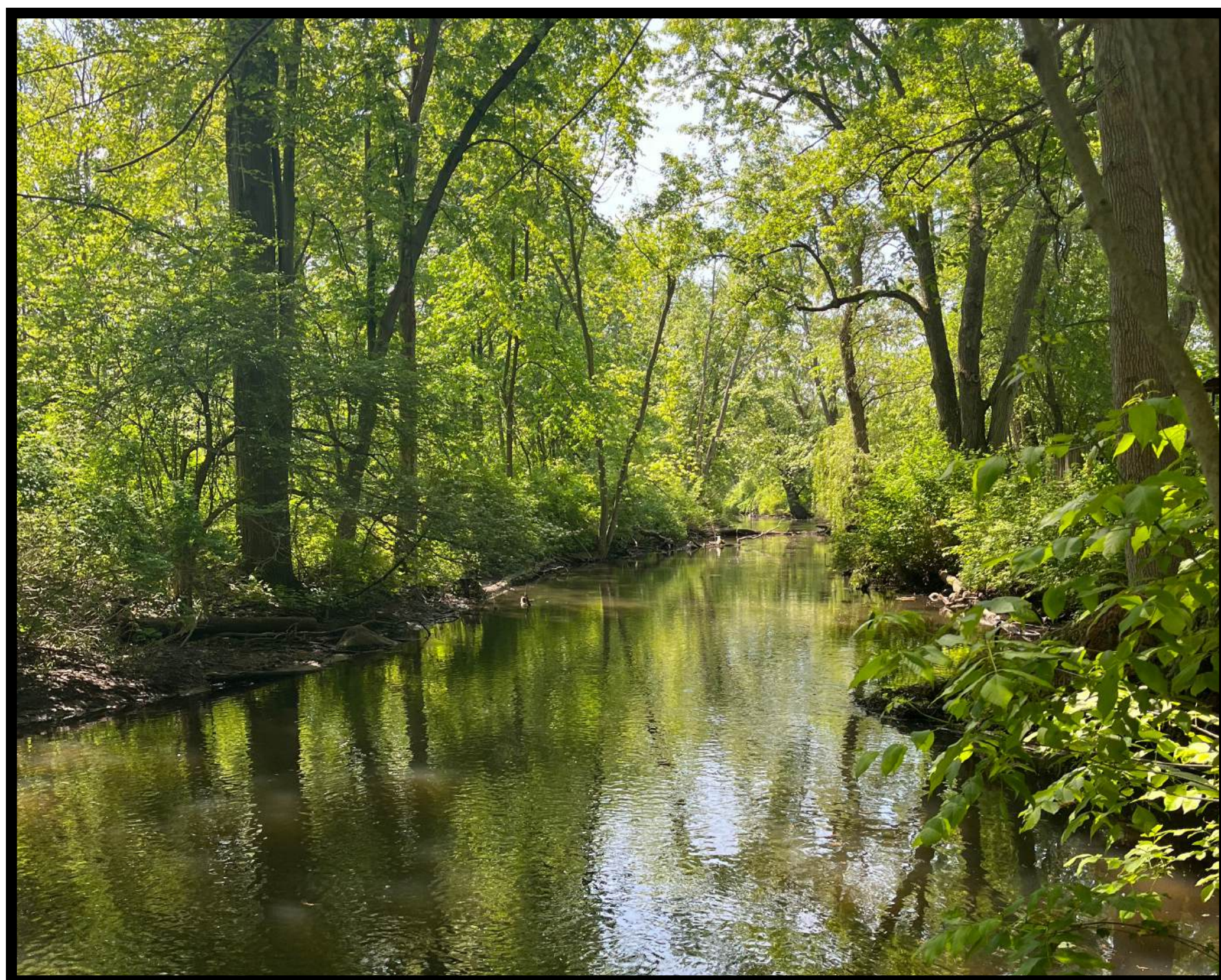


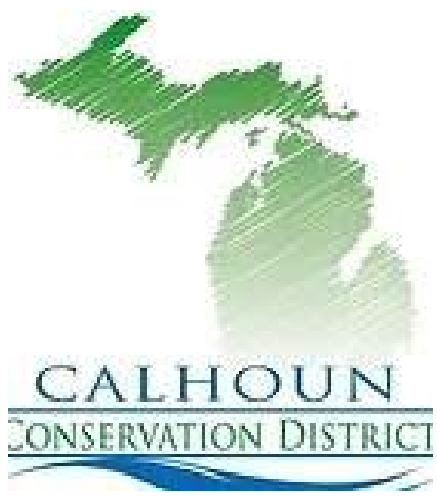
# Holt-Rice Creek

19606 Partello Rd., Marshall, MI



Calhoun Conservation District  
Property Management Plan  
**2025-2035**





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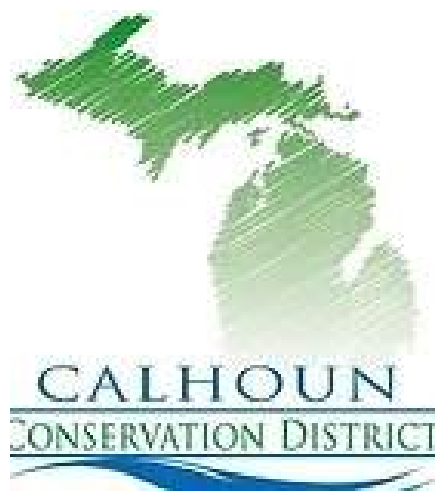
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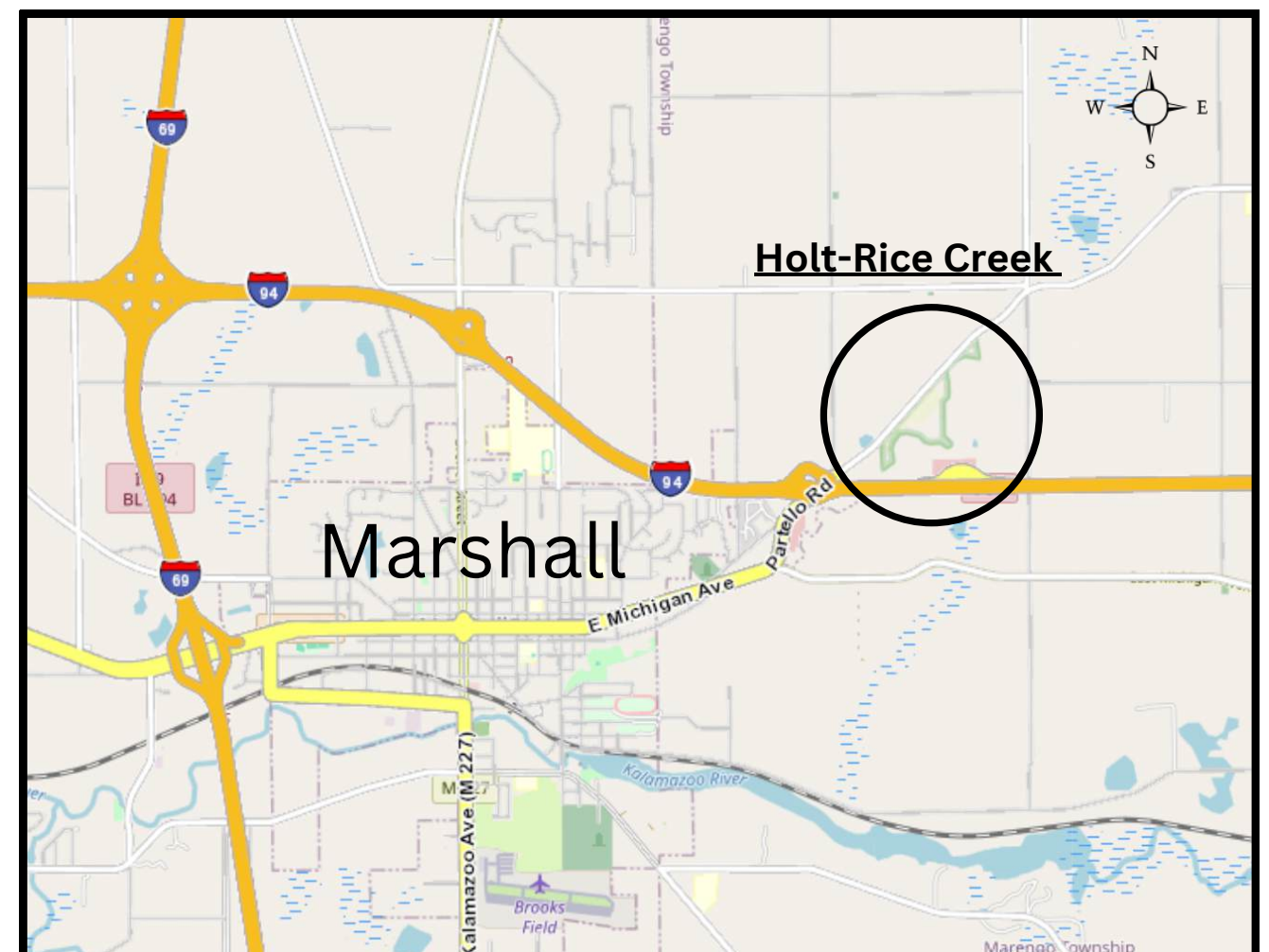




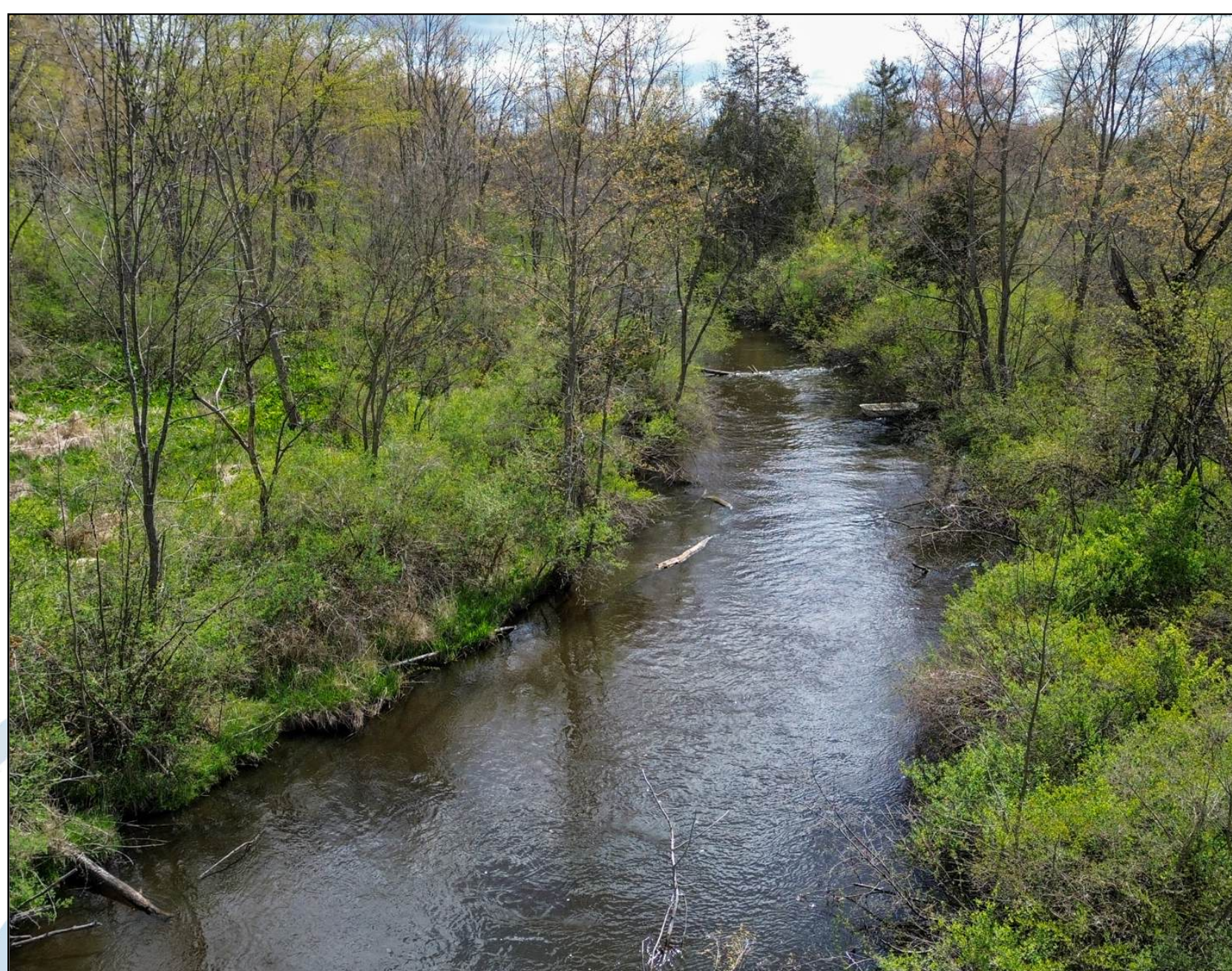
# Holt-Rice Creek

*The Calhoun Conservation District aims to uphold the DNR's values as well as its own for the management of this property, this includes the conservation of land and aquatic habitat, public access and the Rice Creek Watershed.*

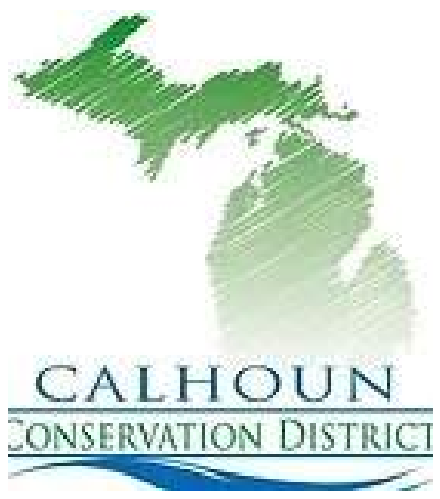
Holt-Rice Creek is a 58 acre property in Marengo Township, in Calhoun County, Michigan. It is one of the only publicly accessible trout streams in the area. Rice Creek runs the Southern portion of the entire property and splits and reconnects at the property. The property is the only DNR owned land with public access in the entire county. The Calhoun Conservation District manages the property while the DNR owns it. The goals for the property is to create a public space with diverse recreation possibilities for fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing. Utilizing the outdoor space with the rapidly developing county will be essential maintaining the quality of life for our community.



The property consists of 15 acres of wetland, 22 acres of forest, 20 acres of agriculture and 1 acre currently maintained for parking and stream access. Necessary projects for this property to meet its true potential include: additional signage, agriculture transition, watershed protection, stream habitat enhancement, and invasive species treatment. These projects will showcase the natural resources that are in Calhoun County, and the quality of work that can be done through local partnerships and proper property management. The environment will also benefit from the reintroduction of native mixed oak openings and suitable stream habitat. The DNR stocks 2,000 Brown Trout per year at the property. This is a sensitive species with Rice Creek being polluted with sediment and nutrients. It is also susceptible to increasing water temperatures, reducing the success rate for trout. Restoring this land and stream will be key for the public interests, the natural resources, and habitat in Calhoun County.







## Mission

The Calhoun Conservation District aims to uphold the DNR's values as well as its own for managing this property. This includes the conservation of habitat, and to maintain public access to cold-water resources in an underserved area.

## Vision

Our vision is for the property to serve the ecological health of the habitat, while maintaining and enhancing the accessibility to the public. The property offers several natural features including Rice Creek, which we envision strengthening the natural reproduction of fisheries. There are also 22 acres of hardwood forest, which we maintain the native tree species and promote growth and sustainability. Another 20 acres of agricultural land that is ready to be transitioned into public trails and native habitat for pollinators and all wildlife. Finally, 15 acres of wetlands are imperative to the cleansing of the creek, and necessary to reduce flooding going forward as high intensity rain events are increasingly more common.





# Introduction

## Location

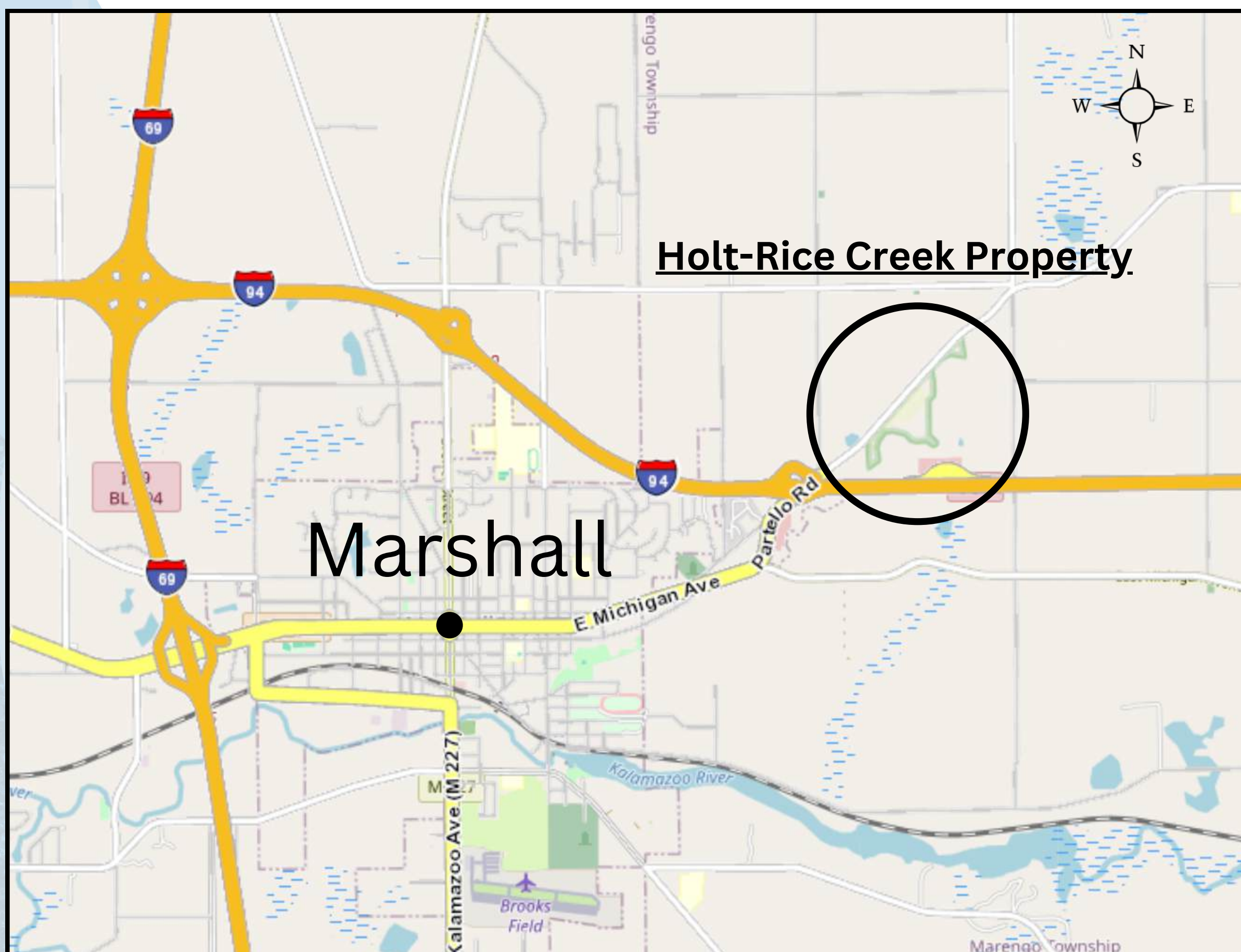
The Holt-Rice Creek Property is located at 19606 Partello Road, in Marshall, Michigan, and pinpointed in Marengo Township with coordinates of -42.29125, -84.91549.

## General Description

The 58-acre property consists of wetlands and agricultural fields, with Rice Creek running the entire southeastern boundary. The property has a network of trails that span the entire area and are parallel to the stream itself, allowing several access points to the creek for trout fishing.

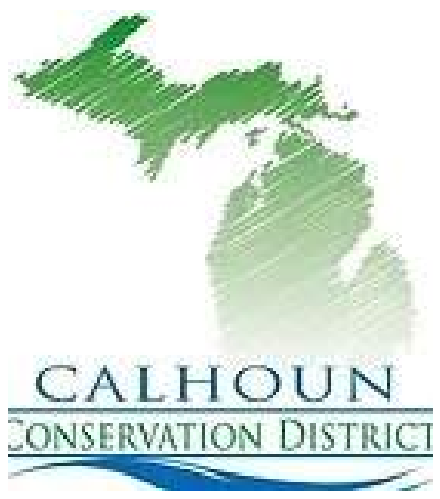
## History

Mr. & Mrs. Malcomb Sanders were long-time owners and residents of the log cabin home situated along Rice Creek, just west of Marshall on Partello Road. The property was purchased in 2014 by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and funded through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). A lease agreement was signed between the DNR (Owner) and Calhoun Conservation District (Lessee) to manage the property locally to protect this special trout stream habitat and natural area. Twenty acres of the property is currently farmed yearly with no-till practices.



Map of Holt Rice Creek Regionally





## Partnerships



### Michigan DNR

The DNR owns the 58 acre property and wants the values of the state to be met if not exceeded for the property. Their priority is to maintain public access to cold water resources in this underserved area. By working together and using science to manage wildlife, we aim to improve Michigan's wildlife and nature so we can all enjoy it now and in the future.



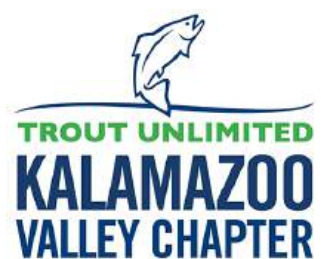
### Calhoun Conservation District

The conservation district acts as a local resource for the county and provides programs for landowners to implement best management practices to create suitable habitats for wildlife and more fertile soil for generations to come. CCD manages the property for the DNR to keep it accessible and open for all people.



### Friends of Rice Creek

A nonprofit in Marshall, Friends of Rice Creek was formed for the protection and restoration of Rice creek and to maintain the access to the designated trout stream. Their mission is to, "Protect the future of Rice Creek and the Holt-Rice Creek property through science-based conservation practices and stewardship."



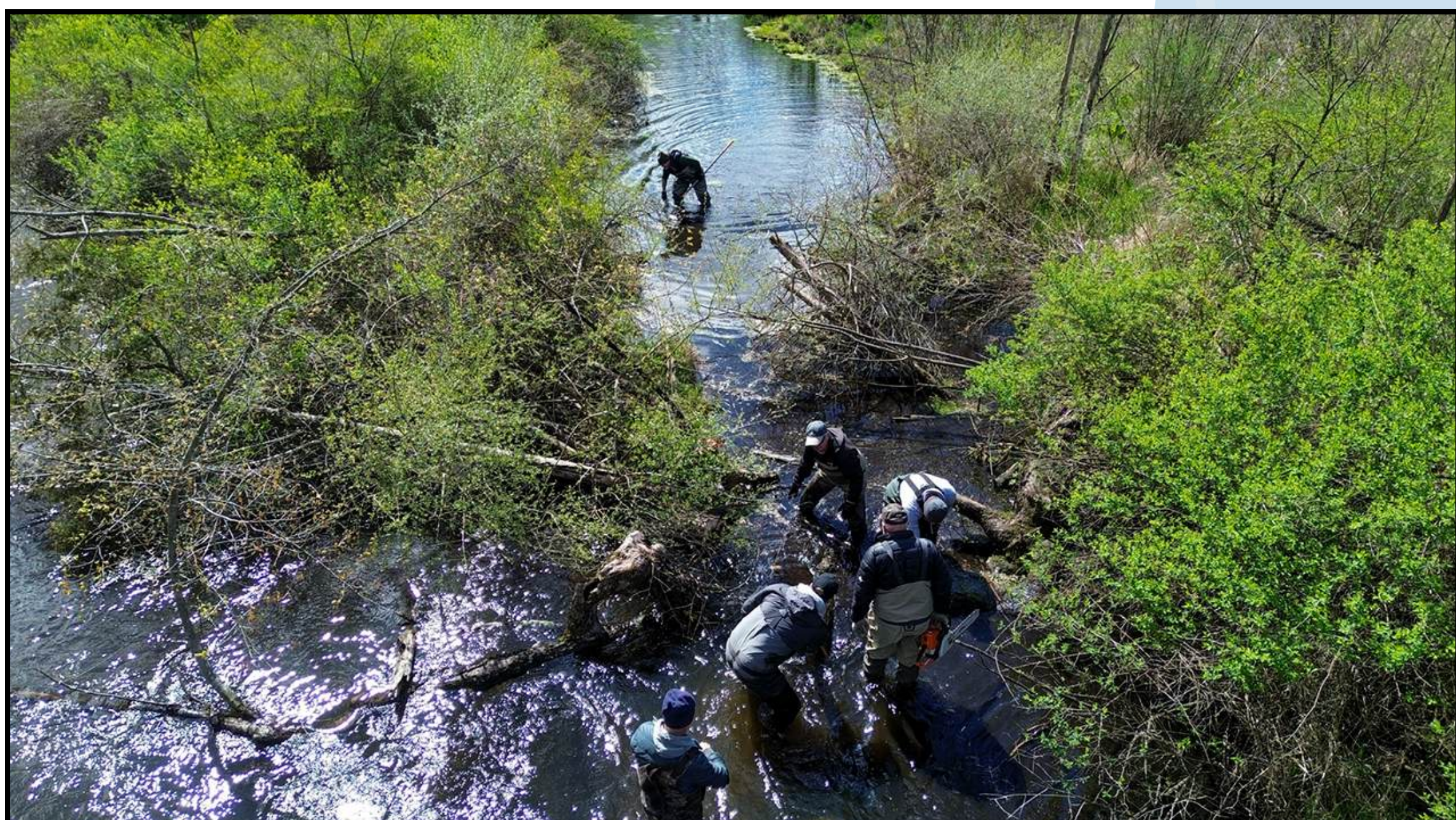
### Trout Unlimited - Kalamazoo Valley Chapter

With limited designated cold water streams in the area, Trout Unlimited(TU) has vested interest to assist with accessibility and stream rehabilitation. TU continues to keep public access locations clean and clear, while working to strategically manage woody debris in the stream for the trout fishery. Looking ahead, they are aggressively pursuing ways to restore the natural flow, expose spawning gravel, reconnect trout passage, and improve angler access all along Rice Creek.



### Barry Calhoun Kalamazoo Cisma

A partnership throughout the three counties with a team that coordinates efforts to educate, monitor, and manage invasive species in Southwest Michigan communities and natural spaces. The Cisma team assist in inventory and invasive species management, collaborating with CCD on educational workshops.



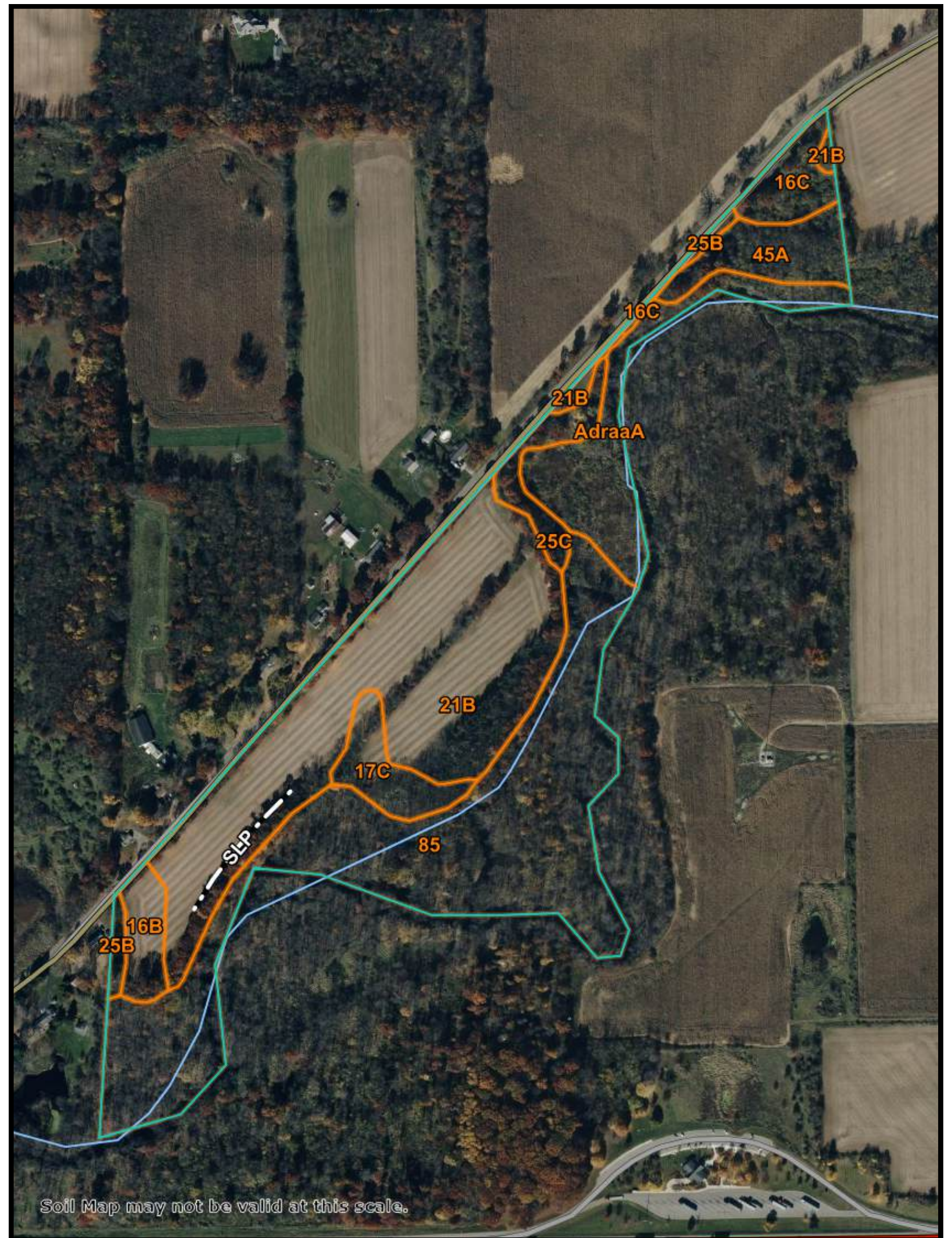
Rice Creek cleanup event Spring 2024 hosted by Kalamazoo Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Friends of Rice Creek



# Natural Features

## Soils

The majority of the Holt-Rice Creek property is dominated by both histosols and fluvaquents. These soil types are almost entirely made up of pure organic matter and are often associated with peat-like bogs and marshes, indicative of poorly drained areas. This is to be expected as the south branch of Rice Creek flows northeast through this hydric area and frequently floods. Likewise, Adrian muck soil can also be found in the north-central portions of the property. Well-drained soils, however, still have substantial prevalence in the two agricultural fields in the southwest. 46.9% of soils within the property can be classified as well-drained or somewhat well-drained, according to Web Soil Survey (NRCS software). That percentage of well-drained soils consists of Leoni gravelly loam, Kalamazoo loam, Oshtemo sandy loam, and Boyer sandy loam, which are rocky and sandy in nature and often well-suited for agriculture. See *Appendices 1 for Detailed Soil Map Report*.



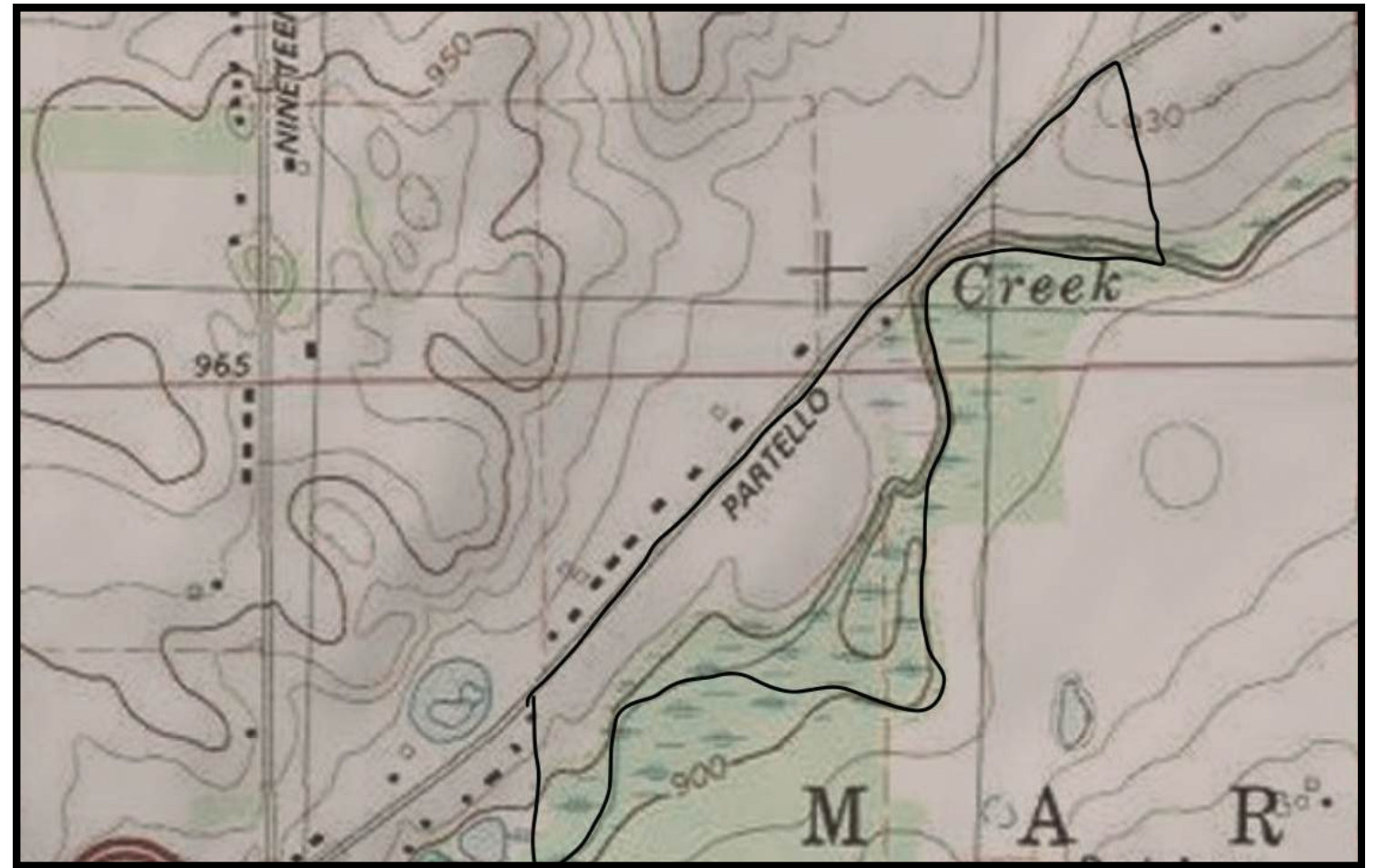
Map of the 58 Acres of Holt-Rice Creek with Soil Layers

16B	Oshtemo Sandy Loam, 0 to 6 % Slope
16C	Oshtemo Sandy Loam, 6 to 12 % Slope
17C	Boyer Sandy Loam, 6 to 12 % Slope
21B	Leoni gravelly Loam, 0 to 6 % Slope
25B	Kalamazoo Loam, 2 to 6 % Slope
25C	Kalamazoo Loam, 6 to 12 % Slope
45A	Sleeth Loam, 0 to 2 % Slope
85	Histosols and Fluvaquents, Frequently Flooded
AdraaA	Adrian Muck, 0 to 1 % Slope



## Topography

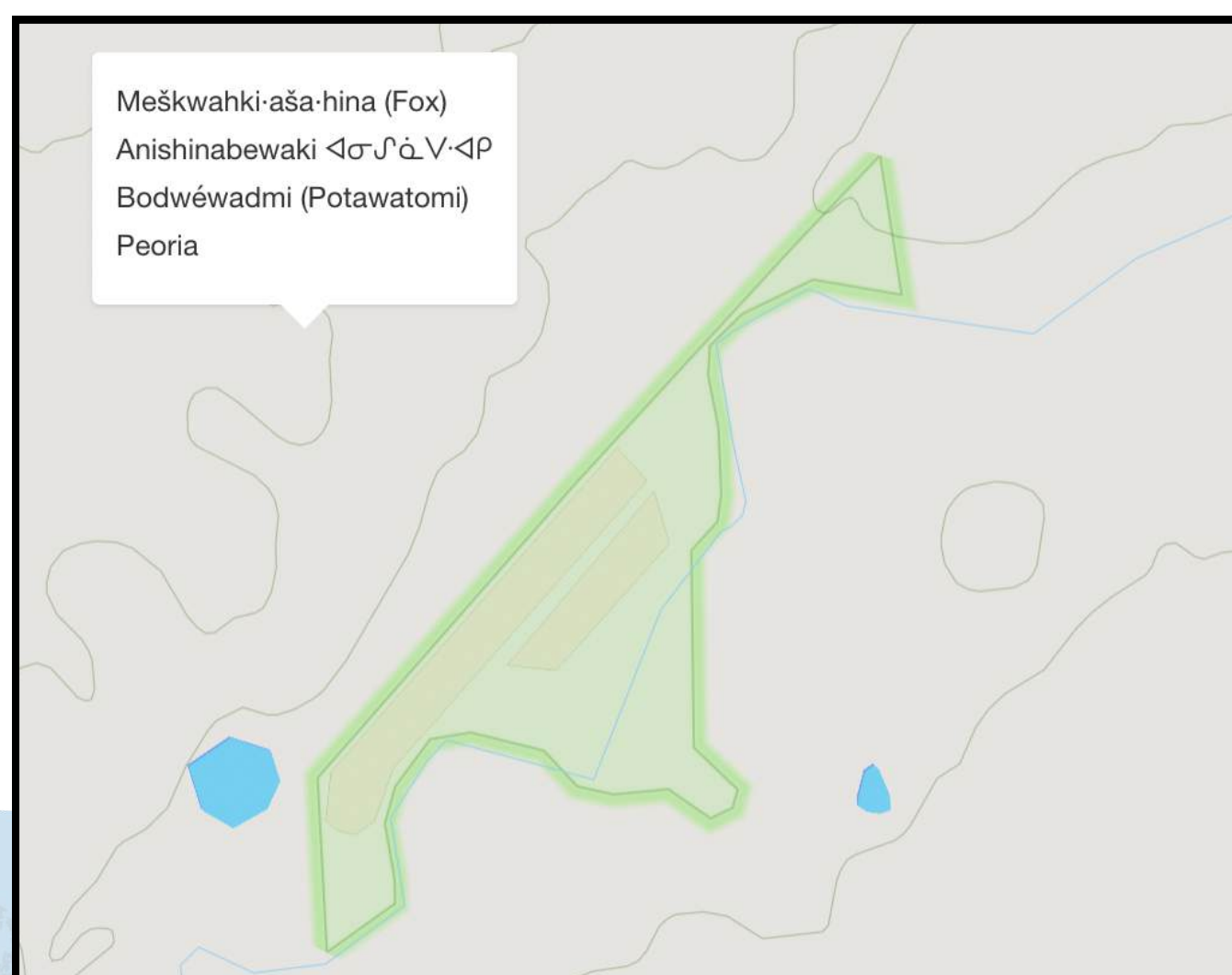
The agricultural fields located on the southwestern side of the property are fairly flat in nature only varying by plus or minus 4 feet above sea level. The easterly borders of both fields give way to a 10 foot drop to the flood prone and basin-like depression of Rice Creek. This steep drop off can be traced north to the main parking area of the property. Some small topographical anomalies can be seen throughout the property that may be indicative of uprooted trees or glacial activity in the region. *See Appendix 2 for detailed topography maps.*



Topography Diagram of the 58 Acres of Holt-Rice Creek

## Cultural Resources

This property is on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ojibway, Sauk, and Meskwaki/Fox Tribes.\*

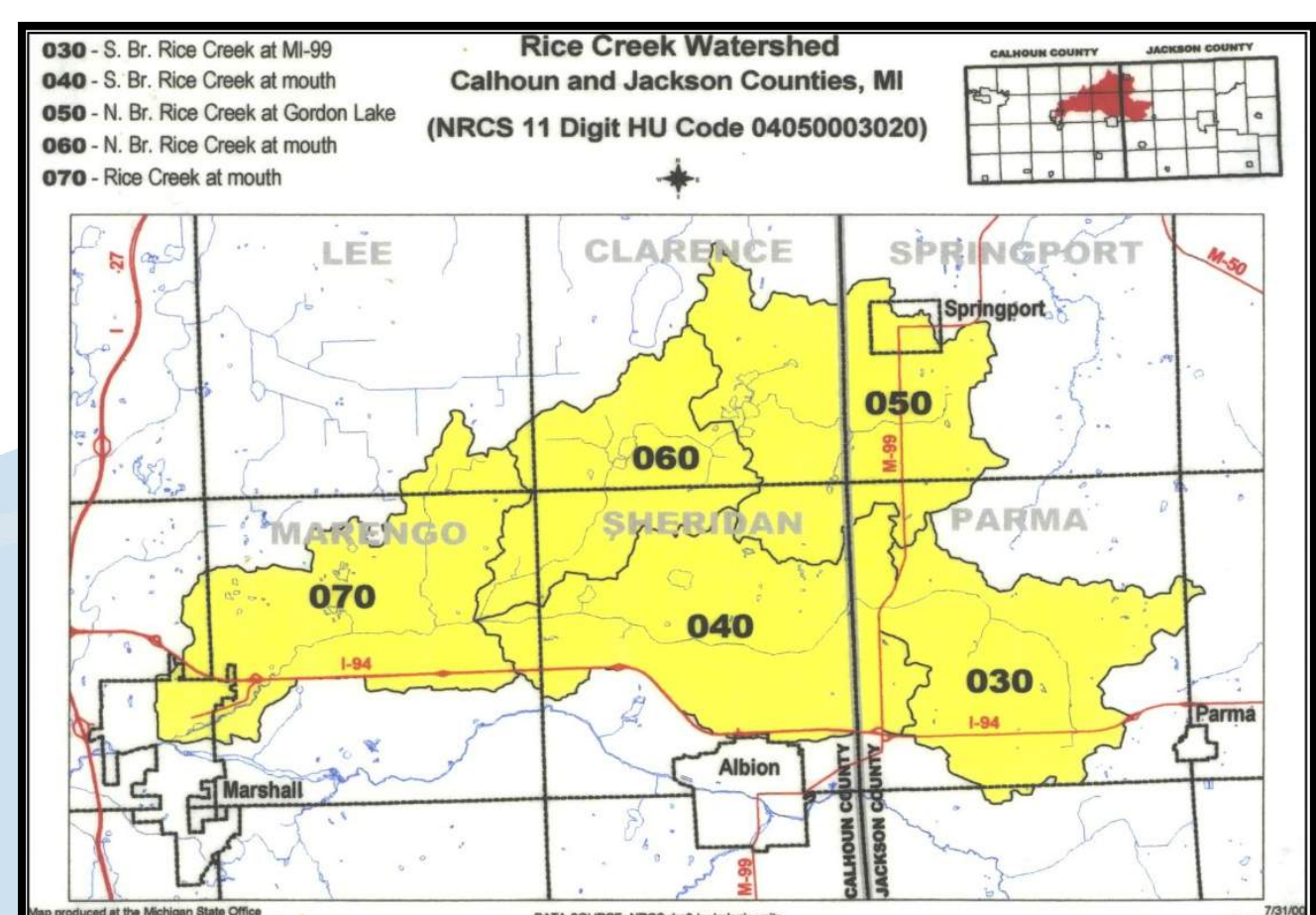


Native Land Digital Map presented by :  
\*native-land.ca

All activities that cause earth disturbance, except the already disturbed agricultural fields, should have a prior archaeological review. A Phase I archaeological survey may be completed for the entire property. The State Archeologist and Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi will be involved in planning management activities.

## Stream Features

The upland portions of the property drain into Rice Creek on the South side of the property. Rice Creek is approximately 42 miles long, and the headwaters of the north and south branches of Rice Creek are in Jackson County. The Rice Creek Watershed discharges into the Kalamazoo River, ultimately flowing into Lake Michigan. Along the property owned by the MDNR and managed by the CCD, natural springs feed into the creek and provide cool waters for the fisheries in Rice Creek. The creek has been stocked with trout since the 1800s and currently is stocked each year by the DNR at Holt-Rice Creek (42.291302, -84.914997) and Ketchum Park (42.269950, -84.951601). It is stocked with Brown Trout at a rate of 2000 per year or 200/acre. The creek then drains into the Kalamazoo River in the City of Marshall. It is currently classified as a type-4 Trout stream and managed as such.



Rice Creek Watershed that spans  
Calhoun and Jackson Counties



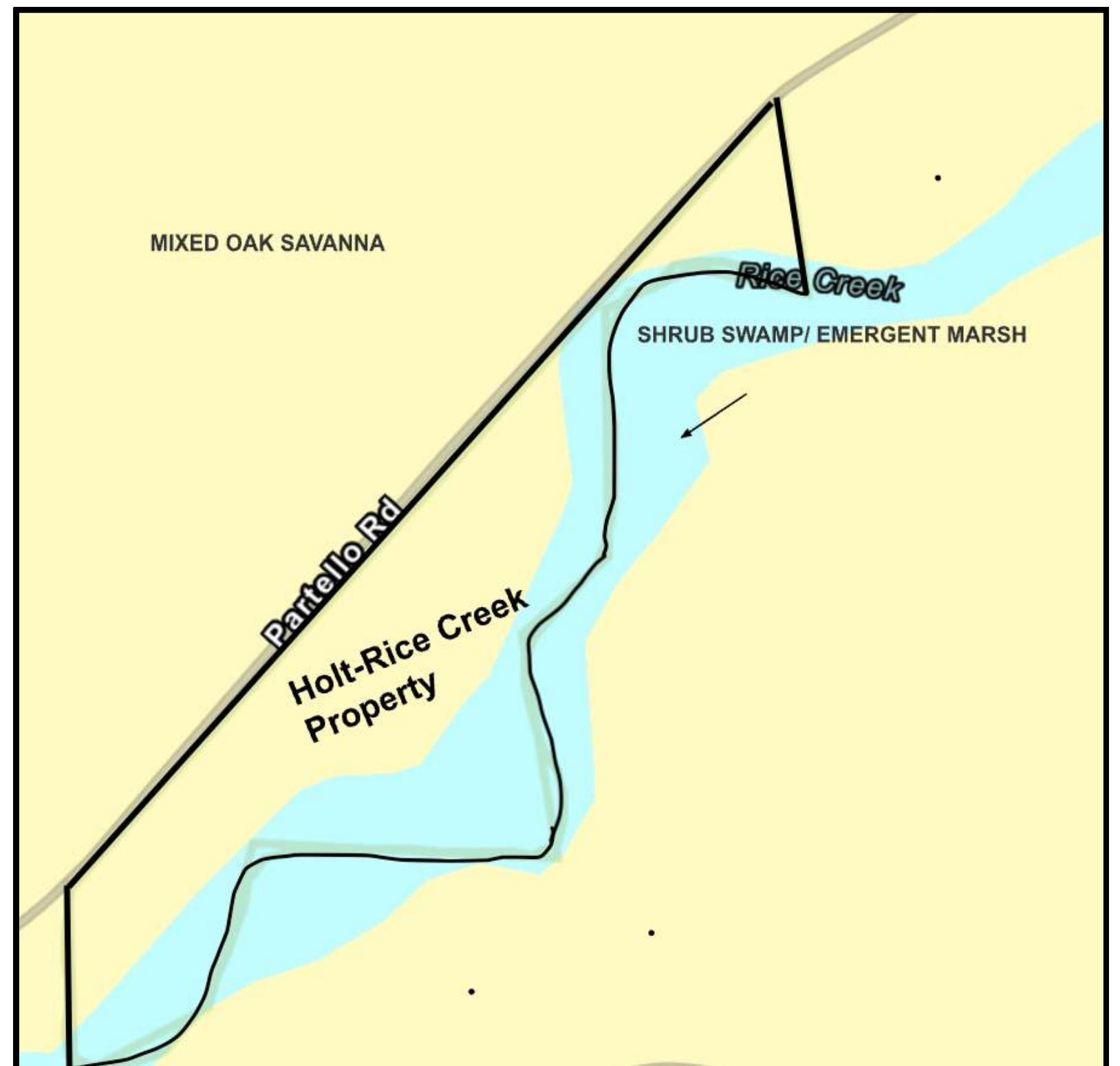
# Natural Community

## Uplands

The uplands of the property consisted of mixed oak savanna. Historically, these biomes ranged most of Southern Michigan and are fairly infrequent today. This community is fire-dependent and has limited canopy cover to allow for adequate shrub growth on the ground level. Several different community types that compose mixed oak savannas include oak barrens, oak openings, and bur oak plains.

## Lowlands

The lowlands of the property near Rice Creek were a shrub swamp or an emergent marsh from the MNFI pre-settlement map. This area is frequently saturated and serves as floodplains for the creek, likely a floodplain forest. These communities serve as habitats for a multitude of plants and animals and can also reduce the nutrient and sediment loads in flooding occurrences. These communities are common in the state and essential to maintaining the floodplains for waterways.



Former Native Communities at the Holt-Rice Creek Property

The **Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI)** provides this information and more in-depth information on natural communities. It includes native species, endangered/threatened species, invasive species, and natural communities.



Shrub Swamp - Photo by Steve A. Thomas



Savanna Group - Photo by Joshua G. Cohen



## Invasive Species

Multiple common invasive species (IS) are on the property and surrounding areas. Invasive species often choke out the natural communities, provide little habitat or nutrition to local wildlife, and reduce the overall ability to enjoy a property. DNR and BCK CISMA conducted an invasive species survey in 2023 and found populations of autumn olive, honeysuckle species, multiflora rose, tree of Heaven, common buckthorn, and round-leaf bittersweet.

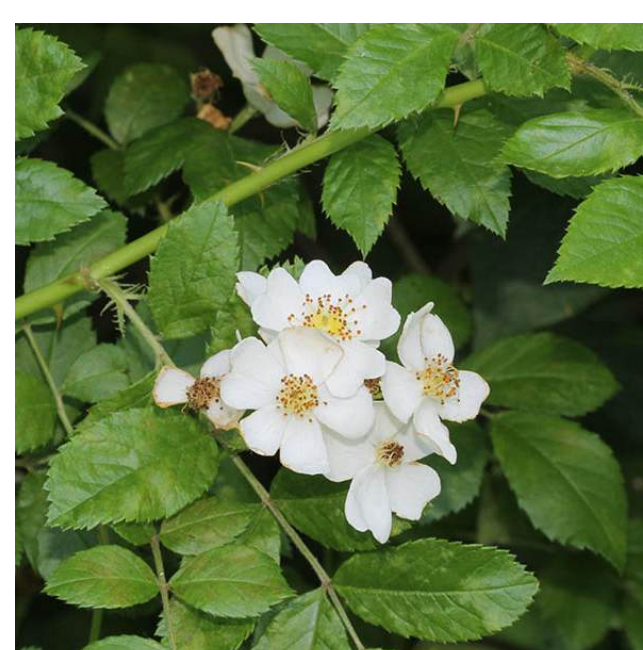
Although common across Michigan, to manage this property, these species threaten the upland and lowland habitat. Honeysuckle species are known to increase erosion, buckthorn fruit can act as a laxative for birds, the Tree of Heaven is a host plant for spotted lanternflies, and bittersweet is known to strangle trees of all sizes. As habitat restoration activities are considered, controlling many terrestrial species will be the first step.

### Methods

Contractors or volunteers can mechanically remove invasive shrubs by cutting down or uprooting the plants, using brush mowers, handsaws, mattocks, and uprooters. Chemical applications via foliar, basal bark, or cut-stump methods should be utilized for any woody plants where the roots can't be removed. Volunteers can apply herbicides only if they are using general-use herbicides. Application on riverbanks must be aquatic-safe herbicides. Work along the waterways may require permitting to apply herbicides, such as the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) permit through the Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. Effective herbicides for all types of applications include the active ingredient triclopyr. Note: Basal Bark requires a triclopyr ester, e.g., Triclopyr 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra. However, Garlon 4 Ultra is not aquatic safe, and drift management should encompass using methods to apply directly to plants without spraying near the river and wetland areas.

### Priority Areas

Due to time restraints and funding, tackling invasive species is common throughout a property and often cannot be accomplished in a single year. A focus on areas of low IS density and higher quality habitats. Additional tactics include containing the spread by working at the edge of infestations. Exceptions to this prioritization would be species that could cause significant damage. For example, Riparian zones and areas adjacent to planned or established trails would be two of the areas to focus on first. Round-leaf bittersweet would be an exception because it is essential to rid the property due to the damage it can have on mature forests.

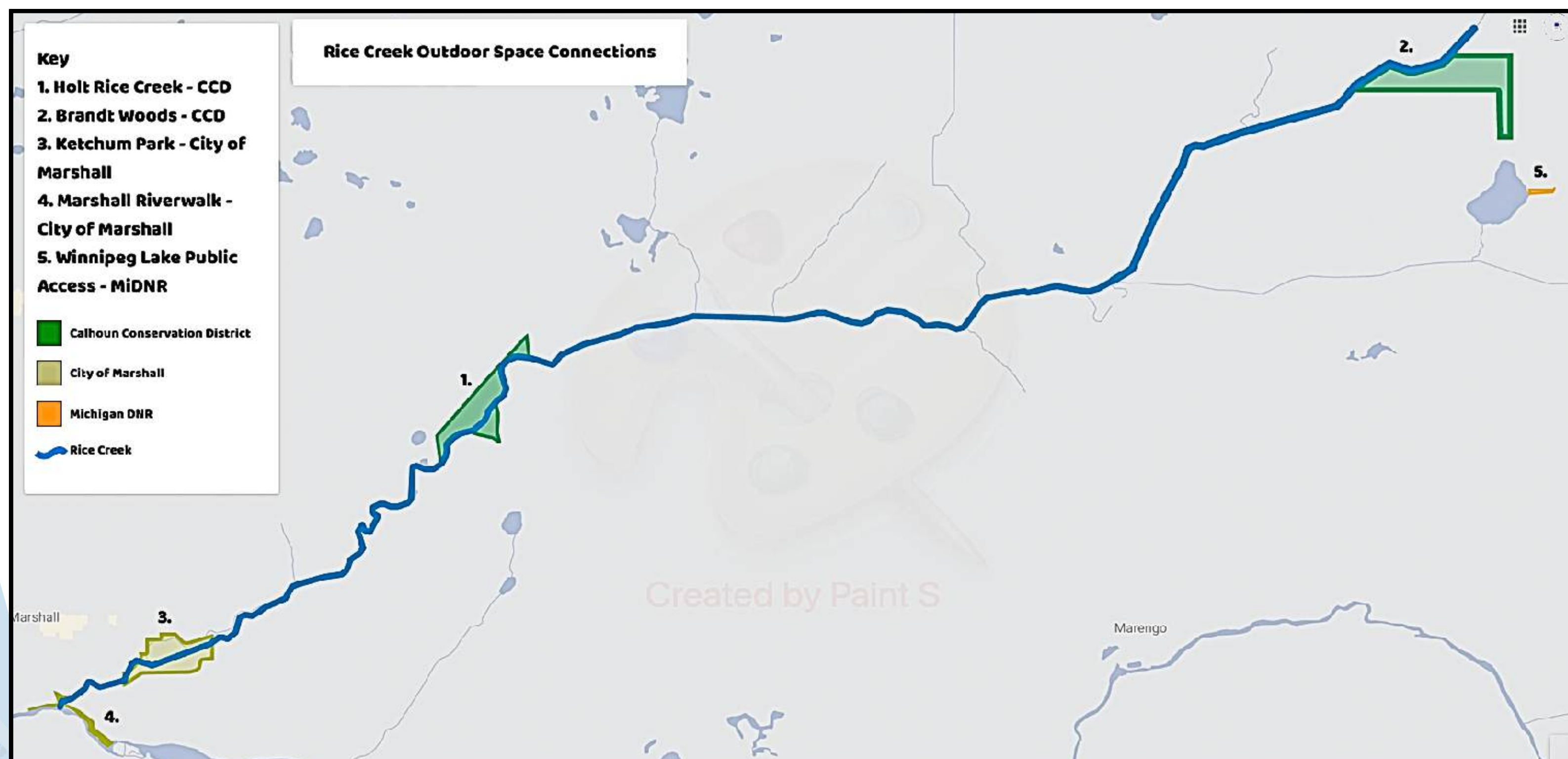


### Prevention of Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species

Both terrestrial and aquatic invasives are a concern; therefore, continuous monitoring and educational components such as a boot brush station and/or wader-washing station could be installed to prevent new introductions of invasive species to the property and inform the public about invasive species of concern.



## Conservation Connections - Public



Map of Public Access along Lower Rice Creek

Rice Creek has multiple publicly-accessible outdoor spaces, including two state-owned, (including this parcel), two owned by the city of Marshall, and one owned by the Calhoun Conservation District.

These outdoor spaces create a corridor of natural areas that can help protect habitat and offers the public opportunities to explore a majority of Rice Creek. The recreational properties open to the public allow access to an extension of the lower Rice Creek Watershed.

### Habitat vs Recreation

On most of the banks of the Rice Creek watershed, there is a buffer of forest and wetland that is surrounded by agriculture. This is key for the plant, animal and aquatic habitat. This riparian buffer serve as a filter that reduces the amount of pollutants entering the waterway. It also promotes water infiltration, a key component of maintaining cold water streams by regenerating the groundwater. With this and the size of the waterway, paddling is difficult and wouldn't be as successful as large waterways like the Kalamazoo River. Along with this, woody debris is necessary for fish habitat and biodiversity.



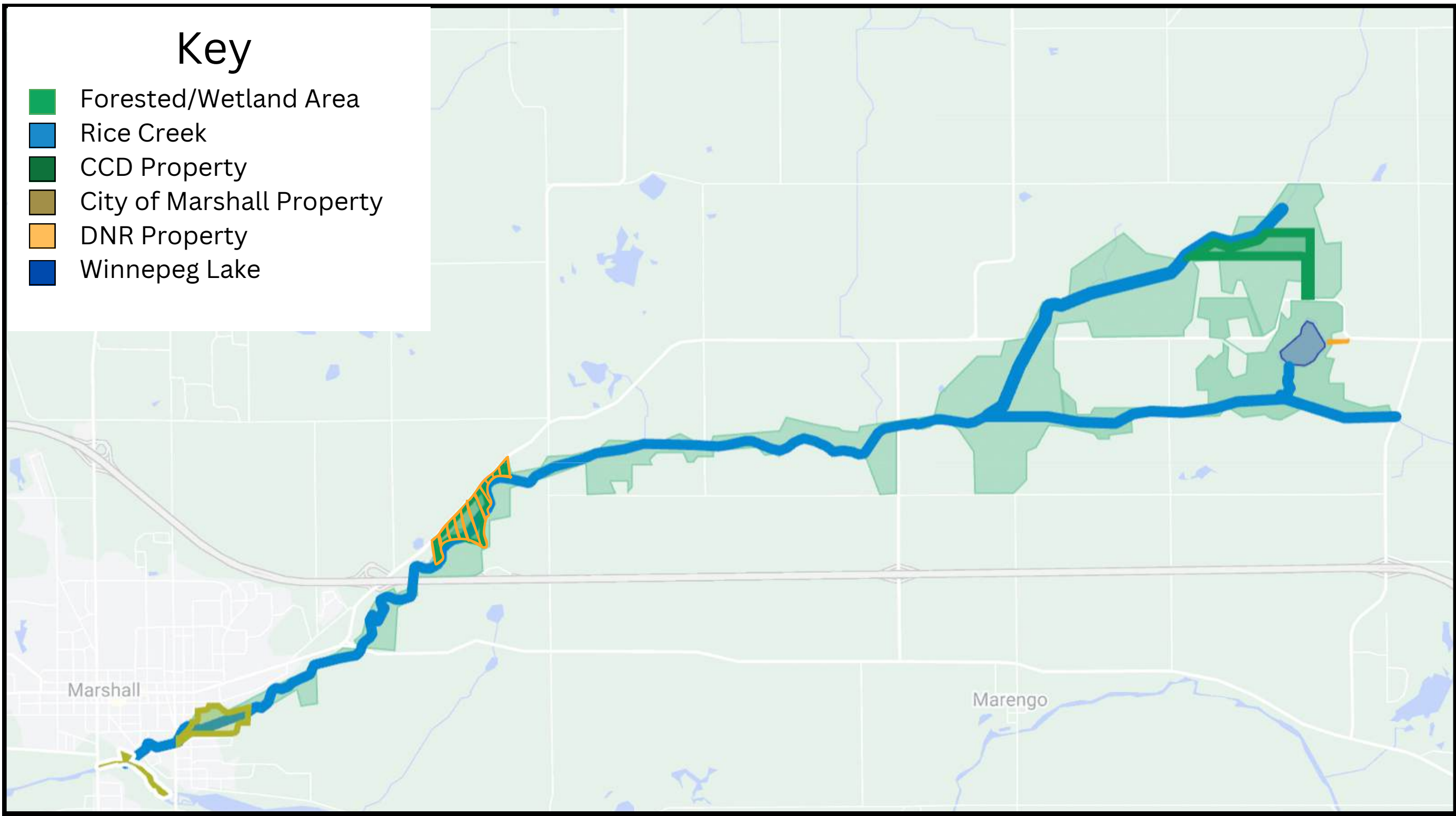
# Conservation Connections - Ecological

The natural habitat along Rice Creek has been primarily agriculture since the settlement of the region. However, the Rice Creek corridor has an assortment of wetlands and forests that span miles upstream from the Holt-Rice Creek property. This is essential for adequate habitat for the terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in the area.

With the removal of the Rice Creek Dam in 2015, the Kalamazoo River, which Rice Creek flows into, is free flowing downstream all the way to Battle Creek. This offers over ten miles of barrier free waters that fish can enter and navigate through and into the Rice Creek watershed.

The Holt-Rice Creek property currently has similar habitat to provide habitat and cover for several threatened or endangered species in the area. This includes the Eastern Box Turtle, Indiana Bat and others that could be suitable for the current habitat. Projects protecting and enhancing habitat would be key for wildlife sustainability in this area.

The map below depicts the forest area and wetlands that cover the land through where Rice Creek flows. Protecting and enhancing habitat is essential for a multitude of reasons including the temperature and flood control for Rice Creek. Maintaining buffers and floodplains can help reduce water temperature and reduce property damage due to flooding.



Map of Ecological Habitat along Lower Rice Creek



# Management Goals

## Ecological Aspirations

- Functioning cold-water stream that exhibits signs of natural reproduction for fish populations.
- Healthy native plant ecosystem that regenerates opposed to invasive species.
- Native forest that can provide the appropriate amount of canopy cover to allow for forest regeneration.
- Native habitat that can allow the native pollinator population to flourish.

## Ecological Challenges

### Invasive Species

Invasive species are an area of concern at the property. Invasive plant species overrun the forested areas, choking the understory and trees and destroying the native populations. Invasive shrubs along the river corridor and edges of their infestations will be prioritized. Round-leaf bittersweet will be controlled throughout with its low density but potential to smother and kill mature trees. Tree-of-heaven will be removed with the threat of spotted lanternflies looming. Tree of heaven is also a major concern in this area and removal from the property should be a priority. Herbicide use near the river will almost certainly require a NPDES permit so clarification will be needed before application.

### Agriculture

There are currently 20 acres of agricultural land on the property that stand as an ecologic barrier for native plants and animals to inhabit. The farmland is actively practicing no till, which helps soil health. However, the annual row crop plantings disrupt a natural community. An example is Menewabek Park in Albion, the county transformed 65 acres of agriculture land into native prairie habitat. Utilizing native plants and their habitat resources for wildlife is key to enhance the natural experience for parkgoers.

### White-tailed Deer

Calhoun County has one of the highest white tailed deer populations in the state. Deer can be very impactful when it comes to vegetation. Deer populations in the county create burdens for agriculture productions as well as public concerns for the automobile accidents. Working with local landowners and agricultural producers to reduce deer numbers in the area could aid in restoration efforts. The Rice Creek facility is currently designated as a Fisheries Division facility. It is currently managed consistent with land use order 7.6, which indicates that upon a Fisheries Division facility an individual is prohibited from discharging a firearm, a bow and arrow, or the possession of a firearm, when the facility is posted against such conduct. The Department is in the process of transferring the land administration of this facility from the Fisheries Division to the Park and Recreation Division as a water access facility. To ensure continuity of the hunting prohibition, the Park and Recreation Division is pursuing a Wildlife Conservation Order to continue prohibiting hunting at the Rice Creek facility to ensure that the no hunting requirement remains consistent at the facility. The official transfer from the Fisheries Division to the Park and Recreation Division will not occur until the Wildlife Conservation Order has been approved by the Natural Resources Commission.

## Cold Water Stream

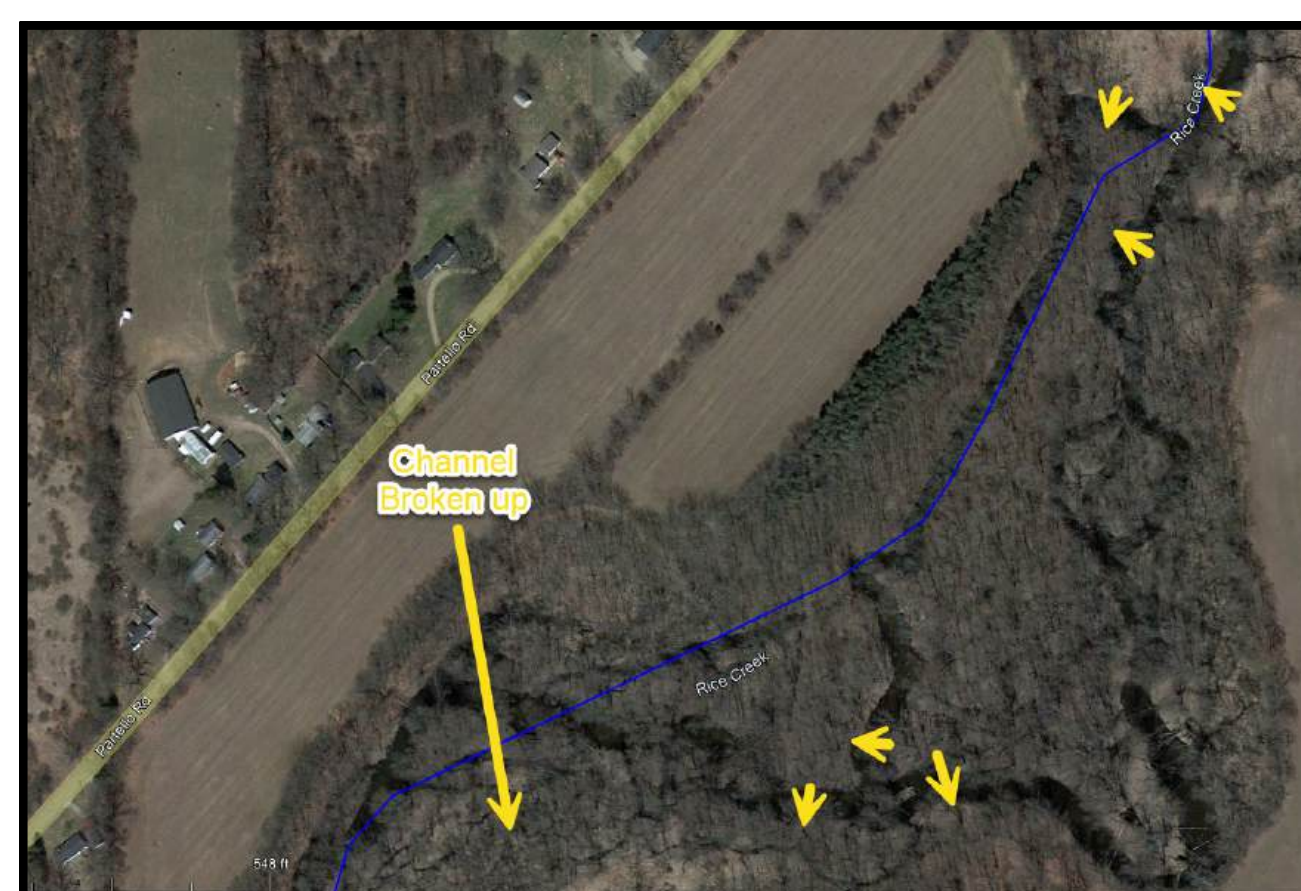
Reducing temperature's in Rice Creek is essential for fish habitat and stream health. This cannot solely be done through the Holt-Rice Creek Property. This would be a watershed wide initiative. Reducing water runoff and promoting groundwater infiltration would help make the creek more resilient. Working to implement watershed wide conservation practices would improve fish habitat and creek health.

## Fish Habitat

The priority of this property is to provide public access to a cold water stream with an emphasis on fishing, wildlife viewing, and hiking. One of the ways to achieve this is to restore the native plant species that are within the stream and along the stream banks to reduce erosion and nutrient loads into the water. Due to the high temperatures of Southern Michigan, native brook trout are not suitable to this river and efforts to reintroduce them to this creek would almost certainly fail. However, non-native brown trout have been stocked by the Michigan DNR with great success with some evidence of natural reproduction in this creek. In order to create suitable habitat for brown trout, habitat management objectives should emphasize locally native plants and aquatic invertebrate habitats. The stream currently experiences higher temperatures and lower biodiversity than it historically would. The cold water stream designation is necessary to maintain the natural, colder groundwater to enter the stream. The designation regulates the amount of well withdraws from the basin and promotes proper land use practices. Previous dredging and land management practices may account for the rising average temperature. Brown trout populations are noted at the HRC property, through recent fish surveys, and an increase in diverse aquatic species will allow the fishery ecosystem to be more resilient.

## Stream Bank Erosion

Strategically placing wood features in the stream or narrowing the stream will be extremely beneficial. The squeezing of the stream should be designated for sections that are in excess width that slow the stream, in turn increasing settling sediment and higher water temperatures. This is necessary to increase water flow rates will allow sediment to progress downstream for the underlying gravel beds to be the stream substrate. The goals of this project would to increase adequate trout spawning habitat to allow for natural reproduction. This enhance the sustainable habitat for trout population and improved micro-invertebrate diversity.



Map of Rice Creek and excess stream width areas that slow the flow rates of Rice Creek.



## Public Use Aspirations

- Stream accessibility and destination for anglers.
- Trails and signage that promote access and navigability.
- Interpretive signage to promote outdoor education.
- Citizen science to engage public and supply for research. (Water Levels, Flow Meter)

## Public Use Challenges

### Public Space Restrictions

The agricultural land reduces the amount of property park goers can explore. Creating new trails that cut through grass lands would allow for an expansive trail system on the property.

### Park Rule Violations

Camping, littering, and hunting are all prohibited at the property. There are reports of these violations occasionally and with more stewardship and foot traffic, we can minimize these issues.

### Signage

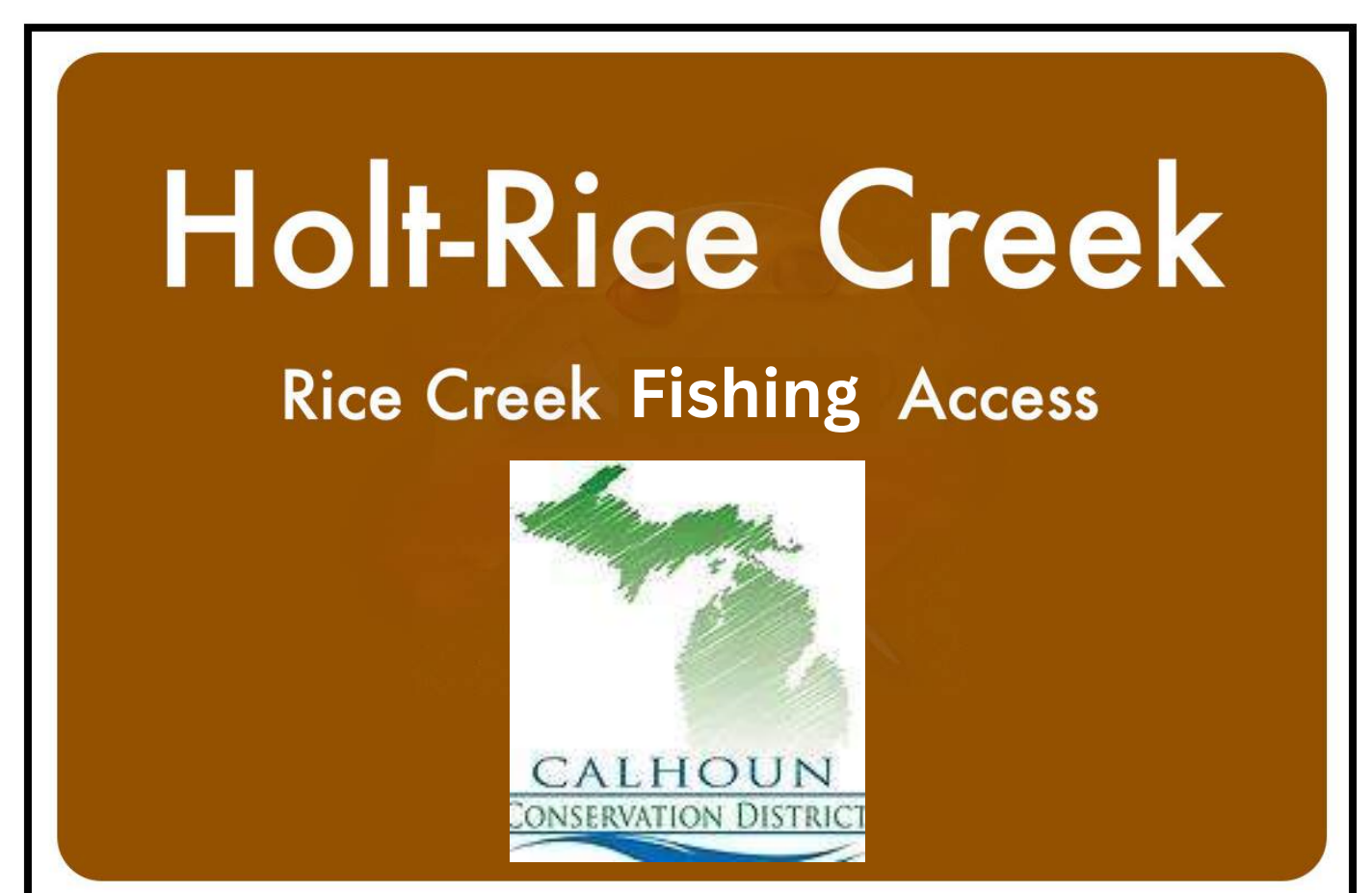
To guide more hikes and public use of the park for several reasons; there is a need for signage to reduce trespassing on neighboring properties, for parking designation as well as a large sign promoting this public property for people driving by. The signage indicating a map and trail markers would indicate where to walk and reduce off trail usage.

### Water Accessibility

Water access at the property would be a major benefit to public use. A station for anglers to wash their equipment/waders would be necessary to reduce the spread of invasive species. It also would be beneficial for events to clean park amenities on volunteer days. Currently, there is a well pump, restoring this would be essential for public use.



Proposed Locations for Necessary Signage



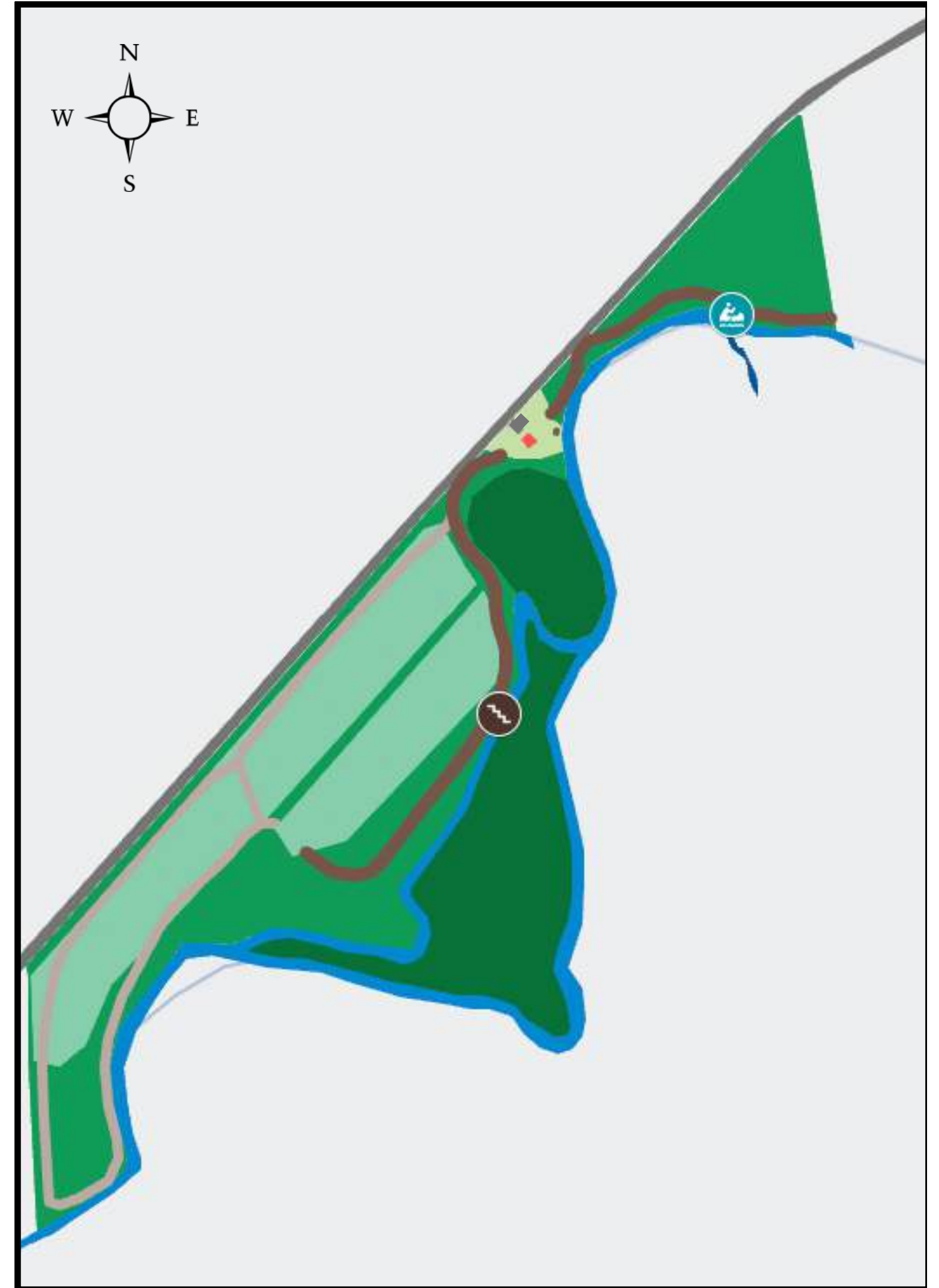
Proposed Road Side Signage



## Holt-Rice Creek Property Map



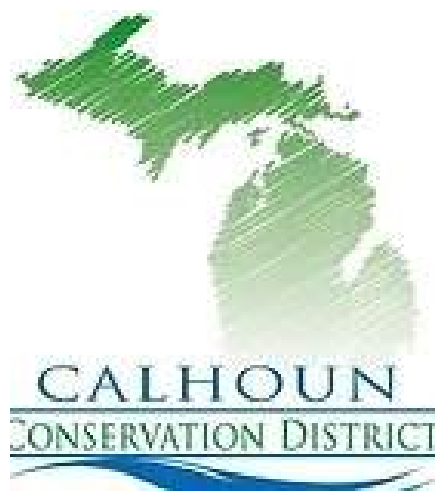
Current Layout of the Property



Proposed Layout of the Property

- Forested Land
- Wetland/Shrub Swamp
- Rice Creek
- Current Trails - **1/2 Mile**
- Proposed Trail Loop - **1 Mile**
- Current Agricultural Land
- Parking Lot
- Restored Oak Plains Group
- Rice Creek Access Point
- Stair Entrance into Rice Creek





## 5 Year Goals

### Ecological

#### Yearly

- **Invasive Species Management**

Manage invasive species in the upland areas with removal and/or chemical treatment. Treatments must comply with regulations near wetlands/water resources.

- **Pollinator Additions**

Restore pre-settlement upland communities to introduce for pollinator habitat and other native species.

- **Rice Creek**

Strategic woody debris management in Rice Creek to maintain high speeds, enhance bed form diversity, aquatic biodiversity and reduce water temperature for fish populations.

#### Longterm

- **Agricultural Land Transition**

Transition the 20 acres of agricultural fields into native oak openings. Explore options of restoring past native communities by planting a collection of native trees. An example of the transition would be Menewabek Park in Albion.

- **Rice Creek Enhancement**

Look into stream restoration projects, gravel beds, riparian buffer restoration, and updated stream morphology that can create a more resilient reproductive habitat for fish populations.

- **Wild Rice Restoration**

Work with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi to restore wild rice in Rice Creek. Projects have been done at Ketchum Park, downstream from the Holt-Rice Creek Property. Wild Rice needs full sun to thrive, which will be a determining factor to success for rice beds.

- **Freshwater Mussel Survey**

Before any in stream ecological improvements, a freshwater mussel survey should be completed to identify any species that are protected or of special concern.

- Forested Land
- Mowed Entrance
- Rice Creek
- Current Trails - **1/2 Mile**
- Parking Lot
- Native Grasses and Wildflowers
- Property Shed
- Deck

### Public Use

#### Yearly

- **Property Maintenance**

Work to manage the property grounds by mowing the entrance and keeping the trails maintained and accessible.

- **Property Entrance**

Currently, there are four spots that are accessible for entering and exiting. Expanding the parking lot will allow for easier automobile access. There is a steep grade south of the entrance, and planting native grasses will help with erosion and reduce mowed space.

- **Rice Creek Accessibility**

Maintain access to the stream while increasing the amount of accessible entrances for anglers.

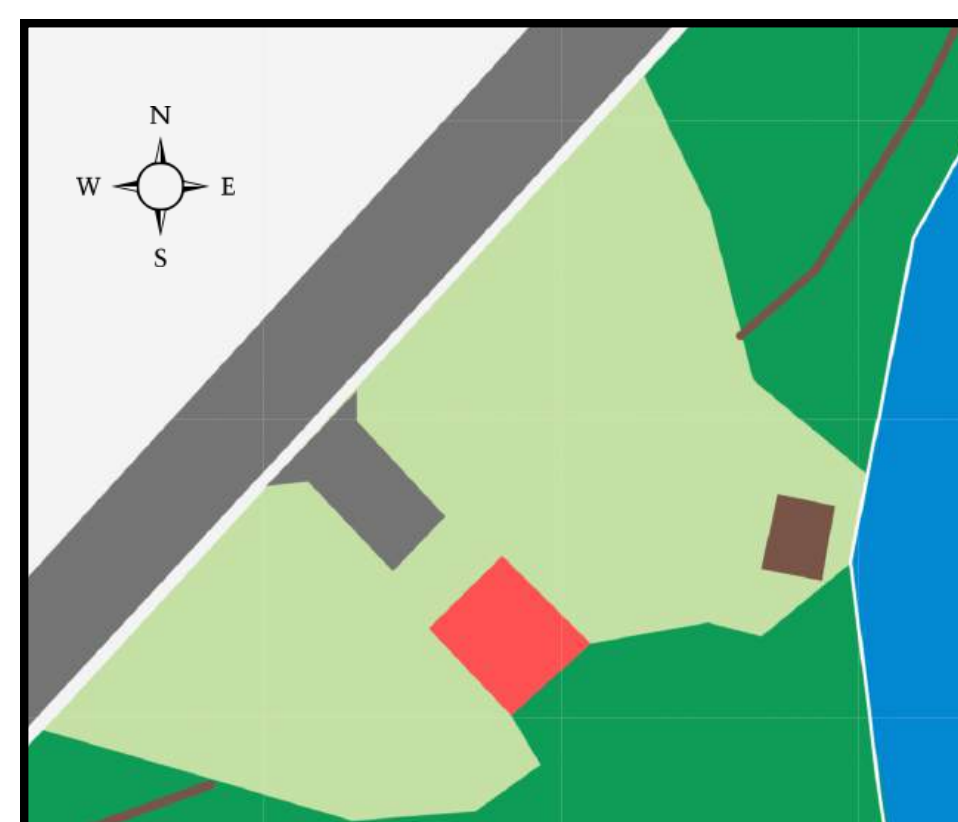
#### Longterm

- **Agricultural Land Trails**

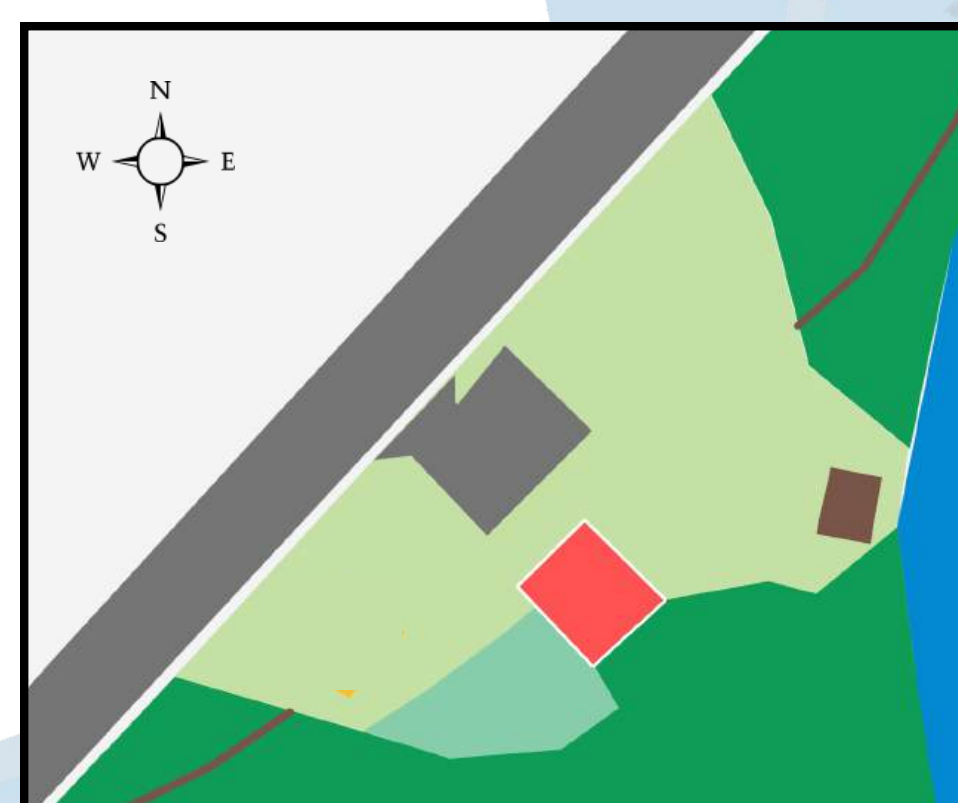
Expand the network of trails at the property to extend into the former agricultural land, connecting the new trails to the previous for public trail use circulation.

- **Signage**

Increase signage at the park with an ultimate property map, as well as trail markers that are easily identifiable. Interpretive signage is a good way to increase outdoor education, and could relate very closely to history, fisheries habitat, ecosystem and native plants and wildlife.

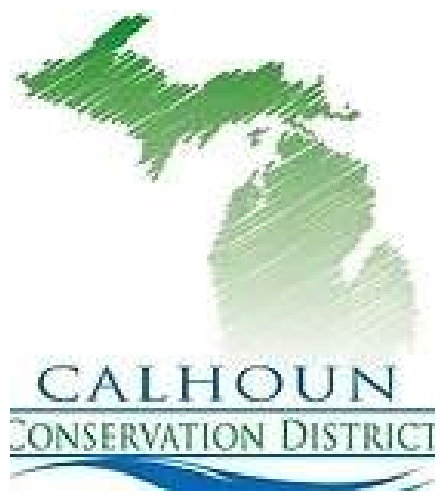


Current Layout of the Entrance



Proposed Layout of the Entrance



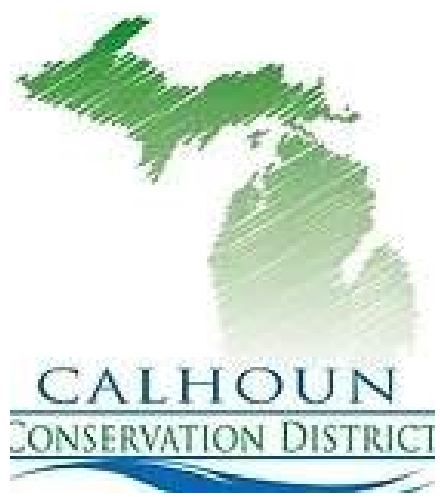


# Costs Associated with 10 Year Goals

Management Practice	Type	Amount	Amount Per	Total
<b>Invasive Species Management</b>	Upland	22 acres	500	11000
	Wetland	16 acres	200	3200
	Aquatic	1 Mile	1000	1000
<b>Agriculture Land Transition</b>	Seed	20 Acres	350	7000
<b>Pollinator Addition</b>	Seed	1/4 Acre	400	100
<b>Driveway Expansion</b>	Gravel	1176 sq. ft	1500	1500
<b>Rice Creek Restoration</b>	Erosion Control	1 Mile	50000	
	Gravel Introduction	2 Locations	150000	
<b>Accessibility</b>	Stairs/Entrances	2 stairs	1250	2500
<b>Mowing</b>	Entrance/Trails	6 Months	200	1200
<b>Maintenance</b>	Yearly	58 Acres	1500	1500
<b>Signage</b>	Accessibilty	10 Signs	250	2500

These costs are estimates for associated materials regarding aspirations. The costs are dependent on labor and resources available.





## Ecological Monitoring

Rice Creek is part of the Kalamazoo River Watershed. The monitoring efforts here are important to understanding the hydrology and continuing changes of the environment. There are several ways that these monitoring tactics can influence decision making for enhancement projects to Rice Creek and the Holt-Rice Creek Property.

Flow rate monitoring could be done at separate sections to include effects of rates on water temperatures. This also applies to fallen trees and impasses that impede the flow.

Water temperature gauges could be key for anglers to find the best place to fish, and could also help inform stocking of fish.

Fish surveys can also be done to update fish population/reproduction zones. This could further influence creek restoration programs for heightened effectiveness. Along with this a freshwater mussel survey and continuous monitoring should be conducting.

The Kalamazoo River has citizen science projects for people to use their personal devices to record water levels online to produce real time graphs of fluctuations. An example is on the [Kalamazoo River at the Whitehouse Nature Center](#).

Wildlife surveys could be done before and after the agricultural land has been transitioned away from agriculture. This includes a rare species survey, with assistance from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory(MNFI). This is essential to discover any rare natural features at the property.

A cultural survey should be conducted, Government Land Office surveyer's notes suggest the extent of a Native American trail that may have been on or near the property. A phase I archaeological survey could be done with assistance from the DNR.

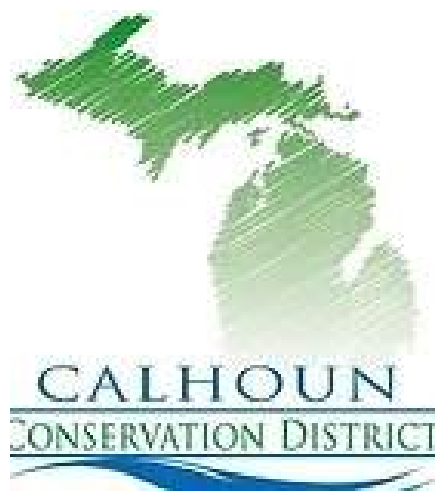
An invasive species survey will be done as a baseline, and then in 2-3 years to show reductions in invasive and increase in new native species? This could be done with help from volunteers.

## Public Use Monitoring

Surveys can be used to rate the park that go directly to the Calhoun Conservation District. This is essential to understand what needs to be done urgently and what needs to be done from the public's perspective.

There are also resources online that can help direct the future of the property, particularly in natural resources. Michigan State University created the network, Midwest Invasive Species Information Network, this allows citizens to report invasive species and have that data recorded. Michigan State University also has created the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, which can be used to record endangered and threatened species and can track them in individual counties. A





## **Associated Resources and Costs**

### **Human Resources**

The resources needed to maintain the current entrance and trails are not yet met. The mowing that takes place is sufficient, however to fully maintain the property staff time is needed to do so.

### **Responsibility**

The Calhoun Conservation District commissions the mowing of the entrance of the property while the woody debris management falls into the responsibility of Trout Unlimited and Friends of Rice Creek to ensure the health and sustainability of the habitat. Utilize Partnerships to coordinate event, to assist with management of the property for facility upkeep and trail maintenance. The signage will be strategically designed and placed on the property for public use. Collaborating with partners and the DNR for road signage, trail markers and entrance signage.

### **Yearly Maintenance**

- Mowing Entrance
- Invasive Species Control and Prevention
- Trail Maintenance
- Facilities - Clearing, painting and washing.
- Signage
- Woody Debris Management

### **Funding Opportunities**

DNR Fish and Wildlife Grants

Wildlife Habitat Grants

Marshall Community Foundation

Wildflower Association of Michigan

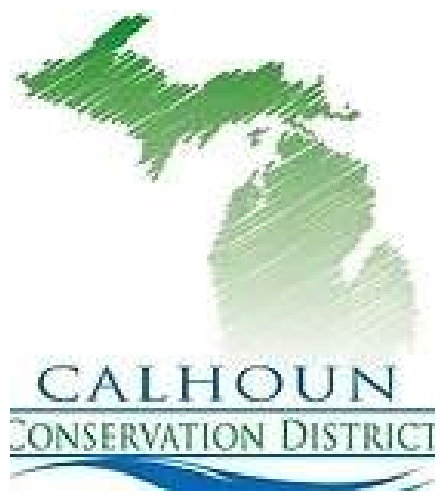
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

MiDNR Invasive Species Grants

Michigan Spark Grants

Trout Habitat Grants





# Resources

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# Appendix

DNR Lease.....1

Topographical Maps.....2

Rice Creek Hydrological Study.....3

Soil Survey.....4