



Forest Experiences: An Ecological Campground for Salt Springs

A Capstone Project

Submitted by **Sal Stephens**, UF BLA'24

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In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Bachelor of Landscape Architecture.

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Student Background



Sal Stephens is a Landscape Architecture student in his fifth and final year at the University of Florida. He is interested in native ecosystems and projects that help the public engage with the world around them.

Sal gained a background in plant and ecosystem interactions through a minor in Environmental Horticulture and he was exposed to a variety of projects centered around the public during his two internship positions. His time at Pond&Co and the City of Jacksonville included work on the Emerald Trail and multiple community park projects. Sal has also worked with the Ocala National Forest previously, entering his work on the Alexander Springs entrance sequence to the FANN Plant Real Florida native design competition, where he won second place.

Project Purpose

Salt Springs Recreation Area is located in the north-eastern part of Ocala National Forest, between Lake Kerr and Lake George. The spring is a popular swimming destination in the national forest during the warm months, and the RV camping is also popular with visitors.

My project looks at the existing tent camping area near the spring and aims to create an ecological campground and add to the experience of visiting the National Forest. The campground has several issues currently- needed facility updates, low quality campsites, lack of vegetation, erosion, and general degradation. My project works to fix these issues while creating a strong sense of place for the campground through addition of activities and site design. The result is a campground that is an attraction in its own right, taking pressure off of the spring facilities and creating an immersive forest experience for campers.





Project Introduction

Project Background

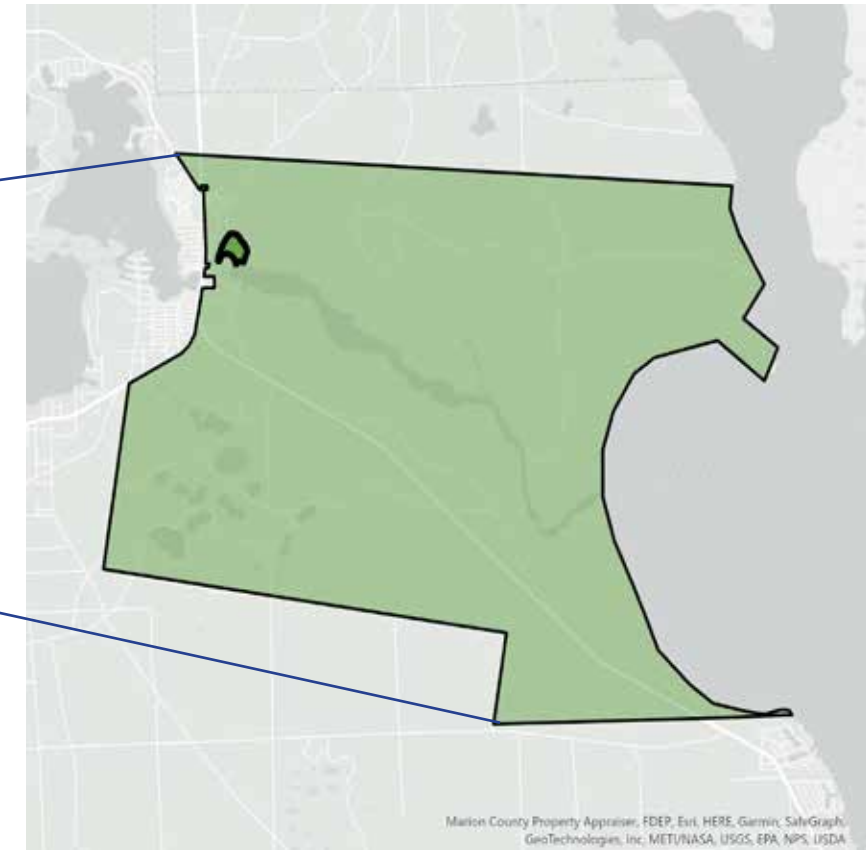
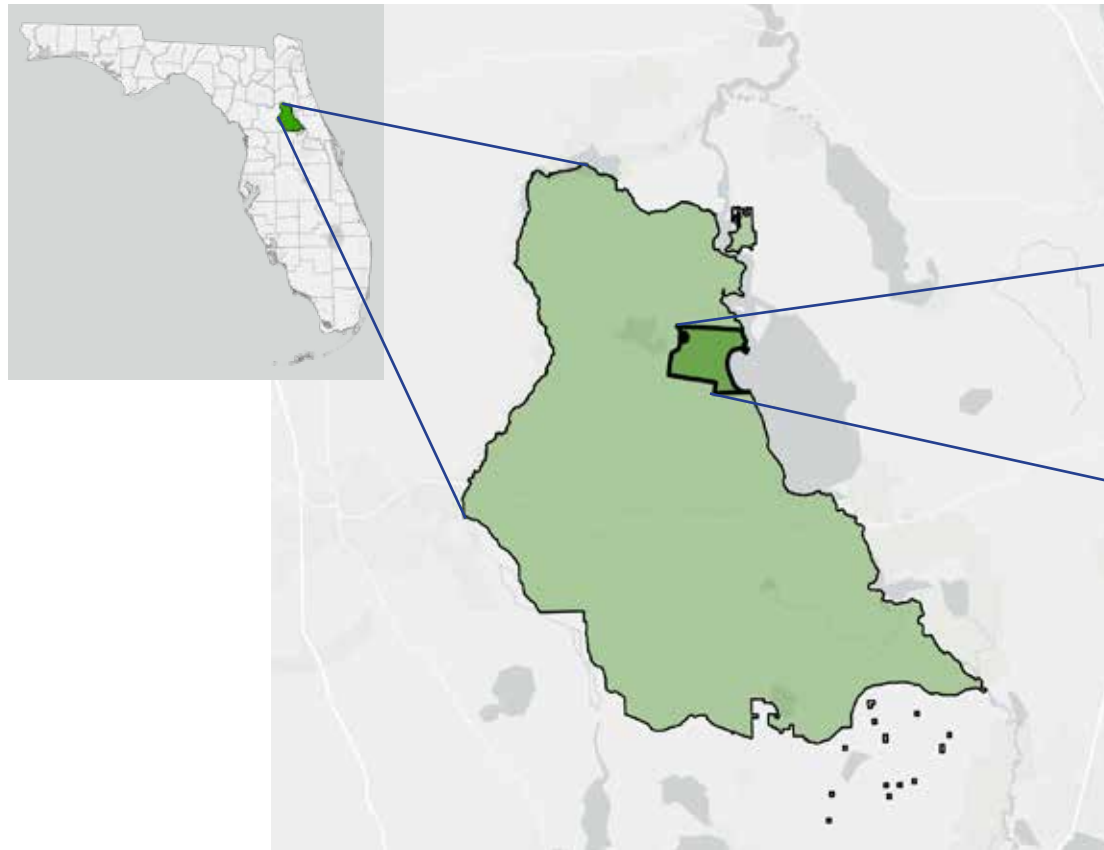
Natural Area **Preservation** vs. Nature-Based **Recreation** at Ocala National Forest



Around the world, ecotourism is very popular and only continuing to grow. The increasing attendance at these natural areas puts the ecological attractions visitors come for at risk of encroachment and degradation. These problems with only worsen as climate change and population growth put strain on our remaining natural resources. Within the US and abroad, there is a interest in more requirements on these attractions and organizations that run them, like user and resource management plans. However, there is less help for specific sites and small scale problems.

The threats that Salt Springs Campground faces- overdevelopment, habitat degradation, and lack of infrastructure- are similar to those faced by the entire Ocala National Forest, and many other protected areas nationwide. The US Forest Service is working to find the balance between human users and the local environment, in order to carry out both aspects of the Forest Service mission.

Site Selection



Ocala National Forest

Marion, Putnam, and Lake Counties, FL 442,700 acres

Ocala National Forest (NF) contains hundreds of thousands of protected and managed forest, scrubland, wetlands, and water in the center of Florida. The NF is southeast of Gainesville, bordered on the west and south sides by the Ocklawaha River and on the east side by the St Johns River and Lake George.

Ocala NF includes human uses like managed timberland and several small towns, recreation attractions like four springs and hundreds of miles of hiking trails, and thousands of acres of important habitat for keystone species such as Florida Black Bears and Manatees. Ocala NF is by far the most popular NF in Florida for recreation.

Salt Springs Recreation Area

Marion County, FL 10,200 acres

Salt Springs Recreation Area (RA) is a popular destination in Ocala National Forest, and provides access to Lake George and thousands of acres of woodlands. The RA also contains the entirety of the Salt Spring Run until it reaches Lake George, and is one of the only locations in the NF to have full control over the spring's run.

Most visitors come for the clear and slightly salty swimming hole, but many also enjoy the RV camping, primitive camping, boat launch, and fishing spots near the spring, as well as the trails throughout the RA.



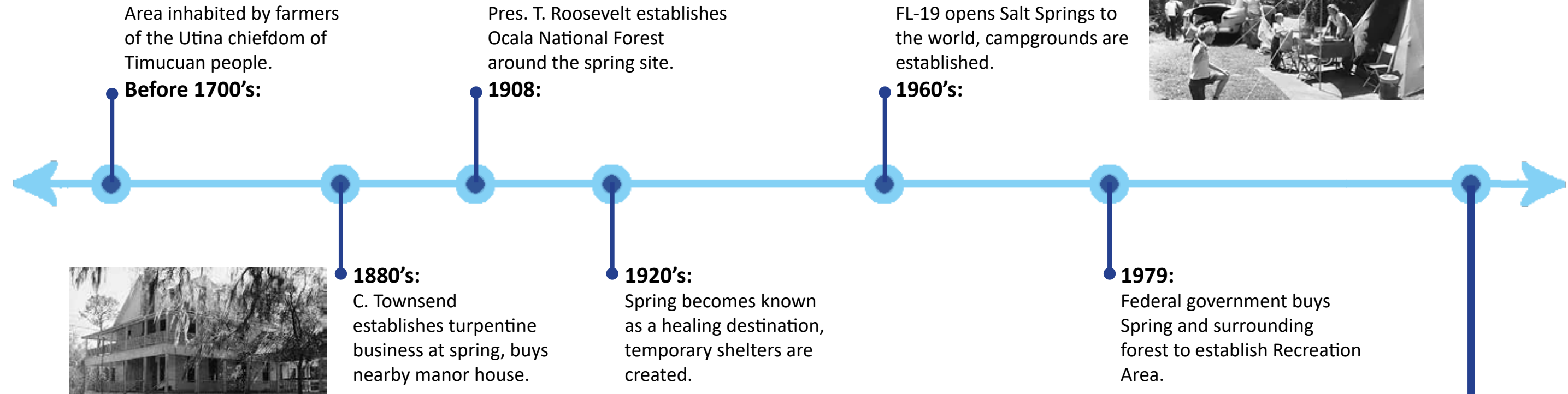
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646,000
annual visitors
(2016)

3x
as many visitors as
other Florida NFs

Site Context

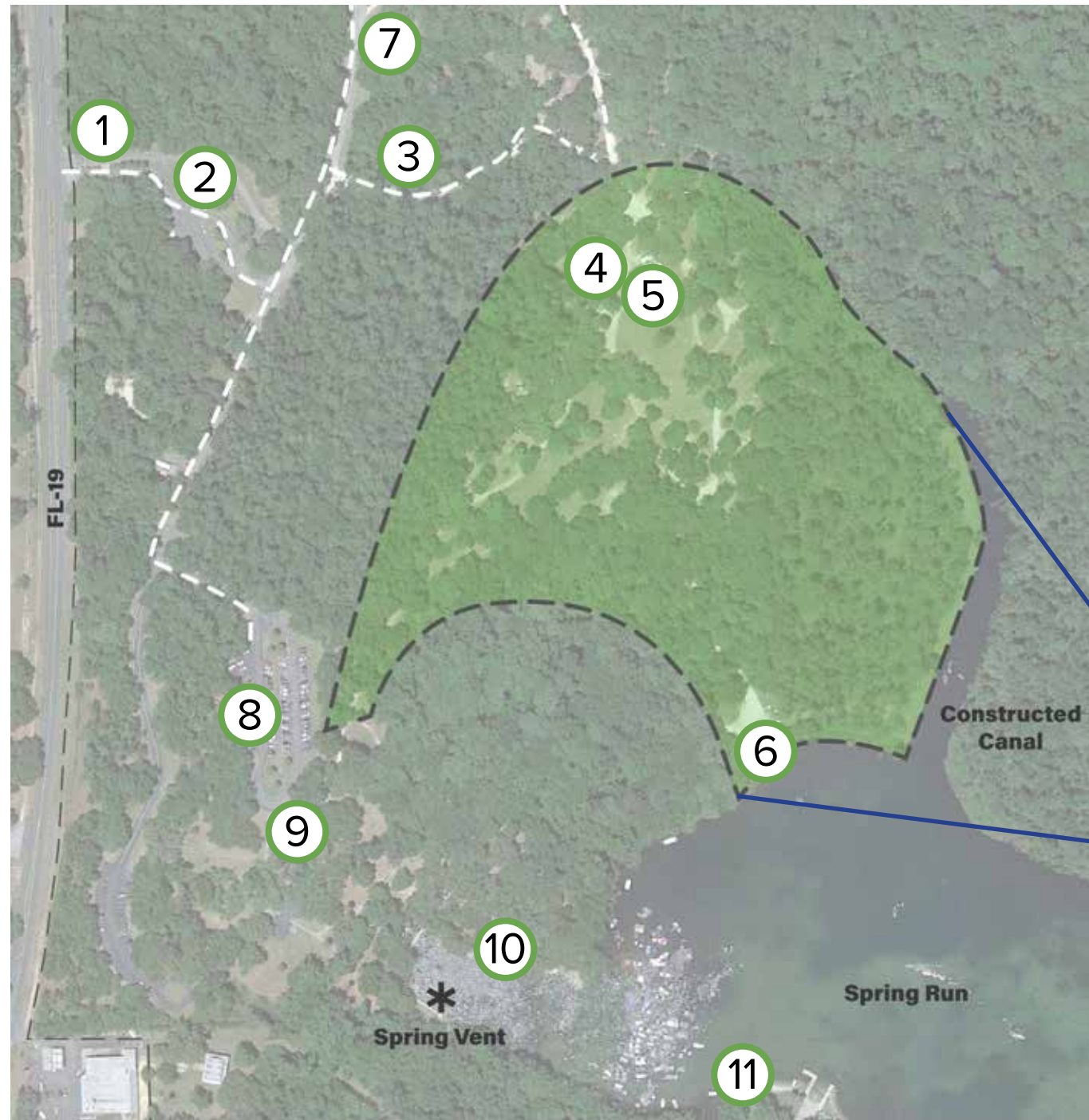
History of Salt Springs:



Salt Springs Today:

The Spring continues to be the main attraction in the area, bringing in many visitors per year. Locals and visitors both enjoy the year-round 72 degrees of the spring water, as well as other outdoor activities around the Spring. Another attraction is Lake Kerr, which is immediately adjacent to the town and is a popular fishing spot. The local community at Salt Springs, located just west across FL-19, is small and centered around the outdoor activities of the area. The town is a destination for retirees, with a large 55+ neighborhood, and many winter-time residents.

Site Location



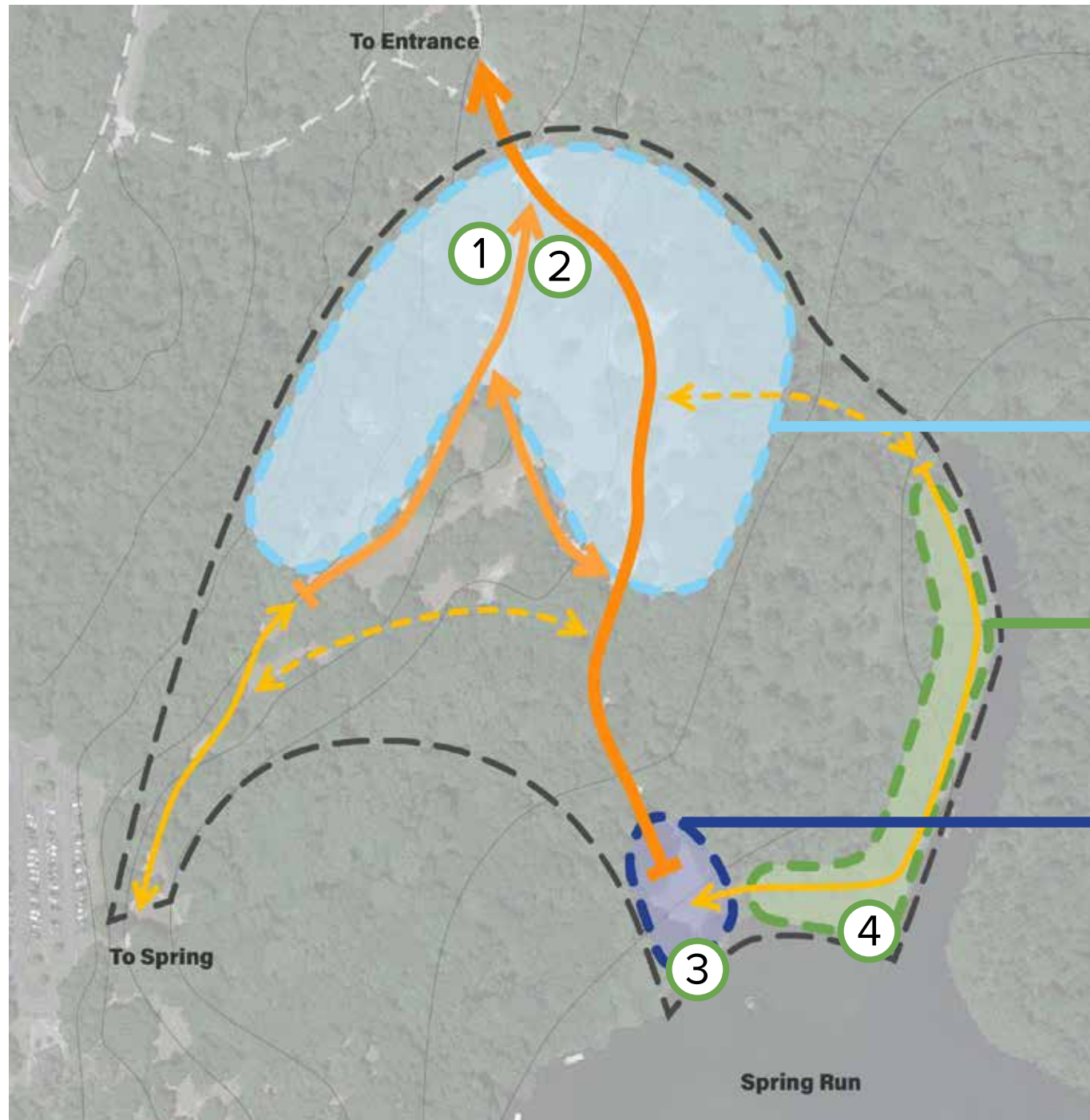
Salt Springs Camping Area, Marion County, FL Area: 21 ac

- ① RA Entrance from FL-19
- ② Ranger Building
- ③ Camping Area Access Road
- ④ Bath House
- ⑤ Host Site
- ⑥ Boat Ramp
- ⑦ To RV Camping
- ⑧ Parking for Spring
- ⑨ Spring Concessions
- ⑩ Swimming Access
- ⑪ Salt Springs Marina (privately managed)



The camping area site is located in the north-western corner of Salt Springs Recreation Area (RA). The site is very close to the main entrance from FL-19 and the spring swimming area, the main destination of the recreation area.

Site Overview



- ① Bath House
- ② Host Site
- ③ Boat Ramp
- ④ Existing Fishing Area

● Tent Campsites

● Canal Area

● Boat Launch Area

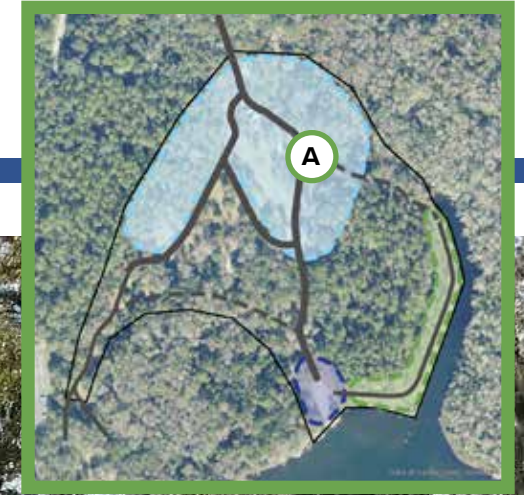
- Primary Road
- Secondary Roads
- Pedestrian Paths
- Other Roads

- Site Boundary
- 5' Contours



Site Inventory + Analysis

Existing Camping



no separation between sites,
borders are not clear

lawn sites support larger groups

existing furniture: picnic table, fire ring,
lamp hook, bear lock box

sites are drive-in, can park anywhere on site



bath house is close and visible

Existing Camping



some campsites have no shade or shrubs

lawn grass is doing well in full sun

area has good views

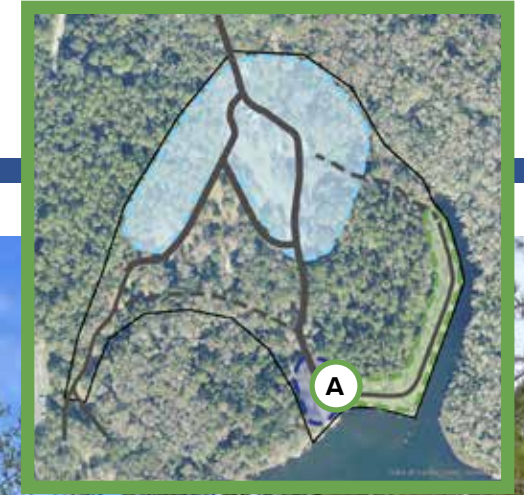


some sites have canopy cover, but little or no shrubs under canopy

exposed sandy soil, prone to erosion

lawn does not do well under the shade

Existing Boat Launch



A

A

11

entrance to spring run is utilitarian and unimpressive

currently used by both motorboats and paddle-craft

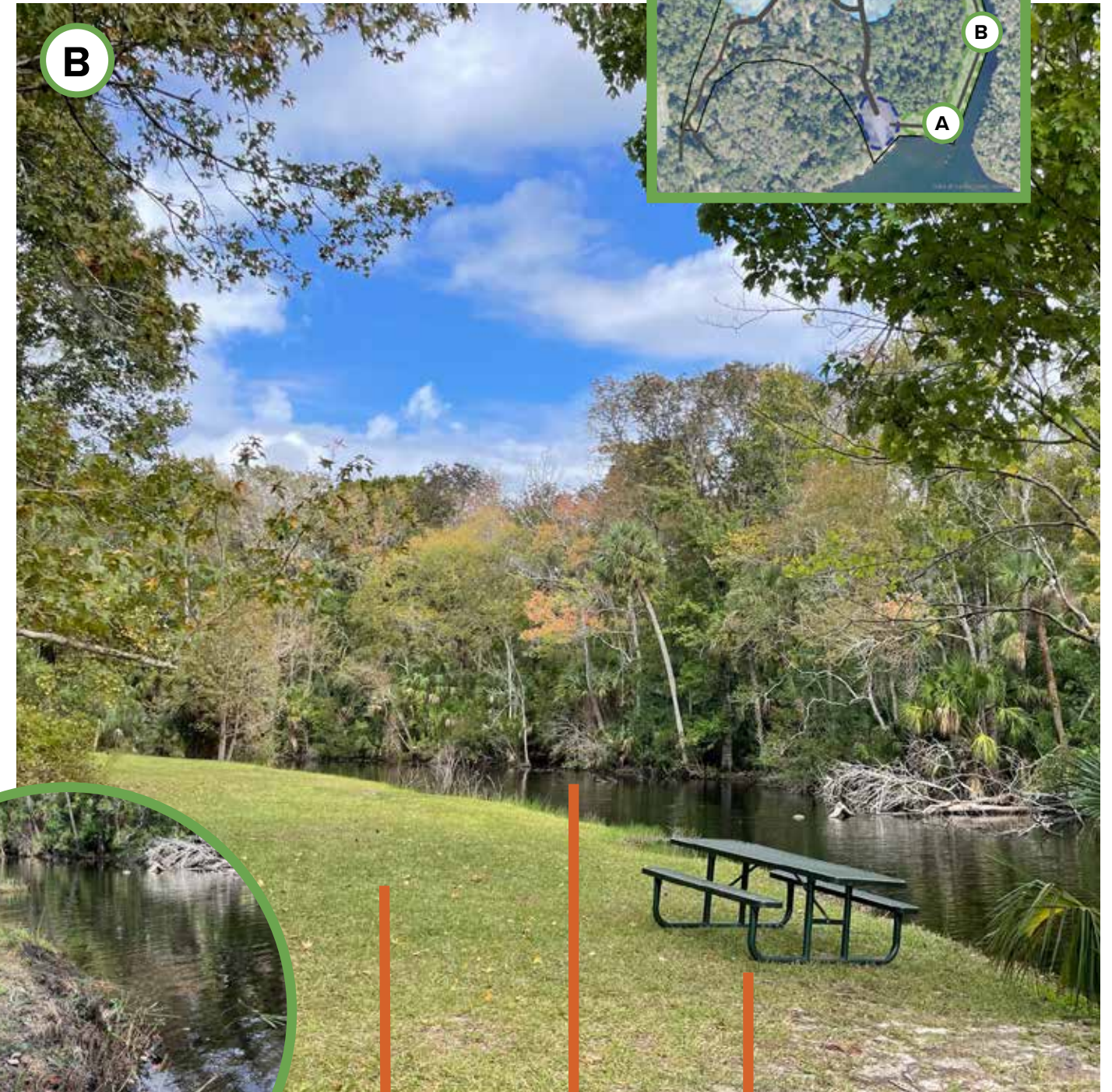
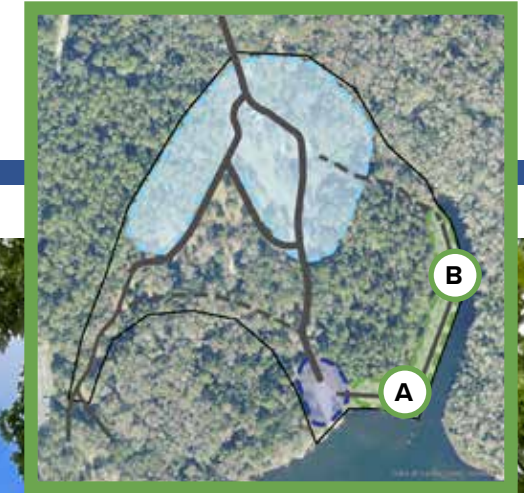
native + invasive vegetation present along water's edge

parking on existing lawn

large gravel area- may be needed to turn around

low point- water collects after rain events

Existing Canal



A

B

currently used for fishing

existing picnic tables

great view

mown lawn down to the water,
the opposite bank is natural

no stand-alone benches

lots of wildlife present

lack of shade

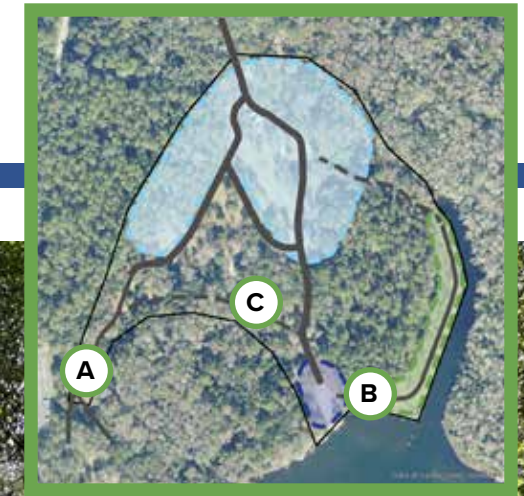
Existing Erosion



erosion on edges of the roads
forming a bank up to roadside
washing away sand and rocks

one culvert under the road
stormwater flow has formed a ditch
through the campsite
washing into forest

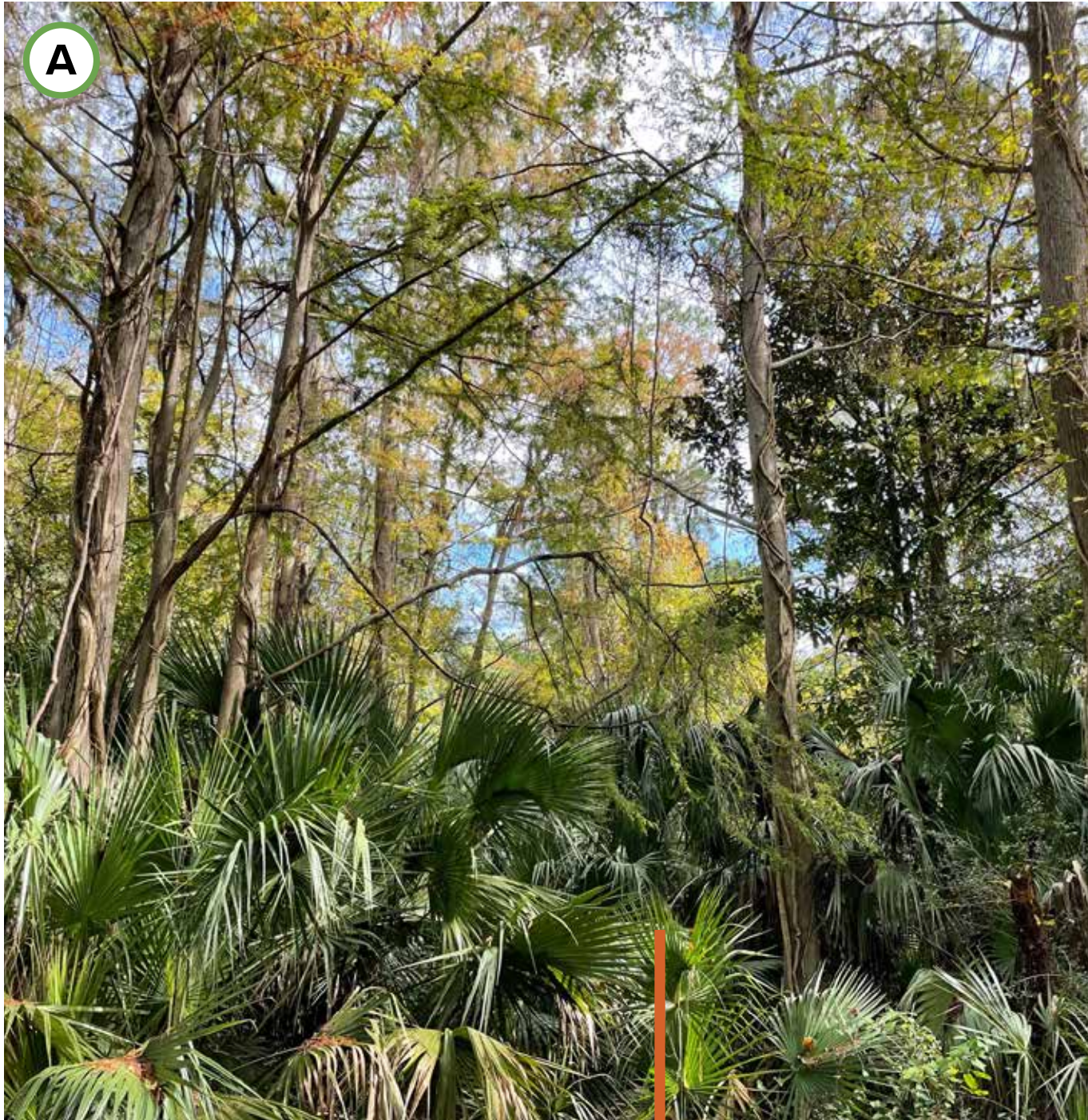
Existing Paths + Clearings



A: path to spring from campsites
gravel/soil path
thin vegetation next to springs parking lot
B: path to canal from boat launch area
mowed lawn path

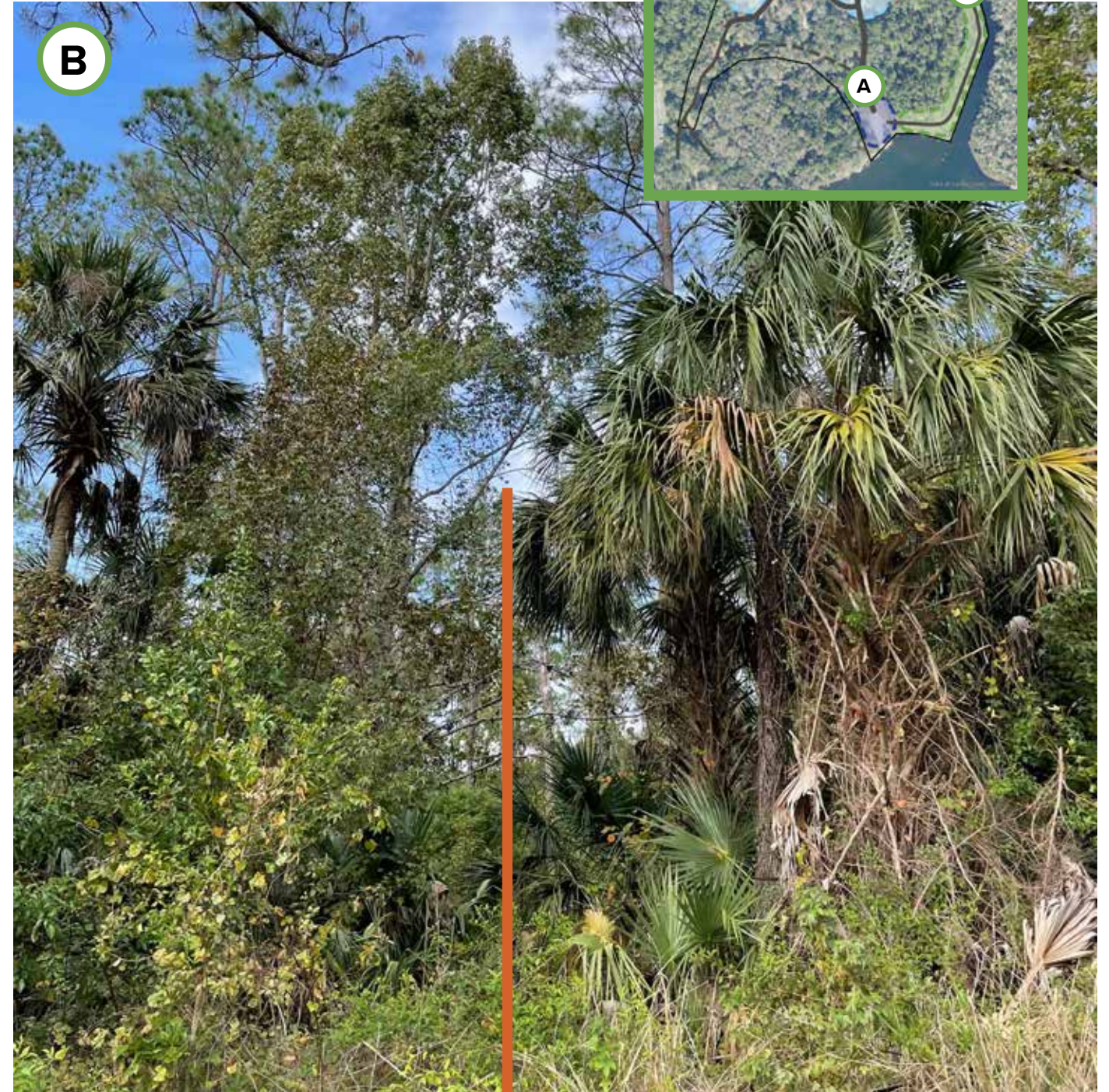
cleared area south of campsites
mixed hardwood and pine canopy
leaf litter or exposed sandy soil
used by pedestrians from spring to fish

Existing Woods



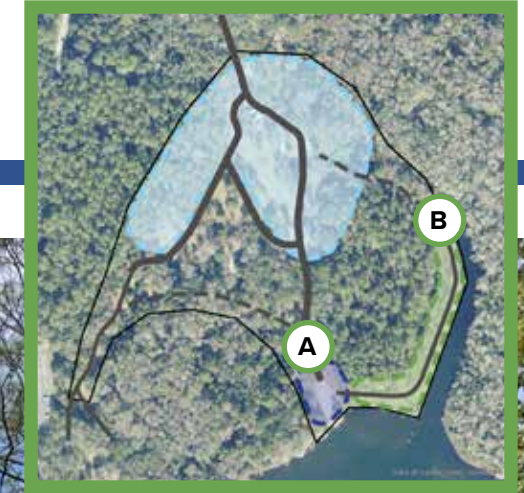
area is mix of pine forest and swamp from poorly drained soil

dense understory, largely Saw Palmetto

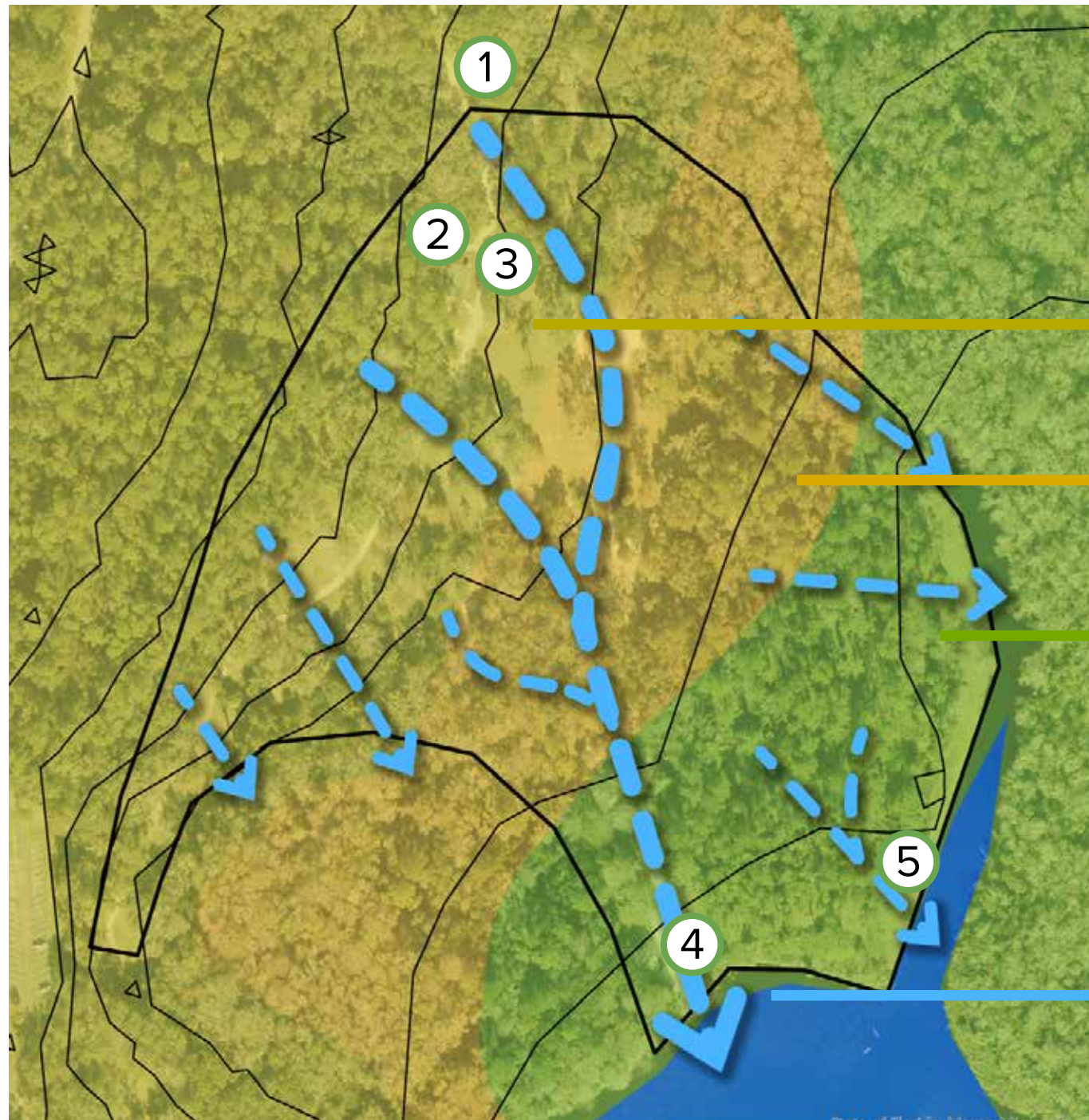


canopy is not dense- good ventilation

some of the woods is swampy- in the southeast corner



Ground + Soil



Atatsula Sand

[5-12% slope] Astatula is a sandy, excessively drained, and deep soil found in Floridian flatwoods. The soil is very rapidly permeable by water.

Atatsula + Tavares Sands

[0-5% slope] Mixed Atatsula and Tavares. Tavares is a very deep, moderately well drained soil that formed in sandy marine deposits. The soil is mildly permeable.

Dorovan Muck

Dorovan is mucky, organic soil found on forested flood plains and hardwood swamps. The soil is very poorly drained and mildly permeable.

Stormwater Flow

Surface water in the site follows depressions and clearings down the slope. This means that much of the water from the center of the site flows right down the road into the spring run.

— 5' Contour Lines

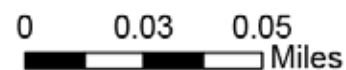
① Entrance Road

④ Boat Ramp

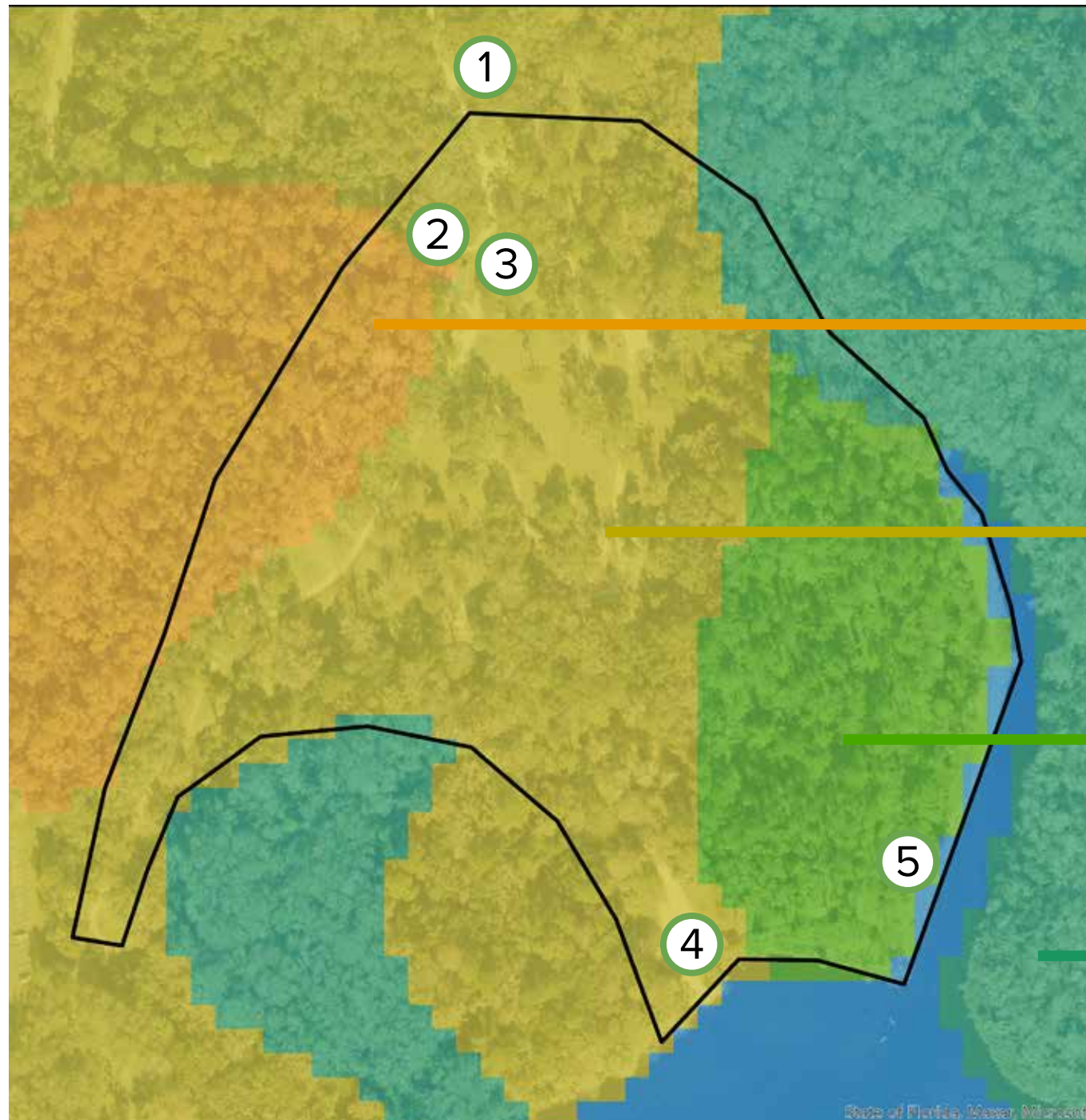
② Bath House

⑤ Existing Fishing Area

③ Host Site



Natural Communities



Former Tree Plantation

Tree plantations that are artificially generated by planting seedling stock or seeds. This site was formerly a pine plantation that has now naturalized.

Typical Plants: Longleaf Pine, Oak trees, Saw Palmetto, American Beautyberry.

Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous

Mix of hardwood and coniferous trees where neither is dominant. The emergence of oaks and the lack of fire create a rich and shady forest.

Typical Plants: Live Oak, Southern Magnolia, Slash Pine, Cherry Laurel.

Wet Flatwoods

Pine woodland or mesic shrubland on extensive, poorly drained, flat areas. High species diversity from upland/wetland double nature.

Typical plants: Slash Pine, Pond Pine, Saw Palmetto, mixed grasses.

Freshwater Forested Wetlands

Floodplain or depression wetlands dominated by water-loving trees. Permanently flooded soils, sparse understory.

Typical plants: Bald Cypress, Red Maple, Blue Flag Iris.

① Entrance Road

④ Boat Ramp

② Bath House

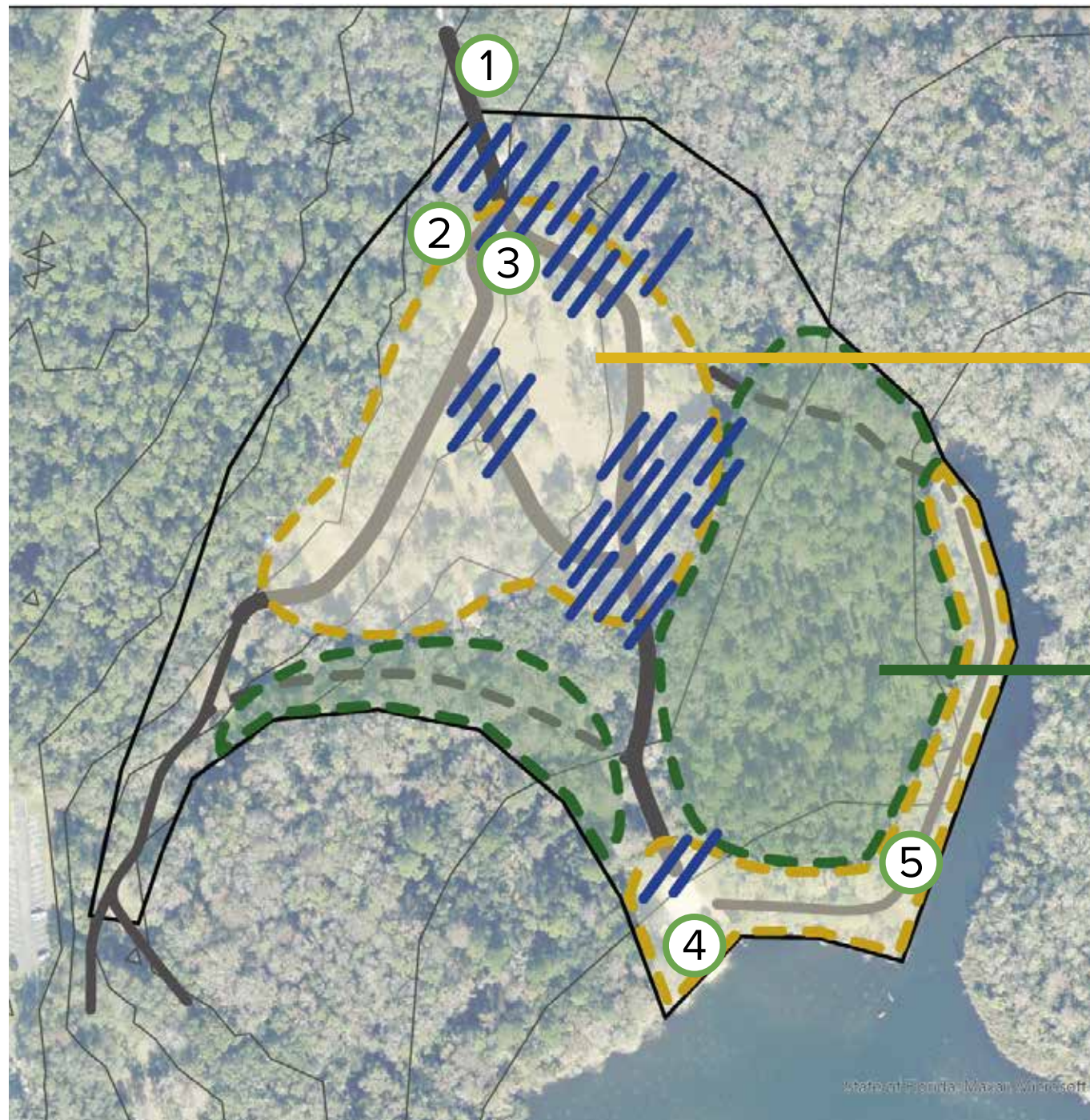
⑤ Existing Fishing Area

③ Host Site



0 0.03 0.05 Miles

Physical Conditions



● Little Canopy, No Understory

● Full Canopy, Little Understory

● Full Natural Forest

/// Erosion Areas

— 5' Contours

== Roads + Paths

① Entrance Road

④ Boat Ramp

② Bath House

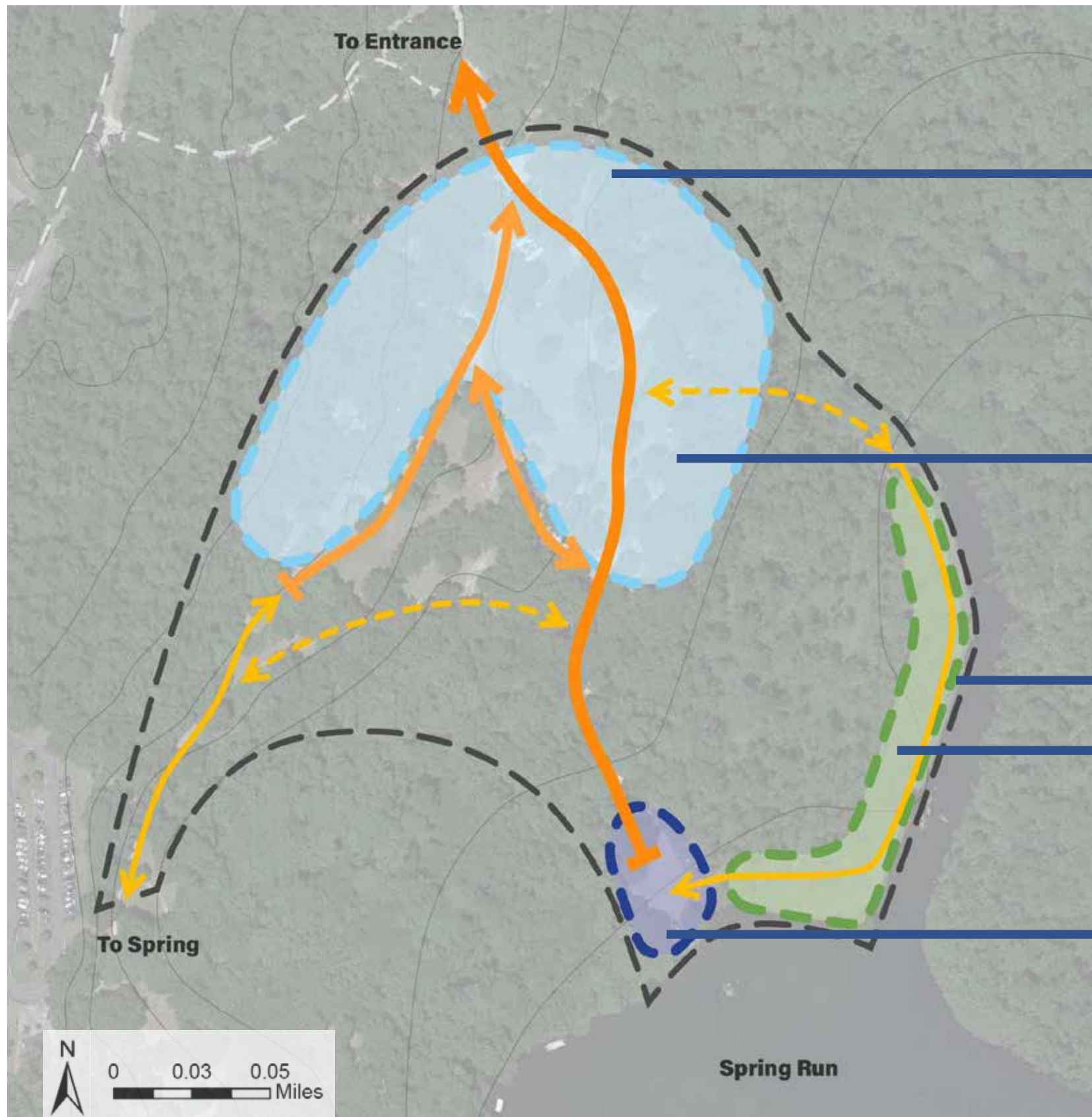
⑤ Existing Fishing Area

③ Host Site



0 0.03 0.05 Miles

Site Issues



Campsites are sprawling and low-quality

Strength: Surrounding woods shelter site
Strength: Cleared area + central lawn
Strength: Direct access to spring

Weakness: Campsite locations + privacy

Natural vegetation has been removed

Strength: Existing wooded area

Weakness: Erosion + degradation

Weakness: Doesn't reflect forest sense of place

Other activities are an afterthought

Strength: Existing natural resources

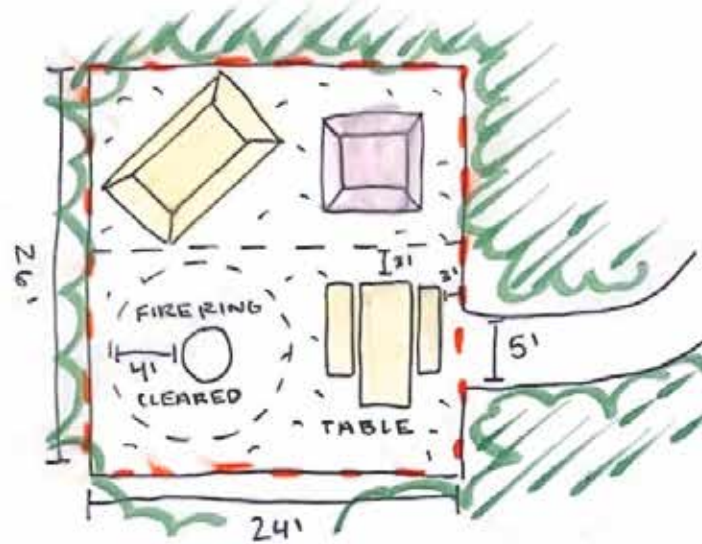
Weakness: Little connection across the site

Weakness: Existing amenity degradation

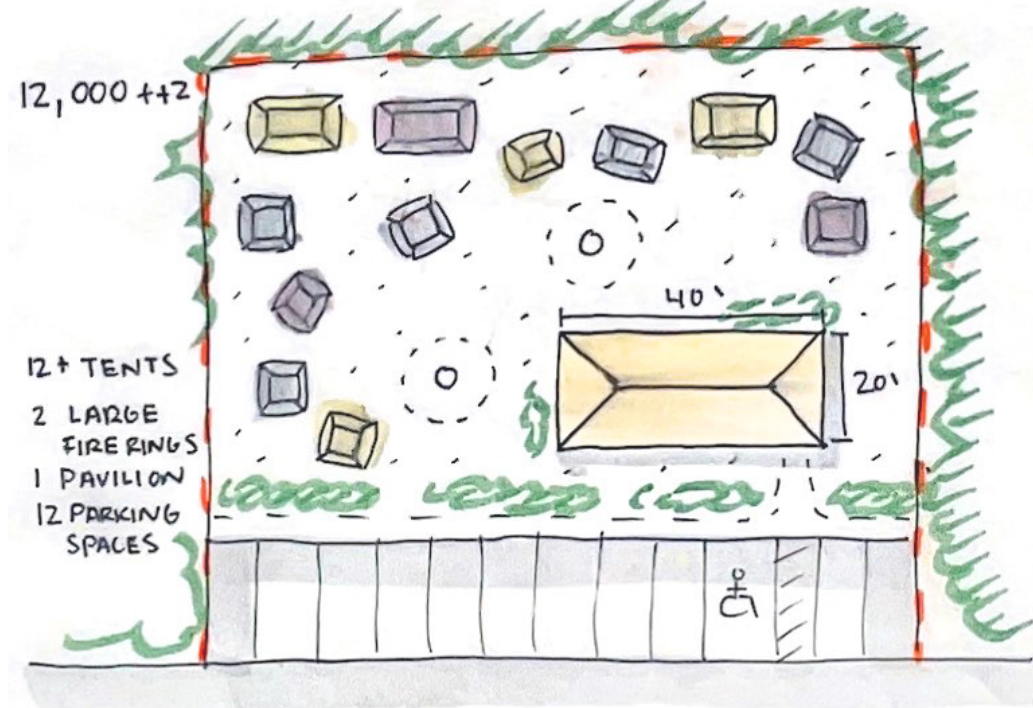
Site Needs

Required by client:

Primitive Campsites: at least 15



Group Campsites: at least 2, to host 25 people each



Boat Launch: re-fitted for only paddlecraft

Discovered through site analysis:

Site Improvements: erosion control and re-vegetation

Activity Improvements: boat launch and canal area

New Activities: expand scope of camping area to complement spring area

Site Feeling: create richer forest experience



Boating



Fishing



Playing



Gathering

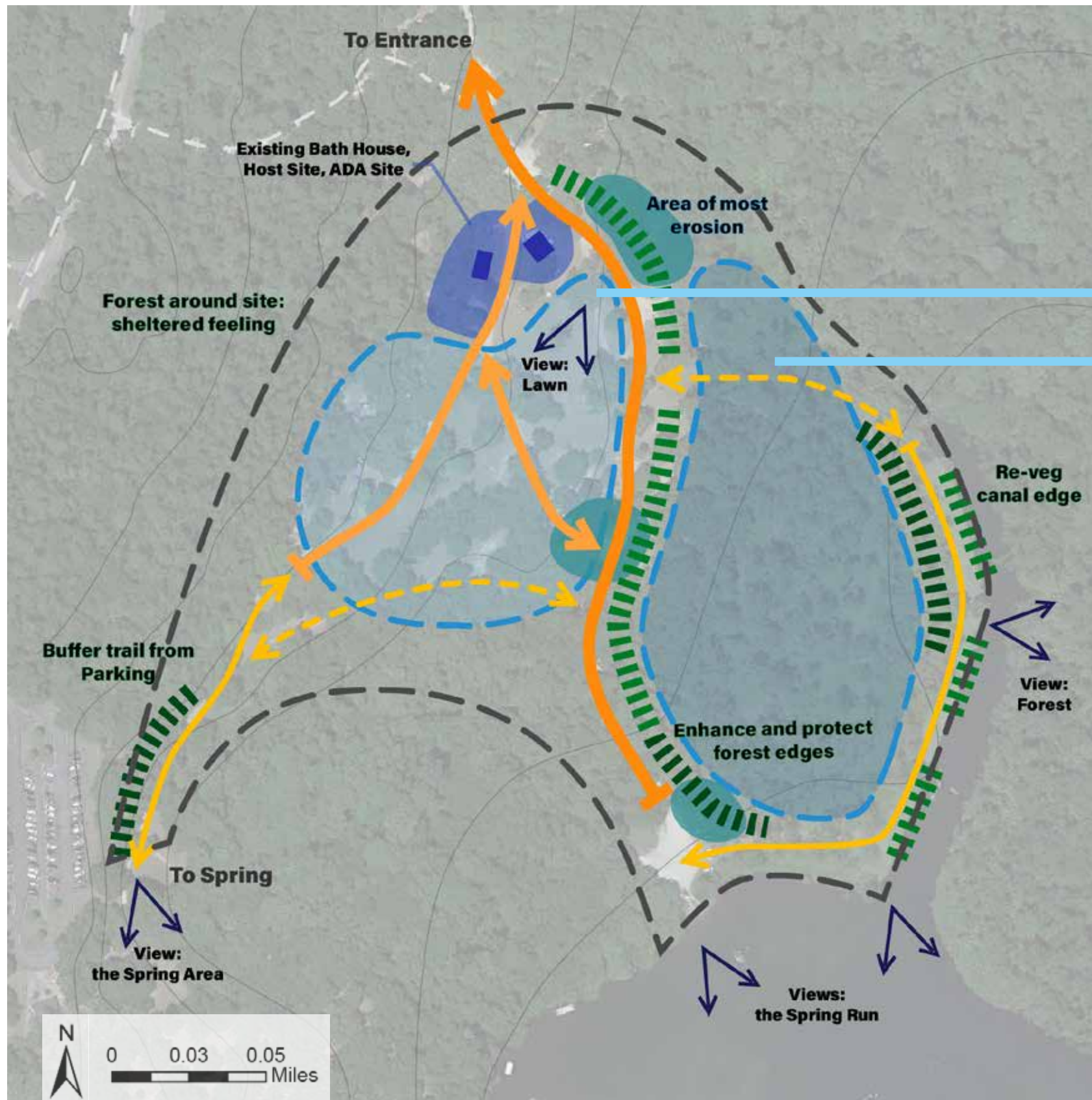


Gardens



Forest Re-vegetation

Site Synthesis



Cleared Area:
Good for group activities

Forest:
Good for private uses

Site Boundary
5' Contours

Circulation:
Primary Road
Secondary Roads
Pedestrian Paths
Other Roads

Vegetation:
Re-vegetation Areas
Buffer Areas
Stormwater Management Areas

Land Use:
Program Areas
Existing Buildings
Existing Built Areas



Site Design References

Characteristic Plants + Animals

Moving forward, I need to be mindful of existing site characteristics that make Salt Springs the destination it is.

These are some of the important residents of my site that I will be designing for.

Slash Pine
Pinus elliotii



Live Oak
Quercus virginiana



Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora



Bald Cypress
Taxodium distichum



Saw Palmetto
Serenoa repens



Blue Flag Iris
Iris versicolor



Wiregrass
Spartina sp.



Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana



Alligator



Manatee



Black Bear



Fish
Mullet



Great
Blue Heron



Turtles
Cooter



Butterflies
Gulf Fritillary



Grey Squirrel

Sense of Place



Important Site Views

There are iconic views of and from the site that should be preserved to maintain the character of the campground. Important views to maintain or enhance include:

- The spring run, from both the boat launch and the canal path
- The existing forest along the canal and inside the site
- The central lawn, from the site entrance toward the spring
- The route to the bath house from the campsites



Distinctive Site Features

The site's sense of place is largely informed by its location in the National Forest. The camping area itself feels very private like a good place to take a quiet break in nature.

The materials of the existing site features reflect and add to the forest feeling of the campground. Important features to reference in the final design include:

- The wooden fences dividing the road from the use areas
- The typical NF design of the bath house and the information kiosk
 - The style and materials of the wayfinding signage



Case Study: Rob Hill Campground

Rehabilitating a campground for the city

Rob Hill Campground is an existing campground within the city limits that was improved by Stephen Wheeler Landscape Architects. The campground is walk-in, with 6 individual sites, 4 group sites, facilities, and a central green.

Key Takeaways:

- **Re-vegetation with native plants** to create separation and immersion at each camp site.
- **Arrangement of the sites**- the group sites with more users are closer to the entrance.
- A **central open space** creates clear circulation and a designated area for play, controlling site usage.
- **Trails to the rest of the site** connect directly from the campground.

San Francisco, U.S.



Left: Site plan by Stephen Wheeler Landscape Architects. Light green is added vegetation, while green-yellow is grass.

Top: One of the group sites in use for a camping training event.

Bottom: An unoccupied group site, showing the vegetation encircling the site.

Case Study: Camp Glenorchy

The green campground of the future

Camp Glenorchy is a campground in the mountainous Otago region, designed by Mason & Wales, architects, and Baxter Design Group, landscape architects. The campground includes mostly cabins, and its main focus is its green technology. The project is certified net-positive on both its energy and water use.

Key Takeaways:

- **Bioswales as erosion control**, slowing and filtering water before it reaches the spring.
- Design with **local materials**, from plants to stone and wood.
- **Interpretive signage** to engage visitors in the processes used around them.



Otago, New Zealand



Above: The 'Solar Farm' that powers many of the facilities in the campground.
Top: A typical cabin at Camp Glenorchy, complete with a porch and native vegetation.
Right: The largest bioswale on site, collecting and treating grey water from campers.

Case Study: Horseshoe Bay Nature Park

An immersive restored meadow

Horseshoe Bay Nature Park is 11 acres of restored upland ecosystems that benefits migratory birds, pollinators, and locals in Texas Hill Country. The park includes trails through the meadow with benches and wildlife features, an overlook structure, and parking.

Key Takeaways:

- **Restored wildflower meadow** as an ecological and educational asset.
- **Natural materials** like gravel and stone used in parking and trails to integrate into the location.
- **Variety of plantings** represents different local ecosystems.



Horseshoe Bay, TX, U.S.



Above: Detail image of the parking area, showing the materials used around the bike parking.

Top: A sign explaining the variety of ecosystems present at the nature park.

Right: An aerial view of the entire park.

Precedent: Alexander Springs

Park and user come together in natural experiences

This is a masterplan completed by Isabella Guttuso of UF CLCP, for another spring recreation area in Ocala National Forest. The plan explores solutions for problems that are similar to my site- like erosion, circulation, and site feeling- that are directly applicable because of their proximity.

Key Takeaways:

- **Bioswales and planted detention areas** slow erosion on the largest slopes.
- **Signage** and a **hierarchy of path types** controls circulation for pedestrians and vehicles.
- **Re-vegetation helps several issues:** defining paths, slowing erosion, increasing attractiveness.
- A **plant pallet** local to the National Forest.

Additionally, the plan proposes several alternate use areas to take pressure off of the key amenity of the spring, including a **natural play area**, a **hammock grove**, **forest trails**, and **improved gathering areas**.

Below: Examples of path materials, assigned by level in hierarchy.

Below right: Example image of re-vegetation around the camp bathroom.

Right: Example image of a problem pathway improved by formalizing.

Ocala National Forest, U.S.



Gravel Pathway

Main trails within the recreation area range from 5 - 6' width. A gravel or crusher fines trail would provide a permeable surface while withstanding heavy pedestrian traffic. Metal edging to confine the aggregate in place (while allowing for drainage) is suggested. This stabilization could increase ADA accessibility.



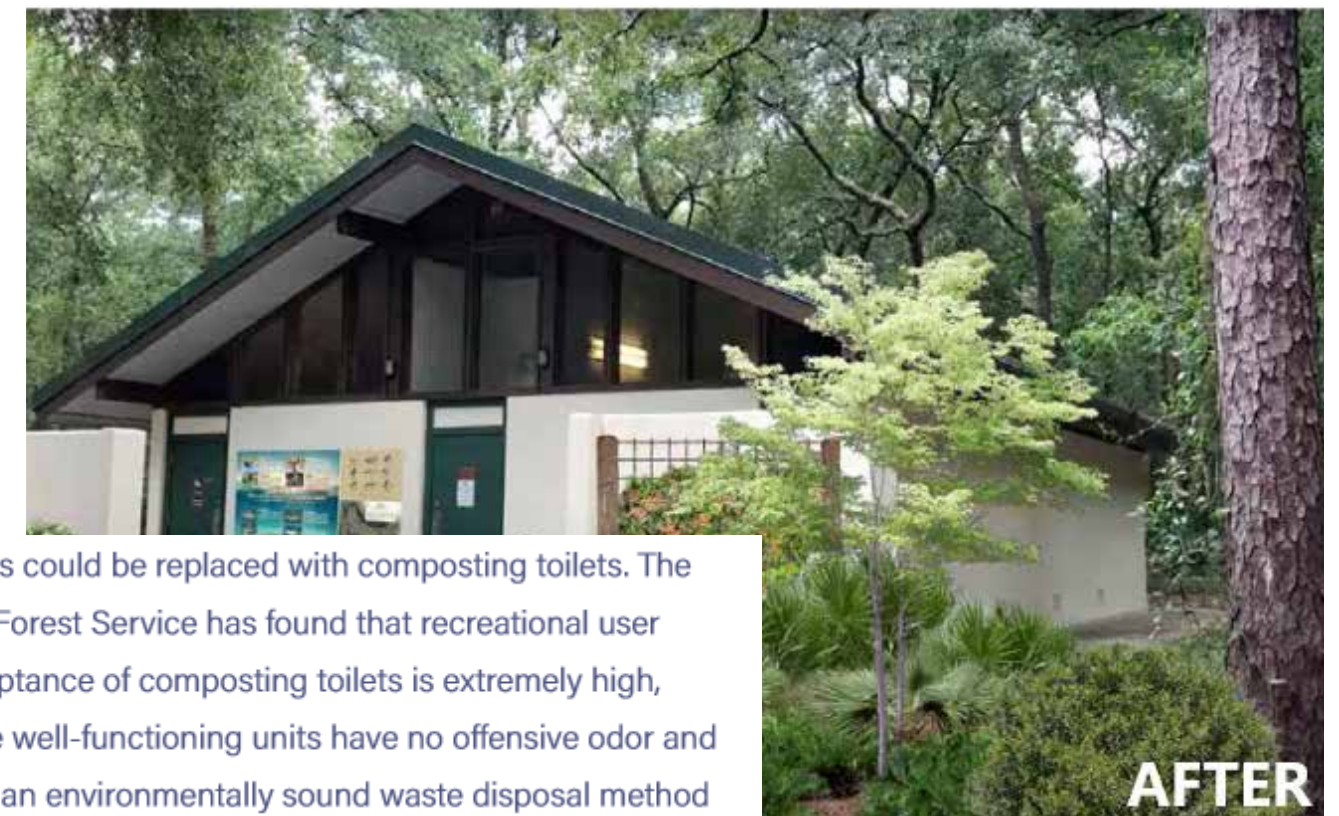
Concrete Pathway

Regionally relevant detailing could be incorporated
 Detail 1: Oyster Shell Aggregate
 Detail 2: Concrete stain & stamping to mimic
 Detail 3: Concrete stain & stamping to look like
 Detail 4: Stamping concrete with plant matter

Secondary Pedestrian Trail Options



Boardwalk / Deck Options



toilets could be replaced with composting toilets. The U.S. Forest Service has found that recreational user acceptance of composting toilets is extremely high, since well-functioning units have no offensive odor and offer an environmentally sound waste disposal method



Master Plan

Project Goals

Relocate primitive camping to increase privacy and meet guidelines.

- **Locate 15+** walk-in primitive campsites within existing wooded area.
- **Locate parking area and access pathways** for primitive camping.
- **Design typical primitive campsite** to meet National Forest guidelines.

Create group campsites from existing primitive camping space.

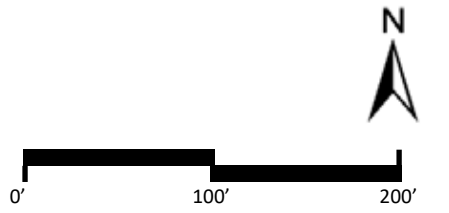
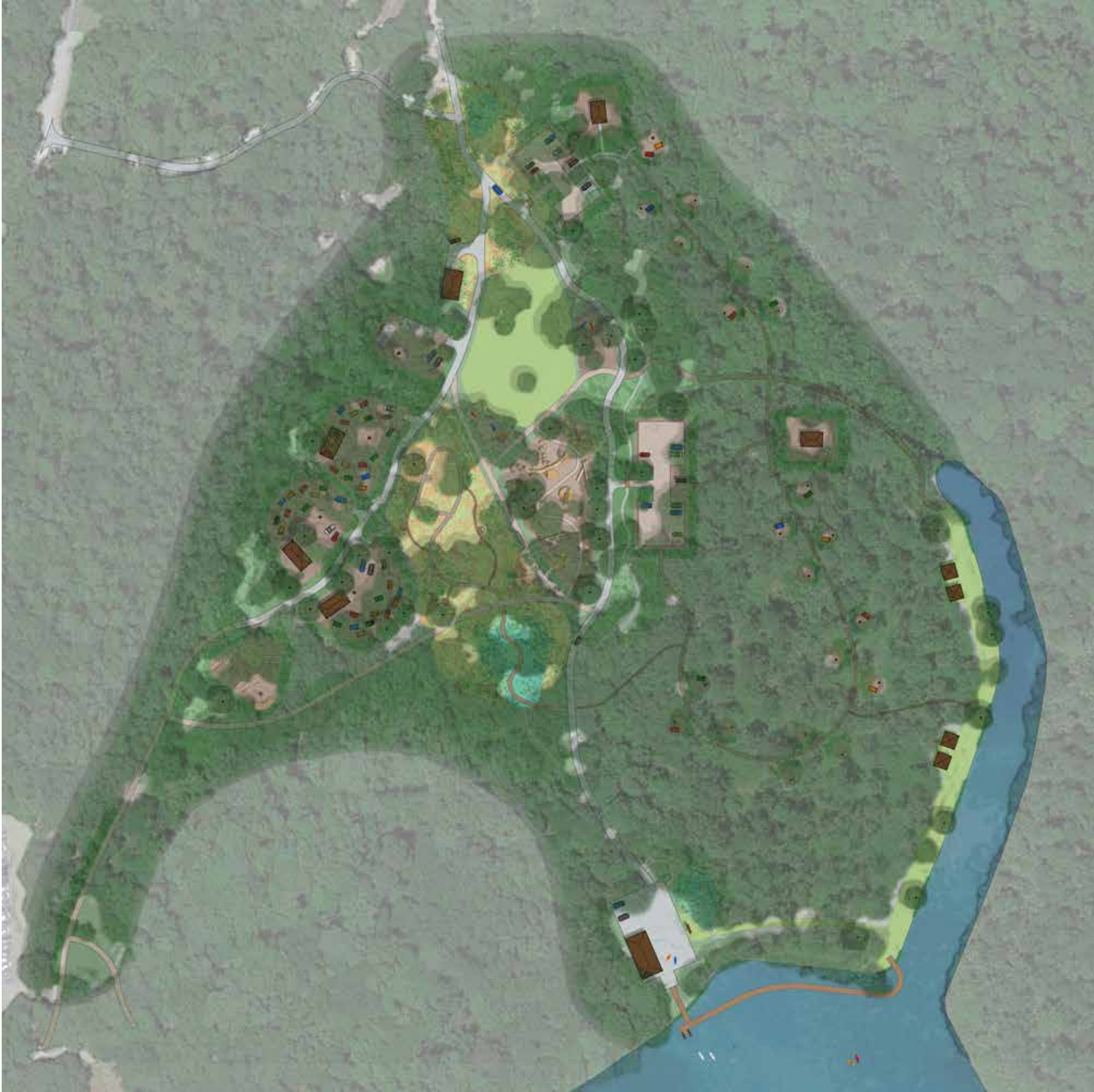
- **Locate 2-3 campsites** with space for 25 people and a pavilion.
- **Layout each group site** including parking, access to amenities, and noise control.

Formalize and create alternative activities for visitors and campers.

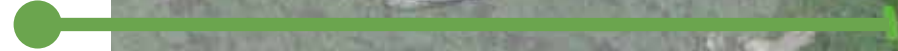
- **Improve the boat launch area** for the launch of non-motor craft and user parking.
- **Improve existing trail and layout new trails** to improve connections through the site and the recreation area.
- **Create multiple gathering and activity areas** for throughout the site based on site needs.

Increase planted areas and control erosion throughout the site.

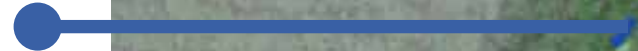
- **Stabilize slopes** around roads and in former campsites with native understory plants.
- **Organize pedestrian and vehicular traffic** to reduce erosion.
- **Increase attractiveness and ecological value** of the site through planted areas.



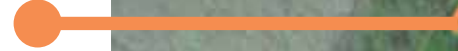
Attractive Entrance



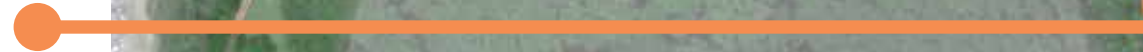
3 Group Sites
for up to 25 people



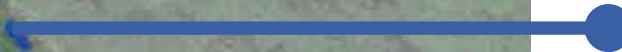
Amphitheater



Boat Launch +
Boardwalk



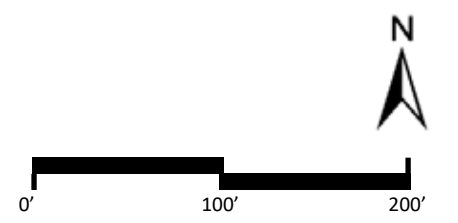
19 Primitive Sites
+ 1 ADA accessible site



Central Activities
Gathering Lawn
Hammocking
Natural Playground
Native Garden



Canal-side
Gatherings +
Plantings





Master Plan Diagrams

Site Amenities

Camping Areas

- ① Primitive Sites + ADA Site
- ② Relocated Host Site
- ③ Group Sites

Support Areas

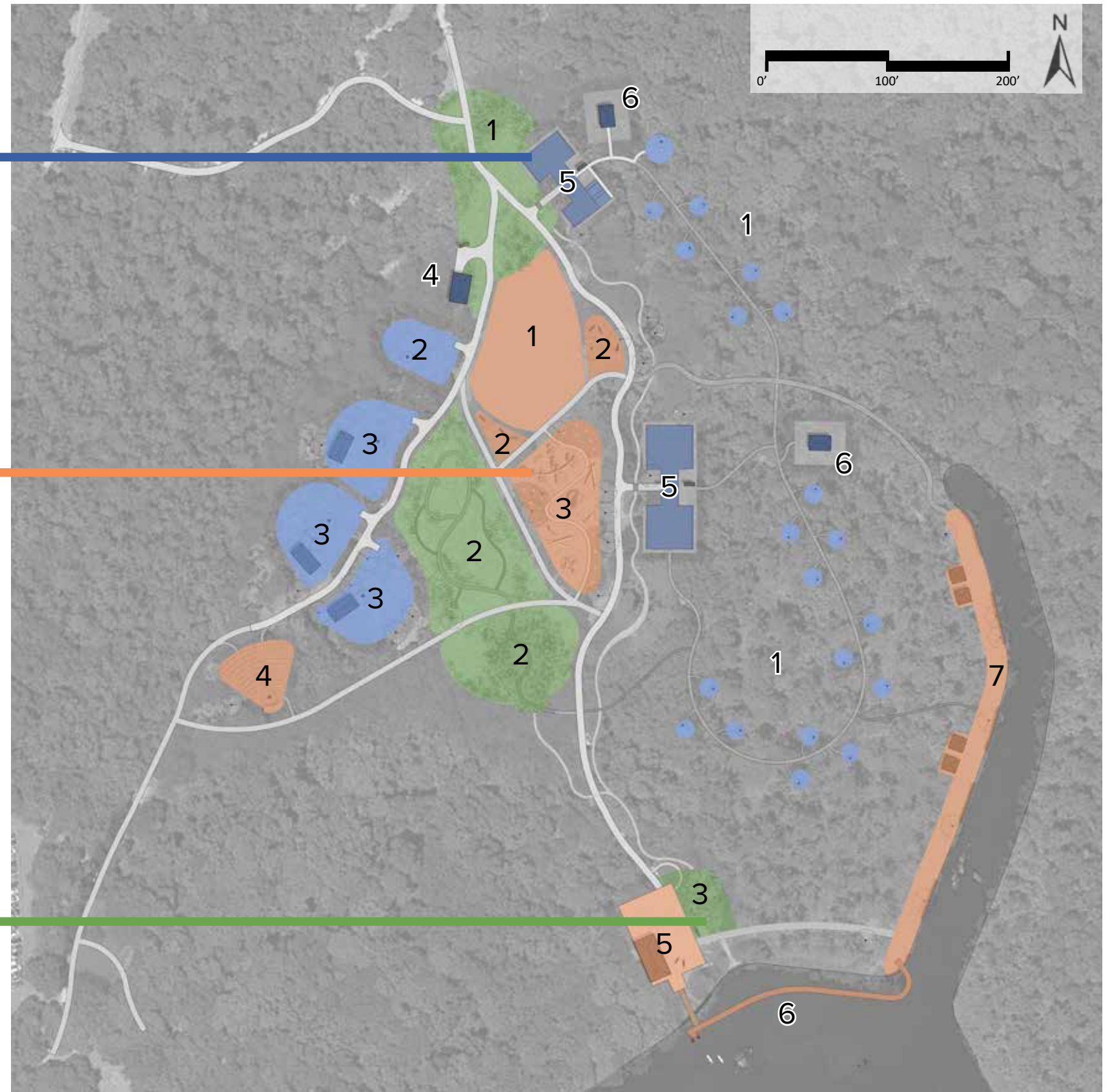
- ④ Existing Bath House
- ⑤ Primitive Site Parking
- ⑥ Composting Toilets

Activity Areas

- ① Activity Lawn
- ② Hammock Grove
- ③ Natural Playground
- ④ Amphitheater
- ⑤ Boat Launch
- ⑥ Spring Run Boardwalk
- ⑦ Canal-side Pavilions

Garden Areas

- ① Entrance
- ② Native Garden
- ③ Spring-side Rain Garden



Circulation

Roads (Existing)



Primary Paths



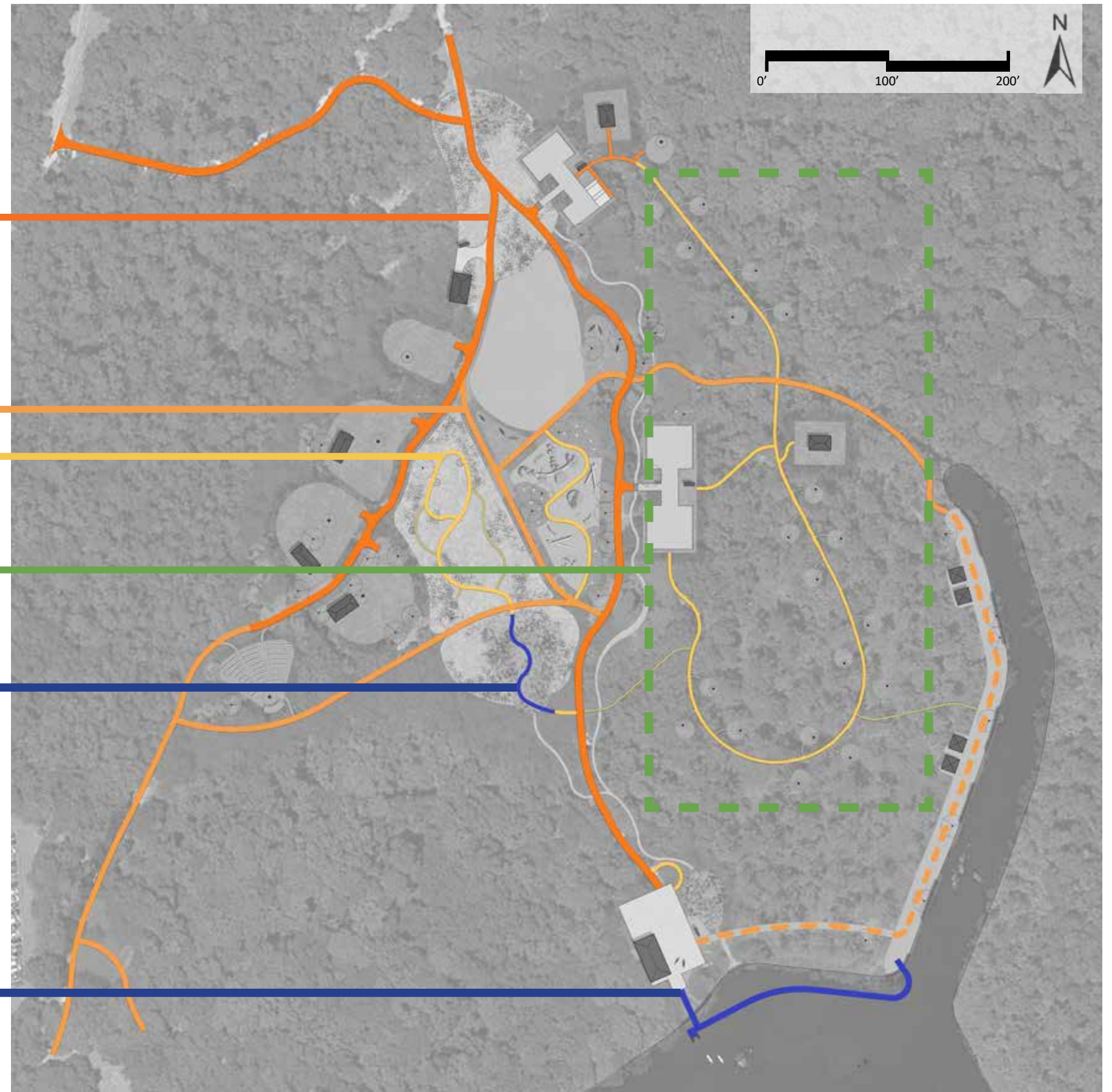
Secondary Paths



Forest Paths



Boardwalks



Circulation

Roads (Existing)



Leveled and refilled with sand and gravel to match existing materials. Metal stabilizing structure can be used in erosion-prone areas.

Primary Paths



Pea gravel in natural colors, with metal edging to maintain the path.



Secondary Paths



To vary based on the area they are located in.

Forest Paths



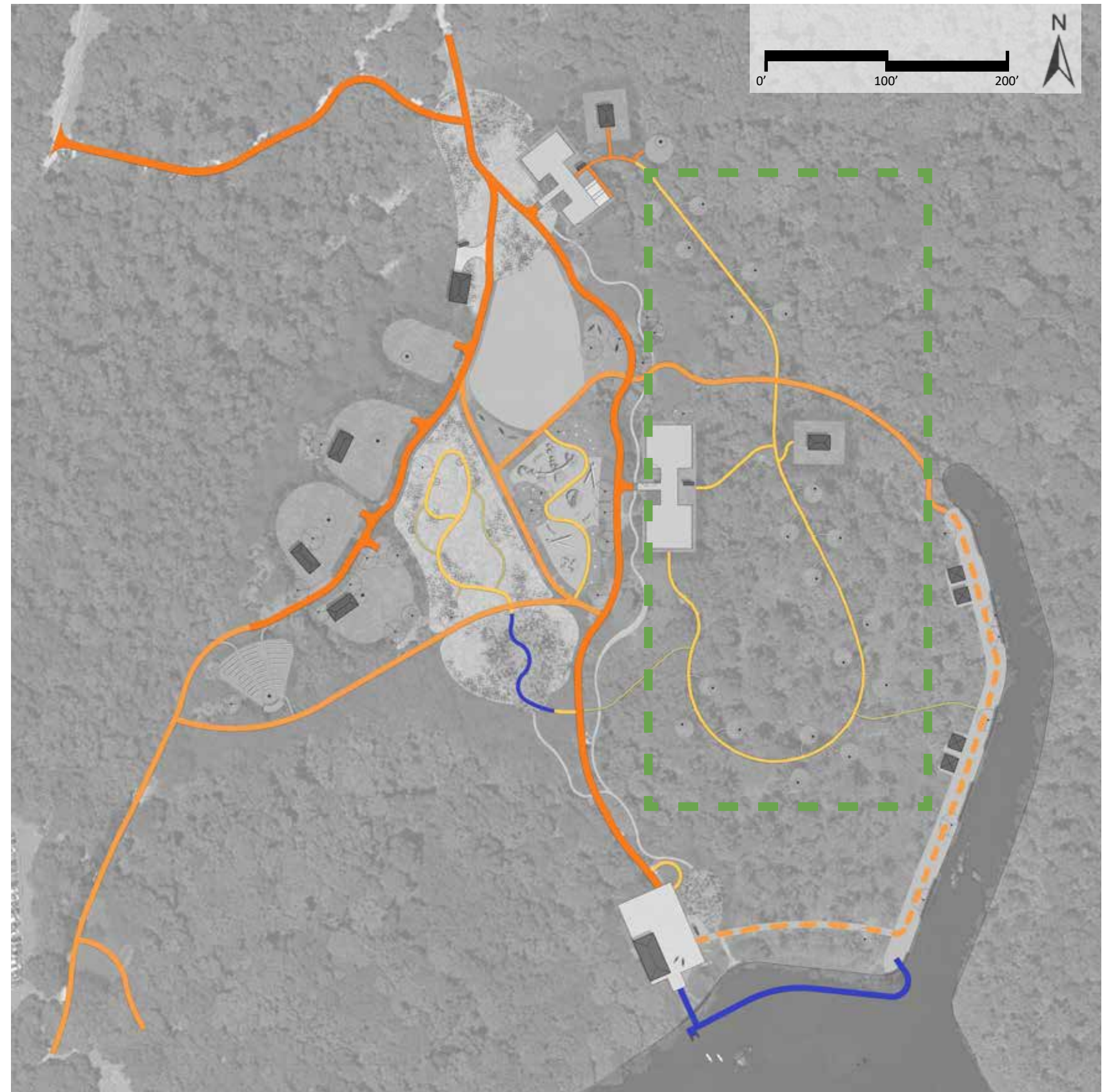
All forest paths are pine straw to match the existing forest floor.



Boardwalks



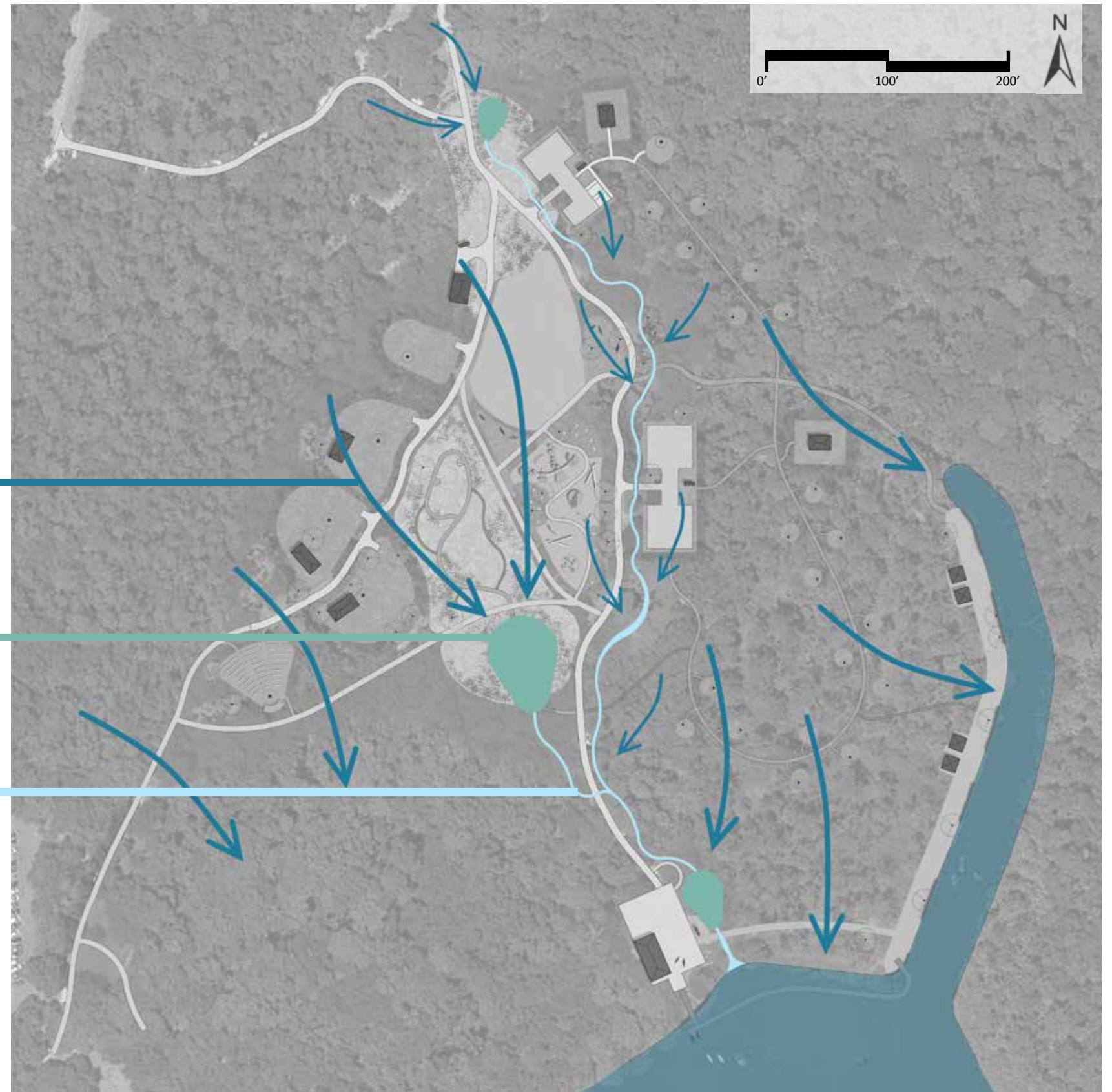
Wooden, local material if possible, with railings to meet standards.



Stormwater Management

Several areas in the campground are prone to erosion, while there is evidence of standing water in other areas. A series of rain gardens are created in existing low points to collect surface flow, while a system of dry creeks guides overflow during rain events down the slope to the spring run. The existing erosion areas are on and around the main road, so the dry creeks are placed in the center of the site next to the road in order to create a controlled alternate path for the water.

- Surface Water Flow
- Rain Garden Detention Areas
- Dry Creeks for Overflow



Open Space + Vegetation

Attractive Gardens

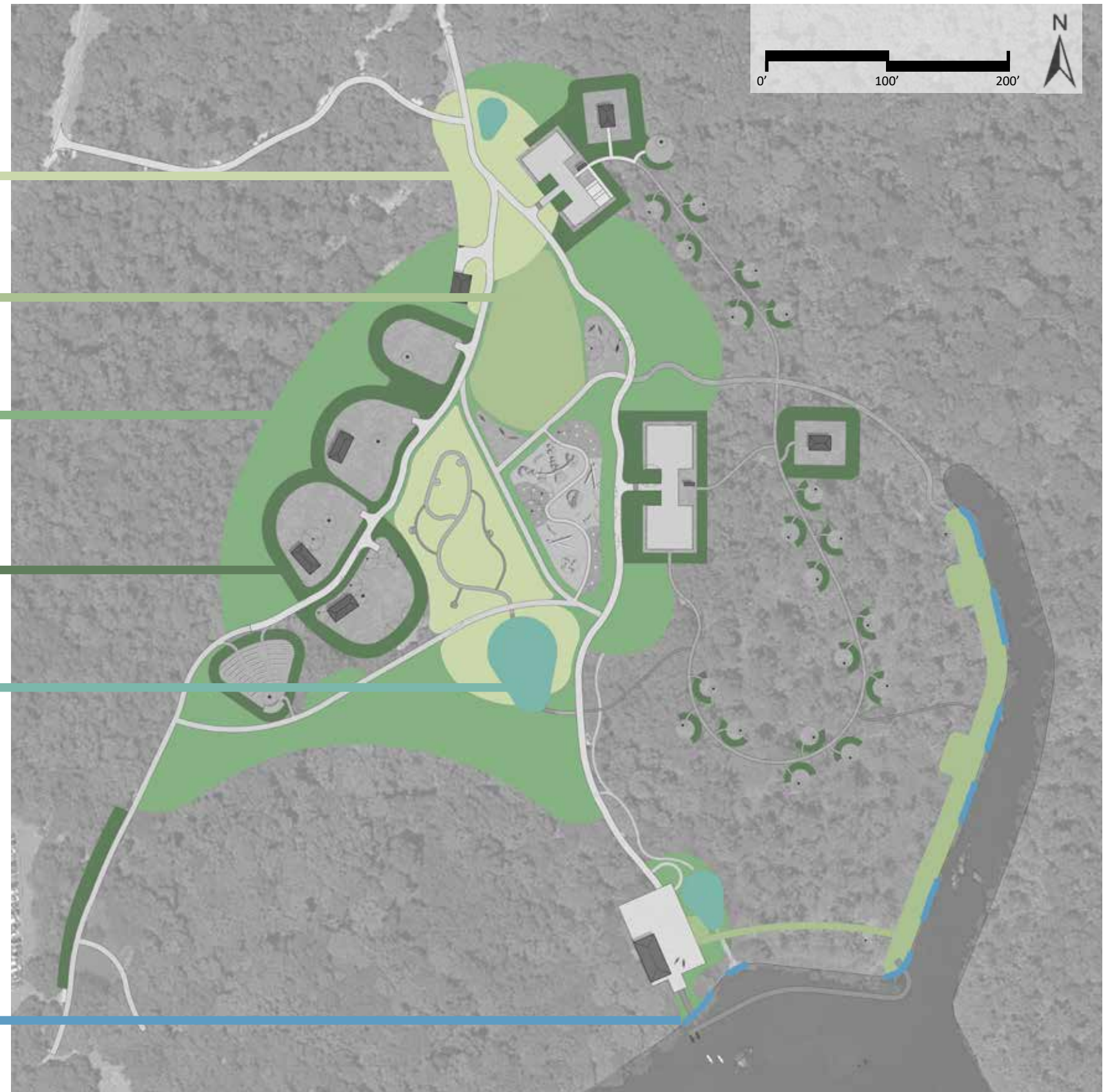
Lawn (Existing)

Understory
Re-vegetation

Use Area Buffers

Rain Gardens

Water's Edge
Re-vegetation



Plant Schedule

It is necessary that the plant material added to the camping area is local to the National Forest and to the ecosystem. The plants recommended in these lists can all be found in Marion county, and will contribute to the local sense of place as well as beautifying the site. Plants should be used at the forest's discretion to fill in vacant areas around the activities and in cleared areas. Special care should be taken in areas prone to erosion for plant selection and establishment that will improve the existing conditions.



Based on FNPS's moisture tolerance rating system

Garden + Entrance

Binomial	Common	Water	Height
Flower / Ground Cover			
Chamaecrista fasciculata	Partidge Pea	4-5	3'
Coreopsis lanceolata	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	3-4	1.5-2.5'
Coreopsis leavenworthii	Leavenworth's Tickseed	3-4	1.5-3'
Dyschoriste humistrata	Swamp Twinflower	3	0.5'
Liatris tenuifolia	Shortleaf Blazing Star	4-6	2.5-4'
Geobalanus oblongifolius	Gopher Apple	4-6	0.5-1'
Pityopsis graminifolia	Narrowleaf Silkgrass	4-6	2-3'
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	3-6	2-3'
Trichostema dichotomum	Forked Bluecurls	4-6	2-3'
Grass			
Eragrostis elliottii	Elliotts Lovegrass	2-4	1-3'
Eragrostis spectabilis	Purple Lovegrass	2-5	2-4'
Sporobolus junceus	Pineywoods Dropseed	3-6	1-2'
Sorghastrum secundum	Lopsided Indianagrass	2-5	1-3'
Spartina bakeri	Sand Cordgrass	2-4	3-4'
Palm			
Rhapidophyllum hystrix	Needle Palm	2-4	6'
Serenoa repens	Saw Palmetto	4-6	3-8'
Shrub			
Callicarpa americana	American Beautyberry	2-5	4-8'
Garberia heterophylla	Garberia	5-6	5'
Hamelia patens	Firebush	3-4	6-20'
Ilex glabra	Inkberry	2-5	6-12'
Rhododendron canescens	Wild Azalea	2-4	10-15'
Rivina humilis	Rogue Plant	2-5	3-5'
Vaccinium darrowii	Darrow's Blueberry	3-4	2'
Yucca filamentosa	Adam's Needle	3-6	3-8'
Zamia integrifolia	Coontie	2-5	2-3'

Plant Schedule

Swamp Rosemallow
Hibiscus coccineus



Golden Canna
Canna flaccida



Giant Bulrush
Schoenoplectus californicus



Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana



Tickseed
Coreopsis leavenworthii



Blue Flag Iris
Iris virginica



Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias perennis



Royal Fern
Osmunda regalis



Water's Edge

Binomial	Common	Water	Height
Fern			
<i>Acrostichum danaeifolium</i>	Giant Leather Fern	0-2	6-12'
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern	1-3	3-4'
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	1-3	3-4'
<i>Woodwardia areolata</i>	Netted Chainfern	1-3	1-1.5'
Flower / Ground Cover			
<i>Canna flaccida</i>	Golden Canna	0-2	3-6'
<i>Crinum americanum</i>	Swamp Lily	0-3	1-2'
<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	Scarlet Rosemallow	0-3	5-8'
<i>Hibiscus grandiflorus</i>	Swamp Rosemallow	0-2	6-10'
Grass			
<i>Schoenoplectus californicus</i>	Giant Bulrush	0	3-9'
Shrub			
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire	1-4	4-8'
<i>Morella cerifera</i>	Wax Myrtle	1-5	10-15'
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Possumhaw	1-3	6-12'

Rain Gardens

Binomial	Common	Water	Height
Fern			
<i>Acrostichum danaeifolium</i>	Giant Leather Fern	0-2	6-12'
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	1-3	3-4'
Flower / Ground Cover			
<i>Asclepias perennis</i>	Swamp Milkweed	1-3	1-3'
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	3-4	1.5-2.5'
<i>Coreopsis leavenworthii</i>	Leavenworth's Tickseed	3-4	1.5-3'
<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	Swamp Sunflower	1-2	5-8'
<i>Hymenocallis capillaris</i>	Beach Spiderlily	2-5	2-4'
<i>Iris virginica</i>	Blue Flag Iris	1-3	2-4'
Grass			
<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i>	Elliotts Lovegrass	2-4	1-3'
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Purple Lovegrass	2-5	2-4'
<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	Eastern Gamagrass	2-4	4-6'
Shrub			
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American Beautyberry	2-5	4-8'
<i>Hypericum hypericoides</i>	St Andrew's Cross	2-4	3-4'
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire	1-4	4-8'
<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	Wild Coffee	2-5	2-6'
<i>Rivina humilis</i>	Rogue Plant	2-5	3-5'
<i>Zamia integrifolia</i>	Coontie	2-5	2-3'

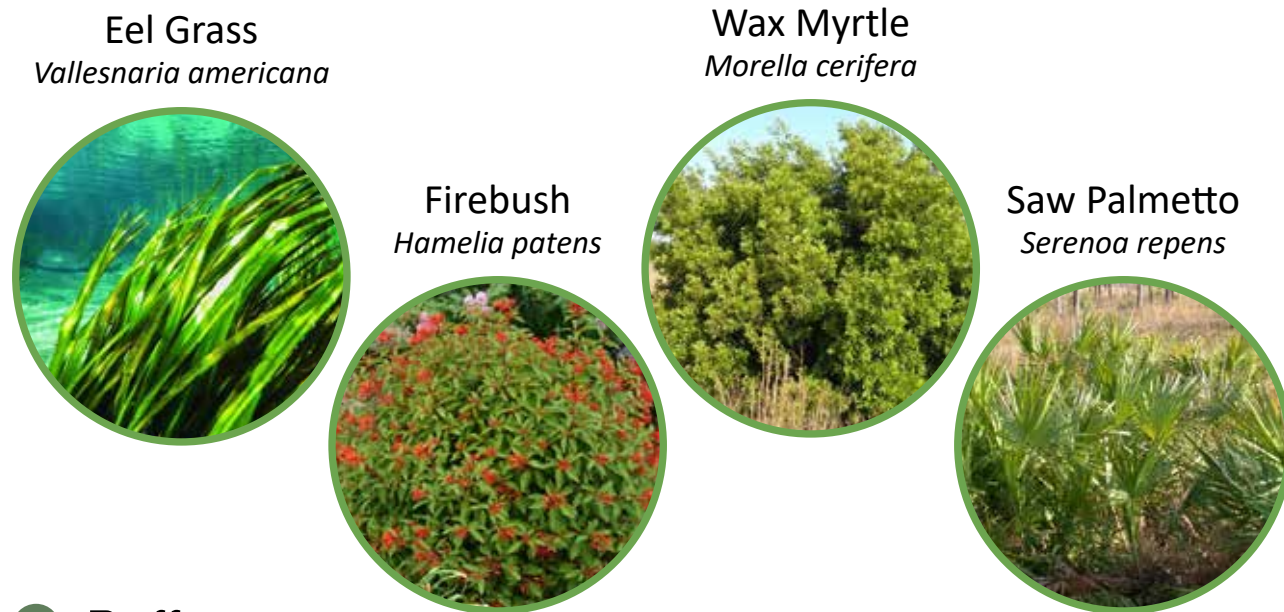


Based on FNPS's moisture tolerance rating system

Plant Schedule

Aquatic Vegetation

Binomial	Common	Water	Height
Grass			
Ceratophyllum demersum	Coontail	0	3-10'
Sagittaria kurziana	Tape Grass	0	1-4'
Stuckenia pectinata	Sago Pondweed	0	6-8'
Vallesnaria americana	Eel Grass	0	3-4'



Buffers

Binomial	Common	Water	Height
Palms			
Rhapidophyllum hystrix	Needle Palm	2-4	6'
Serenoa repens	Saw Palmetto	4-6	3-8'
Shrub			
Agarista populifolia	Florida Hobblebush	2-4	5-15'
Hamelia patens	Firebush	3-4	6-20'
Ilex opaca var. arenicola	Scrub Holly	4-6	12-20'
Illicium parviflorum	Yellow Anise	1-4	15-20'
Morella cerifera	Wax Myrtle	1-5	10-15'



Based on FNPS's moisture tolerance rating system



Forest Re-vegetation

Binomial	Common	Water	Height
Flower / Ground Cover			
Coreopsis lanceolata	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	3-4	1.5-2.5'
Geobalanus oblongifolius	Gopher Apple	4-6	0.5-1'
Grass			
Sorghastrum secundum	Lopsided Indianagrass	2-5	1-3'
Spartina bakeri	Sand Cordgrass	2-4	3-4'
Palm			
Rhapidophyllum hystrix	Needle Palm	2-4	6'
Serenoa repens	Saw Palmetto	4-6	3-8'
Shrub			
Agarista populifolia	Florida Hobblebush	2-4	5-15'
Amorpha fruticosa	False Indigo-Bush	2-5	6-12'
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Button Bush	1-2	5-20'
Hamelia patens	Firebush	3-4	6-20'
Hypericum hypericoides	St Andrew's Cross	2-4	3-4'
Ilex opaca var. arenicola	Scrub Holly	4-6	12-20'
Illicium parviflorum	Yellow Anise	1-4	15-20'
Morella cerifera	Wax Myrtle	1-5	10-15'
Psychotria nervosa	Wild Coffee	2-5	2-6'
Sambucus nigra ssp canadensis	American Elderberry	1-4	10-15'
Viburnum obovatum	Walter's Viburnum	2-5	10-15'

Wayfinding

Comprehensive signage across the site is important for visitors to understand where they are relative to where they want to be. Signage should be made from materials consistent with the National Forest character to tie the site into the forest experience.

① Entrance Sign



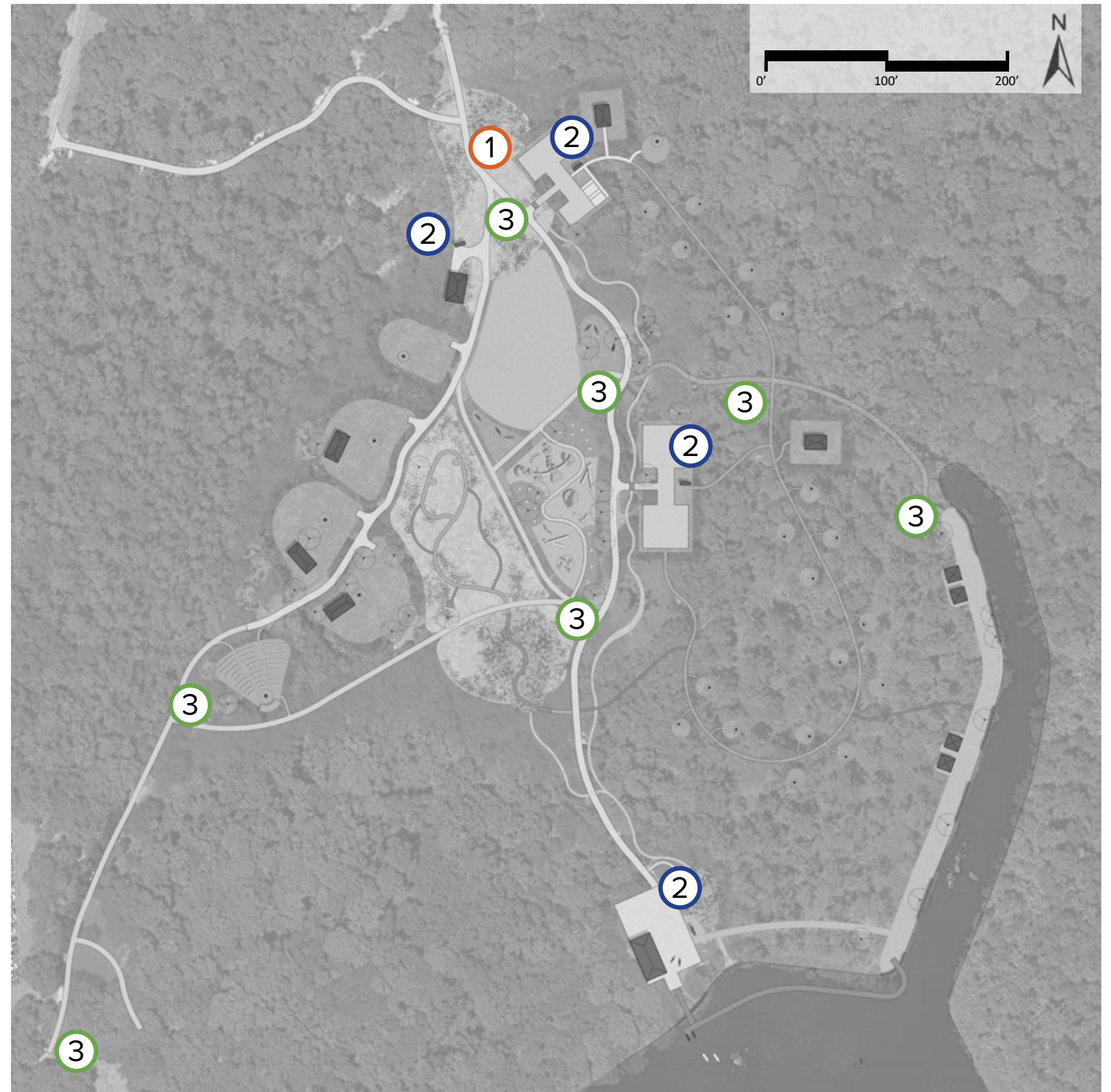
Primitive Campsite Sign



② Information Kiosk



③ Directional Sign





Area Plans

Campground Entrance



- Rich plantings to establish feeling of arrival.
- Rain garden in erosion-prone area.
- Campground entrance sign.
- Host site relocated to less prominent location.

Campground Entrance



Tickseed
Coreopsis leavenworthii

Purple Lovegrass
Eragrostis spectabilis

Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana

Before:



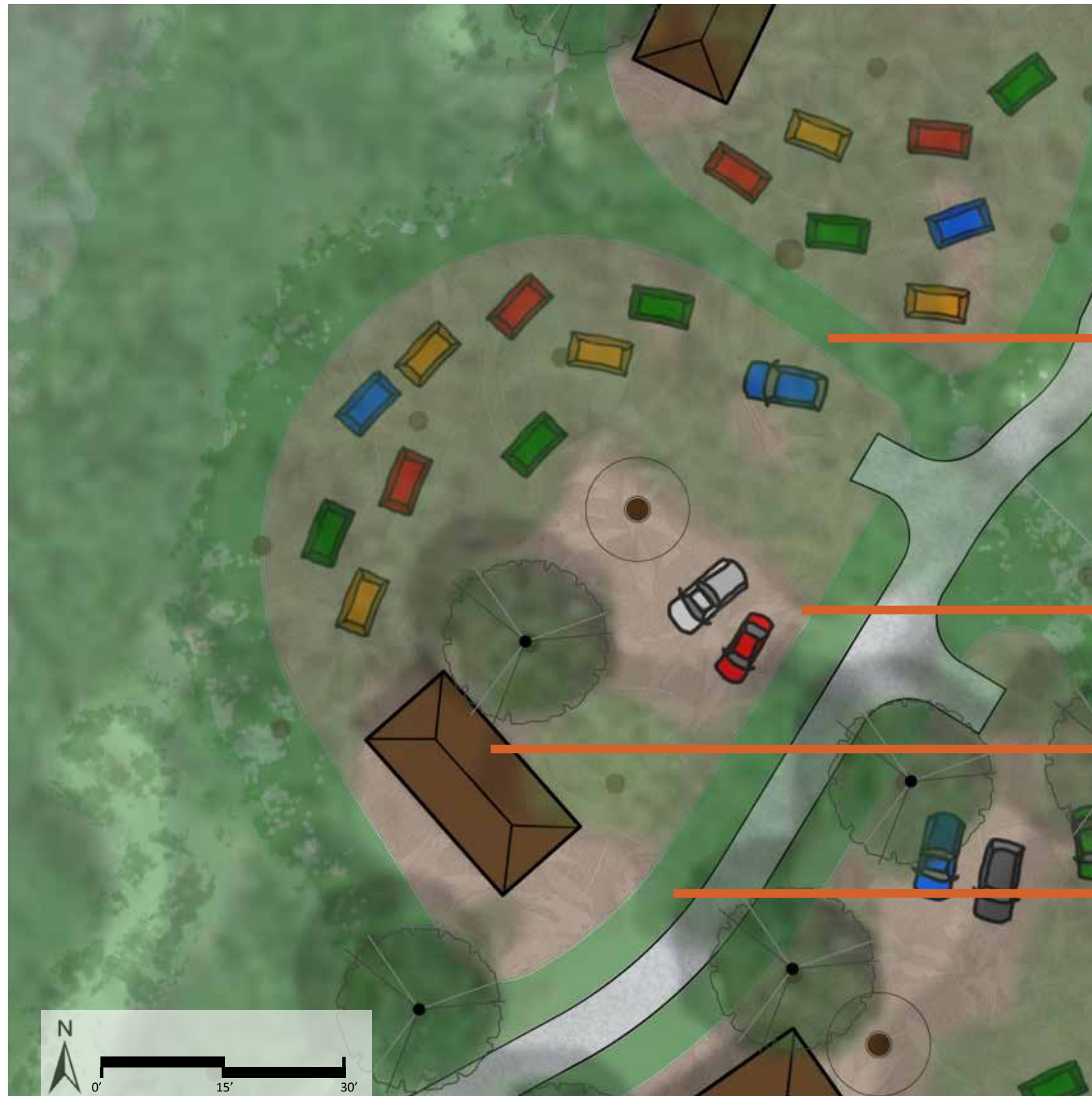
Plantings stabilize bank on the edge of the road.

Adam's Needle
Yucca filamentosa

Firebush
Hamelia patens

Gopher Apple
Geobalanus oblongifolius

Group Campsite



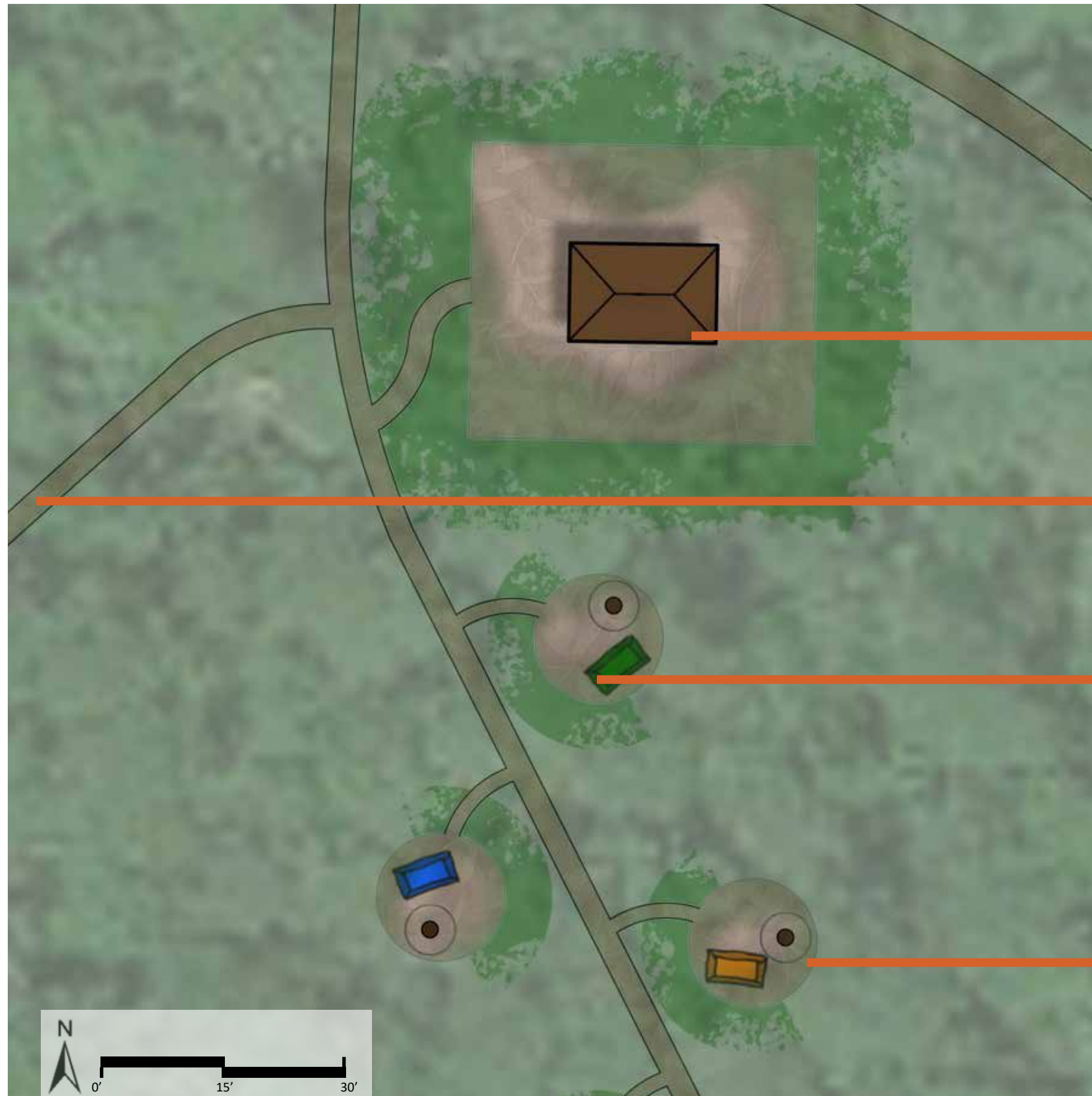
Potential connection between sites for larger groups.

Parking directly on campsite.

Sites have fire ring, pavilion, and tables.

Dense shrubs along road.

Primitive Campsites



● Composting toilets shelter with clearing.

● Path from parking area.

● Sites have fire ring, table, and space for one or two tents.

● Sites are offset and at least 40' apart.

Primitive Campsites



Saw Palmetto
Serenoa repens

Gopher Apple
Geobalanus oblongifolius

Walter's Viburnum
Viburnum obovatum

Sites clearly marked.

Wax Myrtle
Morella cerifera

Wiregrass
Spartina bakeri

Existing undergrowth filled in when necessary to create clear pathways and privacy for sites.

Primitive Site Parking + ADA Site

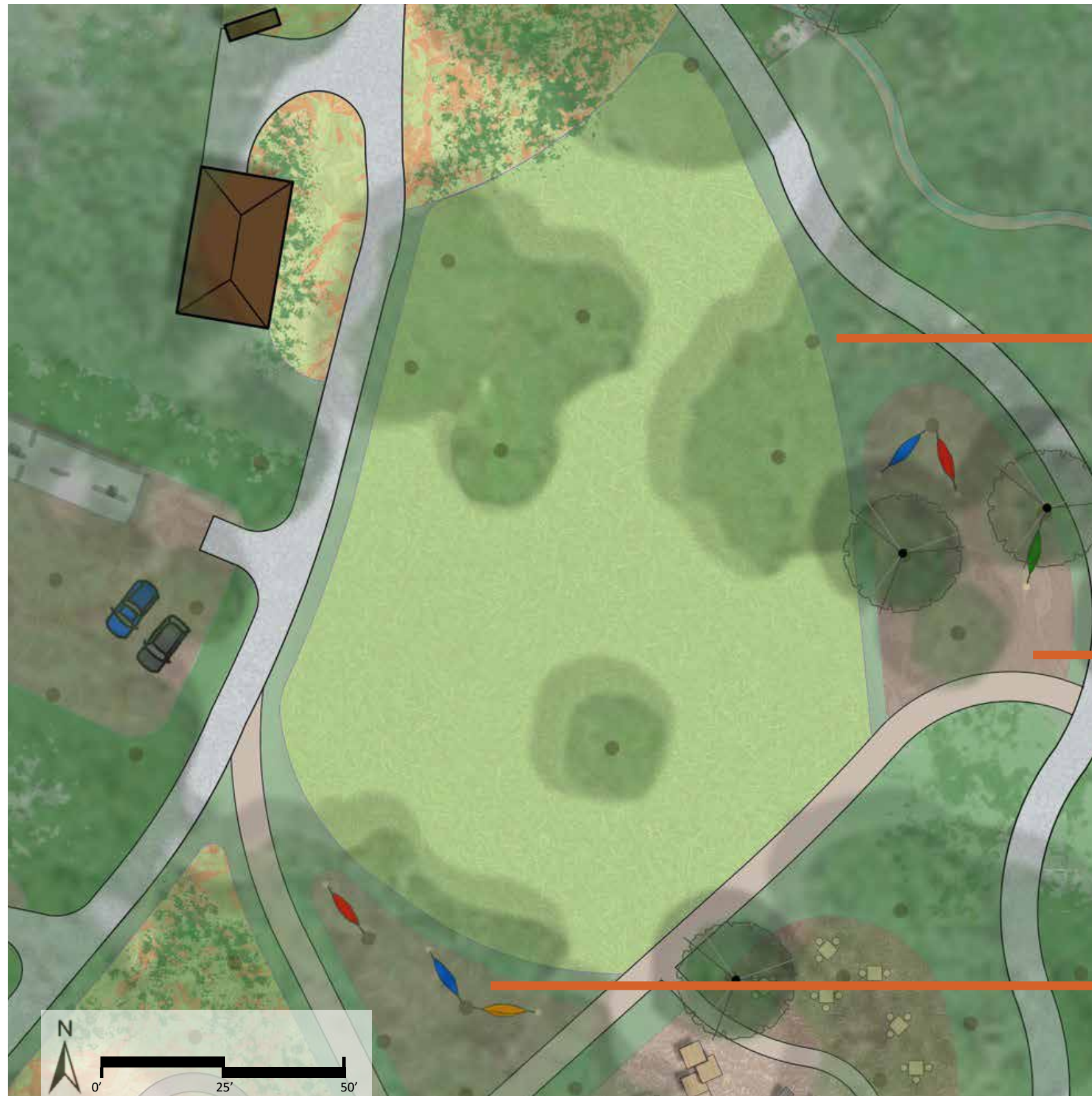


● Accessible path from parking to ADA site and toilets.

● Parking area is dirt or gravel.

● Shrubs and flowering plants screen parking from road.

Central Activities



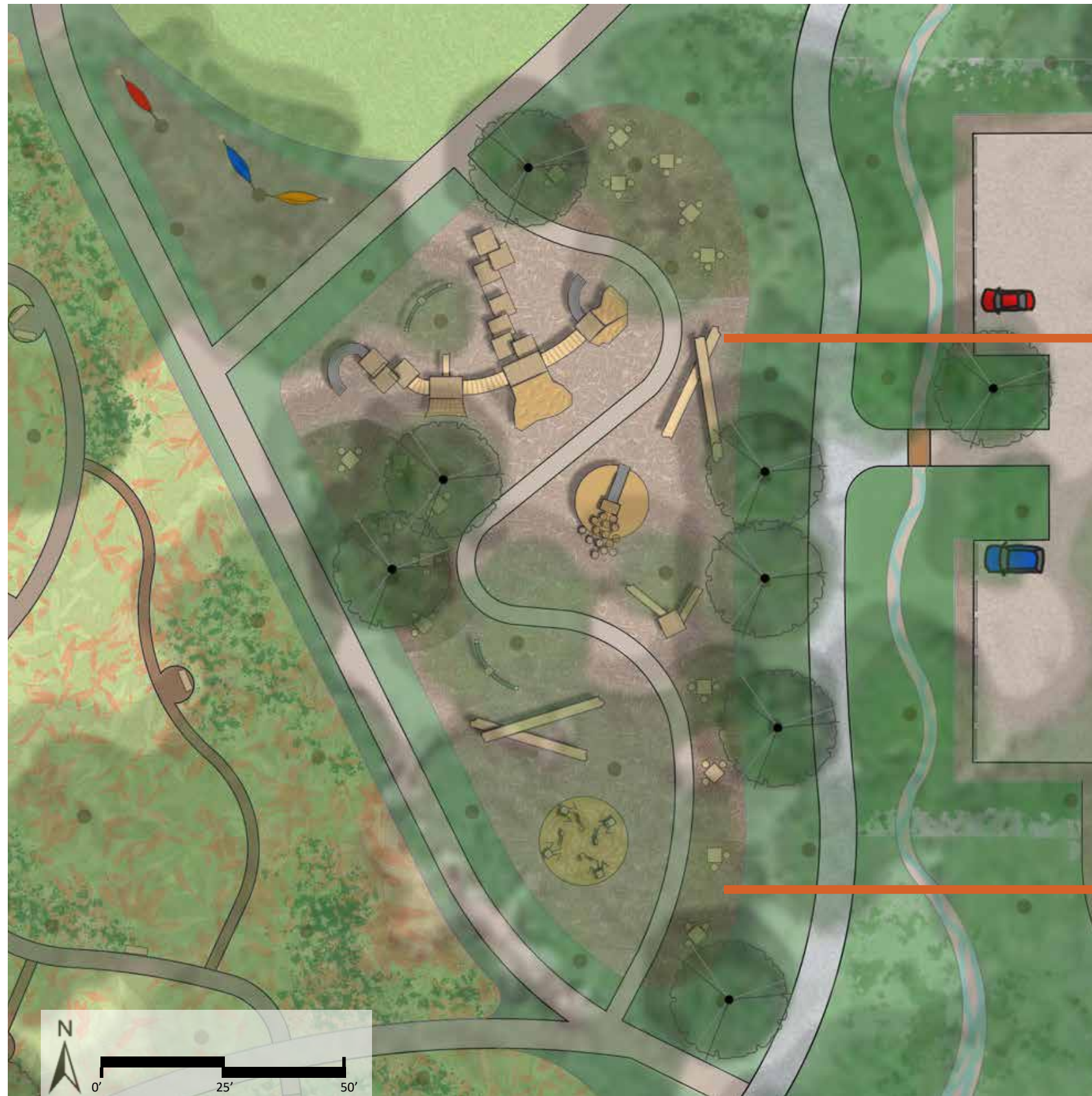
Activity Lawn



Hammock Groves



Central Activities



● Playground with digging, pumps, natural materials



● Adjacent seating areas

Central Activities



Native flower meadow with benches, teaching signs, stone pathways

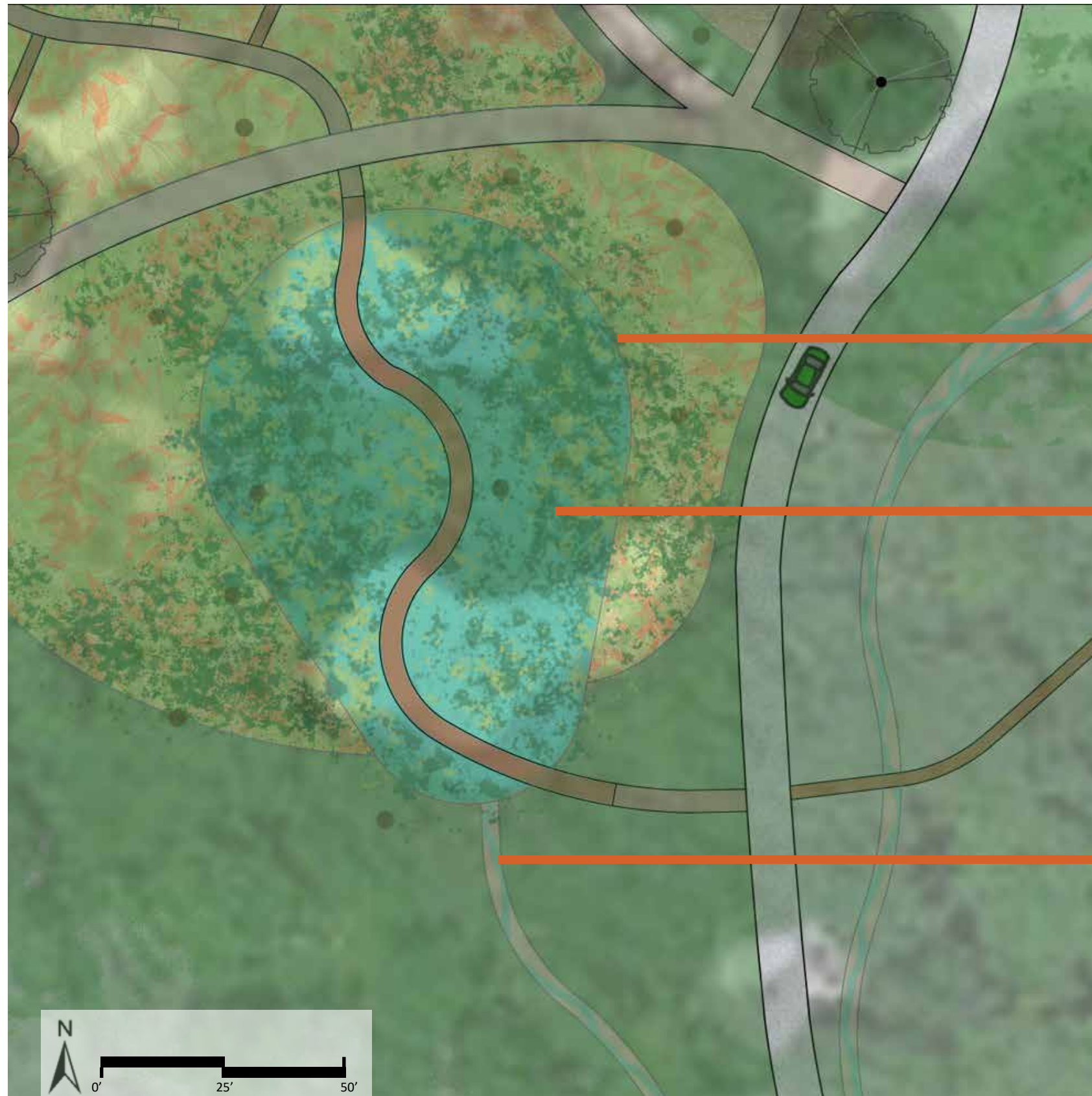


Blazing Star
Liatris tenuifolia

Swamp Sunflower
Helianthus angustifolius

Firebush
Hamelia patens

Rain Garden + Dry Creek



- Transition plants from upland garden to rain garden.
- Selected plants are colorful and water tolerant.
- Dry creek: overflow during storm events.

Rain Garden + Dry Creek



Boardwalk through the rain garden to view and learn.

Creek is not normally wet.

Tickseed
Coreopsis leavenworthii

Giant Leather Fern
Acrostichum danaeifolium

Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias perennis

Royal Fern
Osamunda regalis

Blue Flag Iris
Iris virginica

Beautyberry
Calicarpa americana

Amphitheater



● Benches placed around existing trees.

● Buffer shrubs for noise containment.

● Fire ring, stage, and projector screen.

● Accessible from day-use area.

Amphitheater



Stage can be used for demonstrations, movie nights, and impromptu plays

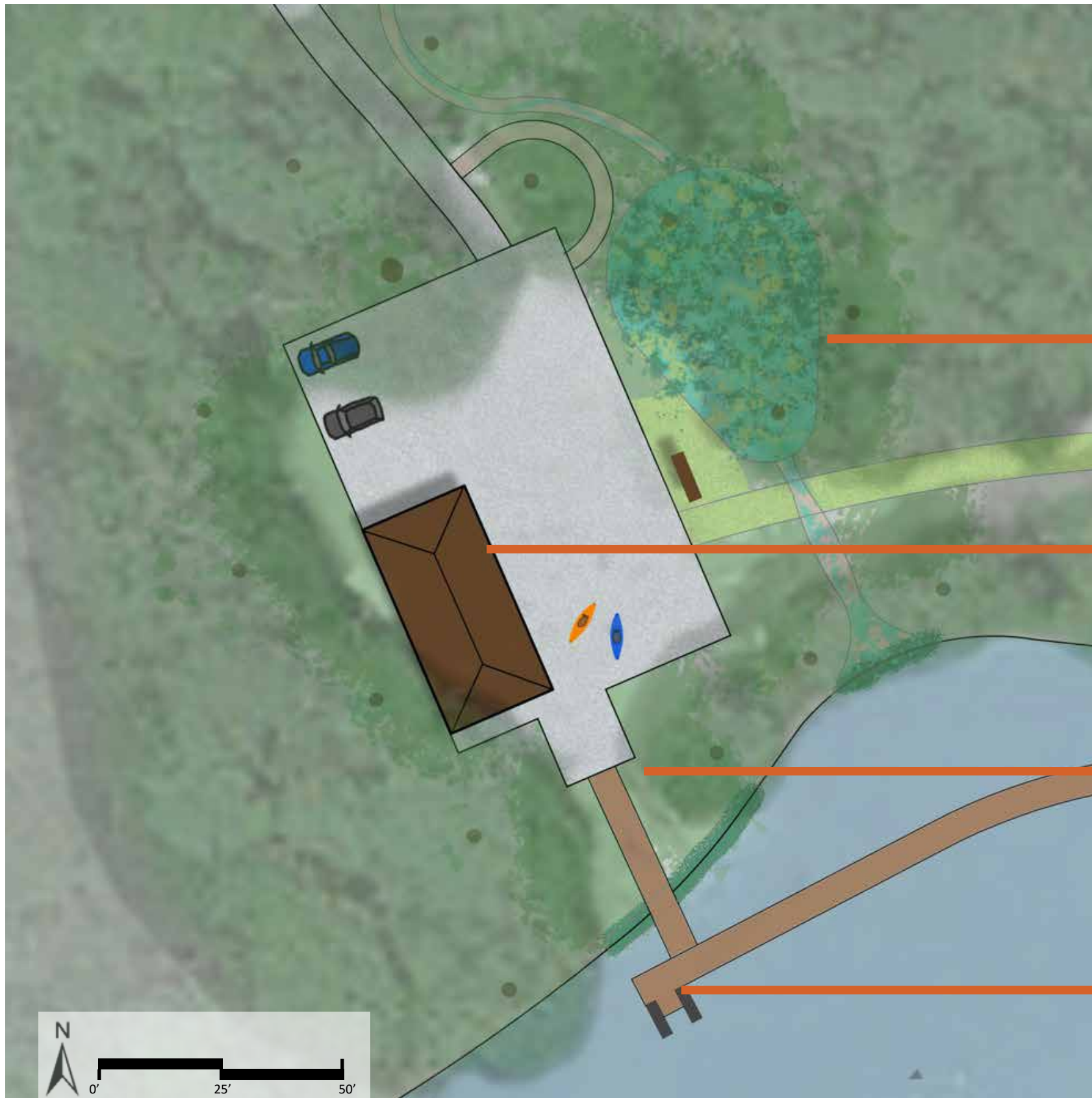
Existing grade

Saw Palmetto
Serenoa repens

Wax Myrtle
Morella cerifera

Firebush
Hamelia patens

Boat Launch + Boardwalk



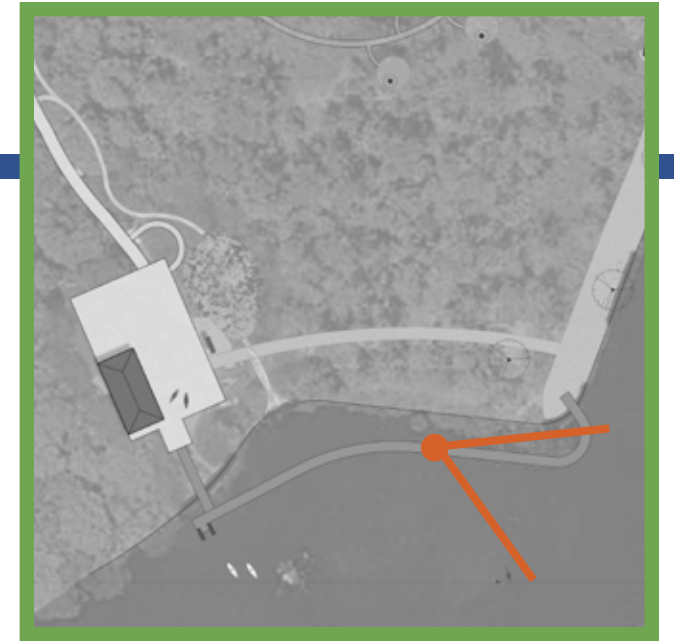
● Rain garden in existing depression.

● Paddlecraft rental station.

● Existing motorboat launch replaced with boardwalk.

● Paddlecraft launch from boardwalk.

Boat Launch + Boardwalk



Greater access to spring run from boardwalk + boat launch.

Before:



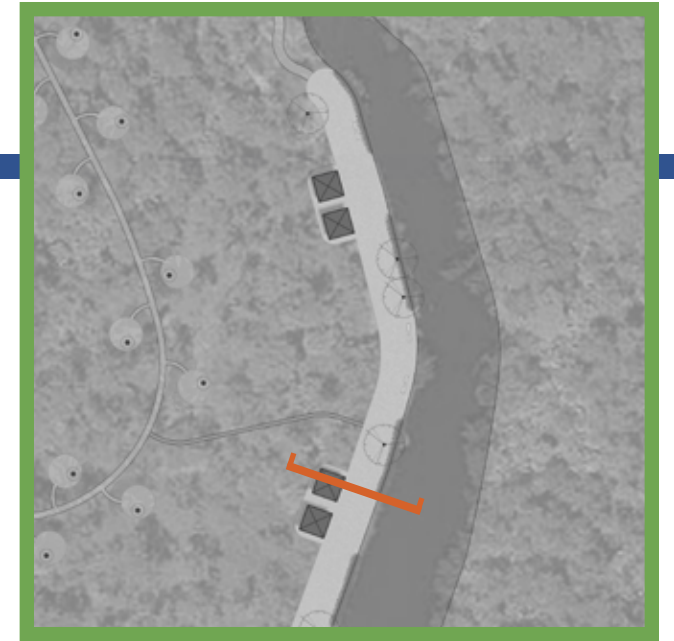
Boardwalk protects re-vegetated edge from boaters.

Canal Path + Pavilions



- Trail connection to center of campground.
- Water's edge is re-vegetated.
- Existing lawn pathway with added shade.
- Added benches along water.

Canal Path + Pavilions



Tables and grills for canal-side gatherings.

Pavilion is wood to match site character.

Golden Canna
Canna flaccida

Giant Leather Fern
Acrostichum danaeifolium

Eel Grass
Vallesnaria americana

Re-vegetation enhances ecosystem quality, gaps provide for views and fishing.

Conclusion

Forest Experiences: A campground that supports recreation and preservation.



Salt Springs is a destination within Ocala National Forest for both the spring and for upland activities. By improving the campground and creating new activities within the existing footprint, my plan spreads usage at Salt Springs to take pressure off of the assets. New activities are grounded in the sense of place to engage more visitors with the local environment and create a richer recreation experience. My master plan for Salt Springs Campground creates an immersive forests experience for recreation as well as maintaining the balance that preserves this amazing natural area for the future.

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