

Five Rivers MetroParks



Possum Creek MetroParks

Master Plan

2017



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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. The plan included extensive public feedback from intercept and online surveys, interviews with community leaders, focus groups, public meetings 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. A primary recommendation 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 ten-year 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 master plans consist of several components that will guide planning and implementation of the parks' functions:

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

1.2 MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

Development of the Possum Creek MetroPark master plan began with the development of the site plan. A Core Team of approximately 15 FRMP employees whose work is key to the success of the park was formed to provide direct input to the process. A landscape architectural firm with experience in park planning, POD Design of Columbus, Ohio 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 park. Two public meetings were held during the two-day session to gather input and understand the needs of park users.

From this two-day work session, the consultant developed a park program which would drive the evolution of the site plan. After input on the program from the Core Team, 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 master planning process and in conjunction with the site plan development, a variety of other plans for Possum Creek MetroPark were developed or updated: conservation, interpretation, programming, and land protection plans. These five plans along with the planning guidelines and historical/cultural plan yet to be completed provide comprehensive guidance in the evolution of the park. Referencing these plans and the CMP, staff identified a list of priority capital projects for the next ten-year period. Staff then developed the operational costs and revenue

estimates for those priority projects to reflect the resources required to implement the plan's recommendations. This information will be incorporated into the agency's 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 desires.

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

1.3 MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Several components of the park master plan include projects that respond to some of the highest priorities in the CMP, including taking care of existing assets, providing basic amenities, and increasing trail and nature play opportunities:

- The overall park is easily walkable and has a wide variety of unique elements to provide a great family friendly, older adult, and beginner-friendly park.
- Develop a paved accessible loop trail within the park to provide users access to all use areas in the park and provide an orientation and wayfinding feature.
- Expand the existing nature play to provide a controlled free-range play experience.

Major Recommendations:

The park master 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.

- Combine the three entrances off of Frytown Road into a single entry and the equestrian trailer lot relocated near the reservable shelter area.
- Rebuild and reconfigure the fishing lakes to include a wetlands area to ensure a sustainable fishery which does not require stocking.
- Create a park-wide set of natural surface trails to provide walking and hiking opportunities which will include ADA accessible options.
- Explore opportunities to provide regional transit service to the park.
- Expand camping, both in terms of the number of sites, but also offer yurt-style camping.
- Enhance the Argonne Forest to better tell the story of the history of this part of the park.
- Enhance Argonne Lake to provide a more natural edge and better access to the water for boaters and fishermen. Add a camp canteen to provide snacks and basic supplies for park users.
- Convert the farm to a sustainable living center to educate visitors about farm to fork concepts and local food production and preparation. This includes relocating the community garden to be incorporated into the new center.

Other Notable Projects

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

- Introduce bison on the property to educate visitors about the benefit of this species to prairies.
- Introduce additional public art, especially in the prairie areas, to appeal to a wider visitor audience and enhance the overall experience.

- Tell the story of the family cemetery on the property related to the early history of the land on which the park is located.



SECTION 2: THE PLAN

2.1 PARK POSITION DESCRIPTION

Possum Creek MetroPark is 556-acre park adjacent to S.R. 4 southwest in Dayton adjacent to Moraine and Jefferson Township. The park is not located along any of the five “rivers,” but Possum Creek runs through it, and Argonne Lake and a series of four ponds separated by levees are also within the park. Of its 556 acres, 87% is in natural habitat, including bottomland hardwoods, wetlands, and prairie. The prairie was one of the first planted in a



MetroPark and is now one of the most diverse and largest in the state. Remnants of the Argonne Forest Amusement Park are interpreted along a hiking trail on the west side of the park. At the south end is the Edible Farm, a demonstration farm with food gardening and small animals that might be raised in a small yard. Possum Creek MetroPark offers fishing in both the lake and three of the four ponds. The park also offers community gardening, camping, paddling, hiking, horseback riding, and picnicking.

Compared to other large MetroParks, Possum Creek is relatively easy for park users to navigate, both by car and on foot. The main park entrance road travels through the park off Frytown Road, and most of the use areas are accessed off this road. Separate secondary entrances exist, also off Frytown Road, for two reservable shelters and for the horse trailer parking lot where users can access the equestrian trail that traverses the perimeter of the park. Parking lots are provided off the park entrance road for the Argonne Forest trail head, the fishing ponds, Argonne Lake, and ultimately the community gardens and edible farm area which will become the Sustainable Living Center. All of these major use areas are easily walkable, making Possum Creek MetroPark unique in the system for how easily visitors can experience the entire park. However, views from the main drive to the trail head, ponds, and lake only slightly reveal these features, especially in the late summer when the prairie is high. The topography of the park is flat with the exception where the creek has carved some ravines on the west side. Possum Creek MetroPark is within Dayton’s city limits; the city of Moraine is adjacent to the south and Jefferson Township is adjacent to the west. The land surrounding the park is generally agriculture or low density residential, but some residential subdivisions lie to the north and southeast. Some less attractive land uses exist in the vicinity, including two landfills, one of which is active, transmission towers, and two correctional facilities.

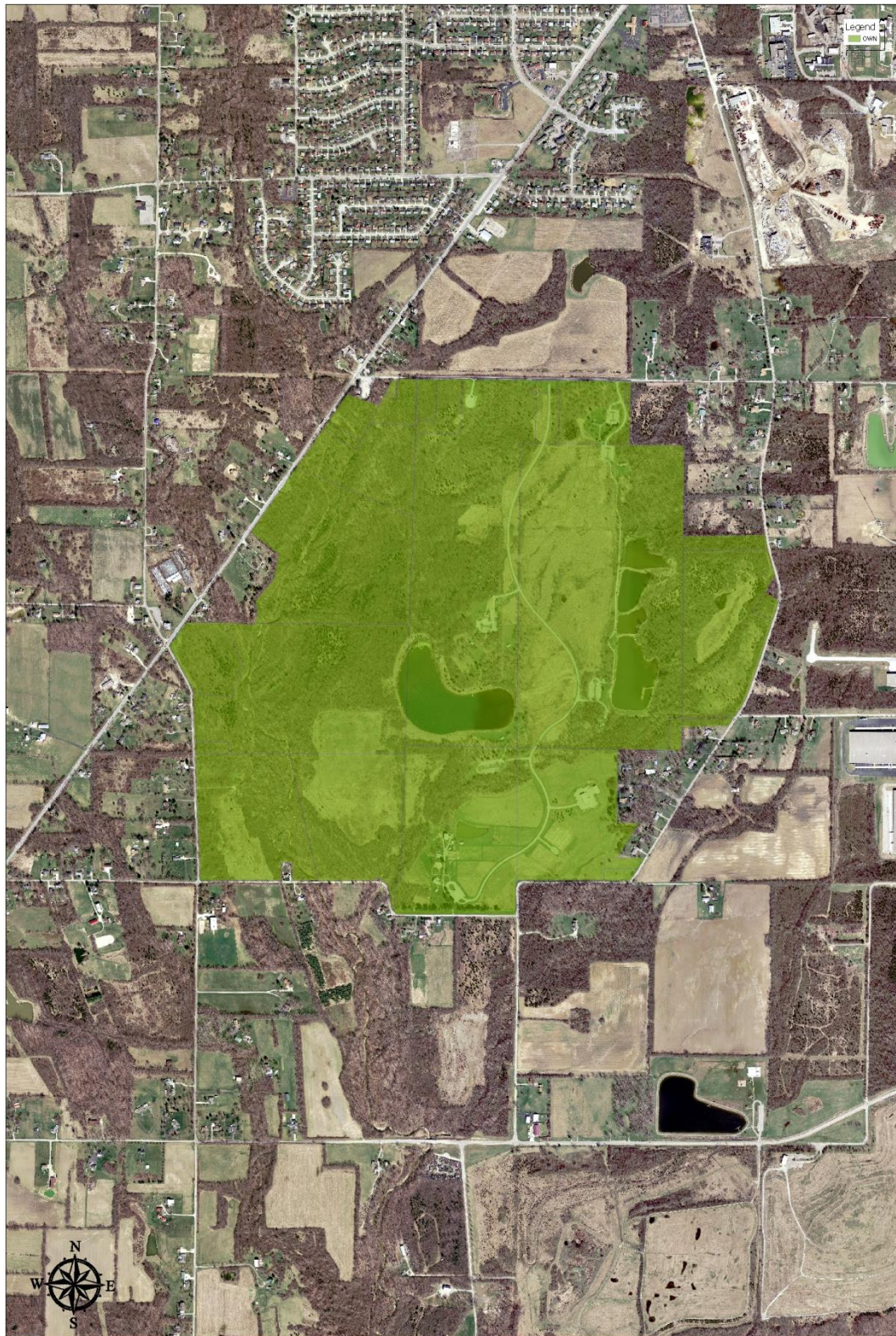
Based on the 2016 FRMP Comprehensive Master Plan, Possum Creek's typology is classified as a community park, reflecting its wide variety of experiences and balanced blend of ecosystem versus human services. The park offers a somewhat greater degree of amenities and activity per acre with a balanced combination of human versus natural setting. The prairies are particularly notable as they were some of the first planted in the district. Though Possum Creek's attendance has been steady in recent years, it has the second lowest attendance of the nature and community parks. Per input from the community and geographic analysis of the park's location, attendance likely suffers from the lack of surrounding population; however, the stigma of being adjacent to Germantown Pike (S.R. 4) and the surrounding land uses can't be ignored as a factor. In addition, the K9 - Knine Nite Club (K-9 Club), is a poorly maintained property located at the corner of S.R. 4 and Frytown Road which is the main access road to the park.



Possum Creek is a quiet, beautiful park. The unforested prairies, lake, ponds, and farm give the park an open feel along the entry drive and around the use areas. The hiking trails are less strenuous than most in the FRMP system; large group camping is offered for scout troops, and small sites are available close to parking and use areas. The farm is welcoming to young families, and the ponds are stocked with fish so that a catch is relatively easy. Staff recently constructed a boat ramp

at Argonne Lake so that canoeing and kayaking on this small, unintimidating lake is easily accessed. These factors combine to make Possum Creek MetroPark an excellent facility for those who are unfamiliar with nature and to introduce the many activities offered in the park at a beginner level. The park's welcoming environment includes amenities that are within an easy hike of each other. Given these assets, Possum Creek's identity in the FRMP system is as a park that provides a comfortable and welcoming setting for visitors who are inexperienced in nature and outdoor recreation pursuits. The park is ideal for those who are introducing themselves to new opportunities in nature.

As a result of a partnership with the City of Moraine and funding from a Clean Ohio Recreational Trails grant, a bikeway connector was constructed and opened in 2018 between Possum Creek MetroPark and Moraine's Deer Meadow Park which also connects to the regional trail system.



Possum Creek MetroPark

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2.2 PARK HISTORY

There is an old family cemetery located east of the lowest fishing pond with about a dozen headstones including family names of Holderman, Kaylor, and Hiser. The inhabitants of the cemetery have an interesting history as told in the Moraine Messenger published in May of 2018:

“On the northwest tip of Moraine is Caylor Road. Most of the road is in Moraine and part of it is in Jefferson Township. On the corner of Caylor Road and South Gettysburg Avenue/ Main Street is the large warehouse used by DMAX.

The land that Caylor Road is on was originally owned in the 1800s by the Kaylor and Holderman families. A dirt road ran between the parcels of land. Over time the spelling of the road became Caylor instead of Kaylor.

What many people do not know is hidden in the woods just west of where Caylor Road dead ends into West Carrollton-Soldiers Home Road is the Kaylor Cemetery. This very old, small cemetery contains members of both the Kaylor and Holderman families. The families share a unique history.

During the year 1766, nearly 1,000 flatboats passed Marietta, Ohio on the Ohio River laden with emigrants on their way to the more attractive regions of the Miami River in southwest Ohio. Over time, many of these early pioneers settled in and around the area which is Moraine today. In the old days when there were only a few pioneers, it was generally customary with early settlers to inter their dead on their own land. The Kaylor Cemetery is accessible today via a hiking trail at Possum Creek MetroPark.

As for the pioneer family, Jacob Holderman and his wife Sarah Caylor Holderman had nine sons and three daughters. Jacob was born in 1795 in Lancaster, PA of Dutch ancestors.

Jacob was a farmer and ran a still, as was the case with many of the earlier settlers. Jacob was the superintendent of the Montgomery County Infirmary for 13 years. He died in 1856 and is buried in Kaylor Cemetery.

One son, John, was born December 16, 1819 and reared nine children. He served the Union in the Civil War as wagon master in the Ohio 69th regiment. After the war he returned to the farm until his death in 1884. Seven of the immediate Holderman family fought in the Civil War.

One of John Holderman's sons, Jacob W., was born December 19, 1840 and enlisted in Company G, the 11th Ohio volunteer infantry, in April 1861 under the first call of President Lincoln for 75,000 troops for three months. After serving the term Jacob W. reenlisted in the Ohio 69th infantry for three years. He was in the battles of Stone River, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge and other skirmishes. He was twice captured and was in Liberty Prison for forty days when he was exchanged and rejoined his regiment. He was permanently disabled through sleeping on the ground and lay in a Nashville hospital for over three months until being discharged on disability. Until his death he forever suffered from the effects of his exposures during the war. He spent two years recovering at the Dayton Soldiers Home just north of Moraine. Jacob was married three times and had eight children. He relocated to New Lebanon in 1883 where he was town marshal for two years.

The Holderman family was considered one of the best in the county, patriotic, honorable and highly esteemed."



Following is at least a partial listing of those interred in the family cemetery:

- Kaylor Family
 - Daniel Kaylor, died 23 Mar 1838 age 53
 - John Kaylor, died Oct 1821, age 2y 5m, son of Daniel & Mary
 - Peter Caylor, died 27 May 1859, age 80

- Nancy Kaylor died 12 August 1826, age 3y 7m 19d, daughter of Daniel & Mary
- Hiser Family
 - Mary Hiser died 7 Feb 1839, age 5y 4m 21d, daughter of John & Mary
- Holderman Family
 - Jacob Holderman, 1795-1855, Father
 - Phebe Holderman, 1800-1852, His Wife
 - Original stone: died 13 Oct 1852, age 51y 11m 27d
 - George Holderman, died 18 Dec 1844, age 11y 11m 18d, son of Jacob & Phebe
 - Samuel Holderman, died 16 Mar 1837, age 7m, son of J. & P.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) feature ID for the cemetery is 1961475 (Holderman Cemetery).

The cemetery is #8310 in “Ohio Cemeteries 1803-2003”, compiled by the Ohio Genealogical Society.

The northwest section of “Possum Creek Reserve”, known as the Argonne Forest, also has a history that is unusual and colorful. The story of the Argonne Forest goes back to World War I when Dayton had its first draft call in September of 1917. Six hundred men from Montgomery and Preble counties reported to Camp Sherman in Chillicothe. Among them were 23-year-old Null Hodapp and his friend since grade school, Ralph Clemens. The two had even been marooned together during the 1913 flood in Dayton. Null and Ralph became members of the 322nd Field Artillery Unit. They fought in the Argonne Forest in France, located about 50 miles from Belgium, and were in the Argonne when Ralph was hit by shell fragments and died one hour before the Armistice was signed. It was estimated that during the battle, 10 Americans were killed for every German soldier.

After returning from the war, Null Hodapp became a Dayton Municipal Court judge, and then the presiding judge of the Municipal Court. He later was elected to the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court.

Null Hodapp purchased nearly 400 acres of wooded land along Germantown Pike and named the property Argonne Forest Park in honor of the Unit he served in during the war. Development of the park began with the construction of a veteran's clubhouse. Behind the clubhouse, to the south, was a carnival-like midway. Development of the clubhouse area was followed by other additions. These included a swimming hole with a diving platform, created by damming the creek, baseball diamond, shooting range, dance hall, pony and horse tracks, and a figure-eight auto race track. The race track was often called a "chicken track" because of its dangerous intersection. Three drivers were killed at the intersection in a two-year period during the 1930's.

The park also offered horseback riding, boating, fishing, and small overnight cabins. Null brought in several old street cars from the Oakwood-Dayton lines and used them for kids to play in and as camping cabins. During the Depression, he rented them out for people to live in.

Argonne Forest Park was a popular site for various social and civic club outing and picnics, including the Dayton Bar Association.

Null Hodapp's birthday was July 4th, which led to him being nicknamed, "Firecracker". To celebrate his birthday, Null began staging "The Battle of Argonne Forest" every Fourth of July throughout the 1930's. Participants would dress up in World War I uniforms and stage a mock battle with troops firing blanks from their Springfield rifles and Browning and Lewis machine guns. The battle was realistic with explosive charges placed in the ground to simulate falling cannon shells.

During the day, small fireworks were fired by many people in a supervised manner and large aerial shells were fired from time to time. Of these large shells, the favorite, especially for children and young adults, were the ones that exploded high up and discharged various large tissue paper animal figures that filled with air like a parachute as they floated down and drifted in the wind. Some were as large as three feet tall. It was great fun to chase them for up to a mile and recover them, for the tissue paper animals could be kept by those who found them. Sometimes, there was even a beautiful, large American flag that came drifting down supported by a parachute. At dark, there was a firework display that lasted about 30 minutes and a grand finale of aerial and ground fireworks that concluded with an American flag lighted by flares and floating down on parachutes. Eight to ten thousand people would gather on the hillsides to watch the show.

It was not until World War II and gas rationing that crowds began to dwindle, and the demise of Argonne Forest Park soon followed. After Hodapp's death in 1945, some small parcels of land were sold off. In 1966, the park district (FRMP) bought the remaining land.

Today, this part of the park is still called Argonne Forest and is dominated by tall beech trees. It is not unusual to hear the hoot of a great horned owl or see deer while walking the trails. The close observer can still find hints of the original park. A low L-shaped wall, once part of the swimming pool, can still be seen and remains of three street cars are hidden on the forest floor. A large cement square, which may have been part of the dance floor, also remains. Most of the figure-eight auto track is now under a lake built by FRMP in 1979, but a hiking trail still follows portions of the old track. The building that was once the veterans' clubhouse still stands on the southeast corner of Germantown Pike and Frytown Road, known as the K-9 Club.

Possum Creek MetroPark is one of FRMP's earliest parks. Its scenic land was outlined in the Montgomery-Greene County Open Space Study Report of 1959 as a stream-side park that would serve Dayton's southwestern metropolitan area. In early 1967, a master plan was finalized for a 550-acre tract of land in the area calling for a manmade lake, fishing ponds, nature trails a children's farm, nature center, picnicking and day camping facilities on this rich bottom land traversed by the Possum Creek. At the time, the site already included about 6 miles of bridle and hiking trails as well as three fishing ponds and the remnants of an old amusement park called Argonne Forest Park. It also included rolling meadows, ponds and woodland. A nightclub, formerly known as the Chi, also sat on the property. It was converted into Sycamore Lodge, to be used for social and educational functions, accommodating up to 300 people. Once the property was owned by the Park District, the lodge, located approximately where the Sycamore Shelter is today, was used regularly by groups like the 4H, local schools, and Miami University.

The land acquired in the original purchase by Park District included a 150-year-old farm called Spring Brook Farm. The property was owned and occupied by Frank Hemelgarn. Buildings included a farm house, a bank barn and a concrete block structure of some size. Of particular interest were four ponds which Hemelgarn had impounded, stocked with fish and opened to the public for a fee. The three lower ponds were said to be spring fed. The land had also been used as a landfill and hog farm. The family cemetery mentioned above is located on this part of the park.



At the time the park was known as “Possum Creek Reserve” and it was enlarged with the acquisition of the Ray Noffsinger farm to the south and the Hodapp tract to the west. Park District staff viewed this farm as an opportunity to educate the public about the agricultural heritage of the region and began to make improvements to the grounds to turn it into a rural life center, depicting an authentic and working farm of the 1880s. The buildings were stabilized, farm pond and orchards were added, and new roads were paved. In 1968, an open house was held on the farm. In the years that followed, Summertime and Wintertime on the Farm programs were added, as well as demonstrations of barn building and grain threshing. Schools began to send their students for tours and demonstrations in the early 70s, and a partnership with 4H grew strong. The farm increased in popularity as a great place for children. Gardening programs were also offered, including community garden plots for those that did not have space of their own to garden and specialty programs were offered for seniors. Livestock was exhibited in the barn and farming activities were demonstrated, such as hog butchering, wheat threshing with old, steam-powered equipment, etc. A portion of the park’s land known as the “public garden” was a large field which was plowed, staked off into small plots and the public was invited, at no cost, to establish plots of gardens. Most of the gardeners were transported from Dayton and were primarily elderly and African American. They produced an abundance of vegetables in nearly 300 plots, thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to be outdoors and visit with friends.

The campsites in the park became very popular with scouts and local churches. The fishing lakes, however, were the most significant draw in the park – bringing in nearly 45,000 people in the first five years of the park’s existence. In 1974, a community advisory committee was formed to help the Park District in planning and development in order to make the park more meaningful to the community.



The original 1967 park master plan was updated in 1977. It called for further renovation of the farm, including the construction of a picnic shelter, a bird blind, and to construct the man-made lake called for in the original plan. Other ideas included playgrounds, a man-made ice-skating rink and a motorized minibike trail.

A new 15-acre lake, named Argonne Lake after the historic Argonne Park on the land, was constructed in the late 1970s to meet the growing demand for recreational activities. The lake and some basic amenities were completed for \$617,000 and were partially funded using Land and Water Conservation Funds. It was intended to provide additional opportunities for fishing, as well as non-motorized boating, ice skating, picnicking or simply a place to relax. The new lake opened, along with a new shelter and restrooms in 1984.



In the 1990s, new innovative programming was added to the park offerings. Polly Possum's Math Farm featured 15 stations, each offering information about one aspect of farm life. Stations included farm-related math problems with varying levels of difficulty. The math farm provided a hands-on learning environment for young people from kindergarten through high school. The staff also partnered with a local homeless shelter to offer camps for the children they served.

In 2005, a new piece of public art was installed in the main prairie. The piece, entitled "I Invite You", is 35' tall and is constructed from yellow pine trees. Each arm has a channel painted with gold leaf and 28 karat German gold. The sculpture created by Herb Ferris, was a gift commemorating Jean Woodhull from her four grown children.

In addition, the two roadway sections of the park were connected to create a single main connected park road so that the farm area was accessible to the main park. The current operations facility was also constructed. About a year later, the west entrance was closed due to excessive vehicular traffic passing through the park.

Possum Creek MetroPark's significant natural features today include bottomland hardwood forests along Possum Creek, two mature beech woodlots, and numerous developed ponds and wetlands. Over 100 acres of degraded farmland and trash dumps have been cleared and planted into native Ohio prairie. The prairie took years to establish, but now thrives on once poor-quality soils that resulted from unsustainable farming practices. It is currently one of the largest and most diverse planted prairies in Ohio. The farm operations continue, although less emphasis is placed on historic farming and more on sustainable techniques in food production. It remains a popular place for fishing, camping and picnics.

Possum Creek MetroPark has been dramatically changed by past land use. It stands today as a splendid example of what can be achieved with proper stewardship and restoration, and is a delightful place for the naturalist, hiker, camper horseback rider, gardener, fisherman or family.



2.3 SITE PLANNING PROCESS

FRMP established a [site planning process](#), and that process was used to develop this Site Plan for Possum Creek MetroPark (the “park”). FRMP retained the services of Pod Design of Columbus, 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 from the City of Dayton, Jefferson Township, City of Moraine, FRMP staff and volunteers were invited to participate. 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 Possum Creek MetroPark was reviewed which was completed in 1967 by Labrenz, Brown and Riemer, Landscape Architects of Columbus, Ohio and updated in 1977 by Behnke, Dickson and Tkach. Key recommendations of the plan included the following:

1967 Plan

- Total estimated construction of \$1,350,304
- New Nature Center proposed in the Argonne Forest area (Never built)
- New Lake called Springbrook Lake (Completed after 1977 master plan update)
- Picnic Areas (Completed - Reservable shelter area and Black Cherry/ Sugar Maple)
- Day Camp Area (Never built)
- Rural Life Center (Partially completed- Current farm area)
- Maintain the fishing lakes (Completed)

1977 Plan

- The plan was a refinement of the 1967 plan
- Shortening of some roadway spurs and refinement of some of the shelter parking areas (Completed or never built)
- Refinement of the shape of the proposed lake and elimination of the marina (Argonne Lake reflects this plan)

2017 Park Master Plan 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:

- Frontage, Identity and Connections
 - Major physical and visual connections that link the major south park sections from the north entry are missing.
 - The three gateway entries into Possum Creek MetroPark from Frytown Road are not clearly defined.
 - Although considered as a "hidden gem", the park lacks identity and does not seem to tie in to a community.
 - Its "remote" location creates a detached connection with nearby communities. It doesn't feel "like somebody's park".
 - The areas to the north of the park (along the S.R. 4 and Gettysburg Avenue corridors) are perceived as a negative area of town.
 - The major park features and amenities feel segmented and unrelated.

- Assets
 - Park provides great places for camping (5 sites), hiking, and horseback riding, and dog walking.
 - The Argonne Forest hosts a fascinating history with traces of the former Argonne Forest amusement park, remnants of the rail-street car, and stone walls that held pools and structures. A purple trail loops around the forest, which begins at the trail head at the Argonne Forest parking lot.
 - More school field trips are common versus family-based visits. Potentially, a destination place for repeat-users. The school groups make up the biggest visitor demographics
 - Children enjoy the types of sheep, lambs, rabbits and chickens. A donkey and a couple of turkeys entertain the staff and children. Children are accompanied by grandparents in a lot of cases.
 - Fishing is a popular activity, especially at the stocked ponds. These users typically are not engaging other park assets. The two lower Ponds are stocked by under contract by a fish hatchery every 1st Friday of the month with catfish, bass and trout.
- Trails
 - Because most of the land in the park is relatively flat, there are many trails that are inundated during the spring and soggy during the remaining part of the year.
 - Trails in the prairie fields become narrow and mature stalks fall over the paths.
 - Most trails are not challenging to use and easily utilized by children.
 - Private citizens have expressed the desire to provide cross country paths for training.
 - Horse riders use the park daily.
- Fishing Ponds
 - Fishing ponds are popular venues for adults and children due to the success of expedient results in catching fish.
 - Catfish, bass and trout are stocked once a month.
 - Popularity and attendance at the fishing ponds are impacted by the specific stocking schedule. Fish stocking practice draws crowds, but it is not a program that FRMP believes should continue due to the non-sustainable habitat which has been created. However, renovation of the ponds is necessary to create a healthy environment in which the fish population can naturally reproduce and support the fishing pressure of park visitors.

- Programs and Activities
 - Possum Creek MetroPark has the potential of offering year-round learning and recreational access throughout the site:
 - children and adult educational programs
 - school field trips
 - active/passive trails for pedestrian, cyclists and horse riding
 - School tours are common throughout the year
 - One of the advantages of the site is that it is relatively flat allowing for the creation of easy to navigate, ADA accessible trails throughout the park.
 - Events in the past have not attracted an increased number of repeat-users. FRMP staff noted that additional exploration is needed to better understand why there are not more repeat users.



Site Plan Program

The site plan program was developed from all 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 park master plan. The following highlights provide an overview of the park program that guided the development of the [site plan](#).

General Park Wide Program Elements

- Develop facilities including restrooms, shelters, and other park site amenities that result in making park user's visits more pleasant and accessible, including:
 - Eradicate aggressive invasive plant material
 - Provide screening of the maintenance facility and any other "back-of-house" uses
 - Provide shelters with walls garage doors when possible which can be raised and lowered to create enclosed or open environments for year-long programming opportunities at Argonne Lake and the fishing ponds
 - Add more benches throughout the park
 - Provide water bottle refill stations
 - Consider viewing towers/silos at prairie and Bison pen highpoints
 - Provide the venue and utilities for food truck parking at the farm, Argonne Lake and fishing ponds
 - Offer family camping packages
 - Provide secure lockers for bike, personal items and fishing gear
 - Reinforce overflow lawn parking at the farm

Circulation Improvements including:

- Provide a bicycle hub at the farm near the barn
- Provide measured trails for heart healthy walking, jogging or cross-country skiing
- Provide measured trails for cross country track events with a minimum loop of 5k for events and training
- Provide paved trail access at all ponds and water features
- Provide paved loop trails throughout the entire park
- Provide signage and/or markers along all trails with emergency numbers at select locations
- Provide short paved loop trails for beginners
- Connect the farm and campsite with a paved trail
- Install bicycle 'fix-it' stations within the park
- Complete the pedestrian connection south toward the City of Moraine through Deer Meadow Park
- Remedy wet trail segments. Consider boardwalks in difficult of challenging areas
- Provide controllable lighting at the farm parking lot which will allow programs to be offered in the evenings by providing lighting on an as needed basis.
- Provide non-motorized watercraft trailer drop-off, turn-around and parking to support new lake docks
- Clearly identify existing and proposed trailheads
- Develop a warrior dash-like trail
- Extend natural surface trails, spurring off of main trails

- Provide trail access to the creek within the Argonne Forest area or within the SW corner of the park
- Connect all water bodies, wetlands, prairies and wooded areas with accessible trails
- Provide interpretive signage matching the FRMP brand for:
 - The Farm
 - Argonne Forest
 - The Kaylor Cemetery
 - Fishing Ponds
 - All prairies and wetlands
 - All bison areas and habitat zones
- Coordinate new bus route extensions with RTA that include kayak racks on buses
- Develop an overall park trail system that functions well for all users. Utilize a stacked system to allow for a variety of users of different skills and abilities.
- Develop a standard for a shared horse/person trail for use in specifically designated areas
- Develop a standard for a shared horse trail adjacent to roadways for use in specifically designated areas
- Provide horse trails within the interior of the park.
 - Consider a figure 8 approach for equestrian trail layouts to provide options for varying routes
- Strive to conform to FRMP equestrian trail standards (it may not be possible to provide minimum desired lengths of trails due to the overall park size)
- Avoid horse trail layout conflicts due to topography or potential safety considerations

Use Areas and Park Features

The Farm

- Increase rental opportunities at the barn and education center
- Increase social event rentals, such as weddings and corporate outings in an iconic destination building
- Add farm history interpretation and signage
- Identify an area for a 1/4-acre demonstration farm that identifies:
 - Farm to table opportunities
 - Raised garden beds
 - Pollinator garden and benefits
 - Take home ideas
 - Take home produce
- Utilize the second story of the barn for classroom space
- Consider relocation of the community gardens to the farm
- Create a centralized community garden 'hub' that includes
 - Shade
 - Storage
 - Water
 - Bike racks
 - Accessible raised beds

- Make greenhouse improvements to include:
 - Alternative energy sources
 - Water, electric and circulation to operate aquaponics
 - Shade for programming
- Relocate existing wind mill to operate and improve the water quality of the pond in the Sustainable Living Area
- Increase depth of the pond and include a safety shelf
- Create a paved trail around the pond
- Add a children's sledding hill behind the education center
- Develop a signature Nature Playscape to include:
 - Farm elements
 - Water
 - Treehouse
 - Earth form
 - Plant material
 - Other natural materials
- Plant fruit trees and improve orchard
- Develop a "Private Lake Meal" venue which can provide a location for visitors to learn to prepare or try food grown in the Sustainable Living Center
- Provide an iconic destination building for rental
- Secure the Kaylor Family cemetery with historic fencing
- Improve site lighting for evening events

- Provide a traditional farmhouse or kitchen garden directly adjacent to the farmhouse
- Create a 'Mobile Garden Food Truck' to reach out to local neighborhoods and farm markets
- Tall Grass Prairies
- Provide secure Bison pens to accommodate female Bison within a variety of viewable areas
 - Bison bull averages 2000 pounds: 8 acres range each
 - Bison cow averages 1000 pounds: 4 acres range each
- Add overlooks within the prairies and lakes
- Locate high points for long-range vistas from the prairies toward Argonne Lake
- Locate high points for long-range vistas from the prairies toward the Bison pens
- Integrate trails into the prairies and wetlands
- Provide opportunities for additional sculptures and land art to complement the 'I Invite You' art display
- Provide a 'signature' overlook tower for elevated viewing opportunities
- Fishing Ponds
- Combine ponds #1 and #2 into a single pond
- Construct wetlands along the east perimeter of all the ponds to accommodate outflows and connect with existing marsh southeast of the wildlife pond
- The process of stocking the ponds should be evaluated to determine its impact on park users and to ensure the development of a sustainable fish supply which will provide park users with healthy fish for years to come
- Encourage additional water recreation activities such as kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding

- Provide accessible fishing piers and circulation
- Provide a fishing preparation table
- Naturalize all the pond edges
- Provide paved trails at all the ponds
- Develop 'Yurt' style camping between the tall grass prairie, wildlife pond and sycamore shelter
- Provide access around the wildlife pond
- Focus the design of park amenities and elements to "first-time" users
- Accommodate bird watching stations along the trails
- Develop a central building to contain:
 - Bait shop
 - Kayak/Canoe/Supplies rental
 - Classroom space (w/ garage door access)
 - Office
 - Restrooms

Argonne Lake

- Permit swimming in the lake
- Encourage additional water recreation activities such as kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding
- Provide accessible fishing piers and improved pedestrian circulation to and around the lake
- Develop a launching area for non-motorized watercraft

- Provide trailer parking to support the launching area
- Provide a fishing preparation table
- Naturalize all the lake edges
- Provide an accessible paved loop trail around lake
- Focus design elements to “first-time” users
- Accommodate bird watching stations along the trails
- Create an outdoor amphitheater/council grove
- Create a ‘Camporee’ venue on the north side of the lake
- Develop a central building (Camp Canteen) to contain:
 - Bait shop
 - Bait vending machines or vending trucks
 - Kayak/Canoe/Supplies rental
 - Classroom space
 - Office
 - Restrooms
 - Shower facilities

Argonne Forest

- Create a wooded adventure play area for tweens, teens and adults to contain elements such as:
 - Toboggan runs in the winter months
 - Alpine runs in the summer months

- Zip lines
 - Tree top ropes courses
 - Canopy walks
 - Tree houses
- Repurpose the dance floor area as the adventure area 'hub' and incorporate program opportunities such as movies, dances, concessions, guided tours and/or training
- Restore the grill at the dance floor
- Develop a small nature play area
- Clean out invasive plant material
- Develop a warrior dash-like trail network
- Utilize and improve the historic stone crossings/bridges
- Incorporate the shooting gallery remnants
- Replicate the streetcar for picnic uses or camping opportunities
- Improve the interpretive and historic wayfinding elements and signage for:
 - The integrated war memorials
 - Possum Creek MetroPark stationary exhibits
- Discuss the Argonne history with the Core Team
- Relocate the horse trail within the adventure area
- Add Camp Sites and Picnic Areas
- Provide flush toilets and running water at all campsites when feasible
- Install CXT vault system restrooms when no running water is available

- Provide additional camping at the north side of Argonne lake and within the southeastern portion of the Argonne Forest
- Provide additional camping south of the sycamore shelter
 - Consider Yurt style camping in this location
 - Consider small cabins
- Consider an outdoor classroom/council grove north of Argonne lake
- Clear additional areas for campsite use
- Offer family rent camping packages that include:
 - Tent with cots under a cloth or wooden canopy
 - Fire ring and fire wood
 - Cooler, camp light and camp stove
 - Electricity when feasible
- Provide horse tie-ups for campsites
- Consider allowing small 'pop-up' campers for elderly and mobility challenged users
- Provide additional reservable medium size picnic shelters



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 activation of spaces within natural areas that have not before been promoted for public use will require thorough assessment and a thoughtful approach to minimize impacts.

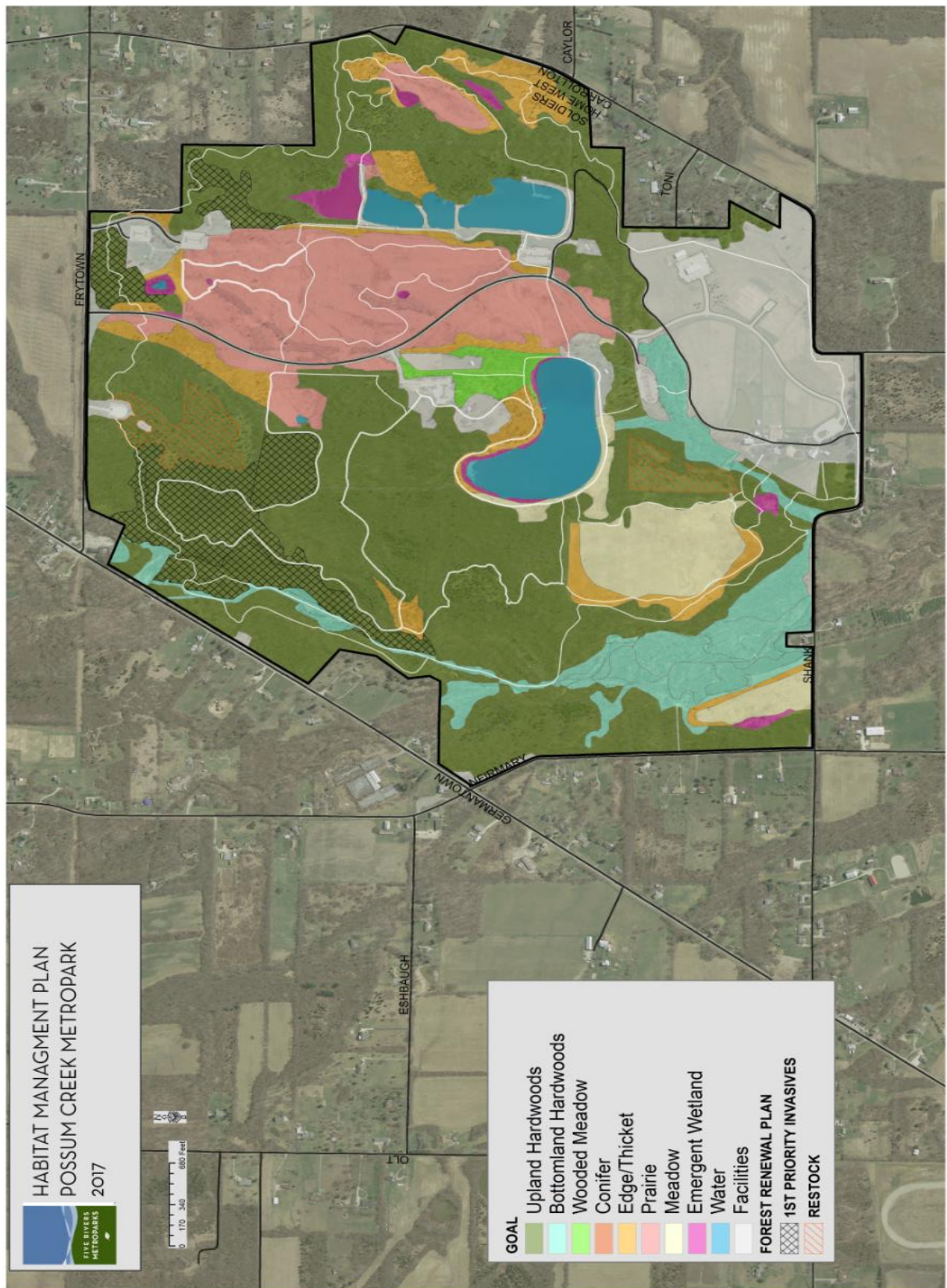
Possum Creek MetroPark consists largely of former farmland that is going through the process of natural succession. Significant natural features include Possum Creek, bottomland hardwoods, mature American beech woodlots, and numerous ponds and wetlands. Over 100 acres of degraded farmland and refuse dumps have been cleared and planted into native prairie. The prairie took years to establish, but now thrives and the soils continue to improve in ecological function and composition. This location has one of the most diverse and largest planted prairies in Ohio.

The land that is now Possum Creek MetroPark has dramatically changed from previous land uses. It stands today as a splendid example of what can be achieved with responsible stewardship and well-executed restoration.



Conservation goals for the site plan include the following:

- Preserve 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 areas to maximize forest size and minimize edge effects within large tracts. Reintroduction and planting of native mast species in designated areas to augment succession and ensure a diverse future forest.
- Protect and manage the existing tallgrass prairie to reflect a southwest Ohio prairie remnant.
- 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 meadows to maximize habitat for grassland nesting birds and the continuation of grassland ecological processes.
- Manage special habitats such as ponds and wetlands to benefit wildlife that is dependent on these habitats.
- Manage fishing ponds and Argonne Lake for wildlife habitat and sustainable fisheries.
- Design and maintain recreational trails to preserve the integrity of the habitats and maximize user experiences.



2.5 INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Possum Creek MetroPark

- 556 acres in West Dayton.
- Habitats—
 - **Water:** Several ponds throughout the site. Possum Creek runs through the west edge of the site.
 - **Forest:** Mature Beech woodlots and bottomland hardwoods.
 - **Prairie:** One of FRMPs first planted prairies, now the largest and most diverse planted prairies in Ohio.
 - **Farm:** Demonstrations for small-scale agriculture. Vision blends with community garden area. Opportunity to transform the “farm” to a Sustainable Living and Nature Play Park.
- Historical features and cultural resources – Argonne Forest amusement park remnants, a Farmhouse original to 1830’s, family cemetery, archeological artifacts indicating middle woodland and fort ancient presence in the area.
- Purchased in 1966, it was one of the first purchases by the park district.
- Planned paved trail will connect the park to the paved trail network and Downtown Dayton.
- Possum Creek MetroPark’s park typology is classified as a Community MetroPark.

Audience

After site visit and discussions with FRMP staff and stakeholders, the following “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

Audience

Audiences:

- Experience Seekers
- Facilitators
- Rechargers

Potential Audiences:

- Hobbyist
- Explorers

Current User Groups:

- Fishing at stocked lakes
- Hiking/Walking/ dog walking
- Camping
- Community Gardening
- Farm visits (preschools/daycare)
- Gatherings at shelters
- Picnics
- Bird watching
- Horseback riding
- Growing raising and preparing food

Potential User Groups/Activities:

- Beginner level recreation activities
- Nature Play enhancements
- Evening programming for campers/hobbyists
- Argonne Lake fishing/paddling improvements
- Bike-friendly improvements for beginners
- Overlooks/ wildlife observation decks
- Beginner level fitness programs for seniors
- Heart Healthy trail loop through park

Intended Visitor Experience for Possum Creek

Visitor experience provided for all visitor types and activities:

- Landscaping, basic amenities, and wayfinding provide a sense of comfort and safety during a beginner level experience, individually or social group, to feel immersed in nature and connected to local food.
- Feelings of excitement for new experiences and easy to participate in activities strengthen social groups and connect to nature.
- Visitors stay for at least two hours and beyond 24 hours for some activities and leave with a positive image of FRMP.

What makes this park special? Park has variety of entry-level recreational opportunities in a facility that can be intuitive and well connected.

Neighborhood Population Information

- Median age surrounding the park is 38.6. That is six years younger than the county median
 - Possibly a higher concentration of families and multi-generational homes.
- Dayton VA Medical Center is within a 10-minute drive.
- Dayton city center (45402 zip code) grew 350% from 2000 to 2010 from 3,275 to 11,420.
- Park is a 15 to 20-minute drive from downtown Dayton.

See full interpretive plan for details. Sources: <http://webapps-cdn.esri.com/Apps/location-strategy-for-business> and <http://www.city-data.com>

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-storyline, Storylines are the details of the interpretive content.

Central Themes:

- Parks make our lives healthier and happier
- A unique adventure awaits

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:

- Past farmland provides a safe place to try new activities for healthy happy lives.

Sub-themes:

- Explore outside to de-stress, get fit, and have a more active lifestyle.
- Outdoor adventures create lasting memories.
- At Possum Creek you can see the relationships we have with nature.
- Possum Creek is a place to go to feel connected to nature.

Storylines specific to Possum Creek MetroPark:

- Getting started with outdoor adventures is easy with many beginner friendly recreation activities - try an activity with the family/social group.
- Argonne Forest amusement park – changing uses through time.
- Community gardens provide nutritious, local food, and a social gathering space – improving health and well-being one seed at a time.
- Biodiversity is a critical part of the survival and health of our natural world and food systems.

Park Position Statement:

- Make lasting family memories

Other opportunities to connect to agency-wide themes:

- Each park tells a story from the past
- We can all take part in conservation

Partnership opportunities:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| • Public Health | • Central State Extension |
| • 4-H | • churches |
| • FFA | • Foodbank |
| • OSU | • urban farmers |
| | • etc. See full plan |



Interpretive Media Recommendations (**optional with partner funding*)

Personal programs by topic

- Family/Multigenerational gardening and food/cooking and preservation
- Fishing for beginners
- Paddle sports – entry level
- Bird ID classes/ bird watching meet up groups
- Veteran hikes/ silver sneakers opportunities
- Sustainable living, bird watching, stream studies
- Cultural and history tours

Interpretive Orientation

- 3 Kiosk Trailhead interpretations: new horse parking, intersection of main drive and new shelter driveway, and parking lot to south pond.

Wayside self-guided (Signs or Audionetics)

- Three exhibit style projects located around:
 - Argonne Forest trail and at key elements,
 - Prairie overlook near shelters, sensitive endangered species, vernal pools, “I Invite You” art piece,
 - Greenhouse, animals, community gardens, and chuck wagon campsite.
- One wayside at the interpretive point after fishing pond improvements.



Required interpretive elements (currently unfunded in priority listing)

- Two exhibits for additional Nature Play areas, and one wayside at staff-built nature play area.
- At least one exhibit and two waysides, for the three bison overlook areas. Given investment to add a feature to the park, there should be an effort to connect visitors to bison addition and share the story of their importance to Ohio.

Opportunities for interpretation

- Family cemetery* - this area exist on site and the current trail passes the area and is an opportunity to share about the areas past or other themes.
- Wetlands * - this area presents an opportunity to share conservation management.
- Argonne Lake* - what's in it, what it used to be (a racetrack, etc.)



2.6 PROGRAMMING PLAN

Current Programming

The variety of habitats, cultural features, and activities at Possum Creek MetroPark provide programming opportunities where participants can connect to nature through natural, recreational, and cultural experiences. The Outdoor Connections Department currently engages visitors to Possum Creek MetroPark in a variety of ways.

Possum Creek Farm's programming mission to promote and foster the sustainable use and appreciation of natural resources through food systems education. Staff, volunteers and community partners engage the community and build awareness of the direct impact food choices have on the local economy, environment and culture.

The programs for the farm, natural areas, and amenities are directed at specific audiences, and interpretive elements (See section 2.5) provided in the park are inventoried below.

Youth and Teens

Story Time programs are offered year-round for preschool aged children. Guided and self-guided tour experiences are offered to schools with students in Kindergarten through fifth grade to help them meet academic standards in social studies and science. Tours include themes of Farms and Ohio habitats. Fishing programs are offered to scout groups. Youth participate in City Beets, a FRMP farm-to-market teen leadership program hosted at Possum Creek Farm.



Families

Families learn about sustainable lifestyles through programs that include themes, such as dyeing wool, soap making, worm composting, goats, and bird feeding. Fishing programs help families connect to each other while connecting to nature with specialty programs for fathers and daughters, and mothers and sons. Offered year round, Conservation Kids programming empowers children to become conservationists through a three-step program progression. Conservation Kids programming at Possum Creek MetroPark consists of both Discover and Act level programming where participants explore the nature at night and prairies, as well as learn about birds, spiders, and pollinators. Get Outside Book Club is a partnership program with Dayton Metro Library that combines early literacy with getting children outdoors. Possum Creek 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 learn the skills to get involved in local food systems and bring conservation home during programs based on raising food on small acreage including mushrooms, rabbits, goats, chickens, sheep, and bees. Recreational programs give adults the opportunity to learn fishing, fly fishing, bicycle maintenance, bicycle touring and wilderness first aid. Those interested in starting a community garden can get started during a "Start a Community Garden" instructional program.



Multiple Audiences

Participants of all ages learn how to fly fish, get started with hydroponics and learn about World War I.

Interpretation (See Section 2.5 for additional details)

Kiosks introduce and orient first-time visitors to Possum Creek MetroPark at the following parking lots, Argonne Forests, Fishing Ponds, Farm, and Reservable Shelters. Visitors to the farm after staff hours can connect to farm practices through a series of signs. A farm etiquette sign helps visitors recognize how to engage with farm animals in a safe way. The former amusement park of the Argonne Forest has a one-mile trail highlighting relics through signage featuring historic photos.

Aspirational Programming

Enhancements to the ponds, trails, and Argonne Lake along with the addition of nature play and the bison program will improve the experiences for tour groups, program participants, and visitors. As programming and 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 our primary goal. This goal will be realized in various ways, depending on the audience.

Audiences

Youth & Teens

Renovation of the fishing ponds will provide safe and ADA accessibility to the pond shore for pond net dipping during tours and youth programming. A Natural Adventures Box could be added to the Argonne Forest to provide daycares and self-directed groups access to tools and resources for nature exploration. Aggregate surface trails will improve access for school groups and youth tours of varying mobility. A greenhouse with demonstration kitchen will improve “Farm to Fork” guided tours for school groups. Schools with elementary aged students can also extend their stay by including a visit to the improvements to Argonne Forest amusement park features and new nature play sites.



Families

Conservation Kids programming could expand to include wetland bank exploration and pond dipping with the improvements to the fishing ponds. Argonne Lake restoration will improve the “Passport to Fishing” experience for families. Aggregate surface trail at Sustainable Living Center will enhance family programming allowing for strollers and access for varying mobility.

Adults

A park-wide paved loop trail will bring opportunities like bicycle touring programs to active adults and accessibility to individuals with physical disabilities. The addition of horticultural plantings will provide hands on growing programs and demonstrations for adult audiences. A small shelter at the farm pond could be a program space for community gardener gatherings, gardening programs and greenhouse activities. Tours for senior adults along Argonne Forest trail and tall grass prairie could be provided with surface trail improvements and trail connectors.

Multiple Ages

Argonne Lake restoration will allow for participants of all ages the opportunity to try out a variety of paddle craft. A park wide paved and ADA accessible loop trail will allow fitness programs for all ages including Bike for the Health Challenged Guided Ride. Hayrides and tram tours could be provided around ponds and into the Sustainable Living Center along paved loop trail.



2.7 SITE PLAN

Because Possum Creek MetroPark is a series of use areas, the plan will help organize and orient visitors to the array of opportunities available for them to explore. The Main Entrance Prairie Drive 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 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:

- Reservable Shelter Area
- Tall Grass Prairies
- Argonne Lake and Campgrounds
- Argonne Forest
- Ponds and Wetland Habitats
- Sustainable Living and Play Park

A second important factor driving the development of this and all FRMP 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 experience, and people to meet. Ideally, some of these activities will be unique to that particular place, reflecting the culture and history the surrounding community. The following activities were identified the planning process as appropriate for this park:

- The Farm
- Argonne Lake
- Camping
- Bison
- Argonne Forest
- Horseback Riding
- Picnics
- Trail Use
- Nature Play
- Prairie
- Fishing
- Nature Bathing



to
of
in

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 1 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) in Section 2.1. The full [site plan](#) provides significant detail not provided here.

Park-wide Recommendations

Improve Entry Experience and Vehicular Circulation

Eliminate and relocate the existing horse trailer lot and reservable shelter entry and provide new access off of the main entry drive. Create an orientation node near the main entry to orientate visitors to the park and the various use areas available. Improve wayfinding along the main entry drive.

Create a Family and Beginner Use Friendly Park

Possum Creek MetroPark is a very user friendly and walkable park. There are also a wide range of outdoor experiences which should be maintained and enhanced to promote first time experiences for residents of Montgomery County. These experiences should also be developed with more experienced users in mind, especially group users such as scouts who regularly utilize the park for camping. Facilities should consider outdoor skill development and learning.

Create a Paved Trail Loop System

Develop a new paved multi-use trail loop network which connects all of the use areas in the park. This loop will also extend the Deer Meadow Possum Creek Connector to Frytown Road.

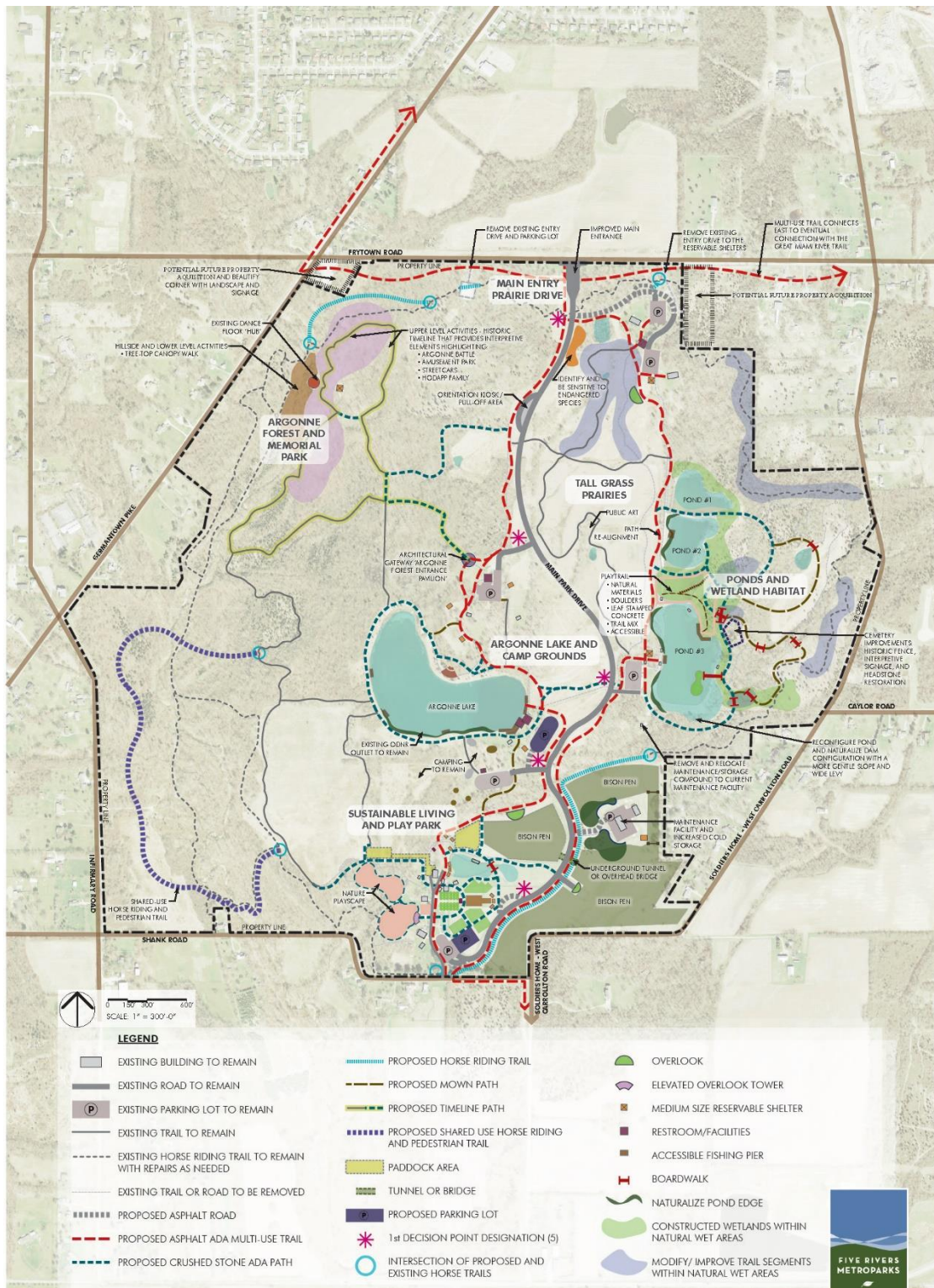
Create a Natural Surface Trail Loop System

Develop a comprehensive network of natural surface trails which enhance the paved loop system which allows users to have a unique set of experiences in the park.

Maintain and Improve the Equestrian Trail Network

Maintain and improve the equestrian trail network within the park to facilitate and improve the experience for this user group. A section of the trail system in the southwest portion of the park will be developed as a shared use trail with both equestrian and hikers due to topographic restraints in this area.





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Possum Creek Master Site Plan Concept | 11.17.2017



landscape architecture | planning | urban design

Columbus: 100 Northwoods Blvd., Suite A Columbus, Ohio 43235 p614.255.3399
Cincinnati: 10816 Millington Court, Suite 118 Cincinnati, Ohio 45242 p513.256.1249

Use Area Recommendations

Reservable Shelter Use Area

Reconfigure the access drive off of the main park entry road and close the existing entrance. Enhance the existing shelter area with activities and nature play. Create a trail head to allow users access to the park wide trail network, including the paved system. Relocate the horse trailer lot to this location.

Argonne Forest

Enhance the natural surface trail system for both hikers and equestrian users. Improve the interpretive experience to tell the unique history of this part of the park. Create a new trail head to welcome park users to this experience.

Ponds and Wetland Habitats

Reconfigure the existing fishing pond system to create a more natural aesthetic which includes a wetland feature to continue to improve water quality in the area. Ponds should be re-created to allow for a sustainable fishery to be established in order to eliminate the need for stocking of the lakes. Add better accessibility features for fishing around the perimeter of the ponds. Enhance the Kaylor Cemetery and tell the story of the people interred there. Connect the area to the paved trail system in the park, including a deliberate connection to Argonne Lake and the proposed camp cantina.



Tall Grass Prairies

Continue to manage and improve the prairies located throughout the park. Enhance the natural trail network which brings visitors in contact with this type of ecosystem. Add additional public art throughout these spaces to draw a diverse group of users. Improve the interpretive experience in this landscape to build a better awareness and appreciation.

Argonne Lake and Campgrounds

Enhance the lake experience by providing a new formal accessible boat access feature to the lake and a camp cantina to provide snacks and supplies to enhance the park experience. Naturalize the edge of the lake where possible and provide better and accessible access for fisherman. The paved trail will provide access to the lake along with a fully accessible loop around the lake itself. Camping should continue to be enhanced with of additional group and yurt style camping.

Sustainable Living Center and Play Park

Transition the farm area to a new Sustainable Living Center area which will educate park visitors about local food production and preparation. The community garden will be relocated to this area to increase the regular use and social interactions. Facilities will include a new greenhouse and outdoor kitchen pavilion to expand the educational use of the facility. Farm animals will continue to be raised at the Sustainable Living Center but should focus on those which homeowners or small farmsteads can reasonably raise. Development and education about apiaries should also be included in the center. The pasture area to the east of the center should be converted to a prairie to allow for the introduction of bison to the park. Nature play should also be expanded and enhanced at this location to take advantage of the gentle landscape and creek behind the education center. This area should be developed especially with free range play concepts in mind.



Short Term Recommendations

Listed below are recommendations could be achieved at a relatively low-cost using staff resources:

- Add an additional group camping site on the north side of Argonne Lake
- Enhance the trail head to Argonne Forest to bring greater awareness of the trail from the parking area
- Add activity features and nature play to the reservable shelter area
- Make minor improvements such as fencing and include interpretative signage to tell the story of the Kaylor Cemetery
- Consider adding yurt campsites near the front country campsites
- Continue to enhance and expand the nature play experience at the Sustainable Living Center

Level of Service Amenities

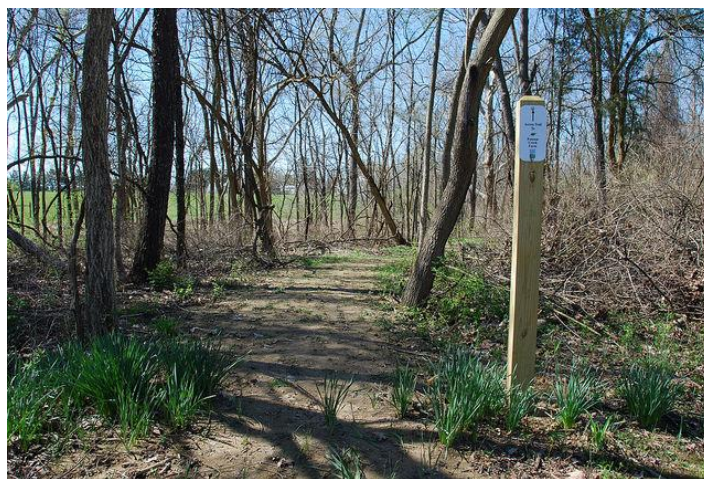
- The following amenities outlined in the CMP are included in the site plan:
 - (2) Reservable Picnic Shelters (Small 1-25)
 - (4) Reservable Picnic Shelters (Medium 26-50)
 - (0) Reservable Picnic Shelters (Large 51-100)
 - (0) Outdoor Pavilions (100+)
 - (4) Nature Play Playgrounds
 - (3.36) Paved Trails (Miles)
 - (2.74) Soft/ Non-Paved Trails (Miles)
 - (.54) Nature/ Hiking/ Backpacking Trails (Miles)
 - (.5) 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 Possum Creek MetroPark focus on park criteria, particularly completing the park's natural boundaries and completing trail connections. Specific recommendations regarding land protection to achieve park needs and associated attainment strategies are listed below and identified on the site plan:

- Acquire the property located at the Northwest corner of the Possum Creek MetroPark property.
- Acquire the property at the northeast corner of the Possum Creek MetroPark property on Frytown Road.
- Acquire the residential property which is a single inclusion on the south end of the park as it becomes available.
- The small triangular parcel owned by Jefferson township on the east side of the park north of Caylor Rd would be a good parcel to acquire to complete park boundaries, but it would not be of high priority to acquire.

Generally, the current boundaries of Possum Creek MetroPark meet the needs and the long-range plans of the park. The existing residential properties along the east side of the park could be acquired in the long-term future as they become available or past their useful life. The cemetery and two single family homes on the west side of the park along SR 4 would not be a priority for acquisition.



SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Possum Creek [MetroPark Master Plan](#) identifies improvements and [cost estimates](#) for the park. The proposed improvements were prioritized based on the 2016 Comprehensive Master Plan's [Capital Project Criteria](#) that will be incorporated with other projects throughout the district into FRMP's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). To reflect full project costs of the prioritized projects, operational cost estimates were developed for conservation, maintenance, programming, interpretation, and law enforcement, as well as businesses and philanthropic revenue. These operational costs and revenue will be evaluated along with the capital costs to prioritize the park's improvements in the CIP.

3.2 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed site plan represents the long-term vision for the park. The plan proposes a number of capital improvements that will move the park toward that long-term vision. In this park master plan, specific improvement projects have been identified as priorities for the CIP. Those projects, listed below, include priority repair and replacement projects which were identified in the Comprehensive Master Planning process and, when applicable, include the furniture, fixtures, and equipment investments necessary to provide a complete project.

- Fishing Ponds Renovation
 - Anticipated Budget: \$4,586,516
 - Reconfigure the ponds to create a more natural appearance, stabilize the levees, and create wetlands to clean stormwater.
- Fishing Pond – Improved Access
 - Anticipated Budget: \$525,573.00
 - Create ADA accessible fishing access, including shelters, benches and trash receptacles to create a high-quality day use experience.
- Operations Area – General Maintenance
 - Anticipated Budget: \$27,600

- Budget for normal maintenance to the operations building including HVAC, roof, painting and interior work.
- Argonne Forest – Interpretive Upgrades
 - Anticipated Budget: \$475,793
 - Develop a new interpretive experience in the Argonne Forest to tell the story of the history of the place and WW I.
- Argonne Lake – Bank Restoration and Enhancements
 - Anticipated Budget: \$306,774
 - Reconfigure the bank of Argonne Lake to provide better access to the lake for fishing and boat access as well as creating native lake side plantings.
- Park Wide – Natural Surface Trail Enhancements
 - Anticipated Budget: \$1,120,504
 - Develop a park wide network of natural surface trails including developing a trail master plan and implementation strategy.
- Park Wide – Main Multi-use Loop Paved
 - Anticipated Budget: \$785,680
 - Develop and implement a main looped ADA Accessible multi-use trail which provides access to the various use areas in the park and extends the bike trail to Frytown Road.
- Main Entry Road – Modify Frytown Road Entry Configuration
 - Anticipated Budget: \$112,144
 - Improve the park entry experience by closing the two secondary entrances and providing access to the shelter area and horse trailer from the main entry drive.

- Sustainability Center - Bison
 - Anticipated Budget: \$448,500
 - Introduce bison to Possum Creek including fencing, animal support amenities, roadway crossing and prairie restoration.
- Sustainability Center – Nature Play
 - Anticipated Budget: \$2,760,000
 - Expand and develop a new free-range nature play area that incorporates the creek and other natural features near the Education Building.
- Sustainable Living Center – Existing Building Stabilization and Renovation
 - Anticipated Budget: \$414,000
 - Stabilize and restore the barn and farmhouse as well as the existing out buildings, and install air conditioning to the Education Building.
- Sustainable Living Center – New Community Gardens
 - Anticipated Budget: \$543,703
 - Relocate the community gardens from their existing location and create a new creative functioning community garden which is integrated with the new Sustainability Center.

In addition, all pavement maintenance and repair work required in the parks will be covered by the district wide pavement management program plan.



3.3 PARKS AND CONSERVATION

The Parks and Conservation Department staff is responsible for the care and maintenance of facilities and natural areas for Possum Creek MetroPark. This work includes daily cleaning and inspection of areas, farm animal care, 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 park 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
- Shelter checks/prep/cleaning
- Park Inspections
- Equipment/vehicle repairs and service
- Routine farm animal care



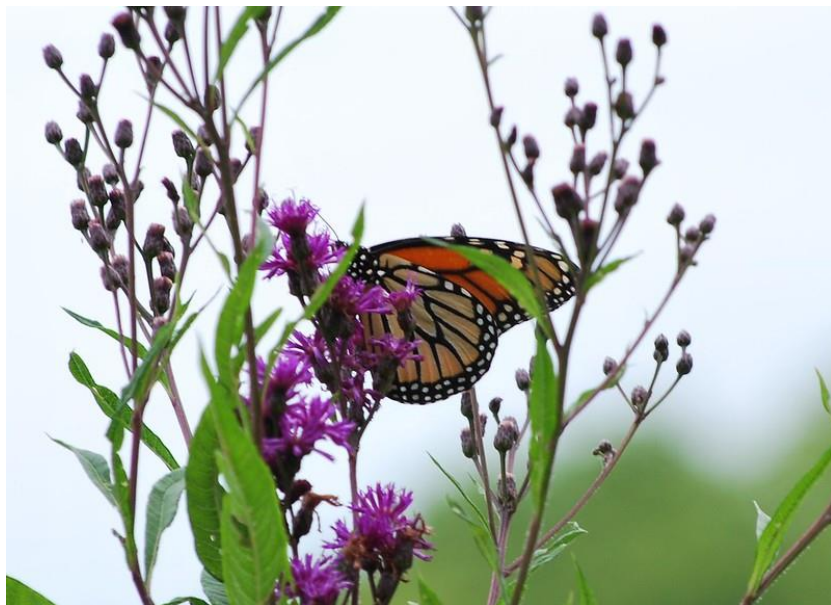
- Feeding
- Watering
- Stall/Cage/Coop Cleaning

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.

- 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.

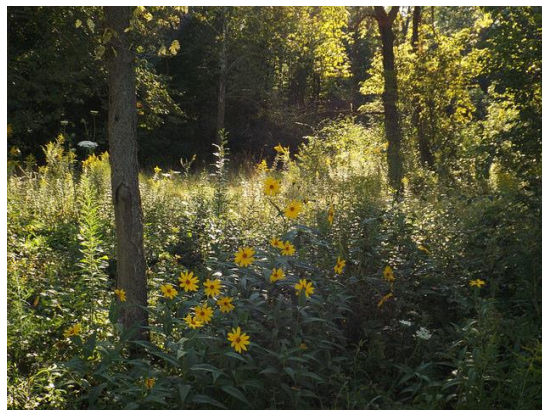
- Roadway/paved trail maintenance including trimming, berming, drain clearing and tree removal.
- Tree tube maintenance and monitoring
- Invasive plant management
- Deer management
- Tree protection and monitoring-beaver
- Farm animal care
 - Hoof Trimming
 - Farrier Visits
 - Vet visits
 - Toenail trimming/Spur trimming
 - Sheep shearing
 - Deworming



Expected Increases to Primary Routine Tasks:

Upon review of the priority projects in the proposed site plan it is projected that an increase of 1,608.83 labor hours will be needed to complete primary routine tasks. A breakdown of projected increases is outlined by project below and equates to .77 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
Ponds Renovation	52.27	.025
New ADA fishing spots and small nature play	91.08	.044
Maintenance and upgrades to existing Operations Building.	167.74	.079
New Argonne Forest Nature Play - large	131.38	.063
ADA fishing spots and ADA walking loop	0	0
Natural surface trail improvements – 3.74 mile net gain in mileage.	98.21	.047
Paved trail improvements – 2.49 mile net gain in mileage	371.86	.179
Updated Roadway and Parking Lot Configuration	41.05	.020
New Observation Platforms – Bison - 3	18.93	.009
New Sustainability Center Nature Play - large	125.33	.060
New Sustainability Center building stabilization	61.23	.029
New Restrooms- Sustainability Center	449.75	.216
Grand Total	1608.83	.77



Expected Increases to Tasks Associated with the Priority Projects:

Upon review of the priority projects in the proposed site plan staff projects an increased need of an additional 557.78 hours to complete tasks related to the priority projects. A breakdown of projected increases is outlined by project below and equate to .26 FTE. The detail of these projections can be viewed in the costing spreadsheet that was produced as a part of the master plan process.

Project	Projected Hours	FTE Equivalent
Ponds Renovation	23.5	.011
New ADA fishing spots and small nature play	30.67	.015
Maintenance and upgrades to existing Operations Building.	8	.004
New Argonne Forest Nature Play - large	30.83	.015
ADA fishing spots and ADA walking loop	10.85	.005
Natural surface trail improvements – 3.74 mile net gain in mileage.	170.80	.082
Paved trail improvements – 2.49 mile net gain in mileage	104.50	.050
Updated Roadway and Parking Lot Configuration	13.95	.007
New Observation Platforms – Bison - 3	13.01	.006
New Sustainability Center Nature Play - large	30	.014
New Sustainability Center building stabilization	8	.004
New Restrooms- Sustainable Living Center	113.67	.055
Grand Total	557.78	.26

One Time Tasks:

Staff identified plant surveys as a one-time 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 next section.

- Plant surveys and Restoration Work- 78.94 total hours and .038 FTE

Below are the current staffing levels at Possum Creek MetroPark:

- Park Manager
- (2) Full-time Technicians
- (2) Part-time Technicians
- (2) Seasonal Technicians
- Conservation support provided by the south parks and conservation team.

Summary of Operational Impacts:

Based on the spreadsheet that identified tasks for each project in the park master plan, staff identified an estimated 2,166.61 hours of additional annual labor needs that would be created for Parks and Conservation staff if all improvements were completed. These operational impacts total 1.03 FTE Technicians.

3.4 PROGRAMMING AND INTERPRETATION

Programming and Interpretation Projection

The Outdoor Connections Department currently engages visitors at Possum Creek MetroPark in a variety of way. The programs, which are directed to specific audiences, and offer interpretive elements in the parks are inventoried below.

Programming

Based on the park master plan, new and or additional facilitated programming is required for Outdoor Education and Historical and Cultural Resources. No additional facilitated programming is required for Outdoor Recreation. The nature play sites, bison program, and the new greenhouse and demonstration kitchen are ideal for families, adults, and multiple audiences.



New facilitated programs fall into the following categories:

- Nature Play Programming: Richard Louv’s book, “Last Child in the Woods,” brought attention to the need of children to be outside for their emotional, developmental, and physical well-being. Nature Play sites throughout Five Rivers MetroParks help families and youth leaders feel comfortable and safe getting children outside. Programming for these sites includes play naturalists that help children feel welcome and comfortable playing in non-commercial spaces.
- Cooking Programming: Participants develop skills for healthy and sustainable lifestyles as they learn how to prepare the food they grow and raise. The new Sustainable Living Center demonstration kitchen will be the site of these hands-on programs.
- Greenhouse and Growing Programming: Designed for teen and participants with special needs, these programs empower participants to grow their own food from seed to harvest.
- Hands-On Vegetable Garden Programming: Focusing on what is in the Possum Creek MetroPark Display Gardens these programs teach participants to grow and use their own produce.
- Display Garden Programming:



Proposed Facilitated Programming	Location	Frequency (Annually)	Audiences			
			Youth/teens	Family	Adults	Multiple Audiences
Nature Play Programming	Nature Play Sites	8		•		
Bison Programming	Bison Range	2				•
Cooking Programs	Sustainable Living Center Kitchen	12	•		•	•
Greenhouse and Growing Programs	Sustainable Living Center Greenhouse	8				
Hands-On Vegetable Gardening Programs	Sustainable Living Center Greenhouse	10	•	•	•	
Display Garden Programs	Sustainable Living Center Greenhouse	16	•	•		•

New Costs	Location				
	Nature Play sites	Bison Viewing Area	Sustainable Living Center Kitchen	Sustainable Living Center Greenhouse	Sustainable Living Center Display Garden
Personnel	\$1,866	\$391	\$1,877	\$3,521	\$779
Contract Services	\$0	\$0	\$1,200	\$2,400	\$0
Ongoing Supplies	\$313	\$150	\$1,400	\$700	\$1,200
Startup supplies	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$500
Total	\$2,179	\$541	\$5,477	\$9,121	\$2,479

Interpretive

The park site plan proposes significant additions to interpretive elements throughout the park. The improvements outlined below focus on areas of the park prioritized for improvements. The full [Interpretive Plan](#) for the park can be found in Section 2.5.

- Wayside Self-guided Experience is a single-style interpretive media, such as an interpretive panel or other interpretation method, which connects visitors to a park feature. The priority project that includes a wayside self-guided location is Argonne Lake.
- Wayside Exhibit is an interactive experience that includes a variety of interpretive media and may include interpretive panels and interactive displays that are designed to provoke curiosity in visitors. Priority projects that include wayside exhibits are the fishing pond renovations, Argonne Forest Trail, Nature Play sites, and the bison viewing area.
- Kiosks are the first decision point for visitors in the park and are designed to welcome and orient visitors with trail and feature descriptions. Three new kiosks are designated along the trail enhancements.

The master 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, are summarized in the table below.



Project	Capital Development Costs			
	Materials	Personnel (one-time)	Materials	Personnel (On-going)
Fishing Pond – Pond Renovation	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fishing Pond – Improved Access - Interpretive Signage – Wayside Exhibit	*	\$17,798	*	\$233
Operations Area – general maintenance	NA	NA	NA	NA
Argonne Forest – interpretive upgrade – Forest Trail - Wayside Exhibit	*	\$17,798	*	\$233
Argonne Forest – Interpretive Upgrade – Nature Play	*	\$17,798	*	\$233
Argonne Lake – bank restoration and enhancements – Gateway to Argonne entrance pavilion – Self-guided Wayside	*	\$3,512	*	\$46
Park Wide- natural surface trail enhancements –Two Kiosks	*	\$7,025	*	\$93
Park Wide- natural surface trail enhancements – Kiosk	*	\$3,512	*	\$46
Park Wide – main paved loop	NA	NA	NA	NA
Main Entry Road – modify Frytown Rd entry	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sustainability Center – Bison – Wayside Exhibit	*	\$7,025	*	\$93
Sustainability Center – Nature Play	*	\$7,025	*	\$93
Sustainability Center – existing building	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sustainability Center – new community gardens	NA	NA	NA	NA

**Capital for interpretation identified in Cost Estimates for projects*



3.5 BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Park Site Plan

In reviewing the Possum Creek MetroPark Site 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

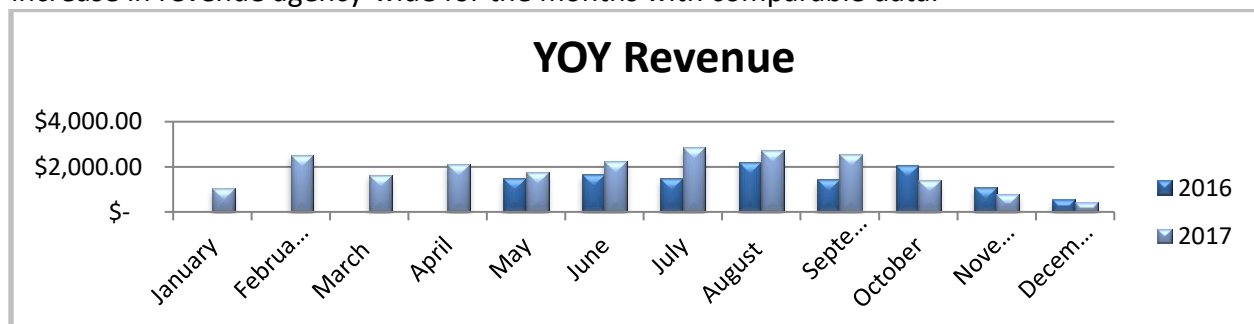
Increase the amenities such as activity boxes or corn hole in existing camp sites to offer a beginning camping experience in close proximity to a car.

Capital Improvement Plan

Current Revenue Sources

The shelters at Possum Creek MetroPark average a fill rate of 19.9% during the weekend peak season from 2014 to 2016, a rate that ranks 10th among the 12 parks with reservable shelters.

Possum Creek had 99 camping reservations that produced \$4,901 of revenue in its first full year of assessment (2017). 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

The proposed priority project for Business Operations includes the installation of (1) new 20'x 35' medium size picnic shelter, and (4) new 20'x25' small picnic shelters, with appropriate and desired amenities and services would produce approximately 13 permit applications per year per medium shelter generating annual revenue of approximately \$520, and approximately 5 permit applications per year per small shelter generating annual revenue of approximately \$191 based on Possum Creek averages of like sized shelters over the past three full years of operation.

Programming

The Sustainable Living Center will be activated with an assortment of hands-on gardening and food preparation programming for adults and families. Historical and Cultural Resources will target programming for these audiences and will serve an estimated 580 participants during 52 programs throughout the year, earning an estimated \$7520 in revenue.

Area	Program Title	Projected Attendance	Registration Fee	Projected Revenue
Sustainable Living Center – Kitchen (Ed Bldg.)	Cooking Programs	180	\$20	\$3,600
Sustainable Living Center - Greenhouse	Greenhouse and Growing Programs	80	\$15	\$1,200
Sustainable Living Center – Demonstration Kitchen	Hands-on Vegetable Gardening Programs	80	\$15	\$1,200
Sustainable Living Center – Display and Educational Gardens	Display Garden Programs	80	\$5	\$400
Sustainable Living Center – Display and Educational Gardens	Youth Hands-on Gardening Programs	160	\$7	\$1,120
Total		580		\$7,520

3.6 PUBLIC SAFETY

Implementation of the Possum Creek MetroPark 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. Possum Creek is part of the South Beat, along with Cox Arboretum, Germantown, and Twin Creek MetroParks.
- Patrol strategies - Typically, the ranger assigned to a patrol beat will patrol the parks in their other assigned area several times each day 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 primary focus is preventing criminal activity, but rangers are encouraged to take enforcement action, including making physical arrests or issuing citations, when appropriate.
- Patrol time estimates - Rangers previously estimated the amount of patrol time they spend actively patrolling in each of the MetroParks during their 10-hour day 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 Possum Creek MetroPark is 105 minutes.



Anticipated Changes to Patrol

- Impact of additional paved and hiking trails – While rangers do sometimes walk trails and use their bikes to patrol the paved and hiking trails, the proposed changes for Possum Creek MetroPark are minor and it is not anticipated that any significant change to patrol strategies or patrol time will be needed due to changes in trails.
- Impact of additional paved and hiking trails – While rangers do sometimes walk trails and use their bikes to patrol the paved and hiking trails, the proposed changes for Possum Creek MetroPark are minor and do not anticipate any significant change to patrol strategies or patrol time.
- Impact of additional structures/features – The additional structures and features will require some additional attention from the Ranger Division. It will require additional patrol throughout the day and will likely require some additional checks at night while securing the park.



- Impact of additional activities or visitation. It is expected that some increased usage of the park overall will occur due to the proposed improvements. This increased usage should not have a significant impact on the amount of patrol time rangers spend in the park. However, whenever there is an increase in the number of people in a given location, generally there is the potential for increased criminal activity. In this case, it is possible that there may be additional occasional thefts or vandalism, but it is not expected that there would be a significant increase in crime as a result of the proposed changes. There may also be some increase in routine calls for service due to the increased number of visitors.

Impact/Cost to Public Safety

- Based on the changes and additions proposed in the Possum Creek MetroPark Master Plan, an estimated additional 15 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 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 15-minute estimate) will be required due to anticipated increase in the number of visitors and the time needed for rangers to check the parking lots, shelters and other areas, as well as interacting with visitors.
- An additional 15 minutes of patrol per shift x 3 shifts = 45 minutes of additional patrol per day x 365 days = 274 additional patrol hours per year.

3.7 PHILANTHROPY

The addition of new trails, features, and amenities proposed in the Possum Creek MetroParks master plan provide excellent naming, sponsorship and tribute opportunities. Based on item descriptions and notes from the site plan the following elements of the plan could generate philanthropic revenue:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Education Building | Naming |
| • Argonne Forest Trail | Sponsor or tribute |
| • Fishing Pond | Sponsor or naming |
| • Trails | Sponsor or tribute |
| • Shelters | Tribute |
| • Community Gardens | Sponsor or naming |
| • Sustainability Center – Bison Area | Sponsor or naming |

