

# GROVELAND

## PARK AMENITIES STUDY & PLAN

July 28th, 2021



# GOALS

## **Over-arching goal:**

This report presents a preliminary evaluation of location, suitability, traffic flow, efficiency, accessibility and overall design of existing park structures, facilities, amenities, and landscape. It sets up further efforts to prepare site plans, including necessary support facilities and amenity details for recommended Park improvements to meet District goals.

The report considers the incorporation of additional features that enhance/increase the usability, function and revenue generation potential of the park and its facilities, such as safety and accessibility improvements, security, lighting, gazebos, BBQ/picnic areas, parking and infrastructure to support increased civi presence and use of the park.

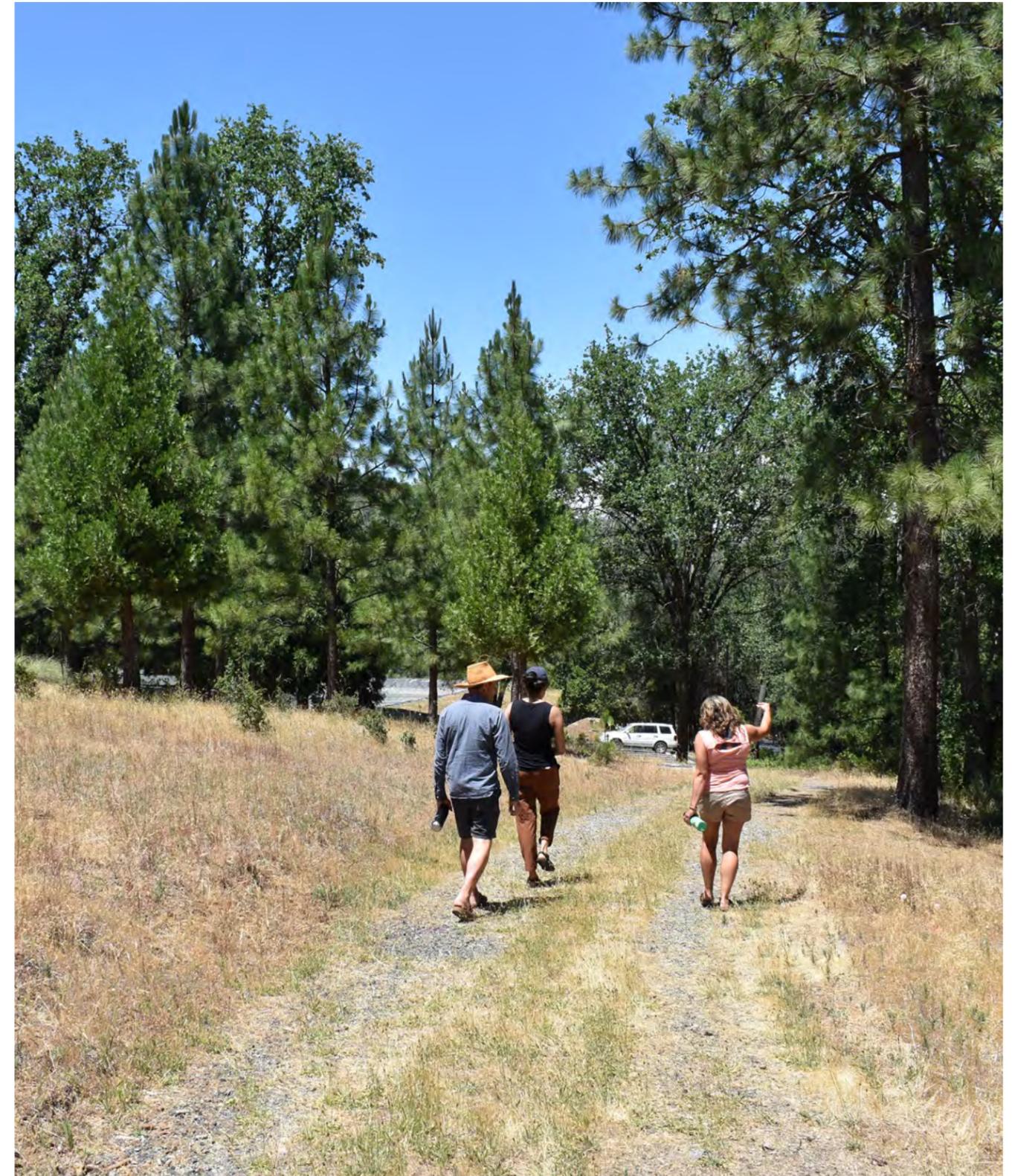
## **Expanded Goals for this Project Include:**

- Increase park safety and functionality.
- Increase recreation and tourism opportunities.
- Serve the needs of the local community first – this will capture the interest of tourists and generate larger appeal.
- Groveland is a gateway to Yosemite but also a memorable experience. For visitors, enhance the amenities and advantages of a small-town destination as opposed to the crowds of the Yosemite Valley. Develop a complementary experience to Yosemite – Groveland acts as a steppingstone with its own attractions and appeal.
- Create an identity for town-facing Mary Laveroni Park, with greater nature access and exploration through rest of the GCSD property.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Specific priorities the GCSD team has identified include:

- Reconfiguration of stage to hold community events such as concerts, plays, and movies.
- Reconfiguration of support facilities to create a venue to host and better support private events such as weddings, reunions, birthdays etc.
- Skate park recommendation (rebuild, remove, repurpose the area).
- Preparation of site plans including support facilities and amenity details for Phase One of the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Grade Trail and associated connections.
- Evaluation of the feasibility of developing an RV and tent campground.
- Evaluation of the feasibility of a competitive mountain biking course.
- Evaluation of the feasibility of a competitive disc golf course.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

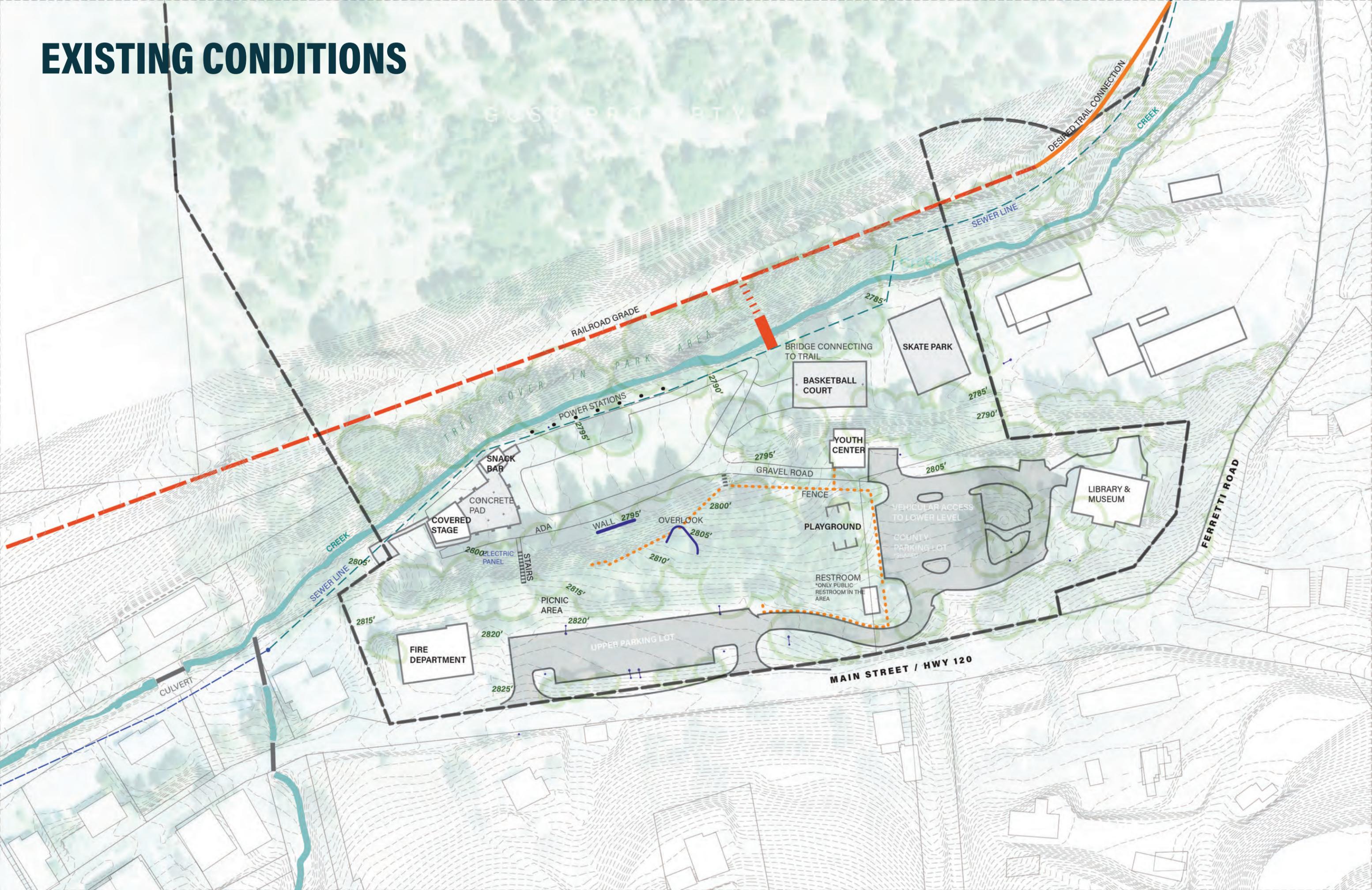
Additional Strategic Priorities identified by the Project Team include:

- Further develop Mary Laveroni Park as an enriched **special place that reinforces the identity of Groveland** – whether you're a resident walking your dog or a tourist seeking an authentic local attraction.
- Provide adequate space, circulation, and infrastructure to **support a destination venue for events** and community programmatic anchors – to reinforce **Mary Laveroni Park as a community hub**, and to enable the hosting of sought-after destination attractions/festivals.
- **Leverage creek-side and adjacent GCSO parcel recreation opportunities** for calm respite, play, adventure, exercise, nature immersion, and exploration – whether stretching your legs after a long drive or just going for a walk after work.
- Establish a vision for connections to regional trails and wider recreation network – **position Groveland as the “setting-off point” in the center of a vast, inter-connected system** of recreational destinations and attractions, drawing residents and tourists to boost the local economy.
- Carefully **prepare Groveland for influx of year-round residents and plan for capacity increases while retaining character**, reinforcing small-town appeal, and protecting natural resources.



**MARY LAVERONI PARK  
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT**

# EXISTING CONDITIONS



# FIRST STEPS



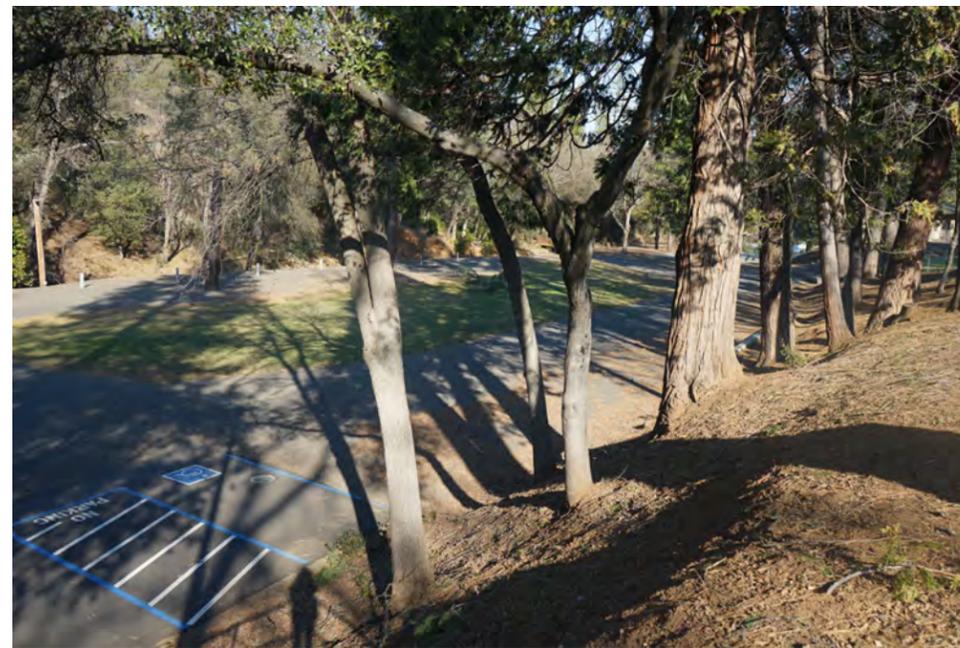
Remove the fence (selectively).



Provide clear pathways and defined spaces - ensure the lower part of the Park feels open and welcoming.



Clean up utility installations.



Stabilize eroding steep slopes



Remove old foundations / abrupt grade changes.

# 1. HOW DO WE UNLOCK POTENTIAL FOR PROGRAMMATIC ENHANCEMENTS TO ADD TO THE IDENTITY AND EXPERIENCE OF MARY LAVERONI PARK?

## Potential program themes:

Adventure Play + Climbing  
Native Planting + California Landscape  
Arts + Events

## Key Considerations:

- Do we keep the skate park and basketball court in place, or do we relocate them? If relocated, how could we use that space?
- Can we use the hillside to create a distinctive and attractive feature?
- How could we leverage the creek corridor?



# ADVENTURE PLAY + CLIMBING



NETS AND CLIMBERS



CREEKSIDE NATURE PLAY



CLIMBING TOWER



SWINGS



SLACKLINES



ROPES COURSE & TEAM BUILDING

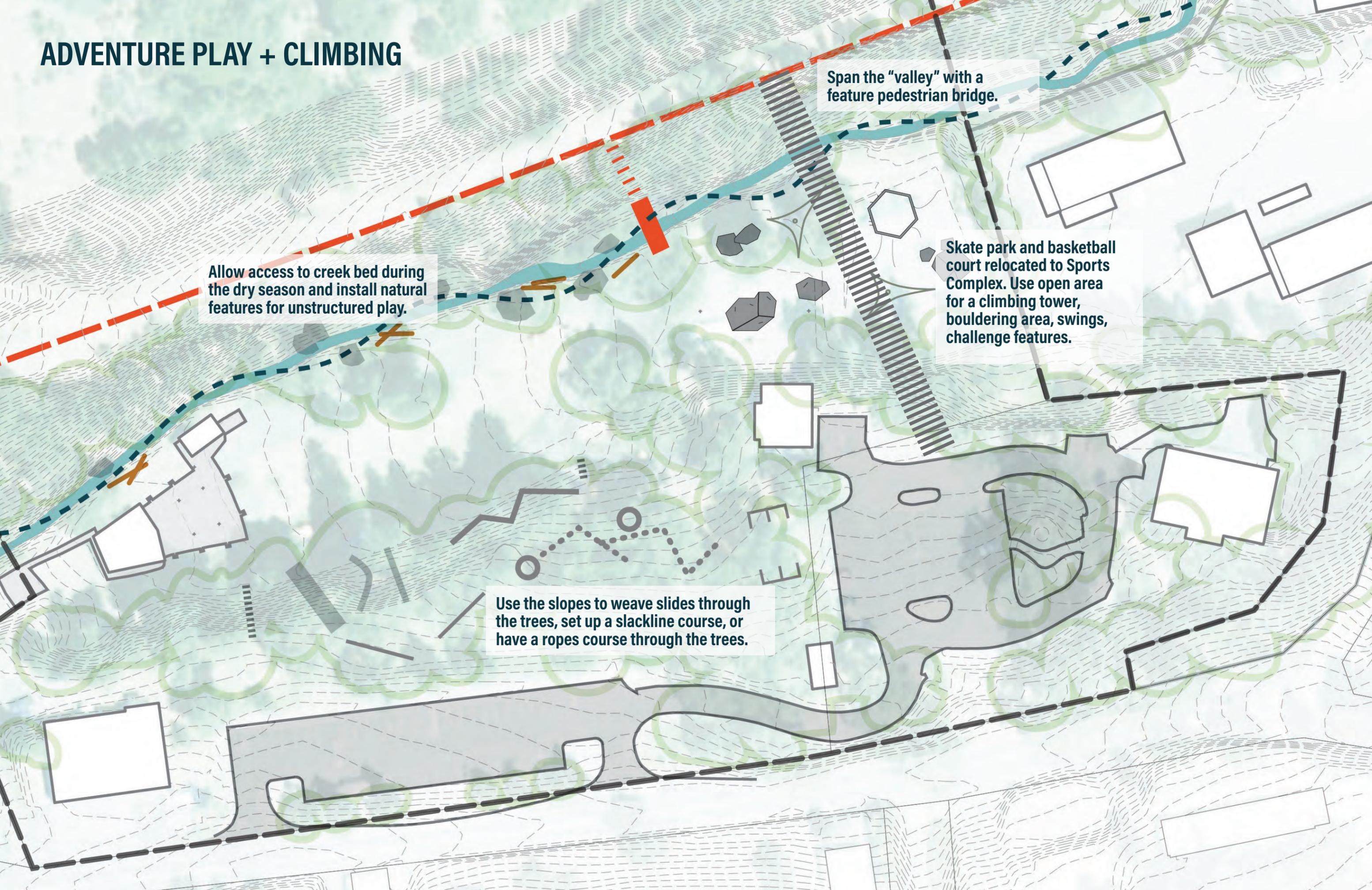
# ADVENTURE PLAY + CLIMBING

Allow access to creek bed during the dry season and install natural features for unstructured play.

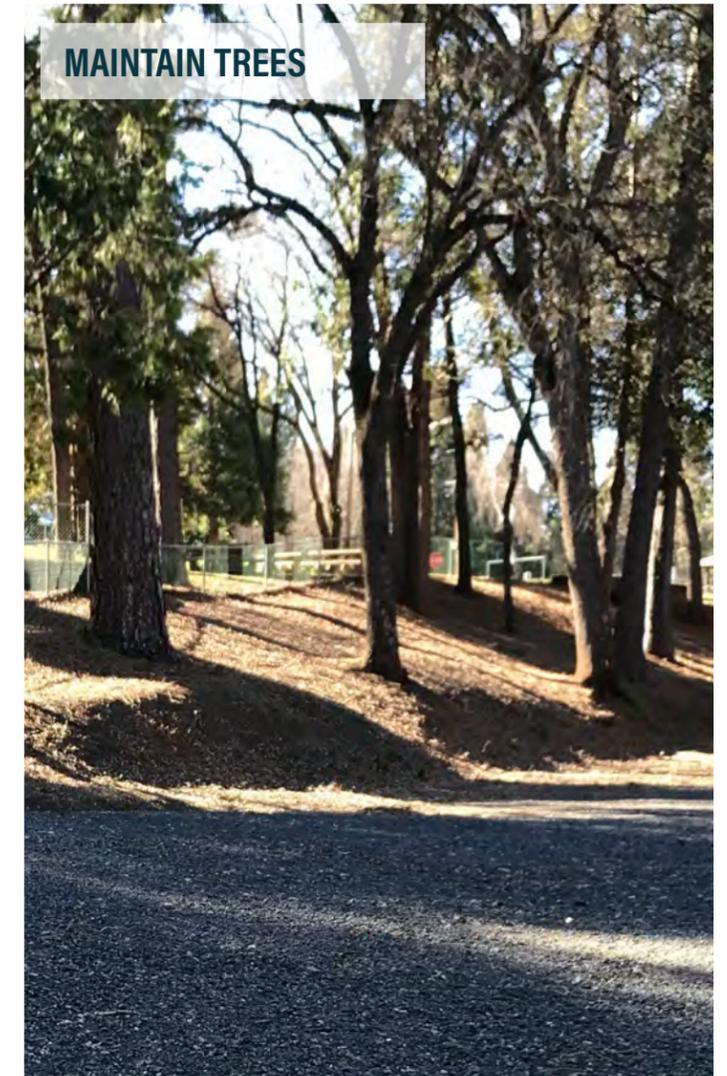
Span the "valley" with a feature pedestrian bridge.

Skate park and basketball court relocated to Sports Complex. Use open area for a climbing tower, bouldering area, swings, challenge features.

Use the slopes to weave slides through the trees, set up a slackline course, or have a ropes course through the trees.



# NATIVE PLANTING + CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPES



# NATIVE PLANTING + CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPES

Lay back creek bank, allow overflow / floodplain condition, showcase riparian corridor vegetation.

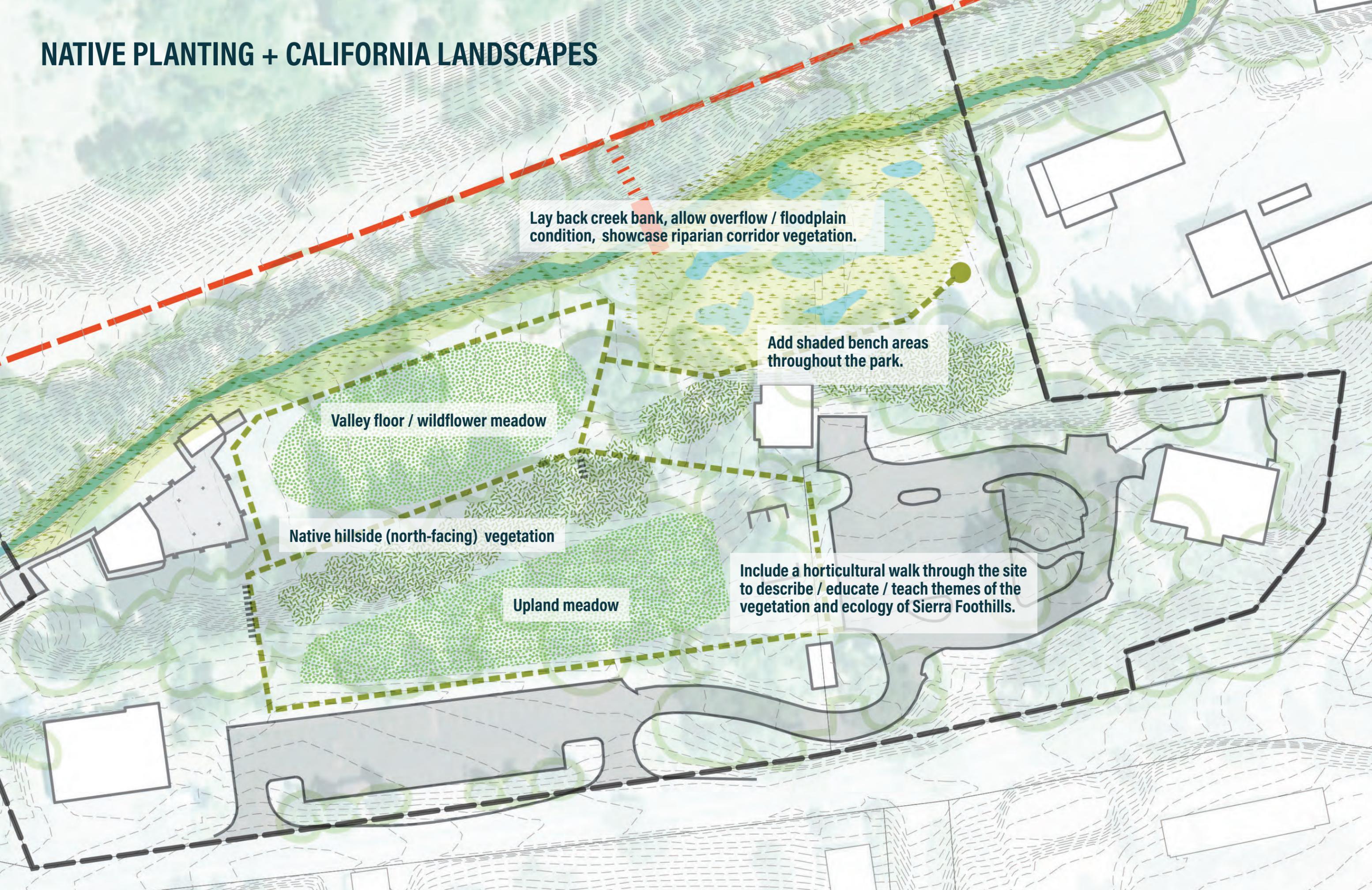
Add shaded bench areas throughout the park.

Valley floor / wildflower meadow

Native hillside (north-facing) vegetation

Upland meadow

Include a horticultural walk through the site to describe / educate / teach themes of the vegetation and ecology of Sierra Foothills.



# ARTS + EVENTS



**OUTDOOR FAIR SPACE**



**OUTDOOR CLASSROOM  
& SPEAKER PLATFORM**



**HILLSIDE AMPHITHEATER**



**FLEXIBLE EVENT SPACE**



**EVENT RENTALS**

# ARTS + EVENTS

Use former stage area for back of house and maintenance drop offs, concession service/delivery, or expanded ADA parking.

Relocate stage to face hillside and upper park.

Crushed stone plaze flex space for booths and tents, tables and chairs, concessions, special events.

Outdoor classroom pods / decks.

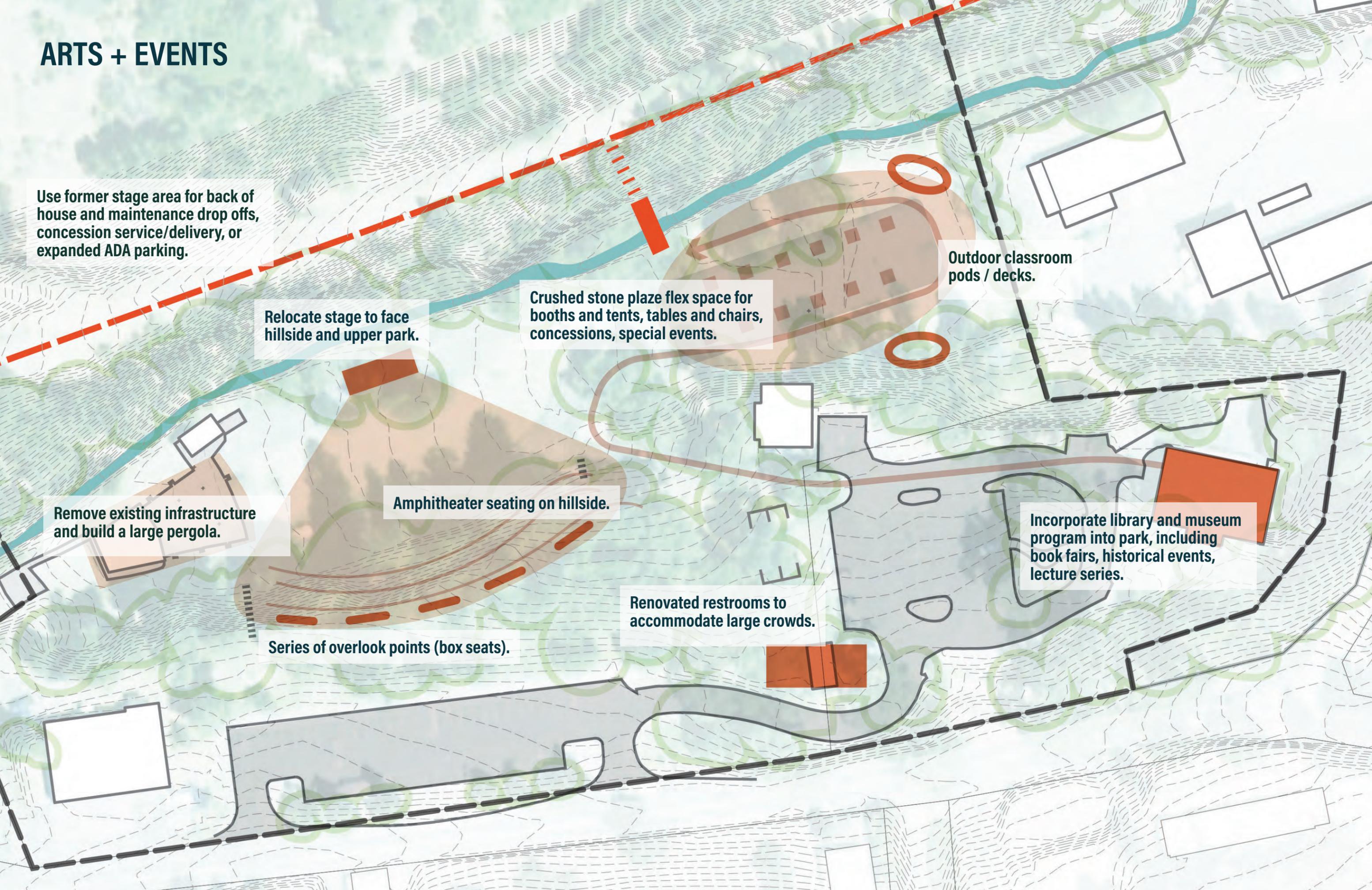
Remove existing infrastructure and build a large pergola.

Amphitheater seating on hillside.

Incorporate library and museum program into park, including book fairs, historical events, lecture series.

Renovated restrooms to accommodate large crowds.

Series of overlook points (box seats).



## 2. HOW COULD WE RETHINK THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE?

### Key Considerations:

- How could we reimagine the bus area or add a pavilion?
- What will make it easy for travelers to rest and recharge?
- What elements could act as gateway, to create a sense of arrival - **your vacation starts here.**
- Is there a future potential to work with Caltrans on their adjacent property?
- Can overflow parking be moved to the Resilience Center?



# VISITOR EXPERIENCE UPGRADES



BUS PAVILION

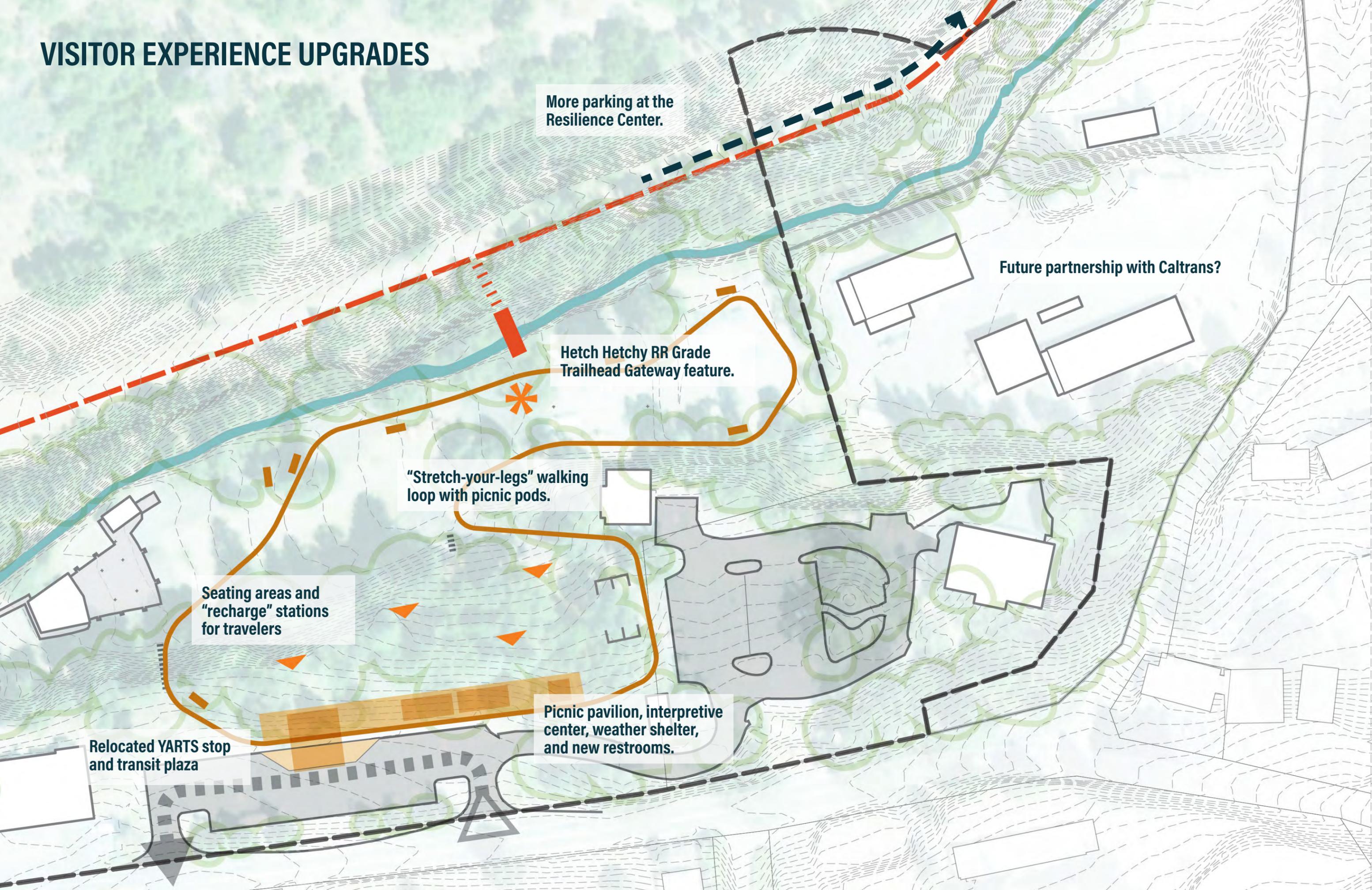


RANGER PROGRAMS



VISITOR CENTER

# VISITOR EXPERIENCE UPGRADES



More parking at the Resilience Center.

Future partnership with Caltrans?

Hetch Hetchy RR Grade Trailhead Gateway feature.

"Stretch-your-legs" walking loop with picnic pods.

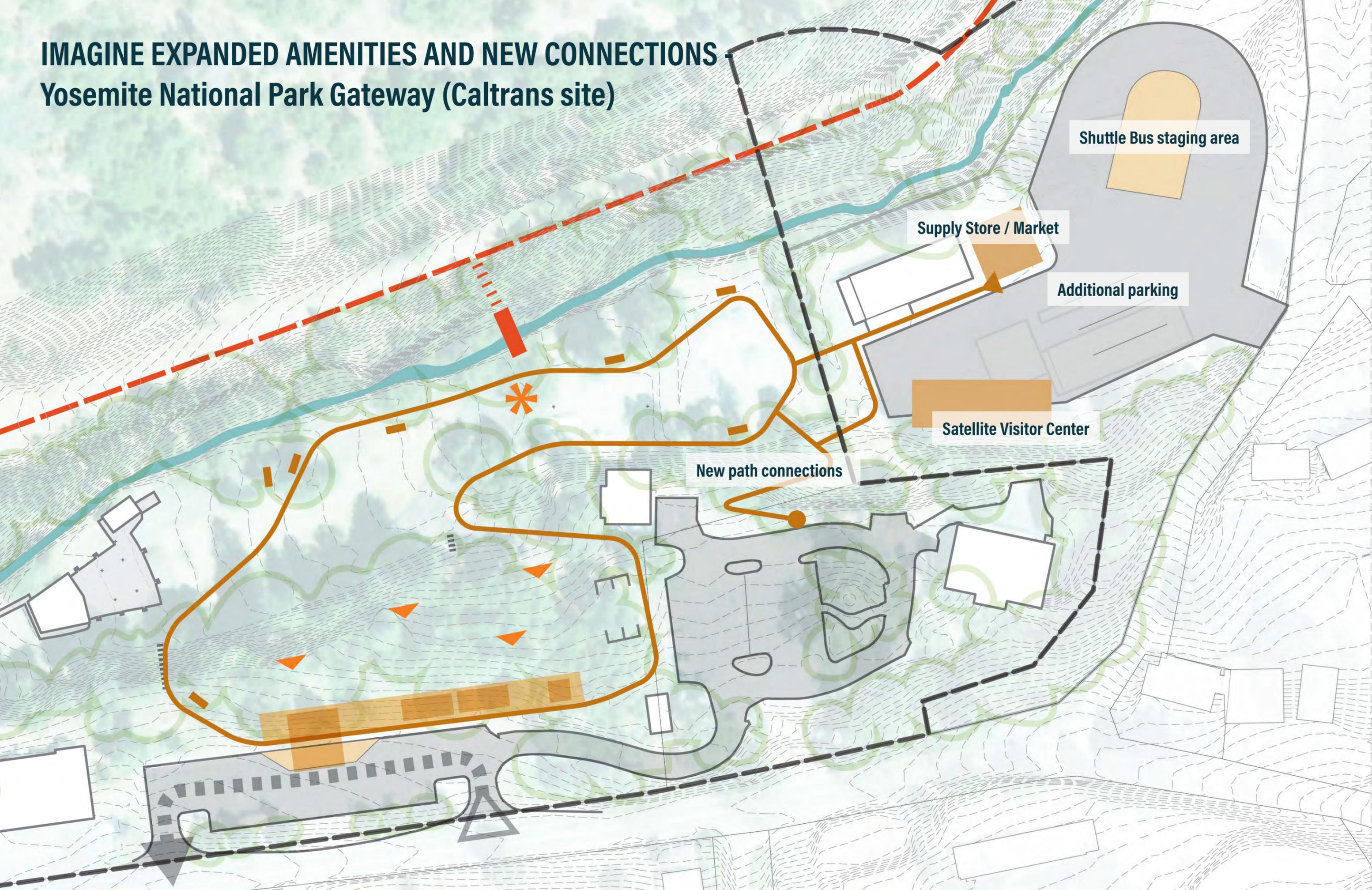
Seating areas and "recharge" stations for travelers

Picnic pavilion, interpretive center, weather shelter, and new restrooms.

Relocated YARTS stop and transit plaza

# IMAGINE EXPANDED AMENITIES AND NEW CONNECTIONS

## Yosemite National Park Gateway (Caltrans site)



Shuttle Bus staging area

Supply Store / Market

Additional parking

Satellite Visitor Center

New path connections

### 3. A STRONGER CONNECTION TO DOWNTOWN WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR MANY REASONS. HOW COULD WE CONSIDER BETTER CONNECTIONS FROM GCSD PARK PROPERTIES?

#### Key Considerations:

- How could we leverage the creek corridor and HH Railroad grade to create a new connection to downtown?
- What is the best way to connect along surface streets and sidewalks?
- What additional enhancements would strengthen these connections?



# ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL CONNECTION ENHANCEMENTS

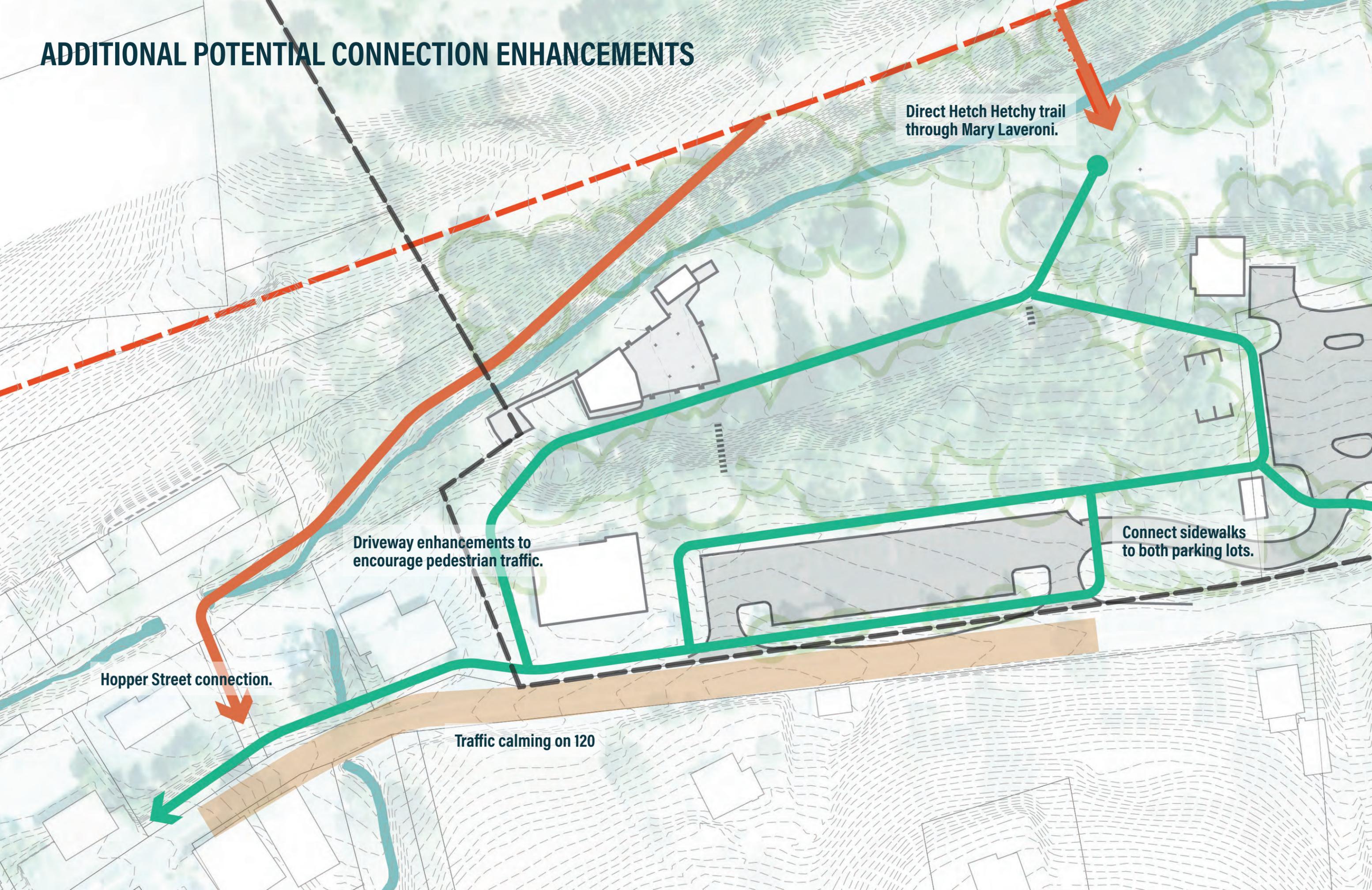
Direct Hetch Hetchy trail through Mary Laveroni.

Driveway enhancements to encourage pedestrian traffic.

Connect sidewalks to both parking lots.

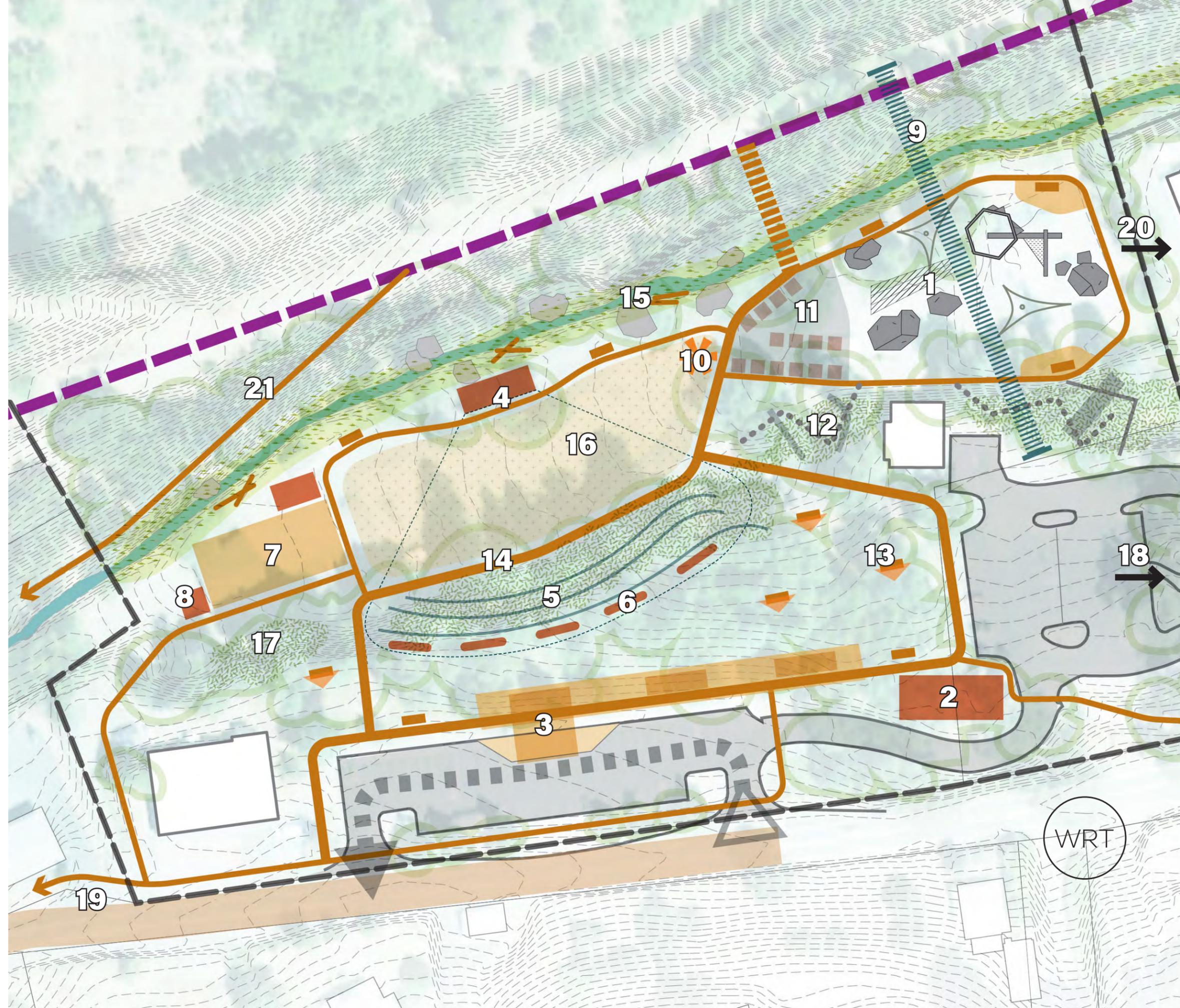
Hopper Street connection.

Traffic calming on 120



# PRELIMINARY CONCEPT

1. Skate park and basketball court relocated to Sports Complex. Use open area for a climbing tower, bouldering area, swings, challenge features.
2. Renovated restrooms to accommodate large crowds.
3. Relocated YARTS stop and transit plaza, with picnic pavilion, interpretive center, weather shelter.
4. Relocate stage to face hillside and upper park.
5. Add amphitheater seating on hillside.
6. Series of overlook points (box seats).
7. Remove existing band shell and build a large pergola.
8. Use former stage area for back of house and maintenance drop offs, concession service/delivery, or expanded ADA parking.
9. Span the "valley" with a feature pedestrian bridge.
10. Create a Hetch Hetchy RR Grade Trailhead Gateway.
11. Add crushed stone plaze flex space for booths and tents, tables and chairs, concessions, special events.
12. Use hillside to weave slides through the trees, set up a slackline course or a ropes course.
13. Add shaded benches throughout the park.
14. "Stretch-your-legs" walking loop with picnic pods.
15. Allow access to creek bed during the dry season and install natural features for unstructured play.
16. Native valley floor meadow (mowed for events).
17. Stabilize slopes with native hillside vegetation.
18. Incorporate library and museum program into park events with outdoor classroom pods / decks.
19. Better connections / streetscape improvements to downtown destinations.
20. Future partnership with Caltrans and NPS?
21. Additional connections to Hetch Hetchy trail.





**GCS D PROPERTY  
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT**

# FIRST STEPS



Allow visitor access throughout the site.



Create trail linkage between Mary Laveroni, Resilience Center, and Recreation Area.



Clearly define "NO-GO" zones at spray fields / reservoirs.



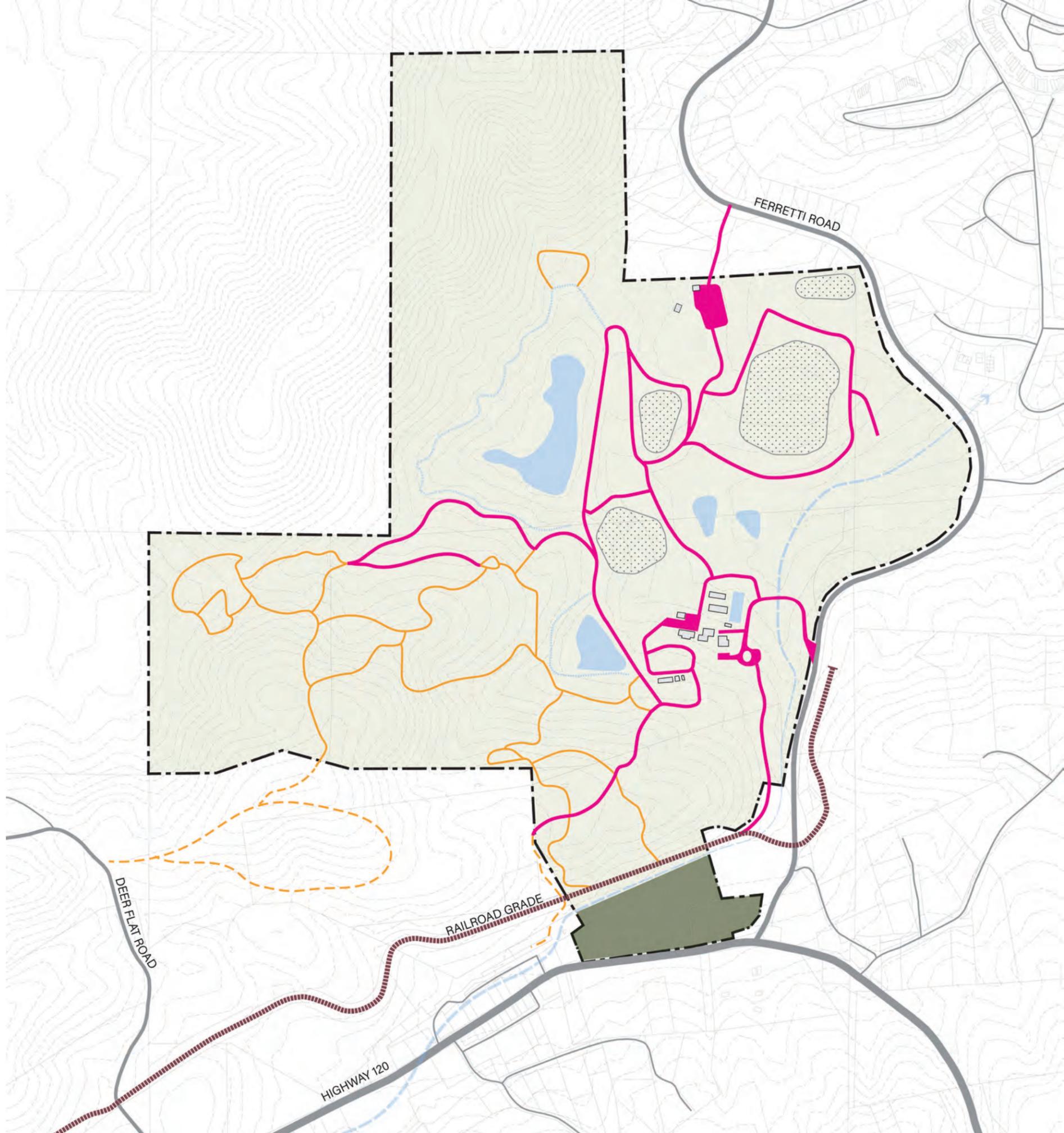
Clean up network of informal maintenance roads and trails.



Improved safety - remove debris or old and obsolete infrastructure.

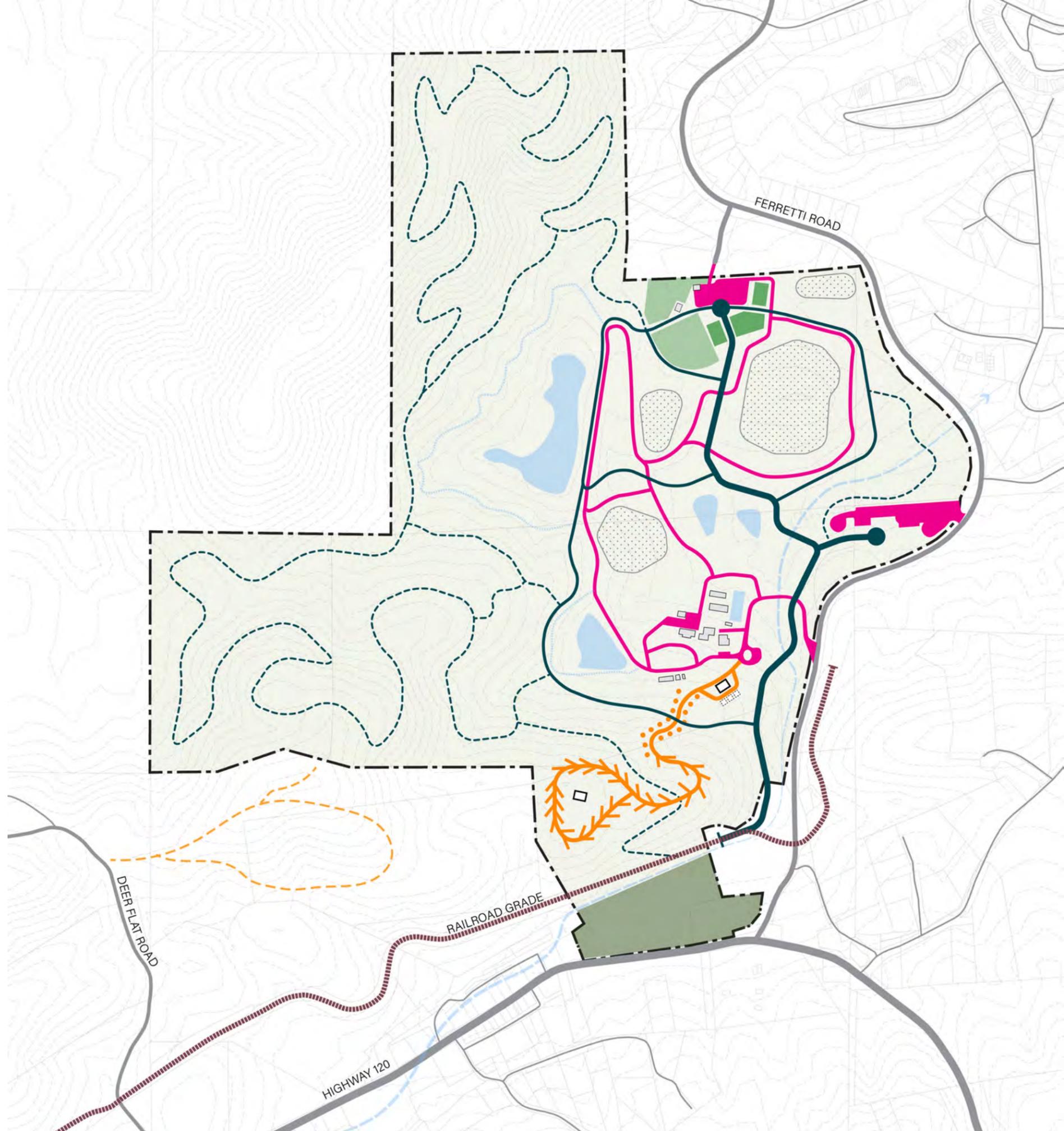
# EXISTING CIRCULATION

- ROADS / PARKING
- EXISTING TRAILS
- DIVERSION FLUMES



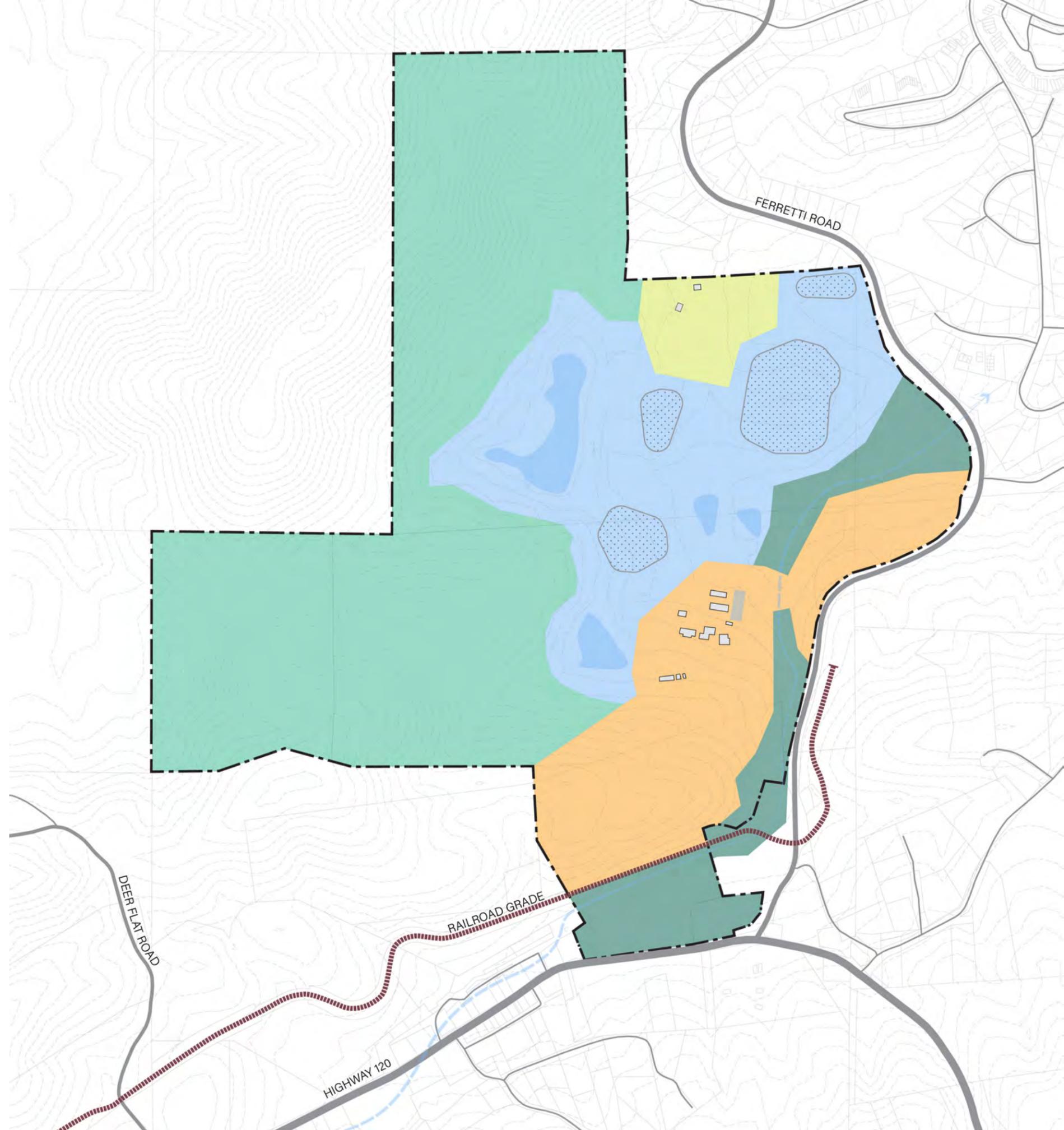
# PROPOSED CIRCULATION

- PRIMARY
- SECONDARY
- TERTIARY
- ROADS / PARKING
- RV
- DIVERSION FLUMES
- OFF-SITE CONNECTIONS



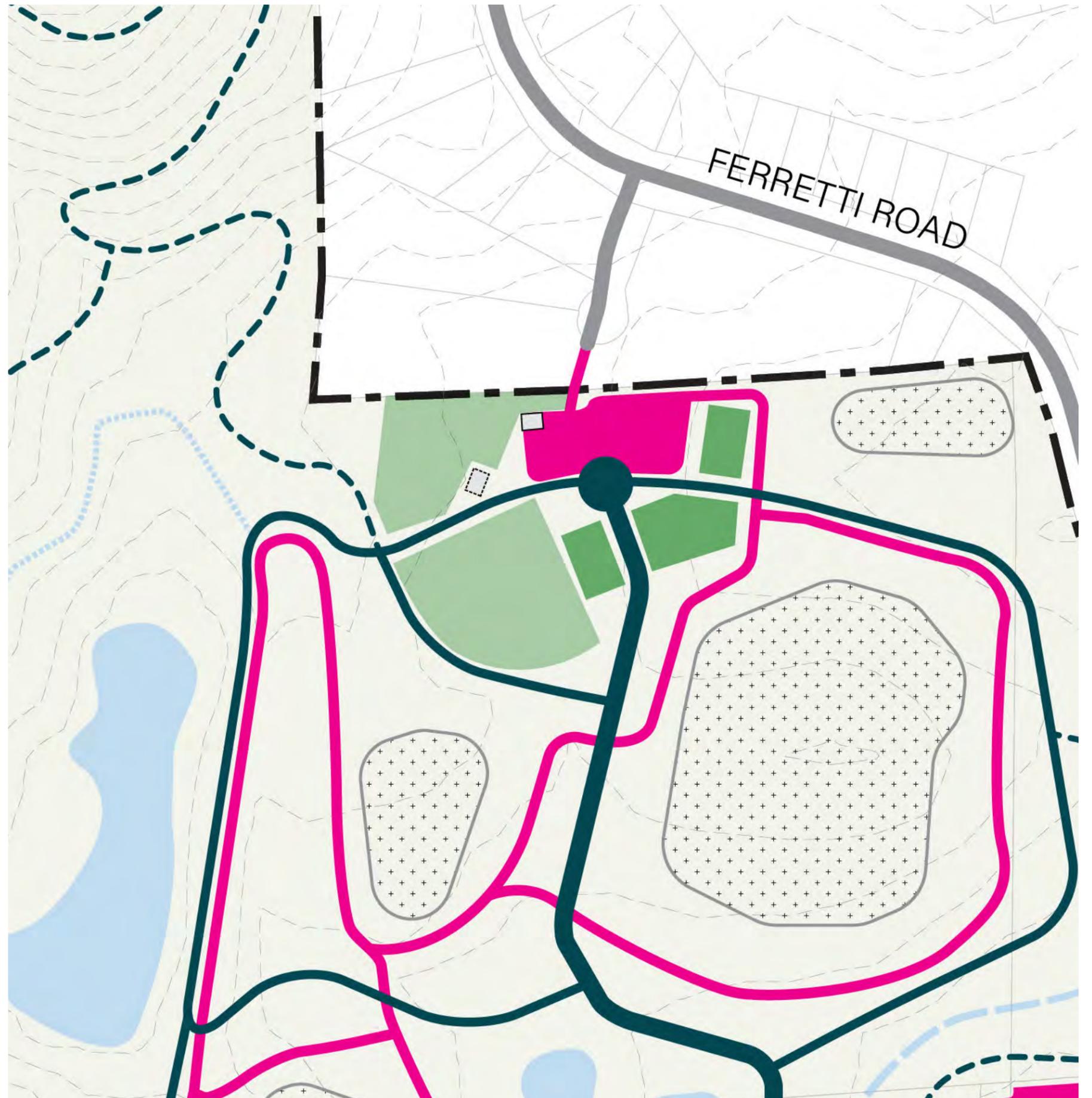
# USAGE ZONES

-  THE PRESERVE / TRAILS
-  SPRAY FIELDS / RESERVOIRS
-  SPORTS COMPLEX
-  OFFICE / RV / RESILIENCE CENTER
-  CREEK CORRIDOR / MARY LAVERONI PARK



# SPORTS COMPLEX PROGRAM ZONE

- baseball field
- dog park
- trailhead/restrooms/concession/  
event pavilion
- flex space for events
- pickleball
- lawn sports
- picnic/bbq
- reoriented parking lot
  
- RELOCATED basketball court
- RELOCAED skate park



# CYCLING / RUNNING / EVENTS

Too short for mountain biking (typ 60km or more),  
but perfect for:

## Cyclocross

- typically on a 1k to 3k circuit
- need to consider event logistics
- camping on site

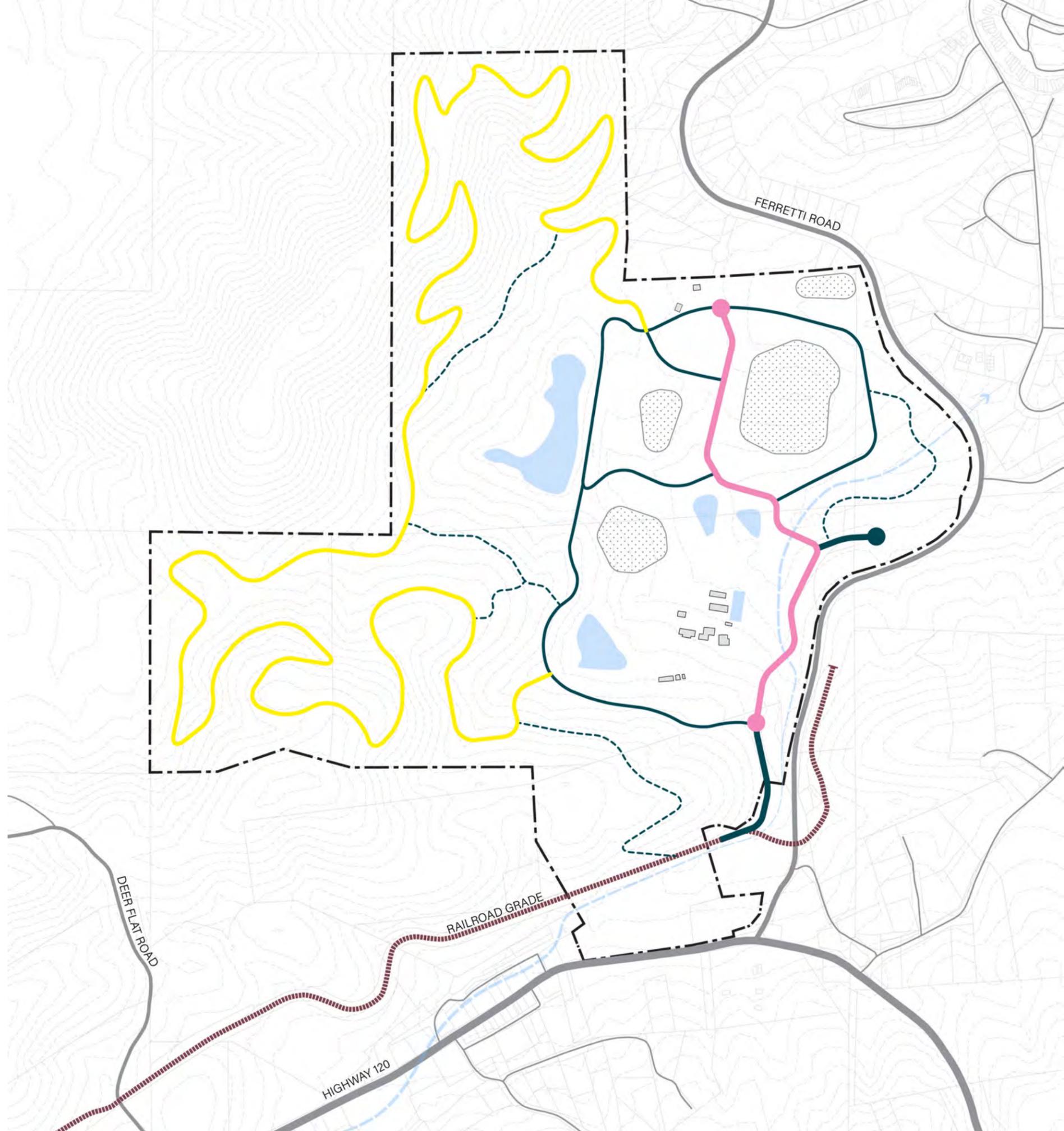
## Trail runs

- 5k, 10k
- need to consider event logistics
- tie into longer HH Rail Trail

## Pump track, bike skills course

- introduce kids to the sport
- potential for competitions

- 1k trail
- 5k trail

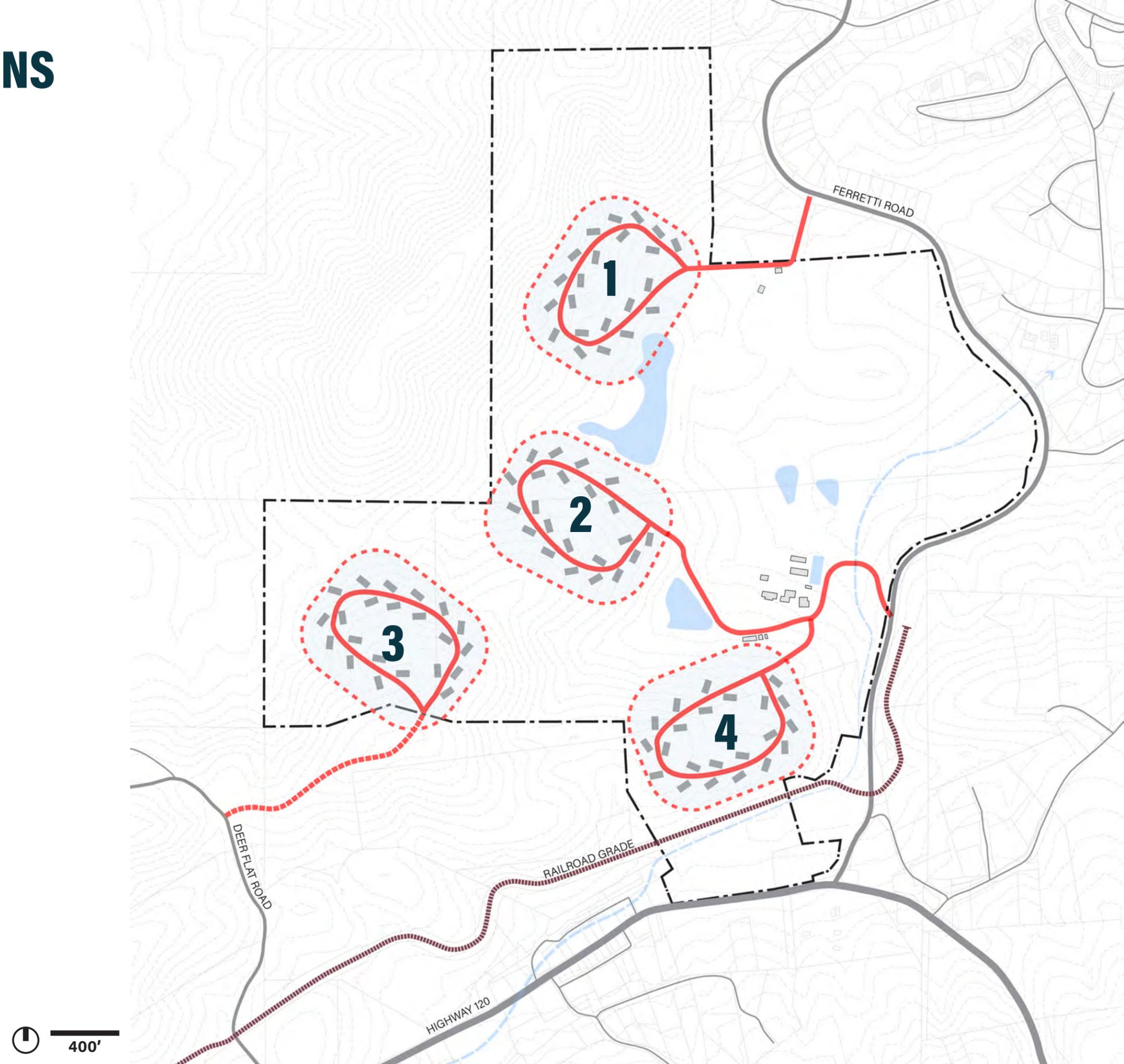


# CYCLOCROSS



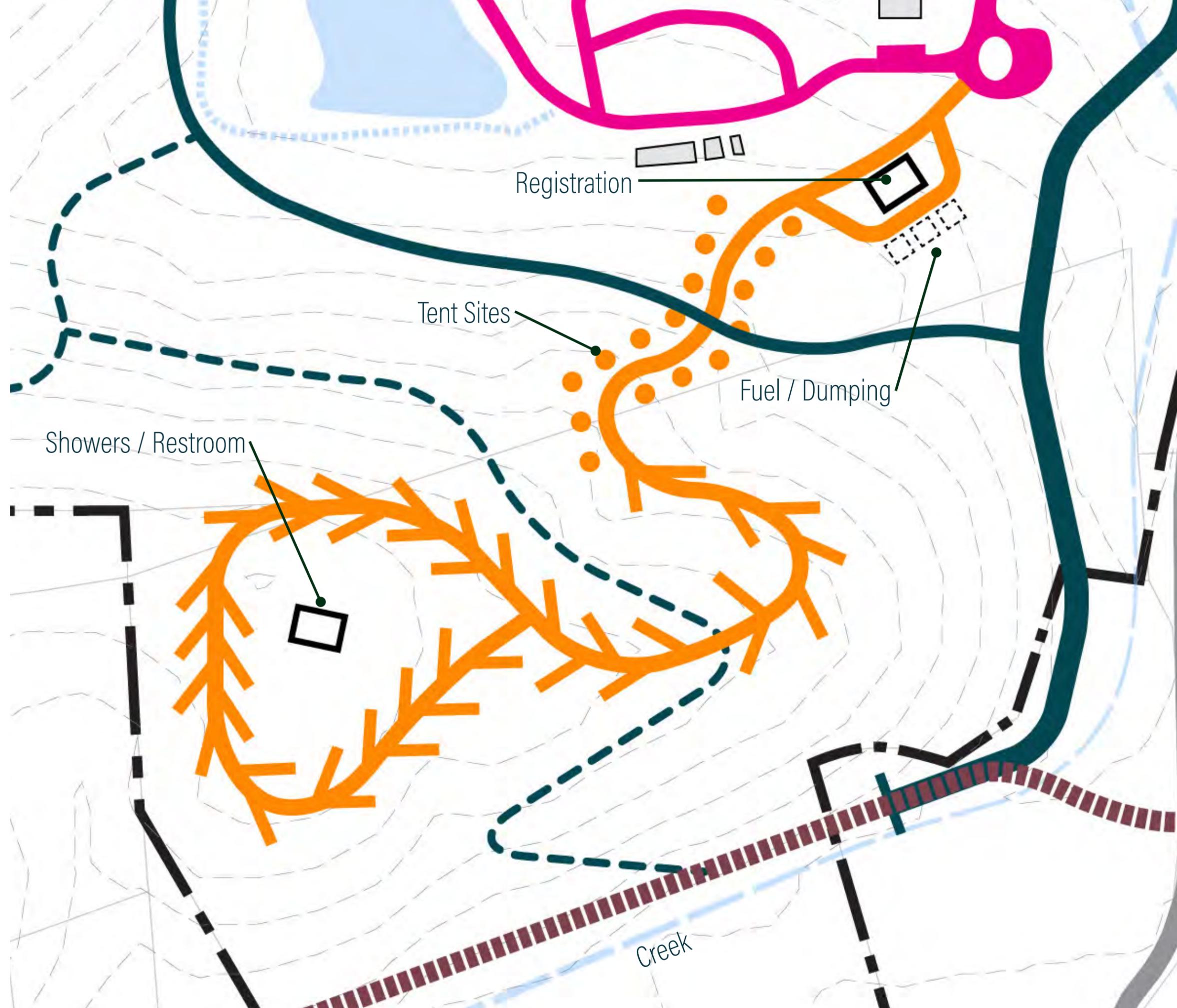
# RV PARK CONSIDERATIONS

- **Option 4** has been determined to be the most appropriate and feasible, due to its ease of access, relatively flatter slopes, and distance from the spray fields and reservoirs.



# RV PARK CONSIDERATIONS

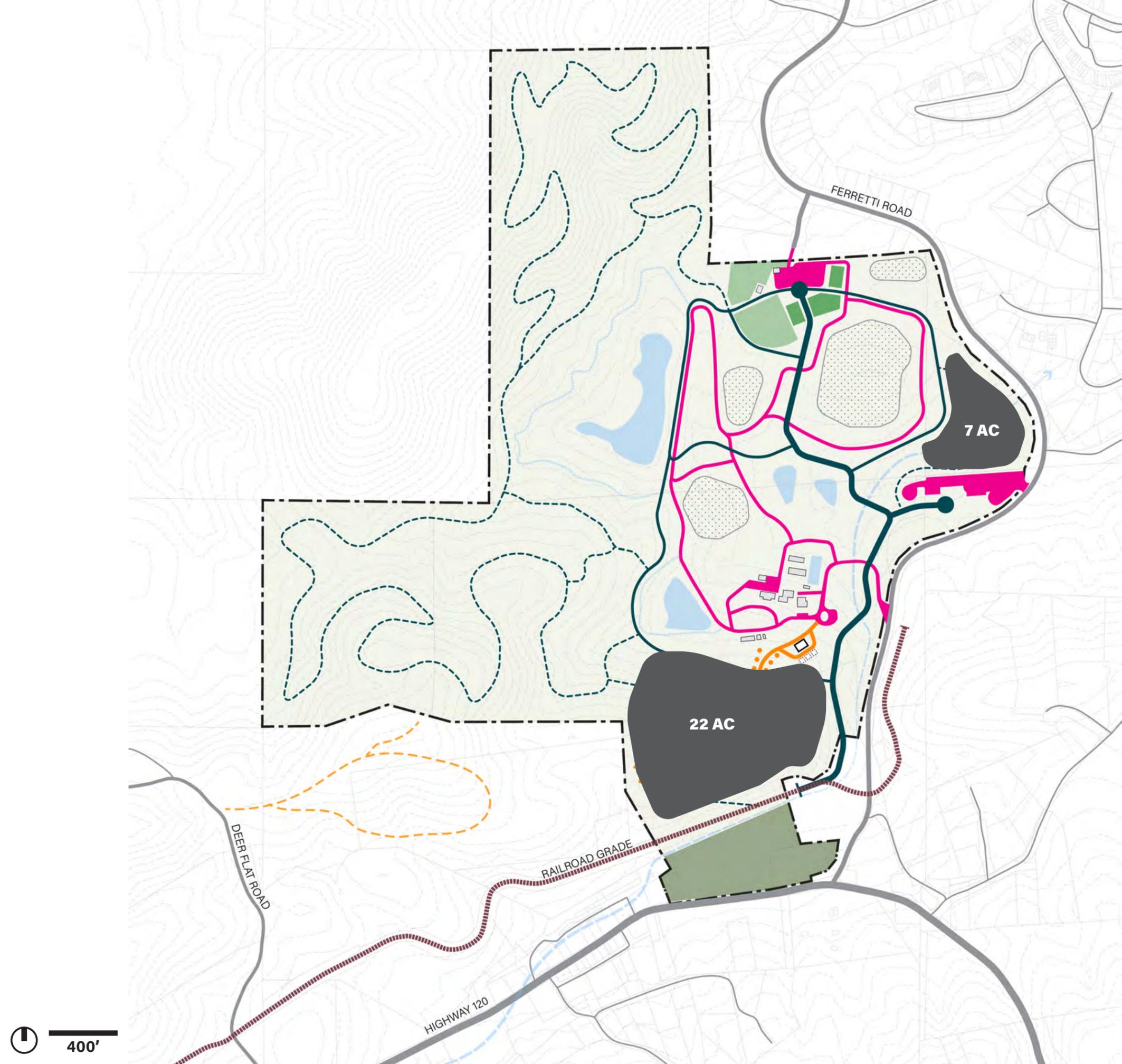
- Bikepacking
- Vanlife / Pop-tops
- Tent sites / car-camping
- 40' RV pads
- Grading questions



# DISC GOLF

A disc golf course is not considered viable for the site for the following reasons:

- limited space that is relatively flat and unconstrained
- potential conflicts with other uses
- significant degradation / erosion potential
- typical "pro" course is at least 25 acres
- needs parking



# HETCH HETCHY RAILROAD GRADE TRAIL

● PHASE I: DEER FLAT ROAD TO RESILIENCE CENTER

● (PHASE II)

- size should consider potential for vehicular evacuation route
- ties into primary spine to recreation area
- Phase II continues west toward Big Oak Flat
- equestrian considerations?
- Connections:
  - Resilience Center
  - Mary Laveroni Park
  - Downtown Groveland
  - Ballfieldand tied into regional trail systems (BLM, USFS)

