



Hawthorns Area of Windy Hill Preserve Public Access Working Group



Photo Credit: Midpen Staff

**Meeting #4 – Design Discussion
(continued)
December 2023**



Hawthorns Area Public Access Working Group
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Hawthorns Area Plan

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Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Hawthorns Area Public Access Working Group Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

October 26, 2023
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Administrative Office
5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022

ROLL CALL

Ashley Mac, Planner III, called the meeting of the Hawthorns Area Public Access Working Group (PAWG) to order at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Mac provided context for the purpose of the PAWG and introduced Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager, to welcome the PAWG. Ms. Mac then introduced the project team, staff and consultants.

PAWG Members Present (✓) or Absent (x):

Board Director	x Margaret MacNiven, Ward 6
Town Liaison	✓ Sarah Wernikoff
Interest Area Representative	✓ Bryna Chang ✓ Tyler Feld ✓ Charlie Krenz ✓ Rachel Oslund x David Smernoff ✓ Karen Vahtra
Ward stakeholders	✓ Ward 1: Scott Mosher ✓ Ward 2: Vivian Neou ✓ Ward 3: Willie Wool ✓ Ward 4: Sandy Sommer ✓ Ward 5: Jeff Greenfield ✓ Ward 6: Helen Quinn ✓ Ward 7: Kerry De Benedetti

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓ Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager | ✓ Mari Lanka, Administrative Assistant |
| ✓ Jane Mark, Planning Manager | ✓ Galli Basson, Planner III |
| ✓ Tina Hugg, Senior Planner | ✓ Chris Barresi, Area Superintendent |
| ✓ Bryan Apple, Capital Projects Field Manager | ✓ Bill Dornbach, Planning Intern |
| ✓ Ashley Mac Planner III | ✓ Rachel Frost, Planning Intern |
| ✓ Kirk Lenington, Natural Resources Manager | |

PGAdesign Facilitator: Cathy Garrett

WORKING GROUP BUSINESS

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

In addition to the approximately 50 detailed comments received prior to the PAWG#3 meeting that were shared with the PAWG members, there were two commentors from the public in this first Public Comment period. Topics are expanded upon below as all topics were discussed later in the meeting. Topics included:

- Desire to place parking area out of sight of Alpine Road scenic corridor and to avoid tree removal.
- Request for current traffic data that reflects a comprehensive picture of Alpine Road use and users.
- Requested consideration for incorporation of a single-track, bicycle-only trail in the preserve.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AUGUST 26, 2023 MEETING SUMMARY

With one clarification about including a comment about the use of solar powered gates in the summary, the PAWG members approved the August 26, 2023 Meeting #2 Summary with abstentions by PAWG members Sommers, Feld and Wernikoff, who is a non-voting PAWG member.

3. REVIEW OF CONCEPT DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

Prior to introducing the design and traffic consultants, Paul Stevenson and Andrew Lee respectively, Ms. Mac shared information requested at the previous PAWG meeting including the regional trails map and information about nearby preserves, their sizes, visitation levels and amounts of parking, for reference. Ms. Mac reviewed the Constraints map that shows considerations of steep topography, improved areas versus unimproved areas, views and other aesthetic considerations, and the extent of the Historic Complex. Lastly Ms. Mac shared the feedback of the Natural Resources staff that off-trail use is not recommended in the preserve as it could negatively impact habitat and natural resources.

Paul Stevenson, a landscape architect and project manager from the design team CSW|ST2, presented a site inventory and four parking area schemes. The variables in the schemes include the point of entry location into the preserve, location of parking area and amount of needed driveway to serve the above two elements. Grading and associated impact on natural areas will result from all driveway and parking locations. In summary the four schemes included:

Option 1. Entry at existing drive opposite Robert's Market, minor realignment of the existing drive to allow for the main drive to the parking area in the Hawthorns meadow and a secondary drive to the ranger house. The drive is two-way that traverses up the existing steep slope, then down into Hawthorns meadow, with a one-way loop for turnaround at the vale at the end. The parking is sited within Hawthorns meadow. The topography is steep so parking is located partly on a slope and partly on more gentle ground.

Option 2. Entry at existing drive opposite Robert's Market. The drive is two-way up the existing steep slope, then down into Hawthorns meadow; it is two-way with a double loaded parking area located within Hawthorns meadow. Beyond that a one-way loop turnaround extends to the vale beyond Hawthorns meadow.

Option 3. Entry is at the east drive where the historic point of access was located. The relatively

level drive leads along the vale between the Hawthorns meadow and the north meadow to a looped, double-loaded parking area.

Option 4. Entry is at the east drive where the historic point of access was located. The drive is short and connects to the parking along the north edge of the north meadow behind the trees edging Alpine Road.

4. PAWG QUESTIONS OF DESIGNERS

Questions from the PAWG members included:

- Size of turnarounds large enough for a school bus? Yes, with a 40-ft turnaround, also the options, as shown, accommodate vehicles belonging to Woodside Fire Dept.
- Any horse trailer parking? No.
- Visibility for police and fire personnel from Alpine Road? Policing is largely done by Midpen rangers, unless there are 911 calls. More visibility means better security, as parks and open space are prime targets for auto burglary. The preserve gates are closed at night.
- Desire to not be able to see cars from Aline Road within the 75-ft scenic corridor. At present there is a significant tree buffer. The scenic corridor prohibits positioning of structures within the 75-ft zone, e.g. vault toilet, which would need to be located beyond the 75-ft zone.
- Is Los Trancos Road a possible point of entry? No, it does not meet roadway design standards for sight-line distances for general public access and the size of parking area under discussion.
- Question about how the 50-stall size was selected. There is no template or formula. It is up to the PAWG to decide what is an appropriate number of stalls given the known variables. A range of parking space areas could be considered rather than the 50 stalls currently under discussion.
- Can driveways be accessed by low-lying cars? Yes, all options can/will be made accessible to cars with low clearance.
- Could the number of stalls be reduced in order to allow for horse trailer parking? This was not studied. It is possible if the PAWG supports it, though at the present it doesn't appear warranted.
- Could the PAWG consider a parking reservation system? For reference, most Midpen parking areas are not by reservation. Midpen currently does use permits for small or temporary areas. Examples are at the lower La Honda Creek Event Center and upper La Honda Creek Allen Road parking areas which require permits to be obtained by visitors. The likely proposed parking area for the Hawthorns property is too small for reservations for parking to make sense; the demand is not great enough. Midpen may consider a suite of other traffic demand management (TDM) techniques if needed and/or suited to the site. It is not yet clear what these might be but at other preserves a range of options are being considered including shuttles, ride hail, carpool, and dynamic signage. These may be evaluated for applicability to the Hawthorns property. In addition, Midpen would work with the Town to develop appropriate parking restrictions to manage off-site parking and to limit parking on local streets.
- Discussion about safety at each of the points of entry. Desire to maximize safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians, and cars. The parking area options are a "kit of parts" and may be rearranged in different compositions to support safety or other PAWG priorities.
- Will there be provision for bike parking, too? Yes, the traffic study demonstrates a high demand for bike parking.
- Where to locate additional parking if needed? Consider combining parts or all of the four options.
- What is the material of the driveway to the parking area, within the preserve? Materials still to be determined. POST, who holds the conservation easement, and may prefer gravel.

- A more robust material may be needed if portions of the access drive are in steeper areas.
- Question about quantifying amount of grading/tree removal needed for each of the four options. Grading and tree removal for the PAWG to balance between the options.
- Desire to minimize impacts to natural resources by the selection of point of entry, driveway and parking area.
- Could the Historic Complex contribute parking or trail access? The Historic Complex lies outside the scope of the current public access discussion for the Hawthorns property. It is premature for Midpen to guess what the parking demand may be for the Historic Complex, as, the future use of the Historic Complex is yet unknown.
- Desire to keep the two planning processes for the Historic Complex and the rest of the site on the same track. Midpen's response is that the possible future uses for the Historic Complex are currently too speculative to allow the process for the two pieces to move together. This applies to parking as well as trails. It is not yet known if there will be two CEQA (environmental review) processes.
- How to plan for traffic studies of future developments along Alpine Road? It is the developers' responsibility to study traffic potentially generated by their project. The design team will incorporate any traffic study that is available from the Town. Traffic will be a technical study that will conclude with this public access planning phase.
- Please include bicycle usage data in traffic studies.
- Can alternative trail locations can be considered? E.g. can cars go up to the knoll, what about an accessible trail? The PAWG will need to weigh the pros and cons of alternative locations.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Review comments were received from six people. Comments included:

- There is a desire to have updated traffic studies made available before decisions are made.
- Consider use of property by dogs on and off leash.
- Would like to see more trails within the preserve including up to the knoll.
- Parking and access preference for access from east entry point (historic point of access).
- Please protect the 75-ft scenic corridor. Continued desire to not see parking from Alpine Road.
- Preserve natural habitat.
- Consider separate entries for bikers and motorists.
- Consider limiting parking area use with a reservation system.
- Desire to avoid parking on local Town streets.
- Concern about density of use of the Hawthorns preserve, especially as viewed from Portola Valley Ranch.
- Bicyclists spoke to the existing need to slow down when on Alpine Road in the area of Robert's Market because of the activity associated with the market. This makes it a logical spot for a point of entry to the preserve.

6. PAWG DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK

The PAWG split into two groups to discuss all the issues on the table including the 4 options presented. Refer to **Attachment 1** below for pictures of boards from the discussions of two PAWG groups.

- The first group contained PAWG members: Oslund, Vahtra, Feld, Mosher, Wool, Neou and Wernikoff (who is non-voting).
- The second group contained PAWG members: Krenz, Chang, Quinn, De Benedetti, Greenfield, and Sommer.

After 30 minutes of vigorous group conversations, PAWG members returned to their seats and

reported back to the audience at Midpen's office and on the Zoom meeting link. The summary of initial comments advanced the conversation considerably. The two groups reporting included the following preferences. These will inform the discussion at the next meeting when the designs will be further refined based on PAWG feedback. The PAWG primarily focused on the parking and points of entry to the site. A desire was expressed to have more time to discuss other factors, particularly trails. The format for the next meeting, December 16, 2023, which was to be a site meeting, was adjusted to be a PAWG meeting held at the Midpen offices to allow more time for PAWG discussions and refinement of preferences.

PAWG INITIAL PREFERENCES:

- Preferred entrance location is the existing driveway in Option 1, and the location and structure of the parking layout shown in Options 3 (both groups). Option 4 was verbally acknowledged in one group as being the most ecologically sensitive alternative though written comments on each group's plans indicated similar sentiments. Other PAWG voices expressed concern about keeping cars out of the Hawthorns meadow.
- Consider whether the amount of driveway in some options is an appropriate amount or is too much for the site. A possible trade-off is a shorter drive at the historic drive or longer drive connecting with the safer point of entry (opposite Robert's Market) that is in a less steep section of Alpine Road and near an intersection where motorists travel at a slower speed.
- Broad concern for safety, particularly point of entry driveway safety.
- Allowing dogs on leash should continue to be discussed. However, the preserve is not appropriate for a dog park.
- Favor trail connections.
- Favor multi-use trails. Question arose: How to have multiple user types on single-track trails?
- Favor adding spurs and another loop trail.
- Favor having trail locations in sunny spots so it is easy to see the vistas.
- Consider more trails in general, including within the Portola Valley Ranch viewshed area and the historic driveway and olive grove.
- The loop trail could be pedestrian only with connections to multi-use spur connections.
- Favor equestrian use of preserve. Provide hitching post near vault toilet.
- Did not favor parking for equestrian use.
- Favor use by kids on bikes in the preserve, especially the loop trail. Support connection to trails outside the preserve that are connected to places used by children, e.g. Corte Madera School.
- Unconvinced of broader bike use within the preserve. Do not feel the need to prioritize it because of the size of the preserve. If bikes are in the preserve, use wider trails for connectivity to trails outside the preserve.
- Desire to facilitate connection to the two bus stops and stop sign at Portola Valley Road. Support multimodal access by facilitating connections to existing bus stops but note that currently SamTrans has reduced service to Portola Valley to school hours-focused bus service. Also, there was interest to know more about how a newly realigned Alpine Trail would engage with Alpine Road. Desire to know more about options for connecting to Alpine Trail and its realignment.
- Replace chain link fence with style of fence more compatible with the character of the preserve.
- Seeking an immersive experience in nature.
- Make sure there is a safe connection across Alpine Road to the preserve for pedestrians, bikers, and equestrians.
- Requests were made by PAWG members to add the suggestions of the Town Ad Hoc Committee to the discussion, to begin with the purple-line trail map as it has topographical

information on it, and to ensure the fire road and disced areas are indicated on maps.

7. CO-CHAIR SELECTION

Co-chairs were selected from the voting members of the PAWG who were present. Two names were put forward to represent the Town of Portola Valley. These were Helen Quinn and Karen Vahtra. Two names were put forward to represent the region, which were Rachel Oslund and Sandy Sommer.

After voting and a coin toss, Helen Quinn and Rachel Oslund were selected as PAWG Co-Chairs.

8. MEETING HOMEWORK

Review the materials provided in the packet for the Saturday December 16, 2023 PAWG meeting.

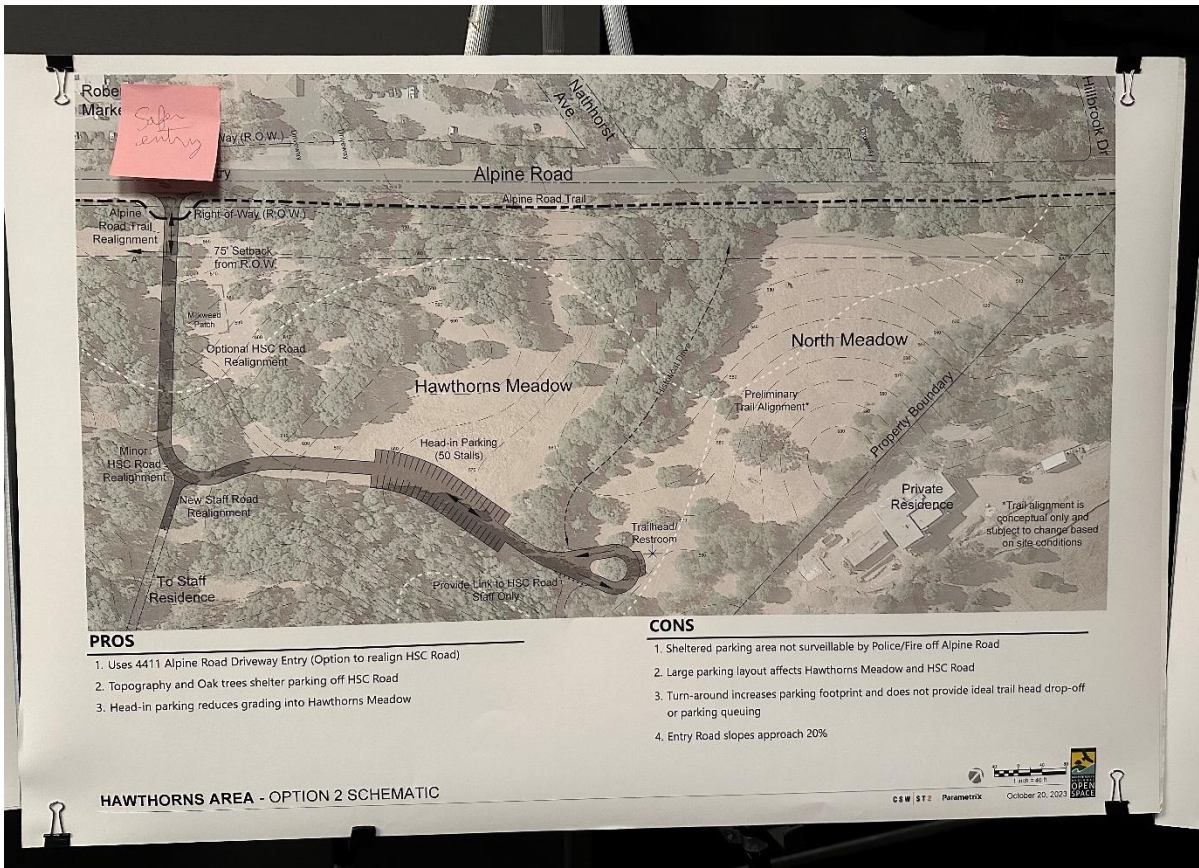
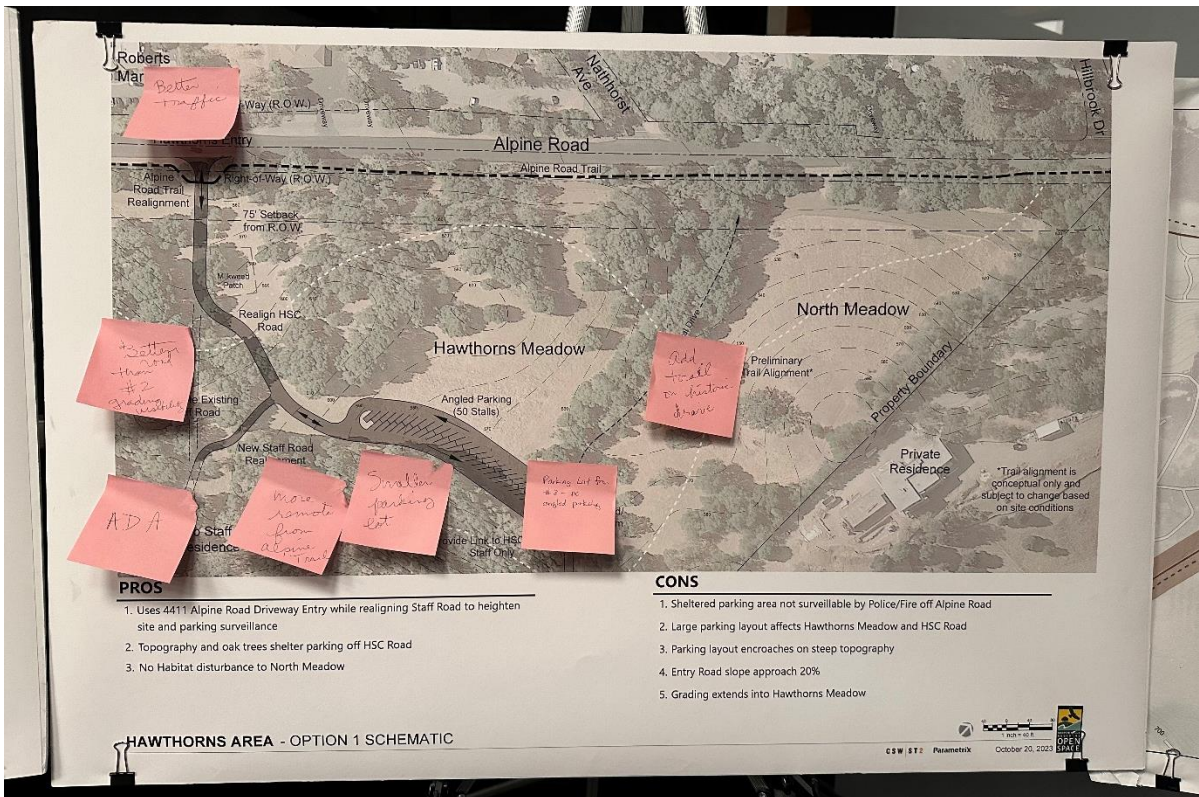
9. CLOSING COMMENTS

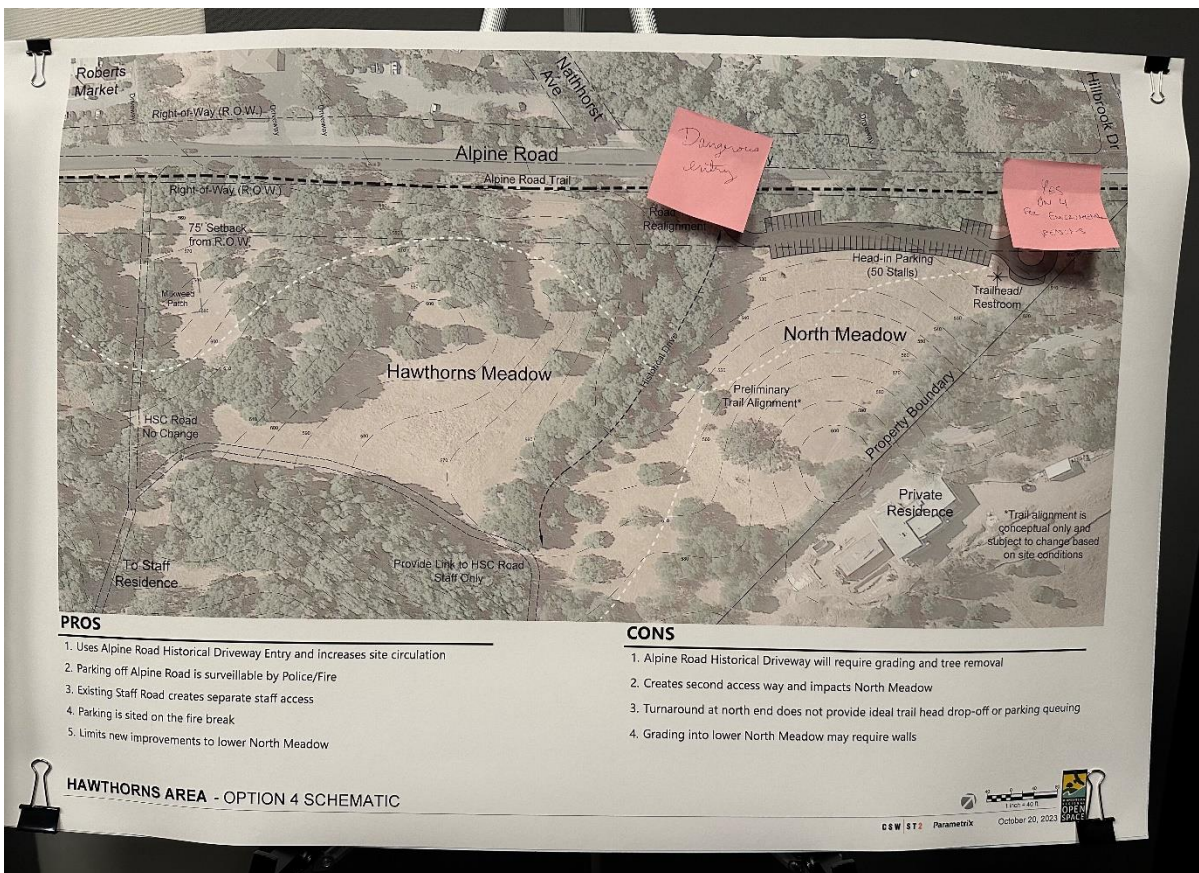
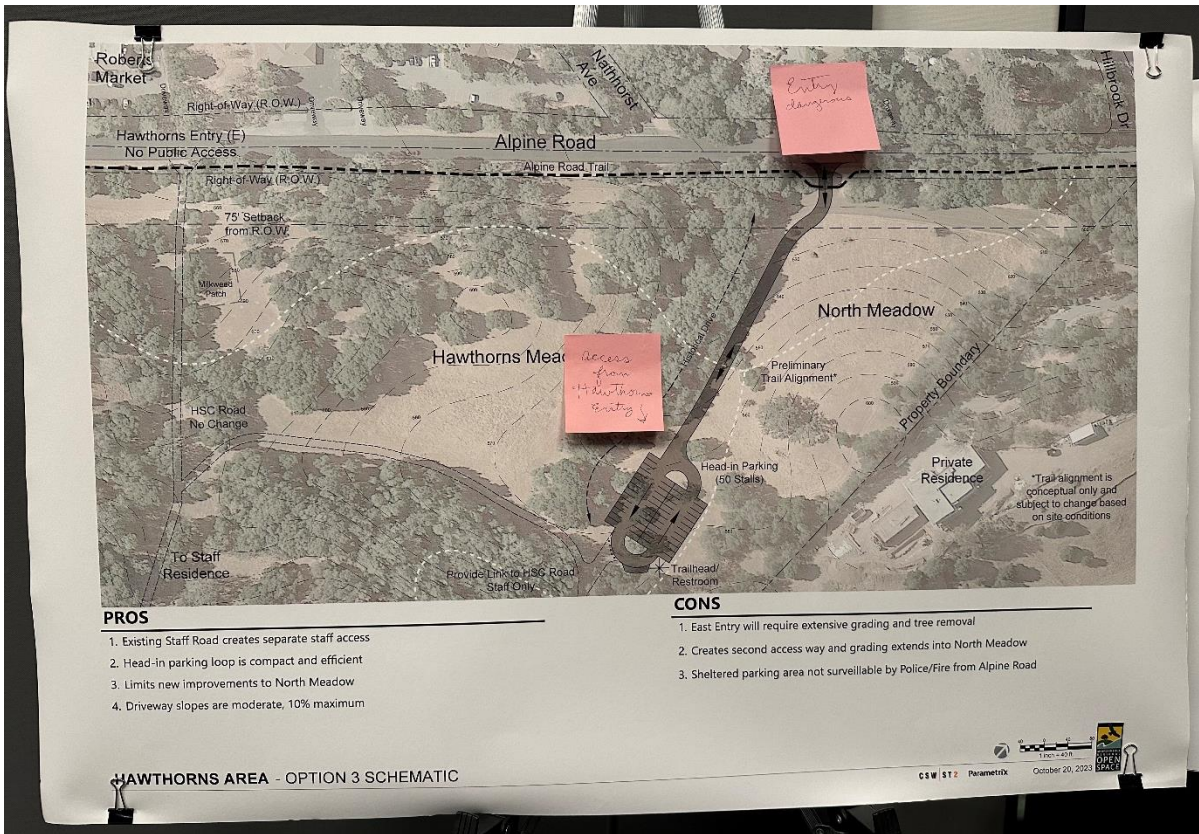
After discussion, the PAWG agreed that more discussion on the parking areas, trails, and uses was needed, so the next meeting, on Saturday December 16, 2023, will be at Midpen's administrative office instead of at the site.

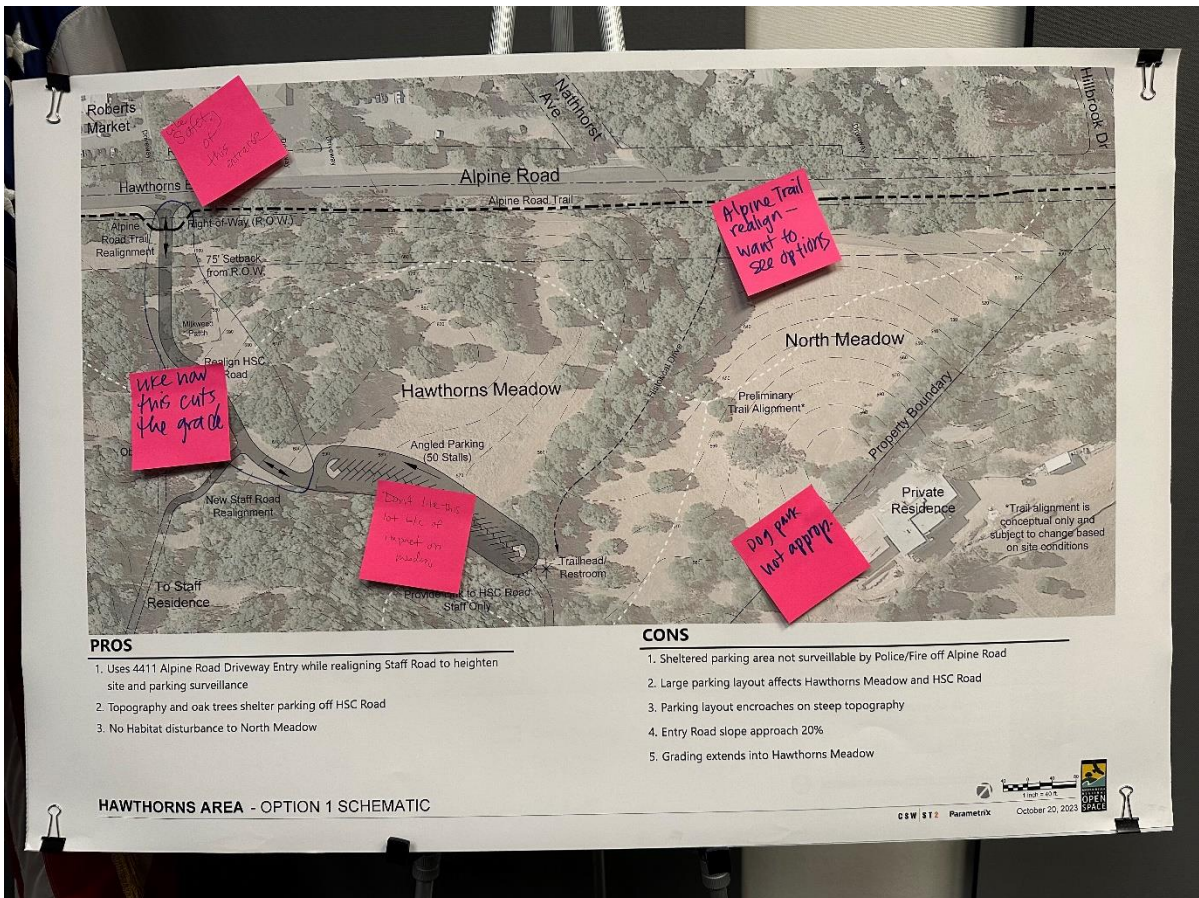
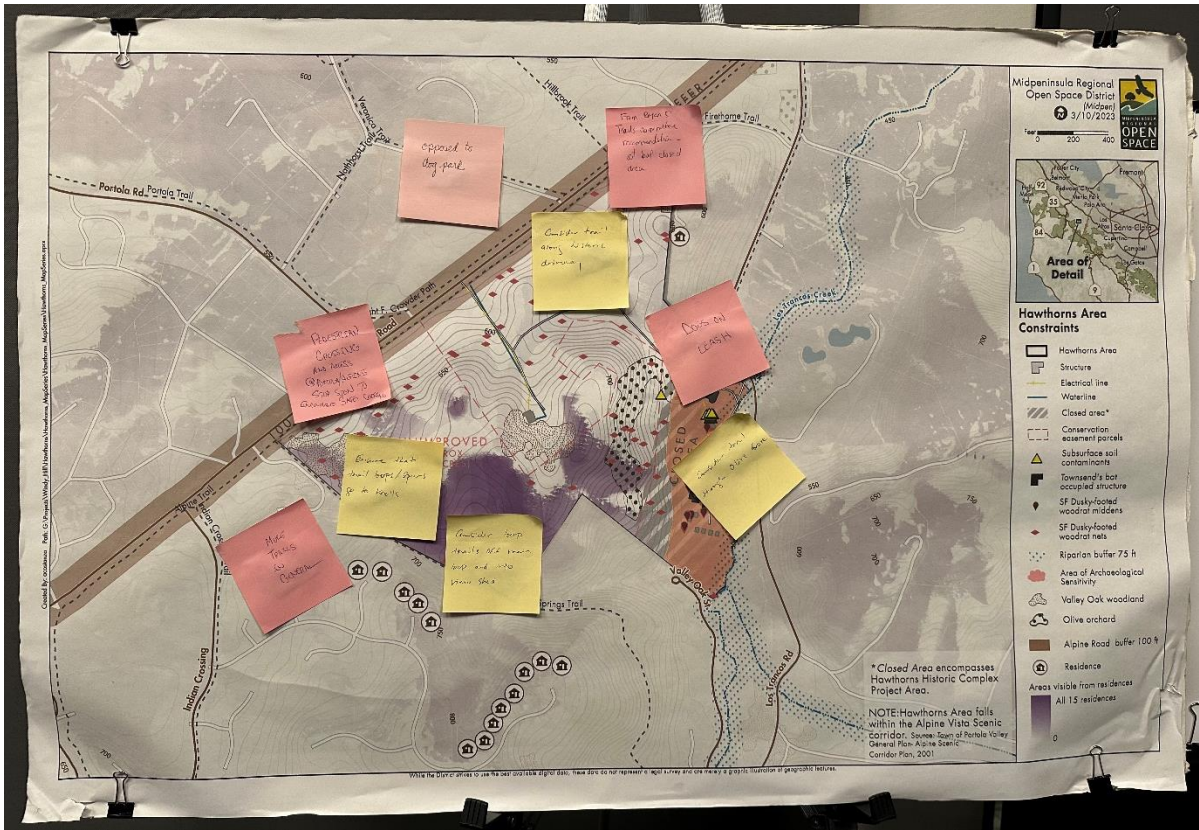
10. ADJOURNMENT

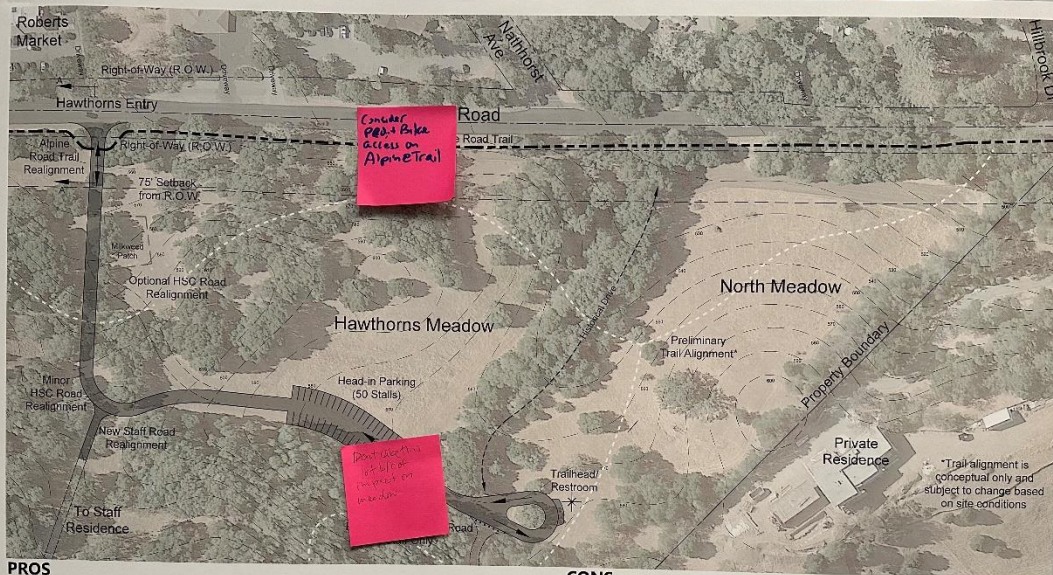
The meeting of the Hawthorns Are Public Access Working Group was adjourned at 10.08pm.

Attachment 1: Pictures of boards from the discussions of two PAWG groups









PROS

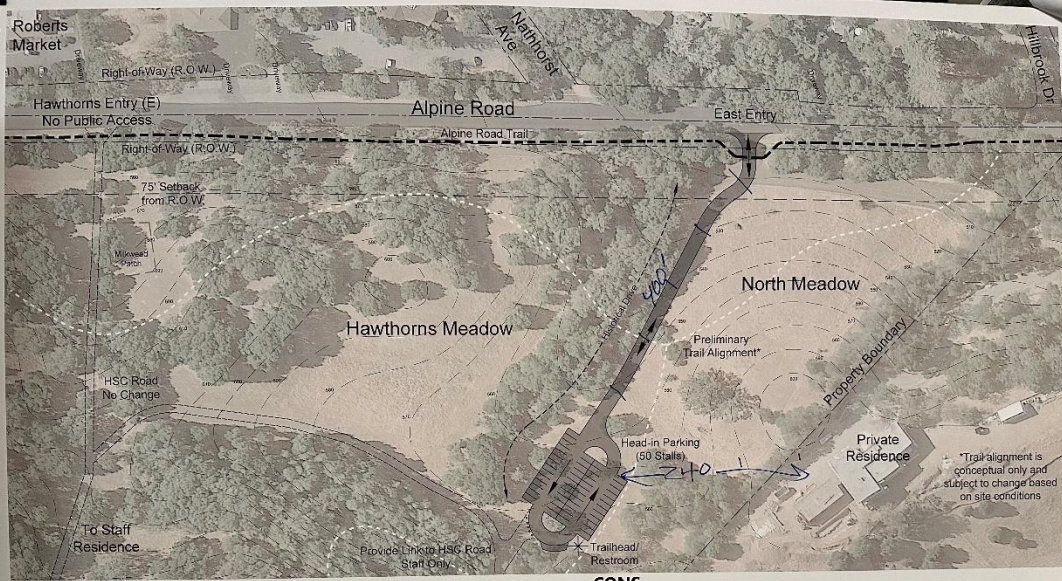
1. Uses 4411 Alpine Road Driveway Entry (Option to realign HSC Road)
2. Topography and Oak trees shelter parking off HSC Road
3. Head-in parking reduces grading into Hawthorns Meadow

CONS

1. Sheltered parking area not surveillable by Police/Fire off Alpine Road
2. Large parking layout affects Hawthorns Meadow and HSC Road
3. Turn-around increases parking footprint and does not provide ideal trail head drop-off or parking queuing
4. Entry Road slopes approach 20%

HAWTHORNS AREA - OPTION 2 SCHEMATIC

CSW ST2 Parametrix October 20, 2023



PROS

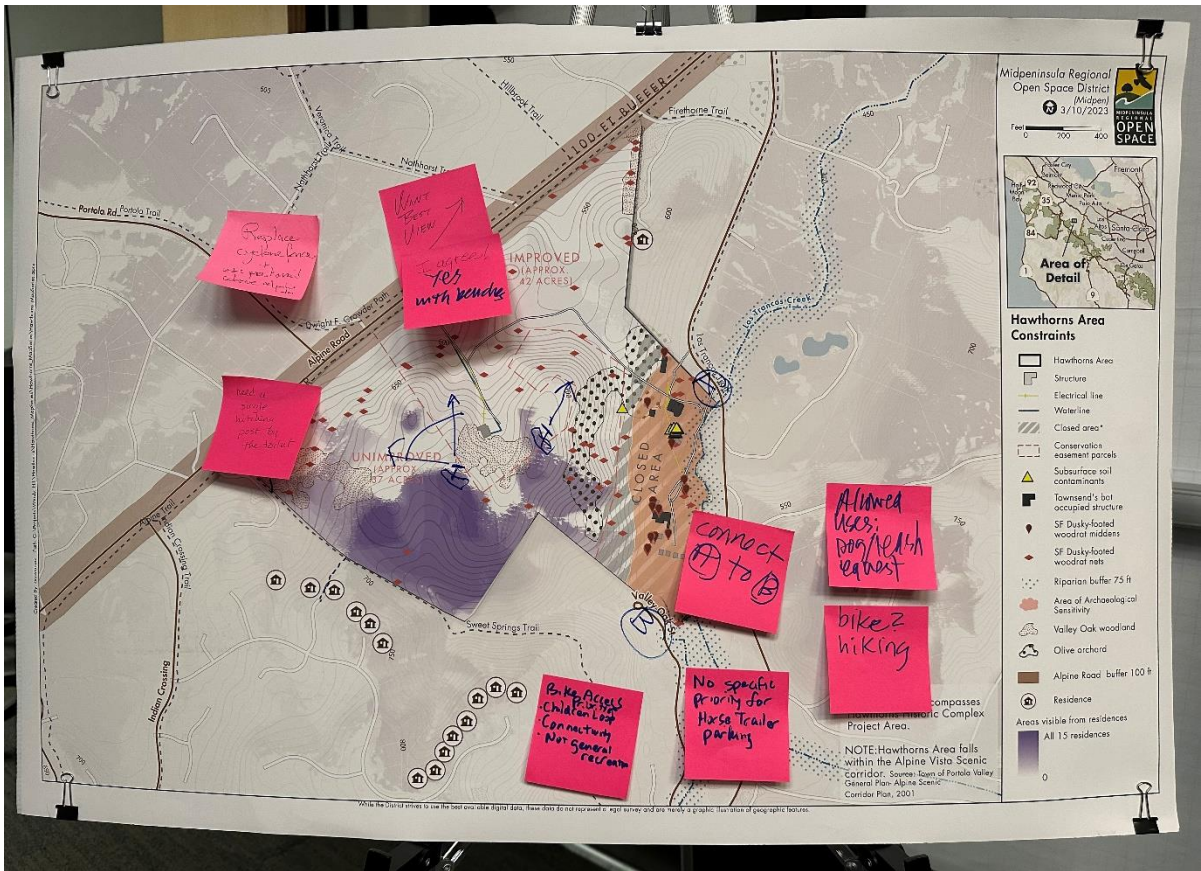
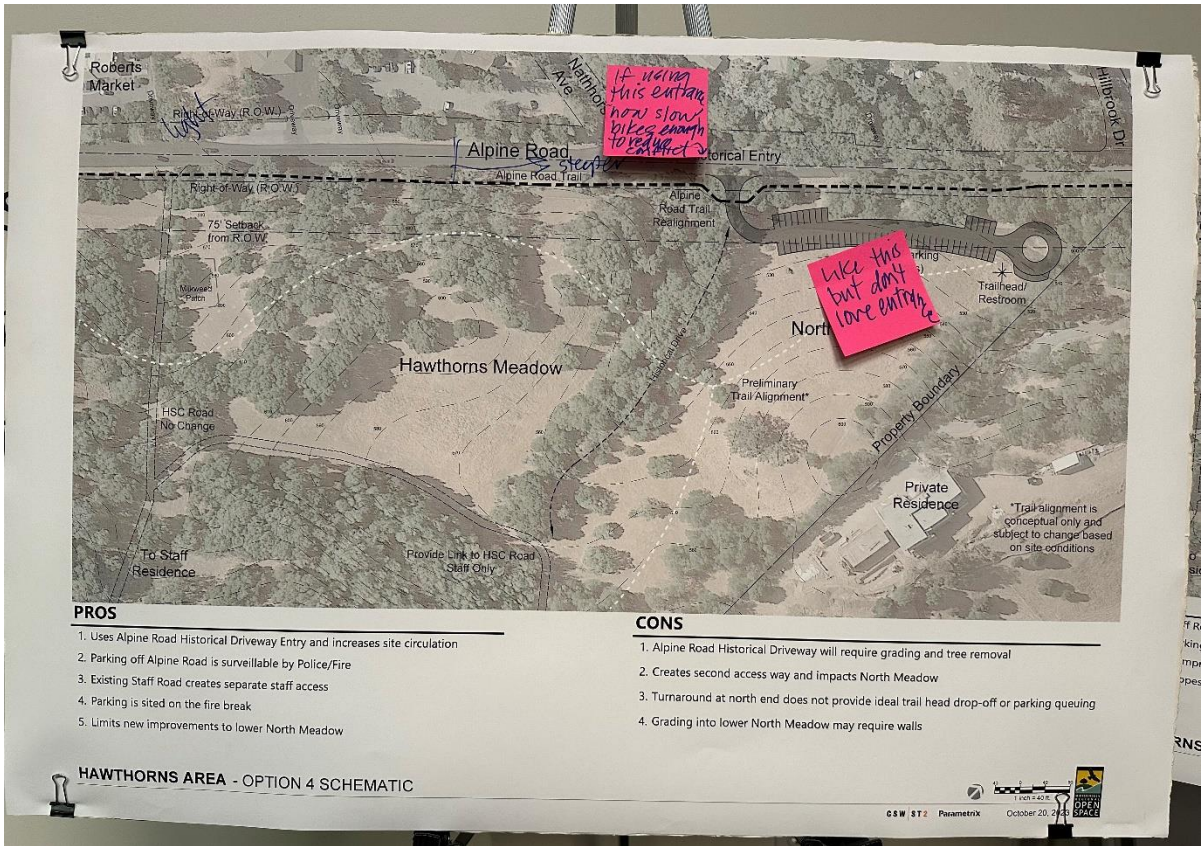
1. Existing Staff Road creates separate staff access
2. Head-in parking loop is compact and efficient
3. Limits new improvements to North Meadow
4. Driveway slopes are moderate, 10% maximum

CONS

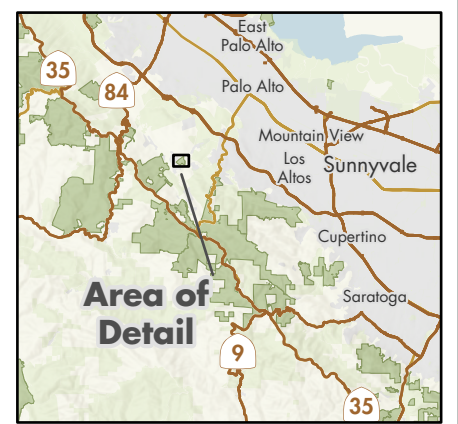
1. East Entry will require extensive grading and tree removal
2. Creates second access way and grading extends into North Meadow
3. Sheltered parking area not surveillable by Police/Fire from Alpine Road

HAWTHORNS AREA - OPTION 3 SCHEMATIC

CSW ST2 Parametrix October 20, 2023



Created By: ngreig
Path: G:\Projects\Windy_Hill\Hawthorns\Hawthorns_MapSeries\Hawthorns_MapSeries\Hawthorns_PAWG.aprx



Hawthorns Trail Exploratory Ideas

- Hawthorns area property line
- Closed area*
- Town trail
- Fire road
- Conceptual Loop Trail
- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3
- Desired Trail Idea (infeasible)
- Proposed bench
- Proposed parking lot
- Alpine Rd Trail Improvement Corridor
- Fuel break

*Closed Area encompasses Hawthorns Historic Complex Project Area.

While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.

Path: C:\Projects\Windy_Hill\Hawthorns_MapSeries\Hawthorns_MapSeries\Hawthorns_PAWG.aprx
Created By: ngreig

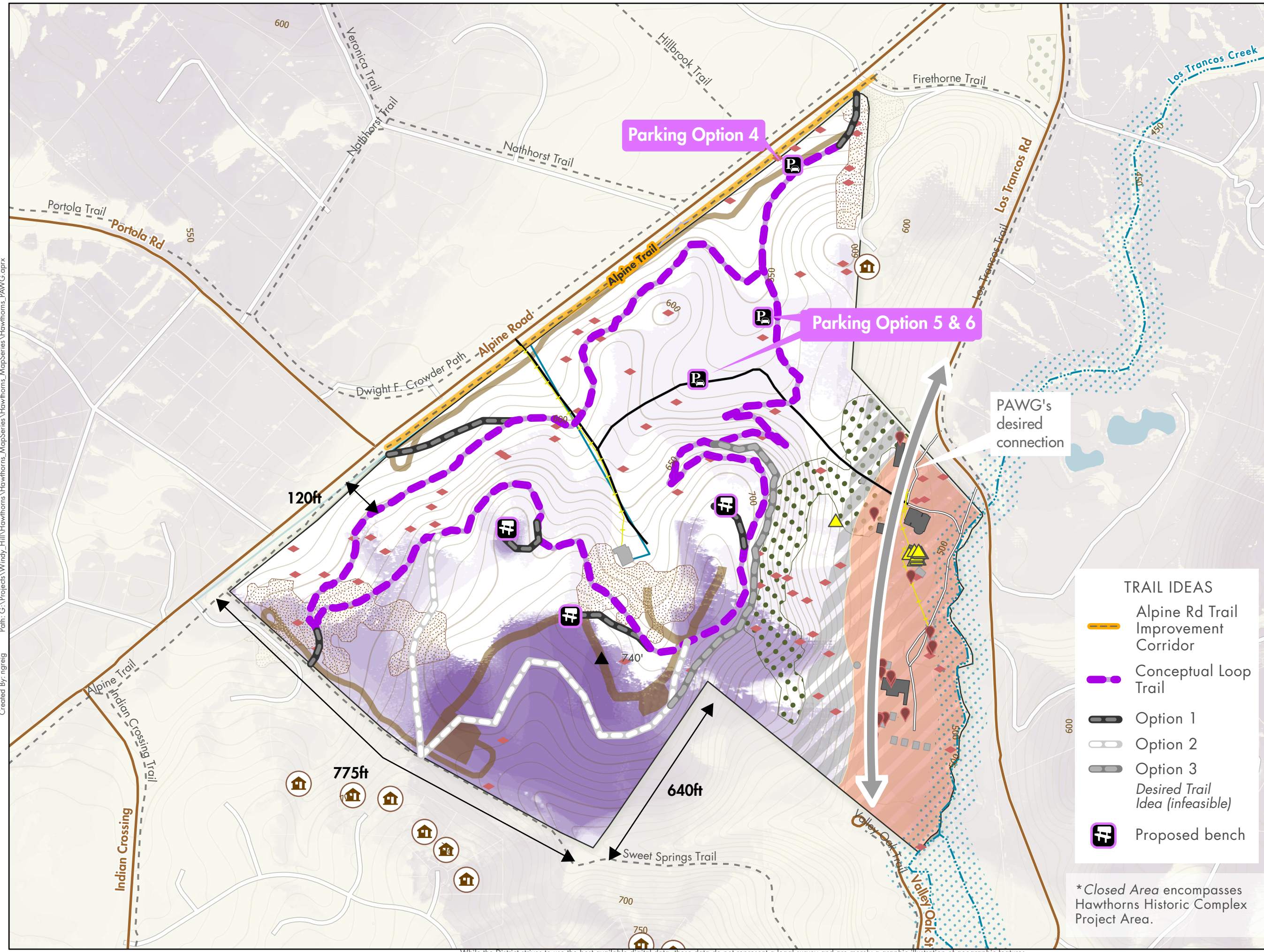


Hawthorns Concept Trail and Constraints Overlay

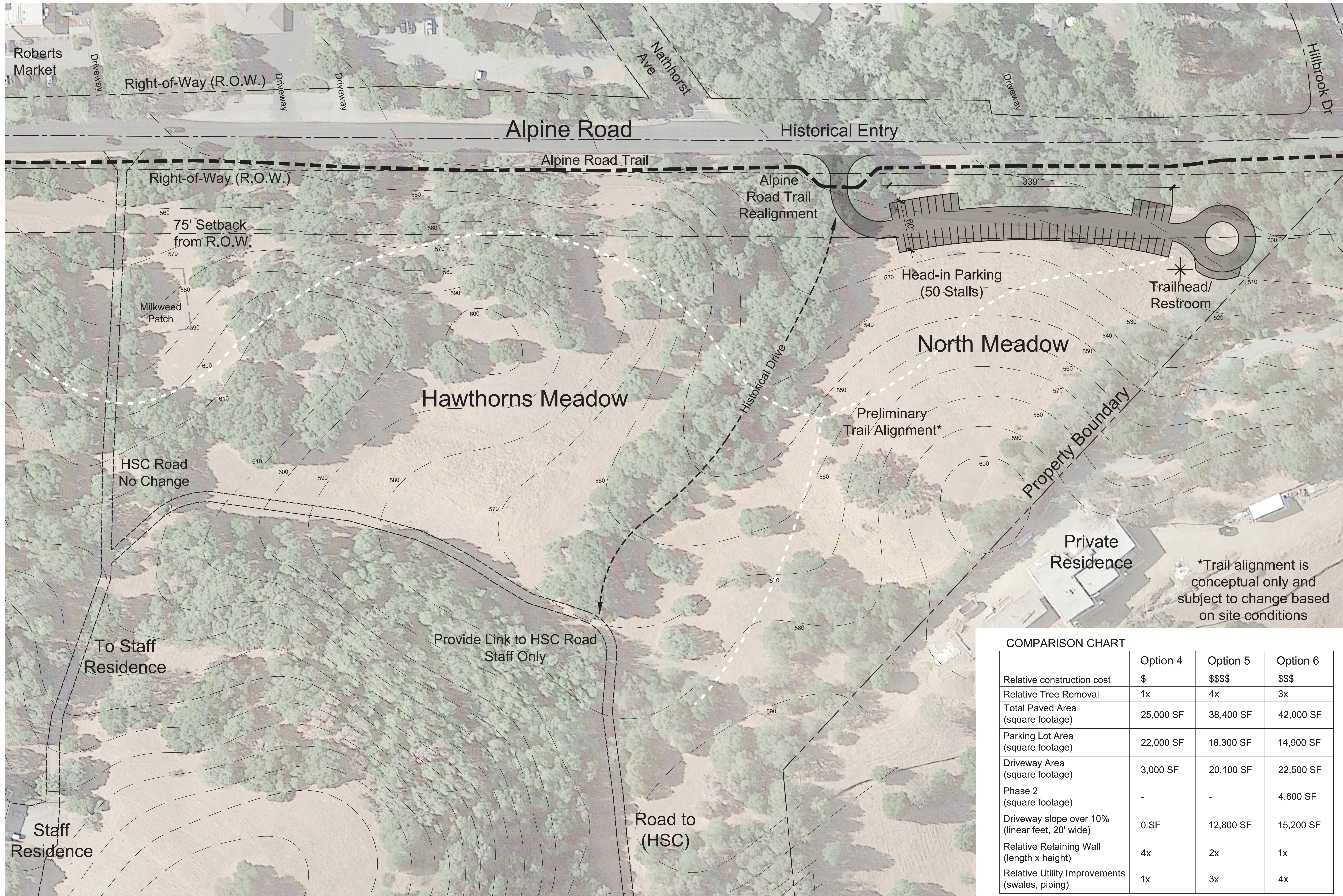
- Hawthorns Area
 - Structure
 - Electrical line
 - Waterline
 - Closed area*
 - Subsurface soil contaminants
 - Townsend's bat occupied structure
 - SF Dusky-footed woodrat middens
 - SF Dusky-footed woodrat nets
 - Riparian buffer 75 ft
 - Area of Archaeological Sensitivity
 - Valley Oak woodland
 - Olive orchard
 - Residence
 - Fire road
 - Fuel break
- Areas visible from residences
- All 15 residences
 - 0

- #### TRAIL IDEAS
- Alpine Rd Trail Improvement Corridor
 - Conceptual Loop Trail
 - Option 1
 - Option 2
 - Option 3
 - Desired Trail Idea (infeasible)
 - Proposed bench

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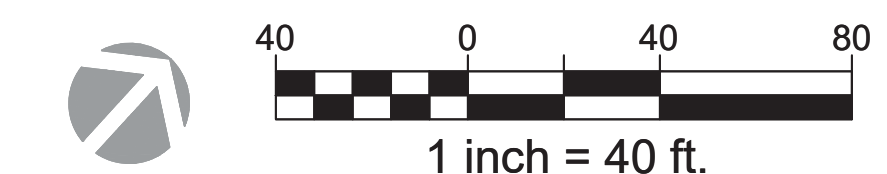
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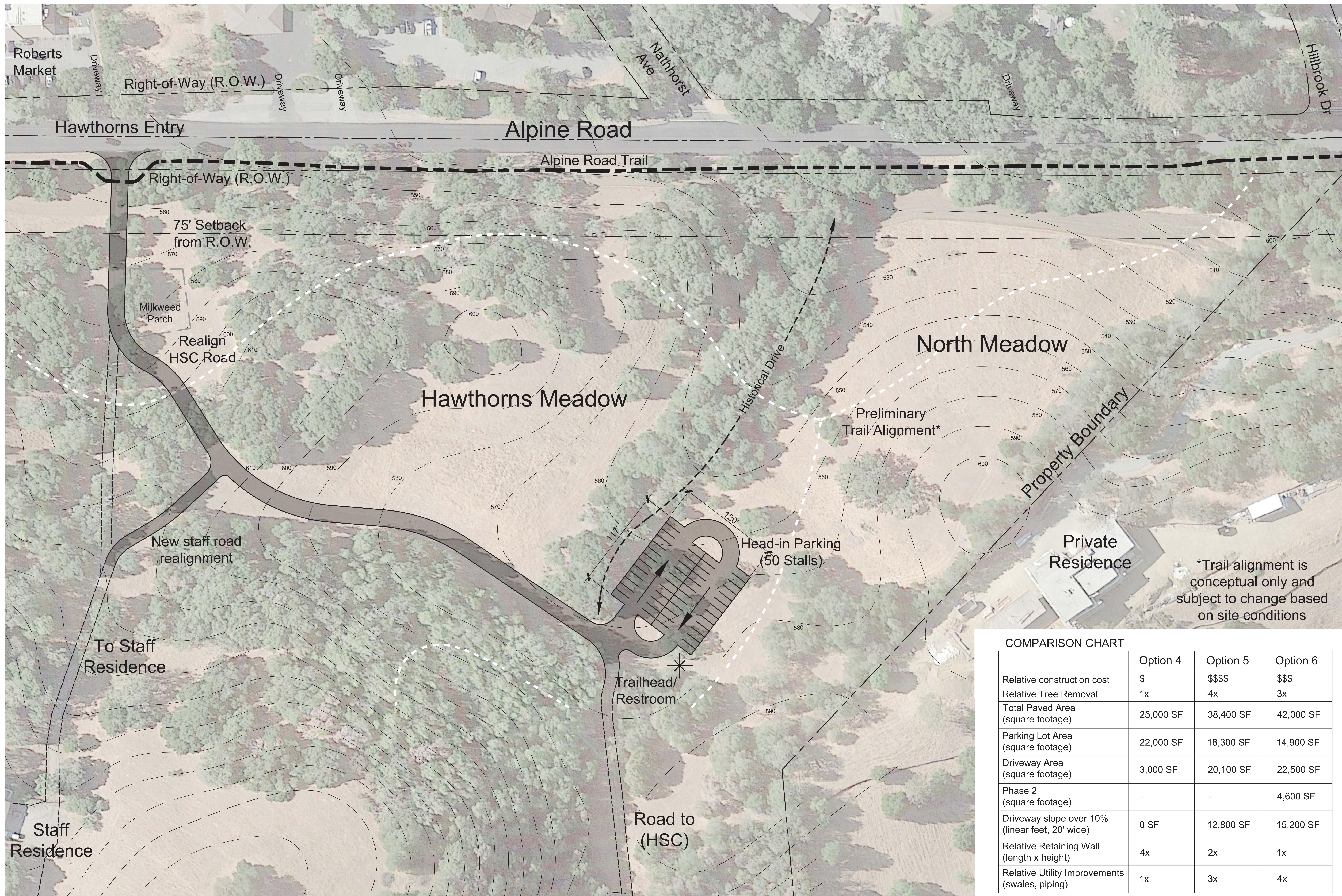


COMPARISON CHART

	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Relative construction cost	\$	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$
Relative Tree Removal	1x	4x	3x
Total Paved Area (square footage)	25,000 SF	38,400 SF	42,000 SF
Parking Lot Area (square footage)	22,000 SF	18,300 SF	14,900 SF
Driveway Area (square footage)	3,000 SF	20,100 SF	22,500 SF
Phase 2 (square footage)	-	-	4,600 SF
Driveway slope over 10% (linear feet, 20' wide)	0 SF	12,800 SF	15,200 SF
Relative Retaining Wall (length x height)	4x	2x	1x
Relative Utility Improvements (swales, piping)	1x	3x	4x

HAWTHORNS AREA - OPTION 4 SCHEMATIC

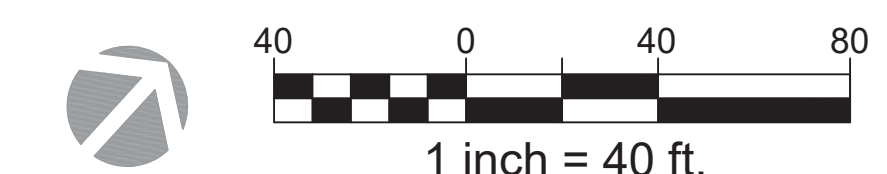


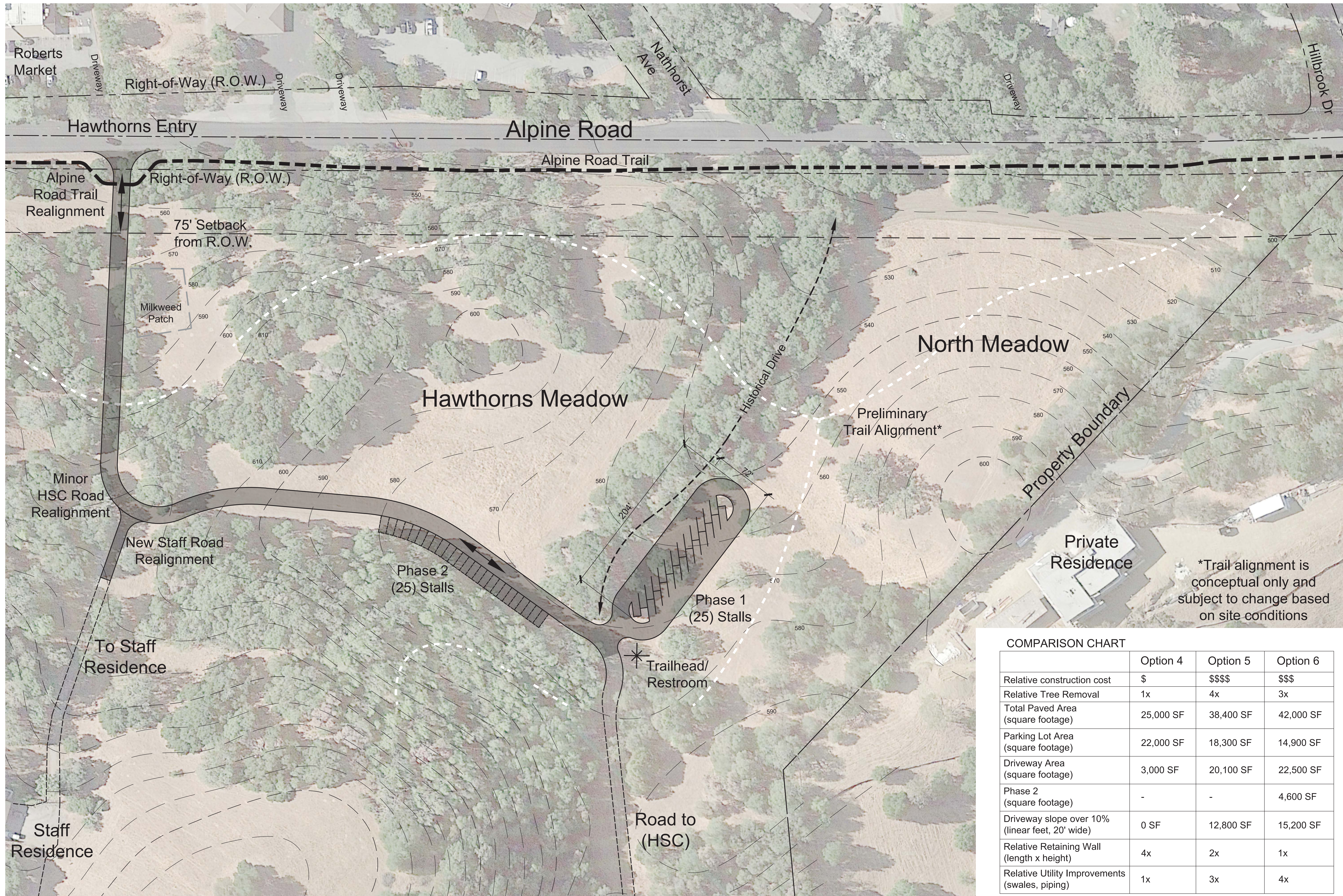


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Relative Utility Improvements (swales, piping)	1x	3x	4x

HAWTHORNS AREA - OPTION 5 SCHEMATIC

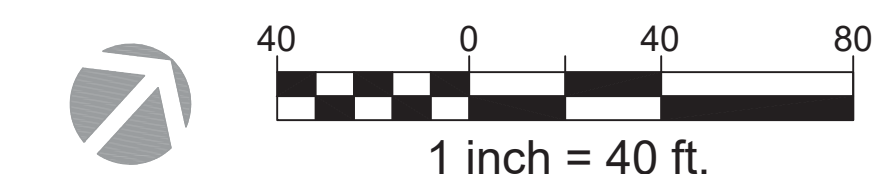


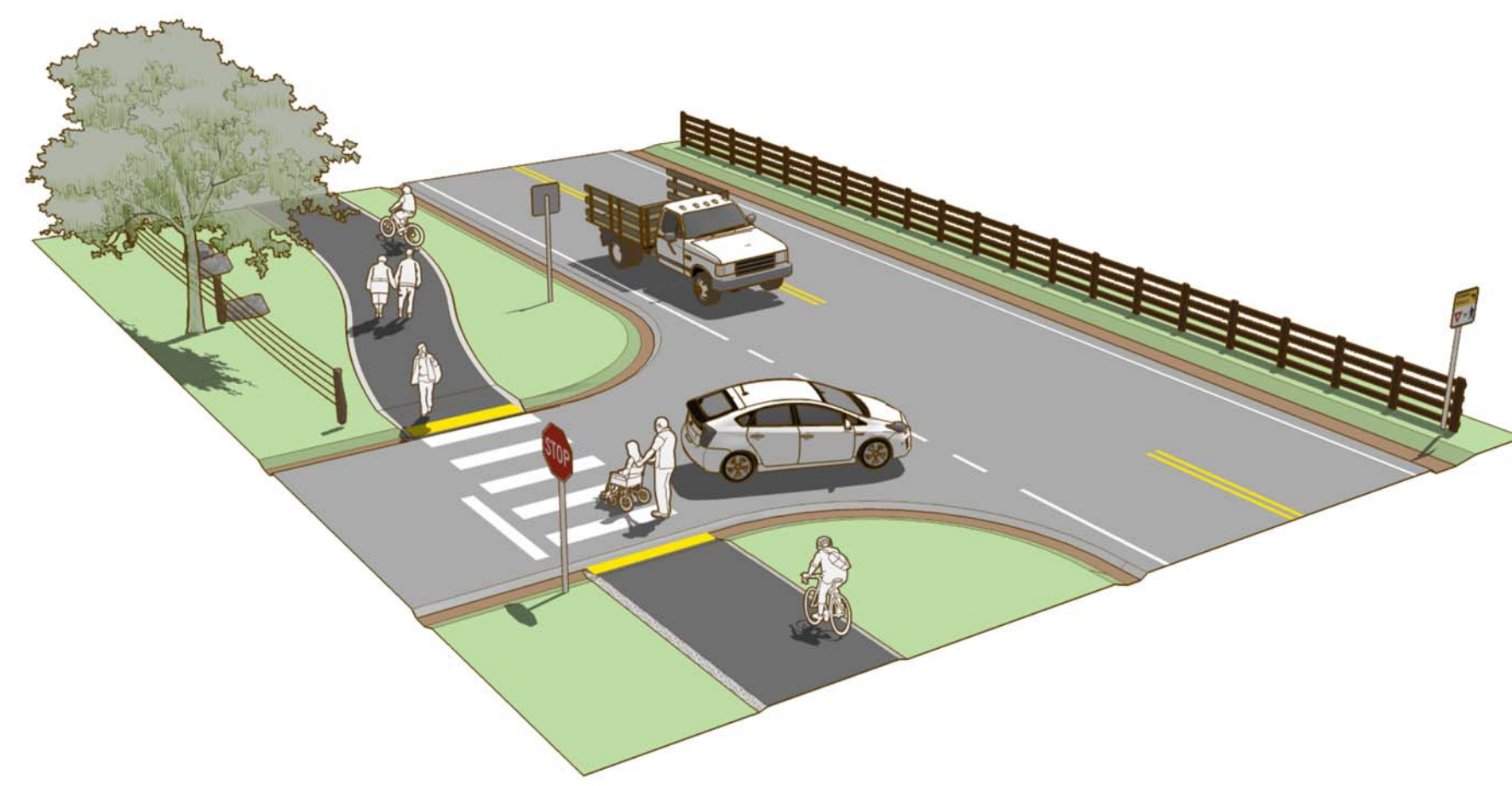


COMPARISON CHART

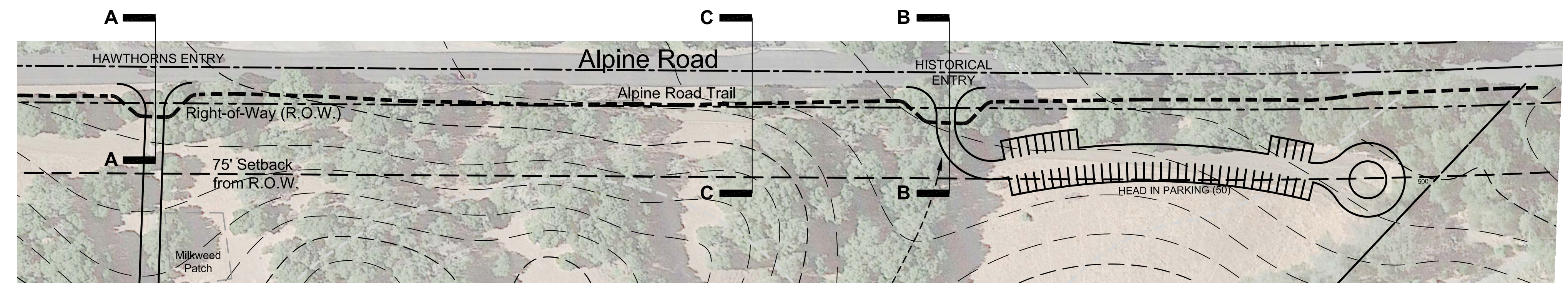
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Relative Retaining Wall (length x height)	4x	2x	1x
Relative Utility Improvements (swales, piping)	1x	3x	4x

HAWTHORNS AREA - OPTION 6 SCHEMATIC

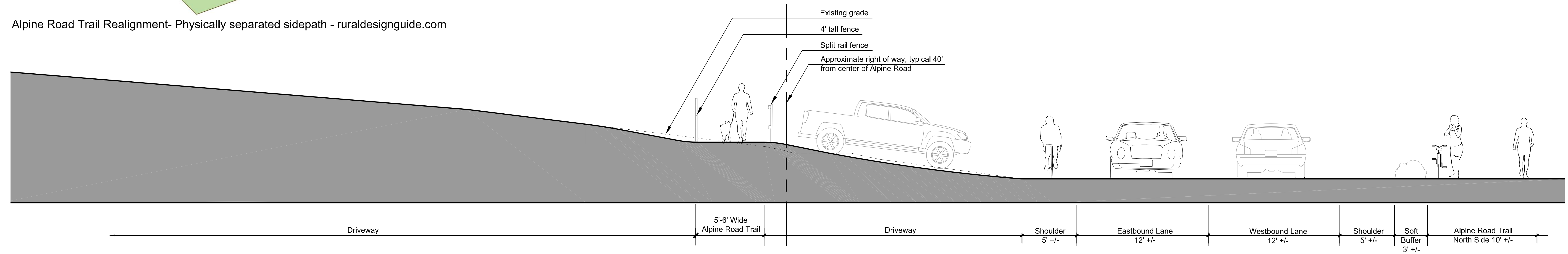




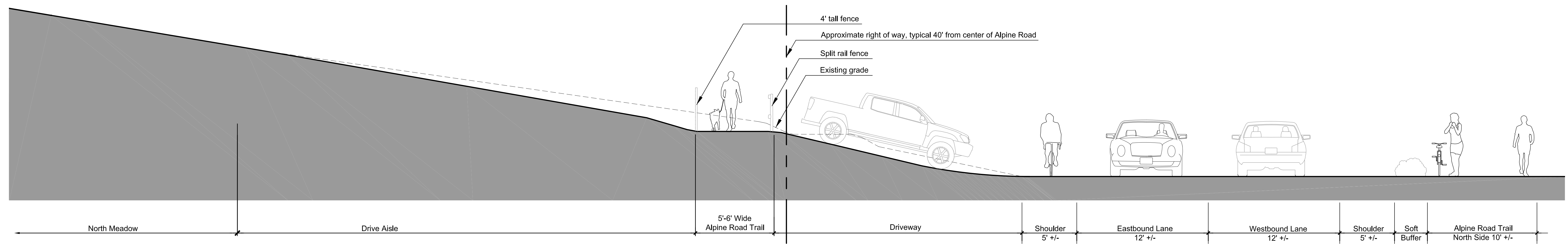
Alpine Road Trail Realignment- Physically separated sidepath - ruraldesignguide.com



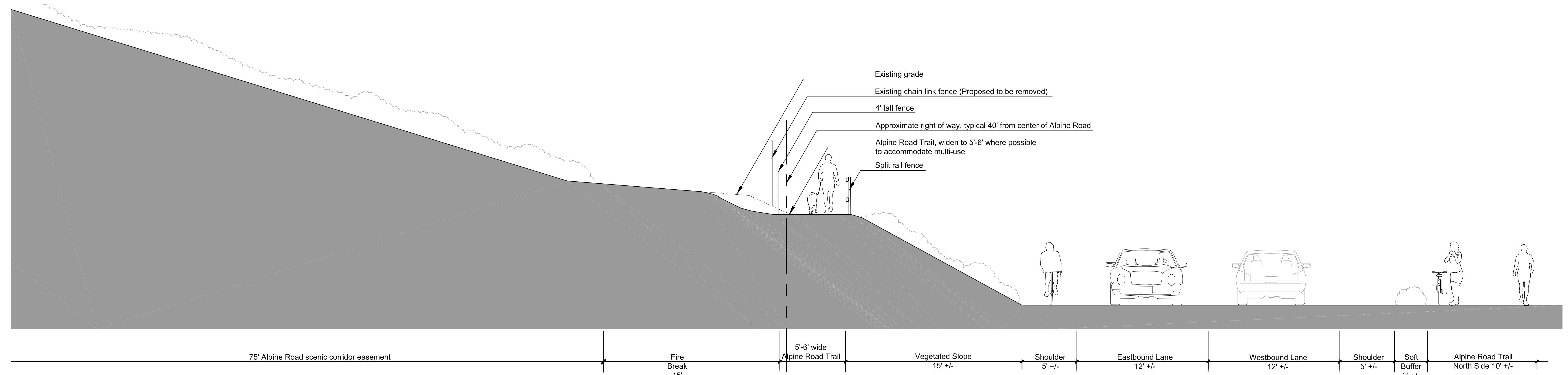
ALPINE ROAD - SECTION KEYMAP



SECTION A-A - HAWTHORNS MEADOW DRIVEWAY



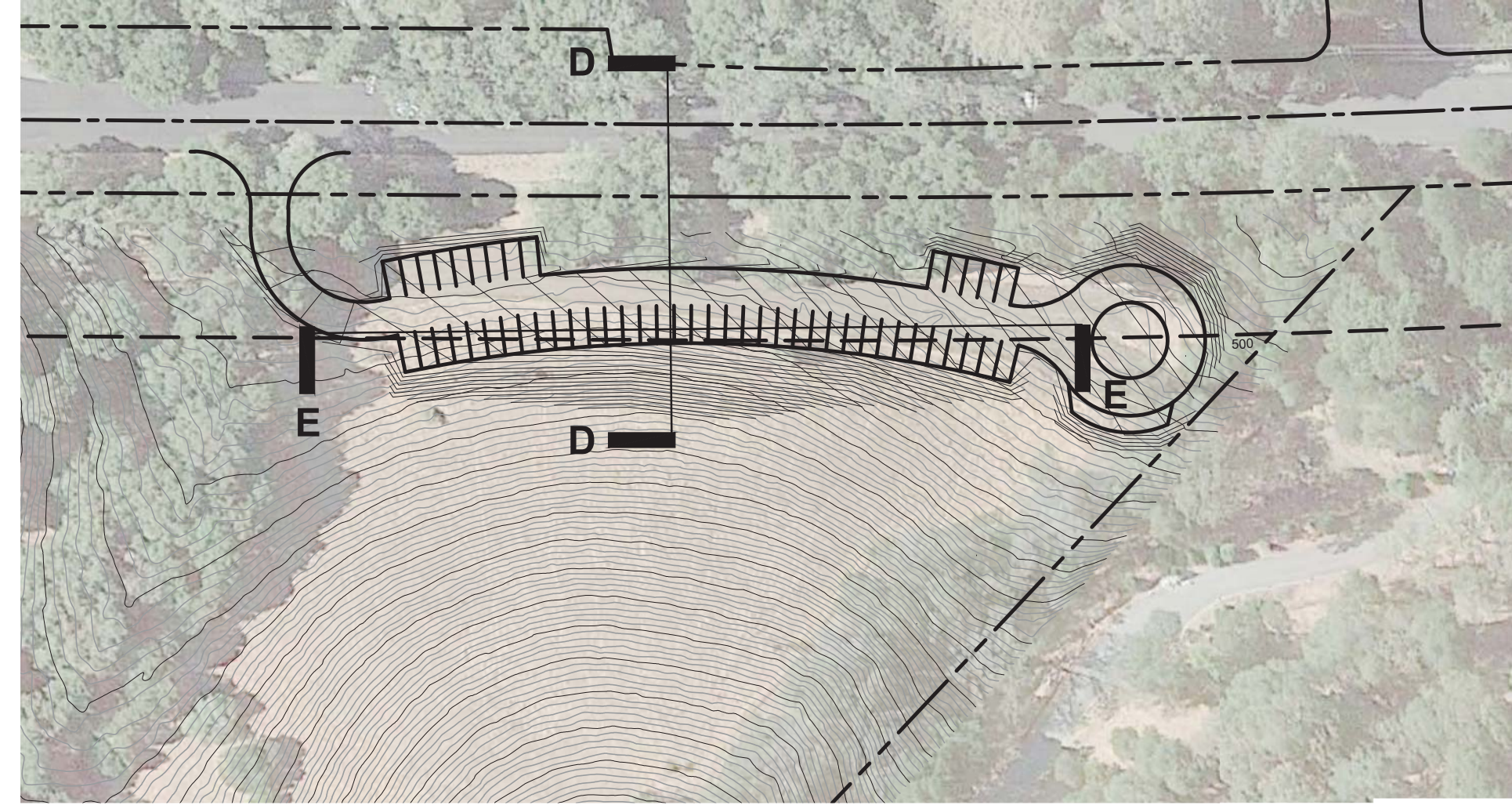
SECTION B-B - HISTORICAL ENTRY DRIVEWAY



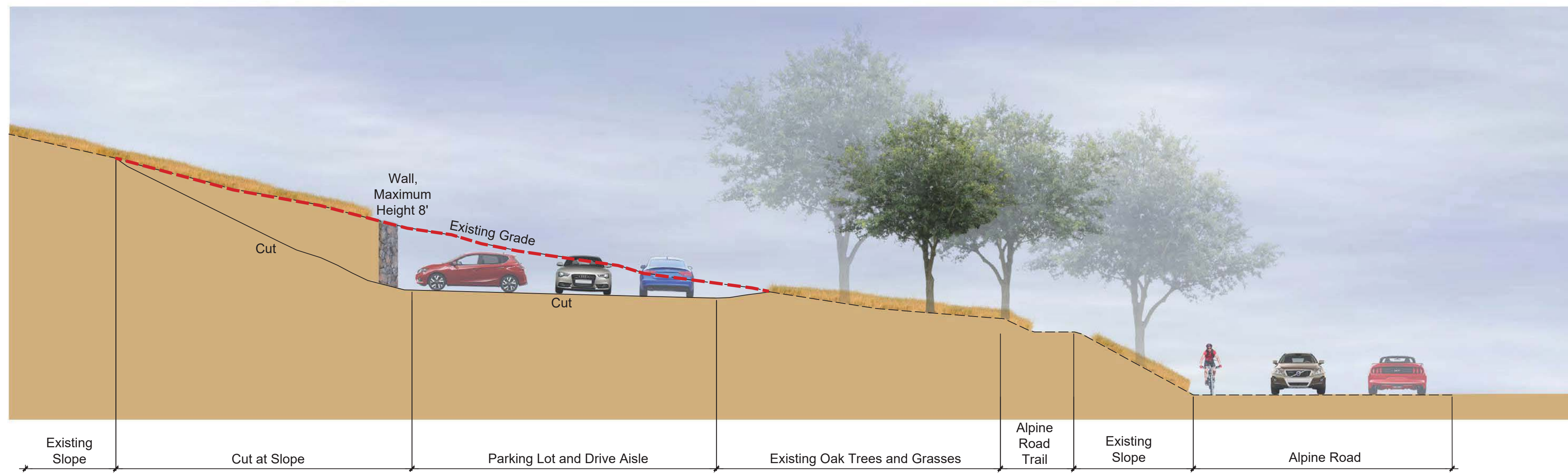
SECTION C-C - TYPICAL ALPINE ROAD TRAIL SECTION

HAWTHORNS AREA - ALPINE ROAD SECTIONS





OPTION 4 - SECTION KEYMAP



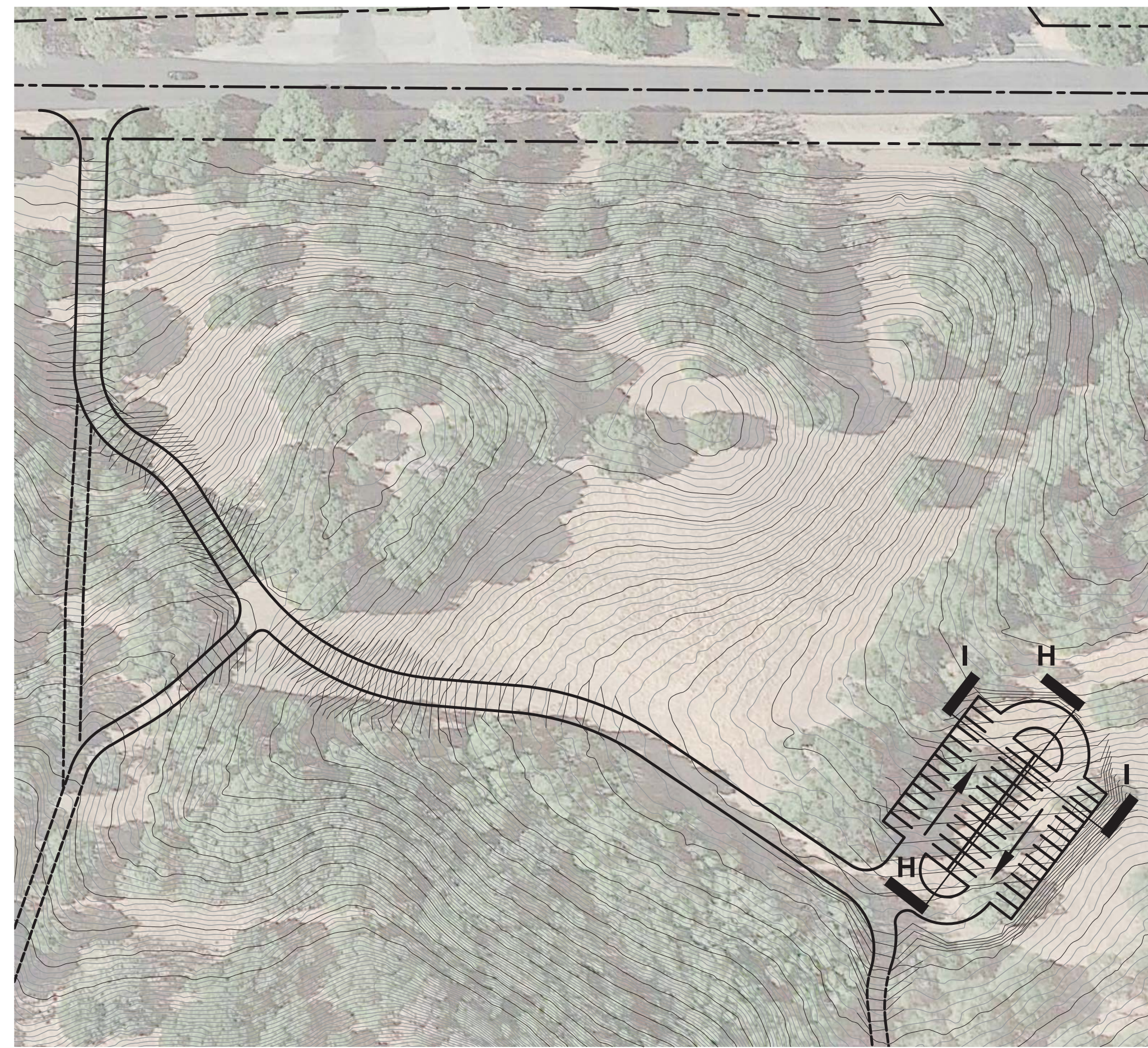
OPTION 4 - SECTION - D-D - PARKING LOT WIDTH



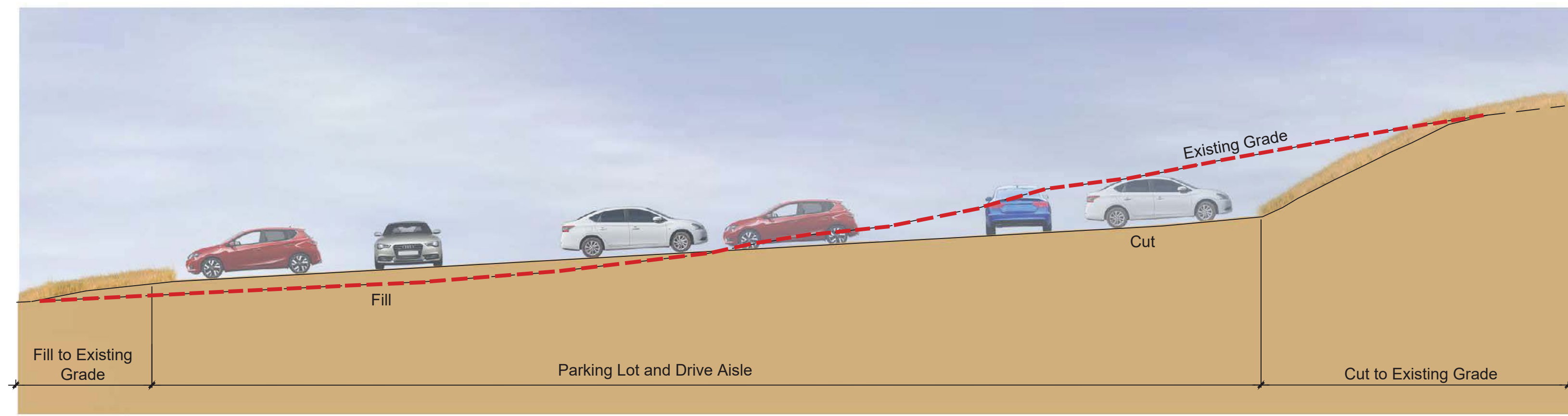
OPTION 4 - SECTION E-E - PARKING LOT LENGTHWISE

HAWTHORNS AREA - OPTION 4 PARKING LOT SECTIONS

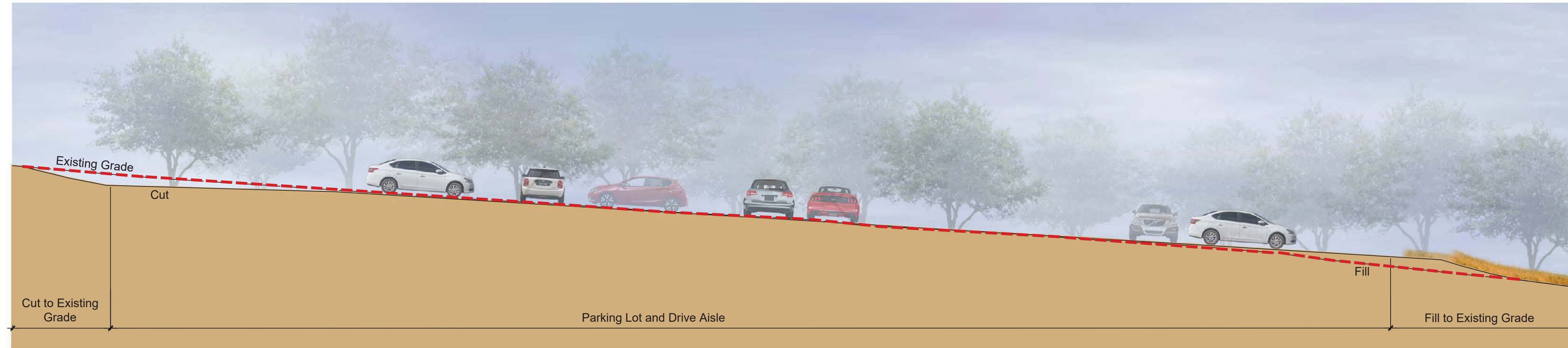




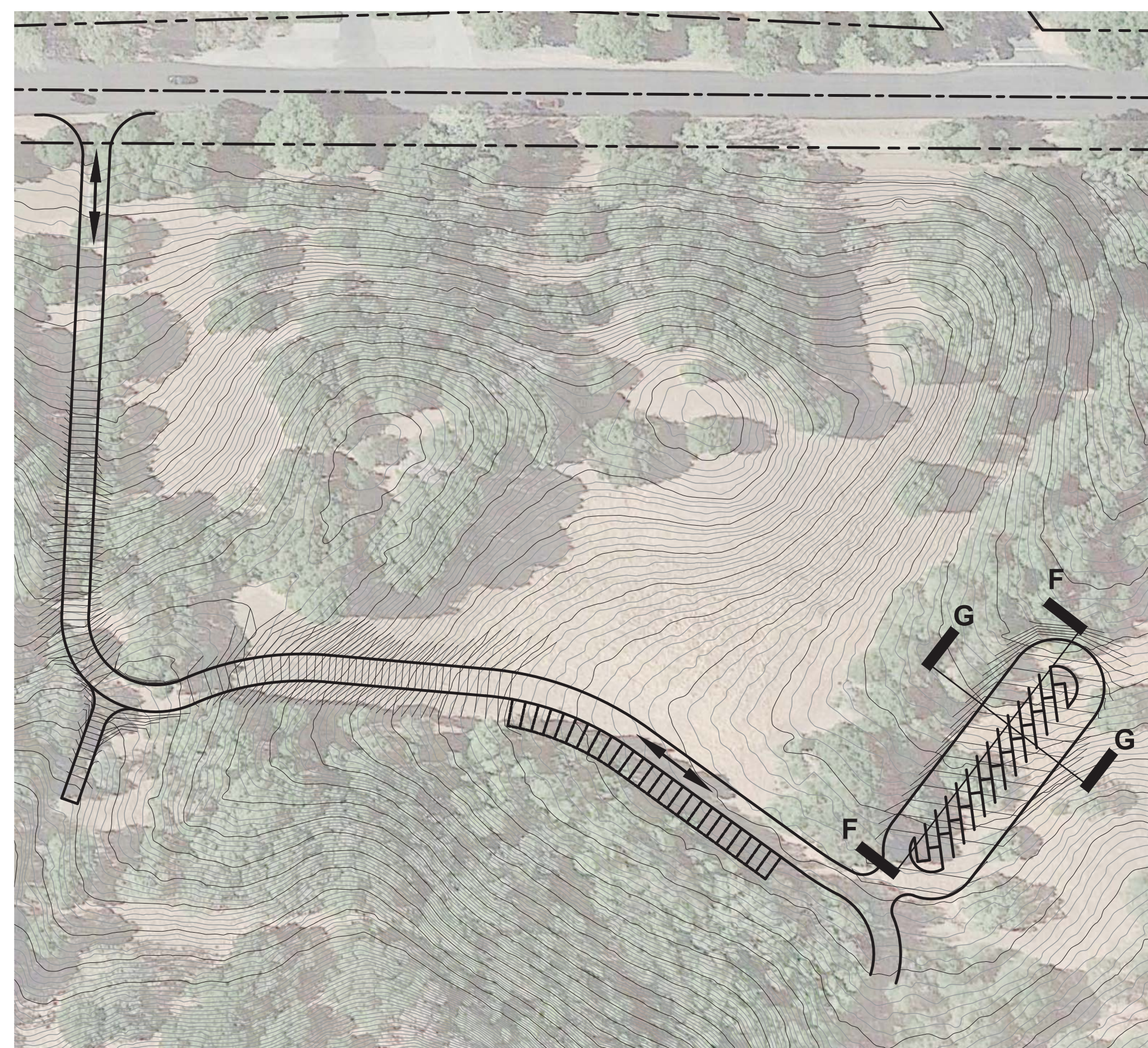
OPTION 5 - SECTION KEYMAP



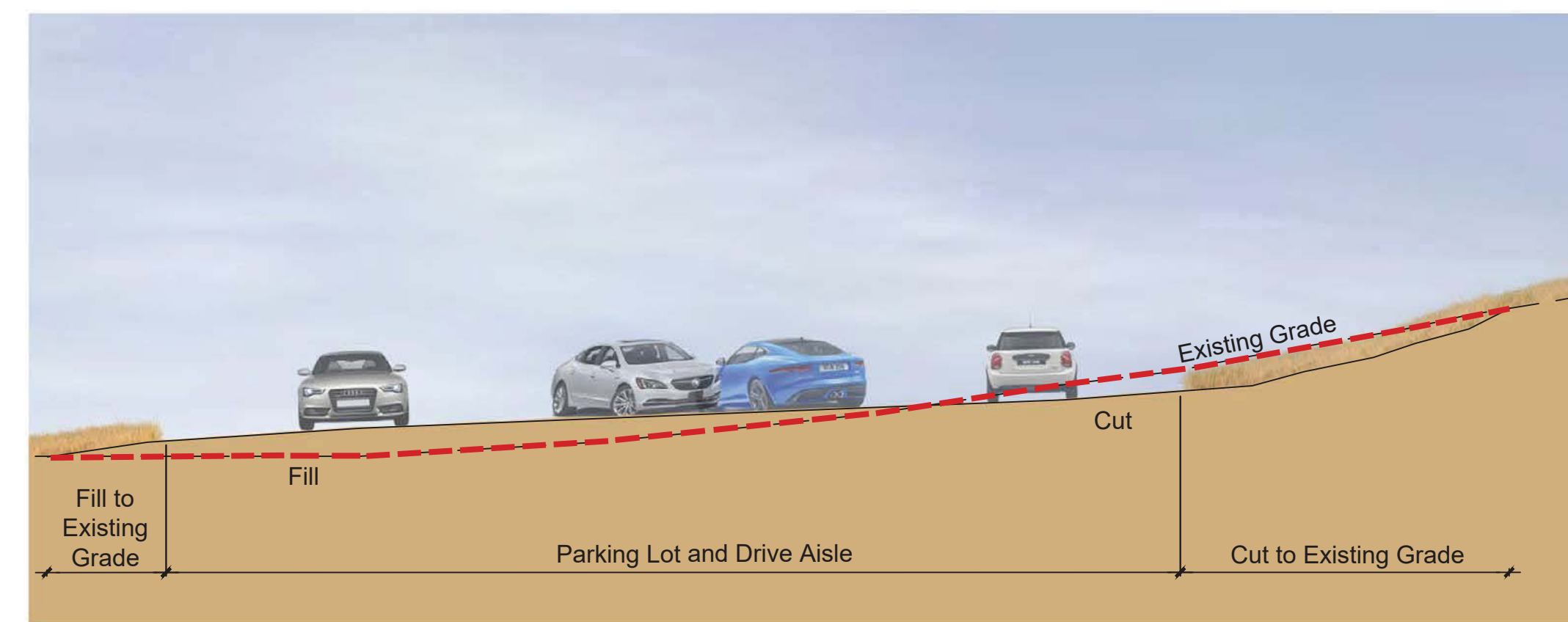
OPTION 5 - SECTION I-I - PARKING LOT WIDTH



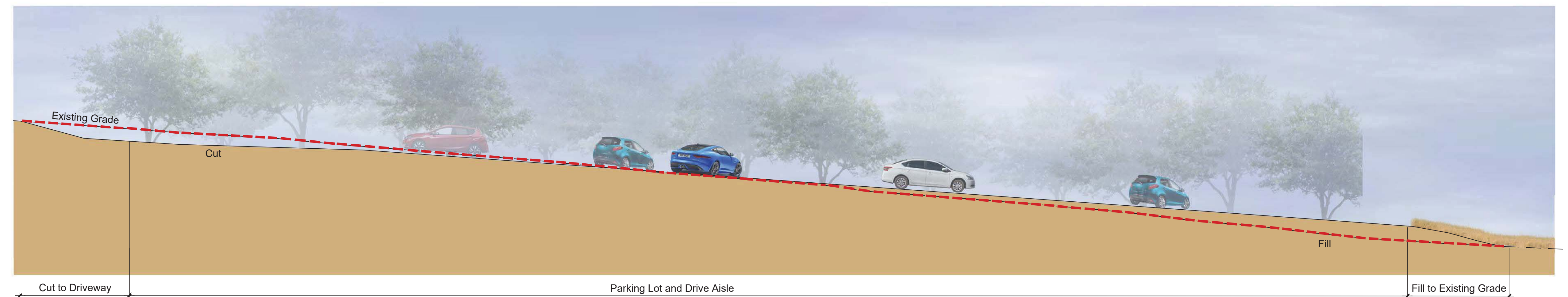
OPTION 5 - SECTION H-H - PARKING LOT LENGTH



OPTION 6 - SECTION KEYMAP



OPTION 6 - SECTION G-G - PARKING LOT WIDTH



OPTION 6 - SECTION F-F PARKING LOT LENGTH

HAWTHORNS AREA - OPTION 5 & 6 PARKING LOT SECTIONS

Hawthorns Area Public Access Working Group Natural Resources Considerations



Hawthorns Area Plan

Over the past three meetings, our discussions have primarily revolved around the crucial topic of public access to the Hawthorns Area. While public access is a key objective of this project, protecting and restoring the natural environment is integral to Midpen's mission as a regional open space district. By preserving and restoring the environment, Midpen protects and enhances the resources and ecological processes we all depend on, ensuring their long-term viability for future generations.

As a well-informed community is essential for the success of any conservation effort, we have provided a natural resources analysis to demonstrate the interconnectedness of these considerations. The following analysis is an extension of the [Public Access Framework](#) shared in the orientation packet for the first PAWG meeting. Both the analysis and Public Access Framework are founded on [Midpen's Basic Policy](#), which directs staff to "follow management policies that ensure proper care of the land, that provide public access appropriate to the nature of the land, and that are consistent with ecological values and public safety." Moreover, "proper care for the land" is further defined and guided by the Board-approved [Resource Management Policies](#) and a resource management mission statement that states that "the District will protect and restore the diversity and integrity of its resources and ecological processes for their value to the environment and to people, and will provide for the use of the preserves consistent with resource protection."






We encourage you to weigh the natural resources considerations alongside other factors during your ongoing discussions. Your perspectives will play a critical role in shaping a balanced and sustainable plan for the Hawthorns Area.



Hawthorns Area Plan Conceptual Designs: Natural Resources Analysis

Design Option	Policy Alignment	Natural Resource Considerations	Relevant Resource Management Policies
4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limits extent of built environment to property edge in already disturbed area near existing roadway, minimizing human impacts to the preserve ▪ Smallest footprint of total paved area and shortest driveway length ▪ Maintains integrity of meadows and sensitive vegetation communities, minimizes habitat fragmentation, and reduces impacts to habitat connectivity, supporting ecological resilience ▪ <i>Abuts riparian resources in northeast corner</i> ▪ <i>Necessitates some vegetation removal</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy Water Resources-1 Protect surface and ground water from contamination. ▪ Policy Water Resources-2 Restore, maintain, or enhance water quality on District lands. ▪ Policy Geology and Soils-1 Locate and construct facilities to avoid high-risk areas subject to landslides, liquefaction, faulting, flooding, and erosion. ▪ Policy Geology and Soils -2 Minimize unnatural soil erosion and sedimentation. ▪ Policy Scenic and Aesthetic Resources-1 Minimize evidence of human impacts within preserves. ▪ Policy Scenic and Aesthetic Resources-3 Minimize unnatural noise within preserves. ▪ Policy Vegetation Management-1 Maintain the diversity of native plant communities. ▪ Policy Wildlife Management-2 Protect, maintain, and enhance habitat features that have particular value to native wildlife. ▪ Policy Cultural Resource Management-3 Protect cultural resources from disturbance to the maximum extent feasible. ▪ Policy Habitat Connectivity-2 Identify and protect existing habitat networks to prevent further compromise to ecosystem integrity. ▪ Policy Climate Change-4 Prepare for climate change impacts and promote resilience for both natural and built environments. ▪ Policy Integrated Pest Management-2 Take appropriate actions to prevent the introduction of new pest species to District preserves, especially new invasive plants in natural areas, rangelands, and agricultural properties. ▪ Policy Integrated Pest Management-4 Monitor pest occurrences and results of control actions and use adaptive management to improve results. ▪ Policy Wildland Fire Management-1 Implement necessary fire and fuel management practices to protect public health and safety, protect natural resources, and to reduce the impacts of wildland fire. ▪ Policy Wildland Fire Management-4 Manage District vegetation communities to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and to maintain biological diversity and to promote resilience.
5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sited away from riparian resources ▪ <i>Deviation from historic road alignment and proposed plans require significant grading and paving in a previously undisturbed area, resulting in the most <u>intensive</u> human impacts to the landscape as well as greatest potential adverse impacts to geologic and cultural resources</i> ▪ <i>Second greatest footprint of total paved area</i> ▪ <i>Necessitates the greatest tree removal and additional vegetation removal/construction of a shaded fuel break for wildland fire management</i> ▪ <i>Increases meadow fragmentation, reducing habitat quality, connectivity, and ecological resilience</i> 	
6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sited away from riparian resources ▪ <i>Deviation from historic road alignment and proposed plans require significant grading and paving in <u>multiple</u> previously undisturbed areas, resulting in the most <u>extensive</u> human impacts to the landscape, as well as increased potential adverse impacts to geologic and cultural resources</i> ▪ <i>Greatest footprint of total paved area</i> ▪ <i>Necessitates second greatest tree removal and additional vegetation removal/construction of a shaded fuel break for wildland fire management, as well as reduction of native oak woodland</i> ▪ <i>Increases meadow fragmentation, reducing habitat quality, connectivity, and ecological resilience</i> 	

Hawthorns Area Plan Conceptual Designs: Natural Resources Analysis

Key:

-  No alignment with District policies
-  Somewhat aligned with District policies
-  Partially aligned with District policies
-  Mostly aligned with District policies
-  Full alignment with District policies

-  Adverse environmental impacts
-  Favorable environmental impacts

Hawthorns Area Public Access Working Group
~~FINAL~~ Meeting Schedule and Topics [\(updated December 2023\)](#)

Hawthorns Area Plan

All Public Access Working Group (PAWG) meetings listed below are subject to the Brown Act. A separate working agenda will be developed for each PAWG meeting. Meeting topics listed below are tentative and subject to change. Dates and locations are subject to facility availability, project team availability, and standing external organization meetings (e.g. Town of Portola Valley Council and Committee meetings), and may also depend on the topics being discussed.

PAWG Meeting Detail	Topic and Objective
<p>Date: July 27, 2023 (Thursday) Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm Location: Administrative Office, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos</p>	<p>Meeting 1: Kickoff Goal: Establish Working Group roles, goals, workplan, schedule, and operating procedures. Public comment. Public comment. Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introductions • Public comment • Working Group procedures • Midpen background • Project background • Public comment • Closing comments <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get to know each other • Confirm schedule/meeting locations • Confirm ground rules and operating procedures • Understand roles of PAWG, District staff and facilitator • Establish common understanding of District Mission • Quick overview of a few key defining documents • Conservation Easement, Existing Conditions and Constraints and Opportunities Report • Prepare the group for the site visit <p>Anticipated Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish reviewing binder orientation materials in preparation for Meeting 2’s site visit
<p>Date: August 26, 2023 (Saturday) Time: 9:00 – 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Meeting 2: Site visit Goal: Conduct in-person site tour and review existing site conditions Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment

PAWG Meeting Detail	Topic and Objective
<p>Location: Hawthorns, Portola Valley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and approve prior meeting summary • Walking tour • Public comment • Closing comments <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct site reconnaissance to develop a shared familiarity with the site and an understanding of site-specific opportunities and constraints related to public access. • Tour initial sites for possible public access amenities: driveway, parking, trail locations. • Provide initial thoughts to project and consultant team. <p>Anticipated Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit requests for additional information or clarification if any.
<p>Date: October 26, 2023 (Thursday) Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm Location: Administrative Office, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos</p>	<p>Meeting 3: Design discussion</p> <p>Goal: Discuss initial conceptual design alternatives including proposed parking and driveway options, as well as internal connections, trailheads, trail uses, and local and regional connectivity opportunities. Select two co-chairs.</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Review and approve prior meeting summary • Review concept design alternatives • Discuss potential issues or revisions • Public comment • Closing comments <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review conceptual design alternatives. • Discuss and provide feedback to project and consultant team on proposed design alternatives, trail uses, and project elements. • Elect 2 co-chairs to help administer meetings. <p>Anticipated Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit requests for additional information or clarification, if any. • Prepare to share observations and reflections at Meeting 4 after site tour. • Consider how conceptual design alternatives meet goals and objectives. • Consider other potential options or issues.

PAWG Meeting Detail	Topic and Objective
<p>Date: December 16, 2023 (Saturday)</p> <p>Time: 9:00 – 1:00 pm</p> <p>Location: Hawthorns, Portola Valley Administrative Office, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos</p>	<p>Meeting 4: Site visit and design discussion <u>Design Discussion (continued)</u></p> <p>Goal: <u>Continue discuss initial conceptual design alternatives including proposed parking and driveway options, as well as internal trail system and connections, trailheads, trail uses, and local and regional connectivity opportunities.</u></p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Public comment</u> • <u>Review and approve prior meeting summary</u> • <u>Receive presentation on concept design alternatives</u> • <u>Public comment</u> • <u>PAWG discussion and feedback</u> • <u>Schedule discussion and update</u> • <u>Closing comments</u> <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Review conceptual design alternatives.</u> • <u>Discuss and provide feedback to project and consultant team on proposed design alternatives, trail uses, and project elements.</u> <p>Anticipated Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Submit requests for additional information or clarification, if any.</u> • <u>Prepare to share observations and reflections at Meeting 5 after site tour.</u> • <u>Consider how conceptual design alternatives meet goals and objectives.</u> • <u>Consider other potential options or issues.</u> <p>Goal: Site visit to review revised conceptual design alternatives and provide additional input.</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Review and approve prior meeting summary • Walking tour of proposed project elements • Discuss potential issues or revisions • Public comment • Closing comments <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct site reconnaissance to visualize conceptual design alternatives and proposed project elements on-site.

PAWG Meeting Detail	Topic and Objective
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss observations and how conceptual design alternatives meet goals and objectives. • Provide feedback to project and consultant team on proposed conceptual design alternatives and project elements. <p>Anticipated Homework: TBD.</p>
<p>ALTERNATE Meeting 5-4 Date: January 20, 2024 (Saturday) Time: 9:00 – 1:00 pm Location: Hawthorns, Portola Valley</p>	<p>Alternate date for Meeting 4 in case of inclement weather or another unanticipated delay, to be confirmed with PAWG. Meeting 4b, 5 and 5b would also need to be rescheduled.</p> <p>Meeting 5: Site meeting and design discussion Goal: Site meeting to review Meeting 4’s conceptual design alternatives on site and provide additional input. Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Public comment</u> • <u>Review and approve prior meeting summary</u> • <u>Discuss potential issues or revisions of proposed project elements at 1 – 3 locations</u> • <u>Public comment</u> • <u>Closing comments</u> <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conduct site reconnaissance to visualize conceptual design alternatives and proposed project elements on-site.</u> • <u>Discuss observations and how conceptual design alternatives meet goals and objectives.</u> • <u>Provide feedback to project and consultant team on proposed conceptual design alternatives and project elements.</u> <p><u>Anticipated Homework: TBD.</u></p>
<p>Date: January 18, 2024 (Thursday) Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm Location: Administrative Office, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos</p>	<p>Meeting 4b: Continuation of Meeting 4 (if needed) Goal: Continue discussion on revised conceptual design alternatives and provide additional input. Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Review and approve prior meeting summary • Review concept design alternatives • Discuss potential issues or revisions • Public comment • Closing comments <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete discussions started in Meeting 4

PAWG Meeting Detail	Topic and Objective
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback to project and consultant team on proposed conceptual design alternatives and project elements. <p>Anticipated Homework: TBD.</p>
<p><u>ALTERNATE Meeting 5</u> <u>Date:</u> February 29, 2024 <u>(Thursday)</u> <u>Time:</u> 6:00 – 9:00 pm <u>Location:</u> Administrative Office, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos</p>	<p><u>Alternate date for Meeting 5 in case of inclement weather or the PAWG prefers non-quorum site tours, to be confirmed with PAWG. Meeting 6 and 6b would also need to be rescheduled.</u></p>
<p><u>Date:</u> February 29 <u>March 21</u>, 2024 (Thursday) <u>Time:</u> 6:00 – 9:00 pm <u>Location:</u> Administrative Office, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos</p>	<p>Meeting <u>65</u>: Preferred design alternative(s) Goal: Confirm preferred conceptual design alternative(s) to forward to the District’s Planning & Natural Resources Committee (PNR). Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Review and approve prior meeting summary • Review concept design alternatives and determine which to forward to PNR • Public comment • Closing comments <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote on preferred conceptual design alternative(s) to present to PNR. <p>Anticipated Homework: TBD.</p>
<p><u>Date:</u> <u>May 2 or May 9</u> March 21, 2024 <u>(Thursday)</u> <u>Time:</u> 6:00 – 9:00 pm <u>Location:</u> Administrative Office, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos</p>	<p>Meeting <u>65b</u>: Continuation of Meeting <u>65</u> (if needed) Goal: Continue discussion to confirm preferred conceptual design alternative(s) to forward to the PNR. Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Review and approve prior meeting summary • Select preferred conceptual design alternative(s) to forward to PNR • Public comment • Closing comments <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote on preferred design alternative(s) to present to PNR. <p>Anticipated Homework: TBD.</p>

[Following the PAWG’s determination of a recommendation, their recommendation would be presented to Midpen’s Committee and Board.](#) The below Board and Committee meetings are **tentative and subject to change** pending progress of the PAWG or other unanticipated delays. [Specific dates to be coordinated with the PAWG co-chairs.](#)

Board Meeting Detail	Topic and Objective
<p>Date: June 4, 2024 (Tuesday) July 2024 Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm Location: Administrative Office, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos</p>	<p>Planning and Natural Resource (PNR) Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of PAWG work and recommendations • Consideration of whether to forward a recommendation to the full Board or request additional input from the PAWG <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct PAWG to conduct additional analysis or forward a PNR recommendation with PAWG input to the full Board
<p>Date: July 12, 2024 (Friday) August 2024 Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm Location: Administrative Office, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos</p>	<p>Working Group follow-up (if needed, depending on PNR input):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address PNR input and direction <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to PNR and submit a revised preferred conceptual design alternative and/or requested information.
<p>Date: August 13, 2024 (Tuesday) September 2024 Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm Location: Administrative Office, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos</p>	<p>PNR Committee meeting #2 (if needed):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of PAWG work and recommendations • Forward a recommendation to the full Board <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward a PNR recommendation with PAWG input to the full Board
<p>Date: September 25, 2024 (Wednesday) November 2024 Time: 6:30 – 9:30 pm Location: Administrative Office, 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos</p>	<p>Regular Board meeting (following PNR direction):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of PNR recommendations and PAWG input <p>Desired Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A final decision on preferred conceptual design alternative to further evaluate through environmental review (CEQA)