
IMPROVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS AT THE LAKES

All development and improvements identified on Figures 20 through 28 require some definition as to what the figures display. Like the amenities maps these figures are broken down into smaller areas, described by locations from west to east such as Omaha Beach to Otter Creek Bay. This allows the maps to better delineate the various developments that will occur around the lake. The maps are not an exact representation of where individual elements will go. They are an approximation of areas for the various elements, for example when a new parking lot is identified, the intent is for a parking area to be located in that general vicinity and its exact location will be determined at the time of construction based off existing topography and the most logical location.

On the maps there are polygons, lines and points; polygons denote large areas with varying boundaries, such as the walk-in access areas, and new modern campgrounds. Lines represent road improvements, trail development, and barriers to control access; and points represent boat ramps, parking (new and improved) camping improvements, and trail heads. Because water fluctuations occur on an annual basis, zones that are identified on beach areas will be adjusted due to the fluctuations. An example of this would be an area that is delineated as a day use area will go down to the water's edge.

Many of the development proposals are not new ideas. Similar proposals have been suggested at Lake McConaughy for the past 15 years. The strategies being implemented here are a result of several factors; including NGPC's adherence to the LSMP, public input received by park staff and at the public forums hosted during the development process, the protection of Threatened and Endangered Species, and the need to provide visitors with an enjoyable outdoor recreation experience. These strategies are meant to allow all the current uses of the park while implementing more control of the area to reduce negative interactions between wildlife and humans, reduce law enforcement issues, and increase compliance with existing park regulations.

Many of the zones proposed were determined by reviewing historical data and use patterns. For example, the Threatened and Endangered Species Zones looked at historical bird use and nesting patterns to identify the most probable spots to create the zones. Other considerations such as access to water and proper habitat for broods were considered when choosing the zoning sites. These locations were determined and prioritized by NGPC and CNPPID. For campgrounds, access, proximity to existing infrastructure and proper space was considered. Other beach uses were identified by the existing activity patterns. The general locations for each development was determined by internal staff most familiar with the area, along with input with CNPPID and USFWS. Some of the developments do occur on non-NGPC managed property for those to be implemented a cooperation agreement will need to be established that permits the development.

It is important to note that the new developments being proposed are to be done in addition to activities already ongoing with regard to the protection of the piping plover and interior least tern. CNPPID will continue to construct nest protection areas and fence off portions of the beach with large nest concentrations. NGPC's intent is to provide additional protection for the species in order to

protect the species. Below are the definitions for the various terminology that is used on the Development Plan Maps, as shown in Figures 20-28.

Development Plan Definitions

Boat Ramp New or Improvements (BRN) (BRI) – These items will either be a new boat ramp or improving the existing ramp by paving it, adding lanes or other improvements. These areas are specific to meeting the needs of the anglers and boaters at the lake areas.

Campground Improvements (CI) – Existing campground upgrades include ADA camp pads, upgraded electrical pedestals, replaced or renovated shower house/restrooms, and sewer and water hookups where possible. Upgrades to these areas will provide updated facilities that are necessary for today's visitors.

Day Use Areas (DU) – These areas will be open to day use foot traffic only with no overnight camping allowed. Areas will be signed, fenced or have some form of barrier from other beach uses. These areas are intended to provide visitors the ability to recreate on the beach during daylight hours but potentially decrease enforcement issues during the overnight hours.

Dog Park (DP) – An off leash dog park will consist of fencing, benches, dog exercise equipment, and water if possible. Dog parks will provide users an area to exercise their dogs without keeping them on a leash, and still in compliance with park regulations.

Equestrian Campground (EC) – Construction of a new campground that is designed for equestrian users, including corals for horses, a water source and drinking trough, camp pads with electrical pedestals, and other campground amenities such as restrooms, shower houses, and additional parking stalls. A trailhead for an equestrian trail will be located in the vicinity. The equestrian campground is to encourage a new user group to the lake area and provide them adequate facilities for their recreational purposes.

Barrier/Fencing (B/F) – Consists of barriers or fencing constructed mostly along boundary lines to prevent encroachment from adjacent properties and unauthorized access points. Barriers may also be put in place to separate conflicting uses such as Threatened and Endangered Species Zones from Managed Vehicle Access Areas. The intent of these barriers and fencing is to assist in controlling access and separating conflicting uses.

Fishing Improvements (FI) – Additional fishing amenities such as piers, bridges, or fish cleaning stations. All fish cleaning stations will be evaluated for upgrade. New fish cleaning stations and boat wash facilities to prevent the spread of invasive species will also be studied and implemented where needed and feasible. These improvements will be designed and added to encourage additional anglers to the area and meet the needs of existing users of the areas.

Group Facility (GF) – an indoor/outdoor facility that could be used to host large gatherings such as wedding receptions, community events, and family reunions. The purpose of the group facility is to expand use of the lake area for the local community.

Gate (G) – gates will be constructed on roads to allow for road closures limiting access to certain areas. Gates are intended as a management tool to manage access to some areas of the lakes and to decrease the abilities of users to create their own access points down to the shoreline.

Gate House (GH) – a small kiosk will be constructed to house a person for the purpose of collecting fees when entering an area. Gate houses will be another management tool to enforce regulations, collect fees and manage access to locations on the lakes.

Managed Vehicle Access (MVA) – Areas will be either be designated for the use of licensed vehicles and recreational vehicles on the beach for day and overnight use, or for the management of areas adjacent to non-NGPC managed property. Both uses will allow for walk-in day use beach access. For the licensed and recreational vehicle areas there will be controlled access points limiting the number of vehicles at any given time. A carrying capacity for the area will be established, which will allow for effective collection of permit and camping fees, and prevent overcrowding.

Areas that are adjacent to non-NGPC managed areas will work with NGPC and CNPPID to create a beach management plan that will identify places to create designated access points (e.g. for boat placement), allow use of permitted tractors in specific locations, and outline procedures on any type of shoreline management perceived as beneficial to the public and non-manage NGPC areas, along with the process for boat dock approvals. All of these procedures will be created by the non-managed NGPC area constituents, NGPC, and CNPPID. Both areas will be signed, fenced or have some form of barrier from other beach uses. The intent of these areas is to manage access and limit the licensed vehicles on the beach areas.

Modern Campground (MC) – Construction would consist of camp pads with electrical pedestals, sewer and water hookups; a shower house/restroom, additional restrooms determined by the size of the campground, and where possible a fenced area for use as an off leash dog run. These campgrounds will be developed to provide the users at the lake areas new places to camp.

Parking (P) – New parking lots or improvements to an existing lot. Because zoning is proposed on the beach areas, it will be important to provide parking to visitors in logical places that are convenient to them.

Road Closure (RC) – Close off roads to restrict vehicle access to the beach. There will be gates placed across the road so they can be reopened for NGPC activities or emergency response. The purpose of road closures is to assist in managing access of the areas.

Road Improvements (RI) – Include repaving when necessary, filling of holes and cracks, adding rock to unpaved roads, and/or a cable/guard rail system along the roadside discourage additional access points to the beach. When updating development at an area, it is always important to improve existing infrastructure, which would include road improvements. These improvements will provide better access to visitors and emergency personnel.

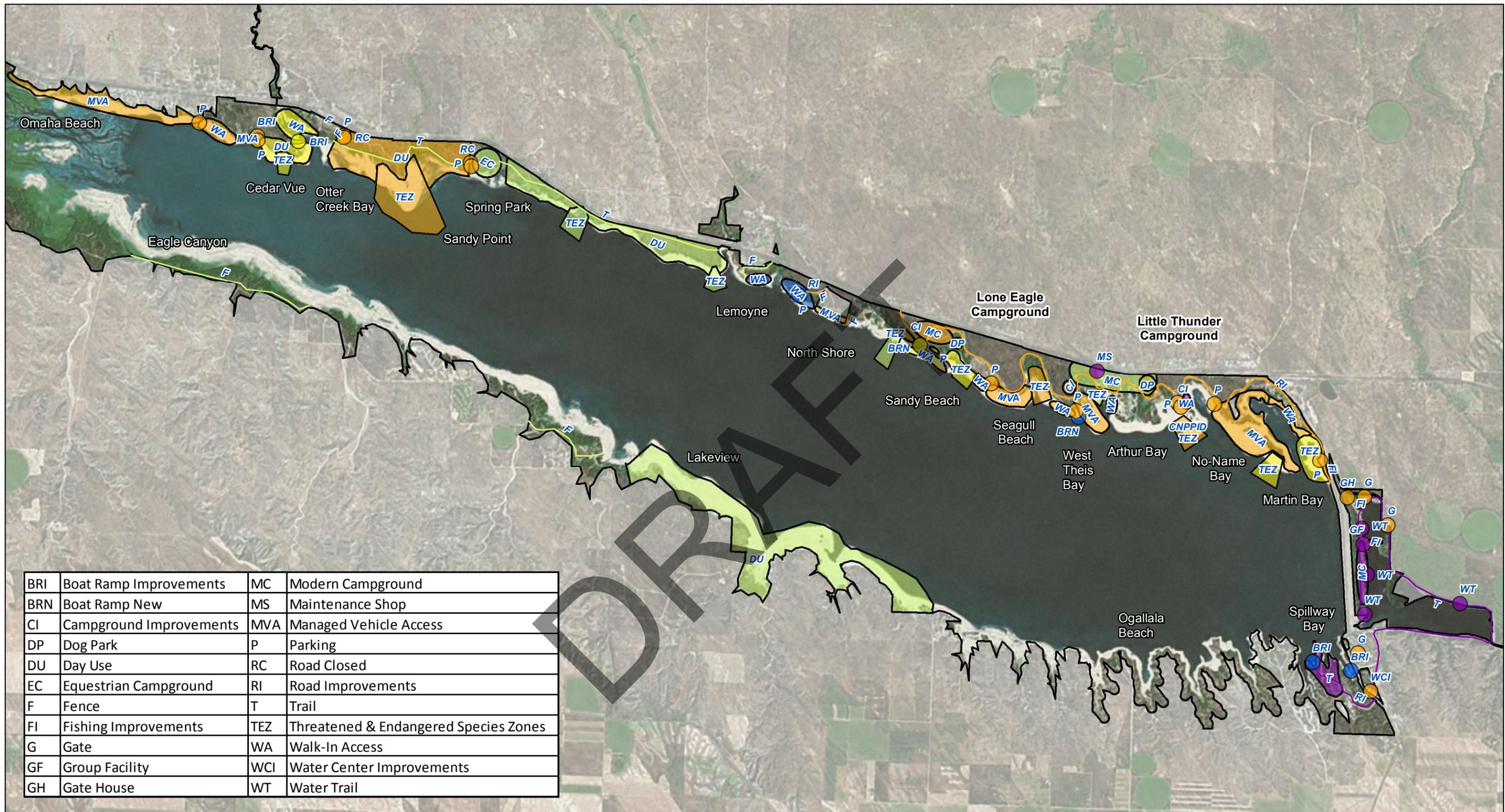
Threatened and Endangered Species Zones (TEZ) – Seasonally closed areas to human recreation that provide safe havens for threatened piping plovers and endangered interior least terns. TEZs provide supplemental protected habitat for these birds in addition to the small protective exclusion zones around individual nests erected and maintained by CNPPID. TEZs provide important shoreline and beach habitat for adults and their broods. TEZ boundaries are marked by barriers and/or interpretive signs intended to educate the public about the two species' status, legal protections and need for protecting these areas. These areas will extend to the edge of the water and in some cases, into the water by a buoy system. These zones are in addition to what CNPPID does to protect nests. Current protocols to protect the species that CNPPID employs will continue into the future.

Trails (T) – Trails include seasonal equestrian, mountain bike and hiking trails, along with trail amenities such as trailheads, parking, restrooms, interpretive signage, wayfinding signage, and benches. Trails have been requested by the public to provide safe walking alternatives along with new activities to serve visitors at the lakes.

Walk-In Access (WA) – Areas include swim beaches, walk-in beach camping and other day use only areas where no vehicles are allowed on the beach. Areas will be signed, fenced or have some form of barrier from other beach uses. The intent of these walk in areas, below campgrounds is to provide safe access to visitors to the beach. The purpose of other walk in areas is to manage access and to remove vehicles off the beach to protect visitors and the natural resources.

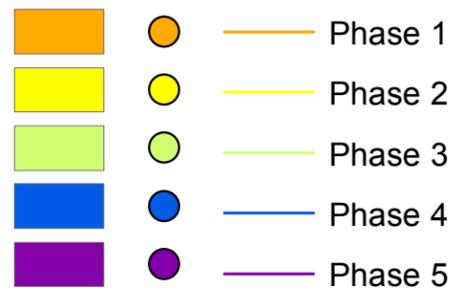
Water Trail (WT) –Canoe/kayak launch points and interpretive signage for paddlers. Water trails are popular activities at most water bodies. Whereas Lake McConaughy has a plethora of opportunities to put canoe/kayak into the water, Lake Ogallala requires specific locations and development to afford visitors the opportunities to use canoe/kayaks on its area.

Water Center Improvements (WCI) – Expand the Water Interpretive Center to include a large meeting/party room that would be available as rental space for weddings, community events and other large gatherings. The expansion of this center would fulfill the requests received by the local community to provide a large enough place to host events, conferences and weddings. This addition was identified shortly after the center was completed.



Lake McConaughy/Lake Ogallala Development Plan

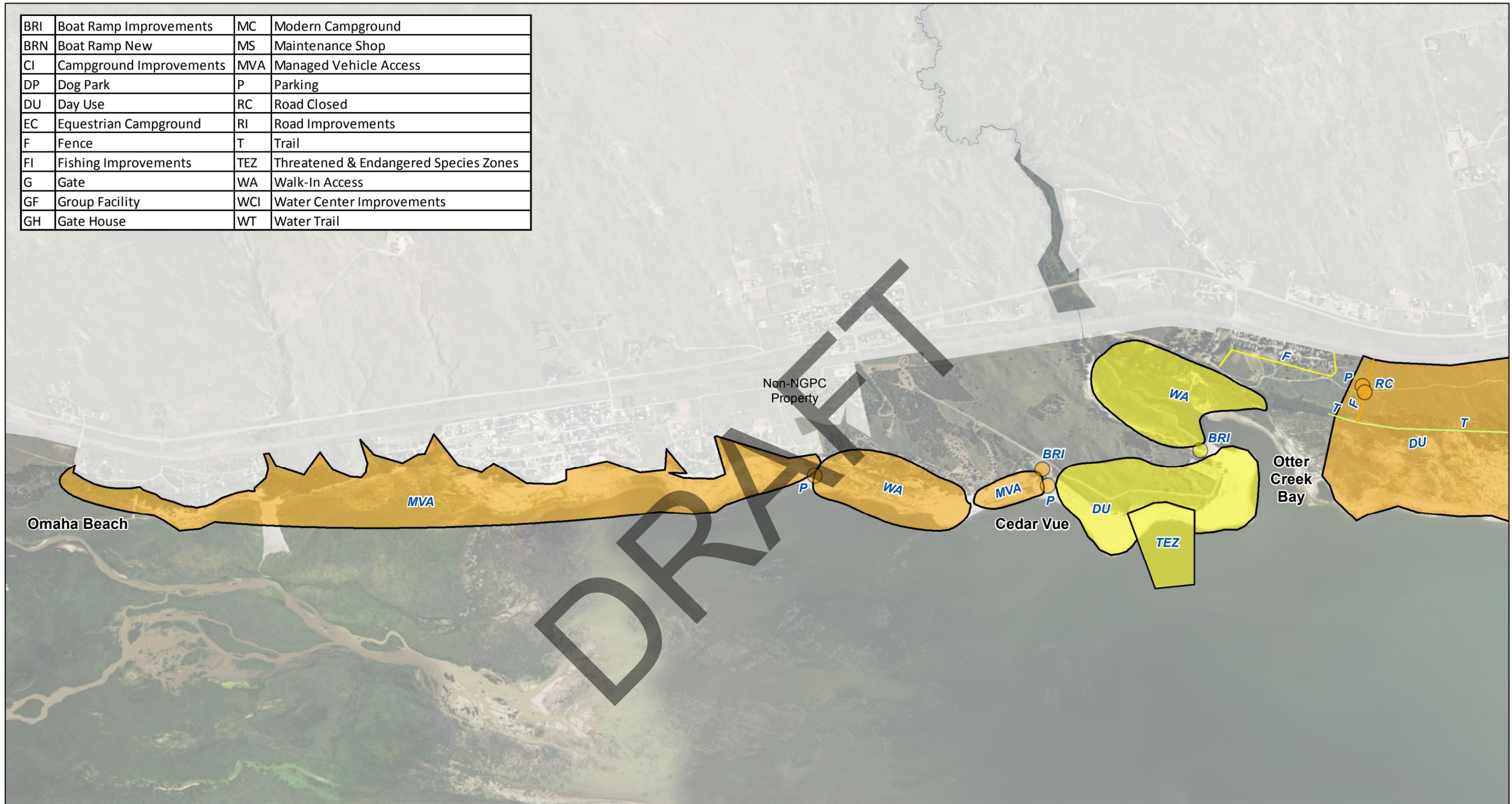
Figure 20



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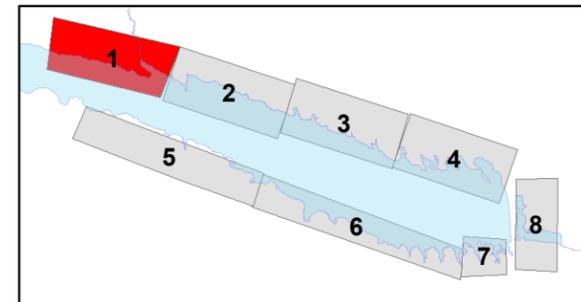
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BRN	Boat Ramp New	MS	Maintenance Shop
CI	Campground Improvements	MVA	Managed Vehicle Access
DP	Dog Park	P	Parking
DU	Day Use	RC	Road Closed
EC	Equestrian Campground	RI	Road Improvements
F	Fence	T	Trail
FI	Fishing Improvements	TEZ	Threatened & Endangered Species Zones
G	Gate	WA	Walk-In Access
GF	Group Facility	WCI	Water Center Improvements
GH	Gate House	WT	Water Trail



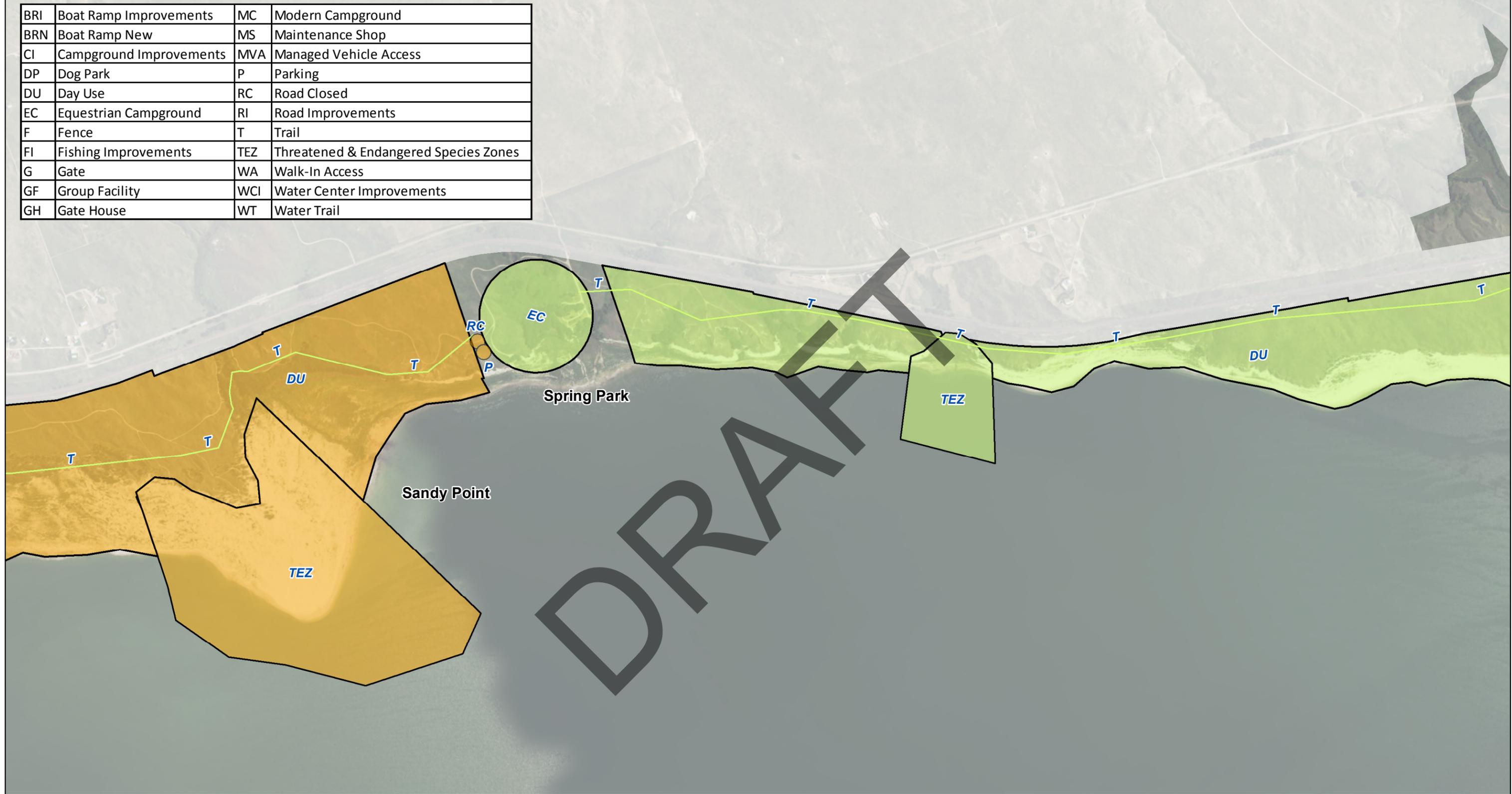
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Figure 21: Omaha Beach/Otter Creek Bay



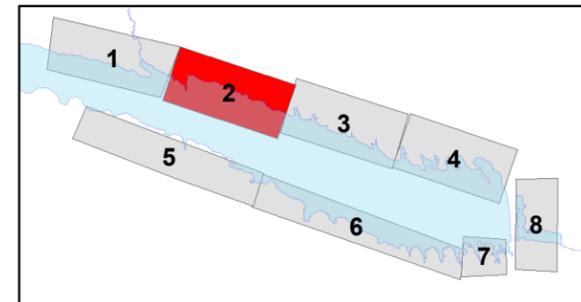
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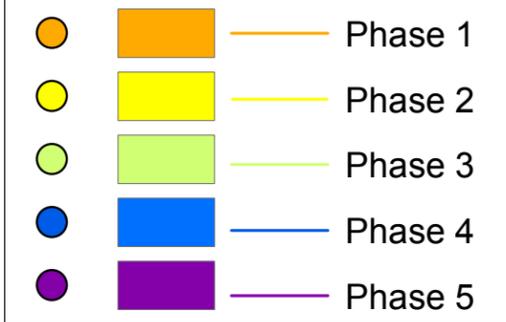
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Figure 22: Sandy Point/Spring Park



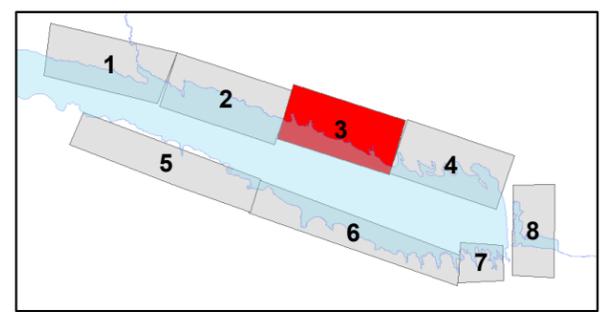
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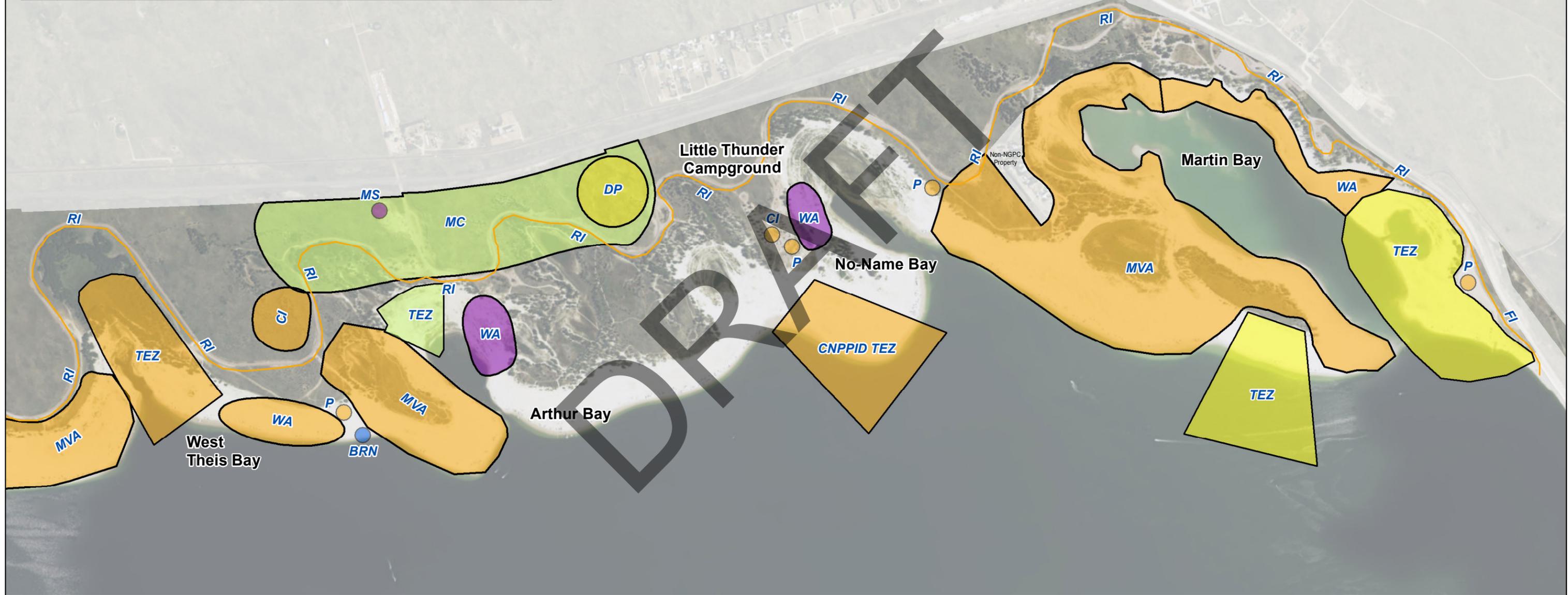
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Figure 23: Lemoyne/West Theis Bay



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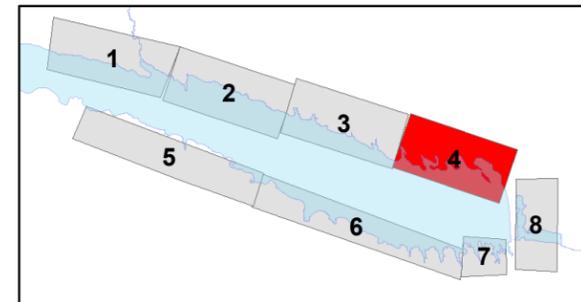
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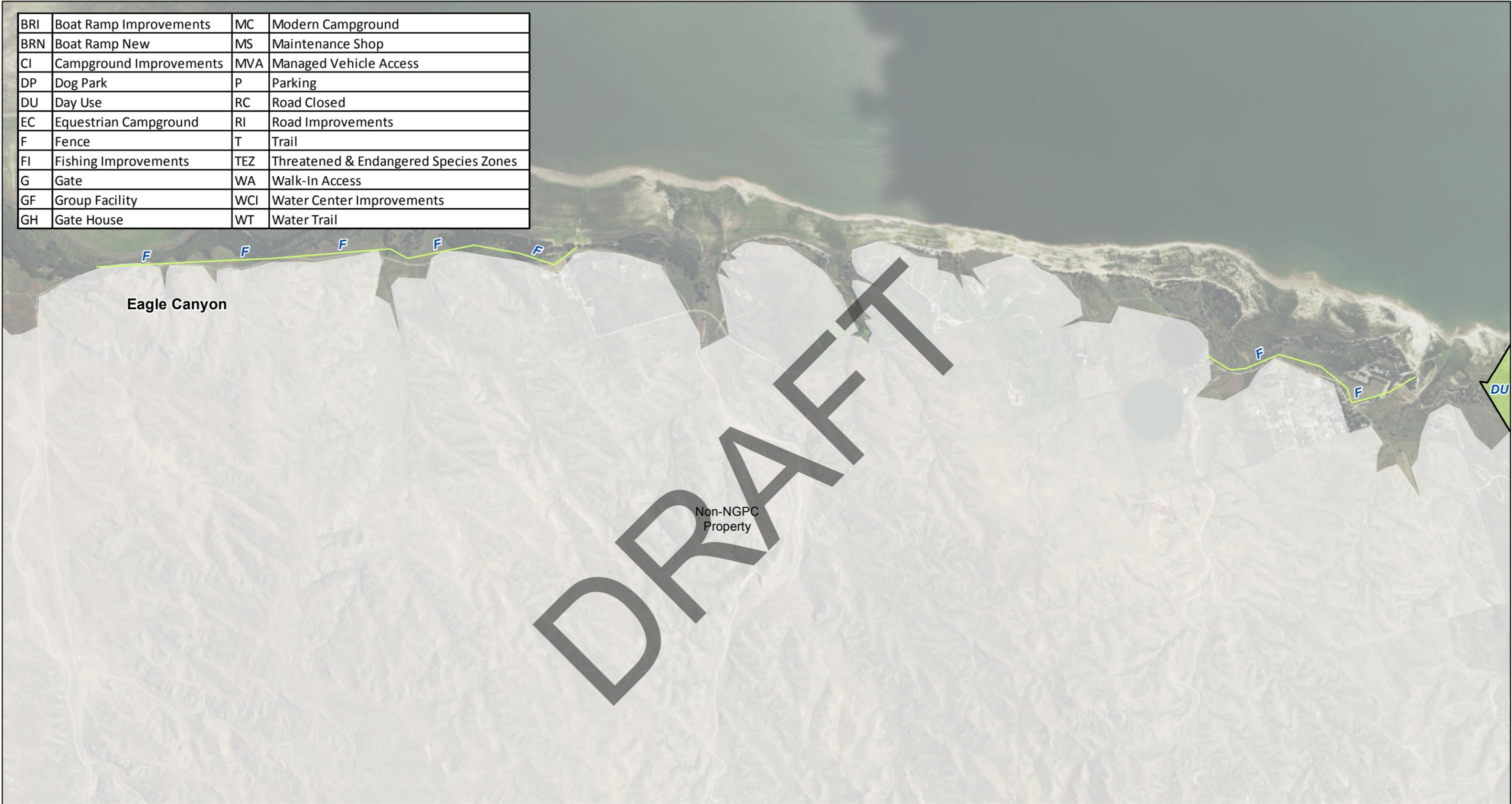
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Figure 24: West Theis Bay/Martin Bay



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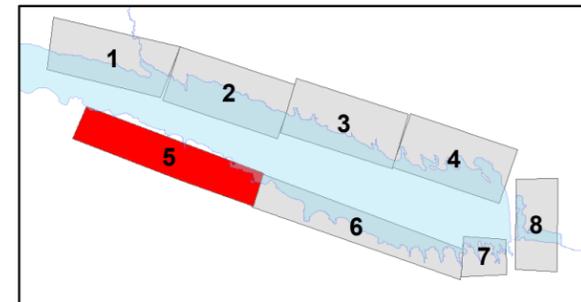
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Figure 25: Eagle Canyon



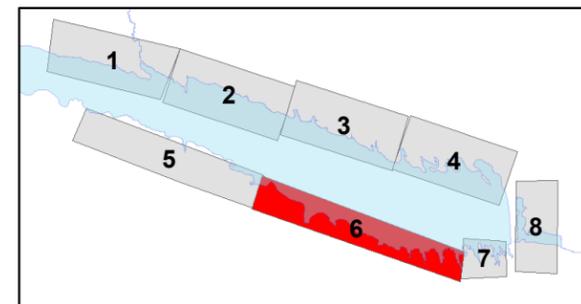
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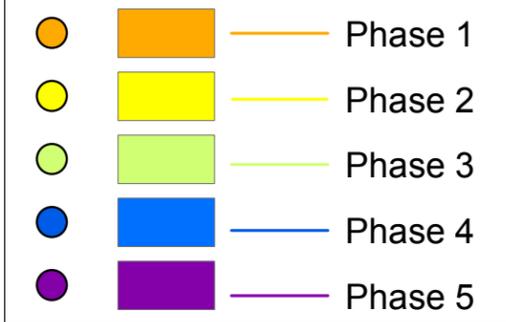
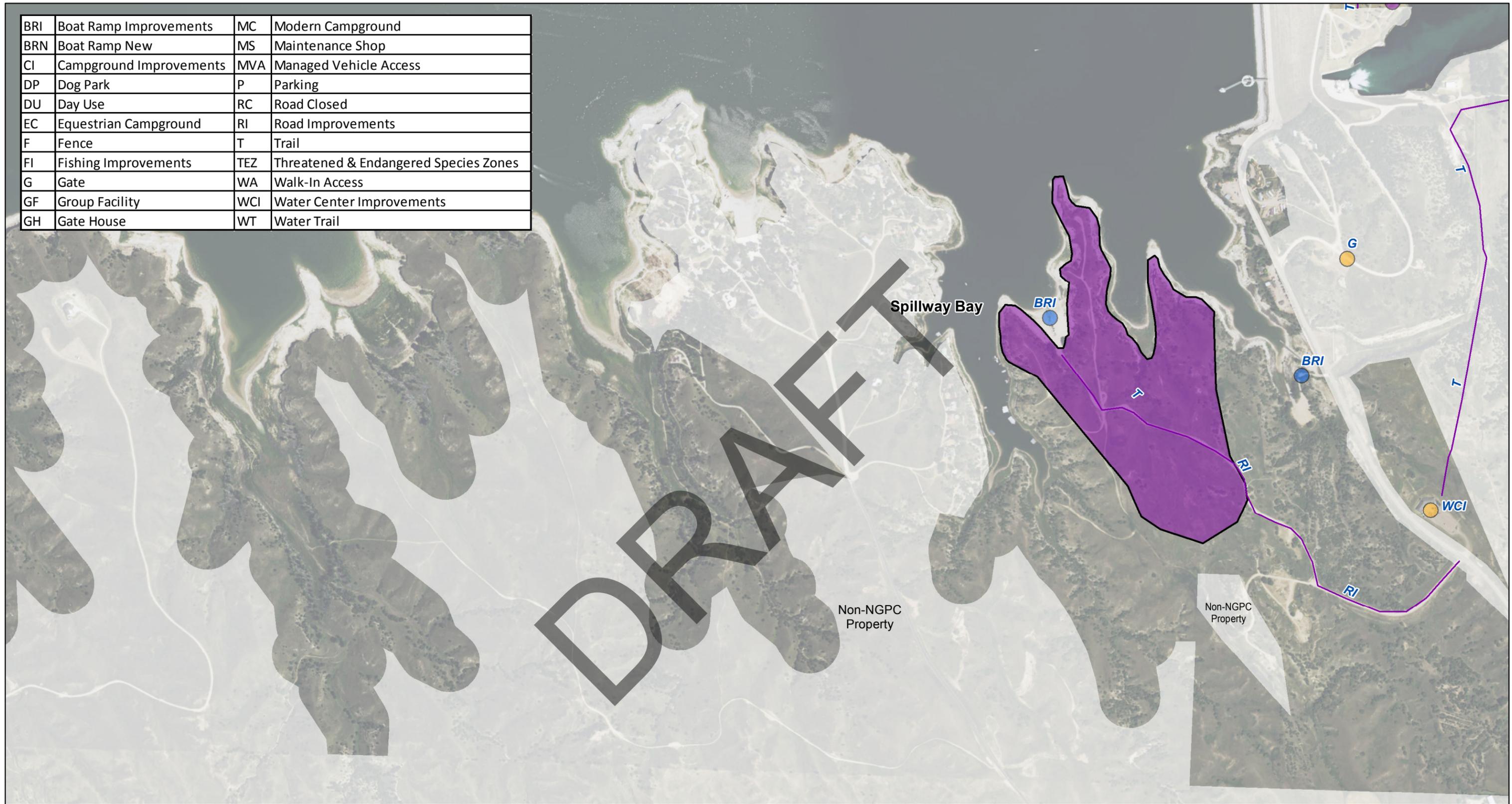
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Lake McConaughy/Lake Ogallala Development Plan

Figure 26: Lakeview/Ogallala Beach

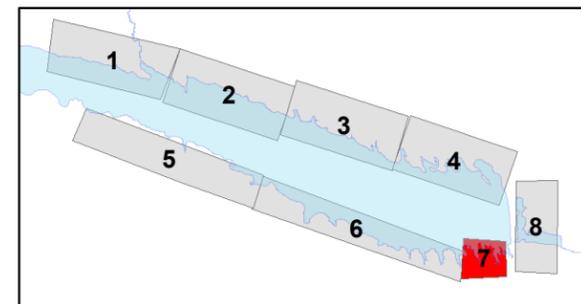


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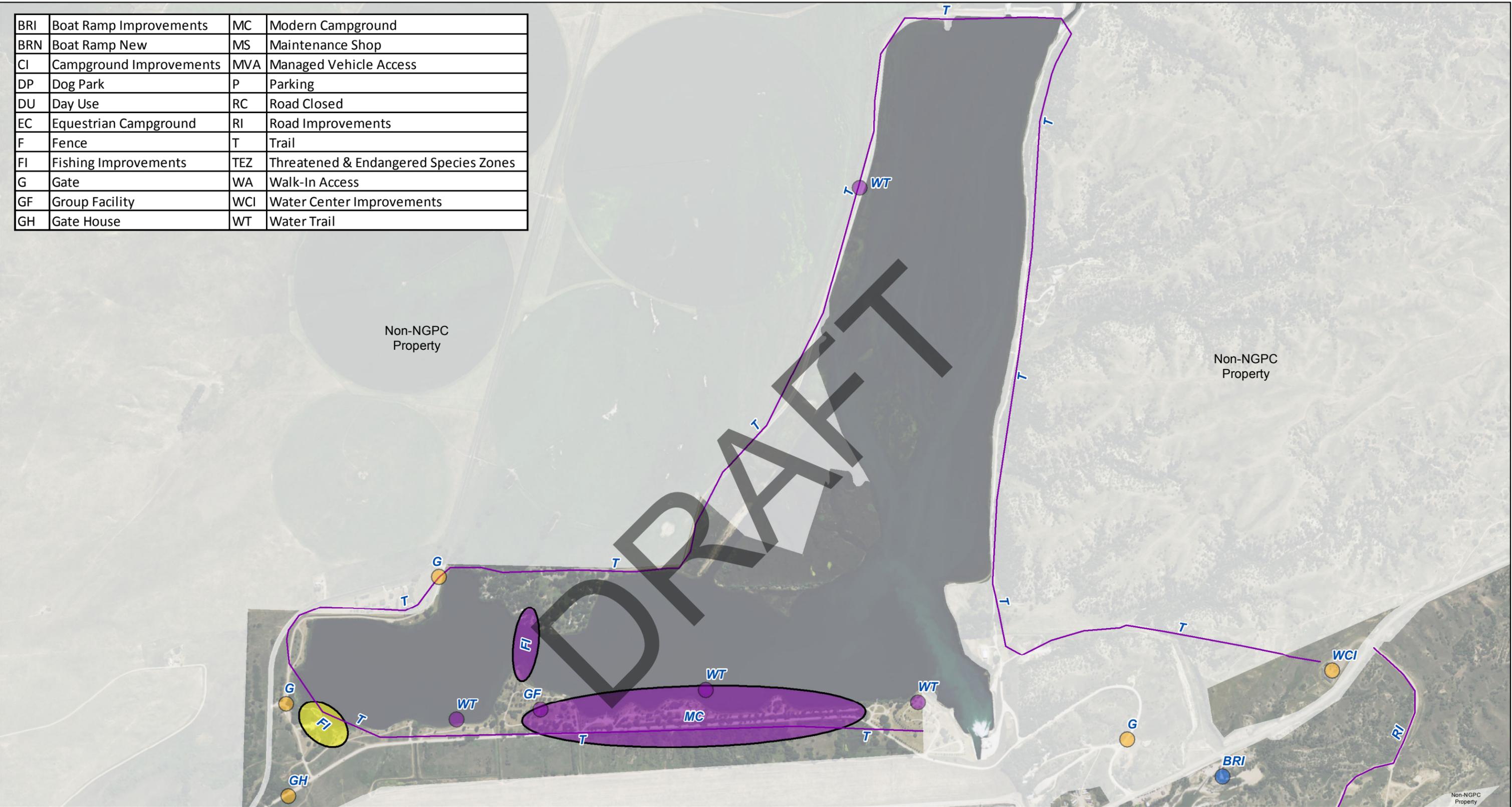


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Figure 27: Spillway Bay



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Figure 28: Lake Ogallala

