

Lakewood Forest Preserve

Master Plan

January 6, 2020

LEGEND

- Property Line
- Fort Hill Trail
- Millennium Trail
- Dedicated Bike Trail / Lane
- Asphalt Trail
- Gravel Trail
- Dedicated Equestrian and Hiking Trail
- Natural Surface Trail
- Snowmobile Trail
- Mown Trail
- Concrete Sidewalk
- Slope Restoration
- Boardwalk
- Building / Structure (existing)
- Building / Structure (proposed)
- Asphalt Parking
- Existing and Ongoing Woodland Restoration
- Proposed Reforestation
- Prairie
- Unmown Lawn
- Mown Lawn
- Proposed Wetland Restoration
- Open Water
- Toilet
- Scenic Overlook
- Shelter
- Tunnel

SUMMARY

The master plan provides a balance between public access, safety, habitat restoration, and educational programming needs with capital investment and short and long-term operating costs. Public access improvements include:

- Accessibility improvements completed throughout the core area
- Buildings recommended for removal (Archives, Museum, Grounds Maintenance, Shelters A, B & C, Toilets)
- Replacement and upgraded utility systems
- Improved roads (0.8 miles) and reduced parking (461 stalls)
- Equestrian trailer parking lot relocated
- Approximately 33.2 total miles of trails (asphalt, gravel, natural surface, and mown trails)
 - New accessible asphalt loop trail around core area and Taylor Lake (1.6 and 0.8 mile loops)
 - Approximately 17.6 miles of equestrian trails
 - Approximately 7.1 miles dedicated equestrian and hiking trails
 - Approximately 1.6 mile designated bike trail from Milton Road to Ivanhoe Road
 - Gravel trail connection to Tamarack Subdivision and future Wauconda bike path.
 - Approximately 1.9 miles of improved natural surface trails
 - Approximately 5.0 miles snowmobiling trails
- 3 reservable shelters (one 3-season)
- New grounds maintenance facility located north of Ivanhoe
- 7 scenic overlooks

Planning and Land Preservation Department
1899 W Winchester Rd
Libertyville, Illinois 60048
847-968-3270

Prepared using information from:
Lake County Department of Information and Technology: GIS / Mapping Division

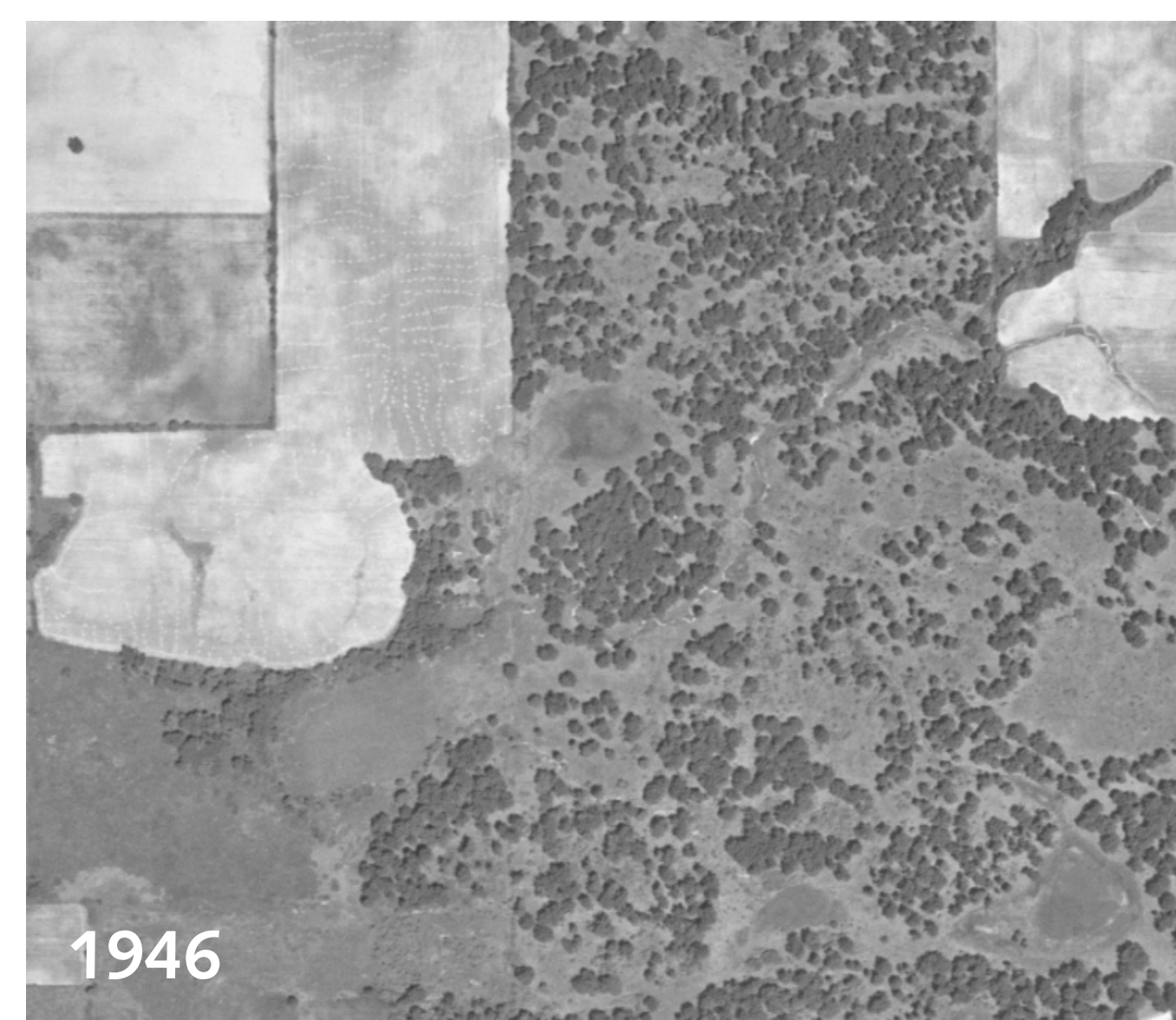


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Master Plan

Natural Resources

January 6, 2020



1946
By 1946, farm activities had altered plant communities and ecosystem function through altered hydrology.



2018
Beaver and Acorn Ponds were created by damming the ravine and diverting water toward Heron/Taylor/Banana lakes for cattle.



Before
Invasive species compete directly with native species for moisture, sunlight, nutrients, and space.



After
Wildflowers and grasses return to the woodlands, following the removal of invasive trees and shrubs.

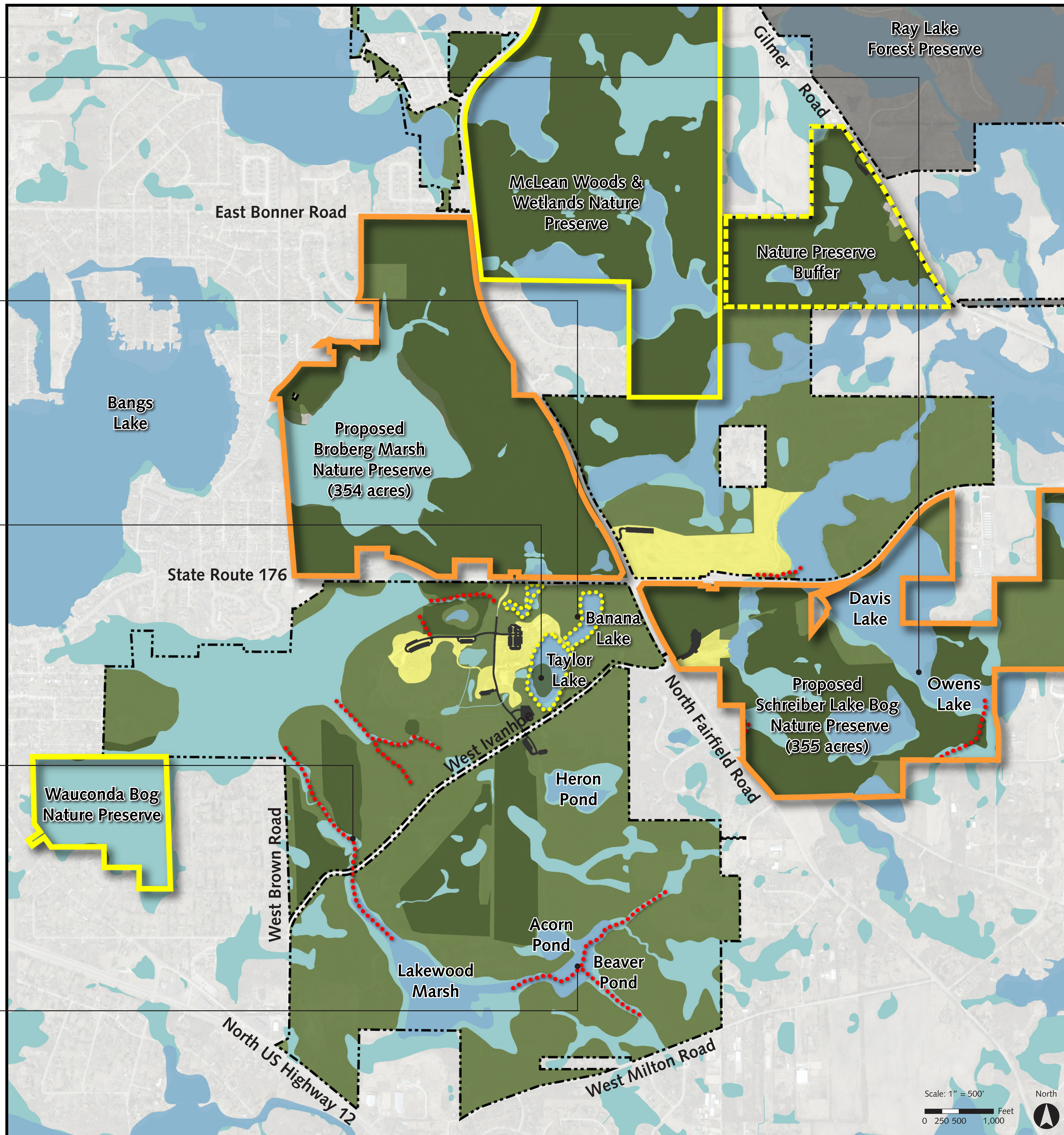
LEGEND

- Property Line
- Nature Preserve
- Nature Preserve Buffer
- Proposed Nature Preserve
- Existing / Ongoing Habitat Restoration
- Proposed Habitat Restoration
- Wetland Restoration
- Open Water
- Ravine / Slope Restoration
- Shoreline Restoration

SUMMARY

At 2,835 acres, Lakewood is the largest preserve in Lake County. The ecological goals for the master plan are designed to provide large-scale habitat for plants and animals in a healthy, sustainable environment. Restoration of this preserve meets several of the goals and objectives in our 100-year vision.

- Create a >1,000-acre block of oak woodland/savanna for wildlife species that require larger, contiguous areas.
- Restore and maintain ecological functions through the creation of a mosaic of natural communities, including wetlands, prairies, woodlands, ravine complexes, and stream corridors.
- Restore the natural hydrology of historic ravine communities and the prairie streams draining into wetlands.
- Decrease fragmentation and protect steep slopes through trail consolidation.
- Control invasive species, including eradication of invasive European buckthorn.
- Protect high-quality natural areas within Lakewood through dedication as Illinois Nature Preserves.



Removal of small dams upstream of Owens Lake is necessary to restore natural ravine systems.



Excessive foot traffic in ravine systems and wetland areas has caused highly eroded slopes.



A rare calcareous floating mat community in Taylor Lake contains many important bog species.



Small dams reduce habitat quality by deterring movement of fish, altering flow, and impacting the floodplain.



Removal of an earthen dam and water control structures will restore highly eroded ravine complexes.

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Scale: 1" = 500'
0 250 500 1,000 Feet