



# Visitor Use Site Management Planning



## A Message from the Superintendent

Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (LARO) is the largest reservoir in the Pacific Northwest, stretching over 130 miles from Grand Coulee Dam to Onion Creek, 16 miles south of the US-Canada border. The National Park Service (NPS) manages more than 300 miles of publicly accessible shoreline that provides a wide range of recreational opportunities. The recreation area's waters, shorelines, and upland areas provide visitors opportunities ranging from solitude to group activities, encompassing a variety of recreational possibilities. Boating, fishing, camping, picnicking, and sightseeing are a few of the activities supported by this regionally popular and nationally significant recreation area.

The NPS is in the process of evaluating potential management strategies for improving visitor experience at nine priority sites:

- Evans
- Gifford
- Keller Ferry
- Marcus Island
- Hunters
- Spring Canyon
- Kettle Falls
- Fort Spokane
- Porcupine Bay

These sites provide a variety of recreation facilities to support activities such as camping, boating, fishing, and picnicking. The NPS is evaluating existing conditions at these sites and the need for management strategies and improvements to better serve a diversity of visitor needs and enhance the quality of the visitor experience.

The NPS will host two online public meetings: May 7, and May 13, 2020. (See box above for how to join via weblinks.) The purpose of these meetings is to share information and answer

**Please participate in one of our  
online public meetings:**

**MAY 7TH | 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

Link to Online Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/92408711991>

Meeting ID: 924 0871 1991

**MAY 13TH | 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

Link to Online Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/94822606534>

Meeting ID: 948 2260 6534

Participants may also dial in to either meeting via: 1 669 900 6833  
(Or find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abEMIQ1Sdj>)

questions about the Draft Visitor Use Site Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (VUSMP/EA). These will be live online meetings, and participants will be able to ask questions via the chat function online. Formal comments on the Draft VUSMP/EA will only be accepted through the NPS planning website or if submitted in writing to my office (see page 3 for more about how to comment on the Draft VUSMP/EA).

The preferred alternative in the Draft VUSMP/EA presents a variety of management strategies and supporting improvements at the nine sites. Potential long-term implementation of the VUSMP would occur over the next 20 years or more in phases. Funding for implementation is not yet identified, and multiple funding sources would be needed to support proposed improvements.

I appreciate your interest in Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

**Dan A. Foster**, Superintendent



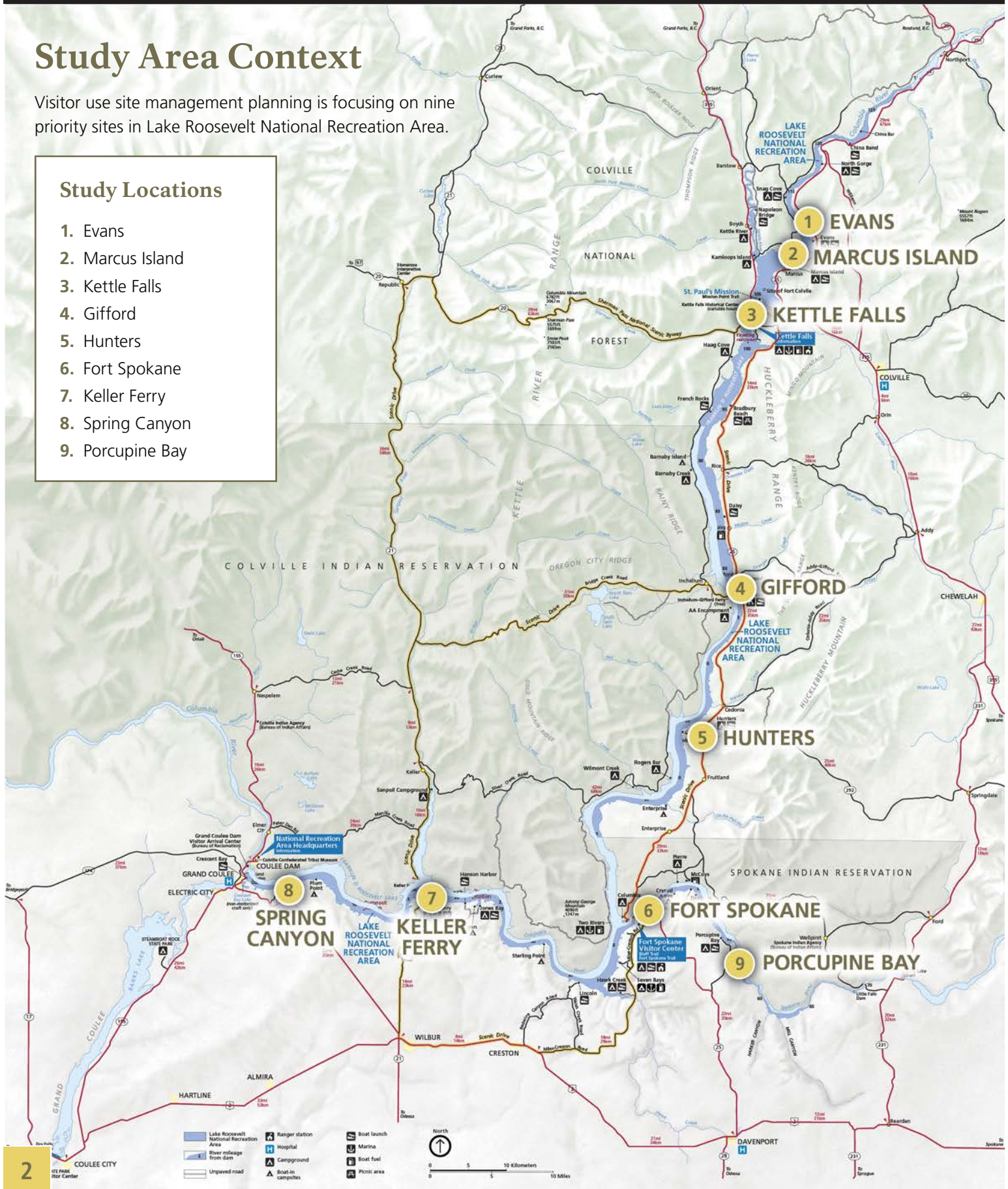


## Study Area Context

Visitor use site management planning is focusing on nine priority sites in Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area.

### Study Locations

1. Evans
2. Marcus Island
3. Kettle Falls
4. Gifford
5. Hunters
6. Fort Spokane
7. Keller Ferry
8. Spring Canyon
9. Porcupine Bay







Evans Courtesy Dock Area



Spring Canyon Camping

## The Need for Management Strategies and Improvements

LARO is experiencing challenges related to visitor congestion and changing visitor use patterns throughout the national recreation area. In response, the NPS is developing the VUSMP to diversify and upgrade facilities to meet a broader range of visitor interests and to adapt to trends in recreation, consistent with the desired conditions for LARO. Strategies in the VUSMP also would help to disperse visitation, reducing congestion at some sites, while encouraging use of other underutilized sites. Implementation of the VUSMP would help to reduce visitor conflicts, enhance visitor safety, and provide a more positive visitor experience. Anticipated increases in visitation levels over time would be addressed through adaptive management strategies.

The nine sites that are the focus of the VUSMP are increasingly popular for camping, boating, day use and other recreational activities. The VUSMP defines appropriate visitor facilities and services (i.e., campgrounds, boat launches, and day use areas); recommends infrastructure redesigns considering visitor use patterns, connections between sites, use types, site resources, and facilities; establishes a consistent, unified character for development; and guides decisions on capital improvements, preservation, and development.

By directing and concentrating visitor use in appropriate areas, it is expected that there would be less congestion and conflicts in use, resulting in an enhanced visitor experience. Management strategies and supporting improvements would better support visitor access and recreation opportunities and ensure that desired resource conditions and visitor experiences are achieved and maintained.

## Submitting Comments on the Draft VUSMP/EA

### *Your Opinion is Important to Us!*

PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS BY MAY 31, 2020  
AT THE NPS PLANNING WEBSITE ONLINE:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/parks>

Search by park, and click on Lake Roosevelt NRA to find  
"Visitor Use Site Management Planning"

OR YOU MAY SUBMIT COMMENTS IN WRITING TO:

Superintendent, Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area  
1008 Crest Drive, Coulee Dam, Washington 99116-1259

### *Please Submit Comments that Are Substantive and Constructive:*

*This is not a vote. A like/dislike is not  
substantive. A comment needs to:*

- *Reasonably question accuracy of EA information.*
- *Reasonably question adequacy, methodology, or assumptions used in analyses.*
- *Present new information relevant to analysis.*
- *Present reasonable alternatives or changes to an alternative.*





## Desired Conditions

The following desired conditions are statements of aspiration that describe resource conditions and visitor experiences and opportunities that the NPS will strive to achieve and maintain at Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area.

### VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND PUBLIC ACCESS—

*Visitors will have opportunities to:*

- Enjoy high quality recreation experiences that align with their diverse interests and abilities.
- Explore publicly accessible shorelines with key sites serving as launch points for exploration and recreation.
- Access facilities and services that meet universal design principles and federal accessibility standards.
- Access more sites safely, efficiently, and effectively through improved entry and egress, circulation, and parking.

*Proposed management strategies for improving visitor experience and visitor access and circulation at Spring Canyon in Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area.*







- Gain benefits from long term proactive management of facilities and resources.

**AT CAMPGROUNDS—Visitors will be able to:**

- Camp in a variety of sites depending on their interests, needs, and vehicle types (car/trailer, tent, and recreational vehicle) that offer more direct experiences with resources and a sense of separation from others.
- Experience a variety of camping settings and varying degrees of privacy between campsites depending on

their interests—including some more social camping experiences and some more isolated campsites surrounded by nature.

- Access developed areas with more facilities and conveniences as well as less developed areas that provide a more rustic experience with limited facilities and more interactions with nature. All recreational vehicle sites would be self-contained given limitations on development and utility access.

**AT DAY USE AREAS—Visitors will be able to:**

- Enjoy enhanced and upgraded day use facilities that meet their diverse needs and interests.
- Experience a variety of enhanced day use activities throughout the nine sites, such as accessible loop trails and nature trails with self-guided interpretive displays and accessible piers and water access facilities.

**AT BOAT LAUNCH AREAS—Visitors will be able to experience:**

- A greater variety of boat launch facilities, including ongoing motorized boat launches, as well as non-motorized launch areas for kayaks, canoes, and other watercraft.



## SPRING CANYON SITE 8

### Actions Common to All Sites

- (CA) Make accessibility improvements
- (CB) Put in RV length spots
- (CC) Delineate campsites
- (CD) Create space for tents
- (CE) Clarify pedestrian circulation
- (CF) Improve vehicular circulation
- (CG) Improve parking
- (CH) Move or add vehicle counters
- (CI) Close areas for winter season
- (CK) Implement vegetation management
- (CL) Install water efficient irrigation
- (CN) Remove swim dock
- (CO) Relocate fish cleaning station
- (CP) Automate skid dock
- (CQ) Provide rigging and staging locations

### Proposed Actions for this Site

- (A) Create multi-use trail from upper campground to day use areas
- (B) Remove canopy shades/shelters at existing campsites
- (C) Remove one comfort station at upper loop
- (D) Add an RV campground loop
- (E) Reduce the number of campsites in the lower loop
- (F) Convert group campsite to host site
- (G) Add group campsite to the area above the day use area
- (H) Repurpose the concession building; potential plaza space for food trucks
- (I) Add non-motorized boat launch adjacent to the existing boat launch
- (J) Create two-way loop to improve circulation at boat launch
- (K) Add NPS admin use only parking
- (L) Create accessible trail to shore with accessible picnic areas

Go to: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/parks> to view strategies for all nine sites, as well as additional example campsite illustrations (search by park for Lake Roosevelt NRA and click on "Visitor Use Site Management Planning").

## Desired Conditions for Resource Management

### Resources will be enhanced through:

- An emphasis on native vegetation to increase and enhance wildlife habitat in all landscaped areas.
- Reduction in high water-consuming lawn areas, and non-native vegetation.
- Sustainable maintenance and management over the long term through revegetation with native plantings, surface water management, water and energy conservation, and other best practices that preserve and protect natural processes.
- Site-specific actions, including site surveys that would document sensitive resources which would be avoided by actions proposed in this plan. Areas with national register designations, for example, may require special management considerations in this plan.

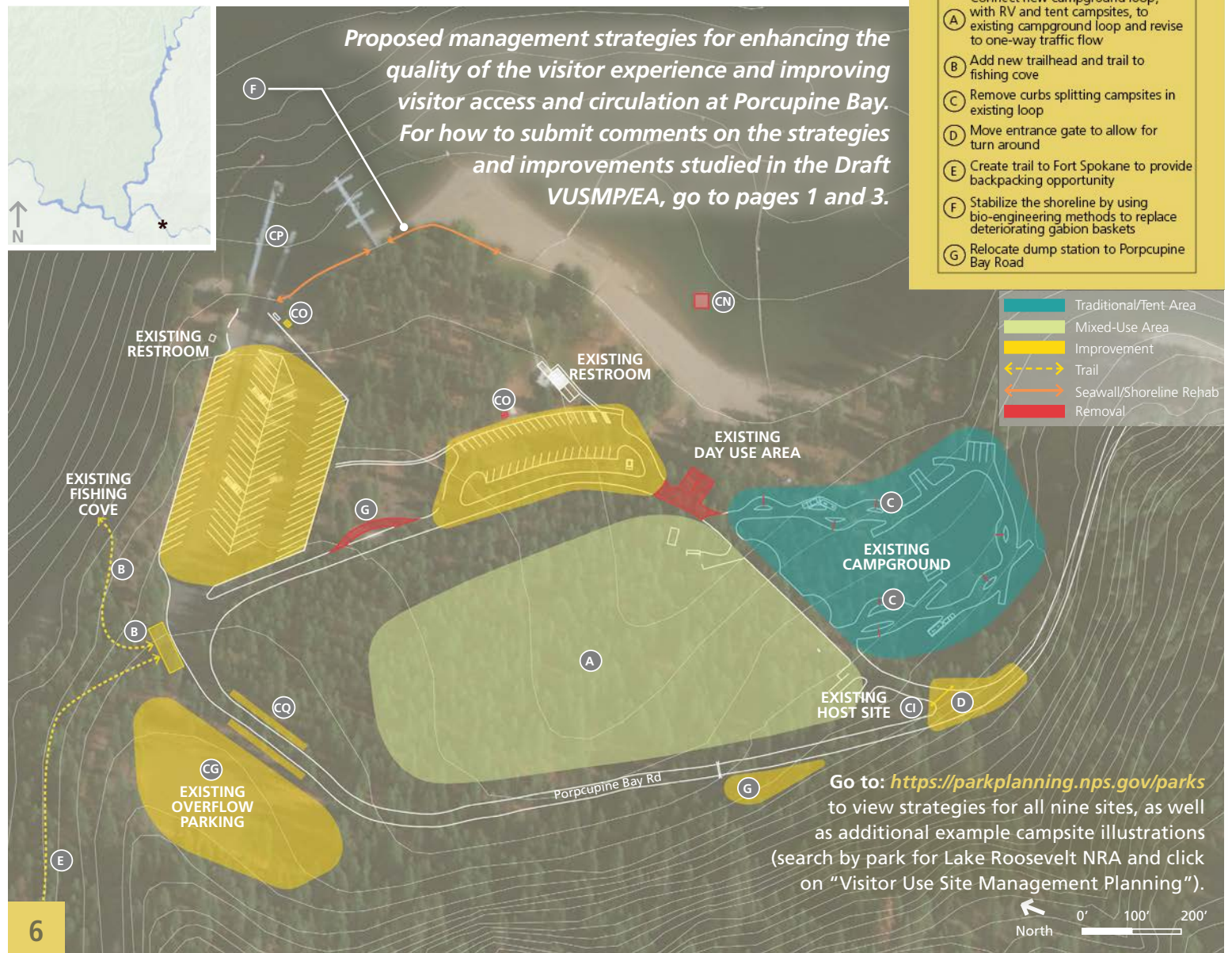




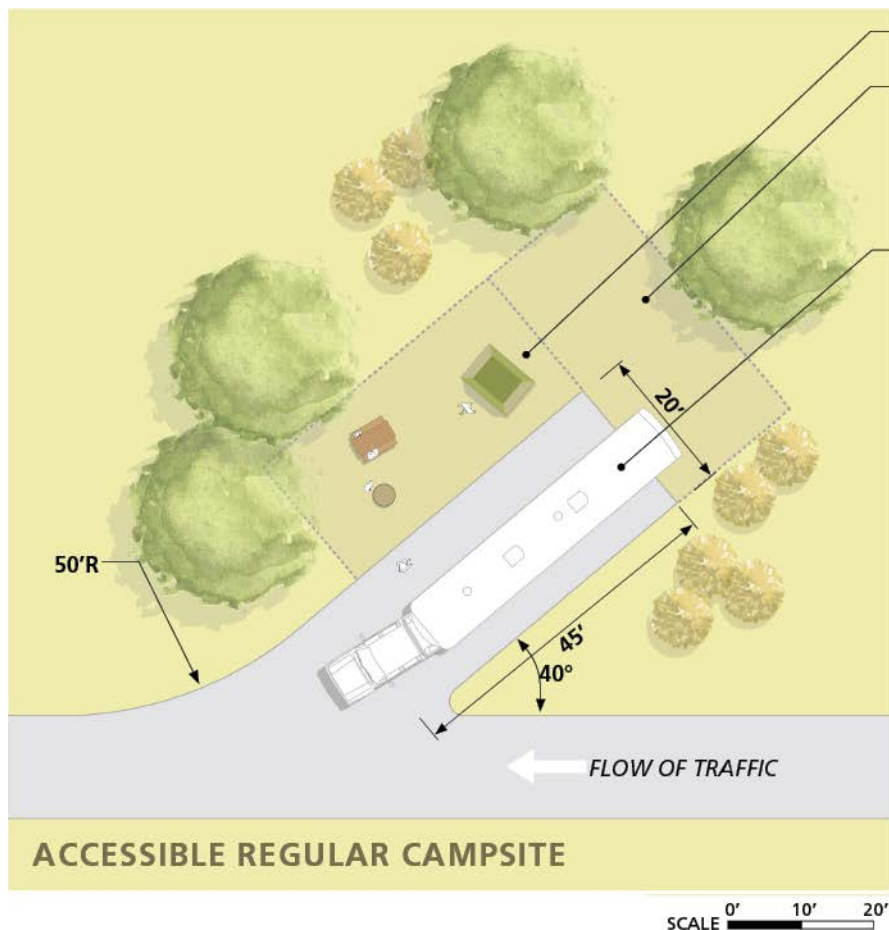
## Planning Goals

As the NPS considered ideas and concepts for possible improvements at LARO, public input was gathered in a series of public meetings held in Fall 2018. Public input helped to confirm the following planning goals for the VUSMP and shape potential solutions.

- Define appropriate uses, quantities, and dimensions of facilities for use areas (i.e., campgrounds, boat launches, and day use areas) in the nine priority developed sites.
- Recommend infrastructure redesigns with consideration of visitor use management including visitor use patterns, connections between sites, use types, site resources, and facilities.
- Adjust quantities and dimensions of facilities to support a broader range of vehicles and types of use, as well as to meet federal accessibility standards.
- Establish a consistent, unified character for development.
- Serve as a roadmap to guide decisions on capital improvements, preservation, and development.







## Example Campsite Illustrations— Enhancing Accessibility at a Spur Campsite

These illustrations show typical dimensions for an accessible campsite with a spur layout that could serve a number of small to medium sized camping vehicles and tents. The NPS is considering a number of different ways that campsites can be adapted to accommodate a wide variety of camping vehicles, including larger RVs as well as traditional vehicle/trailer set ups. Some campsites would be improved to be fully accessible for use by visitors/campers in wheelchairs. Please attend one of the public meetings to view even more example campsite illustrations and provide comments on these ideas.







## Example Campsite Illustrations— Enhancing Accessibility at a Pull-Through Campsite

These illustrations show typical dimensions for an accessible campsite with a pull-through layout that could serve a number of small to medium sized camping vehicles and tents. The NPS is considering a number of different ways that campsites can be adapted to accommodate a wide variety of camping vehicles, including larger RVs as well as traditional vehicle/trailer set ups. Some campsites would be improved to be fully accessible for use by visitors/campers in wheelchairs. Please attend one of the public meetings to view even more example campsite illustrations and provide comments on these ideas.

