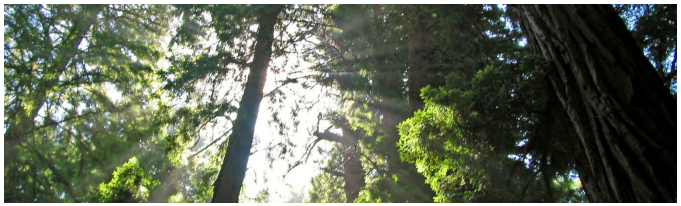
Visitor Access Planning at Muir Woods

Public Scoping Meeting
September 18, 2013



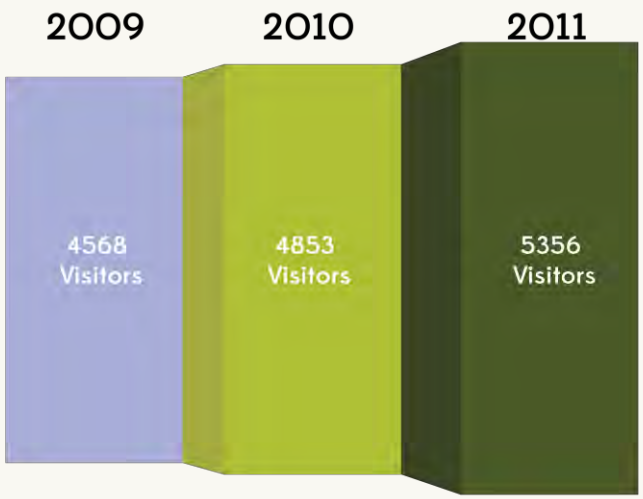
Today's Presentation

i. The Need
ii. Finding Solutions
iii. The Way Forward
iv. Questions

PART 1

The Need

Visitation Trends



40% Increase over past 10 years

July 5, 2013 — 6,000+ Busiest Day on Record

INDICATOR	STANDARD	USER CAPACITY
Pinchot Tree	30	4,310
Redwood Crosscut	30	4,780
Valley Floor Trail "Thru"	18	3,750
Valley Floor Trail Interpretive	18	3,200
Hillside Trail Encounters	40	3,620

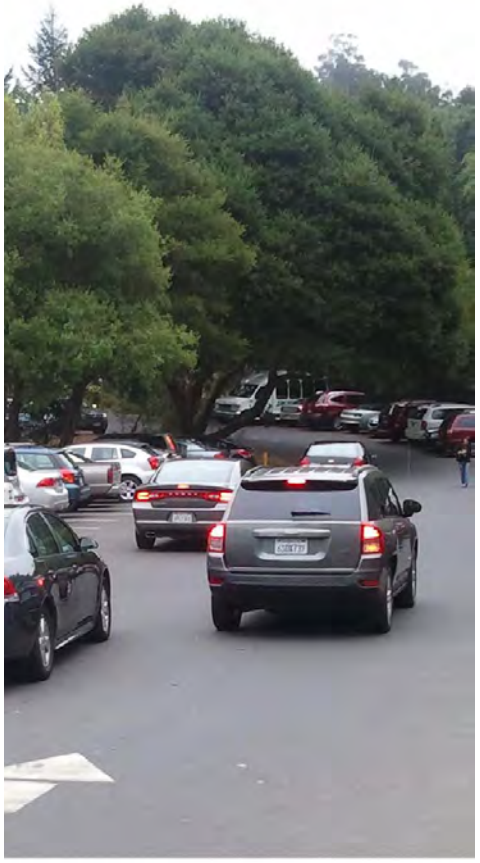
Recommended range for daily visitation: 3,500 to 4,000

Important Resource Values

Congestion and Safety

Adjacent Rds.

Muir Woods Rd.



Parking Lots

Inspiration?

PART 2

Finding Solutions

Some Perspective

1896 Gravity Car
1908 Muir Woods NM
1924 No Vehicles in the Groves
1937 Golden Gate Bridge
1955 Existing Parking Lots
1989 Coho salmon listed
2003 Redwood Creek Vision
2004 Transportation Studies
2005 Muir Woods Shuttle
2011 General Management Plan

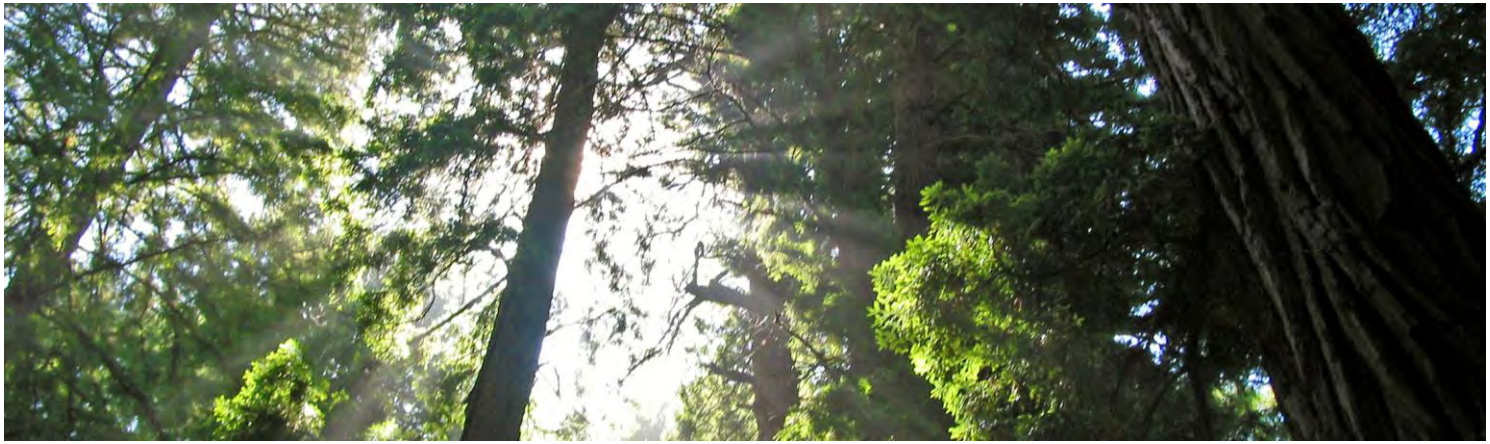
Courtesy of the Lucretia Little History Room, Mill Valley Public Library

Important Realities

- Existing conditions are not sustainable
- Visitation must be managed, especially at peak times
- Ability to add parking near Muir Woods is limited
- A watershed-focused solution is needed near term
- This can only be solved in close partnership

Our Purpose

To better manage Muir Woods visitor demand and transportation services to improve visitor experience and reduce resource impacts.



Two Projects

Reservation and Shuttle System
2014-15 Implementation

Transportation and Access Site Improvements
2016+ Implementation

System Overview

Reservation System	Parking Management	Shuttle Systems
• Website and call center options • Reserve parking and/or shuttle time slot • Reservations offered at rate that matches available capacity	• Muir Woods Lots • Lower Muir Woods Road Shoulder • Panoramic Highway Shoulder	• Sausalito Ferry Connection • Highway 101/1 Shuttle • Panoramic Highway Loop

Concession Contract for Transportation Services

Enhanced Partnership Agreements

Reservation System

Advanced ticketing and arrival mode selection for >80% visitors

We will contract with a private company to distribute reservations through a call center, website, local outlets and “on site” at various lots and intercepts.

Managing all motorized transportation within availability of infrastructure capacity – enabling everyone to have a successful visit.

Spreads and reduces intra-week & intra-day peak hour visitation for target desired experience and to avoid failures

No reduction in overall visitation — accommodates some growth during off-peak days & months

Enables visitors to be informed, engaged and prepared for a trip to Muir Woods – and enables us to be ready with what they need (parking spots, shuttle seats, and room on the trails!)

Reservation System

Muir Woods

Tickets & Tours

Search by Date:

09/03/2013

Ticket Quantity 2

Search

Muir Woods tickets can sell out several weeks in advance.

Save Time! Avoid the lines!
Buy "Print At Home eTickets" Now!

Helpful Tips: Getting the most from your Muir Woods Visit

Exclusive Carrier to Alcatraz

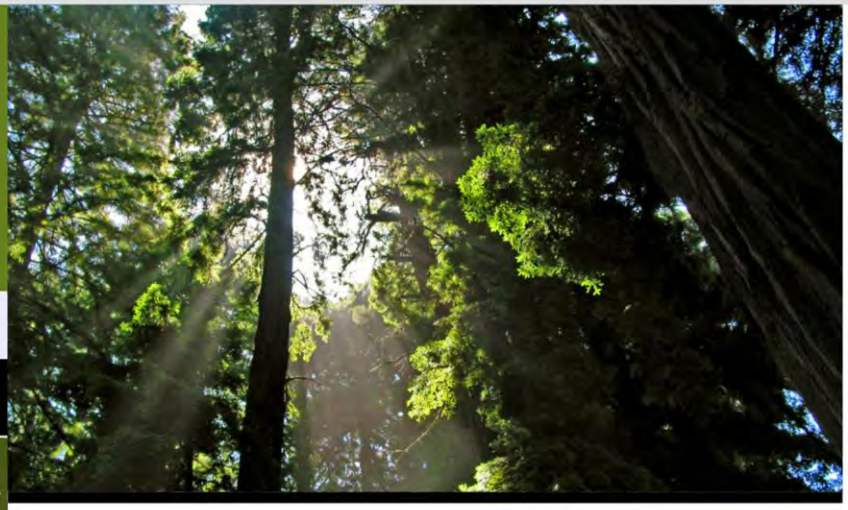
GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICE

Adult Admission with Audio Tour

Tickets now available for the next 90 days.

Alcatraz Tickets Facts:

- We are the official website for Alcatraz Tours to Alcatraz Island
- We guarantee the lowest prices for Alcatraz tickets



Visitor Video Series

How to get the most out of your trip to Alcatraz Island.

Alcatraz and history go hand in hand. Once home to some of America's most notorious criminals, the federal penitentiary that operated here from 1934 to 1963 brought a dark mystique to the Rock. The presence of infamous inmates like Al "Scarface" Capone, and the "Birdman" Robert Stroud helped to establish the island's notoriety. To this day, Alcatraz is best known as one of the world's most legendary prisons.

Many people, though, are unaware of the wealth of other stories to be

Reservation System

Muir Woods

Ticket Information

Adult	18–61 (years of age)
Junior	12–17
Child	5–11
Senior	62 (and over)
Toddlers	0–4 (are free!)
WT:	Web Ticket

Muir Woods tickets can sell out several weeks in advance.

Save Time! Avoid the lines!
Buy "Print At Home eTickets" Now!

Helpful Tips: Getting the most from your Muir Woods Visit

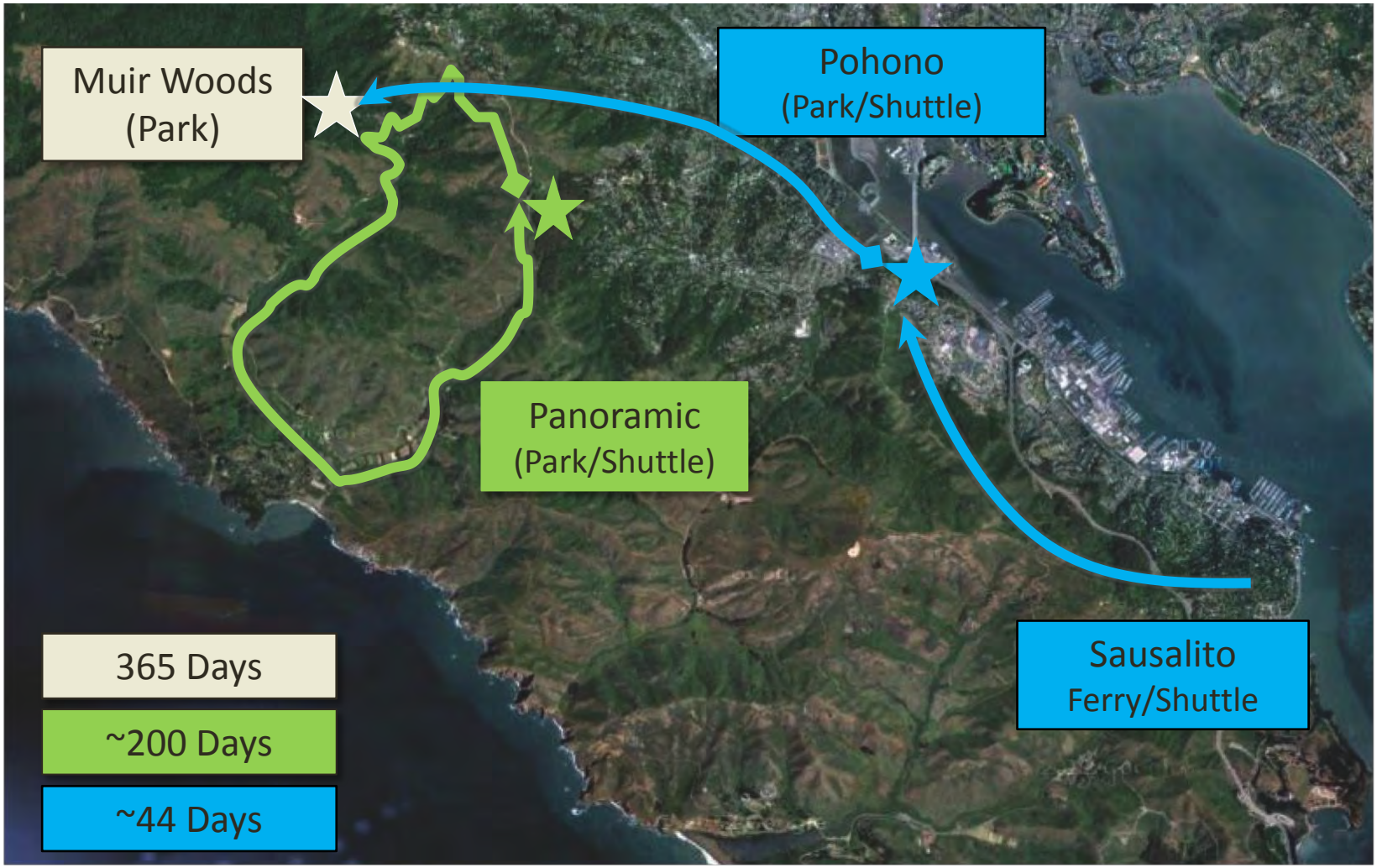
Tickets now available for the next 90 days.

Cart | Keep Shopping

	Sun Sep 8 2013	Mon Sep 9 2013	Tue Sep 10 2013	Wed Sep 11 2013	Thu Sep 12 2013
	—	—	—	—	—
Drive	—	—	—	—	—
Drive & Shuttle	—	—	12:00 pm 12:30 pm 1:00 pm 1:30 pm	9:30 am 12:00 pm 12:30 pm 1:00 pm 1:30 pm	9:30 am 12:00 pm 12:30 pm 1:30 pm
Ferry & Shuttle	—	2:40 pm	2:10 pm 2:40 pm	2:10 pm 2:40 pm	2:10 pm 2:40 pm
Commercial Tours	—	—	3:20 pm 3:50 pm	3:20 pm	—

<< Previous 5 days Next 5 days >>

Shuttle System

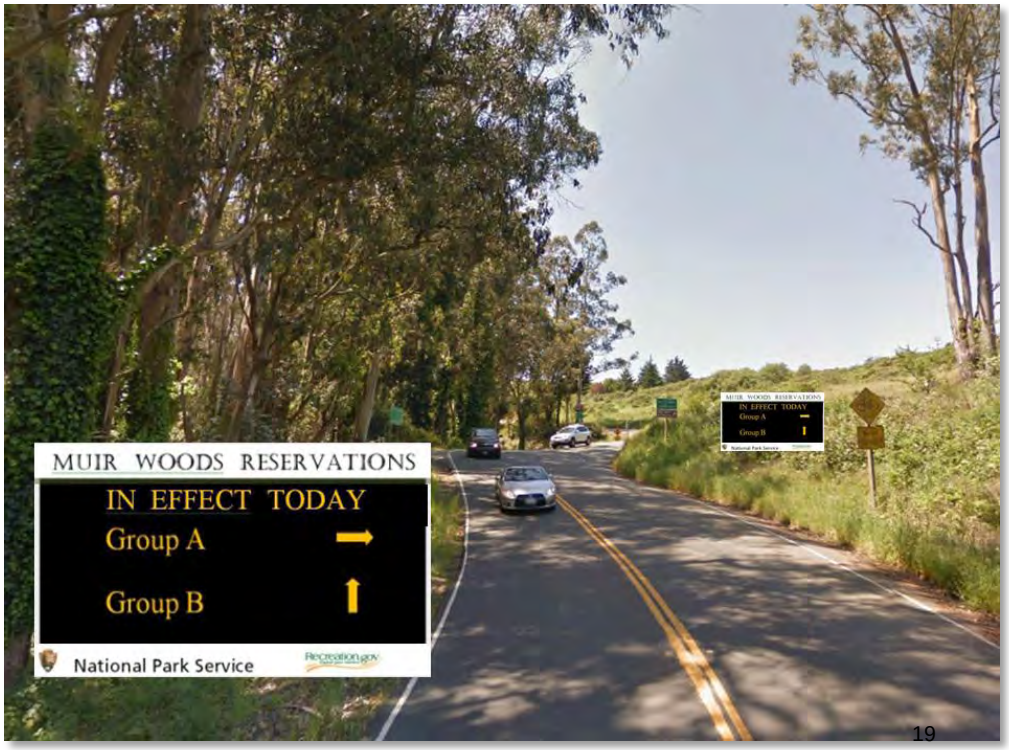


Parking Management

Shoulder Parking on Panoramic with flagged shuttle pick-up

Parking Management

- Reservations will provide visitors with arrival time, but no end time…visitors can enjoy the park at their pace.
- Series of signs on US 101 and Highway 1 will alert visitors to the need for reservations and where to go based on availability.
- Attendants will manage parking on-site and issue on-site permits when available
- Access to State Park trailheads will be maintained



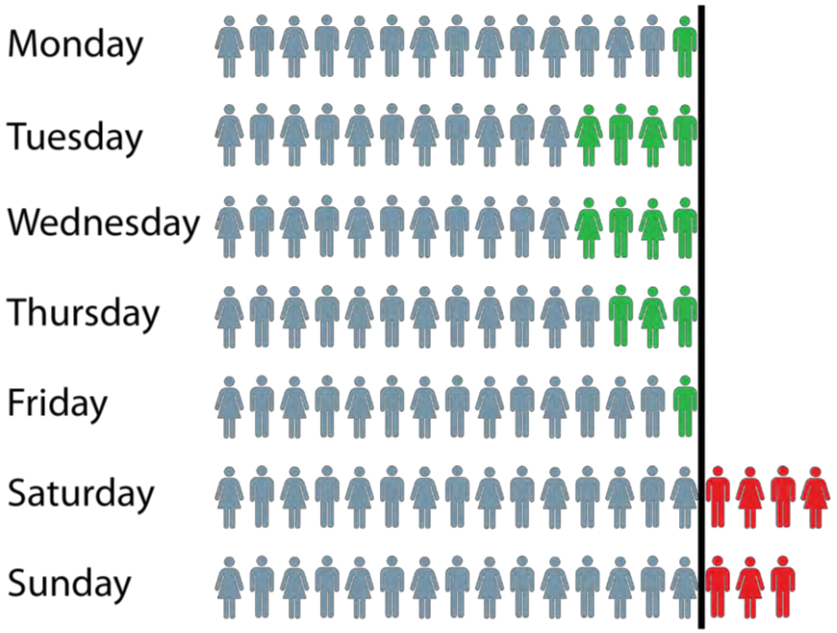
Parking Management

- A further economic study will determine the pricing schedule considering these important factors:
  - Financial sustainability of the additional services
  - Rewards for shuttle ridership
  - Overall affordability
  - Access for youth and other underrepresented groups

Initial Feasibility Study Estimate Ranges
(Actual Pricing TBD)

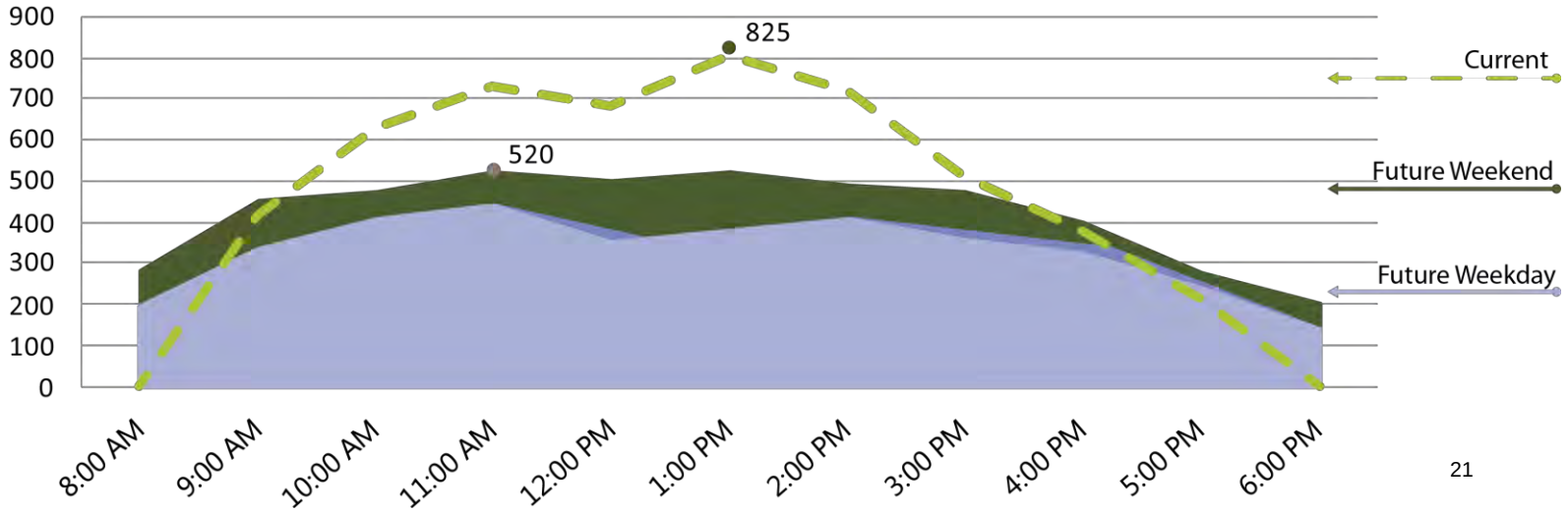
Mode of Arrival	Transportation or Parking Services	Total Cost w/Entrance Fee (Family of 4)
Drive to Muir Woods	$7-15 per car	$20-30
Park and Ride Shuttle	$5-10 per person	$10-20

Smoother Visitation

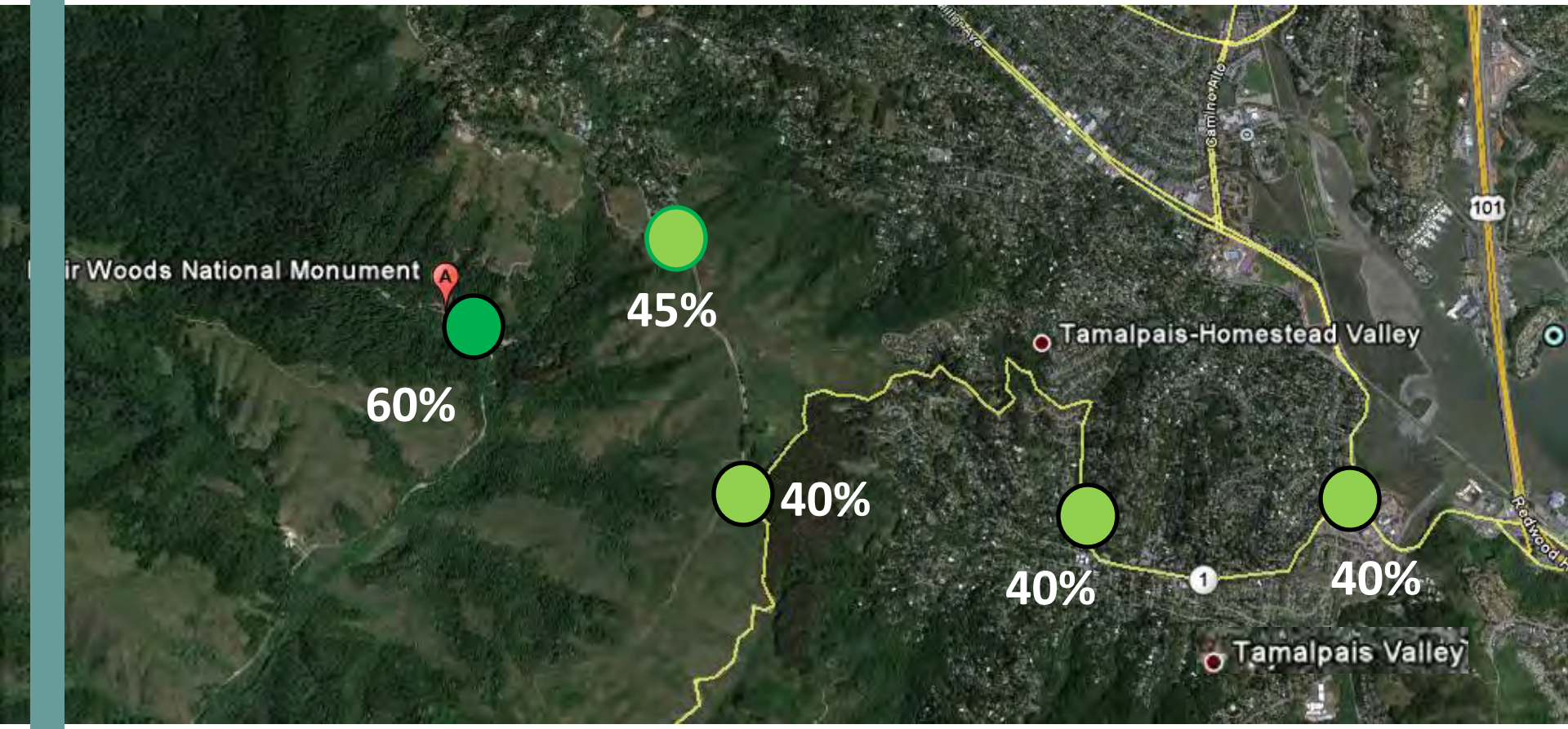


Potential Visitor Growth

Visitors Relocated to Other Dates



Peak Congestion Relief



% Estimated reduced Muir Woods vehicle trips during peak hours

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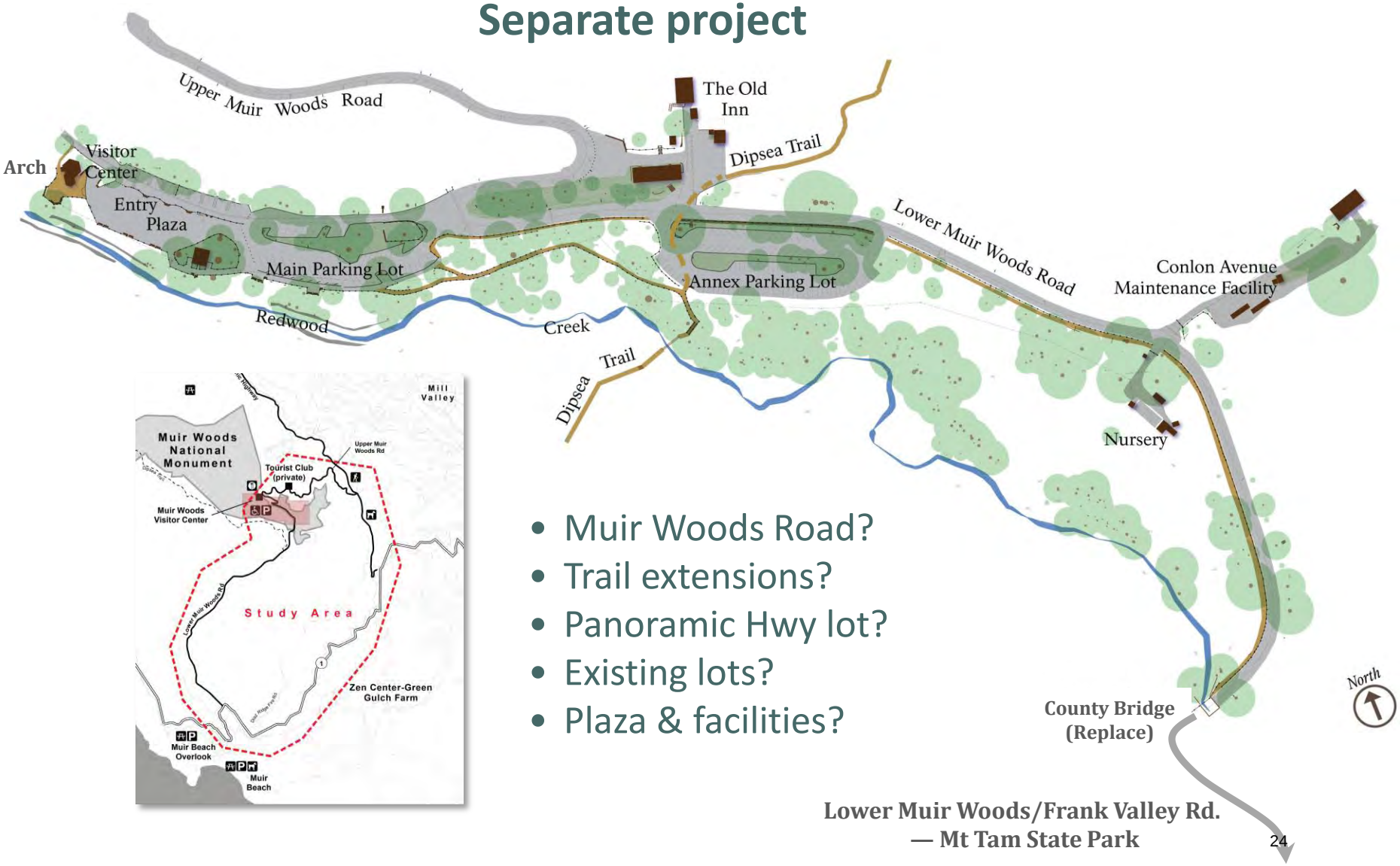
Site Improvements

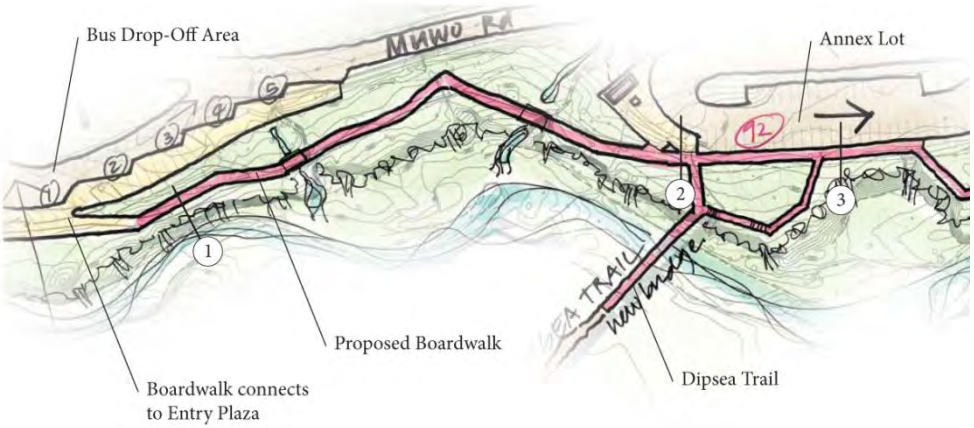
Separate project

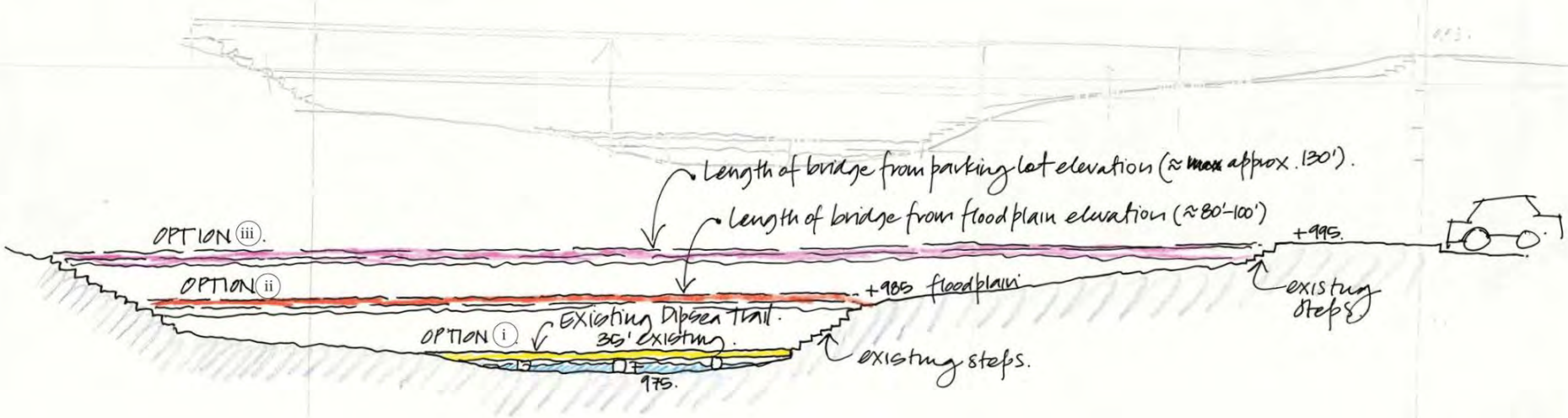


- Muir Woods Road?
- Trail extensions?
- Panoramic Hwy lot?
- Existing lots?
- Plaza & facilities?

Lower Muir Woods/Frank Valley Rd. — Mt Tam State Park

Range of Alternatives





Crossing Redwood Creek

New Lot on Panoramic Highway?

- Replace some parking removed from lower Muir Woods Rd
- Supports shuttle
- Spaces reserved
- Lot managed and gated
- Specific location under study

PART 3

Forward From Here

Please Comment

Flipcharts, cards, online by October 4

(Internal work sessions: October-November)

November 20 Workshop

Summary of comments
Update on parking reservation & shuttle system
Range of alternatives for site improvements

Environmental Documents

Winter-Spring 2014

Clarifying Questions & Answers

Parking Reservation and Shuttle System