



Developing a Destination:

HAMILTON COUNTY SOUTH RIVER DISTRICT

CONNER PRAIRIE WHITE RIVER EDUCATION AND ECOLOGY CENTER
CARMEL CLAY RIVER HERITAGE PARK
HAMILTON COUNTY RIVER ROAD PARK
CARMEL CLAY THOMAS MARCUCCILLI PARK (FUTURE)

June 7, 2021





Welcome Back!

Opening Remarks
The Idea of a District
This Effort

Hamilton County South River District

River Heritage Park
River Road Park
Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park

Conner Prairie White River Education and Ecology Center

Discussion and Next Steps

The background of the slide is a faded, grayscale photograph of a river scene. In the foreground, there are concrete steps or a low wall leading down towards the water. The river is visible on the right side, and the background is filled with dense trees and foliage.

The Hamilton County South River District

We're here to explore ways the “**Hamilton County South River District**” from 116th Street to 146th Street can become **a destination**.

The idea is to determine how to create a district through **collaboration**, shared **identity**, **complementary** offerings, and **storytelling**.

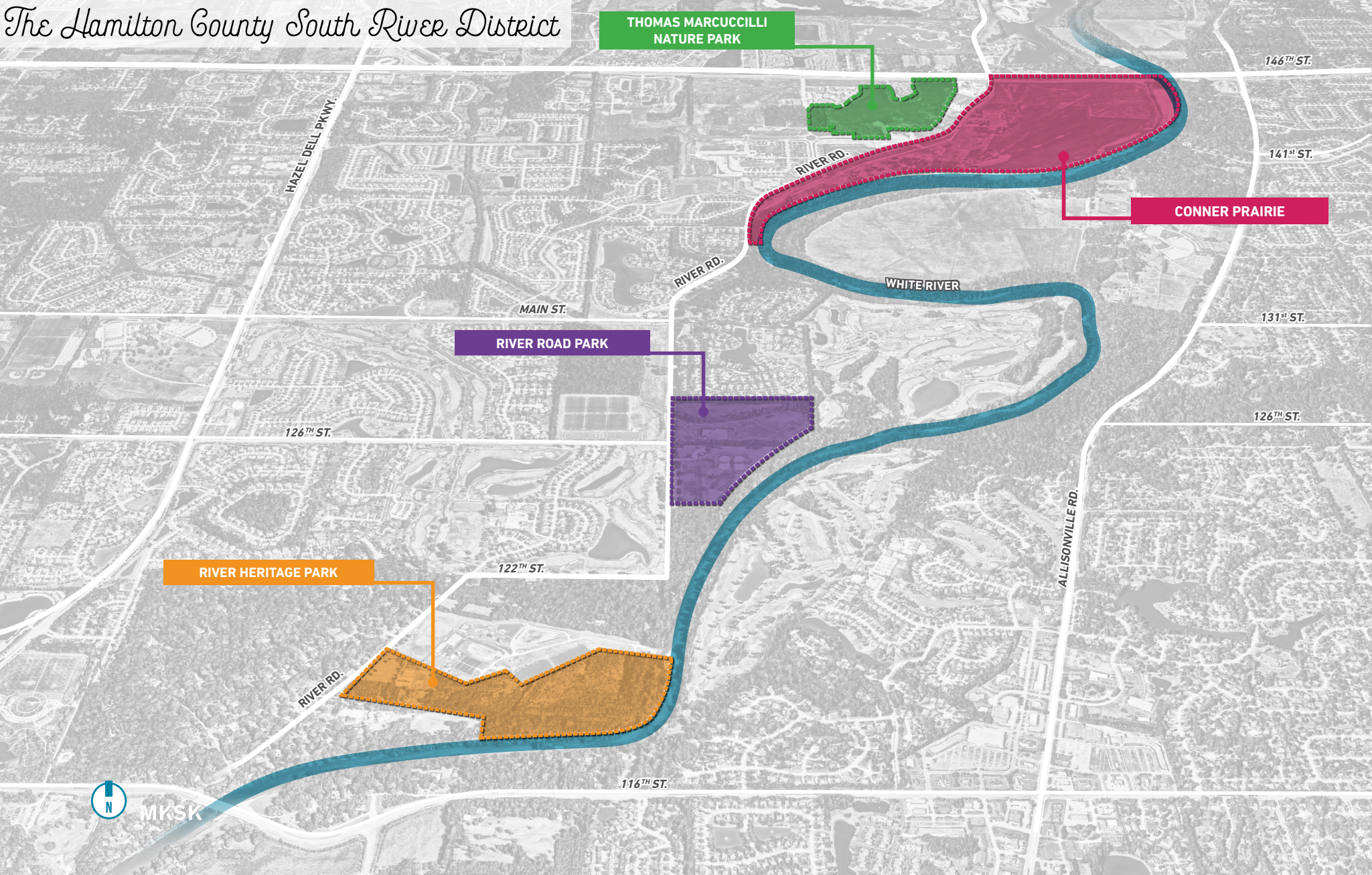
We seek to provide **connectivity (literal and thematic)** will help the visitor understand how the parks **relate** to each other.



The Hamilton County South River District


- **Conner Prairie “West Property”/Conner Prairie White River Education and Ecology Center** (146th St. south toward 131st St.)
- **River Road Park** (approximately 126th St.)
- **River Heritage Park** (just north of 116th St.)
- **White River Greenway** (connecting areas between 146th St. & 116th St.)
- **Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park** (146th St. and River Rd.)

The Hamilton County South River District



Previous Planning

HAMILTON CO. PARKS & RECREATION 5-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2017-2021




Hamilton County Parks & Recreation

5 Year Comprehensive Plan 2017-2021


Celebrating 50 Years!

Hamilton County Indiana

April 2017




Prepared by



mader design

landscape architecture & design


WHITE RIVER VISION PLAN 2019



WHITE RIVER VISION PLAN

DRAFT 6/3/2019

CARMEL CLAY PARKS & RECREATION 2020-2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN



Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation

2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan | Summary

The capital improvements to the park system consist of the capital improvements of the 2020-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan have an estimated cost of \$86,412,000. This includes \$47,400,000 in Capital Improvement projects necessary to preserve or replace existing park assets and \$39,012,000 in new investments intended to meet the existing park and recreation needs of the growing and increasingly more diverse community.

The existing funding sources available to CP&R are estimated to contribute \$30,000,000 in revenues to address the identified capital needs. During the 5-year planning period, over 50% of the funding is expected to come from bond proceeds, received through the City's bonding program. Through the City's bonding program, \$22,867,000, bond revenue that is attributable to the Carmel Clay Recreation Park, and bond revenue from \$15.5 million, the balance of funding will come from City of Carmel revenues (\$2,240,000) and user fees generated from CP&R facilities and programs (\$3,893,000).

To fully implement this Capital Improvement Plan, an additional \$52,412,000 will be required. Additional new funding sources, 38% of anticipated capital projects or improvements will be identified in the sum of \$14,607,000. These will allow of future development within the park system will be delayed, leaving \$14,607,000 in new construction for future planning periods and at even increasing costs.

Recognizing that funding for capital improvements is finite, projects have been prioritized based on defined criteria that considers responsiveness to existing needs, better developing new uses, and recognizes the impact of facility condition, including user revenue gains. Revenue of new uses of available funds will be used into the allocation of capital dollars. For example, Park Impact fees per State statute may only be used for those improvements to parks specifically identified in the 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Plan.


CP&R will take all appropriate measures to extend the life of existing assets in an effort to mitigate the impact of the defined capital improvement projects. Capital repairs or replacements required to ensure the safety of visitors or employees will always be prioritized.

Long-Term Capital Funding Issue

Senior critical funding decisions are needed to be made by community leaders that will have a significant impact on both the current planning period and long-term future of the park system. While the capital funding sources anticipated during this period is a planning period, certain capital projects, identified projects in this plan are expected to be funded. More importantly, some of the primary capital funding sources are in that existing years, which will significantly impact plans beyond the 2020-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

CP&R will cover existing capital revenue for 2021 attributable to the Central Park Board after 2020 and the Township will bring the new funding obligations under the current Board of Agreement Board regarding existing bonds. New revenue from Park Impact fees is also expected to decline in the availability of vacant and unused. The year of anticipated new revenues, when the drop in that year the funding will occur in the year after the transfer to CP, making it more crucial to establish as this funding source while it remains viable. New funding sources must be established and implemented during this planning period to avoid being a year-supplying crisis in the not too distant future.

2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024



CONNER PRAIRIE

Site Master Plan


MAY 2018

CONNER PRAIRIE MASTER PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION APPENDIX 2017-2019

Carmel • Clay Parks & Recreation

Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2020-2024

DRAFT



CARMEL CLAY PARKS & RECREATION 2020-2024 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

Previous Planning

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation 5-Year Comprehensive Plan:

River Road Park (Hamilton County Park)

- Invest in repairs to play area, parking lots, and additional interpretive and wayfinding signs

Carmel Clay Parks Master and Capitol Improvements Plans:

Conner Prairie River Ecology Center

- Partnership with Conner Prairie on River Education/Nature Center

River Heritage Park

- Playground replacement; restroom & parking lot upgrades; nature trail
- Canoe and kayak launch and playground/shelter investments were prioritized

White River Greenway

- Trail and bridge study and construction
- Connectivity strategy linking the River Corridor to other parks and the Monon Greenway
- A multi-use trail system with new properties or partners

White River Vision Plan

Conner Prairie River Ecology Center

- Emphasize Conner Prairie's prominence to bring awareness and energy to this stretch of riverfront
- Identify opportunities for partnerships that support implementation of the Museum's Master Plan, including public partnerships to support a new river ecology education center



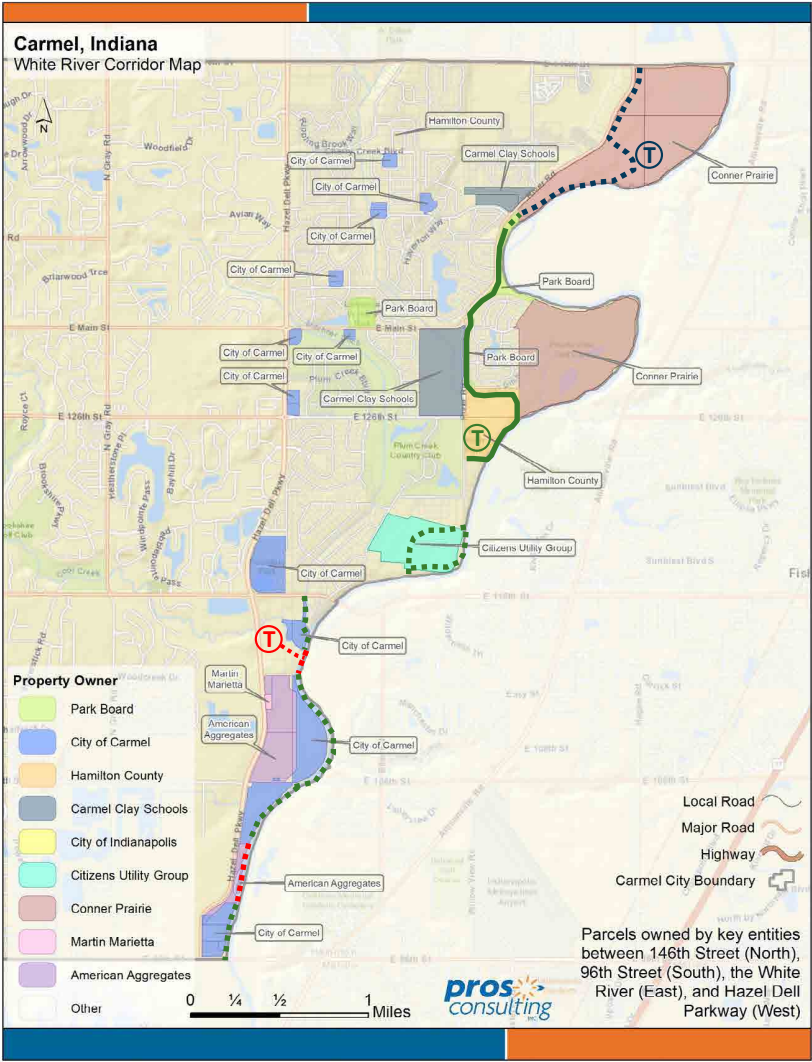
ACTIVATING THE WHITE RIVER



Previous Planning

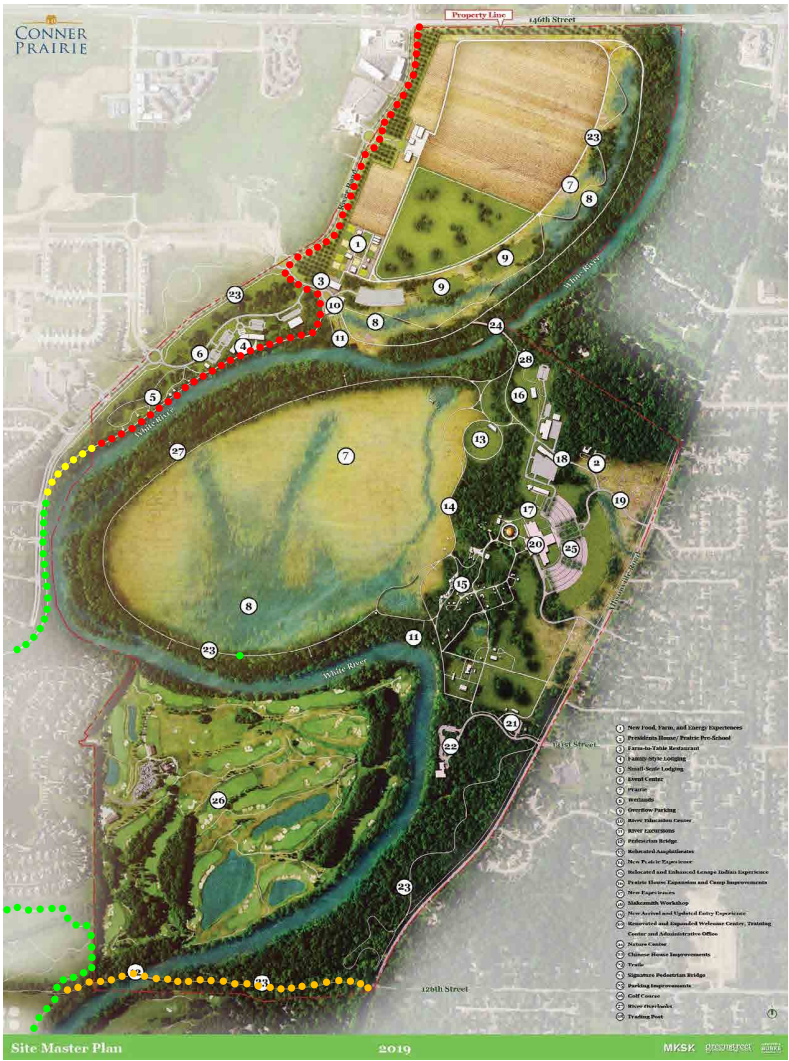
Carmel • Clay
Parks & Recreation

- Existing Trail
- Future Trail (property owned by CCPR/City)
- Future Trail (property owned by Conner Prairie)
- Future Trail (property needs to be acquired)



CONNER
PRAIRIE
STEP INTO THE STORY

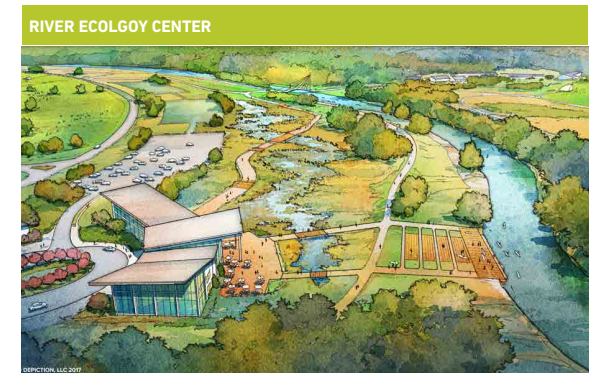
- Existing Trail
- Future Trail (CCPR property)
- Future Trail (Conner Prairie property)
- Future Bridge (Conner Prairie/County property)



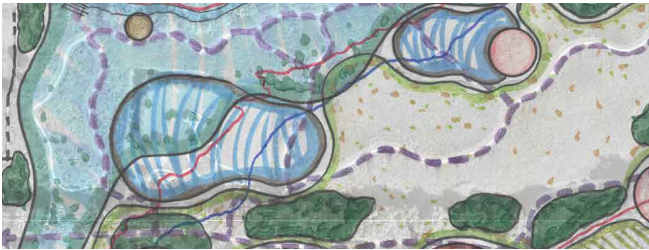
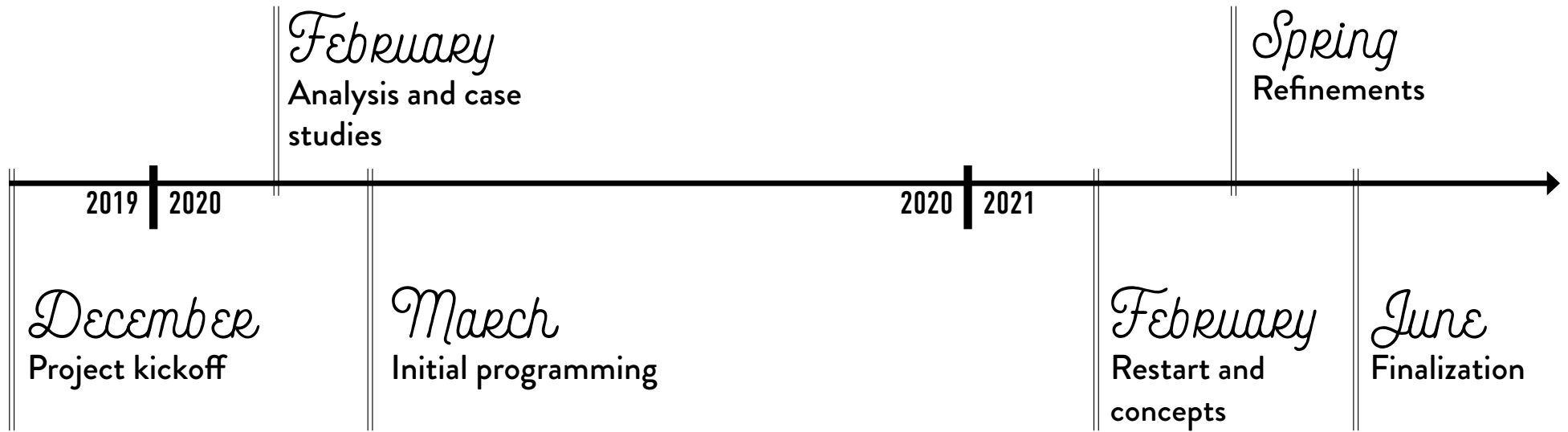
Previous Planning

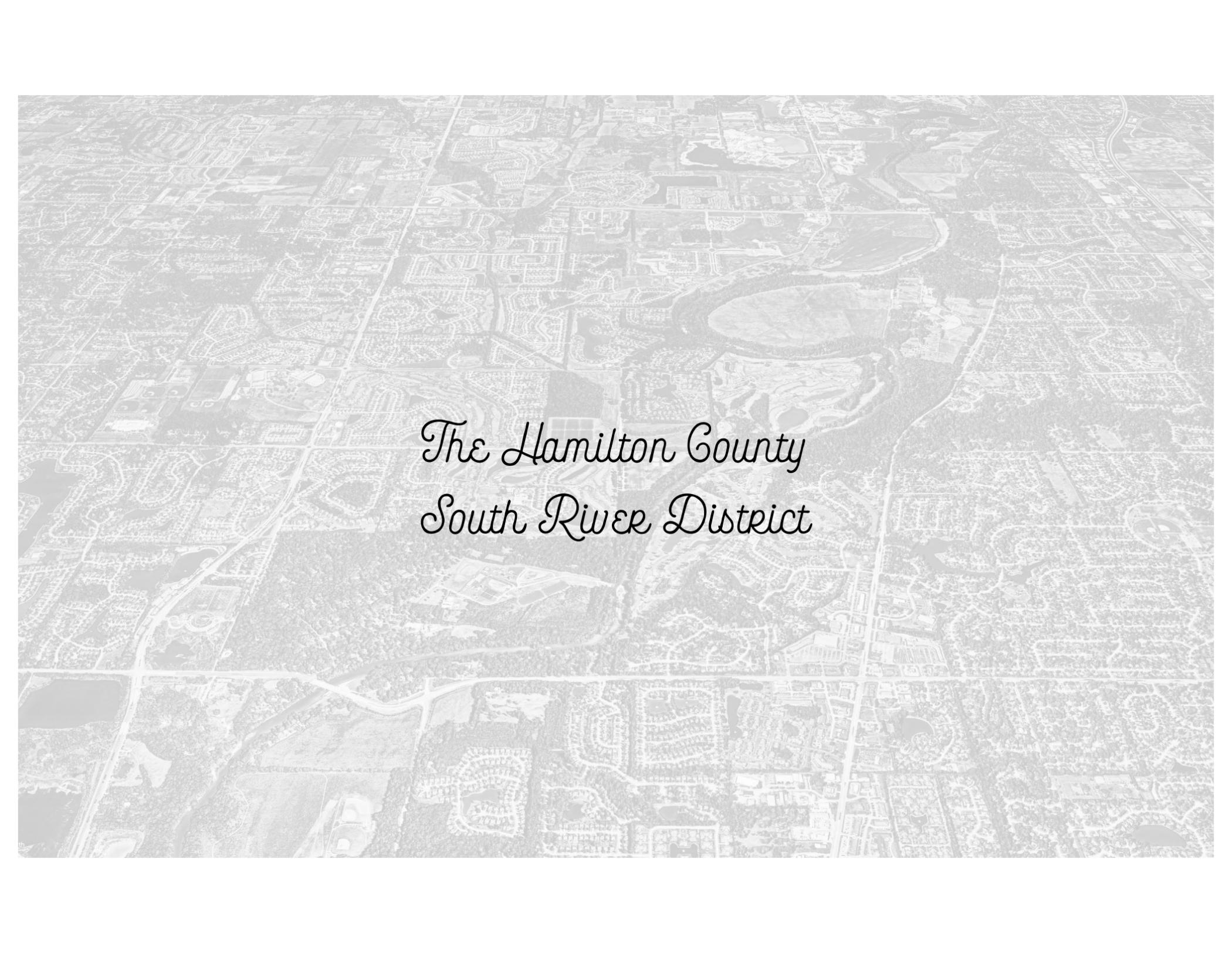
Conner Prairie Master Plan

- » River Ecology Center was a top implementation priority
- » River Ecology Center is envisioned as possible through multiple public/private partnerships
- » This center would allow visitors a chance to experience the White River and its role in the region's history and ecosystem.
- » Vision would establish a living laboratory and classroom within an integrated educational environment
- » Center is an integral part of the activation of the west side of the White River - complimentary to future projects such as a food farm and energy experience, a farm to table restaurant, a river innovation center, public and private trails, and two bridges across the White River



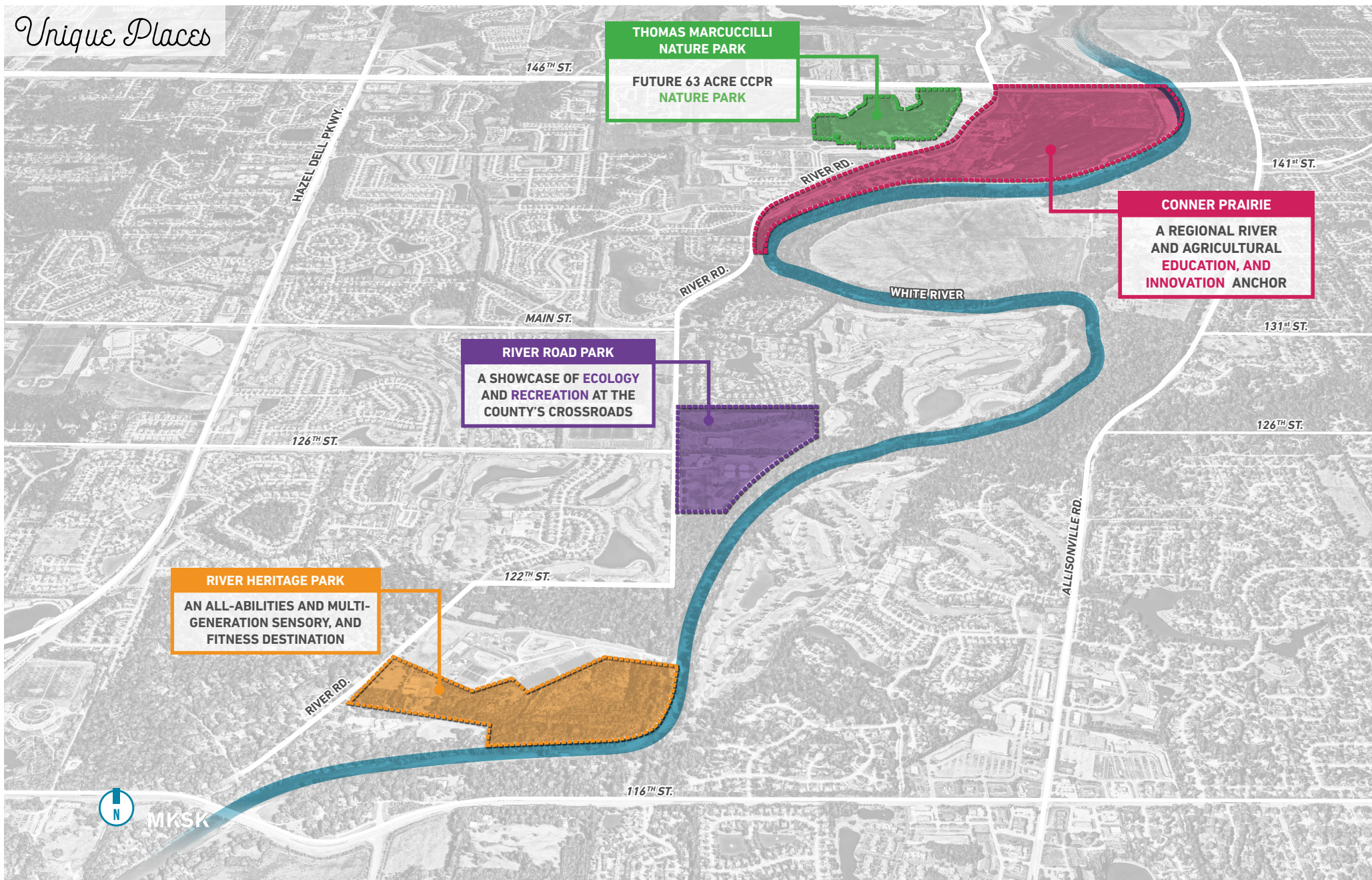
Project Timeline



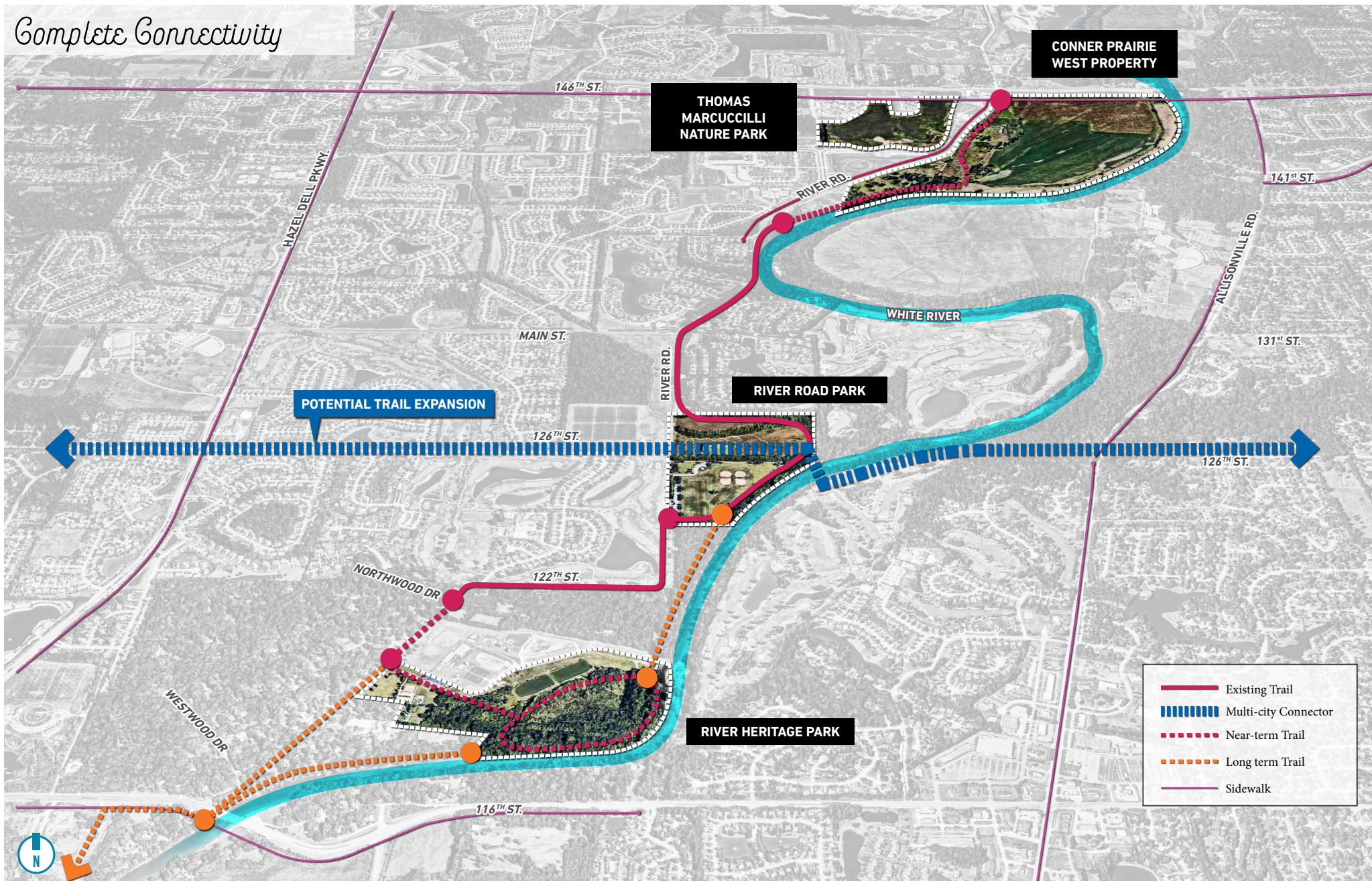
An aerial photograph of a suburban landscape. A river flows through the center, with a large golf course situated on its right bank. The surrounding area is filled with residential developments, including numerous houses and winding roads. The image is in grayscale, with the text overlaid in the center.

*The Hamilton County
South River District*

Unique Places



Complete Connectivity



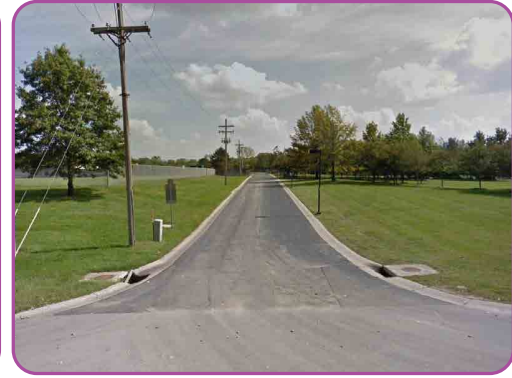
River Heritage Park - Today

ZONES

- ① Riverfront
- ② Wooded
- ③ Parking / entry
- ④ Front-yard
- ⑤ Picnic / shelter / comfort station
- ⑥ Play
- ⑦ Performance



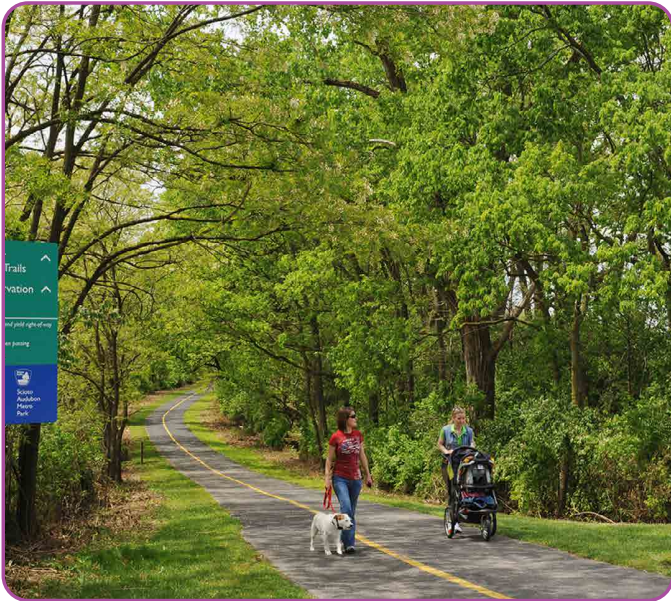
River Heritage Park - Today



River Heritage Park - Central Space, Parking, and River's Edge



River Heritage Park - Woodland Exploration



River Heritage Park - Adventure Play



River Heritage Park - Sensory Garden



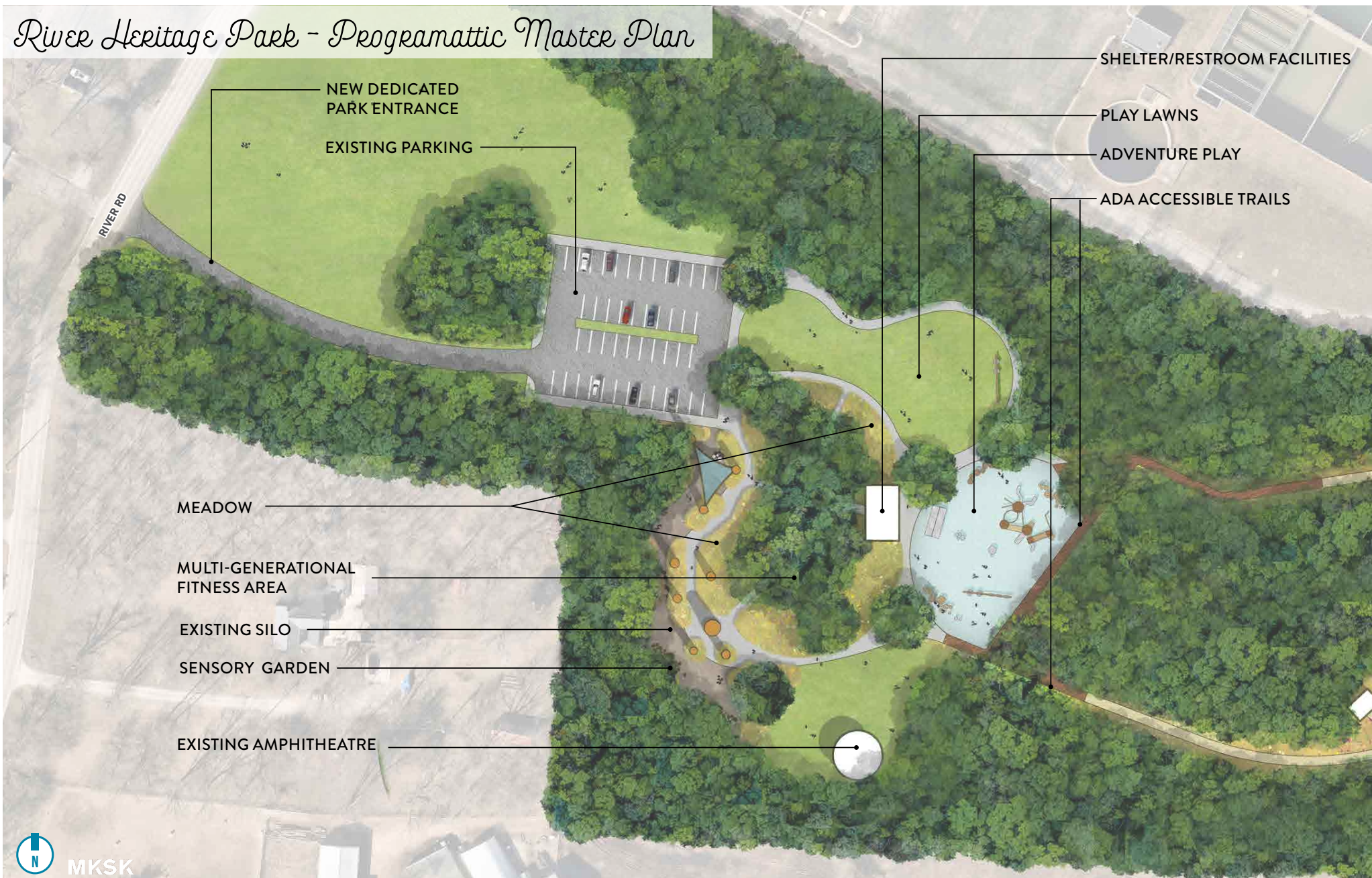
River Heritage Park - Multi-generational Fitness



River Heritage Park - Programmatic Master Plan



River Heritage Park - Programmatic Master Plan



MKSK

River Road Park - Today

ZONES

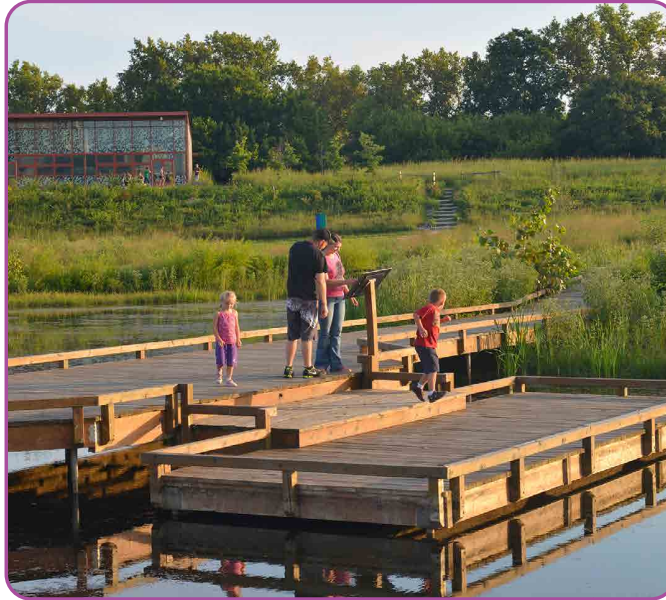
- 1 Riverfront
- 2 Prairie
- 3 Emily Vestal Ditch
- 4 Hedgerow
- 5 Parking / entry / comfort stations
- 6 Recreation fields
- 7 Playground & interpretive feature



River Road Park - Today



River Road Park - Overlook, Wetland, and Emily Vestal Ditch



River Road Park - Nature Play



River Road Park - Trail and River's Edge



River Road Park - Programmatic Master Plan



Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park - Today

ZONES

- 1 Wellheads
- 2 Woodland
- 3 Meadow Areas



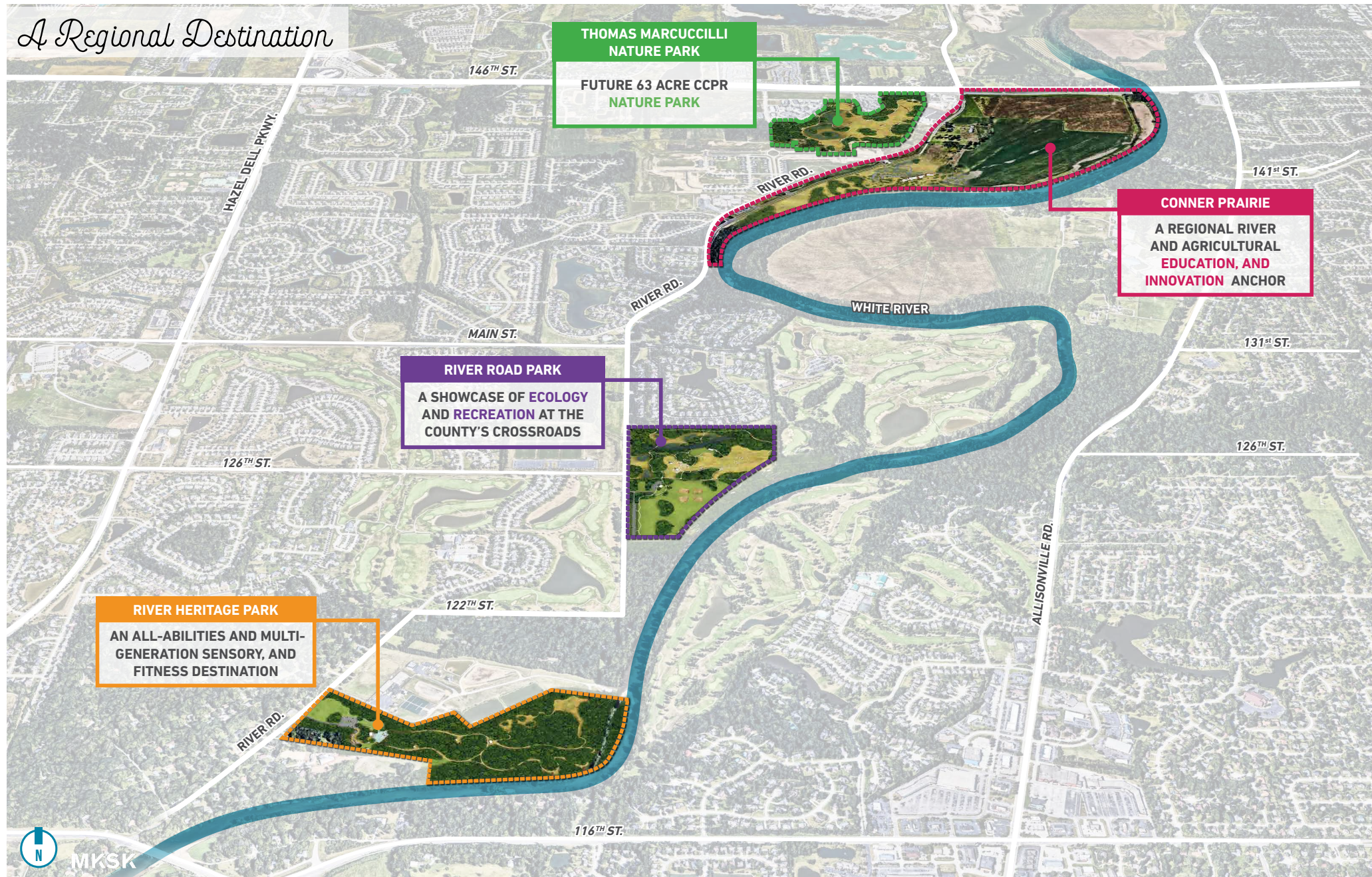
Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park - Today

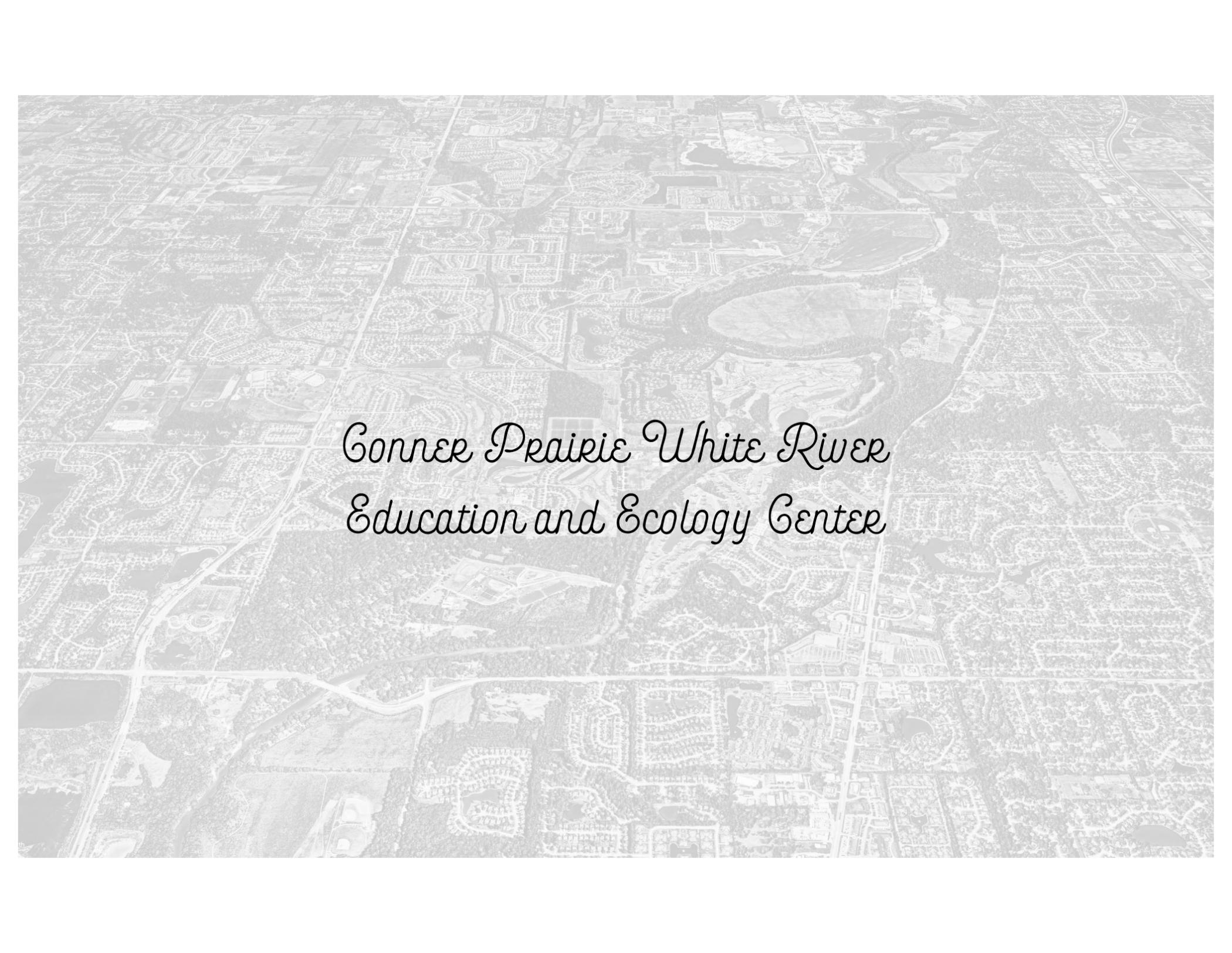


Thomas Marcuccilli Nature Park - Programmatic Master Plan



A Regional Destination



An aerial photograph of a suburban landscape. A river flows through the center, with a large, irregularly shaped pond or lake situated to its right. The surrounding area is densely packed with residential developments, including numerous houses, streets, and parking lots. There are also some larger, open areas that appear to be parks or undeveloped land. The overall scene is a mix of natural and built environments.

*Conner Prairie White River
Education and Ecology Center*

Gonner Prairie Master Site Plan (2019)

- 1 New Food, Farm, and Energy Experiences
- 2 Presidents House/ Prairie Pre-School
- 3 Farm-to-Table Restaurant
- 4 Family-Style Lodging
- 5 Small-Scale Lodging
- 6 Event Center
- 7 Prairie
- 8 Wetlands
- 9 Overflow Parking
- 10 River Education Center
- 11 River Excursions
- 12 Pedestrian Bridge
- 13 Relocated Amphitheater
- 14 New Prairie Experience
- 15 Relocated and Enhanced Lenape Indian Experience
- 16 Prairie House Expansion and Camp Improvements
- 17 New Experiences
- 18 Makesmith Workshop
- 19 New Arrival and Updated Entry Experience
- 20 Renovated and Expanded Welcome Center, Training Center and Administrative Suite
- 21 Nature Center
- 22 Chinese House Improvements
- 23 Trails
- 24 Signature Pedestrian Bridge
- 25 Parking Improvements
- 26 Golf Course
- 27 River Overlooks
- 28 Trading Post



Site and Connections



Connectivity to the District



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Siting, Arrival, and Spaces



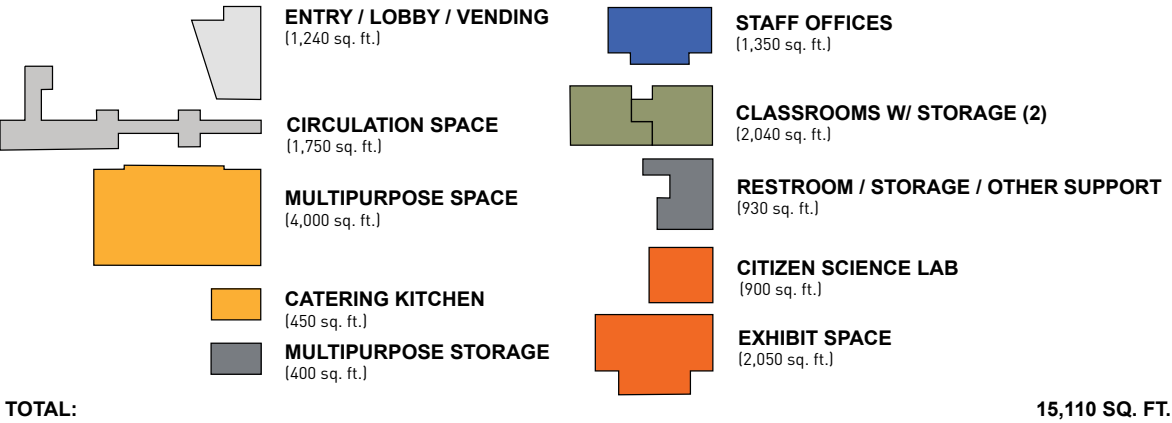
Scale and Arrangement of Buildings and Spaces



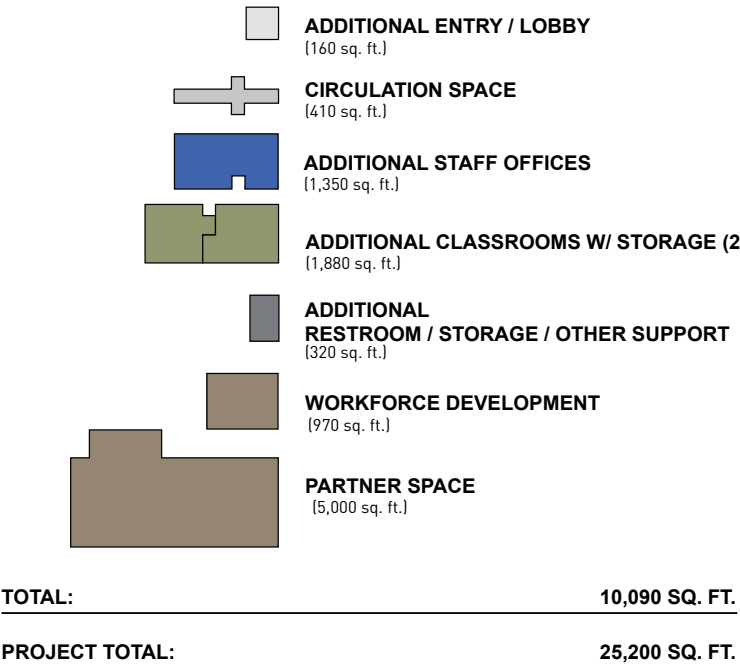
Building Program



PHASE ONE



PHASE TWO



Floor Plan



MULTIPURPOSE

- A LOBBY / VENDING
- B MULTIPURPOSE SPACE
- C EXHIBIT SPACE
- D CATERING KITCHEN
- E STORAGE
- F PUBLIC RESTROOMS

OFFICES

- G STAFF OFFICES
- H RESTROOMS, MECH
- K PARTNER SPACE

CLASSROOMS

- L CLASSROOM
- M CITIZEN SCIENCE LAB
- N WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

River Road Entrance



LAKE FLATO

MKSK

Approach From White River



LAKE FLATO

MKSK

Vantage Looking North



LAKE FLATO

MKSK

Vantage Looking South



LAKE | FLATO

MKSK

An aerial photograph of a suburban landscape. The image shows a mix of residential neighborhoods with winding streets and houses, interspersed with green spaces and a large golf course in the center. A river or stream flows through the area, and there are several ponds. The overall tone is a muted, sepia-like grey.

Thank You