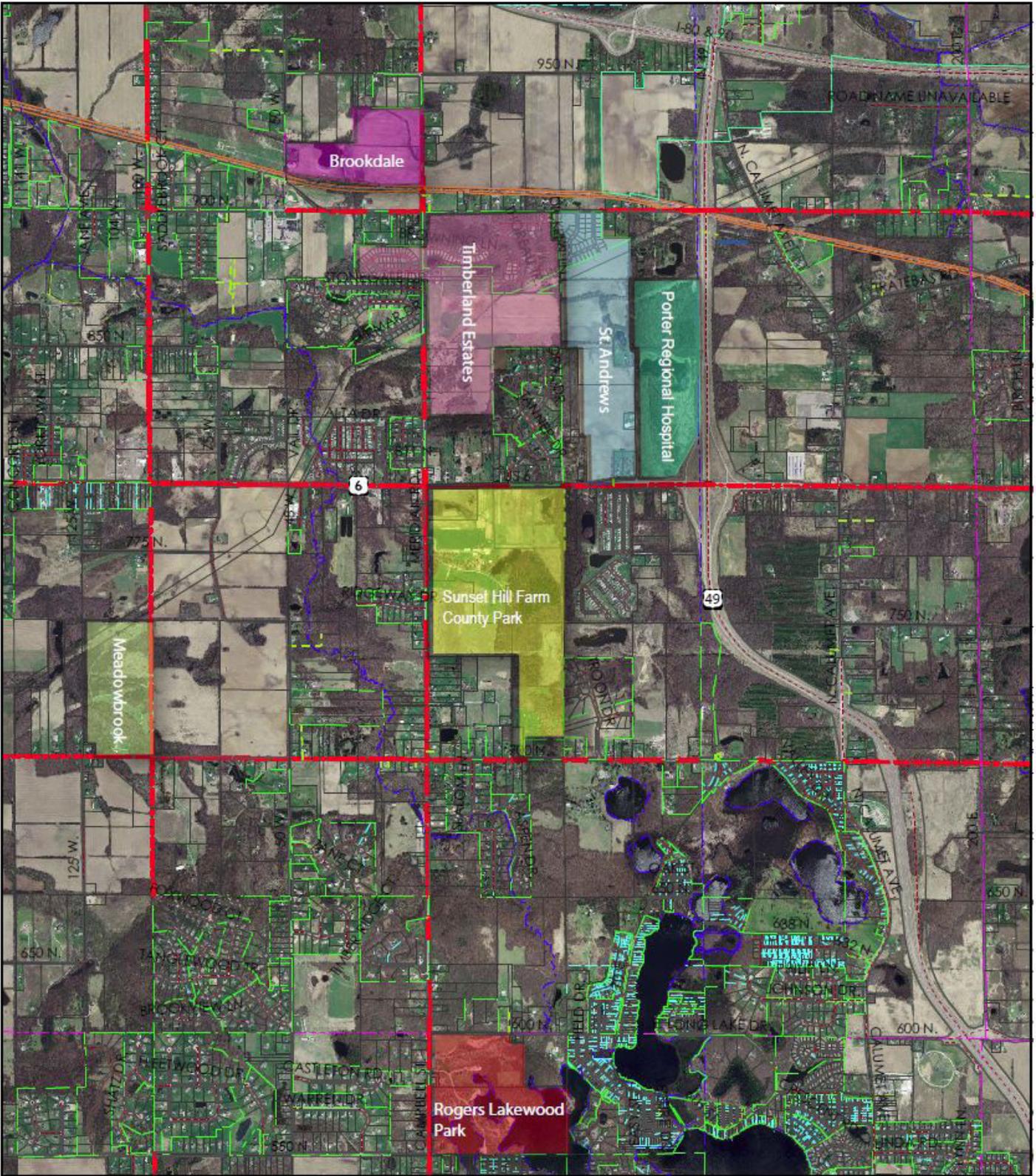


PORTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
Pond and Prairie Restoration



ABOUT PORTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION



The mission of the Porter County Parks and Recreation Board and Department is to preserve, protect and manage the natural, cultural and recreational resources within a diverse park system. We are committed to delivering youth, adult and school programs to the residents of Porter County, while also providing a gateway into the natural beauty of our area through its unique parks and trails.

POND AND PRAIRIE RESTORATION





“No-Can-Do” Pond is a highlight of the Sunset Hill Farm County Park experience. Created in the 1950’s as a way to provide for fire protection to the property, it now provides year round as well as migratory habitat to a diverse set of birds, mammals, arthropods and insects. Unfortunately the pond was never designed or maintained properly and is now over run with invasive species. The goal of the project is to remove the non-native exotic species, replace them with native plantings, enlist and educate the public in the process and train our local staff to care and manage the site properly for the future.

Funds will be used on this project to remove invasive plant species at Sunset Hill Farm County Park’s “No-Can-Do” Pond and replace with native plant plugs. Funds will also be used to provide a public outreach and volunteer workshop as well as host a training class for Porter County staff on the care, maintenance and needs of native plantings.

POND RESTORATION

- Wetland Delineation
- Identify Degraded Areas And Invasives
- Selective Removal Of Invasives
- Replant/Enhance Riparian with plugs
- Create / Design Monitor Program
- On-going monitoring and removal of invasives



The South Prairie Restoration Project will enhance the public experience at Sunset Hill Farm County Park. Upon completion, the project will improve wildlife habitat, water quality and environmental education.

The project area is home to myriad of birds, mammals, invertebrates and plant species. The principle goal of the project is to improve this habitat.

The restoration of the South Prairie will not only allow improvement to the area and appeal to more species to the site; it will also attract professional and amateur animals and bird lovers to Sunset Hill County Farm to enjoy their presence.

Funds will be used to remove invasive grasses and brushes that have overtaken the prairie for years and replace with native prairie grasses and flowers. Funds will also be used to develop a management plan and the on-going monitoring and removal of unwanted species.

SOUTH PRAIRIE RESTORATION

- Identify degraded areas and invasive species
- Crop (no-till) existing vegetation
- Techniques utilizing mowing, timing of herbicides application
- Seedbed preparation
- Seed plantings
- Create/design monitoring programs
- On-going monitoring and removal of non-natives



Interpretive Space

An interpretive/educational space located on the high point of the restored prairie will provide an enjoyable nature experience and a positive memory. The space is will provide an opportunity to discover the prairie and how the restoration is key to providing wildlife habitat and improve water quality.

Although the design above is preliminary, the intention is to construct a wood or concrete seating with a planting plan that will define the site.

INTERPRETIVE / EDUCATIONAL SPACE

- Create pathway/trails
- Construct an educational/interpretive space (i.e. hard surface deck, pavers, ext.)
- Install native landscaping to provide shade and define the space.
- Install interpretive signage