



GROWING OUR FUTURE: OUTDOOR CLASSROOM & BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

ENHANCING EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECOLOGY AT GHS

PRESENTED BY:

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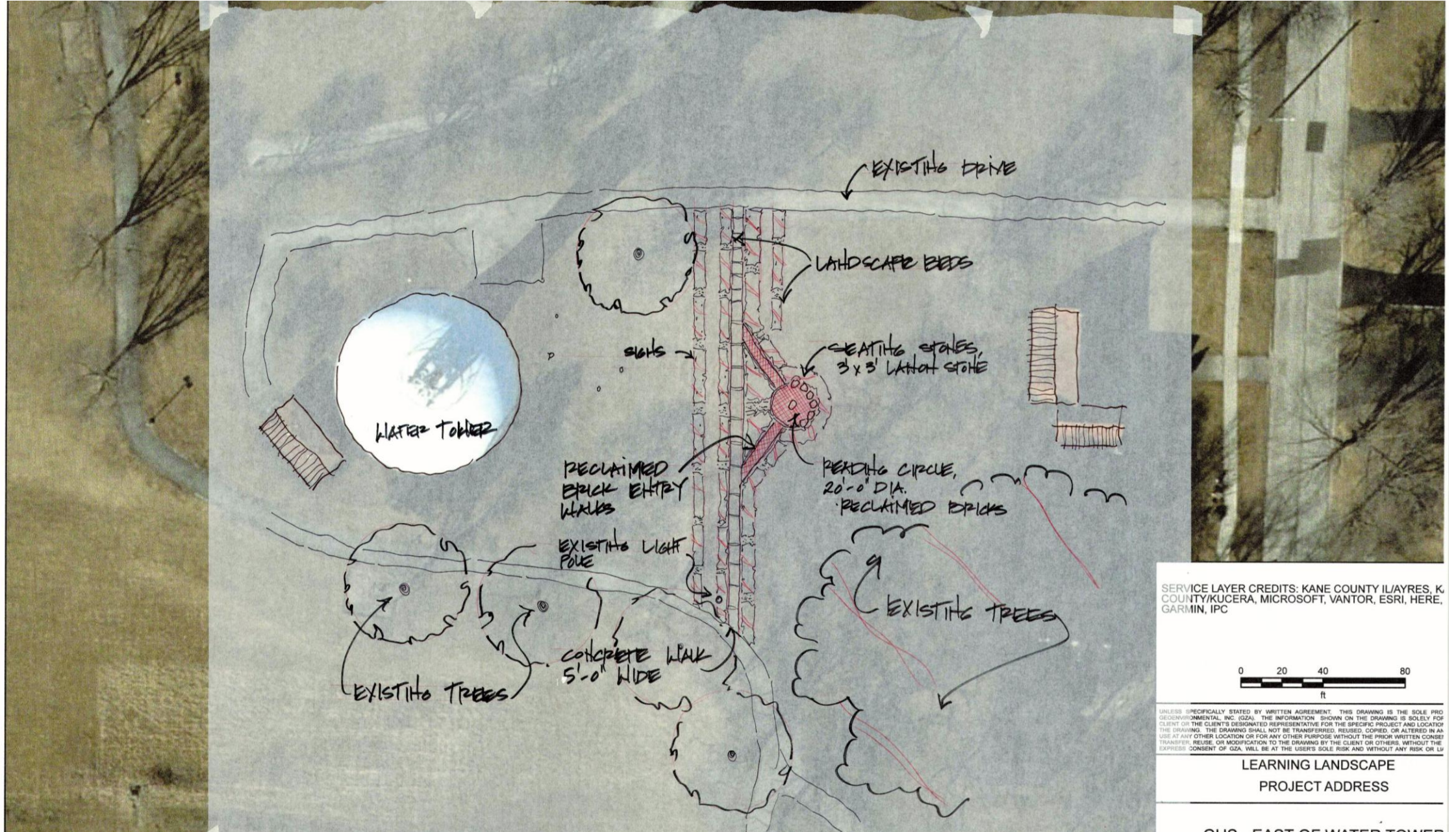
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Goal: To increase biodiversity across Geneva High School Campus by utilizing underused green space to create an outdoor learning space

Key Features and Considerations:

- Increased Biodiversity of Native Flora and Fauna
- Outdoor classroom w/ walking proximity to school
- Does not impede upon foreseeable expansions
- Minimal Financial burden on district

PROPOSED PROJECT SITE





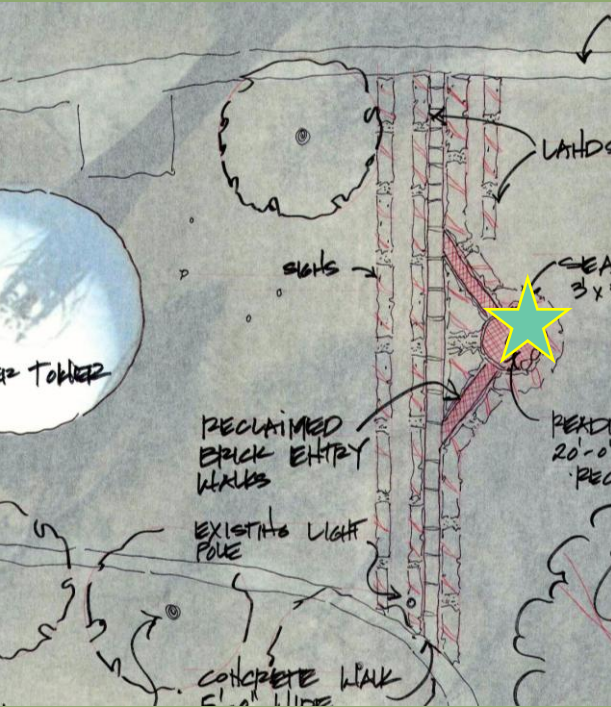
VISION & EDUCATIONAL GOALS

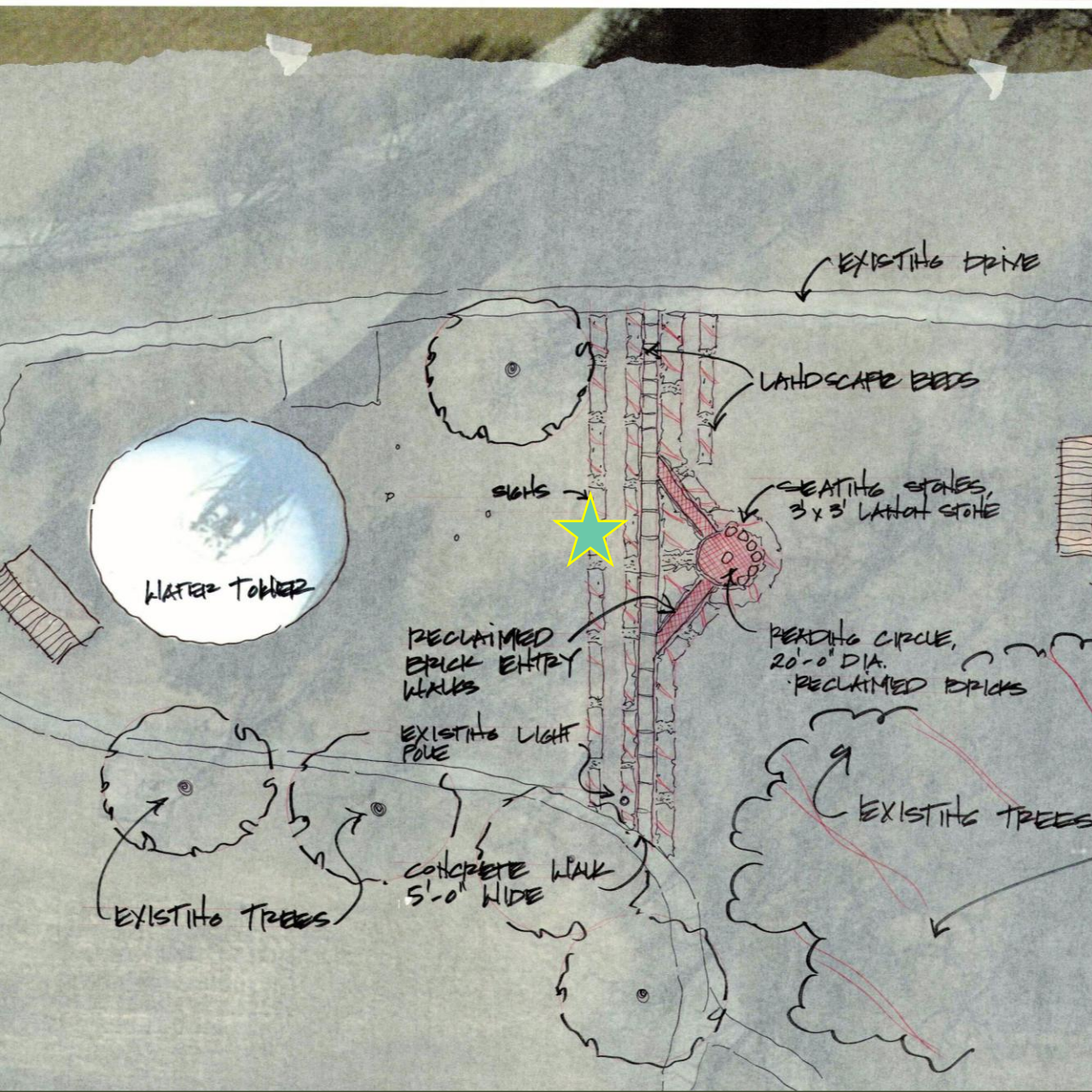
Short-Term Goals (Year 1):

- Establish an “open-air” classroom w/ a primary seating area for ~30-students
 - Plantings to support local biodiversity including native trees and an initial pollinator garden

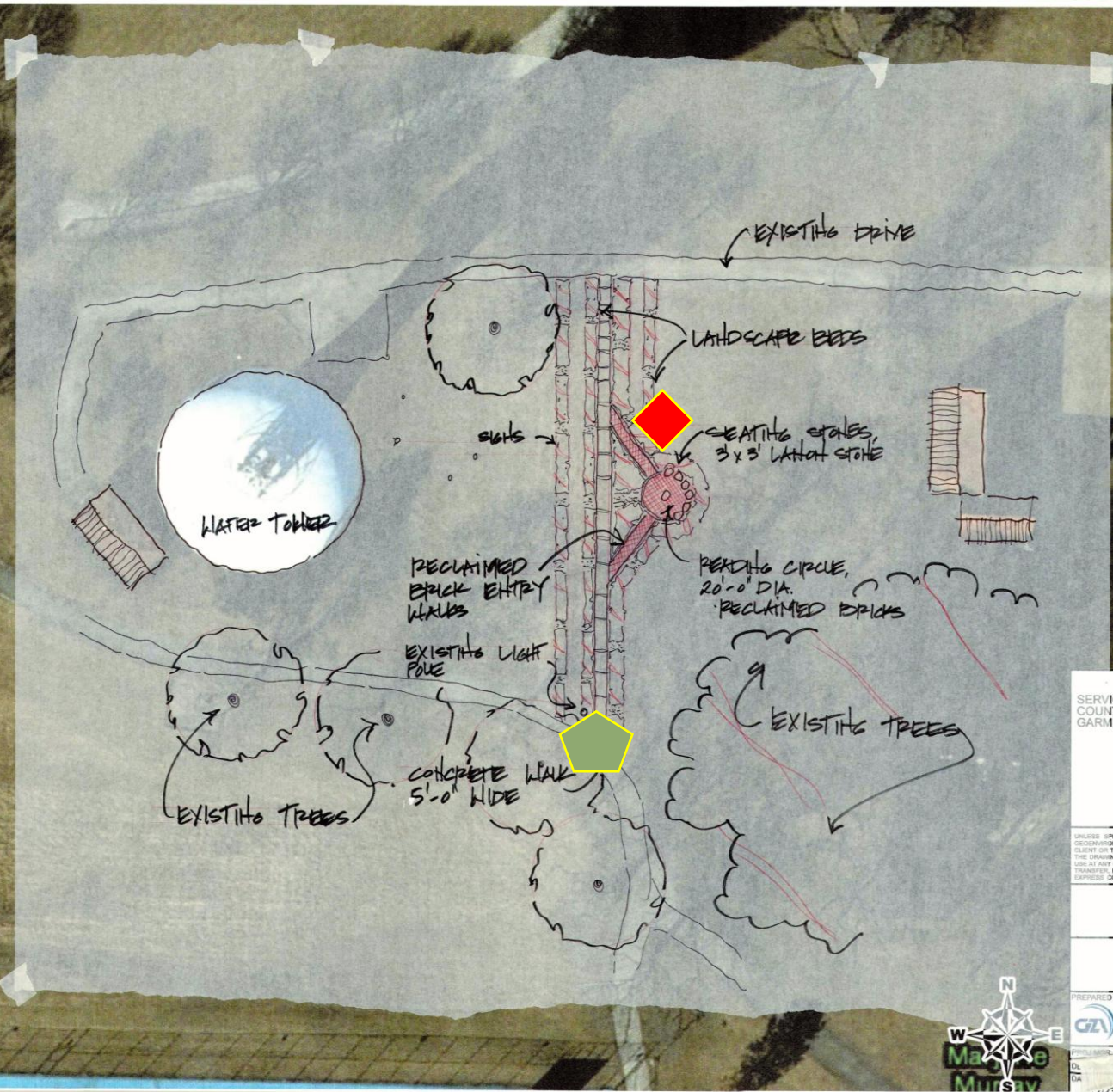


Examples of the "Open-Air" Classroom





Example of the Landscape Beds



Example of Signage and Limestone Paths

VISION & EDUCATIONAL GOALS CONT.



Mid-Term Goals (Years 3-5):

- Integrate a multi-disciplinary curriculum using garden to include (Bio, Hort, EnSci, Art, and Child Development etc.).
- Achieve "Certified Schoolyard Habitat" status with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Wildlife Federation

Long-Term Goals (Years 5+):

- Continued expansion of garden plots across campus
- Increase community connections

FINANCIAL PLAN & MAINTENANCE

- Horticulture Plant Sale -> Initial financing for concrete
- Donors (Growing List 😊)
 - > Jay Womack - Landscape drawings,
 - > Lawn Boyz-> Pavers,
 - > Demay Concrete-> Sidewalk and curb
 - > Midwest Ground Cover-> Plant Materials
- USDA-> Oak Tree Savannah initiative
- Kane & DuPage Soil Water Conservation District
 - > Cost share program
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
 - > [School Yard Habitat Grants](#)
- Community-led fundraising (e.g., dedicated events at the school- Brick sale, Ball seed, Midwest Groundcovers, etc.)





Long-Term Maintenance:

- Establishing an **Outdoor Classroom Committee**
- Involve staff and student classes and clubs.
- Minimal Summer upkeep managed by O and M
- Volunteers or local Green Community partners.





POTENTIAL EXPANSION

Phased Growth: Scaling the biodiversity zone to include a larger **wildflower meadow** or **rain garden** for stormwater management.

Community Integration: Potential for community garden plots, similar to the Geneva Park District's Prairie Green plots, to foster broader community engagement.

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CONCLUSION & CALL TO ACTION

Summary: This project offers a cost-effective way to boost student mental health, provide a location to connect the nature world and its data to our classrooms from science to English to SEL and improve environmental literacy.

Recommendation: Approval to "Keep Moving Forward" 😊 with the detailed site survey, continued grant applications and installation of hardscapes. AND... We are always looking for more donors😊



Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not" — Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

