

Yosemite National Park

MERCED RIVER PLAN...PROVIDING ACCESS AND PROTECTING RESOURCES

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

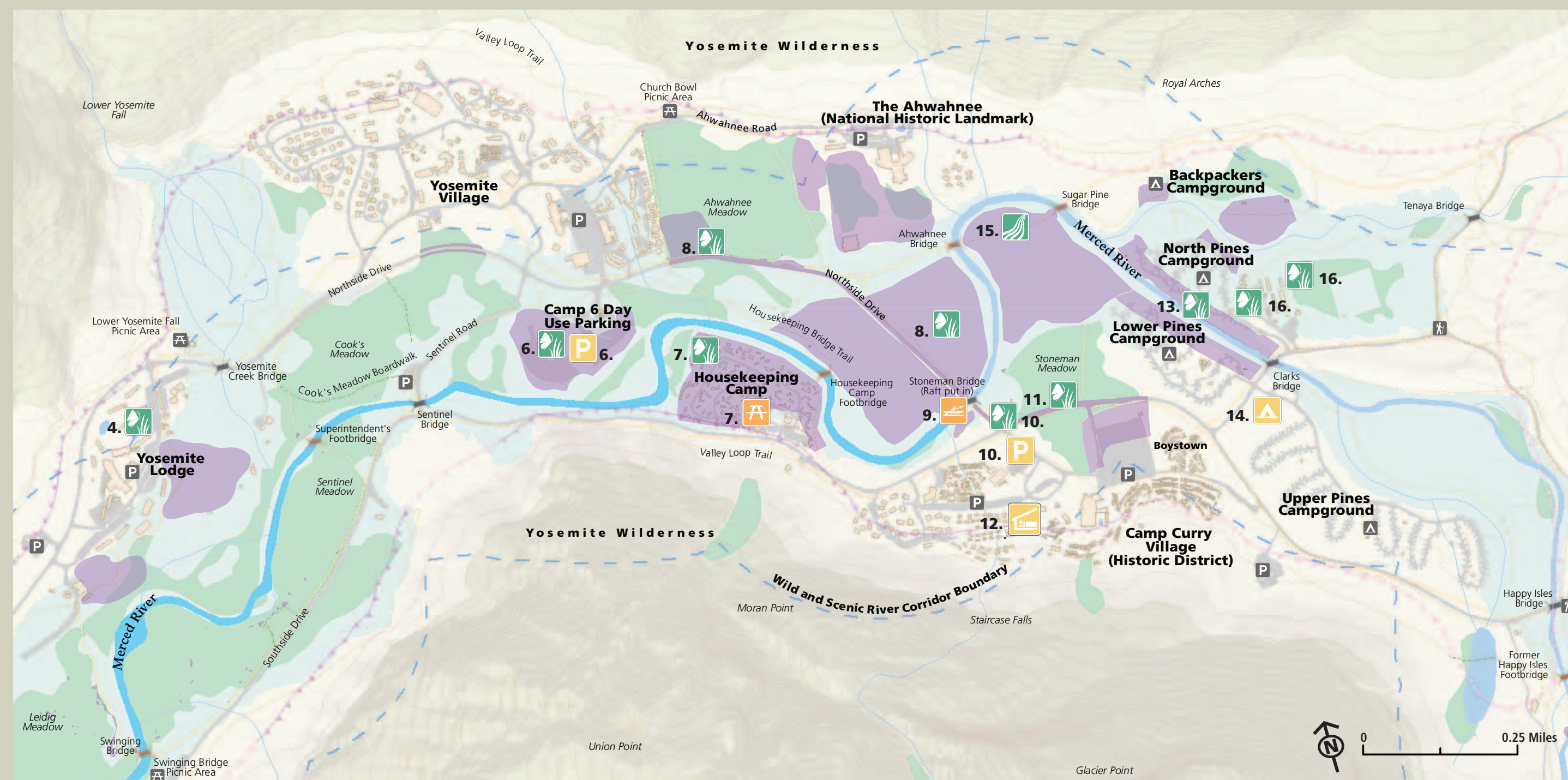


CONCEPT 2: DISPERSED VISITOR EXPERIENCES AND EXTENSIVE RIVERBANK RESTORATION

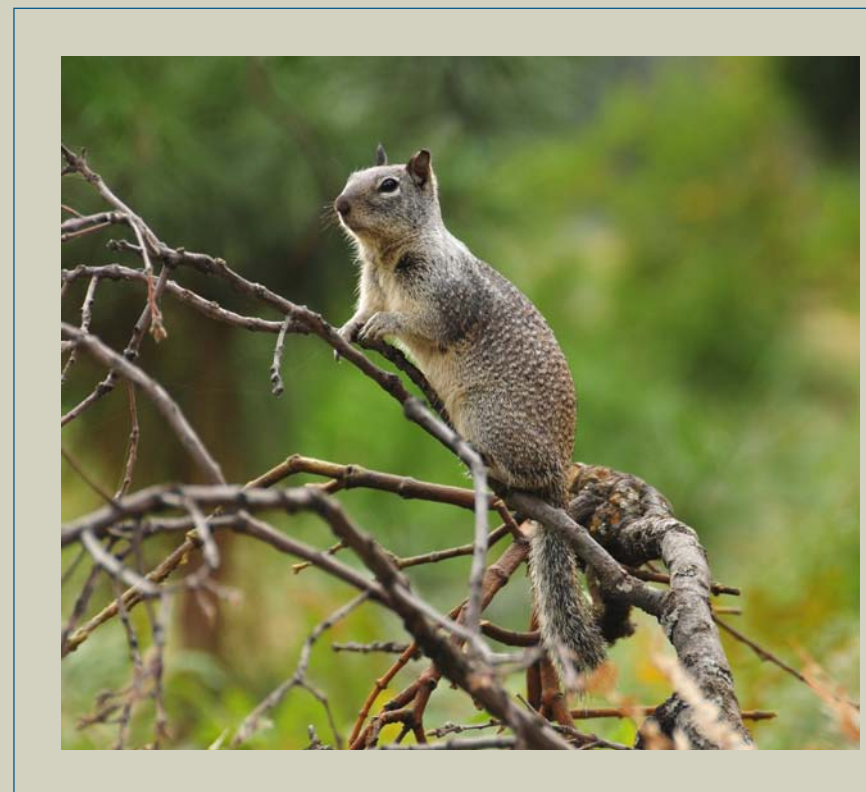
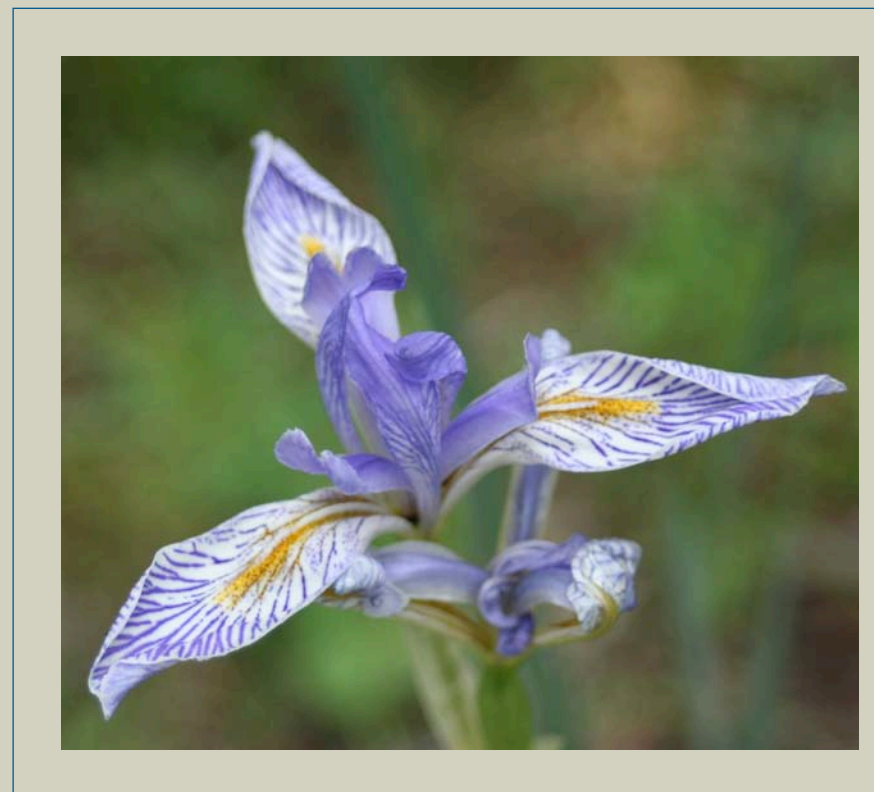
RIVER VALUES AND ENHANCEMENT

Significant restoration within 150 feet of the river

- Preserve exceptional water quality throughout the river corridor
- Strategically remove roads and three bridges to improve free-flowing conditions
- Restore 293 acres to natural conditions within the river corridor
- Remove campsites, informal trails, and non-essential roads from culturally sensitive areas



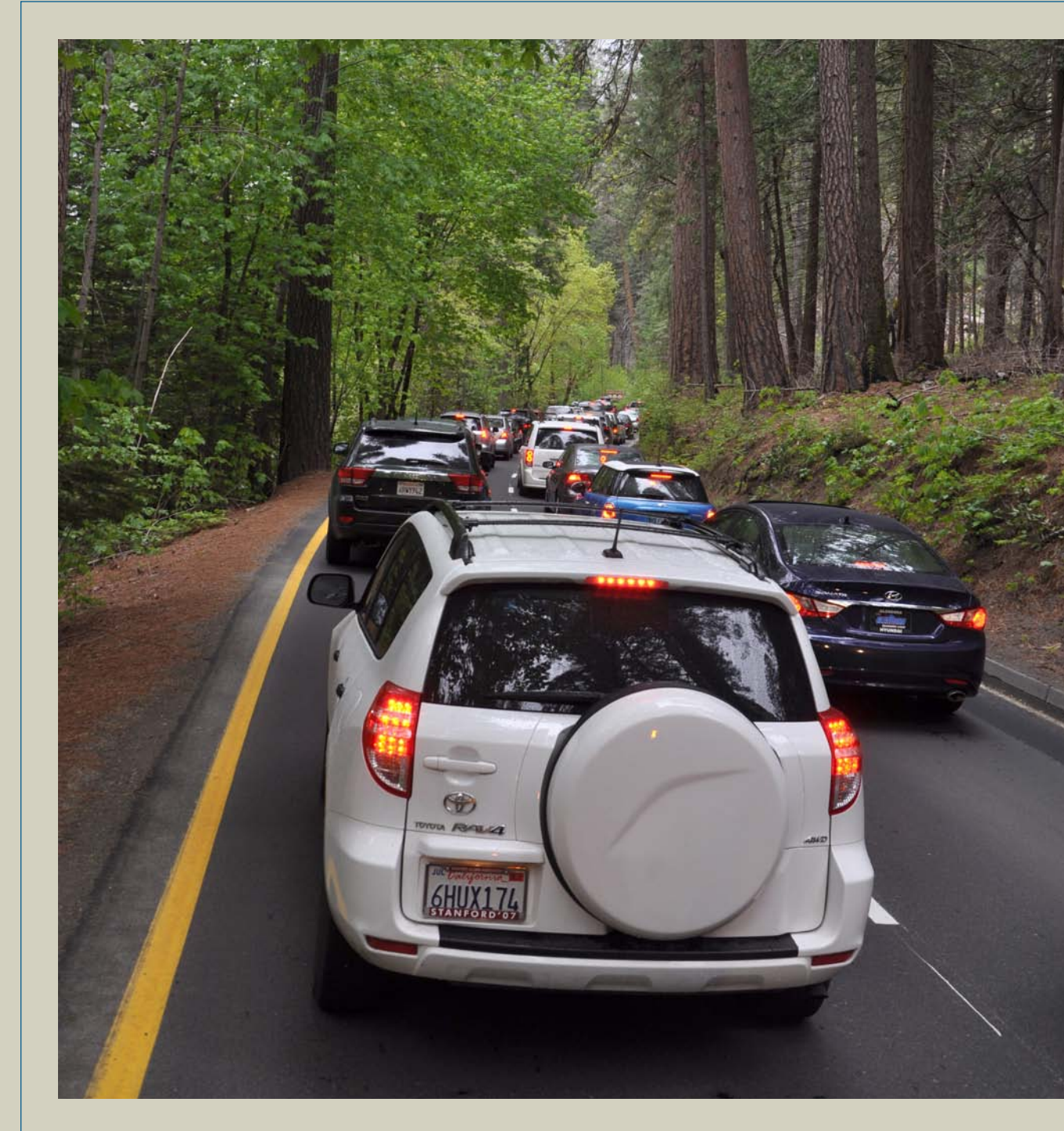
Improved riparian, meadow, and woodland conditions would provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, including bobcats, coyotes, mule deer, monarch butterflies, and various amphibians.



PUBLIC ACCESS AND USER CAPACITY

Accommodates lower visitor use levels than today

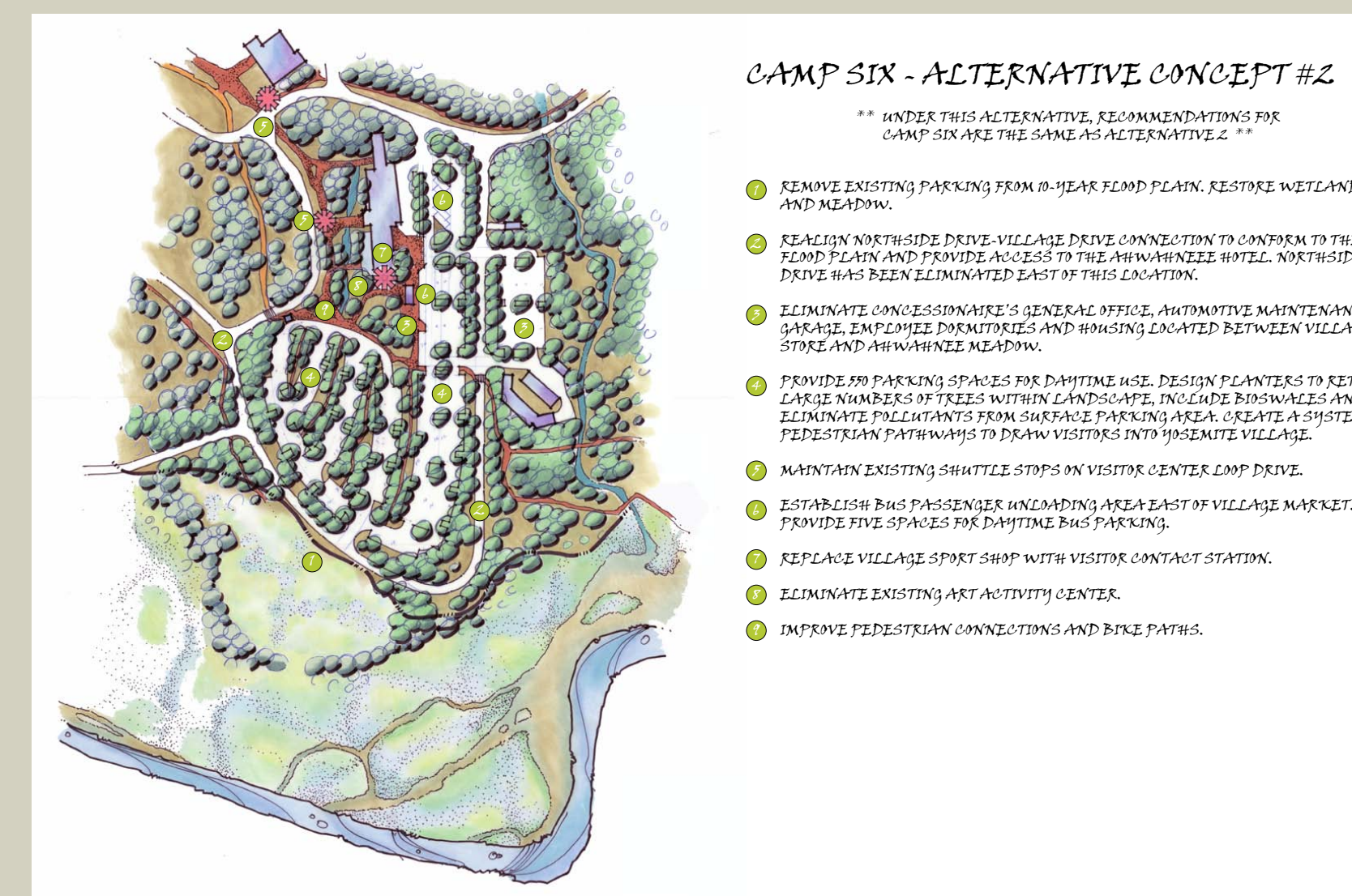
- Yosemite Valley Peak Daily Visitation: 14,900 people (27% decrease)
 - ❖ Day-use Peak Visitation: 10,200 people (30% decrease)
 - ❖ Overnight Peak Visitation: 4,700 people (20% decrease)
- Management tools
 - ❖ Re-design parking, trails, and viewing areas
 - ❖ Require day-use permits and reservation system during peak summer season
 - ❖ Check entry permits at parking locations
 - ❖ Use Intelligent Transportation Systems to inform visitors of real-time traffic conditions
- Eliminate commercial raft rentals and allow limited paddling in privately owned crafts on all stretches of the river, including Wilderness. Designate formal river access sites and redirect use to more stable river access points.



LAND USE

Marked reduction in visitor facilities and services

- Reduce or eliminate commercial services, such as:
 - ❖ Unnecessary or duplicative retail
 - ❖ Wawona Golf Course and Shop
 - ❖ Curry Village ice rink
 - ❖ Raft and bike rentals
 - ❖ Some Yosemite Lodge units
 - ❖ Portions of Housekeeping Camp
- Parking capacities include day and overnight visitors, residents, and administrative personnel
 - ❖ Yosemite Valley Parking: ~4,400 spaces (19% decrease)
 - ❖ Wawona Parking: ~640 spaces (10% decrease)
 - ❖ El Portal Parking: ~1,400 spaces (2% increase)
- Campsites relocated from sensitive areas to more resilient locations
 - ❖ Yosemite Valley Camping: ~480 sites (3% increase)
 - ❖ Wawona Camping: ~60 sites 36% decrease)



Preliminary design for day-use parking area at Camp 6