

Quarry Park Master Plan

for the City of Saratoga

Project Team

- **City of Saratoga**
 - John Cherbone, Director of Public Works
 - Iveta Harvancik, Senior Engineer
- **The Planning Center | DC&E**
 - Isabelle Minn, Principal in Charge
 - Kelly Cha, Planner
 - Christine Wilson, Landscape Designer
- **2M Associates**
 - Patrick Miller, Principal
- **HT Harvey**
Biology
- **NV5**
Infrastructure
- **Tom Origer Associates**
Historic
- **Tim Best**
Trails



Workshop Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Presentation**
 - Project Process & Schedule
 - Vision & Goals
 - Site History
 - Existing Conditions
 - Opportunities & Constraints
 - Concepts Review
- **Small Group Exercise**
- **Report Back**
- **Next Steps**
- **Adjourn**



Process & Schedule



Vision Statement

The historical Saratoga Quarry Park is a portal to the past and a gateway to the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Quarry Park provides opportunities to explore, play, educate, and experience the outdoors to benefit the visitor's physical health and spirit.



Project Goals

1. Keep open space in public ownership.
2. Use open space to protect viewsheds and natural resources.
3. Use open space for recreation.
4. Enhance connectivity to neighboring communities and open spaces.
5. Maintain natural vegetation to improve habitat diversity and combat climate change.
6. Connect Saratoga to the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail.
7. Improve public health through air and water quality, recreational opportunities, and connection to nature.



Site History

Mining (1850s-1960s)

- **1854**
Hughes brothers start copper company on the north parcel - little copper found on site. They sell property to Lewis Sage, who then sells it to John Shields in 1890. Shields begins the lime quarry.
- **1856**
John Hutchinson buys the south parcel and begins a limestone quarry. Abandons quarrying after two years, but property remains in his family for many decades.
- **1908**
JW Knowles and JJ Stanfield buy property and convert it to a gravel quarry. Adjacent to their quarry is the Saratoga Crushed Rock Company, which constructs two concrete-tunnels in the hillside.
- **1921**
Santa Clara County purchases the property and uses the mined rock and gravel for the construction and maintenance of County Roads.

Loading Structure



Mining Era



c. 2013

Site History



c. 1948

Site History

Post-Mining & Acquisition (1960s - Today)

- **1967**
The County closes the quarry.
- **1960s-90s**
The Santa Clara County Roads Department uses the site for recreation.
- **2011**
The City acquires property from Santa Clara County with conservation easement and joint-funding from the County and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.
- **2013**
The City adopts a resolution approving the annexation of the site and amends land use designation to Open Space-Outdoor Recreation.

Picnic Facility



c. 2013

Site History

Key Findings

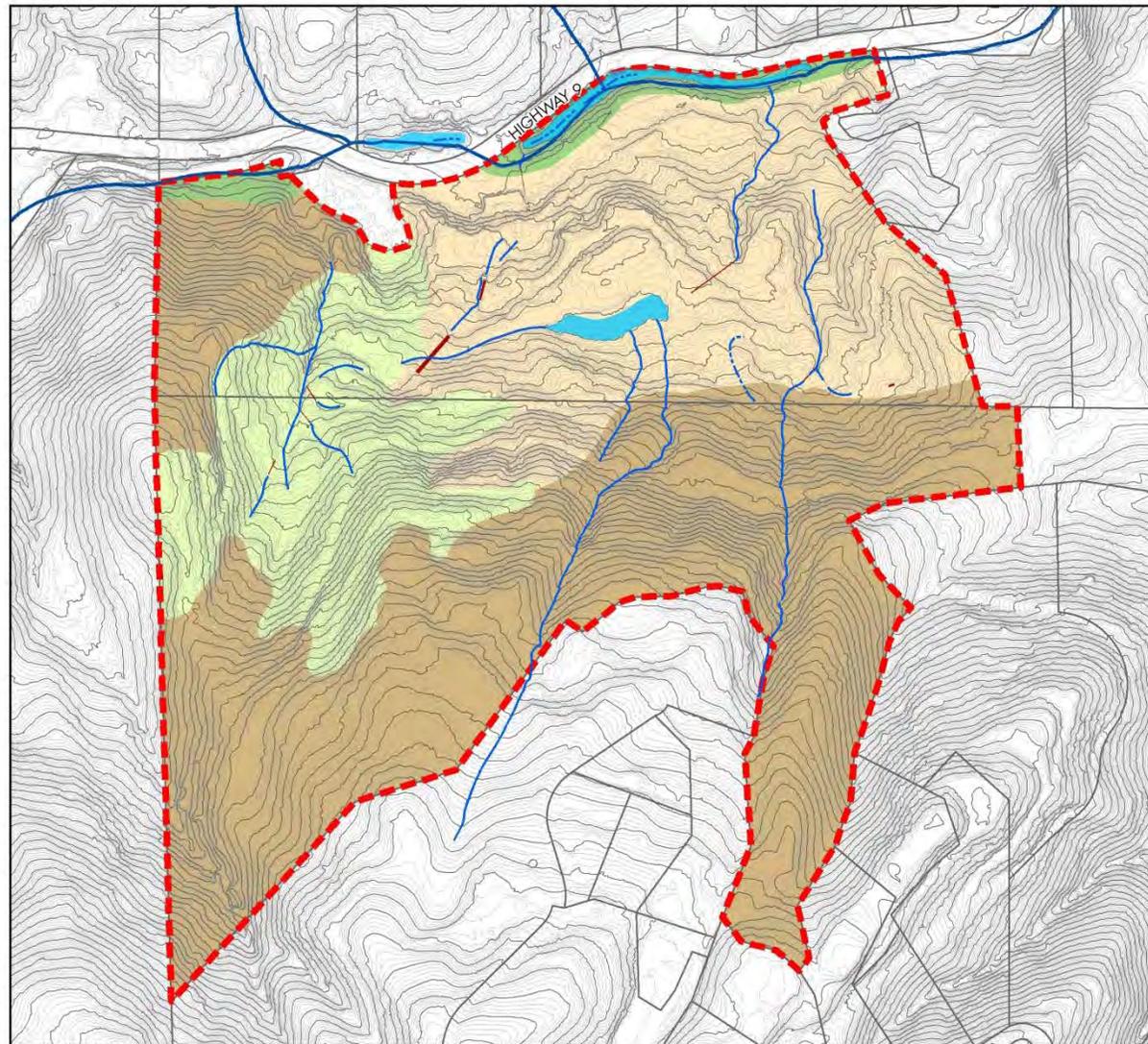
- The Ohlone used the land prior to 1850s mining, but there are no pre-mining resources on the site. Quarrying heavily altered the site over the years.
- Historic remnants that exist today include the loading structure base, two concrete tunnels in the hillside, and the picnic facility.
- Quarry could be eligible for the California Register because it was and important part of the local economy during late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Concrete-Lined Tunnels



c. 2013

Existing Conditions: Biology



Habitat Type

- Broad leaved Upland Forest
- Mixed Native/Non-native Woodland
- Northern Coastal Scrub
- Riparian Forest
- Wetland

Waters and Drainage

- Culverts
- Creeks
- Stream
- Drainage

Administrative Boundaries

- Plan Area Boundary
- Parcels

Topography

- 2' Contour Lines
- 10' Contour Lines

Source: City of Saratoga, 2013; Santa Clara County, 2013; HT Harvey and Associates, 2013; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2013.

Existing Conditions: Biology



1. Riparian Forest

Along Saratoga Creek; tall trees, sparse understory; many native plants; high-quality habitat.



2. Northern Coastal Shrub

Dry, sandy, exposed slopes; few trees, thick shrub layer; native and non-native annual grasses and forbs.



3. Broadleaf Upland Forest

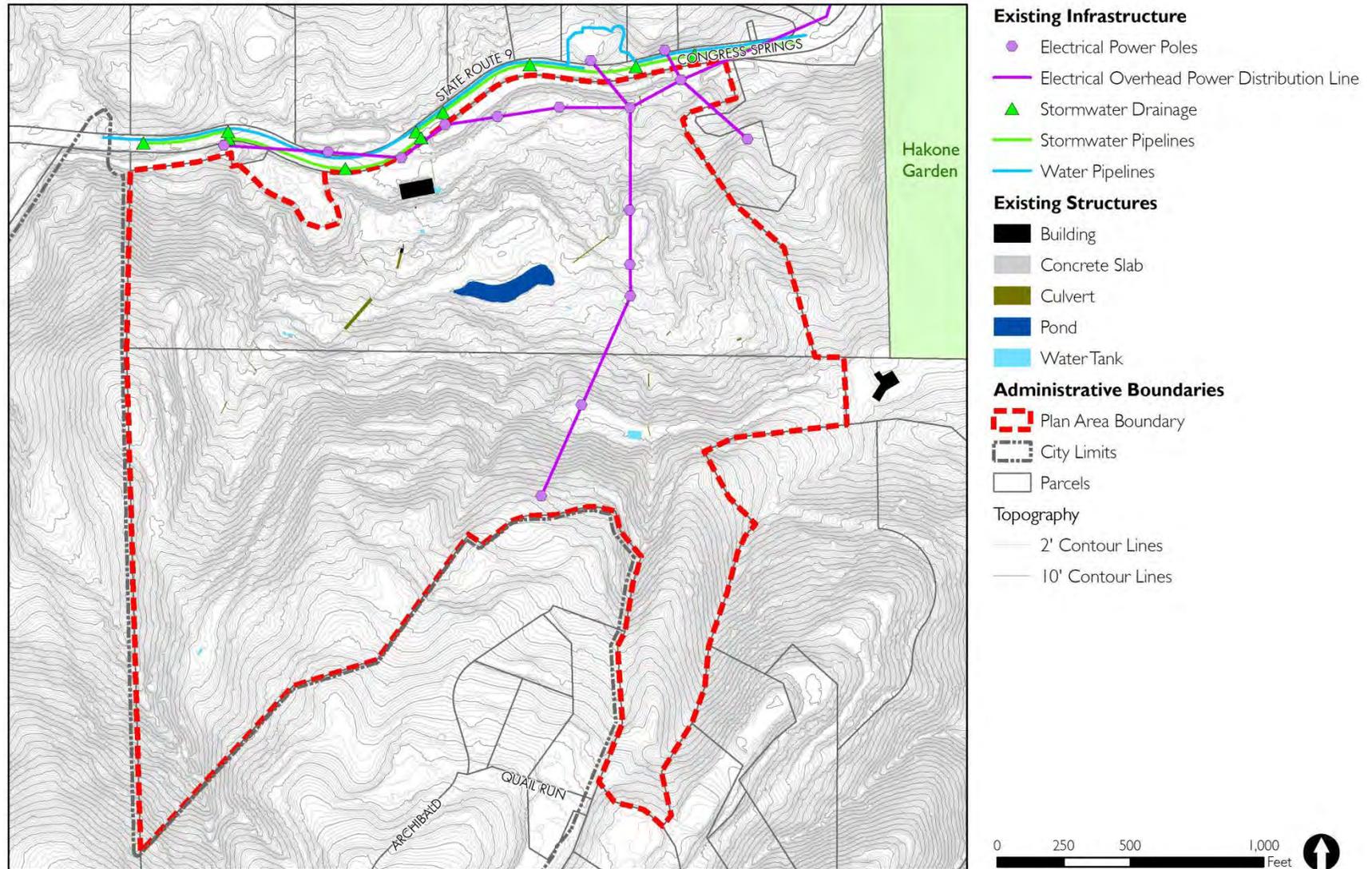
Higher slopes, mostly undisturbed; high-quality habitat; primarily native plants, except on cleared trails.



4. Mixed Native and Non-Native Woodland

Highly-disturbed; lowest-quality habitat; mostly flat; some naturally-occurring trees, many planted native and non-native trees.

Existing Conditions: Infrastructure

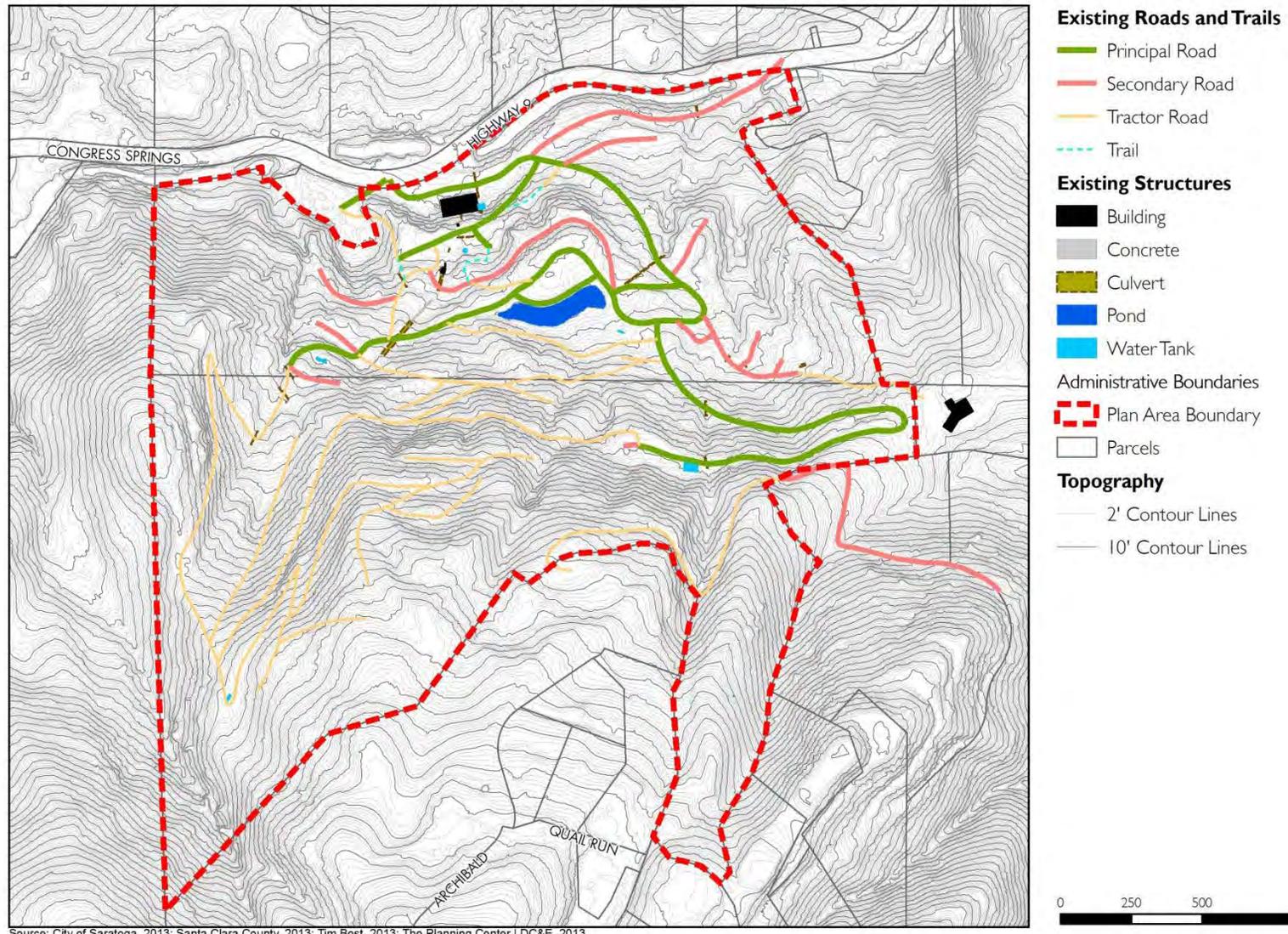


Source: NV5, 2013; City of Saratoga, 2013; Santa Clara County, 2013; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2013.

Existing Conditions: Infrastructure

- **Gas:** No evidence of gas used for quarry operations.
- **Sanitary:** No sewer system within the site.
- **Stormwater:** Stormwater flows downhill towards Saratoga Creek. Access routes drained by roadside ditches with a few corrugated metal culverts.
- **Water:** Old irrigation system (c.1969) constructed for re-vegetation and restoration of property. Remnants include water tanks and segments of galvanized pipelines.
- **Electricity:** The site is served by PG&E; overhead power distribution lines exist along Route 9 and through the eastern portion of the site.

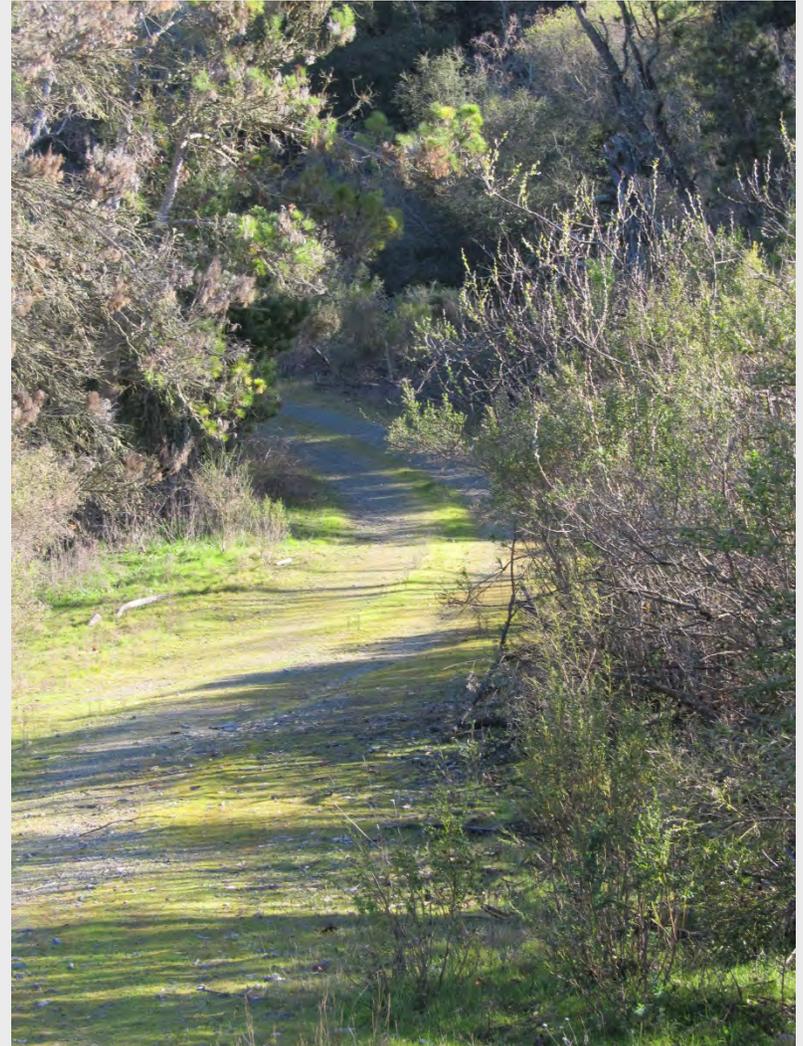
Existing Conditions: Roads and Trails



Source: City of Saratoga, 2013; Santa Clara County, 2013; Tim Best, 2013; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2013.

Existing Conditions: Roads and Trails

- Over 0.8 miles of drivable roads.
- Over 3 miles of overgrown / abandoned roads and tractor trails.
- Some roads and trails are questionable because of steepness.
- Drainage problems on some roads and trails will require extensive reconstruction if they are to be used.



Opportunities & Constraints

- Opportunities

- Regional & Local Connectivity
- Habitat Restoration & Protection
- Education
- Recreation
- Historic Preservation

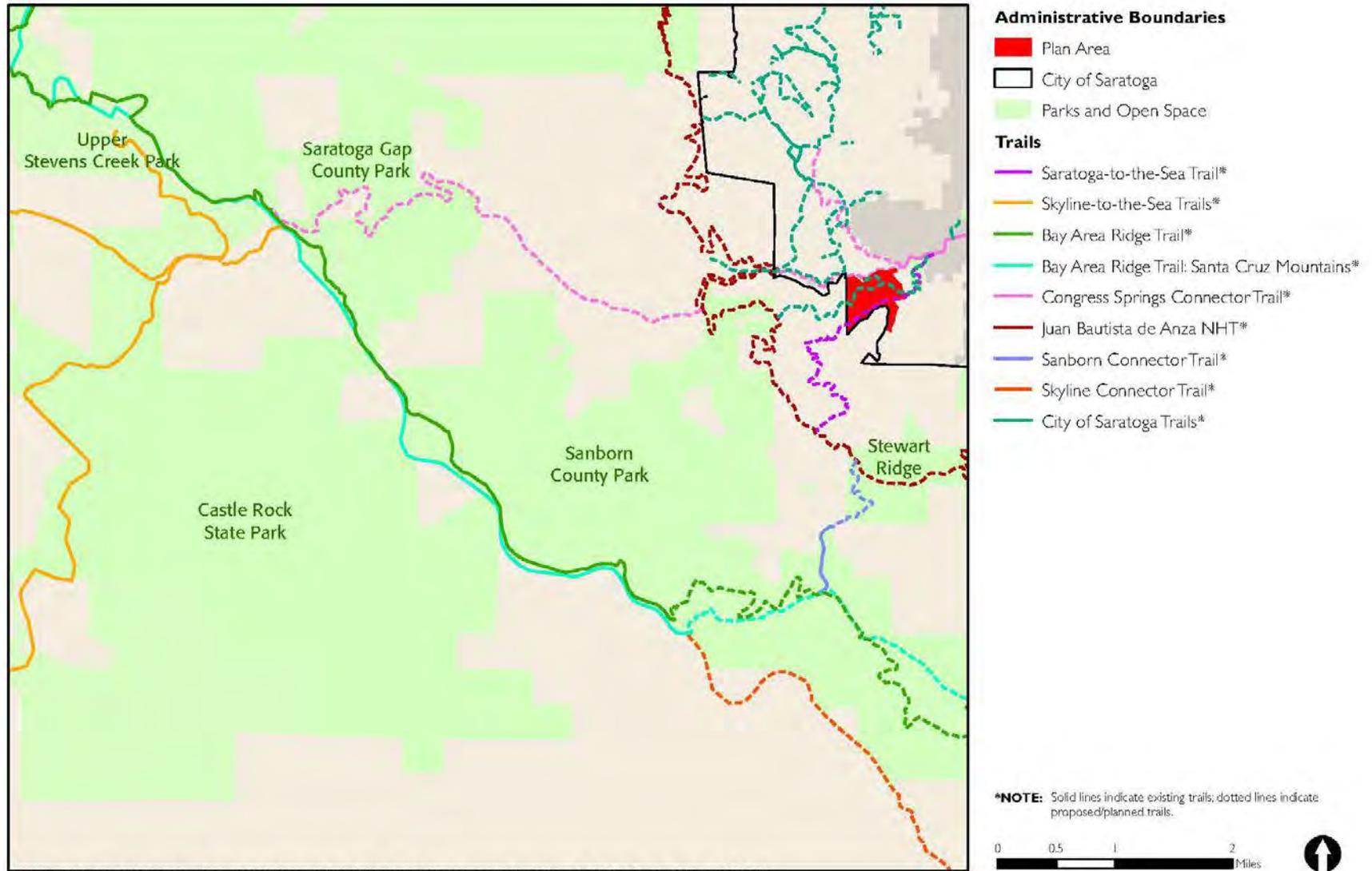
- Constraints

- Ownership & Access
- Sensitive Habitats
- Topography

Opportunities: Regional & Local Connectivity

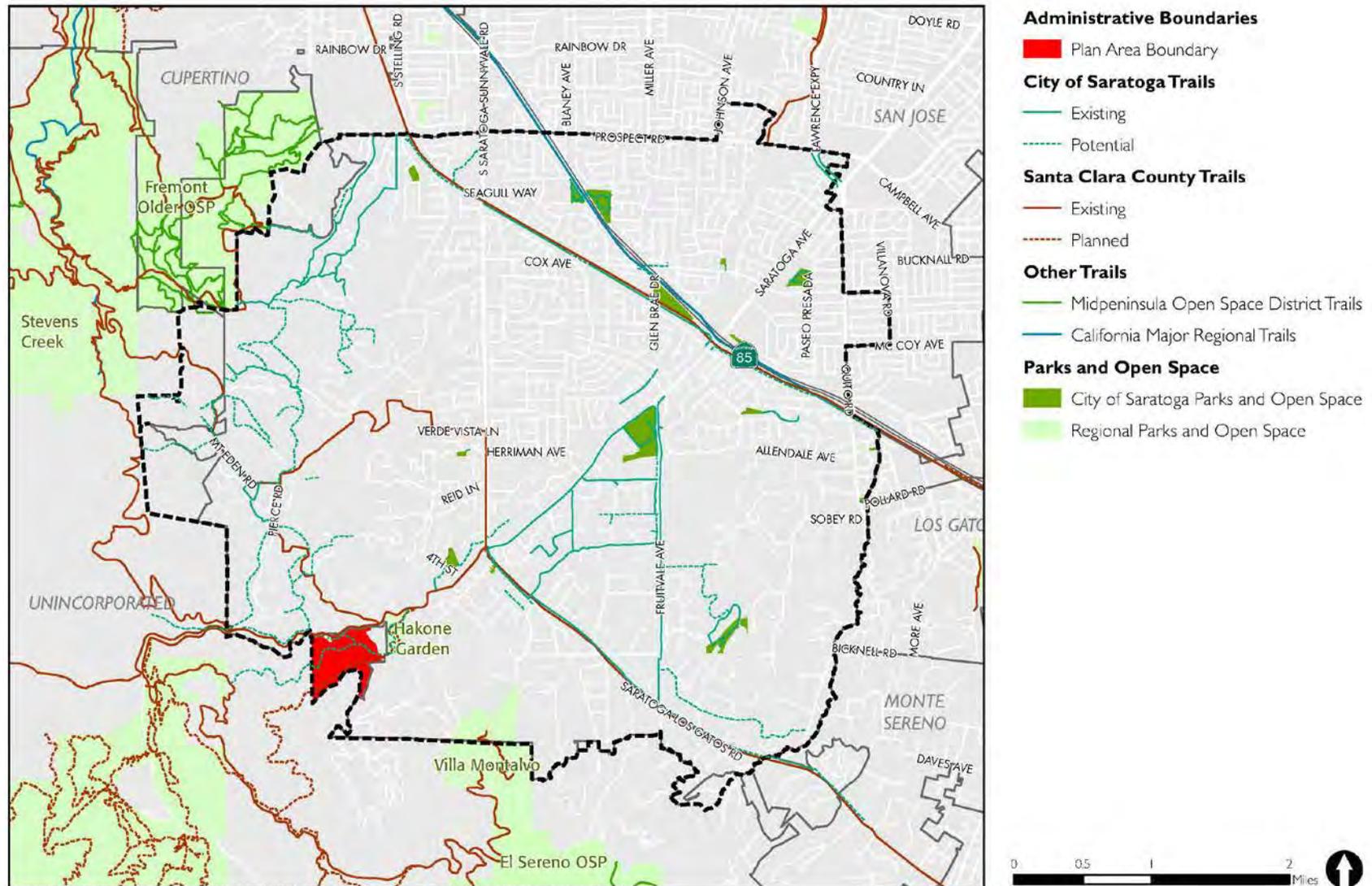
- **Regional Connectivity**
 - Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail (Saratoga-to-the-Sea)
 - Sanborn Park Trails
- **Local Connectivity**
 - Equestrian Trails to the North
 - Hakone Gardens
 - Saratoga Village

Opportunities: Regional Connectivity

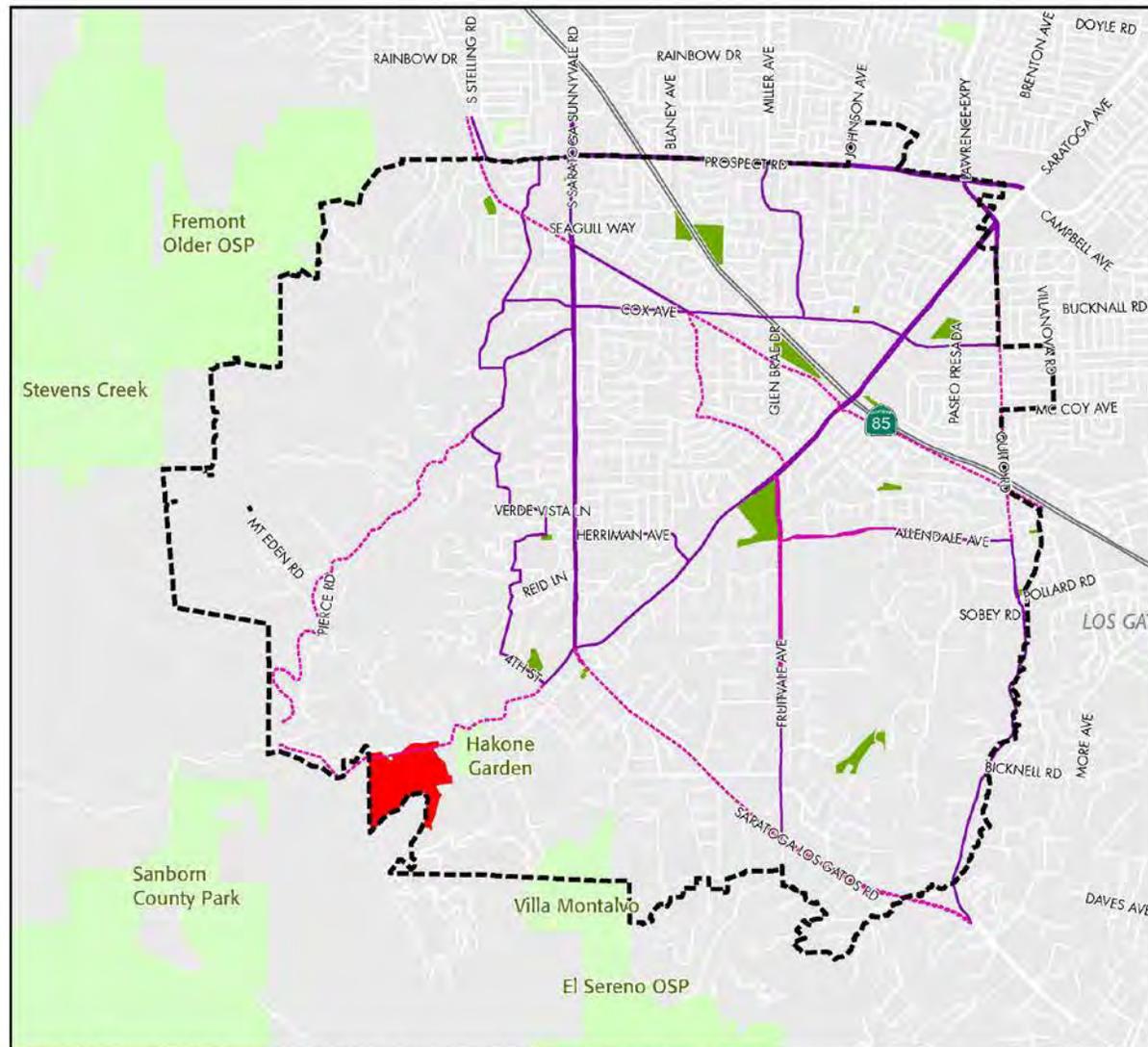


Source: City of Saratoga, 2013; Santa Clara County, 2013; Midpeninsula Open Space District, 2013; Conservation Lands Network, 2012; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2013.

Opportunities: Local Connectivity



Opportunities: Local Connectivity



Administrative Boundaries

Plan Area Boundary

City of Saratoga Bicycle Facilities

Existing

Planned

Parks and Open Space

City of Saratoga Parks and Open Space

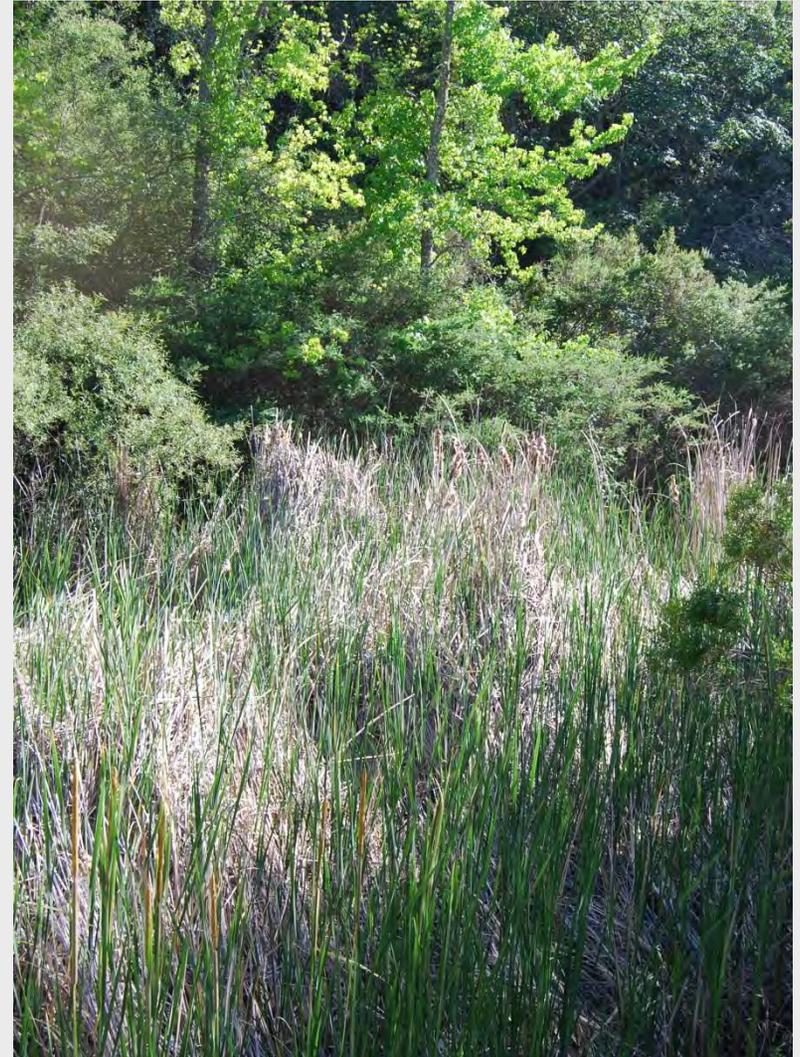
Regional Parks and Open Space

Source: City of Saratoga, 2013; Santa Clara County, 2013; Midpeninsula Open Space District, 2013; Conservation Lands Network, 2012; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2013



Opportunities: Habitat Restoration & Protection

- Restore and expand the riparian corridor by removing non-native plants, planting native riparian plants.
- Restore and protect the seasonal wetland pond by removing non-native plants, improving the supporting hydrology. Consider interpretive boardwalk trail.
- Remove invasive non-native plants throughout the site with volunteer stewardship activities.
- Create an arboretum with labeled native plants and plants with interest, beauty, and educational value.
- Highlight how vegetation has reclaimed the quarry over time with a walking tour and education information.



Opportunities: Education

- Activities & Infrastructure
 - Curated displays and pamphlets
 - Interpretive walks with audio tours and signage
 - Seasonal events (walking tours, festivals)
- Themes
 - Saratoga's Hidden Playground **CONCEPT #1**
(County Roads' stonework & picnic areas)
 - Digging into the Past **CONCEPT #2**
(remnants of the quarry - tunnels & structures)
 - Sculpting the Landscape
(topographical focus)
 - Saratoga's Unexpected Arboretum
(native and non-native plant diversity)

Opportunities: Recreation

- Hiking Trails
- Equestrian Trails
- Bicycle Paths
- Mountain Biking Trails
- Picnicking
- Bird-watching
- Scenic Overlooks
- Outdoor Education
- Natural Play
- Special Events



Opportunities: Historic Preservation



Constraints: Ownership and Access

Easements through Adjacent Properties

- To connect down to Saratoga Village, trails would need to cross through private residential properties and Hakone Gardens.
- To connect up to Sanborn Park and the Skyline-to-the-Sea trail would require a connection to an easement through the San Jose Water Company Property.

Conservation Easement

Restricts the use of the Property to activities involving recreation (hiking, picnicking, nature research and study), enjoyment of views, open space, natural habitat and environmental protection, restoration and related uses which are consistent with this Easement.

Constraints: Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive Riparian Habitat

- Protect riparian forest corridor along Saratoga Creek, as well as the perennial pond located in the middle of the site.

Special-Status Species

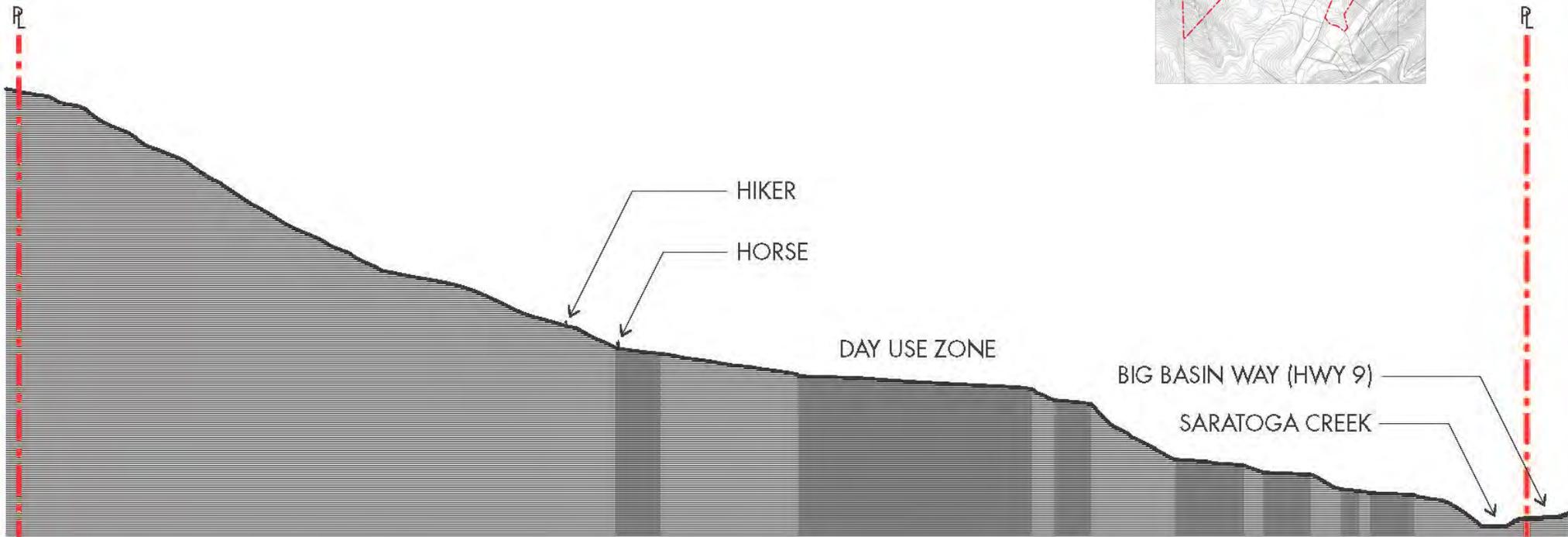
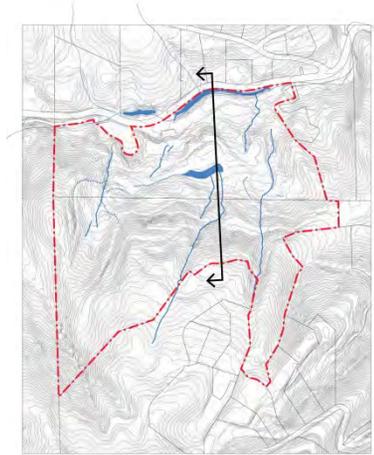
- No federally or state listed special-status species on-site, California red-legged frog has been identified 1000 feet from the project site.
- Potential other significant species: Townsend's big-eared bat (in the tunnels), San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat, and nesting birds.

Constraints: Topography

- Approximately 90% of site is unusable because of steep grades.
- Roads and trails with greater than 15% slopes are susceptible to erosion issues.
- Trails that are greater than 12.5% extremely difficult to make accessible for bicyclists.
- Due to the highly modified topography, challenging to create continuous loop trails that do not require excessive grading and modifications.

Constraints: Topography

CROSS-SECTION THROUGH PROJECT SITE (SCALE = 1:250)

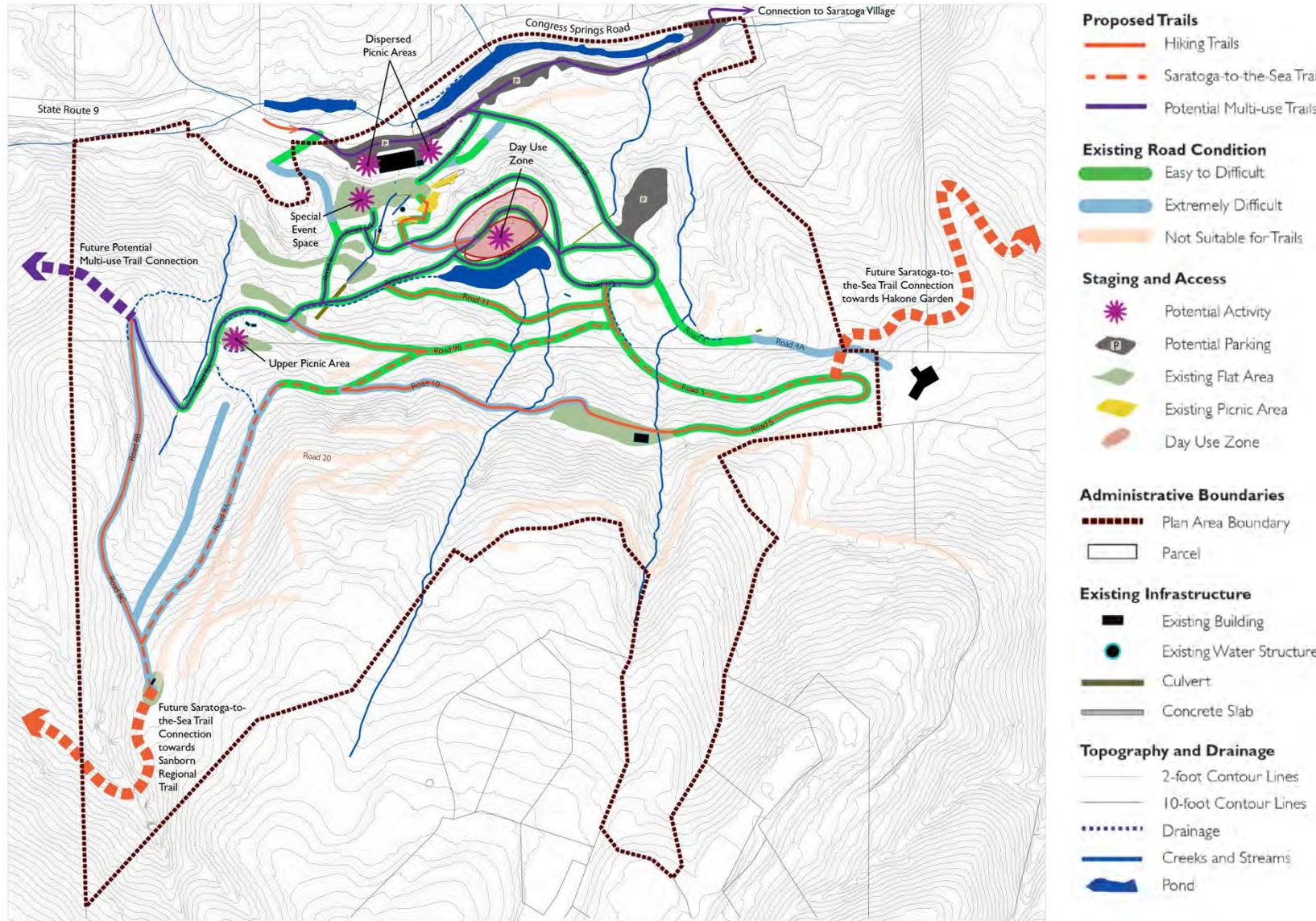


LESS THAN 12.5% SLOPE

Integrated Management Plan & Master Plan

- **Plan Contents:**
 - Introduction and Vision
 - Goals, Objectives, and Policies
 - Existing Conditions
 - **Quarry Park Concept Plan**
 - Design Guidelines
 - Interpretive Program
 - Natural Resources Management Guidelines
 - Implementation and Phasing Plan

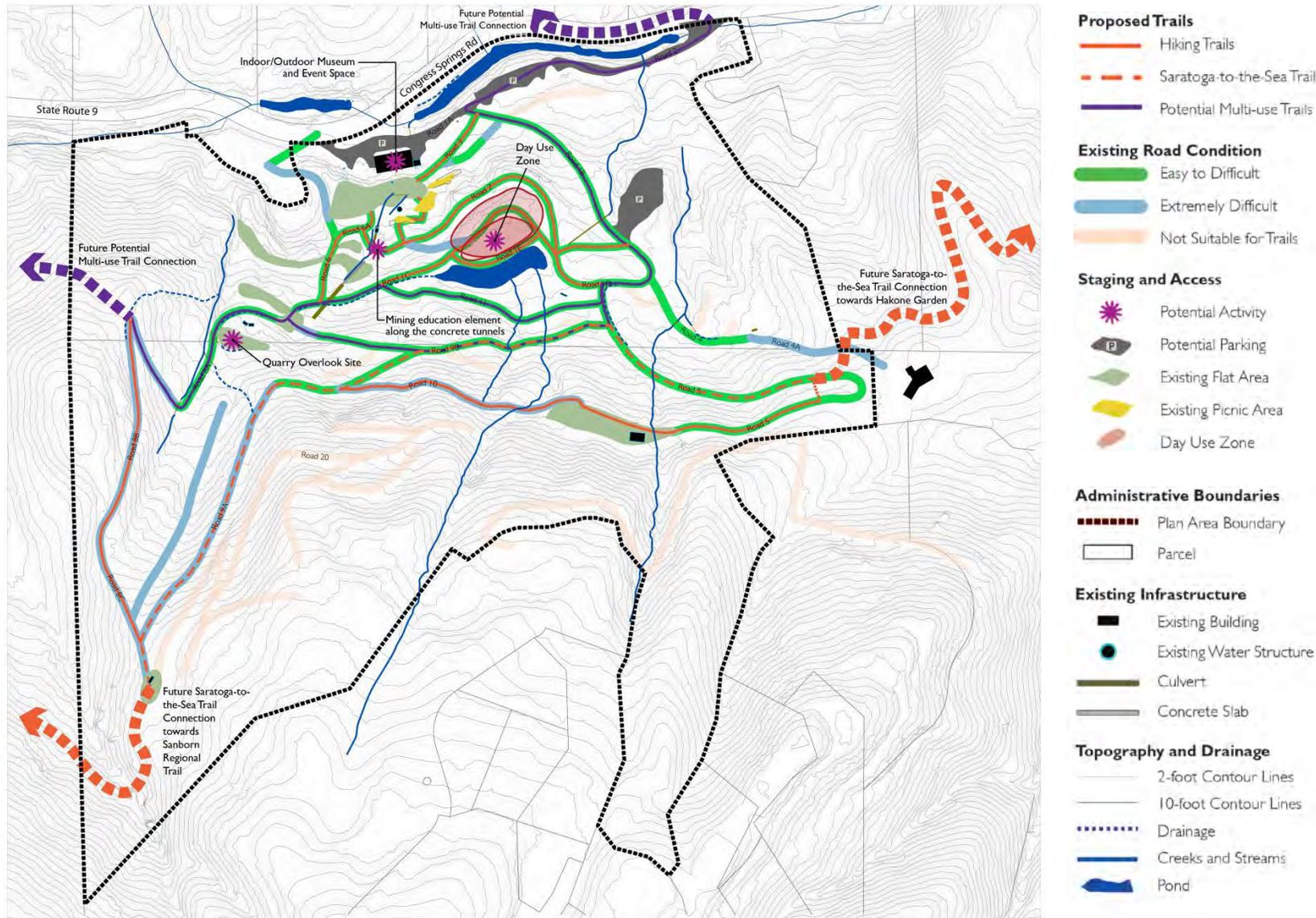
Concept #1: "Saratoga's Hidden Playground"



Concept #1: “Saratoga’s Hidden Playground”

- Hiking Trails and Multi-use Trails
- Regional Multi-use Connection
- Dispersed Picnic Areas at Historic Loading Structure
- Special Event Space at Historic Picnic Site
- Upper Picnic Area at Scenic Overlook
- Emphasize Tree Species Diversity with Interpretive Information
- Day Use Zone (Small Group Exercise)

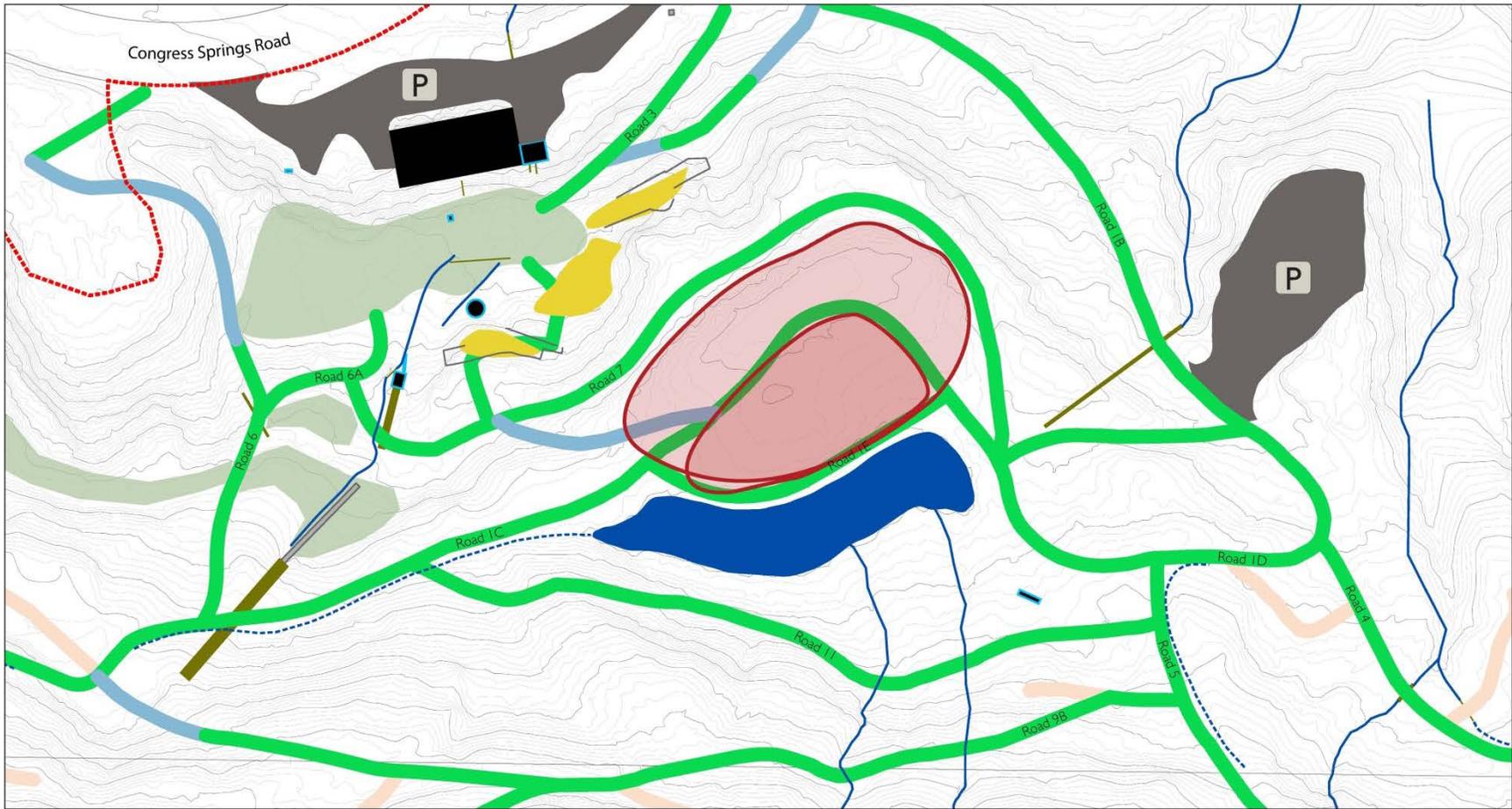
Concept #2: “Digging into the Past”



Concept #2: “Digging into the Past”

- Hiking Trails and Multi-use Trails
- Regional Multi-use Connection
- Mining Education & Interpretation
 - Indoor/Outdoor Museum & Event Space at Loading Structure
 - Interpretive Walking Loop:
 - Permit some access to concrete tunnels
 - Highlight quarry overlook
 - Add educational elements at pond
- Day Use Zone (Small Group Exercise)

Concept Design: Day Use Zone



Proposed Trails

- Hiking Trails
- - - Saratoga-to-the-Sea Trail
- Potential Multi-use Trails

Existing Road Condition

- Easy to Difficult
- Extremely Difficult
- Not Suitable for Trails

Administrative Boundaries

- - - - - Plan Area Boundary
- Parcel

Existing Infrastructure

- Existing Building
- Existing Water Structure
- Culvert
- Concrete Slab

Staging and Access

- ✳ Potential Activity
- P Potential Parking
- Existing Flat Area
- Existing Picnic Area
- Day-use Zone

Topography and Drainage

- 2-foot Contour Lines
- 10-foot Contour Lines
- - - - - Drainage
- Creeks and Streams
- Pond

Concept Design: Day Use Zone



Concept Design: Day Use Zone

Primary Programming Ideas:

- Natural Playground
- Picnic Areas
- Shade Structure
- Restrooms, Parking
- Community Garden
- Habitat Restoration
- Interpretive Elements
- Vista Points

Additional Programming Ideas:

- Arboretum
- Vineyard
- Demonstration Garden
- Boardwalk @ Pond
- QR Code & Audio Tour
- Zip Line
- Ropes Course
- Electric Car Charging Station



Small Group Exercise

1. Concept Alternatives Discussion
2. Concept Design: Day Use Zone
3. What are we missing?



Report Back



Next Steps

1. Joint Working Meeting with the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission
2. Concept Plan
3. Public Workshop #3 – November 2013

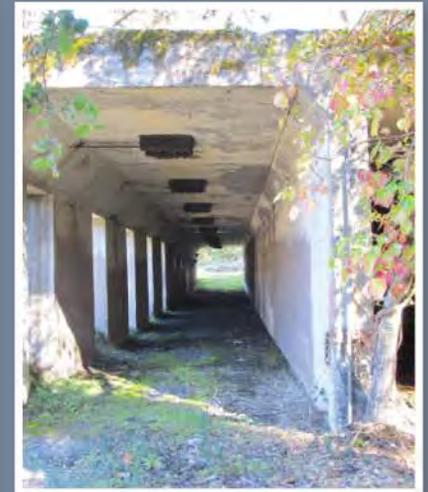
Additional Comments

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