

Central Park Master Plan



Meridian Township, Michigan

11 August 2015



Central Park Master Plan

Concept Statement

CONFLUENCE*

noun con flu 'ence \ 'kän-, flü-ən(t)s

- 1: a coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point
- 2 *a* : the flowing together of two or more streams
 - b* : the place of meeting of two streams
 - c* : the combined stream formed by conjunction

Central Park, located in the heart of Meridian Township, is at the confluence of the Mud Lake and Pine Lake drains, and the communities of Haslett and Okemos. The goal of creating a community-wide destination is achieved by improving access and visibility into the park, and locating new facilities to encourage use.

A key objective of the plan is to create an identity for Central Park. This is accomplished by introducing common elements at the confluence of paths and trails throughout the park, which serve as gathering and meeting places. The confluence nodes are treated similarly in that all offer signage and seating, but each is unique to its particular setting and specific site conditions in which it occurs.

* <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/confluence>

Ipm Focus group Meeting Comments – Central Park Staff Members

Nancy Moore Park

- Pavilion should be closer to parking lot.
- Maintenance area and dumping facility to the east of the Service Center is larger than needed and could be repurposed if needed.

Central Park South

- *One of the most popular destinations within the park. Needs to be made prominent feature.
- Possible pavilion location.
- Want fishing opportunities here
- *Need improved water quality
- *Want paved trails in this area

Farmers' Market

- *Current facility too small to accommodate farmers' market.
- *Move the farmers' market!
- *Restroom facilities not adequate.
- Bigger play structures.
- *Separate pavilion and restrooms.
- *Parking is dangerous and inadequate especially on Saturdays.

Historical Village

- Open up pond.
- *Restroom facilities not adequate.
- *Any development must have the historical feel.

Central Park - Miscellaneous

- *Need better N/S & E/W connections throughout park.
- Paths need to facilitate maintenance equipment.
- *Want more paved trails.
- *Want more open connections.
- Nokomis needs better identification to help draw people in from off-site and on-site.
- *Need more universal accessibility for fields (access to baseball, soccer, etc.)
- Off-leash dog park not needed and wouldn't be utilized.
- *Many existing trail areas are very wet and would need to become boardwalks if they were developed.
- Make safe connection to inter-urban trail.
- Add wigwam to Nokomis site.

3:30pm & 5:30pm Focus group Meeting Comments – Community Stakeholders

Nancy Moore Park

- More options for sports fields.
- *Feels like a separate park.

Central Park South

- *Needs water quality improved.
- More benches.
- *Skywalk from Mall to Central Park.
- *Covered ice rink with pavilion and basketball in the summer. Mixed use spaces. Ledebuhr site.
- Zip Line – Ledebuhr site.
- Ledebuhr site can accommodate light development.

Farmers' Market

- *Parking not adequate.
- *Move market across road to mall site.
- *Not enough space at current site.
- *Keep pavilion.
- *Farmers' market should stay; it's a gathering point and draws people into the Historical Village and surrounding areas.
- Expand farmers' market.
- *Use as anchor for site.
- Poor visibility.
- *Very challenging site when busy.
- Playground is a hazard due to proximity to vehicles.
- Move the soccer fields.
- Good spot for splash pad.

3:30pm & 5:30pm Focus group Meeting Comments – Community Stakeholders

Historical Village

- *Have canoe and paddle boat rental.
- Have bait shop to be run by local kids for fishing near pond.
- Create a fishable boardwalk all around pond.
- *Need better navigational signage and educational signage for Historical Village buildings.
- *Pavilion behind chapel.
- *New restrooms (currently no public bathrooms).
- Act as focal point for village square.
- *Building for reception near Historical Village.
- *No visibility due to berms. Remove and make off-site and on-site visibility better.
- *Want amphitheater for music in the park.
- *Define entry better.
- *Parking not sufficient.
- Water fowl waste around pond an issue.
- More gathering areas.

Central Park – Miscellaneous

- *Signage: Welcome signs, navigational signs, and educational signs.
- *Support and celebrate Meridian Township's diverse community demographics.
- *Celebrate community heritage.
- Heritage tree program: Highlight natural resources (have champion big tree on-site)
- *Natural features inventory.
- *Treat invasive species.
- *Create safe linkage between park and mall.
- *Community garden
- Recycling
- *Improve connections to off-site features.
- Fitness stations
- *Ice rink/Splash pad
- Interactive destination for kids of all ages.
- Maintain existing features of the park that are doing well.
- Dog park.
- *Create gateways for entering site. Create sense of place.
- *More activities.

3:30pm & 5:30pm Focus group Meeting Comments – Community Stakeholders

Trails

- *Want more paved trail connections.
- *Safe connection to inter-urban trail – tunnel under tracks?
- *Fix wet trails that are currently unusable.
- *Create mountain bike trail
- *Want accessible paths.
- *Repair damaged bridge.
- *Numbered trail map with appropriate wayfinding signage.
- River trail.
- *Want improved access to natural areas.
- *Want mixed purpose trails; running, biking.

Nokomis

- Botanical garden focused on Native American Plants.
- Amphitheater for Heritage Festival.
- Outdoor learning circle with natural seating, path, and fire pit.
- *Improve landscaping.



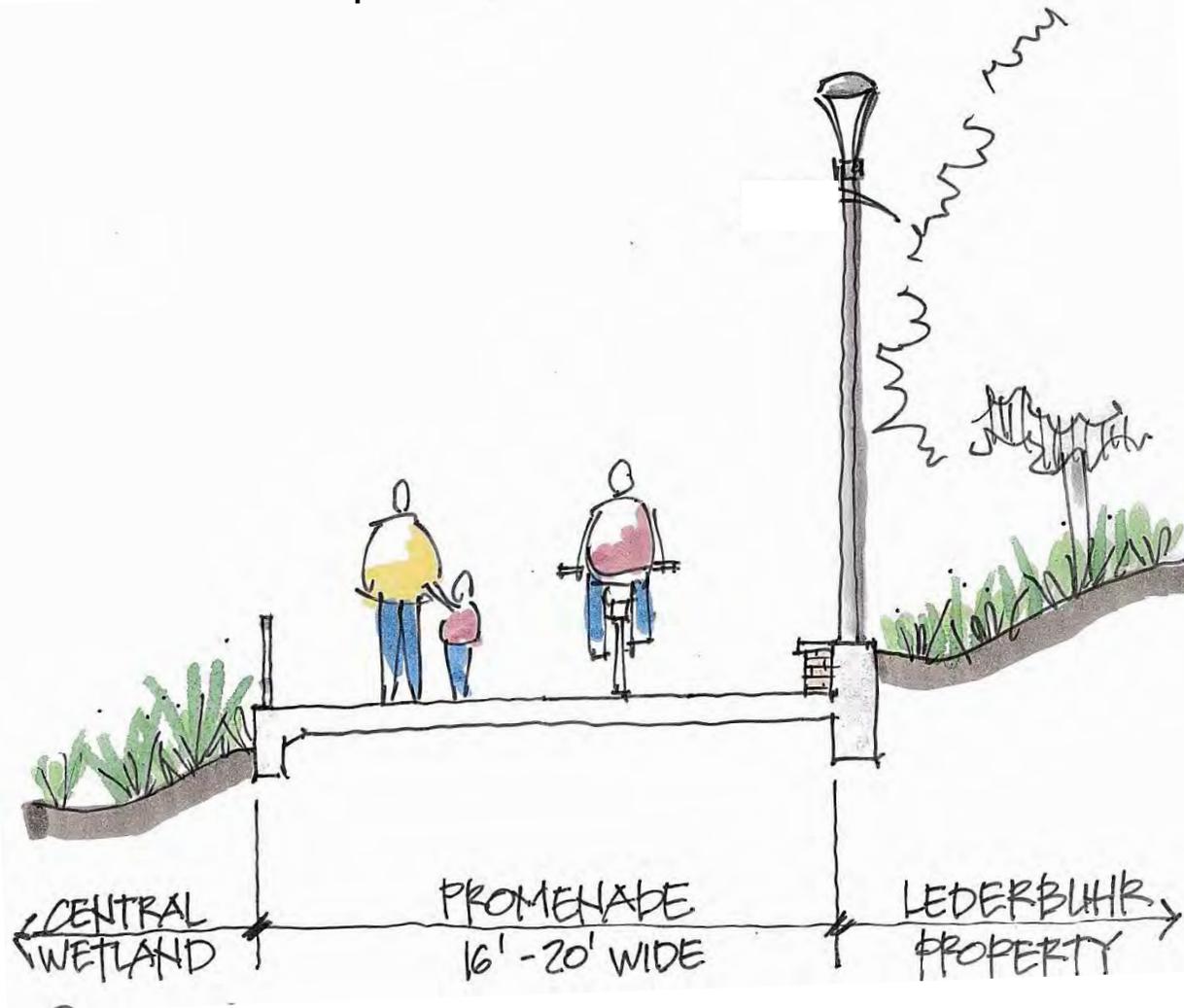
Medical Lake Spokane County Waterfront Park



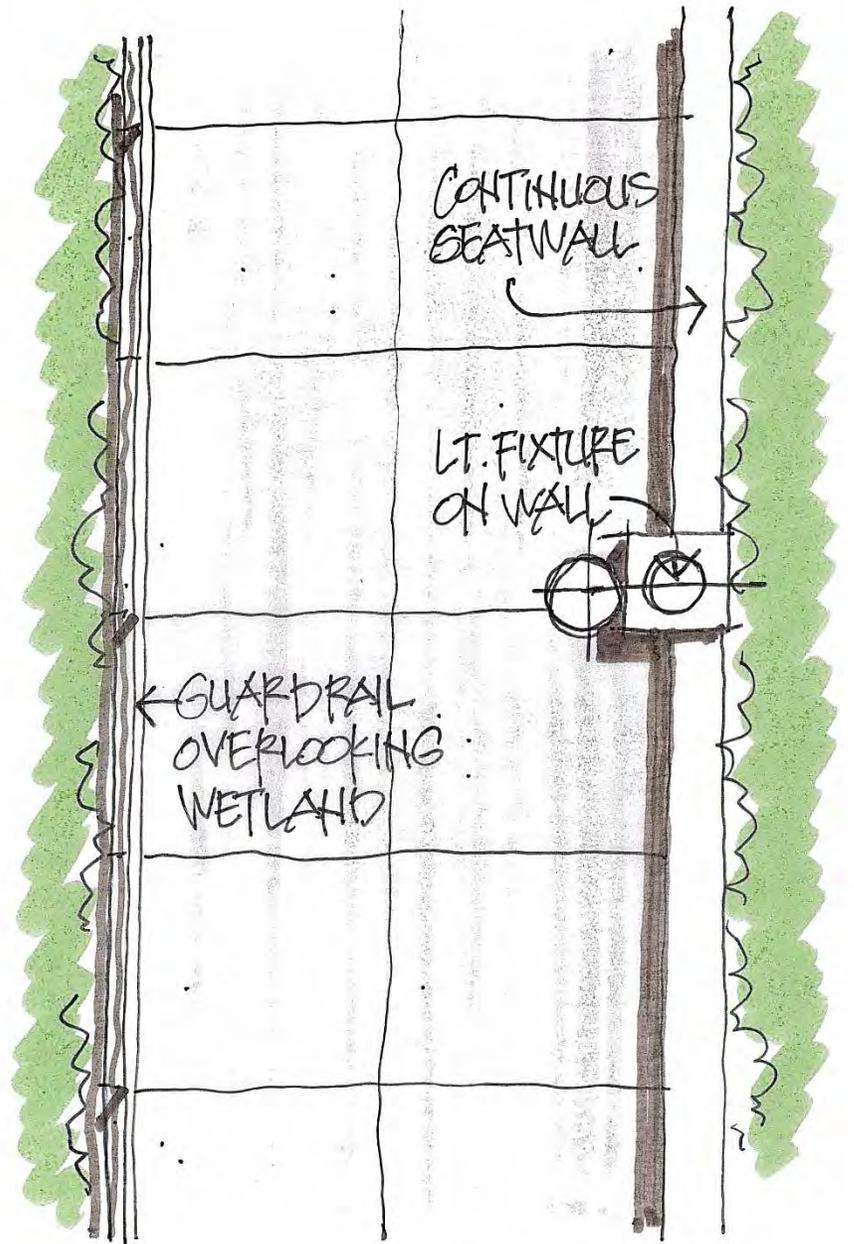


Development as the Focal Point

Promenade Concept

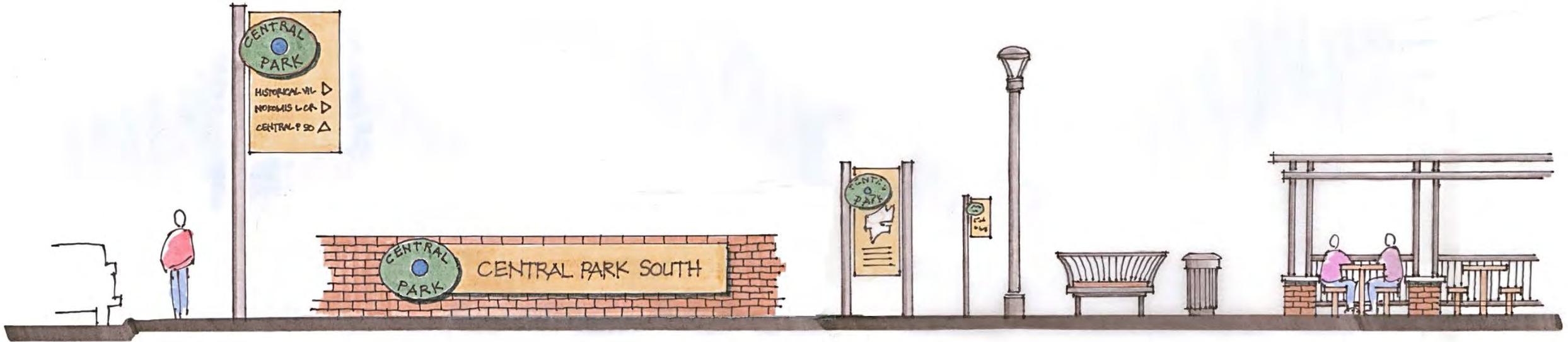


Section



Plan View

Park Identity Concept



Directional signs
along roads

Major entry walls/signs

Sign Kiosks
at confluences

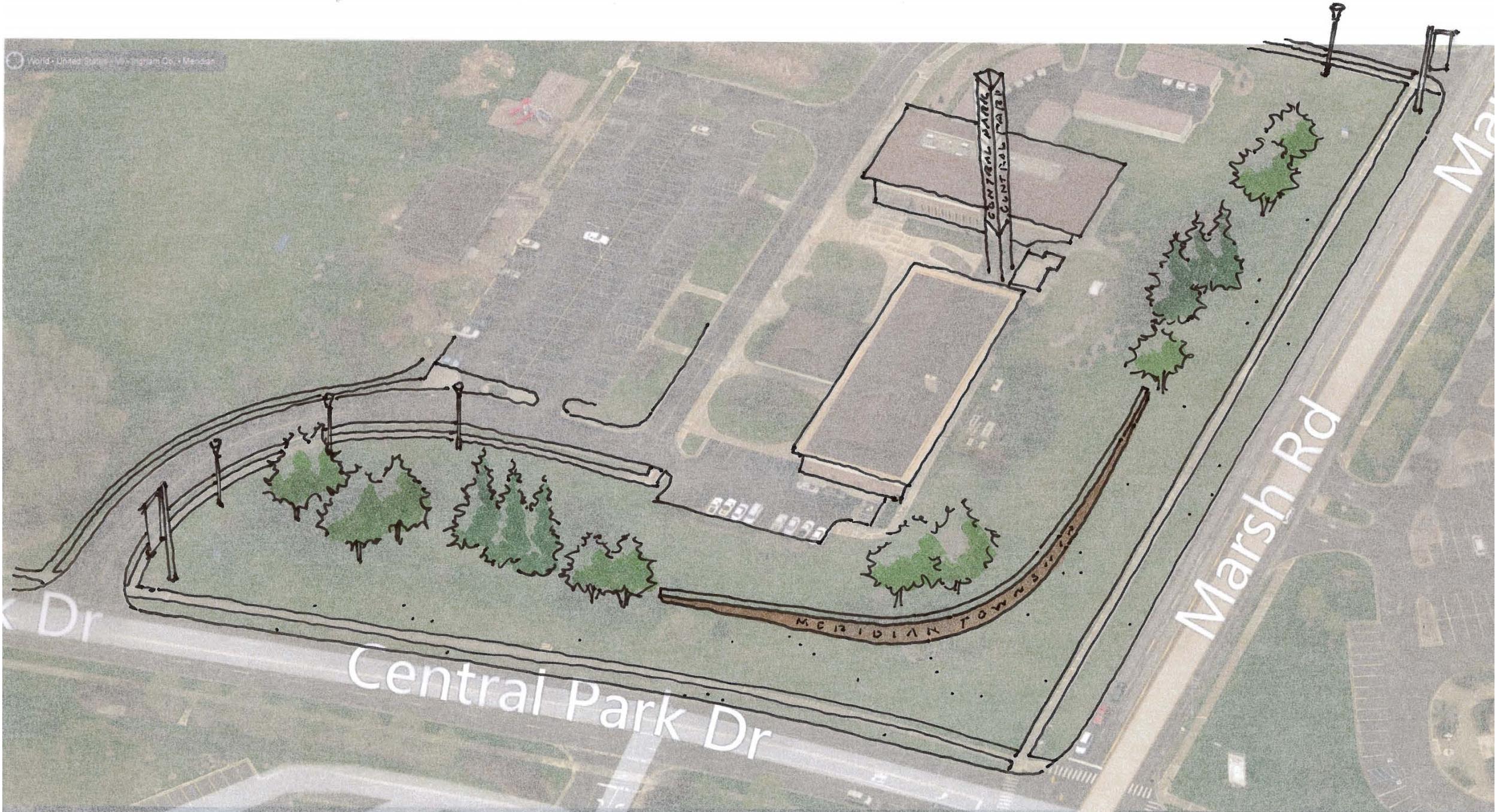
Trail ID
Signs

Lights

Benches

Trash
Receptacles

Overlook
Shelters



k Dr

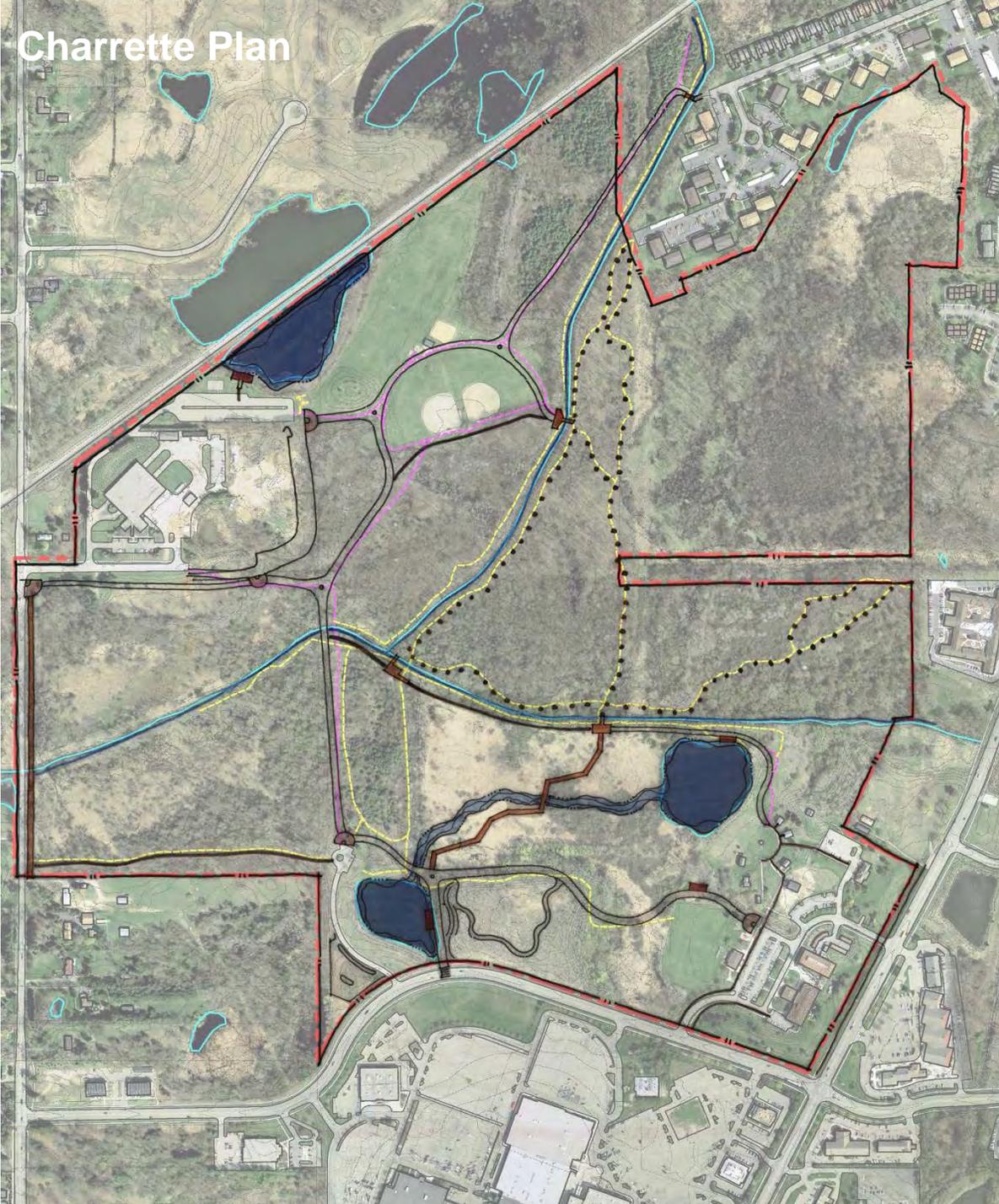
Central Park Dr

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIPS

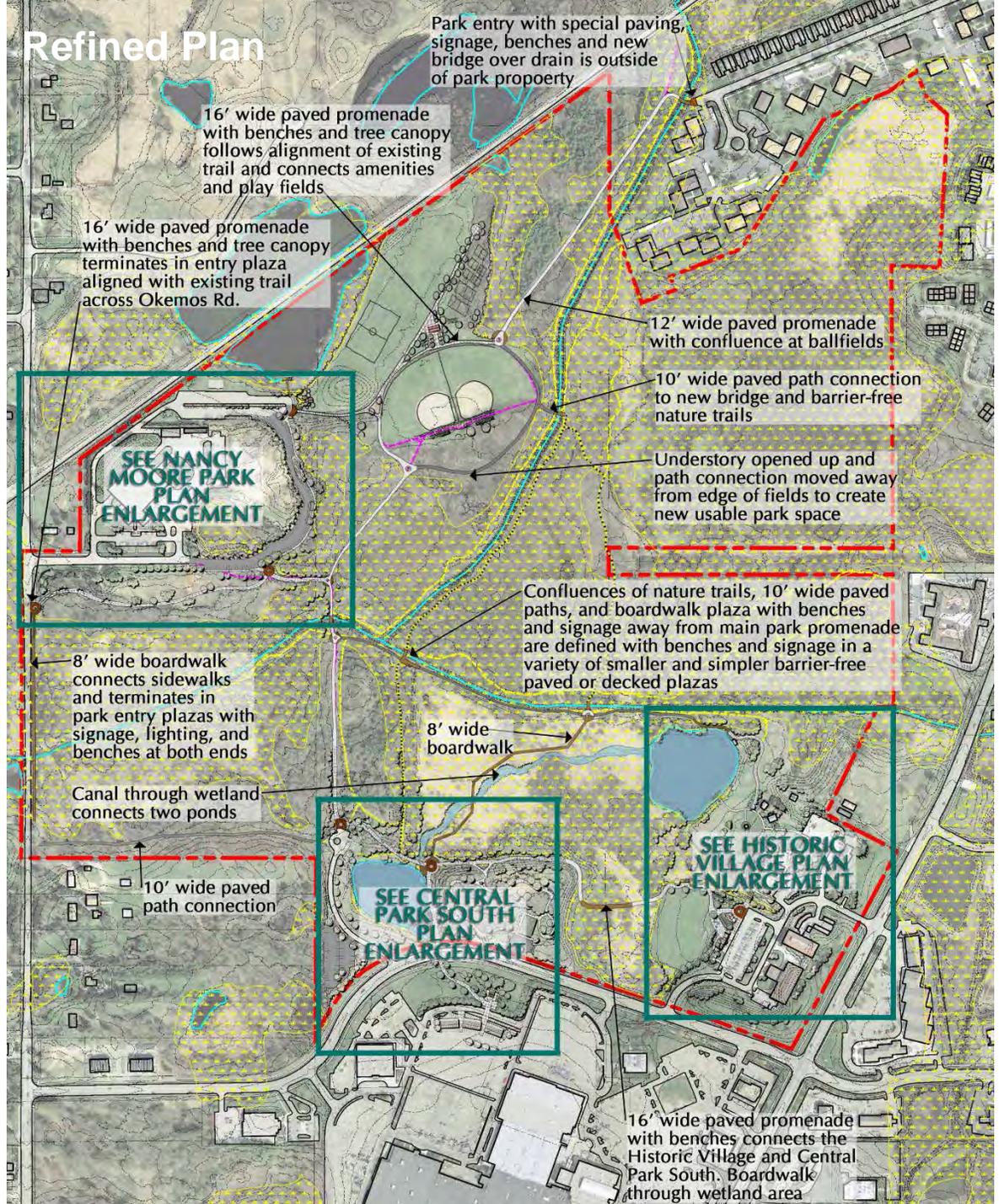
Marsh Rd

Ma

Charrette Plan



Refined Plan



Park entry with special paving, signage, benches and new bridge over drain is outside of park property

16' wide paved promenade with benches and tree canopy follows alignment of existing trail and connects amenities and play fields

16' wide paved promenade with benches and tree canopy terminates in entry plaza aligned with existing trail across Okemos Rd.

12' wide paved promenade with confluence at ballfields

10' wide paved path connection to new bridge and barrier-free nature trails

Understory opened up and path connection moved away from edge of fields to create new usable park space

Confluences of nature trails, 10' wide paved paths, and boardwalk plaza with benches and signage away from main park promenade are defined with benches and signage in a variety of smaller and simpler barrier-free paved or decked plazas

8' wide boardwalk connects sidewalks and terminates in park entry plazas with signage, lighting, and benches at both ends

8' wide boardwalk

Canal through wetland connects two ponds

10' wide paved path connection

SEE CENTRAL PARK SOUTH PLAN ENLARGEMENT

SEE HISTORIC VILLAGE PLAN ENLARGEMENT

16' wide paved promenade with benches connects the Historic Village and Central Park South. Boardwalk through wetland area

Park entry with special paving, signage, benches and new bridge over drain is outside of park property

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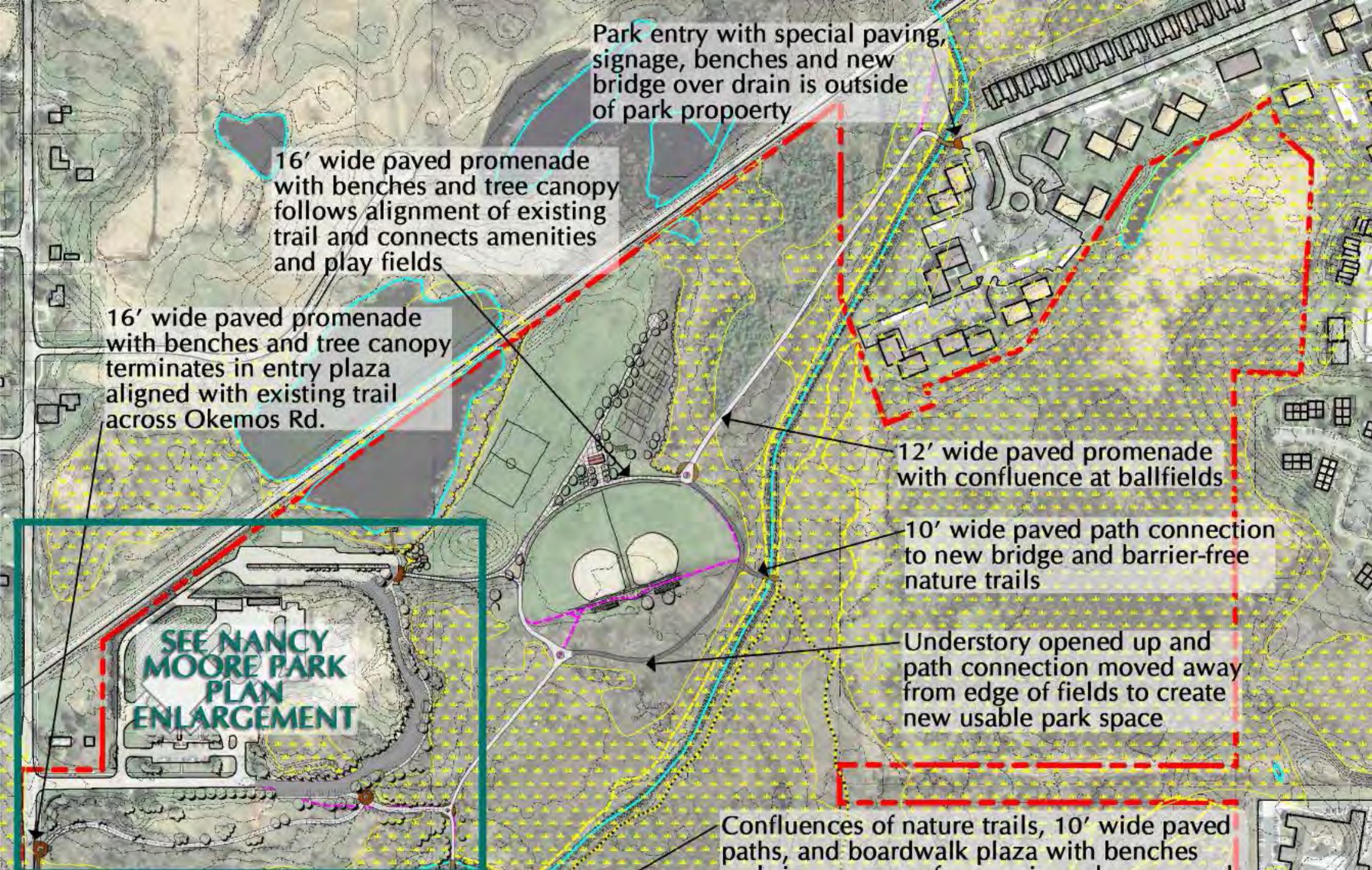
12' wide paved promenade with confluence at ballfields

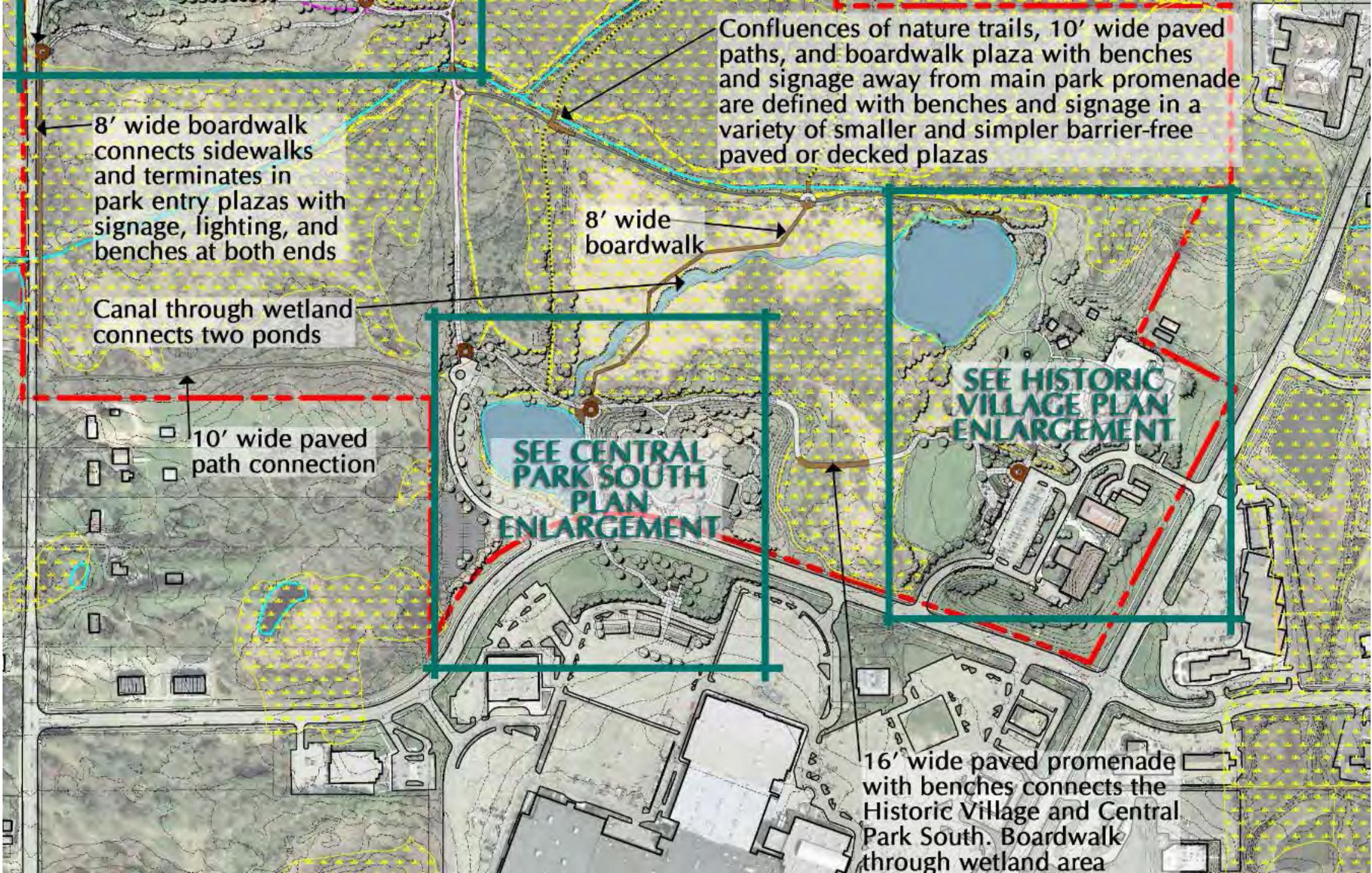
10' wide paved path connection to new bridge and barrier-free nature trails

Understory opened up and path connection moved away from edge of fields to create new usable park space

Confluences of nature trails, 10' wide paved paths, and boardwalk plaza with benches

SEE NANCY MOORE PARK PLAN ENLARGEMENT





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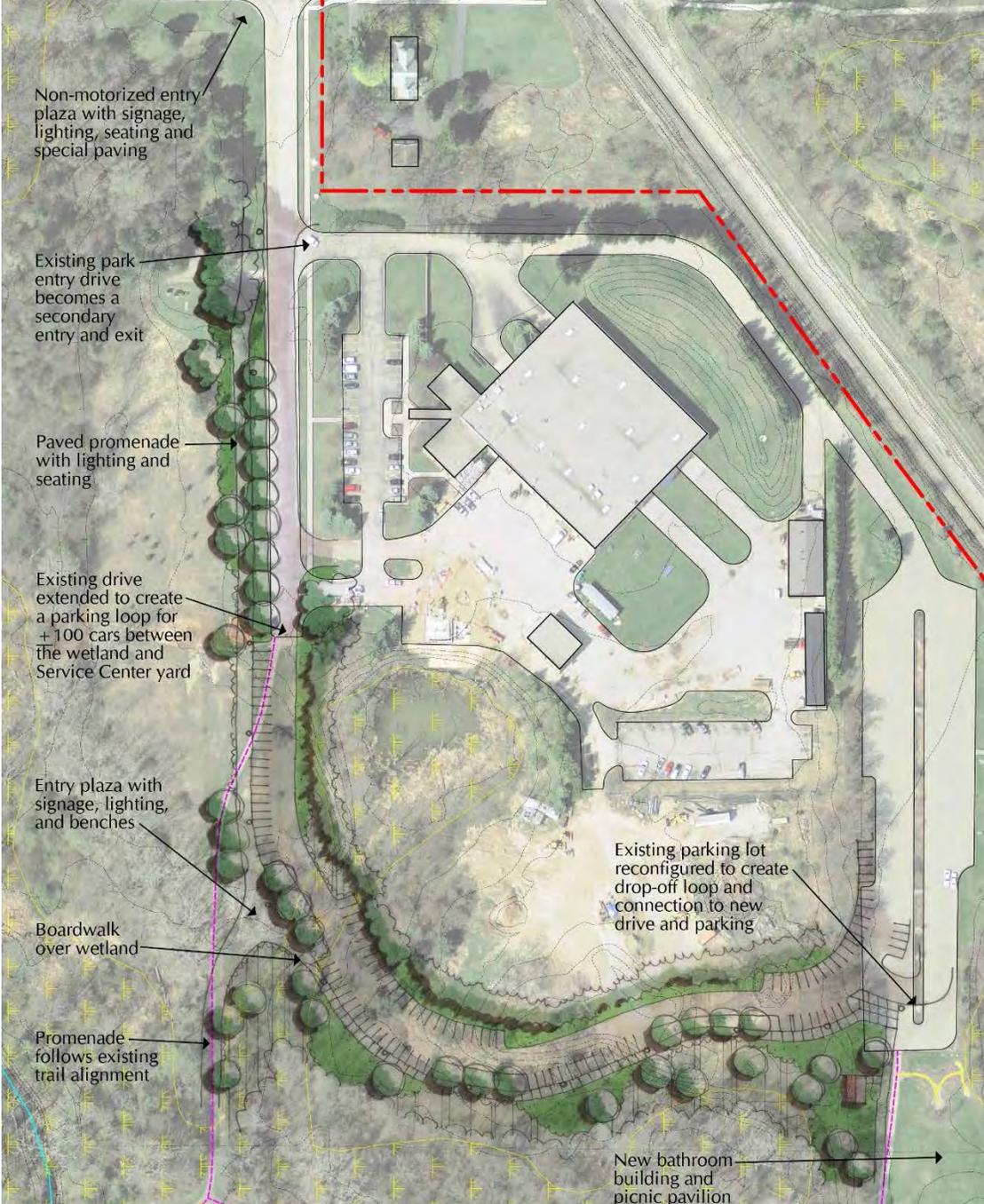
10' wide paved path connection

SEE CENTRAL PARK SOUTH PLAN ENLARGEMENT

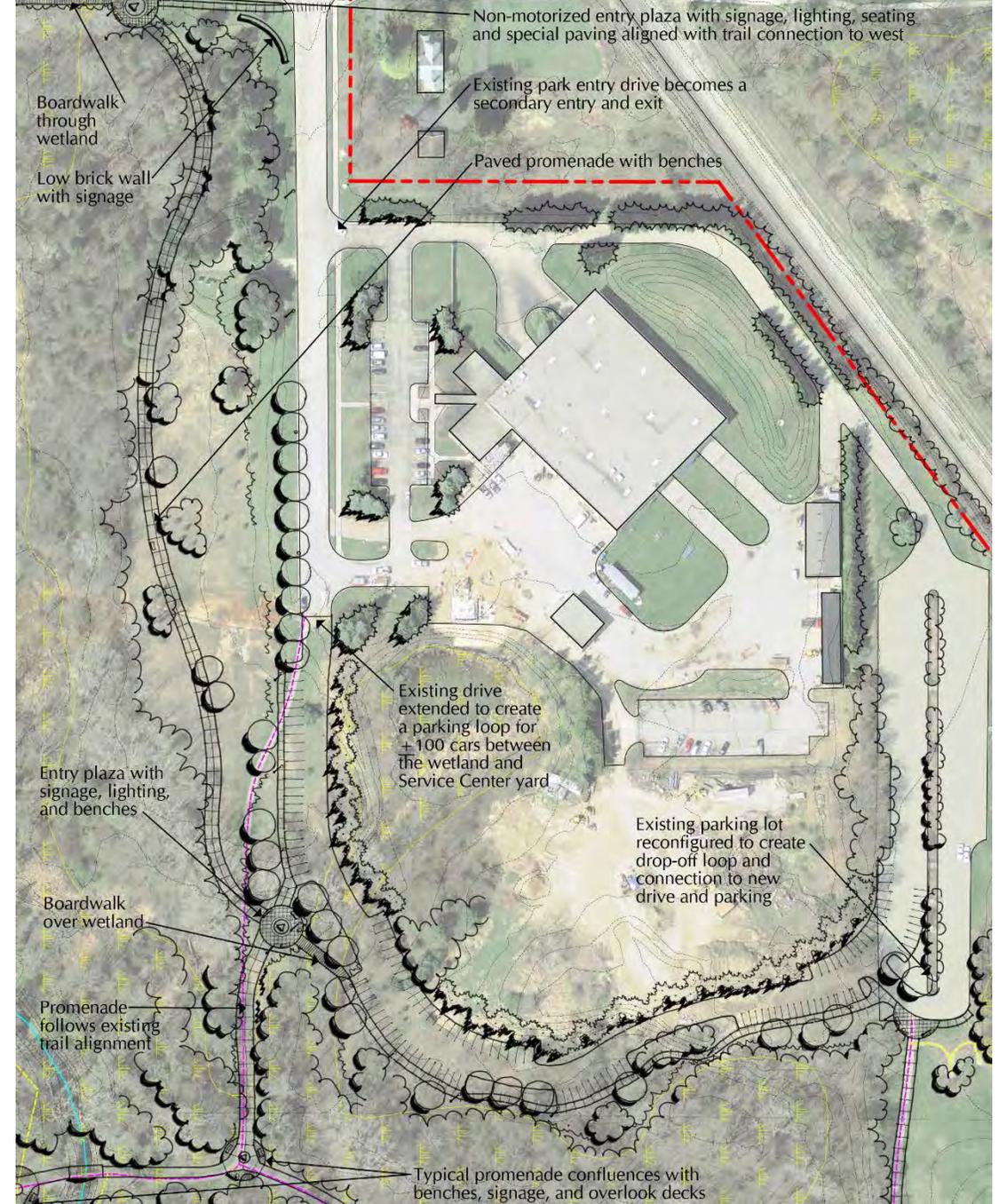
SEE HISTORIC VILLAGE PLAN ENLARGEMENT

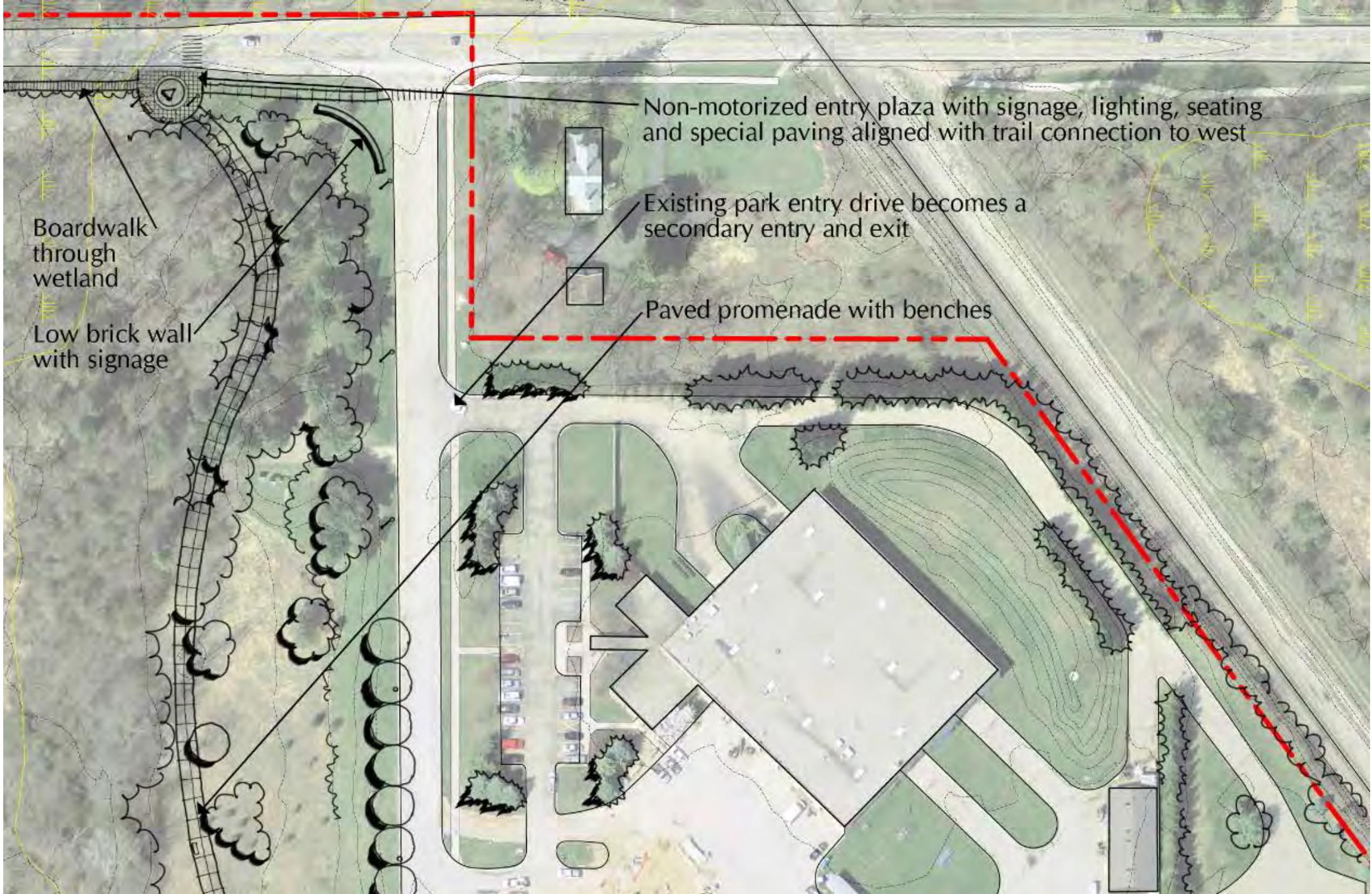
16' wide paved promenade with benches connects the Historic Village and Central Park South. Boardwalk through wetland area

Nancy Moore Charrette Plan



Nancy Moore Refined Plan





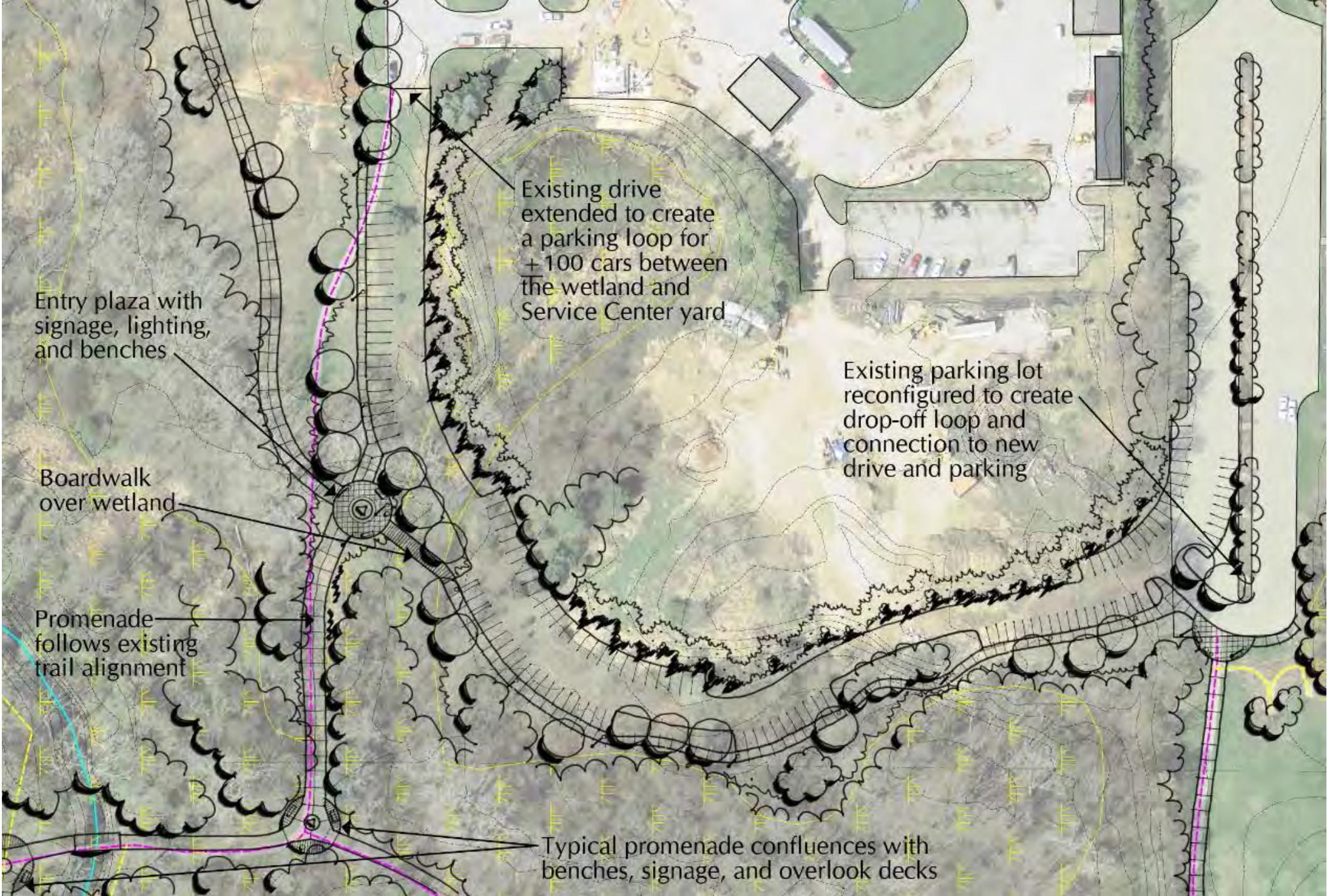
Boardwalk through wetland

Low brick wall with signage

Non-motorized entry plaza with signage, lighting, seating and special paving aligned with trail connection to west

Existing park entry drive becomes a secondary entry and exit

Paved promenade with benches



Entry plaza with signage, lighting, and benches

Boardwalk over wetland

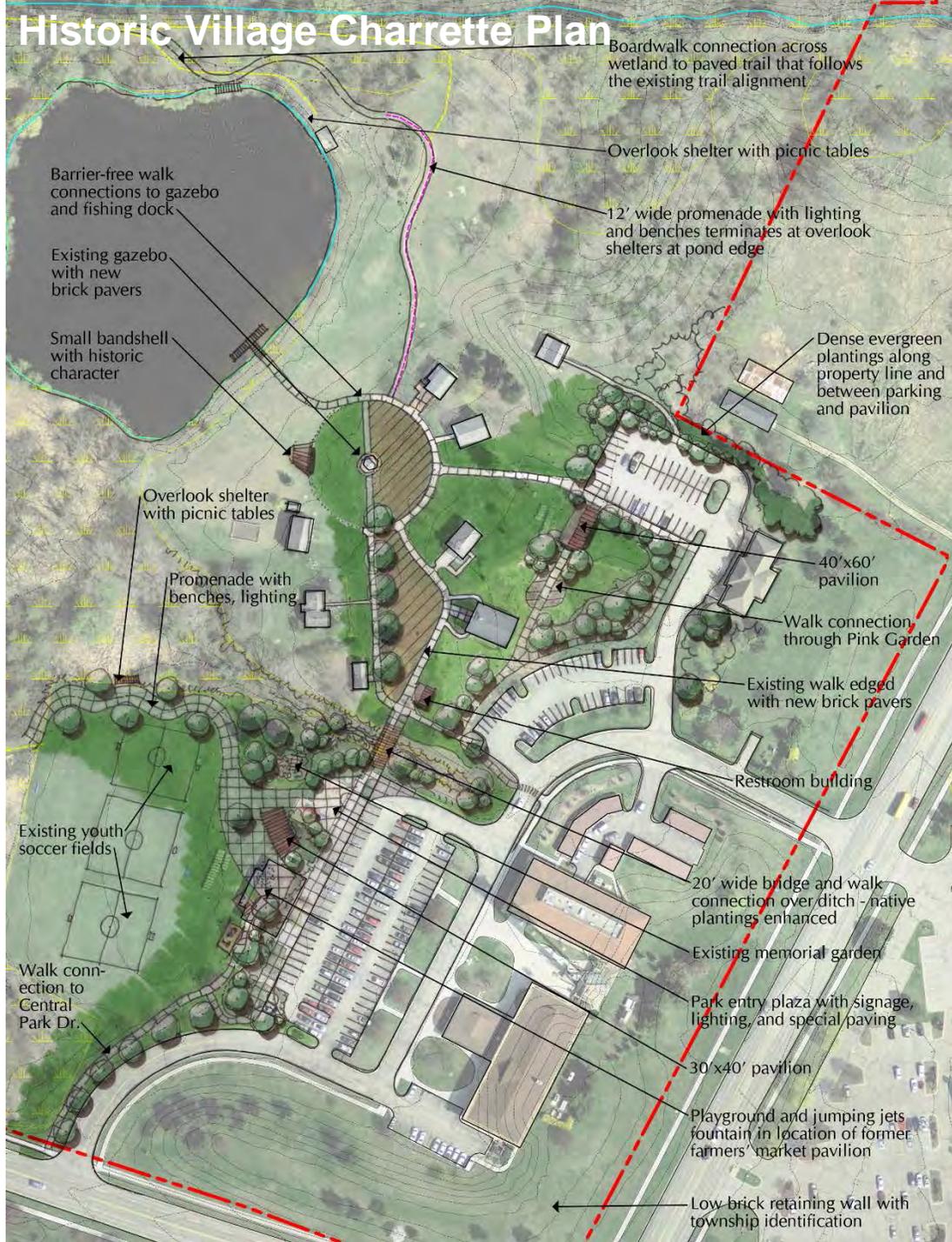
Promenade follows existing trail alignment

Existing drive extended to create a parking loop for +100 cars between the wetland and Service Center yard

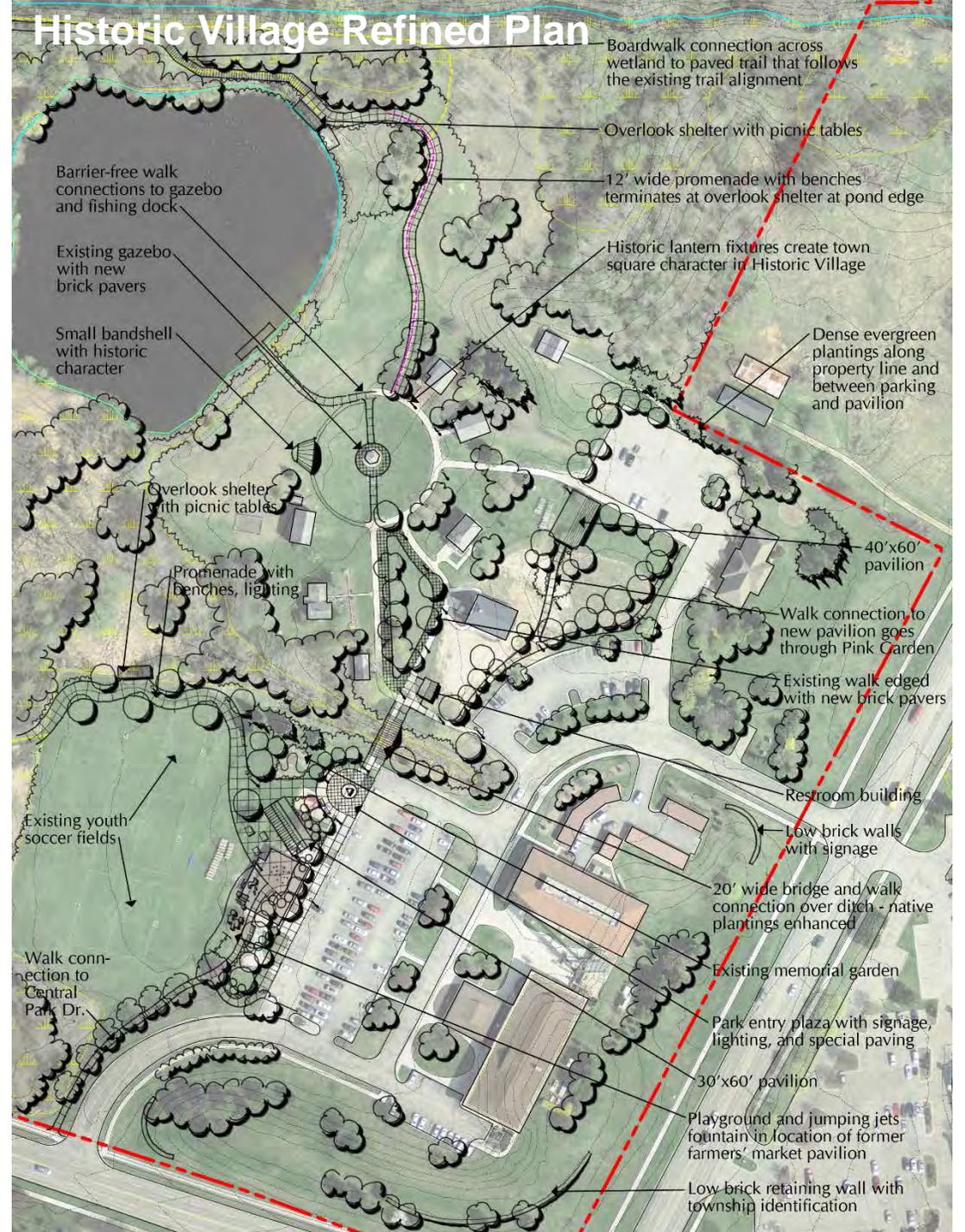
Existing parking lot reconfigured to create drop-off loop and connection to new drive and parking

Typical promenade confluences with benches, signage, and overlook decks

Historic Village Charrette Plan

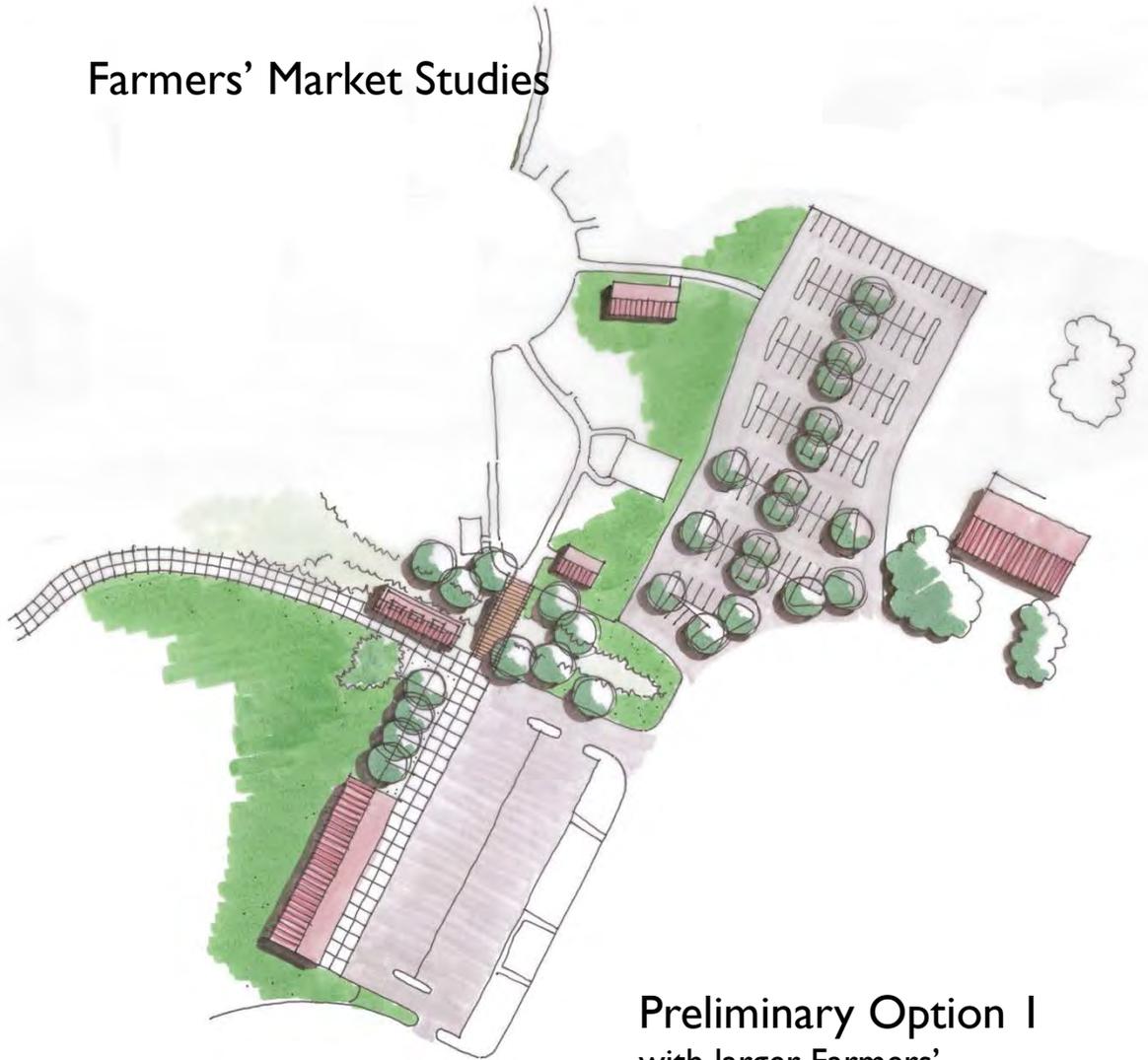


Historic Village Refined Plan

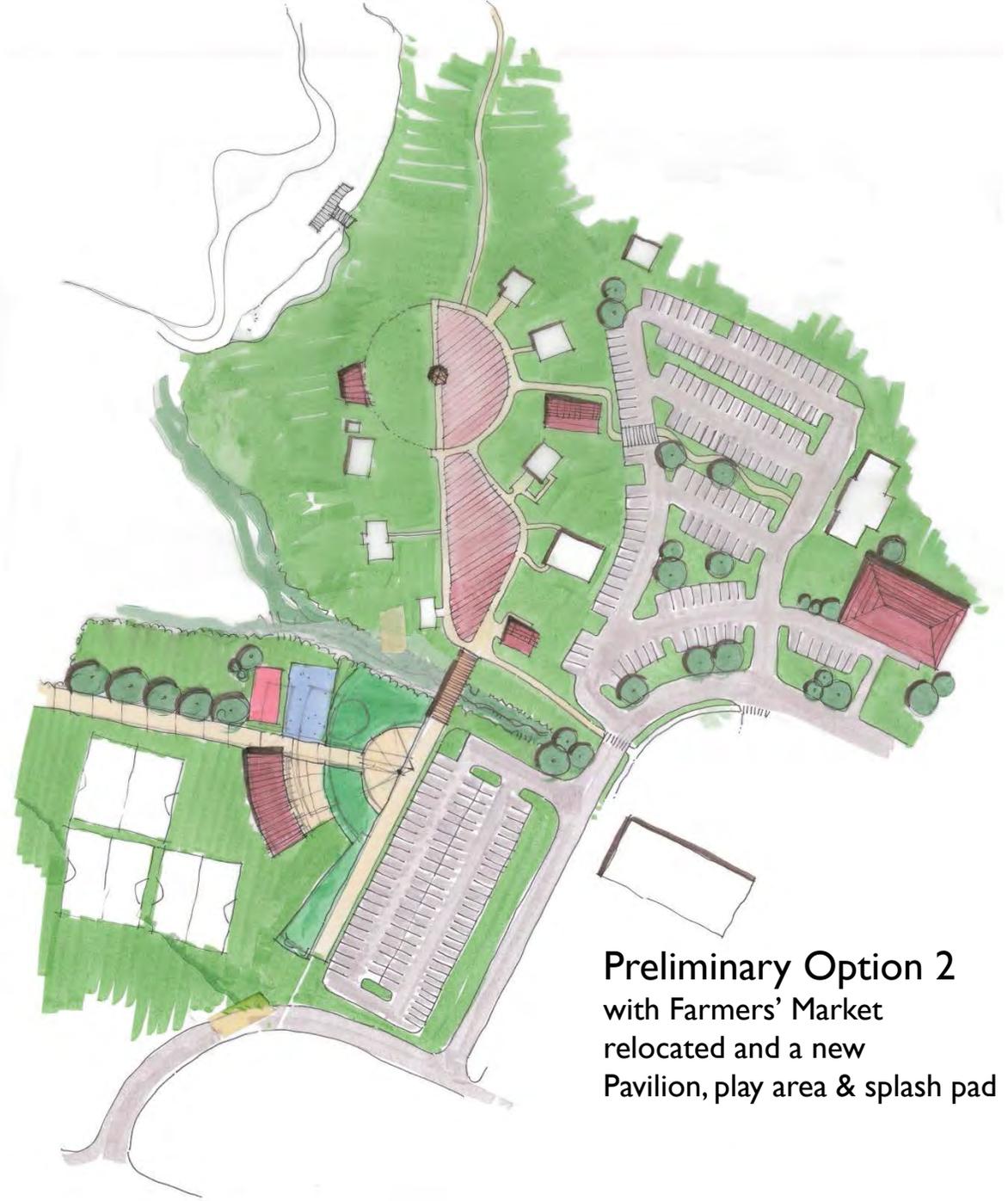




Farmers' Market Studies



Preliminary Option 1
with larger Farmers' Market Pavilion and increased parking



Preliminary Option 2
with Farmers' Market relocated and a new Pavilion, play area & splash pad



Overlook shelter with picnic tables

Promenade with benches, lighting

40'x60' pavilion

Walk connection to new pavilion goes through Pink Garden

Existing walk edged with new brick pavers

Existing youth soccer fields

Restroom building

Low brick walls with signage

Walk connection to Central Park Dr.

20' wide bridge and walk connection over ditch - native plantings enhanced

Existing memorial garden

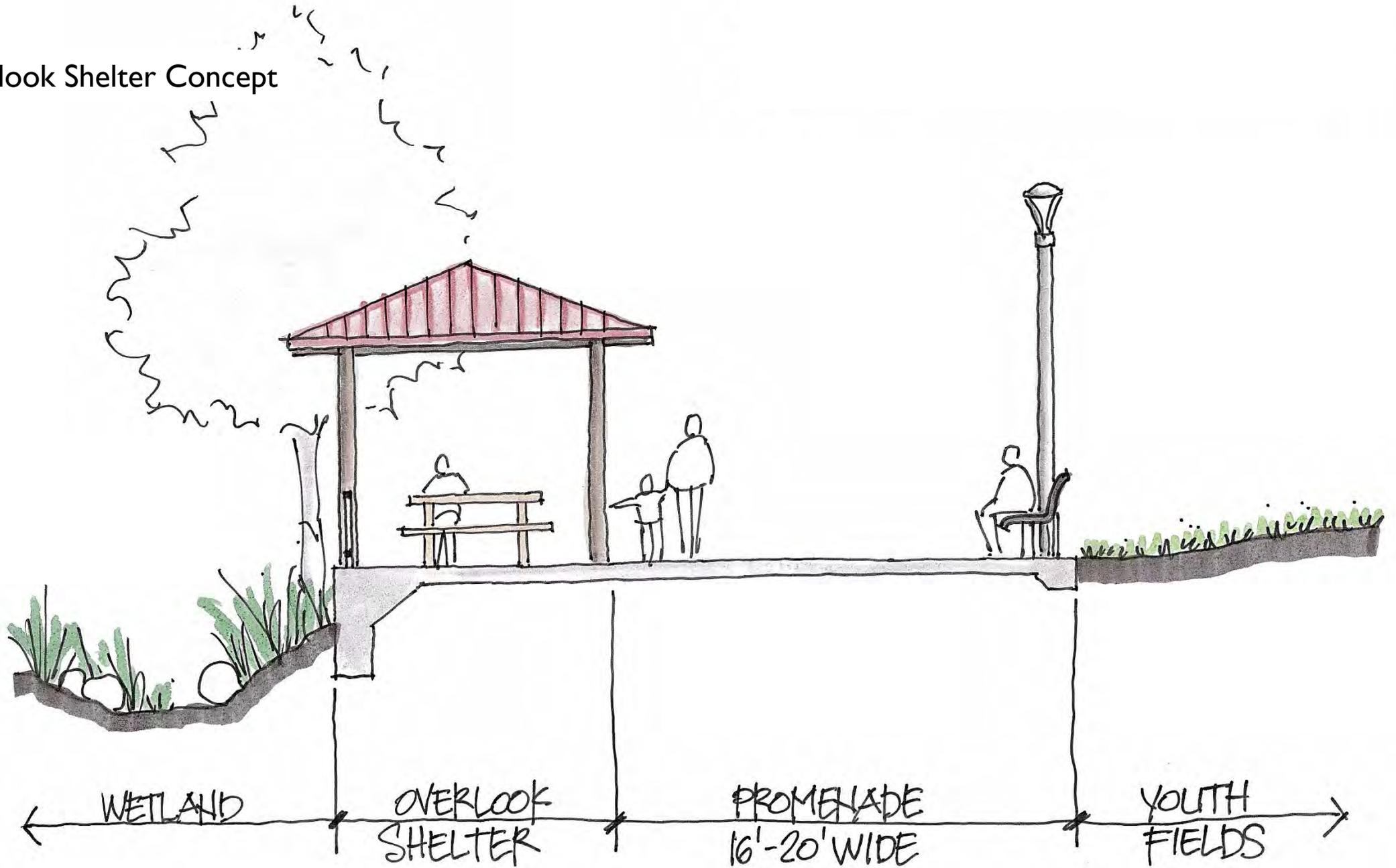
Park entry plaza with signage, lighting, and special paving

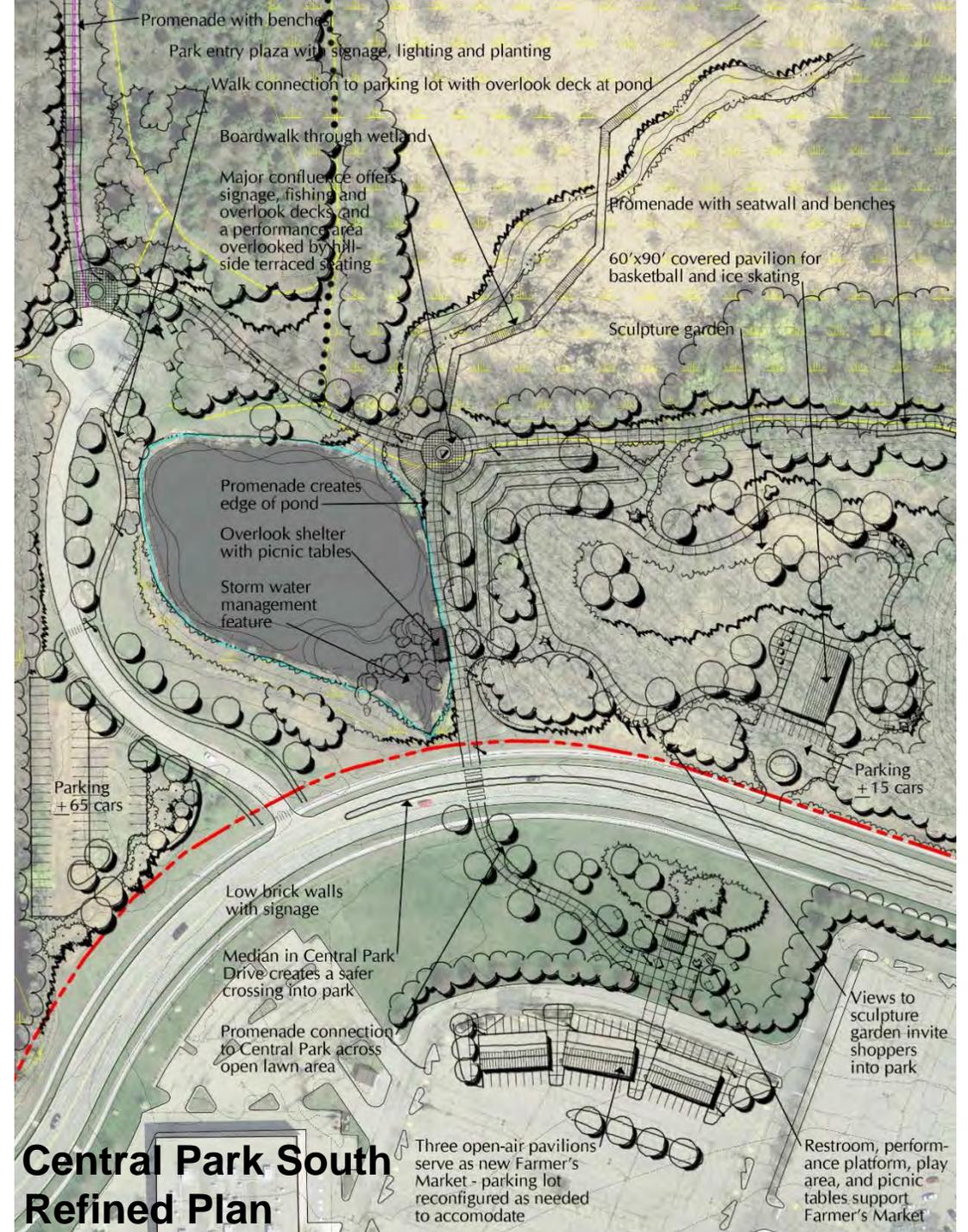
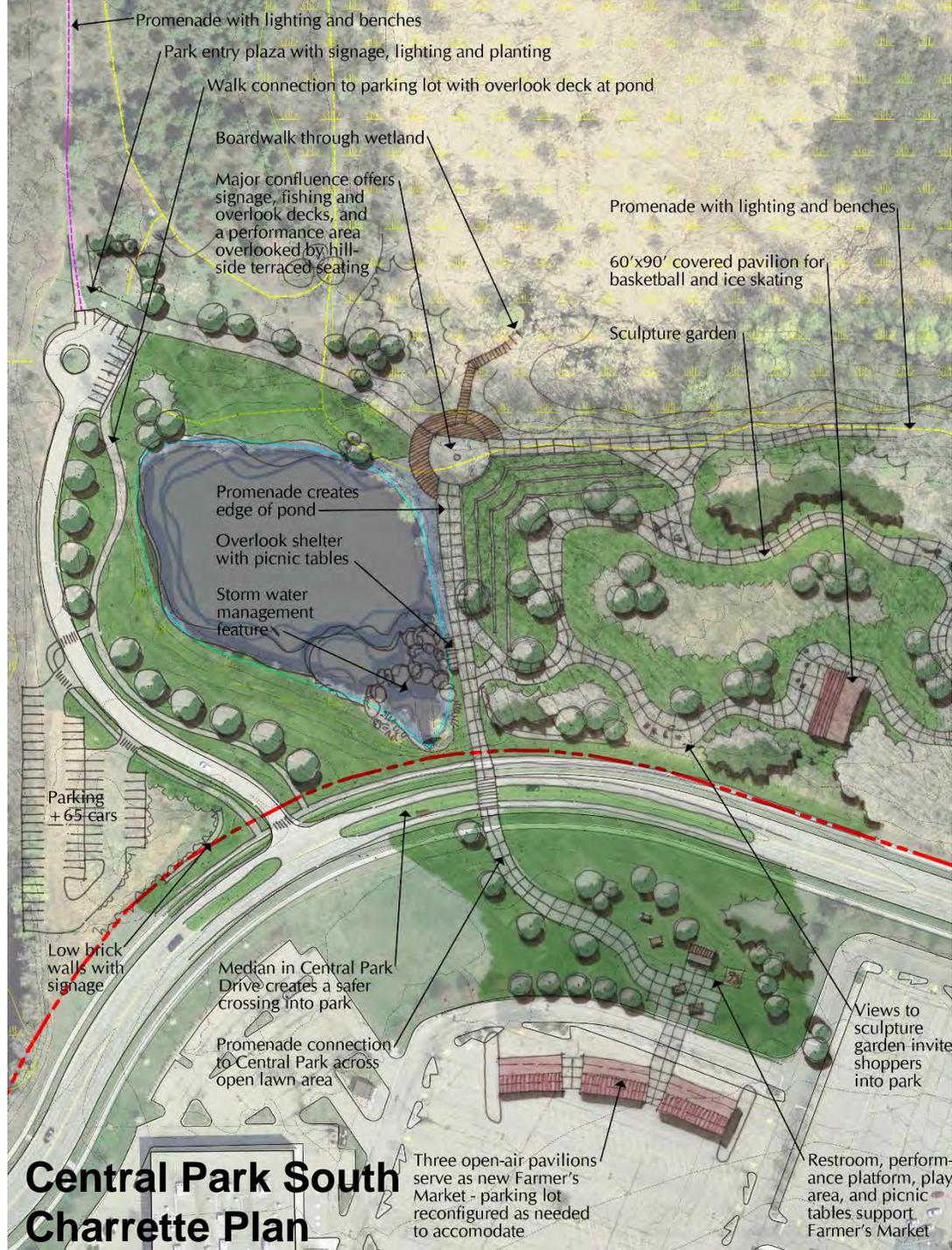
30'x60' pavilion

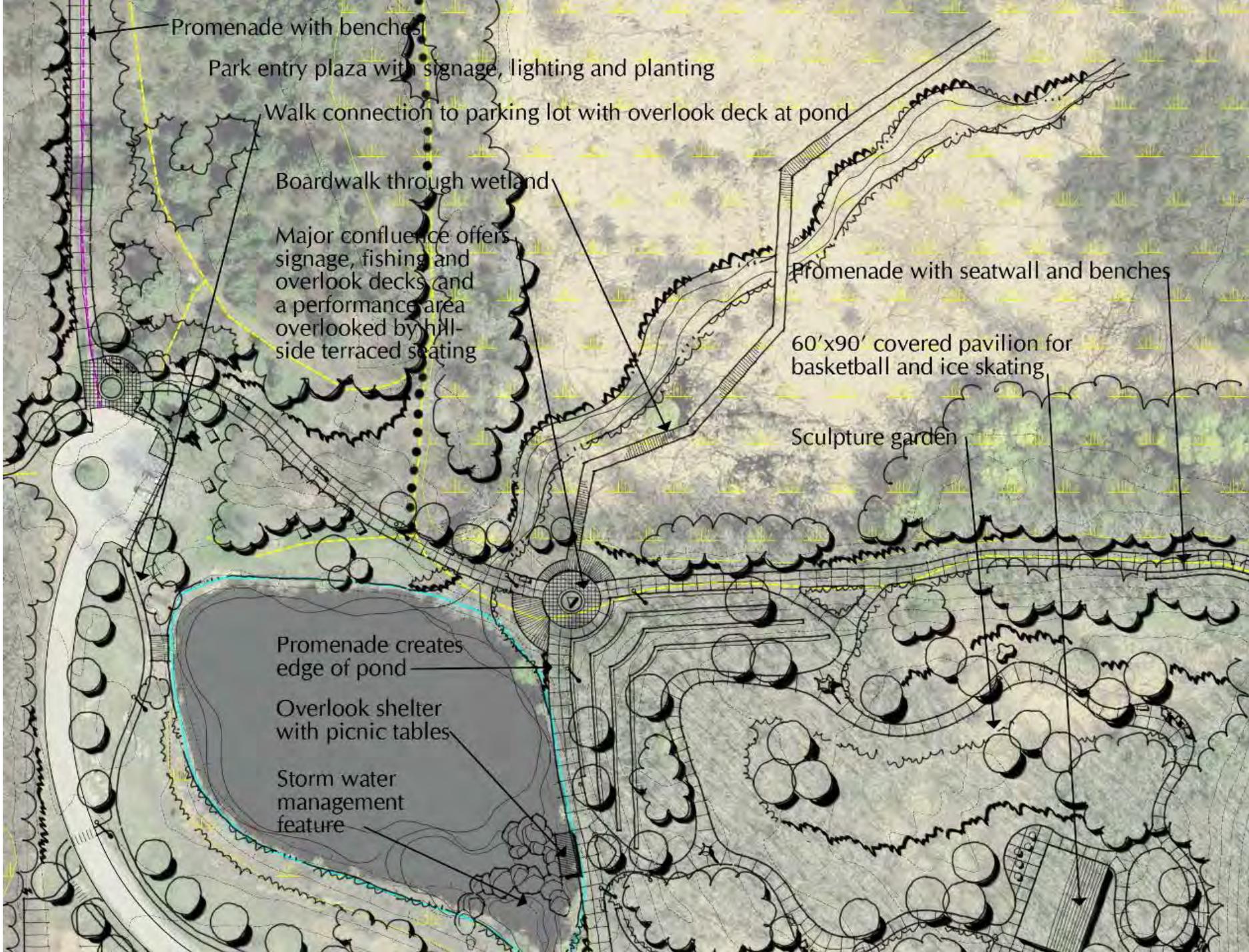
Playground and jumping jets fountain in location of former farmers' market pavilion

Low brick retaining wall with township identification

Overlook Shelter Concept







Promenade with benches

Park entry plaza with signage, lighting and planting

Walk connection to parking lot with overlook deck at pond

Boardwalk through wetland

Major confluence offers signage, fishing and overlook decks and a performance area overlooked by hill-side terraced seating

Promenade with seatwall and benches

60'x90' covered pavilion for basketball and ice skating

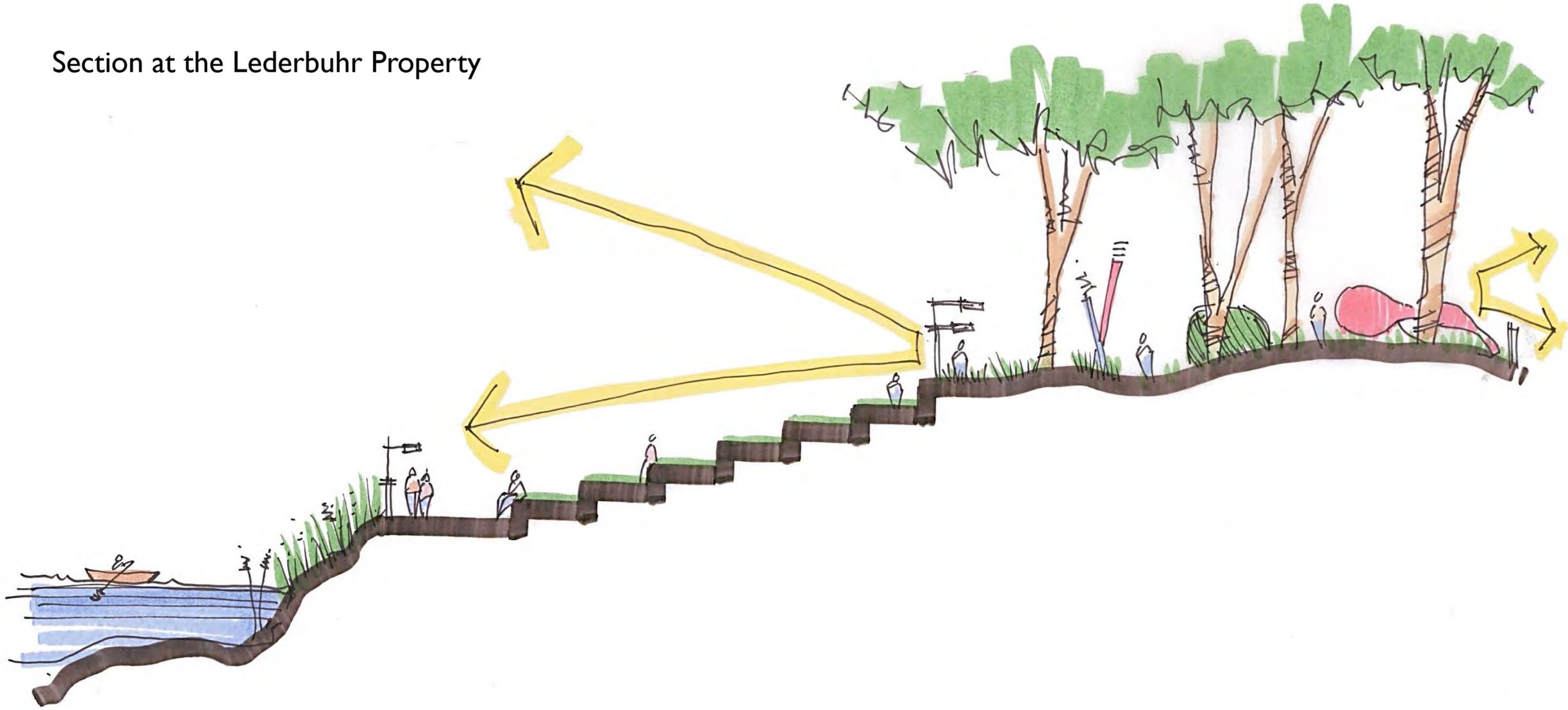
Sculpture garden

Promenade creates edge of pond

Overlook shelter with picnic tables

Storm water management feature

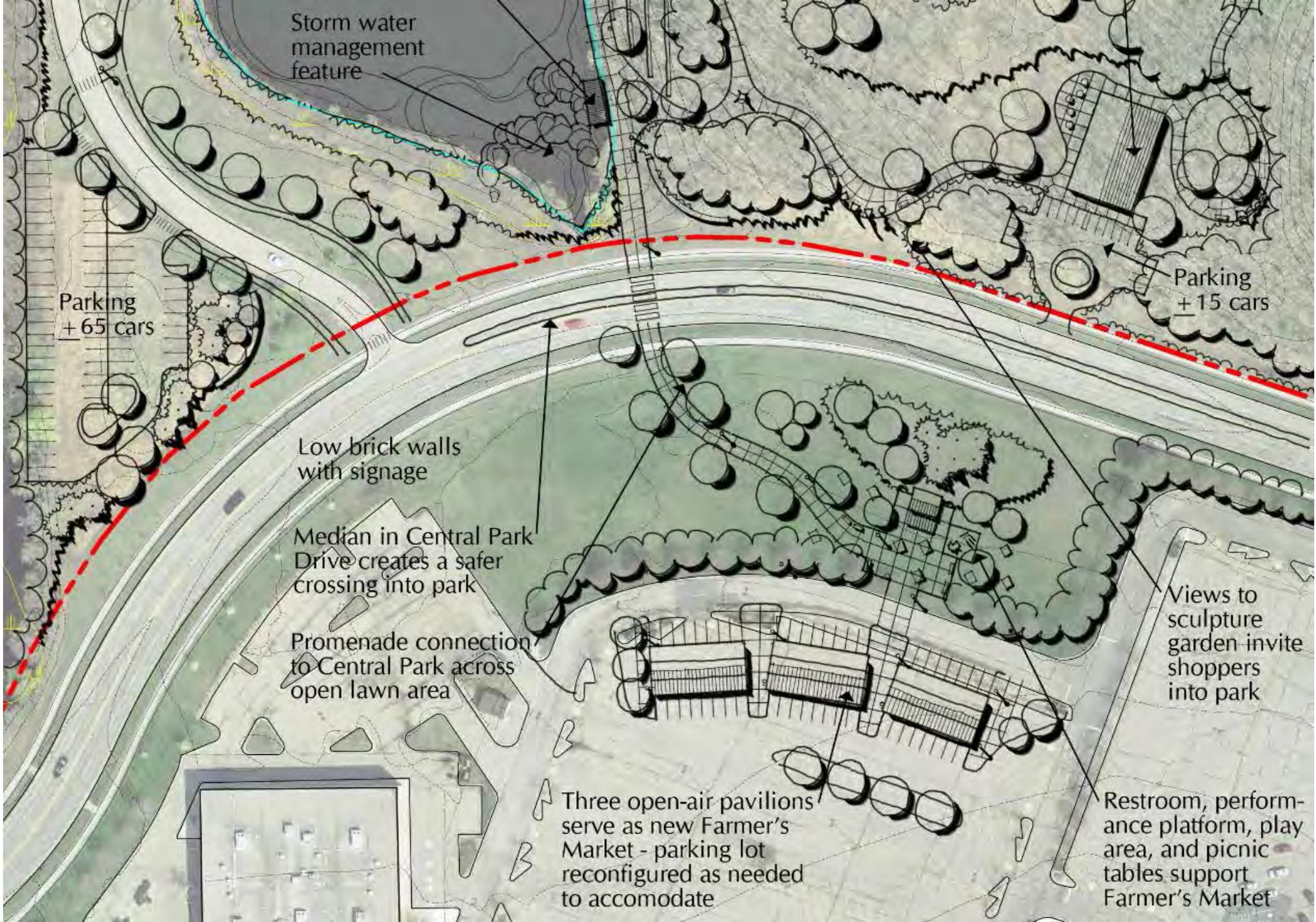
Section at the Lederbuhr Property



— WETLAND/POND — | — PROMENADE 16-20' — | — AMPHITHEATER — | — SCULPTURE PARK — |



Scott Outdoor Amphitheater



Storm water management feature

Parking + 65 cars

Parking + 15 cars

Low brick walls with signage

Median in Central Park Drive creates a safer crossing into park

Promenade connection to Central Park across open lawn area

Views to sculpture garden invite shoppers into park

Three open-air pavilions serve as new Farmer's Market - parking lot reconfigured as needed to accommodate

Restroom, performance platform, play area, and picnic tables support Farmer's Market



Findley Market, Cincinnati, Ohio

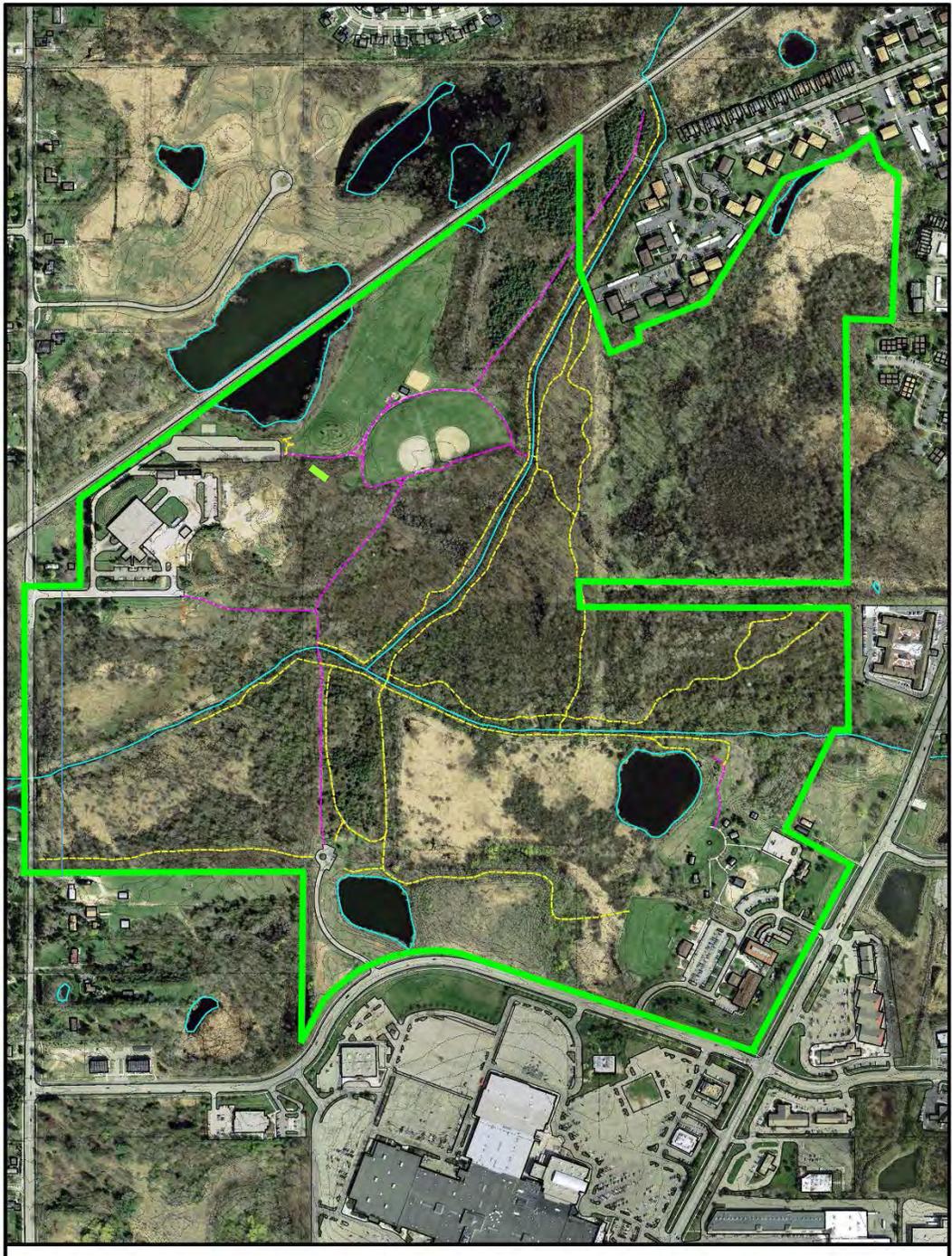
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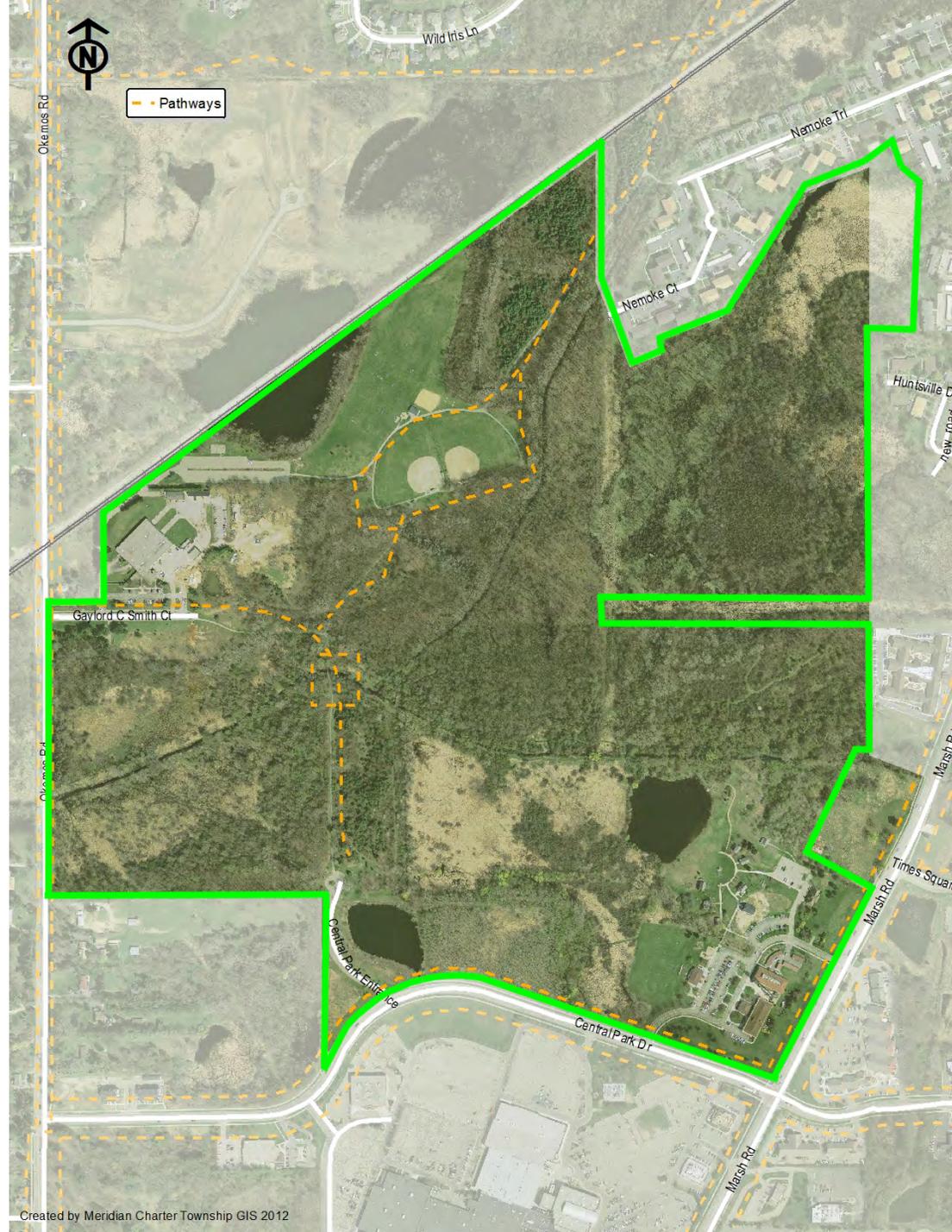


Total Park Area

279 acres

**Existing
Conditions**

Inventory of Existing Conditions Pathways

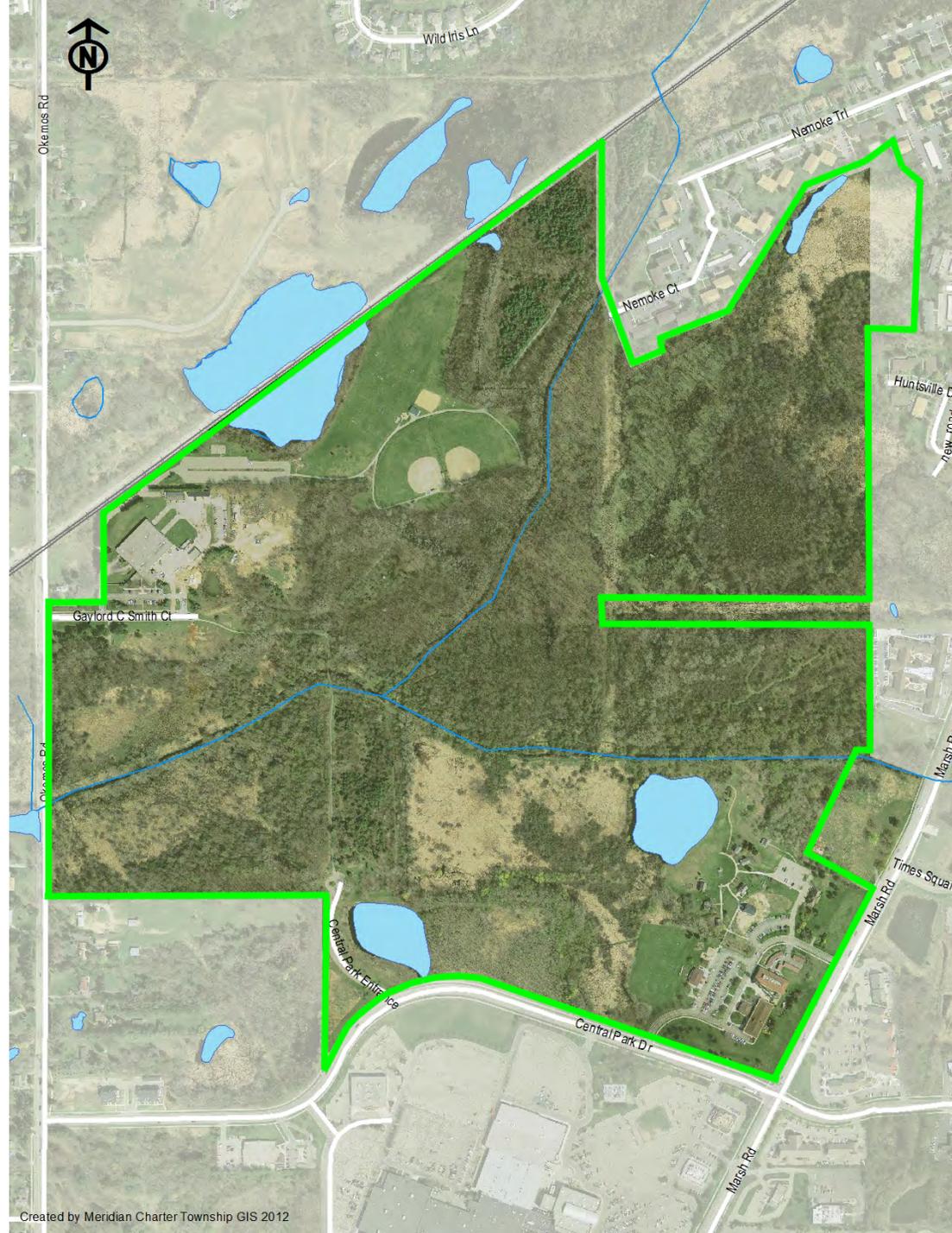


Existing Trails

Paved Trails – 1.5 miles

Unpaved Trails – 4.3 miles

Inventory of Existing Conditions Water



Drains and Ponds

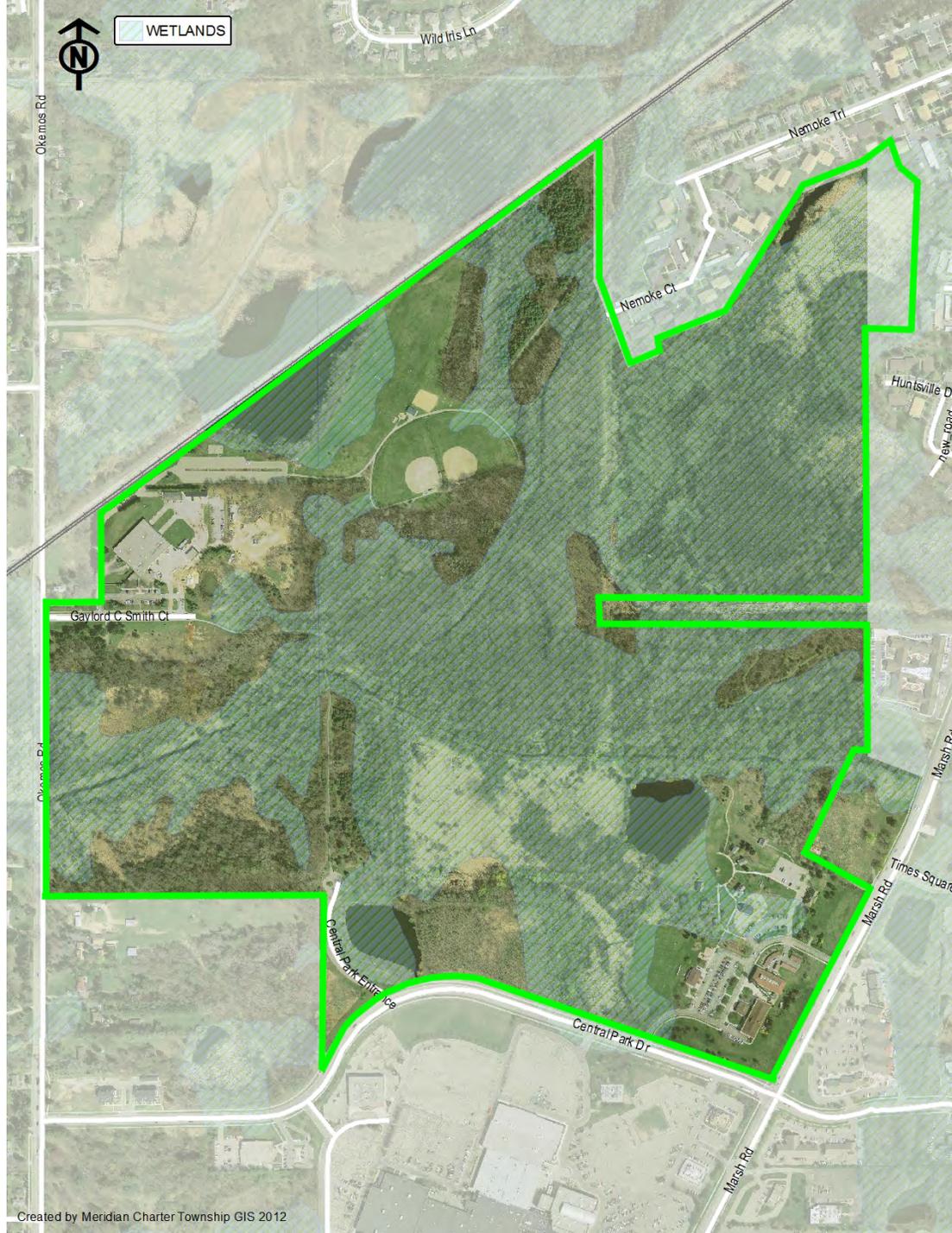
N/S - Pine Lake Drain

E/W – Mud Lake Drain

Historic Village Pond – 3 acres

Central Park South – 1.8 acres

Nancy Moore Pond – 3 acres



Total Wetland Area

208 acres

Inventory of Existing Conditions Wetlands

Inventory of Existing Conditions Floodway

