

**TILDEN ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTER
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Board Presentation: Schematic Design

June 4, 2024

East Bay 
Regional Park District

ehdd.
cimg
Landscape
Architecture

ALDRICH PEARS ASSOCIATES



What

Replace the existing Tilden EEC facility and exhibit with a new facility:

- **A building complex fully integrated with its surrounding natural and cultural landscape**
- **A state-of-the-art education and exhibit experience that is inviting and accessible**
- **A facility that reflects the District's commitment to sustainable and resilient design practices**

What



photo courtesy 2017 TEEC Feasibility Study



Where



COMPLETED

Feasibility Study

Contracted design consultants:

- Architectural design team (EHDD, CMG Landscape, engineers, etc.)
- Exhibit design (AldrichPears Associates)

Pre-design phase for building and site

Pre-design phase for exhibit design

Community Meeting #1 & On-site exhibit: Pre-Design Phase

Schematic Design Phase

- Develop (3) building/site plan options
- Develop exhibit designs

Community Meeting #2 & On-site exhibit: Project Design Options

Select preferred design option

Community Meeting #3 & On-site exhibit: Design Progress and Project Timeline

Schematic Design Phase

NEXT STEPS

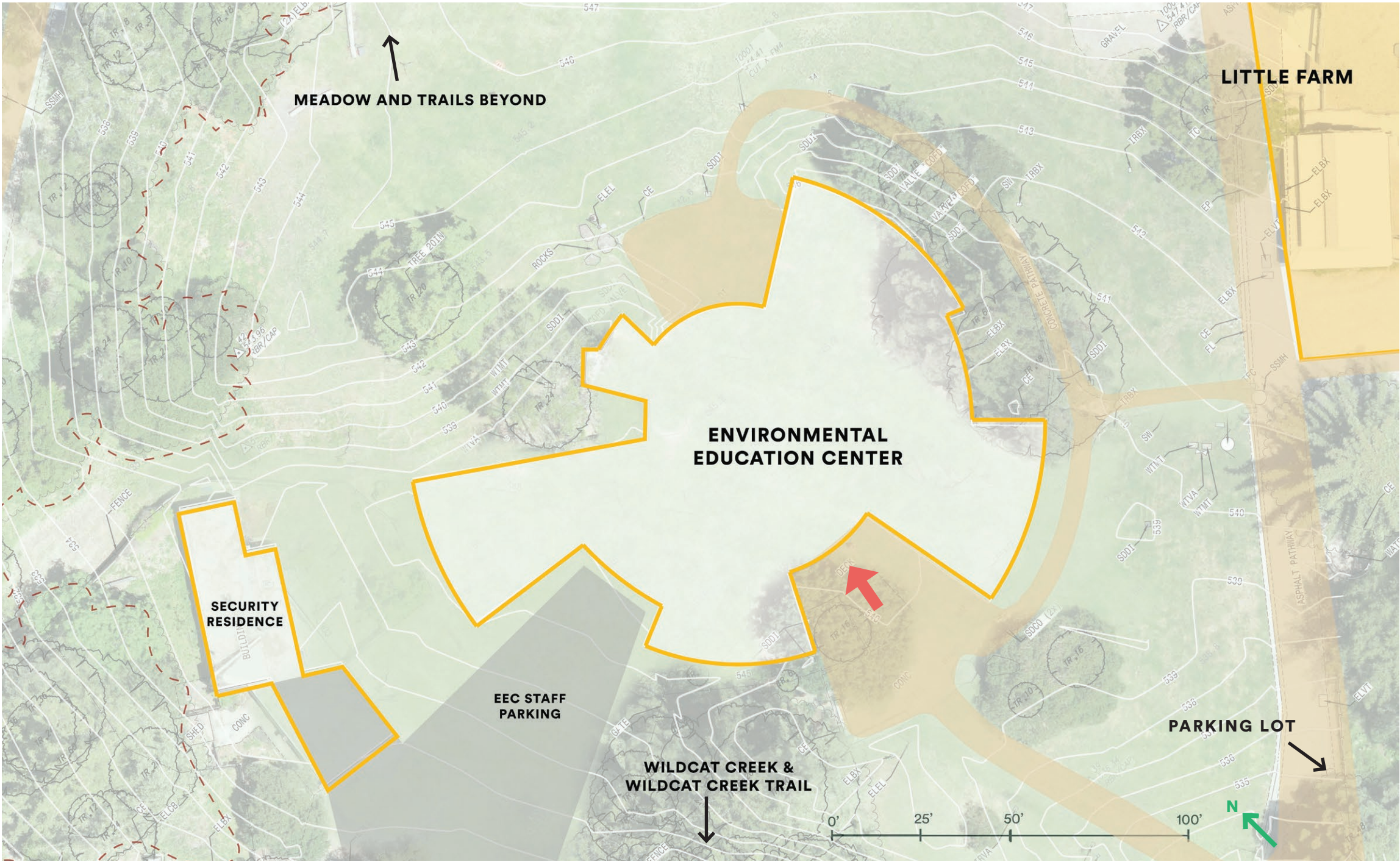
Design Development & Construction Document Phase

- Pending additional funding

Existing Conditions

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- The EEC consists of two structures: the Visitor Center and the Security Residence.
- The EEC is part of an important cluster of structures and programs that serve TNA (it is immediately adjacent to Little Farm and the Ranger Lodge, and near a handful of trailheads that take visitors out into the greater nature area).
- Visitors primarily access the EEC from the parking lot to the south.
- The EEC is located at a clearing between wooded areas (Wildcat Creek and its riparian corridor to the southwest; wooded hillsides to the east and north). Little Farm and the Wildcat Creek siltation pond bound the site's southeastern edge.
- A network of service roads and paths extend along three sides of the site, providing access to Little Farm, the District's nearby maintenance yard, and trails throughout TNA and TRP.



ARCHITECTURE

Architectural Design

This design provides distinct experiences within public areas. Linear zones extend off a central axis and are oriented specifically to natural features of the site.

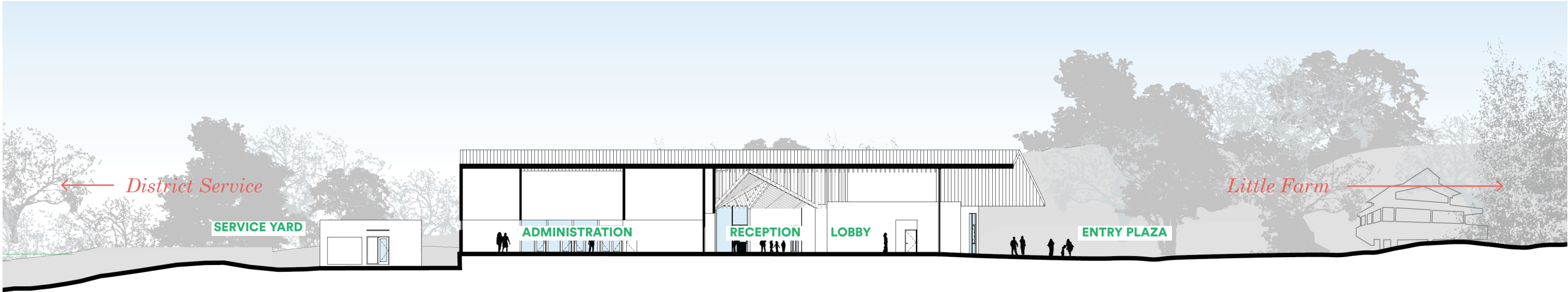
- Exhibit spaces: Three distinct “branches” are provided for the interpretive themes. These zones are of a consistent width and run along an east-west axis (intersecting with the main north-west axis including entrance, restrooms, and administrative spaces).
- Primary entrance is oriented to welcome visitors arriving from the parking lot, as well as visitors coming from Little Farm.
- Public gathering spaces are adjacent to the exhibit branches, located on the southern/entrance side.
- Administrative areas are located at the rear of the building, adjacent to a service yard accessed by the service route along the northern edge of the site.
- A small shop structure is located at the rear of the site, accessible from the Service Yard level.
- Security residence is renovated in its current location.



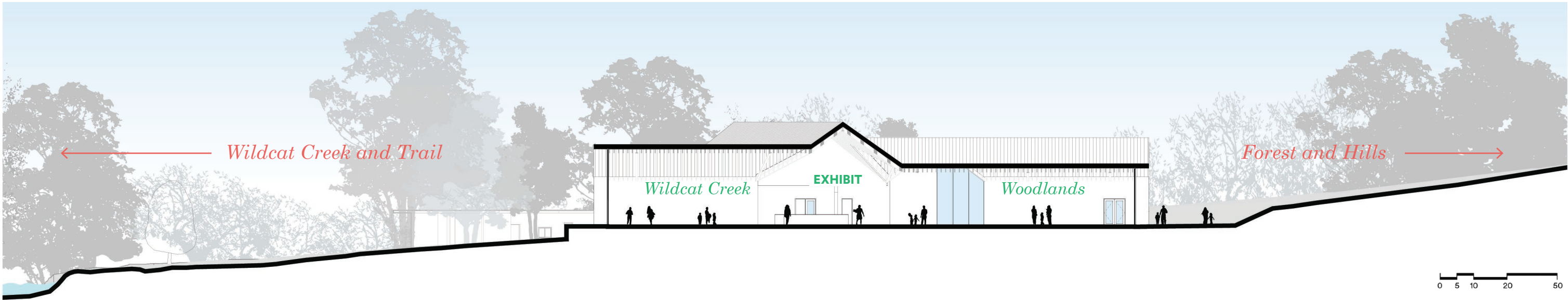
ARCHITECTURE

Architectural Design

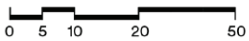
SITE SECTIONS



B NORTH-SOUTH CUT



A EAST-WEST CUT



Architectural Design



view from Little Farm

ARCHITECTURE

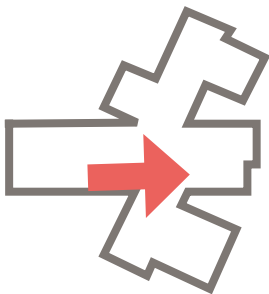
Architectural Design



inside Lobby, looking south to entry



inside Exhibit, looking east



Architectural Design



view above upper loop trail, looking southwest



EXHIBIT

Interpretive Planning

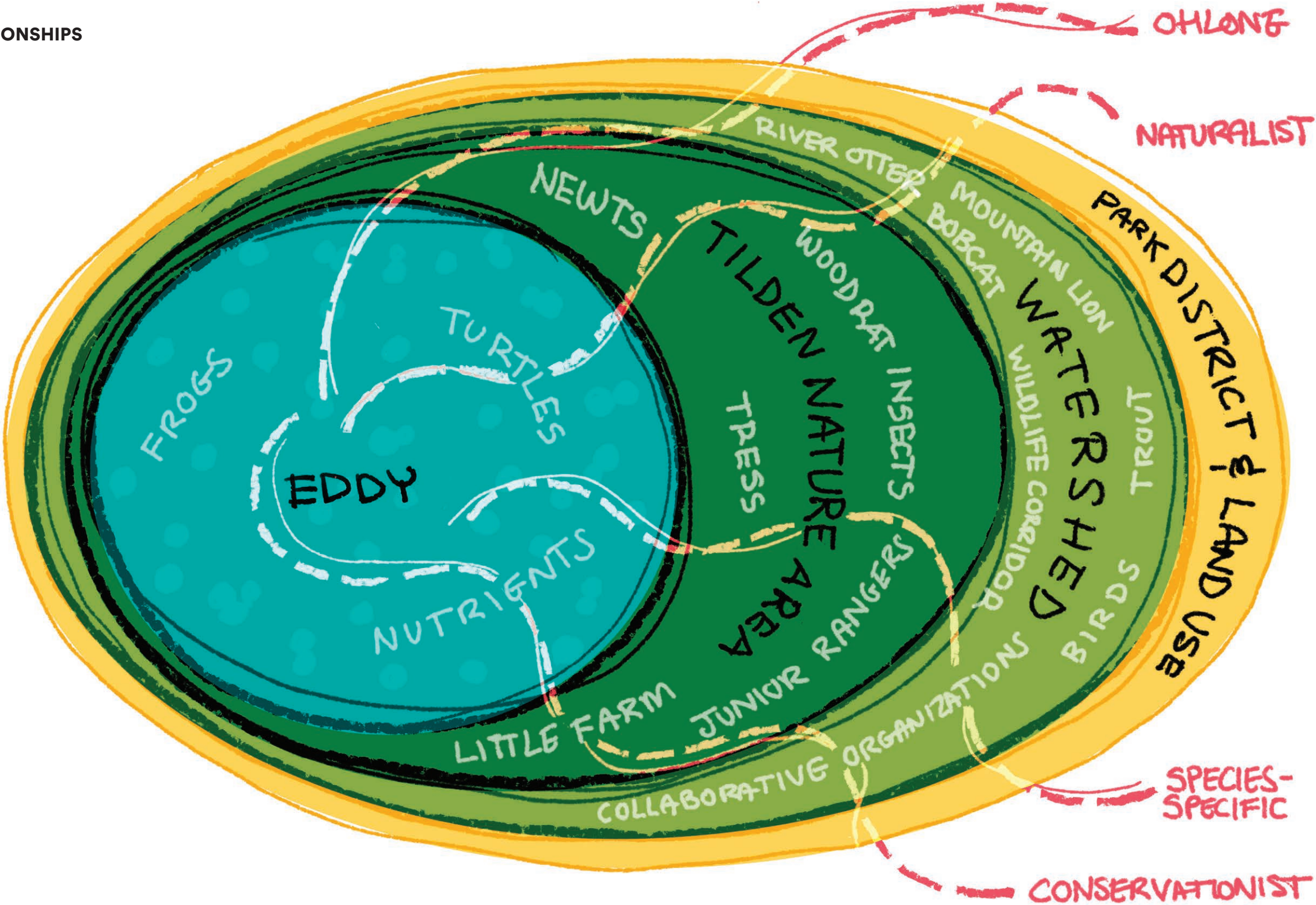
THEMES AND SUBTHEMES



EXHIBIT

Interpretive Planning

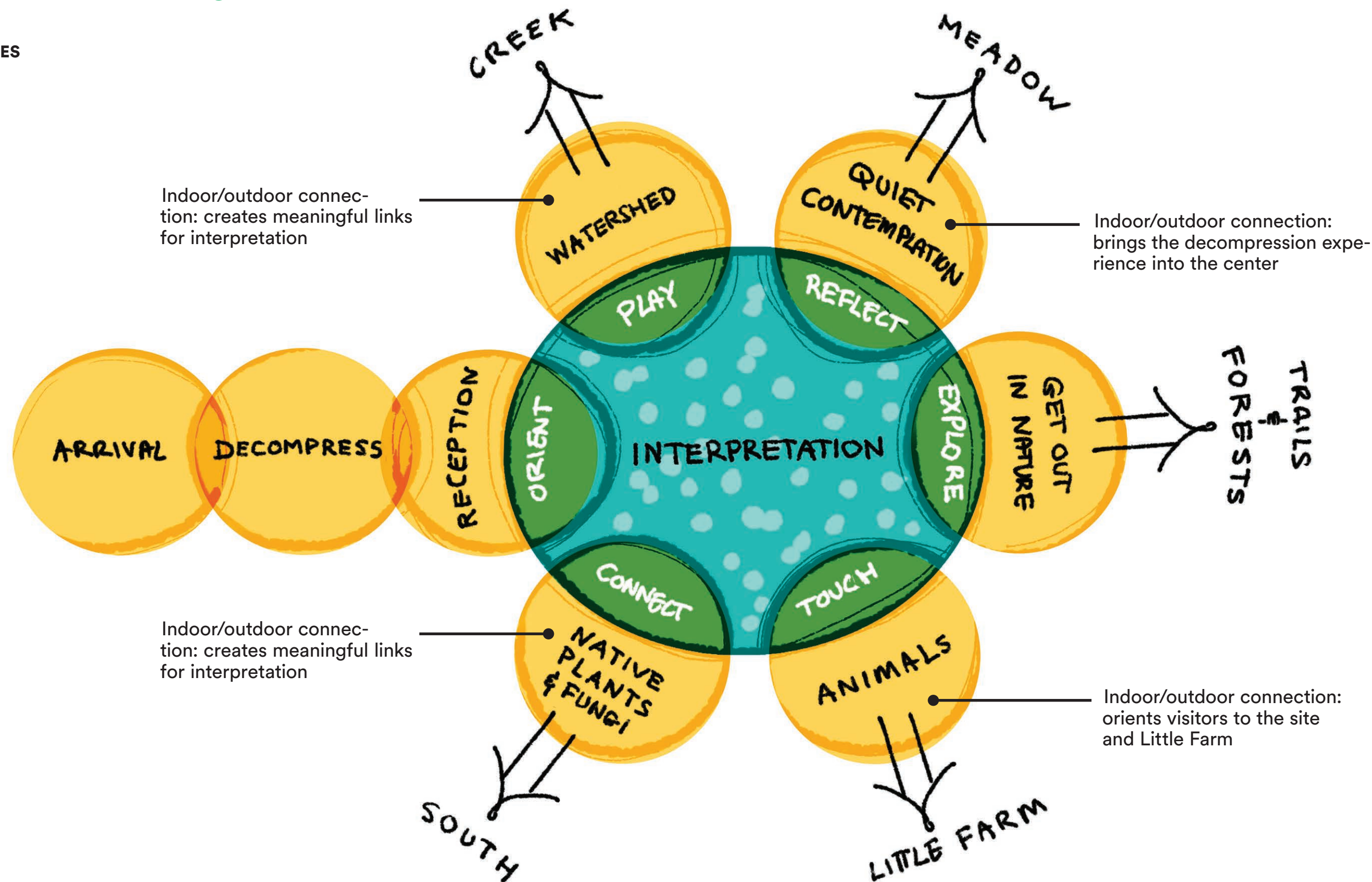
CONTENT RELATIONSHIPS



EXHIBIT

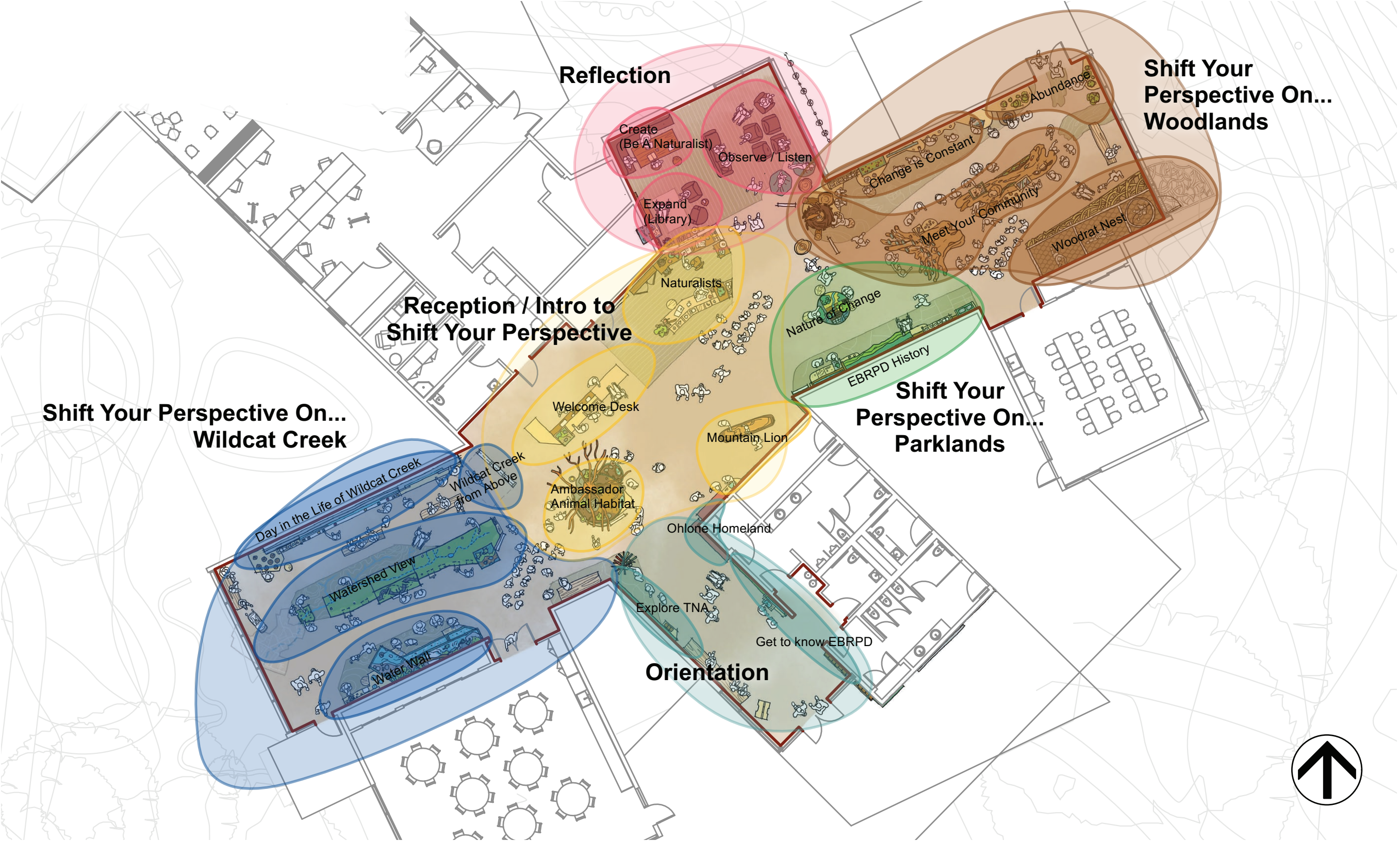
Interpretive Planning

ADJACENCIES



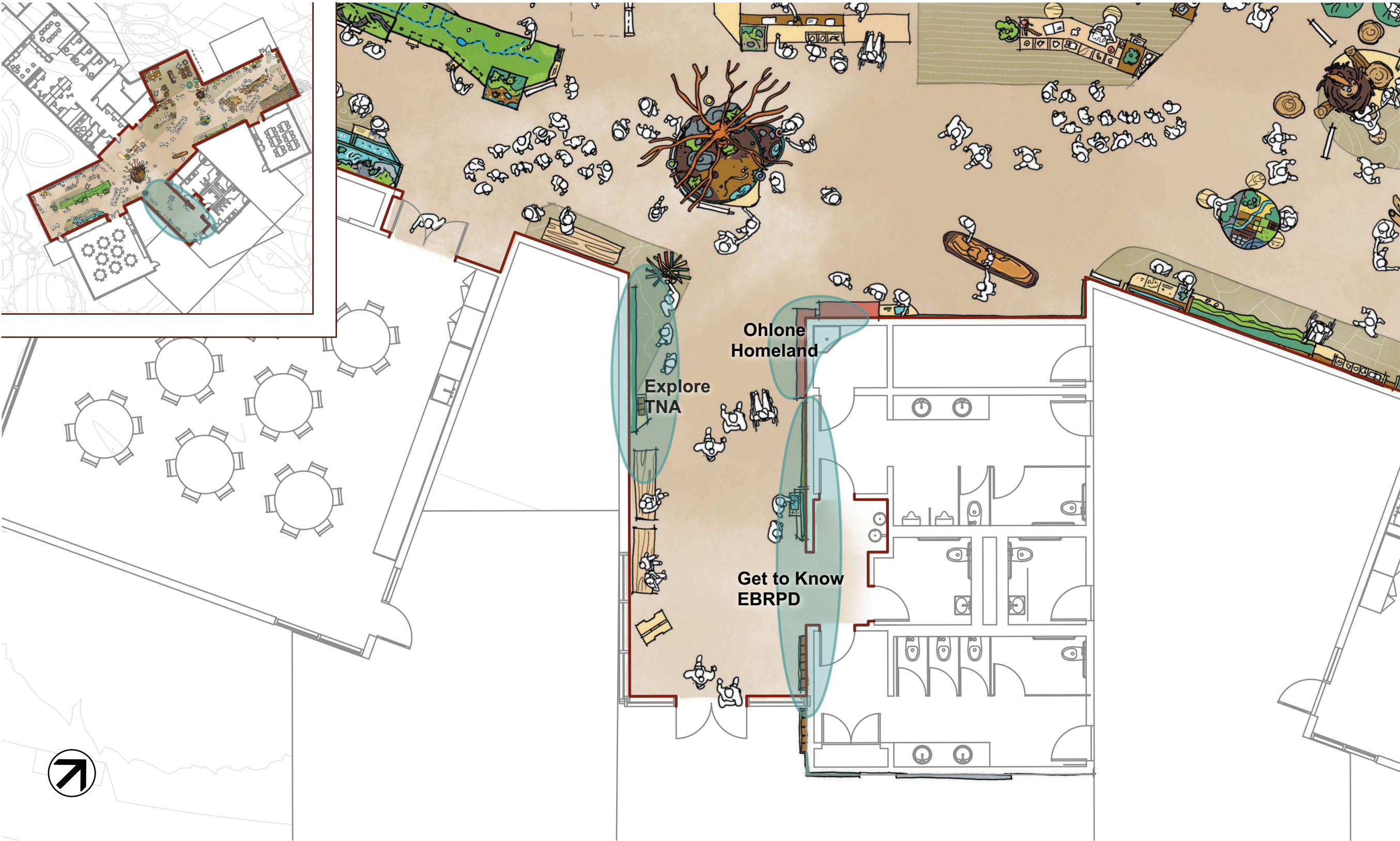
EXHIBIT

Zones



EXHIBIT

Orientation



EXHIBIT

Orientation

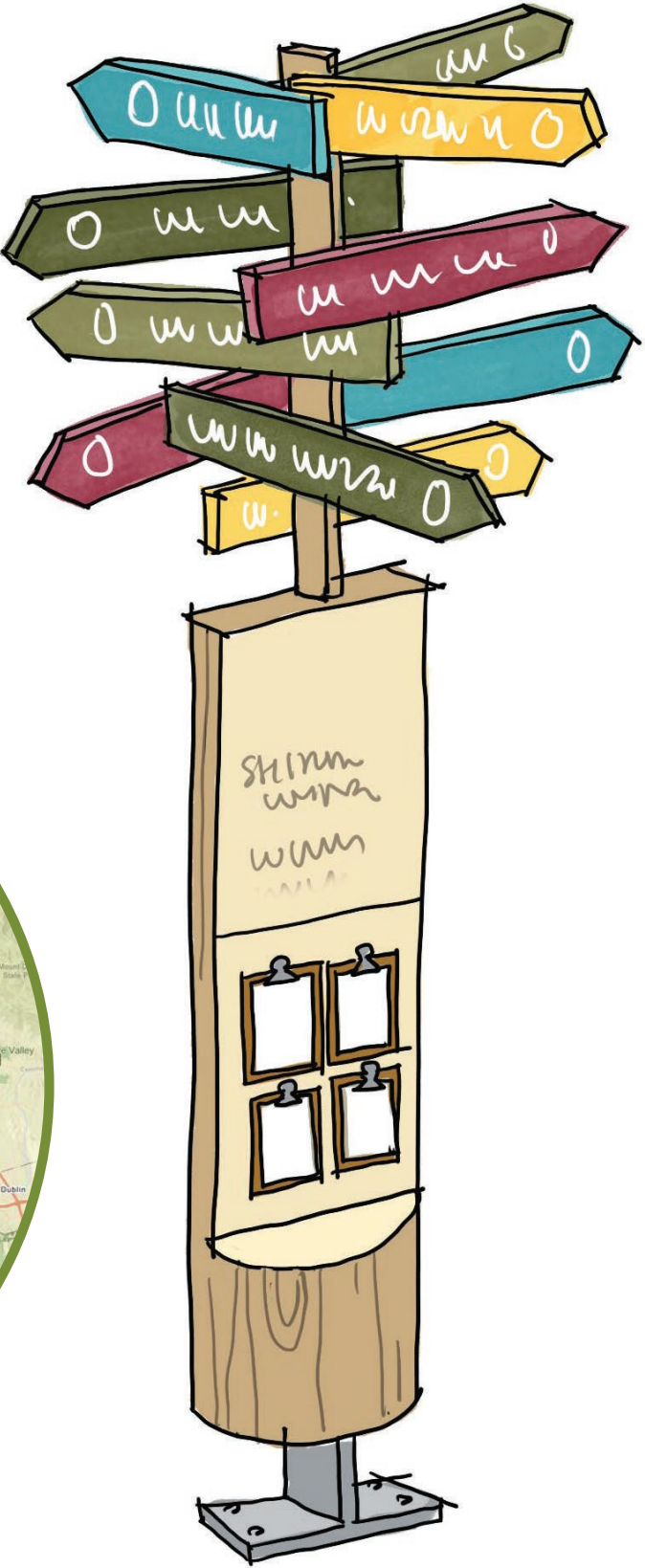
After stepping through the doors of the visitor center, visitors enter a spacious, open lobby with high ceilings and views to outside. They are at a decision point. Some may choose to use the amenities—washrooms, water fountains or seating—or meet up with their group.

Others may stop in for information about the Tilden trails. They pick up takeaway maps and check a changeable display that features the weather forecast, scheduled events of the day, seasonal information and updates on birds and other species they might encounter that day in the park.

For many visitors, the Orientation space is a gateway to the rest of the visitor center, ushering them towards the exhibit areas at the heart of the building. Looking down the hall, they see naturalists at the reception desk and an intriguing cutaway land form, visitors clustered around it with deep interest.

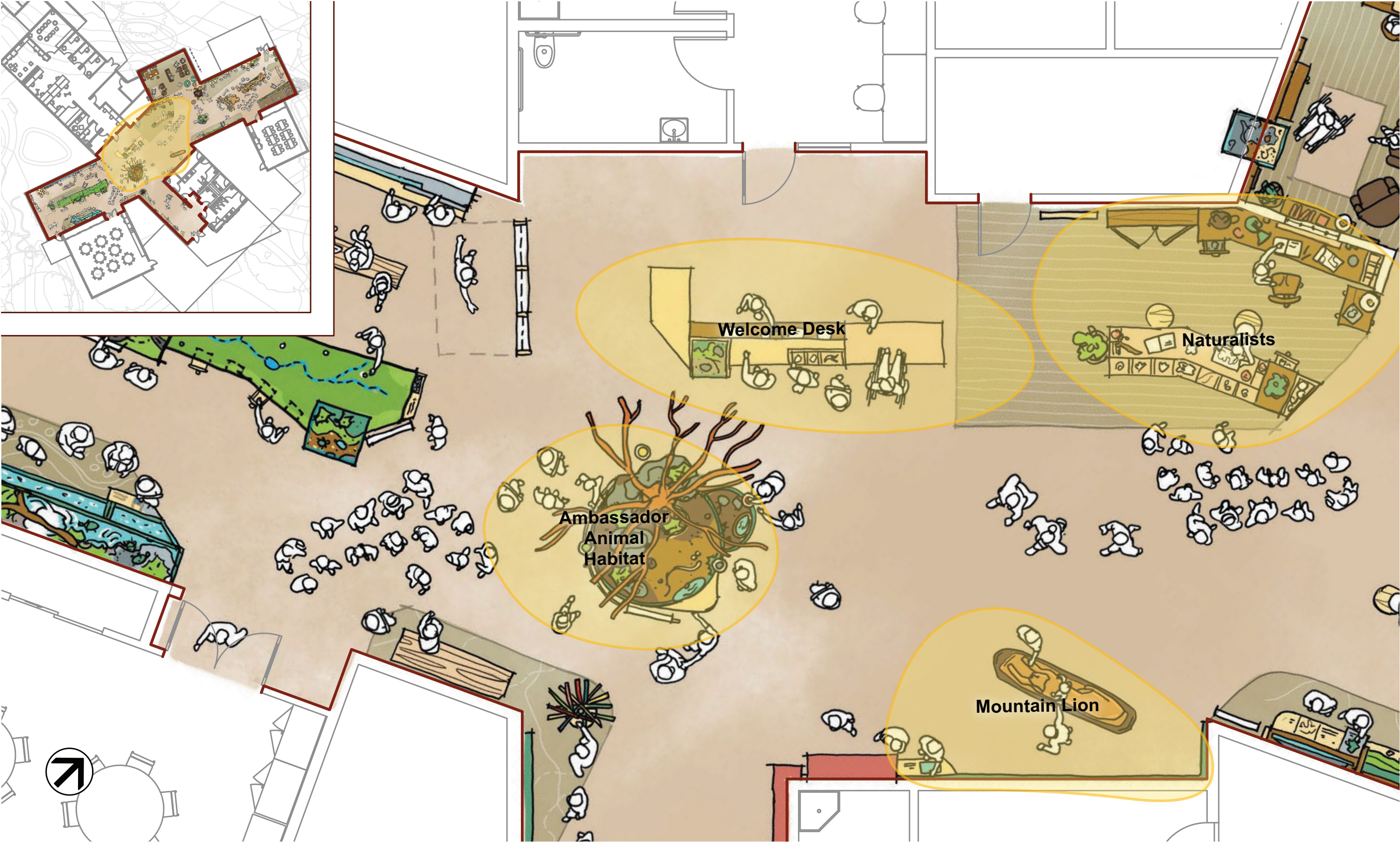
Visitors may stop at an organized rack holding maps and pamphlets about all the East Bay Regional Park District parks. They may choose to engage with a digital interactive that takes them on a virtual visit to other parks, and start thinking about their next visit.

Visitors encounter a prominent acknowledgement that Tilden is part of the ancestral homeland of the Ohlone peoples, and may hear an audio welcome in the Chochenyo language, view an art piece or engage with other statements about the land and this place from the Ohlone perspective.



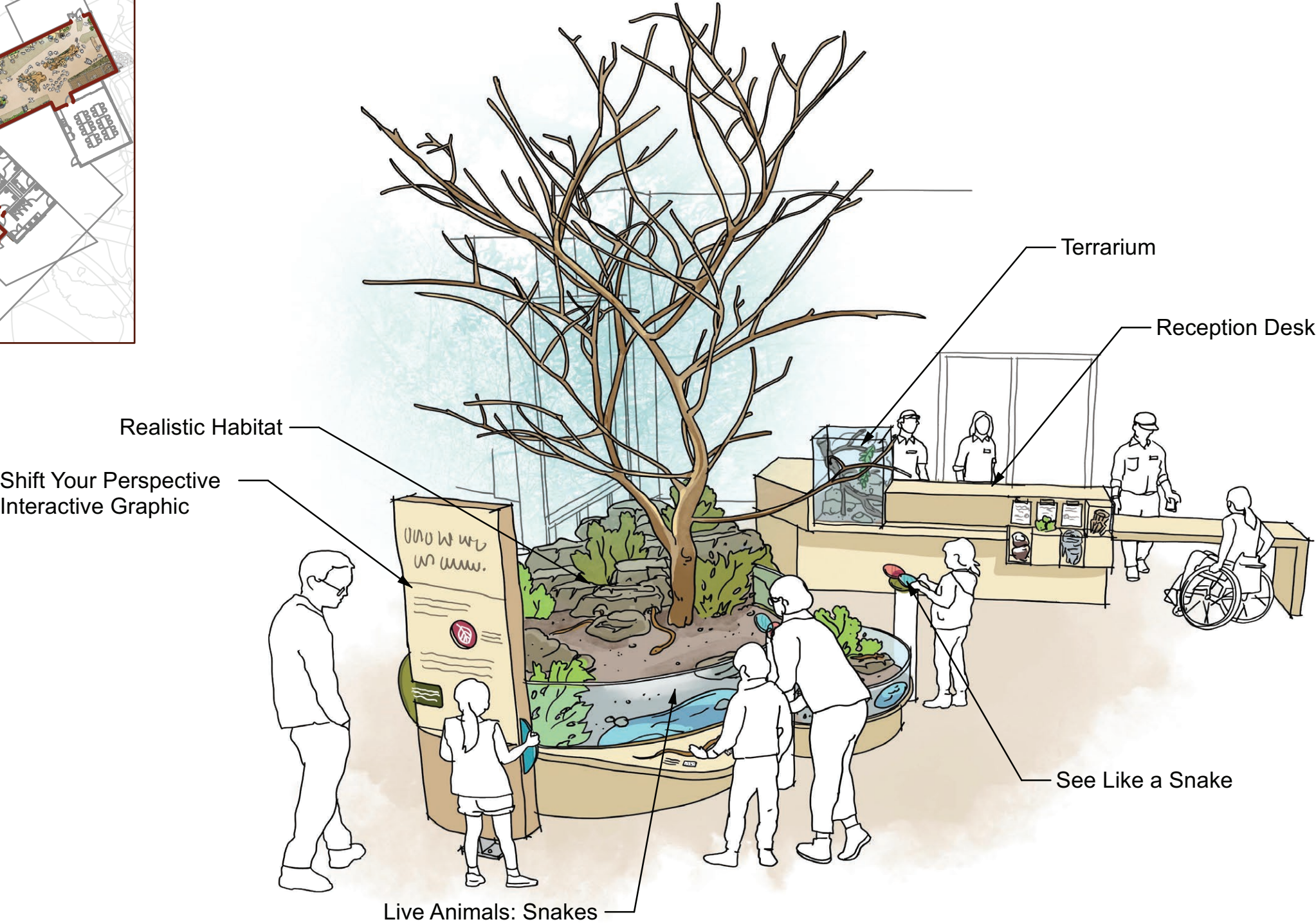
EXHIBIT

Reception



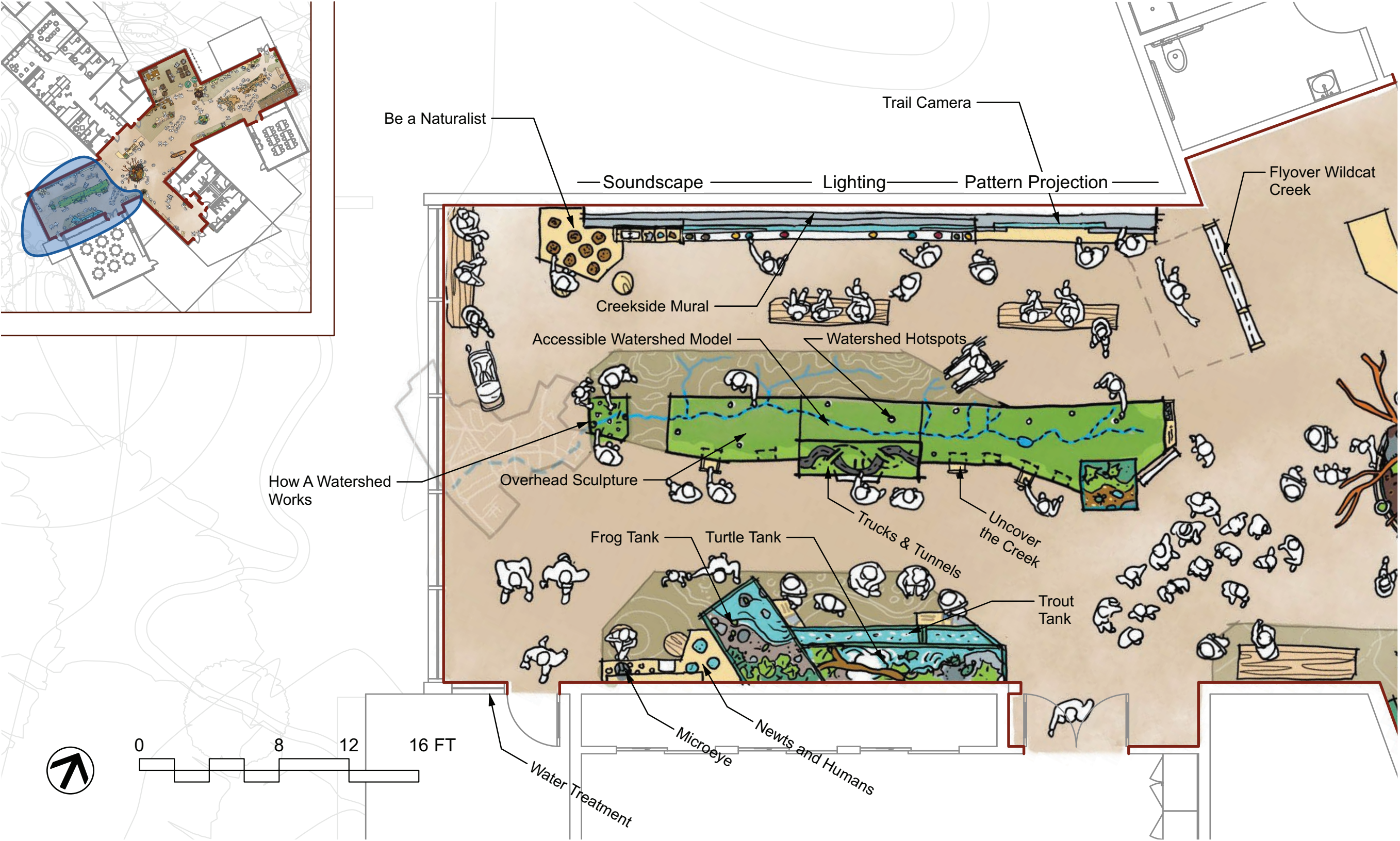
EXHIBIT

Reception



EXHIBIT

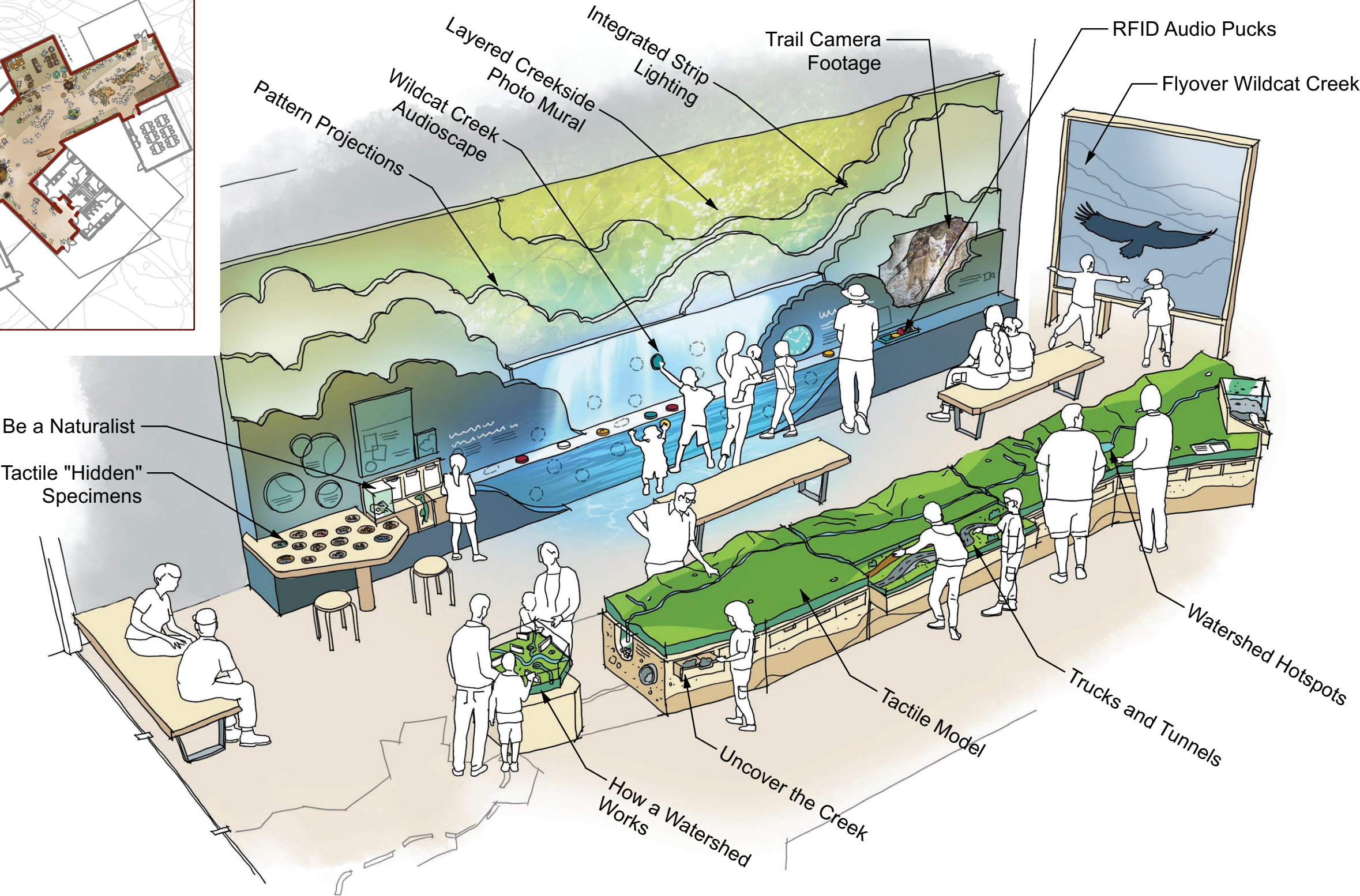
Wildcat Creek



EXHIBIT

Wildcat Creek

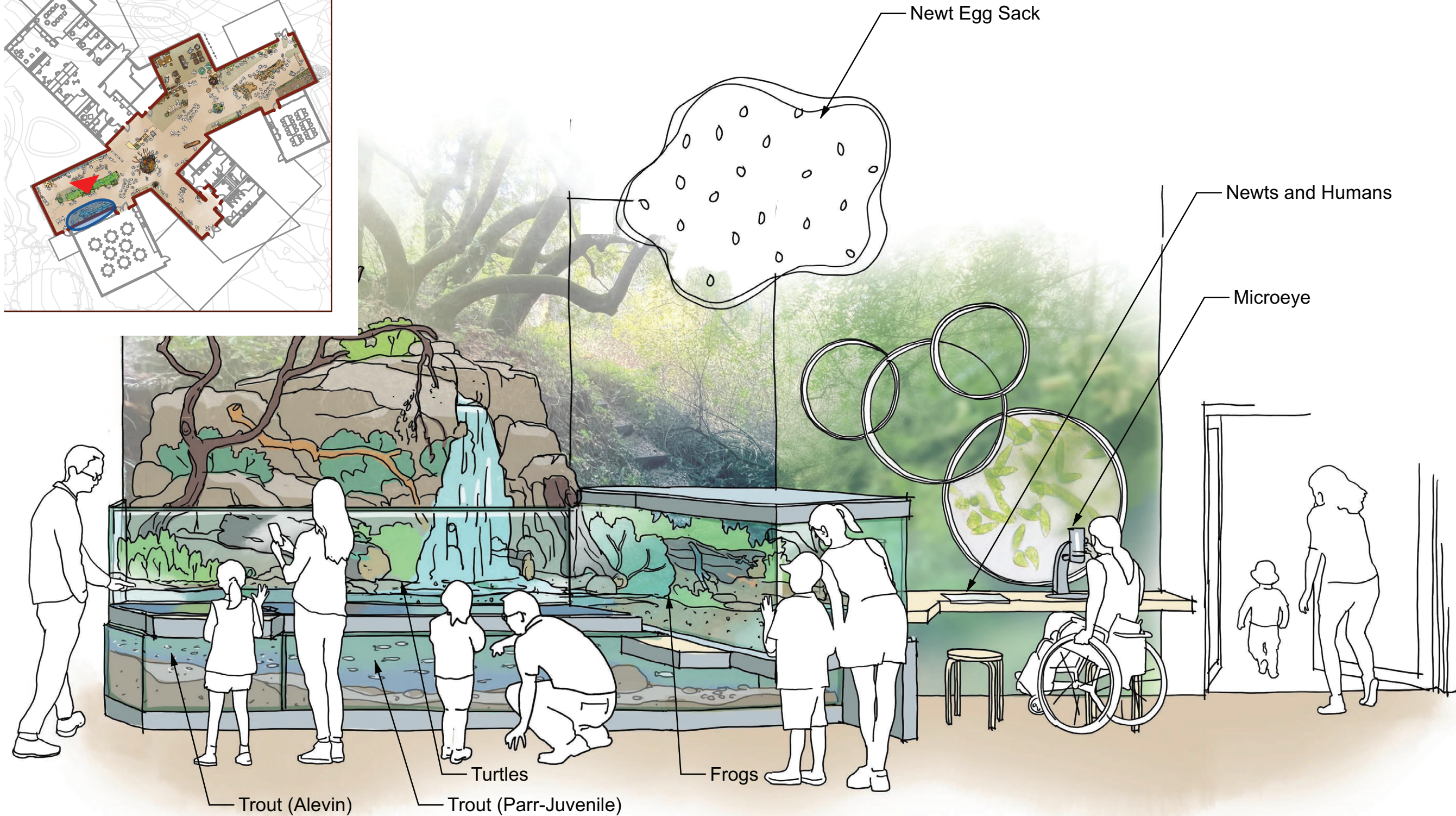
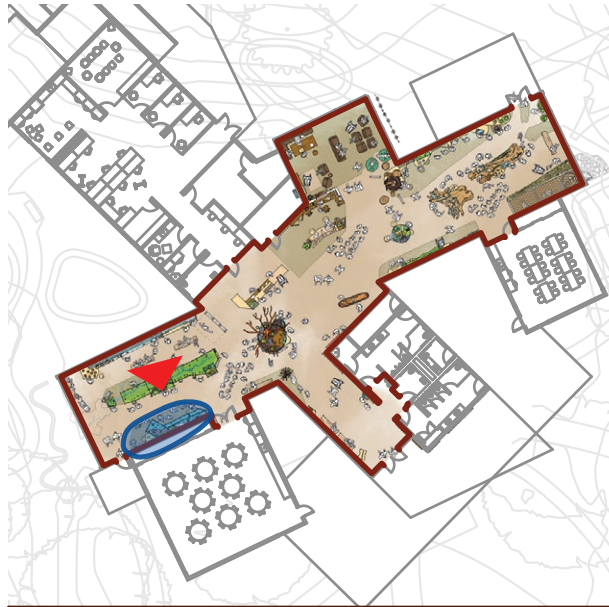
DAY IN THE LIFE: WILDCAT CREEK WATERSHED



EXHIBIT

Wildcat Creek

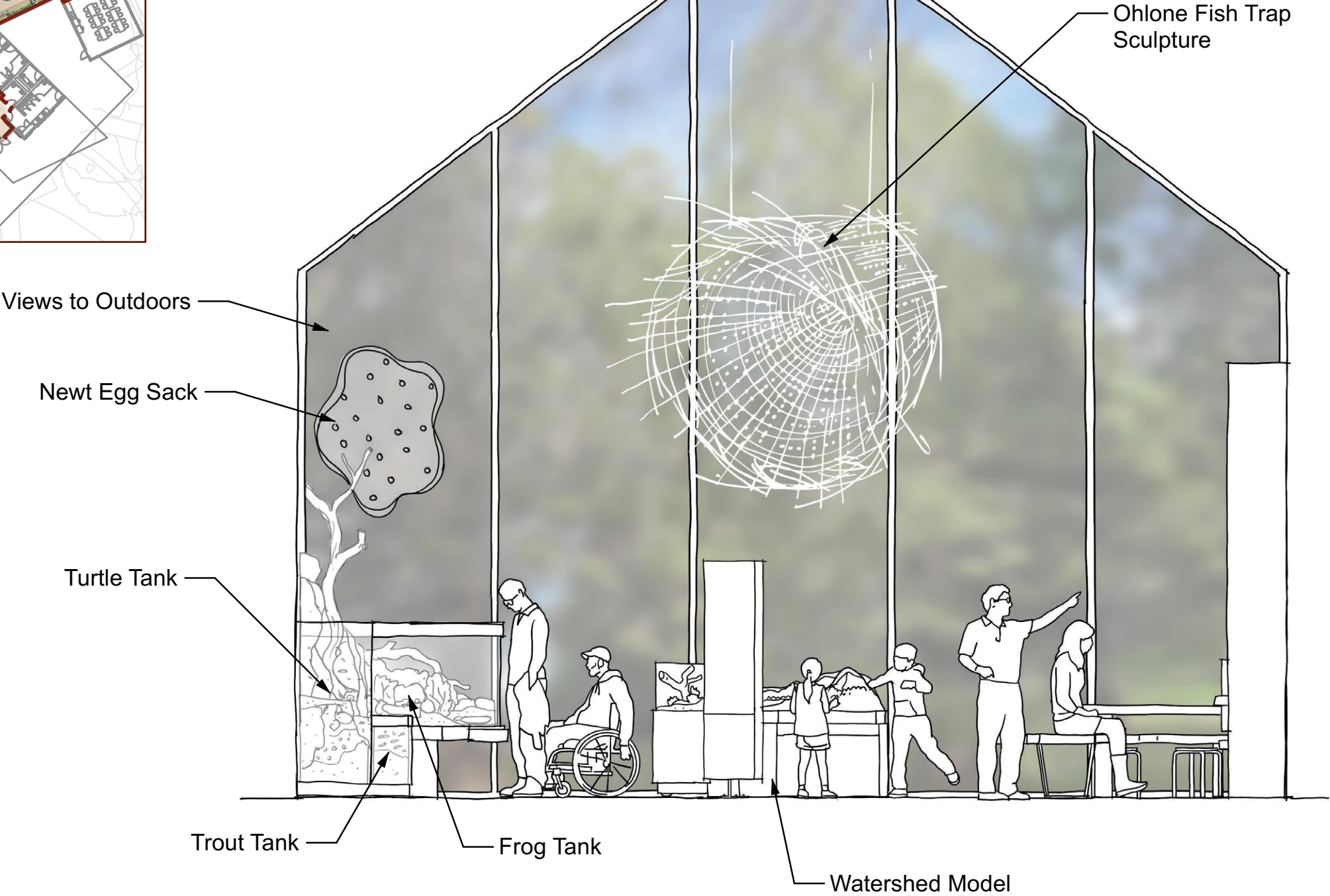
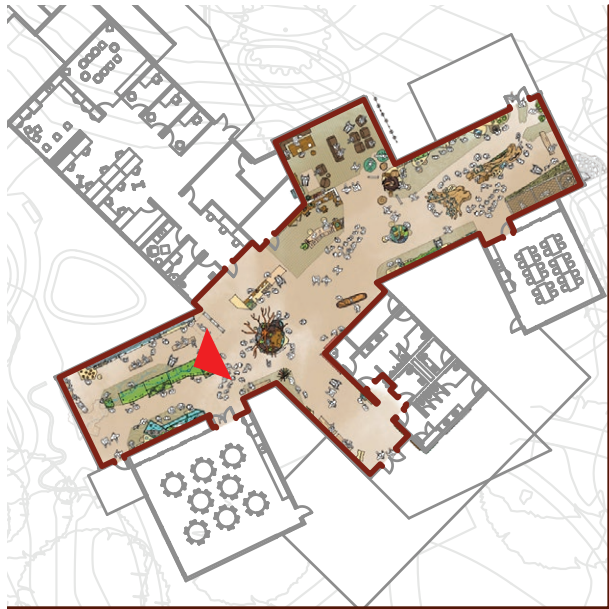
WATER WALL



EXHIBIT

Wildcat Creek

VIEW TO EXTERIOR



EXHIBIT

Parklands



EXHIBIT

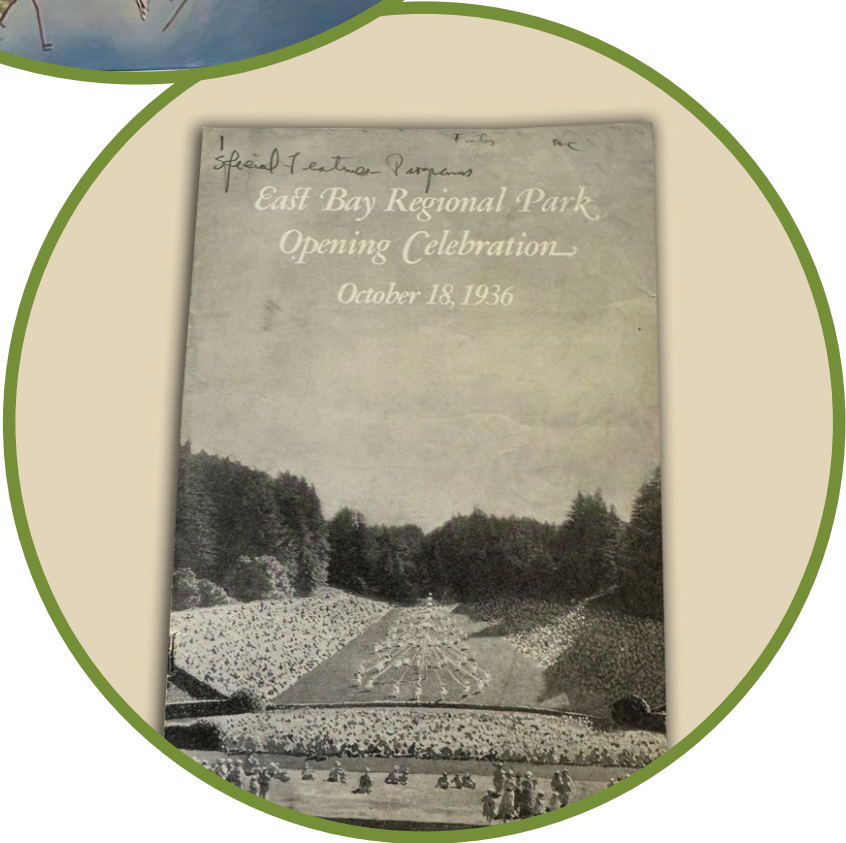
Parklands

The colorful complexity and arrangement of this large display attracts visitors for a closer look. A variety of artifacts and ephemera structure a historic perspective on the East Bay Regional Park District. Interpretation offers visitors avenues to understand the deeper context behind the creation of Tilden Nature Area, and the larger network of parklands in the district. This is a place for a deep dive, an opportunity for visitors to explore layers of historic material, text and other media.

Interactive polls engage visitors personally, for example by asking what choices they might have made at different times, and what they see as the future of parks in the region. They will see that changing societal values shape the nature of land use, even within a single park across time.

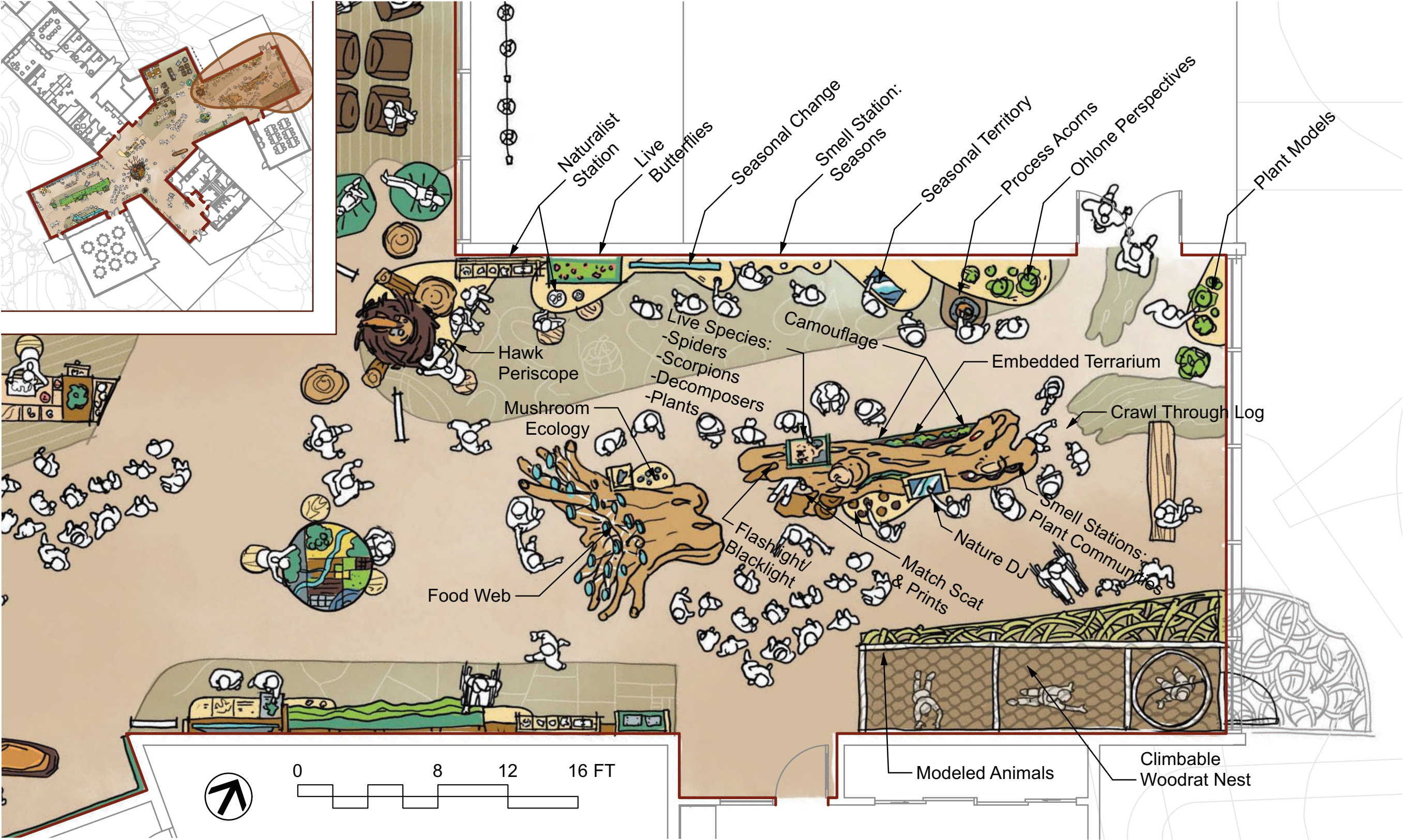
The central artifact in this display is the map model used during the historic vote when residents decided to dedicate their tax dollars to the support of the park district. Atop this map, simple projections show visitors which areas are now parkland, and spur them to consider how their lives would be different if voters in the past had had different priorities.

Next to this artifact-based display is a multi-user interactive experience where visitors are tasked with making decisions about the development of the East Bay. Visitors take on different perspectives, such as developer, rancher, conservationist, or politician. By placing cubes, with a different perspective on each side, atop a tabletop landscape, visitors collectively decide how to manage the land. The cubes are digitally linked, so feedback on each choice is tracked as visitors run the table, working together to find a balance for people and nature.



EXHIBIT

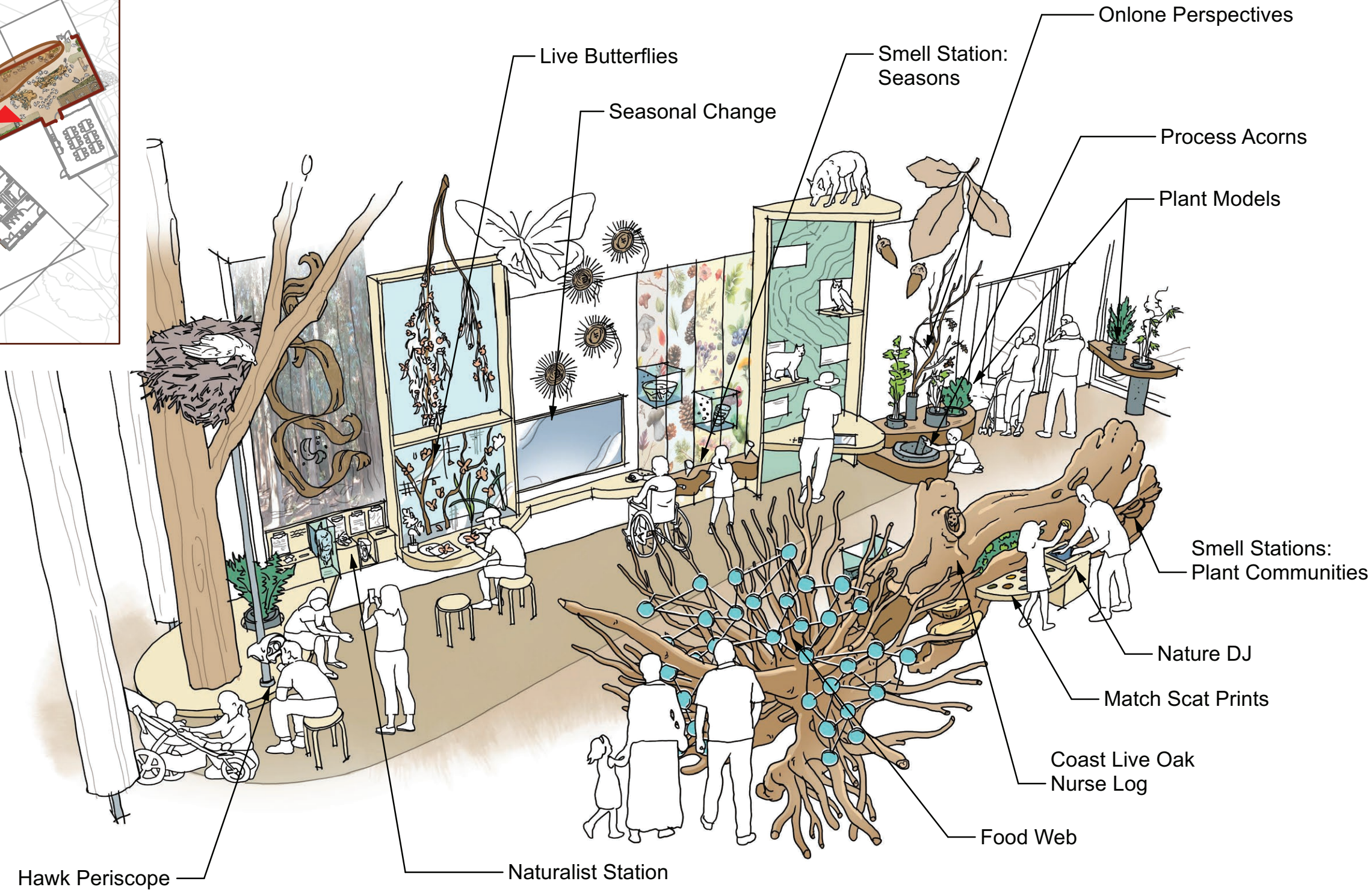
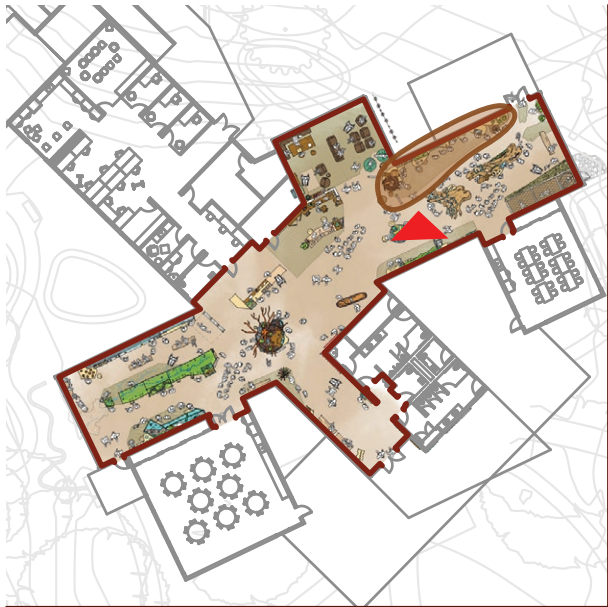
Woodlands



EXHIBIT

Woodlands

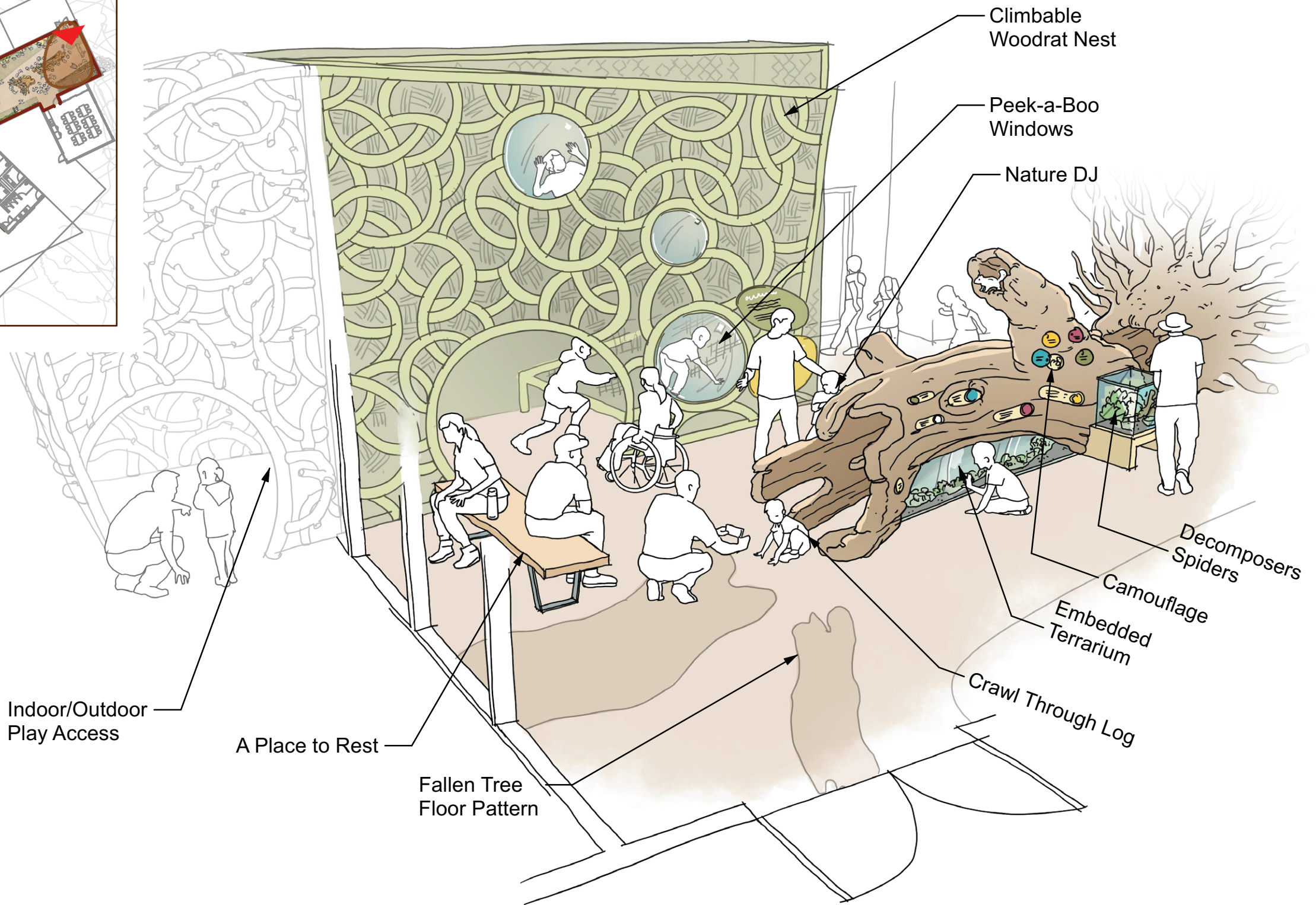
CHANGE IS CONSTANT



EXHIBIT

Woodlands

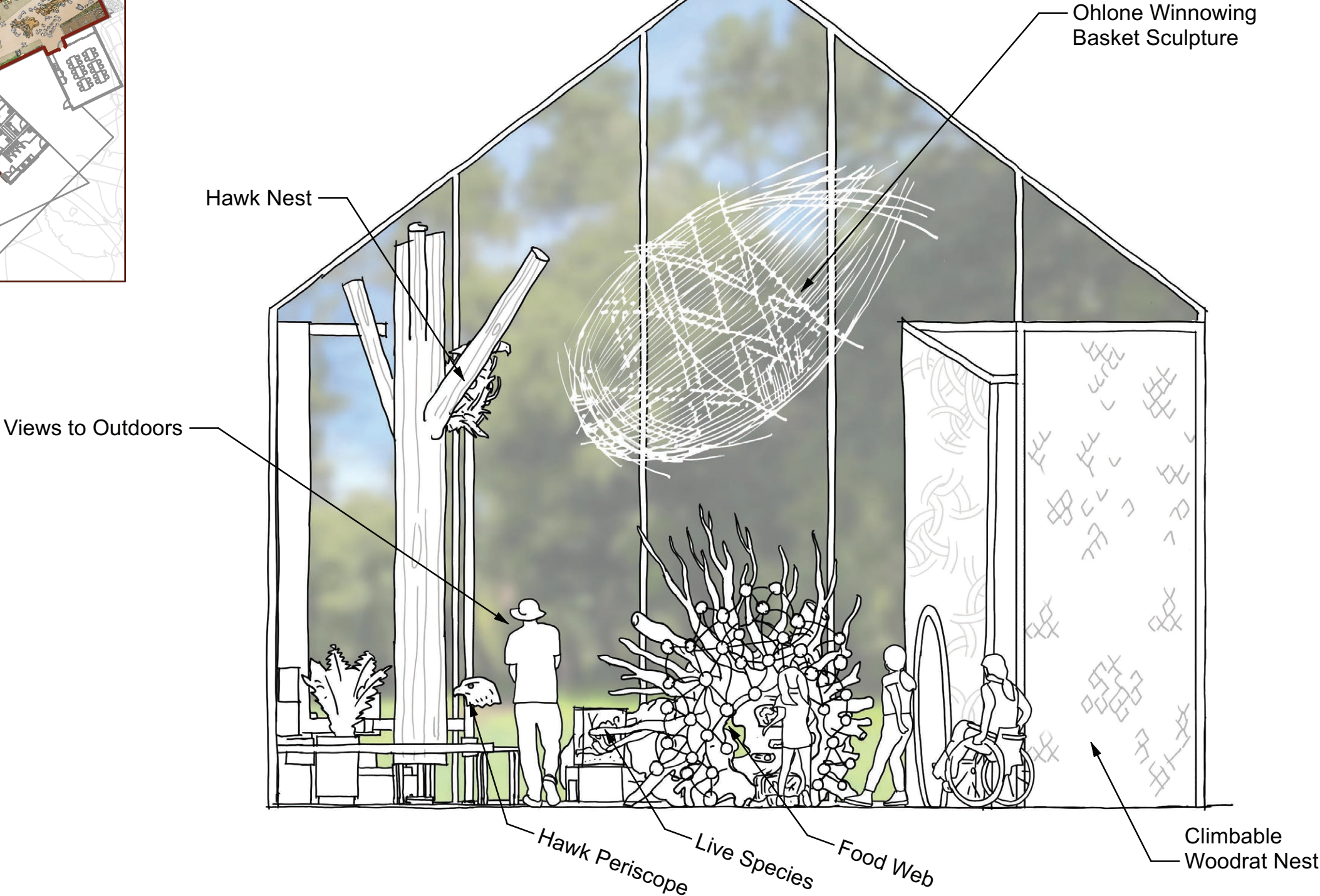
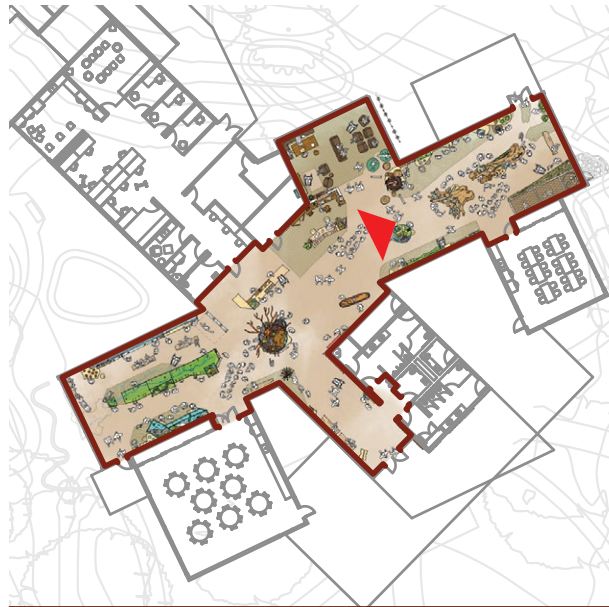
WOODRAT NEST



EXHIBIT

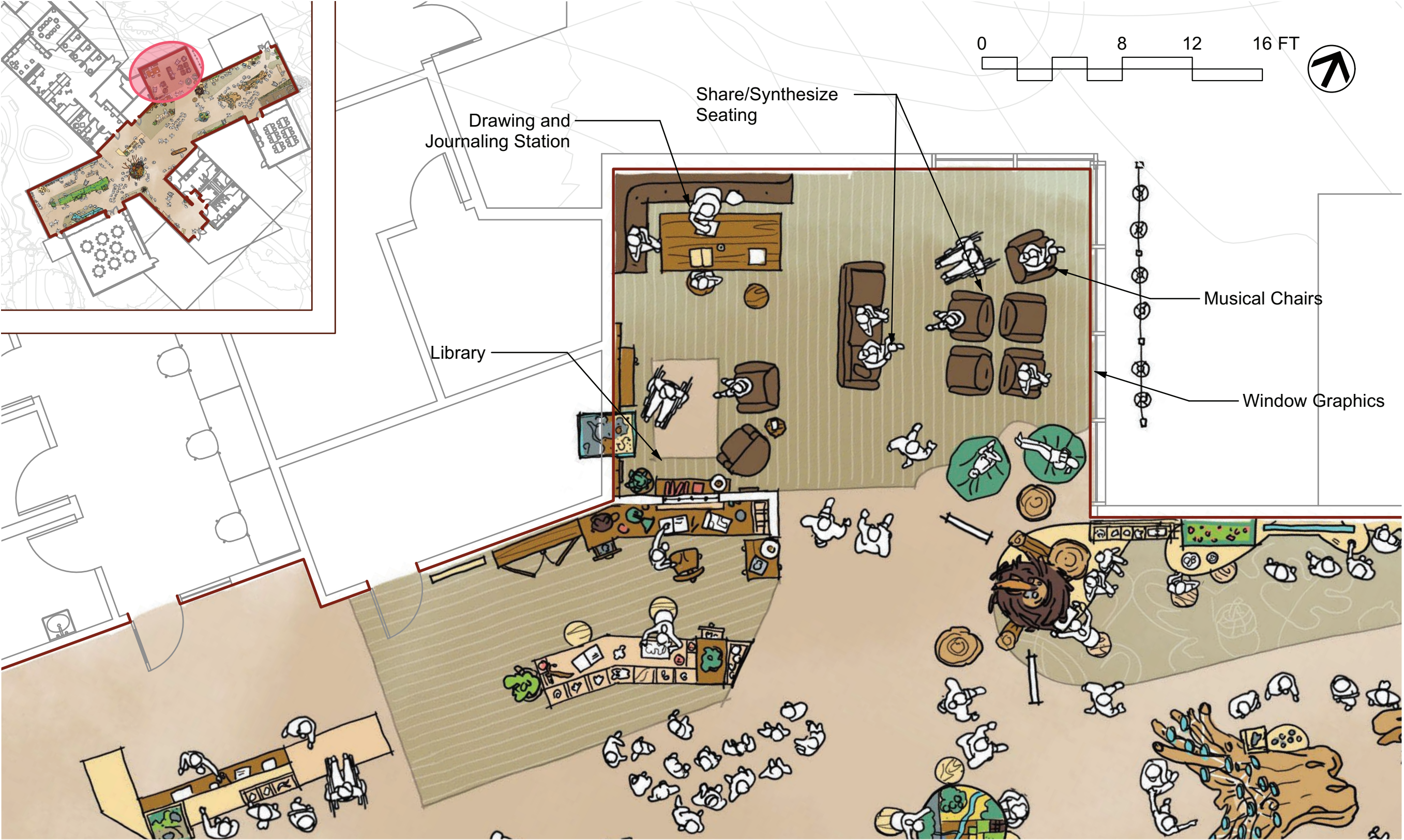
Woodlands

VIEW TO EXTERIOR



EXHIBIT

Reflection



EXHIBIT

Reflection

The view of meadow and woodland through large windows is the star of the show in this space. Simple contemplation of beauty and observation of wildlife is a grounding and energizing experience. It is not an interpretive space; it is a place for visitors to draw their own conclusions and solidify the significance of their experience at Tilden. The Reflection gallery provides a restful counterpoint to the activity in the other galleries; it is a quiet, calm space whose presence enables visitors to spend more time in the visitor center—an important amenity and a cherished space for visitors.

Visitors have seen and experienced a lot during their visit to the visitor center. They need a chance to rest and reflect. Many visitors will need a physical break—a place to sit down and re-energize before seeing more exhibits or programs, and a place to prepare for (or recoup from) time on the trails. A variety of seating encourages visitors to debrief with their group or observe birds and the natural setting.

Some seats incorporate audio; when visitors sit down, they exclusively will be able to listen to a soundtrack of ambient audio such as Ohlone music, bird song, or other sounds from the park. The audio will enhance contemplation rather than engaging visitors with new ideas or stories.

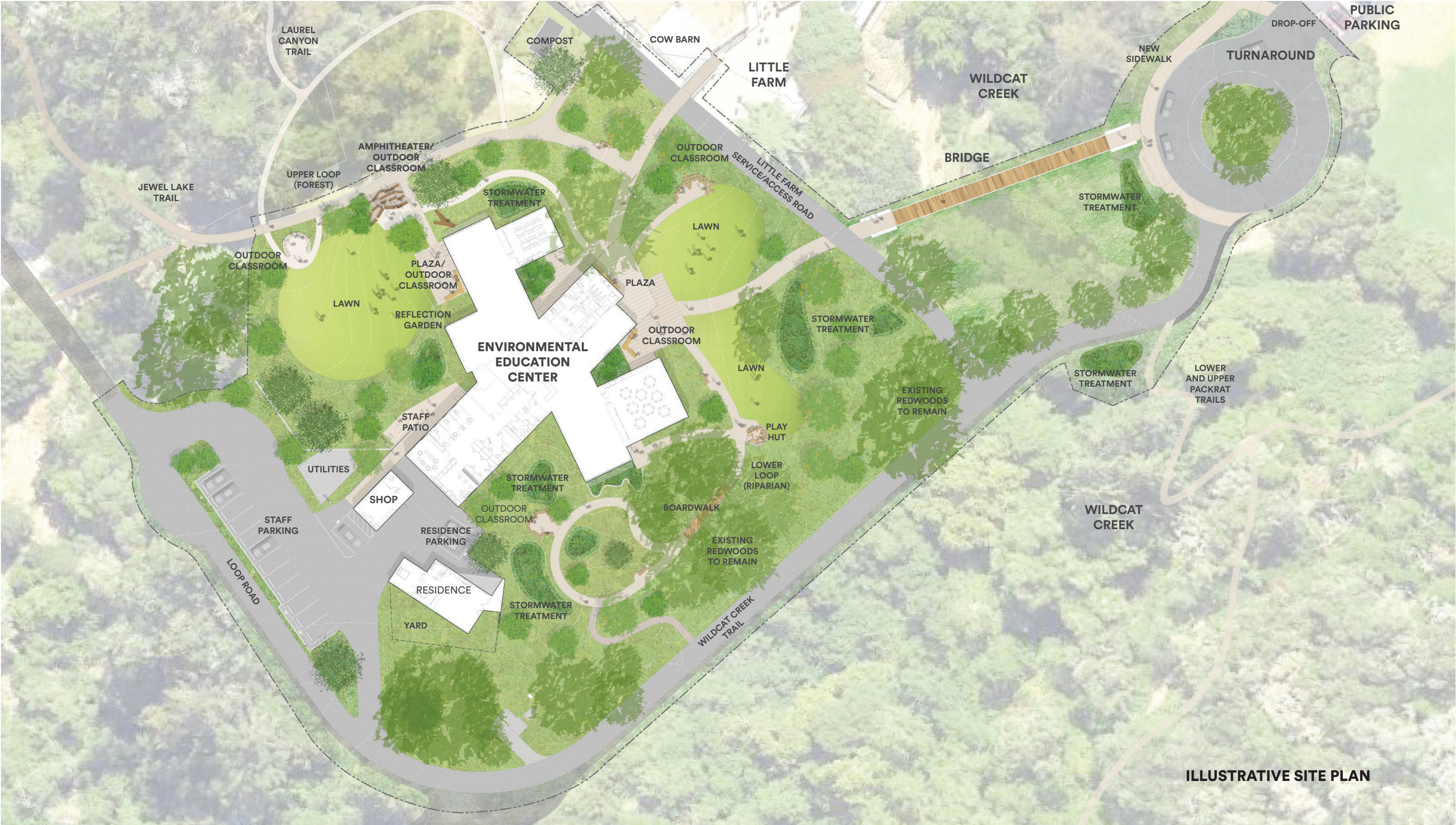
One corner of the space is dedicated to a library where visitors can browse the book selection to learn more about what they’ve seen during their visit. This is a space for caregivers to read with children and a space for quiet solitary study.

Another corner is focused on naturalist activities that are quiet and individual, such as drawing and journaling. Visitors may choose to draw or write about a changing “specimen of the day”, or record their own thoughts and experiences either to take home or to share with others.



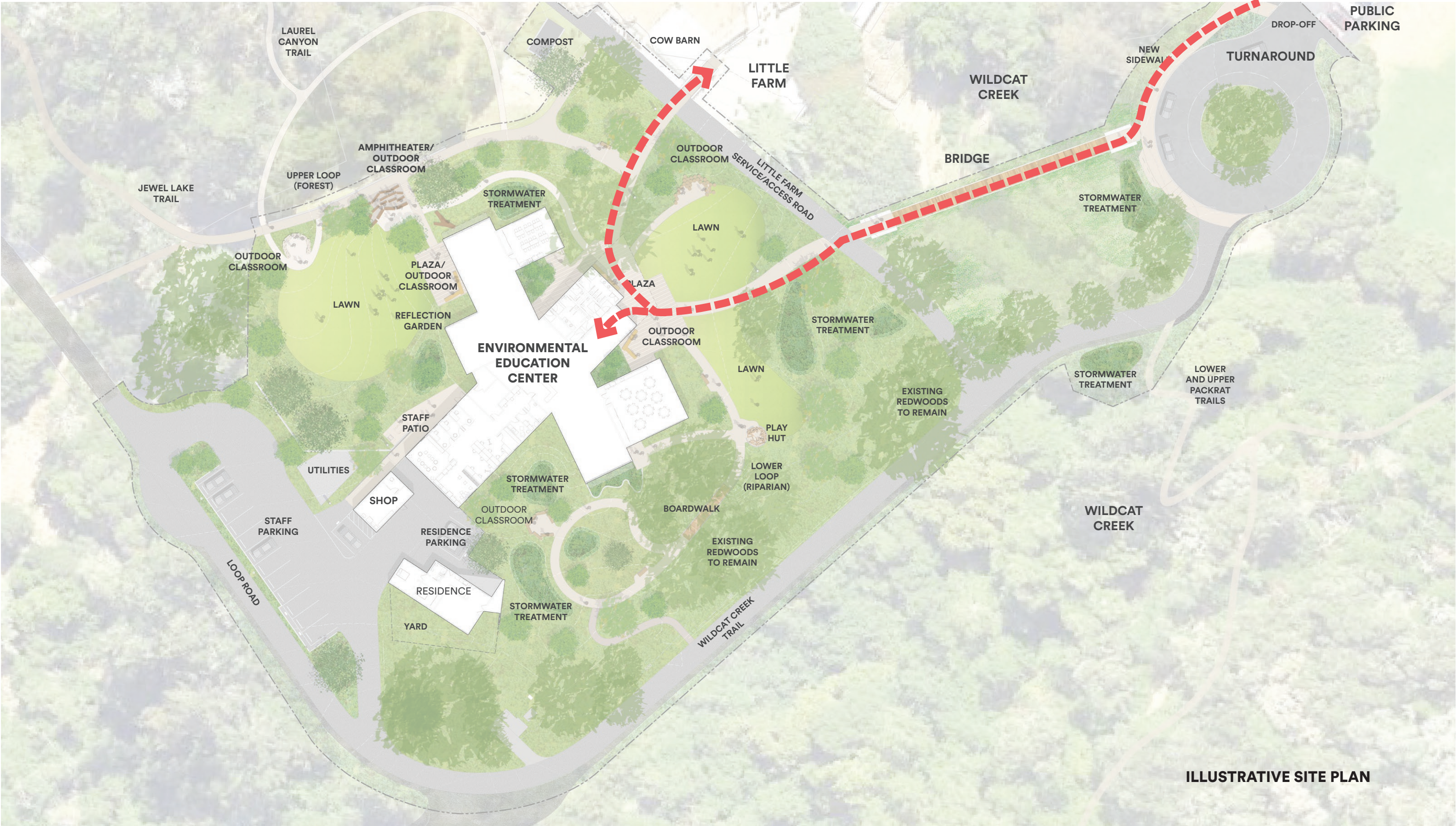
LANDSCAPE

Landscape Design



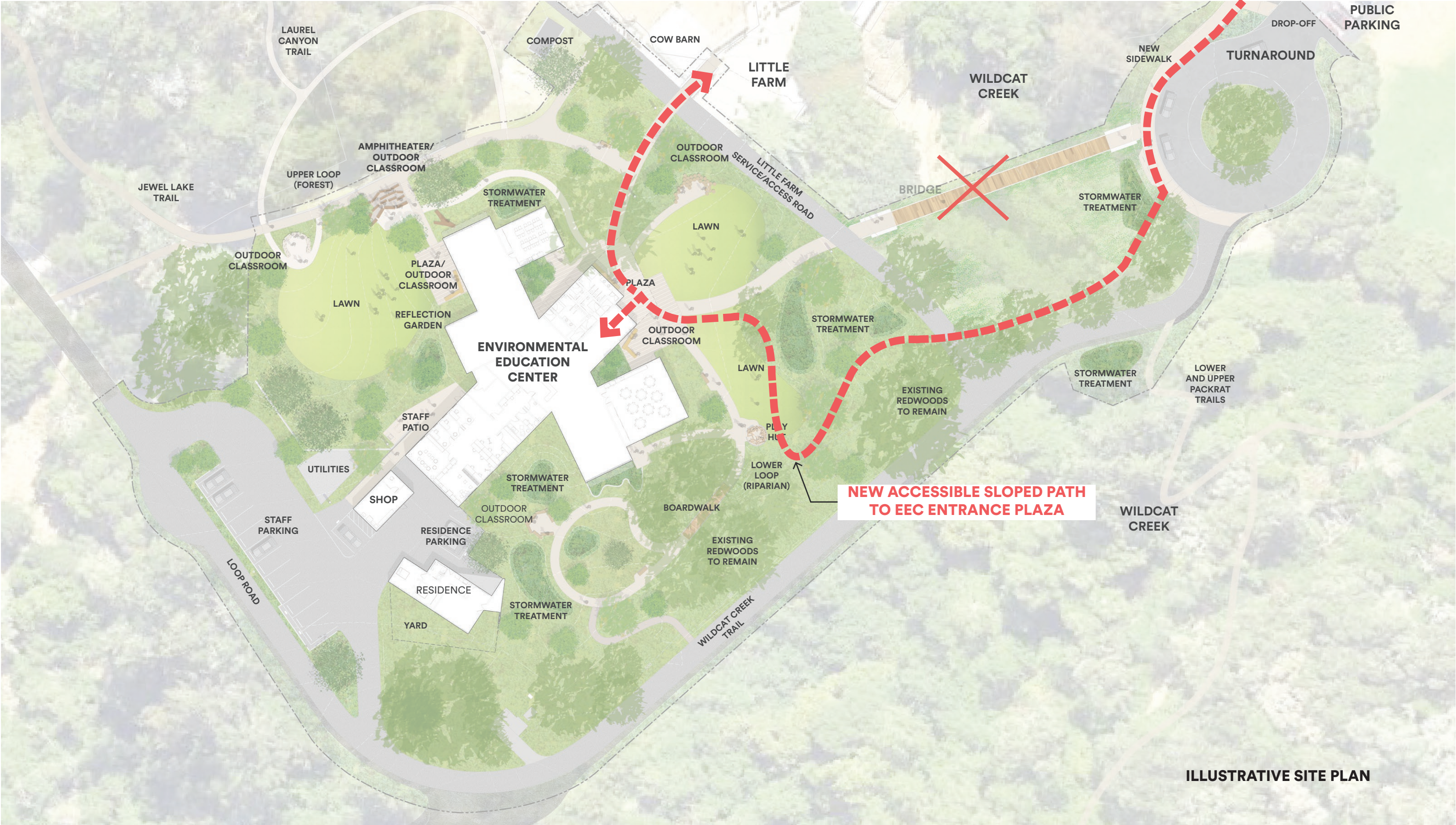
LANDSCAPE

Landscape Design



LANDSCAPE

Landscape Design



LANDSCAPE

Landscape Design



Landscape Design

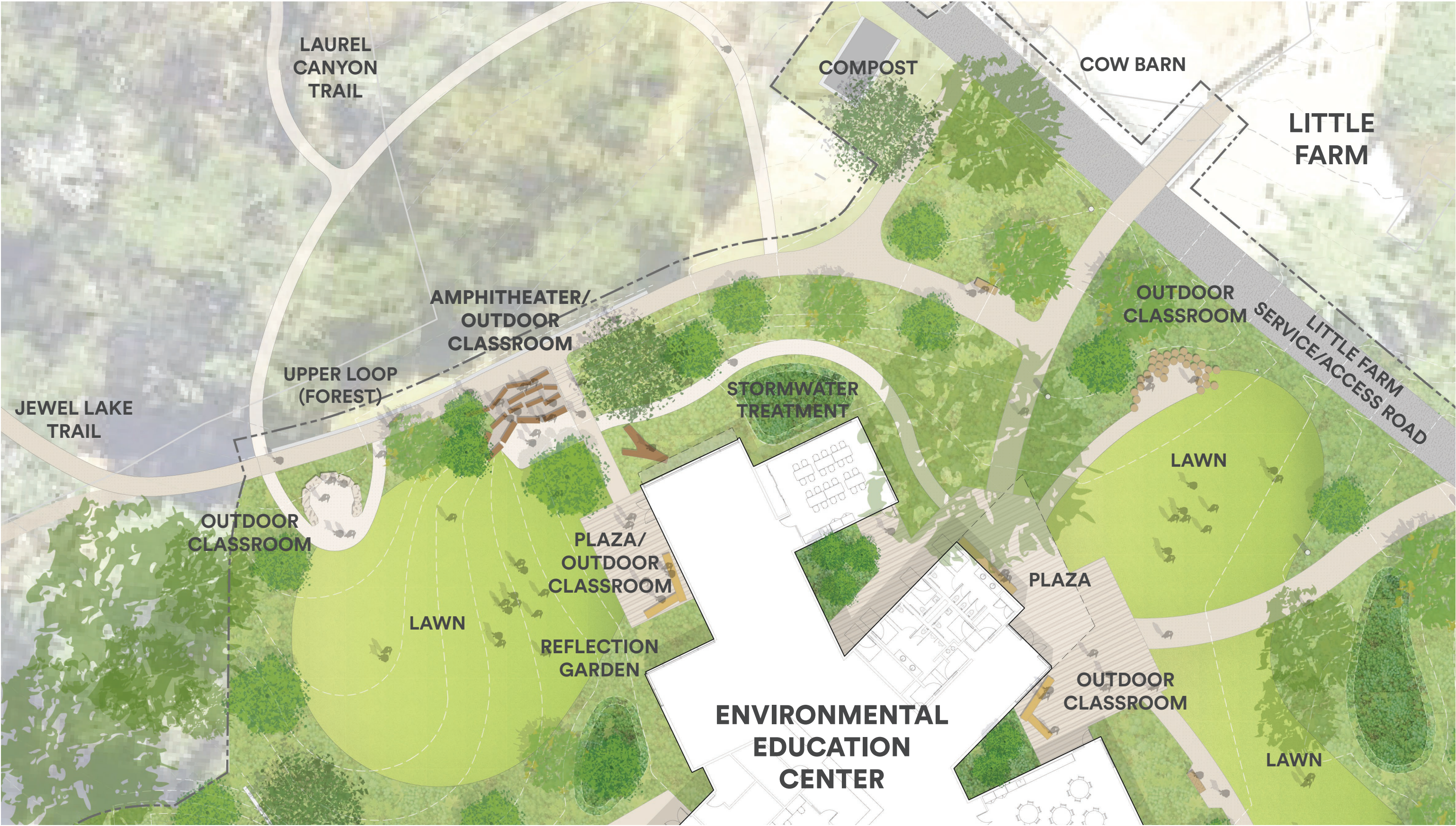


Landscape Design



LANDSCAPE

Landscape Design



LANDSCAPE

Planting Design

PLANTING DESIGN INTENT

- The planting will create a microcosm of the park and include plants from the various ecosystem types within Tilden Nature Area.
- The plants will be selected and arranged based on the current site conditions, while accounting for anticipated future conditions due to climate change.
- All plants will be selected in consultation with naturalists and while most plants will be local, Bay Area native species, some more drought or heat-tolerant planting may be native to the Central Coast or Southern California.
- The plants will be arranged within eco-types across the site from riparian planting in the lower areas to oak savannah or woodland planting at the higher end of the site.



Questions?