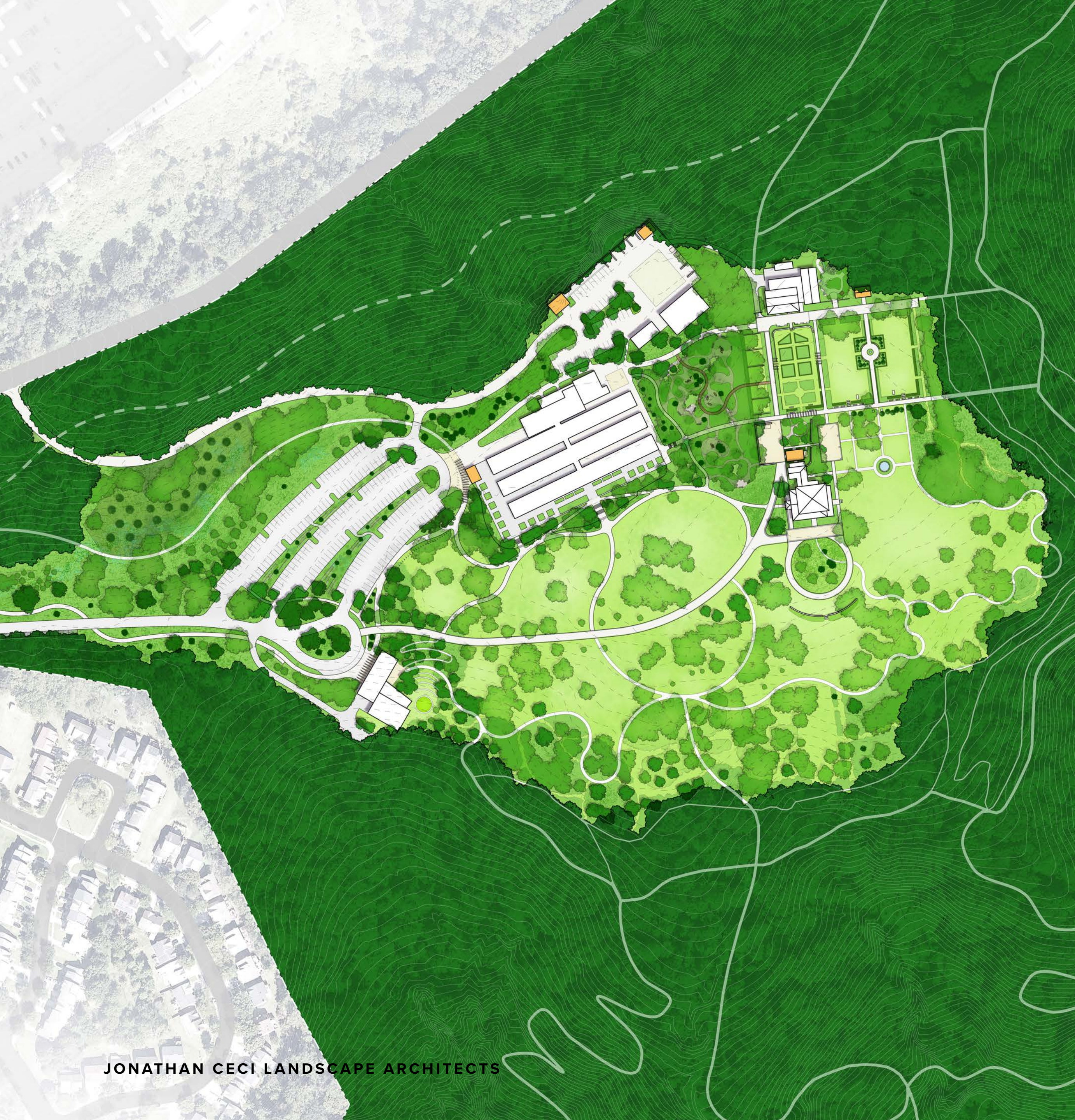




The Master Plan

MASTER PLAN CORE

MASTER PLAN SECTIONS

- 1 Enhance Arrival & Wayfinding
- 2 Distill New Visitor Experiences
- 3 Modernize Garden Operations Infrastructure
- 4 Draw Visitors Out from the Core



GREENSPRING AVE

CYLBURN AVE



0 100 200 FT

Current Condition



GREENSPRING AVE

CYLBURN AVE

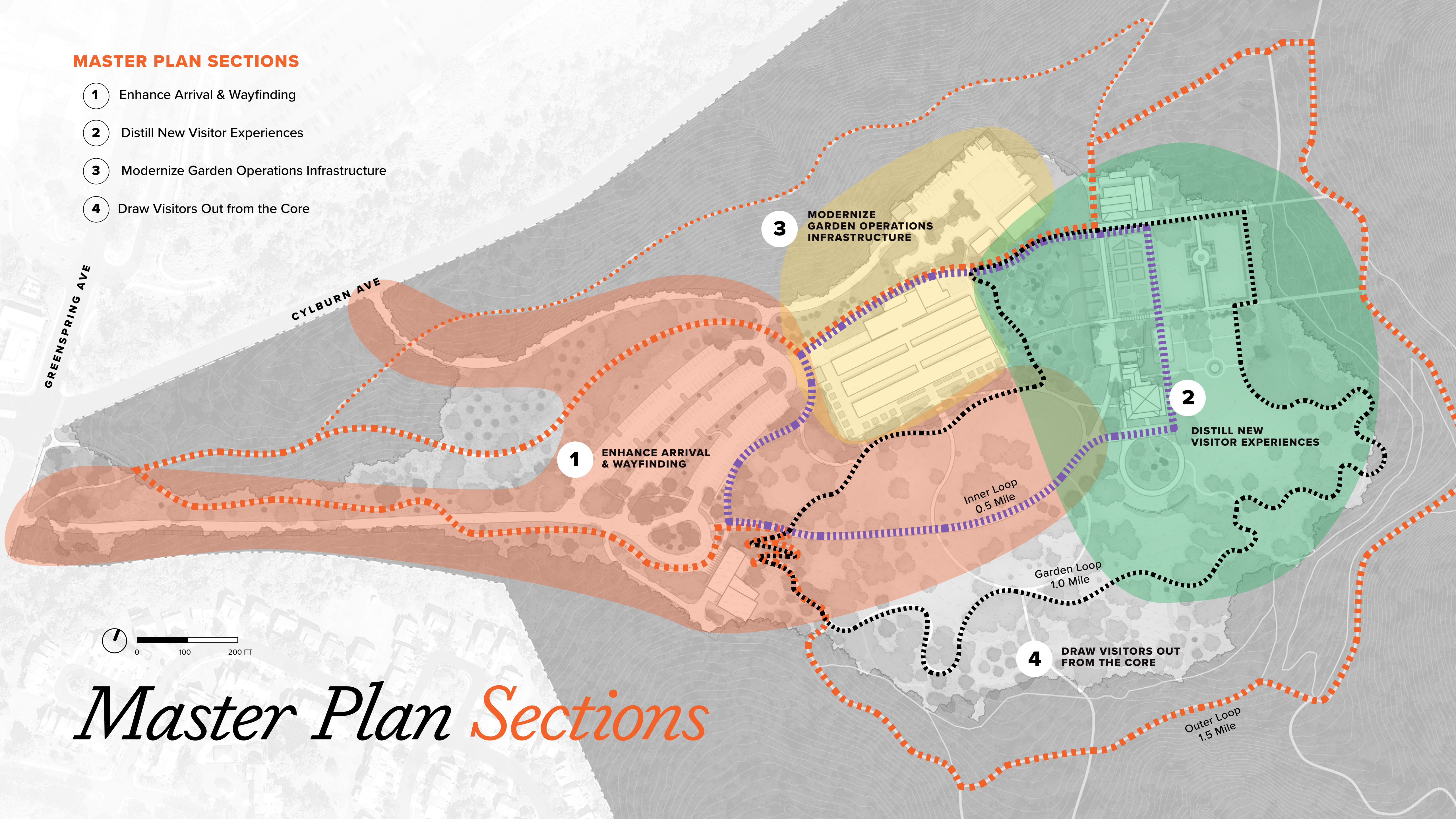


Master Plan Core

JONATHAN CECI LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

MASTER PLAN SECTIONS

- 1 Enhance Arrival & Wayfinding
- 2 Distill New Visitor Experiences
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- 4 Draw Visitors Out from the Core



Master Plan Sections



While signage and lighting were both identified as priorities during community engagement, they are not addressed in detail in this plan, as they were outside the primary scope of this process. However, it is recommended that all wayfinding signage be updated or added to key intersections to reflect current buildings and amenities—such as restrooms, event spaces, and educational facilities—and align with any new interpretive signage added throughout the arboretum. In addition, low-impact lighting should be considered along key routes between the Vollmer Center, the Mansion, and the Nature Education Center, with fixtures designed for limited event-based use rather than continuous operation.

Enhance Arrival & Wayfinding

The Master Plan addresses existing wayfinding and parking concerns with specialized visitor and service gateways, a dedicated Nature Education Center drop-off area, an expanded visitor parking area with a new visitor gateway, and a transformed West Lawn. These wayfinding and parking improvements help to alleviate overlaps between visitor and staff circulation and strengthen connectivity between key arboretum destinations.

Arrival & Wayfinding





EXPANDED PARKING

An additional middle parking bay pairs with a rugged and rocky crevice garden, a typology that mimics natural conditions found from mountaintops to coastlines and punctuated with vertical conifer spires that echo Cylburn's Victorian heritage.

The new parking lot might include relocated EV charging stations and designated bike parking to support more sustainable transportation options.

NEW DROP-OFF & ARRIVAL PLAZA

Along the arrival sequence, curated landscape rooms utilize native exotics—unusual endemic species—to weave a narrative that bridges Cylburn's past and present. These plantings pay homage to the estate's Victorian heritage with a nod to the era's fascination with exotic species, while also embracing today's ecological values through the use of regionally appropriate, sustainable plantings. In this way, the landscape reflects a dialogue between heritage and contemporary environmental stewardship.

ENTRY MICROCLIMATE

A ground plane of native shrubs and meadow grasses frame discrete landscape corridors that guide guests through the visitor center and arboretum gateway.

GATEWAY

As visitors enter the arboretum they are greeted with an arboretum in its truest form—a curated collection of specimen trees celebrated with room to grow and to be viewed.

HILLSIDE GARDEN

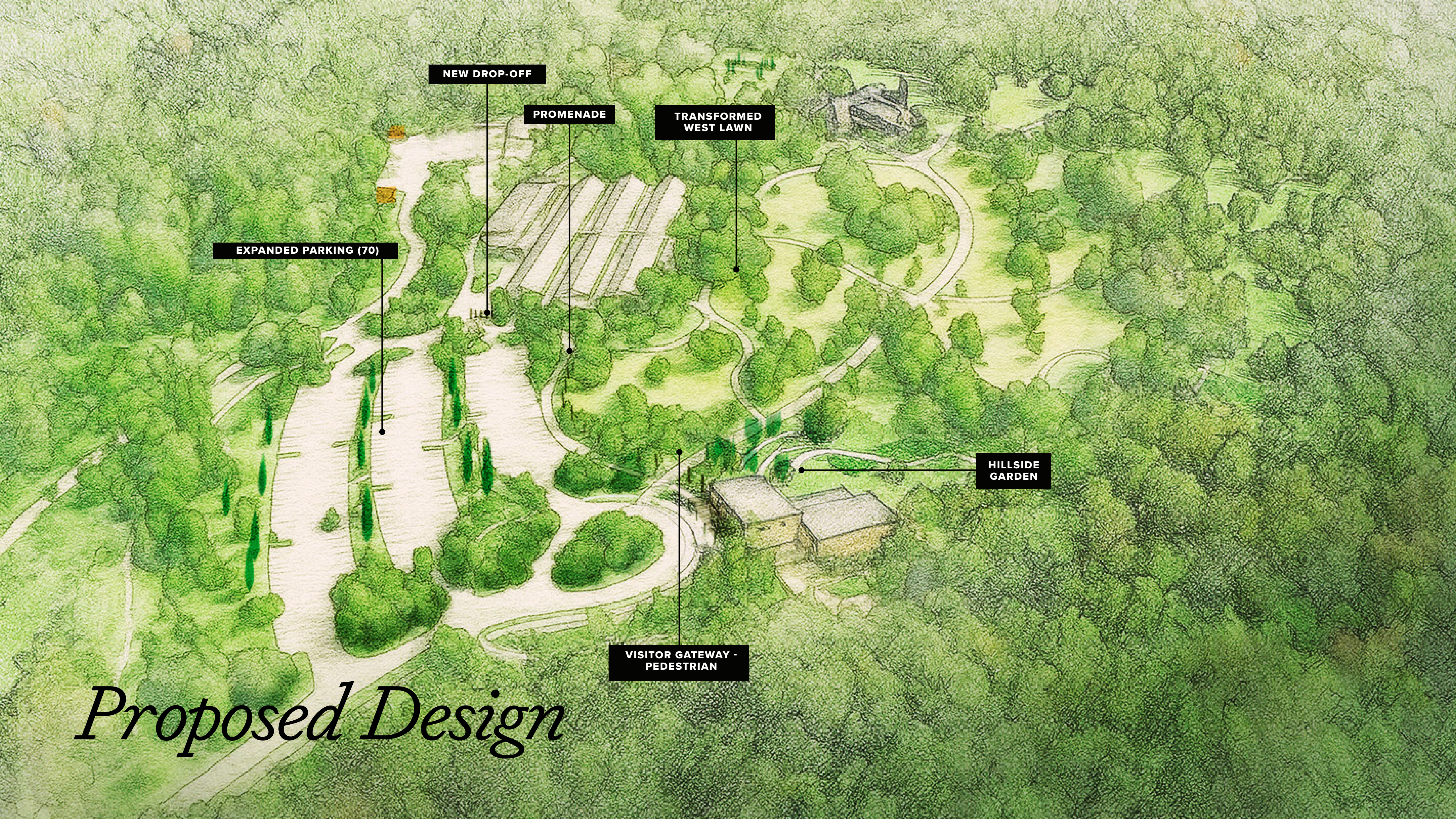
The rolling topography behind the Vollmer Center is reimagined as a piedmont hillside garden, forming a secluded native landscape that buffers the arrival plaza from the expansive West Lawn. Acting as a gentle veil, this garden creates a moment of transition—an immersive threshold that draws visitors from the structured entry sequence into the broader expanse of the arboretum.



Arrival Detail



Current Condition



NEW DROP-OFF

PROMENADE

TRANSFORMED
WEST LAWN

EXPANDED PARKING (70)

HILLSIDE
GARDEN

VISITOR GATEWAY -
PEDESTRIAN

Proposed Design



Distill New Visitor Experiences

The Master Plan proposes new visitor experiences through architectural and horticultural enhancements. A mansion renovation will support community and private events, and renewed investment in Cylburn's formal gardens will combine a contemporary ecological sensibility with a fresh take on Victorian garden-making. An inner pedestrian arboretum loop helps to connect these key renovations to Vollmer and the NEC, while providing links to Cylburn's extensive woodland trails. Lastly, instead of hiding the inner workings of Cylburn's greenhouse operations, the Master Plan provides an interactive landscape zone that fosters connections between the arboretum's educational mission with its working landscapes.

New Visitor Experiences



MOUDRY WOODS

Moudry Woods is the untamed counterbalance to Cylburn's formal gardens—a wilder, more immersive experience that reflects the spirit of Cylburn's larger urban forest. Where the manicured gardens offer structure and symmetry, Moudry Woods invites exploration, curiosity, and a deeper sensory connection to nature. Envisioned as a series of interactive woodland garden "rooms," Moudry Woods will feature designated raised boardwalks that wind gently through the landscape, protecting sensitive areas while guiding visitors through a dynamic forest experience. Nestled within this path system will be defined zones for safe, creative woodland play. By blending education and play, Moudry Woods offers a unique opportunity to experience the arboretum's wilder side.

RESTORED FORMAL GARDENS

Special care is paid to restore the formal gardens to their Victorian [Italianate] glory, with vertical punctuation in the form of evergreen spires inspired by historic photographs.

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

As a functional counterpoint to the aesthetic nature of the formal garden directly adjacent to the NEC, the Demonstration Garden is a place of garden experimentation for Baltimore. It is a working landscape with high-impact themes like edible landscapes, habitat gardens, or trial garden plots.

MANSION ADDITION

Light and airy contemporary materials act as an unobtrusive threshold between garden and mansion for community and private events. The addition should seek to heighten, not compete with, the weight and grandeur of the historic mansion, in a similar language to the NEC.

MANSION RENOVATION

Stewardship and preservation of the mansion, one of Cylburn's most iconic features, will be critical to the long-term success of the arboretum. Prioritizing restoration of the mansion exterior will stabilize and conserve this cultural resource for future generations. Interior restoration of first floor rooms and upper levels can support new architectural program and promote broader public engagement. Potential uses include museum spaces with interpretation of period interiors, rentable event spaces, possibly even a tea-room or gift shop.

EDUCATION-WORKING INTERFACE ZONE

SOUTH GARDEN

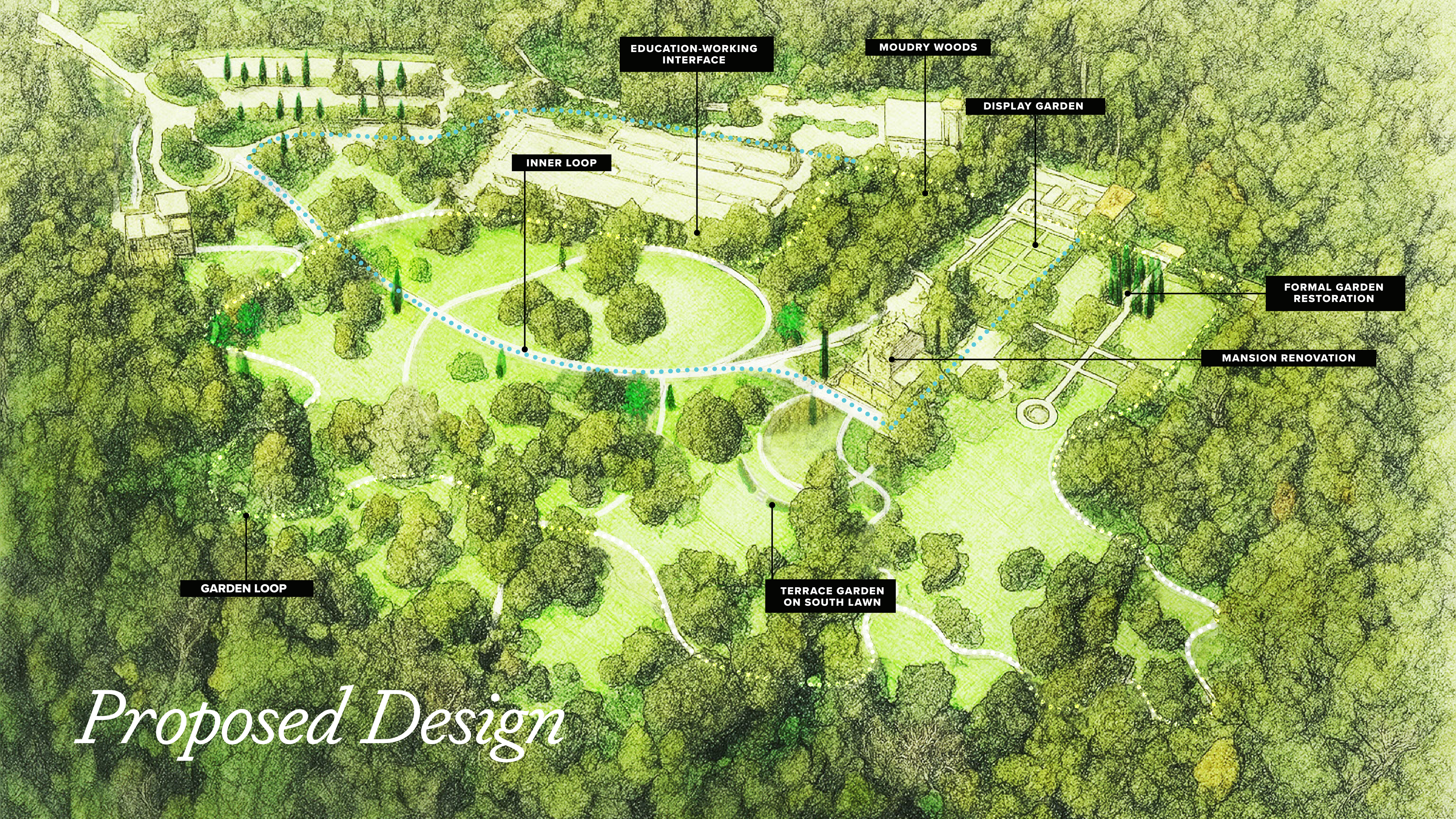
The South Lawn will be regraded and terraced with a planted stair and dry-stack stone retaining wall adjacent to the circular garden to provide additional garden interest and serve as a usable space for special events.

GARDEN LOOP

Garden Detail



Current Condition



EDUCATION-WORKING
INTERFACE

MOUDRY WOODS

DISPLAY GARDEN

INNER LOOP

FORMAL GARDEN
RESTORATION

MANSION RENOVATION

GARDEN LOOP

TERRACE GARDEN
ON SOUTH LAWN

Proposed Design



MANSION RENOVATION

A renovation of the mansion restores what has long been the historic and beloved centerpiece of the property. Essential exterior repairs—such as roof work, soffit and woodwork restoration, and repainting—are the first priority to ensure the Mansion’s long-term preservation and continued use. While its interior space is limited, the Mansion serves as a backdrop for many public and private events and is one of the first features visitors encounter. Given these constraints, improvements should also prioritize exterior enhancements that increase functionality and flexibility—such as removing the existing interior bathrooms and adding accessible restrooms that are regularly available to the public. These additions, along with potential elements like a shade structure or pavilion for events and educational activities, should be designed to complement the Mansion’s architecture and present a welcoming and cohesive visual experience.

JONATHAN CECI LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS





Modernize Garden Operations Infrastructure

The Master Plan modernizes Cylburn’s garden operations infrastructure with a renovation of its existing greenhouses and an expanded service yard. These renovations help to address the needs of Cylburn’s growing arboretum collections and programs, as well as the everyday needs of its staff.

Water infrastructure, particularly irrigation, is fundamental to the effectiveness of Cylburn as a public garden. A reliable and functional irrigation infrastructure supports the health of diverse plant collections, ensures the establishment of new gardens, and reduces the strain on staff during dry periods. While the current master plan does not specifically detail irrigation improvements, updating and modernizing this infrastructure is strongly recommended. Efficient, well-designed irrigation not only protects the investment in plantings but also allows the arboretum to expand its horticultural displays with confidence—supporting both beauty and long-term sustainability.

Garden Operations Infrastructure

CENTRAL RECEIVING

Central receiving is an essential function at Cylburn, with multiple organizations and groups operating on the same property. With deliveries ranging from plant materials and maintenance supplies, to educational materials and event equipment, a designated receiving area ensures that items are handled efficiently, securely, and without disrupting the visitor experience. Therefore it is critical to the success of this plan that all deliverables go to one location.

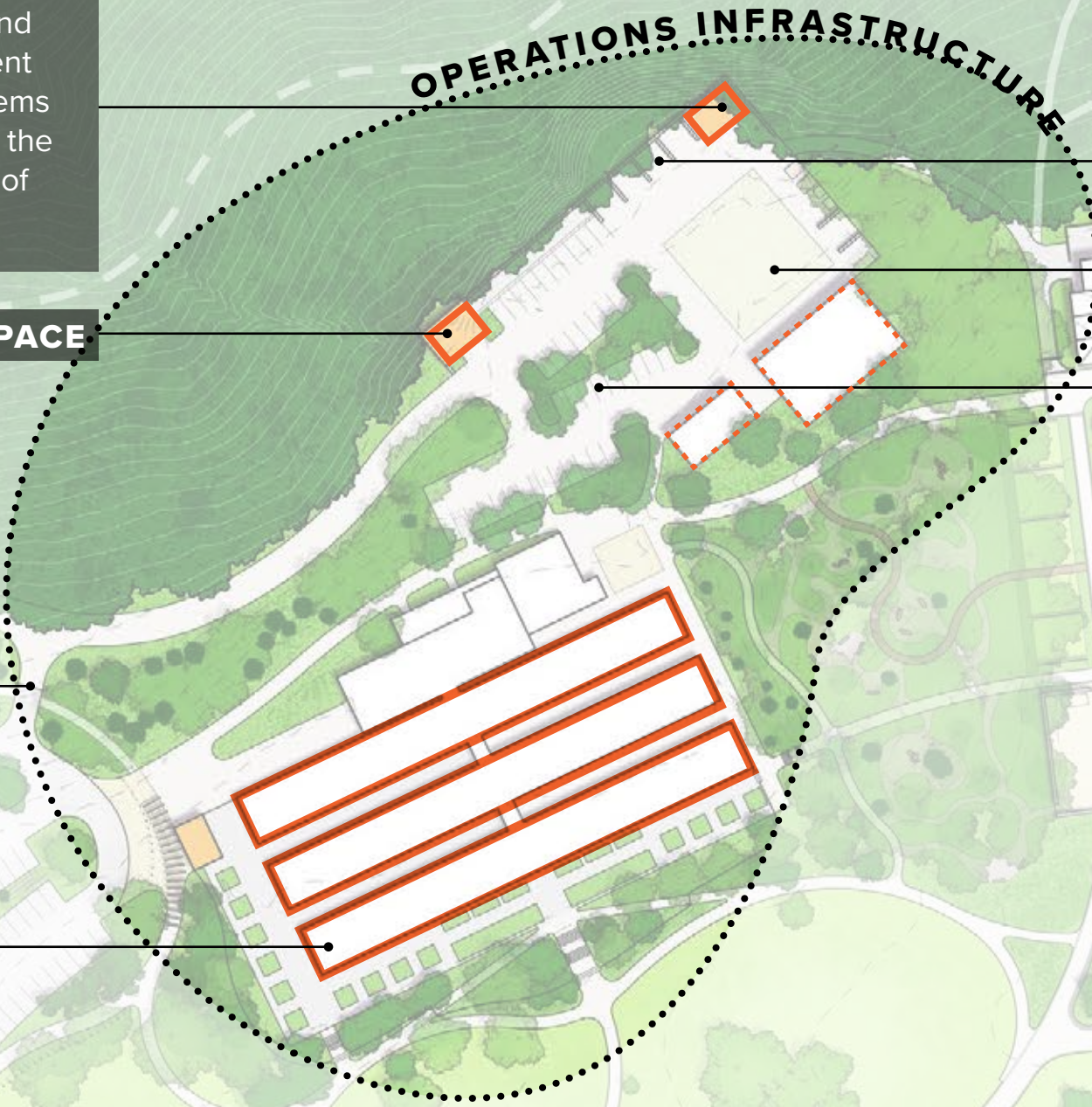
SERVICE ENTRANCE

BREAK ROOM & COWORKING SPACE

GATED ACCESS

Automatic gates shall be installed to facilitate service access while limiting public access to service drive and yard.

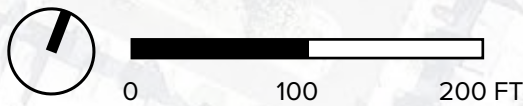
GREENHOUSE RENOVATION

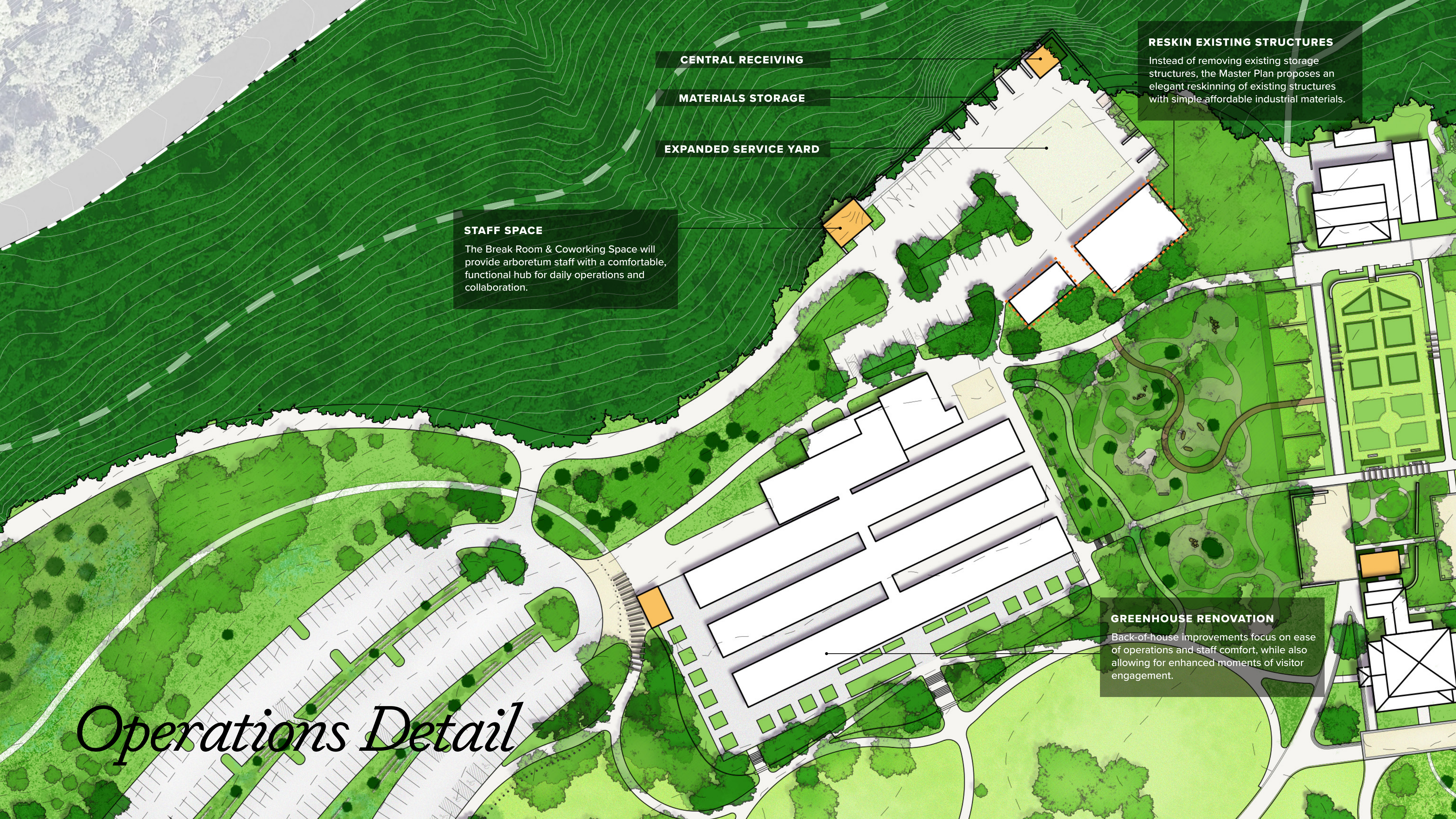


MATERIALS STORAGE

SERVICE YARD

STAFF PARKING (39)





CENTRAL RECEIVING

MATERIALS STORAGE

EXPANDED SERVICE YARD

STAFF SPACE

The Break Room & Coworking Space will provide arboretum staff with a comfortable, functional hub for daily operations and collaboration.

RESKIN EXISTING STRUCTURES

Instead of removing existing storage structures, the Master Plan proposes an elegant reskinning of existing structures with simple affordable industrial materials.

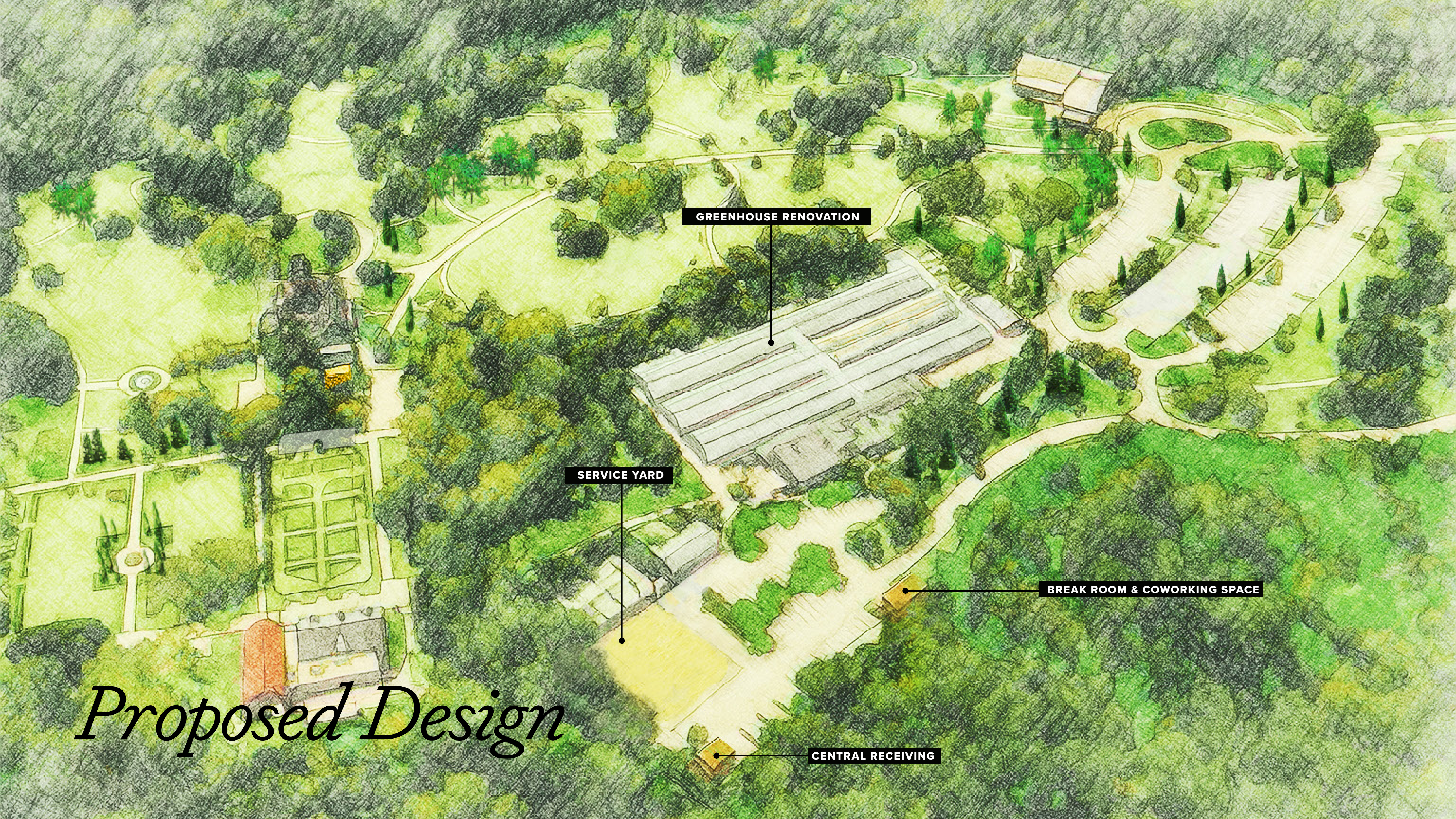
GREENHOUSE RENOVATION

Back-of-house improvements focus on ease of operations and staff comfort, while also allowing for enhanced moments of visitor engagement.

Operations Detail



Current Condition



GREENHOUSE RENOVATION

SERVICE YARD

BREAK ROOM & COWORKING SPACE

CENTRAL RECEIVING

Proposed Design



SERVICE YARD

Using a wish list from CAF and BCRP, the layout of the service yard meets and exceeds the spatial needs of the arboretum's service operations. A retaining wall not only addresses existing geotechnical concerns along the northern slope of the yard, but also provides much-needed storage space for everyday operations. Changes in paving materials and a central plant bed help delineate the service yard area from a staff parking area with improved access to the greenhouses and classrooms.

STORAGE

- Mulch – large 55 yards
- Compost – large
- Wood Chips – Large 55 yards
- Top soil – medium 12 yards
- Sand – Small
- Gravel – Small
- Rocks/bricks/stones/etc.
- Dumpster
- Recycling Dumpster
- Two roll-off dumpster (one for woody, one for herbaceous)

DELIVERY

- 53’ tractor trailer
- Regular box trucks (UPS, Fed EX, Etc. Medium size trucks)

PARKING

42 Regular space –29 required for staff
4 ADA parking space–2 van accessible

VEHICLE

BCRP

- 4 dump trucks, with snow equipment (blades and auger box off season storage)
- Stake body, long truck
- Van, likely electric
- 3 pick-up trucks
- Tractor
- 4 mowers
- Long Golf Cart
- Push mowers
- Mini track loader
- 3 trailers

CAF

- Golf Cart
- Tractor
- Wagon



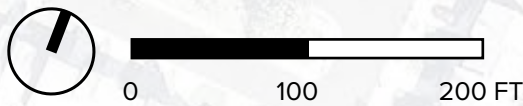
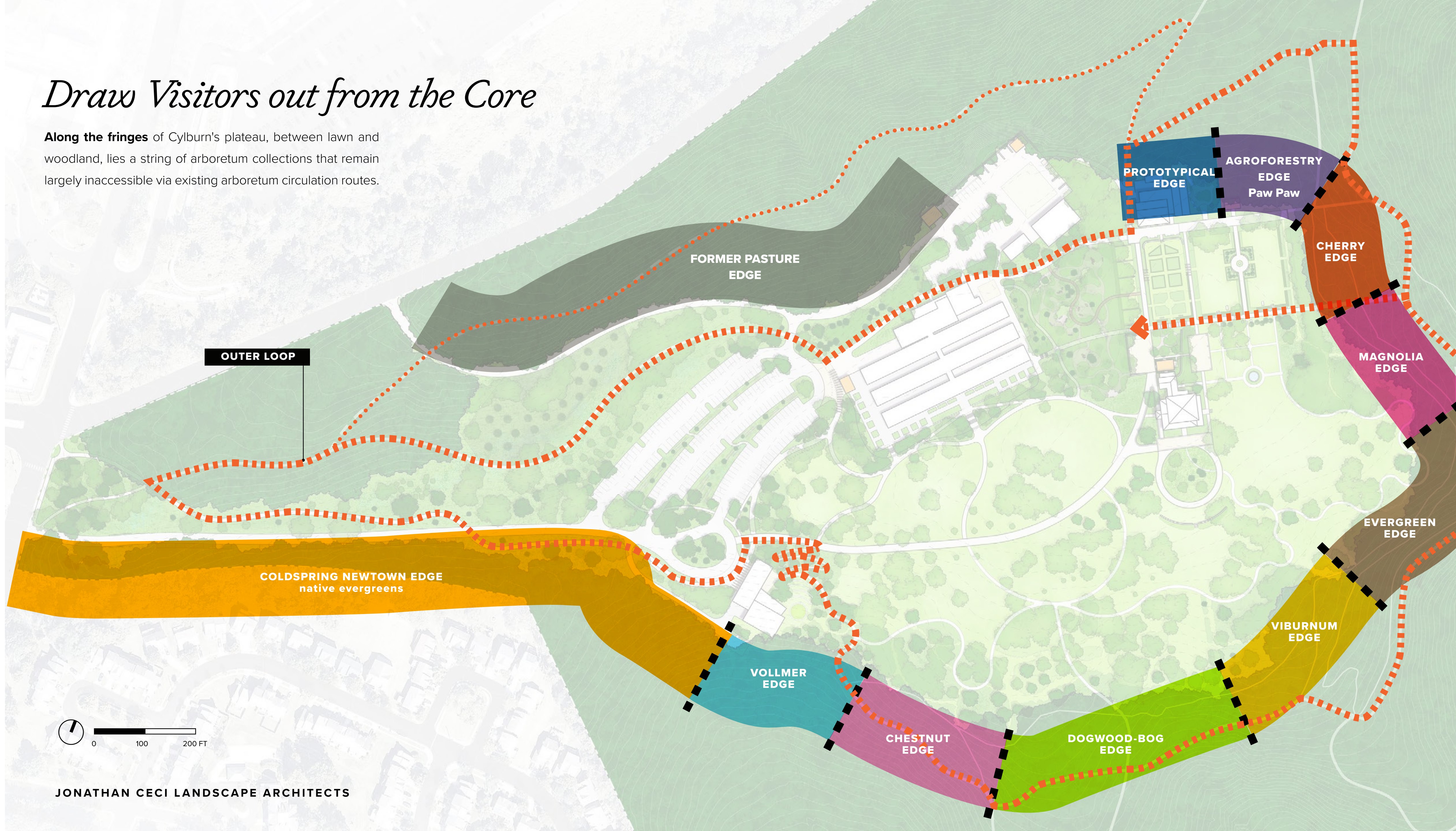
Draw Visitors out from the Core

For more than 70 years, Cylburn's woodland trails have been one of its most cherished assets. These trails are not only beloved for their beauty and serenity, but also for the vital role they play in education, recreation, and public health. As such, it is imperative that we prioritize the repair and ongoing maintenance of the existing trail system to ensure it remains safe, accessible, and ecologically sound.

Building on the deep affection for these trails, the Master Plan proposes two key enhancements: the creation of a new woodland loop trail to invite deeper exploration of the forest and the potential future development of a new transit-connected entry point through the wetlands to the south. This southern connection would offer birders and nature lovers a unique way to access Cylburn via Camp Small and the Light Rail, expanding both access and engagement while celebrating the Arboretum's rich ecological tapestry. Any new trail additions would need to be carefully planned with respect to existing terrain, particularly in sensitive areas with steep slopes, water runoff, or poor drainage. In addition, thoughtful coordination will be required to address the placement and integrity of the deer exclusion fence.

Draw Visitors out from the Core

Along the fringes of Cylburn's plateau, between lawn and woodland, lies a string of arboretum collections that remain largely inaccessible via existing arboretum circulation routes.

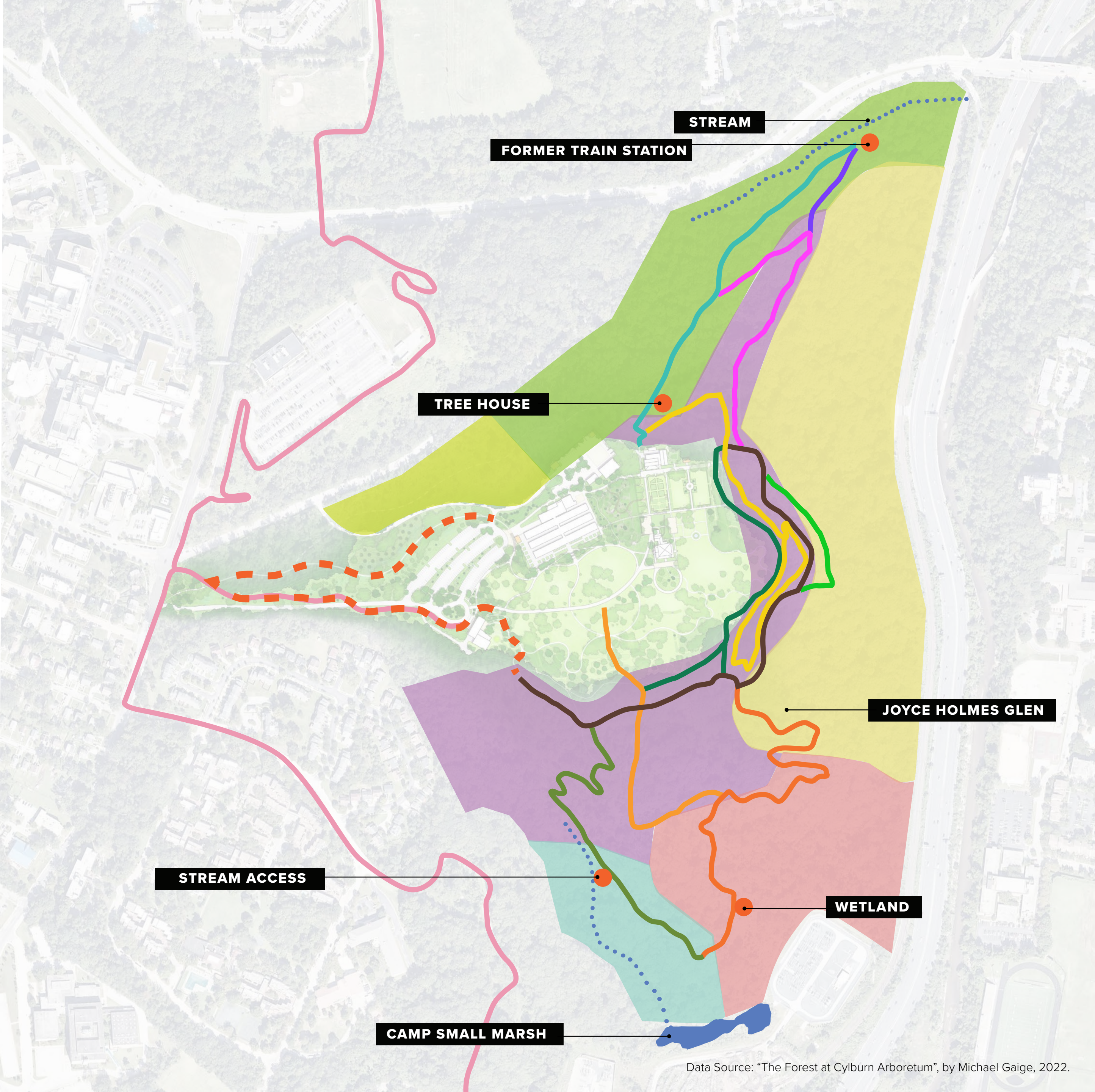
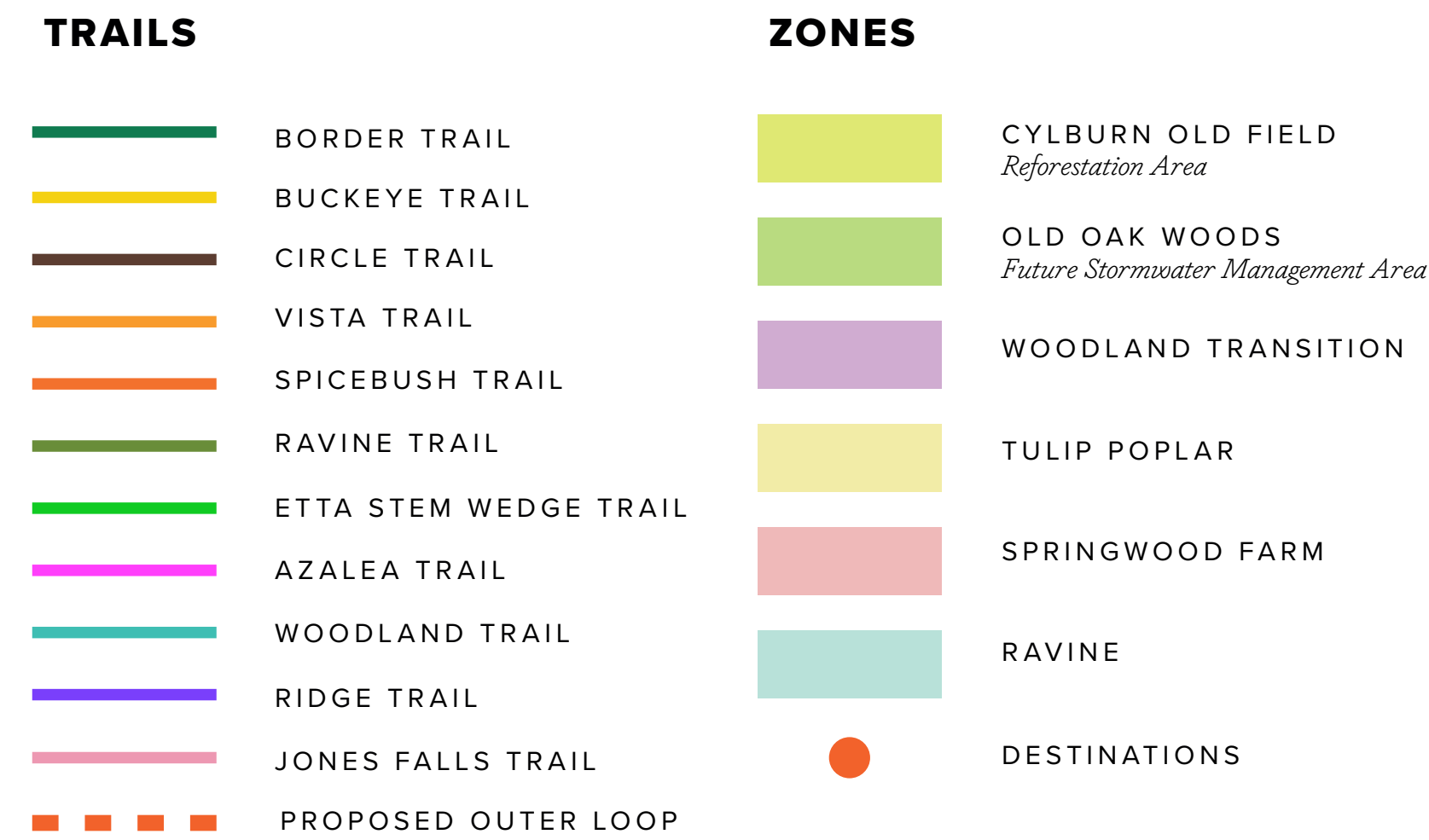


Draw Visitors out from the Core

DESTINATIONS TO HIGHLIGHT

Additional trails along Cylburn Avenue create a larger woodland circuit through Cylburn's urban woodland and activates the main visitor entrance with larger gateways to Cylburn's extensive trail system.

Future enhancements may introduce new points of interest and improve access to existing destinations within the woodland. A spur trail off the Ravine Trail could lead to a stream access point. At the end of the Woodland Trail, an interpretive sign could mark the location of the former train station, complete with a historic interpretation. Near the Nature Education Center, an accessible treehouse could provide a canopy experience, while a spur trail off the Spicebush Trail could lead to a wetland viewing platform, giving visitors the opportunity to observe wetland birds and habitats without disturbing sensitive plants and wildlife.





0 100 200 FT

Master Plan Core