



# Recommendations and Virtual Tour: Carlin Springs Site April 22, 2023

Glencarlyn/Forest Glen/Arlington Mill  
Community Working Group

*Photos by Steve Young; map credits on slides*



# Introduction

The adjoining neighborhoods of Glencarlyn, Forest Glen, and Arlington Mill are eager to conduct a site visit to the 601 S Carlin Springs site with VHC Health and Arlington County. Because a physical site visit is not yet possible and time is passing, we are presenting recommendations and a “virtual tour” to the County and VHC Health. While this does not substitute for the values of the physical site visit, our hope is this will aid site planning and potentially expedite a smooth process, as we understand all parties are eager to achieve. We look forward to questions and comments and the physical visit soon.



Ongoing “Phase 1” demolition at the site, 4/20/2023

# Recommendations to Arlington County

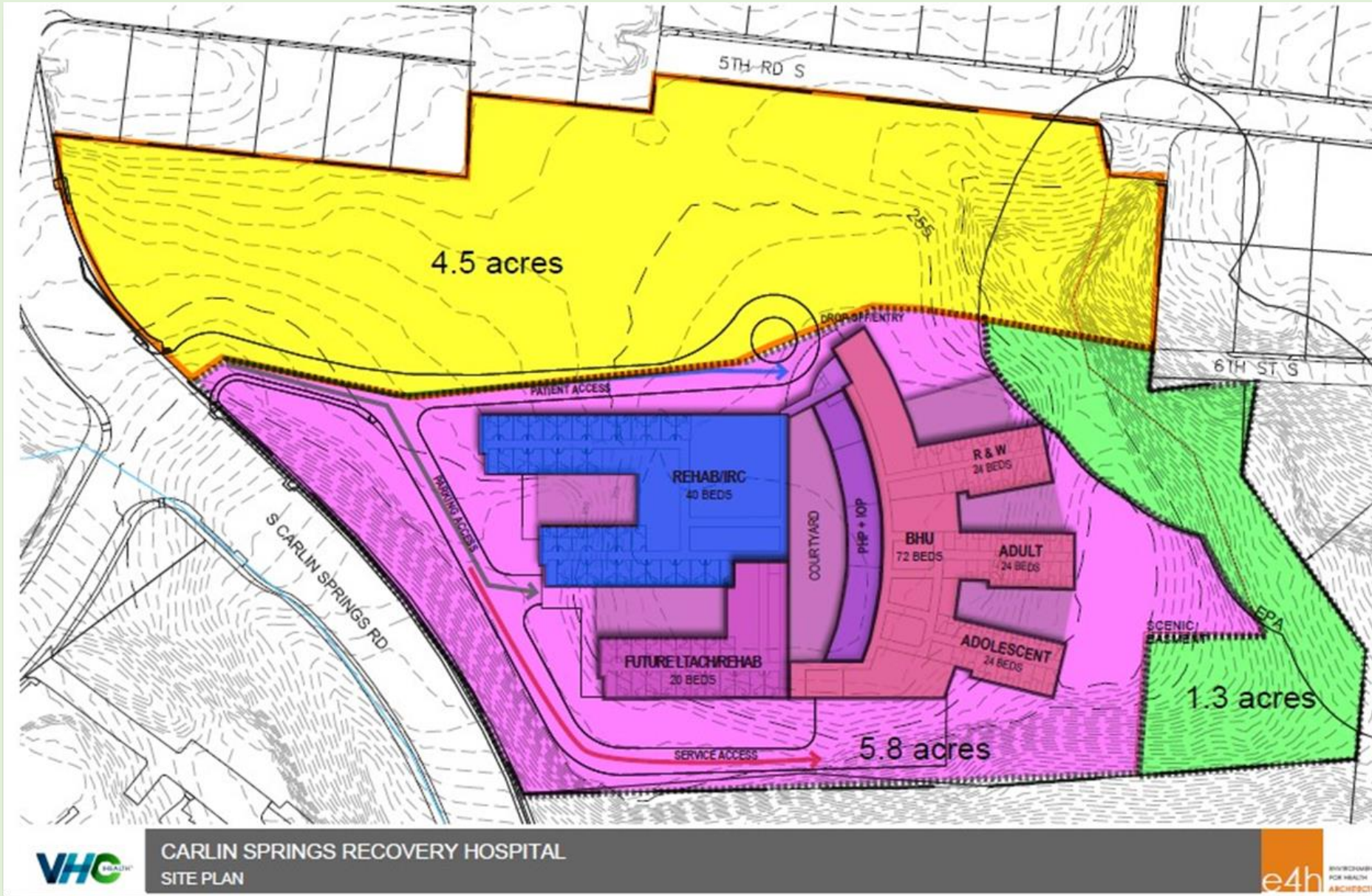
- Expand the “Green Zone” to include all of the currently County-owned RPA area and existing tree canopy in addition to the scenic easement
- Add the east-pointing triangular plot (*see Slide 8*) to the Green Zone – negotiate this with VHC Health
- Annex the expanded Green Zone to the existing park ASAP
- Conduct ongoing invasive plant management and general natural resources stewardship on County land/Green Zone
- Steward Moses Ball Spring including restoring, enhancing, and maintaining site
- Initiate natural resources management of the scenic easement area to southeast of Fuchsia Zone that is still owned by Northern Virginia Doctors Medical Center
- Supervise “Phase 1” plantings to ensure appropriateness from a natural resources perspective

# Recommendations to VHC Health

- In site planning, add a buffer to the existing RPA limits to minimize potential disturbance – place structures further to the west
- Add the east-facing triangle of land (*see Slide 8*) to the Green Zone – negotiate with Arlington County
- Plan for no negative impact on existing mature native trees; add to Green Zone (*see Slide 7*)
- In site planning, explore creative ways to enhance the Nature Center and park
- Incorporate biophilic design and other elements suggested by the community
- Preserve and enhance Fuchsia Zone portions of the “sledding hill”



# Proposed Land Disposition

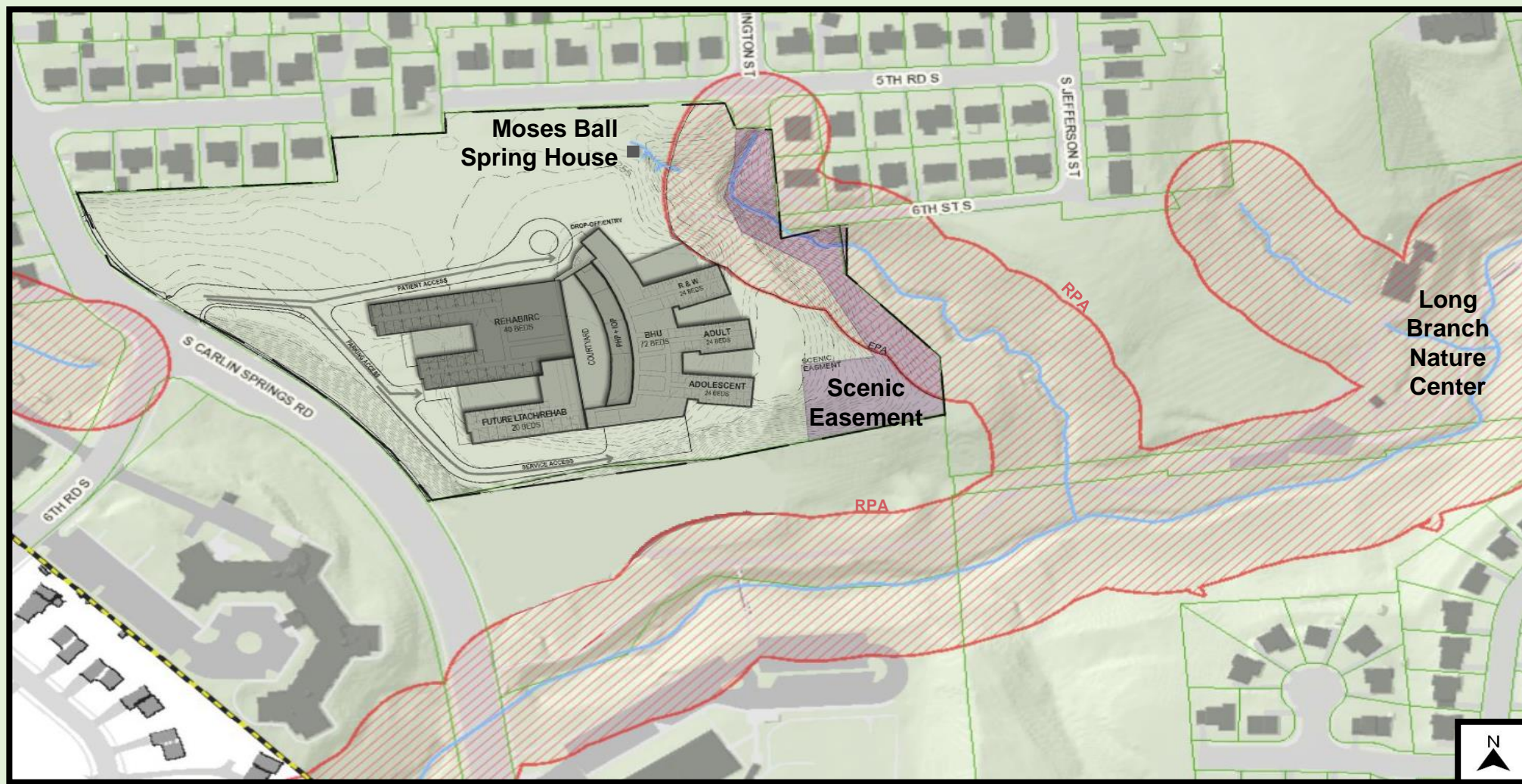


## Proposed land ownership

Yellow: Retained by County  
Green: Existing easements and RPAs (partial)  
Fuschia: VHC Health



# “Contextual Overview” of the Site



Map highlights existing built infrastructure and Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) in red crosshatching  
Map credit: VHC Health and Arlington County, January 2023



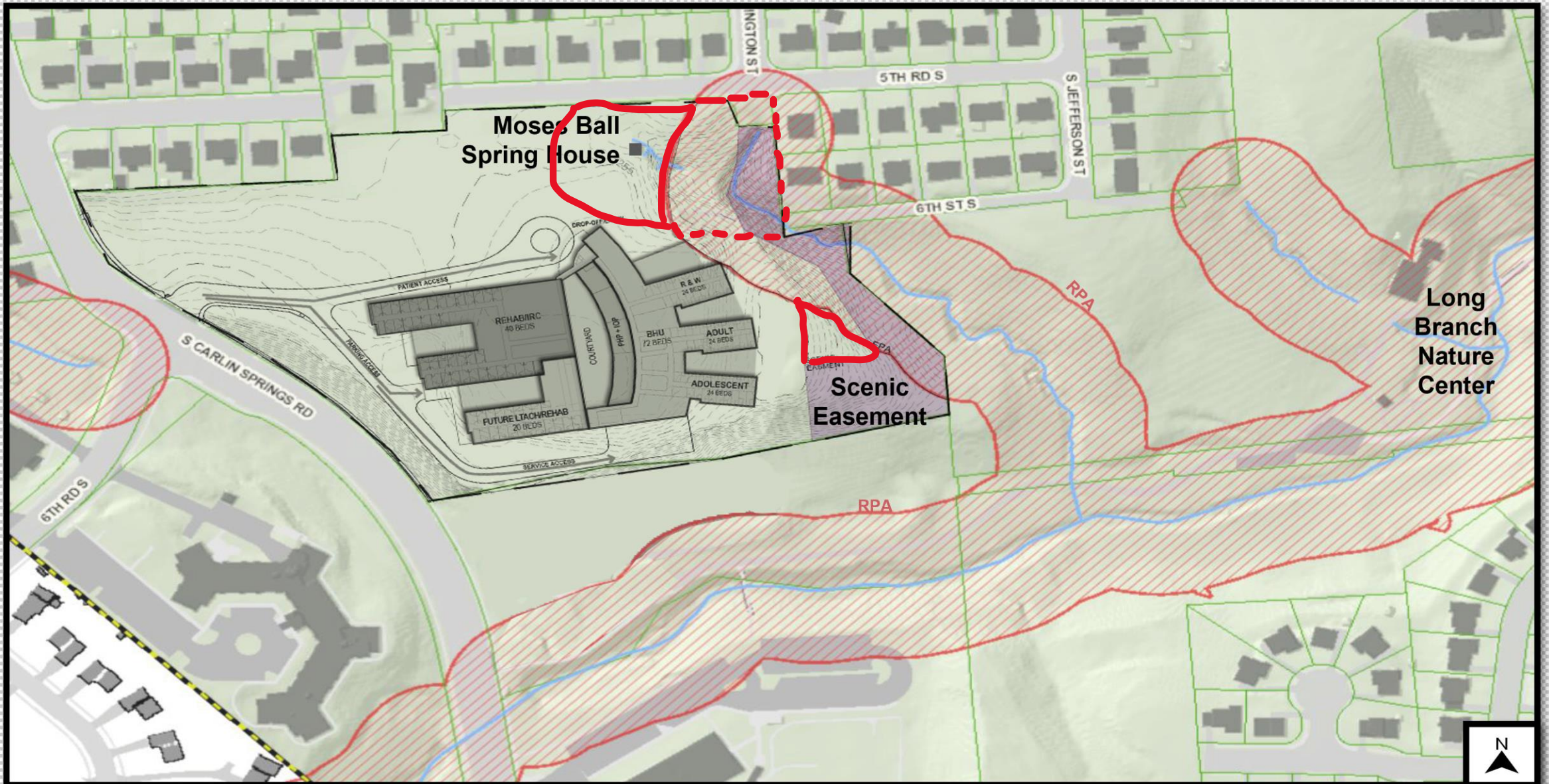
# Existing Tree Canopy



Green lines delineate approximate existing tree canopy and location of spring. Map credit: Base image retrieved from Microsoft Bing Maps; modified by Steve Young



# “Green Zone” Missing Pieces



All of the areas in the red lines should be added to the Green Zone and transferred to Long Branch Nature Center

Original map edited by Steve Young



# High Priority Mature Tree Stand Atop Sledding Hill



Mature Tree stand, confirm it is in the current Green Zone or add it



# Cultural/Historical Context



Historical Marker near bus stop at S Carlin Springs and 5<sup>th</sup> Rd S



# Moses Ball Spring



Red outlines outdated, ugly, destructive and abusive stormwater features. Green encircles springhouse.



## Moses Ball Spring 2



Site context view. Mature trees noted by yellow stars. Springhouse circled in green.



Closer view. Note concrete spillway within inches of springhouse. Trash and debris. Ugly PVC stormwater features. Small catchment basin has essentially zero ecological value.



# Moses Ball Spring 3



The plaque reads:  
IN MEMORY OF MOSES BALL  
1717-1792  
WHO PATENTED THIS LAND  
1748



Glencarlynite Jerry Martineau for scale



After mucking out springhouse



View inside springhouse



# Invasive Plant Devastation



Example of severe unmanaged invasive plants issue in the scenic easement area



# Sledding Hill



View looking up the Sledding Hill. Note mature trees.



# Sledding Hill 2



View looking down the Sledding Hill toward Long Branch and Campbell Elementary



*End Slide*

# Glencarlyn, Forest Glen, and Arlington Mill 601 S Carlin Springs Neighborhood Committee

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Two-lined Salamander from  
“Salamander Creek”, fed by  
Moses Ball Spring