National Capital Planning Commission

Suitland Collections Center Master Plan

4210 Silver Hill Road, Suitland Maryland

Approval of Comments on Draft Master Plan

Smithsonian Institution

February 6, 2020 | File: MP135

Project Summary

Commission Meeting Date: February 6, 2020

NCPC Review Authority: 40 U.S.C. § 8722(a) and (b)(1)

Applicant Request: Approval of Comments on Draft Master Plan

Session: Open

NCPC Review Officer: Jamie Herr

NCPC File Number: MP135

Project Summary:

The Smithsonian Institution has submitted a draft master plan for the 100-acre Suitland Collections Center (SCC) site located at 4210 Silver Hill Road in Suitland, Maryland. The SCC, located within Prince George's County, is bounded by Suitland Parkway, Silver Hill Road, and Old Silver Hill Road and is a quarter mile west of the Suitland Metro Station. The SCC is surrounded to the north, west and south by residential and commercial land uses and the east, across Suitland Parkway is the Suitland Metro Station and several federal agency buildings. The current SCC is comprised of the Museum Support Center (MSC), the National Museum of the American Indian – Cultural Resource Center (NMAI-CRC), the Smithsonian Gardens Greenhouse (SG), the Osteo Prep Lab, Fleet Management Building and the original Garber Buildings for a total of 1.3 million square feet. The site currently has four vehicular and one pedestrian access points. Much of the northern portion of the site is a dense woodland area.

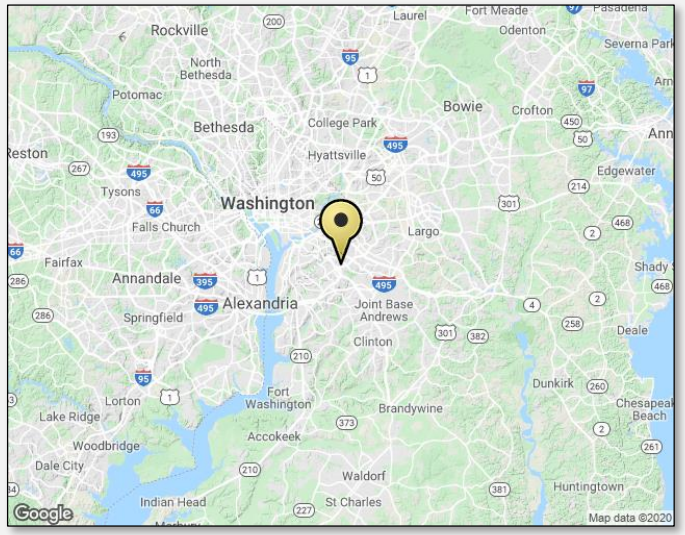
The draft Master Plan outlines the future site needs for a 20-year and 40-year planning horizon. The proposed draft Master Plan includes a new 'campus quad' design with a large new building attached to the planned future addition of Pod 6 of the MSC. The new Master Plan will accommodate a total of 550 employees and visitors over 20 years and over 900 by 40 years.

Project Summary

The draft Master Plan includes:

- An updated campus vision and a 20-40 year planning horizon
- Several new buildings, additions and renovations of existing buildings for a total of 2.4 million square feet
- Improvements to site access and multi-modal regional access for employees and visitors
- General design and sustainably guidelines for future development
- A Transportation Management Plan describing parking, circulation, and access needs and impacts

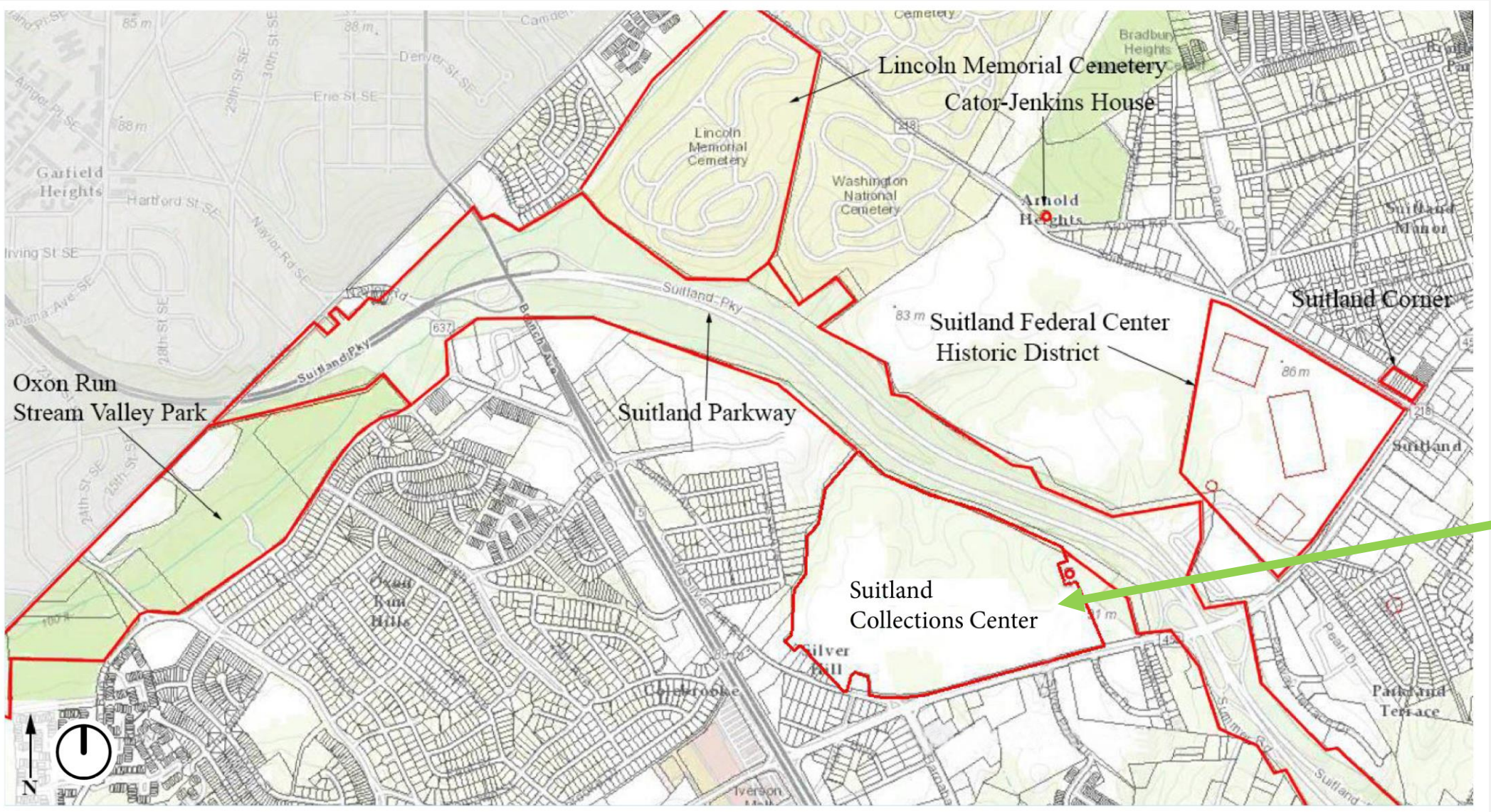
Site Location





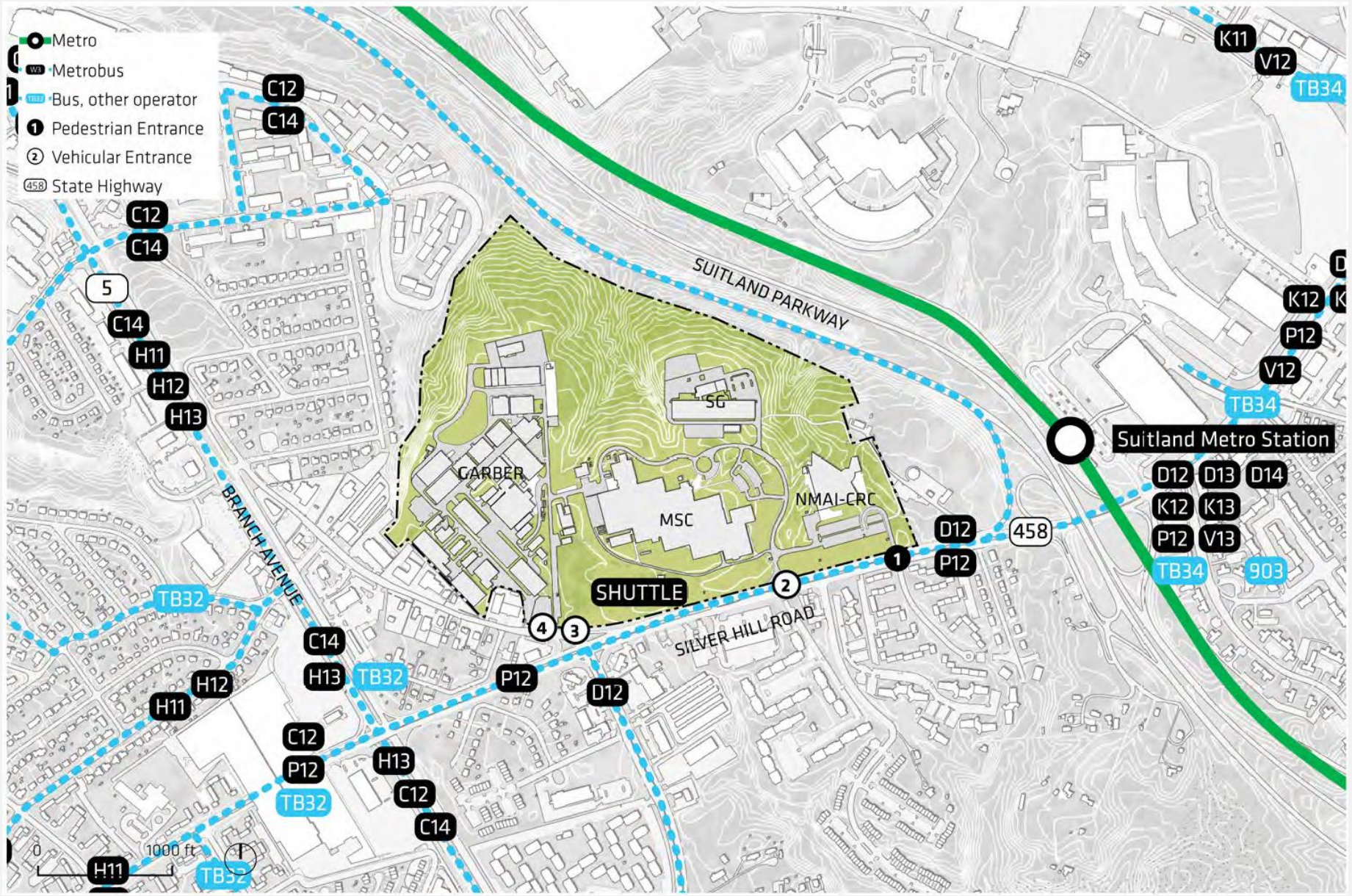
Location Map

Site Context



Site Context

Existing campus access and public transportation

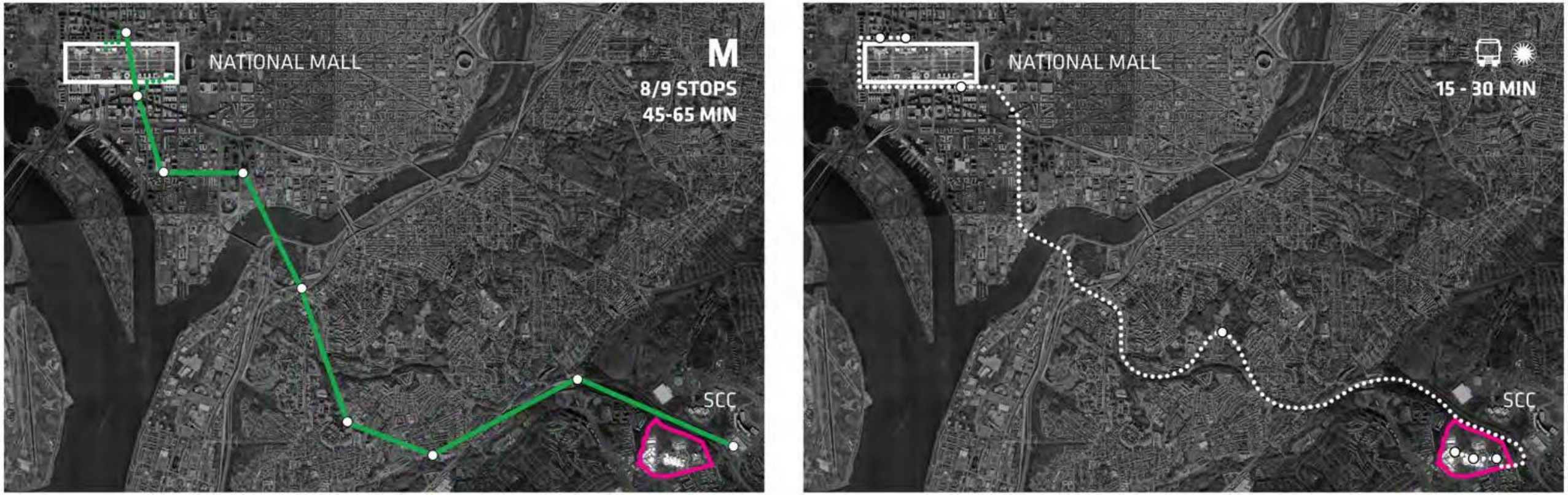


Site Context

Approximate walking distances from SCC buildings to Suitland Metro Station



Site Context



Campus access from SI National Mall facilities to SCC via Metro compared to access from the Smithsonian Shuttle Service

Existing Building – Garber Buildings









Existing Buildings - MSC

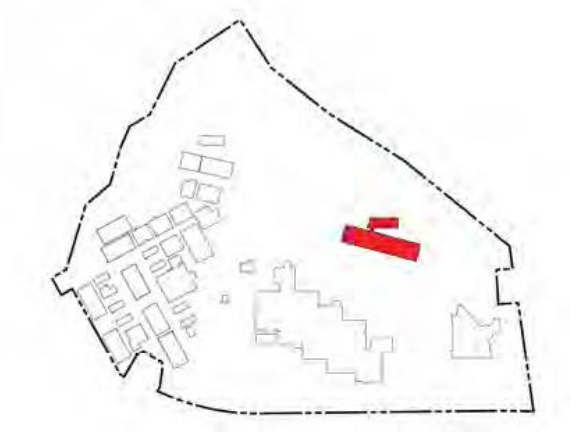








Existing Buildings – SG Greenhouse





Existing Site Components – NMAI-CRC





Existing Site Components – Fleet Management Building





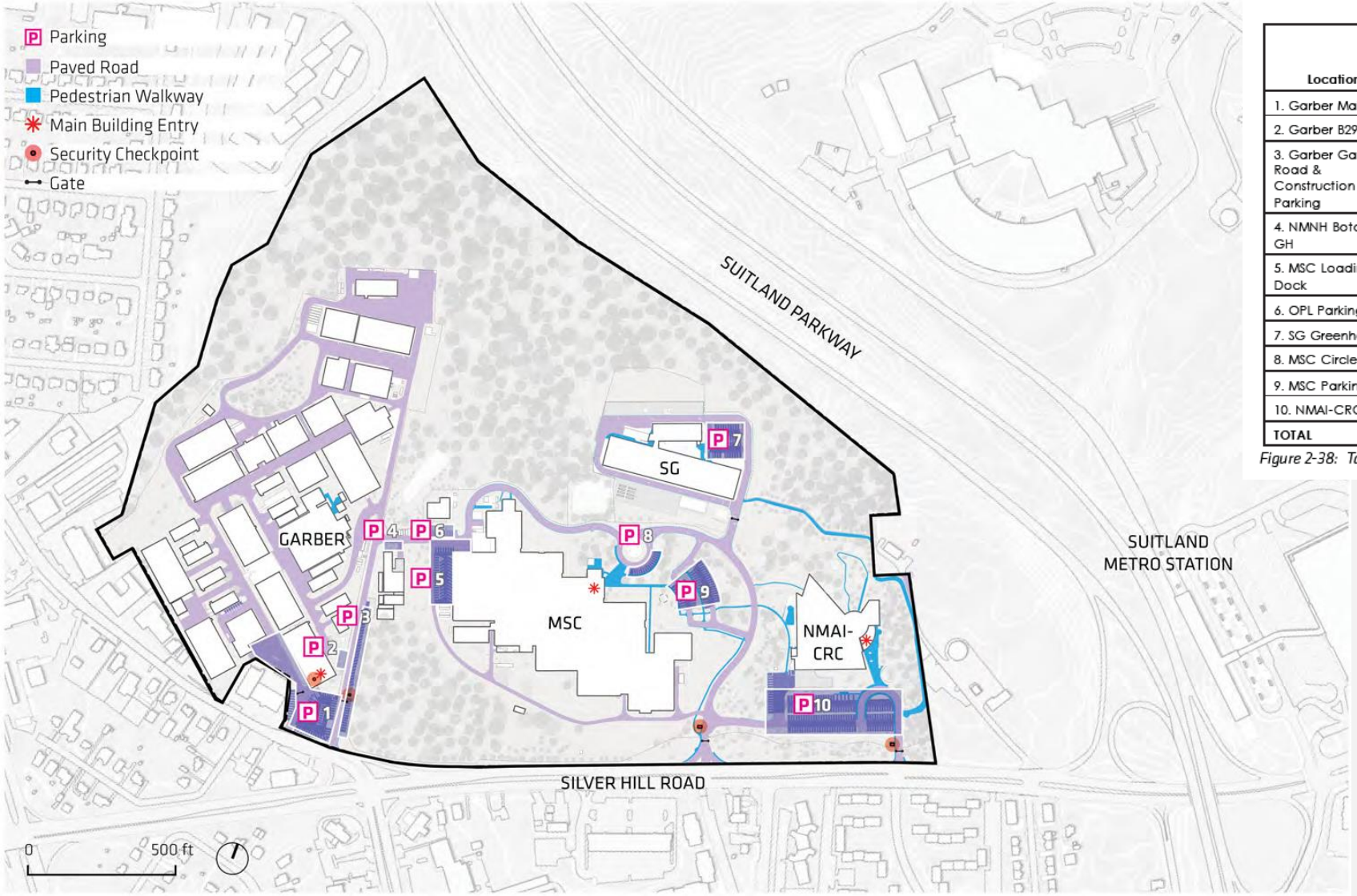
Existing Site Components – Botany Greenhouse and Osteo Prep Lab







Existing Conditions – Access and Parking



Location	Capacity			Utilization: October 23, 2019			Utilization: October 29, 2019		
	ADA	Emp/ Visitor	SI Veh Only	ADA	Emp/ Visitor	SI Veh	ADA	Emp/ Visitor	SI Veh
1. Garber Main Lot	2	63	2	0	41	17	0	38	18
2. Garber B29	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	2
3. Garber Gate Road & Construction Trailer Parking	2	39	0	0	37	1	1	32	0
4. NMNH Botany GH	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
5. MSC Loading Dock	2	55	1	1	44	4	1	39	3
6. OPL Parking	0	3	4	0	1	4	0	1	3
7. SG Greenhouse	2	42	1	0	14	8	1	16	5
8. MSC Circle	4	8	0	4	8	0	4	8	0
9. MSC Parking	0	56	0	0	66	2	0	64	1
10. NMAI-CRC	6	123	8	0	96	9	1	100	9
TOTAL	**18**	**391**	**20**	**5**	**308**	**48**	**8**	**300**	**41**

Figure 2-38: Table: Parking Lot Capacity and Utilization

Existing Conditions – Vegetation and Topography



Existing Conditions – Views

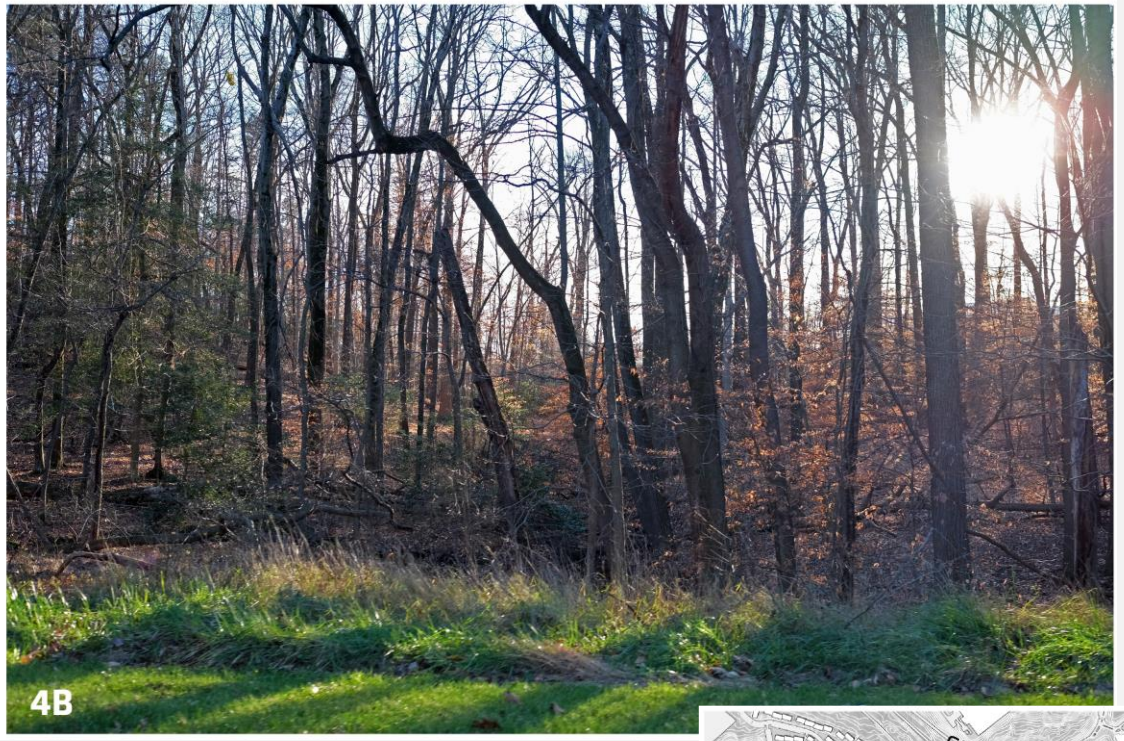


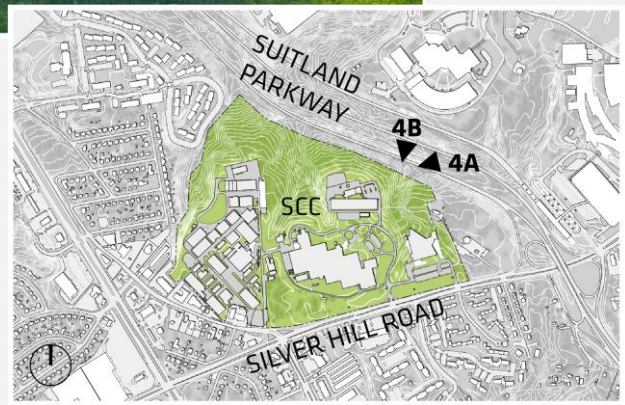




Existing Conditions – Views







Existing Conditions – Views







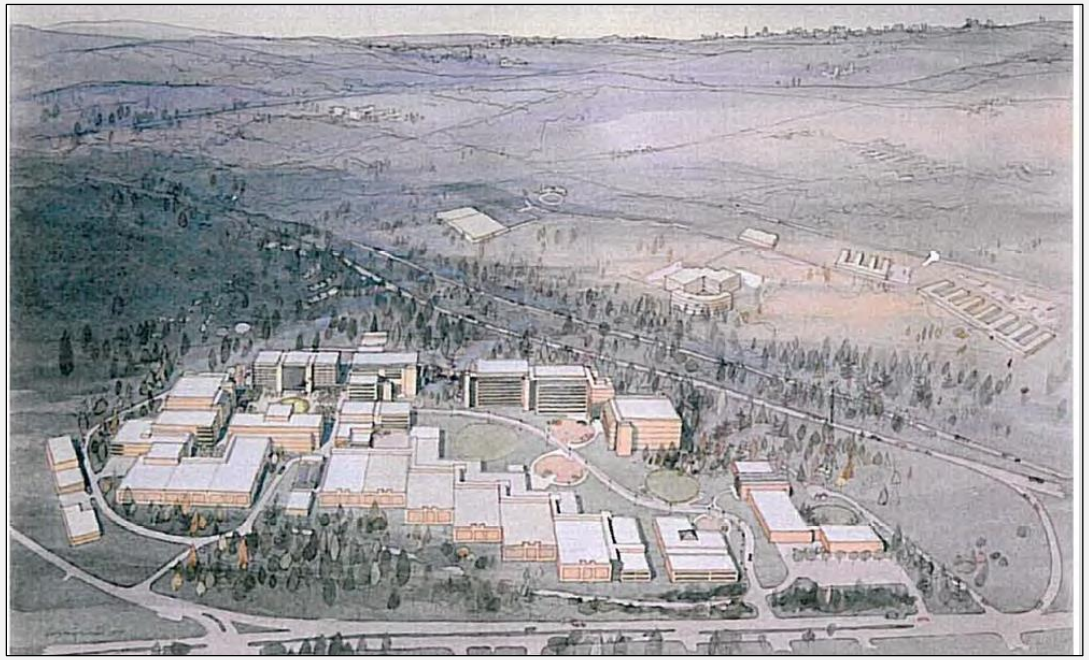
Existing Conditions – Views







1993 Master Plan





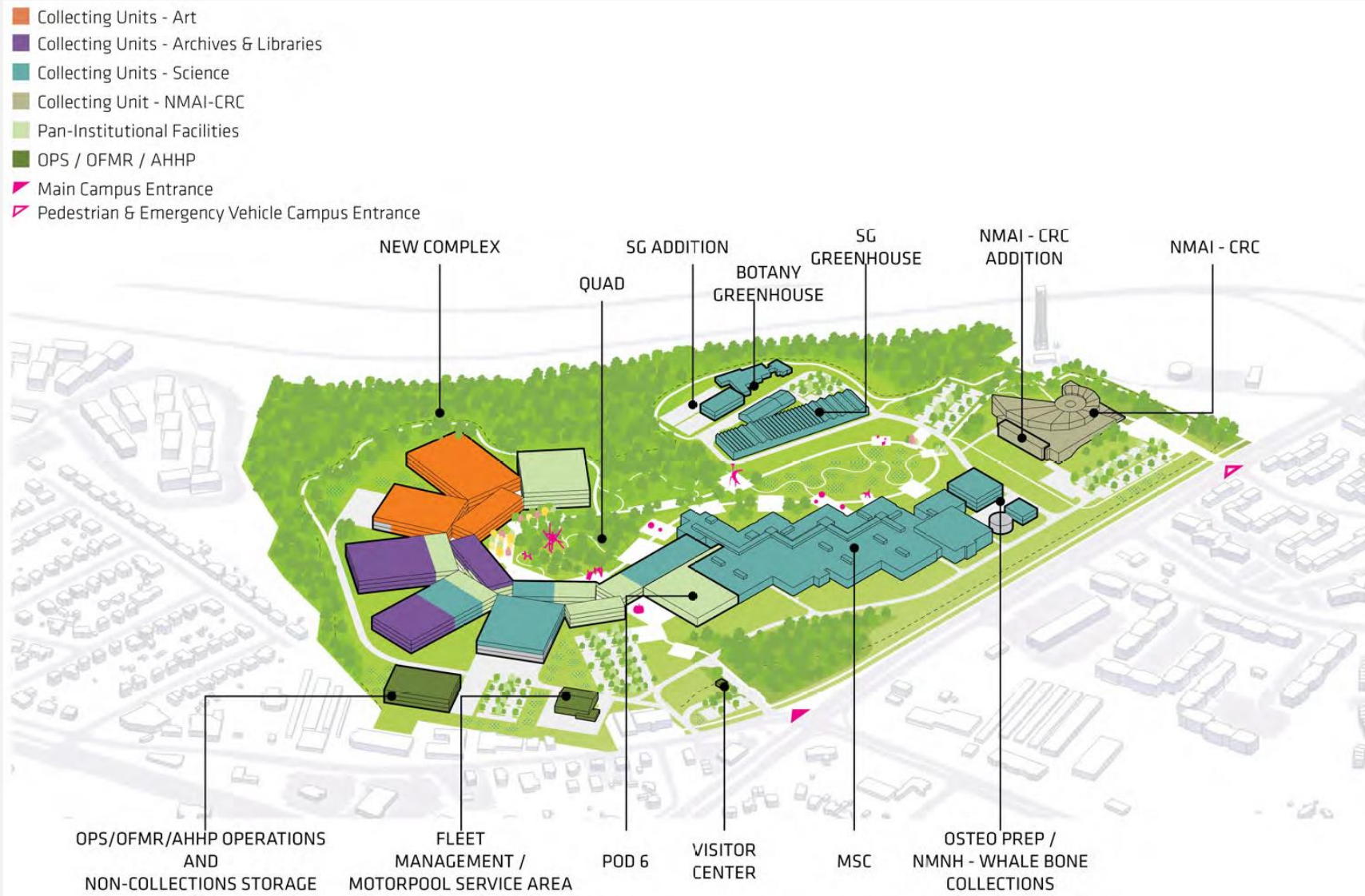
Draft Master Plan



Draft Master Plan



Draft Master Plan – Site Organization



Campus Circulation

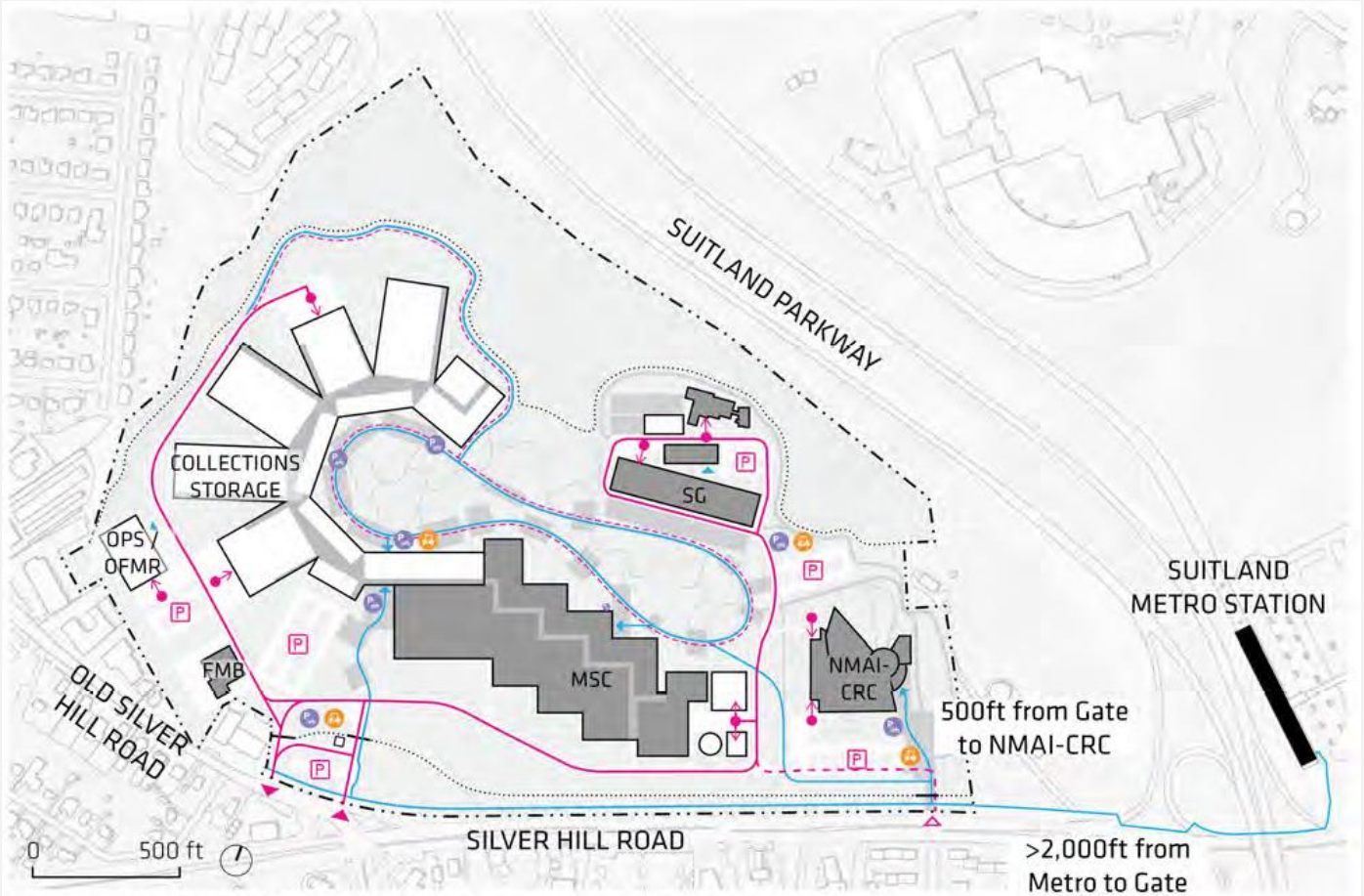
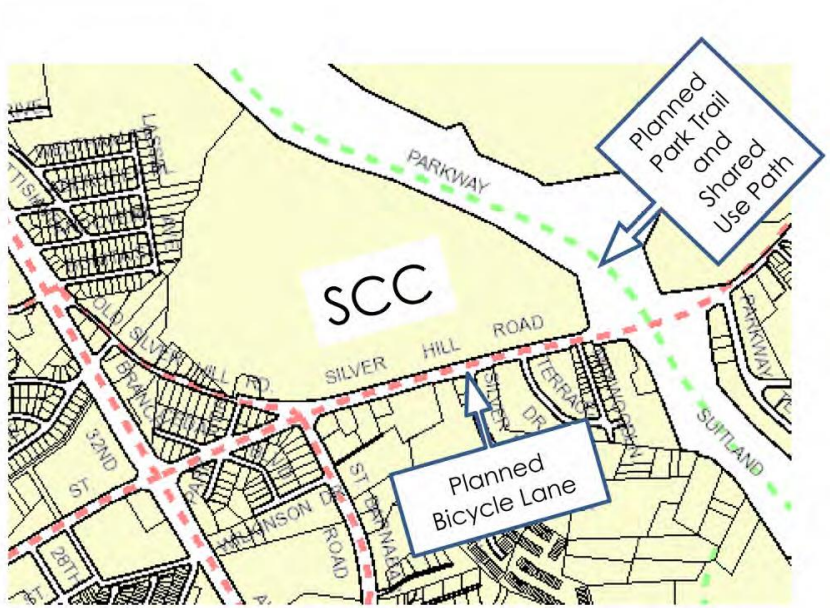
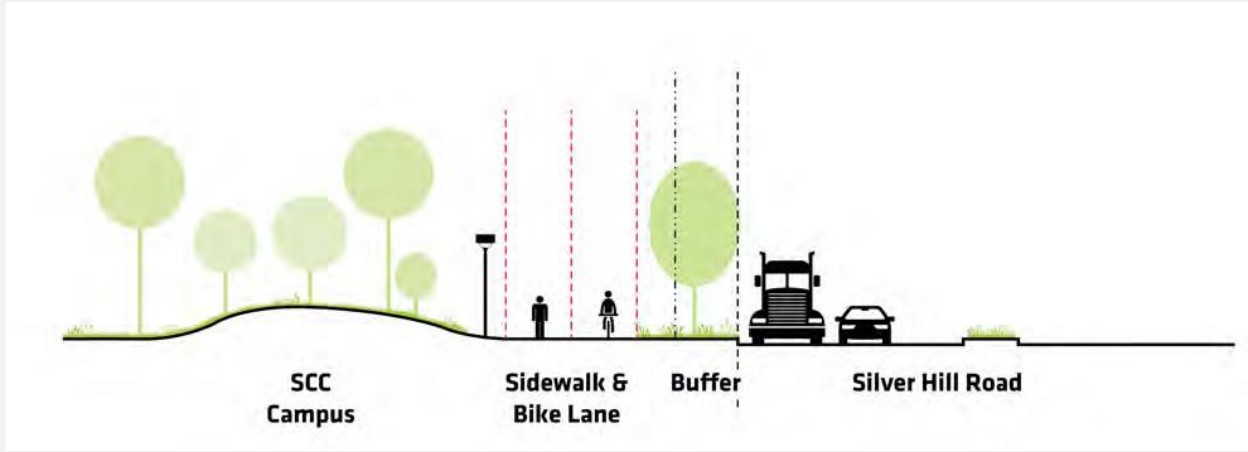


Figure 3-26: Proposed Site Plan: Campus Entrance and Circulation

Silver Hill Road Improvements



Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) plans for bicycle lanes on Silver Hill Road

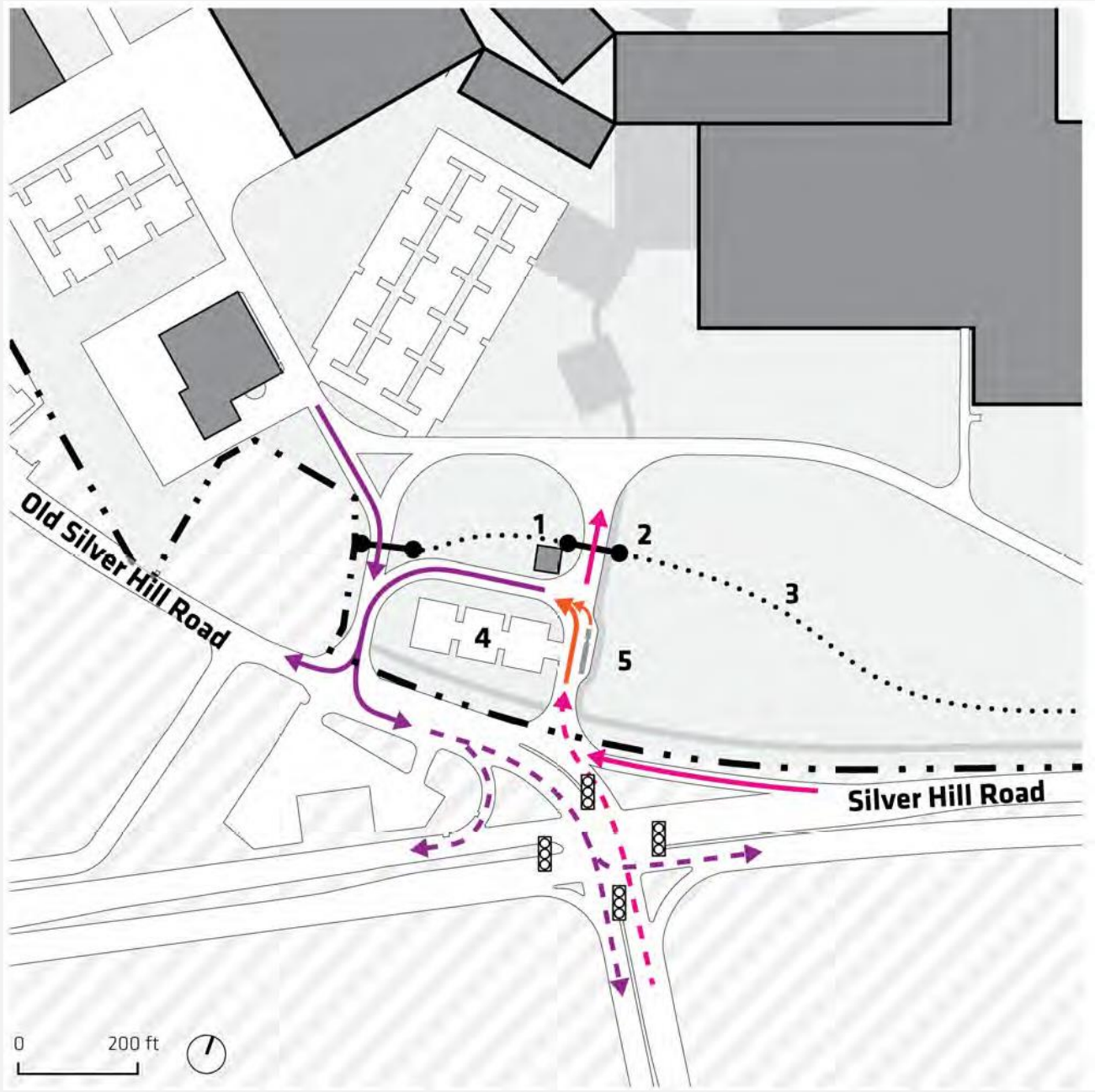






Proposed pedestrian and bicycle improvements to Silver Hill Road in Draft Master Plan

Site Access – Primary



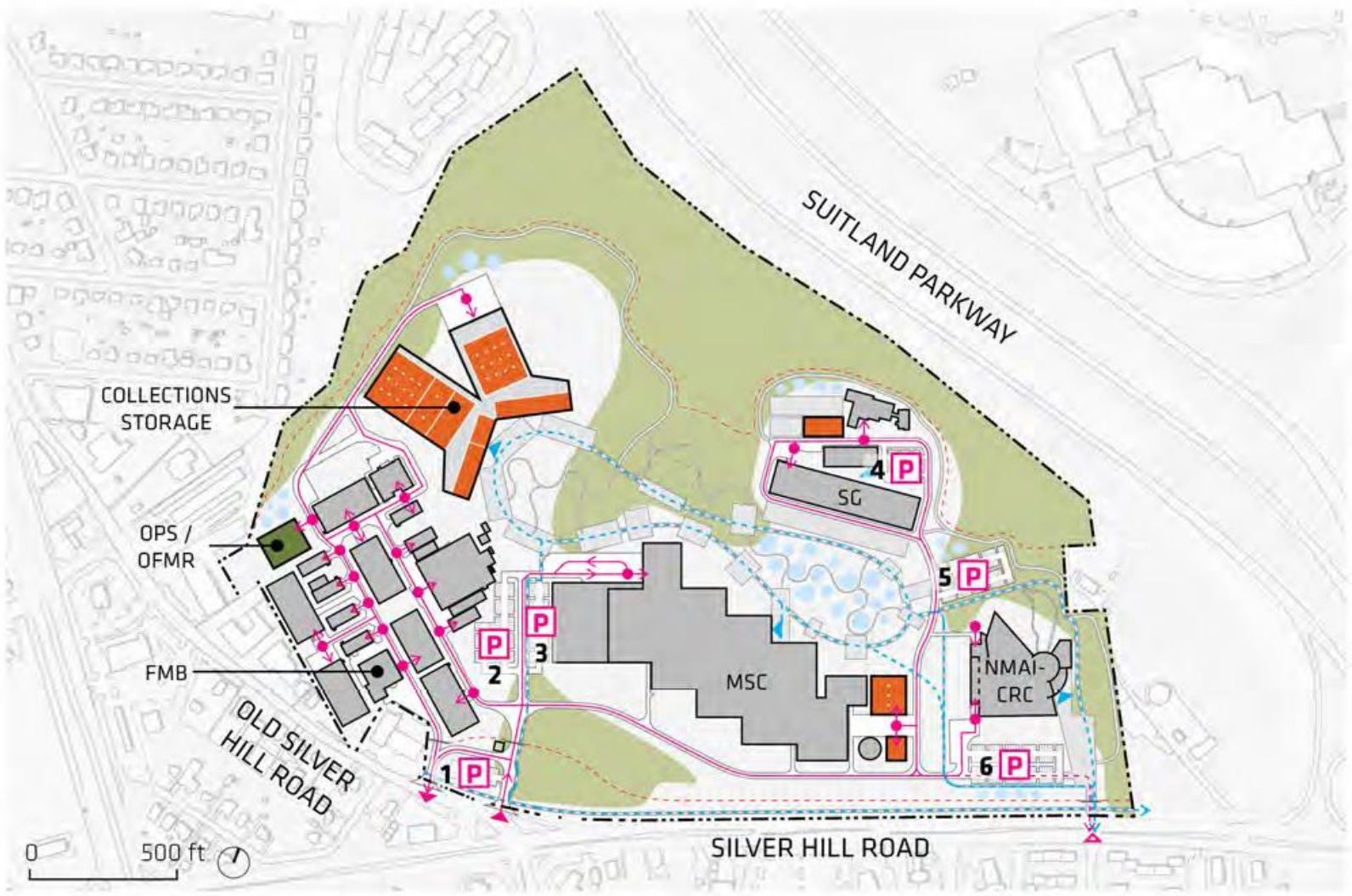
1. Visitor Center
2. Security Gate
3. Fence
4. Visitor Parking
5. Large Vehicle Inspection

Ingress Traffic
Egress Traffic
Rejected Vehicle Path
Existing Traffic Lights

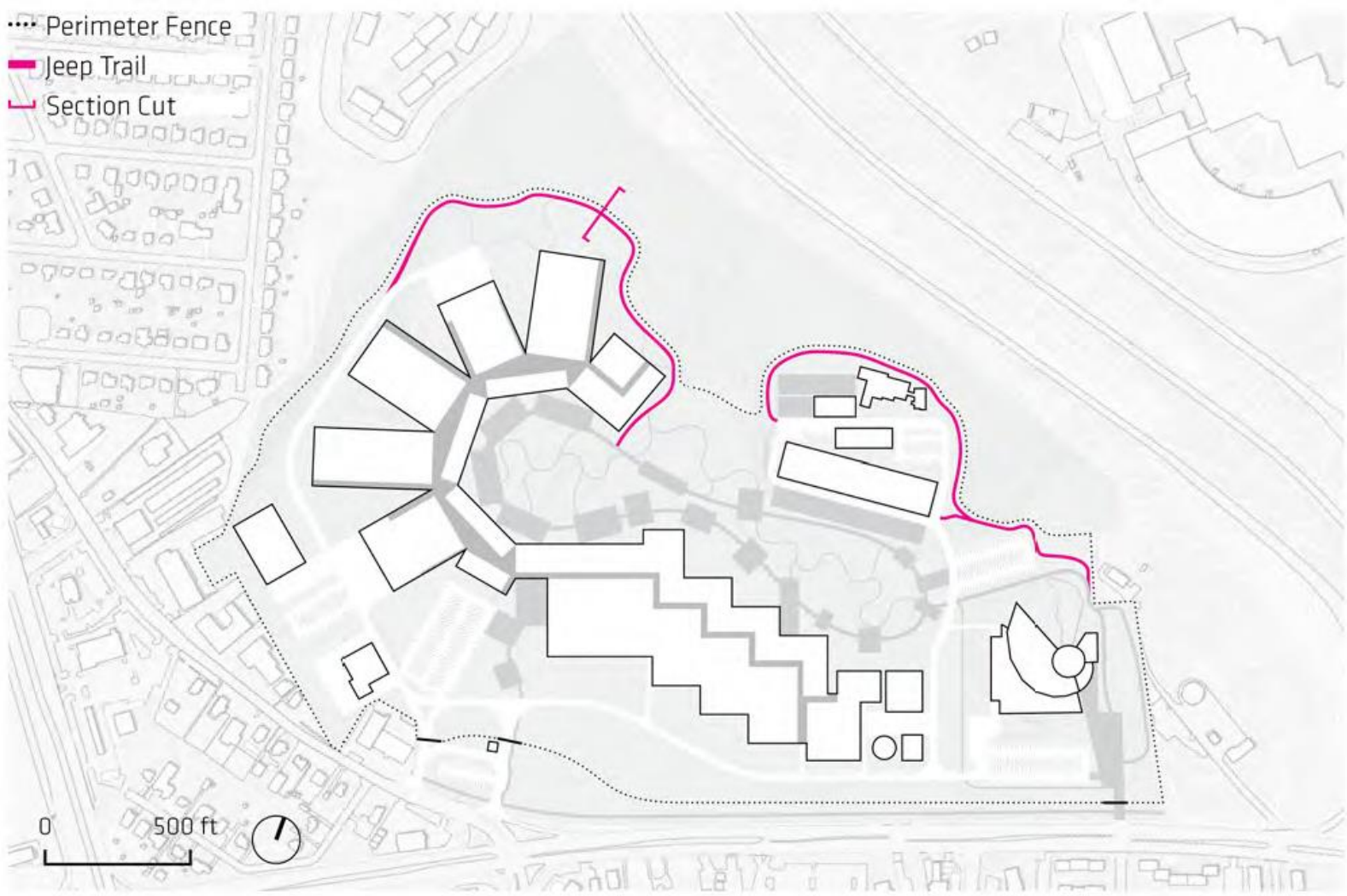
Parking – Phase 1

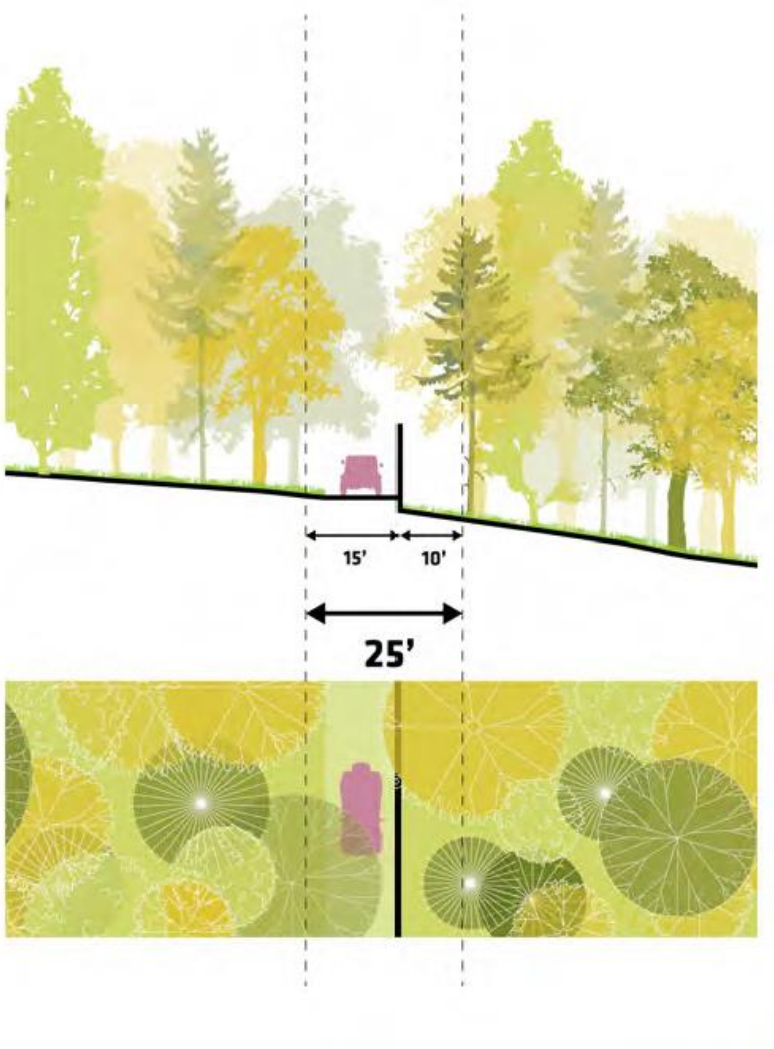
- Existing / Planned Buildings
- New Development - Collections / Non-Collections
- New Development - Internal Circulation
- New Development - OPS/OFMR
- Primary Vehicular Access
- Pedestrian / Emergency Vehicular Access
- Parking
- Loading Zone
- Vehicular Circulation
- Primary Building Entrance
- Pedestrian Circulation
- Fence line
- Woodland
- Bioretention Zone

#	CAPACITY	TOTAL
1	30	
2	80	
3	50	
4	48	
5	70	
6	104	
	PROPOSED PARKING	382



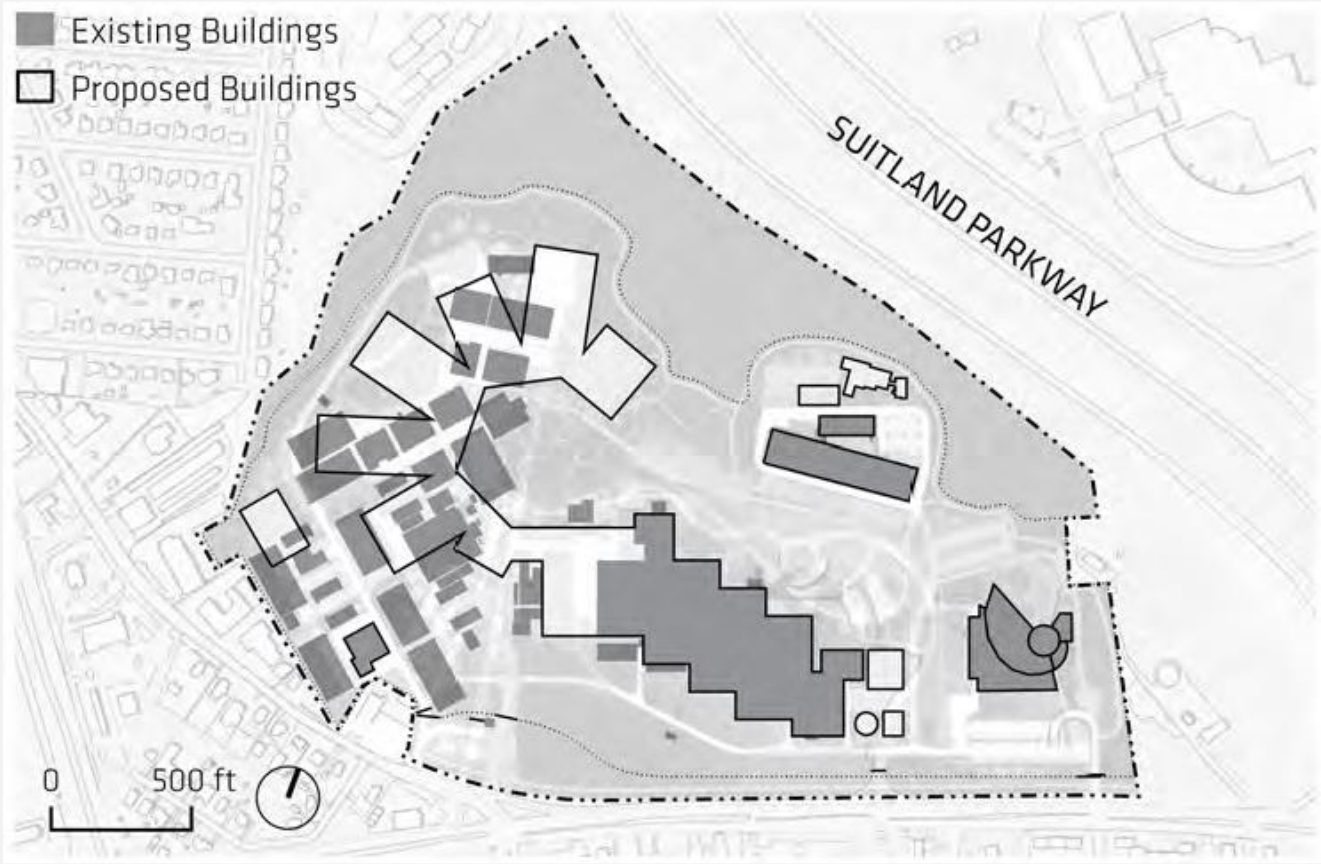
Security Fence



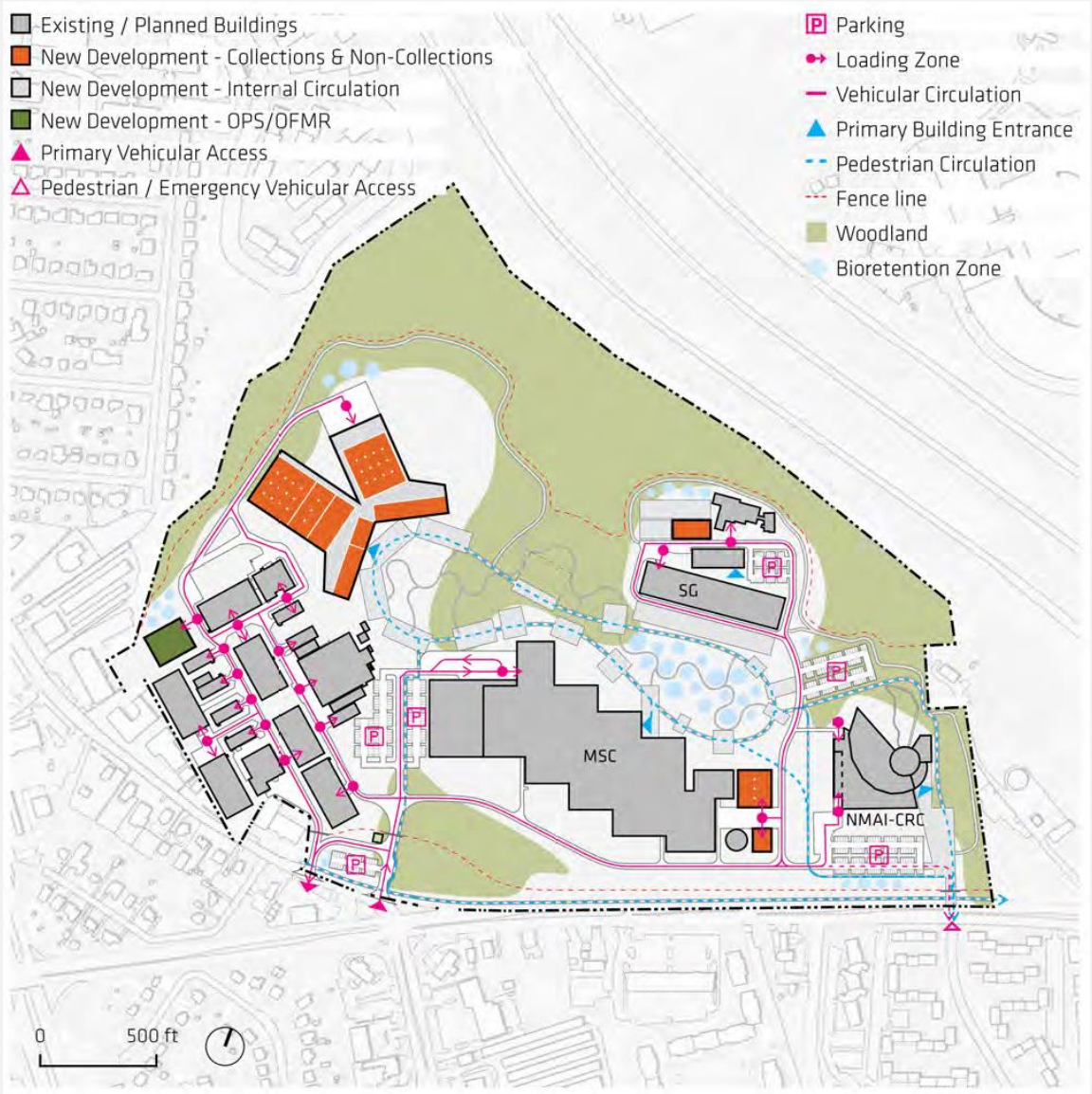


Comparison to 1993 Master Plan





20-Year Site Development Plan





Draft Master Plan

