

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Death Valley National Park
Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

California

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Death Valley National Park staff are dedicated to serving all park visitors to help them find meaning in the resources of the park and its stories. Recently, park staff embarked on a journey to ensure that key experiences are available to all visitors, regardless of race, nationality, socioeconomic status, or ability. Park staff conducted an accessibility self-evaluation of park facilities, services, activities, and programs and drafted a transition plan that identifies opportunities for improvement and outlines critical steps towards implementing responsive solutions parkwide.

This accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan (SETP) resulted from the work of a National Park Service (NPS) interdisciplinary team, including planning, design, and construction professionals and interpretive, resource, visitor safety, maintenance, and accessibility specialists. The team developed conceptual site plans identifying the location of accessibility barriers and opportunities for each assessed park area and crafted an implementation strategy to assist park staff in scheduling and performing required actions and documenting completed work. The team also assessed park policies, practices, communication, and training needs to improve access to elements of the park that lie outside of direct physical and programmatic access. The goals of the SETP are to (1) document existing park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities; (2) provide an effective approach for upgrading facilities, services, activities, and programs; and (3) instill a culture around creating universal access.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Death Valley National Park staff have made many strides to improve physical accessibility throughout the park, which is a unique landscape with a wide variety of terrain and geological features across its 3.4 million acres. The park's website clearly lays out information and photographs for each location's available facilities and programs so visitors can decide for themselves what is appropriate for them based on individual needs.

Recurring findings related to physical accessibility were identified for parking areas—such as accessible paths of travel, outdoor recreation routes, hiking trails—and visitor information areas—such as kiosks, bulletin boards, interpretive panels and waysides. Often, these facilities and features were incorrectly designed for accessibility, had surfaces that were not firm and stable, slopes that exceeded allowable standards, items out of reach range, or were difficult or heavy to operate. Restroom amenities regularly did not meet required standards and amenities offered for picnicking and camping, such as tables, fire rings, and water spigots, did not always meet appropriate access route and clearance standards. Some signage was missing, had illegible content, or had insufficient or misplaced information.

Park staff have opportunities to provide additional access to unique experiences in the park. For example, increased accessible camping opportunities throughout the park's campsites would introduce a unique experience for visitors with mobility disabilities.

PROGRAMMATIC ACCESSIBILITY

Death Valley National Park staff have made improvements to programmatic accessibility in recent years. On the park's website, visitors can find a list of options broken into considerations for Physical/Mobility, Deaf/Hearing Loss, Blind/Low Vision, Cognitive/Learning, Dietary and Service Animals. By describing the park and what visitors can expect during their visit, these stories aim to make the park's resources and activities more understandable. This helps reduce any anxiety or nervousness that might come from visiting a new and unfamiliar place. This improvement provides more visitors with the opportunity to experience Death Valley in a way that meets their needs.

Recurring findings related to program accessibility were identified for park publications, waysides, exhibits, and programs. Many interpretive waysides were difficult to read because of font and contract issues, had limited alternative formats, had no available assistive listening devices, had limited tactile exhibits, and had no available audio descriptions for tours.

Significant ways in which programs could be improved include installing interpretive displays at park headquarters like tactile exhibits. Additionally, improving trailhead signage parkwide would provide visitors with specific information about trail conditions and enable them to decide for themselves if a trail is usable to them.

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1916, the National Park Service has preserved, unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system while providing for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations.

Many national parks were founded because of their stunning views, extreme and unique geography, challenging and sensitive natural environments, and historic and fragile structures. Death Valley National Park and other parks exist because of their history and resources. The NPS mission balances protection of resources (natural and cultural) with visitor enjoyment. Facilities, services, and programs were designed and built in parks to accommodate visitors and help them better understand each park purpose and significance.

However, many facilities were constructed before the passage of laws and policies requiring the National Park Service to provide access to the widest cross section of the public and to ensure compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The accessibility of commercial services in national parks is also governed by applicable federal laws. After more than 100 years of operation, the National Park Service continues to work towards a more inclusive environment.

Visitors today have unique needs and expectations, and the agency must adapt to meet changing demands. Modern scientific research and visitor trend analysis provide new insights into accessibility opportunities and challenges in the national park system. According to 2020 Center for Disease Control data, there are approximately 61 million people with disabilities in the United States, and this number is expected to rise in the coming years as more people reach retirement age (65 and older). This information helps the National Park Service understand changing visitation patterns, the nexus between resource stewardship and accessibility, and the impacts of managing visitors, resources, and infrastructure with the reality of unpredictable funding. Planning can help identify solutions to challenges and provide a trajectory full of opportunity for current and future visitors. The National Park Service is committed to making park facilities, services, programs, and employment opportunities accessible to all people, including those with disabilities.

Death Valley National Park's existing general management planning documents continue to provide relevant guidance, which may be supplemented through development of additional planning documents such as this one. The accessibility SETP is a component of the park's planning portfolio. This plan documents park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities and provides an effective approach for upgrading park facilities, services, and programs. In addition, the plan helps inform management decisions regarding project prioritization, funding, and compliance.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

The creation of a transition plan is mandated by regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as they apply to the US Department of the Interior, which states that “No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.” The act requires parks to document architectural barriers and identify solutions, time frames, and responsible parties to improve and increase accessibility.

This plan was prepared to provide Death Valley National Park staff with a tool for addressing overall needs associated with making the park accessible when viewed in its entirety. The plan is based on an understanding of key park experiences and establishes a methodical process that identifies, prioritizes, and outlines improvements to park accessibility. The plan proposes strategies for implementation over time and in a manner consistent with park requirements and protocols.

ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS

The process for creating a SETP involves seven steps:

STEPS OF THE SETP PROCESS



1. **Identify Key Park Experiences and Park Areas:** The interdisciplinary team began by identifying the key experiences available to visitors at the park. Key park experiences, which help determine the park areas to assess in step 2, are iconic and important experiences for visitors to understand the purpose and significance of the park. Park legislation is the foundation for key park experiences, which are identified through park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and programs (available in the park's foundation document at https://www.nps.gov/deva/getinvolved/upload/DEVA_FD_2017_508.pdf). Key park experiences ensure that planned improvements are prioritized to best increase overall access to park experiences.

The key park experiences identified for Death Valley National Park include the following:

- a. Scenic Views and Natural Soundscapes.
- b. Dark Night Skies.
- c. Enduring Legacy of Human Interaction with the Landscape.
- d. Wilderness.
- e. Varied Ecosystems and Remarkable Biodiversity.
- f. Dramatic Landscape: Climatic and Topographic Extremes, Exposed Landforms and Other Geologic Features, Hydrologic Processes.

To prepare for step 2, the team then listed all developed areas of the park in which visitors have access.

2. **Determine Park Areas to Assess:** In some instances, not all park areas can be assessed during this process due to time and funding constraints. Therefore, the interdisciplinary team determined which park areas to assess based on the number of key park experiences, visitation level, diversity of activities and programs, distribution, and unique characteristics. The areas selected for assessment provide the best opportunities for the public to access all key park experiences. Areas not assessed will be assessed and improved as part of future facility alterations or as components of a future planned construction project.
3. **Identify Facilities, Services, and Programs in Each Park Area:** The team identified all facilities, services, and programs in each park area to ensure that all physical and programmatic visitor amenities in each park area were reviewed for accessibility. The comprehensive lists of facilities, services, and programs were the basis for conducting assessments and documenting barriers.
4. **Conduct Accessibility Assessment:** On-site, the interdisciplinary assessment team assessed each park area and identified physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility. The team then reviewed possible solutions and explored options to provide universal access. In some cases, programmatic alternatives needed to be examined because eliminating physical barriers is not always possible due to historic designations, environmental concerns, topography, or sensitive cultural and natural resources. Therefore, a range of programmatic alternatives was considered to provide access to key park experiences for as many visitors as possible.
5. **Draft Transition Plan:** Following the assessment, the team added field results to an implementation strategy table and drafted conceptual site plans to display the locations of barriers and opportunities. An implementation strategy can be complex because of a large range of coordination efforts associated with scheduling accessibility improvements. All improvement efforts need to consider park activities and operational requirements. Improvement efforts need to consider park activities and operational requirements to determine how and when to implement a solution. While some changes can be done quickly at little or no cost, others may be integrated into existing projects or planned as separate projects, and more complex solutions may require advanced planning and requests for funding. Based on these considerations, the team identified an implementation time frame and a responsible park staff member for each barrier and solution. Implementation time frames are based on NPS staff's ability to complete the improvements within normal scheduling of park operations and planned projects and are as follows:
 - a. Immediate (0–1 year)
 - b. Short term (1–3 years)
 - c. Mid-term (3–7 years)
 - d. Long term (longer than 7 years)

6. **Conduct Public Involvement:** Public involvement occurs at the draft stage of the transition plan; however, it is recommended that at the beginning of the SETP process, park staff initiate public outreach efforts with organizations representing people with disabilities. The draft plan will be released for a 30-day period to solicit input from the public, including people with disabilities and organizations that represent people with disabilities, to provide comments and thoughts on whether the document represents a reasonable review of the park's barriers and a feasible and appropriate strategy for overcoming the barriers.
7. **Finalize Transition Plan:** After the comment period has closed, park staff will analyze all comments to determine if any revisions to the plan are necessary. Those revisions will be made before the implementation strategy is finalized. Once finalized, a notification will be sent to the public to announce the plan's availability.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

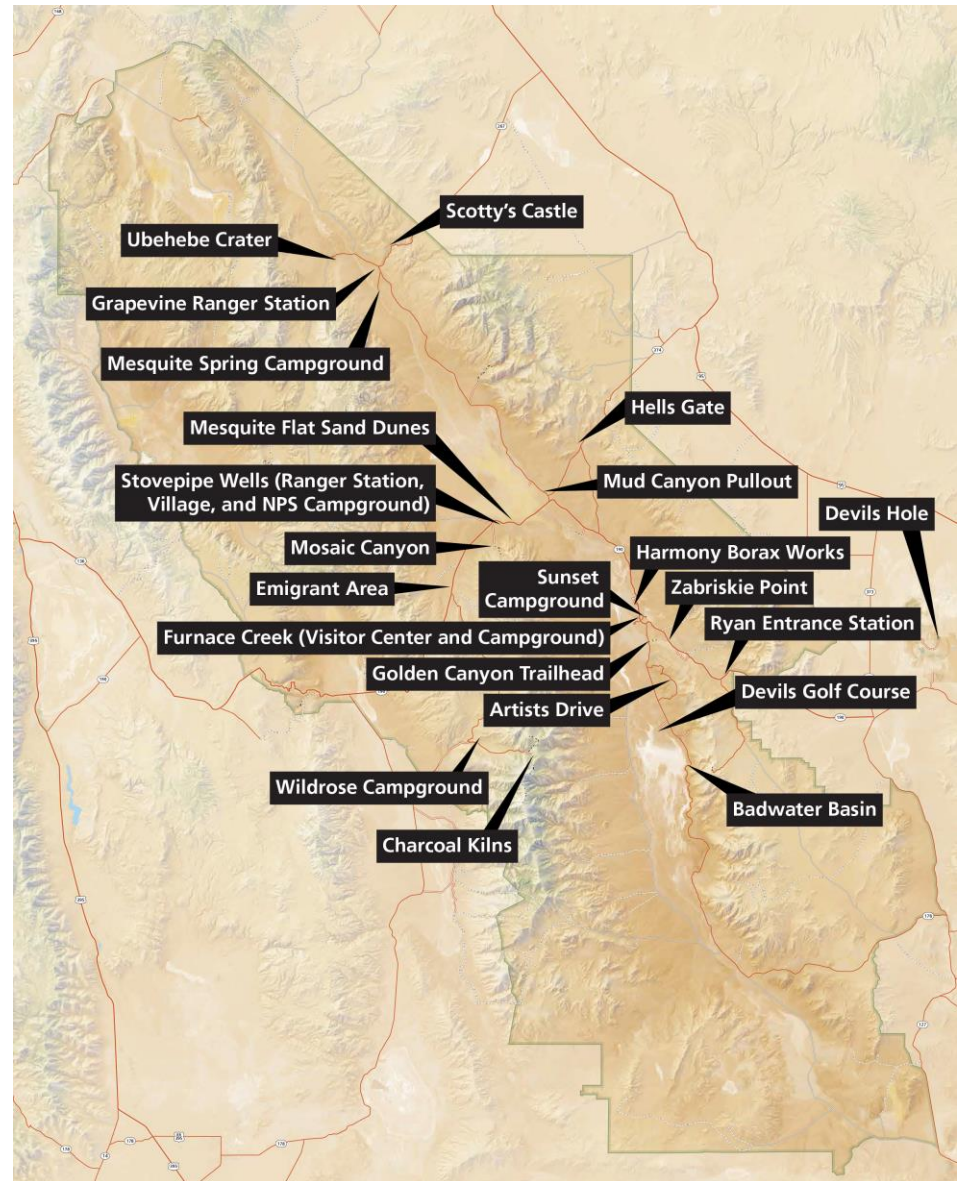
The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan, and the accessibility coordinator assists the superintendent by documenting improvements, keeping the plan updated, and communicating to park employees. It's recommended that park staff employ trained consultants and involve the disability community to assist with addressing accessibility improvements to ensure that design and implementation meet the needs of visitors with disabilities. Creating parkwide accessibility requires staff awareness, understanding, and coordinated action across disciplines. As accessibility improvements are planned and implemented, the park will consider potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, designated wilderness, long-term infrastructure maintenance, and the desired level of development for each site. Accessibility solutions will be evaluated within the context of resource protection mandates, site conditions, operational capacity, and overall visitor experience. Because of fiscal constraints and limited park resources, staff will need to determine which improvements will benefit the greatest number of visitors with disabilities. Suggested implementation time frames and relative costs need to be factored into all accessibility investment decisions.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR DEVA

PARK AREAS ASSESSED

The interdisciplinary team assessed the following park areas for accessibility during the planning effort.

- Artists Drive
- Badwater Basin
- Devils Golf Course
- Devils Hole
- Emigrant Area
- Furnace Creek (Visitor Center)
- Furnace Creek Campground
- Golden Canyon Trailhead
- Grapevine Ranger Station
- Harmony Borax Works
- Hells Gate
- Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes
- Mesquite Spring Campground
- Mosaic Canyon
- Mud Canyon Pullout
- Ryan Entrance Station
- Scotty's Castle
- Stovepipe Ranger Station
- Stovepipe Wells NPS Campground
- Stovepipe Wells Village
- Sunset Campground
- Ubehebe Crater
- Wildrose Campground
- Zabriskie Point



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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR PARK AREAS ASSESSED

The Architectural Barrier Act requires that any building or facility designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds be accessible and usable by any individuals with disabilities. The Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards and the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) were adopted for federal facilities in 1984 and 2006, respectively. Subsequently, in 2011, standards for recreational facilities were incorporated into ABAAS as chapter 10. In 2023, NPS Policy Memorandum 23-01 implemented the most current International Code Council (ICC) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) building codes to supersede ABAAS for building standards. The Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards will continue to provide scoping and technical requirements for outdoor developed areas.

Depending on the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards apply. The interdisciplinary team used checklists that include ABAAS, ICC, and ANSI Standards to conduct the transition plan facility assessments. Although a barrier may be identified by the current assessment for improvement, facilities are only required to follow the standard in place at the time of construction and/or alteration. Therefore, barriers may not be in violation of accessibility standards. However, any renovation or upgrade of that building is required to meet the most current standard at the time of work. In addition, Harpers Ferry Center Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media were followed for facility and program assessments.

This document does not include strategies for transitioning employee workspaces to be accessible. In the event that an employee with a disability is hired by Death Valley National Park, the supervisor and employee will discuss the employee's needs. The supervisor will then determine what accommodations are reasonable in the given work environment and determine a plan of action to meet those needs.

For each park area, this document provides an overview of findings and recommended solutions in a brief narrative and bulleted list and provides corresponding conceptual site plan(s) that illustrate the locations of proposed improvements. For details on each barrier, solution, and time frame, see the companion implementation strategy table at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/DEVASETP>. It is important to understand that the site plans and recommendations are conceptual and will require further design development and historic and environmental compliance before construction. SETPs are not to be used as a section 106 compliance review submittal. Consult with cultural and natural resource staff before proceeding with recommended actions. During the implementation phase, the interdisciplinary team must reassess the project site conditions; refer to ICC, ANSI, and ABAAS, as relevant; and consult with the local disability community to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are correctly addressed.



ARTISTS DRIVE

Located 8.5 miles south of the Highway 19 and Badwater Road Junction, Artists Drive offers a stunning 9-mile, one-way scenic loop that winds through the eroded hills of Death Valley National Park. This route reveals a vivid geological landscape shaped by water and time with sweeping views of the rugged Black Mountains and the salt flats below. The drive provides a unique glimpse into the park's dynamic terrain. Though no formal trails exist, several roadside pullouts provide safe parking for visitors to step out and explore on foot. However, these areas feature uneven, unpaved surfaces, which may pose challenges for those with limited mobility. Potential improvements, such as designated accessible parking at key viewpoints, interpretive signage with tactile features, and stabilized walking surfaces at select pullouts, could enhance accessibility while preserving the site's natural beauty.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Artists Palette include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, an access aisle, and signage.
- **Routes:** Improve the surface on the route to the vault toilet.
- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the vault toilet.
- **Interpretive Wayside:** Improve clear ground space, text contrast, and provide an audio version.

Proposed accessibility improvements at the Southern Pull-off include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, an access aisle, and signage.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

ARTISTS DRIVE ARTISTS PALETTE CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN



ARTISTS DRIVE SOUTHERN PULL-OFF CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





BADWATER BASIN

Badwater Basin, located 30 minutes south of Furnace Creek, is the lowest point in North America at 282 feet below sea level. This unique area features vast salt flats that stretch nearly 200 square miles, creating a distinctive, otherworldly landscape. Visitors can observe the salt formations and surrounding mountains while walking on a pathway of hardened salt and boardwalk. The site offers relatively easy access with gentle slopes and designated accessible parking. Badwater Ranger Talks are offered five times a week, giving visitors a chance to learn more about the area's extreme environment and how the salt flats were formed. While the site is mostly accessible, windblown salt can sometimes build up on stairs and ramps, making them harder to use. Keeping these areas clear and adding more features like tactile signs or audio guides could help improve accessibility.

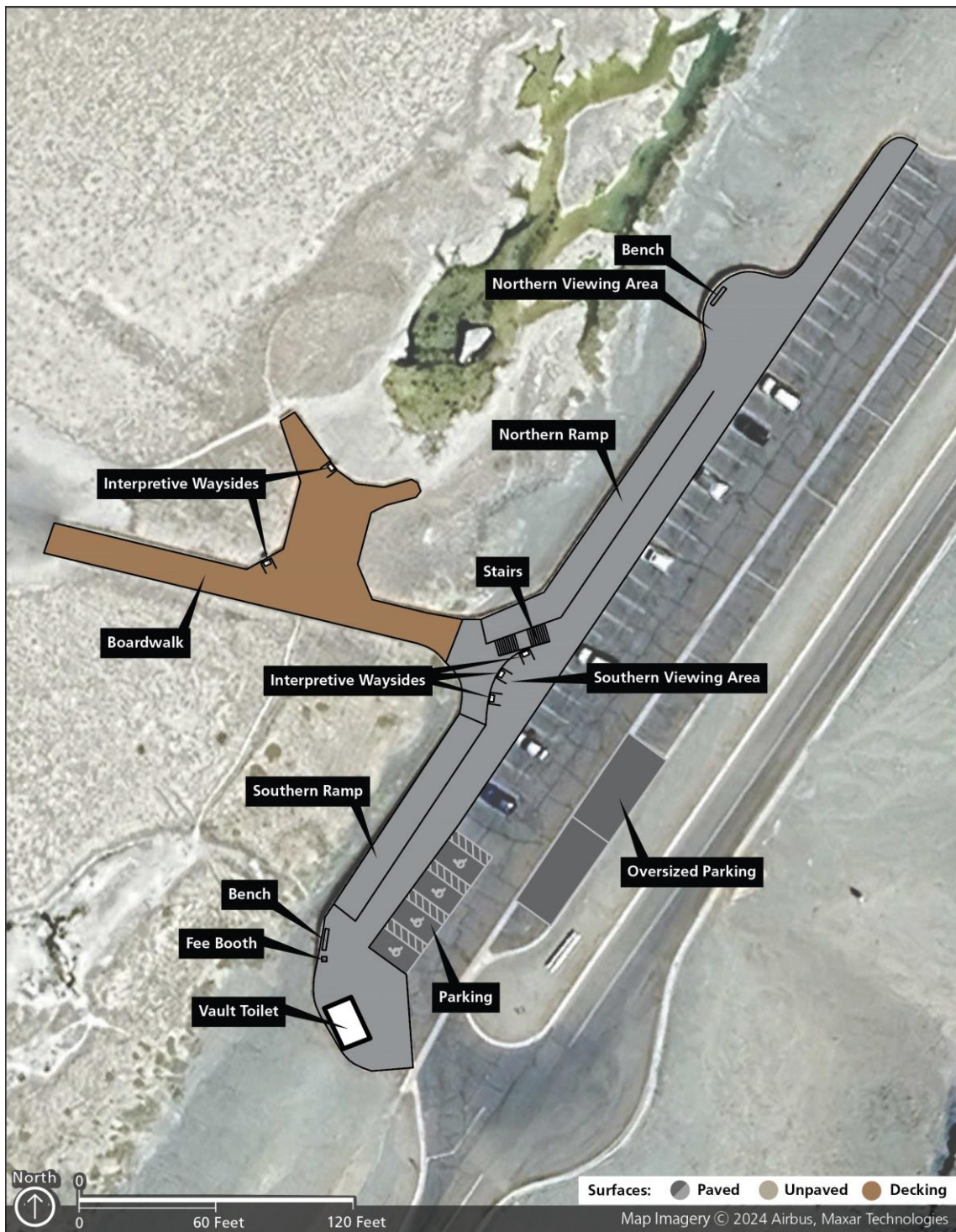
Proposed accessibility improvements at Badwater Basin include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve signage and provide oversized parking.
- **Interpretive Waysides:** Improve clear ground space, text contrast, and provide an audio version.
- **Viewing Area:** Improve the ground surface and provide a lowered viewing section.
- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the vault toilet.

- **Routes:** Improve the surface on the route to the boardwalk by removing sand and salt, provide handrails and reduce slopes on the ramps, and reduce openings on the boardwalk surface.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

BADWATER BASIN CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





CHARCOAL KILNS

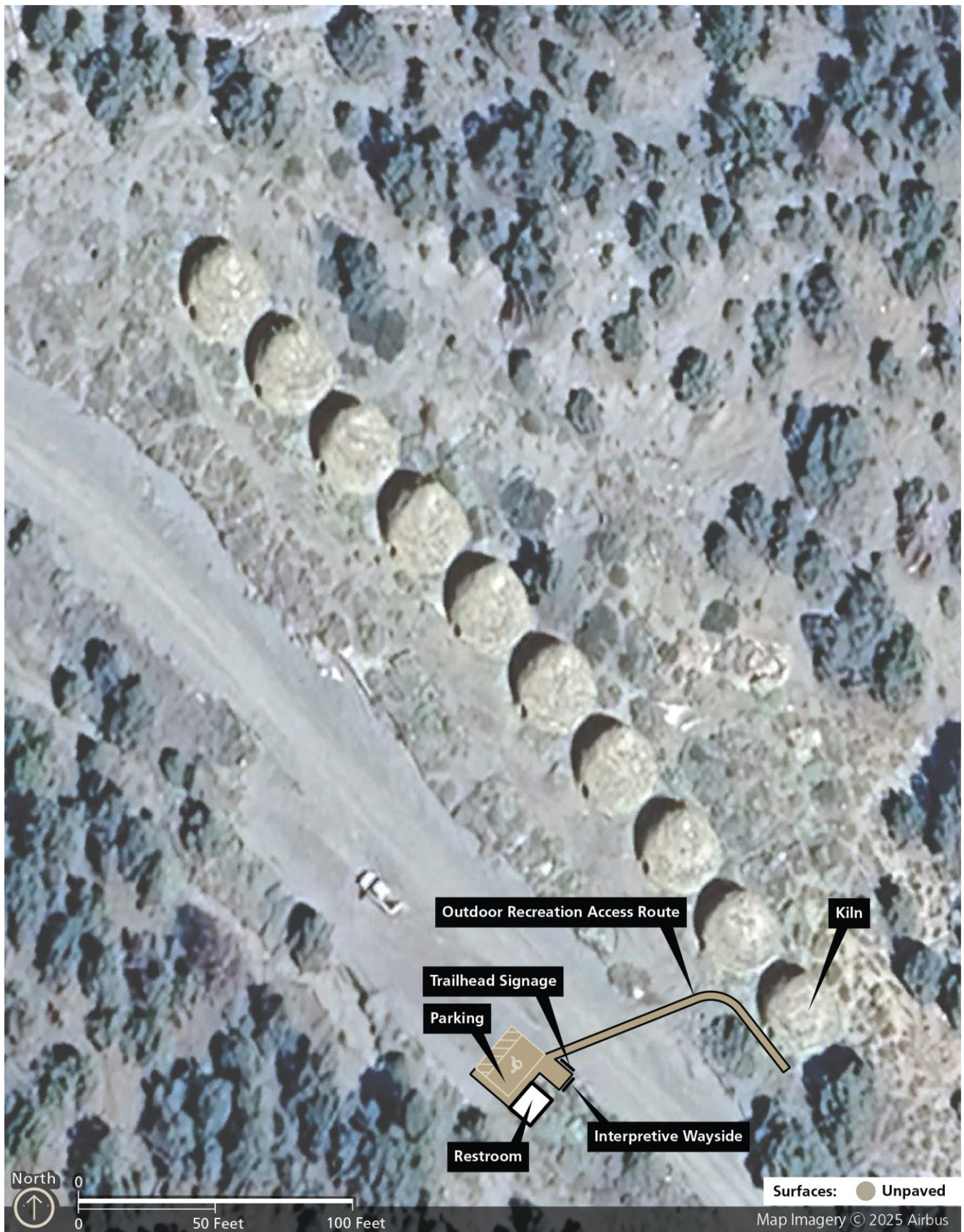
The Charcoal Kilns are one of the most remarkable historical and architectural features in Death Valley National Park. Located on a spur road in Wildrose Canyon in the Panamint Mountains, this site features a row of ten bee-hive-shaped masonry kilns, each standing about 25 feet high. Built in the late 19th century, these kilns were used to produce charcoal for the Modoc Mine in the Argus Range, a well-known silver producer of its time. Visitors can view the kilns from their vehicle, but for those who want a closer look, a gravel path with some steep slopes leads up to the structures. Once inside, the unique acoustics of the kilns provide an interesting sensory experience. Accessibility improvements needed include hardening the surface and reducing the slope of the path to the kilns, which would allow more visitors to experience this important historic site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Charcoal Kilns include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, an access aisle, and signage.
- **Routes:** Improve the surface and slope on the route to the restrooms, kilns, and trailhead.
- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the restrooms.
- **Interpretive Wayside:** Improve clear ground space, text contrast, and provide an audio version.
- **Trailhead Signage:** Improve clear ground space, text contrast, and provide an audio version.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

CHARCOAL KILNS CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





DEVILS GOLF COURSE

Located between Artists Drive and Badwater Basin, Devils Golf Course is a large area covered in sharp, jagged salt formations that have been shaped by wind and rain over time. The name comes from the rough, uneven ground, which is said to be so bumpy that “only the devil could play golf” on it. If you listen closely, you can hear small popping and pinging sounds—this happens when tiny salt crystals crack and break apart as they expand in the heat. There are no facilities or programs at the site, but visitors can enjoy the view from their cars. Otherwise, visitors must walk out onto the rough terrain of the salt formations with a very uneven surface. Since there is no designated trail, it can be hard for some people to explore the area. A boardwalk or smoother path could help more visitors safely experience this unique and otherworldly landscape.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Devils Golf Course include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, access aisle, and signage.
- **Interpretive Wayside:** Improve clear ground space, text contrast, and provide an audio version.
- **Routes:** Reduce slopes on the route to the salt formations.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

DEVILS GOLF COURSE CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





DEVILS HOLE

Devils Hole is a unique, protected area in a detached portion of Death Valley National Park adjacent to Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, 43 miles east of Furnace Creek. This small, 40-acre site is the only natural habitat of the endangered Devils Hole pupfish. Visitors can view the pupfish from a narrow, caged platform that overlooks the delicate environment. While there are no ranger programs at the site, Devils Hole is the only location of the Devils Hole Pupfish. The 0.15-mile path to the viewing area has an uneven dirt surface and the platform has a very narrow, metal grate surface with no turning space, making access difficult for some visitors. Improvements, such as stabilizing the pathway and expanding the viewing platform, could help more people safely experience this fragile and fascinating habitat.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Devils Hole include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, access aisle, and signage.
- **Information Signage:** Improve the clear ground space and provide an audio version.
- **Routes:** Improve the ground surface, reduce slopes, and widen the route to the viewing area.

- **Interpretive Waysides:** Improve clear ground space, text contrast, and provide an audio version.
- **Viewing Area:** Widen the gated viewing area to provide a large enough clear turning space.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

DEVILS HOLE CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





EMIGRANT AREA

Emigrant Junction is a historic entrance point to Death Valley National Park, located just east of the intersection of Emigrant Canyon Road and Highway 190. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s and 1940s, it was historically one of three main checking stations in the park, along with Furnace Creek and Daylight Pass. Today, the area includes a comfort station, a small free campground with 10 sites, and a picnic area adjacent to the restroom facility. At 2,000 feet in elevation, it serves as a cooler alternative for visitors during warmer months.

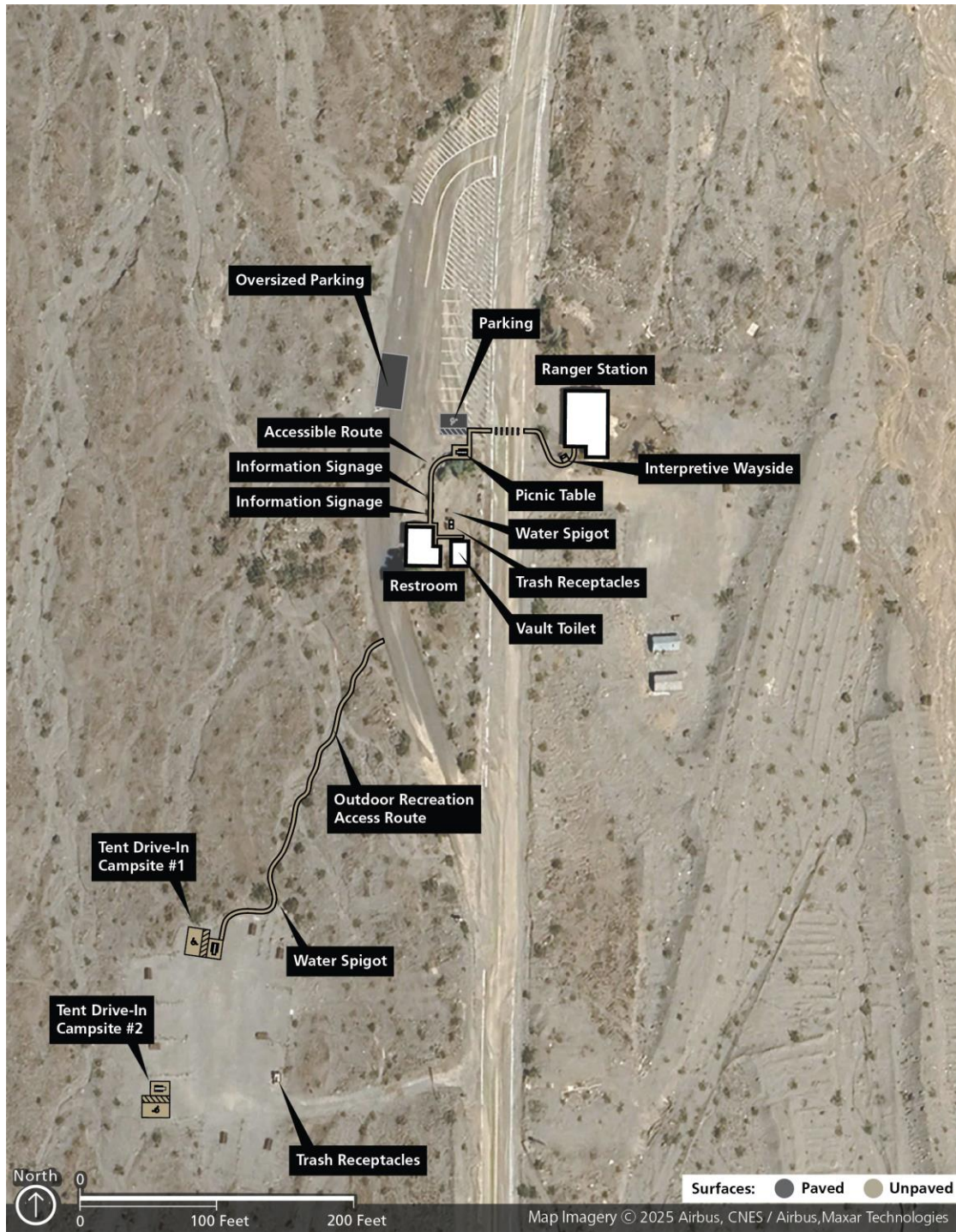
Accessibility improvements needed include hardening pathways, increasing clear space around campground amenities like picnic tables, and updating information signage. However, restroom accessibility remains a challenge due to the historic nature of the CCC-built structure, which complicates modifications for larger accessible stalls. If retrofitting the historic building is not feasible, adding an additional accessible restroom structure could be one option. Despite these challenges, enhancements to routes and campground features would greatly improve access for a wider range of visitors.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Emigrant Area include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the slopes, widths, surface, and signage of accessible parking spaces. Provide oversized parking.
- **Routes:** Improve the surface and slope on the route to the picnic facilities, campsites, restrooms, and ranger station.
- **Restroom:** Add accessible restrooms.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Improve the clear space and surfaces to and around the picnic facilities.
- **Interpretive Wayside:** Improve clear ground space, text contrast, panel height, and provide an audio version.
- **Information Signage:** Improve the clear ground space, text, panel height, and provide an audio version.
- **Site Features:** Improve the operable parts of the trash receptacles and water spigots, and the clear ground space around them.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

EMIGRANT AREA CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





FURNACE CREEK (VISITOR CENTER)

Furnace Creek Visitor Center is the main hub for visitors exploring Death Valley National Park, located 13 miles west of the eastern park boundary along Highway 190. The visitor center is one of the most frequently visited areas in the park, serving as the primary stop for maps, park information, permits, restrooms, water, Wi-Fi, a gift shop, and a museum. As part of the Mission 66 cultural landscape, the visitor center features an auditorium, a courtyard, and exhibits that help visitors learn about the park's history and environment. The large outdoor thermometer is also a popular photograph spot for visitors.

The visitor center has several accessibility features, including an audio version of the park map on the app, braille and large-print park guides, and assistive listening devices available at the front desk. Visitors can borrow a wheelchair, and the information desk has a lower-height section for easier access. For those with sensory sensitivities, sensory kits with noise-reducing headphones are available, and quiet spaces are available in the meeting room and dark sky exhibit area. The museum is spacious and includes tactile elements, audio descriptions, and open captions for exhibits. The Dark Sky Festival is held at the visitor center every year and offers live captions for virtual programs and American Sign Language interpretation for keynote speakers at in-person events.

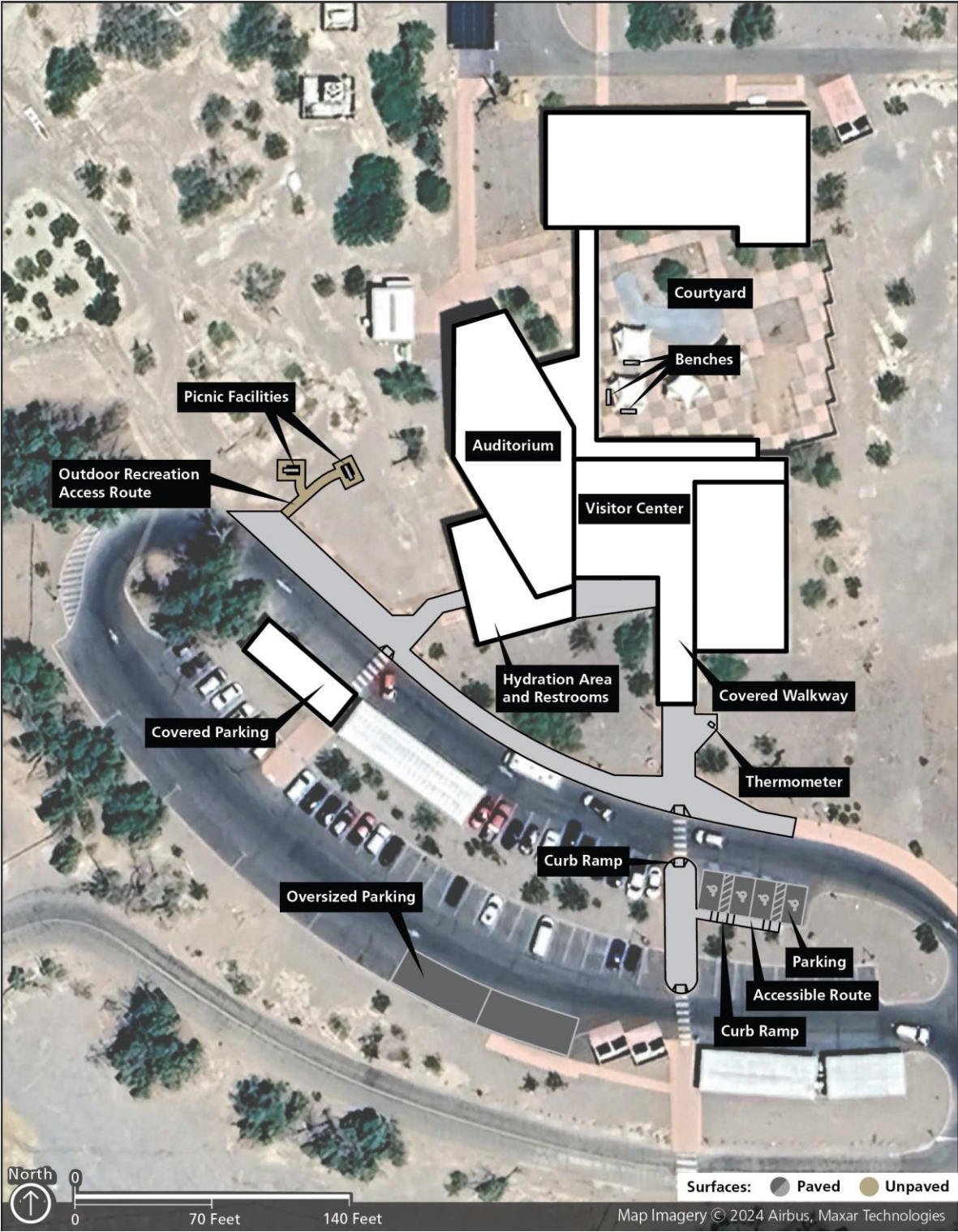
While the visitor center is already designed to be accessible, improvements needed include upgrades to restrooms, more wheelchair seating in the theater, additional space for maneuvering in the bookstore, and exhibit adjustments, such as better controls for interactive features and warnings about sudden loud sounds. These enhancements will help ensure that all visitors have a comfortable and engaging experience at the park's busiest visitor contact point.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Furnace Creek (Visitor Center) include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the slopes and widths of accessible parking spaces. Provide oversized parking.
- **Routes:** Improve the slopes of the curb ramps and trim vegetation to improve the clear width of the routes.
- **Site Features:** Improve benches to have backrests and armrests and companion seating. Improve the operable parts of drinking fountains and water spigots.
- **Restroom:** Improve the accessible features in the restrooms.
- **Information Signage:** Lower signage, increase text sizes, and provide audio versions.
- **Doorway:** Reduce the required force to operate the automatic door button.
- **Exhibits:** Improve knee clearance, the operability of exhibits, and the clear width of circulation space, and tactile elements.
- **Information Counter:** Provide visitor information on the lower counter.
- **Retail Items:** Distribute items to be accessible within a seated reach range. Provide a lowered check-out counter.
- **Auditorium:** Add new designated wheelchair and companion seating spaces and improve the platform lift to the stage.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Improve the slopes and surfaces to and around the picnic facilities, and add accessible picnic tables.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

FURNACE CREEK (VISITOR CENTER) CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





FURNACE CREEK CAMPGROUND

Furnace Creek Campground is the only NPS campground in Death Valley that accepts reservations, making it a popular choice for visitors looking to stay near the Furnace Creek Visitor Center. Open year-round and located just off Highway 190, the campground has 132 sites, including 18 with full RV hookups, as well as dry RV and tent sites. Each campsite includes a fire ring, tent pad, and picnic table, with electric hookups available at select sites. Several designated accessible campsites are available. Sites 22, 49, 77, and 84 can accommodate RVs and trailers, while sites 115, 147, and 149 are tent-only. Although all sites have paved parking and gentle slopes, accessibility improvements are needed, including hardening the ground surface around campsites for better stability, creating larger clear spaces in front of picnic tables and fire rings, improving the ease of use of fire grates, and upgrading water stations and restrooms. These improvements will make the campground more accessible and comfortable, allowing more visitors to enjoy camping in Death Valley.

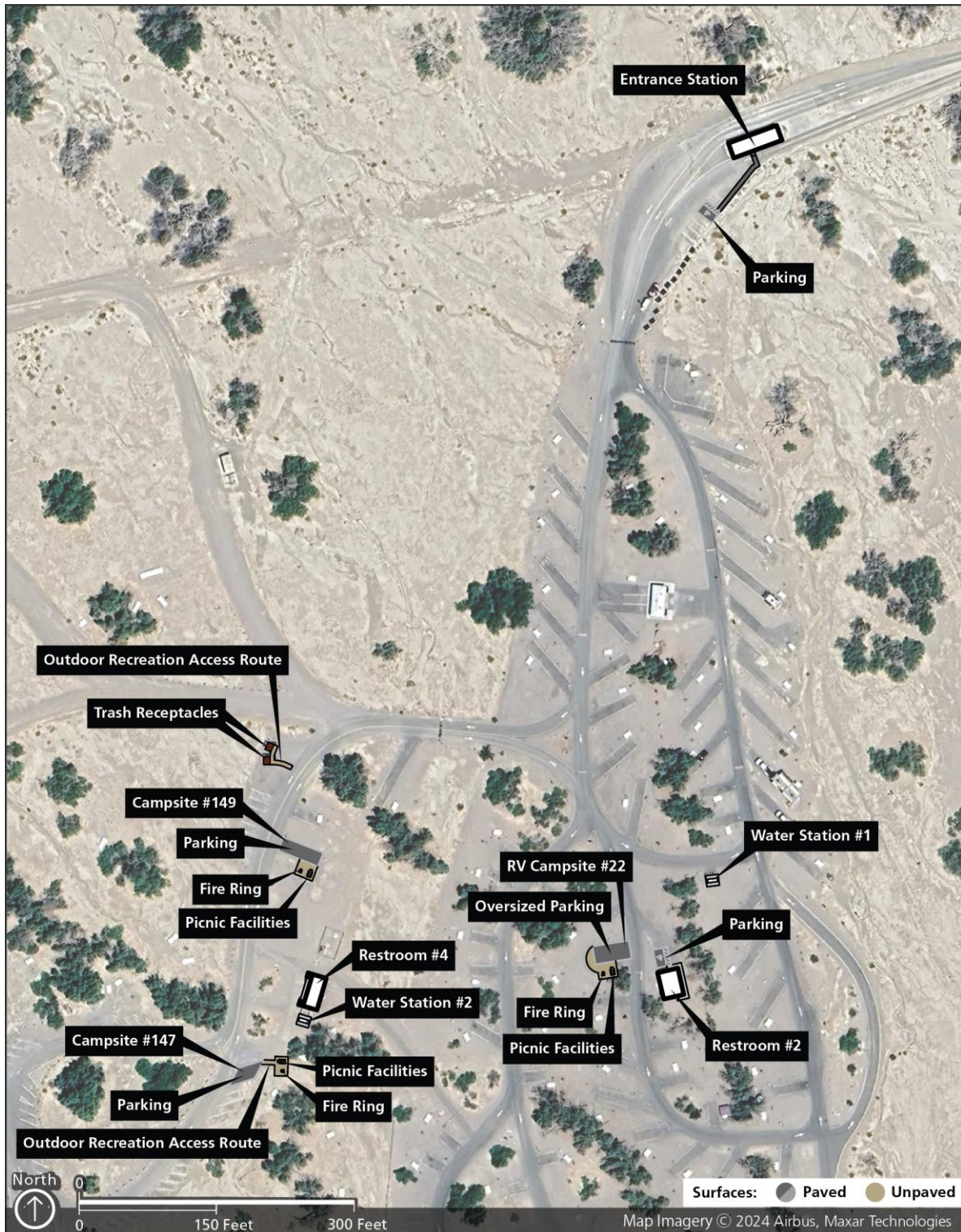
Proposed accessibility improvements at Furnace Creek Campground include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the slopes and widths of accessible parking spaces.
- **Routes:** Reduce slopes and provide handrails on the ramp to the entrance station.

- **Information Signage:** Lower signage, increase text sizes, improve contrast, and provide audio versions.
- **Camping Facilities:** Reduce the slopes, harden ground surfaces, and provide accessible picnic tables, fire rings, and parking at campsites.
- **Restroom:** Improve the accessible features in the restrooms and sinks at water stations.
- **Site Features:** Improve the operable parts of the trash receptacles and harden the clear ground space.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

FURNACE CREEK CAMPGROUND CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





GOLDEN CANYON TRAILHEAD

Golden Canyon Trailhead, located 3 miles south of Furnace Creek, is a popular starting point for exploring one of Death Valley's most well-known hikes. The trailhead area is paved and includes designated accessible parking stalls and a vault toilet. The Golden Canyon Trail begins here, but it is an unmaintained trail that quickly becomes uneven, with rock scrambling required after about 400 feet. Visitors can take several routes, ranging from 1 to 8 miles round-trip including a 4.3-mile loop back to this trailhead or trekking roughly 8 miles to Zabriskie Point.. For those looking for a guided experience, a 1-mile, ranger-led Golden Canyon Hike is available. Park staff are currently working on a project to redesign the trailhead parking area to improve accessibility and site configuration. Updating the trailhead signage to describe trail conditions is an important accessibility improvement needed at Golden Canyon Trailhead. These improvements will make the trailhead more accessible and provide better information, helping visitors decide if the hike is right for them.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Golden Canyon Trailhead include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the slopes and widths of accessible parking spaces. Add signage and oversized parking.

- **Trailhead Signage:** Lower signage, increase text sizes, improve contrast, and provide audio versions.
- **Trailhead:** Add trailhead signage that outlines trail conditions.
- **Trail:** As feasible, widen the trail and reduce slopes.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

GOLDEN CANYON TRAILHEAD CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





GRAPEVINE RANGER STATION

Grapevine Ranger Station serves as an important northern visitor contact point located along North Highway, just before the turnoff to Ubehebe Crater Road. The station provides wayfinding information, park guides, and an entrance fee station, helping visitors navigate Death Valley National Park. A comfort station with accessible stalls is also available, and the paved parking and pathways make the area generally usable by all. However, accessibility improvements are needed to enhance the visitor experience. These include lowering slopes to the interpretive waysides, increasing text sizes on information signage, improving access to the water spigot, and making minor restroom modifications. Addressing these needs would ensure that more visitors can comfortably access the station's amenities and resources.

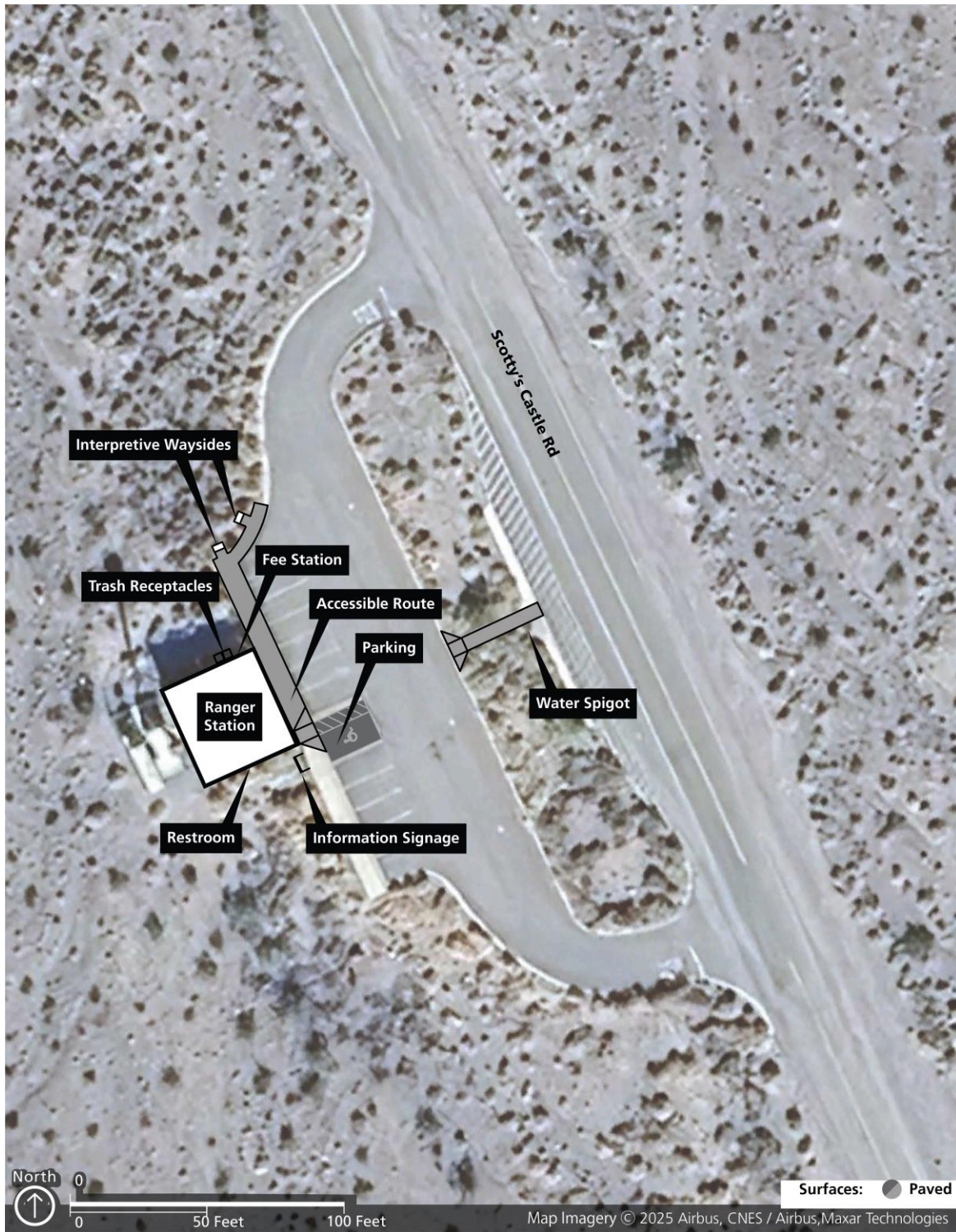
Proposed accessibility improvements at Grapevine Ranger Station include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the signage of accessible parking spaces.
- **Routes:** Improve the slope on the route to the ranger station, interpretive waysides, and water spigot.
- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the restrooms.

- **Interpretive Wayside:** Improve clear ground space and provide an audio version.
- **Information Signage:** Improve the clear ground space, text, panel height, and provide an audio version.
- **Site Features:** Improve the operable parts and/or clear space of the trash receptacles, newspaper stand, water spigot, and fee station.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

GRAPEVINE RANGER STATION CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





HARMONY BORAX WORKS

Harmony Borax Works, located 2 miles north of Furnace Creek, is a historic site in Death Valley National Park that tells the story of borax mining in the 1880s. Mining at this site helped develop Furnace Creek and brought people and attention to the area. The famous 20-mule teams and large wagons used to transport borax became a well-known symbol of the industry. Today, visitors can explore a 0.25-mile interpretive trail with signs that explain the site's history. Ranger-led tours are available, and live audio description is provided for visitors with visual impairments. Astronomy programs are also held here, taking advantage of the park's dark skies. Some parts of the trail are steep, which can make walking difficult for visitors with limited mobility. To improve accessibility, park staff are planning to offer accessible Ranger-led tours that avoid the steepest part of the trail until the park is able to repave the trail and replace all interpretive waysides, with audio descriptions available through the park app. These upgrades will help more visitors experience and learn about this historic site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Harmony Borax Works include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the slopes of accessible parking spaces. Add signage and oversized parking.
- **Trailhead Signage:** Improve the ground surface, text sizes, and provide audio versions.
- **Trailhead:** Add trailhead signage that outlines trail conditions.
- **Interpretive Waysides:** Improve clear ground space and provide an audio versions.
- **Trail:** Reduce slopes and harden ground surface of the Harmony Borax Trail.
- **Programs:** Provide live audio description of Ranger Led tours and consider providing shorter tour distances.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

HARMONY BORAX WORKS CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





HELLS GATE

Hells Gate is a scenic roadside pull-out and a key stopping point for visitors entering Death Valley from the north or traveling from Beatty, Nevada. The pull-out is also a common stop for those heading to the historic ghost town of Rhyolite just beyond the park's eastern boundary. The area features a fee station, vault toilet, picnic tables, and information bulletin boards, providing visitors with a place to rest and gather park information before continuing their journey. Accessibility improvements needed at Hells Gate include upgrading the vault toilet, hardening the surface leading to the interpretive signs, and creating more clear space around picnic tables to improve usability. These updates would help make Hells Gate a more accessible and welcoming stop for all visitors exploring Death Valley.

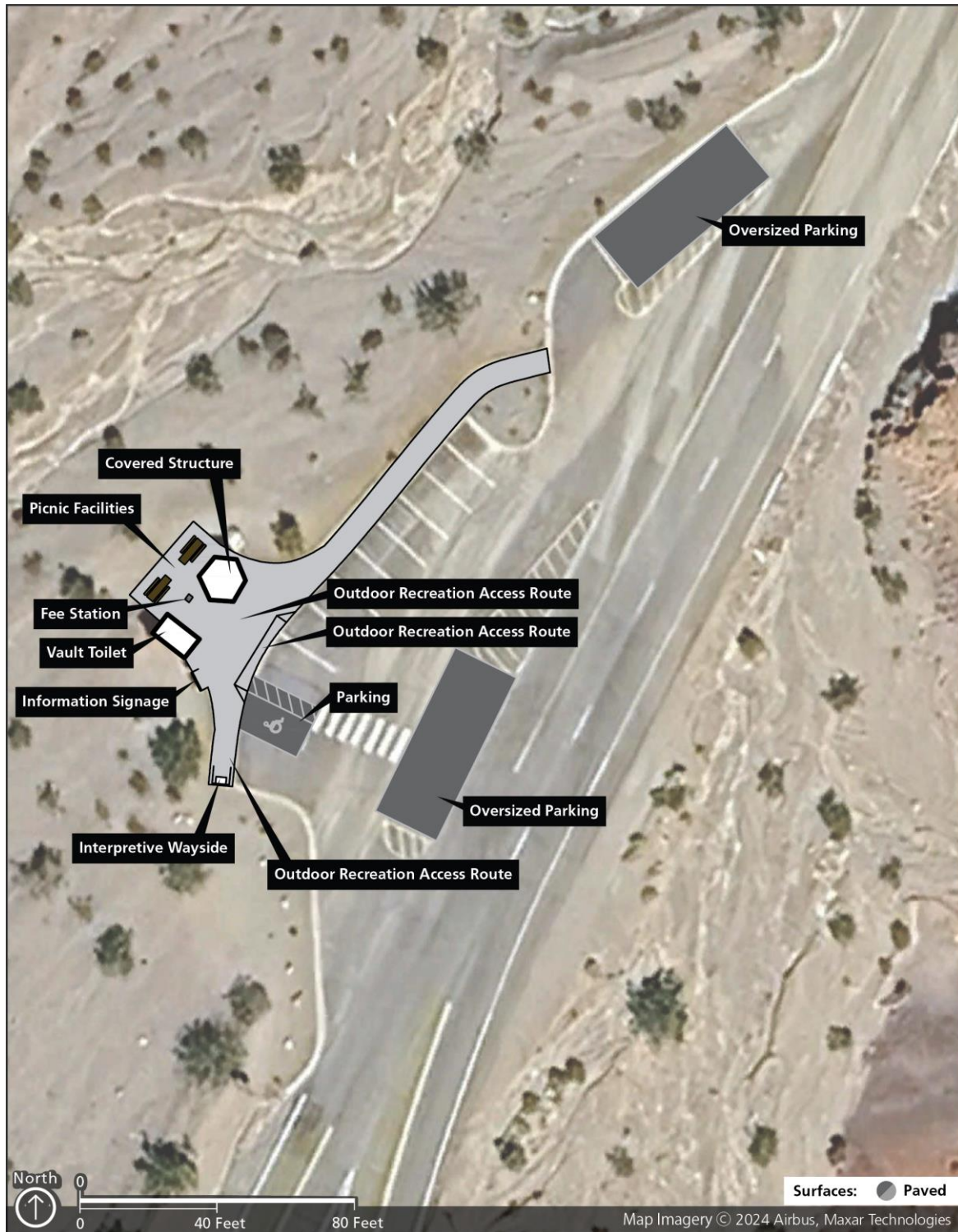
Proposed accessibility improvements at Hells Gate include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the slopes of accessible parking spaces. Add signage and oversized parking.
- **Information Signage:** Improve the ground surface, text sizes, contrast, and provide audio versions.
- **Routes:** Reduce changes in level and openings in the surface of routes to the interpretive wayside and vault toilet.
- **Interpretive Wayside:** Lower the wayside and provide an audio version.
- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the vault toilet.

- **Picnic Facilities:** Improve the clear space around the picnic facilities, and add accessible picnic tables.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

HELLS GATE CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





MESQUITE FLAT SAND DUNES

Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes is a popular visitor area located just east of Stovepipe Wells Village off Highway 190. The site features a one-way paved parking lot, interpretive information, and comfort stations. The dunes are especially stunning at sunrise and sunset, when dramatic shadows highlight the ripples and ridges of the sand. At night, this area is also a prime spot for stargazing under Death Valley's famously dark skies. Visitors can participate in the Dunes at Sunset Walk, a ranger-led sunset tour through the sand that provides insights into the unique environment.

While the parking area and route to the trailhead are paved, visitors who are only able to make it to the paved trailhead will have a view of the dunes in the distance but won't feel immersed among them due to the soft, shifting sand beyond the developed area, which is not maintained and can make access challenging for some. Accessibility improvements needed include updating the restrooms and enhancing information signage by increasing text sizes and improving contrast. As a best practice, creating alternative methods to improve the experience of the sand dunes for people who cannot walk out into them could involve providing photos and a 3D tour at the visitor center.

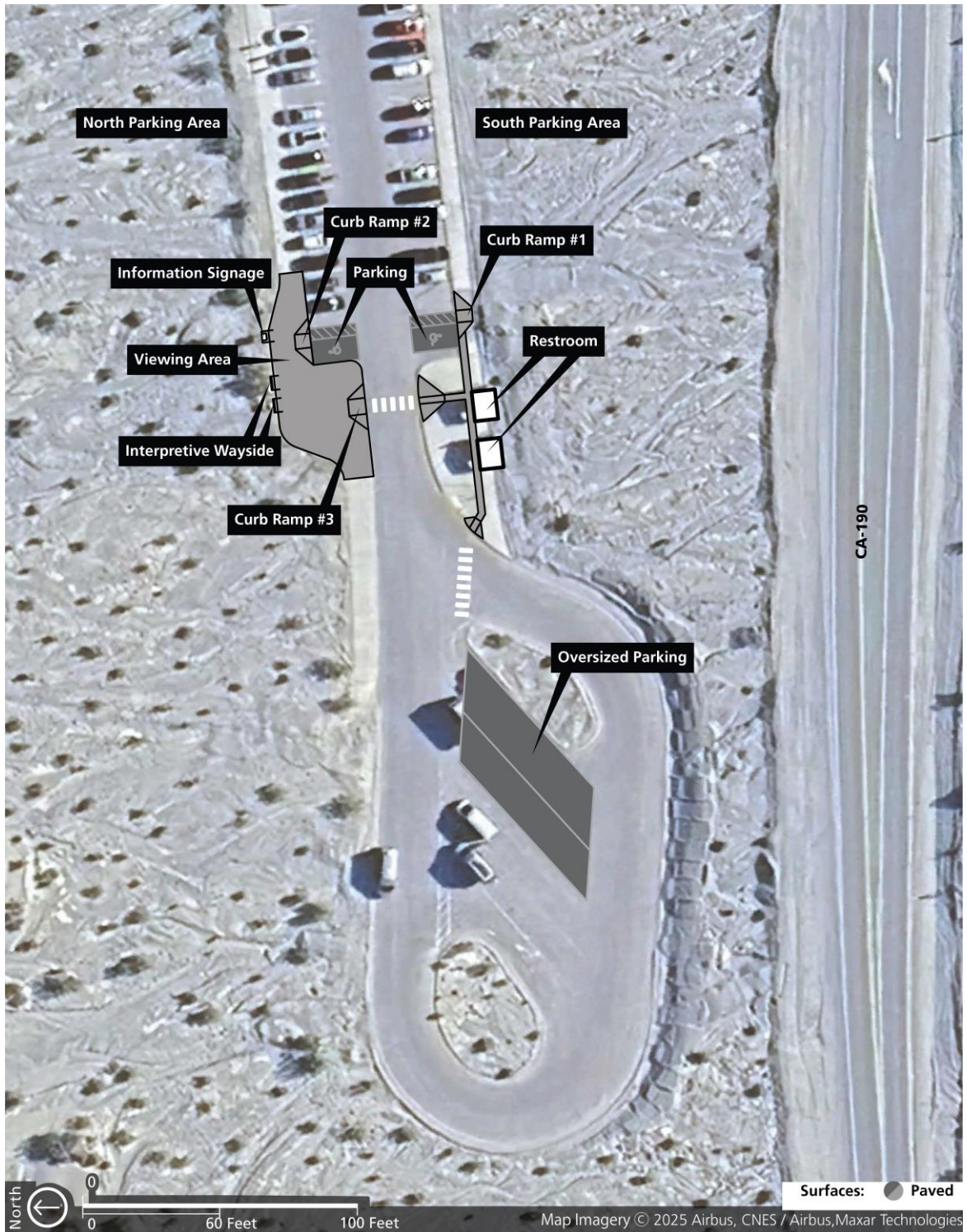
Proposed accessibility improvements at Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the slopes, widths, surface, and signage of accessible parking spaces.

- **Routes:** Improve the slope of the curb ramps.
- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the restrooms.
- **Interpretive Wayside:** Improve the clear ground space, text contrast, and provide an audio version.
- **Information Signage:** Improve the text contrast, text size, and provide an audio version.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

MESQUITE FLAT SAND DUNES CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





MESQUITE SPRING CAMPGROUND

Mesquite Spring Campground is a quiet, scenic campground located two miles off Scotty's Castle Road in Grapevine Canyon. Surrounded by rugged desert mountains and striking geological formations, this campground offers 40 campsites for both tent and RV camping, though no sites are currently designated as accessible. Each campsite includes a fire grate and picnic table, but there are no hook-ups available. While the natural setting provides a peaceful camping experience, accessibility improvements are needed to make the campground more inclusive. These improvements include designating accessible campsites, stabilizing the ground surface, and providing accessible campsite features like modified grills and accessible picnic tables. These changes would help ensure that more visitors can comfortably enjoy this remote and beautiful area.

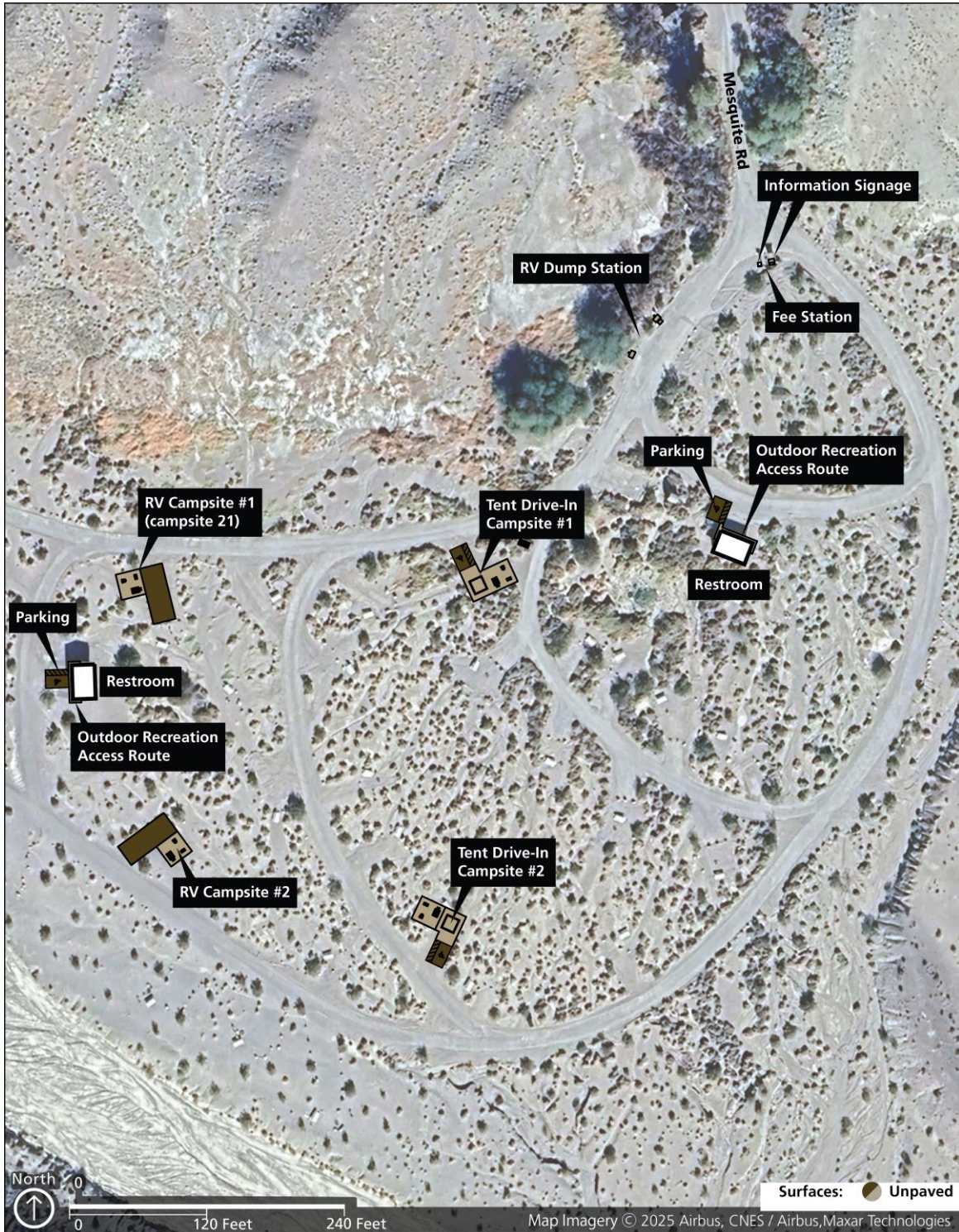
Proposed accessibility improvements at Mesquite Spring Campground include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, an access aisle, and signage.
- **Routes:** Improve the surface on the route to the restrooms.
- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the restrooms.
- **Information Signage:** Improve the clear ground space, text, panel height, and provide an audio version.

- **Site Features:** Improve the operable parts and/or clear space of the trash receptacles, outdoor sink, and fee station.
- **Camping Facilities:** Add accessible campsites and improve the clear ground space at the RV dumping station.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

MESQUITE SPRING CAMPGROUND CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





MOSAIC CANYON

Mosaic Canyon is a stunning natural area located just west of Stovepipe Wells. Accessed by a 2.3-mile unpaved road, the Mosaic Canyon Trailhead leads visitors into a narrow, marbled canyon with smooth, polished rock walls and a rocky wash. This popular hiking destination showcases unique geologic formations, making it a favorite spot for exploration and photography. The large gravel parking area at the trailhead provides space for vehicles, but there are no restrooms or other amenities. The 4-mile out-and-back trail is unmaintained and follows a rugged, uneven path, which may be difficult for those with mobility disabilities. Accessibility improvements such as adding designated accessible parking, improving routes, and updating trailhead signage to include detailed trail condition information would help visitors better prepare for the hike and decide whether or not the trail is a right fit for them.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Mosaic Canyon include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, an access aisle, and signage.
- **Routes:** Improve the slopes on the route to the trailhead.
- **Trailhead Signage:** Improve the clear ground space, improve contrast, and provide audio versions.

- **Information Signage:** Add information about trail conditions at the trailhead.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

MOSAIC CANYON CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





MUD CANYON PULLOUT

Mud Canyon is an important roadside stop for visitors traveling to Scotty's Castle and serves as the first point of contact for some entering Death Valley. Located on Scotty's Castle Road just off Highway 190, this site provides a vault toilet, picnic tables, and an information board, making it a convenient rest stop for travelers. Accessibility improvements needed at Mud Canyon include improving accessible parking, upgrading the vault toilet, increasing the text size and contrast on the information board, and creating more clear space around picnic tables to improve access. These upgrades would help ensure that all visitors can comfortably use this key stopping point.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Mud Canyon include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the slopes and width of accessible parking spaces. Add oversized parking.
- **Information Signage:** Improve the text sizes, contrast, and provide audio versions.
- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the vault toilet.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Improve the clear space around the picnic facilities, and add accessible picnic tables.
- **Site Features:** Lower the bench and provide a backrest and armrest on the bench.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

MUD CANYON PULLOUT CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





RYAN ENTRANCE STATION

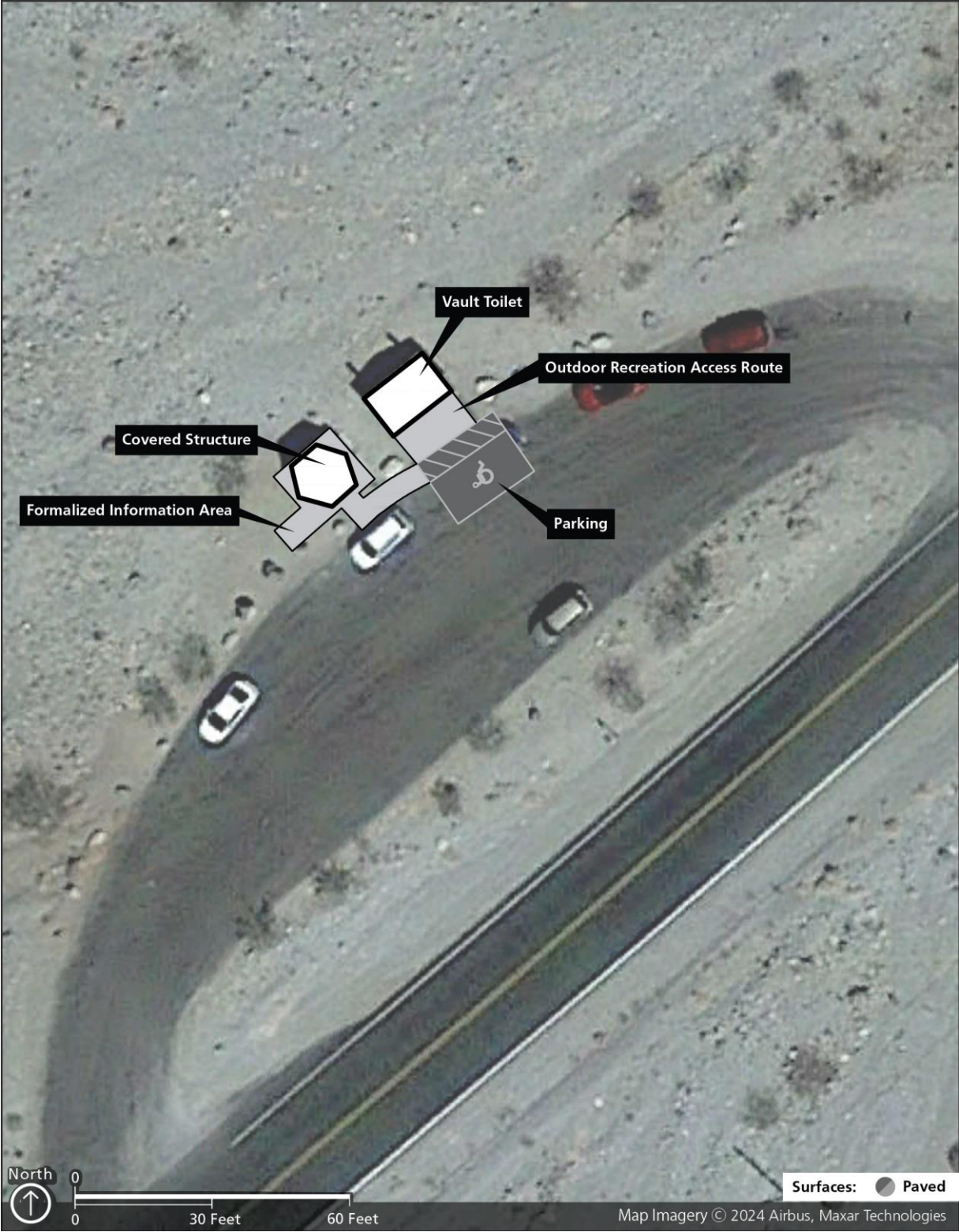
Ryan Entrance Station is the busiest fee station in Death Valley, serving as the primary entrance from the east, located 17 miles west of Death Valley Junction on Highway 190. As one of the first stops for many visitors, this roadside pull-off provides a vault toilet, fee station, and a covered information board. At times, a temporary table with park staff is set up to assist visitors. However, due to high traffic volume and fast-moving vehicles, there are concerns with congestion, parking, and safety. While the area provides essential services, accessibility improvements are needed to ensure all visitors can comfortably use the space. Improving the accessible parking location, increasing clear space around the information boards, improving text size and contrast, and placing the temporary table in an accessible location would enhance the visitor experience.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Ryan Entrance Station include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, access aisle, and signage.
- **Information Signage:** Improve the ground surface, text sizes, contrast, and provide audio versions. Improve operable parts of brochure and newspaper holders.
- **Routes:** Reduce the slope of the route to the vault toilet.
- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the vault toilet.
- **Information Area:** Provide a level surface for the temporary information area.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

RYAN ENTRANCE STATION CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





SCOTTY'S CASTLE

Scotty's Castle, located 3 miles northeast of the Grapevine Developed Area, is one of the park's most iconic historic sites. This Spanish-style estate, officially known as the Death Valley Scotty Historic District, encompasses nearly 300 acres of buildings, pathways, and natural features nestled in a remote desert canyon. Visitors are drawn to its rich history, beautiful architecture, and connection to one of Death Valley's most colorful figures—Death Valley Scotty (Walter Scott), whose life and legend helped shape the story of this unique retreat. The site includes several key structures like the main house, chimes tower, powerhouse, guest house, and stable, along with small-scale features such as the road system, watercourse, gas tank house, the long shed, and even Scotty's grave.

Scotty's Castle is currently closed to the public due to damage from flooding and fire. When open, ranger-led programs at Scotty's Castle offer immersive, multi-sensory experiences—including the sounds of the historic organ—that help bring this desert oasis to life for all visitors. However, the existing platform lift poses a significant accessibility barrier; it has a weight capacity of only 496 lbs, is too narrow for some wheelchairs, and requires two staff members to operate, resulting in substantial delays.

As part of the restoration plans, accessibility enhancements will include adding accessible parking, routes to key buildings, and improving access to the courtyard and gathering

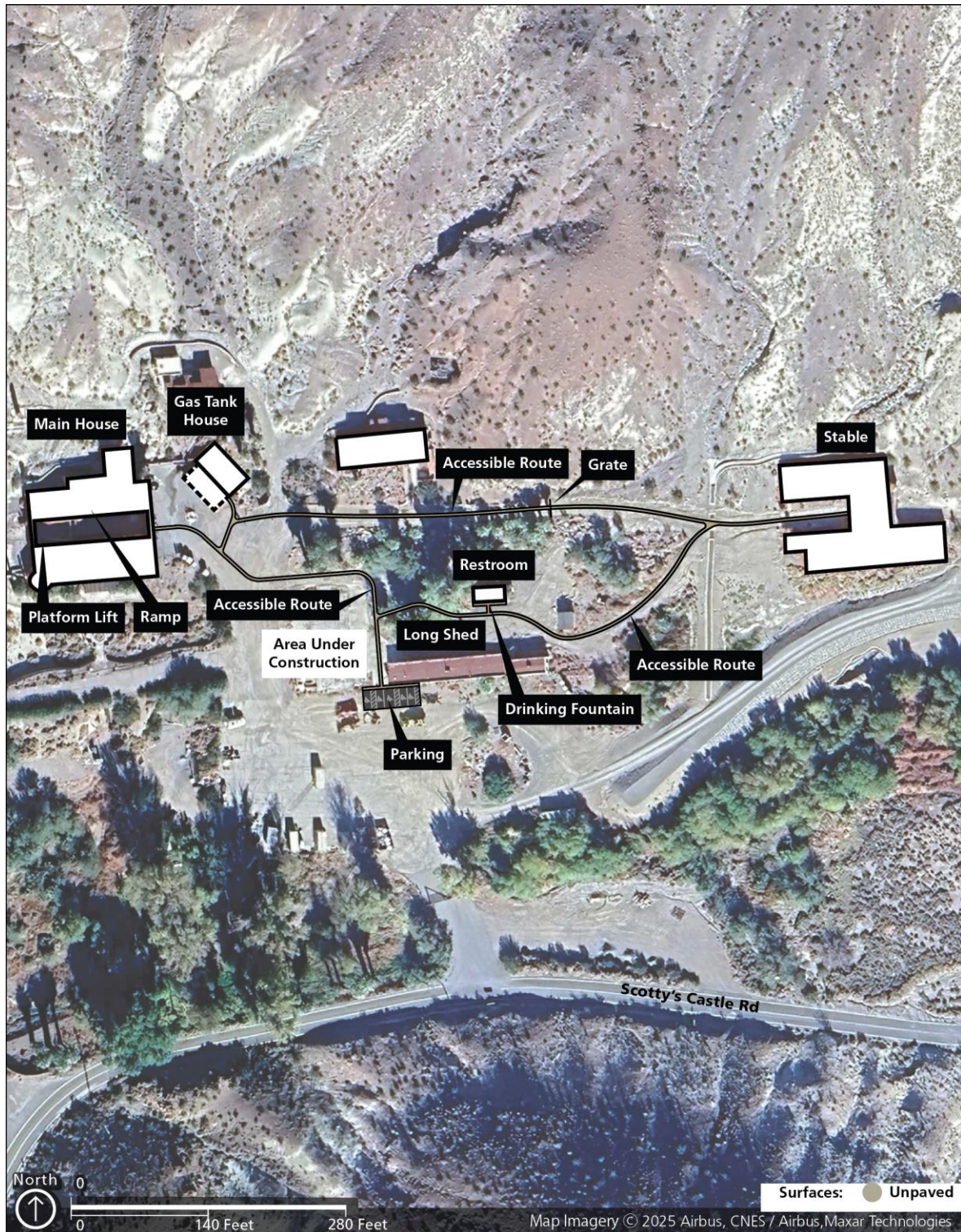
areas. When complete, these improvements will ensure that more visitors can experience the rich history, unique architecture, and desert beauty that make Scotty's Castle a treasured part of Death Valley National Park.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Scotty's Castle include the following:

- **Routes:** Improve routes at the Gas Tank House, Stable, Main House covered seating area, Long Shed, and restroom.
- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the restrooms.
- **Site Features:** Improve the operable parts and/or clear space of the platform lift and drinking fountain.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

SCOTTY'S CASTLE CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





STOVEPIPE RANGER STATION

Stovepipe Ranger Station is a convenient stop for visitors traveling along Highway 190 in Stovepipe Wells Village. It offers a place to speak with a ranger, pay entrance fees, and view small exhibits that educate visitors about the park's natural and cultural history. While the ranger station enhances the visitor experience, there is potential for improving accessibility. Currently, the counter height is too high, limiting comfortable interaction with staff. The absence of audio versions for exhibits and the small font sizes on maps can hinder access to information for some guests. Additionally, the exhibits would benefit from alternative formats, such as large print or braille, to make information more widely accessible.

Externally, the path from the accessible parking spot has a slope that is too high. These examples highlight existing accessibility challenges and the need for improvements. By addressing these areas, such as installing a lowered counter, incorporating diverse exhibit formats, and improving the slope of travel routes, Stovepipe Ranger Station can become a more inclusive destination, enriching the experience for all visitors.

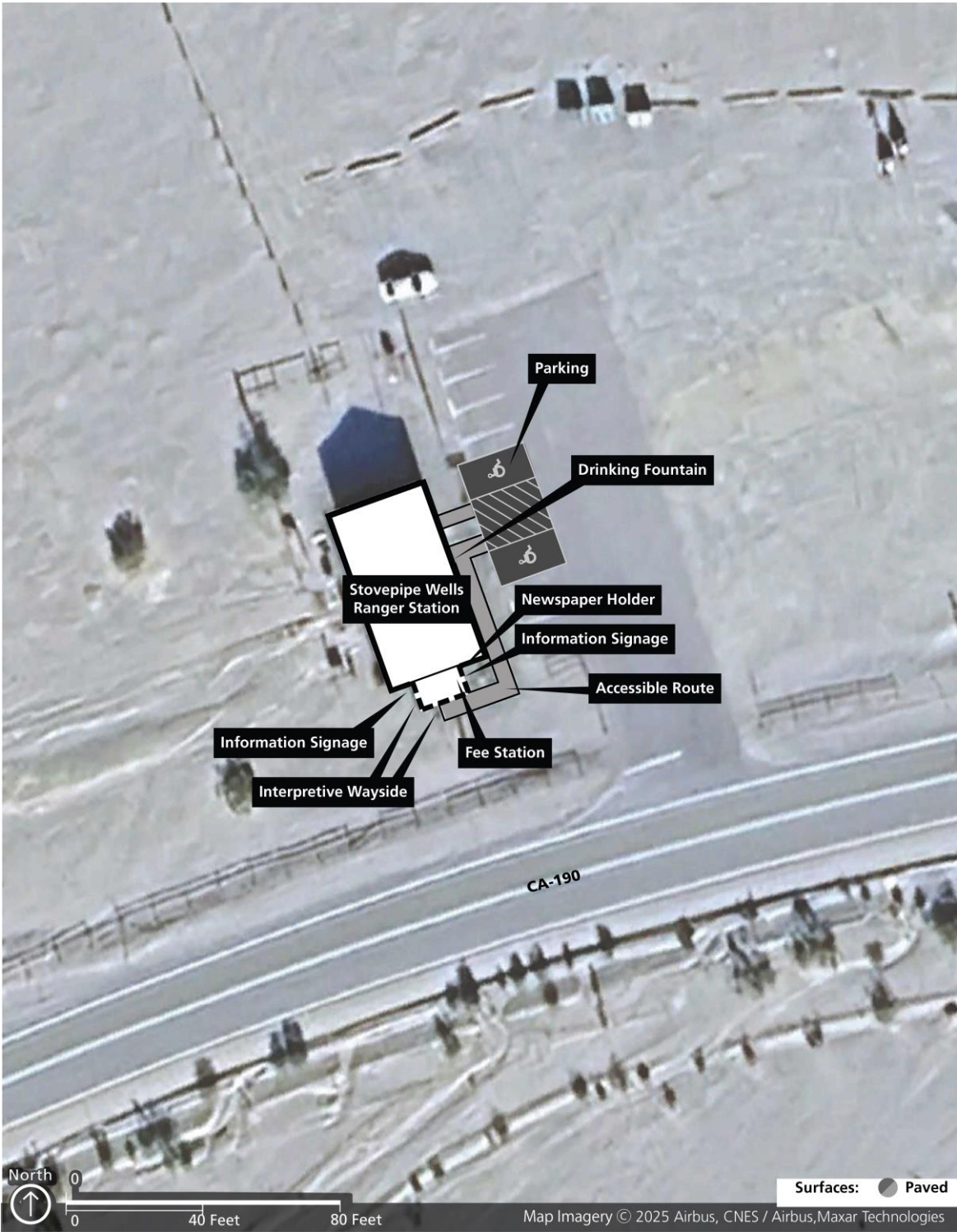
Proposed accessibility improvements at Stovepipe Ranger Station include the following:

- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the restrooms.

- **Parking:** Improve the slopes and signage of accessible parking spaces.
- **Routes:** Improve the slope on the route to the ranger station.
- **Exhibits:** Improve knee clearance, the operability of exhibits, and the clear width of circulation space, improve tactile elements, and provide an audio version.
- **Information Counter:** Improve the height of the counter and the clear space.
- **Interpretive Wayside:** Improve clear ground space, text contrast, panel height, and provide an audio version.
- **Information Signage:** Improve the clear ground space, text, and provide an audio version.
- **Site Features:** Improve the operable parts and/or clear space of the water fountain, fee station, and newspaper holder.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

STOVEPIPE RANGER STATION CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





STOVEPIPE WELLS NPS CAMPGROUND

Stovepipe Wells NPS Campground is a National Park Service-operated campground located next to the Stovepipe Wells general store, ranger station, and a privately operated RV park. The campground offers expansive views of Death Valley and the nearby Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes, making it a popular spot for visitors looking to stay in the heart of the park. The campground has 190 campsites including walk-in, tent sites, and RV parking spots, but RV sites have no hookups or amenities beyond close access to the comfort station. Tent sites include picnic tables and fire rings, but there are no designated accessible campsites of any type, and the sandy gravel and rocky surfaces make maneuvering difficult. Accessibility improvements needed include stabilizing the ground surfaces, increasing clear space around picnic tables and fire rings, raising fire-building surfaces, and enhancing the water and comfort stations. These updates would make the campground more accessible, allowing more visitors to comfortably experience camping in Death Valley.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Stovepipe Wells NPS Campground include the following:

- **Information Signage:** Lower signage, increase text sizes, improve contrast, and provide audio versions.
- **Camping Facilities:** Reduce the slopes, harden ground surfaces, and provide accessible picnic tables, fire rings, and parking at campsites.
- **Restroom:** Improve the accessible features in the restrooms and sinks at water stations.

- **Site Features:** Improve the operable parts and harden the clear ground space for the trash receptacles and RV Dump Stations.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

STOVEPIPE WELLS NPS CAMPGROUND CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





STOVEPIPE WELLS VILLAGE

Stovepipe Wells Village is one of four key visitor service hubs in Death Valley National Park, offering a range of amenities in the heart of the park. Surrounded by the Panamint, Cottonwood, and Funeral Mountains, the village sits on an alluvial fan at the base of Tucki Mountain, providing dramatic desert views overlooking the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes. As the main entrance from the west, it is a popular stop for travelers looking for affordable lodging, gas, dining, and visitor services. The area includes a hotel, a restaurant/bar, a gas station, a swimming pool, a convenience store, RV camping with hookups, a ranger station, and a gift shop. Stovepipe Wells Village is managed by Destination Death Valley under a 10-year contract that began in January 2024. Though programs are rare, astronomy events are occasionally held at the restaurant. While the village has two designated accessible lodging rooms, accessibility improvements are needed to increase clear space throughout the rooms and provide accessible amenities such as a lowered bed. The area is paved with ramps, but steep slopes leading to the restaurant create challenges, and reworking the routes would improve accessibility. Additional needed improvements include dispersing accessible seating in dining areas, lowering the service counter at the check-in office, and upgrading onsite restrooms. These updates would help make Stovepipe Wells Village a more inclusive and accessible destination for visitors exploring Death Valley.

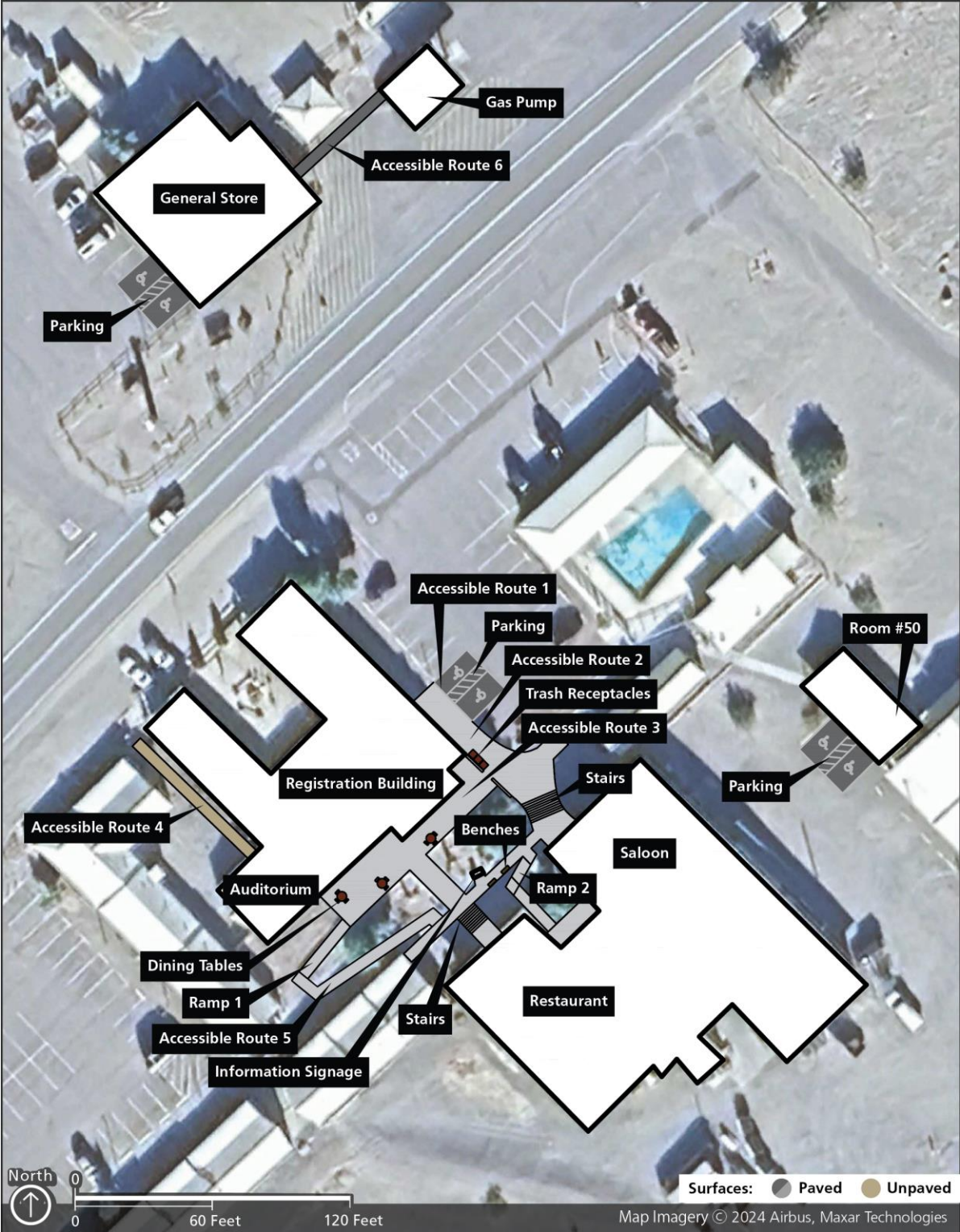
Proposed accessibility improvements at Stovepipe Wells Village include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the slopes and width of accessible parking spaces and raise signage. Add additional accessible parking spaces.

- **Routes:** Reduce slopes and changes in level, harden surfaces, and widen routes from the parking to the various buildings throughout the Stovepipe Wells Village.
- **Stairs:** Provide handrails on both sides of stairs, improve the riser heights and tread widths to be uniform, and provide visual contrast on the nosing of the stairs.
- **Information Signage:** Improve the text sizes, contrast, and provide audio versions.
- **Registration Building:** Improve service counters, widen routes throughout the bookstore, improve information signage, provide wheelchair spaces in the auditorium, and widen doorways.
- **Restaurant:** Provide accessible dining seating and improve accessible features in the restrooms.
- **Lodging:** Improve the accessible features within the accessible rooms such as the bed height, routes, restroom features. Designate more accessible lodging rooms.
- **General Store:** Improve accessible parking, improve routes to and inside the store, provide accessible picnic facilities and seating, improve informational signage, lower service counters, and distribute items in the store to be within an accessible reach range.
- **Site Features:** Improve the ground surface and operable parts of trash receptacles. Provide accessible dining seating at the outdoor tables. Lower benches and provide companion seating adjacent to benches.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

STOVEPIPE WELLS VILLAGE CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





SUNSET CAMPGROUND

Sunset Campground is a seasonally operated campground near Furnace Creek Visitor Center, offering 230 campsites, and four comfort stations. While tent camping is allowed, the gravel surface and lack of fire pits and picnic tables make it more popular with RVs and trailers. The campground has no hookups, but a dump station is available. One of the most popular programs at Sunset Campground is the Dark Sky Festival, an annual event during which events take place in the overflow parking lot, allowing visitors to experience Death Valley's famous star-filled skies. Accessibility improvements needed include stabilizing the loose gravel surface to make it easier to navigate the campground and formalizing pedestrian crossings across Highway 190, as many visitors walk to nearby amenities at The Ranch at Death Valley and the Furnace Creek Visitor Center. These updates would enhance safety and accessibility, making the campground more welcoming for all visitors.

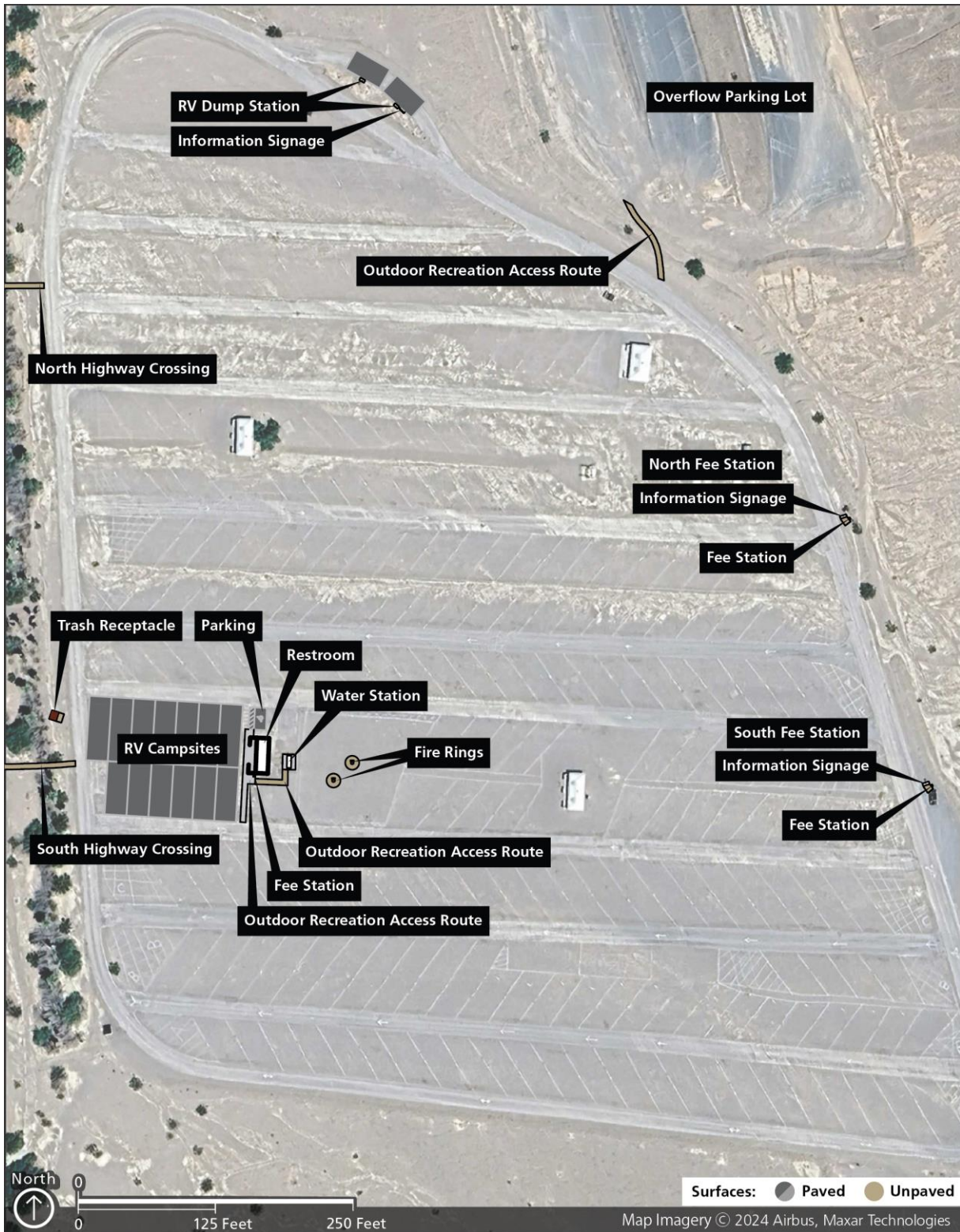
Proposed accessibility improvements at Sunset Campground include the following:

- **Information Signage:** Lower signage, increase text sizes, improve contrast, and provide audio versions.
- **Camping Facilities:** Reduce the slopes, harden ground surfaces, and provide accessible picnic tables, fire rings, and parking at campsites.

- **Restroom:** Improve the accessible features in the restrooms and sinks at water stations.
- **Site Features:** Improve the operable parts and harden the clear ground space for the trash receptacles and RV Dump Stations.
- **Routes:** Reduce slopes and harden surfaces of routes to the overflow lot and to cross Highway 190.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

SUNSET CAMPGROUND CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





UBEHEBE CRATER

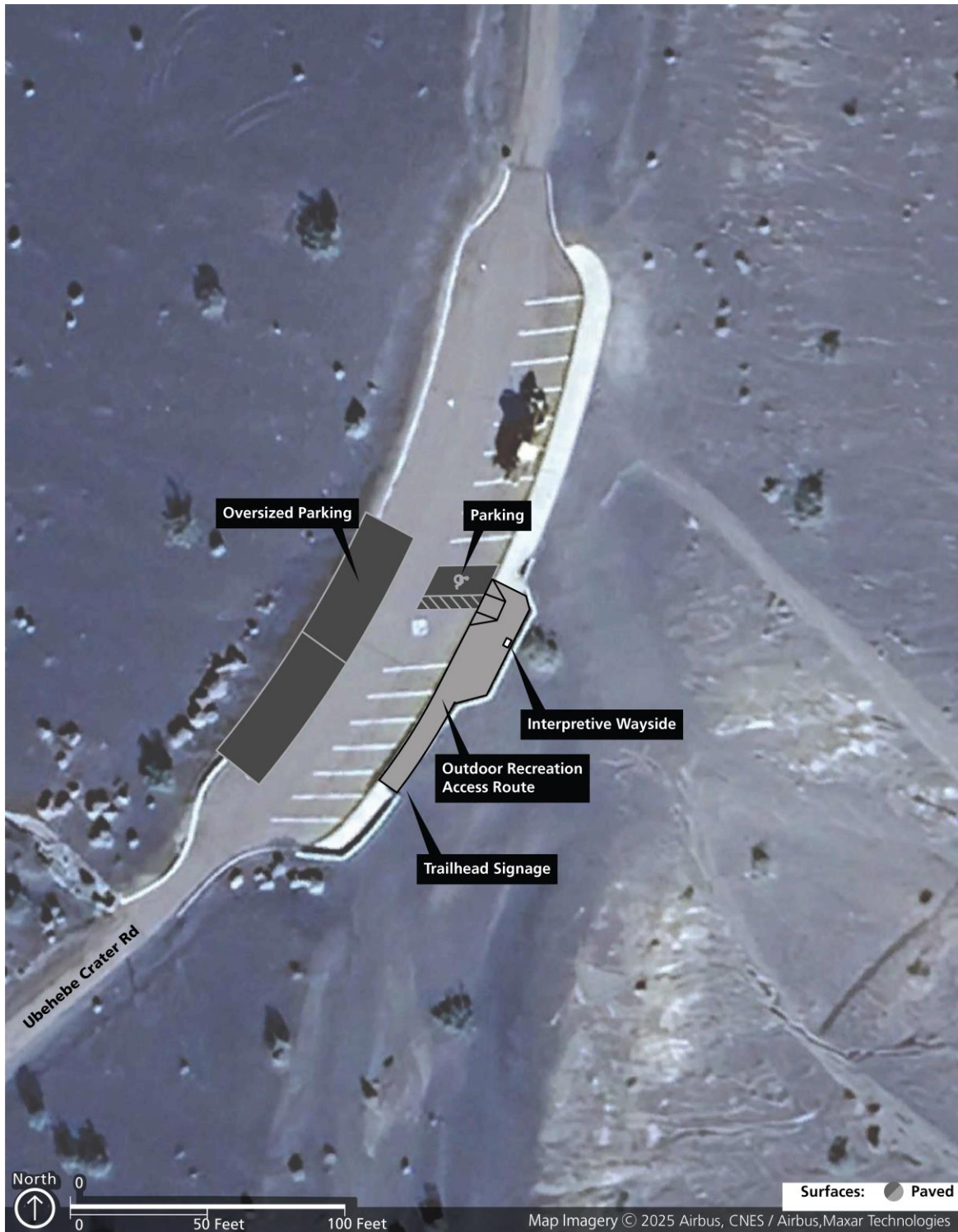
Ubehebe Crater, located in the northern part of Death Valley National Park, is a dramatic reminder of the park's volcanic past. About an hour's drive from Furnace Creek, the crater was formed when rising magma met groundwater, triggering a powerful steam explosion that blasted through the surface and left behind this massive geological feature. Visitors can easily view the crater from the main parking area, which sits right at the rim and offers striking views into the dark, steep-walled pit. For those looking to explore further, a 1.5-mile rim trail circles the crater, but it includes steep and uneven slopes that can be challenging. Accessibility improvements such as firming and stabilizing the surface of the outdoor recreation access route from the parking area to the main viewpoint, removing loose gravel, and enhancing trail signage to include details on trail conditions would help more visitors experience this powerful and unique landscape.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Ubehebe Crater include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve the widths and signage of accessible parking spaces.
- **Routes:** Improve the surface on the route to the viewing area and trailhead.
- **Interpretive Wayside:** Improve the text contrast, panel height, and provide an audio and tactile version.
- **Trailhead Signage:** Add trailhead signage.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

UBEHEBE CRATER CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





WILDROSE CAMPGROUND

Wildrose Campground, located high in the Panamint Mountains at an elevation of 4,100 feet, offers a cooler, more secluded camping experience in Death Valley National Park. Situated about 21 miles past the Emigrant area along a gravel road, the campground includes 23 first-come, first-served sites nestled among mesquite bushes and rolling desert hills. With no hook-ups and regular high winds, this rugged spot is ideal for those seeking a quieter and more natural setting. Campsites are set on dirt and gravel surfaces, and while the scenery is striking, the campground currently has no designated accessible campsites.

In addition, various amenities throughout the campground, such as water spigots and trash cans, present accessibility challenges, as they require too much force to operate. Furthermore, the maneuvering clearance by the restroom door is too narrow for some visitors. These are just a few examples of accessibility improvements needed, which could include replacing gravel with firm and stable surfaces, adding modified fire rings and picnic tables, and upgrading vault toilet amenities. Such enhancements would help more visitors enjoy this remote and scenic part of the park.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Wildrose Campground include the following:

- **Parking:** Add accessible parking, an access aisle, and signage.
- **Routes:** Improve the surface and slope of routes to the interpretive waysides and picnic table.

- **Interpretive Wayside:** Improve clear ground space, slope, text size, and provide an audio version.
- **Information Signage:** Improve clear ground space, increase text sizes, and provide audio versions.
- **Trailhead Signage:** Add trailhead signage.
- **Restroom:** Improve the accessible features in the restrooms.
- **Site Features:** Improve the clear ground space and/or operable parts of the trash receptacles and water spigots.
- **Picnic Facilities:** Add accessible picnic tables.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

WILDROSE CAMPGROUND CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN







ZABRISKIE POINT

Zabriskie Point is one of the most iconic viewpoints in Death Valley National Park, offering a stunning elevated vista of the badlands below and the Manly Beacon rock formation looming above the badlands. Located 15 minutes east of Furnace Creek Visitor Center on Highway 190, it is a popular spot for sunrise and sunset, drawing visitors to its dramatic scenery. The park also hosts an annual Dark Sky Festival here for visitors to witness the night skies of Death Valley. From the parking lot, visitors can reach the viewpoint via a 0.25 mile paved trail up a steep hill or connect to nearby hiking routes like the Badlands Loop Trail and Golden Canyon Trail. Accessibility at Zabriskie Point is a challenge due to the steep slope of the paved walkway, though resting benches along the route provide opportunities to take breaks. Because of the historic nature of the site, the park is exploring alternative ways to provide this unique viewing experience to all visitors, such as 3D virtual tours or providing images of the view at accessible locations. These improvements would help ensure that more visitors can enjoy this breathtaking landscape.

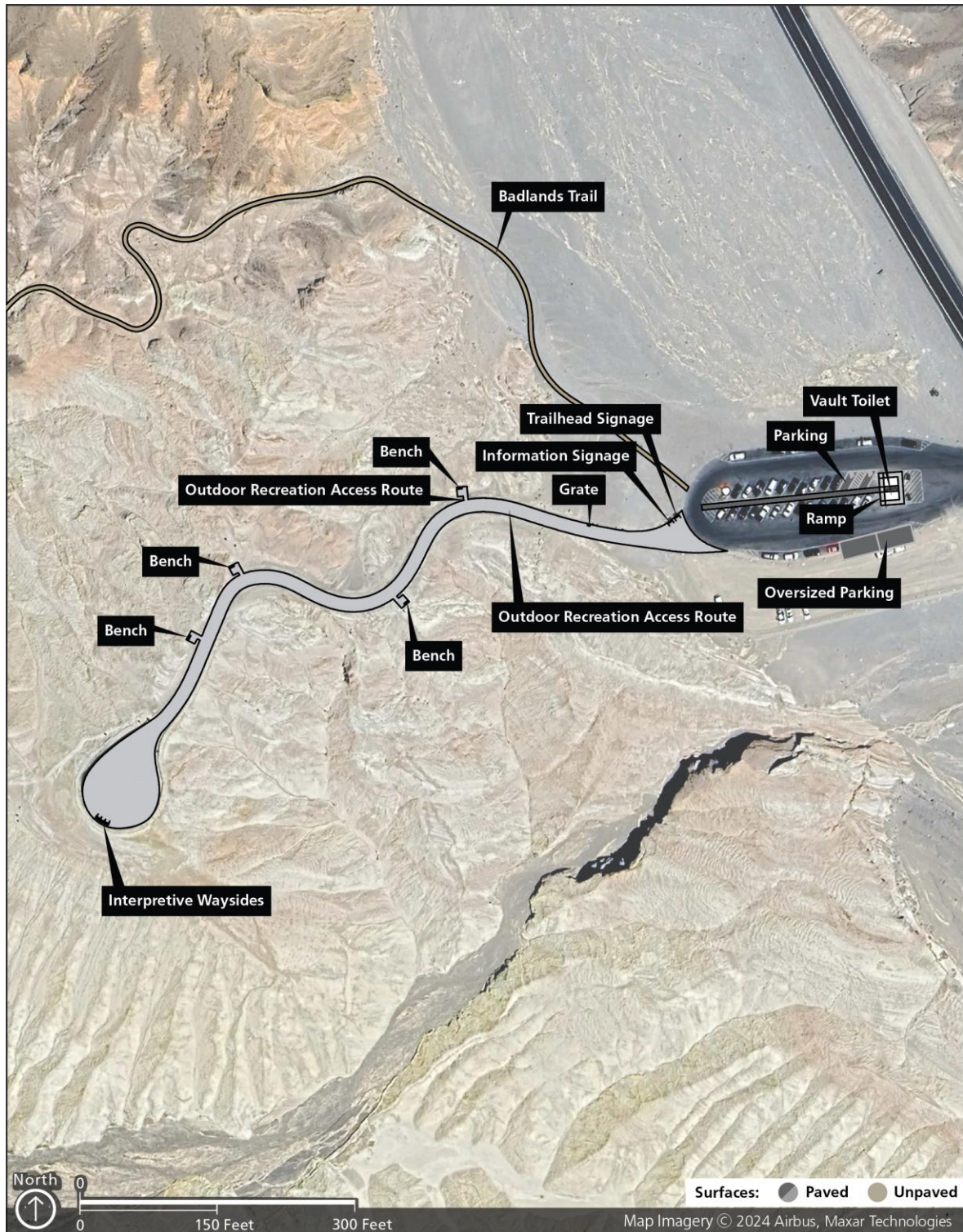
Proposed accessibility improvements at Zabriskie Point include the following:

- **Parking:** Add signage and oversized parking.
- **Routes:** Improve ramps to have handrails, edge protection, and level landing. As feasible reduce slopes, openings, and changes in level on the historic route to the viewing area.

- **Restroom:** Improve accessible features in the vault toilet.
- **Trailhead Signage:** Improve the ground surface, contrast, and provide audio versions. Add trail conditions.
- **Information Signage:** Improve the ground surface, text sizes, and provide audio versions.
- **Site Features:** Widen the turning space at benches and provide a backrest and armrest on the benches.
- **Interpretive Waysides:** Provide audio versions.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.

ZABRISKIE POINT CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN





DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK PROGRAMS

Death Valley National Park showed strengths in its attentiveness to visitors planning their visit to the park. The website has comprehensive listings of facilities and programs available to accommodate a wide range of abilities. Examples of activities and programs include wheelchairs for loan and ASL interpretation for the park's popular Dark Sky Festival. The park does not currently offer assistive listening systems and audio descriptions for all locations or programs. Unique opportunities exist for the park to engage staff and further support visitors with disabilities in offering tactile models of the unique landscapes, audio descriptions of site features like interpretive media, and website audiovisuals. Death Valley staff are aware of these areas for improvement and are committed to addressing them.

Proposed accessibility improvements to parkwide programs include the following:

- **Publications:** Provide parkwide, site-specific, and program-specific alternative-format publications.
- **Audiovisuals:** Provide assistive listening systems for all audiovisuals and audio descriptions for all on-site videos.
- **Walks, Talks, Tours, and Special Events:** Add audio descriptions for self-guided tours (e.g., waysides and interpretive panels). Increase the quality and number of tactile maps and models. Provide assistive listening systems for guided talks, tours and special events.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames are available in the implementation strategy table.



DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK POLICIES, PRACTICES, COMMUNICATION, AND TRAINING

Death Valley National Park showed strengths in its management support for accessibility initiatives. Accessibility training is available to staff, and the park's policy regarding service animals is included within the Superintendent's Compendium and available on the park's website. The park has unique opportunities to offer recurring, broad, and discipline-specific accessibility training to staff; develop standard operating procedures for supporting visitors with disabilities in emergencies; and build a network of partners representing neighbors with disabilities to assist with projects and inform them of park efforts.

Proposed accessibility improvements to policies, practices, communication, and training include the following:

- **Staff Training and Park Protocols:** Add staff and discipline-related accessibility training. Develop standard operating procedures for park policies and practices.
- **Communications and Partnerships:** Conduct outreach with local groups with disabilities and continue to build upon the accessibility information and audiovisuals on the park website and on social media.

Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

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CONCLUSION

Death Valley National Park staff are committed to providing all visitors with the opportunity to connect with and learn about the park's unique natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Accessibility improvements identified in the Death Valley National Park SETP will make it easier for individuals with cognitive, hearing, vision, and mobility disabilities to discover, understand, and enjoy the range of experiences available at the park. Park staff will continue to work towards accommodating all visitors while sustaining the park's legacy to preserve and protect wilderness, natural ecosystems, and cultural resources in a unique physical environment.

The primary goal of the plan is to consider universal design strategies and document modifications needed to provide access to park facilities, services, activities, and programs for all visitors. As park staff work towards implementing the plan, physical access to and within assessed park areas will be improved, and park information and programs will be enhanced or created for all visitors across the breadth of key experiences at Death Valley National Park.

The Death Valley National Park SETP is a living document intended to be used as a guiding reference for the park as park staff implement accessibility upgrades and documents accessibility accomplishments. As barriers to accessibility are removed and/or improved, changes will be updated in the implementation strategy table. Park staff will conduct periodic reviews to evaluate and update conditions to reflect accomplishments and document new programs or other changes that occur over time. Revisions to the plan may include conducting additional assessments for areas not originally conducted as a part of this plan.

Over time, the results of this collective effort will make Death Valley National Park a truly welcoming and accommodating place for all visitors and will provide equal opportunity to access the places, resources, stories, and experiences at the park.

APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

As a national park, Death Valley National Park is required to comply with specific federal laws that mandate that discriminatory barriers be removed to provide equal opportunities to persons with disabilities. The following laws, design guidelines, and director's orders pertain to Death Valley National Park.

LAWS

- Architectural Barriers Act of 1968: <https://www.access-board.gov/aba/guides>
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>
- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: <http://www.section508.gov>
- Effective Communication: <http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>
- Reasonable Accommodations: <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations>
- Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices: <https://www.ada.gov/opdmd.htm>
- Service Animals: https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm
- 43 CFR, Section 17.549 Program Accessibility: Discrimination Prohibited: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.549>
- 43 CFR, Section 17.550 Program Accessibility: Existing Facilities: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.550>
- 43 CFR, Section 17.551 Program Accessibility: New Construction and Alterations: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/17.551>

NPS DIRECTOR'S ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

- Director's Order 16A: *Reasonable Accommodation for Applicants And Employees with Disabilities*: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO_16A_5-4-1999.pdf
- Director's Order 42: *Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities*: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO_42_11-3-2000.pdf
- National Park Service *Management Policies 2006*, Section 1.9.3 Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1548/upload/ManagementPolicies2006.pdf>

GUIDELINES

- Draft Accessibility Standards for Public Rights-Of-Way: <https://www.access-board.gov/prowag>

- Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media:
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/hfc/accessibility.htm>

APPENDIX B: RESOURCES

Many of the resources listed below for trainings, accessibility assessments, project development, and implementation are currently located on the Pacific West Region Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Planning SharePoint site (<https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-PWR-AccessibilitySETP?CT=1649343052705&OR=OWA-NT&CID=204c2563-b913-0894-1cae-52bc8f021fcf>). In the near future, this information will be available to all NPS staff and will be uploaded to the Park Facility Management Division's "Accessibility for Visitors and Employees with Disabilities" web page (<https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/nps-pfmd/SitePages/Access-for-Visitors-and-Employees-with-Disabilities.aspx>). This information includes specific accessibility resources for concessions, facilities and maintenance, interpretation and education, and law enforcement staff. Resources include the following:

- A glossary of accessibility terms
- Reference information and links to laws and policies
- Accessibility assessment checklists and videos
- Accessibility training links and materials
- Templates that help track and document accessibility actions and an accessibility guide
- Guidance for making historic sites accessible
- Guidance for service animals in parks, accessible publications and programs, signage, and audio description
- Disability dialogue information and trainings
- Guidance for preparing PMIS packages for accessibility improvements
- Trail assessment protocols and summary sheets

APPENDIX C: CONTRIBUTORS

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

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DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN DECEMBER 2025

This accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort between Death Valley National Park staff, Regional Office staff serving Interior Regions 8,9,10 and 12 and Denver Service Center staff and is recommended for approval by the superintendent.

Approved

Date

Mike Reynolds, Superintendent, Death Valley National Park



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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[December 2025]