



Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission Commission Meeting

Bridle Trails State Park

**Land Classification Change
New Environmental Learning Classroom
& Welcome Station**

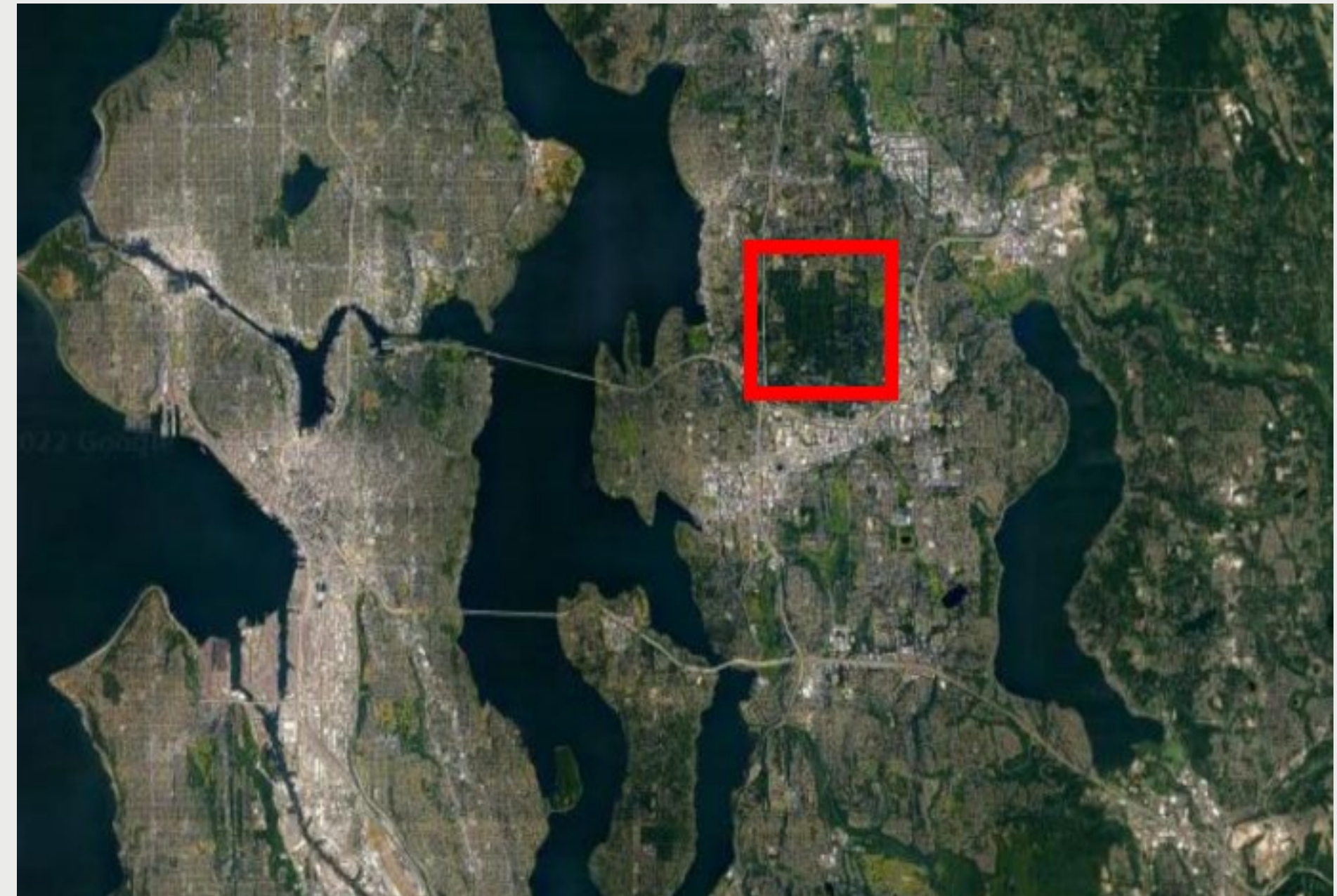
**Presented by
Matt Birklid, Park Ranger
Nikki Fields, Lands & Planning Program Manager
March 6, 2024**



Presentation Agenda:

- Intro to Bridle Trails State Park
- Alignment with Commission Priorities
- Site & Context
- Proposed Land Classification Change and New Facilities
- Bridle Trails Park Foundation
- Next Steps





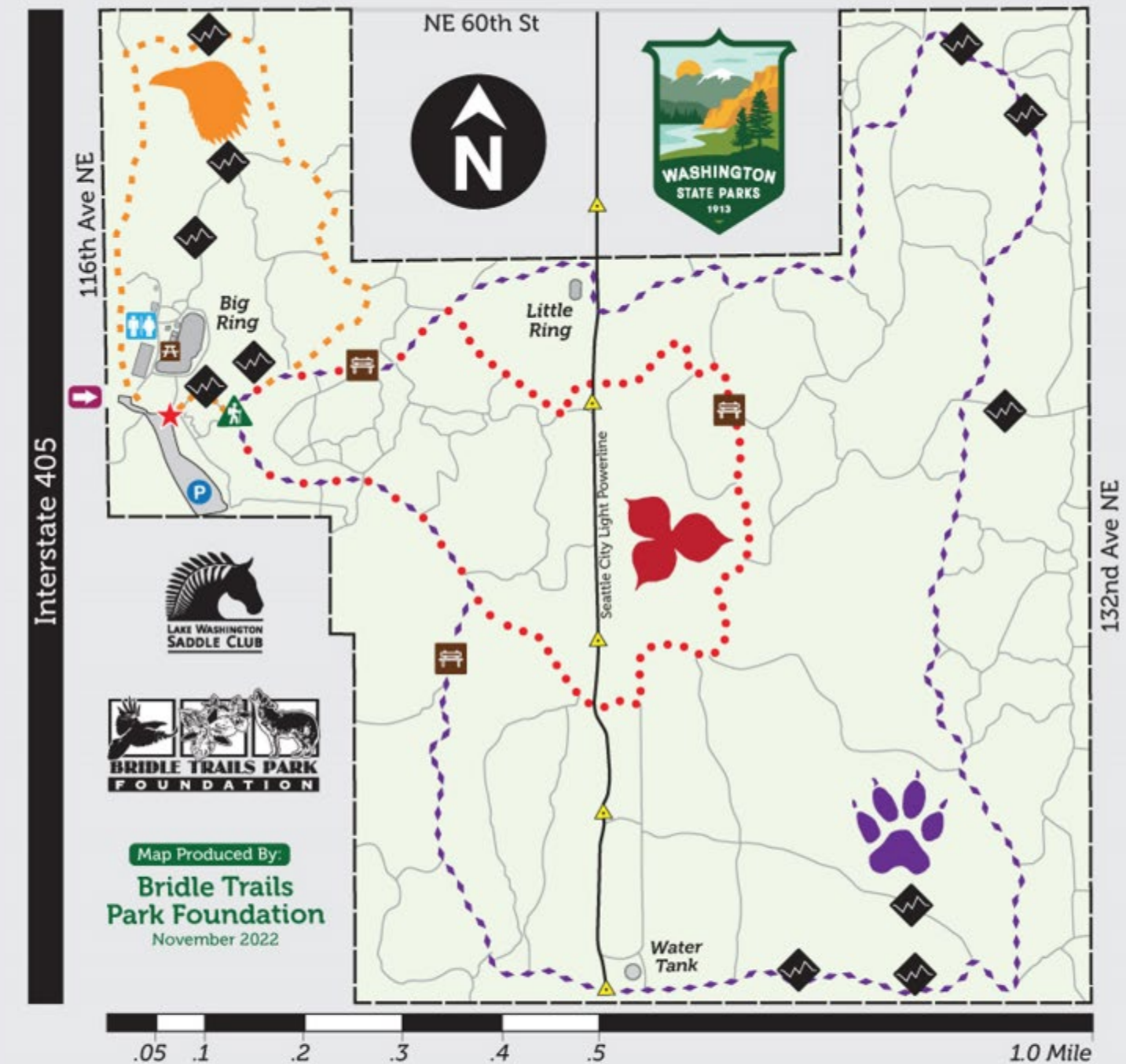
BRIDLE TRAILS STATE PARK: One of the largest remaining lowland forests in the metropolitan King County Area.



- 489 acres
- 28 miles of trails
- Equestrian event grounds
- Picnic area

Bridle Trails State Park

Kirkland, Washington



Trillium Loop (1.7mi)	You Are Here ★	Trailhead 🚶	Powerline Towers ⚡
Raven Loop (1.0mi)	Park Entrance ➡	Restrooms 🚻	Trail Bench 🪑
Coyote Loop (3.5mi)	Parking Lot P	Picnic Area 🍷	Steep Trail Area ⚡

Markers placed along trail loops indicate direction of travel. BROWN indicates clockwise travel. GREEN indicates counter-clockwise travel.

2022 VISITATION & ENGAGEMENT ESTIMATES

Washington State Parks (Main Entrance Parking Lot): 160,000+

Bridle Trails Park Foundation Engagements (Year-Round): 1,500 – 2,000

Lake Washington Saddle Club Engagements (April-Sept) : 2,000+



Bridle Trails Park Foundation:

Annual Community & Family Events, Scouts, Summer Camp, Nature Walks, Stewardship Projects

Lake Washington Saddle Club:

Hunter Jumper Classics, Clinics & Academy Events; Dressage, English/Western & Prize Rides



COMMISSION GOALS	PROJECT ALIGNED STRATEGIES (11)
CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep parks vibrant, accessible and well cared-for • Provide customers the facilities and experiences they want and expect • Form partnerships with agencies, tribes, non-profits and new stakeholders
QUALITY OF LIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate that all Washingtonians benefit from their state parks
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all visitors of all backgrounds • Develop new parks and amenities, and improve trails and park services that meet the needs of a growing and increasingly diverse population • Engage youth and diverse communities
RESOURCE PROTECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect ecosystems and habitat for long-term sustainability • Preserve Washington’s cultural heritage
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand use of partnerships, concessions and other business opportunities • Secure financial resources needed to address agency and visitor priorities



Building Site

**Location based on Equestrian
Safety, Trail System & ADA
Access to Forest Experience
(currently none)**

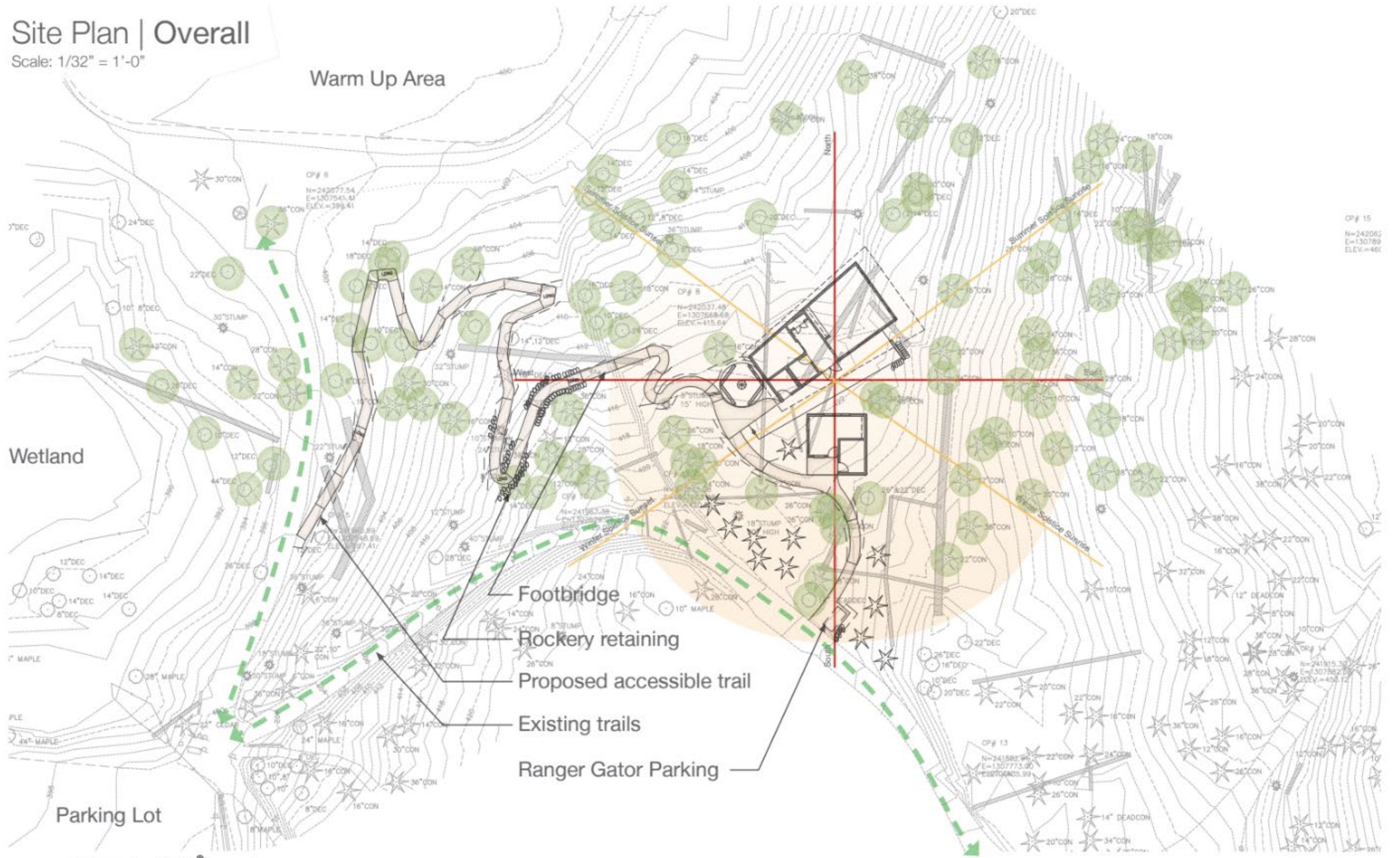
Environmental Ed. Classroom
920 sq. ft

Welcome Station (Park Office)
280 sq. ft



Site Plan | Overall

Scale: 1/32" = 1'-0"



Bridle Trails Environmental Education Classroom

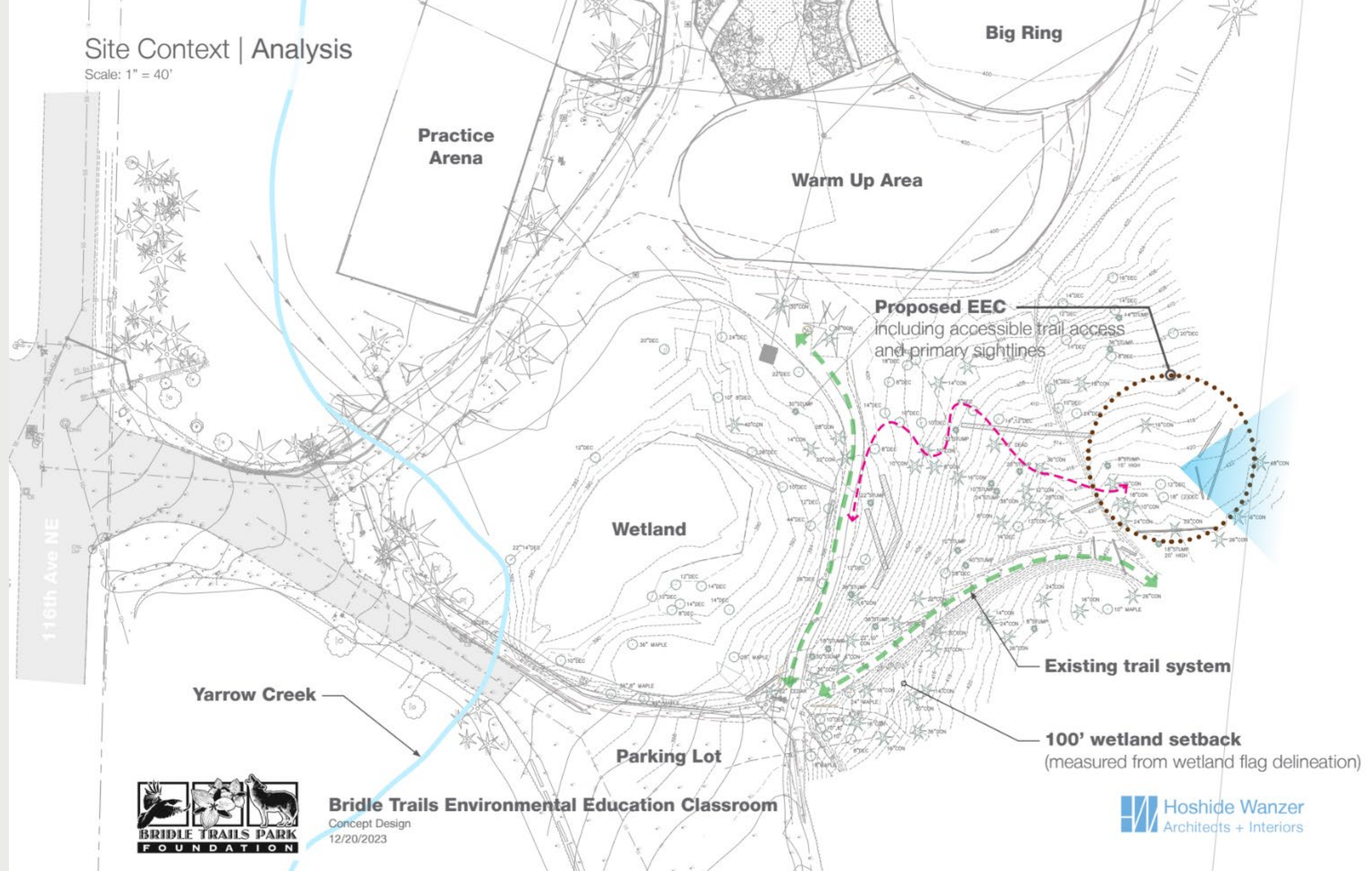
Concept Design
12/20/2023

Hoshide Wanzer
Architects + Interiors



Site Context | Analysis

Scale: 1" = 40'



Bridle Trails Environmental Education Classroom

Concept Design
12/20/2023

Hoshide Wanzer
Architects + Interiors



Welcome Info Board

**Trails to Park Event Area
& Main Trail System**

Current ADA Parking







PROPOSED ADA TRAIL TO CLASSROOM

EEC & Welcome Station
(trail entrance to buildings around
corner for equestrian sight lines)

**MAIN ACCESS TO
EVENT GROUNDS
FROM PARKING LOT**

**MAIN TRAIL TO PARK TRAIL SYSTEM
FROM PARKING LOT (HUMANS & HORSES)**



**UP MAIN PARK ACCESS TRAIL TO TRAILHEAD
WELCOME STATION & EEC ACCESS JUST BEYOND
CURVE IN TRAIL
(safe equestrian sight line)**



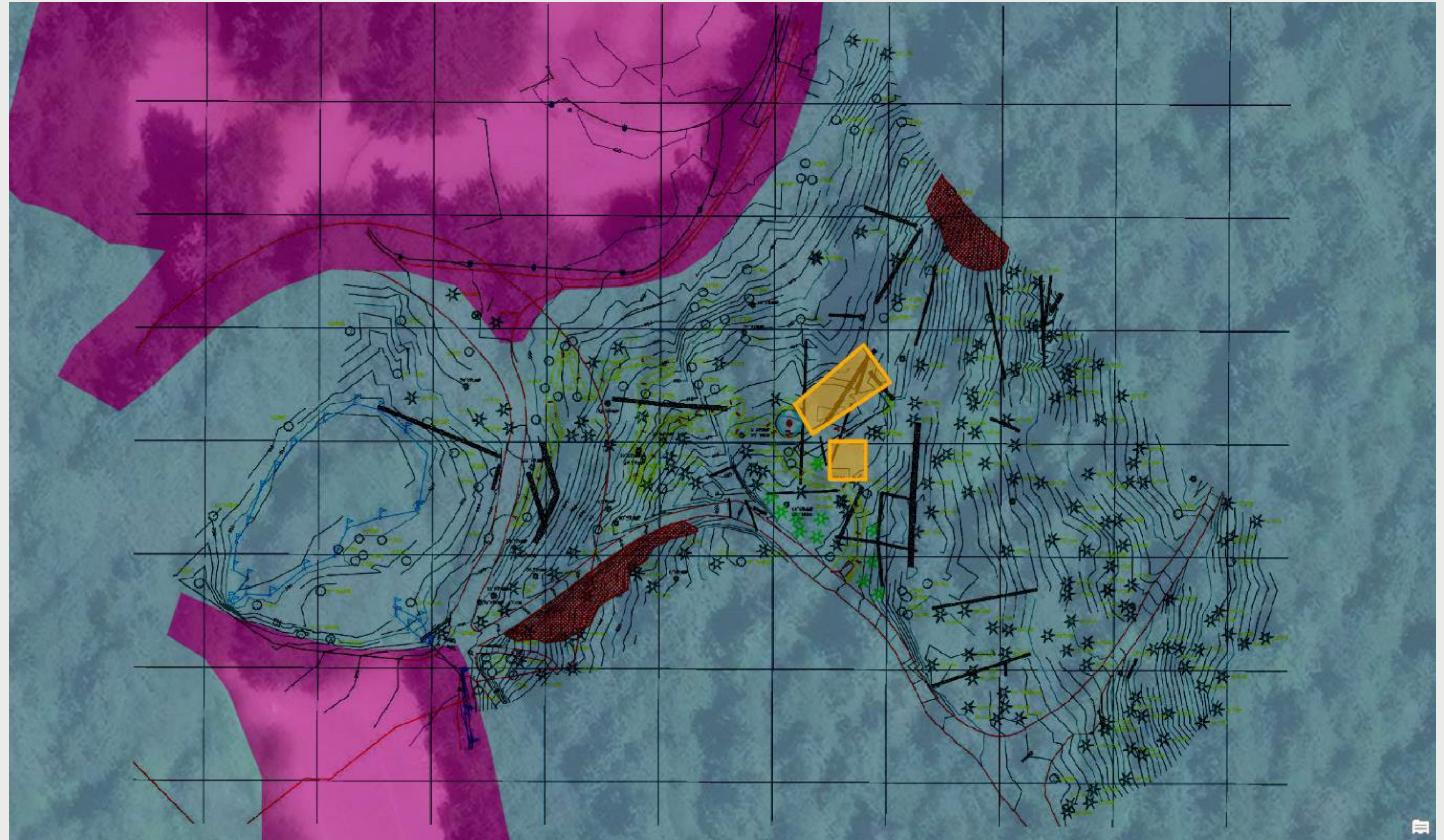
**WELCOME STATION & EEC LOCATION
ACCESS FROM TRAILHEAD IN PARK
(safe equestrian sight line)**






CURRENT LAND CLASSIFICATION

Recreation Area
Boundary
Proximity
to
Building Site

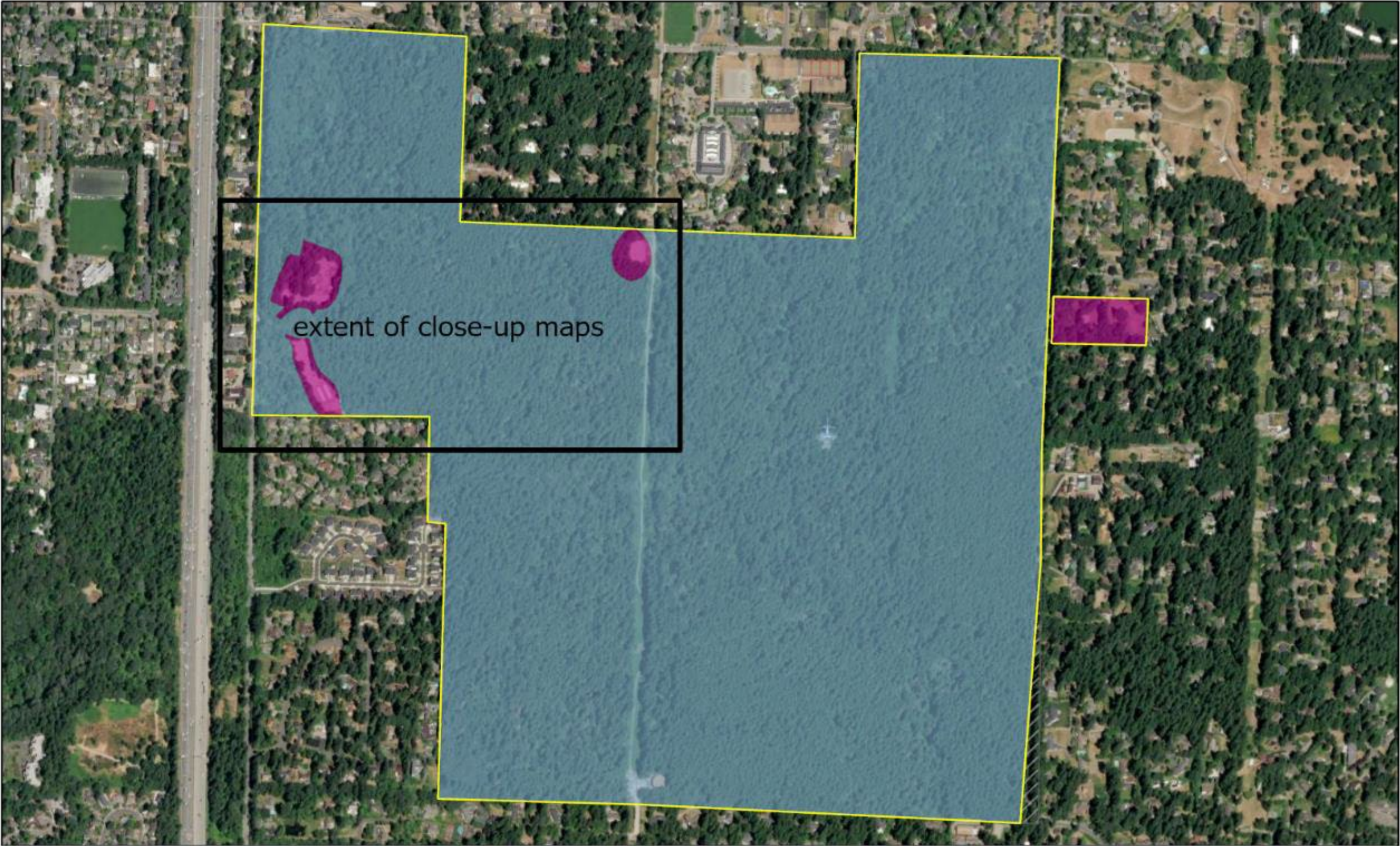


-  Resource Recreation Area
-  Recreation Area







**CURRENT
LAND
CLASSIFICATION
ACREAGE**

**Bridle Trails
State Park**



Bridle Trails State Park:
Overview with Existing Land Classification

-  Recreation (12.4 acres)
-  Resource Recreation (476.7 acres)
-  Unclassified for surplus / exchange (2.6 acres)
-  Park Boundaries



LAND CLASSIFICATION Proposed Changes

Almost Net Zero
Difference

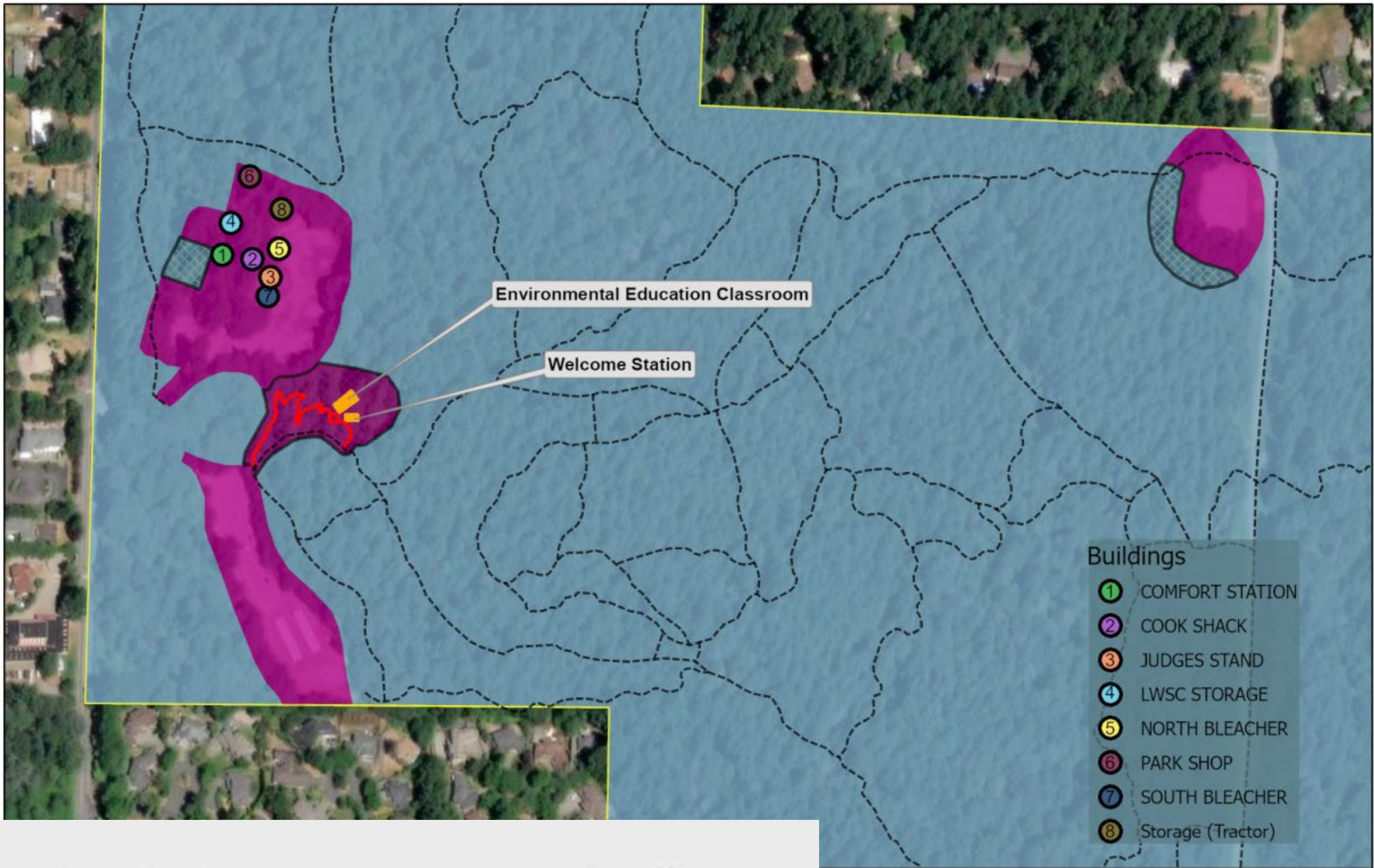


Bridle Trails State Park:
Changes Between Existing Land Classification
and Proposed Land Classification

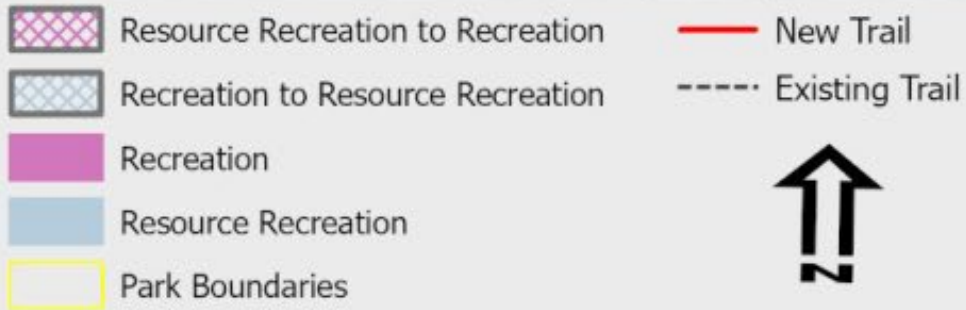


LAND
CLASSIFICATION
Proposed
Changes

New Buildings
&
ADA Trail



Classification	Existing	Proposed	Difference
Recreation	12.42	12.94	0.52
Resource Recreation	476.75	476.23	-0.52
Unclassified	2.6	2.6	0





Bridle Trails Environmental Education Classroom & Welcome Station

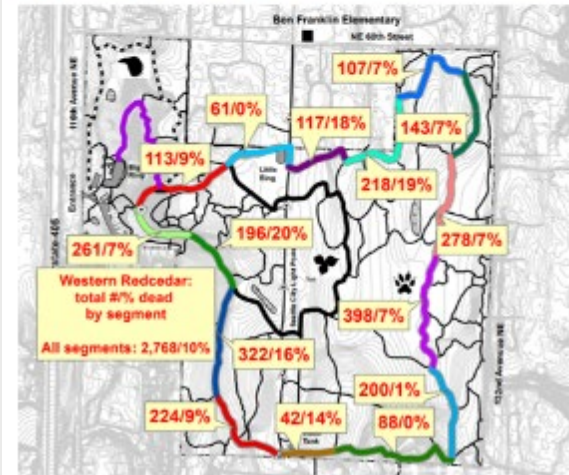
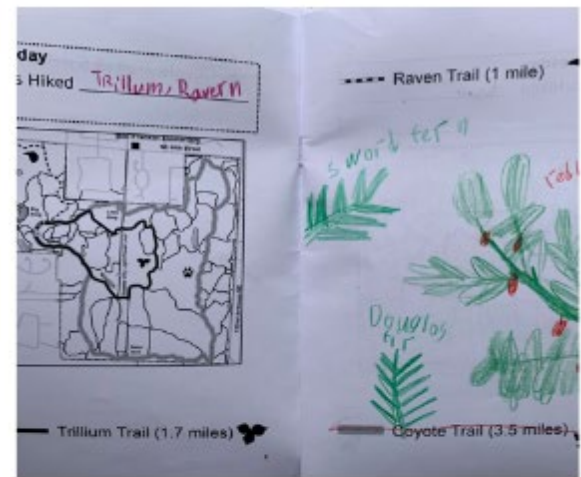
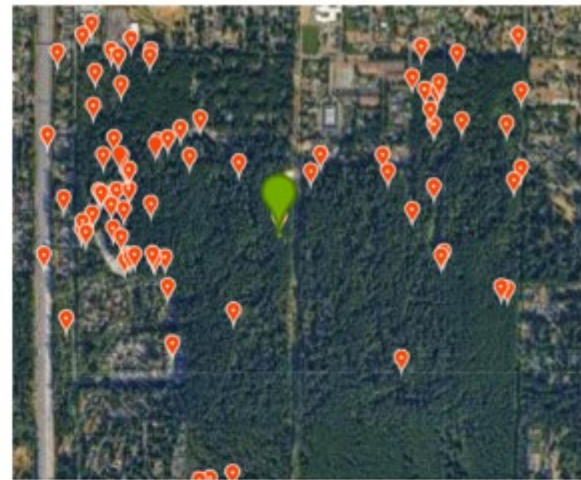




**40 Year Legal Agreement
with Washington State
Parks (2003) to fund half of
the annual net operating
cost of Bridle Trails State
Park to keep it off the
closure list**

- 2023 marked 20 years of support
- Early focus was on fundraising.
- Foundation funds:
 - Park enhancement projects
 - Equipment purchases
 - Engagement with the community through events, environmental education, and stewardship projects.
 - Contributes funding for a year-round Senior Park Aide (5 years so far, along with the Lake Washington Saddle Club and State Parks)





Next Steps

- March 2024:
 - Commission Work Session
 - Project webpage
 - SEPA Checklist & Land Classification Change to Public for Comment
- April 2024:
 - Requested Action



Questions?

