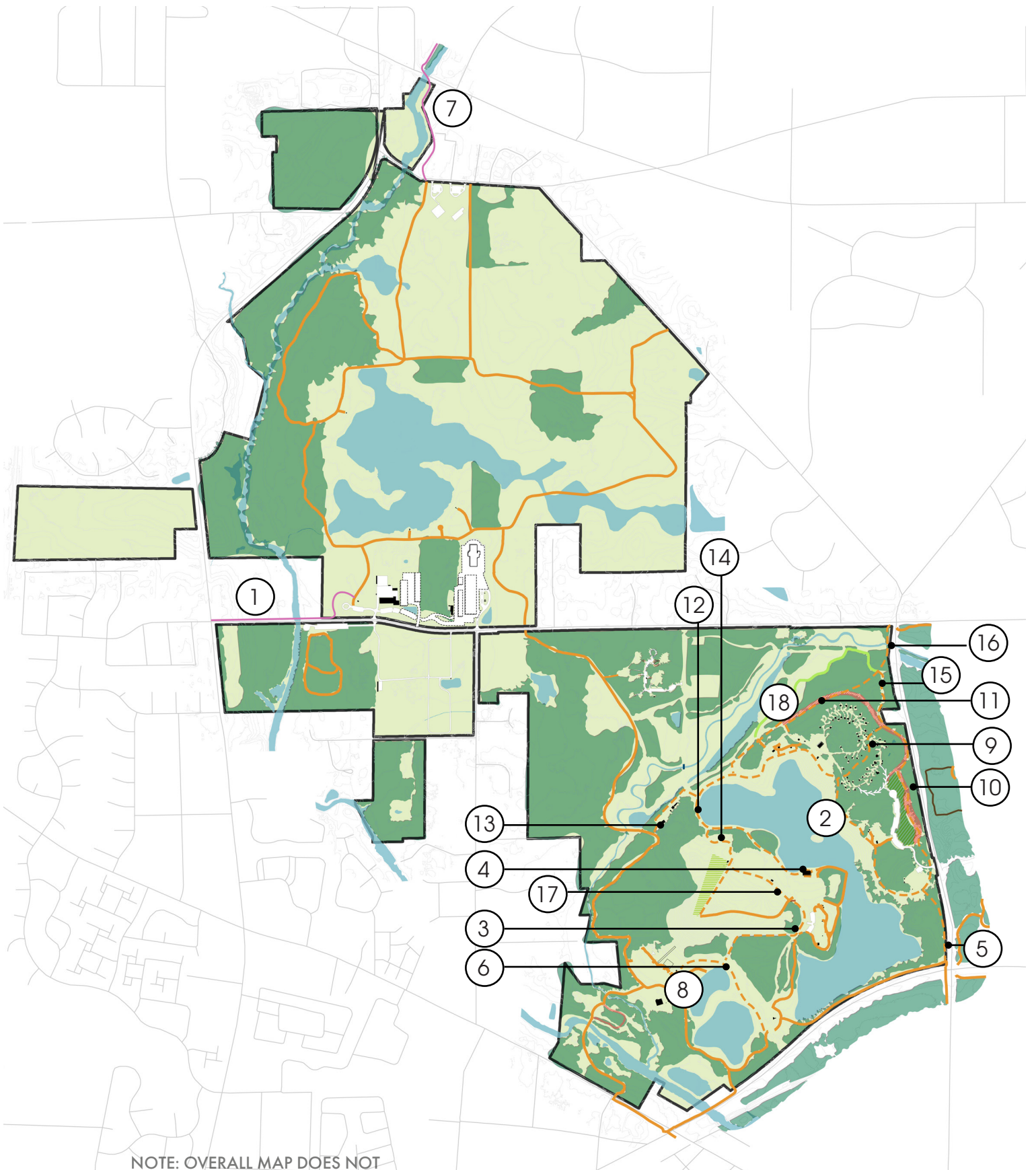
- 14 Connection from Silver Lake loop trail to Mt. Hoy & the tubing hill.
- 17 Improve trail connection to Mt. Hoy.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

See signage plans for directional, identification, regulatory, and interpretive sign recommendations and proposed locations.

LEGEND

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | UNMAINTAINED TRAIL |
|  | REMOVAL |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |



NOTE: OVERALL MAP DOES NOT ILLUSTRATE ALL RECOMMENDATIONS. SEE FOCUS AREAS FOR DETAILED PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS.

FRAMEWORK PLANS

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK SUMMARY

Focus Areas

1 Future Bridge Over Roosevelt Road

- Roosevelt Road Bridge

2 Off-Leash Dog Area

- Mack Road Trail
- Off-Leash Dog Area Parking, Shelter, and Amenity Improvements
- Canoe and Kayak launch Improvements

3 McKee Marsh Maintenance & Grounds

- Improve Interpretive Signage
- Grounds and Natural Resources Complex

4 Nursery

- Nursery Seed Processing
- Nursery Drainage Improvements











5 Youth Campground

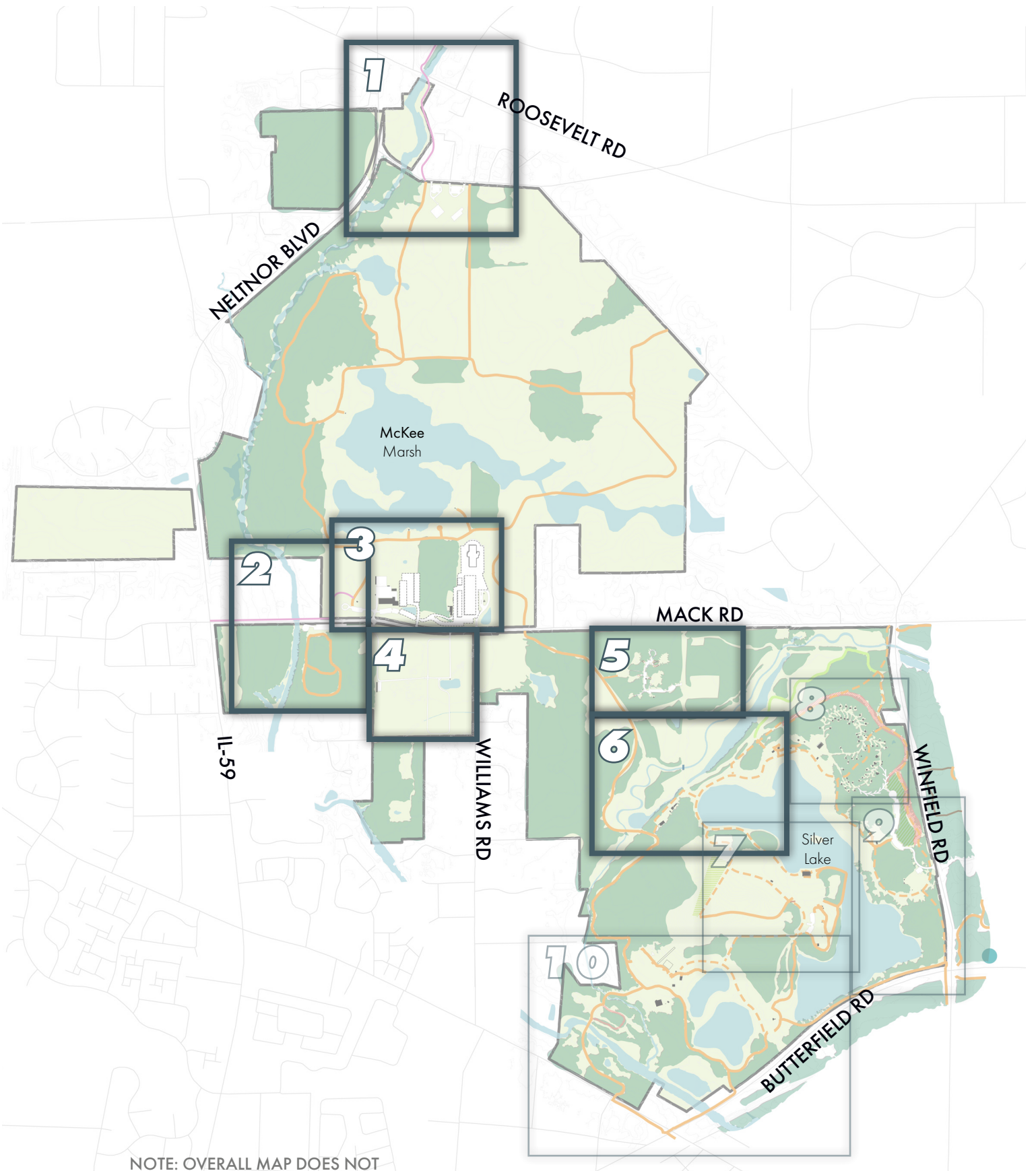
- Youth Campground Parking Expansion

6 Spring Brook & Ranger Station

- Mt. Hoy Trail Connection Improvements
- Silver Lake Loop Trail
- Grounds and Natural Resources Complex

LEGEND

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | UNMAINTAINED TRAIL |
|  | REMOVAL |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |



NOTE: OVERALL MAP DOES NOT ILLUSTRATE ALL RECOMMENDATIONS. SEE FOCUS AREAS FOR DETAILED PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS.



FRAMEWORK PLANS

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK SUMMARY

Focus Areas (continued)

Silver Lake, Boat Launch, Tubing Hill

- Boat Launch Improvements
- Archery Range and Connector Trail
- Mt. Hoy Concession and Amenity Improvements
- Mt. Hoy Trail Connection Improvements
- Silver Lake Loop Trail
- Boat Storage Facility
- Silver Lake Fishing Pier Improvements

Parking, Shelter, Connection to IL Prairie Path & St James Farm

- East Side Trail, Access, and Parking Lot Improvements












Sand & White Pine Ponds, Archery Range, Urban Stream Research Center

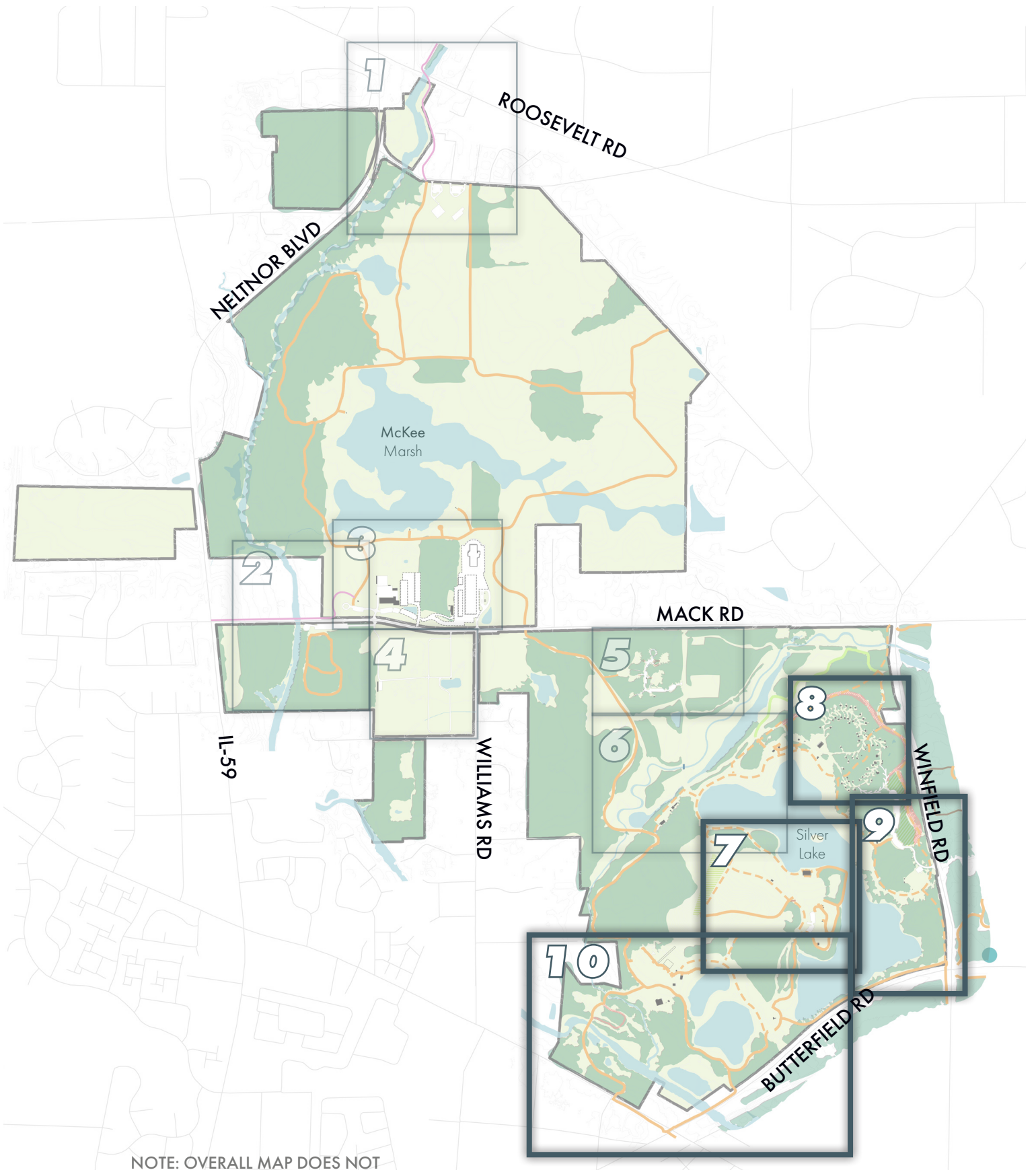
- Archery Range Connector Trail
- Sand Pond Fishing Pier Improvements
- Blackwell Cenacle Trail Reconfiguration

Family Campground & North Shelter

- Family Campground Shower Building Rehabilitation
- Silver Lake Loop trail
- East Side Trail, Access, and Parking Lot Improvements
- Family Campground Restroom Improvements
- Family Campground Expansion

LEGEND

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | UNMAINTAINED TRAIL |
|  | REMOVAL |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |



NOTE: OVERALL MAP DOES NOT ILLUSTRATE ALL RECOMMENDATIONS. SEE FOCUS AREAS FOR DETAILED PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS.



FRAMEWORK PLANS

FOCUS AREAS

1 Future Bridge Over Roosevelt Road



0 400 Feet



PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Roosevelt Road Bridge

















- 1 Planned pedestrian bridge over Roosevelt Road.*
- 2 District planned trail connection to West DuPage Woods.*
- 3 At grade crossing of Gary's Mill Road.

*Projects being completed by others.
Anticipated completion in 2024.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Restore land adjacent to river
- 2 River Savanna North

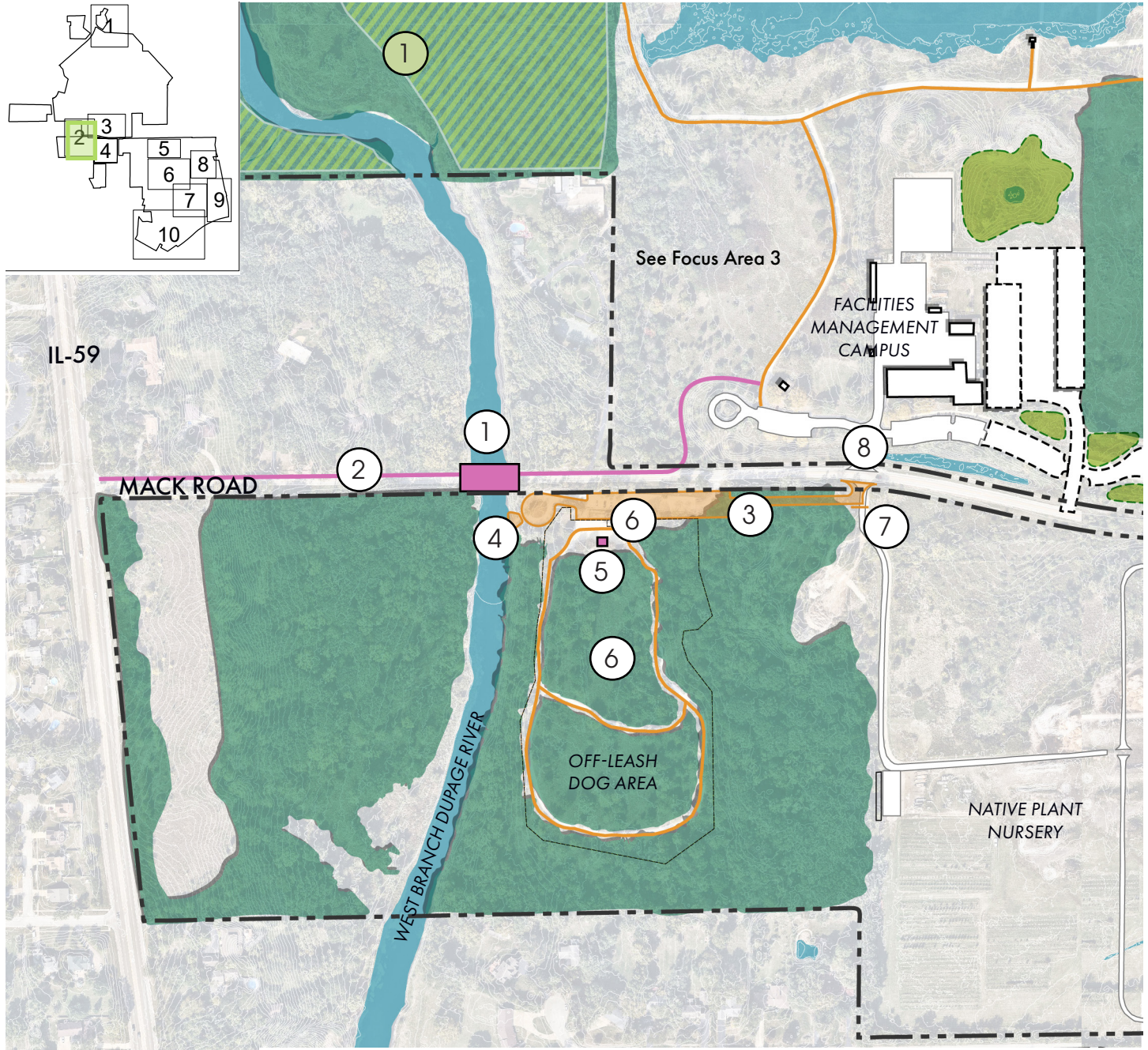
LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | PLANNED IMPROVEMENT |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED RESTORATION |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | REMOVAL |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED STRUCTURE |  | PROPOSED FENCE |  | RAILROAD TRACKS |
| | | | |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |

FRAMEWORK PLANS

FOCUS AREAS

2 Off-Leash Dog Area



0 400 Feet



PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mack Road Trail

- ① Planned connection over the West Branch of the DuPage River.*
- ② Planned shared path along Mack Road to connect into preserve.*

Off Leash Dog Area Parking, Shelter and Amenity Improvements
















- ③ Reconfigure & pave existing lot and adjust parking entrance location. Provide kayak launch parking close to river. (± 35 existing, ± 35 proposed ± 15 kayak parking spaces = ± 85 spaces).
- ⑤ Construct shade structure or pavilion with drinking fountain and additional seating (fenced in to adhere to health department regulations).
- ⑥ Study gate/fence reconfiguration with parking lot improvements.
- ⑦ Add regulatory signs and/or barriers limiting parking locations in proximity to entry drive.
- ⑧ Relocate existing entrance to align with the McKee Marsh entrance, promoting pedestrian safety.

Canoe and Kayak Launch Improvements

- ④ Improve kayak launch.

*Projects being completed by others.

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | PLANNED IMPROVEMENT |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED RESTORATION |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | REMOVAL |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
| | |  | PROPOSED FENCE |  | RAILROAD TRACKS |
| | | | |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- ① River Savanna North

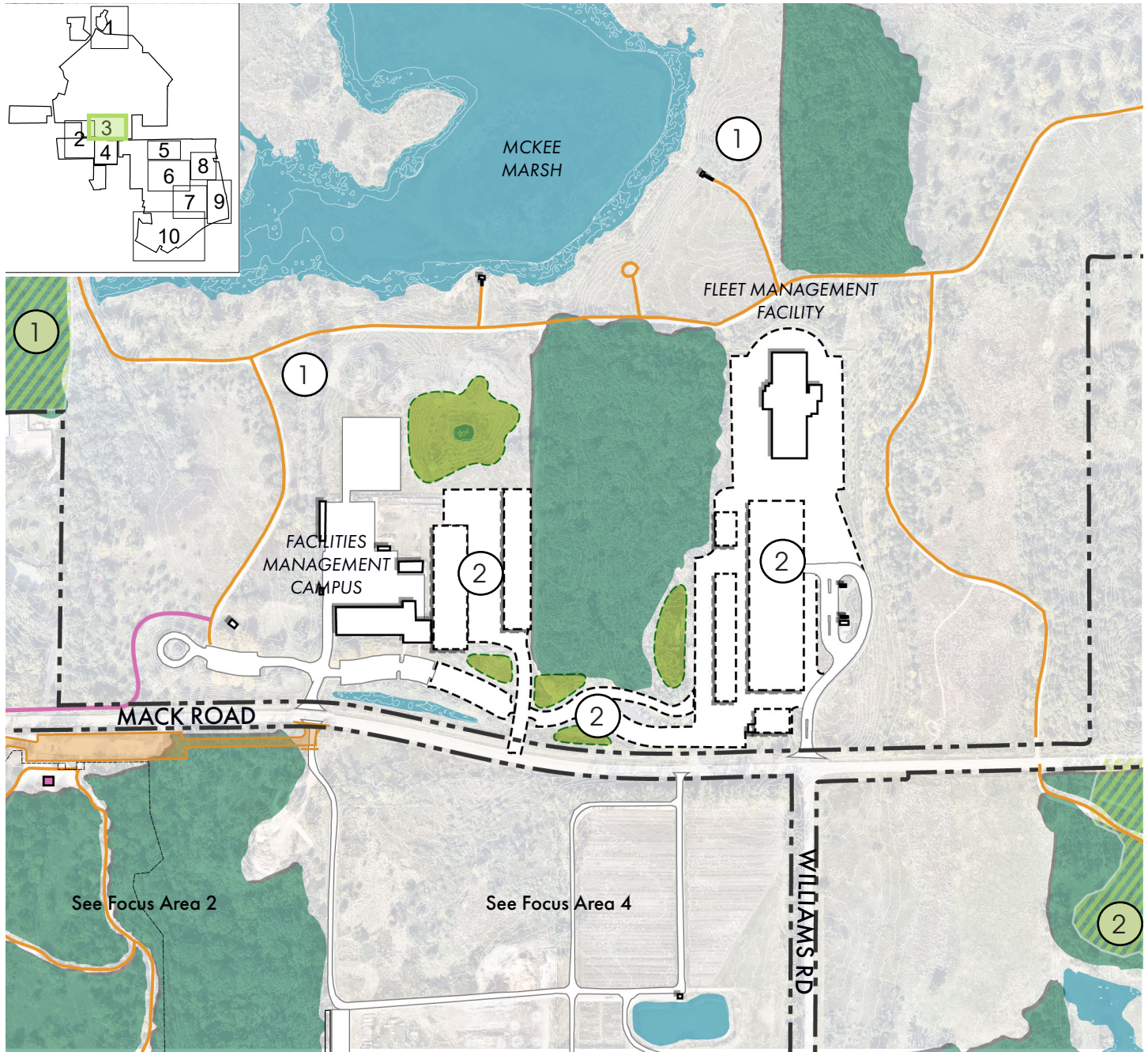


Dog Park with Shelter

FRAMEWORK PLANS

FOCUS AREAS

3 McKee Marsh, Maintenance & Grounds



0 400 Feet



PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Improve Interpretive Signage

- 1 Improve / provide additional interpretive signage about the marsh and mammoth discovery (See signage plans).

Grounds and Natural Resources Complex

- 2 Planned improvements as part of the Future Blackwell Grounds and Natural Resources Operations Master Plan.* Provide boat storage with the proposed complex.

















*Projects being completed by others.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 River Savanna North

- 2 South Mack Meadow

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | PLANNED IMPROVEMENT |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED RESTORATION |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | REMOVAL |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED STRUCTURE |  | PROPOSED FENCE |  | RAILROAD TRACKS |
| | | | |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |

FRAMEWORK PLANS

FOCUS AREAS

4 Nursery



0 300 Feet



PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Nursery Seed Processing

















- ① Planned seed processing location.*

Nursery Drainage Improvements

- ② Alleviate flooding issues using stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) or by installing larger pipe infrastructure to accommodate water on site.

*Projects being completed by others.

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | PLANNED IMPROVEMENT |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED RESTORATION |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | REMOVAL |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED STRUCTURE |  | PROPOSED FENCE |  | RAILROAD TRACKS |
| | | | |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |

FRAMEWORK PLANS

FOCUS AREAS

5 Youth Campground



0 300 Feet



PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

















Youth Campground Parking Expansion

- 1 Add parking area (\pm 27 spaces) to existing access drive.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 South Mack Meadow
- 2 Spring Brook

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | PLANNED IMPROVEMENT |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED RESTORATION |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | REMOVAL |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED STRUCTURE |  | PROPOSED FENCE |  | RAILROAD TRACKS |
| | | | |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |

FRAMEWORK PLANS

FOCUS AREAS

6 Spring Brook and Ranger Station



0 400 Feet



PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mt. Hoy Trail Connection Improvements

- ① Connect Silver Lake loop trail to Mt. Hoy and the tubing hill.
- ② Improved trail to top of Mt. Hoy.

Silver Lake Loop Trail

- ③ Implement a loop trail around Silver Lake.
- ⑤ Relocate segment of Main Drive to be further away from edge of Silver Lake, and provide limestone trail between road and lake.

Silver Lake Fishing Pier Improvements

- ④ Relocat existing ADA fishing pier to boat launch area.
















Grounds and Natural Resources Complex

- ⑥ Remove existing ranger operations buildings. Consolidate any storage that site operations need with the proposed Grounds and Natural Resources Complex. See Focus Area 3: McKee Marsh, Maintenance, Grounds.

WBDRT - Silver Lake Loop Connector

- ⑦ Trail from Main Drive to West Branch DuPage River Trail.
- ⑧ Trail north of Main Drive to West Branch DuPage River Trail.

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | PLANNED IMPROVEMENT |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED RESTORATION |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | REMOVAL |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
| | |  | PROPOSED FENCE |  | RAILROAD TRACKS |
| | | | |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- ① South Mack Meadow
- ② Spring Brook
- ③ Spring Brook Woods
- ④ Mack Road Marsh

FRAMEWORK PLANS

FOCUS AREAS

7 Silver Lake, Boat Launch, Tubing Hill



0 400 Feet



PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Boat Launch Improvements

- 1 Construct larger boat house with restrooms & concessions, drinking fountain, additional bike parking; update marina and shoreline beach for improved kayak and canoe launch.
- 2 Create additional trail connection between shelter, tubing hill and boat house area.
- 8 Construct a council ring.

Archery Range Connector Trail

- 3 Create additional trail connection between Silver Lake South Lot to Urban Stream Research Center, White Pine and Sand Ponds, and Archery Range.

Mt. Hoy Concession and Amenity Improvements

- 4 Provide amenities at top of Mt. Hoy (seating, limestone paving, lap counter, ornamental fencing / barrier).
- 7 Construct hot chocolate and warming hut for the winter and water station for the summer, at the base of sledding hill.

Mt. Hoy Trail Connection Improvements

- 5 Restore tubing hill (fill in rills and gullies; re-grade to accommodate end of tube run).

Silver Lake Loop Trail

- 6 Realign Main Drive to provide separated bike lane from the tubing hill parking lot to North Shelter parking lot.

Boat Storage Facility

- 10 Relocate Silver Lake winter boat storage to proposed Grounds and Natural Resources Complex. See Focus Area 3: McKee Marsh, Maintenance, Grounds.

Silver Lake Fishing Pier Improvements

- 9 Relocated existing ADA fishing pier to boat launch area.
- 11 Improve existing fishing pier.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Spring Brook Woods
- 2 Kame Restoration



















Boat House, Image from The Patriot Ledger



Council ring, Image from Tree Tops Inc.

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | PLANNED IMPROVEMENT |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED RESTORATION |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | REMOVAL |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED STRUCTURE |  | PROPOSED FENCE |  | RAILROAD TRACKS |
| | | | |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |

FRAMEWORK PLANS

FOCUS AREAS

8 Family Campground & North Shelter



0 300 Feet



PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Family Campground Shower Building Rehabilitation

- 1 Upgrade existing shower building.

Silver Lake Loop Trail

- 2 Implement a loop trail around Silver Lake.

East Side Trail, Access, and Parking Lot Improvements

- 3 Convert existing Main Drive to limestone trail on road base, and provide trail connection to existing carriage path and to Mack Road Trail connection.
- 4 Remove eastern side of parking lot and replace with trail to create better connectivity.
- 6 Existing two-way asphalt road with parking to accommodate 50 cars.
- 10 Add campground trail connector.
- 11 Formalize the turf trail into a limestone trail that connects the campground to Mack Road.

Family Campground Expansion

- 5 Add ± 14 total campsites with one way road, or two-way road without campsites.
- 8 Make improvements to the campground.

Family Campground Restroom Improvements

- 7 Construct 3 unit modern vault toilet to replace existing latrines.

WBDRT - Silver Lake Loop Connector

- 12 Trail north of Main Drive to West Branch DuPage River Trail.

















Silver Lake Fishing Pier Improvements

- 9 Relocate existing ADA fishing pier to boat launch area.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Restore area as necessary due to impacts from reconfiguring campground and former parking lot.
- 2 Mack Road Marsh
- 3 Restore / plant this area to reduce mowing

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | PLANNED IMPROVEMENT |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED RESTORATION |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | REMOVAL |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED STRUCTURE |  | PROPOSED FENCE |  | RAILROAD TRACKS |
| | | | |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |

FRAMEWORK PLANS

FOCUS AREAS

 **Parking, Shelter, Connection to Illinois Prairie Path & St. James Farm**



0 500 Feet



PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

















East Side Trail, Access and Parking Lot Improvements

- 1 Create trail connection along Winfield Road to connect to St. James Farm trails.
- 2 Remove eastern side of parking and replace with trail to create better connectivity and reduce unneeded pavement.
- 3 Establish a new entry from Winfield Road to provide full-time access to parking lot, and secured / limited / emergency access to the campground.
- 4 Additional traffic studies are recommended to explore the proposed the proposed entry alignment on Winfield Road.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Kame Restoration
- 2 Area impacted by campground / roadway reconfiguration
- 3 Restore to reduce mowing

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | PLANNED IMPROVEMENT |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED RESTORATION |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | REMOVAL |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED STRUCTURE |  | PROPOSED FENCE |  | RAILROAD TRACKS |
| | | | |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |

FRAMEWORK PLANS

FOCUS AREAS

10 Sand and White Pine Ponds, Archery Range, Urban Stream Research Center



0 500 Feet



PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Archery Range Connector Trail

- ① Create trail connection along entry road.
- ⑤ Add flush restroom near Archery Range.

Sand Pond Fishing Pier Improvements

- ② Construct additional fishing pier and pond overlook.
- ③ Extend fishing pier 10'-15'.

















Blackwell Cenacle Trail Reconfiguration

- ④ Remove existing loop trail and restore area.
- ⑥ Rehabilitate Cenacle Bridge.

RESTORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- ① Spring Brook Woods
- ② Kame Restoration
- ③ Cenacle Grounds

LEGEND

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | PLANNED IMPROVEMENT |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED RESTORATION |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | REMOVAL |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED STRUCTURE |  | PROPOSED FENCE |  | RAILROAD TRACKS |
| | | | |  | PLANNED TRAIL BY OTHERS |

BLACKWELL

FOREST

PRESERVE

Detail

Area Plans



DETAIL AREA PLANS

Introduction

Detail Area Plans

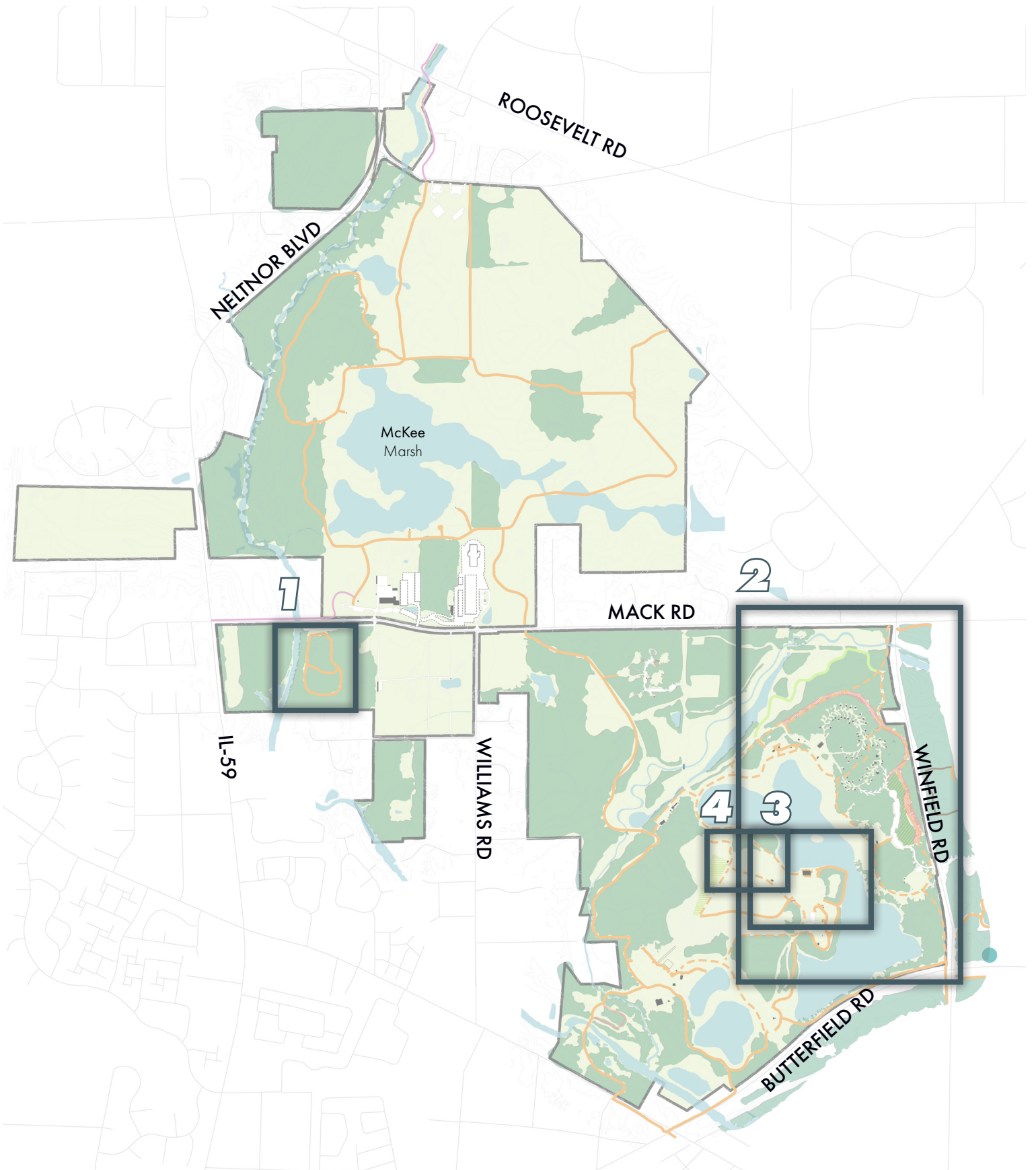
Based on the feedback received from Stage 3, Stantec worked with FPDDC staff to finalize and prioritize the improvement program for Stage 4. The priority project list informed the enlargement areas which show detailed area site plans for Blackwell. These detail area plans further detail recommendations identified in the framework plans, providing greater specificity to unique site conditions.

Detail Areas

- 1 Off-Leash Dog Area
- 2 Family Campground and Trail Network Enhancements
- 3 Boat House Area Improvements
- 4 Mt. Hoy Tubing Hill

LEGEND

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PRESERVE BOUNDARY |  | LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | SHRUB MEADOW |  | TURF TRAIL |
|  | WATER BODY |  | PROPOSED TURF TRAIL |
|  | EXISTING BUILDING |  | PROPOSED LIMESTONE TRAIL |
|  | PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT |  | UNMAINTAINED TRAIL |



DETAIL AREA PLANS

OFF-LEASH DOG AREA

PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mack Road Trail

- ① Planned connection over the West Branch of the DuPage River.*
- ② Planned shared path along Mack Road to connect into preserve.*

Off Leash Dog Area Parking, Shelter and Amenity Improvements

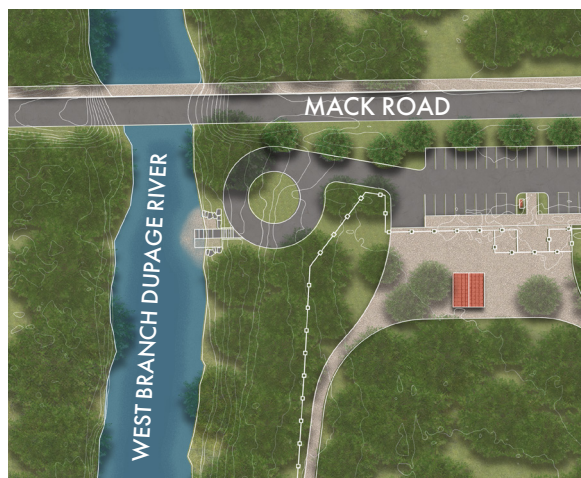
- ③ Relocate existing entrance to align with the McKee Marsh entrance.
- ④ Improve, expand and resurface parking lot.
- ⑤ Reconfigure entry gates.
- ⑥ Provide shade structure and seating.
- ⑦ Consider opportunity for permeable paving.
- ⑧ Provide vehicular gate access for maintenance and emergency vehicles.

- ⑨ Provide cable gate to prevent unauthorized access into nursery.

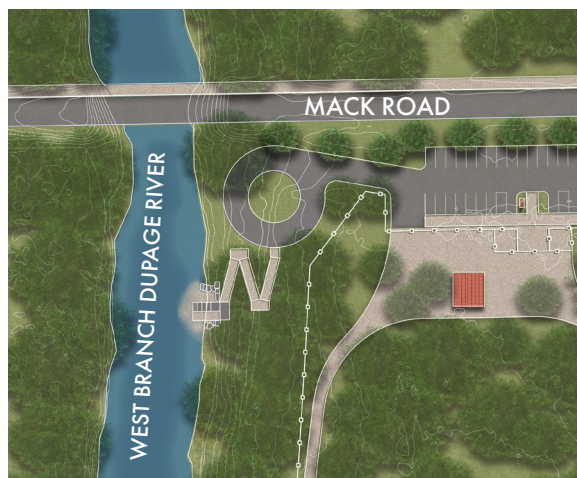
Canoe and Kayak Launch Improvements

- ⑩ Improve kayak launch.

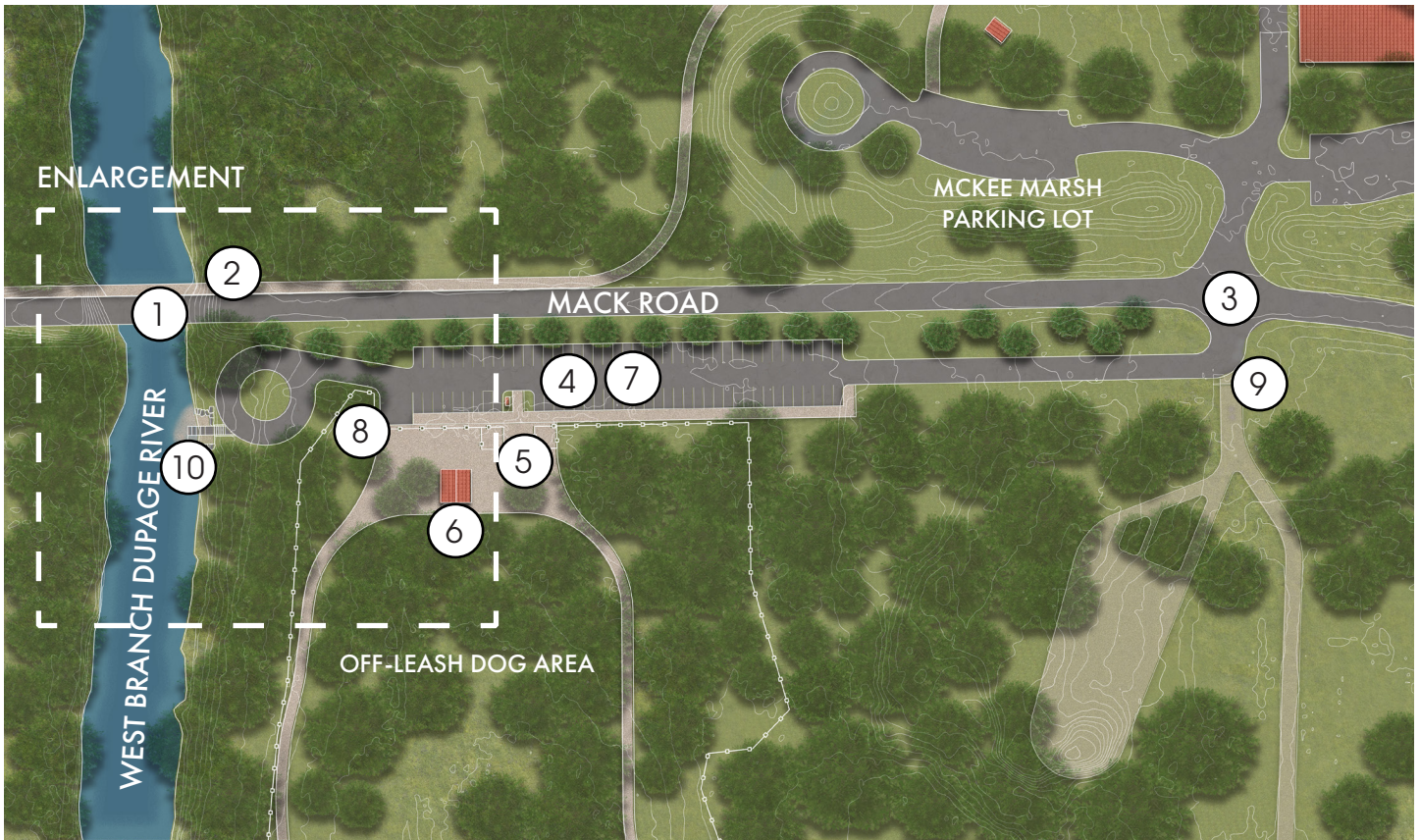
*Projects being completed by others.



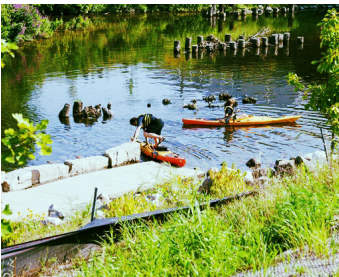
Option 1
Rustic Beach Style Kayak Launch



Option 2
Rustic ADA Kayak Launch



Character Images



Rustic ADA kayak launch



Rustic beach style kayak launch



Shelter

DETAIL AREA PLANS

FAMILY CAMPGROUND EXPANSION AND TRAIL NETWORK ENHANCEMENTS

PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Family Campground Shower Building Rehabilitation

- ① Upgrade existing shower building.

Silver Lake Loop Trail

- ② Implement the Silver Lake loop trail.
- ③ Realign Main Drive to provide separated bike lane from the tubing hill parking lot to North Shelter Parking lot.

East Side Trail, Access, and Parking Lot Improvements

- ④ Create new entry point to the light bulb lot to align with the St. James Farm entrance.
- ⑤ Remove eastern side of parking lot and replace with a limestone trail.
- ⑥ Connect new trails to and improve trail connection along Winfield Road.
- ⑦ Formalize the turf trail into a limestone trail that connects the campground to Mack Rd.
- ⑧ Add trail connection from campground to Silver Lake Loop.

- ⑨ Convert existing Main Drive to limestone trail on road base, and provide trail connection to existing carriage path and to Mack Road Trail connection.

- ⑩ Install controlled access gate to the campground at the north end of the parking lot and terminate parking in a cul-de-sac / drop-off.

Family Campground Expansion

- ⑪ Expand campground - add 14 total campsites.

Family Campground Restroom Improvements

- ⑫ Construct three unit modern vault toilet to replace existing latrines.

WBDRT - Silver Lake Loop Connector

- ⑬ Trail north of Main Drive to West Branch DuPage River Trail.

Silver Lake Fishing Pier Improvements

- ⑭ Relocate existing ADA fishing pier to boat launch area.
- ⑮ Improve fishing overlooks.

Character Images



Limestone trail



Separated bike trail



Camp site



0 300 Feet

DETAIL AREA PLANS

BOAT HOUSE AREA IMPROVEMENTS

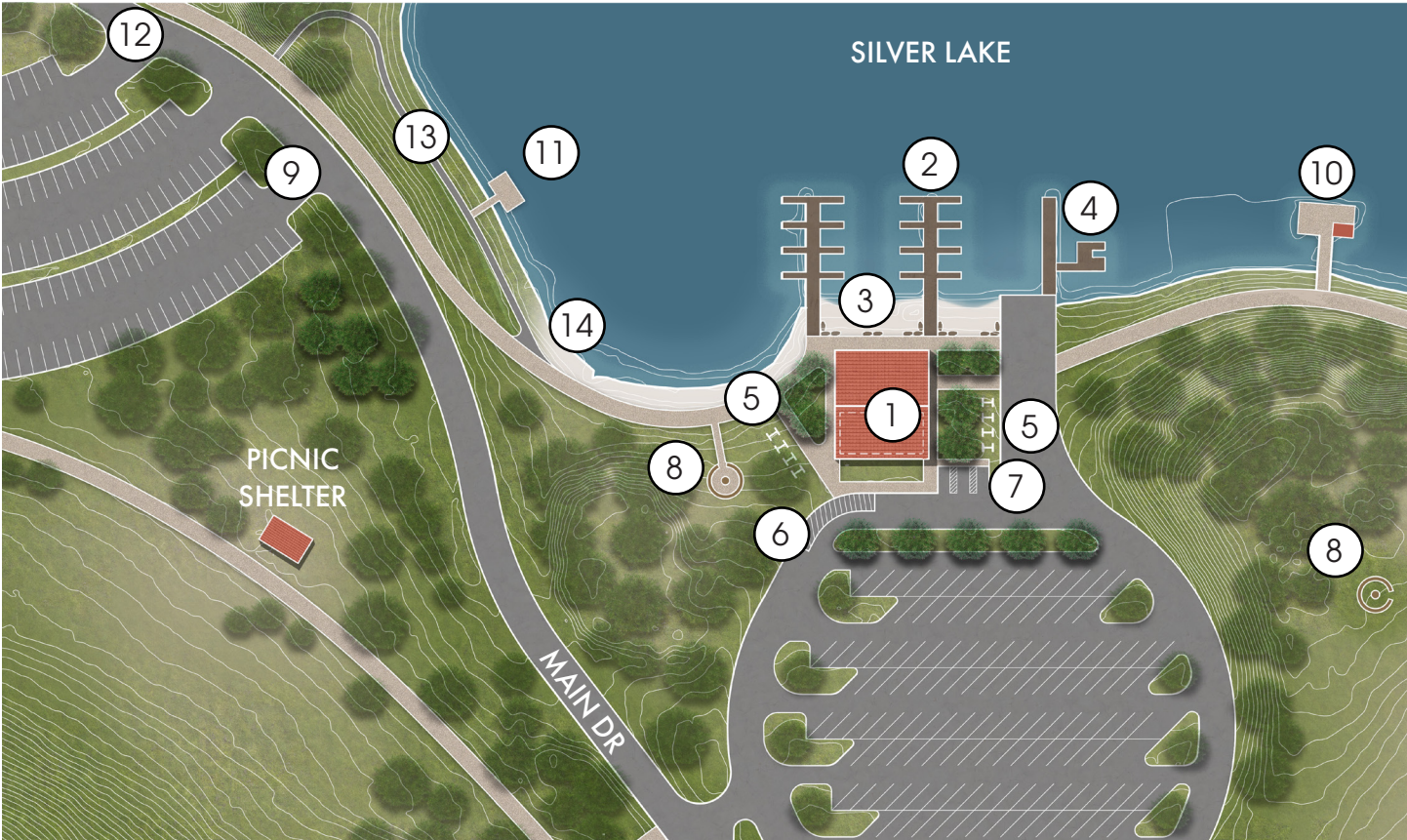
PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Boat Launch Improvements

- ① Install a new, larger boat house with concessions, restrooms, storage, and outdoor picnic area.
- ② Install a new marina with finger piers to better support recreational craft.
- ③ Improve kayak and canoe beach by adding pea gravel and boulders for easy launching.
- ④ Existing ADA kayak Launch.
- ⑤ Rentable kayak storage.
- ⑥ Add a temporary kayak drop-off area.
- ⑦ Relocate ADA parking stalls closer to the building.
- ⑧ Add a council ring.
- ⑩ Improve existing fishing pier.
- ⑪ Relocate existing ADA fishing pier to boat launch area.
- ⑬ Add asphalt path to ADA fishing pier.
- ⑭ Expand pebble beach area.

Silver Lake Loop Trail

- ⑨ Reconfigure Main Drive to remove redundant access drive and provide additional parking spaces.
- ⑫ Realign Main Dr to provide separated side path from the tubing hill parking lot to North Shelter Parking lot.



Character Images



Boat house



New floating dock with finger piers



Rentable council ring with fire pit



Rentable kayak storage

DETAIL AREA PLANS

BOAT HOUSE AREA IMPROVEMENTS

Silver Lake

Silver Lake is among one of the most used areas in the preserve and is a popular destination for boating and fishing. The new facilities will create a more pleasant atmosphere for visitors and heighten the value of the preserve in the community.

Boat House

The proposed boat house will relate better to the lake and the amazing views across Silver Lake to the north. Nestled between Mt. Hoy and Silver Lake, the proposed architectural style and the split tapered roof pays homage to the dynamic landscapes of Blackwell. The proposed building footprint should be at least 2,400 SF and 2,850 SF of overhang or gathering space. This increases the size by at least double and will be used for concessions, restrooms, storage, and gathering area which will offer opportunities for picnicking.

Paddle Improvements

The improvements will further enhance the experience for paddle sport users by adding pea gravel and boulders for easy launching, rentable kayak storage, and temporary kayak drop-off area.

Dock with Finger Piers

The preserve rental facility offers rowboat, paddle boat, kayak, and canoe rentals; however, the current facilities are inadequate for current uses and the increasing visitation numbers.

The dock with the addition of the finger piers will improve storage, access to Silver Lake, and will create a more seamless recreational experience.

Boat Storage

The District staff has some challenges with existing facilities such as lack of storage. A larger boat storage facility is needed to store equipment during the winter. The first preference would be to incorporate it into the new proposed site operations facility that would get constructed west of facilities management on Mack Road (concept is being developed by others). The second preference would be to construct it out of the way on the northwest side of the archery range lot. The third preference would be to repurpose the old existing ranger shop by the landfill once the new shop is constructed. More detailed study is recommended to determine which location is most suitable for this improvement.

ADA Fishing Access

A proposed ADA fishing access and pier are located west of the boathouse. This location is most suitable due to its proximity to the ADA parking stalls, temporary drop-off area, and the boathouse. In addition, improvements such as additional seating and continued maintenance are proposed to the existing overlooks and fishing pier east of the boathouse to enrich preserve users fishing experience.

Existing Conditions



Existing photo was taken from the existing dock looking south towards the existing boat house and parking lot.

Proposed Enhancements



DETAIL AREA PLANS

MT. HOY TUBING HILL

PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mt. Hoy Concession and Amenity Improvements

- ① Install a new concessions building.
- ② Install outdoor patio for gathering and observation.
- ③ Install a firepit patio.
- ④ Install safety bollards.
- ⑤ Provide snow tube storage.
- ⑥ Restore area adjacent to parking lot.
- ⑦ Reconfigure parking lot (four stalls net gain).
- ⑧ Add ramp for emergency and maintenance vehicles.

Character Images



Outdoor firepit



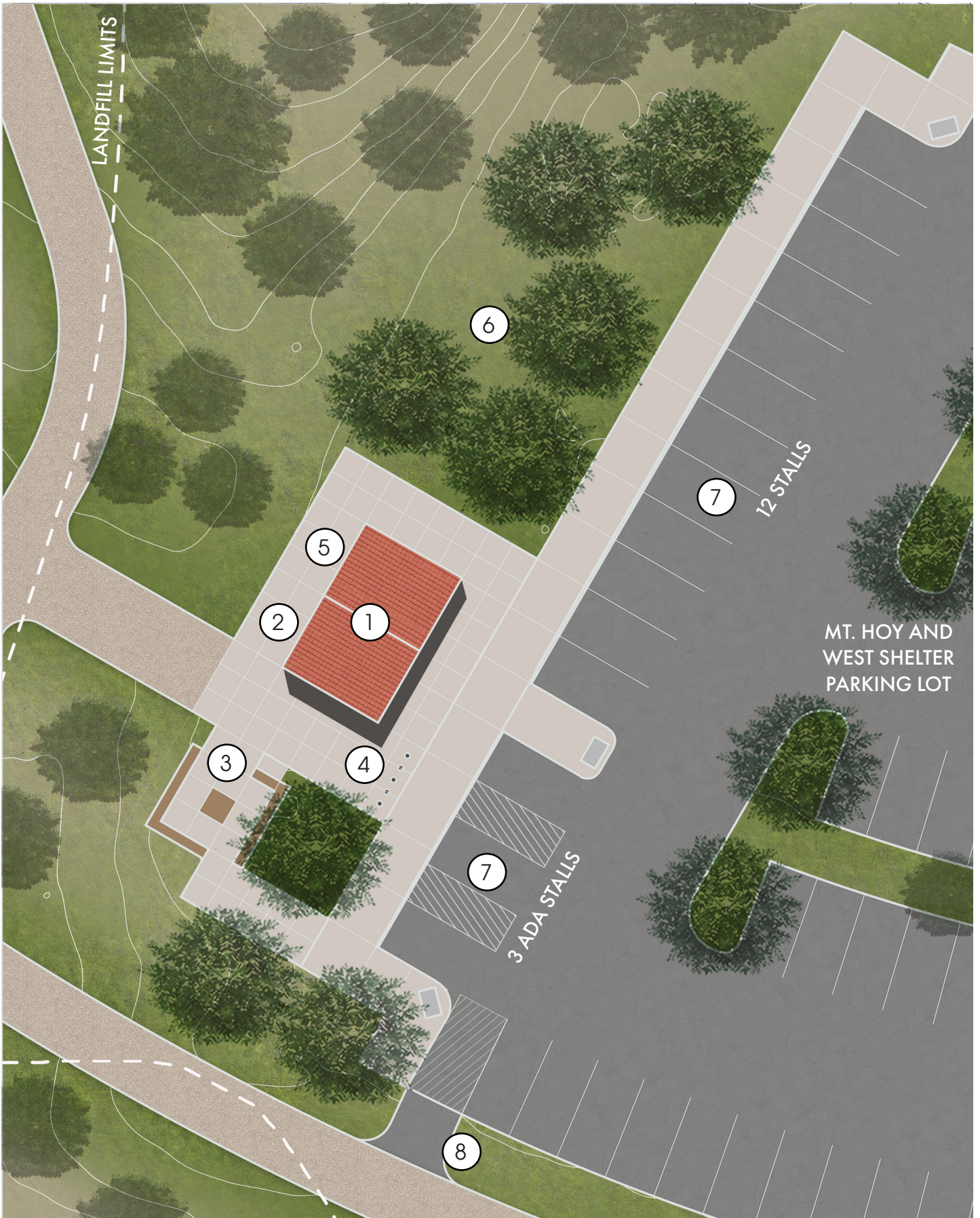
Outdoor firepit



Tubing



Winter patio



MT. HOY AND
WEST SHELTER
PARKING LOT



DETAIL AREA PLANS

MT. HOY TUBING HILL

Tubing Hill

Mt. Hoy attracts a wide range of users year-round, including nature lovers looking to take in the sights, and athletes and individuals using the steep slopes for conditioning and training. In winter when there is enough snow, the District rents out snow tubes and snowshoes for exploring the surrounding area. There are currently minimal amenities to support these activities and events at Mt. Hoy.

Concession Building and Patio

The proposed concession building will enhance the experience of preserve users by providing refreshments and a space for parents to supervise their children. The outdoor patio will host groups of people and can help people stay warm with the outdoor firepit. In addition to winter use, this area can also be enjoyed by people who use the space for exercising and hiking.

Parking Lot Adjustments

Due to the limits of the landfill, a portion of the existing parking lot footprint will need to be utilized to safely accommodate the proposed improvements. The new parking and drive aisle configuration will result in a net increase in 4 parking spaces and eliminates redundant paving areas. It also offers the opportunity to incorporate sustainable and best management practices like permeable paving, bioswales and even green roofs.

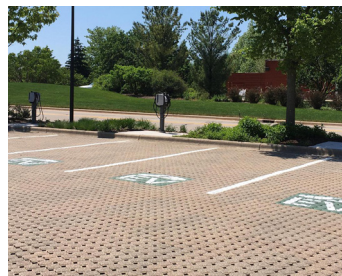
Special Considerations

Mt. Hoy is a closed municipal solid waste landfill equipped with systems to collect landfill gas and leachate. These systems are to be operated, maintained and monitored in perpetuity in compliance with a long term stewardship plan agreement with US EPA and IEPA. Any developments must avoid disruption of these environmental control systems.

Character Images



Consider using grass paver type product to stabilize the path to Mt. Hoy



Permeable paving in new parking stalls



Bioswales in parking lots



Green roof on warming house

Existing Conditions



Proposed Enhancements



BLACKWELL

FOREST

PRESERVE

Implementation
Plan



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



INTRODUCTION

To advance the District’s vision at Blackwell Forest Preserve, the FPDDC must have an action plan in place to guide work plans, budget allocations, infrastructure planning, maintenance and operations.

The project team created framework plans, detailed focus area plans, enlargement area plans, and an Implementation Plan to support the FPDDC Mission and the Vision for the future of Blackwell.

The plans represent high-level recommendations to guide the preserve development and implementation of various elements over time. Recommendations are nested under three overarching categories, Capital Improvements, Operational and Maintenance Improvements, and Policy Improvements.

Detailed budgeting, additional planning, and funding exploration are highly recommended to support the implementation of the improvement projects proposed in the Master Plan. Grant funding can be an effective way to subsidize improvement projects. The FPDDC may wish to engage design and engineering consultants as needed to assist with some of the large improvements to better expedite the process.

The 2019 Master Plan Identified four goals

with a number of objectives. Applicable goals that align with the master plan and provide measurable impact are referenced under the “Impact & Master Plan Alignment Column,” the goals are as follows:

- **Goal 1:** Preserve, protect and restore open spaces.
- **Goal 2:** Help people to cultivate a lifelong enthusiasm for nature by offering meaningful, first-rate outdoor recreation and learning experiences.
- **Goal 3:** Improve preserves to increase access, use, efficiency and productivity
- **Goal 4:** Refocus resources by reducing infrastructure and task not related to the mission.
- **Goal 5:** Foster community engagement and increase awareness of the Forest Preserve District.
- **Goal 6:** Use effective and innovative methods to execute the master plan while continuing on sound financial footing.

PHASING

Proposed improvements in the Blackwell Master Plan are projected to be implemented in phases over the course of many years. Priorities and funding opportunities may shift, providing opportunities for some improvements to move up the priority list and others to fall further down. It is anticipated that the



District will remain flexible, adapting to changes over time in order to implement the elements of the master plan.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed improvement projects are listed in geographic order as identified in the Framework Plan. FPDDC should review and update this list annually. Staff should update the list by:

- Removing completed, no longer viable / relevant or desired projects
- Shift the priority order of projects as things change
- Modify projects and/or add new projects as things change and opportunities present themselves

Most of these projects will follow a 3-phase process that starts with preliminary design / engineering (Phase I), advances to final design engineering (Phase II), and concludes with construction and construction administration (Phase III). Additional site investigations such as site surveying and geotechnical studies are essential for most projects.

Customarily, the cost of Phases I and II design services are approximately 12-20% of the total project construction value, with buildings typically yielding a higher percentage. For more complex projects, project leaders should initiate Phase I consulting services well in advance of the targeted construction

date to accommodate sometimes lengthy outreach, design, engineering, procurement and permitting timelines.

Projects that are publicly-bid typically see the greater number of bidders if in late winter or early spring. Bidding projects within this time frame can provide cost savings, get the projects in the contractor's calendar to begin construction in early spring and allow project competition prior to start of winter.

Construction administration is needed to make sure that the project vision, design intent and construction details are being implemented properly by the contractor. Depending on the scope of project, construction administration can cost approximately 20-30% of the construction value of the project and should be considered when preparing a project budget.

OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENTS



Ongoing maintenance is an important factor when it comes to the success of the Master Plan for Blackwell, and the experience it creates for staff, and visitors. It is recommended that FPDDC continuously strive to identify alternatives to reduce maintenance.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Suggestions for operational improvements include but are not limited to:

- Expand on current maintenance practices for existing facilities and explore high-efficiency options
- Identify opportunities for low-maintenance design in structures and other improvement projects
- Consider volunteers to take on routine maintenance efforts, such as students and parents, master gardeners, Illinois residents looking for community service hours
- Establish after school clubs for curriculum-focused natural area management maintenance
- Create incentives for students, residents, and outside user groups (Scouts, University Extension Programs etc.) that offer maintenance support
- Remove unnecessary structures from the landscape to reduce operational burden

Staffing

Additional staff to maintain and operate improvements may be warranted. It is recommended that FPDDC consider the addition of positions as maintenance demands increase. There may also be a need for additional seasonal staff to assist with operating preserve programs and rentals at the preserve.



POLICY IMPROVEMENTS

FPDDC should evaluate maintenance and operational policies that could potentially limit the implementation of any of the proposed plan improvements.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources should be contacted to discuss the feasibility and permitting of proposed improvements along the West Branch of the DuPage River and along Silver Lake.

Implementation of new facilities and improvements may require new policies be instated.



OTHER PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Landfill End Use for Mt Hoy

The Blackwell Landfill operated from 1965 to 1973. During that time, approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of refuse was buried in the landfill which occupies approximately 35 acres. Construction of the landfill was completed before landfill regulations were established in Illinois. In the 1980s, the District detected contaminants leaking into the groundwater just south of the landfill and reported the findings to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 1986, the EPA evaluated the landfill and scored the Site for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). In 1989, the District agreed to conduct the necessary studies

to determine the risks to the environment associated with the landfill; and in 1990, the EPA placed the Site on the NPL list. Since that time, the District has conducted the necessary studies and installed the EPA selected remedies. The overall remedy for the landfill included the following:

- Soil was added to the landfill cover to promote proper storm water drainage and ensure two feet of low permeability material was present at all locations where wastes were buried.
- The vegetation across the landfill was converted to native Illinois prairie plants.
- Installation of a leachate collection system to extract and dispose of liquids that accumulate within the landfill.
- The existing landfill gas venting system was expanded and modified to vent landfill gas to a single emission point at the top of the landfill.
- Monitoring and studying groundwater outside the landfill boundary.
- Land-use restrictions, including prohibiting the use of groundwater as a resource, were implemented across the landfill and for two, smaller areas outside the landfill where contaminants were previously detected in groundwater.
- Long-term operation, maintenance, monitoring and reporting to the Agencies.

In June 2020, the EPA approved the Long-Term Stewardship Plan for the Site. The Long-Term Stewardship Plan requires that the containment systems and land-use restrictions remain in place until a time that they are no longer needed. The wastes buried within the landfill will remain there in perpetuity and therefore stewardship of those systems is expected to be necessary for the foreseeable future. In December 2019, the EPA determined the District had completed all the response items and began taking actions to delist the Site from the NPL. In September 2020, the Site was removed from the NPL. The EPA will continue to review the Site every five years to ensure that the containment systems and selected remedy are still protective. Landfill End Use recommendations for the Blackwell Landfill include:

- The landfill vegetated cover should be maintained by the District to further enhance development of the Illinois native prairie for wildlife.
- No activities should be allowed on the landfill that would impair or disturb the protectiveness of the containment systems (vegetated soil cover, stormwater control systems, leachate and landfill gas collection systems).
- The District is required to by the Long-Term Stewardship Plan to operate, maintain, and monitor these systems for as long as they are needed including annual reporting to the EPA.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- In 2021, the District hired an engineering firm specializing in landfill design to study the existing containment systems and make recommendations to optimize and replace systems that may be nearing the end of their operational life. Included in that study were recommendations for installation of additional leachate collection systems (wells and trenches), expanding the landfill gas collection system, conversion of the passive landfill gas venting system to an active system with a flare to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and construction of a new leachate holding and loadout facility.
- As of the date of this Master Plan, the District is in the process of getting approvals from the EPA to construct the recommended improvements which will enhance the protectiveness of the systems already installed.
- Once installed, the District should explore feasibility of using the landfill gas flare to provide heat or energy for surrounding facilities, such as the Urban Stream Research Center.
- The District should continue to perform inspections of the landfill cap and look for opportunities to improve stormwater conveyance across the slopes of the landfill.

The Blackwell Landfill, in its current configuration, is a restored natural habitat for insects, birds and mammals. It offers scenic views, hiking, snowshoeing, tubing, and bird watching activities to users. Groundwater impact outside the landfill have been reduced to below detectable

levels due to the proper management of the containment systems maintained by the District. The District should commence with installing the upgrades to the landfill containment systems after approvals have been obtained, to ensure the future protectiveness offered by those systems.

Grounds and Natural Resource Operations Master Plan

After years of study, the District is currently designing a new campus to support Grounds and Natural Resource Management operations at the site of the existing Grounds Management Campus on Mack Road which will replace the failing structures there. The campus will be constructed in phases and include multiple structures that support the District's Forestry, Landscape, Trails & Streams, Roads and Natural Resource Management crews as well as the Natural Resource Management Volunteer program and Site Operations. The campus will include offices, meeting and locker rooms, seed processing and greenhouse space, as well as indoor and outdoor equipment and vehicle storage. Construction of a new campus will provide opportunities to operate more efficiently, increase energy efficiency and reliance on green energy thereby reducing costs while protecting the character of the preserve and minimizing impacts to the surrounding area.

The Grounds and Natural Resource Management Operational Assessment and Logistics Plan Evaluation Report was completed in May 2022. The study included a previous document review,

preserve usage and access analysis, crew operations and assessments, property & building assessments, observations and recommendations. The plan also included proposed site layout alternatives and a cost estimate for the Grounds and Natural Resources Management Facility and the Nursery Seed Processing Facility.

The Grounds and Natural Resource Operations Facility has been identified as high priority project. The FPDDC will need to evaluate how proposed facility improvements impact preserve wide improvements in this master plan. Additionally, any proposed recommendations in this Master Plan should be reviewed and compared to recommendations for compliance with those made in the Grounds and Natural Resource Management Operational Assessment and Logistics Plan.

Clean Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability

To optimize sustainability and resilience, consider using a biophyllic approach and/or sustainability ratings such as LEED and Sustainable SITES when implementing proposed improvements. The SITES rating system aims to provide “a comprehensive framework for designing, developing and managing sustainable and resilient landscapes and other outdoor spaces” (Sustainable Sites Initiative). Using sustainability rating systems will help the FPDDC help conserve, restore, and create social and economical benefits by establishing thriving ecosystems.

The Clean Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Plan includes the following opportunities:

- Beneficial use of landfill gas to heat on site buildings like USRC.
- Continued habitat enhancement of landfill cover to support wildlife.
- Stormwater conveyance improvements at landfill.
- Explore installation of EV charging stations at highly used parking lots.
- Explore the use of ground mounted solar panels at parking lots or currently mowed areas to offset building energy use or to power EV charging stations.
- Turf conversion to natural areas to sequester carbon, reduce carbon emissions from mowing and reduce herbicide and fertilizer use.
- Make connections to and fill gaps in the trail network to increase the use of active transportation by preserve users.

Other Relevant Planning Studies and Coordination

There are a series of planning studies underway that are running concurrent to the Blackwell Master Plan. It is important to make sure that any recommended improvements in this document are complimentary to recommendations in other relevant work being completed.

The FPDDC is currently working with Warrenville on improvements and trail connection along Mack Road and Spring Brooke Phase 3 Improvements.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



PARTNERSHIP & FUNDING

Partnerships and Coordination

In the case of this master planning effort, volunteerism should be viewed as both a unique and valuable partnership between Blackwell and its surrounding community, as it is a critical support piece for the preserve. Volunteers are vital to deliver Blackwell's programming, assist with maintenance, and promote community outreach.

The District should also focus on the growth and development of existing partnerships, and together with the others, identify any potential new partnerships. Cost-sharing opportunities should be discussed for any applicable recommendations, along with the implementation of any new programming elements related to the educational components of the plan.

Potential Funding Sources

Funding is a critical piece in the successful implementation of any master plan. In order to complete all of the recommendations in this master plan the FPDDC may need to identify funding sources outside of their annual budget. Grants have become a critical tool for implementation. The District should continue to identify potential eligible federal, state and local grant funding opportunities for projects identified in the master plan including:

- Federal Land and Water Conservation Program
- Federal Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program
- Surface Transportation Program (STP)
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
- Recreational Trails Grants
- Walden Foundation
- Illinois Department of revenue Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
- Illinois DNR Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Program
- Illinois DNR Grant Programs
- Recreational Trails Grant (RTP)
- Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant (OSLAD)
- Boat Access Area Development Program (BAAD)

Potential Forest Preserve District Funding Sources

Natural Resources:

- General Fund
- Wetland & Riparian Fund
- Environmental Fund
- Landfill Interest Earnings
- Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds

Capital Improvement/Building Renewal:

- Construction & Development Fund
- Building Renewal Fund
- Landfill Interest Earnings
- Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds



FINANCING

The board should establish a budget that aligns with the proposed implementation and phasing of the master plan, appropriate to annual expenditures over a 10 to 15-year time horizon. The budget should include the following:

- Maintenance of existing and proposed improvements
- Expanded operations
- Acquisition of adjacent property if opportunity and budget align
- Design, engineering, permitting, and construction of all proposed improvements



NEXT STEPS

Now that the Master Plan is complete, improvements have been identified and prioritized the FPDDC will need to begin to weigh the proposed improvements at Blackwell against all preserve improvement needs, schedules and budgets.

The FPDDC should select high and medium priority projects that may be eligible to take advantage of state, local and federal funding opportunities and create a timeline for implementation of

the proposed improvements based on the FPDDC needs district-wide.

It is recommended that the implementation list be updated at least once per year in order to account for new opportunities and evolving circumstances. Leaders should remain committed to a systematic and incremental approach to implementation of proposed improvements.

How to Use the Implementation Table

The Implementation Table is organized by geography of the preserve moving from preserve-wide recommendations (General: Restoration Areas, Trail Network and Signage) to the top (5) Focus Areas and finally (5) Detail Plan Areas. At each scale the recommendations become more specific and the plans more detailed.

For each recommendation, the following columns can be found from left to right: **Priority Ranking** (low, medium or high), the **Improvement** (recommendation found in the Framework, Focus Area and Detail Plan Areas), **Project Cost Range** (rough order of magnitude cost estimate for budgeting purposes), **Impact & Master Plan Alignment** (this reflects how the improvement aligns with the goals in the FPFFC 2019 Master Plan) and **Funding & Partnerships**, which provide a list of potential grant funding sources and partnerships that can be explored in the pursuit of implementing the proposed improvements.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

BLACKWELL IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

| Capital Improvements | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Priority Ranking | Improvement | Project Cost Range | Impact & Master Plan Alignment | Funding & Partnerships |
| | GENERAL | | | |
| | Restoration Areas | | | |
| High | Spring Brook - In progress | \$2,000,000 | Goals 1-4 | Federal Land and Water Conservation Program & Illinois DNR Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Program, General Fund, Wetland & Riparian Fund, Environmental Fund, Landfill Interest Earnings, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, FEMA programs (STORM, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Assistance), and EPA Section 319 |
| Medium | Mack Road Marsh - In progress | \$80,000 | | |
| Medium | Spring Brook Woods - In progress | \$120,000 | | |
| Medium | River Savanna North - In progress | \$250,000 | | |
| Low | Cenacle Grounds | \$75,000 | | |
| Low | South Mack Meadow | \$210,000 | | |
| Low | Continue ecological restoration and identify areas to replace turf grass with native prairie plants | | | |
| | Trail Network | | | |
| Medium | Mack Road Trail | \$540,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings |
| | Planned trail connection along Mack Road. | | | |
| High | Silver Lake Loop Trail | \$311,500 - \$421,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings |
| | Implement a loop trail around Silver Lake. | | | |
| | Realign Main Drive to provide separate bike lane from the sledding hill parking lot to the North Shelter parking lot. | | | |
| Low | Archery Range Connector Trail | \$168,500 - \$228,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings |
| | Trail from Silver Lake Parking Lot to Archery Range/ Urban Stream Research Center (USRC). | | | |
| | Trail from entry at Butterfield Road back to the Archery Range/ Urban Stream Research Center. | | | |
| High | Boat Launch Improvements | \$2,565,000 - \$3,463,500 | Goals 2 & 3 | Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, and Building Renewal Fund |
| | Trail connection to boat house. | | | |

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

| Priority Ranking | Improvement | Project Cost Range | Impact & Master Plan Alignment | Funding & Partnerships |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Low | East Side Trail, Access and Parking Lot Improvements | \$10,745,000 - \$14,607,500 | Goals 2 & 3 | Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings |
| | <i>Trail connection along Winfield Road to connect into St. James Farm trails.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Trail connection to the road system</i> | | | |
| | <i>Trail to replace eastern side of parking lot.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Convert existing Main Drive to limestone trail on road base, and provide trail connection to existing carriage path and to Mack Road Trail connection.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Formalize the turf trail into a limestone trail that connects the campground to Mack Road.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Trail connection to Mack Road.</i> | | | |
| High | Roosevelt Road Bridge | \$5,500,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings |
| | <i>Planned Trail and bridge over Roosevelt Road to West DuPage Woods..</i> | | | |
| Low | Improve interpretive signage | \$34,000 - \$46,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings |
| | <i>Expand interpretive opportunities at the Urban Research Center.</i> | | | |
| High | WBDRT - Silver Lake Loop Connector | \$87,500 - \$119,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings |
| | <i>Trail from Main Drive to West Branch DuPage River Trail.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Trail north of Main Drive to West Branch DuPage River Trail.</i> | | | |
| Low | Mt. Hoy Trail Connection Improvements | \$120,000 - \$162,500 | Goals 2 & 3 | Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings |
| | <i>Connection from Silver Lake loop trail to Mt. Hoy & the sledding hill.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Improve trail connection to Mt. Hoy.</i> | | | |
| | See signage plans for directional, identification, regulatory and interpretive sign recommendations and proposed locations | | | |

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

| Priority Ranking | Improvement | Project Cost Range | Impact & Master Plan Alignment | Funding & Partnerships |
|------------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Low | Signage | \$545,500 - \$739,500 | | |
| | New secondary title sign at proposed Winfield Road entrance. | \$8,500 - \$11,500 | | |
| | Provide navigation posts at trail intersections. | \$13,500 - \$18,500 | | |
| | Provide trailside maps at trailheads, major trail intersections and destinations as appropriate. | \$17,000 - \$23,000 | | |
| | Update roadway recreation site signage that is outdated | \$34,000 - \$46,000 | | |
| | Upgrade campground signage. | \$8,500 - \$11,500 | | |
| | Update the message on the 4 existing "Nasty Nine" signs | \$34,000 - \$46,000 | | |
| | Update the message on the existing "Centennial - Wild Woolly Mammoth" sign | \$8,500 - \$11,500 | | |
| | Add Interpretive Sign for Native Plants/special planting areas. | \$8,500 - \$11,500 | | |
| | Upgrade visitor information sign at Gary's Mill Road to a full visitor information sign to accommodate increased use of West Branch DuPage Regional Trail. | \$8,500 - \$11,500 | | |
| | Explore kiosk design with printed sign with QR codes rather than current design with paper flyers. | \$110,000 - \$148,500 | | |
| | Relocate signs as necessary to align with proposed parking lot modifications. | \$42,500 - \$57,500 | | |
| | Replace dog area signs that do not conform to FPDDC standards. | \$42,500 - \$57,500 | | |
| | Provide permanent trail etiquette signage at locations of known current and ongoing issues. | \$17,000 - \$23,000 | | |
| | Relocate or add signs as necessary to the proposed entry drive and parking lot at the Youth Campground | \$34,000 - \$46,000 | | |
| | Remove all signs along the highlighted region to align with the proposed conversion of Main Drive to limestone trail. | \$3,500 - \$5,000 | | |
| | Add necessary trail crossing signs and regulatory signs to align with the new vehicular entrance and parking lot modifications. | \$25,500 - \$34,500 | | |
| | Relocate ADA parking signs, Mount Hoy Snow Tube and Snow Shoe Rental, Tube Hill Rules and Regulations to align with the new warming house and parking lot design. | \$25,500 - \$34,500 | | |
| | Remove bridge weight limit sign from trail loop, as trail loop is proposed to be removed. | \$0,500 - \$1,000 | | |
| | Add a trail crossing signs at the proposed trail and Sand Pond Road intersection and other locations as per proposed plan recommendations. | \$8,500 - \$11,500 | | |
| | Upgrade Campground signage with updated rules, regulations and hours. | \$8,500 - \$11,500 | | |
| | Replace existing trail crossing beacons with push button activated beacons. | \$8,500 - \$11,500 | | |
| | Add trail advance warning signs (stop ahead, curve ahead, etc.) | \$8,500 - \$11,500 | | |
| | Update regulatory signs that do not conform to District standards. | \$8,500 - \$11,500 | | |
| | Relocate/update signs at modified boat launch. | \$8,500 - \$11,500 | | |
| | Replace Old Regional Trail Sign | \$8500 - \$11500 | | |
| | Replace Old Silver Lake directional sign | \$8500 - \$11500 | | |
| | Remove existing Ranger Station sign | \$500 - \$1000 | | |
| | Add new West Division Ranger Office Signs | \$17000 - \$23000 | | |
| | Remove campground open dates and firewood signs | \$500 - \$1000 | | |
| | Remove existing wood campground sign title sign | \$500 - \$1000 | | |
| | New family campground directional sign | \$8500 - \$11500 | | |
| | New family campground information sign | \$8500 - \$11500 | | |
| | | | Goals 2 & 3 | Federal Land and Water Conservation Program, Illinois DNR Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Program, Recreational Trails Grants, Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings |

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

| Priority Ranking | Improvement | Project Cost Range | Impact & Master Plan Alignment | Funding & Partnerships |
|------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | FOCUS AREA | | | |
| | Focus Area 1: Future Bridge Over Roosevelt Road | | | |
| High | Roosevelt Road Bridge | | | See Trail Network - Roosevelt Road Bridge |
| | Planned pedestrian bridge over Roosevelt Road. | | | |
| | District planned trail connection to West DuPage Woods. | | | |
| | Trail crossing across Gary's Mill Road. | | | |
| | Focus Area 2: Off Leash Dog Area | | | |
| Medium | Mack Road Trail | | | See Trail Network - Mack Road Trail |
| | Planned connection over the West Branch of the DuPage River. (will impact existing parking, which should be reconfigured, see Focus Area 3) | | | |
| | Planned shared path along Mack Road to connect into preserve. | | | |
| Medium | Off Leash Dog Area Parking, shelter and amenity improvements (includes regulatory signage) | \$1,181,500 - \$1,596,500 | Goals 2 & 3 | Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction & Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act |
| | Reconfigure & pave existing lot and adjust parking entrance location. Provide kayak launch parking close to river. (±35 existing, ± 35 proposed ± 15 kayak parking spaces = ± 85 spaces). | | | |
| | Construct shade structure or pavilion with water fountain and additional seating. (fenced in to adhere to health department regulations) | | | |
| | Relocate existing entrance to align with the McKee Marsh entrance, promoting pedestrian safety. | | | |
| | Add regulatory signs and/or barriers limiting parking locations in proximity to entry drive. | | | |
| | Study gate/fence reconfiguration with parking lot improvements. | | | |
| Medium | Canoe and Kayak Launch Improvements | \$42,500 - \$57,500 | Goals 2 & 3 | Federal Land and Water Conservation Program, Recreational Trails Grants & Illinois DNR Trails Grant Programs, Construction & Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act, and Boat Access Area Development Program |
| | Improve kayak launch. | | | |
| | Focus Area 3: McKee Marsh Maintenance & Grounds | | | |
| | Improve interpretive signage | | | See Signage Plan |
| | Improve / provide additional interpretive signage about the marsh and mammoth discovery. | | | |

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

| Priority Ranking | Improvement | Project Cost Range | Impact & Master Plan Alignment | Funding & Partnerships |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------|---|
| High | Grounds and Natural Resources Complex | See Ground Management Operational Assessment and Logistics Plan | Goals 1-4 | Illinois DNR Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Program, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, Building Renewal Fund, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act |
| | Planned improvements as part of the Future Blackwell Grounds and Natural Resources Operations Master Plan. | | | |
| Focus Area 4: Nursery | | | | |
| High | Nursery Seed Processing | TBD | Goal 3 | Illinois DNR Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Program, Construction & Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act |
| | Planned seed processing location. | | | |
| High | Nursery Drainage Improvements | \$51,000 - \$69,000 | Goal 3 | Illinois DNR Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Program, Construction & Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, and EPA Section 319 |
| | Alleviate flooding issues using stormwater Best Management Practices or by installing larger pipe infrastructure to accommodate water on site. | | | |
| Focus Area 5: Youth Campground | | | | |
| Low | Youth Campground Parking Expansion | \$227,500 - \$307,500 | | Construction & Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act |
| | Add access drive and parking area. (+27 spaces) | | | |
| Focus Area 6: Spring Brook and Ranger Station | | | | |
| Low | Mt. Hoy Trail Connection Improvements | See Trail Network - Mt. Hoy Trail Connection Improvements | | |
| | Connection from Silver Lake loop trail to Mt. Hoy Sledding Hill. | | | |
| | Improved trail to top of Mt. Hoy. | | | |
| High | Silver Lake Loop Trail | See Trail Network - Silver Lake Loop Trail | | |
| | Implement a loop trail around Silver Lake. | | | |
| | Relocate segment of Main Drive to be further away from Silver Lake's edge. | | | |
| High | Grounds and Natural Resources Complex | \$190,000,000 - \$21,100,100 | Goals 3 & 4 | Illinois DNR Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Program, Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, Building Renewal Fund, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act |
| | Remove existing ranger operations buildings. Consolidate any storage that site operations need with the proposed Grounds and Natural Resources Complex. | | | |

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

| Priority Ranking | Improvement | Project Cost Range | Impact & Master Plan Alignment | Funding & Partnerships |
|------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| | Focus Area 7: Silver Lake, Boat Launch, Sledding Hill | | | |
| High | Boat Launch Improvements | <i>See Trail Network - Boat Launch Improvements</i> | | |
| | <i>Construct larger boat house with restrooms & concessions, water fountain, additional bike parking; update marina and shoreline beach for improved kayak and canoe launch.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Create additional trail connection between shelter, sledding hill and boat house area.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Construct council ring with a rentable fire pit.</i> | | | |
| Low | Archery Range Connector Trail | <i>See Trail Network - Archery Range Connector Trail</i> | | |
| | <i>Create additional trail connection between parking to Urban Stream Research Center, White Pine and Sand Ponds, and Archery Range.</i> | | | |
| Low | Mt. Hoy Concession and Amenity Improvements | \$517,000 - \$700,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, and Building Renewal Fund, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act |
| | <i>Provide amenities at top of Mt. Hoy. (seating, limestone paving, shade structure, ornamental fencing / barrier)</i> | | | |
| | <i>Construct hot chocolate and warming hut for the winter and water station for the summer, at the base of sledding hill.</i> | | | |
| Low | Mt. Hoy Trail Connection Improvements | \$110,000 - \$148,500 | Goals 2 & 3 | Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings |
| | <i>Restore sledding hill. (fill in ditches and divots; re-grade to accommodate end of tube run)</i> | | | |
| High | Silver Lake Loop Trail | <i>See Trail Network - Silver Lake Loop Trail</i> | | |
| | <i>Realign Main Drive to provide separate bike lane from the sledding hill parking lot to the North Shelter parking lot.</i> | | | |
| Medium | Boat Storage Facility | TBD | Goals 2 & 3 | Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, Building Renewal Fund, Boat Access Area Development Program, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act |
| | <i>Relocate Silver Lake winter boat storage to repurposed operational building(s).</i> | | | |
| High | Silver Lake Fishing Pier Improvements | \$798,500 - \$1,079,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, Boat Access Area Development Program, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act |
| | <i>Add new ADA accessible fishing pier and parking.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Improve fishing overlooks along the west shoreline along the trail south of the boat launch.</i> | | | |

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

| Priority Ranking | Improvement | Project Cost Range | Impact & Master Plan Alignment | Funding & Partnerships |
|------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|
| | Focus Area 8: Family Campground and North Shelter | | | |
| High | Family Campground Shower Building Rehabilitation | \$222,500 - \$300,500 | Goals 2 & 3 | Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, Building Renewal Fund, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act |
| | <i>Upgrade existing shower building.</i> | | | |
| High | Silver Lake Loop Trail | See Trail Network - Silver Lake Loop Trail | | |
| | <i>Implement a loop trail around Silver Lake.</i> | | | |
| Low | East Side Trail, Access and Parking Lot Improvements | See Trail Network - East Side Trail, Access and Parking Lot Improvements | | |
| | <i>Convert existing Main Drive to limestone trail on road base, and provide trail connection to existing carriage path and to Mack Road Trail connection.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Remove eastern side of parking lot and replace with trail to create better connectivity.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Existing two-way asphalt road with parking to accommodate 50 cars.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Add campground trail connector.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Formalize the turf trail into a limestone trail that connects the campground to Mack Road.</i> | | | |
| Low | Family Campground Expansion | \$521,000 - \$704,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act |
| | <i>Add ± 14 total campsites with one-way road, or two-way road without campsites.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Make improvements to the campground.</i> | | | |
| Medium | Family Campground Restroom Improvements | \$511,500 - \$691,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, Landfill Interest Earnings, and Building Renewal Fund, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act |
| | <i>Construct 3 unit modern vault toilet to replace existing latrines.</i> | | | |
| | Focus Area 9: Parking, Shelter, Connection to IL Prairie Path & St. James Farm | | | |
| Low | East Side Trail, Access and Parking Lot Improvements | See Trail Network - East Side Trail, Access and Parking Lot Improvements | | |
| | <i>Create trail connection along Winfield Road to connect to St. James Farm trails.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Remove eastern side of parking and replace with trail to create better connectivity and reduce unneeded pavement.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Establish a new entry from Winfield Road to provide full-time access to parking lot, and secured / limited / emergency access to the campground.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Additional traffic studies are recommended to explore the proposed entry alignment on Winfield Road.</i> | | | |
| High | WBDRT - Silver Lake Loop Connector | See Trail Network - WBDRT - Silver Lake Loop Connector | | |
| | <i>Trail north of Main Drive to West Branch DuPage River Trail.</i> | | | |
| High | Silver Lake Fishing Pier Improvements | See Focus Area 7 - Silver Lake Fishing Pier Improvements | | |
| | <i>Relocated existing ADA fishing pier to boat launch area.</i> | | | |

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

| Priority Ranking | Improvement | Project Cost Range | Impact & Master Plan Alignment | Funding & Partnerships |
|------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | Focus Area 10: Sand & White Pine Ponds, Archery Range, Urban Stream Research Center | | | |
| Low | Archery Range Connector Trail <i>Create trail connection along entry road.</i> <i>Create turf trail connection.</i> | | | <i>See Trail Network - Archery Range Connector Trail</i> |
| Low | Sand Pond Fishing Pier Improvements <i>Construct additional fishing pier and pond overlook.</i> <i>Extend fishing pier 10'-15'.</i> | \$76,000 - \$103,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | <i>Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings, Boat Access Area Development Program, and Park and Recreational Facility Construction Act</i> |
| Low | Blackwell Cenacle Trail Reconfiguration <i>Remove existing loop trail and restore area.</i> <i>Rehabilitate Cenacle Bridge.</i> | \$1,042,500 - \$1,145,000 | Goals 2 & 3 | <i>Construction and Development Fund, Referendum and Non-referendum Bond funds, and Landfill Interest Earnings</i> |
| | DETAIL AREA PLANS | | | |
| | Off Leash Dog Area | | | |
| Medium | Mack Road Trail <i>Planned connection over the West Branch of the DuPage River. (will impact existing parking, which should be reconfigured, see Focus Area 3)</i> <i>Planned shared path along Mack Road to connect into preserve.</i> | | | <i>See Trail Network - Mack Road Trail</i> |
| Medium | Off Leash Dog Area Parking, shelter and amenity improvements (includes regulatory signage) <i>Reconfigure & pave existing lot and relocate parking entrance to align with McKee Marsh parking lot entrance. Provide kayak launch parking close to river. (35 existing, 35 proposed, 15 kayak parking spaces = 85 spaces)</i> <i>Construct shade structure or pavilion with water fountain and additional seating. (fenced in to adhere to health department regulations)</i> <i>Relocate existing entrance to align with the McKee Marsh entrance, promoting pedestrian safety.</i> <i>Add regulatory signs and/or barriers limiting parking locations in proximity to entry drive.</i> <i>Study gate/fence reconfiguration with parking lot improvements.</i> | | | <i>See Focus Area 2 - Off Leash Dog Area Parking, shelter and amenity improvements (includes regulatory signage)</i> |
| Medium | Canoe and Kayak Launch Improvements <i>Improve kayak launch.</i> | | | <i>See Focus Area 2 - Canoe and Kayak Launch Improvements</i> |

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

| Priority Ranking | Improvement | Project Cost Range | Impact & Master Plan Alignment | Funding & Partnerships |
|------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | Family Campground Expansion and Trail Network Enhancements | | | |
| High | Family Campground Shower Building Rehabilitation <i>Upgrade existing shower building.</i> | | | See Focus Area 7 - Family Campground Shower Building Rehabilitation |
| High | Silver Lake Loop Trail <i>Implement a loop trail around Silver Lake.</i> | | | See Trail Network - Silver Lake Loop Trail |
| | <i>Realign Main Drive to provide separate bike lane from the sledding hill parking lot to the North Shelter parking lot.</i> | | | |
| | East Side Trail, Access and Parking Lot Improvements | | | See Trail Network - East Side Trail, Access and Parking Lot Improvements |
| | <i>Create new entry point to the light bulb lot to align with the St. James Farm entrance.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Remove eastern side of parking and replace with trail/ roadways to create better connectivity and reduce redundant roadways.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Establish a new entry from Winfield Road to provide full-time access to parking lot, and secured / limited / emergency access to the campground.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Two-way asphalt road on existing road base with parking to accommodate 50 cars.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Add trail connection from campground to Silver Lake Loop.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Formalize the turf trail into a limestone trail that connects the campground to Mack Road.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Install controlled access gate to the campground at the north end of the parking lot and terminate parking in a cul-de-sac / drop-off.</i> | | | |
| Low | Family Campground Expansion <i>Add ± 14 total campsites with one-way road, or two-way road without campsites.</i> | | | See Focus Area 7 - Family Campground Expansion |
| | <i>Make improvements to the campground – long term goal.</i> | | | |
| Medium | Family Campground Restroom Improvements <i>Construct 3 unit modern vault toilet to replace existing latrines.</i> | | | See Focus Area 7 - Family Campground Restroom Improvements |
| High | WBDRT - Silver Lake Loop Connector <i>Trail north of Main Drive to West Branch DuPage River Trail.</i> | | | See Trail Network - WBDRT - Silver Lake Loop Connector |
| High | Silver Lake Fishing Pier Improvements <i>Relocated existing ADA fishing pier to boat launch area.</i> | | | See Focus Area 7 - Silver Lake Fishing Pier Improvements |
| | <i>Improve fishing overlooks.</i> | | | |
| | Boat House Area Improvements | | | |
| High | Boat Launch Improvements | | | See Trail Network - Boat Launch Improvements |
| | <i>Install a new, larger boat house with concessions, restrooms, storage, and outdoor picnic area.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Install a new marina with finger piers to better support recreational craft.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Improve kayak and canoe beach by adding pea gravel and boulders for easy launching.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Rentable kayak storage.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Add a temporary kayak drop-off area.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Relocate ADA parking stalls closer to the building.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Construct council ring.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Improve existing fishing pier.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Relocate existing ADA fishing pier to boat launch area.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Add asphalt path to ADA fishing pier.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Expand pebble beach area.</i> | | | |
| High | Silver Lake Loop Trail <i>Reconfigure Main Drive to remove redundant access drive and provide additional parking spaces.</i> | | | See Trail Network - Silver Lake Loop Trail |
| | <i>Realign Main Dr to provide separated side path from the tubing hill parking lot to North Shelter parking lot.</i> | | | |

| Priority Ranking | Improvement | Project Cost Range | Impact & Master Plan Alignment | Funding & Partnerships |
|------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Mt Hoy Sledding Hill | | | |
| Low | Mt. Hoy Concession and Amenity Improvements | <i>See Focus Area 7 - Mt. Hoy Concession and Amenity Improvements</i> | | |
| | <i>Install a new concessions building.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Install outdoor patio for gathering and observation.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Install a firepit patio.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Install safety bollards.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Provide snow tube storage.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Restore area adjacent to parking lot.</i> | | | |
| | <i>Reconfigure parking lot (four stalls net gain).</i> | | | |
| | <i>Add ramp for emergency and maintenance vehicles.</i> | | | |

***Assumptions**

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| Cost estimates are for budgetary use only. |
| Cost estimates were prepared late 2022/early 2023 and do not account for future inflation. |
| Cost estimates were prepared using 2022 bid tabs from similar Midwest projects. |
| Costs estimates include construction costs, design and engineering and construction administration. |

