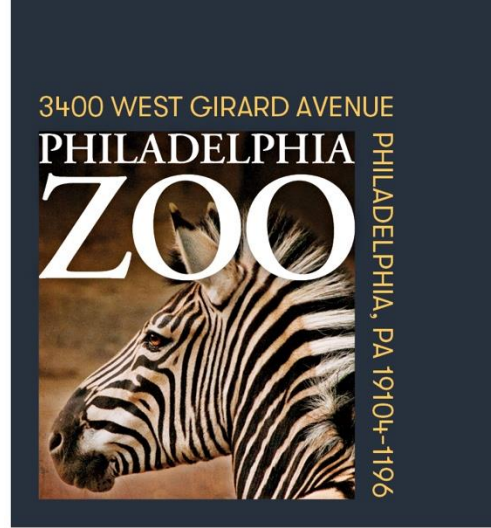


June 26, 2024

Alex M. Smith
Director of the Philadelphia Art Commission
Art and Design Division Manager
Department of Planning & Development
City of Philadelphia



RE: Cover Letter for Bear Country Habitat Project at the Philadelphia Zoo

Dear Alex,

The Philadelphia Zoo is creating a new Bear Habitat. We would like to request a concept review of the project at the July 10, 2024 meeting of the Art Commission.

Philadelphia Zoo Overview

Founded in 1859 as America’s first zoo, for 162 years the Philadelphia Zoo has engaged multiple generations of Philadelphia families with wildlife from around the world, while providing an oasis within our bustling city and a safe place to enjoy the natural world. For many of our guests, the Zoo is their first opportunity to experience the diversity and splendor of the animal kingdom. We leverage this moment of wonder to educate our guests on the characteristics of these fascinating animals, the threats to the existence of so many animal species in the wild, and the changes we can make in our daily routines to preserve the natural resources these animals – and all of us – depend on. A visit to the Zoo is a joyful experience that brings people of all ages and backgrounds together, expanding their view of the world and their commitment to making it a better place.

Bear Country Project Description

The well-being of the Zoo’s 1,900 animals representing 350 species—many of them endangered—remains a paramount priority. Building on our long-standing commitment to excellence in animal care, the Philadelphia Zoo is excited to announce a significant renovation of our Bear Country exhibit. This project will transform the existing facility into a state-of-the-art habitat designed to enhance the natural behaviors of several bear species, including the charismatic Andean bear and the playful sloth bear. Guests will have the opportunity to explore the newly-designed space, which will include larger roaming areas, enriched environments that encourage natural foraging and hunting behaviors, as well as interactive elements that educate guests on each species and their conservation status. The renovation also supports the Bear Species Survival Plan (SSP), a collaborative effort managed by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) to ensure a genetically diverse and demographically stable bear population in zoos. This new habitat will not only improve the lives of bears and expand the exhibit’s current footprint, but will also offer visitors immersive experiences, deepening their understanding of these remarkable creatures and the critical conservation efforts needed to protect them.

By connecting people with animals,
PHILADELPHIA ZOO
creates joyful discovery and inspires
action for wildlife and habitats

philadelphiazoo.org



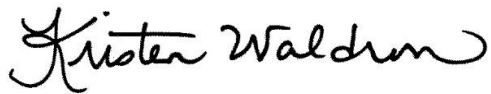
Person to receive the Commission's Decision:

Kristen Waldron
Chief of Staff
Philadelphia Zoo
3400 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19104-1196
Email: waldron.kristen@phillyzoo.org

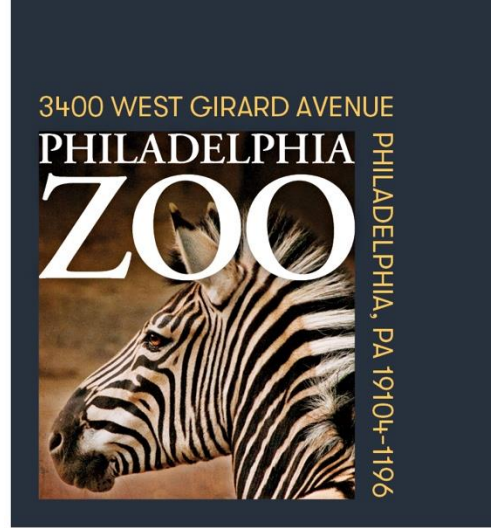
Contact Person:

Kristen Waldron
Chief of Staff
Philadelphia Zoo
3400 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19104-1196
Email: waldron.kristen@phillyzoo.org

Sincerely,



Kristen Waldron
Chief of Staff
The Philadelphia Zoo





**Philadelphia Zoo
Bear Country Renovation and Expansion
Art Commission**

**Dan Bosin
Associates**

PGA  **DESTINATIONS**

Bear Country Inhabitants



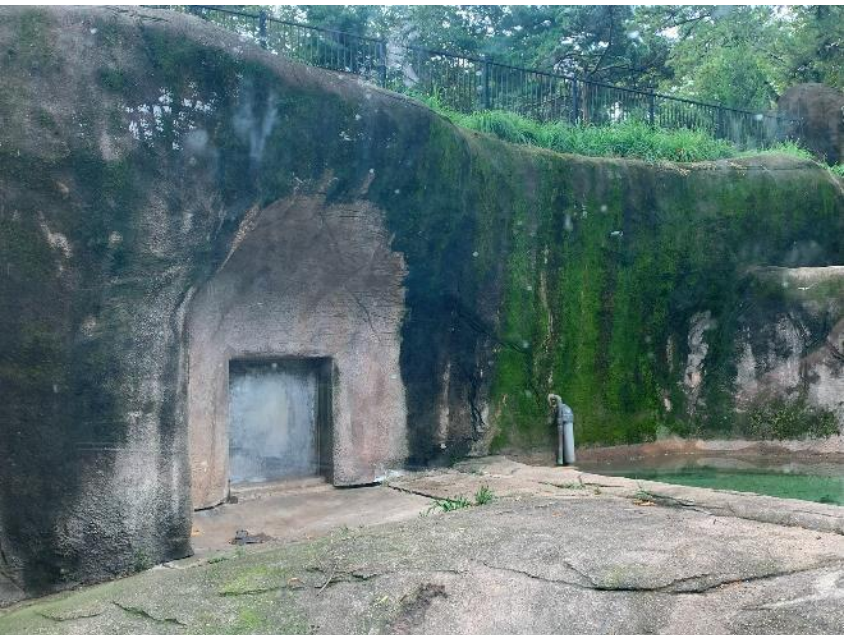
PHILADELPHIA
ZOO

Existing Bear Country

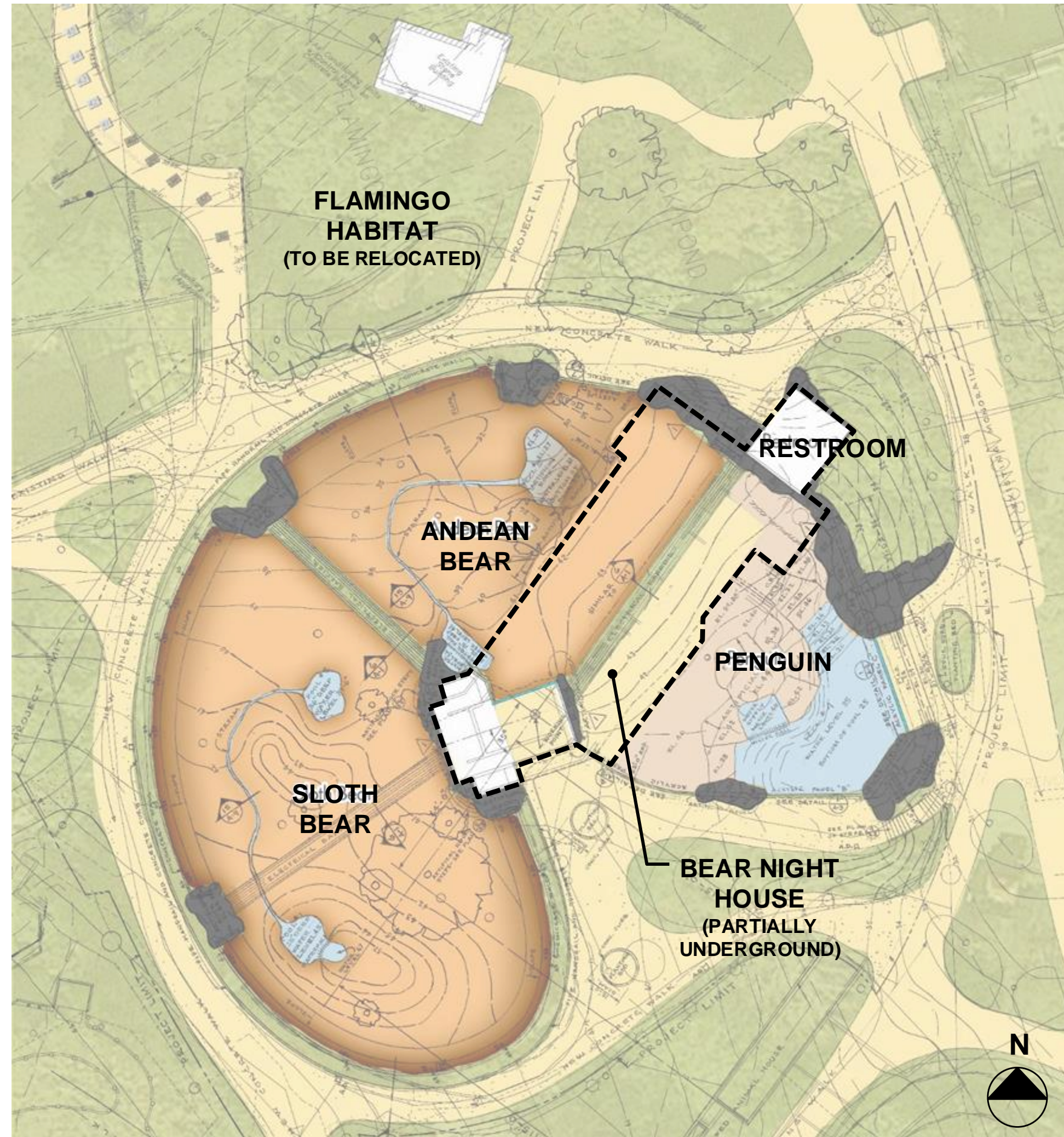
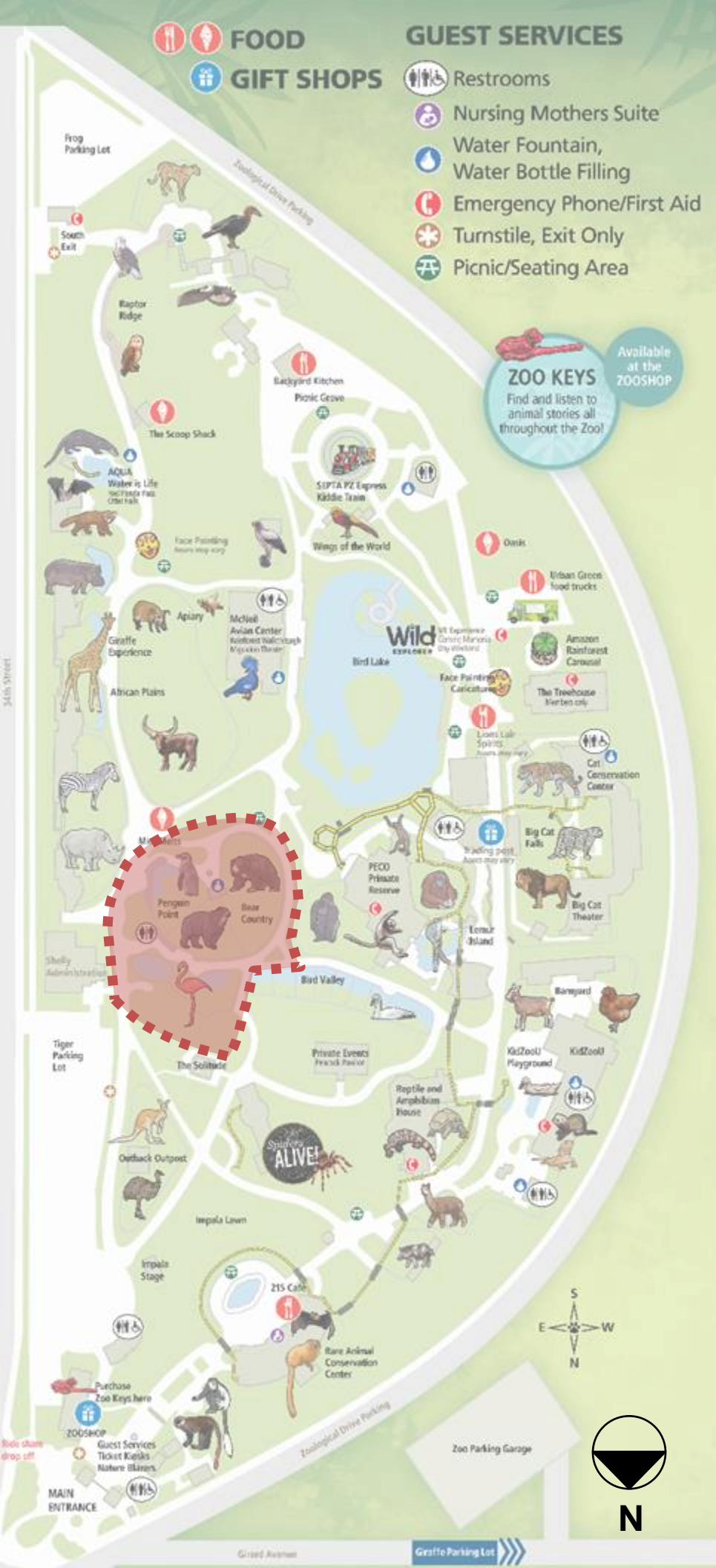
Bear Habitats



Existing Bear Country Bear Night House

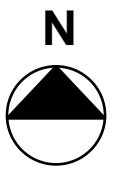
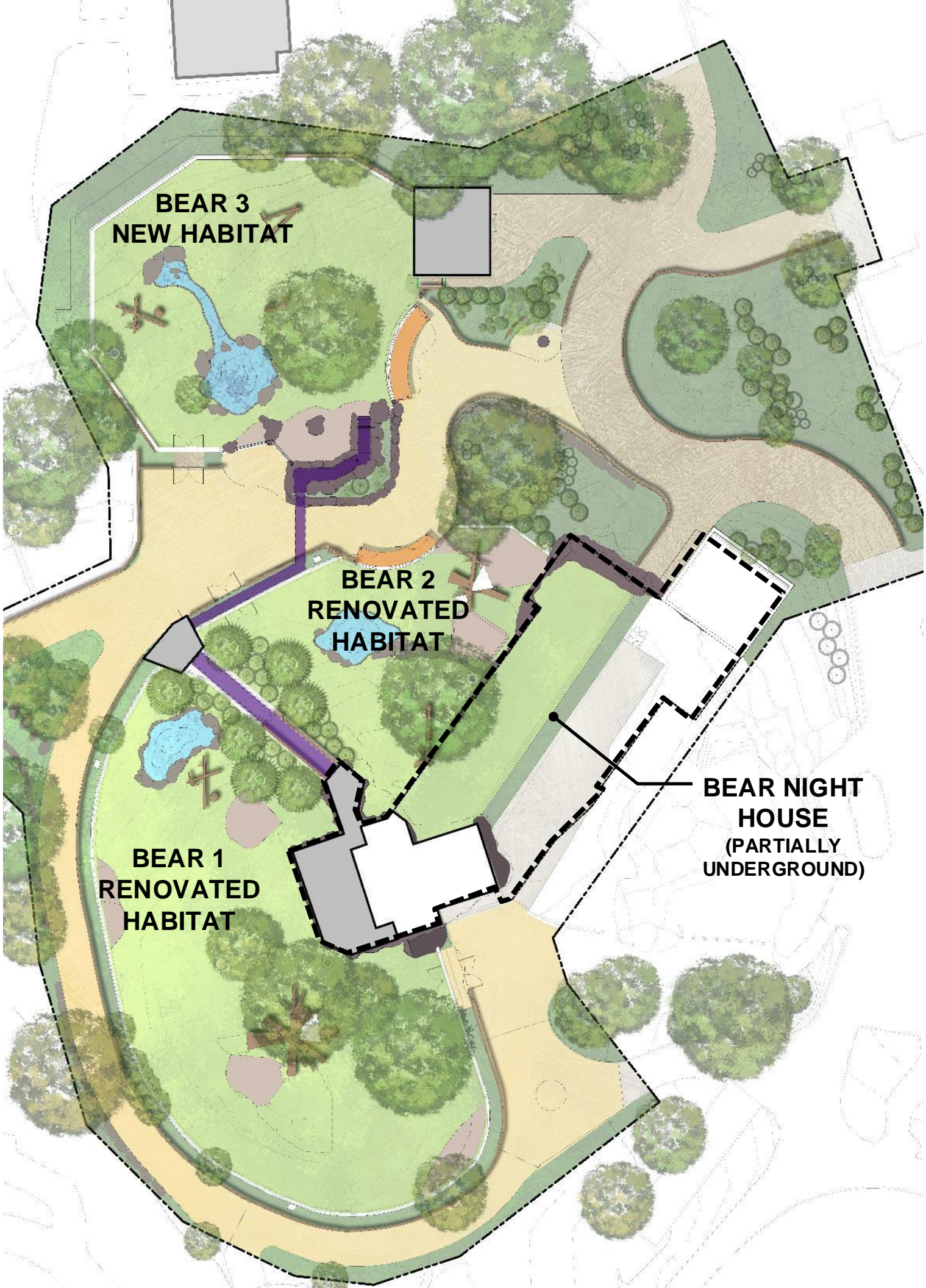


Existing Bear Country

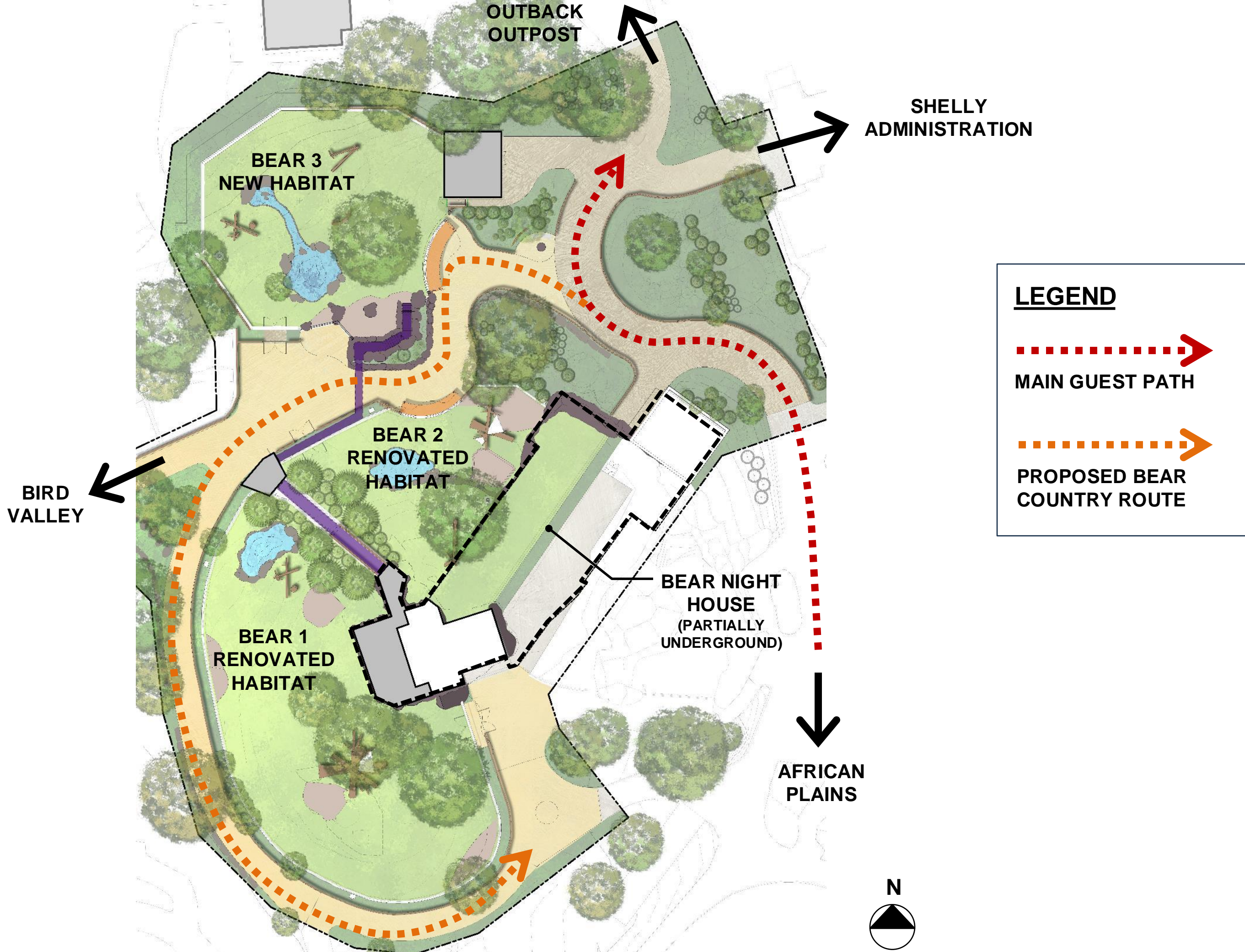


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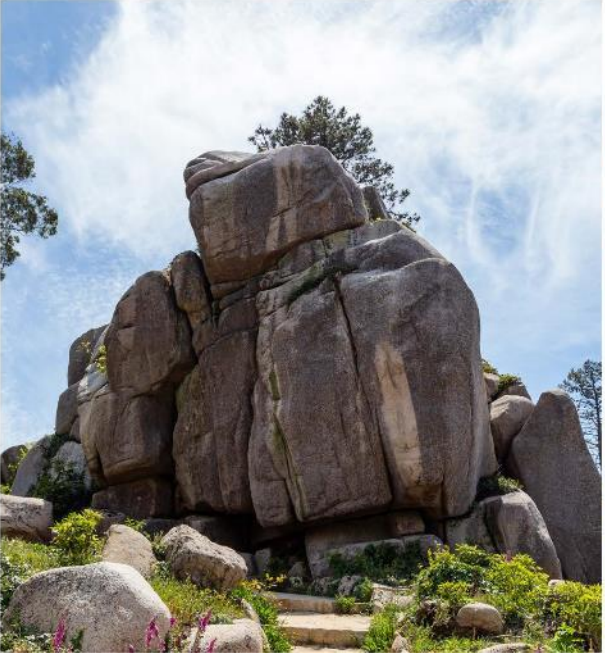
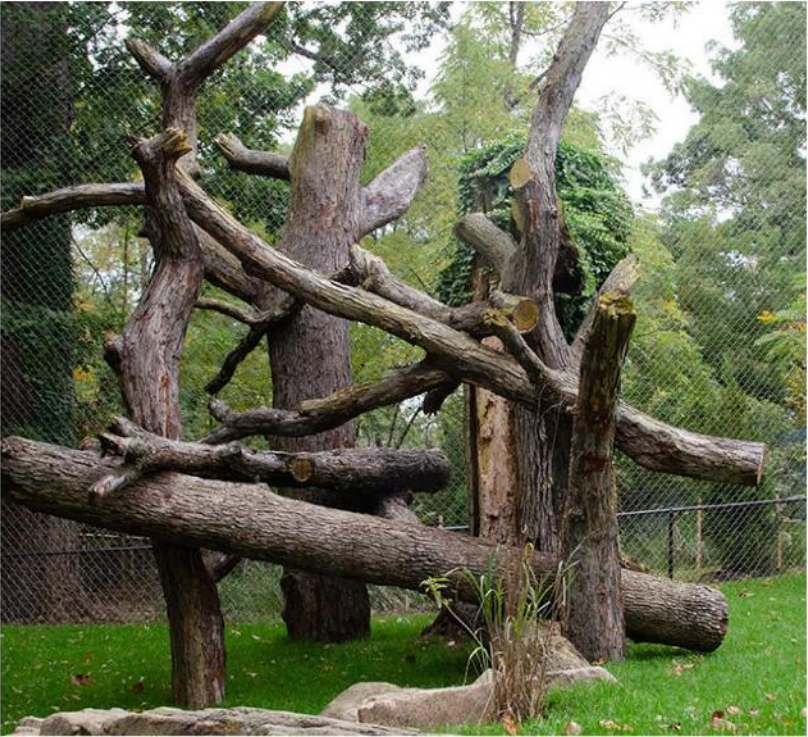
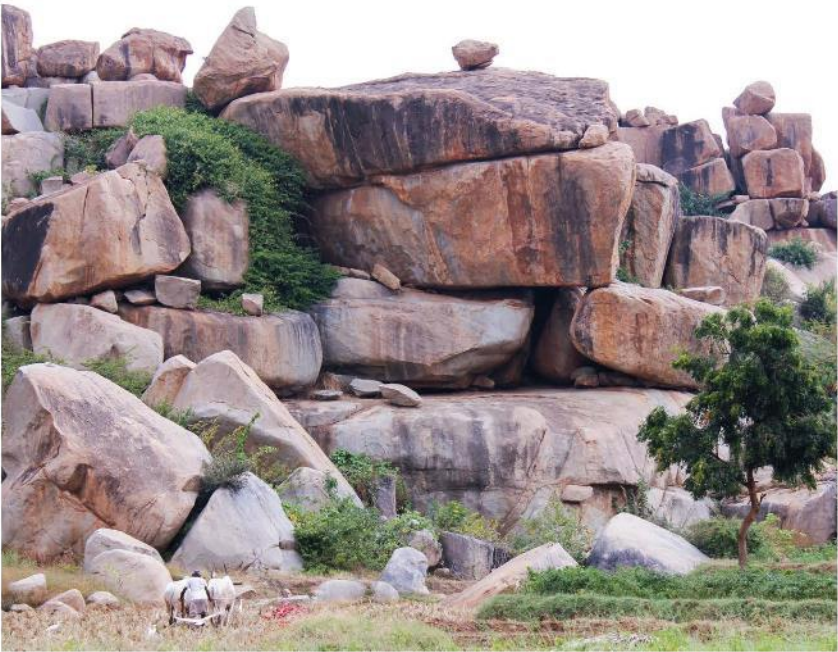
Site Plan



Circulation



Bear Country Look and Feel

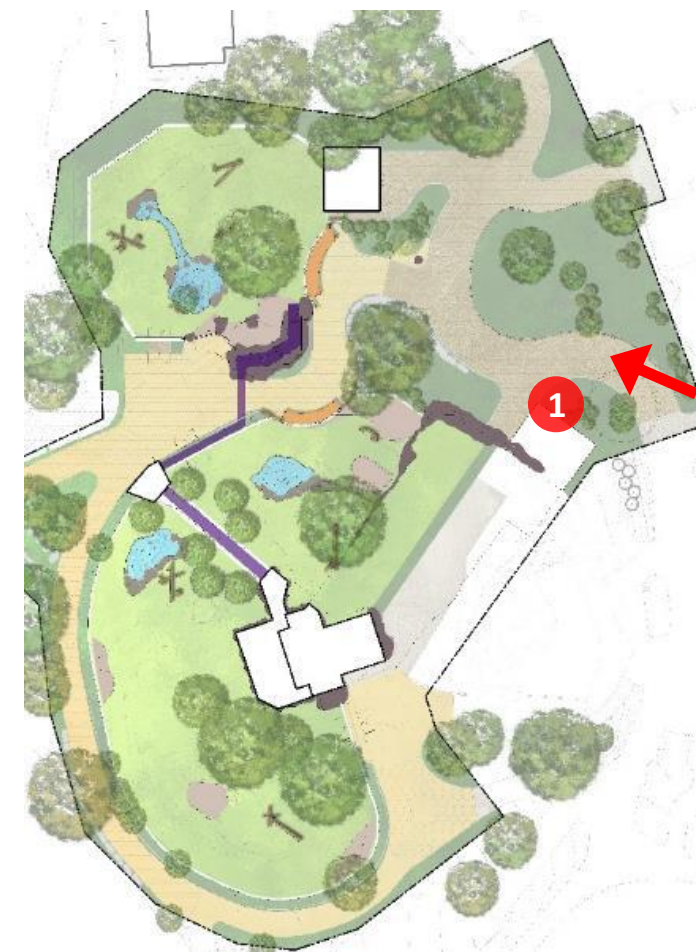


Color Palette

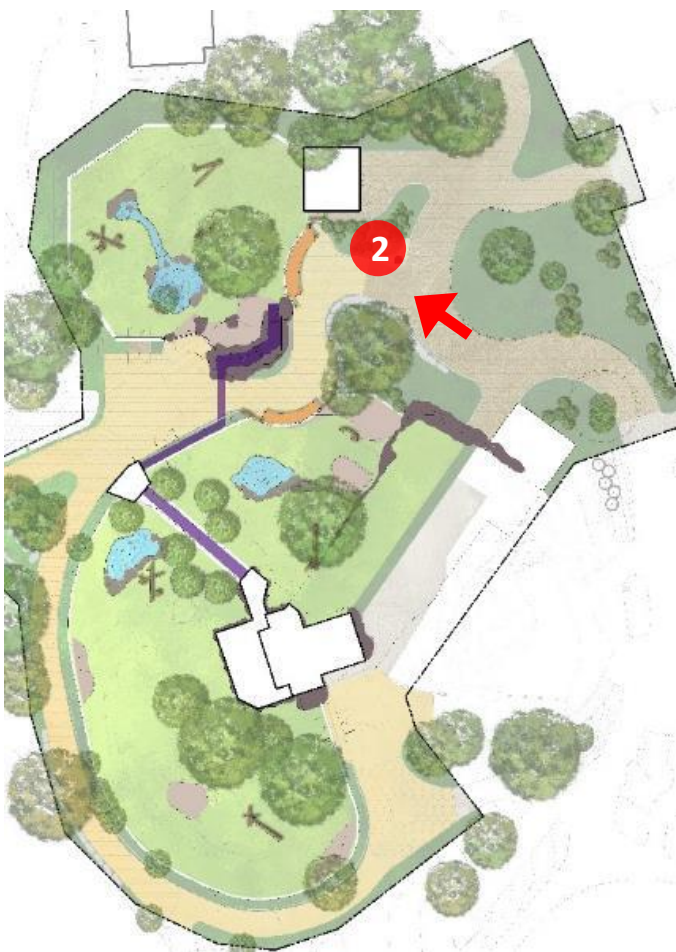


Palette Inspiration

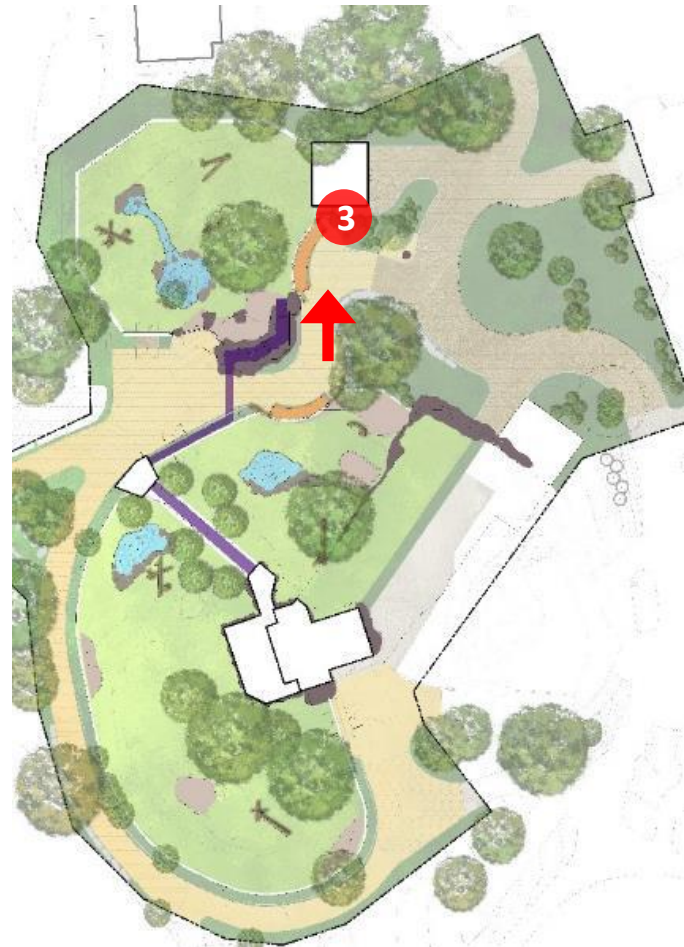
Rendering – Main Path



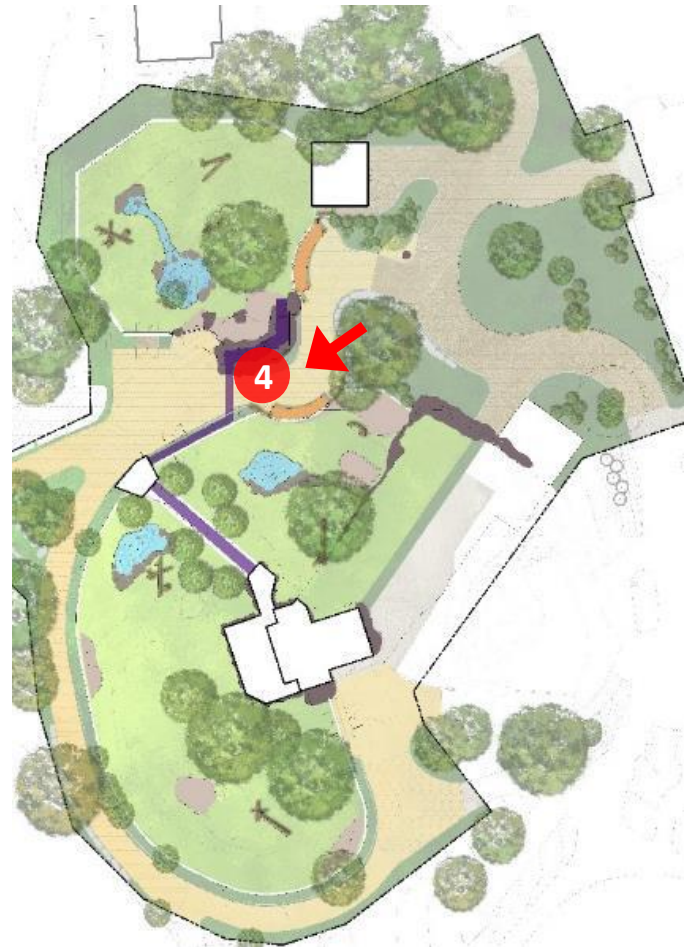
Rendering – Arrival



Rendering – New Bear Habitat



Rendering – 360 Bear Trail Crossing



Rendering – Cave Viewing



Habitat Improvements

- ① Covered Glass Viewing Area
- ② “Bear 360” Trail
- ③ New rockwork pools
Filtered and recirculating
- ④ New climbing structures
- ⑤ New cobble & dig pits
- ⑥ New landscape
- ⑦ Infill moats
To expand habitats and bring bears up to guest level
- ⑧ Refinish existing rockwork
- ⑨ Off-habitat area
- ⑩ Keeper support building

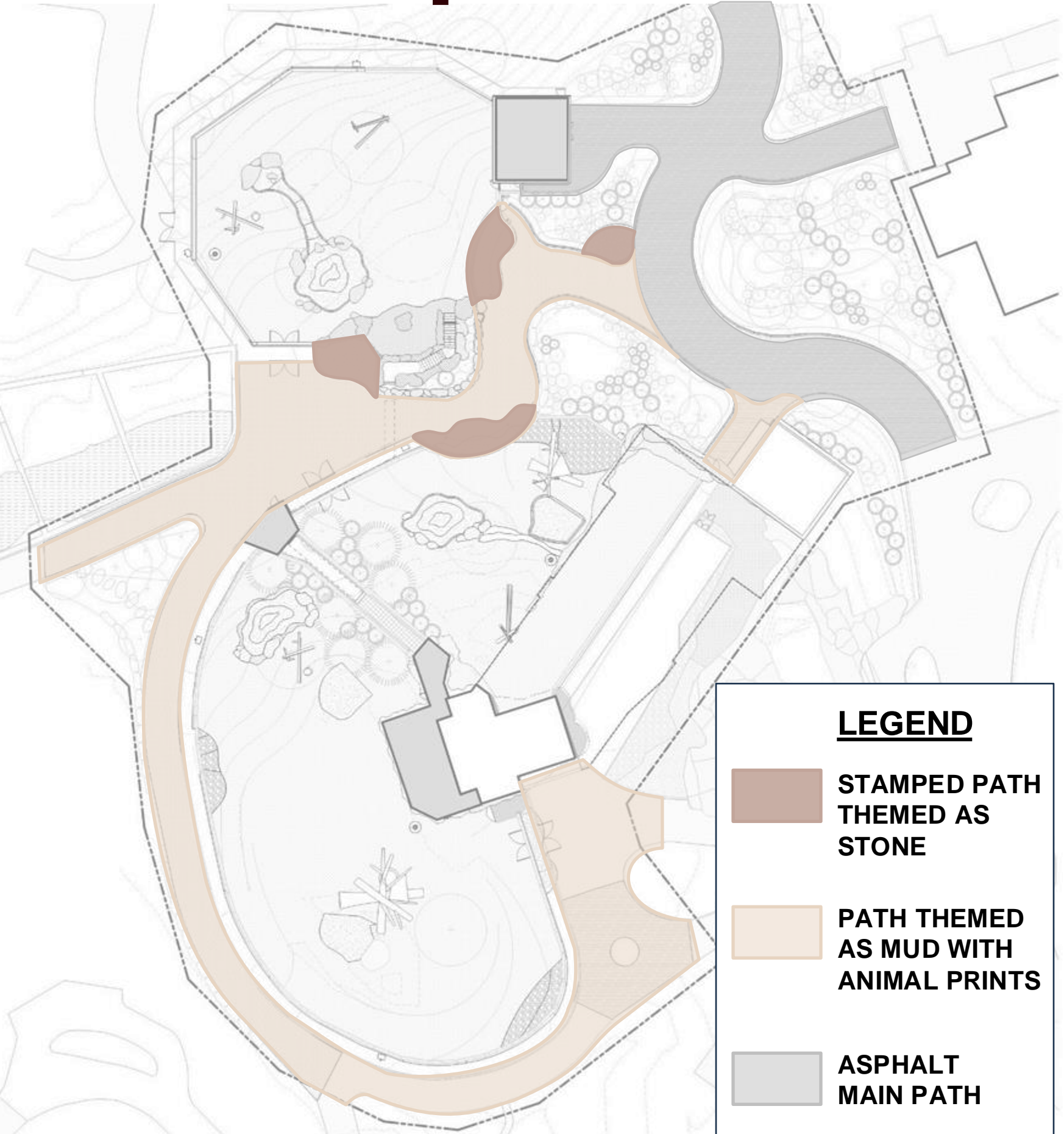


New Habitat

- ① Bear Cave
- ② Covered Glass Viewing Area
- ③ "Bear 360" Trail
- ④ New rockwork pool & stream
Filtered and recirculating
- ⑤ New climbing structures
- ⑥ New cobble & dig pits
- ⑦ New landscape
- ⑧ Life Support System (LSS) building

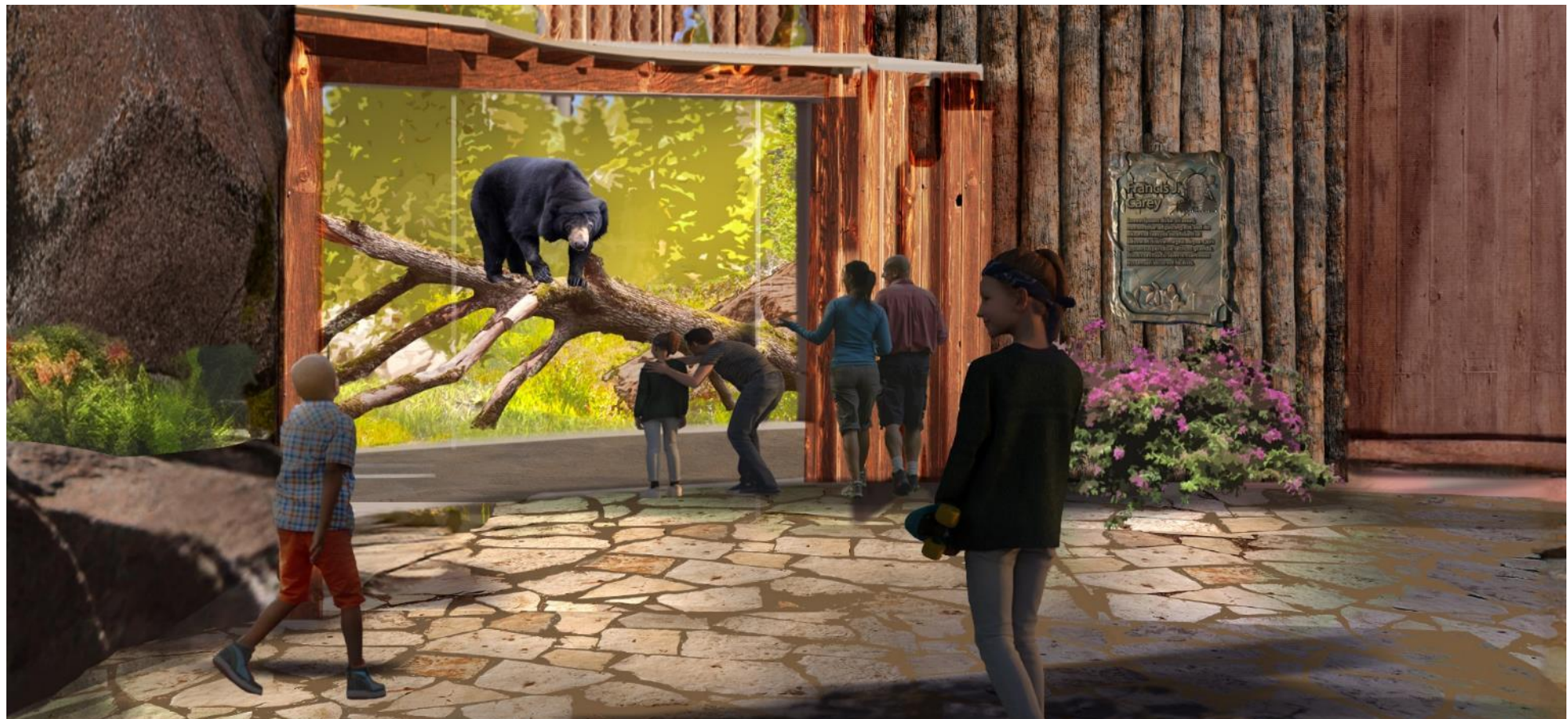


Site Improvements – Themed Concrete Paving

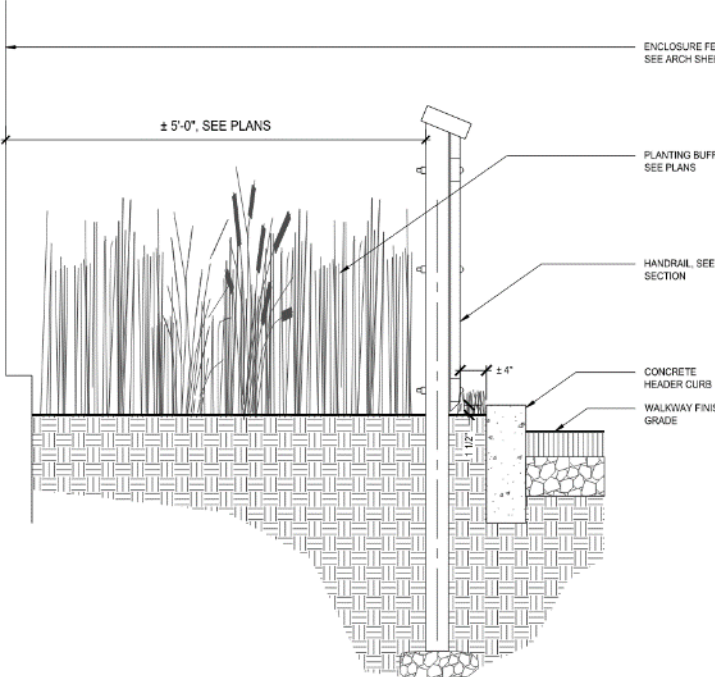
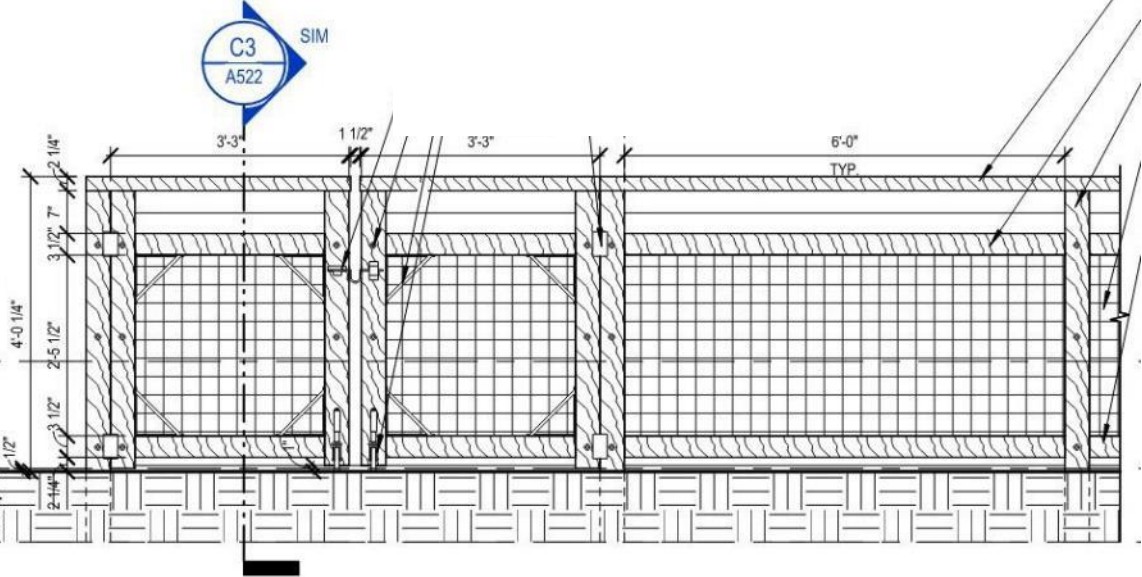
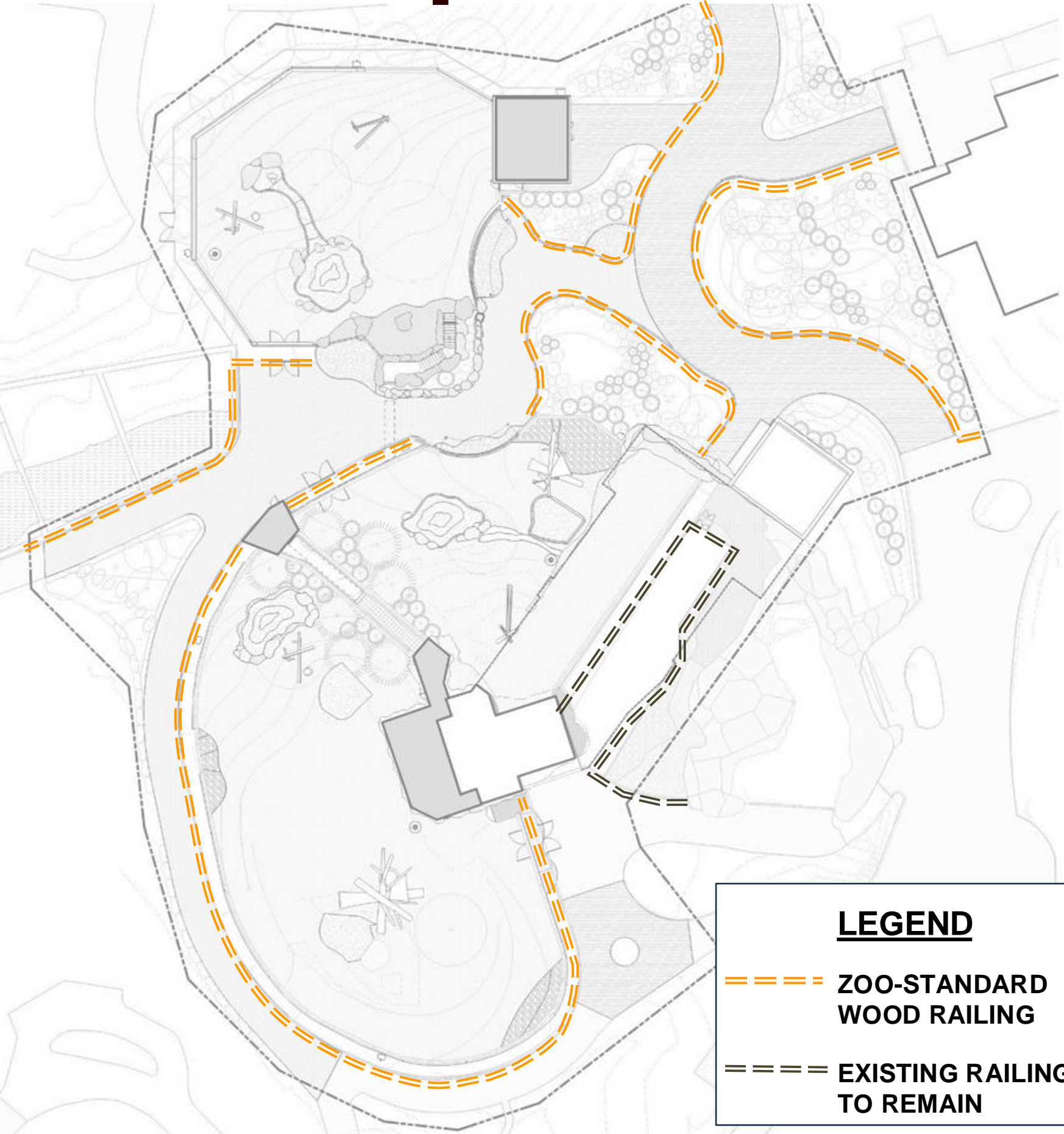


LEGEND

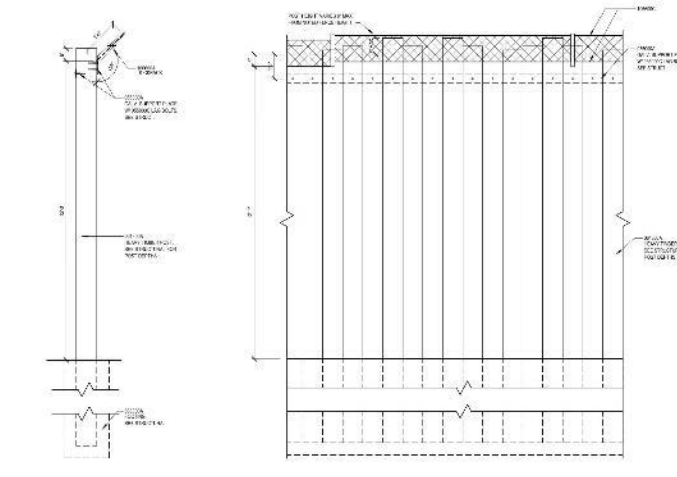
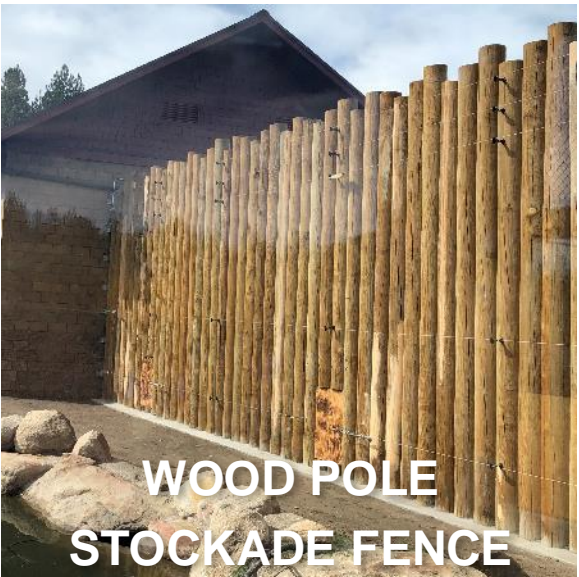
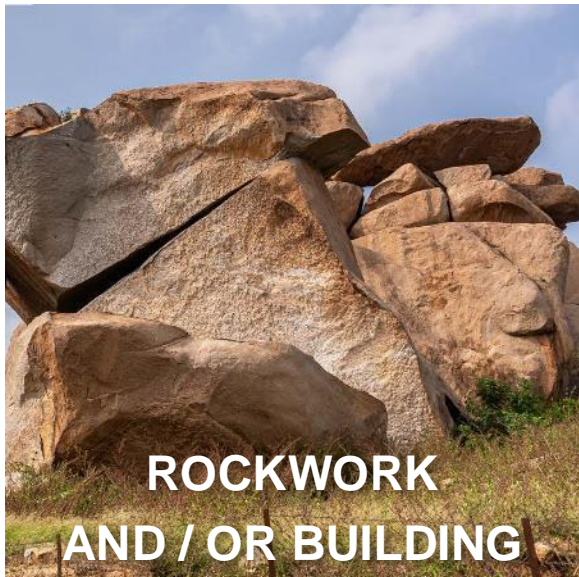
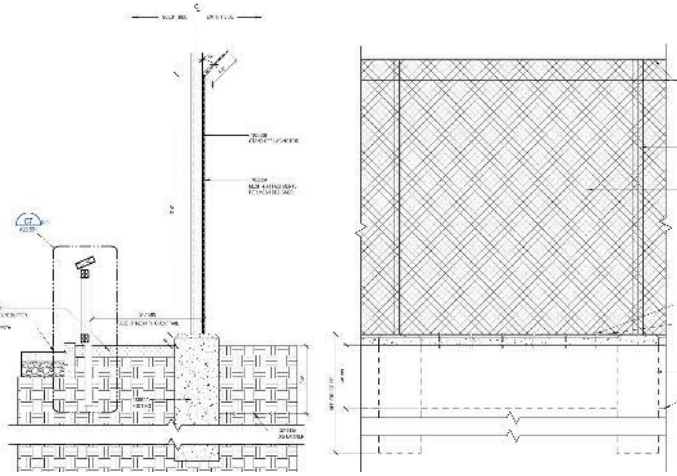
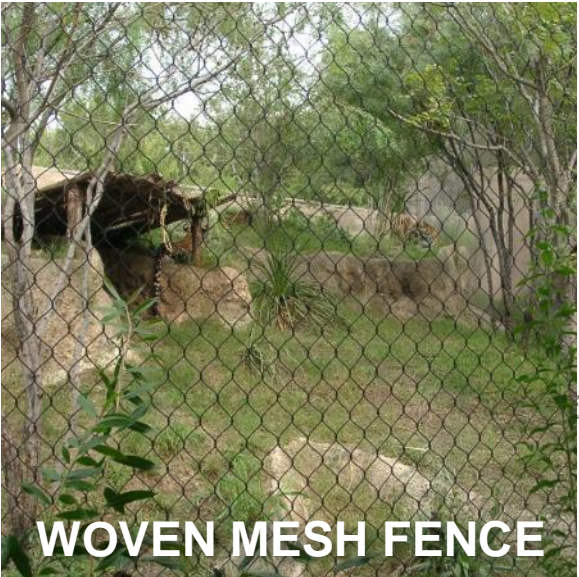
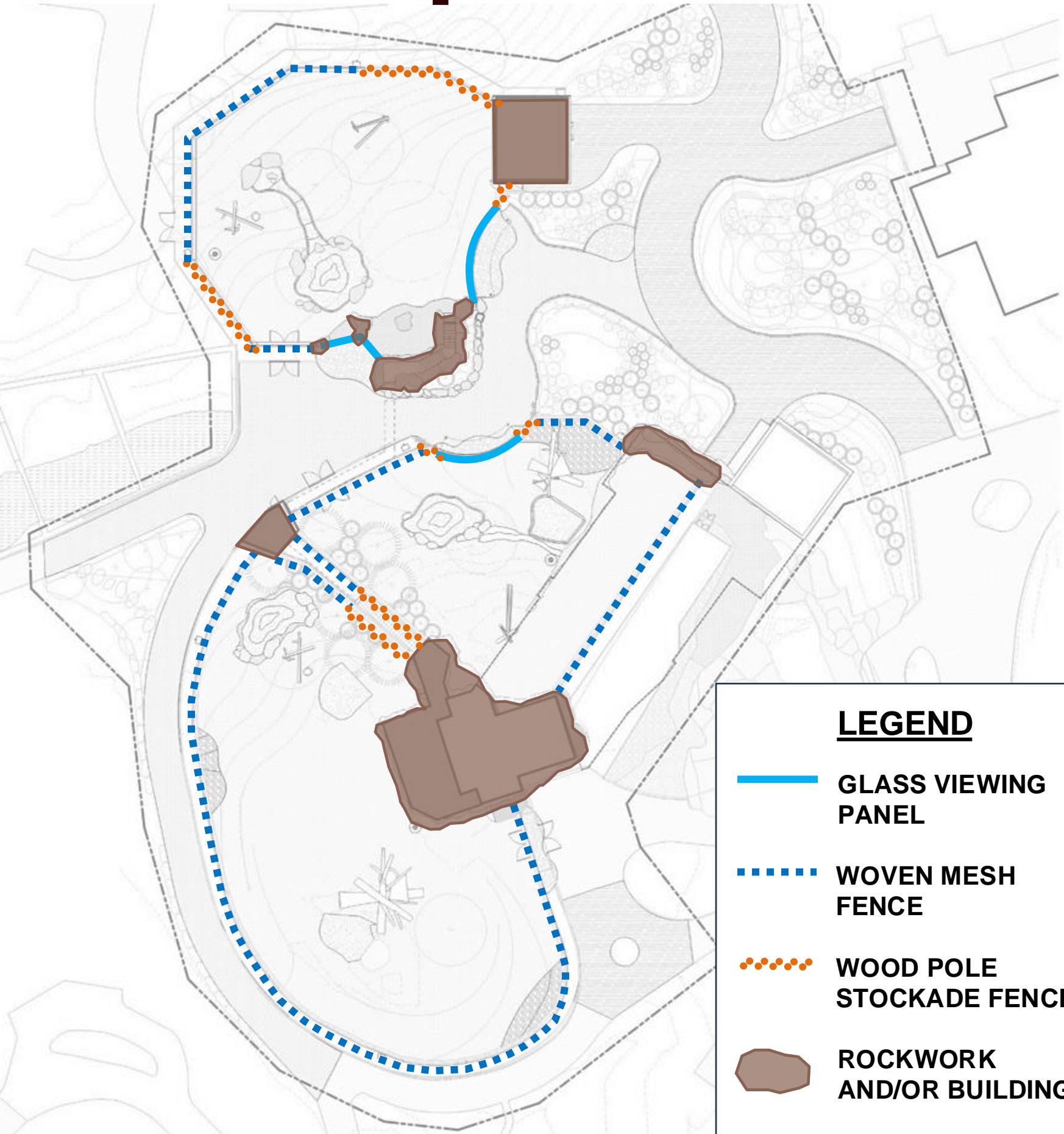
-  STAMPED PATH THEMED AS STONE
-  PATH THEMED AS MUD WITH ANIMAL PRINTS
-  ASPHALT MAIN PATH



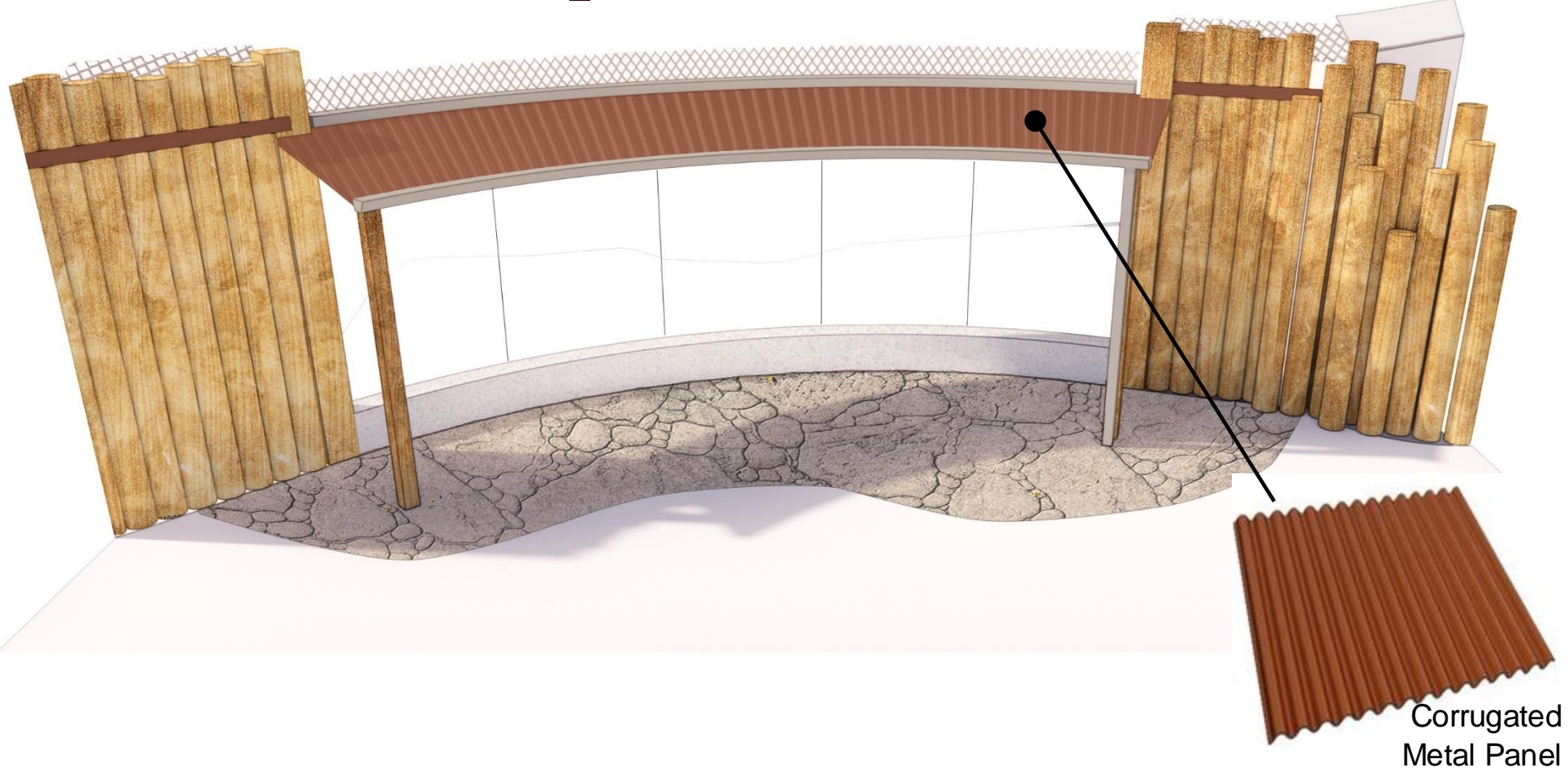
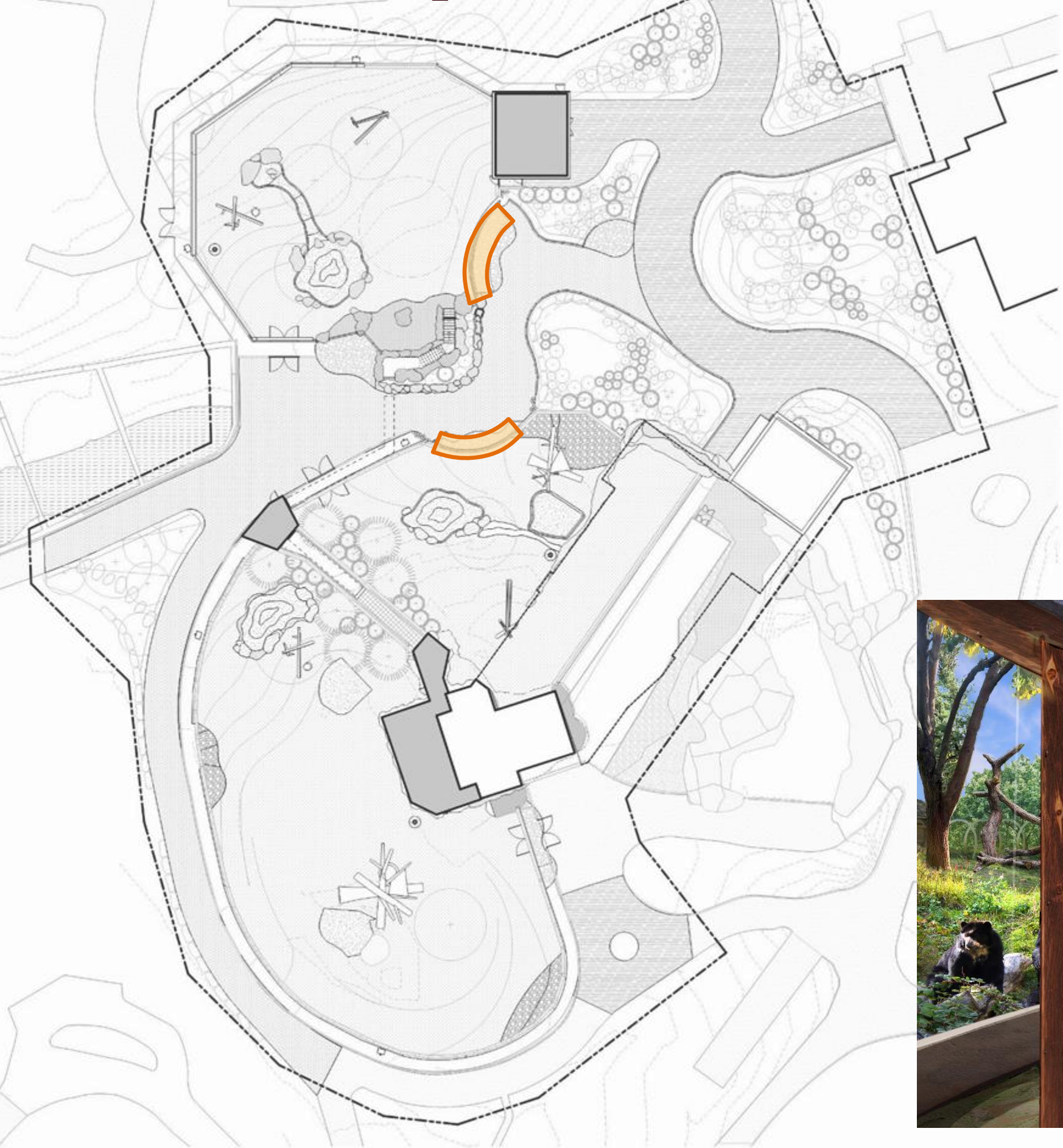
Site Improvements – Guest Handrails



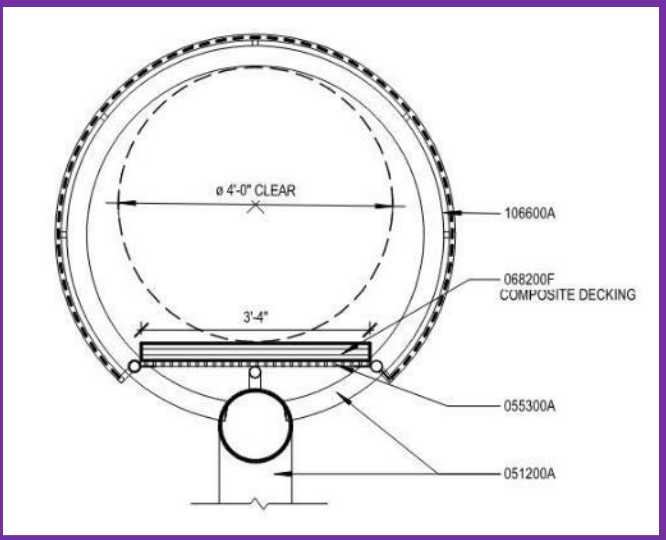
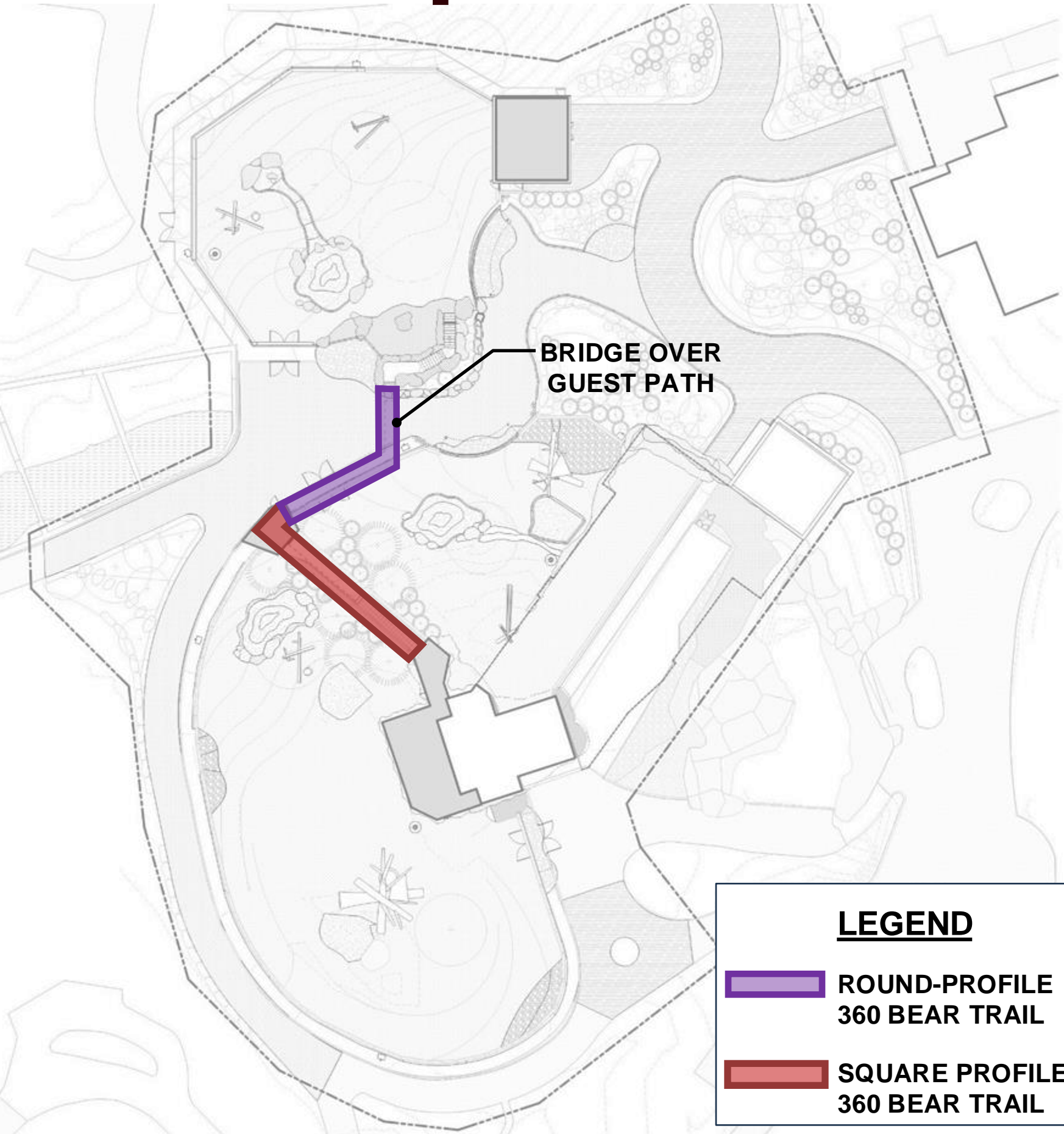
Site Improvements – Habitat Perimeter



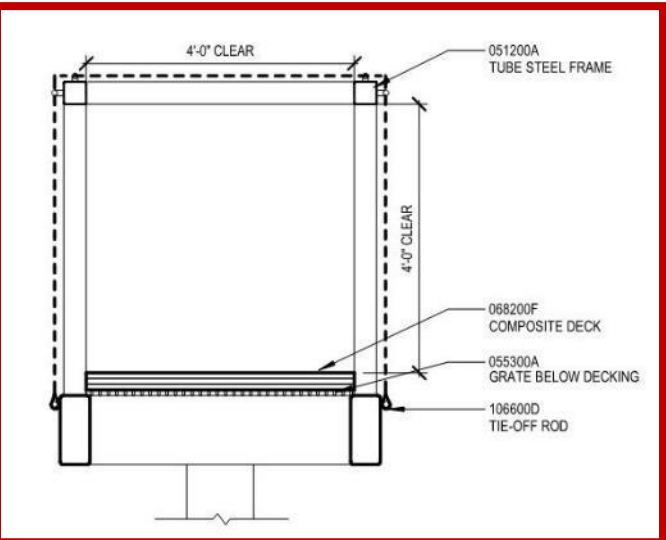
Site Improvements – Guest Canopies



Site Improvements - Bear 360 Trail



SECTION - ROUND-PROFILE 360 TRAIL



SECTION - SQUARE-PROFILE 360 TRAIL

LEGEND

- ROUND-PROFILE 360 BEAR TRAIL
- SQUARE PROFILE 360 BEAR TRAIL



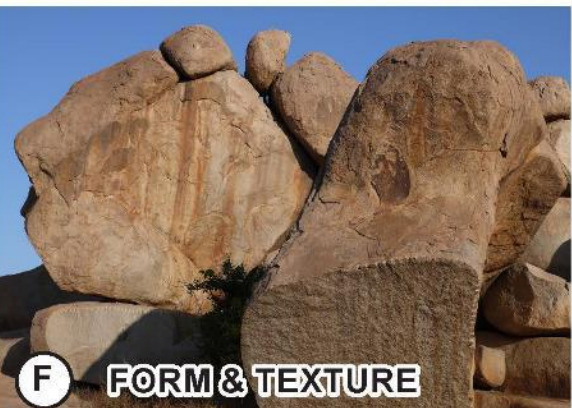
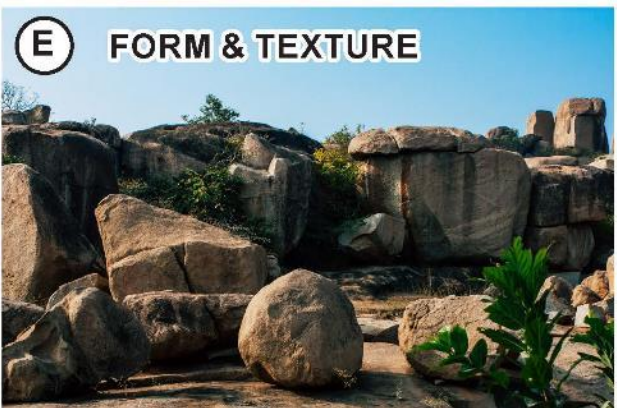
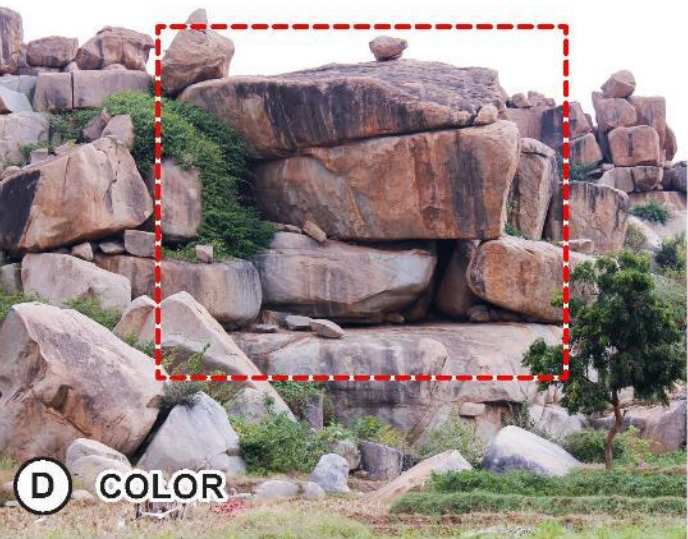
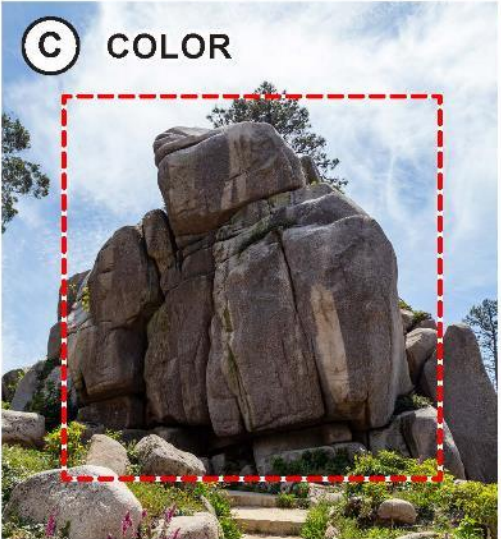
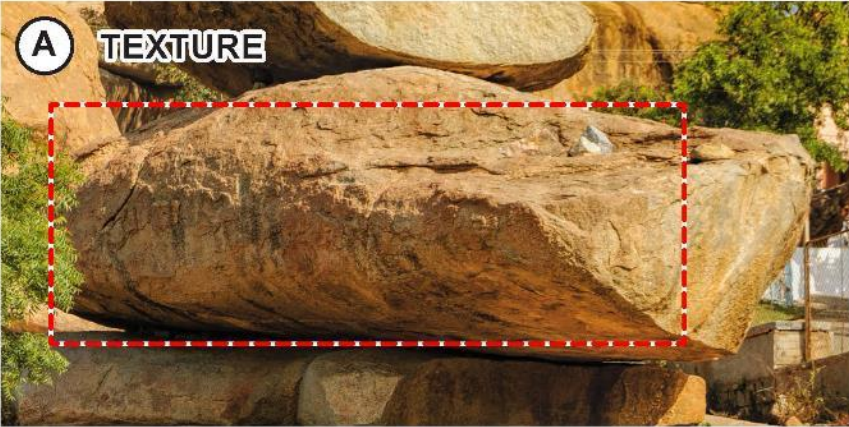
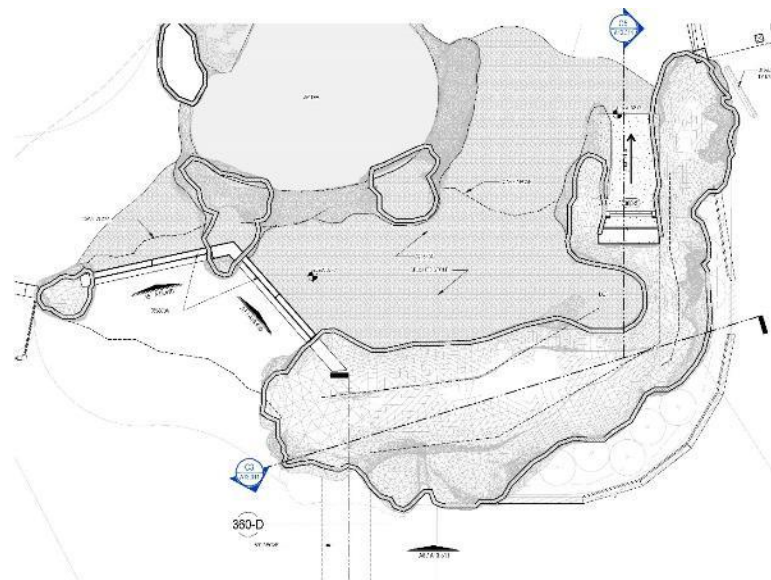
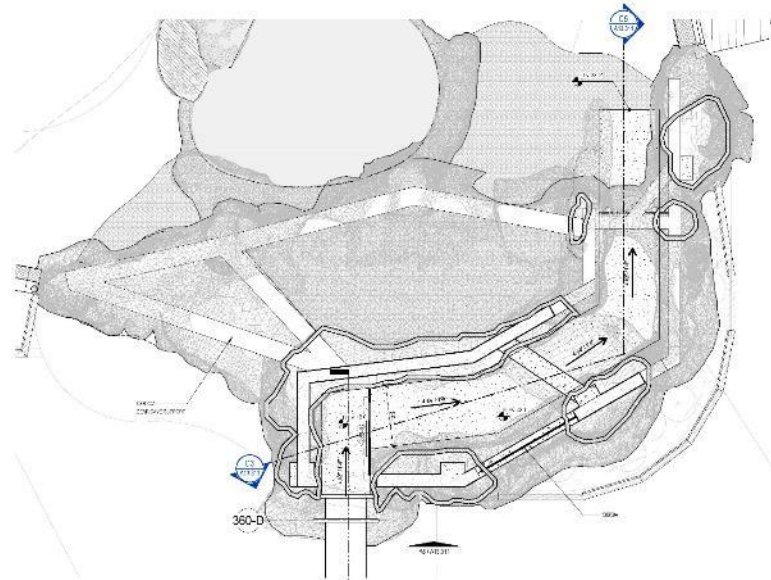
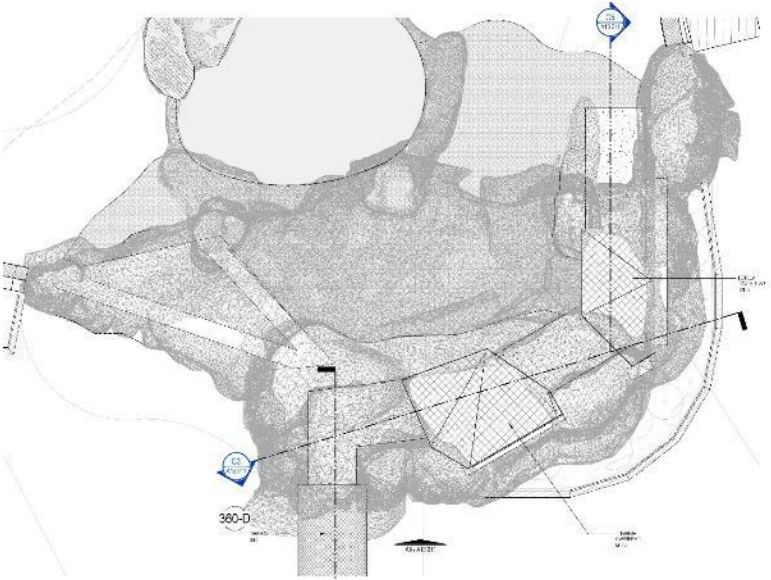
Material Finish



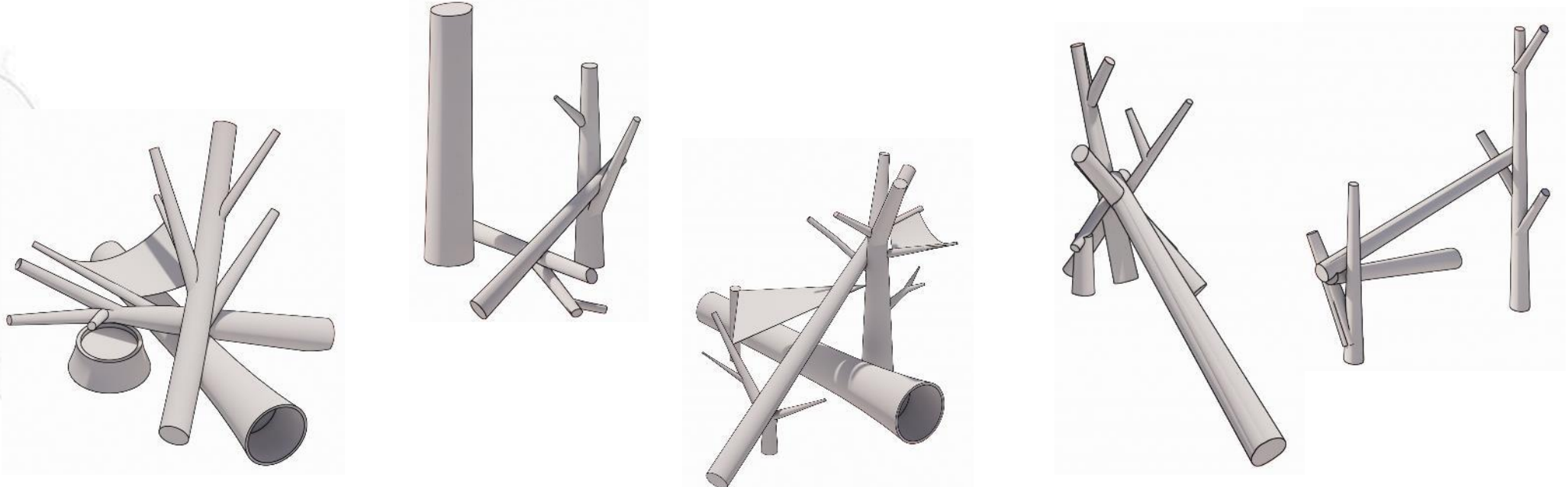
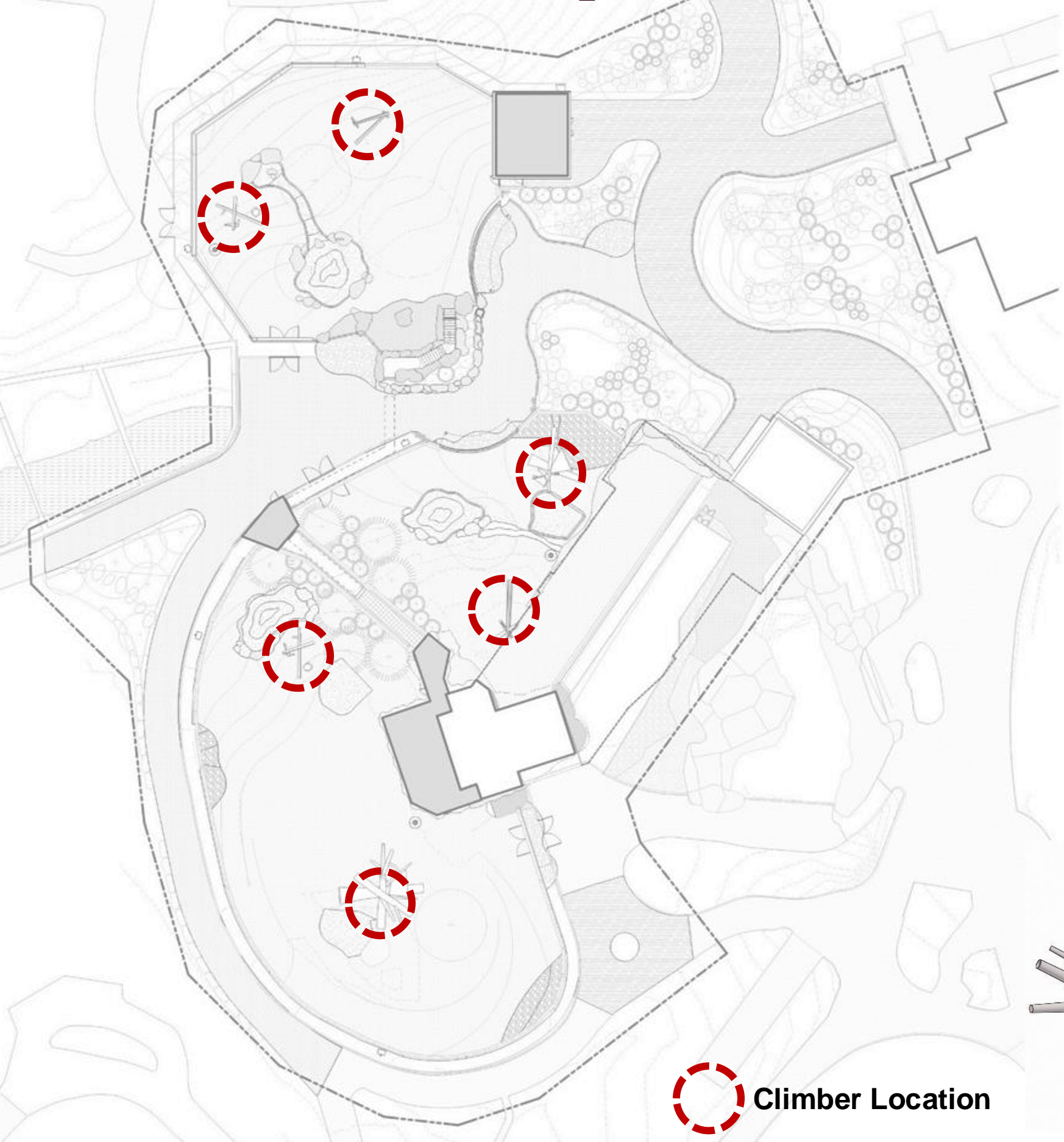
Habitat Improvements – Water Features



Habitat Improvements – Cave



Habitat Improvements – Climbing Structures

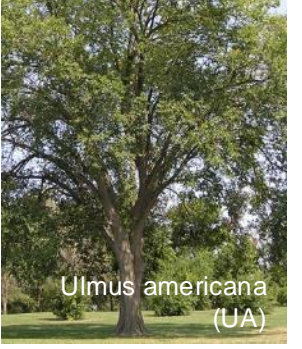


Site Improvements - Landscape

Trees & Shrubs



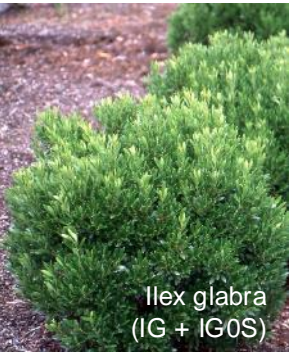
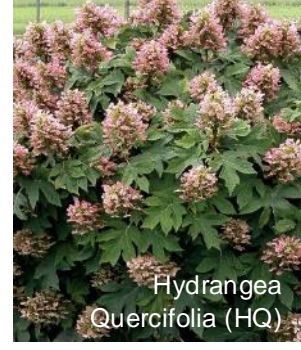
Canopy Trees



Understory Trees



Shrubs

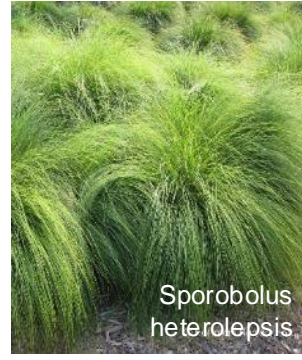


Site Improvements - Landscape

Herbaceous



Grasses



Sedges

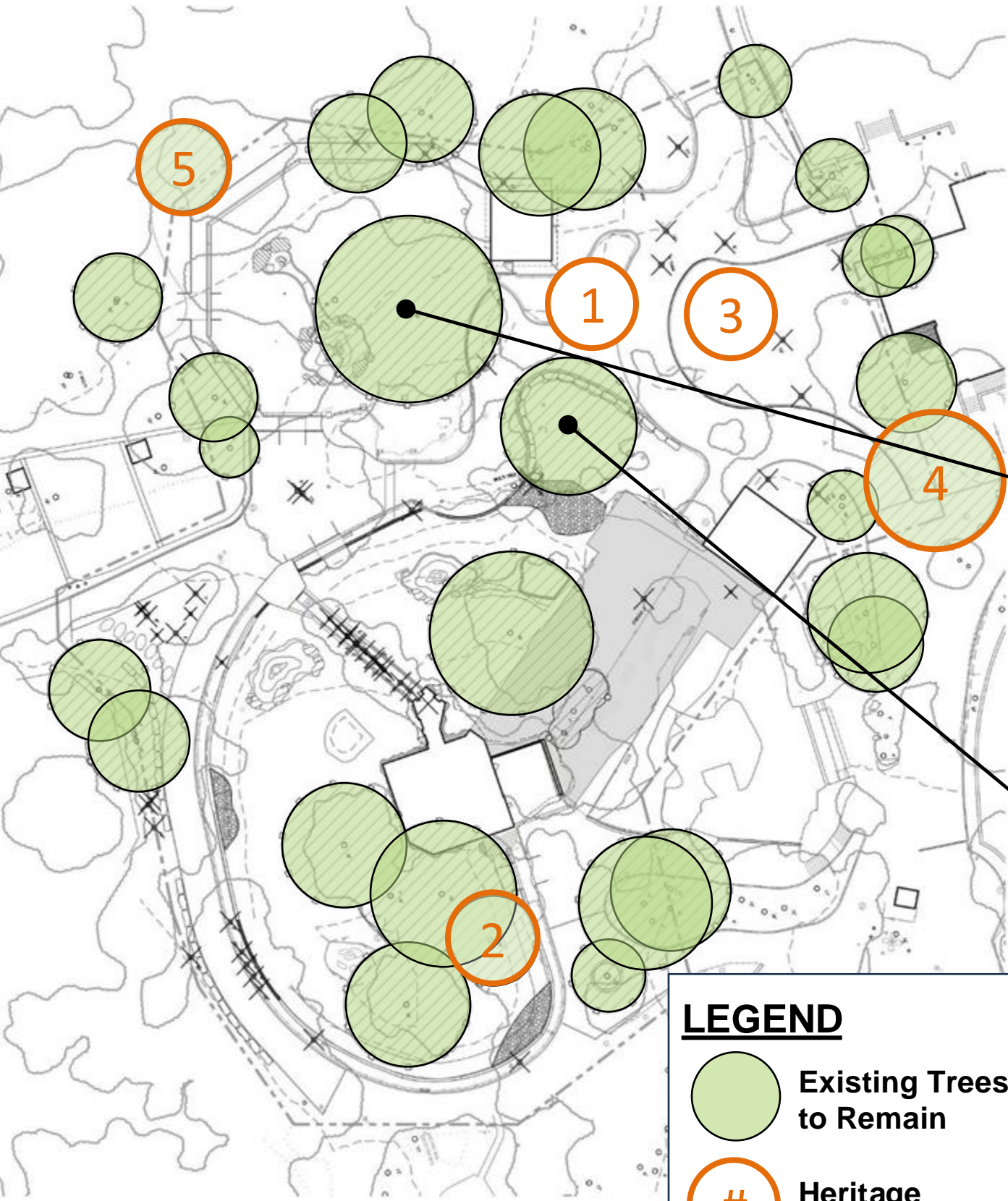


Herbaceous Perennials



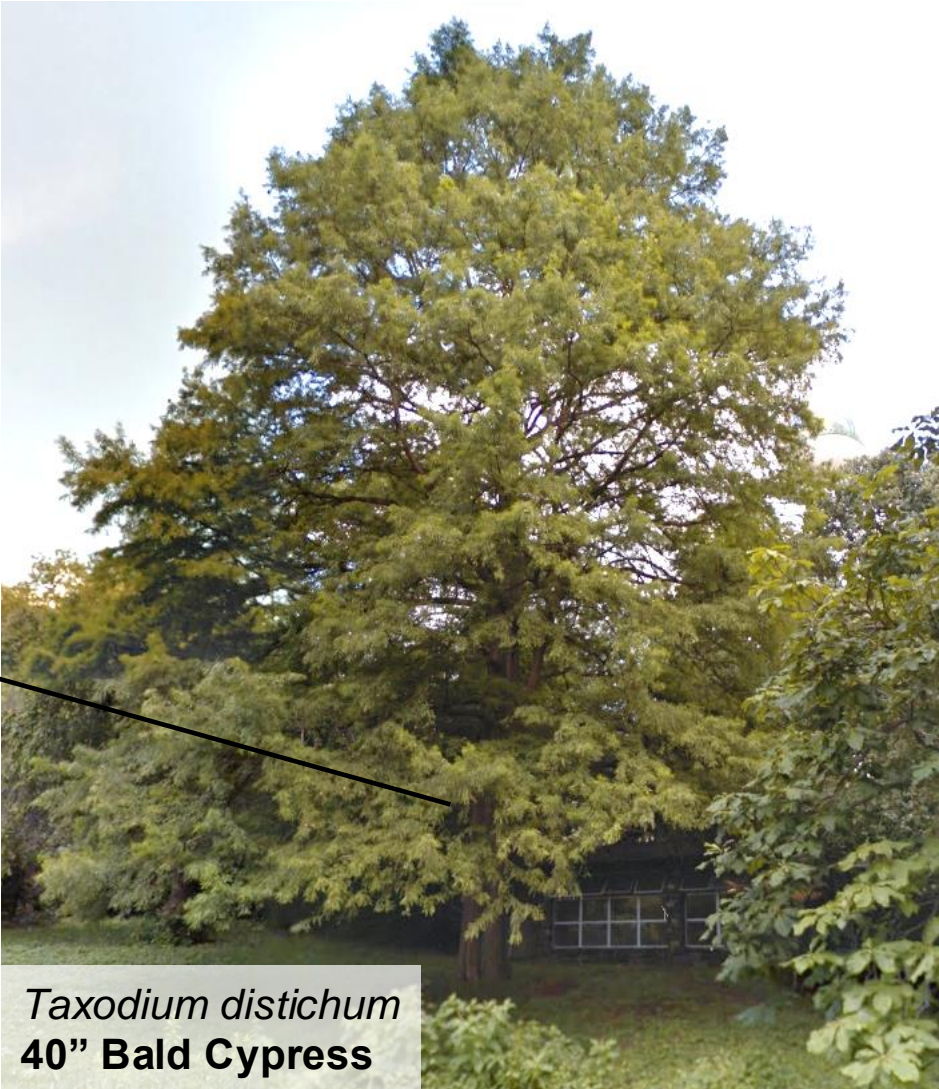
Site Improvements - Landscape

Tree Preservation Plan



LEGEND

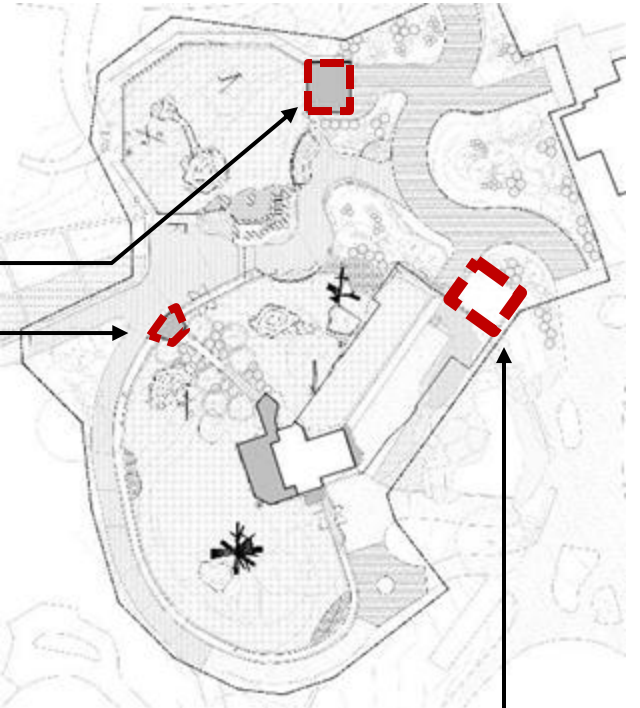
-  Existing Trees to Remain
-  Heritage Trees



Heritage Trees



Site Improvements – Building Exterior



- Building 30
- Building 20
- Public Restroom Renovation (Add Alternate)

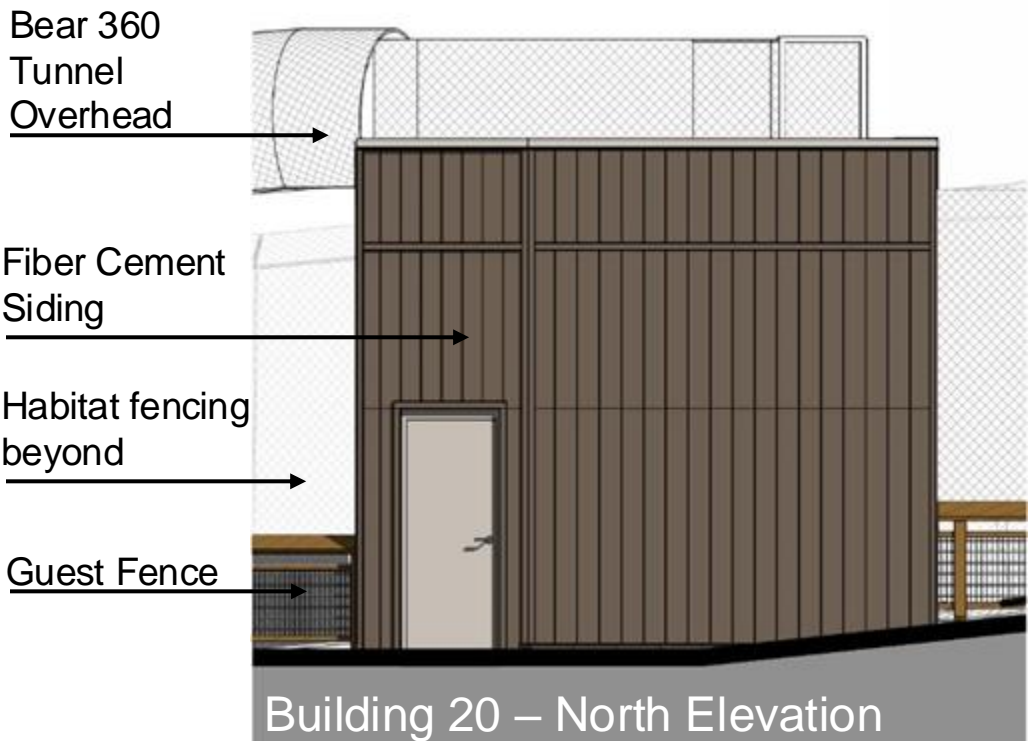
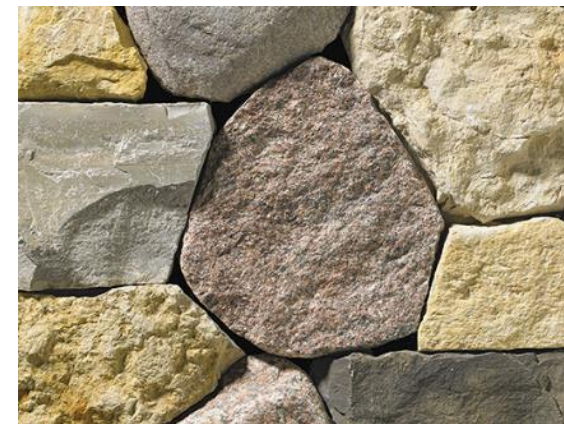


IMAGE FOR TEXTURE REFERENCE ONLY

Fiber Cement Siding w/ V-Groove

Custom Color

Accent Color



Natural Stone Veneer



Corrugated Metal Panel



Palette Inspiration

Exterior Material Palette

Interior Restroom Finishes



Accent Tile



Field Tile



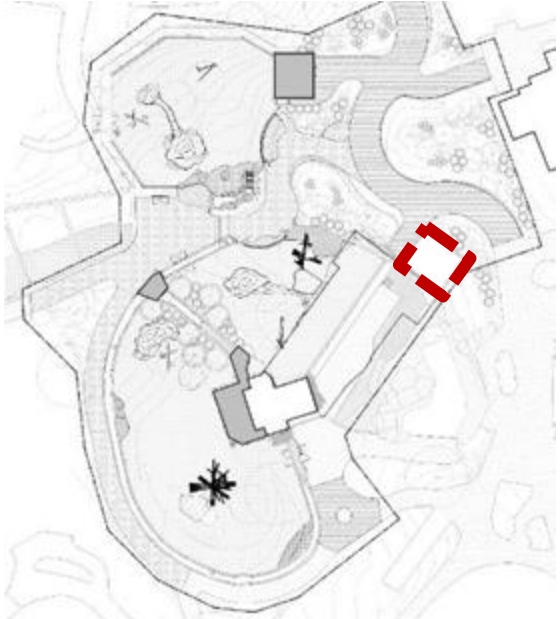
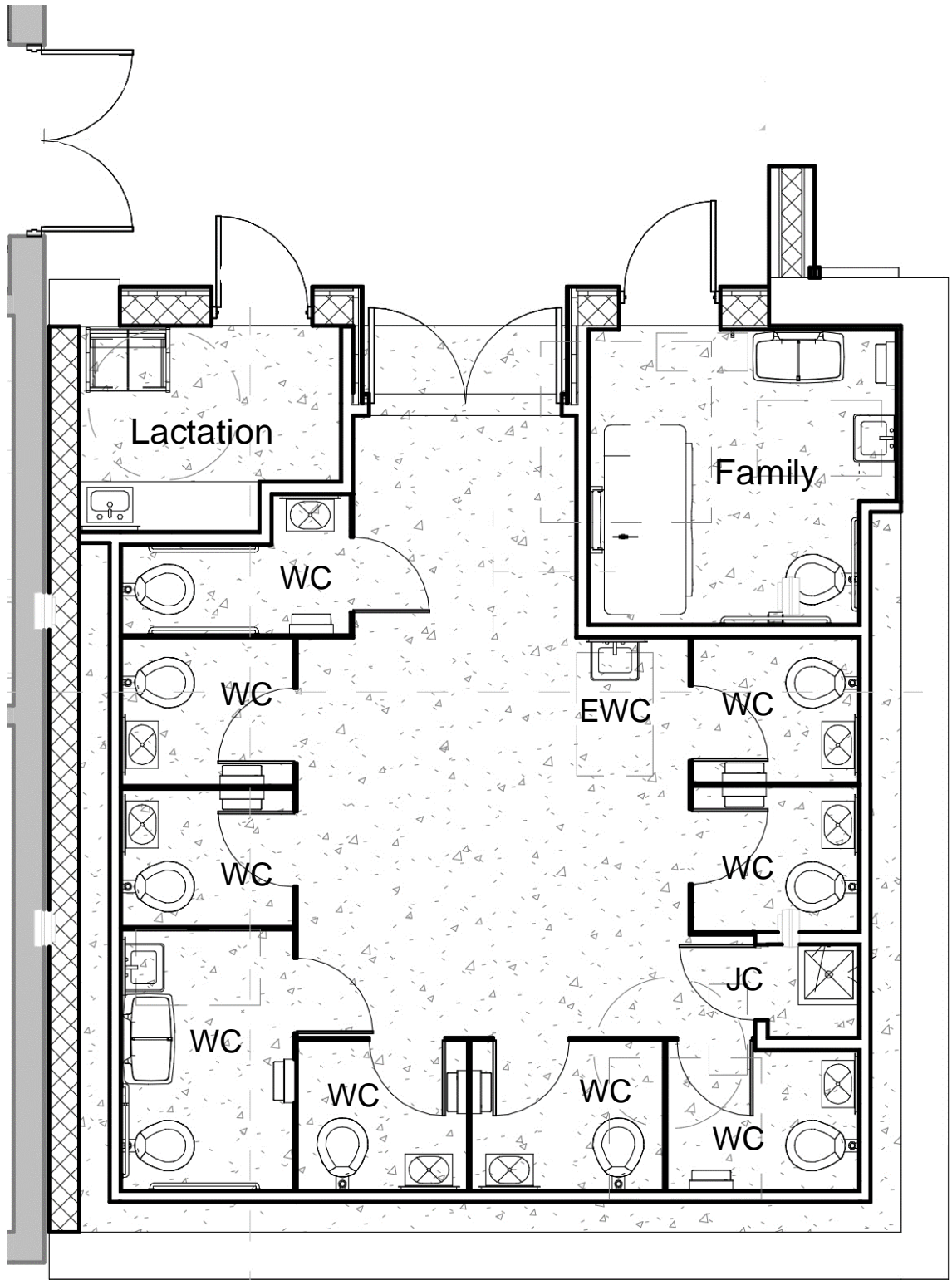
Casework + Counters



Flooring



Toilet Partitions



Restroom Location



Restrooms Partition Style- Gender Neutral Fully-Enclosed

Thank you!



PGA DESTINATIONS

PHILADELPHIA
ZOO

