

water as a relation



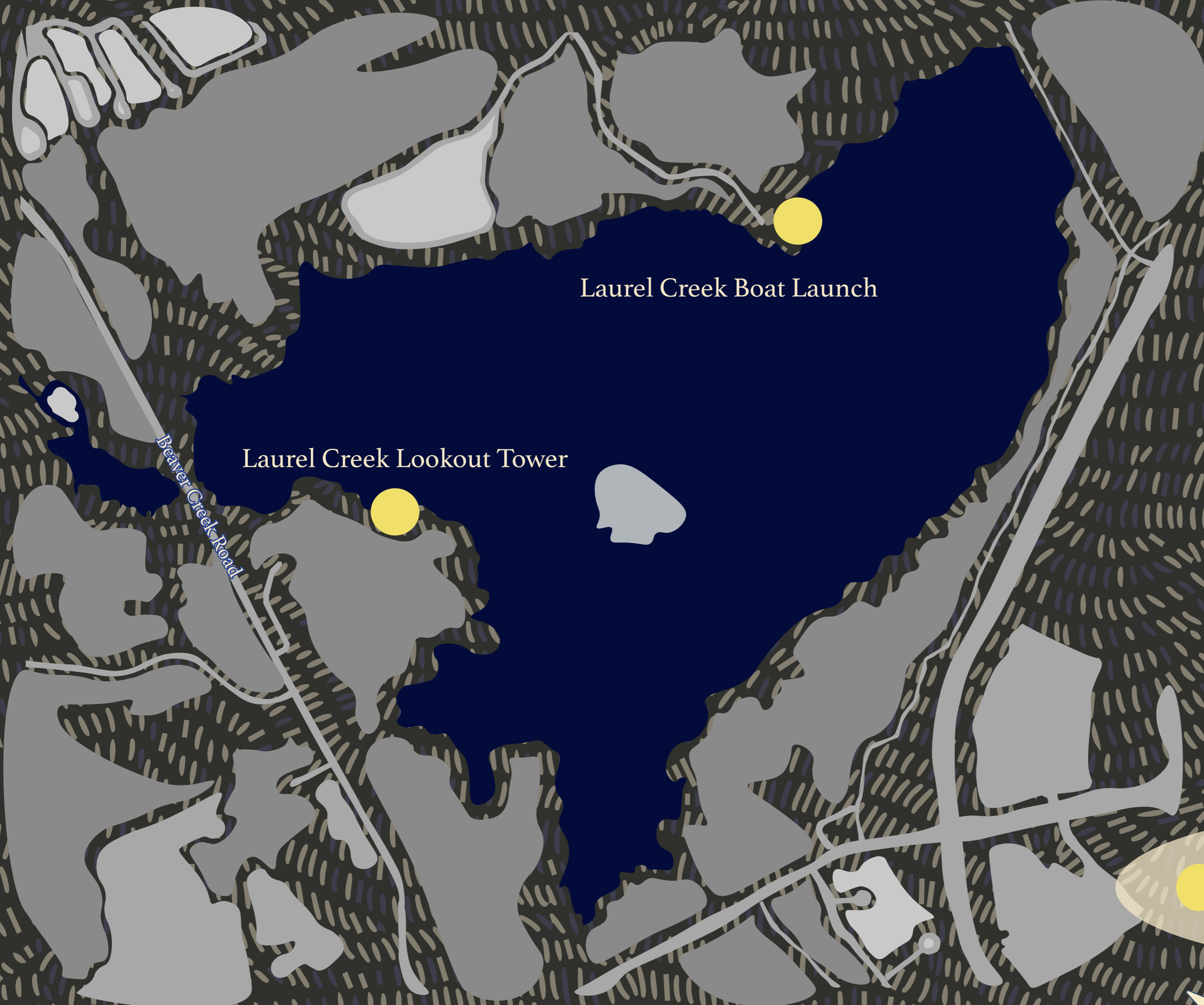
not a commodity

★ Therefore, our proposed solution is to transfer the managerial power from conservation authorities to Indigenous peoples. This allows for reconciliation and proper restoration that can only be conducted by the Indigenous community, as it restores the spiritual connections that exist between them and their lands. The site being restored to Indigenous leadership would also remove time limits of access to the lands as well as activities that can be conducted on the site.

★ This creek was once used for Indigenous bathing traditions, which are holistic practices that connect physical and spiritual hygiene. Therefore, reconciling the land to Indigenous peoples could allow them to reconnect to their traditional bathing roots that were once conducted here. This is very important because this land belongs to the indigenous peoples, specifically on the territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Chonnonton peoples. It is their right to be the owners of this land, and to be able to conduct their traditional bathing rituals on this land and in the water of Laurel Creek.

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back to beaver creek



Laurel Creek, previously called Beaver Creek before colonization, is located by the University of Waterloo and Wilfred Laurier University campuses and offers students and residents a beautiful nature escape where they can view the creek and spend time outdoors. However, this land and water source was once free and untouched by colonizers. Settlers rerouted the creek to get more water for water powered generators to power the downtown area. However, in the 1900s, the damage done to the creek from rerouting and polluted runoff became apparent, so rehabilitation efforts, led by settlers, began in 2020. However, although the creek is restored and is safe for recreation activities such as swimming, the site remains inaccessible. The site being a conservation area means that there are limits on when people can access the site, and what activities can be conducted.

● Represents accessible bathing areas