

Dufield
Pond

November 19

2009

Master Plan

McHenry County Conservation District
18410 U.S. Highway 14
Woodstock, Illinois 60098
www.MCCDistrict.org

Dufield Pond Conservation Area

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Introduction	2
Site Inventory and Analysis	2
Aerial Photo, Sheet L1	
Existing Conditions, Sheet L2	
Soils, Sheet L3	
Hydrology, Sheet L4	
Topography, L5	
Natural Communities, L6	
Access Constraints, Sheet L7	
Development and Management Program	6
Planning and Development Recommendations	6
Final Plan, Sheet L8	
Final Plan – Country Club Rd. Access, Sheet L9	
Final Plan – McConnell Rd. Access, Sheet L10	
Implementation	8
Estimate of Possible Costs	9
Master Planning Schedule	10
Planning Session Minutes	11
March 16, 2009	
June 25, 2009	
Draft Plan Comments	14
Preliminary Plan Comments	17
Board of Trustees Resolution	19
References	20

Executive Summary

The purpose of a Master Plan is to serve as a guide to the logical development, and management of McHenry County Conservation District lands and resources. The plan presents a thorough inventory and analysis of pertinent data relating to regional and site conditions, resources, and programs as well as recommendations for physical development and resource management. The plan's development and management programs are directed to satisfying the educational and recreational needs while protecting the natural and cultural features.

The Master Plan is developed to provide a comprehensive record of the site for McHenry County Conservation District Board of Trustees, administrators and personnel. It is intended to guide future actions affecting programming, staffing, budgeting, construction, and management of the site. The statement portion outlines a proposed program for development, management and implementation strategies.

This Master Plan is the result of the cooperation of several groups including; Planning and Development Department, Dufield Pond neighbors, City of Woodstock, McHenry County Conservation District, and the Board of Trustees. Based upon site observations, natural resource data collection and mapping, public and staff input, a general description of the Dufield Pond Conservation Area Master Plan recommendations can be summarized as follows:

- Preserve, manage and restore significant natural communities.
- Promote environmental design practices.
- Provide improved site access off of Country Club Rd. that includes new pedestrian walk-in access
- Develop new site access off of McConnell Rd.
- Develop recreation opportunities that are ADA accessible to the highest degree possible while working with the natural resources of the site.

Introduction

The Dufield Pond Conservation Area is located in central McHenry County, Section 9, Township 44 North, Range 7 East of the Third Principle Meridian. The site is located on the east side of Woodstock, only minutes from downtown. The Dufield Pond site contains limited road frontages along Country Club Road to the north and McConnell Road to the south with the vast majority of the site abutting to residential properties and the Bull Valley Golf Course.

Dufield Pond Conservation Area was purchased in 2001 as part of a larger effort titled, *Woodstock Greenway Project* that aimed to protect open space and water resources within and around the City of Woodstock. The project was funded by IDNR, Open Lands Grant Program to cover 50% of the acquisition costs with the remaining split evenly between MCCD and City of Woodstock. The significance of the site lies in the water resources and underlying soils. The upper portions of the site contain sands and gravels on which a mature oak savanna sits. The upland area serves as a water recharge zone for the terraced fens, pond and surrounding wetlands.

Site Inventory and Analysis

Site History

Public Land Survey Notes from July 27th of 1837 include these observations of the site and adjacent lands:

North between sections 8 and 9, Township 44 N, Range 7E of the 3rd principal meridian

“set a quarter section corner post from which a black oak 20 inches diameter bears S 23.5 W 26 links and a burr oak 24 inches diameter bears N 28 E 100 links distant. Land level wet soil, not fit for cultivation – timber black oak and burr oak, no undergrowth”

“a road from bears NW and SE”

“set a post, corner to sections 4, 5, 8, 9 Township 44 N, Range 7E, from which a white oak 15 inches diameter bears N 55 E 30 links, a burr oak 14 inches diameter bears N 37 W 113 links, a burr oak 30 inches diameter bears S 35 W 67 links and a burr oak 35 inches diameter bears S 74 E 69 links distant. Land level wet soil, not fit for cultivation, timber, burr oak and black oak, undergrowth – hazle”

West on a true line between sections 8 and 9

“set a quarter section on true line at average distance, from which a bur oak 12 inches in diameter bears N 54 E 69 links and a burr oak 12 inches diameter bears S 53.5 W 77 links distant. Land level good soil, fit for cultivation, timber, black oak and burr oak, undergrowth, hazle.

“to corner of sections 4, 5, 8, 9 land gently rolling, good soil fit for cultivation, timber burr oak and black oak – undergrowth, hazle”

North between section 9 and 10, Township 44 N, Range 7E of the 3rd principal meridian

“a road bears NW and SE”

Plat maps dating back to the 1870's along with aerial photographs from as early as the 1930's show the changes and history of the site over the decades. Pre-settlement conditions consisted mainly of woodlands and wetlands. The southern portion of the site was composed of oak dominated woodlands and the northern portion contained a wetland complex with open water pond. The pond is a unique and rare resource to McHenry County. Unlike the hundreds of small ponds and lakes that exist today from damming and dredging of wetlands and streams, the Dufield pond was created through a natural, non-man made process. The Dufield pond is known as a kettle pond – a landform created from a large chunk of ice falling off the front of a receding glacier over 14,000 years ago. The ice block then slowly melted until it was completely gone leaving in its place a depression or bowl. The depression was then filled with water from the surrounding spring and seeps that release groundwater year around, creating a kettle pond – Dufield pond.

The site was owned by two well known families; Dufield and McConnell. These families were some of the first to settle McHenry County. The land was purchased from the government in the late 1830s, early 40s by the Dufield and McConnell families. Agriculture was a way of life for these two families, activities such as clearing timber, cultivating, draining and pasturing began on the land.

Henry Dufield was born in West Virginia and came to McHenry County as a widow in his early 20s. When Dufield bought the lush acreage now bisected by County Club Road about a mile from Woodstock, it was said, “he chose it for its flat grassland, its stand of woods, and for the bottomless pond near when friendly Indians camped on their way north to their hunting grounds.” Located next to one of the many springs on the site, Dufield built a cheese factory on the south side of the pond. The cheese factory was known to be the only one in Dorr Township. Sometime around 1882 the factory was torn down and timbers were reused in building a barn and later a house for Dufield's granddaughters.

Rumor has it that the Dufield pond is bottomless – in the 1870s a man was cutting blocks of ice out of the pond one winter and loading them on a large team of horses. As the horses were standing on the pond being loaded the ice gave way and 2 horses fell into the water and disappeared. The man was distraught that he not only lost 2 horses but had also just purchased brand new harnesses that the horses were wearing. As there was nothing that could be done to recover the horses or harnesses during the winter, the man said he would return in the spring to search for the horses and claim the harnesses. The man returned and searched thoroughly that next spring, only to find no traces of the horses or harnesses. We know that the pond is not bottomless, but the pond is a staggering 24 feet deep.

Abram B. McConnell (A.B. McConnell) was the son of William A. McConnell (W.A. McConnel), the first documented settler of Richmond Township. W.A. was a well known man, holding many offices within the community, county and state. W.A. and his wife Elizabeth had 3 sons, of which each received their own farm once they were of age.

A.B. received the Woodstock farm, located southeast of the Dufield farm. The Woodstock farm had remained in the family through the generations when A.B. McConnell II became owner (third generation). A.B. II like his father and grandfather was a respectable farmer, as well as being a member of the McHenry County Board and a State Representative. One of A.B. II achievements at the state level was conceptualize, sponsor and arrangement of the Conservation Education Act.

Archaeological History

To date there is one known archaeological site with the boundaries of the Dufield Pond site. The historical site is a Cheese Factory located along a spring on the south side of the pond. Built prior to 1872 the factory survived for over ten years.

Agreements, Easements and Leases

None

Geography, Soils and Topography

14,000 years ago the Wisconsinan glaciers advanced and retreated over northeastern Illinois repeatedly. During this time glaciers carved out the landscape through sheer force from water and ice. As the glacier's retreated for the final time large amounts of unconsolidated sands, gravels and blocks of ice were left throughout northeastern Illinois. The Dufield Pond site is a small example of the result of this kettle / moraine landscape.

There are 14 different soil types found within the Dufield Pond Conservation Area. The soils range from extremely well drained gravelly soils along the upland portions of the site to poorly drained hydric and muck soils found adjacent to the pond and lower lying areas. The upland areas onsite are generally referred to as a 'Recharge Zone', simply stated, an area of unsorted sands and gravels that allow for rapid infiltration and percolation of rainwater.

The overall topography of the site is rather dramatic with elevations ranging from 900' – 980' above mean sea level. The topography descends from south to north rather quickly with steep slopes of 12-20%. The higher elevations offer views of downtown Woodstock and distant views to the north. Slopes level out to 2-6% along the wetlands and pond to the north.

Hydrology

The Dufield Pond Conservation Area, lies within the Nippersink Creek Watershed, one of two primary watersheds in McHenry County. The Nippersink Creek watershed covers nearly 200 square miles from southern Wisconsin down through north central McHenry County. The sub watershed for the Dufield Pond site is the Silver Creek watershed, which covers most of Woodstock and extends north across Rt. 120 where Silver Creek then drains into the Nippersink Creek. The Nippersink Creek is rated among the highest waterways in the state of Illinois for its extremely diverse and high quality mussel populations.

The 78 acres that currently make up the Dufield Pond Conservation Area and surrounding land area are one of numerous headwaters responsible for the flow of the Nippersink Creek. The onsite pond and wetlands are fed by the upland recharge zone that releases water along the northern facing slopes in the form of springs, seeps and fens. The water outlets the site slowly flowing to the northwest corner of the site where the water converges into a small stream bed and is carried off site into Silver Creek.

Within the Dufield Pond Conservation Area there are five different registered wetlands according to the National Wetlands Inventory. Wetlands differ from one another pending on the period of time water is present, the depth of water, type of vegetation present, man-made modifications, etc. The total land area that is included within the wetlands boundaries make up approximately 33% of the site. All wetlands found onsite are also classified as Advanced Identification (ADID) wetlands. In McHenry County ADID is a designation of unsuitability for disposal of dredged or

fill material that is applied to certain sites, including wetlands, lakes and streams, exhibiting high quality biological and habitat function.

Plant and Wildlife Communities

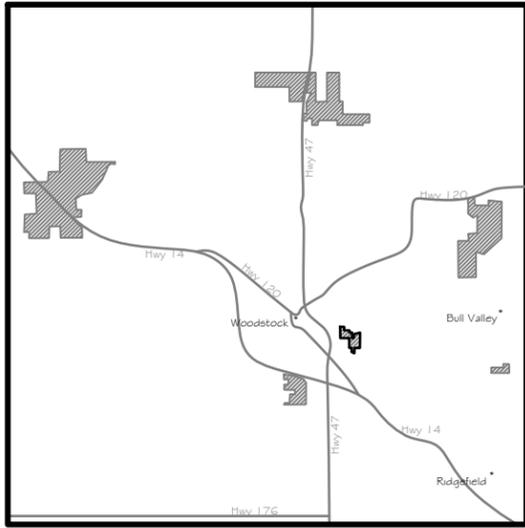
Nearly all the pre-settlement vegetation within the Dufield Pond Conservation Area has been destroyed or disrupted due to over 150 years of human impacts. Past land uses such as subdividing for residential lots, grazing and water table alterations have fragmented and nearly removed the natural communities that once occupied this area. Dominating the southern and central portions of the site are dry-mesic woodlands, composed of a variety of oaks. Although the understory and herbaceous layers are dramatically impacted the centuries old oaks remain. High quality graminoid fens are found along the lower slopes of the woodlands. These fens discharge groundwater rich in calcium and magnesium carbonates, creating an alkaline soil condition that only certain plants thrive in. Among those plants still found there today are; Great angelica, Swamp thistle and Riddle's goldenrod.

The Dufield Pond Conservation Area and adjacent Bull Valley Golf Course contain one Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites (INAI). For a site to be considered by INAI, the site must include but not limited to the following: high quality natural communities, specific habitat of endangered and threatened species and outstanding geological features. The INAI site is known as the Bull Valley Golf Course Wetlands, a 70 acre site composed of basin marshes, graminoid fens and sedge meadows. The significance of the natural area is the B and C ratings to the wetlands as well as the habitat for wetlands bird species.

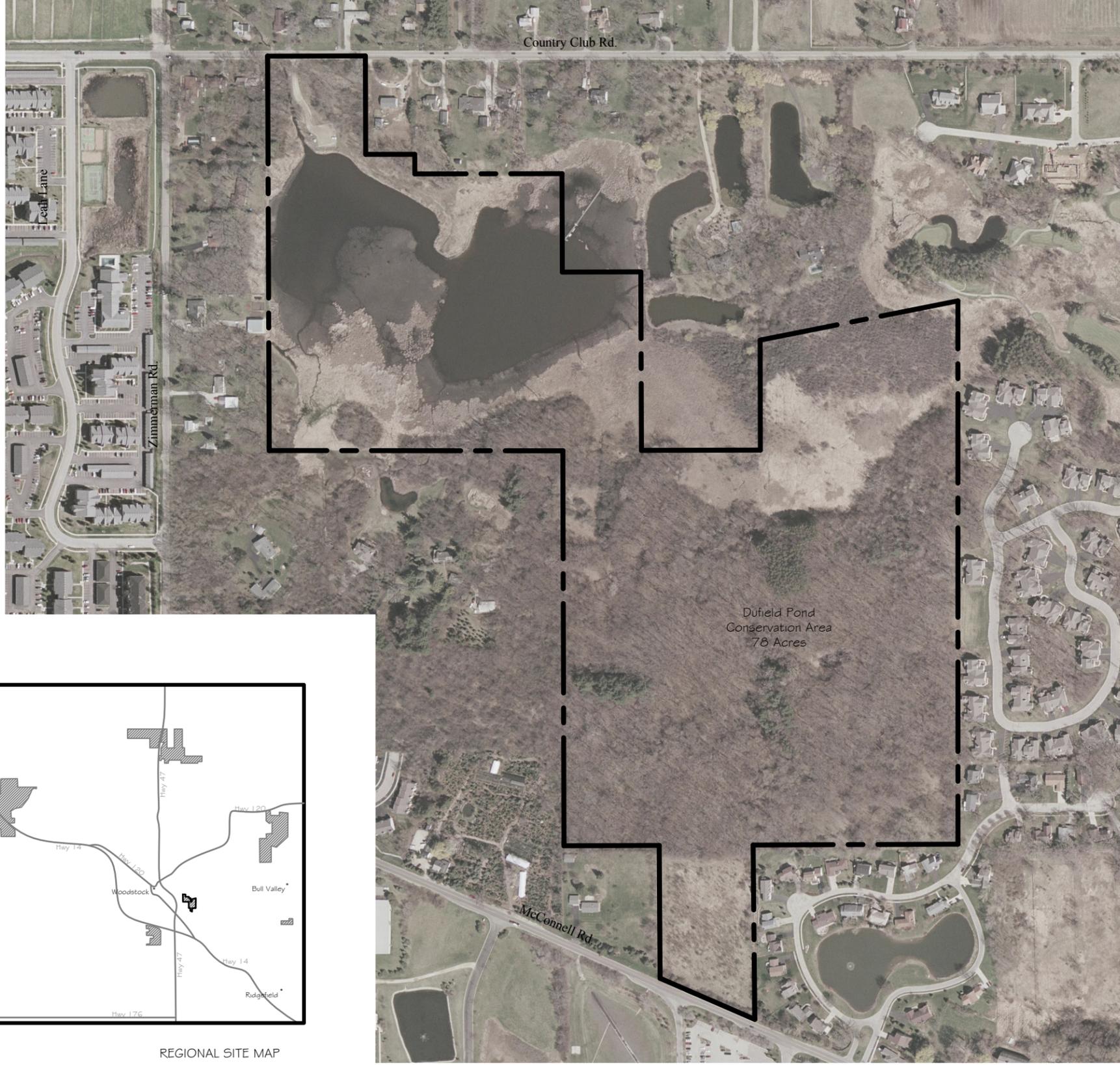
To date there are three known threatened or endangered animal species (Common Moorhen, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Sandhill Crane) found within the Dufield Pond site and no known plant species.

Restoration and Management

The MCCD Natural Resource Management Department (NRM) has produced and implemented portions of a management plan that is specific to the Dufield Pond site. NRM has removed the dam to the pond, resulting in lowering the water level in order to expose mud flats and create smaller pockets of open water for enhanced bird habitat, cleared brush and conducted a prescription burn of the fen and sedge meadow, two of the higher quality areas of the site. NRM is also conducting ongoing surveys; bird, butterfly, herpetological, mammals, plant and fish along with continuing restoration objectives.



REGIONAL SITE MAP



Dufield Pond
Conservation Area
78 Acres



McHenry County
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

18410 U.S. Highway 14 Woodstock, IL 60098
815.338.6223 www.MCCDistrict.org

Site Analysis - Aerial Photo

Dufield Pond
CONSERVATION AREA

WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS



Scale: 1" = 400'

Date: October 22, 2009
Planning & Development: AB/ACT



LEGEND

- P Parking Lot
- * Primary Access
- ○ ○ ○ Hiking Trail
- Woody Vegetation
- ● ● ● Sidewalks
- Fishing Dock

Note

Dufield Pond Conservation Area is 90% surrounded by residential development. This development includes; large tract single family, small tract single family and multi-family units. The remaining 10% of contiguous land use is primarily golf course with a small section being commercial (tree nursery).

Scale: 1"=400'



Date: October 22, 2009
 Planning & Development: AEP/ACT

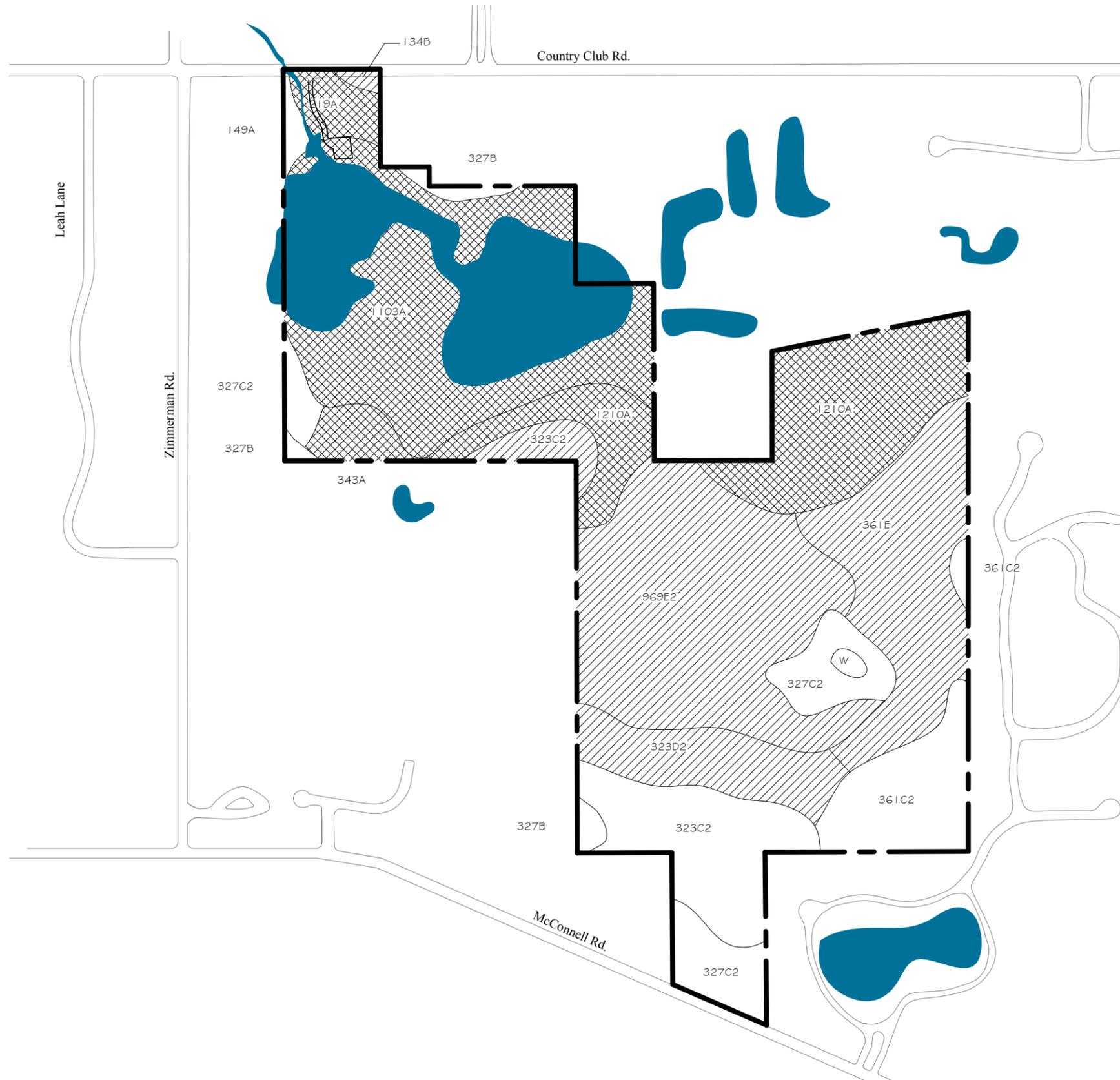
Site Analysis - Existing Conditions

Dufield Pond
 CONSERVATION AREA
 WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

McHenry County
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 18410 U.S. Highway 14 Woodstock, IL 60098
 815.338.6223 www.MCCDDistrict.org



-  SOILS WITH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 149A: Brenton Silt Loam: 0-2% Slope
Landform: Outwash Plains, Stream Terraces and Till Plains
Position On Landform: Footslopes
 - 323C2: Casco Loam: 4-6% Slope
Landform: Stream Terraces, Kames, Moraines and Outwash Plains
Position On Landform: Backslopes and Shoulders
 - 327B: Fox Loam: 6-12% Slope
Landform: Stream Terraces, Moraines, Kames and Outwash Plains
Position On Landform: Backslopes
 - 327C2: Fox Silt Loam: 4-6% Slope, Eroded
Landform: Stream Terraces, Kames, Outwash Plains and Moraines
Position On Landform: Backslopes and Shoulders
 - 361C2: Kidder Loam: 4-6% Slope, Eroded
Landform: Moraines
Position On Landform: Summits, Shoulders and Backslopes
-  SOILS WITH LIMITED DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 134B: Camden Silt Loam: 2-5% Slope
Landform: Outwash Plains and Stream Terraces
Position On Landform: Summits, Shoulders and Backslopes
 - 323D2: Casco Loam: 6-12% Slope
Landform: Stream Terraces, Kames, Moraines and Outwash Plains
Position On Landform: Backslopes and Shoulders
 - 361E: Kidder Loam: 12-20% Slope
Landform: Moraines
Position On Landform: Backslopes
 - 969E2: Casco-Rodman Complex: 12-20% Slope, Eroded
Landform: Stream Terraces, Kames, Outwash Plains and Moraines
Position On Landform: Backslopes
-  SOILS WITH SEVERLY LIMITED DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 219A: Millbrook Silt Loam: 0-2% Slope
Landform: Outwash Plains, Stream Terraces and Till Plains
Position On Landform: Footslopes
 - 343A: Kane Silt Loam: 0-2% Slope
Landform: Outwash Plains, Stream Terraces and Kames
Position On Landform: Footslopes
 - 1103A: Houghton Muck: 0-2% Slope
Landform: Moraines, Outwash Plains and Stream Terraces
Position On Landform: Depressions
 - 1210A: Lena Muck: 0-2% Slope, Undrained
Landform: Moraines, Outwash Plains and Stream Terraces
Position On Landform: Depressions



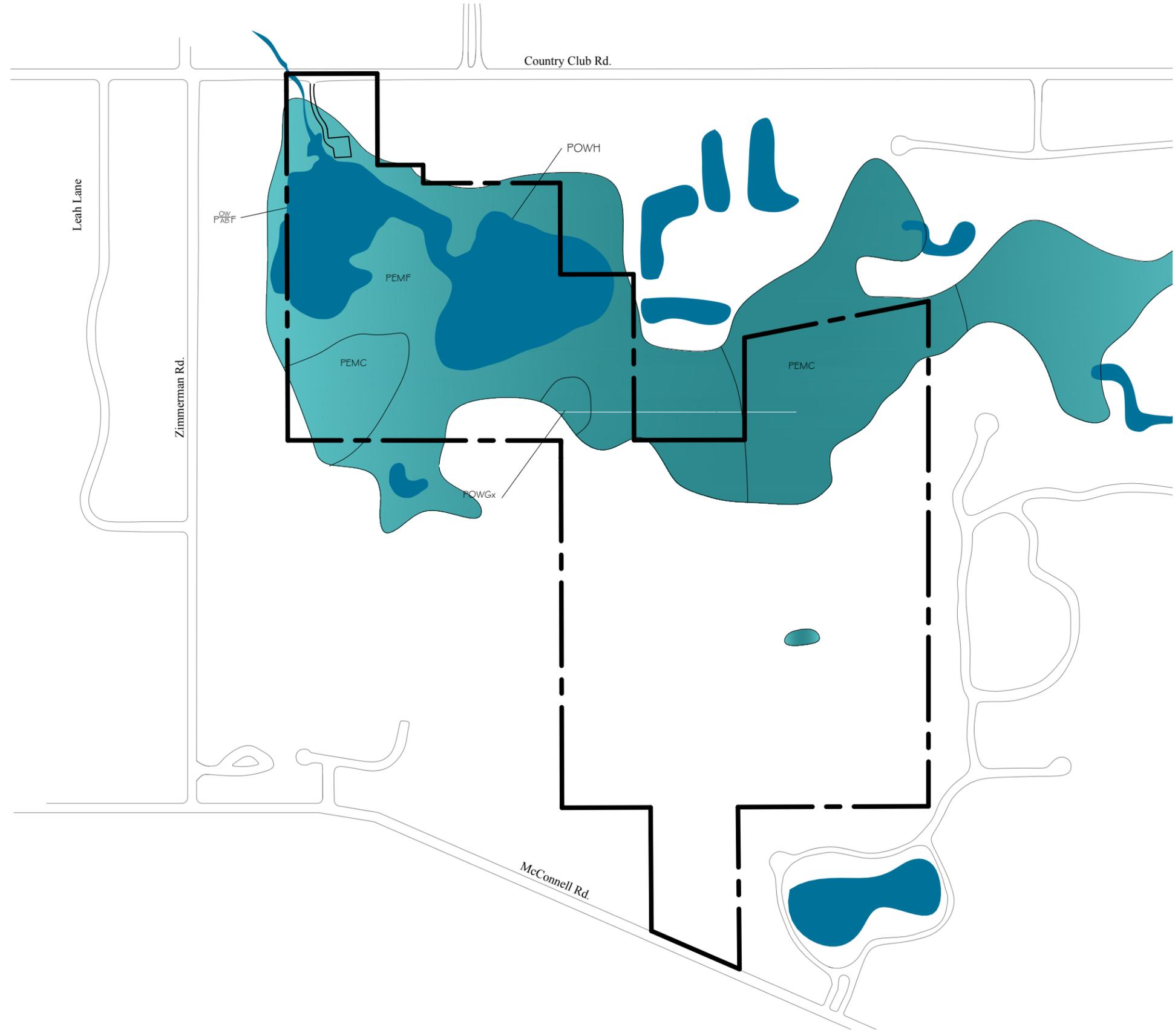
Site Analysis - Soils

Dufield Pond
 CONSERVATION AREA
 WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

McHenry County
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 18410 U.S. Highway 14 Woodstock, IL 60098
 815.338.6923 www.MCCDistrict.org



- CLASSIFIED WETLANDS**
- PEMC: Palustrine, Emergent, Seasonal
 - POW: Palustrine, Open Water / Aquatic Bed, Semipermanent
 - PEMF: Palustrine, Emergent, Semipermanent
 - POWH: Palustrine, Open Water, Permanent
 - POWGx: Palustrine, Open Water, Intermittently Exposed, Excavated



Scale: 1" = 400'

NORTH

Date: October 22, 2009
Planning & Development: AEP/ACT

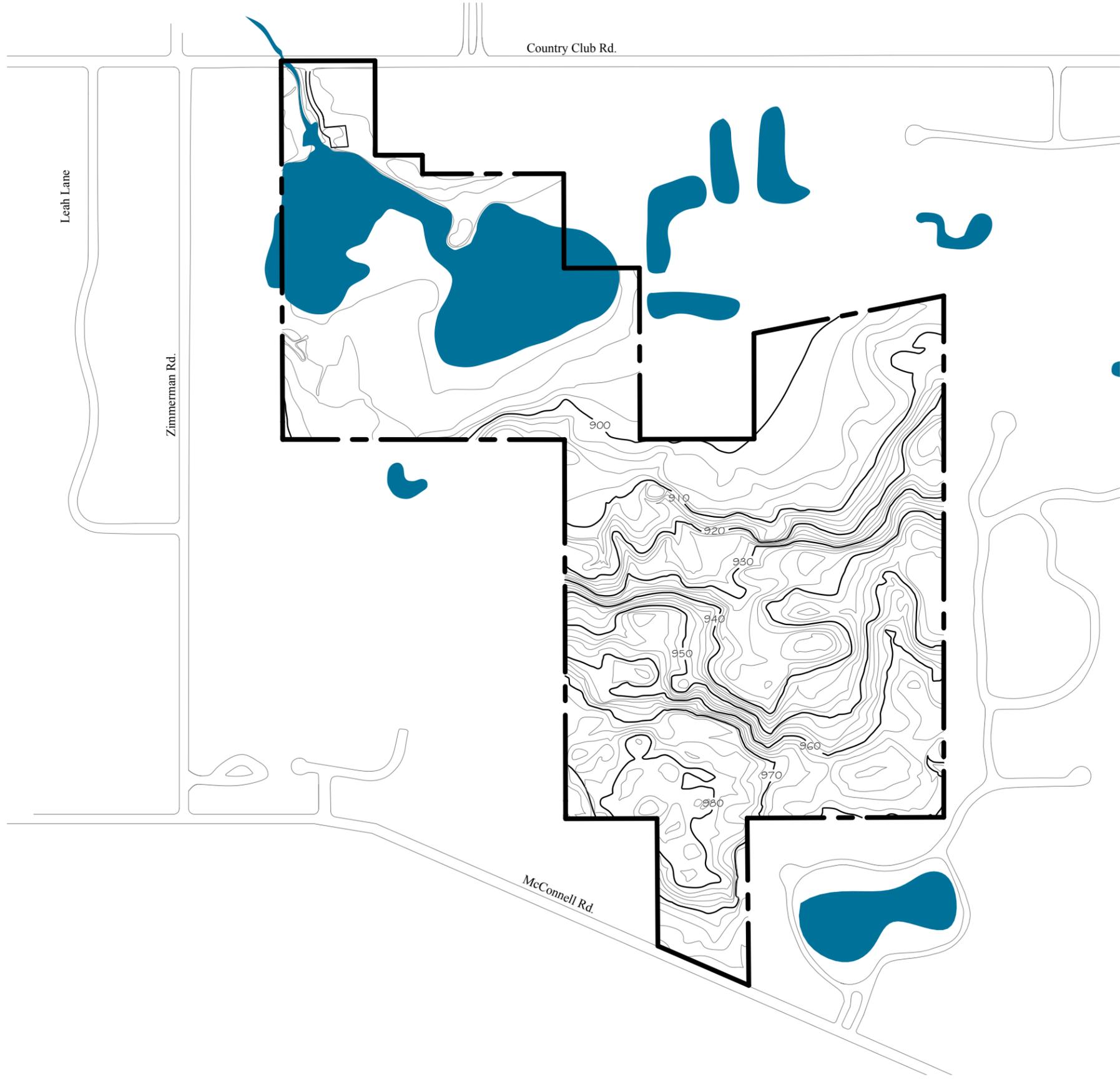
Site Analysis - Hydrology

Dufield Pond
CONSERVATION AREA
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

McHenry County
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
18410 U.S. Highway 14 Woodstock, IL 60098
815.338.6223 www.MCCDistrict.org



— 10 Foot Contour Lines
 - - - 2 Foot Contour Lines



McHenry County
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 18410 U.S. Highway 14 Woodstock, IL 60098
 815.338.6223 www.MCCDistrict.org

Site Analysis - Topography

Dufield Pond
 CONSERVATION AREA
 WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS



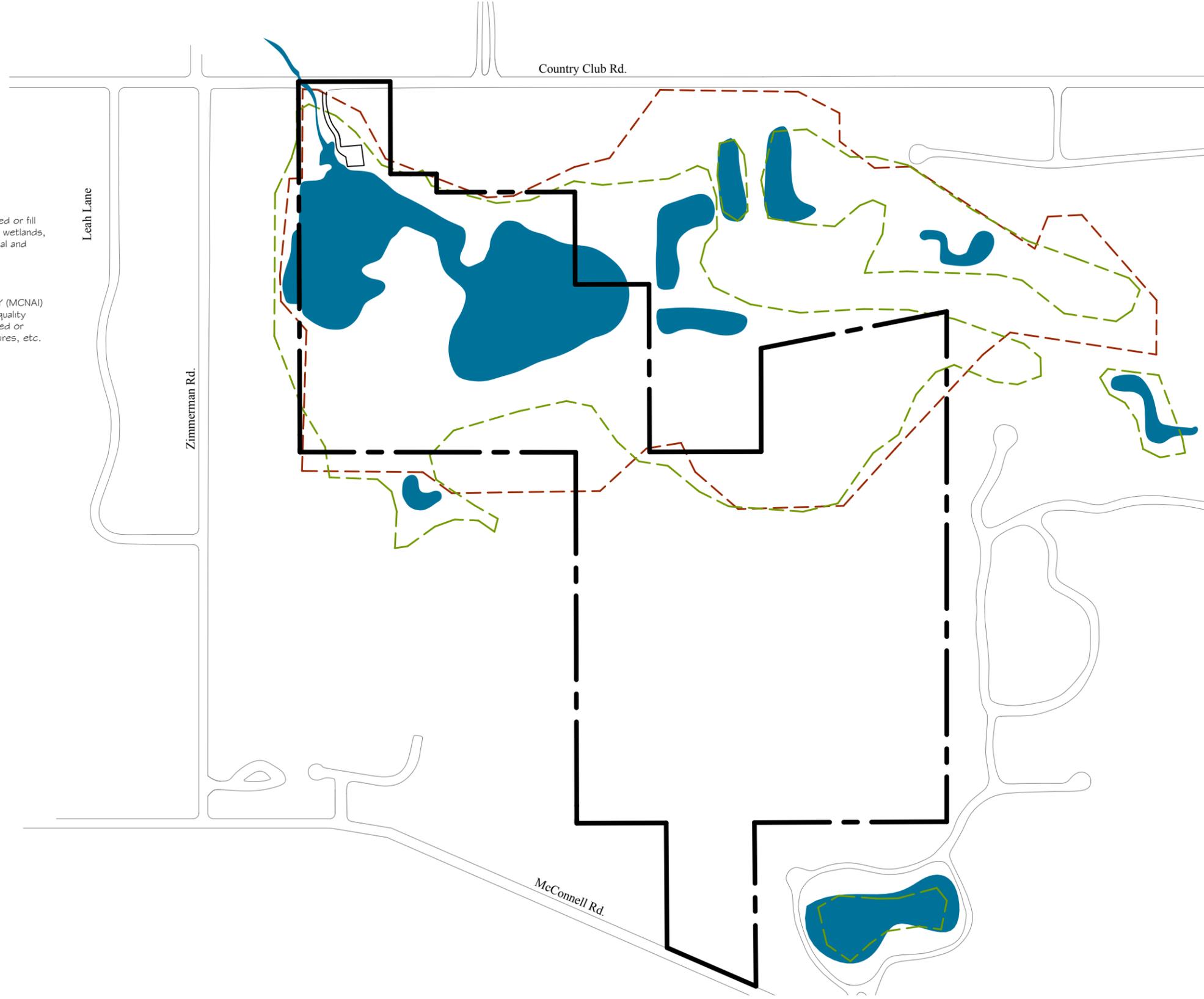
Scale: 1"=400'

Date: October 22, 2009
 Planning & Development: AEP/ACT

 ADVANCED IDENTIFICATION WETLAND (ADID)
 designation of unsuitability for disposal of dredged or fill material that is applied to certain sites, including wetlands, lakes and streams, exhibiting high quality biological and habitat function

 ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY (INAI)
 MCHENRY COUNTY NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY (MCNAI)
 designation that shows the site(s) contain; high quality natural communities, specific habitat of endangered or threatened species, outstanding geological features, etc.

Bull Valley Golf Course Wetland:
 INAI - yes
 MCNAI - yes
 ADID - Yes



Scale: 1"=400'



Date: October 22, 2009
 Planning & Development: AEP/ACT

Site Analysis - Natural Communities

Dufield Pond
 CONSERVATION AREA

WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS



18410 U.S. Highway 14 Woodstock, IL 60098
 815.338.6223 www.MCCDistrict.org

The McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance states that all bodies of water with a total surface area of 2.5 acres or greater shall have a minimum buffer width of 50 feet. The ordinance goes on to say that water bodies that have been designated as high quality habitat site (hqhs), etc.... by the McHenry County ADID procedure shall have a minimum buffer width of 100 feet.

McHenry County Natural Areas Inventory (MCNAI) is a classification of land and water that contains biological, ecological, geological, or aquatic significance to the county. The Dufield - McConnell Conservation Area contains the Bull Valley Golf Course Wetlands, a site that contains high quality wetland communities and bird species.

Advanced Identification (ADID) is a federal advanced identification of an area that is generally unsuitable for dredging or fill material. This ADID designation of unsuitability is advisory, not regulatory. In McHenry County ADID designation is applied to wetlands, lakes, and streams that exhibit exceptionally high quality biological and habitat functions. The Dufield pond and surrounding wetlands are identified as a high quality habitat site (hqhs).

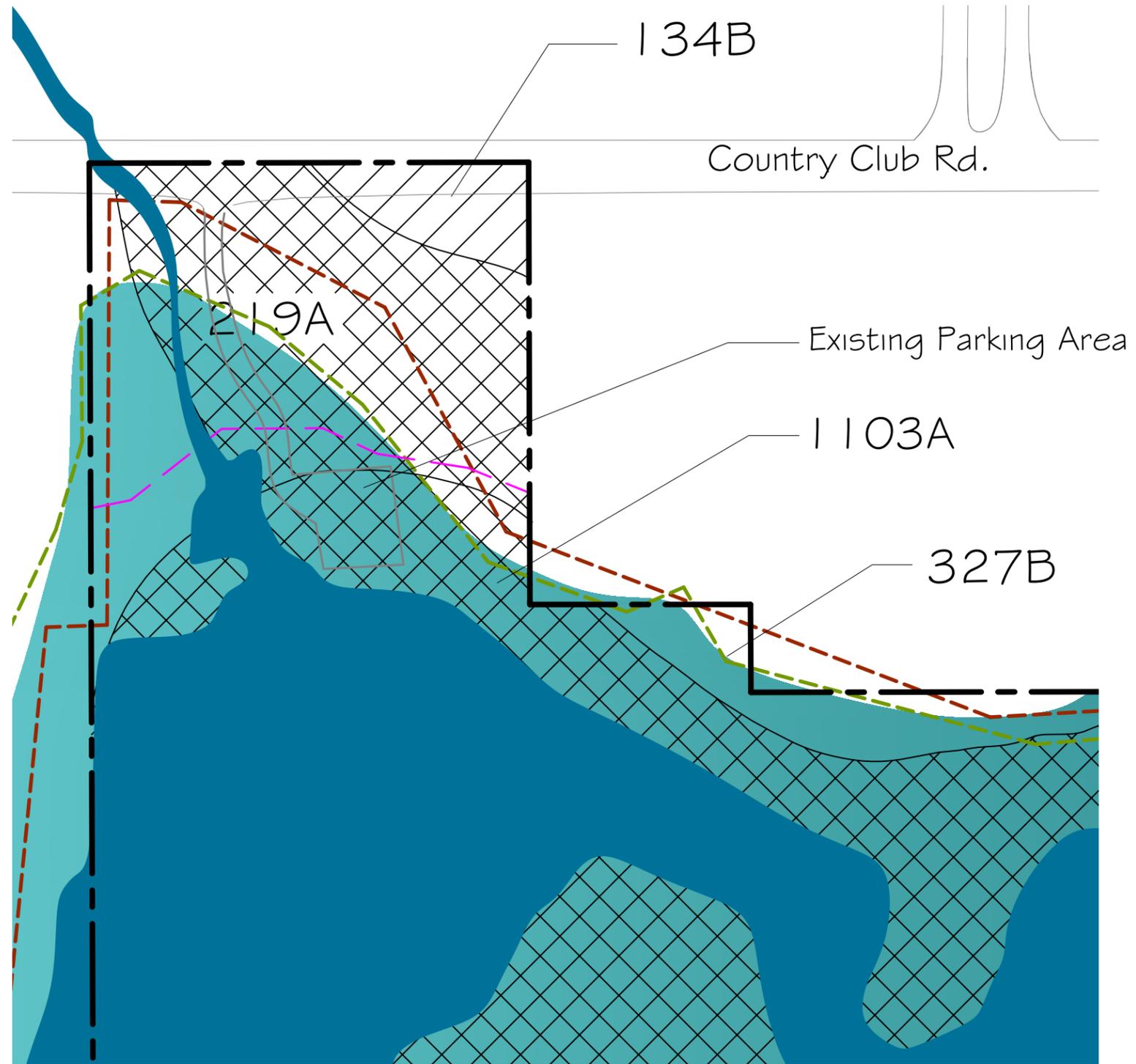
219A Millbrook Silt Loam 0 - 2% slope
 Landform: outwash plains, stream terraces, till plains
 Position on Landform: footslopes

From a recreational use standpoint, which includes; camping, picnicking, and hiking, 219A contain *moderate to severe* limitations. From a site development standpoint, which includes; shallow excavation, roads, and parking lots, 219A contains *severe* limitations. These limitations are unfavorable and can be overcome or alleviated through soil reclamation, special design, intensive maintenance, or limited use.

1103A Houghton Muck 0 - 2% slope
 Landform: moraines, outwash plains, stream terraces
 Position on Landform: depressions

This soil from a recreational use and development standpoint is more unfavorable than the 219A.

-  100 Ft. Buffer
-  MCNAI Boundary
-  ADID Boundary
-  Severely Limited Soils



Development and Management Program

Goals

The Dufield Pond Conservation Area encompasses three key aspects relating to the resource base and its intended use. The first is to preserve the diverse natural resource base opportunities of the area. The second is to enhance and provide recreational opportunities that promote an awareness, understanding and appreciation of the site's unique characteristics. The third is to promote 'best practice' methods of development through site specific design and construction.

Objectives

- Continue carrying out integrated cultural and resource management practices to promote a balance between natural communities, ecosystem functions and processes, recreational opportunities, aesthetic values, wildlife habitat and educational activities.
- Protect and preserve those species of wildlife inhabiting the conservation area, especially those that are endangered, threatened or otherwise rare in Illinois.
- Provide a balance of outdoor recreational opportunities, which are compatible to the sensitive resources on the site, as well as fulfill grant requirements.
- Provide recreational opportunities and facilities for individuals with physical and sensory disabilities.
- Mitigate impacts to the water resources from pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Major Site Constraints and Concerns

1. The sites high quality, diverse natural resources are in need of continual attention and management.
2. Establish good relations with adjacent property owners, maintain their privacy and rights while monitoring for encroachments onto the Conservation District site.
3. Extremely small developable footprint off of Country Club Rd.
4. Close proximity of existing gravel parking lot to water's edge.
5. Small developable footprint off of McConnell Rd.
6. Extensive wetlands that surround the pond inhibit access between the northern and southern portions of the site.
7. Bank erosion and impacts to shoreline and habitat from existing recreational uses.
8. Managing water levels for native flora and fauna.
9. Onsite and offsite discharges including: stormwater, greywater, septic, gas, oil, etc. that may impact the natural resources.

Planning and Development Recommendations

Overall Site Usage

- Primary focus of the site is "Recreation".
- Provide both pedestrian and vehicular site access.
- Offer recreation opportunities and facilities for smaller sized groups.
- Ensure that site features such as: trails, buildings, parking, roads, etc. are in keeping with the focus of education, natural resources, and site security.

Security / Circulation / Vehicular Access and Parking

- Continued use of (gated) ingress / egress access point off of Country Club Rd. for vehicular access.
- Relocate existing parking lot further back from the water's edge towards Country Club Rd.
- Offer pedestrian access off of Country Club Rd. pending on a cooperative effort with Dorr Township for a sidewalk extension along Country Club Rd.
- Provide (gated) ingress / egress access point off of McConnell Rd. for vehicular access.

Recreational Opportunities

- Provide ADA access to general site amenities.
- Provide a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile loop trail on the south side of the property.
- Provide controlled access to the pond for fishing in the form of an elevated boardwalk.
- Provide permanent site amenities at both parking lot locations.

Natural Resources / Management

- Continue with the Natural Resource Management plan currently in progress.
- Clear underbrush and vines within the upland areas to open up views.
- Conduct shoreline stabilization and enhancement along the north side of pond.

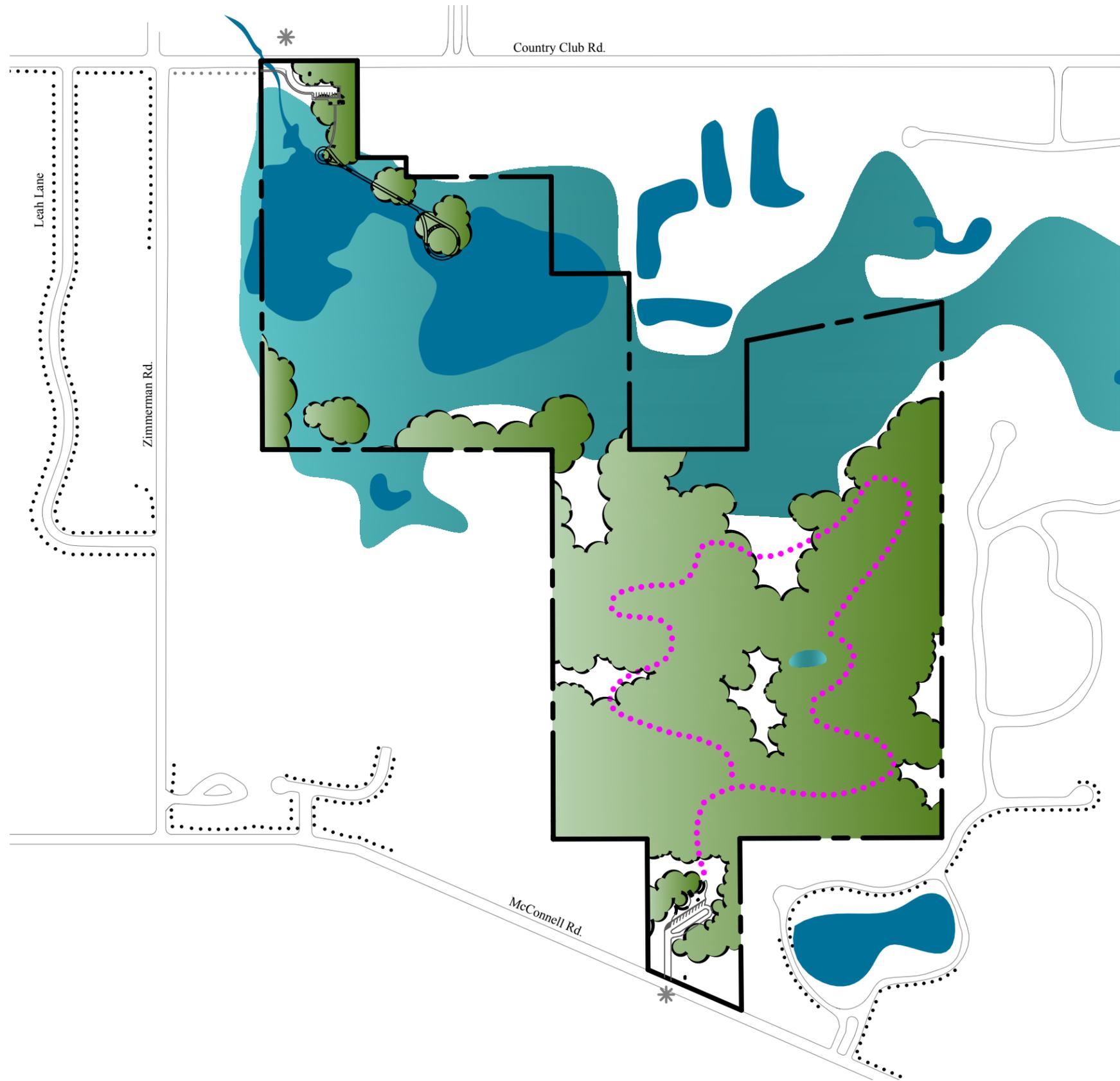
Education / Historical / Interpretive Opportunities

- Interpret three (3) specific natural resources of the site: 1. Kettle Pond (Dufield Pond) 2. Ephemeral Pond 2. Oak Woodland.
- Provide for small group education programs.

Dufield Pond Conservation Area

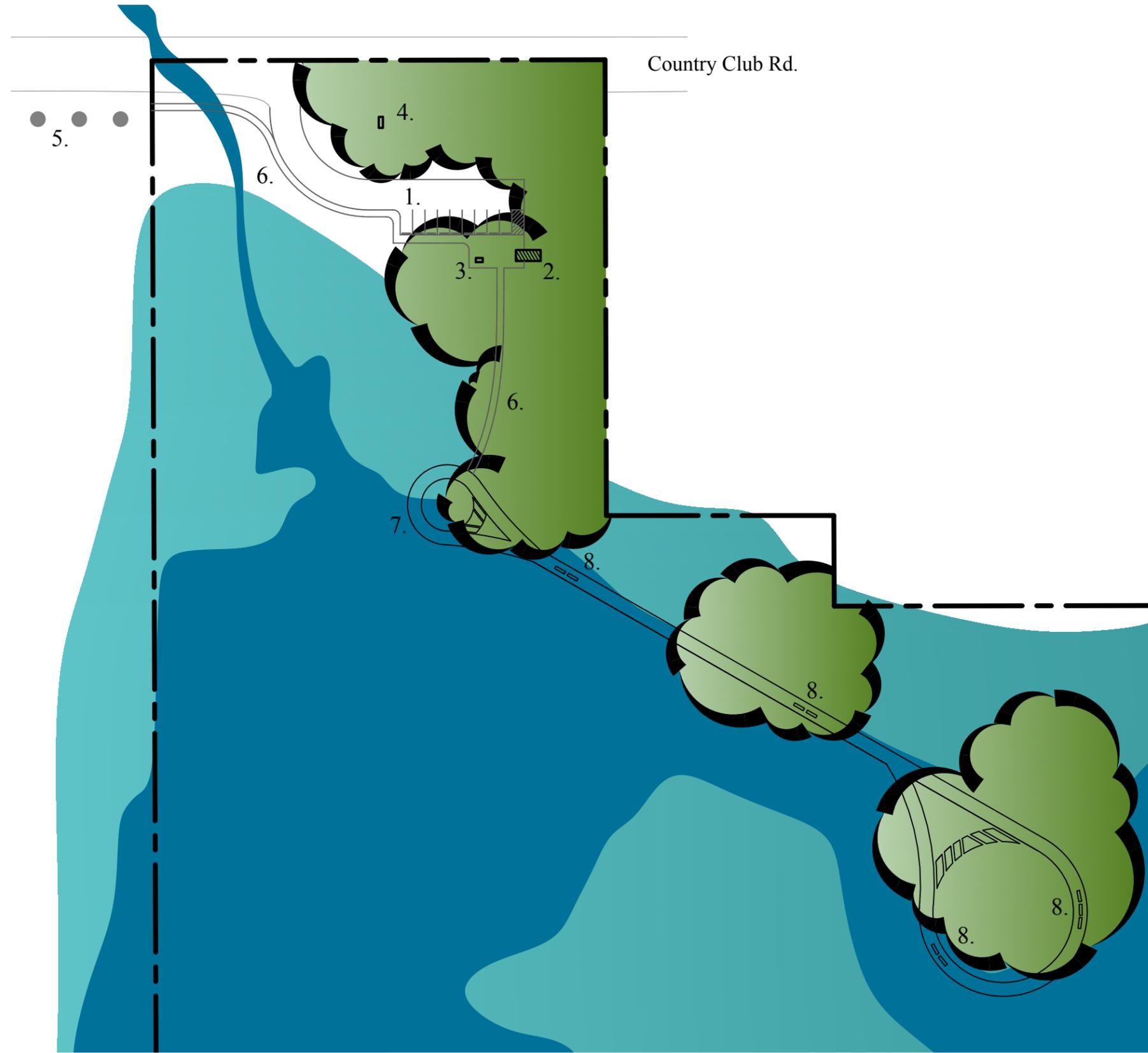
The proposed plan attempts to improve upon existing public access and recreation, develop new public access and recreation opportunities while balancing the site's natural resources. The plan utilizes the existing access point off Country Club Rd. for continued vehicular access as well as a newly proposed pedestrian access point. The parking lot will be relocated further from the ponds edge and reduced in overall surface area to help mitigate impacts to the natural resources. A municipal sidewalk is proposed along Country Club Rd. to link the Conservation Area to an existing complex of sidewalks to the west. Additional proposed improvements to the Country Club Rd. access will consist of a restroom, ADA access, fishing boardwalk and informational kiosk. The fishing boardwalk will allow users to safely and more sensitively access the shoreline for recreational purposes. New public access and amenities are proposed off of McConnell Rd. This access point will allow public the opportunity to utilize the southern half of this Conservation Area. The proposed parking lot and supportive amenities will be situated to allow for an effort to recreate and visually pull the existing woodland further south into the empty field where the new development is proposed. The McConnell Rd. development will accommodate approximately 10 vehicles, a restroom, ADA access, seating areas and trail head. The new trail head will offer users a challenging 3/4 mile nature trail that traverses the site's steep topography with views throughout the woodland, wetland complex and pond.

- ● ● ● ● Existing Sidewalks
- ● ● ● ● Proposed Sidewalk
- ● ● ● ● Proposed Nature Trail
- * Site Access
- Pond
- Wetland
- Woodland Canopy



Dufield Pond Conservation Area

- 1. 9 Vehicle Parking Lot
- 2. Restroom
- 3. Informational Kiosk
- 4. Entrance Sign
- 5. Municipal Sidewalk Extension
- 6. MCCD Sidewalk / Trail
- 7. Boardwalk
- 8. Benches



Scale: NTS



Date: November 19, 2009
 Planning & Development: AEP/ACT

Final Plan- Country Club Rd. Access

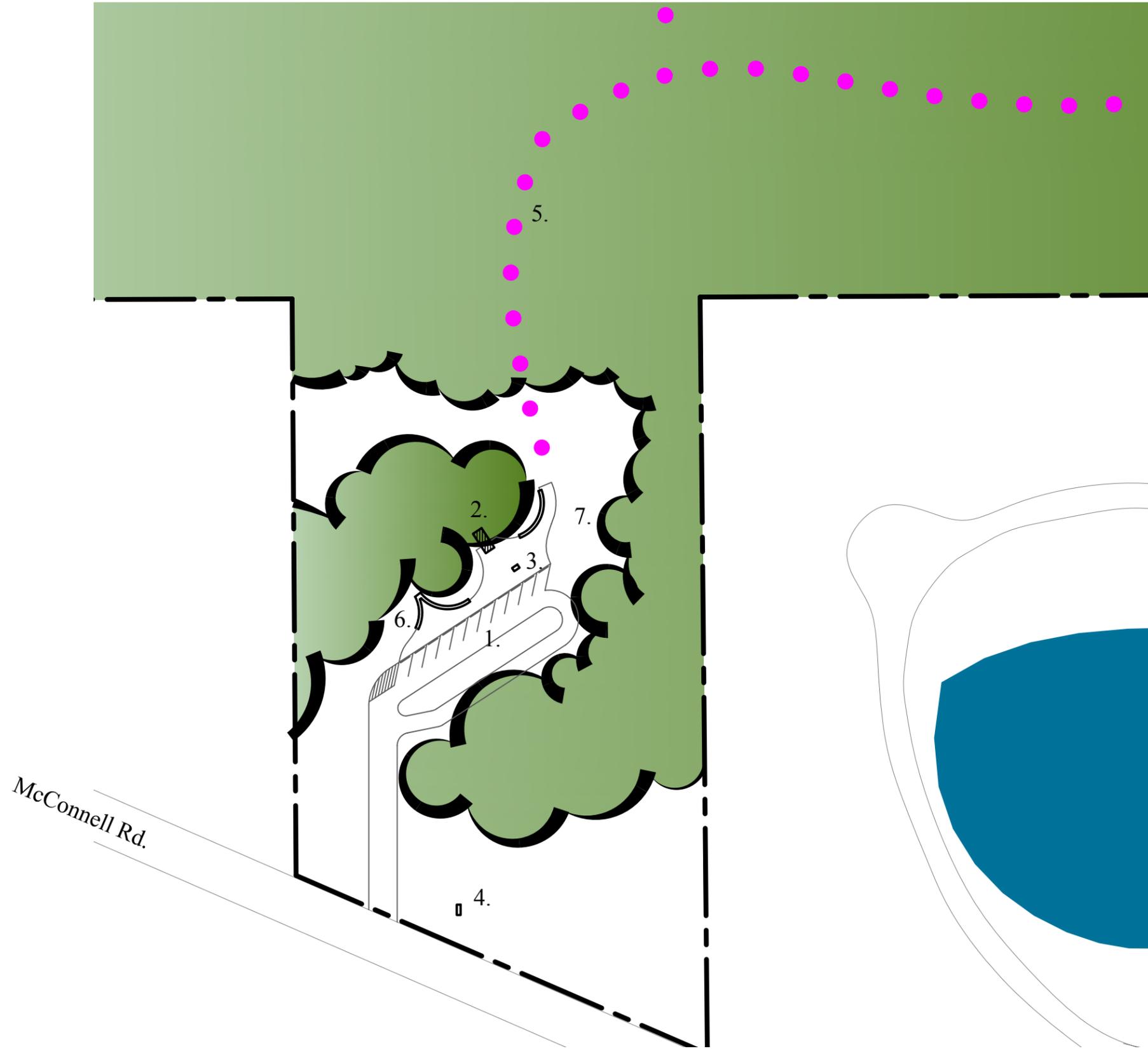
Dufield Pond
 CONSERVATION AREA
 WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

McHenry County
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 18410 U.S. Highway 14 Woodstock, IL 60098
 815.338.6223 www.MCCDistrict.org



Dufield Pond Conservation Area

1. 11 Vehicle Parking Lot
2. Restroom
3. Informative Kiosk
4. Entrance Sign
5. Nature Trail
6. Benches
7. Turf Area



Scale: NTS



Date: November 19, 2009
Planning & Development: AEP/ACT

Final Plan - McConnell Rd. Access

Dufield Pond
CONSERVATION AREA
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

McHenry County
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
18410 U.S. Highway 14 Woodstock, IL 60098
815.338.6223 www.MCCDistrict.org



Implementation

Phase I addresses existing safety and security issues of the site as well as professional service and regulatory processes specifically for preparation of grant related items and continued natural resource management.

Actions:

- a. Removal of debris and addressing encroachments from surrounding neighbors.
- b. Engineering, Permitting, Soil Borings, Archaeology Survey, etc.
- c. Per NRM Management Plan – natural resource restoration and management.

Phase II includes restoration efforts to prepare and stabilize site for major public development projects

Actions:

- a. Shoreline restoration, tree and brush removal, woodland enhancement.
- b. Boardwalk
- c. Parking Lots
- d. Per NRM Management Plan – natural resource restoration and management.

Phase III includes all other development projects as well as management programs, resource management, public use, recreational opportunities. The site objectives are achieved to the fullest degree for opening of all trails and amenities.

Actions:

- a. Restrooms
- b. Benches
- c. ADA Access
- d. Informational kiosk / signage
- e. Develop hiking trail
- f. Landscaping
- g. Per NRM Management Plan - natural resource restoration and management.

Estimate of Possible Costs

*The proposed costs listed below are only estimates. Not to be used for final budget. Actual amounts may vary due to final design parameters, bid letting procedures and length of project implementations.

	DUFIELD SIDE	McCONNELL SIDE
<u>PHASE ONE:</u>		
Engineering Fees	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Archaeology Study	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Debris Removal	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Permitting	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Geo Technical / Structural Fees	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
Subtotal	\$ 30,500.00	\$ 12,500.00
<u>PHASE TWO:</u>		
Shoreline Restoration	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -
Natural Resource / Landscape Restoration	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 85,000.00
Boardwalk	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -
Parking Lot	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
Subtotal	\$ 639,000.00	\$ 160,000.00
<u>PHASE THREE:</u>		
Restroom	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 37,000.00
Informational Kiosk / Signage	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 34,000.00
Nature Trail	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
Benches	\$ -	\$ 13,300.00
Sidewalk / ADA Access	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 76,000.00
Landscaping	\$ 11,300.00	\$ 16,600.00
Subtotal	\$ 145,300.00	\$ 180,900.00
TOTALS	\$ 814,800.00	\$ 353,400.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,168,200.00	

Dufield Pond Site Master Planning Schedule
McHenry County Conservation District

1. Citizens Advisory Committees Site Tour:
Saturday, March 14, 2009, 10:30 to 12:30p.m. on site.
2. Kick-off Stakeholder Planning Session:
Monday, March 16, 2009, Brookdale, MCCD Main Office
1:00 to 3:30p.m. Dufield Pond session
3. The MCCD Planning & Development Department presents the Draft Plan to Internal Communication & Coordination Committee and Leadership Team:
Tuesday, June 16, 2009, 9:30a.m. Leadership Team
Wednesday, June 17, 2009, 10:00a.m. Internal Comm. & Coord. Committee
4. Stakeholder Planning Session Group is assembled to review the Draft Plan:
Thursday, June 25, 2009, Brookdale, MCCD Main Office
1:00 to 3:30p.m. Dufield Pond session
5. Website viewing-comment period to review the Draft Plan:
June 29 – July 16, 2009
6. Public viewing of Draft Plan:
Thursday, July 16, 2009, 4:00 to 6:00p.m. at Brookdale, MCCD Main Office
7. Draft Plan presented to the Board of Trustees:
Thursday, July 16, 2009, 7:30p.m.
8. Preliminary Master Plan presented to the Board of Trustees:
Thursday, October 22, 2009, 7:00p.m. at Brookdale, MCCD Main Office
9. Public viewing of Preliminary Master Plan:
Thursday, November 19, 2009, 4:00 – 6:00p.m. at Brookdale, MCCD Main Office
10. Final Master Plans presented to the Board of Trustees:
Thursday, November 19, 2009, 7:00p.m. at Brookdale, MCCD Main Office

McHenry County Conservation District
Dufield Pond Conservation Area

Planning Session Minutes
Monday, March 16, 2009

Planning and Development (P&D) welcomed attendees to Planning Session and all attendees introduced themselves.

P&D gave an overview of the McHenry County Conservation District, its mission and vision.

P&D explained Master Plan process, expectations and history.

P&D presented site analysis and site history before opening up the discussion to hear attendee's comments regarding specifically both regional and local needs as well as site opportunities.

Summation of Comments

A majority of the group expressed that the McConnell Woods should be opened up for public access of some sort. The beauty of the site should be available and accessible for all residents. The development and implementation of trails and additional amenities should be restricted in size and done in a manner that impacts the resources in the least. Possible recreation of the site would include; canoeing, limited hiking trails with respect to adjacent neighbors' privacy and fishing. Numerous member of the group agreed that the site should undergo brush cutting and clearing of the invasives among the oaks. These members would like to see through the oak woodland and restore the woodland to its pre-invasive look.

A small minority believes that the site is being damaged by site users and the increase in access and recreation would have a negative impact to the site. Sensitive habitats and natural systems will suffer as well as a "pushing off" of existing wildlife through the introduction and increase of public access.

A handful of individuals believe that by opening more of the site up for additional access vandalism and other problems will lessen through self monitoring of the site by users and neighbors vested interest.

Adjacent homeowners have concerns with the possibility of an access off of McConnell Rd. bringing additional traffic to the area along with additional runoff to the site from Bull Valley Golf Club and Bull Valley Villas. An individual ask for consideration of making the site dog free.

P&D finished the session with thanking the group for coming and participating. The group was reminded about the next meeting to review a draft plan.

McHenry County Conservation District
Dufield Pond Conservation Area

Planning Session Minutes
Thursday, June 25, 2009

Planning and Development (P&D) welcomed attendees to Planning Session and all attendees introduced themselves.
P&D reviewed additional analysis and presented concept plans before opening up the session for comments.

Concept 1 Comments

People will park on Country Club Rd. and create a dangerous situation for other drives
How will fishermen manage to carry all their gear to the pond?
Continue to provide the Country Club Rd. vehicle access point simply shift the parking lot closer to the road.
Dutch Crest has flooding issues currently with their pond, concern with development area off McConnell would add to flooding of their subdivision.
Relocate existing parking lot closer to Country Club Rd.
The proposed parking off of McConnell Rd. is appropriate.
The hiking trail will erode due to thin soils and steep slopes, how will MCCD mitigate these problems?
The section of Country Club Rd. where a sidewalk is proposed is within the Township.
Do not allow dirt bike usage on this site.
Keep trails away from edges to eliminate interference with neighbors

Summation of Comments

A few individuals suggested that Country Club access remain for vehicles; rather mitigate some of the environmental impacts by locating the parking lot closer to Country Club Rd.

Concept 2 Comments

Do not provide pedestrian access from the subdivisions on the east side. General public will find these access points and disturb the secluded feeling to the subdivision.
No access to site from subdivisions
Neighbors are concerned that pedestrian access points will create an area where mischief will occur.
Stop the hiking trail short of the pond and create an overlook, rather than boardwalk all the way to the water's edge.
The hike to the pond for fishing is long.
Dutch Crest has flooding issues currently with their pond, concern with development area off McConnell would add to flooding of their subdivision.
Keep trails away from edges to eliminate interference with neighbors
What is the possibility of connecting the north and south with a boardwalk through the center of the site?

Summation of Comments

Neighbors to the east were in complete agreement that pedestrian access into the site from their respective subdivisions should not be proposed.

P&D finished the session with thanking the group for coming and participating. The group was reminded about the upcoming schedule and how the process would continue from here.

Draft Plan Comments
Public & Staff

Comments generated through plan reviews from website viewing and open house.

*Comments have not been altered in any way from the original submissions to the Planning & Development Department.

Dufield Pond: Concept 2 looks like it will offer the nicest recreational use of the site – though the reduced pond access may disappoint anglers. Concept 2 could be problematic if users try to create their own paths to the other side to gain pond access. But, I’m not entirely convinced users would responsibly travel the sidewalk to gain access to the ‘pedestrian’ entrance in Concept 1.

I vote for the revised access that would provide entry to Dufield Pond off McConnell Road, rather than the present format providing entrance off Country Club Road.

I like consolidating all of the access to McConnell Road even though it means a longer walk for the fisherman as this will reduce user and neighbor interaction that we currently have, allows for bathrooms for users rather than a port-a-john (although some will still use the cattails) and creates the more natural setting.... They have to travel through nature and are more controlled. It would be nice to keep the northern access for the lunch fisherman but I believe the controlled access away from neighbor’s property is more important in the long run.

(Paraphrasing a verbal comment)

Inquired about pedestrian access point for Dutch Crest residents. Would recommend removing access point from Concept 2. The proposed point would ingress/egress on his property and result in the possibility of bringing additional traffic to the ‘one-way’ road within the subdivision.

The attached signatures were collected at a “Bull Valley Villas” block party. It may be a duplicate, but we wanted to be sure you received it.

I’ve reviewed the two Dufield-McConnell Conservation Area concepts but I lack on-site knowledge of the areas in question.

I favor Concept 2 for the following reasons:

I don’t see how Concept 1 allows me to access the pond because there is no place for me to park my car. Concept One’s sidewalk access off Country Club is useless to me unless there is a place for me to park.

I like the Concept 2 plan because I can access both the pond and the hiking area from the same parking area.

I do not know how many of the neighbors have actually sent in the sheets I copied for them, but the consensus is, as they expressed to me, the entrance should be closed completely. The walk in for fishing concept, while wonderful for the locals, would be difficult for the folks already used to driving there. They would wind up parking on the road. This would be problematic for traffic, especially on the weekends.

Also, with fishing available at the McConnell Rd side of the pond, it would incorporate fisherman, hikers, birdwatchers, etc. all at one location and would be more carefully monitored because the concentration of people is that much larger.

We are all concerned for the wildlife using the woods. The family of Herons and Harriers that have been here for many generations along with the coyotes and other wildlife will be disrupted by the opening of the woods. The idea of taking down trees still scares us. We have seen how the past work has been done, with no consideration to the wildlife that used those trees for food and shelter. We are hopeful your group will be more considerate than the past group.

Lastly I would like to thank Amy, you seem to really care about the land and wildlife.

I am hoping this will turn out to be a wonderful marriage of people enjoying the land, as well as the wildlife still being able to live her at peace.

I really like the concept #1 of having walk-in pedestrian access via sidewalks for nearby Woodstock residents.

As a resident of the Dutch Crest subdivision I have concerns about noise, traffic and security issues. Because the conservation area is inside the city limits of Woodstock I would expect that the picnic area and parking lot would be in use many weekends throughout the spring summer and fall. Many of my neighbors homes and back yards are immediately next to the area you have designated for parking and picnics. This could easily become a nuisance to residents of Dutch Crest due to traffic and noise levels.

I like the idea of hiking trails access to the south side of Dufield pond. However it is a huge security issue to realize that someone could park in the lot off of McConnell road and have access to the rear of our Dutch Crest homes under the cover of woods. The plans do not tell me how far the trails will be from the back of our homes.

Plan 2 indicates that the trail will come into Dutch Crest with the public being able to enter and leave the trails by walking through my neighbors property. How can this be? Additionally I have concerns over parking and traffic issues on the already narrow one-way street in Dutch Crest if the public chooses to enter the trails by way of this access.

Because of the ongoing gang problems in our area at Prairie View apartments and the Applewood subdivision, I am concerned that this conservation area will become a gathering spot for gang activity and drug traffic.

I am opposed to any public picnic areas for the reasons stated. I am in favor if hiking trails although I would like to know how close they will come to our property lines. I would like to know why you would allow public access to the trails by way of my neighbors property. I want to know how you are addressing the security issues including use of the conservation area by gangs in our area.

Thanks for the opportunity to give input.

I have reviewed both plans and am in favor of Plan 2. I live in Dutch Crest Subdivision which borders the east boundary and truly love the trail access that I would have with Plan 2. What a great idea. Thank you.

Concept 1: Move existing parking lot off Country Club Rd. further north along Country Club Rd.
Concept 2: No access trails to subdivisions, parking in lot off McConnell Rd.

(Comments via phone call)

I would not want to see any expansion to the recreation activities that occur at Dufield Pond.
I want to see something to help curtail trespassing which occurs on the east (northeast) side at the pond.

Preliminary Plan Comments Public & Staff

Comments generated through preliminary plan reviews from website viewing and open house.
*Comments have not been altered in any way from the original submission to the Planning & Development Department.

The mission of the McHenry County Conservation District is Preservation, Education, and Recreation of natural areas. The Dufield Pond / McConnell Woods site gives the District the opportunity to balance these interests on a site that is valuable to McHenry County and the State of Illinois.

The Dufield Pond Conservation Area should be renamed the Dufield Pond and McConnell Woods Conservation Area, as the District committed to do when the McConnell Woods portion of the property was acquired.

The Dufield Pond and McConnell Woods Conservation Area has unique attributes. Because the topography was formed during the Ice Age, it has much to offer researchers of prehistory. As home to early Native Americans, it contains archeological treasures. As the homestead of pioneer McHenry County families, it contains local history. With three fens and a pond, it is a unique natural site. It is vital to protect these resources and potential research.

These goals would be met by naming the site part of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Land and Water Reserve program. A conservation plan, developed cooperatively between the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the District, would allow for the Draft Plan recreational uses and also permanently protect the site. Developing a management plan would enable the District to consider and resolve issues such as intrusion by neighbors, future sale of adjoining property, safety risks posed by the high volume of industrial and truck traffic on McConnell Road, long-term management of the site, protection of a historic barn and privately owned historic homes on property adjacent to the site. It would also assist with the funding the site's development and management. Steve Byers of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission can provide assistance in preparing appropriate documentation. This level of protection is another promise that was made to the McConnell family by the District when McConnell Woods was acquired.

In conclusion, I support the District's efforts to develop the site for access by the public. I urge you, however, to incorporate into the plan the District's higher priorities of Preservation and Education of the County's resources.

This area currently gets a lot of fishing pressure due to the proximity to Woodstock. This plan emphasizes the fishing while opening additional new trails and another access area. This is good.

The proposed fishing boardwalk will allow easy access for fishing. However, there will continue to be individuals who will walk around the shore of the pond to find a more private and secluded fishing spot. Consideration might be give to developing a fishing trail that loops around the pond for this purpose. In addition changing the habitat of the water immediately next to the proposed fishing boardwalk, e.g. putting in brush piles could increase the amount of fish caught and

therefore use of the boardwalk. Finally, decreasing the limit on the fish kept and encouraging catch and release could help maintain numbers of fish caught.

It looks great. I'm happy you accommodated the Villas of Bull Valley. Pleasantly surprised. Hope you get the funding soon.

RESOLUTION #09-41

ADOPTING THE MCHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DUFIELD POND CONSERVATION AREA MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the McHenry County Conservation District was created under the Conservation District Act (70 ILCS 410 et.al.), and is hereafter referred to as "the District"; and

WHEREAS, the principle purpose of a conservation district is to, acquire in fee or a lesser right or interest, preserve and maintain wildland, other open land, scenic roadways and pathways; hold such real property, with or without public access, for the education, pleasure and recreation of the public or for other open space values; preserve portions thereof in their natural condition and undertake development of other portions thereof; manage and use such real property in such manner and with such restrictions as will leave it unimpaired for the benefit of future generations; and

WHEREAS, the affairs of a conservation district are managed by a board consisting of seven (7) trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the District has ascertained the need for preserving wildland and other open land, scenic roadways and pathways in McHenry County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees may prepare and adopt a coordinated plan of areas and facilities to meet such needs; and

WHEREAS, District staff has followed specific guidelines for the Master Planning Process as described in District Policy 900.03 approved April 18, 1991 and amended on March 20, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the final plan has been presented to the Board of Trustees for approval as provided for in Policy 900.03.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the District do hereby accept and approve the Dufield Pond Conservation Area Master Plan as presented on November 19, 2009 a copy of which will be kept on file at the District headquarters.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the McHenry County Conservation District the 19th day of November 2009.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Approved: David W. Zukne
President

Attest: Heidi Johnson
Secretary

Resolution #09-41

References

Calsyn, Dale E., *Soils of McHenry County, Illinois*, Natural Resources Conservation Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture) and Illinois Agriculture Experiment Station, National Cooperative Soil Survey, 1995.

Combination Atlas of McHenry County, Chicago: Everts, Baskins & Stewart, 1872.

Erickson, Ronald E., and Marvin E. Hubbard, *Atlas of National Wetlands Inventory and Maps in the Chicago Metro Area*, National Wetlands Inventory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Department of the Interior) and Illinois Department of Conservation, September 1992.

McHenry County Historical Society, Union, Illinois.

McHenry County Natural Areas Inventory, McHenry County Conservation District, Version 5.01, Natural Resources Management Department, March 2005.

McHenry Quadrangle, Illinois – McHenry Co., 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), State of Illinois, Department of Registration and Education, Geological Survey Division and U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 1972 Revision Edition.

McHenry S.W. Aerial Quadrangle Map, Illinois Digital Orthophoto Quadrangle Date, McHenry County, Illinois, Illinois National Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse, <http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/nsdihome/ISGSindex.html>

Natural Ecosystem Management Plan for Dufield – McConnell site, McHenry County Conservation District, Natural Resources Management Department, 2006.