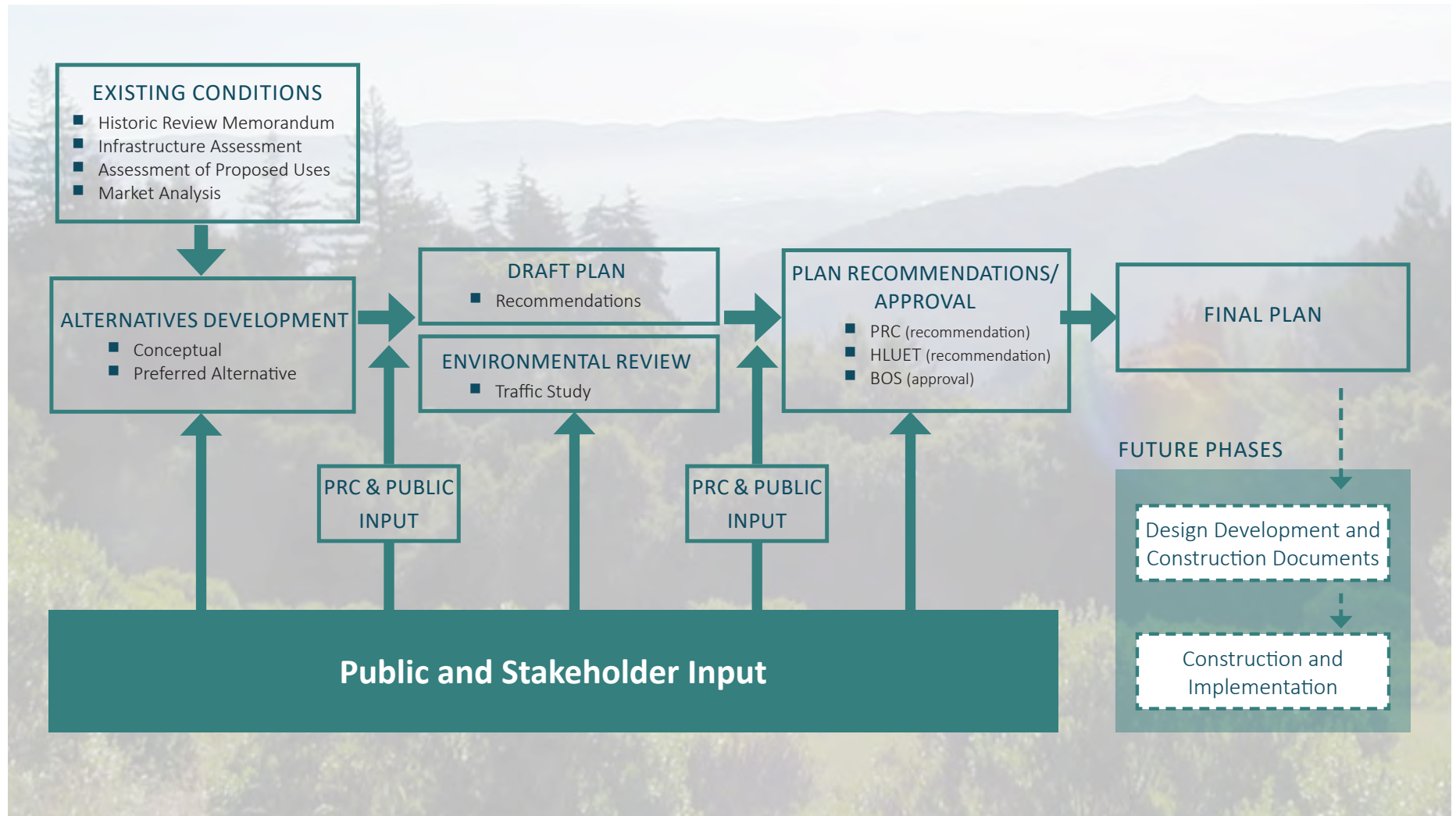


Figure 1-1. Sanborn County Park Master Plan Focus Areas

**Figure 1-2**  
**Planning and Input Process**



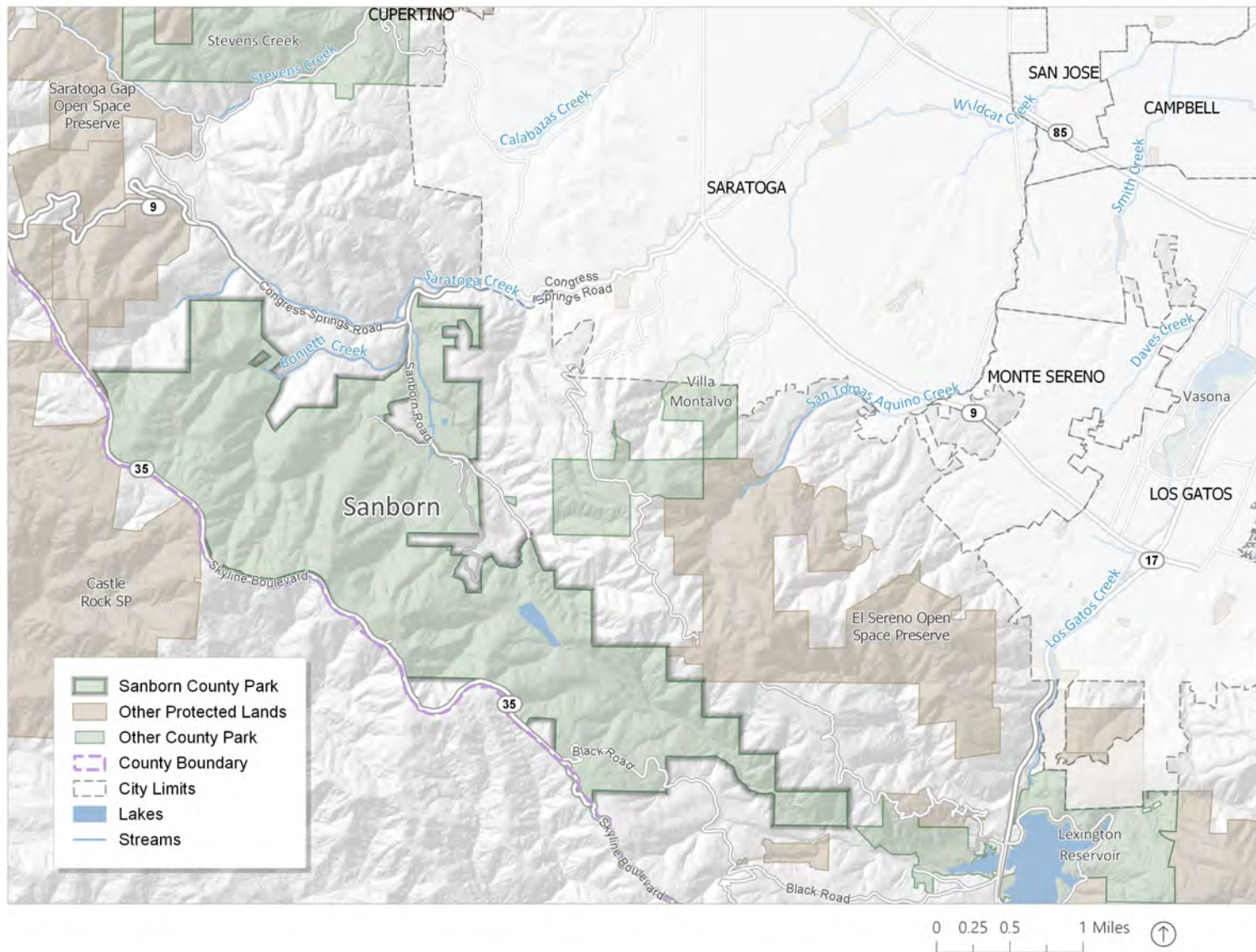


Figure 2-1. Regional Context

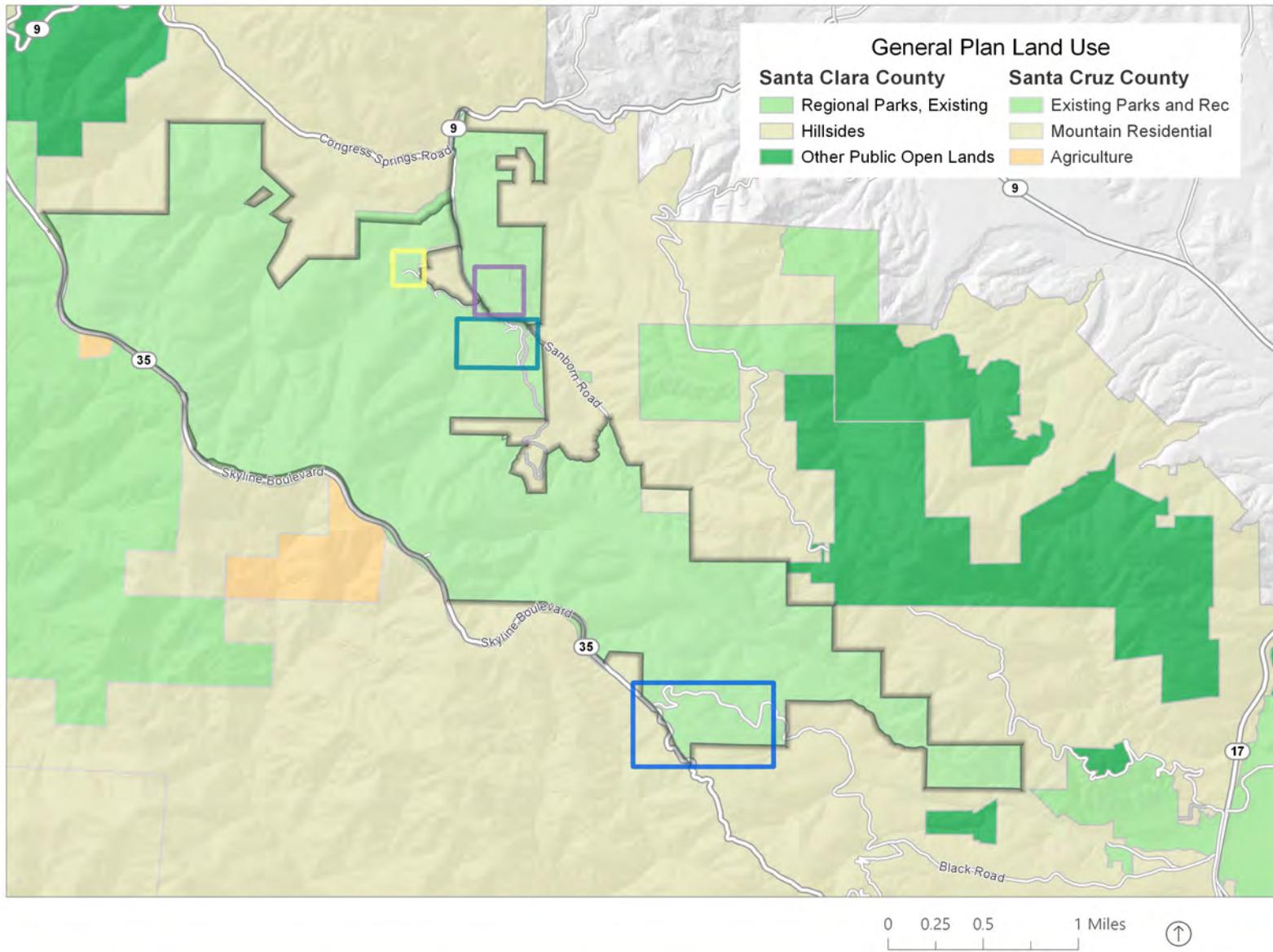


Figure 2-2. Land Use and Zoning

**Figure 2-3**  
Historical Timeline



## HISTORY OF THE PARK

Sanborn County Park has a rich history from inhabitation by indigenous Ohlone people, through the homesteading era of the 1860s, to the present day. Over 3,000 years before the Spanish expeditions arrived, the Guemelento Ohlone tribe visited the area to hunt, fish, and gather food. Bedrock mortars and associated settlement sites are located throughout the Park.

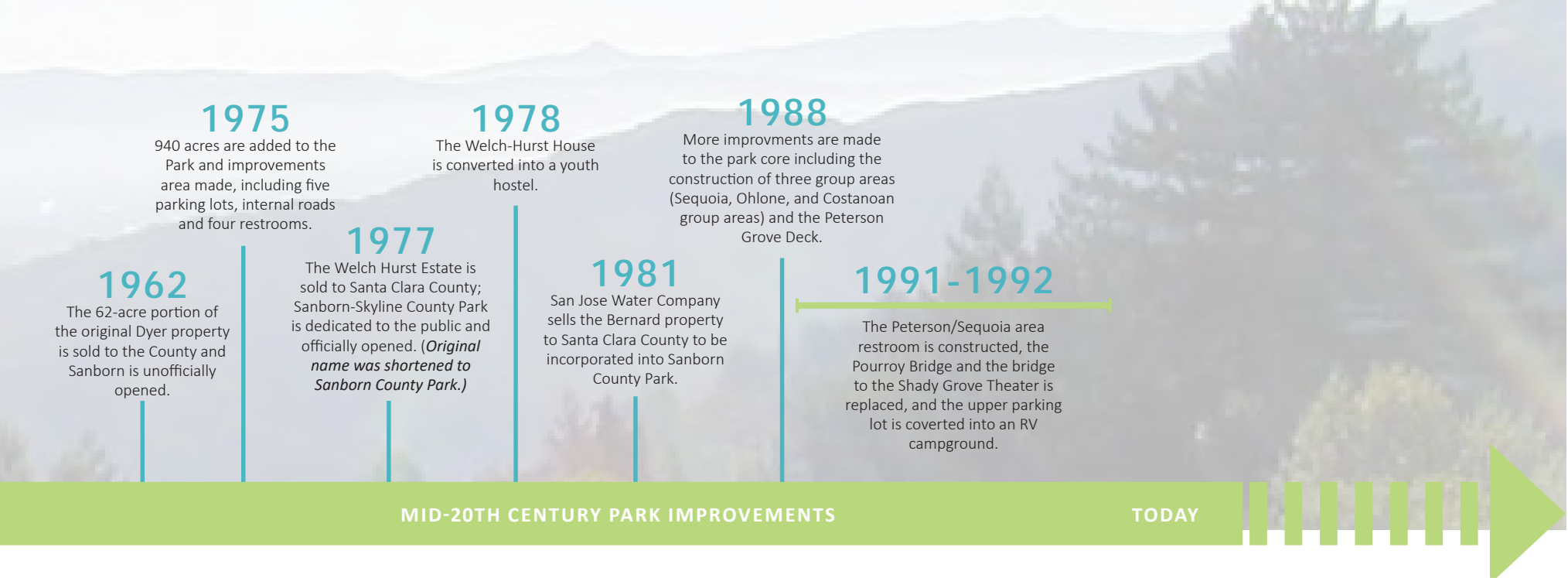
The Park was not part of the Spanish Ranchos. At the end of the Mexican American War in 1848, these unclaimed lands became the property of the U.S. Government. Under the Homestead Act of 1862, the federal government granted vast tracts of unclaimed land to private individuals as a way of promoting settlement, building infrastructure, and rewarding citizens

for military service. Early settlers who arrived in the Saratoga hills took advantage of this new law, which granted 160 acres of unclaimed land to the head of a family, a widow, or a single person over the age of 21. In the 1860s, French, Swiss, and Italian immigrants began to settle in the area bounded by State Highway 9, Sanborn Road, and State Highway 35.<sup>1</sup> These homesteaders initially harvested timber from the area and later used the land for agricultural purposes, resulting in several farms along what is now Sanborn Road.

Numerous homesteaders and property owners occupied the land which today comprises the Park. In 1962, the County of Santa Clara (County)

purchased the first 62 acres of what would become the Park from the Peterson Family, and subsequently unofficially opened the property for public use on a limited basis. The County acquired an additional 940 acres in 1975, and in 1977 acquired the Welch-Hurst Estate property, formerly known as Walden West. The Estate was originally established by Judge James R. Welch and included the Welch-Hurst House. By 1977, the 1,653 acres of County property was dedicated as a public park and officially opened as Sanborn-Skyline County Park (the name has since been shortened). An additional 1,809 acres have been added since 1977, making it the fifth largest park managed by the County. The historical timeline is illustrated in Figure 2-3.

<sup>1</sup> Schwind, Janet, and The Skyline Historical Society, *The South Skyline Story*, 2014.



## TIMELINE

### Historical Highlight on Sanborn Core Use Area

Harold P. Dyer purchased the 160-acre estate that today consists of the Dyer House and surrounding park use areas from the Baillie family in 1912. In 1915, the Dyer House was designed and constructed in the “Arts and Crafts” style out of rough-faced sandstone and redwood. The two-story structure served as a rustic retreat for the Dyer family, sited within a heavily wooded area and constructed to reveal the stone and wood elements. The grounds include various outbuildings, ponds, and terraced walls that utilize similar rough-faced masonry as the Dyer House.

During his tenancy at the house, Mr. Dyer had a Pelton waterwheel-powered generator installed in the basement that provided electricity to the house and the grounds. Being one of the only buildings with electricity at the time, it was known as “The Star on the Hill<sup>2</sup>.” Mr. Dyer also purchased part of the nearby Taudt and Pourroy lands to create a 500-acre estate.

Mr. Dyer died in 1928 and the property was sold by his daughter in 1950 to George and Ethna Peterson. As previously described, the County

<sup>2</sup> State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Record SCL 521 H.P. Dyer House (2004).

purchased a portion of the property in 1962; constituting the first acreage of what would become the Park. This acquisition included the Dyer House and adjacent redwoods as well as the future Sequoia/Peterson Grove day use area.

As part of the Park, the Dyer House serves as offices and classrooms for the Youth Science Institute (YSI), a nature education based non-profit partner. The existing ranger station, also referred to as the Casino House, is located within close proximity to the Dyer House and is currently being used by YSI and Park Department staff.

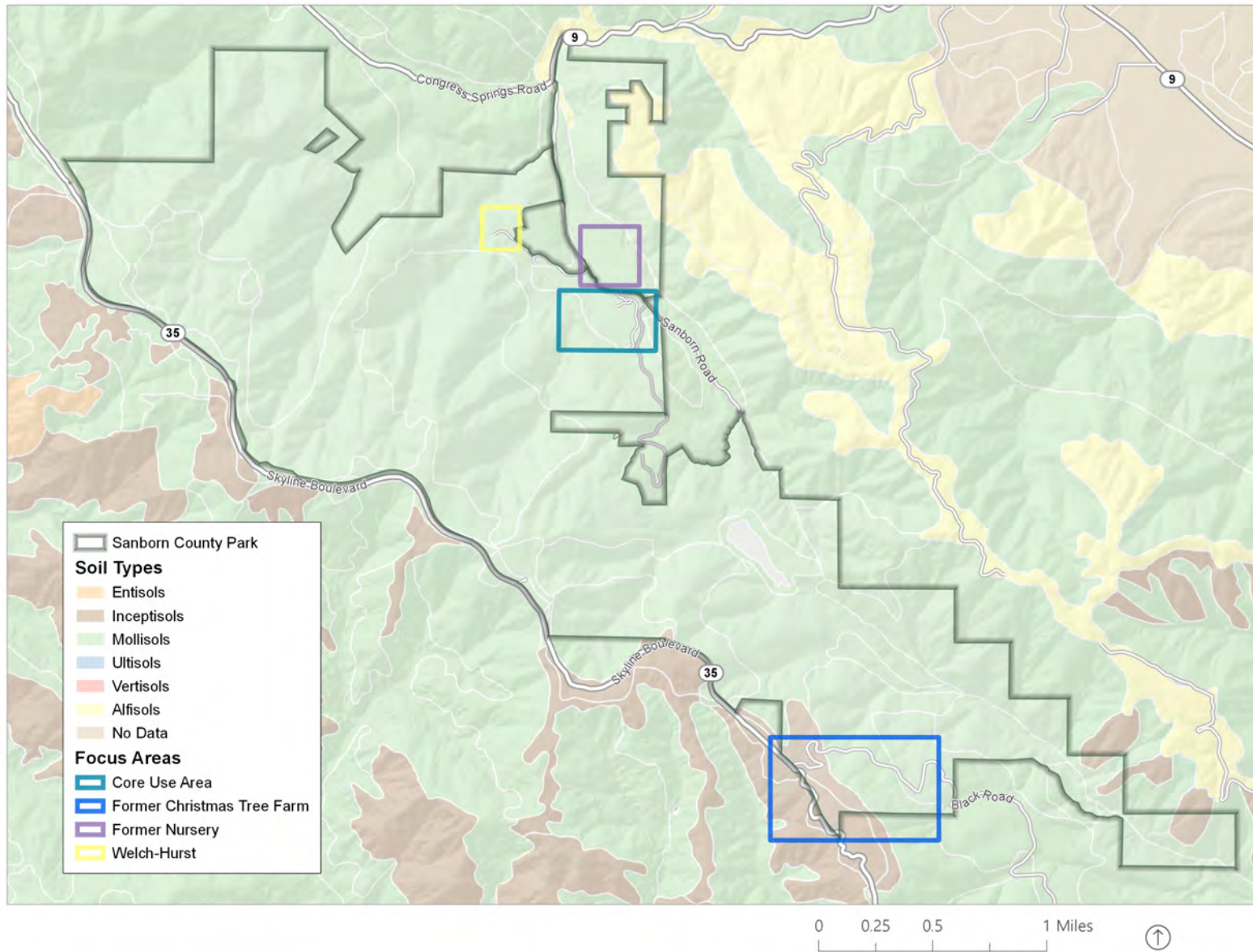


Figure 3-1. Soil Types

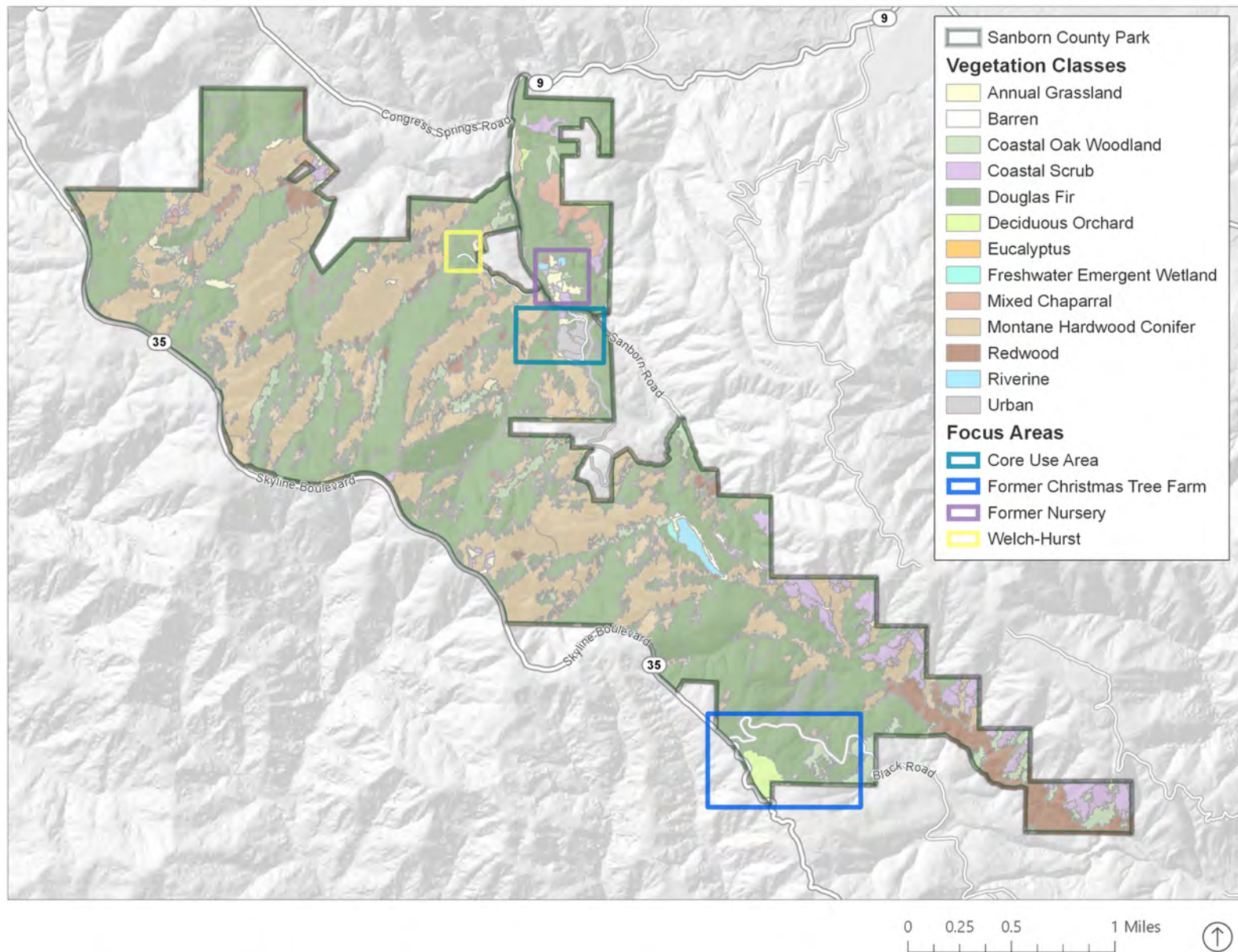


Figure 3-2. Vegetation



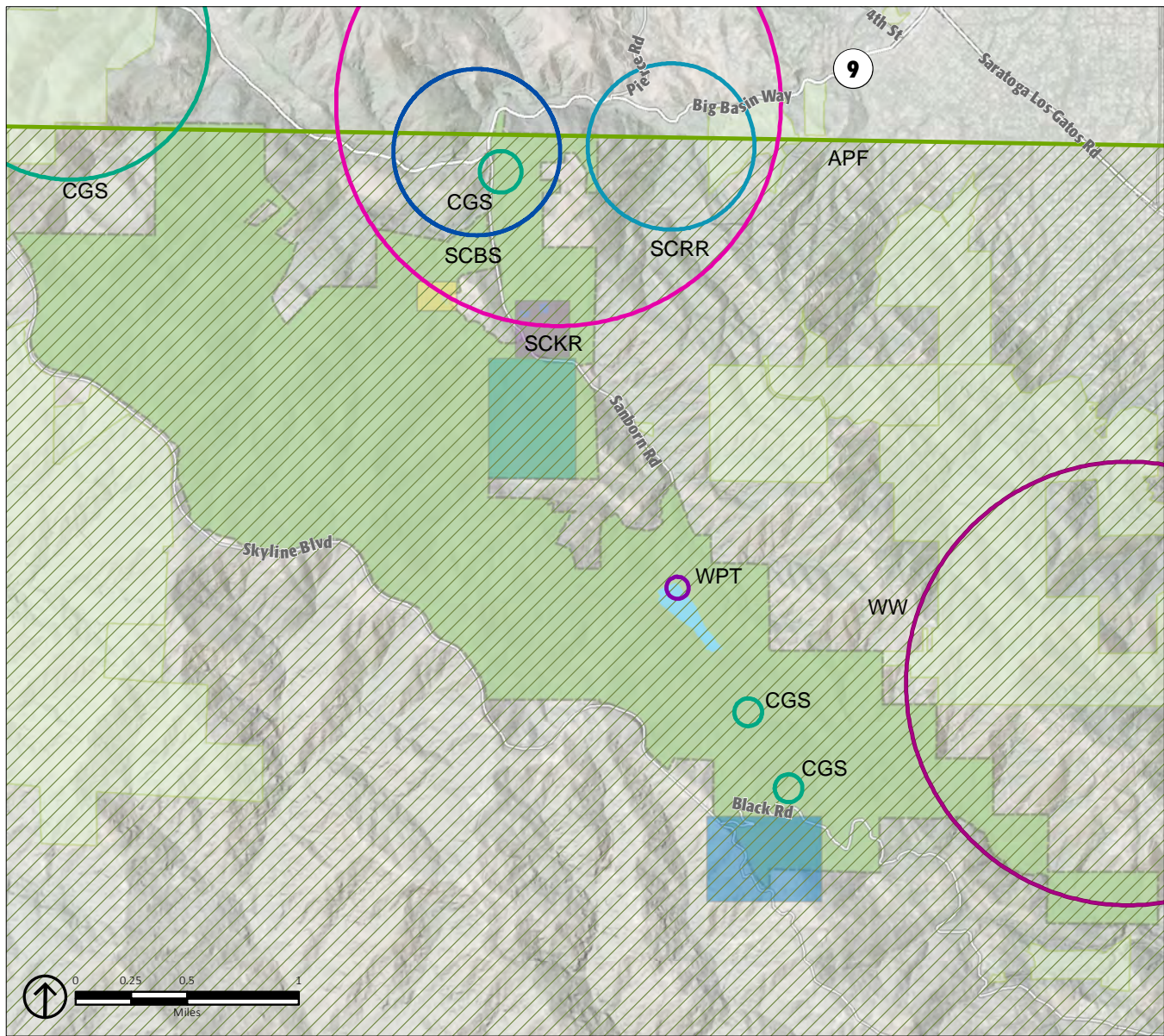


Figure 3-3. Special Status Species

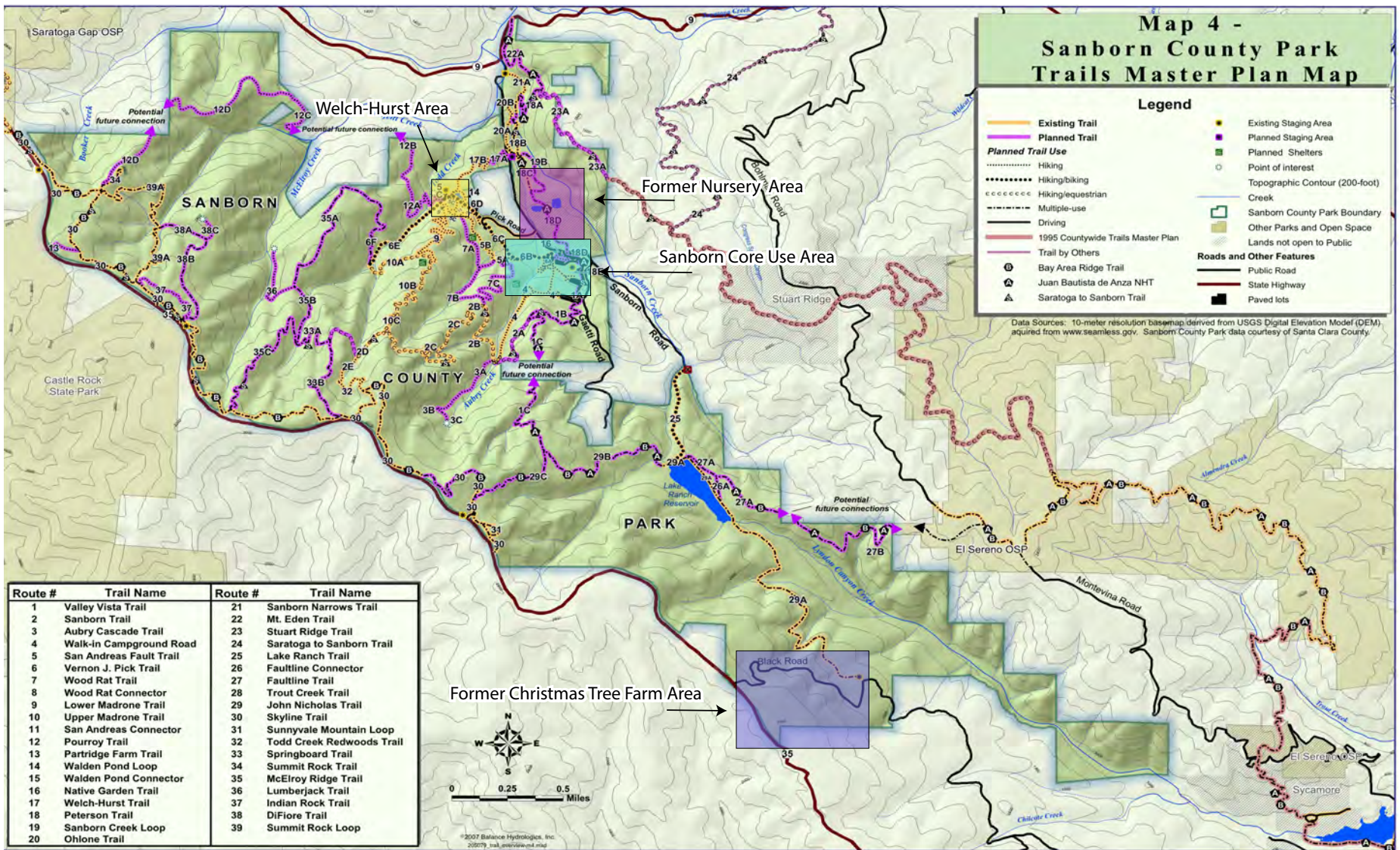


Figure 3-4. 2008 Sanborn Trails Master Plan Trail Overlay with Focus Areas

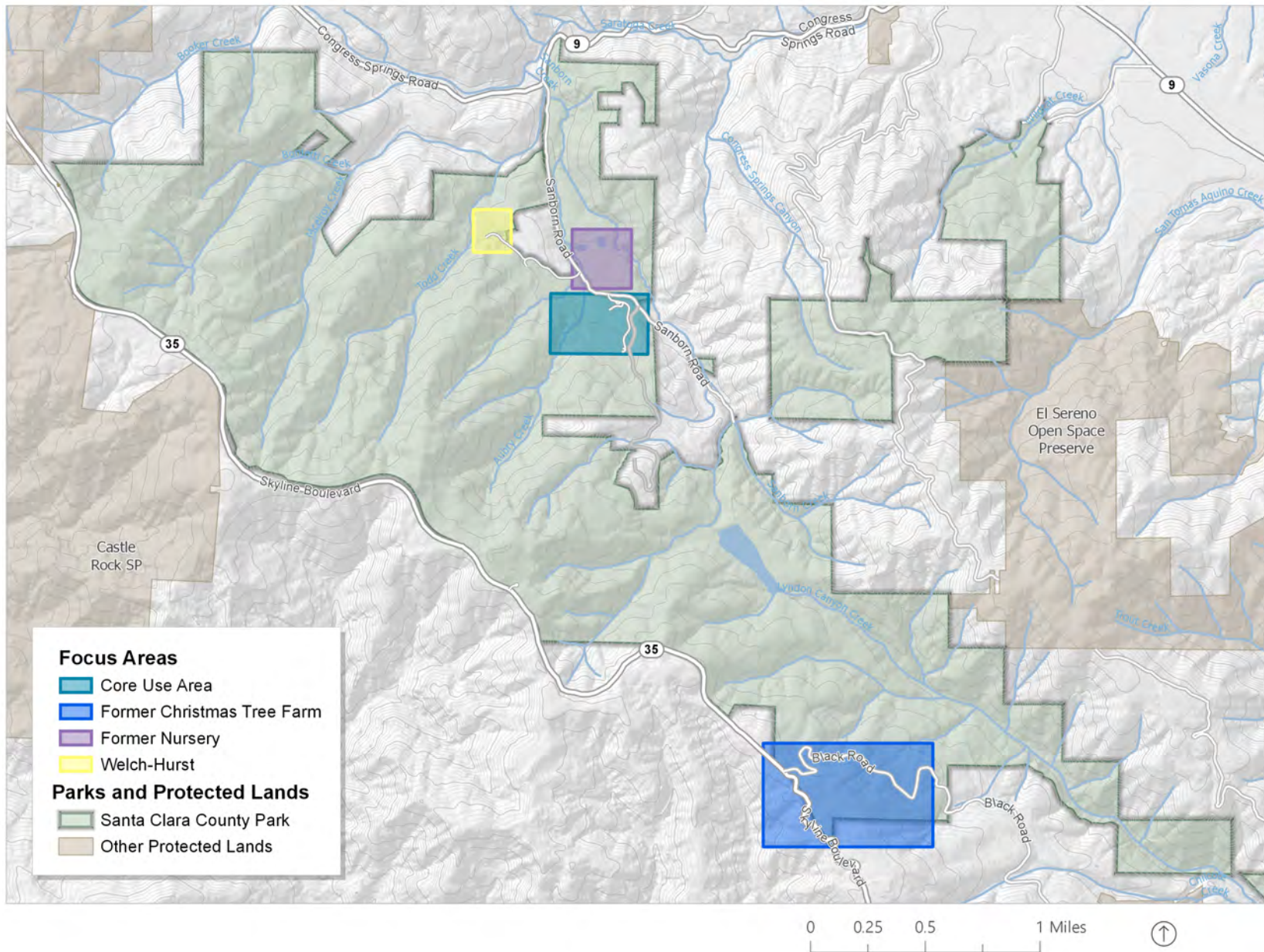


Figure 4-0. Focus Areas

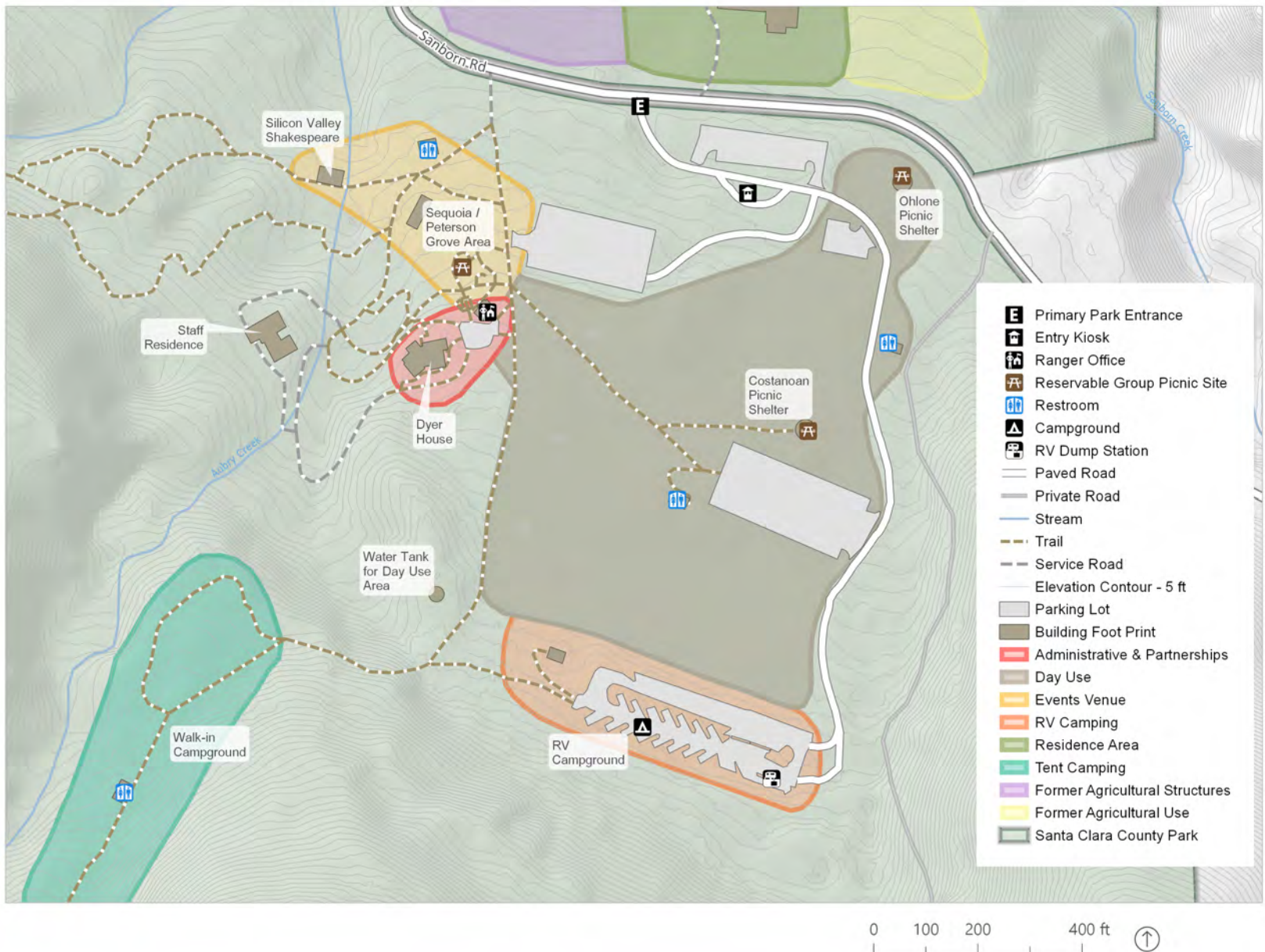


Figure 4-1. Sanborn Core Use Area: Existing Conditions

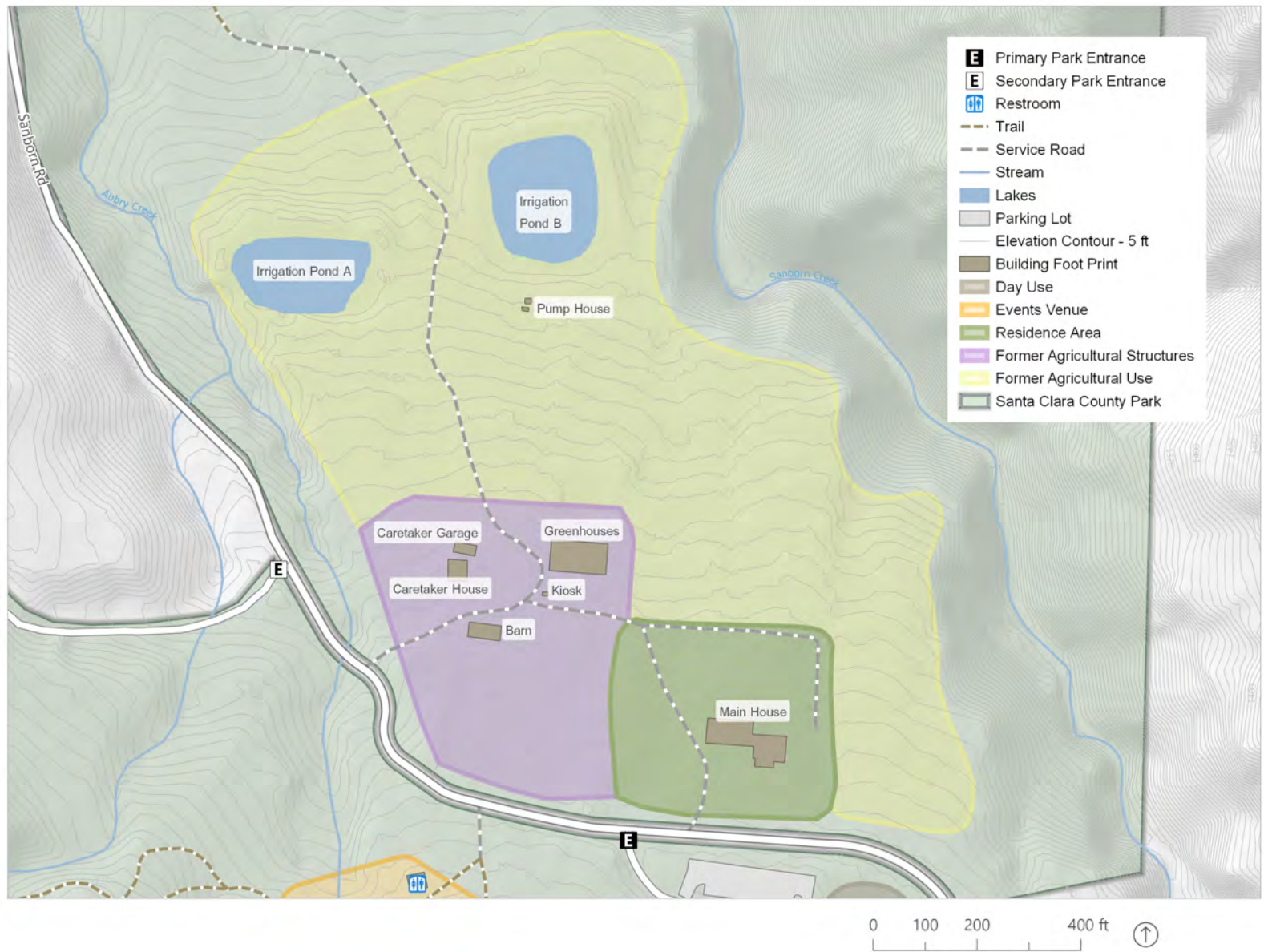


Figure 4-2. Former Nursery Area: Existing Conditions

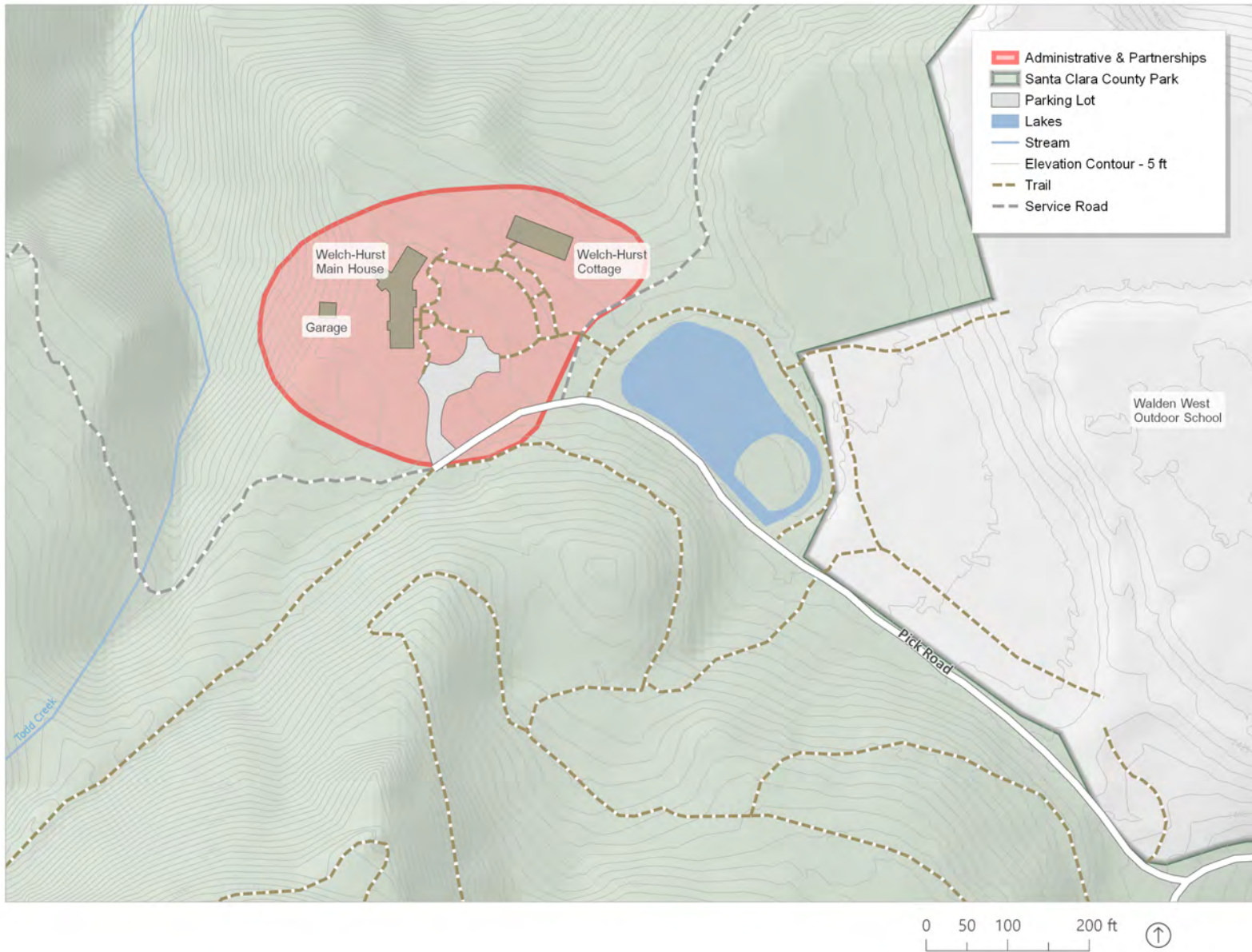


Figure 4-3. Welch-Hurst Area: Existing Conditions

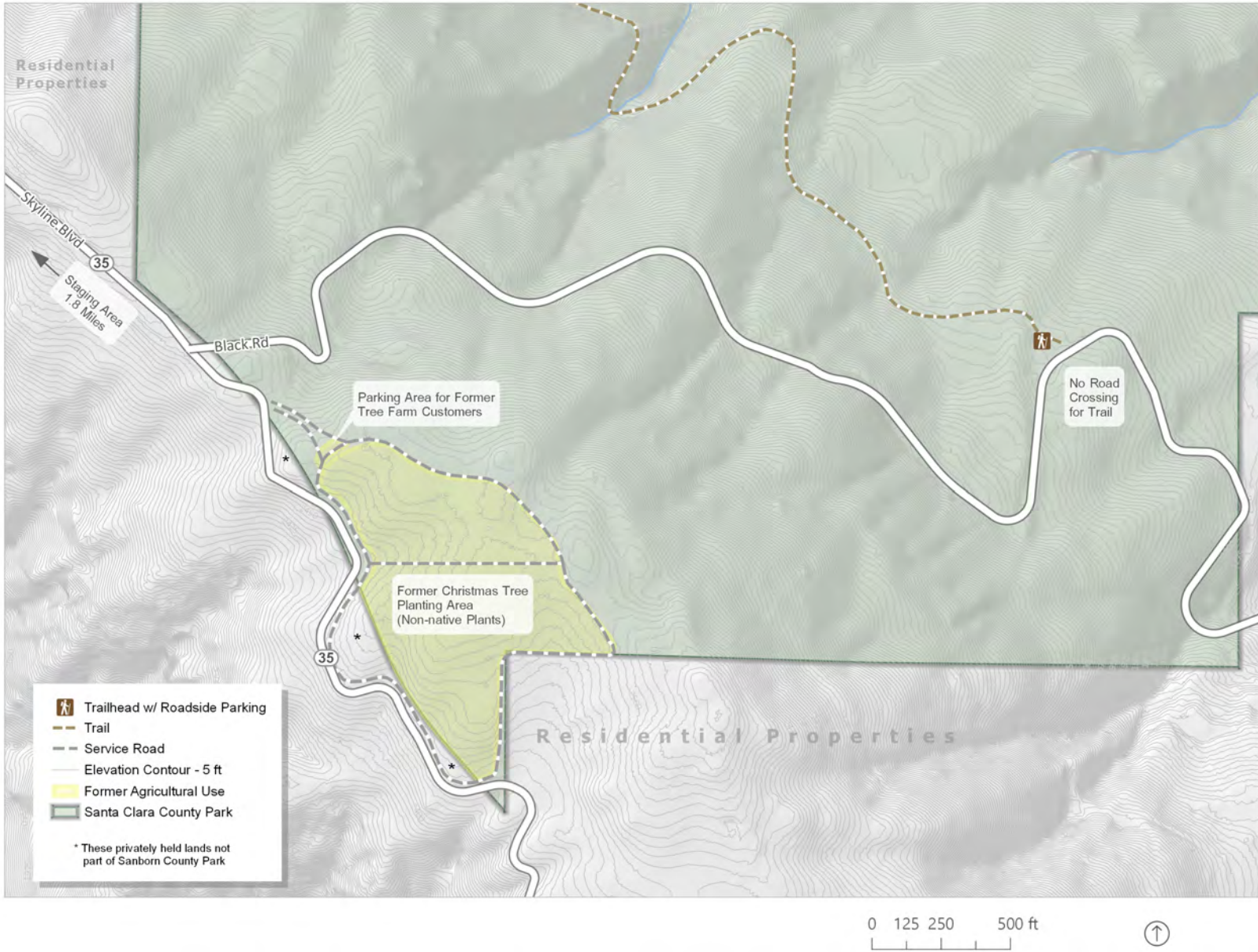
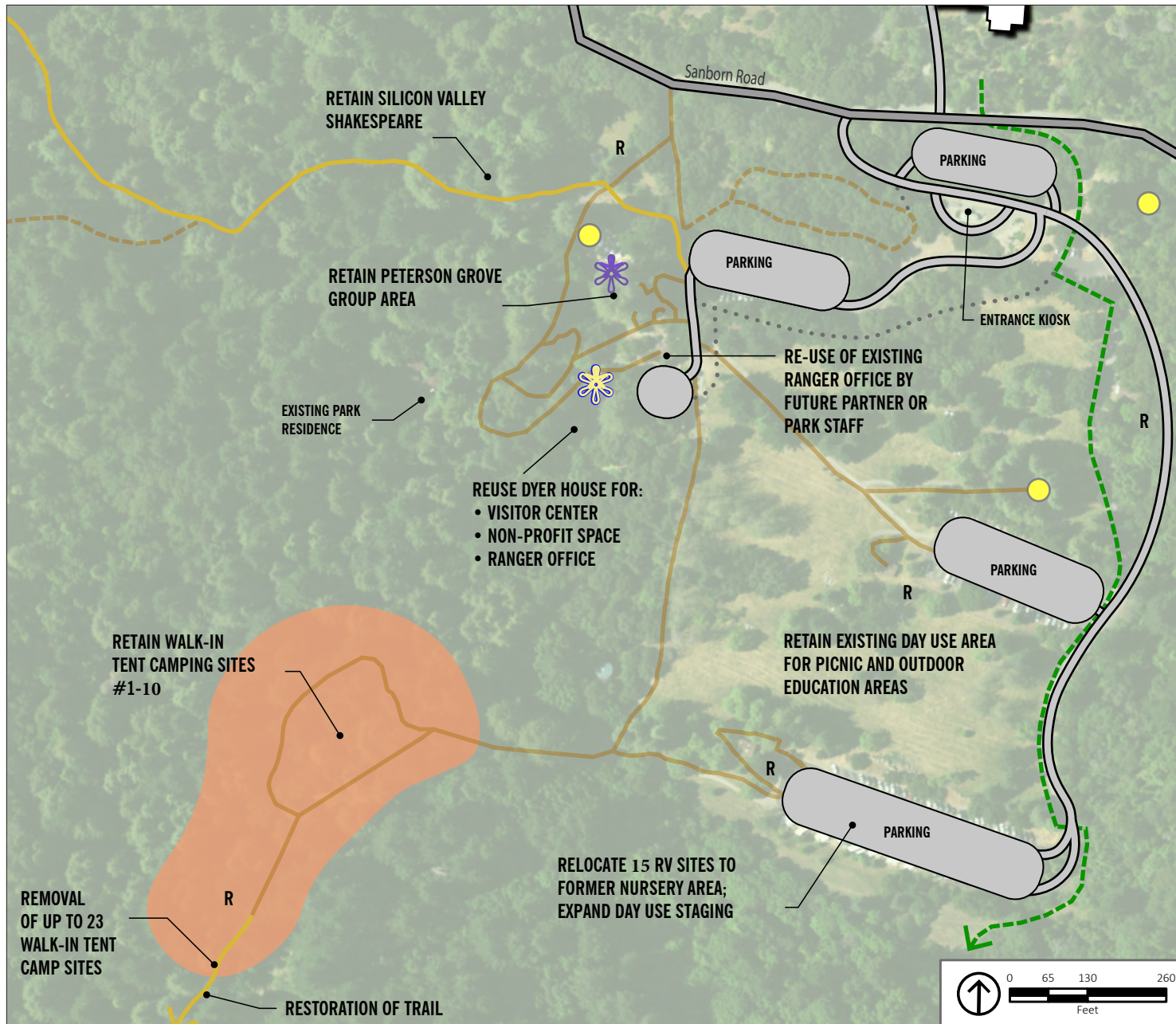












Figure 4-4. Former Christmas Tree Farm Area: Existing Conditions



**Figure 7-1**  
 Sanborn Core  
 Use Area:  
 Recommended  
 Design Alternatives

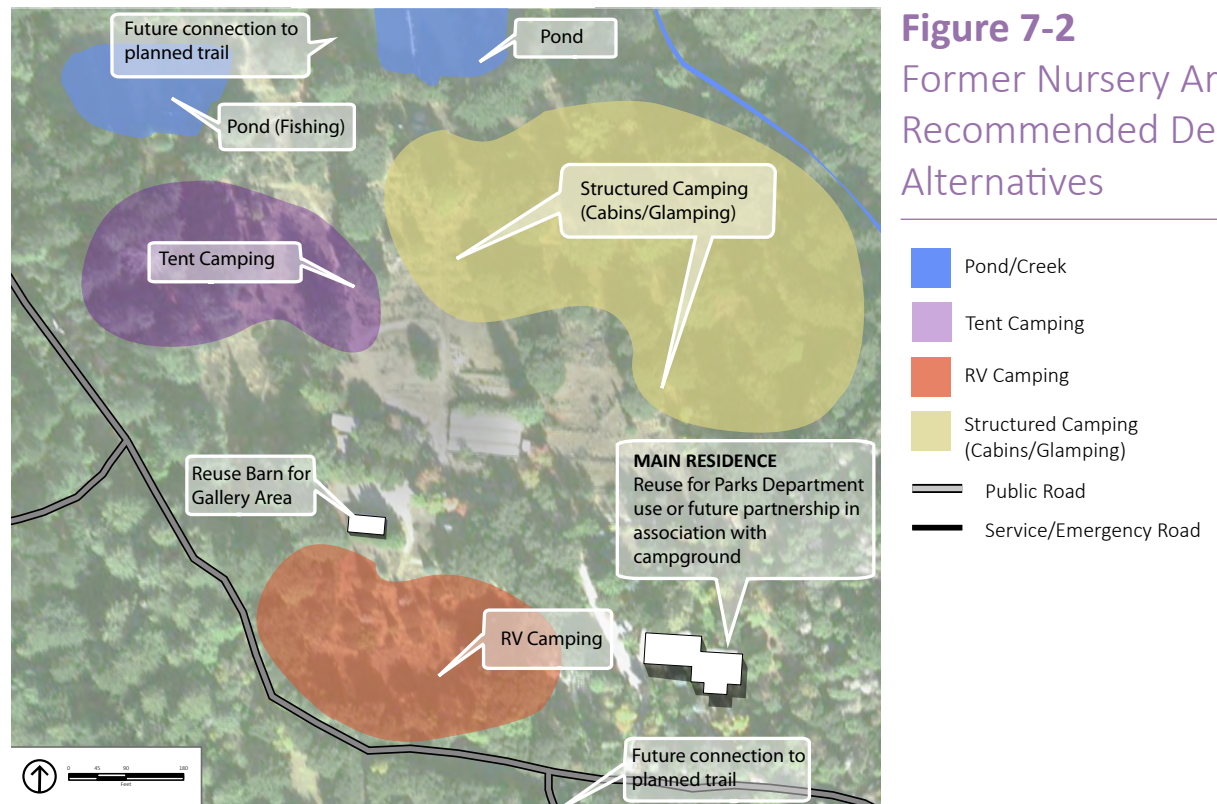
-  Public Road
- EXISTING / PLANNED TRAILS**
-  Hike / Bike Trail
-  Multi-Use Trail
-  Hiking Trail
-  Connection between multi-use trails
-  Walk-In Camping
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Restroom
-  Special Events / Focal Area
-  Visitor Center



## FORMER NURSERY AREA

The Former Nursery Area has supported commercial nursery operations in the past, as is evident in the altered topography and remnant site features. This area provides an appropriate site for some of the higher intensity uses envisioned for Sanborn County Park such as campgrounds/cabins and a small family pump track/bike skills area. Developing this focus area to provide overnight accommodations will allow for higher quality, diverse overnight experiences that do not conflict with Sanborn Core Use Area day use activities and can be designed to have minimal impact on resources. Given the proximity to the Sanborn Core Use Area and eastern areas of the Park, new amenities in this focus area can also support or be used in conjunction with day use activities and special events staged in other areas of the Park.

Recommended design alternatives for the Former Nursery Area focus on utilizing the site as a campground operated either by the Parks Department or other partner. The campground could offer a range of camping experiences such as tent sites and/or cabins, provide overnight accommodations for special events staged in other areas of the Park, and potentially support partner programming. For instance, a partnership with an educational organization could support the construction and operation of cabins or an education facility associated with the campground and should be explored by the Parks Department.



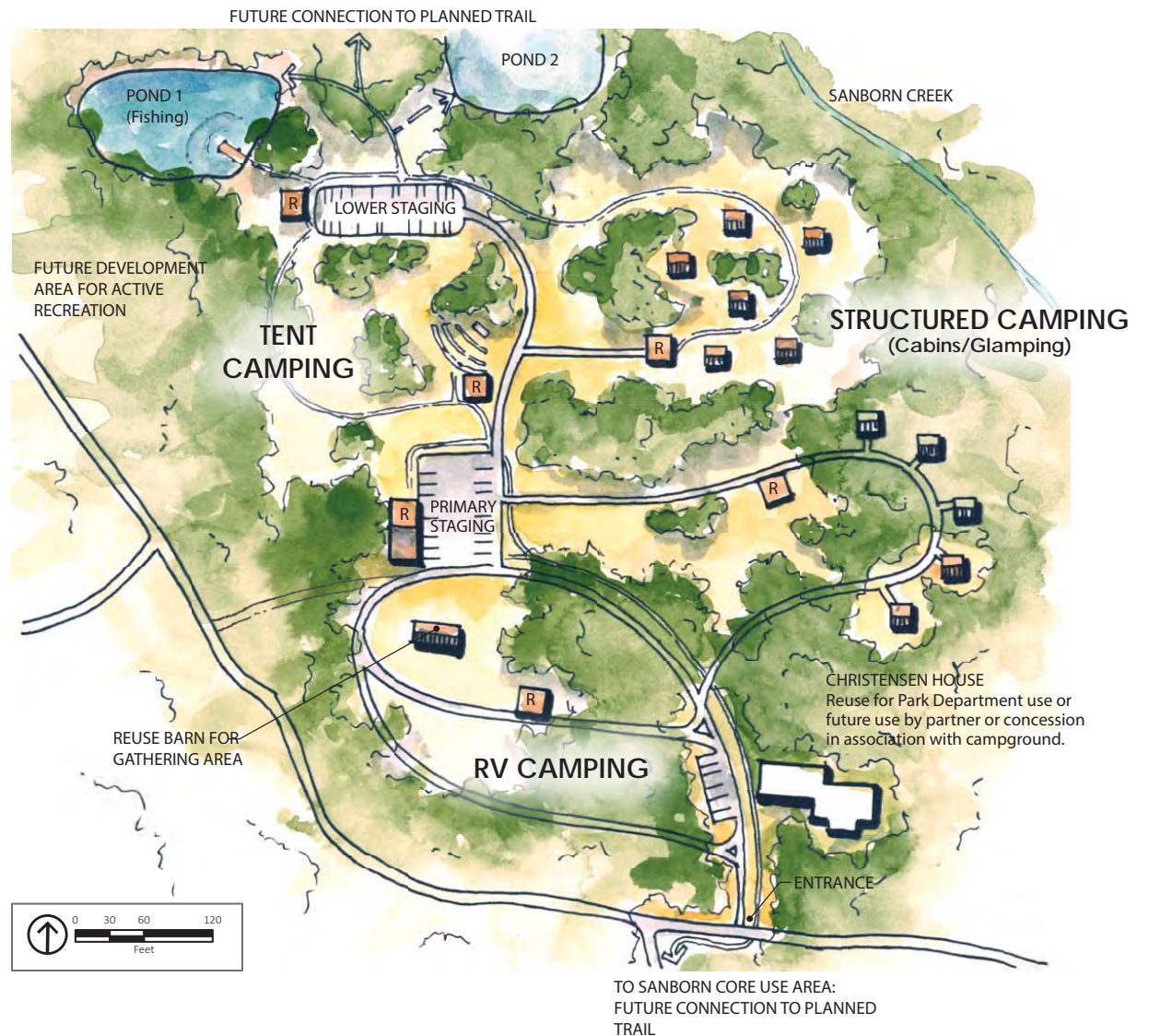
**Figure 7-2**  
Former Nursery Area:  
Recommended Design  
Alternatives

Specific recommendations are illustrated in Figure 7-2 and include:

- Partnership opportunities for development of site.
- Construct cabins or other structured camping.
- Install RV camping (relocated from Sanborn Core Use Area).
- Install tent camping, including group camp areas (partially relocated from Sanborn Core Use Area)
- Construct amphitheater to support ranger programs.
- Provide parking to support camping and other recreation uses.

- Explore future use of ponds, including fishing in the smaller pond. The larger pond is an option for septic system/ leach field placement to support camping use. Further analysis will need to be completed to determine future use.
- Consider a pump track and/or skills area small in scale and primarily for use by children.

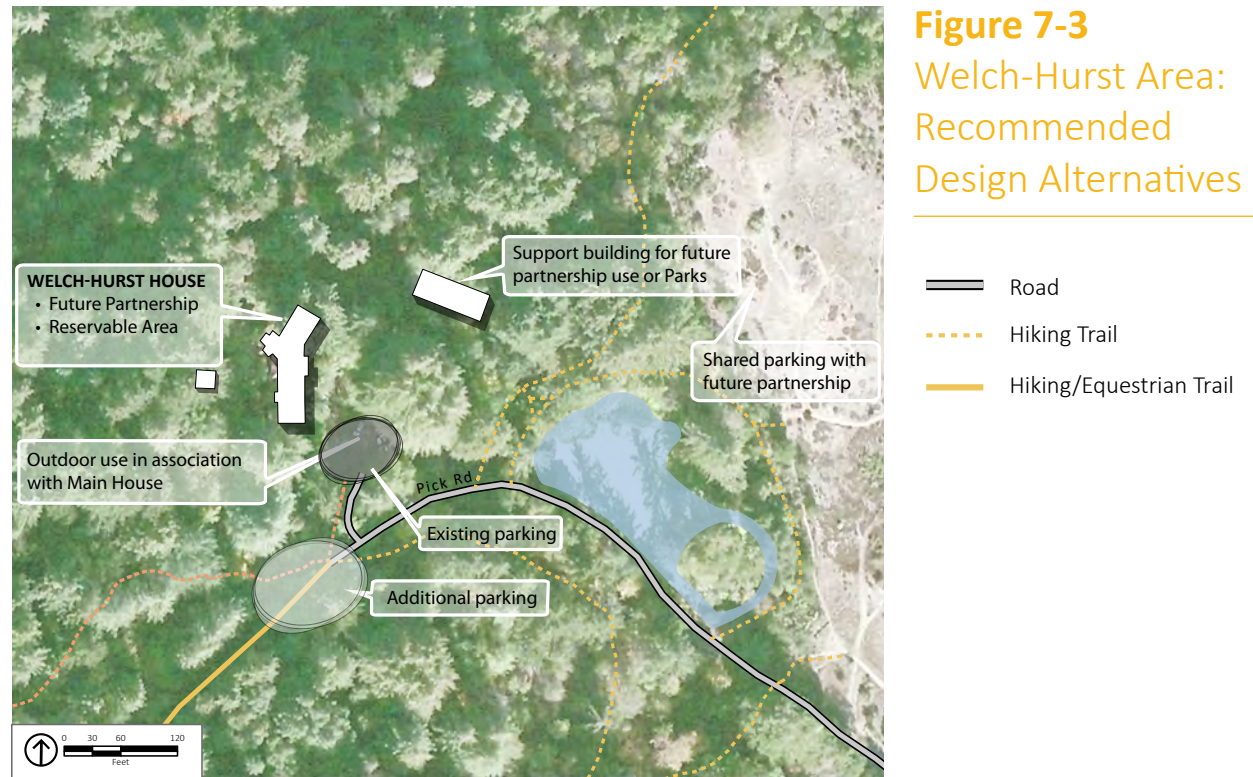
Implementation of these recommendations will require improvements to utility infrastructure, including septic system improvements. Septic system improvements will require the construction of one large leach field system to serve all uses; or of multiple leach fields to serve specific areas or specific facilities. The easterly pond may have a potential use as a leach field for the project.



**Figure 7-3**  
Former Nursery Area: Illustrative Site Plan

## WELCH-HURST AREA

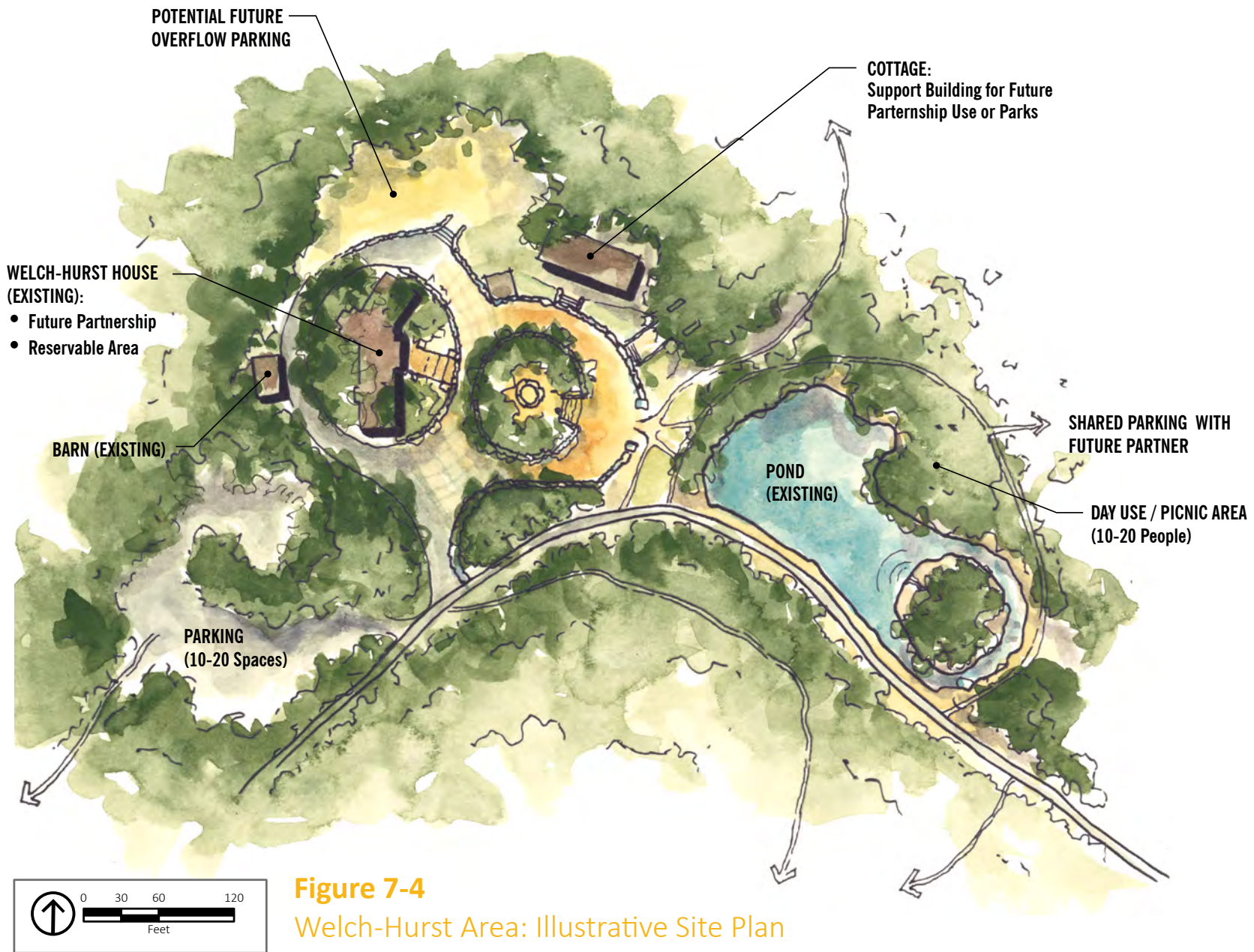
The Welch-Hurst Area, including the historic Welch Hurst house and grounds, has been utilized by the public in the past but the house is currently vacant due to the need for building improvements. The grounds are underutilized due to the need for site improvements. Once improved to ensure public safety and accessibility, the Welch-Hurst Area can again serve as a key destination within Sanborn County Park. While this focus area is not directly adjacent to the Sanborn Core Use Area, it is directly connected via the existing trail system and provides a more private location that lends itself to events and/or educational uses for the house and grounds. Given the high cost of improving the house and grounds, the Parks Department should explore potential partnership opportunities for improving and utilizing this focus area for public benefit.



**Figure 7-3**  
Welch-Hurst Area:  
Recommended  
Design Alternatives

In addition to partnerships, the Parks Department should pursue the reuse strategies for the Welch-Hurst Area that are illustrated in Figure 7-3 and described below:

- Partnership opportunities for reuse of Welch-Hurst Area
- Continued stabilization of Welch-Hurst House to protect from further deterioration.
- Use of the Welch-Hurst House and ancillary buildings as future reservable area in conjunction with partnership.
- Use of the landscaped grounds as outdoor reservable area.
- Use of cottage as support building for park use or partnership opportunity.
- Develop a shared parking agreement with future partnership to accommodate use.



**Figure 7-4**  
Welch-Hurst Area: Illustrative Site Plan

**Figure 8-1**  
Implementation Phasing

