



Coleman Spring in late winter.
Looking south from the source of
the spring as it flows down the hill.

COLEMAN HIGHLANDS SPRING HABITAT RESTORATION

Presented to Missouri Department of Conservation - Kansas City Urban Conservation Grant Program

LEAD ORGANIZATION: ROANOKE PARK CONSERVANCY

Background

Roanoke Park is a 37 acre park in midtown Kansas City, Missouri. Dating from 1905, it is one of the early parks in the Kessler designed Parks and Boulevards system. The park contains a number of natural springs that exit the layers of limestone and shale ringing the park. The largest of these springs exists on the slope below the Coleman Highlands neighborhood north of Karnes Boulevard. The area adjoining the Coleman Highlands Spring was locked in an overgrowth of shrub honeysuckle just like the rest of Roanoke Park prior to July, 2010 when it began to be freed from its burden of invasive non-native plants by volunteers with the assistance of the Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation department.

This spring area has since sparked the imagination of park visitors and volunteers as a unique element within the park (and park system) and a hint of what could be attained in the future.

Next to the spring grows the largest Common Persimmon tree in the area, 84' tall with a 21" diameter trunk covered with the persimmon's distinctive bark. This tree was one of 2,100 trees detailed in a 2012 Tree Inventory partially funded by a Missouri Department of Conservation T.R.I.M. grant.

Discussions began between the Roanoke Park Conservancy, the KCMO Parks Department and Missouri Department of Conservation regarding cooperating on the area in the summer of 2012. The area has continued to receive attention. Singletrack trails were constructed just above the spring and opened in June, 2012. Some removal of wintercreeper occurred in the fall of 2012. Targeted eradication of honeysuckle, buckthorn, ailanthus and callery pear is ongoing. This plan is the culmination of those efforts and pledges of cooperation.

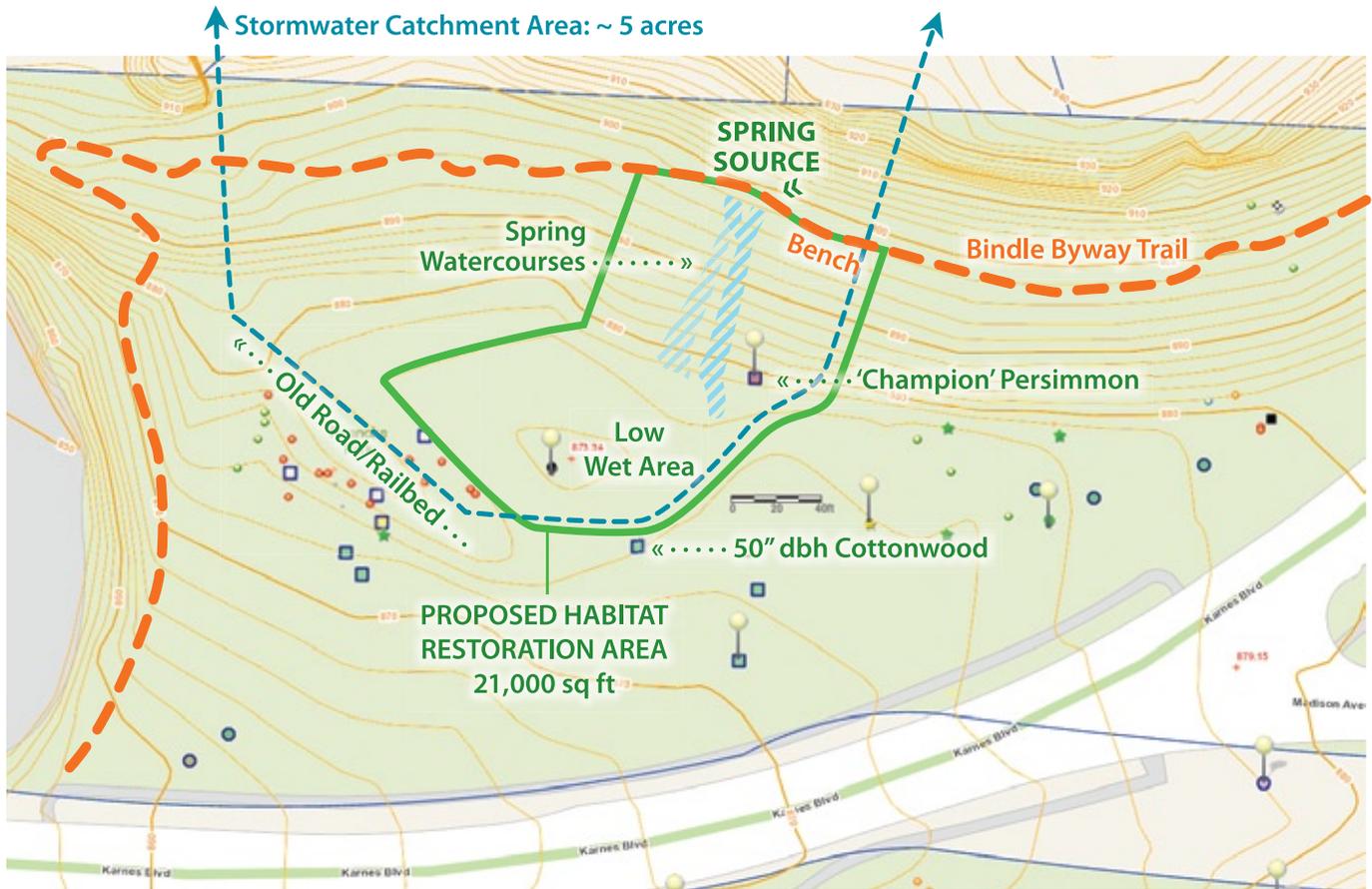
THE COLEMAN SPRING VISION

A NATURAL SPRING, constantly flowing (even through the drought), is an exceedingly valuable park feature. A fen* habitat is also rare in the Kansas City region. The improvement and ecological restoration of the spring area is to be undertaken with the goal of maximizing its value to wildlife and park visitors, increasing green solutions stormwater management, and offering educational opportunities regarding water and habitat.

**A Missouri fen is a boggy area fed by a constant supply of usually alkaline and mineralized ground water.*

Project Location Map, Plan - Coleman Highlands Spring Habitat Restoration (revised Aug. 2014)

Project area location within Roanoke Park



Proposed Coleman Highlands Spring Habitat Restoration

