



Future of Dorothea Dix Park

Public Meeting

August 12, 2009 7pm

Introduction & Overview

- Tree Board introduction
- What do parks do for us?
- Who was Dorothea Dix?
- History of Dorothea Dix Park
- Formation of Friends of Dorothea Dix Park Group

Tree Board

- Established in January 2008 by the Town Council
 - Result of citizen-driven action: Comprehensive Plan Committee, Community Services Committee, & Tree City USA.
- Projects completed to date:
 - Created Tree Ordinance
 - Awarded National Arbor Day Tree City USA status
 - Planted nearly 50 trees & shrubs at the pool from \$6,980 Project Canopy grant
 - D. Dix Park visioning work

What do parks do for us?

- Increase property values
- Attract & retain businesses
- Attract & retain retirees
- Generate tourism dollars
- Natural resource benefits
- Health benefits

Who Was Dorothea Dix?

- Dorothea Dix was a leader in fighting for the humane care of mentally challenged people after living in Liverpool, England and seeing the British lunacy reform movement first hand
- Performed survey study of hospitals and lobbied state and federal government for better care
- Set up first mental asylums in the U.S.
- Worked up and down east coast including NC, LA, MA, PA
- Cared for Union & Confederate soldiers during Civil War as superintendant of Union Army Nurses
- Also worked in Europe
- B. April 4, 1802 - D. July 17, 1887

History of Dorothea Dix Park

- Property is where Dorothea Dix was born
- Dorothea Dix Memorial Association was organized in Hampden April 15, 1899 for the purpose of turning this property into a park
- Park designed in 1903 by Charles E. Hooper of New York
- Property became first state park in Maine
- State of Maine gave park to Hampden on July 3, 1980

Formation of Friends of Dorothea Dix Park

- Friends group formed due to community interest and with support of Council Services Committee
- Formed in summer of 2008
- Advertised group on town TV ch. 7, town newsletter, town website, and more
- Charter for group created and approved by Council on December 15, 2008

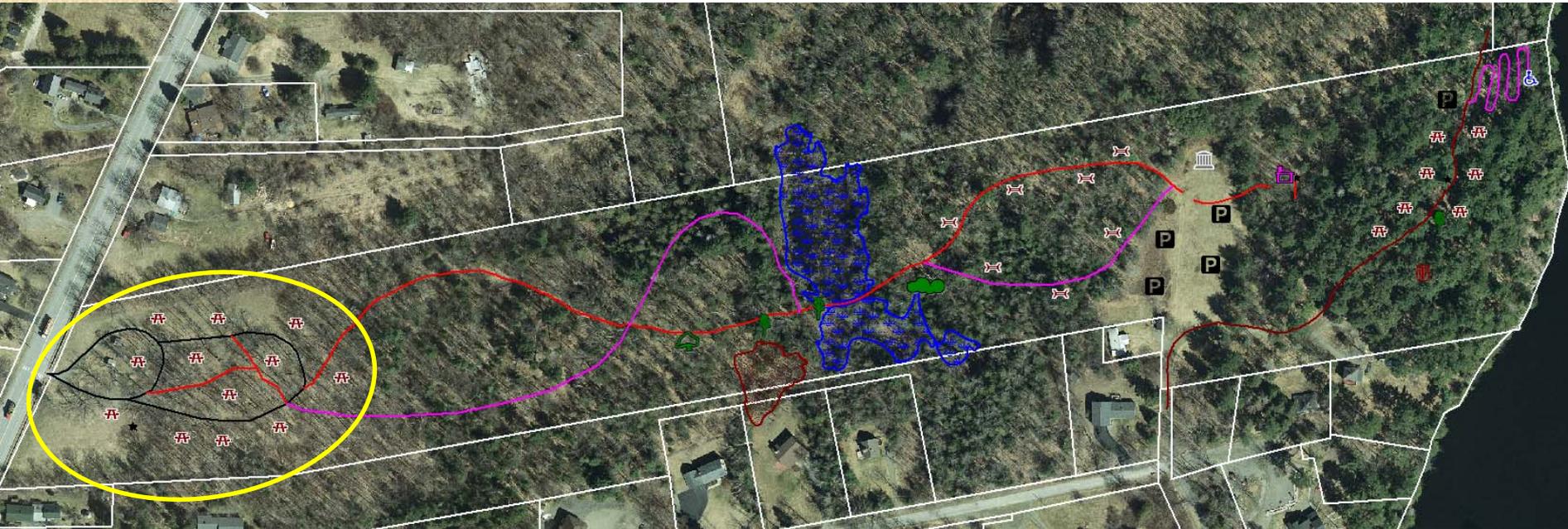
- Coincidentally, there is a Friends of Dorothea Dix Park in North Carolina www.dixpark.org

Park Plans - Overall

- Harvesting & invasive species removal
- Trail repair and creation
- More picnic tables
- Education stations
- River view lookout
- Parking area
- Enhanced access for people with physical challenges

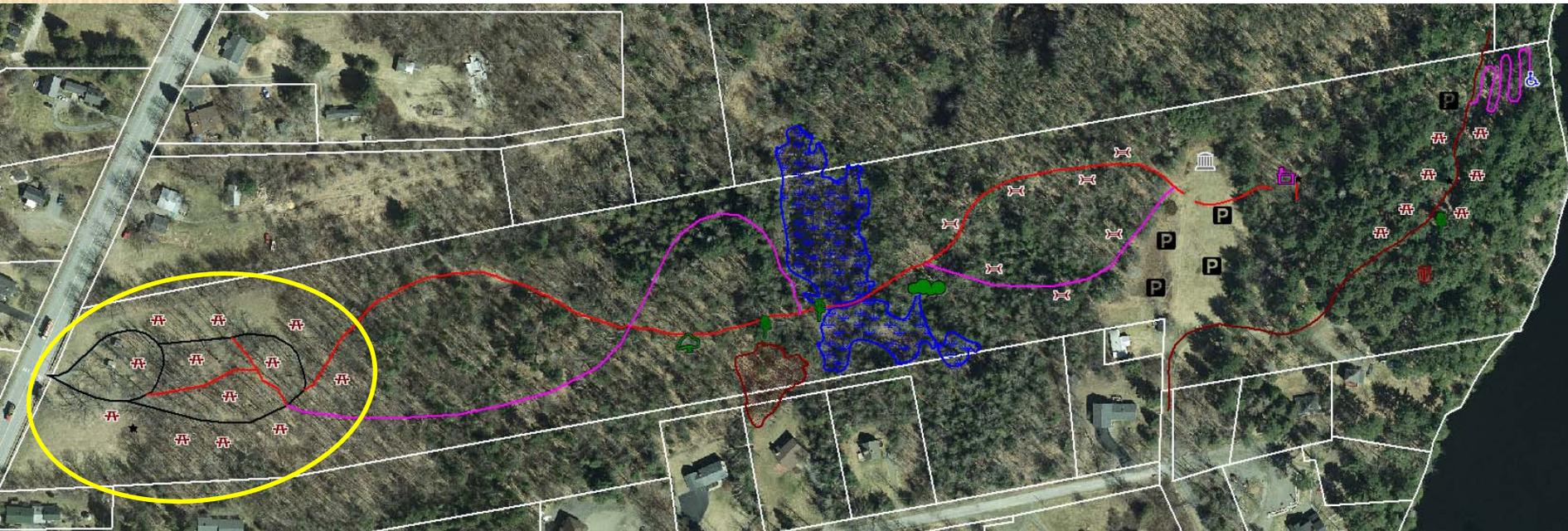
Park Plans – Front Section

- Removal of dead/dying hazard trees
- Thin front 20% of park to create more open & grassy areas



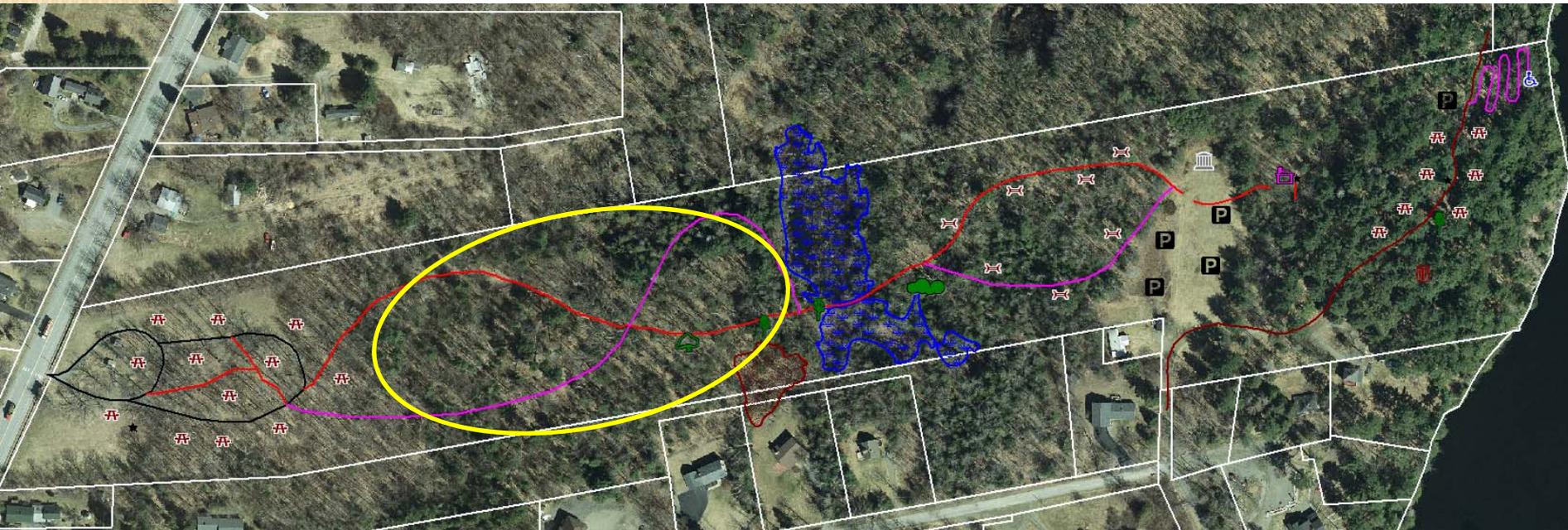
Park Plans – Front Section

- Add more picnic tables
- Expand playground



Park Plans – Mid Section West

- From beginning of trail to wetland: harvest about 30%
- 75ft buffer around wetland
- Forest would be hardwood-dominant, mostly oaks
- Preserve wildlife & historic trees



Picture Examples

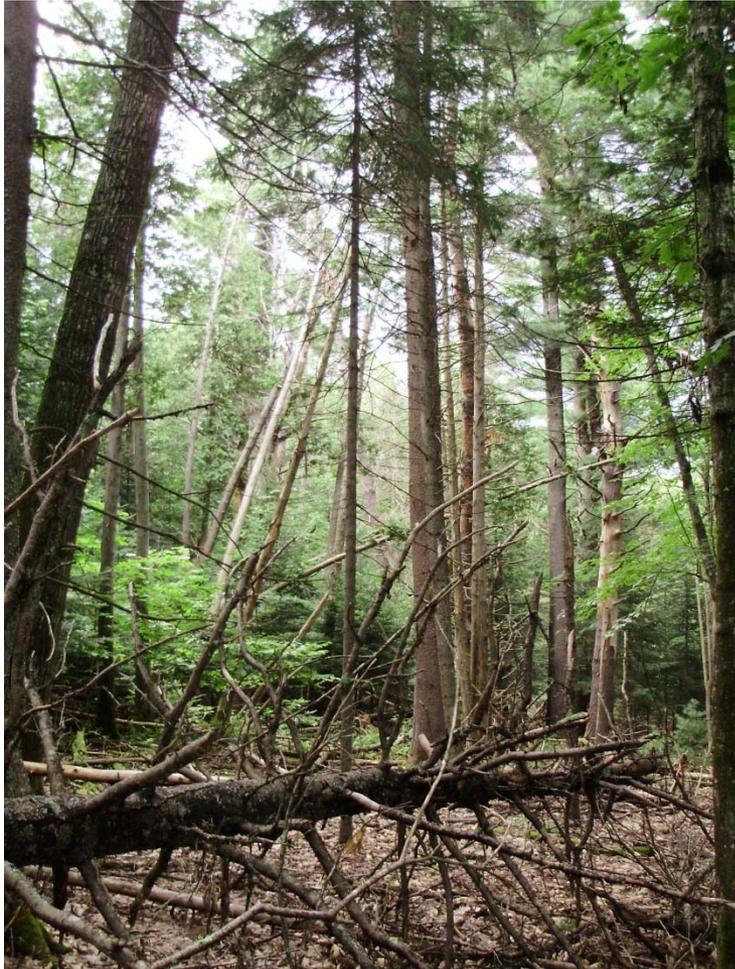


Marking wildlife tree



Dead trees fallen across trail

Forest Conditions



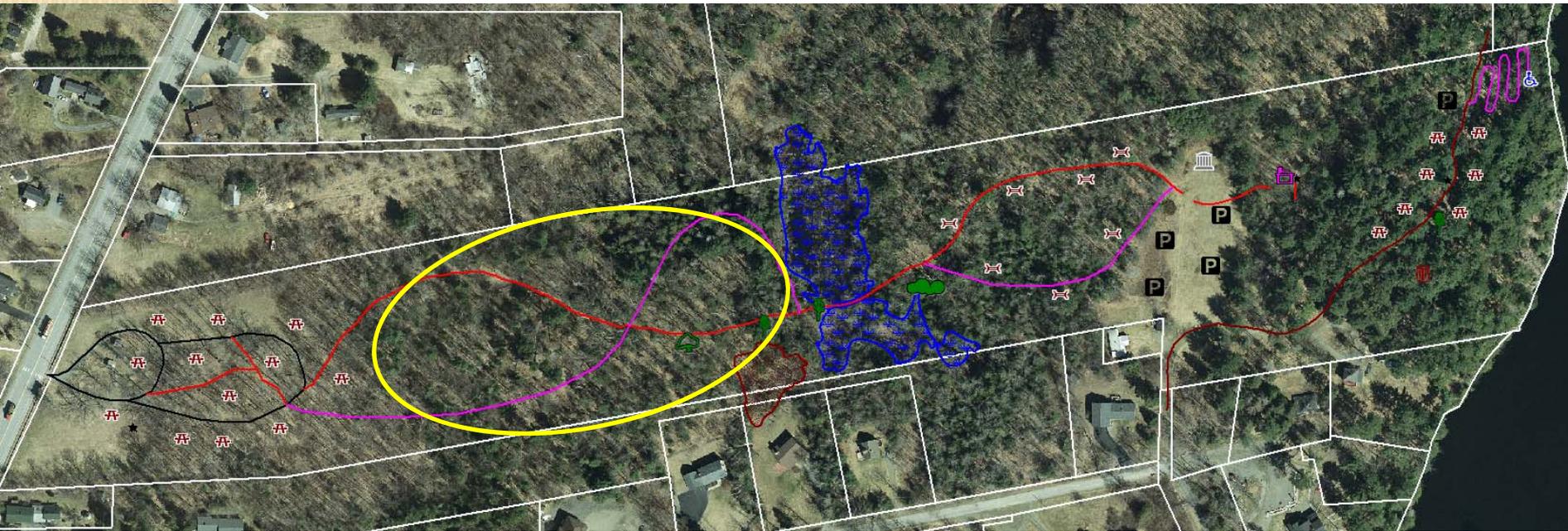
Dead and downed trees throughout



Dead and downed trees are hazards

Park Plans – Mid Section West

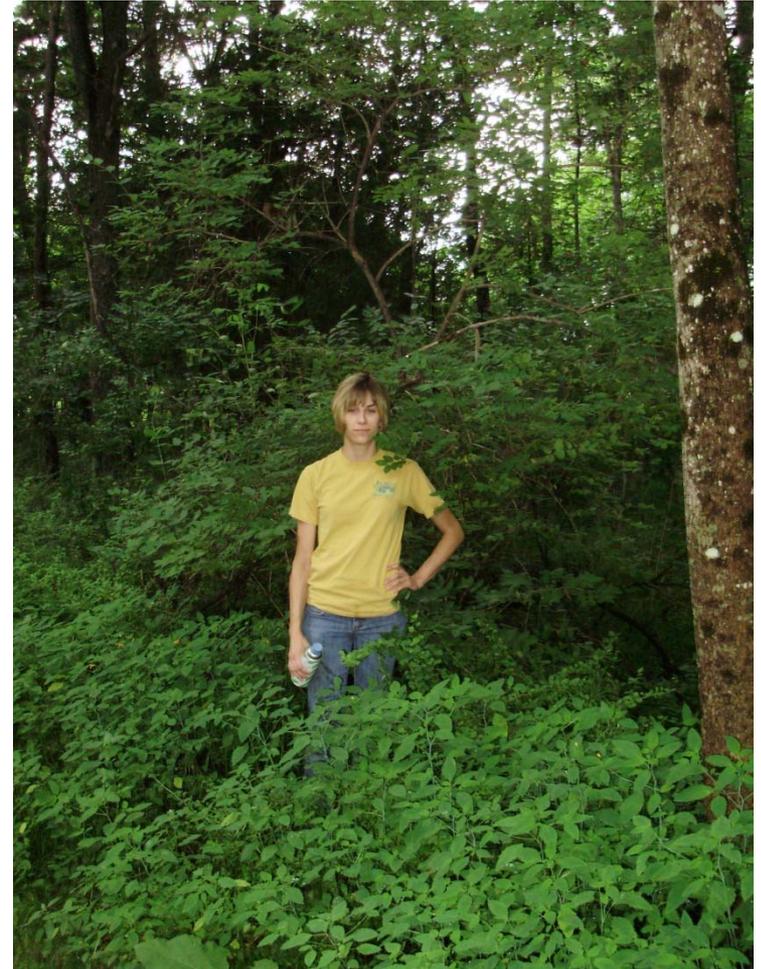
- Remove Japanese barberry & honeysuckle
- Repair existing trail (red)
- Create new trail (pink)
- Education stations & wetland lookout



Invasive Species

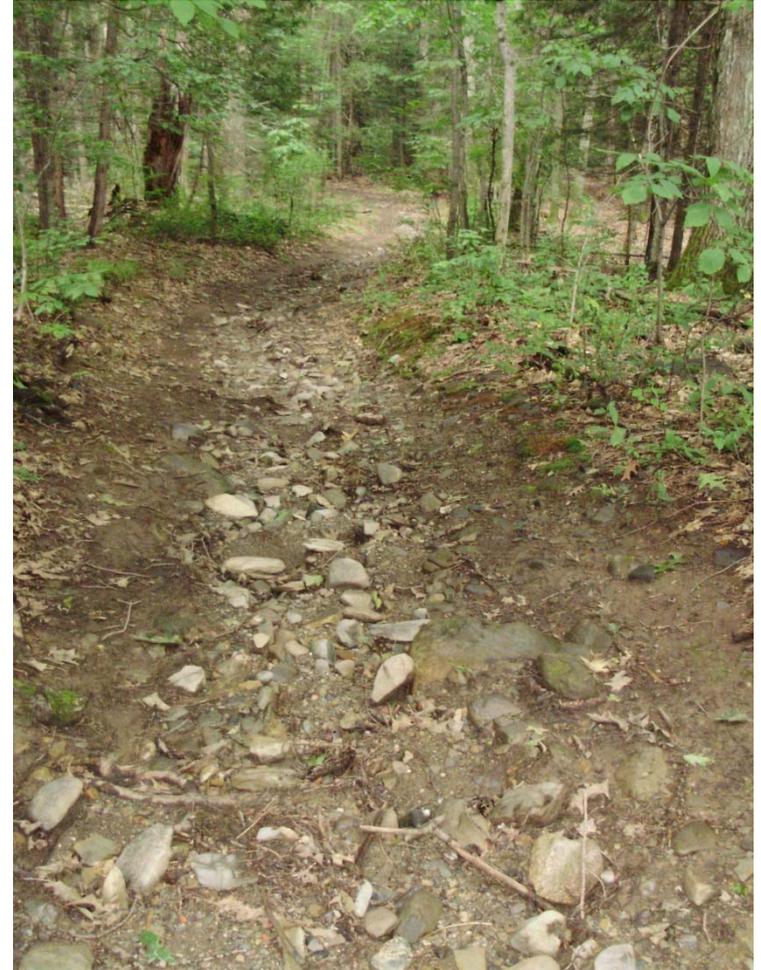


Japanese Barberry



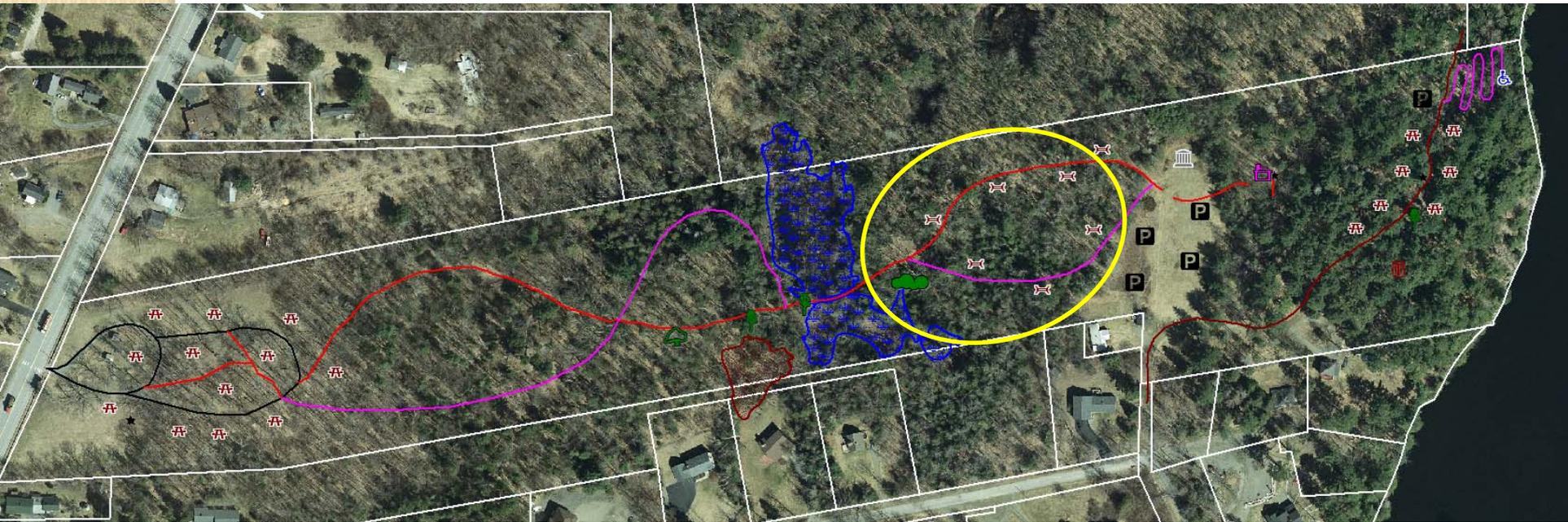
Honeysuckle

Repair Existing Trail



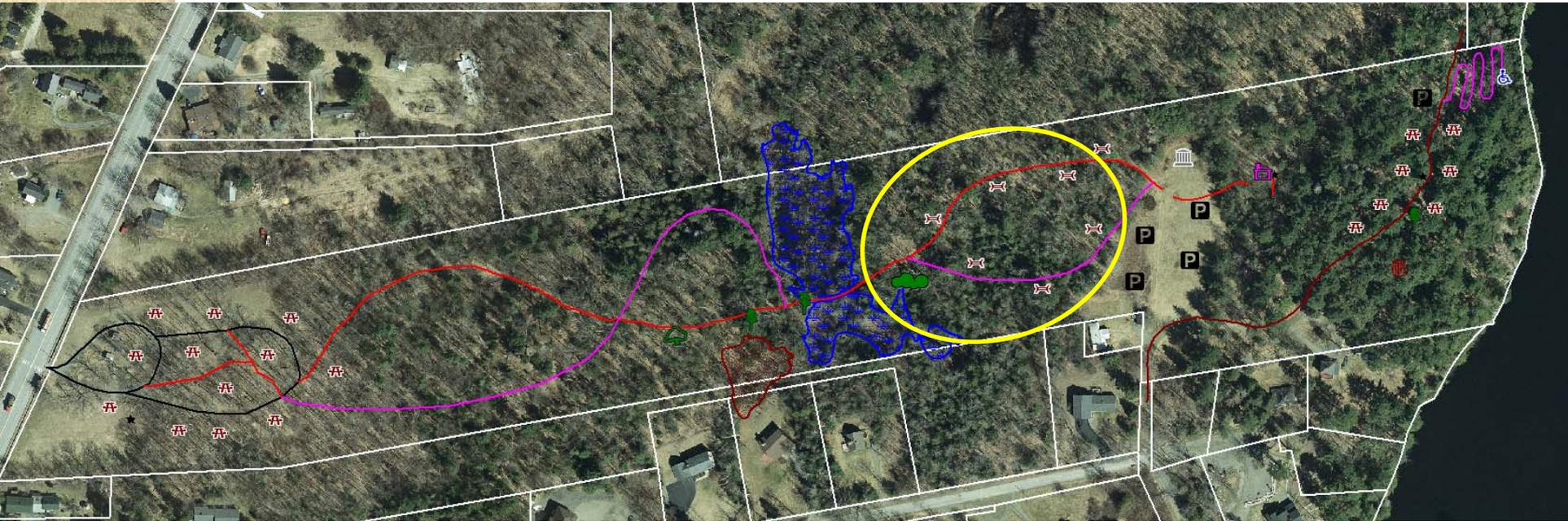
Park Plans – Mid Section East

- From wetland to open grass field: thin softwoods
- Maintain natural understory shrub material & plant native grasses



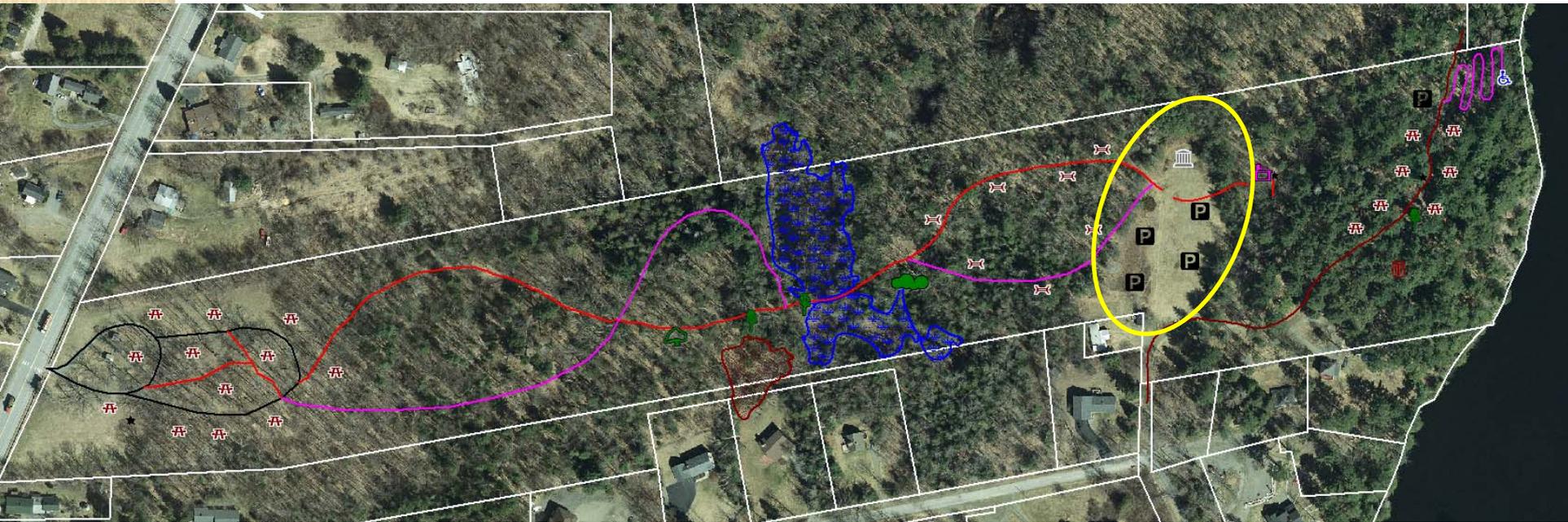
Park Plans – Mid Section East

- Create new trail loop (pink)
- Add sitting benches throughout



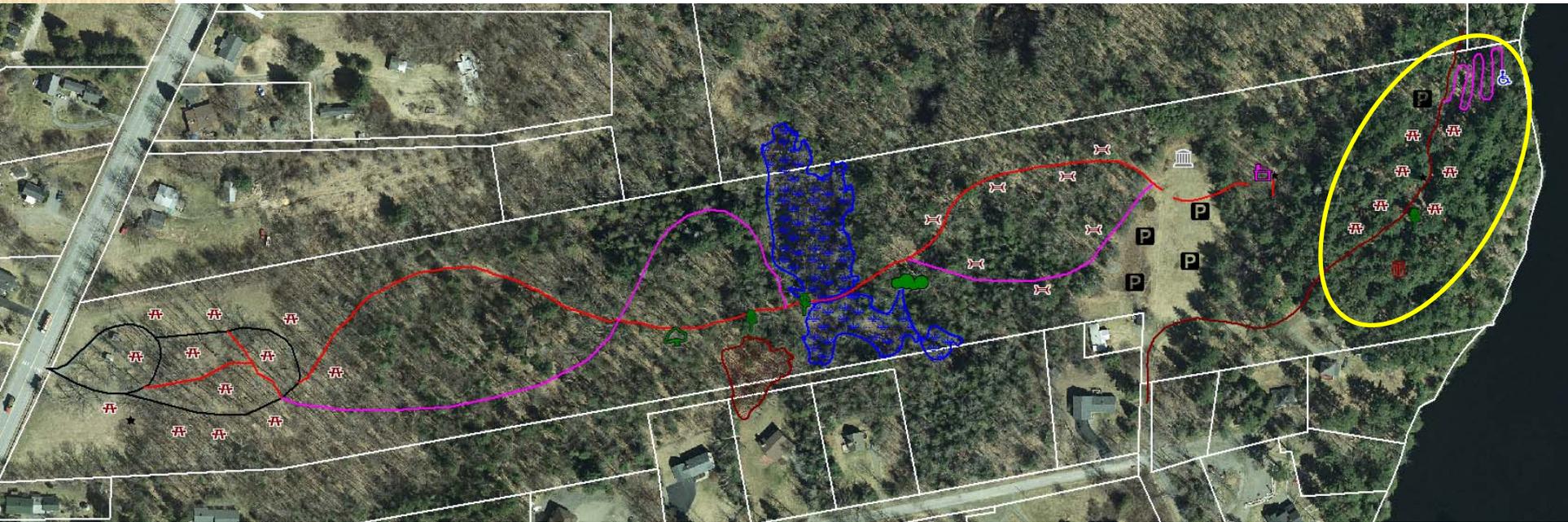
Park Plans – Open Field

- Maintain open field
- Add pavilion
- Add gravel roadway & parking area



Park Plans – River Section

- Minimal thinning
- Drive-up picnic areas
- Winding trail to lookout area at river



Other Thoughts

- No permanent access granted to rear of park, verbal access granted for harvesting only
 - Alternative access at front of park – remove two end sections of walls for new entry and exit, use stones to repair center of wall.
- Replace orbs on top of wall posts
- Signs to mark boundaries



The End

Comments, thoughts, questions, concerns...?