

**ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND  
TRANSITION PLAN  
SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON  
NATIONAL PARKS  
CALIFORNIA**

**JULY 2021**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) includes findings from the self-evaluation process, as well as a plan for improving accessibility parkwide. The Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan resulted from the work of a National Park Service (NPS) interdisciplinary team, including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource, visitor safety, maintenance, and accessibility specialists. Site plans, photographs, and specific actions for identified park areas were developed. Associated time frames and implementation strategies were established to assist NPS park staff in scheduling and performing required actions and to document completed work. Implementation is dependent on funding and compliance, and each specific project will undergo full review and be evaluated for impacts to cultural and natural resources. Park policies, practices, communication, and training needs were also addressed. The goals of the plan are to 1) document existing park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities, 2) provide an effective approach for upgrading facilities, services, activities, and programs, and 3) instill a culture around creating universal access.

The following are the key park experiences and associated park areas addressed in the transition plan:

- 1) **Experience giant Sequoias, including iconic trees** Big Trees Trail, Crescent Meadow, Crescent Meadow Road Pull-offs, Generals Highway Pull-offs, General Sherman Tree Area, Giant Forest, Grant Tree, Grant Village, Moro Rock, Pinewood Picnic Area
- 2) **Traverse diverse ecosystems** – Azalea Campground, Big Trees Trail, Buckeye Flat Campground, Cedar Grove, Crescent Meadow, Crescent Meadow Road Pull-offs, Columbine Day Use Area, Foothills Visitor Center, Generals Highway Pull-offs, General Sherman Tree Area, Giant Forest, Grant Tree, Grant Village, Hospital Rock, Lodgepole Village, Moro Rock, Panoramic Point, Pinewood Picnic Area, Potwisha Campground, Roads End, Roaring River Falls, Zumwalt Trail
- 3) **Visit diverse and scenic geologic features** – Big Trees Trail, Buckeye Flat Campground, Cedar Grove, Crescent Meadow, Crescent Meadow Road Pull-offs, Generals Highway Pull-offs, Giant Forest, Grant Village, Hospital Rock, Lodgepole Village, Moro Rock, Panoramic Point, Potwisha Campground, Roads End, Roaring River Falls, Zumwalt Trail
- 4) **Learn about ecological, recreational, and societal values related to water resources** – Big Trees Trail, Buckeye Flat Campground, Crescent Meadow, Crescent Meadow Road Pull-offs, Foothills Visitor Center, Generals Highway Pull-offs, General Sherman Tree Area, Giant Forest, Grant Village, Hospital Rock, Lodgepole Village, Moro Rock, Potwisha Campground, Roads End, Roaring River Falls, Zumwalt Trail

- 5) **Understand and appreciate wilderness** – Big Trees Trail, Buckeye Flat Campground, Crescent Meadow, Crescent Meadow Road Pull-offs, Foothills Visitor Center, Generals Highway Pull-offs, Giant Forest, Grant Village, Hospital Rock, Lodgepole Village, Moro Rock, Panoramic Point, Potwisha Campground, Roads End, Zumwalt Trail
- 6) **Learn about the conservation movement that created Sequoia National Park and continues to inspire and influence stewardship, research, and protection of irreplaceable scenic landscapes and places** – Big Trees Trail, Buckeye Flat Campground, Crescent Meadow, Crescent Meadow Road Pull-offs, Foothills Visitor Center, Generals Highway Pull-offs, General Sherman Tree Area, Giant Forest, Grant Tree, Grant Village, Hospital Rock, Lodgepole Village, Moro Rock, Panoramic Point, Pinewood Picnic Area, Roads End, Zumwalt Trail
- 7) **Understand the human history of the parks, extending back 8000 years** – Big Trees Trail, Buckeye Flat Campground, Crescent Meadow, Crescent Meadow Road Pull-offs, Foothills Visitor Center, Generals Highway Pull-offs, General Sherman Tree Area, Giant Forest, Grant Tree, Grant Village, Hospital Rock, Lodgepole Village, Moro Rock, Panoramic Point, Pinewood Picnic Area, Potwisha Campground, Roads End, Zumwalt Trail
- 8) **Engage in recreational activities in the Sierra Nevada** – Azalea Campground, Big Trees Trail, Buckeye Flat Campground, Cedar Grove, Crescent Meadow, Crescent Meadow Road Pull-offs, Columbine Day Use Area, Foothills Visitor Center, Generals Highway Pull-offs, General Sherman Tree Area, Giant Forest, Grant Tree, Grant Village, Hospital Rock, Lodgepole Village, Moro Rock, Panoramic Point, Pinewood Picnic Area, Potwisha Campground, Roads End, Roaring River Falls, Zumwalt Trail
- 9) **Participate in educational and interpretive activities** – Big Trees Trail, Buckeye Flat Campground, Crescent Meadow, Crescent Meadow Road Pull-offs, Foothills Visitor Center, Generals Highway Pull-offs, General Sherman Tree Area, Giant Forest, Grant Tree, Grant Village, Hospital Rock, Lodgepole Village, Moro Rock, Panoramic Point, Potwisha Campground, Roads End, Roaring River Falls, Zumwalt Trail

Overall, similar services, activities, and programs were found throughout park areas, as were assessment findings for physical and program accessibility.

## PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Throughout the park, physical accessibility to services and facilities was generally found to be accessible. Accessible parking is provided at nearly all park areas, paths between accessible features are almost always paved and gently-sloped, restrooms are large and maneuverable, and many interpretive waysides are in accessible locations. Park staff has made a concerted effort to improve accessibility parkwide, with recent updates to some picnic areas, trailheads, and campgrounds. However, there remain barriers to accessibility at every park area that was assessed, some obstacles that would only inconvenience a person with a disability and others that would severely limit their ability to use services or



see and participate in programs and activities. Recurring findings were generally identified for parking areas, accessible routes, hiking trails, campsites, river access points, picnic facilities, and visitor information areas, such as those with kiosks and waysides. These findings included too few or poorly dispersed accessible parking stalls, some steeply-sloped paths, incorrectly installed or incorrectly placed elements in restrooms, too few or inaccessible picnicking elements, a lack of appropriate accessible campsites, and devices throughout the park that were inoperable with a closed fist. Some interpretive panels and waysides, such as those at trailheads or on trails, were not located in accessible areas and were difficult to approach.

Other physical access issues where improvements are recommended include providing accessible parking for oversized vehicles at visitor centers and major visitor destinations, improving routes and viewing areas at places like Beetle Rock and Panoramic Point, improving accessibility to and within amphitheaters, and upgrading trailheads with improved access to parking and interpretive features. Within visitor contact stations, upgrades are necessary at information desks, bookstores, and exhibits. Repairing the shuttle stop at the Lodgepole Visitor Center would benefit visitors with disabilities traveling without personal vehicles. The park should review other boarding and alighting areas to ensure they meet accessibility requirements. The shuttles themselves were not assessed. There is no location to access the river, and the park should consider providing this experience at Buckeye Flat Campground, Potwisha, or elsewhere. Hiking trails were not fully assessed due to time constraints and available equipment, and it would benefit the park to fully assess these in the future. Refer to Appendix H: "Trail Assessment Protocol" for information on how hiking trails are assessed and what standards apply.

## **Program Accessibility**

Access to information and programs is available in some park areas but severely lacking in others. Park staff has begun to address the deficiency of accessible information and programmatic alternatives, and additional programmatic options would further enhance all park areas for visitors, particularly those with cognitive disabilities, blindness, deafness, or vision or hearing loss. Recurring findings related to program accessibility included font and contrast issues at interpretive waysides, a lack of alternative formats (e.g., braille, large print, audio and electronic formats) for interpretive panels and publications, and inconsistent use of open captioning on park films. Assistive listening devices are available for people with hearing loss for guided tours or special events, although standard operating procedures need to be written and implemented to ensure that they are appropriately checked out, returned, and inventoried. Live audio description illustrating visual elements to persons with low or no vision for ranger-led interpretive tours and self-guided tours was not available. There are few tactile exhibits in the park, and staff should consider installing important and unique examples parkwide to develop a tactile journey interpreting the park's history and most significant features and places.

Specific instances in which additional programmatic considerations would benefit the user experience include developing audio programs for popular visitor areas such as the General Sherman Tree Area or Grant Grove, developing audio description for exhibits at

the Giant Forest Museum, and providing signage detailing trail conditions at all trailheads and on the park website. For locations that are infeasible to make accessible, such as the viewing area at Moro Rock and petroglyphs at Hospital Rock, adding these locations to an audio program and providing photographs and video components at nearby accessible locations and visitor contact stations would make the information and views accessible to visitors unable to access these areas. Some experiences could be improved with minor changes such as by adding braille and tactile components to exhibits at the Giant Forest Museum or to waysides interpreting landmarks at the Crescent Meadow Pull offs.

## **PARKWIDE ACCESSIBILITY**

Some of the more noteworthy parkwide accessibility challenges that were discussed by the planning team during the self-evaluation and assessment process include: providing the appropriate number and type of accessible picnicking options, working with partners to improve accessible shuttle and transit vehicles and stops, converting the appropriate number of accessible campsites, and renovating trailheads and trails to provide a diverse array of visitor experiences.

It is recommended that the park employ trained consultants to assist in determining how best to address accessibility improvements parkwide and to ensure that design and implementation of alternate format programs meet the needs of the intended audiences. Notify visitors through signage placed in appropriate locations and in park publications that alternative formats are available.

Creating parkwide accessibility requires staff awareness, understanding, and appropriate action. The assessment process served as a field training tool that increases staff knowledge and commitment toward embracing accessibility as a core park value. Continued training in physical and programmatic access requirements for all park staff, particularly those in maintenance and interpretation, is strongly advised.

Because of fiscal constraints and limited park resources, staff will need to determine which park area improvements will benefit the greatest numbers of park visitors with disabilities. Suggested implementation time frames, potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, and relative costs need to be factored into all accessibility investment decisions.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks strive to be inclusive and welcoming. The park pursued the development of a self-evaluation and transition plan because the staff recognized it as not only their legal responsibility but also as a way to more effectively plan for and support visitors with disabilities. The park committed significant resources and staff time to participate in Workshops #1 and #2, and many participants recognized the accessibility barriers present at the park and were excited to learn how to address and remove them. When presented with accessibility challenges, the staff strives to respond to and fix the barriers as quickly as possible. The park website provides some information for visitors with disabilities and identifies areas in the park in which certain accessible services and experiences are available. The park provides an accessibility film series on their website in addition to diverse and relevant accessibility information. They should continue

to expand the information provided under each heading with additional park areas and details (e.g., trail characteristics, type of accessible programs). An audio tour featuring some areas of the park was completed in 2021 and can be accessed via the park app. Expanding the alternative formats of park publications to include braille, large print, and audio versions would further enhance the information available to visitors. Since the assessment, the park has already addressed some of the recommendations in this plan such as improving the picnic tables and grills at Columbine Day Use Area.

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## INTRODUCTION

Since 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has preserved, unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system, while also providing for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations.

Many of our national parks were founded because of their stunning views, extreme and unique geography, challenging and sensitive natural environments, and historic and fragile structures. This park, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and other parks exist because of their history and resources. The NPS mission balances protection of resources (both natural and cultural) with visitation. Facilities, services, activities, and programs were designed and built within parks to accommodate our visitors and help them better understand each park purpose and significance.

Many facilities were constructed prior to the passage of laws and policies that reflect the commitment of the National Park Service to provide access to the widest cross section of the public and to ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12207). The accessibility of commercial services within national parks is also governed by all applicable federal laws. After 100 years of operation, the National Park Service continues to work toward a more inclusive environment. The more than 400 park units that comprise the national park system today include not only the large western parks, for which the agency is well known, but also nationally significant urban parks, historic sites, monuments, parkways, battlefields, and a diversity of other park types across the country.

For a century, the National Park Service has been a leader in connecting people to both our natural and cultural heritage. Visitors today have different needs and expectations, and the agency must adapt to meet these changing demands. Modern scientific research and visitor trend analysis provide new insight into accessibility opportunities and challenges in the national park system. There are approximately 60 million people with disabilities in the United States today, and the number is expected to rise to 71 million in upcoming years as more baby boomers reach retirement age (people 65 and older). This information helps the National Park Service understand changing visitation patterns, the nexus between resource stewardship and accessibility, and the impacts of managing visitors, resources, and infrastructure against the threat of decreased funding. Adequate planning can identify solutions to challenges and provide services with the knowledge and understanding that serves as a trajectory full of opportunity for current and future visitors. The National Park Service is committed to making NPS facilities, programs, services, and employment opportunities accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.

## PARK DESCRIPTION

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks preserve and protect the largest and most pristine portion of the southern Sierra Nevada range. Founded in 1890, Sequoia is the second-oldest park in the system, joined in 1940 by Kings Canyon, created expressly as a “wilderness park.” Since 1943, the two parks have been administered jointly with one superintendent overseeing the management of both parks.

The parks protect more than 865,964 acres of land (404,063 acres in Sequoia and 461,901 acres in Kings Canyon) and also showcase a remarkable range of elevations from 1,370 feet in the Sierra foothills to the 14,494 foot peak of Mount Whitney. A majority of the lands within the parks are designated as wilderness, which is defined under the Wilderness Act. As of 2015, approximately 808,078 acres were designated wilderness (93.3% of the parks), 29,516 acres are proposed wilderness, and 212 additional acres are potential wilderness (totaling approximately 96.75% of the park acreage).

As Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks protect the largest elevation gradient in the lower 48 states, these parks contain a great diversity of wildlife and plant species. At the time of this publication, there are 12 amphibian species (11 native), 201 bird species (192 native), 11 fish species (5 native), 72 mammal species (68 native), 21 reptile species (all native), and 1,551 plant species (1,355 native), excluding species of unknown status that potentially may occur in the parks. Among the documented species are the Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the northern distinct population segment of the mountain yellow-legged frog (which are currently listed as federally endangered), the Little Kern golden trout and Yosemite toad (which are currently listed as federally threatened), and the Sierra Nevada distinct population of the Pacific fisher. Another species, the whitebark pine, is a candidate for federal listing.

The most notable organisms found in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are the giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), which are the largest living trees in the world. There are a total of 39 giant sequoia groves in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which account for roughly 40% of the area of native sequoia groves in the world.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks contain three main watersheds (Kings, Kaweah, and Kern) and two lesser watersheds (South Fork of the San Joaquin and North Fork of the Tule). Among these, there are several waterways designated as wild or scenic under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (PL 90-542, as amended; 16 USC 1271–1287) and several determined to be eligible and suitable for designation, and therefore, protected to preserve their values in accordance with NPS policies. These waters are highly valuable to the Central Valley of California for drinking water, power generation, and agriculture.

To date, approximately 275 caves have been found in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The number continues to rise, making the parks home to one of the most extensive cave-rich landscapes in the western United States. Caves within the parks include: Lilburn, California’s longest cave; caves with endemic cave-adapted species, such as Clough and Kaweah; caves with rare and fragile mineral resources, such as Hurricane Crawl and Ursa Minor; and Crystal Cave, the most popular commercial tour cave in the state.

The parks offer a diversity of recreational activities. These include frontcountry activities, such as horseback riding, camping, cave tours, and walks in giant sequoia groves; wilderness activities such as hiking, fishing, horse packing and riding, and mountaineering; and educational and interpretive opportunities, such as visitor centers, museums, and interpretive programs. Visitor amenities, such as restaurants and lodging, are also available in the parks and range from rustic to elegant. As a result, the parks are able to provide high-quality experiences that match the diverse recreational preferences of more than 1.48 million visitors annually.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are located in central California midway between the greater Los Angeles area and San Francisco. Several communities are near the parks, including Three Rivers, west of Sequoia National Park, and Squaw Valley and Dunlap, located west of Kings Canyon National Park. Visalia and Fresno are also nearby and to the west of the parks. Lone Pine, Independence, Big Pine, and Bishop, California, are gateway communities on the east side of the park, providing a variety of park-oriented recreational opportunities and services, from stock guides, backpacking guides, and other visitor services. The primary access to the park's eastern wilderness is by foot or stock travel through US Forest Service lands. There are no roads crossing the parks east to west.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are nearly surrounded by three national forests: Sierra National Forest, northwest of the parks; Inyo National Forest, east of the parks; and Sequoia National Forest / Giant Sequoia National Monument, south and west of the parks. Within these national forests are four designated wilderness areas: Golden Trout Wilderness to the southeast, John Muir Wilderness to the north, Monarch Wilderness to the west, and Jennie Lakes Wilderness to the west. Not only do these undeveloped surrounding lands provide ecological connectivity with the parks, they also help protect the surrounding natural viewsheds and high-quality dark night skies as experienced in the parks.

## **PARK PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS**

In 2016, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks completed a foundation document. Foundation documents provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions by identifying the park purpose, significance, and fundamental resources and values. The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks foundation plan identifies special mandates and administrative commitments and provides an assessment and prioritization of park planning and data needs. Understanding these elements helps set the stage for appropriately integrating accessibility into the overall park priorities and plans. The following foundation elements were identified for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

## **Park Purpose**

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks preserve and provide for the enjoyment of present and future generations the wonders, curiosities, and evolving ecological processes of the southern Sierra Nevada—including the largest giant sequoia trees in the world, free-flowing wild and scenic rivers, and the heart of the vast High Sierra wilderness.

## **Park Significance**

The following significance statements have been identified for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

- Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks contain more than 40% of the world's giant sequoia grove area, including the four largest living trees on earth.
- Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks contain an extraordinary continuum of diverse ecosystems, from foothill woodlands and shrublands to alpine tundra. Intact ecosystems range from 1,370 to 14,494 feet (418 to 4,418 meters) in elevation, the greatest vertical relief of any protected area in the lower 48 states.
- Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks contain a remarkable concentration of diverse and scenic geologic features, such as deep glacially carved canyons; an extensive cave-rich landscape; and towering alpine peaks, including 9 of the 12 highest summits in California, and Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the United States outside of Alaska.
- The water resources of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which include free-flowing wild and scenic rivers and the highest elevation headwaters in California, have profound and far-reaching ecological, recreational, and societal value.
- More than 800,000 acres of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are designated wilderness, forming the core of the largest expanse of contiguous wilderness in California, which is visited and valued by people from around the world.
- Sequoia National Park was created by a conservation movement that continues to influence the protection of irreplaceable scenic landscapes and places. Today, the parks protect the record of this history, of park management, and of earlier human uses extending back 8,000 years.
- Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks attract visitors from around the world by providing some of the most personally challenging and transformative recreational opportunities in the Sierra Nevada, while also providing a wide array of inspirational, educational, and sensory experiences accessible to visitors of all ages and abilities.
- Among our nation's earliest protected areas, the history of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is rooted in pioneering stewardship. This legacy inspires a culture of leadership, continuous learning, and innovation.

## **ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN**

The creation of a transition plan is mandated by regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as they apply to the US Department of the Interior, which states that “No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.” It specifically requires parks to document architectural barriers, solutions, and time frames for making improvements to increase accessibility.

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan has been prepared to provide Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks a tool for addressing overall needs associated with making the park accessible when viewed in its entirety. The plan is based on an understanding of key park experiences and establishes a methodical process that identifies, prioritizes, and outlines improvements to park accessibility. The plan proposes strategies for implementation over time and in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

All key park experiences and all park areas were identified to ensure that all park programs were considered in the plan. Park areas were then evaluated against measurable criteria to determine which would be assessed for purposes of the plan. Each park area assessed was evaluated to identify barriers that prevented participation in park programs, and the best manner in which access could be improved. In some situations, it is not reasonably practicable to create physical or universal design solutions. A transition plan was drafted documenting the barriers and setting forth a strategy for removing them.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN**

One of the goals of the plan is to increase accessibility awareness and understanding among staff and volunteers of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the plan. The park-designated accessibility coordinator ensures adequate communication to park employees, including but not limited to natural and cultural resource experts and stakeholders, and works with the superintendent to follow up on the implementation and relevancy of the plan by documenting improvements and keeping the plan updated.

# ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS

## SELF-EVALUATION

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps in the self-evaluation process. Each step is further described in the following text.



### Step 1: Identify Key Park Experiences and Park Areas

Key park experiences are those park experiences that are iconic and important for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of the park unit. They are “musts” for park visitors. Park legislation serves as the foundation for the key park experiences, which are identified through park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications. Key park experiences were identified at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks to ensure that planned improvements were prioritized to best increase overall access to the experiences available.

- 1) Experience giant Sequoias, including iconic trees
- 2) Traverse diverse ecosystems
- 3) Visit diverse and scenic geologic features
- 4) Learn about ecological, recreational, and societal values related to water resources
- 5) Understand and appreciate wilderness
- 6) Learn about the conservation movement that created Sequoia National Park and continues to inspire and influence stewardship, research, and protection of irreplaceable scenic landscapes and places
- 7) Understand the human history of the parks, extending back 8000 years

- 8) Engage in recreational activities in the Sierra Nevada
- 9) Participate in educational and interpretive activities

After key park experiences were identified, all park areas were listed. Next, a matrix was developed to determine which key experiences occurred in each park area. A park area is a place defined by the park for visitor or administrative use. All park areas within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks were evaluated per criteria in step 2, to determine which, if not all, areas would be assessed.

## **Step 2: Identify Park Areas to be Assessed**

The criteria below were used to determine which park areas would receive assessments:

- 1) Level of visitation
- 2) Diversity of services, activities, and programs offered in the area
- 3) Geographic favorability (as a whole, the park areas selected reflect a broad distribution throughout the park)
- 4) Other unique characteristics of the site

The areas selected for assessment provide the best and greatest opportunities for the public to access all key park experiences. These park areas received comprehensive assessments as outlined in steps 3 and 4. Areas not assessed at this time are to be assessed and improved as part of future facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

## **Step 3: Identify Services, Activities, and Programs in Each Park Area**

During step 3, all services, activities, and programs within each park area were identified. This process ensured that during step 4 all visitor amenities within a park area, including both physical and programmatic elements, were reviewed for accessibility. The comprehensive lists of services, activities, and programs were the basis for conducting the 22 assessments and documenting all elements as they pertained to improving access to park experiences.

## **Step 4: Conduct Accessibility Assessment**

During step 4, an interdisciplinary assessment team identified physical and programmatic barriers and reviewed possible solutions within each park area.

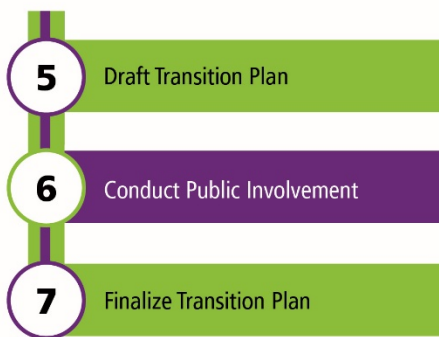
Existing conditions and barriers to services, activities, and programs were discussed on-site by the assessment team. The assessment team then developed a reasonable range of recommended actions for consideration, including solutions that would provide universal

access. Barrier-specific solutions, as well as alternative ways to improve access overall, were addressed and included both physical changes and/or the addition of alternate format methods. In some cases, programmatic alternatives needed to be examined because it was not always possible to eliminate physical barriers due to historic designations, environmental concerns, topography, or sensitive cultural and natural resources. Therefore, a full range of programmatic alternatives was considered that would provide access to the key experience for as many visitors as possible. All field results, including collected data, findings, preliminary options, and conceptual site plans, are organized by park area and formalized with recommendations in the transition plan.

## TRANSITION PLAN

The following graphic illustrates the primary steps taken in developing the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks transition plan. Each step is further described in the following text.

### TRANSITION PLAN



### Step 5: Draft Transition Plan

The next step of the process was drafting the transition plan and implementation strategy. Developing an implementation strategy can be complex because of a large range of coordination efforts associated with scheduling accessibility improvements. All improvement efforts need to consider park activities and operational requirements. The plan recommends accessibility improvements, identifies improvement time frames, and identifies responsible parties for such actions.

Implementation time frames are based on the park's ability to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects. Time frames are categorized as follows:

- 1) **Immediate (0–1 year):** Improvements that are easy, quick, and inexpensive to fix internally. It does not require supplemental NPS project funding.

immediate

- 2) **Short-term (1–3 years):** If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will initiate the elimination of the barrier



internally; or, if a project is currently scheduled for funding, the improvement will be incorporated into the project and the barrier eliminated.

#### short-term

- 3) **Mid-term (3–7 years):** The park will develop a proposal and submit it for those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding in the next annual servicewide budget call. For those projects requiring supplemental NPS project funding, the park will submit a request in the next budget call. Improvements will be scheduled dependent upon the year funding is received. If the improvement does not require supplemental NPS project funding, park staff will continue the elimination of the barrier internally.

#### mid-term

- 4) **Long-term (>7 years):** The park will eliminate the barrier when other work is taking place as part of facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

#### long-term

### Step 6: Conduct Public Involvement

Public involvement occurs at the draft stage of the transition plan; however, it is recommended that at the beginning of the SETP process parks initiate public outreach efforts with organizations representing people with disabilities. The draft plan will be released for a 30-day period to solicit input from the public, including people with disabilities and organizations that represent people with disabilities, to provide comments and thoughts on whether the document represents a reasonable review of the park's barriers and a feasible and appropriate strategy for overcoming the barriers.

### Step 7: Finalize Transition Plan

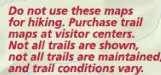
After the comment period has closed, the park will analyze all comments to determine if any revisions to the plan are necessary. Those revisions will be made before the implementation strategy is finalized. Once finalized, a notification will be sent to the public to announce the plan's availability.

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

## PARK AREAS ASSESSED

All key park experiences at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are represented within the park areas assessed. Park areas not included in the park area list will be upgraded to current code requirements when facility alteration and/or new construction is planned. Each park area identified for assessment is addressed during the implementation strategy exercise. Refer to Appendix D: "Park Areas Not Assessed" for a rationale on why park areas were determined to not be assessed in this planning effort. All park areas assessed are listed in alphabetical order and identified in the associated map below.

- |                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Azalea Campground                 | 12) Grant Tree           |
| 2) Big Trees Trail                   | 13) Grant Village        |
| 3) Buckeye Flat Campground           | 14) Hospital Rock        |
| 4) Cedar Grove                       | 15) Lodgepole Village    |
| 5) Columbine Day Use Area            | 16) Moro Rock            |
| 6) Crescent Meadow                   | 17) Panoramic Point      |
| 7) Crescent Meadow Road<br>Pull-offs | 18) Pinewood Picnic Area |
| 8) Foothills Visitor Center          | 19) Potwisha Campground  |
| 9) Generals Highway Pull-offs        | 20) Roads End            |
| 10) General Sherman Tree Area        | 21) Roaring River Falls  |
| 11) Giant Forest                     | 22) Zumwalt Trail        |





## **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR PARK AREAS ASSESSED**

The Architectural Barrier Act (ABA) of 1968 requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) and the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities in 1984 and 2006, respectively. Subsequently in 2011, standards for recreational facilities were incorporated into ABAAS as chapter 10.

Dependent upon the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards apply. In conducting the transition plan facility assessments, the 2011 ABAAS standards were used as the on-site assessments. Although a barrier may be identified by the current assessment for improvement, facilities constructed pre-1984, or between 1984 and 2011, are only required to be in compliance with the standard in place at the time of construction and/or alteration. Therefore, they may not be in violation of ABAAS. However, any renovation or upgrade of that building will be required to meet the most current standard at the time of work.

Recommended improvements for park policies, practices, communication and training are included. Park policies are adopted by the park and are those defined courses of action for reaching a desired outcome. Park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances or operations park staff employs for reaching a desired outcome. Communication and training strategies help park staff keep informed on how to best deliver services, activities, and programs to visitors with disabilities in the most appropriate and accessible formats.

This document does not include strategies for transitioning employee workspaces to be accessible. In the event an employee with a disability is hired by Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, the supervisor and employee will discuss the employee's needs. The supervisor will then determine what accommodations are reasonable within the given work environment and determine a plan of action to meet those needs.

For each park area, site plans illustrate existing conditions and recommended improvements. During the implementation phase, reassessment of the project site conditions and consultation with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards is necessary to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are addressed correctly. Implementation is dependent on funding and compliance, and each specific project will undergo full review and be evaluated for impacts to cultural and natural resources. Assistance is available at the Denver Service Center and through the regional Accessibility Coordinator.

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AZALEA CAMPGROUND  
Campground Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

Azalea Campground is connected to two key park experiences: diverse ecosystems and recreational activities. The 110-site campground is located beneath open stands of evergreen trees, within walking distance of the General Grant sequoia grove. Summertime brings fragrant white blooms from the Azalea shrubs that the campground was named after. In winter months, the number of available sites is reduced to 20. Currently, only one accessible campsite is available and located near the campground fee station, and nearby is a restroom with several minor accessibility deficiencies. The accessible campsite has firm, stable, and relatively-level surfaces. It features an accessible picnic table and fire ring and connects to the pay station and restroom via the paved campground road. Several small improvements could be made to the restrooms to improve accessibility. As more accessible campsites and restrooms are added to meet the minimum number required by ABAAS, these should be dispersed throughout the other campground loops to provide a diversity of camping experiences.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Pay Station

- 1) Improve or replace the pay station so that its depositories and operable parts are between 15" and 48" above the ground.

short-term

### 02 Registration Kiosk

- 1) Improve a clear ground space of 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at the campground kiosk. It shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant with slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.

short-term

### 03 Campsites

- 1) Improve six additional tent campsites to be accessible so that the parking stalls, tent pads, outdoor constructed features, and routes meet the requirements of ABAAS. Accessible campsites shall be distributed among the various areas and units available.

short-term

### 04 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the parking stall to have slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.

short-term



## **05 Grill**

- 1) Improve the space around the grill to provide 48" minimum width clear ground space on all usable sides.

short-term

## **06 Utility Sink**

- 1) Relocate or install a new utility sink in a nearby accessible location. Ensure that it has a 30" by 48" minimum clear space from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. It shall have a lip no higher than 34" above the ground and ensure that 27" minimum height knee clearance is provided extending a minimum depth of 9" under the sink.

short-term

## **07 Men's and Women's Restrooms**

- 1) Lower the tactile signage adjacent to the restroom door so that the tops of its highest tactile characters are no more than 60" above the ground and the bottoms of its lowest tactile characters are no lower than 48" above the ground.
- 2) Insulate or otherwise configure supply and drain pipes under the sink to protect against contact.
- 3) Lower the mirror above the sink so that its bottom edge is no more than 40" above the floor.
- 4) Replace grab bars as needed to have no more than a 1 ½" gap between their inner edge and the wall.
- 5) Lower the toilet paper dispenser so that its top edge is at least 1 ½" below the side wall grab bar.
- 6) Lower existing coat hook or install additional hook that is within accessible reach range of 15" to 48" above the floor.
- 7) Install door pulls on the inside of the accessible stall door.

short-term

## **08 Men's Restroom**

- 1) Improve door on accessible stall to be self-closing.

short-term



**09****Women's Restroom**

- 1) Improve the landing at the restroom door to be 60" in length by 50" in width minimum at 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Enlarge the accessible stall to be 56" minimum depth by 60" minimum length.
- 3) Replace the sink with a unit providing 27" minimum-height knee clearance underneath it extending a minimum depth of 9".

short-term

BIG TREES TRAIL

Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

Big Trees Trail is connected to nine key park experiences: sequoias, diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. This short hike circumnavigates a scenic meadow surrounded by massive old sequoias and some fallen giants. Within a separate accessible parking lot, nine parking spaces are designated accessible, but all lack access aisles. A paved route connecting the trail to the parking lot is wide and slightly sloped. The trail is a moderately sloped asphalt and boardwalk path, which provides dispersed resting areas with waysides, benches, and space for companion seating. All resting spots provide views of the meadow. A restroom provides handrails and ample maneuvering space. A water bottle refill station is operable with a closed fist and built at an accessible height. Located along the trail are interpretive panels with level landings and bump outs, allowing sufficient space for wheelchairs to pass. Possible accessibility improvements at this site include the addition of access aisles to accessible parking stalls, minor alterations to restroom features, and some minor improvements to the grades and surfaces on accessible routes and the trail.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Provide an access aisle to serve each accessible parking space. Ensure that slopes of spaces and access aisles do not exceed 2%.

long-term

### 02 Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the slope of the path near the tree footprint to have a running slope no greater than 5%.

long-term

### 03 Trailhead Kiosk

- 1) Improve a clear ground space of 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at the kiosk. It shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant with slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.

long-term

### 04 Trash Receptacles

- 1) Relocate the trash receptacles to an accessible location on the path.

long-term



**05****Bench**

- 1) Improve the ground surface to provide a 36" by 48" minimum clear ground space at 2% maximum slope in all directions in front of at least 20% of the benches. As a best practice, provide benches with seat height between 17" and 19". Relocate benches that may be better placed and provide improved accessibility elsewhere.

long-term

**06****Men's and Women's Restrooms**

- 1) Relocate the braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.
- 2) Lower the toilet paper dispenser so that its top edge is at least 1 ½" below the side wall grab bar.
- 3) Install a partition on the side wall to hold the grab bar and toilet paper dispenser. The partition shall be between 16" and 18" from the centerline of the toilet.

mid-term

**07****Interpretive Waysides**

- 1) Improve the surface up to the all waysides to provide a forward approach 30" by 48" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. Ensure that there is a deep enough space to allow other visitors to pass behind while the wayside is in use.

long-term

**08****Drinking Fountain**

- 1) Provide a drinking fountain with a double unit that includes separate tall and short fountains. The tall fountain shall have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground and the short fountain shall have a spout height 36" maximum above the ground.

mid-term

**09****Water Hydrant**

- 1) Improve the water hydrant by providing a firm and stable clear ground space 72 " by 48" minimum at 2% maximum slope in all directions. The space shall be located so that the water spout is between 11 " and 12 " from the rear center of the long side of the space.

mid-term

**10****Hiking Trail**

- 1) Improve the trail, including the boardwalk, around the meadow by repairing and replacing sections with potholes, vertical thresholds greater than ½", and gaps in planks greater than ½ ".

long-term

# BUCKEYE FLAT CAMPGROUND

## Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

Buckeye Flat Campground is connected to eight key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The 28-tent campground is nestled in a narrow valley and situated next to the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River. The campground provides some services to visitors, including restrooms, water hydrants, interpretive panels, and campsites with tent pads, picnic tables with some extended tabletops, grills, and food storage containers. The area is one of few within the park that affords river views and access. Visitors mostly come to camp, although others come to experience a more remote setting and/or enjoy the site and sound of the running river. One campsite is designated accessible; however, narrow routes and a steep grade makes it difficult to access the pay station and interpretive panels at the north end of the campground. Relocating the pay station and panels, in addition to meeting the minimum number of accessible campsites required by ABAAS, will increase opportunities. Additionally, this area presents an opportunity to get visual access to the river, an experience not found elsewhere in the park for visitors in wheelchairs. Accessibility improvements to trails crossing through the site would also enrich the visitor experience.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the parking stall to be 16' minimum in width at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

### 02 Grill

- 1) Pave around the grill to provide 48" minimum width clear ground space on all usable sides.

short-term

### 03 Fire Pit

- 1) Raise the fire pit so that the fire building surface is 9" minimum above the ground.
- 2) Provide a clear ground space around the fire pit that is 48" minimum in width and at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

#### **04 Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Improve the route from the accessible campsite to the restroom to be firm and stable, 36" minimum in width, and with running slopes no greater than 8.3% and cross slopes no greater than 2%. Ensure that gaps are no wider than ½". Be sure to provide an outdoor recreation access route from the new accessible campsites to the restroom.

short-term

#### **05 Drinking Fountain**

- 1) Provide a tall drinking fountain next to the existing fountain. The spout outlet shall be between 38" and 43" in height.

short-term

#### **06 Restroom (right side)**

- 1) Provide a braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.
- 2) Relocate the sink so that it does not project into the circulation route. It shall be no more than 34" above the floor. Ensure that 27" minimum-height knee clearance is provided underneath.
- 3) Insulate or otherwise configure supply and drain pipes under the sink to protect against contact.
- 4) Improve or replace the toilet so that the flusher is on the open side of the toilet.
- 5) Relocate toilet paper dispensers to be at least 1 ½" below the side wall grab bars and between 7" and 9" in front of the toilets to the centerline of the dispensers.
- 6) As a best practice, lower the urinal so that its bottom lip is no higher than 17" above the floor.

short-term

#### **07 Restroom (left side)**

- 1) Provide a braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.



- 2) Relocate the sink so that it does not project into the circulation route. It shall be no more than 34" above the floor. Ensure that 27" minimum-height knee clearance is provided underneath.
- 3) Insulate or otherwise configure supply and drain pipes under the sink to protect against contact.
- 4) As a best practice, lower the urinal so that its bottom lip is no higher than 17" above the floor.

## **08 Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Improve the route between the restroom, utility sink, and registration area to be firm and stable with a running slopes no greater than 8.3% and a cross slope no greater than 2%. Ensure vertical thresholds are no higher than ½".

short-term

## **09 Utility Sink**

- 1) Remove the crossbars at the front of the sink to allow for a wheelchair user to roll underneath. Ensure that 27" minimum height knee clearance is provided extending a minimum depth of 9" under the sink. Lower the sink basin so that its edge is no higher than 34" above the ground.

short-term

## **10 Car Parking**

- 1) Improve the pull-up parking space to be 16' minimum in width with slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.

short-term

## **11 Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Relocate or provide an alternate registration box and set of interpretive panels in an accessible location. Ensure they are located on an outdoor recreation access route and connected to the accessible pull-up space.

short-term

**12****Trailhead Signage**

- 1) Relocate the existing sign to an accessible location adjacent to the roadway. Provide signage at the trailhead that details trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

short-term

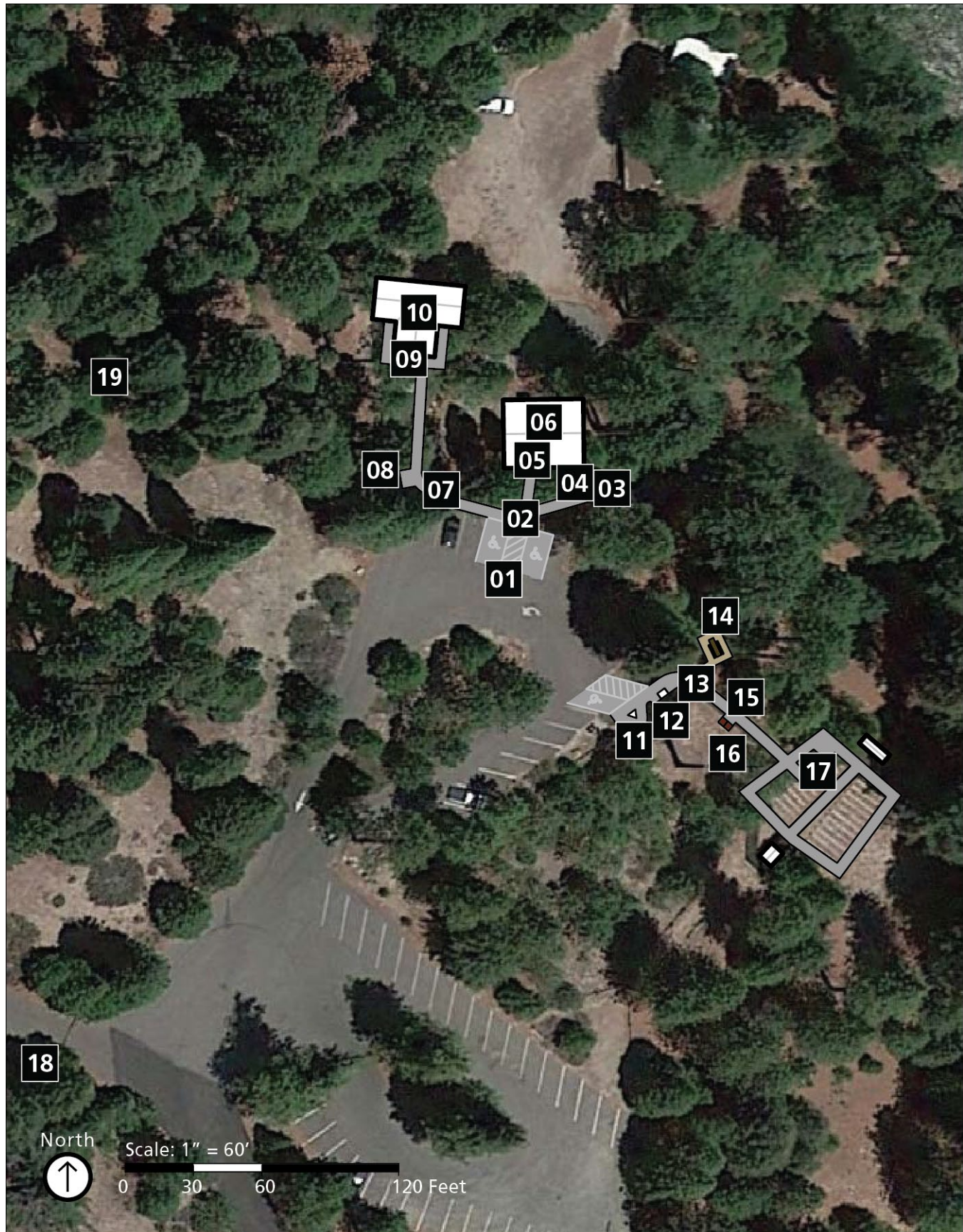
**13****Campsites**

- 1) Improve two additional tent campsites to be accessible so that the parking stalls, tent pads, outdoor constructed features, and routes meet the requirements of ABAAS.

short-term

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Visitor Center, Amphitheater, and Sentinel Campground Site Plan





Cedar Grove  
Canyon View Group Campground Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

Cedar Grove is connected to eight key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The Cedar Grove Visitor Center is open during summer months to provide visitors with information and programs at the Sentinel Campground and Amphitheater. The 77-site Sentinel Campground is located in a scenic meadow surrounded by tall cedars and granite mountainsides along the south fork of the Kings River. An amphitheater is located near the campground and visitor center and provides a venue for ranger-led presentations and evening campfire programs. Visitors can enjoy tent camping, hiking on nearby trails, fishing on the Kings River, and taking in scenic views of the granite walls, river, and wildlife. Access to the visitor center may be difficult for some visitors because of a narrow doorway and steep routes. The restrooms provide a unisex, accessible restroom, connected to the visitor center and campground by a paved route that is relatively level. A recently installed tactile map of the canyon is found near the visitor center. The campground has four designated accessible campsites that provide firm, stable, and level surfaces, with accessible picnic tables, fire rings, and bear-proof food storage boxes. A paved route with gentle slopes leads to the amphitheater, which features companion seating space with minor slope deficiencies, provided at two different viewing distances from the stage. There is an opportunity to improve visitor center access, accessible routes and clear ground space at elements, and provide additional accessible campsites.

The following improvements to the Visitor Center, Amphitheater, and Sentinel Campground are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the slopes of the accessible parking stalls to be no greater than 2% in all directions.

mid-term

### 02 Accessible Routes and Walking Surfaces

- 1) Improve the route between accessible parking and the visitor center to have running slopes no greater than 5%.
- 2) Establish an accessible route to connect accessible parking to the bench, phone, kiosk, receptacles, and visitor center. The route shall be 36" minimum in width, firm, stable, and slip resistant and with a 5% maximum running slope and 2% maximum cross slope.

mid-term

### **03 Pay Phone**

- 1) Replace or otherwise reconfigure pay phone so all operable parts and features are within an accessible reach range of 15"-48" above the ground.

mid-term

### **04 Trash and Recycling Receptacles**

- 1) Reconfigure or replace trash cans so all operable parts and features are within an accessible reach range of 15" to 48" from the ground. Ensure that receptacles to be operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force.

mid-term

### **05 Front Door**

- 1) Improve the threshold at the front door to be no more than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.
- 2) Modify the door opening to have a clear width of 32" minimum.

mid-term

### **06 Information Counter**

- 1) Improve the service counter to provide a parallel approach with a 36" minimum width section 36" maximum in height or a forward approach with a 30" minimum width section 36" maximum in height at each. If a forward approach, provide 27" minimum knee clearance extending 11" minimum under the service counter and 9" minimum toe clearance.

mid-term

### **07 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces**

- 1) Improve the route from the visitor center to the drinking fountain to have a running slope no greater than 5%.

mid-term

### **08 Drinking Fountain and Water Hydrant**

- 1) Replace the drinking fountain with a double unit that includes separate tall and short fountains. The tall fountain shall have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground, and the short fountain shall have a spout height 36" maximum above the ground.



- 2) Improve the water hydrant by providing a firm and stable clear ground space 72" by 48" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. The space shall be located so that the water spout is between 11" and 12" from the rear center of the long side of the space.

mid-term

**09**

### Utility Sink

- 1) Improve the approach to the utility sink to have gaps no greater than ½" in width.
- 2) Replace the utility sink with a unit that has a rim height no greater than 34" above the ground and provides knee clearance 27" minimum in height and 9" minimum in depth.

short-term

**10**

### Restroom

- 1) Provide an appropriate braille identification sign on the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.
- 2) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser below the side wall grab bar. The top of it shall be at least 1 ½" from the bottom of the grab bar. Ensure that the toilet paper is between 7" and 9" from the front of the toilet.
- 3) Adjust the rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room and 12" on the closed side.
- 4) Improve or replace the sink to provide 27" minimum-height knee clearance extending at least 9" underneath the sink.
- 5) Insulate or otherwise configure supply and drain pipes under the sink to protect against contact.

short-term

**11**

### Informational Kiosk

- 1) Improve the landing at each side of the kiosk to be 30" by 48" from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions or relocate the panels to an accessible location.

mid-term



## **12** Tactile Map

- 1) Improve the approach around the model to provide at least 36" minimum-width surface. As feasible, make this 60" to provide a forward approach at all sides. It shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

## **13** Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Establish routes from accessible parking to accessible picnic facilities, 36" minimum in width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope (if paved). Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

mid-term

## **14** Picnic Tables

- 1) Provide at least 20% of picnic tables in the area to be accessible. Each table shall have an extended top, or a bench cut out with appropriate knee and toe clearance. Secure tables to a surface with a slope no greater than 2% in all directions. Provide 36" minimum-width clear ground space on all usable sides of accessible tables. Connect picnic facilities to outdoor recreation access routes.

mid-term

## **15** Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve the route from accessible parking to the amphitheater to have a cross slope no greater than 2%.

mid-term

## **16** Trash Receptacles (on route to amphitheater)

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

mid-term

## **17** Amphitheater Seating

- 1) Improve the accessible seating area to be at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) As a best practice, provide a sign telling visitors that assistive listening devices are available.

mid-term

## **18** Information and Registration Kiosk

- 1) Improve slopes on all usable sides of the information kiosk to be 2% maximum in all directions. Provide a 30" by 48" minimum clear space in front of any panels.

mid-term

## **19** Campsites

- 1) Improve one additional tent campsites to be accessible so that the parking stall, tent pad, outdoor constructed features, and routes meet the requirements of ABAAS.
- 2) Widen the parking stalls of accessible campsites to be 16' minimum in width. Ensure they are firm and stable with no more than a 2% slope in all directions.

mid-term

The following improvements to Canyon View Group Campground are planned:

## **01** Outdoor Recreation Access Route (Campsite C)

- 1) Improve outdoor recreation access routes between all accessible features at the group campsite to be at a 2% maximum slope unless necessary for drainage (up to 5%).

mid-term

## **02** Drinking Fountains (Campsite C)

- 1) Install cane detection rails to the left and right of the fountains.

mid-term

**03****Men's and Women's Restrooms (Campsite C)**

- 1) Lower the coat hook to be no higher than 48" above the floor.
- 2) Replace grab bars as needed to have no more than a 1 ½" gap between their inner edge and the wall.
- 3) Improve the accessible stall door to be self-closing and have door pulls on both sides.

mid-term

COLUMBINE DAY USE AREA

Site Plan





## Implementation Strategy

Columbine Day Use Area is connected to two key park experiences: diverse ecosystems and recreational activities. The site is located near Grant Grove and is open year-round. The site is used primarily for picnicking and as a roadside restroom stop. Although no designated accessible parking is provided, routes from the parking area to the restrooms and picnic area are firm and stable with gentle slopes. A restroom facility is located near the parking area and provides men's and women's restrooms that are mostly accessible. A variety of picnic tables are provided, some of which are wheelchair accessible. Several grills are provided, most of which are within reach range, are easily operable, and have adequate maneuvering clearance. Accessibility would be improved with the addition of accessible parking and minor improvements to interior restroom components and picnicking elements.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) As a best practice, provide one van-accessible parking stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. The stall and access aisle shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) If an accessible stall is provided, provide an accessible parking sign to designate the accessible stall. The sign shall be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

short-term

### 02 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Relocate the trash and recycling receptacles to accessible locations. As needed, replace the receptacles with versions that are operable between 15" and 48" above the ground.

short-term

### 03 Men's and Women's Restrooms

- 1) Relocate the braille identification sign to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.
- 2) Lower the toilet paper dispenser so that its top edge is at least 1 ½" below the side wall grab bar.
- 3) Adjust rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room, and 12" on the closed side.

- 4) Insulate or otherwise configure supply and drain pipes under the sink to protect against contact.
- 5) Lower the mirror above the sink so that its bottom edge is no more than 40" above the floor.
- 6) Relocate the baby changing station so the surface is 34" maximum above the floor, and 27" minimum-height knee clearance is provided.
- 7) Improve door on accessible stall to be self-closing.
- 8) Install door pulls on the outside of the accessible stall door.

mid-term

#### **04 Picnic Tables**

- 1) Ensure that at least 20% of picnic tables in the area are accessible. Each table shall be located on an outdoor recreation access route and shall have an extended section or a bench cut out with appropriate knee and toe clearance. Secure tables to a surface with a slope no greater than 2% in all directions. Provide 36" minimum-width clear ground space on all usable sides of accessible tables.

short-term

#### **05 Grills**

- 1) Ensure that at least 20% of grills in the area are accessible and paired with accessible picnic tables. Improve the surface around the grills to provide 48" minimum width firm and stable clear ground space on all usable sides.

short-term

#### **06 Ash Disposal Station**

- 1) Lower the hooks for the buckets at the ash disposal station so the buckets are within an accessible reach range of 15" to 48" above the ground.

short-term

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CRESCENT MEADOW

Site Plan





## Implementation Strategy

Crescent Meadow is connected to eight key park experiences: Sequoias, diverse ecosystems, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The area is a popular visitor destination for picnicking and a launching point for hiking. From the trailhead, trails connect visitors with nearby features such as Chimney Tree, Tharp's Log, and the High Sierra Trail that stretches 60 miles to Mount Whitney. Crescent Meadow Trail and Tharp's Log Trail have flat to gentle grades with generally firm and stable surface, but additional assessment would be needed to confirm the extent of accessibility. The lush meadow affords visitors beautiful scenery and the opportunity to catch sight of wildlife. The picnic area is rustic and within a hilly zone, with picnic tables scattered within the forest. There are few accessible services in the area including a lack of accessible picnic tables and tactile maps highlighting trail locations. Accessible parking near the restrooms is also very steep. There is an opportunity to develop accessible facilities, including a picnic area overlooking the meadow and a trailhead that leads to an extensive trail network.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the accessible parking stalls and access aisles to have slopes no greater than 2% in all directions, or relocate the stalls to a more level area nearby.
- 2) Raise the accessible parking signs to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

### 02 Trash Receptacles

- 1) Relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

### 03 Restrooms

- 1) Install a new toilet with a seat height between 17" and 19" above the ground. Ensure that the center of the toilet is between 16" and 18" from the side wall.

mid-term

### 04 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the accessible parking stalls and access aisles to have slopes no greater than 2% in all directions, or relocate the stalls to a more level area nearby.

- 2) Raise the accessible parking signs to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

## **05 Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Improve the route from accessible parking to the restrooms and trailhead to be 36" minimum in width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope (if paved). Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

long-term

## **06 Trash Receptacles**

- 1) Relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

## **07 Restrooms**

- 1) Install a new toilet with a seat height between 17" and 19" above the ground. Ensure that the center of the toilet is between 16" and 18" from the side wall.

mid-term

## **08 Outdoor Recreation Access Route (to picnic facilities)**

- 1) Establish routes from accessible parking to accessible picnic facilities, 36" minimum in width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope (if paved). Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

long-term

## **09 Picnic Facilities**

- 1) Provide three accessible picnic tables dispersed throughout the picnicking area to provide a variety of picnicking experiences. Each table shall have an extended section or a bench cut out with appropriate knee and toe clearance. Secure tables to a surface with a slope no greater than 2% in all directions. Provide 36" minimum-width clear ground space on all usable sides of accessible tables.

long-term

## **10 Food Storage Containers**

- 1) Improve the landing at the food storage containers to be 30" by 48" from a forward or parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Improve the food storage containers to be operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force.

long-term

## **11 Interpretive Panels (at trailhead)**

- 1) Improve the landings on both sides of the interpretive panels to provide a forward approach 30" by 48" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. If this is not feasible on the rear side, relocate those panels to an accessible location elsewhere.

long-term

## **12 Trailhead Sign**

- 1) Provide signage at the trailhead that details trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

long-term

## **13 Interpretive Wayside (on trail)**

- 1) Improve the landing at the wayside to be firm, stable, and slip resistant, 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the wayside to an accessible location.

long-term

## CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD PULL-OFFS

### Auto Log, Parker Group, and Tunnel Log Site Plans





## Implementation Strategy

Three pull-offs on Crescent Meadow Road were assessed during this planning effort: Auto Log, the Parker Group, and the Tunnel Log. These areas are connected to seven key park experiences: sequoias, diverse ecosystems, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities.

**Auto Log:** The flat to gently sloping parking lot sits next to a large fallen sequoia that visitors in the past were able to drive onto for photographs. Now, visitors come to see the sequoia, take photographs, imagine what it would have been like sitting in their car on top of the tree, and to hike Bear Hill Trail. There is no defined parking, and access to the trailhead and wayside is very steep. Accessibility could be improved by providing an accessible parking stall and by possibly rerouting the trail and relocating the trailhead closer to the parking area. Interpretation could be improved through an audio tour and/or a tactile model.

**The Parker Group:** Visitors come to explore this unique group of giant sequoias. There is no defined parking, only a narrow pullover area. A vertical drop off from the pavement and steep slope leads down to the trees and a wayside. Accessibility could be improved with an accessible parking stall, an improved route to the wayside, and interpretation through an audio tour.

**Tunnel Log:** Before driving through the tree, visitors enjoy stopping to photograph it and to climb onto its trunk. There is no defined parking, only a small, fairly-level paved area. Accessibility could be improved with an accessible parking stall, routes to the wayside and trash and recycling receptacles, and repainting the wayfinding sign. Interpretation could be improved through an audio tour and/or a tactile model.

The following improvements to these park areas are planned:

### **01** Car Parking

- 1) Provide a van-accessible stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. The stall shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

## **02** **Trash Receptacles**

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

## **03** **Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Consider rerouting the trail so that the trailhead is adjacent to the auto log parking lot. Ensure that an outdoor recreation access route is provided between accessible parking and the trailhead.

long-term

## **04** **Trailhead (Bear Hill Trail)**

- 1) Provide signage at the trailhead that details trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

long-term

## **05** **Trailhead Wayside (Bear Hill Trail)**

- 1) Improve the landing at the wayside to be 30" by 48" from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the wayside to an accessible location.

long-term

## **06** **Car Parking**

- 1) Provide a parallel van-accessible stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. The stall shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

## **07** Trash Receptacles

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

## **08** Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve the route from the road to the trees to be 36" minimum in width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope (if paved). Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

long-term

## **09** Interpretive Wayside

- 1) Improve the landing at the wayside to be firm, stable, and slip resistant, 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

## **10** Car Parking

- 1) Consider providing a van-accessible stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. The stall shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. If an accessible stall is not provided, improve the pavement at the pull-off area to be 16' minimum in width, 20' minimum in length, and at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

## **11** Trash Receptacles

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

## **12** Interpretive Wayside

- 1) Improve the landing at the wayside to be firm, stable, and slip resistant, 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the wayside to an accessible location.
- 2) As best practice, improve or replace the wayside to use sans serif fonts, 24-point minimum text, high-contrast images and text, and minimize the use of all caps and italics.

long-term

## **13** Orientation Sign

- 1) Consider painting the sign to have higher contrast.

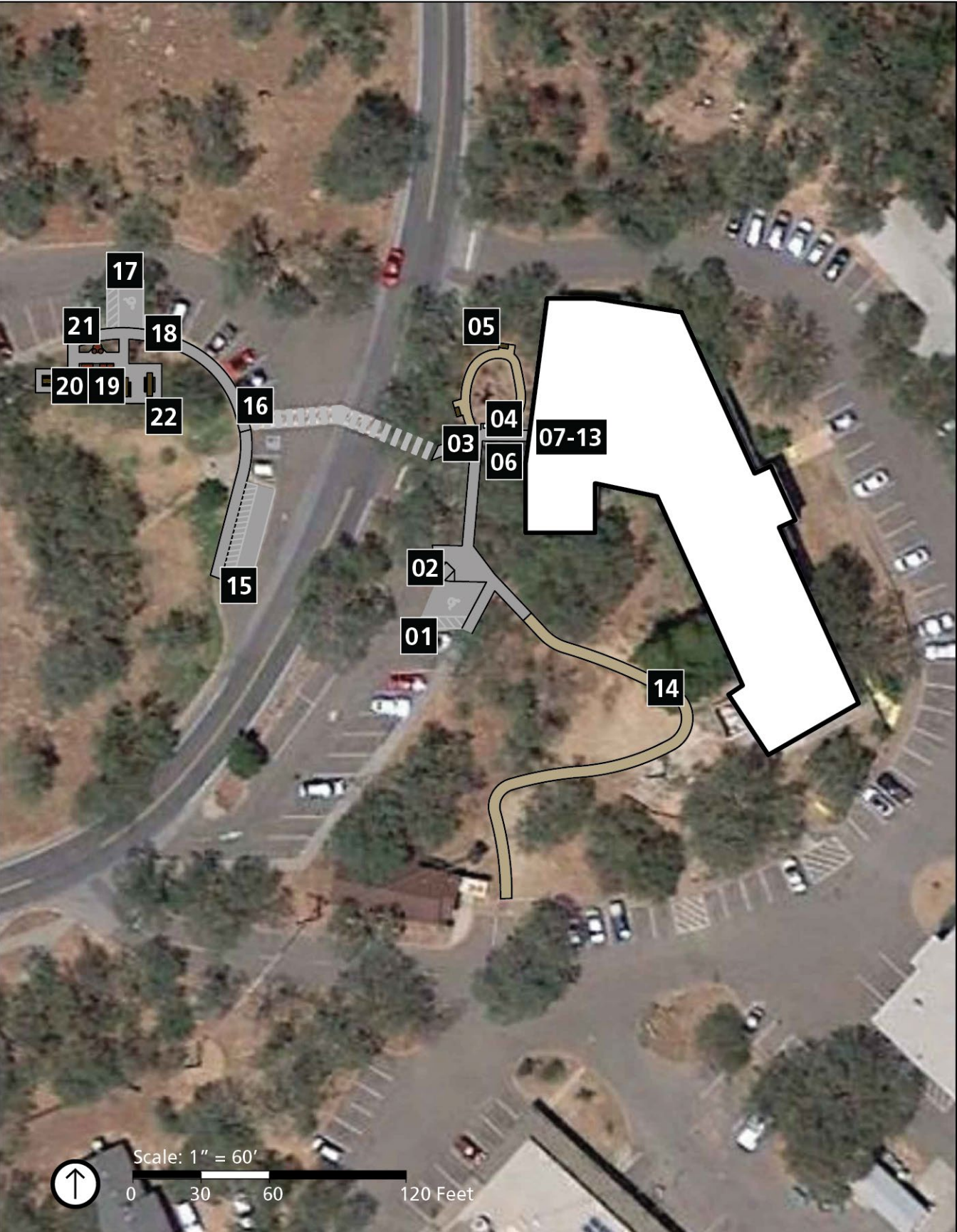
long-term



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FOOTHILLS VISITOR CENTER

Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

Foothills Visitor Center is connected to seven key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. An accessible parking space leads to a gently sloping pedestrian route to the entrance with map/info and waysides, bench with companion seating, dual height fountains, refreshment machine and wilderness permit box. Automatic door entry provides access to accessible restrooms. The interior of the visitor center has good circulation, and includes exhibits, a bookstore with dual height counters. The access routes are flat to gently sloping, with the primary entrance along concrete and the secondary paths composed of flat, compacted earth and pavers. Two informal, flat decomposed granite trails outside the entrance lead to a small amphitheater area and an interpretive native plant with benches and waysides. Many of the exhibits are accessible, with tactile features that engage the senses and encourage exploration. The park map and guide are available in Braille.

A compacted earth trail from the visitor center leads down to an administrative area. It is generally accessible, with a stable walking surface and some short segments with running slopes slightly above 5%. Locals use the area as river access. If the park were to formalize this use zone, a full assessment of the site is recommended.

Across the street from the visitor center, picnic facilities are scattered around a hilly area. Accessibility at the visitor center areas could be improved with additional interactive exhibits and audio description, restroom alterations, additional accessible picnic tables and grills, and improved visitor parking and bus drop off.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### **01** Car Parking

- 1) Improve or relocate the accessible stall to have slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign to designate the accessible stall. The sign shall be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

short-term

### **02** Curb Ramp

- 1) Improve or replace the curb ramp with a ramp that has cross slopes no greater than 2%.

short-term

### **03** Interpretive Wayside

- 1) Improve the landing at the wayside to be 30" by 48" from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the wayside to an accessible location.

short-term

### **04** Outdoor Recreation Access Route (Native Plant Garden)

- 1) Level out the transition where the concrete meets the trail to have a vertical threshold no greater than ½".

short-term

### **05** Benches (Native Plant Garden)

- 1) Improve the ground surface to provide a 36" by 48" minimum clear ground space at a 2% maximum slope in all directions in front of at least 20% of the benches.

short-term

### **06** Public Telephone

- 1) Lower the telephone so that all operable parts are between 15" and 48" above the ground.
- 2) If the public telephone remains in use, add a TTY or replace the unit with a unit that has a TTY.

short-term

### **07** Drinking Fountain

- 1) Improve the high drinking fountain so that its spout is between 38" and 43" above the ground.

mid-term

### **08** Men's Restroom

- 1) Relocate the braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.
- 2) Lower the sink so that the counter is no more than 34" above the floor. Ensure that 27" minimum-height knee clearance is provided underneath.

- 3) Lower the mirror above the sink so that its bottom edge is no more than 40" above the floor.
- 4) As a best practice, lower the urinal so that its bottom lip is no higher than 17" above the floor.
- 5) Replace grab bars as needed to have no more than a 1 ½" gap between their inner edge and the wall.
- 6) Install door pulls on both sides of the accessible stall door.

short-term

**09**

### **Women's Restroom**

- 1) Relocate the braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign. Lower the sink so that the counter is no more than 34" above the floor. Ensure that 27" minimum-height knee clearance is provided underneath.
- 2) Lower the sink so that the counter is no more than 34" above the floor. Ensure that 27" minimum-height knee clearance is provided underneath.
- 3) Lower the mirror above the sink so that its bottom edge is no more than 40" above the floor.
- 4) Relocate the rear wall grab bar to be at least 1' on the closed side of the toilet and 2' on the open side. Replace grab bars as needed to have no more than a 1 ½" gap between their inner edge and the wall.
- 5) Relocate the baby changing station outside of the accessible stall. Ensure that it has a 30" by 48" minimum clear floor space from a forward approach, with 27" minimum-height knee clearance.
- 6) Relocate the hand dryer so that it does not protrude into the circulation route.

short-term

**10**

### **Vending Machine**

- 1) Work with the vending machine owner replace the unit with a unit that has all operable parts and receptacles between 15" and 48" above the ground.

short-term

**11**

### **Wilderness Permit Box**

- 1) Relocate the permit box so that it does not protrude into the circulation route.

short-term

## **12 Exhibits**

- 1) Improve all exhibits by relocating operable parts between 15" and 48" above the ground. Ensure all tactile exhibits have 27" minimum height knee clearance extending 9" minimum underneath the table, with 9" minimum height toe clearance extending 11" underneath the table.
- 2) Improve the exhibit button to be operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force.
- 3) Replace the AV wand with an operating unit. Ensure it is operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force.

mid-term

## **13 Bookstore**

- 1) Provide signage telling patrons that assistance accessing retail items is available.

mid-term

## **14 Accessible Route (to plaza)**

- 1) Improve the route between lower parking and the visitor center plaza to have a running slope no greater than 5%. Improve vertical transitions to be no more than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

short-term

## **15 Passenger Loading Zone (by picnic facilities)**

- 1) Mark a passenger loading zone for every 100' of loading space. The vehicle pull-up space shall be 96" minimum in width with a 60" minimum width access aisle extending the full-length of the pull-up space. Ensure that the pull-up space and access aisle have a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

## **16 Curb Ramp (by picnic facilities)**

- 1) Ensure that the curb ramp is usable for visitors in personal vehicles, those being dropped off by the bus, and those crossing from the visitor center. Improve the curb ramp to be level at 2% in all directions, with flared sides at 8.3% maximum running slope.

short-term



## **17** Car Parking (by picnic facilities)

- 1) Relocate the accessible stall to be closer to the picnic facilities and in a more level location. It shall be 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. It shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign to designate the accessible stall. The sign shall be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

short-term

## **18** Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve the route to the drinking fountain and picnic facilities to be 36" minimum in width with a 2% maximum cross slope and an 8.3% maximum running slope (if paved). Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

short-term

## **19** Trash Receptacles (by picnic facilities)

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

short-term

## **20** Food Storage Containers

- 1) Improve the landing at the food storage containers to be 30" by 48" from a forward or parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

## **21** Drinking Fountain (by picnic facilities)

- 1) Provide a drinking fountain with a double unit that includes separate tall and short fountains. The tall fountain shall have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground and the short fountain shall have a spout height 36" maximum above the ground.

short-term

**Picnic Facilities**

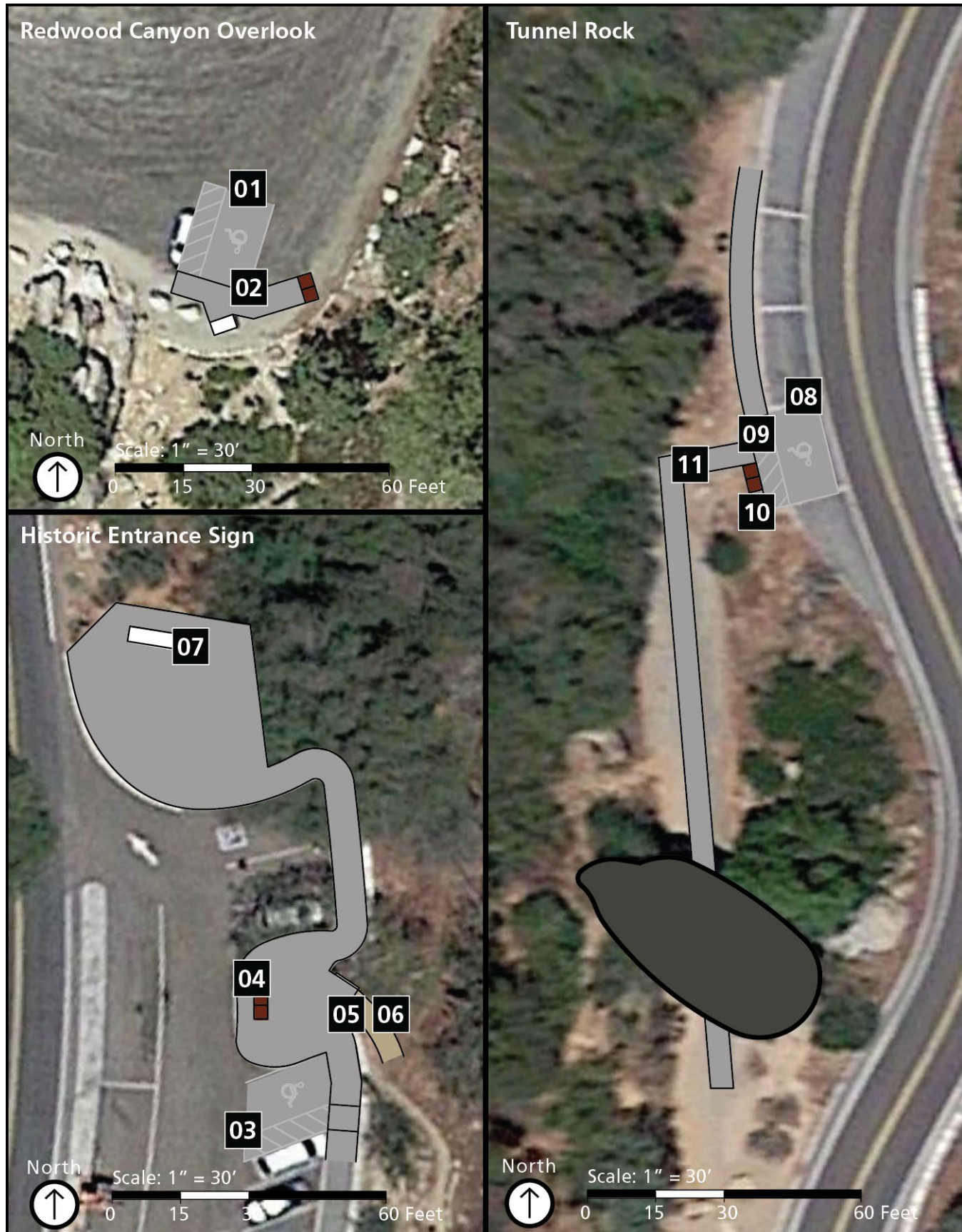
- 1) Provide at least two additional accessible picnic tables dispersed throughout the picnicking area to provide a variety of picnicking experiences. Each table shall have an extended section or a bench cut out with appropriate knee and toe clearance.

short-term

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## GENERALS HIGHWAY PULL-OFFS

### Redwood Canyon Overlook, Historic Entrance Sign, and Tunnel Rock Site Plans



## Implementation Strategy

Three pull-offs on Generals Highway were assessed during this planning effort: the Historic Entrance Sign, Redwood Canyon Overlook, and Tunnel Rock.

Redwood Canyon Overlook is connected to six key park experiences: sequoias, diverse ecosystems, geologic features, wilderness, conservation, and human history. Visitors come for the expansive and sublime views of Redwood Canyon. There is no defined parking, although the lot is fairly level and could accommodate an accessible stall. A wayside interprets the scene and is mounted on a beautiful stone base; however, a forward approach for a visitor in a wheelchair is not possible.

The Historic Entrance Sign is connected to seven key park experiences: sequoias, diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The entrance sign is historic and serves as a popular photography spot with visitors. Slopes of the sidewalk could be modified for improved access to parking and entrance sign. There is an opportunity for a tactile experience of the Sequoias, as the signpost is made of a part of redwood log. A steep trail leads down from the site to the river. The visitor experience could be improved by adding a trailhead sign by the trash receptacles that details trail conditions.

Tunnel Rock is connected to three key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, geologic features, and human history, and is a contributing feature of the historic highway. Parking stalls are narrow, flat pull-offs on Generals Highway and on the cut slope of a narrow drainage. One parking stall is signed accessible and has curb cuts to access the sidewalk; however, it runs parallel to the road, with running slopes greater than 2%. There is no access aisle or interpretive information.

The following improvements to these park areas are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) As a best practice, provide one van-accessible parking stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. The stall and access aisles shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

### 02 Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Provide an outdoor recreation access route to the interpretive panel and trash receptacles that is 8.3% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope.

short-term



**03****Car Parking**

- 1) Improve the slope of the accessible parking stall to be no more than 2% in all directions. Stripe a van-accessible stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

short-term

**04****Trash Receptacles**

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

short-term

**05****Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Provide a route to the current trailhead with an outdoor recreation access route, or relocate the trailhead and provide signage at the concrete walkway.

short-term

**06****Trailhead Signage**

- 1) Provide signage at the trailhead that details trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

short-term

**07****Entrance Sign**

- 1) Improve the slopes in front of and adjacent to the entrance sign to be no more than 2% in all directions. At minimum, provide a 30" by 48" forward approach adjacent to and in front of the sign, facing away from the sign.

short-term

**08****Car Parking**

- 1) As feasible, improve the slope of the accessible parking stall to be no more than 2% in all directions. Stripe a van-accessible stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.
- 3) As feasible, cut into the curb to provide an access aisle for the accessible stall. Then provide a level landing connecting to the route to Tunnel Rock and the trash receptacles. Or, relocate the trash receptacles.

long-term

**09****Curb Ramp**

- 1) As feasible, cut into the curb to provide an access aisle for the accessible stall. Then provide a level landing connecting to the route to Tunnel Rock and the trash receptacles. Or, relocate the trash receptacles.

long-term

**10****Trash Receptacles**

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

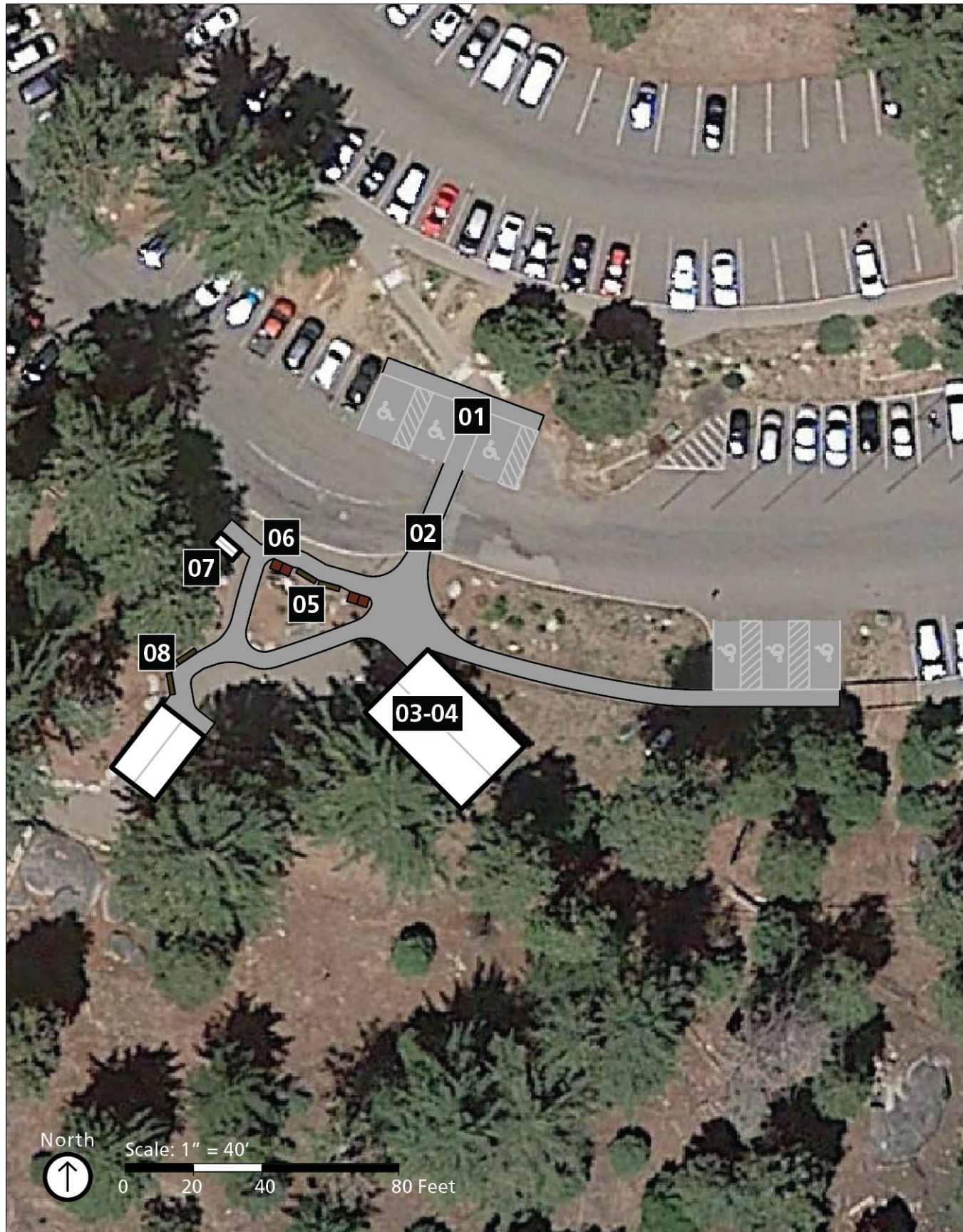
**11****Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Improve the route to Tunnel Rock and the trash receptacles to have an 8.3% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope. The running slope may be up to 10% for short segments.

long-term

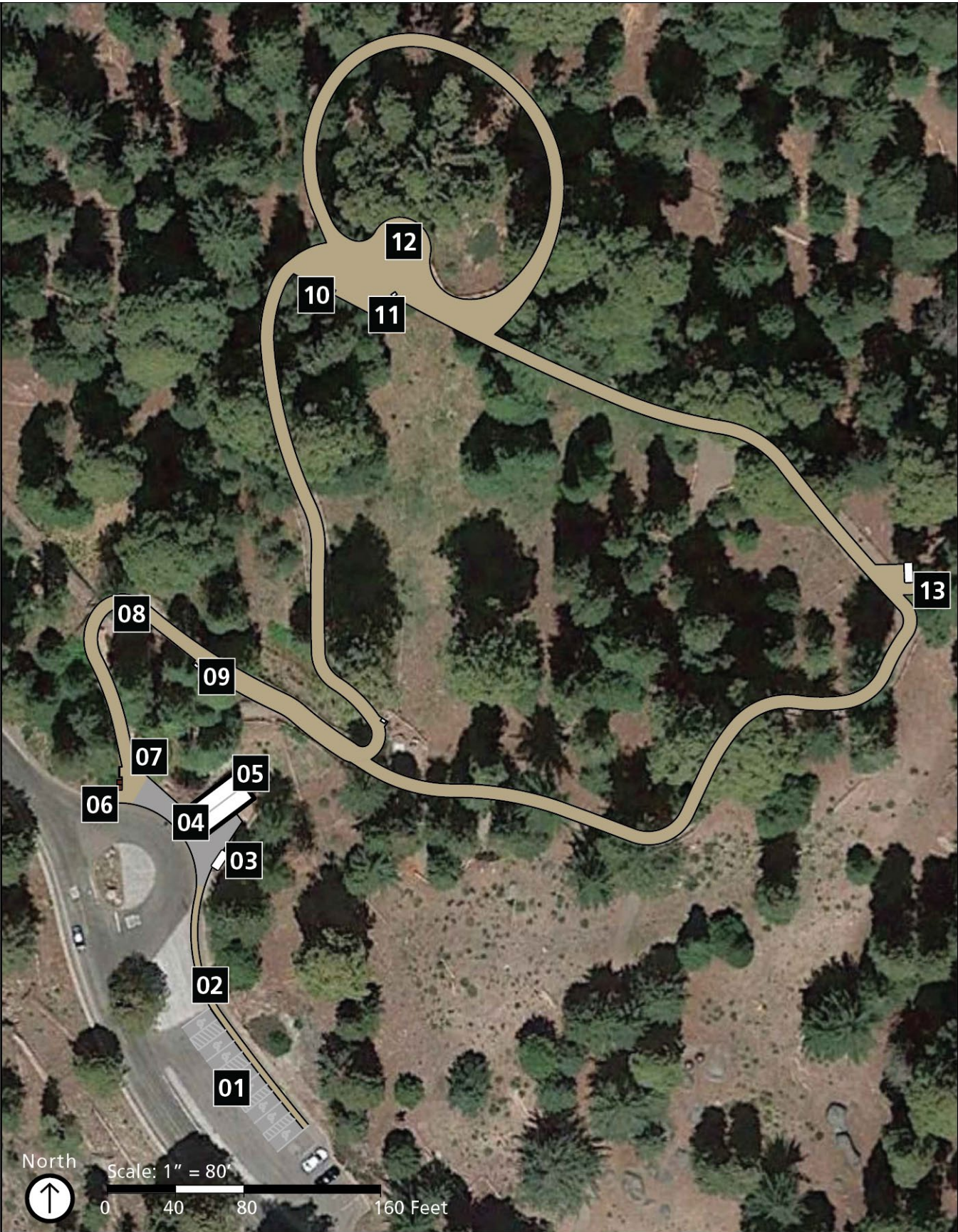
## GENERAL SHERMAN TREE AREA

### Main Sherman Tree Trailhead and Parking Area Site Plan





General Sherman Tree Area  
Accessible Sherman Tree Trailhead Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

The General Sherman Tree area is connected to seven key park experiences: sequoias, diverse ecosystems, water resources, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The area is a significant park destination, with most visitors coming to see the General Sherman Tree – the world’s largest tree. Visitors also come to use the services and attend programs to learn about the history of the sequoias. The upper and lower parking lots and visitor areas were assessed. The main Sherman Tree trailhead and parking area provides accessible parking and restrooms; however, the trail leading from the lot to the General Sherman Tree is steep and has stairs. Visitors who cannot maneuver the stairs are encouraged to park in the accessible Sherman Tree trailhead parking lot, which has only accessible parking and includes a drop-off zone, restrooms, and interpretive panels. A short trail from the parking lot to the General Sherman viewing area provides benches for visitors to rest and waysides about the site’s natural history. The trail is generally accessible, although slopes are steeper closer to the lower parking lot. Accessibility improvements could include the addition of passing and resting areas, more descriptive trailhead signage and level approaches to waysides. Providing an audio program or a tactile model of the General Sherman Tree would enhance understanding of the area for those unable to use the trail.

The following improvements to the main Sherman Tree trailhead and parking area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Restripe the stalls to provide one that is van accessible. It shall be 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or an 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign at 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

### 02 Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve the route from accessible parking to the restroom to have gaps no greater than ½" and a cross slopes no greater than 2%.

long-term

### 03 Men’s and Women’s Restrooms

- 1) Provide a braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of each restroom door.
- 2) Relocate coat hooks to be no more than 48" above the floor.



- 3) Replace grab bars as needed to have no more than a 1 ½" gap between their inner edge and the wall. The tops of grab bars shall be between 33" and 36" above the floor.
- 4) Install door pulls on both sides of the accessible stall door.
- 5) Relocate one of the soap dispensers to the side wall next to the far left or right sink.

short-term

#### **04 Women's Restroom**

- 1) Rearrange partitions so that the ambulatory stall is between 35" and 37" in width.
- 2) Lower the coat hook to be no higher than 48".
- 3) Lower the grab bars so that their top surfaces are between 33" and 36" in height.
- 4) Lower the toilet paper dispenser to achieve at least 1 ½" space between it and the grab bar.

short-term

#### **05 Benches (by shuttle stop)**

- 1) Relocate one of the benches to provide a companion seating space between it and the other bench. The companion seating space shall be 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in any direction.

long-term

#### **06 Trash and Recycling Receptacles**

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in any direction, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

#### **07 Trailhead Signage**

- 1) Provide signage at the trailheads that detail trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

long-term

## **08 Benches (by kiosk)**

- 1) Improve the clear ground space for at least 20% of the benches to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum adjacent to the bench, and at a 2% maximum slope in any direction.

long-term

The following improvements to the accessible Sherman Tree trailhead are planned:

## **01 Car Parking**

- 1) Improve the slopes of the accessible parking stalls to be no greater than 2% in all directions.
- 2) Restripe the accessible stalls to have appropriate access aisles for each accessible stall.
- 3) Install parking stops to prevent cars from blocking the route.

long-term

## **02 Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Improve the route between accessible parking and the restroom and trailhead to have cross slopes no greater than 2%.

long-term

## **03 Interpretive Panels**

- 1) Pave up to the panels to provide a forward approach 30" by 48" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in any direction.
- 2) As best practice, improve or replace panels to use sans serif fonts, 24-point minimum text, high-contrast images and text, and minimize the use of all caps and italics.

long-term

## **04 Drinking Fountain**

- 1) Lower the low drinking fountain so that its spout is no higher than 36" above the ground.

mid-term

## **05 Restroom**

- 1) Provide a braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.

long-term

## **06 Trash Receptacles**

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in any direction, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

## **07 Trailhead Sign**

- 1) Provide signage at the trailhead that details trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

long-term

## **08 Hiking Trail**

- 1) As feasible, improve accessibility in the hiking trail to have running slopes no greater than 8.3% unless for segments of 30 feet (up to 10%) and 10 feet (up to 12%). Provide appropriate resting spaces at the top and bottom of the segments. All cross slopes shall be less than 2%.

long-term

## **09 Interpretive Waysides**

- 1) Relocate the "What Brings Them Down" wayside to an accessible location with a level landing. Relocate or duplicate all other waysides in the area to at least have one of each that is in an accessible location
- 2) As best practice, improve or replace the wayside to use sans serif fonts, 24-point minimum text, high-contrast images and text, and minimize the use of all caps and italics.

long-term

## **10 Benches**

- 1) Improve the ground surface to provide a 36" by 48" minimum clear ground space at a 2% maximum slope in any direction in front of the bench.

long-term

## **11 Interpretive Waysides**

- 1) Relocate the "Why so big and so old?" wayside or duplicate it to provide the same information in an accessible location. The height of the wayside should be between 27" and 34".

mid-term

## **12 Viewing Area**

- 1) As feasible, level a space at the General Sherman Tree sign to be 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach and no more than a 2% slope in any direction. If not feasible, provide a similar sign at a separate level area nearby.

long-term

## **13 Trailhead Sign (Congress trailhead)**

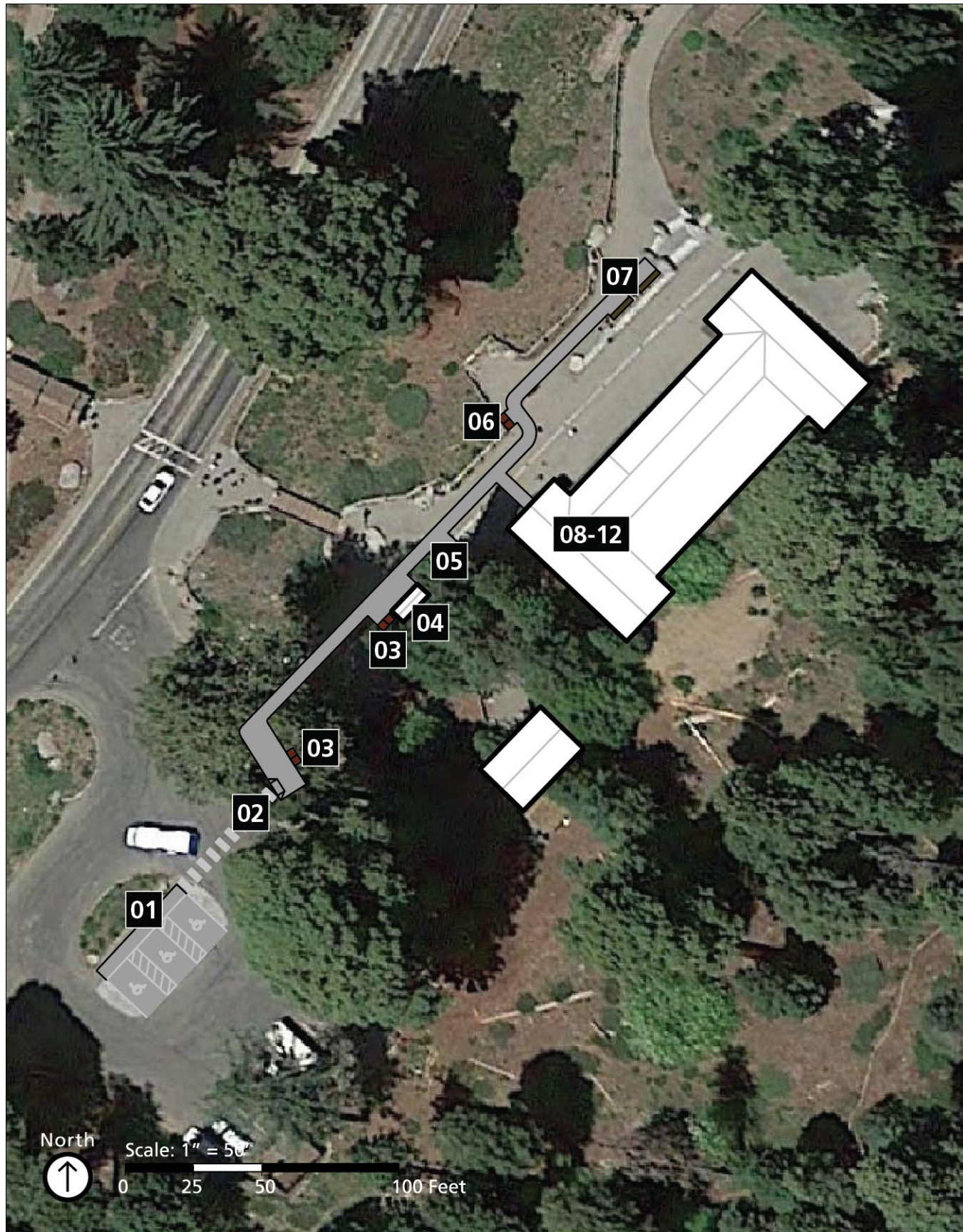
- 1) Provide a level landing at trailhead sign, 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in any direction.
- 2) Provide signage at the trailhead that details trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

long-term

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**GIANT FOREST**  
**Museum Site Plan**





Giant Forest  
Beetle Rock Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

Giant Forest is connected to nine key park experiences: sequoias, diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The primary visitor areas are the Giant Forest Museum and Beetle Rock.

The Giant Forest Museum provides visitors a basic introduction to the Giant Forest and opportunities to learn about the giant sequoias. The museum provides an accessible parking area with six spots; however, no access aisles are provided. Routes to the museum are generally accessible, with gentle slopes. While exterior restrooms are not accessible, signage directs visitors to an accessible restroom inside the museum. Some improvements at the Giant Forest Museum could include adding access aisles in the parking areas, improving accessible routes by adding curb cuts and forward approaches at site elements, and adding alternative formats such as braille, audio description, and additional tactile objects to the exhibits.

Beetle Rock is located across the highway from the Giant Forest Museum and is one of the more easily accessed granite domes in the parks. Accessible parking is located at the southwest end of the parking lot, near the trailhead. A gently sloping, compacted gravel trail leads to the top of the dome, where visitors can enjoy views that extend to the foothills. Some improvements at Beetle Rock could include adding van accessible parking, improving approaches to receptacles, and improving slopes on routes and at viewing areas.

The following improvements to the Giant Forest Museum area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Provide an access aisle to serve each accessible parking space. Ensure that slopes of spaces and access aisles do not exceed 2%.

long-term

### 02 Accessible Route

- 1) Install a curb ramp near the kiosk. It shall have an 8.3% maximum running slope, 10% maximum slope on flares, and a 36" deep level landing at the top at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

### 03 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

#### **04 Wilderness Permit Kiosk**

- 1) Improve the kiosk so all operable parts are between 15" and 48" above the ground.

long-term

#### **05 Water Hydrant (by restrooms and museum)**

- 1) Improve the water hydrant by providing a firm and stable clear ground space 72" by 48" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. The space shall be located so that the water spout is between 11" and 12" from the rear center of the long side of the space.
- 2) Ensure that the spout is between 28" and 36" above the ground, and that the handle is between 15" and 48" above the ground.

long-term

#### **06 Recycling Receptacles (by Sentinel Tree)**

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacle to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

#### **07 Benches (in front of museum)**

- 1) As a best practice, provide accessible benches with seat height between 17" and 19" above the ground.

long-term

#### **08 Small Amphitheater (in front of museum)**

- 1) As feasible, modify a portion of the lower level of the amphitheater to provide an integrated wheelchair space – a 36" by 48" clear ground space from a forward approach.

long-term

#### **09 Men's and Women's Restrooms**

- 1) Install a partition on the side wall to hold the grab bar and toilet paper dispenser. The partition shall be between 16" and 18" from the centerline of the toilet.
- 2) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser so that the toilet paper is between 7" and 9" from the front of the toilet.

- 3) Replace grab bars as needed to have no more than a 1 ½" gap between their inner edge and the wall.
- 4) Adjust the rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room, and 12" on the closed side.
- 5) Remove the moldings above the grab bars so that no obstructions are present.
- 6) Install a braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign. Remove the sign on the door.

short-term

## **10** **Drinking Fountain**

- 1) Replace the drinking fountain with a double unit that includes separate tall and short fountains. The tall fountain shall have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground, and the short fountain shall have a spout height 36" maximum above the ground.

mid-term

## **11** **Gift Shop**

- 1) Widen the aisles between gift shop shelves and displays to be 36" minimum in width.
- 2) As feasible, distribute items, especially popular ones, lower on shelves and displays. Provide a sign letting visitors know that assistance accessing other items is available.

mid-term

## **12** **Museum Exhibits**

- 1) The museum exhibits do not provide braille on exhibit panels.
- 2) There is no audio description interpreting the exhibits and few tactile displays are available.

mid-term



The following improvements to the Beetle Rock area are planned:

### **01 Car Parking**

- 1) Improve one stall to be van-accessible, 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle.
- 2) Improve the accessible parking stalls and access aisle to have slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.
- 3) Provide accessible parking signs to designate the accessible stalls. The signs shall be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

immediate

### **02 Food Storage Containers**

- 1) Improve the landing at the food storage containers to be 30" by 48" from a forward or parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

mid-term

### **03 Trash Receptacles**

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.
- 2) Improve the trash receptacles to be operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force.

mid-term

### **04 Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

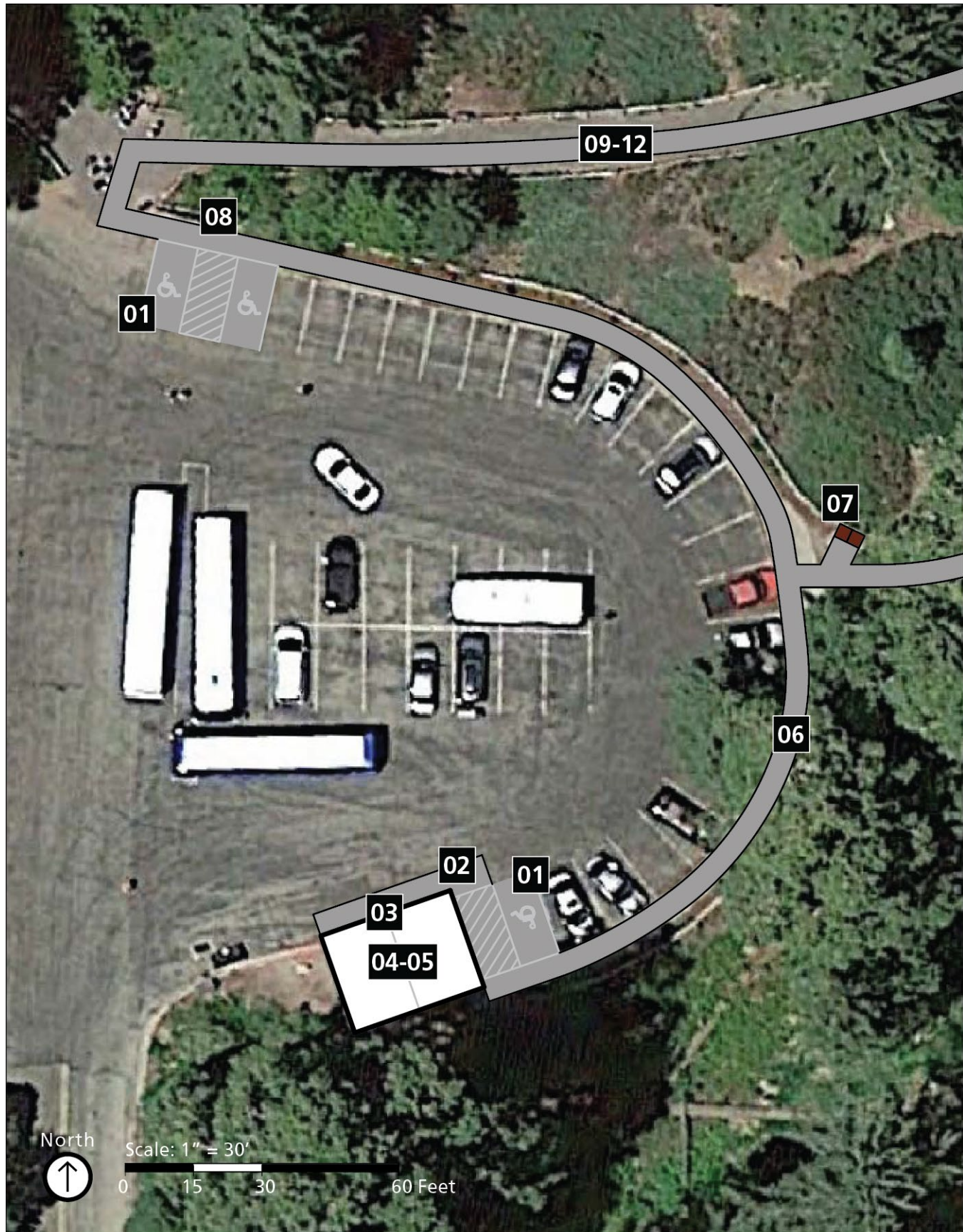
- 1) Improve the route to the viewing area to be 36" minimum in width with a 2% maximum cross slope and an 8.3% maximum running slope. Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

mid-term

### **05 Viewing Area**

- 1) At each distinct viewing area, provide an accessible viewing space 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% slope in all directions.

mid-term



## Implementation Strategy

The Grant Tree is connected to six key park experiences: sequoias, diverse ecosystems, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The General Grant Tree is the largest giant sequoia in the General Grant Grove, and the second largest tree in the world. Services provided to visitors include a parking lot, restrooms, trash and recycling receptacles, and a paved trail that includes benches and interpretive waysides. A slightly sloped, paved route connects an accessible parking stall to the restrooms and trails. The 1/3-mile trail to the General Grant Tree is wide and paved, with gentle slopes. Improvements that would increase accessibility at the Grant Tree include additional accessible car parking, accessible trash and recycling receptacles, minor improvements to the restrooms, and companion seating at benches along the trail. The addition of tactile objects and audio description could improve the interpretive experience in this area.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Provide two additional standard accessible parking stalls, one by the trailhead and the other by the restroom. Each shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at 8' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle and at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Reinstall accessible parking sign to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Install additional accessible parking signs on the new stalls.

short-term

### 02 Accessible Route

- 1) Repair the sidewalk to have a gap no greater than ½" in width.

short-term

### 03 Drinking Fountain

- 1) Install a double unit that includes separate tall and short fountains. The tall fountain shall have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground, and the short fountain shall have a spout height 36" maximum above the ground.

mid-term

**04****Men's Restroom**

- 1) Relocate the braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.

mid-term

- 2) Relocate the baby changing station so the surface is 34" maximum above the floor, and 27" minimum-height knee clearance is provided.

mid-term

- 3) Lower the mirror above the sink so that its bottom edge is no more than 40" above the floor.

long-term

- 4) Insulate or otherwise configure supply and drain pipes under the sink to protect against contact.

mid-term

- 5) Improve the door on the accessible stall to be self-closing.

mid-term

- 6) Install a partition on the side wall to hold the grab bar and toilet paper dispenser.

mid-term

- 7) Replace grab bars as needed to have no more than a 1 ½" gap between their inner edge and the wall.

mid-term

- 8) Adjust rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room, and 12" on the closed side.

mid-term

**05****Women's Restroom**

- 1) Adjust rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room, and 12" on the closed side.

mid-term

- 2) Insulate or otherwise configure supply and drain pipes under the sink to protect against contact.

mid-term



## **06 Accessible Route (from restroom to start of trail)**

- 1) Improve the cross slopes on the curb ramp and sidewalk to be no greater than 2%. The curb ramp will need to be replaced with a straight version without flares.

short-term

## **07 Trash and Recycling Receptacles**

- 1) Improve the trash receptacles or replace them with units that have all operable parts between 15" and 48" above the ground.
- 2) Improve the landings in front of the recycling receptacles to be 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum from a parallel approach. Ensure slopes are at a 2% maximum in all directions.

short-term

## **08 Trailhead Signage**

- 1) Provide signage at the trailhead that details trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

short-term

## **09 Trash and Recycling Receptacles**

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

short-term

## **10 Benches**

- 1) As a best practice, provide a companion seating space adjacent to the bench. It shall be 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

**11**

### **Interpretive Waysides**

- 1) Improve the landing at the "Forests of Life" wayside to be 30" by 48" from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the wayside to an accessible location.

short-term

**12**

### **Audio Description**

- 1) Provide audio description depicting the information on trail waysides.

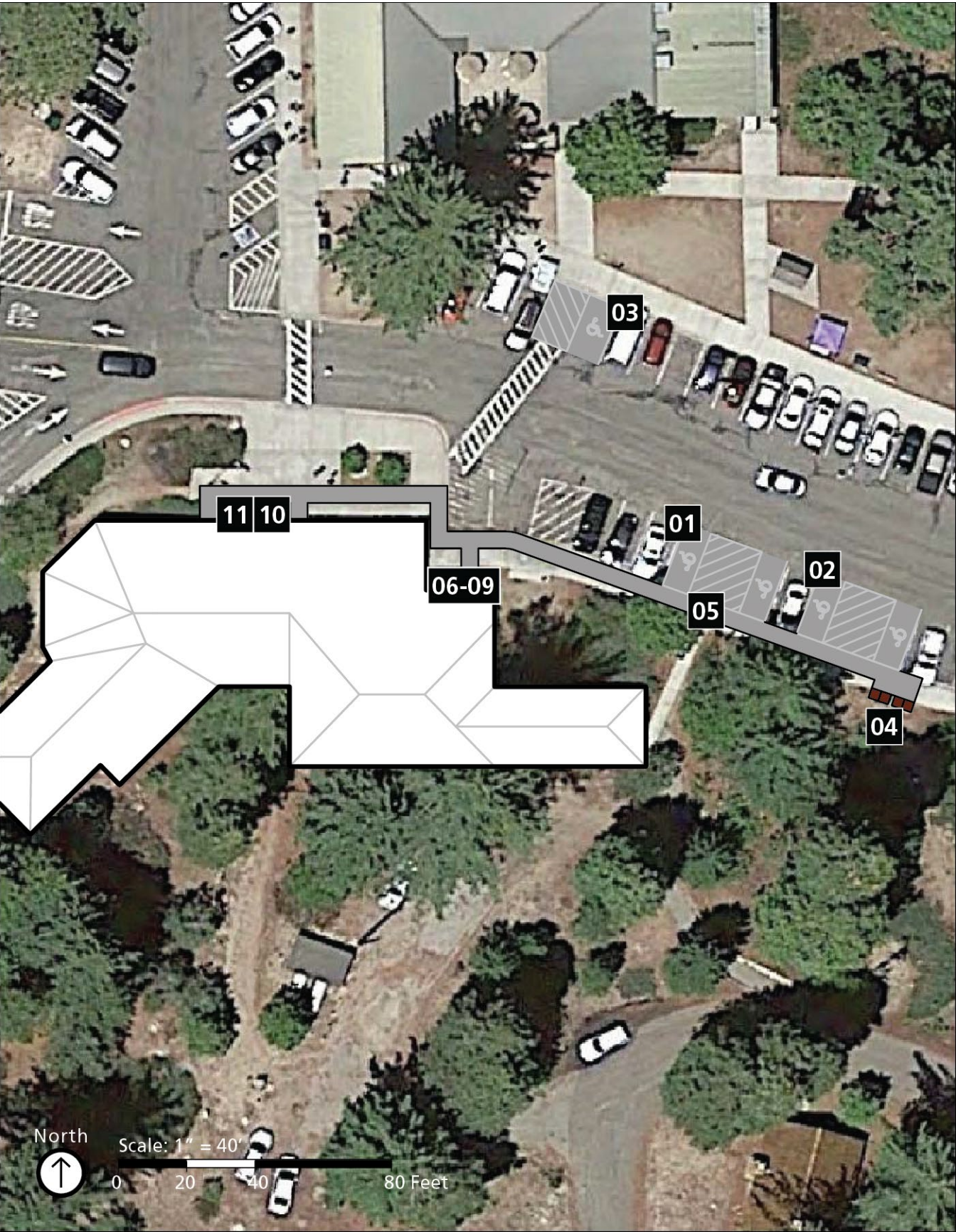
short-term



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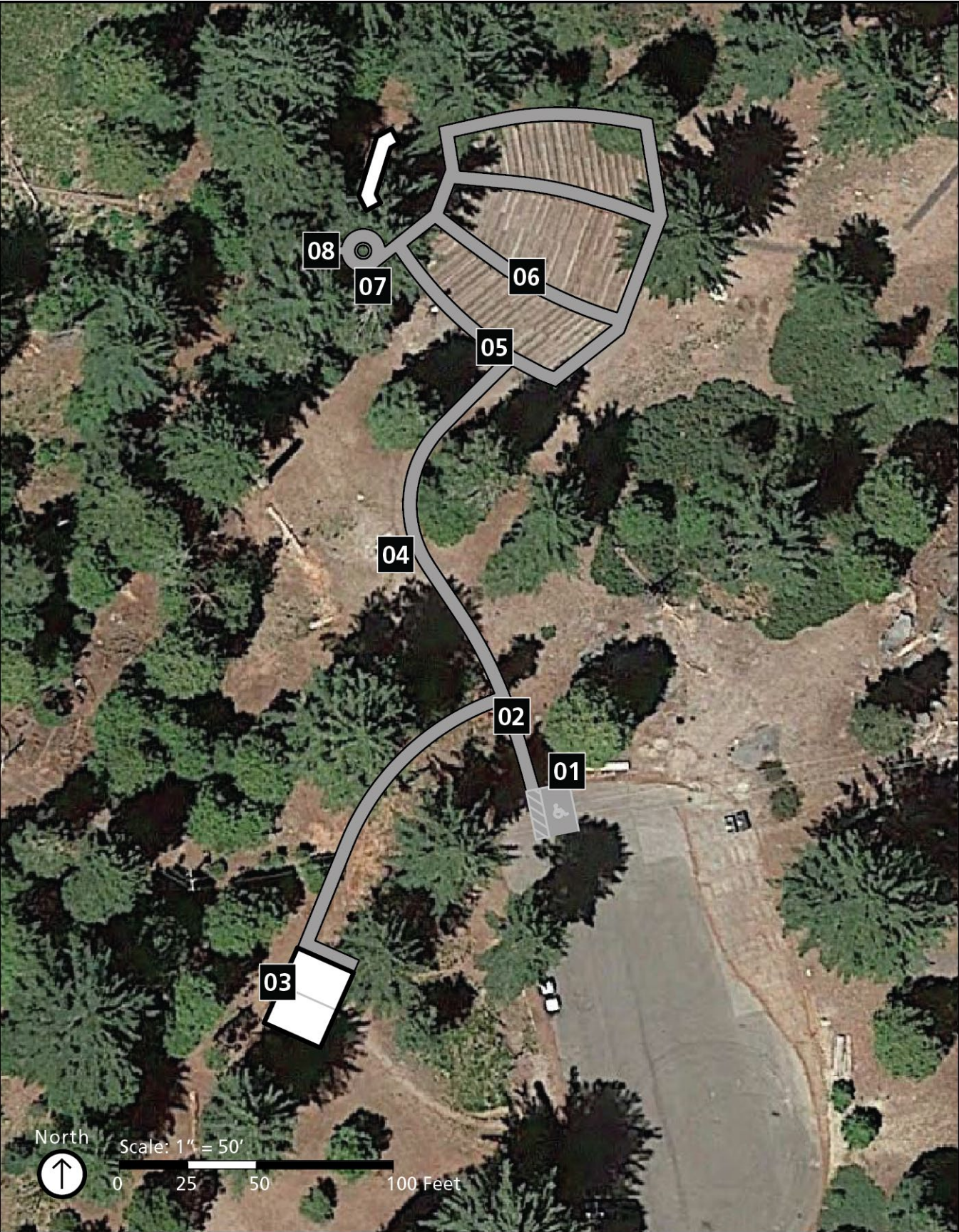
GRANT VILLAGE

Visitor Center Site Plan





Grant Village  
Amphitheater Site Plan





## Implementation Strategy

Grant Village is connected to nine key park experiences: sequoias, diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. This area is comprised of the Grant Grove Visitor Center and nearby Grant Grove Amphitheater. The Grant Grove Visitor Center includes an information desk, bookstore, small exhibits, and restrooms. The visitor center has ample accessible parking and restrooms that are generally accessible, requiring only minor alterations. Additional elements, including a pay phone, trash receptacles, and a bottle filling station, are within reach range and operable with a closed fist. Located across the highway is the Grant Grove Amphitheater. Nestled beneath a canopy of sequoias and mixed conifers, this outdoor venue accommodates approximately 800 visitors and is scheduled for improvements. The addition of designated accessible parking stalls, a restroom, and improvements to slopes, surfaces, and connectivity of routes, and will improve accessibility at this site.

The following improvements to the Visitor Center are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Provide an accessible parking sign on each accessible stall, 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

short-term

### 02 Car Parking

- 1) Stripe two new accessible stalls closer to the visitor center where the slopes are less than 2%. One shall be a van-accessible stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle, and the other shall be 8' in width and share the access aisle. The stalls shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

### 03 Car Parking

- 1) Improve or relocate the accessible parking stall near the concessions area to have slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.

immediate

### 04 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Improve the receptacles or replace them with units that have all operable parts between 15" and 48" above the ground.

- 2) Improve the landings in front of the receptacles to be 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum from a parallel approach. Ensure slopes are at a 2% maximum in all directions.

short-term

## **05 Accessible Route and Walking Surfaces**

- 1) Improve the curb ramp to have flares to be no steeper than 8.3%. Ensure that the center landing maintains slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.

short-term

## **06 Car Parking**

- 1) Improve or replace the desk with a unit that is operable with no more than 5 pounds of force and has a depository within an accessible reach range.

short-term

## **07 Public Telephone**

- 1) If the public telephone remains in use, add a TTY or replace the unit with a unit that has a TTY.

short-term

## **08 Car Parking**

- 1) Improve or replace the desk with a unit that is operable with no more than 5 pounds of force and has a depository within an accessible reach range.

mid-term

## **09 Men's and Women's Restrooms**

- 1) Replace the sink with a unit that has at least 9" knee clearance depth under the sink.
- 2) Improve the door on the accessible stall to be self-closing.
- 3) Install a partition on the side wall to hold the grab bar and toilet paper dispenser. The partition shall be between 16" and 18" from the centerline of the toilet.
- 4) Adjust or replace the rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room and 12" on the closed side. It shall have no more than 1 ½" between its inner edge and the rear wall.

short-term

## **10 Accessible Route**

- 1) Reduce the vertical threshold at the transition to the curb ramp to be less than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

short-term

## **11 Restrooms (unisex)**

- 1) Adjust the rear grab bar to extend 24" minimum from the centerline of the toilet on the open side of the toilet room and 12" on the closed side.
- 2) Install a partition on the side wall to hold the grab bar and toilet paper dispenser. The partition shall be between 16" and 18" from the centerline of the toilet.
- 3) Lower the sink so that its lip is no higher than 34" above the ground. Ensure that 27" minimum height knee clearance is still provided underneath the sink.

short-term

The following improvements to the Amphitheater are planned:

## **01 Car Parking**

- 1) As best practice, provide one van-accessible parking stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle, and one standard-accessible stall 8' minimum in width sharing the access aisle. The stalls and access aisle shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) If accessible stalls are provided, provide an accessible parking sign to designate each accessible stall. The signs shall be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

short-term

## **02 Outdoor Recreation Access Route (from parking to amphitheater)**

- 1) Improve the path from accessible parking to the amphitheater to be firm and stable with running slopes no greater than 5% (unless for short segments) and cross slopes no greater than 2%.

short-term



### **03 Restrooms (near amphitheater)**

- 1) Provide an alternate accessible unisex restroom that meets the requirements of ABAAS.

short-term

### **04 Drinking Fountain**

- 1) Provide a drinking fountain with a double unit that includes separate tall and short fountains. The tall fountain shall have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground and the short fountain shall have a spout height 36" maximum above the ground. Ensure that the fountain provides appropriate clear ground space and is located in an accessible location.

short-term

### **05 Amphitheater Routes**

- 1) Improve the aisles between accessible seating at the amphitheater to have running slopes no greater than 5% or 8.3% with handrails.

short-term

### **06 Amphitheater Seating**

- 1) Provide eight accessible wheelchair spaces with adjacent companion spaces in the amphitheater. Spaces shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. The wheelchair space shall be 36" minimum in width and 48" minimum in depth (33" apiece if adjacent to one another) when entered from the front or rear (60" minimum depth when entered from the side). The companion seat shall be in shoulder alignment with the adjacent wheelchair space. Disperse accessible seating areas.

immediate

### **07 Fire Ring**

- 1) Provide a clear ground space 48" in width on all usable sides of the fire ring. It shall be firm and stable and have maximum slopes of 2% in all directions.

short-term

### **08 Water Hydrant (by fire ring)**

- 1) Improve the water hydrant by providing a firm and stable clear ground space 72" by 48" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. The space shall be located so that the water spout is between 11" and 12" from the rear center of the long side of the space.

short-term

# HOSPITAL ROCK

## Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

Hospital Rock is connected to eight key park experiences, diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. Visitors come to picnic, view the petroglyphs on Hospital Rock, and access the river. The popular picnic area provides a large, gently sloped parking lot with two designated parking stalls, individual and group picnic facilities, and a flat, concrete pedestrian system and wayside plaza with restrooms, a drinking fountain, waysides, park information and telephone. One accessible picnic unit has slopes above 2% and the grill does not have appropriate clear ground space. Additional accessible picnic units are required and could be dispersed between single and group spaces throughout the site. Routes could be improved between accessible parking and the restroom, as well as near Hospital Rock and the river. Hospital Rock and the Potwisha Trailhead are located across the park road from the parking area. Potwisha Trailhead is a culturally sensitive site. Physical access to the site would be infeasible given tight site conditions; however, programmatic access could be improved. "Hospital Rock River Access Trail" steeply winds down a path along native soil. Interpretation of the area could be improved by adding an accessible wayside with photographs nearby or potentially across the street and/or an audio tour.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Stripe a van-accessible stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. The stall shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Improve the accessible parking stalls and access aisles to have slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.
- 3) Provide a van-accessible stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle.
- 4) Raise the short accessible sign and install additional accessible signs to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" designation on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

### 02 Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve the route between accessible parking and the existing accessible picnic table to have cross slopes no greater than 2% and expansion joints no wider than ½". Connect all new accessible picnic facilities to outdoor recreation access routes.

long-term

### **03 Picnic Facilities**

- 1) Provide five additional accessible picnic tables dispersed throughout the picnicking area to provide a variety of picnicking experiences. Each table shall have an extended section or a bench cut out with appropriate knee and toe clearance. Secure tables to a surface with a slope no greater than 2% in all directions. Provide 36" minimum-width clear ground space on all usable sides of accessible tables.
- 2) Improve the surface underneath and around the accessible picnic table to have a slope no greater than 2% in all directions.

long-term

### **04 Grills**

- 1) Provide two additional accessible grills dispersed throughout the picnicking area along with the accessible picnic table locations. Ensure the fire building surface of the grills are 9" minimum above the ground and the cooking surfaces are between 15" and 34" above the ground. To the extent practicable, ensure operable parts of the grills are operable with a closed fist and do not require more than 5 pounds of force to operate.
- 2) Provide a firm and stable clear ground space of 48" minimum width on all usable sides of accessible grills with a maximum 2% slope in all directions or 5% if necessary for drainage.

long-term

### **05 Trash Receptacles**

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

### **06 Food Storage Containers**

- 1) Improve the landing at the food storage containers to be 30" by 48" from a forward or parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

### **07 Interpretive Panels**

- 1) Improve the landing underneath the interpretive panels to have a slope no greater than 2% in all directions, or relocate the panels to an accessible location.

long-term



**08****Drinking Fountain**

- 1) Improve the ground space underneath drinking fountains to have a slope no greater than 2% in all directions.

long-term

- 2) Provide a high drinking fountain with a spout between 38" and 43" in height.
- 3) Replace the drinking fountain with a unit that has a spout no more than 5" from the front of the unit.

mid-term

**09****Public Telephone**

- 1) Lower the telephone so that all operable parts are between 15" and 48" above the ground.
- 2) If the public telephone remains in use, add a TTY or replace the unit with a unit that has a TTY.

long-term

**10****Restroom**

- 1) Provide a braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.
- 2) Remove the toilet paper dispenser above the grab bar.
- 3) Wrap the pipes underneath the sink to prevent burns.
- 4) Relocate the trash can so as not to block a forward approach to the urinal.

short-term

**11****Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Improve the route to the wayside and river access trail in a manner that is protective of cultural resources in the area. It shall be firm and stable at 36" minimum in width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope (if paved). Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.
- 2) Since the route to Hospital Rock is infeasible to make accessible, explore programmatic alternatives to interpret Hospital Rock.

long-term



**Interpretive Wayside**

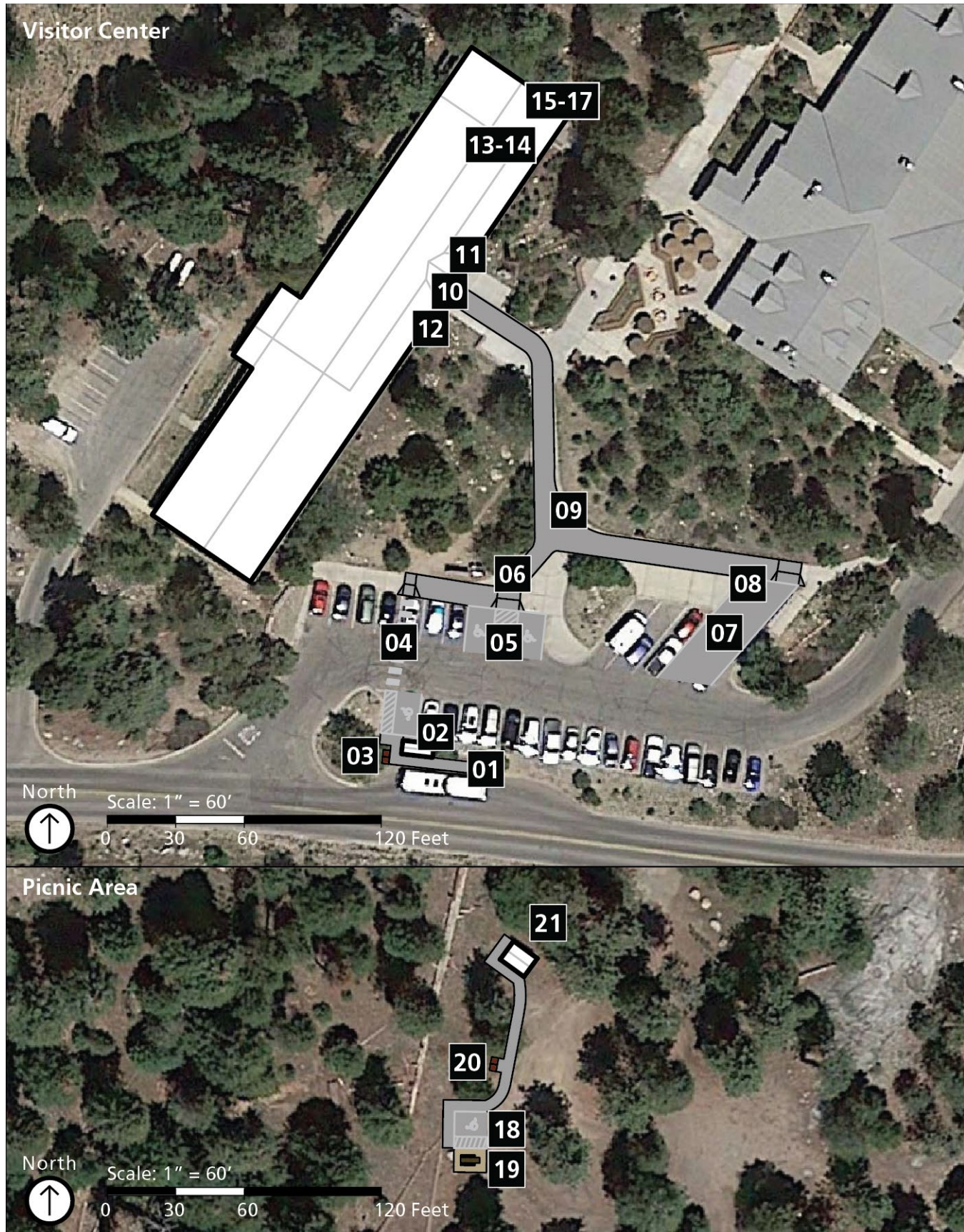
- 1) Improve the landing at the wayside to be firm, stable, and slip resistant, 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

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## LODGEPOLE VILLAGE

### Visitor Center and Picnic Area Site Plans





Lodgepole Village  
Campground and Amphitheater Site Plans



## Implementation Strategy

Lodgepole Village is connected to nine key park experiences: sequoias, diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The area is comprised of visitor attractions including a visitor center, picnic area, campground, and amphitheater. The visitor center provides information and permits as well as interpretive exhibits and ranger-led programs and presentations. The parking lot includes accessible car parking and a transit shuttle stop, which are both connected to the entrance by a paved route. The plaza entry zone has good circulation space, bench seating, accessible restrooms, and connects to concession facilities. The concessions facilities were not assessed for this plan.

The area is being redeveloped as a central transportation hub. All shuttle buses have wheelchair lifts and some also have kneel access entries. A preferred alternative for the new transit hub has been selected to improve the shuttle stop and is expected to be constructed in 5 years. In the interim, it is suggested that the park develop a standard operating procedure for the shuttle stop to drop off in an accessible location when wheelchair users are using the shuttle, as the existing location has no accessible route.

The entrance to the Visitor Center has low energy power operated doors with 2 push buttons, one located at wheelchair height and the other within a low kick zone. The interior has exhibits and a theatre requiring minor improvements. Men's and women's restrooms requiring small alterations are located on the east side of the building. There are currently only two designated accessible campsites located near the nature center restrooms. An amphitheater is located west of the accessible sites and overflow parking area. The amphitheater does not provide integrated companion seating spaces, and routes to the seating areas have high slopes. West of the visitor center is the Lodgepole Picnic Area. This small picnic area does not have accessible parking, restrooms, tables, or trash cans, but existing ground surfaces are relatively firm, stable and level. New exhibits are planned throughout the Visitor Center which will include an Exhibit Room, theater with moveable seating and a backcountry permit contact station. The park video is open captioned, with audio description and assistive listening devices are available.

The following improvements to the Visitor Center and Picnic Area are planned:

### 01 Transit Stop

- 1) Mark a passenger loading zone for every 100' of loading space. The vehicle pull-up space shall be 96" minimum in width with a 60" minimum width access aisle extending the full length of the pull-up space. Ensure that the pull-up space and access aisle have a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term



## **02** Interpretive Panels

- 1) Improve the landings on both sides of the interpretive panels to provide a forward approach 30" by 48" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. If this is not feasible on the rear side, relocate those panels to an accessible location elsewhere.

long-term

## **03** Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Improve the trash receptacles to be operable with a closed fist and no more than 5 pounds of force.
- 2) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

## **04** Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the route between the transit stop and the parking lot to have a running slope no greater than 5% and a cross slope no greater than 2%. The running slope may be up to 8.3% with handrails.

long-term

## **05** Car Parking

- 1) Provide accessible parking signs to designate the accessible stalls. The signs shall be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

## **06** Accessible Route

- 1) Improve the curb ramp to have a 36" minimum depth landing at the top at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

## **07** Oversized-Vehicle Parking

- 1) Provide one accessible oversized-vehicle parking stall 16' minimum in width at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. As a best practice, make this stall 20' in width to better accommodate an oversized-vehicle.

- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign at 60" minimum height to the bottom of the sign.

long-term

## **08 Curb Cut (at oversized-vehicle parking)**

- 1) Provide a curb ramp to allow access to the sidewalk. It shall have a 8.3% maximum running slope, a 2% maximum cross slope, and a level landing with a depth 36" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

## **09 Accessible Route**

- 1) Improve the route between accessible parking and the visitor center entrance to have a running slope no greater than 5% and a cross slope no greater than 2%, or add handrails to the existing route and improve the cross slope.

long-term

## **10 Entrance**

- 1) As feasible, reduce the running slope between the two entrance doors to be no greater than 2% in all directions. At minimum, ensure that the door openers when operated open both doors at once and provide enough time for a wheelchair user to get through without stopping between the doors.

short-term

## **11 Service Counter**

- 1) Improve the service counter to provide a parallel approach with a 36" minimum width section 36" maximum in height or a forward approach with a 30" minimum width section 36" maximum in height at each. If a forward approach, provide 27" minimum knee clearance extending 11" minimum under the service counter and 9" minimum toe clearance.

short-term

## **12 Drinking Fountains**

- 1) Replace the fountains with a set of accessible drinking fountains, one with a spout height no higher than 36" and the other with a spout height between 38" and 43".

short-term

### **13 Seating (in theater)**

- 1) Refer to the scoping standards for the number of required accessible and companion seats. Ensure that accessible seating is dispersed among the various seating locations available.
- 2) Consider establishing a seating plan with standard operating procedures for integrated seating within the theater.

short-term

### **14 Signage (in theater)**

- 1) Provide tactile signage in the theater and all other permanent rooms identifying the rooms.
- 2) Provide tactile exit signs on the latch side of exit stairways, passageways, and discharge areas. The bottom of the tactile characters shall be 48" minimum above the ground and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" minimum above the ground. Ensure there is a 18" by 18" minimum clear space underneath the braille signs.

short-term

### **15 Accessible Route**

- 1) Improve the slope of the walkway at this corner to be no greater than 2% in all directions.

short-term

### **16 Men's Restroom**

- 1) Relocate the braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.

short-term

### **17 Women's Restroom**

- 1) Relocate the braille identification sign to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.
- 2) Relocate the rear wall grab bar to be at least 1' on the closed side of the toilet and 2' on the open side. Replace grab bars as needed to have no more than a 1 ½" gap between their inner edge and the wall.

- 3) Relocate the seat cover dispenser to the side partition so that a user can set it in place before sitting down.
- 4) Install door pulls on both sides of the accessible stall door.

short-term

## **18 Car Parking**

- 1) As a best practice, provide one van-accessible parking stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. The stall and access aisles shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) If an accessible stall is provided, provide an accessible parking sign to designate the accessible stall. The sign shall be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

## **19 Picnic Facilities**

- 1) Provide two accessible picnic tables dispersed throughout the picnicking area to provide a variety of picnicking experiences. Each table shall have an extended section or a bench cut out with appropriate knee and toe clearance. Secure tables to a surface with a slope no greater than 2% in all directions. Provide 36" minimum-width clear ground space on all usable sides of accessible tables. Ensure each accessible table is connected via an outdoor recreation access route to an accessible parking or drop-off zone.

long-term

## **20 Trash Receptacles**

- 1) Relocate the receptacles to an accessible location. Ensure that the landing is level at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. The height of the receptacle operable parts shall be no higher than 48" above the ground.

long-term

## **21 Restroom**

- 1) Improve the approach to the restroom landing with a running slope no greater than 5% or a ramp with handrails. Ensure that the lip from the approach to the landing has a vertical rise no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.
- 2) Improve or replace the restroom so that it has 60" minimum width between side walls.



- 3) Install a new toilet with a seat height between 17" and 19" above the ground. Ensure that the center of the toilet is between 16" and 18" from the side wall.

long-term

The following improvements to the Campground and Amphitheater are planned:

## **01 Oversized-Vehicle Parking**

- 1) Provide one accessible oversized-vehicle parking stall, 16' minimum in width at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. As a best practice, make this stall 20' minimum in width to better accommodate recreational vehicles.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign at 60" minimum height to the bottom of the sign.

mid-term

## **02 Dump Station**

- 1) Widen and improve the pull-up space to be 20' minimum in width (if used by RVs) and 16' minimum in width (if used only by other vehicles). It shall be firm and stable at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Modify the curb to provide a clear ground space 30" by 60" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions adjacent to the hookups. The hookups shall be at the rear center of the space.
- 3) Modify the approach to provide a firm and stable clear ground space 72" by 48" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions at the hydrant. The space shall be located so that the water spout is between 11" and 12" from the rear center of the long side of the space.

short-term

## **03 Car Parking**

- 1) Improve all accessible stalls and access aisles to have cross slopes no greater than 2%.
- 2) Restripe at least one of the accessible stalls to be 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle.
- 3) Designate the van-accessible stall with appropriate signage.

short-term

#### **04**   **Water Hydrant**

- 1) Improve the water hydrant so that it spout is between 28" and 36" above the ground and its valve does not protrude into the circulation route.

short-term

#### **05**   **Utility Sink**

- 1) Improve the water hydrant so that it spout is between 28" and 36" above the ground and its valve does not protrude into the circulation route.

short-term

#### **06**   **Restrooms**

- 1) Ensure that fixtures, dispensers, grab bars, and accessory items meet the requirements of ABAAS, and that tactile signage is provided adjacent to restroom doors.

short-term

#### **07**   **Campsites**

- 1) Ensure that the appropriate number of tent and RV campsites are accessible so that parking stalls, tent pads, outdoor constructed features, and routes meet the requirements of ABAAS. Ensure that accessible campsites are distributed among the various loops and camping types available.

short-term

#### **08**   **Car Parking**

- 1) Improve the slopes of accessible campsite stalls to be no greater than 2% in all directions.

short-term

#### **09**   **Picnic Tables**

- 1) Improve the clear ground space around picnic tables at accessible campsites to be 36" minimum in width.

short-term

#### **10**   **Fire Pits**

- 1) Improve the clear ground space around fire pits at accessible campsites to be 48" minimum in width.

short-term

## **11** Car Parking

- 1) Provide one van-accessible stall that is firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide accessible parking signs 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

short-term

## **12** Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve the route to the amphitheater to have cross slopes no greater than 2%.

short-term

## **13** Trash Receptacles

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

short-term

## **14** Seating (amphitheater)

- 1) Provide five accessible wheelchair spaces with adjacent companion spaces in the amphitheater, dispersed among various seating areas. Spaces shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term



## Implementation Strategy

Moro Rock is connected to nine key park experiences: sequoias, diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The area is only open during the spring and summer and is popular for its staircase climb and dramatic viewing area on top of the rock. Visitors mostly come for the sweeping views of the San Joaquin Valley, but they can also learn about the history and contribution of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to the development of park through the interpretive panels and wayside at the base of the staircase. Other than the restrooms, few services in this area are accessible. Accessible parking has high slopes, the route between parking and the panels and trailhead is steep, and landings underneath most features are uneven. It is not feasible to make the trail up Moro Rock accessible. However, accessibility could be improved throughout the site by improving or relocating accessible parking, reducing the slopes of routes and landings, providing a flat viewing area at exhibits, installing trailhead signage, and providing programmatic alternatives for the trail and view. These may include a model of Moro Rock, a book of photographs showcasing the climb and views, and an audio program.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Improve or relocate the accessible stalls to have slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.
- 2) Provide accessible parking signs to designate the accessible stalls. The signs shall be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

### 02 Trash Receptacles (near restrooms)

- 1) Relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

### 03 Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve the route to the trailhead to be firm and stable at 36" minimum in width with a 2% maximum cross slope and a 5% maximum running slope (if paved). Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

long-term



#### **04** Interpretive Wayside

- 1) Improve the landing at the wayside to be 30" by 48" from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the wayside to an accessible location.

long-term

#### **05** Benches

- 1) Improve the ground surface to provide a 36" by 48" minimum clear ground space at a 2% maximum slope in all directions in front of both benches, or relocate the benches to an accessible location.

long-term

#### **06** Interpretive Panels

- 1) Improve the surface up to the panels to provide a forward approach 30" by 48" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions at each.
- 2) As a best practice, improve or replace panels to use sans serif fonts, 24-point minimum text, high-contrast images and text, and minimize the use of all caps and italics. Text should be no higher than 60" above the ground.

long-term

#### **07** Drinking Fountain

- 1) Provide a drinking fountain with a double unit that includes separate tall and short fountains. The tall fountain shall have a spout height between 38" and 43" above the ground and the short fountain shall have a spout height 36" maximum above the ground.

long-term

#### **08** Trailhead Signs (Morro Rock Trail and Sugar Pine Trail)

- 1) Provide signage that describes trail conditions of each trail at the trailhead, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

long-term

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PANORAMIC POINT

Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

Panoramic Point is connected to seven key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, geologic features, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. Visitors come for the hike, panoramic views and to picnic. The half-mile trail to the viewing area is accessible, leading visitors to a stunning view overlooking the Sierra Nevada. Accessible services include an accessible parking stall, restrooms, and picnic tables. Accessibility could be improved by adding a van-accessible stall, improving the ground surface underneath the accessible picnic tables, installing appropriate trailhead signage, and ensuring that resting spaces are provided at the steeper sections of the trail. Expanding the viewing area at Panoramic Point and improving programmatic alternatives through an audio program and tactile site map at the parking area would improve visitor experience at this location.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

### 02 Restroom

- 1) Reduce the vertical threshold at the restroom landing to be no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

mid-term

### 03 Trash and Recycling Receptacles

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

long-term

### 04 Trailhead Signage

- 1) Provide signage at the trailhead that detail trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

long-term



**05**

## **Picnic Tables**

- 1) Improve the clear ground space underneath and around accessible tables to be firm and stable, 36" minimum in width around each table, and at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

long-term

**06**

## **Hiking Trail**

- 1) Assess and improve the trail as needed to meet the requirements of ABAAS. Remember that resting intervals 60" by 36" minimum are required at the tops and bottoms of trail segments with a running slopes greater than 5%.

short-term

**07**

## **Benches**

- 1) As a best practice, provide armrests and backrests on some of the benches, particularly in areas that affords views, for visitors to relax and to help them stand up.

short-term

**08**

## **Viewing Area**

- 1) As feasible, expand the area between the benches and waysides to better accommodate visitors in wheelchairs. Ensure that it has a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term



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PINEWOOD PICNIC AREA

Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

Pinewood Picnic Area is connected to six key park experiences: sequoias, diverse ecosystems, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The area is within Giant Forest, and visitor services include single and group picnic sites, interpretive panels, a drinking fountain, and restrooms. Visitors come to picnic on their way to and from sequoia groves. One accessible picnic table is available, although the grill has a ground surface with slopes above 2% and does not have appropriate clear ground space. Additional accessible picnic units are required and could be dispersed between single and group spaces throughout the site. Accessibility could be further improved by adding a dual height drinking fountain, improving the slopes on paths and at the interpretive panels, and making small adjustments to the restroom.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the slope of accessible parking stalls to be no more than 2% in any direction.
- 2) Restripe one of the accessible stalls to be 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle.
- 3) Raise the accessible parking signs to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the signs. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

### 02 Picnic Tables

- 1) Provide at least eight additional accessible picnic tables dispersed throughout the picnicking area to provide a variety of picnicking experiences. Each table shall have an extended section or a bench cut out with appropriate knee and toe clearance. Secure tables to a surface with a slope no greater than 2% in any direction. Provide 36" minimum-width clear ground space on all usable sides of accessible tables. Ensure all accessible tables are located on outdoor recreation access routes.

long-term

### 03 Grills

- 1) Provide a firm and stable clear ground space of 48" minimum width on all usable sides of accessible grills with a maximum 2% slope in any direction or 5% if needed for drainage.

long-term

#### **04 Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Improve the route between accessible parking and the restroom to have cross slopes no greater than 2%.

long-term

#### **05 Interpretive Panels**

- 1) Improve the landing at the panels to be firm, stable, and slip resistant, 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in any direction.

long-term

#### **06 Drinking Fountain**

- 1) Improve the surface underneath the drinking fountain to have slopes no greater than 2% in any direction.

long-term

- 1) Provide a low drinking fountain next to the existing fountain. The spout outlet shall be 36" maximum in height.

mid-term

#### **07 Restroom**

- 1) Relocate the braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.
- 2) Lower the toilet paper dispenser to achieve at least 1 ½" space between it and the grab bar.

mid-term

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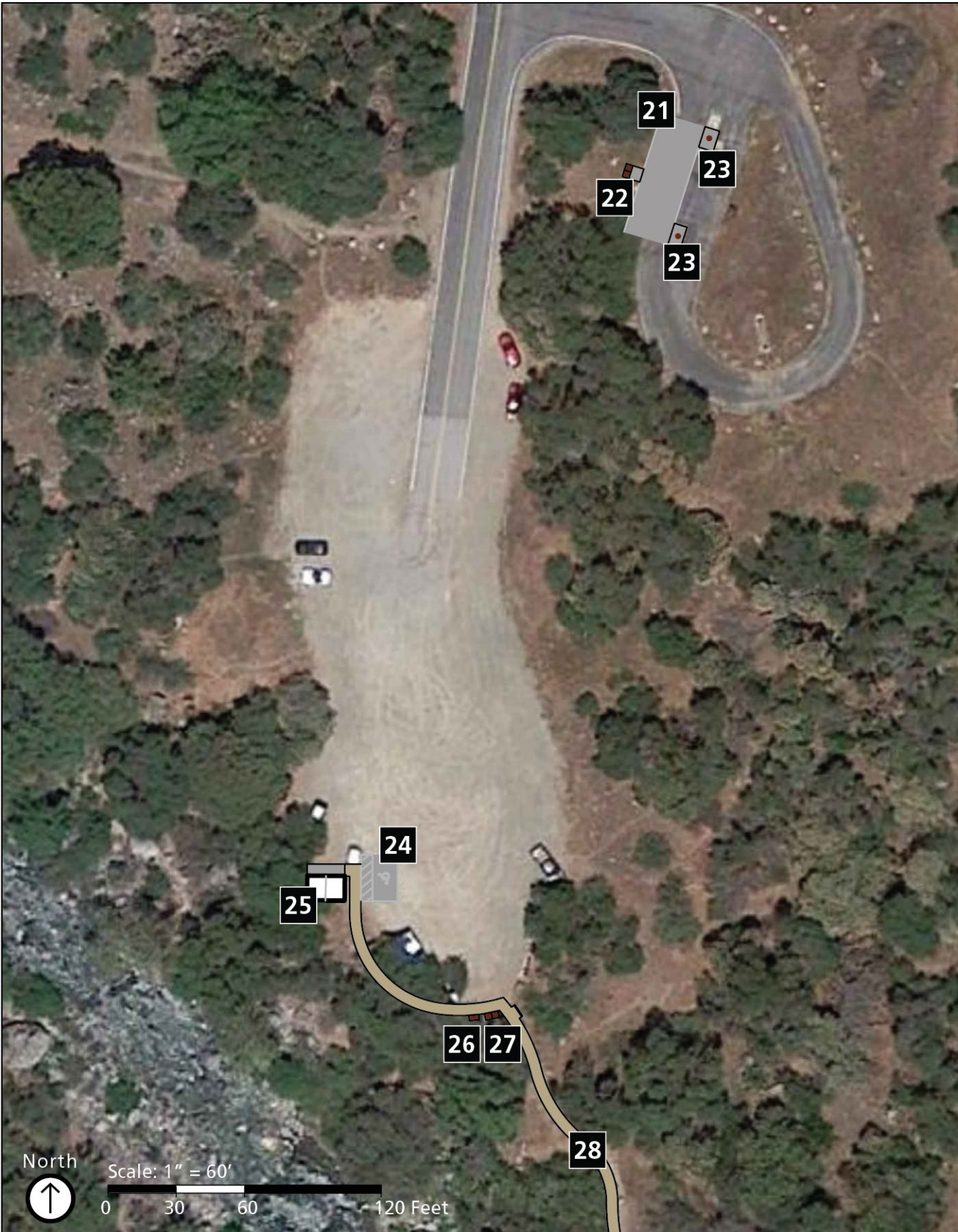
## POTWISHA CAMPGROUND

### Registration Area, Campsites, Amphitheater, and Trailhead Site Plans





Potwisha Campground  
Dump Station and Overflow Parking Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

Potwisha Campground is connected to seven key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The 42-site campground is located off Generals Highway and provides tent, RV, and trailer campsites. The campground provides some services to visitors, including restrooms, a telephone, interpretive panels, a hiking trail, amphitheater, a dump station, and campsites with tent pads, grills, water hydrants, and food storage containers. The overflow area is one of few areas within the park that affords river views and access. Visitors come to camp, attend programs, and access the river. There are two designated accessible campsites; however, improvements and a third accessible campsite is required to meet scoping requirements. Relocating the trailhead to a more accessible location would improve access to Marble Falls Trail. Improving the route to the amphitheater and providing accessible spaces and companion seating would also benefit visitors with mobility impairments. Other improvements could include the addition of an accessible parking stall in the overflow area, creating an accessible route up to the river, and establishing a viewing area near the river.

The following improvements to the Registration Area, Campsites, Amphitheater, and Trailhead are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the pull-up parking space to be 16' minimum in width with slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.

short-term

### 02 Public Telephone

- 1) If the public telephone remains in use, add a TTY or replace the unit with a unit that has a TTY.

short-term

### 03 Registration Box

- 1) Relocate the registration box to an area where it does not protrude more than 4" into the circulation route. Ensure that a 30" by 48" clear ground space at a 2% maximum slope in all directions is provided at the box for a forward or parallel approach.

short-term

## Campsites

- 1) Improve one additional tent campsite to be accessible so that the parking stall, tent pad, outdoor constructed features, and routes meet the requirements of ABAAS. Campsites shall be distributed among the various areas and units available.

short-term

## 04 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the parking stall to be 16' minimum in width at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

## 05 Picnic Table

- 1) Pave around the picnic table or relocate it to provide 36" minimum width clear ground space around all sides.

short-term

## 06 Grill

- 1) Pave around the grill to provide 48" minimum width clear ground space on all usable sides.

short-term

## 07 Tent Pad

- 1) Improve the route from the paved walkway to the tent pad to have no more than a 2% cross slope. Improve the tent pad to have a 2% maximum slope in all directions throughout its borders.

short-term

## 08 Water Hydrant

- 1) Improve the water hydrant by providing a firm and stable clear ground space 72" by 48" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. The space shall be located so that the water spout is between 11" and 12" from the rear center of the long side of the space.

short-term

**09**

### **Car Parking**

- 1) Improve the parking stall to be 16' minimum in width at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

**10**

### **Picnic Table**

- 1) Pave around the picnic table or relocate it to provide 36" minimum width clear ground space around all sides.

short-term

**11**

### **Grill**

- 1) Pave around the grill to provide 48" minimum width clear ground space on all usable sides.

short-term

**12**

### **Tent Pad**

- 1) Improve the tent pad to have a 2% maximum slope in all directions throughout its borders.

short-term

**13**

### **Water Hydrant**

- 1) Improve the water hydrant by providing a firm and stable clear ground space 72" by 48" minimum at 2% maximum slope in all directions. The space shall be located so that the water spout is between 11" and 12" from the rear center of the long side of the space.

short-term

**14**

### **Trash and Recycling Receptacles and Hot Coals Box**

- 1) Improve the landings in front of the trash and recycling receptacles and hot coals box to be 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum from a parallel approach. Ensure they are at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

short-term

**15**

### **Drinking Fountain**

- 1) Improve the surface underneath the drinking fountain to have slopes no greater than 2% in all directions.



- 2) Provide a tall drinking fountain next to the existing fountain. The spout outlet shall be between 38" and 43" in height.
- 3) Improve the fountain to be operable with no more than 5 pounds of force.

short-term

## **16 Restroom**

- 1) Relocate the braille identification sign adjacent to the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.
- 2) Lower the sink so that the counter is no more than 34" above the floor. Ensure that 27" minimum-height knee clearance is provided underneath.
- 3) As a best practice, lower the urinal so that its bottom lip is no higher than 17" above the floor.
- 4) Lower the mirror above the sink so that its bottom edge is no more than 40" above the floor.

short-term

## **17 Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Establish a route to the amphitheater to have an 8.3% maximum running slope and a 2% maximum cross slope. It shall be firm and stable at 36" minimum width.

short-term

## **18 Amphitheater**

- 1) Provide two accessible wheelchair spaces with adjacent companion spaces in the amphitheater. Spaces shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. The wheelchair space shall be 36" minimum in width and 48" minimum in depth when entered from the front or rear (60" minimum depth when entered from the side). The companion seat shall be in shoulder alignment with the adjacent wheelchair space. Provide one space in the front row and one in the back, and connect them to the outdoor recreation access route.

short-term

## **19 Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Establish a route to from the campground road to the trailhead to have an 8.3% maximum running slope and 2% maximum cross slope. It shall be firm and stable at 36" minimum width. If infeasible, relocate the existing trailhead sign to the edge of the campground road and provide a level landing in front of it.

short-term

## **20 Trailhead Signage**

- 1) Improve the landing underneath the trailhead sign to be 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide signage at the trailhead that details trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

short-term

The following improvements to the Dump Station and Overflow Parking are planned:

## **21 Parking (at dump station)**

- 1) Widen and improve the pull-up space to be 20' minimum in width (if used by RVs) and 16' minimum in width (if used only by other vehicles). It shall be firm and stable at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

immediate

## **22 Trash Receptacles**

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

immediate

## **23 Dump Station**

- 1) Modify the curb to provide a firm and stable clear ground space 72" by 48" minimum at a 2% maximum slope in all directions at the hydrant. The space shall be located so that the water spout is between 11" and 12" from the rear center of the long side of the space.
- 2) Improve the dump station hydrant to be between 15" and 48" above the finish ground.

immediate

## **24** Car Parking

- 1) As a best practice, provide one van-accessible parking stall 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. The stall and access aisles shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) If an accessible stall is provided, provide an accessible parking sign to designate the accessible stall. The sign shall be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

immediate

## **25** Restroom

- 1) Pave a level approach to the restroom doors. It shall extend 60" minimum from the door face and be at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. Ensure that the vertical transition between the sand and the concrete pad is no more than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

immediate

## **26** Trash Receptacles

- 1) Improve the landing at the approach to the receptacles to be firm and stable, 36" by 48" minimum from a forward approach or 30" by 60" minimum for a parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the receptacles to an accessible location.

immediate

## **27** Food Storage Containers

- 1) Improve the landing at the food storage containers to be 30" by 48" from a forward or parallel approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.

immediate

## **28** Outdoor Recreation Access Route

- 1) Improve the route from the parking lot to the viewing area to be 36" minimum in width with a 2% maximum cross slope and an 8.3% maximum running slope. Segments up to 10% are allowed for short distances but must include resting intervals at the top and bottom of each segment. Routes shall be firm and stable.

immediate







## Implementation Strategy

Roads End is connected to eight key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. Roads End is comprised of a parking area, permit station that issues wilderness permits, restrooms, and a trailhead for the Mist Falls Trail. One accessible parking stall is provided and is connected to the permit station via the roadway and a natural surface trail. Nearby Muir Rock is a popular summer destination for picnicking along the river and is accessed by a natural surface trail. Possible accessibility improvements include the addition of designated accessible parking near the restrooms. Improvements to the slope and surface of the route between the existing accessible parking and the permit station will also increase accessibility. Improvements to the routes leading to Muir Rock and the Kings River would help provide beach access and river experiences that are unique to this area.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Provide one van-accessible parking stall, 11' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle or 8' minimum in width with an 8' minimum width access aisle. The stall and access aisles shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide an accessible parking sign to designate the accessible stall. The signs shall be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign. Provide "van accessible" signage on the van-accessible stall.

long-term

### 02 Restroom

- 1) Provide braille identification signage on the latch side of the restroom door. The base of the lowest tactile characters shall be 48" minimum in height above the floor and the tops of the highest tactile characters 60" maximum in height above the floor. Provide a clear floor space 18" by 18" underneath the sign.
- 1) Replace grab bars as needed to have no more than a 1 ½" gap between their inner edge and the wall.

short-term

### 03 Accessible Route

- 1) Establish an accessible route from accessible parking to the permit station. It shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at 36" minimum in width, with running slopes no greater than 5% and cross slopes no greater than 2%.

- 2) Improve bridge to have gaps in decking that are no greater than ½" and thresholds no greater than ¼" or ½" with a beveled edge.

long-term

#### **04 Ramp**

- 1) Ensure that the ramp does not exceed a running slope of 8.3%. Provide handrails on both sides of the ramp and 1' handrail extensions at the top and bottom of ramp runs.

long-term

#### **05 Information Counter and Drop Box**

- 1) Improve the counter to provide an accessible parallel approach, with a portion of the counter 36" minimum in length and 36" maximum in height. Continue to provide an adjacent clear floor space 30" by 48" minimum.

mid-term

- 2) Relocate the drop box to a location that provides a level forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions. Ensure that the drop box is mounted so operable parts are between 15" and 48" above the ground.

short-term

#### **06 Picnic Table**

- 1) Ensure that at least 20% of picnic tables in the area are accessible. Each table shall have an extended section or a bench cut out with appropriate knee and toe clearance. Secure tables to a surface with a slope no greater than 2% in all directions. Provide 36" minimum-width clear ground space on all usable sides of accessible tables.

long-term

#### **07 Angler Survey**

- 1) Reconfigure angler survey box so it is accessible at a height between 15" and 48" from the ground.

short-term

#### **08 Trailhead Signage (Mist Falls trailhead)**

- 1) Provide a firm, stable, and slip resistant clear ground space 30" by 48" from a forward approach at the trailhead sign.

long-term

**09**

### **Trailhead Kiosk**

- 1) Improve the landing at the trailhead kiosk to be firm, stable, and slip resistant, 30" by 48" minimum from a forward approach at a 2% maximum slope in all directions, or relocate the panels to an accessible location.

long-term

**10**

### **Outdoor Recreation Access Route**

- 1) Improve the route to Muir Rock to be firm and stable, with running slopes no steeper than 5% (unless for short segments) and cross slopes no steeper than 2%. Reduce the gaps between bridge planks to be no wider than ½".

long-term

ROARING RIVER FALLS

Site Plan





## Implementation Strategy

Roaring River Falls is connected to seven key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, conservation, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. This area features a short hiking trail that leads to views of Roaring River Falls. The site includes a parking lot with one designated accessible parking space, trailhead signage, and a paved trail that terminates at a small paved landing where visitors can view the falls. Some sections of the trail are steep and do not consistently provide level landings for resting. Improvements to accessibility that can be made at Roaring River Falls include adding additional trail signage that describes trail conditions to visitors, improving the hiking trail to have running slopes that do not exceed 8.3%, and adding level landings on switchbacks and at resting intervals between steep sections.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Trailhead Signage

- 1) Provide signage at the trailhead that details trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

mid-term

### 02 Hiking Trail

- 1) Improve the hiking trail to meet the slope requirements of ABAAS Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities. At switchbacks, provide a level landing for people to rest.

mid-term

## Site Plan



## Implementation Strategy

Zumwalt Trail is connected to eight key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. This site is located near the Kings River and provides visitors with access to picnicking, restrooms, and trails leading to unique views of the Kings River and Zumwalt Trail Meadow. The site includes a parking lot, pit toilet restrooms, a picnic area, and trailheads for the Zumwalt Trail Meadow Trail and River Trail. There is one designated accessible parking space that has slightly steep slopes, and the addition of a second stall is required. The restrooms are located near the parking lot and accessed via a paved route that lacks a curb cut. Restrooms are identified with braille signage and have adequate circulation space for wheelchairs. Trailheads are located on a firm, gently sloping gravel route approximately 100 feet from the parking lot. Trailhead signage includes information on trail conditions, surface, length, and grade. A picnic table and recycling receptacle are located on natural surfaces near the parking lot and trailheads. Improvements that can be made at Zumwalt Trail include the addition of a second accessible parking stall near the restrooms, minor improvements to features in the restrooms, and improvements to routes connecting services, including the addition of a curb cut between the parking lot and restroom. Consider making a note in accessibility messaging for this area that trail conditions may not meet accessibility requirements, especially in spring when wet and poor weather may impact the trail.

The following improvements to this park area are planned:

### 01 Car Parking

- 1) Improve the parking stall to have a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 2) Provide one additional standard accessible parking stall 8' minimum in width with a 5' minimum width access aisle. It shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 2% maximum slope in all directions.
- 3) Install an accessible parking sign to be 60" minimum above the ground to the bottom of the sign.

long-term

### 02 Accessible Route

- 1) Provide curb cuts on accessible routes.

long-term

### 03 Men's and Women's Restrooms

- 1) Replace the grab bars with units that have no more than 1 ½" space between their inner edges and the wall.

- 2) Relocate the toilet paper dispenser below the side wall grab bar. The top of it shall be at least 1 ½" from the bottom of the grab bar. Ensure that the toilet paper is between 7" and 9" from the front of the toilet.
- 3) Install a partition on the side wall to hold the grab bar and toilet paper dispenser. The partition shall be between 16" and 18" from the centerline of the toilet.

short-term

#### 04

#### Accessible Route

- 1) Provide an accessible route to the recycling receptacles and picnic table or relocate them to accessible locations. The route shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant at a 5% maximum running slope and 2% maximum cross slope.

long-term

#### 05

#### Trailhead Signage

- 1) Provide signage at the trailhead that details trail conditions, including trail length, surface type, typical and maximum running and cross slopes, and typical and minimum tread width. Other recommended information includes providing a description of potential obstacles, distances to experiences and/or features, and graphics, such as a cross-section that demonstrates slope conditions.

mid-term



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Park Features

01



02



10 Captioning and Assistive Lis...

Captioning, audio description, and assistive information desks. Receivers are compatible w programs.

Lodging

Wuksachi Lodge has rooms with visual alarms and 807-3598.

Contact Information

TTY Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339

Voice Carry Over (VCO): (877) 877-6280

Text-to-Speech: (877) 877-8980

Spanish

15



NPS.gov / Park Home / Plan Your Visit / Accessibility

Accessible Fea

17



## Implementation Strategy

Park policies and practices are specific to the park unit and provide guidance for reaching desired outcomes. Park policies are defined courses of action adopted by the park, while park practices are those habitual and/or customary performances of operations that the park employs.

## Posting and Publications

### 01 Accessibility Flyers Posted in Common Areas

- 1) Place posters in common areas of staff and visitor buildings that provide accessibility-related information, including requirements, contacts, questions, and complaints.

short-term

### 02 Publications

- 1) Provide audio described publications.

long-term

- 2) Provide large-print format publications. Use a minimum readable typeface at 18-point font. Align flush left and rag right. Avoid hyphens. Use black or white type color and avoid red text. Avoid italicized and underlined text. Provide graphics with at least 70% contrast.
- 3) Add accessibility information in all publications, as they relate to services, activities, and programs.

mid-term

## Staff Training and Park Protocols

### 03 Accessibility Awareness Training

- 1) Provide ongoing accessibility awareness training for all staff, including permanent and nonpermanent employees.

Immediate

### 04 Accessible Facilities and Maintenance Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for maintenance staff on planning, maintaining and constructing accessible facilities, including, but not limited to, restrooms, walks and trails, door pressure requirements, assistive devices, accessible routes, and universal design principles.

Immediate

## **05** Accessibility for Project Managers Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for project managers to address project accessibility requirements, (e.g., entering accessibility projects in Project Management Information System (PMIS), understanding universal design principles, and overseeing quality control of projects and designs).

Immediate

## **06** Accessible Interpretive Training

- 1) Provide ongoing training for the interpretation and education division.
- 2) Training may include, but is not limited to, how to evaluate programs for accessibility compliance; which websites offer more information; information about service animals; information about Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs); how and when to offer live audio description programming; accessibility specifications for interpretive tactile models and maps; what assistive technologies are available; universal design principles; visitor services and communication about accessibility. It is also important to provide regular and ongoing visitor information and interpretive staff training in use of, distribution, and procedures for wheelchairs and assistive technology—assistive listening devices, T-coil hearing loops, neck loops, and text telephone machines.

Immediate

## **07** Communication with Law Enforcement

- 1) Provide a standard operation procedure that outlines methods for law enforcement to communicate with a person with a disability.

mid-term

## **08** Emergency Preparedness

- 1) Develop, distribute, and practice standard operating procedures for assisting people with disabilities in the case of an emergency.

mid-term

## **09** Movable Seating

- 1) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable cubicles and conference rooms, so there is adequate clear space and accessible routes to all elements in a room or building. Post a map in an area with accessible layout and instructions for use of the space.

Immediate



- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures for movable seating arrangements and moving things to create an accessible route and maintain integrated accessible seating. Post a map in an area with accessible layout and instructions for use of the space.

mid-term

## Audio and Visual Programs

### 10 Assistive Listening Devices and Neckloops

- 1) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance for checking out and returning assistive listening devices.
- 2) Develop and distribute standard operating procedures or guidance describing protocol for pre -and post-inspection of the devices and for cleaning and maintaining all devices.

immediate

### 11 Live Audio Description

- 1) Provide live audio descriptions on guided interpretive tours when needed.
- 2) Communicate the availability of live audio description for guided tours.

Long-term

## Visitor Information

### 12 Communication

- 1) Provide park e-mail address and telephone number on the park's website and in publications for questions.

short-term

### 13 Reservations

- 1) On the park website, identify the following Federal Relay Service phone numbers: Voice (1-866-377-8642), Voice Carry Over (1-877-877-6280), Speech-to-Speech (1-877-877-8982), and Telebraille (1-866-893-8340). Note that for some of these services (Voice and Voice Carry Over), a user may also dial 711.

short-term

## **14** Signage

- 1) Provide signage at visitor centers that states availability of accessible alternative formats.

mid-term

## **15** Website

- 1) Provide information on the park's website that accessible programs, services, and activities are available, including, but not limited to, audio description, assistive listening devices, Braille/tactile features, accessible tours, open captioning, trails, etc.

short-term

## **Tours, Programs, and Special Events**

### **16** Tours (Guided and Self-Guided), Educational Programs, and Special Events

- 1) Provide designated stopping points or resting areas for the tour, education program, or special event, with 2% maximum cross and running slopes, firm and stable surfaces, and a minimum 30" by 48" clear space.

long-term

### **17** Special Events

- 1) Provide a system for people to call in and request a sign language interpreter within five days of service. Provide assistive listening devices and a T-coil or neck loop system. Post signage indicating devices and systems are available for special events. Provide large print of any handouts or waivers being provided.
- 2) Develop and distribute a standard operating procedure on how to post accessibility information and how to request accommodations on event announcements.

short-term

## Concessions and Partnerships

**18**

### **Park Partner, Lessee, and Concessionaire Services, Activities, and Programs**

- 1) Architectural Barriers Act for Accessibility Standards applies to all lands funded by the federal government. Communicate with park partner and/or concessioners to ensure accessible services, activities, and programs are provided. The National Park Service will conduct an assessment, develop a transition plan, and address park partner concessioner services.

long-term

## CONCLUSION

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are committed to providing all visitors the opportunity to connect with and learn about the park's unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Accessibility improvements identified in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan will make it easier for individuals with cognitive, hearing, vision, and mobility disabilities to discover, understand, and enjoy the range of experiences available at the park. Implementation of the plan will ensure that Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks will continue to work toward accommodating all park visitors while sustaining its legacy to preserve and protect the largest and most pristine portion of the southern Sierra Nevada range, natural ecosystems, and cultural resources along the diminishing undeveloped coastline of the United States.

The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is a living document intended to be used as a guiding reference for the park as it implements accessibility upgrades and documents accessibility accomplishments. As barriers to accessibility are removed and/or improved, the changes will be updated in this plan. The park will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate and update conditions to reflect accomplishments and to document new programs or other changes that occur over time. Revisions to the plan may include conducting additional assessments for areas not originally conducted as a part of this plan.

The primary goal of the transition plan is to define key park experiences and document modifications needed to provide independent program participation for the widest range of disabilities possible. As the park works towards its accessibility goals and makes the implementation strategy a reality, both physical and programmatic accessibility will improve across the breadth of key park experiences at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

For visitors with mobility disabilities, access will be improved from the moment they enter the park. Facilities, as well as numerous programs, services, and activities the park offers will be more universally accessible. Experiences such as viewing iconic trees, wildlife, and overlooks, camping in the wilderness, picnicking with friends and family, and learning about the human history and environment of the park, will be enhanced.

Park programs will be created and delivered for all visitors, including visitors with mild to severe disabilities impacting their mobility, vision, hearing, and/or cognitive abilities. Ranger led walks/talks, visitor center exhibits, films, trail waysides, and all materials that interpret park resources to the public will be provided in formats that allow visitors with disabilities to participate fully. Some of those formats include, but are not limited to: large-print transcripts for printer materials, audio description for exhibits and films, assistive listening devices and sign language interpreters for ranger-led tours and programs, T-coil hearing loops for park films.



Over time, the results of this collective effort will make Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks a truly welcoming and accommodating place for all visitors and will provide equal opportunity to access the many places, resources, stories, and experiences the park has to offer.

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## **APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS**

As national parks, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are required to comply with specific federal laws that mandate that discriminatory barriers be removed to provide equal opportunities to persons with disabilities. The following laws, design guidelines, and Director's Orders specifically pertain to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

### **LAWS AND STANDARDS**

A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision. A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

#### **Architectural Barriers Act of 1968**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards/guide-to-the-aba-standards>

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 requires physical access to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with federal funds. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) are the design guidelines used as the basis for enforcement of the law. The UFAS regulations were adopted in 1984. Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were revised and adopted in November 2005. Four federal agencies are responsible for the standards: the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the General Services Administration, and the US Postal Service. The United States Access Board was created to enforce the Architectural Barriers Act, which it does through the investigation of complaints. Anyone concerned about the accessibility of a facility that may have received federal funds can easily file a complaint with the United States Access Board.

#### **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

To the extent that section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 applies to departments and agencies of the federal government, the parks operated by the National Park Service are subject to the provisions of that statute. As will be discussed in the following text, both section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act require the application of stringent access standards to new construction and the alteration of existing facilities. The Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978 (PL 95-602) extends the scope of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (PL

93-112) to include Executive Branch agencies of the federal government. As amended, section 504 states:

Section 504: No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, as defined in Section 7 (6), shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance or under any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency or by the United States Postal Service. The head of each such agency shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the amendments to this section made by the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Act of 1978. Copies of any proposed regulation shall be submitted to appropriate authorizing committees of Congress, and such regulation may take effect no earlier than the thirtieth day after the date on which such regulation is so submitted to such committees.

As noted above, section 504 and the Architectural Barriers Act govern new construction and alterations. However, as a civil rights law, section 504 goes further. Unlike the construction-driven ABA mandates, section 504 also requires covered entities to consider the accessibility of programs, services, and activities.

### **Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

<http://www.section508.gov/>

In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology (EIT) accessible to people with disabilities. Inaccessible technology interferes with an ability to obtain and use information quickly and easily. Section 508 was enacted to eliminate barriers in information technology, open new opportunities for people with disabilities, and encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals. The law applies to all federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. Under section 508 (29 USC §794 d), agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to access available to others. It is recommended that you review the laws and regulations discussed in the following sections to further your understanding about section 508 and how you can support implementation.

### **Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas/final-guidelines-for-outdoor-developed-areas>

Achieving accessibility in outdoor environments has long been a source of inquiry because of challenges and constraints posed by terrain, the degree of development, construction practices and materials, and other factors. The new provisions address access to trails, picnic and camping areas, viewing areas, beach access routes, and other components of outdoor developed areas on federal sites when newly built or altered. They also provide exceptions for situations where terrain and other factors make compliance impracticable.

In 2013, this final rule amended the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines by adding scoping and technical requirements for camping facilities, picnic facilities, viewing areas, trails, and beach access routes constructed or altered by or on behalf of federal agencies. The final rule ensures that these facilities are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The final rule applies to the following federal agencies and their components that administer outdoor areas developed for recreational purposes: Department of Agriculture (Forest Service); Department of Defense (Army Corps of Engineers); and Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service). The final rule also applies to nonfederal entities that construct or alter recreation facilities on federal land on behalf of the federal agencies pursuant to a concession contract, partnership agreement, or similar arrangement.

### **Accessibility Standards for Shared Use Paths**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/shared-use-paths>

Shared use paths provide a means of off-road transportation and recreation for various users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, and others, including people with disabilities. In its rulemaking on public rights-of-way and on trails and other outdoor developed areas, comments from the public urged the board to address access to shared use paths because they are distinct from sidewalks and trails. Shared-use paths, unlike most sidewalks, are physically separated from streets by an open space or barrier. They also differ from trails because they are designed not just for recreation purposes but for transportation as well.

In response, the board is supplementing its rulemaking on public rights-of-way to also cover shared-use paths. The proposed rights-of-way guidelines, which address access to sidewalks, streets, and other pedestrian facilities, provide requirements for pedestrian access routes, including specifications for route width, grade, cross slope, surfaces, and other features. The board proposes to apply these and other relevant requirements to shared-use paths as well. This supplementary rulemaking also would add provisions tailored to shared-use paths into the rights-of-way guidelines.

### **Draft Accessibility Standards for Public Rights-of-Way**

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way>

Sidewalks, street crossings, and other elements in the public right-of-way can pose challenges to accessibility. The United States Access Board's ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines focus mainly on facilities on sites. While they address certain features common to public sidewalks, such as curb ramps, further guidance is necessary to address conditions and constraints unique to public rights-of-way.

The board is developing new guidelines for public rights-of-way that will address various issues, including access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-



street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain. The new guidelines will cover pedestrian access to sidewalks and streets, including crosswalks, curb ramps, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other components of public rights-of-way. The board's aim in developing these guidelines is to ensure that access for persons with disabilities is provided wherever a pedestrian way is newly built or altered, and that the same degree of convenience, connection, and safety afforded the public generally is available to pedestrians with disabilities. Once these guidelines are adopted by the Department of Justice, they will become enforceable standards under ADA Title II.

## **Effective Communication**

<http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>

People who have vision, hearing, or speech disabilities ("communication disabilities") use different ways to communicate. For example, people who are blind may give and receive information audibly rather than in writing and people who are deaf may give and receive information through writing or sign language rather than through speech. The ADA requires that Title II entities (state and local governments) and Title III entities (businesses and nonprofit organizations that serve the public) communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities. The goal is to ensure that communication with people with disabilities is equally effective as communication with people without disabilities.

- The purpose of the effective communication rules is to ensure that the person with a vision, hearing, or speech disability can communicate with, receive information from, and convey information to, the covered entity.
- Covered entities must provide auxiliary aids and services when needed to communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities.
- The key to communicating effectively is to consider the nature, length, complexity, and context of the communication and the person's normal method(s) of communication.

The rules apply to communicating with the person who is receiving the covered entity's goods or services, as well as with that person's parent, spouse, or companion in appropriate circumstances.

## **Reasonable Accommodations**

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/>

Federal agencies are required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified employees with disabilities. The federal government may provide reasonable accommodation based on appropriate requests (unless so doing will result in undue hardship to the agencies). For more information, see the Equal Employment Opportunity

Commission's [Enforcement Guidance: Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship under the Americans with Disabilities Act \(external link\)](#).

Reasonable accommodations can apply to the duties of the job and/or where and how job tasks are performed. The accommodation should make it easier for the employee to successfully perform the duties of the position. Examples of reasonable accommodations include providing interpreters, readers, or other personal assistance; modifying job duties; restructuring work sites; providing flexible work schedules or work sites (i.e., telework); and providing accessible technology or other workplace adaptive equipment. [Telework \(external link\)](#) provides employees additional flexibility by allowing them to work at a geographically convenient alternative worksite, such as home or a telecenter, on an average of at least one day per week.

Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. To request reasonable accommodations:

- Look at the vacancy announcement.
- Work directly with person arranging the interviews.
- Contact the agency [Selective Placement Program Coordinator](#).
- Contact the hiring manager and engage in an interactive process to clarify what the person needs and identify reasonable accommodations.
- Make an oral or written request; no special language is needed.

### **Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices**

<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAREgs2010.htm>

The definition and regulation to permit the use of mobility devices has been amended. The rule adopts a two-tiered approach to mobility devices, drawing distinctions between wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices such as the Segway Human Transporter. Wheelchairs (and other devices designed for use by people with mobility impairments) must be permitted in all areas open to pedestrian use. Other power-driven mobility devices must be permitted for use unless the covered entity can demonstrate that such use would fundamentally alter its programs, services, or activities, create a direct threat, or create a safety hazard. The rule also lists factors to consider in making this determination.

## Service Animals

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/service-animals.htm>

The following is excerpted from the Department of Justice and Americans with Disabilities Act Revised Regulations (effective 3/15/2011).

34.104 Definitions: Service animal means any dog [or miniature horse as outlined in the following text] that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

- a. General. Generally, a public entity shall modify its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability.
- b. Exceptions. A public entity may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if-
  - (1) The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or
  - (2) The animal is not housebroken.
- c. If an animal is properly excluded. If a public entity properly excludes a service animal under § 35.136(b), it shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises.
- d. Animal under handler's control. A service animal shall be under the control of its handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means).

- e. Care or supervision. A public entity is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.
- f. Inquiries. A public entity shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, but may make two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal. A public entity may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. A public entity shall not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. Generally, a public entity may not make these inquiries about a service animal when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability).
- g. Access to areas of a public entity. Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of a public entity's facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.
- h. Surcharges. A public entity shall not ask or require an individual with a disability to pay a surcharge, even if people accompanied by pets are required to pay fees, or to comply with other requirements generally not applicable to people without pets. If a public entity normally charges individuals for the damage they cause, an individual with a disability may be charged for damage caused by his or her service animal.
- i. Miniature horses.
  - (1) Reasonable modifications. A public entity shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
  - (2) Assessment factors. In determining whether reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures can be made to allow a miniature horse into a specific facility, a public entity shall consider-
    - i. The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
    - ii. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
    - iii. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
    - iv. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

(C) Other requirements. Paragraphs 35.136 (c) through (h) of this section, which apply to service animals, shall also apply to miniature horses.

### **Section 17.549 Program Accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.549>

Except as otherwise provided in §17.550, no qualified handicapped person shall, because the agency's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by handicapped persons, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by the agency.

The reference to §17.550 in the below quotes is intended to address exclusions available to covered entities in connection with existing facilities.

### **Section 17.550 Program Accessibility: Existing Facilities**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>

**(a) General.** The agency shall operate each program or activity so that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This paragraph does not:

- (1) Necessarily require the agency to make each of its existing facilities or every part of a facility accessible to and usable by people with disabilities;
- (2) In the case of historic preservation programs, require the agency to take any action that would result in a substantial impairment of significant historic features of an historic property; or
- (3) Require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with §17.550(a) would result in such an alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the agency head or his or her designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that handicapped persons receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.



## **(b) Methods.**

- (1) **General.** The agency may comply with the requirements of this section through such means as redesign of equipment, reassignment of services to accessible locations, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, home visits, delivery of services at alternate accessible sites, alteration of existing facilities and construction of new facilities, use of accessible rolling stock, or any other methods that result in making its programs or activities readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. The agency is not required to make structural changes in existing facilities where other methods are effective in achieving compliance with this section. The agency, in making alterations to existing buildings, shall meet accessibility requirements to the extent compelled by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 USC 4151–4157) and any regulations implementing it. In choosing among available methods for meeting the requirements of this section, the agency shall give priority to those methods that offer programs and activities to qualified handicapped persons in the most integrated setting appropriate.
- (2) **Historic preservation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section in historic preservation programs, the agency shall give priority to methods that provide physical access to handicapped persons. In cases where a physical alteration to an historic property is not required because of paragraph (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this section, alternative, methods of achieving program accessibility include:
  - (i) Using audio-visual materials and devices to depict those portions of an historic property that cannot otherwise be made accessible;
  - (ii) Assigning persons to guide people with disabilities into or through portions of historic properties that cannot otherwise be made accessible; or
  - (iii) Adopting other innovative methods.
- (3) **Recreation programs.** In meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) in recreation programs, the agency shall provide that the program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. When it is not reasonable to alter natural and physical features, accessibility may be achieved by alternative methods as noted in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

## **Section 17.551 Program Accessibility: New Construction and Alterations**

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.551>

Each building or part of a building that is constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of the agency shall be designed, constructed, or altered so as to be readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. The definitions, requirements, and standards of the Architectural Barriers Act (42 USC 4151–4157) as established in 41 CFR 101 – 19.600 to 101 – 19.607 apply to buildings covered by this section.

## **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR'S ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

### **Director's Order 16A**

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder16a.html>

Director's Order 16A establishes the framework for meeting reasonable accommodation requirements in all areas of employment, including: application, hiring, retention, promotion, recognition, and special hiring authority. Within this framework, NPS Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Program officials will take the lead in providing specific guidance and services to applicants, employees, and supervisors and other managers with respect to the provision of reasonable accommodation.

### **Director's Order 42**

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder42.html>

Director's Order 42 addresses accessibility for visitors with disabilities in National Park Service programs and services. It is the goal of the National Park Service to ensure that all people, including persons with disabilities, have the highest level of access that is reasonable to NPS programs, facilities, and services. The order gives detailed guidance based on the minimum requirements set forth in laws, rules, and regulations with the goal to provide the highest level of access that is reasonable, exceeding the minimum level of access required by law. The order sets forth six implementation strategies:

1. to increase employee awareness and technical understanding of accessibility requirements
2. to ensure all new and renovated buildings and facilities, and all new services and programs (including those offered by concessioners and interpreters) will be "universally designed" and implemented in conformance with applicable regulations and standards
3. to ensure existing programs, facilities and services will be evaluated to determine the degree to which they are currently accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities
4. to ensure that barriers that limit access be identified and incorporated into the NPS Assets Management Program
5. to develop action plans identifying how identified barriers will be removed (where feasible)
6. to ensure action will be taken on a day-to-day basis to eliminate identified barriers, using existing operational funds or other funding sources or partnerships

## **National Park Service Management Policies: Section 1.9.3 – Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**

<http://www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html>

All practicable efforts will be made to make NPS facilities, programs, services, employment, and meaningful work opportunities accessible and usable by all people, including those with disabilities. This policy reflects the commitment to provide access to the widest cross section of the public and ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Specific guidance for implementing these laws is found in the Secretary of the Interior's regulations regarding enforcement and nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in Department of the Interior programs (43 CFR par 17, subpart E), and the General Service Administration's regulations adopting accessibility standards for the Architectural Barriers Act (41 CFR part 102-76, subpart C).

A primary principle of accessibility is that, to the highest degree practicable, people with disabilities should be able to participate in the same programs, activities, and employment opportunities available to everyone else. In choosing among methods of providing accessibility, higher priority will be given to methods that offer programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate. Special, separate, or alternative facilities, programs, or services will be provided only when existing ones cannot reasonably be made accessible. The determination of what is practicable will be made only after careful consultations with persons with disabilities or their representatives. Any decisions that would result in less than equal opportunity is subject to the filing of an official disability right complaint under the departmental regulations cited above.

### **GUIDELINES**

A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

### **Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media**

<http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/>

The "Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media" is for media specialists, superintendents, and other NPS employees and contractors who develop and approve interpretive media. Publications, exhibits, audiovisual programs and tours, wayside exhibits, signage, and web-based media provide park visitors with information and context so that their experience of visiting national parks can be both safe and meaningful. Park visitors who have physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities have legally established civil rights to receive the same information and context that NPS interpretive media products have always provided to their fellow citizens.

## APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Accessibility assessment:** A process in which physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility are identified at a park unit.

**Accessibility assessment team:** This group is a subgroup of the Interdisciplinary Design Team (see definition below) and includes an accessibility specialist and/or technician, coordinators, a regional representative, the primary facilitator for the process, architect, engineer and/or landscape architect, and typically the chiefs of interpretation, resources management, and facilities management.

**Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan:** A tool that establishes a methodical process for identifying and improving parkwide access and proposes strategies for implementing the plan over time, in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

**Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS):** Standards issued under the Architectural Barriers Act apply to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with certain federal funds. Passed in 1968, the Architectural Barriers Act is one of the first laws to address access to the built environment. The law applies to federal buildings, including post offices, social security offices, federal courthouses and prisons, and national parks.

**Barrier:** Architectural and programmatic obstacles to accessibility that make it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for people with disabilities to maneuver, understand, or experience.

**Best practice:** A method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark for meeting accessibility requirements.

**Consultation:** A formal or informal process for discussing an action or process for implementing a solution, such as section 106 (cultural resource compliance), or design for an Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

**Facility Management Software System (FMSS) work order:** The process for documenting work needs and collecting information to aid the work scheduling and assignment process within the Facility Management Software System. Information collected should include labor, equipment and material costs, hours, types, and quantities.

**Guideline:** A guideline is an indication of a future course of action. It consists of recommended, nonmandatory controls that help support standards or serve as a reference when no applicable standard is in place.

**Interdisciplinary design team:** This team is composed of all the people involved in the workshop at the park unit, potentially including planning, design, and construction professionals; and interpretive, resource (natural and cultural), visitor safety, maintenance and accessibility specialists.

**Key park experience:** For the purpose of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, key park experiences are those experiences that are iconic and essential for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of a given park unit. They are those experiences that are “musts” for all park visitors. Key park experiences can be identified through a consideration of park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and those programs or activities highlighted in park communications.

**Law:** A law is a principle and regulation established in a community by some authority and applicable to its people, whether in the form of legislation or of custom and policies recognized and enforced by judicial decision.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements:** NEPA defines a process that federal agencies must follow when proposing to take actions that have environmental impacts. NEPA requires federal agencies to fully consider the impacts of proposals that would affect the human environment prior to deciding to take an action. NEPA also requires federal agencies to involve the interested and affected public in the decision-making process.

**Park area:** A park area is the geographic location that is home to a single or multiple key park experience(s).

**Park Asset Management Plan-Optimizer Banding (PAMP-OB):** Provides a 5-year asset management strategy for park units, allowing for annual updates that coincide with the budget and planning processes already occurring in park units. As this approach includes life cycle total cost of ownership, analysis, processing, and calculations, it also helps park units and the service as a whole to manage the gap between what should be spent on facilities and what is actually being spent.

**Park policy:** A policy is a definite course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, or political party. It is an action or procedure conforming to or considered with reference to prudence or expediency.

**Park practice:** Those habitual and/or customary performances or operations for reaching a desired outcome that the park employs.

**People-first language:** A type of disability etiquette that aims to avoid perceived and subconscious dehumanization when discussing people with disabilities. It emphasizes the person rather than the disability, noting that the disability is not the primary defining characteristic of the individual but one of several aspects of the whole person.

**Project Management Information System (PMIS) Facility:** A separate and individual building, structure, or other constructed real property improvement.

**Project Management Information System (PMIS) Nonfacility:** A project that includes anything not covered by the definition for PMIS facility

**Project Management Information System (PMIS) # (number):** A unique Project ID Number that is automatically generated when adding a new project into the Project Management Information System



**Project planning team:** This group is a subgroup of the interdisciplinary design team and includes DSC planners and PWR staff. This team collects baseline data, facilitates calls, develops the participant guide, plans for and facilitates the workshop, and produces the draft and final documents.

**Readily achievable:** Easily accomplished and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense.

**Recommended solution:** The action to eliminate the identified barrier.

**Responsible person:** The person/position responsible for seeing that the elimination of a barrier is completed.

**Service, activity, and program:** A service, activity, or program that is undertaken by a department and affords benefits, information, opportunities, and activities to one or more members of the public.

**Standard:** A standard is something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model. It is a specific low-level mandatory control that helps enforce and support a law.

**Time frame:** Time frames for implementation of a recommended solution are primarily based on park's ability of the park to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects. They describe when staff will eliminate the barrier. Recommended solutions are divided into four time frames including: immediate, short-term, mid-term, and long-term.

## **APPENDIX C: CONTRIBUTORS**

### **SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS**

Ned Aldrich, Roads, Automotive and Trails

Philip Gross, Sequoia Maintenance

Brian Horton, Landscape Architect & Project Manager

Clay Jordan, Superintendent

Richard Malding, Kings Canyon Maintenance

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### **REGIONAL OFFICE SERVING INTERIOR REGIONS 8, 9, 10, AND 12**

Suzanne Brinkley, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Patricia (Peetz) Brouillette, Project Manager, Regional Accessibility Coordinator

### **DENVER SERVICE CENTER**

Mindy Burke, Contract Editor

Laurie Domler, Community Planner

Colin Heffern, Landscape Architect

Marc Kochheiser, Landscape Architect

Kim Shafer, Project Manager

[Add VIS], Visual Information Specialist

## APPENDIX D: PARK AREAS NOT ASSESSED

The following park areas are those not assessed for this Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. The selection process determined that key park experiences provided in these park areas were available in an equivalent way within the areas that were assessed. If any of the park areas not assessed are improved by new construction or alterations in the future, the area will be assessed and improved to comply with the current Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards.

Rationales are provided below for park areas not assessed for this plan:

Park Area	Rationale
<b>Amphitheater Point Lookout</b>	This park area is connected to four key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, conservation, and educational and interpretive activities. It has relatively low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at Panoramic Point and Beetle Rock.
<b>Ash Mountain Rec Hall</b>	This park area is not connected to any key park experiences. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. The structure is historic.
<b>Bear Paw High Sierra Camp</b>	This park area is connected to four key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, geologic features, wilderness, and recreational activities. The distance to this area from the other areas being assessed was too great, and performing an assessment was not feasible during this planning effort. Similar key park experiences can be found at the Lodgepole Visitor Center, or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Big Fern Springs</b>	This park area is connected to one key park experience: diverse ecosystems. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. A similar key park experience can be found at the Historic Entrance Sign (Generals Highway Pull-Offs).
<b>Big Stump</b>	This park area is connected to six key park experiences, including sequoias, diverse ecosystems, geologic features, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. It has relatively low visitation levels and a relatively low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Although it is an area of snow play and is the only location to interpret logging history, it did not rise to priority for assessment. Similar key park experiences can be found at Columbine Day Use Area, Grant Tree, General Sherman Tree Area, Grant Village, and the Giant Forest Area.
<b>Bike Path</b>	This park area is connected to three key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, and recreational activities. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. It is a utility corridor. Similar key park experiences can be found at Sentinel Campground, Cedar Grove, and Roads End.
<b>Buena Vista Peak Trail and Trailhead</b>	This park area is connected to five key park experiences, including sequoias, diverse ecosystems, geologic features, wilderness, and recreational activities. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs.

Park Area	Rationale
	The topography is quite steep and would be difficult to make accessible. Similar key park experiences can be found at Panoramic Point.
<b>Canyon View</b>	This park area is connected to five key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, and conservation. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at Roads End, and Cedar Grove Visitor Center.
<b>Canyon View Group Campground</b>	This park area is connected to three key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, and recreational activities. It has relatively high visitation levels but a relatively low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at Sentinel Campground.
<b>Cattle Cabin</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences: sequoias and human history. This area was determined to be too difficult to access with the vehicles available to the assessment team. Similar key park experiences can be found at Grant Tree.
<b>Cedar Grove Concessions</b>	This park area is connected to one key park experience: recreational activities. The concessions have relatively high visitation levels but a relatively low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Although this is the only lodging and food service option in the area away from gateway communities and it is critical to the Cedar Grove subdistrict, it was determined that concessions would undertake their own accessibility assessment at a later date. Similar key park experiences can be found at Grant Grove Village.
<b>Cedar Grove Entrance Sign</b>	This park area is connected to one key park experience: diverse ecosystems. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. A similar key park experience can be found at the Historic Entrance Sign (Generals Highway Pull-Offs).
<b>Cedar Grove Pack Station</b>	This park area is connected to one key park experience: recreational activities. It is operated by concessions and has relatively low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. A similar key park experience can be found at the Lodgepole Visitor Center and Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Cedar Grove Scattered Picnic Day Use</b>	This park area is connected to three key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, and recreational activities. It has relatively low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at Muir Rock Area.
<b>Crystal Cave Day Use Area</b>	This park area is connected to seven key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, conservation, human history, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. It has relatively high visitation levels but a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. This area affords visitors the only access to a cave in the park; however, it is a very steep trail and physical accessibility would be difficult to provide. There is currently no equivalent experience at the park, but a new film is being created that will provide a Crystal Cave experience for those who are unable to access the cave.

Park Area	Rationale
<b>Crystal Springs Campground and Group Loop</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems and recreational activities. It has relatively low visitation levels and a relatively low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at Azalea Campground.
<b>Deer Ridge</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences: diverse ecosystems and wilderness. This area was under construction at the time of the assessment. Similar key park experiences can be found at Panoramic Point and Beetle Rock.
<b>Don Cecil Trail and Trailhead</b>	This park area is connected to five key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, wilderness, human history, and recreational activities. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. The trail is very steep and would be difficult to make physically accessible. Similar key park experiences can be found at Panoramic Point.
<b>Dorst Campground</b>	This park area is connected to five key park experiences, including sequoias, diverse ecosystems, wilderness, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. It has relatively high visitation levels but a relatively low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at Lodgepole Campground.
<b>Eleven Range Overlook</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences: Diverse ecosystems and wilderness. This area was under construction at the time of the assessment. Similar key park experiences can be found at Panoramic Point and Beetle Rock.
<b>Farewell Gap Franklin Lakes Trailhead</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences: wilderness and diverse ecosystems. The distance to this area from the other areas being assessed was too great, and performing an assessment was not feasible during this planning effort. Similar key park experiences can be found at the Lodgepole Visitor Center immersive scene of subalpine and alpine wilderness or "Gem of the Sierra" film features at the Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Grant Grove Stables</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences, including sequoias and recreational activities. It is operated by concessions, has relatively low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. It is a steep area. Similar key park experiences can be found at the Lodgepole Visitor Center and Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Halstead Picnic Area</b>	This park area is connected to four key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, and recreational activities. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. The area is steep. Similar key park experiences can be found at Grant Grove Village and Crescent Meadow.
<b>Hotel Creek Trail</b>	This park area is connected to four key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, wilderness, and recreational activities. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. The trail is impossibly steep and cannot be made accessible. Similar key park experiences can be found at Zumwalt Trail.
<b>Kanawyers</b>	This park area is connected to three key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, and recreational activities. It has low visitation



Park Area	Rationale
	levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at Zumwalt Trail.
<b>Kings Canyon Overlook</b>	This park area is connected to five key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, and conservation. It has relatively low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. The area has existing plans for accessibility upgrades at this area.
<b>Knapp's Cabin</b>	This park area is connected to five key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, and conservation. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. The area already has plans for accessibility upgrades. Similar key park experiences can be found at Grant Tree Trail.
<b>Lewis Creek Trailhead</b>	This park area is connected to four key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, wilderness, and recreational activities. It has relatively low visitation levels and a relatively low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at Panoramic Point.
<b>Little Baldy Saddle Trail and Trailhead</b>	This park area is connected to four key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, wilderness, and recreational activities. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. The trail is impossibly steep and cannot be made accessible. Similar key park experiences can be found at Kings Canyon Overlook, Redwood Canyon Overlook (General's Highway Pull-offs), and Panoramic Point.
<b>Lost Grove Day Use Area</b>	This park area is connected to three key park experiences, including sequoias, diverse ecosystems, and recreational activities. It has relatively low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Accessibility was improved here through the Generals Highway repaving project in 2019-2020.
<b>Mineral King Area</b>	This park area is connected to five key park experiences: including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, water resources, wilderness, and conservation. Although this is a popular visitor destination, it was determined that the distance to this area from the other areas being assessed was too great, and it would be more beneficial to assess a similar area with greater levels of visitation. Similar key park experiences can be found at Cedar Grove.
<b>Moraine Campground</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems and recreational activities. It has relatively high levels of visitation and a relatively high diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at Sentinel Campground.
<b>North Fork Kaweah Trailhead</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences: wilderness, and recreational activities. The distance to this area from the other areas being assessed was too great, and performing an assessment was not feasible during this planning effort. Similar key park experiences can be found at Hospital Rock and Beetle Rock.
<b>Paradise Ridge Trailhead</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences: wilderness, and recreational activities. The distance to this area from the other areas being

Park Area	Rationale
	assessed was too great, and performing an assessment was not feasible during this planning effort. Similar key park experiences can be found at Cedar Grove.
<b>Redwood Canyon Trail and Trailhead</b>	This park area is connected to four key park experiences, including sequoias, diverse ecosystems, wilderness, and recreational activities. It has relatively low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at Redwood Canyon Overlook (General's Highway Pull-offs).
<b>Sheep Creek Campground</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems and recreational activities. It has relatively high visitation levels but a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at Sentinel Campground.
<b>Sequoia Entrance Sign (North)</b>	This park area is connected to one key park experience: diverse ecosystems. It has low visitation levels and a low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Accessibility was improved here through the Generals Highway repaving project in 2019-2020.
<b>South Fork Campground</b>	This park area is connected to four key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, wilderness, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. The distance to this area from the other areas being assessed was too great, and performing an assessment was not feasible during this planning effort. Similar key park experiences can be found at Potwisha Campground and Buckeye Campground.
<b>South Fork Trailhead</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences: wilderness, and recreational activities. The distance to this area from the other areas being assessed was too great, and performing an assessment was not feasible during this planning effort. Similar key park experiences can be found at Hospital Rock and Beetle Rock.
<b>Squatters Cabin</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences: sequoias, and human history. This area was determined to be too difficult to access with the vehicles available to the assessment team. Similar key park experiences can be found at Grant Tree.
<b>Tharp's Log</b>	This park area is connected to two key park experiences: sequoias and human history. This area was determined to be too difficult to access with the vehicles available to the assessment team. Similar key park experiences can be found at Grant Tree.
<b>Wilderness Ranger Stations, Campgrounds, Huts, and Concessions</b>	This park area is connected to four key park experiences: diverse ecosystems, geologic features, wilderness, and recreational activities. These areas are in remote locations and are difficult to access with the vehicles available to the assessment team and/or too great of a distance away from other areas being assessed, making an assessment infeasible during this planning effort. Similar key park experiences can be found at the Lodgepole Visitor Center and Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Wolverton</b>	This park area is connected to four key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, wilderness, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. It has relatively low visitation levels and a relatively low diversity of

Park Area	Rationale
	services, activities, and programs. It is a popular area for winter snow activities but does have wetlands. Similar key park experiences can be found at the General Sherman Tree Area, Giant Forest, and Crescent Meadow.
<b>Wolverton Public Stock Camp</b>	This park area is connected to three key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, wilderness, and recreational activities. It is operated by concessions, has low levels of visitation and a relatively low diversity of services, activities, and programs. Similar key park experiences can be found at the Lodgepole Visitor Center and Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Wuksachi</b>	This park area is connected to five key park experiences, including diverse ecosystems, geologic features, wilderness, recreational activities, and educational and interpretive activities. It has relatively high levels of visitation and a high diversity of services, activities, and programs. It is the only overnight lodging place in Sequoia National Park and is operated by concessions. Similar key park experiences can be found at Lodgepole Village and Giant Forest.

## APPENDIX E: ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PARK

**Identification no.** \_\_\_\_\_

Record this identification number in the implementation table where this action is identified. Use this template to track and document accessibility actions and accomplishments throughout the park.

### **Action Taken by Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks**

**Location:** Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

**Barrier:**

**Action taken:**

**Date work was completed:**

**PMIS Number(s) and Title(s):**

**Cost:**

**Photograph(s), sketches, or notes documenting completed work:**

**Submitted by:**

**Date:**

## APPENDIX F: GUIDANCE FOR PREPARING PMIS PACKAGES FOR ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

**Project description:** Clearly identify what improvements will be addressed as part of the package. Also identify the park location and facility for planned work. Reference work orders for all applicable types of planned work, e.g., deteriorated conditions to be improved (deferred maintenance), health and safety improvements, and code compliance issues such as accessibility improvements. Provide measurements of areas to be improved, e.g., square footage, lineal footage, etc.

**Project justification:** Reference the recently completed “Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan” for your park and the implementation strategy dates. Identify the number of visitors affected and other beneficial aspects of the project. You can cite legal and management policies as noted below:

- The Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968 requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. In addition, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires covered entities to consider the accessibility of programs, services, and activities. In 2006, the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities. Subsequently in 2011, standards for Recreational Facilities were added to ABAAS as Chapter 10.
- The National Park Service recommitted to making our parks and programs truly accessible to all in the “*A Call to Action*”. The recently released “*ALL IN! Accessibility in the National Park Service 2015-2020*” included three goals for improved visitor access. This project addresses: Goal 1: Create a welcoming environment by increasing the ability of the National Park Service to serve visitors and staff with disabilities; Goal 2: Ensure that new facilities and programs are inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities; and Goal 3: Upgrade existing facilities, programs, and services to be accessible to people with disabilities.

**Potential eligible fund sources:** Accessibility projects are potentially eligible for a number of NPS fund sources and can be competitive in regard to the capital investment strategy. The following is a list of possible fund sources:

1. Repair/rehabilitation program—identify all work orders that pertain for deferred maintenance, code compliance, health and safety, etc.
2. Flex park base—accessibility is a NPS emphasis area for years 2015-2020.
3. Recreation fee 80% park—excellent fund source for accessibility as the project provides for visitor improvements. This should be a top choice for Fee80 parks.
4. Recreation fee 20% park—excellent fund source for accessibility as the project provides for visitor improvements.
5. Concession/permitted facilities—consider these fund sources when the facility is included in a Concession contract or permit.



6. Regular cyclic maintenance—excellent fund source for replacement of picnic tables, grills, trash containers, etc.
7. Exhibit cyclic maintenance—excellent fund source for replacing non-compliant waysides, exhibits, etc.
8. FLHP—include accessibility improvements with parking lot, parking spaces, accessible routes, curb cuts, sidewalks, signage, etc. as part of road improvement projects where appropriate.
9. Line item construction (LIC) —if you have a project in the LIC program, ensure inclusion of all appropriate accessibility improvements.

**PMIS packages:** Conduct a search in PMIS for projects previously funded for accessibility.

## APPENDIX G: TRAIL SUMMARY SHEETS

[NAME OF TRAIL]

<b>Park Name</b>	Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks	—
<b>Trail Name</b>	[Name of trail]	—
<b>Segment</b>	[Segment information]	—
<b>Type</b>	—	—
<b>Length</b>	[Length information]	—
<b>Elevation Gain</b>	[Elevation gain] file]	—
<b>Elevation Loss</b>	[Elevation loss information]	—
<b>Trail Uses Allowed</b>	—	—
—	—	—
—	—	—
<b>Trail Uses NOT Allowed</b>	—	—
—	—	—
—	—	—
<b>Typical Grade</b>	[%]	Max = [X%]
Intermediate	—	—
Maximum	—	—
—	Standard Ramp Grade is [X%]	—
<b>Typical Cross Slope</b>	[%]	Max = [X%]
Intermediate	—	—
Maximum	—	—
<b>Typical Tread Width</b>	[X in (X cm)]	Min = [X in (X cm)]
Intermediate	—	—
Minimum	—	—
<b>Surface Type</b>	[Surface Type]	—
<b>Surface Category</b>	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]
—	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]
—	X % of Trail is [Surface Type]	—
<b>Firmness</b>	Typical: X	Minimum: X
<b>Stability</b>	Typical: X	Minimum: X

**Obstructions:**

<b>Type:</b>	<b>Size (Height):</b>	<b>Remaining Tread:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
X	X in (X cm)	X in (X cm)	X ft. (X m)
X	X in (X cm)	X in (X cm)	X ft. (X m)
X	X in (X cm)	X in (X cm)	X ft. (X m)

Warning: [Add notes from rtf file]

[Add notes from rtf file]

Signage created by Beneficial Designs Inc. from data collected by a Certified Trail Assessment Coordinator using the High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP).

## APPENDIX H: TRAIL ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

### **References:** Architectural Barrier Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS)

- Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements: Section F247 Trails, Section F216.13 Trailhead Signs
- Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities, Section 1017 Trails, Section 1019 Condition for Exceptions

**Background standards:** The ABAAS trail accessibility requirements are included in “Chapter 2 Scoping Requirements” and “Chapter 10 Recreation Facilities.” Refer to ABAAS for the complete standards prior to planning any trail work or conducting assessments; the following bullets highlight some pertinent sections of the standards in regard to conducting assessments:

- F216.13 Trailhead Signs. Where new trail information signs are provided at trailheads on newly constructed or altered trails designed for use by hikers or pedestrians, the signs shall comply with 1017.10.
- F247.1 General. Where a trail is designed for use by hikers or pedestrians and directly connects to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the requirements in 1017, the trail shall comply with 1017. A trail system may include a series of connecting trails. Only trails that directly connect to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the requirements in 1017 are required to comply with 1017.
- F247.1 Advisory Trails. Trails that have a designed use for hikers or pedestrians are required to comply with 1017. Trails that have a designed use for other than hikers or pedestrians are not required to comply with 1017.
- F247.2 Existing Trails. Where the original design, function, or purpose of an existing trail is changed and the altered portion of the trail directly connects to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the requirements in 1017, the altered portion of the trail shall comply with 1017.
- F247.4 Advisory Trail Facilities. Facilities are required to comply with F247.4 regardless of whether the trail complies with 1017. (Note: this includes camping facilities, picnic facilities, and viewing areas that must comply with appropriate standards.)
- F247.5 Outdoor Constructed Features. Where outdoor constructed features are provided on trails, other than within facilities specified in F247.4, at least 20 percent, but not less than one, of each type of outdoor constructed feature at each location shall comply with 1011.
- 1017.1 General. Trails shall comply with 1017.

- Exception 1. When an entity determines that a condition in 1019 (see below) does not permit full compliance with a specific provision in 1017 on a portion of a trail, the portion of the trail shall comply with the provision to the extent practicable.
- Exception 2. After applying Exception 1, when an entity determines that it is impracticable for the entire trail to comply with 1017, the trail shall not be required to comply with 1017.
- 1017.1 Advisory General Exception 2. An entity must apply Exception 1 before using Exception 2. The entity should consider the portions of the trail that can and cannot fully comply with the specific provisions in 1017 and the extent of compliance where full compliance cannot be achieved when determining whether it would be impracticable for the entire trail to comply with 1017. The determination is made on a case-by-case basis. Federal agencies must document the basis for their determination when using Exceptions 1 or 2 and must notify the Access Board when using Exception 2.
- 1019.1 General (Conditions for Exceptions). Exceptions to specific provisions in 1017 shall be permitted when an entity determines that any of the following conditions does not permit full compliance with the provision:
  - 1) Compliance is not practicable due to terrain.
  - 2) Compliance cannot be accomplished with the prevailing construction practices.
  - 3) Compliance would fundamentally alter the function or purpose of the facility or the setting.
  - 4) Compliance is limited or precluded by any of the following laws, or by decisions or opinions issued or agreements executed pursuant to any of the following laws:
    - Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.);
    - National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.);
    - National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 470 et seq.);
    - Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1131 et seq.); or
    - Other federal, state, or local law the purpose of which is to preserve threatened or endangered species; the environment; or archaeological, cultural, historical, or other significant natural features.
- 1019.1 Clarification. Entities should consider all design options before using the exceptions. On trails, the exceptions apply only on the portion of the route where the condition applies. The trail is required to fully comply with the provisions in 1017, as applicable, at all other portions of the route where the conditions do not apply. There are additional exceptions that apply to an entire trail in 1017.1.



**Identifying trails for assessments:** Parks vary considerably in what key experiences are provided to visitors. A small historical park may have minimal or no trails but will have various walks and outdoor recreation access routes providing universal access. Some parks may have a few identified trails that they provide for universal access. While at other parks, the primary key experience for visitors may be the recreational trail system.

There are various sources of information to inform a decision on which trails to assess as part of the SETP process. The following sources can be researched and actions taken when identifying what trails are appropriate for assessment:

Sources:

- Trails that the park has identified in visitor information as being wheelchair accessible to visitors with disabilities.
- There are five classifications of trails defined within FMSS including:
  - Class 1 primitive/undeveloped
  - Class 2 simple/minor development
  - Class 3 developed/improved
  - Class 4 highly developed
  - Class 5 fully developed.

Note: Class 4 and class 5 trails by definition have potential for universal access.

- FMSS trail listings in which parks have identified those trails that are ABA compliant and/or ABA designated trails. In December 2015, there were 98 trails in 32 parks identified in the region meeting those requirements.

Actions:

- Select a representative number of trails for assessment to provide visitors the maximum access to key park experiences. Eliminate those trails that are not practical because of terrain, cannot be altered to meet standards with prevailing construction practices, or exempt as a result of environmental or historical laws. For each trail, document within the park evaluation the reasons for elimination.
- Outdoor recreation facilities are often targeted in ABAAS to provide for access to at least 20% of the facilities but not less than one of each type of facility at each location. The 20% figure could be used as a general guide in identifying the number of trails to be assessed at various locations.
- Evaluate what is a reasonable expectation for making trail improvements in the 10-year time-frame of the transition plan. Possibly four to six trail assessments would be the maximum scheduling capacity for trail improvements at a park within 10 years. Identify planned trail assessments and improvements for each time frame category.

**Requirements for trail assessments:** ABAAS Section 1017 provides the access standards for constructing and altering trails. These standards shall also be used for the assessment process. It is critical to note that although a trail may not meet Section 1017 accessibility standards, all constructed facilities on the trail or at the destination must comply with ABAAS standards, i.e., camping, picnicking, view areas, restrooms and other constructed facilities. Many visitors with disabilities can navigate non-standard trails into the backcountry but upon arrival may be unable to use constructed facilities with physical barriers. The only exemption for backcountry facilities is the primitive outhouse with riser on a hole dug into the ground.

**Trailhead signs:** Trail information signs at trailheads shall include the following:

1. Length of the trail or trail segment
2. Surface type
3. Typical and minimum tread width
4. Typical and maximum running slope
5. Typical and maximum cross slope

**Conducting trail assessments:** The High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP) tool provides the most effective means of conducting trail assessments. This tool is a wheeled carriage (baby jogger size) with a mounted computer that stores photos, barrier observations, and field data such as length, running slope, and cross-slope measurements at designated intervals. A Rotational Penetrometer (RP) should be used in tandem with the HETAP tool to measure the firmness and stability of the trail surface. The data collected can be used for evaluating the trail in meeting ABAAS Section 1017 requirements, including trail length, width, surface, running slope, cross slope, and tread obstacles. The park can generate a report from the data to estimate and plan trail improvements. In addition, the data can be used in providing information for trailhead signage. The final HETAP trail data is presented in excel spreadsheets and should be left with the park for future planning purposes. If HETAP equipment is not available, information can be collected by a measuring wheel, tape measure, and smart level. (Note: The HETAP equipment is manufactured by Beneficial Design, Inc. and is used by several parks. Other manufacturers may carry this equipment.

# SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN JULY 2021

This Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, regional staff, and the Denver Service Center and is recommended for approval by the superintendent.

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**Approved**  
**Superintendent, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks**

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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[July 2021]

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