



# Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP)

Mount Rainier National Park  
Washington  
January 2024



A scenic landscape photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, there are green plants with small purple flowers. A small stream flows through the middle ground, surrounded by rocks and grass. In the background, there are steep, rocky mountains under a hazy sky. The sun is rising on the right side, creating a bright glow and lens flare.

# **National Park Service Interior Region 9**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mount Rainier National Park staff is dedicated to serving all park visitors to help them find meaning in the resources of the park and its stories. Park staff recently conducted an accessibility self-evaluation of park facilities, services, activities, and programs and drafted a transition plan that identifies opportunities for improvement and outlines critical steps towards implementing responsive solutions parkwide.

This accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan (SETP) 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. The team developed site plans identifying the location of accessibility barriers and opportunities for each assessed park area and crafted an implementation strategy to assist park staff in scheduling and performing required actions and documenting completed work. The team also assessed park policies, practices, communication, and training needs to improve access to elements of the park that lie outside of direct physical and programmatic access. The goals of the SETP 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.

### PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Mount Rainier National Park staff has made many strides to improve physical accessibility throughout the park. Picnic areas and campgrounds have designated accessible features parkwide. Generally, park areas have designated accessible parking spaces and firm routes to different site features. Ongoing updates to the Ohanapecosh area, including camping facilities and the visitor center, will incorporate accessibility requirements, allowing for an enhanced visitor experience.

Recurring findings related to physical accessibility were identified for parking areas, including accessible paths of travel, outdoor recreation routes, hiking trails, and visitor information areas, such as kiosks, bulletin boards, interpretive panels, and waysides. Often, these facilities and features were incorrectly scoped for accessibility or had surfaces with slopes that exceeded allowable standards, had items out of reach range, or were difficult or heavy to operate. Restroom amenities regularly did not meet required standards, and amenities offered for picnicking and camping, such as tables, fire rings, and water spigots, did not always meet appropriate access route and clearance standards.

Park staff has opportunities to provide access to unique experiences in the park. For example, stabilizing the ground surface and providing accessible camping features at Mowich Campground could provide a frontcountry and backcountry camping experience that is accessible. Additionally, the trail to Myrtle Falls could be greatly improved by providing level landings before and after steep slope sections and leveling the transition from pavement to the wood bridge to allow for views of Myrtle Falls.

## **PROGRAMMATIC ACCESSIBILITY**

Mount Rainier National Park has made improvements to programmatic accessibility in recent years. On the park's website, visitors can find information on accessible features throughout the park to help with pre-trip planning. The park app provides visitors with an accessible experience while in the park, including alternative text and audio description for images and displaying where accessible features are on-site. The park's largest visitor center, the Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center, has assistive listening devices, audio description for all on-site videos, and a tactile map of the park. Additionally, a quiet area is designated at the Paradise Visitor Center to provide space for visitors who may need to take a break from high levels of stimulation.

Recurring findings related to program accessibility were identified for park publications, waysides, exhibits, and programs. Many interpretive waysides had font and contrast issues and were difficult to read, alternative formats were limited, tactile exhibits were limited at park areas that were not the visitor centers, and audio description for interpretive programs was not available.

Significant ways in which programs could be improved include updating interpretive signage to be accessible and providing more information and experiences on the park app. Additionally, improving trailhead signage parkwide would provide visitors with specific information about trail conditions and enable them to decide for themselves if a trail is usable to them.



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## INTRODUCTION

Since 1916, the National Park Service 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 national parks were founded because of their stunning views, extreme and unique geography, challenging and sensitive natural environments, and historic and fragile structures. Mount Rainier National Park and other parks exist because of their history and resources. The NPS mission balances protection of resources (natural and cultural) with visitor enjoyment. Facilities, services, and programs were designed and built in parks to accommodate visitors and help them better understand each park purpose and significance.

However, many facilities were constructed before the passage of laws and policies requiring 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. The accessibility of commercial services in national parks is also governed by applicable federal laws. After 100 years of operation, the National Park Service continues to work towards a more inclusive environment.

Visitors today have unique needs and expectations, and the agency must adapt to meet changing demands. Modern scientific research and visitor trend analysis provide new insights into accessibility opportunities and challenges in the national park system. According to 2020 Center for Disease Control data, there are approximately 61 million people with disabilities in the United States, and this number is expected to rise in the coming years as more people reach retirement age (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 with the reality of unpredictable funding. Planning can help identify solutions to challenges and provide a trajectory full of opportunity for current and future visitors. The National Park Service is committed to making park facilities, services, programs, and employment opportunities accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.

Mount Rainier National Park's existing general management planning documents continue to provide relevant guidance, which may be supplemented through development of additional planning documents such as this one. The accessibility SETP is a component of the park's planning portfolio. This plan documents park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities and provides an effective approach for upgrading park facilities, services, and programs. In addition, the plan helps inform management decisions regarding project prioritization, funding, and compliance.

## **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.” The act requires parks to document architectural barriers and identify solutions, time frames, and responsible parties to improve and increase accessibility.

This plan was prepared to provide Mount Rainier National Park staff with 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.



## ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS

The process for creating a SETP involves seven steps:



- 1. Identify Key Park Experiences and Park Areas** – The interdisciplinary team began by identifying the key experiences available to visitors at the park. Key park experiences, which help determine the park areas to assess in step 2, are iconic and important experiences for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of the park. Park legislation serves as the foundation for key park experiences, which are identified through park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and programs (these can be found in the park's foundation document at [https://pubs.nps.gov/eTIC/MANZ-MORA/MORA\\_105\\_140919\\_0001\\_of\\_0004.pdf](https://pubs.nps.gov/eTIC/MANZ-MORA/MORA_105_140919_0001_of_0004.pdf)). Key park experiences ensure that planned improvements are prioritized to best increase overall access to park experiences.

The key park experiences identified for Mount Rainier National Park include the following:

- **Mount Rainier and Majestic Mountain Scenery** – Understand the visual, tactile, and auditory characteristics of Mount Rainier, the prominent icon of the Pacific Northwest.
- **Dynamic Landscape** – Witness and gain an understanding and appreciation for the dynamic and everchanging landscape of the park.
- **Wilderness Experiences** – Find solitude among natural soundscapes, dark night skies, and a range of remote and challenging experiences in the park's designated wilderness.

- **Primeval Cascade Ecosystem** – Appreciate old growth forest, high alpine meadows, and glacier-covered terrain, and observe a diverse assemblage of native flora and fauna.
- **Mount Rainier National Historic Landmark District** – Explore some of the nation's best examples of intact National Park Service Rustic-style architecture and naturalistic landscape architecture of the 1920s and 1930s.
- **Human History** – Explore the archeological and contemporary history of use and settlement of lands in the park and honor the human connections to and traditional uses for six contemporary descendant American Indian Tribes.
- **Recreation** – Engage in recreational activities, including hiking, auto touring, sightseeing, skiing, camping, climbing, and picnicking.

To prepare for step 2, the team then listed all developed areas of the park in which visitors have access.

2. **Determine Park Areas to Assess** – In some instances, not all park areas can be assessed during this process due to time and funding constraints. Therefore, the interdisciplinary team determined which park areas to assess based on the number of key park experiences, visitation level, diversity of activities and programs, distribution, and unique characteristics. The areas selected for assessment provide the best opportunities for the public to access all key park experiences. Areas not assessed will be assessed and improved as part of future facility alterations or as components of a future planned construction project (see appendix C for areas not assessed).
3. **Identify Facilities, Services, and Programs in Each Park Area** – The team identified all facilities, services, and programs in each park area to ensure that all physical and programmatic visitor amenities in each park area were reviewed for accessibility. The comprehensive lists of facilities, services, and programs were the basis for conducting assessments and documenting barriers.
4. **Conduct Accessibility Assessment** – On-site, the interdisciplinary assessment team assessed each park area and identified physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility. The team then reviewed possible solutions and explored options to provide universal access. In some cases, programmatic alternatives needed to be examined because eliminating physical barriers is not always possible due to historic designations, environmental concerns, topography, or sensitive cultural and natural resources. Therefore, a range of programmatic alternatives was considered to provide access to key park experiences for as many visitors as possible.
5. **Draft Transition Plan** – Following the assessment, the team added field results to an implementation strategy table and drafted conceptual site plans to display the locations of barriers and proposed opportunities. 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. Improvement efforts need to consider



park activities and operational requirements to determine how and when to implement a solution. While some changes can be done quickly at little or no cost, others may be integrated into existing projects or planned as separate projects, and more complex solutions may require advanced planning and requests for funding. Based on these considerations, the team identified an implementation time frame and a responsible park staff member for each barrier and solution. Implementation time frames are based on NPS staff's ability to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects and are as follows:

- a. Immediate (0–1 year)
- b. Short term (1–3 years)
- c. Mid-term (3–7 years)
- d. Long term (longer than 7 years)

- 6. Conduct Public Involvement** – The public was invited to provide input on the draft plan from October 16th, 2023, to November 30th, 2023, on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site. Staff used a variety of methods to solicit public involvement and review of the plan, including issuing a press release, posting on social media (Facebook and X), and posting on the park's website. A press release was sent to park stakeholders, political representatives, media, and Tribes. Specific disability organizations and park volunteers were directly alerted to the plan's availability by email.

- 7. Finalize Transition Plan** – Park staff’s efforts led to receiving several relevant comments and suggestions to improve the plan, including providing alternative design solutions at different park areas (such as accessible parking locations, added benches on different trails, additional restrooms, and railing options); proposing alternative formats to key park experiences such as waterfall viewing; and identifying ways in which the park’s website could be updated to provide improved accessibility information. This plan and its recommended action items are not definitive solutions; rather, they describe a strategy to help park staff reach a more accessible destination. Park staff welcomes further suggestions from all interested parties who want to continue to improve this important national resource.

**The park is committed to continued outreach and including accessibility in future projects.** The SETP will help park staff during project scoping and design to ensure accessibility inclusion in future projects. It will also be a valuable training tool to help orient new staff to accessibility at the park and priority projects. The park will continue to involve the disability community in the project planning process.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN**

The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan, and the accessibility coordinator assists the superintendent by documenting improvements, keeping the plan updated, and communicating to park employees. It’s recommended that park staff employs trained consultants and involve the disability community to assist with addressing accessibility improvements to ensure that design and implementation meet the needs of visitors with disabilities. Creating parkwide accessibility requires staff awareness, understanding, and appropriate action. Because of fiscal constraints and limited park resources, staff will need to determine which improvements will benefit the greatest number of visitors with disabilities. Suggested implementation time frames and relative costs need to be factored into all accessibility investment decisions.

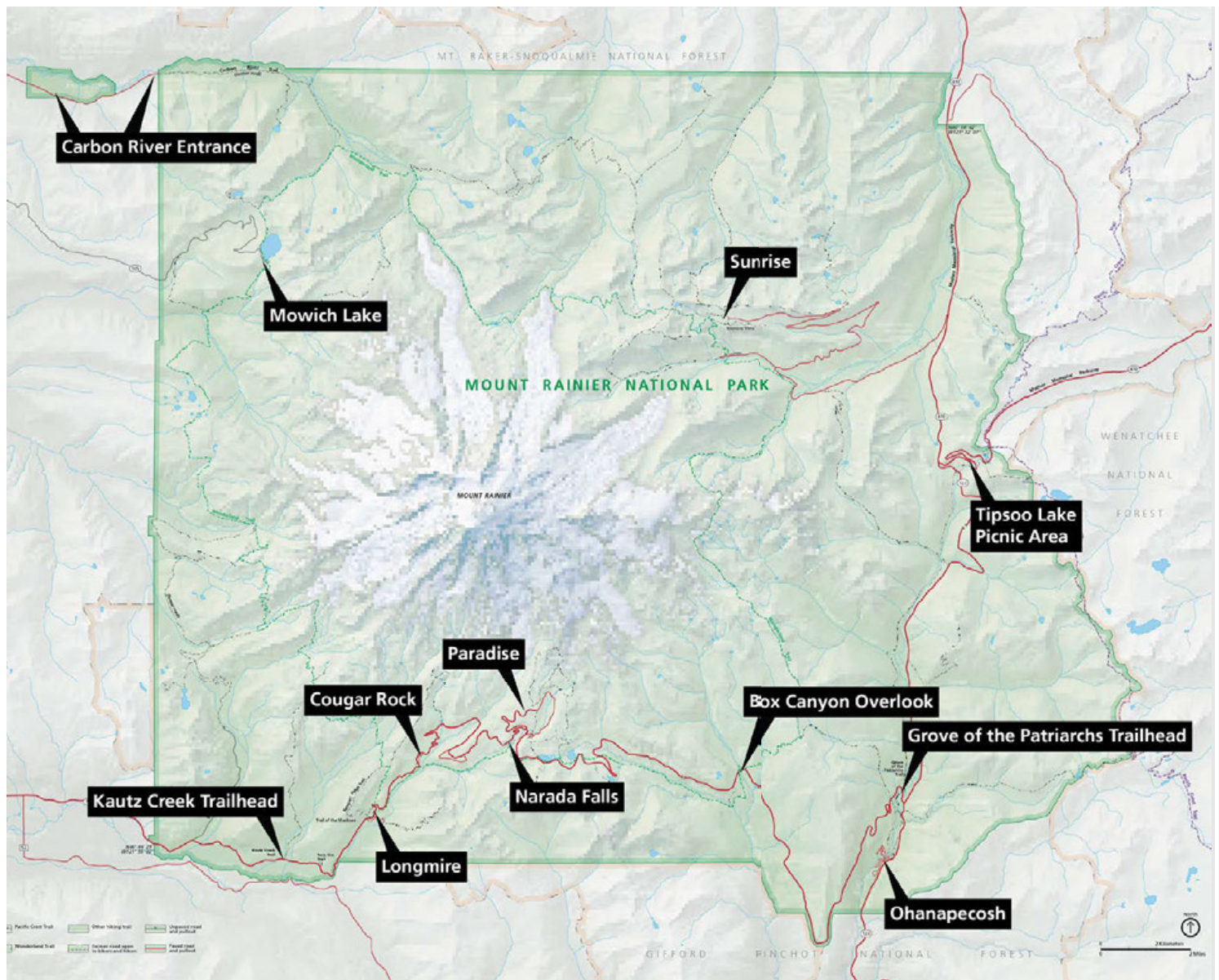


# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

## PARK AREAS ASSESSED

The interdisciplinary team assessed the following park areas for accessibility during the planning effort. Areas not assessed are in appendix C.

Box Canyon Overlook	Carbon River Entrance	Cougar Rock
Grove of the Patriarchs	Kautz Creek Trailhead	Longmire
Mowich Lake	Narada Falls	Ohanapecosh
Paradise and Paradise Picnic Area	Sunrise	Tipsoo Lake Picnic Area



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

The Architectural Barrier Act 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 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.

Depending on the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards apply. The interdisciplinary team used ABAAS to conduct the transition plan facility assessments. Although a barrier may be identified by the current assessment for improvement, facilities are only required to follow the standard in place at the time of construction and/or alteration. Therefore, barriers may not be in violation of ABAAS. However, any renovation or upgrade of that building is required to meet the most current standard at the time of work. In addition, Harpers Ferry Center Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media were followed for facility and program assessments.

This document does not include strategies for transitioning employee workspaces to be accessible. In the event that an employee with a disability is hired at Mount Rainier National Park, the supervisor and employee will discuss the employee's needs. The supervisor will then determine what accommodations are reasonable in the given work environment and determine a plan of action to meet those needs.

For each park area, this document provides an overview of findings and recommended solutions in a brief narrative and bulleted list and provides corresponding site plan(s) that illustrate draft proposals. For details on each barrier, solution, and time frame, see the companion implementation strategy table (<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MountRainierSETP>). It is important to understand that the site plans and recommendations are conceptual and will require further design development and historic and environmental compliance before construction. SETPs are not to be used as a section 106 compliance review submittal. Consult with cultural and natural resource staff before proceeding with recommended actions. During the implementation phase, the interdisciplinary team must reassess the project site conditions, refer to ABAAS, and consult with the local disability community to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are correctly addressed.





### BOX CANYON OVERLOOK

Box Canyon Overlook provides scenic views of the Muddy Fork Cowlitz River below. To the south, a flat parking area leads visitors to a comfort station and large interpretive plaza to take in the view below. Crossing the road to the north, visitors take a paved, but at times steep, route to a wooden bridge for a more secluded view of the river and forest. Past the bridge an unpaved trail loops back to the road and the main parking area. Slight improvements to the unpaved trail surface would create a great accessible loop trail to the northern viewing area. Other improvements to wayside exhibits, drinking fountains, the comfort station, and the road crossing would remove all barriers to accessibility.

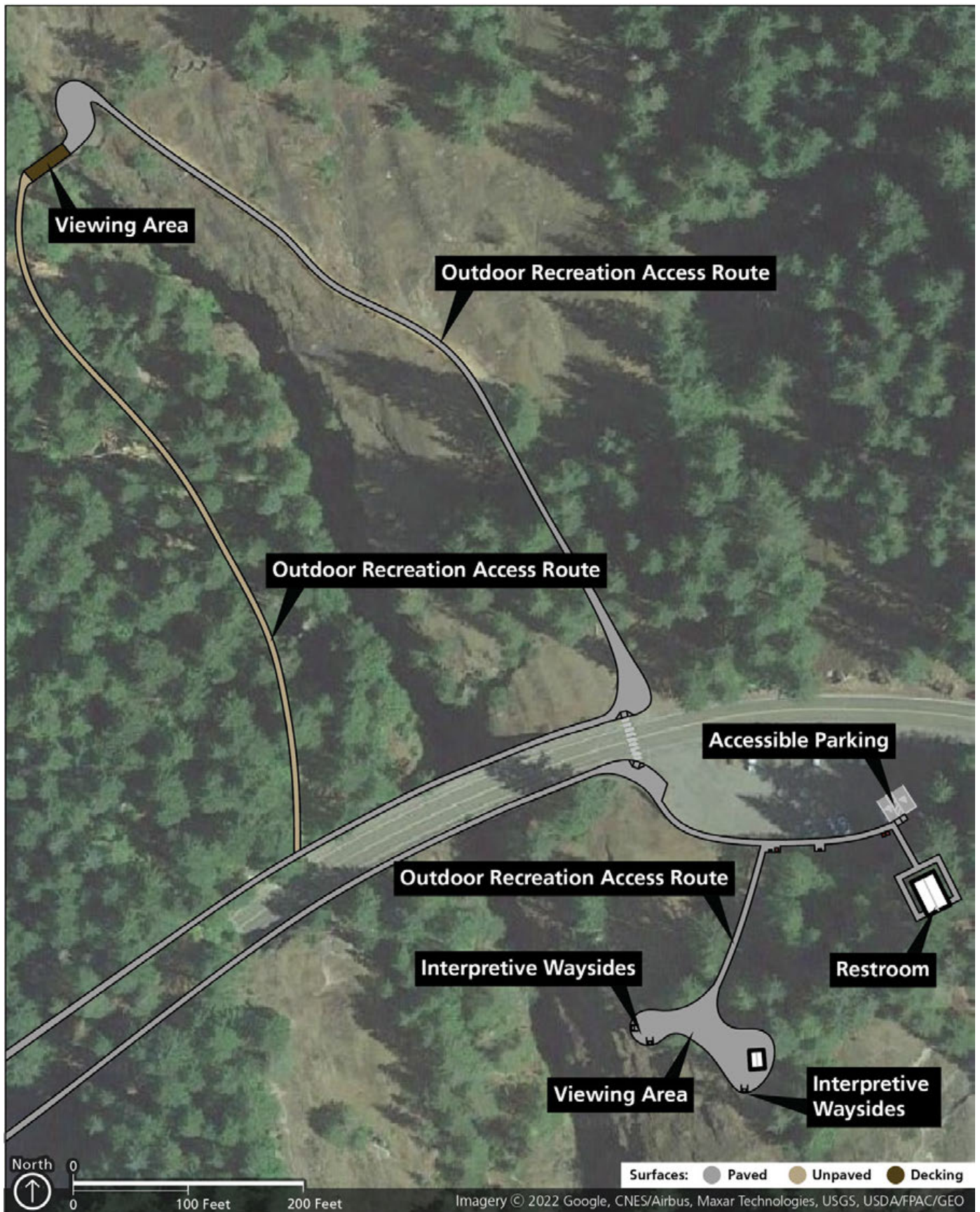
Proposed accessibility improvements at Box Canyon Overlook include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking spaces.
- **Routes:** Improve the slopes and hardened surfaces, and connect the parking to the restroom, facilities, and viewing areas.
- **Restrooms:** Improve access to the restrooms, and improve the restrooms' accessible features.
- **Interpretive Waysides:** Improve the clear ground space in front of the wayside, and adjust the orientation for a forward approach.
- **Viewing Areas:** Lower the railings at the viewing areas.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.



## Box Canyon Overlook Box Canyon Site Plan







## CARBON RIVER

Nestled in the northwest corner of the park, Carbon River Ranger Station and Carbon River Trailhead provide visitors a more secluded experience away from more developed facilities and services. Visitors can first stop at the small ranger station where an accessible parking space is provided, but improved signage would enhance the visitor experience. The interior of the ranger station has good circulation and a dual-height information counter. Slight improvements to the picnic facilities, wayside exhibit, and stairs leading up to the road would help create a more accessible experience at the ranger station.

A short drive to the east from the ranger station is the Carbon River Trail entrance area. The Carbon River area is prone to frequent impacts from the adjacent Carbon River. As of the time of this publication, temporary repairs to Carbon River trailhead access have been completed, and more permanent repairs are pending. Visitors to this area can expect parking, striping, restroom facilities, and the condition of the trailhead and trails to continue to evolve in this dynamic landscape.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Carbon River Ranger Station include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the slopes, signage, and striping for the accessible parking space.
- **Ranger Station Building:** Improve the routes in the building, create clear space in front of exhibits and information, and add a service counter with an accessible forward approach.
- **Routes:** Reduce thresholds and openings, improve surfaces for routes to the picnic area, and improve the stairs with lowered handrails and closed risers.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Carbon River Trailhead include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking spaces.



- **Restrooms:** Improve accessible features in the temporary porta-potty and vault toilets.
- **Routes:** Improve the slopes; reduce obstacles; and reduce openings on routes from the car parking to the trailhead, picnic area, and vault toilets. Clear ground spaces in front of signs and other facilities.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Add accessible picnic tables with improved clear space surfaces.
- **Trail:** Widen the trail entry and reduce obstacles.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

## Carbon River Ranger Station Site Plan



## Carbon River Trailhead Site Plan







## COUGAR ROCK

Cougar Rock campground and picnic area are popular visitor destinations off Paradise Road between Longmire and Paradise. Located amid old-growth forest and waterfalls and in view of the majestic peak of Mount Rainier, visitors come to camp, picnic, hike, gather park information, attend programs, and enjoy scenic views. Interpretive programs, such as ranger-led walks and talks and campfire programs, are regularly hosted in the area, some of these at the amphitheater. Many visitors stop at the ranger station for information and to pay campground fees for the few first-come, first-served sites that are available, as most sites must be reserved ahead of time on Recreation.gov. Accessible parking is provided at the ranger station, but accessibility could be improved by reducing the slopes of routes, providing an accessible approach to the pay station, and removing the curb in front of the information desk. The 173-site campground has four accessible campsites and one accessible group campsite (out of five total group campsites). Slopes in the accessible campsites are relatively low and surfaces are mostly firm and stable, and accessible picnic tables are provided. Accessibility could be improved by adding additional individual and group campsites to meet scoping requirements, updating existing accessible campsites to be fully accessible by improving outdoor constructed features and providing adequate clear ground spaces throughout, providing designated wheelchair and companion seating at the amphitheater, updating restrooms, and improving accessible parking spaces at the picnic area.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Cougar Rock Ranger Station include the following:

- **Routes:** Improve slopes on routes between the ranger station and the registration kiosk.
- **Information Desk:** Improve the approach.
- **Registration Kiosk:** Improve the approach and usability.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Cougar Rock Campground include the following:

- **Campsites:** Add and update accessible campsites.
- **Restrooms:** Improve restroom features, and add drinking fountains.
- **Amphitheater:** Improve the routes to the amphitheater, and add designated wheelchair and companion seating spaces.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Cougar Rock Group Campground include the following:

- **Campsites:** Add and update accessible group campsites.
- **Routes:** Improve slopes on the route to the restroom.
- **Restrooms:** Add accessible toilet compartments, and improve restroom features.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Cougar Rock Picnic Area include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve accessible parking spaces, and add accessible parking space near the restroom.
- **Restroom:** Renovate the accessible restroom.

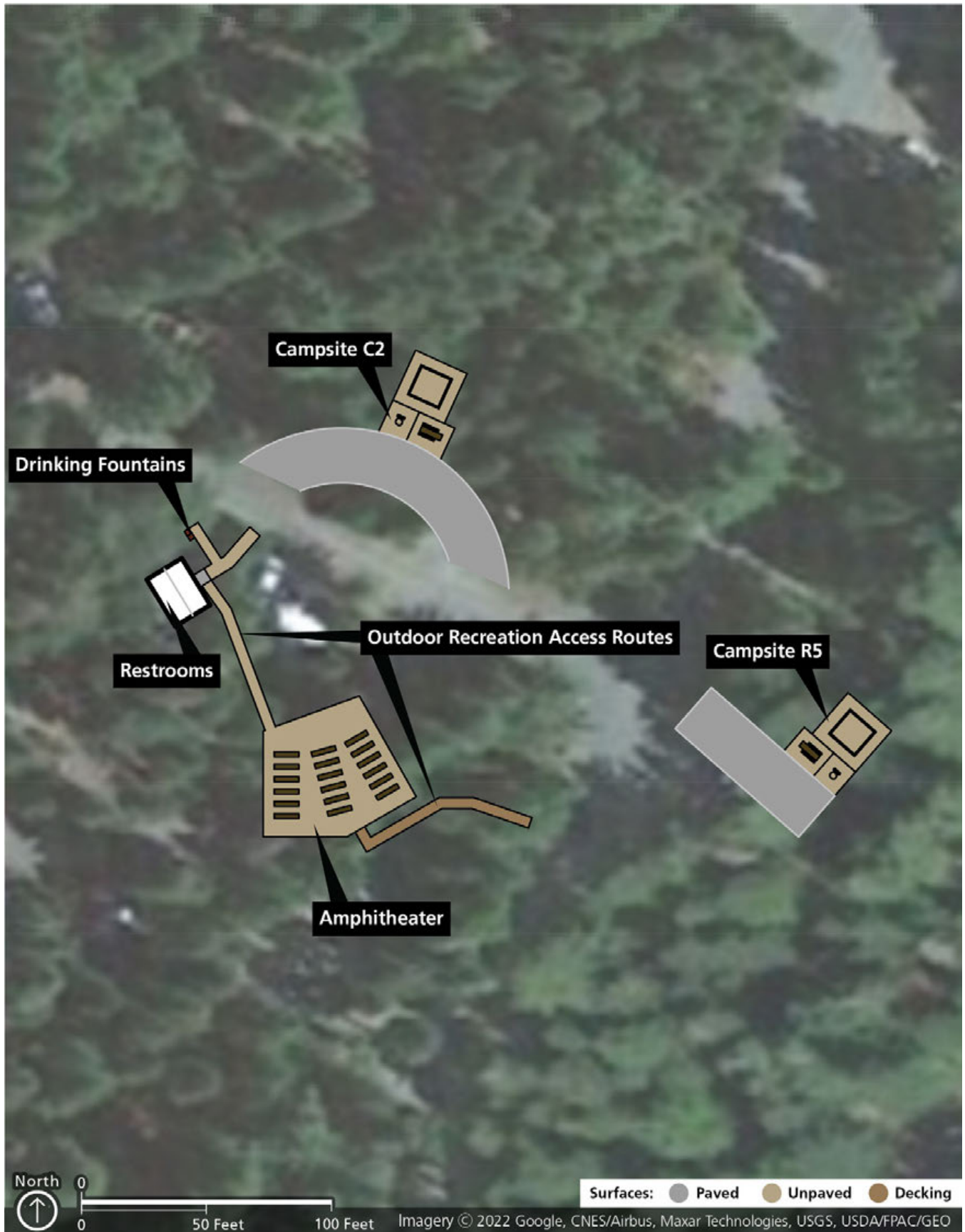
Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.



## Cougar Rock Ranger Station Site Plan



## Cougar Rock Campground Site Plan





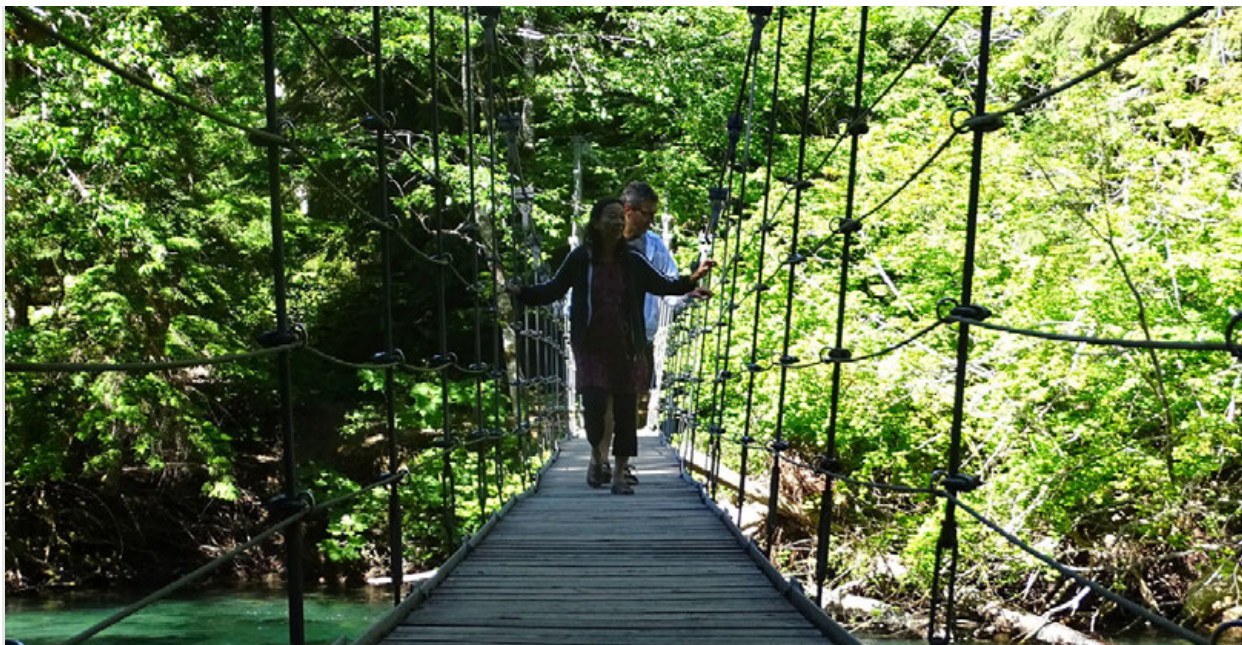
Cougar Rock Group Campground Site Plan



## Cougar Rock Picnic Area Site Plan







### GROVE OF THE PATRIARCHS TRAILHEAD

Grove of the Patriarchs is the first trailhead west of the Stevens Canyon entrance into the park. As of this writing, repairs to the Grove of the Patriarchs trail are still pending after the November 2021 flooding, and the trail is currently closed. The trailhead has a sloped, paved parking lot with a comfort station and vault toilets. The comfort station has steps at the entrance, which is why vault toilets are present to allow barrier-free restroom options. Past the comfort station, a paved trail begins flat but quickly steepens and becomes a dirt forest floor, compacted and stable, but rock outcrops and roots present barriers. Reducing the slopes and removing rocks and roots from this section of the trail, or rerouting the route to the north by the Eastside Trail, would offer a barrier-free experience to the small, level area that provides views of the river below.

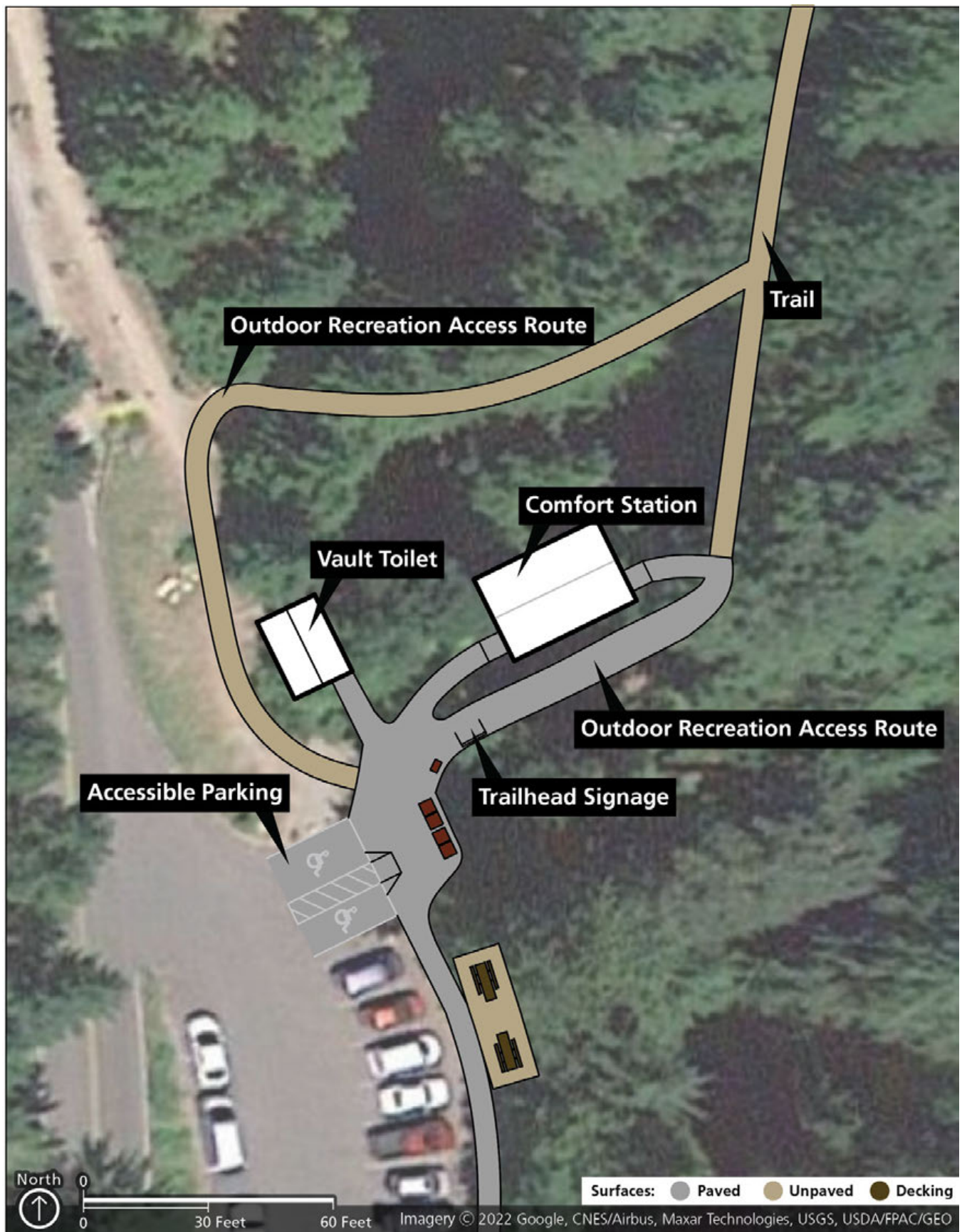
Proposed accessibility improvements at Grove of the Patriarchs Trailhead include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the accessible parking spaces with reduced slopes, and add signage.
- **Routes:** Improve slopes on the route from parking to the vault toilets, and reroute the path to the trailhead with improved slopes and reduced obstacles.
- **Restroom:** Improve the accessible features in the vault toilet, and add accessible routes to the comfort station.
- **Trail:** Add trailhead signage that outlines trail conditions, and improve hardened surfaces with fewer obstacles.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.



## Grove of the Patriarchs Trailhead Site Plan





### KAUTZ CREEK TRAILHEAD

Kautz Creek is the first parking area visitors can stop at after entering the park through the Nisqually entrance. Adjacent to the parking area are vault toilets and picnic facilities with extended tabletops for visitors. The Kautz Creek Trailhead, which is across from the parking and the road, is generally flat with a rocky surface. A boardwalk trail terminates at a flat, sandy area with log benches and a wayside that overlooks Kautz Creek. The main trail spurs off the boardwalk. Slight improvements to the route to the trailhead, picnic facilities, benches, and signage would make this entire experience accessible.

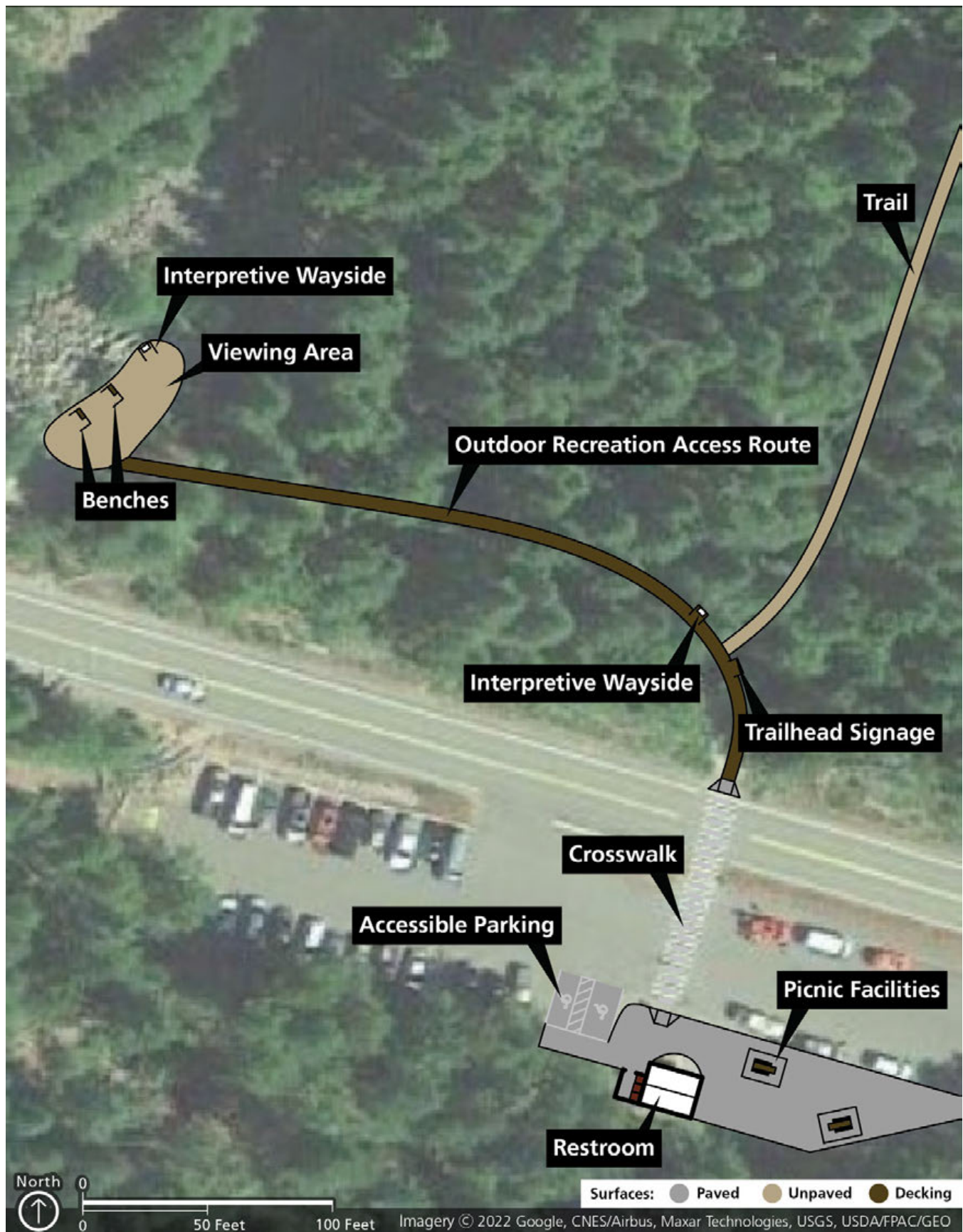
Proposed accessibility improvements at Kautz Creek Trailhead include the following:

- **Routes:** Reduce cross slopes on the crosswalk to the trailhead, reduce thresholds on surface transitions, reduce openings, and harden surfaces at the viewing area.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Improve surfaces, and add accessible tables and trash cans.
- **Trailhead:** Add trailhead signage that outlines trail conditions.
- **Viewing Area:** Improve benches with armrests and level landings by the wayside exhibits.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.



## Kautz Creek Trailhead Site Plan





## LONGMIRE

Longmire is one of the first destinations visitors encounter in the park traveling from the Nisqually entrance. The historic district is home to some park administration services, guest services, lodging, a restaurant and picnic tables, a museum, the Wilderness Information Center, and the historic Longmire Community Building. Buildings are spread throughout the area and even across the Nisqually River, where the historic Longmire Community Building resides. One of the few year-round areas of the park, visitors come to learn about the park, gather information, view exhibits, purchase mementos, stay the night, hike, picnic, attend programs, and use the services. Rampart Ridge Trail and Eagle Peak Trail originate from either end of the Longmire area. Information about the Longmire area and a short video introduction is available on the park website. The area with visitor services is mostly level, although slopes do creep above 5% on some routes, which is especially notable between the museum and the inn, where running slopes reach 14%. Several accessible parking spaces are available throughout the area, the dining room at the National Park Inn is accessible, and about half of the nearby Trail of the Shadows is accessible. Exhibits in the museum have some tactile features, although audio description is not available for visitors who are blind or have low vision. Restrooms in the area all have some accessibility barriers, but most of them require minor modifications to be made accessible. The 25-room National Park Inn has two accessible rooms, but these need upgrades to be made accessible, with many features at incorrect heights or not operable with a closed fist. Accessibility could also be improved with additional dispersed accessible parking spaces, designated accessible picnic facilities, increased maneuvering space in the gift shop, and trailhead signage describing characteristics of nearby trails.

Proposed accessibility improvements at the Longmire Wilderness Information Center include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the accessible parking space at the Wilderness Information Center.
- **Routes:** Improve/reconfigure the route between the accessible parking space and the Wilderness Information Center entrance. Widen the entrance and interior doors (and operation) at the Wilderness Information Center.
- **Exhibits:** Relocate and raise the tactile map at the information center.

Proposed accessibility improvements at the Longmire Museum and Adjacent Restrooms and Trailheads include the following:

- **Routes:** Improve/reconfigure the route between the accessible parking space and the Museum entrance.
- **Waysides:** Improve the wayside approaches, contrast, and color choices.
- **Exhibits:** Improve the usability of exhibits at the Museum and add audio description.
- **Restroom:** Improve the accessible toilet compartment at the restroom building. Lower the sink counter and improve its features.
- **Trail of Shadows Trailhead:** Improve the route to the trailhead, add a trailhead sign with improved accessibility details, and update wayside approaches and heights.

Proposed accessibility improvements at the Longmire National Park Inn include the following:

- **Routes:** Improve the routes between the accessible parking space and the inn, the gift shop, and the restroom entrances. Establish routes to the picnic tables.
- **National Park Inn Rooms:** Renovate the accessible rooms with new/updated signage, doors, restrooms, and features.
- **Restrooms:** Improve the restroom entrance and the accessible toilet compartment and its features and add signage.
- **Gift Shop:** Improve the entrance, improve the circulation around items for sale, and clear the sales counter.
- **Picnic Tables:** Add accessible picnic tables, and clear ground spaces.

Proposed accessibility improvements at the Longmire Community Building include the following:

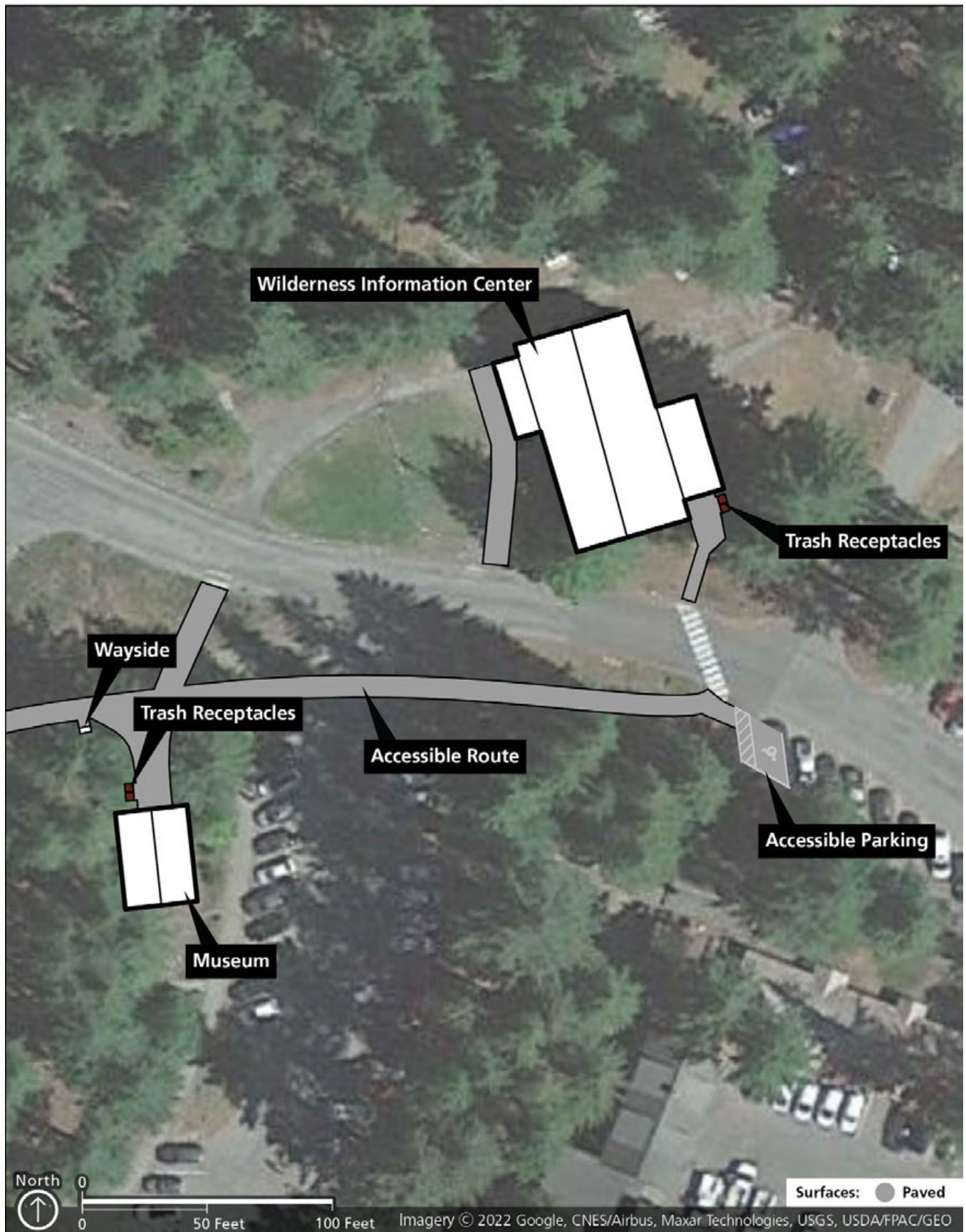
- **Parking:** Add a designated accessible parking space, and improve the curb ramp.
- **Picnic Table:** Improve the approach at the picnic table, and clear ground space around it.



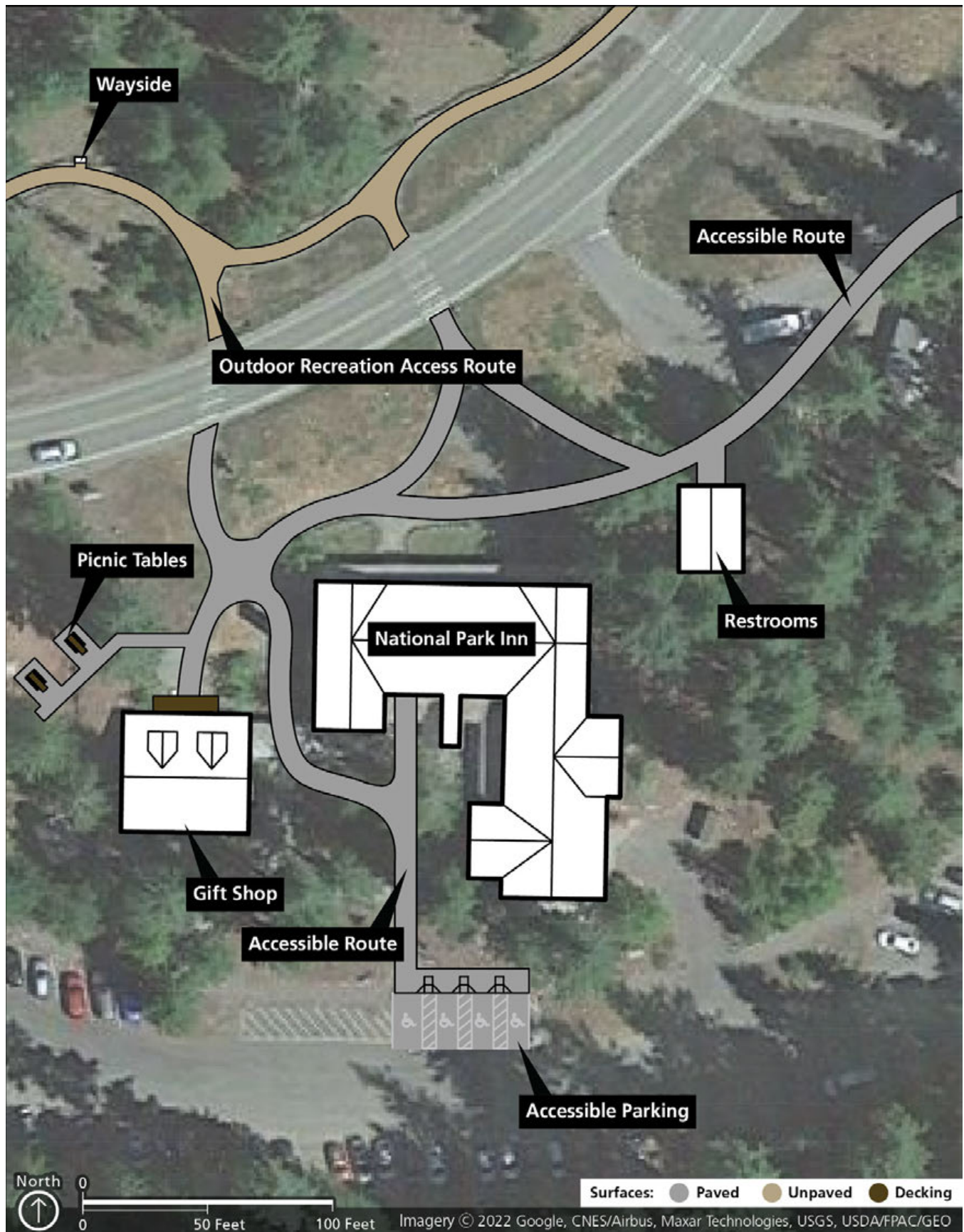
- **Restrooms:** Improve the restroom doors and signage, and renovate the restroom interiors.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

## Longmire Wilderness Information Center and Museum Site Plan

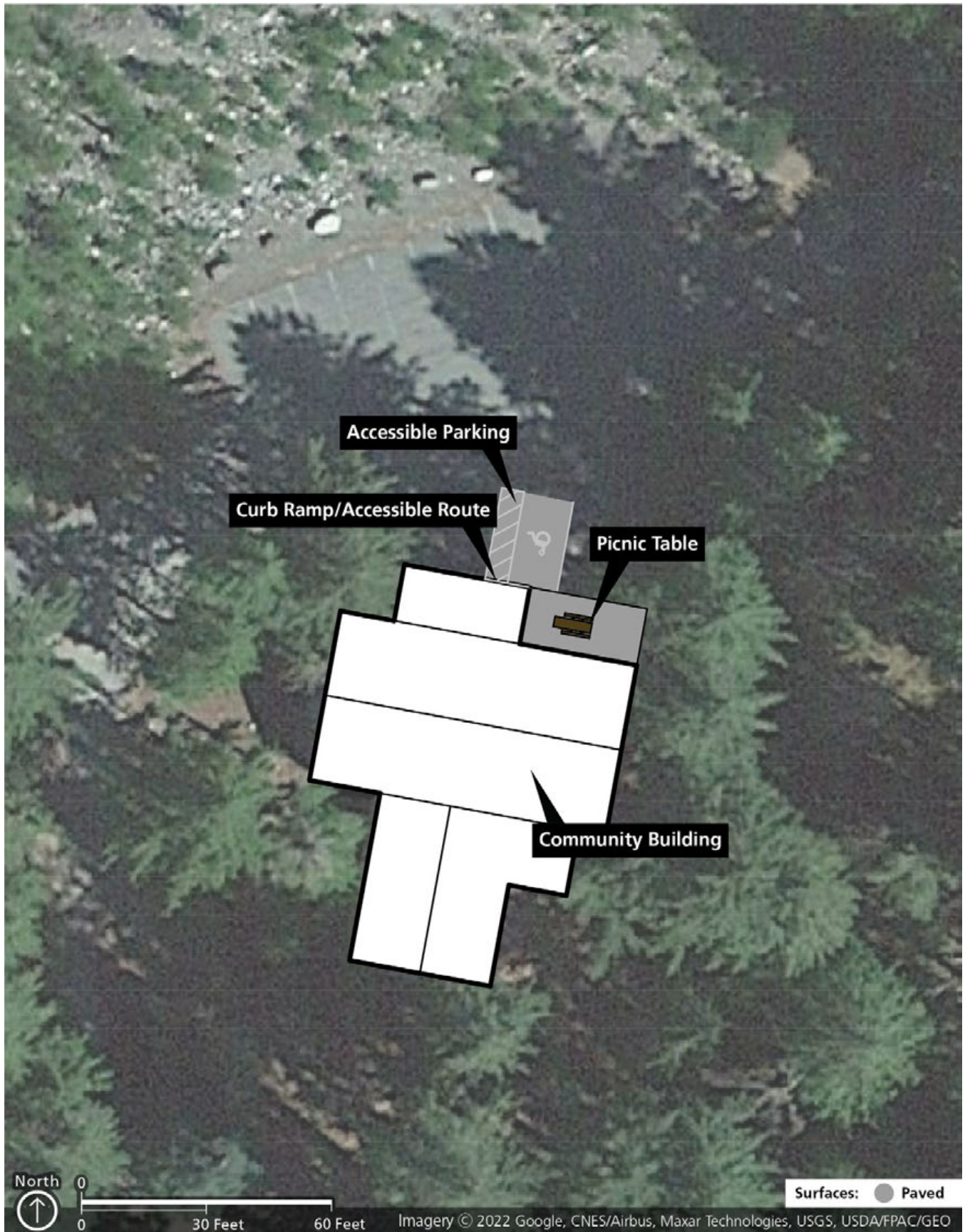


## Longmire National Park Inn Site Plan





## Longmire Community Building Site Plan







## MOWICH LAKE

An unpaved gravel road takes visitors on a winding path up to the scenic Mowich Lake, situated adjacent to one of the trailheads for the popular Wonderland Trail. A minimally signed entrance fee station area, also known as the Paul Peak Trailhead near the national park boundary, is just off the unpaved road and provides a generally flat, but gravel, surface for visitors to park, pay entrance and camping fees, picnic, and use the vault toilets that are provided. Designating an accessible parking space and improving the surface by the signage and trash would increase accessibility at the entrance fee area.

Continuing 6 miles along the unpaved road, visitors reach a large, unimproved parking area that services Mowich Lake. Two accessible parking spaces are designated with a mostly compacted route from the parking to the trailhead and campground kiosk. The campground provides vault toilets, day use picnicking, trails, and 13 campsites that each have a tent pad, a picnic table, and food storage boxes. Half of the campground serves as backcountry campsites for backpackers hiking the Wonderland Trail, and the other half serves as walk-in sites from the parking area. Only one accessible campsite is designated, and improving multiple campsites to be accessible would allow more visitors to experience Mowich Lake Campground. Additionally, improvements to the trash, vault toilets, signage, and rocky dirt surface throughout the area to be firmer and more stable would greatly increase accessibility.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Mowich Lake Campground include the following:

- **Parking:** Add a third accessible parking space and accessible parking signage.
- **Routes:** Improve slopes, harden surfaces, and reduce obstacles along the route from the parking to the registration kiosk, picnic tables, campsites, and other site features.

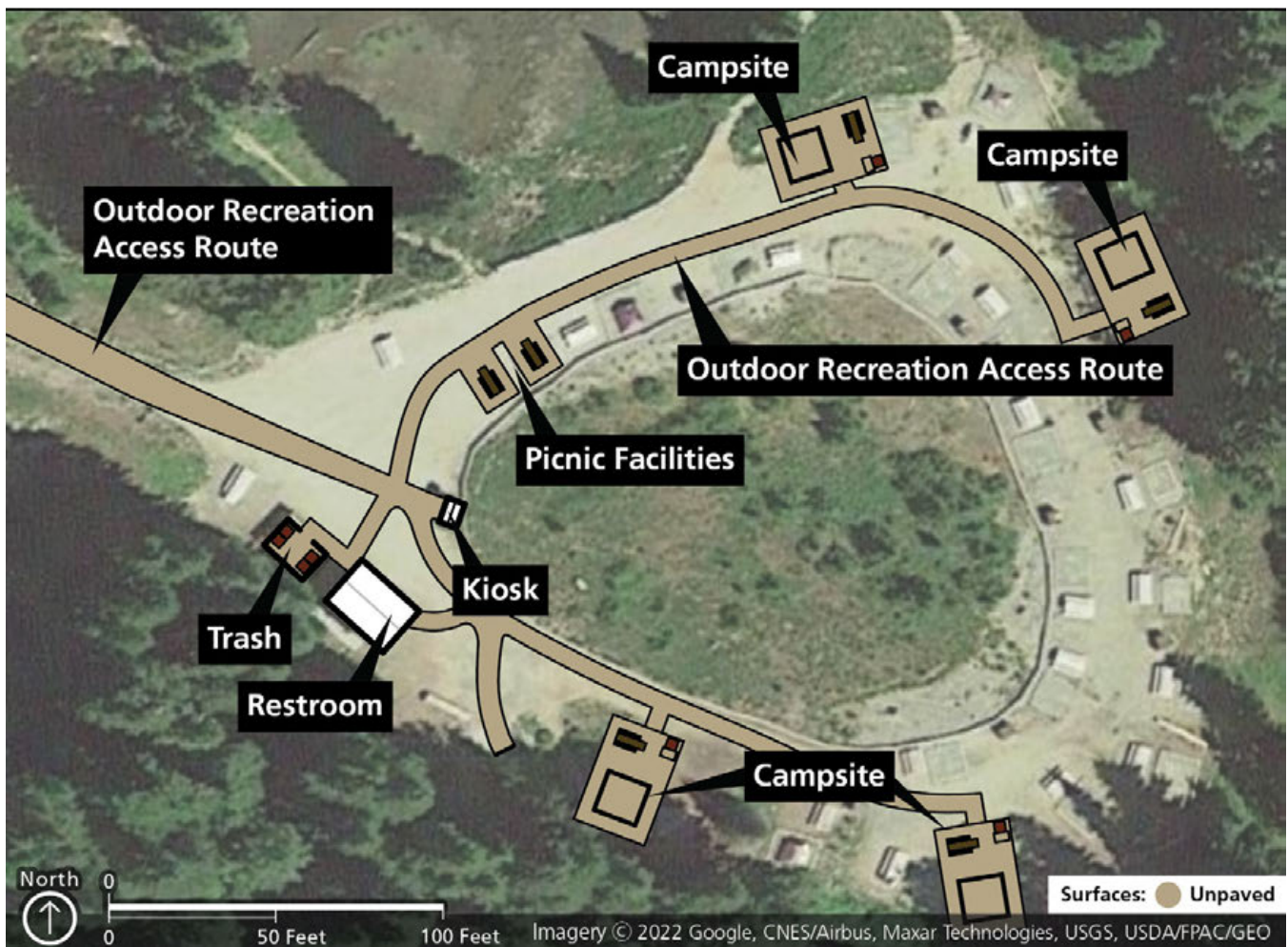
- **Picnic Facilities:** Add accessible picnic tables with improved clear space surfaces, and reduce the thresholds for accessing the trash cans.
- **Camping Facilities:** Improve the existing designated accessible campsite, and designate one more frontcountry campsite and two backcountry campsites, to have clear spaces around site features, and make picnic tables, bear boxes, and tent pads accessible.
- **Kiosk:** Enlarge font sizes, improve operable features to be in reach range, and add a level landing in front of the kiosk.
- **Restrooms:** Improve the accessible features in the vault toilets.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Mowich Lake Fee Entrance Station (Paul Peak Trailhead) include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking.
- **Routes:** Improve hardened surfaces to the fee kiosk.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Add accessible picnic tables and trash cans, and improve the clear space around features.
- **Trailhead:** Add trailhead signage that outlines trail conditions, and reduce slopes and reduce obstacles in front of the kiosk.

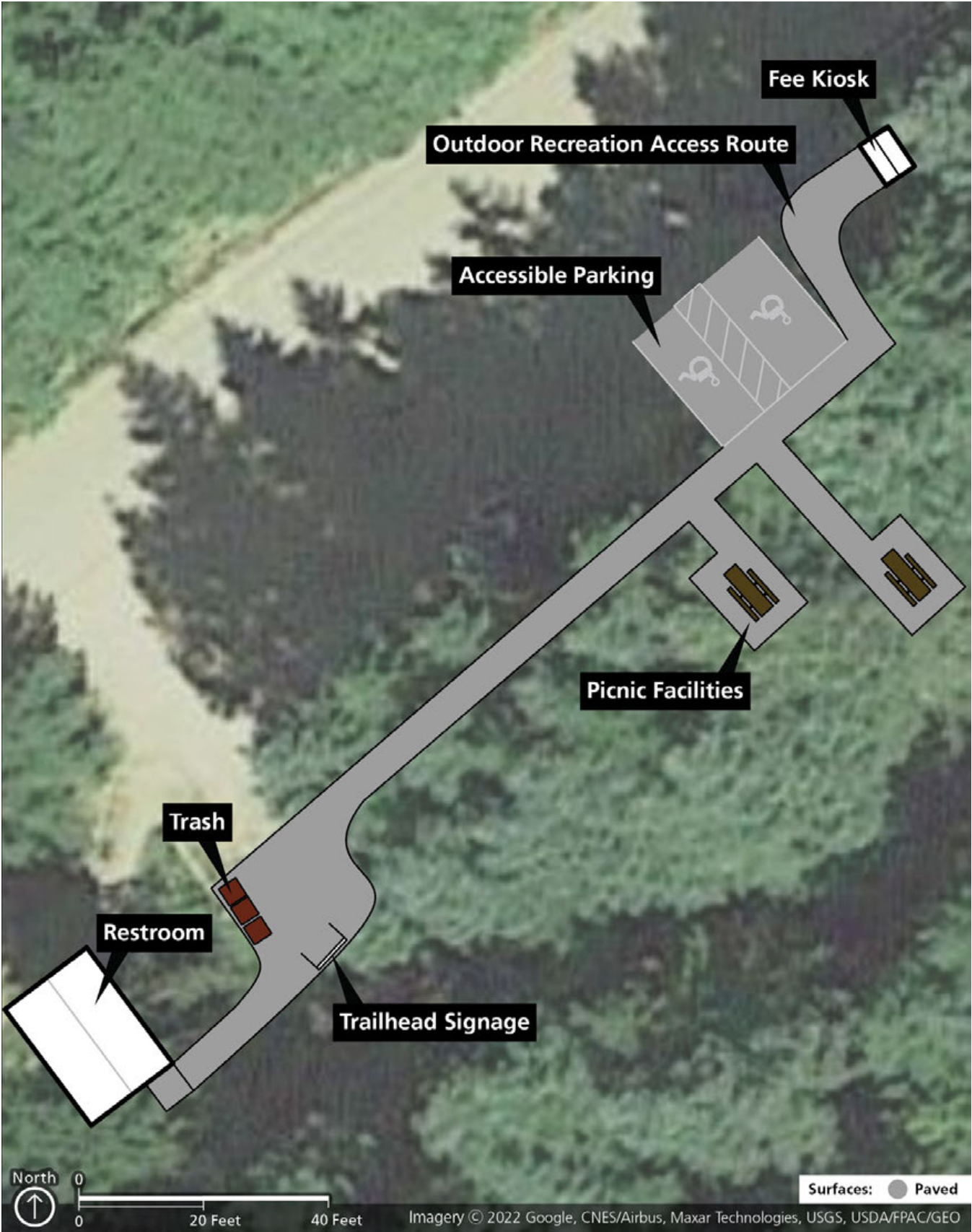
Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

## Mowich Lake Campground Site Plan





Mowich Lake Fee Station (Paul Peak Trailhead) Site Plan





## NARADA FALLS

Narada Falls is the largest waterfall accessed by car in the park and one of the park's most impressive. Visitors come to view the falls cascading into a pool below, picnic, hike, and use the services. The developed area has a parking area, picnic tables, restrooms, and a trail to the scenic overlook. The overlook trail connects to the 93-mile Wonderland Trail to the south, and visitors can also access the Lakes Trail leading to Reflection Lakes and Paradise. The area is not very accessible, with steep paths, no accessible parking signage, inaccessible restrooms, and a lack of trail signage describing the characteristics of the trail; however, park staff provides some information about the area, and the park website provides the overlook exhibit panel description for visitors who cannot access the falls. Accessibility could be improved by improving the slopes on the route to the comfort station and updating the restrooms to be accessible. Other improvements include adding accessible parking signage, installing a dual-height drinking fountain, and providing trailhead signage describing the characteristics of the trail.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Narada Falls include the following:

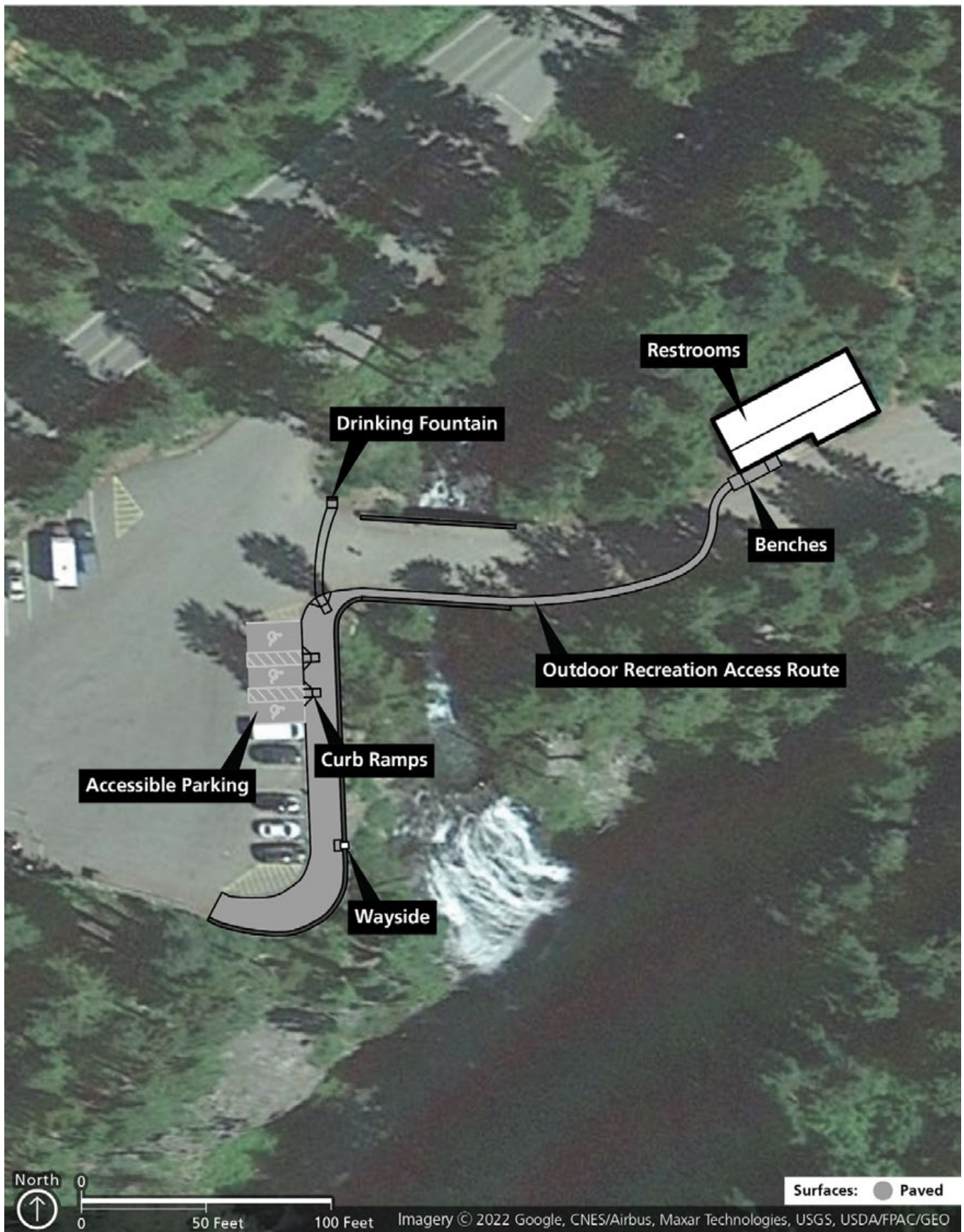
- **Parking:** Add and improve accessible parking spaces and curb ramps.
- **Routes:** Improve/reconfigure the route between the accessible parking and the comfort station.
- **Waysides:** Improve text sizes and contrast.
- **Drinking Fountains:** Add dual-height drinking fountains, and improve the approach.
- **Trailhead:** Add a trailhead sign with improved accessibility details.

- **Restrooms:** Add an accessible entrance to the comfort station, add signage, and renovate the restroom interiors and features.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.



## Narada Falls Site Plan





## OHANAPECOSH

**Note:** The deficiencies described below at Ohanapecosh Campground will be addressed in the upcoming (fiscal years 2025–2030) Great American Outdoors Act project and subsequent projects, including improvements to campsites and comfort stations. While the SETP provides recommended solutions, the park can adjust design elements as needed to still meet ABAAS and other park needs when compliance is completed. The Ohanapecosh campground accessibility plans continue to be refined, and final accessibility improvements may vary from what is outlined below.

Ohanapecosh is in the southeast part of the park, just south of the Stevens Canyon Entrance. The area includes a visitor center, multiple day use areas, a large campground with 188 campsites, amphitheater, and interpretive trails. The visitor center has designated accessible parking; however, the route that connects it to the visitor center has high slopes. Exhibits, restrooms, and other facilities in the visitor center need some improvements to be accessible. Behind the visitor center is a small outdoor interpretive plaza that has a firm, exposed aggregate surface, with some sections sinking, creating an uneven terrain.

The day use areas at Loop A and Loop C offer experiences for picnicking and enjoying the old-growth forests around Ohanapecosh. Both loops provide picnic tables, restrooms, and grills but are challenged with steep slopes, loose surfaces, and a need for accessible picnic tables. However, each day use area does have flat areas that could be used to provide an accessible picnicking experience for visitors. Not far from the Loop C Day Use Area is a group campsite that faces similar slope and surface challenges to accessibility, with the potential to make improvements.

Between Loop D and Loop E is an amphitheater that has a designated accessible parking space and a gently sloped route to it. No seats currently exist in the amphitheater, and the stage can only be reached by stairs. A short walk from the amphitheater are two designated accessible campsites in Loop D, a comfort station, and a water spigot. Both

campsites provide accessible parking but could use slight improvement to slopes around and to each facility provided. The routes to the nearby comfort station and water spigot are paved and accessible, but improvements to the interior of the comfort station and water spigot function is needed to make them fully accessible.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Ohanapecosh Visitor Center include the following:

- **Parking:** Reduce slopes and add signage at the accessible parking spaces.
- **Routes:** Improve slopes and hardened surfaces, and connect parking to the visitor center and other site features.
- **Site features:** Improve the clear space and operable parts for various site features such as the telephone, trash, and information kiosk.
- **Building:** Widen routes throughout the visitor center and exhibits, update exhibits with assistive listening devices and tactile models, and improve restrooms with accessibility features.
- **Trail:** Add trailhead signage that outlines trail conditions, harden surfaces, and reduce obstacles along the trail.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Ohanapecosh Loop A Day Use include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, access aisle, and signage.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Improve the surfaces and clear space around features, and add accessible tables, trash cans, and grills.
- **Routes:** Reduce slopes and obstacles on the route from the picnic area to the comfort station.
- **Restrooms:** Widen the maneuvering space and reduce thresholds into the comfort station, and improve the accessible features in the restroom.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Ohanapecosh Amphitheater and Campground include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, an access aisle, and signage at the amphitheater.
- **Routes:** Reduce slopes and obstacles on the route from the parking area to and throughout the amphitheater, and widen the route. Accessible routes would also be provided to comfort stations with limited exceptions due to terrain.
- **Amphitheater:** Add accessible seating throughout and a ramp up to the stage, and clear the space around the fire ring.
- **Camping Facilities:** Improve campsites with hardened surfaces, and reduce obstacles to and around all site features and accessible picnic tables, bear boxes, fire rings, and tent pads.



- **Restrooms:** Improve operable parts, clear the space by the water hydrant, and improve accessible features in the restroom. This would include one accessible toilet per restroom and upgrades to mounting heights and maneuvering distances.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Ohanapecosh Silver Falls Trail include the following:

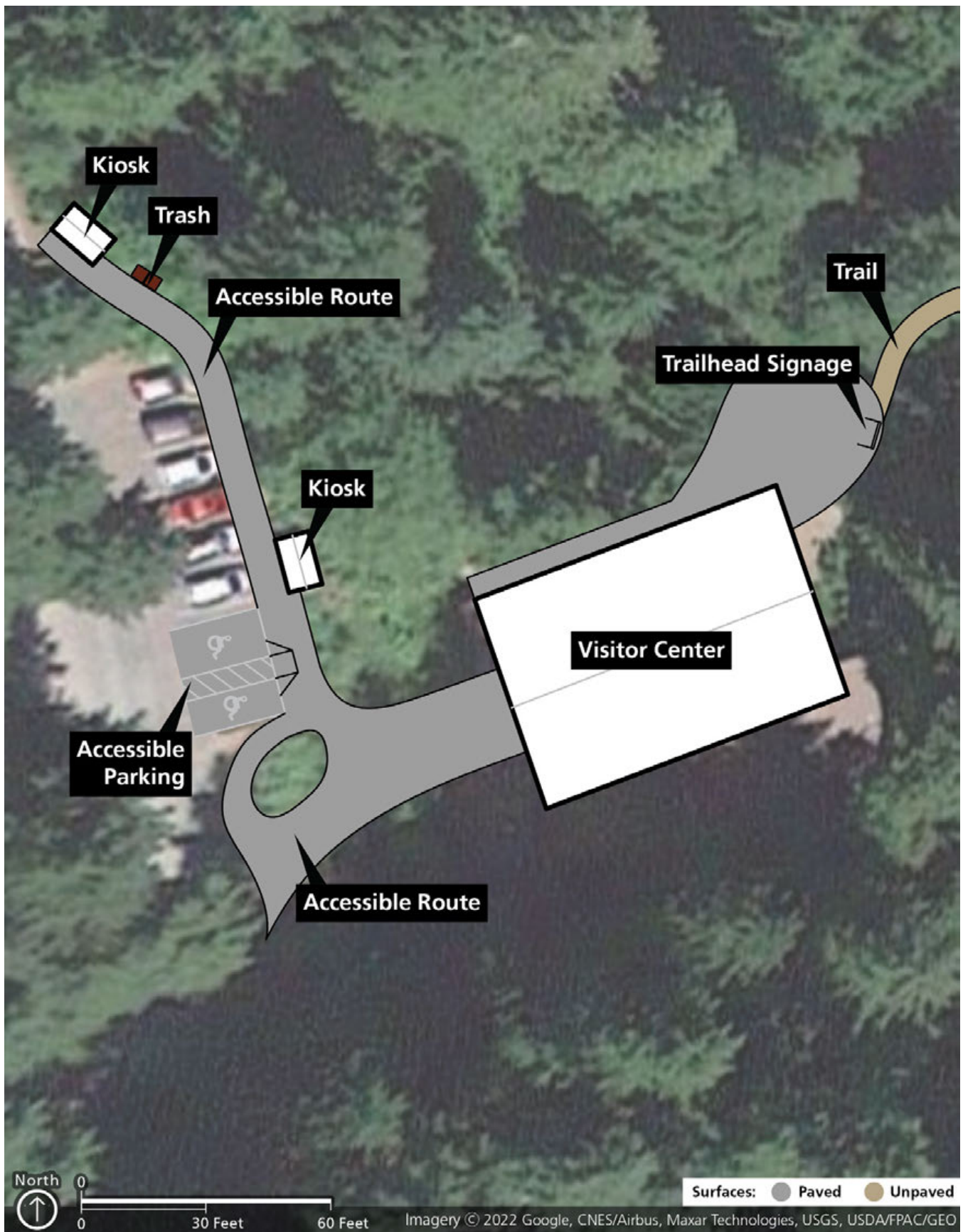
- **Trail:** Add trailhead signage that outlines trail conditions, harden surfaces, and reduce obstacles on the trail.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Ohanapecosh Loop C Day Use include the following:

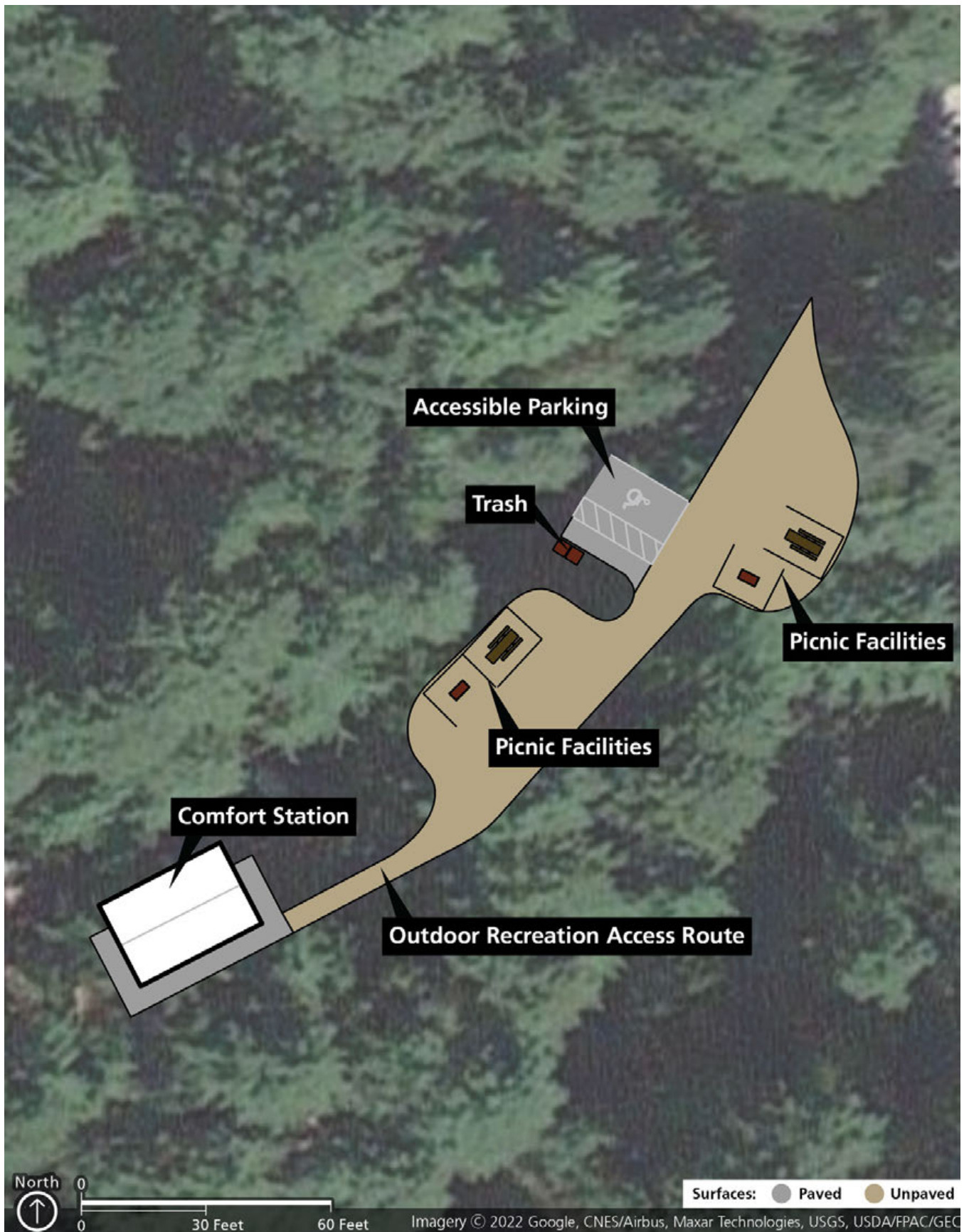
- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, access aisle, and signage.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Improve surfaces and clear space around features, and add accessible tables and trash cans.
- **Routes:** Reduce slopes and obstacles on the route from the parking area to the picnic area.
- **Camping Facilities:** Improve group campsites with hardened surfaces, and reduce obstacles to and around all site features and accessible picnic tables, bear boxes, fire rings, and tent pads.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

## Ohanapecosh Visitor Center Site Plan

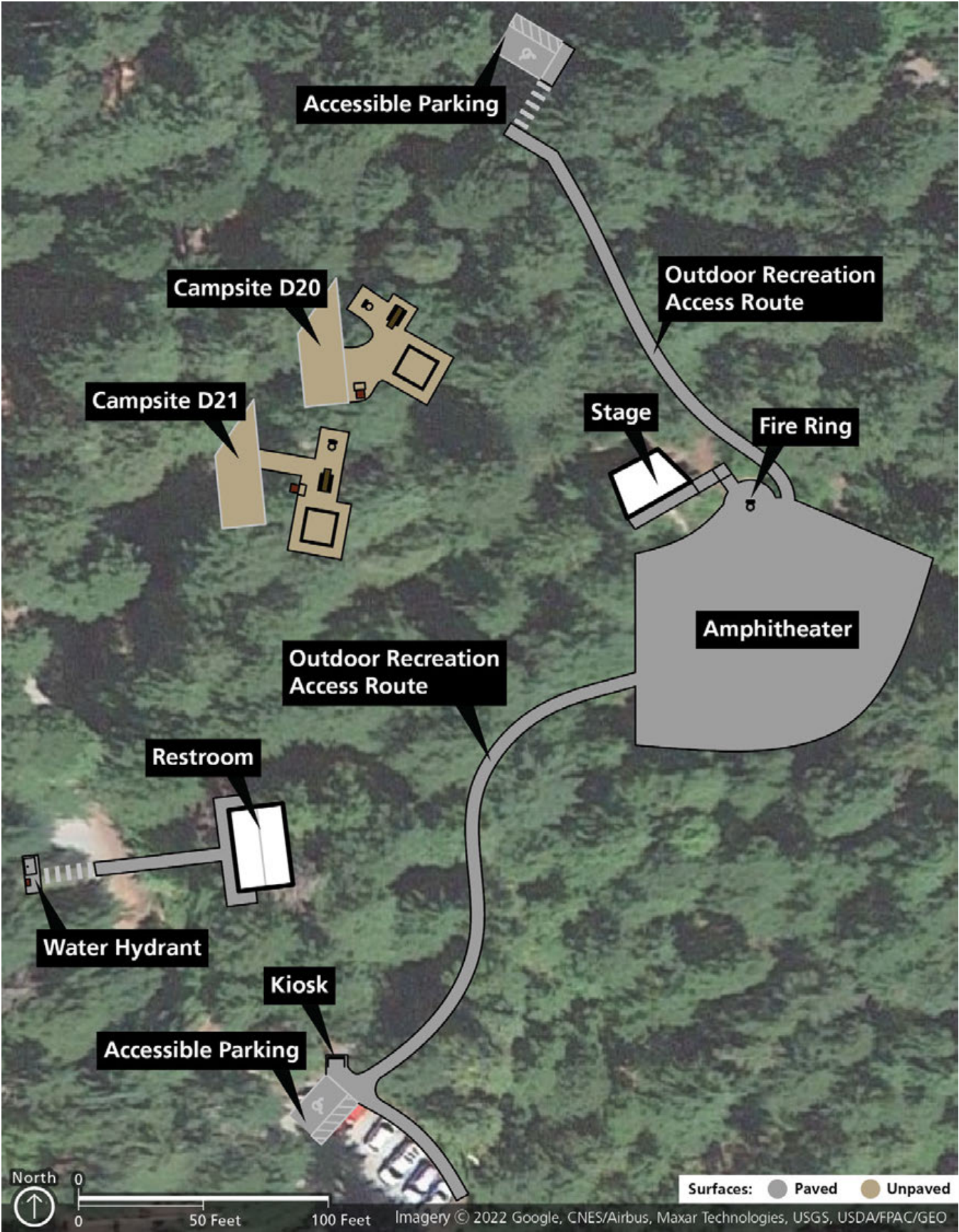


## Ohanapecosh Loop A Day Use Site Plan





Ohanapecosh Amphitheater and Campground Site Plan





## Ohanapecosh Silver Falls Trail Site Plan





## Ohanapecosh Loop C Day Use Site Plan







## PARADISE

Paradise is a main visitor attraction for the park due to its many facilities and spectacular views of Mount Rainier and its surrounding landscapes. Some of the facilities and services provided include the Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center, Paradise Inn, Historic Paradise Ranger Station, and many trails to escape into nature, including to Myrtle Falls. The large parking lot that services the area has six designated accessible parking spaces. Paved accessible routes take visitors to the different facilities in the area. The Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center provides a bookstore; many exhibits, including tactile and audio description for all exhibits; restrooms; and a food/beverage concessions. Some minimal improvements to exhibits, restrooms, and other features in the visitor center are needed to make it fully accessible.

The Wilderness Information Center is situated close to the outside restroom building. The historic structure has stairs going to the entrance near the accessible parking, but visitors use the ramp along the north side of the building to enter through the east entrance, although steep slopes create a barrier for some visitors. The Wilderness Information Center interior has sufficient room for circulation, a dual-height information counter, and exhibits and pictures with good contrast and font sizes. Adjacent to the Wilderness Information Center are the outdoor (Slate) restrooms, which are also historic. The sloped route to the restrooms is gentle, but each restroom has a large threshold at its entrance. Additional improvements are needed in the accessible stalls in each restroom, such as the clear space and the location of hooks, dispensers, and grab bars.

Myrtle Falls is a popular trail that starts from the main paved plaza in between the visitor center and the ranger station. The trailhead provides an overview of trails in the area, but more information about specific trail conditions, such as running and cross slopes, surface material, and obstacles, is needed so visitors can make informed decisions about what trails are usable to them. Myrtle Falls Trail is 0.5 miles from the main trailhead. It is paved and

very wide, with occasionally steep slopes. Benches and waysides are provided along the trail, but the clear spaces in front of them need improvements. At the end of the trail, visitors must either take stairs or walk up a steep slope with a step to a wooden bridge to view the falls below. Providing a flat viewing area and trailhead information signage that outlines trail conditions would allow more visitors to enjoy the beauty of Myrtle Falls.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Paradise Visitor Center include the following:

- **Parking:** Add more accessible parking spaces and an access aisle, and improve signage slopes and the placement of the existing parking spaces.
- **Visitor Center:** Improve the benches at the amphitheater, improve the accessible features at the interior restrooms, widen the routes throughout the gift shop and exhibits, and improve the contrast, font size, reach ranges, tactile features, and operable parts of exhibits.
- **Routes:** Reduce slopes on the route from the parking lot and from the ranger station, visitor center, outdoor restrooms, and trailheads.
- **Wilderness Information Center:** Lower the information desk and exhibits in the ranger station with reduced thresholds at the entrance of the building.
- **Outdoor (Slate) Restrooms:** Add a dual-height drinking fountain, clear the space by the trash, and improve accessible features in the restrooms.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Paradise Inn include the following:

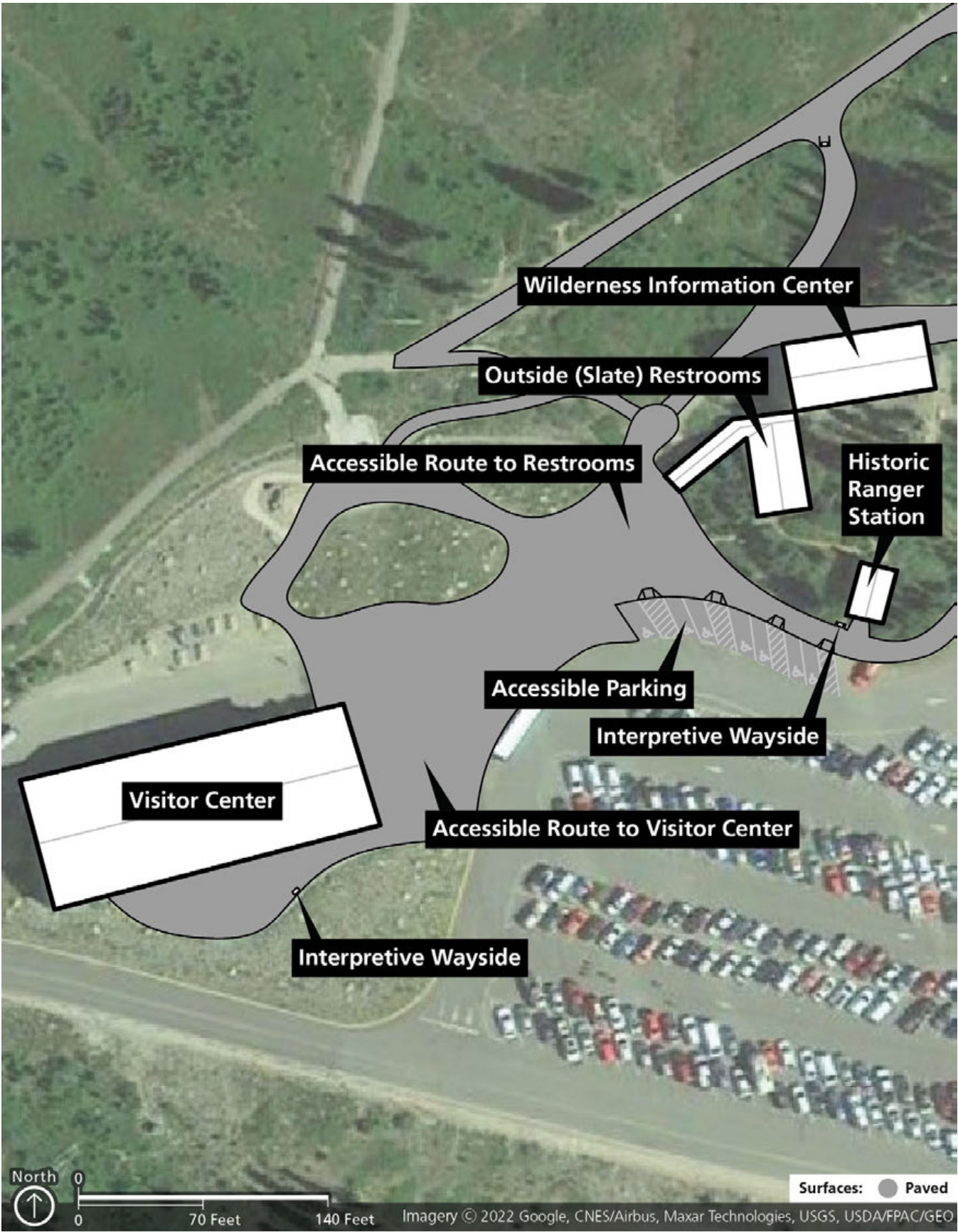
- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, an access aisle, and signage.
- **Routes:** Reduce slopes in the building, widen doorways and routes throughout the building and gift shop, and enlarge the turning space by the platform lift.
- **Building:** Improve the accessibility features of restrooms, lower check-in counters, raise dining surfaces, and improve accessible features in the seven hotel rooms.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Paradise Myrtle Falls Trail include the following:

- **Trailhead:** Add trailhead signage that outlines trail conditions.
- **Trail:** Lower slopes, and reduce obstacles and gaps on the trail surface.
- **Interpretive Waysides:** Improve slopes in front of interpretive waysides.
- **Benches:** Add level wheelchair seating adjacent to the benches and armrests, and add backrests on the benches, with raised bench heights.
- **Viewing area:** Add handrails on the stairs to the lower viewing area, and remove the step on to the bridge that leads to the upper waterfall viewing.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

Paradise Visitor Center Site Plan





## Paradise – Paradise Inn Site Plan



## Paradise Myrtle Falls Site Plan







### PARADISE PICNIC AREA

Located 0.5 miles southwest of Paradise, the Paradise Picnic Area is a popular area for visitors to relax and admire the scenery. Visitors come to picnic, hike, and view wildlife. Nisqually Vista Trail originates from the lower parking lot north of the picnic area, and there is a short trail between the lots to access these trailheads. The area has many picnic sites, and these are spread out, with several tables in each pocketed area providing different experiences to visitors. Two accessible parking spaces are provided, although neither are signed, and slopes are a little high. Additional accessible parking spaces are required and should be spaced throughout the area near accessible picnic sites, restrooms, and trailheads. There are no fully accessible picnic sites in the area, and many of the routes to existing tables have high slopes and/or stairs. The restrooms are not very accessible, with tight maneuvering spaces and flushers on the wrong side of the toilets. Accessibility could be improved by updating at least 20% of the picnic sites to be accessible and distributed throughout the loop roads, with accessible parking, routes, tables, restrooms, drinking fountains, and access to trailheads.

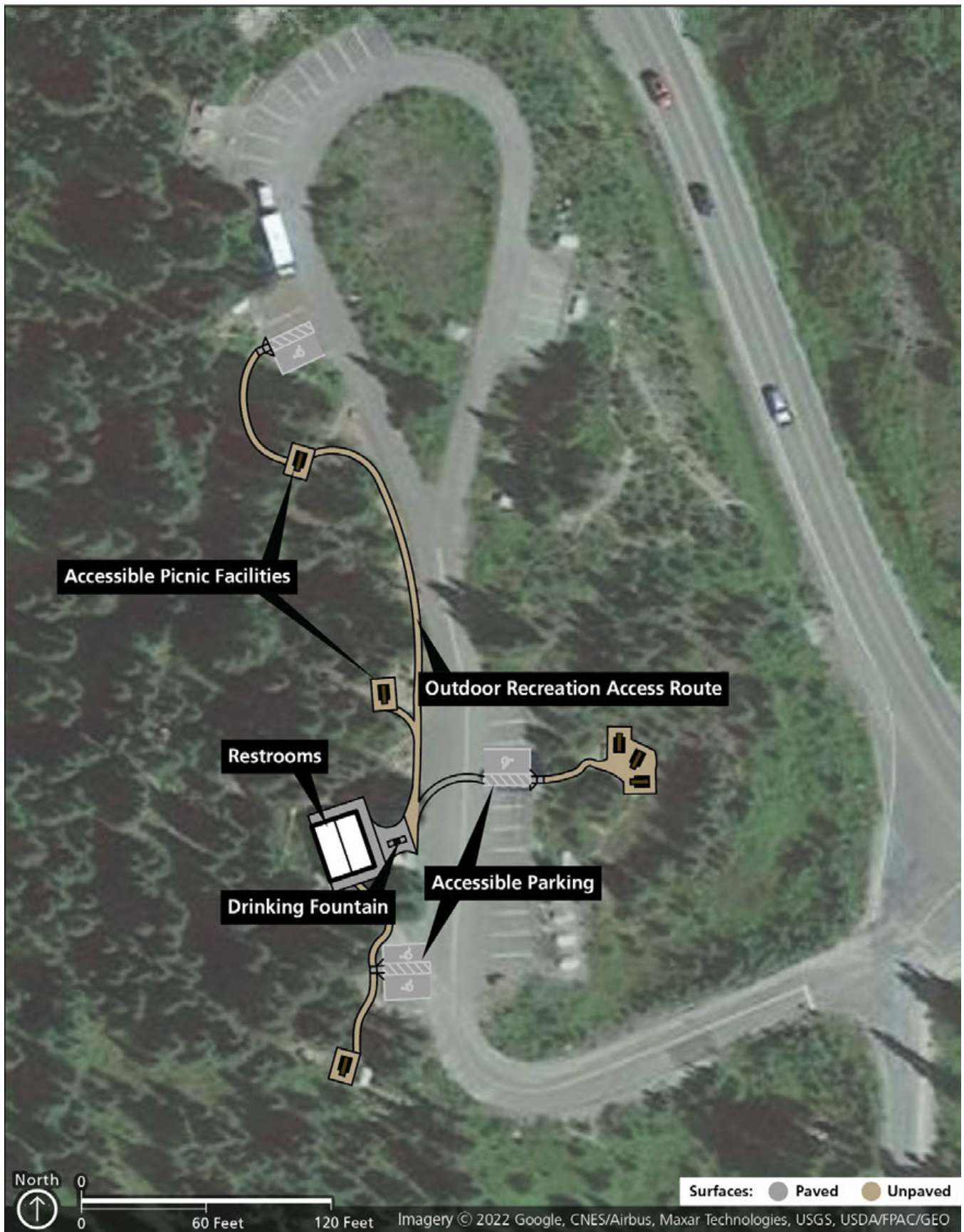
Proposed accessibility improvements at Paradise Picnic Area include the following:

- **Parking:** Add dispersed accessible parking spaces.
- **Routes:** Improve/establish routes between the accessible parking spaces, picnic facilities, and restrooms.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Add/improve dispersed accessible picnic tables and grills, with adequate approaches and clear ground spaces.
- **Drinking Fountains:** Add dual-height drinking fountains, and improve the approaches.
- **Restrooms:** Renovate the restroom interiors and entrances.



Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

## Paradise Picnic Area – Area A Site Plan



Paradise Picnic Area – Area C Site Plan







## SUNRISE

Sunrise, a developed area in the northeast corner of the park and at the highest point reached by vehicle, is the one of the most visited areas in the park (along with Longmire and Paradise). On clear summer days, visitors have breathtaking views of Mount Rainier, Emmons Glacier, the surrounding valleys, and other volcanoes in the Cascade Range. Visitors come to enjoy the scenery, hike, picnic, participate in programs, use the services, gather park information, view exhibits, and purchase mementos at the visitor center. The Sunrise Day Lodge, operated by Rainier Guest Services, provides a gift shop and food service. The developed area has a large parking area for access to the visitor center, picnic area, day lodge, and trailheads (Mount Fremont Lookout Trail, Sourdough Ridge Trail, and Emmons Vista Trail). The developed area is relatively flat, so slopes are generally mild, and access between amenities is manageable for most visitors. Several accessible parking spaces are provided, although additional spaces are required and should be dispersed to different areas and amenities. Many of the exhibits in the visitor center are accessible, with large images and text, adequate approaches, and a variety of tactile features. Accessibility could be improved through minor slope adjustments to accessible parking spaces, improving and establishing routes to restrooms and picnic sites, updating restrooms, providing directional signage throughout the area, adding accessible picnic sites, and providing trailhead signage describing the characteristics of trails.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Sunrise include the following:

- **Parking:** Add/improve the accessible dispersed parking spaces, and improve curb cuts.
- **Routes:** Establish accessible routes to the women's restroom and accessible picnic facilities, improve the routes between accessible parking spaces and the visitor center, and improve the accessible entrance at the visitor center.

- **Restrooms:** Improve the restroom interiors and entrances, and add signage.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Add/improve dispersed accessible picnic tables and grills with adequate approaches and clear ground spaces.
- **Waysides:** Improve the approaches.
- **Signage:** Add directional signage and accessibility-related signage throughout area.
- **Exhibits:** Improve the exhibit functionality, signage, and contrast, and add tactile exhibits.
- **Trailhead:** Add and relocate trailhead signs with improved accessibility details, and improve the approaches.

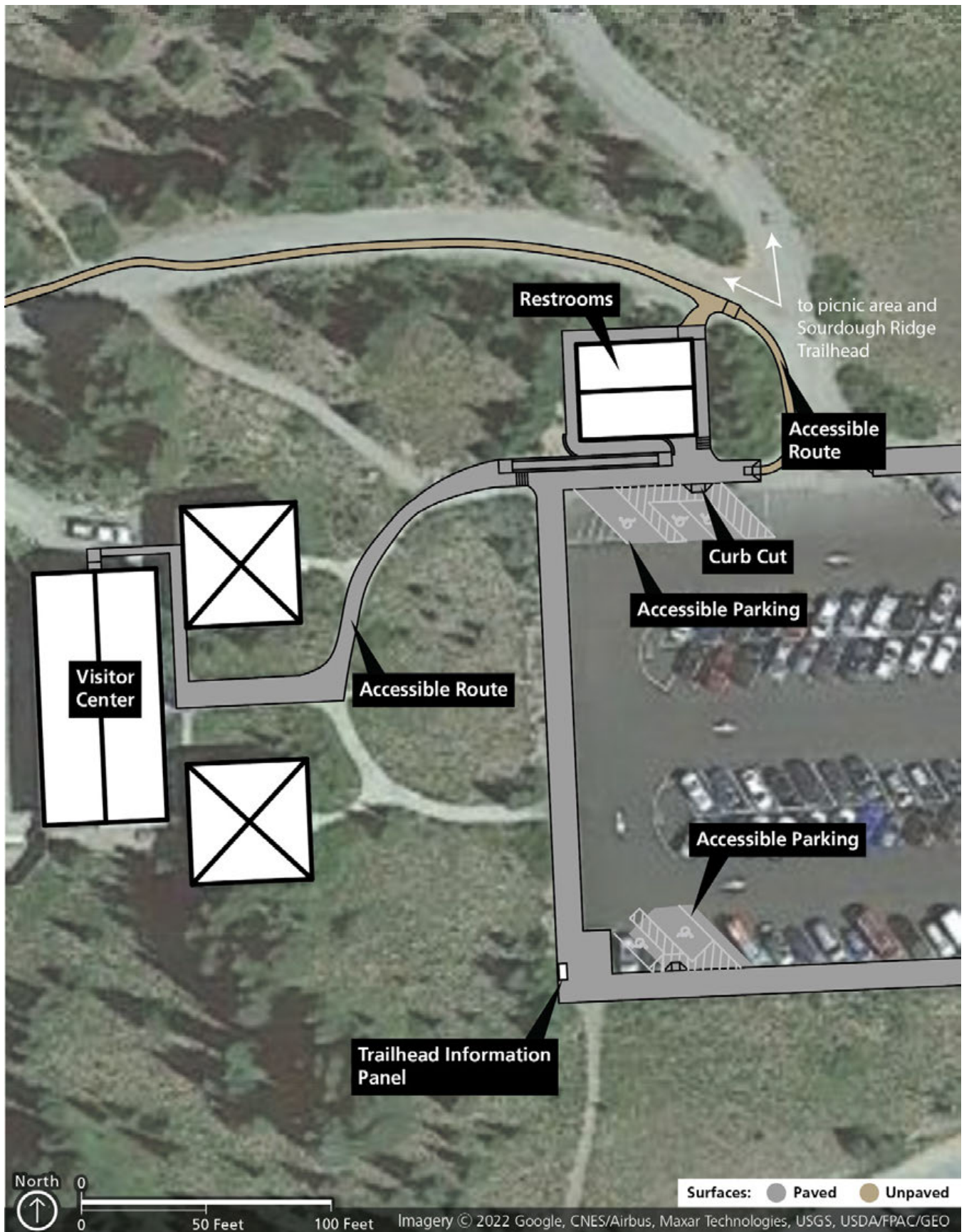
Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

## Sunrise Picnic Area Site Plan

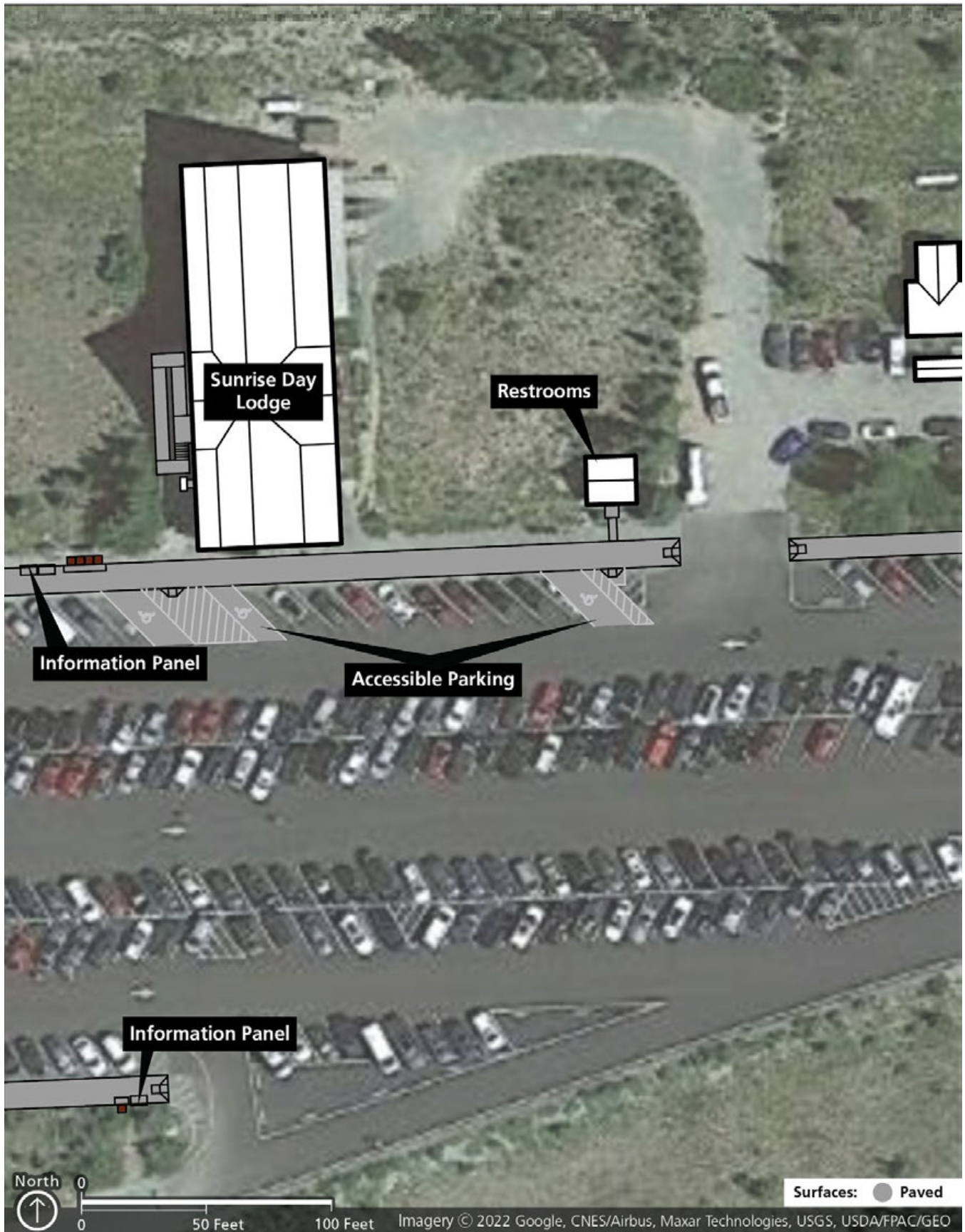




## Sunrise West Site Plan



## Sunrise East Site Plan







### TIPSOO LAKE PICNIC AREA

Tipsoo Lake, located on the eastern edge of the park near Chinook Pass, is a subalpine lake set in a glacier-carved basin and surrounded by wildflower meadows. Like many other areas of the park, this location is open only during the summer when visitors come to picnic, view wildflowers and wildlife, and hike. A network of trails emanates from the site, with difficulty levels for all ages and abilities, and access to the Pacific Crest Trail is available. Park staff provides information about available experiences, and the description on the exhibit panel is available on the website for visitors unable to access the area. The interiors of the restrooms are accessible, and slight improvements to the approach at the doors and turning spaces would improve accessibility. Slopes are high throughout the site, making parking and routes difficult for visitors using wheelchairs and walkers. In the meantime, accessibility could be improved by installing accessible parking signs and tactile restroom signs and providing trailhead signage describing characteristics of the trails.

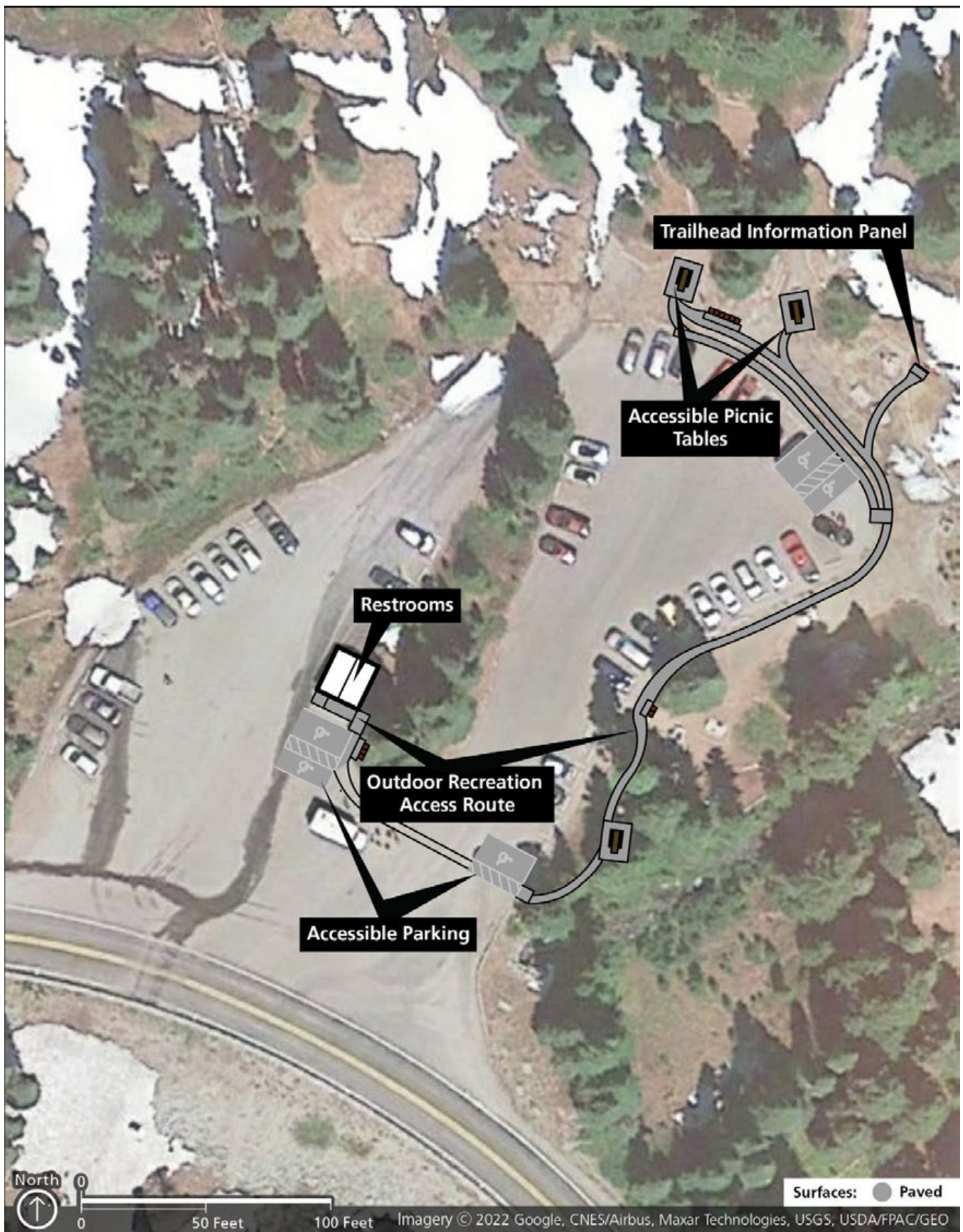
Proposed accessibility improvements at Tipsoo Lake Picnic Area include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the accessible parking spaces.
- **Routes:** Improve the route between the accessible parking spaces and the restrooms.
- **Restrooms:** Improve the restroom entrances and signage.
- **Trailhead:** Add a trailhead sign with improved accessibility details, and improve the approach.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.



## Tipsoo Lake Picnic Area Site Plan





### MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK PROGRAMS

Mount Rainier National Park staff showed strengths in providing accessible information to visitors and audio description for on-site videos via the park app. Additionally, the park updated their accessibility page on nps.gov in summer 2023 to provide more accessibility information and photos for park visitors. Park staff does not currently offer assistive listening devices or audio description for interpretive or curriculum-based educational programming. Unique opportunities exist to offer additional tactile maps and to improve the exhibits in the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center redesign to engage staff and further support visitors with disabilities. Mount Rainier National Park staff is aware of these areas for improvement and is committed to addressing them.

Proposed accessibility improvements to parkwide programs include the following:

- **Publications:** Add parkwide and site-specific alternative-format publications.
- **Website and Social Media:** Promote accessible programs and special events on social media.
- **Walks, Talks, Interpretive Programming, and Special Events:** Add assistive listening devices for interpretive programming and special events and audio description for interpretive programming.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.





### **MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK POLICIES, PRACTICES, COMMUNICATION, AND TRAINING**

Mount Rainier National Park managers showed strengths in their commitment to providing accessibility training opportunities to park staff. Park staff does not currently offer standard operating procedures for law enforcement to communicate with a person with a disability nor accessible emergency preparedness. Park staff has unique opportunities to offer additional outreach to people with disabilities and local groups to engage staff and further support visitors with disabilities. Mount Rainier National Park staff is aware of these areas for improvement and is committed to addressing them.

Proposed accessibility improvements to policies, practices, communication, and training include the following:

- **Staff Training and Park Protocols:** Add staff and discipline-related accessibility training and standard operating procedures for park policies, such as around law enforcement communication, emergency preparedness, other power-driven mobility devices, and service animals.
- **Communications and Partnerships:** Provide outreach to local groups with disabilities, and provide guidance to partners and outside groups about accessible programs.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.



## CONCLUSION

Mount Rainier National Park staff is committed to providing all visitors with the opportunity to connect with and learn about the park's unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Accessibility improvements identified in the Mount Rainier National Park SETP 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. Park staff will continue to work towards accommodating all visitors while sustaining the park's legacy to preserve and protect Mount Rainier and its unique scenery, landscape, and ecosystems.

The primary goal of the plan is to consider universal design strategies and document modifications needed to provide access to park facilities, services, activities, and programs for all visitors. As park staff works towards implementing the plan, physical access to and in assessed park areas will be improved, and park information and programs will be enhanced or created for all visitors across the breadth of key experiences at Mount Rainier National Park. Experiences such as picnicking, camping, and hiking will be enhanced. Assistive listening devices and audio description for tours and alternative formats of park publications will be provided and allow visitors with disabilities to fully participate.

The Mount Rainier National Park SETP 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, changes will be updated in the implementation strategy table. Park staff will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate and update conditions to reflect accomplishments and 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.

Over time, the results of this collective effort will make Mount Rainier National Park a more welcoming and accommodating place for all visitors and will provide equal opportunity to access the places, resources, stories, and experiences at the park.

## **APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK**

As a national park, Mount Rainier National Park is 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 pertain to Mount Rainier National Park.

### **LAWS**

- Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 – <https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides/>
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>
- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – <http://www.section508.gov/>
- Effective Communication – <http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>
- Reasonable Accommodations – <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/>
- Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices – <https://www.ada.gov/opdmd.htm>
- Service Animals – [https://www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)
- 43 CFR, Section 17.549 Program Accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited – <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.549>
- 43 CFR, Section 17.550 Program Accessibility: Existing Facilities – <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>
- 43 CFR, Section 17.551 Program Accessibility: New Construction and Alterations – <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.551>

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

- Director's Order 16A – [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO\\_16A\\_5-4-1999.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO_16A_5-4-1999.pdf)
- Director's Order 42 – [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO\\_42\\_11-3-2000.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO_42_11-3-2000.pdf)
- NPS *Management Policies 2006*: Section 1.9.3 – Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities – <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf>

### **GUIDELINES**

- Draft Accessibility Standards for Public Rights-Of-Way – <https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/>

- Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media – <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/hfc/accessibility.htm>



## APPENDIX B: RESOURCES

Many of the resources listed below for trainings, accessibility assessments, project development, and implementation are currently located on the Pacific West Region Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Planning SharePoint site (<https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-PWR-AccessibilitySETP?CT=1649343052705&OR=OWA-NT&CID=204c2563-b913-0894-1cae-52bc8f021fcf>). In the near future, this information will be available to all NPS staff and will be uploaded to the Park Facility Management Division's "Accessibility for Visitors and Employees with Disabilities" web page (<https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-pfmd/SitePages/Access-for-Visitors-and-Employees-with-Disabilities.aspx>). This information includes specific accessibility resources for concessions, facilities and maintenance, interpretation and education, and law enforcement staff. Resources include the following:

- A glossary of accessibility terms
- Reference information and links to laws and policies
- Accessibility assessment checklists and videos
- Accessibility training links and materials
- Templates that help track and document accessibility actions and an accessibility guide
- Guidance for making historic sites accessible
- Guidance for service animals in parks, accessible publications and programs, signage, and audio description
- Disability dialogue information and trainings
- Guidance for preparing PMIS packages for accessibility improvements
- Trail assessment protocols and summary sheets

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## APPENDIX C: PARK AREAS NOT ASSESSED

Part of the intent behind the SETP is training staff in how assessments are conducted so areas not included in the initial assessment can be assessed by park staff at a future date. The following park areas were not assessed for this plan. The selection process determined that key park experiences provided in these park areas were available in an equivalent way in the areas that were assessed. If any park area not assessed is improved by new construction or alterations in the future, the area will be assessed and improved to comply with the current accessibility standards. These areas will be improved as a part of future facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

Backbone Ridge Pullout	Comet Falls	Stevens Canyon Entrance
Backcountry Patrol Cabins	Fremont Lookout	Stevens Canyon Pulloffs
Box Canyon Picnic Area	Ipsut Creek	Sunrise Point Valley Road Viewpoint
Camp Muir	Nisqually Entrance	Westside Road
Carbon River Trail	Panorama Point	White River
Carter Falls	Reflection Lakes	White River Entrance and Wilderness Information Center
Christine Falls	Ricksecker Overlook	



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# **MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN JANUARY 2024**

This accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort between Mount Rainier National Park staff, Regional Office staff serving Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12, and Denver Service Center staff and is recommended for approval by the superintendent.

**GREGORY DUDGEON**

Digitally signed by GREGORY  
DUDGEON

Date: 2024.01.05 13:26:46 -08'00'

**Approved**

Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent, Mount Rainier National Park

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.

Mount Rainier National Park MORA 105/191948

January 2024



## **Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP)**

**Mount Rainier National Park  
Washington  
January 2024**

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Produced by the NPS Denver Service Center Planning Division

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