Eblepark

Waukesha County
Park System
Master Plan Update

Development

"...I'd just like to see a bit of God's earth preserved." -Florence Eble

Eblepark

Eble Park was created by the generous donation of 33 acres of land to Waukesha County from Florence and Roy Eble in 1987, with the condition that the lands remain a parkland.

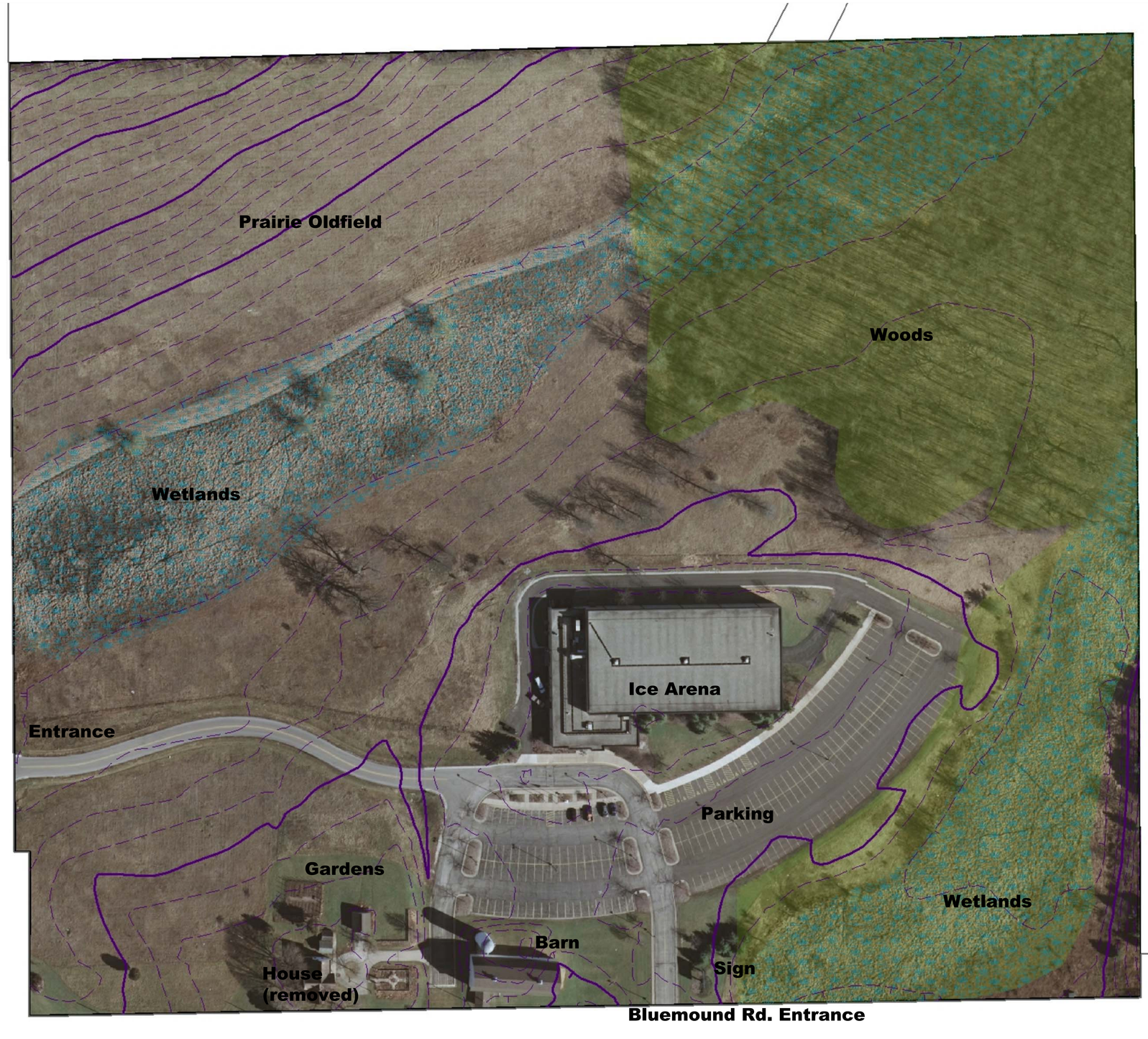
Eble Park is in the first stages of the Master Planning process. The Master Planning process helps to insure that the Waukesha County Park System meets the long term recreational needs of residents while preserving and enhancing the County's exceptional natural resources. The updated Master Plans will guide improvements and enhancements, by determining new uses and facility development for the immediate 10-year future of the park, which helps prioritize and budget for the projects that make up the County's five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

The Eble Gardens are open to the public and maintained by the Southeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners.

Eble Ice Arena was constructed in 1982 after a collaboration with local hockey clubs to meet a demand for more year-round ice space.

Seasonal rental of the barn area for Christmas tree sale has created family traditions.

The natural beauty of the open spaces create a peaceful escape from the busy commercial district.



Waukesha County
Park System
Master Plan Update

Existing Features

Eblepark

Development Zone- Includes nature-based recreation facilities and development related to the support of those activities.

At Eble Park this includes the ice arena as well as the garden areas. Core Zone- The Core Zone is usually a remnant natural area of high ecological integrity and quality. It is always the most restrictive county park zone and the foremost goal is preservation. It exists to protect the intrinsic value of all ecological functions, from rainwater infiltration to breeding birds.

Management strategies for surrounding areas will be based on the vegetative makeup of the most appropriate Core Zone. This zone will set the ecological theme for the park.

Trails with interpretive signs are allowed here in order to instill the value of such areas to all park users.

Natural Management Zones- All uncultivated areas within the park boundaries. These include all areas not maintained as turf or zoned as park use areas.

The Core Zone - for Eble covers 18.9 acres of prairie oldfield, woodland and open wetland. This parcel is buried in the surrounding development, but offers a great visual respite. Small size and city surroundings does not mean this place is not worth saving.

There are a few corridors through neighboring development that deer, raccoons and other animals that coexist well with human subdivisions use to travel along, but otherwise Eble geographically is isolated from other natural resources.

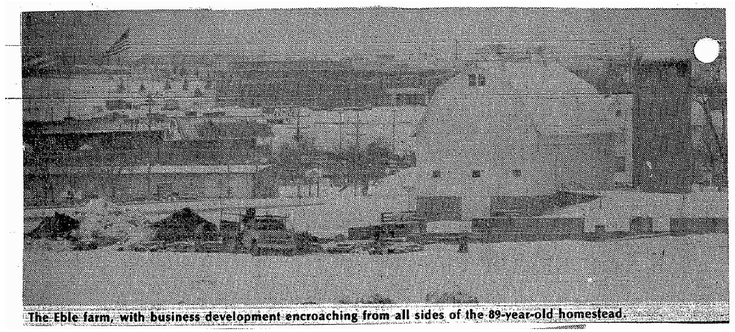
The hardwood forest, wetlands and open marshes add much diversity to such a small property.

Waukesha County
Park System
Master Plan Update

Natural Features

Eblepark

At a warmer time of year, Florence Eble does her gardening. JOHN A. EHLERS, FREEMAN STAFF



The Eble farm, with business development encroaching from all sides of the 89-year-old homestead.

Waukesha Freeman 22 September 1987

Farm Brookfield Florence + Roy Eble

Ebles want residents to enjoy nature

PHOTOS BY CASEY LAKE, FREEMAN STAFF

Florence Eble, above, and brother Roy Eble.

Watercolor Artist Everett W. Powell

GARDEN TOUR

Historical Haven

One section of Bluemound Road is preserved with flowers of the past instead of concrete for tomorrow

Story by Mary Lou Sankovich · Photography by Barbara Stegen

Tucked behind an overdeveloped stretch of Bluemound Road in Brookfield is a little piece of heaven. The former farmer, herb and vegetable gardener of Florence Eble, a spinster Waukesha County resident and granddaughter of state senator Andrew Eble, are now tended by a trio of 1980-vintage master gardeners and volunteers. And this slice of eternity is open to the public.

Before she died in 1995 at age 91, Eble and her brother, Roy, 87, 31 acres, which included a house, a former dairy barn, several outbuildings and her well-known gardens, to Waukesha County. The donation included the provision that the site be maintained as a green space.

"She wanted it to remain for the children," says Ann Dougherty, one of the three co-chairs currently overseeing the gardens' upkeep and restoration.

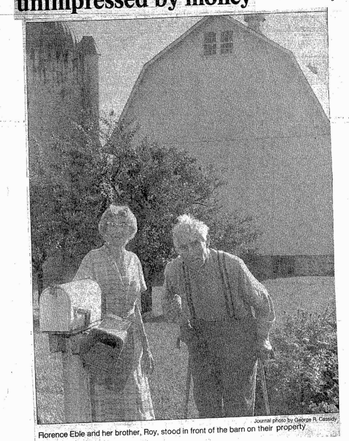
"It sure crack (them) Humane that she saw the need to maintain that green space," says Elaine Rudnick, another one of the co-chairs.

April 2005 / Wisco • 54 42

Milwaukee Journal 14 September 1987

Florence Eble Farm Brookfield Florence + Roy Eble

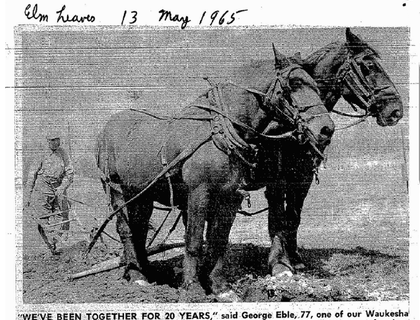
Land donors unimpressed by money



Journal photo by George R. Cassidy

Florence Eble and her brother, Roy, stood in front of the barn on their property

Elm Grove 13 May 1965



"WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR 20 YEARS," said George Eble, 77, one of our Waukesha neighbors, when questioned about his age and the horses ages. This picture was taken in a field on the corner of Bluemound and Janecek rds. Eble commented that it was such a nice day that he thought he would harness up Beauty and Nancy and do a little plowing. When this picture was taken, cars were lined up on both roads so that the children could watch Eble show them how it was done in "good old days."

MRS. MARY A. EBLE, nee Shaw, farming, Plank Road Junction; P. O. Waukesha; was born in Victory, Cayuga Co., N. Y., in 1819; she was the daughter of Samuel and Matilda Shaw, who came to Illinois during the Black Hawk war, in 1832, and in 1835, settled near Naperville, Ill., where he died, in 1858; he was an upright citizen, and was a soldier during the war of 1812; his wife is still living at Naperville. In 1834, Mary A., the subject of this notice, married in Naperville, Andrew Eble; he was born in Baden, Germany, in 1803, came to this country a young man; immediately after their marriage, they came to Wisconsin, settled in Milwaukee Co., thus becoming pioneer settlers of Wisconsin. Mr. Eble was accidentally shot while on a deer hunt, in Washington Co., Wis.; at the election preceding his death, he was elected a member of the Wisconsin Assembly; was an esteemed citizen, and in the town of Waukesha, where he had resided a number of years, he was chosen to fill various offices of honor and trust. Their living children are Ira, who was a soldier in the war of the rebellion, was wounded twice; Matilda J., wife of John Myers, he was also a soldier of the Union in the late war; Emory B., a leading farmer, Sec. 29, this town. Mrs. Eble owns a well-improved farm, which her youngest son, Emory B., manages; the two oldest children are in Butternut, Wis.

Address: 19480 Blue...

Record No. 005

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Mary Shaw was born in New York State in 1819 and grew up in Illinois, where she married Andrew Eble who had been born in Baden, Germany in 1803. The Ebles were pioneer settlers of Milwaukee County where they settled after their marriage in 1838.

This 80 acre farm was purchased in 1879 by Mary Eble after her husband, a newly elected State Assemblyman was accidentally killed while deer hunting. Her youngest son, Emery worked the farm, where he was joined later by his new wife, Julia Ann Winzenreid. They raised 12 children, 6 of whom were born in the eleven-room farmhouse which was built in 1895. The property was passed on to the two youngest children, Roy and Florence.

Florence, who has lived all her life in a farmhouse, recalls the solitude of the open spaces in this area. When she walked to school she could see planks of the original Watertown Plank Road sticking out of the gravel. Farmers used their horse-drawn farm implements, along with picks and shovels, to grade the road. Highway 18 (Bluemound) became a narrow lane of tarred macadam, then was paved to a width of 20 feet, widened to 40 feet, and later double-laned past her door.

The Eble Farm was originally split by Bluemound Road. "Until 1936 our barn was on the south side", said Florence. "We had to drive cattle along Bluemound and across the road to get them to pasture. Then we had to bring them back at night. Besides the dairy herd, we raised chickens, hogs, potatoes and grains. We had our own supply of milk, made our own butter, grew our own vegetables, and canned them to see us through the winter. We butchered and dressed our own hogs, salted our hams and shoulders, and gathered eggs from our chickens. Mother was a good manager and she gave this to her children, that's for sure".

The Ebles retired from farming and sold off a herd of dairy cows in 1956. They sold half of the original 80-acre farm south of Bluemound Road in 1964.In September 1987, 31 acres of land were donated by Florence and Roy Eble to Waukesha County for a park and ice rink. The property is to remain in public use and serve as a memorial to their family which had owned and farmed for over a century.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mary Eble Farm is representative of the Agricultural history of Brookfield Township. The Eble family began farming here in 1879, building the Queen Anne farmhouse in 1895, and continued agricultural pursuits through 1956.

Record No. 005

DESCRIPTION

INTENSIVE SURVEY FORM

Address: 19480 Bluemound Road

The house is of two-story frame construction. The T-Plan includes front (south) and rear gables with a two-story east-facing gabled bay (the "T") with cut-away corners on the first and second floors. As typical to Queen Anne design, windows are in a variety of shapes and sizes. Window trim was removed when the house was sided.

Numerous out-buildings, including two stone sheds directly behind the house, and a large ... north of Bluemound Road in 1936) still stand, giving a strong virtual ...

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SIGNIFICANCE

he Eble Farmhouse was a fine example of Queen Anne domestic arc...

equent covering and/or removal of decorative siding materials, porc...

tural integrity.

ing of the house, sheds and barns on an open site, however, is a ...

of rural Brookfield Township.

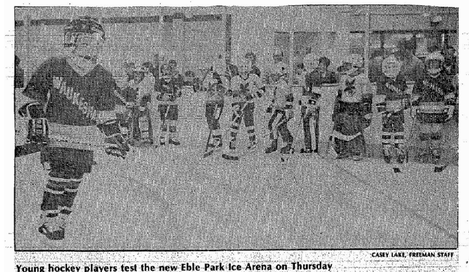
REFERENCES

e Landmark Tours, 1991.

a County, 1880.

Milwaukee Journal 17 April 1988

NEVER-ENDING BATTLE — Armed with a lawn mower and a dandelion stabber, Florence Eble of Brookfield went to work Monday to cut her lawn and do some weeding.



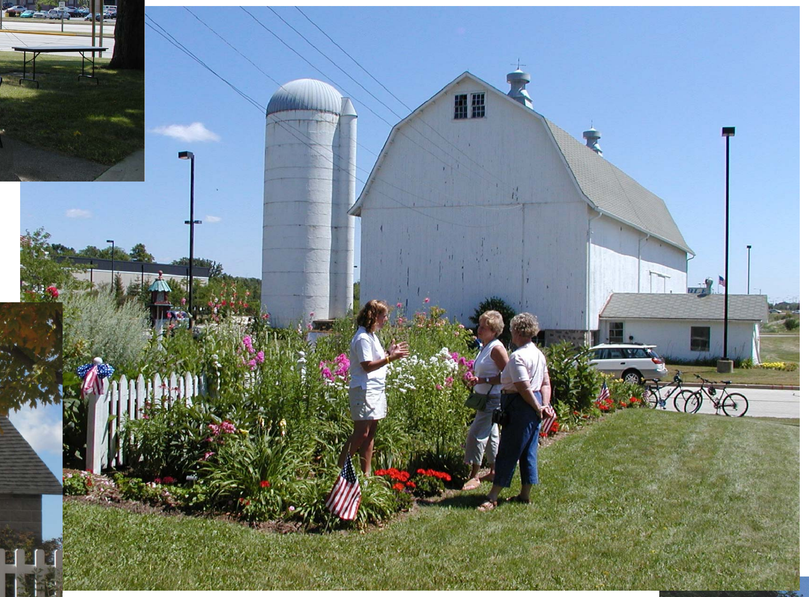
CASEY LAKE, FREEMAN STAFF

Young hockey players test the new Eble Park Ice Arena on Thursday

Waukesha County
Park System
Master Plan Update

Eble Farm History

Eblepark



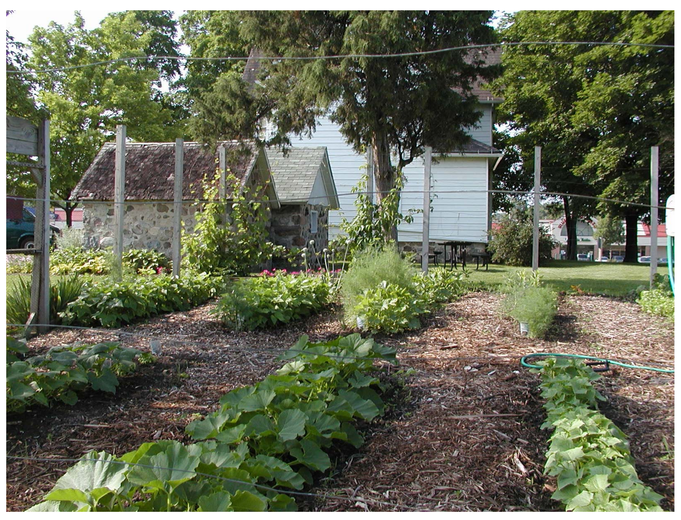
The farmhouse was removed in late 2012, but the original barn and outbuildings remain as icons to the the history of farming in the area.

The UW Extension and Master Gardeners hold special events, which provide opportunitiy for public education.

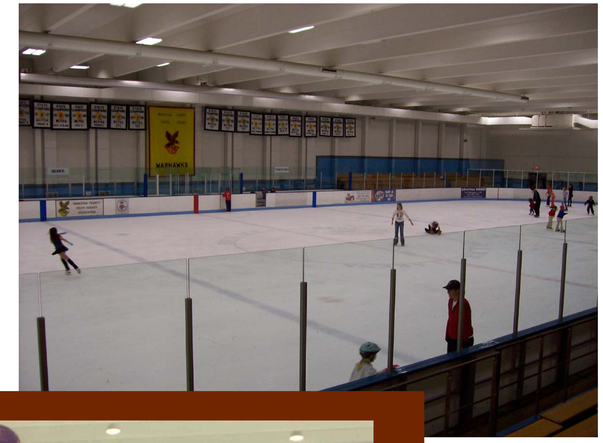
Florence's gardening legacy lives on, thanks to the Master Gardener volunteers.

The Eble Gardens are open to the public and maintained by the Southeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners.

The vegetables are donated to the Waukesha County Food Pantry and they label the different plant species, so there is an educational and charitable component to the gardens.



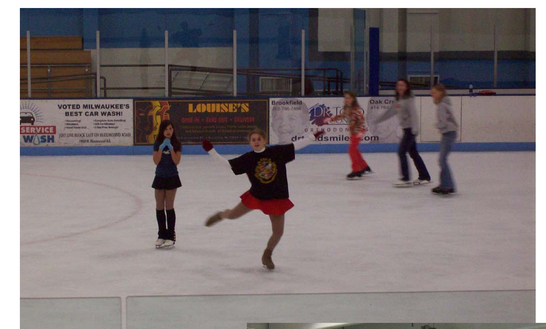
Eblepark



EBLE PARK ICE ARENA
WAUKESHA COUNTY PARKS

Eble Ice Arena is operated eleven months per year, offering a variety of experiences including: public skating, birthday parties, youth hockey, adult hockey, figure skating, learn to skate programs, and group and school outings.

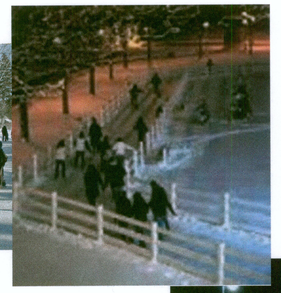
Eble Park Ice Arena was dedicated on November 17, 1988, with Florence attending the ceremony.



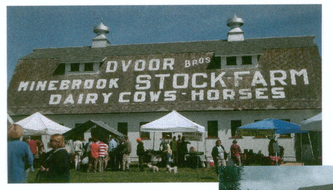
Eblepark

Repurpose Barn for Rentals

Nature Trails



Outdoor Ice Path



Farmers Market

Nature Play Area

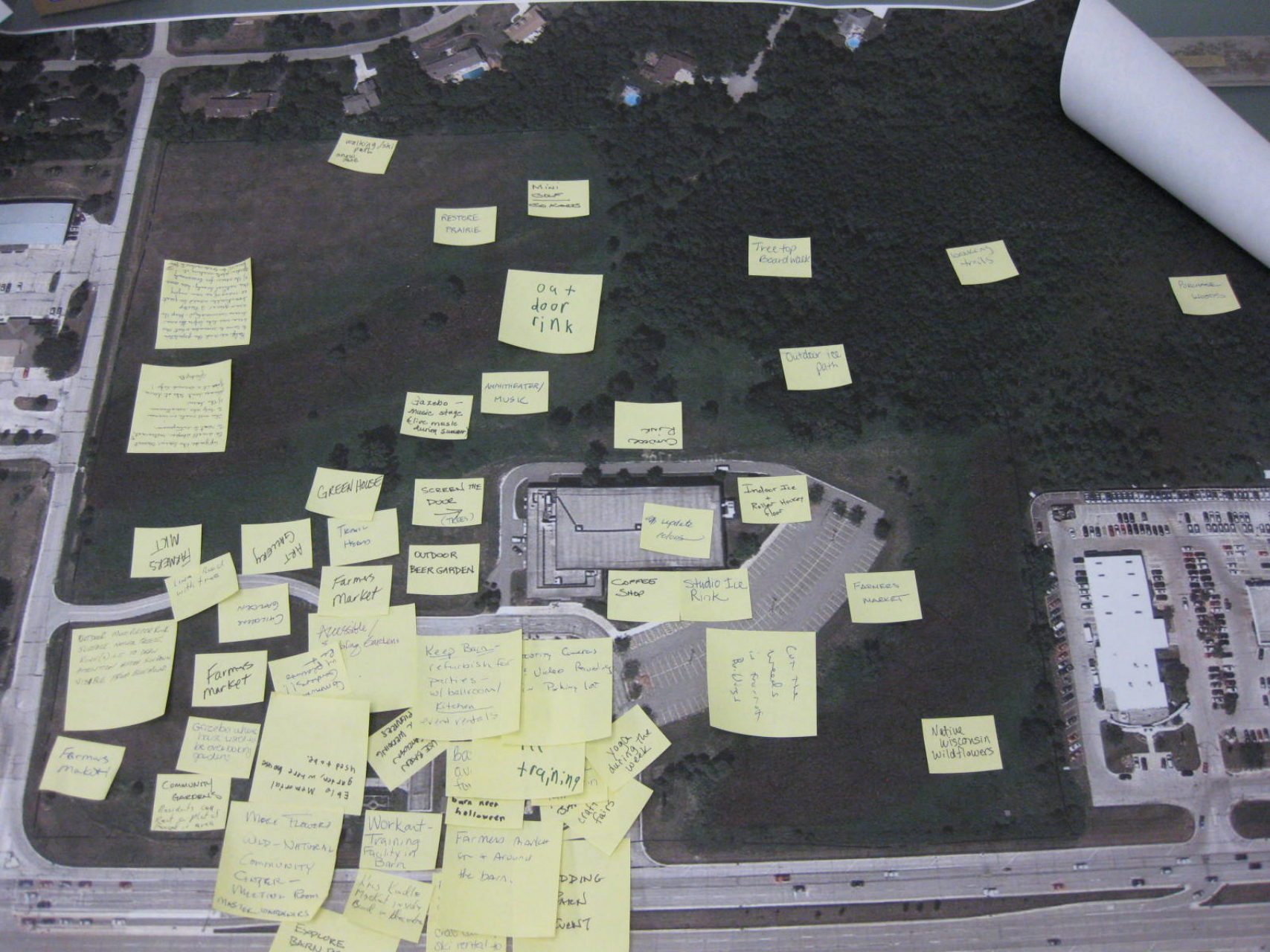
Treetop Boardwalk

Children's Garden

Sculpture Garden

Community Gardens

Enabling Garden



Mini Golf
RESTORE PRAIRIE
Tree top Boardwalk
out door rink
Outdoor ice path
AMPHITHEATER/ MUSIC
Gazebo - music stage (live music during summer)
GREEN HOUSE
SCREEN THE DOOR
Indoor Ice + Roller Hockey floor
update colors
FARMERS MKT
ART GALLERY
OUTDOOR BEER GARDEN
Farmers Market
COFFEE SHOP
Studio Ice Rink
FARMERS MARKET
Accessible / bring Gardens
Keep Barn - refurbish for parties - w/ ballroom/ Kitchen event rentals
Farmers market
Native wisconsin wildflowers
training
yoga during the week
Farmers market
COMMUNITY GARDENS
More Flowers WILD - NATURAL COMMUNITY CENTER - MEETING ROOM MASTER WINDOWS
Workout - Training Facility in Barn
barn need halloween
Farmers market on + Around the barn.
EXPLORE BARN

upgrade the barn, convert
to small shops, restaurant, etc
to rent to entrepreneurs.
This will create an income
to help the maintenance
of the barn.
Please don't take it down,
give it a second life!

Gladys

Help us and the population
to come to remember what this
area was like before the area
became commercialized - Keep the
area green. A treetop
boardwalk would be great
so many of us can enjoy
this natural beauty. Use
of the acres for community
garden plots make
possible for everyone