



Clear Lake State Park General Plan

CONCEPT ALTERNATIVES



JUNE 2025





ALTERNATIVES OVERVIEW

California State Parks (CSP) has developed three draft concept alternatives for the Clear Lake State Park (CLSP) General Plan. Each alternative represents a different approach to achieve the vision and purpose of CLSP consistent with the mission and policies of CSP. The alternatives include:

- Resource Management Emphasis Alternative
- Recreation Emphasis Alternative
- Blended Recreation and Resource Management Alternative

These alternatives provide a range of approaches that can be incorporated into the General Plan. CSP will consider input on these draft alternatives from other agencies, California Native American tribes, interested organizations, and the public during a public meeting and comment period. After considering input on these draft alternatives, CSP will select an alternative, or a combination of elements from different alternatives, to be more fully developed into a draft General Plan. This document provides an overview of each alternative, an alternatives comparison table identifying key differences in management actions under each of the alternatives, and a series of concept maps depicting the major elements of each alternative.

Management Actions Relevant to All Alternatives

Select actions will be completed regardless of the alternative. These are baseline actions that are either ongoing, standard best practices, required by law or policy, or would be included as goals and guidelines in all alternatives. These actions are not included on the alternative concept maps, descriptions, or the Alternatives Summary Table, as the information is focused on the unique differences between the alternatives. All alternatives would include actions that address:

- Parkwide forest management and fuels reduction
- Sensitive natural resource management and protection
- Cultural resource management and protection
- Accessibility improvements
- Tribal collaboration and coordination
- Inter-agency coordination and partnerships
- Visitor interpretation and education
- Facility resilience and sustainability improvements



Overview of the three alternatives on a spectrum ranging from more recreation emphasis to more resource management emphasis. All alternatives would include a combination of both recreation and resource management activities.



Resource Management Emphasis Alternative

The Resource Management Emphasis Alternative seeks to prioritize the protection of sensitive resources and improvements to ecological processes while providing compatible recreation opportunities. This alternative would include the most comprehensive ecological improvement efforts and the least number of visitor-serving facilities. Therefore, this alternative would have the least potential to result in additional visitation. Major features of the Resource Management Emphasis alternative include:

- Stabilizing the shoreline throughout the park.
- Removing Cole Creek Campground and completing ecological improvements to the creek and floodplain.
- Maintaining existing day-use facilities and adding interpretive features at multiple locations.
- Adding approximately one mile of hiking only trails.
- Completing ecological improvements at Kelsey Slough, Cole Creek, Kelsey Creek, and other wetland areas.
- Managing the south side of the park for resource values without new public access.

Recreation Emphasis Alternative

The Recreation Emphasis Alternative seeks to prioritize public use and enjoyment of the park while protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources. This alternative would include the greatest number of visitor-serving facilities improvements of all the alternatives. As such, it would have the greatest potential to result in increased visitation to the park, as well as increased operations and maintenance needs. Major features of the Recreation Emphasis Alternative include:

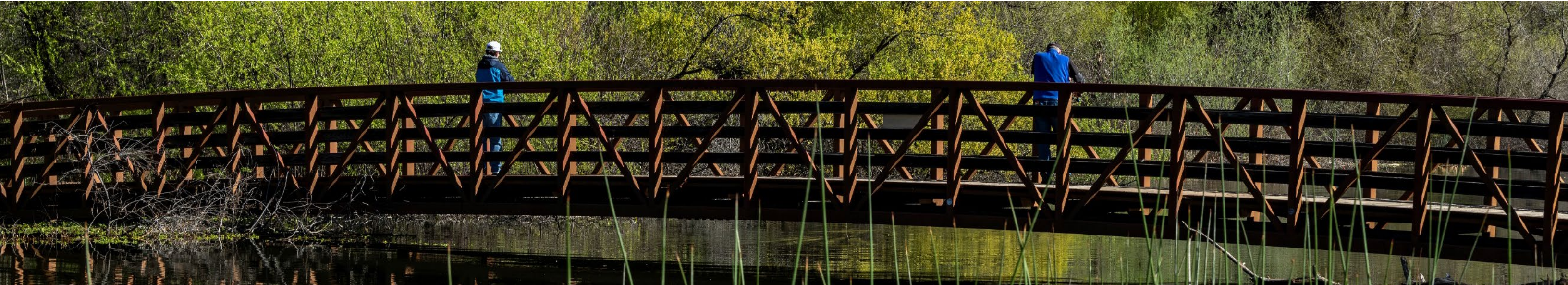
- Increasing lake access with new fishing piers, marina enhancements, and new lake access points.
- Improvements to three of the campgrounds and the cabin area to increase the diversity of overnight options.
- Expanding day-use and interpretive facilities at multiple locations.
- Adding a new trailhead, adding approximately 6.5 miles of new trails, and promoting regional land and water trail connections.
- Completing ecological improvements at Kelsey Slough and the mouths of Cole and Kelsey Creeks.
- Adding a crossing on Soda Bay Road with new access to the south side of the park to a new multi-use trail system.

Blended Recreation and Resource Management Alternative

The Blended Recreation and Resource Management Alternative blends elements of the other two alternatives to balance public use and enjoyment of the park with the protection and management of sensitive resources. This alternative would include additional visitor-serving facilities, but to a lesser extent than the Recreation Emphasis Alternative. It would include substantial ecosystem ecological improvements, but less than the Resource Management Emphasis Alternative. Major features of the Blended Recreation and Resource Management Alternative include:

- Enhancing lake access with a new fishing pier and a new lake overlook.
- Improvements to two of the campgrounds to increase the diversity of camping options.
- Expanding day-use and interpretive facilities at multiple locations.
- Adding approximately 4.6 miles of new hiking only trails and promoting a regional trail connection to Mt. Konocti.
- Completing ecological improvements at Kelsey Slough, Cole Creek, Kelsey Creek, and other wetland areas.
- Adding a crossing on Soda Bay Road with new access to the south side of the park to a new hiking-only trail system.





ALTERNATIVES SUMMARY TABLE

The alternatives summary table lists key proposed actions for each alternative, and the major issue(s) related to visitor experience, resource management, facilities, or climate change that each action addresses. This table provides details on specific actions to help distinguish between the draft alternatives for the Clear Lake State Park General Plan. These actions can be incorporated into goals and guidelines in the General Plan.

The following table is intended to show the major differences among the alternatives. It does not provide an exhaustive list of all topics, goals, or guidelines that will be addressed in the General Plan. For example, many resource management actions, such as vegetation management throughout the park, aquatic invasive species management in Cole and Kelsey creeks, Kelsey Slough, and Clear Lake would be addressed consistently under any alternative. All alternatives would upgrade interpretive features, retrofit

facilities to improve accessibility, continue tribal coordination, and include many other ongoing management actions. The alternatives summary table does not identify those actions that would apply to all alternatives, except for identifying recommendations for subsequent management plans that would apply to all alternatives.

The following is a summary of the major issues identified in the working draft version of General Plan Chapter 3, “Issues and Analysis”, which are included in the alternatives summary table.

- **Visitor Experience and Recreation Issues**
 - Providing adequate day-use recreational opportunities
 - Accommodating demand for overnight use
 - Expanding the limited trail system

- Water access limitations
- Improving universal accessibility
- Outdated information, education, and interpretation
- Serving disadvantaged communities
- Adjacent private land ownership
- **Infrastructure, Facilities, and Park Operations Issues**
 - Flooding at park facilities
 - Park access limitations
 - Adequacy of park facilities
 - Staffing and funding limitations
 - Promoting public safety
- **Resource Management Issues**
 - Water quality degradation in Clear Lake

- Impairment of wetlands and hydrology
- Heightened wildfire risk
- Conservation of sensitive natural resources
- Threats from invasive species
- Protecting cultural resources
- Collaborative stewardship with tribes
- **Climate Change Issues**
 - Adapting to rising temperatures and extreme heat
 - Adapting to extreme precipitation, flooding, and drought
 - Adapting to climate-driven increases in wildfire
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from operations



Table 1 Comparison of Selected Management Actions by Alternative

ID	Issue(s)	Management Action	Resource Emphasis Alternative	Recreation Emphasis Alternative	Blended Recreation & Resource Alternative	Notes
Visitor Experience and Recreation						
P-01	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited trail systemAdjacent private land ownership	Coordinate with private landowners and public agencies to develop the CLSP to Mount Konocti Trail from the Konocti Regional Trails Master Plan		✓	✓	
P-02	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited trail systemAdjacent private land ownership	Coordinate with private landowners and public agencies to develop the Clear Lake Water Trail from the Konocti Regional Trails Master Plan		✓	✓	
P-03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited trail systemAdjacent private land ownership	Coordinate with private landowners and public agencies to develop a trail connection to Kelseyville		✓		
P-04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited trail system	Prepare a road and trail management plan to comprehensively manage the CLSP trails		✓		
P-05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited trail system	Construct a shared use path between the visitor center and the park entrance station	✓		✓	
P-06	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited trail system	Construct a shared use path between the visitor center, swimming beach, and the park entrance station		✓		
P-07	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited trail system	Limit trails to hiking only	✓		✓	
P-08	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited trail system	Open select trails to mountain bikes and/or equestrian use		✓		
P-09	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited trail system	Construct trails that provide additional lake access	✓	✓		
P-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited trail system	Improve connectivity between the existing trails in the park		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Amount of trail connectivity varies among alternatives
P-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited trail system	Improve trail amenities on existing trails (e.g., scenic overlooks, shaded seating areas, bird blinds)		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">More trail amenities would be included in the Recreation Emphasis Alternative
P-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improving universal accessibilityLimited trail system	Improve trail accessibility by exceeding existing accessibility requirements (e.g., mileage of accessible trails, design trails to meet adaptive mountain bike criteria)		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All alternatives would increase the length of accessible trailsRecreation and Blended Alternatives would exceed the required length of accessible trails
P-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improving universal accessibility	Design new facilities to be universally accessible (beyond minimum requirements)	✓	✓	✓	
P-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improving universal accessibility	Provide adaptive equipment (e.g., beach wheelchair mat systems, beach wheelchair rentals, sensory trails for neurodivergent visitors)	✓	✓	✓	
P-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outdated information, education, and interpretation	Prepare and implement an interpretation master plan to comprehensively address parkwide interpretive methods		✓	✓	
P-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outdated information, education, and interpretation	Provide an event space for appropriate activities (e.g., stargazing, campfire programs)		✓	✓	
P-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outdated information, education, and interpretation	Provide higher intensity guided activities (e.g., kayak tours, fishing classes, orienteering) focused on visitor education/interpretation and recreational access	✓	✓		
P-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outdated information, education, and interpretation	Provide low intensity guided activities (e.g., kayak tours, guided hikes, bird walks, bio blitzes) focused on resource education and activities with minimal resource impacts	✓		✓	
P-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outdated information, education, and interpretationConservation of sensitive natural resources	Support the protection of natural resources through increased visitor education initiatives and volunteer events (e.g., invasive species removal, community volunteer park clean-ups, native tree plantings, community science opportunities such as bio blitzes, nature walks, campfire talks)	✓		✓	
P-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Serving disadvantaged communitiesProviding adequate day-use recreational opportunities	Cater recreational offerings and events to the older local demographic (e.g., guided accessible hikes/walks, older adult yoga classes, additional accessible trails)		✓	✓	



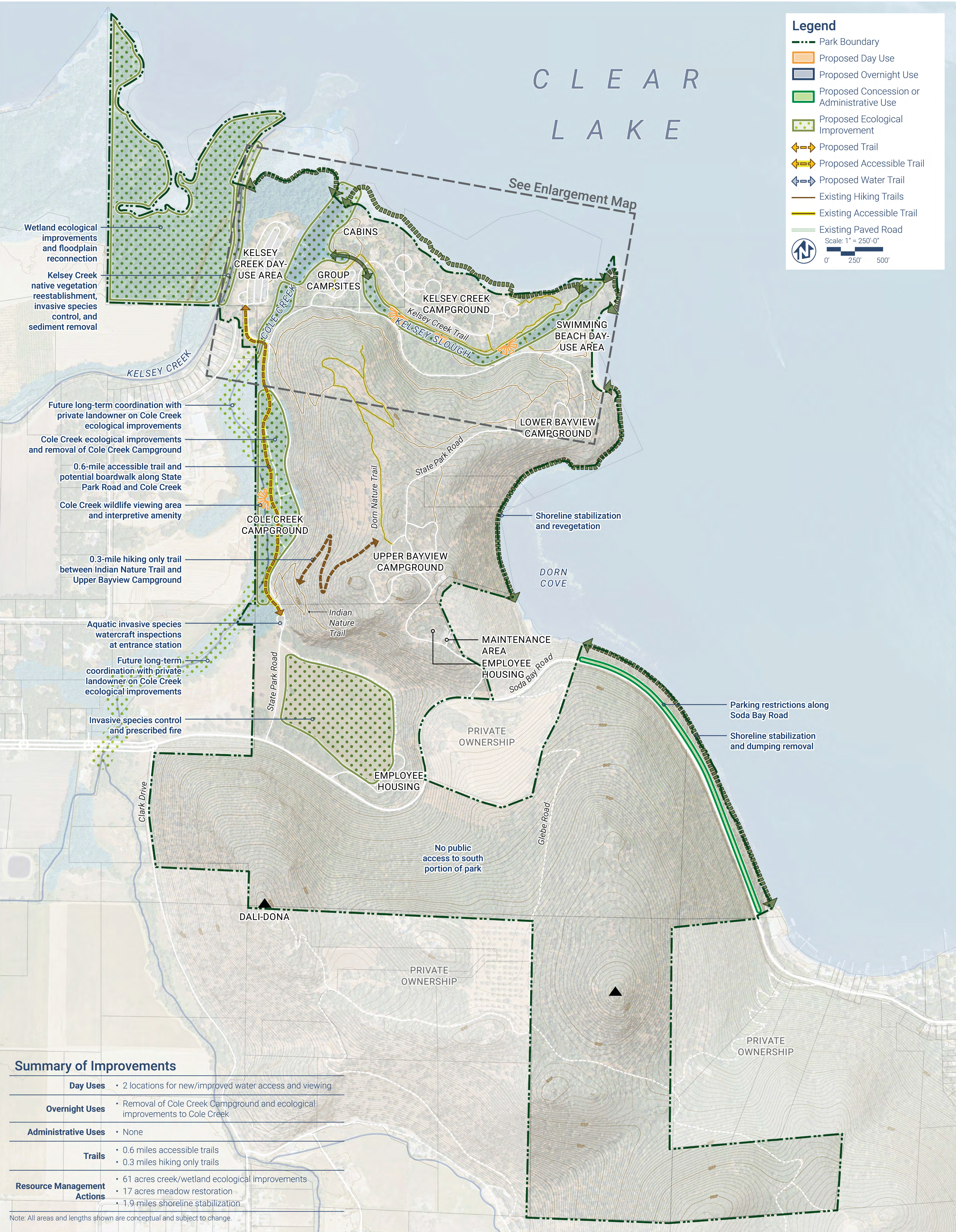
ID	Issue(s)	Management Action	Resource Emphasis Alternative	Recreation Emphasis Alternative	Blended Recreation & Resource Alternative	Notes
Infrastructure, Facilities, and Park Operations						
P-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Park access limitations• Serving disadvantaged communities• Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from operations	Seek opportunities for new pedestrian connections between the park and neighboring residences along Hitch Drive and Steelhead Drive		✓	✓	
P-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Park access limitations• Serving disadvantaged communities• Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from operations	Enhance bicycle and pedestrian access to the park through coordination with Lake County on access improvements from Soda Bay and Kelseyville (e.g., Class II bike lanes, Class I shared use path, road widening, sidewalks, trails)		✓		
P-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Park access limitations• Serving disadvantaged communities• Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from operations	Enhance transit access to the park through coordination with Lake Transit (e.g., new bus stop at CLSP, increase transit frequency)		✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lake Transit currently stops if requested, but the park doesn't have a designated stop
P-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequacy of park facilities	Prepare a facilities management plan to evaluate the adequacy of existing facilities	✓	✓	✓	
P-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequacy of park facilities• Adapting to rising temperatures and extreme heat	Use heat-resistant materials on roads, trails, and facilities			✓	
P-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequacy of park facilities• Adapting to extreme precipitation, flooding, and drought	Install rainwater capture systems to collect and store water during heavy rains for use during dry periods	✓			
P-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staffing and funding limitations	Increase the number of revenue-generating activities within the park		✓	✓	
P-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staffing and funding limitations• Accommodating demand for overnight use	Expand permits for firewood collection in the park to aid forest management, provide guidance on local use of firewood to reduce disease and pest transmission, and provide education on proper firewood collection.	✓			
P-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting public safety	Monitor park use and adjust law enforcement staffing to address changes in visitation and visitor behavior		✓	✓	
P-30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting public safety	Update the park emergency evacuation and response plan, including potentially designating an emergency staging area in the park		✓	✓	
P-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting public safety	Use traffic calming measures to slow down vehicles along State Park Road		✓	✓	
P-32	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting public safety	Install roadway safety measures to prevent vehicles from driving into adjacent waterways	✓		✓	
P-33	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water quality degradation in Clear Lake	Improve stormwater management in the park through green infrastructure techniques, such as retention/detention basins, and rain gardens	✓			
Resource Management						
P-34	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impairment of wetlands and hydrology• Conservation of sensitive natural resources	Create and implement a comprehensive aquatic resources management plan to prioritize and guide the implementation of wetland, riparian, and waterway enhancement opportunities and monitoring of efficacy of implemented projects	✓		✓	
P-35	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impairment of wetlands and hydrology• Conservation of sensitive natural resources• Flooding at park facilities	Develop a series of wetland and channel ecological improvement projects to improve habitat and water quality in Cole Creek, Kelsey Creek, and Kelsey Slough without preparing an aquatic resource management plan		✓		
P-36	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heightened wildfire risk• Adapting to climate-driven increases in wildfire	Conduct structure hardening to decrease risk of wildfire damage to visitor and operational buildings		✓	✓	



ID	Issue(s)	Management Action	Resource Emphasis Alternative	Recreation Emphasis Alternative	Blended Recreation & Resource Alternative	Notes
P-37	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Heightened wildfire riskAdapting to climate-driven increases in wildfire	Partner and coordinate with other community groups and expand capacity for implementing vegetation management programs, including expanding adjacent treatments, as well as monitoring for the efficacy of programs	✓		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This addresses landscape scale vegetation management
P-38	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection of cultural resources	Prepare a cultural resource management plan for the park	✓	✓	✓	
P-39	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection of cultural resources	Identify unknown cultural resources through increased proactive cultural resource surveys	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none">This includes cultural resource inventories not related to specific projects; projects in all alternatives would include pre-construction cultural resource surveys
P-40	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Protection of cultural resources	Create a parkwide database of known cultural resources, while maintaining confidentiality	✓			
P-41	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaborative stewardship with tribesProtection of cultural resources	Co-manage resources in the park with the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none">This addresses expanded tribal co-management beyond what is already included in the MOU with the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians
P-42	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaborative stewardship with tribes	Collaborate with Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians on native plant reestablishment and management	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none">This addresses expanded tribal involvement beyond what is already included in the MOU with the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians
P-43	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaborative stewardship with tribes	Reintroduce TEK into park resource management (e.g., cultural burning, planting culturally significant species) in partnership with the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none">This addresses incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge beyond what is already included in the MOU with the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians

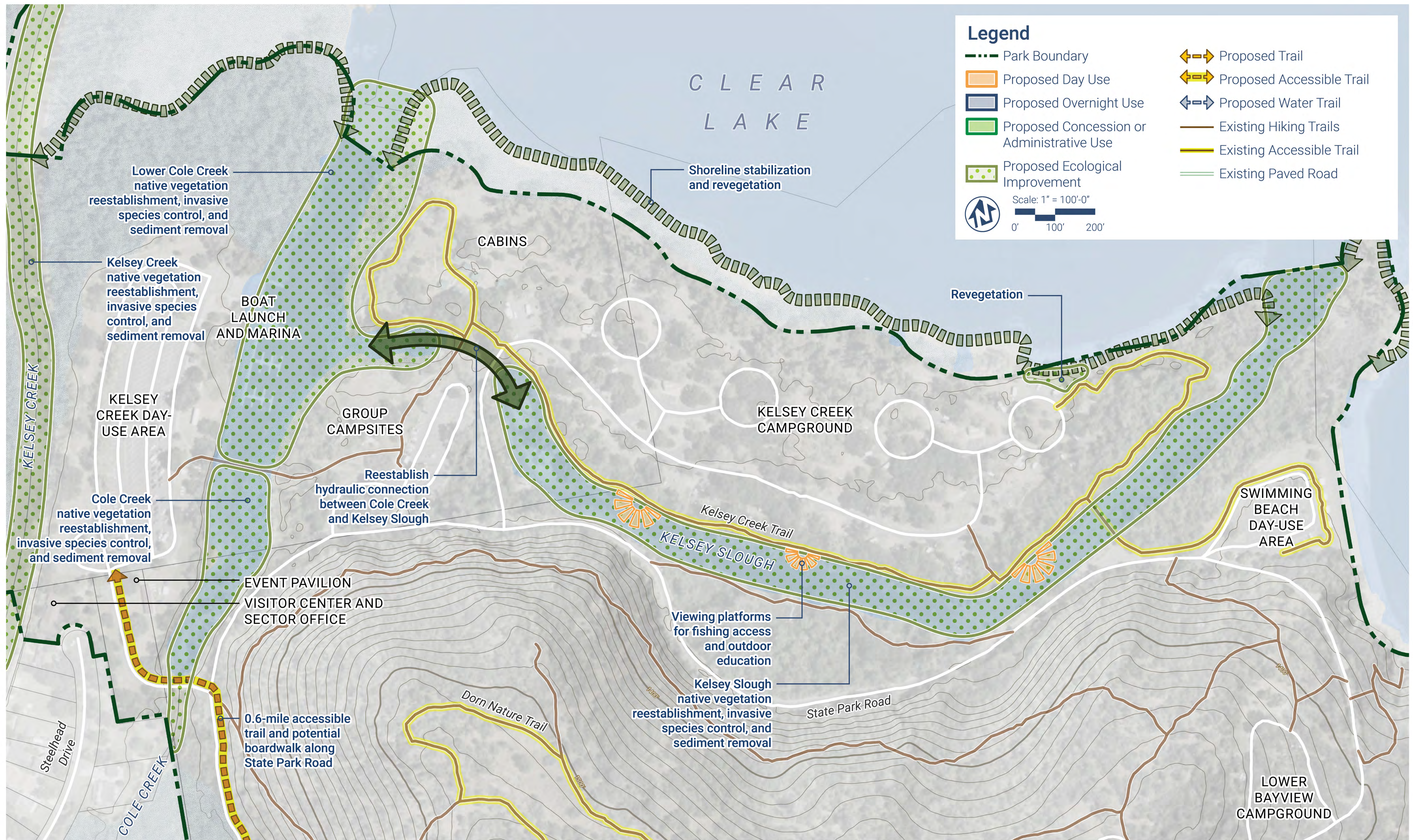
Source: Table created by Ascent in 2025.



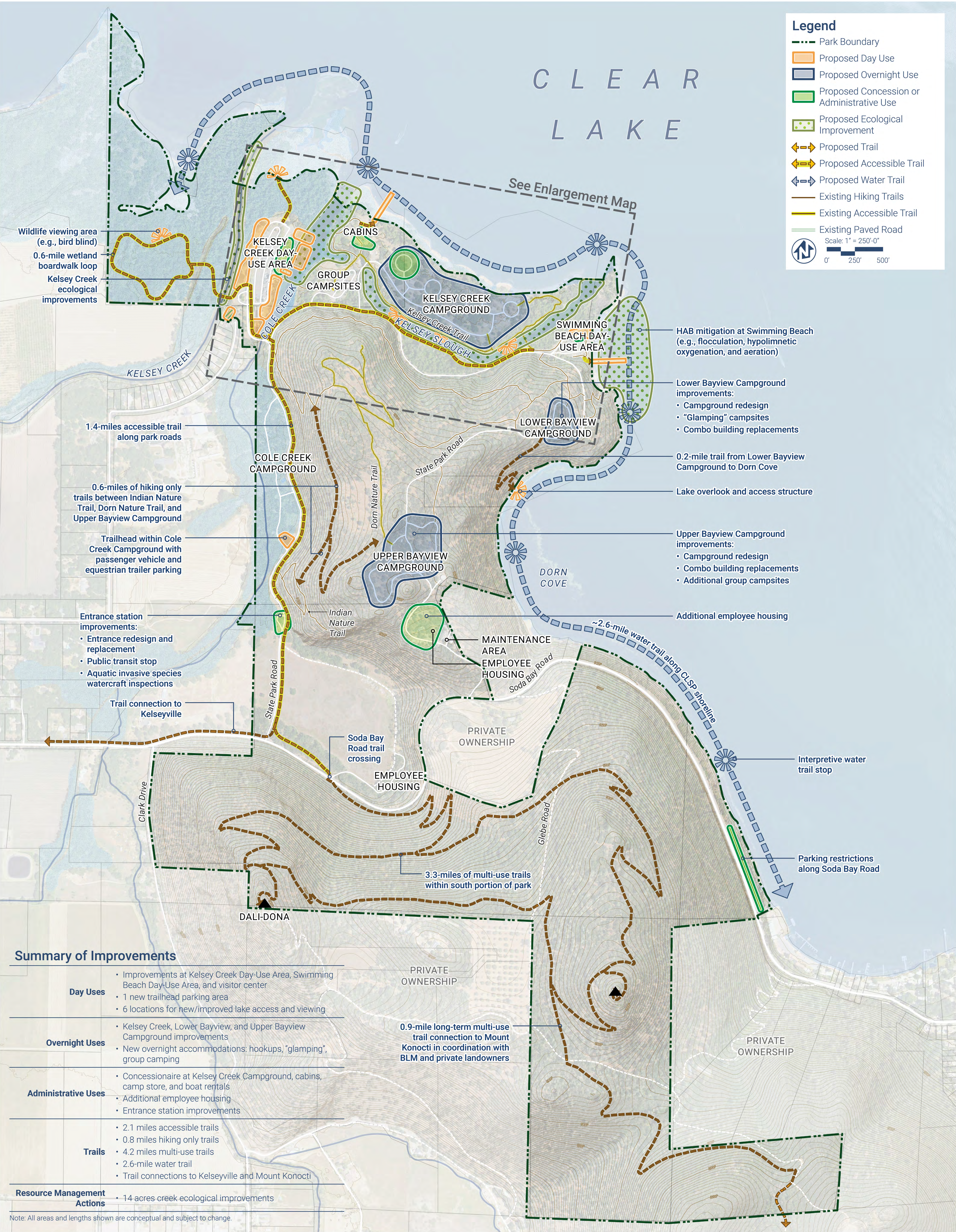


Resource Management Emphasis Alternative | Overall Park Map



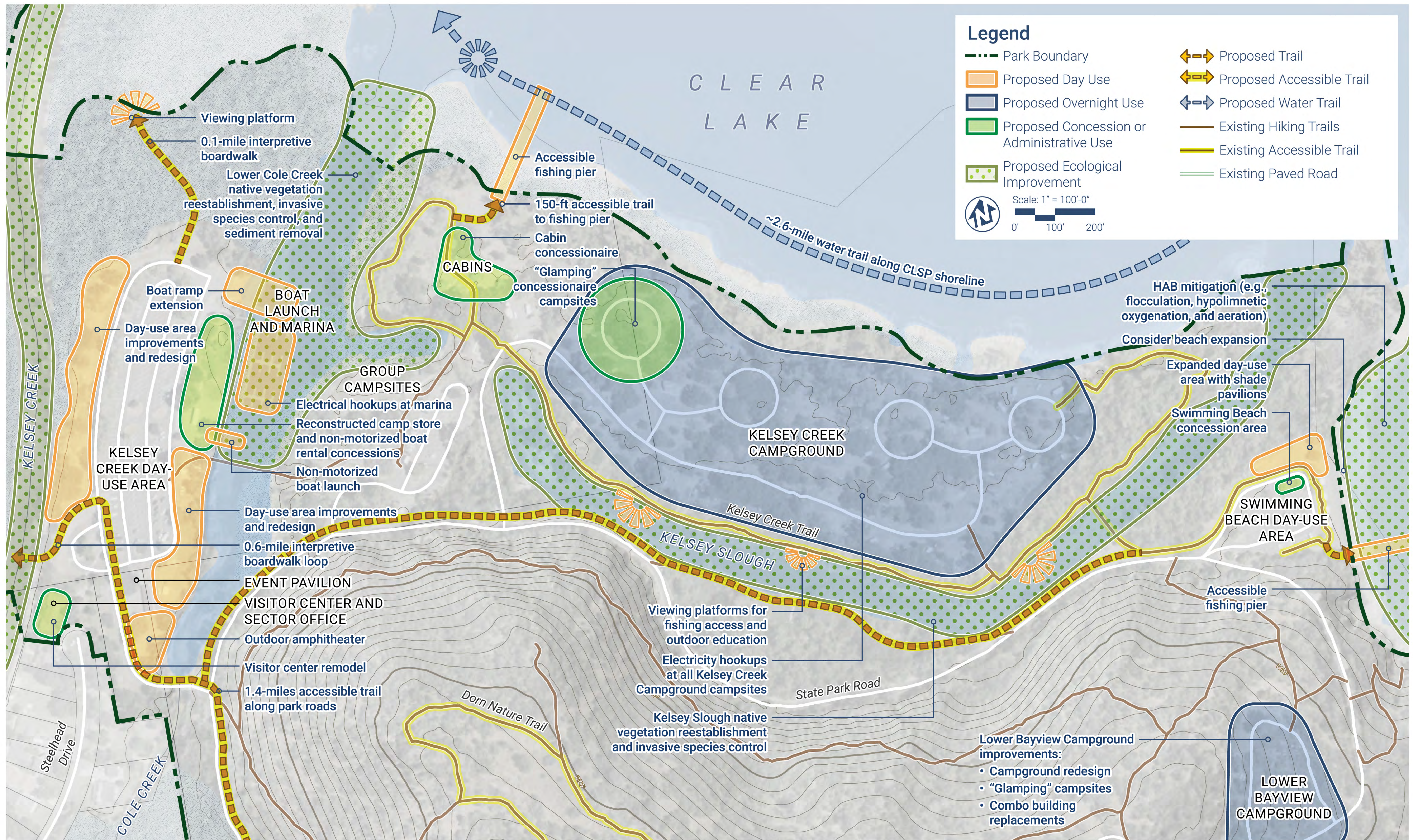


Resource Management Emphasis Alternative | Kelsey Slough Area Enlargement Map

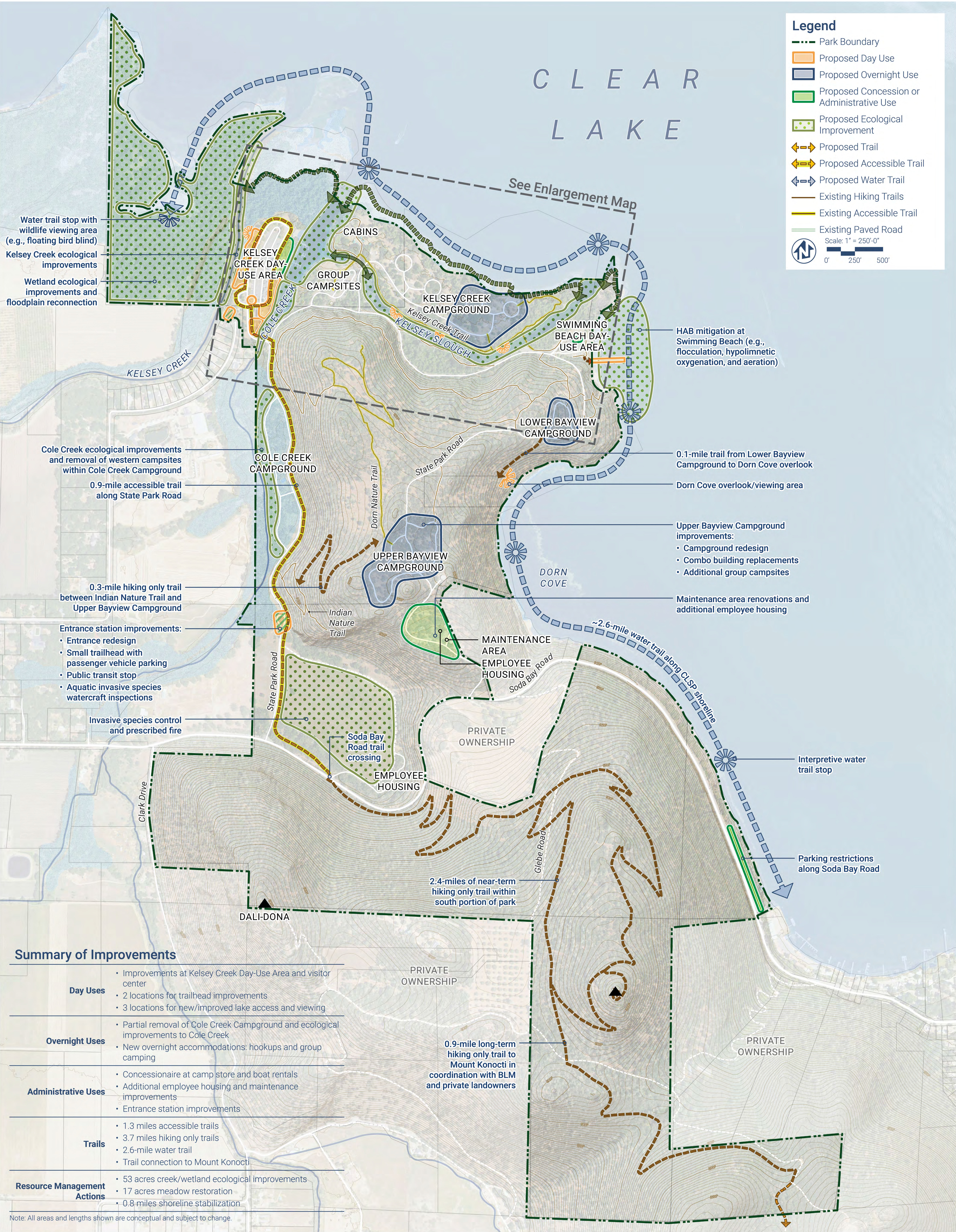


Recreation Emphasis Alternative | Overall Park Map

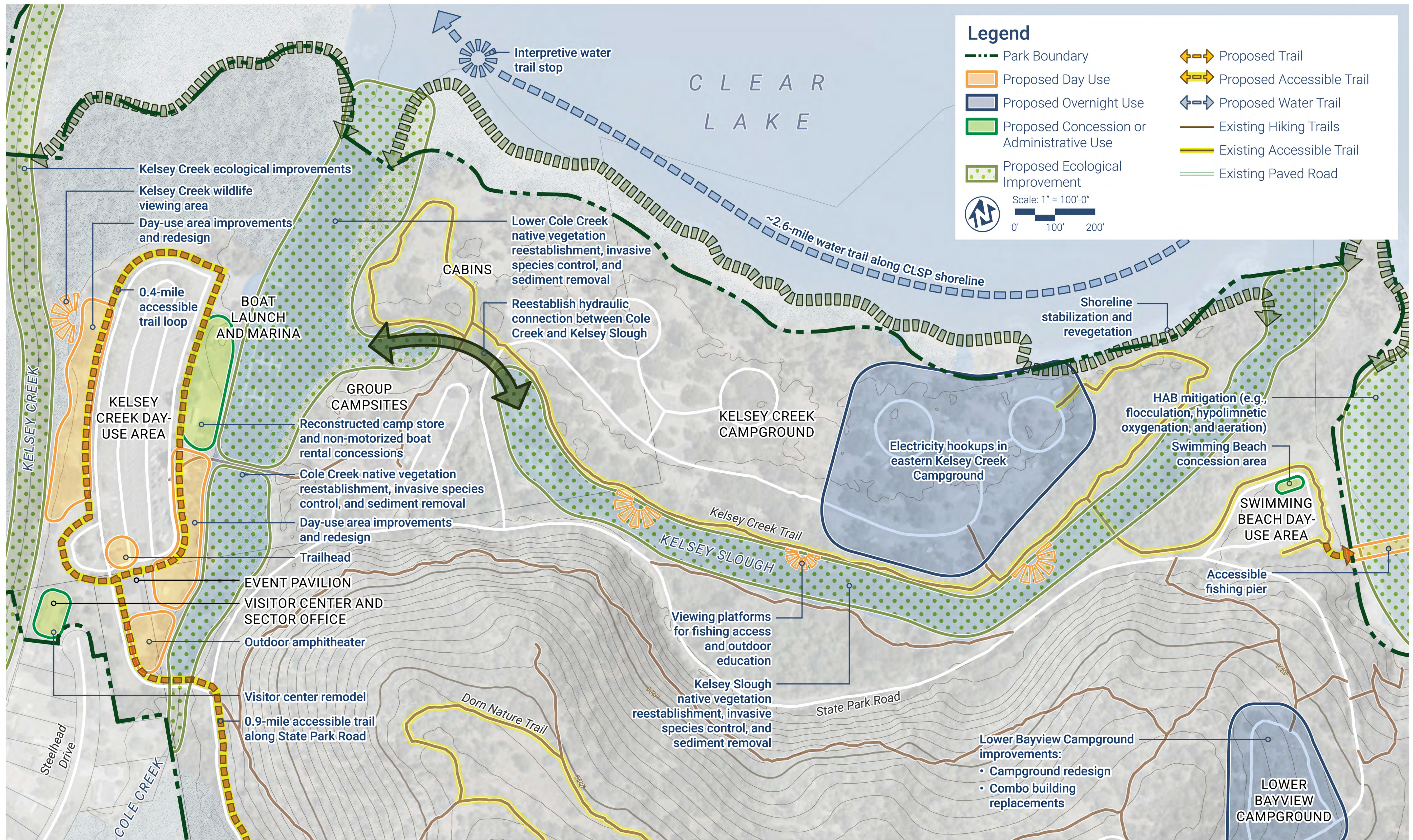




Recreation Emphasis Alternative | Kelsey Slough Area Enlargement Map



Blended Recreation and Resource Alternative | Overall Park Map



Blended Recreation and Resource Alternative | Kelsey Slough Area Enlargement Map