

# Lincoln Park Post Acquisition Restoration Planning Effort

## Midwood Oxbow Park Site

Borough of Lincoln Park, Morris County, New Jersey



*Figure 1. Wetland at the Midwood site that connects to a culvert.*

**Location:** Located in the Borough of Lincoln Park in Morris County on the west side of the Pompton River (Figure 3).

**Site Size:** 12.65 acres

**Existing Conditions and Current Land Use:** Midwood is a mature deciduous forest with patches of invasive species. The canopy layer is primarily native, composed of silver maple, green ash, and American elm. The understory is a mix of green ash saplings, oak saplings, and multiflora rose. The site has patches of Japanese knotweed throughout at the edges of wetlands, depressional areas, and along the disturbed shorelines. There are remnant homes at the Midwood site as well as one occupied residence. The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the area, effective since 1986, shows the site in the floodway of the Pompton River. The site has experienced substantial flooding. USFWS IPAC lists this site a potential habitat for the federally endangered Indiana Bat and the federally threatened Northern Long-eared Bat, as well as twelve species of migratory birds.

### **Proposed Habitat and Restoration Goals:**

**Restoration and Creation of Freshwater Wetlands** – Wetlands provide both habitat and flood storage. The site currently contains two wetland areas totaling approximately 0.381 acres that appear to connect through a culvert under the road. Wetland restoration and creation activities may include regrading, debris removal, hydrologic reconnection, and native plantings.

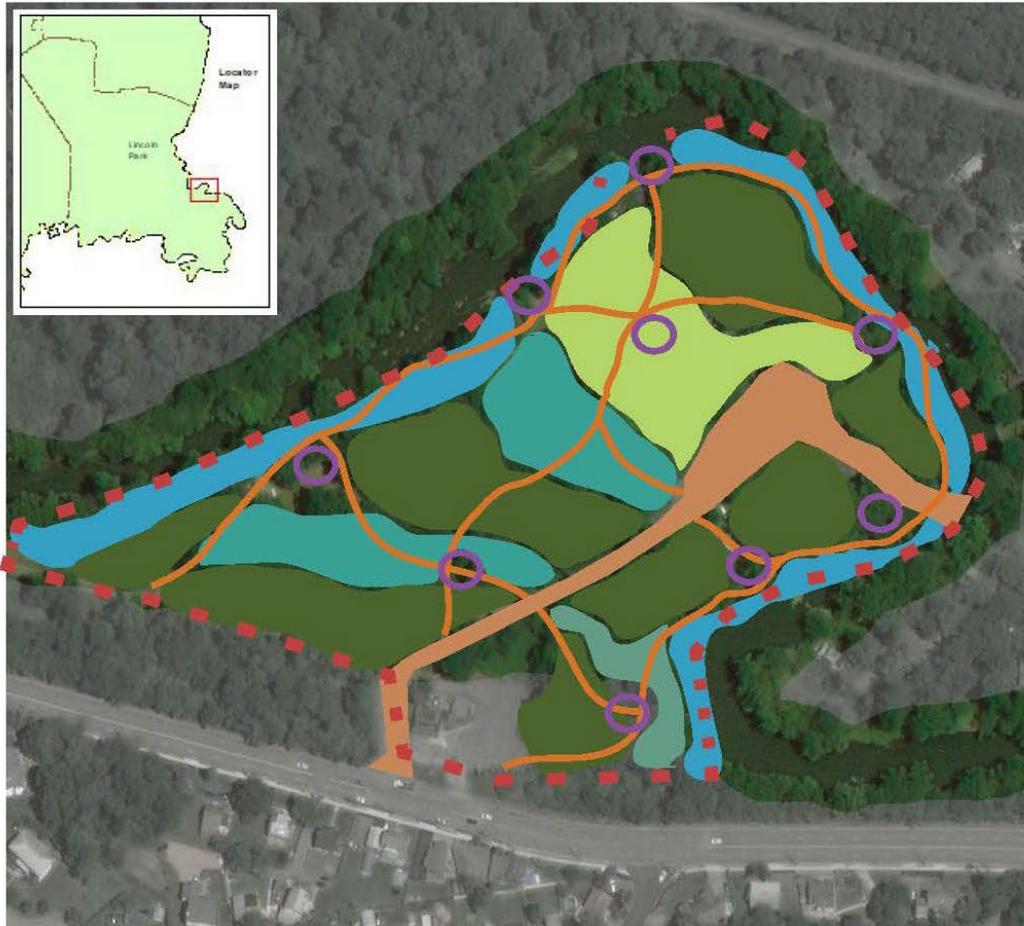
**River Edge Restoration** – The shoreline is varied with a steep and severely eroded cliff along the northern shoreline, remnant dilapidated bulkheads on the northeast and eastern shoreline, and a natural gently sloping shoreline in the southern portion of the site (Figure 2). Naturalization of the shoreline and reconnection to the floodplain could be achieved through shoreline softening, regrading, and native plantings. Streambank stabilization may be required in the northern portion of the site to address severe erosion.

**Habitat Conservation and Restoration** – The proposed plan converts open spaces of asphalt, mowed grasses, and invasive vegetation to meadows of wildflowers and native grasses. This native habitat would support pollinators such as bees, butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. Additionally, the plan calls for restoration and conservation of forested floodplain habitat, which currently dominates the site.



*Figure 2. Gently sloping shoreline on southern portion of the site where a boat ramp or kayak launch may be proposed.*

**Public Access and Passive Recreation** – Recreation trails, benches, boat launches, driveways, and parking are envisioned in support of public access and passive recreation.



Midwood Oxbow Park

-  Wetland restoration, wetland creation, flood storage
-  Floodplain forest restoration
-  River edge restoration
-  Pollinator meadow creation
-  Recreation paths, driveway and parking for boat launch

Figure 3. Potential plan for restoration and public access at the Midwood site. The purple circles are potential gathering/bench areas.



US Army Corps of Engineers