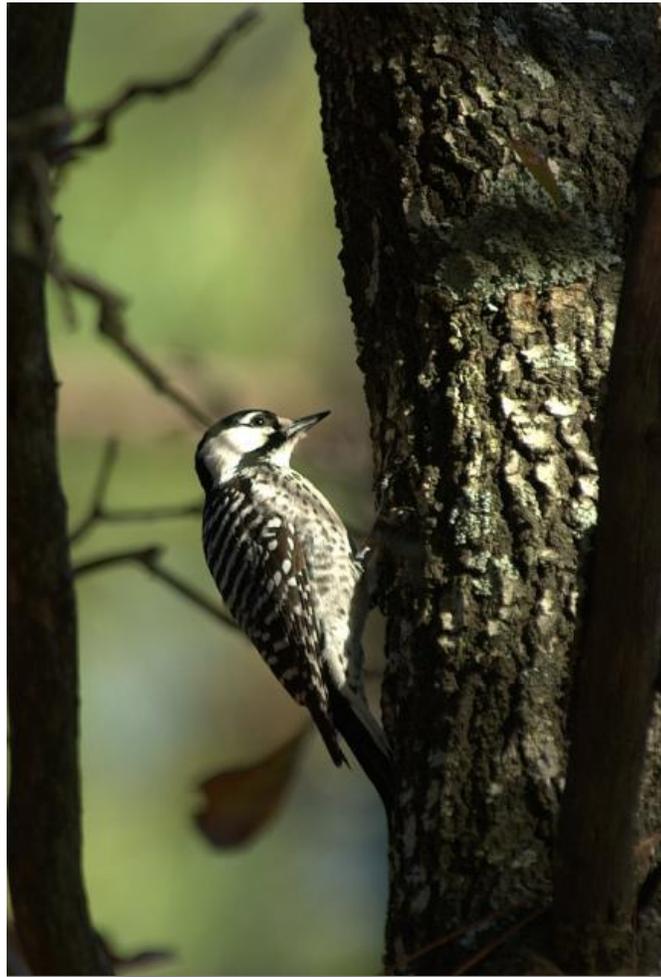


*Weymouth Woods
Sandhills Nature Preserve
General Management Plan*



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Division of Parks and Recreation

Piedmont Region

JULY 2017

I. MISSION AND PURPOSE

MISSION STATEMENT:

The North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation exists to inspire all its citizens and visitors through conservation, recreation and education.

Conservation: To conserve and protect representative examples of North Carolina's natural beauty, ecological features, recreational and cultural resources within the state parks system;

Recreation: To provide and promote safe, healthy and enjoyable outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the state; and

Education: To provide educational opportunities that promote stewardship of the state's natural and cultural heritage.

PURPOSE: The State of North Carolina offers unique archaeological, geologic, biologic, scenic and recreational resources. These resources are part of the heritage of the people of this State. The heritage of a people should be preserved and managed by those people for their use and for the use of their visitors and descendants.

PURPOSE:

Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve was established to restore and maintain a portion of the unique longleaf pine community and to portray and interpret the natural features and processes relative to the Sandhills region. It protects examples of most of the natural communities found in the North Carolina Sandhills region. Not only are xeric upland communities present at the preserve, but a variety of wetland communities are present as well, particularly along James Creek, which traverses the Weymouth Section.

Unlike most units of the state parks system, Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve is



465 Year old Long Leaf Pine

designated as a state natural area and does not offer opportunities for traditional park uses, such as camping, swimming, and picnicking. The preserve offers opportunities for day use including trail hiking, nature study, wildlife observation, photography, and horseback riding in of the Sandhills Longleaf Pine Forests. Visitors can see how human actions have impacted the environment and learn about rare and endangered species such as: Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, the Pine Barrens Tree Frog, and the Bog Spicebush.

The division is responsible for managing and protecting the natural, scenic, cultural, and recreational resources at Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve.

II. HISTORY

In the mid-1700s, when Scottish Highlanders settled in the Sandhills region, the vast forest consisted of original growth longleaf pines that reached heights of 100 to 120 feet. Merchants cut the forests for timber and cultivated choice stands for use as masts for the Royal Navy ships. Merchants also harvested resin from the Longleaf Pines for the naval stores industry. Resin from Longleaf Pine yielded four basic products: tar, pitch, turpentine, and rosin.

By 1850, pine forests of North Carolina were producing one-third of the supply of naval stores in the world. Resin collected from elongated, inverted V-shaped cuts in the tree trunks was distilled into turpentine. Turpentine was used as a solvent and illuminant. Tar, pitch, and rosin were used for sealing the hulls, decks, masts, ropes and riggings of sailing vessels.

When railroads arrived in the Sandhills in the 1870's, large-scale logging and lumbering began. As a result of logging and naval stores operations, most of the virgin growth of Longleaf Pines had disappeared from the Sandhills by 1900. Many of the older trees that survive today bear prominent scars of resin harvesting.

Early in the 20th century, the grandfather of James Boyd, a well-known North Carolina author, purchased a substantial tract of land east of Southern Pines to save the Longleaf Pines from logging. He named the estate Weymouth because the pines reminded him of trees in Weymouth, England. In April 1963, Boyd's widow, Katharine, donated 403 acres of land to the state, establishing the first natural area in the North Carolina state parks system. Additional land has been acquired, including a satellite area of 153 acres known as the Boyd Round Timber Tract, which was added in 1977.

III. THEMES AND INVENTORY

Themes:

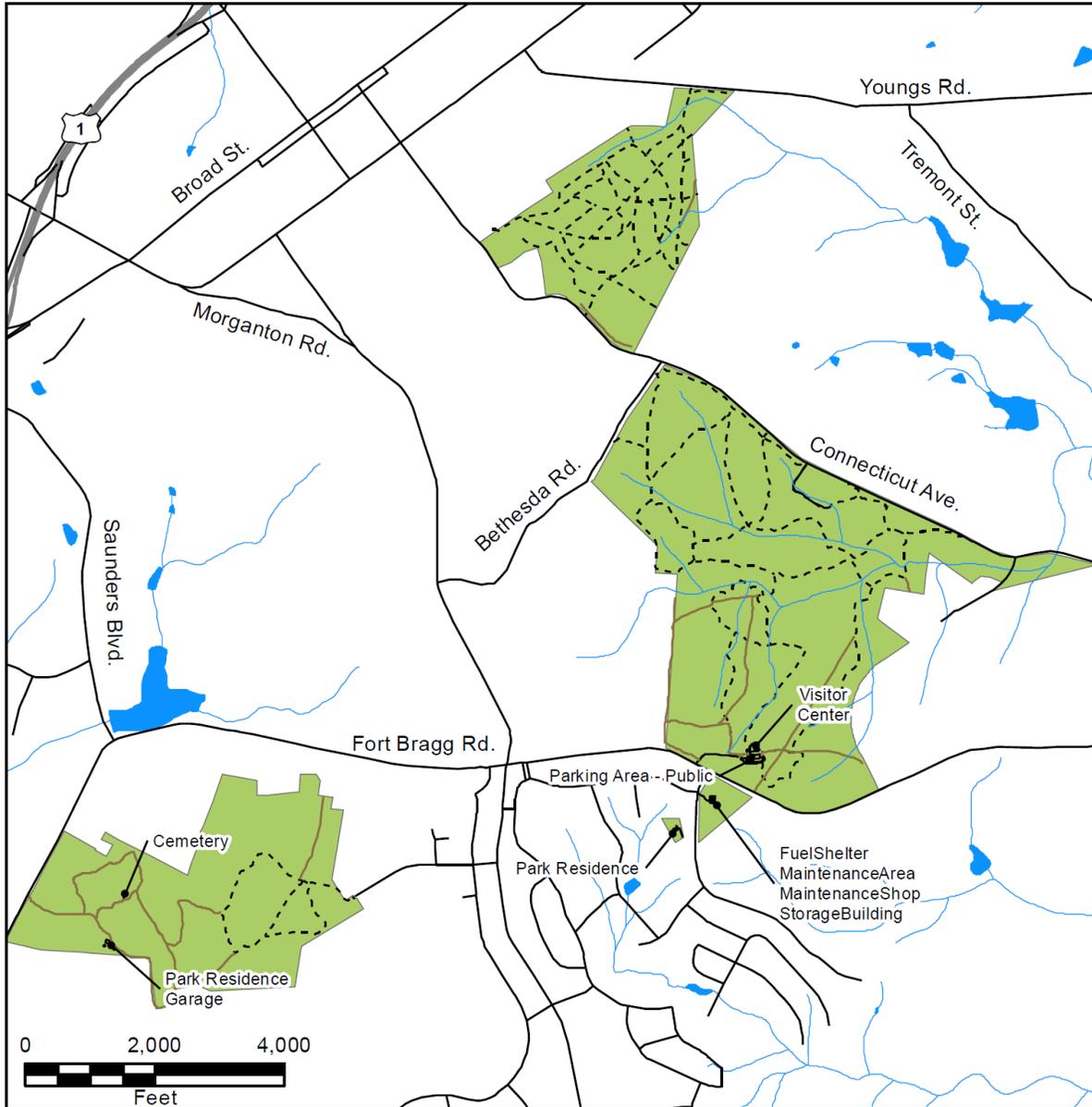
The significant archeological, geological, scenic, recreational and biological resources of North Carolina should be represented in the State Park system. These resources, as cited in the State Parks Act, are divided into sub-categories called resources “themes”. There have been 108 themes identified that should be protected to preserve representative examples of unique resources. For this GMP only themes that are of high significance to Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve.

Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve Theme Table

Theme Type	Theme	Weymouth Woods Significance	State Parks System Representation
Archeological/Prehistoric	Campsite/Activity Area	High	Adequate
Biological	Blackwater Coastal Plain Floodplains	High	Moderate
Biological	Dry Longleaf Pine Communities	High	Moderate
Biological	Stream head Pocosins	High	Little
Biological	Wet Pine Savannas	High	Moderate
Geological	Dissected Uplands	High	Adequate
Geological	Sedimentary Features	High	Adequate
Scenic	Forests	Moderate	Adequate
Scenic	Scenic Vistas	High	Moderate
Scenic	Swamps	High	Adequate

*See the System wide Plan for references to Theme and inventory terms. Themes have both actual and “potential” future needs to be at a park.

FACILITY INVENTORY
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE

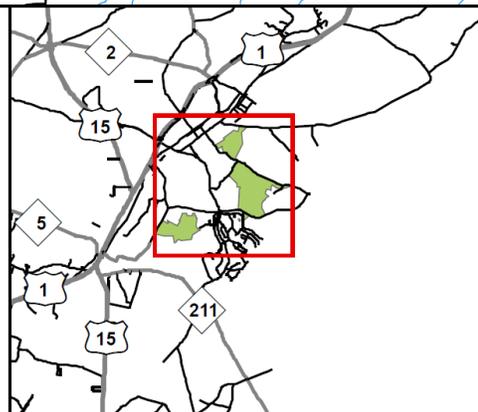


Weymouth Woods
Sandhills Nature Preserve
Facility Inventory

February 2017



- Road - Paved
- Road - Unpaved
- - - Existing Trails
- Existing Facilities
- State Parks Unit



TRAIL INVENTORY
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE

Trails Inventory	Hiking	Multi-Use	Equestrian
Bower's Bog Trail	0.36		
Boyd Round Timber Trail	1.28	1.28	
Crossover Trail	0.12		
Equestrian Trail	2.60		2.60
Fox Squirrel Loop	0.50		
Gum Swamp Trail	0.68		
Holly Road Trail	1.83		
Lighter Stump Trail	0.63		
Moccasin Crossing	0.10		
Paint Hill Footpath	0.87		
Pine Barrens Trail	1.02		
Pine Island Trail	0.54		
Pyxie Moss Trail	0.80		
Round Timber Trail – Boyd	1.00		
Svc 3 Rd/Horse Trail	0.45	0.45	0.45
Svc Rd/Horse Trail	2.02	2.02	2.02
Trail - Equestrian	3.72	3.72	3.72
Weymouth Woods SNA Totals (miles)	18.52	7.47	8.79

TRAILS:

Bower's Bog Trail is a short, 0.36-mile, loop nature trail that begins at the Visitor Center and meanders along the edge of an upland bog filled with ferns, pitcher plants and shrubs.

Boyd Round Timber Trail: is a 1.28-mile loop nature trail within Boyd Tract located on the north section of the park

Crossover Trail: is a 0.12-mile connector trail from Gum Swamp trail, over a stream to the Pine Island trail.

Equestrian Trail: Trailhead parking is located from the corner of Bethesda Road and Connecticut Avenue or various intersections with the Holly Road Trail and the Pine Island Trail; there is no horse trailer parking available. This 2.60-mile trail loops through the northern half of the preserve.

Fox Squirrel Loop: is a 0.50-mile trail located in the Paint Hill section . Trailhead parking is found off Stoneyfield Drive.



Bowers Bog Trail



Equestrian Trail

Gum Swamp Trail: a 0.50-mile loop, branches off Pine Barrens Trail, passes through a stand of hardwoods and travels along the edge of a swamp where James Creek flows.

Holly Road Trail: connects with Gum Swamp Trail and loops 1.80 miles through the northern half of the preserve.

Lighter Stump Trail: is a 0.50-mile route that connects Bower's Bog Trail with Pine Island Trail. This trail is bordered on one side by open stands of longleaf pine and a mix of hardwoods and lower wet areas on the other.

Moccasin Crossing: is a 0.10-mile, short trail connects the Gum Swamp Trail to the Holly Road Trail and crosses James Creek with a bridge.

Paint Hill Footpath: is a 0.87-mile trail located within the Paint Hill section with access off North Fort Bragg Road.

Pine Barrens Trail: is an educational trail which begins at the Visitor Center and loops for 1 mile, through open stands of longleaf pines. The Visitor Center has an observation deck which provides an opportunity to look and listen for birds that are specifically found in the longleaf pine ecosystem such as brown-headed nuthatches and the red-cockaded woodpeckers.

Pine Island Trail: a 0.50-mile loop, is entered at the easternmost point of the Holly Road Trail and includes a 300-foot boardwalk and covered shelter over swamp land. Rare plants such as the bog spicebush and sand hills lily can be found along this trail along with migrating warbler habitat.

Pyxie Moss Trail: is a 0.80-mile loop trail which is located in the Paint Hill section. The trailhead parking lot is located off Stoneyfield Drive.

Round Timber Trail: is located 1-mile loop trail system located in the Boyd Tract section off East Connecticut Avenue. Hikers can see the oldest known and second largest living Longleaf Pine Trees.

Trail – Equestrian: is a 3.72-mile equestrian trail found in the Boyd tract. The trailhead parking lot is found off East Connecticut Avenue or Youngs Road.



Moccasin Crossing

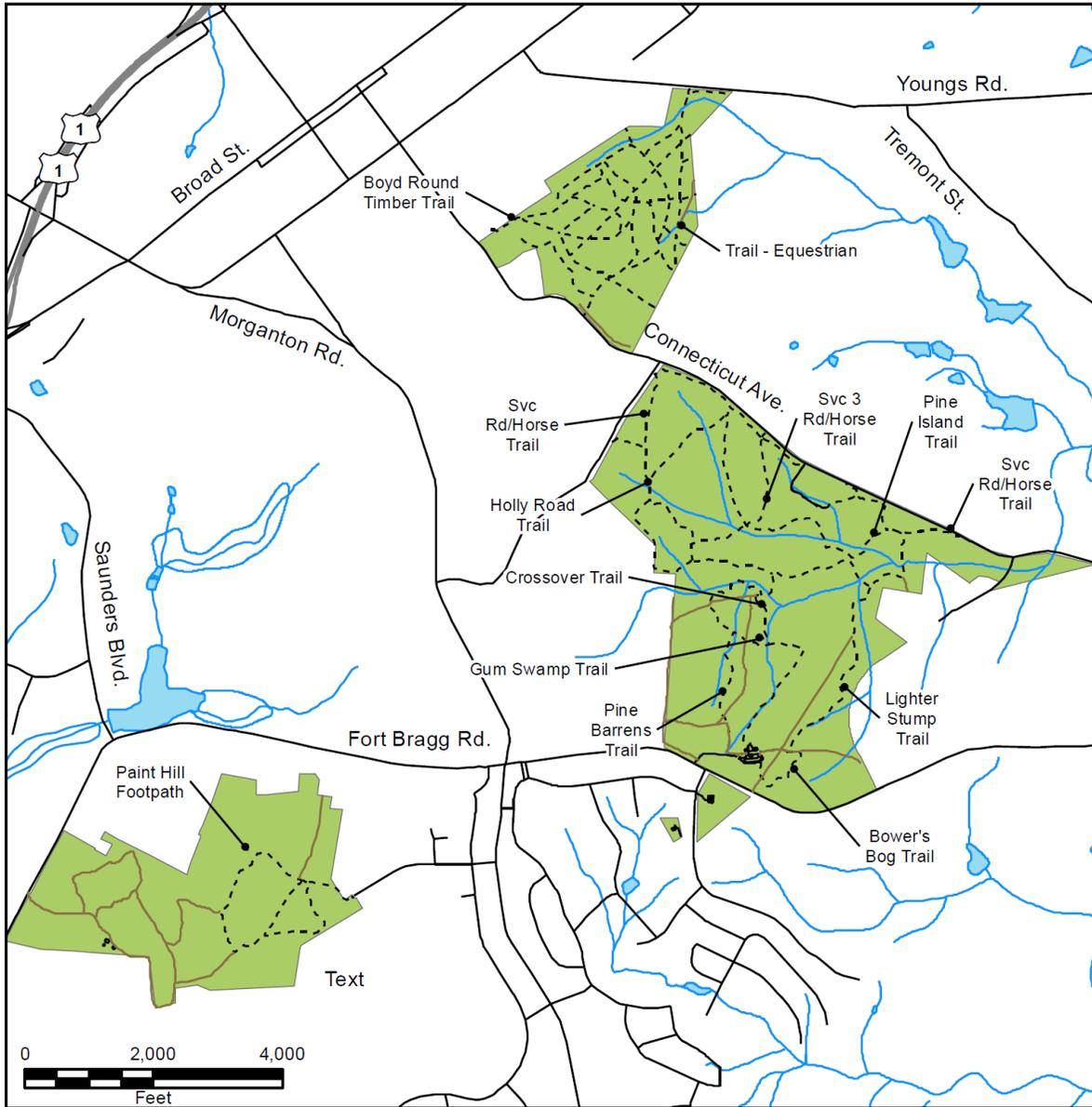


Pine Barrens Trail



Pine Island Trail

TRAILS INVENTORY
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE

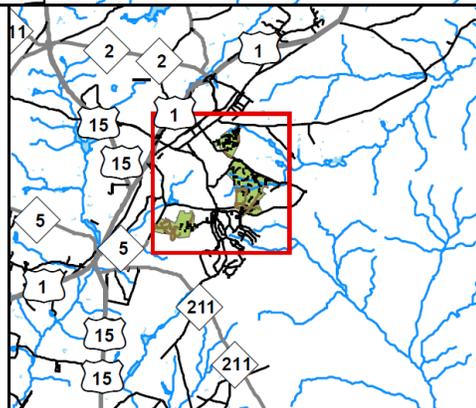


Weymouth Woods
Sandhills Nature Preserve
Trail Inventory

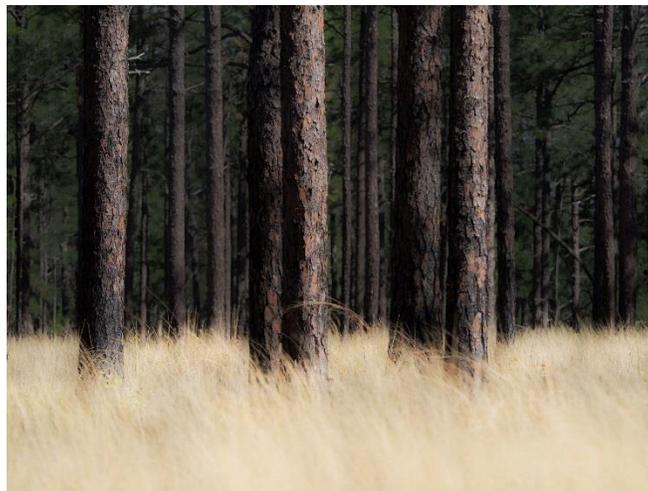
February 2017



- Road - Paved
- Road - Unpaved
- - - Existing Trails
- Existing Facilities
- State Parks Unit



IV. PLANNING

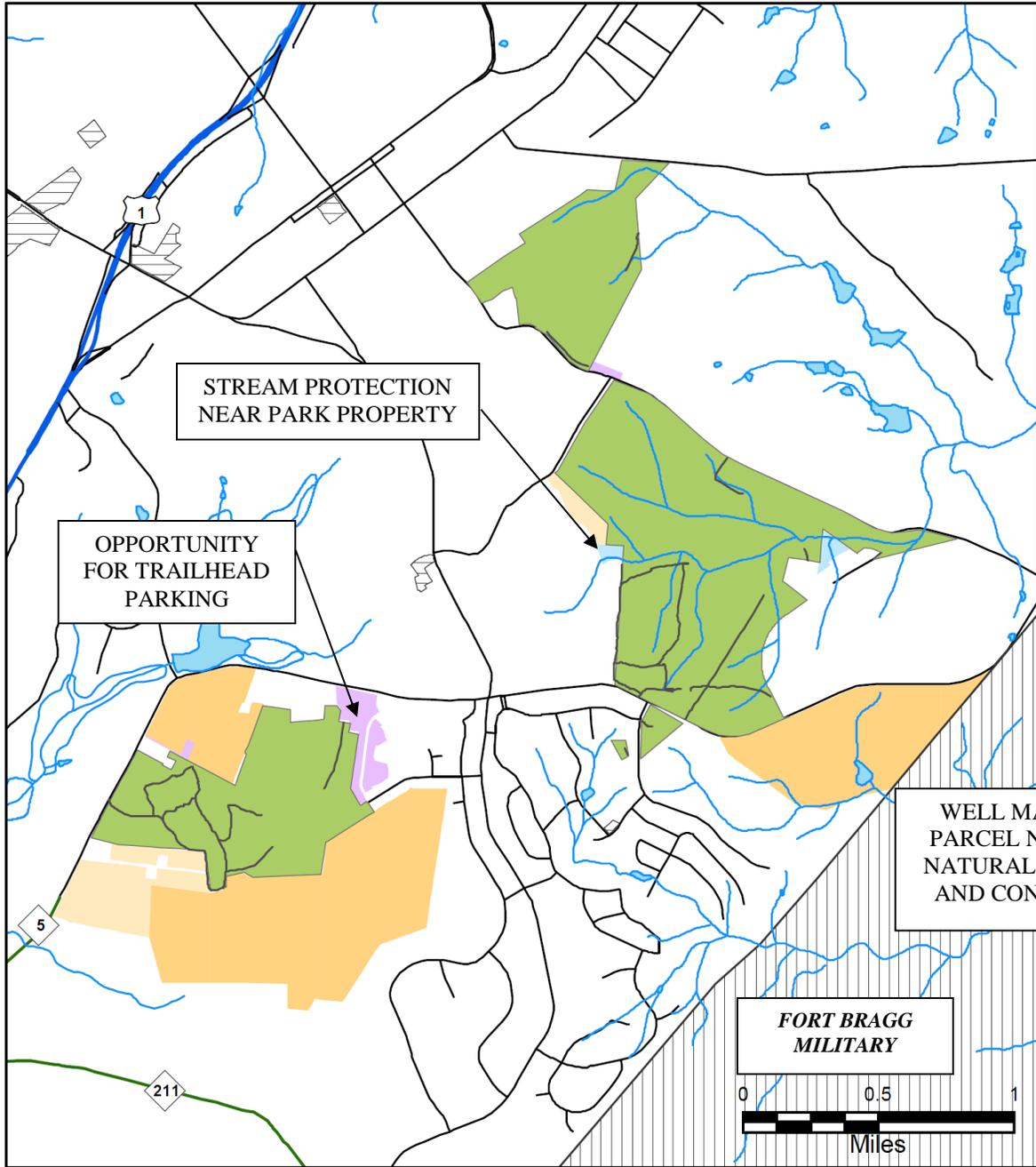


**Longleaf Pine Forest with wiregrass
understory**

LAND PROTECTION FOR STATE PARKS
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE

To achieve the highest level of connectivity between park properties already owned by the State of North Carolina, further acquisition of land is expected to take place. Additional land will ensure the maximum protection of natural resources, scenic preservation, outdoor recreation and public access. Each park has several tracts of land that have been distinguished as a future need or a critical need for the park. The following map shows Land Acquisition needs for Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve.

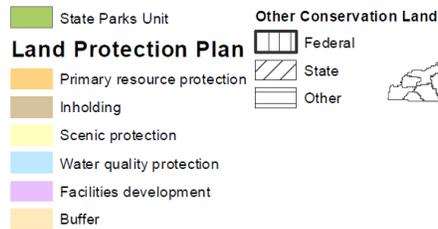
LAND PROTECTION PLAN
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE



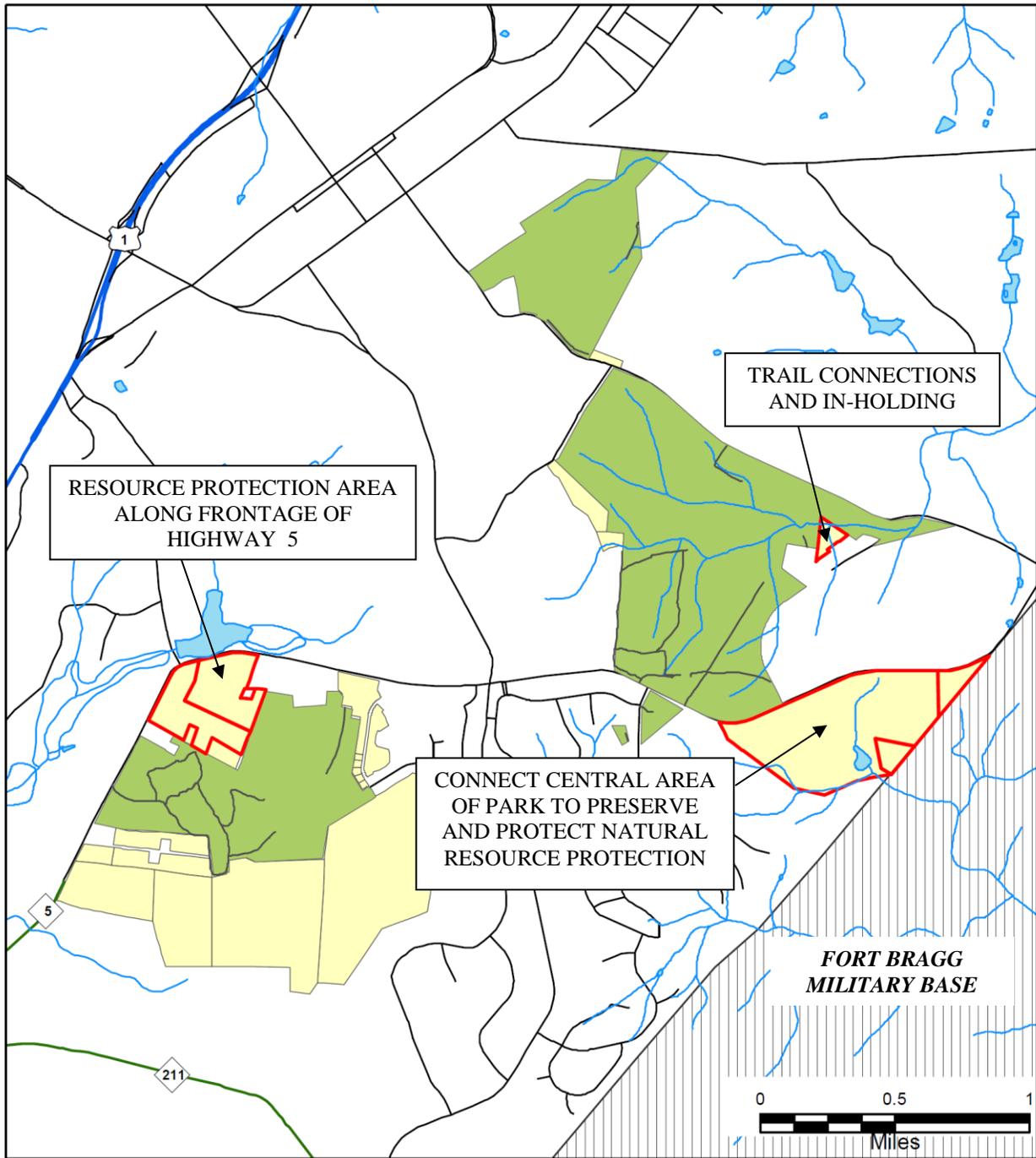
Weymouth Woods SNP



February 2017



LAND PROTECTION PLAN- CRITICAL ACRES
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE



Weymouth Woods SNA



Sept 2015

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Critical need | Other Conservation Land |
| State Parks Unit | Federal |
| Land Protection Plan | State |
| Future need | Other |



PROJECT LIST
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE

Project	Project Title	Conceptual Cost
1	Exhibit Improvements	\$600,000
2	Maintenance Area Improvements	\$1,053,900
3	Equestrian Trail Barricade & Bridge	\$1,025,000
4	Interpretive Universally-Designed Trail	\$310,600
TOTAL		\$2,989,500

*** Planning estimated project cost does not include contingencies, design fee, no escalation.*

1. Exhibit Improvements

A renovation of the visitor center museum and overall directional signage is needed to improve the visitor experience. Out dated and faded exhibits will be removed. Animal mounts and reusable exhibit components will be re-purposed and enclosed in clear exhibit boxes. The interior space of the museum will be renovated with updated flooring and exhibits. Interpretive panels will be installed along the breezeways of the visitor center and other focal points.

Improvements to the visitor experience will also extend to signage, such as: ‘welcome’ entrance signage, interpretive signage, fire educational demonstration and natural garden signs, building directional identifiers, and two information kiosk panels. This project is currently under construction.

2. Maintenance Area Improvements

The maintenance area will be expanded to include a proposed maintenance office/shop building (2,250 SF) and a proposed four-bay pole barn (1,600 SF). The addition of these proposed structures will require a slight expansion of the existing maintenance area footprint. This expansion will be designed to blend in with the area and does not conflict with the existing neighboring homes or the nearby residential street (McNeil Road). The existing shop building will be renovated to provide additional storage/warehouse. Scope of work also includes: tree clearing and removal, a 6’ high chain link security fence and gate, fuel storage facility, fuel pump and paved area.



Convert Existing Maintenance Shop to warehouse



Existing Paved Access Drive

3. Equestrian Trail Barricade & Bridge

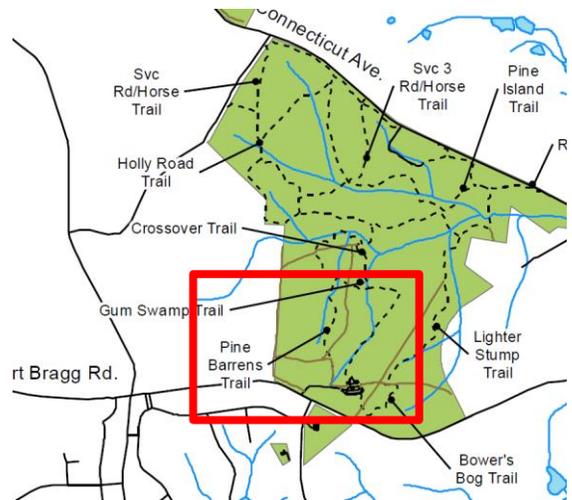
One mile of continuous metal or concrete barrier fencing and four metal gates will be installed at the Boyd Section along Den Road and partially along Young’s Road to redirect equestrian use to official trails and to close gaps in the existing fence.

The fence will be constructed as a barrier along with basic directional signage. Natural Resources staff need a firebreak pathway around the perimeter of the property for prescribed burning operations.

Scope of work includes: grading, installing diversion ditches, approximately 300 feet vehicular bridge for operational and equestrian use, barrier fencing, and additional compacted gravel along the 3- mile equestrian trail system. The existing boardwalk will be repaired located along the ‘hiking only’ section of Pine Island Trail.

4. Interpretive Universally-Designed Trail

A section of the Pine Barrens Trail will be built to supplement a short existing trail section previously improved by park staff. In addition, a proposed one-mile interpretive trail will connect back to the Visitor Center. The trail improvements will be supplemented with wayside displays to provide visitors, including those with disabilities, with an outdoor learning and nature experience. The accessible trail surface will be constructed with compacted gravel screenings.



**PROJECT #1: EXHIBIT IMPROVEMENTS
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE**



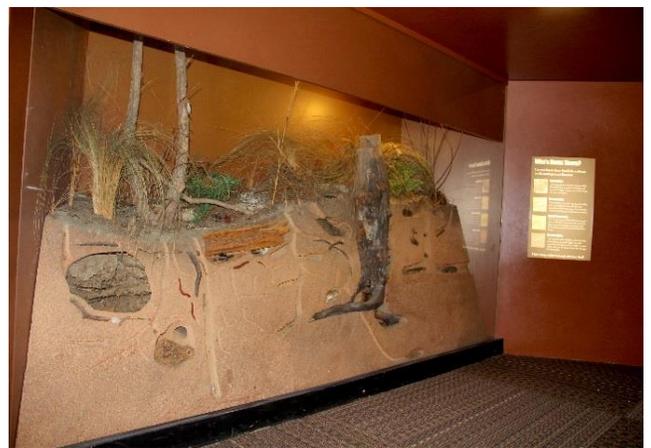
Updated Lights and puppet stage-Currently under construction



Activity Area with tunnel and magnet board – Currently under construction

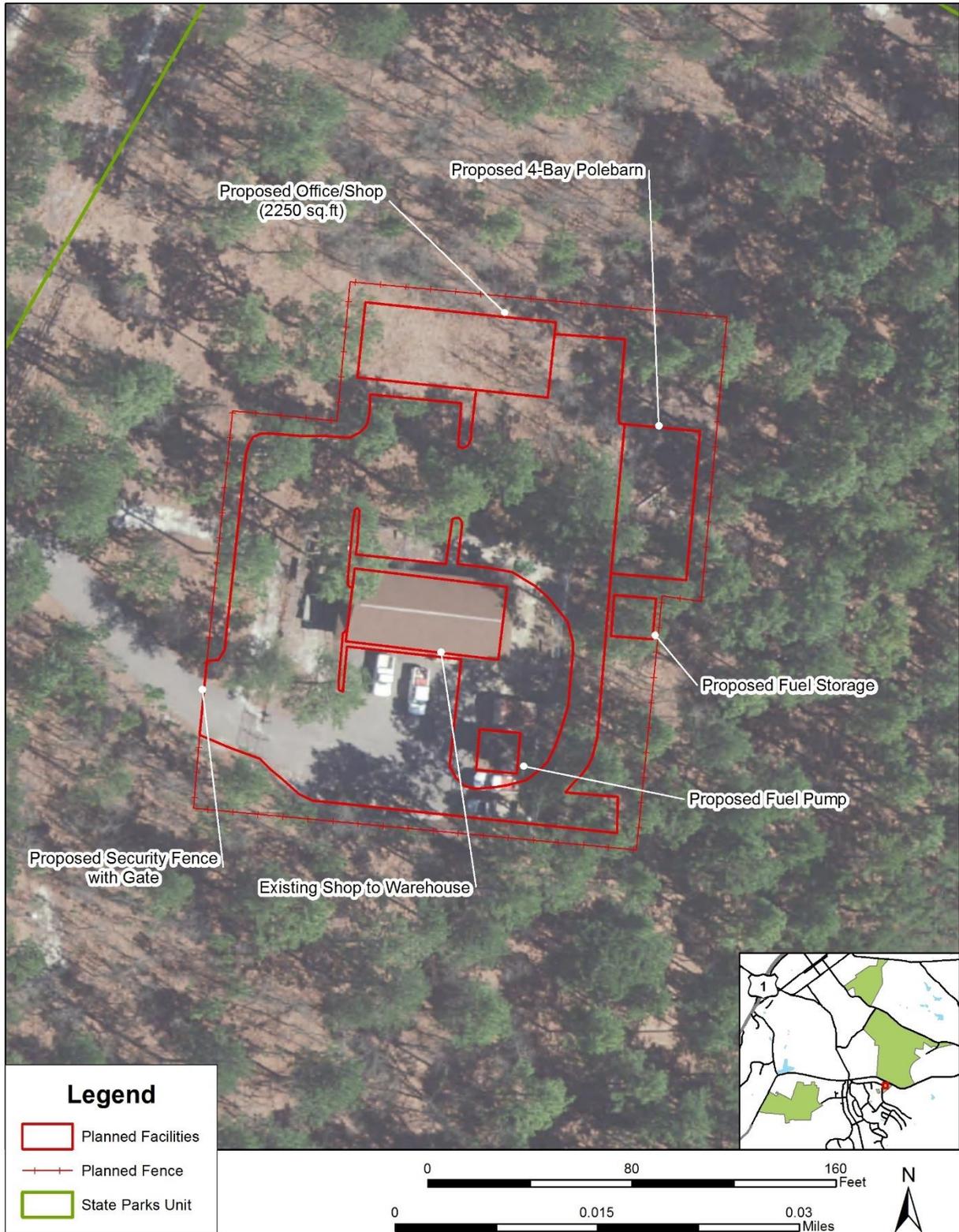


Updated windows and views into the Longleaf Pine Forest. Updated Animal mounts will be placed on top of display cabinets – under construction

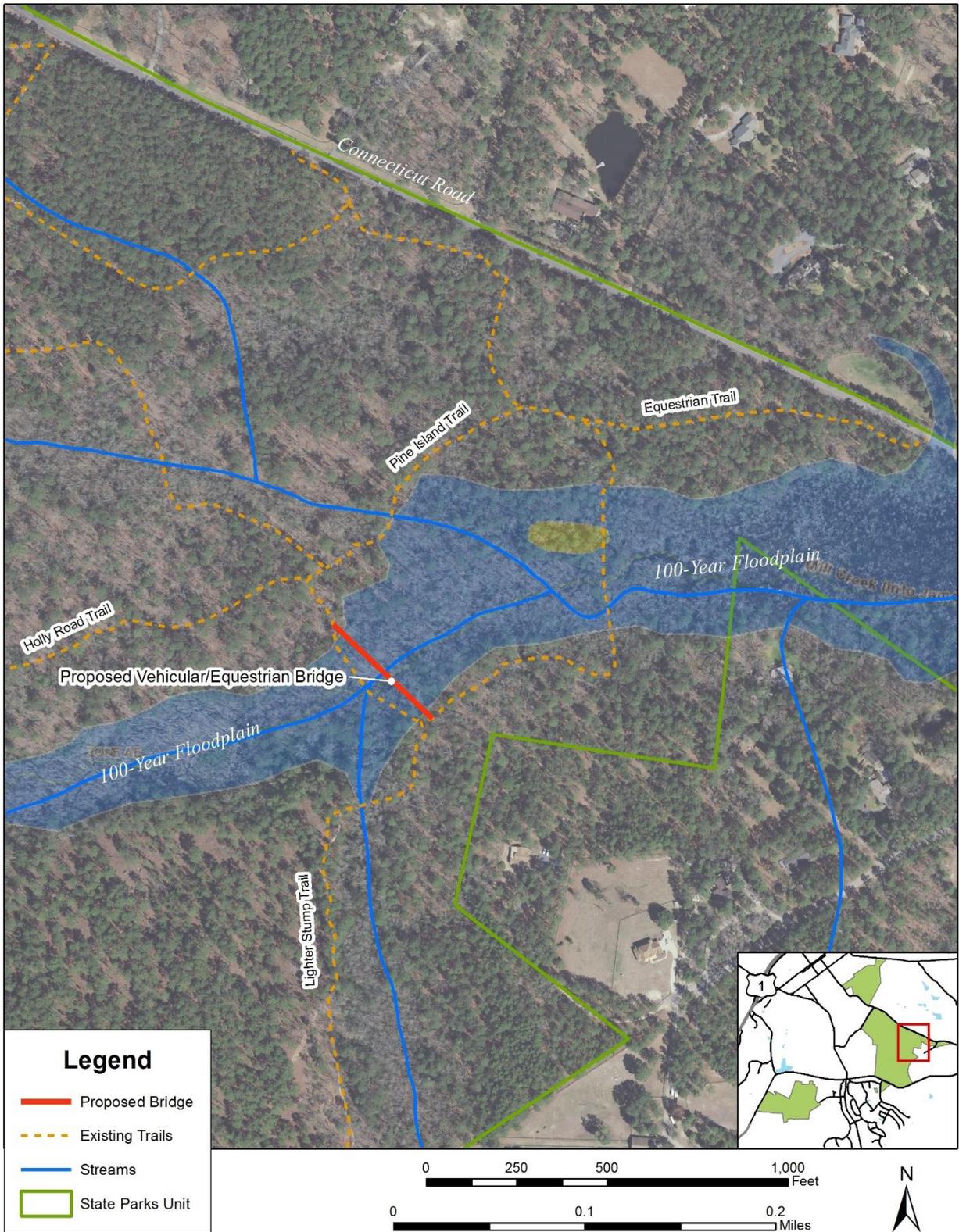


Interactive Tunnel Exhibit

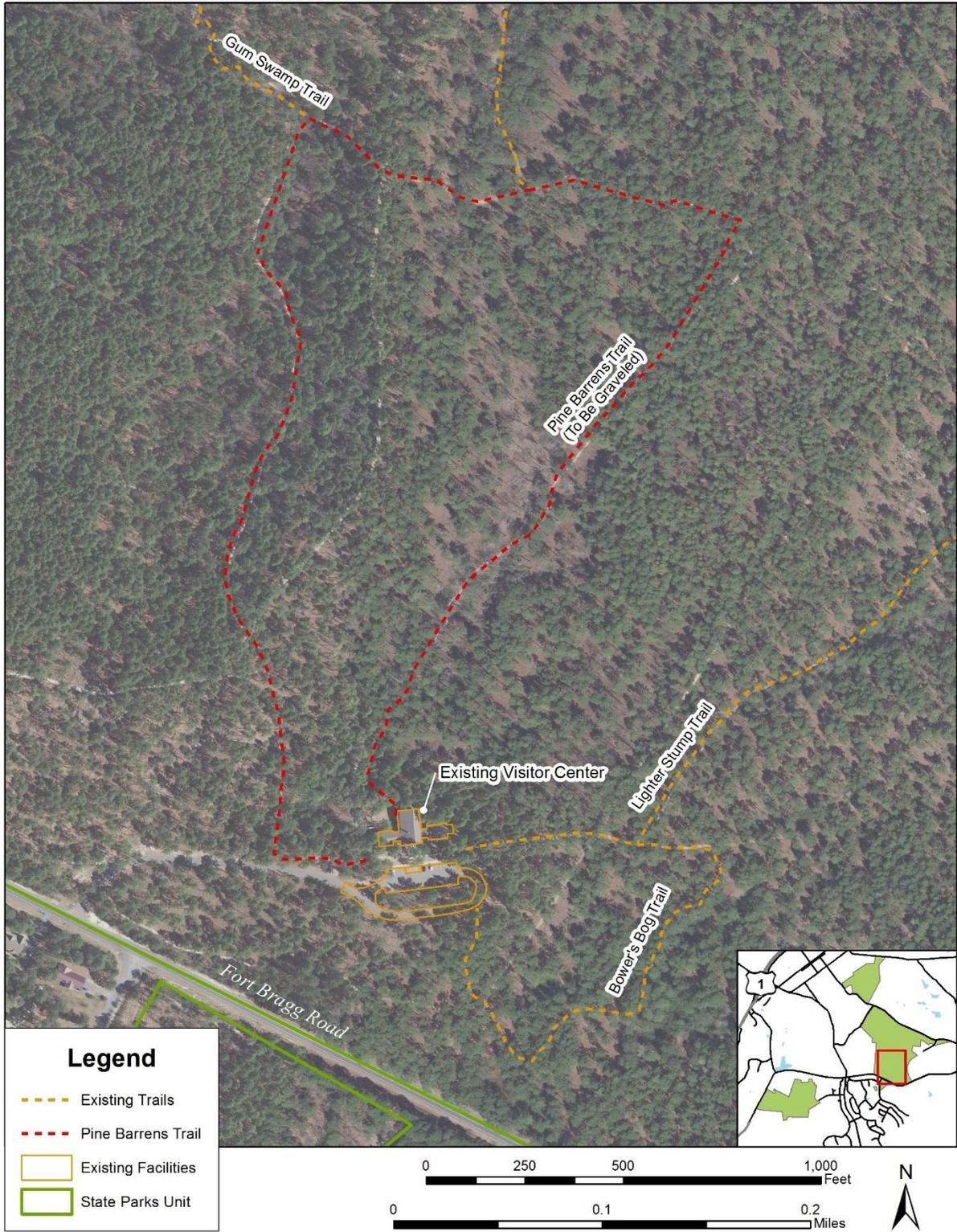
PROJECT #2: MAINTENANCE AREA IMPROVEMENTS
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE



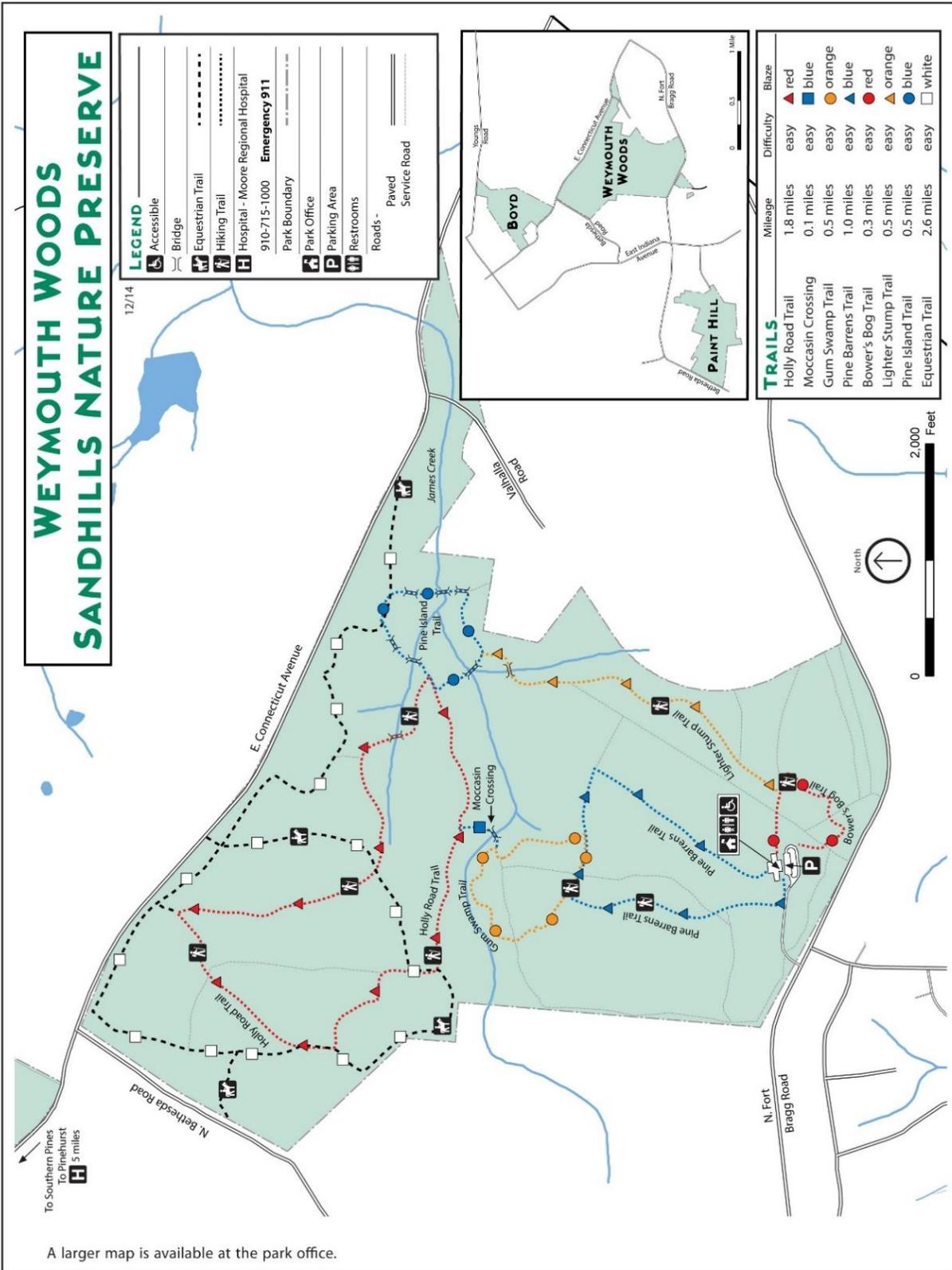
PROJECT # 3: EQUESTRIAN TRAIL BARRICADE AND BRIDGE.
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE



PROJECT # 4.INTERPRETIVE UNIVERSALLY- DESIGNED TRAIL
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE

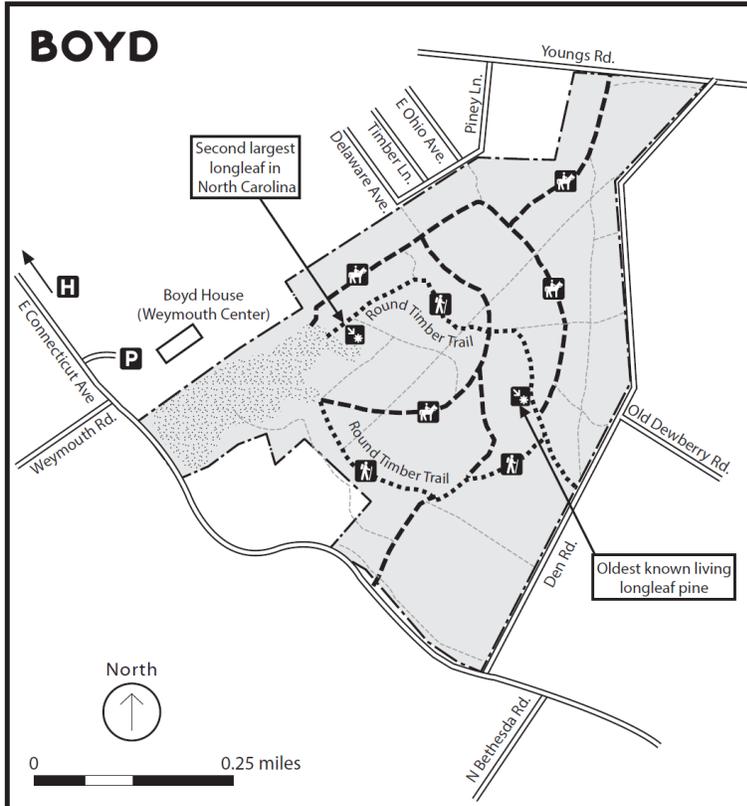


PARK MAP
WEYMOUTH WOODS NATURE PRESERVE



PARK MAP - BOYD TRACT AND PAINT HILL TRACT
WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE

WEYMOUTH WOODS SANDHILLS NATURE PRESERVE



LEGEND

- Cemetery
- Equestrian Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Hospital - Moore Regional Hospital
910-715-1000 **Emergency 911**
- Meadow
- Park Boundary
- Parking Area
- Point of Interest
- Ranger Residence
- Roads -
 - Paved
 - Service Road
 - Private Road

TRAILS

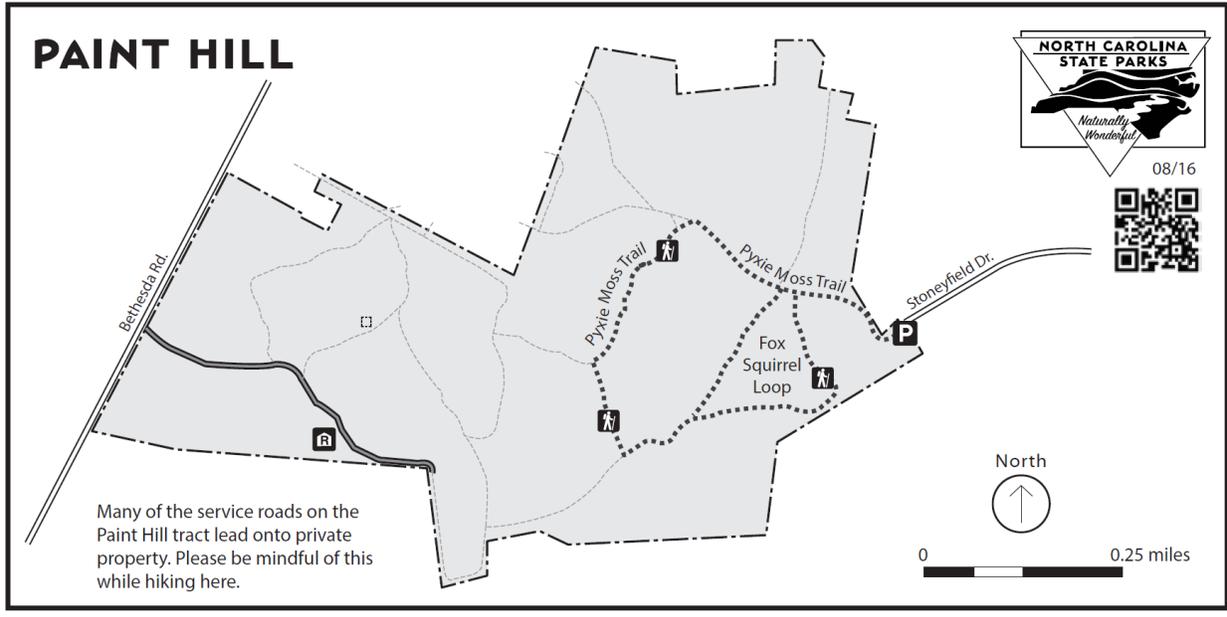
Boyd

Round Timber Trail 1.0 miles easy ○ orange

Paint Hill

Pyxie Moss Trail 0.8 miles easy ○ blue

Fox Squirrel Loop 0.5 miles easy □ red



NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS

08/16