

**TILDEN ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTER
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

East Bay 
Regional Park District

ehdd.
cmg
Landscape
Architecture

ALDRICHPEARS ASSOCIATES

Community Outreach #2

February 28, 2024

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EDUCATION CENTER
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

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EBRPD Meeting Introduction
Mike Moran, East Bay Regional Park District

Project Overview
Jim Devlin, East Bay Regional Park District

Tilden Nature Context
Mike Moran, East Bay Regional Park District

APA Exhibit Design Process
Richard Lien, Aldrich Pears Associates
Alix Noble, Aldrich Pears Associates
Scott Plumbe, Aldrich Pears Associates

EHDD Architectural Design Process
Chris Patano, EHDD
Ryan Metcalf, EHDD

**CMG Landscape Architecture
Design Process**
Lauren Stahl, CMG

EBRPD Next Steps and Questions

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

IN-PROCESS

Schematic Design Phase

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

Community Meeting #2: Project Design Options

On-site exhibit

NEXT STEPS

Schematic Design phase:

- Select preferred design option
- Develop preferred design option
- Develop exhibit design

Community Meeting #3

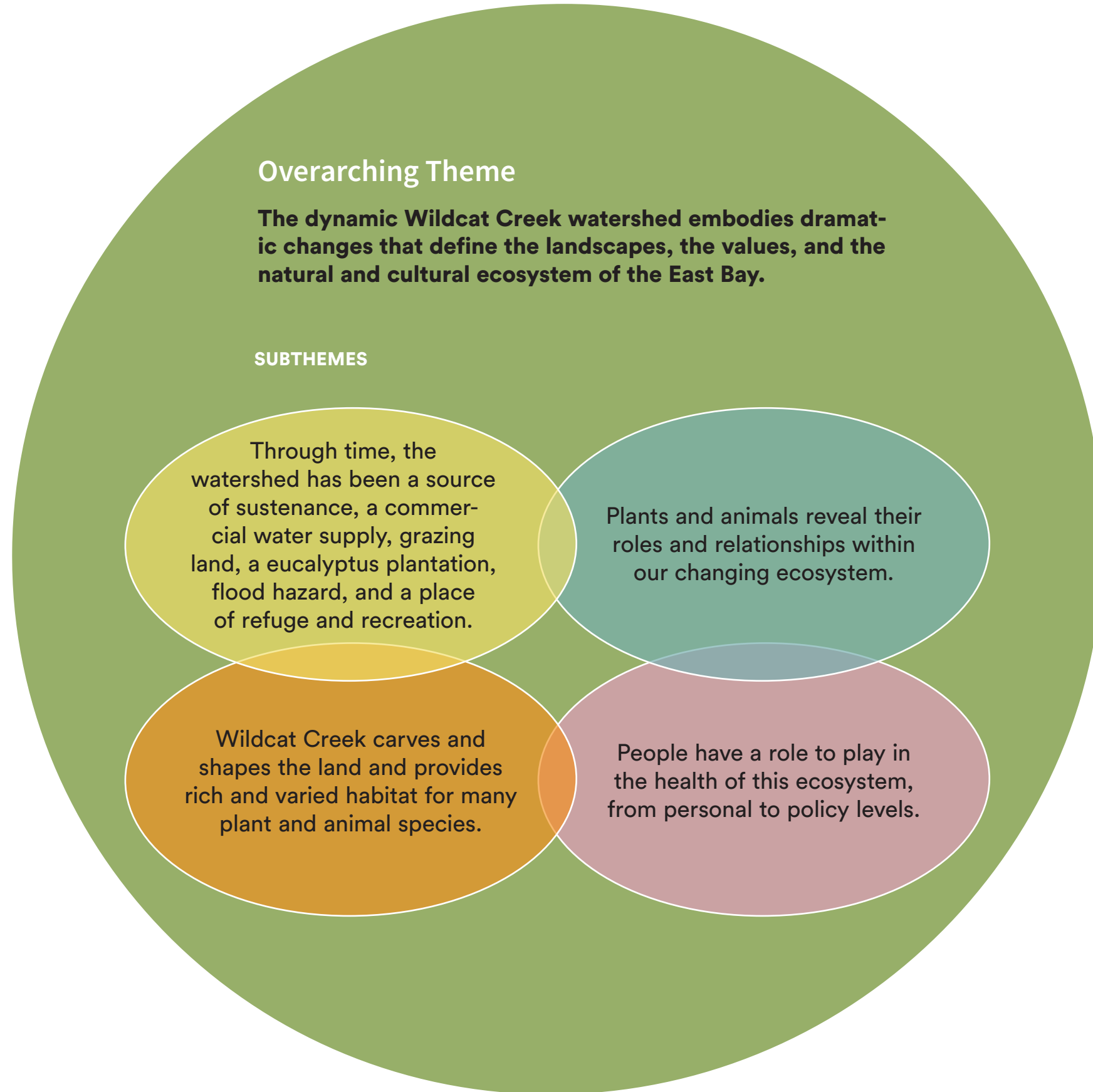
On-site exhibit



Tilden Nature Area Context

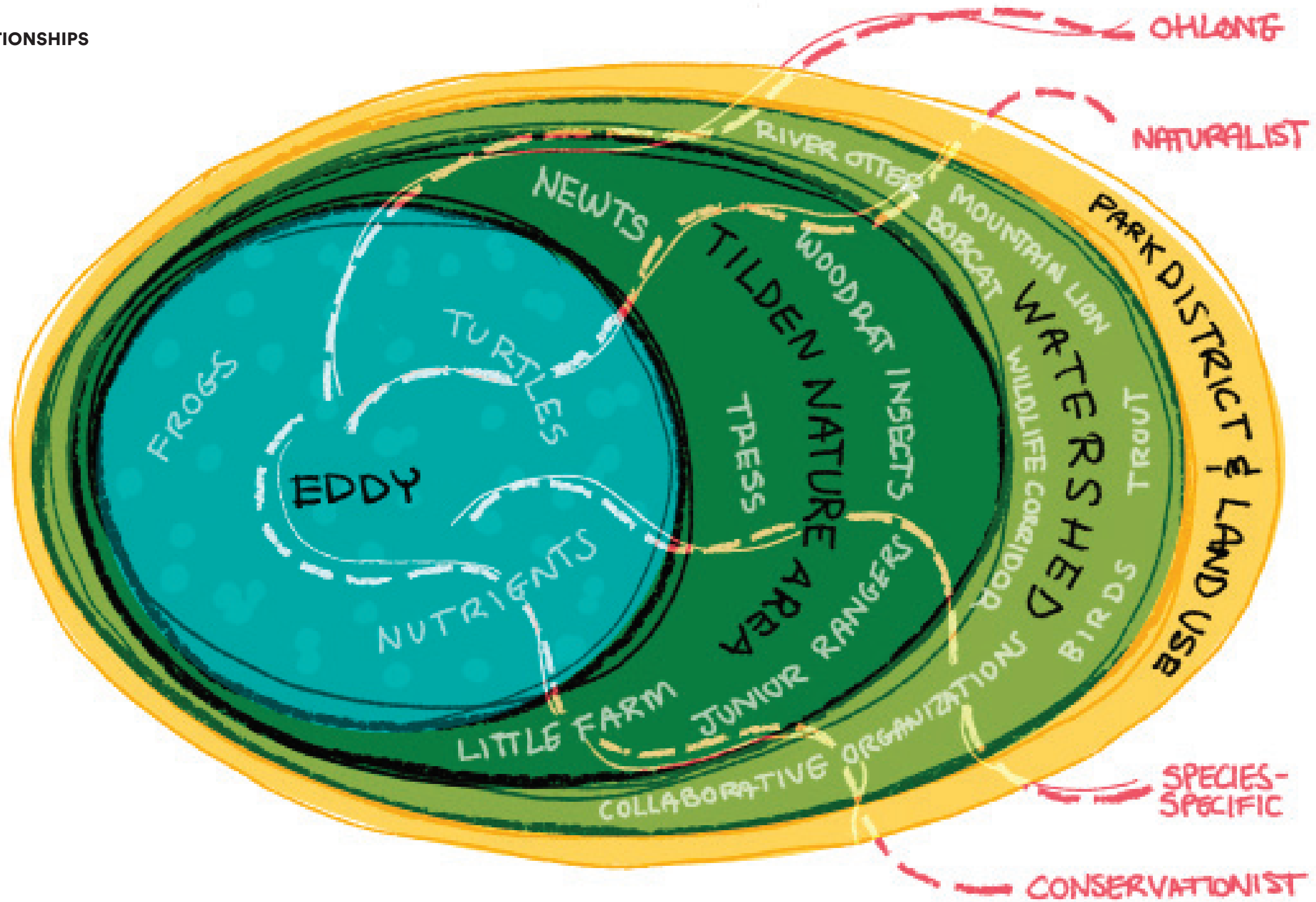
Interpretive Planning

THEMES AND SUBTHEMES



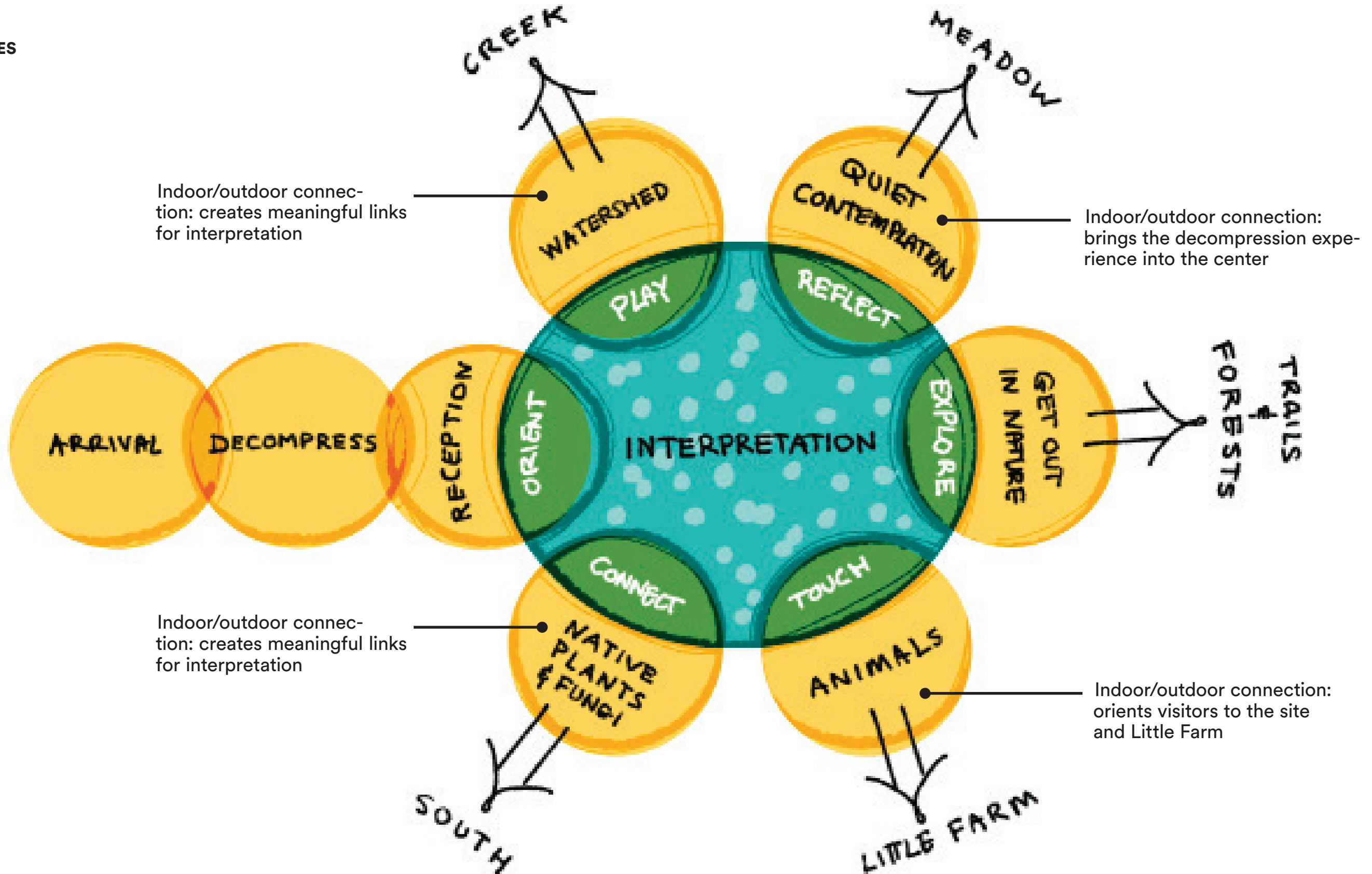
Interpretive Planning

CONTENT RELATIONSHIPS



Interpretive Planning

ADJACENCIES



Context and Goals



TILDEN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Integrated

Creating a new entry experience for Tilden Nature Area

Welcoming all Tilden Nature Area visitors and providing more direct connections to Little Farm and nearby park resources

Consolidating service access

Inviting and accessible

Providing more daylight and visual connection across the site

Enhancing visitor services and access throughout

Sustainable and resilient

Improving building performance and site resource management

Setting the stage for the next fifty+ years

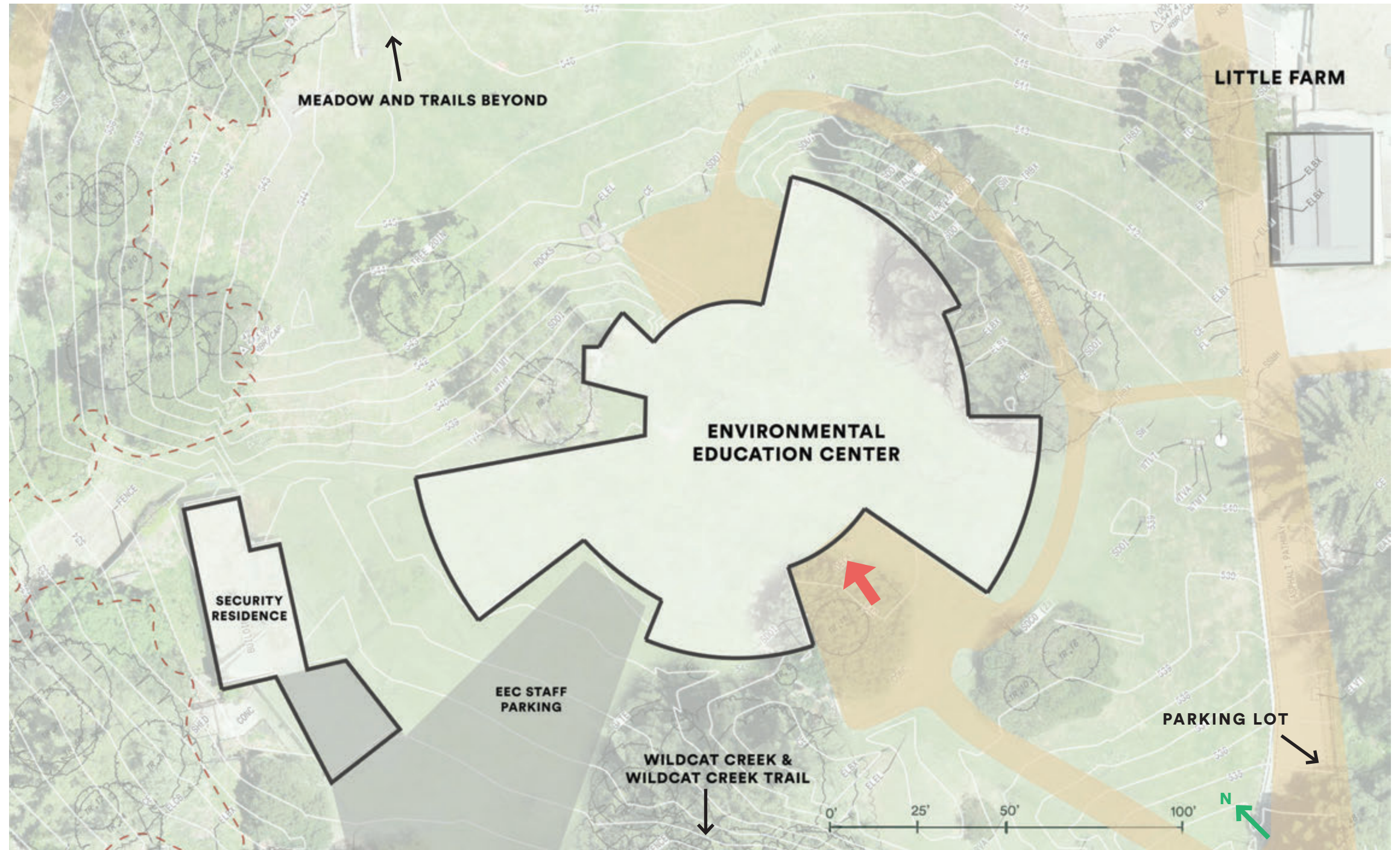
Existing Conditions

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.
- 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.

PROS / CONS

- Pro: EEC is a beloved cultural resource.
- Pro: EEC provides a delightful interior space at the central rotunda.
- Con: EEC does not meet current accessibility and building codes.
- Con: Existing entrance is not easily apparent for visitors from Little Farm.
- Con: Lack of daylight and views out to the site from within the EEC.
- Con: EEC geometry creates wedge-like rooms, which lack flexibility.



ARCHITECTURE

Scheme 1: Eddy

OVERVIEW

This scheme provides a generous public space upon entry. Smaller indoor and outdoor areas of similar size are provided at either side of this central space, allowing visitors to circulate around and back, in and out.

- Exhibit spaces: Three distinct zones are provided for the interpretive themes, oriented toward natural features of the site. These exhibit zones may extend into the central public space and outdoor areas.
- VC entrance is oriented to welcome visitors arriving from the parking lot, as well as visitors coming from Little Farm.
- Administrative areas are located at the rear of the VC, adjacent to a service yard accessed by the service route along the northern edge of the site.
- Security residence may be renovated in-place (not replaced in a new location)

PROS / CONS

- Pro: Non-exhibit public spaces (restrooms, classroom, and auditorium) are located nearest the entrance, allowing for separation from exhibit areas if necessary.
- The combination of the open central space and the discrete exhibit zones may allow for some flexibility and variety of exhibit scales and formats. Acoustics and daylight in a large area will need to be carefully considered.
- Con: Reception desk is rather far back in the exhibit space and less connected to the administrative areas.



ARCHITECTURE

Scheme 2: Branch

OVERVIEW

This scheme provides more 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 long, 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 VC entrance, restrooms, and administrative spaces).
- Classroom and auditorium are adjacent to the exhibit branches, located on the southern/entrance side.
- VC entrance relationship to site approach and Little Farm is similar to Eddy scheme. Administrative relationship to service areas is also similar.
- Security residence may be renovated in-place (not replaced in a new location).

PROS / CONS

- Pro: exhibit areas may be very fine-tuned to their context, with outdoor connections. Good visibility of exhibits from reception.
- Geometry may allow for interesting gathering spaces at interior and exterior.
- Classes may need to circulate through exhibit area to reach classroom (exterior access also provided).
- Con: exhibit areas may provide less flexibility than other schemes (may not accommodate certain large-scale exhibits)



ARCHITECTURE

Scheme 3: Cluster

OVERVIEW

This scheme provides a large, contiguous open space for visitors and exhibits. Other VC areas are clustered together at the edges.

- Exhibit spaces: One generous exhibit space, with subzones focused on the three interpretive themes. Outdoor connections are provided at west and east.
- Entrance is flanked by auditorium block and restroom block. Classroom and Shop are integrated into the administrative block.
- VC entrance relationship to site approach and Little Farm is similar to Eddy and Branch scheme. Administrative relationship to service areas is also similar.
- Security residence is shown renovated in a new location (not renovated in-place).

PROS / CONS

- Pro: Large exhibit spaces offers most flexibility for exhibits of all scales.
- Pro: Reception and animal support relate well to administrative areas and exhibits.
- Acoustics and daylight in a large area will need to be carefully considered
- Con: May be tricky to separate exhibit zones from VC entrance and classroom access (see "Watershed" area).



LANDSCAPE

Scheme A

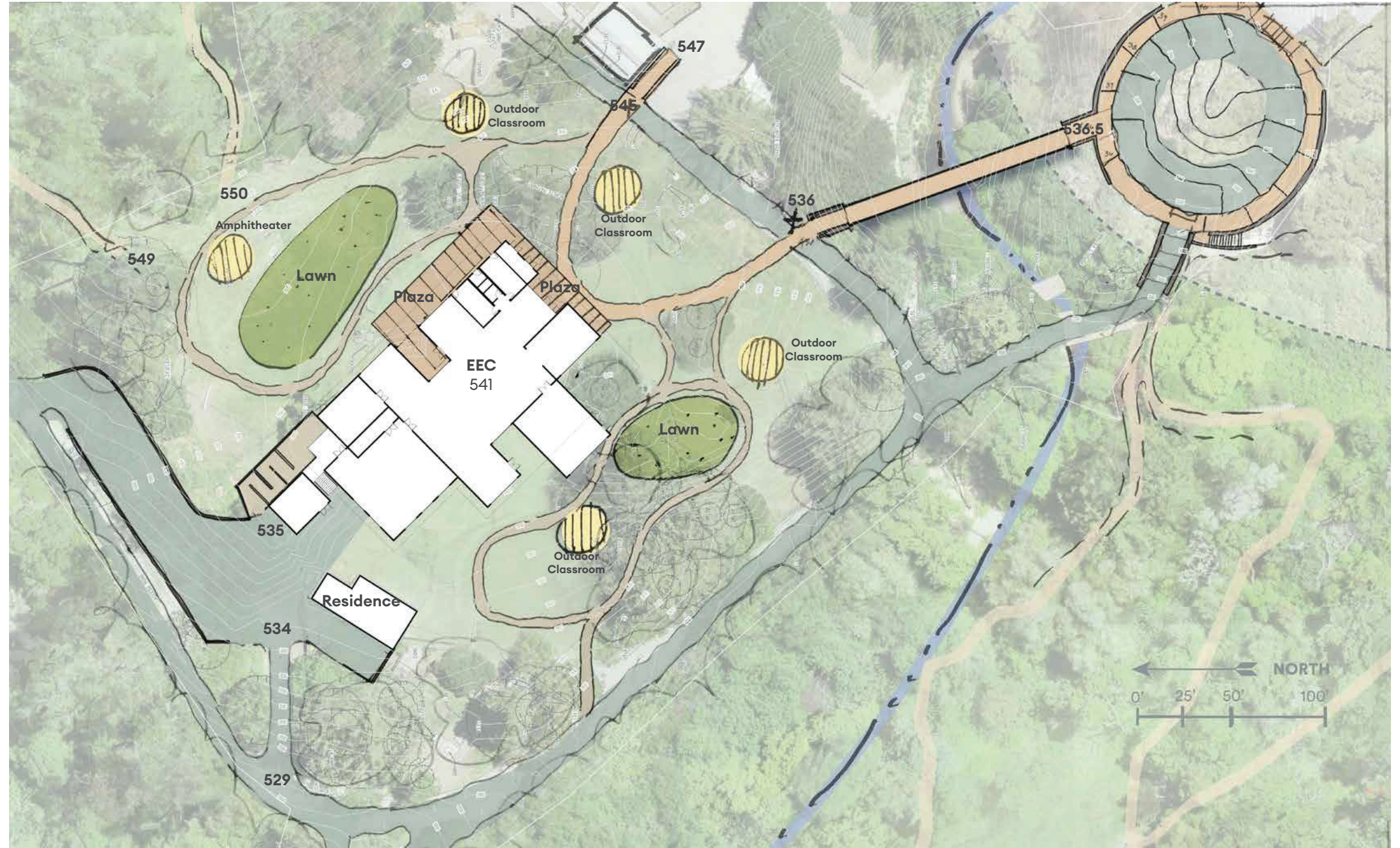
(shown with Architectural Scheme 1)

OVERVIEW

- Shown with a new pedestrian bridge and trail loops above and below the new EEC.
- The roundabout will need to be re-graded to meet ADA code and a new sidewalk is shown around the exterior. Some new walls will be required both up-hill and down-hill. From the roundabout, there is only a 4.5' grade difference to walk up to the proposed level of the EEC.
- Visitors wishing to go to the Pack Rat trails or Jewel Lake would still walk down the access road, but it would reduce conflicts between cars and bikes.
- The existing additional pedestrian path would be removed and the area could be re-planted. Potentially some of the culvert could be removed and more of the creek could be daylighted.
- The paths around the EEC create loops where visitors can explore landscape and the associated interpretive exhibits even when the EEC is closed.
- There is a large plaza that wraps the east side of the building and separate lawn spaces allow families and groups to spread out.

PROS / CONS

- Pro: The new bridge is the most direct way to access the EEC and Little Farm. Pedestrians don't have to walk down the road and then back up to the level of the EEC.
- Con: The bridge is the most complicated from a construction and regulatory standpoint. Additional feasibility study is needed given the sensitivity of construction around the creek and access requirements at the siltation pond.



LANDSCAPE

Scheme B

(shown with Architectural Scheme 2)

OVERVIEW

- Shown with the combined access point at the existing road and dendritic, meandering pathways around the EEC.
- A new boardwalk or pathway through the center of the roundabout uses the existing, beautiful oak trees as a gateway to the park experience.
- The roundabout would need to be rebuilt to meet ADA code.
- The existing additional pedestrian path would be removed and the area could be re-planted. Potentially some of the culvert could be removed and more of the creek could be daylighted.
- A curving path leads up to the EEC and on to the Little Farm. Other paths lead to the other outdoor classrooms and connect to the trails.
- The lawn and plaza space are concentrated at the front entry of the EEC and could be a shared gathering space for visitor's to both the EEC and Little Farm.

PROS / CONS

- Pro: This scheme has the least paving, which is an advantage from a sustainability standpoint (less embodied carbon, the least impervious surface for rainwater run-off).
- Pro: It is also the most streamlined circulation--there is only one access point to the site.
- Con: All visitors would go down the existing road. Space for people walking and vehicles could be delineated by different paving types, but the entire surface would be level/flush allowing vehicles to pass or fire truck access.



LANDSCAPE

Scheme C

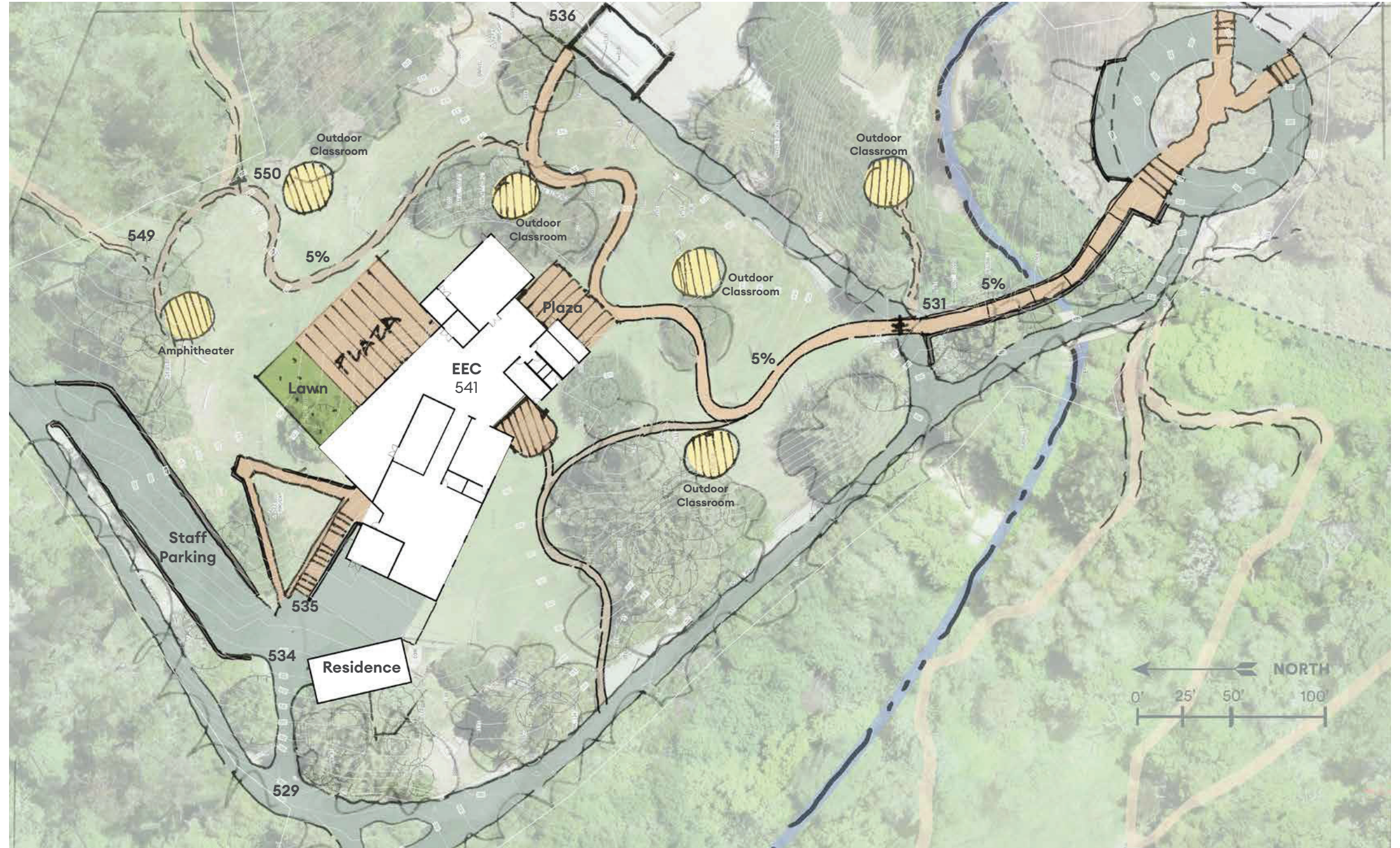
(shown with Architectural Scheme 3)

OVERVIEW

- The most similar access to the existing condition with a pedestrian route shown in its existing location and a separate vehicular drive.
- The roundabout and walking route would need to be rebuilt to meet ADA code. The road would also require some minimal re-grading to make up the elevation from the new roundabout to the existing road elevation. Visitors accessing the trails or Jewel Lake would still walk down the road.
- A singular, main path leads from the new pedestrian route up to the EEC and Little Farm. Smaller, secondary paths connect to the outdoor classrooms and landscape areas.
- In the interior, the architectural exhibits are clustered into one main space--a new plaza and lawn space extend that space into the landscape creating one large indoor-outdoor center for the EEC.

PROS / CONS

- Pro: The amphitheater is sited at a high point on the landscape creating a destination and viewpoint.
- Con: This existing circulation pattern could result in some of the same confusion around site access, but new paving types would be used to emphasize the pedestrian route to the EEC for visitors.



LANDSCAPE

Landscape and Architectural Scheme Options

- As an example of how these various access and circulation strategies could be paired with the architectural schemes, all three architectural schemes are shown with the first bridge and loops landscape (Scheme A).
- The form of the loops and locations of the gathering spaces vary a bit, but the same principles of the direct access from the bridge and looping paths uphill and downhill from the EEC are applied to each plan.



Scheme A (shown with Architectural Scheme 1)



Scheme A (shown with Architectural Scheme 2)



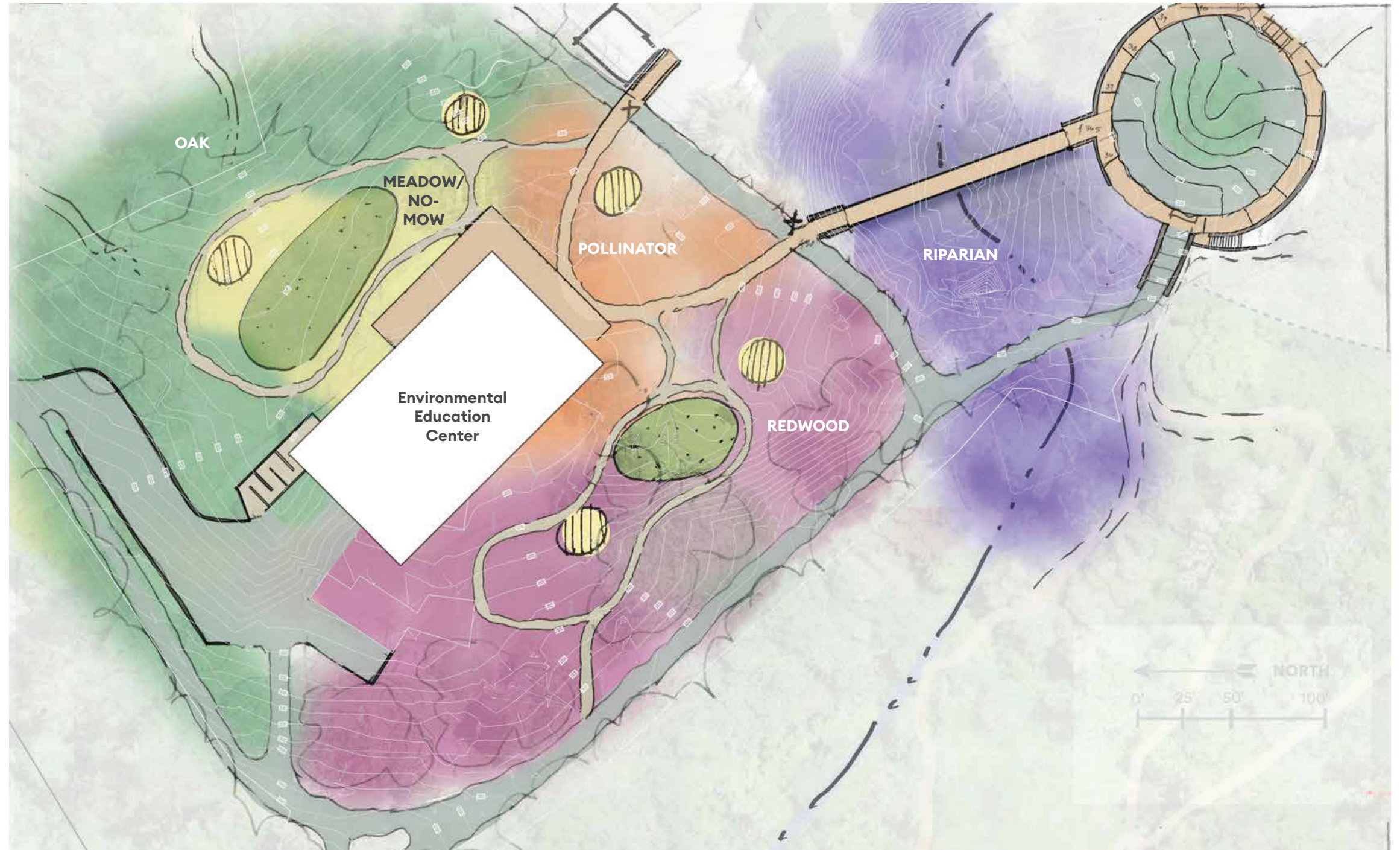
Scheme A (shown with Architectural Scheme 3)

LANDSCAPE

Planting

OVERVIEW

- The landscape planting will be developed in coordination with naturalists from Tilden Nature Area. The planting will feature native plants and ecotypes.
- Planting types identified during the pre-SD phase include riparian, redwood and associated understory, pollinator planting, meadow or no-mow grasses and native oaks.
- The entry area between the EEC and Little Farm will be planted with species that support pollinators like hummingbirds and butterflies, species that are important for both our native and agricultural landscapes.
- Plants used to teach courses about Native American Lifeways will be planted on the site, either in a concentrated area or associated with their ecotypes.



Next Steps

SCHEMATIC DESIGN

- Select preferred design option
- Develop preferred design option

UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

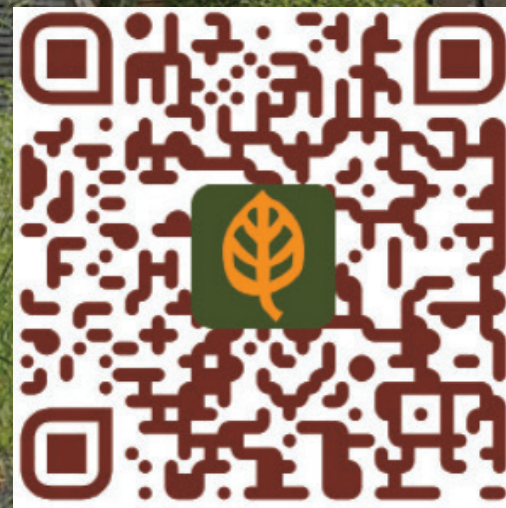
Meeting #3

- April 10, 2024 (Wednesday evening, Zoom)
- Topic: Design Progress and Project Timeline

Questions?

For more information and an opportunity to comment on the project please go to the project website:

ebparks.org/tilden-eec-project



[thank you!]