

Village Green Master Plan Update: “The Village Woods”

Village Green Metropolitan Park District
Community Meeting
October 2, 2025

PROJECT GOAL

Why are we here?



To develop a master plan addendum for the “natural” half of the site for:

Decision making

Additional analyses

Planning and design

Budgeting

Mechanism to request funding to implement ideas that are both physical and programmatic

PLACE

Determine the Identity of this Place



What does this place want to be and how can the community support that?

- By promoting its use, improvement, and stewardship

What gives this place a sense of uniqueness that can be a catalyst for improvements?

- It is a natural open space/ public land within a growing community

PLACE

Idea: “Village Woods”



Ideas to Reinforce Identity:

Restoration of natural environment

Nature-based experiences

Creative outdoor learning

Local nature-themed art

OPPORTUNITIES

How can the site be utilized?



Restoration of the Environment

Improve Access & Circulation

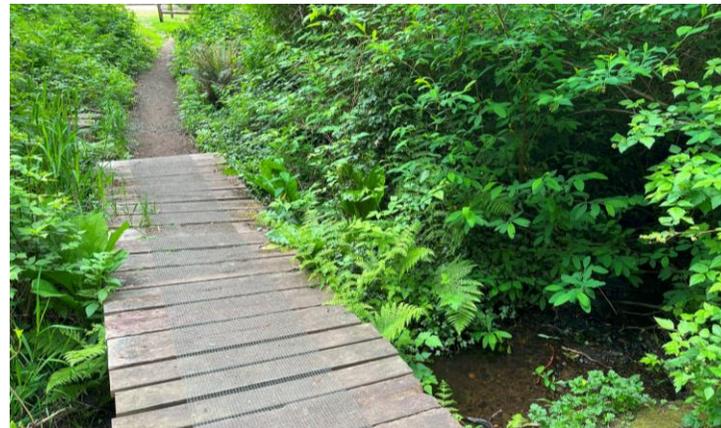
Promote Nature-based Recreation

Encourage Environmental Education

Engage the Community to Steward

CONSTRAINTS

What can be improved?



Vegetation Management-
Remove Invasive & Plant Native

Stormwater Issues

Visitor Use Impacts

Safe Visitor Experience

SITE

What is there now?

Forest Canopy

Wetlands

Stream

Trails



PROJECT AREA

Area of focus

Focus of the project is on the northwest, undeveloped, natural half of the site- the “woods”



ANALYSIS

Informing the Plan

Existing Conditions:

Trails

Access Points

Stream- Type F

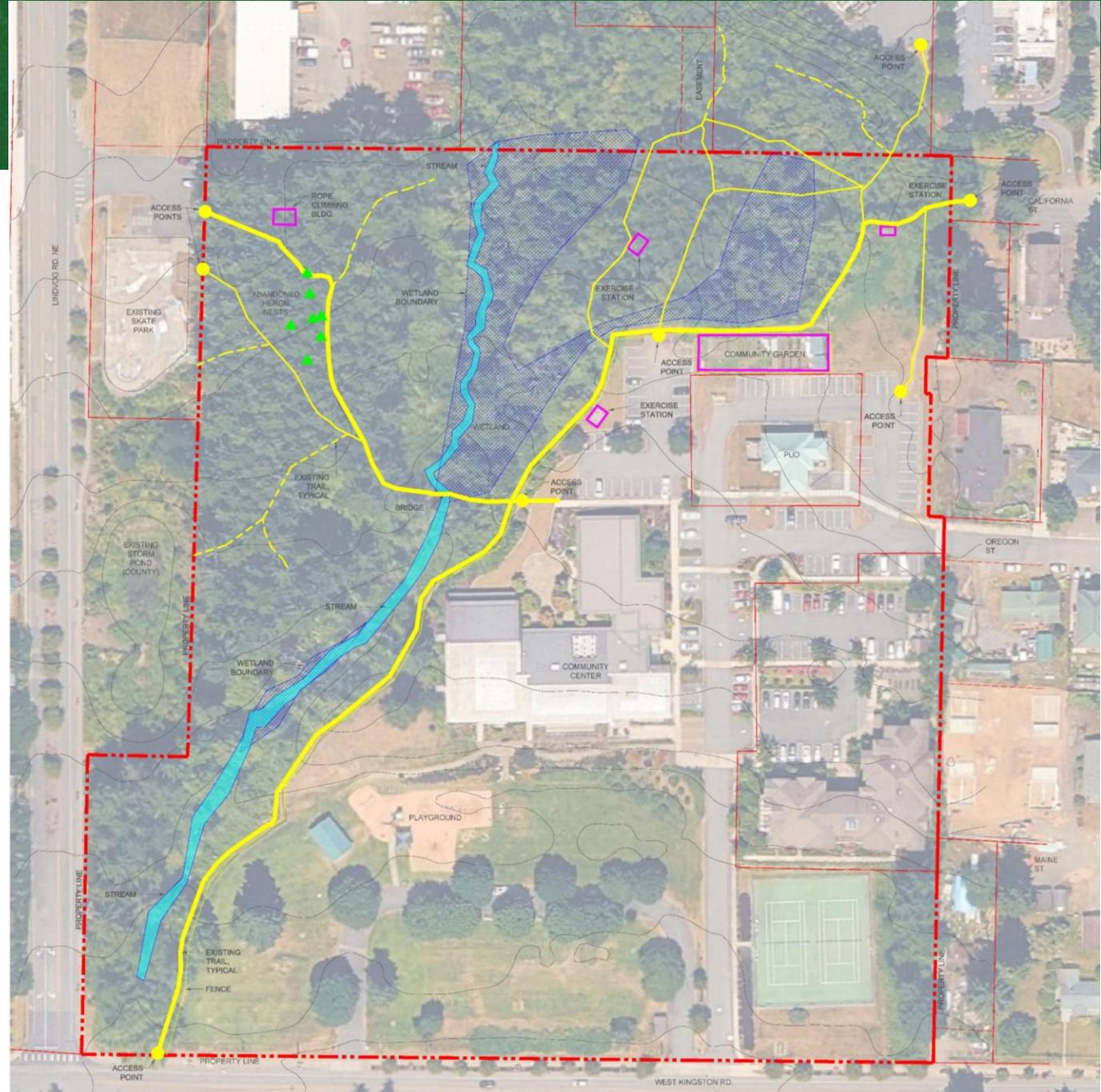
Vegetation- Riparian & Upland

Wetlands- Category III

Existing Elements

Topography

Data/analysis from reports by Peninsula Environmental Group in 2023



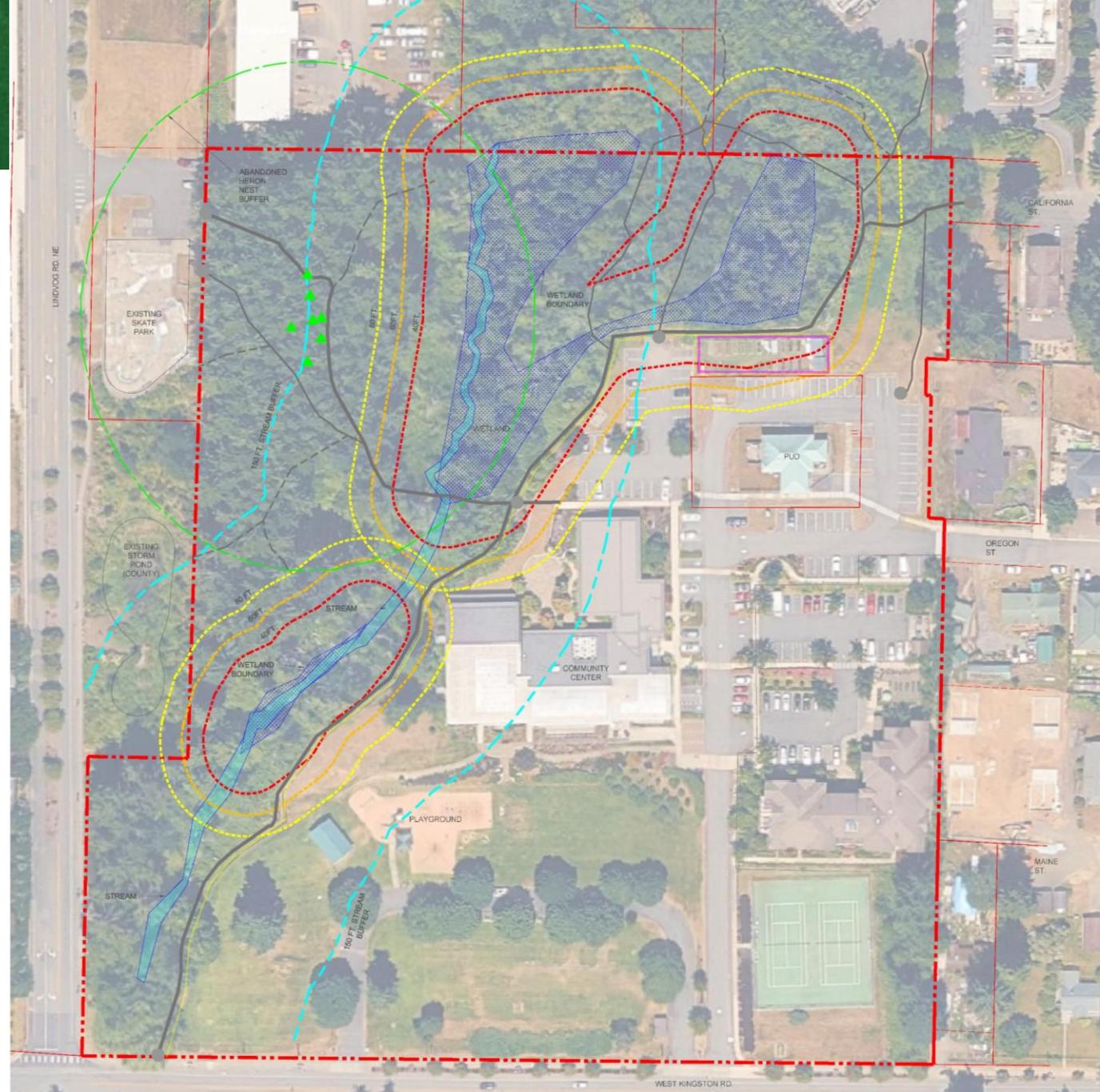
ANALYSIS

Informing the Plan

Environmental & Regulatory Parameters:

Wetland Buffers - 40', 60', 80'

Stream Buffer - 150'



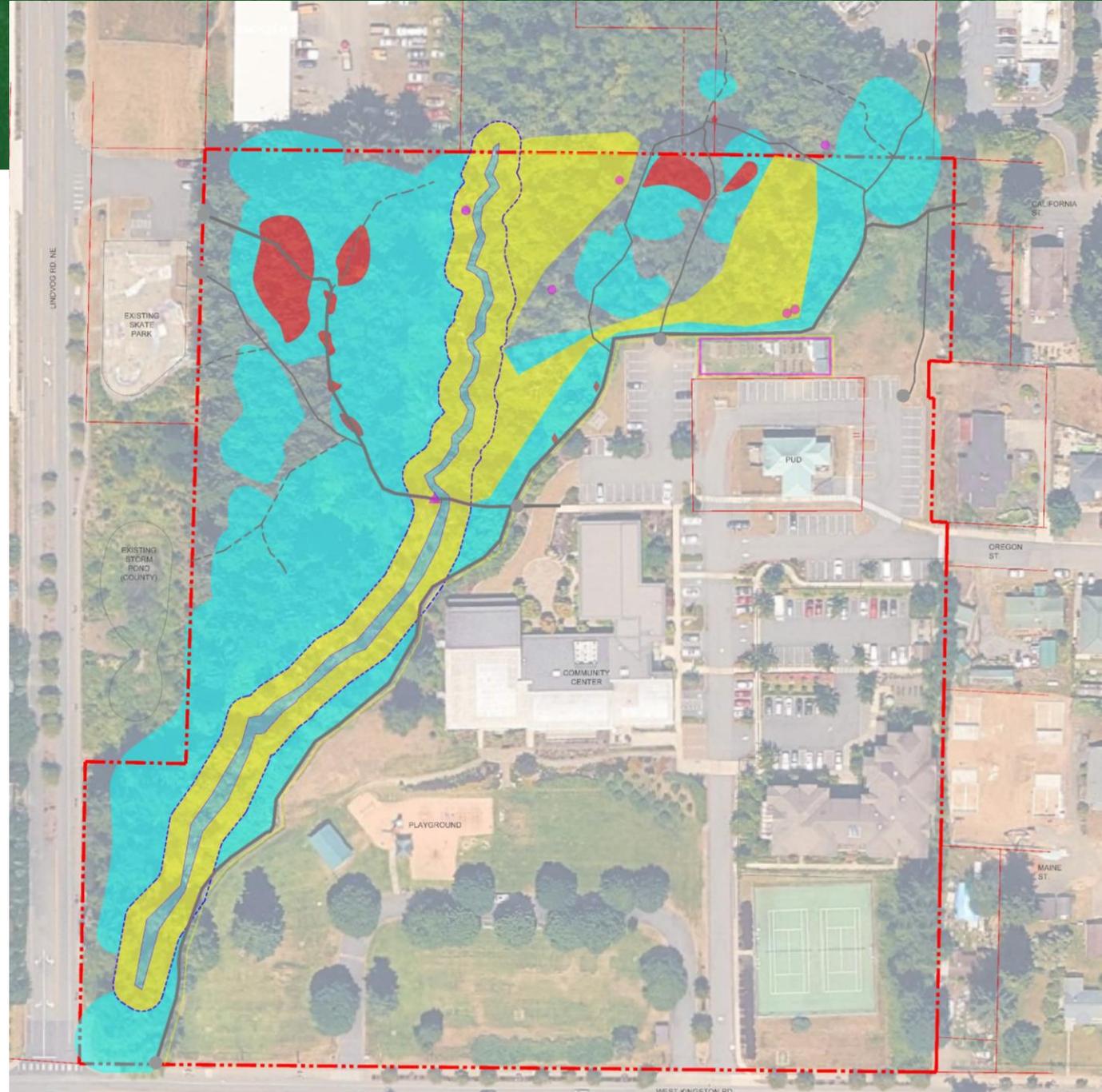
ANALYSIS

Informing the Plan

Vegetation Management Areas:

Priority Areas for Invasive Removal

Per Invasive Plant Management Plan,
Peninsula Environmental 2023



PLAN

Elements & Zones



PLAN

Elements & Zones

Interior Zones:

Habitat Preservation

Wetland & Interpretation

Restoration & Recreation



ZONES / ELEMENTS

Main Entrance

- Central location- a gateway to the Village Woods
- A place to meet before exploring other areas
- Kiosk, benches, art



ZONES / ELEMENTS

Paths & Access Points

- Trailheads with appropriate signs
- Connections to trails/sidewalks off site
- Loop trails for better connectivity
- Remove dead end trails
- Boardwalks over sensitive areas



ZONES / ELEMENTS

Habitat Preservation

- Minimal access for people in these areas
- Remove invasive species
- Replant with native species



ZONES / ELEMENTS

Wetland & Interpretation

- Access by boardwalk to protect sensitive areas
- Education and interpretation- signs, blinds, viewpoints
- High restoration potential to improve habitat



ZONES / ELEMENTS

Restoration & Recreation

- Upland area with dense monoculture of conifer trees
- High restoration potential in areas
- Assessment and management to increase forest health
- Possible recreational use: ropes course, exercise stations, nature play



ZONES / ELEMENTS

Art Walk

- Local, nature-based
- Along pathways- an “art walk”
- Rotating competitions for display



ZONES / ELEMENTS

Spiral Hill Viewpoint

- Utilize existing mound
- Spiral path for accessibility and interest
- Viewpoint destination



ZONES / ELEMENTS

Nature Play

- Complements setting adjacent to both natural areas and typical playground
- Natural materials such as stone, logs, and landforms



ZONES / ELEMENTS

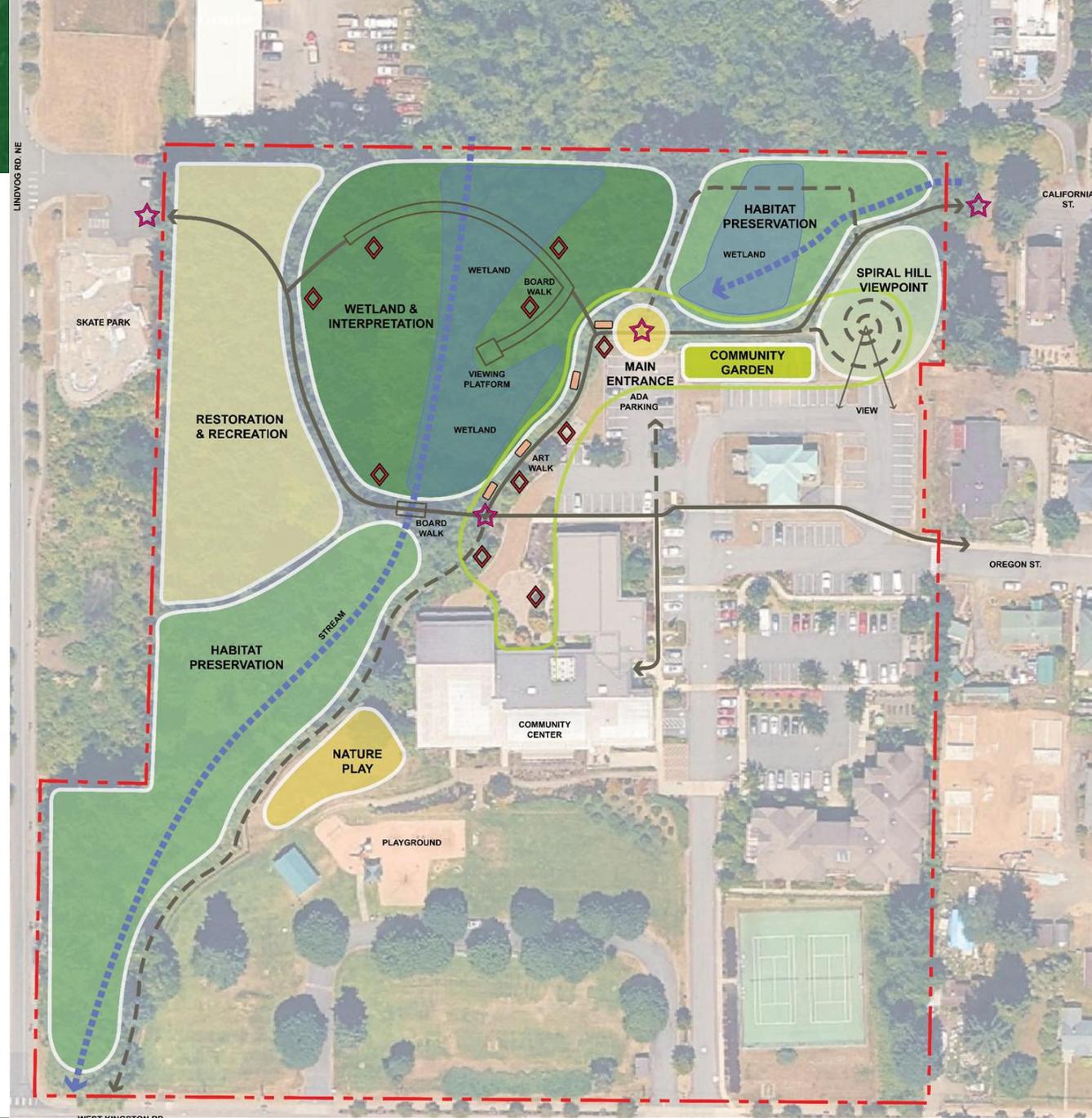
Community Garden

- Existing facility to be improved and supported
- Plan for expansion if necessary
- Promote pollination



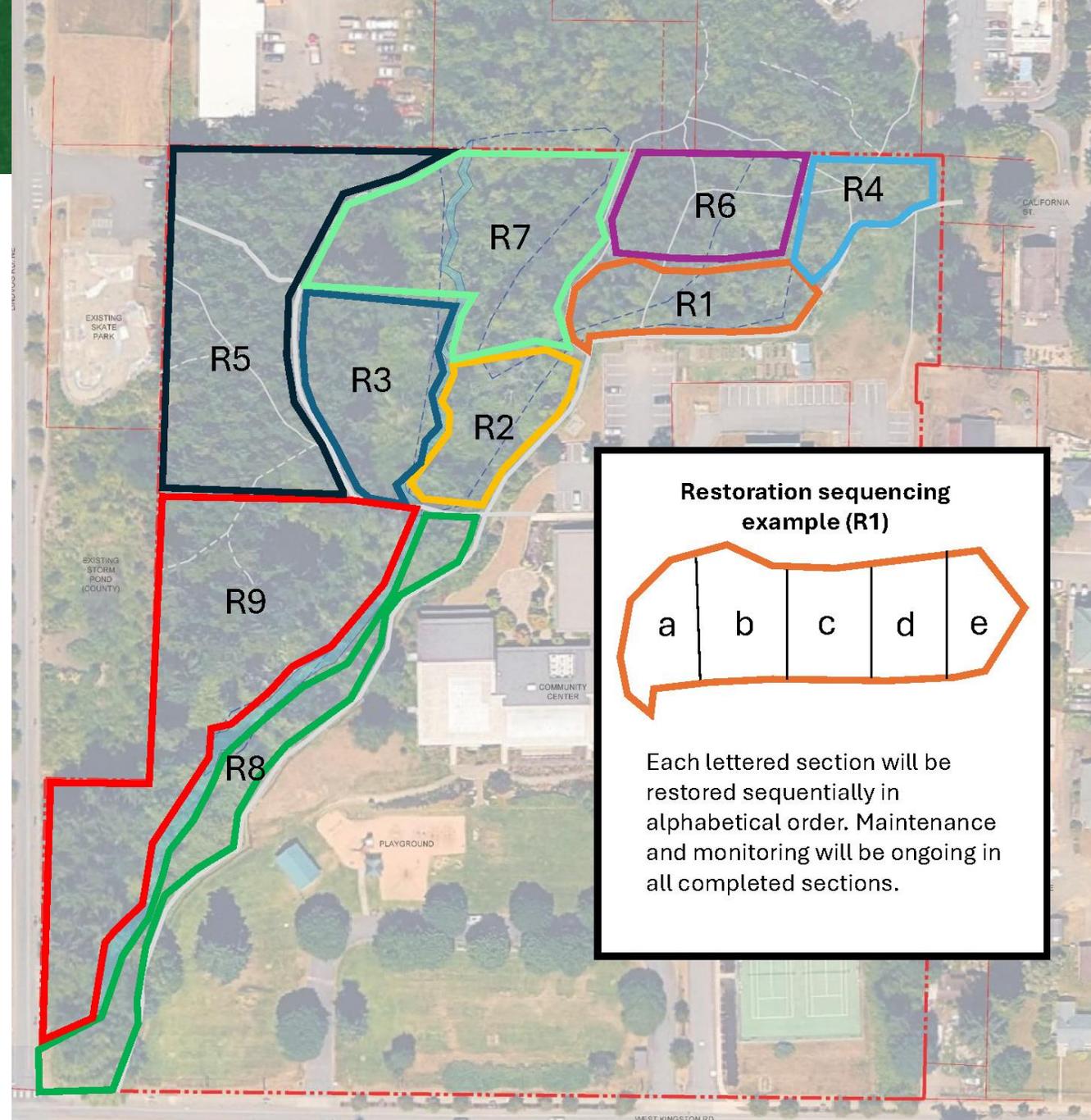
THE PLAN

“The Village Woods”



NEXT STEPS

Phased Restoration Approach



Questions & Discussion