

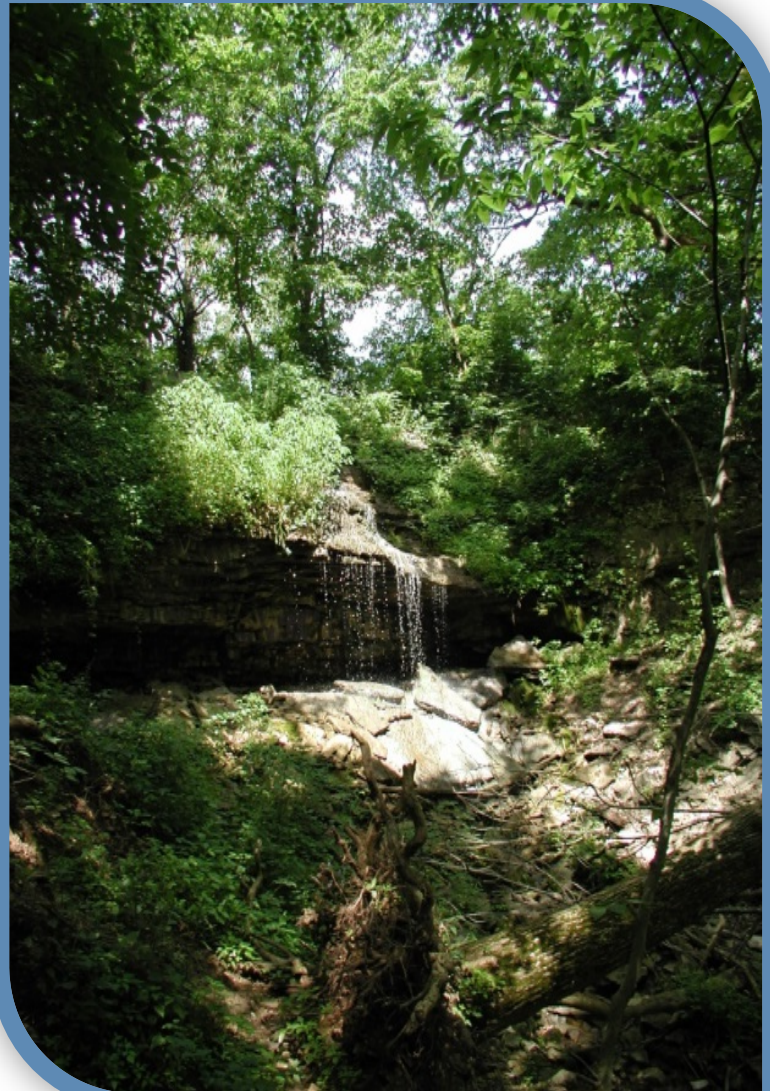
# Five Rivers MetroParks



Englewood, Aullwood Garden MetroParks

Master Plan

2018



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## SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In 2016, Five Rivers MetroParks (FRMP) completed a [Comprehensive Master Plan](#) (CMP) to guide the agency for the next ten years and beyond. The plan included extensive staff and public feedback from intercept and online surveys, focus groups, public meetings, individual interviews with community leaders and a formal statistically valid survey. Studies were conducted to benchmark FRMP to other outstanding park agencies across the country. The resulting plan included several tools to guide FRMP including new park typology, level of service standards, and a detailed implementation plan. One of the primary recommendations in the implementation plan was to update or develop new master plans for each MetroPark.



In 2016, FRMP began developing site plans for several parks and conservation areas as the first step in developing master plans for each location. These plans ensure the organization's three pillars, conservation, education and recreation, were foregrounded and interconnected. To support the planning process, a comprehensive set of [Planning Guidelines](#) were developed to help ensure the integration of the three pillars. The park master plans consist of several components that will guide planning and implementation of the parks' functions that support the world-class amenities and services provided to the region:

- Conservation, preservation, maintenance, programming, interpretation, and business planning
- Capital investment and phasing
- Operational impacts and budgets





### 1.2 MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

Development of the Englewood and Aullwood Master Plan, which also includes the Pigeon Conservation Area, began with the development of the site plan. As a part of this master plan, the Pigeon Conservation Area will become part of Englewood MetroPark. A core team of about 15 FRMP employees whose work is key to the success of the two parks was formed to provide direct input to the process. A landscape architectural firm with experience in park planning was selected to lead the effort. A full two-day work session with these two groups gathered input from staff, volunteers, the public and key stakeholders and visited key areas to gain a detailed understanding of the parks and conservation area. Two public meetings were held during the two-day session to gather input and understand the needs and interests of park users.

From this two-day work session, the consultant developed a park program which directed the evolution of the site plan. After the core team provided input on the program, the consultant prepared a series of site plan alternatives to explore how the program elements could be incorporated into the park. The core team evaluated the alternatives and provided direction to the consultant toward a preferred site plan. This preferred site plan was reviewed by the core team and the public and revised to reflect their comments, and a cost estimate was developed.



As part of the park master planning process and in conjunction with the site plan development, a variety of other plans for Englewood and Aullwood Garden MetroParks and Pigeon were developed or updated: conservation, interpretation, programming, maintenance and land protection plans. These five plans along with the planning guidelines, and a cultural plan yet to be completed, will provide comprehensive guidance in the evolution of the parks. Referencing those plans and the CMP, staff identified a list of priority capital projects for the next ten year period. Staff

then developed the operational cost and revenue estimates for those priority projects to reflect the comprehensive resources required to implement the plans' recommendations. This information will be incorporated into the agency's ten-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) along with capital projects for other parks to chart a course of continual evolution of the parks toward the community's needs and interests.

This park master plan will be reviewed and updated in five years. After ten years, MetroParks will determine whether a new master plan is needed or a second update to this plan will be adequate to provide direction for the park's future.

### 1.3 MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Several components of the site plan (See [Appendix 4.8](#) for the complete site plan) include projects that respond to some of the highest priorities in the CMP, including taking care of existing assets, providing access to amenities, and increasing trail and nature play opportunities:

- East-west multi-use trail connecting East Park Use Area to West Park Use Area with a new covered pedestrian bridge
- New restrooms at North Park, Uplands Area, Lake Area and Aullwood Gardens
- Accessible parking and trail at Aullwood MetroPark
- Aull House restoration, including ADA access, and stabilization of the building structure
- New and updated nature play sites at the East Park, West Park and North Park
- Improved natural surface hiking and equestrian trails creating an easy to navigate nested loop system for a variety of lengths, challenges and experiences

#### Major Recommendations:

The site plan includes several components of the long term vision for the park. FRMP should constantly work towards exploring opportunities to evolve toward these concepts as part of the capital projects that are implemented.

- Establish the East Park as the primary use area and strongly and coherently connect other use areas to the East Park to allow visitors to easily understand the park as a whole.
- Close gaps in the regional multi-use trail network:
  - West to Englewood

- East to Vandalia and Taylorsville MetroPark
- South along the Stillwater River to Wegerzyn MetroPark
- Acquire additional land or easements to link the East Park to North Park and Pigeye Conservation Area.
- Modify the current park road to create a two-way road from the Englewood Dam entrance on US 40 to the East Park and on to a new entrance along the former alignment of Old National Road.
- Terminate Aullwood Road north of the entrance to Aullwood Gardens MetroPark and provide delivery access and ADA parking at the main entrance of Aullwood Gardens. Convert the abandoned road to a multi-use trail.
- Consider consolidating Englewood, Aullwood Gardens and Pigeye into a single MetroPark that can be marketed more effectively than individual park sites.

### Other Notable Projects

The plan also makes recommendations to explore additional improvements for the park including:

- Explore partnering opportunities with Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm to direct visitors between facilities and connect trails
- Create a series of themed trail loops in the park for nature observation, recreation and fitness opportunities for a variety of ages and abilities
- Provide improved group camping in the Uplands Area



## SECTION 2: THE PLAN

### 2.1 PARK POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

#### Englewood MetroPark

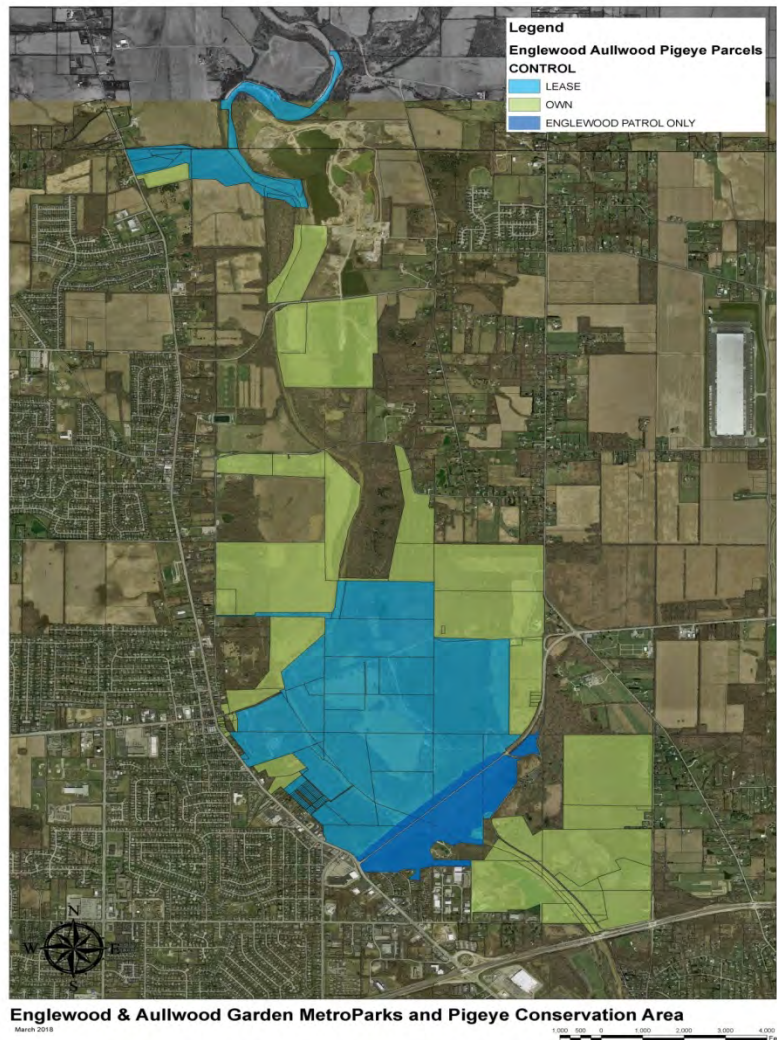
Englewood MetroPark is the second largest park in the FRMP district, straddling the Stillwater River for nearly five miles. Of its approximately 1,937 acres, 94% are in natural habitat, including forest, some grasslands, and emergent wetland where Englewood Lake is silting in from Stillwater River high water events. In addition to the river, a series of ponds occur at the north end of West Park and in North Park. Englewood offers hiking, birding, fishing, picnicking, nature play, disc golf, camping, horseback riding, and sledding as primary activities. Paddlers can take out above the dam or put in below the dam, mostly in the spring months when water levels are conducive to paddling. Englewood MetroPark has been designated by the National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area.

Englewood is disjointed as there are seven separate entrances and five distinct park areas. North Park and South Park are physically separated from the main areas of the park. South Park lies on the other side of S.R. 40 and is further separated by Aullwood Garden MetroPark as well as Aullwood Audubon Center and Aullwood Audubon Farm. The Edelweiss Club is across the river to the south. The North Park is bridged to the main areas of the park on the west side of the river with land owned by the City of Union. The City of Englewood is adjacent to the west, and many residents are within walking distance of the park. Dayton International Airport abuts the park to the east with a prairie. An active gravel quarry lies to the north and separates Englewood from the Pigeon Conservation Area.

Based on the 2016 FRMP's Comprehensive Master Plan, Englewood's typology is classified as a nature park, reflecting its wide variety of experiences and balanced blend of ecosystem versus human services. The park offers a good combination of human activity and amenities with remote natural areas. In addition to being the second largest MetroPark, Englewood is generally among the top visited parks in the system, hosting about 300,000 visitors in 2017, second among all MetroParks. Englewood's close proximity to the I-70 and I-75 interchange, as well as other well-traveled roadways makes it an easily accessible park for the residents of the Miami Valley. Staff observes that visitors to the park tend toward habitual users. With Englewood Lake transitioning to a wetland, Englewood is noted as a remarkable birding area, particularly in the migratory season.



The FRMP's core interpretive storylines that apply to Englewood include: each park within the FRMP system tells a story from the past, protects natural areas, parks and river corridors, and promotes the conservation and use of these lands and waterways for the ongoing benefit of the people of the region.. The specific interpretive theme for Englewood focuses on the Stillwater Valley and the protection it provides for nature and humans. This theme will translate to storylines that focus on the park's roots in the 1913 flood, historical attributes and uses, and the importance of Englewood for migratory birds.



Englewood MetroPark is well-known for FRMP's core mission of connecting people to nature. Birding at Englewood is distinctive and anchors the park's reputation, particularly given its proximity to Aullwood Audubon Center. Active pursuits, like paddling and disc golf, communal pursuits like picnicking and nature play, immersive pursuits like horseback riding and camping, and contemplative pursuits like fishing and hiking provide activities for all demographics and moods. Englewood's identity in the FRMP system is as a park that provides a diverse blend of activities deep within the natural environment.

### **Aullwood Garden MetroPark**

Aullwood Garden MetroPark is a 31-acre park covered mostly in woodlands with some prairie, open lawn, and gardens and traversed by a stream. The woodland garden and home are on both the State and National Historic Registries. The former John and Marie Aull house blends into the setting atop the hill above the park's walk-in entrance, and the gardens and walking path generally surround the house.

Aullwood Audubon and the South Park of Englewood MetroPark, also wooded facilities, border Aullwood Garden to the north and east. Aullwood Road and the Stillwater River border the park to the west, requiring the main entry pathway to begin at the parking lot remote from the gardens, follow the Stillwater River, and cross Aullwood Road.

Aullwood Garden is one of the smallest MetroParks, and the smallest outside the urban area. It is a community park in MetroParks' typology matrix, meaning it offers a variety of experiences, has a relatively high amount of activity and amenities per acre, requires more than average staff and financial resources, and is not closely connected by trails to the rest of the park system. At Aullwood Gardens MetroPark, 81% of the property is in natural habitat. It is FRMP's least visited park, attracting 7,722 visitors in 2017 as compared to the second least visited park, Twin Creek attracted 51,206 visitors.



The primary use of the park is peaceful enjoyment of the gardens and strolling the trails. Its small size and attendance frequently results in a private experience for visitors. FRMP strives to maintain the historical accuracy of the garden and Marie's philosophies of aesthetics and conservation-based horticulture. From the core interpretive theme that each MetroPark tells a story from the past, the interpretive themes for Aullwood are the serene woodland garden that Marie and John Aull created, the opportunity to connect with the natural beauty; the story of the Aulls; and the impact Marie Aull made in the Dayton area for conservation education.



Aullwood Garden MetroPark is unique in FRMP as a managed woodland garden. Aullwood combines two MetroParks service areas, nature and gardens, for a unique experience. The natural beauty of the rolling woodland and soothing stream paired with the carefully tended and seasonally-changing garden in the intimate setting of a once-private home creates a serene outdoor experience. The site conveys a strong sense of history, of connection to the river and woods, and of the delicate beauty of horticultural in a native palette.

### **Pigeys Conservation Area**

Pigeys Conservation Area primarily comprised of 99 acres and also known as the Pigeys Reserve, was leased from the Miami Conservancy District in 1986 and was renewed for another 25 years in 2012. The first purchase of approximately a 13 acre parcel of the Pigeys Conservation Area was acquired in 1995 which was followed by a sale of a small section of the property which contained the existing buildings in 1999.

The property has been maintained in a conservation state for its history with FRMP and provides a variety of habitats including a long stretch of the Stillwater River.

There is an earth structure located on the property which initially appeared to be a Hopewell style mound, but based on recent exploration and study by Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, the structure appears to be a plow line and not a historical artifact. Additional study would need to be completed to fully verify the origin of this structure.

This conservation area will be incorporated into Englewood MetroPark as a part of this master plan.



## 2.2 PARK HISTORY

Prior to European settlement, Native Americans of the Adena Culture were present throughout the Miami Valley during the woodland period from about 1000 B.C. until contact with European explorers around 1750. These early inhabitants utilized the natural resources of the river systems including the Stillwater basin to provide all the resources they needed to create thriving villages and communities including hunting and growing crops. Modern development began to impact the park around 1825 when Old National Road bisected what is now Englewood MetroPark. Shortly after in 1829, the Patty family purchased 100 acres in the Stillwater Valley and would see three generations live on the land for more than 150 years. Another notable Dayton couple, John Aull purchased property along the river in 1909 where he and his wife, Marie, established a wonderful woodland garden. After the 1913 Flood, the largest of the five regional dams was completed in Englewood in 1922 by the Miami Conservancy District (MCD). MCD acquired large tracts of land upstream of the dam for the retention basin, and in 1967 leased 1,400 acres to FRMP which would become known as Englewood Reserve and ultimately Englewood MetroPark.

In 1977, Marie Aull donated a large portion of her property to FRMP with the agreement that she could continue to live on the property. Aullwood Gardens MetroPark was formed and she continued to assist in the oversight of horticultural efforts with the park district until her death in 2002. Numerous additions of property have been acquired since the first lease, including an additional lease with the Miami Conservancy District for the Pigeye Conservation Area in 1986. Between the leases and ownership, collectively the three FRMP locations have grown to over 1,900 acres and are consistently one of the most visited areas in the FRMP system.





### 2.3 SITE PLANNING PROCESS

FRMP has established a [site planning process](#) that was used to develop the site plan for Englewood and Aullwood MetroParks and Pigeye Conservation Area (the “park”). FRMP retained the services of Human Nature of Cincinnati, Ohio, to develop the site plan. A core team of key, cross-agency staff was established to guide the plan throughout the process. The core team participated with the consultant in a two day kick off process to provide orientation and input and continued to be closely engaged throughout the development of the plan, providing feedback at each key decision point and engaging individually as various issues and opportunities arose that pertained to their work responsibilities. Core team members also gathered feedback from other staff, and additional staff members directly associated with the park had an opportunity to provide their ideas, insight and issues.

The public had several opportunities to provide input into the development of the site plan. Two public open houses were conducted during the two day kickoff session where attendees were able to talk to staff and the consultant team. Intercept surveys were provided to meeting attendees and were online for those who were not able to attend. An additional public meeting was held to present the pre-final concept plan and gather feedback. Stakeholders and attendees from the first open house were sent direct invitations to attend or to comment about the plans online.

FRMP also engaged key stakeholders in the project to collect input and feedback. Stakeholders included the neighboring jurisdictions of Englewood, Clayton and Butler Township, as well as the Miami Conservancy District, Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm (Audubon), the German Club Edelweiss and FRMP volunteers. These meetings provided insight to the context around the park, identified opportunities and issues, and explored future partnerships.

#### Data and Analysis Summary

A previous master plan for Englewood MetroPark, completed by KKG of Columbus, Ohio in 2007, was consulted. Key recommendations of that plan included the following:

- Improvements to the park circulation system including making connections between the various parts of the park and creating a meaningful trail hierarchy. This continues to be a recommendation for this master plan.

- Construction of a bridge to connect West Park with the East Park. The City of Englewood led the project with FRMP as a partner. Bridge construction is funded for 2020 through a federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) grant of about \$2.2 Million and the local share being funded by the City of Englewood and FRMP.
- Removal of the low head dam located just above the main Englewood Dam. The dam was removed in 2010.

### Input Summary

During the two day kick off process, several key high-level issues and ideas were raised that were considered throughout the planning process:

- The City of Englewood has received funding to construct the pedestrian connection between West Park and the Core Area over the Stillwater River
- The regional trail should be constructed from the east side of Englewood MetroPark to connect Vandalia and Taylorsville MetroPark
- The gap in the Stillwater Trail between Sinclair Park and the south end of Englewood MetroPark should be completed
- A partnership with Audubon could result in strong trail connections with Englewood and Aullwood MetroParks to allow for better user access and flow between these facilities
- Partnering with the City of Union to engage their property in the northwest areas of Englewood MetroPark could create trail loops and connections to North Park
- Aullwood Gardens should remain a quiet and serene space which maintains and respects the Aull Family history of the place
- Areas within about 4,000 feet of the dam, including Englewood Lake, cannot be dredged due to potential seepage under the dam

### Site Plan Program

The site plan program was developed from all of the input gathered from the public, stakeholders and staff along with the physical data and analysis. The program provides a guiding framework and a set of overarching goals which should be met in the final site plan and ultimately the master plan. The following highlights provide an overview of the park program that guided the development of the site plan.

#### Comprehensive

- Increase attendance to the park by providing more amenities, activities, and events
- Update and improve park and historical facilities/structures
- Improve ADA access to park amenities and facilities

#### Circulation

- Improve vehicular circulation throughout the park
- Establish a hierarchy of entries into the park and enhance the sense of arrival at the main park entrance on U.S. Route 40
- Reconfigure Patty Road for two-way traffic to improve vehicular circulation within the park
- Realign Aullwood Road to help visitors easily find and distinguish between the Aullwood Audubon Center and Aullwood Gardens; close Aullwood Road south of the entrance to Aullwood Gardens
- Extend and improve the existing trail system to create a network of easily understood set of nested loops that provide easy access to all park assets
- Improve trail connections between use areas and throughout the park

### Use Areas

- Create a place-specific identity based on the FRMP park typology and the park position description
- Create a main identifiable park hub with multiple recreational amenities and easy access to other park assets
- Offer additional activities and experiences in the Upland Use Area (currently East Park)

### Activation

- Establish a strong sense of place for the park through a recognizable design vocabulary and materials for structures and signage
- Consider a place-based nomenclature or style for the park, use areas and other site features (trails, shelters, overlooks, etc.)
- Enhance the expansive views of the park and Stillwater valley from the dam
- Improve bird watching facilities at the Englewood Wetland/Lake
- Strengthen connections to the Stillwater River for recreational use and wildlife observation
- Strengthen the arrival experience, pedestrian circulation, and amenities at Aullwood Gardens





## **2.4 CONSERVATION PLAN**

Based on the [Natural Areas Management Guide](#), a series of park-specific goals have been developed as a part of the site planning process. These goals should be used as a guide during the implementation of the plan to minimize impacts to sensitive habitats and the wildlife that depend on these special places. The natural areas of Englewood MetroPark contain a great diversity of habitats in the valley of the Stillwater River. The main portion of the park contains outstanding examples of bottomland hardwood forest, old growth upland forest, an oak swamp, and former farmland in natural succession. What was once Englewood Lake is now a large shallow lake/wetland that provides outstanding habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. Several meadows and planted prairie grasslands provide grassland habitat. The Stillwater State Scenic River bisects the main section of the park and contains excellent aquatic diversity. Because of the size and diversity of the habitats here, Englewood MetroPark has been designated by the National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area.

The activation of spaces within natural areas that have not been promoted for public use previously will require thorough assessment and a thoughtful approach to minimize impacts. This is particularly true in the Pigeon Conservation Area which includes a high quality, spring-fed emergent wetland and the spring fed, Pigeon Creek, home to the only known population of Brindled Madtom Catfish within the FRMP system. The corridor for the proposed bikeway extension, from Englewood MetroPark to Pigeon Conservation Area, is an important corridor for wildlife and includes multiple creeks and wetland areas.

Habitat management maps and goals outlined below were developed in 2015, are reviewed annually and are the current maps as of the writing of this master plan.

### **Conservation goals for the site plan include the following:**

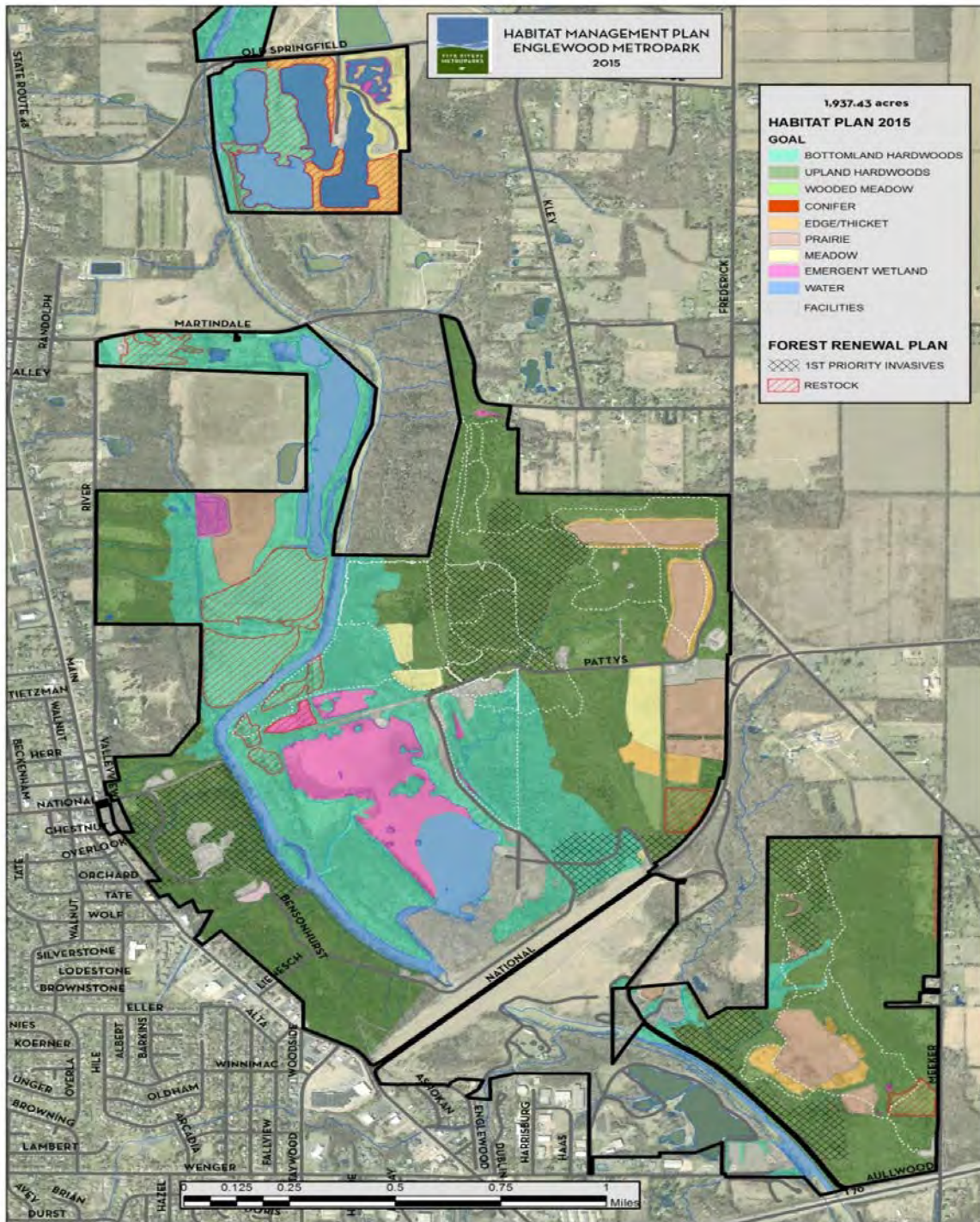
- Protect the existing mature woodlands throughout the park. Manage honeysuckle and other invasive species in all habitats as designated.
- Permit natural succession to occur in designated old fields and young forests to generate new mature forests and minimize edge effects within large tracts. Reintroduce and plant native mast species in designated areas to augment succession and ensure a diverse future forest.
- Assure adequate meadow and prairie habitat for the continuation of the processes of grassland ecology.

- Maintain sufficient edge/thicket habitat, a transitional habitat important to many types of wildlife.
- Reintroduce a variety of native shrubs in designated areas to promote the re-establishment of these species.
- Manage existing ponds and wetlands to benefit wildlife that is dependent on these habitats.
- Because no dredging of Englewood Lake will be permitted by MCD, manage the transformation of the lake into a wetland environment to maximize habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife. Explore the ability to pump water into lake area during dry seasons to maintain sufficient hydrology.
- Manage the existing lakes in North Park for wildlife habitat and recreational fishing. The wetland in the northeastern section will be managed for a mixture of wetland, prairie, and edge habitats.
- Design and maintain hiking and equestrian trails to maintain the integrity of the managed habitats while maximizing the user experience.



# Englewood & Aullwood Garden MetroParks Master Plan

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## **PIGEYE CONSERVATION AREA**

This diverse 111.2 acres of conservation area features mature upland and bottomland forest, thickets, a spring fed wetland, and Pigeye Creek, a spring-fed stream. Historical artifacts include the site of a former covered bridge, and mill race.

### **Goals**

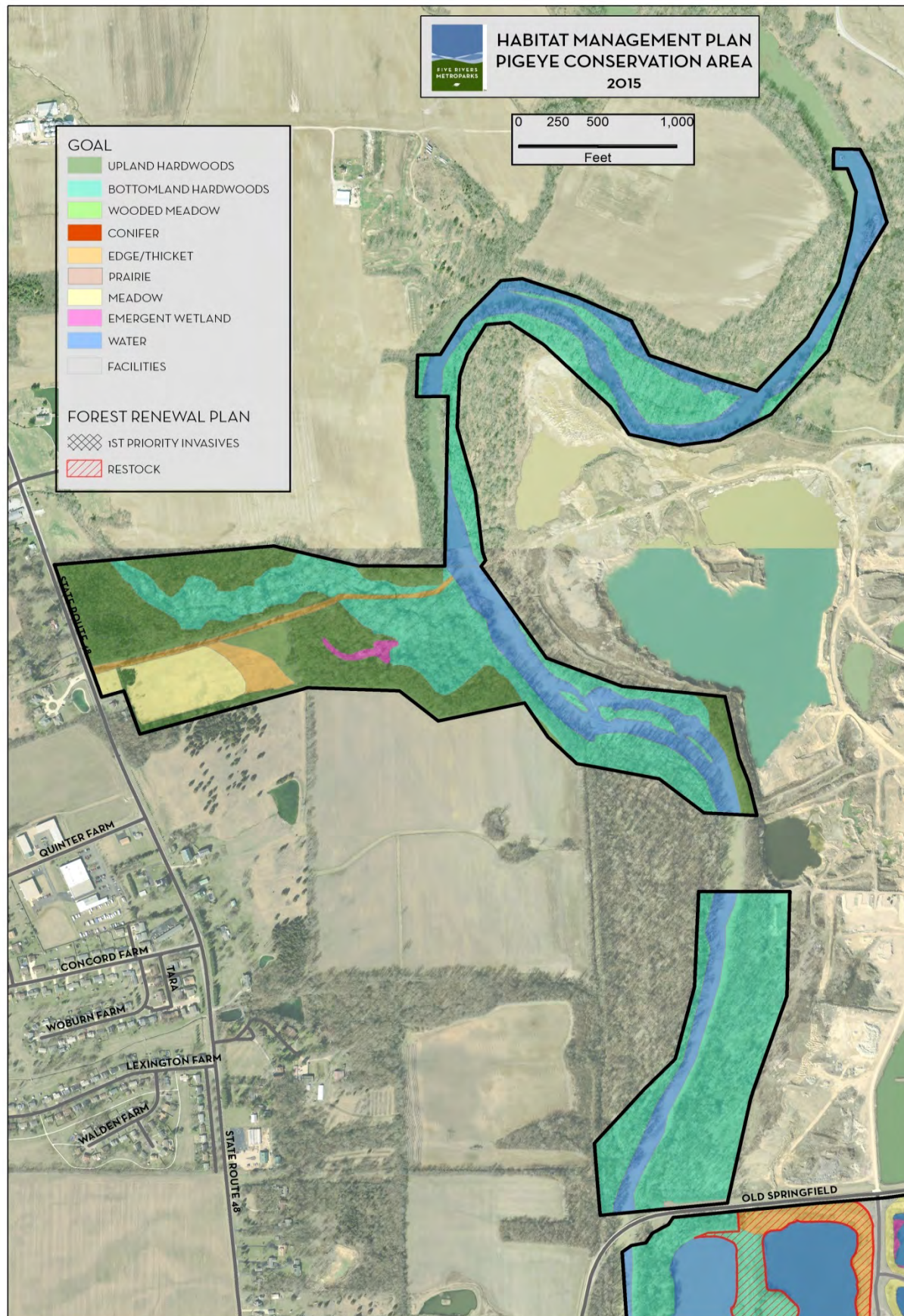
1. Preserve the existing mature woodlands. Control of honeysuckle and other invasive species in all habitats as designated.
2. Permit natural succession to occur in the designated areas to maximize forest size and minimize edge effect within large tracts. Reintroduce and plant native mast species in designated areas to augment succession and ensure a diverse future forest.
3. Maintain sufficient edge/thicket habitat, a transitional habitat important to many types of wildlife. Reintroduction of native shrubs in designated areas to promote re-establishment of these species.
4. Maintain meadow grassland for grassland birds and wildlife.





# Englewood & Aullwood Garden MetroParks Master Plan

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### 2.5 INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Englewood MetroPark consists of approximately 1,937 acres of old growth forest, bottomland forest, oak swamp, farmland in succession, grassland prairie, lakes and wetland areas in the Stillwater River Valley. The natural assets of the park are impressive: the Stillwater River is a state scenic river, and the National Audubon Society has designated the area as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The park offers significant historical elements as well, such as the site of a former covered bridge, millrace, scout camp ruins, spring house, and the National Road stone bridge. Englewood MetroPark includes one of the five dams built by the Miami Conservancy District after the 1913 flood resulting in a substantial retention area behind the dam which under lease to FRMP comprises most of the park. As a result of this master plan, 111.2 acres at Pigeye Conservation Area are proposed to become part of Englewood MetroPark. The Comprehensive Master Plan lists this park's typology as a Nature MetroPark.

Aullwood Garden MetroPark is a 31-acre historical garden estate in the Arts and Craft style featuring a woodland garden with a prairie and stream. The site was donated to FRMP by Marie Aull in 1977, and the house and gardens are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. FRMP's Comprehensive Master Plan establishes this park's typology as a community park.



### Audience

After site visit and discussions with FRMP staff and stakeholders, the following by “Falk Visitor Types” identifies current and potential audiences, as well as activity which are defined below:

- Explorers—motivated by personal curiosity (i.e. browsers)
- Facilitators—motivated by other people and their needs (i.e. a parent bringing a child)
- Experience-Seekers—motivated by the desire to see and experience a place (i.e. tourists)
- Professional/Hobbyists—motivated by specific knowledge-related goals (i.e. a scholar researching a specific topic)
- Rechargers—motivated by a desire for a contemplative or restorative experience

#### Englewood Audience

- Rechargers
- Experience Seekers
- Facilitators

#### Aullwood Audience

- Rechargers
- Facilitators

#### Aullwood User Groups

- Walkers (without dogs)
- Bird Watchers
- Gardeners

#### Englewood User Groups

- Picnicking/Shelter
- Walkers (with and without dogs)
- Hikers
- Backpacker
- Camper
- Fishing/Angler
- Paddling
- Inquiry Based
- Families with children
- Equestrian
- Disc Golf
- Bird Watchers





### Intended Visitor Experience

Visitor experience provided for all visitor types and activities listed above:

- Nature immersion in woodland garden, high quality of spring ephemeral plants (an ephemeral plant is one marked by short life cycles), Ohio habitats old growth forest, prairie, meadows, wetlands, waterfalls, ponds, and river
- Basic needs are met, such as restrooms, water fountains, picnic, shelters, clear orientation/wayfinding & access

### FRMP System-Wide Themes/Storylines

An interpretive theme is the overarching message. It is more detailed than a broad topic; it is a complete thought in one to two complete sentences. The theme may be used verbatim in signage or verbally in talks, or it may be unspoken, but guide the general feel the project aims to have for the visitor experience on site. A theme will help answer the “so what?” – “the moral of the story.” Themes connect tangibles: those things you can touch, see, feel, smell, and taste with intangibles, and those things that are symbolic or metaphoric

**Theme:** A succinct, central message about a topic of interest that a communicator wants to get across to an audience. (Ham, 2013)

**StoryLine:** Part of the thematic hierarchy: theme,-sub-theme, and storyline, Storylines are the details of the interpretive content.

### Central Themes:

Each park within FRMP system tells a story from the past.

Protect natural areas, parks and river corridors, and promote the conservation and use of these lands and waterways for the ongoing benefit of the people of the region.



### Themes for the Park:

- Marie and John Aull created an estate and serene woodland garden that provides visitors a way to connect with the natural beauty
- The Stillwater Valley provides protection for both nature and humans

### Sub-themes:

- History on site - the story of the Aulls, the impact Marie Aull made in the Dayton area for conservation education
- Each piece of land tells a story of how conservation touches people's lives
- The story of the area before it became a park ties it to the history of the region
  - National Road
  - Identify the other uses of the land over time as stated in the park position description
- Rivers shape the MetroParks you see today
- FRMP is a conservation agency with roots to the 1913 Dayton flood
  - The 1913 flood
  - Building of the Englewood Dam

### Storylines specific to Englewood & Aullwood Gardens MetroParks:

- The Aulls and the 1913 flood
- The Aulls provided shelter to neighbors and worked to create the dams to protect the Dayton area from future flooding
- Habitat management benefits both humans and wildlife
  - Human recreational benefits, activities, and respite
  - Several habitats and returning species
  - Important birding area, migratory birds
  - The Stillwater River is a connection to history and conservation

Other opportunities to connect to agency-wide themes:

- We can all take part in conservation
- Outdoor family adventures create lasting memories
- Preservation of our cultural heritage

### Interpretive Media Recommendations

Personal programs by topic:

Bird watching  
Wildflowers  
Fossils

Map and brochures:

Disc golf -Kids in Parks

Non-personal interpretation:

Kiosks- Welcome and orientation  
(East Park entrance, Aullwood  
garden, Trailhead (8 locations),  
Water trail along with bike and boat  
racks (4 locations), Bikeway, Camping  
leave no trace

Wayside self-guided (Signs or Audionetics):

History of dam, Natural features-  
waterfalls, pumpkin ash, former lake,  
wetland, big spring, Scout ruins, Spring  
house, Old National Road bridge, East  
Park, bird habitat, forest, prairie, Nature  
Play

Wayside Exhibit:

Bird watching- viewing scopes or  
binoculars, bird blind, Aull House and  
Stillwater, National Road history at  
Bridge-west park, Old National Road  
bridge-East Park



## 2.6 PROGRAMMING PLAN

### Current Programming

Englewood and Aullwood Garden MetroParks are located in one of the most biodiverse areas in the Miami Valley providing various opportunities for the community to connect to nature through natural, recreational, and cultural experiences. Programs predominately occur in the East Park of the Englewood MetroPark and Aullwood Gardens. Audiences for those programs are detailed below, and the [2017 Program Chart](#) is available for review in the Appendix.



### Englewood MetroPark Programs

#### Youth & Teens

Englewood MetroPark is a popular location for nature-themed youth tours for students in grades second through fourth because of Englewood's restrooms, shelters, trails and connections to content for school standardized tests. Youth explore fossils below the dam, habitats and pollinators. Tours are volunteer, teacher or staff led. Natural Adventures Boxes located in East Park of Englewood MetroPark near Patty's Shelter, provide youth groups access to a variety of naturalists tools to explore the park during spring through fall. Supplies include insect nets, pond nets, field guides, magnifying glasses and more. One or two overnight campouts are offered per year at Patty's Hollow Campsite for Youth/Teen Adventure Camp during the summer that also includes a hike to waterfalls and playing a round of disc golf. Outdoor Recreation offers a variety of summer camps throughout the summer across the district that range from one day to a full week. Camps represent the majority of recreation youth programming offered.



### **Families**

Offered year-round, Conservation Kids programming empowers children to become conservationists through a three step program progression. Get Outside Book Club is a partnership program with Dayton Metro Library that combines early literacy with getting children outdoors. Englewood is one of nine parks featured each year between September 1 and October 31. Walk with a Doc is a program conducted June through October in partnership with Dayton Children's Hospital where a volunteer naturalist and a doctor encourage families to get outside and move. Englewood MetroPark has earned the Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside's and Dayton Regional Green's "Connect to Nature Site Award". This award recognizes the facility for providing programs and access points to nature that enable the Ohio Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights to be exercised by youth.

### **Adults**

Adults attending the Adult Nature Walks learn more about local ecology and ways to protect the biodiversity of the region while meeting other adults who share their interest in nature. Trained volunteers lead these activities and provide the expertise for these walks year-round.

### **Aullwood Garden MetroPark Programs**

Tours of Aullwood Garden and the Aullwood House with an Education Coordinator are offered spring through fall for the public and organized groups. Garden Photography programs led by professional photography instructors allow participants to get a closer look at nature through a camera lens; offered Spring-Fall. Yoga has also been occasionally offered in Aullwood Garden.

### **Multiple Audiences Programs**

Other programs that have been offered at Englewood MetroPark include kayak floats on the Stillwater and disc golf programs.

Participants enjoy a peaceful walk through the luminary-lit paths of Aullwood Garden MetroPark during the winter Luminary Walk.



### Current Interpretation

- There are kiosks that include a map, trail information, and special features to see in the park at the Englewood MetroPark's Patty's Shelter, Dam and West Park. An interpretive panel, Donna's Prairie, in North Park interprets the prairie and is dedicated to a former Five Rivers MetroPark staff person. For future reference, former interpretive signage removed when they became in disrepair, focused on Wildlife Nesting area in the North Park, History of the National Road Bridge, wildlife ecology, pumpkin ash, and Patty Falls in the main park. See section 2.5 Interpretive Plan for future interpretive experiences planned through the site planning process.
- Two kiosks that include a map, trail information, and special features to see in the park are located in the parking lot and at the gate between Aullwood Audubon and Aullwood Garden MetroPark. There are five legacy panels that Marie Aull installed that give history specimen trees and also three signs with quotes to give character. There is a changeable plant identification sign at the entrance to the garden. A fossil collecting informational panel is posted in the parking lot for Aullwood Garden MetroPark.



## Aspirational Programming

Improved amenities, additional trails, ADA modifications, and water access will provide expanded outdoor educational, historical and cultural, recreational, and interpretive opportunities. As programming, interpretive efforts and resources evolve, activation of the new amenities and creating a recreational and educational use culture in the parks, whether through interpretation, programming, or independent use, will be a primary goal. This goal can be realized in various ways, depending on the audience:



## Interpretative Opportunities

- Self-guided Wayside: focus on the topics below at various sites in Englewood MetroPark
  - wildlife nesting in North Park
  - wildlife ecology, pumpkin ash, and Patty, Martindale, and Oak Falls in East Park
  - scout camp, spring house and big spring (past uses of the park) also in East Park
  - nature play areas in East Park and West Park
  - birding on East Park natural surface trails
- [Kids in Parks](#): a national network of parks, encourages and supports active family engagement, increases trail use, introduces recreational opportunities available in parks, forests and communities, and creates a network that offers an almost unlimited variety of experience. The disc golf course at Englewood MetroPark would be an ideal addition for the Kids in Parks program
- Interpretive Trails: birding trails throughout all use areas, various stories along Aullwood Road if it becomes a bike and pedestrian trail
- Wayside Exhibit: the Aull story of garden creation, their contribution to Dayton area, and the Aull House at Aullwood Garden MetroPark

### **Programming Opportunities**

#### **Youth & Teens**

- Nature play, shelter, and hiking trail additions and enhancements, as well as parking improvements will allow Englewood MetroPark to be a destination school site for the region, as well as an outdoor classroom for local schools currently not visiting Englewood MetroPark in Vandalia and Englewood. Program sites: West Park, East Park

#### **Family**

- The development of more appealing a large group campsite along the tree line will be an ideal place to hold overnight family camping. Currently, family camping is only available in Twin Valley and Possum Creek MetroParks. Program site: Upland
- Increased nature play sites, as well as additional trail connections will provide family programming and family wellness opportunities by creating more mileage of trails and access between park areas. The planned pedestrian access creates opportunities for families to explore more of the park without necessity of driving between park areas. Active family programming can take advantage of the diverse habitats in areas of the park currently not on the main trail. Program sites: North Park, West Park, East Park
- Expansion and ADA enhancements to nature play at East Park will make it possible to develop programs for underserved participants of different abilities. Providing nature play access to children who have limited mobility will diversify the audience we serve in the site. Program sites: East Park

#### **Adults**

- Improvements to parking, as well as the addition of public restrooms, walking loops and trails through ecological areas will allow for theme based nature walks for adults. Program sites: Aullwood Gardens, East Park
- Improvements in river access will allow for more opportunity to program the Stillwater through kayaking programs. Program sites: Pigeye Conservation Area, West Park

- Creating a multi-use trail connection to Pigeye will allow for backpacking programming in northern Montgomery County. Program sites: Park wide/trail, South Park

## **Multiple Audiences**

- Improved access around the North Park lakes will allow for fishing programming. Program Sites: North Park
- Renovation of Aull House and improvements to parking, garden path, and drive to meet ADA standards will make it possible to provide programming to underserved audiences with limited mobility. Program sites: Aullwood Gardens
- Improvements in river access will allow for more opportunity to provide Naturalists Float programming on the Stillwater featuring kayaking skills and nature observation. Program sites: Pigeye Conservation Area, West Park
- Renovation of Aull House and the addition of public restrooms that meet ADA standards will provide improved access and the ability to extend the program seasons. Program sites: Aullwood Garden
- Continue to partner and explore programming opportunities with the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm





### 2.7 SITE PLAN

Because Englewood MetroPark, Aullwood Garden MetroPark and the Pigeye Conservation Area are so expansive and divided, one of the top priorities of the site plan is to improve the accessibility of the park for the user. A series of use areas will help organize and orient visitors to the array of opportunities available for them to explore. The Englewood MetroPark East Park is the front door to the park where new visitors will experience the park for the first time. As park users become familiar with the park, visits can begin at other use areas where basic amenities and unique and varied features, other amenities and activities are provided. These use areas will be connected by park trails, allowing users to create diverse experiences each time they visit. The use areas for the park have been redefined to include the following:

- East Park (Primary Use Area)
- Aullwood Garden
- Lake Recreation Area
- North Park
- Pigeye
- South Park
- West Park
- Upland Area

A second important factor driving the development of this and all MetroParks site plans is the Power of 10+, a concept, developed by Projects for Public Spaces, to evaluate and facilitate place making at multiple scales. Places thrive when users have a range of reasons—ten or more—to be there. These might include a place to sit, playgrounds to enjoy, art to touch, music to hear, food to eat, history to experience, and people to meet. Ideally, some of these activities will be unique to that particular place, reflecting the culture and history of the surrounding community. The following activities were identified in the planning process as appropriate for this park:



- Birding & Wildlife Viewing
- Camping
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Connecting with Nature
- Disc Golf
- Historical and Cultural Interpretation
- Horse Trails
- Low-stress Cycling
- Nature Education
- Nature Play

- Fishing
- Fitness Walking
- Group Events & Gatherings
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- River Access
- Scenic Views & Features (e.g., waterfalls)
- Trail Running

### Key Site Plan Recommendations

With a foundation of the two concepts described above, key site plan recommendations were developed. Many of these recommendations have resulted in specific projects that are prioritized for the 10-year capital improvement plan in Section 2.1. The full [site plan](#) provides significant detail not provided here.

### Park-wide Recommendations

#### Increase attendance by providing more amenities, activities, and events

A key strategy for increasing attendance is to incorporate the Power of 10+ to generate synergies between multiple activities and facilities.

#### Update and improve park facilities

Modernizing existing facilities and creating new facilities that meet needs for comfort, safety, service, and inclusivity is required to maintain MetroParks' current assets and provide basic amenities, both priorities of the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP). This goal also includes the need to improve the entry experience and wayfinding within the parks.

#### Create a place-specific identity

Each of the parks in the FRMP system exists in a unique cultural and natural context that has the potential to be celebrated and enhanced to create a special visitor experience. Place-specific materials, signage, and structures based on direction from the Design Guidelines can help define the character of the parks and generate a memorable image in the minds of visitors.

#### Establish a strong sense of place for the park through a recognizable design vocabulary and materials guidelines for structures and signage

In general, materials for structures and signage throughout the park should match existing structures and reflect the character of a Nature Park as established in MetroParks Design Guidelines.

### **Consider a place-based nomenclature or style for the park, use areas, and other site features (trails, shelters, overlooks, etc.)**

Place-specific nomenclature or style is recommended to celebrate the special character of this landscape. For example, Englewood-Aullwood MetroPark could be changed to Stillwater Valley MetroPark, which would encompass all of the existing properties within the park as well as any potential future acquisitions. Other re-naming opportunities include trails (i.e. from colors to place-based names), shelters, overlooks, and use areas.

### **Circulation Recommendations**

#### **Improve trail connections**

The CMP identified walking and hiking trails as the public's highest priority among park facilities. Multi-purpose and hiking trails should connect to surrounding communities to provide residents access to the park. Similarly, connections between use areas and among Englewood MetroPark, Aullwood Gardens MetroPark, and Aullwood Audubon should be improved.

#### **Improve vehicular circulation**

Most visitors to the park will arrive on motorized vehicles; therefore, the park master plan addresses any potential conflicts between pedestrians and the vehicles. Also, circulation should be studied to improve the driving experience in terms of orientation and navigation.

#### **Establish a hierarchy of entries into the park and enhance the sense of arrival at the main entrance on U.S. Route 40**

To strengthen the sense of arrival into the park, the primary park entrance on the east side of Englewood Dam will need a managed landscape zone on both sides of the road, a simplification of the intersection geometry, and updated signage to clarify access to Englewood and Aullwood Garden MetroParks. The other park entries will be smaller in scale, but have consistent landscape and signage treatment. For all entry signage, a materials palette of local limestone, wood, and steel that echoes the existing entry pylons at the Main Street (Rt. 48) entrance would establish a unique identity for the park.



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**Extend and improve the pedestrian natural surface and paved trail system to create a network of nested loops that provide easy access to park assets**

The proposed accessible trail loop at the East Park will provide access to several existing and new trail loops of varying length and difficulty. In addition to offering more places to hike, the trails also clarify and strengthen connections to other park features. A multipurpose trail will traverse the west side of the Stillwater River from the new National Road pedestrian bridge north to the Pigeye property. An at-grade pedestrian crossing at U.S. Route 40 will strengthen the connection between Englewood and Aullwood Garden, increase hiking trail options, and enhance the perception of a single park.





## **Strengthen connections to the Stillwater River**

A new pedestrian bridge across the Stillwater River on the historic route of National Road will provide a valuable connection between the east and west sides of the park and afford beautiful views of the river. A new access drive will connect the existing Main Street (Route 48) entrance to a new canoe/kayak takeout point on the river. New trails on the west side will offer visual and physical access to the river and the mature forest ecosystem.

## **Reconfigure Patty Road for two-way traffic to improve vehicular circulation**

The plan recommends that Patty Road be redesigned as a two-way road that connects from the existing park entry at Route 40 through the park to a new entry at Route 40 near Frederick Pike. The existing section of Patty Road between the maintenance facilities north to Frederick Pike would be abandoned and a new “Maintenance Vehicles Only” drive would connect the facilities to the reconfigured Patty Road entry.

## **Improve Aullwood Road to help visitors easily find the Aullwood Audubon Center and Aullwood Garden**

To improve the sense of arrival to the parks and clarify access to the Aullwood Audubon Center and Aullwood Garden, Aullwood Road is proposed to be re-aligned with the main entrance to Englewood MetroPark. Highly visible directional signage will clarify Aullwood Audubon Center and Aullwood Garden. The segment of Aullwood Road south of the Garden will be converted to a multi-purpose trail.



## **Strengthen arrival experience, pedestrian circulation, and amenities for Aullwood Garden**

The current visitor arrival experience at Aullwood Garden parking lot will be improved by including basic amenities such as restrooms, an orientation kiosk and signage. The parking lot area will provide access to both Aullwood Garden by a pedestrian path and to trails connecting to the park use areas and the Stillwater River. The gardens should be extended to the parking area to draw visitors to the main garden entrance at Aullwood Road. When Aullwood Road is partially vacated, new ADA parking and additional entry enhancements can be created at the garden entrance to the park. The existing driveway leading to the house should be regraded to provide ADA access to the park. New restrooms are proposed for the house area to serve the visitors to the garden. The house should be maintained in its historical period that provides opportunities to educate visitors about its historical heritage; and be utilized for specialized programming to support the garden and history of the property.

## Use Area Recommendations

### **Create an identifiable park hub with multiple recreational amenities and easy access to other park assets**

The East Park Use Area will provide an orientation space where visitors can get information about sights, amenities, trails, and scheduled events. New, rentable group shelters will provide additional venues for gatherings and generate income for maintenance and capital improvements and storage for outdoor education activities. An ADA accessible trail loop around the perimeter of the open space will enable visitors to access several trailheads to connect to existing and new loop trails. The existing nature play area will be expanded to include new play elements and places to socialize.

### **Offer additional activities and experiences at the Upland Use Area**

New facilities are proposed that will attract visitors and activate the Upland Use Area. The new facilities will include improved restrooms, Improved group camp sites, a multipurpose recreational lawn, relocated equestrian parking and trails, restored prairie, and new hiking trails that connect to the East Park.

### **Improve bird watching facilities at the Englewood Wetland/Lake**

Englewood Wetland/Lake is a regionally recognized bird watching area, and the visitor experience would be significantly enriched with modest and strategic improvements. A new edge trail on the east side of the wetland will connect several proposed overlooks with interpretive signage. The existing parking lots will be reconfigured or relocated to improve circulation and to create buffers between parking and the viewing areas. An interpretive kiosk will provide information about what birds and wildlife are in season.

### **Celebrate the expansive views of the park and Stillwater Valley from the dam**

The top of Englewood Dam gives one an unsurpassed view of the Stillwater Valley. A new trail will connect the parking lot at the main entrance off of Route 40 to Englewood MetroPark to a new overlook located on the topmost terrace on the north side of the dam. This location will allow for expansive views and eliminate safety concerns for a trail along the road.



### Opportunistic Short Term Recommendations

Some recommendations could be achieved at a relatively low cost using staff resources:

- Build nature play at North Park
- Feature Aullwood Garden MetroPark in Parkways and Social Media to boost attendance during peak blooming times
- Explore cross promotion of facilities between Aullwood Audubon and MetroParks to boost awareness and attendance for both organizations
- Create accessible fishing spots in North Park using natural materials
- Create activity loops within the park to promote all of the various features in the park. Promote the new loops through on site maps at kiosks and on social media
- Create fitness stations using found natural materials in the park, incorporate healthy trail signage
- Continue to explore connections and relationships with neighboring land owners, especially Englewood and Union to explore pathway connections on adjacent properties

### Level of Service Amenities

- The following amenities outlined in the CMP are included in the site plan:
  - (3) Reservable Picnic Shelters (Small 1-25)
  - (1) Reservable Picnic Shelters (Medium 26-50)
  - (1) Reservable Picnic Shelters (Large 51-100)
  - (0) Outdoor Pavilions (100+) (Equestrian Center Covered Arena)
  - (3) Nature Play Playgrounds
  - (8.2) Paved Trails (Miles)
  - (0) Soft/ Non Paved Trails (Miles)
  - (5.7) Nature/ Hiking/ Backpacking Trails (Miles)
  - (0) Equine Trails (Miles)
  - (0) Mountain Bike Trails (Miles)

### 2.8 LAND PROTECTION PLAN

FRMP's [Land Protection Plan \(link once LPP is done\)](#) identifies priorities for land protection based on criteria addressing conservation, the park, and the user. Many land protection priorities for Englewood and Aullwood MetroParks and Pigeye Conservation Area focus on park criteria, particularly completing its natural boundaries and completing trail connections. Specific recommendations regarding land protection to achieve park needs and associated attainment strategies are listed below:

- Link Pigeye Conservation Area to North Park over time with owners of adjacent properties including owners of the gravel extraction operation.
- Link North Park to the central portion of Englewood MetroPark through partnership with the cities of Union and Englewood and potentially over time with adjacent property owners.
- Link South Park of Englewood MetroPark to Aullwood Garden MetroPark and to the central portion of Englewood MetroPark through partnership with Aullwood Audubon
- Over time, work with owners of adjacent property owners, extend the park to its natural boundaries, particularly U.S. Route 40 at the intersection with Fredrick Pike and along the west boundary of West Park, and Meeker Road at South Park. Other incursions are not creating significant issues due to topography and the sheer number of properties, particularly north of the dam along S.R. 48.

The highest conservation-based land protection priority is protection of the Stillwater River, both to ensure the health of the river and to maintain the integrity of the wildlife corridor. Within the park this could be best assured by protecting the east side of the river between North Park and the central portion of Englewood MetroPark, whether through a conservation easement or, as mentioned above, through acquisition over time as opportunities present themselves. Most other critical habitat is under the control of FRMP or extends into Miami County. Efforts can be made to work with organizations to the north such as the Miami County Park District to further protect the Stillwater River Corridor.



#### 4.0 Master Planning Process

1. Established a working core team
  1. Representatives from each functional area
    1. Kim Ballweg- Horticulture Technician
    2. Ron Bicknell- Regional Manager
    3. Beth Burke- Interpretation Coordinator
    4. Megan Croswell- Horticulturist
    5. Mike Enright- Conservation Manager
    6. Trevor Hagedorn- Business Services Manager
    7. Karen Hesser- Chief of Operations
    8. Betty Hoevel- Education Coordinator
    9. Chris Pion- Director of Parks and Conservation
    10. Eric Sauer- Planning Manager
    11. Carrie Scarff- Chief of Planning and Projects
    12. Angie Sheldon- Outdoor Recreation Coordinator
    13. Dave Spitler- Park Manager
    14. Laura Stevens- Interpretation Coordinator
2. Retained consultants
  1. Human Nature
  2. Provided background documents and base map information
    1. GIS Data
    2. Property Data
    3. Conservation Files
    4. Park History
    5. Previous Master Plan
3. Public Relations
  1. Park Banners
    1. Placed at park entrances about 30 days before open houses
  2. Parkways
  3. Social Media
  4. FRMP Electronic Newsletters
  5. Direct emails
  6. Surveys
    1. In park intercept surveys
    2. Open House surveys
4. Two Day work session
  1. **Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup> , 2016**
    1. 8:00- 9:00 AM Kick Off Meeting- Meet with core team- Aullwood Parking lot
    2. 9:00-11:00 AM- Drive and initial tour of the park
    3. 11:00-11:30- Quick Lunch/ travel to open house/ Open House Set Up
    4. 11:30 AM till 1:30 PM- Public Open House Location: Aullwood Nature Center- 1000 Aullwood Rd
    5. 1:30-3:00 Meet with FRMP Operations Staff- Aull House
    6. 3:00-4:30 Meet with interpretive staff- Aull House
    7. 4:30-5:30- Dinner

8. 6:00 PM till 8:00 PM- Public Open House Location: Aullwood Nature Center- 1000 Aullwood Rd

**2. Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup> , 2016**

1. 8:00-11:00 Walking and in depth tour of the park- Site analysis (includes public safety)
  2. 11:30-1:00 Meet with key volunteers (Lunch) Aull House
  3. 1:00-2:00 Meet with community stakeholders- Aull House
  4. 2:00-3:30 Meet with Program Staff- Aull House
  5. 3:30-5:00 Meet with core team for wrap up- Aull House
  6. Consultant Team departs
5. Develop meeting notes
    1. Core team review and comments provided to the consultant
  6. Develop program
    1. Core team review and comment
  7. Developed concept alternatives
    1. Presentation to the Core Team
    2. Core Team and Staff Comments
  8. Develop Pre-final site plan
    1. Presentation to the Core Team
    2. Core Team and Staff Comments
  9. Public feedback
    1. Public Open House
      1. Notified participants by email
      2. Posted meeting on social media and website
    2. Post Pre-final plan online for public comment
  10. Final plan development
    1. Site Plan
    2. Capital Improvement Estimate
    3. Established 10 top priority projects
    4. Developed Projections
      1. Narratives and project cost estimates
        1. Parks and Conservation
        2. Programing and Interpretation
        3. Business Operations
        4. Public Safety
        5. Philanthropy

## SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

The [Englewood and Aullwood Garden MetroParks Master Plan, which incorporates Pigeye Conservation area into Englewood MetroPark](#) identifies a comprehensive proposal and [cost estimates](#) for the improvement of these three MetroParks. From those recommendations, it was necessary to prioritize the many proposed projects. Applying priorities established in the Comprehensive Master Plan, FRMP established [Capital Project Criteria](#) to identify projects that will be incorporated with other projects throughout the district into FRMPs' ten-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). To reflect total project costs of the prioritized projects, operational cost estimates were developed for conservation, maintenance, programming, interpretation, law enforcement and businesses operations. Also included are estimates for revenue generation through earned income, such as program fees and rentals, and alternative revenue, such as donations, sponsorships and endowments. These operational costs and revenue will be evaluated alongside the capital costs to identify the projects' placement in the CIP to identify year-by year investment.

### 3.2 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

The proposed site plan represents the long term vision for the park. The plan proposes a number of capital projects that will move the park toward that long term vision. In this master plan, specific improvement projects, as well as repair and replacement projects identified in the comprehensive master planning process have been identified as priority projects for the upcoming ten year period. When applicable, the improvement projects include the furniture, fixtures, and equipment investments necessary to provide a complete project. These priority projects are listed below. Capital improvement projects and priorities will be evaluated on an annual basis to determine status of planned projects, funding availability and potential changes to the park master plan and CIP schedule.

- Pedestrian Bridge
  - Anticipated Budget: \$645,840 (does not include City of Englewood and federal funds)
  - The pedestrian bridge is funded by a federal STP grant in partnership with the City of Englewood of approximately \$4 million. MetroParks has committed to construct the paved connections to the covered bridge. The project will include relocating the parking lot at the north end of the lake.

- East Park Nature Play
  - Anticipated Budget \$84,180
  - Upgrade the existing nature play located in the East Park. Replace aging play pieces and enhance the area with additional features to ensure that this space remains a regional draw for the community.
- West Park Nature Play
  - Anticipated Budget \$76,590
  - Develop a new nature play area in proximity to the shelters to better activate this use area. The nature play area will provide a safe and creative space for visitors to connect with nature and equip them to become advocates for the park and the natural environment.
- North Park Nature Play
  - Anticipated Budget \$14,490
  - This new nature play space is a smaller scale staff-constructed space intended to activate the shelter area at North Park.
- Aullwood and Disc Golf Restrooms
  - Anticipated Budget \$375,360
  - Replace the existing vault toilet building at the disc golf area. The project will also construct a new restroom near the Aull House or be incorporated into the Aull House.
- North Park and Uplands Restrooms
  - Anticipated Budget \$313,260
  - Install restrooms to replace the port-o-lets in these two locations to provide basic amenities for park users.
- Aull House and Access



- Anticipated Budget \$272,544
- Perform needed renovations to the Aull House property to ensure long term viability for the structure. The project will also include re-grading the existing drive to allow for ADA accessibility to the park.
- Operations Facility Maintenance
  - Anticipated Budget \$155,250
  - General maintenance and upgrades as needed to the existing operations buildings at both the Englewood and Aullwood locations. Example items could include painting, roof replacement, HVAC repair and replacement and other customary building management projects.
- Natural Surface Trails
  - Anticipated Budget \$180,193
  - Develop a new trail master plan for the park and re-work the natural surface trails in both the East Park and West Park portions of the park. The plan will include a simplification of the trail system to implement a stacked loop system that is intuitively easy to understand and will provide a variety of lengths and destinations.
- Lake Trash Pump
  - Anticipated Budget \$69,000
  - Purchase a large scale trailer-mounted pump that will allow water to be pumped from the river into Englewood Lake area at low water periods to ensure that the wetland habitat remains in place for a quality birding experience. When river levels are low, water does not flow into the lake. The pump can be used for other purposes in the district when not in use at the lake, such as dewatering areas for pond repairs and washing mud and debris from flooded areas behind the dams.

In addition, all pavement maintenance and repair work required in the parks will be covered by the district wide pavement management program plan. This 10 year plan covers all pavement work district wide and will be funded through annual capital budgeting and grants.



### 3.3 PARKS AND CONSERVATION

The Parks and Conservation Department staff is responsible for the care and maintenance of facilities and natural areas within Englewood and Aullwood MetroParks and Pigeon Conservation Area. This work includes tasks such as daily cleaning and inspection of areas, completion of general repairs, and completion of conservation tasks that protect the biodiversity of natural areas and are recorded and tracked in the Annual Habitat Action Plan. The completion of the routine tasks outlined below ensure that all areas are maintained to FRMP standards for safety, cleanliness, and appearance and that FRMP visitors have high quality experiences.

#### Current Primary Routine Tasks:

- Park Clean-up
  - Litter pick up
  - Bathroom cleaning
  - Shelter cleaning /checks
  - Drinking fountain cleaning/checks
- Nature Play inspections-daily
- Roadway/parking lot/paved trail blowing
- Mowing(excluding trails)
- String trimming



- Natural surface trail trimming/mowing/tree removal
- Campsite checks/prep/cleaning
- Park Inspections
- Equipment/Vehicle repairs and service
- Routine garden maintenance
  - Weeding
  - Mulching
  - Raking
  - Planting

### **Current primary special tasks:**

Parks and Conservation staff also complete work tasks that may be completed annually or monthly and require more time and attention than some of the routine tasks. These tasks may be tied to weather events or special projects. In some cases, special tasks involve timing in relation to the weather or events within the facilities. Other considerations for this work could include scheduling to reduce negative impacts on plant communities or animal populations.

- Flood preparations/clean up
- Snow removal-hand and truck
- Pressure washing shelters and bathrooms
- Park inspections
- Fixture maintenance
  - Plumbing repairs
  - Picnic table repairs



- Trash can painting
- Grill maintenance
- Gate maintenance
- Chemical application
- Tree and shrub planting/watering/mulching
- Facility maintenance
- Winterizing and opening water systems and bathrooms.
- Roadway/paved trail maintenance including trimming, berming, drain clearing and tree removal.
- Tree tube maintenance and monitoring
- Invasive plant management
- Deer management
- Tree protection and monitoring-beaver





## Expected Increases to Primary Routine Tasks:

Upon review of the priority projects in the proposed site plan staff projects an increased need of 1,255 hours annually to complete primary routine tasks. A breakdown of projected increases is outlined by project below and equates to .60 full time equivalent staff (FTE). The detail of these projections can be viewed in the [costing spreadsheet](#) that was produced as a part of the park master plan process.

Project	Projected Hours	FTE Equivalent
Pedestrian Bridge	178	0.08
Core Area Nature Play	125	0.06
West Park Nature Play	125	0.06
North Park Nature Play	35	0.01
Aullwood and Disc Golf Restrooms	199	0.1
North Park and Uplands Restrooms	380	0.19
Aull House and Access	0	0
Operations Facility Maintenance	17	0.01
Natural Surface Trails	196	.09
Lake Trash Pump	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1255</b>	<b>.60</b>



**Expected Increases to Primary Special Tasks:**

Project	Projected Hours	FTE Equivalent
Pedestrian Bridge	26	0.01
Core Area Nature Play	30	0.01
West Park Nature Play	30	0.01
North Park Nature Play	4	0.01
Aullwood and Disc Golf Restrooms	31	0.01
North Park and Uplands Restrooms	59	0.03
Aull House and Access	2	0.01
Operations Facility Maintenance	2	0.01
Natural Surface Trails	0	0
Lake Trash Pump	94	0.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>.13</b>

**One Time Tasks:**

Staff also identified plant surveys as a onetime task needed to support the implementation of the proposed site plan. This task would likely be required of Parks and Conservation staff as part of the construction of new amenities. These numbers are not included in the staffing projection that is included in the summary section below.

- Plant surveys- 245 total hours
  - Pedestrian Bridge 57 total hours
  - Natural Surface Trails 188 total hours

**Current Staffing Levels at Englewood and Aullwood MetroPark:**

- Park Manager- Englewood/Aullwood Garden
- (3) Full-time Technicians-Englewood
- (3) Part-time Technicians- Englewood
- (3) Seasonal Technicians- Englewood

- (1) Full-time Site Leader- Aullwood
- (1) Full-time Technician- Aullwood
- (1) Seasonal Technician- Aullwood
- Conservation support provided by the north parks and conservation team.

### Summary of Operational Impacts:

Based on the costing spreadsheet that breaks down identified tasks for each project in the park master plan, staff identified an estimated 1,533 hours of additional annual labor needs that would be created for Parks and Conservation staff. These operational impacts total .73 FTE Technicians.

### 3.4 PROGRAMMING AND INTERPRETATION

#### Programming and Interpretation Projection

The FRMP Outdoor Connections Department currently engages visitors at Englewood and Aullwood Garden MetroParks in a variety of ways. The programs, which are directed at specific audiences and interpretive elements provided are identified below. Currently no public programming or tours are provided at Pigeon.



### Programming Projection

Based on the site plan, no new facilitated programming is required for either Outdoor Recreation or Outdoor Education at Englewood/Aullwood/Pigeye. With regard to Historical and Cultural Resources, renovation of Aull House and improvements to parking, garden path, and drive to meet ADA standards has been identified as a priority project in the site plan. These improvements will make it possible to provide programming to underserved audiences. Staff proposes to develop two new programs, “Life with the Aulls” and “Living Legacy of the Aulls,” offered multiple times to total seven, one-hour programs. Below is the additional estimated [operational funding](#) required for programs in the Aullwood Garden MetroPark:

- Operational costs: \$4,000
- Personnel costs: \$3,200

### Interpretive Projection

The site plan proposes significant additions to interpretive elements throughout the parks. The improvements outlined below focus on areas of the park prioritized for improvements for Englewood MetroPark. No interpretive additions were identified as priority for Aullwood Gardens MetroPark or Pigeye Conservation Area. The full [Interpretive Plan](#) for the park can be found in Section 1.5.

- Wayside Self-guided are single-style interpretive media, such as an interpretive panel or other interpretation method that connects visitors to a park feature. Priority projects that include wayside self-guided sites include Nature Play sites at East Park, North Park, and West Park. Stillwater and National Road Bridge history. East Park birding along natural surface trail.
- Kiosks are the first decision point for visitors in the park and are designed to welcome and orient visitors with trail and feature descriptions. New kiosks are identified for East Park and West Park.

The site plan identifies capital costs for interpretive elements in priority project areas. Corresponding one-time personnel costs to develop these interpretive elements have been established below. Ongoing operational expense for the interpretive elements focus on periodic repair and replacement costs and the associated personnel costs. The capital and operational costs for these interpretive elements, matrixed by the individual project, is summarized in the table below.

## Interpretation Priority Project Costs

Project	Capital Development Costs		Maintenance Costs	
	Materials	Personnel	Materials	Personnel
Pedestrian Bridge	*	\$3,513	*	\$250
Core Area Nature Play	*	\$3,513	*	\$500
West Park Nature Play	*	\$3,513	*	\$250
North Park Nature Play	*	\$3,513	*	\$250
Aullwood and Disc Golf Restrooms	NA	NA	NA	NA
North Park and Uplands Restrooms	NA	NA	NA	NA
Aull House and Access	NA	NA	NA	NA
Operations Facility Maintenance	NA	NA	NA	NA
Natural Surface Trails	*	\$7,030	*	\$300
Lake Trash Pump	NA	NA	NA	NA

\*Included in the [Capital Cost Spreadsheet](#) as a line item.



### 3.5 BUSINESS OPERATIONS

In reviewing the Englewood/Aullwood Garden MetroParks/Pigeeye Conservation Area Park Master Plan as proposed, the Business Operations Department developed a list of assets that would generate additional revenue. These assets include additional picnic shelters, camp sites, and new education programming

#### Shelters

Increase the amenities and proximate services of existing shelters to offer a picnic experience consistent with our most popular agency-wide shelters, thereby increasing rental rates and utilization rates.

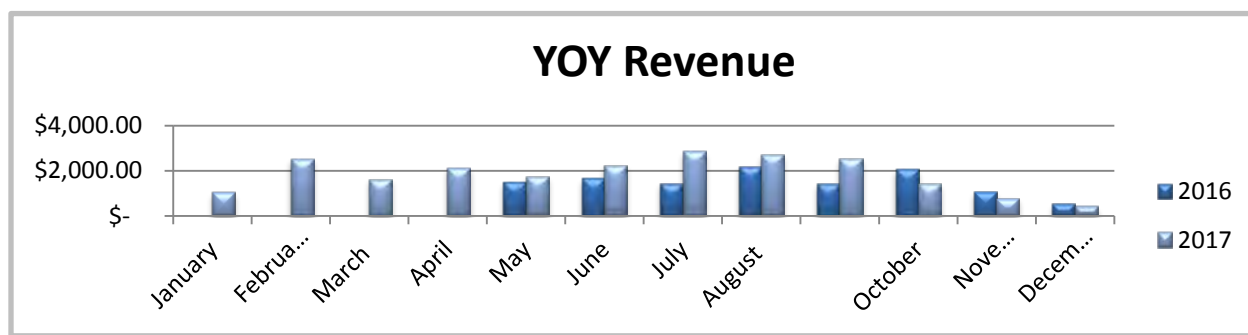
#### Camping

Increase the amenities of existing camp sites to offer a beginning camping experience in close proximity to a car.

#### Current revenue sources

The reservable shelters at Englewood MetroPark average a fill rate of 36.8% during the weekend peak season over the previous three years, a rate that ranks 5<sup>th</sup> among the 12 parks with reservable shelters.

Englewood had 105 camping reservations that produced \$4,639 of revenue in its first full year of assessment. FRMP began charging for camping in May of 2016 and saw a 23% YOY increase in revenue agency-wide for the months with comparable data.



### Proposed revenue sources

Additional shelters with appropriate and desired amenities and services would increase the rental carrying capacity at the park, welcoming approximately 20 new shelter permit applications per shelter per year and improving annual revenue by approximately \$1,525 each.

Additional reservable campsites with distinct privacy, as well as proximity to the car at Englewood would increase revenue by approximately \$1,160 per site.

### Programming

Renovation of Aull House and improvements to parking, garden path, and drive to meet ADA standards will make it possible to provide programming to underserved audiences. The proposal is to develop 2 new programs “Life with the Aulls” and “Living Legacy of the Aulls” offered multiple times to total 7, one-hour programs. The existing tour program will likely increase in frequency with an additional 14, one-hour programs. This new programming opportunity will provide an increase in attendance of approximately 386 visitors, and an increase in program revenue of \$2,980.

#### Aull House Programming

		Projected Attendance	Registration Fee	Projected Revenue
Aull House	Life with the Aulls	28	\$ 5.00	\$ 140.00
Aull House	Living Legacy of the Aulls	28	\$ 5.00	\$ 140.00
Aull House and Gardens	Inreach: House and Garden Tours (14)	210	\$ 10.00	\$ 2,100.00
Aull House and Gardens	Music on the Porch	120	\$ 5.00	\$ 600.00
		386		\$2,980

## **3.6 PUBLIC SAFETY**

Implementation of the Englewood/Aullwood Garden MetroParks/Pigeye Conservation Area Park Master Plan will have some impact on the Ranger Division, but the impact will be minimal overall. Below are the considerations:

### **Current Patrol**

- **Patrol Area** - Rangers are normally assigned a patrol area, or “beat.” The beats are North, South, East, and Central. Englewood, Aullwood and Pigeye are part of the North Beat, along with Taylorsville, and Carriage Hill MetroParks.
- **Patrol Strategies** - Typically, the ranger assigned to a patrol beat will patrol the parks in their assigned beat several times during a shift at various intervals, being careful not to have a predictable routine in patrol times and methods. Rangers frequently make informal contact with park visitors and are encouraged to contact people who have reserved a shelter. Rangers look for anything suspicious and to make contact with people who may be involved in criminal activity. The Rangers’ primary focus is preventing criminal activity, but they are encouraged to take enforcement action, including making physical arrests or issuing citations, when appropriate.
- **Patrol Time Estimates** - Rangers estimated the amount of patrol time spent actively patrolling in each park during a 10-hour shift while assigned to that area, not counting any drive-times from park to park or other non-patrol time:

In a typical 10-hour work day, the estimated average time the ranger spends on active patrol in Englewood is 130 minutes; Aullwood is 25 minutes; and Pigeye is approximately 5 minutes, for a total of 160 minutes.

### **Anticipated Changes to Patrol**

- **Vehicular traffic and parking** – Most patrol conducted by rangers is done by driving through the park areas in a marked cruiser. Given the minor changes proposed in the traffic pattern and parking areas for Englewood, it is not anticipated that there would be any significant change to patrol strategies or patrol time.

- Impact of additional paved, hiking, hiking and equestrian? Trails – While rangers sometimes walk trails and use their bikes to patrol the paved and hiking trails, the proposed changes for Englewood are minor and no significant change to patrol strategies or patrol time.
- Impact of additional structures/features – The proposed covered bridge will require some additional attention from the Ranger Division. It will require additional patrol throughout the day and will need to be locked each night. Since the rangers will be able to patrol the bridge using their cruisers, the amount of extra time will be minimal. (The public will not be able to access the area by vehicle.)
- Impact of additional activities/visitation – As a result of the proposed improvements, increased usage of the park is expected. However, the increased usage should not have a significant impact on the amount of patrol time rangers spend in the park. Whenever there is an increase in the number of people in a location, staff generally sees the potential for increased criminal activity. In this case, it is likely staff will have an additional occasional theft or vandalism, but it is not expected that there will be a significant increase in crime as a result of the proposed changes.

### **Impact/Cost to Public Safety**

- Based on the changes and additions proposed in the Englewood/Aullwood MetroParks/Pigeon Conservation Area Park Master Plan, it is estimated that an additional 10 minutes of patrol time per ranger, per shift, will be needed after the improvements are completed. This is based on the assumption that the improvements, especially the proposed covered bridge, will require additional ranger time to patrol it consistently throughout the day and lock it up each night. A nominal amount of additional time (included in this 10 minute estimate) will be required due to anticipated increased visitors and the time needed for rangers to check the parking lots, shelters and other areas, as well as interacting with visitors.
- An additional 10 minutes of patrol per shift x 3 shifts = 30 minutes of additional patrol per day x 365 days = 182.5 additional patrol hours per year.

## 3.7 ALTERNATIVE REVENUE

The addition of new trails, features and amenities proposed in the Englewood/Aullwood MetroParks/Pigeon Conservation Area Park Master Plan provides excellent naming, sponsorship and tribute opportunities. Based on item descriptions and notes from the park master plan the following elements could generate alternative revenue:

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| • Welcome kiosk: for birding habitat, nature play       | Sponsor           |
| • Equestrian Trail                                      | Sponsor           |
| • Camp Sites  | Sponsor           |
| • Observation Platforms, Overlooks                      | Sponsor or naming |
| • Native Prairie/Meadow                                 | Sponsor or naming |
| • Pedestrian Circulation: trails, walks and plaza areas | Sponsor or naming |
| • Nature Play Areas                                     | Sponsor or naming |
| • Trail Bridges   | Naming            |
| • ADA Walking Loop                                      | Naming            |
| • Monument sign at main gateway                         | Naming            |
| • Shelters and Benches                                  | Naming or tribute |

All donation amounts will include an endowment for a pre-determined specific period of time (3 years to 10 years) with the opportunity for the donor or sponsor to renew.





