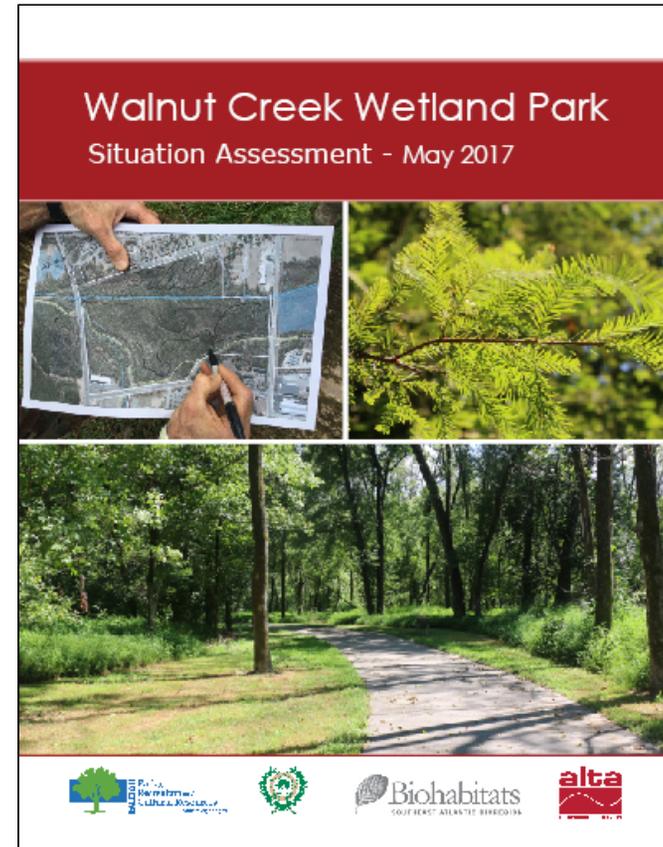


Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Citizen Planning Committee Meeting #2

WCWP Past, Present and Future

Walnut Creek Wetland Park Master Plan
July 24, 2017



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Tonight's Meeting Agenda

- **Recap Meeting #1**
 - Vote on Charter
 - Vote on Draft Vision Statement
- **Past:** History of PEJ (Frank McKay) + Previous Plan Highlights (Amin Davis)
- **Present:** Existing Conditions + Opportunities and Constraints
- **Future:** Park Elements (Group Activity)
- **Wrap-Up + Next Steps**



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

CPC Meeting #1 Recap



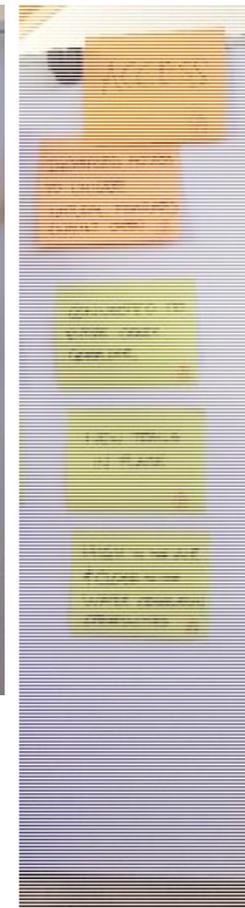
Walnut Creek Wetland Park



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

VISIONING EXERCISE: KEY THEMES

- Encouraging engagement
- Conservation
- Access
- Destination park
- Learning opportunities



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Your Consensus Choices:

-  1. **Endorsement** (Member fully supports it)
-  2. **Endorsement with minor point of contention** (Member likes it)
-  3. **Agreement with minor reservation** (Formal disagreement, but will not block or hold up the proposal/provision)
-  4. **Stand aside with major reservations** (Formal disagreement, but will not block or hold up the proposal/provision)
-  5. **Block** (Member will not support the proposed plan)

Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Measuring Consensus:

- **Consensus** = All committee members present rate the proposal as a 1,2, or 3
- **Consensus with Major Reservations** = All committee members present rate the proposal as a 1,2, or 3, except at least one Committee member rates it as a 4
- **No Consensus** = Any committee member rates the proposal as a 5

Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Draft CPC Charter



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

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Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Draft Vision Statement

VISION:

The expansion of Walnut Creek Wetland Center into an equitably accessible destination park with the focus of conserving the area's environment and biodiversity, offer learning and social engagement opportunities for all, and celebrate arts and the cultural heritage.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Encourage** social engagement, economic development, and community pride
- **Protect, conserve, and enhance** the natural environment, biodiversity, and cultural heritage
- **Provide a range of access** for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities
- **Promote understanding**, awareness, and appreciation of the unique wetland environment
- **Support** interdisciplinary fun and academic learning opportunities through training and skills development

Walnut Creek Wetland Park

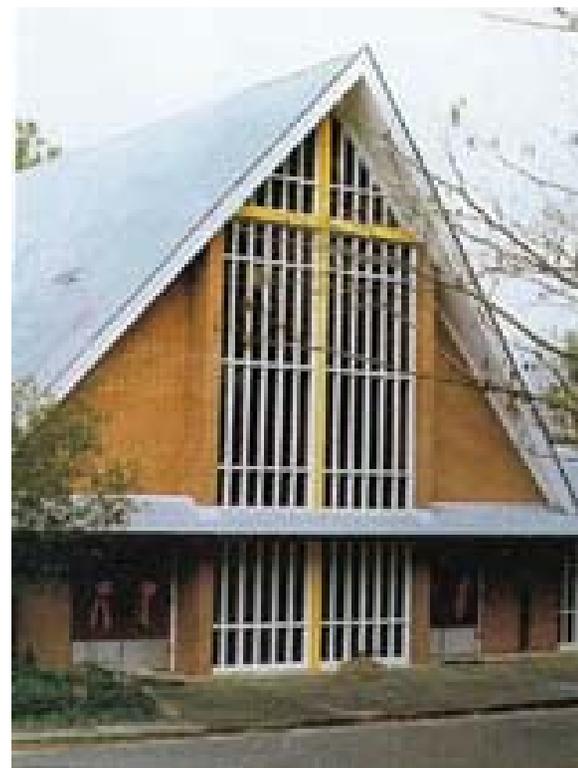
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Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ)

Origins of PEJ

- Formed in 1996 as Episcopalians for Environmental Justice (EE) Committee
- Committee established “Walnut Creek 2000” project
- Effort grew, became Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ) as additional members joined



Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ)

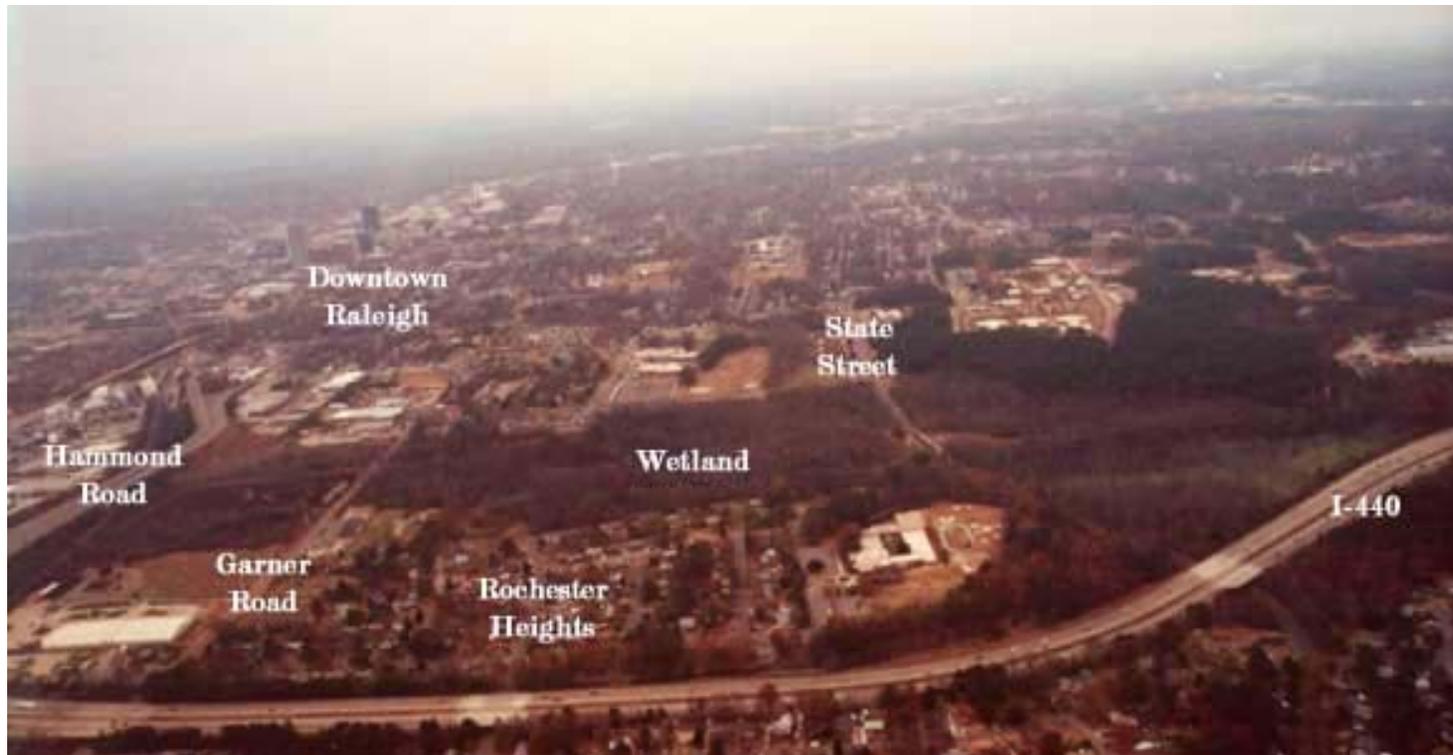
PEJ Vision and Focus

- **Restore wetland** to its former natural state prior to damage and neglect
- **Establish wetland park**
- Incorporate the wetland into the city's **greenway system**
- Improve the quality of surrounding neighborhoods -- **address issues of flooding and trash dumping**



Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ)

Vision: Walnut Creek Wetland Park...a “Destination Park”



Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ)

Markers of Progress:

- 39 Big Sweep wetland clean-ups organized over 19 years
- 105,000 pounds of trash removed since 2006



Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ)

Markers of Progress:

- Bond referendums
 - 2003 -- \$2,060,000 for WCWC
 - 2014 -- \$1,000,000 for WCWP
- Wetland Center opened in 2009
- Center's programming continues to grow
- WCWP planning process



Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ)

Continuing Concerns:

- Trash dumping and runoff from downtown Raleigh and Cary watersheds
- Invasive species
- Vision for local economic growth slow to progress



Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ)

Missed Opportunity

- In 2005, the City of Raleigh declined to partner with National Audubon on the Walnut Creek Wetland Center project
- Planning the WCWP with strong vision and commitment important



Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ)



Boston Nature Center



Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ)

Vision: Walnut Creek Wetland Park...a “Destination Park”

- **Restore wetland** to its former natural state prior to damage and neglect
- Establish **wetland park**
- Incorporate the wetland into the city’s **greenway system**
- Improve the quality of surrounding neighborhoods -- **address issues of flooding and trash dumping**



Walnut Creek 2000

**Walnut Creek Wetland Park Master Plan
Citizen Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting #2
July 24, 2017**

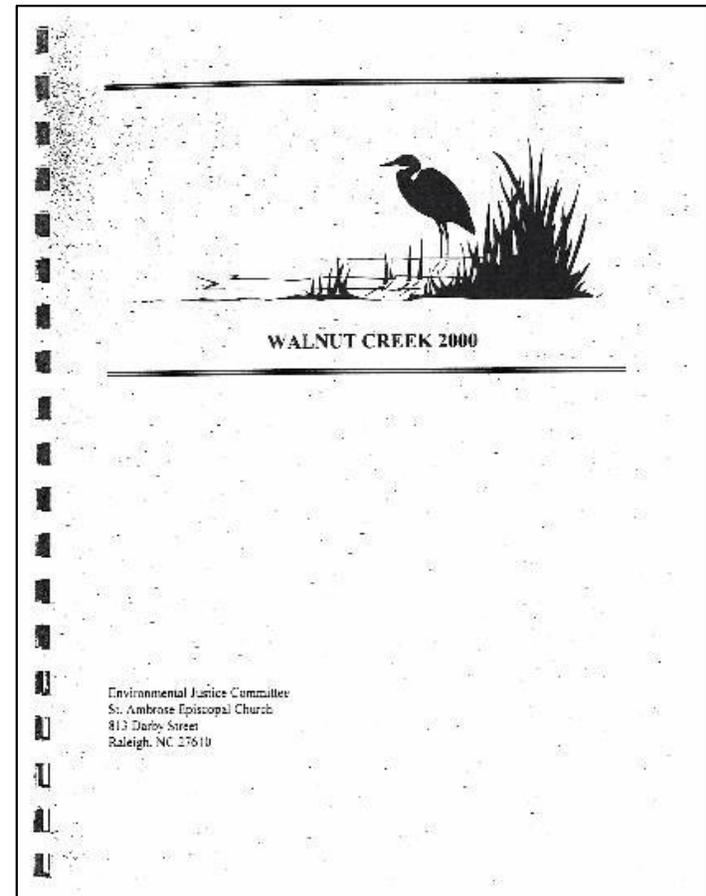
Amin Davis, Partners for Environmental Justice



Walnut Creek 2000

Overview

- **Who:** Sponsored By Episcopalians for Environmental Justice> PEJ in 1997
- **What:** Project For Environmental Justice
- **Where:** Rochester Heights, St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, Fuller & Carnage Elementary Schools, Women's Correctional Center
- **Why:** Address Environmental Injustices in Rochester Heights Community
 - Trash Dumping
 - Flooding
 - Lacked Voice at City Council



Walnut Creek 2000

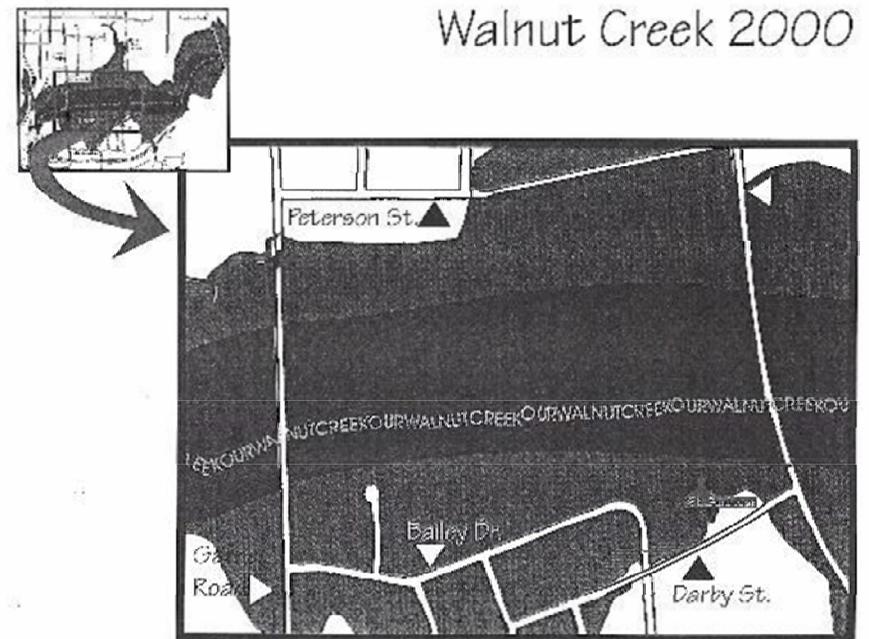
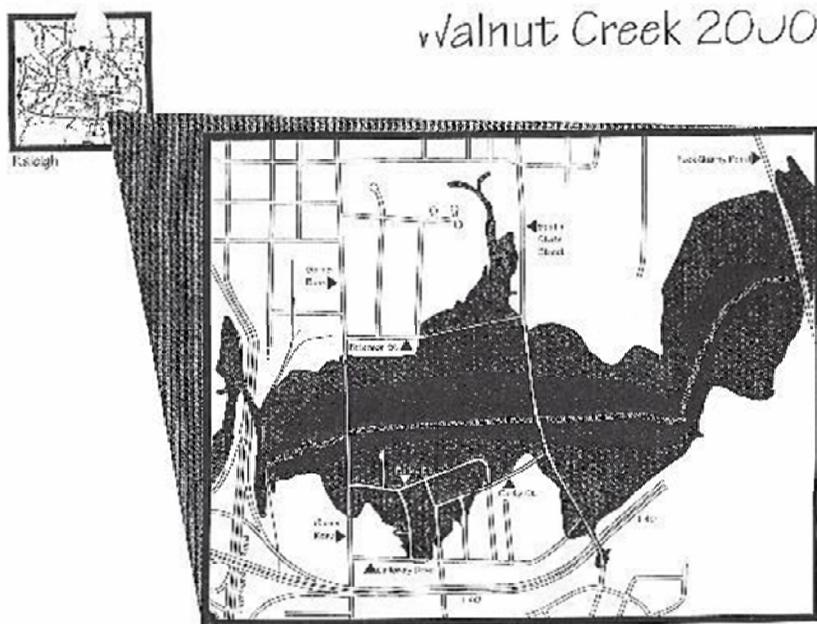
Goals

1. Promote **environmental conservation, community beautification & civic pride** for residents.
2. To **increase community awareness of & involvement in environmental issues** which negatively impact community.
3. Promote **appreciation & love of the environment as God's Creation** to be shared equitably with all living creatures.



Walnut Creek 2000

Location



Walnut Creek 2000

Wetland Education Park

- 1998: PEJ Commissioned Dr. Robin Moore (NCSU NLI) & Four Grad Students To Develop Conceptual Park Plan
- Wetland Educational Park located along natural area between Garner Road and State Street north of Walnut Creek
- NLI: "Carefully design natural environments to maintain balance necessary for well being & healthy development of children."

Source:

<https://projects.ncsu.edu/project/ciwetlands/wc/presentation.htm>

Designing A Wetland Education Park

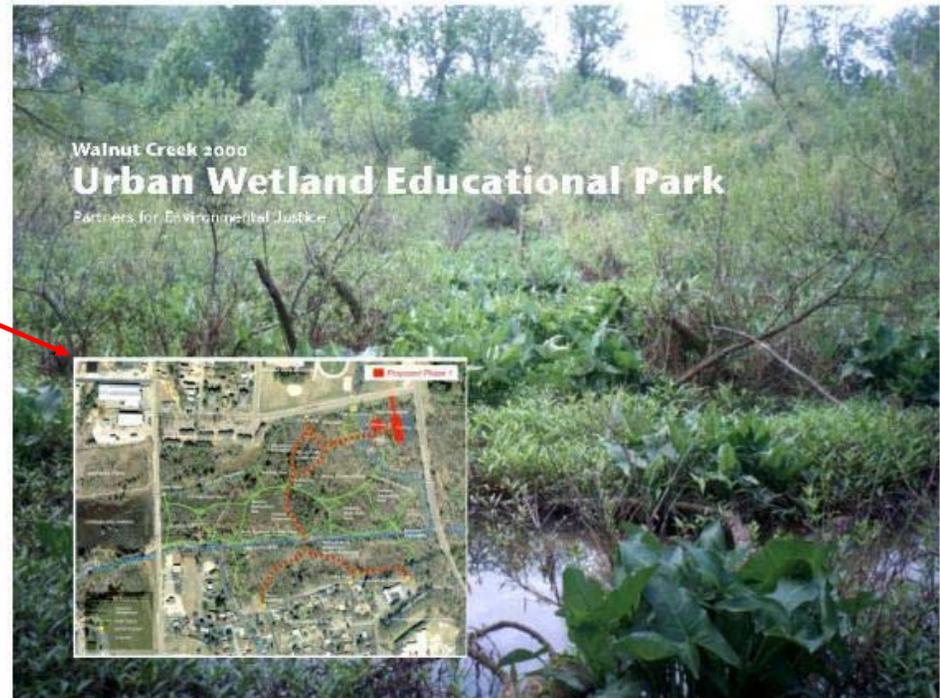
PEJ Co-Chairs Norman Camp and Ed Miligan



Walnut Creek 2000

Schematic Master Plan

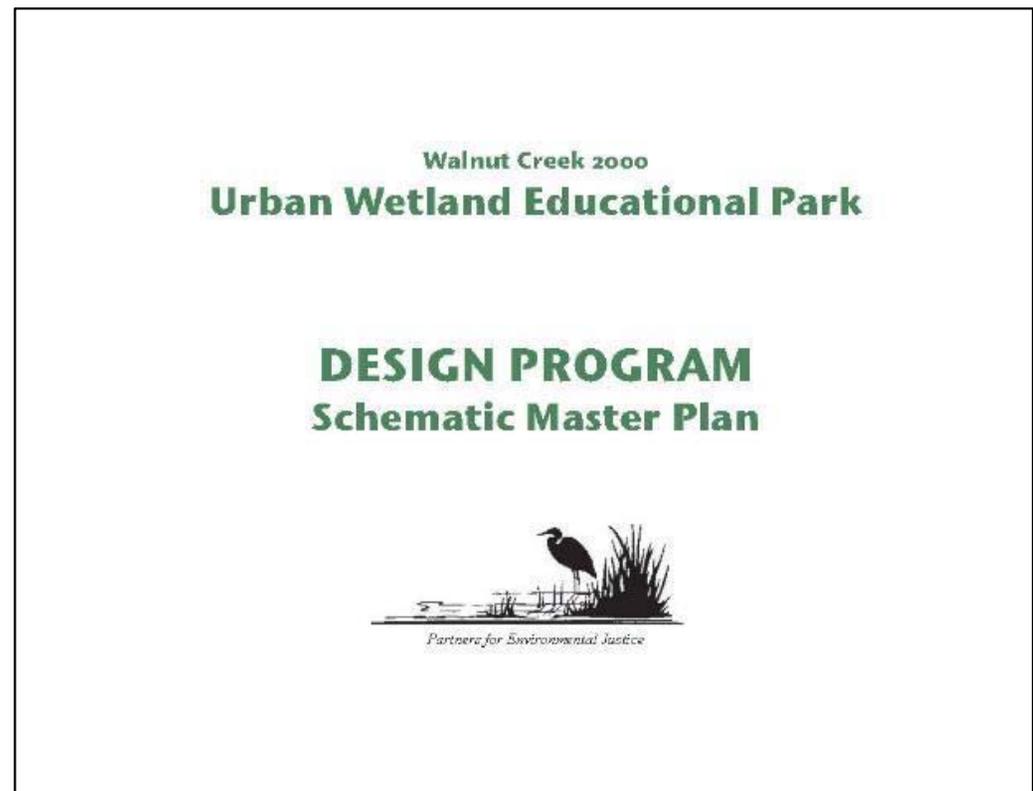
- 30 Page comprehensive document laying out **PEJ/Community's Vision** for Park Property (December 2002)
- **Schematic Plan Map** focal point of Plan
- **General Elements:** Center Building, Access Points, Outdoor Learning Centers, Trails
- **Specific Elements:** Amphitheatre, Areas (Nature Crafts, Daycamp, Native American Activity, Wetland Study Station)



Walnut Creek 2000

Current PEJ Vision

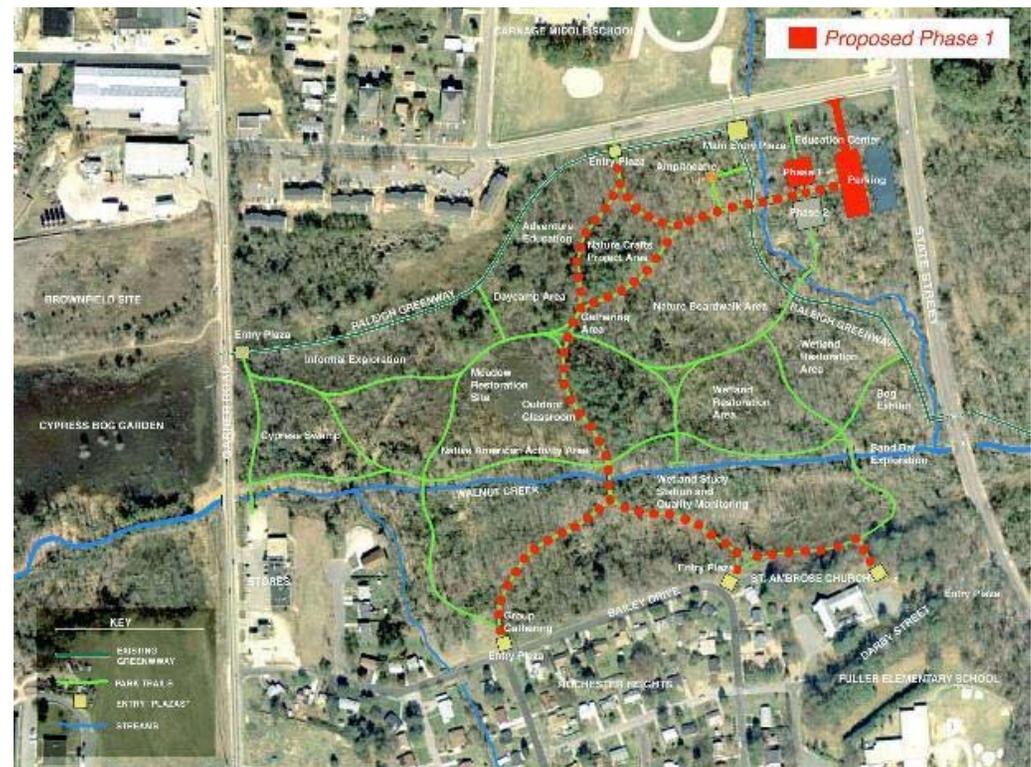
- **Unique Destination Park:** focused on how wetlands work, Walnut Creek's natural and cultural history, conservation & protection
- **Educational Programming For All Ages (0-100+):** natural materials, 'loose play' areas, NO active recreation (ballfields, ATV's etc.)
- **Multiple Access Points** to the Creek & wetlands: Ross Andrews Trail, boardwalk & bridges, tree canopy observation platforms. Connect neighborhoods on both sides of Creek.



Walnut Creek 2000

Current PEJ Vision (cont)

- Serve surrounding neighborhoods with expanded community gardens, cultural, activities, and be a community gathering place
- Incorporate arts, education, and economic development in plans and programs. Example: use Park to train & employ developmentally-disabled adults in supportive work
- Lack of consensus on reach, breadth & audience of Park (local to worldwide?)



Walnut Creek 2000

Outdoor Recreation Possibilities: Wetland Boardwalk

- Dismal Swamp State Park
- Provides access from Park's Visitor Center to swamp forest wetland
- Boardwalk designed & constructed by Park staff



Walnut Creek 2000

Outdoor Recreation Possibilities: Wetland Boardwalk

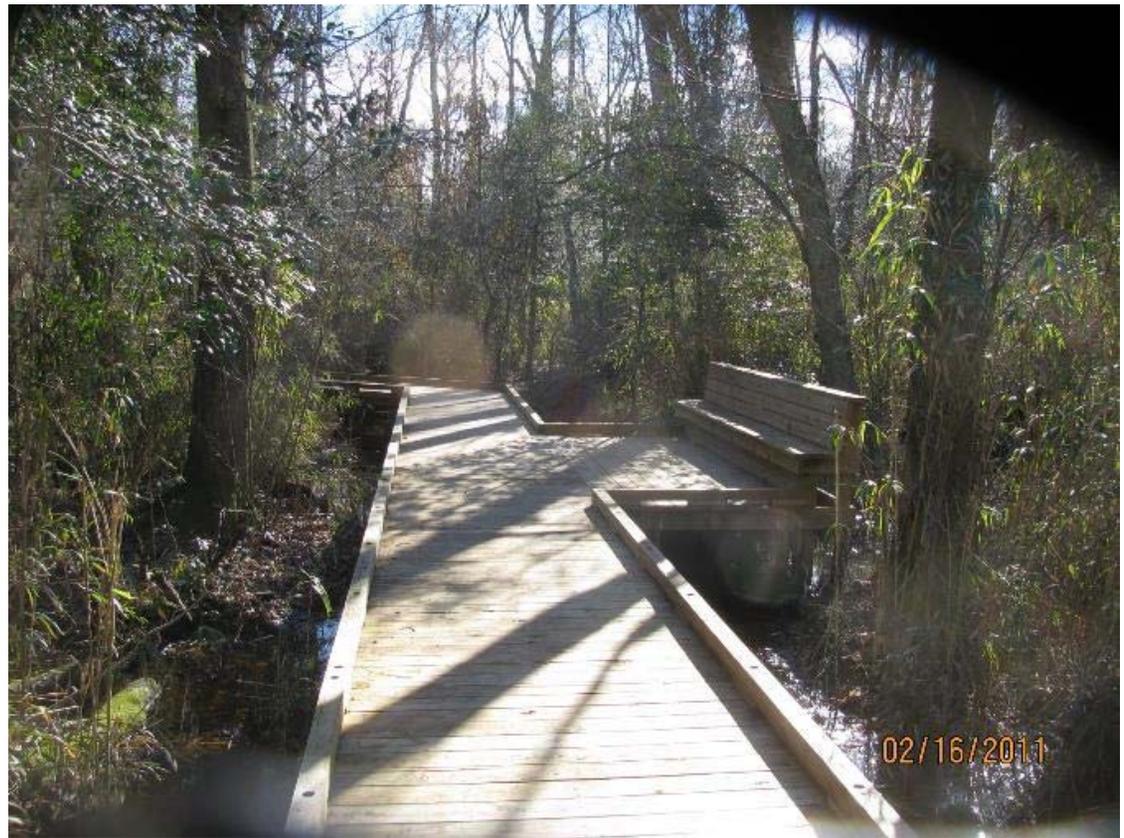
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Walnut Creek 2000

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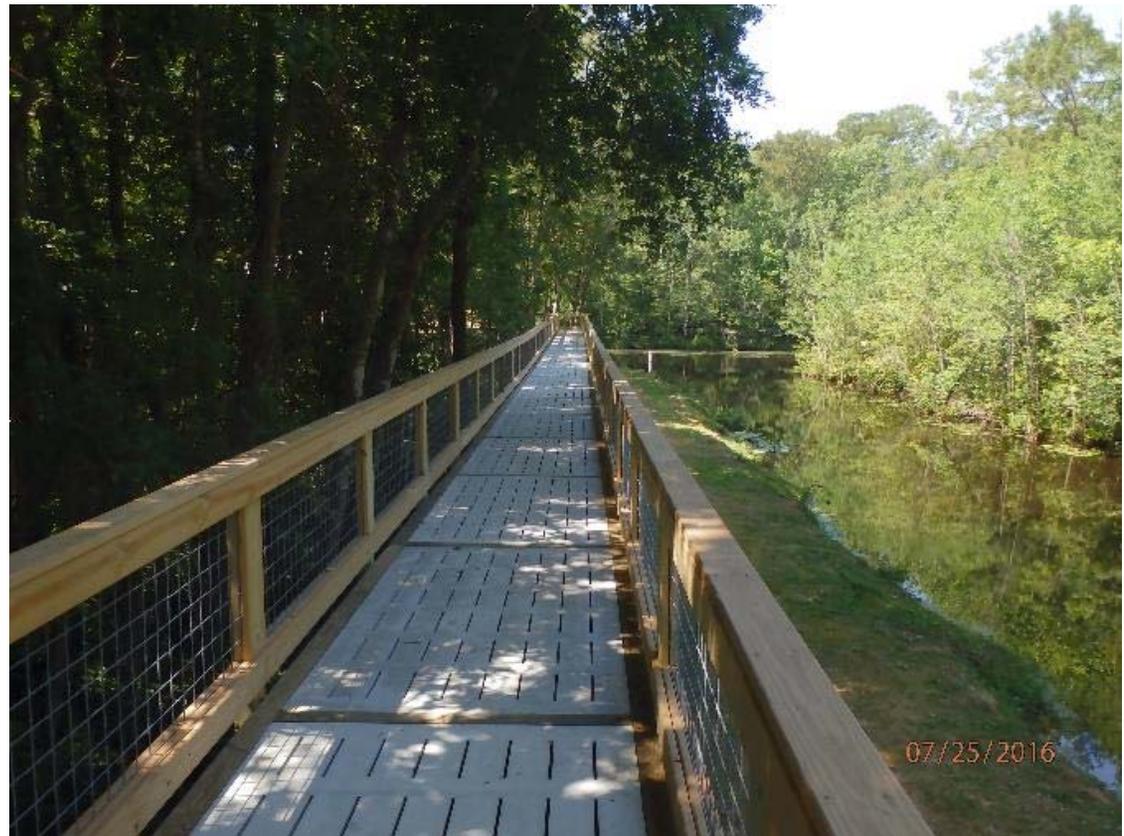
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Walnut Creek 2000

Outdoor Recreation Possibilities: Cashie River Treehouse Village

- Town of Windsor, NC
- (2) 16x20' Treehouses w/ 'Treezebo' observation deck, (1) 225' Riverwalk, (2) Fishing Piers, (1) ADA boat Launch & 100lf access walkways.
- Phase I featured on Season 2 of DIY Network's [The Treehouse Guys](#)



Source: <https://www.wildcenter.org/>

Walnut Creek 2000

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Walnut Creek 2000

Outdoor Recreation Possibilities: Outdoor Classroom

- Merchants Millpond State Park
- Outdoor classroom near Park's Visitor Center
- Overlooks historic Millpond



Walnut Creek 2000

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Walnut Creek 2000

Outdoor Recreation Possibilities: Wild Walk

- [Wild Center](#) in Adirondacks (Tupper Lake, NY)
- 30-Foot High Elevated Platform
- “Designed to transform the way we see into the natural world by offering up the perspective of the rest of nature”

Source: <https://www.wildcenter.org/>



Walnut Creek 2000



Late 1990's



Mid 2000's



2009



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Our Present:

Existing Conditions

**Opportunities +
Constraints**



AERIAL MAP

WALNUT CREEK WETLAND CENTER PROPERTY

SAINTS AVE

SAWYER RD

CARNAGE DR

PETERSON ST

S STATE ST

GARNER RD

WALLER PL

BAILEY DR

DARBY ST

1 inch = 200 feet

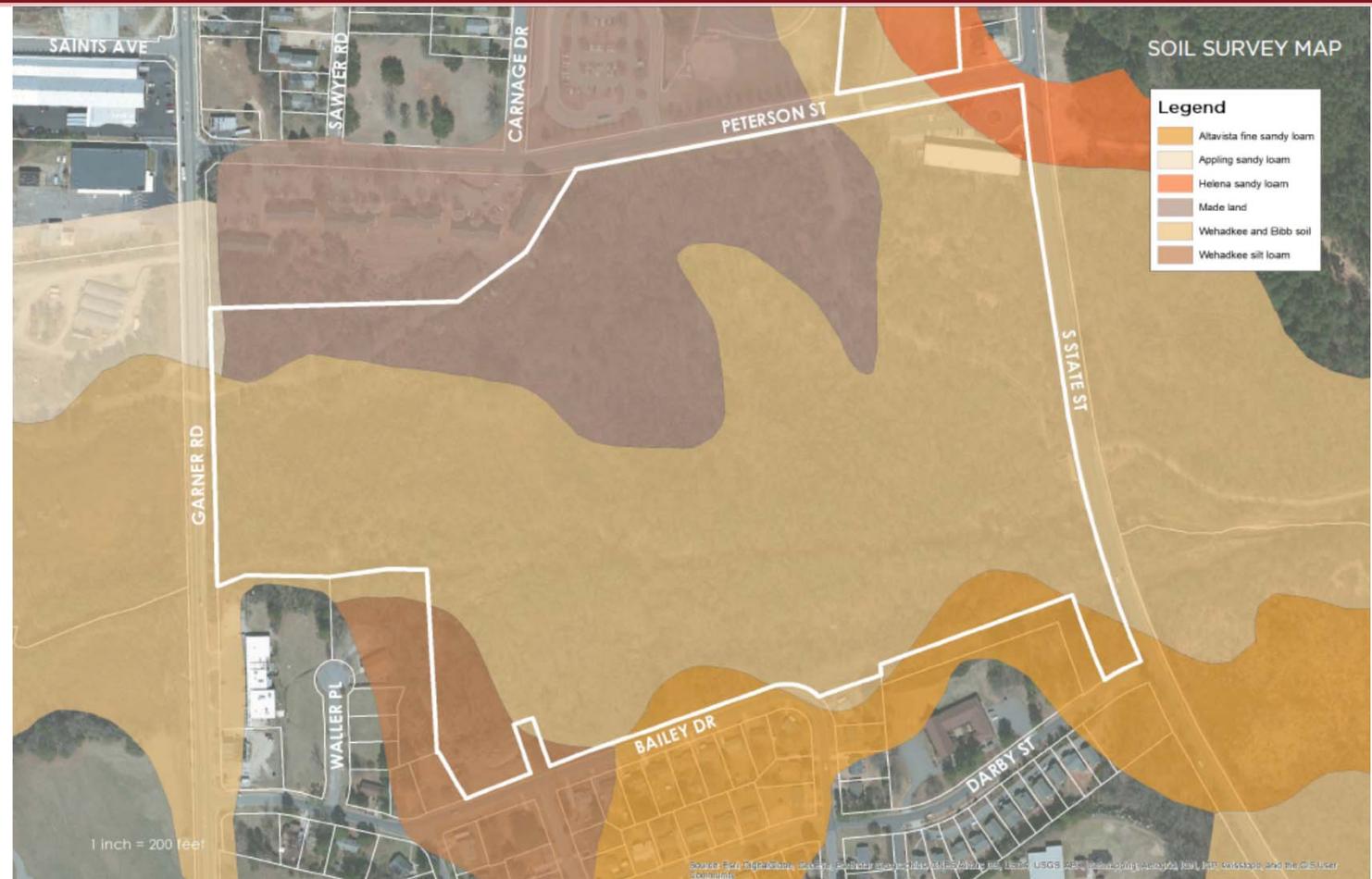
Source: Earthstar Atlanta, Georgia, Earthstar Geospatial, 2015/2016; USGS, 2014; Esri/Mapbox, Aerial, 2014, 2015, satellite, and the GIS User Community



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Soils

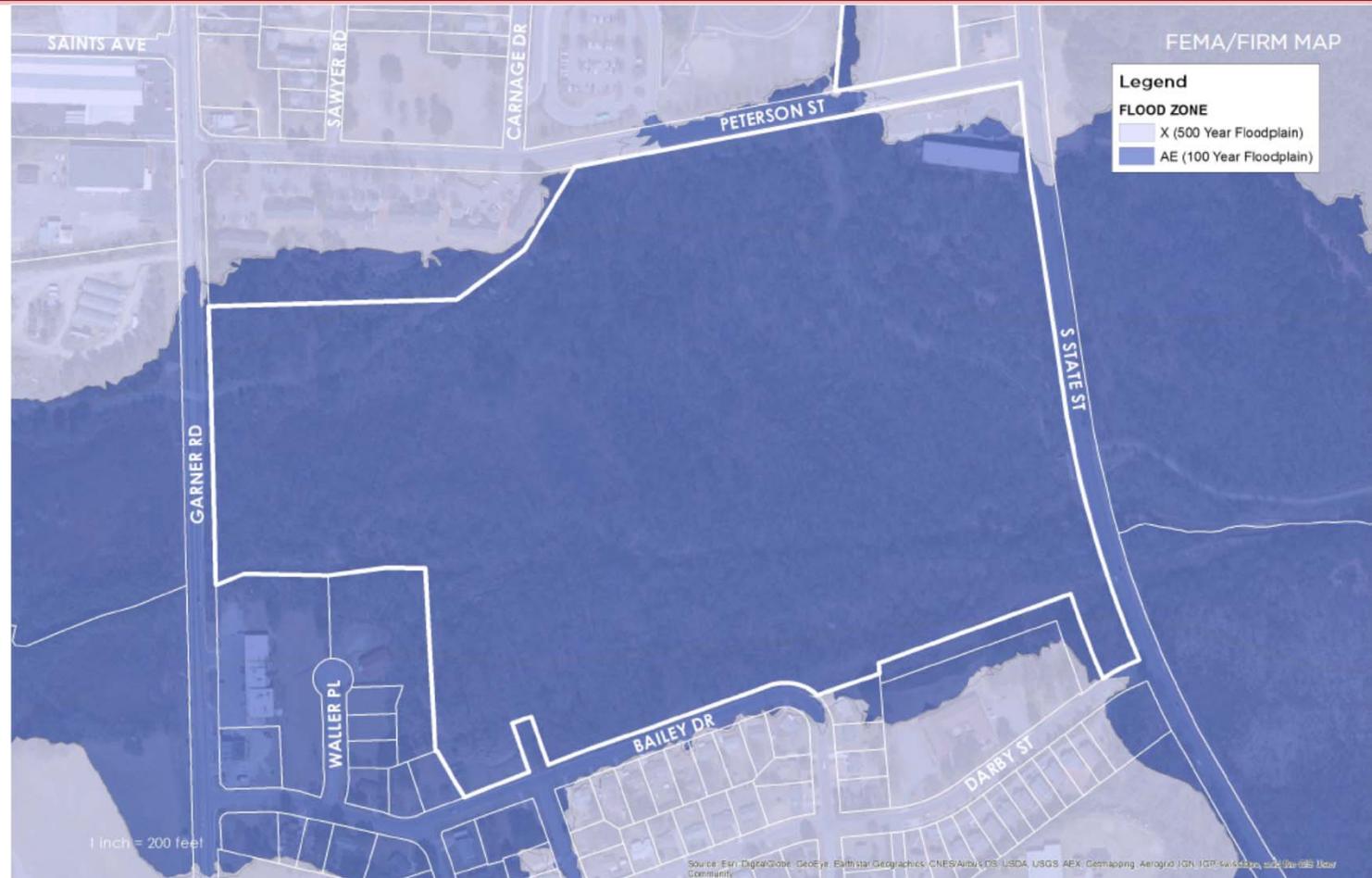
*Large area
of wetland
soils*



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

100-Yr Floodplain

*Site is almost
entirely in*



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Jurisdictional Wetlands and Streams

22.9 ac wetlands
2.9 ac streams



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Beavers!



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Wetlands!



Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Flora and Fauna

Refuge in an urbanized area for:

- Bottomland Hardwood Forest-green ash, red maple dominated
- Emergent Shrub/Scrub Community- Willow, herbaceous emergent wetland plants

- Wildlife-geese, ducks, hawks, migratory songbirds, red-winged blackbirds
- Deer, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, rabbits, coyotes
- Amphibians and reptiles-turtles, frogs, snakes

Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Invasive
species



OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

OPPORTUNITIES



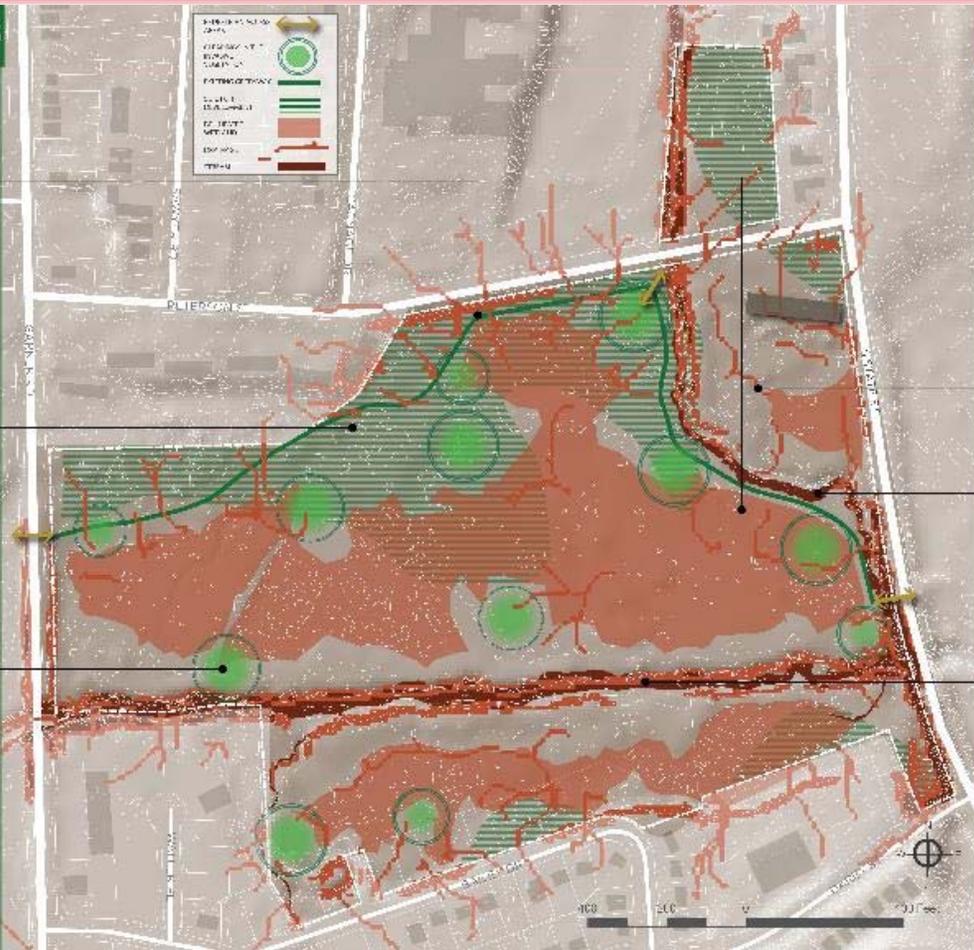
Existing infrastructure such as the greenway trail and the State Street pedestrian bypass provides opportunities to promote the site's regional greenway trail links in Raleigh.



A large amount of soil on the site is Maceo and/or Leno, the soil is sublimic as the original soil has been eroded and covered with a thin layer of soil, making it suitable for park and landscaping elements.



Natural clearings and desire lines within the moose suggest opportunities for viewpoints and additional trail access on the site.



CONSTRAINTS



Certain intensive development will not be allowed in the delineated wetland areas. This includes projects with in-stream structures or large amounts of dewatering vegetation or other constraints in these areas.



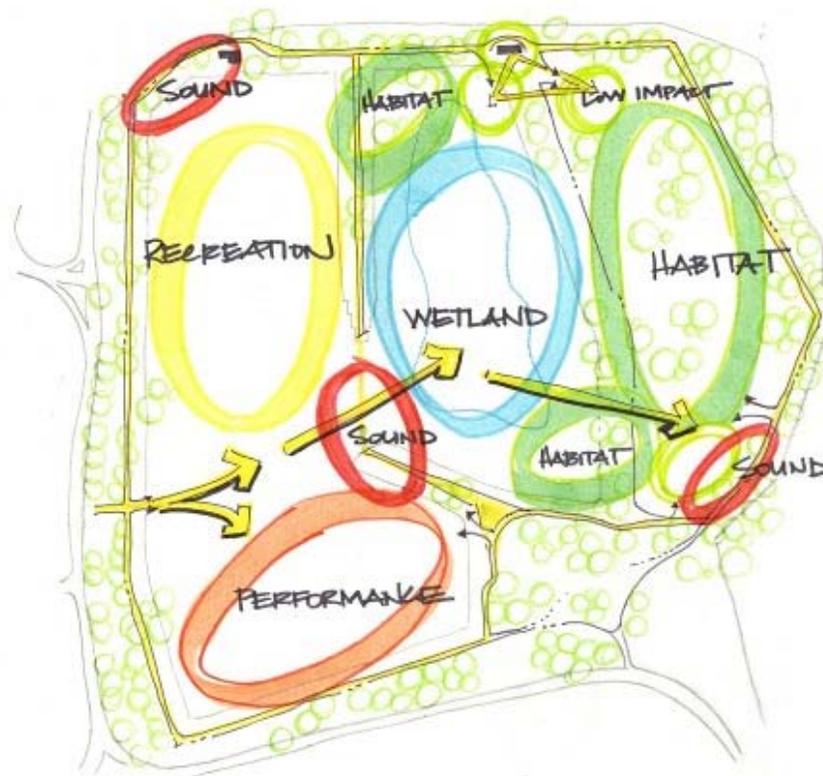
Topography and drainage constraints the location of future park elements because the natural topography flow of the site should be preserved where possible.



Access from the street is limited to existing sidewalks. Constraints include access to the site from the street, access to the site from the street, and access to the site from the street.

Walnut Creek Wetland Park

Our Future: Defining Park Elements



PROGRAM CONCEPT

RECREATION

ACTIVE/ENLIVE PEOPLE SPACE
- SPORTS FIELD - NON-PROGRAMMED
- PICNICS / SEATING
- JOGGING, BIKING, TALKING
- BIRD - INFO / FIELD HOUSE

HABITAT

EXPOSED PLANTING
- PROTECTED AVIAN HABITAT
- EDUCATION + OBSERVATION
- VISIT WITH LOW-IMPACT
- PROGRAMMING

PERFORMANCE

AMPLIFICATION
- SHEDDING PLAYS +
- SHEDDING PLAYS IN THE PARK
- STAGE + MUSIC
- PAVING SPACE - WORK OUT IN USE

SOUND

EXPOSED BOTH WETLAND +
- ADJACENT
- CONTRIBUTES TO HABITAT
- PERFORMANCE SPACE
- INTERACTIVE, SUSTAINABLE

WETLAND

PROVIDE WILD-NESS WETLAND
- ALLOW LIMITED ACCESS ACTIVE
- BOATING: CANALS + CANALS
- BOATING + PLATFORM

LOW IMPACT

CAMPING MODULAR + EDUCATION
- GROUP UNDER THE SHADE IN TIGHTLY
- WALK TO THE CANALS OF BIRD

ACTIVE FLOWS

PROVIDE - BIKING/WALKING/BIKE
- FACILITATE - WASTE MOVEMENT
- TRAIL + ADJACENT PEOPLE

Walnut Creek Wetland Park

CPC Schedule + Duration

- Meeting #1: June 26, 2017
- Meeting #2: July 24, 2017
- Meeting #3: August 28, 2017
- Meeting #4: September 18, 2017
- Meeting #5: October 16, 2017

