

## GABBERT BUTTE NATURE PARK

# We have heard...



## Open house 2

The second open house was held in May 2018, about 45 people attended the event and provided feedback about alternative designs for trails, parking and entry area.

## Online survey

A survey was provided at the event and online. There were 110 responses. The survey asked about people's preferences for nature experiences at Gabbert Butte, and about people's preferences for elements of the three proposed design alternatives for trails and entry area.

## Connect with Nature

The Connect with Nature initiative is working with people of color to understand how to make parks and natural area more welcoming and relevant for communities of color, and to create a new model for park planning that is inclusive of communities of color. Gabbert Butte planning is a focus of Connect with Nature, and the feedback from the workshops is being integrated into project planning.



## Preferences:

### Nature experience:

- Signs that identify native plants
- Quiet places for prayer, reflection or wildlife viewing
- Information about site and natural history
- All abilities nature trail loop
- Place to picnic and celebrate, tell stories and learn about nature

### These contribute to a place that feels safe and welcoming:

- Restrooms being available
- Interpretive information along a nature trail
- Kiosk with maps and information

### Trail experience:

- Survey respondents overwhelmingly preferred loop trails and had a slight preference for a loop entirely within the natural area compared with a loop that includes a section on a neighborhood street.
- Survey respondents preferred one pedestrian only trail, if possible.
- Concerns were shared about multi-use trails.

## Feedback on 3 entry designs:

### Entry area designs:

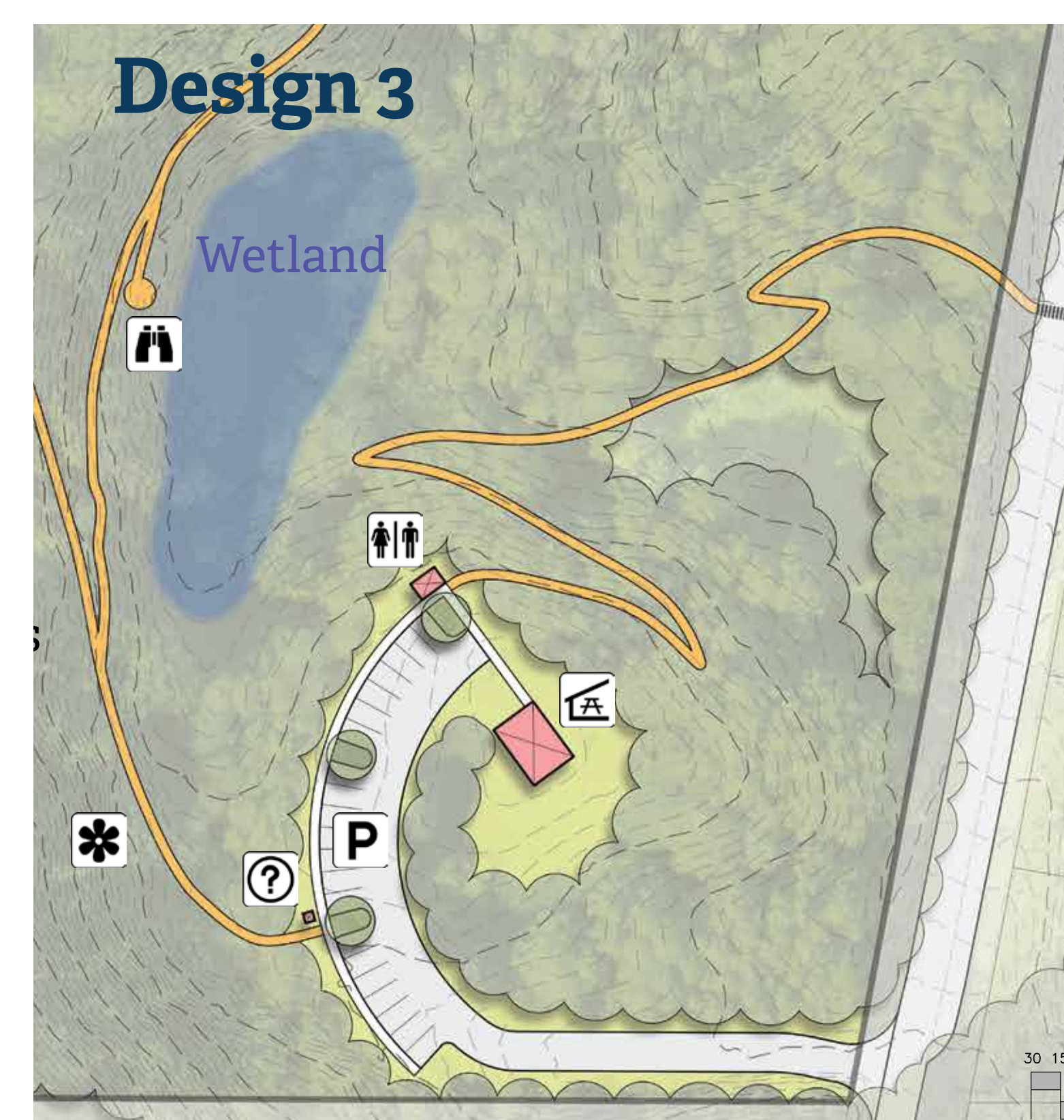
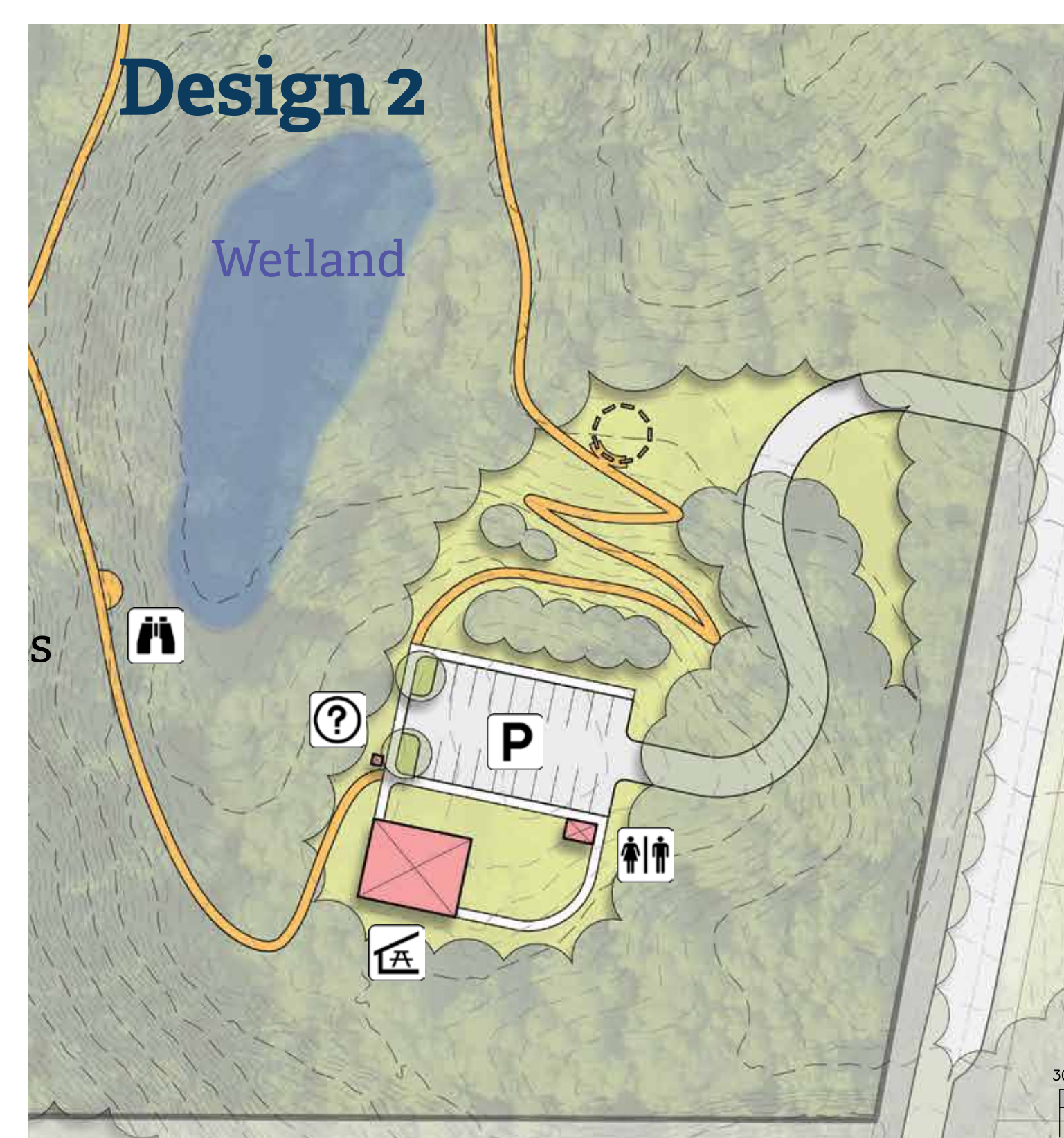
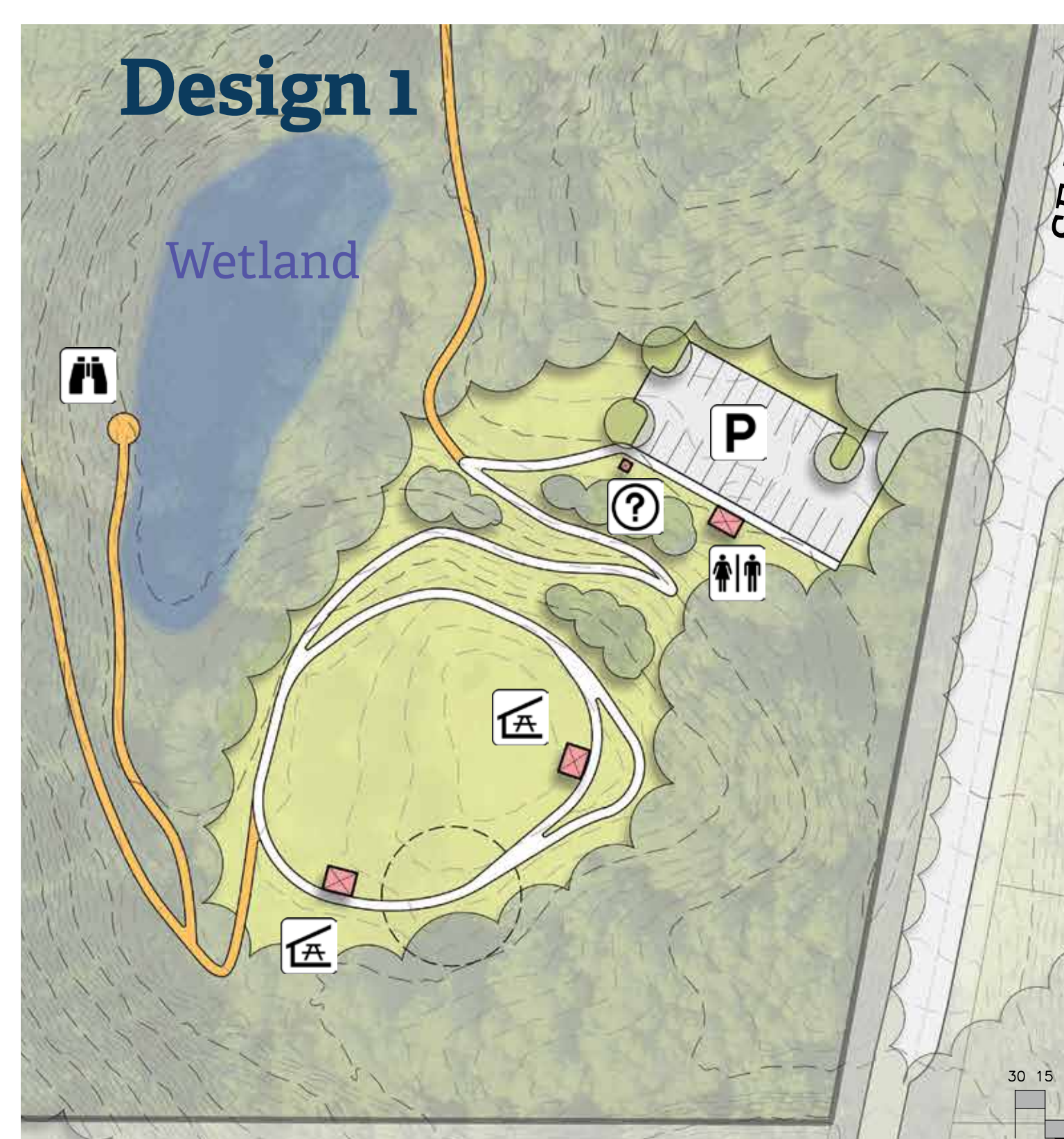
- Entry Design 1, with the parking nearest Regner Road was most preferred because it minimizes the area developed for cars.
- The design was also preferred because picnic area and amenities are separated from parking lot, and provide the opportunity to get away from cars without going on a long hike.
- Concerns were shared about a trail around the wetland and trails too close to the wetland impacting wetland habitat.

### Preferred entry area design elements:

- Wetland overlook or spur trail to wetland viewing
- Accessible loop trail
- Short loop around meadow
- native plant identification

### Top of the butte:

- A place to rest, focus on nature and away from man-made structures
- A sign or compass to orient people to cardinal directions or in the direction of nearby buttes



## In your words...

"I support the park here, but am concerned about overflow parking in the neighborhood."

"Would prefer this to remain protected habitat."

"Include simple exercise station with balance beam or bars for stretching as you walk the trail."

"I like the parking lot option in Design 1 because it involves less pavement. Overall, the most important thing to me is making sure the wetland is protected and that the habitat it provides for wildlife and plants is in tact throughout the renovation."

"I think it would be important to include information on Oregon's Native American communities and tribes that might place a certain significance on Gabbert Butte."

"Involve the trail users, i.e. mountain bikers and hikers, etc. in the designing and building of the trails."

"I really like Trail Alignment 3 because it provides two not-so-steep options for accessing the Saddle Trail."

"The metro area needs more mountain biking nearby."

"Children will need a learning experience and lunch and bathroom. Their needs should be included."

"Lovely ideas! Can't wait to see what happens next!."

"All shelters, tables, restrooms and viewpoints should be fully accessible."

"No bikes please. Really not even large enough to entice cyclist. I like signs indicating where one is every 1/2 mile or so. Easy for older folk to get disoriented.."

"Include bicycle racks at parking area."

## GABBERT BUTTE NATURE PARK

# We have heard...



### Open house 1

The first open house was held in July 2017, about 60 people attended the event and provided feedback about the site and the project.

### Online survey

A survey with open-ended questions was provided at the event and online. There were 110 responses (20 at the event, the rest collected online). Compared with regional demographics, the survey respondents over-represented white men, and under-represented women and people of color in the region.

### Connect with Nature

The Connect with Nature initiative is working with people of color to understand how to make parks and natural area more welcoming and relevant for communities of color, and to create a new model for park planning that is inclusive of communities of color. Gabbert Butte planning is a focus of Connect with Nature, and the work is being integrated into project planning.



### Themes:

#### Overall project feedback:

- Excitement about new opportunities to experience nature.
- Positive feedback about improved trail connectivity.
- People expressed appreciation for and a connection to Gabbert Butte.

#### Safety:

- People had questions about ongoing safety and maintenance of the site, including how illegal activities, like camping, will be managed if they happen.
- People want to be sure they can keep their kids safe.

#### Welcoming:

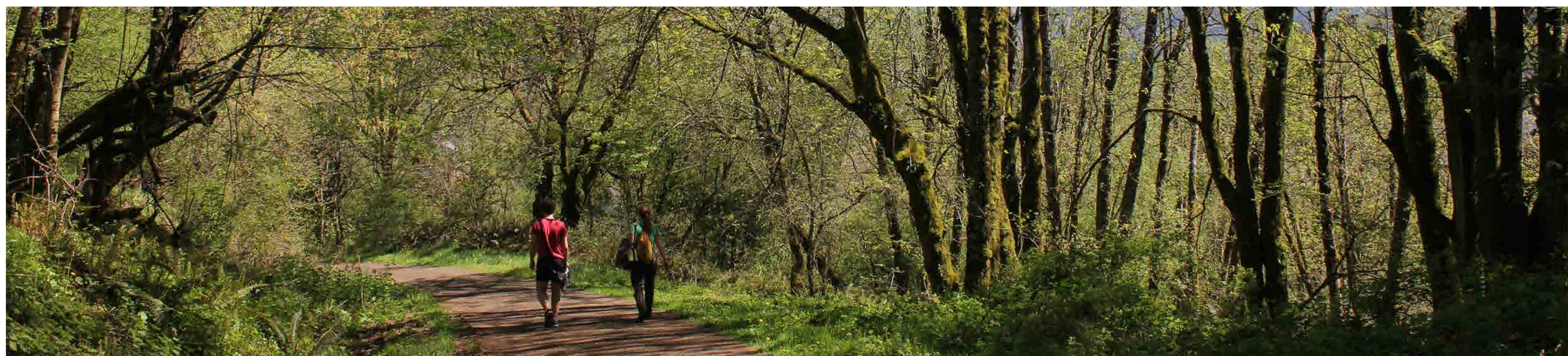
- If a park/natural area is clean and well cared for it feels welcoming.
- Park rangers and clear information about rules, trail maps and distances, so people know what to expect.
- Multi-lingual signs, and especially a welcome sign in many languages.
- Places to be with family and children.

#### Nature activities:

- resting, relaxing and enjoying nature
- exploring and discovering
- running, mountain biking and hiking
- being with family
- picnicking
- dog walking
- star-gazing
- habitat protection
- bird watching
- photography

#### Management policies:

- Both people at the open house and survey comments advocated for dogs to be allowed on the trails at Gabbert Butte.
- Many of the survey comments advocated for off-road cycling to be included in the plans.
- People advocated for trails to be for walking/hiking only.



### In your words...

#### What makes you feel safe and welcome in parks and natural areas?

*"Good functional facilities, good signage/directions/maps, dedicated trails to reduce user conflict."*

*"Open, well laid out parking and trail kiosks. Good signage on trails and trail maps."*

*"Having park rangers, if possible"*

#### What do you like to do outside in nature?

*"Sit and absorb the beauty of the natural world. I like to listen to the sounds of nature (not people), I like to 'feel' the solitude, I like to notice the wind gently blowing across my face and exposed areas of my body, bare toes and bare arms. I like to feel the temperature and solitude of nature!"*

*"Trail running, mountain biking, hiking"*

*"Explore trail systems. Water routes, and wetland habitat"*

#### What would you like to do at Gabbert Butte?

*"Ride mountain bikes on trails or skills area."*

*"Hike, listen to birds, look at the wildflowers."*

*"Walk my dog, hike."*

*"Picnic with my family."*

*"Bring my children to be in nature."*

#### Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about Gabbert or the project?

*"Please acknowledge original inhabitants."*

*"Keep the trails small nature trails, 0 bikes, 0 horses"*

*"The metro area needs more mountain biking nearby. It's frustrating to have to drive over an hour to get to worthwhile mountain bike trails. It's also frustrating to visit other cities like Bellingham or Bend where mountain biking is close."*

*"What are you going to do to prevent illegal camping in the area?"*