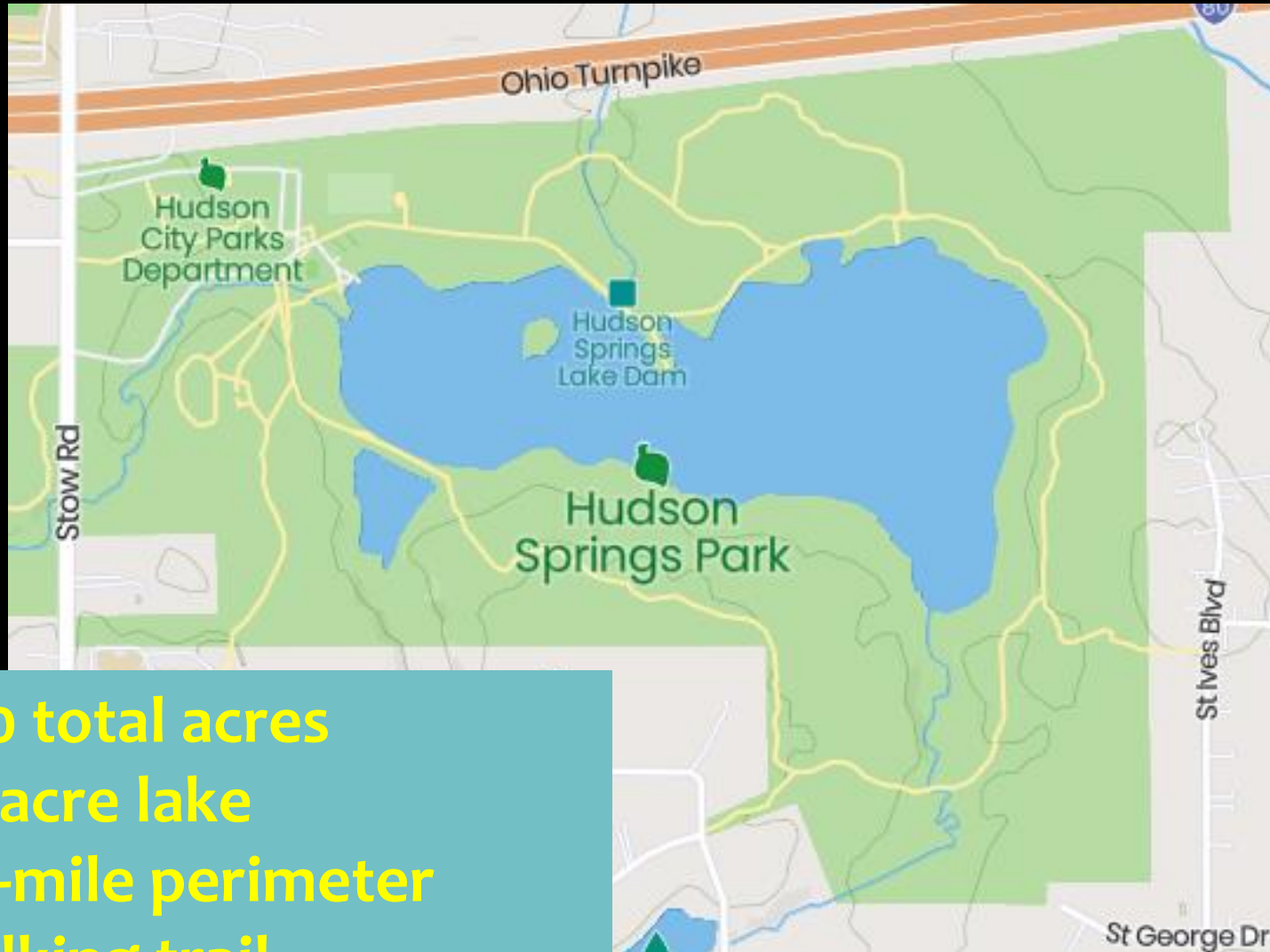


A photograph of a calm body of water, likely a lake or a wide river, reflecting the surrounding forest. The water is very still, acting as a perfect mirror for the dense green trees that line the banks. The sky above is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Hudson Springs Park (HSP): Imagine the Natural Possibilities

Map View



- 260 total acres
- 50-acre lake
- 2.2-mile perimeter walking trail

Satellite Map View



Disc Golf Map View



Main Habitat Types

- Lake – The lake is 50-acres in size and provides both shallow edge areas and deeper water zones. Interesting waterfowl species find the lake habitat an important stop over area during migration, nesting season & during the rest of the year. According to bird reports, there have been more than 120 bird species recorded for the park, with more than ten warbler species
- Woodlands – Large mature trees with surrounding smaller trees, fallen trees and viable forest understory denizens are critical
- Shrub Thickets – Areas surrounding the lake & at the edges of the forest where it opens into grassy areas or along the small stream corridors & wetland-type areas
- Stream Corridors – Smaller streams which bisect the park provide areas of adjacent wet soils, rocky substrates & other important habitat niches
- **Habitats with great diversity of native species attract more of the same. Make this one of the site management GOALS!**

Birds



- More than 120 species of birds have been recorded for the park
- More than 10 species of warblers have been recorded for the park.
- The more insects, especially caterpillars from butterflies & moths, that are attracted to the park area, the more bird species will visit, feed and potentially nest in the woodlands, shrub thickets & stream corridors. Warblers, especially during migration, benefit greatly from finding & consuming soft-bodied insects
- To attract more insects, more areas of flowering plants, including wildflowers & shrubs should be created

Lake



Hooded Merganser



American Black Duck



Belted Kingfisher



Ruddy Duck



Great Blue Heron



Ring-necked Duck



Bufflehead



Wood Duck

Lake Edges & Skyward



Killdeer



Tree Swallow



Barn Swallow



Osprey



Eastern Kingbird

Allowing native vegetation to grow along the some of the lake edges provides perches & nesting areas for birds, insects & more.

Woodlands



Red-shouldered Hawk



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Veery



Northern Flicker



Scarlet Tanager



Golden-crowned Kinglet

Woodlands & Understory



Brown Creeper



Red-berried Elderberry



Yellow-billed Cuckoo



© JM Semroc

Pawpaw



Viable Forest Understory Contains Downed Trees, Decomposing Vegetation & Organic Leaf Material



Spicebush

Understory Ecology is Critical for Viable Spring Wildflowers



Woodland Phlox



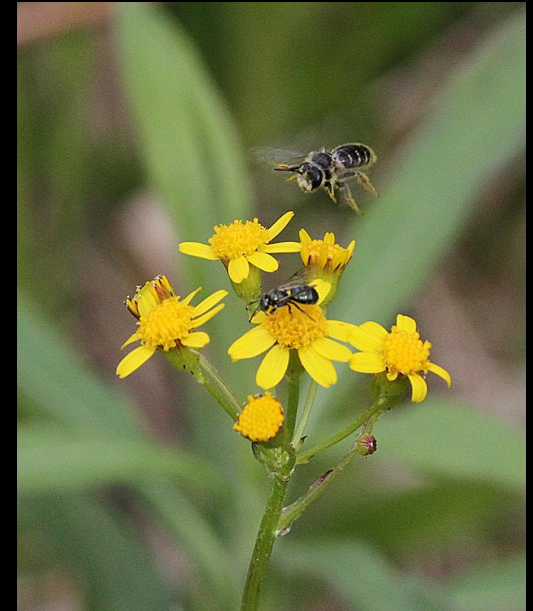
Sharp-lobed Hepatica



Dutchman's Breeches



Wild Geranium



Golden Ragwort

Stream Corridors & Wet Seeps



Marsh Marigold



Swamp Rose



Rough-leaved Goldenrod



Wild Blue Iris

Pond Edges, Stream Corridors & Wet Seeps



Swamp Milkweed



Wingstem & Bumble Bee



Great Blue Lobelia



Jewelweed & Bumble Bee

What in the Natural Realm is Missing at Hudson Springs Park?

Ecological Species Diversity



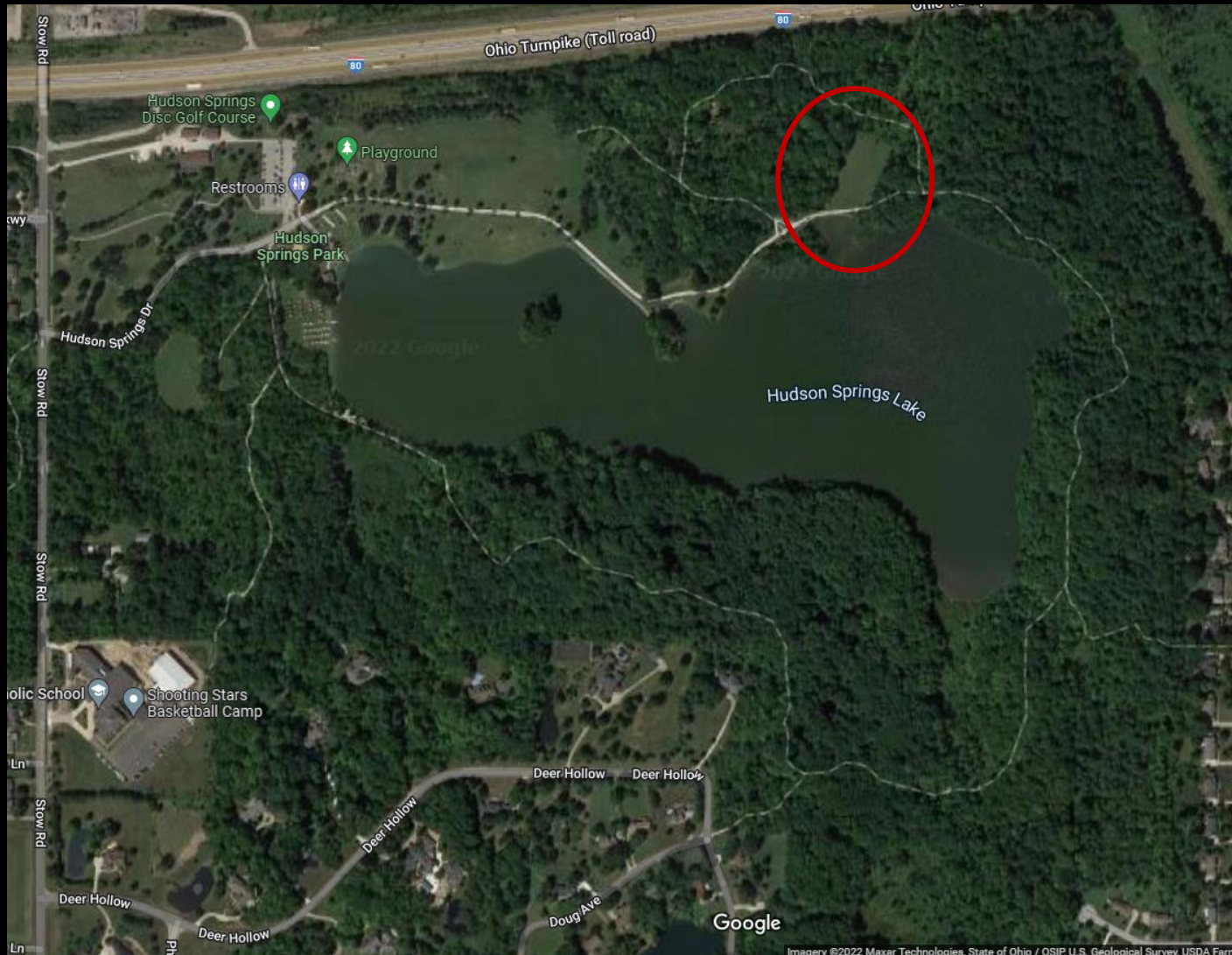
**Large Areas of Flowering Plants That
Can Be Utilized By Beneficial Insects**

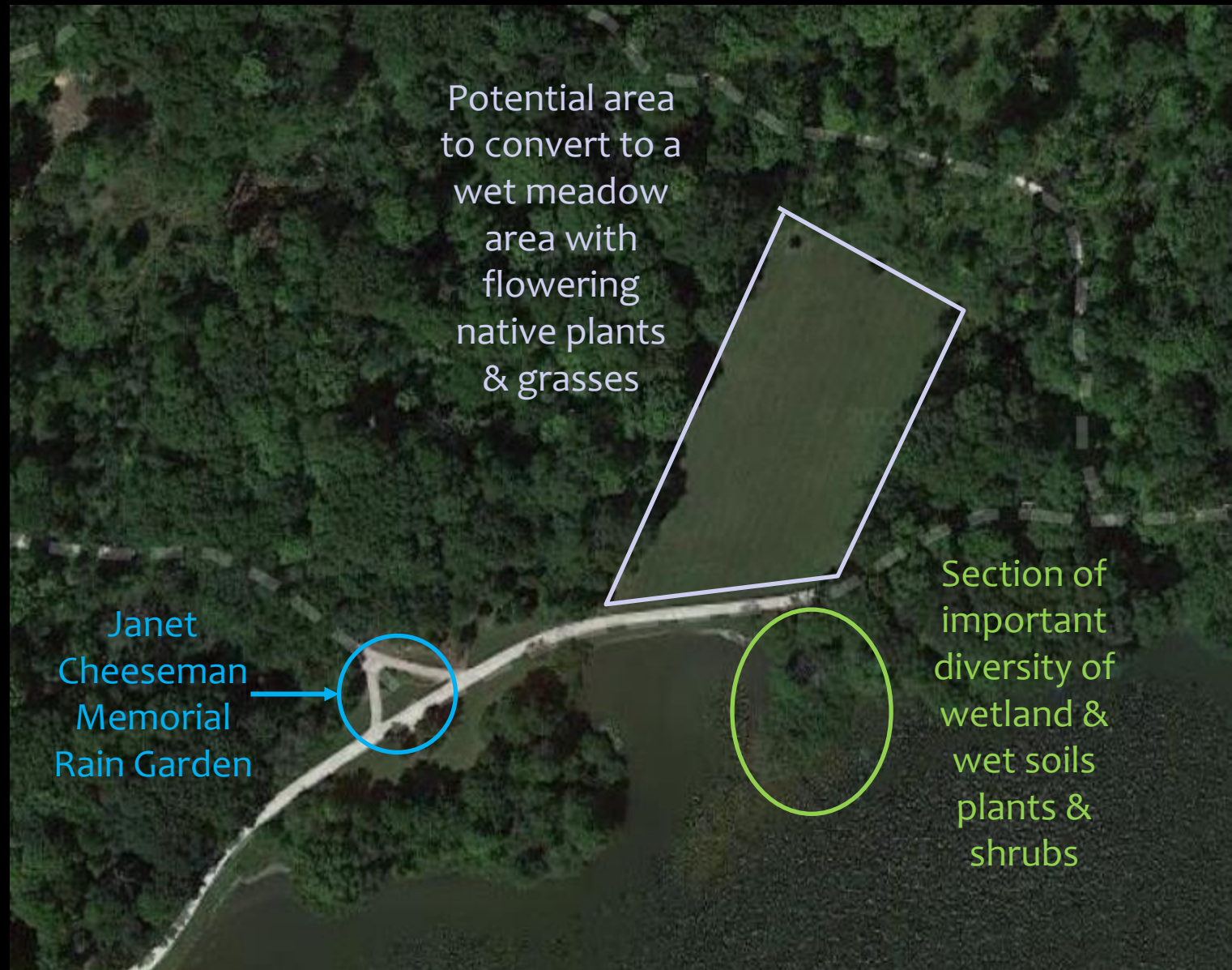
**Pollinating & Nectaring Insects
Especially Native Bees**

Recommendations for Moving Forward to Achieve Greater Natural Diversity at HSP

- Determine areas in which large expanses of native flowering plants and shrubs can be added to attract beneficial, pollinating & nectaring insects. This in turn will attract a greater diversity of bird species; invite the much-loved butterfly and dragonfly species; cut down on site maintenance & mowing, and more.
- Create and prioritize an invasive species management list so that these harmful and aggressive species will not continue to overrun the park.
- Protect large trees from invasive species both at the tree base and as vines that will cause the demise of the trees – notably Asian bittersweet, wintercreeper, etc.
- Reduce the frequent mowing along some of the pond edges to allow the flowering plants that use the edge habitat to thrive and attract beneficial insects & birds
- Consider reducing the frequency of mowing the large grass areas to once every 2 or 3 weeks rather than every few days or once each week. In order to make these areas look more “managed” try mowing 10’ – 15’ back from the trail edges to give areas a more “polished look.”
- Create and implement a management plan that will allow for natural/native site restoration, biological remedies and species diversity enhancements. This will result in a dynamic connectivity of a true “natural” park.

Possible Grass Area Conversion to a Native Flowering Plant & Shrub Meadow



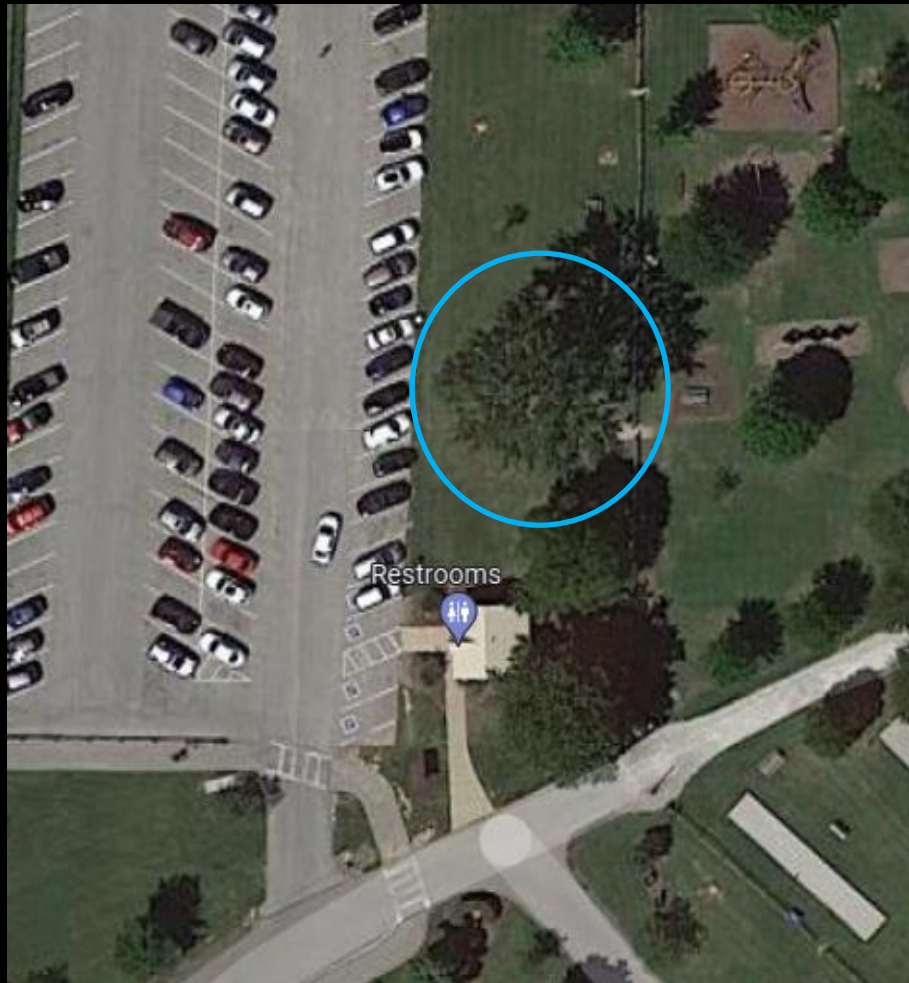


Potential area
to convert to a
wet meadow
area with
flowering
native plants
& grasses

Janet
Cheeseman
Memorial
Rain Garden

Section of
important
diversity of
wetland &
wet soils
plants &
shrubs

Large Elm tree - east side of parking lot :
Be aware that a future parking lot extension could damage the roots & potentially cause the death of this beauty



I would like to offer special thanks to both the Hudson Park Board and the Friends of Hudson Parks in continuing their collaboration in moving forward on addressing the Conservation Issues that will make all the Hudson Parks more environmentally friendly and naturally AWESOME!



Thank You - Questions?



Judy Semroc
rainefox51@gmail.com