



# SCOTCH RIDGE NATURE PARK MASTER PLAN

CARLISLE, IOWA

*June 8, 2012*



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
The City of Carlisle and the design team would like to thank the following participants of the Steering Team Committee for their time and dedication in creating a collaborative Scotch Ridge Nature Park Master Plan.	
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INTRODUCTION	
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the autumn of 2011, the City of Carlisle retained the services of RDG Planning & Design with assistance from McClure Engineering to develop an overall master plan for the Scotch Ridge Nature Park, located just south of State Highway 5 on Carlisle’s west side. The impetus of the master plan was advancements in funding for a trail extension of the Summerset trail across Carlisle’s south side. A master plan was needed to determine the best alignment for the trail as it crossed the future 47-acre Scotch Ridge Nature Park site.

The Scotch Ridge Nature Park Master Plan is a milestone built on over 13 years of community efforts dating back to 1999. The master plan continues this momentum and organizes previous planning efforts into one vision for the park.

The design team worked with a steering committee comprised of 18 members, representing residents, businesses, and city leaders. To gain additional feedback, the design team held two open houses and conducted a public survey.

Working with the Scotch Ridge Steering Committee, the design team developed the following vision for the park:

*“The Scotch Ridge Nature Park is regional destination with the goal of educating the public about the ecological, cultural, and historic uniqueness of the site through interpretive demonstration and exhibits, while providing opportunities for recreation and exploration for people of all ages. Through fostering partnerships with local, regional and state agencies and organizations, the park further strives to become a research laboratory, community center, and outdoor wellness facility whose benefits will provide positive impacts beyond the individual users of the park.”*

With this vision in mind, the steering committee and the design team worked to identify a program for the park based on the following park priorities:

- Enhance or restore the physical and biological systems.
- Provide education and research opportunities.
- Incorporate recreation and wellness elements.
- Create a community nexus or destination.

The design team inventoried the existing conditions of the site including soil type, topography, hydrology, wetlands, ecology, history, and physical features. One of the biggest challenges of the site is its hydrology. The site lies almost entirely within the North River’s 100 year flood plain, as well as in Lake Red Rock’s storage pool. This means the site can be flooded both from the North River and from back water from Lake Red Rock, often for extended periods of time. This ebb and flow of water shapes the site from eroded landforms, to the types of vegetation growing on site.

Inspired by natural landforms on the site, and the site’s proximity to the nearby Scotch Ridge, the design team created a framework for the park that incorporated an elliptical silt drift shape with a tartan plaid overlaid on the ground surface. The drift became the trail route and the grid created by the tartan plaid was used to organize the program elements within the park. Major program elements include a recreational trail with pedestrian bridge crossing the North River, restored wetlands, plots for agriculture and floodplain research, natural playscape, community center, festival space, primitive camping area, canoe and kayak river access, and ample areas for wildlife and nature viewing.

The first phase of construction will begin in the autumn of 2012 and includes the pedestrian bridge, trail, mass grading, and wetland mitigation. This construction will coincide with the larger aforementioned Summerset Trail extension project. The anticipated construction cost for this first phase will be approximately \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. Funding for this work will come from the overall trail extension project whose funding amounts to \$2,798,822. Future work within the park will be broken into phases as funding allows.

The full Scotch Ridge Nature Park Master Plan contains detailed information regarding the project background, process, existing conditions, program development, overall master plan, project phasing, and costs. While these plans may appear ambitious, they can be implemented over time to create a great regional destination that will enrich the experience for all those who visit the Scotch Ridge Nature Park.



Overall Scotch Ridge Nature Park Master Plan

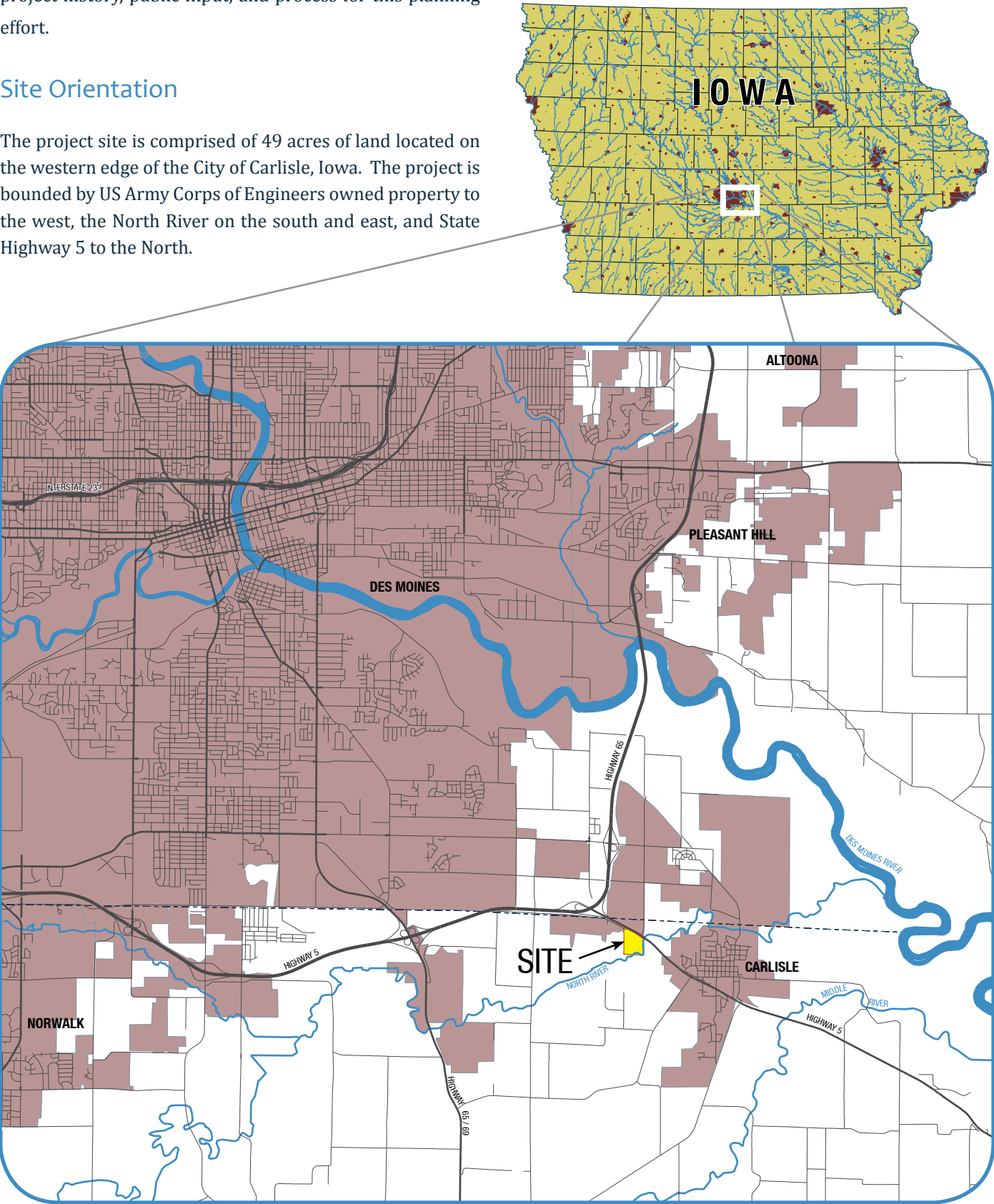


PROJECT BACKGROUND

This chapter provides an overview of the site location, project history, public input, and process for this planning effort.

Site Orientation

The project site is comprised of 49 acres of land located on the western edge of the City of Carlisle, Iowa. The project is bounded by US Army Corps of Engineers owned property to the west, the North River on the south and east, and State Highway 5 to the North.



Project History

In 2009 the City of Carlisle received an Iowa DNR REAP grant to expand the City’s North Park to the east along the North River across the mainline railroad. Ultimately this project was put on-hold due to feasibility concerns of pedestrian access under the railroad bridge over the North River.

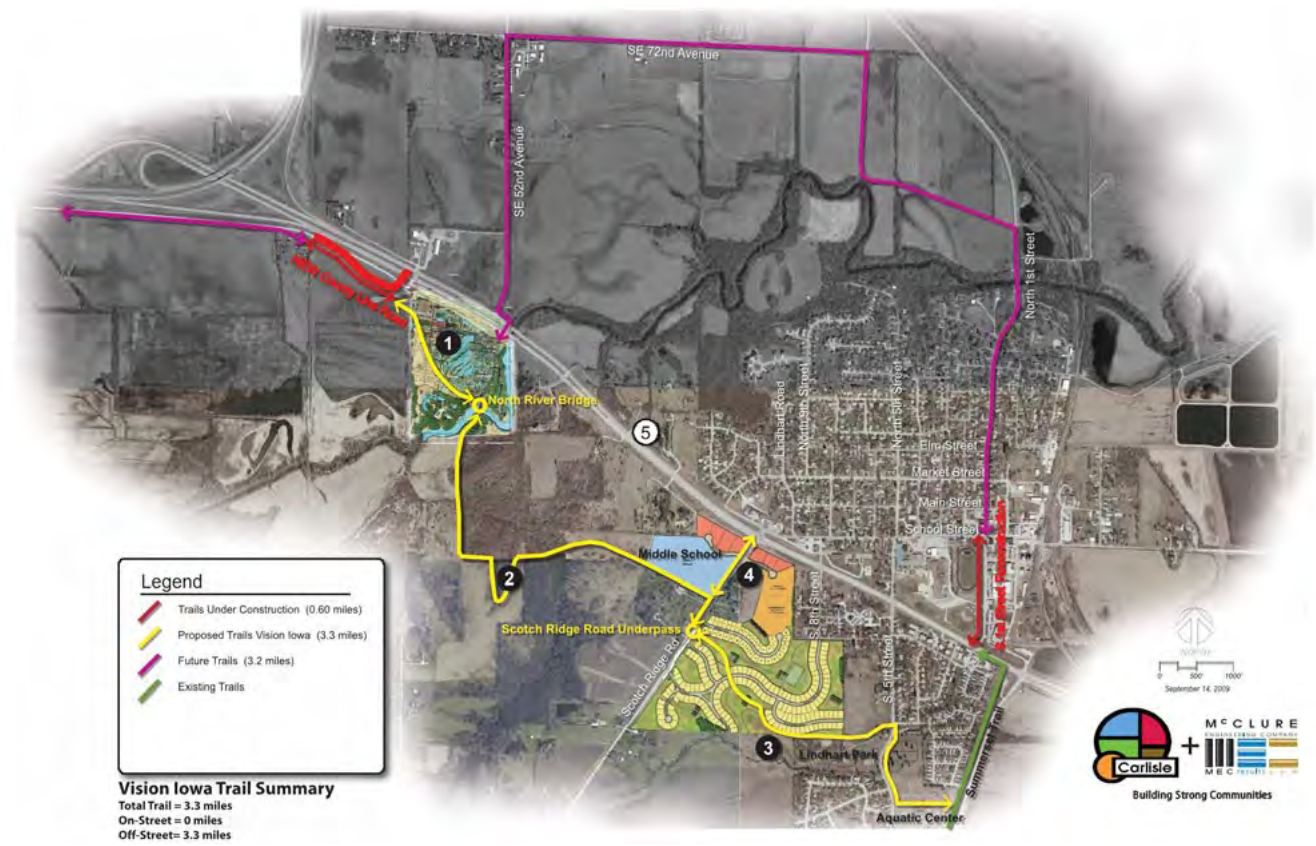
In 2003, the City purchased a 47-acre excess right-of-way parcel at the site’s present location from the Iowa DOT with the un-used REAP grant funds for North Park and in 2004 volunteers held their first Scotch Ridge Steering Committee. Also in 2004, the City retained the services of McClure Engineering Company to develop plans for a commercial development and prairie / wetland restoration habitat on the site.

In 2005, the City contracted with Site+ Landscape Architecture and Planning and Conservation Design Form to prepare a master plan for the park. Before completion, this planning work was suspended.

In 2007, McClure Engineering worked with the City to develop another concept for the park that included graded terraces, and a large pond.

Simultaneously, the City had been working to extend the Summerset Trail, an 11 mile National Recreation Trail stretching from Carlisle to Indianola. The trail extension will follow a route from the Summerset Trail on Carlisle’s east side, through the south side of Carlisle, until it reaches the south side of the Scotch Ridge Nature Park site. From there the trail will cross the North River via a new pedestrian bridge, through the site, and connect with an existing trail segment at the northwest corner of the site. Ultimately this trail will extend all the way to downtown Des Moines.

In late 2011, the City received enough grant funds to construct the Summerset Trail Extension. At that time, the need to prepare a master plan for the Scotch Ridge Nature Park was identified so that the trail alignment through the park could be determined, without limiting future opportunities for park development.





Purpose

Natural Parks such as the Scotch Ridge Nature Park provide many economic, health, social, and environmental benefits. These benefits form the basis for the need to expand the parkland within the community of Carlisle.

Economic Benefits of Parks

Parks can serve as catalysts for neighborhoods, cities, counties, regions, and even entire state economies. Studies have shown that well planned parks, appropriately integrated into the fabric of a community, can increase property values, decrease crime, and reinforce community identity and ownership. Natural parks and open spaces typically require fewer public services – roads, sewage, solid waste disposal, water, and often times require less fire and police protection than active parks or sports complexes.



Health Benefits of Parks

Parks have always provided the public places to recreate and engage nature. In recent times parks have also increasingly been at the forefront of healthy lifestyles and ‘parkcare’ has demonstrated to be a much more cost effective and preventative approach to traditional proactive healthcare approaches and treatments. Parks provide people with safe access to the natural environment to recreate, retreat, and reflect. Studies have shown that just thirty minutes of moderate intensity physical activity, such as brisk walking, four or more times per week can greatly reduce an individual’s risk of a host of health related illnesses and diseases. Parks allow humans to reconnect with nature and maintain health of mind, body, and spirit.



Social Benefits of Parks

Parks provide opportunities for planned and spontaneous human interaction with family, friends, and neighbors, which fosters a sense of community. Parks also serve as outdoor classrooms and observatories of nature, increasing awareness of the environment. Natural parks give children places for unscripted play and exploration which strengthens imagination and creativity. Time spent in parks inspires future generations of scientists, ecologists, artists, and other professions that draw on the wonder and beauty in nature.



Environmental Benefits of Parks

Natural parks provide habitat for many plant and animal species. Parks connected to greenways and rivers create a network of open space corridors for animals to safely migrate from other natural areas in search of food and mates, increasing the range and survivability of the species. Parks also serve as natural utilities by slowing flood waters, treating storm water, and filtering pollutants from the soil and the air. These natural processes help offset the need for expensive flood protection, or water treatment systems. Governments around the world are beginning to recognize the benefits these natural systems provide and are starting to incorporate them into their overall operations plans.





PROCESS

The process for master plan development was to use public input to create a project vision, goals, and priorities for park development that would guide the design of the Scotch Ridge Nature Park.

Public Input

The master plan for the Scotch Ridge Nature park was prepared with input provided by a Steering Committee made up of members of the community of Carlisle. These members represented various age groups and interests as well as educators, business leaders, adjacent land owners, elected officials, and City Staff.

The Steering Committee attended a series of four meetings to provide input on the project vision, goals, priorities, program, and planning concepts.

During the planning process the City held two public open houses to reach a broader audience and engage the public. The first public open house introduced the project to the public and previewed initial analysis. Programmatic input was solicited through conversations and a public survey. At the second public open house, the design team presented the concepts and recommendations for the Scotch Ridge Nature Park.

The valuable input from the Steering Committee and the general public was used to develop the content contained in the rest of this document.

Vision

The design team worked with the steering committee to prepare a project vision statement that would inspire and guide the planning process. The following statement summarizes the project focus and what the Scotch Ridge Nature Park is or should be.

Project Vision:

“The Scotch Ridge Nature Park is a regional destination with the goal of educating the public about the ecological, cultural, and historic uniqueness of the site through interpretive demonstrations and exhibits, while providing opportunities for recreation and exploration for people of all ages. Through fostering partnerships with local, regional, and state agencies and organizations, the park further strives to become a research laboratory, community center, and outdoor wellness facility whose benefits will provide positive impacts beyond the individual users of the park.”

Goals

The steering committee developed a list of goals for the project. These goals were used to test the master plan concepts for the park. The following is a summary of the master plan goals:

- Provide education opportunities for youth to ID plants, trees, soil types, and water sampling.
- Observe nature and wildlife at various times of year.
- Create a space where users can be back to nature.
- Provide place for school, community group, or family recreation.
- Increased opportunities for wellness and fitness.
- Make the park a regional destination to bring people to the park and the community.
- Have opportunities for picnics and primitive camping.
- Mitigate noise from highway.
- Design space for outdoor events and shows.
- Partner with local, regional, and national groups to celebrate history and ecology of the park.
- Make designs pet friendly.
- Demonstrate ways to control water runoff.
- Demonstrate sustainable agriculture.
- Preserve rare plants and animals.
- Celebrate uniqueness of the site.
- Share recreational programming with other parks within the community and region.
- Create a trail head for Summerset Trail.
- Create as a water trail head to North Park and points up and down the North River.

Priorities for Park Development

Once the steering committee created a list of goals, the design team categorized the goals into four distinct priority areas. These priority areas include:

- Physical and biological enhancement or restoration.
- Education and research opportunities.
- Recreation and wellness elements.
- Nexus and destination amenities.

These priorities were used to develop the program elements which are described in further detail in a subsequent chapter.



FEBRUARY PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE PRESENTATION

Representatives from RDG Planning & Design and McClure Engineering presented the project vision, goals and site analysis to members of the public. (Photo Credit: Dennis Woodruff)



EXISTING CONDITIONS

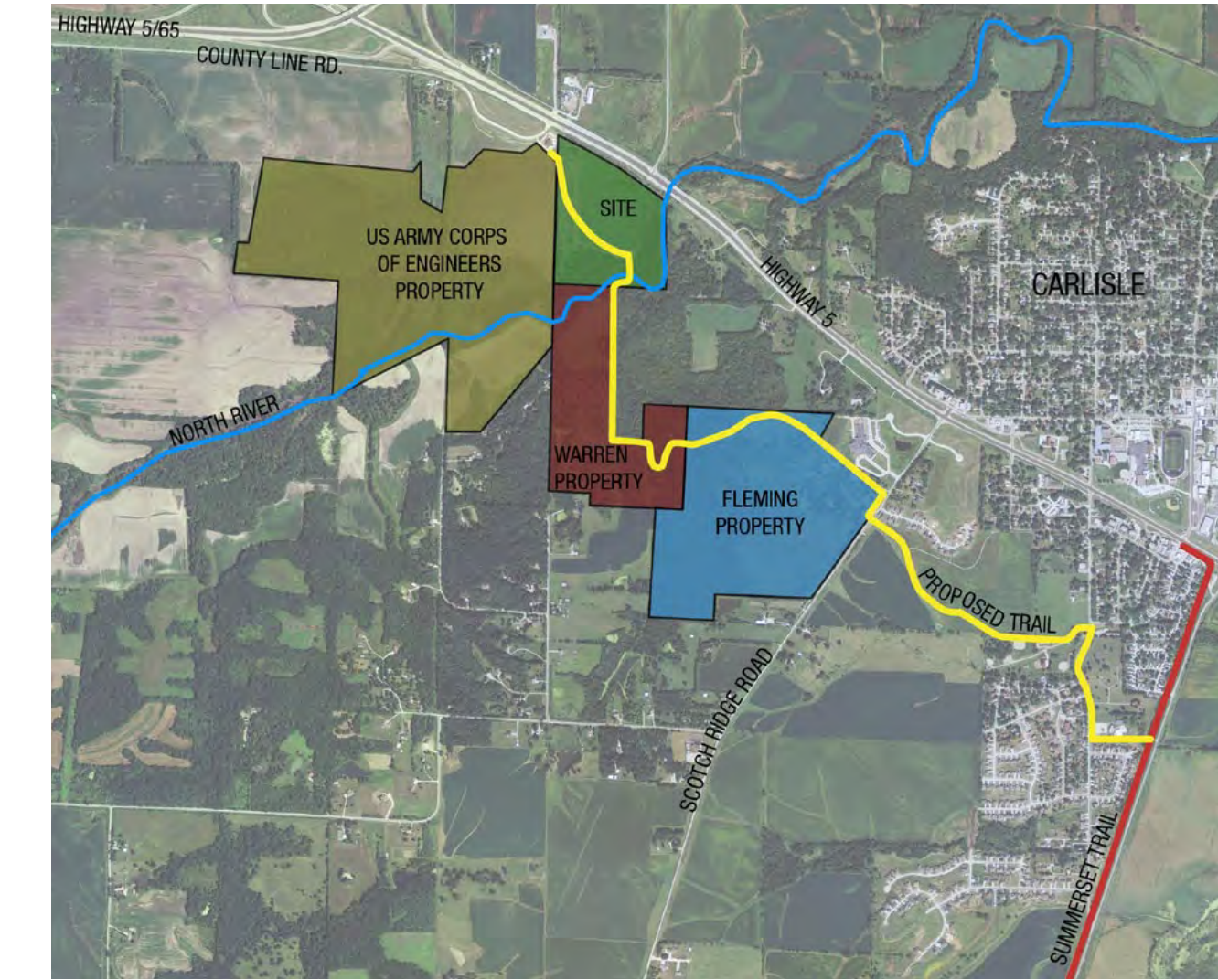
In developing the master plan, the design team first reviewed the existing site conditions to determine opportunities and constraints for the site. This analysis will further shape and inspire subsequent master plan concepts. The design team looked at the site context, hydrology, wetlands, soil and bedrock, ecology, history, and site features.

Site Context

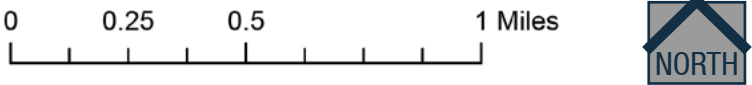
The site is bordered by Scotch Ridge, to the east, which has relatively steep terrain and forms the eastern bank of the North River. State Highway 5 is north of the site. It is a 4 lane divided highway with a speed limit of 55 miles per

hour. Noise from the highway is audible throughout the site, though diminishes in the lower portions of the site, where it is buffeted by vegetation and topography. The land to west of the site is comprised of 196 acres of publicly owned landed under the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Private property flanks the east and south sides of the park.

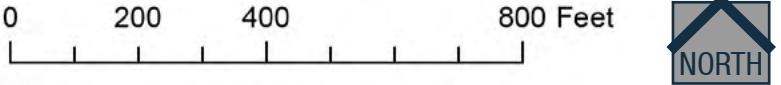
The site itself is comprised of 29 acres of relatively flat farm land, and 18 acres of riparian woodland. There is approximately 18 feet of grade change from the highest point in the northwest corner to the lowest point in the northeast corner of the site.



SITE CONTEXT



SITE TOPOGRAPHY





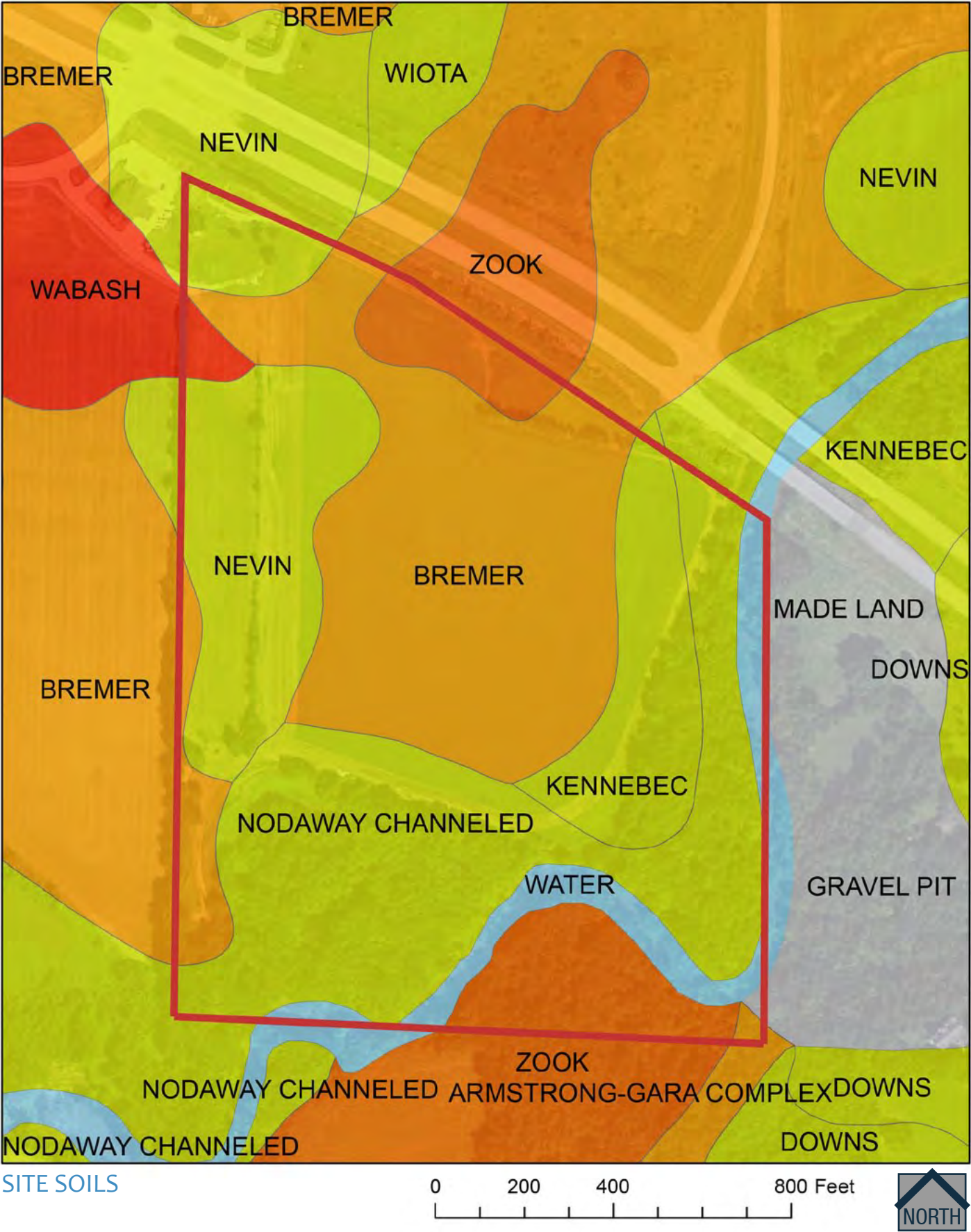
Soils & Bedrock

There are six different soil types known to exist on the site. These include Nevin Silty Clay Loam, Nodaway Silt Loam Channeled, Kennebec Silt Loam, Bremer Silty Clay Loam, Zook Silty Clay, and Wabash Silty Clay Loam. These soils are all characterized as partially or all hydric, meaning they formed under conditions of flooding, and have some level of water saturation. Because of this saturation, there is relatively little air space within the soil and the soil is anaerobic. This has an impact on microorganisms and plant life growing in the soil. Hyrdic soils have higher water holding capacity and generally contain more organic carbon.

Underneath the soil, the bedrock is of the Lower Cherokee Group, and composed of limestone, shale, sandstone, and coal deposited in the Pennsylvanian period about 300 million years ago. Bedrock on the site lies anywhere from 50 feet deep at the northwest corner of the site to being exposed at the surface on the eastern portion of the site along the river bank.

SITE SOILS LEGEND

- B Soils / Partially Hydric Soils  
Nevin Silty Clay Loam  
Nodaway Silt Loam Channeled  
Kennebec Silt Loam
- C Soils / All Hydric Soils  
Bremer Silty Clay Loam
- C/D Soils / All Hydric Soils  
Zook Silty Clay
- D Soils / All Hydric Soils  
Wabash Silty Clay Loam



Hydrology

The site is part of the 256,810 acre watershed for the North River and lies near the bottom of this watershed. The North River runs through the site from the southwest corner to the northeast corner of the site, where it flows under Highway 5. From this point the river is approximately 4.7 miles from the confluence of the Des Moines River.

Currently all but two acres lie entirely within the 100 year flood plain, and only 1.3 acres fall outside the 500 year flood plain. The 100 year floodplain at the southwest corner of the site is at elevation 786 which falls two feet to elevation 784 at the northeast corner of the site.

The site is also subject to an overflow easement to an elevation of 783 feet as part of the storage pool for Lake Red Rock, managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Any fill or vertical structures below elevation 783 must be offset as to not reduce the storage area within Lake Red Rock and is subject to Corps approval.

Wetlands

There are 0.66 acres of delineated wetlands on site according to a 2004 assessment. Of these only two wetlands totaling 0.20 acres are hydraulically connected to the North River and are considered Jurisdictional, subject to Section 404 regulation. Wetlands will likely be impacted on-site and will need to be mitigated. Further wetland assessment, delineation, and permitting will be required, but are outside the scope of this master plan project.





SITE FLOODPLAINS

- 100 Year Floodplain
- 500 Year Floodplain

0 200 400 800 Feet



SITE DELINEATED WETLANDS

0 200 400 800 Feet





History

The Scotch Ridge Nature Park has a rich history. The site is rumored to be home to the woodland culture and other native american tribes. A rocky ridge in the river at the eastern edge of the site once served as a ford across the north river. Also at this location, the road that became highway five once crossed the river and wound its way up Scotch Ridge.

In more recent history, the site was supposedly home to the Keeney Hoover Mill, which was one of a handful of flour mills in the Carlisle area. Across the river to the east of the site, there are remnants of clay pits that once supplied clay for bricks that were manufactured in Carlisle. Legend also has it that there is an abandoned well on the site that has a Civil War cannon at the bottom.

This history should be further explored and verified. Interpretive elements within the site should celebrate this rich past.

Ecology

The site when combined with the adjacent properties on Scotch Ridge, exhibit four different soil based ecological transects, including riparian wetlands, riparian forests, savanna, and upland prairie. Plantings and restorations should reinforce these transects and educational opportunities should be created to teach visitors to the site about the unique ecology of the site.



SILT / TREE LANDFORMS

Subtle landforms created by erosion and siltation deposited by rushing floodwater around trees

Site Features

The site has many unique features worth noting. These site features range from man-made features, such as grain bins, to natural features created by erosion. The map to the right identifies these site features.

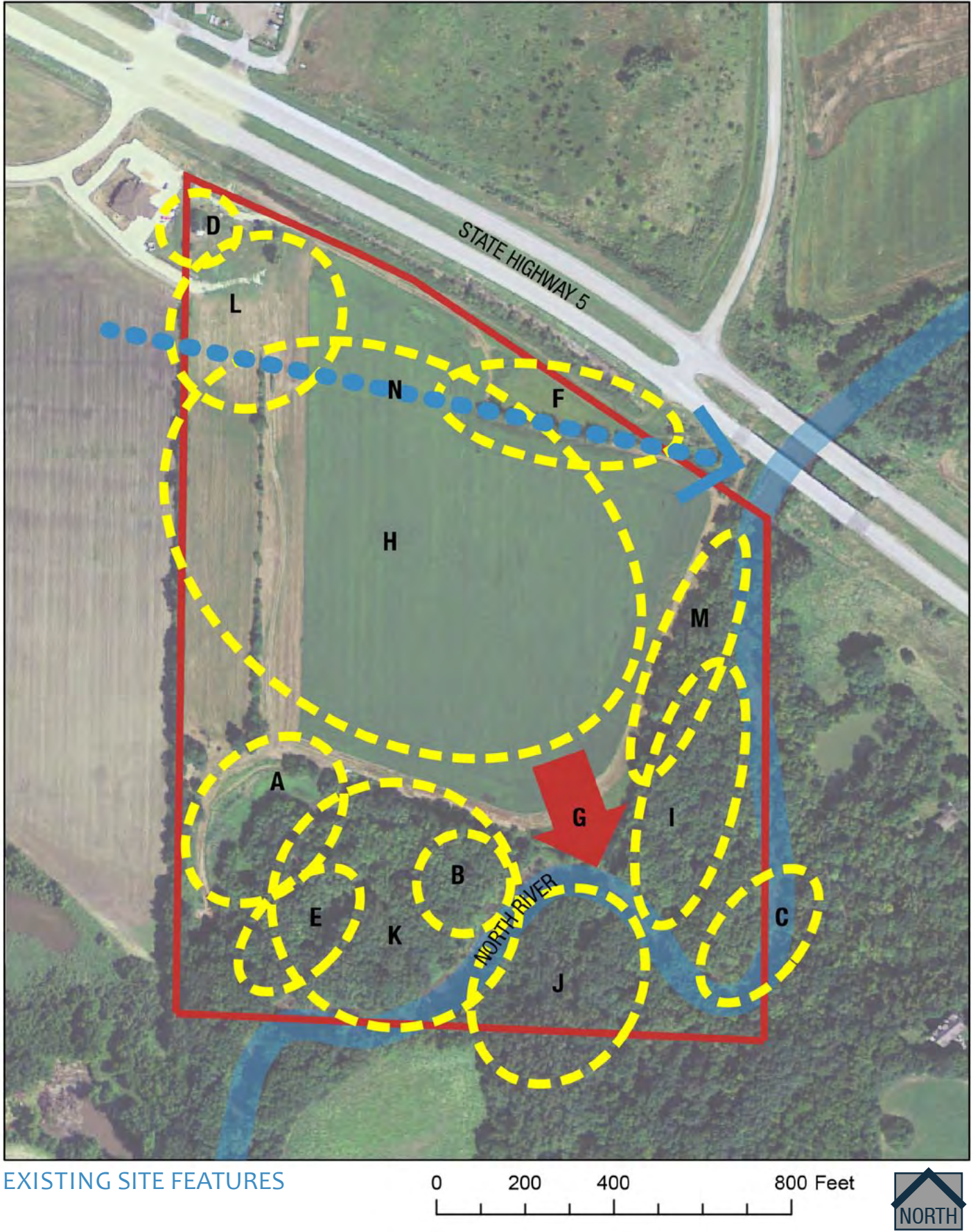
Site Opportunities and Limitations

Based on the analysis of the existing conditions of the site the following list should be considered in development of the master plan and subsequent project phases:

- Develop plan to utilize site during flood events.
- Introduce native species that are suitable to soil types, inundation, and reinforce the ecological transects of the site.
- Celebrate the site history.
- Base site concepts on existing site features to create an inherent site narrative.
- Work within the limits of the floodplain and overflow easement, and coordinate with the Iowa DNR and US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Mitigate impacted wetland.
- Coordinate with McClure Engineering for permitting of wetlands, archeological assessment, threatened and endangered species habitat mitigation, and other site impacts requiring jurisdictional review.

EXISTING SITE FEATURES LEGEND

- A. Oxbow
- B. Water Access Point
- C. Exposed Limestone Outcrop
- D. Grain Bins
- E. Cottonwood Glade
- F. Line of Cottonwoods & Dogwood
- G. Opening at River Edge
- H. Open Field
- I. Subtle Silt/Tree Landforms
- J. Riparian Savannah/Woodland
- K. Vernal Pools
- L. Portion above Red Rock Flood Pool
- M. Farm Levee Remnant
- N. Off-Site Drainage



EXISTING SITE FEATURES





EXISTING GRAIN BINS



NORTH RIVER AT EAST END OF SITE



LINE OF COTTONWOODS ALONG DRAINAGE SWALE



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The site program begins to develop a list of activities to be included in the park. These activities will then be used to guide specific amenities, infrastructure and relationships within the overall master plan for the park. The design team developed the site program based on public input survey results, and feedback from the steering committee. This chapter describes the process for program development and outlines the final program for the park.

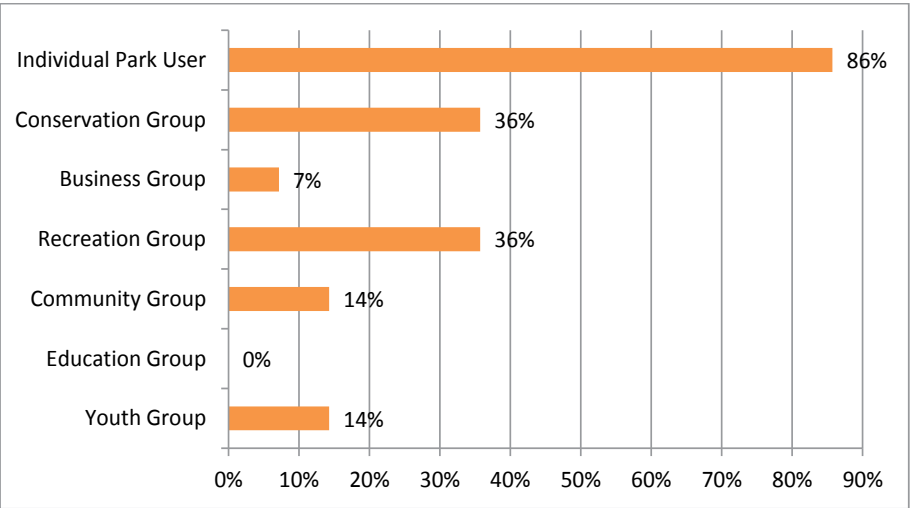
Public Input Survey

In developing the public survey, the design team took the four development priorities identified by the steering committee and created a list of potential program elements for each priority area. These priority areas include Physical / Biological Environment, Nexus / Destination, Education / Research, and Recreation /Wellness. The program elements, along with user demographics, were included on a public survey, distributed at the first public open house on February 9, 2012. The following analysis outlines the results from this public survey.

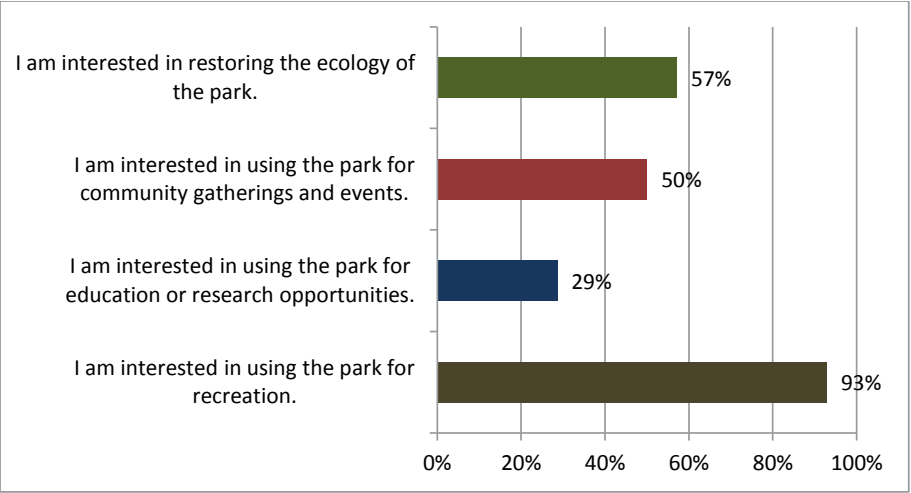
Survey Respondent Demographics

- 14 people took the survey (28% of public open house #1 attendees).
- 93% of respondents live in the Carlisle area.
- 35% of respondents work in the Carlisle area.

User Groups Represented



Development Priority Ranking



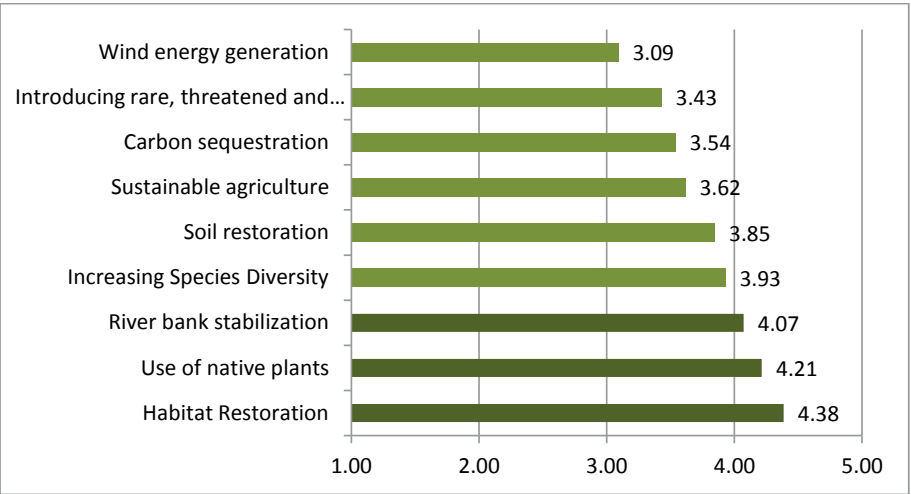
Program Element Ranking

The survey asked respondents to rank the program elements for each development priority on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being least important and 5 being very important. The following graphs show the average score for each program element.

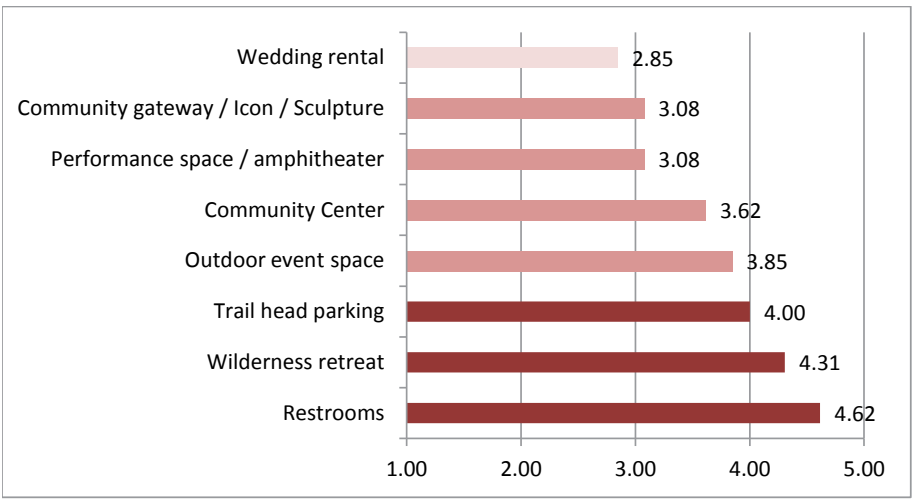
Since the average scores skewed towards the middle of the scale (no 1 or 5 ranking), program elements that scored less then 3 were deemed un-important and were not included in the program. These program elements include ATV course, equestrian trails, and wedding rental. Since amenities for other program elements may create an appealing spot for wedding events, wedding rental is not precluded by the program, but no special amenities will be provided specifically for this program element.

Trails, restrooms, outdoor exploration / wildlife viewing rounded out the top three program elements for the site in all development priority categories.

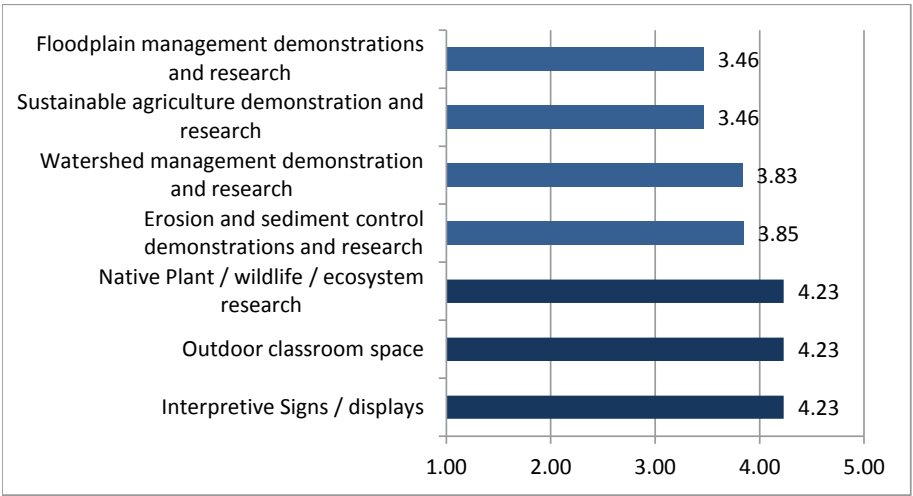
Physical / Biological Environment Program Element Ranking



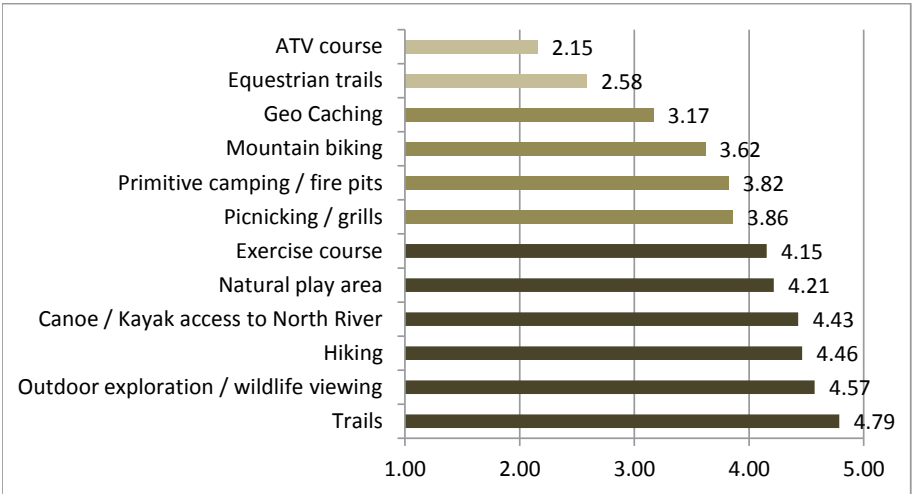
Nexus / Destination Program Element Ranking



Education / Research Program Element Ranking



Recreation / Wellness Program Element Ranking







EXPOSED BEDROCK

Exposed bedrock is visible along the east bank of the North River. Crumbling rock to the left creates a natural ridge to ford the river.



SAVANNA

The south end of the site across the North River is characteristic of a savanna.

Steering Committee Input

The design team presented the above findings of the public survey to the steering committee, and the committee provided additional feedback. Based on this feedback the following final site program was developed:

Site Program

The site program should include the following elements:

- Energy generation
- Introducing rare, threatened, and endangered species
- Carbon sequestration
- Soil restoration
- Increased species diversity
- Riverbank stabilization
- Restoration of oxbow
- Use of native plants
- Habitat restoration
- Community gateway, icon, and or sculpture
- Performance space or amphitheater
- Nature and community center
- Outdoor event / festival space
- Trail head parking
- Wilderness retreat
- Restrooms
- Floodplain management demonstrations and research
- Watershed management demonstrations and research
- Native plant, wildlife, and ecosystem education and research
- Outdoor classroom space
- County conservation ranger demonstrations
- Interpretive signs and displays
- Geo-caching
- Mountain biking
- Primitive camping and fire pits
- Picnicking / grills
- Exercise course
- Natural play area
- Canoe and kayak access to North River
- Hiking
- Outdoor exploration and wildlife viewing
- Bird blind
- Trails
- Dog friendly facilities
- Provide connections to adjacent public lands and monarch butterfly area.
- Continued partnering with existing groups to provide programming and events for the park.
- Park signage



OVERALL MASTER PLAN

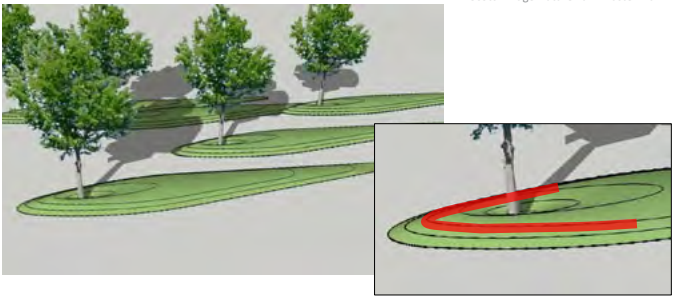
The overall master plan was developed though layering of inspirations and program elements to create a framework for the final master plan.

Inspirations

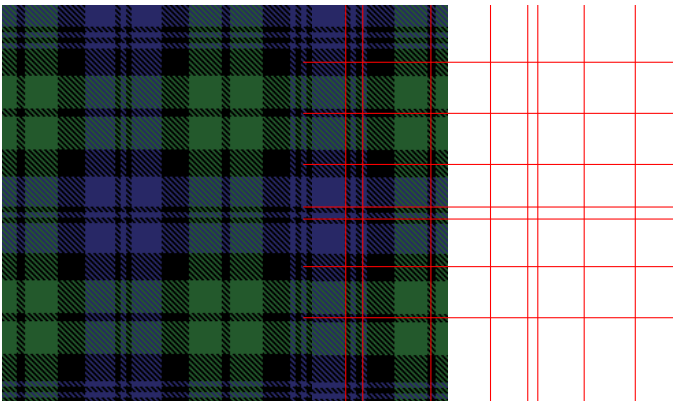
During a visit to the site, the design team was inspired by drift formations located at the southeast corner of the site. These formations were created by erosion and siltation by flood flows traveling overland towards the northeast corner of the site. The water formed these drifts much in the same way wind might create a snow drift. Where trees impeded the flow, a long drift of deposited silt was formed. At the base of the tree, currents created a small depression. An exaggerated interpretation of this landform created a major elliptical element within the park, that ultimately becomes the path for the trail.

The second major inspiration for the park was its proximity to Scotch Ridge just to the east of the park from which the park gets its name. Scotch Ridge is a ridge line separating the north and middle river watersheds and extends all the way from Winterset, Iowa to Carlisle which lies on the very north tip of the ridge. Scotch Ridge is so named because it was settled by Scottish immigrants and the rich rolling land is reminiscent of the rolling hills of the homeland in Berwickshire, Scotland. The design team used a tartan plaid, a fabric woven pattern used to differentiate various clans or families in Scotland. A plaid grid form was laid over the site to create a series of square parcels for research plots, paths, and even graded platforms within the park.

The final major inspiration for the master plan also called on the Scottish heritage of the area. The geography of Scotland has a very prominate line of lakes or lochs that slice through Scotland at a 45 degree angle. The lakes that form this line are Loch Linnhe, Loch Lochy and most notably, Loch Ness. Similarly, water flows through the site in the same 45 degree angle during flood events, both from flooding of the North River and as water backs up from Lake Red Rock. Water bodies and wetlands on the site ultimately are inspired by this direction of flow.



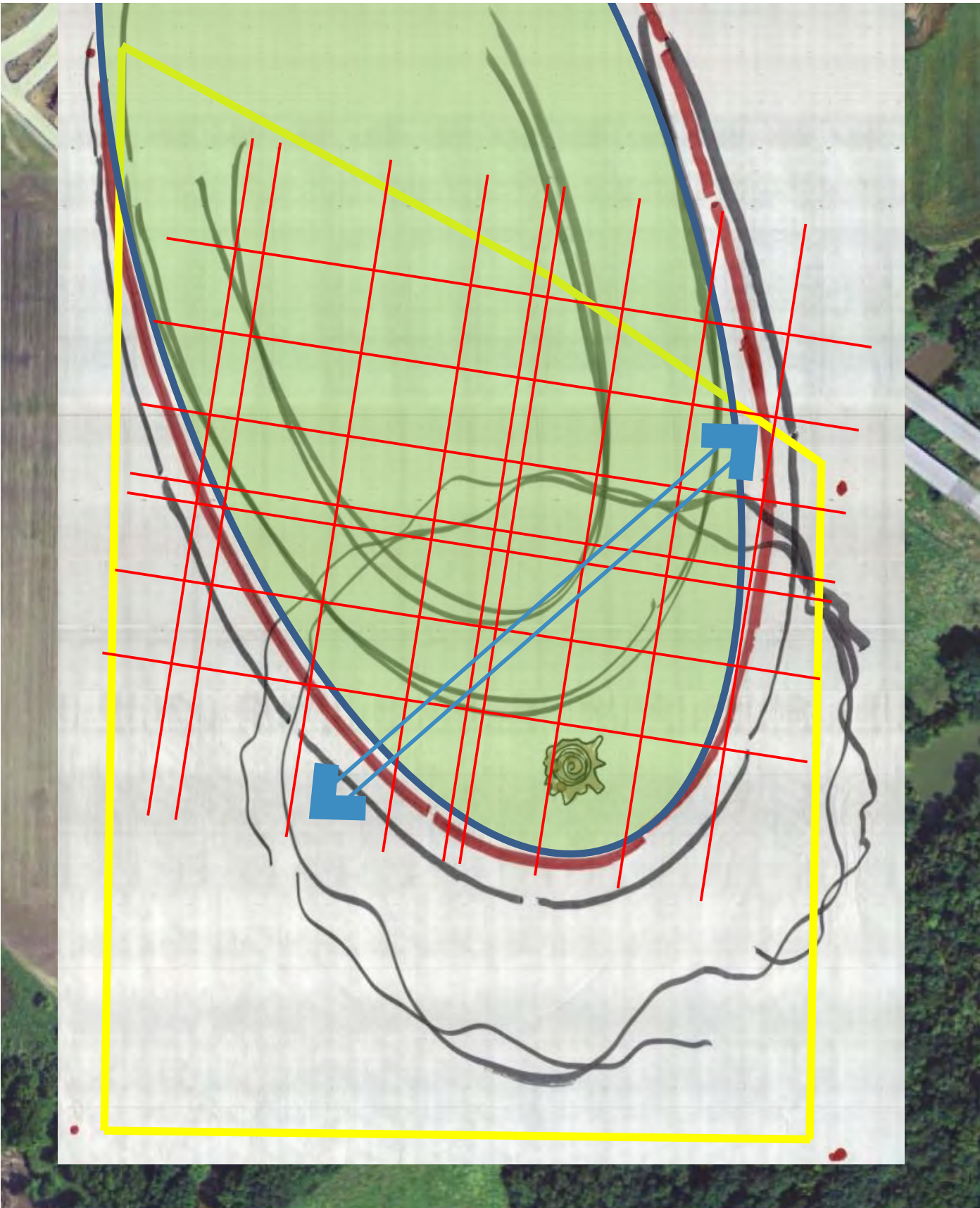
DRIFT LANDFORMS



SCOTTISH TARTAN PLAID



AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF SCOTLAND  
[Photo Credit: Google Maps]



MASTER PLAN INSPIRATION FRAMEWORK





Overall Master Plan

Once the inspirations were integrated to create a framework for the park, the design team refined a plan incorporating the program elements into the overall inspiration framework. The result was the overall master plan as shown to the right.

The following paragraphs describe each area of the master plan and are keyed to the letters shown on the plan.

A - Parking / Trail Head / Trail

Parking would serve the, park, nature center, festival space, and trail. Part of the parking would be paved and treat storm water runoff from the lot in bioretention cells. The north half of the lot would serve as overflow parking and would utilize a grass or gravel pavement system to support the weight of the cars, but would allow storm water to infiltrate through the surface. The trail would be placed on an elevated ridge in an ellipse to represent a silt dune landform.

B - Community / Nature Center

The center would be a built structure with a main space for holding meetings, receptions, and educational classes. There would be offices along the north side with the south side open to views of the park.

C - Natural Playscape

The natural Playscape would use natural materials in creative way to allow for unstructured, imagined play as well as provide educational opportunities. To the west of the playscape is a large park shelter for picnicking and other events. At the center of the natural playscape is a scaled watershed of the North River. Water hydrants near the shelter would flow though the watershed and empty into the wetlands to the east.

D - Event / Festival Space / Primitive Camping

The event space utilized a naturally high area of the park. The grade in this area could be raised slightly to help keep the festival space dry. To the south of the festival space would be a spot for primitive camping along the tree line. During large camping events, the camping could spill out into the festival space.

E - Research / Educational Demonstrations

The grid of the “tartan plaid” creates several square research plots. These plots would be graded at different elevations allowing researchers to test plant materials and floodplain management techniques.

F - Mitigated Wetland

In the center of the park, a large wetland area would be created. This would mitigate the existing wetland on site as well as provide habitat for rare and threatened species.

G - Vernal Pools / Paths for Hiking / Oxbow Restoration

In the wooded area existing depressions would be enhanced to provide short term pools for breeding of aquatic animals. Paths for hiking, single track bike trails would weave through the area. The old oxbow would be restored and excess silt removed.

H - River Access

River access would be located at the NE corner of the site. A vehicle access and small parking area would be provided to canoe / kayak loading and unloading.

I - Pedestrian Bridge

A new pedestrian bridge over the North River will provide access to the other side of the river and the North River trail loop. The bridge will be modeled after a Travois, a primitive device attached to a horse, used by Native Americans to transport materials.

J - Erosion Education / Wildlife Viewing / Exploration

In the area of the silt dunes, there would be paths for wildlife viewing and exploration along with interpretive signs and displays. Poles with fins at the top and bottom would be placed throughout this area to demonstrate varying speeds of currents during floods. One of the grain bins at the NW corner of the site could be moved to this location and be converted to a bird blind.

K - Wildlife View / Exploration

Across the river there would be more opportunities for hiking though the savanna and observing wildlife.

L - Amphitheater

In the center of the major silt dune landform, the amphitheater would nestle into the hillside of the trail. The stage would represent the stump of the tree that made this landform. The amphitheater would seat roughly 300 to 400 people.

M - Council “Fire” Ring

At the edge of the woodland a council “fire” ring would be built to create a gathering space for campers and outdoor classroom space, for ranger presentations and demonstrations.



MASTER PLAN







AERIAL ILLUSTRATION OF SCOTCH RIDGE NATURE PARK LOOKING SOUTHEAST





ILLUSTRATION OF NATURAL PLAYScape



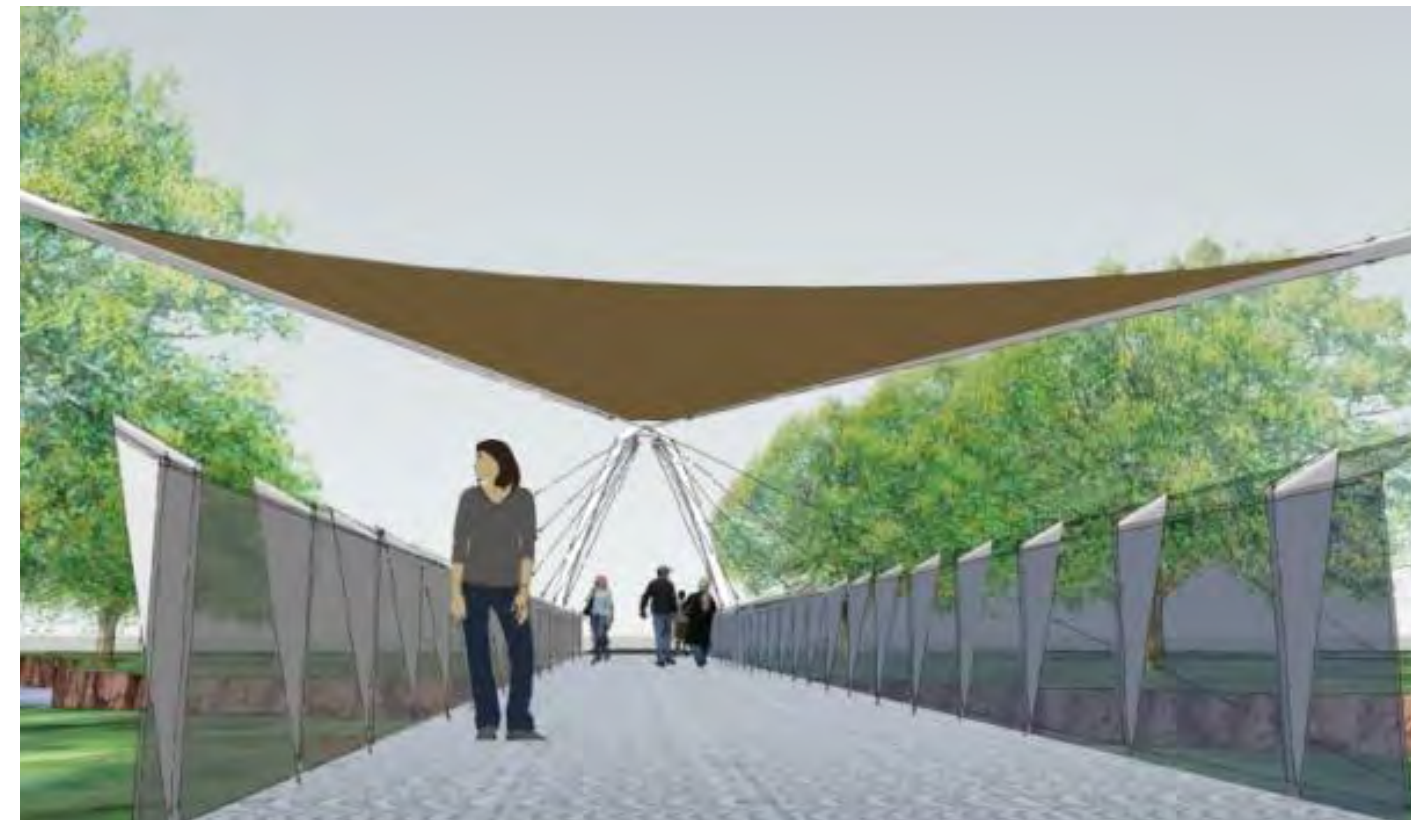


ILLUSTRATION OF AMPHITHEATER AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

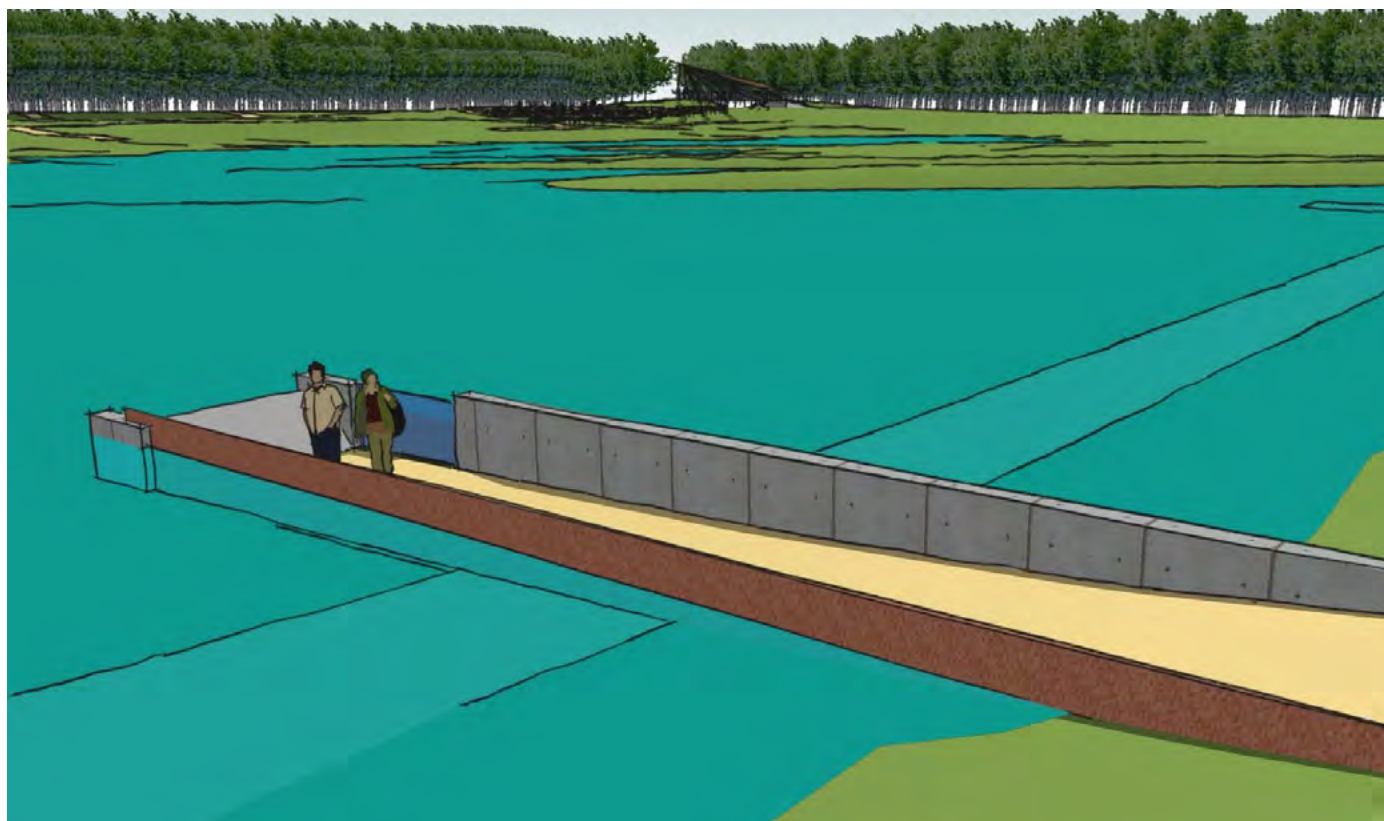




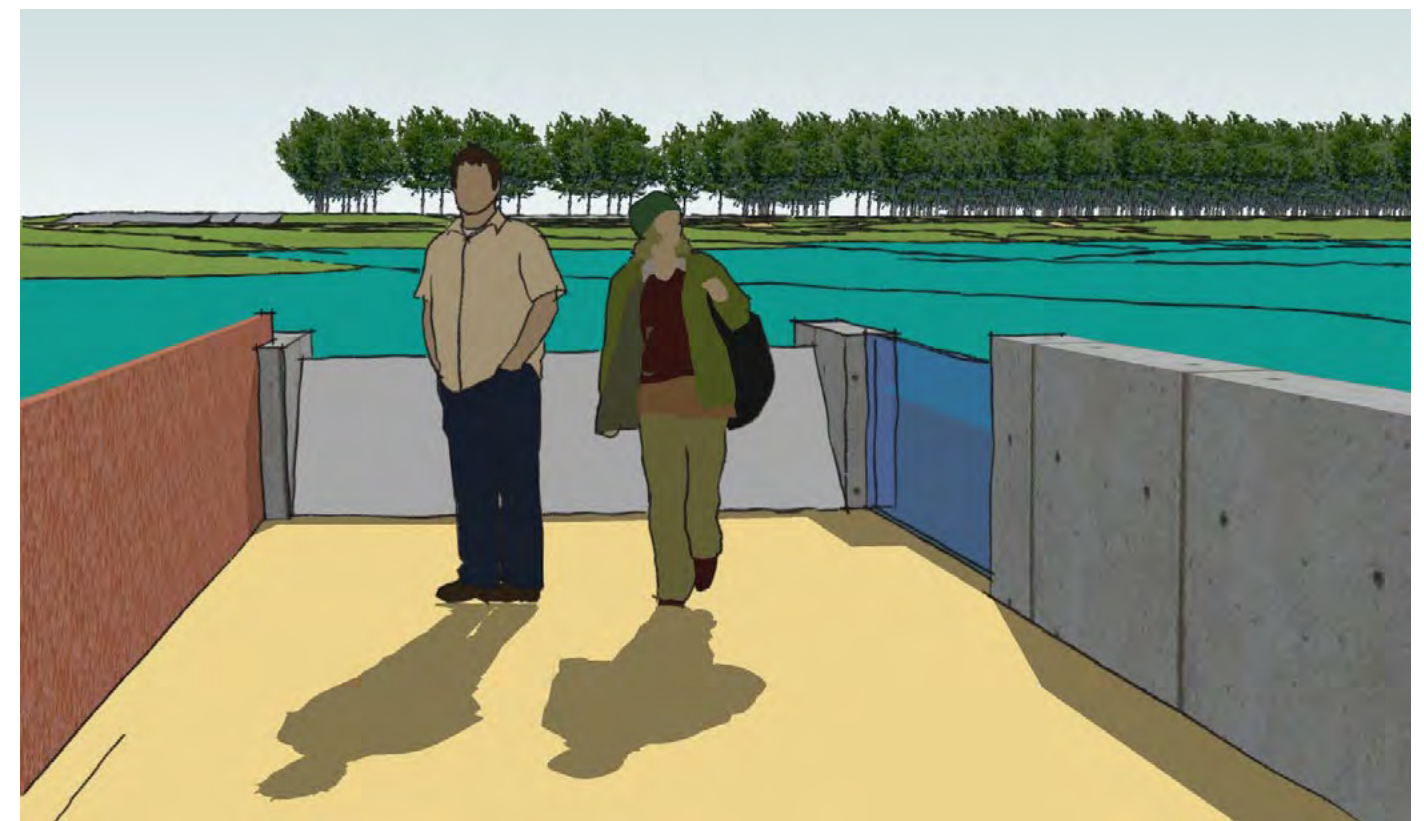
PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



PROPOSED FLOOD OBSERVATION TRENCH



PROPOSED FLOOD OBSERVATION TRENCH

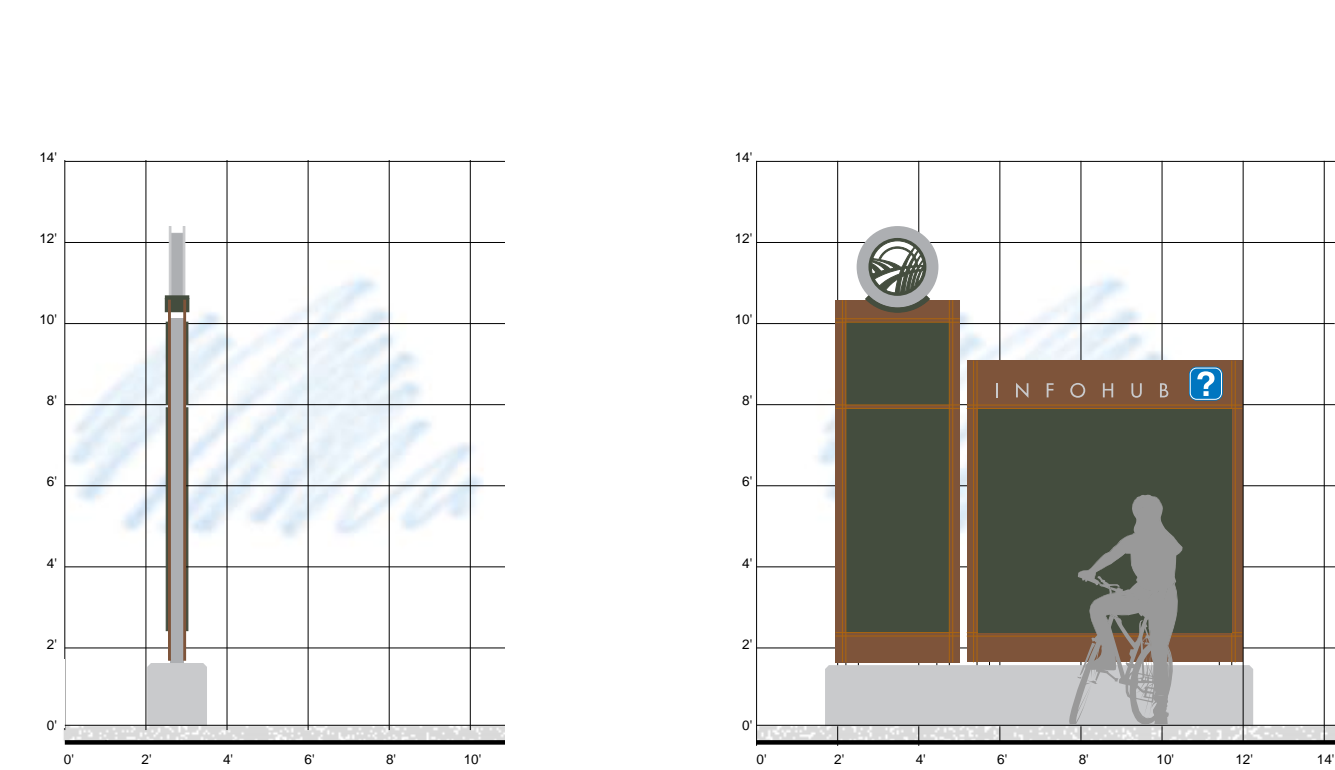




PROPOSED GRAIN BIN REUSE AND PARK SIGN

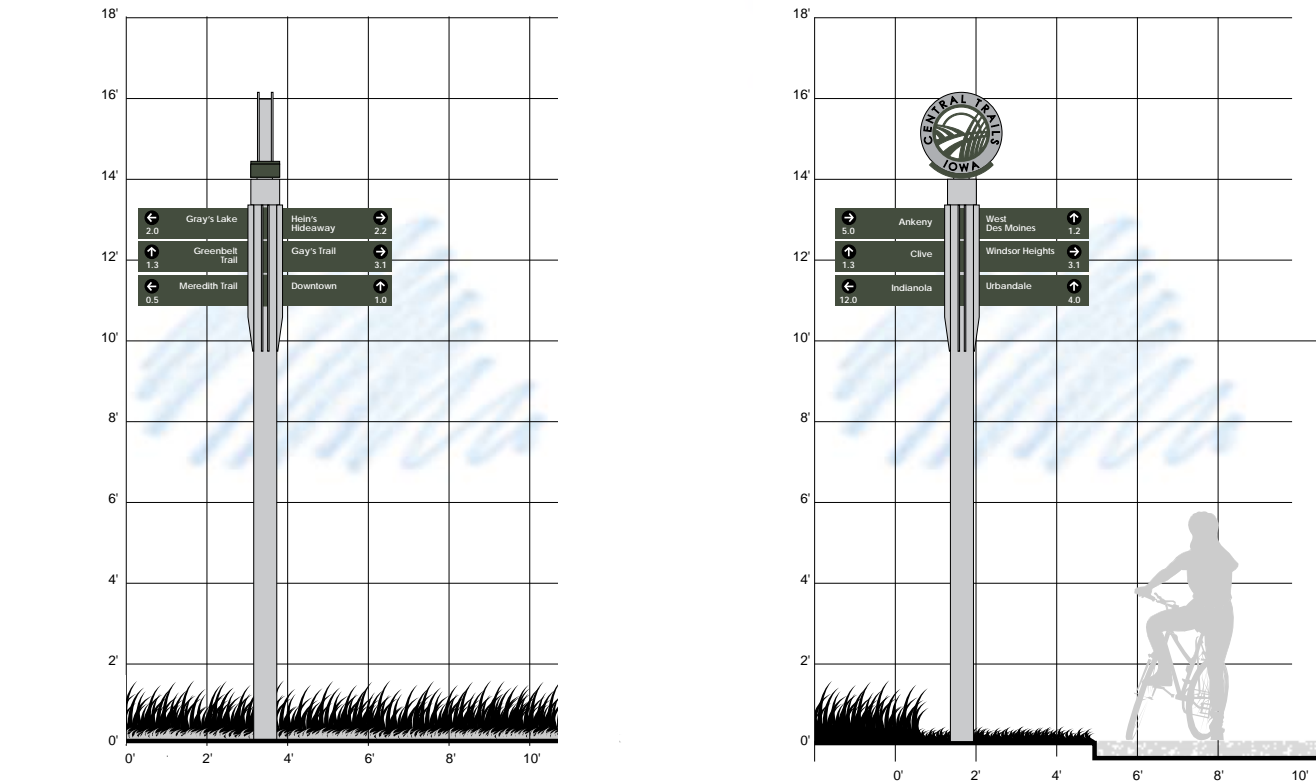


PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE SIGN PANELS



PROPOSED CENTRAL TRAILS OF IOWA SIGN - TRAIL HEAD

[Image Credit: Communication Master Plan for the Central Trails of Iowa]



PROPOSED CENTRAL TRAILS OF IOWA SIGN - DIRECTIONAL STANDARD

[Image Credit: Communication Master Plan for the Central Trails of Iowa]



PROJECT PHASING AND COSTS

The master plan represents a long range plan that will be constructed in several phases over the next 15 to 25 years as funds allow. The following paragraphs describe the phases and associated budgetary costs.

Phase One

Phase one consists of items needed to build the South Loop Trail through the Scotch Ridge Nature Park site. These items include:

- Mass Grading
- Native Grass Seeding
- Micro-Grading for Wetland
- Initial Wetland Mitigation
- Trail Construction
- Box Culvert under Trail
- Pedestrian Bridge over the North River

Costs for phase one are split between funds for the Scotch Ridge Nature Park and the South Loop Trail projects. These funds have already been secured and design and construction will begin on phase one improvements immediately following the completion of the master plan.

Future Improvements

Subsequent work on the park will be constructed in phases based on major program elements within the park. These subsequent work areas are planned in no particular order, but should be prioritized as funding allows. It will be important to keep some level of design or construction on-going in order to keep strong momentum and interest in the park.

For the purposes of this master plan, the project has been broken down into 12 subsequent work areas as described in the columns to the right. These work areas may be combined, or divided in order to keep the project advancing despite fluctuating funds.

Work Area A - Festival Space and Campground

- Council Ring
- Electrical Connections
- Picnic Tables
- Grills

Work Area B - Wetland Restoration

- Wetland Seeding
- Native Wetland Planting

Work Area C - River Access

- Structured Granular Drive
- Structured Granular Parking
- River Access (Put-in)

Work Area D - Woodland Restoration

- Dredging of Oxbow
- Micro-grading of Vernal Pools
- Raised Walkway
- Native Landscape Planting and Seeding

Work Area E - Research Station

- Research Station
- Seed Money for Initiation and Coordination of Research Projects

Work Area F - Amphitheater

- Amphitheater
- Stage Electrical
- Trail Terraces

Work Area G - Park Pathways

- Concrete Paths
- Structured Granular Paths

Work Area H - Silt Drift Area

- Grain Bin Bird Blind
- Raised Walkway

Work Area I - Natural Playscape

- Natural Playscape
- North River Mock Watershed
- Shelter
- Flood Observation Trenches

Work Area J - Signage and Displays

- Trail Signs
- Interpretive Signs
- Sculpture / Artwork
- Park Entry Sign

Work Area K - River Bank Stabilization

- Stabilization along Cut-banks of the River

Work Area L - Nature Center

- Nature Center Building
- Terrace
- Maintenance Building
- Expanded Parking

Budget

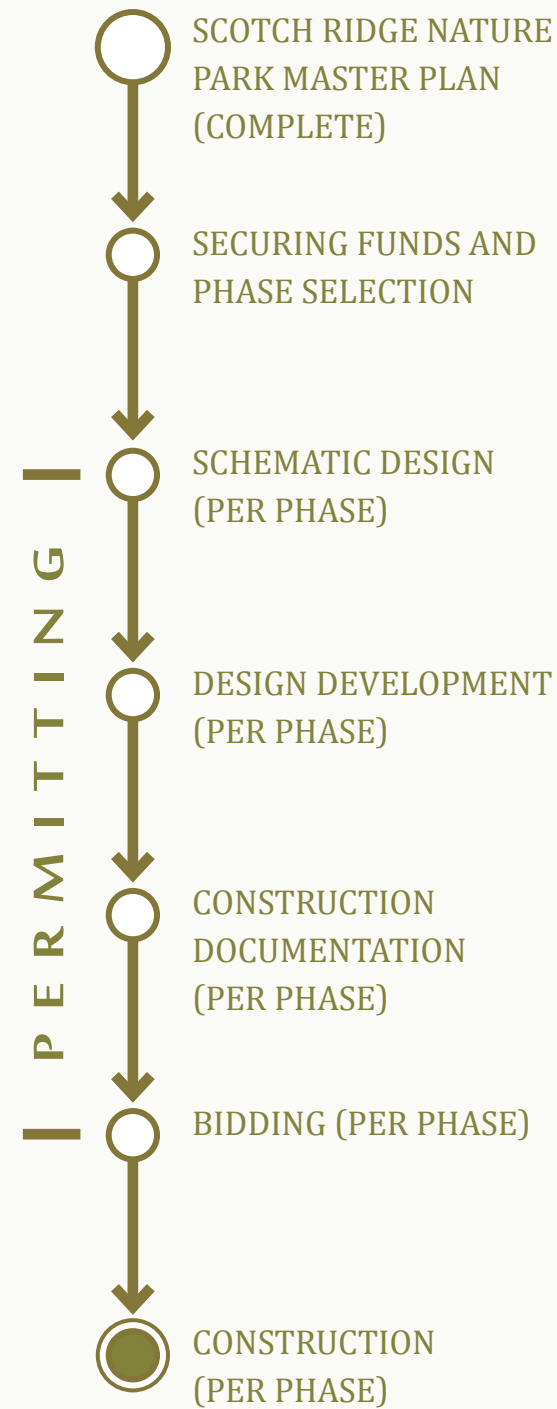
The graph on the following page shows the approximate construction costs for each work area. It is important to note that these costs represent construction costs in 2012 dollars only. Additional budget should be allocated to account for inflation, design fees, permitting, fees and maintenance costs.

Funding

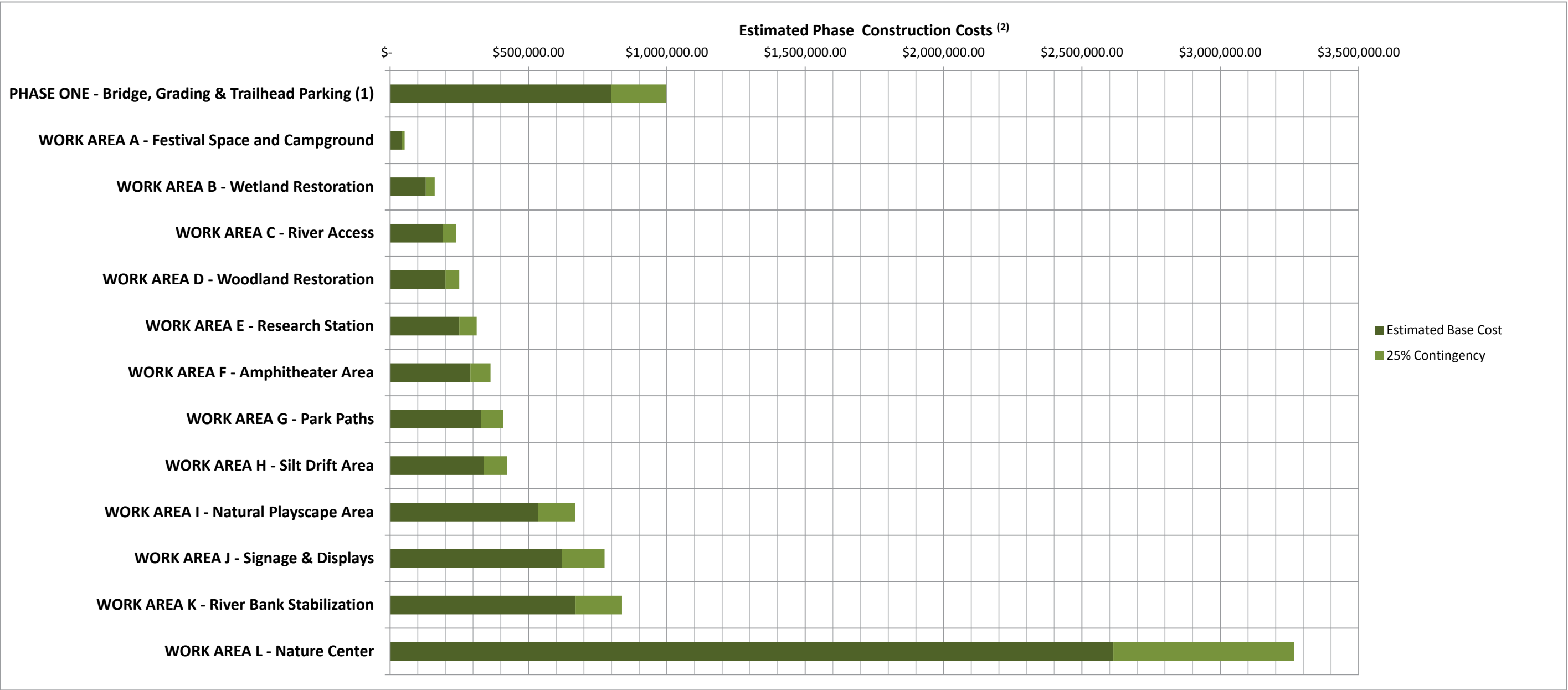
Wherever possible, funding sources should be sought out to keep the momentum of the park moving. The following list outlines some known funding sources and is not meant to be an all-inclusive list:

- Capital Improvements Budget
- Community Attractions and Tourism (CAT)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- Iowa Water Trails Mini Grants
- Low-head Dam Public Hazard Program
- Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)
- Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program
- Iowa Department of Transportation (IADOT)
- Iowa Great Places
- Iowa State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism (RECAT)
- Safe Routes to School
- Trees Forever
- Vision Iowa
- Private Organizations & Donations

DESIGN PROCESS TIMELINE







(1) Phase one costs do not include costs for mass grading, box culvert, or trail construction. These costs are associated with the south trail loop project.

(2) Costs represent 2012 dollars and are construction costs only. They do not include design or permitting costs, which could add 15% to 30% to the construction costs, depending on complexity of the phase.

ESTIMATED MASTER PLAN OPINION OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS



South Loop Trail Costs and Funding

Phase one construction is part of a larger project called the South Loop Trail Project. This project will create a trail extension of the Summerset trail across the south side of Carlisle.

The funds for the South Loop Trail Project have already been secured and the chart to the right shows the breakdown of costs and funding sources.

Construction Cost		
Project	Cost	Percent
Trails and Bridge	\$ 2,108,995	75.35%
Scotch Ridge Nature Park	\$ 689,827	24.65%
Total	\$ 2,798,822	
Project Funding Sources		
Funding Source	Amount	Percent
Federal – IDOT - Earmark	\$1,487,000	53.17%
State of Iowa REAP Grant	\$ 38,000	1.36%
State of Iowa Recreational Trails Grant	\$ 100,000	3.57%
Warren County	\$ 40,000	1.43%
Polk County	\$ 10,000	0.36%
Carlisle Schools – In Kind Construction of Sidewalk	\$ 50,000	1.79%
State of Iowa Vision Iowa Grant	\$ 460,000	16.44%
Iowa Great Places Grant	\$225,000	8.04%
Private Donations	\$ 179,792	6.40%
Warren County Philanthropic Partnership	\$5,000	0.1%
City of Carlisle	\$ 204,030	7.29%
Total	\$ 2,798,822	



Reference Notes

- The Scotch Ridge Nature Park Master Plan was prepared by RDG Planning & Design with assistance from McClure Engineering.
- All images and graphics were prepared by RDG Planning & Design unless noted otherwise.
- Project history adapted from Carlisle Press Release prepared by Neil Ruddy.
- Existing Conditions Graphics and Site Orientation Maps were prepared with GIS information provided by the Natural Resources Geographic Information system Library, developed and maintained by the GIS section of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- Portions of existing conditions text adapted from the 2005 Scotch Ridge Center Master Plan report prepared by Site+ and Conservation Design Forum.
- Trail signs taken from the Communication Master Plan for the Central Trails of Iowa as prepared by Shive-Hattery, Inc, April 27, 2006.

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

meeting minutes

Date:	December 15, 2011	Date of Issuance:	December 21, 2011
Project:	Scotch Ridge Nature Park Master Plan		
Project No.:	2011.569.00	File No.:	0.10.0
Present:	Jeff Schug Neil Ruddy Joanna Stanley Ruth Randleman Denny Woodruff Jack Cooper Rex Fowler Derek Gruss David Kallemyn Eric Iverson Doug Adamson	McClure Engineering City of Carlisle City of Carlisle Carlisle Mayor Carlisle Parks Board SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee RDG Planning & Design RDG Planning & Design	<a href="mailto:jschug@mecresults.com">jschug@mecresults.com</a> <a href="mailto:carlisle@circlecloud.net">carlisle@circlecloud.net</a> <a href="mailto:heyjstanley@gmail.com">heyjstanley@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:ruthrandleman@aol.com">ruthrandleman@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:dwoodruff10@mchsi.com">dwoodruff10@mchsi.com</a> <a href="mailto:jccooper2005@msn.com">jccooper2005@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:wrfowler@mchsi.com">wrfowler@mchsi.com</a> <a href="mailto:grussconstruction@yahoo.com">grussconstruction@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:dhk@dwx.com">dhk@dwx.com</a> <a href="mailto:eiverson@rdgusa.com">eiverson@rdgusa.com</a> <a href="mailto:dadamson@rdgusa.com">dadamson@rdgusa.com</a>
Distribution:	Brady Jackson Alma Reed Lisa Bettis Rand Richardson Sue Boll Tom Williams Robert Fleming Scott Crawford	SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee RDG Planning & Design	<a href="mailto:brady80@msn.com">brady80@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:germany1994@aol.com">germany1994@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:l.bettis@hotmail.com">l.bettis@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:randthelandman@hotmail.com">randthelandman@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:sueboll@gmail.com">sueboll@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:tmjwilliams4703@hotmail.com">tmjwilliams4703@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:rfleming@mac.com">rfleming@mac.com</a> <a href="mailto:scrawford@rdgusa.com">scrawford@rdgusa.com</a>

Comments, additions, or corrections to this memo should be communicated in writing to RDG Planning & Design within seven (7) days of issuance. If no comments are received within that period, this memo will be assumed accurate and filed as a part of the permanent record for this project.

Discussion:

1. Introductions.
  - a. Steering Committee members in attendance introduced themselves and provided brief person background information.
  - b. Consultant Team Introductions & Roles:
    - i. Doug Adamson, RDG Planning & Design Project Landscape Architect
    - ii. Eric Iverson, RDG Planning & Design Project Manager
    - iii. Scott Crawford, RDG Planning & Design Partner in Charge
    - iv. Jeff Schug, McClure Engineering, Project Manager
    - v. Structural Engineer, TBD.
2. Review scope and process for Master Plan project.
  - a. The master plan will follow the following process:
    - i. Inventory opportunities and challenges,
    - ii. Engage public,
    - iii. Identify program,
    - iv. Develop master plan,
    - v. Establish a budget estimate,





- vi. And create phasing priorities.
  - b. Once the master plan is complete detailed design, bidding, and construction of first phase of the project will commence.
  - c. The trail and the bridge will be the first piece of construction through the site.
  - d. It was asked if as part of the process if RDG could provide council on the Fleming and Warren properties from a park design standpoint.
  - e. The project schedule was reviewed and can be viewed in the attached PDF of the presentation.
  - f. US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Involvement
    - i. City is concerned about time allotted to USACE review as they have had a couple of recent projects delayed by the review process.
    - ii. A three year contract was negotiated with Vision Iowa as opposed to the usual two year contract to allow for the permitting process.
    - iii. McClure has contacts in the Rock Island District office that should be communicated with in lieu of Red Rock contact.
    - iv. Midway through master plan process a meeting with the USACE Rock Island contact should be held to identify USACOE concerns early on in the process.
3. Discuss previous planning efforts.
- a. Reviewed Scotch Ridge Center Master Plan and Vision Iowa Trails Plan.
  - b. Reviewed 2005 Master Plan
    - i. The goals, inventory and analysis should be reviewed by the Steering Committee to see what is still relevant today.
    - ii. RDG to email 2005 plan to the Steering Committee so they can review the document and comment on applicability of goals.
4. Preview existing site conditions.
- a. Reviewed the following mapping from the Iowa DNR / NRCS
    - i. 2011 Site Aerial
    - ii. LiDAR 2' Contours
    - iii. FEMA Flood Plains
    - iv. Site Soils
    - v. National Wetland Inventory of Possible Wetlands
  - b. McClure will provide a topographic survey of the site.
  - c. Other site observations
    - i. A significant amount of waters comes from the HWY 5/65 Bypass interchange.
    - ii. The Kenebeck and Nodaway have a high corn suitability rating.
    - iii. A modest increase in soil organic matter content can dramatically increase soil water holding capacity.
    - iv. A group was interested in the site at one time to operate a gravel pit. They performed borings which identified a gravel layer about 10' below the surface.
    - v. Wetlands exist on the site. McClure will provide mapping of delineated wetlands.
    - vi. Reed Canary grass is a problem that will need to be managed at the site.
5. Identify adjacent land use opportunities and trail connections.
- a. Warren and Fleming Properties
    - i. Trail alignment to follow a contour line about 15 to 20 feet inside the tree line.
    - ii. Finger of crop land on the Warren property is not very productive on the north end. Deer heavily feed on the corn in this area.
  - b. USACE Land to the west of the site.
    - i. Opportunities to add trails or try innovative cropping techniques.
    - ii. Land is open to hunting. Would addition of trails restrict hunting?

- iii. Trails at Lake Red Rock are closed during hunting season. A similar approach may be applicable for this site.
  - c. Trail Connections
  - d. Bridge crossing approximately 90 feet to 100 feet.
  - e. Bridge width and or bump-outs should be explored to allow for fishing and observing the river.
  - f. River banks are highly erodible. There was a large tree wash-out In the area of the proposed bridge crossing.
  - g. A hydrologic study will need to be done for the bridge crossing.
  - h. Bridge would be visible from the highway.
6. Establish priorities for future development of the Park.
- a. Goals and Objectives
    - i. Demonstration site for other areas of the Bypass
    - ii. Conservation measures to reduce runoff
    - iii. Fleming Property might be spot for some demonstration sites.
    - iv. Warren County has developed a plan to create a watershed authority. Would only require around 7,000 to 8,000 dollars for administrative costs to crate. Once created the authority would to eligible for funding for watershed management projects. The authority would not be a taxing body.
    - v. The City of Des Moines is looking at a model natural resource utility as part of the waterworks park project. RDG to review.
  - b. Potential Partners / User Groups
    - i. Simpson College
    - ii. DMACC
    - iii. ISU Extension
    - iv. Drake University
    - v. Corporate Partners such as General Mills and Healthcare companies
  - c. Possible Program Elements
    - i. Education
    - ii. Recreation
    - iii. Water Trail from SRNP to North Park
    - iv. Natural Playground. RDG to bring images from Jester Park to next meeting.
    - v. Grant bridge location.
  - d. RDG to forward categories to steering committee members and ask what is missing from list.
7. Next Steps.
- a. January 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm Steering Committee Meeting #2
  - b. February 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Sessions.
    - i. Steering Committee and RDG to review what groups should be in attendance.
    - ii. Need to advertise the public session in advance of the meeting.

**8. ACTION ITEM SUMMARY**

- a. **Steering Committee Action Items**
  - i. **Review and Comment on applicability of goals from the 2005 Master Plan prior to steering committee meeting #2**
  - ii. **Think about goals, objectives, potential partners, users groups, and program elements prior to steering committee meeting #2.**
  - iii. **Identify parties to be included in the public sessions by December 30<sup>th</sup>.**
- b. **RDG Action Items**
  - i. **Forward 2005 Master Plan to steering committee.**
  - ii. **Bring Jester Park Natural Playscape Images to the next meeting.**
  - iii. **Talk to other RDG staff about natural resource utility for Waterworks Park.**
  - iv. **Assist Steering Committing in identifying parties to be included the public sessions.**
  - v. **Coordinate advertisement for public sessions.**





meeting minutes

Date:	January 26, 2012	Date of Issuance:	February 7, 2012
Project:	Scotch Ridge Nature Park Master Plan		
Project No.:	2011.569.00	File No.:	0.10.0
Present:	Jeff Schug Neil Ruddy Joanna Stanley Ruth Randleman Denny Woodruff Rex Fowler Lisa Bettis Mike Kinter Eric Iverson Doug Adamson	McClure Engineering City of Carlisle City of Carlisle Carlisle Mayor Carlisle Parks Board SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee RDG Planning & Design RDG Planning & Design	<a href="mailto:jschug@mecresults.com">jschug@mecresults.com</a> <a href="mailto:carlisle@circlecloud.net">carlisle@circlecloud.net</a> <a href="mailto:heyistanley@gmail.com">heyistanley@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:ruthandleman@aol.com">ruthandleman@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:dwoodruff10@mchsi.com">dwoodruff10@mchsi.com</a> <a href="mailto:wrfowler@mchsi.com">wrfowler@mchsi.com</a> <a href="mailto:l.bettis@hotmail.com">l.bettis@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:mike@kinterconstruction.com">mike@kinterconstruction.com</a> <a href="mailto:eiverson@rdgusa.com">eiverson@rdgusa.com</a> <a href="mailto:dadamson@rdgusa.com">dadamson@rdgusa.com</a>
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Discussion:

- Steering committee meeting #1 minutes – additions or corrections?
  - A couple of the Steering Committee members did not receive the meeting minutes. RDG to verify email addresses and resend.
  - No corrections were requested.
- Update on site survey and trails
  - McClure is currently working on survey and hopes to have a draft next week.
  - McClure has located the files of the previous planning studies and permits and have found the delineated wetlands files.
  - The survey crew will begin with the SRNP site.
  - The survey will be referenced to USACE benchmarks and datum, rather than Carlisle benchmarks.
- Formulate project vision.
  - The Steering Committee discussed the project vision and the following categorizations represent the discussion.
    - Place for demonstration and education
      - Flood mitigation.

- Sustainable agriculture – might be more suitable on the Fleming Property.
- Opportunities for recreation and exploration
- Provide a variety of opportunities
- Showcase the ecosystems on the site.
  - Ecosystems based on soil types or transects.
  - 5 ecosystems including the Fleming Property.
- Celebrate the history of the site
  - Woodland Cultures.
  - Mill
  - River Crossing, Ford
  - Clay pits
  - Possible cannon on well
  - Historical society could do research on the site.
  - Bill Schooler, Sr. has cemetery records. RDG to inquire about how to get those records from Bill Sr.
- Provide a regional destination to attract all generations.
- Foster partnerships
  - Warren County
  - Polk County
  - Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
  - Wallace House
  - State Parks (Banner State Park)
  - Bike groups
  - Geo caching groups
  - Scouts
  - Etc.
- Based on the discussion, a draft vision might be:

“The Scotch Ridge Nature Park is a regional destination with the goal of educating the public about the ecological, cultural, and historic uniqueness of the site through interpretive demonstrations and exhibits, while providing opportunities for recreation and exploration for people of all ages. Through fostering partnerships with local, regional, and state agencies and organizations, the park further strives to become a research laboratory, community center, and outdoor wellness facility whose benefits will provide positive impacts beyond the individual users of the park.”
- Models for the site might be:
  - White Rock Conservancy
  - Jester Park
  - Red Rock Amphitheater in Colorado
- Discuss project goals.
  - While the vision creates an overarching statement about what the site should be project goals are more targeted and specific statements, used to reinforce and achieve the project vision. The Steering Committee began the process by writing down 5 goals for the project. The goals were then recorded and discussed. The following is a summary of those goals.
    - Education opp. For youth, ID plants, trees soil types, water sampling, Iowa water sampling. Geological Survey
    - Educational for plantings to go beyond what’s there, get back to nature. Observe Nature, wildlife, seasons, various times of year.
    - Place for school, community groups, and family recreation. District scouts camp–out.
    - Get people outside and to be more active.
    - Increased opportunities for wellness and fitness.
    - Destination feature in the park (like high trestle trail.)
    - Shelter/picnic shelter,





- viii. Berm for Noise Mitigation from Highway
  - ix. Outdoor events / shows
  - x. Historic Construction Equipment Org.
  - xi. Dog Park – Water Feature for Dogs?
  - xii. Demonstration for controlling water runoff
  - xiii. Sustainable, no till farming, crop rotation to prevent runoff
  - xiv. Rare plant preservation.
  - xv. Uniqueness of bluff, overlook
  - xvi. Chert source?
  - xvii. Bring people to community, regional attraction
  - xviii. Carlisle original historical events, groups
  - xix. Shared recreational programming
  - xx. Primitive campgrounds
  - xxi. Make it main trail head for Summerset Trail
  - xxii. Water trail head to north park and points further east/west.
  - xxiii. Equestrian trails could be 10' graded grass area adjacent to paved trail. May not be enough trail distance on SRNP site
- b. Goals from the 2005 Master Plan were reviewed and discussed. The following is a summary of those goals and discussion.
- i. Preservation of animals
  - ii. First impression of Carlisle [gateway]
  - iii. Self sustaining site, "Fund Itself," no tax money
  - iv. Lots of opportunity for human interaction
  - v. Carlisle specific, only place on earth like this
  - vi. Establish wetland accessible to the public education and enjoyment
  - vii. Exposure to history and heritage
  - viii. Palate of materials (acceptable attractive, appealing)
  - ix. Dialogue with neighbors in 250,000AC watershed.
  - x. INHF affiliation
  - xi. Bridge over river
  - xii. Generations – efforts of today give something to the future
  - xiii. Interconnectivity to community
  - xiv. Conference center – Corporate retreat, perhaps more apt on Fleming Property.
  - xv. Connectivity to other transects
5. Steering committee priorities for future development of the park.
- a. The Steering Committee was asked to rank the priorities of five categories of goals, including Environmental, Education, Recreation, Nexus, Other from 1 to 5 with 5 being most important and 1 being least important. The following is the results from the ranking exercise:
    - i. Recreation scored a total of 32 out of a possible 40 points.
    - ii. Education scored a total of 27 out of a possible 40 points.
    - iii. Nexus scored a total of 27 out of a possible 40 points.
    - iv. Environmental scored a 22 out of a possible 40 points.
    - v. Other included the site as a destination, and permanent shelter or fire pit.
  - b. It was discussed that ranking the above categories was difficult because certain members of the public might have different goals or perspectives. With all of the categories scoring higher than 50% of their possible points, it is clear all the categories are important to those in attendance.
6. Review site development opportunities.
- a. The design team reviewed the site development opportunities based on existing site features. Refer to the attached slide for a description of those opportunities.

7. Discuss February 9th public session.
- a. Format for the public session will be an open house from 7:00 to 7:30pm, a presentation from 7:30 to 8:00pm, and a open house from 8:00 to 8:30pm. This will allow people to come early or late and still see the presentation.
  - b. The agenda for the presentation is as follows:
    - i. Introduction – City
    - ii. Donor Thank You – City
    - iii. Project Background – City/McClure/RDG
    - iv. Vision Iowa Grant – McClure
    - v. South Trail Loop – McClure
    - vi. SRNP Vision, Goals, & Priorities – RDG
    - vii. SRNP Preliminary Analysis – RDG
    - viii. Schedule – RDG / McClure
    - ix. Solicitation of Input – RDG
  - c. Boards with maps and images of the bridge will be placed around the room for review during the open house.
8. Next Steps.
- a. Public Session #1 – February 9<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Steering Committee Meeting #3 – February 23rd

9. ACTION ITEM SUMMARY
- a. **Steering Committee Action Items**
    - i. **Coordinate invitations and notices for the public meeting.**
  - b. **RDG Action Items**
    - i. **Prepare for presentation and exhibits for public meeting.**
    - ii. **Resend Steering Committee Meeting #1 meeting minutes.**





meeting minutes

<b>Date:</b>	February 23, 2012	<b>Date of Issuance:</b>	March 1, 2012
<b>Project:</b>	<b>Scotch Ridge Nature Park Master Plan</b>		
<b>Project No.:</b>	<b>2011.569.00</b>	<b>File No.:</b>	0.10.0
<b>Present:</b>	Jeff Schug Neil Ruddy Joanna Stanley Ruth Randleman Denny Woodruff Rex Fowler Lisa Bettis Tom Williams Derek Gruss David Kallemyn Eric Iverson Doug Adamson	McClure Engineering City of Carlisle City of Carlisle Carlisle Mayor Carlisle Parks Board SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee RDG Planning & Design RDG Planning & Design	<a href="mailto:jschug@mecresults.com">jschug@mecresults.com</a> <a href="mailto:carlisle@circlecloud.net">carlisle@circlecloud.net</a> <a href="mailto:heyjstanley@gmail.com">heyjstanley@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:ruthrandleman@aol.com">ruthrandleman@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:dwoodruff10@mchsi.com">dwoodruff10@mchsi.com</a> <a href="mailto:wrfowler@mchsi.com">wrfowler@mchsi.com</a> <a href="mailto:l.bettis@hotmail.com">l.bettis@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:tmjwilliams4703@hotmail.com">tmjwilliams4703@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:grussconstruction@yahoo.com">grussconstruction@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:dhk@dwx.com">dhk@dwx.com</a> <a href="mailto:eiverson@rdgusa.com">eiverson@rdgusa.com</a> <a href="mailto:dadamson@rdgusa.com">dadamson@rdgusa.com</a>
<b>Distribution:</b>	Brady Jackson Jack Cooper Alma Reed Mike Kinter Rand Richardson Sue Boll Robert Fleming Scott Crawford	SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee RDG Planning & Design	<a href="mailto:brady80@msn.com">brady80@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:jccooper2005@msn.com">jccooper2005@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:germany1994@aol.com">germany1994@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:mike@kinterconstruction.com">mike@kinterconstruction.com</a> <a href="mailto:randthelandman@yahoo.com">randthelandman@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:sueboll@gmail.com">sueboll@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:rjfleming@mac.com">rjfleming@mac.com</a> <a href="mailto:scrawford@rdgusa.com">scrawford@rdgusa.com</a>

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Discussion:

- Steering committee meeting #2 minutes – additions or corrections?
  - No corrections were requested.
- Update on site survey and trails
  - Survey is complete to Scotch Ridge Drive.
  - Working on finishing survey from Scotch Ridge Drive to Aquatic Center.
- Download from Public Open House.
  - 50 plus people attended.
  - 34 people signed in.
    - Comments heard by Steering Committee Members:
      - Felt many walked away with a better understanding of the project.
      - Spoke with Paula Sampson about the trail alignment through the Warren Property.
      - Historically people have thought the North River is basically a drainage ditch. Struggle to overcome this thinking.
      - There was concern about flooding of the trails and the maintenance per mile due to flooding.

- The question was raised if the trail through the Danamere area is a designated route to school, who is responsible for clearing the trail by 8:00am everyday in the winter?
  - Some were surprised how little City money was used for the trail.
- Discuss Survey Results.
    - 13 surveys were received.
    - RDG will send survey to steering committee members and to Neil to keep copies at the City to see if we can get more responses.
    - Survey analysis can be viewed in the presentation.
  - Review and Finalize Program
    - The steering committee members had the following comments regarding program elements:
      - Eliminate ATV Course
      - Consider a dog park
        - Aquatic center has been proposed as a dog park location.
        - SRNP would be a location where you could walk a dog.
        - A fenced-in off-leash area would be preferred. Fence could be considered a vertical obstruction in the SRNP.
        - Park board to review the location.
      - Need to add partnering with programming already out there.
      - Tie into USACE land including monarch area.
      - Include ranger demonstrations.
      - Include river trail as both a place to go down stream and up stream.
      - Restore natural oxbow, historic part of the park. When the oxbow is filled with water there are several ducks, geese and blue heron in the oxbow. There is a nice oxbow by the Cownie Soccer Complex.
      - Add a bird watching blind.
  - Preview Program Relationship Concepts
    - RDG reviewed inspiration for concept development, relationships of program elements, and an overall concept for the park development. The following are comments generated by this concept.
      - Could make grain bin a sign with a mural.
      - There is sanitary and water service for restrooms at the NW corner of the site.
      - The line of cottonwoods near the highway has a spring that keeps that area wet.
      - Could create possible legends about the park.
      - Trail could be graded level so it is out of the 100 year flood plain. Box culverts could be placed to allow water to go under the trail. Culverts could also be used to allow for pedestrian passage below the trail.
      - Maintain park access during flooding.
      - Consider vehicle access to the river and small parking area for outfitter.
      - There is river access at the Roseman Bridge on the Middle River.
      - What should the name of the trail be? Should it be considered an extension of the Summerset Trail?
      - There are new historical markers at the summerset trail head in Carlisle and Indianola.
  - Next Steps.
    - Steering Committee Meeting #4 – March 22nd
    - Public Session #2 – April 24<sup>th</sup>

END OF MEETING MINUTES





meeting minutes

<b>Date:</b>	March 22, 2012	<b>Date of Issuance:</b>	March 29, 2012
<b>Project:</b>	Scotch Ridge Nature Park Master Plan		
<b>Project No.:</b>	2011.569.00	<b>File No.:</b>	0.10.0
<b>Present:</b>	Neil Ruddy Joanna Stanley Phil Crippen Ruth Randleman Denny Woodruff Roz Lehman Tyler Stanley Lisa Bettis Tom Williams Derek Gruss Eric Iverson Doug Adamson	City of Carlisle City of Carlisle City of Carlisle Carlisle Mayor Carlisle Parks Board Iowa Rivers Revival SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee SRNP Steering Committee RDG Planning & Design RDG Planning & Design	<a href="mailto:carlisle@circlecloud.net">carlisle@circlecloud.net</a> <a href="mailto:heyjstanley@gmail.com">heyjstanley@gmail.com</a>  <a href="mailto:ruthandleman@aol.com">ruthandleman@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:dwoodruff10@mchsi.com">dwoodruff10@mchsi.com</a> <a href="mailto:rlehman@iowarivers.org">rlehman@iowarivers.org</a>  <a href="mailto:l.bettis@hotmail.com">l.bettis@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:tmjwilliams4703@hotmail.com">tmjwilliams4703@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:grussconstruction@yahoo.com">grussconstruction@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:eiverson@rdgusa.com">eiverson@rdgusa.com</a> <a href="mailto:dadamson@rdgusa.com">dadamson@rdgusa.com</a>
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Discussion:

- Steering committee meeting #3 minutes – additions or corrections?
  - No corrections were requested.
- Update on trails
  - No update on trails as Jeff Schug was on vacation.
  - There was a question why trees had been marked with paint. RDG to discuss with McClure.
  - There was another question regarding use of the Central Iowa Trails signs along the trail. The City has authority to use the signs.
- Plan public open house #2 on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Open house will be at 7:00pm to 8:30pm
  - Format will start with a presentation at 7:00pm with time for questions afterwards.
  - One notice with time and date has been already published.

- Another notice should be submitted to the Carlisle and Indianola papers by April 6<sup>th</sup> to be published April 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Steering committee will meet at 5:30pm before open house to review final master plan.
- Review master plan concept imagery
  - Reviewed concept plan presented at last meeting.
  - Images from other projects were shared to convey the look and feel of the program elements.
  - A preliminary computer model was presented to illustrate how flooding would impact the site.
  - Steering committee comments:
    - South portion of parking lot could be paved and treated with bio retention areas. The north part of parking area could use Grasspave<sup>2</sup>, Gravelpave<sup>2</sup>, Lone Star Grid<sup>TM</sup> or other permeable pavement products.
    - Need to locate natural playscape, possibly closer to parking area.
    - Vehicle access to river is needed for drop-off and pick-up of canoes.
    - Local business might be interested in being an outfitter for the park.
    - RDG to review ADA access to amphitheater.
    - Oxbow has likely silted in and needs restoration.
    - Park should be dog friendly, but not contain a off-leash area.
    - Lighting for bridge could be solar powered.
    - Discuss Coal Creek (Grant) bridge location. (Note: It was discovered following the meeting that the Coal Creek Bridge has collapsed into the creek. Additional assessment is needed if it is salvageable).
- Review material vocabulary
  - Natural materials will be used such as:
    - Native plants
    - Turf grass
    - Concrete (or asphalt as a bid alternate for trails)
    - Weathering steel
    - Galvanized steel
    - Wood
    - Stone
- Discuss final deliverable document
  - Previewed table of contents for the document.
  - RDG will continue to refine document
  - Project phasing and budget.
    - Phase one will include the trail, bridge, and mass grading. Possibly more, if budget allows.
    - Subsequent phases will be non-sequential and could be implemented as funding allows.
    - City has not yet allotted funding for the park in the capital improvements budget.
- Next Steps.
  - Steering Committee Meeting – April 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm
    - Meeting to review the final deliverable document, phasing, and budget.
  - Public Session #2 – April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm to 8:30pm
    - Presentation at 7:00pm
    - Questions from 7:30 to 8:30pm
  - Ideally the park board would attend the meeting in order to make a recommendation to City Council to adopt the master plan.

END OF MEETING MINUTES

