# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF REPORT

For Planning Commission Meeting of February 20, 2014

SUBJECT: Stapp Nature Area Addition Rezoning for City Council Approval

3301Traverwood Drive Project No. Z14-001

## PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby recommends that the Mayor and City Council approve the Stapp Nature Area Addition rezoning from R4D (Multiple-Family Dwelling District) to PL (Public Land District).

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the petition be **approved** because the proposed land use is consistent with the permitted uses and intent of the PL (Public Land) district.

### **LOCATION**

The site fronts on Traverwood Drive and extends west to Leslie Golf Course. It is south of Huron Parkway and Stapp Nature Area, and north of Plymouth Road (Northeast Planning Area and Traver Creek watershed).

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

Staff is petitioning to rezone a City-owned parcel currently zoned R4D (Multiple-Family Dwelling District) to PL (Public Land District). The parcel was originally part the 21.84 acre Traverwood Apartments site at 2225 Traverwood Drive. To preserve natural features on site, the owners of 2225 Traverwood divided off and donated to the City 2.02 acres at the northwest corner of the site, to be added to the adjacent to Stapp Nature Area. City Council accepted this donation in December 2013, prior to granting site plan approval for the proposed Traverwood Apartments in January 2014.

This parcel, which will expand the existing Stapp Nature Area, contains several "highest concern" natural features, including significant landmark trees and a steep slope. The developers of Traverwood Apartments have committed to creating a public pedestrian access on their site to connect the Stapp Nature Area to Leslie Woods, formalized by a recorded access easement. Park staff will work to determine the exact route of this public pathway so that it minimizes any impact on natural features. A general route of this pathway is shown on the attached plan.

Stapp Nature Area is currently an 8.11-acre natural area containing a mature native forest and a small vernal pool. It is adjacent to Tuebingen Park and has a connection to Leslie Woods, all of which together provide a corridor for wildlife.

### **REZONING ANALYSIS**

Transfer of ownership, regardless of entity, does not automatically trigger a rezoning and must be formally requested.

It has been the City's policy to zone publicly owned land PL since 1963, when the Zoning Ordinance was expanded from four or five zoning classifications to the 25 or so now used (one of which is the PL Public Land District classification). All lands owned by the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor Public Schools District, Ann Arbor District Library, and the University of Michigan are considered publicly owned and appropriate for PL designation. As with other zoning designations, the PL classification does not distinguish which public agency owns the underlying land or the specific land use.

Land owned by the City of Ann Arbor for public parks (parkland) is distinguished from other publicly owned land in at least one of three ways. Inclusion in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (the PROS Plan) is the primary way that parkland is identified and distinguished. The PROS Plan is an element of the City's master plan and is updated and adopted periodically. It contains the official list and map of all parkland within the City.

A second way that parkland is distinguished from other public lands is by City Council resolution. City Council approves all land acquisitions and accepts all land dedications by resolution. In this case, City Council accepted the land donation on December 2, 2013. The resolution will typically indicate the service unit that has purchased or received the land and the reason it has been purchased or accepted. This method serves to distinguish parkland that has been purchased or dedicated between PROS Plan updates.

Finally, land may come with pre-existing deed restrictions that limit its use to parkland. Deed restrictions for public park use also serve to distinguish parkland from other public land that has been purchased or dedicated between PROS Plan updates. This parcel has no deed restrictions.

As an addition to Stapp Nature Area, this parcel will be included in the PROS Plan and will be considered a natural area. Under the PROS plan, management goals for natural areas involve protecting and improving the ecological integrity of a site's natural resources through activities such as invasive plant removal. Management is performed by the City or volunteers acting under the guidance of City staff.

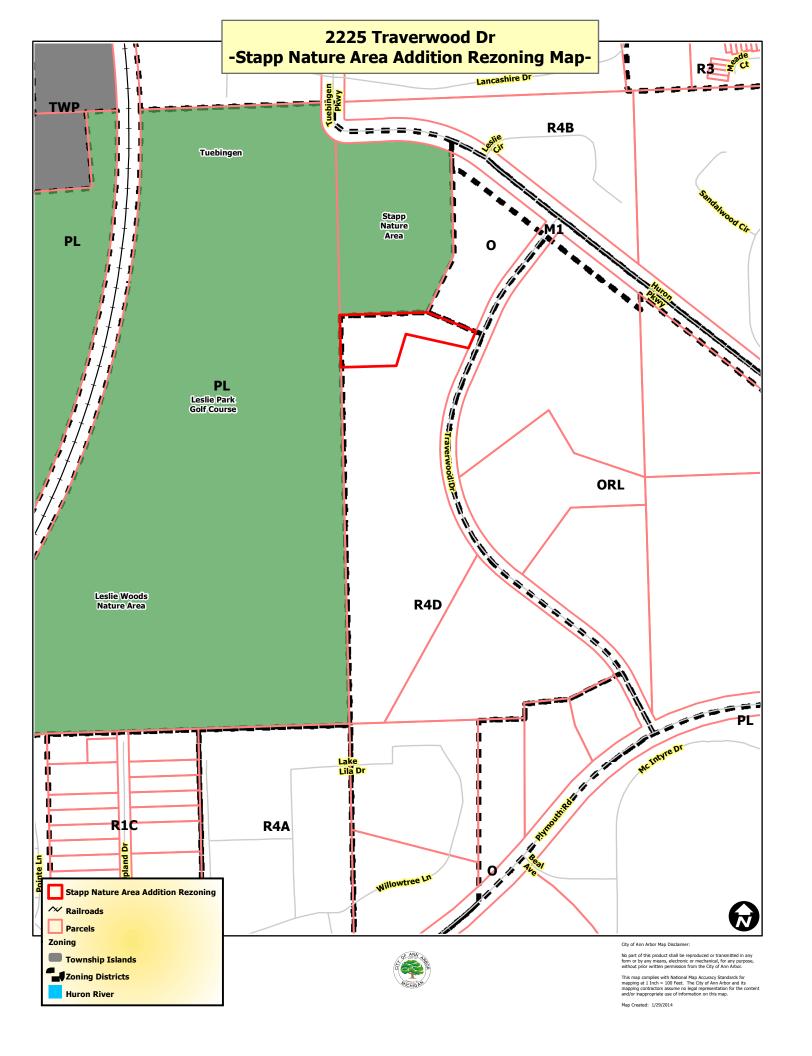
Prepared by Katy Ryan Reviewed by Wendy Rampson

Attachments: Zoning/Parcel Map

Aerial Photo

Traverwood Apartments Approved Site Plan Pedestrian Pathway

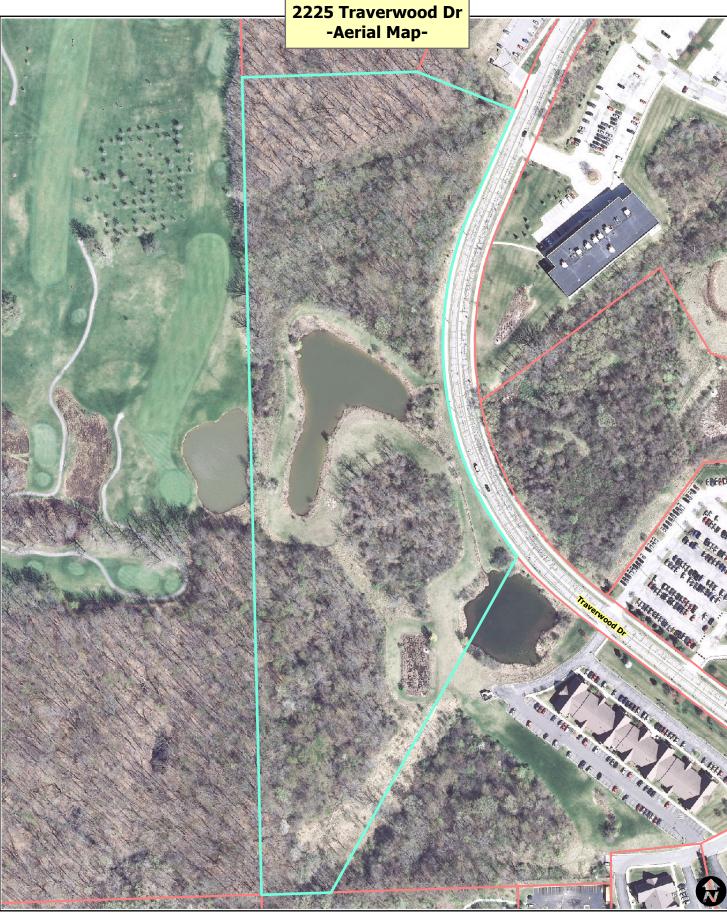
c: Park and Recreation Services City Assessor Systems Planning File No. Z14-001











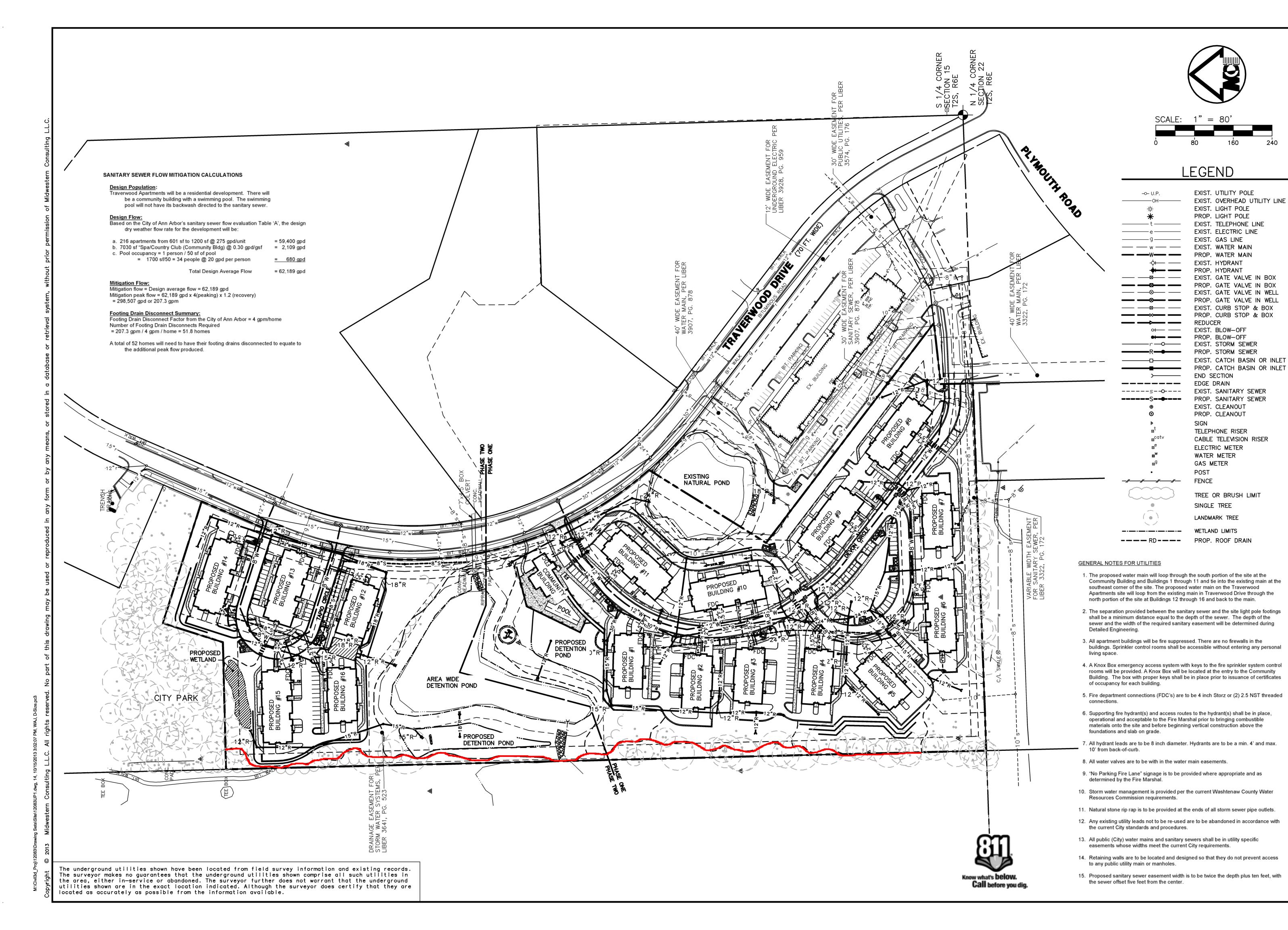




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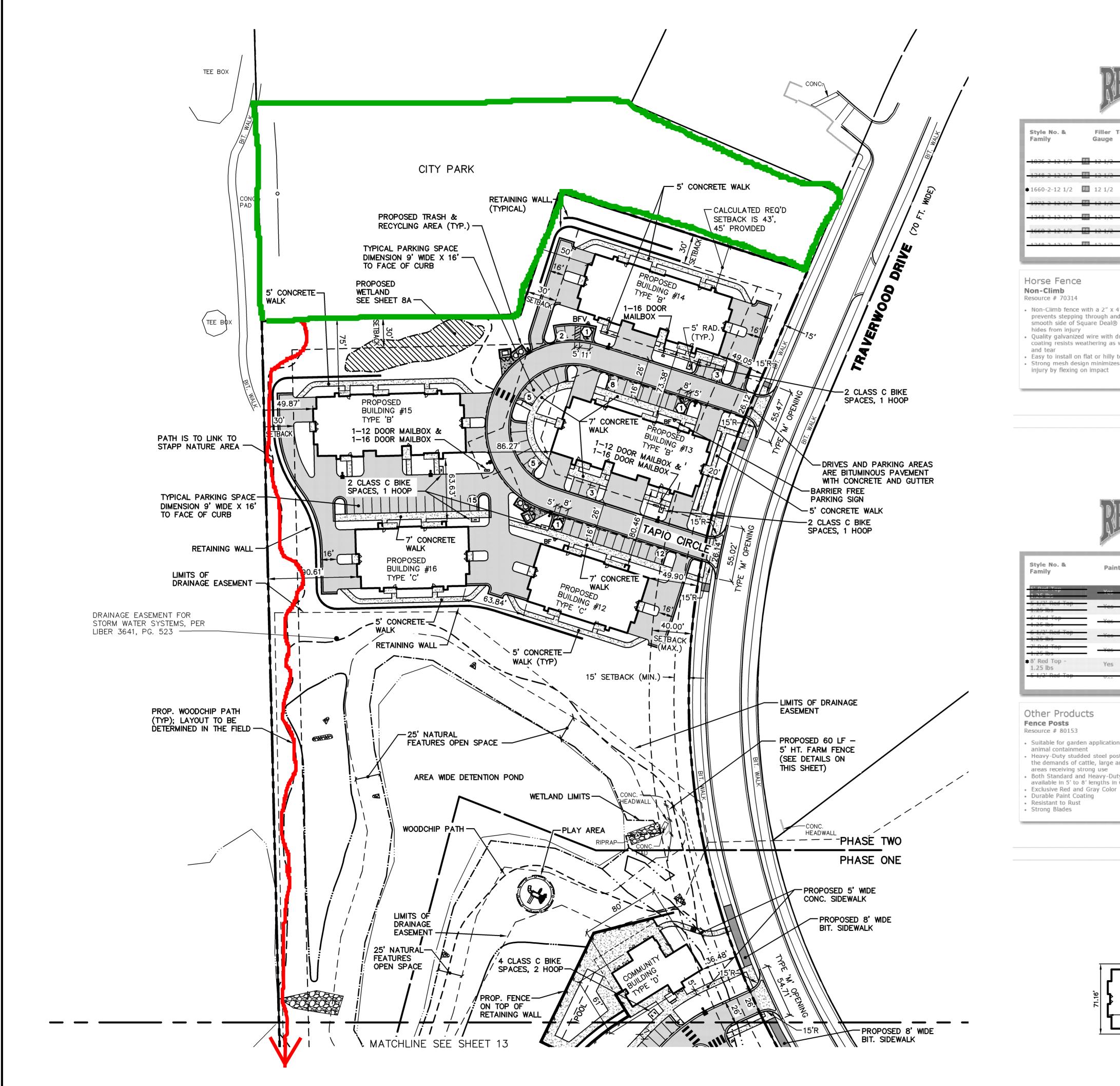
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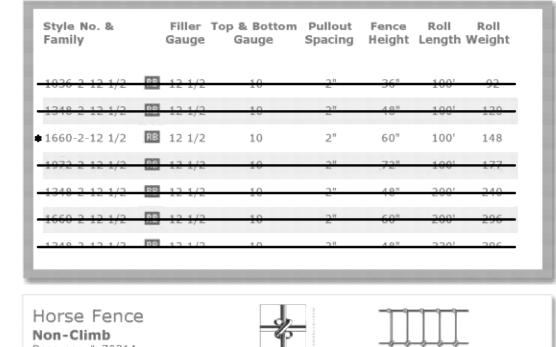
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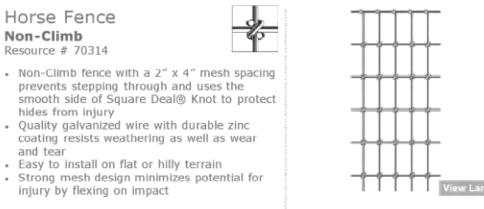
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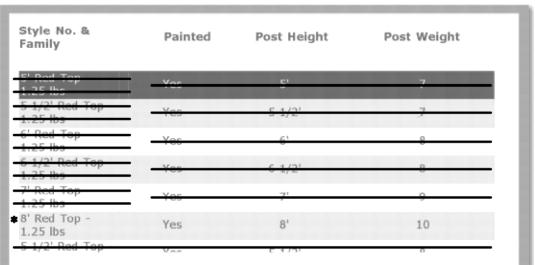








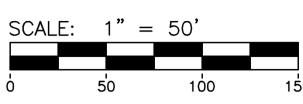






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# **LEGEND**

EXIST. LIGHT POLE FENCE WETLAND LIMITS NATURAL FEATURE OPEN SPACE

AROUND WETLANDS EDGE OF WATER PROP. CONCRETE CURB AND GUTTER PROP. WOODCHIP PATH

BARRIER FREE PARKING SIGN VAN ACCESSIBLE BARRIER FREE PARKING SIGN

PROP. BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT

PROP. CONCRETE

PROP. HEAVY DUTY CONCRETE

PROP. BITUMINOUS SIDEWALK

PARKING LEGEND

NUMBER OF STANDARD PARKING SPACES IN ROW NUMBER OF BARRIER FREE PARKING SPACES IN ROW

There are two types of apartment buildings. Type 'B' is two stories in height, includes 11 ground level garages, and 15 units per building. Type 'C' is two stories in height, includes 8 ground level garages, and 12 units per building. Units will have 1 or 2 bedrooms, are designed primarily for adults, couples, and young professionals, but may be occupied by others as well. The

Community Building is one story in height with a walkout lower level. Vehicular parking is provided at the ratio of 1.51 spaces per unit. Barrier free and van accessible spaces are provided as required.

Bicycle parking includes 152 Class A spaces and 36 Class C spaces, exceeding the 52 spaces required. All curb radii are 3' unless otherwise noted. Trash and recycling will be in stored in dumpster enclosures and screened

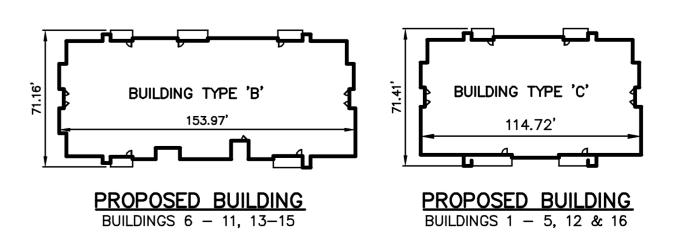
300 gallon recycling containers. See the locations on the Dimensional Site Plan. Trash pickup will be public. See details for site furnishings.

A City of Ann Arbor Local Wetland Use Permit is required. An application was submitted as part of this Site Plan application. An MDEQ joint use permit is also required.

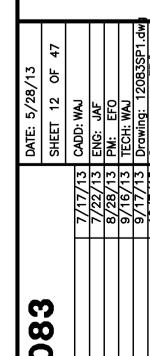
The site amenities include a Community Building, swimming pool, a measured jogging/walking trail, and a play area. Miscellaneous site furnishings such as picnic tables, benches, and other items will also be

10. The City is to install a "Stop" sign at the proposed curb cuts on Traverwood Drive after the required Traffic Control Order has been authorized. The developer shall pay all associated costs. See the play area detail on sheet 20.

The alignment of the proposed path connecting the Stapp Nature Area at the north end of the site to the Leslie Woods at the southwest corner of the site is to be determined in the field by the owner and City of Ann Arbor Parks representative. An easement will then be prepared to reflect the final pathway alignment.



TYPICAL BUILDING DIMENSIONS



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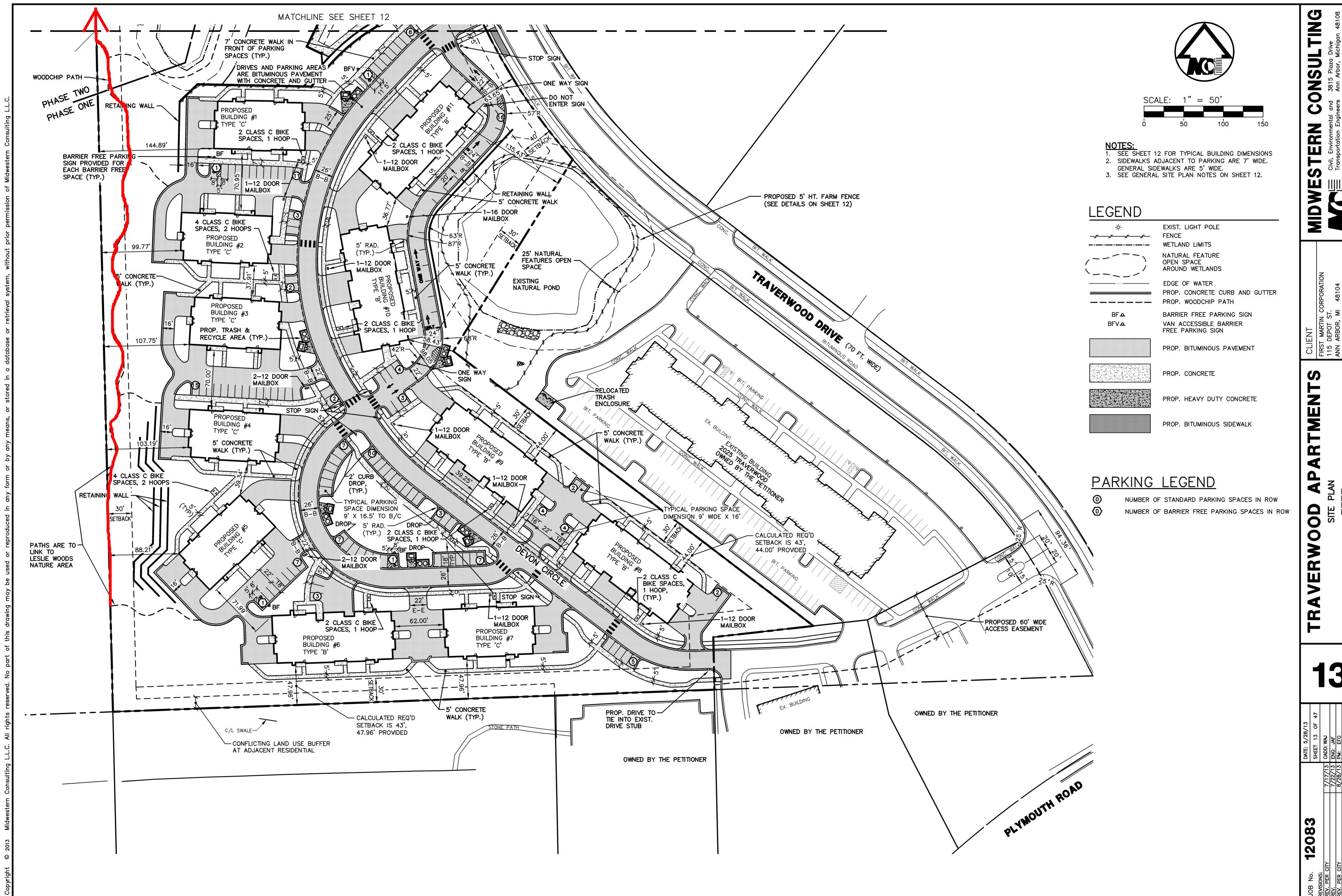
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