

# Alternative 5 Maps

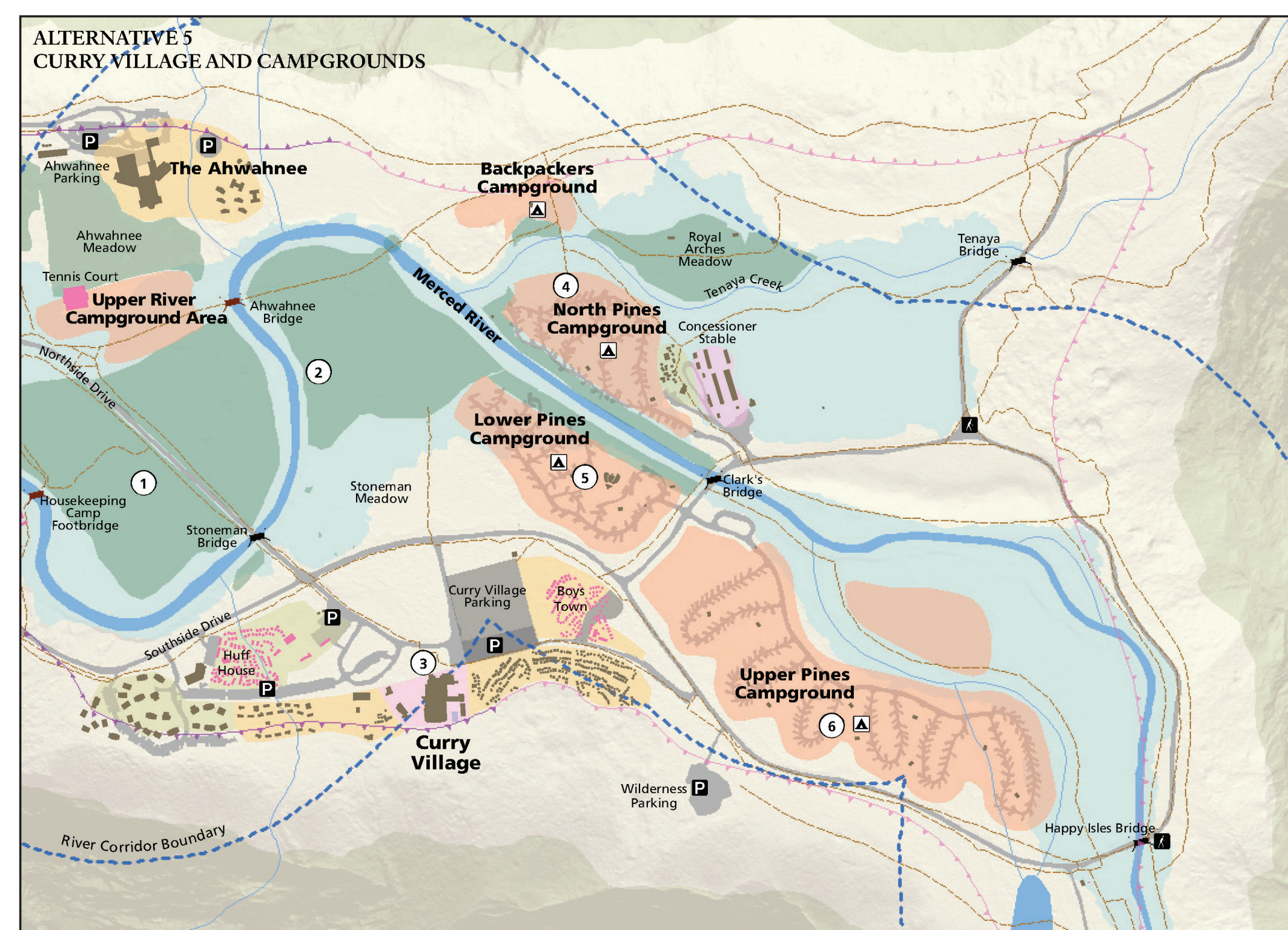
## YOSEMITE'S MERCED RIVER DRAFT PLAN / EIS

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

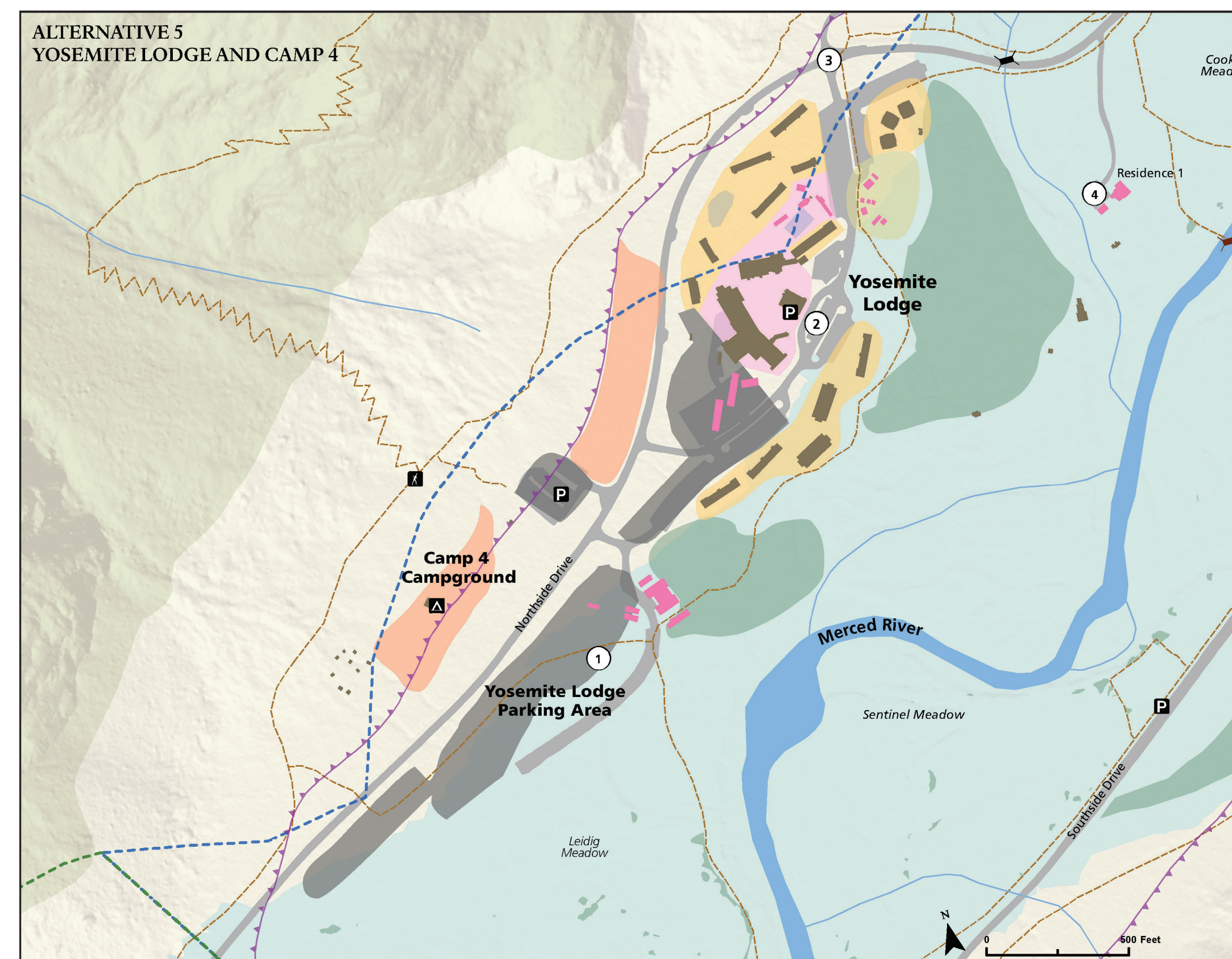


### ALTERNATIVE 5 (PREFERRED): ENHANCED VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND ESSENTIAL RIVERBANK RESTORATION

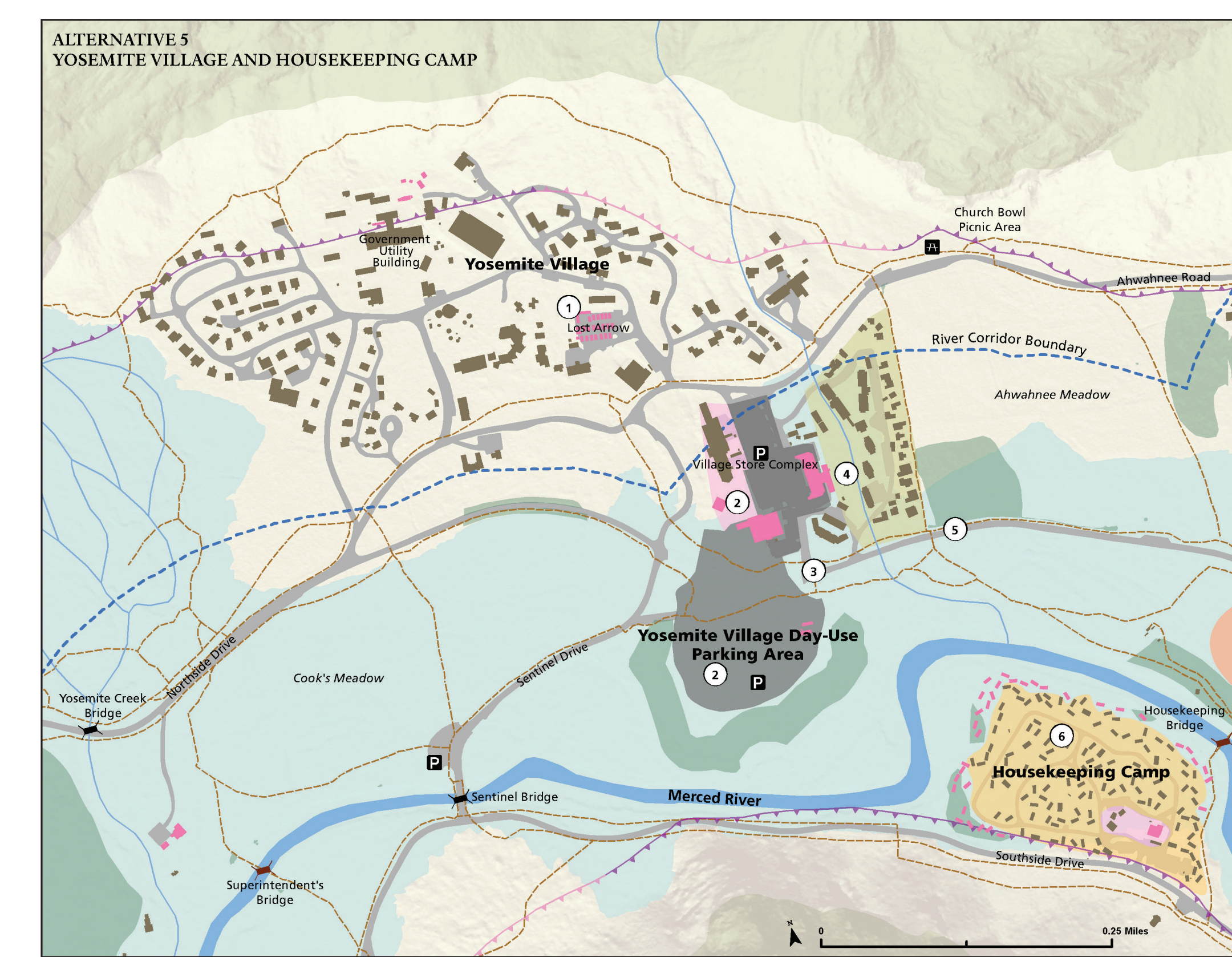
**Legend**

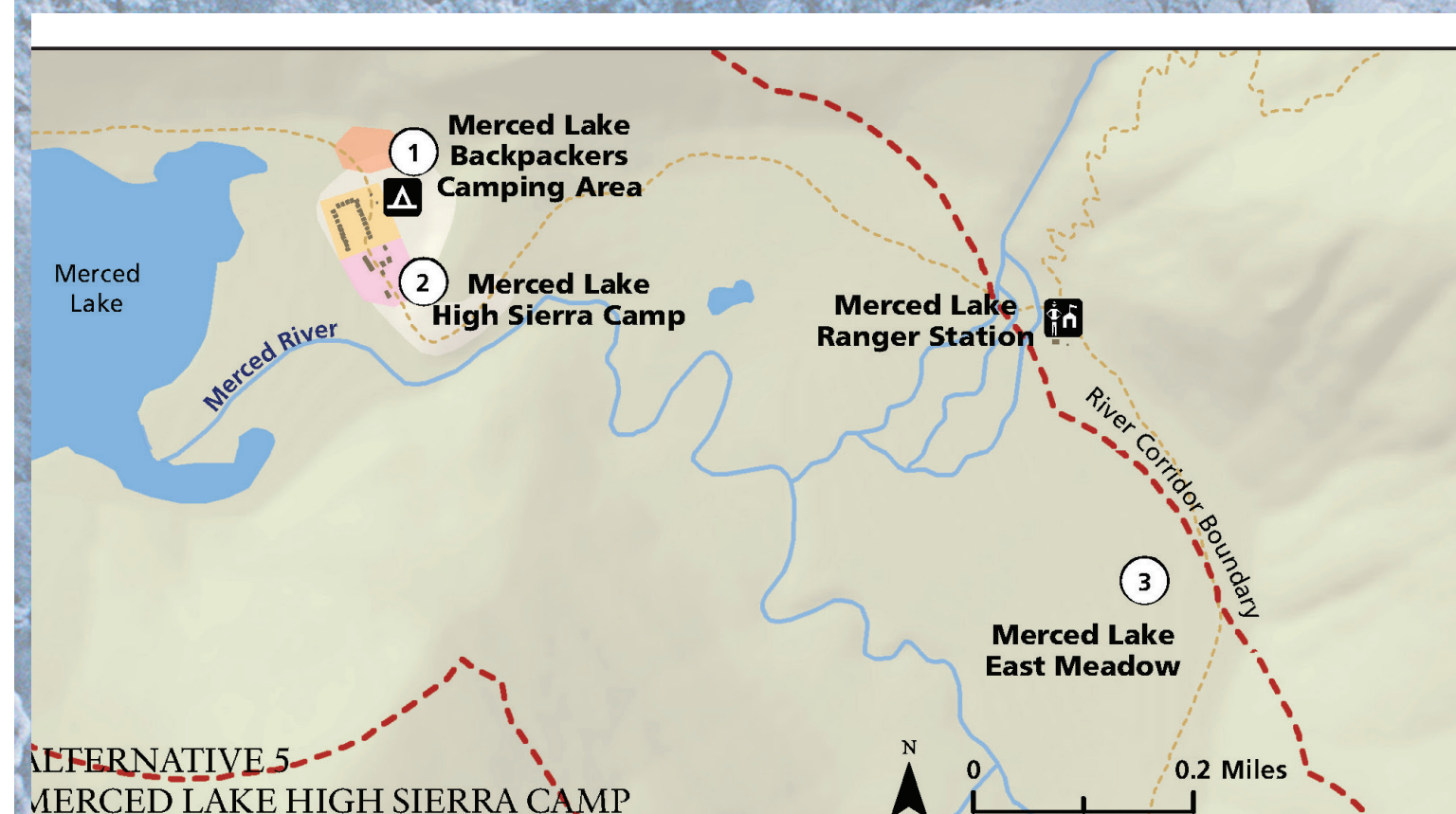
- EAST YOSEMITE VALLEY: CURRY VILLAGE AND CAMPGROUNDS**
- Former Upper and Lower River Campground**
    - Former Lower River Campground: Ecologically restore to natural conditions. Provide picnic tables and parking for day use and directed river access to the Housekeeping Camp eastern beach.
    - New Upper River Campground: Construct a new campground out of the 25-year floodplain with 30 walk-in sites. Restore hydrologic processes in the southeast portion of the area.
    - Restoration: Restore 35.6 acres of floodplain. Protect the riverbank from trampling by fencing sensitive areas.
  - River Reach Between Bridges**
    - Ahwahnee and Sugar Pine Bridges: Retain Ahwahnee Bridge. Remove the Sugar Pine Bridge to enhance free-flowing condition of the river. Re-route the multiple-use trail to the north bank of the river. Add another trail from the end of Ahwahnee Bridge toward Lower Pines Campground. Construct a new bridge to span the cutoff channel.
    - Stoneman Bridge: Mitigate effects of bridge to free-flowing condition through engineered solutions: place large wood to lessen scouring, and use brushlaying, a constructed log jam, and culverts along Northside Drive.
  - Curry Village Area**
    - Lodging: Total would be 453 guest units, including 290 tents in Curry Village retained; 98 hard-sided units in Boys Town constructed; 18 units at Stoneman House retained; and 47 cabin-with-bath units in Curry Village retained.
    - Curry Overland Parking Area: Provide 430 parking spaces through a re-design of the parking area that incorporates best management practices to protect water quality. Also, apply engineering solutions to promote water flow and to increase drainage to Stoneman Meadow. Remove apple trees to mitigate human-bear interactions and plant native vegetation.
  - North Pines Campground Area**
    - Ecological Restoration at Campgrounds: Remove campsites within 100 feet of the river at North Pines. Backpackers and Lower Pines campgrounds. Restore 6.5 acres of riparian habitat. Designate a formal river access point at North Pines campground.
    - Backpackers Campground: Retain 10 walk-in sites. Remove 15 walk-in sites within the 100-foot riparian buffer to be replaced by 16 walk-in sites west of Backpackers Campground.
    - North Pines Campground: Retain 72 campsites. Remove 14 sites from within 100 feet of river.
    - Concessioner Stables in Yosemite Valley: Retain stables to support the operation of the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp. Provide overflow parking for campgrounds at the stables. Retain kennel service. Retain associated housing (25 beds).
  - Lower Pines Campground Area**
    - Campground Sites: Retain 71 campsites and remove five sites from within 100 feet of river.
  - Upper Pines Campground Area**
    - Campground Sites: Retain 238 campsites. Remove two sites for sensitive resource concerns.
    - New RV Loop: Construct a new campground loop with 36 RV sites.
    - New Walk-in Sites: Construct a new walk-in campground with 49 sites and two group camping sites.



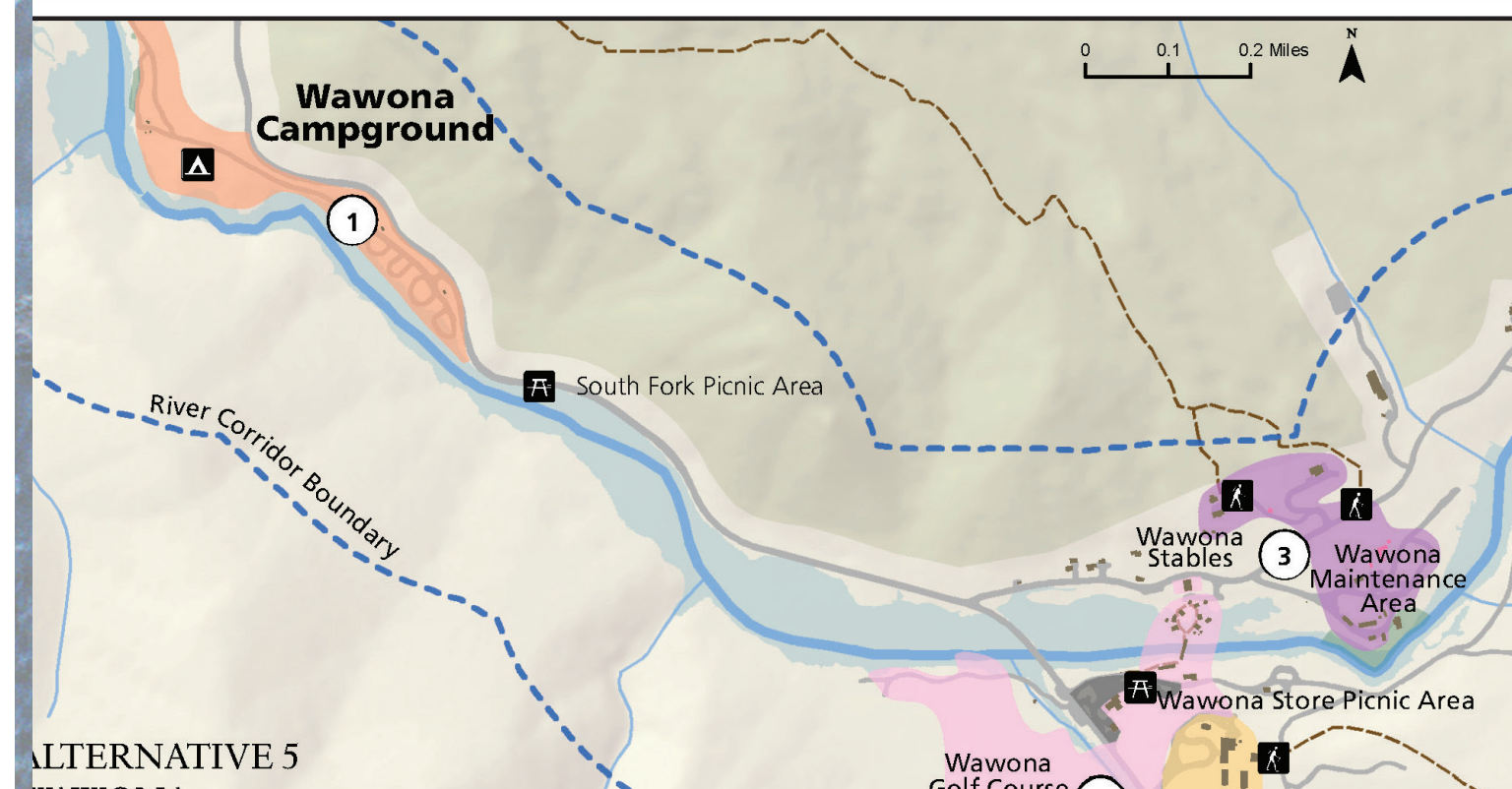
- EAST YOSEMITE VALLEY: YOSEMITE LODGE AND CAMP 4**
- West of Yosemite Lodge**
    - Parking: Redevelop area southwest of Yosemite Lodge to provide an additional 300 day-use parking spaces. This will include 15 spaces for tour bus parking. Parking redevelopment will incorporate best management practices to protect water quality.
  - Yosemite Lodge**
    - Ecological restoration: restore riparian and floodplain ecosystem at the site of the former Yosemite Lodge units and cabins (those that were damaged by the 1997 flood and subsequently removed). Delineate one service road to the well house and parking. Remove non-native fill, decompact soils, and plant riparian plant species (10.9 acres).
    - Lodging: Retain the current 245 units at Yosemite Lodge.
    - Services and Facilities: Retain Yosemite Lodge Food Court and Mountain Room bar and dining service. Re-purpose convenience shop and nature shop. Relocate Yosemite Lodge maintenance. Remove Yosemite Lodge post office, swimming pool, bike rentals, snack stand, employee housing (called Thousands Cabins), Highland Court employee temporary housing, and the NPS Volunteer Office.
    - Tour Buses: Remove temporary housing complex at Highland Court and establish a tour bus drop-off area with three bus loading spaces.
    - Concessioner Housing: Construct two new concessioner housing areas for 104 employees and construct 78 employee parking spaces. (Common to all alternatives is to remove housing at Highland Court and at the Thousands Cabins.)
  - Yosemite Falls Intersection**
    - Traffic Congestion: Construct a pedestrian underpass to alleviate pedestrian/vehicle conflicts and associated traffic congestion at the intersection of Northside Drive and Yosemite Lodge Drive.
  - Residence 1**
    - Residence 1: Relocate Residence 1 (the Superintendent's House) to the NPS housing area and rehabilitate the building per the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the Historic Structures Report. Ecologically restore associated informal trails in Cook's Meadow and address continuing use patterns to enhance black oak woodland and meadow habitat.



- EAST YOSEMITE VALLEY: YOSEMITE VILLAGE AND HOUSEKEEPING CAMP**
- Lost Arrow**: Replace temporary employee housing with permanent housing units for 50 beds.
  - Yosemite Village Day-use Parking Area**: Move the Yosemite Village Day-use Parking Area northward 150 feet away from the river to facilitate riparian restoration goals. Using best management practices to protect water quality, formalize the parking area to have a total of 850 parking places by redeveloping part of the current administrative footprint as parking.
  - Pedestrian/Vehicle Conflicts**: Re-route Northside Drive to the south of the Yosemite Village Day-use Parking Area and construct a traffic circle at Northside Drive and Village Drive to address traffic congestion and pedestrian vehicle conflicts. Re-routing the road south of the parking area is a traffic circulation pattern that will not require an underpass or pedestrian road crossings. Consolidate parking to the north of the road and provide walkways leading to Yosemite Village separating vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Add a three-way intersection at Sentinel Drive and the entrance to the parking area to improve traffic flow and alleviate congestion.
  - Concessioner Employee Housing**: Create a 50-foot setback from Indian Creek. Ecologically restore the riparian habitat, and protect using restoration fencing. Retain Ahwahnee Row and Tecoys employee housing.
  - Ahwahnee Meadow Restoration**: Create a 50-foot setback from Indian Creek. Ecologically restore the riparian habitat, and protect using restoration fencing. Retain Ahwahnee Row and Tecoys employee housing.
  - Housekeeping Camp Lodging**: Retain 232 lodging units, and remove 34 lodging units out of the bed and banks. Retain Housekeeping Camp shower houses, restrooms, and laundry, and remove grocery store. Restore one acre of the riparian ecosystem.



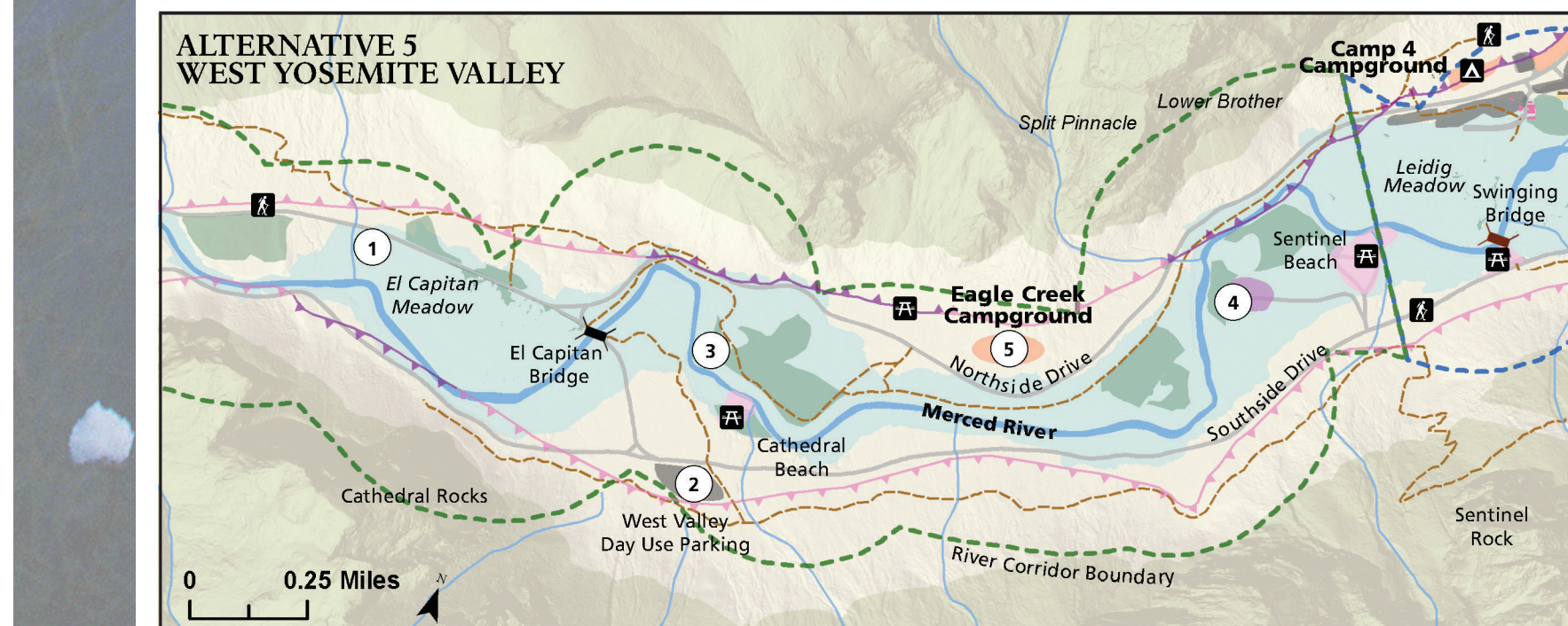
- MERCED LAKE HIGH SIERRA CAMP**
- Merced Lake Backpackers Camping Area: Retain the designated camping area. Replace flush toilets with composting toilets.
  - Merced Lake High Sierra Camp: Retain 11 units (42 beds) at this lodging facility. Replace flush toilet with composting toilets.
  - Merced Lake East Meadow: Develop preliminary grazing capacities for the meadow. When the meadow recovers, allow administrative grazing at established capacities. Monitor annually for five years, adapting use levels as needed to protect the meadow.
- OTHER SEGMENT 1 CAMPING AREAS**
- Little Yosemite Valley: Continue designated camping in this camping area. Retain infrastructure, such as composting toilets.
  - Moraine Dome: Continue designated camping in this camping area.



- WAWONA**
- The Wawona Campground: Retain 83 sites and one group site. Remove 13 sites that are either within 100 feet of the river or in culturally sensitive areas.
  - Wawona Golf Course and Golf Shop: Retain nine-hole golf course and retail and food service at golf shop.
  - Wawona Stables Area and Maintenance Yard
    - Stables Operation: Retain stables and commercial day rides.
    - Stock Use: Campsites: Relocate two stock-use campground sites away from sensitive resource areas to an appropriate location within the Wawona Maintenance Yard area.



- EL PORTAL**
- Rancharia Flat
    - Employee Housing: To replace temporary housing that will be removed from Yosemite Valley, construct seven dormitories, with 12 employees each, for a total of 84 employee beds, away from sensitive resources.
  - Abbeville and Trailer Village Area
    - El Portal Remote Visitor Parking: Construct a new visitor parking area for 200 spaces serviced by regional transit. Parking redevelopment will incorporate best management practices to protect water quality.
    - Abbeville and Trailer Village Housing: Remove or relocate 36 existing private residences. Continue to provide for housing land use for 40 employees and volunteers at this location. As homes within the 150-foot riparian buffer become vacant, ecologically restore these areas.
  - El Portal Village Center
    - Valley Oak Restoration: Restore the rare floodplain community of valley oaks in Old El Portal through implementation of best management practices. Create a valley oak recruitment area of 1 acre in Old El Portal in the vicinity of the current Oldger's bulk fuel storage area, including the adjacent parking lots. Decompact soils, plant appropriate native understory plant species, and treat invasive plants. Prohibit new building construction within the oak recruitment area.
    - Oldger's Fuel Storage Facility: Remove bulk fuel storage facility, all associated development, and non-native fill from the floodplain. Decompact soils, and plant appropriate native plant species, including valley oak. Relocate the fuel storage area outside the Merced River corridor or find an alternate source for emergency fuel supplies.



- WEST YOSEMITE VALLEY**
- El Captain Meadow Area
    - Restoration of Informal Trails: Remove all informal trails from the meadow that incise, promote habitat fragmentation, or are located in sensitive and frequently inundated areas, and restore to natural condition. Use restoration fencing along northern perimeter of meadow and designate appropriate access points using boardwalks and viewing platforms. Selectively remove mature conifers that block views of El Captain from the roadside.
  - West Valley Overflow Parking
    - Day Use Parking: Construct a new 100-space West Valley Overflow Parking Area on the south side of Southside Drive at the intersection of El Captain Crossover. Parking development will incorporate best management practices to protect water quality. Expand shuttle service to serve West Valley locations.
  - Valley Loop Trail
    - Re-route: Move portions of the Valley Loop Trail out of sensitive areas; this includes the 780 feet of the trail through Birdwell Meadow. Construct boardwalks through wet meadow habitat in Slaughterhouse Meadow.
  - Yellow Pine Campground
    - Administrative Use Campground: Retain Yellow Pine's four group sites (serving up to 120 people) for administrative use.
  - Eagle Creek Campground
    - New Campground: Construct campground with 40 car campsites and 2 group campsites east of El Captain Picnic Area.