



Bringing People and Nature Together

# Forest Preserve District OF WILL COUNTY

17540 W. Laraway Road / Joliet, IL 60433  
815.727.8700 / fax 815.722.3608  
www.fpdwc.org

CORY S. SINGER, President  
JIM BLACKBURN, Vice President  
DEBORAH A. ROZAK, Secretary  
MICHAEL WISNIEWSKI, Treasurer  
MARCELLA M. DEMAURO, Executive Director

## Teale Woods Master Plan Overview

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The Teale Woods Master Plan will identify recreational and educational opportunities within the preserve that contribute to the public appreciation of natural history and environment while protecting its resources. This Master Plan will help guide in the future development of this preserve. Public Input is valuable in shaping the future of Teale Woods.

### Our Mission Statement

*"The mission of the Forest Preserve District of Will County is to preserve and protect the natural and scenic beauties, and to restore, preserve, and protect the forests and prairies of Will County for the purpose of the education, pleasure, and recreation of its residents."*

### Location and History

Teale Woods is located on the boundary of Joliet and Crest Hill, near the intersection of Theodore and Broadway Streets in the City of Joliet (see Exhibit A). The preserve lies at the northern end of the Broadway Street Greenway which extends 4.5-miles south into downtown Joliet. The Broadway Street Greenway is owned and operated by the City of Joliet.

Acquired in 1994, the 13.8-acre preserve honors naturalist Edwin Way Teale, who was born in Joliet in 1899, and was an American naturalist, photographer, and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer. Teale is best known for his series of books titled *The American Seasons*, which documented environmental conditions across North America.

The development of Teale Woods will offer unique opportunities to the residents of Will County. Located in a dense residential area, the preserve will provide visitors with a "natural urban park" that can be used for a variety of passive recreation activities, in addition to a link to Downtown Joliet via the Joliet Broadway Greenway Trail.

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June 2010

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## **Master Planning Goals**

The District's primary goal in this Master Planning process is to promote the best use of Forest Preserve properties with minimal impact to the natural, cultural, and scenic resources in this unique setting. The goals below outline the opportunities for the Teale Woods. They are the result of research and mapping of natural features and environmentally sensitive areas, the District's Land Use Classification system, desired natural area restoration, recreational, and educational opportunities as developed by Forest Preserve Staff and previous county-wide surveys conducted by the District. The Site Development Diagram (Exhibit B) incorporates these goals.

### **1. Develop a trail system**

- Construct an accessible multi-use trail from the northwest corner to the southeast corner of the site.
- Create designated natural surface trail to connect to the existing sidewalk along Theodore Street to the multi-use path.
- Link Teale Woods internal trail system to the Joliet's Broadway Street Greenway .

### **2. Provide pedestrian amenities**

- Install benches along the multi-use trail
- Provide informational and wayfinding signage.
- Investigate the need for a small shelter, depending on preserve use after development.

### **3. Increase preserve maintenance**

- Create regular maintenance and operations schedule for site.
- Increase police monitoring for visitor safety.

### **4. Implement volunteer program at the preserve**

- Recruit a volunteer preserve steward to actively manage, or restore natural or cultural resources that provide benefits to humans, wildlife and the environment.
- Recruit a volunteer sentinel to be the eyes and ears of the Forest Preserve Police.
- Recruit an Adopt a Preserve volunteer to keep the site clean and free from debris.

### **5. Maximize desirable vegetation opportunities during construction and site development.**

- Remove invasive and undesirable tree and shrub species.
- Protect established oaks within the Preserve

### **6. Create an ecological management plan after site development.**

- Assess the value of conducting ecological management activities.
- Evaluate the need to conduct baseline ecological inventories.
- Prevent further degradation by non native and invasive species.

### **7. Consider future acquisitions of land to remove inholdings and expand the Preserve, as future funding allows.**

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Exhibit A#

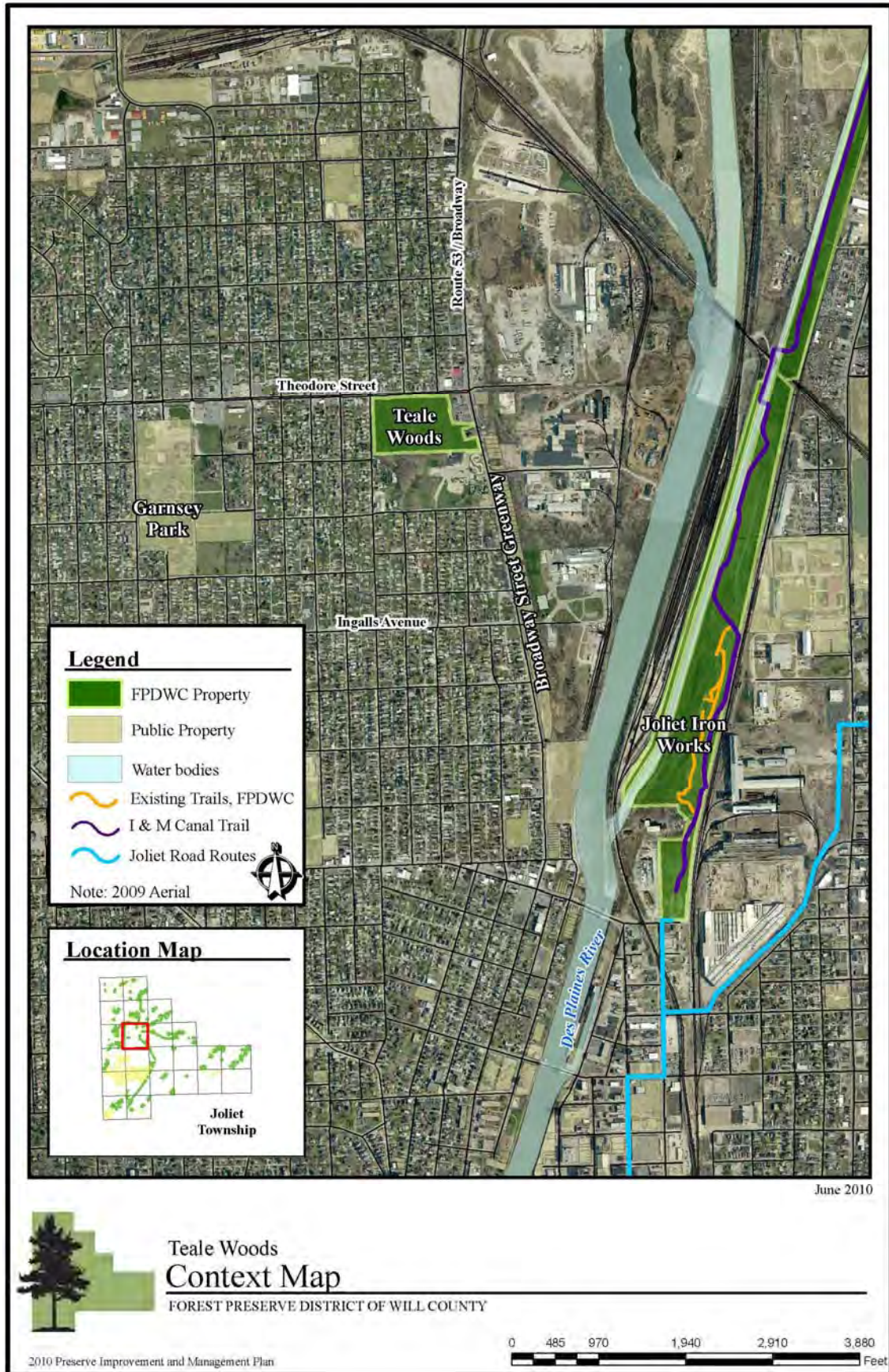




Exhibit B





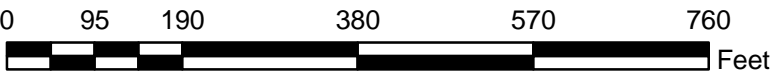


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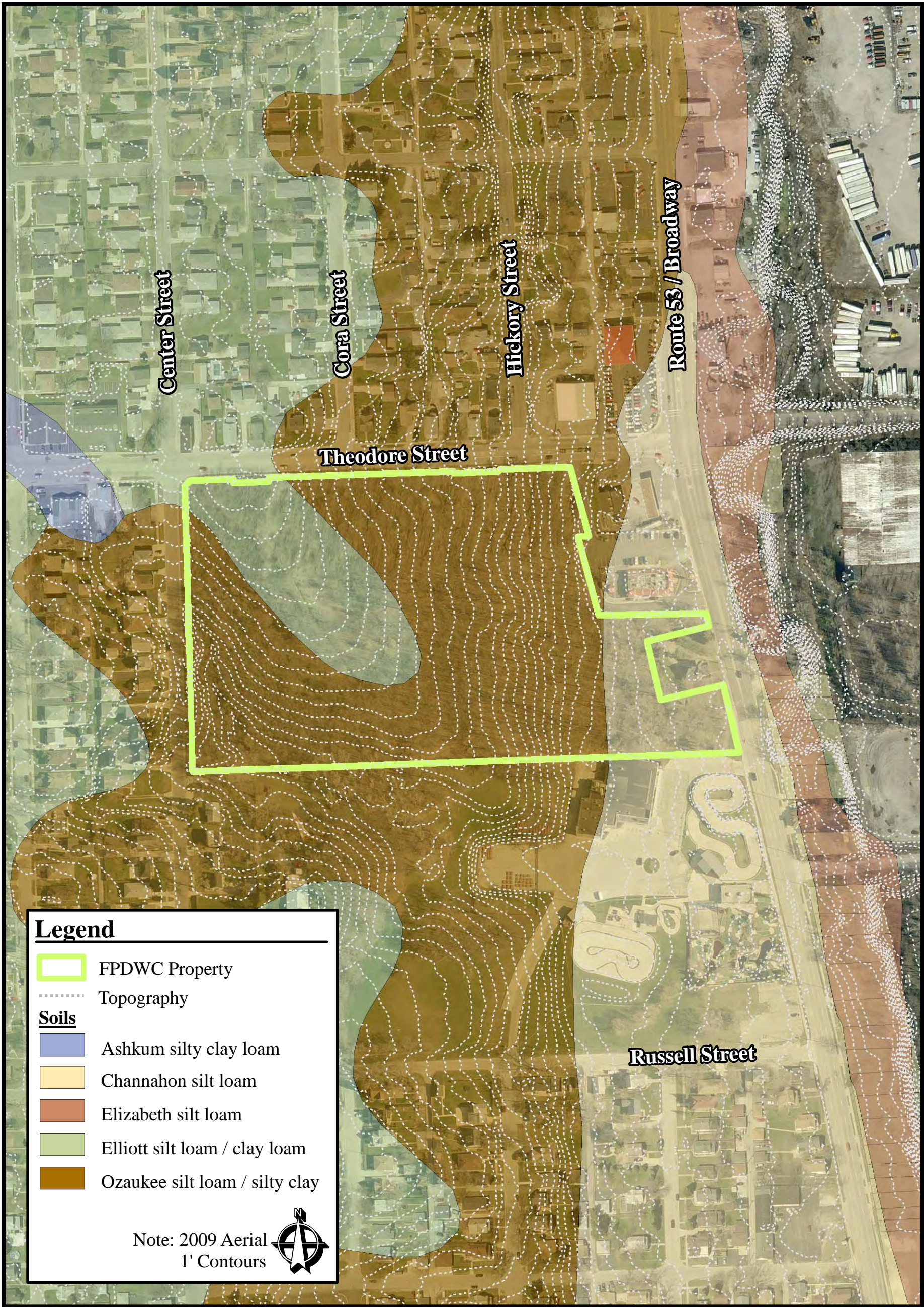


Teale Woods  
**1939 Aerial**

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Teale Woods  
**Environmental Sensitivity - Soils & Topography**  
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# Teale Woods Land Use Classification Map

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