

# Yosemite National Park

MERCED RIVER PLAN...PROVIDING ACCESS AND PROTECTING RESOURCES

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

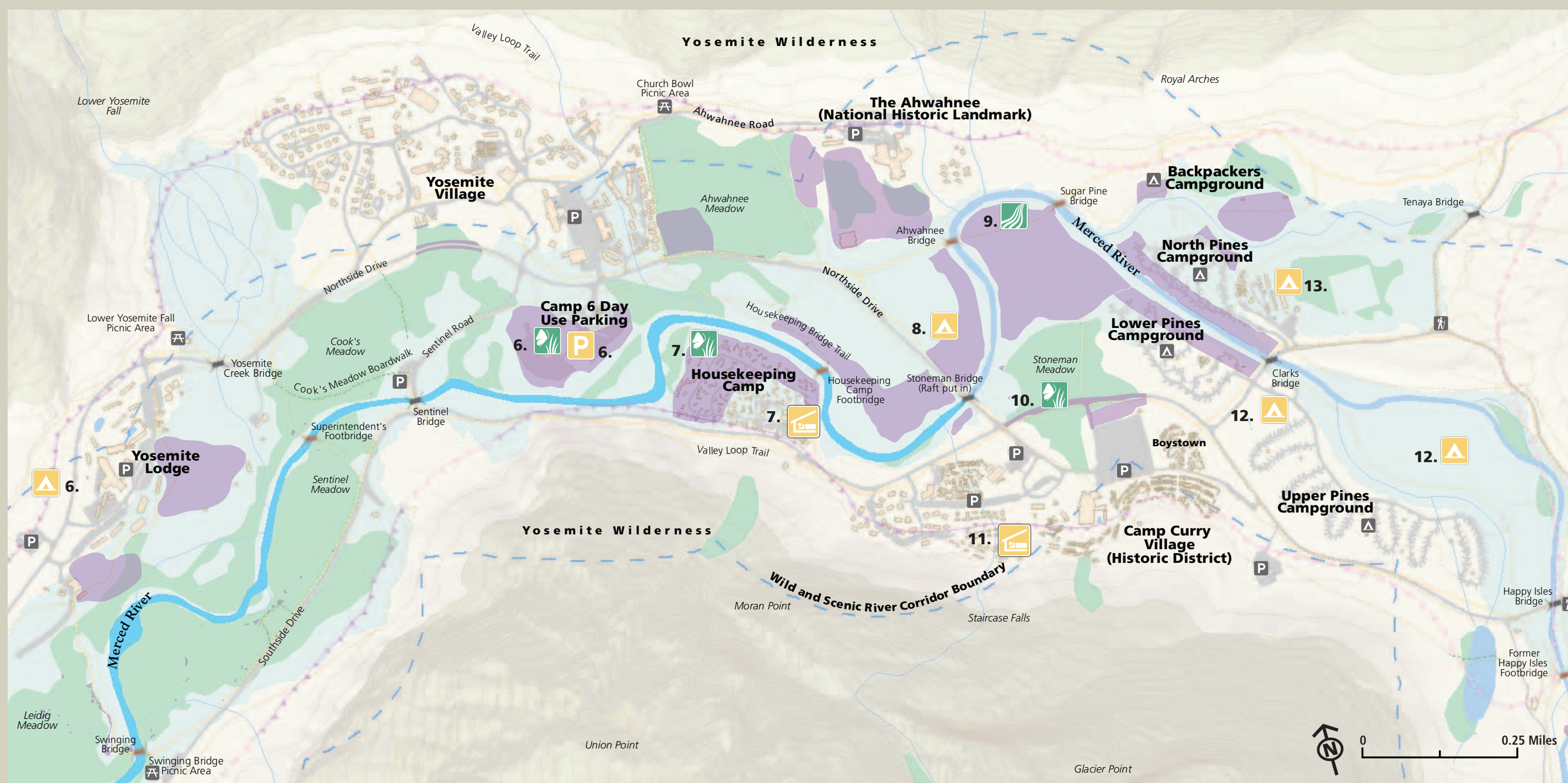


## CONCEPT 3: RESOURCE-BASED EXPERIENCES AND TARGETED RIVERBANK RESTORATION

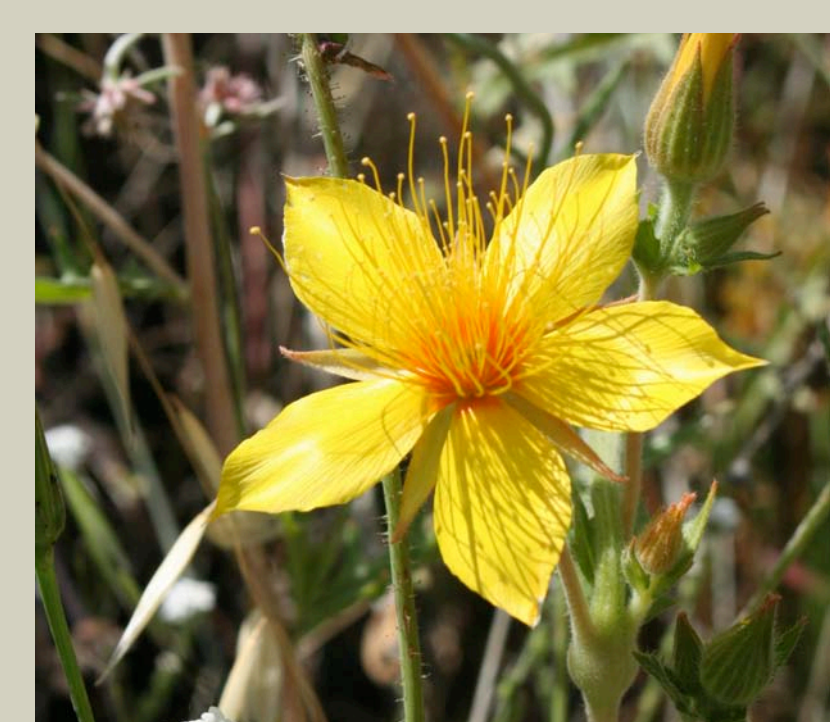
### RIVER VALUES AND ENHANCEMENT

Targeted restoration within 150 feet of the river

- Preserve exceptional water quality throughout the river corridor
- Strategically remove of roads and two bridges to improve free-flowing conditions
- Restore 218 acres to natural conditions within the river corridor
- Remove campsites, informal trails, and non-essential roads from culturally sensitive areas



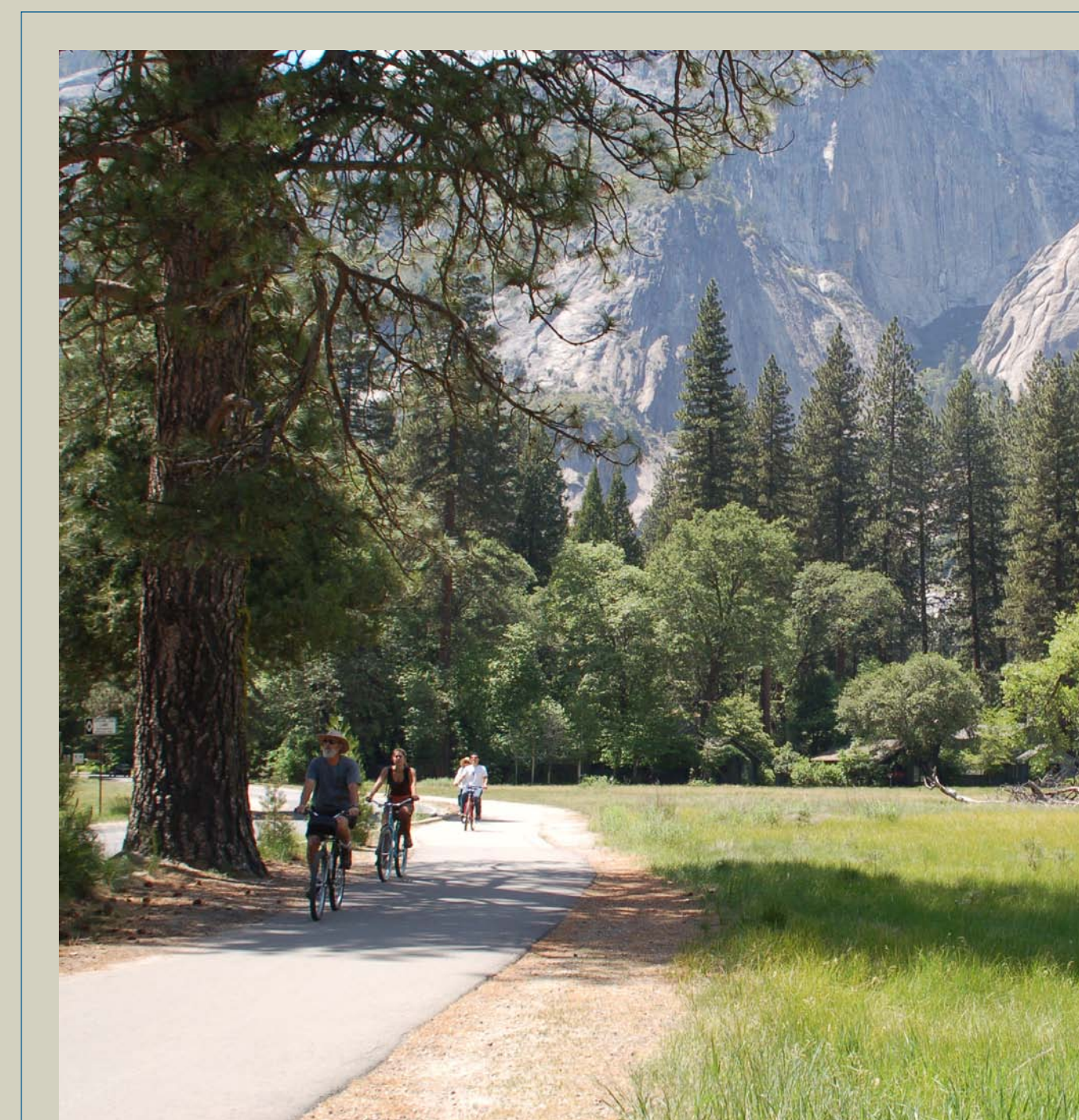
Improved riparian, meadow, and woodland conditions would provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, including bobcats, coyotes, mule deer, monarch butterflies, and various amphibians.



### PUBLIC ACCESS AND USER CAPACITY

Accommodates slightly lower visitor use levels than today

- Yosemite Valley Peak Daily Visitation: 17,000 people (17% decrease)
  - ❖ Day-use Peak Visitation: ~10,600 people (17% decrease)
  - ❖ Overnight Peak Visitation: ~6,400 people (8% increase)
- Management tools
  - ❖ Re-design parking, trails, and viewing areas
  - ❖ Differential fee for parking and congestion pricing scheme
  - ❖ Use Intelligent Transportation Systems to inform visitors of real-time traffic conditions
- Allow commercial raft rentals on the stretch of river currently used for this purpose in the Valley. Allow paddling in privately owned crafts by permit on stretches of the river within all segments. Designate formal river access sites and redirect use to more stable river access points.



### LAND USE

Reduced commercial services with large increases in camping

- Reduce or eliminate commercial services, such as:
  - ❖ Unnecessary or duplicative retail
  - ❖ Commercial horseback rides in Yosemite Valley
  - ❖ Ahwahnee Tennis Court and former Golf Course
  - ❖ Portions of Housekeeping Camp
- Parking capacities for day and overnight visitors, residents, and administrative personnel
  - ❖ Yosemite Valley Parking: ~5,300 spaces (4% decrease)
  - ❖ Wawona Parking: ~640 spaces (10% decrease)
  - ❖ El Portal Parking: 1,600 spaces (16% increase)
- Campsites added and relocated from sensitive areas to more resilient locations
  - ❖ Yosemite Valley Camping: ~730 sites (56% increase), Campsites added west of Yosemite Lodge, and Curry Village Stables converted to a campground
  - ❖ Wawona Camping: ~65 sites (34% decrease)



Preliminary design for day-use parking area at Camp 6