

VETERANS LEGACY WOODS

MASTERPLAN

SPRING - 2020

VETERANS LEGACY WOODS

14085 Ravenna Road
Newbury Township
Ohio 44065

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

9160 Robinson Road
Chardon Township
Ohio 44024

*Prepared & Designed By :
GPD Planning Department
A.Lynch & D.McConnaughy*

**FACTS**

- Purchased 2018
- 180 acres
- Newbury/Burton
- Approx. 35,000 people within 7 mile or 15 minute drive.

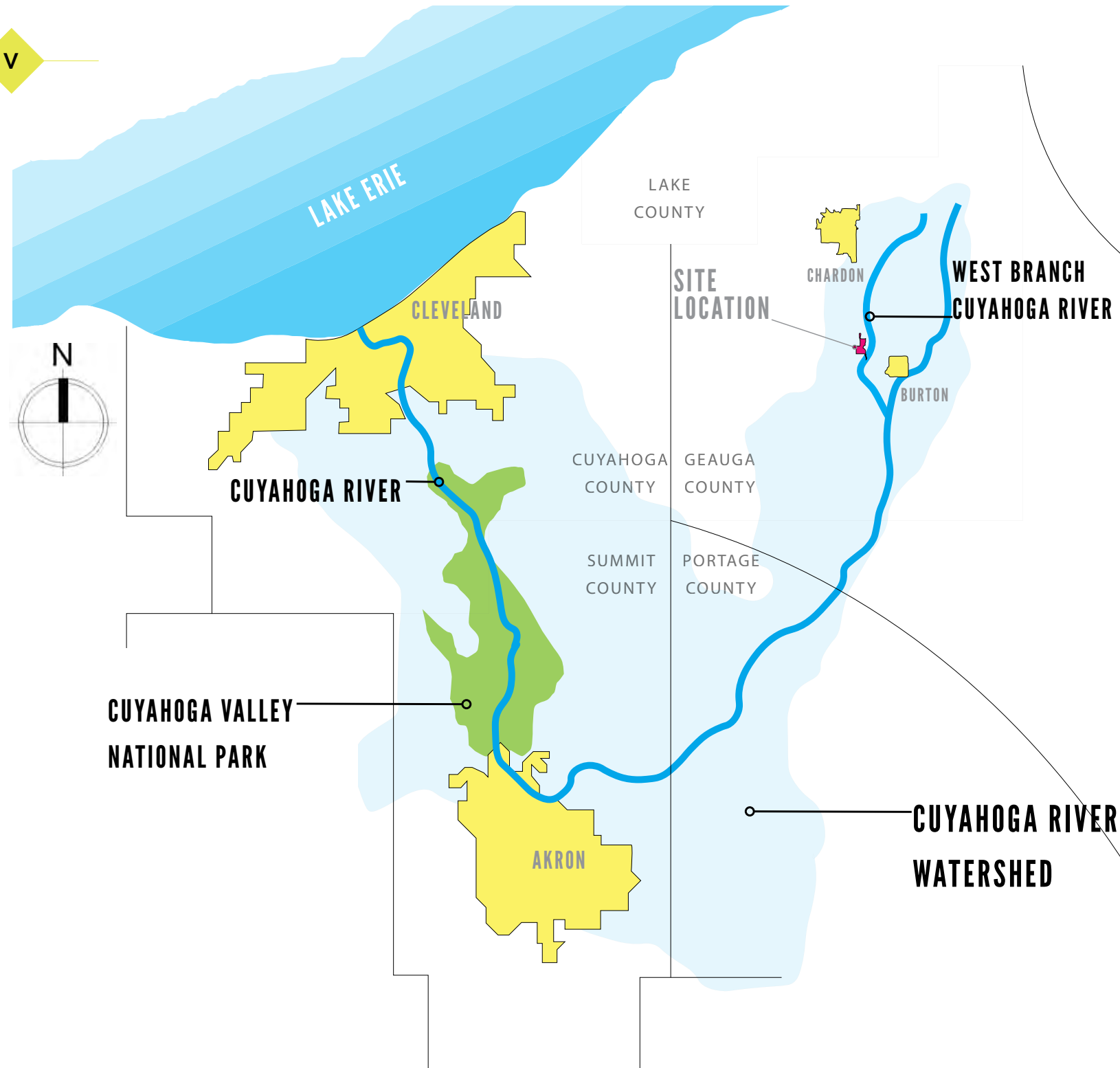
VETERANS LEGACY WOODS

GENERAL INFORMATION

This former golf course , built in the late 1980's and the early 1990's, consists of mostly manicured turf grass habitat with much of the remaining land cover being split between upland forests and wetland forest habitats. This 180-acre park, formerly Wicked Woods Golf Course, was purchased by Geauga Park District in November 2018 with the intent of restoring these lands to a more natural state.

Veterans Legacy Woods is surrounded by mostly rural properties and the site offers a wide variety of habitats which are rich in biological diversity.

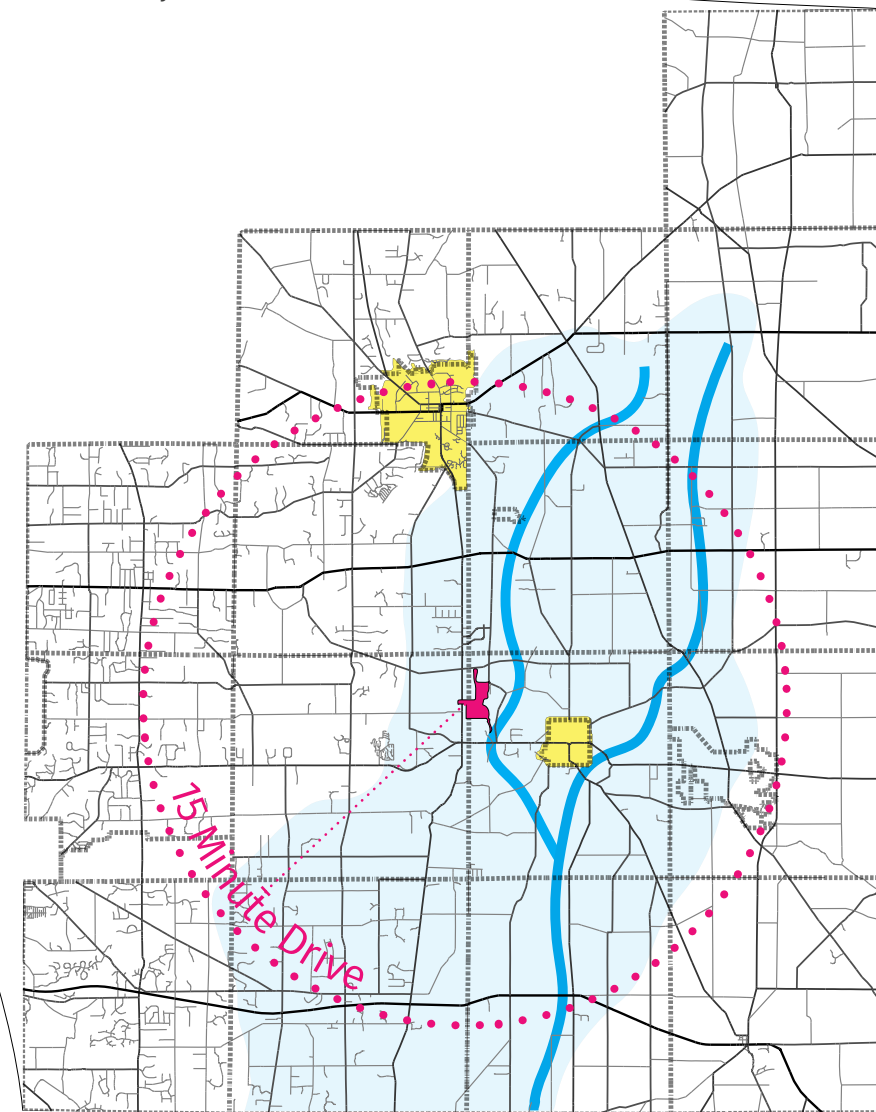




The Cuyahoga watershed begins its 100-mile journey in Hambden, Ohio, flowing southward to the confluence of the East Branch Cuyahoga River and West Branch Cuyahoga River in Burton, where the Cuyahoga River officially begins. It continues on its 84.9 miles journey flowing southward to Akron, where it turns sharply north and flows through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in northern Summit County and southern Cuyahoga County. It then flows through Independence, Valley View, Cuyahoga Heights, Newburgh Heights and Cleveland to its northern terminus, emptying into Lake Erie. The Cuyahoga River and its tributaries drain 813 square miles of land in portions of six counties.

LOCATION

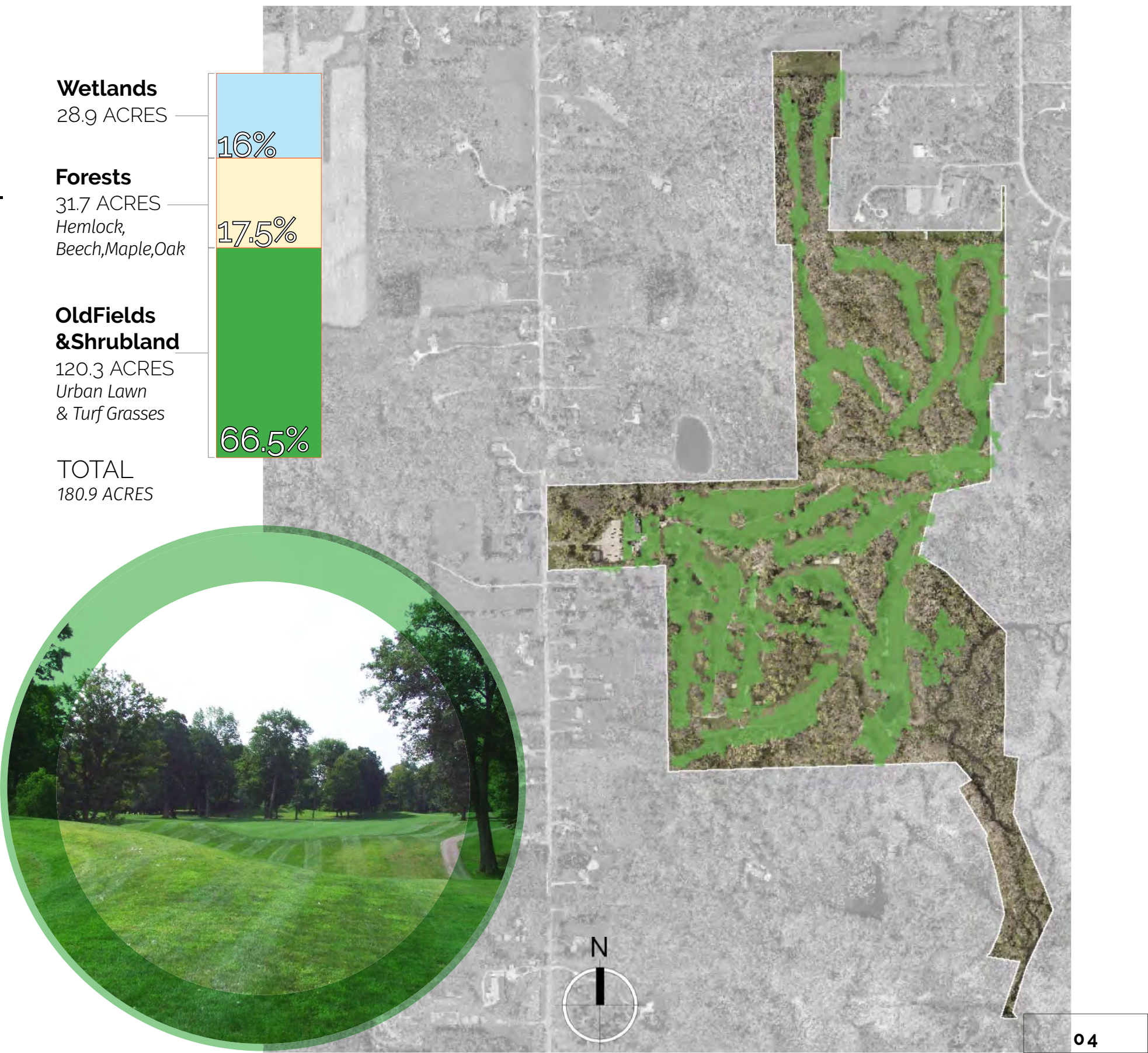
Veterans Legacy Woods is located towards the geographic center of Geauga County straddling both Newbury Township and Burton Township. The main stem of the West Branch of the Cuyahoga River runs directly through this property for about 3,782 feet. This section of the Cuyahoga River is a high quality stream system rich in both aquatic flora and fauna and an important contributor to the region's biodiversity. Located between SR 87 and Butternut Road. Veterans Legacy Woods is located within a 15 minute drive of 35,000 Geauga County residents.



EXISTING CONDITIONS- SITE

Old Fields & Shrub-land- *Turf*
grasses, roughs, and old field/meadow
habitat was the most common habitat
found on this property. These areas
would be important potential areas for
meadows restoration and reforestation.

Some areas of VLW are already showing
signs of natural succession from mowed
fairways/roughs to young meadows/
forest communities. These areas of
“edge” and forest under story habitat
would be priority starting points for refo-
restation of the property.



EXISTING CONDITIONS- SITE

Forests- *A moderate portion of this property is comprised of young to mid-successional mixed beech/maple and oak/hickory forest while the floodplains around the Cuyahoga River consist primarily of swamp forest*

. Some areas were timbered very recently and most of the larger trees were harvested. A few nice large trees still remain while the rest of the forest is comprised of mainly beech, cherry, and maple. Remnants (tree stumps and small forest canopy gaps) of the logging were still noticeable in certain areas. Some of the forested areas that separate the fairways still have a moderately diverse composition of trees, under story shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation.

Wetlands
28.9 ACRES

16%

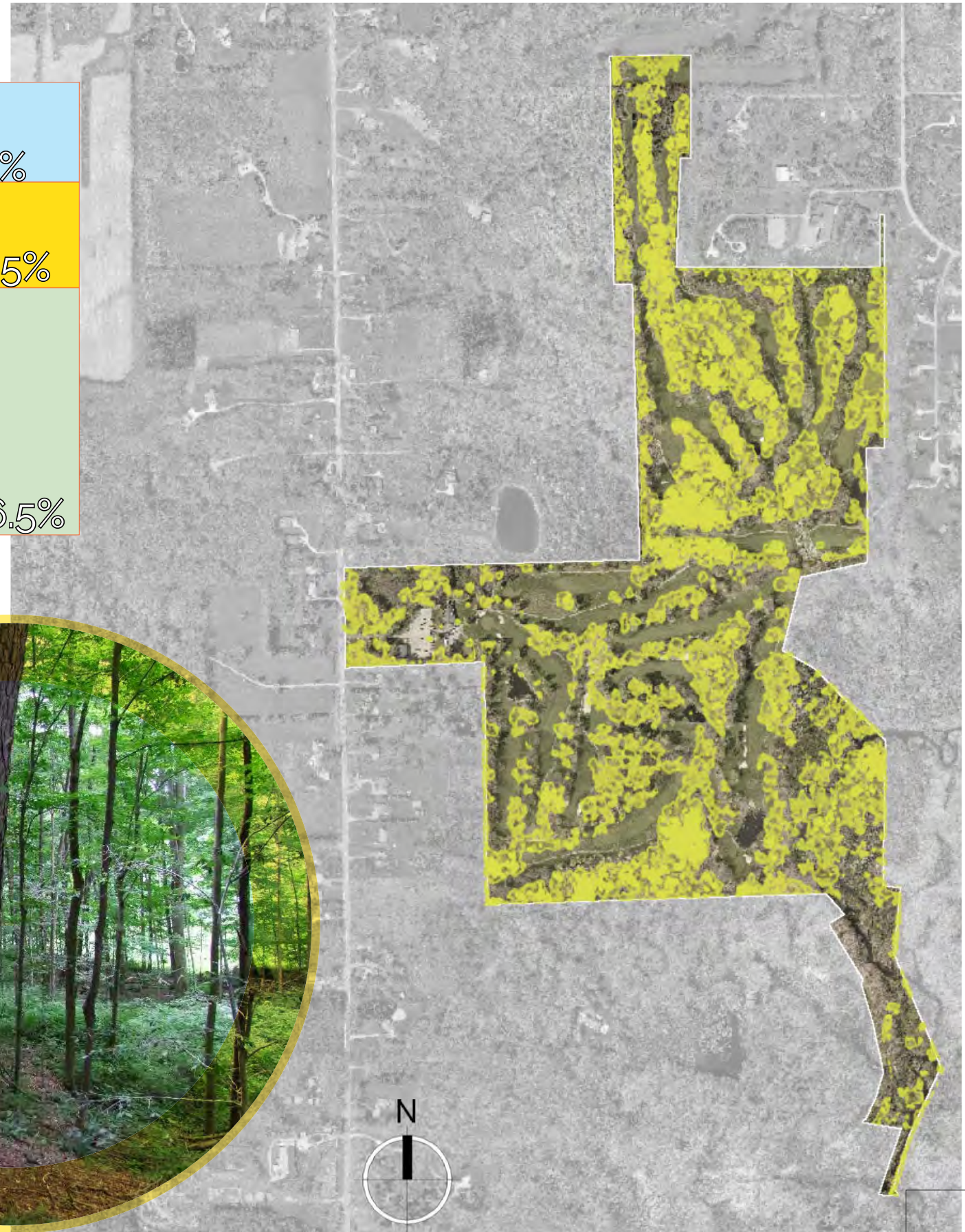
Forests
31.7 ACRES
*Hemlock,
Beech, Maple, Oak*

17.5%

**Old Fields
& Shrubland**
120.3 ACRES
*Urban Lawn
& Turf Grasses*

66.5%

TOTAL
180.9 ACRES



EXISTING CONDITIONS- SITE

Wetlands - *The streams and wetlands on this property were the most ecologically important features documented and consist of the following:*

Wetlands were the third most dominant natural resource found on the property. A total of 17 were identified as of June 2019. The majority of wetland acreage being Category 3 swamp forest according to Ohio EPA standards. The most significant wetland on-site is a unique fen which harbors rare plant species. Swamp forested wetlands are also very important at VLW because they often harbor important breeding pools for sensitive woodland amphibians and also provide habitat for uncommon birds. These very high quality riparian wetlands were mainly found along the Cuyahoga River.

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EXISTING FACILITIES

The former golf course clubhouse, maintenance building and golf cart storage structure are the only buildings that were on the property when purchased by Geauga Park District. Other small structure such as gazebos and rain shelters are located throughout the park in various locations.



FORMER CLUBHOUSE - FRONT



FORMER CLUBHOUSE - REAR



GOLF CART STORAGE



MAINTENANCE BUILDING

THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN GEAUGA COUNTY IS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER AND OPEN SPACE. VETERANS LEGACY WOODS MASTER PLAN AIMS TO EXPAND ON THE PARK DISTRICTS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, PATRON ACCOMMODATIONS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, WHILE ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE.

V

VETERANS LEGACY WOODS

PHASE 1
**CORE PARK
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

PHASE 2
**PRIMARY RESTORATION
PROJECTS**

PHASE 3
FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

NRM FACILITY
ENHANCEMENTS

GREEN
INFRASTRUCTURE

MEMORIAL PLAZAS

CLUBHOUSE AREA
CONVERSION

REFORESTATION OF
GREENS AND FAIRWAYS

NATIVE MEADOW &
EDUCATION NODES

ACCESSIBLE
TRAIL LOOP

DAYLIGHT STREAMS

TRAIL EXPANSION

REFORESTATION OF
GREENS AND FAIRWAYS

TRAIL EXPANSION

REFORESTATION OF
GREENS AND FAIRWAYS

WETLAND
RESTORATION

WETLAND & STREAM
EDUCATION ELEMENTS

DAYLIGHT STREAMS

RESTORATION
PROJECTS

N

STREAM
RESTORATION

COLDWATER HABITAT
RESTORATION

THE MASTER PLAN WILL BE IMPLEMENTED
IN THREE PHASES OVER SEVERAL YEARS.
NEW DEVELOPMENT DEFINED BY THE
MASTER PLAN IS CONCENTRATED WITHIN
ALREADY DISTURBED AREAS, PRESERVING
CORE HABITAT IN THE PARK'S NATURAL
AREAS. THIS PLAN IS ROOTED IN THREE
KEY ELEMENTS -

RESTORATION, EDUCATION AND PATRON
EXPERIENCE.




VETERANS LEGACY WOODS

MASTER PLAN



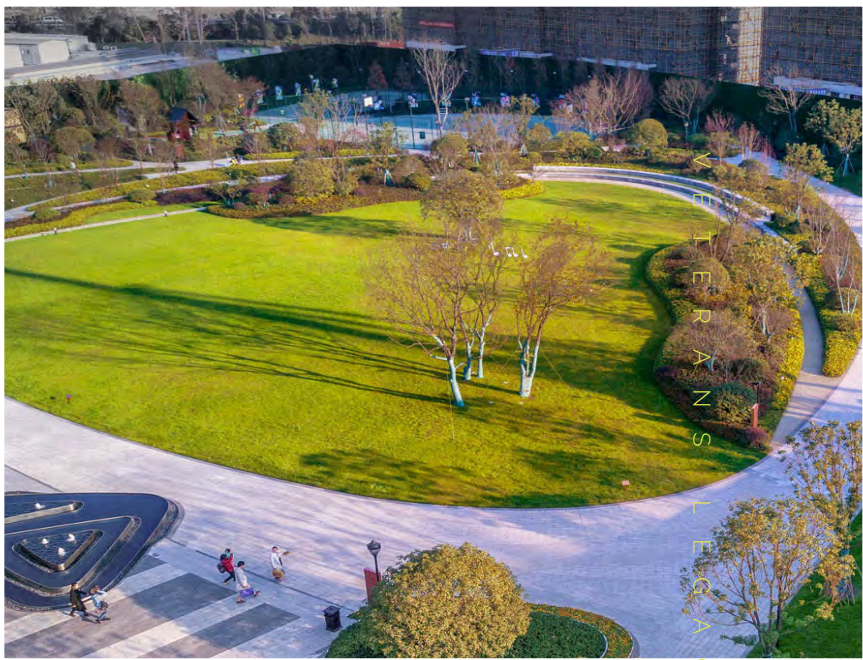


LEGEND

-  Existing Trail
- 4.5 miles
-  Phase 1 Trails
- .6 miles
-  Phase 3 Trail System
- 1.9 miles

VETERANS LEGACY WOODS CONTAINS OVER (4) MILES OF ASPHALT CART PATH. THESE ARE REMNANTS OF THE FORMER WICKED WOODS GOLF COURSE. MUCH OF THIS EXISTING TRAIL SYSTEM IS IN VARYING DEGREES OF DECAY, USEFULNESS AND LEVELS APPROPRIATENESS FOR PARK USE. PHASE (1) OF THIS MASTER PLAN WILL ADDRESS THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF TRAILS LOCATED NEAR THE FORMER CLUBHOUSE AND THE ADDITION OF ADA ACCESSIBLE TRAILS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE DEVELOPED PORTION OF THE PARK. THE REMAINDER OF THE EXISTING TRAIL SYSTEM WILL BE MAINTAINED TO CERTAIN DEGREES AND EVENTUALLY INTEGRATED INTO A MORE SENSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE TRAIL SYSTEM IN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PHASES.







SITE CHARACTERISTICS

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GEAUGA PARK
DISTRICT

VETERANS LEGACY WOODS

FORMER CLUBHOUSE GROUNDS & VICINITY

The existing upper portion of Veterans Legacy Woods consists of the former clubhouse area, parking lots and maintenance building. This area has an extreme slope from parking lot down to the former golf course grounds.

The goal of design in this area was to blend environmental concerns of storm-water runoff and non native planting practices with the blending of a memorial park for veterans and the multiple user groups that visit our parks through out the seasons. The intent is to have both user group flexibility as well as environmental flexibility for the developed park areas.

NRM
FACILITIESACCESSIBLE
TRAIL

BANQUET ENTRY

BIO-SWALE

ENTRY PLAZA

REMEMBRANCE

EVENT LAWN

MULTI-PURPOSE
STAGE

SLEDDING HILL

PERFORMANCE
TERRACE

SERVICE MONUMENTS

HABITAT GARDEN

MEMORIAL TREE
GARDEN

MEADOW RESTORATION

SHELTER

PLAY AREA

N

MASTER PLAN



MASTERPLAN

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The primary landscape structure of the former clubhouse area of the park is the shaping of the ground plane. The existing slope from the parking lot down to what would have been the 18th green is softly warped and terraced to provide a range of nodes along its length. Each node will have its own character with new garden, structure or memorial inserted, yet will remain part of a cohesive journey from the parking lot into the park. Former asphalt and manicured lawns transition into meadow "gardens" and green infrastructure.



ENTRY PLAZA

EXISTING CLUBHOUSE

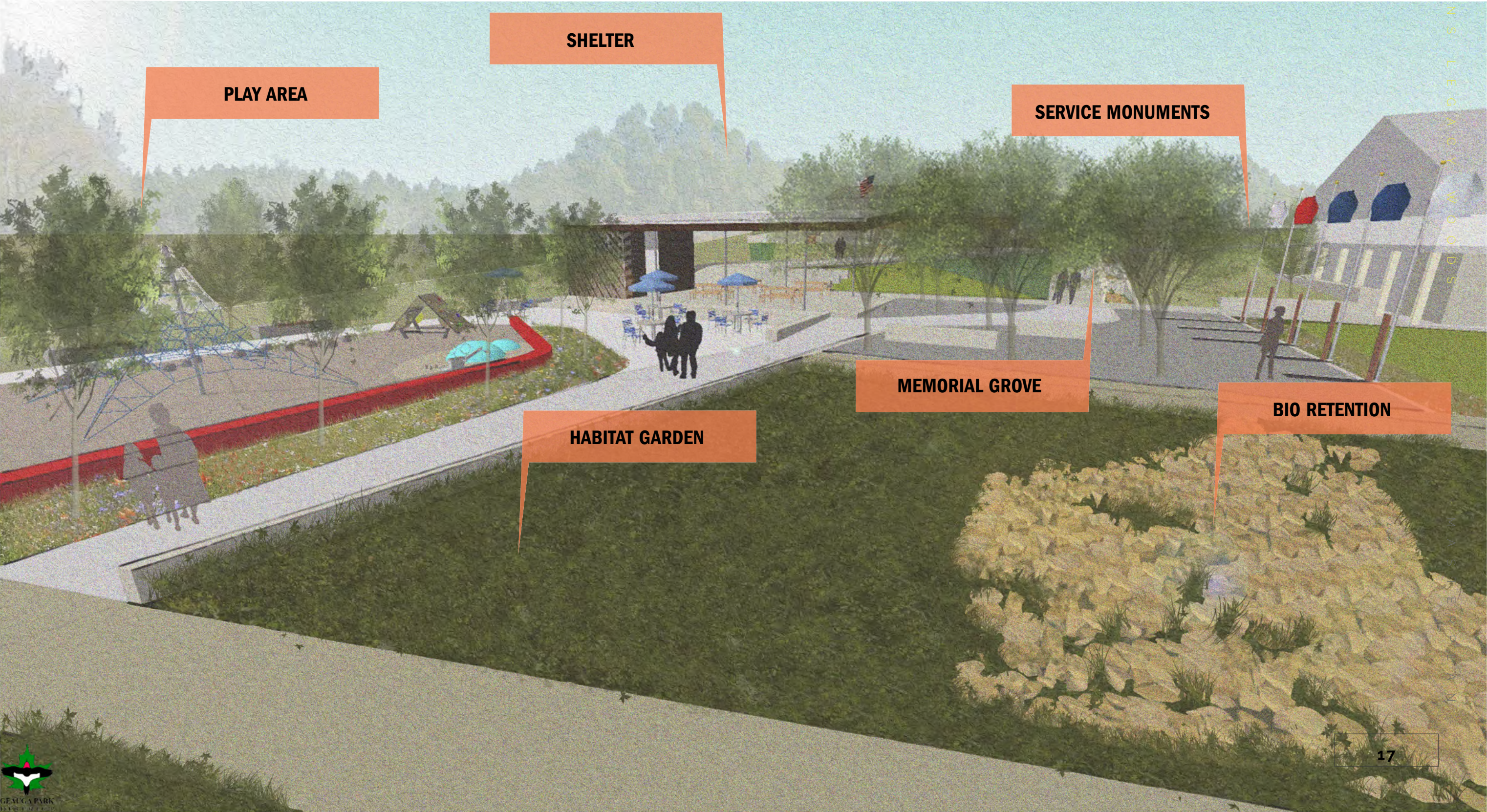
REMEMBERANCE PLAZA

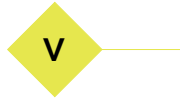
BIO SWALE

MEADOW GARDEN



V The toe of the slope meets at the convergence of the linear steps leading from the parking lot and the terraced walkways. The merger of this trail leads out into the restored landscape of the former golf course. Along this short path park patrons have the chance to experience multiple landscapes: from shaded memorial groves, habitat gardens, shelter/picnic areas and play space.





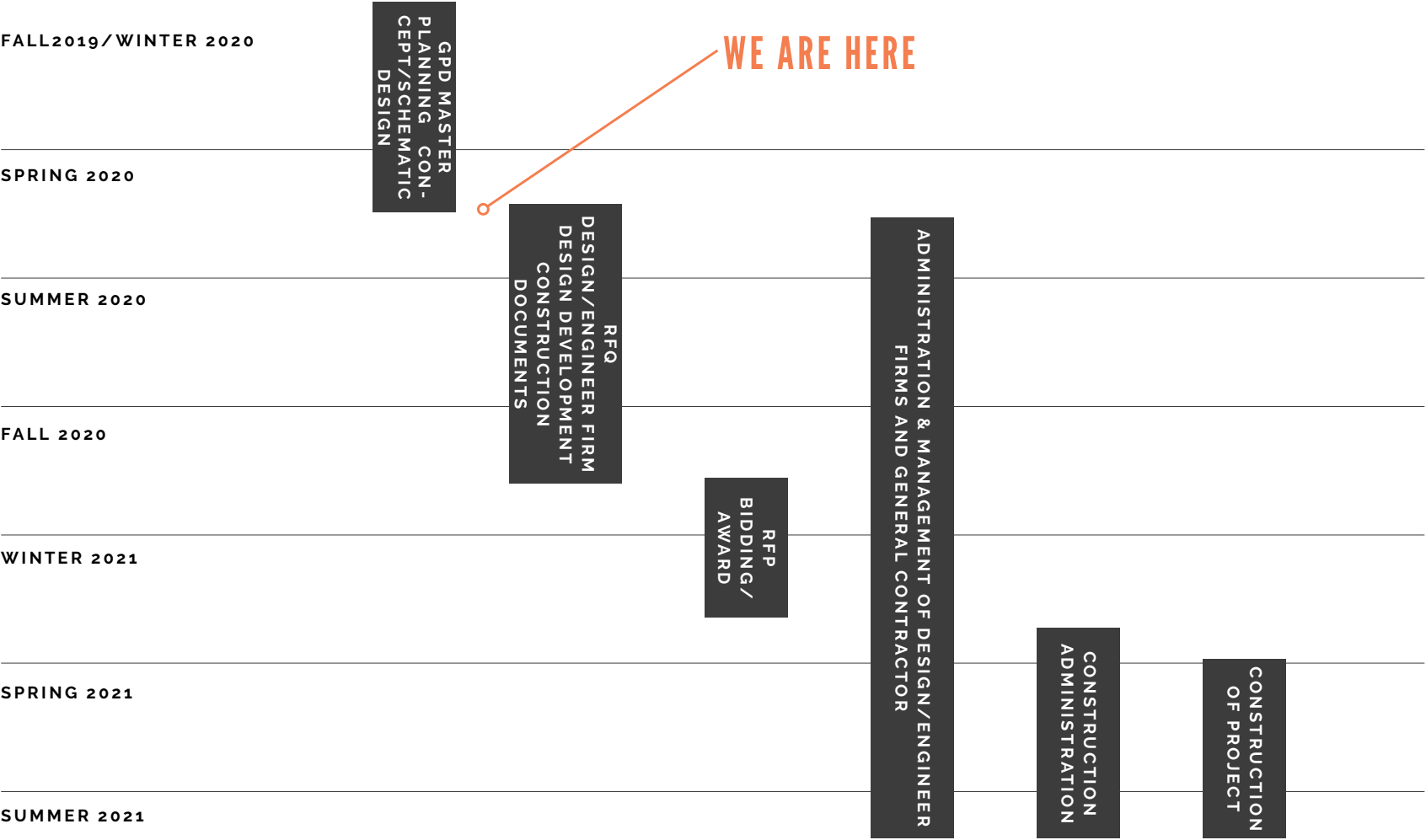
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DATE
05/12/20

PROJECT
Project will follow the Design-Bid-Build delivery method, The owner (GPD) will contract separately with the design/engineer firm that produces the construction documents, and the builder that physically builds the building. This is the traditional method, and is based on the sequential process of design, construction documents, bidding, then construction.

PROCESS - PHASE 1

IMPLIMENTATION





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