

CONTENTS

Section I: Project Context

- Owner Mission Statement
- Master Plan Constraints
- Master Plan Expectations

Section 2: Community Input

- Workshops / Online Survey
- Youth Recreation Results
- Adult Recreation Results

Section 3: Site Analysis

- Historical Uses
- Existing Conditions

Section 4: Master Plan

- Overall Master Plan
- Phase I Disc Golf & Playgrounds
- Phase 2 Parking & Adult Recreation
- Phase 3 Pearson Building & Gazebo
- Phase 4 Beach House, Pavilion, & Tower
- Phase 5 Shelters & Boat Docks

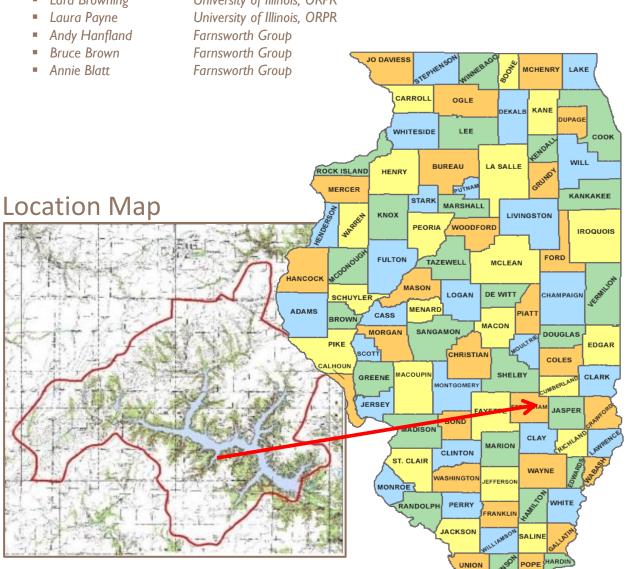
PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Acknowledgements:

The Design Team would like to thank and acknowledge the Effingham Water Authority, and all of the citizens who participated in the public workshops and online surveys for your support of this project. Your participation & input provided the starting point for this Master Plan.

Design Team

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Master Plan Process

The first step in determining the future of a park is to put together a Long-Range Master Plan. One that has input from the Owner and its constituents as well. It is with great pleasure we present this Master Plan for the Pearson Peninsula Park on Lake Sara, that it be returned to a destination point for the lake residents and the Citizens of Effingham County.

This Master Plan focuses on the future of the redevelopment of the park. During the 50's, 60's, & 70's the park, under commercial lease, had an abundance of actives with a lake front beach, pin ball machines, water slides, and a train transporting people to and from the adjacent campgrounds. It was one of top outdoor activity areas in the Effingham Area. Over time subsequent lessees sold off recreation assets and allowed the beach area to fall into disrepair. This resulted in a drop in attendance and

the present condition of the park today.

In 2017 the Lake Sara Forever Fund of the Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation purchased the beach lease and returned the property to EWA direct control with the goal of developing the entire peninsula (30 acres) into a quality recreational park for the benefit of both lake residents and the entire Effingham Community. Lake Sara Forever then contracted with Farnsworth to develop this Master Plan.

This Master Plan (or Roadmap) provides the vision to bring the park back bigger and even better than its previous glory years. Through the application of public work shops, informational meetings, & a web-based survey the owner engaged the residents around Lake Sara as well as the citizens of nearby Effingham before they allowed any design work to begin. The input from the citizens along with the master plan expectation from the owner provided the guidelines for the development of this Master Plan.

The Master Plan also provides the bases to develop the park in phases as the funds become available to build. And not to be overlooked it provides the bases to determine on going maintenance needs so that the park is maintained to the best

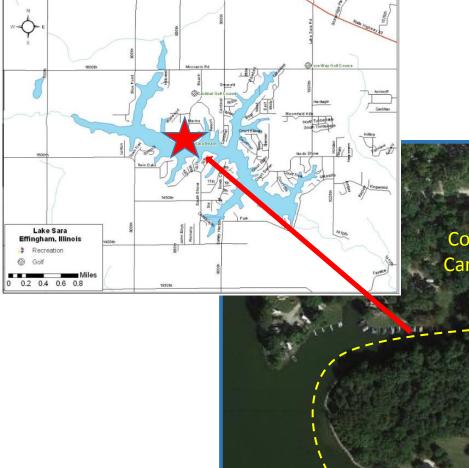
possible condition within the maintenance budget available.

SECTION I: PROJECT CONTENTS

EWA Parks & Recreation Mission Statement

Mission: To advise the EWA Board on a long term strategy for the development and care of the public areas of Lake Sara, including areas which EWA has leased to private businesses. Research resources in the private and public realm to could be utilized by the Board for the betterment of Lake Sara.

<u>Vision:</u> To develop Lake Sara into the premier outdoor recreational asset in the Greater Effingham Area, adding and enhancing amenities to both lake residents and the Effingham Community.



Master Plan Constraints

The Effingham Water Authority identified 2 overall project constraints for the Master Plan. Those are:

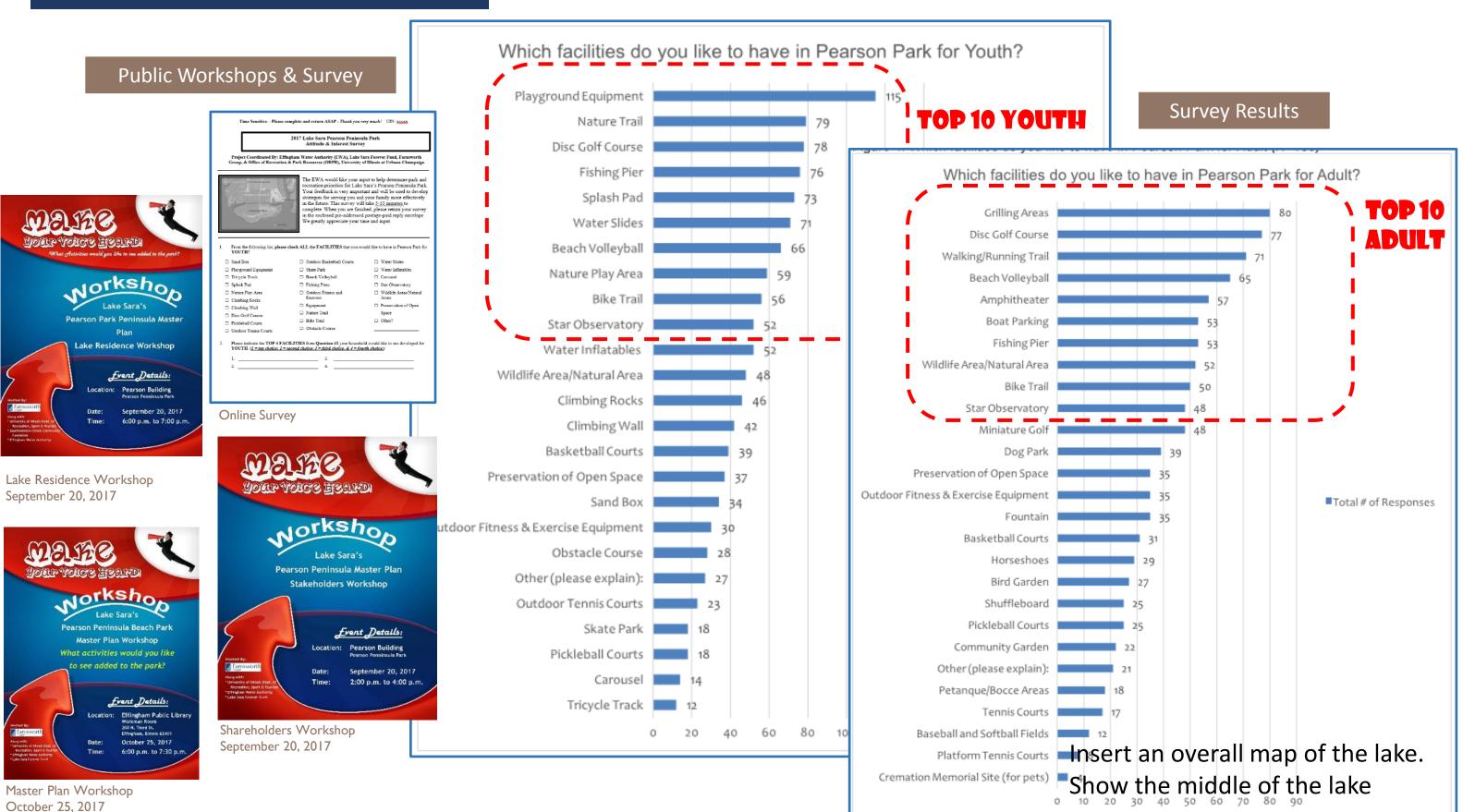
- I. No night operations.
- Design must accommodate the annual 4th of July fireworks operations (trailer based pyrotechnics) and crowd viewing areas needed.

Master Plan Expectations

To complete the Master Plan the Parks Committee laid out 15 expectations for the plan. They include:

- 1. <u>BEST PRACTICES:</u> Benchmarking best practices for similar size facilities
- 2. <u>CITIZEN'S INPUT:</u> Conducting town hall and web based surveys to determine what features are desired by the community.
- 3. <u>INFRASTRUCTURE COST:</u> Defining infrastructure requirements (e.g. electrical, sewage, lighting, shower, and rest room facilities, etc.)
- 4. <u>DESIGN TO ACCODATE NEIGHBORS:</u> Design should incorporate features which provide symbiotic relationship with surrounding commercial operations.
- 5. <u>GEESE DETERRENT:</u> Design should include shoreline landscaping buffers which serve as a deterrent to geese. This landscaping ideally will also serve as models which lake residents can also employ.
- 6. NATIVE PLANT MATERIAL: Landscaping should utilize native sustainable species to minimize maintenance and support the theme of Illinois nature, as presently exhibited by the Post Oaks Woodland Heritage Site near the
- 7. <u>IMPROVE PUBLIC BEACH AREA:</u> Incorporate improvements to the existing public beach operations.
- 8. PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES: Facilities should provide enjoyable recreational opportunities for all age groups.
- 9. ACCOMDATE FUTURE TRAIL CONNECTIONS: Accommodate future links to the TREC bike path and a "Bike & Hike" Trail under consideration by other organizations.
- INCORPORATE SECURITY: Appropriate security requirements should be identified
- 11. <u>MEET ALL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS:</u> Plan shall identify & conform to all regulatory requirements.
- 12. <u>IDENTIFY PROJECTS & COST:</u> Master Plan should identify individual projects which can be implemented over time as funds become available.
- 13. <u>PROVIDE COST ESTIMATE:</u> Estimated costs for each phase of implementation should be developed.
- 14. <u>ESTABLISH PHASES & COST</u>: Each implementation phase should also include an estimate of required incremental maintenance manpower and equipment.
- 15. <u>IDENTIFY GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:</u> Grants and other funding opportunities should be identified.

SECTION 2: COMMUNITY INPUT & RESULTS







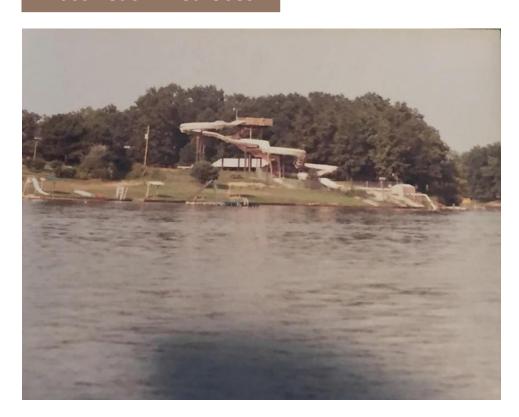


Past Beach Area Uses





Past Beach Area Uses





Beach Area Today







Beach Area



Dock



Shelters



Fishing Dock



Beach Area



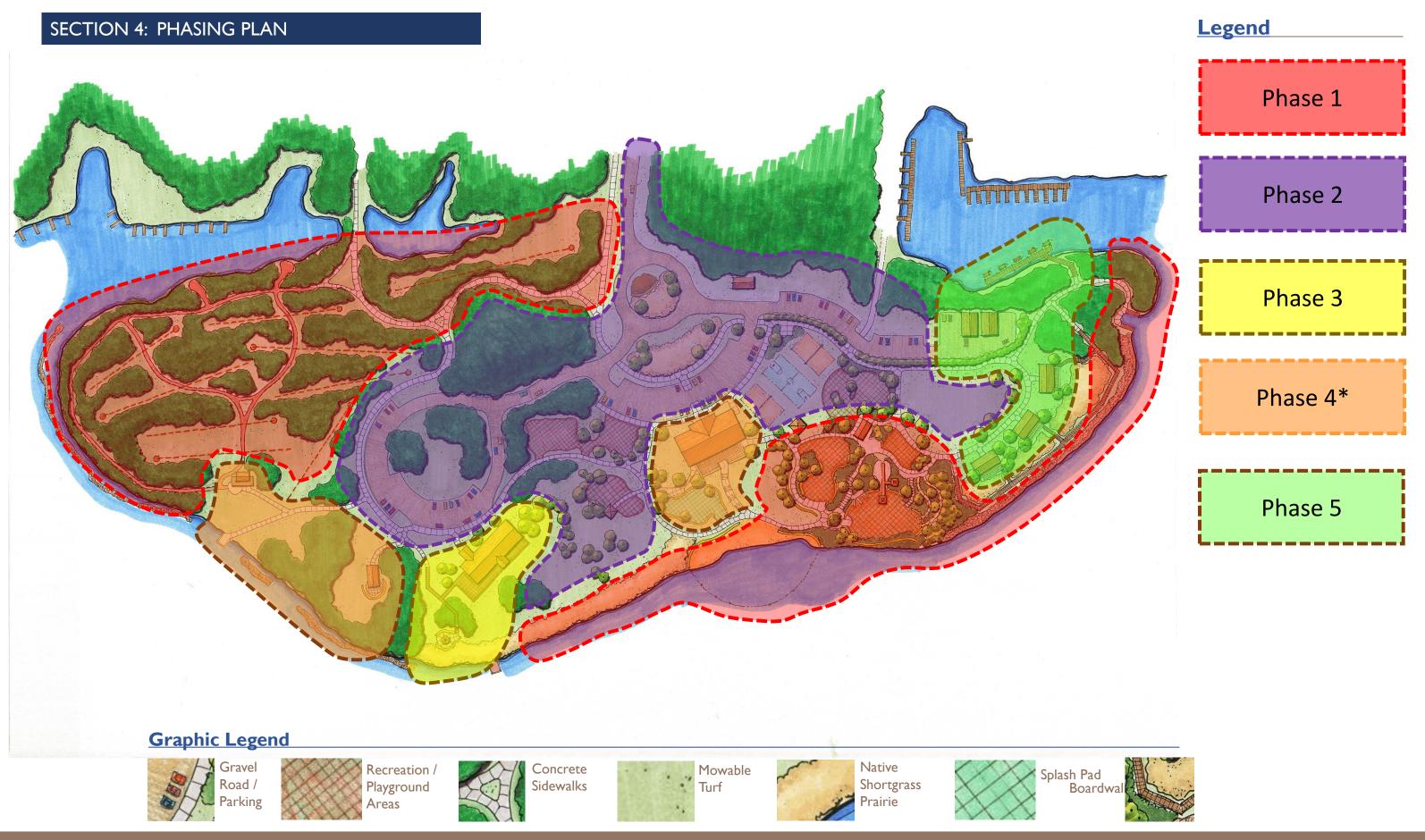
Shoreline Protection

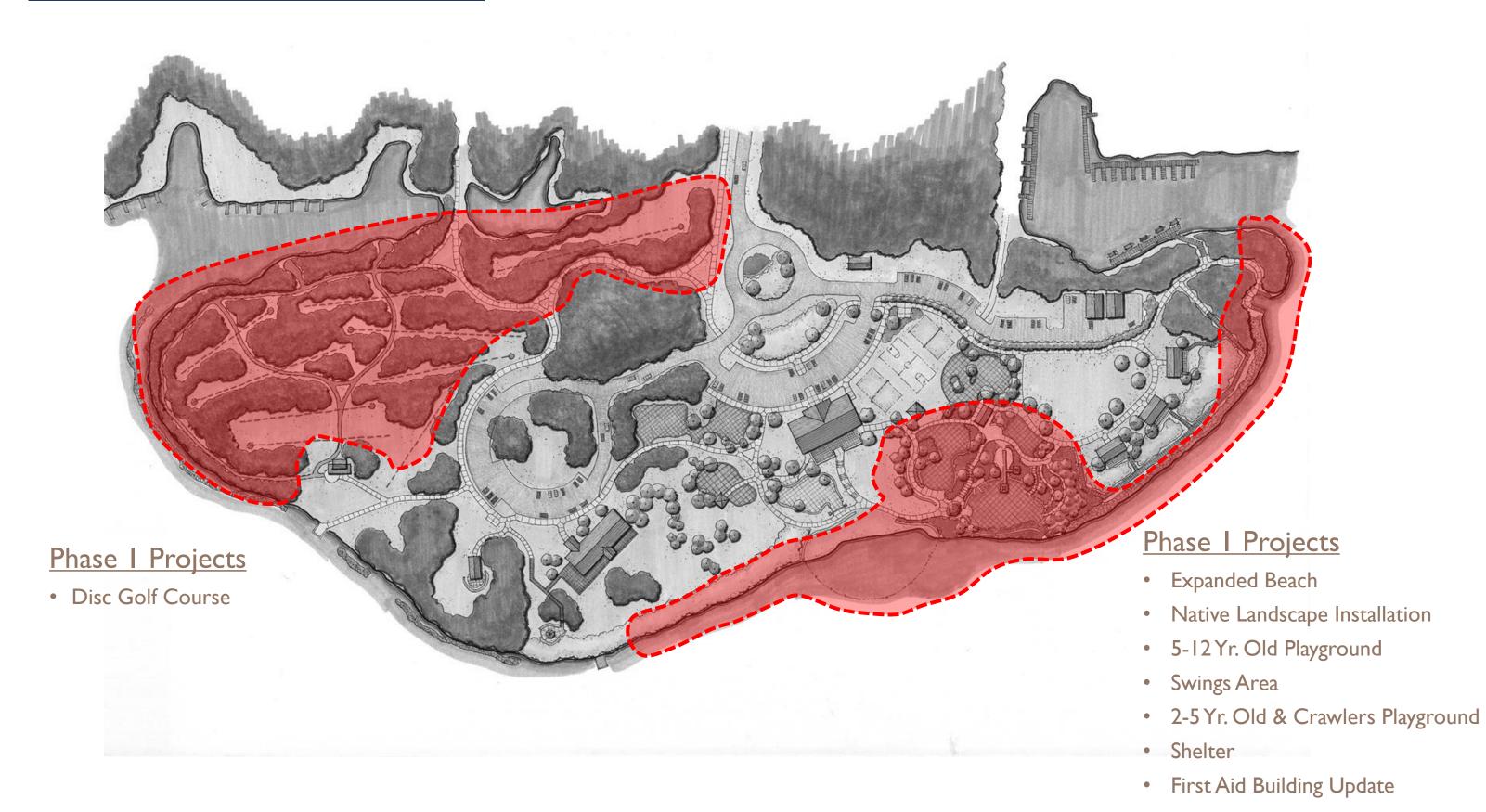




Legend

- I. Bike Trail: Future Connection To Bike Trails
- 2. Park Entry: Main Entry To Park
- 3. Disc Golf: 18 Hole Disc Golf & Trail System
- 4. Fishing: Bank Fishing Area
- 5. Star Tower: Star Gazing Tower
- . Fishing: ADA Fishing From Upgraded Platform
- 7. Pavilion: Outdoor Pavilion For 60 People
- 8. Wayfinding: Vehicle Entry To Pearson Building Parking
- 9. Parking: Pearson Building Parking Lot
- 10. Expansion: Pearson Building Remodel / Expansion
- 11. Gazebo: Overlook To Lake
- 12. Bicycle Parking Area: 15 Stalls
- 13. Septic Field: New Septic Field For Pearson Building
- 14. Existing Ponds: Settling Ponds To Be Incorporated Into The Disc Golf Course
- 15. Stormwater: Swale Improvements For Stormwater
- Picnic Area: (1) 20' X 20' Shelter And 8 Picnic Table/Grill Combination.
- 17. Adult Recreation: Pickle Ball Courts
- 18. Adult Recreation: Bags
- 19. Outdoor Seating Area: Permanent Benches
- 20. Parking: Beach House Parking
- 21. Beach House: Concessions, Restrooms, Outdoor Dining Area.
- 22. Splash Pad: Nature Base
- 23. Seating: Outdoor Lawn Seating Area For Beach
- 24. Lake Front Beach: Expanded Beach Area
- 25. Swimming: Lake Swimming Area
- 25. Swilling. Lake Swilling Area
- 26. Landscape: Native Plantings For Goose Protection
- 27. Playground: 5-12 Yr. Old Custom Playground. Nature / Nautical Theme
- 28. Playground: Traditional Swings
- 29. Playground: 2-5 Yr. Old Custom Playground. Nature / Nautical Theme
- 30. Recreation: Multi-use Surface For Basketball / Roller Hockey, Etc.
- 31. Recreation: Sand Volleyball Courts
- 32. Shelter: 20' X 20' Shade Shelter
- 33. Adult Recreation / Lifeguard / First Aid Building
- 34. Open Space Recreation / Temporary Tent Location For Renting
- 35. Boardwalk: Elevated Wooden Board Overlooking Lake Sara
- Shelters: Remodel 2 Existing Shelters And Add A Third Shelter.
- 37. Canoe Launch: Provide A Non Ada Trail To The Launch Site.
- 38. Utility / Storage Building: Water & Electrical Service Access To The Site. Limited Storage.
- 39. Pedestrian Connection To The Restaurant Next Door.
- 40. Boat Docks: Future Docks For Park Use.
- 41. Maintenance Facility:
- 42. Previous Erosion Control Project







Legend



Phase I Projects

#24 Expanded Beach

- Beach Area Expanded to Twice the Current Size.
- Stone Retaining Walls To Hold Existing Slope
- ADA Access Provided From Beach House

#25 Swimming Area

■ 19,000 s.f. Of Roped Off Area For Swimming

#26 Native Landscape Installation

Native Grasses & Trees To Reduce Canada Goose Access To Open Lawn Areas.

#27 5-12 Yr. Old Playground

- Stone Retaining Walls To Create Playground Pad
- Hillside & Embankment Slides
- Rock Climbers
- Custom Elevated Playground Component

#28 Swings

#29 2-5 Yr. Old & Crawlers Playground

- #29a Upper Area 2-5 Yr. Old Playground
- #29b Lower Area 3 Yr. Old Crawlers

#32 Shelter

20' X 20' Shade Shelter w/ Benches

#33 Adult Recreation / First Aid Building

- 33b Staff Facilities
- 33b WIFI Equipment Location

Futu

Future Phases

- #21 Beach House Building
- #22 Splash Pad
- #23 Open Lawn
- #34 Open Space
- #30 Multi-use Court
- #31 Volleyball Court
- #33 Adult Recreation / First Aid Building
 - 33a Workout Equipment



Ship Style Playgrounds









Climbing Rock







5- 12 Yr. Old Playground Hillside & Embankment Slides











Adventure Playground | Irvine, CA.



Fort Washington Park | New York



Alexander Camp | MA



Fort Washington Park | New York



Fort Washington Park | New York



Downtown City Park | New York





Smothers Park | Kentucky

















Nature Based Playgrounds







Handicap Swings

Expression Swings









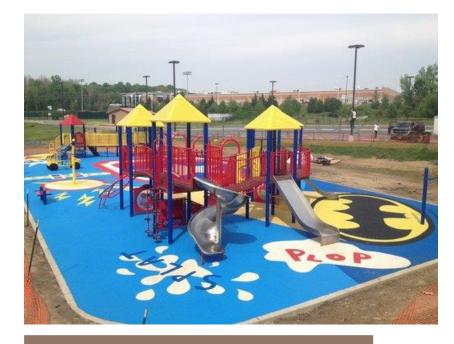
Traditional Swings



2 – 5 Yr. Playground Inspiration Pictures







Rubberized Safety Surface



Stone Steps





Stone Retaining Walls

Rubberized Surface Colors







Outdoor Music















Native Landscapes

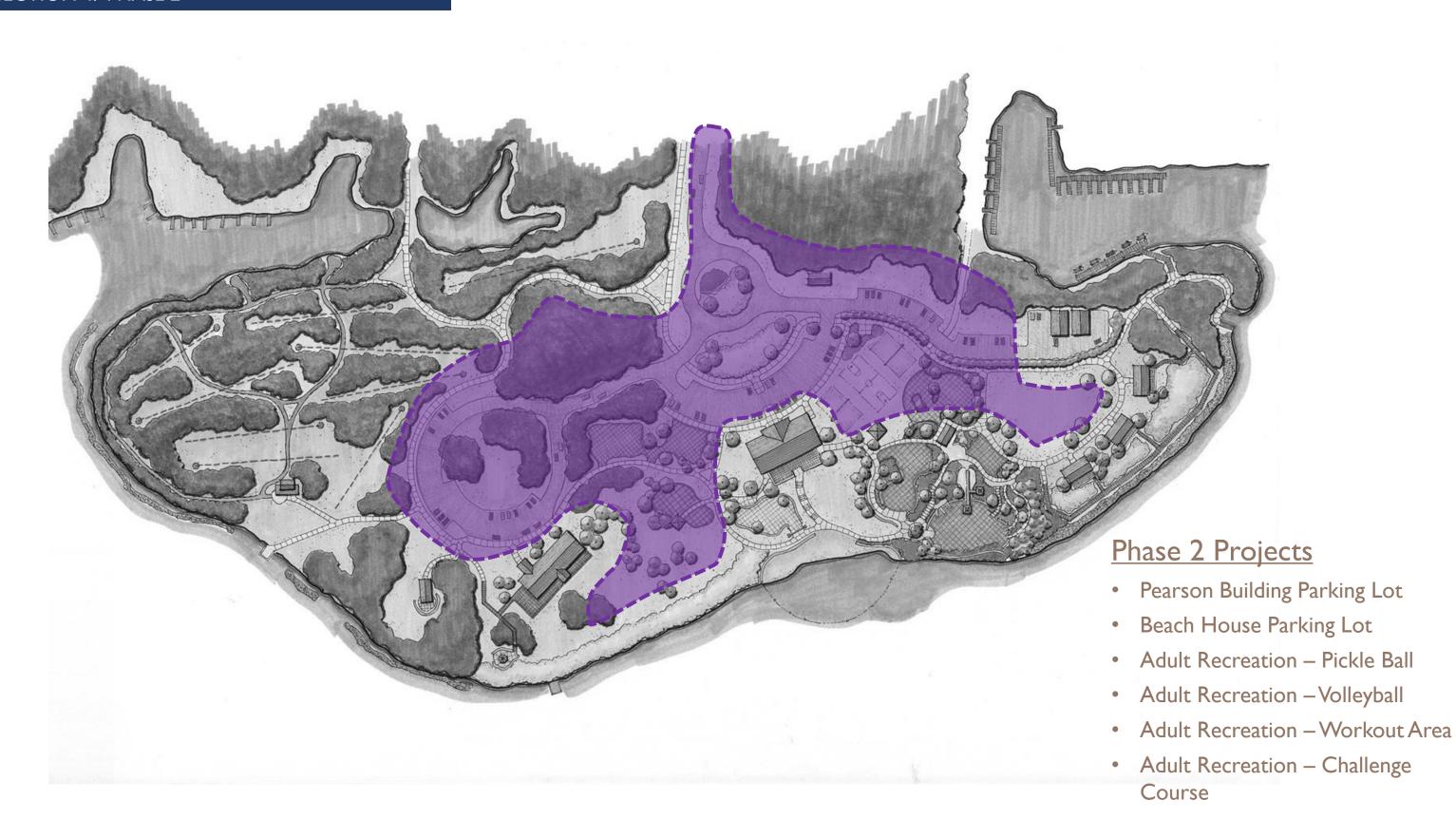








Shelter Examples





Outdoor Adult Fitness



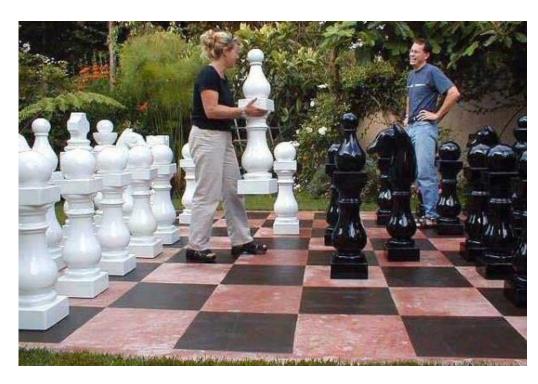
Outdoor Sand Volleyball



Pickleball Court



Outdoor Adult Obstacle Course



Outdoor Chest













Legend

#9 Pearson Building Drop-off & Park

- Drop-off Lane For Pedestrians
- ADA Sidewalk Access To The Building
- Expanded Parking Adjacent To The Building

#10 Pearson Building Remodel / Expansion

- Additional Conference Space
- Additional Bathrooms
- New Warming Kitchen
- New Heating And Cooling Systems
- Deck Overlooking Lake Sara
- #10a Outdoor Open Air Deck
- #10b Deck With Shade Structure

#11 Gazebo / Lake Overlook

- 15' X 15' Gazebo With Roof And Open Sides
- #11a ADA Ramp Access
- Located On A Bluff To Maximize Pictures For Special Events
- Stone Retaining Walls And Concrete Pavement For Easier Access

#12 Bicycle Park Area

- Concrete Paving
- Bike Parking For Up To 15

#26 Native Planting for Goose Protection

 30 -40' Wide Native Grasses & Wildflowers to Keep Geese from the Open Lawn Areas.



Open Views to the Outside



Create Building Character



Create Unique Spaces



Extend Operating Hours

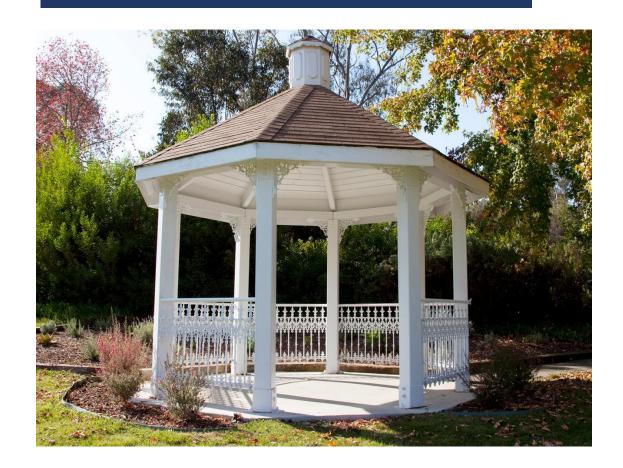


Update Rooms



Provide Outdoor Opportunities



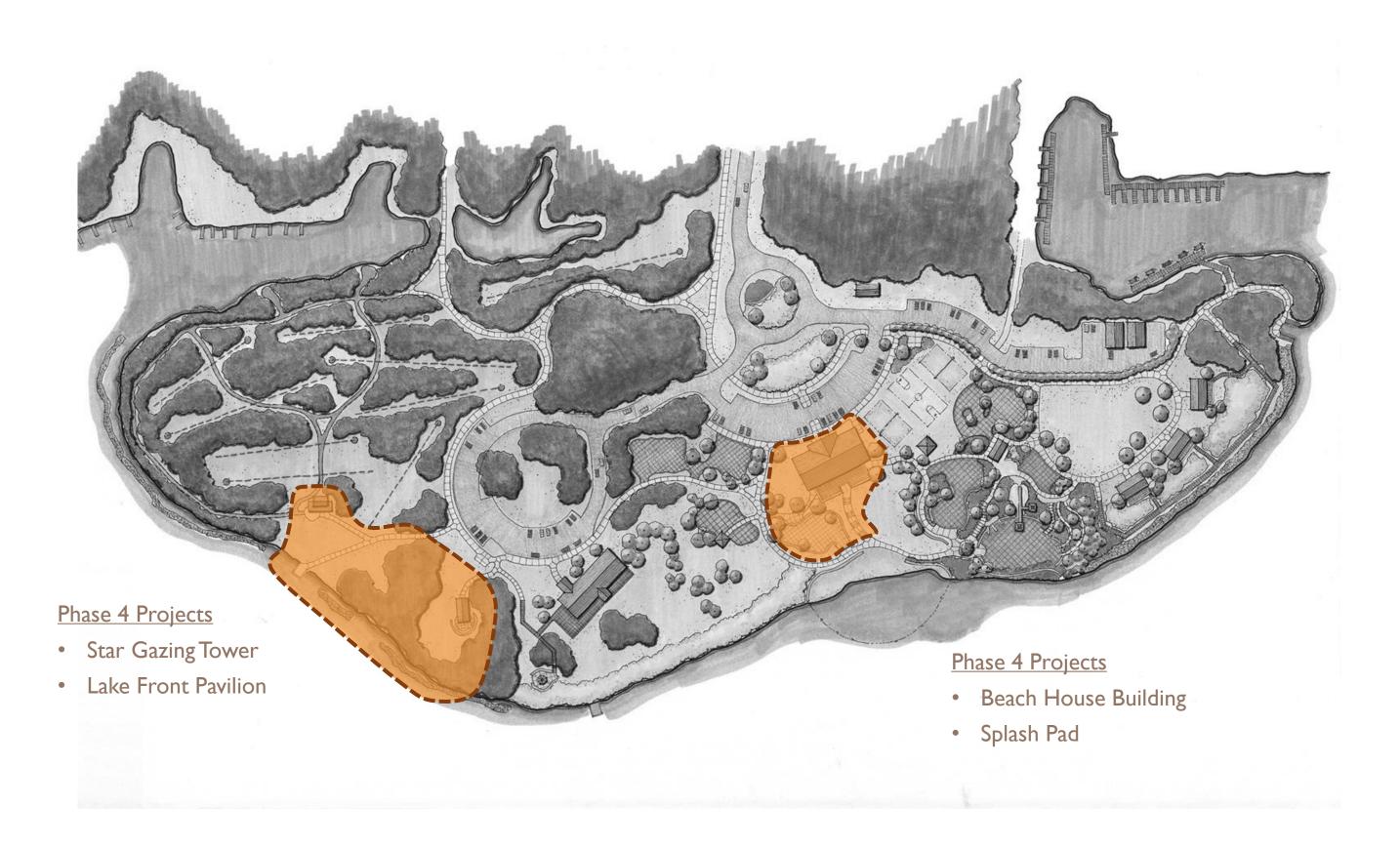


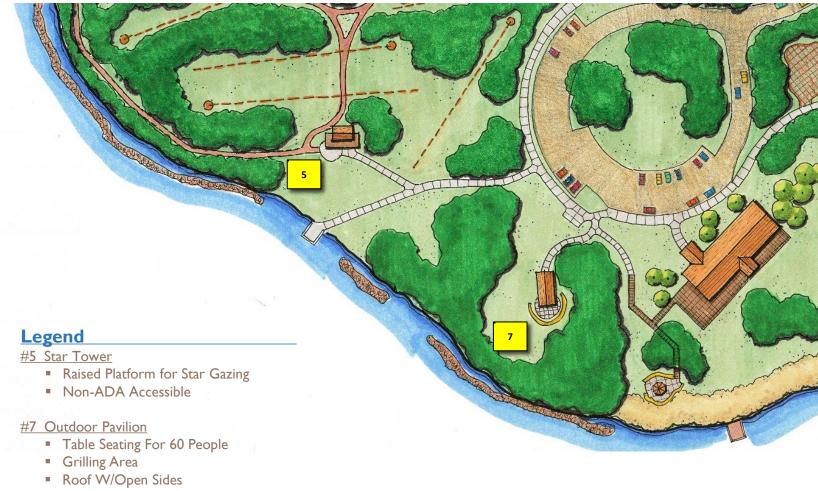














ADA Sidewalk Access

#21 Beach House Building

- Concessions Operations
- General Storage
- Men's & Women's Bathrooms
- Men's & Women's Swimming Prep

#22 Splash Pad

- 300 gpm / Recirculation Water System
- Fenced Area with Gated Entry
- Requires an IDPH Pool Permit
- Pumps & Filters located in outdoor vault



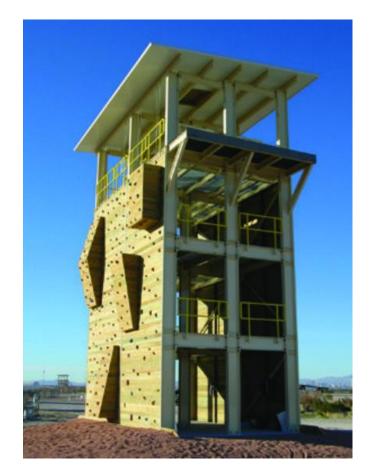




Pavilion Examples













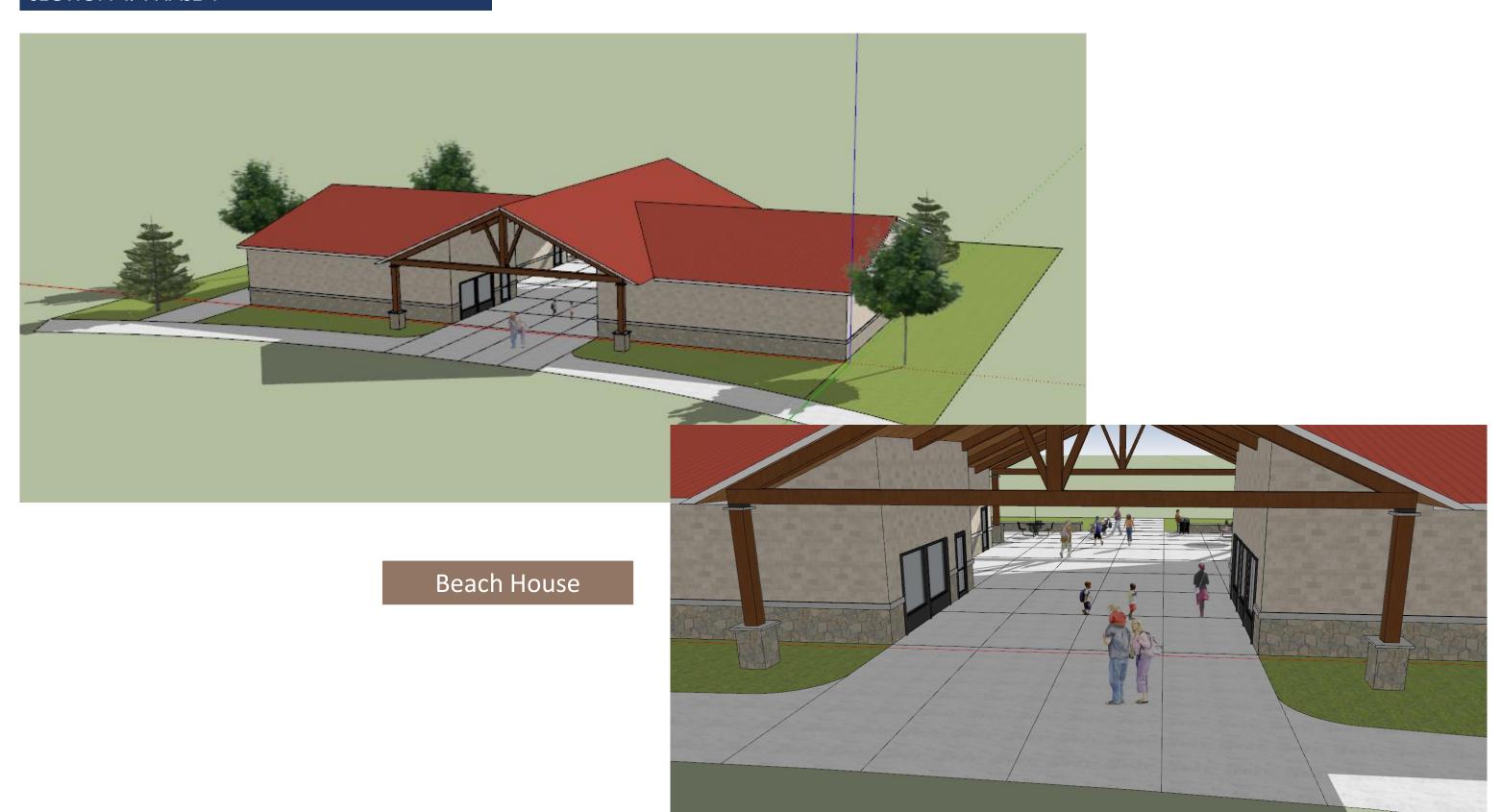
Star Tower Examples

















Legend

#34 Open Space / Temporary Tent Location

- Open mowable lawn space for recreation
- Open space for temporary event tents
- \checkmark (2) 120' x 60' tents maximum
- ✓ 320 people per tent / 640 people total

#35 Boardwalk

• 600 l.f. of boardwalk with views to the lake

#36 Shelters

- (2) Existing shelters to be remodeled
- New shelter to be added
- All shelters to receive a cooking area / grill along the lake side

#37 Existing Canoe Launch

- Upgrade beach area
- Upgrade docks

#41 Maintenance Facility

- Keep existing building and remodel
- (Future) Add a second building as needed
- Outside storage for materials and equipment
- Fence & gate area for security and aesthetics

OVERALL MASTER PLAN



Graphic Legend









Concrete Sidewalks

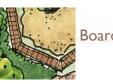


Mowable Turf

Native Shortgrass Prairie



Splash Pad



Boardwalk