

The Children's Forest

The University of Arizona
School of Natural Resources

Faul Preservation Area
Mount Lemmon

Prepared by:
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UA ASLA Student Community Outreach Committee
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Introduction

The Children's Forest is a concept for the Faul property on Mt. Lemmon in Tucson, AZ and is a partnership between the US Forest Service, the University of Arizona's School of Natural Resources and the Tucson Unified School District. The idea is to provide a natural area where TUSD students can go to learn about their environment in conjunction with students from the University of Arizona. The hope is that the Children's Forest will be a place where children learn how to become stewards of the land through education and opportunities.

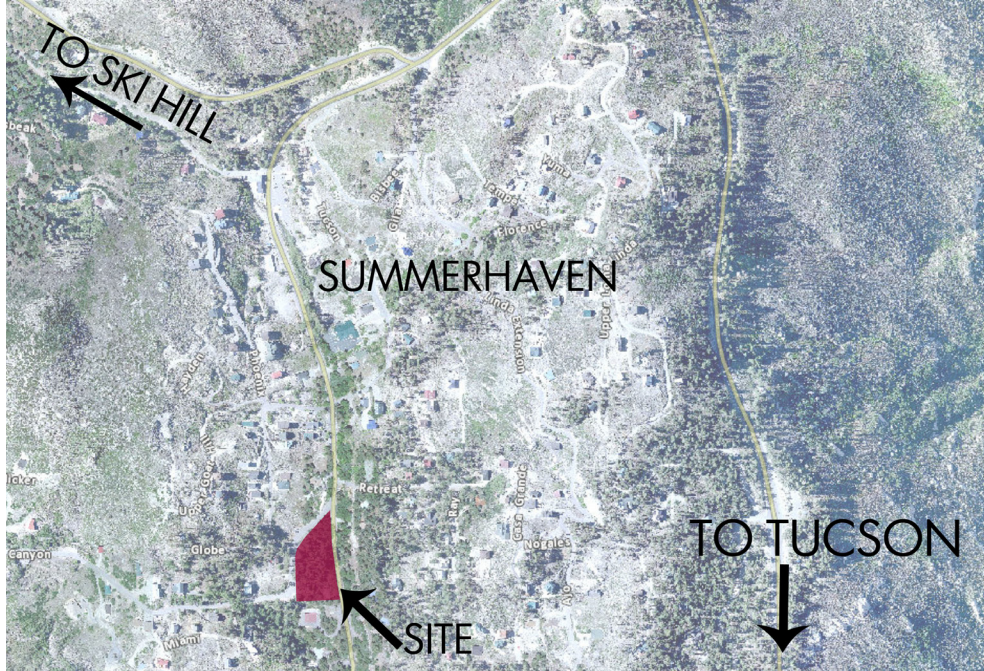


The goal of this book is to give the founders of the Mt. Lemmon Children's Forest conceptual ideas that help guide decision making. The degree to which the land will be developed and funding to implement the forest will also guide decision. The ideas included in this book are meant to provide a wide range of options.

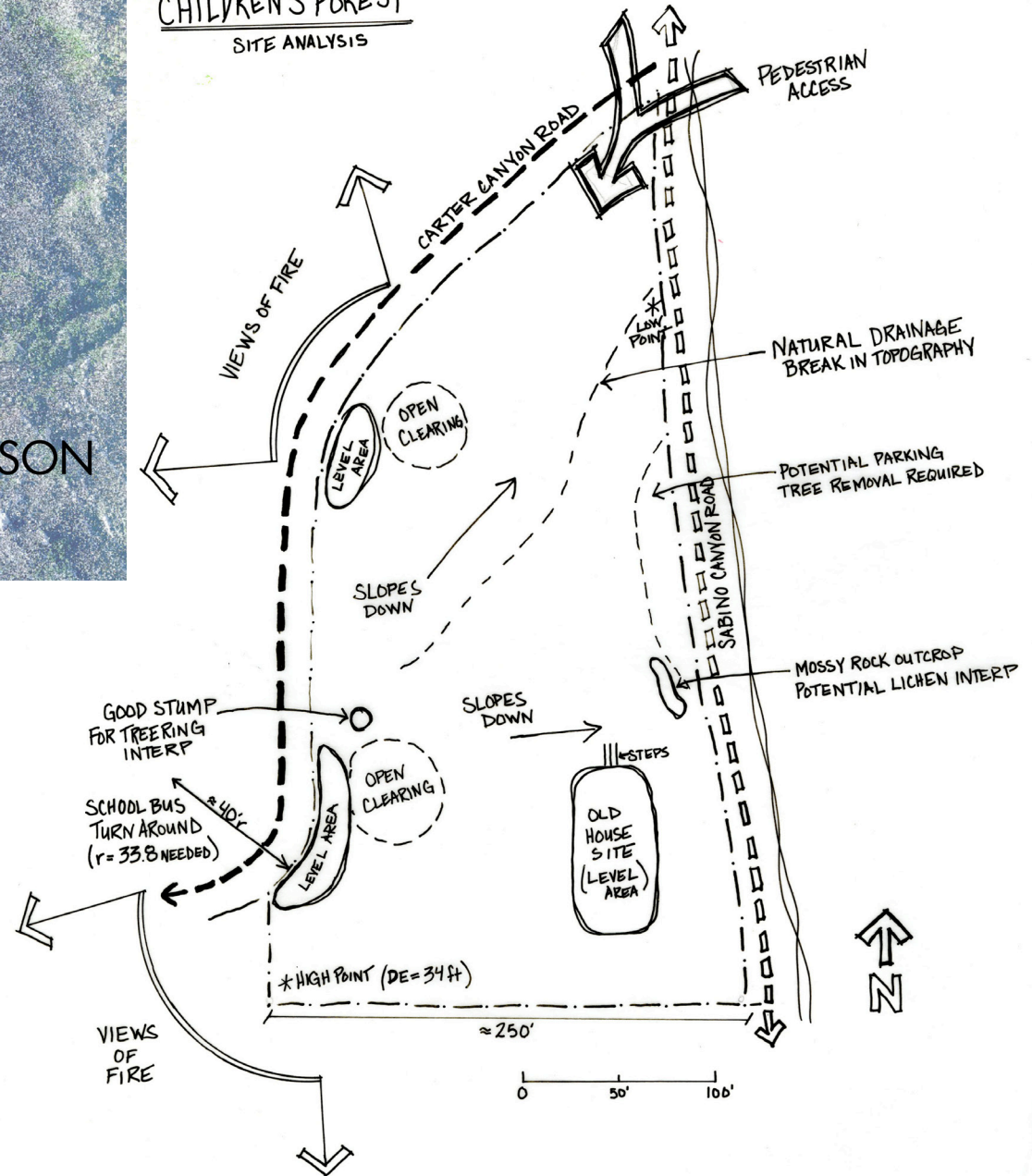


The mission of the first Children's Forest in California was to provide opportunities for children to take a leadership role in forest management by giving them a legitimate voice in caring for our local mountains; and through formal education and volunteer programs, evoke a fascination with nature that engenders a commitment to life-long learning and environmental stewardship.

Site Analysis



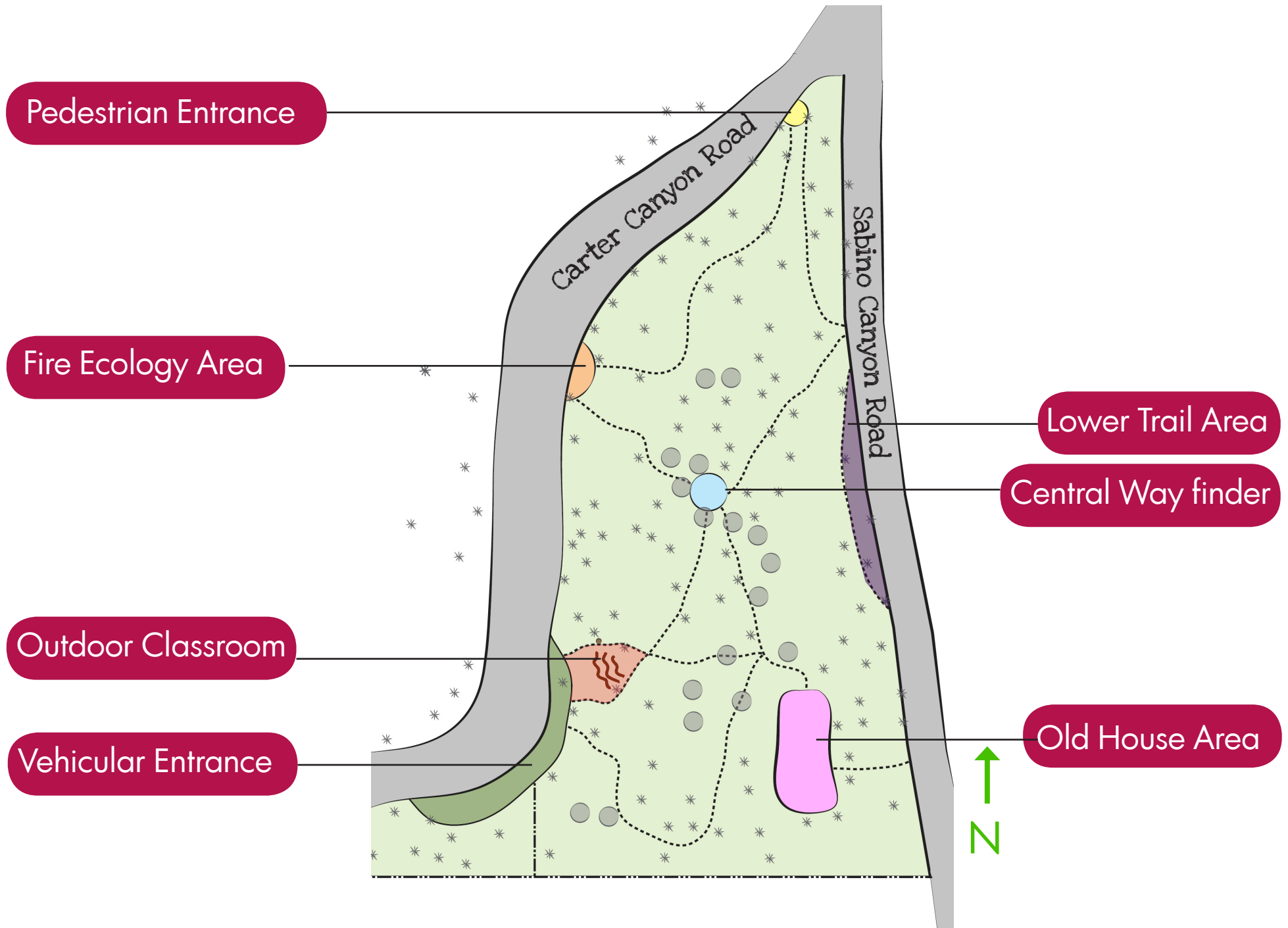
CHILDREN'S FOREST SITE ANALYSIS



The site is located at the corner of Sabino Canyon Road and Carter Canyon Road on Mount Lemmon. The terrain is extremely steep with the high point being on the west side and sloping down to Sabino Canyon Road on the East side.



Conceptual Masterplan



Interpretive Signage

Interpretative signage will be located throughout the site. Specific areas have been identified that provide educational elements such as views, tree rings, etc. within the site. There are a number of other topic areas that are not site specific that can be located in the unlabeled areas or at other areas within the site.

other topics

Bighorn sheep

Predator/Prey

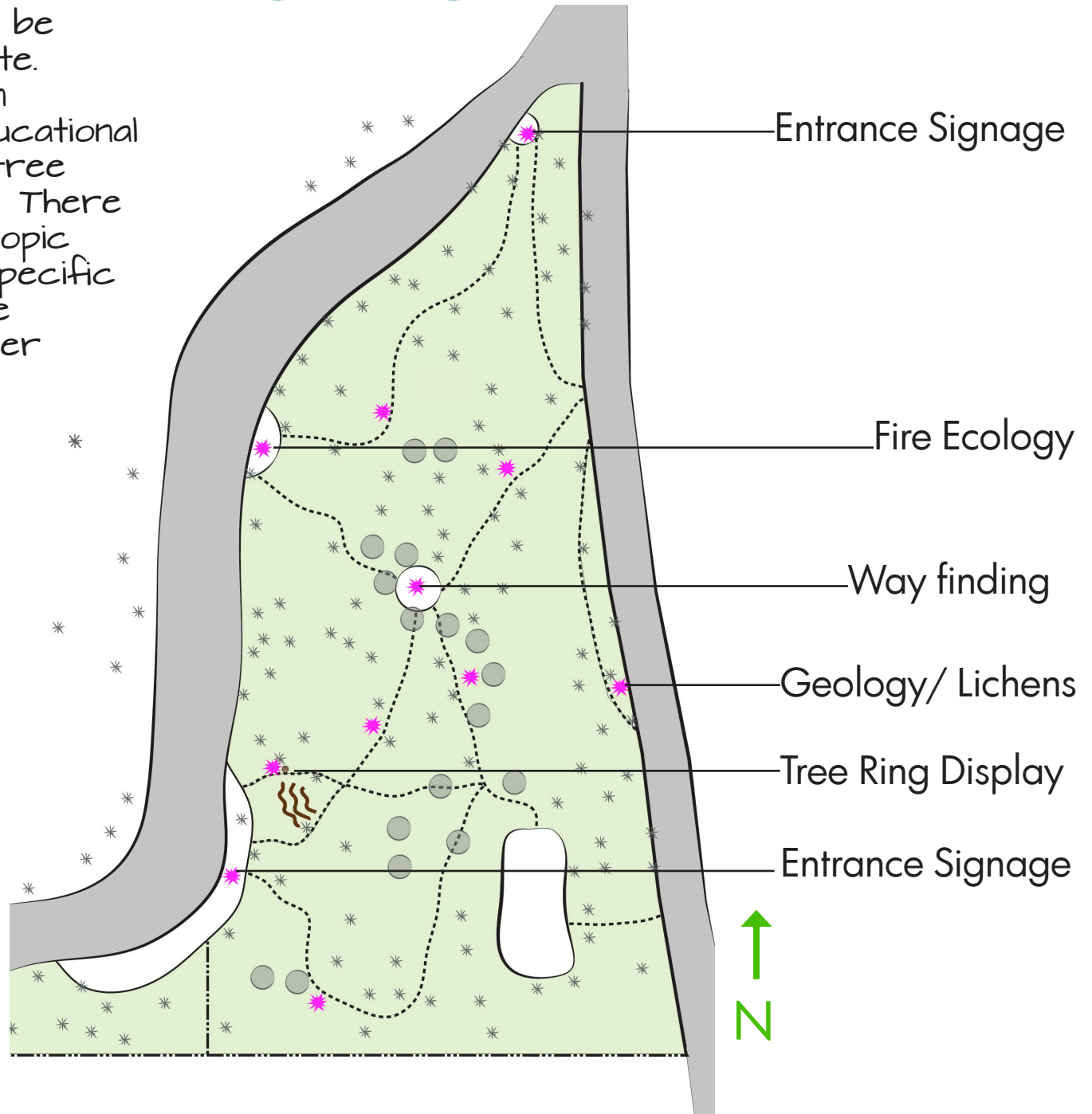
Native grasses

Water/Snowpack Issues

Insects

Watersheds

Phenology



Interpretive elements

Sign Aesthetics



It is recommended that a simple metal sign frame be used as housing for the signage due its durability and clarity.

Small green house



Interactive Elements



Fake animal tracks



An outdoor miniature model to encourage interaction



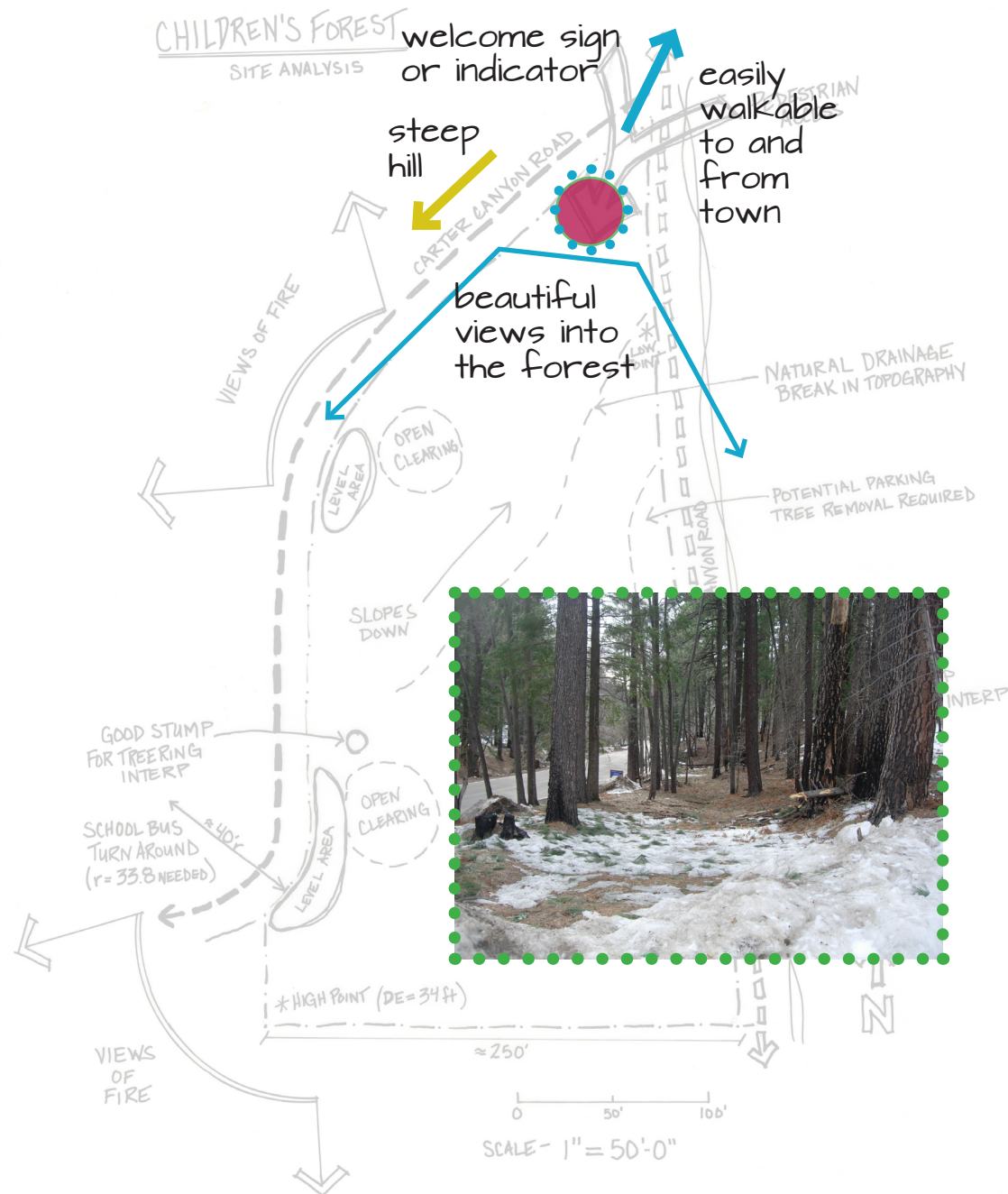
Ground level structure that gives a sense of scale for large trees.



Main Pedestrian Entrance

THIS SPACE IS...

- a welcome to the forest
- a view into the site
- a wayfinding experience
- where you get a sense of the place
- separate from the road
- access to the other areas



Main Pedestrian Entrance

WELCOMING



THRESHOLD



INVITING



Main Pedestrian Entrance



UNIQUE



EYE CATCHING



FUN



ENGAGING

NATURAL

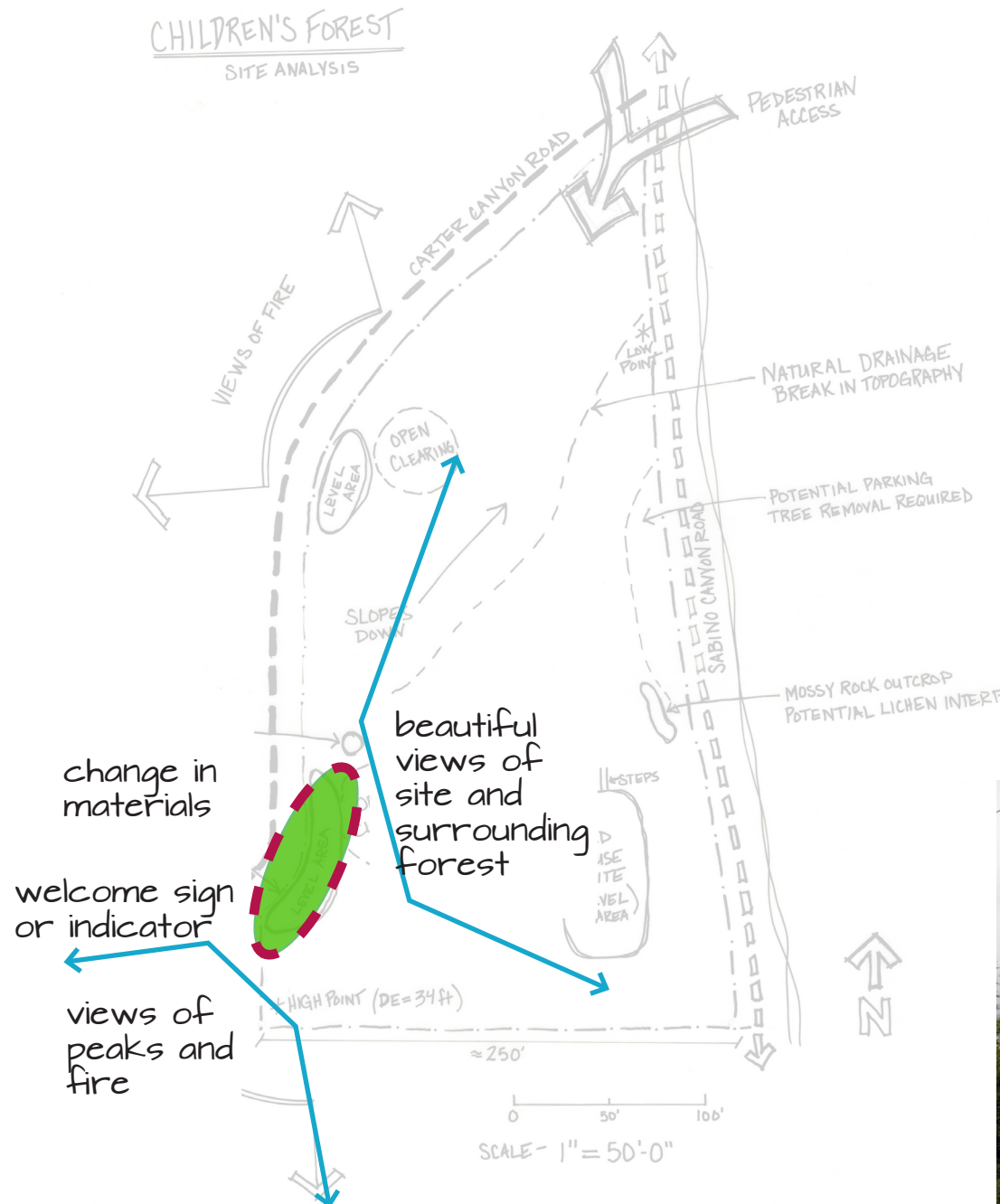
The entrance to the site should be a clear threshold into a special place of learning. Different materials can be used to create a transition from getting off the bus or out of the car and going into a fun and educational space.



Main Vehicular Entrance

THIS SPACE IS...

- a welcome to the forest
- view of the entire site
- a gathering space
- where you forget about the city
- separate from the road
- access to the outdoor classroom



Sense of Place + transition



hand painted sign

FUN SIGNAGE



SCULPTURE



WELCOME



WAITING SPACE



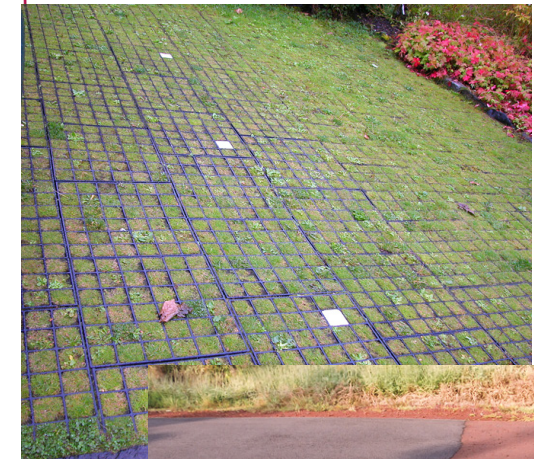
waiting bench



GROUNDPLAIN



permeable stabilization



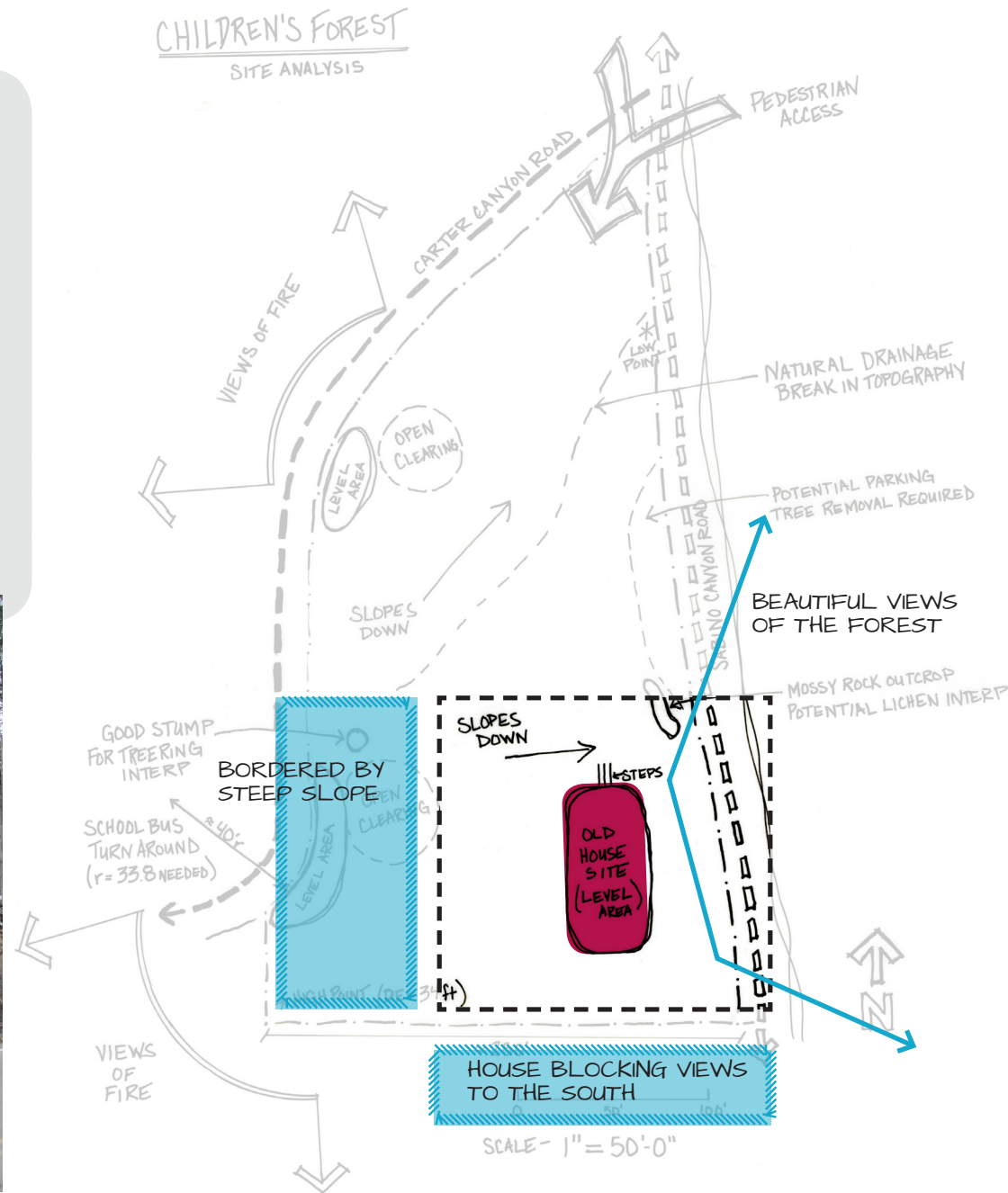
obvious change from pavement



Old House Site

THIS SPACE IS...

a place to get together
sit down and look around
a gathering space
where you can think about the forest
draw in a field notebook
eat lunch on a field trip
learn before you explore
shelter from the snow and rain
a storage area for the site



LIVING + BUILT materials

A POP OF COLOR



SHELTER



STORAGE



SEATING



GATHER

PLAY



Old House Site: dEtAils

Teaching Zones

There are over four separate teaching zones within the old house site. This allows for classes or visitors to breakdown into smaller learning groups. Each gathering or teaching zone is dispersed throughout the site, with visual and built barriers creating a sense of privacy. Each zone is also located to direct and enhance the views into different areas of the children's forest.



Shelter and Deck

The shelter and multi-use built space on site has the opportunity to be playful and functional in its design. The forest is the centerpiece, yet the shelter and extended deck can act as the heart of this special place. The conceptual plan of the Old House Site details a retrofit of a shipping container, but included within this document are a variety of unique ideas for this space.

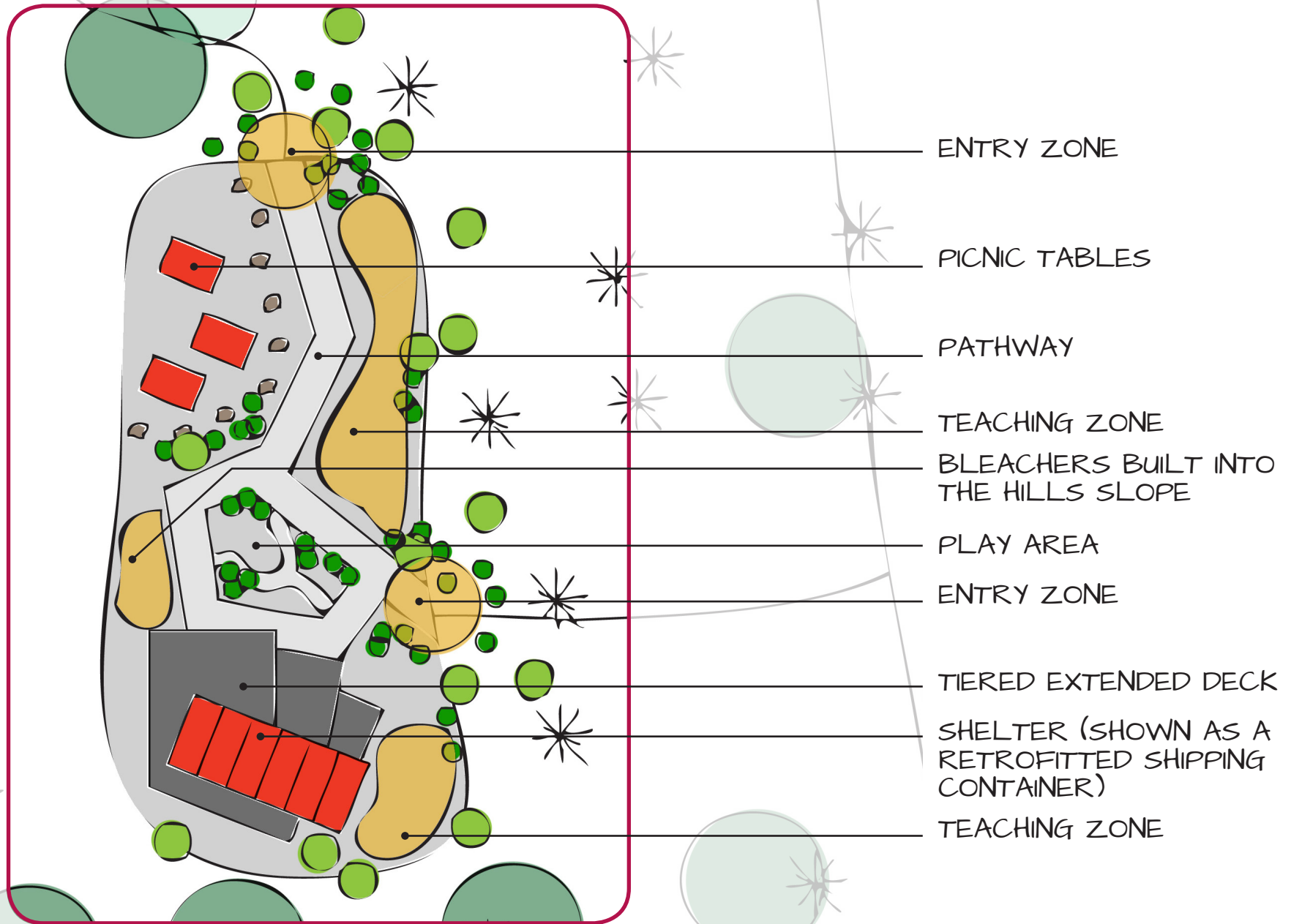


Picnic Tables

Brightly colored picnic tables add a pop of color within the main gathering area. This seating zone can act as an outdoor classroom, a comfortable place to eat lunch, or a recognizable meeting spot while on a field trip. It is also located away from the main shelter to mitigate lunchtime noise while other classes continue.



Proposed Conceptual plan



Parking

Parking for the Children's Forest is possible in two areas, along Carter Canyon Road to the west of the site and adjacent to Sabino Canyon Road on the east side. There are pros and cons to each. After reviewing the options, it is recommended that the primary parking be located along Carter Canyon Road and the area along Sabino Canyon be an alternative.

Primary Parking Areas

Pros:

- * Less traffic and lower speed limits for children exiting vehicles
- * More space as the road is very wide for bus parking

Cons:

- * Steep terrain, could be dangerous for children running
- * Road is at a slope and dead ends at residential housing

Alternative Parking Area

Pros:

- * Located at the bottom of slope
- * Road dead ends in Forest Service parking area (although gated and closed in winter)

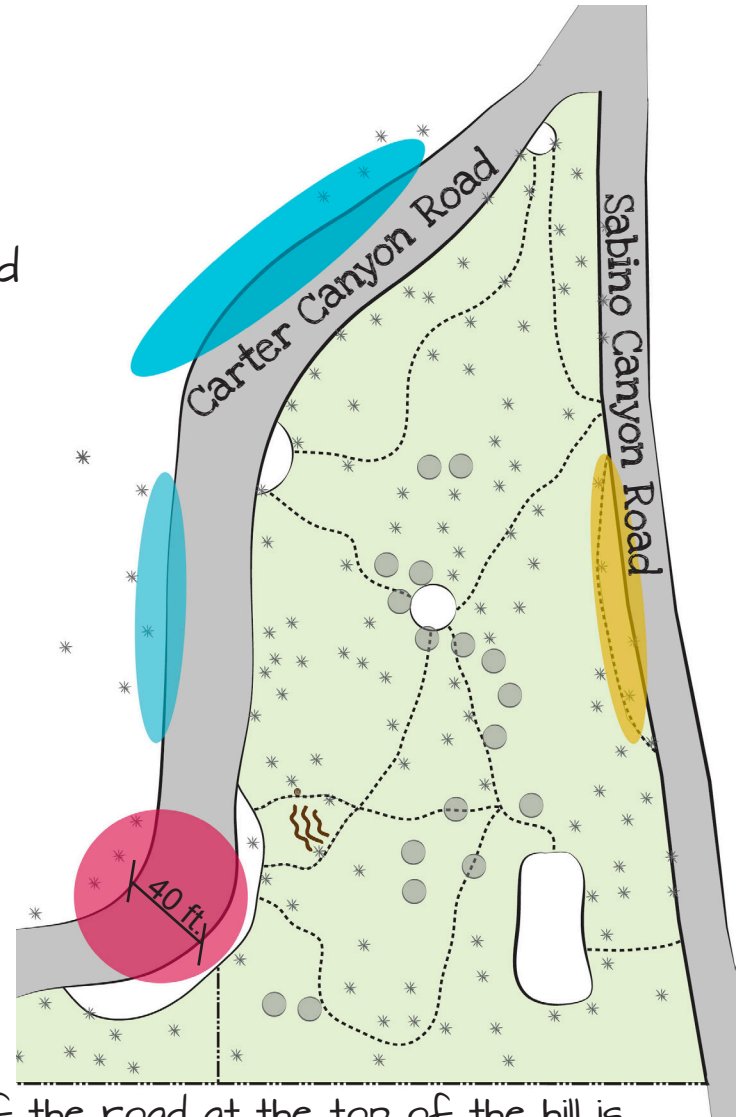
Cons:

- * Higher traffic and less area for children exiting vehicles
- * Tree removal necessary
- * Difficult to enter and exit the site

Buses

The wide part of the road at the top of the hill is approximately 40 ft. wide. According to ASHTO standards, the turning radius of a large school bus (84 passenger) is 39.4 ft. Beyond the pavement on the east side there is stable, flat compacted soil for several more feet offering a little extra room for turning inaccuracy.

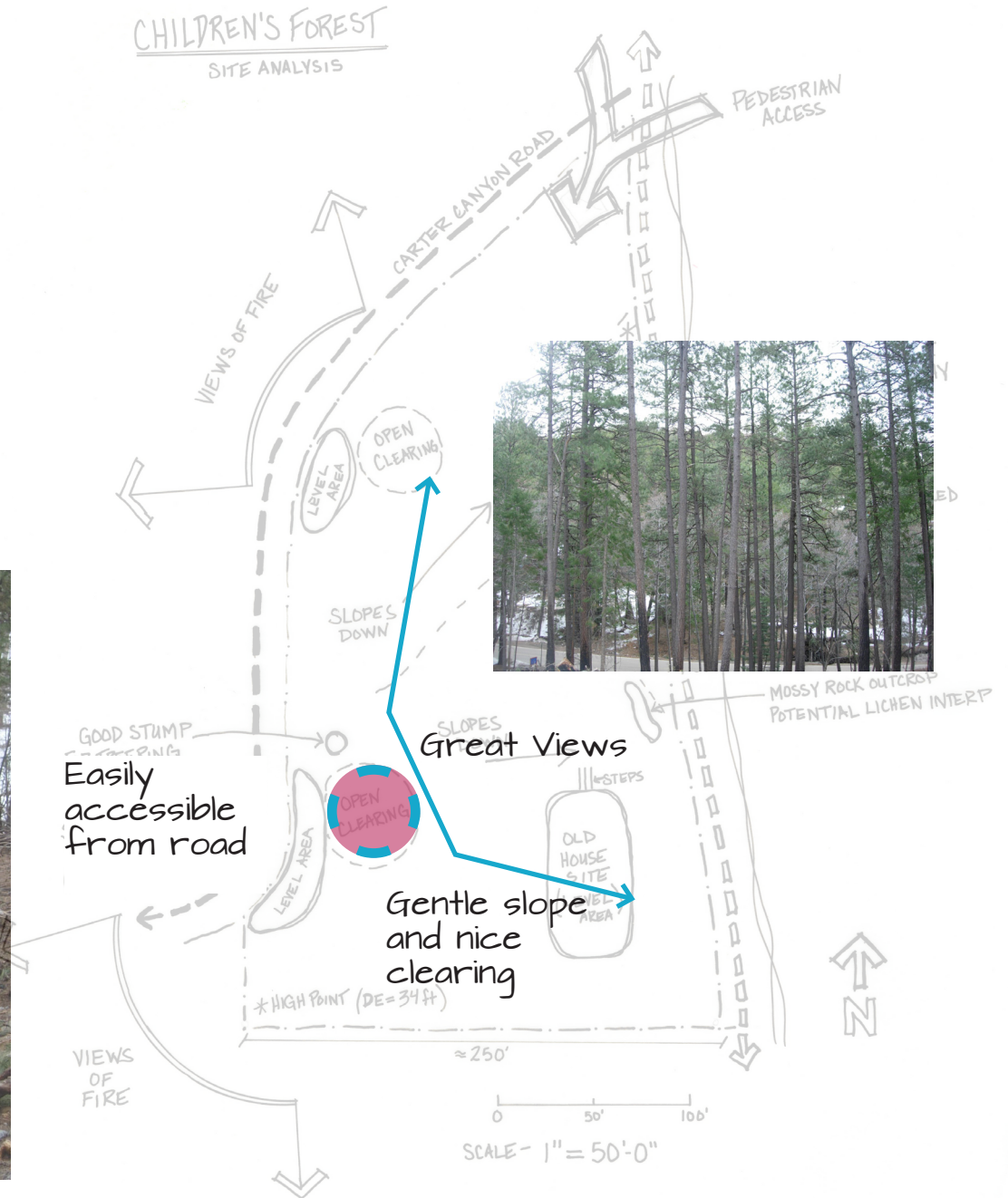
<http://design.transportation.org/Documents/TurnRadiiGreenBook2004.pdf>



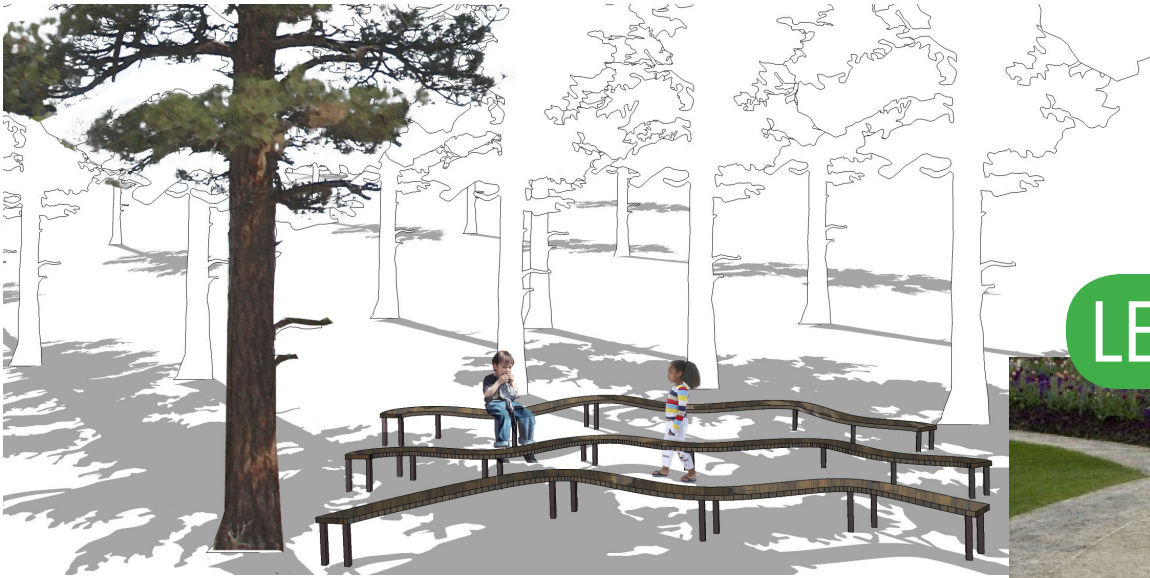
Outdoor Classroom

THIS SPACE IS..

- a place to learn
- sit down and listen to the wind
- a gathering space
- where we learn about the natural world
- sing songs about the forest
- listen to teacher's wisdom
- watch the seasons change



Classroom + environment + education



SEATING

LEARN



NATURAL



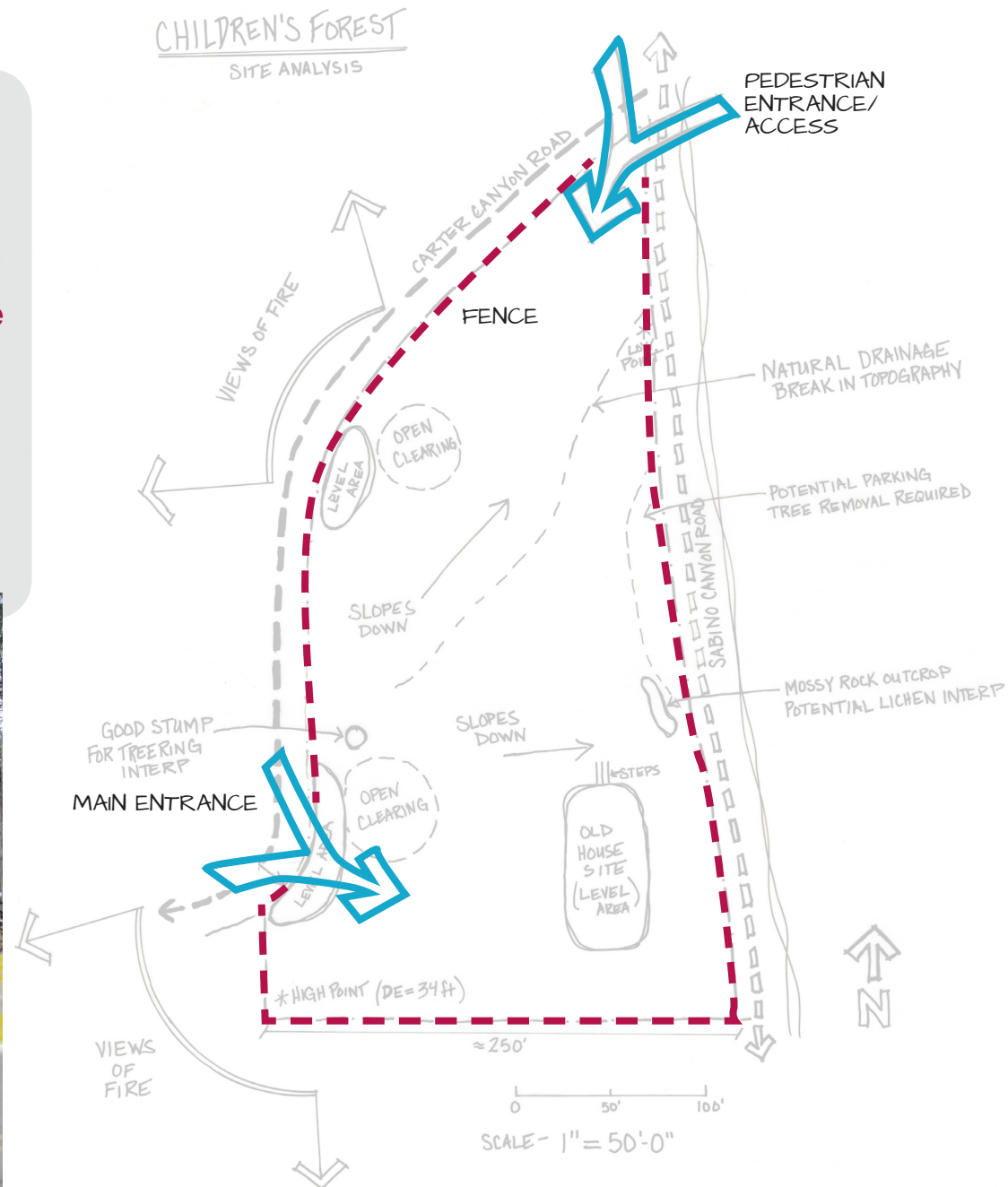
GATHER



FENCING

THIS ELEMENT...

- creates cues of care
- limits unwanted access
- defines the site boundaries
- is secondary to the natural landscape
- is permeable to wildlife
- does not limit visual access
- heightens curiosity and interest
- (re)uses natural materials
- ensures safety of visitors



FUNCTION + BEAUTY + MATERIALS

REUSE

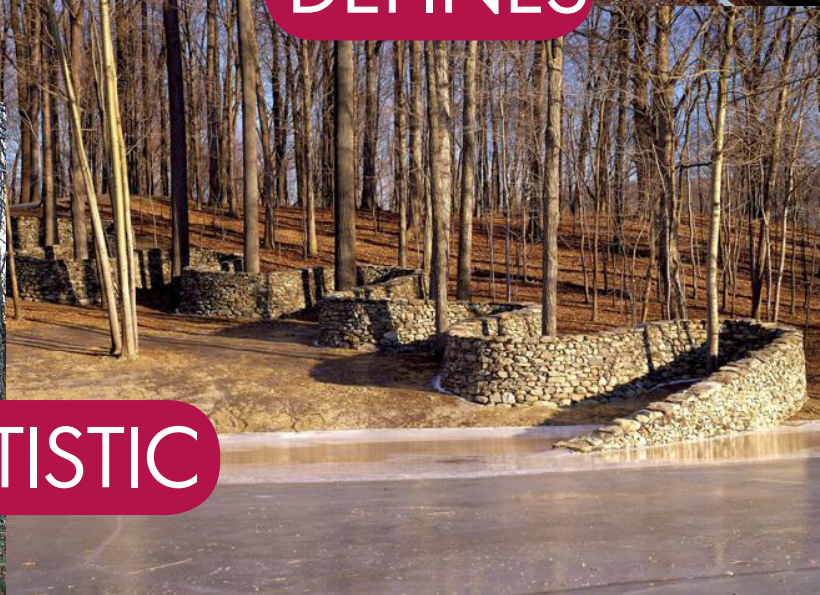
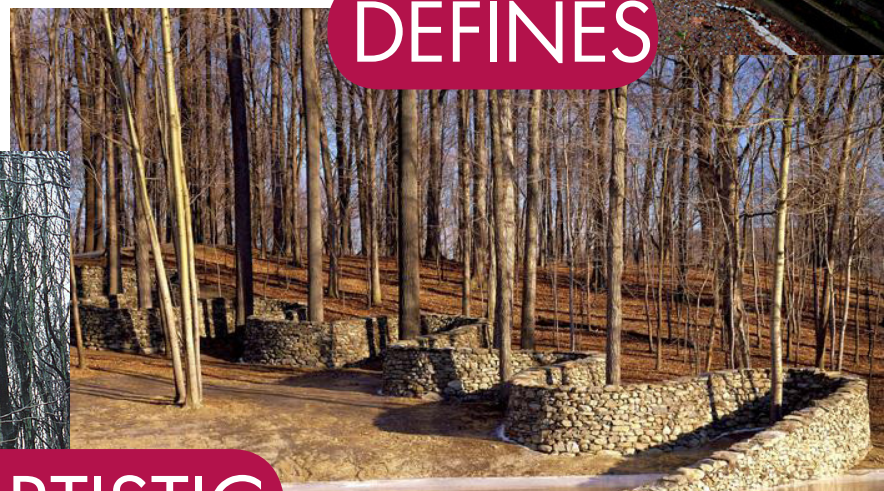
VISUALLY 2ND

NATURAL

DEFINES

PERMEABLE

ARTISTIC



boundary + aesthetics + simplicity



leaf barrel fence



latillas



downed wood



stone

benChes & Site furniShings



REUSE



NATURAL



UNIQUE



AESTHETIC



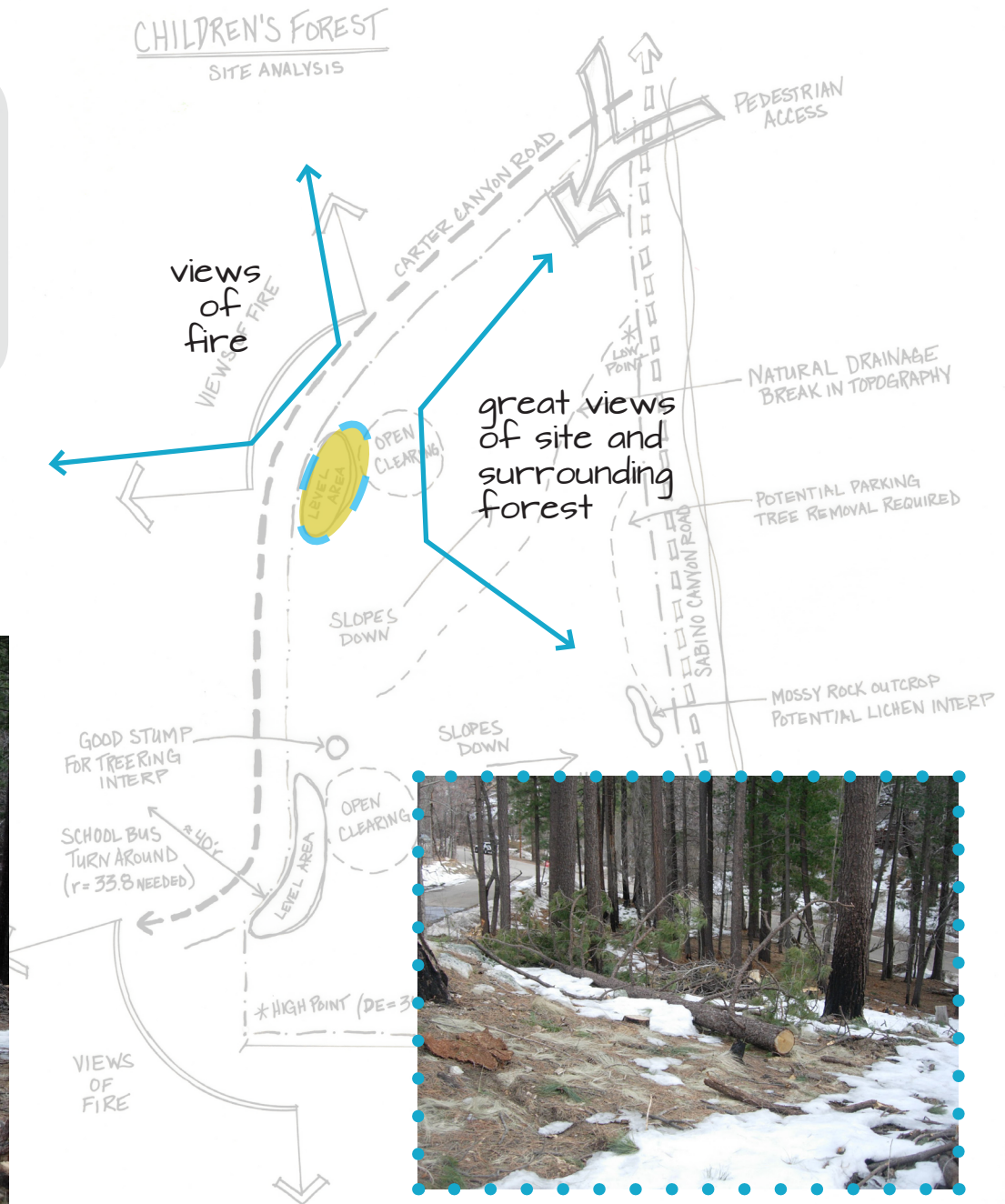
SENSE OF PLACE



Fire eCoLoGy Area

THIS ELEMENT...

has great views of the fire
is an area to watch and learn
is a somewhat flat area
has amazing views of the forest



Fire + plants + watershed + people



See-through signage is a fun way to show the changing landscape

EXPIRIMENTING



an erosion demonstration box

Osbourne fire
finder



DEMONSTRATIONS



sand box for fire suppression demos

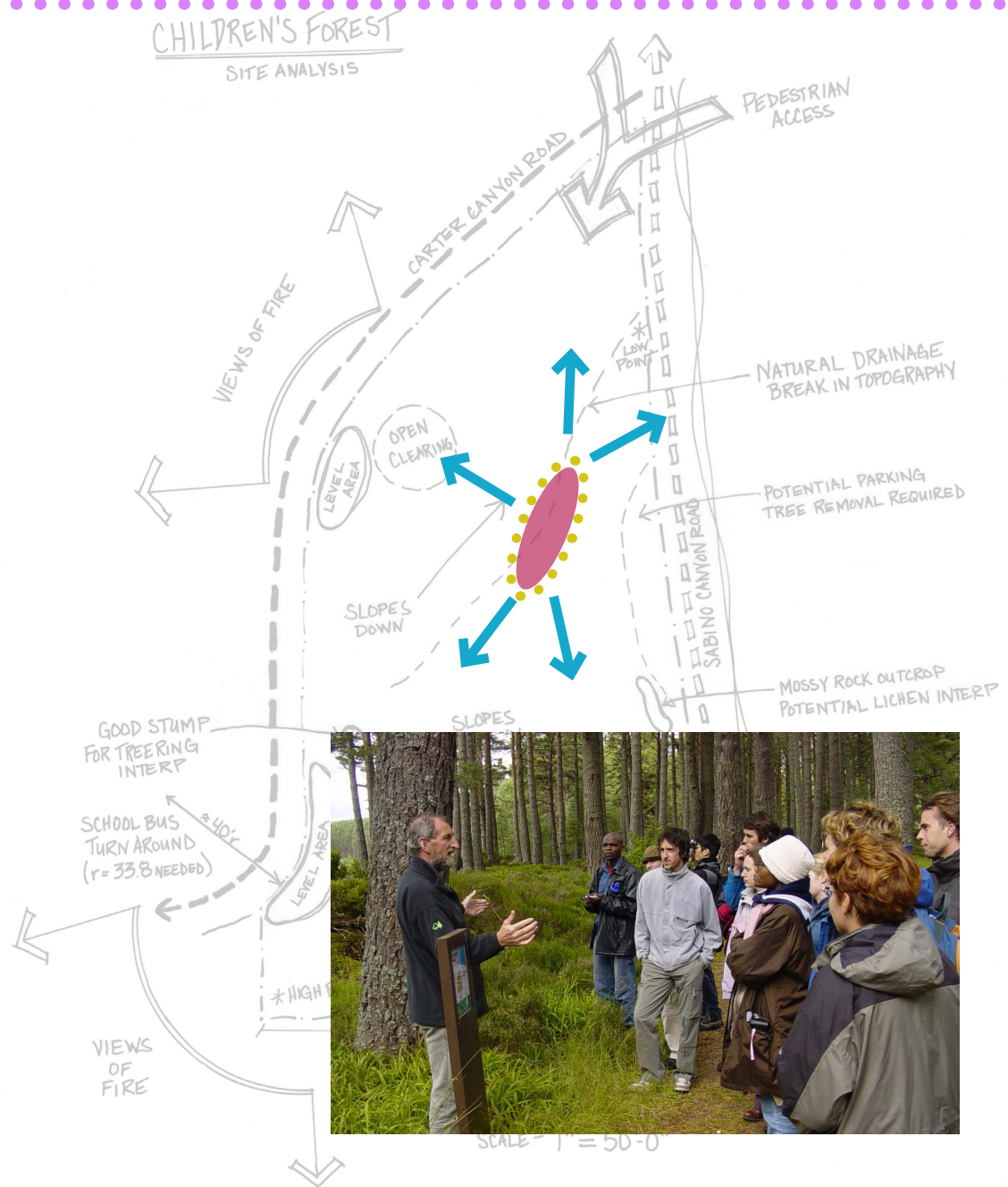
LEARNING



Wayfinding Area

THIS SPACE IS...

- a flexible space for talks or interp
- central area within the site
- a place to figure out where to go
- where you forget about the city
- a destination visible from the entrance
- a small group gathering area



Wayfinding Area

Unusual windvane



SERENITY



ORIENTATION



small outdoor classroom area



wayfinding signage

waiting seat

GATHERING



VIEWS



Thank you

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