

McLaughlin Eastshore State Park

An aerial photograph of the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park in Berkeley, California. The image shows a large body of water (the North Basin) on the right, with a long, narrow strip of land (the North Basin Strip) extending into it. To the left of the strip is a multi-lane highway with traffic. Further left are several large, modern buildings, likely the Gilman Sports Fields. The background shows a dense urban area with many buildings and a city skyline in the distance under a clear blue sky.

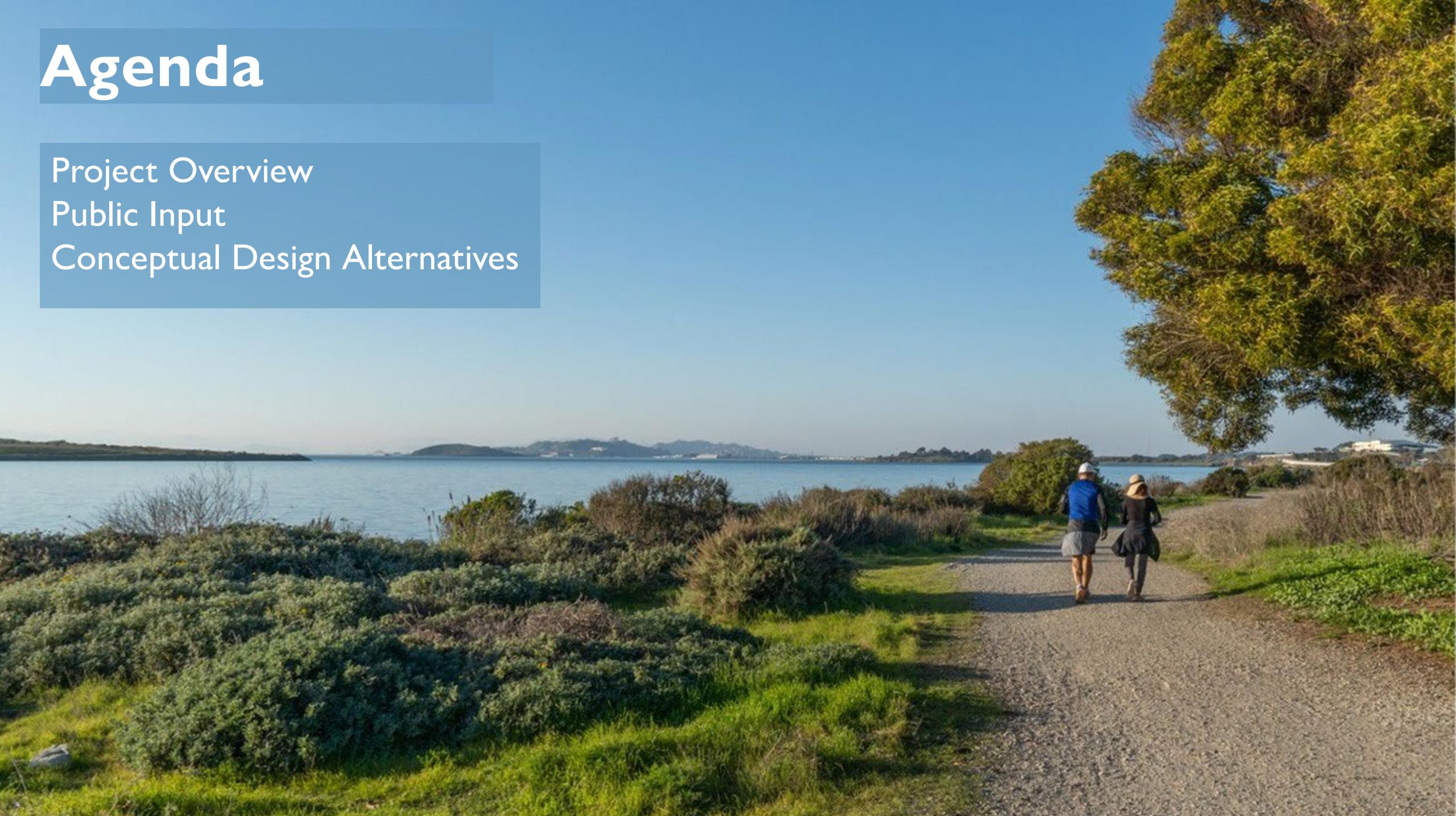
Informational Item North Basin Strip Shoreline Improvement Project

Agenda

Project Overview

Public Input

Conceptual Design Alternatives



Project Scope

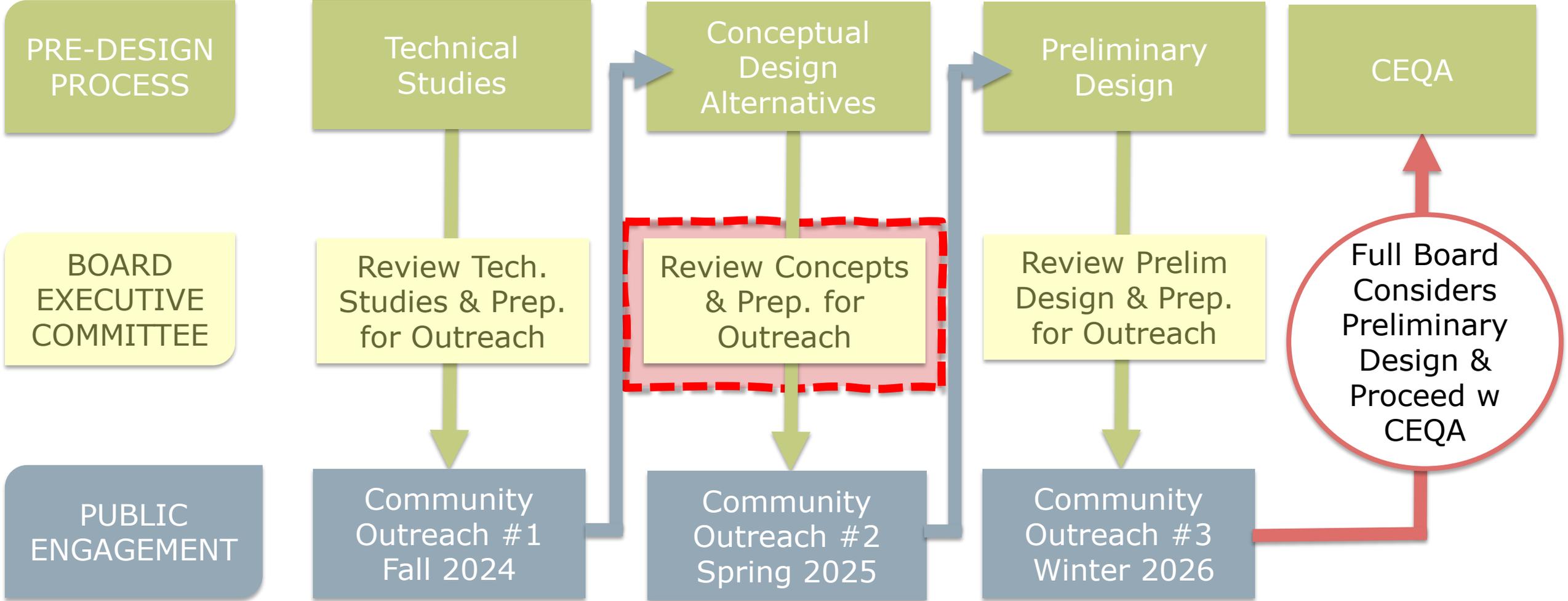


- Technical Studies
- Public Outreach
- Conceptual & Preliminary Design
- CEQA

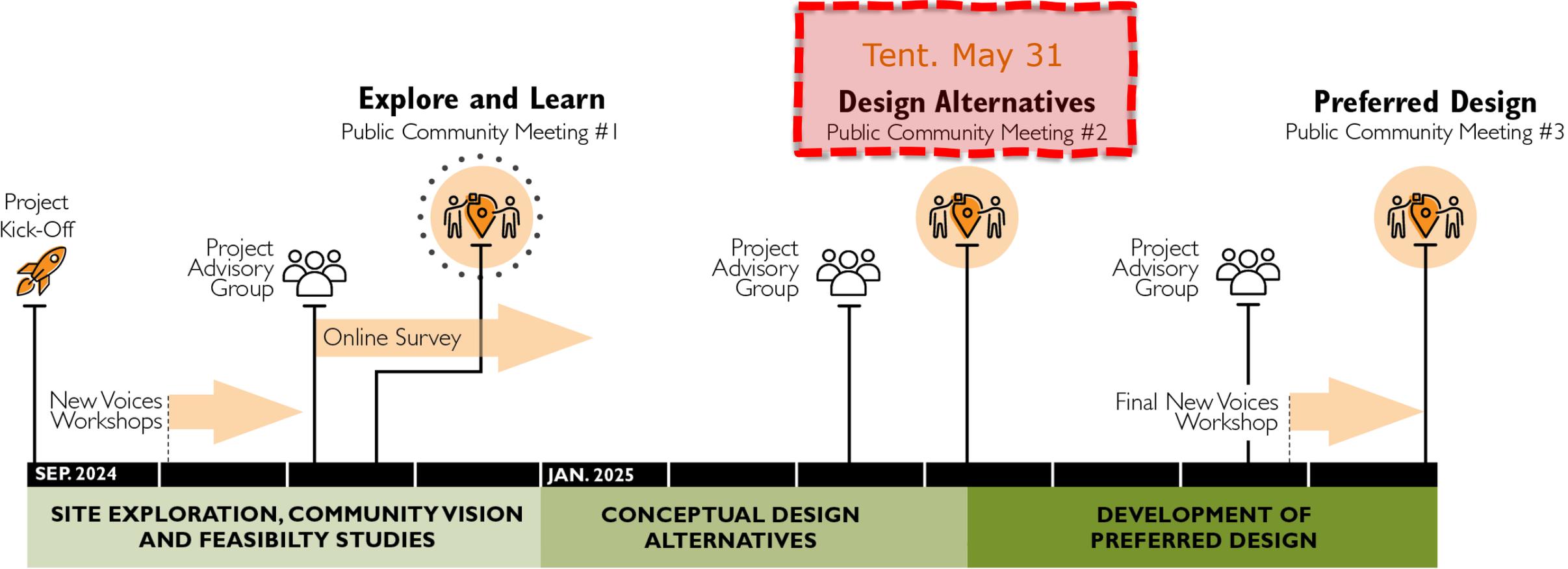
Project Goals

- **Habitat and Public Access.** Improve habitat and develop public access facilities, consistent with the Eastshore State Park General Plan
- **Green Infrastructure.** Use nature-based design solutions where appropriate
- **Climate Resiliency.** Design for climate resiliency
- **Actionable.** Ensure improvements are within operational and budgetary constraints of the Park District

Project Review Process

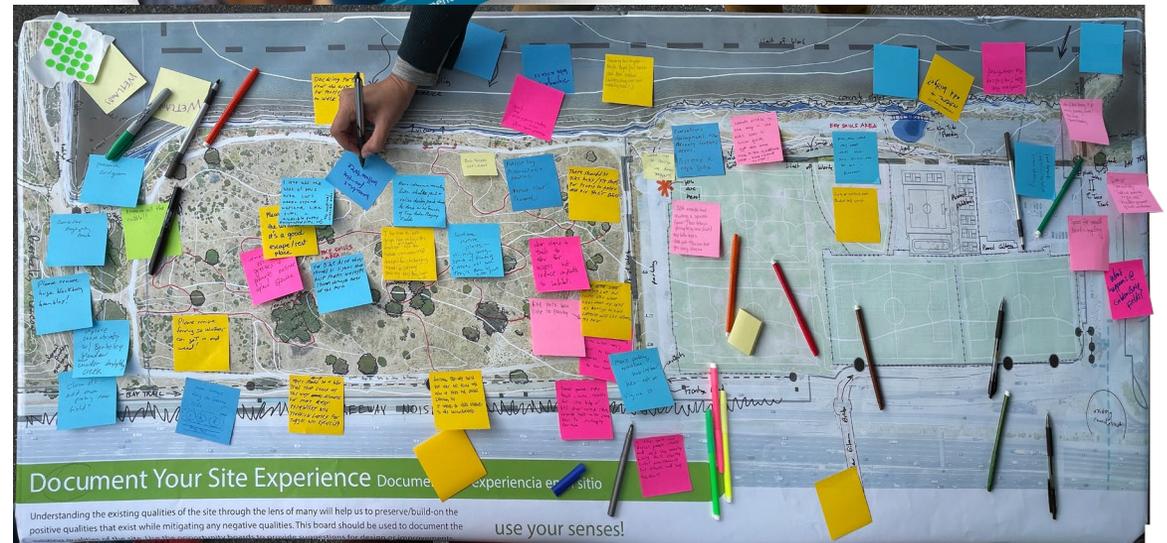


Community Engagement Timeline



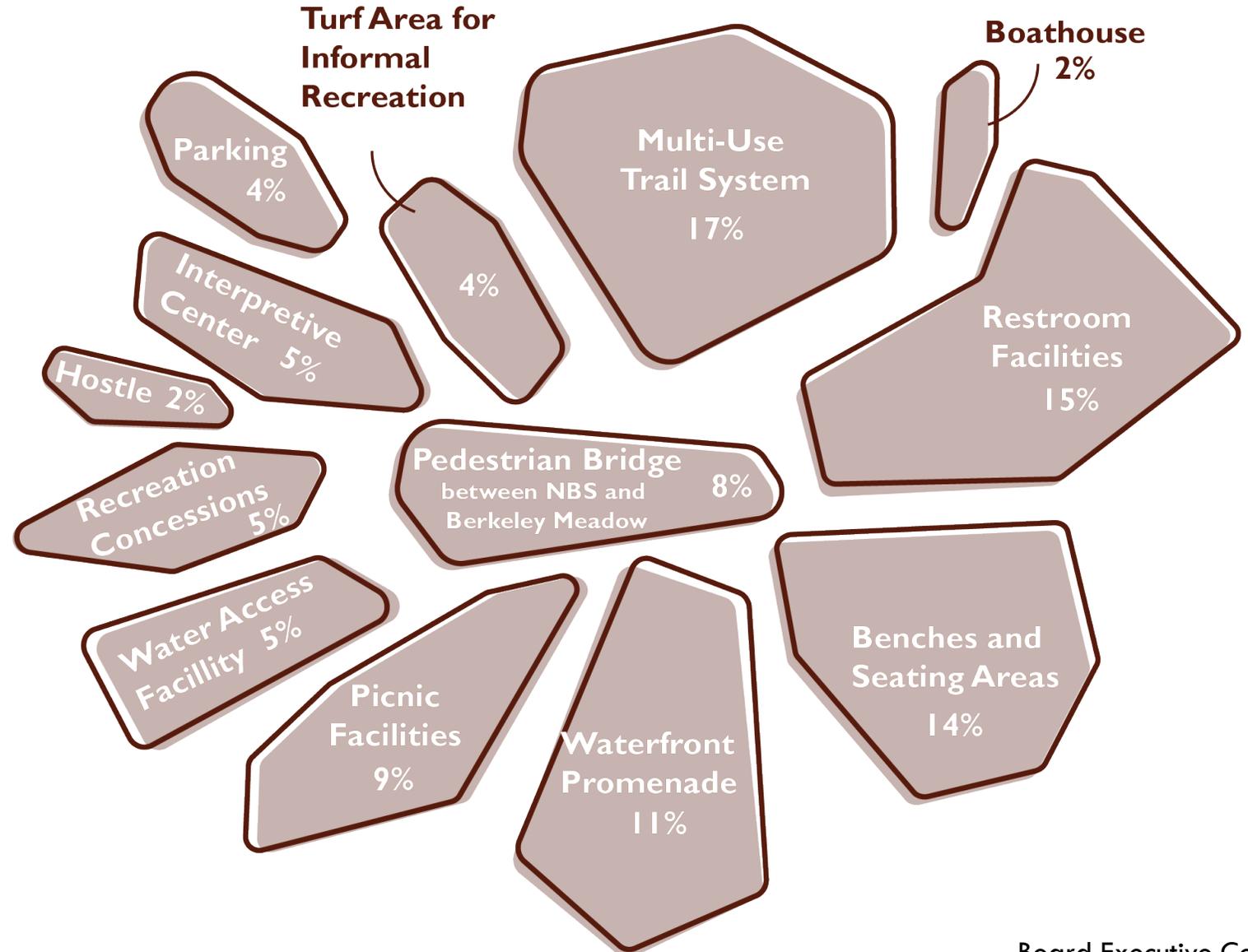
Project Outreach

- New Voices Partnership (~ 10 Orgs)
- Project Advisory Group (~27 Orgs)
- Technical Advisory Committee (~7 Agencies)
- Public Meeting #1 (~100 Guests)
- Public Survey (~1000 Responses)



What would you like to see

Pie chart to the right is based on the survey questions 'What would you like to see at the North Basin Strip? Select all that apply.' Options were based on the Eastshore State Park General Plan, completed in 2002.



Community Priorities

- 1. Conserve + Enhance Habitat**
- 2. Preserve the Magic Experience**
- 3. Ensure Safety, Comfort, Access + Activation**
- 4. Create A Sociable, Friendly Space for All**
- 5. Design for Climate Resiliency**
- 6. Foster Stewardship + Partnerships**

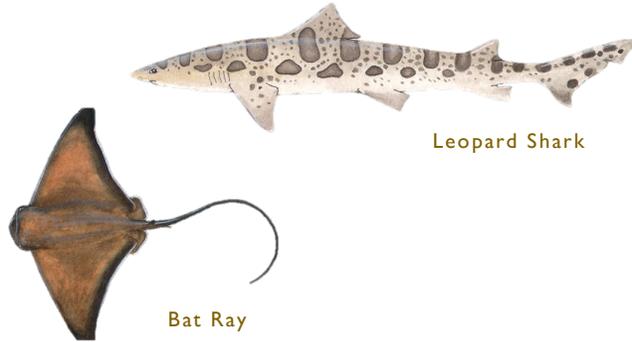
Feedback from the New Voice Partnership, Advisory Meeting, Community Meeting, and Survey highlight the following priorities:

Community Priorities

1. Conserve + Enhance Habitat

New Voices	Online Survey	Community Meeting #1	Project Advisory Group
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An elevated deck near the schoolhouse creek outlet could provide habitat observation



Considerations for the existing rafting birds are critical in the design and the time of year use of the park

This site plays a critical role in the Pacific Flyway and could support the bay as a global biodiversity hotspot. Over 200 birds have been identified to use the site



Planning should build on the diversity of tough native plants already present.

Conserve and enhance natural systems, including seasonal aquatic birds, tidal habitat and native plant species

It would be great if this zone could reinforce the reintroduction of native plants to support and grow the habitat for shorebirds, owls, and other wildlife

This site could be home to endemic species



Any enhancement of the shoreline area should leverage and preserve the existing salt marsh vegetation

Lessons can be learned from Berkeley meadow and Brickyard Cove as it relates to native plant types that best manage invasives



Sensitive habitat such as Burrowing Owls will need to be taken into consideration with human and dog use



2. Preserve the Magic Experience



Lots of birds + small mammals in North basin strip coexisting with bike trails.

Throughout my childhood and still as an adult I would come here to listen to the waves on the shore to get a break from the horrible sounds of traffic and industry in my neighborhood.

The access to an urban wild through social trails, water, nature, and habitat serves as a unique escape for many

Consider creating a peaceful place of purpose that resonates on a personal and spiritual level with the local Community
**See Appendix C1-F*

The glass beach isn't itself beautiful but it is a beautiful "archaeological" site that holds artifacts of human and animal life on the bayshore. It holds all kinds of fascinating historical clues and mysteries that provoke me to think about things larger than myself



One of the few wild places left in town



We've spent many hours climbing over the rocks/ cement along the shoreline looking at marine creatures along the shoreline with our kids- it would be wonderful to have the intertidal area restored and enhanced (and safer) so that local kids can learn about intertidal organisms there.

3. Ensure Safety, Comfort, Access + Activation

As a woman walking alone I have been harassed by men (seemingly mentally unstable) here. It is a somewhat scary isolated area. Making this a more official park could help, with more foot traffic

The entry experience when coming from the new Gilman overpass into the park needs to be improved.

It would be great to have a promenade trail along the shoreline that would allow bikes and pedestrians, a new public restroom, interpretive signs about the area.

Minimize places where cars enter and leave the Frontage Road. Limit the Virginia Extension turnout to park handicap vehicles.

Welcome small family or other groups with clusters of smallish tables, set back toward the slope.

Seating, restrooms, shade, vegetation management, safe bike routes and signage in multiple languages. Trails, accessibility, parking, access to the water.

Bicycle traffic should be divided, with fast commuter and distance travel next to the frontage road, and a slow, unpaved route, wheelchair accessible, for enjoying the waterfront.

I would love to see clear signage directing people to a shoreline trail at the end of Gilman St.

A bike park can direct people there and off the mainly hiking trails, creating safer environments for hikers and less accidents.

It's used as a passageway connecting other areas-the Marina/Cesar Chavez, the soccer fields, the Bulb, the meadow, and the bay trail and freeway bridges.

The existing dirt road seems like it is ideal as-is - it is heavily used for walking and biking, provides access for park maintenance and emergency vehicles, and most importantly, can easily migrate inland with rising sea levels.

Provide a minimal but easy place to launch canoes and kayaks.

4. Create A Sociable, Friendly Space for All

Preserve it for multiple users...not just one user group.

I am interested in the potential for expanded sports fields. Other nearby areas of the bayfront provide expansive areas for walking and birdwatching.

"The recreation area must consider access for all users, including those with mobility challenges."

Welcome more fisherfolk moving along the shoreline.

Inclusive, all ages, welcoming and serving to a regional audience

Beaches are a magnet for diversity

This space has so much potential for recreational use and should be developed for all user groups.

It's one of the only safe, flat places for kids to learn to ride a bike in Berkeley. Let's have a proper pump track for the older kids, and something like the current gated-off lot for the younger kids.

5. Design for Climate Resiliency

Reinforcement may be needed toward the north, but most of the North Basin Strip has a living shoreline, with typical beach vegetation at the foot of the bluff and cordgrass colonizing the mudflat.

On the basin's south shore, edging the Berkeley Meadow, getting rid of the riprap to create salt marsh sounds like an excellent idea. This, however, depends on what is in the garbage fill.

Resiliency towards heat, sea level rise, and groundwater inundation

Raise elevation if needed for more permanent infrastructure and site farther from water edge

Allow rising water to inundate low-lying areas to create living laboratory for observing changes in hydrology and vegetation over time

Good place for education about sea-level change. Maybe path should remain simple gravel so that it can easily be moved further inland as sea-level rises.



6. Foster Stewardship + Partnerships

Volunteers should be welcomed and allowed to work semi-independently. The District needs to find ways to foster productive citizen initiative.

The Albany and Berkeley High School mountain-bike teams should be allowed to continue to practice away from the shoreline, with enforceable agreements on where they may build trails and obstacles, and that they will pick up and hold some agreed-on number of stewardship work parties yearly.

Welcome community organizations to host activities to activate space like roller skating, music, food trucks, or something

Nurturing deep connections to the site that can engage champions to ensure timely implementation and optimal operation of the park



The District's structure, and relatively small staff mean that it cannot know or respond adequately to the complex needs of developed and diverse urban areas. It must strive to rule loosely and welcome outside ideas and change.

Invite youth organizations including schools to create temporary installations

Long-Term Climate Adaptation will need Funding and Policy Support from Federal, State and Local Governments

In the past 10 or so years, a few volunteers have transformed a huge invasive weed patch into a beautiful native plant edge on the Bay. We continue to work there on a regular basis.

encourage continuation of the largely independent efforts of volunteers, creative artists, and sports groups. These have shaped the area since the 1990s.



Friends of Five Creeks

Concept Alternatives



Alternative 1 Gather



Conserve + Enhance Habitat

Delineated and distinct habitat zones separated from recreation

Safety + Comfort + Access + Activation

Center of Activity focused on Northern Promenade

Climate Resiliency

Hardened edges to protect from erosion. An elevated trail through Berkeley Meadow while allowing for water to move below and marsh to migrate.

Create a Space for All

A dedicated Bike Park Zone, an expansive network of paved trails for accessibility.

Foster Stewardship + Partnerships

Partners to assist with programming and concessions of the Promenade and Bike Park, and community stewardship groups to assist with the Butterfly Meadow and upland zones.

Alternative 1 Gather



- Parcel Lines
- Bay Trail
- Fence
- Power Lines
- Water Lines
- Utility Pole
- Light Pole
- ▨ Mudflats
- ▨ End of Century Flooding
- ✦ Signage and Wayfinding
- Ⓟ Parking
- 🚻 Restroom
- 🍴 Picnic Area
- 🌱 Stewardship
- 🚲 Bike Park
- 📖 Exploration/Education
- 🚣 Kayak
- 🎣 Fishing
- 🚶 Bay Trail Connection



Sunset Promenade showing informal plaza activation and potential partner concessions

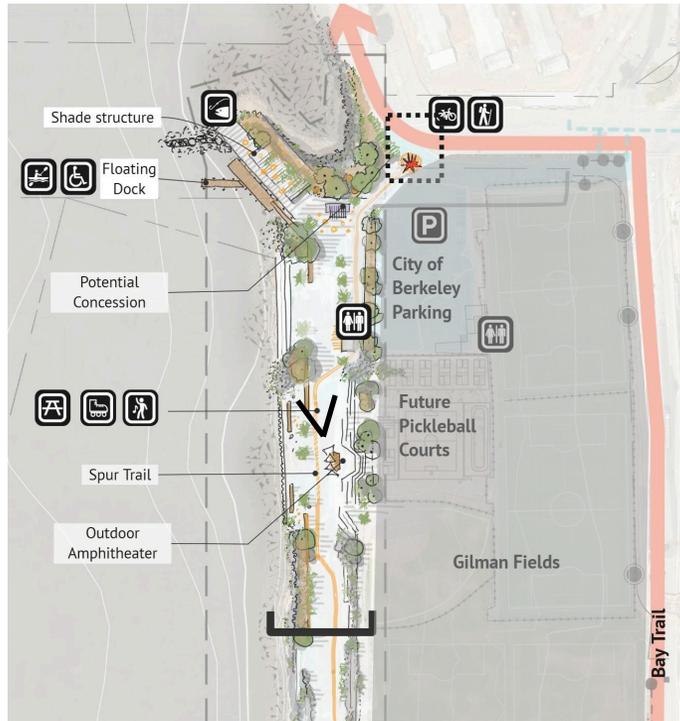


Bike Park allowing for social gathering and stewardship opportunities with partners or local community groups

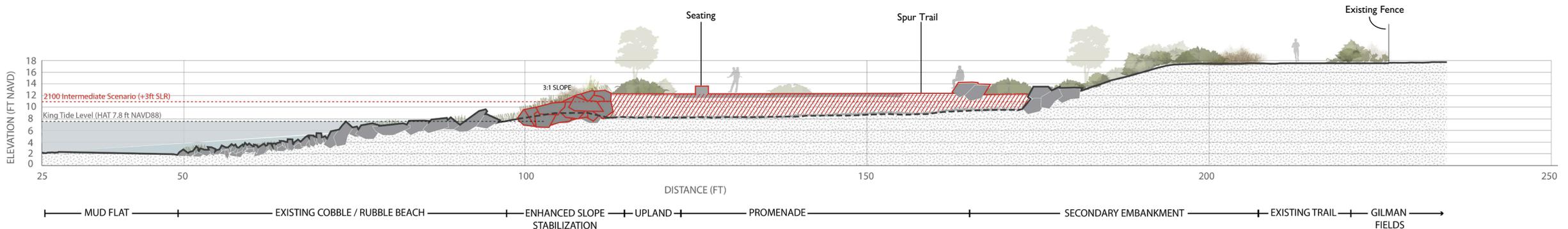
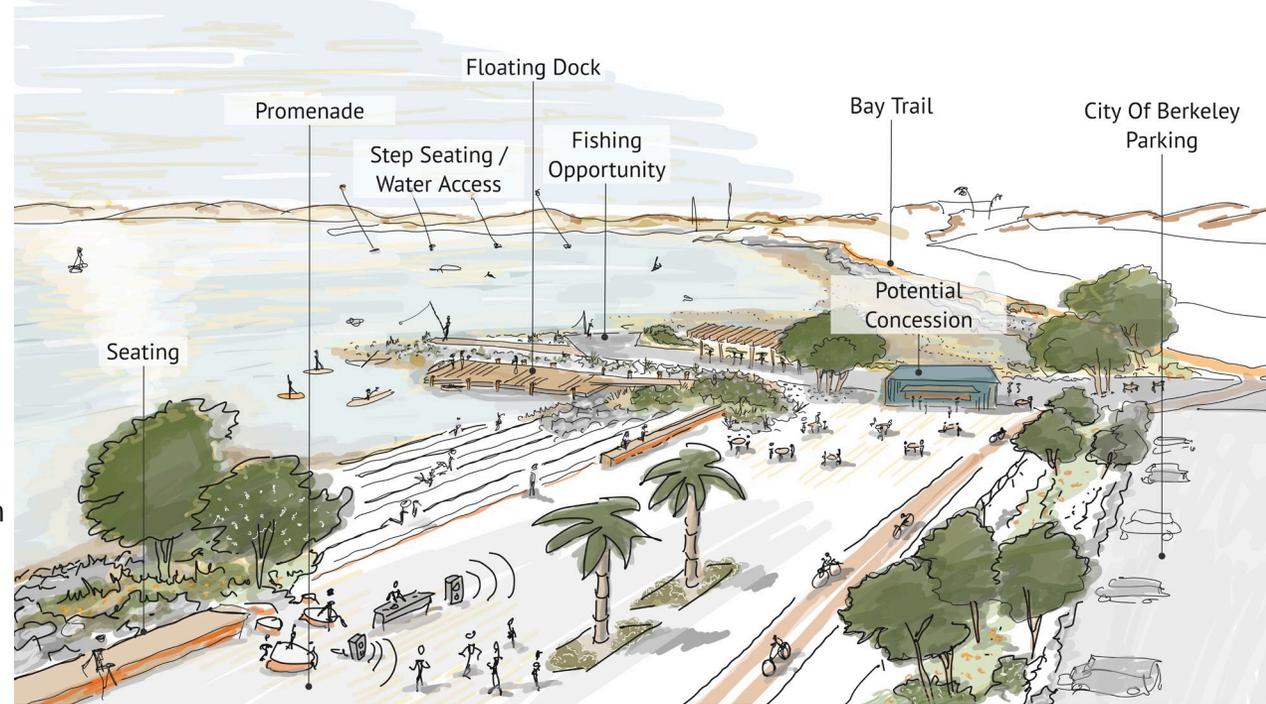


Butterfly Meadow stormwater swale over existing schoolhouse creek with pollinator planting and an area for gathering and outdoor education

Alternative 1 Sunset Promenade



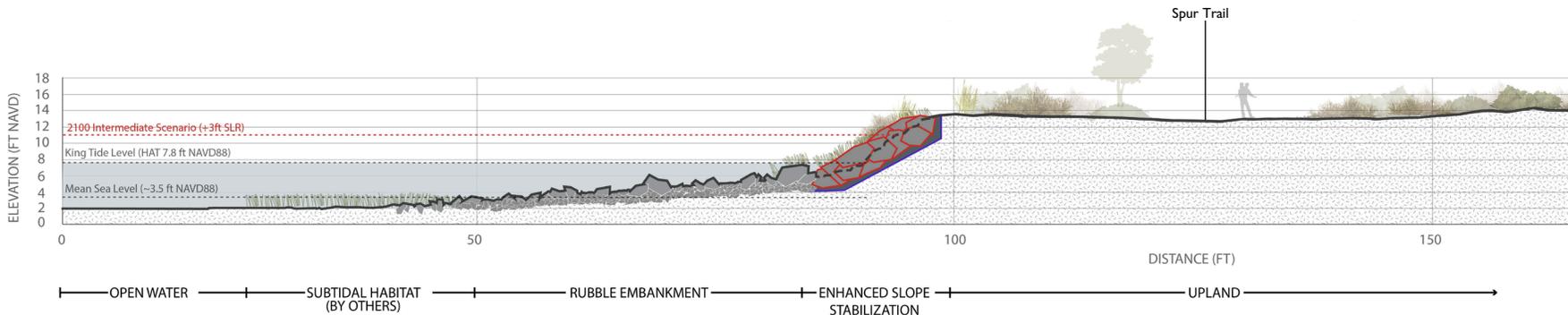
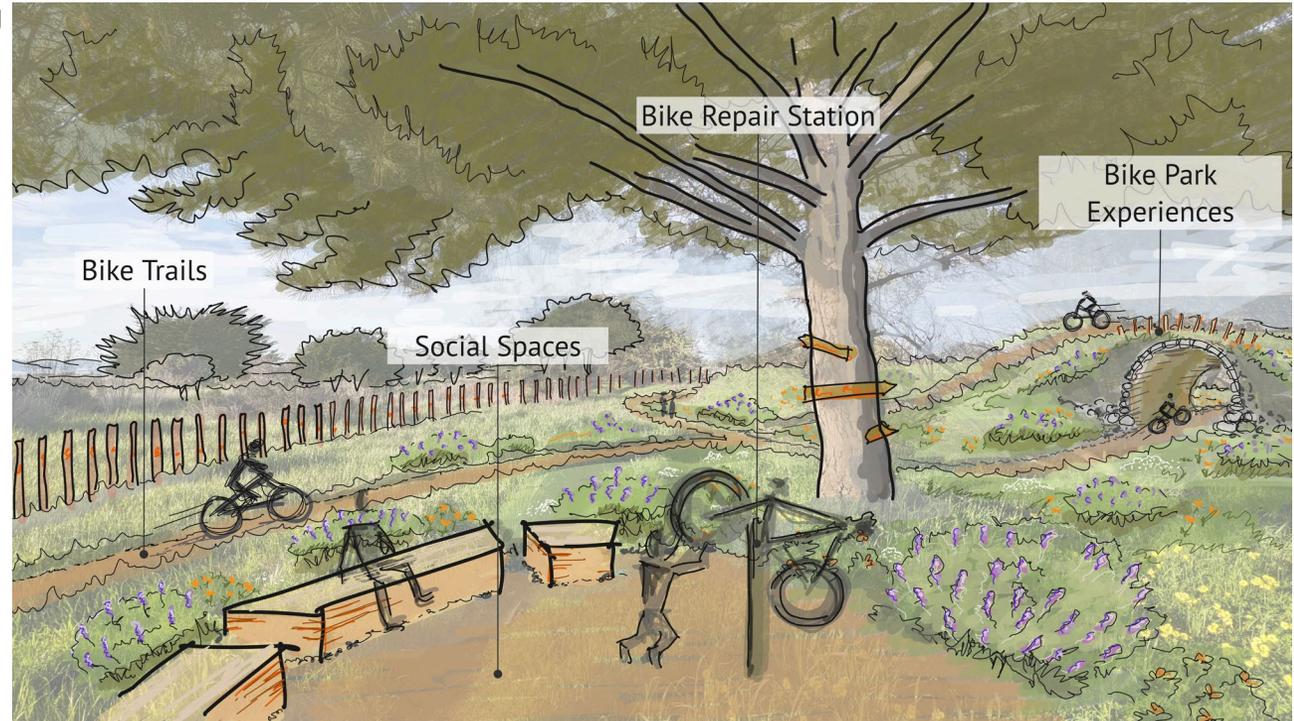
- Bike Only Trails
- ADA Accessible Ramp
- Parking
- Restroom
- Kayak
- Fishing
- Roller-Skating
- Dance / Music
- Picnic Area
- Connection to Bay Trail with intersection safety improvements



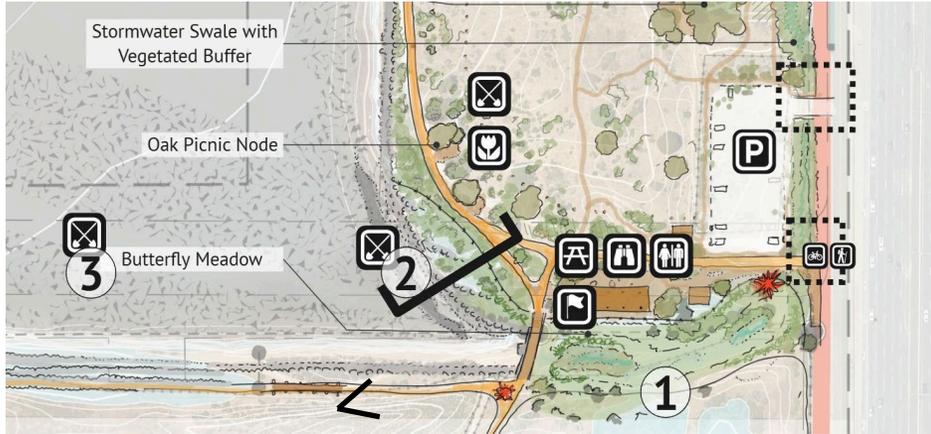
Alternative 1 Bike Park



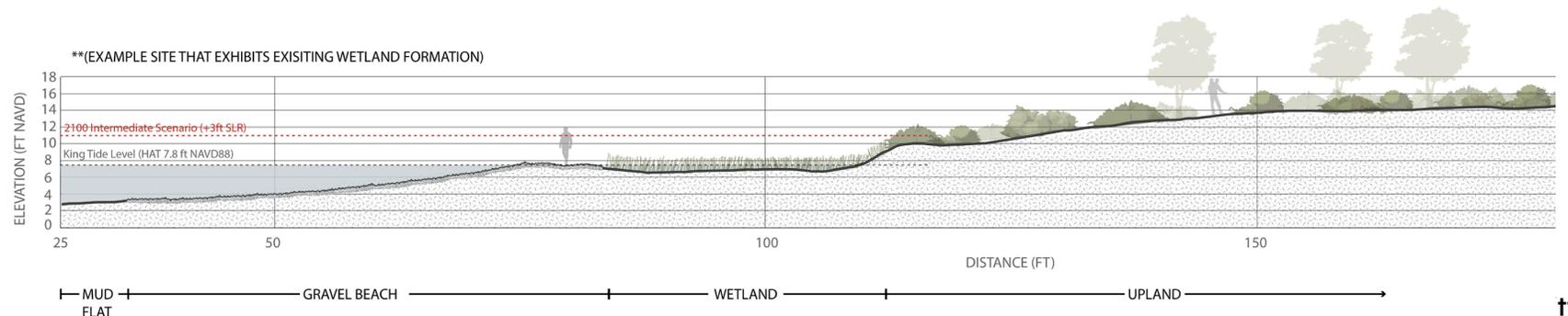
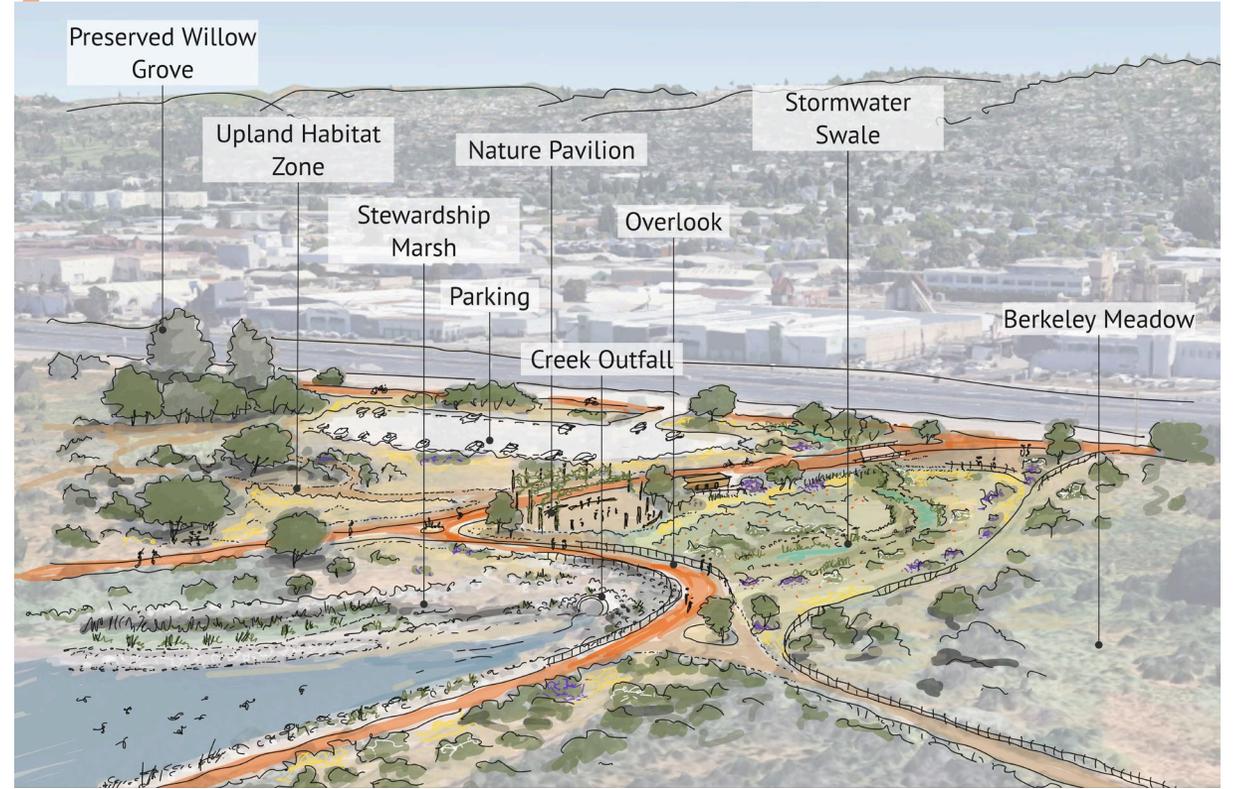
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Bike Only Trails
- ADA Accessible Ramp
- Parking
- Restroom
- Kayak
- Fishing
- Roller-Skating
- Dance / Music
- Picnic Area
- Overlook
- Stewardship
- Exploration/Education
- Ingress / Egress Improvements



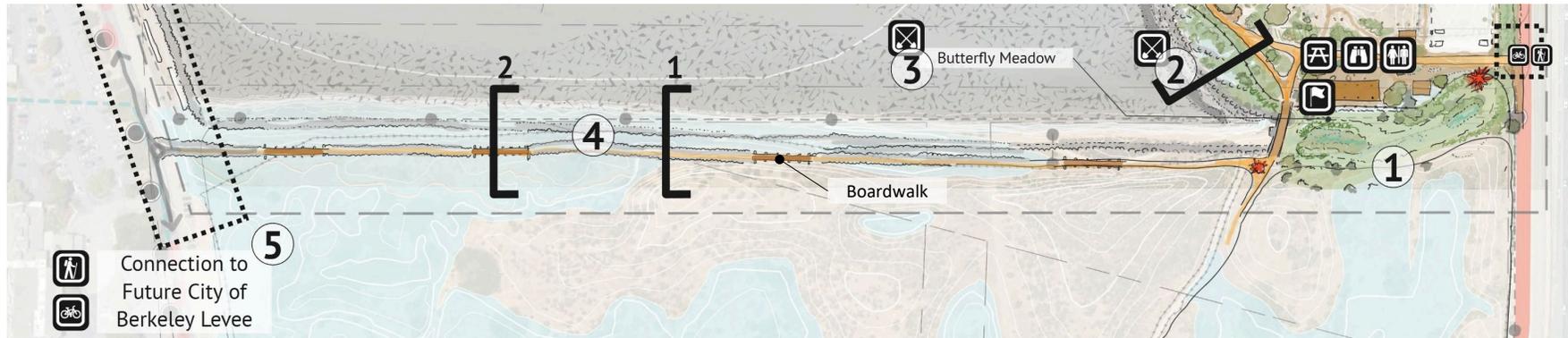
Alternative 1 Butterfly Meadow



- Signage and Wayfinding
- Parking
- Restroom
- Nature Pavilion / Kiosk
- Restoration
- Stewardship
- Exploration/Education
- Ingress / Egress Improvements
- Connection to Bay Trail with intersection safety improvements
- 1 Berkeley Meadow Fence to remain
- 2 Coarse Beach Expansion
- 3 Butterfly Meadow Stormwater Swale Above culverted Schoolhouse Creek

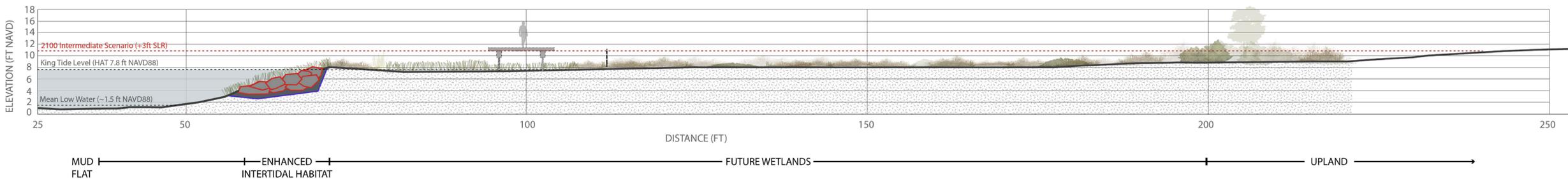
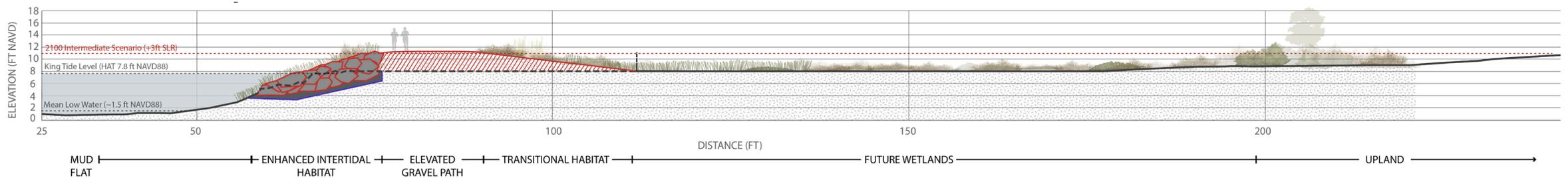


Alternative 1 Virginia Street Extension



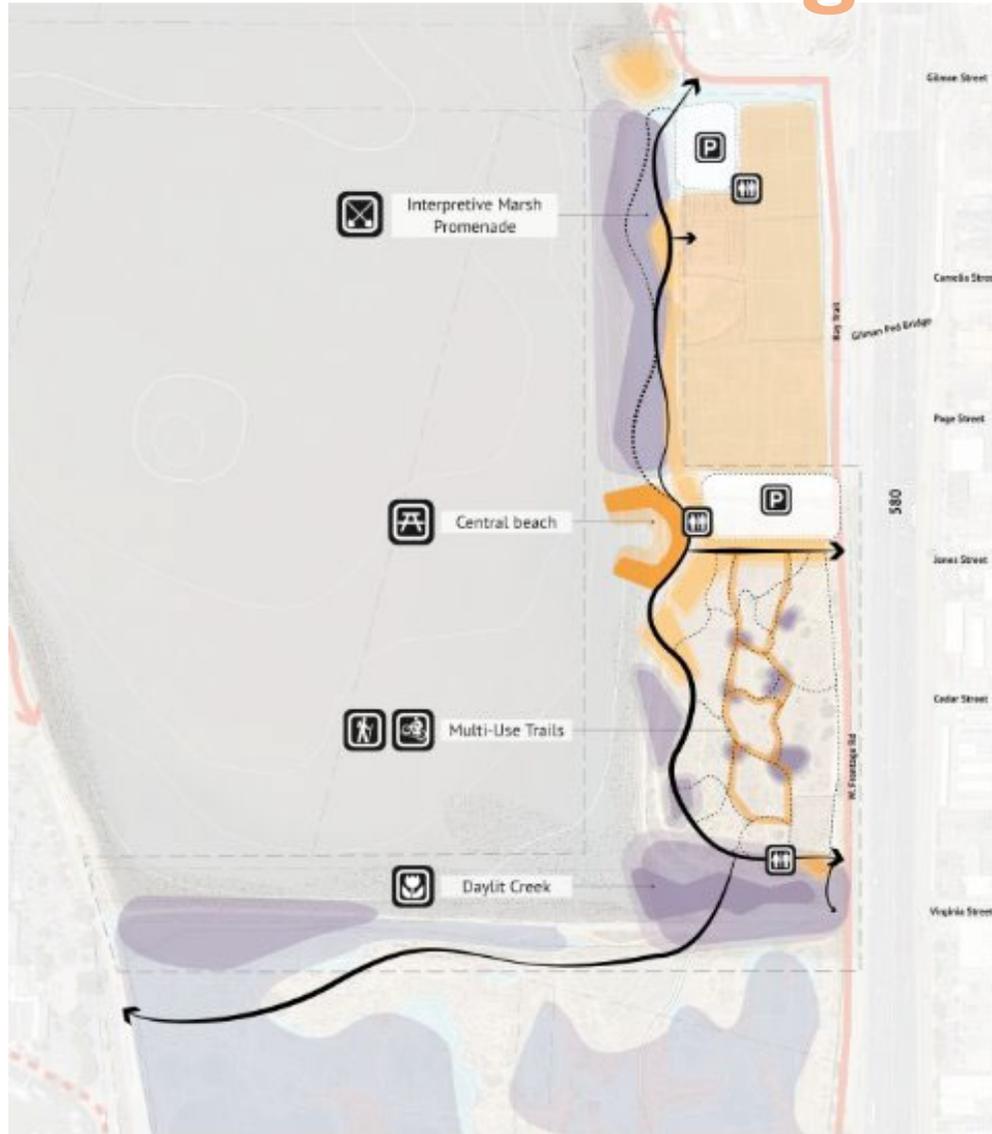
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Restroom
- Stewardship
- Ingress / Egress Improvements
- Parking
- Nature Pavilion / Kiosk
- Exploration/Education
- Restoration

- ① Berkeley Meadow
Fence to remain
- ② Coarse Beach Expansion
- ③ Butterfly Meadow
Stormwater Swale
Above culverted Schoolhouse
Creek
- ④ Virginia St. Extension
Existing trail alignment to remain
with boardwalks and embankments
- ⑤ Connection to Future City
of Berkeley Levee



BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Alternative 2 High Tides Shoreline



Conserve + Enhance Habitat

Greater habitat gradient along the shoreline more area for future marsh habitat and daylit schoolhouse creek

Safety + Comfort + Access + Activation

Center of Activity focused on Central Beach

Outdoor education along interpretive marsh promenade

Climate Resiliency

Soft edges to provide greater habitat resiliency, paths, and access pushed to higher elevations

Create a Space for All

Range of trail types for different users

Foster Stewardship + Partnerships

Stewardship opportunities across much of the site. Potential concession partnership opportunities at Central Beach

Alternative 2 High Tides Shoreline



- Limit of Work
- Parcel Lines
- Bay Trail
- Fence
- Power Lines
- Water Lines
- Utility Pole
- Light Pole
- Mudflats
- End of Century Flooding
- ★ Signage and Wayfinding
- Ⓟ Parking
- 🚻 Restroom
- 🍃 Picnic Area
- 👤 Stewardship
- 🌱 Restoration
- 📖 Exploration/Education
- 🎣 Fishing
- 🚣 Bay Trail Connection
- 🚣 Kayak
- Ⓜ Restricted seasonal access to protect rafting birds



Marsh Promenade featuring boardwalks immersed in future marsh habitat. Interpretive signage and areas to support outdoor education.



Central Beach Pebble beach for wading and water access with a perched sandy beach with locations for relaxing, socializing, and recreation.



Daylit Creek showcases a larger zone for fresh/saltwater and habitat observation along with a bridge, overlook, and outdoor education.

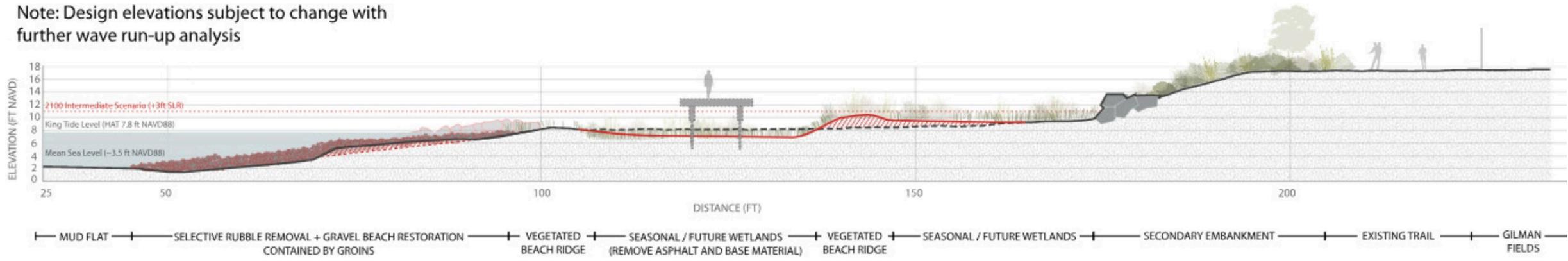
Alternative 2 Marsh Promenade



- A** Connection to Bay Trail with intersection safety improvements
- Restroom
- P** Parking
- Restroom
- Picnic Area
- Restoration



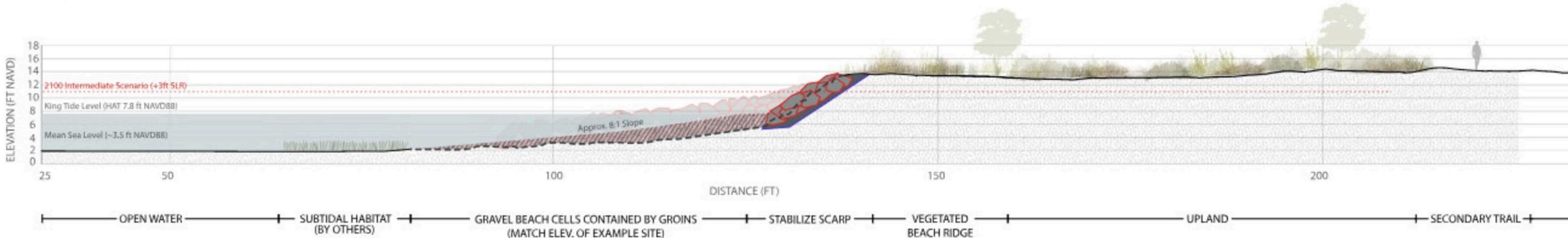
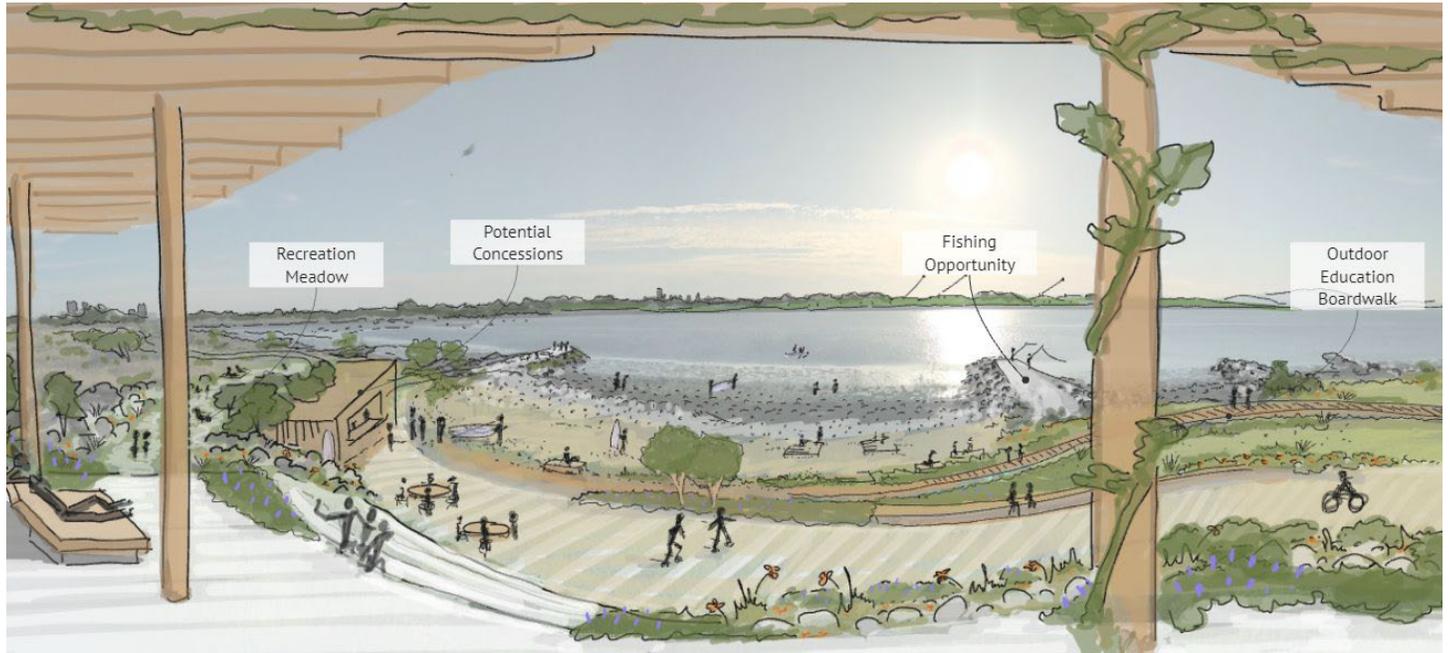
Note: Design elevations subject to change with further wave run-up analysis



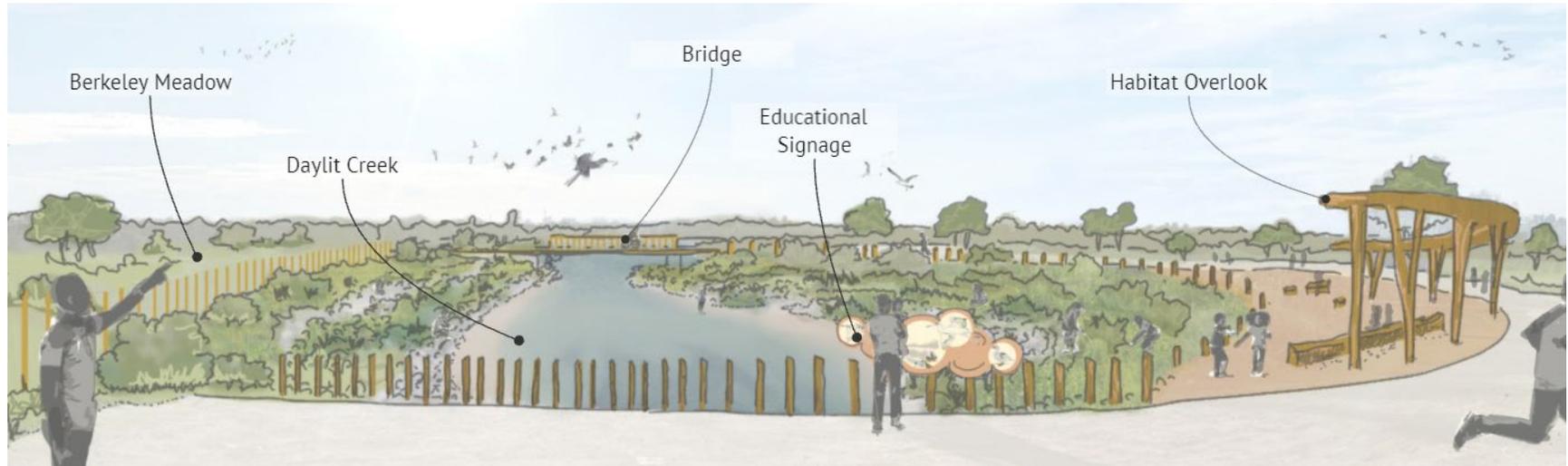
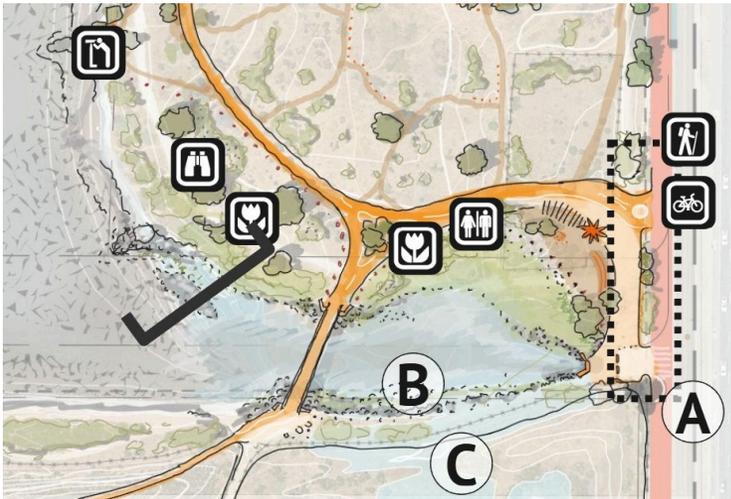
Alternative 2 Central Beach



- ADA Accessible Ramp
- City of Berkeley Parking Expansion
- Restroom
- Connection to Bay Trail with intersection safety improvements
- Fishing
- Kayak
- Picnic Area
- Fishing
- Exploration/Education



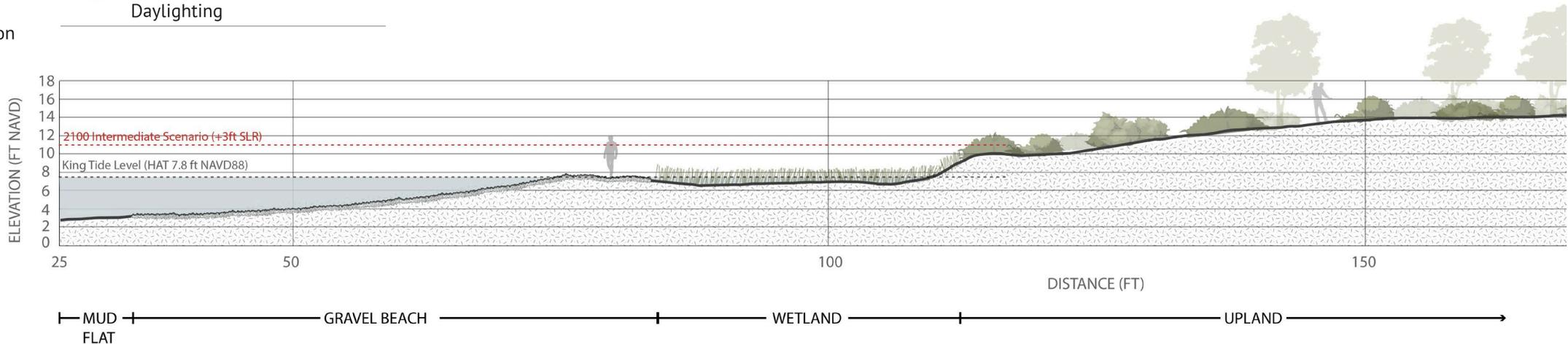
Alternative 2 Daylit Creek Overlook



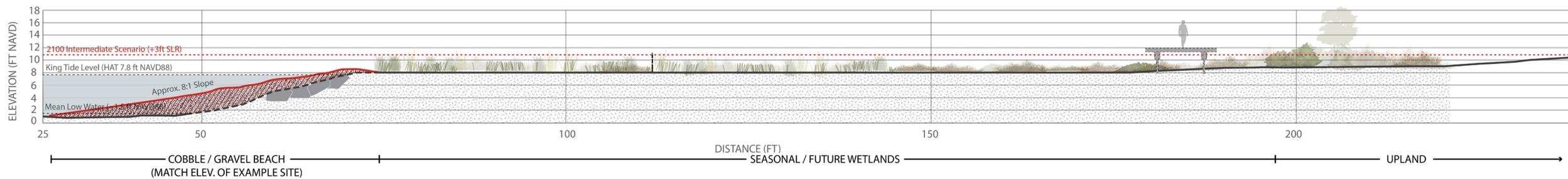
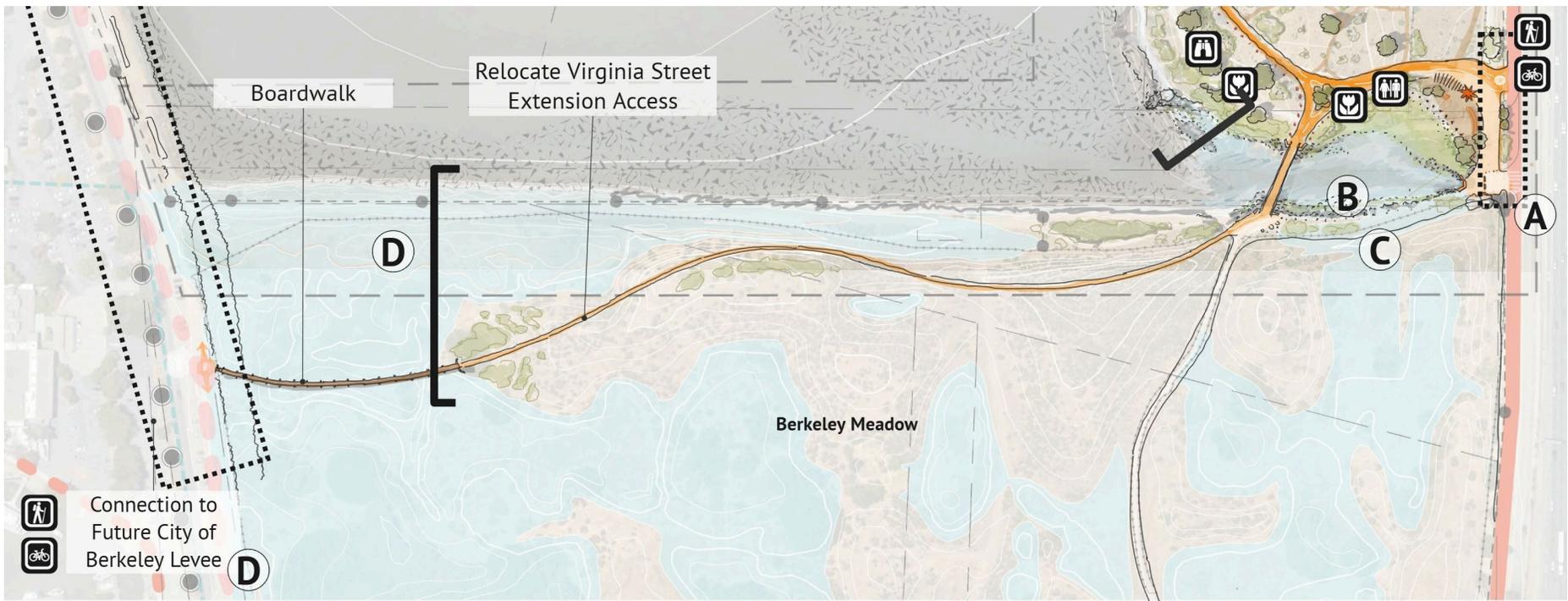
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Restroom
- Stewardship
- Overlook
- Exploration/Education

- A** Connection to Bay Trail with intersection safety improvements
- B** Schoolhouse Creek Daylighting

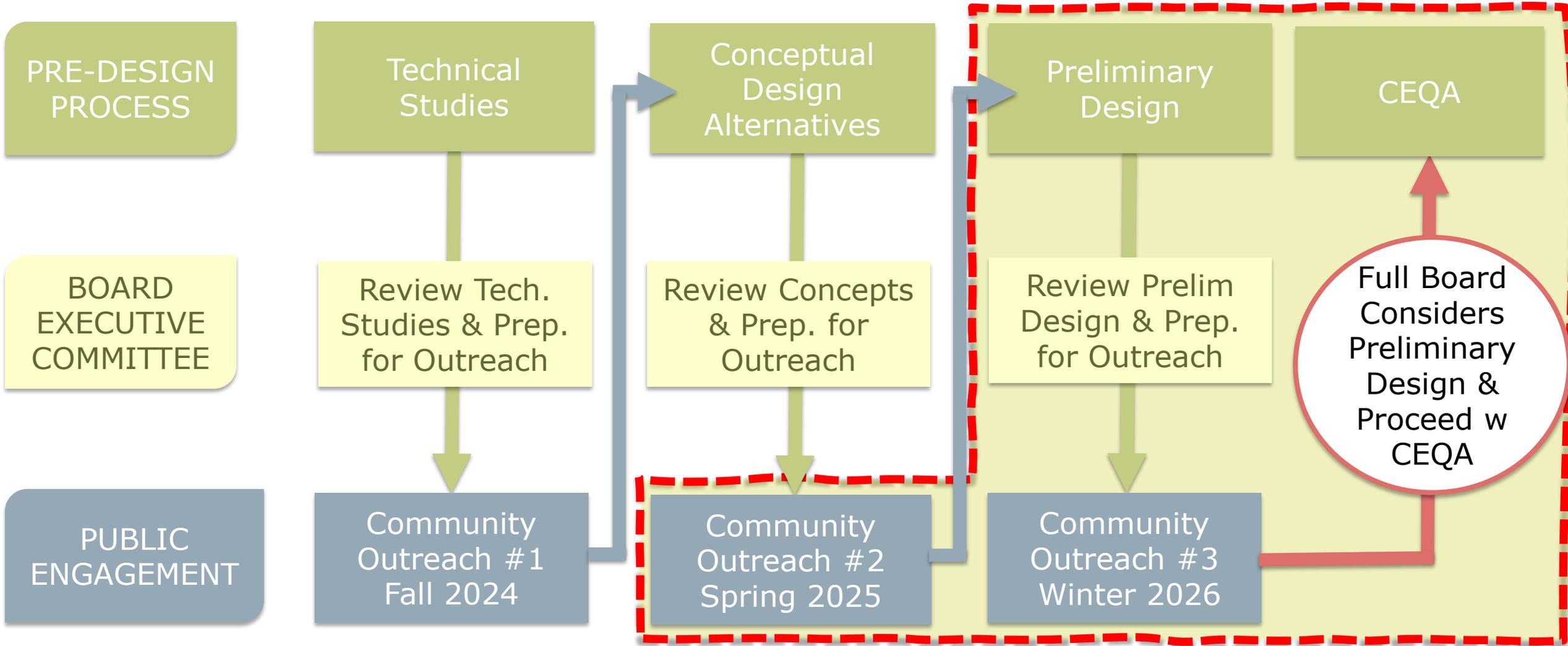
- C** Berkeley Meadow Fence to Remain



Alternative 2 High Tides Shoreline



Next Steps



Thank You