



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Natalie
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Price
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
Representatives Bierlein and Neyer, along with endorsements from local elected officials; letters are attached under question #9.
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Detroit Zoological Society
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
8450 W 10 Mile, Royal Oak, 48067
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
8450 W 10 Mile, Royal Oak, 48067
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Natalie Price, 6th House District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. The Detroit Zoo is a critical asset for our state, driving recreation and tourism with over 1.2 million visitors and \$168 million in economic impact in 2024 alone. The DZS proudly welcomes individuals and families from every Michigan county and every U.S. state every year.

The Detroit Zoological Society (DZS) focuses on four key commitments: people, animals, environment and resources. Our team is dedicated to studying, planning and pursuing best practices that put our community on a path toward an environmentally

sustainable future.

Much of the underground infrastructure in southeast Michigan is reaching its maturity, causing issues ranging from sinkholes to pollution of groundwater and waterways. These pipe networks, referred to as grey infrastructure, contribute to disturbances in the environment and our communities. Current best practices lead with Green Stormwater Infrastructure, which supports natural hydrology, native wildlife and their habitats, and ecosystem services.

In 2022, the DZS initiated the Path to Net Zero Water Framework Plan to study the water supply and stormwater management systems currently in place and to provide recommendations that will have the greatest positive effect in the watershed. The Framework Plan identified four primary goals:

- Reduce and optimize consumption
- Maximize reuse of treated stormwater
- Restore natural hydrology
- Build in resiliency

For several years, the DZS has successfully integrated stormwater Best Management Practices into new construction and redevelopment projects on the Detroit Zoo's 98-year-old campus while providing essential upgrades to failing and undersized infrastructure. Thanks to financial and in-kind support from the City of Detroit, Oakland County and State of Michigan, the DZS has incorporated the practices into two recent major capital projects:

- In the area surrounding the Holden Reptile Conservation Center (HRCC), the DZS replaced aging and undersized infrastructure to eliminate water leaks and flooding. Additionally, we replaced deteriorating pavement to improve drainage
- Discovery Trails is a thrilling new development that will revitalize 7 acres of the Zoo, providing unique animal encounters and enthralling hands-on learning opportunities. Within the Discovery Trails footprint, we were able to implement surface-level Green Stormwater Infrastructure, including bioretention facilities and permeable pavement. We anticipate this will eliminate up to 190,888 gallons from the combined sewer each time it rains. We have also taken steps to manage the 100-year, 24-hour rainfall event for Discovery Trails through on-site detention. We estimate that this will prevent an 8.32 million gallons of untreated water from discharging into the combined sewer system each year.

The DZS is now seeking additional investment to replace antiquated components of the historic and famed Horace H. Rackham Memorial Fountain and surrounding Central Mall. Located in the center of the Zoo, Rackham Fountain was built in 1939 and dedicated to the first president of the Zoological Commission. The fountain features two 10-foot-tall bronze bears in a 75,000-gallon pool with life-sized sea lions, turtles and frogs and is one of the region's most beloved attractions.

The DZS has conducted extensive analysis exposing undersized and failing infrastructure

that poses a significant risk to the fountain and its surrounding paths. Funding will support design, planning, and construction needed to waterproof the fountain structure and reduce water loss from leaks. Additionally, DZS will make repairs to the fountain's underground infrastructure and evaluate options to reduce water consumption and incorporate stormwater Best Management Practices.

The immediate benefits of investment in Rackham Fountain include:

- Furtherance of the State's previous investment in the Zoo's multi-phase water infrastructure improvement plan
- Resolution and prevention of leaks, floods and sinkholes on the Zoo

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

6000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Anthony F. Earley, Jr., Chair; Stephen R. Polk and Robert G. Riney, Vice Chairs; John G. Sznewajs, Treasurer; Lloyd A. Semple, Chair Emeritus; Tonya Berry; Denise Brooks-Williams; Dr. William A. Conway; Cynthia Ford; Dr. Terry S. Harvill; Alan Kalter; Alan Kaufman; Bonnie Larson; Thomas Lewand, Jr.; Denise J. Lewis; Shawn Patterson; Dr. Hayley W. Murphy, Executive Director/CEO; BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ismael Ahmed; N. Charles Anderson; Alisha R. Bell; Andrew Blake; Thomas C. Buhl; Sharima Bulchak; Beth Chappell; Dr. Betty Chu; Dr. Beth Daly; Mark

Douglas; David E. Duprey; Bishop Charles Ellis; John Erb; Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy; Jennifer M. Grieco; Hassan Jaber; Brandon Kolo; Dr. Isaiah McKinnon; Mario Morrow Sr.; Stuart Robbins; Gino Roncelli; James Rosenthal; Rick Ruffner; Dr. James Sawyer; Shirley R. Stancato; James Tate; Joel D. Tauber; Manny Torgow; Marianne Vidershain; Lawrence A. Wolfe; Stacy Ziarko; CHAIR'S ADVISORY: Lloyd A. Semple, Chair; Lynn Ford Alandt; Mary Kay Crain; Edsel B. Ford II; Allan D. Gilmour; Richard Manoogian; Edward Mardigian; Richard B. Platt; Gail L. Warden; Marilyn J. Way; Jeffrey K. Willemain

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Start: October 1st, 2025; End: September 30th, 2027

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
Michigan Senate
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer, Leader Brinks and Speaker Hall:

I am writing in support of the DZS request for **\$6 million in State funding to support urgent infrastructure improvements to the Detroit Zoo's iconic Rackham Fountain.**

The DZS is a critical asset for our state, driving recreation and tourism with over **1.2 million visitors and \$168 million in economic impact** in 2024 alone. The DZS proudly welcomes individuals and families from every Michigan county and every U.S. state every year.

For nearly a century, the DZS also has provided extensive educational programming to thousands of Michigan school children while connecting all DZS members, guests and program participants with the natural world and wildlife conservation strategies.

The DZS needs additional investment to replace antiquated components of Rackham Fountain. The DZS has conducted extensive analysis exposing undersized and failing infrastructure that poses a significant risk to the fountain and the Zoo's Central Mall.

Funding will support design, planning, and construction needed to waterproof the fountain structure and reduce water loss from leaks. Additionally, funding will allow the DZS to make repairs to the fountain's underground infrastructure and evaluate options to reduce water consumption and incorporate stormwater Best Management Practices.

The immediate benefits of investment in Rackham Fountain include:

- Furtherance of the State's previous investment in the Zoo's multi-phase water infrastructure improvement plan
- Resolution and prevention of leaks, floods and sinkholes on the Zoo's historic campus
- Demonstration of responsible stormwater management to more than a million visitors every year
- Progress toward several Net Zero water goals at DZS, a best practice strategy for water supply, on-site treatment and reuse

The benefits of investing in DZS infrastructure extend beyond the Zoo's borders. Once the Zoo's Net Zero goals are fully realized, **runoff volume to George W. Kuhn retention basin will be reduced.** Volume reduction to that sewer shed could feasibly reduce operating costs for Oakland County and partner communities in the sewer district. **Basement backups and on-street flooding will be reduced in the City of Royal Oak**, especially near the buried Allen Branch of the Red Run. Ongoing **investment also contributes to delisting the Clinton River watershed as an Area of Concern** by the Environmental Protection Agency.

I am pleased to support DZS in addressing these urgent infrastructure challenges while implementing best practices in sustainable stormwater management. Thank you for considering this investment in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Bierlein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Bierlein
State Representative
House District 97

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
Michigan Senate
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Coulter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Coulter" clearly distinguishable.

David Coulter
Oakland County Executive



MARK A. HACKEL
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MACOMB COUNTY
OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MARK F. DELDIN
CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 15, 2025

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State Capitol Building
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MAH', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark A. Hackel
Macomb County Executive



Mayor Robert F. Paul
Mayor Pro-Tem Jules B. Olsman
City Manager Chris Wilson

Commissioner Michelle Elder
Commissioner Joe Rozell
Commissioner Jessica Steinhart

April 15, 2025

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Michigan Senate
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The immediate benefits of investment in Rackham Fountain include:



Mayor Robert F. Paul
Mayor Pro-Tem Jules B. Olsman
City Manager Chris Wilson

Commissioner Michelle Elder
Commissioner Joe Rozell
Commissioner Jessica Steinhart

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Sincerely,

Bob Paul
Mayor
City of Huntington Woods



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anthony F. Earley, Jr.
Chair
Stephen R. Polk
Robert G. Riney
Vice Chairs
John G. Sznewajs
Treasurer
Lloyd A. Semple
Chair Emeritus
Tonya Berry
Denise Brooks-Williams
Dr. William A. Conway
Cynthia Ford
Dr. Terry S. Harvill
Alan Kalter
Alan Kaufman
Bonnie Larson
Thomas Lewand, Jr.
Denise J. Lewis
Shawn Patterson

Dr. Hayley W. Murphy
Executive Director/CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mario Morrow Sr.
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Gino Roncelli
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Dr. James Sawyer
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Manny Torgow
Marianne Vidershain
Lawrence A. Wolfe
Stacy Ziarko

CHAIR'S ADVISORY

Lloyd A. Semple
Chair
Lynn Ford Alandt
Mary Kay Crain
Edsel B. Ford II
Allan D. Gilmour
Richard Manoogian
Edward Mardigian
Richard B. Platt
Gail L. Warden
Marilyn J. Way
Jeffrey K. Willemain

April 15, 2025

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Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909

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Dear Governor Whitmer, Leader Brinks and Speaker Hall:

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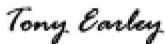
Detroit Zoological Society


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We are pleased to support DZS in addressing these urgent infrastructure challenges while implementing best practices in sustainable stormwater management. Thank you for considering this investment in our community.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

1CE3D1544C8E44C...
Anthony F. Earley, Jr.
Chair

DocuSigned by:

14FE380B1A994FD...
Stephen R. Polk
Vice Chair

Signed by:

B120290493724FC...
Bob Riney
Vice Chair

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Winnie Brinks
Senate Majority Leader
Michigan Senate
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable Matt Hall
Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer, Leader Brinks and Speaker Hall:

As the Mayor of Royal Oak, I am writing in support of the Detroit Zoological Society's request for **\$6 million in State funding to support urgent infrastructure improvements to the Detroit Zoo's iconic Rackham Fountain.**

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Sincerely,

A black and white image of a handwritten signature, likely of Michael C. Fournier, written in a cursive style.

Mayor Michael C. Fournier
City of Royal Oak, Michigan

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT VISION

DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



1

RESTORE NATURAL HYDROLOGY

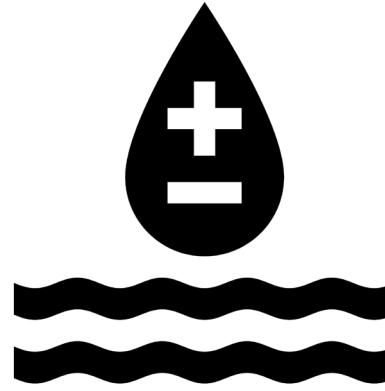
- Reduce runoff conditions
- Promote infiltration
- Prioritize vegetated practices



2

SEPARATE > CAPTURE > DETAIN

- Minimize water entering sewer system
- Water quality metrics



3

TREAT + REUSE | NET ZERO WATER SYSTEM

- Retention strategy
- Storage requirements
- Reduce demand of municipal water supply



4

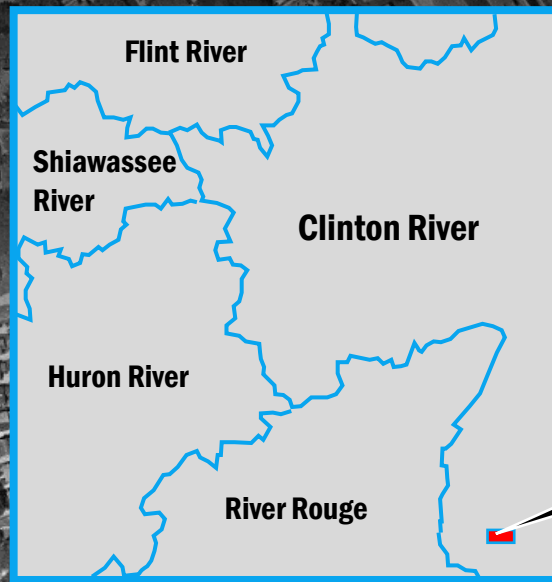
BUILD IN RESILIENCY

- Secondary safe water supply
- Adaptative strategies for an uncertain future

DETROIT ZOO CAMPUS

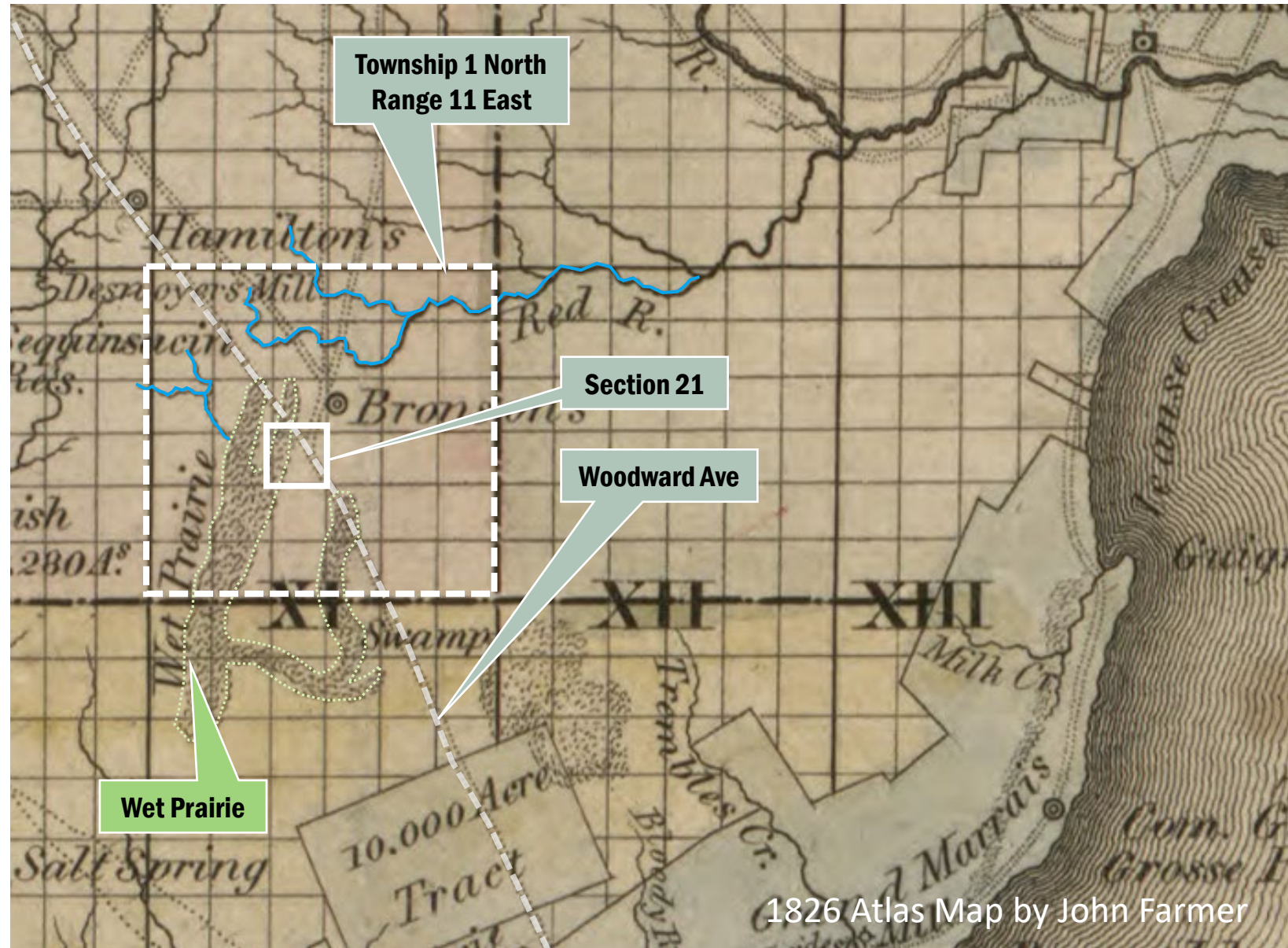
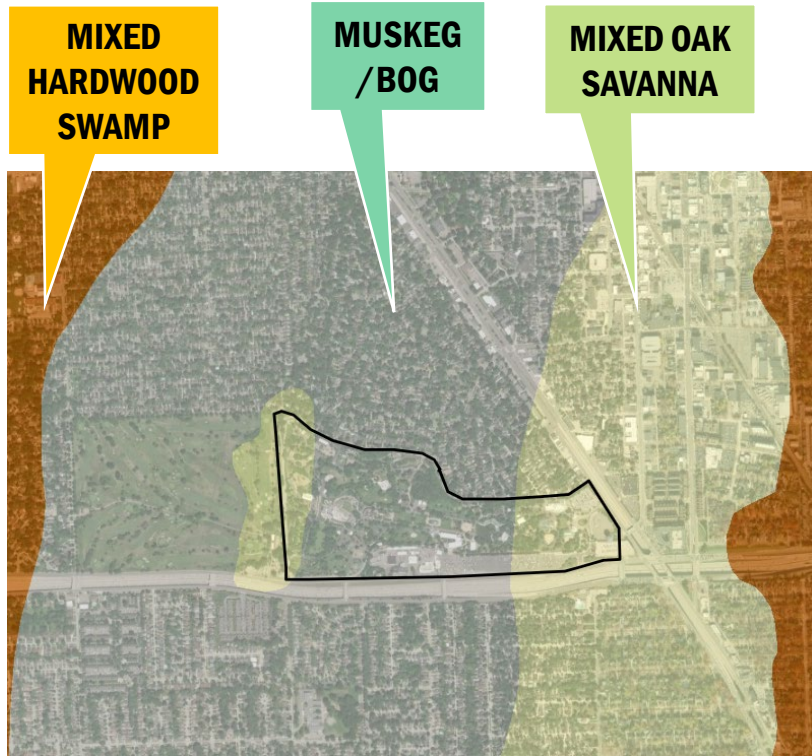
± 125 ACRE CAMPUS

OAKLAND COUNTY



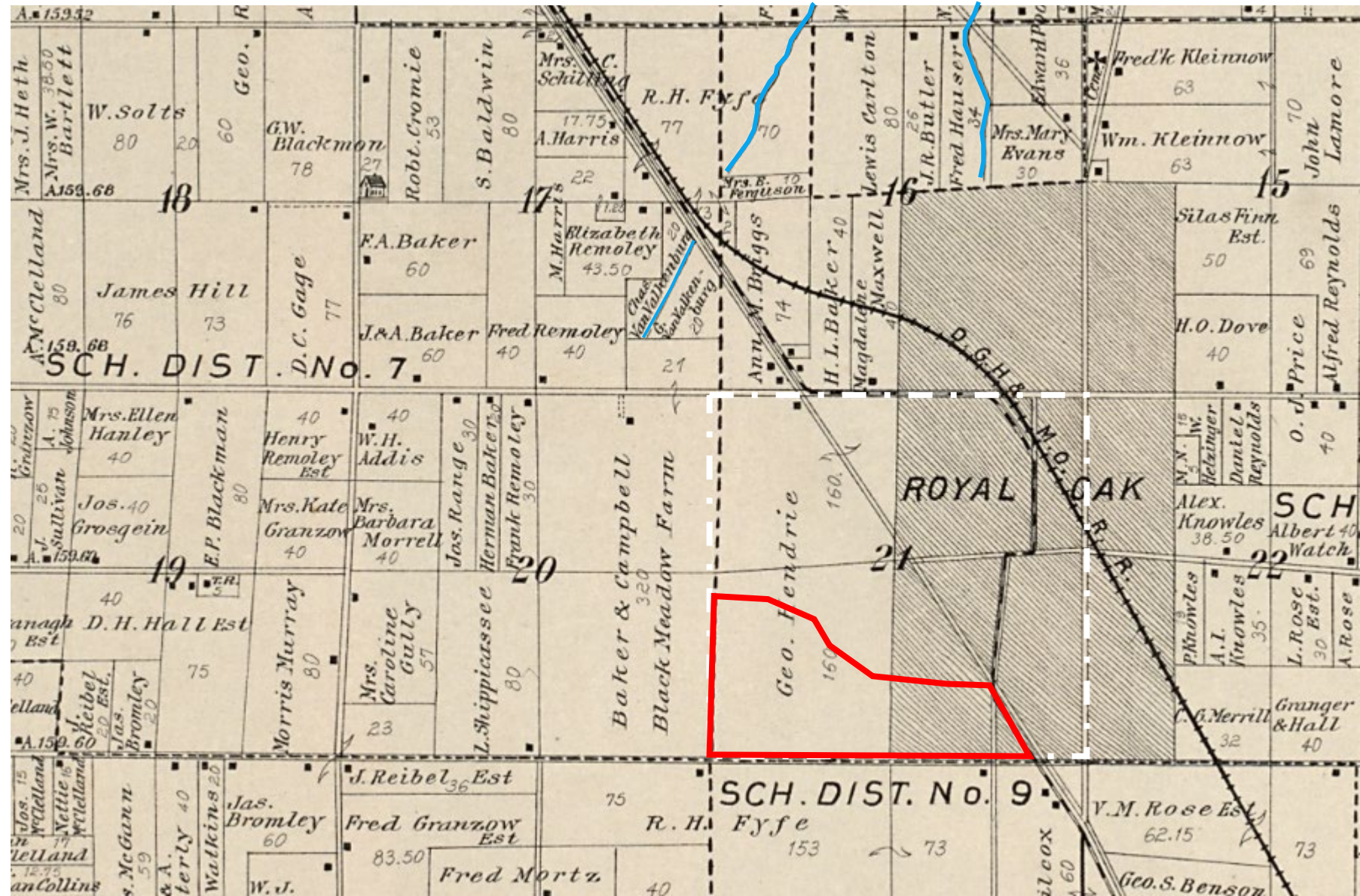
DETROIT ZOO

NATURAL FEATURES PRIOR TO EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT



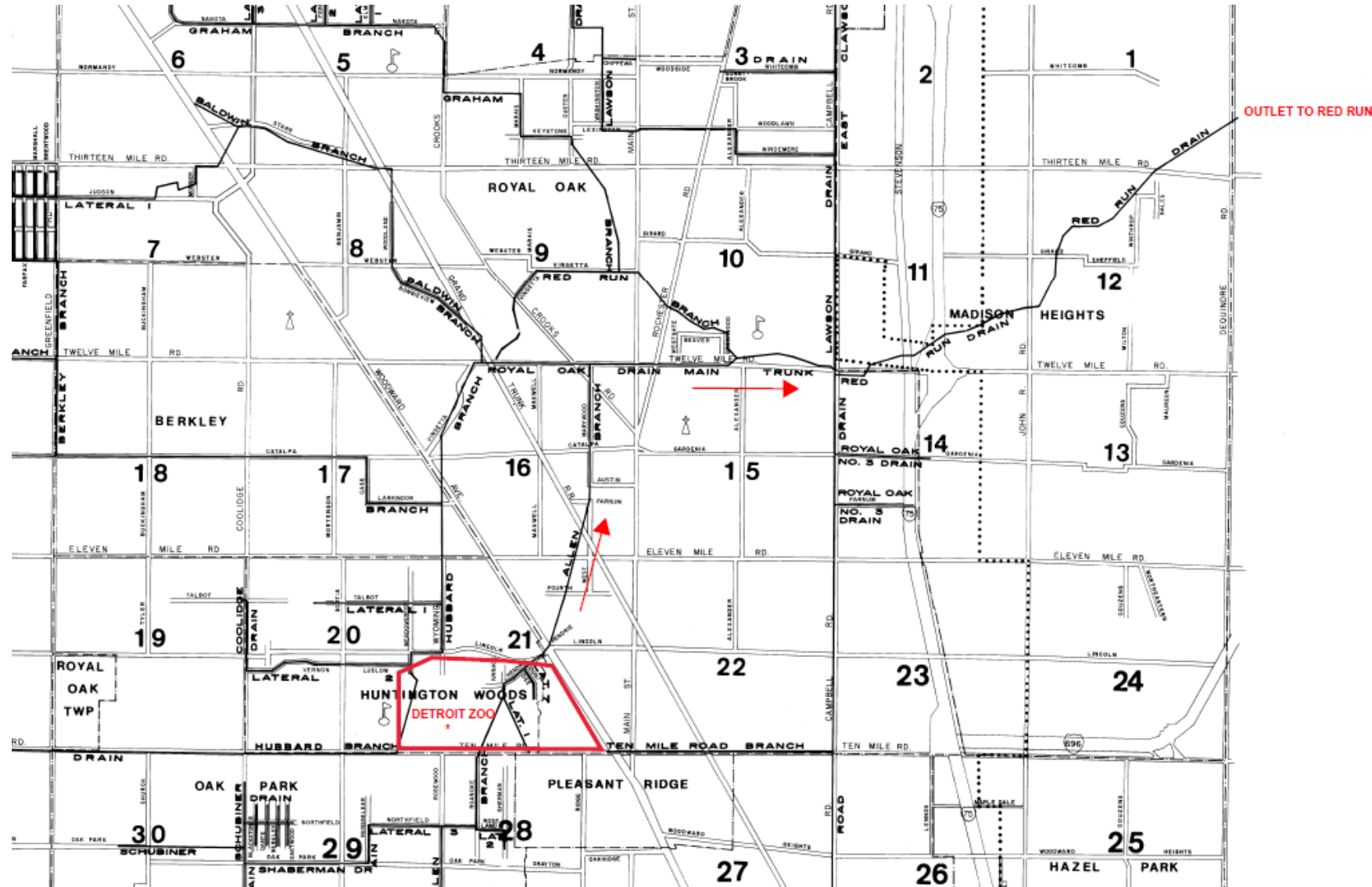
LOCAL DRAINAGE FEATURES LATE 19TH CENTURY

- Drains to the Red Run
- 1896 Atlas Map, Kace Publishing



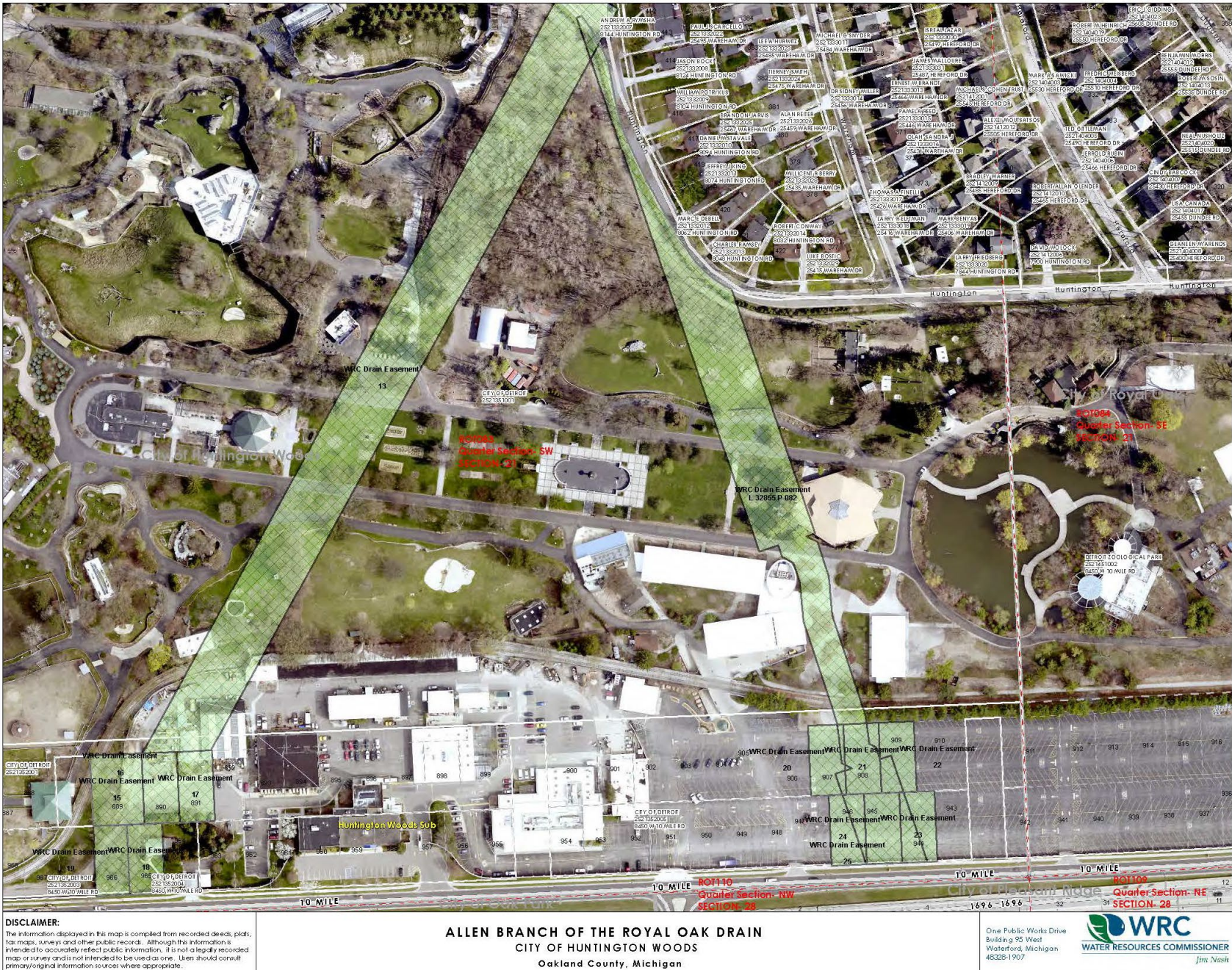
PAST TO PRESENT-DAY HYDROLOGY

- Due to development, ditches were constructed to create developable land.
- Soon after, drains were put in pipes and buried.
- Sewer pipes collect sanitary AND stormwater in the GWK combined sewer system.
- Two forks of the Allen Branch county drain go through the Zoo property.



ALLEN BRANCH OF THE COUNTY DRAIN

- 9'-6" Sewer/ County Drain
- Easement Map per WRC GIS records
- Flows north, siphon under I-696



PRESENT-DAY CAMPUS DISCHARGE CONTRIBUTIONS

**±215
M gallons**

**AVG Annual
Discharge**

**±109
M gallons**

**±105
M gallons**

Average annual runoff volume

**±99 M gallons, assuming:
95% of rainfall over impervious areas +
80% of pervious areas becomes runoff**

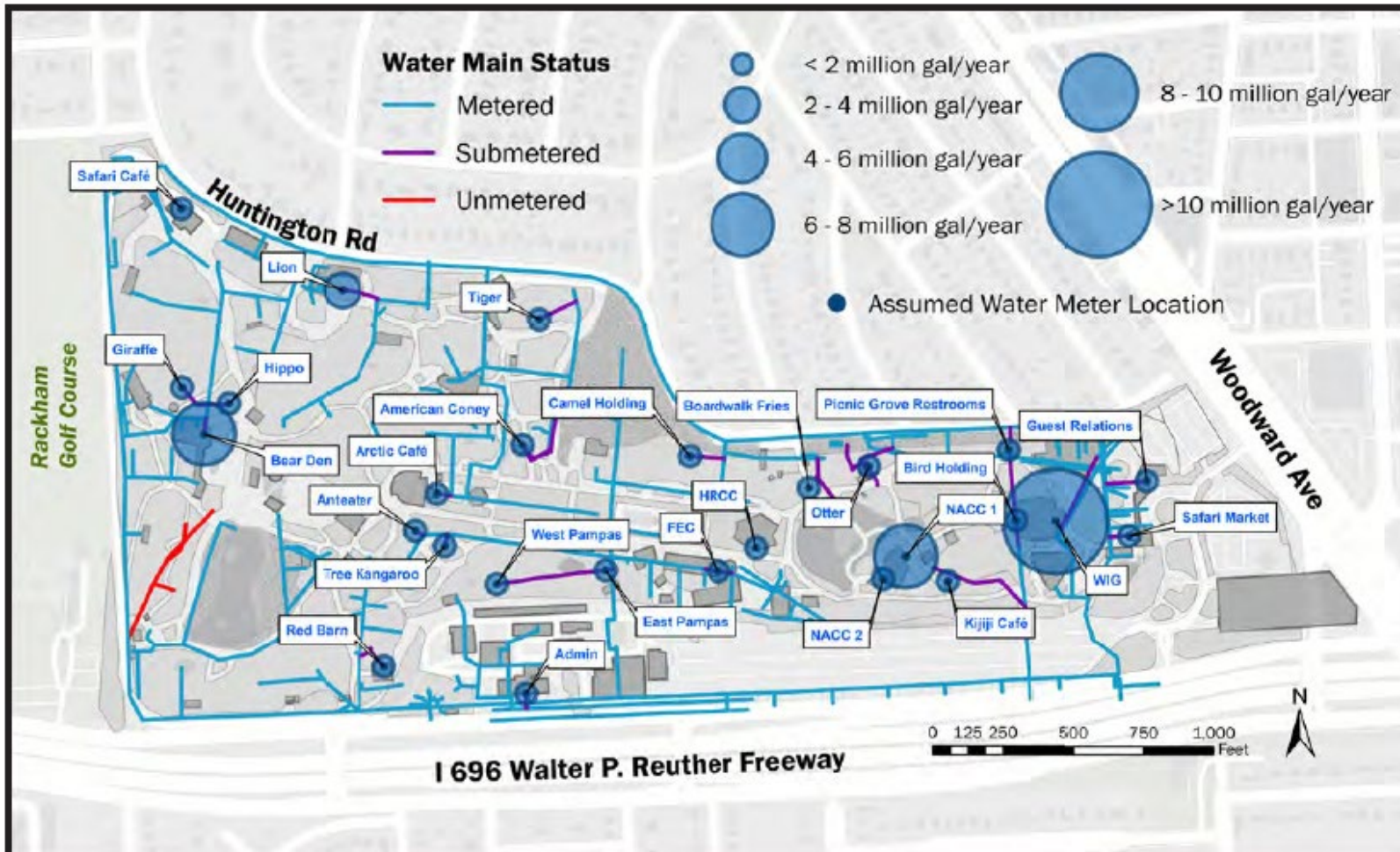
**± 109 M gallons, per:
EPA National Stormwater Calculator**

**Average annual municipal water
consumption per:**

**Cumulative analysis of monthly
water bills**

FRAMEWORK PLAN

1. Data collection to fill gaps in current monitoring program
2. Detailed water balance analysis to identify areas of greatest potential for a rainwater harvesting and reuse system.



**WHERE DOES ALL
OF OUR WATER
GET USED?**

**Unmetered
~66.6 Million Gal
(63%)**

**Sub-Metered
~38.4 Million Gal
(37%)**