

HOPKINS



PRESERVE

SUSSEX COUNTY, DE

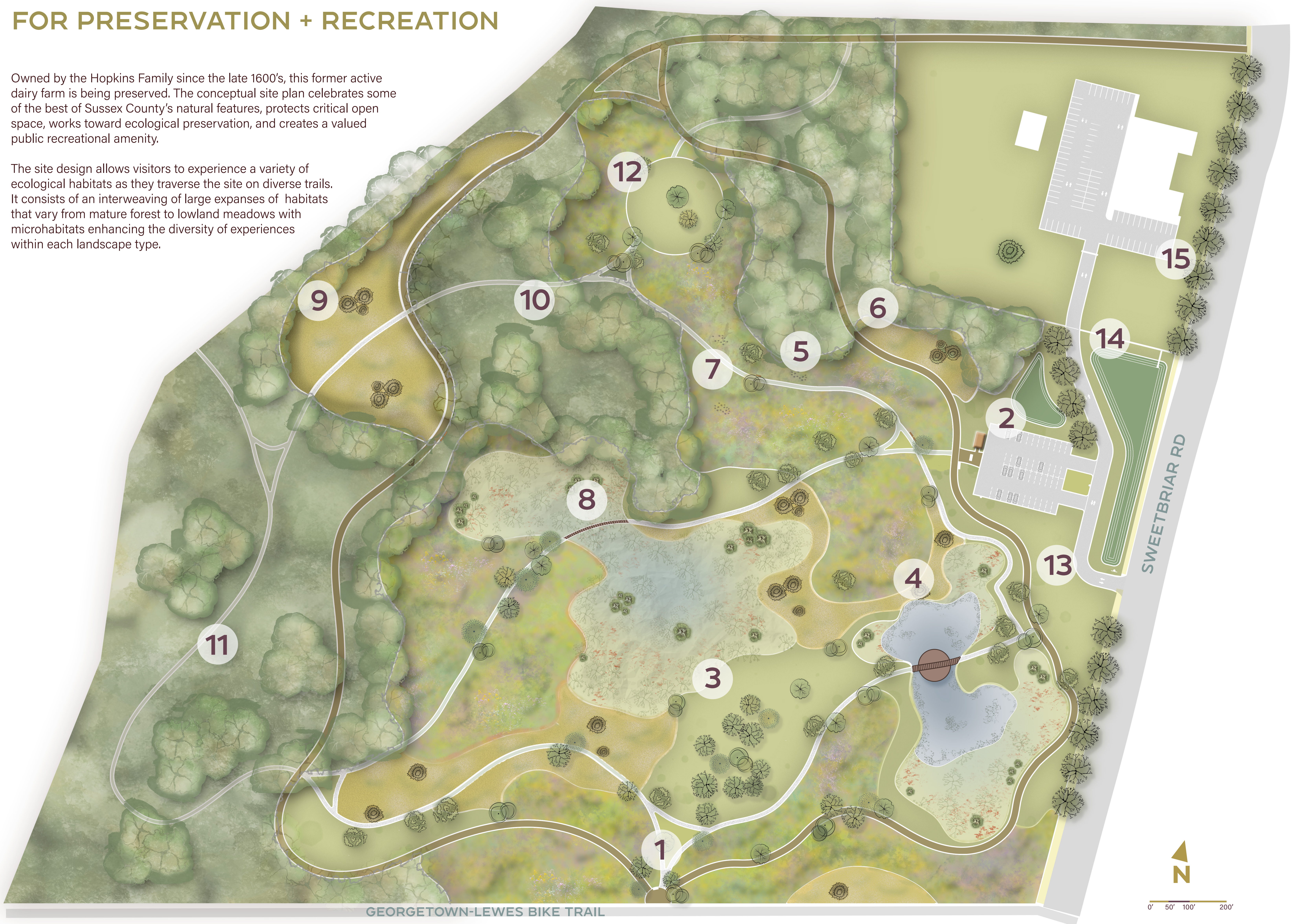
SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL + SUSSEX COUNTY LAND TRUST PRESENT

MASTER PLAN

FOR PRESERVATION + RECREATION

Owned by the Hopkins Family since the late 1600's, this former active dairy farm is being preserved. The conceptual site plan celebrates some of the best of Sussex County's natural features, protects critical open space, works toward ecological preservation, and creates a valued public recreational amenity.

The site design allows visitors to experience a variety of ecological habitats as they traverse the site on diverse trails. It consists of an interweaving of large expanses of habitats that vary from mature forest to lowland meadows with microhabitats enhancing the diversity of experiences within each landscape type.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 BIKE TRAIL ENTRY 2 SWEETBRIAR ROAD ENTRY WELCOME AREA + RESTROOMS 3 HERITAGE HILL 4 POND + BRIDGE OVERLOOK 5 PEDESTRIAN TRAILS 6 HOPKINS MULTI-USE LOOP TRAIL 7 MEADOW | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 EPHEMERAL WETLAND + FOOTBRIDGE 9 TRANSITIONAL SHRUBLAND 10 REFORESTATION 11 11-ACRE WOOD + TRAIL 12 GATHERING SPACE 13 OPEN LAWN + PARKING OVERFLOW 14 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT 15 ROADWAY ALLEE |
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There are 11 acres of forest on site that have been preserved for at least 100 years and are fondly referred to by the Hopkins family as the "hundred-acre-wood" in reference to A. A. Milne's story Winnie-the-Pooh. Social trails throughout the forest, established by the neighboring communities, were always welcomed as a way for neighbors to enjoy the serenity of the forest. Large, well-established maples, hickories, oaks, cherries, tulip poplar, sweetgum, american holly, sassafras, redcedar, sumac, mulberry and black walnut comprise the canopy. Preserving and maintaining these historic woods, and amending trails with pine bark fines, will allow more people to enjoy the historic wooded area for decades to come.



Heritage Hill

A rare sight in Sussex County, Hopkins Preserve Heritage Hill boasts a shaded area perfect for overlooking the entire site in one panoramic view. The existing grove of trees has been there for over 100 years.

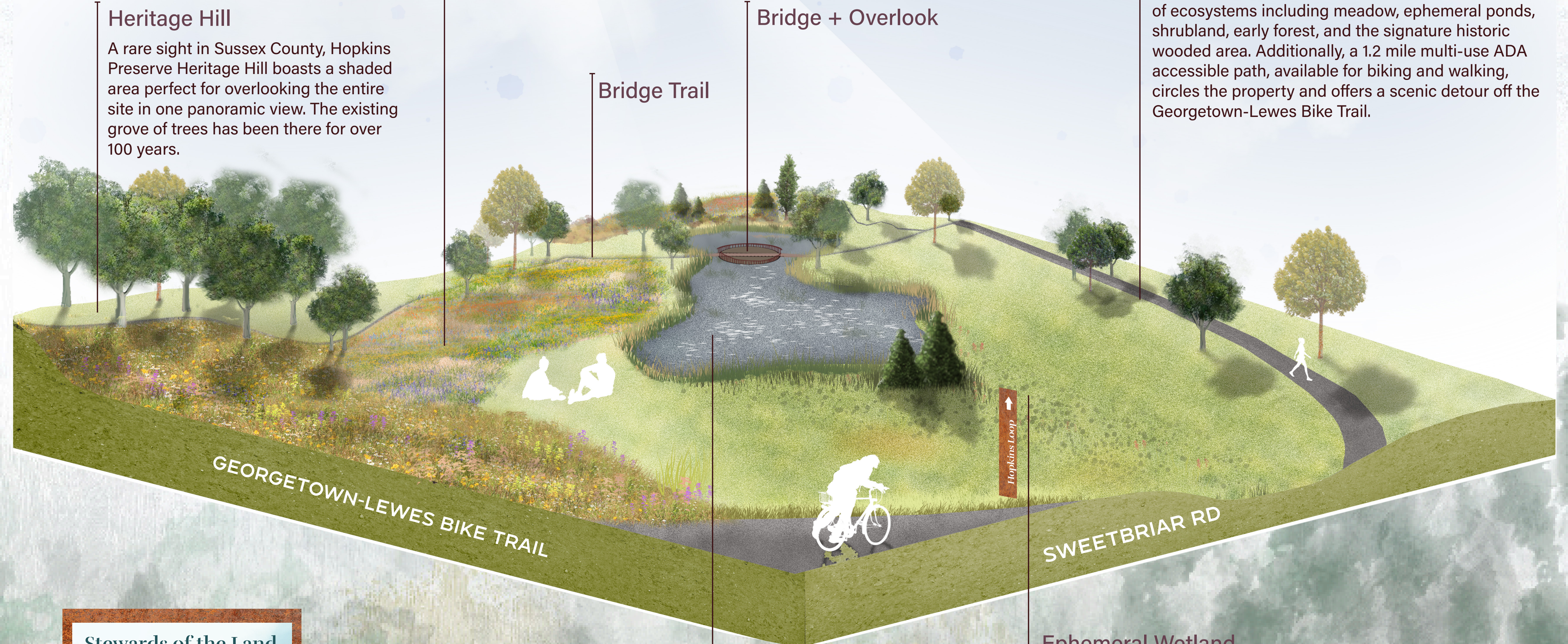
Meadow

Seeded meadows transform large expanses of open space into a beautiful thriving habitat of perennial wildflowers and grasses. Meadow plants establish a diverse ecosystem, providing a source of habitat and food for pollinators, insects, and birds. Deep rooted systems allow water to infiltrate into the soil during storm events, protecting the area from flooding, and enhancing resilience to extreme weather events. All of the ecological benefits of meadows are coupled with seasonal beauty in texture and color.



Hopkins Loop Trail

The preserve design offers 2.5 miles of scenic trails with 1.3 miles of interconnected walking pathways through modest elevation changes and different types of ecosystems including meadow, ephemeral ponds, shrubland, early forest, and the signature historic wooded area. Additionally, a 1.2 mile multi-use ADA accessible path, available for biking and walking, circles the property and offers a scenic detour off the Georgetown-Lewes Bike Trail.



Bridge + Overlook

Bridge Trail

Freshwater Pond

Within a naturally low-spot on site, a freshwater pond will be established as a year-round amenity to hold pooling water during storm events and diversify the site's ecology.

Ephemeral Wetland

Ephemeral wetlands are temporary wet areas forming in depressions that fill during the rainy season. This habitat type, distinctive from permanent wetlands, is important for a variety of wildlife, especially amphibian and reptile species such as salamanders, frogs, turtles, and toads. These animals have formed a relationship with the seasonally wet areas, using these spaces to breed in wetter spring months, free from predation by fish.

One of the most significant roles this habitat plays is in connecting upland areas (forest, meadow) with lower areas on the site (pond, wetlands), allowing for species to move between them. During dry periods when the pools dry up and appear more like a grassy field or meadow, these creatures will move to live and hibernate in the upland woods. In the wet spring season, these areas become inundated again - becoming a feature that enhances water quality and reduces floods.



Hopkins Loop

Our Story

11 Acre Wood

Designed and fabricated in Sussex County, the Hopkins Preserve signage employs local materials that rest naturally on the site and provide information, historical context, and location guidance throughout the preserve.

PROJECT TEAM

