

**CITY OF NORCROSS**



# TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL

**Georgia Outdoor Recreation & Trail Summit**

**May 16, 2022**





**NORCROSS  
PARKS GREENSPACE &  
TRAILS COMMISSION**

**Technical Advisory Panel Client**

**TRUST FOR  
PUBLIC LAND**

**Nonprofit focused on parks  
for places, people, and com-  
munities that need them  
most**



**TRUST FOR  
PUBLIC  
LAND™**



**Gresham  
Smith**

**GRESHAM SMITH**

**Architecture & engineering firm  
specializing in solutions for life's  
most essential infrastructure and  
institutions**

**ALTA PLANNING  
+ DESIGN**

**Active transportation company  
dedicated to creating active,  
healthy communities**



# TODAYS TOPICS

**Introductions**

**Technical Advisory Panel Overview**

**Site Background and Process**

**The Concepts:**

**Short-Term / Temporary Strategies**

**Long-Term Concepts & Vision**

**Recommendations and Next Steps**



# TAP OVERVIEW

## EXPERIMENTAL

**The Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) is a new component of the Outdoor Recreation & Trail Summit**

## PRO-BONO

**The design team volunteered to assist with developing conceptual ideas and advice on how to move forward**

## SHORT-TERM

**The short timeline and compressed schedule is meant to foster collaboration and spur big ideas**



# OUR PROCESS

## 1. RESEARCH & DATA

Review previous plans and recommendations, gather data on existing conditions.

## 2. SITE VISIT

Visit the site to observe and explore firsthand conditions on the ground to inform our understanding of the site and what is possible.

## 3. INITIAL CONCEPTS

Generate sketches to show range of options for how the site could potentially be configured and used.

## 4. REFINE IDEAS

Revise and refine initial concepts based on PGT feedback and develop recommendations for short-term and long-term action steps.



# FOUNDATION

## 1. PRIOR PLANS

The Buford Highway Master Plan served as a starting point.

## 2. TRAIL CONNECTIONS

In the plan, the “Jimmy Carter Node” at Jimmy Carter Blvd and Buford Hwy is envisioned as setting the stage for future connectivity by providing direct connections to proposed future trails and walkways internal to the site.

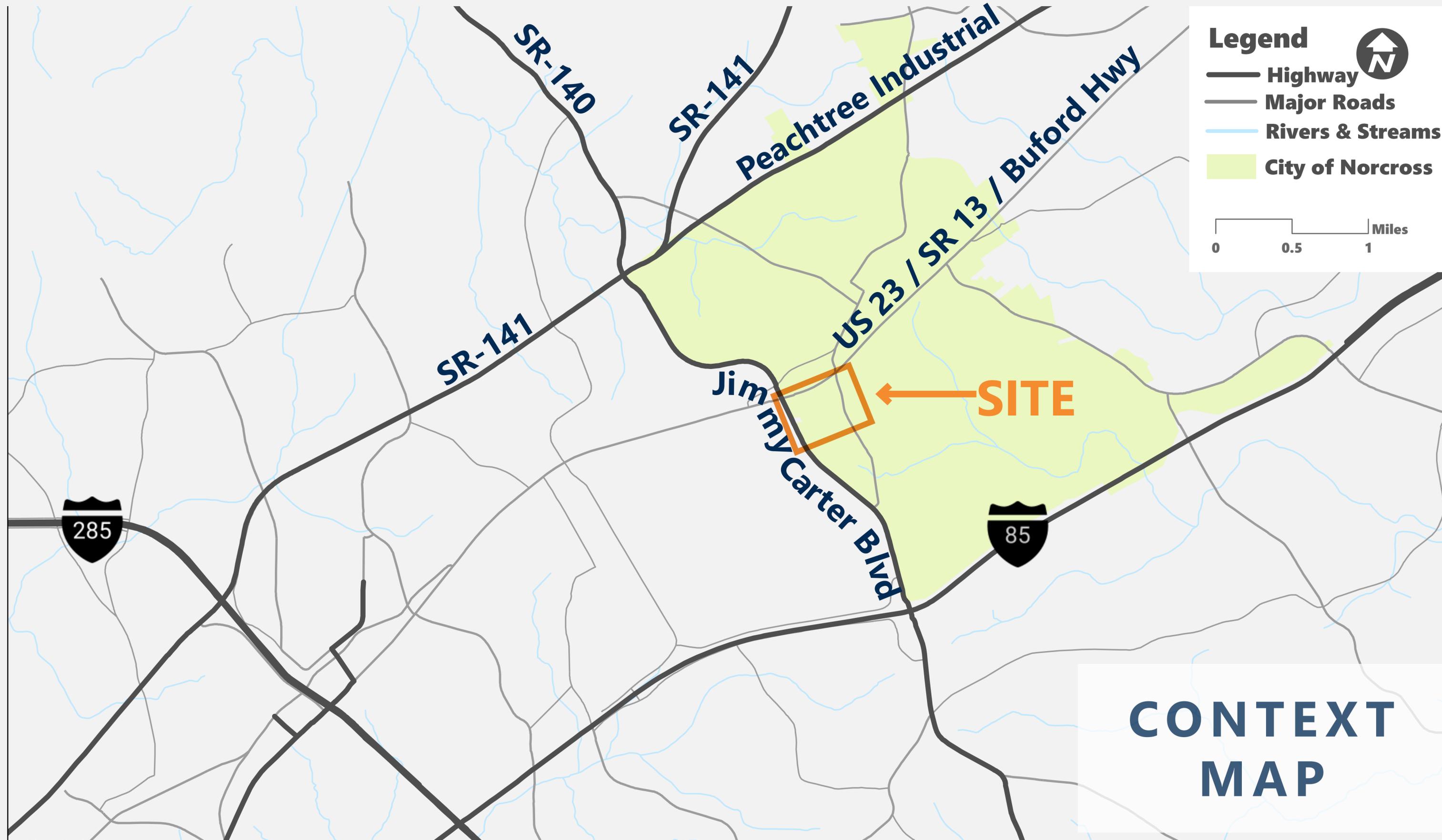
## 3. NATURAL FEATURES

The topography of the site and presence of a small creek also helped guide the overall vision.

## 4. PARTNERSHIPS

Through partnerships with the community, PGT should be able to help generate momentum for implementation of the long-term vision through short-term demonstration projects.



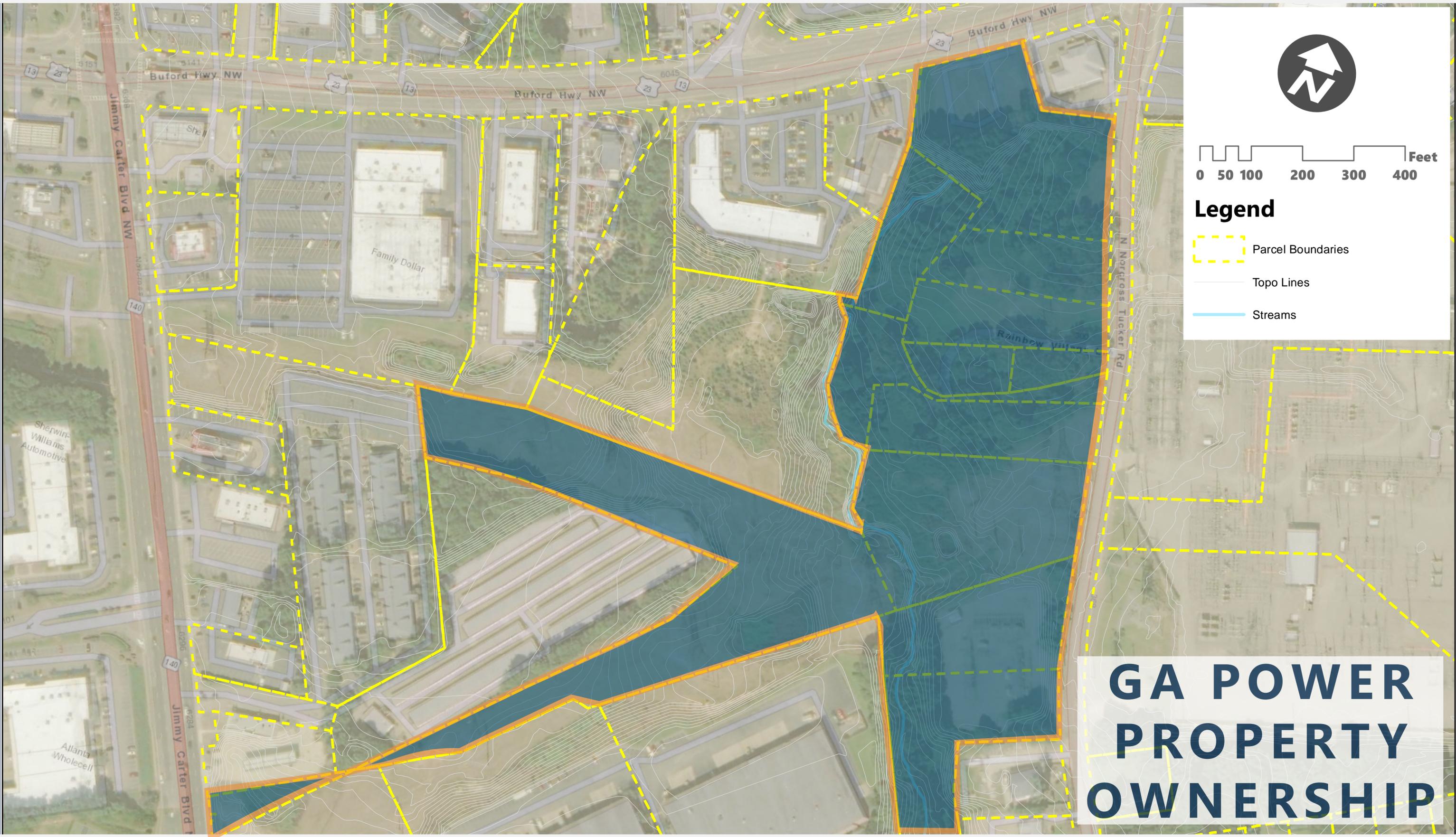




### Legend

- Parcel Boundaries
- Topo Lines
- Streams

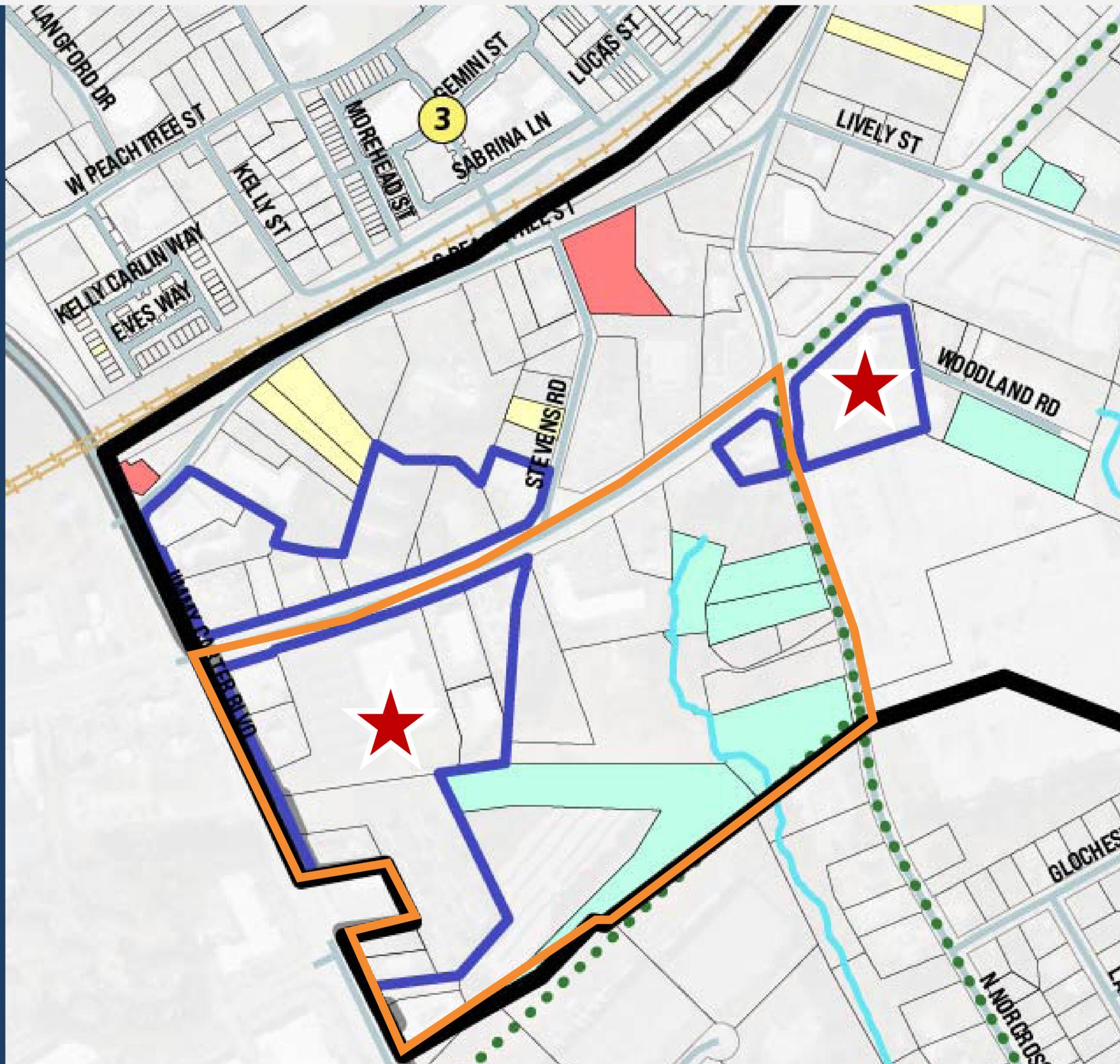
**THE SITE**



**Legend**

- Parcel Boundaries
- Topo Lines
- Streams

**GA POWER  
PROPERTY  
OWNERSHIP**



# DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

## REDEVELOPMENT AREAS

Several areas, shown in purple outline, have been identified for redevelopment by the City of Norcross as of 2020. Priority sites are marked with a star.

## VACANT LAND

Parcels shown in light green are vacant utility land. These represent prime opportunities for early phases of a potential demonstration project.



# BHMP TRAILS

## **TRAILS & PATH**

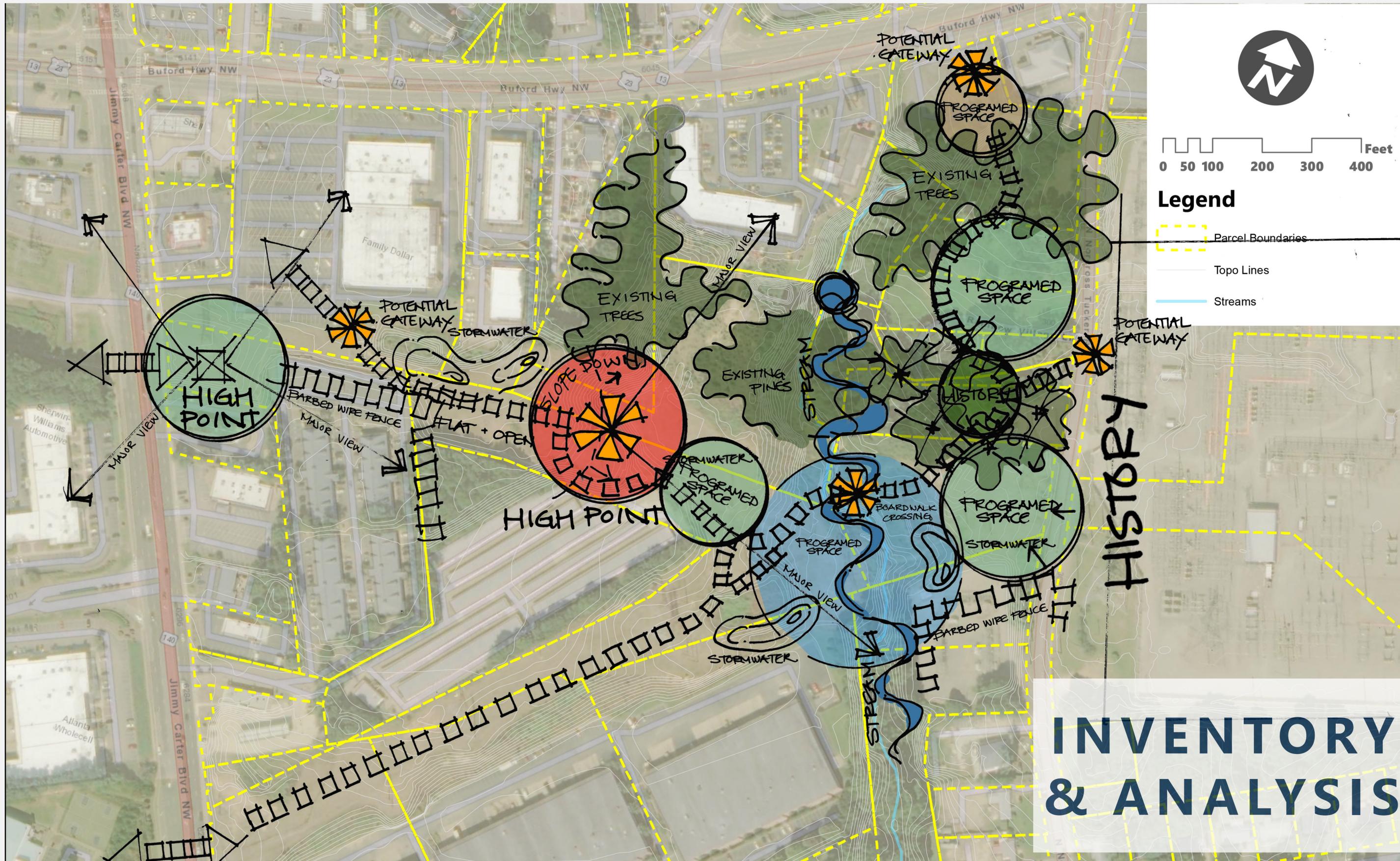
**Network of proposed pathways shown in purple dashed lines from Jimmy Carter Blvd through the site between proposed redevelopment.**

## **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Stormwater pond shown at low-point in site can become an amenity.**



**THE SITE  
TODAY**



# INVENTORY & ANALYSIS



# INSPIRATION IMAGES

**Pollinator Gardens**

**Bridges over Creeks**

**Path Surface Types**



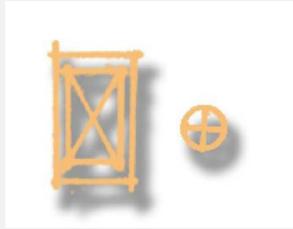
**TRAIL  
CONCEPT**



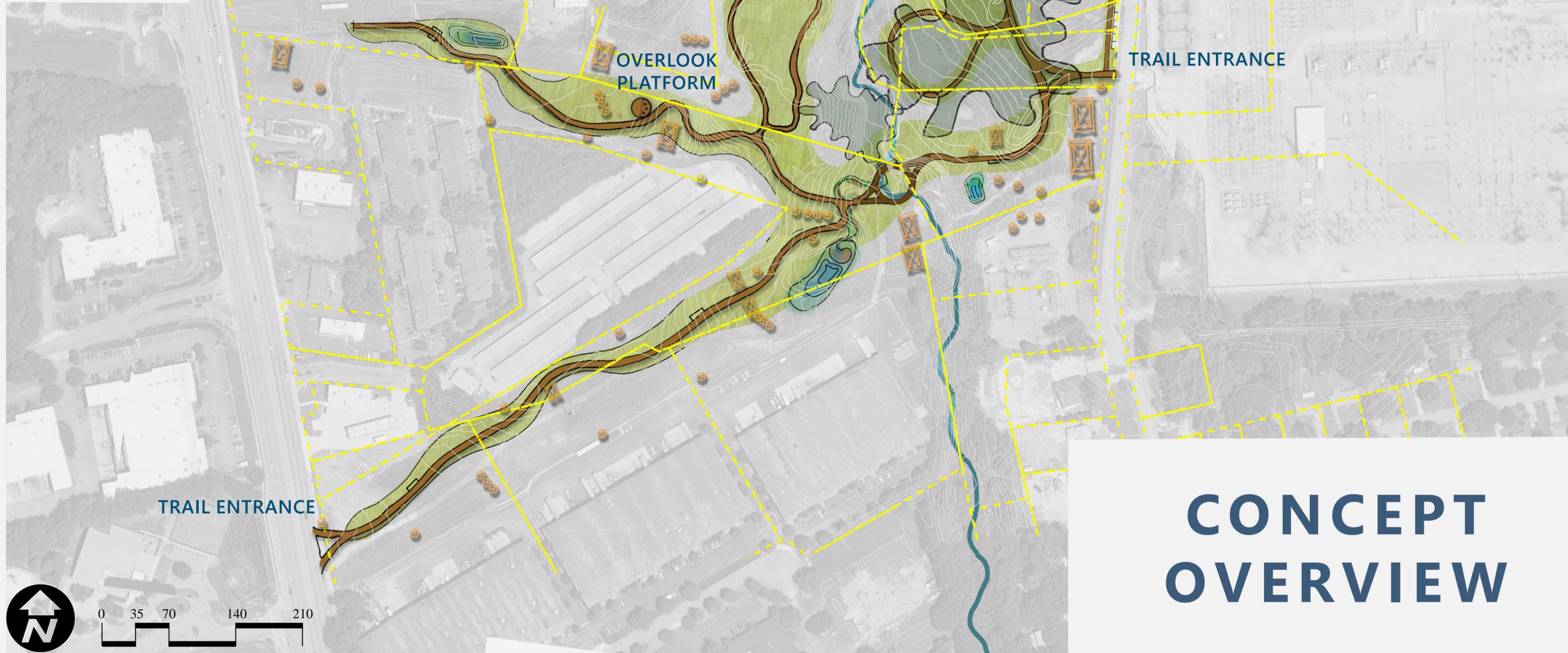
**BRIDGE  
CONCEPT**



MAIN TRAIL



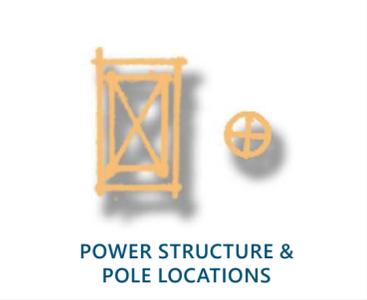
POWER STRUCTURE & POLE LOCATIONS



# CONCEPT OVERVIEW



MAIN TRAIL



POWER STRUCTURE & POLE LOCATIONS



INTERIM GATEWAY



DETENTION POND RESTORATION



WOODLAND RAMBLE



TRAIL GATEWAY



STREAMBANK CLEANING



OVERLOOK AREA



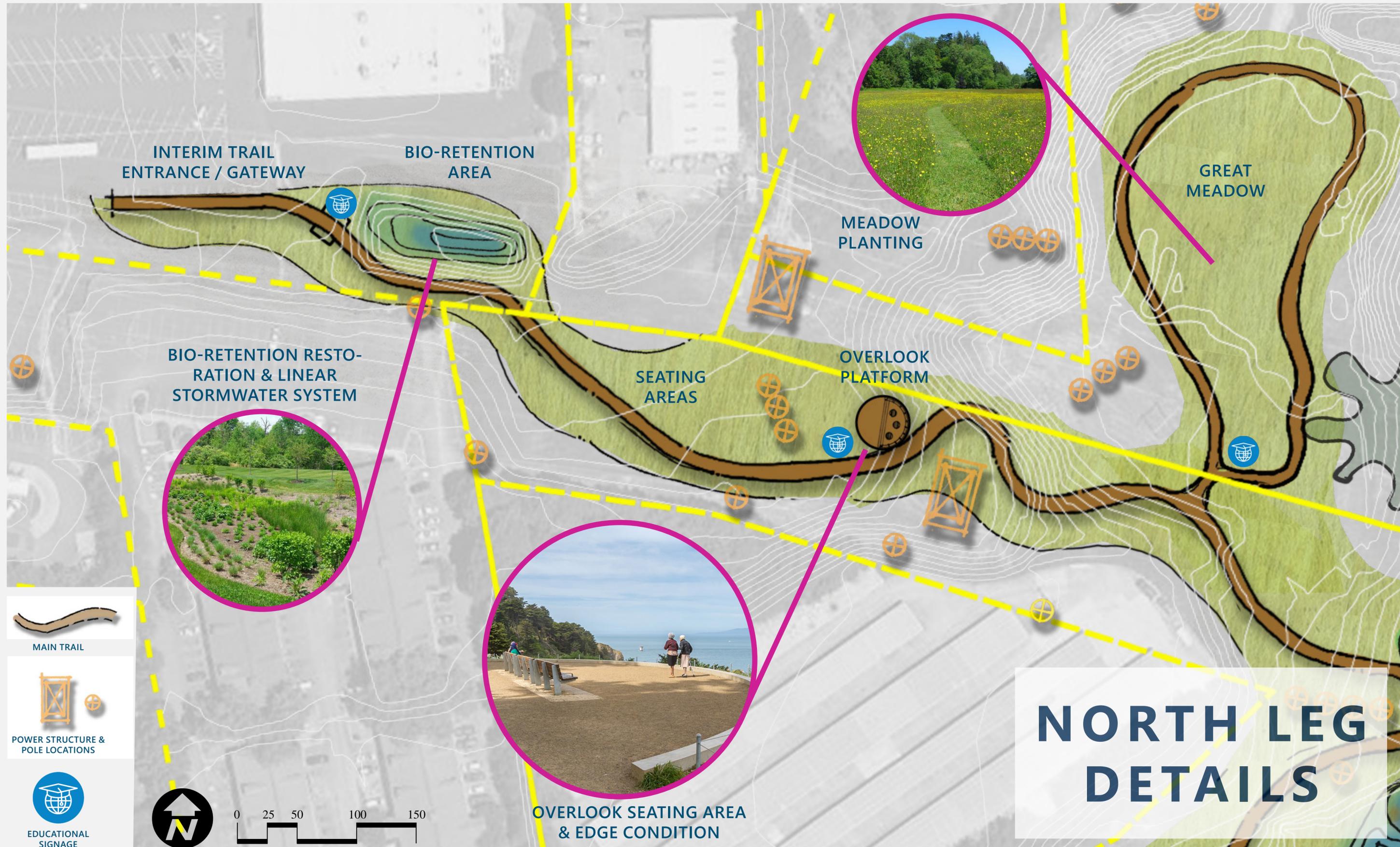
DIRECT BRIDGE CONNECTION



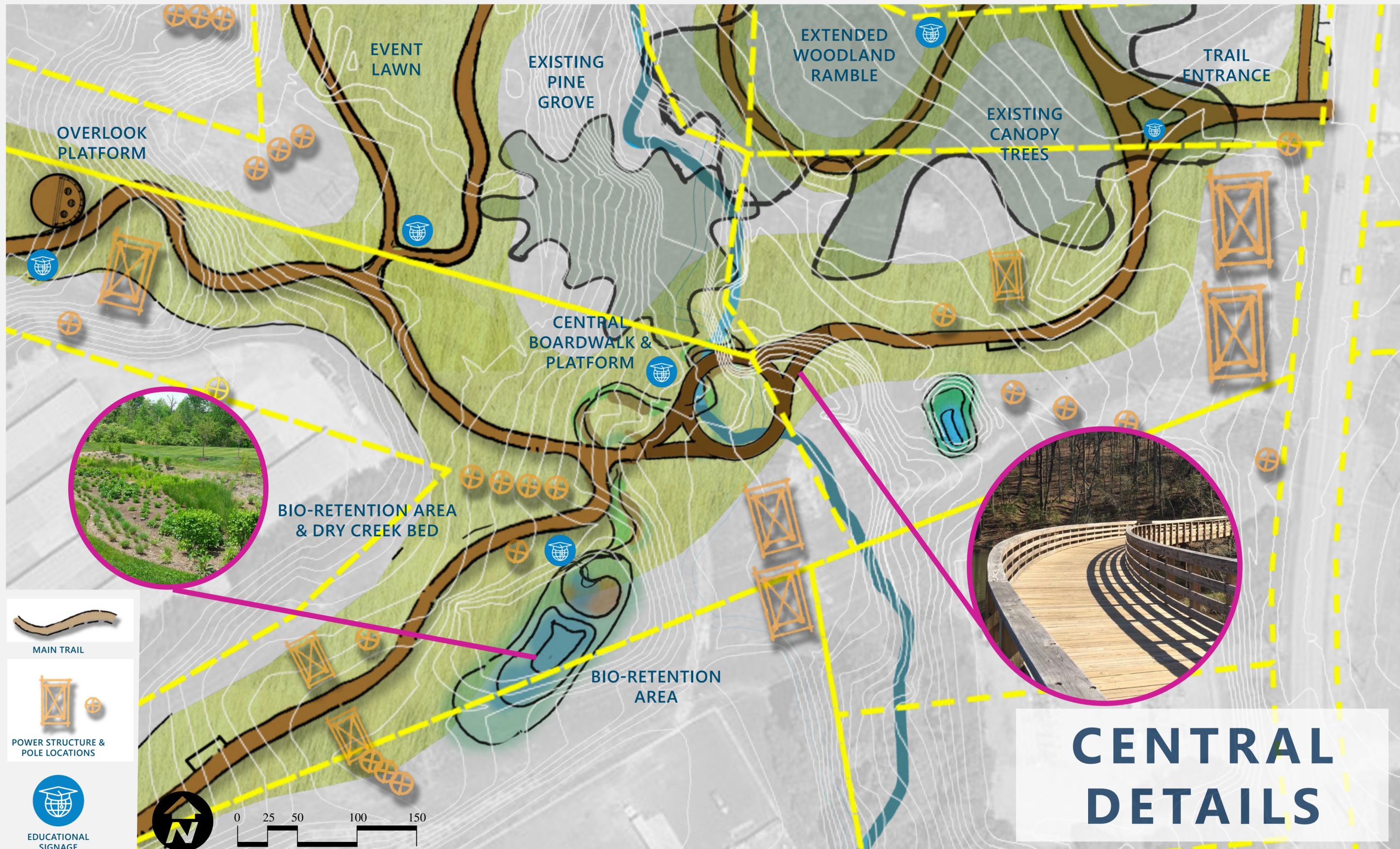
POLLINATOR PLANTINGS



# SHORT-TERM



# NORTH LEG DETAILS



# CENTRAL DETAILS

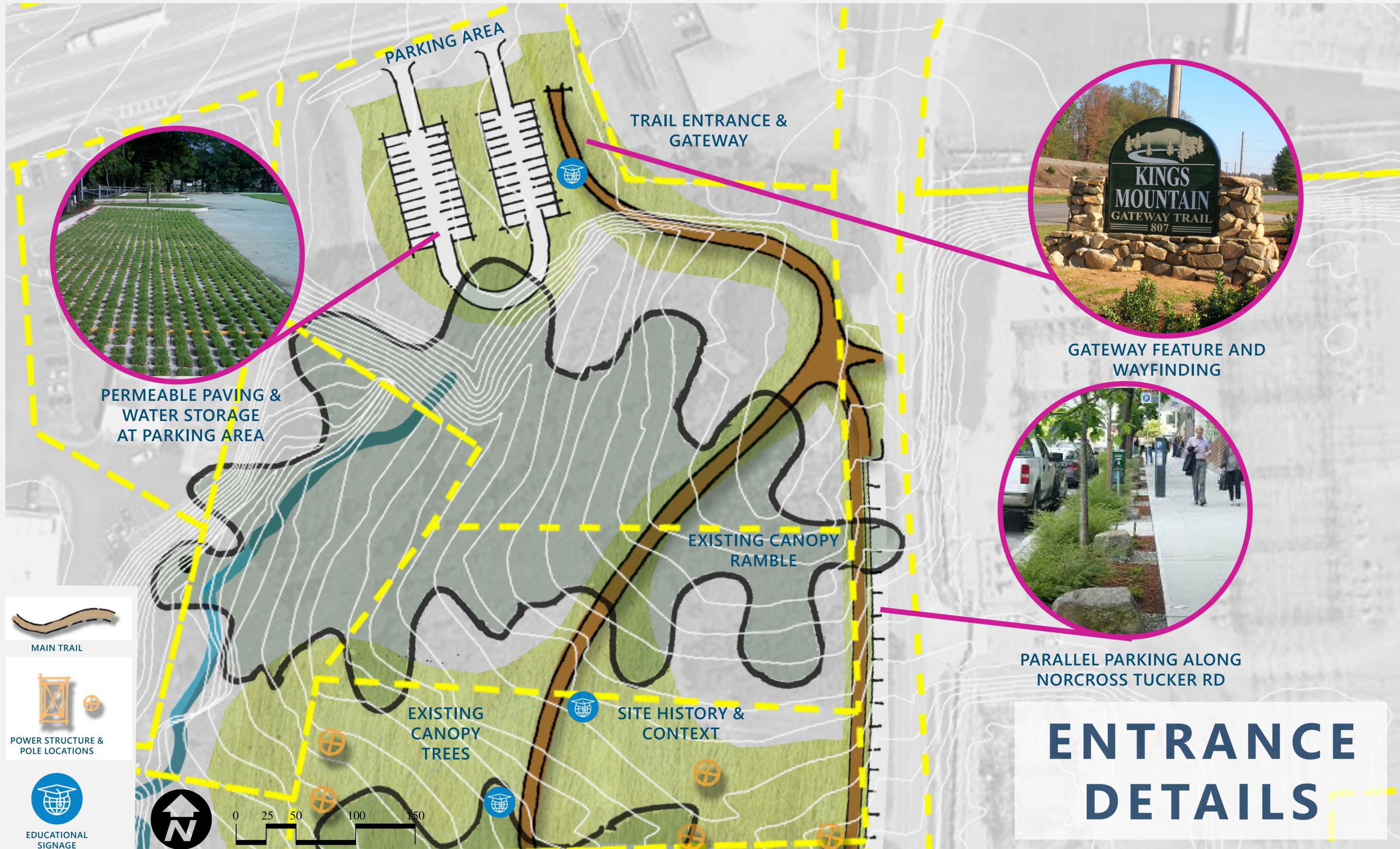
 MAIN TRAIL

 POWER STRUCTURE & POLE LOCATIONS

 EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE



**SOUTH LEG  
DETAILS**



# ENTRANCE DETAILS



# LONG-TERM

# PHASED APPROACH

## SHORT-TERM

**Flora & Fauna Inventory**

**Pollinator Plantings**

**Educational Signage**

**Volunteering Events**

**Path Clearing (Easements)**

## MID-TERM

**Demonstration Project**

**Volunteer-built Benches**

**Formal Signage**

**Define Overlook Area**

**Creek Restoration**

**Maintenance Agreements**

**Temporary Bridge**

**Host Events**

## LONG-TERM

**Gravel Trail**

**Fabricated Benches, Trash Receptacles + Amenities**

**Bioretention Areas**

**Formal Overlook**

**Delineate Meadow**

**Permanent Bridge**

**Trailhead Parking**

**Gateway Entrance**



SOCIAL MEDIA / MAILING LIST



# IMPLEMENTATION

## **HOST A VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP DAY**

**Work with GA Power and City to facilitate a clean-up day: pick up litter and trash around the site and at the creek, quantify the results, and share widely to demonstrate commitment to improving the site for future potential use. This could include cleaning out the existing retention ponds on-site to improve functionality.**

## **CLEAN-UP STEPS**

- **Coordinate with City and GA Power to secure permission**
- **Gather supplies and materials (bags, gloves, waders, etc.)**
- **Recruit volunteers**
- **Take photos and share on social media**

# IMPLEMENTATION

## **INTERN PROJECTS**

**PG&T has relationships with Gwinnett County schools and is working with rising 11th and 12th graders.**

**Students can help with a range of short-term projects that will help inform site design, programming and implementation.**

## **INTERNSHIP IDEAS**

- Flora & fauna inventory and mapping**
- Create tree tags**
- Historical research & story telling**
- Assist with educational signage and site work**

# IMPLEMENTATION

## **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

**PGT would work with property owners and community members to implement some of the initial site elements and furnishings using low-cost materials.**

**Start with low-cost, low-labor materials like scrap wood, hand-painted signs, or even temporary outdoor paint to mark trail segments or viewing areas.**

## **LOW-COST TEMPORARY ELEMENTS**

- **Clear pathway / trail through site**
- **Install seating - along trail, at overlook**
- **Develop educational and directional signage**
- **Delineate pollinator garden areas**

**Organize regular visits to monitor the site and perform maintenance if/as needed.**

# IMPLEMENTATION

## **TEMPORARY BRIDGE**

**As a first step in linking the two sides of the site, work with local organizations and material suppliers to construct a rustic, temporary bridge to cross the creek.**

**The bridge would serve as an interim strategy while more permanent options are discussed and fundraising is ongoing.**

## **SHORT-TERM / TEMPORARY BRIDGE**

- **Wooden slats**
- **Handrail**
- **Seek discounted or donated material and/or labor**
- **Opportunity for partnerships with local groups, businesses, and other organizations**

# IMPLEMENTATION

## **DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT FEATURES**

**Working with partners, PG&T and the City of Norcross can build relationships that set the stage for long-term implementation, establishing guidelines for buffers around utility structures, maintenance access, and other requirements.**

**Fundraising and securing services to build on short-term elements and engineer site plans will be key to long-term success.**

## **LONG-TERM STEPS**

- Grants and fundraising**
- Engineering design services and site plans**
- Permanent bridge over creek**
- Overlook railing/fence**
- Parking areas**

# QUESTIONS?

**Design Team Participants:**

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