

**Excerpts of Materials
Submitted to
Mississippi Development
Authority (“MDA”)
Before Receiving
\$3,274,000.00
Site Grant**



Lafayette County
MISSISSIPPI

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June 24, 2024

Mr. Bill Cork
Executive Director
Mississippi Development Authority
501 North West Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Dear Mr. Cork,

The Lafayette County Board of Supervisors is proud to apply for the Site Development Grant - Select Sites Program via the Oxford-Lafayette County Economic Development Foundation. This grant will create substantial improvements to the Max D. Hipp Industrial Park while supporting our community's efforts to attract industry and bring about enhanced economic development opportunity.

The Lafayette County Board of Supervisors is excited to support the development of the Max D. Hipp Industrial Park and partner with our community economic development practitioners on this project. The site development grant will enhance our ability to attract, retain, and expand industry while increasing capital investment and job creation throughout the region.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of Oxford and Lafayette County, MS for this grant award and we look forward to further economic development partnerships with MDA.

Respectfully,

Brent Larson
President



Oxford-Lafayette County
Economic Development Foundation

Lafayette County Max D. Hipp Industrial Park

Master Plan

Planning & Design by:
A2H ENGINEERS
ARCHITECTS
PLANNERS

Lafayette County, Mississippi
November 4, 2022



Oxford-Lafayette County Economic Development Foundation

The Oxford-Lafayette County Economic Development Foundation is a public-private partnership that works to create opportunities for responsible economic investment, raising the per capita income for all citizens of Lafayette County.

Jon Maynard, President/CEO



A2H is a collaborative full service planning and design firm of engineers, architects, landscape architects, interior designers, and land surveyors with a local office in Oxford, MS.

Andy Reynolds, PLA, ASLA - Senior Planner
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Patrick Mullins - Strategist

Acknowledgements

Lafayette County, Mississippi

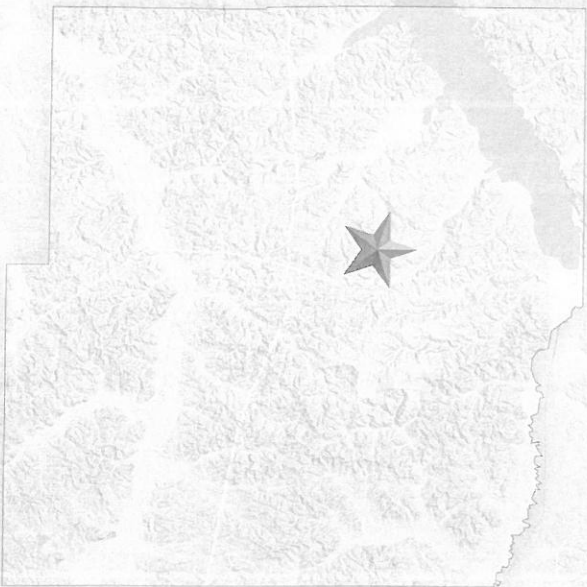
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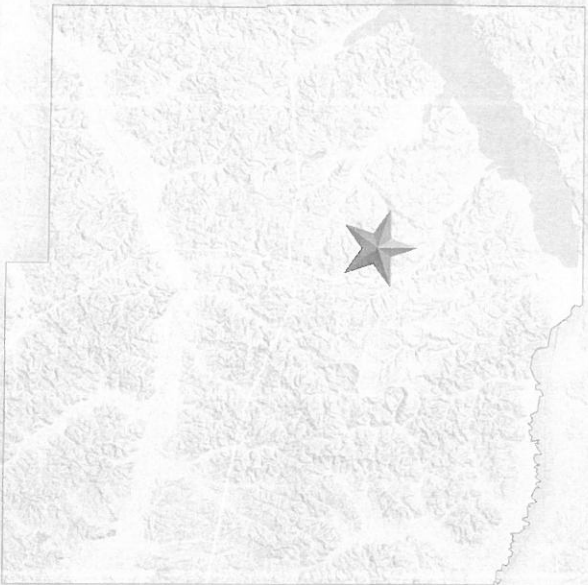


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Lafayette County

Overview

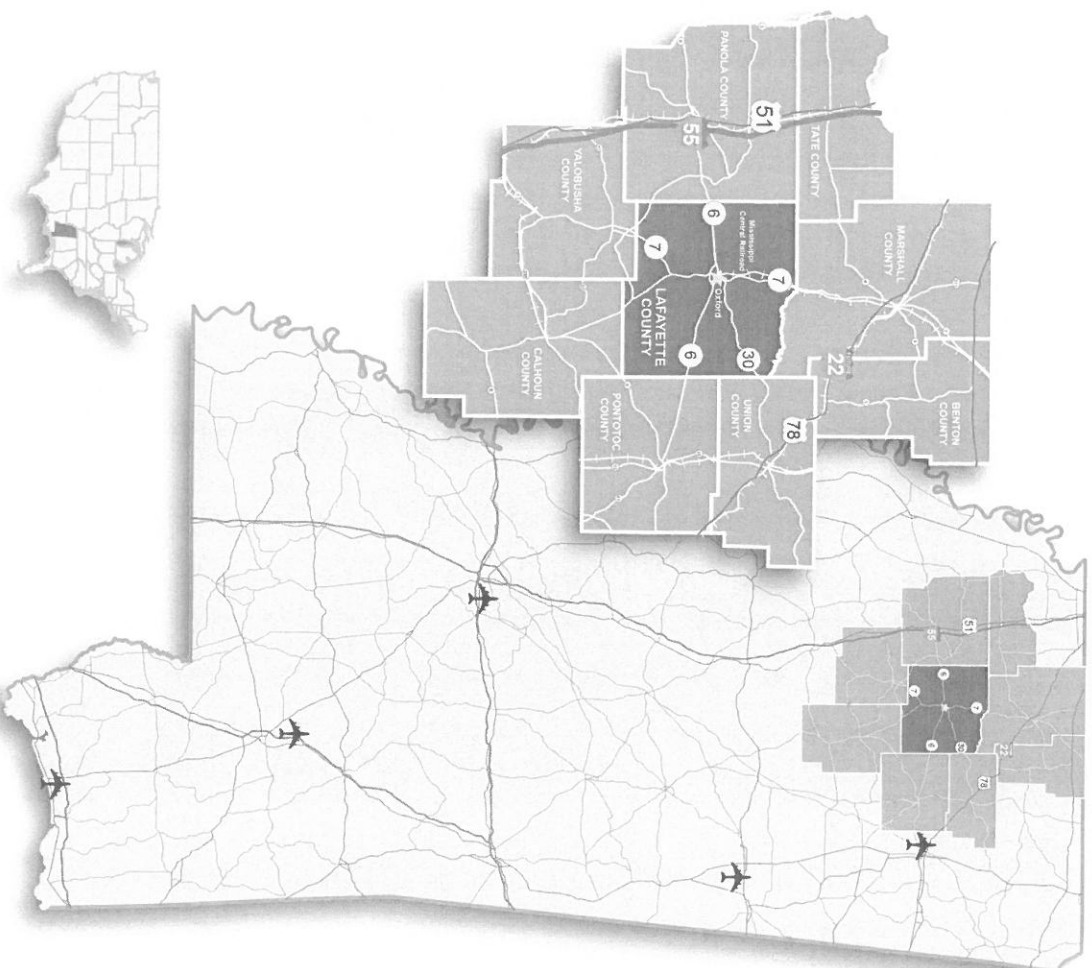
Lafayette County and the City of Oxford provide a strong sense of history and culture that is celebrated through the arts, festivals and events, and beautifully preserved historic sites. The area is also home to a diverse, progressive business environment that keeps pace with new technology and developments. Set in the northern part of the state, Lafayette County offers true Southern hospitality and recognition of its rich past provides residents with a sense of community.

Demographics (2021)

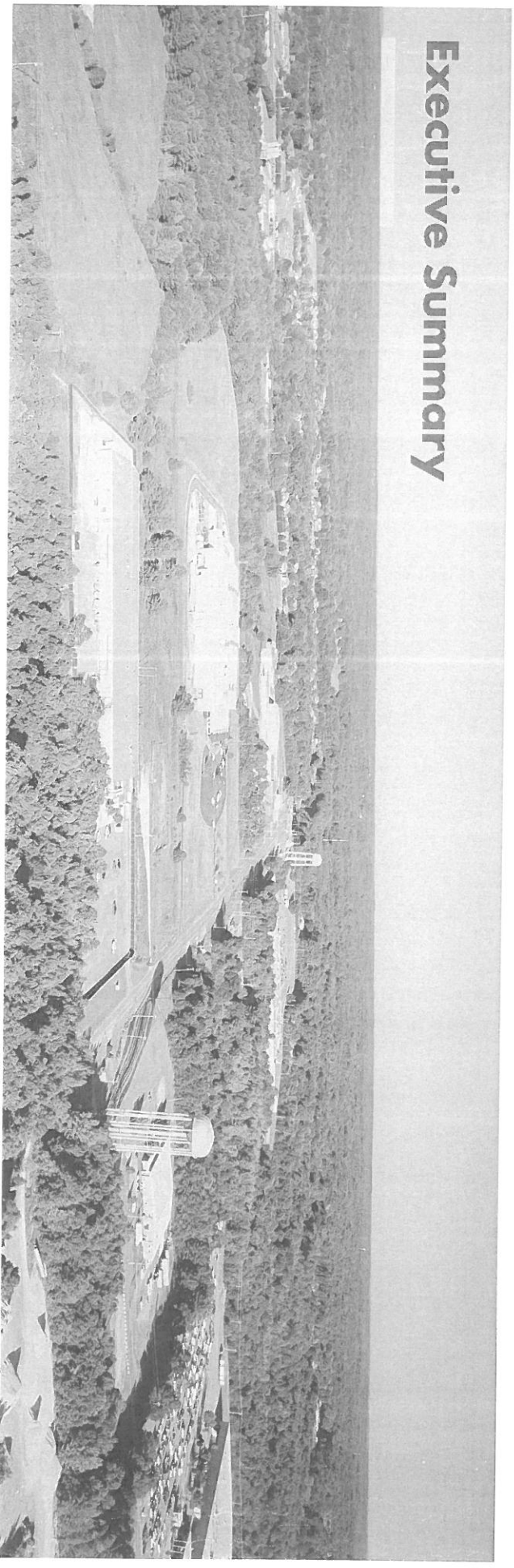
» Total Population:	56,884 (17.46% 10-yr Growth Rate)
» Labor Force:	26,640 (20.17% 10-yr Growth Rate)
» Per Capita Income	\$46,037 (47.06% 10-yr Growth Rate)

Proximity to Major Markets

City	Miles
» Memphis, TN	86
» Jackson, MS	164
» Birmingham, AL	185
» Nashville, TN	234
» Mobile, AL	311
» Atlanta, GA	330
» New Orleans, LA	359
» Fort Worth, TX	570



Executive Summary



The Oxford-Lafayette County Economic Development Foundation (EDF) has a vision to transform the Max D. Hipp Industrial Park from a typical industrial environment into a campus that has an image that will attract the best high quality and technical industries that are entering the workforce today.

The synergistic community of Lafayette, Oxford, and the University offer people that are innovative and qualified for the types of job opportunities these high-tech companies need to operate. The transformed campus will enable the community to grow into a position that will continue to attract the high-quality businesses that look to benefit from the quality workforce offered and that MDA and TVA wish to recruit.

The EDF will capitalize on the already planned and funded West Oxford Loop roadway improvements that will bring better connections to assets that complement these high-tech industries.

Currently, the western 165 acres has very little road access. The West Oxford Loop will connect Highway 7 and the industrial park to west side of Oxford and Highway 6. This will give existing industries and new industries and their employees much better access to wide ranging residential areas. This also opens opportunities for existing and new industries to have direct routes to other major markets and metropolitan areas. Perhaps the best asset the new road brings is the connection to the rest of the community.

The new West Oxford Loop and other roads in the park will be lined with street trees and evergreen trees to buffer the views of the larger existing industrial buildings. This route will become an asset as it brings the community to and through the transformed high-tech campus.

The undeveloped 165 acres on the west side is fully wooded. It has some severe topography and deep ravines and streams.

These features are typically seen as undesirable for an industrial setting, as they are unbuildable, especially for businesses requiring large buildings. The plan for the transformed campus, however, is to capitalize on these natural features. Trees will be selectively thinned, and trails will be developed along the streams. This will create the environment of a park instead of an industrial area. Not only will those that work here enjoy it, but it will become a place that invites the community to come and enjoy.

The industrial park will no longer be a place on the outskirts of town that is perceived as a place of unsightly industry but will be a campus that portrays the type of image typical of Lafayette, Oxford, and the University of Mississippi.

Executive Summary

continued

Strategy Influencer 1: West Oxford Loop

Lafayette County is in the process of constructing a loop around Oxford connecting Highway 7 and Highway 6. This loop will open access to the north side of Oxford. Two-thirds of this project have been completed, and the last section will run through the middle of the Lafayette County Industrial Park.

This connection road is expected to commence construction in late Spring of 2023.

This new road will present both east and west passage into and out of the industrial park. Currently there is only one road in and out with a makeshift gravel road to the north for emergencies.

The existing road in the industrial park will be improved with curb and gutter construction, turning and run-up lanes for employee traffic for our largest employer, Winchester, and two roundabouts for traffic flow improvement.

There are roughly 95 acres of new land in the industrial park which are currently unusable because of roads access. This new road will open that acreage for new development.

The North 70 acres of the property are cleared but require leveling in order to make them usable for future projects. The Oxford loop presents an opportunity to make drastic changes to the aesthetics and functionality of our existing industrial park for both existing businesses and recruited industrial prospects. The timing of the SDG funding with the completion of the Oxford Loop project creates an urgency to make the most efficient use of available funds as possible.

Strategy Influencer 2: Existing Industry

Our existing industries deserve our support. They are a foundational value to our community. To better serve them and the employees they hire, we want to add a roadway system and better overall industrial park design and accommodations to improve employee connectivity, provide safer ingress/egress, and in general make them even more proud to call Oxford/Lafayette County home.

Strategy Influencer 3: New Recruitment

We want to provide a reimagined industrial/business park and developed lots that the State of Mississippi and TVA recruiters and site selection consultants are proud to show their high-quality clientele. The lack thereof, has been a recognized deficiency by our leadership for many years and the community has been eliminated by many companies over several decades (or not considered at all).

Admittedly, the extreme growth of the community has been a distraction and a resource drain that sidelined industrial development. Local leadership, however, understands that this is the moment to make a change. This new connector roadway provides the perfect opportunity to begin correcting this problem with specific development goals that will begin transforming the remaining property in the park into the quality environment that's expected of Oxford/Lafayette County.

Strategy Influencer 4: University of Mississippi Center for Diagnostics, Design, Devices & Biomechanics

The University of Mississippi is developing the "D3B", The Center for Diagnostics, Design, Devices and Biomechanics. This center will develop, design and test new biomedical devices. The intellectual property created from this center will be used to create new companies that will be developed in Oxford, MS.

These companies will need to be located near the university in a more industrial/business park setting in order to grow.

The type of setting needs to be more "campus-like" than what the Lafayette County industrial park currently offers.

We have attached renderings of the type of buildings and proposed settings that we envision for this type of "campus style" business park.

Executive Summary

continued

Strategy Influencer 5: University of Mississippi Southeast Biotechnology Hub

The University of Mississippi is leading a regional coalition to secure a grant to create the Southeast Biotechnology Hub. We have attached a single page document outlining the biotechnology hub.

This regional coalition will be a collaboration of local, State, and Federal government entities, regional academia, the private sector, economic development organizations, and workforce development organizations aligned to secure a Regional Technology and Innovation Hub designation from the U.S. Department of Commerce under a The CHIPS ACT of 2022 (H.R. 4346).

The Southeast Biotechnology Hub will be a consortium of regional partners to advance the research, development, deployment, and domestic manufacturing of biotechnologies for economic competitiveness. Within the Hub, groups will operationalize the coordination between industry, workforce, education, and all related parties.

If this grant is approved, Oxford will become the headquarters for biotechnology development in the Southeast. This headquarters will create an ecosystem of new and recruited biotechnology companies that will need to be located close to the University of Mississippi and the Biotechnology Hub.

A design suggestion for a proposed building is that it will be flexible, functional and attractive at the same time.

Strategy Influencer 6: Strong Economic Opportunity

Available workforce continues to be a driving factor for industrial locations. Lafayette County's growth will stand out as a target for industrial locations in North Mississippi.

Oxford and Lafayette County represent the bulk of all population and workforce growth in North Mississippi.

In the 2020 Census Lafayette County, MS grew by 17.32%. The combined population change for the 17 counties in NW Mississippi was -.13%. Lafayette County was the fastest growing county in the State in terms of percentage change.

The Civilian Labor Force in Lafayette County grew by 22.86% from 2010-2020. This is the highest rate of growth in the State of Mississippi. Total job growth in Lafayette County from 2010-2020 was 30.85%. This is the 4th highest rate of employment growth in the state.

As the center for economic excellence in North Mississippi, Lafayette County is unprepared to offer quality product for industrial use. The current industrial park does NOT match the "quality of place" reputation of Oxford, MS. This quality of place has been a key driver in the economic success of Lafayette County.

We have attached some growth numbers that demonstrate the "stand out" statistics of workforce availability and economic strength. Lafayette County still trails many metro areas in terms of recent population and labor force growth, we remain the most attractive location in Mississippi for quality growth in both technology and manufacturing workforce.

Lafayette County is centrally located in North Mississippi. A 45 minute drive time to Oxford encompasses a huge geographic footprint. The labor shed in this footprint currently includes over 370,000 residents and over 109,000 in the prime age labor force. Oxford represents the highest quality of life and the easiest access to employment for all of North Mississippi.

Employment in the Lafayette County Industrial Park has traditionally been hampered by difficult ingress and egress from the park itself. The West Oxford Loop will reduce the bottleneck of shift change significantly by offering new access both East and West of the industrial park. This should significantly reduce commute time for all of the employees in the industrial park as well as allow for the growth of new jobs and new employers.

Several strategic influencers have presented themselves in the most recent 18 months that provide the urgency for significant and transformative upgrades to the Lafayette County industrial park. Primarily the completion of a new bypass (aka "The West Oxford Loop") which will be constructed through the industrial park between January 2023 and August 2023 at a cost of over \$8,000,000. The project is fully funded.

The road will be upgraded to provide a more comprehensive transportation corridor that alleviates downtown congestion, connects different "pockets" of existing development, encourage further well-planned development, and allow for better employment access for residents.

Existing Conditions

The Lafayette County industrial park, in its current form, lacks both curb appeal and functionality. We have roughly 165 acres of property that is unusable in its current state. The lack of ingress-egress infrastructure limits the ability of our largest employer to manage shift changes in a timely manner. The setting for our park lacks vegetative screening which severely diminishes the attractiveness of the area. Entrance signage to the park is archaic. The aesthetics currently offered in the Lafayette County industrial park effectively communicate "Keep Out" to both the community and to many businesses seeking a quality location.

Specifications & Utilities

- » Located in Unincorporated Lafayette County
- » Park size: 450 acres
- » Electricity: Northeast Electric Power, substation on premises; 20 MVA with a 46 KV OHE Feed
- » Water: 8" water main on or adjacent to site; one elevated tank, 550,000 gallon capacity
- » Sewer: 4" force sewer main and 8" gravity sewer on or adjacent to sites; 300,000 GPD; provided by City of Oxford
- » Natural Gas: 4" line provided by Centerpoint Energy

Existing Industry

- » SMW Manufacturing
- » Elliot Lumber Co.
- » MS Material Company
- » Winchester Rim Fire
- » Northeast Electric Power Substation
- » Ability Works
- » Winchester Center Fire
- » Good Day Farm



Site Master Plan

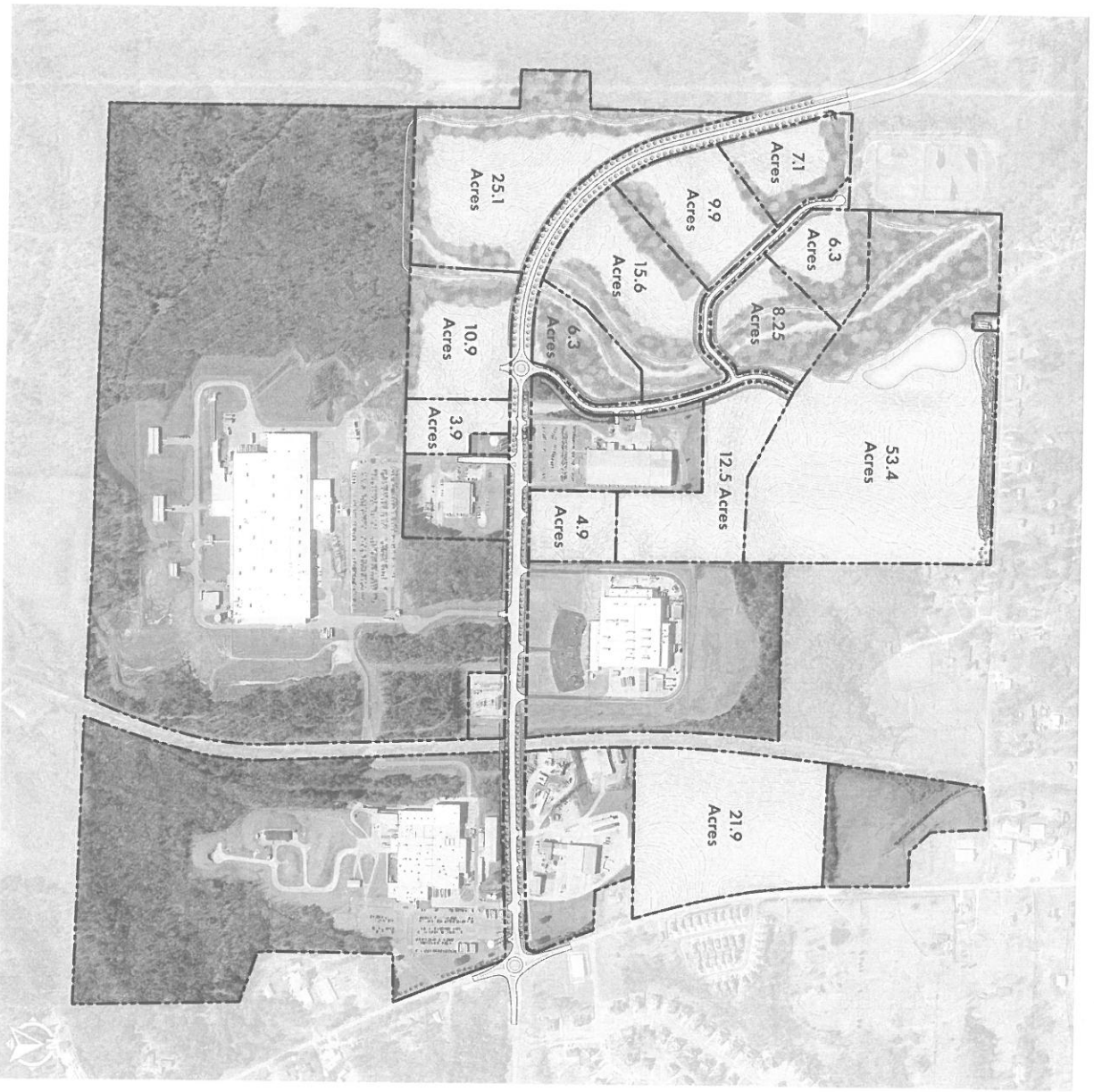
Vision for the Future

This master plan provides guidance for both future development and a way to communicate to prospects how their project can fit into larger vision for the industrial park.

The master plan includes six key priorities to fully realize the vision:

- » Priority #1:
West Oxford Loop Upgrades
- » Priority #2:
Gateway Entrance Upgrades
- » Priority #3:
North Parcel Pre-Development & Roadway Improvements
- » Priority #4:
Development of Trails & Natural Features
- » Priority #5:
Utility Improvements
- » Priority #6:
Additional Master Planning

The following pages outline each priority and its associated development costs.



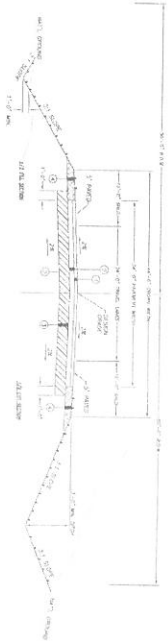
Priority #1

West Oxford Loop Upgrades: Implementation Plan

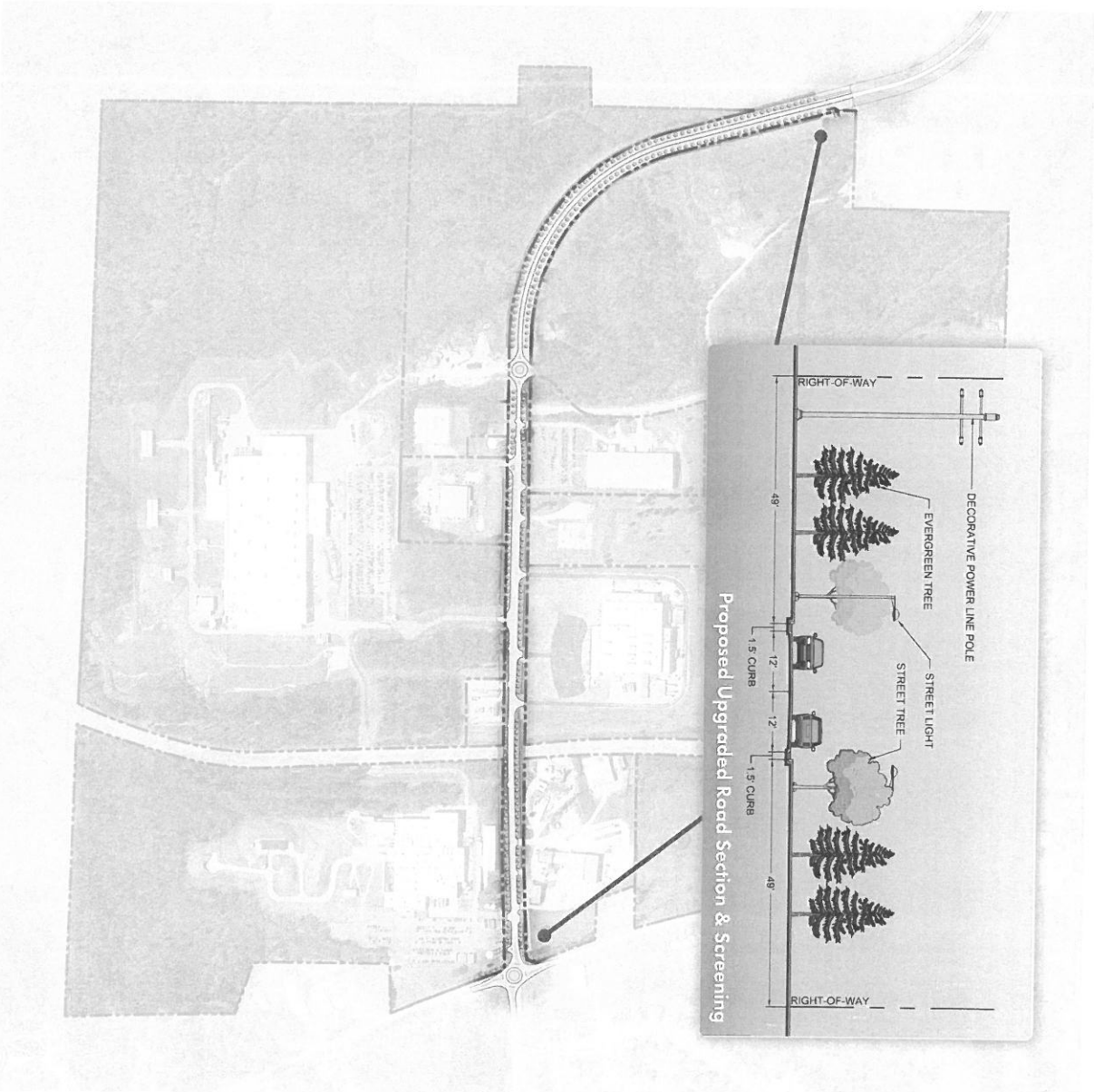
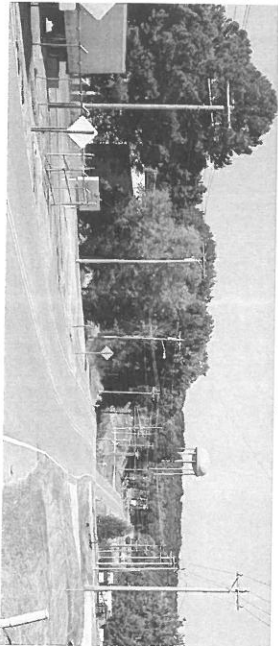
Improve the roads infrastructure accessing the northern parcel of the industrial park to match the quality of construction for the Oxford Loop. This roadway will have curb/gutter, street lighting and attractive vegetation.

Create physical/vegetative screening along all new roads to increase the aesthetic appeal of the existing sites. This will also create a setting that is reflective of the quality of place represented by Oxford, MS. The installation of the vegetative screening will include irrigation to maintain its appeal. The Economic Development District will be responsible for maintaining this vegetation and the overall appeal of the improved park acreage. Create additional street lighting that matches the quality of a reimagined industrial setting.

Existing Road Section



Existing Road Looking West



Priority #1

West Oxford Loop Upgrades: Opinion of Probable Cost

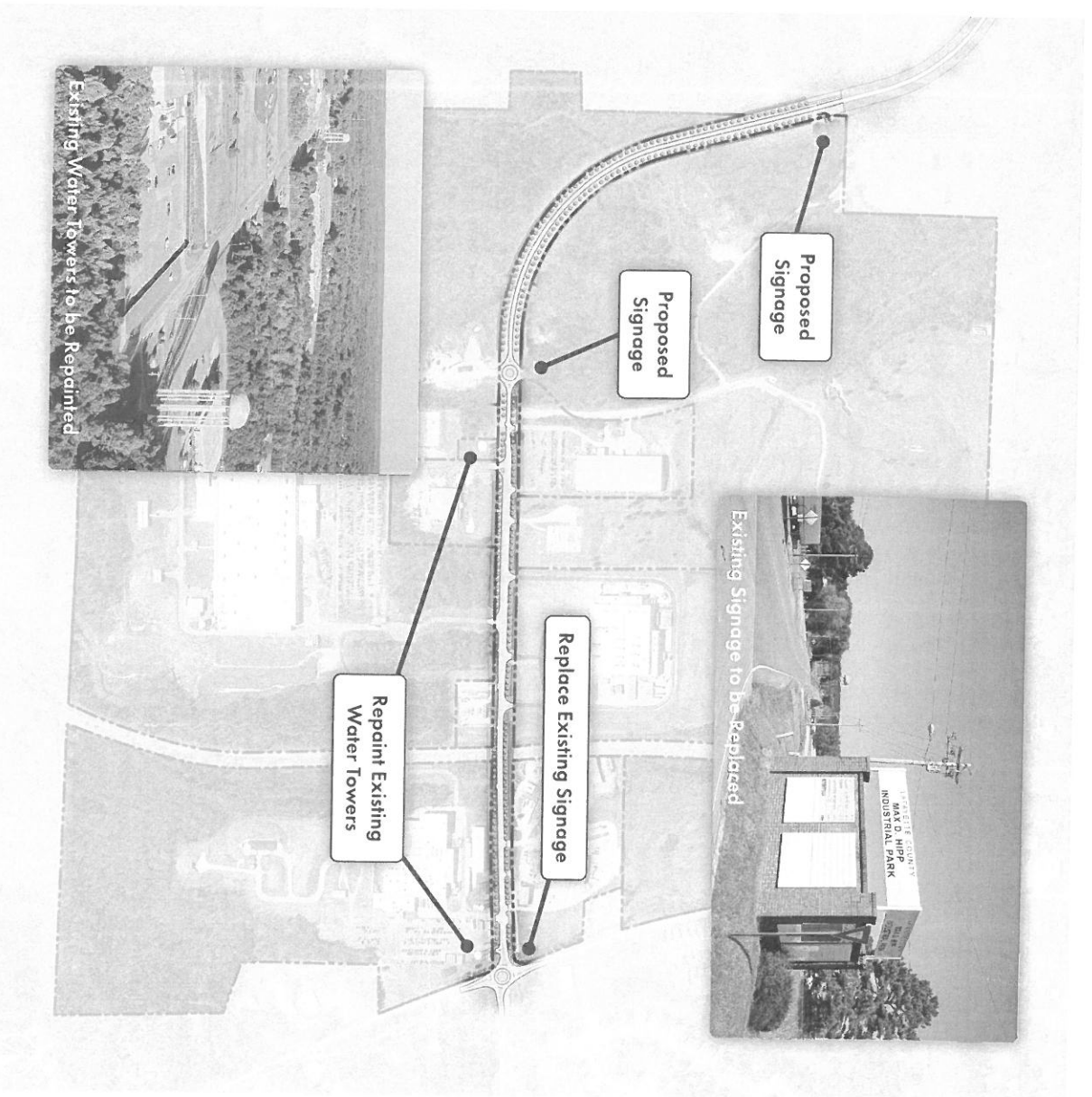
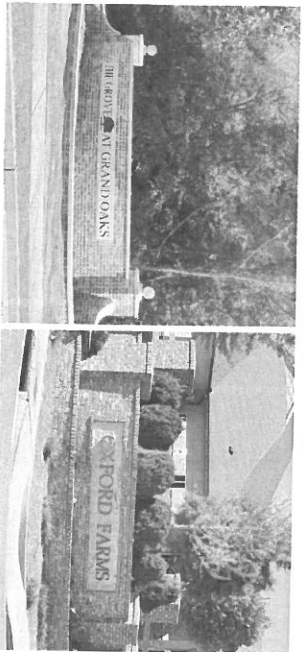
DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNITS	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
Curb and Gutter	12,585	LF	\$30.00	\$377,550.00
Decorative metal poles to replace wood poles	60	EA	\$20,000.00	\$1,200,000.00
Decorative street lighting	125	EA	\$8,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Street Trees and irrigation	1	LS	\$549,500.00	\$549,500.00
Sub-Total				\$3,127,050.00
Contingency (10%)				\$312,705.00
A/E Fee (8%)				\$250,164.00
Total				\$3,689,919.00

Priority #2

Gateway Entrance Upgrades: Implementation Plan

Create high-end, thematic signage for both East and West entrances into the Industrial park. Our intention will be to develop a branded look for our community that reflects well on the overall quality of place. Examples of the current signage and wayfinding at the entrance the industrial park can be compared to the thematic signage used throughout Oxford that is desirable. Incentivize local industries to construct a uniform, common thread roadway signage design that complements the park's new image once the new roadway and all SDG improvements are made. Again, we want to reflect a uniform look that conveys the reputation of Oxford and it's high standards for development.

Local Area Signage Examples



Priority #2

Gateway Entrance Upgrades: Opinion of Probable Cost

DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNITS	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
Signage, masonry, electric, grading	2	LS	\$100,000.00	\$200,000.00
Signage planing and irrigation	2	LS	\$27,690.00	\$55,380.00
Monument signage for community amenities	3	EA	\$30,000.00	\$90,000.00
Water tower painting with park branding	2	EA	\$75,000.00	\$150,000.00
Sub-Total				\$495,380.00
Contingency (10%)				\$49,538.00
A/E Fee (8%)				\$39,630.40
Total				\$584,548.40

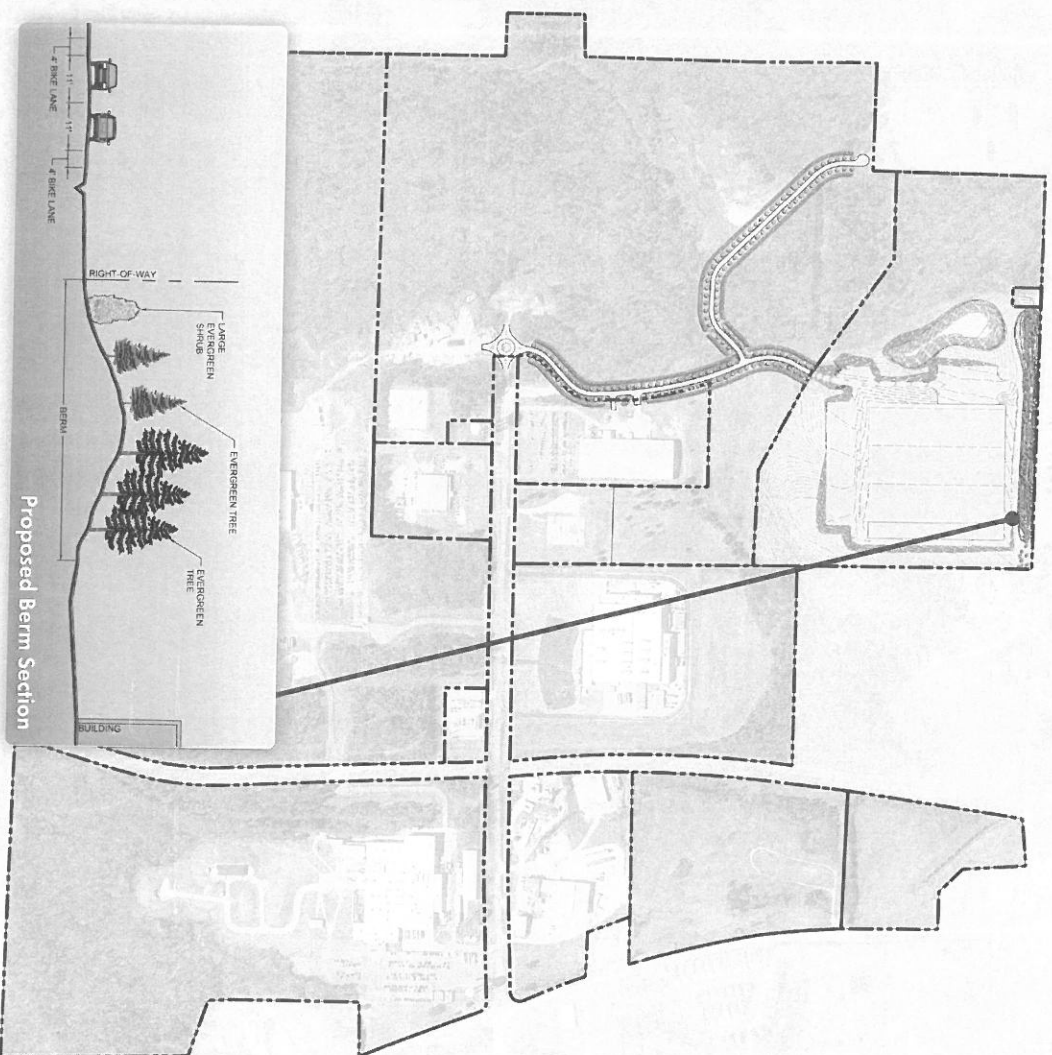
Priority #3

North Parcel Pre-Development & Roadway Improvements: Implementation Plan

Level grade +/- 40-acres of the northern parcel of the industrial park so that it will be designed to accommodate one large manufacturer or several small manufacturers easily. This will provide maximum development flexibility.

Create a berm and vegetative screening along the northern property line along College Hill Switch Road in order to provide appropriate and respectful screening between the industrial park and a small number of residential dwellings.

Develop appropriate stormwater management solutions for the northern site and newly developed roadway, including a detention area that will serve an aesthetic water feature that will complement an appealing business development. We have attached a visual of a project which we proposed transformative stormwater management. This design enhanced the aesthetics of the site and were functional in their use. We will plan to utilize this creative approach to functional aesthetics was possible in the development of individual sites.



Priority #3

North Parcel Pre-Development & Roadway Improvements: Opinion of Probable Cost

DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNITS	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
Earthwork for roads and north parcel and berm (moved on site)	150,000	CY	\$15.00	\$2,250,000.00
Road paving	1	LS	\$506,670.00	\$506,670.00
Curb and Gutter	7,000	LF	\$30.00	\$210,000.00
Drainage	1	LS	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
Decorative street lighting	65	EA	\$8,000.00	\$520,000.00
Street trees and berm screen planting and irrigation	1	LS	\$300,500.00	\$300,500.00
Sub-Total				\$3,987,170.00
Contingency (10%)				\$398,717.00
A/E Fee (8%)				\$318,973.60
Total				\$4,704,860.60

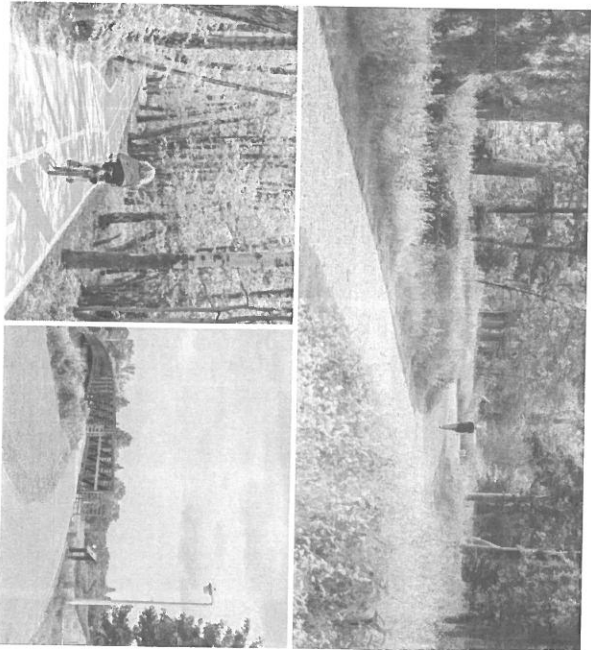
Priority #4

Development of Trails & Natural Features: Implementation Plan

This task includes two key elements:

Create walking/biking trails and other "park like" features that appeal to the modern workforce. As in the examples below, we will incorporate as many aesthetic and functional features that are appealing to the quality of experience for the workforce in the industrial park.

Prescriptively clear and level sites along the new Oxford Loop on the west side of the industrial park (roughly 95 acres). The current density of vegetation occludes the ability to visualize the potential for the existing sites.



Priority #4

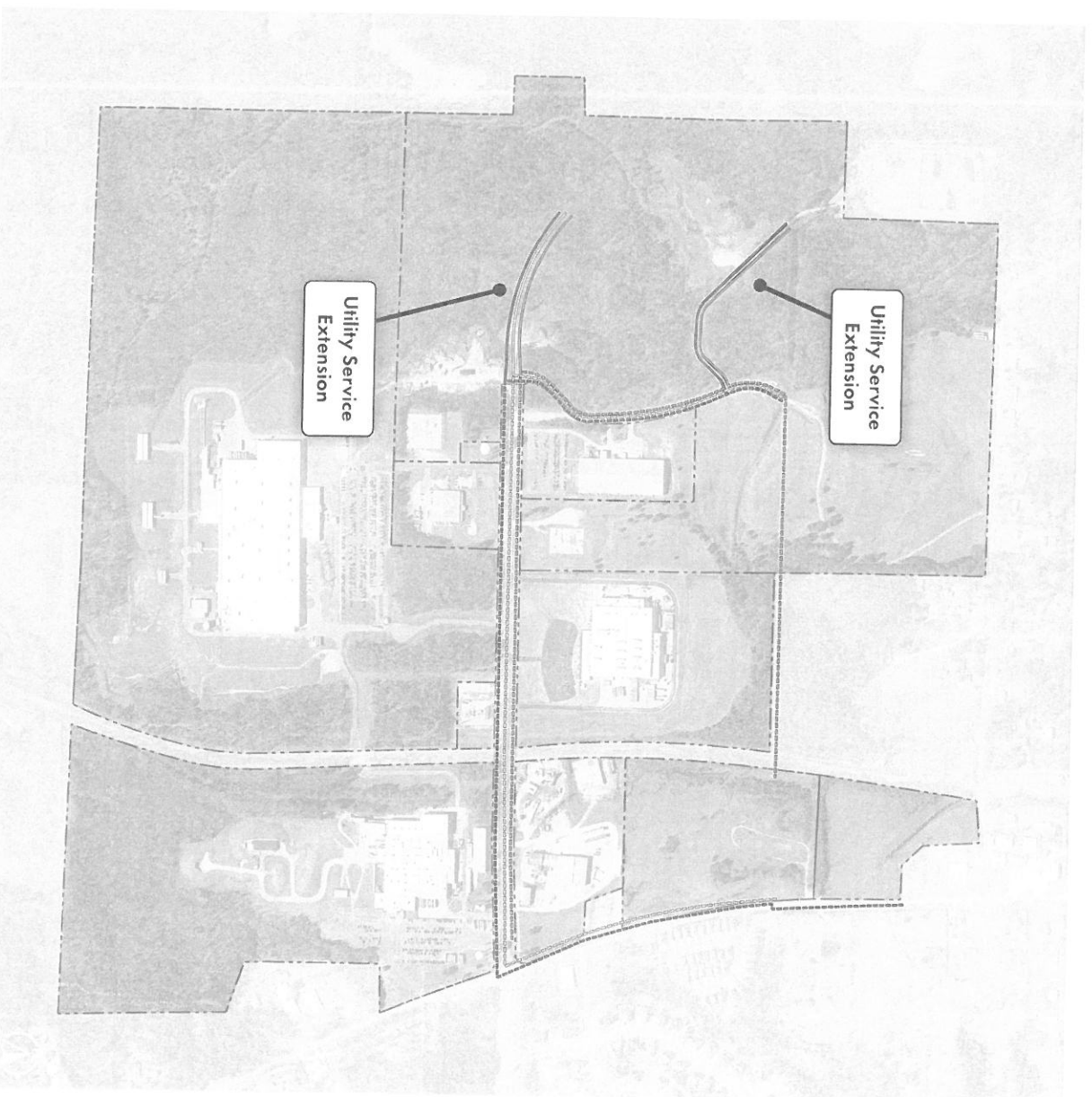
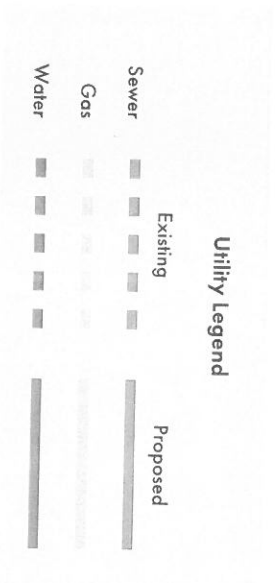
Development of Trails & Natural Features: Opinion of Probable Cost

DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNITS	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
Selective tree thinning - northern trail	20	AC	\$4,000.00	\$80,000.00
Pedestrian bridge 10' wide - northern trail	1	EA	\$286,000.00	\$286,000.00
10' asphalt trail with grading - northern trail	52,380	LF	\$35.00	\$1,833,300.00
Selective tree thinning - trail from West Oxford Loop to secondary road	8	AC	\$4,000.00	\$32,000.00
Pedestrian bridge 10' wide - trail from West Oxford Loop to secondary road	1	EA	\$286,000.00	\$286,000.00
10' asphalt trail with grading - trail from West Oxford Loop to secondary road	2,984	LF	\$35.00	\$104,440.00
Selective tree thinning - trail south of West Oxford Loop	15	AC	\$4,000.00	\$60,000.00
Pedestrian Bridge - trail south of West Oxford Loop	1	EA	\$286,000.00	\$286,000.00
10' asphalt trail with grading - trail south of West Oxford Loop	4,308	LF	\$35.00	\$150,780.00
Sub-Total				\$3,118,520.00
Contingency (10%)				\$311,852.00
A/E Fee (8%)				\$249,481.60
Total				\$3,679,853.60

Priority #5

Utility Improvements: Implementation Plan

Design and improve any necessary utility infrastructure in the industrial park to meet future demand. In our formal cost estimates we will include estimates for increasing capacity for extending the existing infrastructure as well as to increase capacities where needed.



Priority #5

Utility Improvements: Opinion of Probable Cost

DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNITS	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
Water extension West Oxford Loop	1,000	LF	\$70.00	\$70,000.00
Water extension secondary roads	1,000	LF	\$70.00	\$70,000.00
Sewer extension West Oxford Loop	1,000	LF	\$125.00	\$125,000.00
Sewer extension secondary roads	1,000	LF	\$125.00	\$125,000.00
Gas extension West Oxford Loop	1,000	LF	\$45.00	\$45,000.00
Gas extension secondary roads	1,000	LF	\$45.00	\$45,000.00
Total				\$480,000.00
Contingency (10%)				\$48,000.00
A/E Fee (8%)				\$38,400.00
Total				\$566,400.00

Priority #6

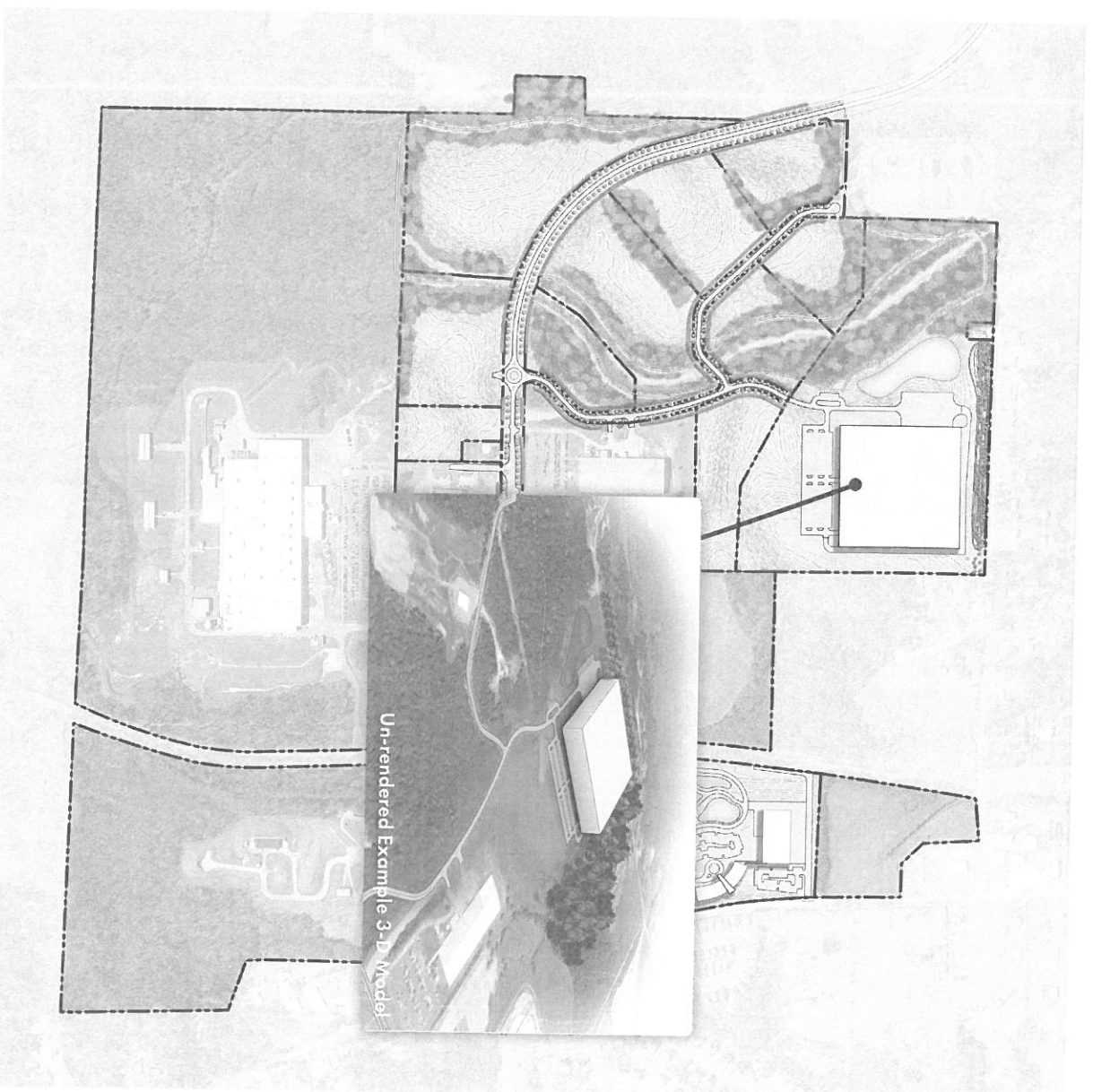
Additional Master Planning: Implementation Plan

This priority is presented as a low-cost, high-return-on-investment option to further this master planning effort with additional tools for prospect recruitment.

An important element that the EDF would like to invest in as part of this additional planning effort, would be the development of photorealistic 3-D renderings of how the industrial park can be fully developed. This would allow prospects to more easily envision their project as part of the industrial park's future.

Also included in this effort would be initial conceptual designs for the new and improved wayfinding/signage that is identified in Priority 2. Should that priority be fully funded, this line item will not be needed.

Lastly, comprehensive professional aerial drone photography and video footage documenting the entire industrial park would be highly useful in orienting prospects to the unique qualities of this park.



Priority #6

Additional Master Planning:
Opinion of Probable Cost

DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNITS	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
Industrial Park Conceptual 3-D Model & Renderings	1	-	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00
Gateway Signage Design Concept*	1	-	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Water Tower Signage Design Concept*	1	-	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Professional Aerial Photography of the Industrial Park	1	-	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Total				\$81,500.00

*Not needed if Priority 2 is funded.

Summary: Opinion of Probable Costs & Matching Funds

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES		TOTAL
Priority #1: West Oxford Loop Upgrades		\$3,689,919.00
Priority #2: Gateway Entrance Upgrades		\$584,548.40
Priority #3: North Parcel Pre-Development & Roadway Improvements		\$4,704,860.60
Priority #4: Development of Trails & Natural Features		\$3,679,853.60
Priority #5: Utility Improvements		\$566,400.00
Priority #6: Additional Master Planning		\$81,500.00
	Total*	\$13,307,081.60

*Includes A/E Fees & Construction Contingency

MATCHING FUNDS (Extension and Minor Improvements of West Oxford Loop Fully Funded by Lafayette County)		TOTAL
West Oxford Loop extension from County Road 102 to Max Hipp Industrial Park Western Boundary		\$6,000,000.00
West Oxford Loop minor improvements through Max Hipp Industrial Park, does not include curb and gutter, trees, electrical pole upgrades		\$2,000,000.00

Lafayette County is investing over \$8 million into the last phase of the Oxford Loop. Nearly \$2 million of that will be for the road upgrade for the existing main road in the industrial park. We consider the full \$8 million an investment in our industrial park and the economic future of Lafayette County. The county will also pay for the removal of county storage/equipment areas that have been housed for some time. It will also remove any construction debris that is scattered about.

Local Matching Funds	\$8,000,000.00
Grant Funding for Priorities 1-6	\$13,307,081.60
Matching %	Local Funding 60.12 % Grant Funding 39.88 %

Development Plan

Flexibility in our product offering is the driving factor for our updated master plan. We are currently working on a project to recruit a manufacturer who will build a 500,000 square foot building in the Northern parcel of the industrial park. We are keeping the plan for this parcel flexible in the event that this project does not come to fruition.

The master plan for the entire industrial park is to remain flexible for project requiring both large and small space. Below is one possible development scheme with breakdowns of the sizes of potential facilities on each site. It should be noted, these are not presented as maximum buildable sizes, as there is additional flexibility with both parcel sizes and the option to build multi-story buildings.

Scheme 1

- A. 30,157 SF
- B. 50,000 SF
- C. 45,000 SF
- D. 158,400 SF
- E. 47,000 SF
- F. 30,157 SF
- G. 46,000 SF (Office Building)
- H. 48,000 SF (Production Building)
- I. 504,100 SF
- J. 30,157 SF



Note on Future Expansion Areas:
These are areas intended for the expansion of current industrial park tenants but are still potentially available for development.

Development Plan

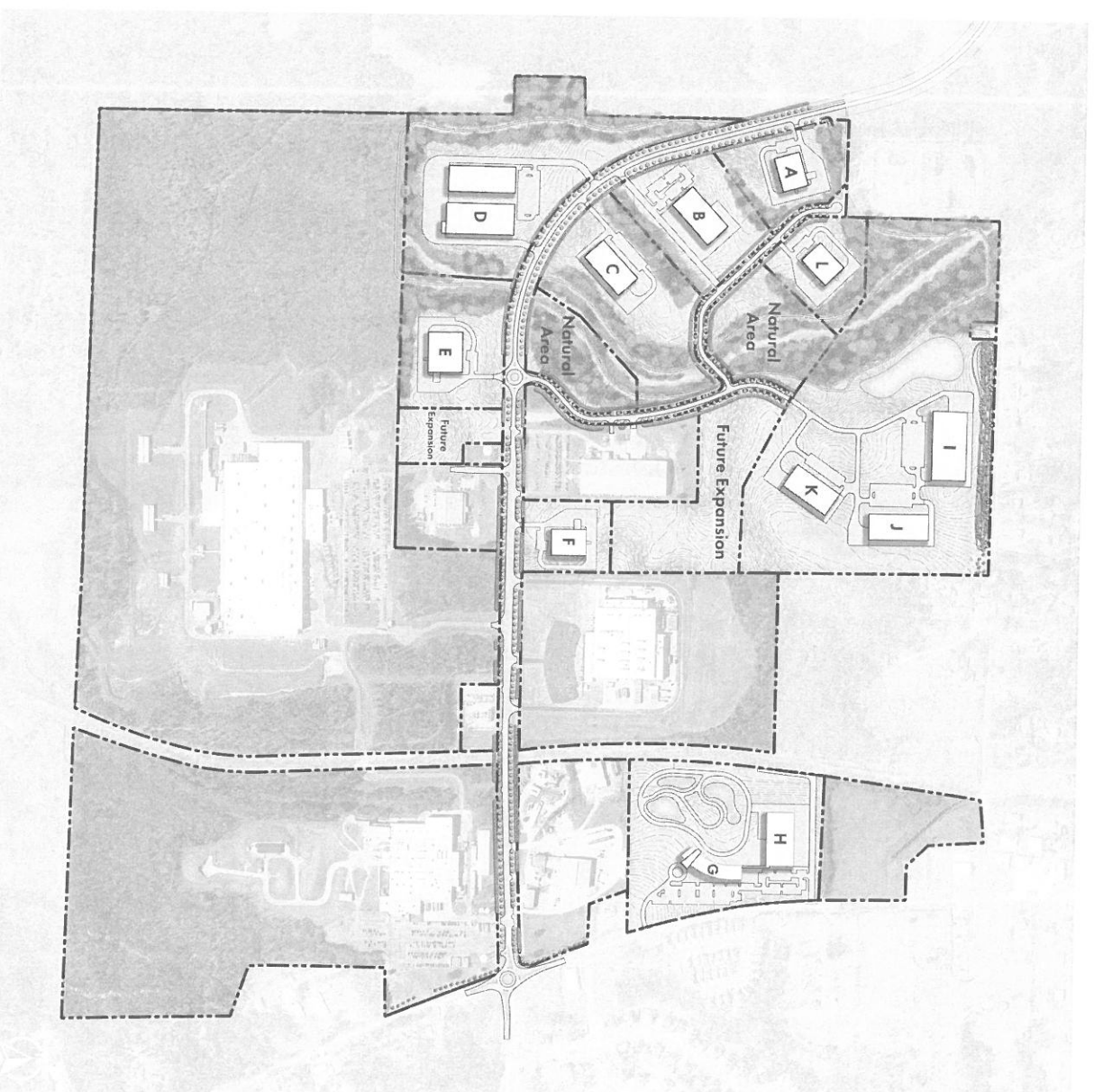
Flexibility in our product offering is the driving factor for our updated master plan. We are currently working on a project to recruit a manufacturer who will build a 500,000 square foot building in the Northern parcel of the industrial park. We are keeping the plan for this parcel flexible in the event that this project does not come to fruition.

The master plan for the entire industrial park is to remain flexible for project requiring both large and small space. Below is one possible development scheme with breakdowns of the sizes of potential facilities on each site. It should be noted, these are not presented as maximum buildable sizes, as there is additional flexibility with both parcel sizes and the option to build multi-story buildings.

Scheme 2

- A. 30,157 SF
- B. 50,000 SF
- C. 45,000 SF
- D. 131,000 SF (Both Buildings Combined)
- E. 47,000 SF
- F. 30,157 SF
- G. 48,000 SF (Office Building)
- H. 48,000 SF (Production Building)
- I. 80,000 SF
- J. 52,500 SF
- K. 45,000 SF
- L. 30,157 SF

Note on Future Expansion Areas:
These are areas intended for the expansion of current industrial park tenants but are still potentially available for development.



Appendix

1. Letter of Support

1. Letter of Support

October 3, 2022

Joseph R. Gladden, PhD
313 Lyceum
University, MS 38677

To whom it may concern:

The University of Mississippi has recently created the Center for Diagnostics, Design and Biomechanics (D3B). D3B connects science, medicine and engineering to advance the development of modern medical technology and devices, as well as new surgical approaches and practices. Engineering faculty will work with other Ole Miss professors and industry experts to create innovative technologies and learning models to benefit the people of Mississippi and beyond. The intellectual property grown from this center will be used to create new companies to manufacture and market new biomedical devices.

The new companies which are created from this technology development will require private enterprise investment and a location close to the University of Mississippi campus in order to be successful in their long-term growth. We support the effort to re-develop the Lafayette County Industrial Park and to make it more suitable for the type of industry which we feel will need local support in order to grow. The current industrial park in Lafayette County does not meet our expectations for quality of place that is standard in Oxford, Mississippi. A transformative effort will need to be made in order to bring this park up to the aesthetic and functional standard worthy of the University of Mississippi brand.

The University of Mississippi is designated as an R1 research institution by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. We are one of only 131 institutions in the U.S. with this top designation. Innovation and discovery drive our faculty in their research. Our professors share their expertise with graduate and undergraduate researchers. And, they collaborate with industry, governmental agencies and other universities to understand and solve some of the world's greatest challenges.

Please consider this our endorsement of the transformative plan that the EDF has put forth. Sincerely,



Joseph Gladden, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Research and Sponsored Programs
Professor of Physics & Astronomy
University of Mississippi