National Capital Planning Commission

Suitland Collections Center Master Plan

4210 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland

Approval of Final Master Plan

Smithsonian Institution

Project Summary

Commission Meeting Date: June 4, 2020

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

Applicant Request: Approval of Final Master Plan

Session: Consent

NCPC Review Officer: Jamie Herr

NCPC File Number: MP135

Project Summary:

The Smithsonian Institution has submitted a final master plan for the 100-acre Suitland Collections Center (SCC) site located at 4210 Silver Hill Road in Suitland, Maryland. The Smithsonian Institution initially submitted the draft master plan for review at the February 6, 2020 Commission meeting. The Commission recommended updates to the security plans, site accessibility and the parking plan to achieve an overall parking ration of 1:3 at the completion of the master plan.

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 proposed 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 final Master Plan includes the following responses to previous draft master plan comments from the Commission (February 2020):

- Site/Landscape Plan – Removed overly specific plant list and revised the landscape plan to describe the character of various areas of the campus
- Security Plan – Security fence along Silver Hill Road maintained in current configuration; Provides process for tree removal approval associated with future projects; Addresses woodland lighting
- Parking and Access – Identifies steps and milestones to achieve a 1:3 parking ratio and transportation demand management recommendations within 20 years as follows:

  FY21-30:
  - Conduct survey to better identify the number of employees based at SCC and commuter patterns
  - Further explore opportunities to partner with other agencies at the Suitland Federal Center to share shuttle bus service
  - Continue to advocate with NPS and MD agencies for a safer pedestrian and bike route to Metro along NPS crossings, as well as maintenance
  - Reduce parking in connection with pre-master plan projects
  - Improve pedestrian connections between facilities and parking lots
  - Consider implementation of paid parking, taking into consideration working hours and other situations where staff have no viable transit options, as well as the current safety concerns and long walking distances to buildings

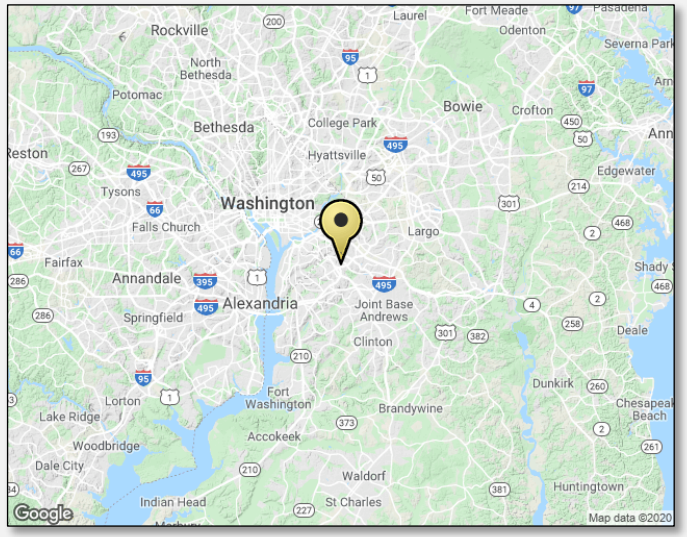
Project Summary

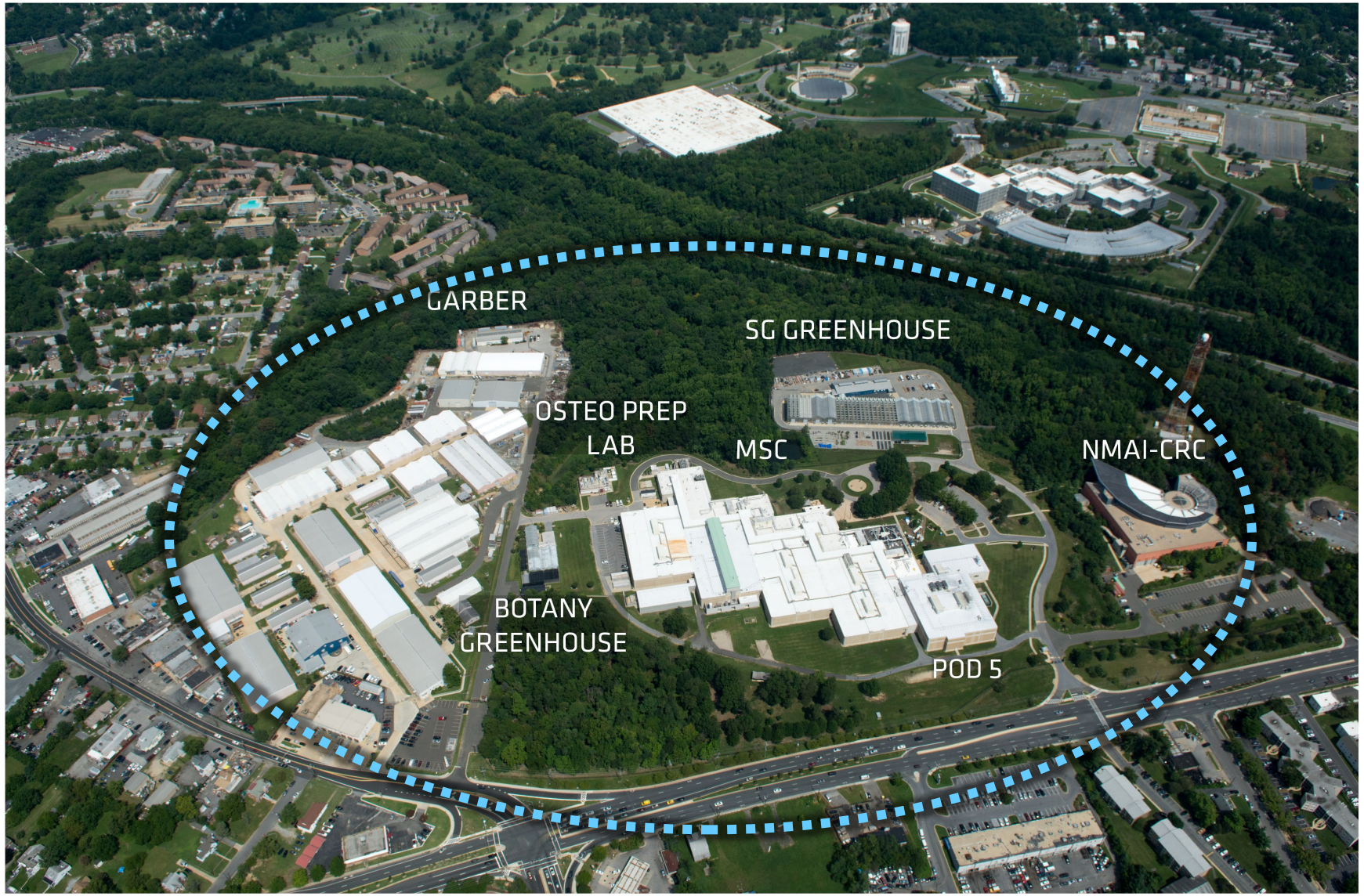
The final Master Plan includes the following responses to previous draft master plan comments from the Commission (February 2020):

FY31-40:

- New main entrance will replace the current employee parking with a smaller visitor and SI vehicle only lot
- New OPS and OFMR building parking will be limited to SI vehicles, accessible spaces and visitors
- SG equipment building will include SI vehicle only and accessible spaces, not employee parking
- Osteo Prep Lab relocation will include SI, service and visitor parking only
- CRC parking lot renovation will reduce parking in favor of shared vehicle, scooter and bicycle spaces
- Construction of new lot replacing MSC lots will provide for an equal number of spaces, not replacing overflow parking on roads

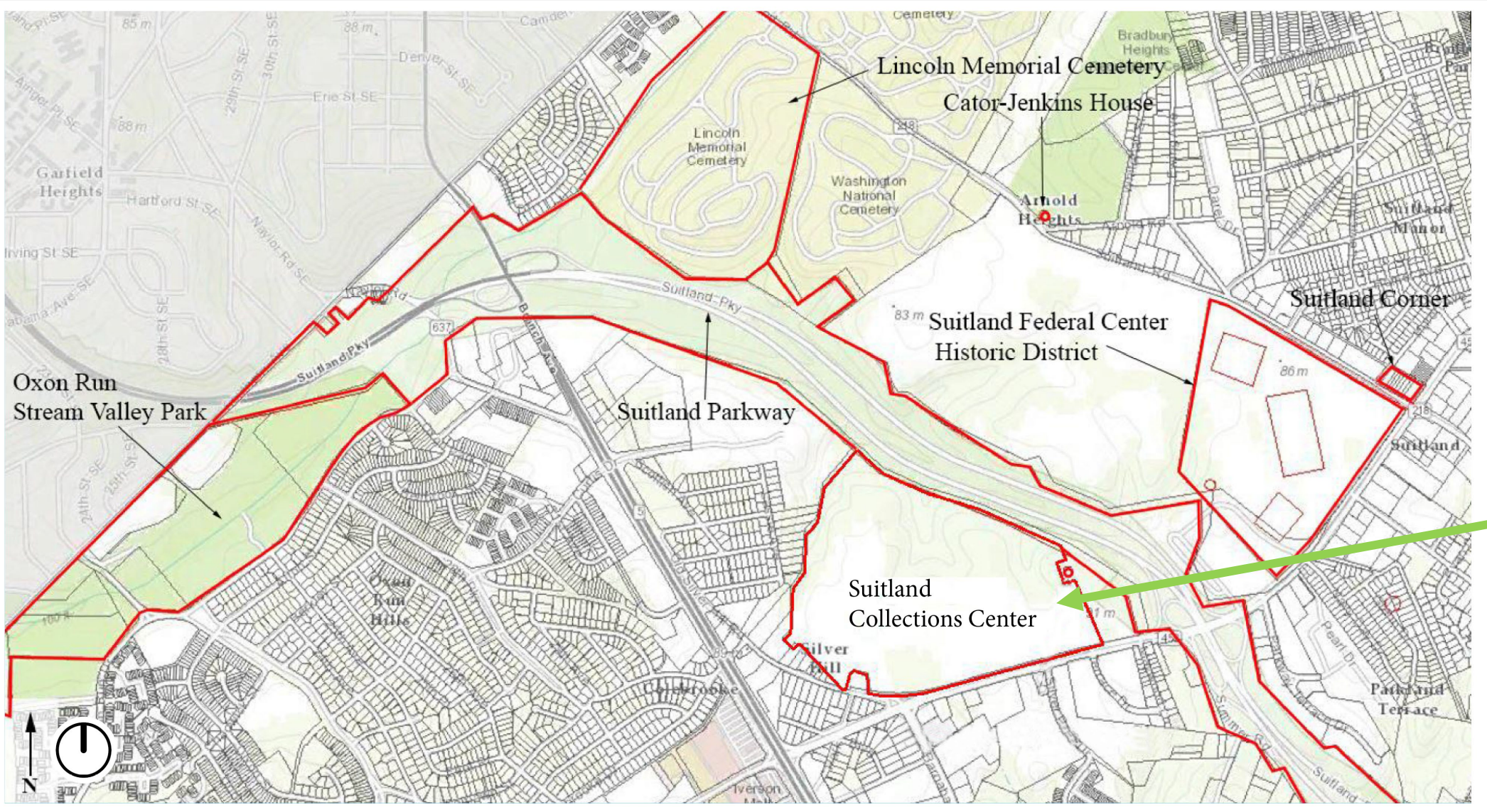
Site Location





Location Map

Site Context



Existing Buildings



Garber Buildings



MSC Building



CRC Building



Botany Greenhouse



Greenhouses



Fleet Maintenance

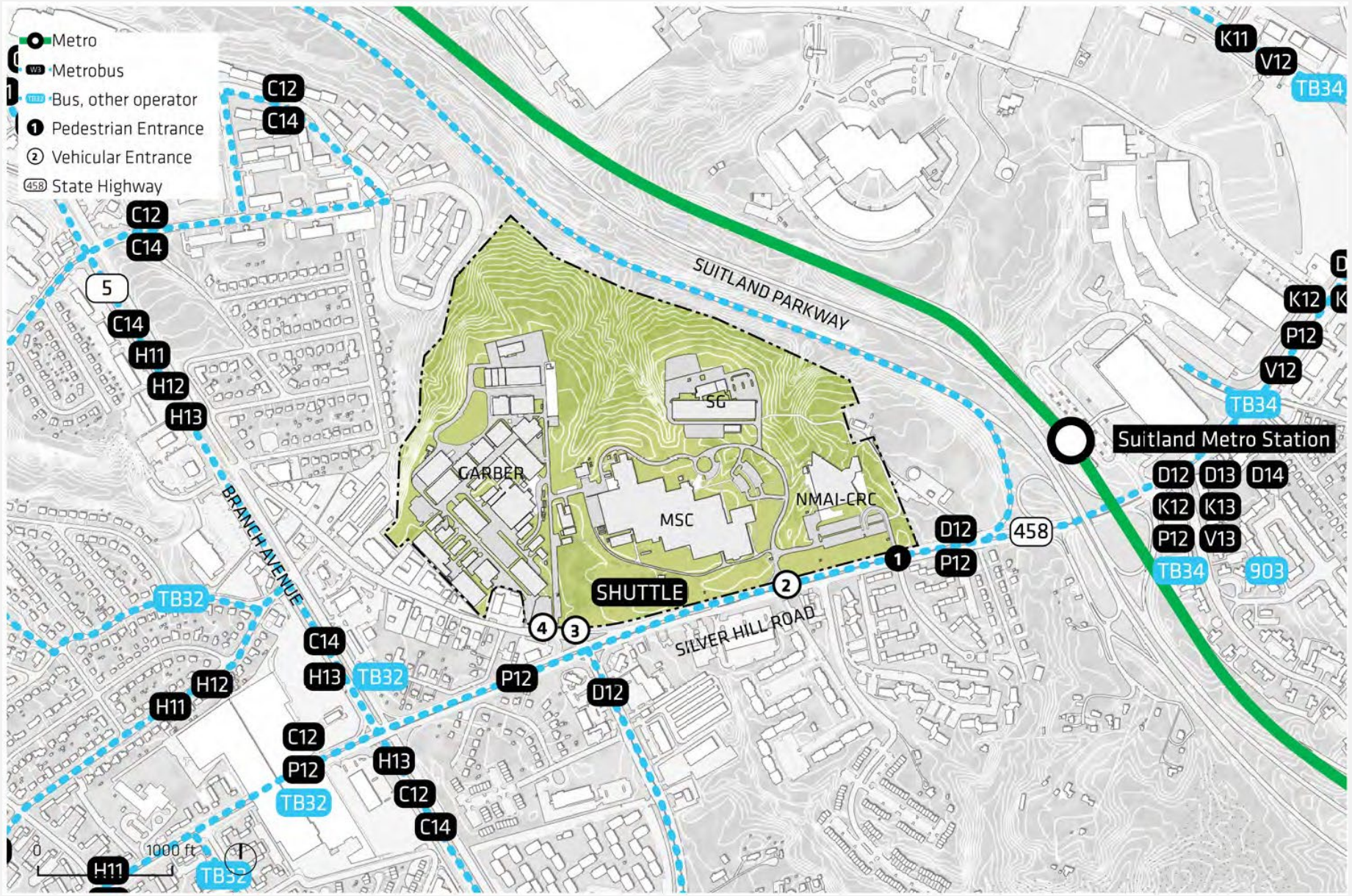
Site Context

Approximate walking distances from SCC buildings to Suitland Metro Station

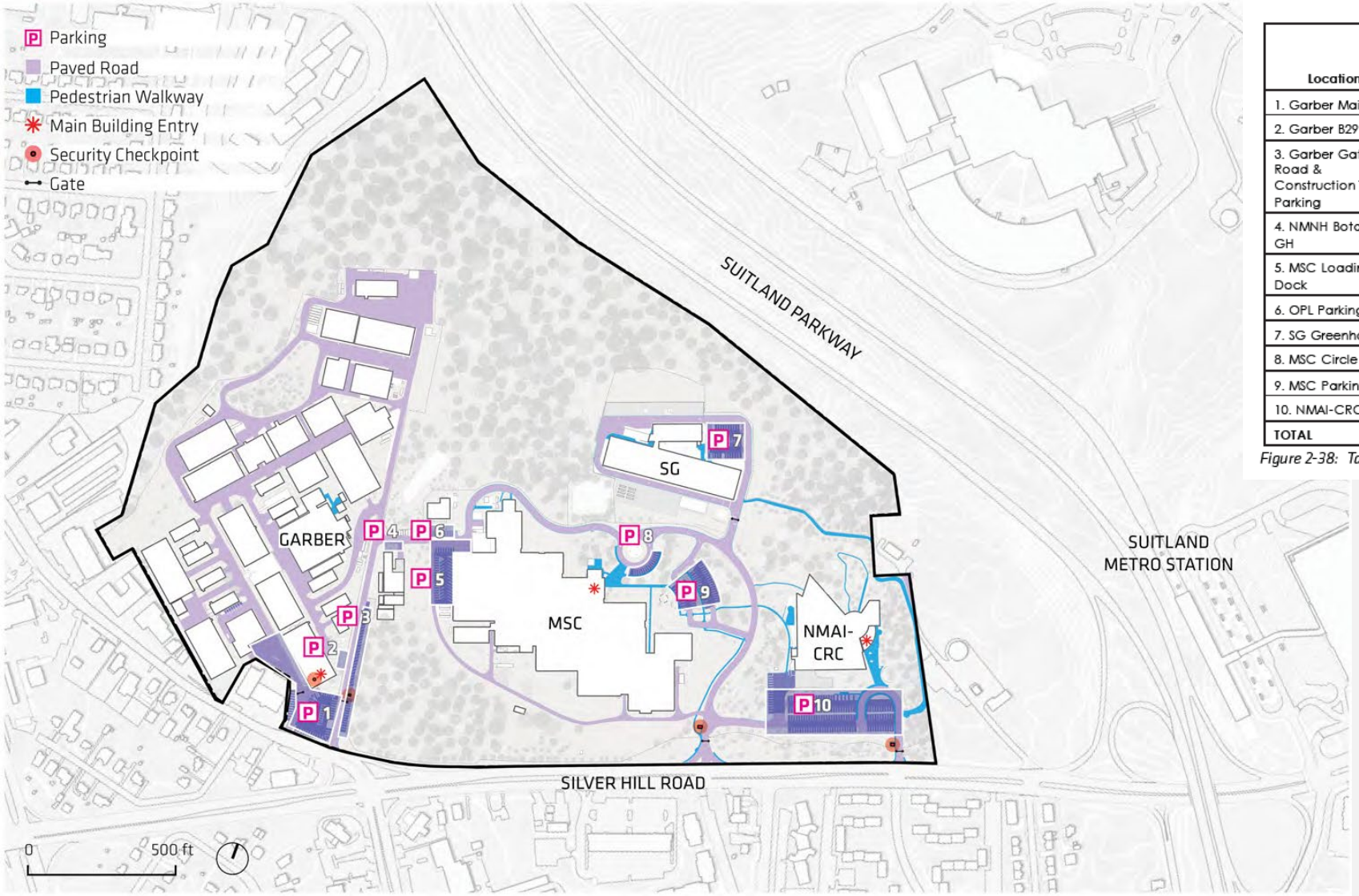


Site Context

Existing campus access and public transportation



Existing Conditions – Access and Parking



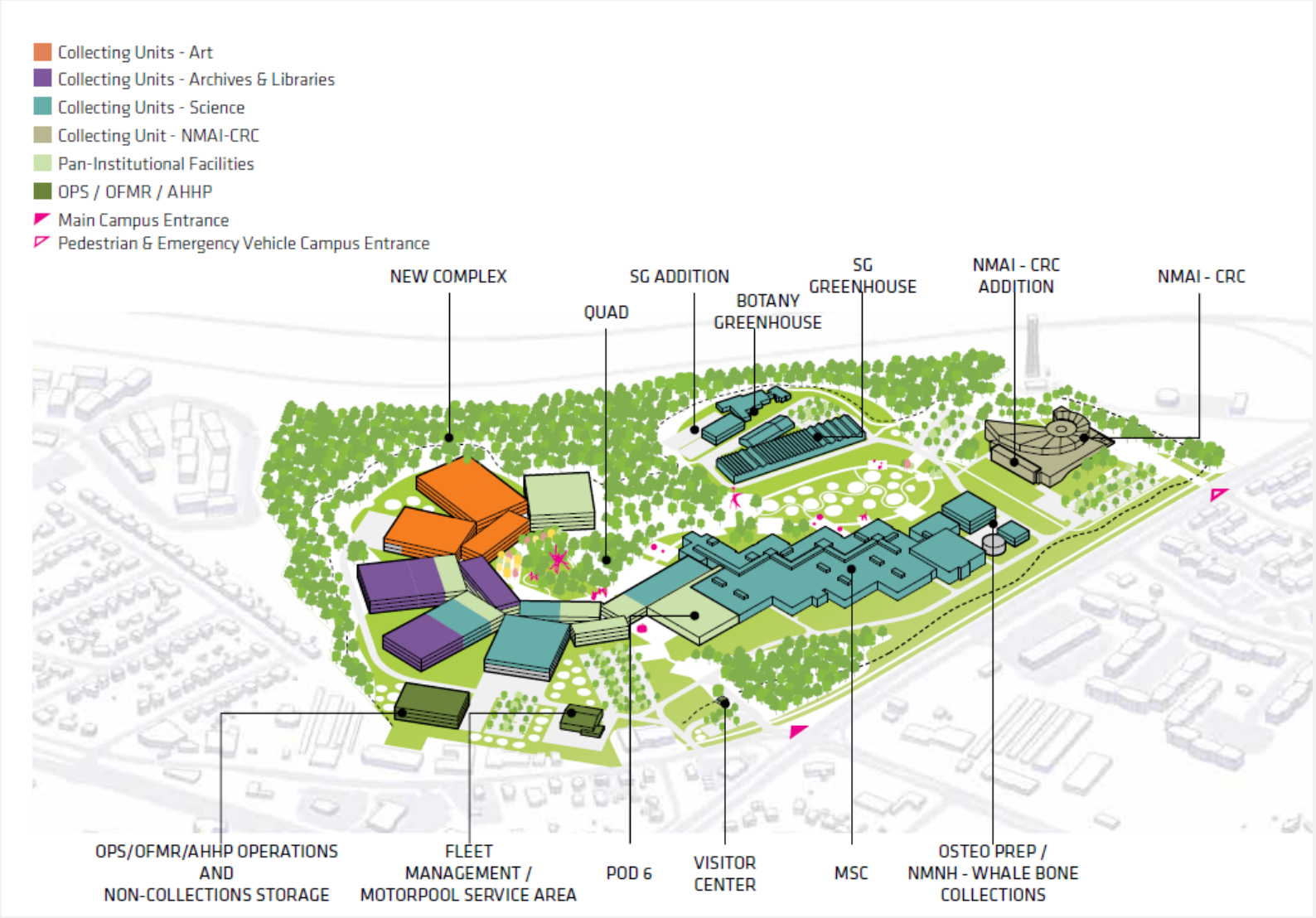
Location	Capacity			Utilization: October 23, 2019			Utilization: October 29, 2019		
	ADA	Emp/ Visitor	SI Veh Only	ADA	Emp/ Visitor	SI Veh	ADA	Emp/ Visitor	SI Veh
1. Garber Main Lot	2	63	2	0	41	17	0	38	18
2. Garber B29	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	2
3. Garber Gate Road & Construction Trailer Parking	2	39	0	0	37	1	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

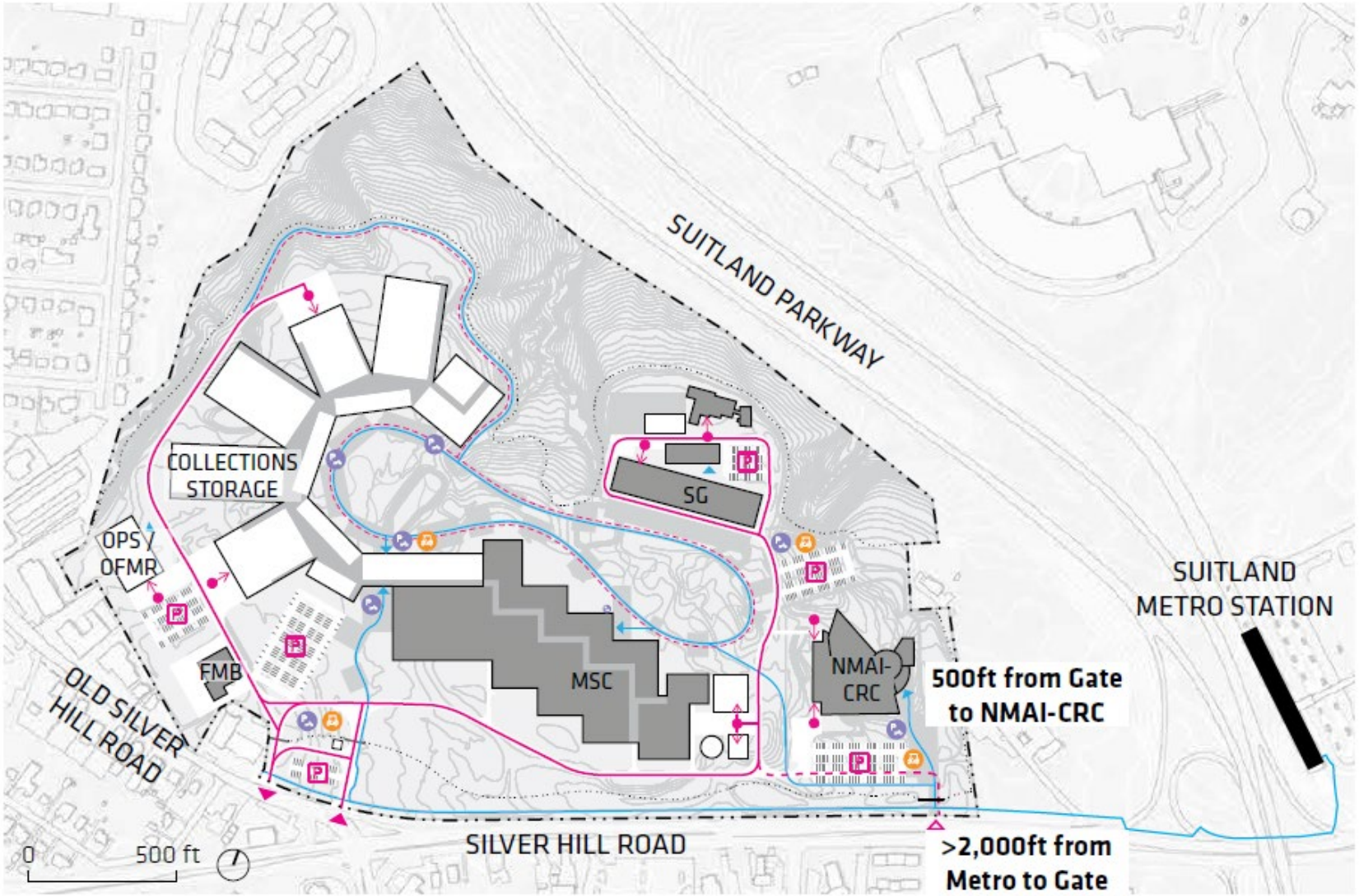
Existing Conditions – Vegetation and Topography



Final Master Plan – Site Organization



Campus Circulation



- Primary Vehicular Access
- Primary Pedestrian / Emergency Vehicular Access
- Vehicular Circulation
- Emergency Vehicular Circulation
- Pedestrian Circulation
- Primary Building Entrance
- Existing / Planned Buildings
- New Development
- Internal Circulation
- Bike Station
- Electric Cart Station
- Parking
- Fence

Silver Hill Road Improvements

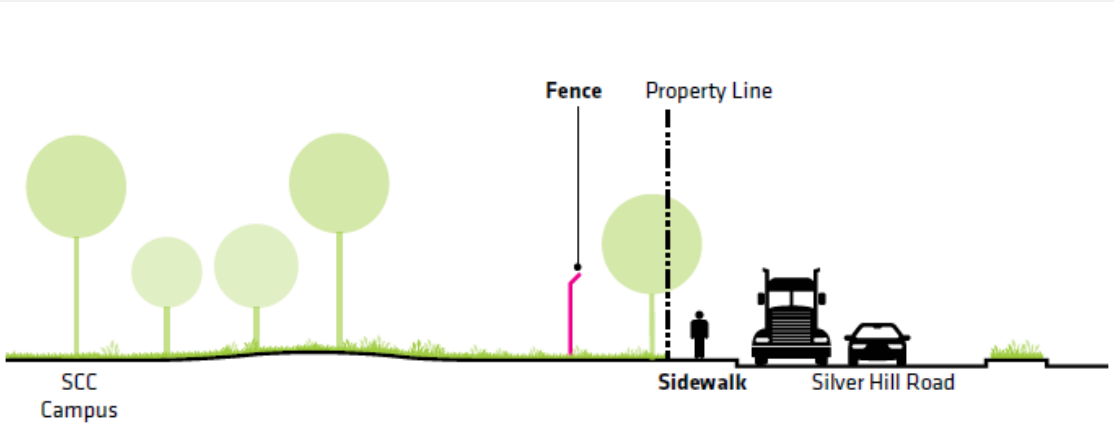


Figure 3-18: Section Diagram of Existing Silver Hill Road

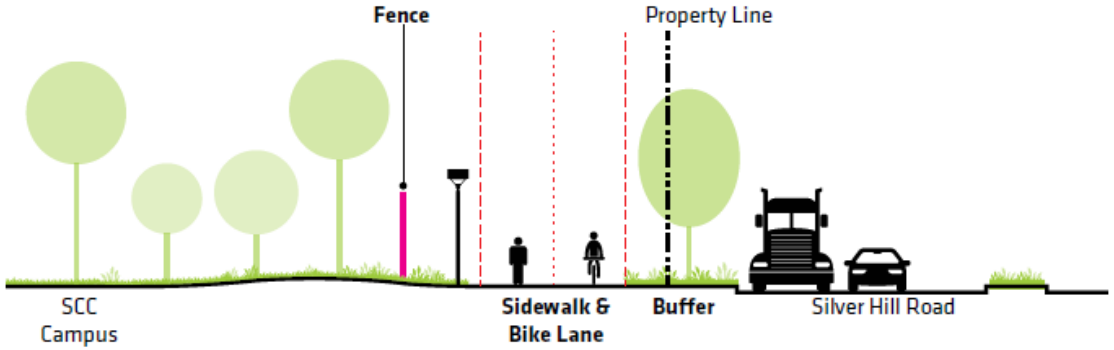


Figure 3-19: Proposed Section Diagram of Silver Hill Road

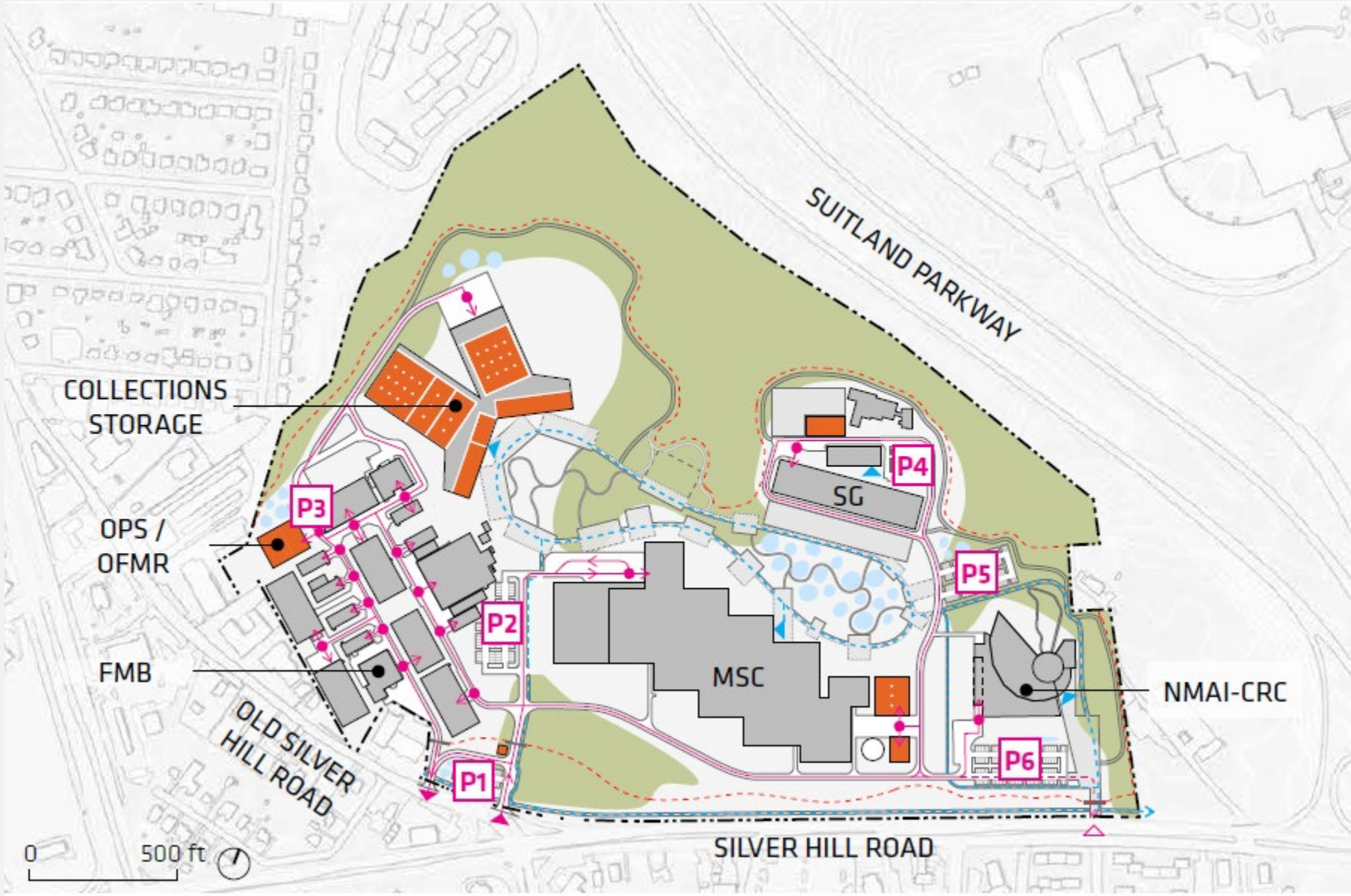




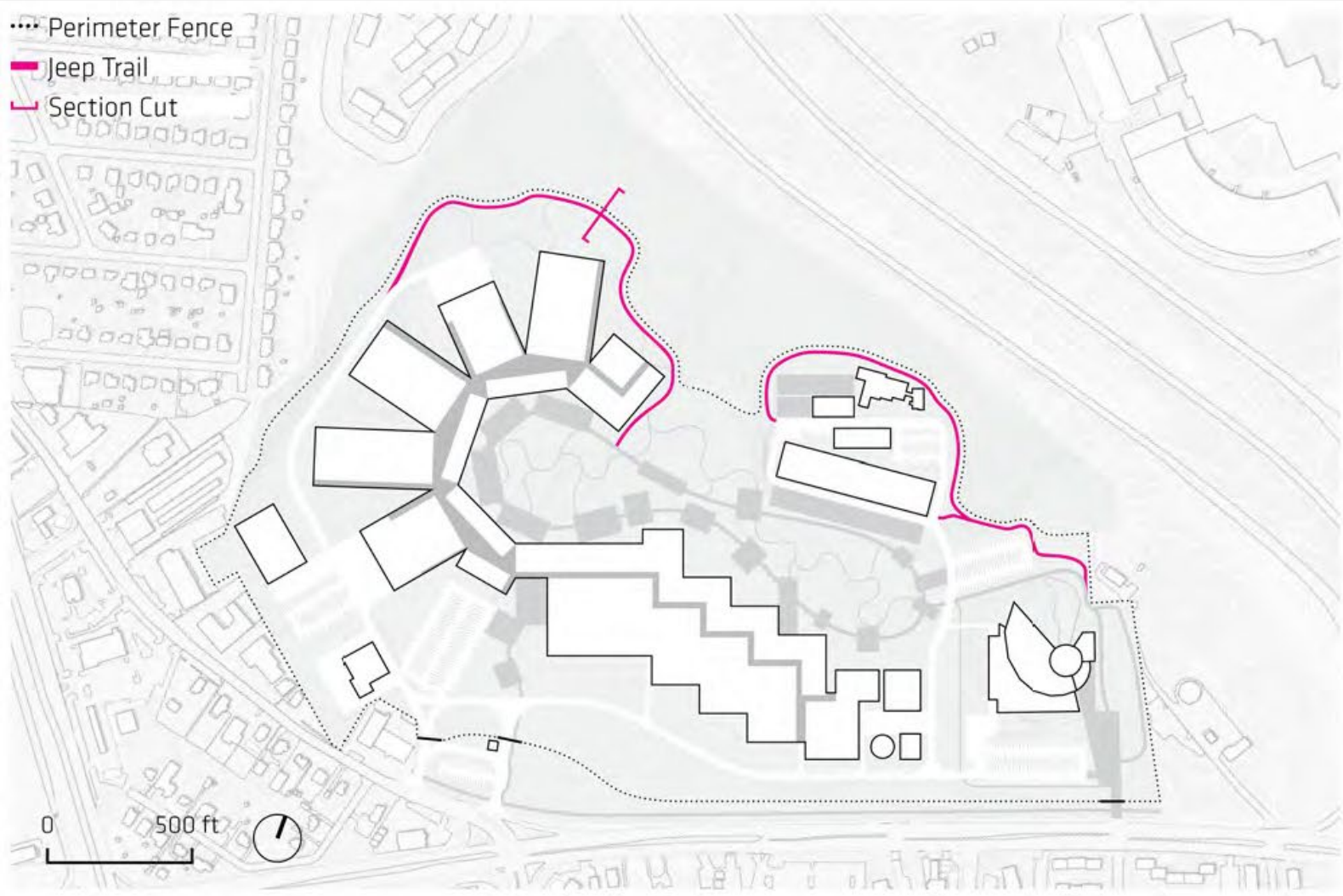
Proposed pedestrian and bicycle improvements to Silver Hill Road in final Master Plan

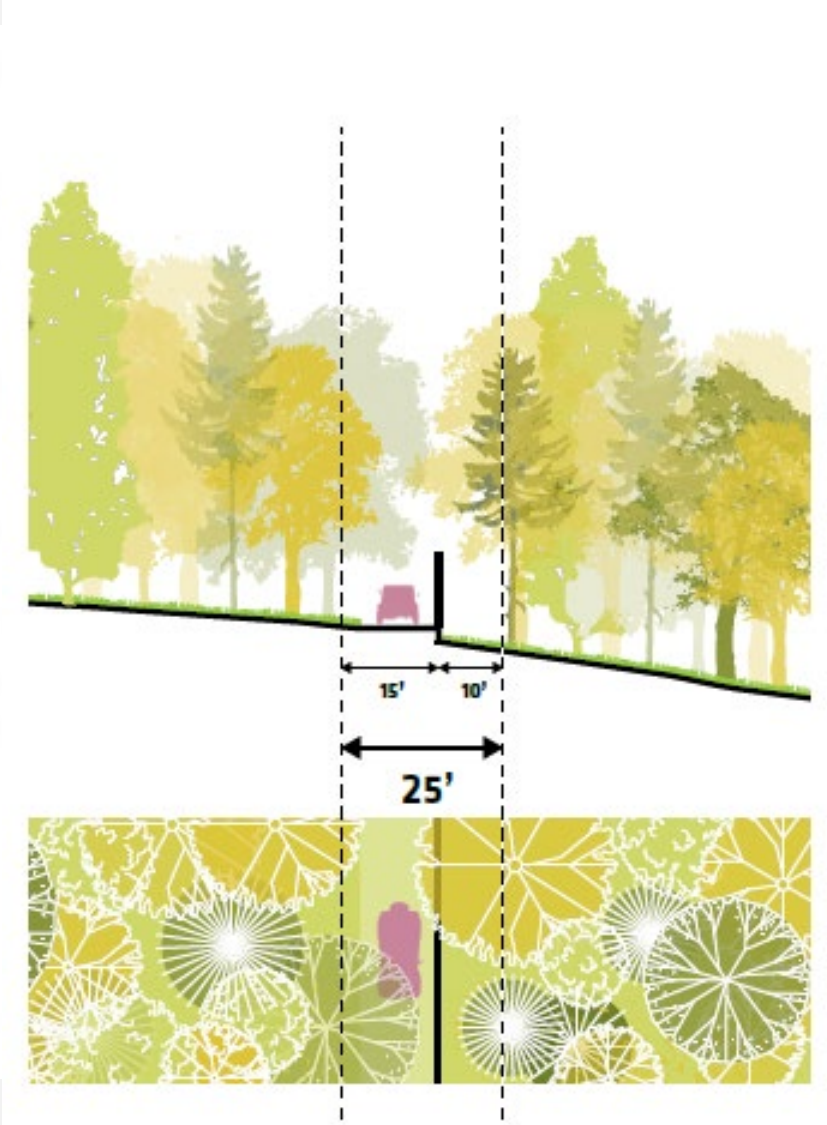
Parking – Phase 1

#	CAPACITY	TOTAL
P1	30	
P2	68	
P3	10	
P4	50	
P5	68	
P6	104	
PROPOSED PARKING		330

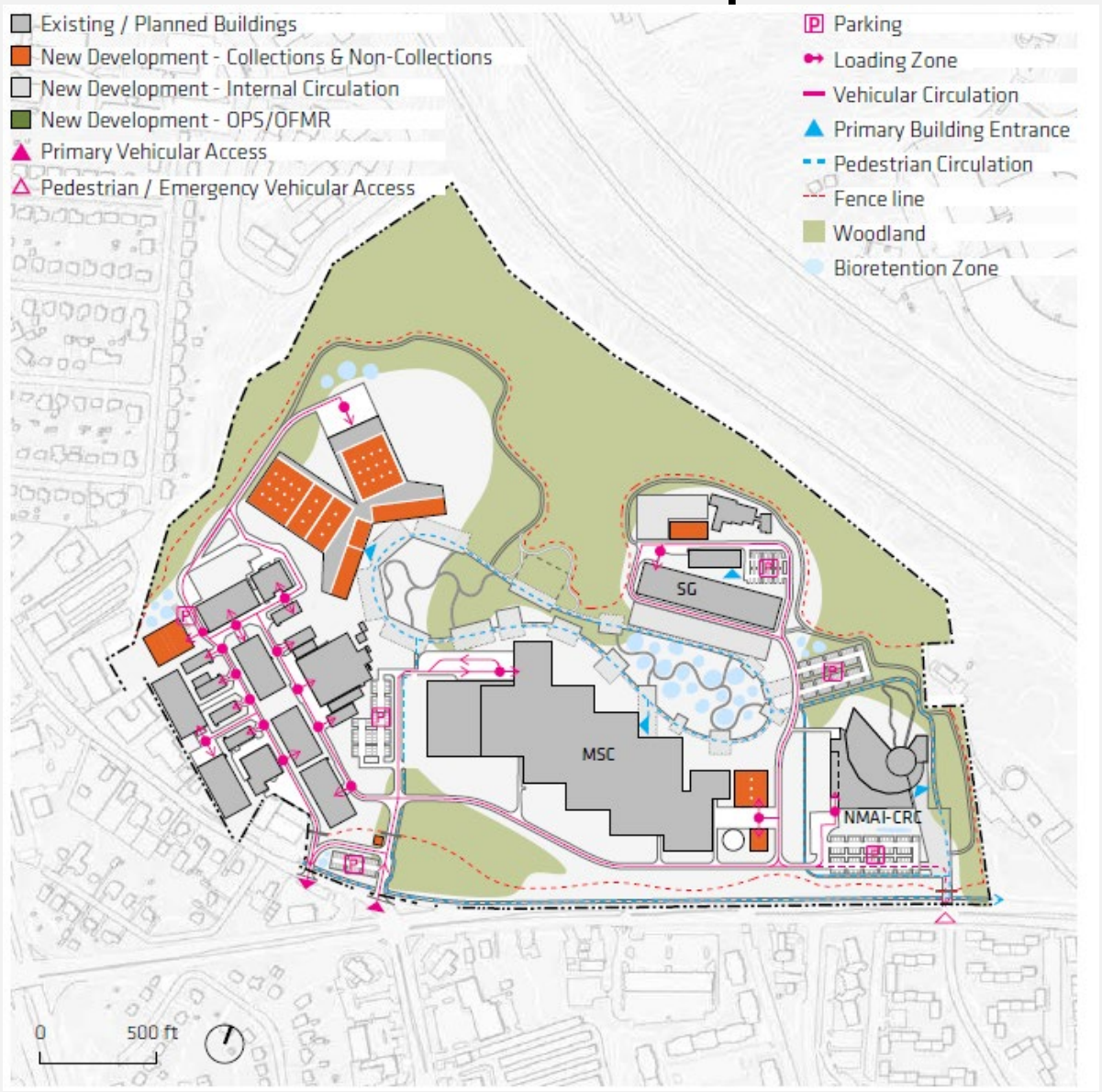


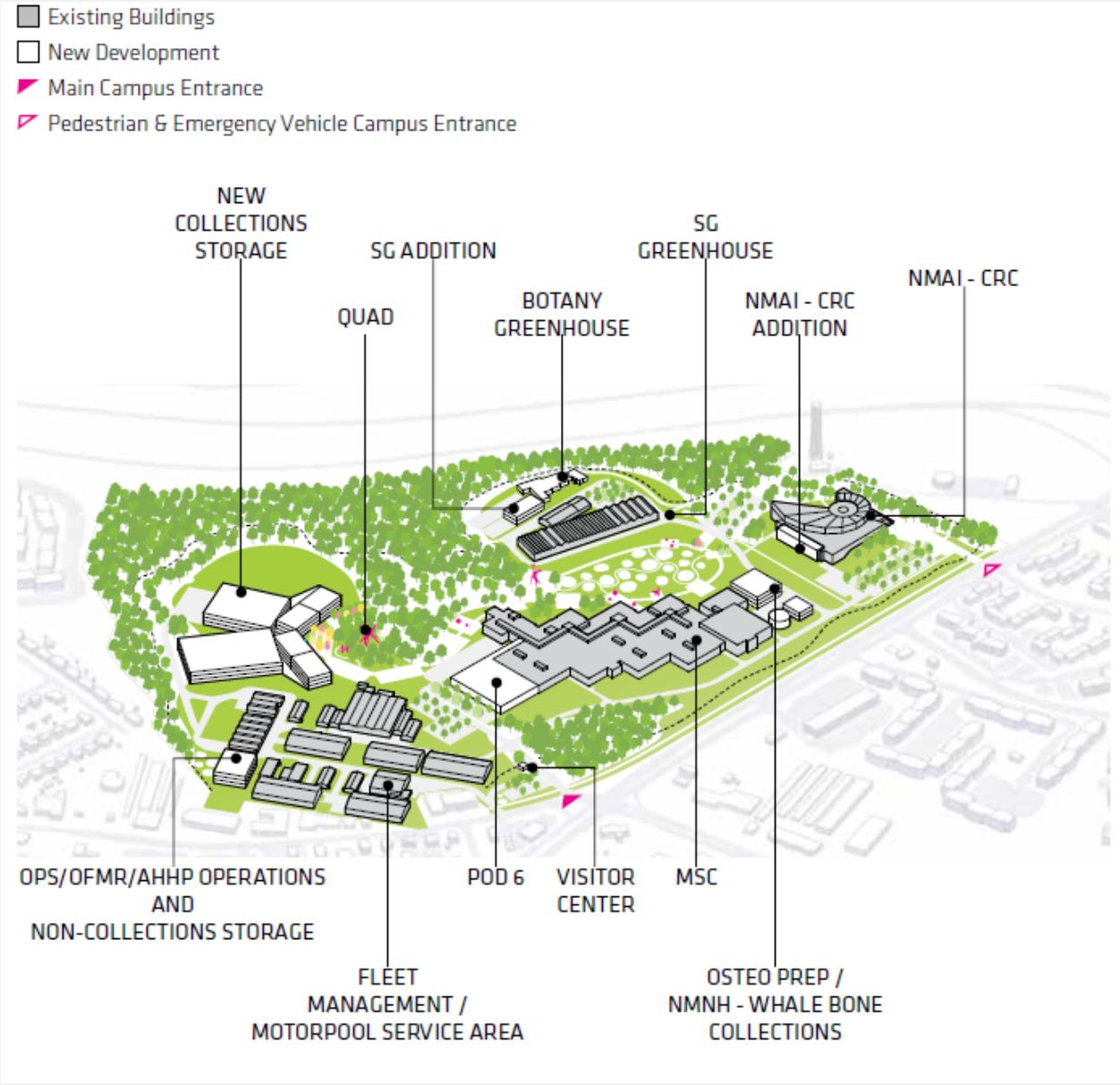
Security Fence





20-Year Site Development Plan





Final Master Plan

