



Preliminary Master Plan Summary

After meeting with key stakeholders in December 2013, features of 3 design concepts were refined into a Preliminary Master Plan. This Preliminary Plan places a Discovery Center off Williamson Road with views of the existing large, open wetland within the middle sector of the site. Heading north, a curved boardwalk connects the middle and upland sectors. Along the boardwalk, wetland overlooks provide trail use for bird watching and other group activities.

In summary, key proposed (subject to change) features include -

Physical Features

- A Discovery Center off Williamson Road with views of the existing large, open wetland within the middle sector of the site.
- A feature pavilion over the existing large, open wetland and elevated via boardwalk as a focal point with views from the center and upland sector.
- The upland sector is highlighted by the Outdoor Education Outpost, a trailhead and facility serving the University's outdoor education programs.
- Centered in this sector is a chapel with views toward the open wetland.

Trail Features

- Existing trails are incorporated into the upland sector with a primary trail linking the large, open wetland.
- Within the middle and lower sector, the primary park trail system follows an existing sewer easement, crossing Williamson Road and the future North Railroad Trail.
- A future greenway heads upstream along the sewer easement.
- Future greenways are integrated into the nature park trail system. Tie-ins to the Bailey Creek and North Railroad trails provide key links for routing loops within the park.
- A trailhead is proposed off Williamson Road and situated near a river crossing and road crossing under the existing bridge.
- A potential land swap north of the center would allow additional park buffer and upland land adjacent to the wetland. Land south of the power line would allow future development or apartment expansion along Williamson Road.

Special Features

- Overlooks at the river and lower wetland are features of the lower sector of the park with potential tie-in to future private development. Overlooks provide viewing areas and outdoor education group activities.
- The Blueway links the three sectors of the project site. A kayak launch is placed off Mildred Street. At this location, a pull out and put in is needed to traverse the existing railroad bridge to be repurposed as part of the future greenway system. A kayak launch off the trail allows university programs to access the wetlands and river system.

DESIGN ELEMENTS

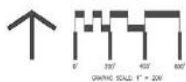
- **Discovery Center**
 - community room
 - educational programs
 - outdoor classroom
 - interpretive displays
 - visitor, event, and bus parking
- **Outdoor Education Outpost**
 - interpretive outdoor programs
 - faculty/staff/student parking
- ✱ **Water Access**
 - canoe / kayak launch
 - parking
- ✱ **Trailhead**
 - trail map
 - interpretive displays
 - parking
- **Special Place**
 - chapel
 - viewing area / platform
- ↔ **Road Crossing**
 - trail map
- ↔ **Water Crossing**
 - footbridge
- **Future Greenway**
 - 10' - 12' paved surface
- **Primary Trail**
 - 8' - 10' gravel/surface
- **Secondary Trail**
 - 6' - 8' pervious surface
- **Blueway**
- **Boardwalk**

LEGEND

- Primary Study Area
- Secondary Study Area
- Pickens Railroad
- Floodway
- Existing Wetland



preliminary plan **1.0**



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Master Plan Rocky River Nature Park

