CLEAR LAKE STATE PARK
7/16 PUBLIC WORKSHOP SUMMARY

California State Parks hosted the second public workshop for the Clear Lake State Park General Plan on July 16, 2025, from 6 PM to 8 PM at the Clear Lake State Park Visitor Center. The open-house workshop welcomed 53 attendees, who explored various stations at their own pace. Workshop stations focused on improvements centered around the draft concept alternatives phase of the General Plan process. Attendees had the opportunity to engage directly with Clear Lake State Park staff and the project planning team. Feedback collected will help reinforce previous feedback from the second stakeholder meeting on June 18 , 2025, and be combined with online engagement on concept alternatives.

This summary provides an overview of the comments received at each station, including general feedback, and features photos from the event. It reflects community and visitor values to help ensure the plan aligns with local priorities. The official poster boards displayed during the public workshop are included at the end of this document.

1.1 Workshop Stations

Station 1: General Plan Alternatives Overview

Station 1 displayed two posters (Figures 1 and 2) illustrating the three draft alternatives, which framed the discussion and guided participant feedback. Each alternative was presented side by side on a scale ranging from an “Emphasis on Recreational Improvements” to an “Emphasis on Resource Management.” The alternatives included: Recreation Emphasis Alternative, Blended Recreation & Resource Alternative, and Resource Emphasis Alternative. The second poster highlighted the common management actions shared across all three alternatives.

Note that no feedback was collected at this station – it was intended to help introduce the workshop and set the stage for the other stations.

Station 2: Resource Management Emphasis Alternative

Station 2 displayed two posters (Figures 3 and 4) illustrating the Resource Management Emphasis Alternative, which prioritized ecological restoration and limited recreational development. Participants used sticky notes to share comments on this alternative. Common themes included invasive species control and the reestablishment of native vegetation. Feedback regarding the management of Cole Creek was mixed. Overall, comments reflected an interest in restoration and the protection of existing natural features within the park. The sticky note comments are listed below:

- Improvements and changes to Cole Creek
- Hydraulic connection between Cole Creek and Kelsey Slough
- Invasive Weed control on all the creeks
- Support for Resource Management Emphasis, specifically: shoreline stabilization to prevent dumping and unauthorized parking; stream and wetland ecological improvements; invasive species control and prescribed fire
- Fewer trails would result in less trash
- Create a dog park in the current Cole Creek Campground area
- Concerns regarding otter population and turtles on Kelsey Slough
- Support for native vegetation reestablishment
- Recommendation to close Cole Creek
- Question if dog-friendly policies will be maintained
- Cole Creek Campground should not be closed; recommend saving a few spaces for camping or converting to day-use picnic area, noting this area is not flooded all year
- Support for the plan to clear out the invasive species
- Inquiry about the decline in turtle and otter populations
- Request for improved maps with clearer symbols and legends

Station 3: Recreation Emphasis Alternative

Station 3 displayed two posters (Figures 5 and 6) illustrating the Recreation Emphasis Alternative, which proposed improvements like new facilities, additional campground amenities, and trail expansion. Attendees shared their feedback using sticky notes. Adding more trails was a common suggestion, and there was interest in incorporating boardwalks. Overall, comments reflected support for enhancing trail opportunities and improving trail connectivity. The sticky note comments are listed below:

- Question about increased attention being given to this "gem" of a park
- Plans for an amphitheater are needed, with multiple attendees expressing support

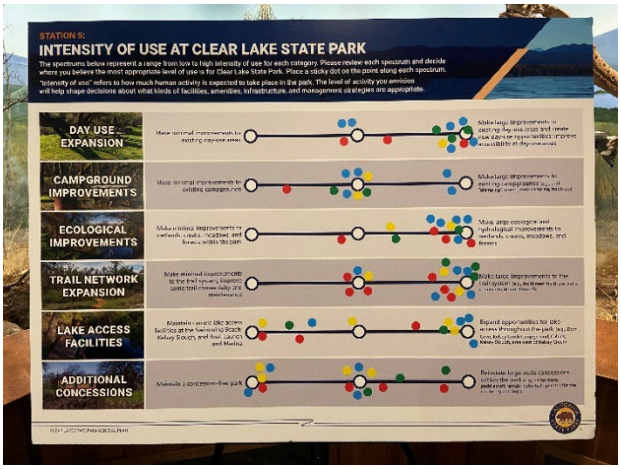
- Question if this included dog friendly policies
- Need for a restroom closer to the visitor center and pavilion
- Strong support for the Lower Bayview Rim Trail, noting it offers the best views of Mount Konocti, Soda Bay, and connections to the Dorn Cove Rim and Lakeside Trails
- Support for expanding the Upper Bayview Campground
- Question about the accessibility of Dorn Cove area
- Fishing piers should include birding opportunities
- Support for access for birding and boardwalks for birding
- Request for electrical hook-ups for RV's
- Strong support for option 3, noting the views from Dali-Dona are breathtaking
- Support for a trail along Soda Bay Road
- More trails would bring in more visitors and probably reduce fire fuels when trails are created
- Clear the view from Dali-Dona
- Support for trails south of Soda Bay Road
- Forest management is a priority on the south side of the park
- Support for the water trail and accessible fishing pier but would prefer to see less development
- More seating along trails, boulders are okay
- Interest in having a food store again
- Love the new hiking trails
- Support for more trails and boardwalks.
- Water trail and fishing pier would be great
- More trails
- Water trail to stop at bubbling springs on Dorn Cove (north side)
- Lake access north of the swimming beach is very nice and private
- Create a dog beach area
- Support for a trail along the shoreline around Lower Bayview Campground and Dorn Cove Rim

Station 4: Blended Recreation and Resource Management Alternative

Station 4 displayed two posters (Figures 7 and 8) illustrating the Blended Recreation and Resource Management Emphasis Alternative, which offered a mix of ecological restoration and recreational amenities. Attendees were invited to share their feedback using sticky notes. Comments were generally supportive of the blended approach. Trails emerged as a key priority across the feedback received. Suggestions reflected a preference for enhancing the park's natural features by expanding trail access and recreational opportunities while also incorporating ecological protection. The sticky note comments are listed below:

- Request for a Campfire Center South of group site
- Support for more trails, but preference for lower, more accessible ones that work better for retired folks
- Leave the glamping to private companies and not in the state park
- Keep state park at minimal use
- The water trails can work well for younger people who are more comfortable using their phones . However, to me, the use of phones takes away from a natural experience.
- Question about mosquito control, noting they are really bad this year.
- Prioritize trails over buildings/facilities
- Support for the blended vision as the best option
- Nice blend of improvements
- Opposition to motorized vehicles on trails (except ADA**)**; no multi-use trails, hike-only preference
- Strong support for the Lower Bayview Rim Trail, including connections to the Dorn Cove Rim Trail and lake access cove
- Consider a Clark Drive trailhead
- Support for Cole Creek Campground removal
- General support for hiking trails
- Support to reestablish Cole Creek and Kelsey Slough connection
- Very much like the trail that connects to Mt. Konocti. Please make it happen!
- Support for fishing pier, noting that fishermen block bridges
- Support for the hydraulic connection between Kelsey Slough
- Caution that Highland Springs has problems with multi-use trails; recommendation to be cautious
- Support for mountain biking
- Preference for fishing pier location by the cabins, noting fishhooks by the swimming area are problematic; suggestion for a floating platform on the side of the pier

Station 5: Intensity of Use at Clear Lake State Park



Station 5 displayed a series of spectrums illustrating a range from low to high intensity of use across different park categories (Figure 9). Attendees were asked to indicate their preferred level of use for each category. "Intensity of use" refers to the anticipated level of human activity in various areas of the park. Feedback was organized into five categories: low, medium-low, medium, medium-high, and high. Categories that received no responses are not included. The following categories received feedback:

- Day Use Expansion: Attendees favored high-intensity day use expansion, with 9 out of 13 responses supporting maximum development in this area
  - Medium: 3
  - Medium-High: 1
  - High: 9

- Campground Improvements: Medium-intensity campground improvements were most preferred, with 7 out of 10 responses supporting moderate enhancements rather than extensive development.
  - Medium-Low: 1
  - Medium: 7
  - High: 2
- Ecological Improvements: There was strong support for ecological improvements, with 10 out of 13 responses favoring maximum investment in environmental restoration and protection.
  - Medium: 1
  - Medium-High: 2
  - High: 10
- Trail Network Expansion: Attendees strongly supported high-intensity trail network expansion, with 12 out of 17 responses favoring extensive trail development throughout the park.
  - Medium: 5
  - High: 12
- Lake Access Facilities: Preferences were mixed, though high-intensity development received the most support with 6 responses, while low to medium-low intensity received 5 combined responses.
  - Low: 2
  - Medium-Low: 3
  - Medium: 1
  - Medium-High: 1
  - High: 6
- Additional Concessions: Medium-intensity additional concessions were most preferred, with 7 out of 15 responses supporting moderate commercial development, while 5 responses favored minimal concession expansion.
  - Low: 5
  - Medium: 7
  - Medium-High: 1
  - High: 2

1.2 Comment Forms

All workshop attendees were provided with comment forms at the conclusion of the meeting, offering an additional opportunity to share feedback and suggestions that may not have been captured during the station activities. Completed forms were collected by staff and logged to ensure all community input was documented and incorporated into the General Plan development process. Feedback from these comment forms is summarized below.

Comment #1

Comment Overview: Strong support for the project's direction and efforts. They emphasized the value of listening to the community as essential for future success and underscore the importance of their voice being heard.

Comment #2

Comment Overview: The respondent thanked the team for providing three clear and understandable plans, commending the helpful staff. They appreciate the focus on ecological improvements and maintaining healthy shorelines, as well as adding well-maintained trails. While they like the Resource Management plan, they do not support the closure of Cole Creek and also do not like the Recreation Emphasis. They lean slightly toward the Blended Recreation & Resource plan. Additionally, they suggest including a dog park.

Comment #3

Comment Overview: Recommendation to add an amphitheater to serve as a meeting place for groups and a venue for presentations, musical events, and theater performances. They also suggested including boat rentals, food concessions or food trucks, and improved trail connections to proposed county trails.

Comment #4

Comment Overview: The respondent requests that contracts with the California Conservation Corps include regular maintenance of nature trails, noting that trail clearing would require only 1–2 days of work with a normal crew size. They emphasize the urgent need to reduce deadfall timber to minimize wildfire risk, especially given prevailing westerly winds that could carry embers toward nearby neighborhoods. They acknowledge the ecological role of deadfall but advocate for significant reduction to protect surrounding communities.

Comment #5

Comment Overview: Support was expressed for the overall project with recognition of merit in each of the plans. They noted that the Recreation plan may incorporate elements of the others and believe the project will increase visitation while also respecting and improving environmental stewardship.

Comment #6

Comment Overview: Support was expressed for removing flooded campsites and adding more hiking trails, preferably with some designated as dog friendly. They also stress the importance of continuing to enhance and protect the beach swimming area.

1.3 Other Comments

An “Other Comments” poster was provided in case attendees had additional thoughts, ideas, or questions that weren’t directly related to the topics covered at the workshop stations. If new ideas came up, attendees were encouraged to post them on the board. The workshop received only one comment related to the format of the event. The comment is listed below:

- The commenter found the workshop format challenging due to poor audibility and the difficulty of joining midway through presentations. They noted that the large number of people in the room made engaging difficult and wished there had been presenters speaking to the entire group.

1.4 Workshop Posters

Figure 1: Station 1 – General Plan Alternatives Overview

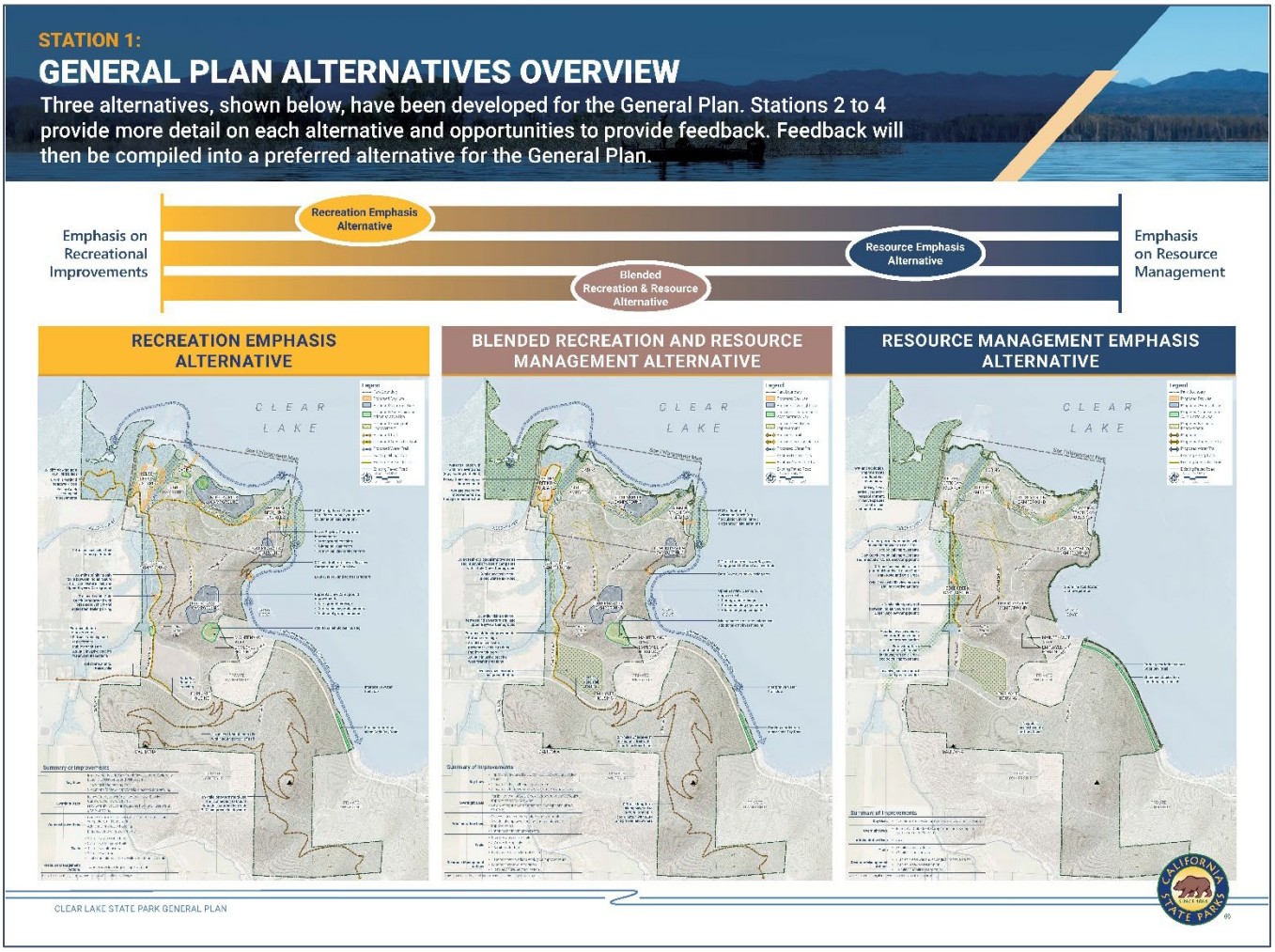


Figure 2: Station 1 – What's included in all alternatives?

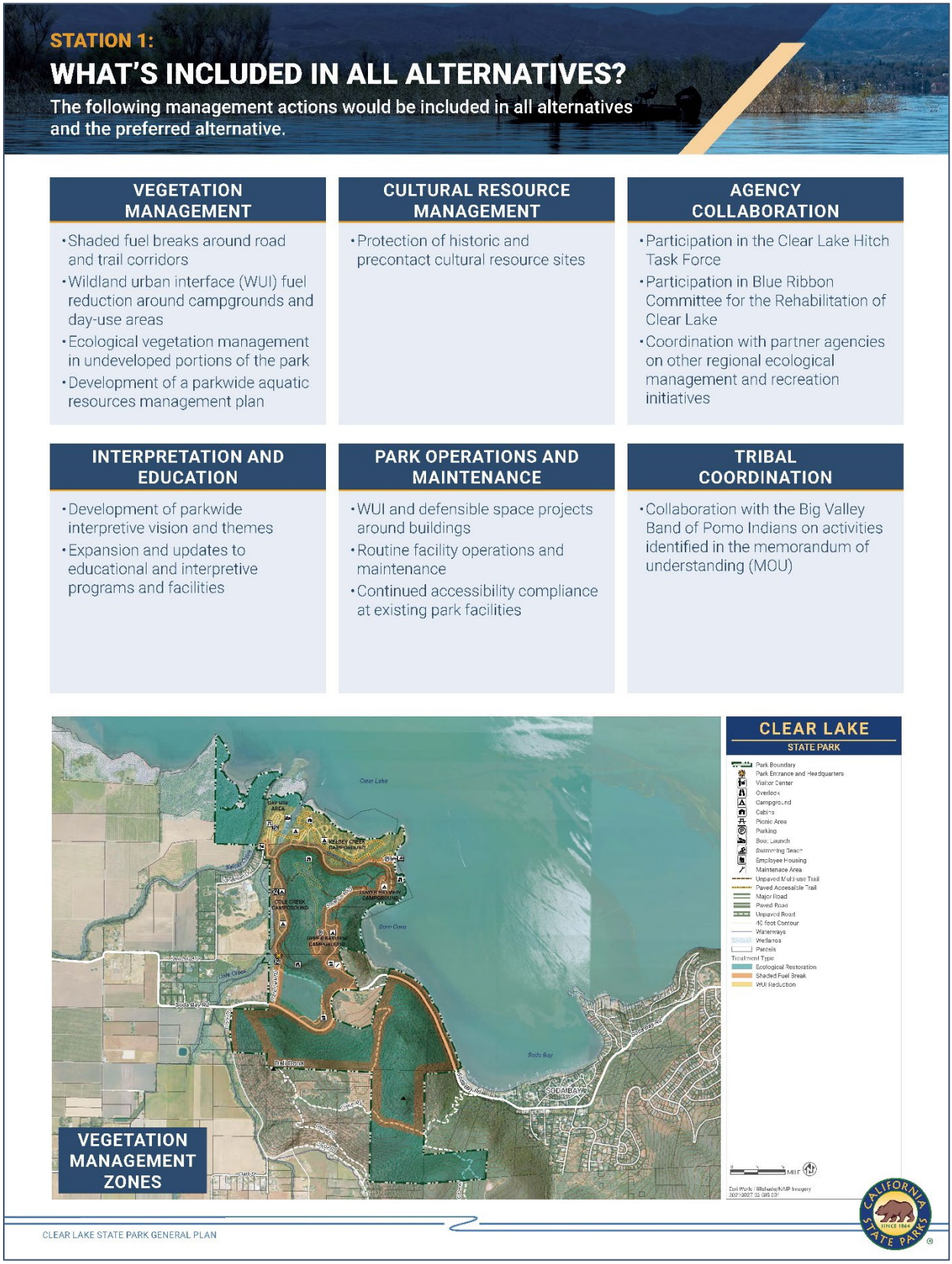


Figure 3: Station 2- Resource Management Emphasis Alternative

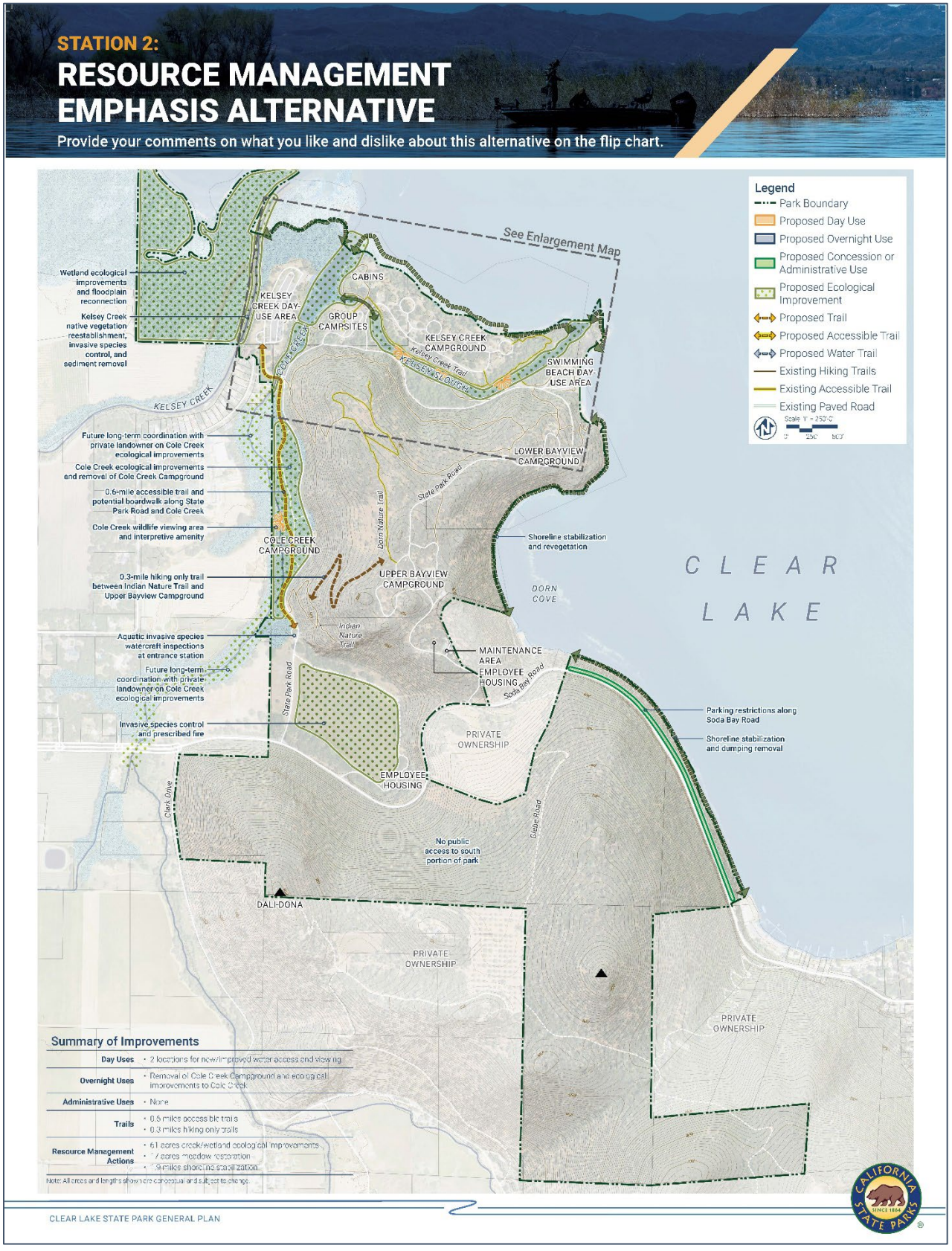


Figure 4: Station 2- Resource Management Emphasis Alternative – Map Enlargement

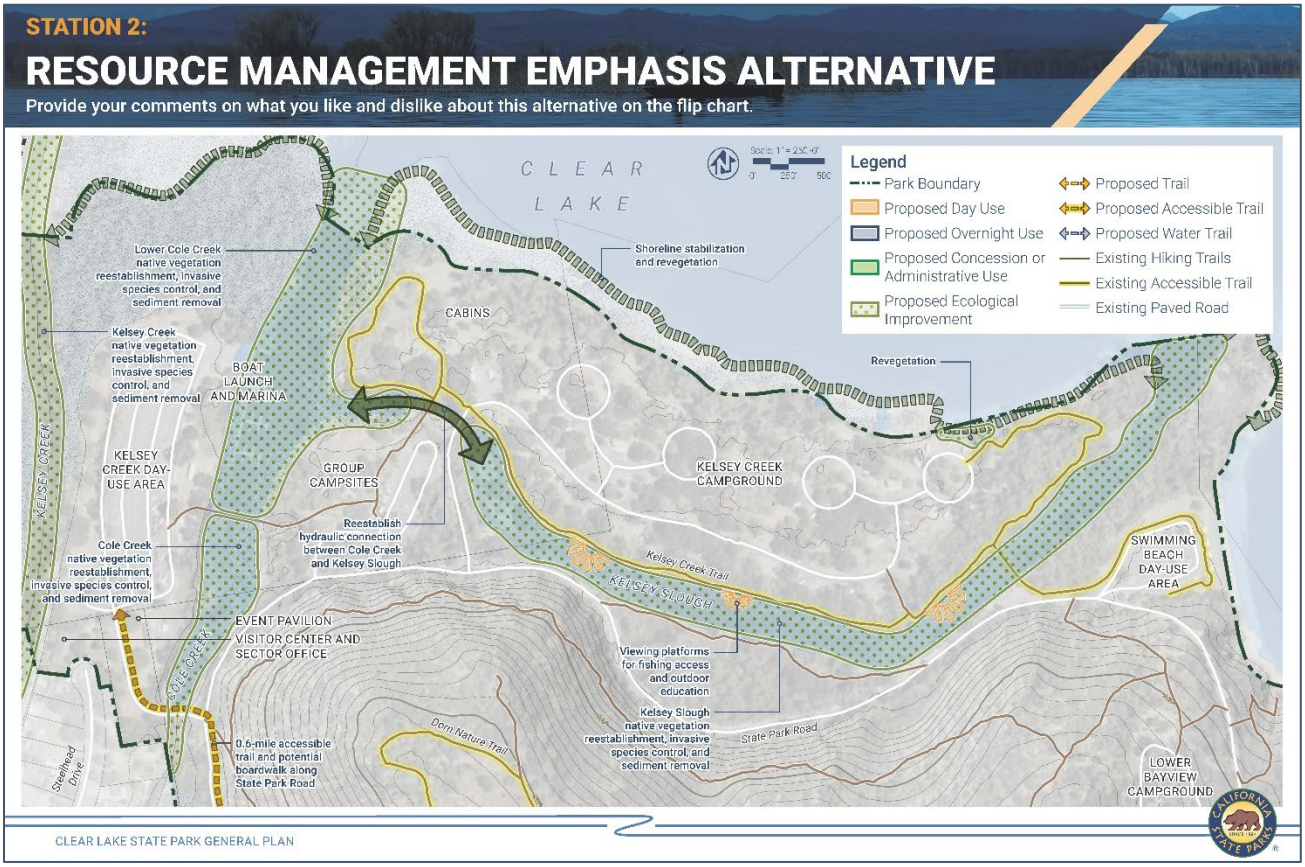


Figure 5: Station 3 – Resource Emphasis Alternative

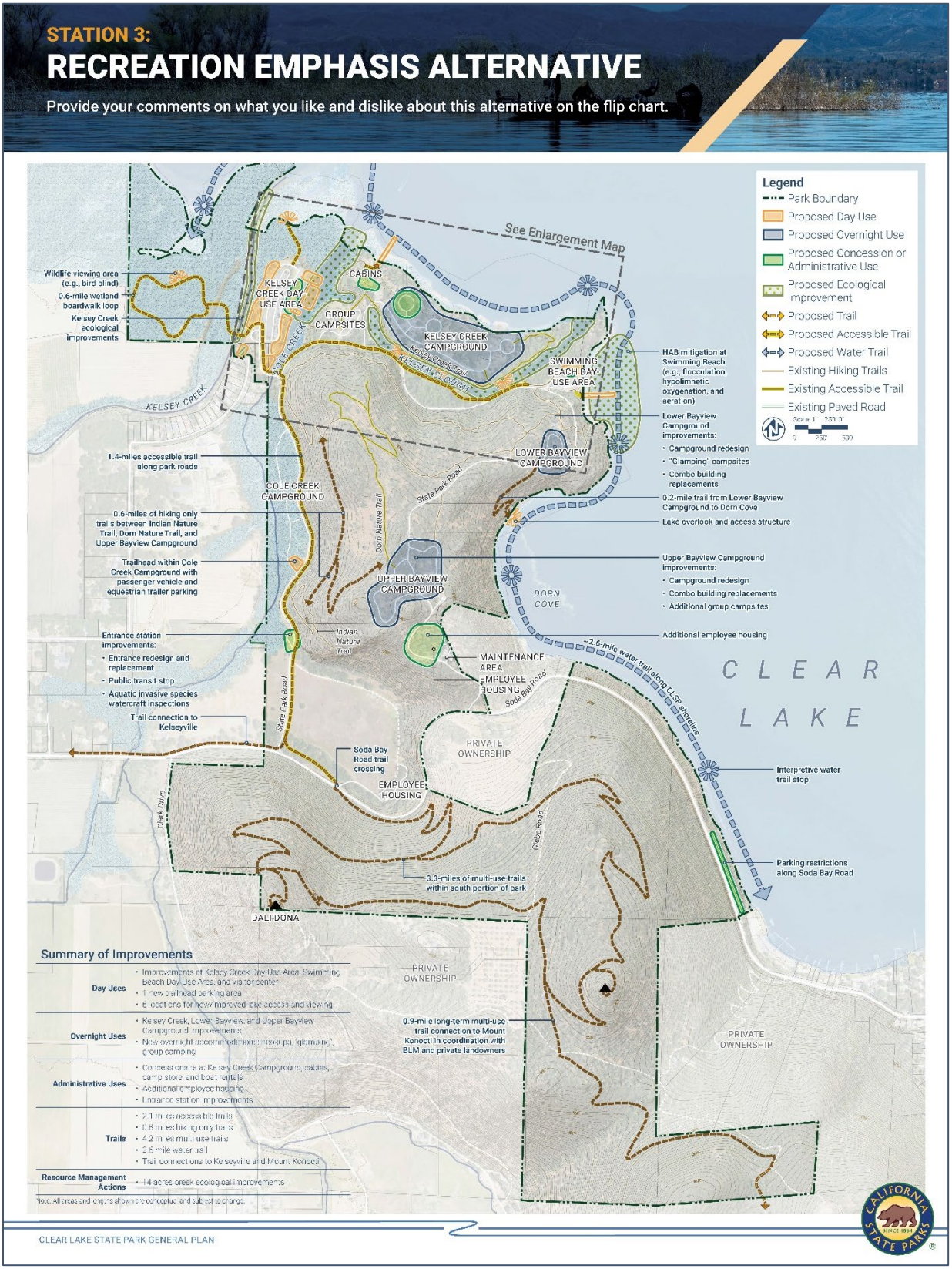


Figure 6: Station 3 – Resource Emphasis Alternative – Map Enlargement

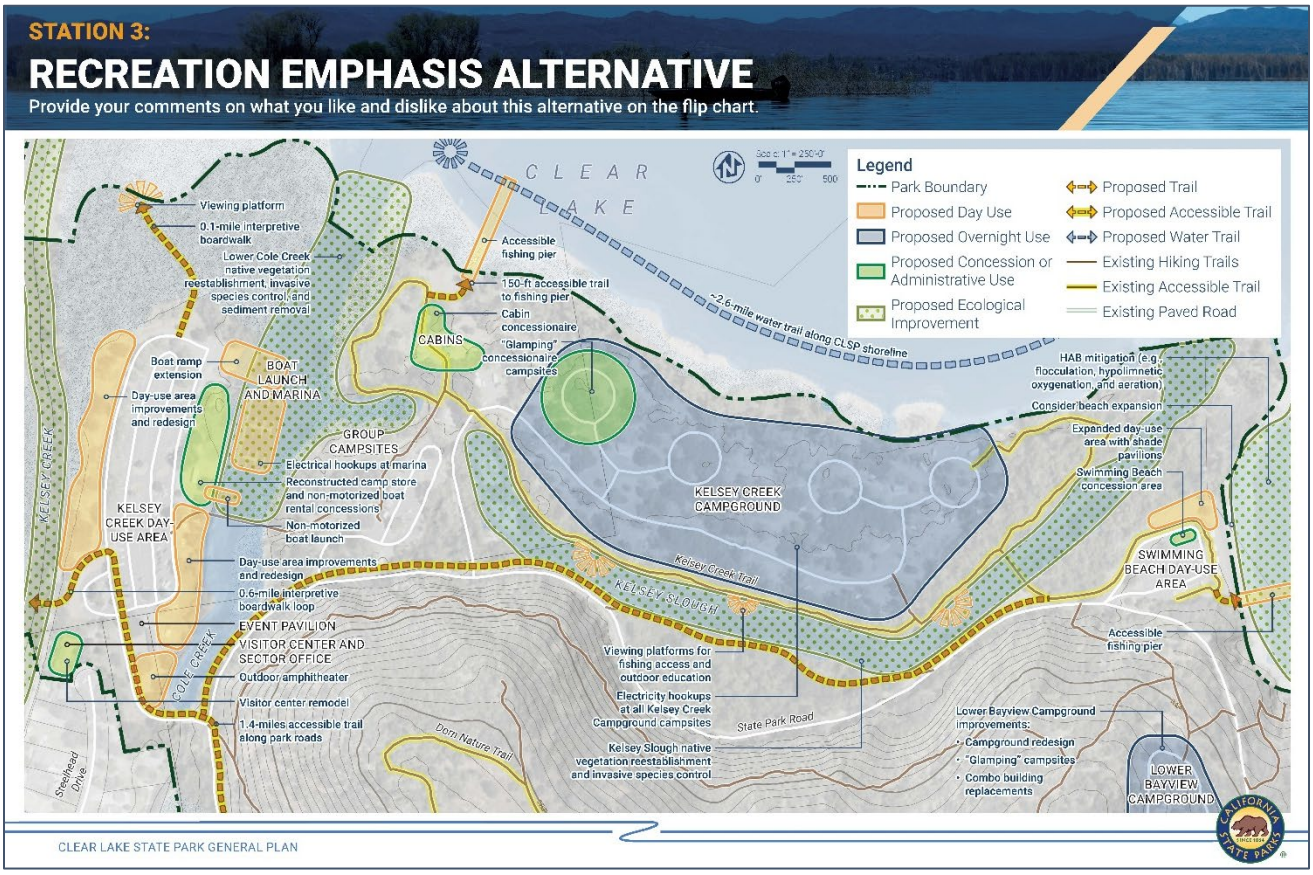


Figure 7: Station 4 – Blended Recreation and Resource Management Alternative Emphasis

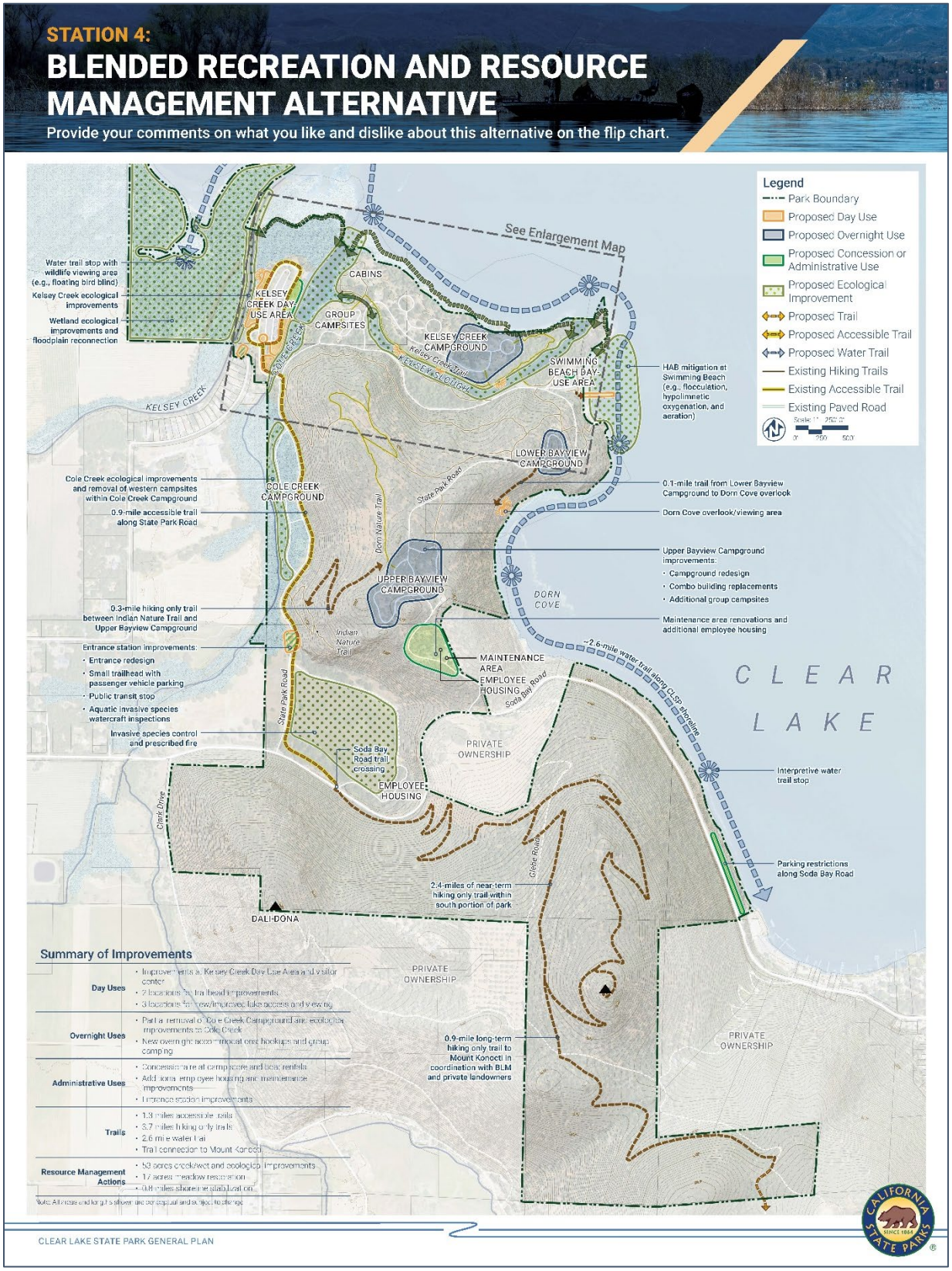


Figure 8: Station 4 – Blended Recreation and Resource Management Alternative Emphasis – Map Enlargement

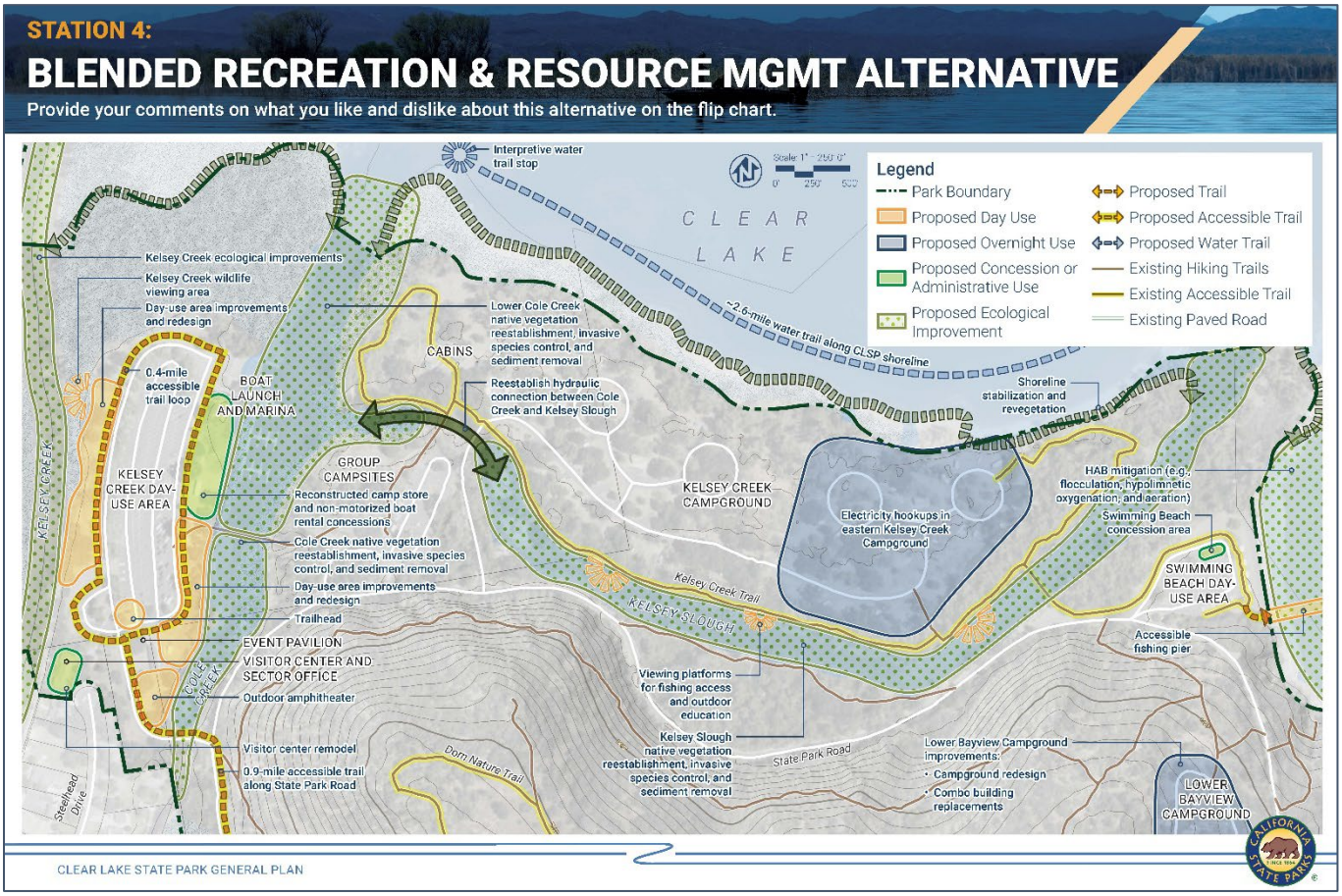


Figure 9: Station 5 – Intensity of Use at Clear Lake State Park Voting Exercise