

**Accessibility Self-Evaluation and  
Transition Plan**

**Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau National  
Historical Park**

**Hawai‘i**

**November 2023**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park staff is dedicated to serving all park visitors to help them find meaning in the resources of the park and its stories. 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) suggest an effective approach for upgrading facilities, services, activities, and programs; and (3) instill a culture around creating universal access.

### PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park has made many improvements to expand physical accessibility throughout the park. The area around the visitor center is generally accessible, with plenty of accessible parking, gently sloped routes, and ample circulation space around exhibits, restrooms, and the bookstore. Recognizing the high running slope of the primary ramp near the amphitheater, the park installed an accessible ramp behind the visitor center to provide access to interpretive opportunities in the Royal Grounds at one of two traditional halau. Park staff are developing a beach wheelchair program for visitors to more easily access additional areas within the Royal Grounds and consider potential use on the Coastal Trail.

Recurring findings related to physical accessibility were identified for beach access routes throughout the Royal Grounds, picnic area, and trails, in which loose, sandy soils limit the stability of parking, path surfaces, and features of the landscape. Approaches at interpretive and information signs, ramps, tables and interactive elements, and benches often have high slopes and loose surfaces.

Park staff has unique opportunities to improve accessibility for a variety of experiences, such as exploring the Royal Grounds and participating in cultural events in the amphitheater and Royal Grounds and gatherings in the picnic area. Providing wheelchair seating spaces at the top and bottom of the amphitheater would allow more visitors to take part in videos, talks, and other programs. Identifying and improving the accessibility of segments of the Coastal Trail and the 1871 Trail (Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail) would open new areas to explore,

must be considered and other options explored if proposed modifications would cause an adverse effect on historic resources.

Reintroducing beach wheelchairs to the area may allow visitors with mobility disabilities to travel further around the park, and establishing accessible beach picnic sites will allow more visitors to picnic and take in a sunset or enjoy the tranquil setting throughout the day.

## **PROGRAMMATIC ACCESSIBILITY**

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park has made substantial progress to improve programmatic accessibility in the past few years. The park website has a robust collection of information and audiovisuals available to visitors with disabilities, including information about the self-guided walking tour; closed-captioned and audio-described videos, such as a virtual tour of the Royal Grounds and Pu'uhonua; a virtual tour of the 1871 Trail (a segment of Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail); an audio transcript and image descriptions of the interactive wall exhibit at the visitor center; and information about service animals at the park. An audio tour is available on the park app and provides information and stories about the Royal Grounds, its cultural features, and an audio tour of the 1871 Trail describing cultural sites and historical used of the area. Open captioning is provided on the park film, and audio description is available. The panel of wall exhibits at the visitor center has a series of pushbutton-activated interpretive audio messages, although these are relatively old.

Recurring findings related to program accessibility were identified for park publications and programs. Other than the park brochure, alternative formats for interpretive materials and exhibit content are limited. Tactile exhibits, such as maps, models, and handouts during a tour, are limited and/or absent for key programs. In addition, trailhead signs for the Coastal Trail and 1871 Trail lack information about the conditions of the trails.

Significant ways in which programs could be improved include providing audio description for videos on the park and website, adding tactile maps and models (e.g., a detailed map of the park) for use during programs (some of these can just be handed around), and continuing to build upon the information about accessible experiences on the park website. Providing alternative format publications (e.g., braille, audio) for primary park publications (e.g., Junior Ranger booklet) and making these available in person and virtually would allow more visitors to access park information and stories.

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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 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. Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park and other parks exist because of their history and resources. Facilities, services, and programs were designed and built in parks to accommodate our 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, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The accessibility of commercial services in 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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.

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical 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 Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical 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 to protect the cultural resources and values in alignment with Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park’s enabling legislation and in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, among other laws and policies.



# ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN PROCESS

The process for creating a SETP involves seven steps:



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 (these can be found in the park's foundation document at <http://npshistory.com/publications/foundation-documents/puho-fd-2017.pdf>). Key park experiences ensure that planned improvements are prioritized to best increase overall access to park experiences.

The key park experiences identified for Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park include the following:

- a. Connect to one of the best-preserved Pu'uhonua in the Hawaiian Islands, a sacred place of refuge that exemplifies the important role of the kapu system in governing Hawaiian society.
- b. View the reconstructed Hale o Keawe, the only representation of a traditional hale poki (consecrated house) on the island, and learn about how a ruling dynasty cared for the sacred bones of Keawe'Īkekahiali'iokamoku and other paramount chiefs, imparting a strong spiritual power to the Pu'uhonua site that is still felt today.

- c. See the Royal Grounds of Hōnaunau, where many generations of high-ranking chiefs governed, including Keawe, who was once the paramount chief of the Island of Hawai'i.
- d. Appreciate the religious and cultural significance of this wahi pana, which connects visitors, communities, and cultural practitioners to its resources, inspires collaborative stewardship of these lands, and encourages recreational uses.
- e. Explore the coastal village of Ki'ilae, which, due to its great size and high degree of preservation, is an outstanding archeological landscape with great potential to reveal new insights about daily Hawaiian life from precontact times to the late 1920s.
- f. Appreciate the great variety of cultural resources protected by the park that represent a tremendous degree of social stratification and illustrate the richness and complexity of Hawaiian culture, from the Royal Grounds where high chiefs governed to an agricultural village where commoners lived and farmed.

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 drawings 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. Improvement efforts need to consider park activities and operational requirements to determine how and when to go about implementing 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 park 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 in 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 parks initiate public outreach efforts with Native Hawaiian Organizations and community members, and specifically 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. Park staff should 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 while also adhering to other laws and policies related to the protection of park resources and values. Creating parkwide accessibility requires staff awareness, outreach to the disability community, 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 PU'UHONUA O HŌNAUNAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

## PU'UHONUA O HŌNAUNAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AREAS ASSESSED

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

- Picnic Area
- Royal Grounds
- Trails
- Visitor Center



## 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.

Depending on 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 that an employee with a disability is hired at Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical 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 site plan(s) that illustrate existing conditions. For details on each barrier, solution, and time frame, see the companion implementation strategy table at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/PUHO-SETP>. It is important to understand that the site plans and recommendations are conceptual and will require further design development and historic preservation and environmental compliance before construction. Consult with cultural and natural resource staff early in the planning process before requesting project funds or design. During the implementation phase, the interdisciplinary team must reassess the project site conditions, refer to ABAAS, and consult with the local disability community to ensure that specific design and programmatic solutions are correctly addressed.



## PICNIC AREA

From the visitor center and Royal Grounds, visitors can walk on a wide, level, and compacted sandy road a quarter mile to the picnic area, which is near the park maintenance facility and includes 12 scattered picnic tables and several grills. The area is directly on the beach and is a popular tourist draw for ocean views and to watch wildlife, hike, and picnic. Some of the picnic tables have extended tabletops, although few are located on beach access routes. The routes primarily have loose and unstable sand surfaces. Portable toilets are available near the maintenance facilities, including two that are large and mostly accessible. At the southern end of the picnic area is a trailhead for the Coastal Trail, which leads to the 1871 Trail (Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail). The park has plans to add waysides near the restrooms. Accessibility to the picnic area could be improved by adding removable mats to accessible tables and grills, updating accessible portable toilets, adding waysides to interpret the area and its resources, and installing a trailhead sign with a map and trail characteristics of the 1871 Trail and the rest of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail that extends into the Kauleoli unit and then out of the NPS park boundaries.

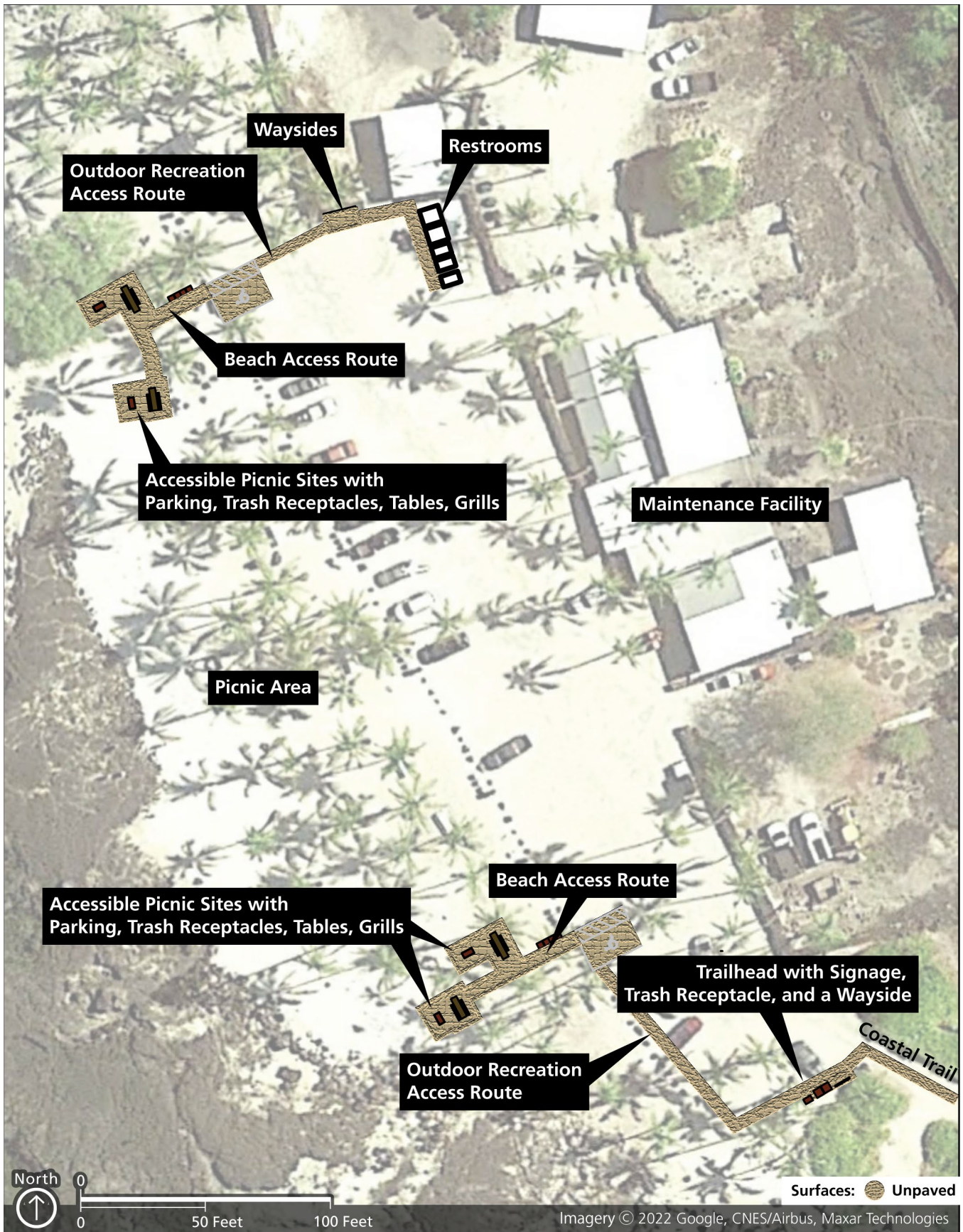
Proposed accessibility improvements at the picnic area include the following:

- **Parking:** Improve accessible parking (tied to accessible picnic facilities and campsites).
- **Routes:** Improve access routes between accessible parking spaces, portable toilets, picnic facilities, and the beach.
- **Restrooms:** Ensure portable toilets and entrance are accessible
- **Picnic Facilities:** Designate accessible picnic tables and grills.
- **Trail:** Improve trailhead sign and information.

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



# Picnic Area Conceptual Site Plan





## ROYAL GROUNDS

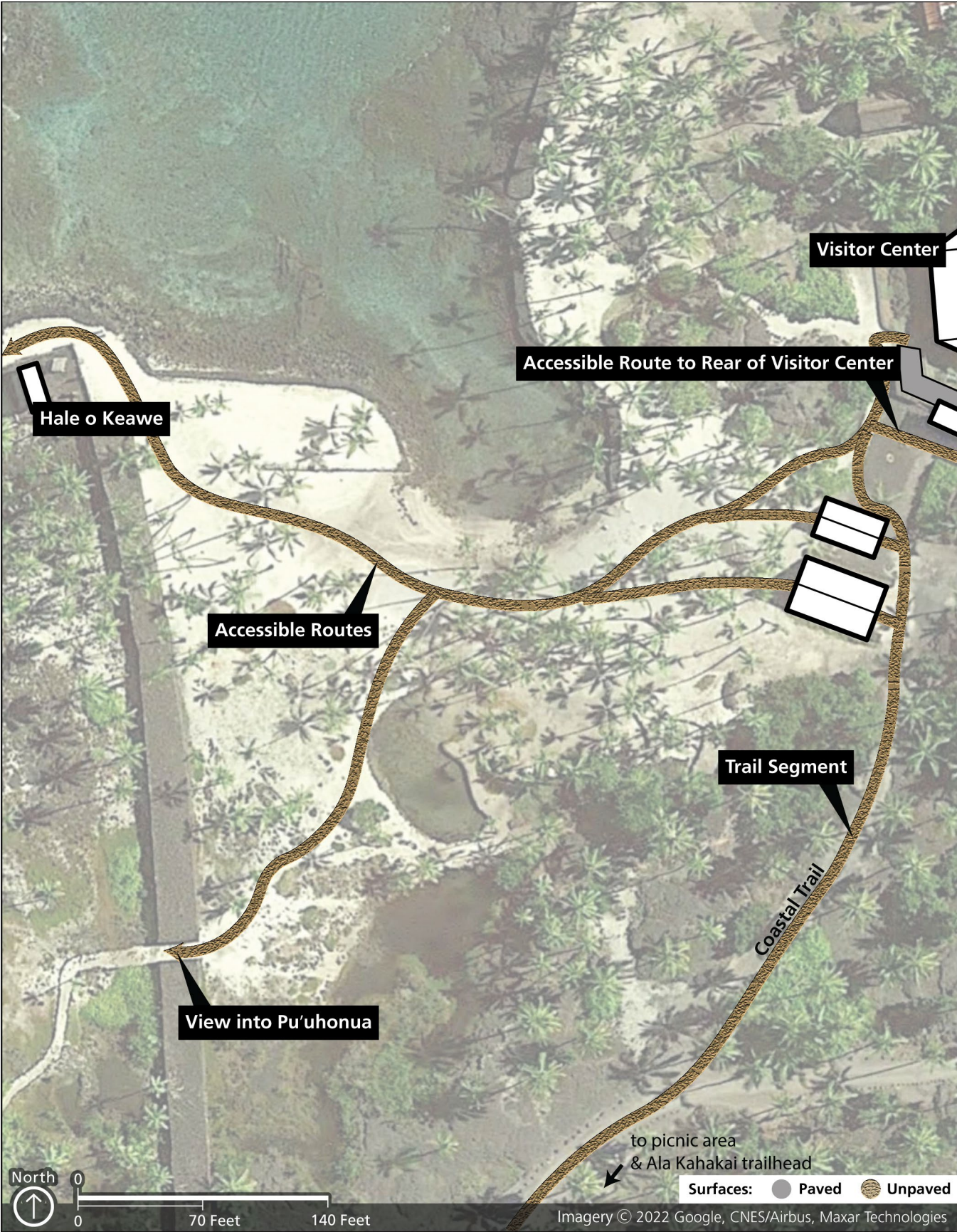
The Royal Grounds and Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau are important Hawaiian ceremonial sites bounded by a massive, L-shaped wall, known as the Pā Pu'uhonua (Great Wall). Between the Great Wall and the ocean, the Pu'uhonua includes several other important ceremonial structures, including the Hale o Keawe, 'Āle'ale'a Heiau, and the Ancient Heiau. In ancient Hawai'i, a system of laws known as kānāwai enforced the social order, and certain people, places, things, and times were sacred—they were kapu, or forbidden. Any breaking of kapu disturbed the stability of society, and the punishment was often death. Any fugitive who had broken kapu could seek refuge and forgiveness within the walls of the Pu'uhonua. In addition, in the event that war was declared, families of combatants could seek refuge and safety within the Pu'uhonua and be assured to return home unmolested on cessation of battle, regardless of the outcome. Visitors come to the Royal Grounds to view the stunning scenery, learn about the history of the site and its culture, explore the Pu'uhonua, and view the Hale o Keawe. A half-mile self-guided walking and audio tour is available on the website and app. Most of the area is inaccessible due to its sandy, loose surface; however, the sand in some areas is more packed down and maneuverable by mobility devices with larger wheels, such as a power chair. As practicable, considering the sensitivity of cultural resources, accessibility could be improved by establishing a beach access route between the visitor center, heiau, Pu'uhonua, areas in which programs are held, and the 1871 Trail (Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail) trailhead. Providing a beach wheelchair loan program will enable many visitors who require the use of a wheelchair to better experience the park. Providing removable mats underneath a thin layer of sand from the end of the paved trail to important landmarks and features may be an option.

Proposed accessibility improvements at the Royal Grounds include:

- **Routes:** Improve access routes between the visitor center, the view into the Pu'uhonua, Hale o Keawe, heiaus, and the 1871 Trail (Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail) trailhead (possibly following routes already compacted by park trucks).

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

Royal Grounds Conceptual Site Plan





## TRAILS

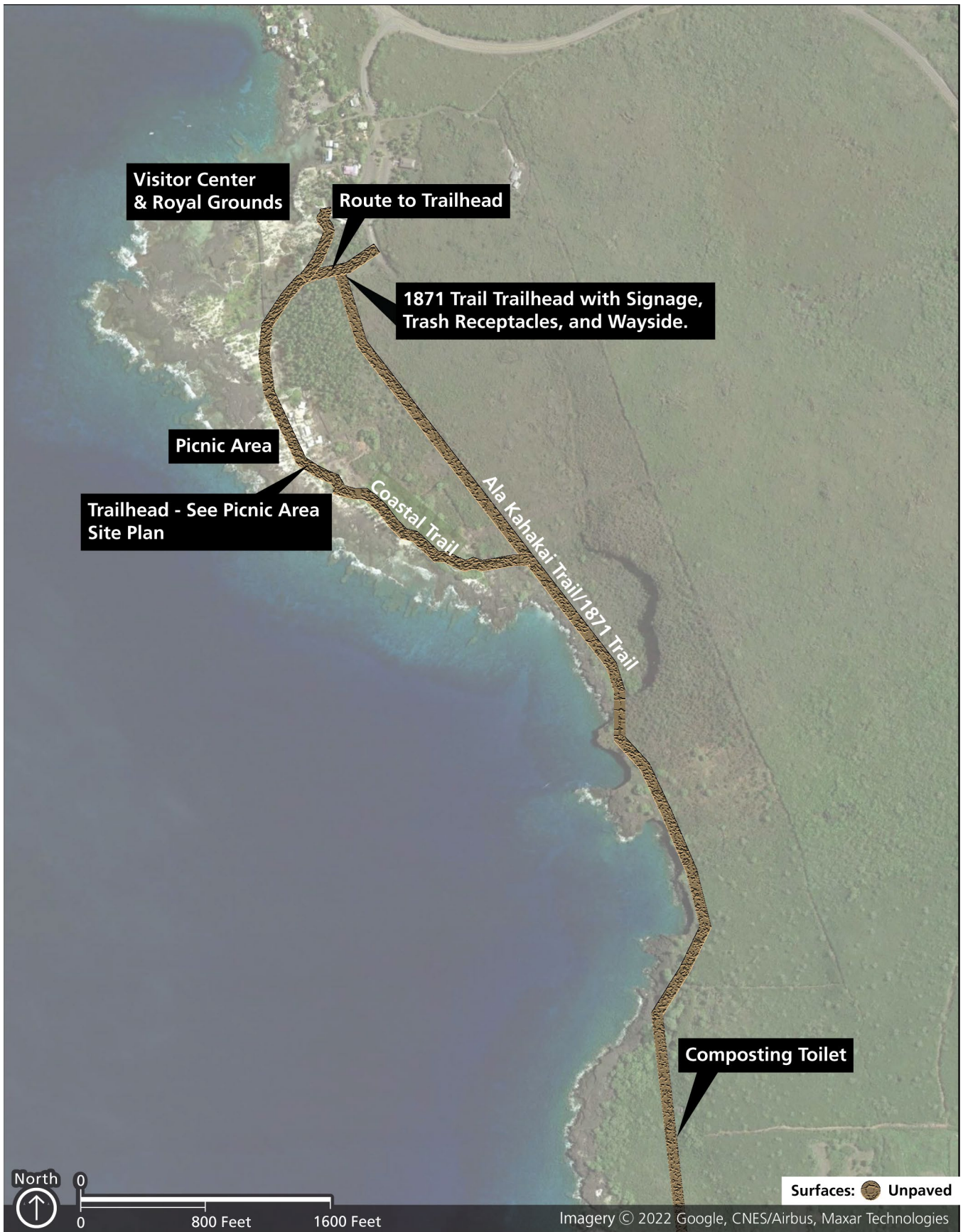
Trails take visitors throughout the park along the coastline, above coastal cliffs, and through ancient and historic sites. A 2-mile segment (round trip) of the 1871 Trail, which is a section of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, previously connected coastal villages and now takes visitors along the rugged shoreline to Ki'ilae Village, a historic abandoned Hawaiian village at the southern end of the park. Most of the length of the trail is inaccessible, with rocky and volcanic, sandy, and unstable trail surfaces and faded interpretive signs. A composting toilet with a ramp is at the southern end of the trail, but it has a small interior and isn't easy to access by someone with a disability. The trails would benefit from trailhead signs and maps detailing trail routes and characteristics to allow visitors to make informed decisions about which trails are usable to them based on their individual abilities and preferences. Additional information about usable trail segments, including images of surface materials and slopes and a virtual tour of the trails, on the park and Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail websites and apps would provide more context for potential visitors.

Proposed accessibility improvements at the trails include:

- **Trail:** Improve trailhead signs, maps, and information.
- **Restroom:** Improve the restroom interior, signage, and approach.
- **Interpretive Features:** Improve ground spaces and update the font and text. Relocate/duplicate waysides in accessible locations at trailheads and at the visitor center.

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

# Trails Conceptual Site Plan





## VISITOR CENTER

The visitor center is the primary area for orientation and interpretation. Most visitors pay an entrance fee to park here, although some visitors enter the park from the hiking trail at the southern boundary of the park. Visitors begin their journey at the large parking lot with signed accessible spaces and proceed down wide paths to the open-air visitor center, the only Mission 66 national register-eligible visitor center in Hawaii. An array of exhibits, a large theater, and an information station provide an orientation and interpretation of the park's history and cultural significance. Services, including restrooms, theater, bookstore, and drinking fountains are also available. Many of these facilities, services, and programs are accessible, with ample accessible parking, an open-captioned and audio described video, wide and mostly low-sloped routes, audio-interpreted exhibits, and a dual-height drinking fountain. Accessibility could be improved by identifying the newly constructed accessible ramp that is located beside the restrooms so that visitors are not inadvertently directed to the ramp with the higher slope. Other suggestions include updating the amphitheater to provide dispersed wheelchair and companion seating options, updating exhibits to improve text and add audio descriptions, and updating restroom interiors.

Proposed accessibility improvements at the visitor center include:

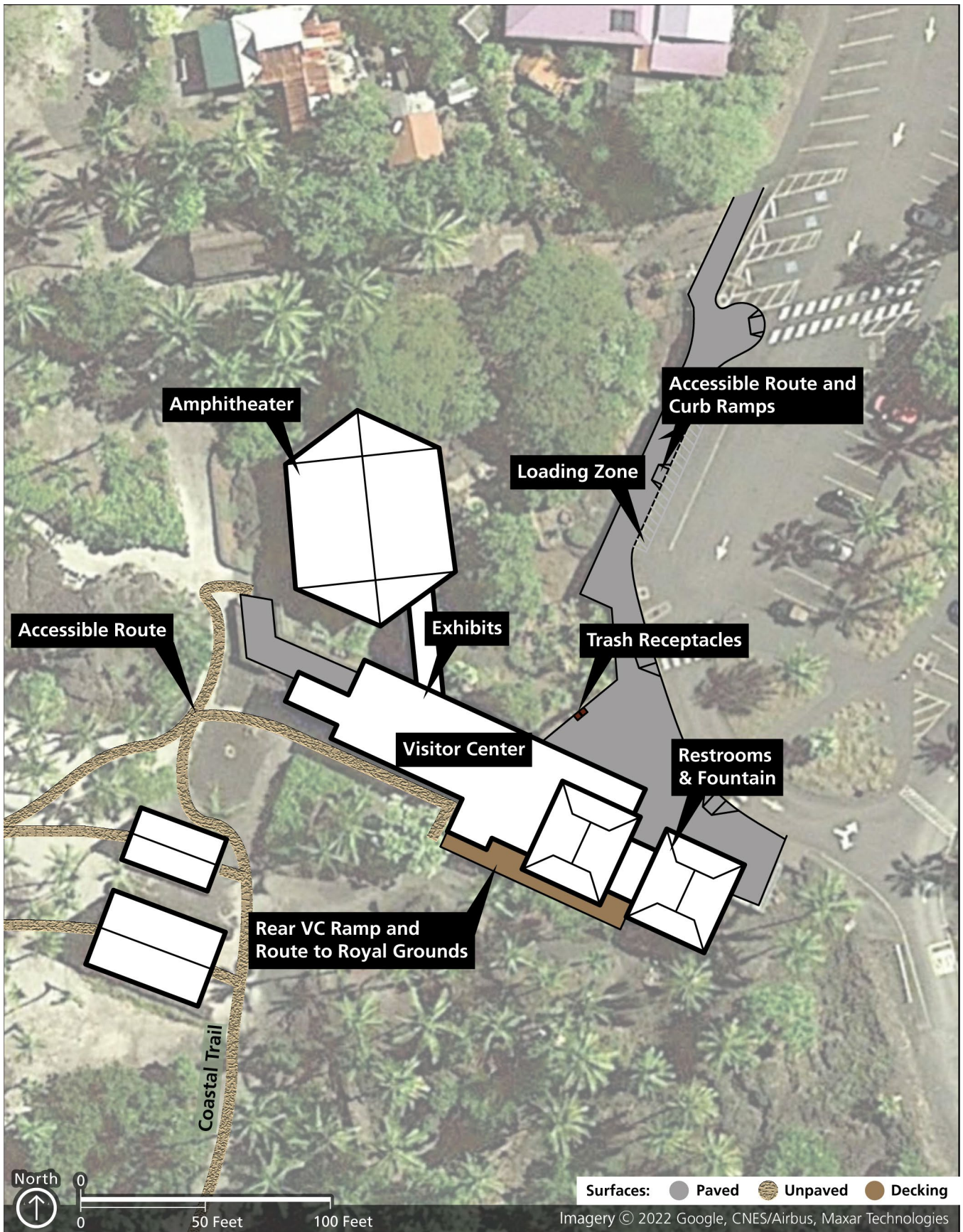
- **Parking:** Improve the passenger loading zone.
- **Routes:** Improve the slopes of routes between accessible parking and visitor center facilities; improve curb ramps.
- **Exhibits:** Improve signs with text, colors, and contrast; update the audio for exhibits; and add new audio descriptions for exhibits.

- **Restrooms:** Improve restroom interiors and signs, and add aprons to existing drinking fountains for detection. **Theater:** Improve theater seating and routes for visitors using wheelchairs, and add open-captioning and audio descriptions for the video.

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



# Visitor Center Conceptual Site Plan





## PU'UHONUA O HŌNAUNAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK PROGRAMS

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park staff showed strengths in its interpretation and education programs. Virtual tours of trails, videos of cultural festivals, and an audio transcript and image descriptions for exhibits are provided on the park website. Many park publications have alternative formats. An audio tour of the Royal Grounds is available, and the park film is open-captioned and audio described. Park staff does not currently offer audio descriptions for waysides and self-guided tours, and few tactile features and exhibits exist to effectively communicate the history of the location and its stories. Park staff previously offered a beach wheelchair program, and the program is being reintroduced since the rear visitor center ramp construction was completed in 2023. This new ramp leads to the large halau, where visitors navigate to the area and enjoy interpretive programs in a way they could not before. Unique opportunities exist for the park to offer an accessible experience on a short section of trail to improve access to the Royal Grounds and its historic features to engage staff and further support visitors with disabilities. Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park is aware of these areas for improvement and is committed to addressing them.

Proposed accessibility improvements to parkwide programs include:

- **Publications:** Continue the buildout of alternative format publications and an accessibility guide, and provide audio-format publications.
- **Audiovisuals:** Add assistive listening systems and audio descriptions for all audiovisuals.
- **Website and Social Media:** Continue the buildout of the accessibility page on the park website with detailed information and audiovisuals describing accessibility of

places and features of the landscape, and provide accessibility information on social media.

- **Walks, Talks, Tours, and Special Events:** Add sign language interpretation and real-time captioning for events, assistive listening systems for programs, and alternative-format program materials, and provide new tactile models and maps.

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



## PU'UHONUA O HŌNAUNAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK POLICIES, PRACTICES, COMMUNICATION, AND TRAINING

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park leadership showed strengths in its staff engagement and support for inclusive partner-sponsored events and programs. Park staff offers guidance for other power-driven mobility devices; however, guidance is not available around procedures for law enforcement and emergency preparedness with people with disabilities. Accessibility training has not traditionally been provided for staff, though it was offered during an all-employee meeting following the SETP assessment. Park staff has unique opportunities to offer staff training and outreach to local groups with disabilities to engage staff and further support visitors with disabilities. Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park staff is aware of these areas for improvement and is committed to addressing them.

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

- **Staff Training and Park Protocols:** Add staff and discipline-related accessibility training and standard operating procedures for park policies and practices.
- **Communications and Partnerships:** Conduct outreach to local groups with disabilities, add accessibility information on the park website and social media, and provide guidance to partners and outside groups regarding hosting accessible programs.

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

## CONCLUSION

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park staff 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 Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical 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 wahi pana (sacred place) and interconnected cultural and natural resources of the Hōnaunau, Kēōkea, and Ki'ilae ahupua'a so that traditional Hawaiian values and practices will thrive now and into the future.

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 works towards implementation of the plan, physical access to and within the assessed park areas will be improved, and information and programs will be enhanced or created for all visitors across the breadth of key park experiences at Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park. Exploring the historic cultural landscape, visiting the Royal Grounds, and picnicking on the beach 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. Alternative-format publications, audio descriptions for self-guided tours, and tactile maps and models will be provided and allow visitors with disabilities to fully participate.

The SETP for Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park is a living document intended to be used as a guiding reference for park staff as it 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 Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical 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.

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## **APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY LAWS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND NPS POLICIES APPLICABLE TO PU‘UHONUA O HŌNAUNAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**

As a national park, Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical 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 Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical 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 – <http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder16a.html>
- Director’s Order 42 – <http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DOrder42.html>
- 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

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# PU'UHONUA O HŌNAUNAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ACCESSIBILITY SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN NOVEMBER 2023

This accessibility self-evaluation and transition plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort between Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical 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.

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**Approved**

Date

Paul Scolari, Superintendent, Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical 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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