

# **Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan**

**Badlands National Park**

**South Dakota**

**April 2024**

This page intentionally blank.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Badlands National Park staff is dedicated to serving all park visitors to help them find meaning within the resources of the park and its stories. Park staff is committed to ensuring that as many key experiences are available to all visitors, regardless of 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 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

Badlands National Park has made many strides to improve physical accessibility throughout the park. Most overlooks and developed areas have wide and level accessible parking spaces, and routes may require only minor adjustments to be made accessible. Visitor facilities are mostly accessible, with spacious restrooms, usable benches, waysides and exhibits at reasonable heights, dual-height drinking fountains, and low-sloped boardwalks to spacious viewing areas. At Fossil Exhibit Trail, park staff has taken a universal design approach to provide an accessible and engaging visitor experience, with an accessible boardwalk, audio tour, and tactile exhibits. Another excellent example of an accessible amenity is the amphitheater at Cedar Pass, which has wide and level routes and ample accessible seating.

Recurring findings related to physical accessibility were identified for waysides and other site features, elements inside restrooms, parking and restroom identification signs, picnic areas, campsites, and trailhead signs. Some of these facilities and features had approaches and surfaces that were not appropriately sized and/or sloped, items that were not within accessible reach ranges or operability, or lacked information about the physical characteristics of routes and experiences. At picnicking and camping areas, some accessible sites were incorrectly sited, and at other areas, facilities were not universally designed to support a wider range of visitors.

The park has opportunities to improve accessibility for several unique experiences, including a portion of Cliff Shelf Nature Trail, improving the Castle Trail and Medicine Root Trail at Old Northeast Road Trailhead to be accessible for longer distances, adding

accessible oversized parking at each overlook, and updating camping and picnicking sites for visitors with disabilities to introduce new experiences at different areas of the park. Developing a new trailhead sign and parkwide maps and providing accessibility and trail characteristic information would give visitors a better understanding of the usability and difficulty of trails.

## **PROGRAMMATIC ACCESSIBILITY**

Badlands National Park has many accessible interpretive features and programs and actively works to add to the list. The park film is open-captioned and audio-described, and assistive listening devices are available to borrow. The park has a virtual tour of overlooks, trails, and facilities available on the park website, and some information is included about accessible facilities and experiences available to visitors. Tactile exhibits (e.g., fossils and rocks) are available at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center and Fossil Exhibit Trail, and the park brochure is available in alternative formats and multiple languages, including braille, text-only and audio-described. An audio tour and diverse tactile exhibits with braille accentuate the visitor experience at the Fossil Exhibit Trail.

Findings related to program accessibility were identified for park publications other than the brochure and for programs outside of those held at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center. Many publications are unavailable in alternative formats. Audio description is not provided for waysides and exhibits at overlooks and on trails. Sign language interpretation and real-time captioning are not available for talks and meetings. The accessibility page of the park website does not include information for visitors with cognitive disabilities.

Park programs could be improved by providing many of these services, including additional alternative-format versions of primary park publications (e.g., Junior Ranger booklet), audio descriptions for waysides and exhibits at overlooks and on trails, accommodations such as sign language interpreters and real-time captioning for programs, and adding to the information available for the diverse range of visitors with disabilities on the park website. Videos on the park website should be audio-described, and park staff should consider developing an accessibility guide as a one-stop location for information about accessibility at the park. Park staff should also consider providing audio descriptions for the scenery at overlooks and explore the use of tactile maps and models of key areas and geologic features.

# CONTENTS

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Physical Accessibility .....	1
Programmatic Accessibility .....	2
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan .....	6
<b>Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Process.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Implementation of the Plan .....	9
<b>Implementation Strategy for Badlands National Park .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Park Areas Assessed .....	10
Implementation Strategy for Park Areas Assessed .....	12
Ancient Hunters Overlook .....	13
Ancient Hunters Overlook Site Plan .....	14
Ben Reifel Visitor Center .....	15
Ben Reifel Visitor Center Site Plan .....	17
Big Badlands Overlook.....	18
Big Badlands Overlook Site Plan.....	19
Bigfoot Pass Overlook.....	20
Bigfoot Pass Overlook Site Plan.....	22
Cedar Pass Amphitheater and Campground .....	23
Cedar Pass Amphitheater Site Plan .....	25
Cedar Pass Campground Site Plan .....	26
Cedar Pass Lodge Site Plan .....	27
Cliff Shelf Nature Trail .....	28
Cliff Shelf Nature Trail Site Plan .....	30
Conata Basin Overlook .....	31
Conata Basin Overlook Site Plan .....	32
Conata Picnic Area .....	33
Conata Picnic Area Site Plan .....	35
Fossil Exhibit Trail .....	36
Fossil Exhibit Trail Site Plan .....	38
Hay Butte Overlook .....	39

Hay Butte Overlook Site Plan .....	40
Old Northeast Road Trailhead .....	41
Old Northeast Road Trailhead Site Plan .....	42
Panorama Point Overlook .....	43
Panorama Point Overlook Site Plan .....	44
Pinnacles Overlook .....	45
Pinnacles Overlook Site Plan .....	47
Prairie Wind Overlook.....	48
Prairie Wind Overlook Site Plan.....	49
Roberts Prairie Dog Town .....	50
Roberts Prairie Dog Town Site Plan .....	51
Sage Creek Basin Overlook.....	52
Sage Creek Basin Overlook Site Plan.....	53
Sage Creek Campground .....	54
Sage Creek Campground Site Plan .....	56
Yellow Mounds Overlook .....	57
Yellow Mounds Overlook Site Plan .....	58
Badlands National Park Programs.....	59
Badlands National Park Policies, Practices, Communication, and Training .....	61
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Appendix A: Accessibility Laws, Standards, Guidelines, and NPS Policies Applicable to Badlands National Park.....</b>	<b>A-1</b>
<b>Appendix B: Resources .....</b>	<b>B-1</b>
<b>Appendix C: Park Areas Not Assessed.....</b>	<b>C-1</b>
<b>Appendix D: Contributors .....</b>	<b>D-1</b>

## INTRODUCTION

Since 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has preserved unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system, while also 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. Badlands National Park and other parks exist because of their history and resources. The NPS mission balances protection of resources (both natural and cultural) with visitation. Facilities, services, and programs were designed and built within parks to accommodate our visitors and help them better understand each park's purpose and significance.

Many facilities were constructed prior to 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, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The accessibility of commercial services within national parks is also governed by applicable federal laws. After 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 insight into accessibility opportunities and challenges in the national park system. According to 2020 CDC 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 (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.

Badlands 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 self-evaluation and transition plan (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 Badlands National Park 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



**Step 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 serves as the foundation for key park experiences, which are identified through park purpose, significance, interpretive themes, and programs (available in the park's foundation document overview at [https://pubs.nps.gov/eTIC/ARPO-BLCA/BADL\\_137\\_140990\\_0002\\_of\\_0008.pdf](https://pubs.nps.gov/eTIC/ARPO-BLCA/BADL_137_140990_0002_of_0008.pdf)). Key park experiences ensure that planned improvements are prioritized to best increase overall access to park experiences.

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

- Experience one of the most dramatic landscapes in the National Park System featuring the eroded landforms of the Badlands Wall, towering buttes, spires, and hoodoos, juxtaposed with gently rolling hills and mixed-grass prairie.
- Experience the brilliant dark night skies.
- Learn about the Eocene/Oligocene epochs including the largest paleontological museum collection in the National Park System Service, providing insight into climatic history, biological diversity, and evolution.
- Appreciate the highly diverse and delicate nature of the rare contiguous mixed-grass prairie ecosystem and the efforts to federally protect and restore it.

- Gain an understanding and appreciation of the geological processes that have taken place over millions of years to create the dramatic and everchanging landscape of the White River Badlands.
- Observe and learn about an unparalleled variety of iconic western fauna from bison, bighorn sheep, burrowing owls, pronghorn, coyotes, prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets, and other native animals, in their natural habitat.
- Explore the unique landscape of prairie lands and find solitude among natural soundscapes and brilliant dark night skies, within the undeveloped Sage Creek and Conata units of the Badlands Wilderness area.
- Appreciate the culture and history of the Lakota and other affiliated Native American groups.
- Understand the archeological and contemporary history of use and settlement of lands within the park and the role its unique landforms had in shaping these patterns.

**Step 2. Identify 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, level of visitation, 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 (see appendix C for areas not assessed).

**Step 3. Identify Facilities, Services, and Programs in Each Park Area** – The team identified all facilities, services, and programs within each park area to ensure that all associated physical and programmatic visitor amenities were reviewed for accessibility. The comprehensive lists of facilities, services, and programs were the basis for conducting assessments and documenting barriers.

**Step 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.

**Step 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. Therefore, the team identified an implementation time frame and a responsible park staff

member for each barrier and solution. Implementation time frames are based on a park'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)

**Step 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 is planned to be released for a period of at least 30 days 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.

**Step 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**

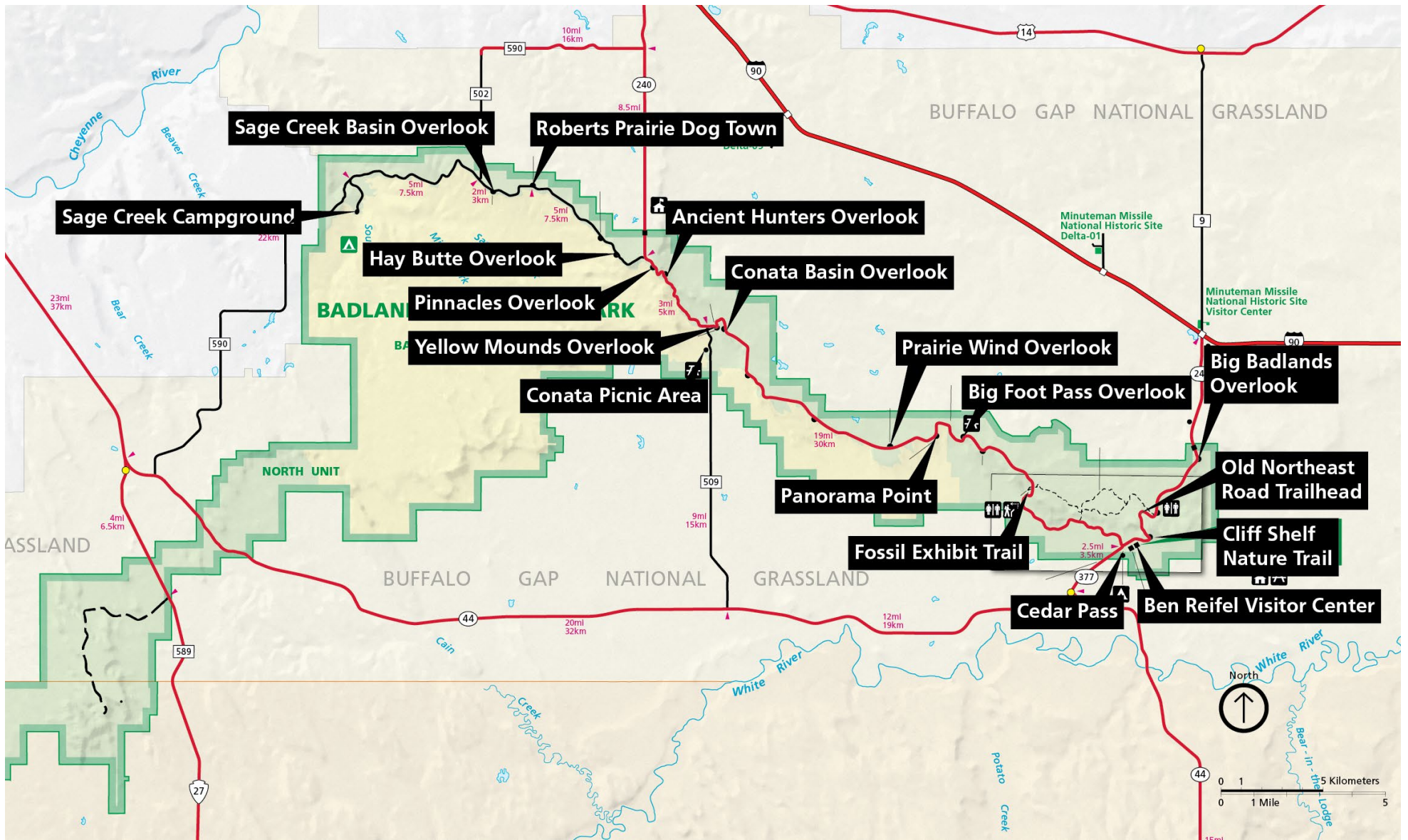
The park superintendent is responsible for implementing and integrating the accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan, and the accessibility coordinator assists the superintendent by documenting improvements, keeping the plan updated, and communicating to park employees. It's recommended that park staff employ trained consultants 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 appropriate action. 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 BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK

## PARK AREAS ASSESSED

The interdisciplinary team assessed the following park areas for accessibility during the planning effort. Areas not assessed are in appendix C.

- Ancient Hunters Overlook
- Ben Reifel Visitor Center
- Big Badlands Overlook
- Bigfoot Pass Overlook
- Cedar Pass (Amphitheater, Lodge and Campground)
- Cliff Shelf Nature Trail
- Conata Basin Overlook
- Conata Picnic Area
- Fossil Exhibit Trail
- Hay Butte Overlook
- Old Northeast Road Trailhead
- Panorama Point Overlook
- Pinnacles Overlook
- Prairie Wind Overlook
- Roberts Prairie Dog Town
- Sage Creek Basin Overlook
- Sage Creek Campground
- Yellow Mounds Overlook



## **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.

Dependent upon the date of a building's construction or alteration, different design standards apply. The interdisciplinary team used ABAAS 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 ABAAS. 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 an employee with a disability is hired by Badlands National Park, the supervisor and employee will discuss the employee's needs. The supervisor will then determine what accommodations are reasonable within 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 site plan(s) that illustrate existing conditions. It is important to understand that the site plans and recommendations are conceptual and will require further design development and historic and environmental compliance prior to construction. During the implementation phase, the interdisciplinary team must reassess the project site conditions and consult with ABAAS and the local disability community to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are correctly addressed.



### **ANCIENT HUNTERS OVERLOOK**

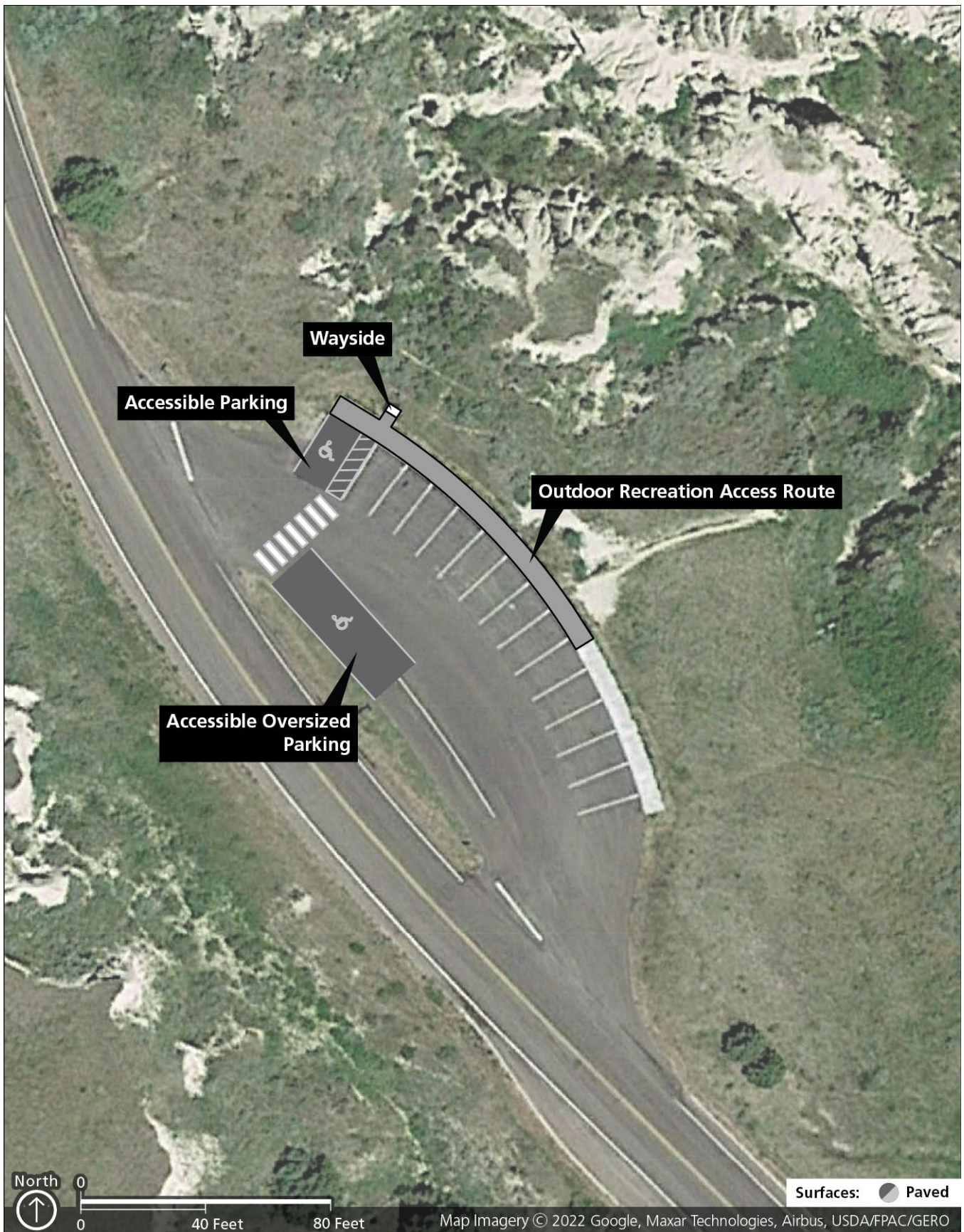
Ancient Hunters Overlook is a road pulloff overlooking an archeological site and a slightly wetter landscape with trees. Visitors come to view the scenery and learn about the adjacent archeological site, where arrowheads and bison bones have been found. The site has an accessible parking space and route to the overlook. Accessibility could be improved by reducing the slopes and improving accessible parking options. Providing audio descriptions of wayside graphics and scenery and exploring other methods of effective communication (e.g., 3-D replica bones and arrowheads) would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Ancient Hunters Overlook include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Enlarge the accessible parking space and access aisle and raise the sign.
- **Accessible Oversized Parking:** Add an accessible oversized parking space.
- **Outdoor Recreation Access Route:** Reduce the cross slope of the route to the overlook.
- **Interpretive Wayside/Viewing Area:** Reduce the slopes at the approach to the wayside. Provide an audio description of wayside images and scenery at the overlook.

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

## Ancient Hunters Overlook Site Plan







## BEN REIFEL VISITOR CENTER

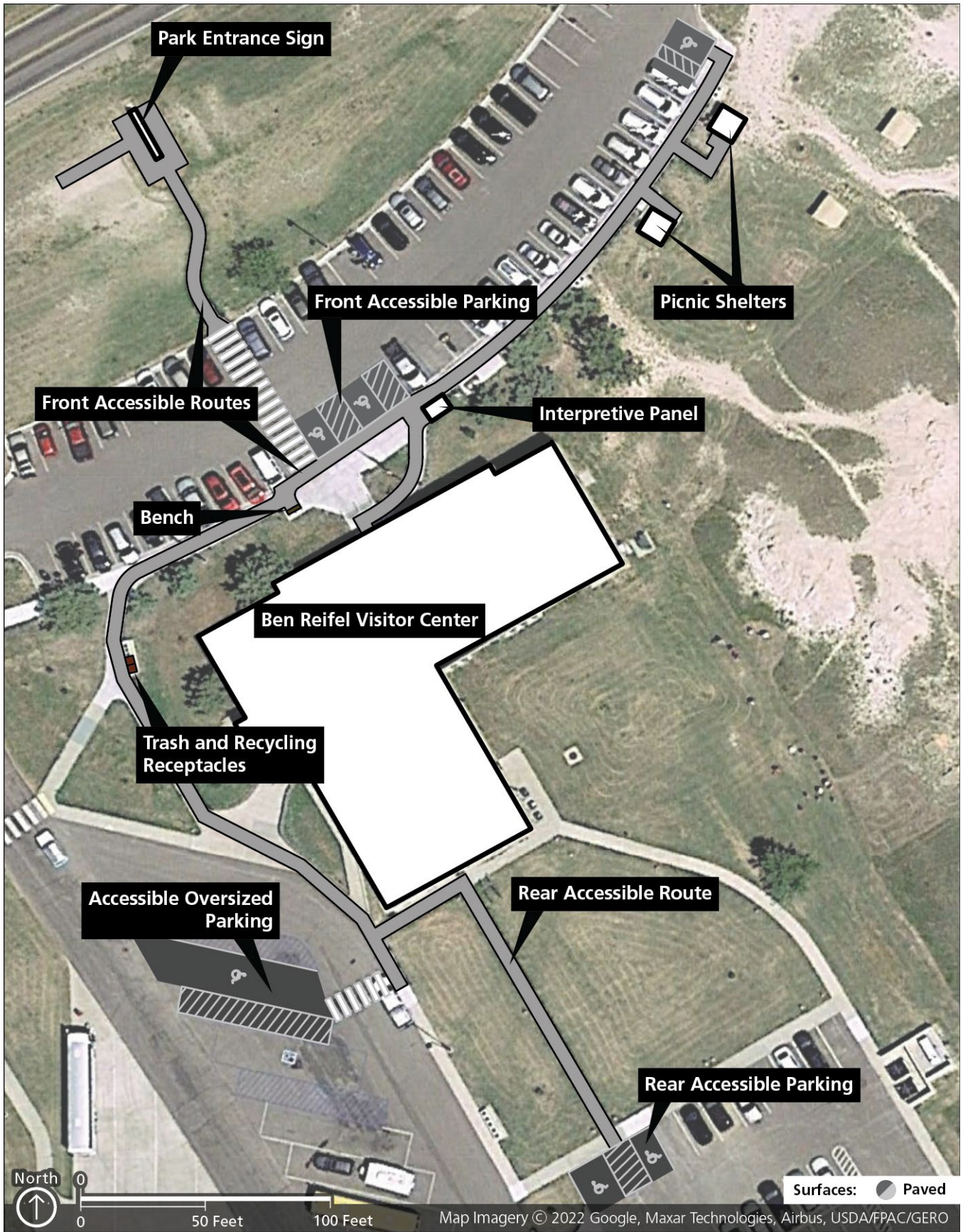
Badlands National Park has two units, north and south. The south unit is comanaged with the Oglala Sioux Tribe. At the time of this report, the Ben Reifel Visitor Center is the primary destination for visitor orientation and interpretation in the north unit of the park. Visitors come to talk with rangers, explore museum exhibits, check out the Fossil Preparation Lab, visit the bookstore, picnic, and use the services. Many of the facilities and services in the area are accessible or close to it, with ample accessible parking options, level routes, extended picnic tables, wide building entrances, spacious interior maneuvering space, accessible theater seating, an open-captioned and audio-described film, and tactile exhibits. Audio-described and text-only brochures are available at the front desk and online. Accessibility could be improved by slightly reducing the slopes of accessible parking stalls, access aisles, and certain segments of the accessible route, removing wide gaps in the sidewalk, enlarging picnic shelter coverage, relocating some restroom features, and improving text and contrast on interpretive panels and exhibit labels.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Ben Reifel Visitor Center include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Reduce the slopes of accessible parking stalls and access aisles, improve signage, and correct width deficiencies.
- **Accessible Oversized Parking:** Reduce the slopes of accessible oversized parking spaces and access aisles.
- **Accessible Routes:** Reduce the cross slopes of some segments of the accessible routes, remove wide gaps in routes, improve landings at ramps and curb ramps, and improve/replace handrails on outdoor staircases. Replace accessible route signage. Improve interpretive panel font and contrast.
- **Picnic Shelters:** Extend the roofs of picnic shelters to cover the table seating area.
- **Ben Reifel Visitor Center:** Improve exhibit label text, font, and contrast. Relocate exhibit labels that are obstructed from view for visitors in wheelchairs and people of short stature. Relocate features in restrooms to be within reach range.

In the coming years, Badlands is anticipating construction of a new Visitor Center in the open field immediately adjacent the existing one; design is underway and construction funds are being sought. Once the new VC is constructed, the Ben Reifel Center will be converted to accommodate park offices as well as a concessionaire dining facility and gift shop. The existing parking lot will continue to serve as the main visitor parking facility. Remedies to existing barriers are focused mostly on the parking lot and restrooms and are still appropriate for a different use. Details of the identified accessibility barriers and their recommended solutions and target time frames can be found in the implementation strategy table.

# Ben Reifel Visitor Center Site Plan





## BIG BADLANDS OVERLOOK

Big Badlands Overlook is often the first stop for park visitors, and it overlooks the vast Badlands spreading into the horizon. Visitors come to view and photograph the distinctive layers of the formations that represent past environments in geologic time. The 0.2-mile boardwalk is accessible, wide and with low slopes, and an accessible viewing area is located at its terminus. Accessible parking spaces are level but narrow, an accessible oversized parking space is not available, and the curb ramp landing and transition are difficult to maneuver. Accessibility could be improved by widening accessible parking spaces and raising signage, improving route transitions and curb ramp landings, and providing an accessible oversized parking space. Providing audio descriptions of wayside graphics and scenery and exploring other methods of effective communication (e.g., 3-D model of the formations) would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Big Badlands Overlook include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Recent improvements to this parking lot were completed in 2023.
- **Accessible Oversized Parking:** Add an accessible oversized parking space.
- **Outdoor Recreation Access Route:** Improve curb ramp landings and fix the transition between the curb ramp and the boardwalk edge.
- **Viewing Area:** Provide an audio description of wayside images and the scenery.

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

# Big Badlands Overlook Site Plan





### **BIGFOOT PASS OVERLOOK**

Bigfoot Pass Overlook is an historic viewing area in the vicinity of the route of Chief Spotted Elk on his way to Wounded Knee. Visitors come to view and photograph the scenery, spot wildlife, learn about the significance of the site, and use the services. Many facilities in the area are accessible, with accessible parking spaces, level routes to the overlooks, a spacious restroom, and a wayside with readable text and high contrast. Accessibility could be improved by correcting striping on some accessible spaces and reducing the slope of one space, improving curb ramp slopes, adding an accessible oversized parking space, providing accessible picnic tables, adding benches with armrests at the overlooks, improving restroom signage, and improving the approach to the wayside. Providing audio descriptions of wayside graphics and scenery from the overlooks and exploring other methods of effective communication (e.g., 3-D map of the Chief Spotted Elk route) would further improve accessibility at the site.

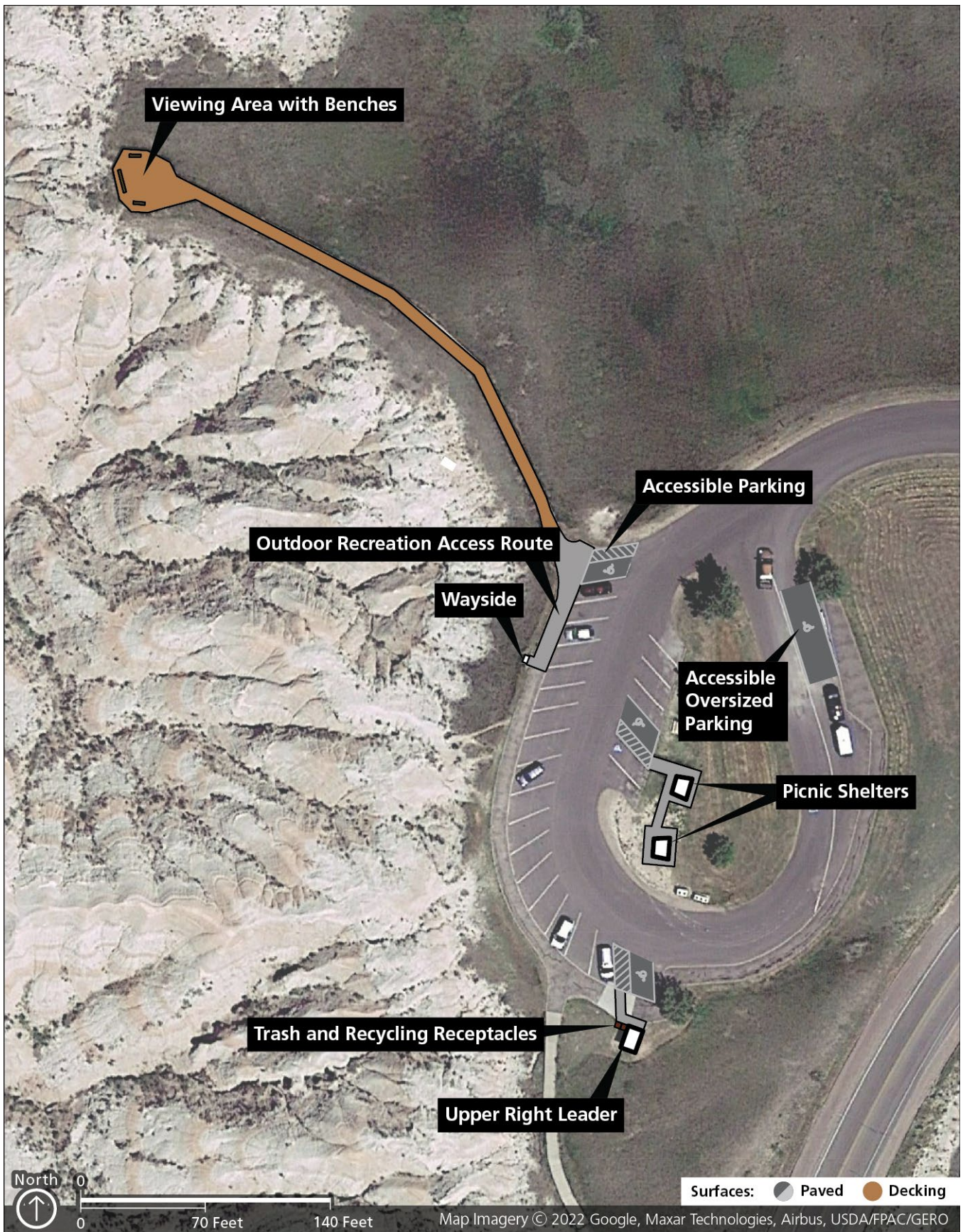
Proposed accessibility improvements at Bigfoot Pass Overlook include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Reduce the slopes of accessible parking spaces and access aisles. Restripe van-accessible stalls so that access aisles are on the passenger side. Improve curb ramp slopes.
- **Accessible Oversized Parking:** Add an accessible oversized parking space.
- **Outdoor Recreation Access Route:** Improve the approach to the wayside. Provide an audio description of the wayside images and scenery from the nearby overlooks.
- **Viewing Area:** Improve/replace at least one bench to have an armrest.
- **Picnic Shelters:** Improve at least two picnic tables to be accessible. Ensure that shade structures cover the tables and entire seating areas.

- **Restrooms:** Add tactile signage to the restroom. Improve the approach to the trash receptacles.

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

# Bigfoot Pass Overlook Site Plan







## **CEDAR PASS AMPHITHEATER AND CAMPGROUND**

Cedar Pass Amphitheater is accessible, with wide and level routes and the appropriate number and type of accessible seating. Accessibility could be improved by reducing the slopes of accessible parking spaces serving the amphitheater, updating parking signage, and improving trash and recycling receptacles.

Cedar Pass Campground is open year-round with 96 sites, four of which are group campsites, that afford scenic views of the Badlands formations. Two campsites and one group campsites were accessible, although many of the campsites were level and may be usable for people with disabilities. The campground is reservation only. Not enough accessible campsites were provided, and the existing accessible campsites had deficiencies such as poor surfaces around picnic tables and small tent pads. Only one of the three restrooms had accessibility features, and that one had improperly located tactile signage and a floor obstruction at the entrance. The route between the centrally located restrooms and showers had high slopes, and the nearby drinking fountain had a small and incorrectly oriented approach. The showers were not assessed at the time.

Cedar Pass Lodge manages the Cedar Pass Campground near the Ben Reifel Visitor Center. The lodge area includes the campground, cabins, retail, cafeteria/restaurant, and restrooms. The cabins were not assessed. Accessible parking stalls were wide and level, but signs were low. The ramp to the front entrance was steep and landings were not level, and there was a large threshold at the doorway. The cafeteria and retail counters were not at an accessible height, and accessible toilet compartments within the restrooms were narrow. Accessibility could be improved by reducing the slope of the entrance ramp, improving the entrance threshold, updating sales and service counters, and enlarging accessible toilet compartments in the restrooms.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Cedar Pass Amphitheater include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Reduce the slopes of accessible parking stalls and access aisles. Raise and improve parking signage.
- **Amphitheater:** Improve/replace trash and recycling receptacles.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Cedar Pass Campground include the following:

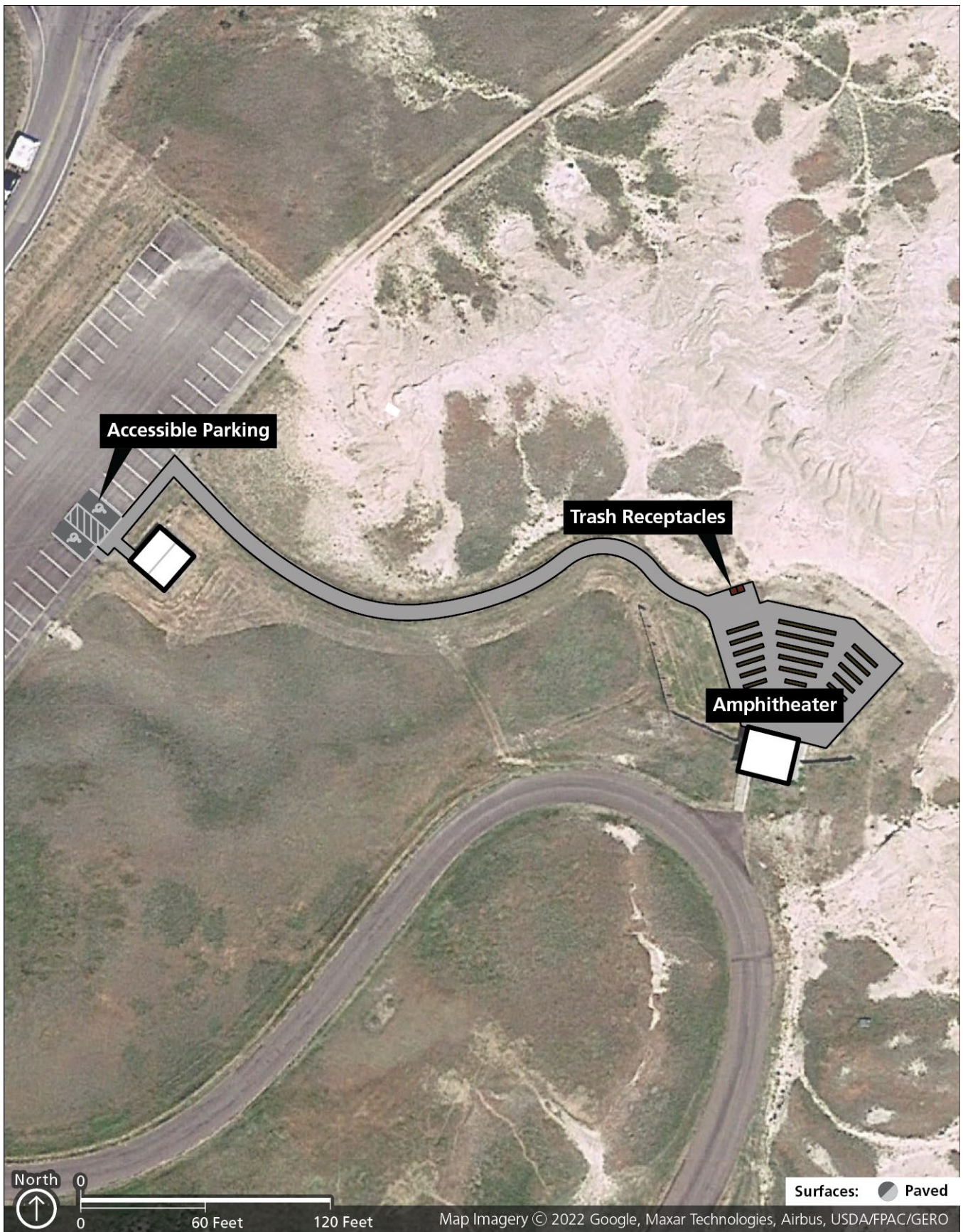
- **Accessible Campsites:** Improve existing accessible campsites, including parking spaces, routes, and features. Provide at least three more accessible campsites.
- **Restrooms:** Improve the accessible restroom signage, entrance threshold, and sink. Update the other two restrooms to be accessible. Improve the approach to drinking fountains.
- **Showers:** Assess the showers and make accessibility updates as needed.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Cedar Pass Lodge include the following:

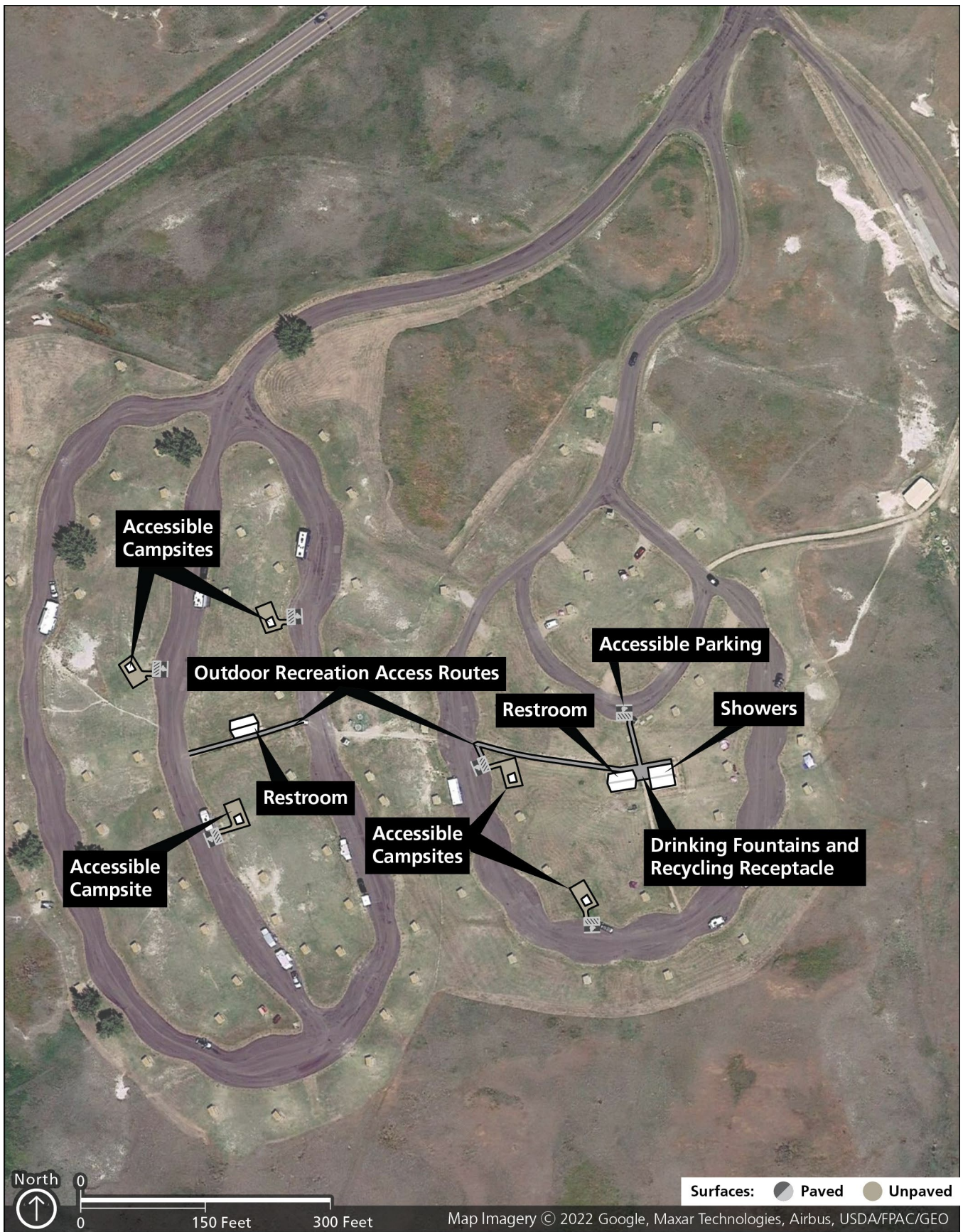
- **Accessible Parking:** Raise accessible parking signs.
- **Accessible Route:** Reduce the slope of the ramp at the lodge entrance. Remove the large threshold at the doorway.
- **Cedar Pass Lodge:** Improve/replace sales and service counters to provide accessible sections. Distribute retail items at different heights and provide assistance gathering items as needed. Relocate restroom signage, enlarge accessible toilet compartments, and improve sinks.

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

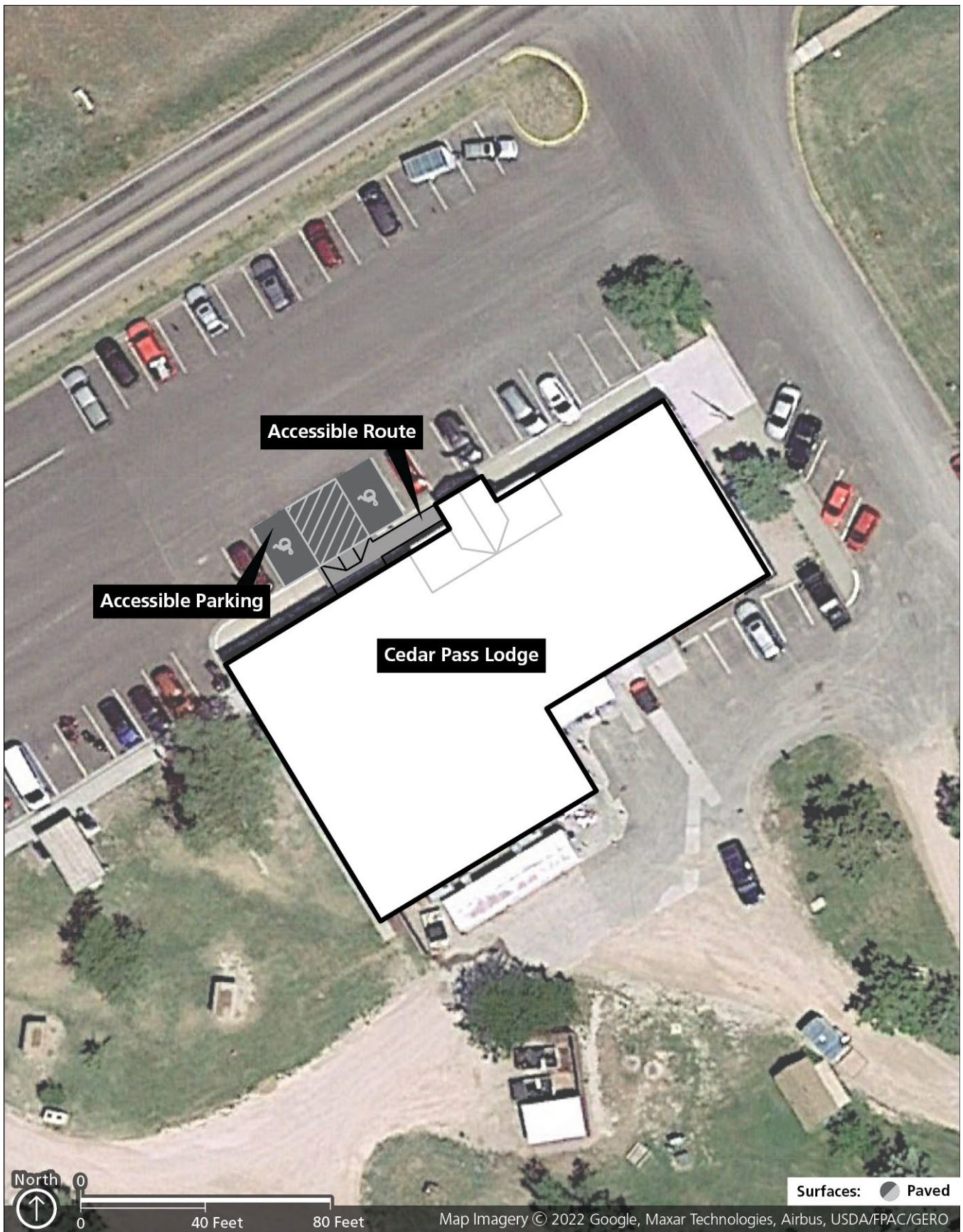
# Cedar Pass Amphitheater Site Plan



# Cedar Pass Campground Site Plan



# Cedar Pass Lodge Site Plan





### CLIFF SHELF NATURE TRAIL

Cliff Shelf Nature Trail is one of the most visited trails in the park. The half-mile loop trail climbs 200 feet in elevation and traverses through a juniper forest perched along the edge of Badlands formations. Visitors come to hike, view and photograph the scenery, and spot wildlife. The first portion of the trail is usable across a broad spectrum of abilities, consisting of a wide boardwalk with relatively low slopes and handrails, while the remaining segments contain high slopes, stairs, and transitions between a natural surface trail and a composite boardwalk. Several level viewing areas are located along the trail, providing opportunities for rest. Park staff has put considerable effort towards maximizing accessibility to the extent practicable at this trail due to its popularity. Accessible parking spaces have high slopes, as does the route between parking spaces and the trailhead. Trail characteristics are not provided on the trailhead sign. Waysides located on inaccessible segments of the trail are not also provided at accessible areas. Accessibility could be improved by reducing the slopes of parking spaces and access aisles, adding an accessible oversized parking space, improving the route between parking spaces and the trailhead, updating trailhead signage, and providing all wayside information at accessible locations. Providing audio descriptions of wayside graphics and scenery and exploring other methods of effective communication (e.g., 3-D map of the trail and formations) would further improve accessibility at the site.

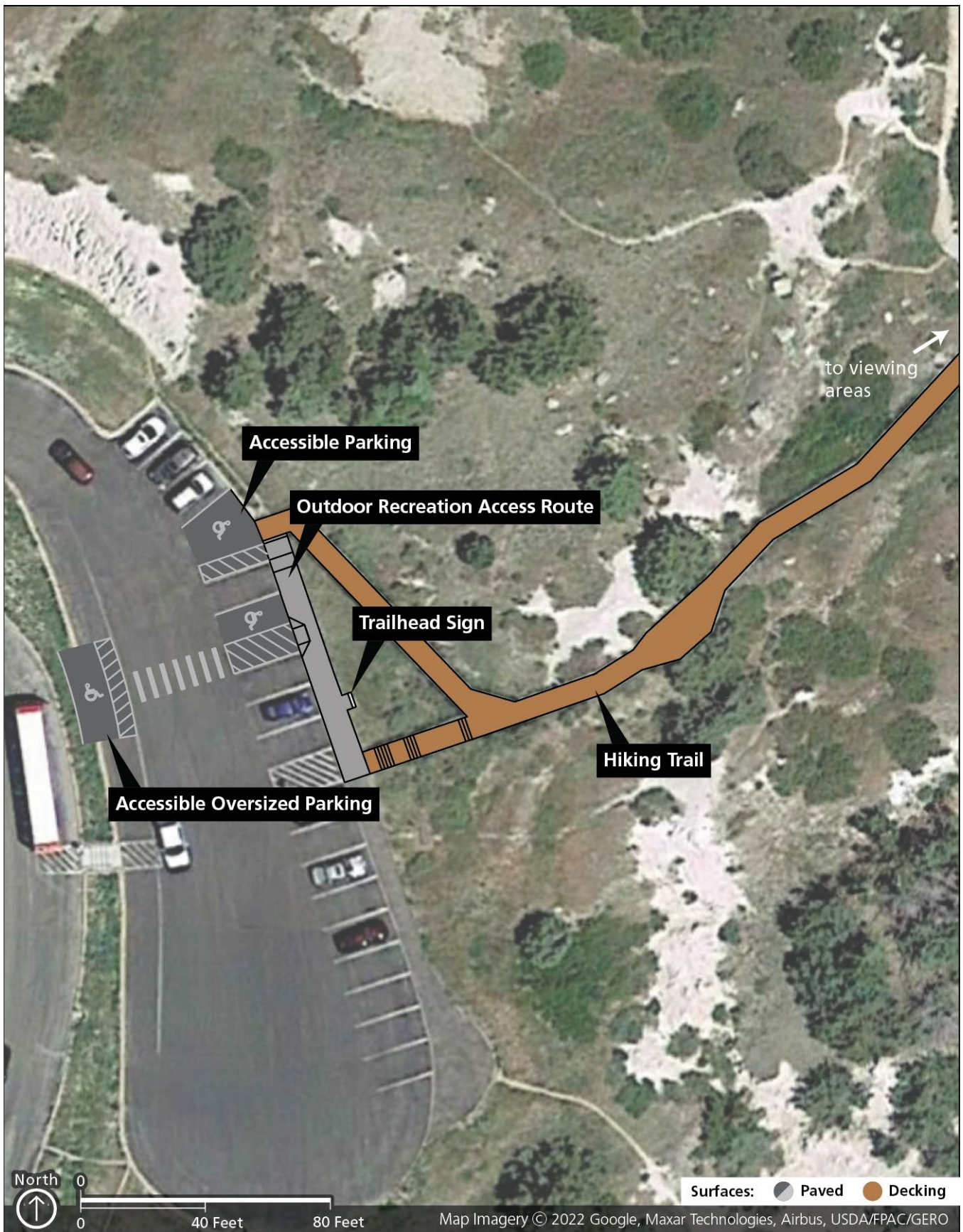
Proposed accessibility improvements at Cliff Shelf Nature Trail include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Improve the slopes of accessible parking spaces and access aisles and update parking signs.
- **Accessible Oversized Parking:** Add an accessible oversized parking space.

- **Outdoor Recreation Access Route:** Improve the slopes of the route between parking spaces, trailhead sign, and boardwalk. Update the trailhead sign to include trail characteristics.
- **Hiking Trail:** Improve as much as can be made accessible. Duplicate waysides or provide alternate means of accessing the information in accessible locations. Provide an audio description of the wayside images and scenery at the viewing areas.

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

# Cliff Shelf Nature Trail Site Plan







### CONATA BASIN OVERLOOK

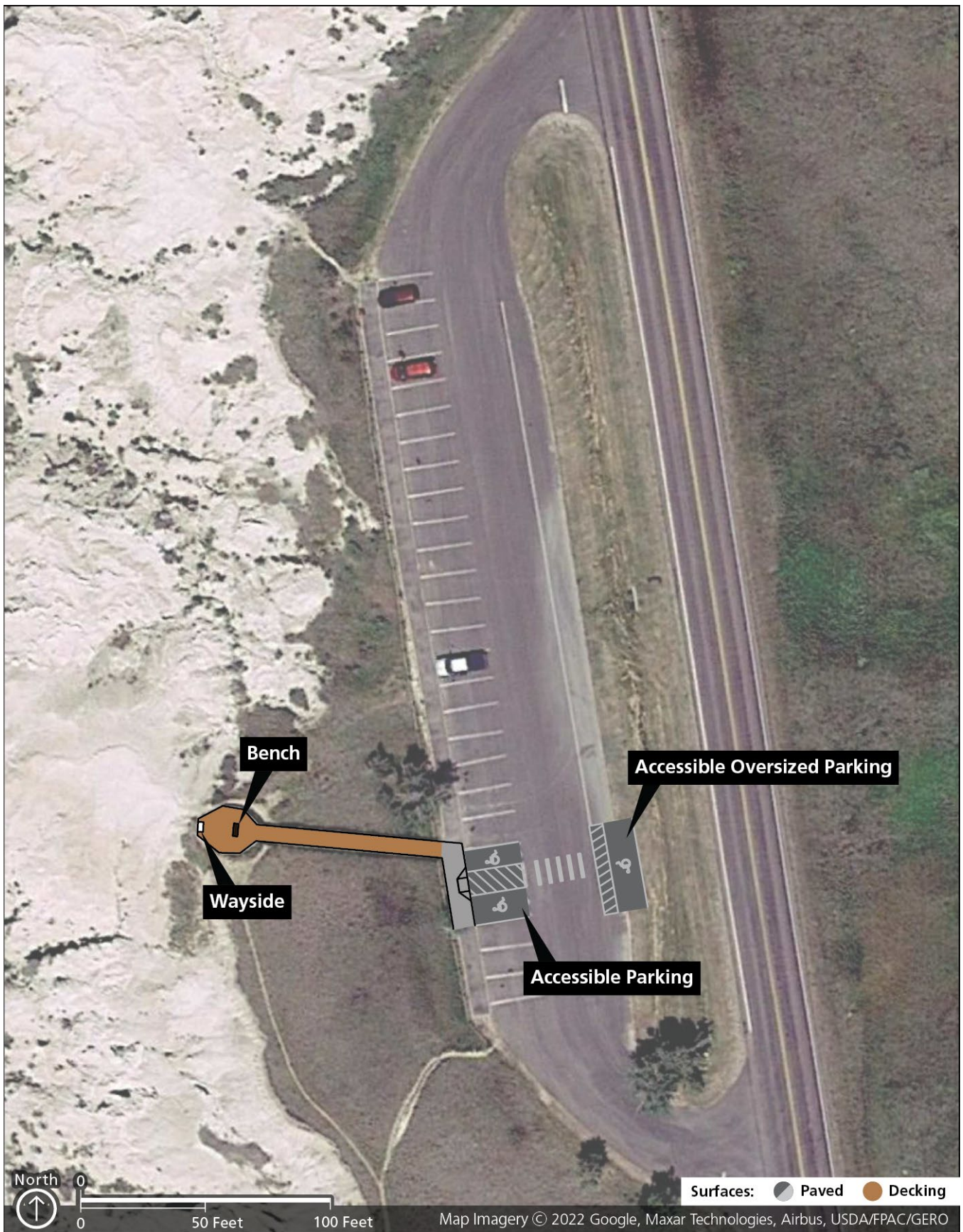
Conata Basin Overlook offers a distinctive and colorful landscape with views stretching towards the backside of the Yellow Mounds. Visitors come to view the scenery adjacent the park's endangered black-footed ferret habitat. The area is mostly accessible, with wide and level parking spaces and routes and a short walk to the viewing area. Accessibility could be improved with updated signage, by adding and accessible oversized parking spaces, and by updating the wayside and railing at the viewing area. Providing audio descriptions of wayside graphics and scenery and exploring other methods of effective communication (e.g., ferret model) would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Conata Basin Overlook include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Improve accessible parking signage. Widen the landing at the top of the curb ramp.
- **Accessible Oversized Parking:** Add an accessible oversized parking space.
- **Viewing Area:** Provide an accessible viewing space at the overlook. Improve/replace the wayside and provide an audio description of the images and scenery. Improve the bench height and add an armrest.

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

# Conata Basin Overlook Site Plan





### CONATA PICNIC AREA

Conata Picnic Area offers a picnic experience among the Badlands formations for visitors. In addition to picnicking, visitors come to hike to nearby Deer Haven and explore the paleontological excavation called the Big Pig Dig. The site is relatively level and has an accessible restroom, but little else is accessible in the area. Routes between facilities are uneven; the historic picnic shelters lack accessible tables and clear ground spaces; accessible parking spaces are missing; and information panels and trailhead signage use small text, have poor contrast, and do not include adequate approaches. A project is in the works to improve the picnic area and update some of these deficiencies. Accessibility could be improved by adding dispersed accessible parking stalls and picnic sites, improving routes between facilities, and updating information panels and trailhead signage. Providing audio descriptions of the maps and graphics would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Conata Picnic Area include the following:

- **Picnic Sites:** Add a van-accessible parking space, improve route, and add accessible picnic tables and picnic shelters. Ensure accessible tables and clear ground spaces are covered. Disperse sites to provide different picnicking experiences.
- **Kiosk:** Improve the approaches to the kiosk and trash receptacles. Raise the kiosk hood and enlarge text and improve contrast on the information panels. Provide an audio description of the images on the information panels.
- **Restroom:** Improve the route to the restroom entrance. Add restroom signage.
- **Deer Haven Trailhead:** Add a van-accessible parking space, improve the route to the trailhead and backcountry registration kiosk, update the trailhead information sign, improve contrast on sign graphics, and improve heights and approaches at registration box features.

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

# Conata Picnic Area Site Plan





### FOSSIL EXHIBIT TRAIL

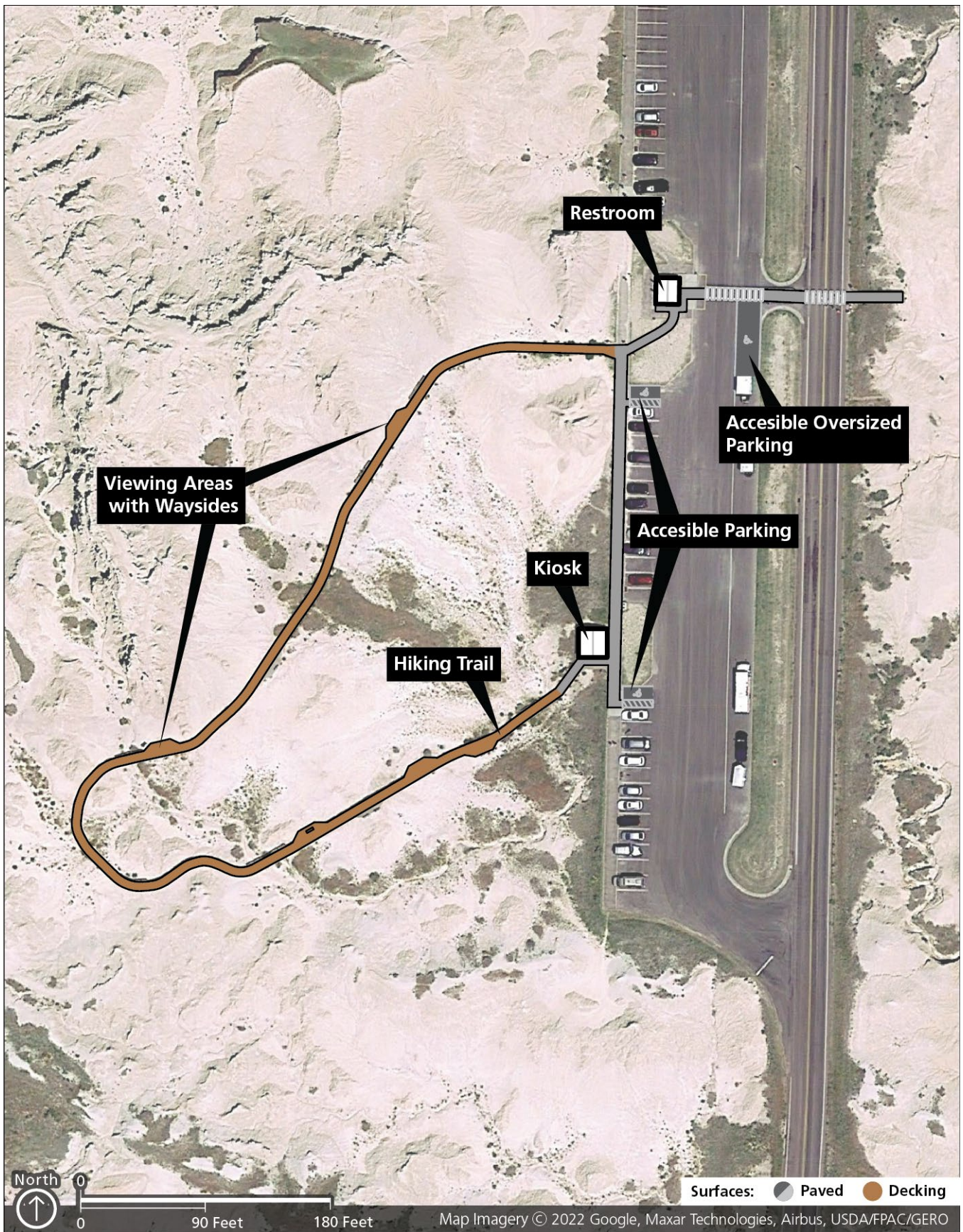
Fossil Exhibit Trail is a self-guided, fully accessible boardwalk skirting the edges of a Badlands butte. Along the way, visitors can interact with fossil replicas and exhibits of extinct creatures. Visitors come to hike, explore the outdoor exhibits, and view the scenery. The trail and features were designed to be accessible, and they offer a great experience for visitors with disabilities. The area is mostly accessible, with accessible parking choices, spacious restrooms, a wide boardwalk, easily accessed viewing areas and resting spaces, and tactile models with braille along the route. Some small barriers remain, and accessibility could be improved by reducing the slopes of accessible parking spaces near the kiosk and restrooms, adding an accessible oversized parking space, improving signage and grab bars at the restroom, reducing the slopes of approaches at waysides, fixing gaps in boardwalk decking, and reducing the running slope of some segments of the boardwalk. Providing audio descriptions of wayside graphics and scenery would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Fossil Exhibit Trail include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Reduce the slopes of accessible parking spaces and access aisles.
- **Accessible Oversized Parking:** Add an accessible oversized parking space.
- **Restrooms:** Relocate tactile restroom signage and grab bars.
- **Hiking Trail:** Replace decking to remove wide gaps and tall tread obstacles. Reduce slopes in some segments.
- **Viewing Areas:** Improve the approaches at waysides to be level. Provide an audio description of wayside images and scenery.

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

# Fossil Exhibit Trail Site Plan







### HAY BUTTE OVERLOOK

Hay Butte Overlook affords scenic views into the Sage Creek Wilderness Area and displays the massive, grass-capped butte of Badlands formation known as Hay Butte. Visitors come to view and photograph the scenery, learn about Badlands grassy tabletops, and spot wildlife, such as bison and bighorn sheep, that frequent the area. The unpaved pulloff has no designated parking, the route to the wayside and viewing area is loose and has high slopes, and the wayside at the viewing area lacks a level approach. Accessibility could be improved by designating an accessible parking space and establishing/stabilizing a level route to the viewing area. Providing audio descriptions of wayside graphics and scenery and exploring other methods of effective communication (e.g., 3-D model of the butte landscape) would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Hay Butte Overlook include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Add an accessible parking space.
- **Outdoor Recreation Access Route:** Establish a firm and stable route to the viewing area.
- **Viewing Area:** Provide an audio description of wayside images and scenery at the overlook.

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

# Hay Butte Overlook Site Plan





### OLD NORTHEAST ROAD TRAILHEAD

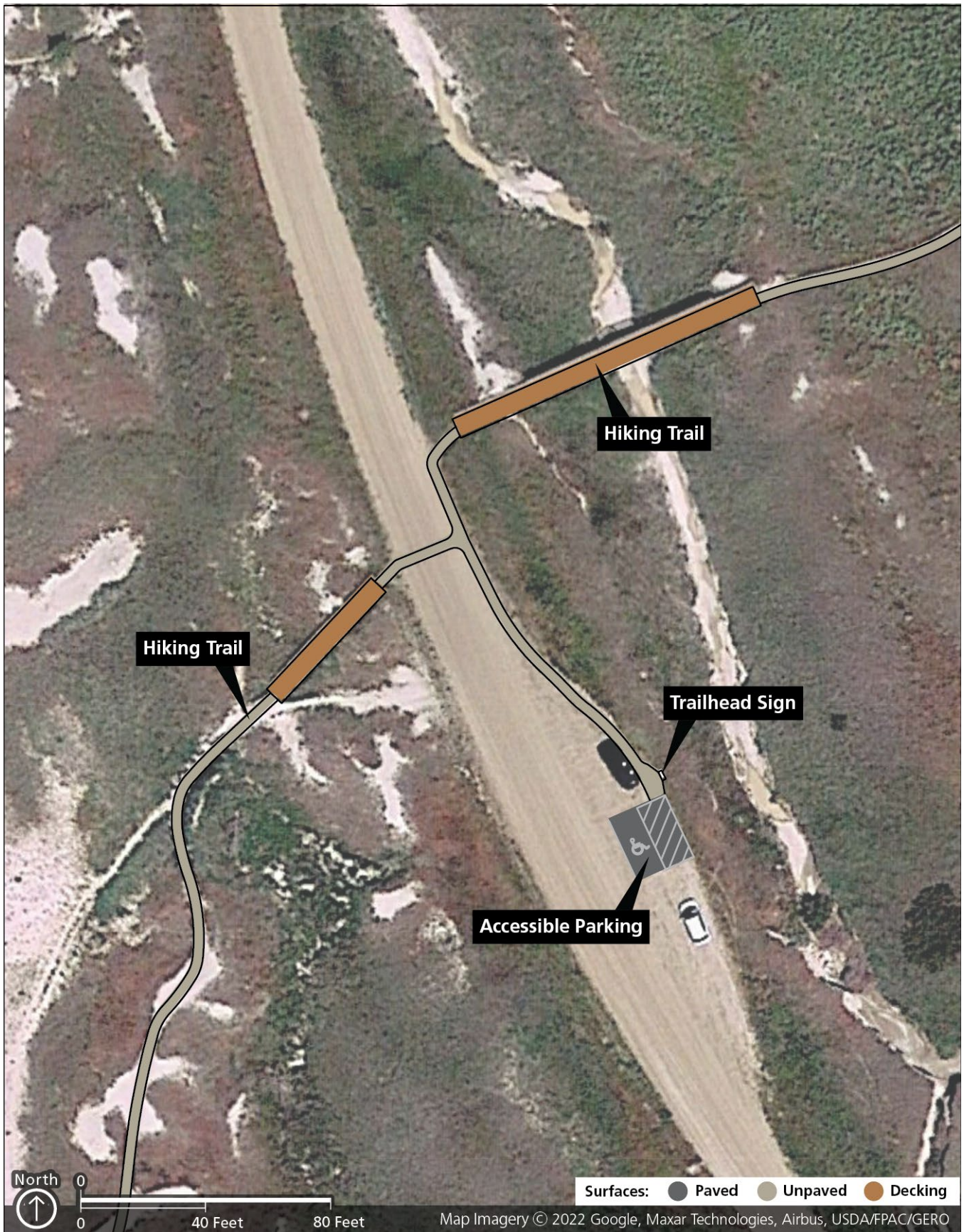
Old Northeast Road is an active ranch road leading into the prairie. Visitors access this back road to hike (sometimes with dogs) Castle Trail and Medicine Root Trail, view and explore the geography, and watch wildlife. Visitors park on the side of the dirt road by the trailhead and then proceed left or right to access the trails. The route to the left towards Medicine Root Trail offers a more dynamic experience with unique geologic features. Neither trail would be broadly considered accessible, as the trail surface material is loose with uneven footing, steep slopes, and obstructions; however, there are ample opportunities to enhance the accessibility of these trail segments. Accessibility could be improved by establishing an accessible parking space at the trailhead, adding trail characteristic information to the information sign, and improving the usability of trail segments to the extent practicable.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Old Northeast Road Trailhead include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Add an accessible parking space.
- **Trailhead:** Improve the route to the trailhead and update the trailhead information sign to include trail characteristics.
- **Hiking Trail:** As best practice, improve the hiking trail in both directions by reducing the slopes, stabilizing the surface material, and removing steps.

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

# Old Northeast Road Trailhead Site Plan





### **PANORAMA POINT OVERLOOK**

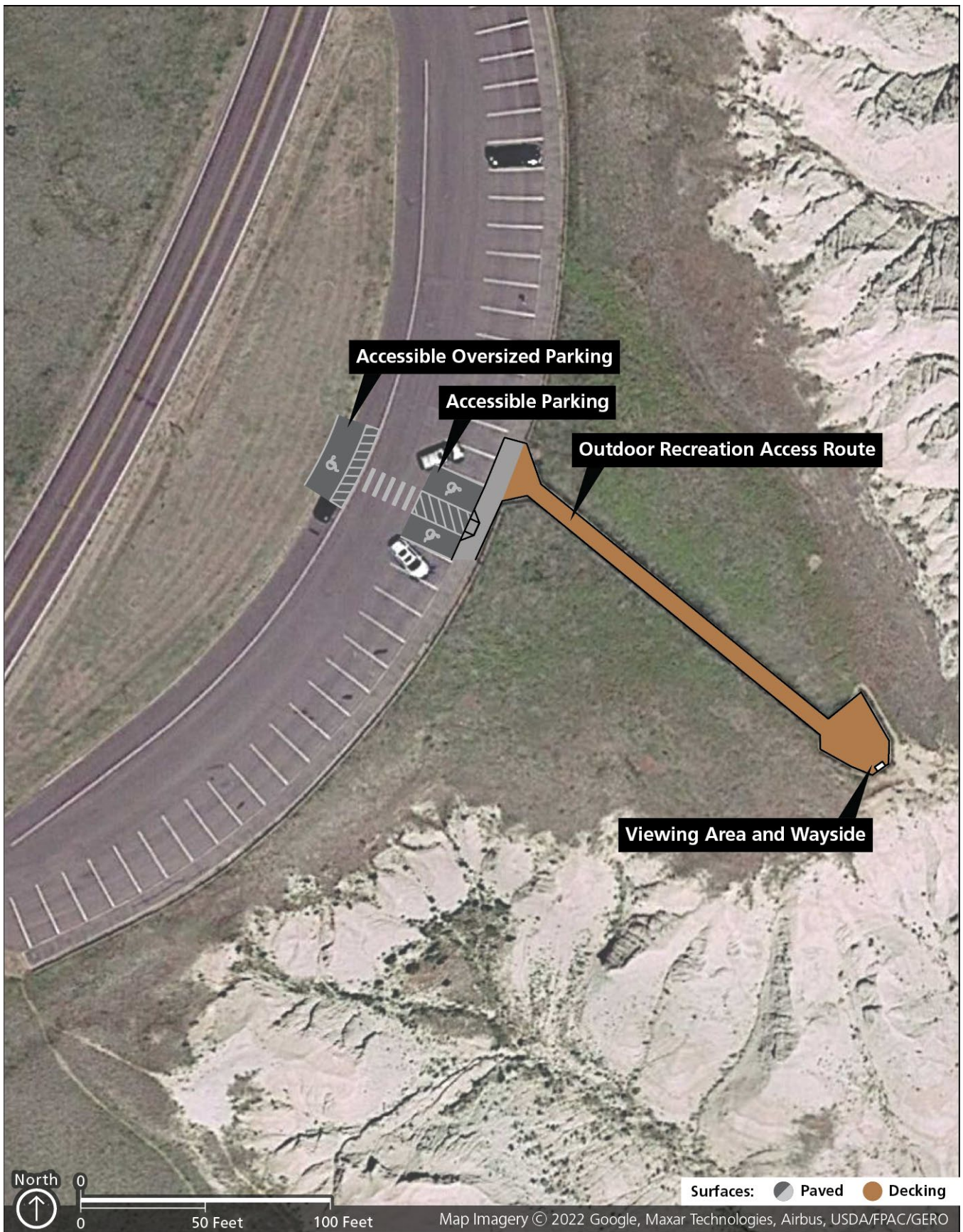
Panorama Point Overlook offers extensive views of the Badlands formations towards the White River Valley. Visitors come to view and photograph the scenery. The site has an accessible parking space and 150-foot boardwalk route at a reasonable running slope to the overlook. Accessibility could be improved by updating signage for the accessible parking space and adding an accessible oversized parking space, reducing cross slopes of routes, updating handrails along the boardwalk, leveling the viewing area platform, and improving the approach to the wayside. Providing audio descriptions of wayside graphics and scenery and exploring other methods of effective communication (e.g., 3-D map of the formations) would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Panorama Point Overlook include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Improve the parking signage for the accessible space. Reduce the cross slope of the curb ramp.
- **Accessible Oversized Parking:** Add an accessible oversized parking space.
- **Outdoor Recreation Access Route:** Improve the paved route and boardwalk route to the viewing area by reducing the slopes, removing gaps, and updating handrails.
- **Viewing Area:** Reduce the slope of the viewing area platform and update the railing to provide an accessible viewing space. Improve the approach to the wayside. Provide an audio description of the images and scenery.

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

# Panorama Point Overlook Site Plan





## PINNACLES OVERLOOK

Pinnacles Overlook is a popular visitor attraction providing sweeping views of the Sage Creek Wilderness to the south and the Black Hills, just visible on the horizon. Visitors come to view and photograph the scenery; spot wildlife, such as bighorn sheep and bison; learn about the area and geologic features; and use the services. Due to a large set of stairs, the primary viewing area is not accessible and it is not practicable to make it so. Visitors with disabilities instead have access to a lower viewing area, and accessible parking, restrooms, and an interpretive panel are usable. Accessibility could be improved by relocating the accessible parking space near facilities, adding an accessible oversized parking space, improving the route to the lower viewing area, improving handrails on the staircase, adding a bench to the lower viewing area, and duplicating waysides available only at the upper viewing areas to be available at the lower viewing area. Providing audio descriptions of the content on the waysides and scenery and exploring other methods of effective communication (e.g., 3-D model of the landscape) would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Pinnacles Overlook include the following:

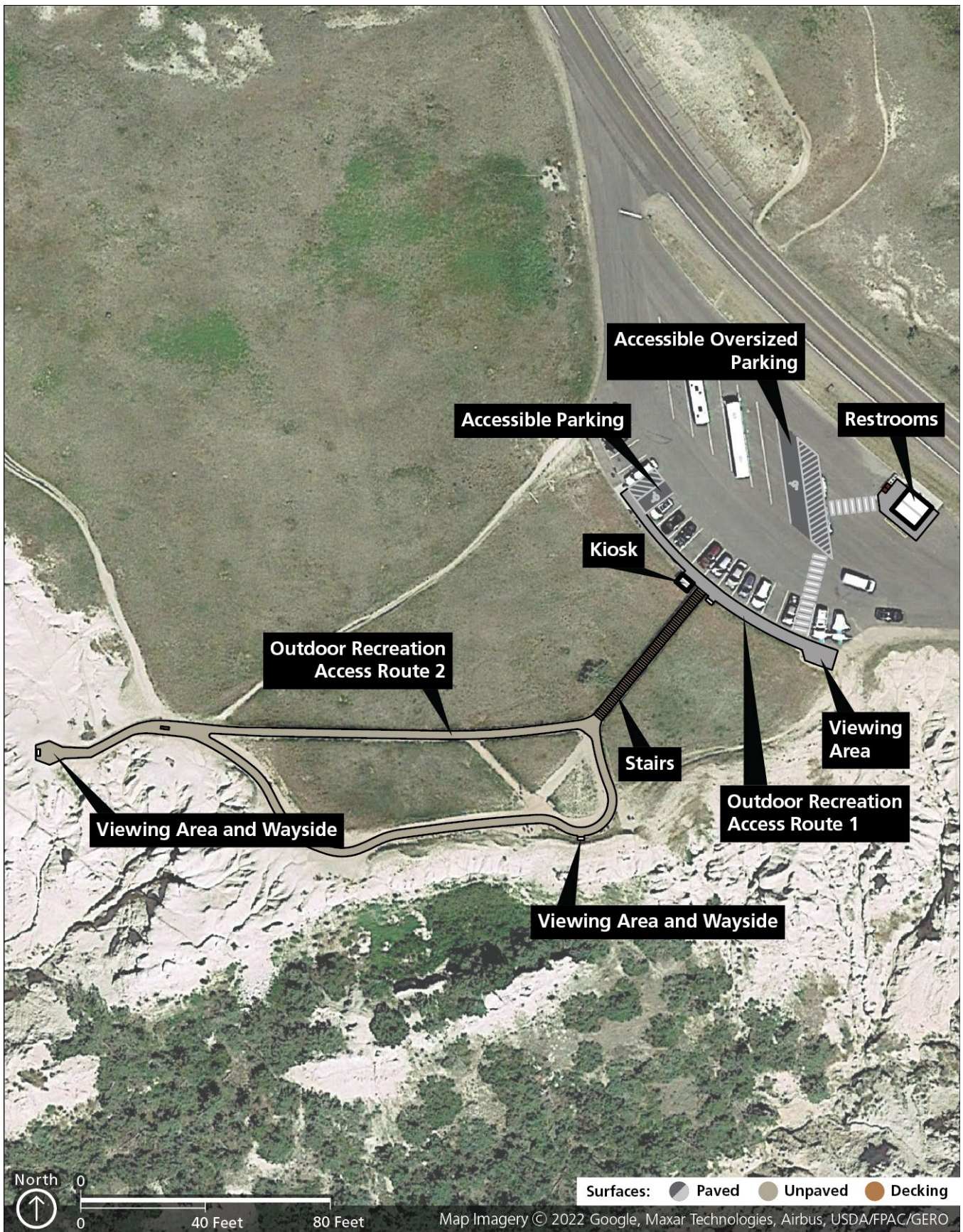
- **Accessible Parking:** Relocate accessible parking space near facilities.
- **Accessible Oversized Parking:** Add an accessible oversized parking space.
- **Kiosk:** Relocate the kiosk and interpretive panel in front of railings.
- **Outdoor Recreation Access Route 1:** Improve the route from the accessible parking space to the kiosk and lower viewing area.
- **Outdoor Recreation Access Route 2:** Replace the handrails on the sides of the staircase. Improve the route from the staircase to the upper viewing areas by reducing the slopes, removing obstacles, and stabilizing the surface.

- **Viewing Area:** Improve the slopes of approaches to waysides at viewing areas. Provide an audio description of the wayside graphics and scenery. Provide benches with at least one armrest and a backrest.
- **Restroom:** Relocate braille signage at the restroom entrance.

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



# Pinnacles Overlook Site Plan





### PRAIRIE WIND OVERLOOK

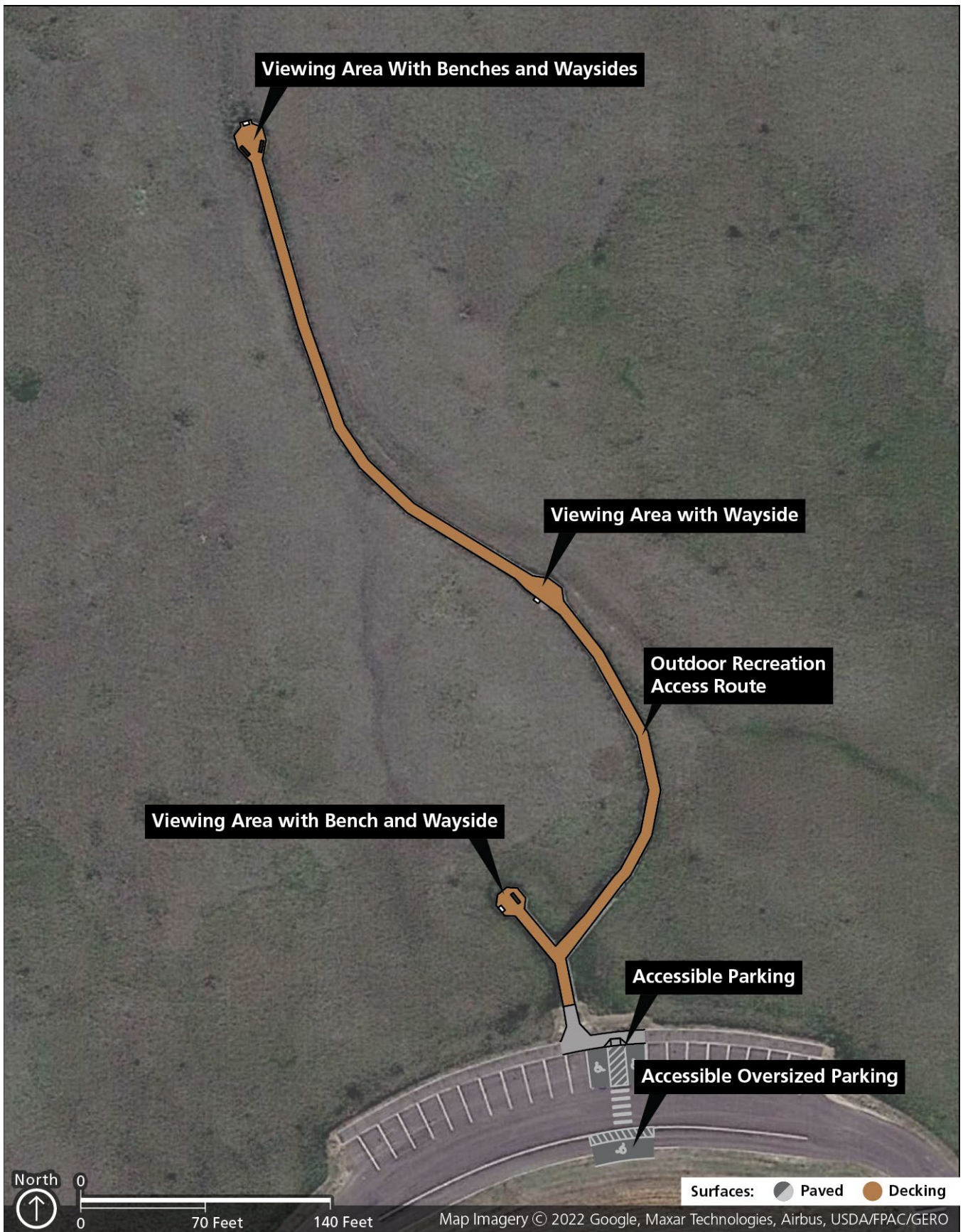
Prairie Wind Overlook offers serene views of the largest mixed-grass prairie in the United States, a very different view from those experienced at other overlooks in the park. Visitors come to view and photograph the prairie, stroll on the short boardwalk, watch wildlife, and learn about the prairie ecosystem. For the most part, the boardwalk is wide and accessible, although there is a high running slope on the route between parking and the boardwalk, and some of the planks are warped and uneven. Accessibility could be improved by updating the accessible parking sign, adding an accessible oversized parking space, reducing the slope of the route to the boardwalk, repairing warped planks, adding armrests and backrests to benches, and improving the text and approaches at waysides. Providing audio descriptions of wayside graphics and scenery and exploring other methods of effective communication would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Prairie Wind Overlook include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Raise the accessible parking sign.
- **Accessible Oversized Parking:** Add an accessible oversized parking space.
- **Outdoor Recreation Access Route:** Reduce the slope of or reroute the path between the parking area and the boardwalk. Replace planks to reduce gaps and vertical barriers.
- **Viewing Areas:** Improve text and approaches at waysides. Add armrests and backrests to benches. Provide audio descriptions of the images and scenery.

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

# Prairie Wind Overlook Site Plan





### **ROBERTS PRAIRIE DOG TOWN**

Roberts Prairie Dog Town is easily accessed via an unpaved pullout and allows for a perfect view of the park's largest prairie dog town. Visitors come to watch and photograph the prairie dogs and other wildlife and listen to their high-pitched squeaks and noises. The unpaved pullout has no designated parking, and the ground around the informal area is uneven, loose, and has high slopes and prairie dog holes. Accessibility could be improved by designating an accessible parking space and establishing/stabilizing a level route to the viewing area. Park staff could also consider adding a wayside and tactile model to convey information.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Roberts Prairie Dog Town include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Add an accessible parking space.
- **Outdoor Recreation Access Route:** Establish a firm and stable route to the viewing area.

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

# Roberts Prairie Dog Town Site Plan





### **SAGE CREEK BASIN OVERLOOK**

Sage Creek Basin Overlook provides a view into a pristine mixed-grass prairie where the Badlands formations have almost entirely eroded away. Game trails created by bison are visible across the prairie. Visitors come to view and photograph the prairie that melts into the distant Badlands buttes and to spot wildlife. The parking lot is unpaved, and the route to the kiosk with an interpretive panel and backcountry registration box has high slopes and is uneven. The interpretive panel has small text, and registration box is too high. Accessibility could be improved by establishing an accessible parking space near the kiosk, improving the route to the kiosk, updating signage, and lowering/replacing the backcountry registration box. Providing audio descriptions of the interpretive panel graphics and scenery and exploring other methods of effective communication would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Sage Creek Basin Overlook include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Add an accessible parking space.
- **Outdoor Recreation Access Route:** Improve the route between the parking area and the kiosk features.
- **Kiosk:** Improve the text on the information panel and provide audio descriptions of the graphic content and scenery.

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

# Sage Creek Basin Overlook Site Plan





### **SAGE CREEK CAMPGROUND**

Sage Creek Campground is a free, first-come, first-served campground with approximately 25 sites that are open year-round. Most visitors come for free camping, although the area is also popular for its proximity to wildlife, stargazing, and horse corrals. The campground terrain is rough and there are no accessible campsites; however, the vault toilet near the campground entrance is accessible. Accessibility could be improved by providing/converting at least three campsites to be accessible; establishing accessible parking spaces near the campsite, backcountry registration station, and restrooms; improving the approaches at the backcountry registration station and interpretive wayside; and adding tactile signs at the restrooms. Providing audio descriptions of the wayside content and graphics/maps at the campsite and backcountry registration station would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Sage Creek Campground include the following:

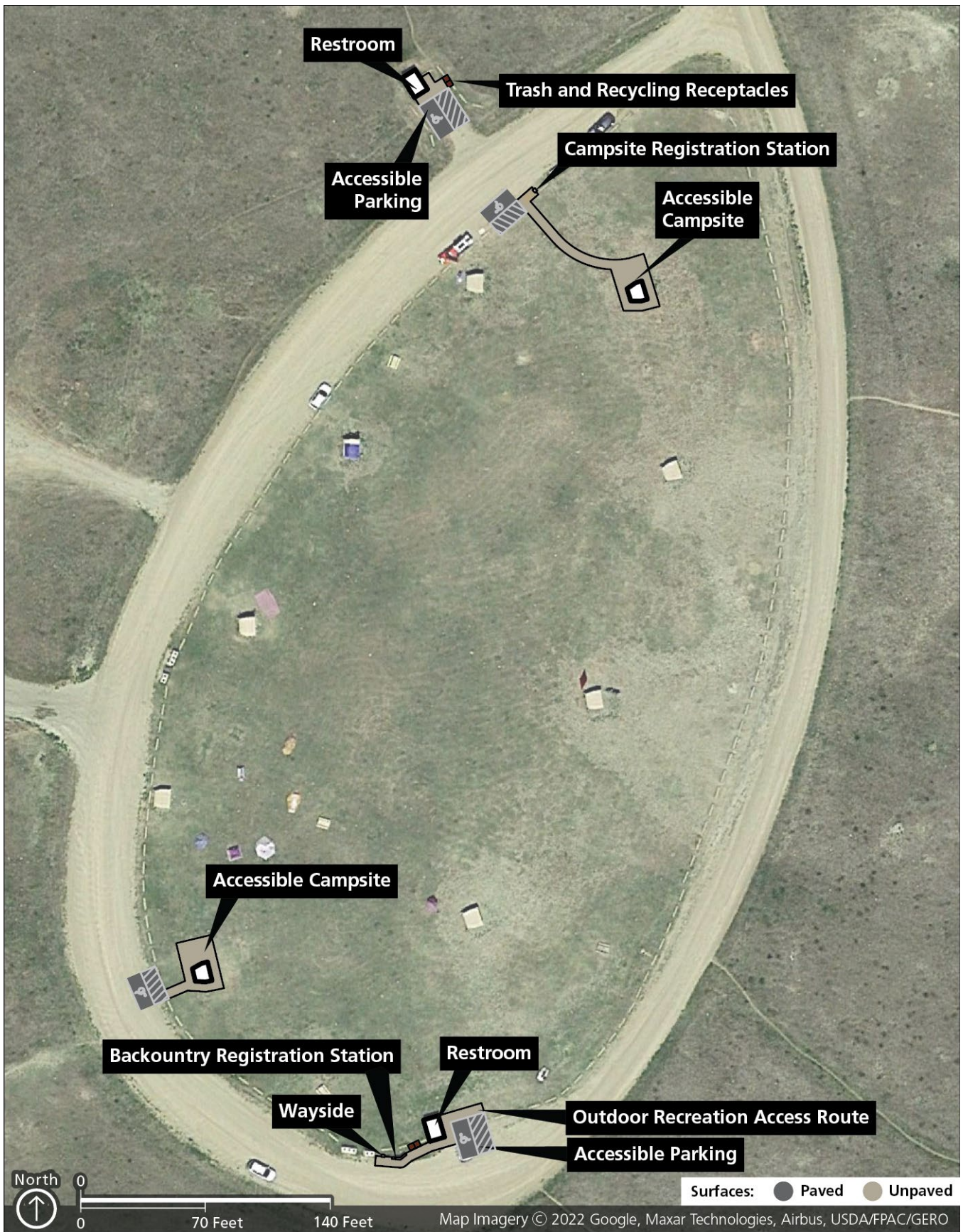
- **Accessible Parking:** Provide accessible parking spaces at all accessible campsites and near the campsite and backcountry registration station and restrooms.
- **Accessible Campsites:** Provide at least three accessible campsites with accessible parking, outdoor recreation access routes, and campground features. Disperse accessible campsites to provide different experiences to visitors.
- **Campsite Registration Station:** Provide audio descriptions of images and maps.
- **Backcountry Registration Station:** Improve the backcountry registration station and wayside approaches and provide audio descriptions of images and maps. Lower the backcountry registration station.



- **Restrooms:** Provide accessible parking and outdoor recreation access routes at the vault toilets. Improve trash and recycling receptacles and approaches. Add tactile signage on restrooms.

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

# Sage Creek Campground Site Plan





### **YELLOW MOUNDS OVERLOOK**

Yellow Mounds Overlook is a popular area affording views of the older and most colorful strata of Badlands geology. Visitors come to view and photograph the colorful formations at different times of day when the light hits the hills. The area is mostly accessible, with an accessible parking space and viewing area. The wayside is cracked and faded and could be improved, along with improving parking signage and adding an accessible oversized parking space. Providing audio descriptions of wayside graphics and scenery and exploring other methods of effective communication (e.g., 3-D model of the large formations) would further improve accessibility at the site.

Proposed accessibility improvements at Yellow Mounds Overlook include the following:

- **Accessible Parking:** Raise the accessible parking sign. Improve the curb ramp and level the landings.
- **Accessible Oversized Parking:** Add an accessible oversized parking space.
- **Viewing Area:** Improve the text and contrast on the wayside. Provide audio descriptions of the images and scenery.

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

## Yellow Mounds Overlook Site Plan



## BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK PROGRAMS



Badlands National Park showed strengths in its virtual programs and website. The park has a wide breadth of images, audiovisuals, and information on their website, displaying and describing the experience at overlooks and on trails. The park does not currently offer alternative-format publications, and assistive listening systems and audio description are only available in some locations or for certain programs. Unique opportunities exist for the park to offer tactile models of the unique landscape in key areas and audio descriptions of site features, interpretive media, and website audiovisuals to engage staff and further support visitors with disabilities. Badlands National Park is aware of these areas for improvement and is committed to addressing them.

Proposed accessibility improvements to parkwide programs include the following:

- **Publications:** Provide parkwide, site-specific, and program-specific alternative-format publications. Consider an accessibility guide to increase visitor understanding of the park and available experiences.
- **Audiovisuals:** Provide assistive listening systems for all audiovisuals at the park. Provide audio descriptions for all on-site videos.
- **Website and Social Media:** Provide audio descriptions for videos shared on the website. Add to and improve accessibility information about places and experiences. Provide Federal Relay Service phone numbers for making reservations and requesting accommodations.
- **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 and tours and for special events.

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



## **BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK POLICIES, PRACTICES, COMMUNICATION, AND TRAINING**

Badlands National Park showed strengths in its management support for accessibility initiatives. The park has a policy for the use of other power-driven mobility devices, offers wheelchairs for visitors to borrow at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center, and works with partners and concessioners to ensure their services and programs are accessible. 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. Badlands National Park is aware of these areas for improvement and is committed to addressing them.

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.

This page intentionally blank.



## CONCLUSION

Badlands National Park is 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 Badlands 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 toward accommodating all visitors while sustaining its legacy to preserve and protect the unique landforms, resources, flora, and fauna of the White River Badlands and mixed-grass prairie ecosystem, and preserve and interpret the history and heritage of the Sioux Nation and Lakota people.

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 the park works towards implementing the plan, physical access to and within the assessed park areas will be improved, and park information and programs will be enhanced or created for all visitors across the breadth of key park experiences at Badlands National Park. Viewing and understanding the history and significance of the geologic features from park overlooks, participating in guided tours and talks, and hiking to unique park landscapes are a few of the experiences that will be enhanced.

Park programs will be created and delivered for all visitors, including visitors with mild-to-severe disabilities impacting their mobility, vision, hearing, and/or cognitive abilities. Audio descriptions for self-guided tours and audiovisuals, relevant and unique tactile maps and models, alternative-format publications, and accessibility improvements to waysides and information panels throughout the park will be provided and allow visitors with disabilities to fully participate.

The SETP for Badlands National Park is a living document intended to be used as a guiding reference for the park as park staff implements 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 Badlands 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.

This page intentionally blank.

## **APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK**

As a national park, Badlands 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 Badlands 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](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>

### **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR'S ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

- Director's Order 16A – [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO\\_16A\\_5-4-1999.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO_16A_5-4-1999.pdf)
- Director's Order 42 – [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/DO\\_42\\_11-3-2000.pdf](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:

- 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

This page intentionally blank.

## APPENDIX C: PARK AREAS NOT ASSESSED

The following park areas were not assessed for this plan. The selection process determined that key park experiences provided in these park areas were available in an equivalent way within the areas that were assessed. If any park area not assessed is improved by new construction or alterations in the future, the area will be assessed and improved to comply with the current accessibility standards. These areas will be improved as a part of future facility alterations or as a component of a future planned construction project.

- Badlands Wilderness Overlook
- Burns Basin Overlook
- Castle Trail Complex
- Hams Draw
- Homestead Overlook
- Pinnacles Entrance
- Red Shirt Table Overlook
- Saddle Pass Trailhead
- Sheep Mountain Table Overlook
- White River Valley Overlook
- White River Visitor Center

This page intentionally blank.



## **APPENDIX D: CONTRIBUTORS**

### **BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK**

Abigail Aldrich, Deputy Superintendent and Accessibility Coordinator

Alexandra Carrier, Museum Curator

Milton Haar, Chief of Science and Resources Management, Dallas Kendrick, Chief of Maintenance (former)

Aaron Kaye, Chief of Interpretation and Public Information Officer

Alan Livingston, Project Manager and COR for Maintenance

Nathan Novak, Maintenance Supervisor (former)

Robert O'Grady, Utility Service Operator

Casey Osback, Chief Ranger (former)

Michael Pflaum, Superintendent (former)

Ellen Starck, Paleontologist and Geologist

Brenda Todd, Deputy Superintendent and Accessibility Coordinator (former)

Eric Veach, Superintendent

### **INTERIOR REGIONS 3, 4, AND 5**

Holly Griesemer, Regional Management and Program Analyst

David Thomson, Regional RTCA Program Manager and Accessibility Coordinator

### **DENVER SERVICE CENTER**

Suzanne Digre, Senior Editor (contractor)

Colin Heffern, Project Manager (former)

Amy Hoke, Landscape Architect and Project Manager

John Paul Jones, Visual Information Specialist

Marc Kochheiser, Landscape Architect

Katie Ryan, Landscape Architect

This page intentionally blank.

# BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN APRIL 2024

This accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort between Badlands National Park staff, Regional Office staff serving Interior Regions 3, 4, and 5, and Denver Service Center staff and is recommended for approval by the superintendent.

---

**Approved**

Date

Eric Veach, Superintendent, Badlands 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.

Badlands National Park [eTIC number ###/#####]

April 2024

[Back Cover]