

ORANGE COUNTY



Department of Environment,
Agriculture, Parks & Recreation

MEMORANDUM

To: Bonnie M. Hammersley, County Manager

From: David Stancil, Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation Director
Marabeth Carr, Landscape Architect

Date: May 18, 2021

RE: Blackwood Farm Park – Phase II Status Report

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on progress toward scheduled improvements for the next phase of Blackwood Farm Park, slated to begin this summer.

During the last year, Susan Hatchell Landscape Architecture, PLLC and team (a design team of all women-owned businesses) has worked to develop pre-construction design and engineering services including securing permits, conducting engineering work and creating construction drawings and bid document specifications for Phase II of Blackwood Farm Park. As you know, Blackwood Farm Park is a 152-acre park near the intersection of New Hope Church Road and NC 86 between Hillsborough and Chapel Hill. The park was opened with limited facilities and a limited operating schedule in June 2015.

During the past year or so the consultant has worked with staff and other agencies (including NCDOT) to develop a refined pre-construction plan that is consistent with the adopted master plan, which called for a low-impact approach for recreation amenities, while respecting the agricultural heritage of the site and protecting the historic structures, scenic vistas and opportunities for environmental education at the park. The master plan map is attached.

As noted in a prior update to the Board in fall of 2019, the project scope that has been developed for Phase II includes:

- Turn lanes on NC 86 for the new park entrance, to be located north of the existing narrow driveway;
- The new entrance road for the park;

- Parking area(s) for existing and proposed park amenities;
- An amphitheater;
- Large picnic shelter (designed as a dual use picnic/performance shelter);
- Restroom facilities;
- Park office and work/storage area for on-site park staff;
- Stormwater and utility measures needed for the improvements above;
- Schematic design drawings for the planned Learning/Nature Center (future phase);

Construction of all of the above-listed facilities is subject to available funds once bids are received. In addition to this work, prior appropriations and other sources include funding to address improvements to the historic farmstead residence and the creation of a disc golf course, both of which will be done under separate contracts. Sketches of the design for selected facilities of Phase II are attached. Staff is also pursuing grant and partner funds for certain items in the master plan (such as the agricultural exhibits and garden areas and an environmental-themed children's trail). These improvements will be pursued using existing or new resources over the next few years.

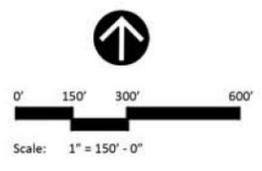
The Phase II project scope above is currently out for construction bid solicitation, with a potential bid award to come back before the Board for approval in June. Staff has remained in contact with the park neighbors and a virtual open house for is planned for May 26. As noted in the Manager's Recommended FY 2021-22 Budget, the park is scheduled to close for construction beginning in July. Construction is expected to take approximately one year.

Funding for this project comes from previously-appropriated funds, as approved in prior Capital Investment Plans. An upcoming budget amendment will also transfer existing funds from the completed River Park project - funding for a performance stage reassigned to the amphitheater at Blackwood Farm Park.

Remaining park amenities, including the proposed Learning/Nature Center, would be a future Phase III of Blackwood Farm Park - with potential partnerships and funding being pursued for the Learning/Nature Center. Funding for this phase is identified in the CIP in year 4 and beyond.

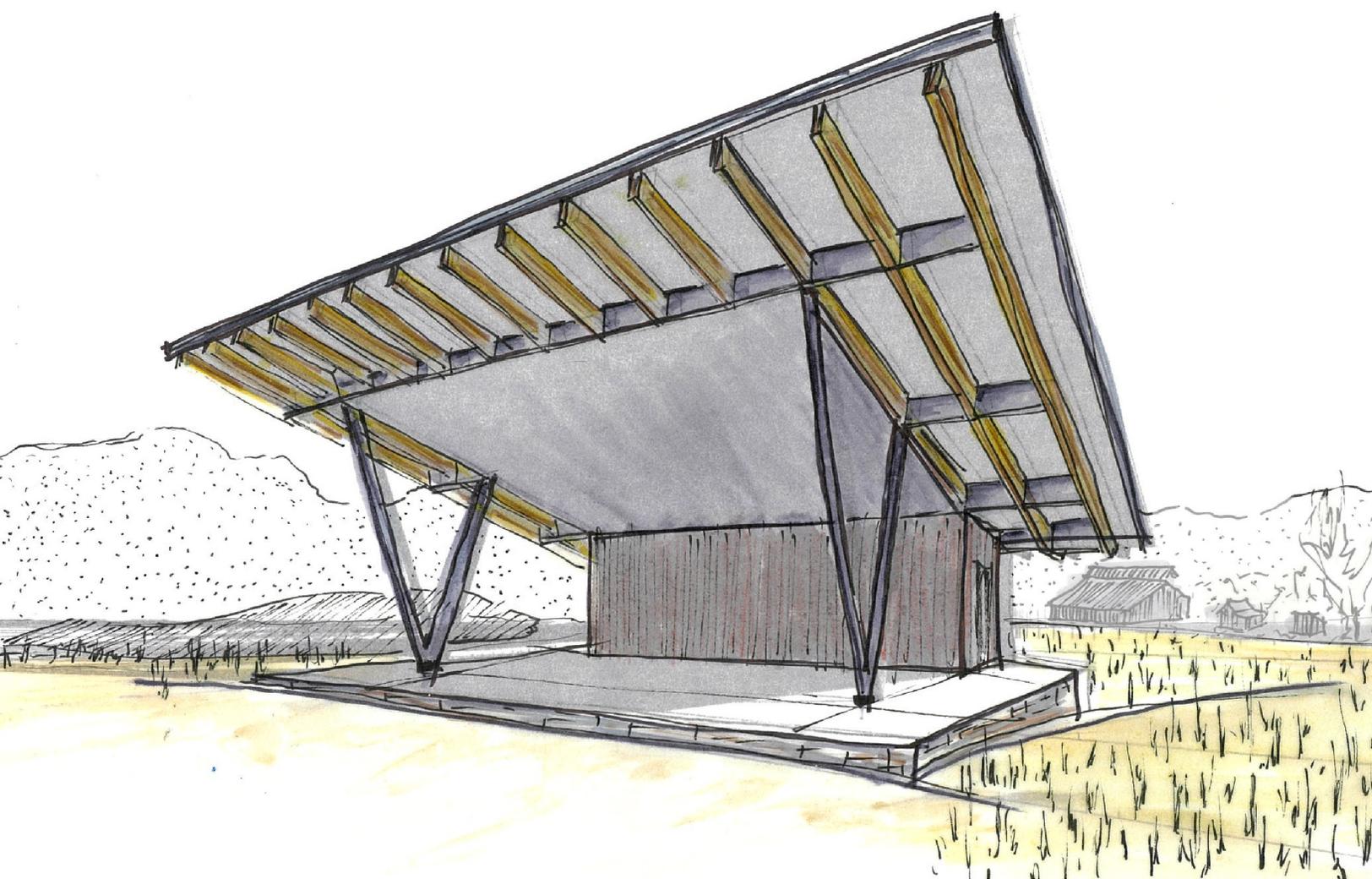
Please let us know if we may provide any additional information.

Copies: Travis Myren, Deputy County Manager
Parks and Recreation Council
Dan Derby, Parks Superintendent



Blackwood Farm Park
 Updated Master Plan
 FEBRUARY 1, 2021

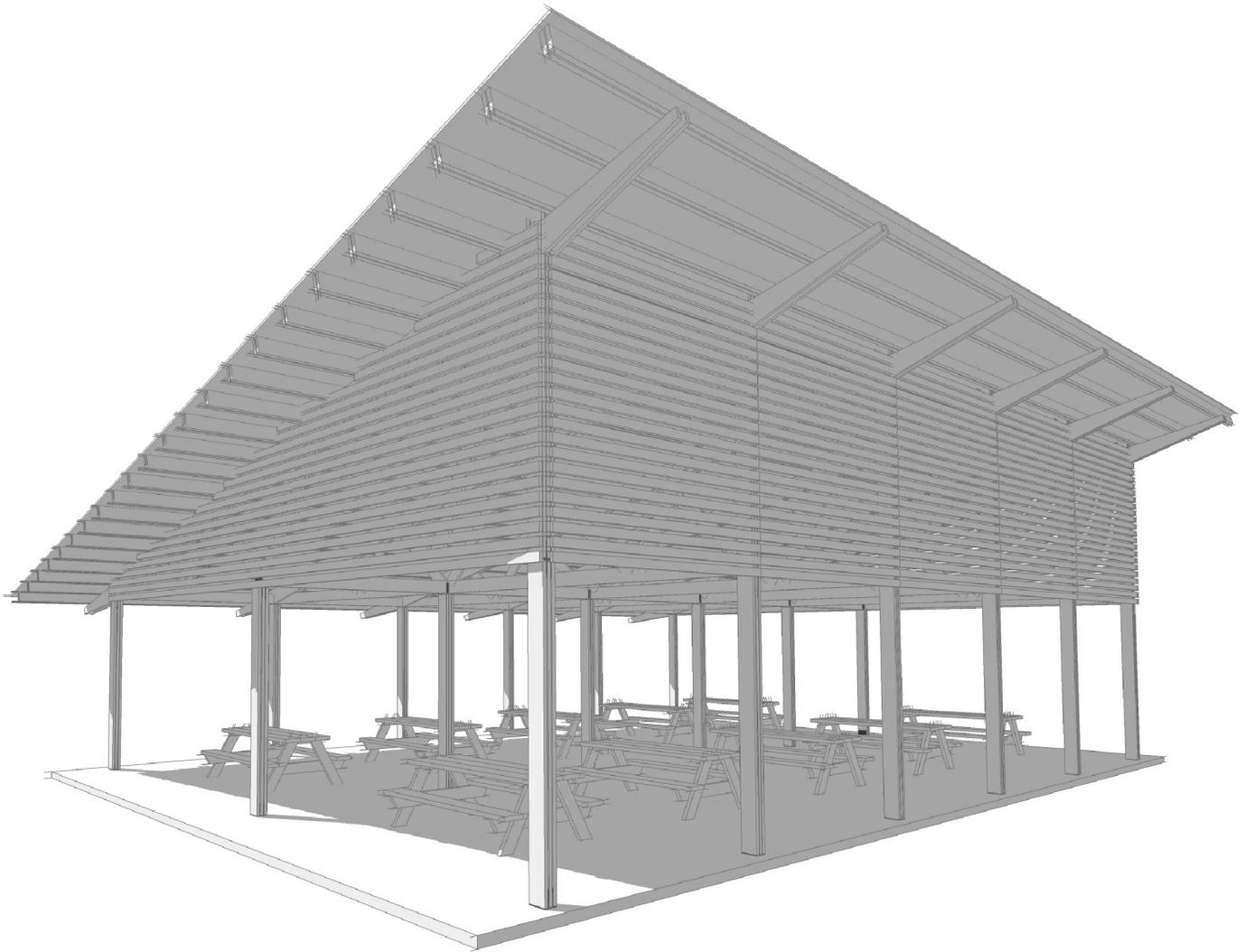
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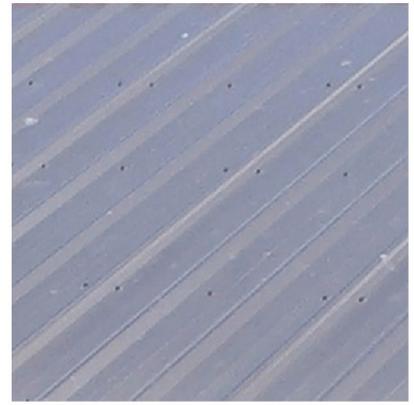
BLACKWOOD FARM RANGER STATION



BLACKWOOD FARM PICNIC SHELTER



ROOF EXAMPLE



ROOF
GREY
STANDING SEAM METAL ROOF



SIDING EXAMPLE



SIDING
CEDAR
BOARD & BATTEN

VAULT TOILET