

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, showing houses, streets, and green spaces. A semi-transparent teal rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text 'SECTION 5 Existing Conditions'.

SECTION 5

Existing Conditions

EXISTING CONDITIONS OVERALL SITE

Chippewa Lake is located approximately 1 hour southwest of Cleveland, Ohio and 30 minutes west of Akron, Ohio. Tucked away in southern Medina County, Chippewa Lake is a hidden gem, being the state's largest inland glacial lake. The lake and majority of surrounding property is owned and managed by Medina County Park District. The Village of Chippewa Lake and Village of Gloria Glens Park are two lakefront communities located on the eastern shores. The now-closed historic Chippewa Lake Amusement Park is located between the two Villages, and is now under the ownership of the Park District. The amusement park property is overgrown with a series of abandoned amusement park elements scattered throughout the property that provide unique context to the site history. The majority of the western shore is preserved, owned, and managed by the Park District with the remaining properties to the northwest being private. The lake is fed by an inlet to the north, and discharges via Chippewa Creek to the south. The lake can be accessed by a public boat launch located along the southwest shoreline, or via private boat access for residents of the Village of Chippewa Lake or the Village of Gloria Glens.



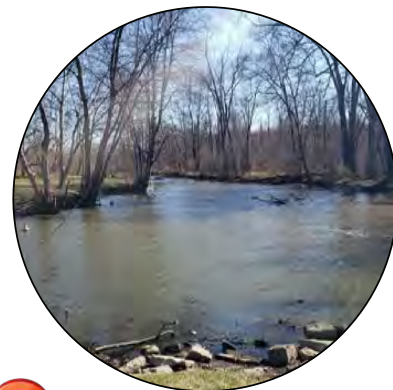
1 CHIPPEWA INLET TRAILHEAD - SOUTH

Existing shared-use trail to the north allows for connections to Buckeye Woods and Chippewa Inlet North Trail.



2 CHIPPEWA INLET

Surrounding agricultural lands result in high levels of contaminated runoff. The stream delta creates opportunity for restoration and enhancements of water before entering lake. Existing wetland restoration projects happening currently within this area.



3 CHIPPEWA CREEK

Chippewa Lake's southern outflow creates Chippewa Creek. The Creek is encompassed by an existing vegetated buffer with the opportunity for further water enhancement and restoration.



4 CHIPPEWA LAKE BOAT LAUNCH



Existing boat launch is functional but lacks facilities for a variety of other boat types (canoe, kayak, paddle board, etc.).



5 KRABILL LODGE

Existing park shelter, Krabill Lodge, on west side of lake offers a central facility for passive recreation.

LEGEND

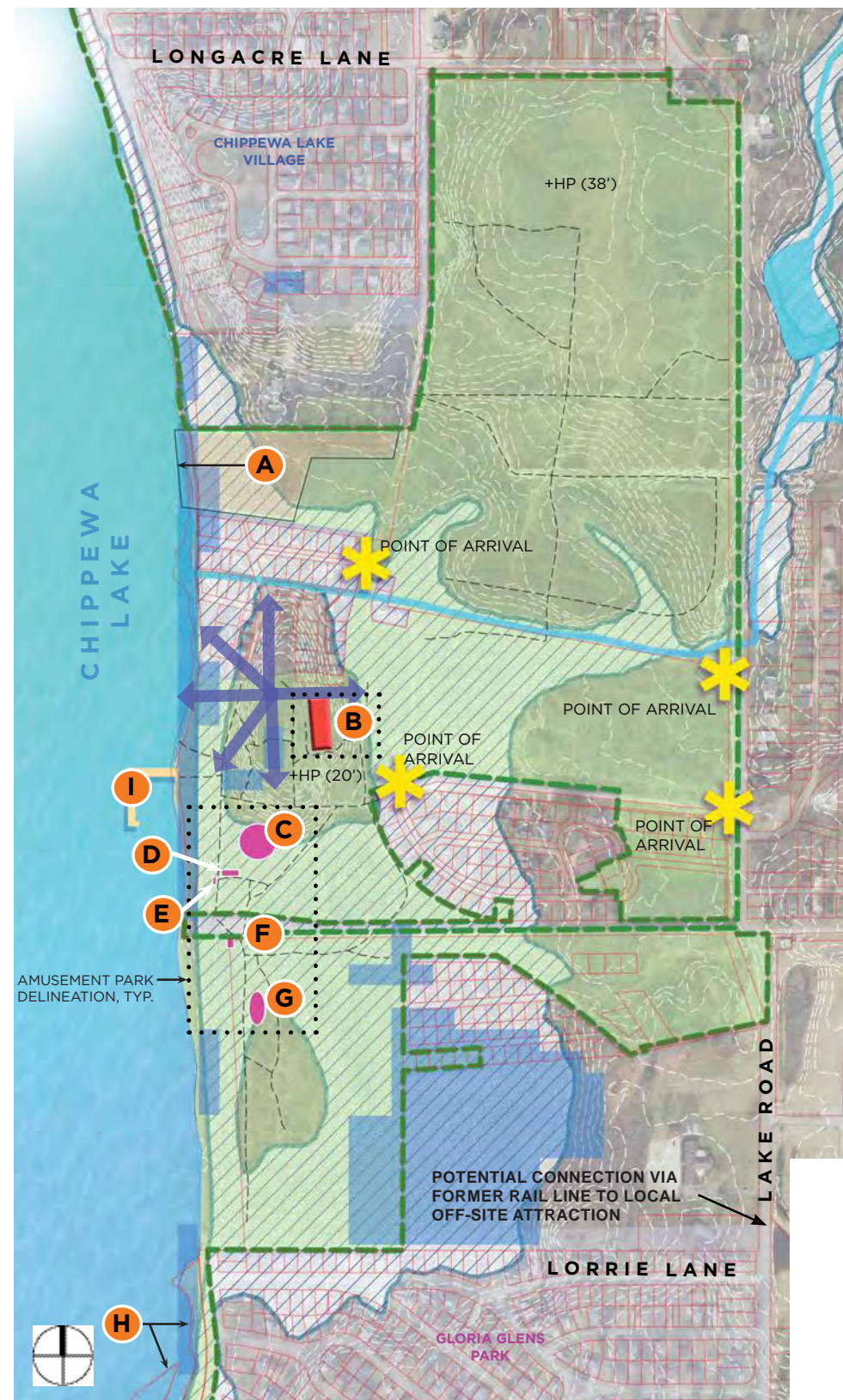
-  AGRICULTURAL LANDS
-  WETLANDS
-  FLOODPLAIN
-  PARK DISTRICT
-  PROJECT FOCUS AREA
-  PARK DISTRICT LAKEFRONT
-  PRIVATE &/OR SUBDIVISION LAKEFRONT

NOTES

- 1. Private and public relationships exist for potential funding sources.
- 2. Item "4" can only be used as a boat launch, not trailhead due to funding. Limited to improvements of existing conditions.



EXISTING CONDITIONS FOCUS AREA



EXISTING ELEMENTS

LEGEND

- WETLANDS
- FLOODPLAIN
- PARK DISTRICT
- HIKING TRAILS
- VIEWSHED OPPORTUNITIES
- CHIPPEWA YACHT CLUB LEASE BOUNDARY
- BALLROOM
- TUMBLE BUG
- FERRIS WHEEL
- ARCHWAY
- SWINGING CAGE
- SMALL COASTER
- GLORIA GLENS LEASE BOUNDARY
- DOCK



WETLANDS

Existing wetlands create environmental and aesthetic benefits to park experience. Potential challenges with unfiltered roadway runoff entering directly into wetland zones.



VILLAGE'S BEACH

Current beach access allows for vast lake views. Opportunities to remove hardened shoreline design, making pedestrian interaction with shoreline a more direct and natural experience.



EXISTING PIER

Structural issues exist with pier, including crumbling concrete and plant roots contributing to deteriorating state. Opportunities for new pier would create a safer experience and an enhanced appearance at the water's edge.



EXISTING SHORELINE

Existing amenities begin to capitalize on shoreline views. Potential for improving shoreline ecology and aesthetics.



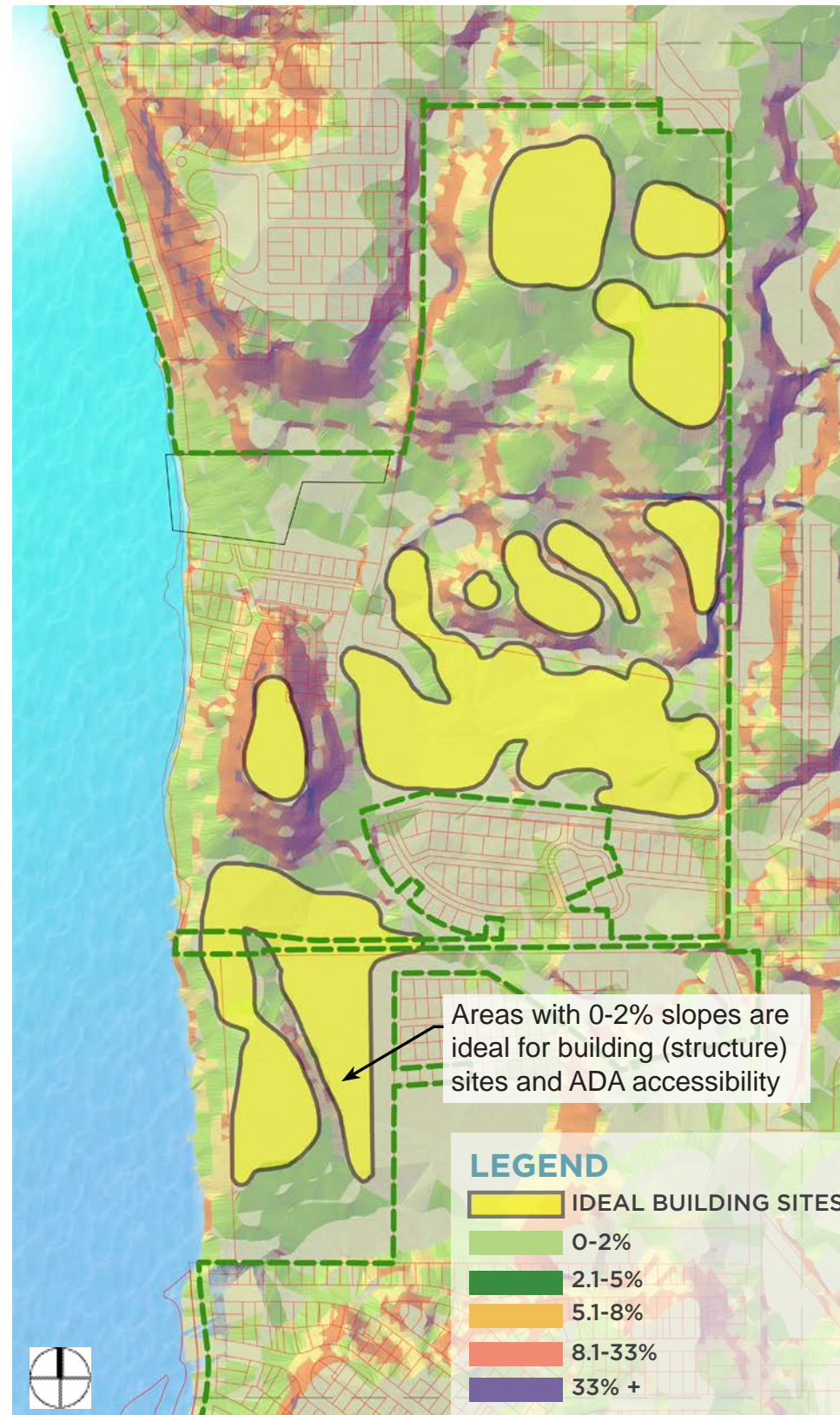
HISTORIC RELICS

Remnants of several amusement park rides create opportunities to highlight site history but present visitor safety challenges.

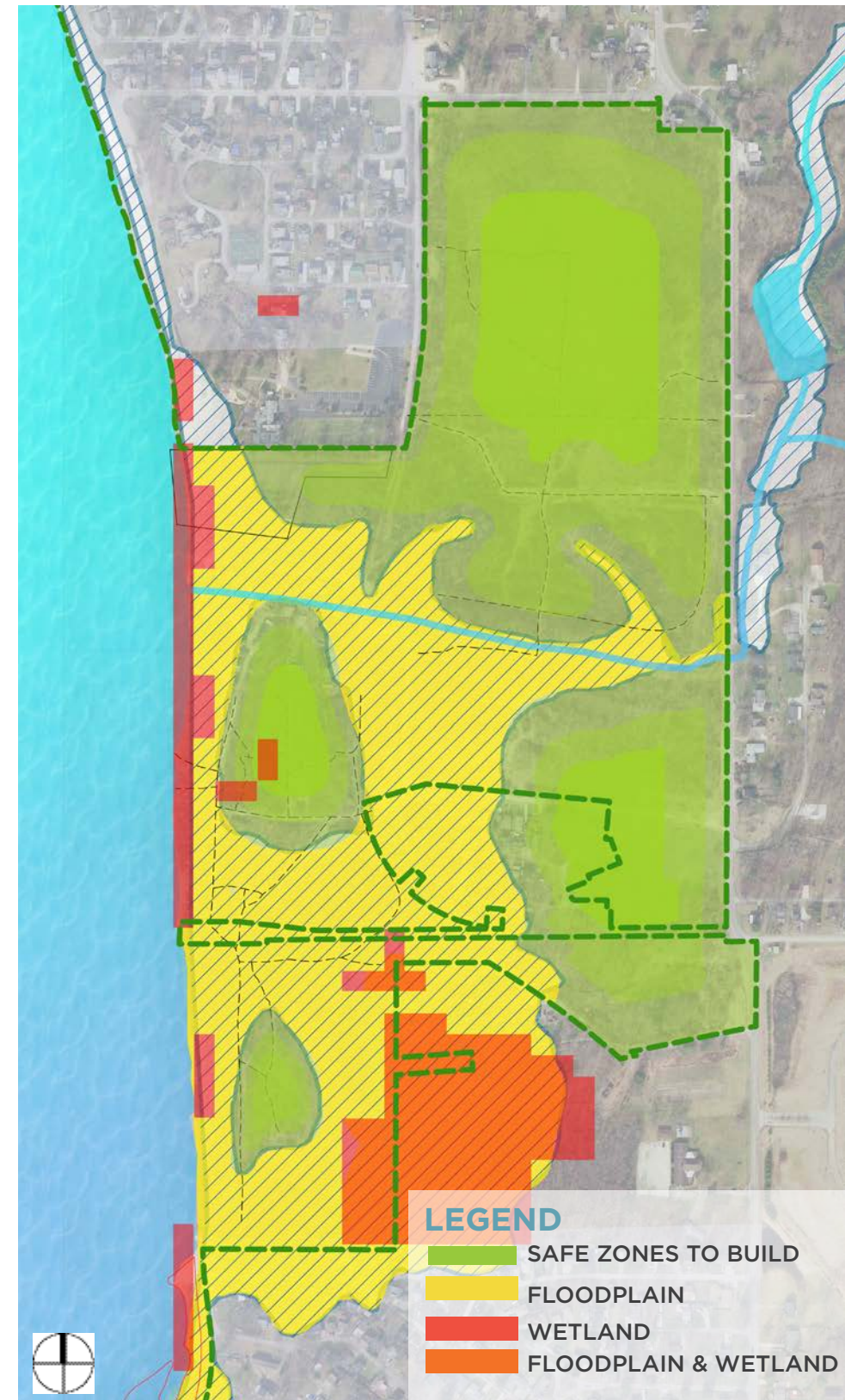
OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

1. Surface Drainage is a major consideration:
 - a. Floodplain and wetlands cover approx. 42% of MCPD property in the focus area.
 - b. Construction within floodplain must not impact overall floodplain volume.
 - c. Opportunity for dynamic interplay between active and passive land uses.
 - d. Assess how to best leverage stream and wetland restoration for ecological, aesthetic, and educational purposes.
2. Utilize existing topography to capitalize on views into and out from focus area.
3. Current trail layout is haphazard. Route trails to connect key existing and proposed elements.

EXISTING CONDITIONS SITE ANALYSIS



SLOPE ANALYSIS



FLOODPLAIN & WETLAND ANALYSIS

EXISTING CONDITIONS SITE ANALYSIS



VEGETATION QUALITY ANALYSIS



BEST LOCATIONS TO DEVELOP



The process of determining the best locations to develop around Chippewa Lake requires a thorough analysis of floodplains, slope, and vegetation. This picture shows flooding on Kennard Road near Gloria Glens and Chippewa Lake.