





# MASTER PLAN

## OVERVIEW

The master plan emphasizes the natural and historical significance of the site and the surrounding region. Historically, the site has evolved over time and is part of a continuum of change with a past, a present, and a future. Fully implemented, the master plan strives to reveal and celebrate each of these layers, and to tell the stories that uncover the sequence of our lives. Local residents and tourists alike cherish the park as it has become a node for the celebration of history and ecology.

Quail Hollow Park should continue its celebration of history and connection with nature, while also improving its ties to the local and outer lying communities that wish to experience what the park has to offer. Quail Hollow is, and should continue to be, a place where visitors can be with family and friends, be closer to nature, improve their mental and physical health, learn about the history of the region, and gather for informal or formal social gatherings.

This plan is intended to create excitement and build public support by conceptually illustrating how the park could function, outline opportunities for historical and environmental outreach, and provide guidance as opportunities are studied in further detail during the implementation phases.



Master Plan Concept



DESIGN AREAS

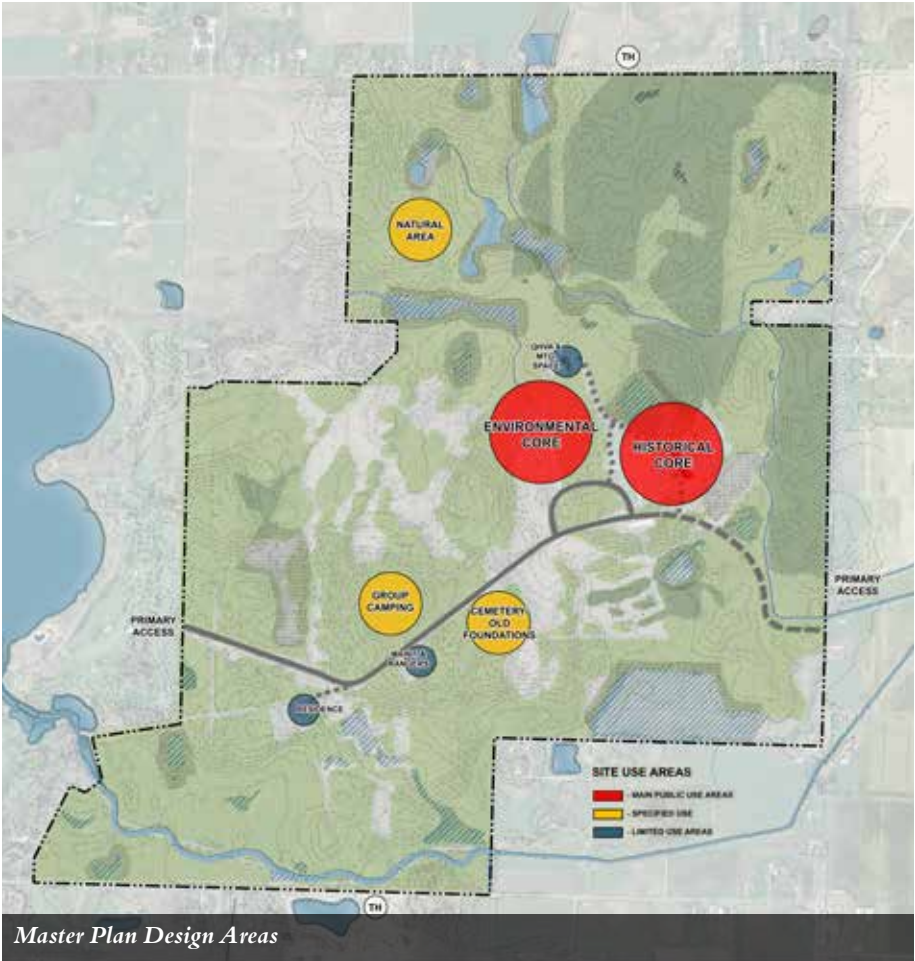
The Master Plan is further described in the following sections: the Historic Core which consists of the Manor House Area, Little House Area, Cemetery, and Barn Foundation Area; the Environmental Core which consists of the Pond Recreational Area and the Nature Education Area; Supporting Amenities with consists of the Group Campground Area, the Levitt House, Maintenance and Security, and the Meadows; Park Circulation which consists of both Vehicular and Pedestrian Circulation; and Park Utilities.

Design Concept

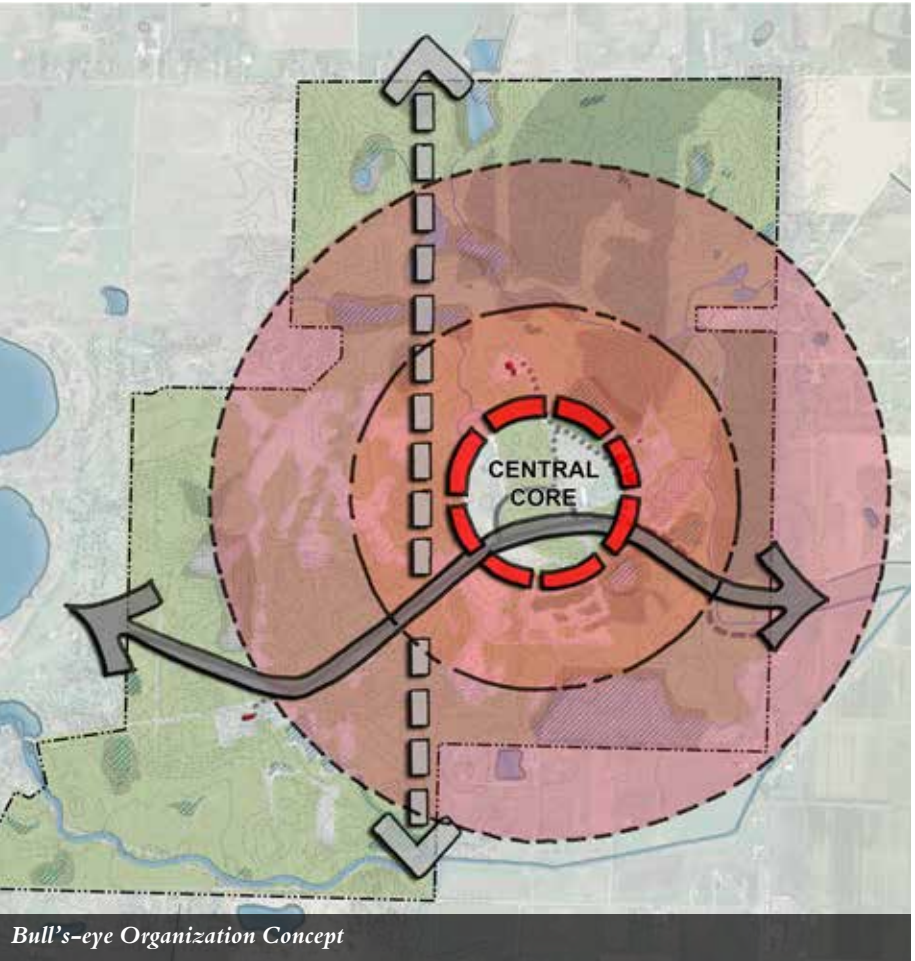
Similar to a bull’s-eye that radiates outward, park activity is more active and intense, group-focused, and formalized near the center of the park around the historic buildings and pond area. Together, these areas create a multi-nodal destination linked by trails that tell the stories of the past, present, and future. Whereas in the outer areas, park activity is more passive and peaceful, individually-focused, and informal. These regions allow for a more reflective experience and create the opportunity for discovery.

While the Manor House, Carriage House, and Caretaker’s House create the Historic Core, they are supported by the Little House and the Brumbaugh Cemetery, and Barn Foundation areas. The pond becomes the focal point for the Environmental Core with a shelter, Nature Center, and natural play area. The Discovery Trail provides a direct link between the cores while the Heritage Loop connects each of the individual areas and conveys the park’s history through interpretive panels and displays.

Reflective of the bull’s-eye design concept, the trail network surrounds the primary areas and provides access to the outer regions of the park, the Bird Sanctuary, a designated Nature Education Area, and the wide variety of ecosystems. The East/West extension of the main driveway that connects Congress Lake Road to Duquette Avenue and the North/South multi-purpose trail that follows the old farm lane to connect Swamp Street with Pontius Street connect the heart of Quail Hollow Park to the community.



A Group Campground for 30 guests, new Maintenance Facility, and renovation of the Levitt House round out the remainder of the proposed improvements within the park boundary. Beyond the boundary, the Master Plan provides recommendations to link the park with community amenities and SCPD’s Trails and Greenways Master Plan via on-street bike lanes/sharrows or multipurpose trail connections.





# HISTORIC CORE

## The Historic Core

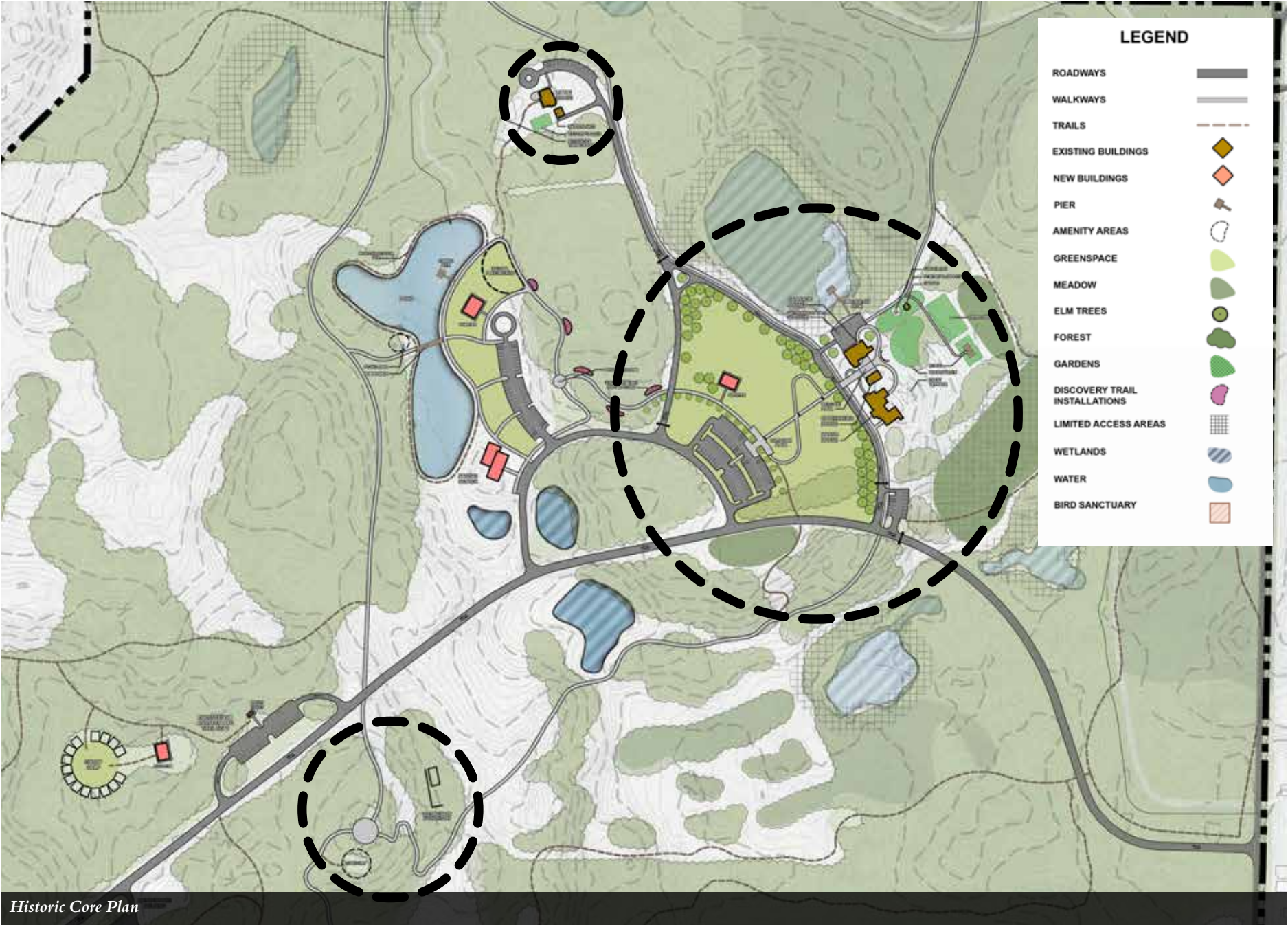
### Manor House Area

The Manor House Area includes the Manor House, Caretaker’s House, Carriage House, surrounding grounds, and supporting vehicular and pedestrian circulation.

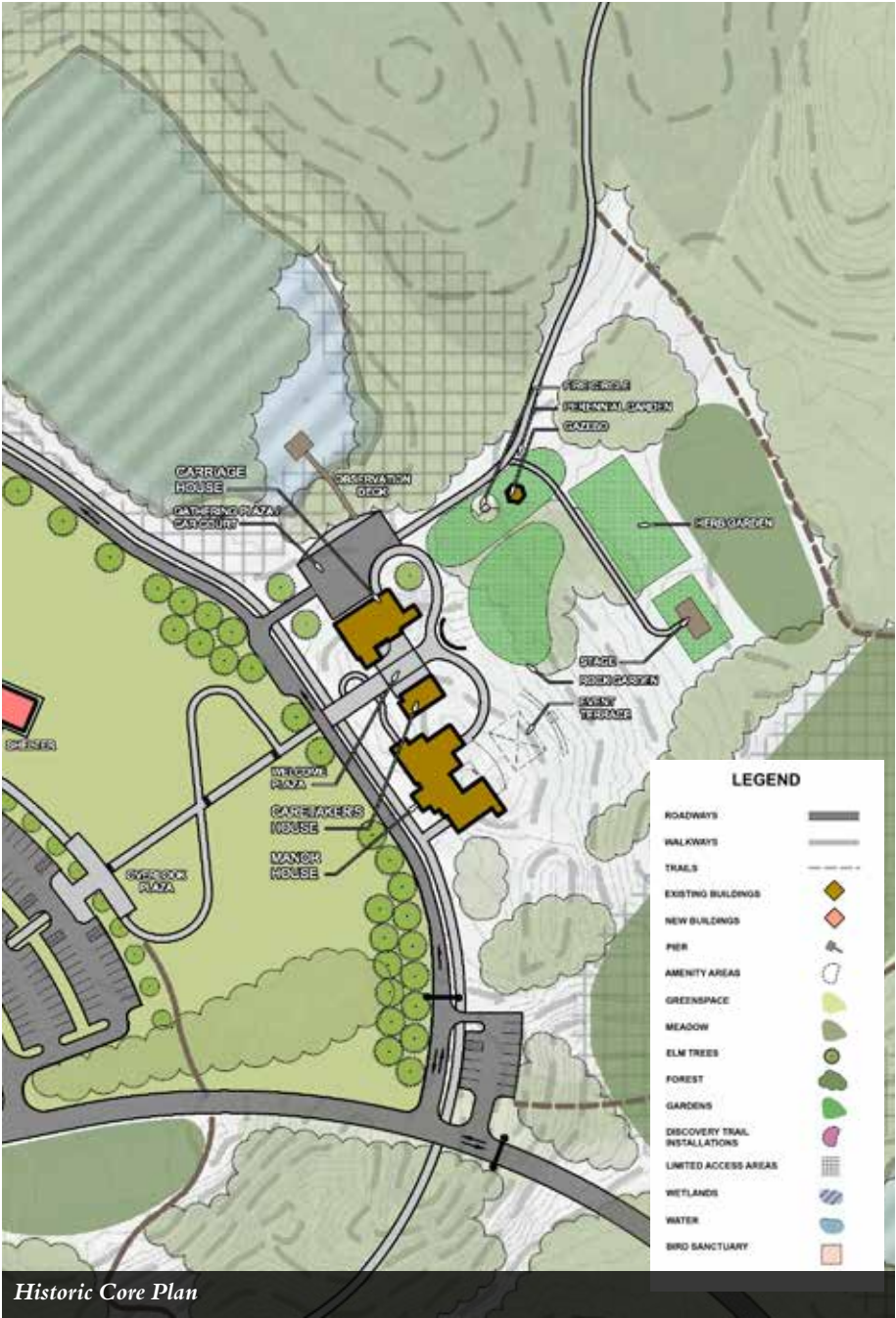
Located at the heart of the park, the proposed design for the Manor House Area places people in center focus. By redefining vehicular and pedestrian circulation, it not only improves public safety, accessibility, and intuitive wayfinding, but more importantly creates an arrival sequence that builds anticipation and re-centers focus on the historic building complex. The site design strives to balance circulation, public safety, and access requirements with an intent to preserve the historic setting to the greatest extent possible. Building renovations preserve the Manor House and rehabilitate the Caretaker’s House and Carriage House to maximize historic attributes as well as provide a Welcome and Interpretive Center, event spaces, public restrooms, offices, and meeting rooms to support the ongoing operation of the park.

The focus of the Manor House Area is to celebrate and enhance the historical buildings and their setting. In effort to do so, the following goals were set based on the Needs Assessment:

- Protect and stabilize the historic buildings and grounds.
- Focus programming on the history of the park and the surrounding region: Activities or park functions that are not directly related to the history of the Manor House such as the maintenance workshop, exterior fuel tanks, ranger offices, cross country ski rental, and the Nature Center will be relocated to other areas within the park. Volunteer offices will also be relocated to the Little House.
- Improve safety by reducing vehicle traffic in front of the Manor House: Vehicle access in front of the Manor House will be restricted and controlled by gates. The drive itself will be a narrow, one-way road constructed to look like a residential drive.
- Improve circulation and the arrival sequence: The main parking lot will be located on the hill overlooking the Manor House Area. Visitors will be able to gather at an interpretive site before descending the Great Lawn to the Welcome Plaza.
- Provide accessibility: Buildings, paths and support areas will be designed for accessibility.
- Provide opportunities for groups to gather: Interior and exterior spaces will be provided for public use.
- Integrate SCPD park standards of care.







**Manor House Buildings**

**Manor House**

The Manor House will be restored to the 1930’s era to support historic tours, small group rentals, and occasional community events.

Program areas that are not associated with the tours such as the QHVA offices and the cross-country ski rental area will be relocated within the park in order to restore these rooms to their original purpose. Basement rooms that were originally used for storage or utility areas will continue to provide those functions. Relocating non-associated functions will also reduce operational costs by reducing the number of days during which the Manor House must be heated during the winter months.

As the lower level was the original main entrance for the Stewart Family, this entrance will be designated main public entrance. Tours may begin in the lower level Rathskellar, so that the historic journey starts off in the oldest section of the building; the original Rubright House. Accessibility to basement level will be provided via the main entrance and to the main level via the back-porch entrance. The back-porch is currently divided into two spaces, a public entrance and a nature observation room. This area as well as the backyard pond area will be restored to its original design.

The exterior fire escape stair that exits from the second level hall onto the courtyard will be relocated to the south side of the house. In its current location, it impedes full use of the courtyard and blocks views from the halls to the backyard landscape. The south side is a tertiary elevation of the house which is partially hidden from view by large shade trees. Access to the fire stair may be through the play room or the guest bedroom and must be coordinated with the local fire department during the design process. The proposed location does not remove any interior walls, but suggests that visitors may pass through the designated room to access the stair.

The exterior courtyard will be restored with short ramps added to provide accessibility. The courtyard will provide an informal garden gathering space for park visitors, a small programming area, and much needed break-out space for Manor House events, especially for those using large tents on the back lawn. Facilities that support the proposed programming such as the kitchen and the restrooms will be upgraded. The kitchen and pantry upgrades will ensure that a refrigerator, counter space and working outlets are available. All other original kitchen equipment will not be available for public use. The two existing restrooms on the main floor will be remodeled to meet current accessibility requirements for public use.







**Carriage House**  
The Carriage House will be rehabilitated to support a Welcome Center, public restrooms, SCPD offices, and an indoor public gathering space.

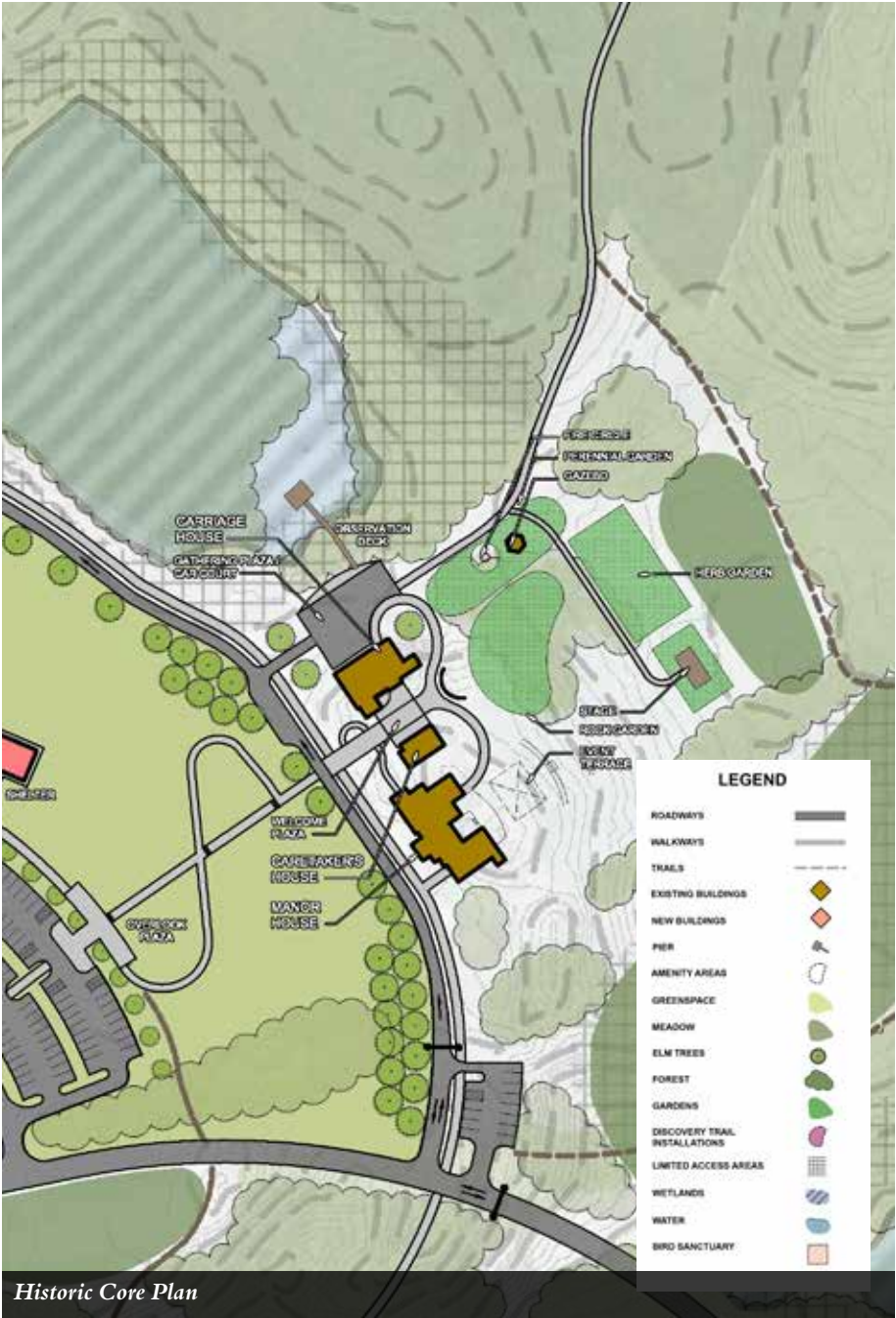
Like the Manor House and Caretaker’s House, the Carriage House has limited accessibility due to tight corridors, narrow doorways, and its multiple levels. All spaces to be made available to the public will be upgraded to meet current accessibility standards. This includes renovating the existing single flush restroom on the main level of the building, creating gradual slopes to allow for an accessible entrance into the building, and ensuring that all accessible entrances are properly signed.

As the main entrance is located on the Welcome Plaza, the current Nature Center will be relocated to a new building adjacent to the pond and the available space will be converted to a Welcome Center. The Welcome Center will provide a staffed information desk, historic exhibits that tell the story of the Manor House Area, and a small store with park related merchandise and limited concessions. A small meeting room and accessible, public restrooms will be provided on the main floor as well as support for SCPD staff including offices and storage rooms. The proposed configuration allows for any one of these functions to remain operational with access to an entrance door and to the restrooms while the other areas remain closed.

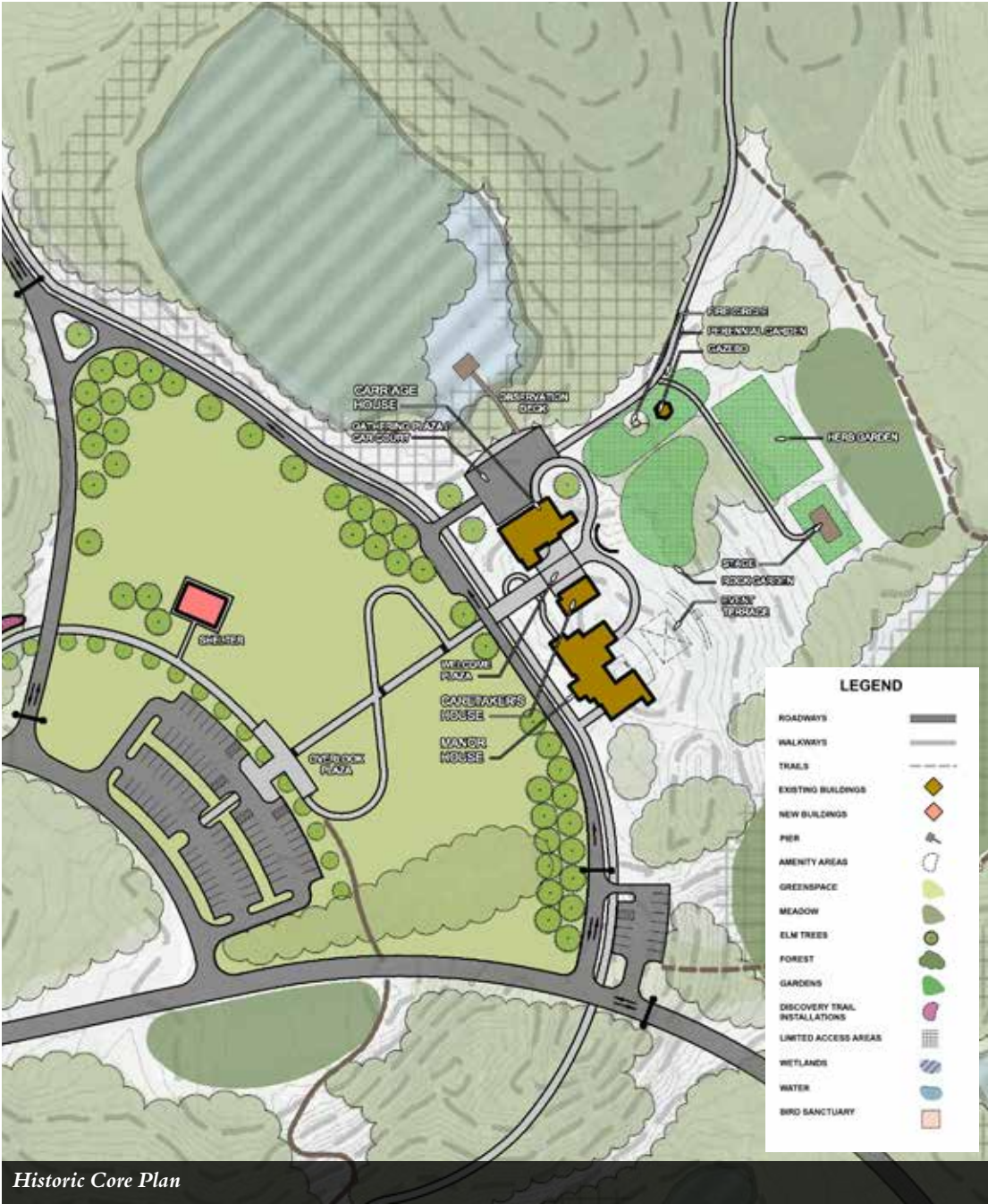
A portion of the upper level is occupied by the SCPD Park Rangers and the remaining area is unoccupied. As the park ranger offices do not need to be centrally located and they require several adjacent parking spaces, they will be relocated to share space with the Maintenance Facility in a different area of the park. The available area will provide space for SCPD offices and storage. During the implementation process, if SHPO allows, SCPD may consider removing a portion of the floor to expose the original structure and create a double-height open space for the Welcome Center.

In the lower level, the current garage and maintenance area will be renovated to become a rentable gathering space where park programming, group meetings, or private celebrations may take place. In the future, SCPD may consider operating a small concession area from this room during peak periods. Just outside this room, the North Plaza will be developed to provide an outdoor patio area with tables and chairs. During implementation, SCPD may consider further opening up the room to the North Plaza with period correct garage doors. Restrooms and a small kitchen area will be provided to support these functions.

The Aviary will be relocated with the new Nature Center. As the structure is not historic, it will be removed from the Carriage House. This will open up additional space for the North Plaza and allow several windows that were closed up to be replaced on the main and lower building levels.







Historic Core Plan

**Caretaker’s House**

The Caretaker’s House will be rehabilitated to support historic tours or a public restroom depending on design decisions that can be made during the Implementation Stage.

The Caretaker’s House is on the opposite side of the Welcome Plaza from the Carriage House. Currently, the QHVA gift shop, The Quail’s Nest, operates from the main and only level of the building. The main level includes four rooms, two storage closets, and a small restroom. The original kitchen was removed some time ago. Per Building Code requirements, the front porch will be modified to include an accessible ramp and code-compliant stairs.



Example Historic Tours



Example Public Restrooms



Public Restrooms

Based on the Needs Assessment, flushable, accessible restrooms are a high priority for the park Master Plan.

The existing and proposed programming within the Historic Core Area, in combination with the governing code, requires a minimum number of plumbing fixtures must be provided if any modifications to existing buildings are made. In order to support the Manor House, Event Terrace, and main level Carriage House, a minimum of 11 fixtures must be provided, 13 are recommended, and must include a family restroom.

Ideally, the restrooms should be centrally located and easily accessible from each of the supported activity areas – the Manor House, Event Terrace, and main level Carriage House. The restrooms should be accessible from the exterior without requiring access to interior corridors that may be difficult to provide surveillance for the security of park visitors and to prevent vandalism. Project phasing must also be considered.

The following options provide two alternatives for locating the restrooms:

1. The first option provides public restrooms in the Caretaker’s House. This is the most accessible, centrally located, and secure location for the restrooms. The proposed design allows rehabilitation of the building’s exterior and maintains all interior walls. Locating the majority of the restrooms in the Caretaker’s House leaves a large portion of the Carriage House available to provide required support space (offices and storage area) or future expansion of the Welcome Center. This location also allows the public restrooms to be provided during the very first phase of Implementation.
2. The second option locates the public restrooms on the main level of the Carriage House. These restrooms may be accessed from the Welcome Center or from the southwest side of the building along the exterior. While the restroom location is easily visible from the Great Lawn (which could also be viewed as a negative), it is not visible from the Welcome Plaza and requires a somewhat circuitous route from the Event Terrace. This location does allow the Caretaker’s House to be rehabilitated for historic tours, but this would also require additional SCPD staffing. Finally, as the Nature Center must be relocated in order for the restrooms to be located on the main level of the Carriage House, this location restricts construction of the restrooms until the last phases of implementation.

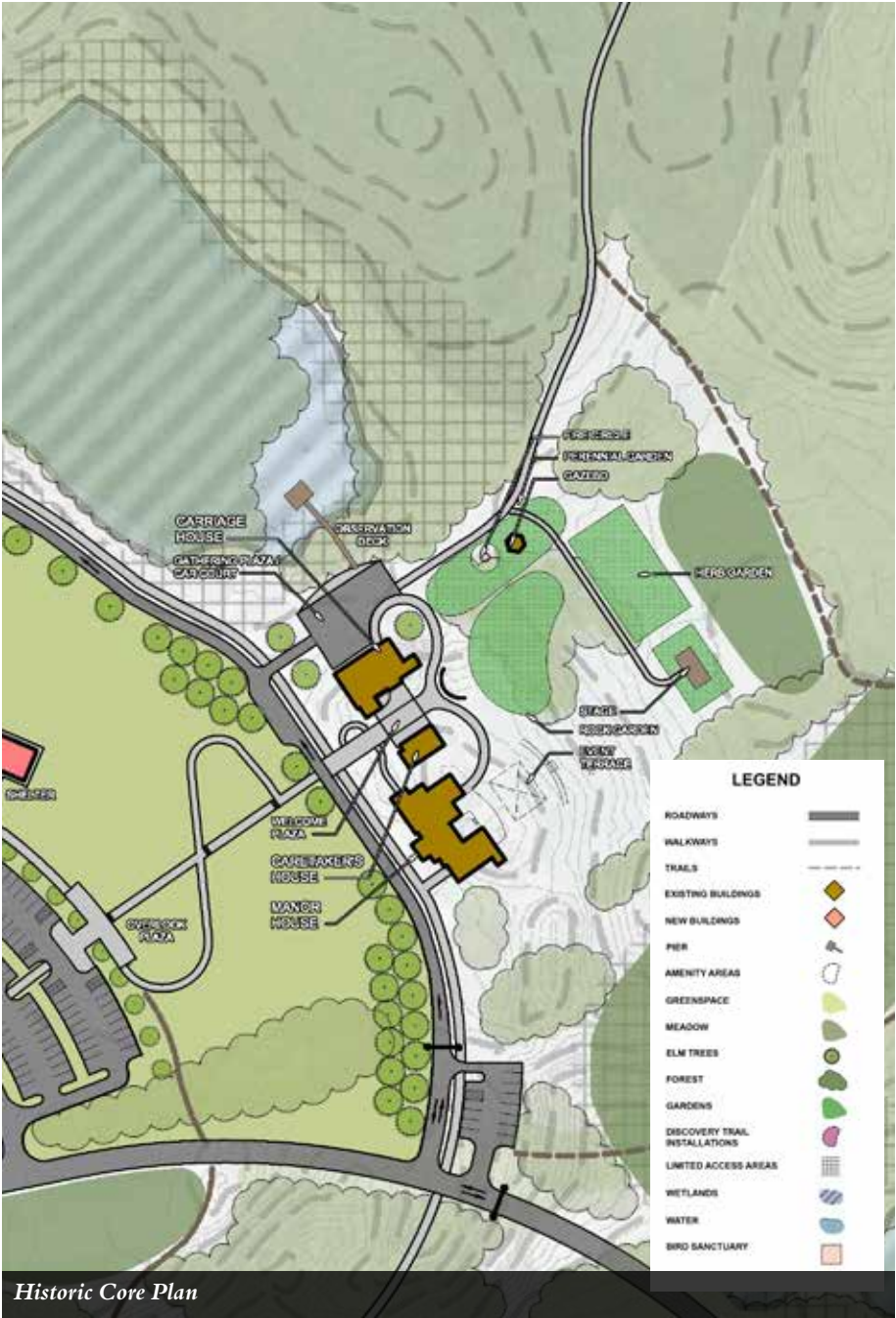


Public Restrooms - Option 1



Public Restrooms - Option 2





Historic Core Plan

**Manor House Grounds**

The Manor House and the surrounding buildings of the estate are essential to the operations and programming at Quail Hollow. People visit the park to be with family and friends, hike the trails, and enjoy nature; the heart of the park should reflect this. Only a small percentage of visits are for special events or activities.

**Manor House Drop-Off and Parking Areas**

The primary parking area for visitors will be at the top of the Great Lawn overlooking the Manor House. This parking lot will provide a drop-off zone for busses and shuttles as well as a plaza for groups to gather, view the historic buildings, and learn about the history through a series of interpretive panels. Depending on the event, buses and shuttles may park in this lot or in alternative lots throughout the park. The open lawn just north of the lot can be used for overflow parking or to expand the parking lot in the future.

Accessible parking spaces will be provided in the South Parking Lot. Located at the driveway entrance to the Manor House, this location provides a relatively level path from the parking lot to the buildings. A small ramp or sloped walkway will provide access to the Welcome Plaza. During events or particularly inclement weather the North Plaza can also be converted to a small parking area. An additional drop-off zone will also be provided in front of the Carriage House. Rain gardens and bioswales are simple landscaping features that will be used in the parking lots to slow, collect, infiltrate, and filter stormwater and provide educational opportunities.

**Great Lawn, Overlook Plaza, and Small Shelter**

The Great Lawn provides a “front lawn” for the Manor House and perhaps more importantly, creates an iconic view of the area. Here visitors may stop at the Overlook Plaza to gather, view the historic buildings, and learn about the history through a series of interpretive panels. Nearby, a small shelter provides additional gathering space and overlooks the wetland. At the top of the Great Lawn, a level green space will provide area for groups to relax and recreate as well as support small events or festivals. No-mow areas planted with meadow flowers will define the path that leads to the Welcome Plaza. At the base of the Great Lawn, vase-shaped elm trees replanted in memory of Harry B. Stewart III, will line the Manor House drive. The density of the elm plantings may vary to frame the view of the Manor House from the Overlook Plaza and of the wetland from the shelter. Note: During implementation, SCPD may consider planting additional elm trees as a historic symbol that becomes identified with the park.



Example Interpretive History Panels



Example No-Mow Lawn



Example Elm Grove





Example Event Terrace & Stage



Example Courtyard & Event Space



Example Perennial Garden

**Welcome Plaza**

Centrally located, the Welcome Plaza creates a focal point for the Manor House, Caretaker’s House, and Carriage House. From this point, visitors can view and access each of the buildings, as well as the Great Lawn, rock garden, and event terrace. The plaza provides space where the public can gather, historic tours may begin, or where hikers can journey onto the “Nature for All” Trail; all from one easily identified central location. Immediately adjacent to the plaza, the Welcome Center helps orient visitors, answers questions, hosts historic exhibits, and meets basic needs with public restrooms and drinking fountains. While the plaza will be pedestrian focused, emergency vehicle access and occasional access for service vehicles should be provided.

**Manor House Courtyard, Event Terrace, and Stage**

At the back of the Manor House, a small courtyard opens up to the wide, sloped back yard. Use of the courtyard has been impeded by a somewhat recent installation of an emergency fire stair that takes up a significant portion of the original area. The stair will be relocated to the south side of the Manor House to reclaim the courtyard and offer views of the original facade. A paved walkway from the Welcome Plaza and a small ramp will be added to provide an accessible route.

Beyond the original courtyard, the lawn will be regraded to provide a level area to accommodate a tent for special events such as weddings, parties, or large group functions. The area will be sized to accommodate a tent for approximately 120 guests. A small retaining wall constructed with natural boulders similar to those found in the rock garden will provide a transition from this area to the naturally sloping lawn. The lawn space provides the perfect opportunity to create a natural hillside amphitheater. As a part of the Master Plan, a small stage with electrical service will be located directly adjacent to the existing herb garden and oriented so that event guests on the terrace and hillside will be able to enjoy concerts, movies, performances, or park programming that may be held there. The stage will be at grade to avoid impeding views to the forest and may be simply constructed of pavers.

**Perennial Gardens, Pavilion, and Fire Circle**

As previously stated, in 1928, Warren H. Manning designed a perennial garden, rock garden and croquet courts that were developed on the Stewart Manor grounds. In addition to the various plantings, the perennial garden contained stone walls, crabapple trees, and a fountain that remains in its original location today. Over the past century, many of the plants have vanished, save for the occasional evergreen tree. The Master Plan proposes a newly implemented perennial garden within the approximate location of the existing garden and fountain. This proposed development will interconnect the rock garden, herb garden, and “Nature for All” Trail in a way that beautifully recreates the original design that Manning intended.

Today, a small gazebo and fire circle occupy a portion of the original garden. As a considerably recent construction, the gazebo requires little to no work outside of the routine upkeep. Located directly east of the Carriage House, the fire circle is easily accessed by the “Nature for All” Trail. As these amenities are used regularly, their functional purpose should be incorporated into the development of the perennial gardens. Additional landscaping will create the necessary balance of privacy and connectivity that are currently lacking.

**Herb Garden**

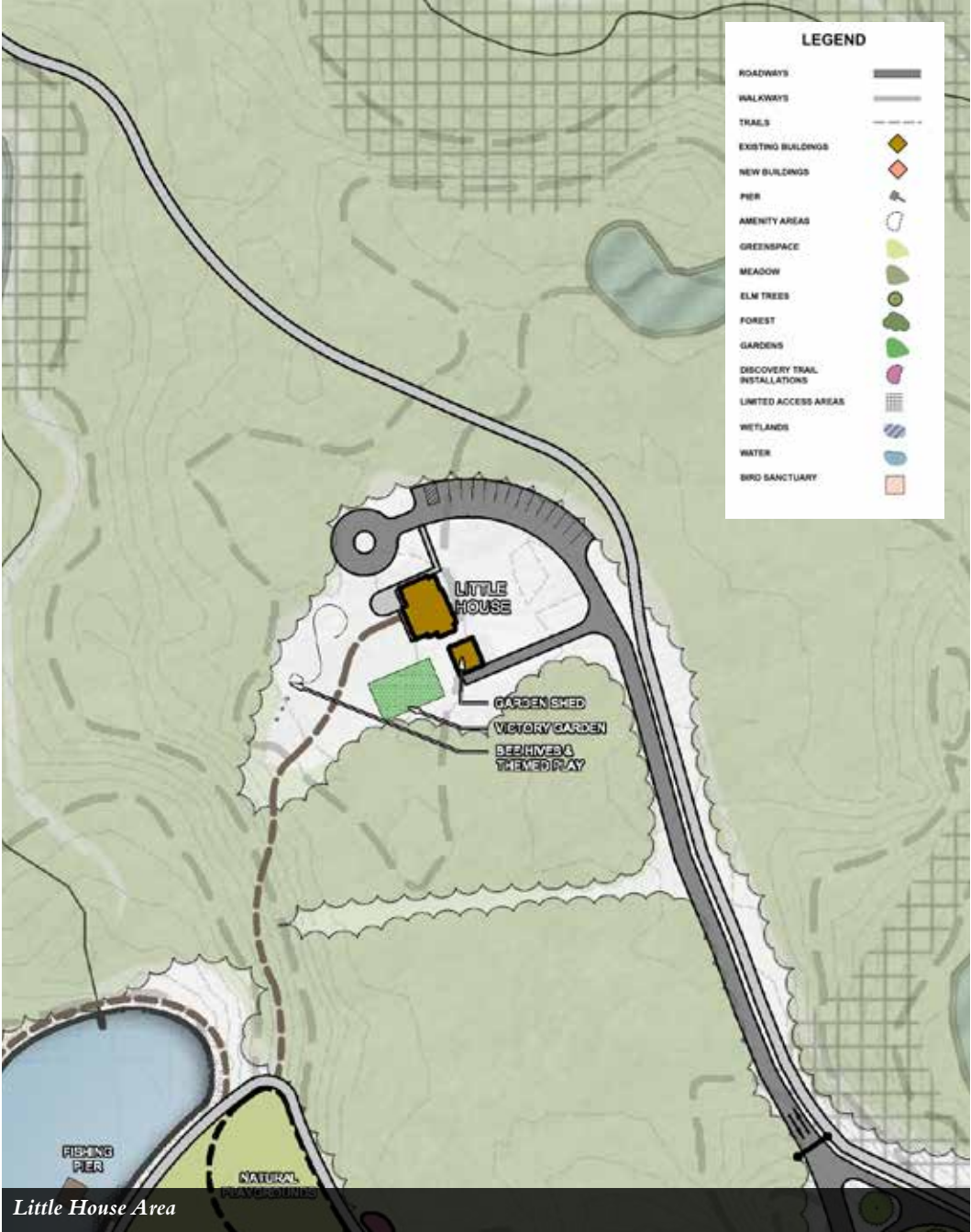
This garden was previously the Stewart Family croquet courts, which were designed by Warren H. Manning in 1928. Though the herb garden was not actually developed until much later, the general public has accepted the gardens as a historic element, essential to the park’s character and aesthetic. The Quail Hollow Herb Society routinely maintains the garden while providing public programming that incorporates the various plants grown there. Storage for QHVA garden equipment might be provided in the Carriage House basement or by reconstructing a small log cabin that used to sit near the “Nature for All” Trail.

**North Plaza and Observation Deck**

The lower level of the Carriage House currently opens up to an asphalt parking lot that is surrounded by a small patch of grass, storage shed, fuel tanks, a single vault toilet, and an exterior aviary. Small and somewhat chaotic, the parking lot is primarily used for ranger vehicles and convenient access to the hiking trails and Manor House Area. As one of the primary goals of the Master Plan is to make the Manor House grounds more pedestrian friendly, this area will be converted to a plaza that can be used solely for pedestrians or for short term parking. When used for pedestrians and furnished with tables and chairs, the plaza will provide an informal gathering and picnic space for park visitors and overflow from the Carriage House Gathering Room. When required, the tables and chairs can be removed to provide a limited number of parking spaces to support Manor House events and provide convenient access to the buildings during severe weather.

The plaza location also provides an excellent opportunity to engage with the adjacent wetland area. Currently, a wood boardwalk weaves through the wetland brush like a labyrinth. The entrance to the boardwalk is off a trail that runs north of the wetland and connects to the “Nature for All” Trail. To increase access and encourage the public to explore the wetland, the entrance will be relocated to the North Plaza. Small observation areas with a bench or two and an observation deck for a small group to gather will be added to provide opportunities for education, programming, and general enjoyment.





**Little House Area**

The Little House Area includes the Little House, Bee Habitat and Playground, and Community Garden.

Rehabilitation of the historic Little House provides an opportunity for volunteer group offices and small group meeting rooms. Outside, the site will be developed to host a raised planter community garden in honor of the Stewart Family’s wartime Victory Garden, an area for raising bees with a small education shed and children’s playground, and a small picnic area.

**The Little House**

The Little House will be rehabilitated to support volunteer group offices and small group meeting rooms.

Though somewhat remote, the Little House is part of the Stewart Family legacy. Previously used as a rental house, some of the building’s historic qualities have been diminished. Like the Carriage House, Manor House, and Caretaker’s House, the exterior of the house will be maintained to keep its historic character. The interior will be slightly modified to include accessible entries and an accessible restroom.

The main entrance is located on the back side of the house and accessed by a covered porch. The living room will accommodate approximately 16-20 people as a small group meeting space. The existing dining room will be utilized for volunteer group offices and will hold approximately three workstations. These rooms will be supported by the existing kitchen and a new, accessible restroom.

The lower level of the Little House is currently used, and will remain, as a work room and storage space. The upper level of the house may be utilized for an additional small group meeting room, offices, or as a storage space.

Situated within heavy forest canopy and overlooking the pond, the Little House’s remote location creates an entirely different, more natural experience for park guests to enjoy. The exterior of the building will contain a picnic area and grill, while the surrounding lawn space will be utilized as a natural education and themed play area with gardens, bee habitats and natural surface trails.



Example Meeting Room



Example Office



Example Small Group Meeting Space





Example Community Garden

**Community Garden**

As part of the war effort, the government rationed foods, resources, and canned goods. Labor and transportation shortages made it hard to harvest and move fruits and vegetables to market. So, the government turned to its citizens and encouraged them to plant “Victory Gardens.” They wanted individuals to provide their own fruits and vegetables. Like many Americans, the Stewart Family answered the call and converted their flower gardens into “Victory Gardens” in the name of patriotism.

A Community Garden will be constructed at the Little House in memory of the Stewart Family’s victory garden. Raised planters will provide access for a wide variety of community members. The Little House garage provide a secure storage area for gardening equipment.



Example Bee-Themed Playground

**Bee Habitat and Playground**

Pollinator habitats will be introduced to several locations throughout Quail Hollow Park. The Little House backyard will contain a beekeeping education shelter, hives, and bee-themed play elements that, in combination, will allow SCPD to provide formal and informal education regarding the importance of protecting the our natural pollinators.

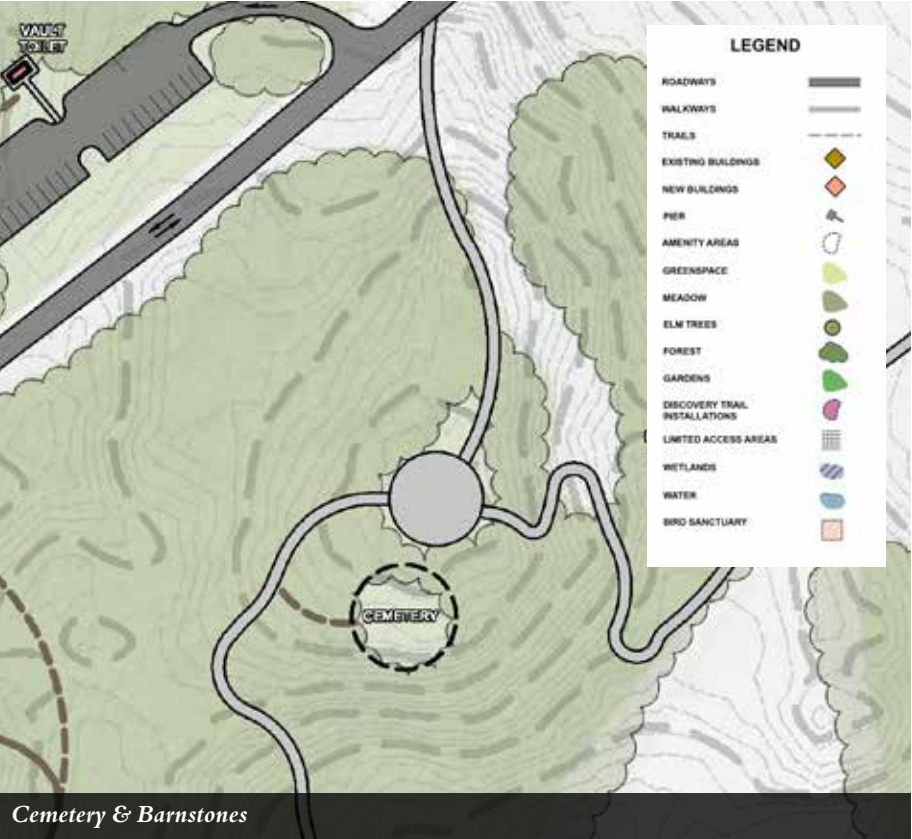


Example Garden Shed

**Cemetery and Barn Foundations**

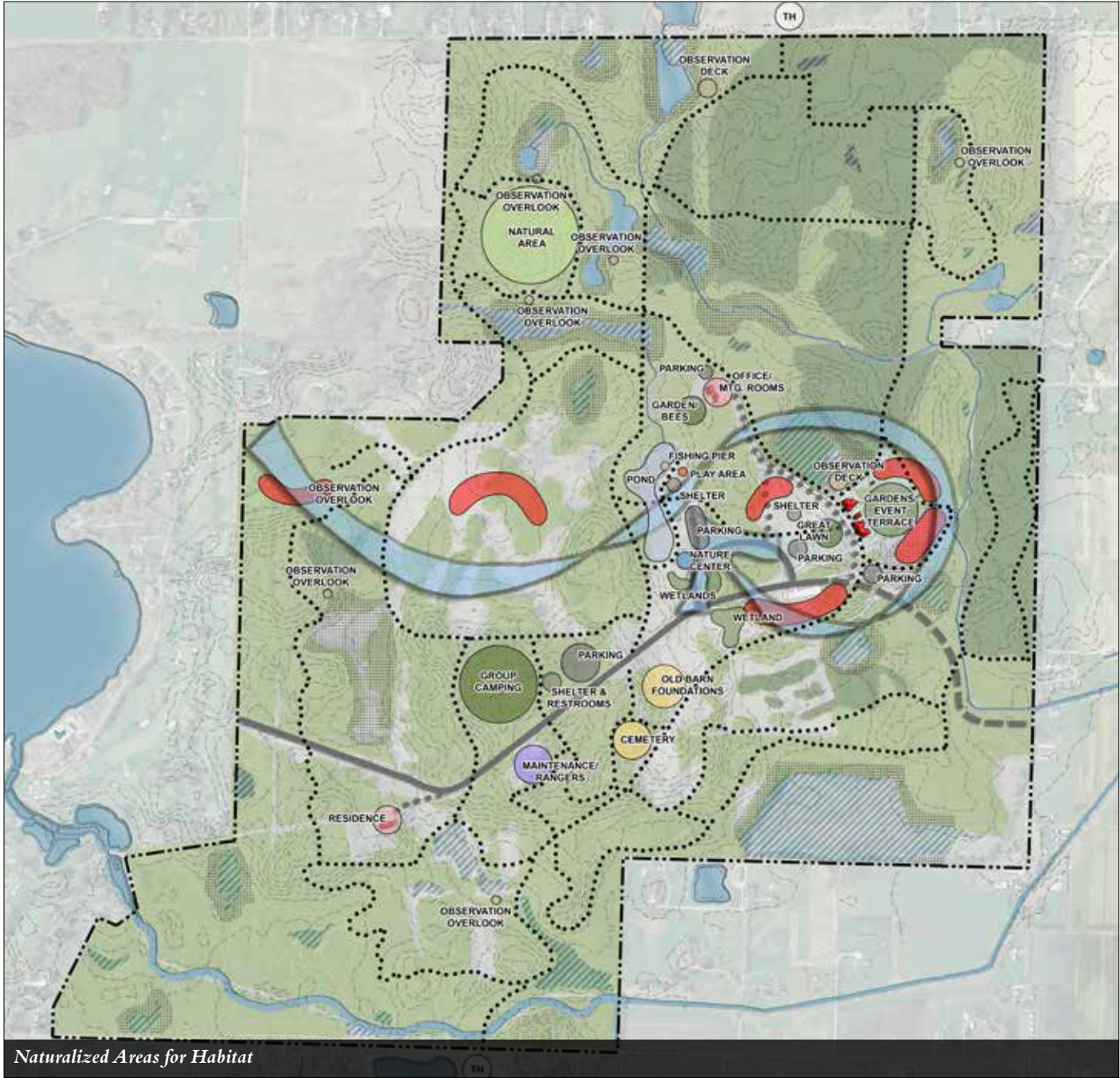
Both the Brumbaugh Cemetery and the barn foundations are located south of the main entrance drive and hidden in the forest. Due to past vandalism, they are unmarked and somewhat difficult to find. As part of the history of this site, their stories are important and will be told as part of the Historic Core and the Heritage Loop Trail.

The cemetery and barn foundations will form the southern intersection of the Heritage Loop and the North/South Connector trails. A paved, circular node will define the location and provide interpretive signage, a park map, and seating. Proximity to the primary trails will increase public awareness and visibility. Park rangers will be able to regularly monitor the site as the North/South Connector trail will be designed to support heavy duty vehicles. A pole mounted light with a motion sensor will further deter malicious intentions.



Cemetery & Barnstones





### Friends of the Pollinator Garden

BUMBLEBEES	BUTTERFLIES	BIRDS
Bumblebees are considered crucial to ecosystems as key pollinators of fruits eaten by birds and other insects.	Butterflies love dill! Especially the beautiful black-tailed swallow butterfly.	With an increased abundance of insect visitors, you can expect some high quality bird-watching!
They are generalists, visiting a variety of edible and ornamental plants in your garden. So, keep them around!	Often overlooked by bees in economic importance, butterflies bring color, excitement, and make for great animal-watching.	Birds will soon adapt and associate your garden with a tasty meal, stopping by often.



**Habitats for Pollinators**

Quail Hollow, with its 700 acres of marshes, woods, and gardens, presents a unique opportunity to participate in Local, State and National efforts to promote the health of honey bees and pollinators. This has emerged as a critical issue recently as highlighted by two events:

1. On March 21, 2017 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the rusty patched bumble bee as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Stark County is one of only three counties in Ohio where the bee has been reported.
2. In May, 2015, the White House released the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and other Pollinators, universally known as The Strategy.

The emergence of these initiatives, and many others similar, are driven by a significant and alarming decline in honey bees, monarch butterflies and other pollinators. The honey bee decline is largely attributed to two factors: an external parasite mite and Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Researches have not been able to identify a single cause for either the recent proliferation of the mite nor CCD; but, they have concluded that the losses are the result of a complex set of stressors, one of which is poor nutrition due to decreases in high quality forage and habitat.

As with honey bees, there has been a significant decline in the monarch butterfly population as well; also the result of a complex set of factors including the loss of nectar producing plants, particularly milkweed. Ohio has been identified as a priority state for monarch migration and the critical ‘fourth-generation’ monarchs. Fourth-generation monarchs are the ones that travel back to Mexico, spend the winter there, and then start their life cycle all over again in the spring, ending back up in Ohio the next summer.

The 2015 Strategy established three goals: reduce honey bee colony losses during winter (overwintering mortality) to no more than 15% within 10 years, increase the Eastern population of the monarch butterfly to 225 million, and restore or enhance seven million acres of land for pollinators. The opportunity to advance these goals at Quail Hollow are notable and should be an integral part of the overall Park Master Plan. There are already existing areas within the park that provide benefits to pollinators: the gardens adjacent the Manor House, the prairie area, naturally occurring meadows and open space areas; however, more can be done.

For starters, the amount of area mowed on a regular basis should be reduced, as mowed and maintained turf is expensive to upkeep and should only be allocated to areas for a specific purpose. The Great Lawns in front and behind the Manor House, adjacent the Carriage House, the Little House, playgrounds, and buffer strips adjacent roadways, are some examples.

Areas that do not specifically benefit from regular mowing could be converted to ‘no-mow’ zones. That is, simply allow the existing vegetation to mature to its full height and flower, for fescue this is typically about 18-24 inches, and bush hog once or twice a year. In addition to creating habitat for pollinators, these no-mow areas have the added benefit of reducing maintenance costs, reducing the use of lawn chemicals, and creates a more diverse landscape.

Additional steps can also be taken to create extensive colonies of native grasses and flowering native plants, but this is an involved process and can be more difficult than it seems. Installing and maintaining native prairie installations requires a commitment from park management as well as the proper allocation of resources to be successful; however, they can provide an enormous benefit to pollinators, wildlife and of course, the Park visitors.

A summary of a typical prairie installation is listed below. It is recommended that a nursery and/or designer that specializes in this type of installation get involved to provide assistance and lend their expertise. They can also be a great source for local seeds.

STEP ONE: Planning and Design

- Identify the area to be converted to a native prairie.
- Obtain a soils report.
- Analyze the conditions of the area: sun, shade, soil PH, moisture content, etc.
- Select plant species native to the area and specifically suited for the site’s conditions.
- Obtain native seed from local sources.

STEP TWO: Site Preparation

- Eradicate existing non-native and invasive species. Till the area and eradicate non-native vegetation that germinates. Repeat tilling and eradication until all non-native seed is eliminated.
- Prepare the seed bed. Amend soil per recommendations from the soils report.

STEP THREE: Installation

- Apply seed per the recommended rates through broadcast spreading or drill. Plants can also be planted from one gallon container as budget allows. This can help jump-start the process and is most effective if planted in groups of three to five of similar species throughout the area.
- Water as needed particularly during the first three to six weeks after a spring planting.
- Install interpretive signs that inform the public on the subjects of pollination and native prairie ecosystems.

STEP FOUR: Post-Planting Maintenance

- Controlling weeds is the highest priority during establishment. Weeds will out-compete the native seed and could eventually overtake the installation. After establishment (three years) the native plants will mostly crowd out the weeds on their own.
- For the first year, mow the area approximately once per month to a height of four to six inches. This keeps the weeds from becoming too tall and shading out the natives and prevents the weeds from setting seed. Spot spray aggressive weeds such as thistle and wild carrot.
- For the second and third years, mow the area approximately once per month to a height of 8 inches. Spot spray aggressive weeds.
- After the third year, prescribed burning is the best tool to manage weeds and reduce thatch buildup. Spring burns are most effective. Burning should take place every three years. Large areas should be placed on a burn schedule where one-third is burned every year. This always keeps some habitat present which is important to the population of some insects and birds. Burning can create some controversy but is often abated through public notification and education. Annual mowing can be used as a substitute to burning however this is not as effective.

STEP FIVE: Programming

- In addition to the interpretive signs, which should be changed from time to time to keep a fresh message, the prairie should be used for education and public outreach. Seeds can be collected by volunteers for use on other projects, conduct scavenger hunts to identify plants and insects, and naturalist-led walks are just a few program ideas that can be implemented by the Park to educate the public on the importance of pollinators and native prairie habitat.

With any luck, a rusty patched bumble bee will visit the park. They can be identified by a rusty reddish patch centrally located on the back of male and female worker bees. The queen, however, does not have a rusty patch. The rusty patched is one of the first bees to emerge in early spring and one of the last to hibernate in the fall. Since bees need a constant supply of food, be sure to include a variety of plants so that flowers and forage are available from April through September. Also, be sure to include plenty of milkweed which is essential for monarch butterflies.