

Boone's Cave Park Master Plan



Davidson County
Board of County
Commissioners

February 9, 2012

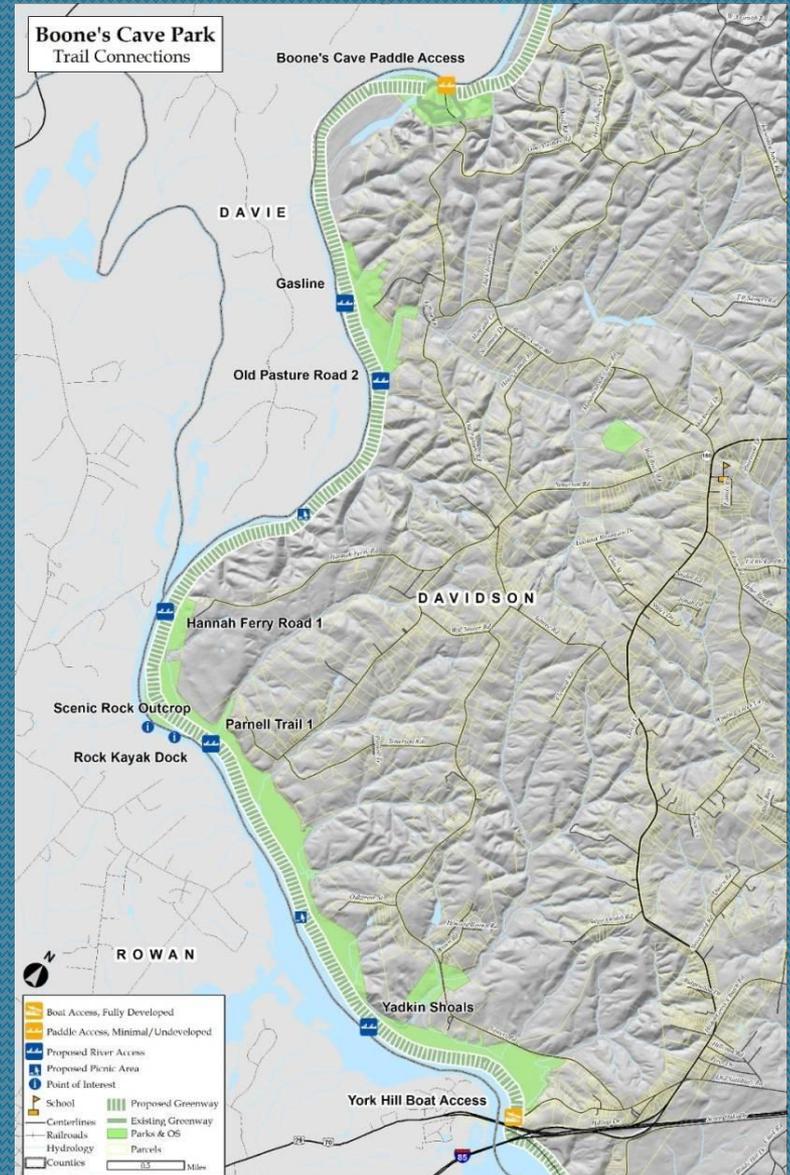
Piedmont Triad
Regional Council

Master Plan Organization

- Introduction – Past Planning Efforts & Location Map
- Existing Conditions – Resources & Site Limitations
- Public Involvement – Surveys, Committee & Workshop
- Interpretive Plan – Features, Themes & Programming
- Site Plan – Goals, Guidelines and Recommendations
- Appendices – Species, Survey Results, Notes, Resources

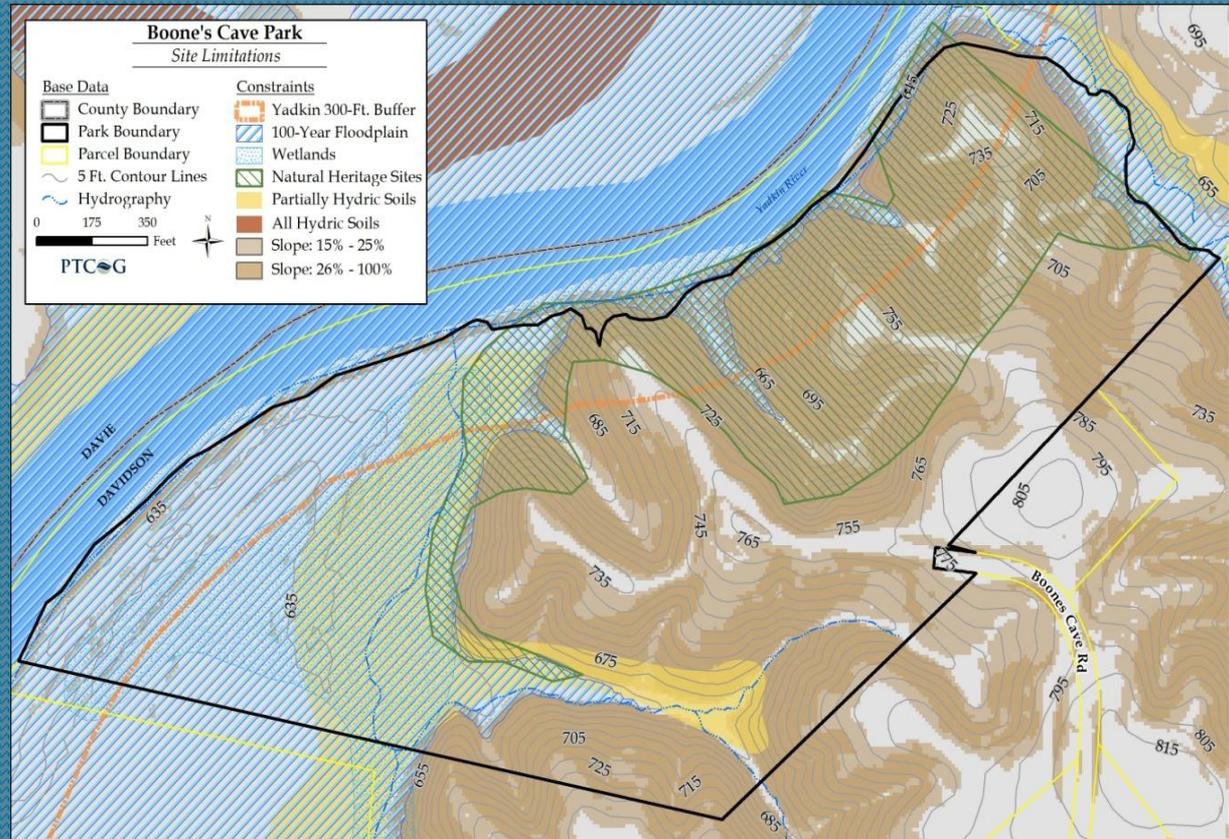
Foundational Planning Efforts

- Tourism and Recreation Development Master Plan
- Boone's Cave Park Project
- Davidson County Greenway Plan
- Davidson County Blueway Plan



Site Development Limitations

- 90 + acres
- Steep slopes, floodplain & wet soils on most of the park site
- Natural Heritage Inventory Element Occurrence on most of the site



Interpretive Plan Overview

Recommendations to enhance the user experience

1) Programs

2) Features

- Primary Themes:

- Yadkin Valley Native Americans
- European Settlement
- Historical Trading Fords & Paths
- Native Flora and Fauna
- Yadkin Valley Geology

- Secondary Themes:

- Slavery and Plantation History;
- Civil War History;
- African American Heritage;
- Agricultural and Rural Landscapes;
- Civilian Conservation Corps



Interpretive Plan - Programs

- Develop Annual Calendar of Programs & Events
- Provide Monthly Talks & Demonstrations
- Lead Monthly Hikes
- Hold Quarterly Events
- Develop 4th & 8th Grade School Curriculum
- Develop Recorded Podcasts & Phone Recordings
- Develop Joint Marketing with Nearby Resources

Interpretive Plan - Features

NATURAL

Name	Existing Wayfinding Aids	New Interpretive Aids	Interpretive Improvements
Boone's Cave	Directional sign near picnic shelter	Sign panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign panel near cave or water access• Describe unique Yadkin River geology.
Native Flora & Fauna	Trails lead user through natural areas with markers	Brochure Website Notebook Taxidermy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign panel of flora & fauna at trailhead locations• Notebook of flora & fauna at welcome kiosk
River Access	Signage near parking lot	Blueway Plan and a Paddling Trail Brochure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign panel of trading paths and river commerce• Brochure of Boone Country Heritage Canoe Trail• Sign panel with Map of Heritage Canoe Trail

Interpretive Plan - Features

CULTURAL

Name	Existing Wayfinding Aids	New Interpretive Aids	Interpretive Improvements
Daniel Boone Legend	Trails leading to Cave	Brochure and sign panel	Provide a description of Daniel Boone's time in the Yadkin Valley and what it might have been like, include reference to the Daniel Boone Heritage Driving trail
18th Century Cabin	Cabin trail leads to cabin	Brochure and sign panel	Provide sign panel at the cabin describing how cabin was constructed depicting a typical settler scene, add appropriate structures to aid in interpretation. Recorded podcast and phone message.
Memorial Marker	Prominently placed in center of park	Rock cairns	Model the Boone Country Heritage Canoe Trail cairns from the Memorial Marker. Recorded podcast and phone message.
Trading Fords and Paths	Off park site	Sign panel	Provide maps, pictures and describe the process of how crossing rivers used to occur. Talk about the commerce that occurred in the Woodlands and the Contact/Settlement Period
Fish Weirs	Off park site	Sign panel	Provide a sign panel showing pictures of Yadkin River Fish Weir today and a depiction of what it might look like in action
Plantations	Off park site	Brochure or reference for more info	Provide history of the Hairston family plantation and describe life on a plantation for African American slaves.

Site Plan Overview

- Environmentally Sensitive Site
- Maximize Preservation & Interpretation
- Accommodate School Groups & Out-of-County Visitors
 - Limited On-Site Parking
 - Provide Off-Site Overflow Parking
- Support Interpretive Events & Programs

Site Plan Recommendations

ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING BUILT FEATURES

Feature	Wayfinding Aids	Recommended Enhancements
River Access	canoe trail signs	Provide more accessible access with handrails, <i>Boone Country Heritage Canoe Trail</i> brochure and campsites near the river
Trails	brochure, signs	Fund boardwalk improvements, improve on-line map of trails, use volunteers for trail clean-up & maintenance days
Restrooms	maps, brochure, message board	Provide additional stalls in each bathroom for larger events with changing tables for infants
Picnic Shelter	signs to stairs and overlook,	Maximize user enjoyment as one of the best vistas in the park, telescope
Camping	brochure, website, text messaging	Streamline online campsite reservations and provide text message or voice message sign-ins
Ranger Cabin	kiosk with maps & brochures for when ranger is occupied	Provide welcome kiosk until a visitors center can be designed and built to welcome and orient park visitors
Old Foundation	signs to trail	Possible use as the foundation of an interpretive kiosk or educational shelter – see site plan detail
18th Century Log Cabin Replica	interpretive and wayfinding signs, handicap parking	Historically appropriate out building and support displays (e.g. smoke house, corn crib, tanning frame, butter churn, kitchen garden, etc.)

Site Plan Recommendations

- **Assumptions:** No additional funding for staff or land acquisition and very limited funding for programming or facility development.

Proposed Built Features – SHORT TERM(0-5 Years)

Feature	Location	Recommendations
Welcome Kiosk	In front of rangers cabin & proposed Visitors' Center	Roofed structure providing locked exhibit space, displays, brochures, maps, visitor and camper check-in & survey box
Parking for the Welcome Area	In front of existing rangers cabin and proposed Visitors' Center	13 asphalt parking spaces (10'X20') and 2 concrete handicap spaces (12'X20') with a 10-foot wide ADA concrete sidewalk leading to Welcome Kiosk & Visitors' Center
Bus Parking for the Welcome Area	Across the entrance drive from ranger's cabin & proposed Visitors' Center	7 gravel parallel bus parking spaces (10'X40') or 14 gravel parallel auto parking spaces (10'X20') including concrete block retaining wall as necessary
Boardwalk	Connector between the Cottonwood Trail & Boone's Peak Trail	8- to 10-foot wide wooden boardwalk 300-400 feet in length with a variety of seating areas and scenic overlooks with interpretive signs
Paddle Trail Camp Sites	South-West of the Cottonwood Tree	Consider 3 raised wooden platforms (10'X10') with take-out steps, fire pits, trashcans & latrine.

Site Plan Recommendations

Assumptions: Some funding for staff and facility additions; no land acquisition funds

Proposed Built Features – MID-TERM (5-10 YEARS)

Feature	Location	Recommendations
Visitors' Center	West of the existing ranger's cabin	Exhibit area, meeting rooms, restrooms, offices, multi-purpose room with fireplace.
Old Foundation Educational Shelter	South of existing picnic shelter along trail to amphitheater	Post & beam shelter with wood-shake roof & open sides for interpretive & education facility for up to 35 visitors or students
Parking, Sidewalk and Gravel Trail	By existing picnic shelter and along southwest side of entrance drive	4 concrete handicap parking spaces (12'X20'), 32 asphalt parking spaces, 8-foot concrete sidewalk from picnic to restrooms and 8-foot gravel trail to Education Shelter
Parking for Restrooms & Camping	Within existing concrete turn-around	2 concrete handicap parking spaces (12'X20'), 3 asphalt parking spaces, 8-foot concrete sidewalk to restrooms, and 8-foot gravel trail to existing camping
Native American Village Scene	Associated with Overlook Loop Trail	Provide example housing, cooking and Native American village amenities.
18 th Century Log Cabin Replica	Hilltop surrounding existing cabin	Split-rail fence, historically appropriate out-buildings, interpretive sign & displays.

Site Plan Recommendations

Assumptions: More funds for staff, facilities and land acquisition.

Proposed Built Features – LONG TERM (10+ YEARS)

Feature	Location	Recommendations
Amphitheater	Located north of the Historic Cabin Road within existing natural bowl to minimize forest disturbances	14-foot wide gravel road with turn-around, 2 concrete handicap parking spaces (12'X20"), 8-foot wide gravel trail leading to Educational Shelter, and a terraced amphitheater with stone retaining walls to accommodate ±100 visitors for interpretive, educational & entertainment events.
Observation Deck	At the base of the stairway along the bank of the River	Cantilevered wooden observation deck approximately 20' X 30' with seating and interpretive signs
Fishing Deck	At the base of the stairway along the bank of the River	Cantilevered wooden fishing deck approximately 20' X 30' with seating, pole mounts, gutting tables and interpretive signs

Existing Park Facilities

Boone's Cave Park - Master Plan Existing Park Facilities

- County Boundary
- Park Boundary
- Parcel Boundary
- Existing Trails
- Proposed Boardwalk
- Hydrography
- 5 Ft. Contour Lines

Image Source:
2009 County Ortho



0 125 250
Feet

PTC&G



Master Plan Recommendations



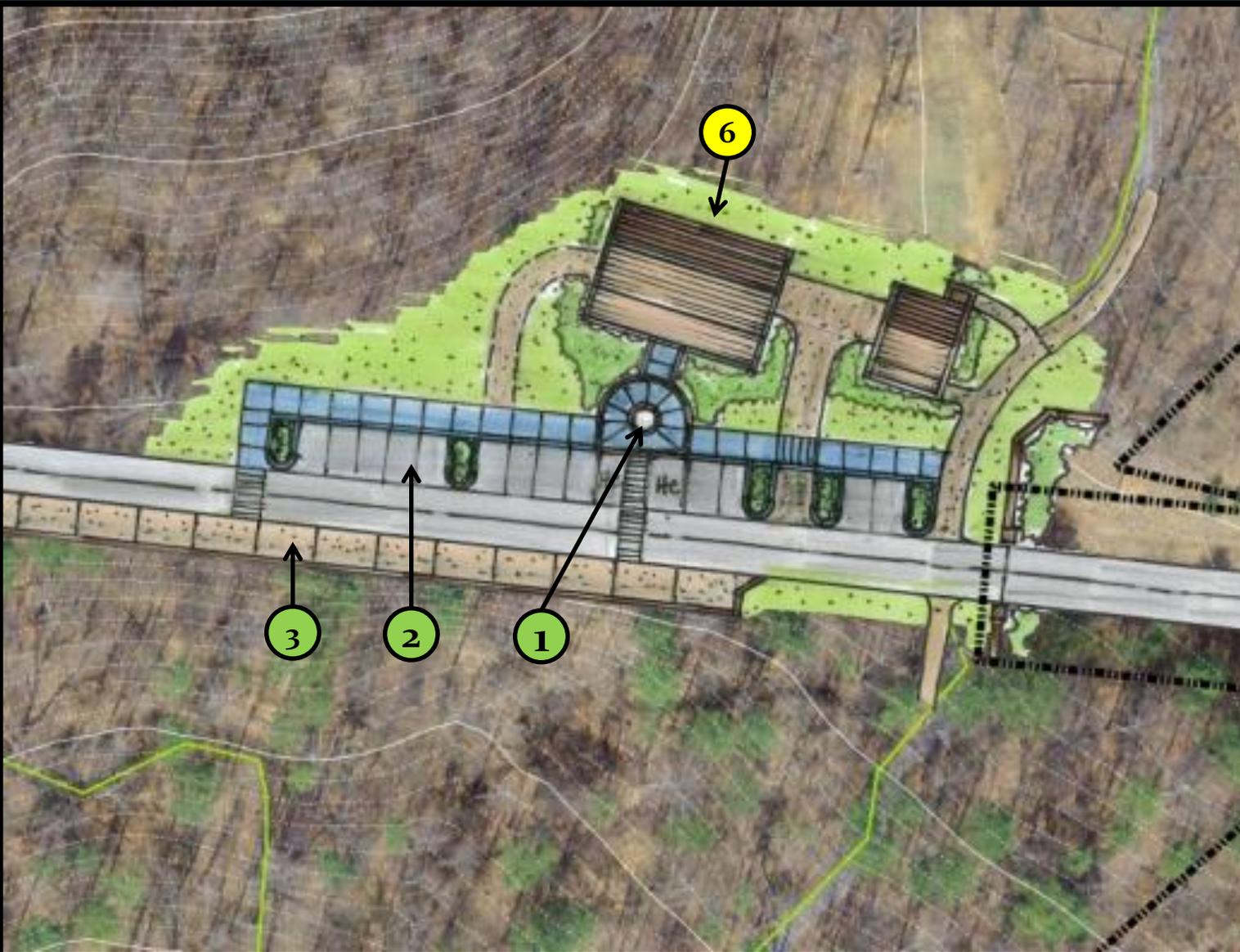
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2	Parking for the Welcome Area
3	Bus Parking for the Welcome Area
4	Boardwalk
5	Paddle Trail Camp Sites
6	Visitors' Center
7	Old Foundation Educational Shelter
8	Parking, Sidewalk and Gravel Trail
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14	Fishing Deck

Core – Welcome Area



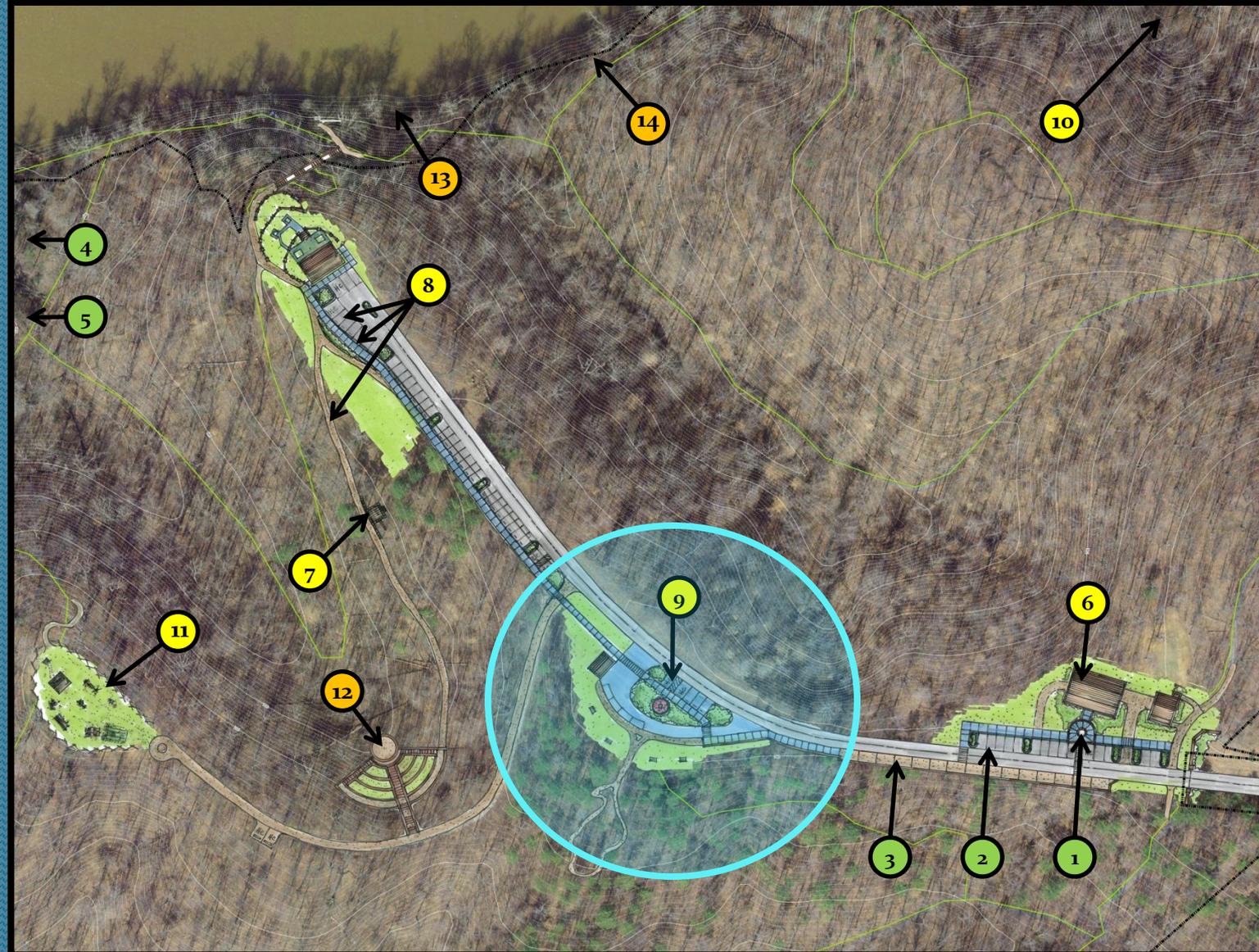
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Welcome Area



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Core – Restrooms & Camping



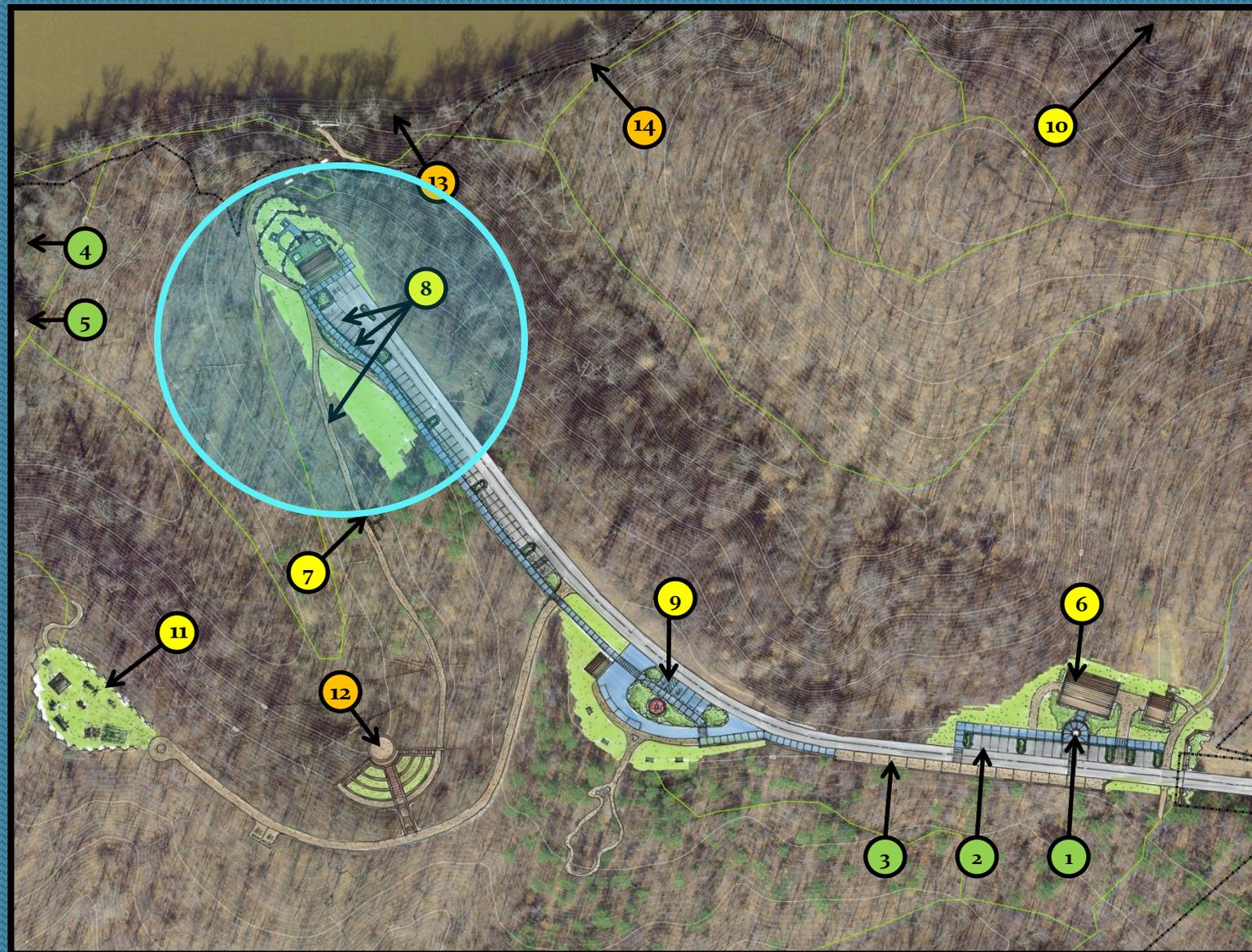
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Restrooms, Camping & Turn-Around



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Core – Picnic Shelter & Trail Head



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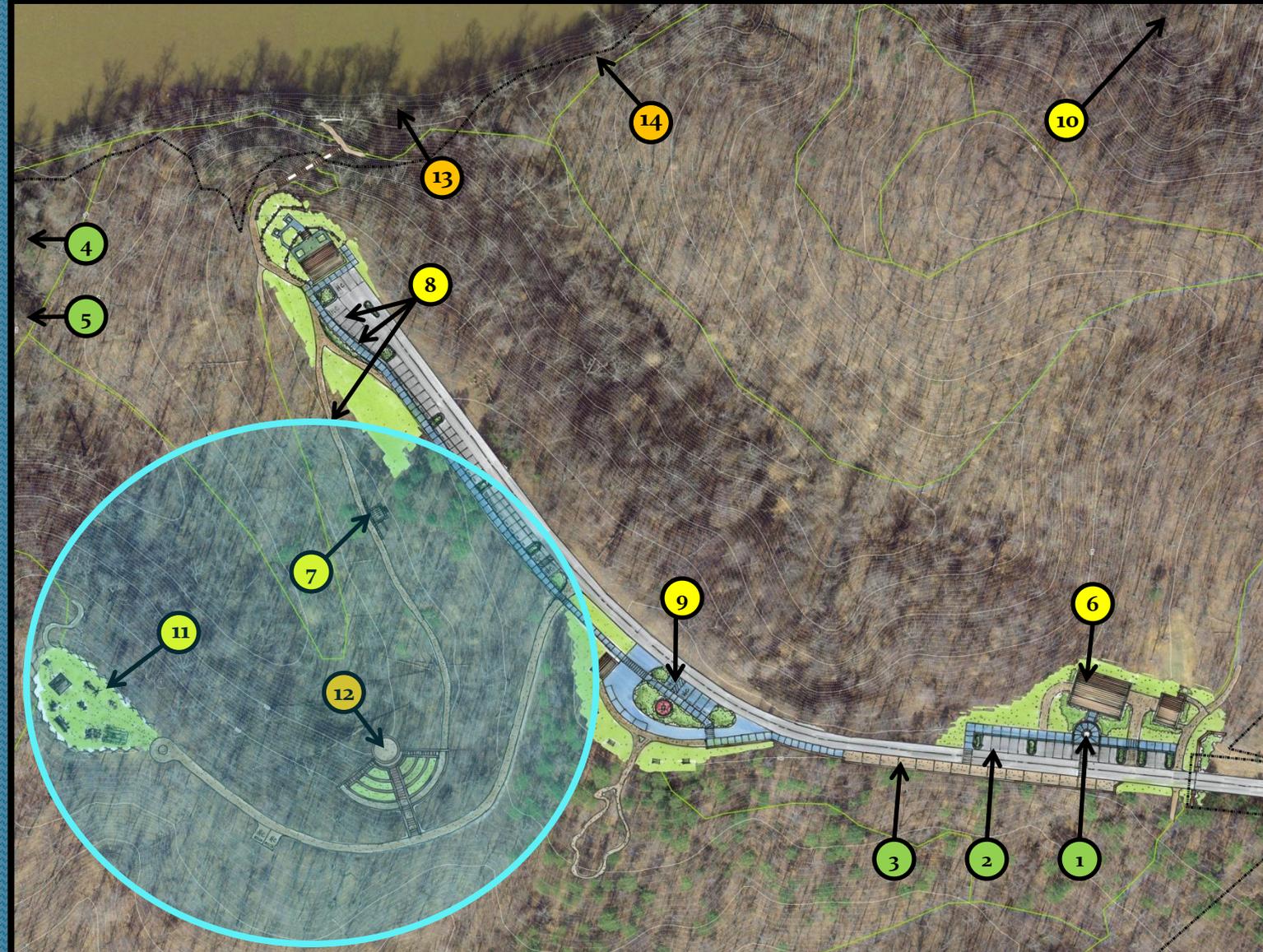
Picnic Shelter and Trail Head



Master Plan Recommendations

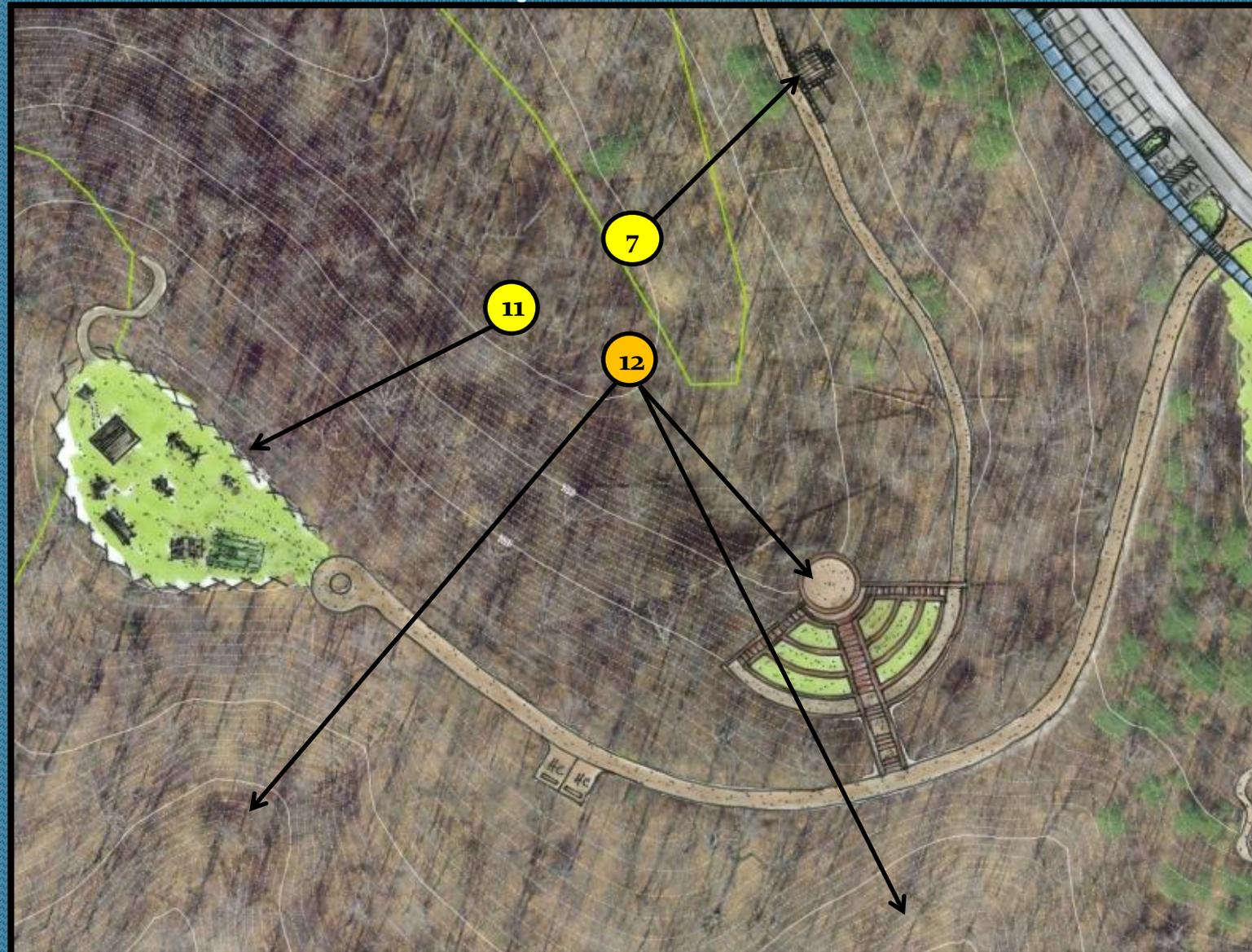
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Core – Cabin, Amphitheater & Educational Shelter



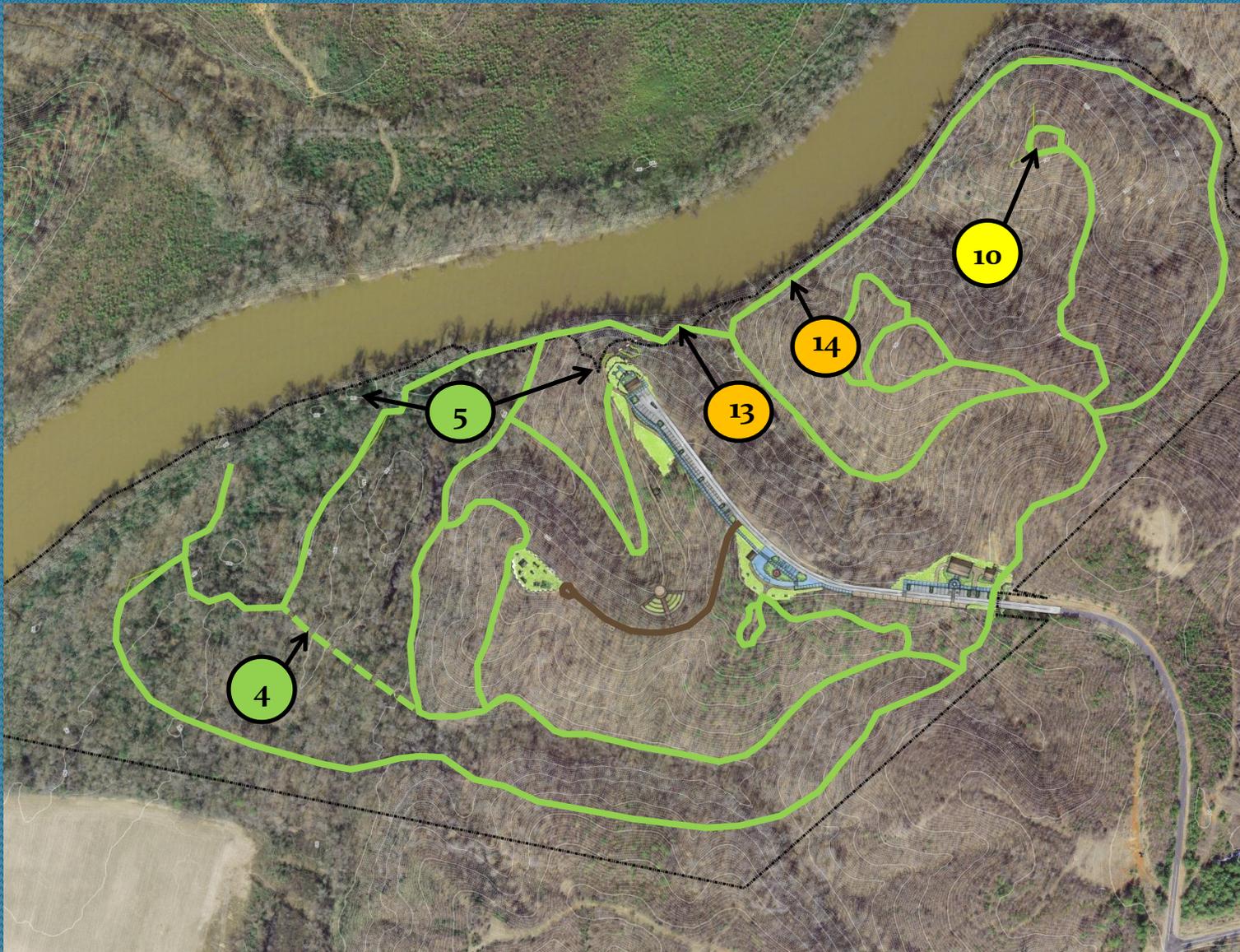
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Cabin, Amphitheater & Ed. Shelter



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Peripheral Facilities: Boardwalk, Paddle Trail Camp Sites, Native American Village, Observation Deck & Fishing Deck



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Thank you for this
opportunity to serve
the citizens of
Davidson County

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