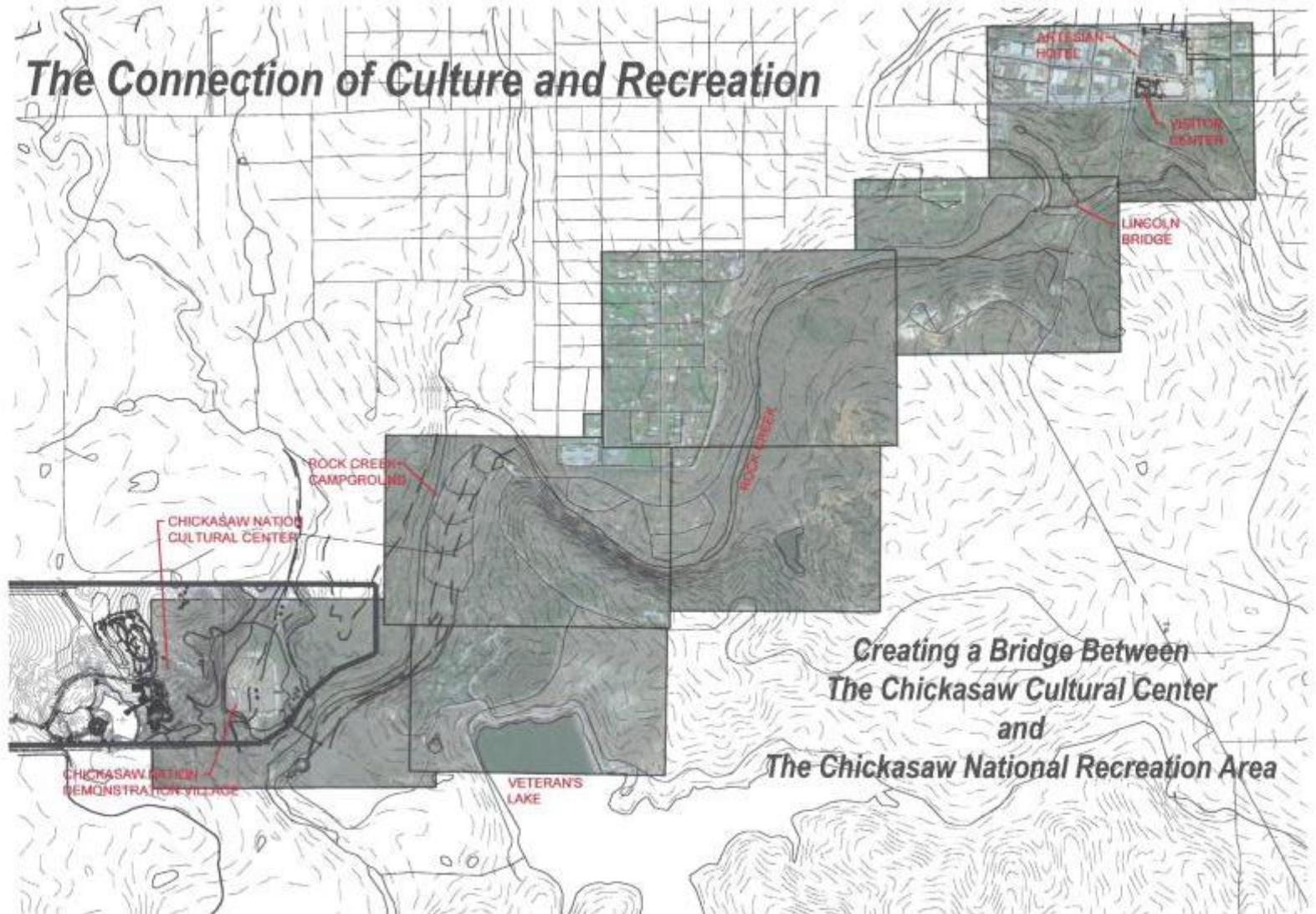


The Connection of Culture and Recreation



*Creating a Bridge Between
The Chickasaw Cultural Center
and
The Chickasaw National Recreation Area*



CHICKASAW NATION CULTURAL CENTER AND NATIONAL RECREATION AREA BRIDGE
Sulphur, Oklahoma
June 28, 2012

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Concept Design

1

Page



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	COVER SHEET
2	TABLE OF CONTENTS
3	VICINITY MAP
4	AREA SITE MAP
5	DESIGN NARRATIVE
6	PERSPECTIVE VIEW
7	PERSPECTIVE VIEW
8	PERSPECTIVE VIEW
9	PERSPECTIVE VIEW
10	PERSPECTIVE VIEW
11	PERSPECTIVE VIEW
12	BOTANICAL TRAIL NARRATIVE
13	ENLARGED SITE PLAN
14	PARK WALKING/BICYCLING TRAIL NARRATIVE
15	OVERALL SITE PLAN/ TRAIL MAP



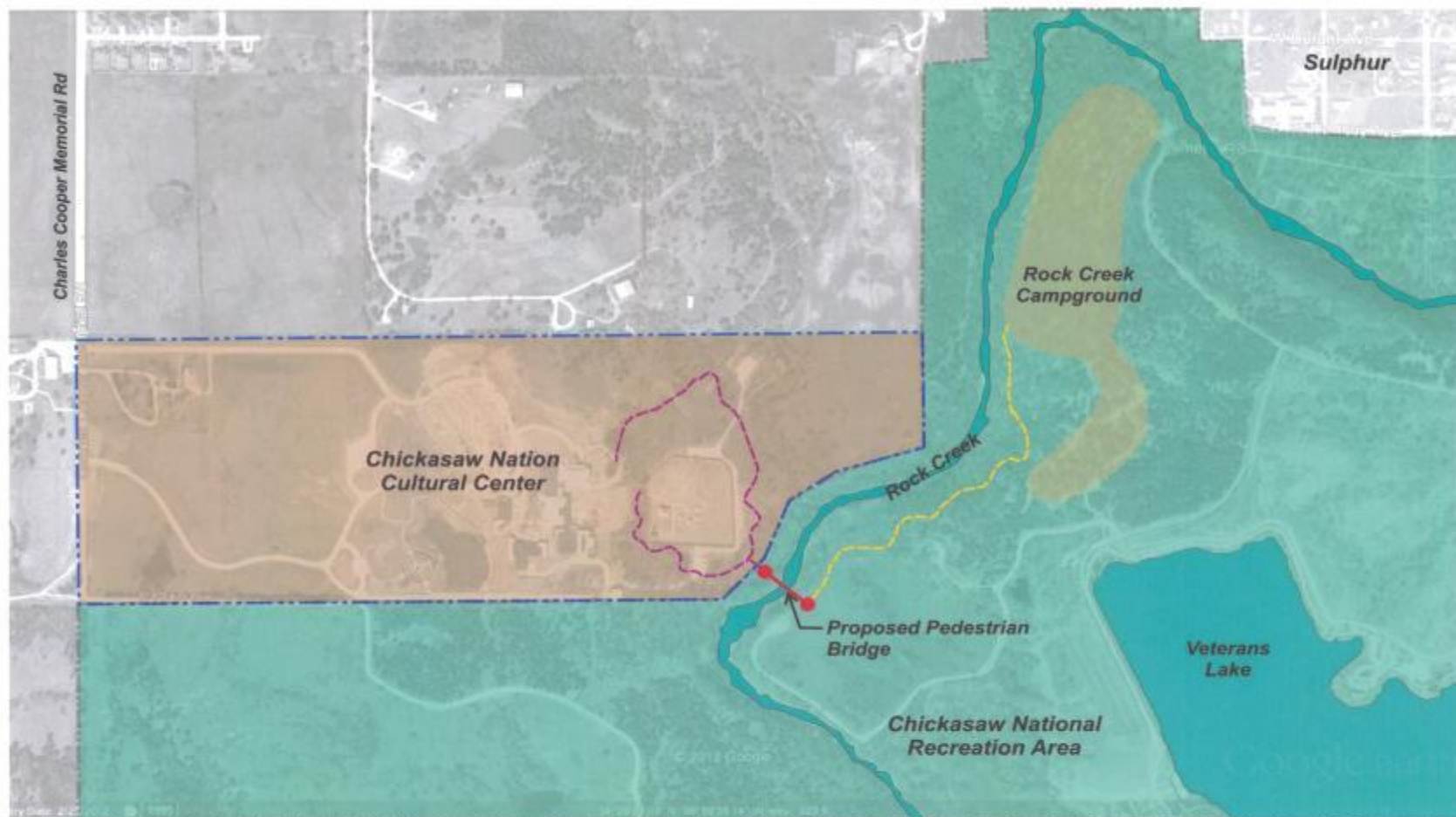


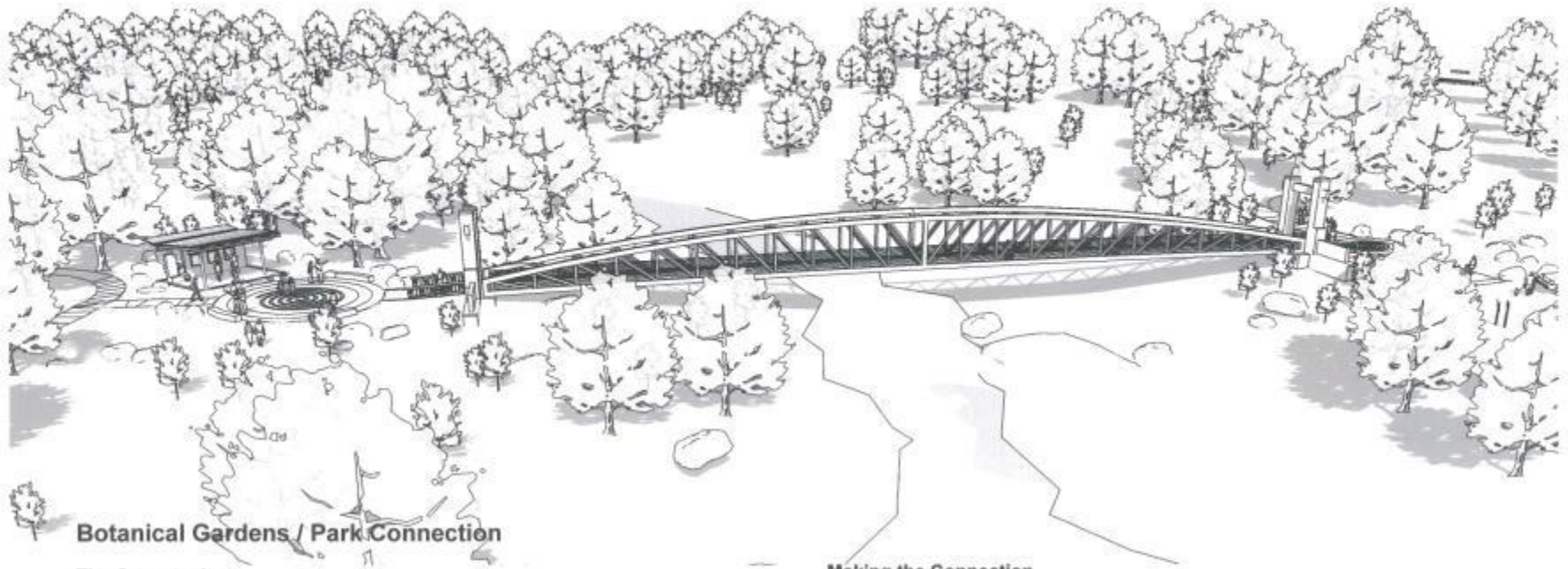
AREA VICINITY MAP



ENLARGED VICINITY MAP







Botanical Gardens / Park Connection

The Opportunity

The Chickasaw Cultural Center is located on the southwestern edge of the City of Sulphur 0.7 miles south of Highway 7 on Cooper Memorial Drive. It shares 2 of its property lines with the Chickasaw National Recreation Area national park land that has played a significant part of the history of tourism for Sulphur over the years.

The park attracts thousands visitors annually from a multi-state region, nationally and internationally. These visitors come to enjoy the features of the park, the outdoors and nature. The opportunity to experience another attraction while spending time at the park would be of great interest.

The main entrance to the Chickasaw Cultural Center on Cooper Memorial Drive is primarily for vehicular traffic that includes personal vehicles and tour buses. An alternative method of getting to the Chickasaw Cultural Center with its adjacency to the park land would be by foot or bicycle. Park visitors are already in the mode of enjoying nature by both of these methods of travel.

Making the Connection

The southeast corner of the Chickasaw Cultural Center provides a unique opportunity to provide this alternative point of arrival. A prominent feature of the park is Rock Creek which meanders north to south and runs along the southeast property line of the Cultural Center. The creek is spring fed and flows throughout the seasons. Within less than a half of a mile there are 4 key attractions of the park; Rock Creek Campground, Veteran's Lake, Bromide Hill and the Bison Pasture.

A strategically located bridge over Rock Creek will allow park visitors that are afoot and on bicycle direct access into the southeast corner of the Chickasaw Cultural Center. Upon crossing the bridge, visitors would arrive at a Welcome Pavilion that would provide information and directions to the Cultural Center features. A walking path would extend from the pavilion and take the visitors through the Spiral Gardens at which point they could continue along the path and for a botanical experience or enter the Chickasaw Village. Both choices will lead them to the central gathering space of the Cultural Center where they will find themselves at the amphitheater and central plaza ready to experience firsthand the Exhibit Center, Theater and Café.





AERIAL VIEW OF BRIDGE LOOKING NORTH TOWARDS CULTURAL CENTER



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Perspective View
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6

Page



VIEW LOOKING NORTH



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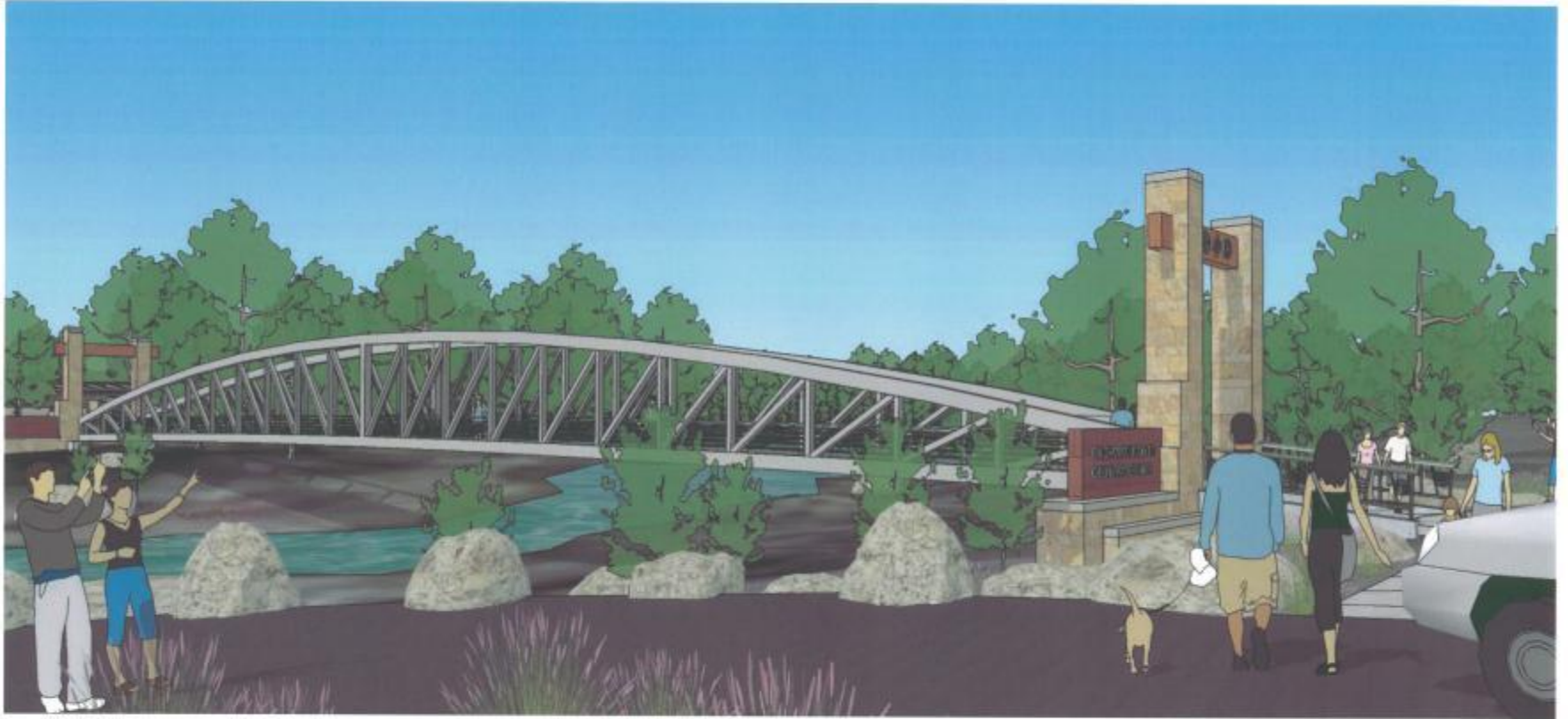
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Perspective View
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7

Page



VIEW OF BRIDGE OVER ROCK CREEK LOOKING NORTHEAST



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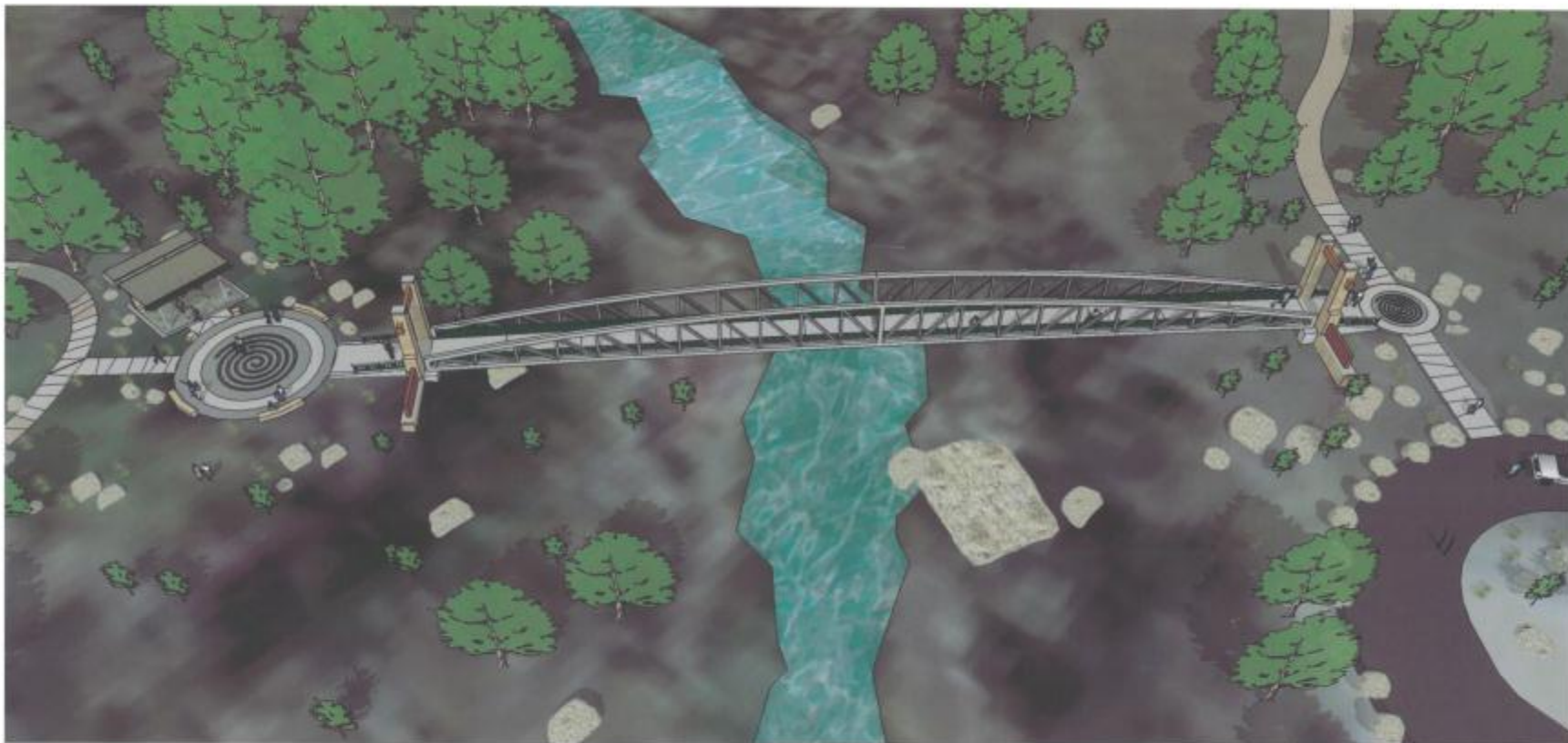
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8

Page



AERIAL VIEW LOOKING EAST



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Perspective Views
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9

Page



VIEW OF BRIDGE LOOKING SOUTHEAST TOWARDS RECREATION AREA





VIEW OF INFORMATION CENTER LOOKING SOUTHEAST

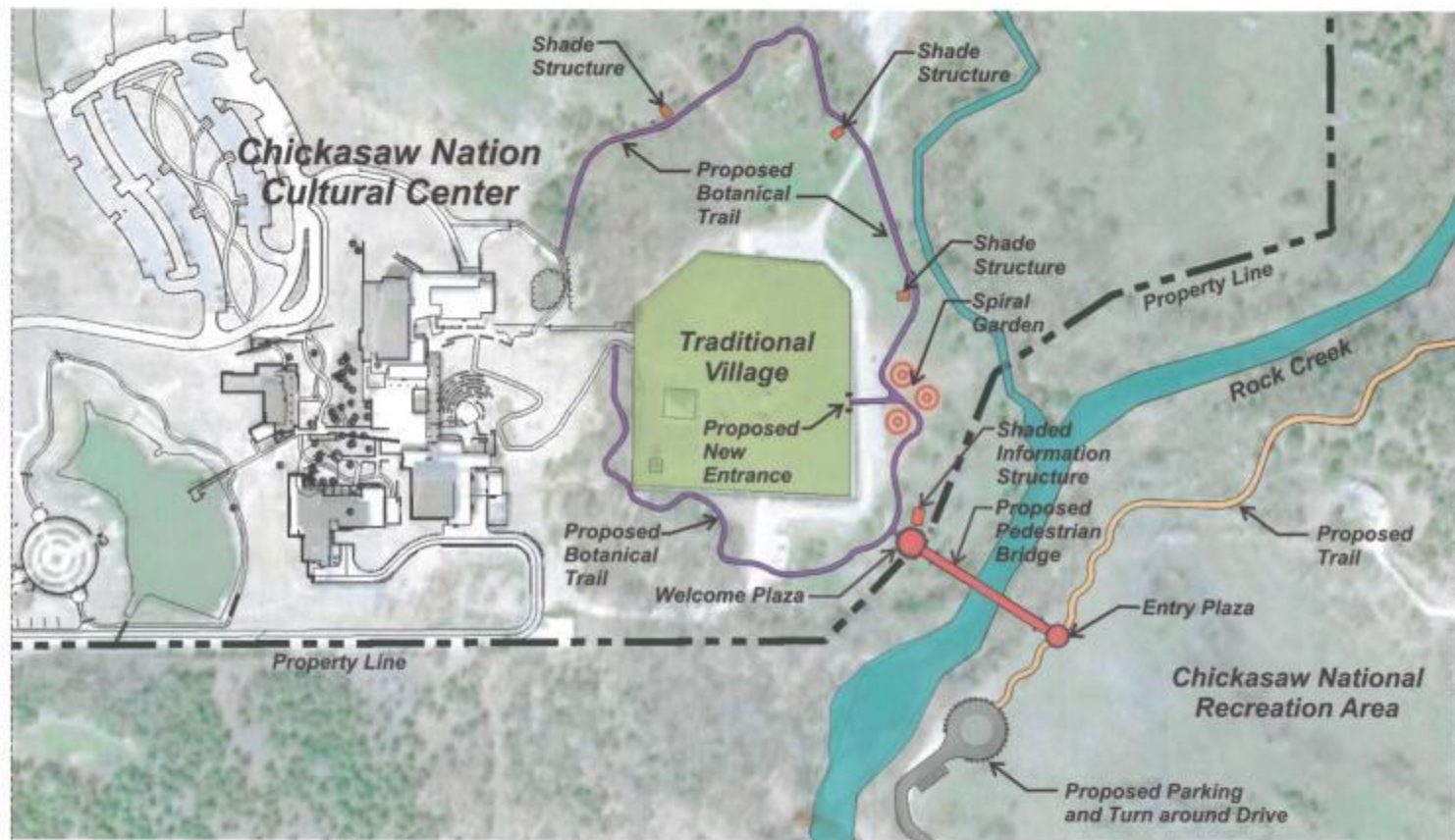




Botanical Discovery Trail

The purpose of the Botanical Discovery Trail is to provide the visitor with a unique experience reminiscent of the historic lands of the Chickasaw Nation and the plant a species that they used for their daily culinary diet. The trail meanders from two beginning points one at the west entrance to the Chickasaw Village and the other at the new pedestrian park entrance to the Cultural Center to the southeast of the village. As the trail moves along, there are information stations some at open spaces and others located at shade structures with seating. The trail encircles the village outside the perimeter palisade on the west and south. As it moves to the east side it comes upon the spiral gardens and passes through the growing beds that will contain seasonal plantings including vegetables that may be used in the cafe. The trail then moves to the north and skirts the open meadow located north of the village. As the trail moves along the edge of the meadow, it is also moving along the edge of adjoining wooded space and slowly turns to a westerly direction. After a while it leaves the meadow and plunges into the wooded area. It moves up a western slope traversing the hillside and emerges at the top of the hill into open space and connects to a cart path that takes the visitor to the southeast corner of the Exhibit Building where they can reengage in the central gathering space of the Chickasaw Cultural Center.





ENLARGED SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1"=200'



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Enlarged Site Plan
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13
Page



The Park Walking / Bicycling Trail

The purpose of the south Cultural Center entrance is to both encourage and allow access to the Cultural Center by pedestrians on foot and bicyclists from the adjacent park land and as far away as downtown Sulphur. The majority of the walking path from downtown to the Chickasaw Cultural Center already exists within the park and connects to the 26 miles of trail throughout the park. The trail begins on the south-west corner of the intersection of First Street and Broadway. As it moves into the park it travels along the west side of Highway 177 and in short order arrives at The Lincoln Bridge a landmark structure built by the Civilian Conservation Corp. From there it dips down and crosses Travertine Creek with a series of stepping stones. It then turns to the west and follows Rock Creek through wooded area with a number of foot bridges. It veers away from the creek and begins to gain elevation until it reaches Bromide Hill overlook that provides panoramic views to the north back towards the beginning point of the trail and downtown Sulphur. When the trail drops down the other side it meets back up with the creek and emerges at Rock Creek Campground. The walk then continues through the campground and reaches its southern edge. At this point, a new section of trail needs to be constructed that will take the walker to the new bridge that connects the park to the Chickasaw Cultural Center. The bridge is designed for pedestrian and bicycle traffic but will also allow for movement of 4 wheel security/maintenance vehicles to both patrol and respond to emergency needs. The bridge spans over Rock Creek and has a gateway portal on each end. The bridge can be secured with gates that will be closed during off hours of operation.

The bicycle path takes a slightly different route. After crossing over Lincoln Bridge, bicyclists would take the park road system to the east. The road passes by Bromide Pavilion and shortly after you arrive at the entrance Rock Creek Campground. From there you ride through the campground and finish the journey on the new piece of walking/bicycle trail that takes you to the new bridge into the Chickasaw Cultural Center. The opportunity for bicycling will be available to anyone who wants to enjoy the adventure via a bike share program with bike share racks located at both downtown Sulphur and the Cultural Center.



