

Golden Ridge Nature Area

Location: Earl Street & Flag Avenue North

Nature Area Size: 2.51 Acres

Description

Golden Ridge Nature Area is located within a residential neighborhood on the northwest corner of Golden Valley with trail connections to General Mills Research Nature Area and adjacent neighborhoods. The nature area is relatively small, and contains mostly wooded habitats with a mix of deciduous trees and shrubs and coniferous trees. The landscape is rolling with upland and lowland areas.

Forest and Woodlands

The majority of the land cover at the Golden Ridge Nature Area is wooded. The majority of the trees are mixed hardwoods including aspen, green ash, box elder and a few oak trees. A band of white and red pine crosses through the nature area, and may be a remnant of a pine plantation.

Wetlands

No wetlands are present within the Golden Ridge Nature Area

Aquatic Resources

No aquatic resources are present within the Golden Ridge Nature Area

Prairie and Grassland

The southern entrance to the nature area contains some areas of overgrown non-native grasses, but there is no prairie present within the nature area.

Invasive Species

Buckthorn density is very high within the wooded portion of the nature area, and has doubled in density over the past 10 years. It is now greater than half of the land cover, and will likely continue to expand in density if left uncontrolled.

Table 5.9 Invasive Species Cover Percent Change 2003-2013

Description	%Cover2003	% Cover 2013	% Change
Common Buckthorn	30	60	+30

Site Recommendations

Natural Resources

Manage buckthorn (high)

Buckthorn is present within the nature area, and some areas are of the greatest density within the City. Removal of buckthorn within the park would be a significant undertaking, but would transform this area if it could be controlled.

Manage and enhance forest and woodlands (medium)

Continue to manage and enhance the woodlands by removing undesirable species and planting new trees, including the proliferation of the unique area of mixed pines.

Amenities

Install entry signs (high)

Golden Ridge Nature Area has no entry signs. Signs should be at least installed at each of the main entrances, including the access off of Earl Street and Flag Avenue North using approved style type.

Install pet waste disposal system (high)

Golden Ridge Nature Area should include waste disposal systems for their dogs; one at each main entry. This keeps the nature area clean, healthy and attractive.

Expand Nature Area (medium)

Explore the opportunity to expand the Nature Area through agreement or easement on adjacent Hennepin County property, and through the dedication of land or perpetual easement from General Mills, as opportunities arise or development occurs.

Install bench (medium)

There are no benches located within the nature area. Installing two benches along each of the main trail segments within the park would provide the trail user with a place to rest or simply enjoy the natural surroundings.

Install interpretive sign (low)

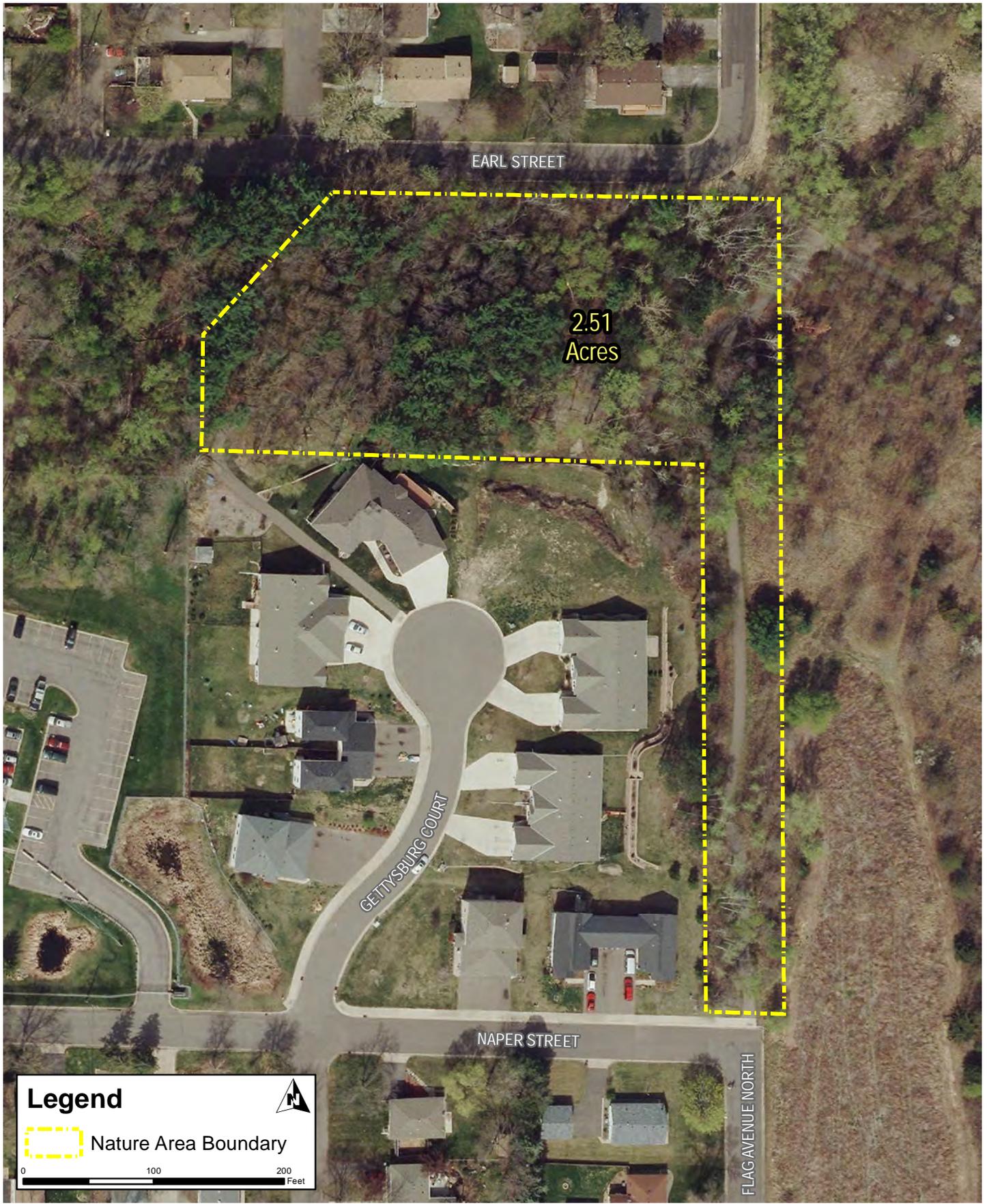
Golden Ridge Nature Area is unique in that it has a planted stand of mixed pines in the heart of the site. Providing an interpretive sign near the stand would provide the user with an interesting history of the site.

Upgrade trash Receptacle (low)

The trash receptacle is one of the first amenities viewed upon entering the nature area. As such, it should not only provide maintenance functionality and efficiency but should also be attractive and reflect the image of the both Golden Ridge and General Mills Research Nature Area. At least two should be should be located within the nature area; one off of Earl Street and one off of Flag Avenue North.

Table 5.10 Golden Ridge Nature Area Improvement Priorities

Priority (H, M, L)	Management Type	Description	Action	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Cost Opinion
High	Upland woods	Buckthorn management	Remove buckthorn	2	Acre	\$4,000	\$8,000
Medium	Upland woods	Forest management	Manage and enhance woodlands, remove undesirable trees and plant new, including mixed pine area	2	Acre	\$4,000	\$8,000
Medium	Access	Expand the Nature Area	Obtain agreement, easement or property	N/A	N/A	TBD	TBD
Medium	Amenity	Continuity of entry sign design through nature area system	Install new sign at entry locations	3	Each	\$5,000	\$15,000
Medium	Amenity	Naturals resources education	Install interpretive sign along the trail within the conifer plantation	1	Each	\$3,000	\$3,000
Medium	Amenity	Continuity of bench design through nature area system	Install new benches along two main trails	2	Each	\$1,500	\$3,000
Low	Amenity	Continuity of trash receptacle design throughout nature area system	Install new waste/ recycle trash receptacle at entry	2	Each	\$2,000	\$4,000
Low	Amenity	Pet waste disposal system at key access point	Install new pet waste disposal system	2	Each	\$600	\$1,200



Legend

 Nature Area Boundary

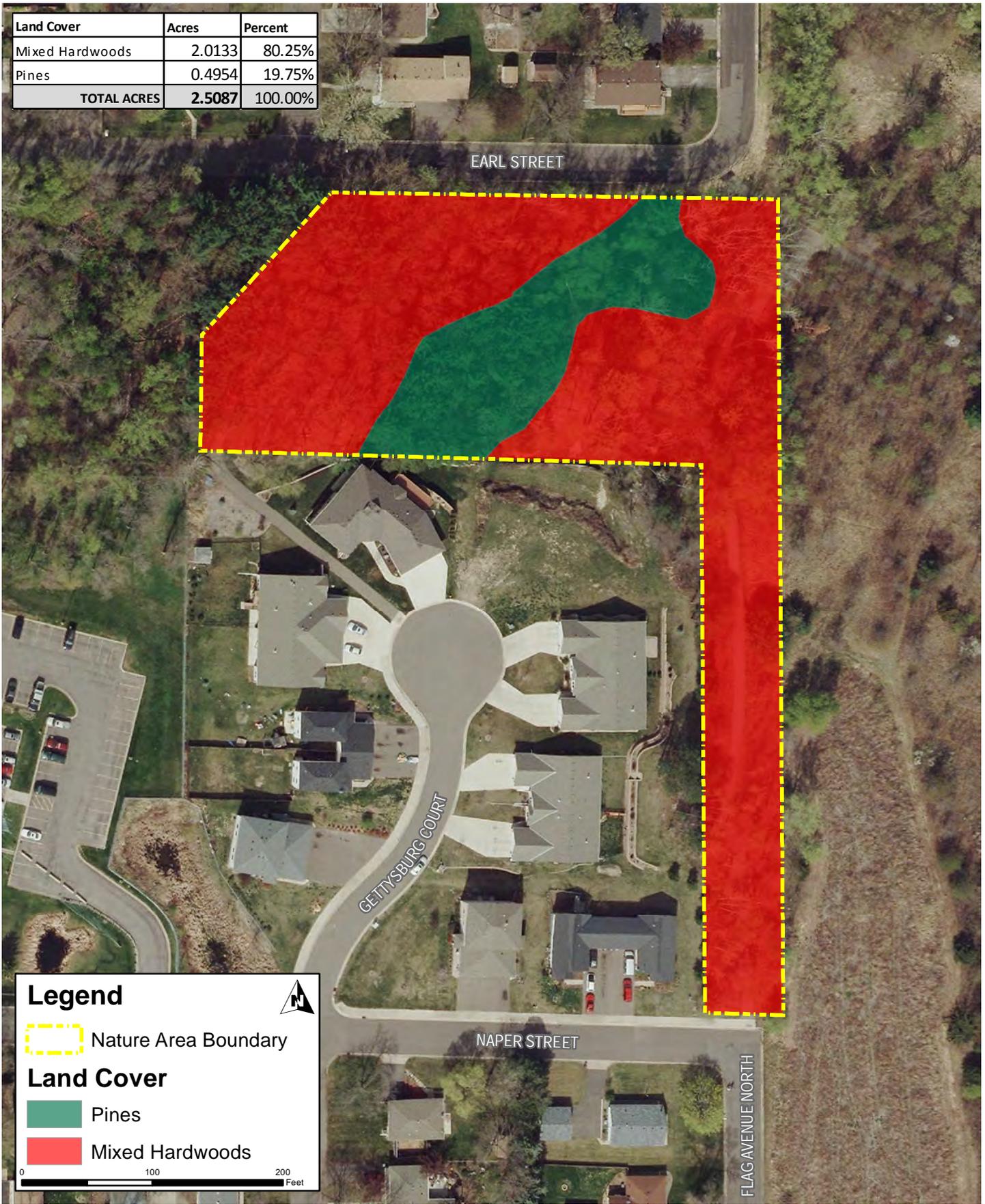
0 100 200 Feet



Golden Ridge Nature Area - 2012 Aerial
Golden Valley Natural Resources Management Plan

FIGURE 5.22

Land Cover	Acres	Percent
Mixed Hardwoods	2.0133	80.25%
Pines	0.4954	19.75%
TOTAL ACRES	2.5087	100.00%



Legend

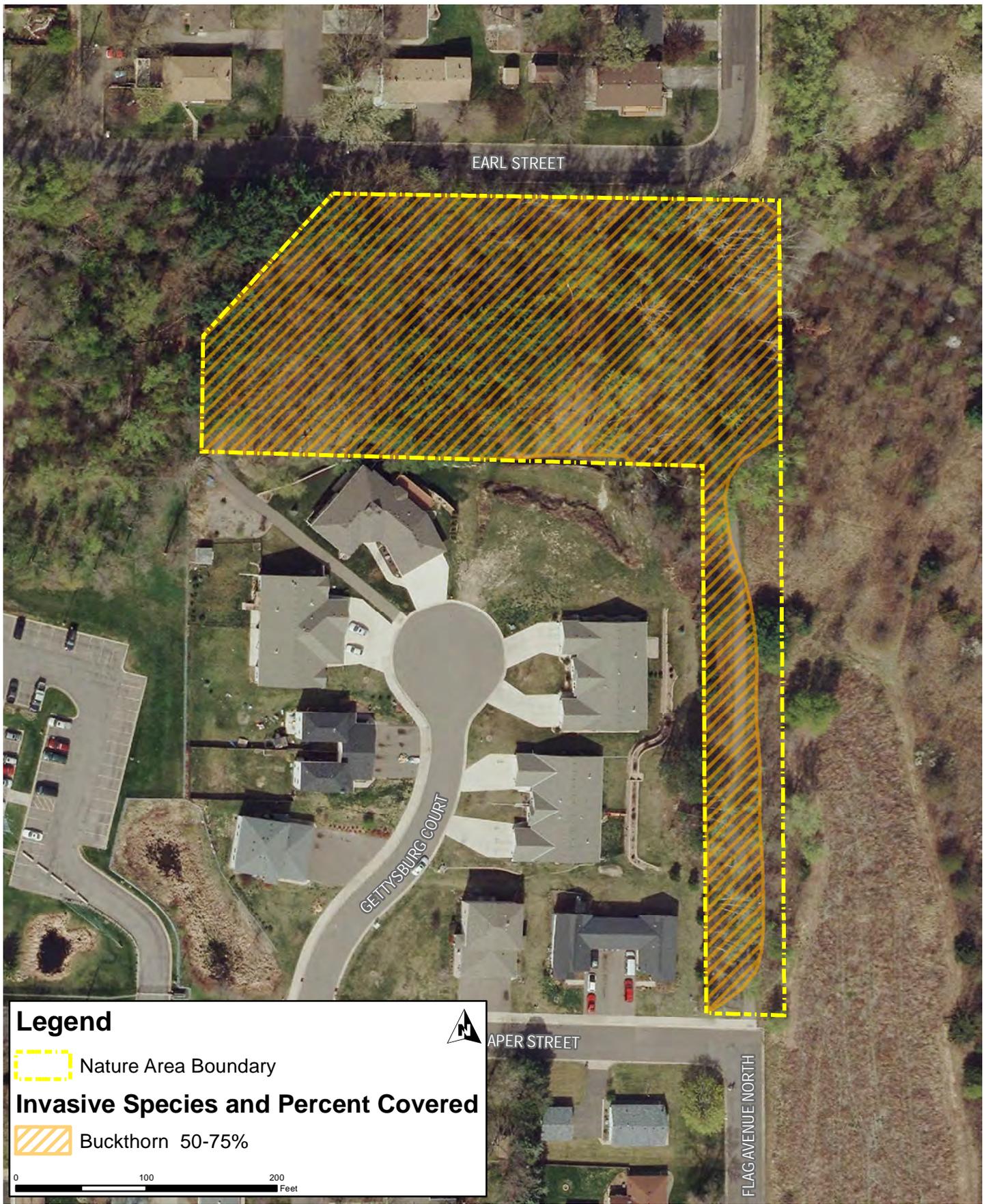
 Nature Area Boundary

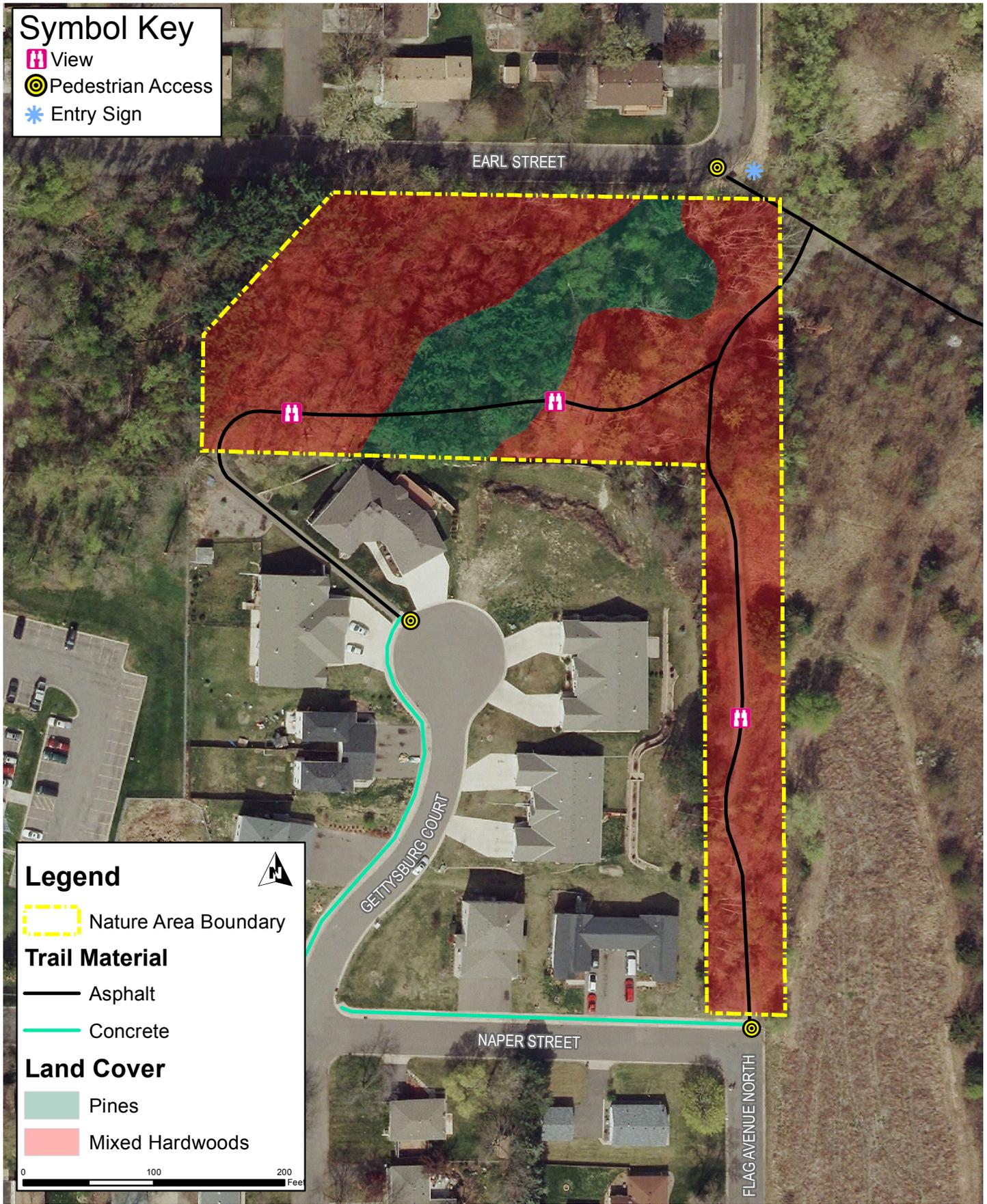
Land Cover

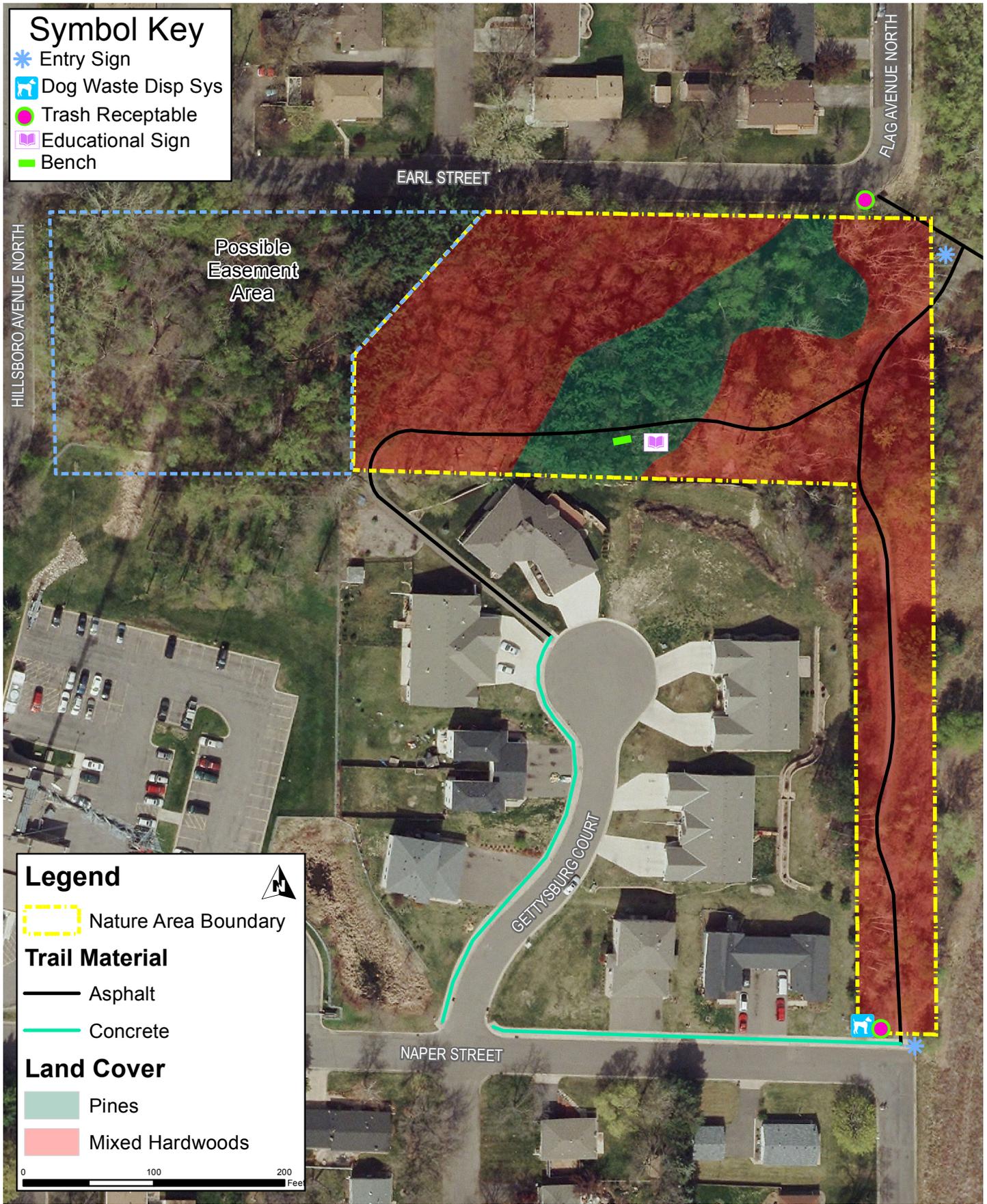
 Pines

 Mixed Hardwoods

0 100 200 Feet







Symbol Key

- Entry Sign
- Dog Waste Disp Sys
- Trash Receptable
- Educational Sign
- Bench

Legend

- Nature Area Boundary

Trail Material

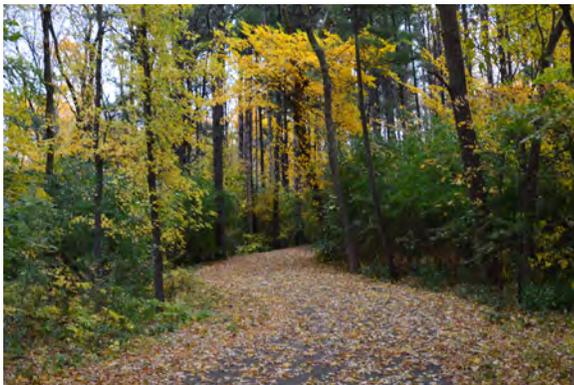
- Asphalt
- Concrete

Land Cover

- Pines
- Mixed Hardwoods

0 100 200 Feet

Golden Ridge Nature Area - Photographs



Golden Ridge Nature Area - Photographs

