NEW ALBANY

2027 CAPITAL WORKSHOP

September 15, 2026



Kitzmiller Wetland Park

BACKGROUND

Kitzmiller Wetland Park is the third destination park in the city's long-term plans, on land acquired more than a decade ago between Kitzmiller Road and US-62. Public engagement for the concept design included a community open house, an online survey, and a focus group with Senior Connections. Feedback strongly favors passive programming and natural spaces, spontaneous and intimate ways to experience nature, and leisure trail and sidewalk connections to nearby neighborhoods.

PROGRAM TOTAL

$30.88M + TBD

Proposed items; $500,000 concept plan complete

COUNCIL PRIORITY

Park Facilities

ENABLING PROJECTS

6

1 complete, 5 proposed

PROPOSED PROGRAM

The proposed program would fund design and construction of Kitzmiller Wetland Park between 2028 and 2029, and the pedestrian access work (study, design, and construction) across 2027 through 2029.

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

The concept plan is complete. The remaining work is grouped in the table and moves as one program rather than five separate requests.

ENABLING PROJECTS

ENABLING PROJECT	PHASE	COST	STATUS	YEAR
Concept Plan	Planning	$500,000	Complete	2026
Pedestrian Access Study	Study	$80,000	Proposed	2027
Design	Design	$500,000	Proposed	2028
Pedestrian Access Design	Design	$300,000	Proposed	2028
Construction	Construction	$30,000,000	Proposed	2029
Pedestrian Access Construction	Construction	TBD*	Proposed	2029
Total proposed items		**$30,880,000 + TBD**		

*Pedestrian access construction costs are pending completion of the access study. Total excludes the completed $500,000 concept plan.





KITZMILLER PARK

DESIGN UPDATE

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EXISTING CONDITIONS



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EXISTING CONDITIONS



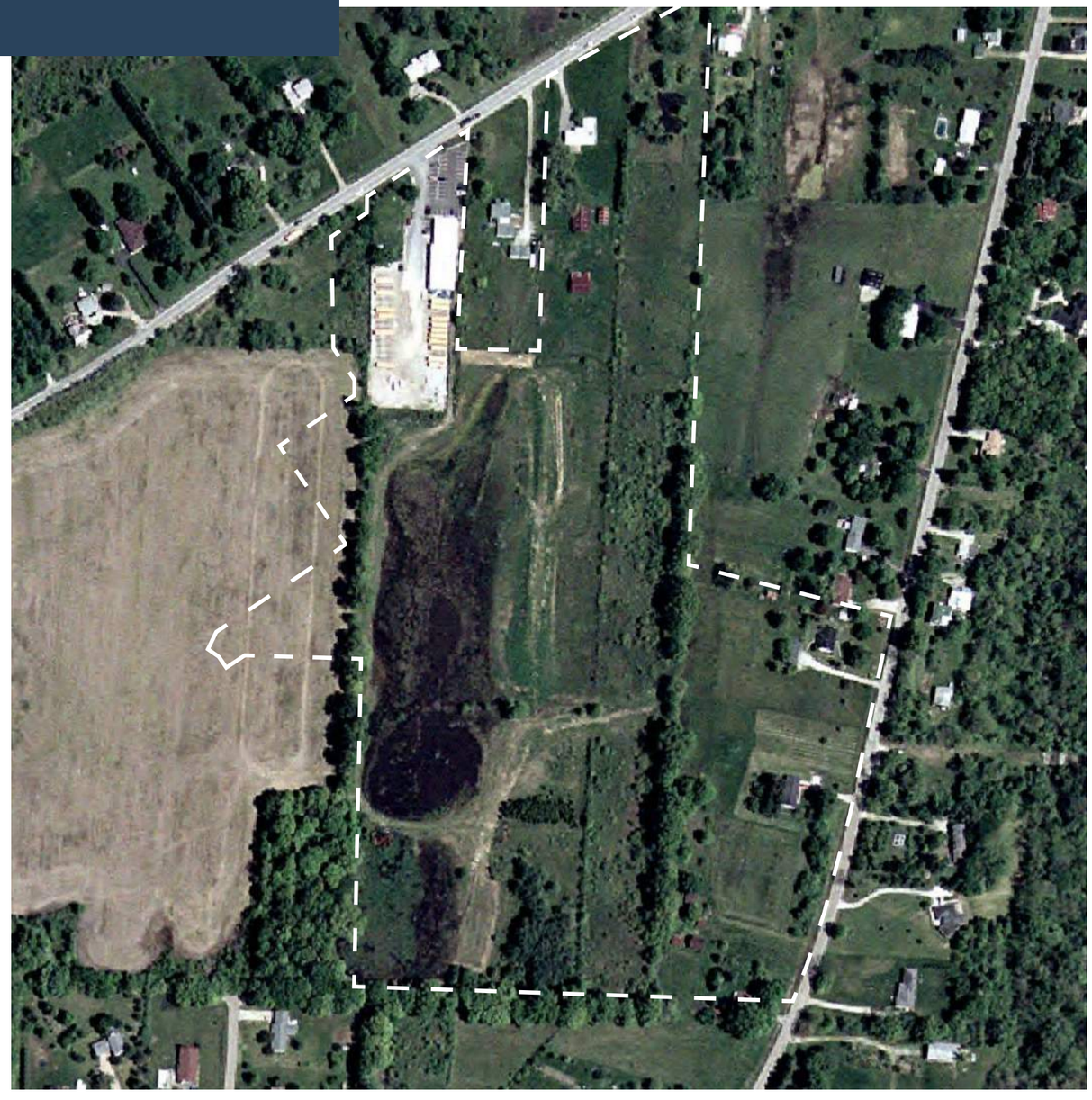
KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. ECOLOGICAL HEALTH REQUIRES REMEDIATION DUE TO INVASIVE PLANT DOMINANCE

HISTORICAL SATELLITE



1995



2002

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ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Rank	Condition	Description
A	Excellent	Existed for decades, no non-native species, no human intervention
B	Good	Adverse human intervention, minimal non-native species, lower diversity
C	Fair	Significant human intervention, non-native species are common, noticeably lower diversity
D	Poor	Dramatically altered by human intervention, one or more vegetation layer is dominated by non-native species, very low diversity

WILD CONDITION (NOT IN OHIO)

HIGHLY URBAN AND DEGRADED

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. ECOLOGICAL HEALTH REQUIRES REMEDIATION DUE TO INVASIVE PLANT DOMINANCE

2. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK STRONGLY FAVORS PASSIVE PROGRAMMING AND NATURAL SPACES.

PASSIVE PLACEMAKING



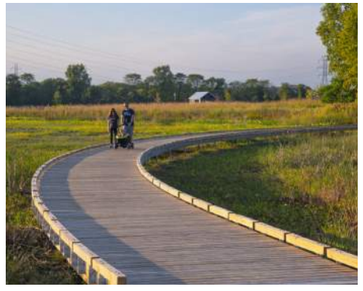
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>HAMMOCK GROVE | >READING ROOM | >PORCH SWINGS | >COMMUNAL TABLES | >BOARDWALKS | >WATER INTERACTION | >PLATFORMS

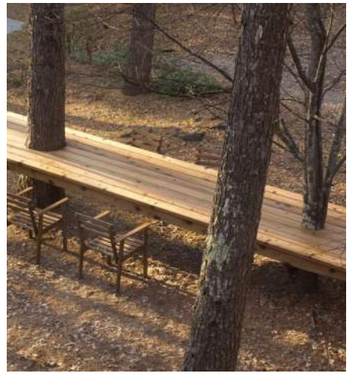















>PLAY FEATURES | >INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS | >POETRY WALK | >SCULPTURES | >VERTICAL ELEMENTS | >PLACES OF REST | >EDUCATION



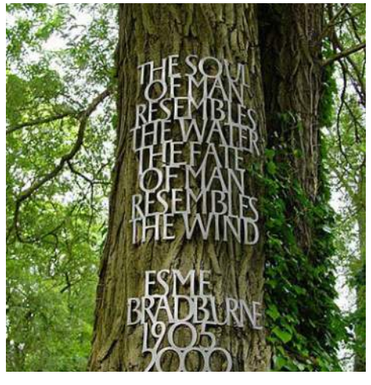

















SENIOR CONNECTIONS AND CITY COUNCIL - FEEDBACK

Kitzmiller Park passive placemaking — Senior Connections preference tally

Ten sheets returned. Everyone circled or boxed what they liked; nobody ranked or rejected anything. Sorted by total support.

Circled as a personal favorite · Circled · Covered by a "like it all" note · No mark

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	Yes
Porch swings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Hammock grove	✓	·	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	·	✓	8
Water interaction	✓	✓	✓	·	✓	✓	✓	✓	·	✓	8
Sculptures	✓	✓	✓	·	✓	✓	✓	✓	·	✓	8
Places of rest	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	·	·	8
Reading room	✓	·	✓	·	✓	✓	✓	✓	·	·	6
Interactive elements	·	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	·	✓	·	·	6
Boardwalks	·	✓	·	·	·	✓	·	✓	·	✓	5
Platforms	·	✓	·	·	✓	✓	·	✓	·	✓	5
Play features	·	·	·	·	✓	✓	·	✓	✓	✓	5
Poetry walk	✓	✓	·	·	✓	✓	·	✓	·	·	5
Communal tables	✓	·	·	·	·	✓	·	✓	✓	·	4
Vertical elements	·	·	·	·	✓	✓	·	✓	·	·	3

Sheets: all ten circled or boxed their favorites; none ranked and none rejected anything. #6 wrote "All!" and circled porch swings, poetry walk, and vertical elements as standouts. #8 wrote "I like it all!" and drew a loop around the entire board. #1 signed off with "Thanks."
Reading a cell: a blank means no mark, which is no opinion recorded, not a no.

Kitzmiller Park passive placemaking — council preference tally

Eight sheets returned from the August 4, 2026 council work session. Sorted by total support.

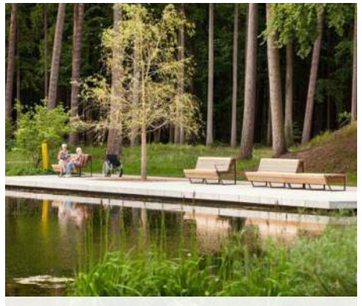
In their personal top 5 · Supported · Unsure · Rejected · No mark

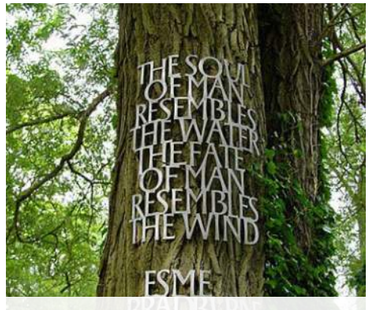
	Sloan	Matt	Member #3	Member #4	Member #5	Member #6	Member #7	Member #8	Yes
Porch swings	6	**5**	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Water interaction	**3**	**2**	6	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	7
Play features	✗	**4**	**5**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Vertical elements	**1**	**3**	14	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	7
Boardwalks	8	**1B**	**1**	·	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Communal tables	7	✗	11	·	✓	✓	✓	✓	6
Platforms	✓	6	12	·	✗	✓	✓	·	5
Sculptures	**5**	✗	13	·	~	✗	✓	✓	4
Hammock grove	**2**	9	10	·	✗	?	·	✓	4
Places of rest	10	10	**3**	·	✗	?	·	✓	4
Education	9	✗	**2**	·	~	✓	·	✓	4
Poetry walk	**4**	✗	**4**	·	✗	✗	·	✓	3
Reading room	✗	✗	7	·	✗	✓	·	✓	3
Interactive elements	✗	✗	8	·	·	✓	·	✓	3

Sheets: Sloan and Matt ranked 1–10 · Member #3 ranked 1–14 · #4 circled four only · #5 wrote yes / not so much · #6 used circles, x and ? · #7 starred favorites · #8 starred nearly all
Reading a cell: a number is that member's own rank, so a low number placed high for them.

Written in by hand, not on the board

Frisbee golf — Matt's #1A · Splash pad — two sheets · Playground area · Dog park

>HAMMOCK GROVE	>READING ROOM	>PORCH SWINGS	>COMMUNAL TABLES	>BOARDWALKS	>WATER INTERACTION	>PLATFORMS
						
						
4	12	1	11	6	2	9

>PLAY FEATURES	>INTERACTIVE ELEM.	>POETRY WALK	>SCULPTURES	>VERTICAL ELEMENTS	>PLACES OF REST	>EDUCATION
						
						
8	13	14	5	10	7	3

DESIGN

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September 15 - 2026

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

3 Concepts



MEANDER



AXIS



ROOM

Illustrative Plan



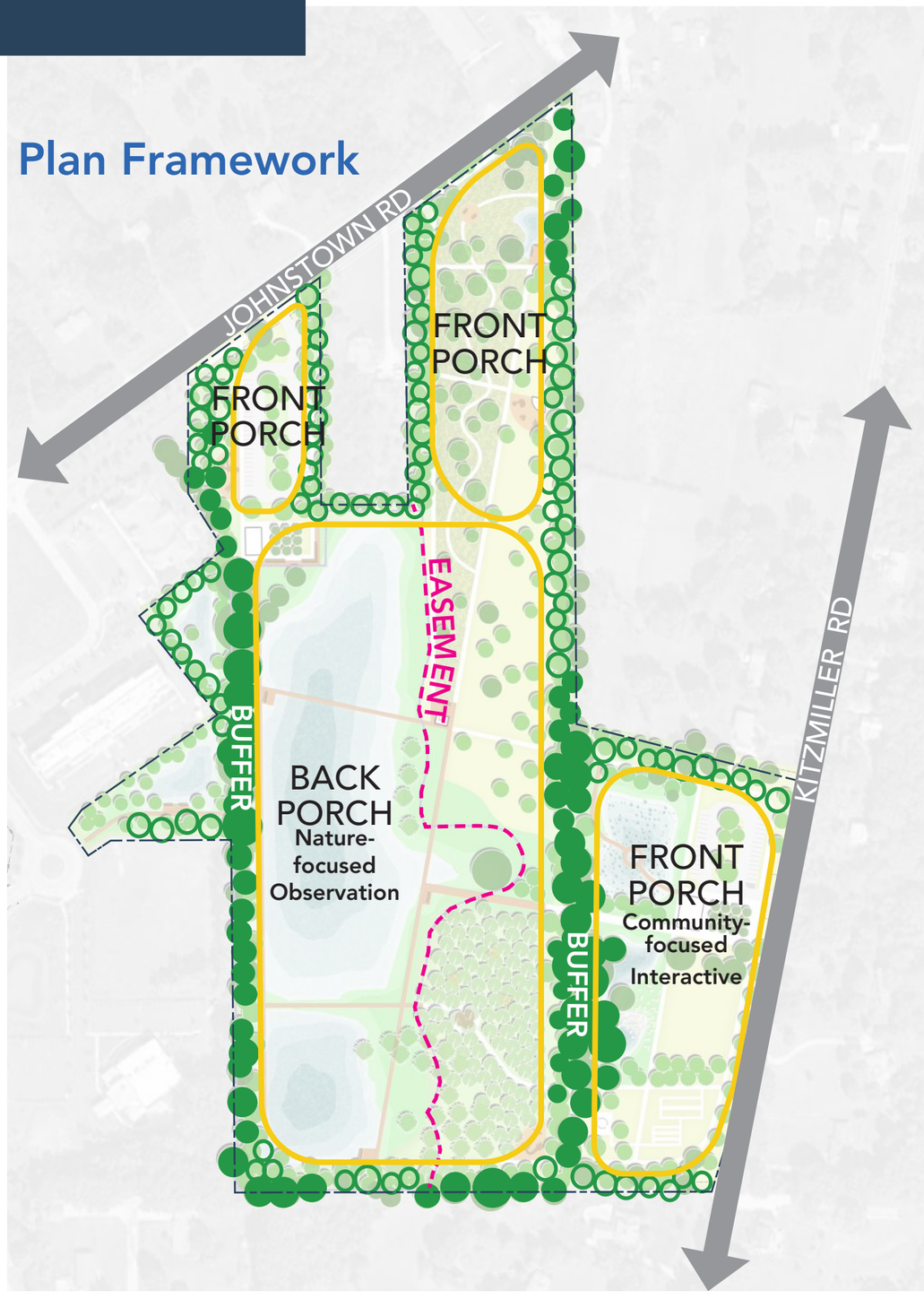
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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Eco-Rooms



Plan Framework



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PLACEMAKING



Map Key **38.4 ac**

1. Reading Grove
2. Bocce Courts
3. Horseshoe Pits
4. Play Node
5. Restrooms and Storage
6. Disc Golf (9 Holes)
7. Book Share
8. Lotus Dock
9. Forest Pavilion
10. Music Room
11. Water Access
12. Birdwatching Tower
13. Swing Node
14. Boardwalk
15. Parking (50 Spaces)
16. Parking (30 Spaces)
17. Walking Path (2mi Total)

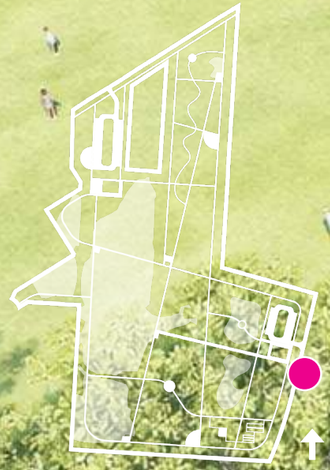

JOHNSTOWN RD
KITZMILLER RD

SANDSTONE STEPPING STONES

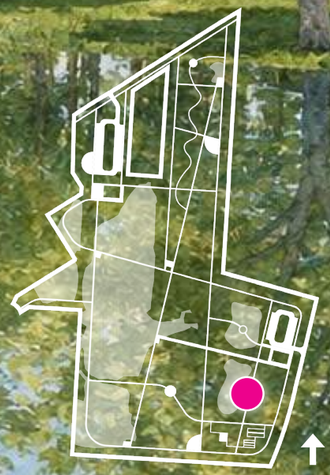
BOOK LOFT

LOTUS DOCK

PORCH SWINGS



Front Porch



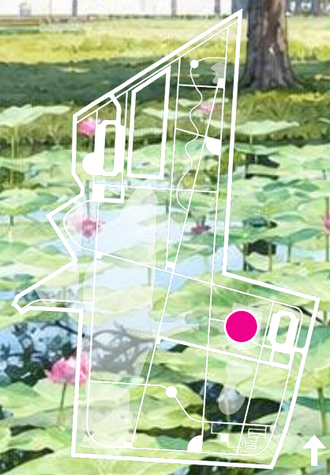
Water Access



Book Share

Porch Swings





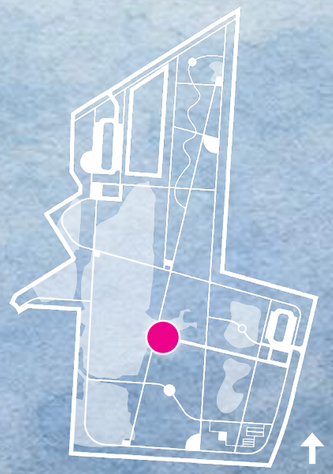
Lotus Dock

August 04 - 2026

SWING NODE

RESTROOM

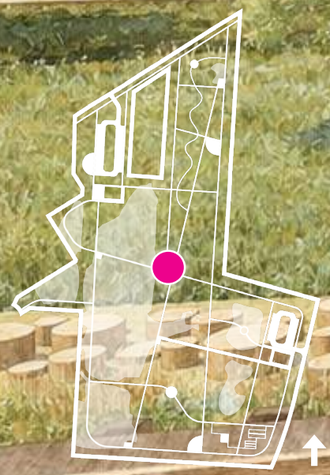
BIRDWATCHING TOWER



Back Porch



Birdwatching Tower



View from Tower

BIRDWATCHING TOWER

BOOK LOFT



Boardwalk

HAMMOCK GROVE

BIRDWATCHING TOWER

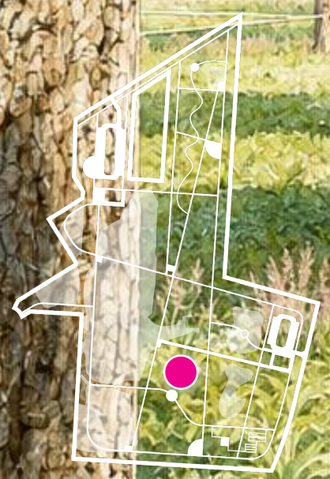


Forest Pavilion

BIRDWATCHING TOWER

RESTROOM

SWING NODE

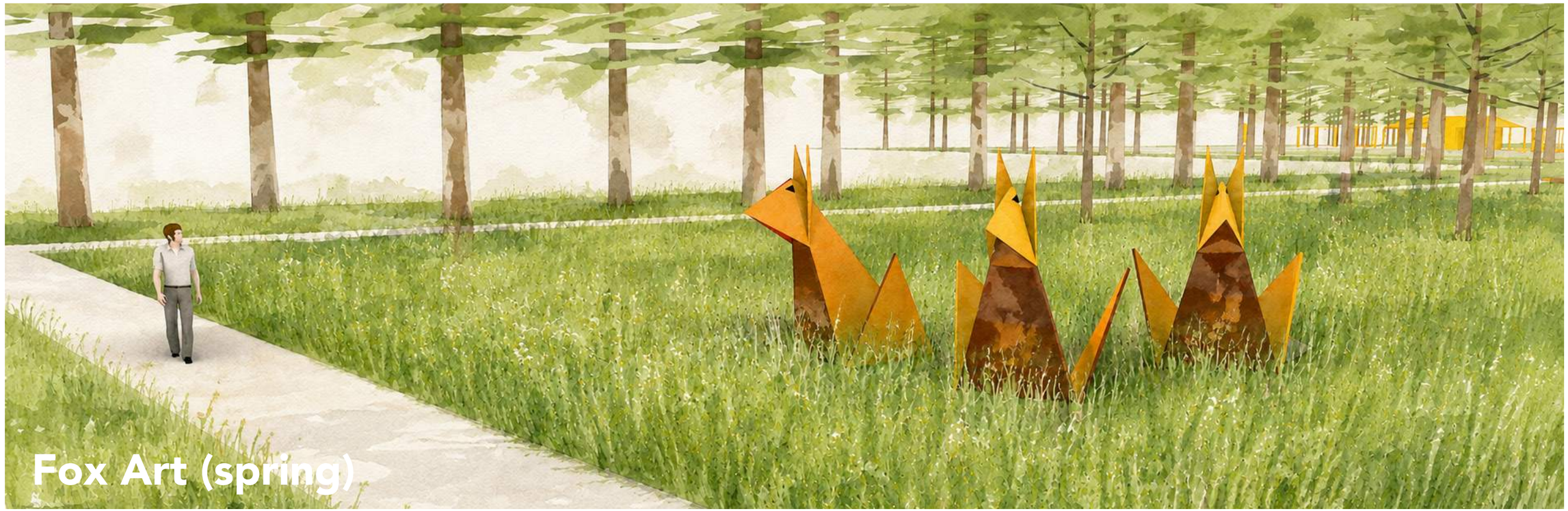


Forest Hammocks

RESTROOM



Wetland Overlook


Fox Art (spring)


Fox Art (summer)

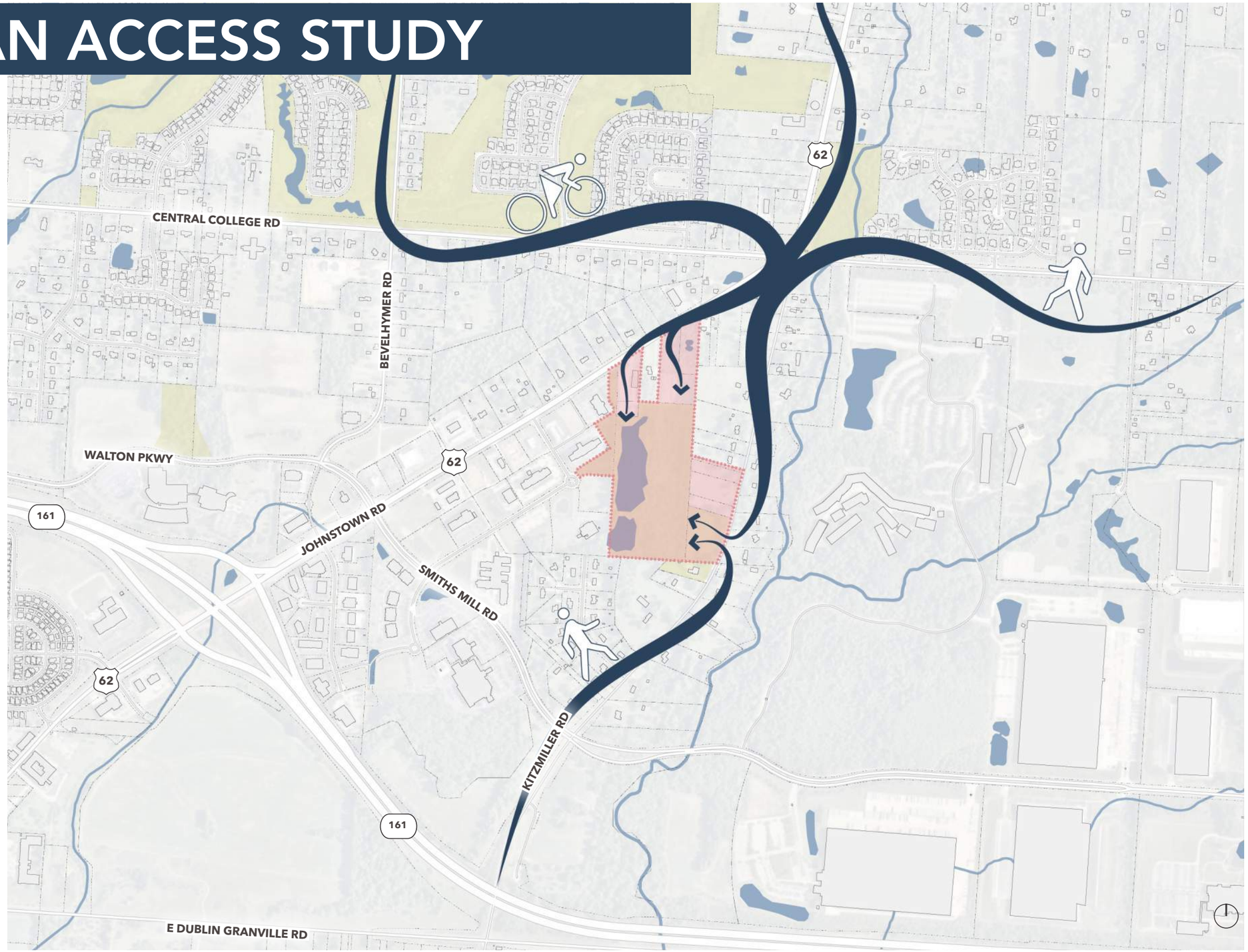
KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. ECOLOGICAL HEALTH REQUIRES REMEDIATION DUE TO INVASIVE PLANT DOMINANCE

2. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK STRONGLY FAVORS PASSIVE PROGRAMMING AND NATURAL SPACES.

3. LEISURE TRAIL AND SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS.

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS STUDY



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KITZMILLER PARK



Map Key

38.4 ac

1. Reading Grove
2. Bocce Courts
3. Horseshoe Pits
4. Play Node
5. Restrooms and Storage
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September 15 - 2026

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16. Parking (30 Spaces)
17. Walking Path (2mi Total)

Total Cost: $30m

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September 15 - 2026





Discussion













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NEW ALBANY

COMMUNITY CONNECTS US