



Wild Bear Nature Center
Interpretive Master Plan
 May, 2022

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Wild Bear Nature Center—Why Here, Why Now?

This Interpretive Master Plan (IMP) intends to set the direction for how Wild Bear’s facility near Mud Lake engages its audience to develop understanding, enhance knowledge, reveal meaning, and connect emotionally to its public through the built opportunities at the site and interior spaces. Wild Bear has been and will remain a strongly programmatic institution that will continue to develop programs and person-to-person engagement at the core of its mission and methods. Yet, there are tremendous opportunities to expand interpretive connection to audiences through creating spaces that enrich the visitor experience. This plan focuses on these built visitor engagement approaches, recognizing that in many instances they will be incorporated into programming.

The Interpretive Master Plan connects and coordinates physical spaces with visitor engagement approaches, creative spaces, and an understanding of spatial function. Some areas are highly immersive with interpretive spaces that employ formal and informal exhibits, interactives, and story. Other spaces within the building use interpretive tools such as community art, and themes to serve as a backdrop to programming. Some areas are a blend of the two.

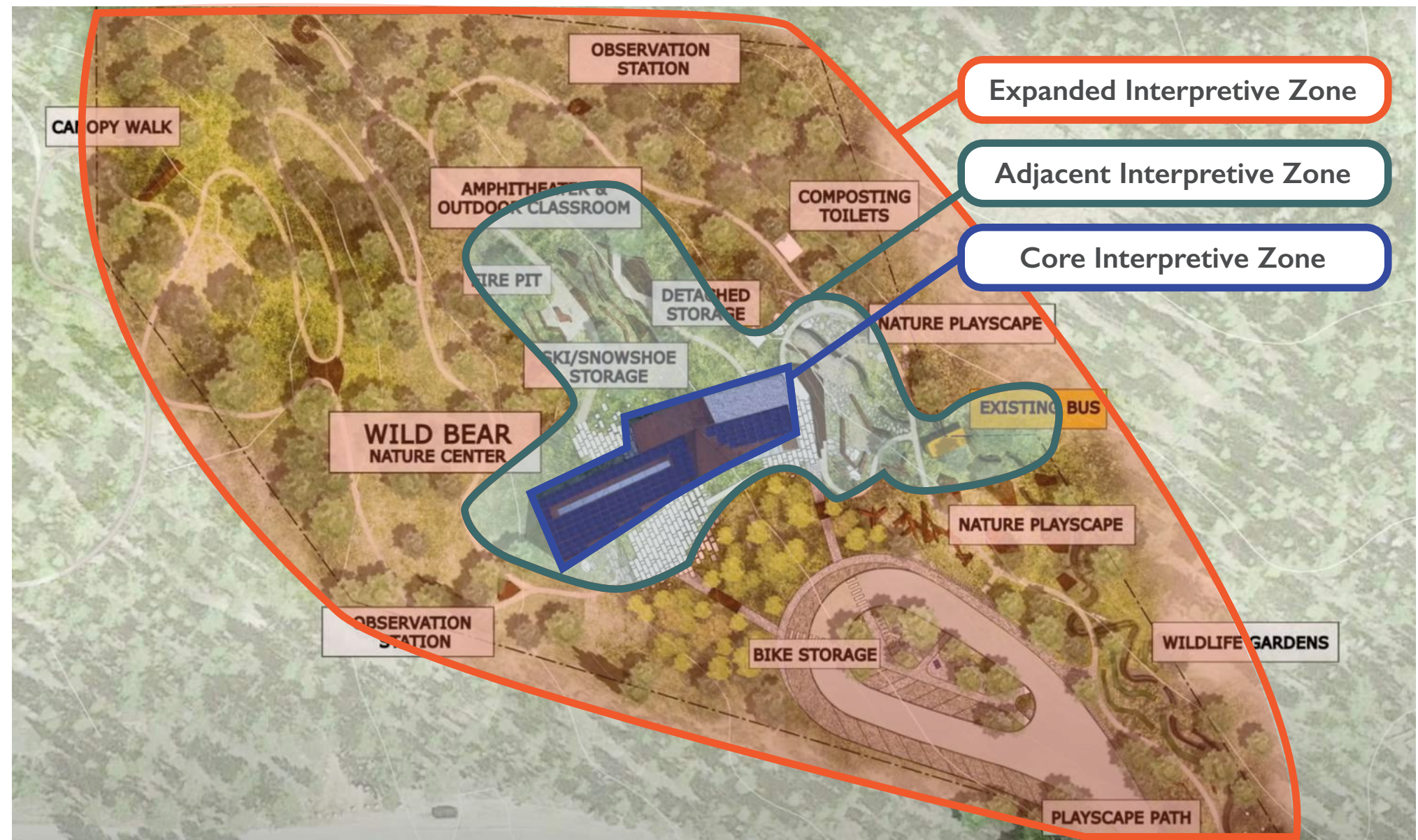
Wild Bear is a living institution. Its decades of experience demonstrate an institution that is constantly evolving and improving. Old ideas are improved upon. New ideas are introduced. New needs and messages are developed. The IMP allows flexibility as well as a strong core visitor experience upon which change and adaptation is encouraged and uncomplicated.

Community has always been central to Wild Bear’s existence, and this master plan embraces community in creation and build-out of interpretive moments and structures. Throughout the IMP, and in the We Are Nature exhibit hall, many of the suggested exhibit elements are flexible to allow a blend of contract fabrication and locally sourced materials, creativity, and labor. As the project moves from master plan to full concept design, a coordinated process of engaging community will inform balancing these approaches.

Understanding of the Site as a Whole

A Wild Bear interpretive experience is not just a set of exhibit elements dropped into space. Rather, the on-site interpretive “meaning making” experience begins as visitors enter the site, either through the front drop-off location, or along the trails. While the Core Interpretive Zone is in the building interior, the exterior also extends the Wild Bear experience. The site itself is an important nature area. Yet, unlike adjacent open space and

more familiar trail systems, the Wild Bear site should be interpretively playful and rich with surprise, creativity, and specific meaning. Areas closer to the building in the Adjacent Interpretive Zone are more formalized in their interpretive methods. The outlying Expanded Interpretive Zone areas become more dispersed but are not limited to conventional trailside interpretation of stops and signs.



Wild Bear: Living its Mission

Wild Bear's mission is apparent in everything it does: staff culture; community interactions; programming, and planning the new nature center. This interpretive plan is no exception. It is informed by and infused with the spirit and mission of Wild Bear.

Inspiring a lifelong connection to nature and community through creative exploration of the outdoors.



Wild Bear has incredibly strong public programming due to a variety of factors: a strong mission and vision; tremendous community support; a talented, passionate, and creative team; and the necessity of building strong programs without the crutch of a dynamic physical indoor space. Wild Bear knows WHO they are, WHY they are, and who they are FOR. Wild Bear programming mostly takes place in Indian Peaks Wilderness, Mud Lake and Caribou Ranch open spaces, and other surrounding natural areas with the ultimate goal of getting program participants outside. Consequently, much of Wild Bear's programming won't change with the new nature center. It may be easier to expand and attract new audiences (such as adults and teens) and grow existing audiences with a stronger physical anchor, but since Wild Bear's programming has always been outdoor-oriented, the building will only enhance current public programming and not replace it.

This interpretive plan acknowledges the tremendous programmatic work being done and guides the creation of a strong visitor experience centered around a Big Idea and bolstered by themes and threads that visitors will encounter throughout their Wild Bear experience from start to finish: in their arrival, in exhibits, in classrooms, along interpretive trails, in the outdoor playscape and amphitheater, and more.

Look closely at nature.

Every species is a masterpiece, exquisitely adapted to the particular environment in which it has survived.

—E. O. Wilson

Now more than ever, we need nature and nature needs us.

Nature has the power to heal and restore us, and we have the power to heal and restore the natural world.

Defining Audience

Audience Breakdown by Type of User

This interpretive plan examines audience through the lens of Wild Bear's primary user groups for physical, built interpretation. This does not necessarily capture the whole range of Wild Bear's programmatic audience, but looks at the type of user that will primarily be in physical spaces.

P1 – Camp Programs (youth)

- This audience group consists of Wild Bear's popular and successful camp programs that explore the Indian Peaks Wilderness, Mud Lake and Caribou Ranch open spaces, and other surrounding natural areas.

P2 – Specific Programs (youth)

- This includes youth programs such as Bear Cubs (for children and their grown ups together); Nature Adventure Days (on days off from school); and other specialty outdoor education programs throughout the year when schools have holidays and breaks.

P3 – Specific Programs (adult)

- Adult-oriented programs like Earth Art (such as Fly Tying workshops); Nature Heals (yoga, mountain herbalism hikes); Outdoor Adventures (snow shoe hikes); and Climate Action programs make up this audience category.

W1 – Walk-ins (local family groups)

- This audience segment consists of local family drop-in visitors. They are often repeat visitors and may be familiar with Wild Bear programs.

W2 – Walk-ins (non-local)

- This audience segment of non-local walk-ins might be Front Range or out of state visitors who come specifically to Wild Bear to visit the nature center and its outdoor amenities. This segment is not expected to account for a large percentage of Wild Bear visitation. These visitors may be inexperienced in the outdoors and looking for a safe, accessible way to explore nature.

OU – Outdoor Users

- These visitors are coming to Wild Bear primarily to explore the outdoors and open space around Wild Bear. They may come from Mud Lake or connecting trails.

VC – Visitor Center Drop-ins

- This audience group consists of people driving the Peak to Peak Highway or visiting Nederland/Indian Peaks looking for restrooms, visitor information, cellular service, or recommendations for places to visit.



Project & Sitewide Understandings

Wild Bear is a hybrid institution more so than most institutions. Through discussions and interpretive planning work this plan identifies that Wild Bear serves the functions of:

- Visitor Center – Provide resources to visitors that help understand the place they are exploring and assist with needs such as restroom, travel advice, souvenir shopping and other related informal needs
- Nature Center – Interpreting its adjacent and relevant natural places
- Resource Center – Meeting needs of community for partnership, information, and guidance for local and non-local publics
- Community Center – Providing gathering spaces for wide ranging groups that align or do not align to Wild Bear’s specific missions
- Museum – Share and interpret collections and provide experiences of storytelling and making meaning of content that connects to Wild Bear’s mission and educational goals
- Camp – Provide the backdrop for groups of younger audiences to spend single or multiple days in programs that are centered at Wild Bear’s location
- Event Location – Provide indoor and outdoor gathering for varying groups for entertainment and increase of understanding
- Outdoor Recreation Facility – A launching point and destination for enjoyment of the natural world (both at the site itself and through its neighboring properties)

This Interpretive Master Plan is structured around the widely varying set of visitor purposes. It allows for all of them to occur, and often through shared spaces with flexibility. At any moment, many of these functions will occur simultaneously, perhaps even in the same or adjacent physical locations.

Accessibility

Accessibility is a term that has many different meanings in this interpretive plan. Wild Bear is, at its heart, about access to nature. Indoor spaces and built exhibits will be ADA compliant and universally accessible, at a minimum. Interpretive exhibit concepts and ideas should be layered for depth and engage multiple learning styles and senses. Multi-modal, tactile, and interactive opportunities will be infused and woven into all spaces—inside and out. Non-English speakers or non-readers should be able to enjoy and explore nature just as much as literary learners. Layered content will make multi-generational groups and both the youngest and most mature learners feel safe and smart.

Written Approach & Cultural Connections

Interpretive text throughout the building and the site will be limited and bilingual in English and Spanish. Direct translation is often inadequate at conveying the meaning of interpretive signage. Rather, translation often means including subtle shifts in approach so that Spanish readers find the content relevant to their cultural understanding. For this reason, Wild Bear should continue to build relationships with local communities to ensure that future bilingual work is appropriate for local audiences.

Bilingual content is only part of creating a truly welcoming environment. Creating experiences that are informed by cultural understanding of how Spanish speaking visitors might engage with the site (providing picnic tables or spaces for extended families to gather near outdoor interpretive areas, for example) is critical.

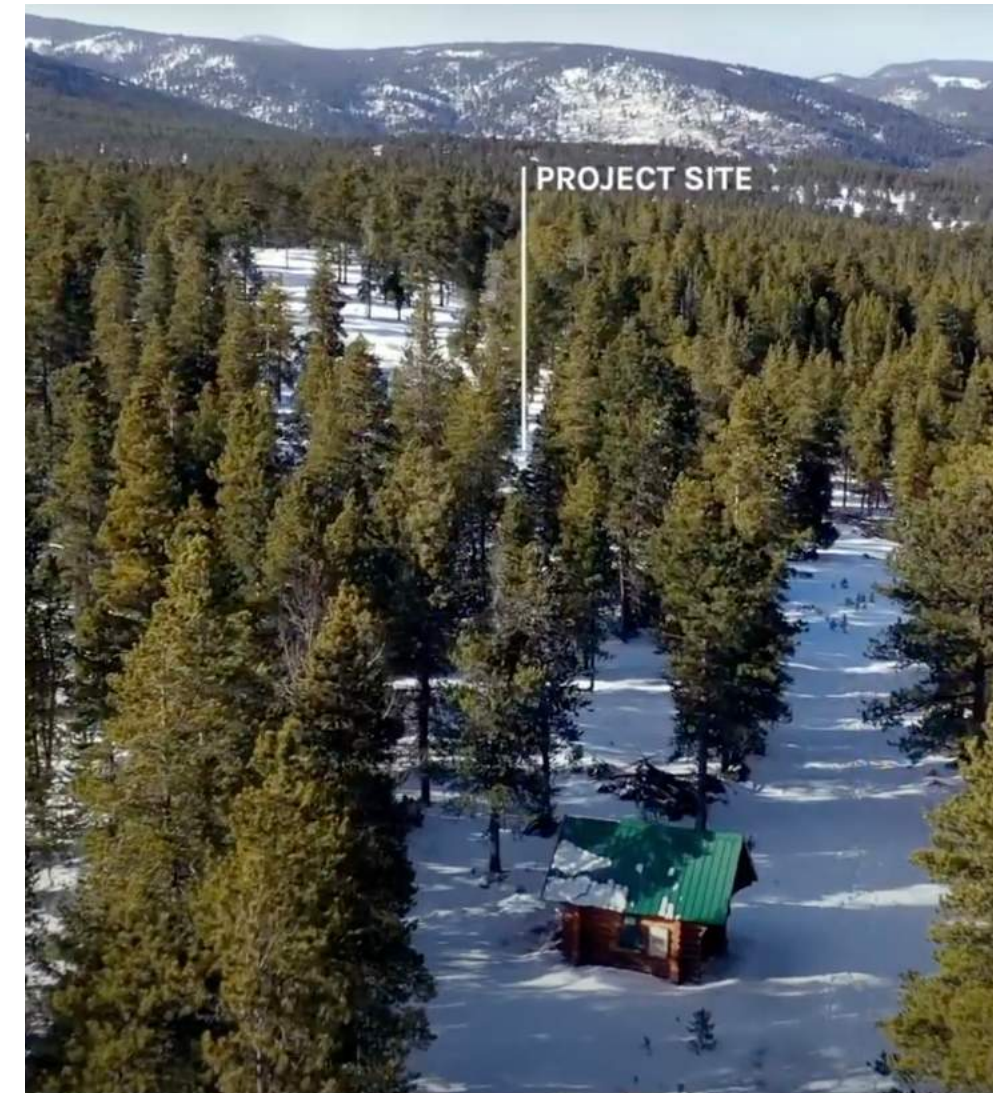
Collections

The existing collections consists of many hands-on interactives geared towards younger audiences, an extensive education collection, a handful of live collections, community-created artwork, the bus on the site, and several bird nest recreations. There is opportunity to integrate many of these elements in a variety of ways, although it does not seem critical to include all existing assets into the new space.

Understanding of Phased Build out Approach

Interior and exterior phasing should be considered connected but separate in their prioritization. The IMP is followed by a Phasing Analysis table that conveys recommendations for how/when aspects of interpretation may be grouped.

Since many of the exterior areas, such as trails and amphitheater are not part of the initial site improvement, the later phases of interpretive installation will need to follow the site improvement schedule. Some key aspects of interpretation outside may need to be relocated or reconsidered, particularly the trail alignments. It is beyond the scope of this interpretive master plan to recommend trail alignments. In the site analysis section and phasing, descriptions of these areas are more illustrative of approach than specific in messaging and locations.



Climate Wise Interpretive Approaches

The Wild Bear Nature Center is a Net Zero Energy building, creating enough renewable energy equal to its usage. The building itself, while atypical in its design, does not directly convey this without specific interpretive tools. It is often the case that building owners and designers have more interest in such specific interpretation than the general visiting public.

There are effectively four methods by which this can be interpreted, with varying pros and cons:

1. Through focused programs that use staff to share the building's features.
 - a. Tours can be set on demand. In other institutions, tours are rarely requested beyond initial building opening.
 - b. Minimal building signage impact and low cost to implement
2. Through "Green Tour" signage throughout the building that identifies elements at the location it is visible to the public (either as tour stops or interpreted at that location).
 - a. Interpretation is always available, but only if the interpretation is actually at that location (which may demand too many signs in too many locations).
 - b. Many of the features are not visible in public spaces or from the interior.
 - c. Creates visual clutter.
 - d. Most visitors are not going to see the entire building, so its reach is limited.
 - e. Specific features will become dated and no longer be current approaches in a few years after opening.
 - f. Most interpretation about building features is aimed at adult audience, even though Wild Bear has a significant younger visitor.
 - g. These are sometimes done as tour stops, but signage does not convey any meaning without a tour guide or pamphlet.
 - h. Public typically has limited interest in the details, but rather benefits from the knowledge and approach as a concept, not in particulars.

3. Through a single interpretive location (in We are Nature Hall or in a central location such as the flexible programming space) that presents summary/visuals of Net Zero at Wild Bear.
 - a. Focuses the story and can provide a strong overview.
4. Through an online or media piece that shares this story without a need for a physical presence in the building (could also be used by #1.)
 - a. Can be used on-site or remotely via website and social media.
 - b. May have limited on-site, permanent presence.

The convention of providing such interpretation is directly traceable to the requirement of LEED to include educational signage as part of accreditation. However, the "check the box" method that has become standard is of questionable interpretive value. It is rare that signage approaches are engaged by the public after the opening of the building. Wild Bear may wish to evaluate where its interpretive efforts should be placed – balancing effort and cost with impact.

Community and Artist/Craftsperson Sourcing

Throughout the interpretive master plan, design approaches are tailored to allow for the potential of engaging local artists, craftspeople, and locally sourced materials. The future build-out of the interpretive plan into exhibits and interpretive elements is flexible, but provides a context and purpose for possible in-kind work. While examples are provided in specific areas, future collaboration will help determine when and where such efforts provide a benefit to the project, and in where the expertise of professional exhibition fabrication contractors may be of best service and value for reasons of schedule, coordination, skills, and other factors.



Big Idea

A strong “big idea” summarizes the significance of the exhibit clearly in a single statement. It is relevant, provocative and meaningful. It builds a personal connection to the purpose of the exhibit, and gives the visitor a reason to care. It should aim to present a whole rather than a part, and that the exhibit should address the “whole person.”

*We Are Nature.
When we protect our natural
places, we protect ourselves.*

Defining “We Are Nature” as an Interpretive Approach

Overlying the entire visitor experience at Wild Bear is the idea that humans are part of nature. Instead of being separate from the natural world, we are part of and directly connected to it. Humans are animals with the same basic needs as all life forms. By providing opportunities for visitors to see themselves as part of the natural world, experiences at Wild Bear create empathy for nature and animals and illustrate that by caring for nature we care for our own well-being and survival. All exhibit themes stem from the Big Idea and are encompassed under its umbrella.

Key Understandings

Over the course of three in person workshops, consultants worked with the Wild Bear team to understand previous assumptions and conceptual work and bring it up to the present. Through the course of those meetings, a set of Key Understandings was developed through an analysis of conceptual rankings done by the staff and a synthesis of that information combined with conversations from the previous workshops. These Key Understandings have informed this interpretive plan and translated directly into the Big Idea, Themes, and Threads.

Key Understandings From Team Workshops

1. We Are Nature is an umbrella “meta message.” Ways in which specific connections to how humans are a part of nature and not apart from it should be accessible, multi-modal, and tangible for visitors.
2. The We are Nature as elements framework presented in the film “Interconnectedness” is not the messaging that Wild Bear wants to convey to the public. The film and concepts themselves may make for compelling programming, but the film and specific concepts about elements will not be built into physical exhibits or interpretation.
3. Wild Bear is a place-based institution, and while the messaging and experiences speak to the broadest possible connections between people and other places visitors may go, the focus at Wild Bear is through the lens of the specific, visible, and tangible natural world around Wild Bear.
4. Wild Bear offers rich palette to explore, observe, and discover the natural world, offering small moments and experiences that are personally meaningful and wonderful but are also representative of larger natural connections and meaning.
5. The human and social history of this location is an important grounding element for artistic expression and acknowledgment, yet not does not represent a significant interpretive (exhibit) storyline. It does, however, align with programming and events, as well as relationships and collaborations between Wild Bear and other institutions.
6. Exhibits and interactions that focus on discovery, exploration, accessibility, and tangible aspects of Wild Bear’s ecosystems are central to the visitor experience (in playful, whimsical, and creative ways). The natural seasonality of the alpine environment provides opportunities for exhibits to be changeable.
7. Experiencing and valuing nature is more important than directing specific visitor environmental-change action. Building empathy and awe for the natural world in a joyful, discovery-oriented way may lead to visitor’s desire for personal action as a by-product of the experience, but direct action is not an overt goal of the visitor experience. The community-based clean up of Mud Lake may provide an example that inspires others.
8. Visitor understanding of how the natural world functions is critically important, yet the skills of knowing this place are directly and indirectly transferable to other places visitors may engage. It is more important to build empathy and understanding through magical moments of joy and discovery than to understand complete natural systems.
9. Built interpretation should primarily focus on aspects of visitor engagement that Wild Bear is uniquely, even solely, capable of providing, at this location and during the time visitors are present at Wild Bear’s facility, today or in the future.



Understanding Themes & Threads

Themes

Exhibit themes are the heart of what the exhibits intend to convey. Themes are not just facts, but rather use facts to develop a particular lens through which to see the subject.

Wild Bear's World

Observable, variable, and seasonally-changing high altitude nature and ecosystems that Wild Bear is part of.

- Wild Bear offers an ever-changing place to observe and explore nature in distinct seasons.
- The land around the nature center presents an opportunity to explore a variety of ecosystems, including alpine meadows, wetlands, and aspen forests.
- What visitors experience at Wild Bear is representative of larger natural connection and meaning.



Science

Scientific research and knowledge informs understanding of nature.

- Science is happening all around us and helps inform our understanding of the natural world.
- There are opportunities to participate in scientific observation and reporting through Citizen Science.
- Wild Bear is a place to learn to be a naturalist and practice scientific skills.



Humans and the Natural World

Humans are part of nature.

- Humans are part of the natural world and by caring for it we care for ourselves.
- Everything is connected.
- Humans have evolved alongside nature and are part of the biological and natural systems of the planet.
- Human actions impact the natural world, which in turn impacts us.



People and Community

Power of people to come together and collectively affect positive change.

- Once a dumping ground, the local community came together to clean up and restore nearby Mud Lake--now one of the healthiest wetland habitats on the Front Range.
- We are caretakers of this special place, as 10,000 years of humans before us have been.
- The land that visitors explore today around Wild Bear is part of the ancestral homeland of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho people.
- Diverse communities contributed to and built this mountain community



Beauty and Inspiration

Nature as a source of joy and inspiration for creative expression.

- There is joy and wonder in discovering the beauty of nature.
- The outdoors provides endless opportunities to safely, respectfully and playfully enjoy nature.
- Nature inspires the human spirit and artistic expression in multiple creative ways.
- Magic and mystery creates love and understanding of place.



Climate Change

Signs of climate change, human actions and impact on the climate.

- Human actions have caused and accelerated climate change.
- Climate change is magnified in alpine environments.
- A warming climate directly affects the natural world and the plants and animals in our local ecosystem.
- Wild Bear and Indian Peaks experience extreme mountain weather. Weather and climate are different.
- There are actions we can take to live lighter on the earth and lessen our personal impact.
- Wild Bear is a Net Zero building designed with many green features to minimize its impact.



Interpretive Threads

Threads

Exhibit threads are reoccurring concepts that apply to many themes and re-emerge throughout most of the exhibits. They help “thread” the visitor through the content narratives.



Fire

Fire as a constant presence; fire ecology; forest fuel; regeneration. The sun as a source of energy.



Water

Arapahoe Glacier and the Boulder Creek watershed; Mud Lake wetlands; the watershed around Wild Bear.



Air

Wind currents and plant, animal, and human adaptations; air quality; fresh mountain air.



Life

Humans as animals; adaptations that allow animals to live in the region; the flora and fauna of Wild Bear; seasonal migration.



Empathy

Empathy

Emotional connections with animals and nature; engaging with animals up close.



Earth

Earth

Natural systems of the planet; the geology of the Front Range and the Rocky Mountains.



Weather

Weather

Extreme weather events; seasonality.



Incorporation of Existing Wild Bear Materials

The existing collections consists of many hands on interactives geared towards younger audiences, as well as a handful of live collections, the bus on the site, and several bird nest recreations. Little of the current collection will be pertinent to new exhibits. However, there may be opportunity to integrate some of these elements (such as the birds and bird's nests) in a variety of ways. Other elements will continue to be part of the teaching collection and can be used to animate classroom spaces.

Overview of Existing Assets

Live animal and arthropod collections

- Species native to the Wild Bear ecosystem
- Species non-native to Wild Bear

Mud Lake Elements

- Boots and recovered Mud Lake cleanup artifacts

Hands-on/Tactile Exhibits

- Bone Dig Pit
- Puppet Theater

Biofacts

- All elements in themed back-biofact room
- Education collection
- The science skills of a naturalist

Taxidermy

- Birds and bird nests
- Misc. taxidermy

Community Created Artwork

- Chalk board art
- Donated artwork
- Murals
- Photography

Trails, Landscape, Areas to Explore Around the New Wild Bear Site

- Trails, landscape, areas to explore

New Wild Bear Nature Center

- Architectural space exploration
- Community use spaces
- Classrooms

Future Asset Needs

Wild Bear's current collection of objects, materials, and assets are largely teaching collections, intended for hands-on usage. Some are intended for observation. As the IMP begins to move through the design and implementation phases, additional materials may prove useful, and can include but are not limited to:

Potential and Likely Desirable Assets

- Additional taxidermy
- Photography
- Video interviews and media production
- Biological specimens
- Nature audio sounds
- Commissioned and existing art (2D and 3D)
- Extended live animal collections



Recovered bus



Scavenger play area



Recreated bird habitats



Mud Lake Boots and Ephemera



Young children's play area



Taxidermy



Biofacts



Tactile enrichment elements



Teaching collection materials



Community art / living collections



Fossil collections

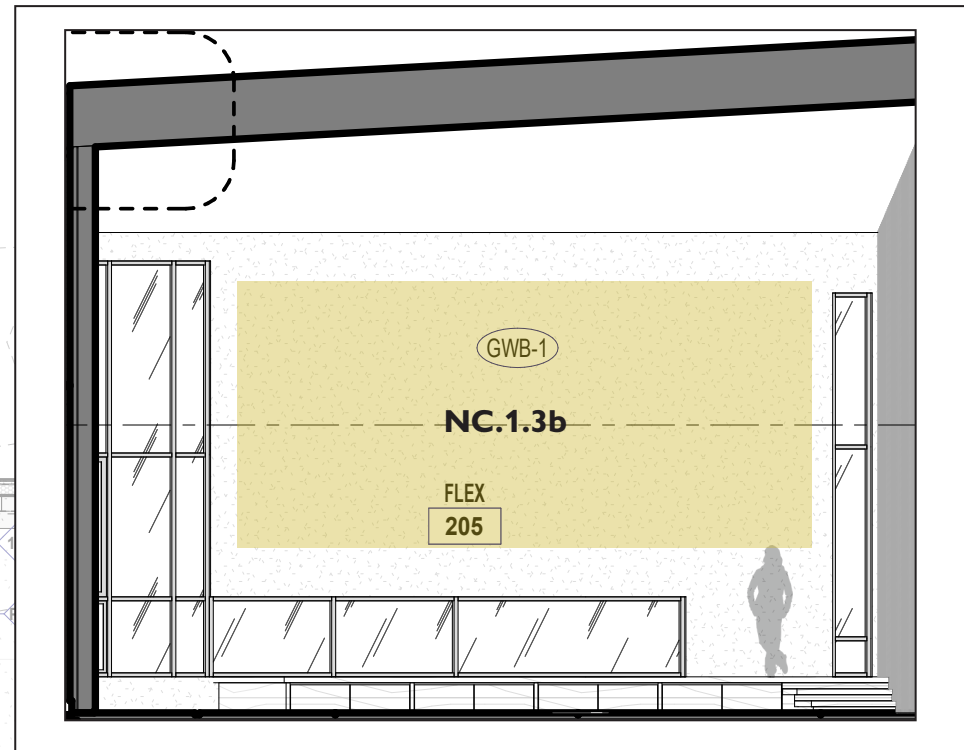
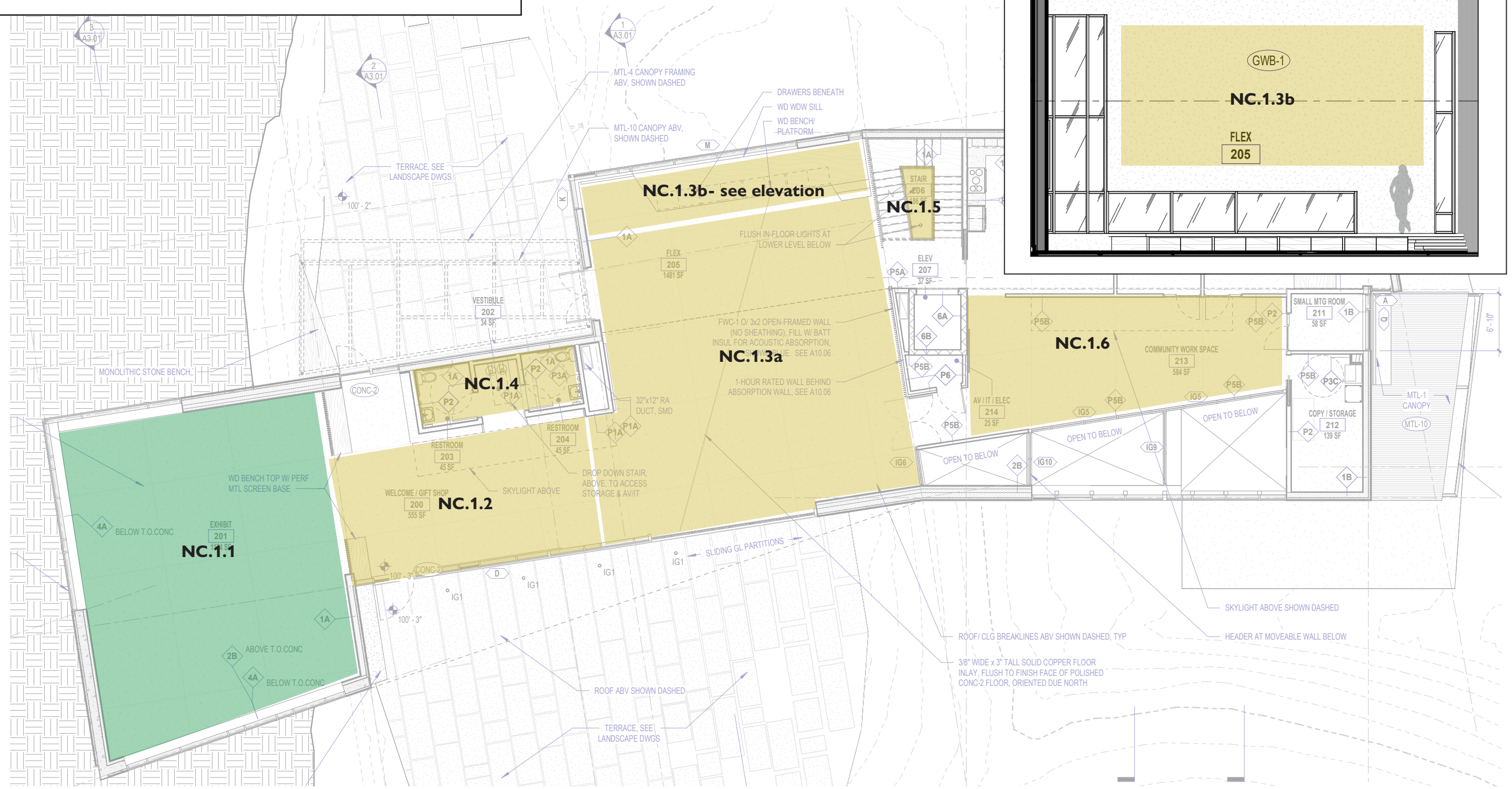


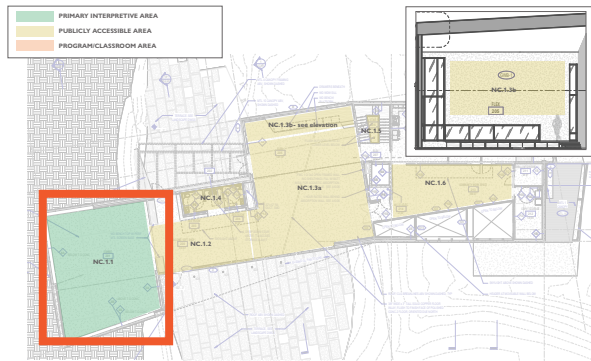
Bird nests

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE AREA

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE AREA

PROGRAM/CLASSROOM AREA

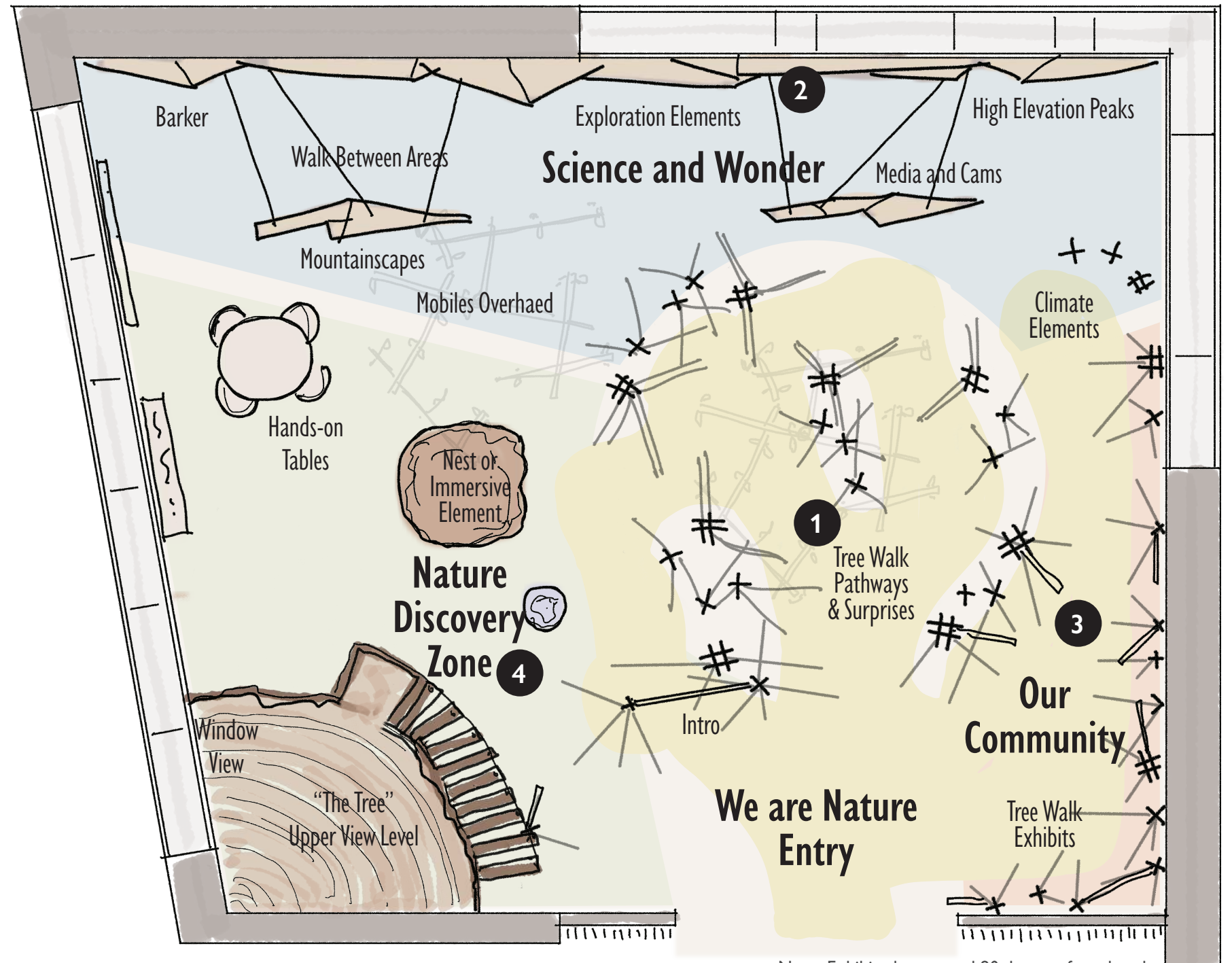




Identification Info	
Room Name	Exhibit Hall: NC1.1
Interp Room Number	NC1.1
User Info	
Primary Audience	P1 - Camp Programs (youth) P2 - Day Programs (youth) W1 - Walk-ins (local) W1 - Walk-ins (non-local)
Secondary Audience	P3 - Day Programs (adult)
Duration of Use	15-45min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, Afternoon, Evening
Architectural Description	
Square Footage	1190sq. ft.
Unique Features	High Ceilings, Indirect day-lighting
Interpretive Approach	
Profile Type	Didactic, Experiential, Artistic
Experience	Combo: Guided/Self Guided

Overall Description

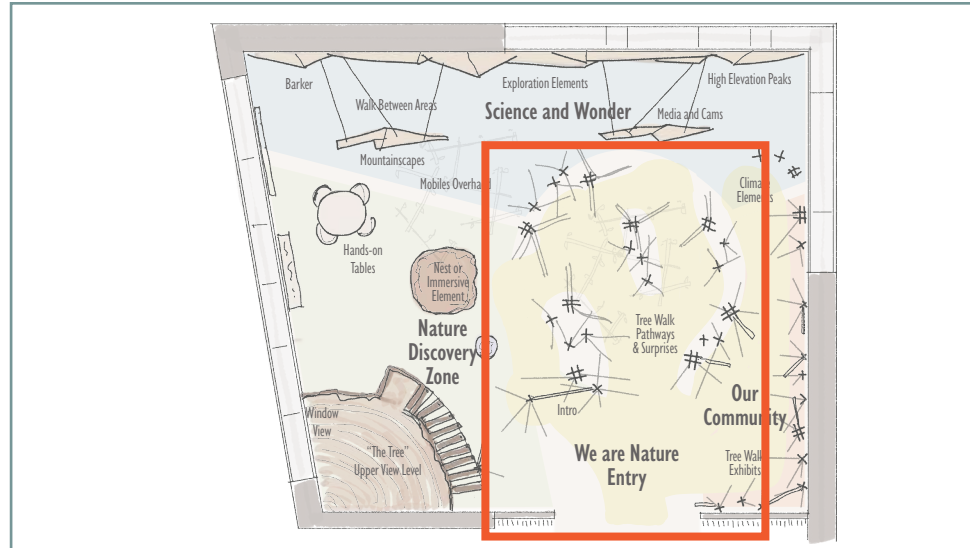
Wild Bear’s We Are Nature Hall is a visually stimulating, vibrant, multi-sensory space that immerses visitors into the fascinating world of nature. Drawn into the exhibit hall by iconic mobiles suspended from the ceiling and a winding trail of trees through the space, visitors engage with four thematically-anchored zones: the Tree Walk; Our Community; Science and Wonder; and the Nature Discovery Zone. Visitors of all ages will find things to see, touch, smell, feel, and do.



Note: Exhibit plan rotated 90 degrees from keyplan

Exhibit Area Key Features and Organization

- 1 Through the entry, a large welcoming “forest” of trees reveals a central mobile and pathway area with an interactive “journey” that always leads to world left better than visitors found it.
- 2 At the far wall a creatively composed “mountainscape” conveys the drama of Wild Bear’s environs and shares science and discovery in the impressive dimensional wall structure, and utilizes the extreme height of the space.
- 3 A “forest walk” through the Community area shares more didactic and storysharing of the many facets of community.
- 4 The Nature Discovery Zone is anchored by an grand “mother tree” that affords views out windows and throughout the hall from above and quiet “den” inside. The area includes more playful aspects of discovery and is a flexible space that allows for adaptation by WB staff through the years.



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	W1 - Walk-ins (local family groups – likely repeat) W2 - Walk-ins (non-local, limited visitation)
Secondary Audience	VC - Stop-ins, Visitor Center-type users
Duration of Use	2-5 min
Time of Day of Use	Public hours

Architectural Description

Square Footage	~200 sq. ft.
Unique Features	High ceilings

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Immersive Exhibit
Experience	Hands-on experience

Exhibit Area Zone Description

An introductory graphic welcomes visitors and features We Are Nature messaging. Above the center of this exhibit zone, a large mobile consisting of shoes from the Mud Lake cleanup interspersed with artfully-created birds representations is suspended in the air. The mobile juxtaposes the beauty of nature with trash—a visible symbol of humans and the impact of our actions on the natural world.

A forest of trees leads visitors through surprising exhibits focusing on making change and environmental stewardship. Multiple entrances invite visitors to enter and participate. No matter the chosen route, all paths successfully lead to engaging exhibits directly under the mobiles.

Exhibits face the interior of the circle and allow space for interpretation that focuses on human impact on the environment and climate change. Messaging also focuses on action and choices: visitors are asked to participate.



Visitor Takeaways

- Once a dumping ground, the local community came together to clean up and restore nearby Mud Lake—now one of the healthiest wetland habitats on the Front Range.
- Human actions have caused and accelerated climate change.
- There are actions we can take to live lighter on the earth and lessen our personal impact.
- Humans are part of the natural world and by caring for it we care for ourselves.
- Human actions impact the natural world, which in turn impacts us.
- Nature inspires the human spirit and artistic expression in multiple creative ways.



Visitor activated overhead kinetic mobile emphasizes the effect of change we all have



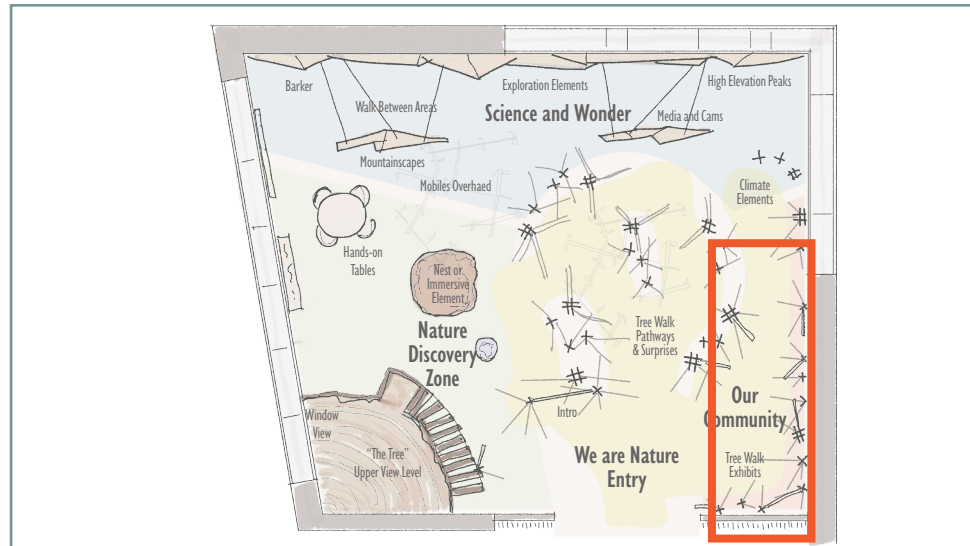
Geometrical abstract “cross” section trees are spatial organizers in the exhibit hall



Floor graphics and perhaps lighting suggest trail and pathways leading to surprise moments around trees



Visitor triggered theatrical lighting shows how human actions cause multiple effects



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	W1 - Walk-ins (local family groups – likely repeat) W2 - Walk-ins (non-local, limited visitation)
Secondary Audience	VC - Stop-ins, Visitor Center-type users
Duration of Use	2-5min
Time of Day of Use	Public hours

Architectural Description

Square Footage	165sq. ft.
Unique Features	High ceilings

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Immersive Exhibit
Experience	Didactic, visual experience

Exhibit Area Zone Description

Our Community features the story of the Mud Lake cleanup and highlights the power of people to come together and affect change. However, the Community area is then dynamic exhibit that brings together the idea of community is widely varied ways.

A forest walkthrough of dramatically but simply constructed “trees” is a repeating element through this area and others. The trees allow for low-cost adaptability and as a means to attach and adapt into the future.

This zone explores the theme of Community from multiple perspectives and through the lens of various Wild Bear, Nederland, Boulder, and Gilpin County partners, collaborators, and stakeholders. It can include features like profiles of CU climate scientists, wildlife biologists, firefighters, members of the skiing and outdoor recreation community, Ute or Arapaho tribal representatives, and more. A photo montage of historic and recent photos showing members of different ethnic communities can reinforce the message that diverse communities have long been part of this area’s history. Feature like videos from Wild Bear’s various community stakeholders or physical objects from partners can bring a 3D feel to this zone, which features light narration and is highly visual. Change is made possible by attaching new materials to the trees or through media and adaptable exhibit systems.



Visitor Takeaways

- Once a dumping ground, the local community came together to clean up and restore nearby Mud Lake--now one of the healthiest wetland habitats on the Front Range.
- We are caretakers of this special place, as 10,000 years of humans before us have been.
- The land that visitors explore today around Wild Bear is part of the ancestral homeland of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho people.
- Diverse communities contributed to and built this mountain community.
- Science is happening all around us and helps inform our understanding of the natural world.
- There are opportunities to participate in scientific observation and reporting through Citizen Science.
- Human actions have caused and accelerated climate change.
- There are actions we can take to live lighter on the earth and lessen our personal impact.



Animals and scenic elements adorn trees and exhibit areas



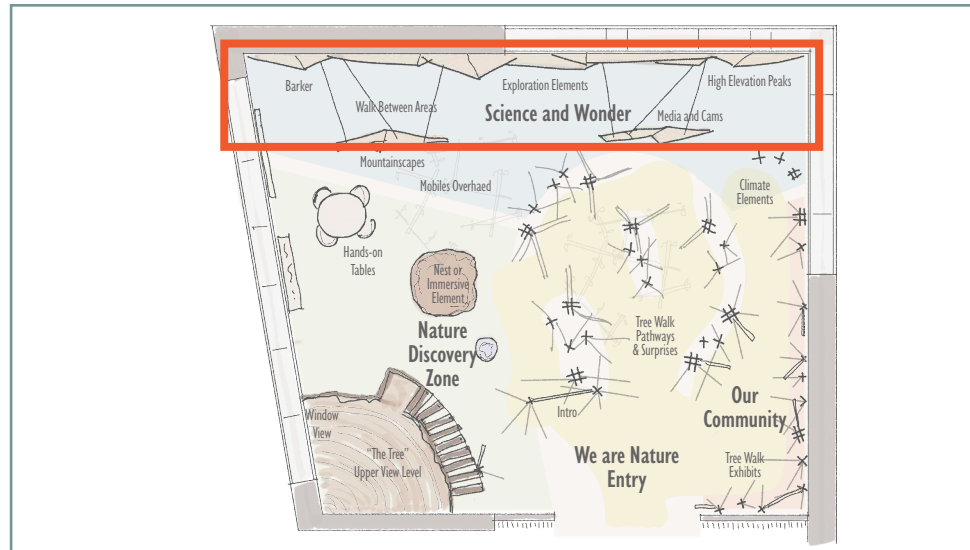
Images evoking the refuse removed from Mud Lake will support storylines



Possible media with local “change makers” who embody Wild Bear actions and values



The area highlights the positive effects and differences made that led to what see today



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	W1 - Walk-ins (local family groups – likely repeat) W2 - Walk-ins (non-local, limited visitation)
Secondary Audience	VC - Stop-ins, Visitor Center-type users
Duration of Use	5-10 min
Time of Day of Use	Public hours

Architectural Description

Square Footage	~300 sq. ft.
Unique Features	Sloped, high ceilings

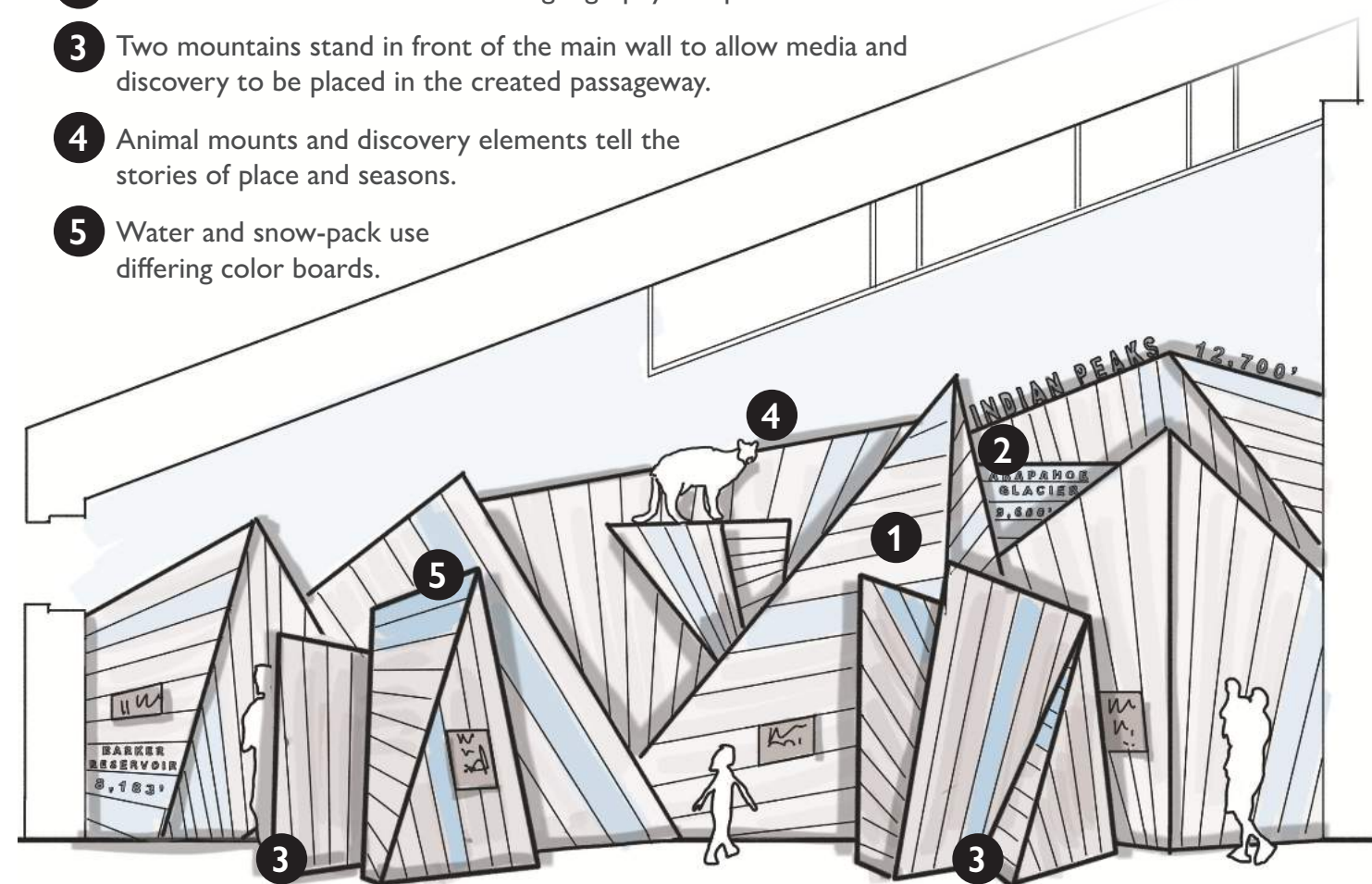
Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Immersive Exhibit
Experience	Didactic, visual experience, Hands-on and exploratory elements

Exhibit Area Zone Description

This zone occupies the feature wall of the We Are Nature Hall and presents a large natural wood build-out of a mountainscape. Ranging in height from 14 to 24 feet, the mountain scape isn't flat but features sections visitors can walk behind and hidden angles in the wall with shelves, small doors, and pullout drawers perfect for skulls, rocks and minerals, taxidermy specimens, graphics, props, or artifacts. A major interpretive theme is water, and Arapaho Glacier, Indian Peaks, Mud Lake, Barker Reservoir, and the Boulder Canyon, Boulder Creek and Reservoir are called out in three interpretive zones that correlate to the elevations of Arapaho Glacier, Mud Lake, and Barker Reservoir. A visible representation of water runs through all three zones. A tundra camera is just one possible way to incorporate current scientific research and observation into the mountain scape. Additional interpretive themes include headwaters, watershed, snow-pack, seasons, climate change, weather systems, plants and animals, and observable nature and ecosystems around Wild Bear.

- 1 Barnwood planks (local?) create shallow 3D mountainscape. White-blue pickled planks represent water, glaciers, and reservoirs.
- 2 Inscribed and mounted text shares geography and peaks.
- 3 Two mountains stand in front of the main wall to allow media and discovery to be placed in the created passageway.
- 4 Animal mounts and discovery elements tell the stories of place and seasons.
- 5 Water and snow-pack use differing color boards.



Visitor Takeaways

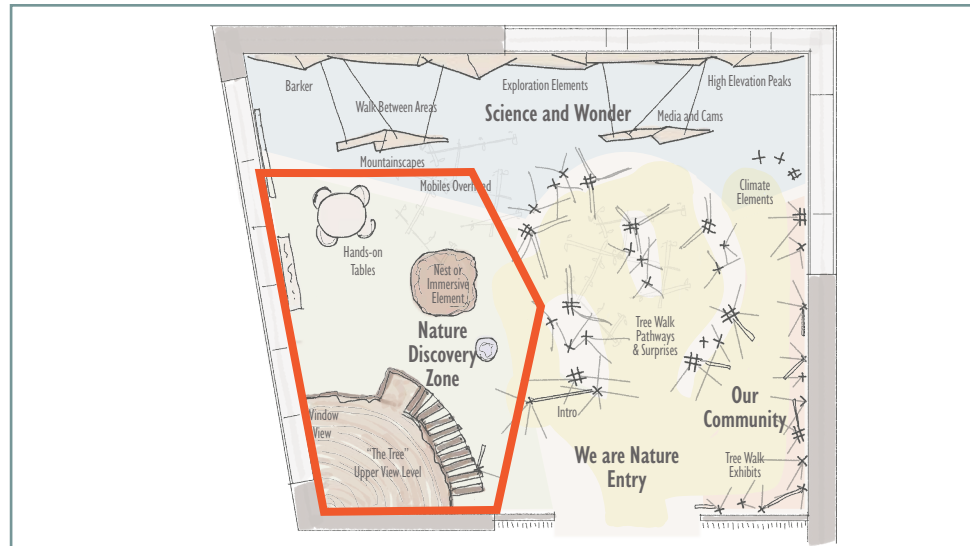
- Humans are part of the natural world and by caring for it we care for ourselves.
- Human actions impact the natural world, which in turn impacts us.
- What visitors experience at Wild Bear is representative of larger natural connection and meaning.
- Science is happening all around us and helps inform our understanding of the natural world.
- Human actions have caused and accelerated climate change.
- Climate change is magnified in alpine environments.
- A warming climate directly affects the natural world and the plants and animals in our local ecosystem.
- Wild Bear and Indian Peaks experience extreme mountain weather. Weather and climate are different.
- The land around the nature center presents an opportunity to explore a variety of ecosystems, including alpine meadows, wetlands, and aspen forests.



Exhibitry modeled of angular wooden mountain inspired backdrop with scenic lighting



Interpretive content spans from the lowest point of Nederland to Arapaho Glacier



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	W1 - Walk-ins (local family groups – likely repeat) W2 - Walk-ins (non-local, limited visitation)
Secondary Audience	VC - Stop-ins, Visitor Center-type users
Duration of Use	5-30min
Time of Day of Use	Public hours

Architectural Description

Square Footage	~375sq. ft.
Unique Features	Varying ceiling height, windows to south

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Immersive Exhibit
Experience	Hands-on, exploratory exhibits

Exhibit Area Zone Description

This exhibit zone, which is heavily influenced by interactivity, discovery and play, features a tree experience for kids to explore through a magic tree with interior “den” and viewing from above. A heightened vantage point creates a kid’s only space where they can discover hidden natural elements like birds, nests, squirrels, the canopy, tree leaves and branches, and more. The elevated perch allows access to windows, which can feature binoculars with hidden natural elements (such as bat boxes or fairies made out of natural materials) in trees that are visible from this window. Additionally, objects are hidden in the adjacent mountain scape that are only visible from the tree.

The area inside the tree experience can feature a den for visitors to crawl through that includes peekaboo windows into sub-terrestrial creature’s dens. Other elements in this zone include a discovery table for bones, skulls, casts of animal tracks, bird nests, eggs, insect wings under a microscope—tactile, natural specimens or reproductions that allow for hands-on, tactile exploration and close observation and examination. This area can feature live specimens—

preferably native species that are representative of what might be seen in Colorado. Themed seating in the form of reclaimed barnwood trees will be a key part of this zone, where kids may linger and explore, though seating should be interspersed throughout the exhibit hall.

Visitor Takeaways

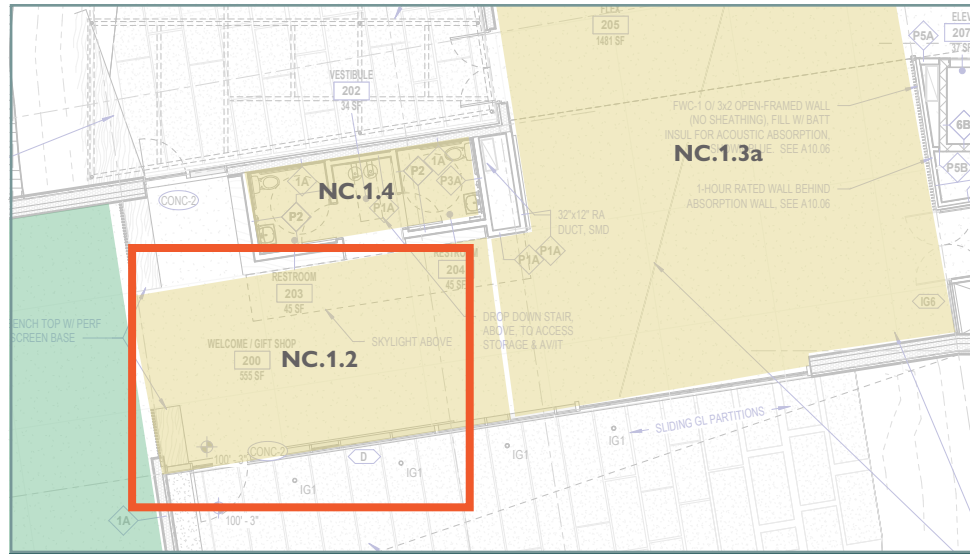
- There is joy and wonder in discovering the beauty of nature.
- Magic and mystery creates love and understanding of place.
- Humans are part of the natural world and by caring for it we care for ourselves.
- Everything is connected.
- There are opportunities to participate in scientific observation and reporting through Citizen Science.
- Wild Bear is a place to learn to be a naturalist and practice scientific skills.



A large scale tree experience invites kids to explore the room, look outside, and engage



Climbing ropes woven ring the steps and provide barrier and may be from recycled rope



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	W1 - Walk-ins (local family groups – likely repeat) W2 - Walk-ins (non-local, limited visitation)
Secondary Audience	VC - Stop-ins, Visitor Center-type users
Duration of Use	1-5min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon, evening

Architectural Description

Square Footage	~595 sq. ft.
Unique Features	n/a

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Welcome and orientation space
Experience	Visitor services-oriented experience

Zone Description

This primary welcome area provides visitor services information and visitor orientation. It features a visitor services desk and retail area. If desired, it can include donor recognition. This space can feature Wild Bear's mission and can also display an earnest land acknowledgment statement.

Signage directing visitors to restrooms should be clearly visible. This interpretive plan does not recommend thematic or interpretive content for restrooms because there are only five toilets in the facility, shared among staff and visitors, and they are each individual spaces. Given the limited number of restrooms, it will be important to get visitors through restrooms efficiently and quickly (especially upon arrival of school and camp groups). Interpretive elements that might cause visitors to linger in restrooms are not recommended.

Visitor Takeaways

- We are caretakers of this special place, as 10,000 years of humans before us have been.
- The land that visitors explore today around Wild Bear is part of the ancestral homeland of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho people.
- Diverse communities contributed to and built this mountain community.
- Nature inspires the human spirit and artistic expression in multiple creative ways.



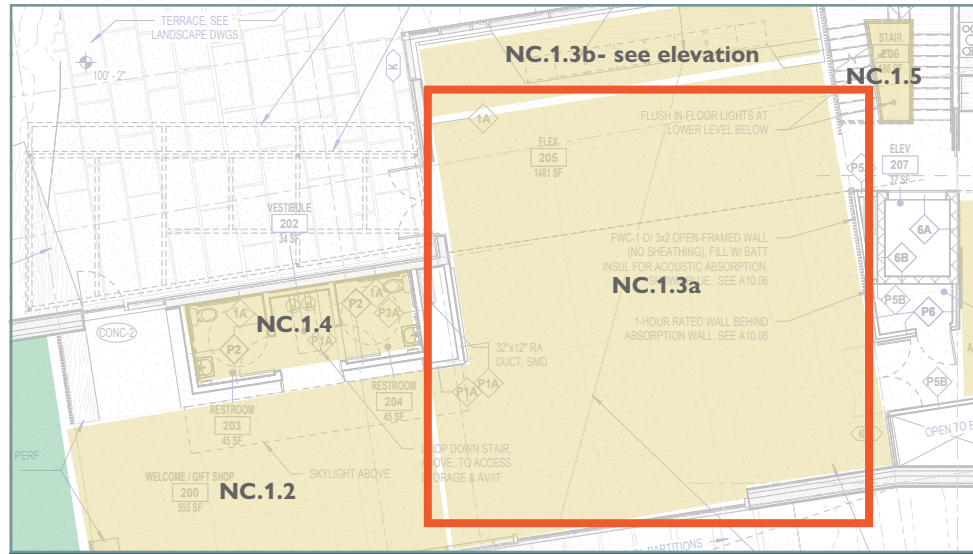
Consider exhibit and other elements along/connected to windows to feature power of the sun



Donor recognition system graphics may be integrated into the wall flanking the exhibit entrance and connected to the architectural ribbing wall system (example: Penn Medicine, Philadelphia)



Additional elements include wayfinding to restrooms and other areas of visitor use



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	P3 - Day Programs (adult)
Secondary Audience	P1 - Camp Programs (youth) P2 - Day Programs (youth)
Duration of Use	12-120 min.
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon, evening

Architectural Description

Square Footage	~1480sq. ft.
Unique Features	Views, high ceilings

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Flexible programming space
Experience	Variable depending on program type

Zone Description

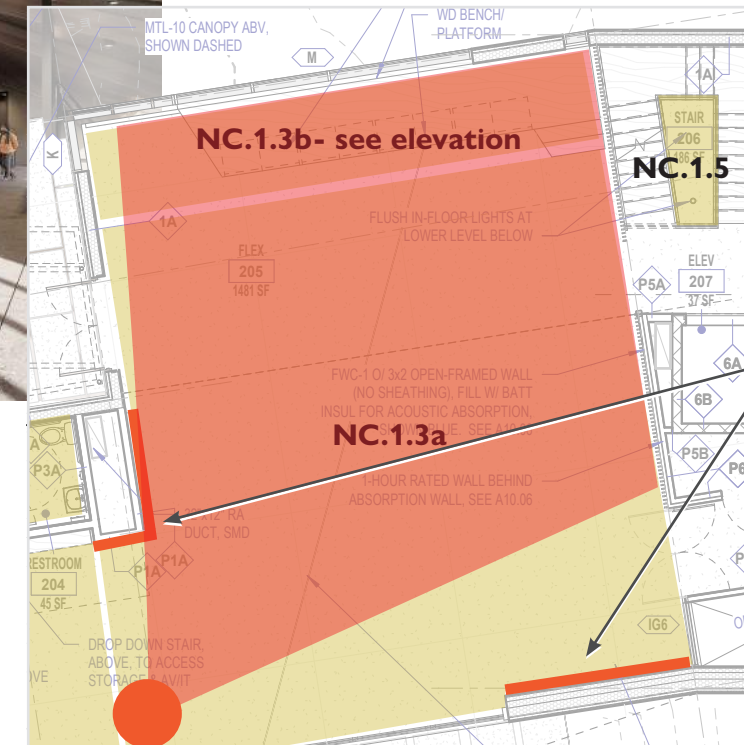
This flexible space will be used for informal and formal programming or as a community gathering space. When not programmed, it can be filled with comfortable seating for visitors. There are two walls in this space that can feature community or commissioned artwork or temporary two-dimensional exhibits.

This flexible programming space might be a good location for an interpretive graphic identifying the concept of Net Zero or a “Green Tour” interpretive label asking visitors to look out for identifying labels throughout the building that highlight various features. It can introduce an icon or graphic (such as a bear with an earth icon on it) that visitors can look for throughout the building to identify features as part of the “Green Tour.”



Visitor Takeaways

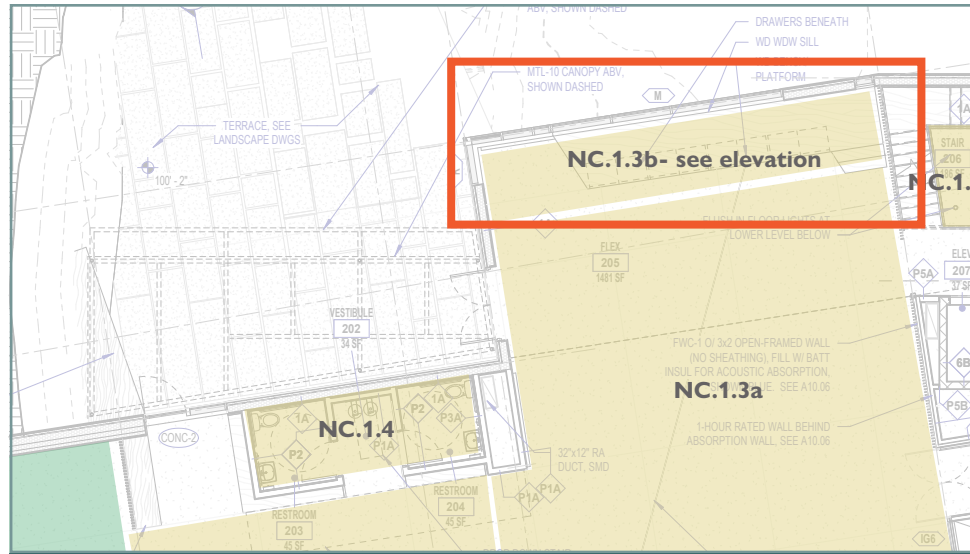
- There is joy and wonder in discovering the beauty of nature.
- Nature inspires the human spirit and artistic expression in multiple creative ways.
- We are caretakers of this special place, as 10,000 years of humans before us have been.
- There are actions we can take to live lighter on the earth and lessen our personal impact.
- Wild Bear is a Net Zero building designed with many green features to minimize its impact.



Community exhibit walls host an array of wall mounted and/or freestanding elements



Integration of wall mounted hanging systems at these locations creates great flexibility



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	P3 - Day Programs (adult)
Secondary Audience	P1 - Camp Programs (youth) P2 - Day Programs (youth)
Duration of Use	used only when activated
Time of Day of Use	Afternoon, evening

Architectural Description

Square Footage	~300sq. ft. (approx 25ft W x 12ft H)
Unique Features	Projection area, possible drop-down unit

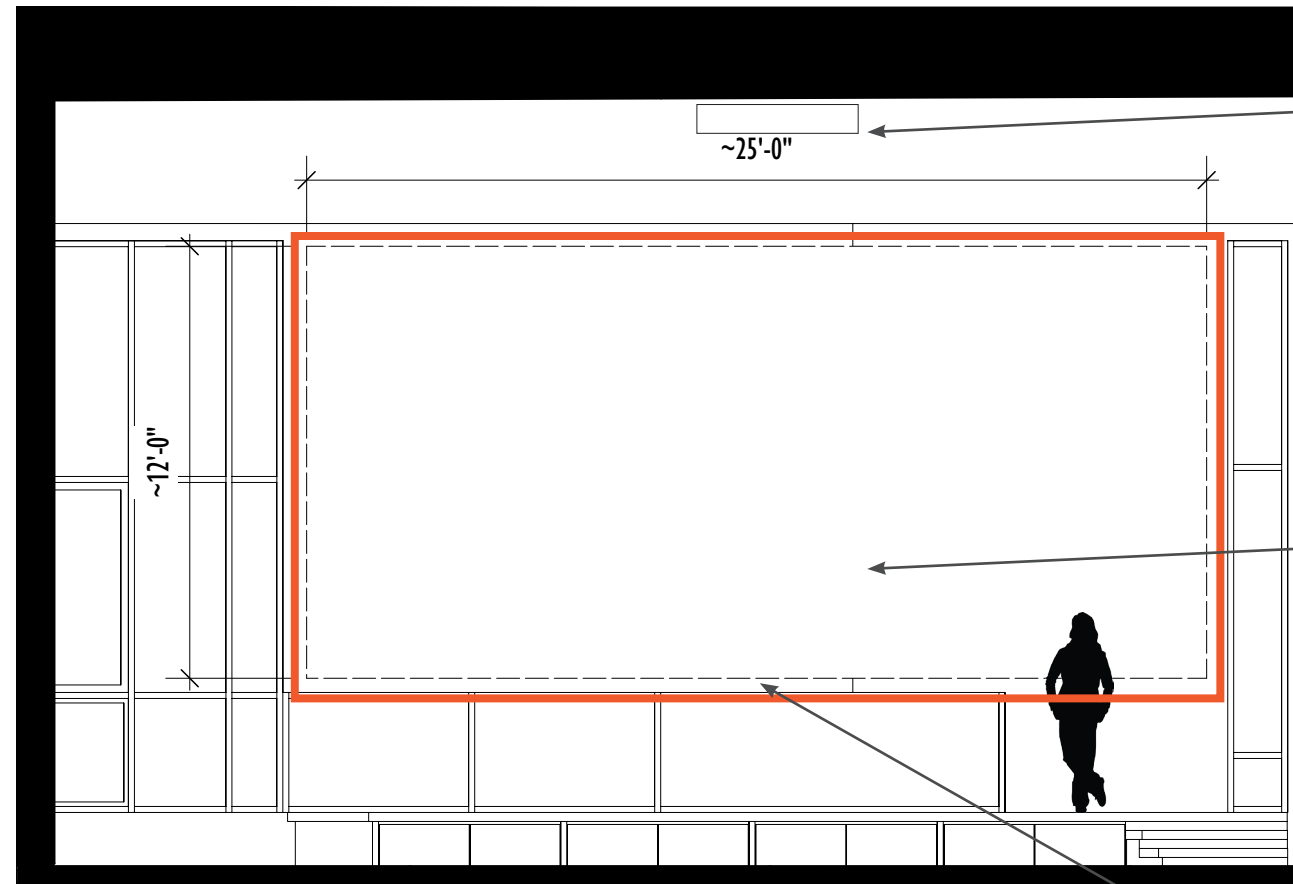
Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Flexible programming space
Experience	Variable depending on program type

Zone Description

This portion of the flexible programming space features an area designed for projection that will likely have a media screen. If the screen is retracted, the wall behind the screen can feature a mural or environmental design installation, such as an evocative of an aspen grove.

The window band across the bottom of the wall has good views of the outdoors. Furniture will need to be easy to move and store when the space is in use for programming. May include a docent cart for busy visitation days. This is a place for people to sit with a book, maybe journals to document sightings, look through binoculars, birds, possibly a small outdoor water feature to attract wildlife (this could simply be directing water/snow off the roof strategically, a web cam which can show what happened last night, art opportunities (art supplies if someone wants to create here?). There is storage under the stage for materials, could have pelts, skulls that change out. Outside butterfly/bird garden out the window can make for interesting viewing.



1 Flex Space Stage Elevation
Scale: 3/16" = 1'-0"

Visitor Takeaways

- Wild Bear offers an ever-changing place to observe and explore nature in distinct seasons.
- There is joy and wonder in discovering the beauty of nature.
- Nature inspires the human spirit and artistic expression in multiple creative ways.



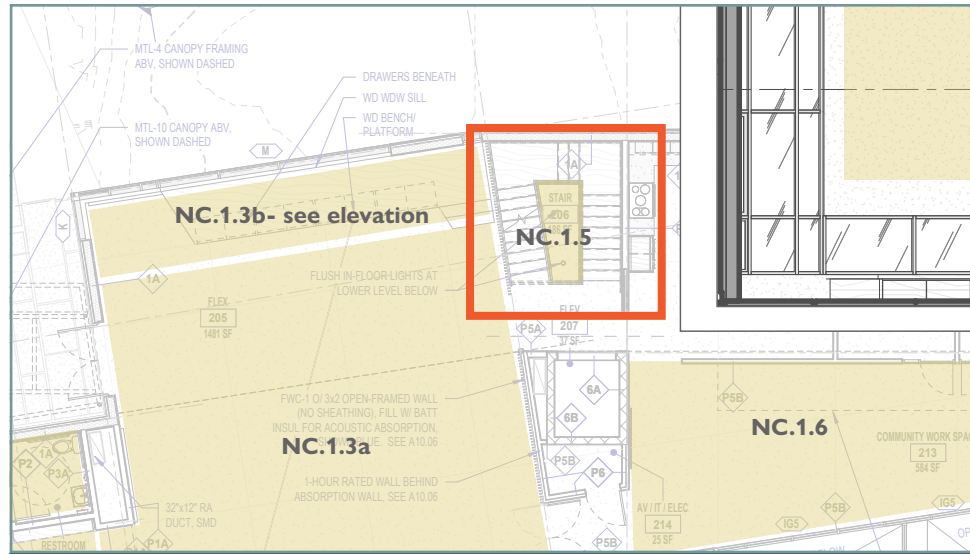
Integrated A/V media elements permit owner use of equipment when desired



Integrated drop-down screen serves as multi-use education/entertainment functions



Large scale community sourced art adorns the wall area when media is not in use



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	N/A
Secondary Audience	N/A
Duration of Use	2-5 min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon, evening

Architectural Description

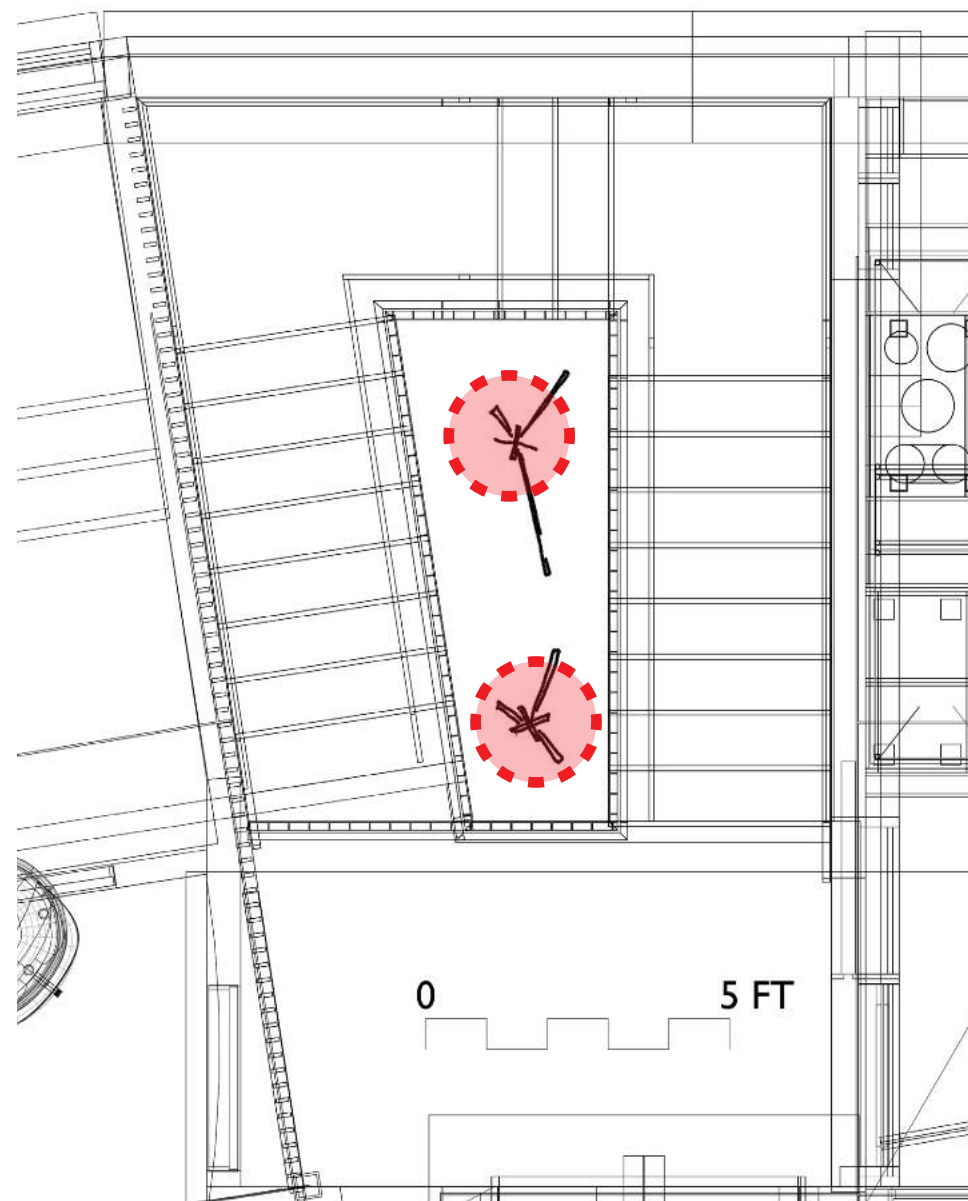
Square Footage	25 sq. ft. between railings (3 stories tall)
Unique Features	3 story height

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Public stairwell, through-space
Experience	Environmental, decorative

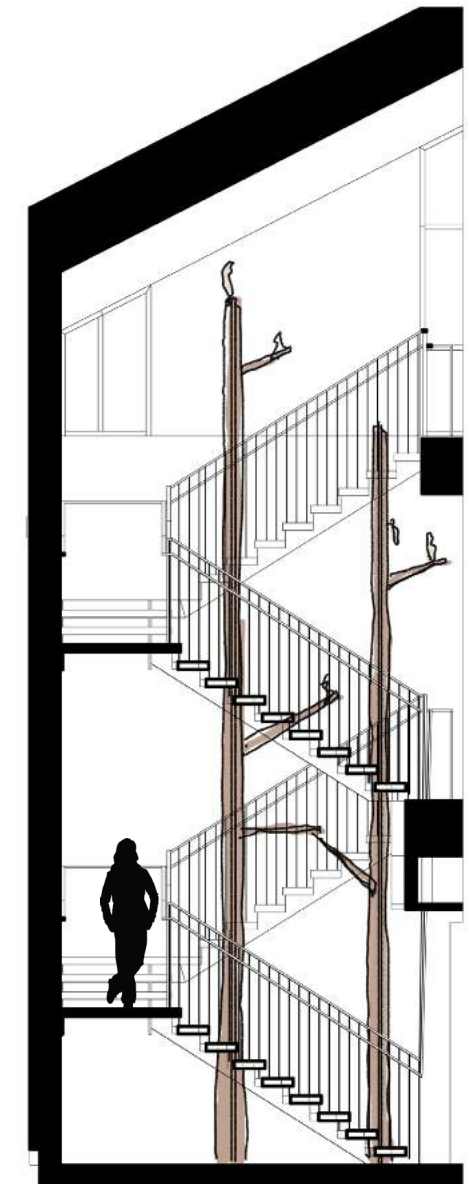
Zone Description

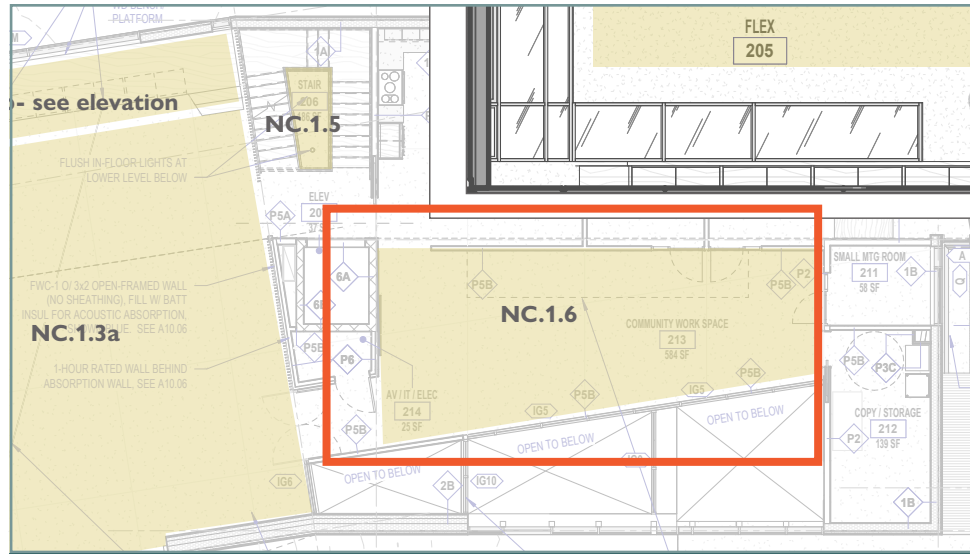
A naturally-inspired sculpture of a tree or trees can begin at the ground level and rise through the stairwell to the ceiling through this tall, skinny space. Tree design can use natural wood and connect to the trees in the We Are Nature exhibit hall or can be cutout metal and can potentially be illuminated. Regardless of the material, tree branches can contain surprise elements (like two dimensional birds or bats) that visitors can spot from different places on the stairwells and landing. Very brief graphic panels can highlight the type of tree, various biofacts, or “Green Tour” features. Safety issues around reading and the use of stairs prohibits deeper interpretation in this transitional space.



Visitor Takeaways

- Nature inspires the human spirit and artistic expression in multiple creative ways.
- Wild Bear is a Net Zero building designed with many green features to minimize its impact.





Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	P2 - Day Programs (youth)
Secondary Audience	P3 - Day Programs (adult)
Duration of Use	1 min- 120 min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon, evening

Architectural Description

Square Footage	584sq. ft.
Unique Features	High ceilings

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Flexible community space
Experience	Environmental, decorative

Zone Description

Though not a good space for deep interpretation, the community workspace can be lightly themed with a large graphic of Wild Bear's logo, mission, and slogan on the back wall.

“Inspiring a lifelong connection to nature and community through creative exploration of the outdoors.”

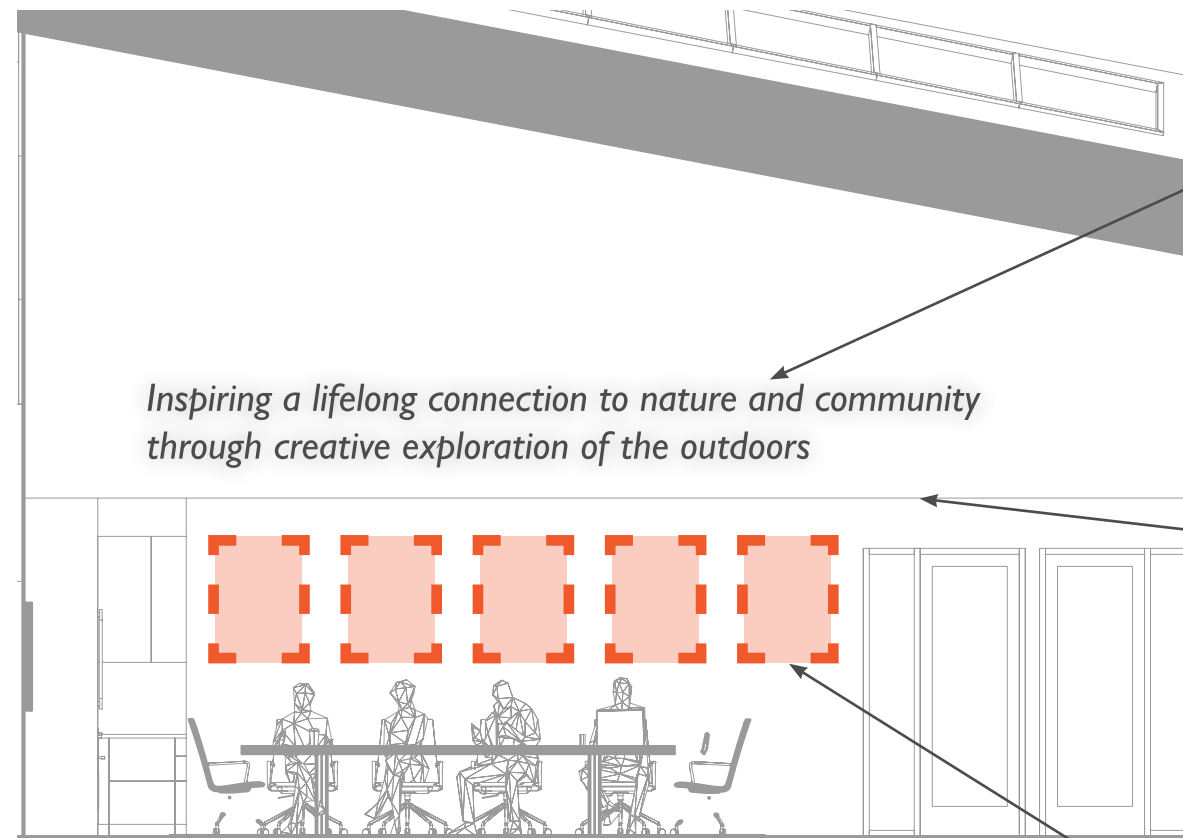
“Magic and mystery creates love and understanding of place.”

“Once a Wild Bear, always a Wild Bear.”

The elevated height of this room makes the addition of artwork, such as a series of photographs from a community photographer, a possibility.

Visitor Takeaways

- Nature inspires the human spirit and artistic expression in multiple creative ways.
- Wild Bear is a Net Zero building designed with many green features to minimize its impact.



1 Community Work Space North Wall Elevation
Scale: 3/16" = 1'-0"



Dimensional text above anchors the space with the Wild Bear Mission



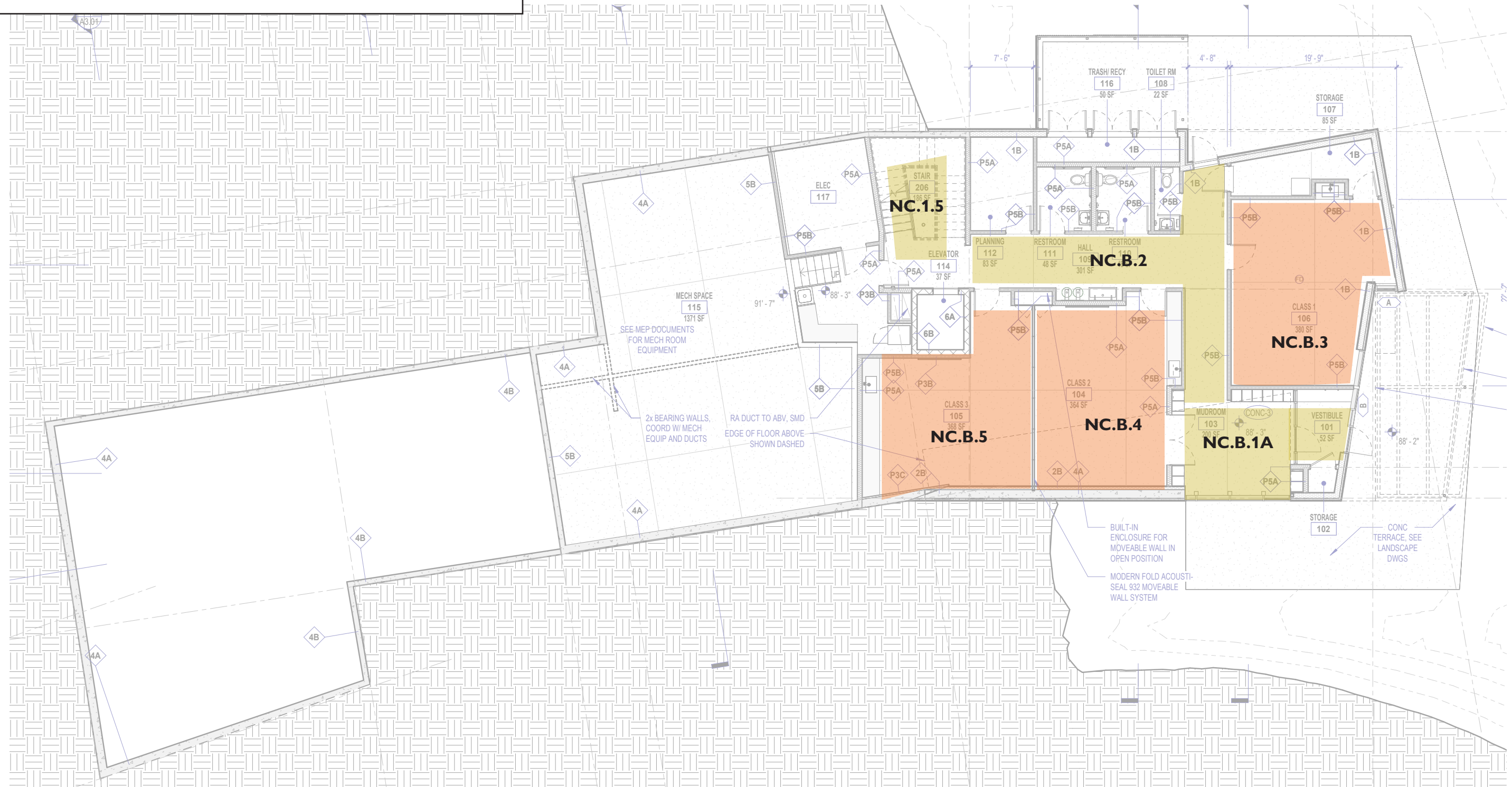
Wall mounted gallery rail systems permits ability to display wall art as desired

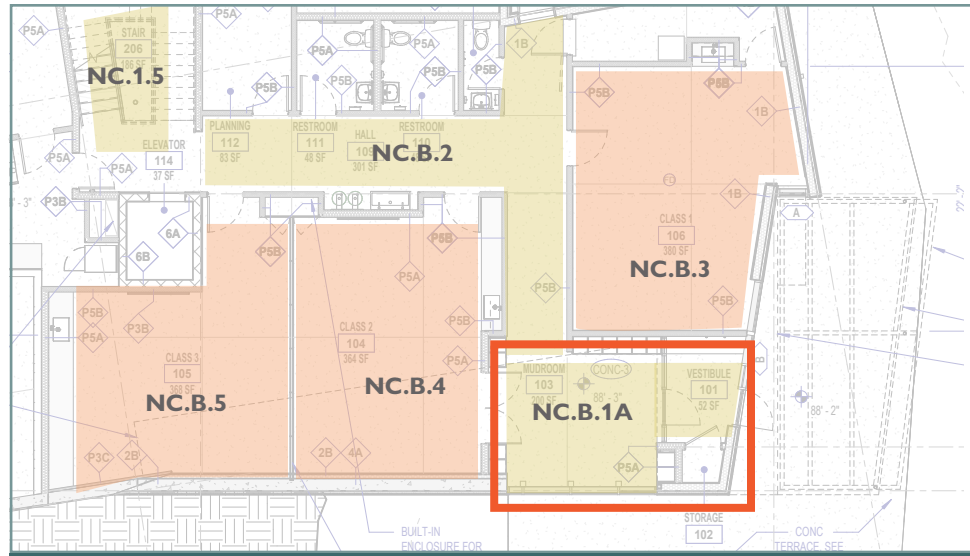


The wall can host ever-changing community-sourced art works

Lower Level Overview

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE AREA
 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE AREA
 PROGRAM/CLASSROOM AREA





Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	P1 - Camp Programs (youth) P2 - Day Programs (youth)
Secondary Audience	P3 - Day Programs (adult)
Duration of Use	
Time of Day of Use	

Architectural Description

Square Footage	200 sq. ft. mudroom; 50 sq. ft. vest; ext. area
Unique Features	Double height volume

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Functional arrival space
Experience	Environmental, decorative

Zone Description

The school group entrance can add to student's excitement upon arriving at Wild Bear by featuring a mobile that takes advantage of the vestibule's vertical space. This can be a community art project where people decorate individual leaves with messages for Wild Bear or about nature appreciation. This space will likely also feature cubbies or bins on rollers where groups can leave their lunches and backpacks. This is not a space where visitors should be encouraged to linger.

The interior should be strongly complemented with exterior wayfinding for this primary entry point for groups, camps, and meetings within the classrooms.

Visitor Takeaways

- There is joy and wonder in discovering the beauty of nature.
- Nature inspires the human spirit and artistic expression in multiple creative ways.



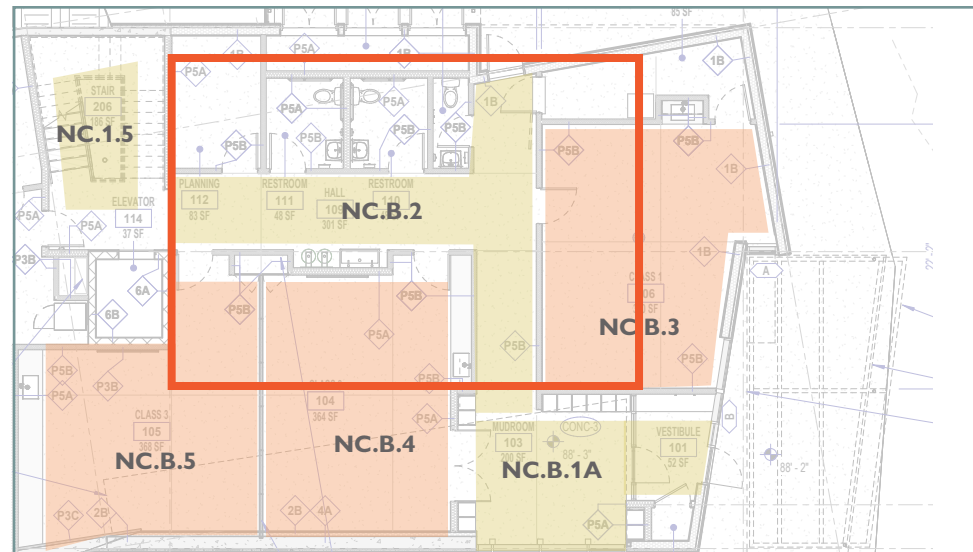
A variety of types of ceiling suspended mobile(s) activate the double height space – adjust for architectural removal of skylight areas



Sculpture opportunity presents itself as an in-kind donation element



Serves as fun inspiring element in camper entry way area



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	P1 - Camp Programs (youth) P2 - Day Programs (youth)
Secondary Audience	P3 - Day Programs (adult)
Duration of Use	1-5 min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, Afternoon

Architectural Description

Square Footage	300 sq. ft.
Unique Features	n/a

Interpretive Approach

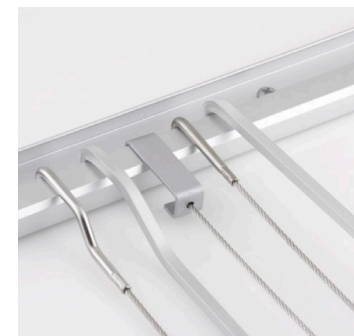
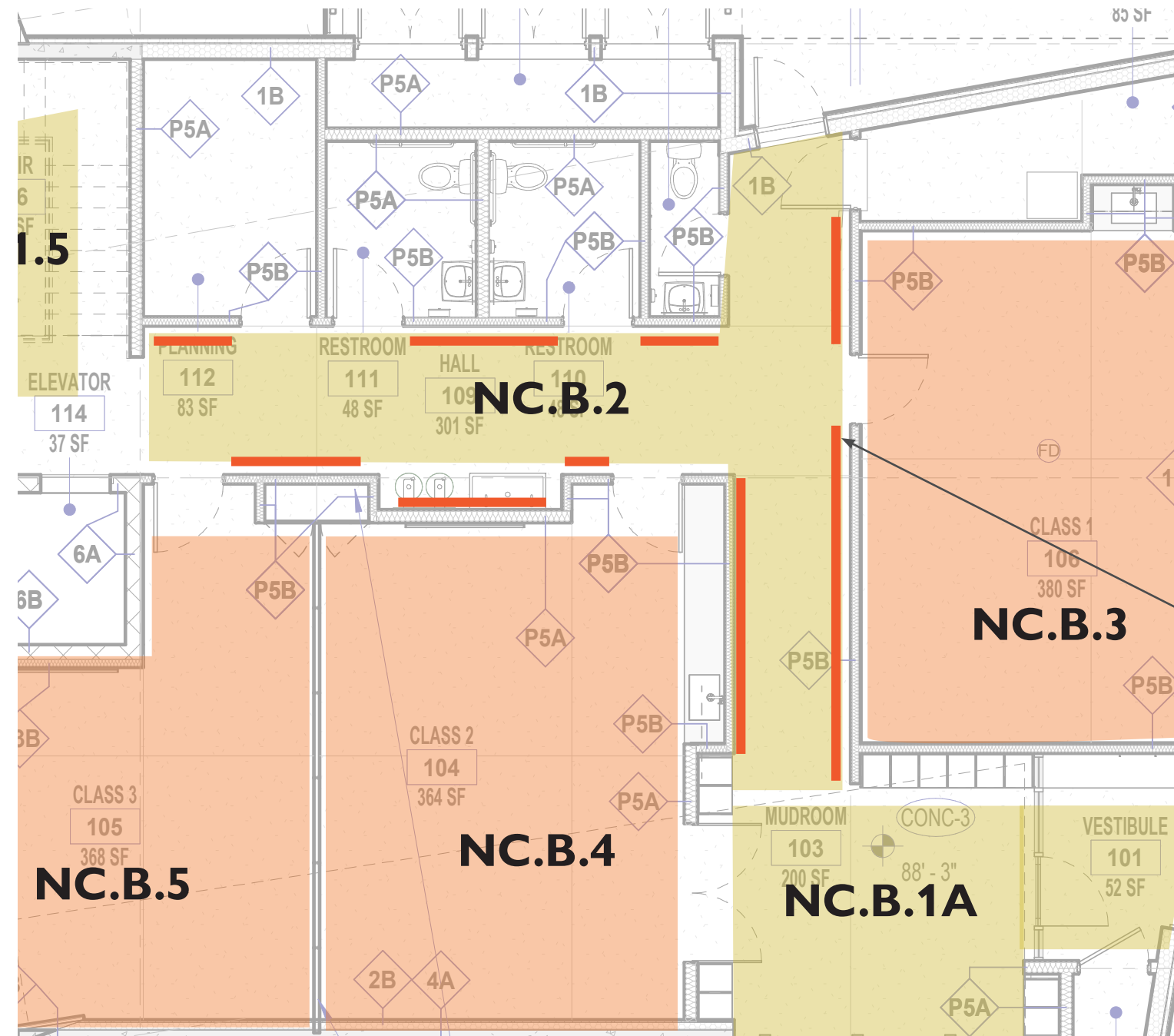
Profile Type	Functional transition space
Experience	Environmental, decorative

Zone Description

The lower-level hallway is a functional space that can serve as an outpost for Wild Bear camper artwork, decorative elements from camp counselors and Wild Bear staff, biofacts, and perhaps “Green Tour” signage. The space will also have a water bottle filling station and restrooms. Light, fun, vibrant and highly visual interpretation is recommended that should be highly flexible and likely to change. Locations of potential thematic opportunity are highlighted below in red.

Visitor Takeaways

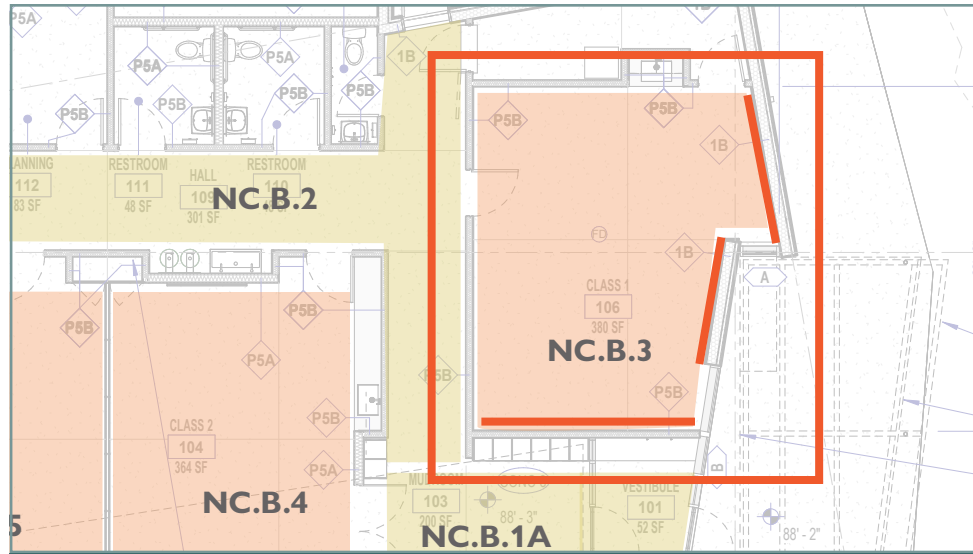
- There is joy and wonder in discovering the beauty of nature.
- Nature inspires the human spirit and artistic expression in multiple creative ways.
- Wild Bear is a Net Zero building designed with many green features to minimize its impact.



Gallery hanging systems surround walls best suited to accommodate artwork



Ever changing ability to display as community work as desired



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	P1 - Camp Programs (youth) P2 - Day Programs (youth)
Secondary Audience	P3 - Day Programs (adult)
Duration of Use	30-120 min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon

Architectural Description

Square Footage	380 sq. ft.
Unique Features	n/a

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Flexible classroom space
Experience	Environmental, decorative, functional

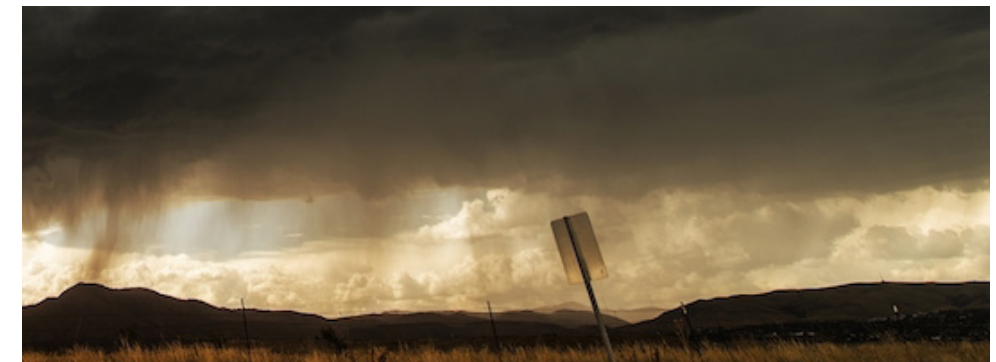
Zone Description

The classroom and makerspace serves as home base for campers and students. Classrooms should be as fun, creative, and vibrant as Wild Bear is, reinforcing the We Are Nature big idea while also playing with interpretive threads. The Air classroom can be dedicated to airborne creatures and nature: the sky, birds, insects, bats, clouds, wind, weather, etc. There are multiple creative ways to express this interpretive theme: live animal collections, suspended clouds, kites, a readout from an anemometer to measure wind speed, etc.

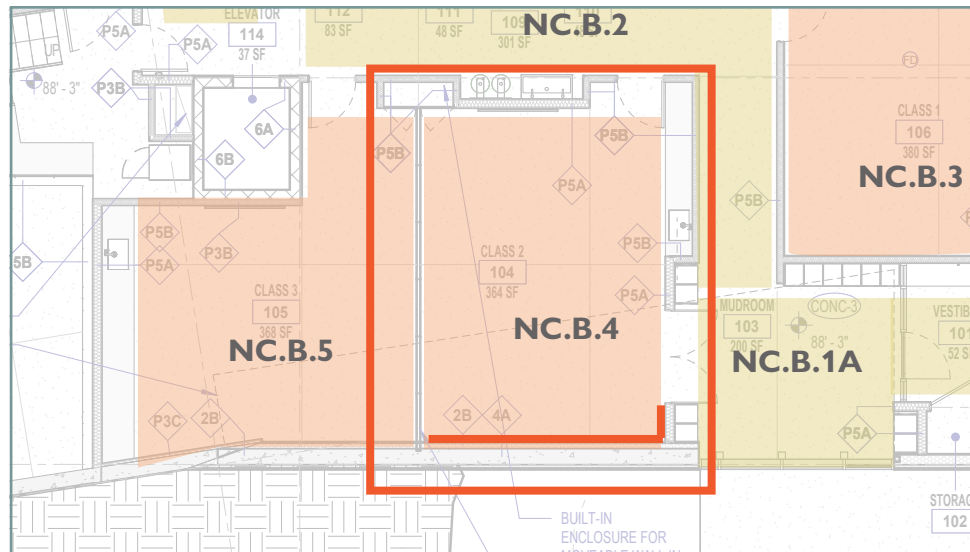


Visitor Takeaways

- Humans are part of the natural world and by caring for it we care for ourselves.
- Everything is connected.
- What visitors experience at Wild Bear is representative of larger natural connection and meaning.
- Wild Bear is a place to learn to be a naturalist and practice scientific skills.



Images derived from big Colorado sky views, clouds, animals that fly and live in the sky, and even dramatic weather bring a identity to this classroom



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	P1 - Camp Programs (youth) P2 - Day Programs (youth)
Secondary Audience	P3 - Day Programs (adult)
Duration of Use	30-120 min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon

Architectural Description

Square Footage	364 sq. ft.
Unique Features	Retractable partition

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Flexible classroom space
Experience	Environmental, decorative, functional

Zone Description

Similar to the Air classroom, this classroom (which can be combined with the adjoining Water classroom into one larger space) can be interpreted under the We Are Nature umbrella as the Earth classroom. The Earth classroom can feature graphics, live collections, taxidermy, or touchable animal elements like pelts, antlers, horns, bones, and skulls. Classroom theming can be light or can be immersive—transforming these classrooms into underwater environments, terrestrial environments, or air and sky environments.

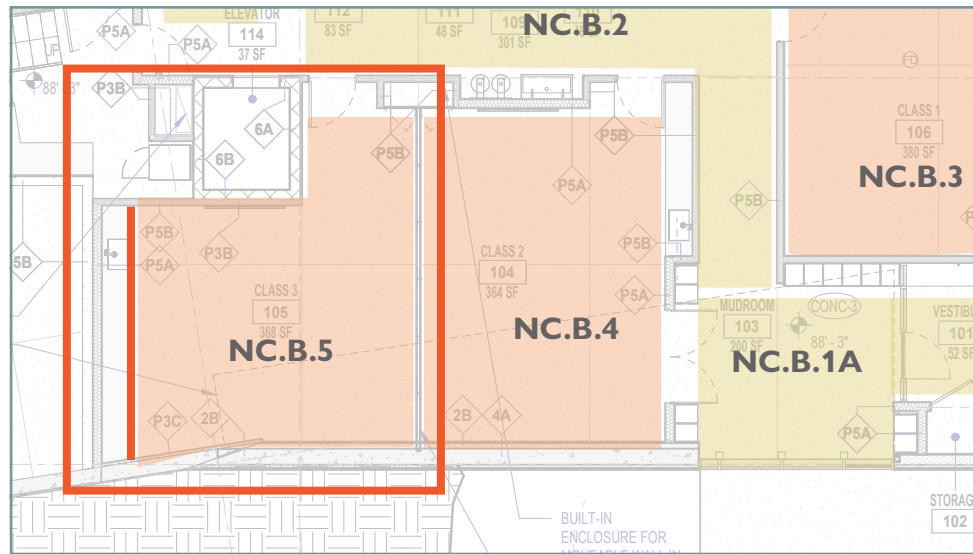


Visitor Takeaways

- Humans are part of the natural world and by caring for it we care for ourselves.
- Everything is connected.
- What visitors experience at Wild Bear is representative of larger natural connection and meaning.
- Wild Bear is a place to learn to be a naturalist and practice scientific skills.



Our local animals and insects that creep, crawl, burrow and nest celebrate the identity of this classroom



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	P1 - Camp Programs (youth) P2 - Day Programs (youth)
Secondary Audience	P3 - Day Programs (adult)
Duration of Use	30-120 min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon

Architectural Description

Square Footage	368 sq. ft.
Unique Features	Retractable partition

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Flexible classroom space
Experience	Environmental, decorative, functional

Zone Description

Like the Air and Earth classrooms, the Water classroom can focus on images, murals, and hands-on exhibits about, aquatic environments, fish and other animals that live in local lakes and rivers and aquatic plants. This classroom, like the others, would be a perfect place for some of Wild Bear’s live animal collections.



Visitor Takeaways

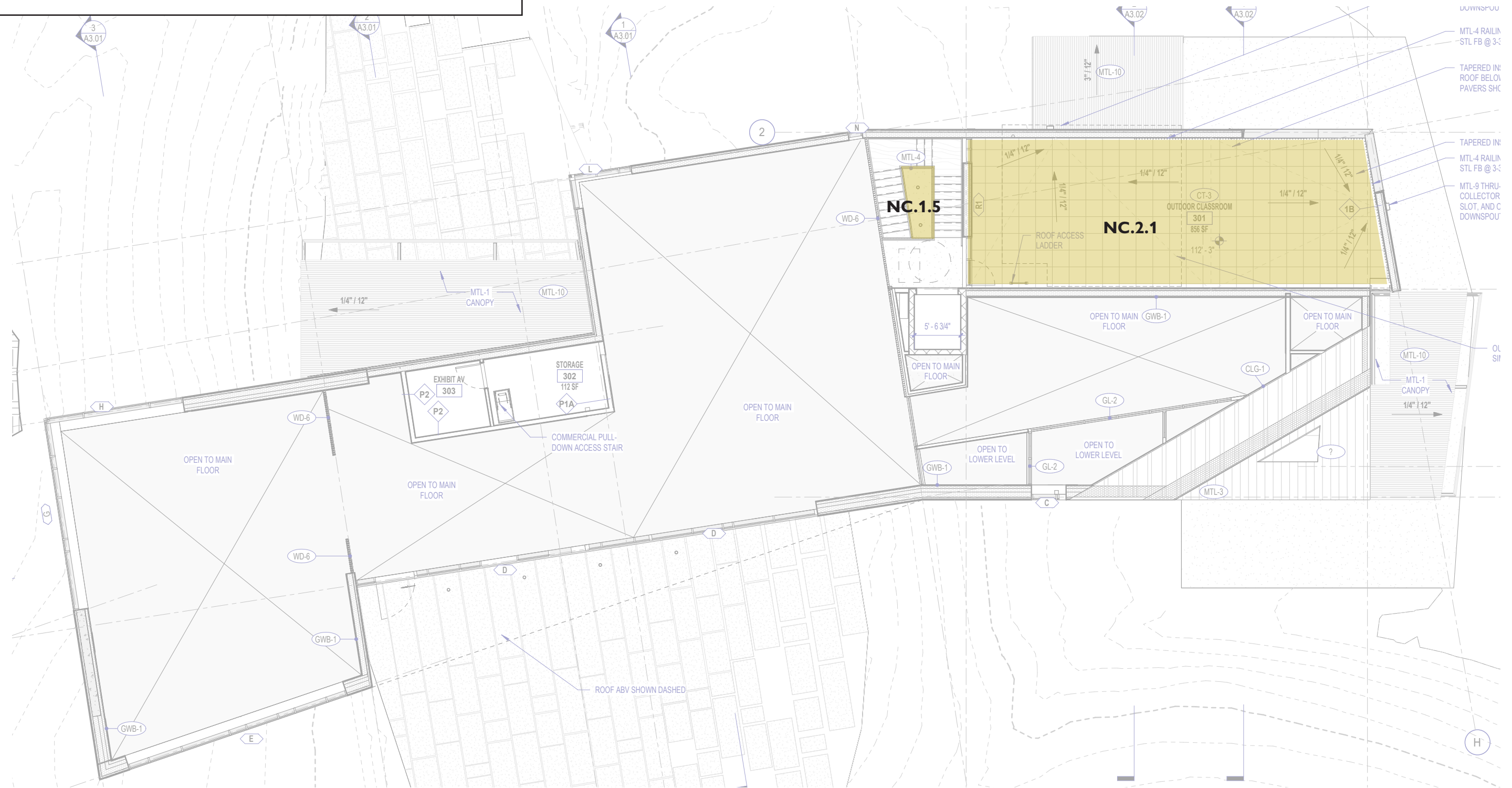
- Humans are part of the natural world and by caring for it we care for ourselves.
- Everything is connected.
- What visitors experience at Wild Bear is representative of larger natural connection and meaning.
- Wild Bear is a place to learn to be a naturalist and practice scientific skills.

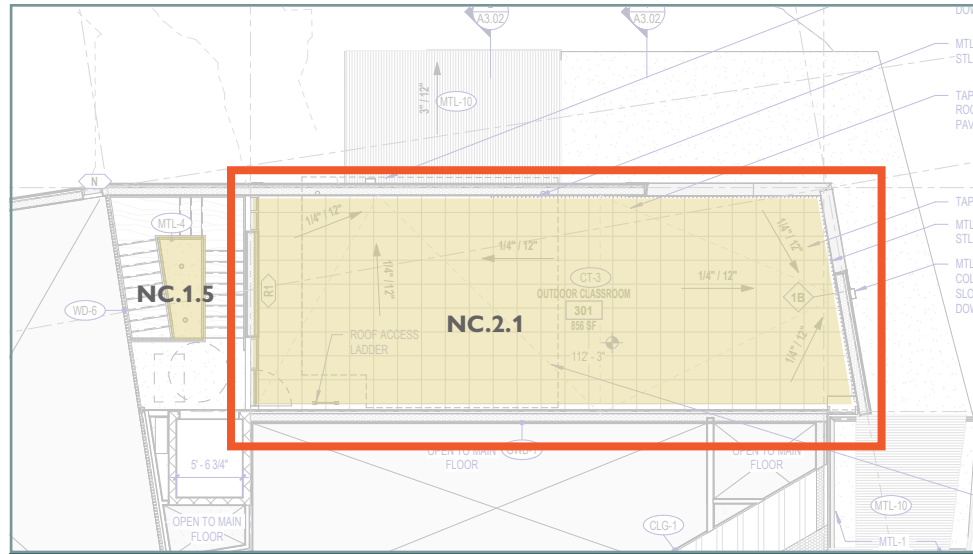


All things aquatic and riparian within Colorado can find a home along the walls of this classroom

Upper Level Overview

	PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE AREA
	PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE AREA
	PROGRAM/CLASSROOM AREA





Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	W1 - Walk-ins (local family groups – likely repeat) W2 - Walk-ins (non-local, limited visitation)
Secondary Audience	VC - Stop-ins, Visitor Center-type users
Duration of Use	2 -60 min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon, evening

Architectural Description

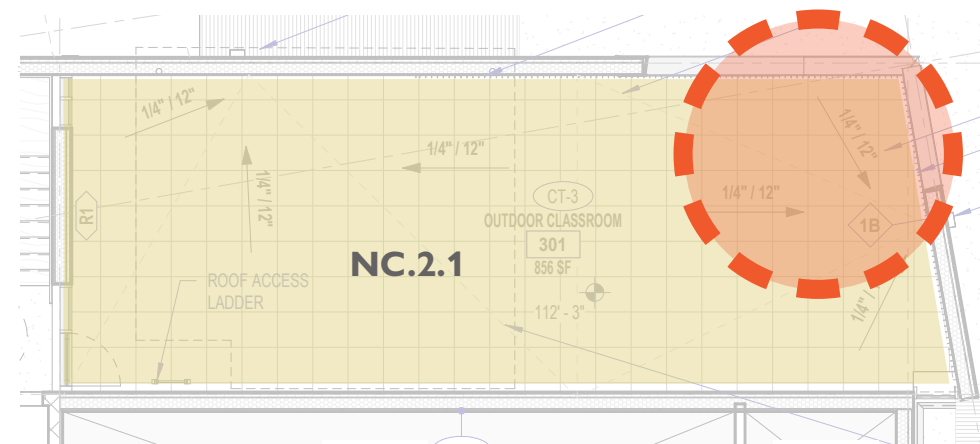
Square Footage	856 sq. ft
Unique Features	Exterior space, hard partitions w/ railing

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Outdoor rooftop space
Experience	Didactic, visual experience

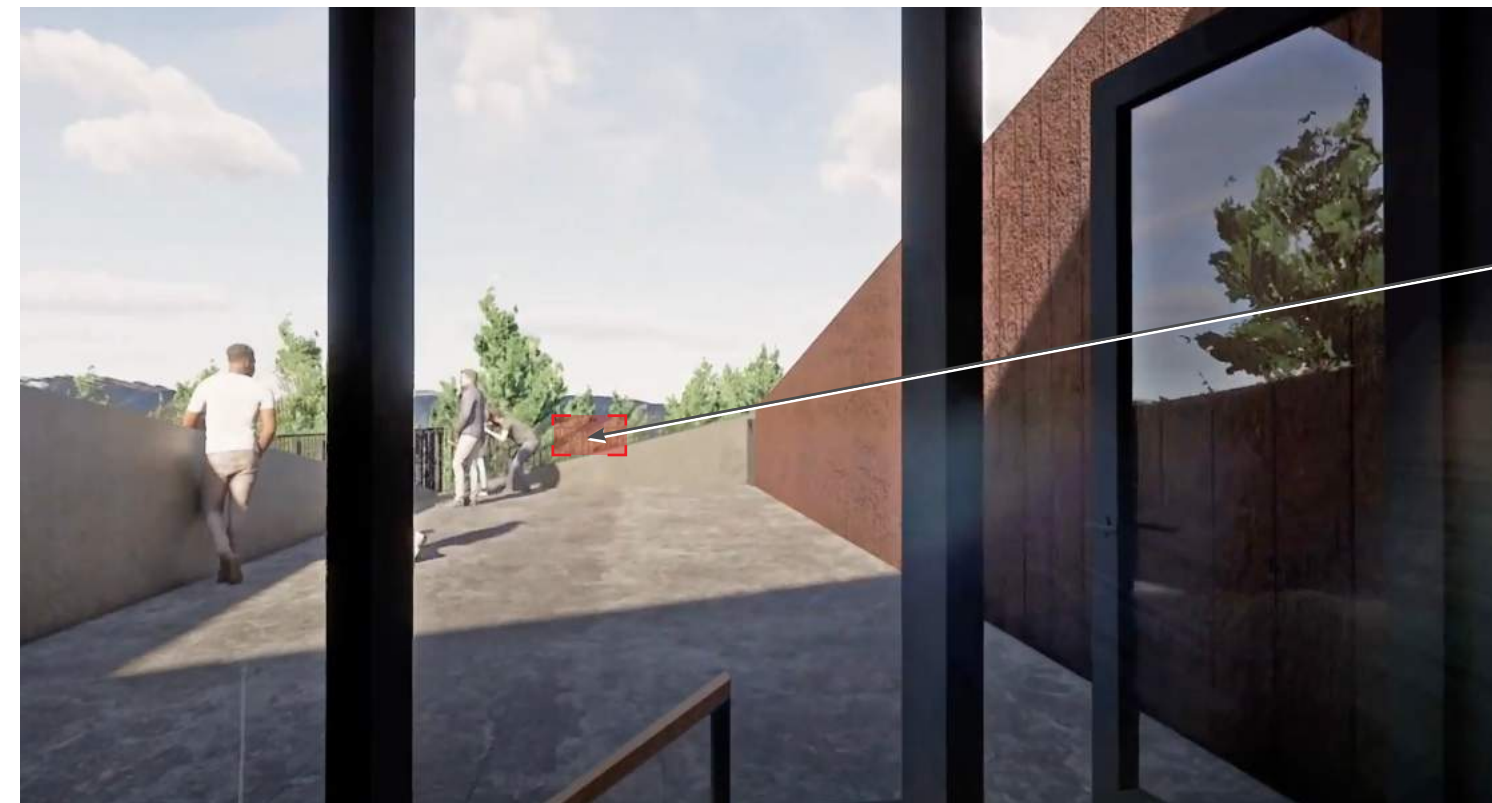
Zone Description

Depending on the view from this outdoor space, strategically placed reader rails identifying visible peaks (possibly Sugarloaf, Mt. Audubon, and Longs Peak) can help visitors understand what they are seeing. Consider a weather station and content focusing on CU's Mountain Research Station. Reader rails can also have weather-based information (such as average snowfall or precipitation) our point out some of the plants, trees, or other natural features visible from this particular vantage point. Interpretation should be light and seek to answer questions visitors might have when looking out at the view.

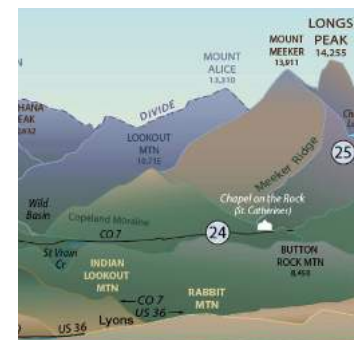


Visitor Takeaways

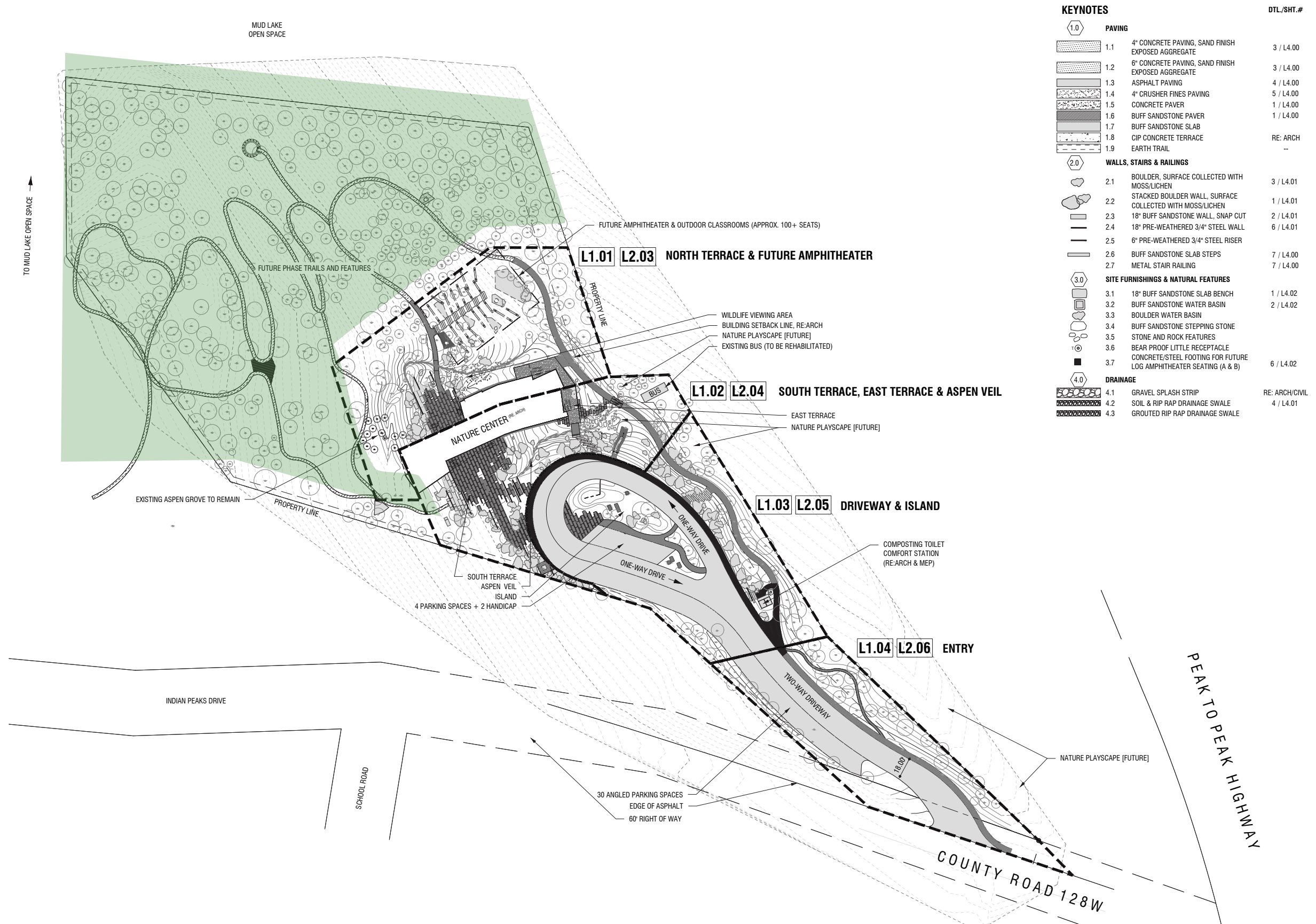
- The land around the nature center presents an opportunity to explore a variety of ecosystems, including alpine meadows, wetlands, and aspen forests.
- Science is happening all around us and helps inform our understanding of the natural world.
- There is joy and wonder in discovering the beauty of nature.
- A warming climate directly affects the natural world and the plants and animals in our local ecosystem.
- Wild Bear and Indian Peaks experience extreme mountain weather. Weather and climate are different.
- Snow science, snow pack, what is a glacier and why they're important, climate change, water protection.
- Possible spotting scopes with "what to look for" content such as raptors and tree features.

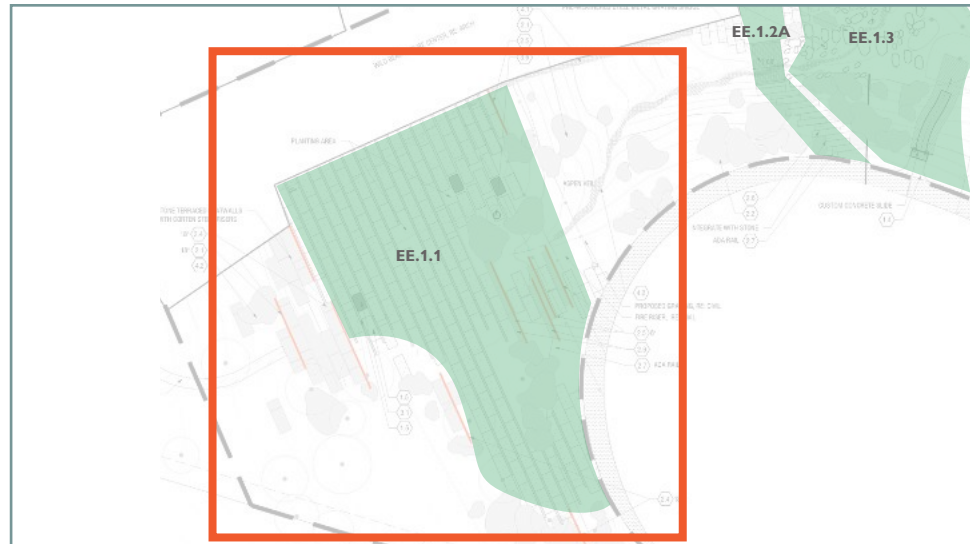


A reader highlights information seen from the high vantage point above the site



Viewpoint permitting, a peak finding guide can help orient viewers to what they see





Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	N/A
Secondary Audience	N/A
Duration of Use	2-5 min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon, evening

Architectural Description

Square Footage	n/a
Unique Features	Pathway

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Wayfinding
Experience	Didactic, visual experience

Zone Description

Visitors approaching Wild Bear's main entrance should encounter clear directional and identity signage. In addition to requisite wayfinding signage, a fun sculptural element like metal bears, perhaps of Cor-ten steel, walking toward the entrance would help build visitor anticipation and sense that their visit will be special and magical.

Exterior wayfinding signage will direct program attendees, campers, school and youth groups downstairs to the right to the group entry.

Visitor Takeaways

- There is joy and wonder in discovering the beauty of nature.



Wild Bear identity featured prominently on wayfinding and arrival signage



Sculptural elements such as silhouette bears add whimsy to the primary entrance



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	P1 - Camp Programs (youth), P2 - Day Programs (youth), W1 - Walk-ins (local family groups), W2 - Walk-ins (non-local, limited visitation)
Secondary Audience	OU - Outdoor Users, VC - Stop-ins, Visitor Center-type users
Duration of Use	5-45 min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon

Architectural Description

Square Footage	n/a
Unique Features	Exterior play area

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Interactive outdoor playscape
Experience	Hands on, active, exploratory

Overall Description

The play area will be inspired by nature and should be an environment that stimulates children's natural curiosity and creativity and is welcoming and accessible to all. It can feature ample seating, which can also be fun and themed. Light interpretation in this space can focus on the importance of encouraging free play and its connection to developing key skills such as critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and collaboration.

The playscape is an opportunity for kids to freely and joyfully explore, engage and connect outside in the natural world.



Visitor Takeaways

- There is joy and wonder in discovering the beauty of nature.
- The outdoors provides endless opportunities to safely, respectfully and playfully enjoy nature.
- Wild Bear offers an ever-changing place to observe and explore nature in distinct seasons.
- Magic and mystery creates love and understanding of place.



Natural play elements invite kids of all ages



Potential interpretive elements can be integrated in and around the site



Some interpretive elements can even feature a simple fun playful interactive reveal



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	OU - Outdoor Users
Secondary Audience	W1 - Walk-ins (local family groups – likely repeat) W2 - Walk-ins (non-local, limited visitation) VC - Stop-ins, Visitor Center-type users
Duration of Use	
Time of Day of Use	

Architectural Description

Square Footage	~200 sq. ft.
Unique Features	Potential future outdoor teaching space

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Didactic signage at iconic outdoor object
Experience	Reading, exploring the area around the bus

Overall Description

The bus is a unique object that visitors will be naturally curious about. Interpretive signage outside the bus can tell the story of the Mud Lake cleanup and how the community came together to protect this natural area in a visible and tangible way. Interpretation can also challenge visitors to take similar action: Board the Bus and take small, personal steps to make a positive change in their own community.

Outside of the interpretive signage, the bus can be used as a public art installation, playful flooring and use of Mud Lake shoes, allowing campers or school groups to sign it and make a personal pledge. Future phases, pending funding, can allow the bus to be rebuilt with hardened, reinforced flooring so that visitors might be able to enter. It could be retrofitted with trex seating in a ring along the interior of the bus (plus a driver's seat), creating an outdoor classroom or gathering space for small groups or a place for hikers to get out of the rain and enjoy lunch.

Alternative uses include coffee shop or other novel ways to activate.

Visitor Takeaways

- Once a dumping ground, the local community came together to clean up and restore nearby Mud Lake--now one of the healthiest wetland habitats on the Front Range.
- Humans are part of the natural world and by caring for it we care for ourselves.
- Human actions impact the natural world, which in turn impacts us.



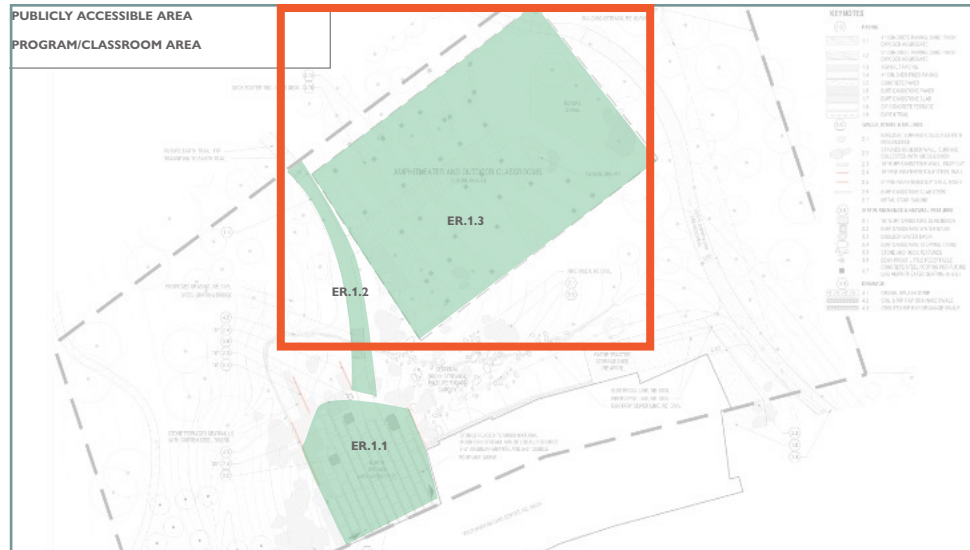
Interpretive signage identifies the bus, its story, and why its located here



A public art installation based on community sourced efforts can animate the bus



The bus can serve as a future gathering and interpretive outdoor classroom



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	P1 - Camp Programs (youth) P2 - Day Programs (youth) P3 - Day Programs (adult)
Secondary Audience	OU - Outdoor Users
Duration of Use	5-120 min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon, evening

Architectural Description

Square Footage	n/a
Unique Features	exterior space

Interpretive Approach

Profile Type	Outdoor amphitheater
Experience	Various

Overall Description

The amphitheater is not a heavily interpreted space, but it can feature fun carved benches and themed art that uses natural materials and celebrates the beauty of nature. Interpretive themes and takeaways will vary depending on how the amphitheater is programmed.

There are lots of ways the amphitheater can be fun and creative: carved wooden animals can be placed around the benches, waiting for the next activity to begin; small boulders that might have been displaced during construction can be painted and have eyes and placed around the grounds; certain trees can be left standing so they are interspersed with seating and create a tree canopy; and many fun and creative artistic elements can be added to a stage set/design.



This future planned phase will be naturally inspired and feature great locations for outdoor formal performance and teaching experiences

Visitor Takeaways

- There is joy and wonder in discovering the beauty of nature.
- Nature inspires the human spirit and artistic expression in multiple creative ways.





Future Trail Development

As Wild Bear becomes more familiar with trail design, planning should include naturalist’s analysis of the micro-zones that may be interpretable at key features on the site. Interpretation and waysides, as well as playful expressions can focus on the fine details of the site, such as flora, fauna, and geological features. Viewsheds can offer interpretation. A walking map can be developed for different seasons and even times of day to help focus self-guided visitors to look at this small area with incredible detail. The process of science and observation are keenly in focus and express the way that continued observation of even small areas can reveal incredible change and learning.



Themes



Threads



User Info

Primary Audience	OU - Outdoor Users W1 - Walk-ins (local family groups) W2 - Walk-ins (non-local, limited visitation)
Secondary Audience	VC - Stop-ins, Visitor Center-type users
Duration of Use	20-120 min
Time of Day of Use	Morning, afternoon

Architectural Description

Square Footage	n/a
Unique Features	trail

Interpretive Approach

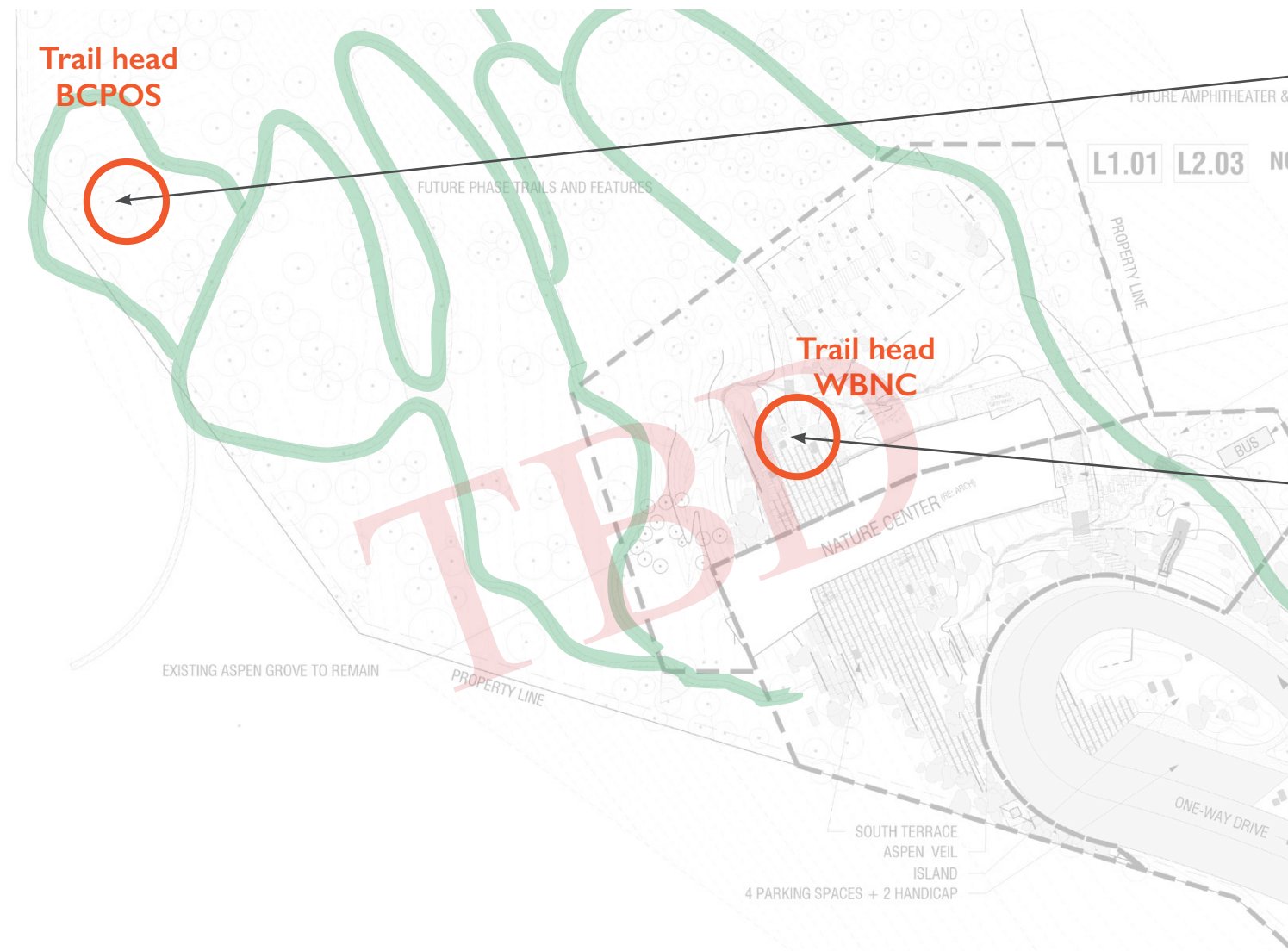
Profile Type	Outdoor trails
Experience	Multi-sensory, active exploration

Overall Description

Wild Bear has an extensive trail system that offers numerous interpretive possibilities. Almost every exhibit theme and thread under the We Are Nature big idea can be touched upon through either interpretive signage or through self-guided materials available at the nature center. Since a trail plan is still in development, there are no concrete recommendations for interpretation along Wild Bear's numerous trails outside of noting the infinite possibilities.

It seems important that visitors who enter the world of Wild Bear through adjoining county trails know they have entered a unique and magical place. Metal bear silhouettes similar to the ones recommended for Wild Bear's main entrance can be placed at trail junctions, greeting visitors to Wild Bear once they enter.

Consider Spanish and Arapaho language on welcoming trail and interpretive signage.



Visitor Takeaways

- Wild Bear offers an ever-changing place to observe and explore nature in distinct seasons.
- The land around the nature center presents an opportunity to explore a variety of ecosystems, including alpine meadows, wetlands, and aspen forests.
- The outdoors provides endless opportunities to safely, respectfully and playfully enjoy nature.



Magic and whimsy takes over when entering the site from Boulder County trails



Trail info about the trails at Wild Bear are located near the building exit



Possible playful seek-and-find trail elements and interpretive elements appear throughout

Area Phasing Table

Implementation

While detailed implementation approaches are primarily developed in the design process after master planning, a prioritization is instructive for allocation of WB staff and financial resources.

As Wild Bear works through the building opening, needs of the spaces, and financial resources, a prioritization and implementation approach can help steer efforts. Much of the exterior elements will require site improvement. Items marked as Phase 1 may be important for building opening.

LOCATION CODE	LOCATION	PROJECT PHASE	RESOURCE AND IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH
NC.1.1	Exhibit Hall	1-2	Temporary or permanent exhibits, as funding permitted
NC.1.2	Welcome Area	1	Retail and donor systems likely needed at opening. Consider flexible donor systems for campaign, future, and annual giving recognition
NC.1.3a	Flex Space	1	Can develop over time, but start with seating and basic elements
NC.1.3b	Primary Hall Focus Wall/Stage	1	Can develop over time, but start with seating and basic elements
NC.1.4	Public Restrooms	1	
NC.1.5	Stairwell	2	Likely build out with exhibit trees
NC.1.6	Comm. Work Space	1	Wall graphics and images
NC.B.3	Classroom 1	2	
NC.B.4	Classroom 2	2	
NC.B.5	Classroom 3	2	
NC.2.1	Outdoor Classroom	TBD	Awaiting site improvements
NC.B.1	Basement Entry	1-2	Need basic entry and wayfinding signage at opening, decorative/placemaking elements over time
NC.B.2	Basement Hallway	2	
EE.1.1	Main ext. entrance path	1	Building signage and direction, sculptures as possible
EE.1.2	Secondary. ext. pathway	TBD	
EE.1.3	Ext. play area	2	Awaiting site improvements
EE.1.4	Existing Bus	2-3	Requires protection until renovation
ER.1.1	Ext. Rear entry (north terrace)	1-2	Complete with site improvements - basic signage needed at opening
ER.1.2	Ext. Rear primary pathway	2	Awaiting site improvements
ER.1.3	Amphitheater and outdoor classrooms	3	Awaiting site improvements
TR.1.1	Trail Area 1	TBD	Requires trail work
TR.1.2	Trail Area #	TBD	Requires trail work
TR.1.3	Trail Area #	TBD	Requires trail work
TR.1.4	Trail Area #	TBD	Requires trail work
TR.1.5	Trail Area #	TBD	Requires trail work
TR.1.6	Trail Area #	TBD	Requires trail work



Wild Bear Nature Center

Interpretive Master Plan

Staff Priority Survey for Exhibition and Experiential Messaging

January 26, 2022

Participants

Sally Brady

Jill Dreves

Mike Reichert

Michelle Witte

Dorothy Whalen



Question 1—Summary

Question 1

Please rank the following Meaning and Take Away messages from HIGHEST PRIORITY (top) to LEAST PRIORITY (bottom)

OVERALL RANKING	QUESTION	HIGHEST RANKING	LOWEST RANKING
1	We are nature (air, water, fire, earth, animals)	1	4
2	Focus on placemaking by reminding of where we are: Wild Bear, Indian Peaks, Rocky Mountains. Use ecosystem storytelling, provide micro & macro views of this soil, these mountains, these animals, this human history	1	9
3	Air gives life and connects the past and future.	3	15
4	What we do to water, we do to ourselves.	2	17
5	We are part of the ecosystem—We aren't built biologically to live here—How did early Americans adapt—How have animals adapted?	2	18
6	We are still co-evolving with nature. You can have an impact.	4	14
7	Play, whimsy, joyousness, creativity	5	13
8	I learned about the mountain ecosystem. I also learned about my place in the world and how I relate to this place.	1	15
9	I learned how we all might live lighter on this land.	6	12
10	Every experience and interaction in the nature center should reflect the "We Are" theme.	4	16
11	I belong in and part of community (human, family, social, animal, natural)	2	16
12	Soil keeps us alive	6	16
13	I learned to appreciate the biodiversity of our area.	5	16
14	Fire is energy, fire is death and life.	5	18
15	Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans are part of this location's history	8	15
16	There is value in just being outside for all people. No purpose needed!	9	17
17	My places are natural ecosystems, no matter where my places are or how "natural" they are.	9	18
18	I can safely and respectfully enjoy the natural around me (here and elsewhere)	10	18

HIGHEST

LOWEST

Question 2—Summary

Question 2

Please rank the following Interpretive Structures from **HIGHEST PRIORITY** (top) to **LEAST PRIORITY** (bottom)

OVERALL RANKING	QUESTION	HIGHEST RANKING	LOWEST RANKING	
1	“We Are Nature” (particularly how this translates to: We are an element in the ecosystem “We are the past and the future”—We need nature, and nature needs us—We need to do more, every day.	1	5	HIGHEST
2	Self-guided trails, 3200 acres of Mudd Lake, etc.	1	10	
3	“We Are Nature” (particularly how this pertains to the climate crisis and our role) How to tie the visitor into being part of nature. (Existential conversation...)	1	9	
4	Children more connected to nature. Spirit, Imagination, Creativity, Wonder. What can children teach us?	2	10	
5	Create a love for nature, whole family, kid within us all, make inspirational for adults	1	13	
6	Integration of areas of exhibit refreshment (not dedicated space to changing exhibit area within main exhibit hall)	2	12	
7	Where does my water come from? Show how water flows.	2	15	
8	Use ecosystem storytelling, provide micro & macro views of this soil, these mountains, these animals, this human history.	3	13	
9	A destination and discovery for environmental education; be interactive and experiential.	4	15	
10	Focus on placemaking by reminding of where we are—Wild Bear, Indian Peaks, Rocky Mountains.	5	15	
11	Really make INSIDE/OUTSIDE connections—immediate nature.	4	15	LOWEST
12	Helping all families get outside; should be seamless, highlighting what’s already there.	3	16	
13	Get people excited about nature near and far (in their backyards and in the wild)	6	16	
14	Every experience and interaction in the nature center should reflect the “We Are” theme.	6	16	
15	“We are Nature” heartbeat area: discovery room with artifacts, interactive activities, possible maker area as well as other exhibits fixed in space	8	16	
16	Consider the entire five acres as exhibit space.	11	16	

Question 3—Summary

Question 3

Please rank the following Exhibit Engagement Ideas for “Physical / Built Exhibit Elements” from HIGHEST PRIORITY (top) to LEAST PRIORITY (bottom)

OVERALL RANKING	QUESTION	HIGHEST RANKING	LOWEST RANKING
1	Show evolving exhibits in a way that reflects changing nature (i.e. bird feeder in summer, snow drifts in winter)	1	2
2	Changeable / updatable exhibit areas.	1	5
3	Sculptures, wall murals, other art pieces commissioned by local artists, including native artists	3	10
4	Some kind of interactive centerpiece exhibit that integrates low tech and high tech—(ex: a hologram of a moose that appears through pedaling power of a stationary bike)	2	12
5	in-exhibit water feature	4	16
6	Be a Naturalist, maybe at the wildlife viewing window	2	15
7	What's under your feet? Clear floor to look down and see bugs/soils	6	14
8	Birdsong in the bathrooms or main rooms (audio system)	5	19
9	Small creatures with big voices, visual and audio exhibit—bumblebees, frogs, picas, hummers, and snow fleas. Sophia Dubose dedication	7	13
10	Wildlife observation to outdoors (bird feeder, bees, audio feed, video/trail cams, birdhouse spy cam, bat boxes, etc.)	3	16
11	Mud Lake shoes as part of exhibit.	4	20
12	Human scale nests for kids to climb into.	3	24
13	Scat exhibit in the bathrooms. Sounds in the bathrooms. Tracks on the floor.	7	22
14	Crawl-in den (bear, beaver, other)—Note that this can be in Discovery Room.	4	25
15	A small replica working windmill to pump water or power something—show the energy in wind	5	26
16	Mirage in the mirrors seeing yourself as a fox, etc? What animal are you today?	7	26
17	Abandoned bus	8	26
18	Plant germination/gardening area (hands in the dirt)	10	20
19	Media element with camera footage that Highlights work of the Research station	8	25
20	Astronomy Ceiling (connected to outside viewing)	15	19
21	Active capture of grey water in bathroom as an educational feature	12	23
22	Digital watershed/map table (projection on sand)	15	24
23	Topographic relief map (walk-around tabletop)	17	25
24	Media element featuring Suzuki film in segments throughout exhibits	14	26
25	Costume area/Puppet stage	20	26
26	Nature Table/Trade area	20	25

HIGHEST

LOWEST

Question 4—Summary

Question 4

Please rank the following Exhibit Engagement Ideas for “Interactive / Experiential Elements” from HIGHEST PRIORITY (top) to LEAST PRIORITY (bottom)

OVERALL RANKING	QUESTION	HIGHEST RANKING	LOWEST RANKING
1	Enabling a self-guided experience—WBNC as a true intentional destination point	1	1
2	What have you done to help the earth—Grassroots and simple exhibit where people add a card/note with what they have done?	2	5
3	Some kind of interactive centerpiece exhibit that integrates low tech and high tech—(ex: hologram of a moose that appears through pedaling power of a stationary bike)	3	7
4	Be a Naturalist, maybe at the wildlife viewing window	2	9
5	Human scale nests for kids to climb into.	3	8
6	Electronics check at / near the front desk	2	9
7	Instagram moment to make a pledge—eg #fightfornature or #helpearth	4	9
8	Talk back exhibit—How do you feel when you're in Nature?	3	8
9	Suzuki film in segments throughout exhibits (3)	6	9

HIGHEST

LOWEST

Question 5—Summary

Question 5

Please rank the following Exhibit Engagement Ideas for “Conceptual Ideas & interpretive Content Points” from **HIGHEST PRIORITY (top)** to **LEAST PRIORITY (bottom)**

OVERALL RANKING	QUESTION	HIGHEST RANKING	LOWEST RANKING
1	Educate on local ecology—Human-ecosystem interactions past and future	1	10
2	Exhibits that highlight music & beauty of nature	1	13
3	Nurture relationships w/ nature today & tomorrow—Educate on wildlife	2	16
4	How to be a naturalist. (via spy club- programming or exhibits related?)	4	14
5	Natural cycles: rock to soil to plants to animals/people (simple nutrient cycle). Our bodies form from Earth elements.	2	19
6	Represent the water cycles in the context of the Mud Lake, Indian Peaks + Front Range. Where does your water come from?	3	23
7	Illustrate and embody the wind of the Indian Peaks.	5	24
8	Portal - leave old values behind, bring new value with you, transformation between	1	26
9	Interpretive exhibits about mountain ecosystem, habitats, plants and wild-life, weather	5	18
10	Air moves! Cold mountain air sinks at night, warm air rises from plains	6	20
11	Represent human evolution in nature-natives, mining, trash, present, fut.	4	25
12	Native American connection to this place	5	23
13	Fire ecology and how fire produces new life in the forest	10	24
14	Pine beetle and impacts on the forest	8	27
15	Be a snow scientist!	9	22
16	Importance of wetlands and riparian areas	4	28
17	Talking trees—how trees communicate with one another.	7	26
18	Capturing energy of the sun—the building heating	5	27
19	Indigenous Acknowledgment	3	29
20	Local bird and wildlife guides and representations	10	21
21	Suzuki film in segments throughout exhibits	13	29
22	Lessons on biophilia—Did you know? People can literally heal themselves by just looking at Nature (share science behind this)?	2	28
23	African American history Lincoln Hill	13	24
24	Arapahoe art, language, words—What does this imply for content development, how does this support WB mission/vision, what's its priority	8	27
25	What is indigenous wisdom? How can we learn from the stories of the earth, the night sky, the sun, the survival skills of wild animals?	11	25
26	Dealing with fiery energy up here in the mountains (sunscreen, lightning strike prevention, etc	9	28
27	Asian mining	14	29
28	Full wall image of Arapahoe	9	29
29	What percentage of us are water? 60%	18	29

HIGHEST

LOWEST

Question 1—Detailed Information

Question 1

Please rank the following Meaning and Take Away messages from HIGHEST PRIORITY (top) to LEAST PRIORITY (bottom)

QUESTION NUMBER	QUESTION	HIGHEST RANKING	LOWEST RANKING	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	VARIANCE
1	We are nature (air, water, fire, earth, animals) (3)	1	4	2	1.26	1.6
2	Focus on placemaking by reminding of where we are—Wild Bear, Indian Peaks, Rocky Mountains. Use ecosystem storytelling, provide micro & macro views of this soil, these mountains, these animals, this human history (1)	1	9	3.6	2.87	8.24
3	Every experience and interaction in the nature center should reflect the “We Are” theme. (3)	4	16	9.8	4.49	20.16
4	Air gives life and connects the past and future. (3)	3	15	7	4.56	20.8
5	Soil keeps us alive (3)	6	16	10.6	4.27	18.24
6	What we do to water, we do to ourselves. (3)	2	17	7.6	5.16	26.64
7	Fire is energy, fire is death and life. (3)	5	18	12	4.86	23.6
8	We are part of the ecosystem—We aren’t built biologically to live here—How did early Americans adapt—How have animals adapted? (3)	2	18	7.8	6.49	42.16
9	We are still co-evolving with nature. You can have an impact. (3)	4	14	8	3.63	13.2
10	I learned about the mountain ecosystem. I also learned about my place in the world and how I relate to this place. (4)	1	15	9	4.73	22.4
11	I learned how we all might live lighter on this land. (4)	6	12	9.6	2.58	6.64
12	I learned to appreciate the biodiversity of our area. (4)	5	16	11.2	4.71	22.16
13	Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans are part of this location’s history (5)	8	15	12.4	2.58	6.64
14	Play, whimsy, joyousness, creativity	5	13	8.2	2.79	7.76
15	I belong in and part of community (human, family, social, animal, natural)	2	16	10	4.56	20.8
16	My places are natural ecosystems, no matter where my places are or how “natural” they are.	9	18	13.8	3.31	10.96
17	There is value in just being outside for all people. No purpose needed!	9	17	13.6	3.07	9.44
18	I can safely and respectfully enjoy the natural around me (here and elsewhere)	10	18	14.8	3.54	12.56

SOURCES

- (1) 2019 – exhibit designer/Jill discussion (19_1108_ECOS Discussion with Wild Bear Jill Dreves.pdf)
- (2) Arch 11 kick off (19_1126_WB Kick-off Meeting Minutes.pdf)
- (3) WB exhibit concepts doc (We Are Nature_Exhibit Concepts JILLv.1 FROM OLD BRAINSTORM.docx)
- (4) Wild Bear Workshop Results–ECOS (2019-11-26).pdf
- (5) Discussions with Studio Tectonic



Question 2—Detailed Information

Question 2

Please rank the following Interpretive Structures from HIGHEST PRIORITY (top) to LEAST PRIORITY (bottom)

QUESTION NUMBER	QUESTION	HIGHEST RANKING	LOWEST RANKING	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	VARIANCE
1	Self-guided trails, 3200 acres of Mudd Lake, etc. (1)	1	10	4.2	3.66	13.36
2	Integration of areas of exhibit refreshment (not dedicated space to changing exhibit area within main exhibit hall)	2	12	7.6	4.22	17.84
3	Where does my water come from? Show how water flows. (1)	2	15	7.8	5.19	26.96
4	“We Are Nature” (particularly how this pertains to the climate crisis and our role) How to tie the visitor into being part of nature. (Existential conversation...) (2)	1	9	5	2.76	7.6
5	“We Are Nature” (particularly how this translates to: We are an element in the eco-system “We are the past and the future”—We need nature, and nature needs us—We need to do more, every day. (3)	1	5	3	1.41	2
6	Every experience and interaction in the nature center should reflect the “We Are” theme. (3)	6	16	11	3.69	13.6
7	Children more connected to nature. Spirit, Imagination, Creativity, Wonder. What can children teach us? (3)	2	10	6.4	2.73	7.44
8	Focus on placemaking by reminding of where we are—Wild Bear, Indian Peaks, Rocky Mountains. (3)	5	15	9.6	3.56	12.64
9	Use ecosystem storytelling, provide micro & macro views of this soil, these mountains, these animals, this human history. (3)	3	13	9	3.63	13.2
10	“We are Nature” heartbeat area: discovery room with artifacts, interactive activities, (4) possible maker area as well as other exhibits fixed in space (4)	8	16	12	2.83	8
11	A destination and discovery for environmental education; be interactive and experiential. (4)	4	15	9.4	4.59	21.04
12	Create a love for nature, whole family, kid within us all, make inspirational for adults (4)	1	13	6.8	3.92	15.36
13	Helping all families get outside; should be seamless, highlighting what’s already there. (4)	3	16	10.6	5.12	26.24
14	Really make INSIDE/OUTSIDE connections—immediate nature. (4)	4	15	10.2	4.26	18.16
15	Consider the entire five acres as exhibit space. (4)	11	16	12.8	1.94	3.76
16	Get people excited about nature near and far (in their backyards and in the wild) (4)	6	16	10.6	3.5	12.24

SOURCES

- (1) 2019 – exhibit designer/Jill discussion (19_1108_ECOS Discussion with Wild Bear Jill Dreves.pdf)
- (2) Arch 11 kick off (19_1126_WB Kick-off Meeting Minutes.pdf)
- (3) WB exhibit concepts doc (We Are Nature_Exhibit Concepts JILLv.1 FROM OLD BRAINSTORM.docx)
- (4) Wild Bear Workshop Results–ECOS (2019-11-26).pdf
- (5) Discussions with Studio Tectonic



Question 3—Detailed Information

Question 3

Please rank the following Exhibit Engagement Ideas for “Physical / Built Exhibit Elements ” from HIGHEST PRIORITY (top) to LEAST PRIORITY (bottom)

QUESTION NUMBER	QUESTION	HIGHEST RANKING	LOWEST RANKING	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	VARIANCE
1	Show evolving exhibits in a way that reflects changing nature (i.e. bird feeder in summer, snow drifts in winter) (1)	1	2	1.2	0.4	0.16
2	Changeable / updatable exhibit areas.	1	5	3	1.67	2.8
3	in-exhibit water feature	4	16	9	4.2	17.6
4	Sculptures, wall murals, other art pieces commissioned by local artists, including native artists (3)	3	10	5	2.61	6.8
5	Mud Lake shoes as part of exhibit. (3)	4	20	11.6	5.16	26.64
6	Some kind of interactive centerpiece exhibit that integrates low tech and high tech— (ex: a hologram of a moose that appears through pedaling power of a stationary bike)	2	12	7.2	4.07	16.56
7	Human scale nests for kids to climb into. (3)	3	24	11.8	8.89	78.96
8	A small replica working windmill to pump water or power something—show the energy in wind (3)	5	26	15.6	7.5	56.24
9	What’s under your feet? Clear floor to look down and see bugs/soils (3)	6	14	10	3.35	11.2
10	Active capture of grey water in bathroom as an educational feature	12	23	18.4	4.22	17.84
11	Birdsong in the bathrooms or main rooms (audio system)	5	19	10.2	5.19	26.96
12	Small creatures with big voices, visual and audio exhibit—bumblebees, frogs, picas, hummers, and snow fleas. Sophia Dubose dedication	7	13	10.6	2.33	5.44
13	Scat exhibit in the bathrooms. Sounds in the bathrooms. Tracks on the floor. (3)	7	22	13.4	5.24	27.44
14	Mirage in the mirrors seeing yourself as a fox, etc? What animal are you today? (3)	7	26	16.2	6.79	46.16
15	Be a Naturalist, maybe at the wildlife viewing window (3)	2	15	9.4	4.88	23.84
16	Wildlife observation to outdoors (bird feeder, bees, audio feed, video/trail cams, bird-house spy cam, bat boxes, etc.) (4)	3	16	10.6	4.67	21.84
17	Crawl-in den (bear, beaver, other)—Note that this can be in Discovery Room. (4)	4	25	14.6	7.86	61.84
18	Topographic relief map (walk-around tabletop) (4)	17	25	19.8	2.93	8.56
19	Astronomy Ceiling (connected to outside viewing) (4)	15	19	17.4	1.5	2.24
20	Plant germination/gardening area (hands in the dirt) (4)	10	20	16.4	3.88	15.04
21	Digital watershed/map table (projection on sand) (4)	15	24	19.6	3.2	10.24
22	Costume area/Puppet stage (4)	20	26	23	2	4
23	Nature Table/Trade area (4)	20	25	23.2	1.94	3.76
24	Media element with camera footage that Highlights work of the Research station	8	25	16.4	6.97	48.64
25	Abandoned bus (4)	8	26	16.2	7.05	49.76
26	Media element featuring Suzuki film in segments throughout exhibits (3)	14	26	21.2	4.26	18.16

SOURCES

- (1) 2019 – exhibit designer/Jill discussion (19_1108_ECOS Discussion with Wild Bear Jill Dreves.pdf)
- (2) Arch 11 kick off (19_1126_WB Kick-off Meeting Minutes.pdf)
- (3) WB exhibit concepts doc (We Are Nature_Exhibit Concepts JILLv.1 FROM OLD BRAINSTORM.docx)
- (4) Wild Bear Workshop Results–ECOS (2019-11-26).pdf
- (5) Discussions with Studio Tectonic



Question 4—Detailed Information

Question 4

Please rank the following Exhibit Engagement Ideas for “Interactive / Experiential Elements” from HIGHEST PRIORITY (top) to LEAST PRIORITY (bottom)

QUESTION NUMBER	QUESTION	HIGHEST RANKING	LOWEST RANKING	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	VARIANCE
1	Enabling a self-guided experience—WBNC as a true intentional destination point	1	1	1	0	0
2	Electronics check at / near the front desk	2	9	6	3.29	10.8
3	Some kind of interactive centerpiece exhibit that integrates low tech and high tech— (ex: hologram of a moose that appears through pedaling power of a stationary bike)	3	7	4.6	1.62	2.64
4	Human scale nests for kids to climb into. (3)	3	8	5.4	1.62	2.64
5	Suzuki film in segments throughout exhibits (3)	6	9	7	1.1	1.2
6	What have you done to help the earth—Grassroots and simple exhibit where people add a card/note with what they have done? (3)	2	5	3.6	1.02	1.04
7	Instagram moment to make a pledge—eg #fightfornature or #helptheearth (3)	4	9	6.4	1.74	3.04
8	Talk back exhibit—How do you feel when you're in Nature? (3)	3	8	6.4	2.06	4.24
9	Be a Naturalist, maybe at the wildlife viewing window (3)	2	9	4.6	2.65	7.04

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Question 5—Detailed Information

Question 5

Please rank the following Exhibit Engagement Ideas for “Conceptual Ideas & interpretive Content Points” from **HIGHEST PRIORITY (top) to LEAST PRIORITY (bottom)**

QUESTION NUMBER	QUESTION	HIGHEST RANKING	LOWEST RANKING	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	VARIANCE
1	Exhibits that highlight music & beauty of nature (3)	1	13	5.2	4.66	21.76
2	Nurture relationships w/ nature today & tomorrow—Educate on wildlife (3)	2	16	6.2	5.6	31.36
3	Educate on local ecology—Human-ecosystem interactions past and future (3)	1	10	3.6	3.32	11.04
4	Portal - leave old values behind, bring new value with you, transformation between	1	26	11	9.47	89.6
5	Represent human evolution in nature-natives, mining, trash, present, fut. (3)	4	25	12.8	8.11	65.76
6	How to be a naturalist. (via spy club- programming or exhibits related?) (3)	4	14	7.6	3.38	11.44
7	Illustrate and embody the wind of the Indian Peaks. (3)	5	24	10.8	6.91	47.76
8	Air moves! Cold mountain air sinks at night, warm air rises from plains (3)	6	20	12.4	4.45	19.84
9	African American history Lincoln Hill	13	24	19.8	3.66	13.36
10	Asian mining	14	29	22.2	4.96	24.56
11	Native American connection to this place	5	23	14.2	7.65	58.56
12	Arapahoe art, language, words—What does this imply for content development, how does this support WB mission/vision, what's its priority (1	8	27	20	6.84	46.8
13	Suzuki film in segments throughout exhibits (3)	13	29	18.2	5.56	30.96
14	full wall image of Arapahoe (3)	9	29	22.4	6.97	48.64
15	Talking trees—how trees communicate with one another.	7	26	16.6	6.18	38.24
16	Pine beetle and impacts on the forest (3)	8	27	15	6.6	43.6
17	Natural cycles: rock to soil to plants to animals/people (simple nutrient cycle). Our bodies form from Earth elements.	2	19	10.4	5.82	33.84
18	What is indigenous wisdom? How can we learn from the stories of the earth, the night sky, the sun, the survival skills of wild animals? (3)	11	25	20.6	5.16	26.64
19	Be a snow scientist!	9	22	16.2	4.35	18.96
20	Represent the water cycles in the context of the Mud Lake, Indian Peaks + Front Range. Where does your water come from? (3)	3	23	10.6	7.5	56.24
21	Importance of wetlands and riparian areas	4	28	16.4	7.76	60.24
22	What percentage of us are water? 60% (3)	18	29	24.4	3.93	15.44
23	Capturing energy of the sun—the building heating	5	27	17.2	8.06	64.96
24	Fire ecology and how fire produces new life in the forest	10	24	14.4	5.08	25.84
25	Dealing with fiery energy up here in the mountains (sunscreens, lightning strike prevention, etc	9	28	21.2	8.42	70.96
26	Lessons on biophilia—Did you know? People can literally heal themselves by just looking at Nature (share science behind this)? (3)	2	28	18.6	9.41	88.64
27	Interpretive exhibits about mountain ecosystem, habitats, plants and wildlife, weather	5	18	12.2	4.87	23.76
28	Indigenous Acknowledgment (4)	3	29	17.2	10.65	113.36
29	Local bird and wildlife guides and representations	10	21	17.6	4.08	16.64

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