



Project Name:

Roman Nose State Park

Project Location:

Watonga, Oklahoma

Project Purpose:

Roman Nose State Park, named after a Cheyenne chief, is significant to the area and also to the State of Oklahoma as being one of the original seven state parks constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which opened to the public in 1937. Its placement in the Northwest Region stimulates economic growth in the area, and provides jobs for people in the surrounding communities. The park is operated by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and is located approximately (5) miles north of Watonga, Oklahoma, in Blain County. Set amidst a beautiful canyon, recreational activities within the park include an 18 hole golf course, swimming pools, hiking trails, two lakes, trout fishing, canoeing, paddle boats, camping, playgrounds, picnicking, tennis, volleyball, archery, mountain biking, horse stables and hayrides.

After years of neglect and in a state of disrepair, the Conceptual Development Plan was developed in order to complement the overall attractiveness, safety, and marketability of the park while enhancing the overall recreational opportunities and protecting the historic architecture and natural environment.

Human activity has affected plant and animal life within the ecosystems of Roman Nose State Park. Addressing areas of sensitivity and proposing solutions was a large part of the projects scope. The most evident change to the parks ecosystem is the invasion of Eastern Red Cedar, a species that has overrun much of Oklahoma.

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Role of the Landscape Architect:

- The primary role of the Landscape Architect was to meet with park staff to assess parks necessities, aesthetics and environmental considerations. This was followed by a conceptual development program and functional diagram to work through the design process. Through the use of LiDAR, aerial photos, and contour maps the Landscape Architect developed an overall site analysis plan.
- The Landscape Architect utilized the Resource Management Plan prepared by Oklahoma State University for Oklahoma State Parks and the Roman Nose Park Master Plan prepared by Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD) as the baseline information for the Conceptual Development Plan.
- The Landscape Architect was responsible for pre-design and the Development Plan for the Roman Nose State Park. This plan identified all areas of the park; linked all key areas together by equestrian, multi-use, mountain bike and hiking trails; and highlighted key locations for improvements in the park that could be considered for implementation by the Oklahoma State Parks.
- More detailed schematic plans were developed for the three chosen areas of the highest priority for development / rehabilitation.
- Conceptual cost estimates were provided by the Landscape Architect to help the Oklahoma State Parks move forward with funding of these projects.

Special Factors and Project Significance:

- The purpose of Roman Nose State Park is to provide an affordable opportunity in a safe environment for people of Oklahoma and surrounding states to enjoy the scenic beauty and Native American history of the area.
- Roman Nose State Park preserves the unique architectural and geographical visions of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) while offering diverse recreational and educational lessons for its guests, helping to create lasting memories for generations to come, as well as stimulating the economic growth of the area.
- First time visitors to the park face challenges in finding the turn-off onto Highway 8A from State Highway 51A and 8, both the north and the south. Existing signage indicating the location of the park entrance from these access highways is limited, small, and difficult to see while driving. For visitors, directional signage and park entry signs impact one's first impression of the park property.
- Many park facilities were constructed before the passage of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Given the age of the facility and the environment, access for those with mobility impairments will be difficult. Should major trail construction occur, it would be important to ensure compliance with ADA standards where appropriate.

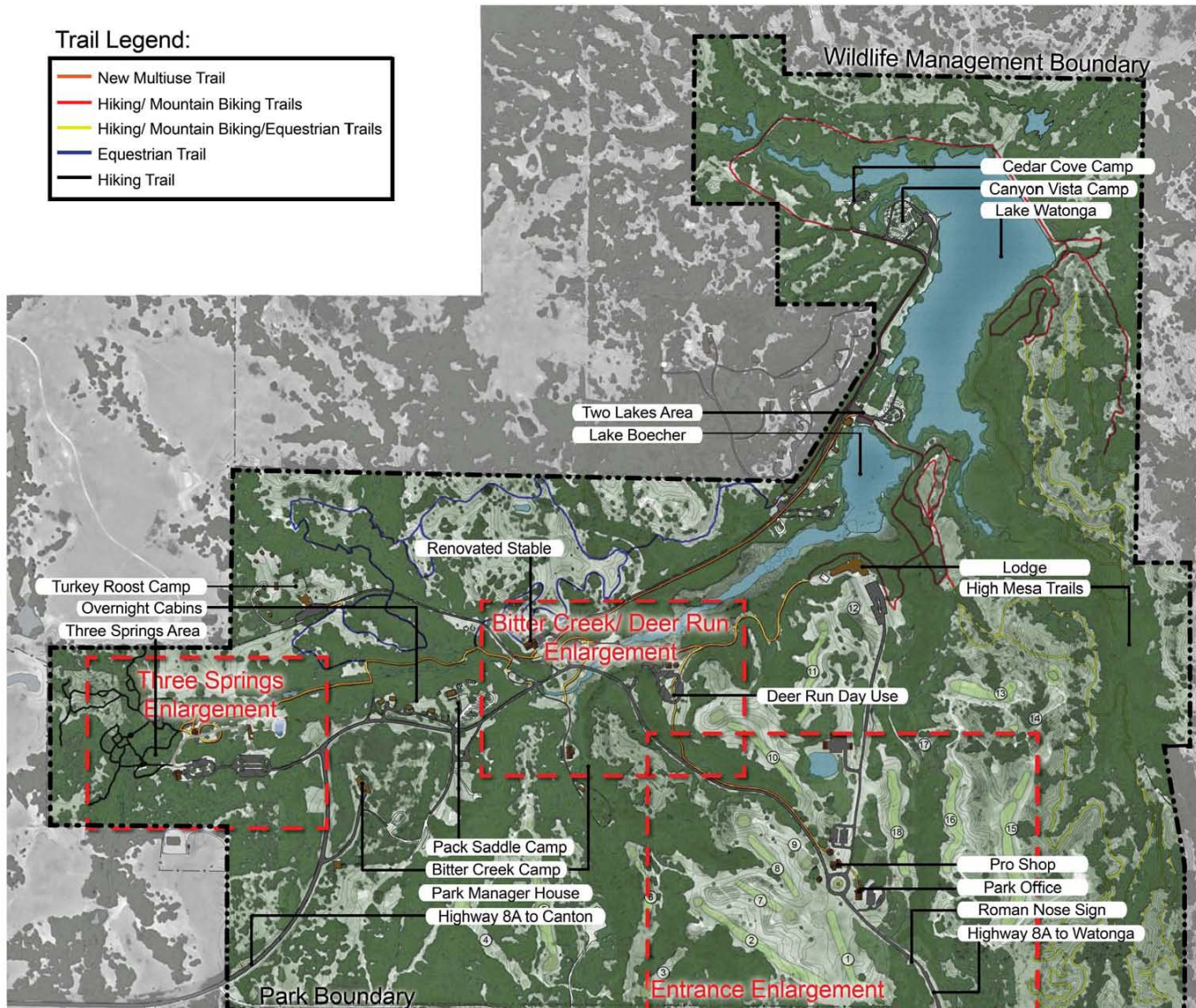
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Site Plan



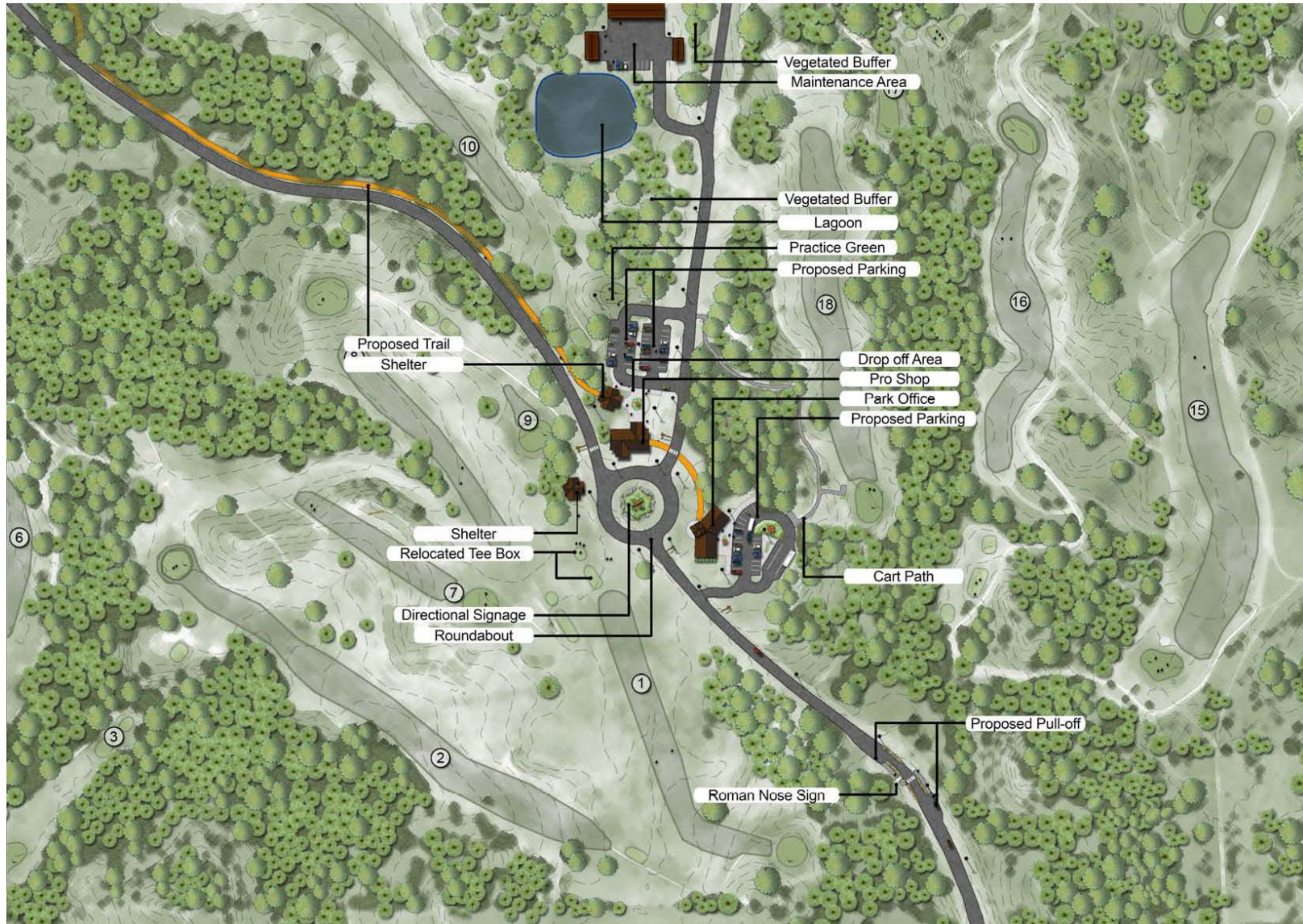
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Site Plan: Entrance Enlargement



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Roman Nose Entry: Photo Simulation



Before

- The Roman Nose sign is a significant historic feature carved in stone to depict Chief Roman Nose.
- A vehicular pull-off with crosswalk, boulders and landscape will help define this area as an important and accessible feature.
- The proposed park office would provide architecture more reminiscent of the CCC period keeping with the park's many existing historic structures.
- Removal of many of the existing invasive Eastern Red Cedar will help to open the views of the park office.



After

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North Entry: Photo Simulation



Before

- A large entrance sign is proposed at the North entrance.
- The Oklahoma State Parks branding includes harvested cedar logs from the park and native stone.



After

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Park Office: Photo Simulation



Before

- The existing park office and golf pro shop would be separated into two buildings.
- A roundabout is proposed in front of both buildings that will have a landscaped area with a statue of Roman Nose to provide a sense of arrival.
- The roundabout will better define and provide enhanced safety for vehicular circulation within the park.



After

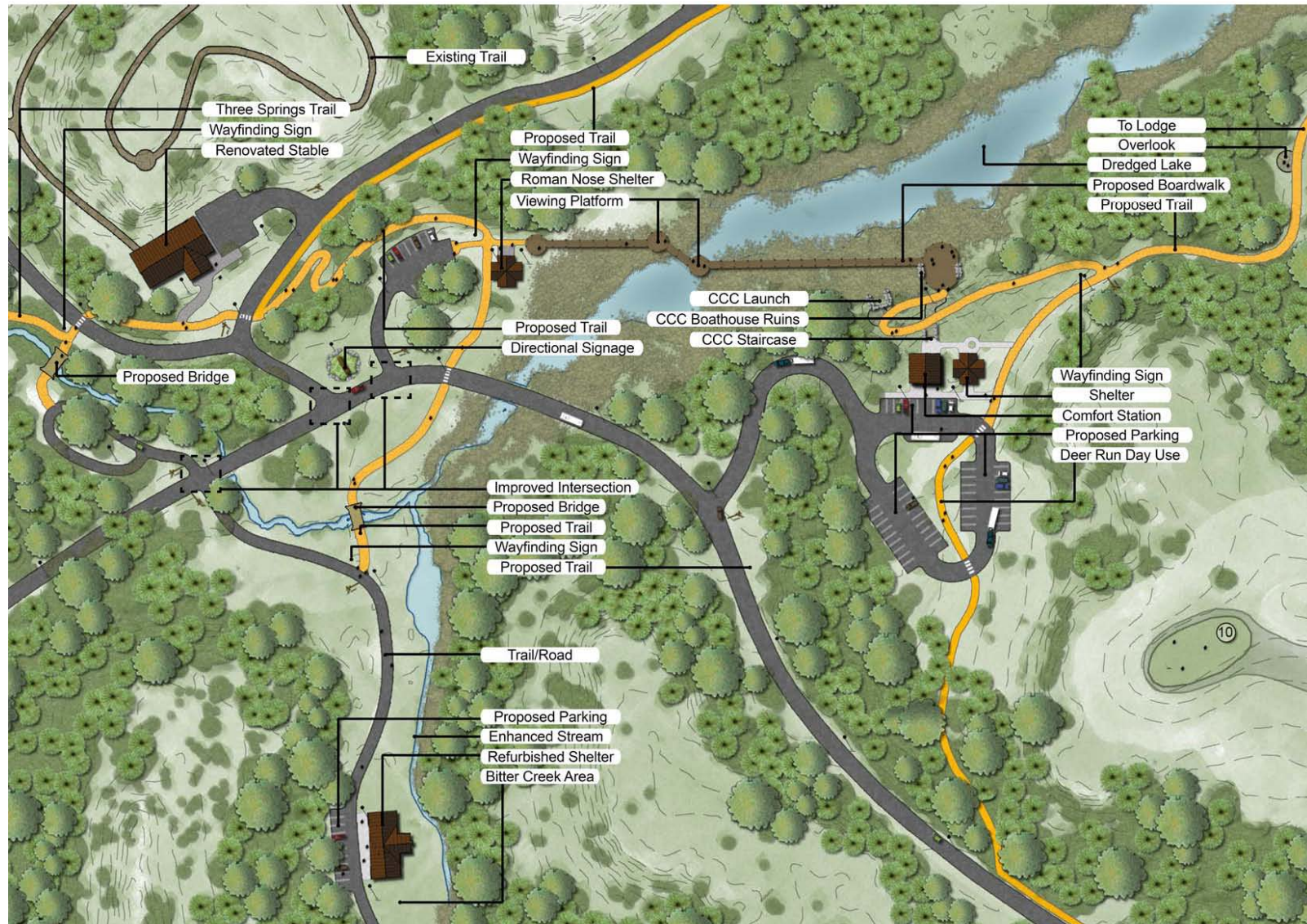
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Site Plan: Bitter Creek/Deer Run Enlargement



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Multi-Use Trail: Photo Simulation

- Example of existing dirt trail improved with asphalt paving for multi-use purposes.
- On-site native boulders would be used to retain steep slopes.
- Pull-offs create vantage points overlooking lake Boechee and provide a glimpse of what Chief Roman Nose may have seen when he settled this area.



After



Before

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Boardwalk: Photo Simulation

- Due to silting, Bitter Creek often floods and has produced a large wetland.
- The boardwalk traverses from the old CCC boathouse ruin across Bitter Creek lowland area and connects to a new shelter.
- Viewing areas and interpretive signage along the boardwalk will educate visitors about the native vegetation, waterway and wetland and the wildlife.
- The shelter will house interpretive signage on the history of the site.



After



Before

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Bitter Creek: Photo Simulation

- A refurbished shelter near Bitter Creek will be renovated in the style of the CCC architecture using native cedar logs and native stone.
- An open air design with a stone base will help minimize damage to the shelter caused by seasonal flooding.



After



Before

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Stable Improvements: Photo Simulation

- The stable above Bitter Creek will be renovated with improved parking and architecture.
- The CCC design theme will be emphasized with the use of native stone columns, boulders and cedar logs.
- Handicapped parking will be provided at the stable for ADA access.



After



Before

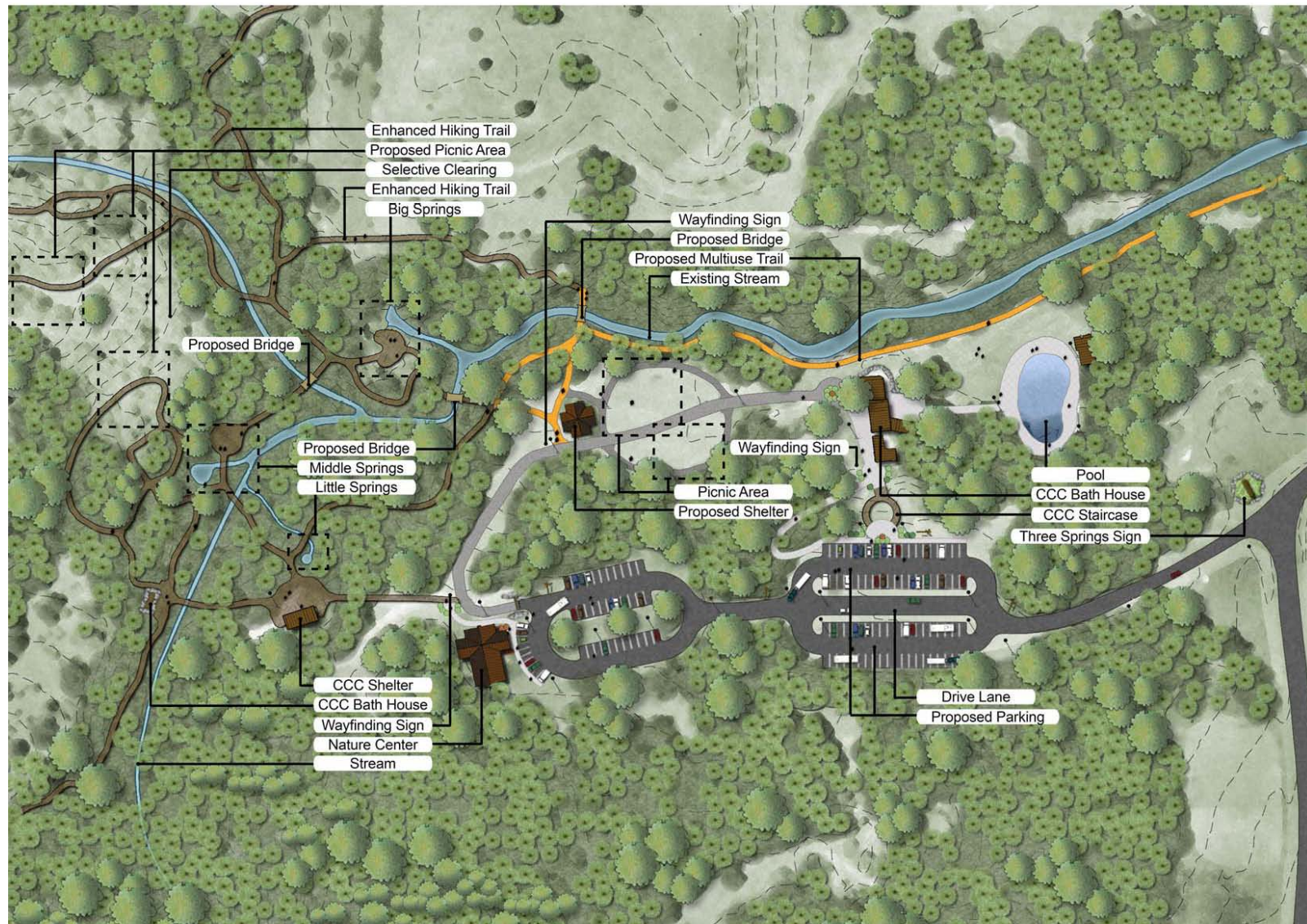
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Site Plan: Three Springs Enlargement



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Nature Center: Photo Simulation



After

- The Nature Center will be sited in the Three Springs area.
- This area contains natural wooded area, natural springs, waterfalls, and CCC architectural ruins.
- The Nature Center will provide interpretation for native features and the cultural history of the park.



Before

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Hiking / Biking Trail: Photo Simulation



After

- Improved hiking and biking trails will provide a way for all users including the handicapped to traverse through the park.
- Interpretive signage and wayfinding will be located at different nodes to discuss natural and cultural resources throughout the park.



Before

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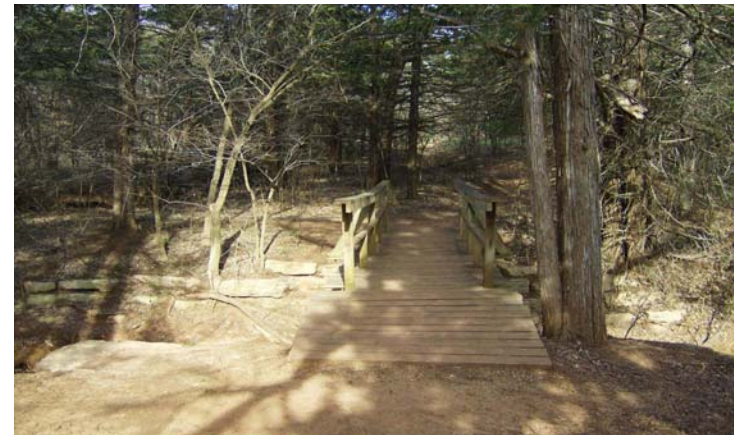


Pedestrian Bridge: Photo Simulation



After

- Bridge improvements are needed in the Three Springs area to enable visitors to use the paths in the wooded areas.
- The bridges would resemble the CCC theme with the cedar posts and spindles.
- Cedar benches will also be placed along the walking paths for resting sites.



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Big Springs: Photo Simulation



After

- Big Springs is a beautiful and naturally occurring waterfall cascading over a multi-colored gypsum and shale rock outcropping.
- This area has been trampled by visitors foot traffic and the banks are highly eroded and have exposed tree roots.
- An overlook and fence will help preserve portions of the bank from erosion while still providing views.
- Large slab boulders will be added to preserve the slopes and provide areas for visitors to stand.
- Interpretive signage will be included for a description of the geologic and botanical nature of the site.



Before

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Middle Spring: Photo Simulation



After

- Enhancements include cleaning the natural pool, native flagstone paving around perimeter, and native vegetation.
- The spring will be promoted as a small wading area for users to cool off.
- Interpretive signage would be provided to discuss the springs hydrology, geology, vegetation and wildlife.



Before

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