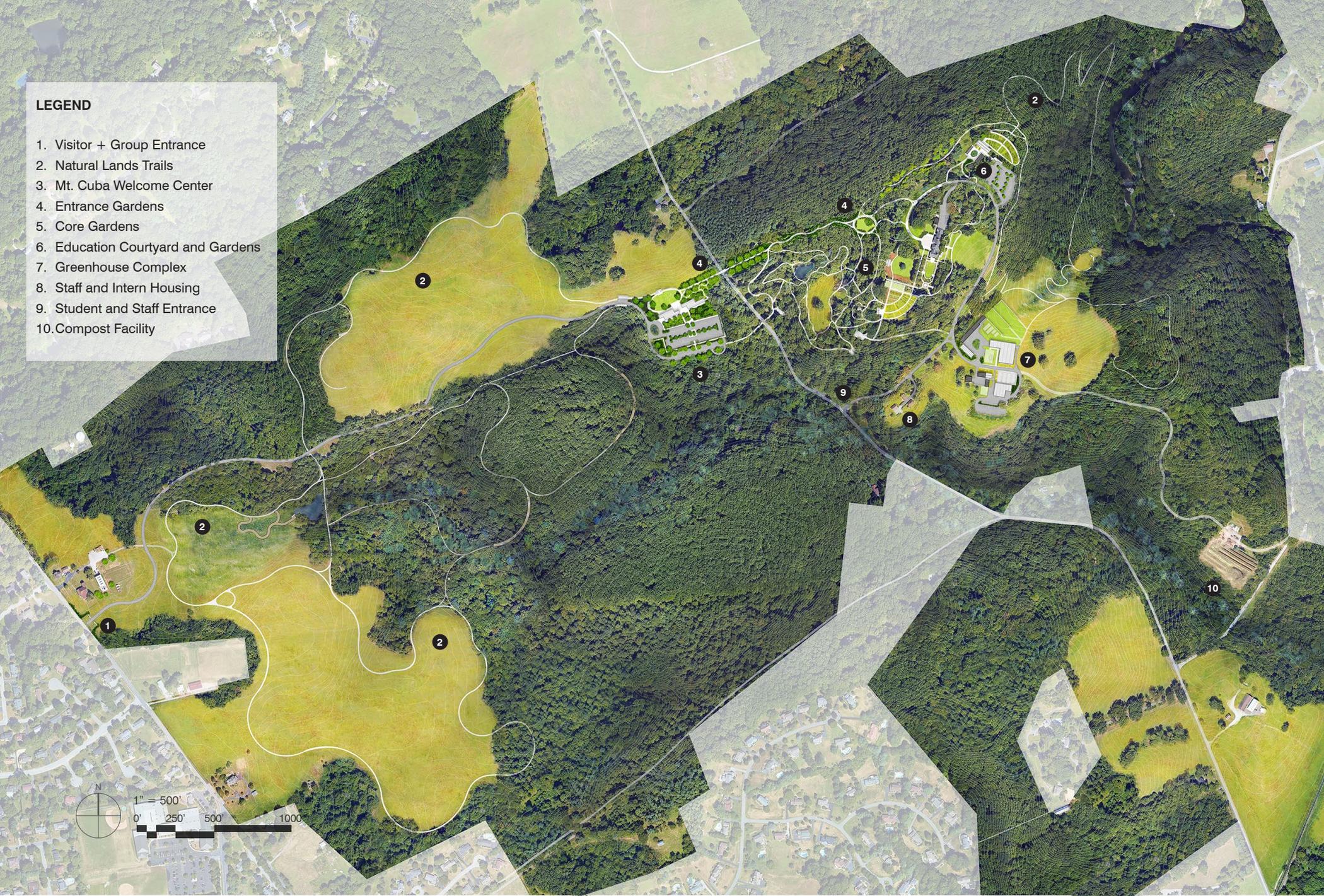
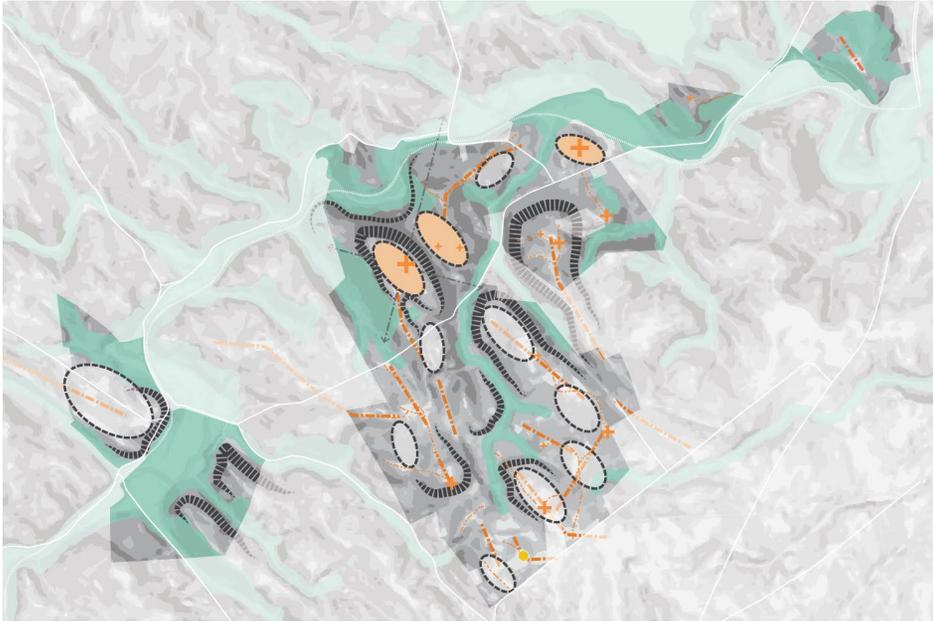


LEGEND

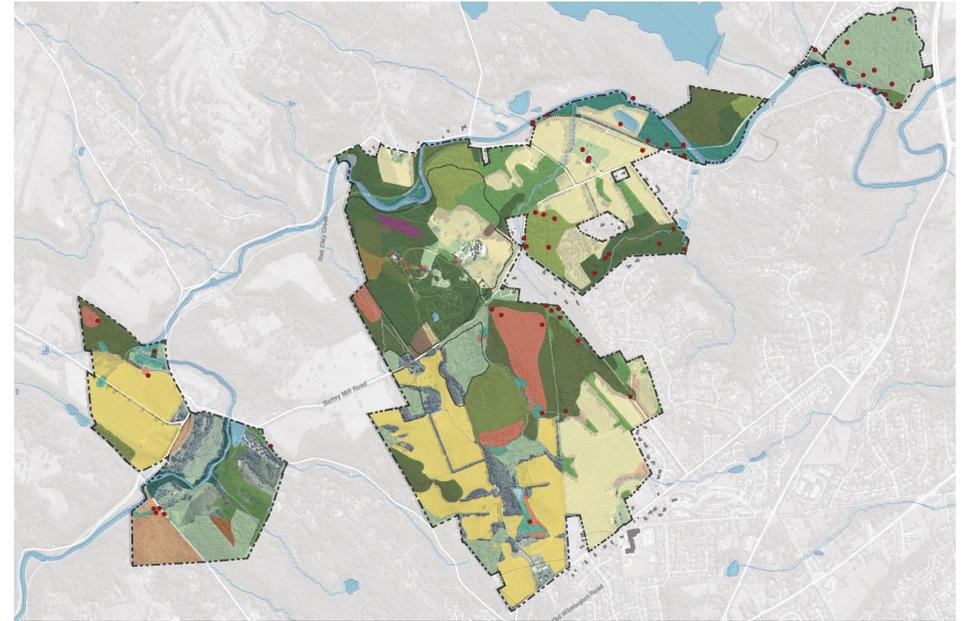
- 1. Visitor + Group Entrance
- 2. Natural Lands Trails
- 3. Mt. Cuba Welcome Center
- 4. Entrance Gardens
- 5. Core Gardens
- 6. Education Courtyard and Gardens
- 7. Greenhouse Complex
- 8. Staff and Intern Housing
- 9. Student and Staff Entrance
- 10. Compost Facility



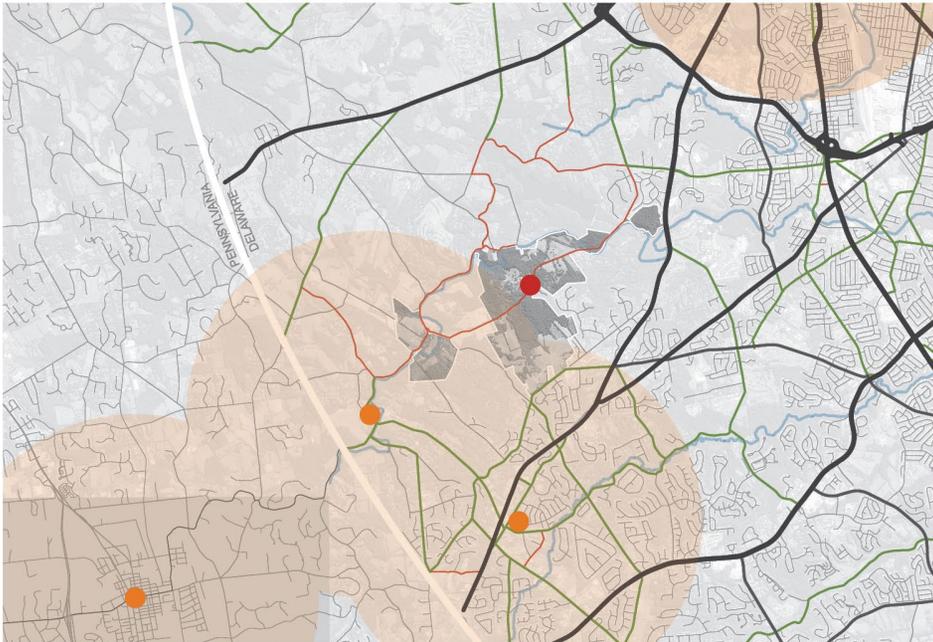
Mt. Cuba Center rendered plan



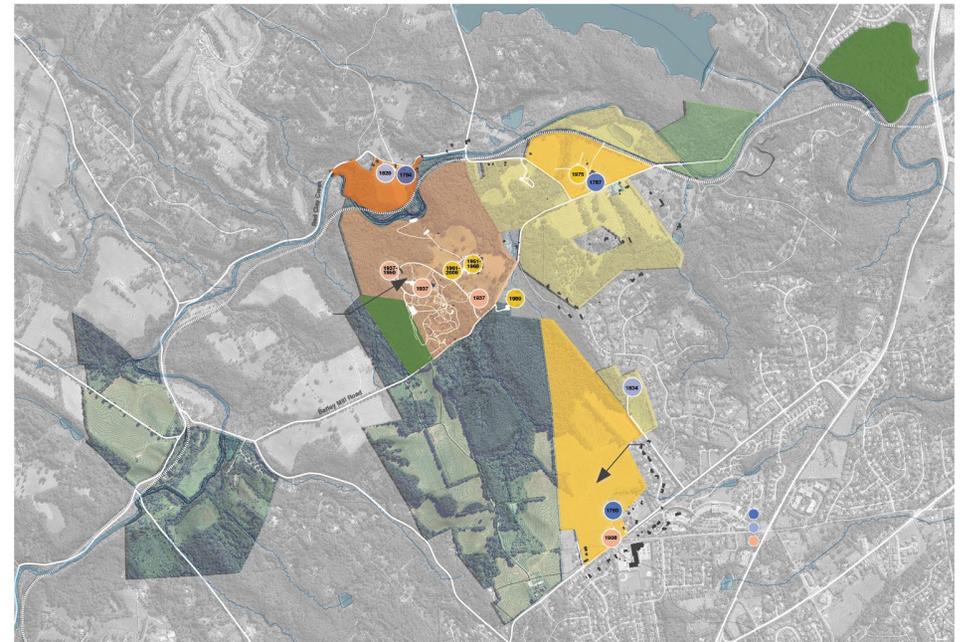
Potential program sites



Ecological survey



Road capacity



Historic land use

Strategic opportunities for adaptation, interpretation, and arrival were identified through the analysis of topography, hydrology, ecological surveys, historic land uses and surrounding road capacity.



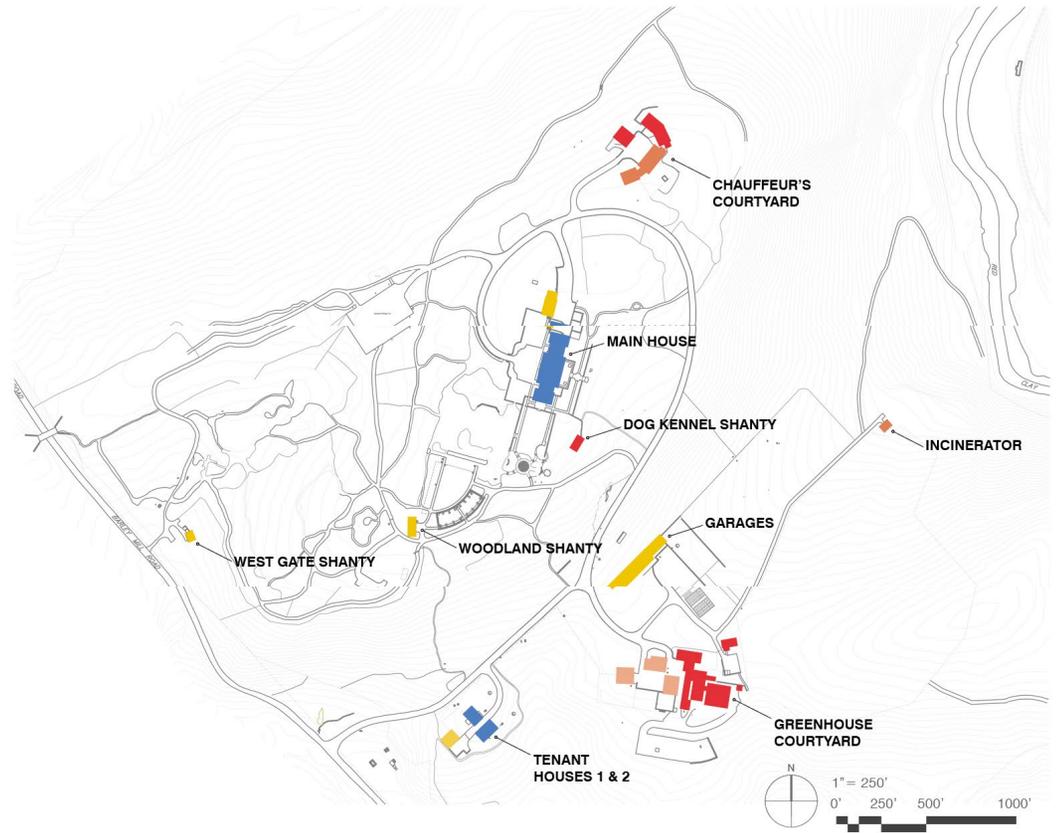
Chauffeur's Complex



Greenhouse Complex



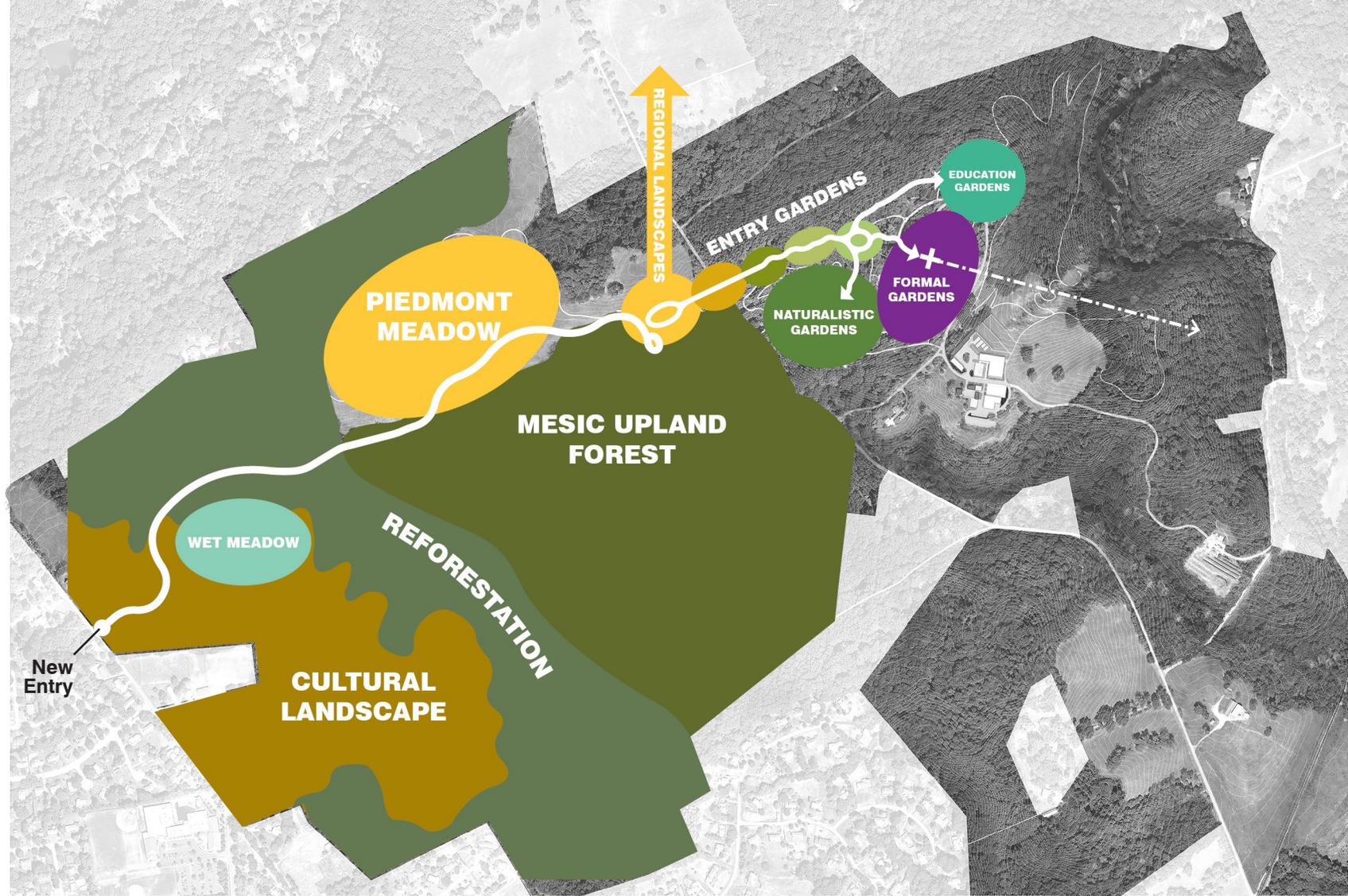
Main House



Proposed Building Treatments

- Retain & Maintain
- Refurbish
- Adapt
- Demolish

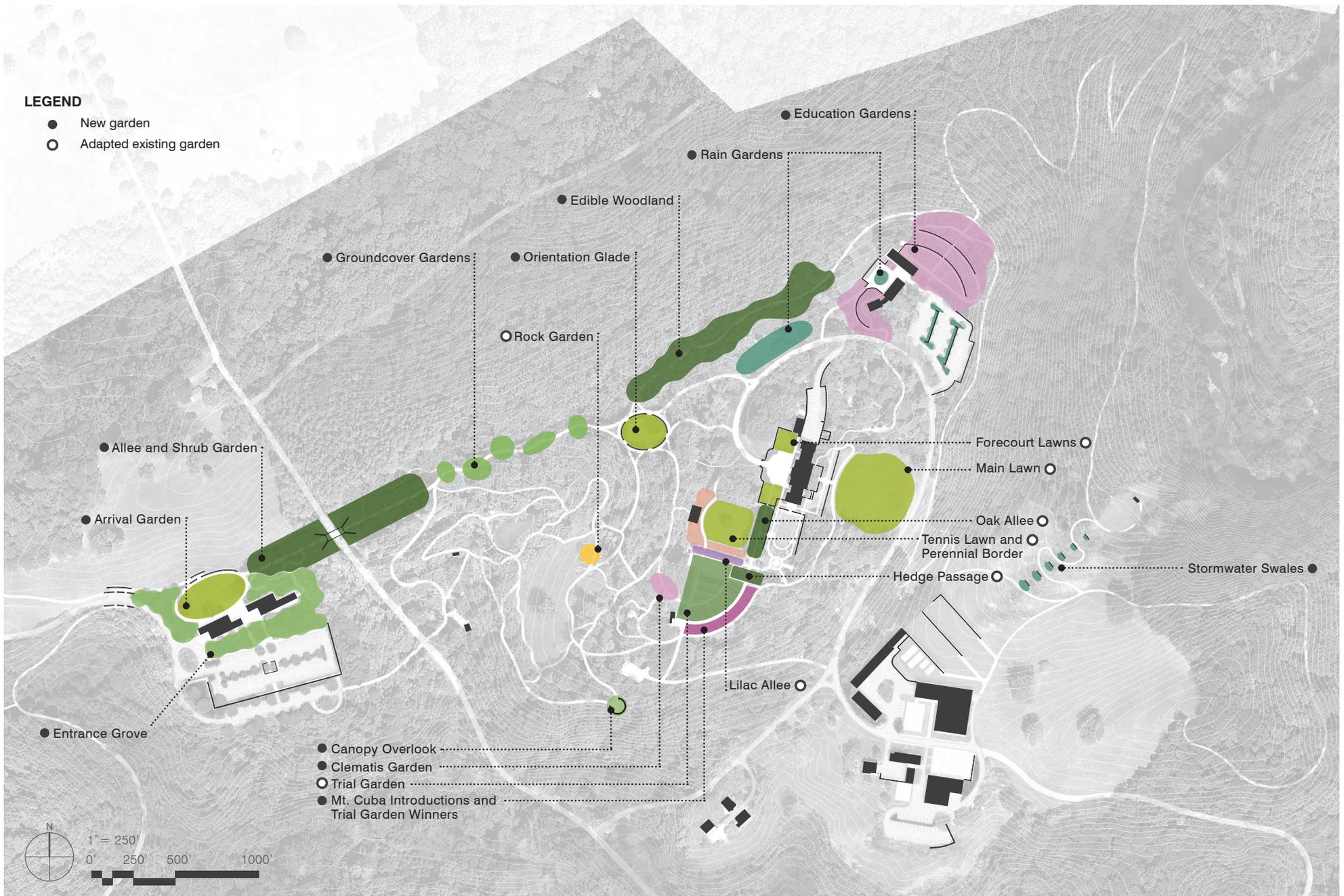
The Master Plan proposes a variety of approaches to existing buildings depending on their date of construction, condition, functionality and potential for adaptation. The plan considers a matrix of values including historic, aesthetic, financial and programmatic.



The new arrival re-situates Mt. Cuba's gardens within a regional ecological context. Visitors experience unfolding views of grasslands and forests characteristic of the Brandiwine Valley and Delaware Piedmont, a prelude to more intimate interaction with individual plants and gardens.

LEGEND

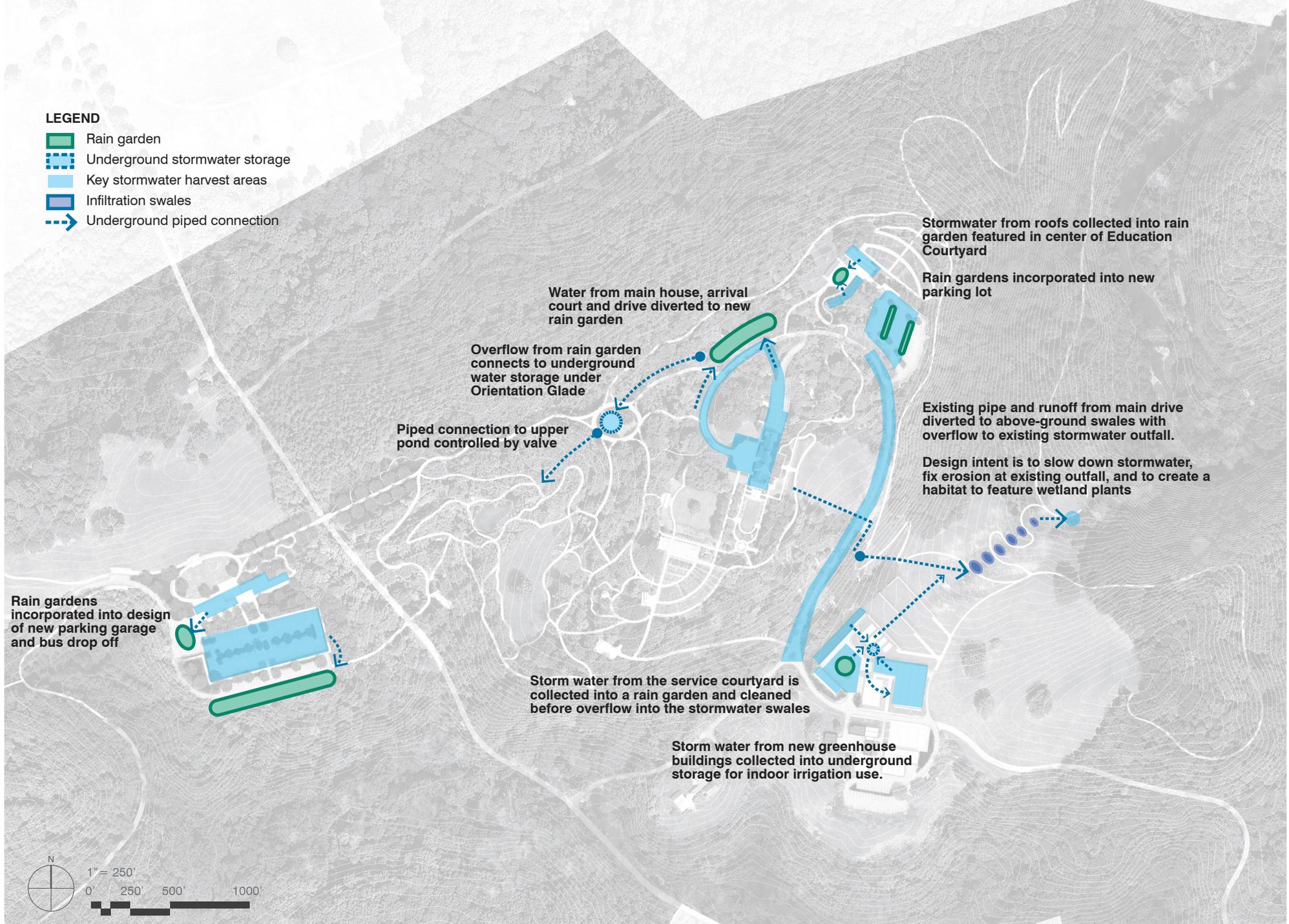
- New garden
- Adapted existing garden



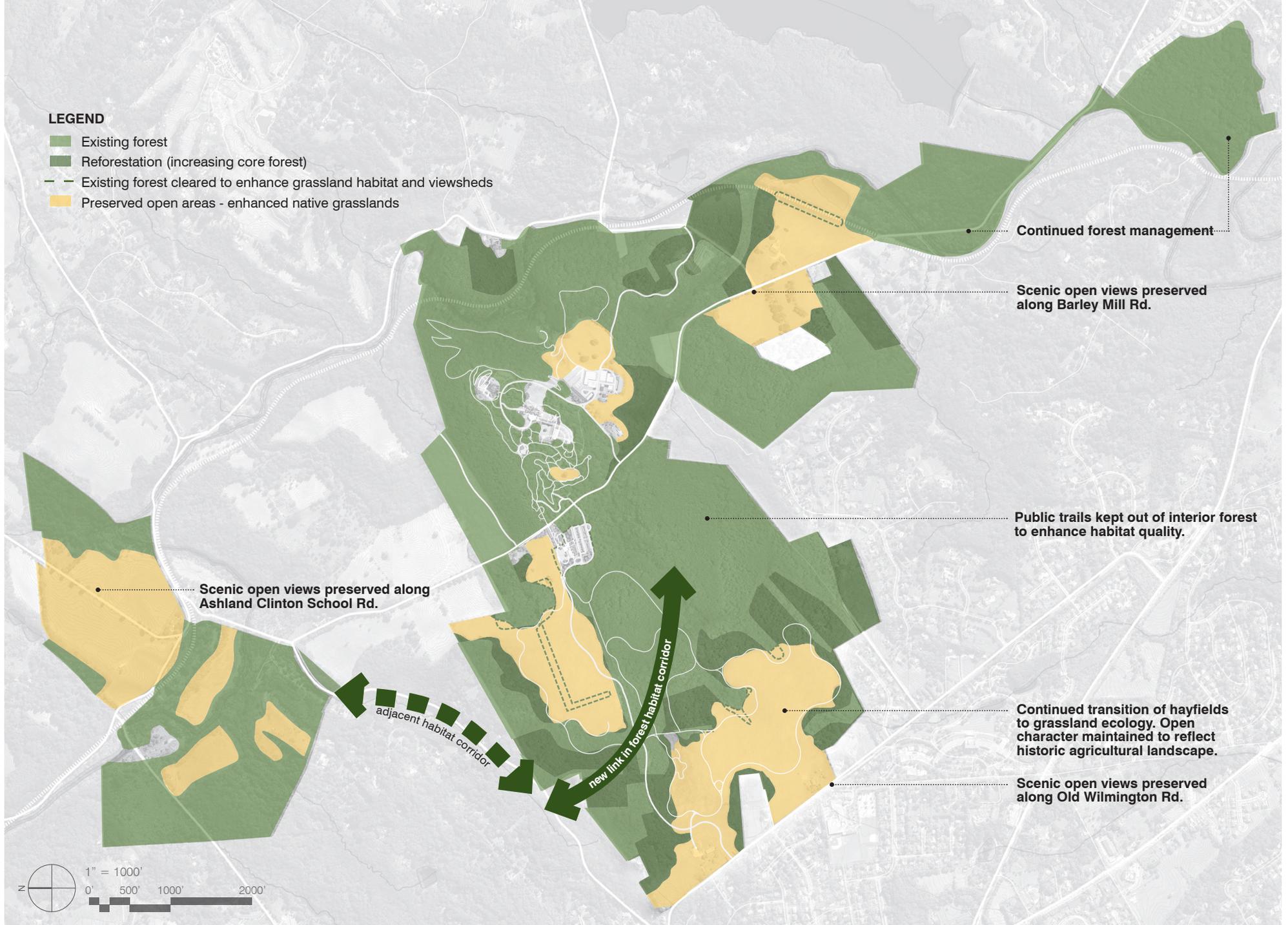
New gardens are carefully threaded through the existing landscape to link destinations and diversify showcased plant communities and species. Existing gardens are adapted to provide greater flexibility in program and use while ensuring connections to the expanded path network.

LEGEND

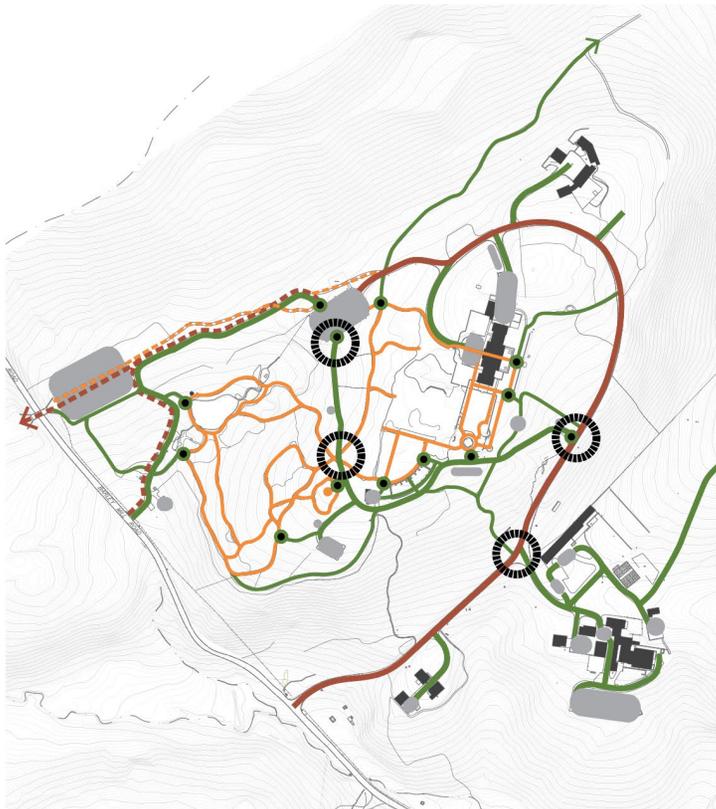
-  Rain garden
-  Underground stormwater storage
-  Key stormwater harvest areas
-  Infiltration swales
-  Underground piped connection



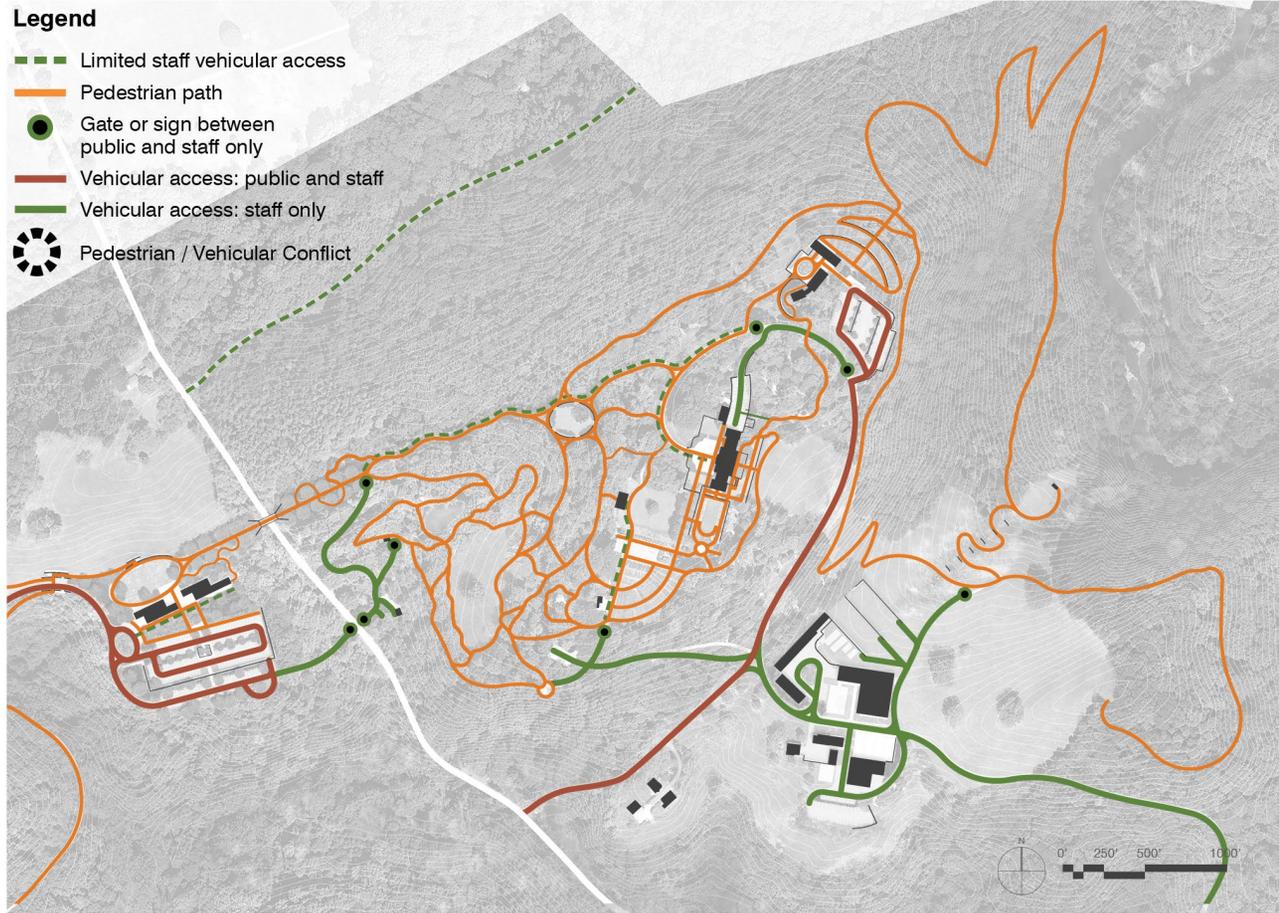
The overall stormwater strategy ensures capture for new and existing structures and hardscape reinforcing MCC's commitment to stewardship and conservation of natural resources.



The circulation strategy was carefully integrated with existing and proposed forest and open grasslands to provide a varied, inspirational, and immersive experience. Visitors will be able to experience MCC's innovative restoration work without compromising the quality of the habitats.



Existing

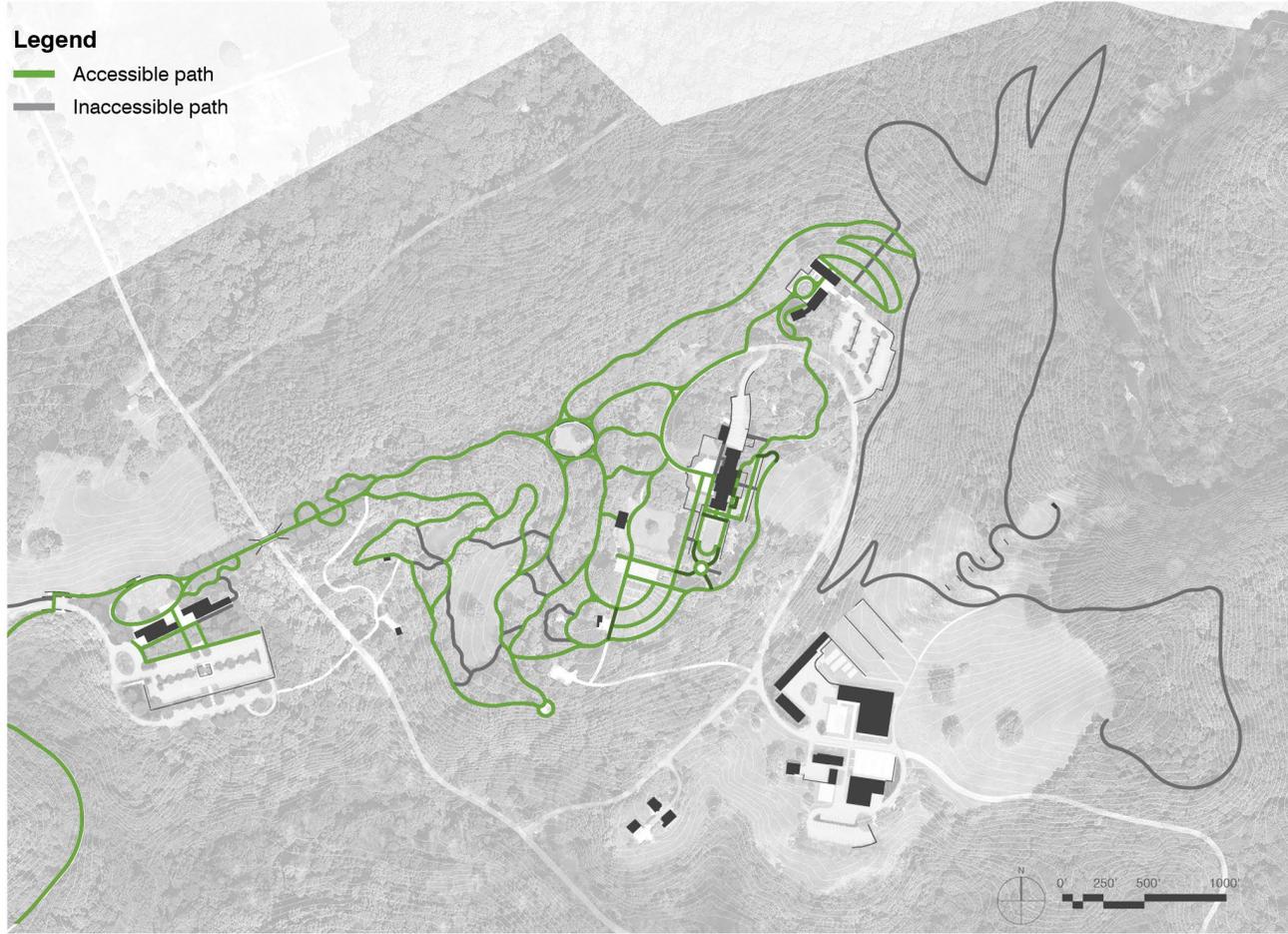


Proposed

The circulation strategy gives priority to pedestrians, creating an extensive and fluid garden experience. Vehicular lanes and staff parking are consigned to the perimeter limiting vehicular/pedestrian and visitor/service conflicts.



Existing



Proposed

This design introduces complete access to the main destinations of Mt. Cuba Center, holistically integrating paths designed to ADA standards throughout the entire path network.

Legend

- Trail
- Canopy Walk
- Boardwalk
- Trail shared with hay wagon route
- path and road network

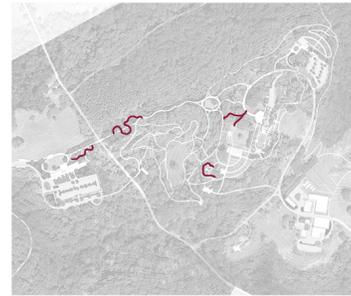


Expansion of trails into the Natural Lands will open hundreds of acres to public access. The trails will offer experiences through meadow, wetland and forest habitats. An accessible loop walk will provide access for visitors of all physical abilities.

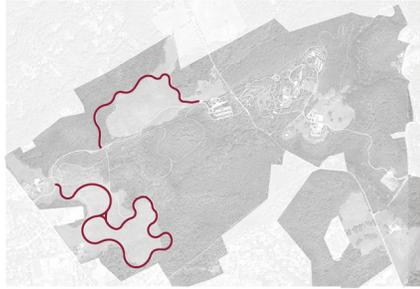
Hiking Trail



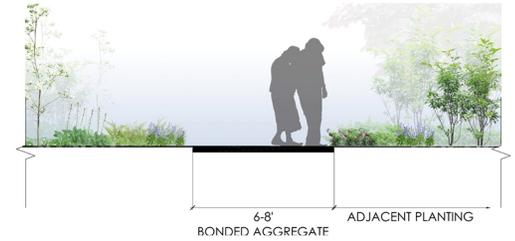
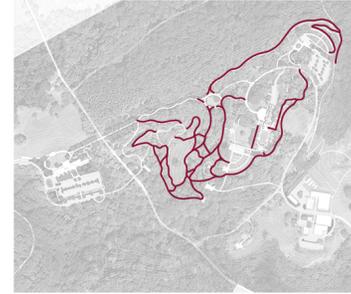
Naturalistic Garden Sneak Path



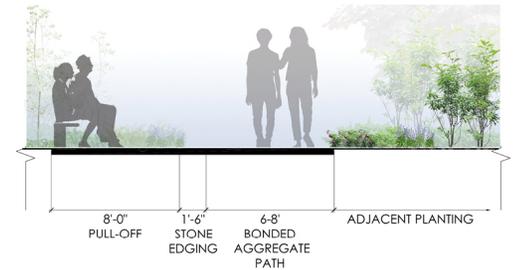
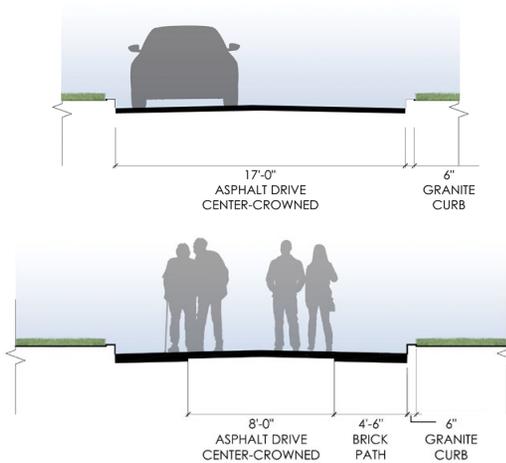
Hiking Trail Shared with Haywagon Route



Garden Paths



Adapted Entry Road



Design guidelines are established for path types to preserve an intimate scale while slightly increasing path widths and specifying durable materials to support growing visitation.



Embedded in the forest within Mt. Cuba's newly expanded property and opening to regional views, the Welcome Center orients visitors to the Delaware Piedmont ecology and links the expanded Natural Lands trail experience to the historic gardens.



A new learning building acts as the threshold between an existing courtyard and new terraced gardens, all of which connect to the expanded path network. Existing tenant houses are retained and adapted to house classrooms that support the education program.



The Greenhouse Complex is the heart of the horticultural and maintenance operations. A new greenhouse and headhouse will replace Mt. Cuba's existing aging facilities and support ongoing native plant propagation and conservation.



Credit: Mt. Cuba Center

The landscape architects were inspired by the intimate and immersive experience in native ecologies that Mt Cuba provides. The master plan preserves and enhances this characteristic experience throughout the expanded gardens.