Tuolumne visitor center

ADA compliant ramp
Picnic area
Parent seating

Landscape Fabric
Native Vegetation
Glaciated Boulders
Gravel

8
3
7
4
6
5
2
1

Picnic area
Parent seating

The wayfinding draws from the minimalistic design & rustic materials utilized throughout the site.

The dry creek bed brings the flow, forms, & vegetation of the alpine meadow into the natural playground.

The poured rubber mimics the spongy feel of the meadow.

Tuolumne visitor center Site Plan

Wayfinding system
dry creek bed

Tuolumne visitor center
ADA compliant ramp
Picnic area
Parent seating

Meadow inspired natural playground
Dry Creek bed
Playground picnic area
Alpine amphitheater

Native “Lodgepole Pine”
Timber Glaciated Rocks
Meadow Sedges & Forbes
Colored Poured Rubber
Amphitheater section

60% of groups visiting the meadow come in a group with children. The playground gives them an area to blow off steam while having meadow inspired educational experience.
The earth is a part of us as human beings. It has shaped us. We would not be who we are today without the push and pull of nature. We may distinguish ourselves from the natural world, viewing ourselves as separate. But we share a common fate, not yet known. We are only one of three million species creating this living tapestry, and it is this diversity that keeps all living things in balance. Alpine meadows hold an immensely diverse community of flora and fauna. This delicate system works together to support all the surrounding Yosemite communities. But due to us as humans, this community is slowly dying.

Knowing this, there must be a turning point in the foundation of how we live, from fragmentation to connection. According to the National Park Service, in Yosemite National Park meadows only make up 3% of the National Park’s area yet support most of the area’s species. Meadows are sponges, absorbing water as snow pack on a mountain melts and holding it. This allows for the water to be filtered by the meadows. This filtered water run-off provides clean water for wildlife, healthy habitat for aquatic animals, and most of San Francisco’s water is filtered by Yosemite’s meadows. These delicate ecosystems are very sensitive to changes including human-caused changes or disruptions such as walking over the land causing compaction. This design strives to bring back a healthy balance between humans and the natural world.

This we know... This we believe... This we resolve...
People walking on the meadow creating social trails compact the spongy top soil disrupting ground water flow & destruction of meadow ecology.

**KEYSTONE ECOLOGY SUPPORT WEB**

- **Clean drinking water for wildlife**
- **San Francisco’s drinking water**
- **Nutrient for surrounding forests**
- **Filters water runoff**
- **Holds water as snow-pack melts**
- **Ground water recharge**
- **Food source for amphibians and reptiles**
- **Breeding ground for invertebrates**
- **Food source for birds**
- **Prey base for raptors coyotes and predators**

**ALPINE MEADOWS**

- **Planted by broadcast system (thrown out by hand) assures even natural spread.**
- **Seeds can be successfully planted after spring thaw till June 30th or September 1st until the soil freeze-up.**
- **Planted by broadcast system (thrown out by hand) assures even natural spread.**
- **No-till plantings minimizes disturbance of soil, and will allow less weeds to grow.**

**RE-ESTABLISHMENT**

- **Plants start to spread naturally interweaving with each other.**
- **Areas of bare top soil still open for new seeds to establish.**
- **Plants have completely filled in the ground plane covering all exposed soil.**
- **Plant varieties are made up of 70% sedges & 30% flowering forbes.**
- **Roots are fully established.**

**AFTER ONE YEAR**

- **Plants start to spread naturally interweaving with each other.**
- **Areas of bare top soil still open for new seeds to establish.**
- **Plants have completely filled in the ground plane covering all exposed soil.**
- **Plant varieties are made up of 70% sedges & 30% flowering forbes.**
- **Roots are fully established.**

**FULLY RE-ESTABLISHED**

- **Plants have completely filled in the ground plane covering all exposed soil.**
- **Plant varieties are made up of 70% sedges & 30% flowering forbes.**
- **Roots are fully established.**

**NATIVE VEGETATION ZONES**

- **Lodgepole Pines**
- **Western White Pines**
- **Mountain Hemlock**
- **Thread Leaved Sedge**
- **Meadow Pussy Toes**
- **Dwarf Bilberry**
- **Western Bistort**
- **Round-end Sedge**
- **Sierra Willow**
- **Black Sedge**
- **Western White Pines**
- **Mountain Hemlock**
- **Lodgepole Pines**

**ECOLOGICAL RE-ESTABLISHMENT**

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**SUB-ALPINE FOREST UPLANDS WET MEADOW DEEP STANDING WATER**

- **Nutrient rich top soil**
- **Ground water**
- **Glaciated bedrock**

**Breeding ground for invertebrates**

- **Healthy aquatic habitat**
- **Clean drinking water for wildlife**
- **San Francisco’s drinking water**
- **Nutrient for surrounding forests**
- **Filters water runoff**
- **Holds water as snow-pack melts**
- **Ground water recharge**
- **Food source for amphibians and reptiles**
- **Breeding ground for invertebrates**
- **Food source for birds**
- **Prey base for raptors coyotes and predators**
**Bus Stop & Crosswalk Section**

Parking & shuttle stops on the less delicate forested side of the road funnel people across the street to viewing platforms, keeping them off the meadow ecology.

**Shuttle Circulation**

20 foot walkway accommodates for large groups of shuttle bus tours.

5 foot walkway to accommodate individual vehicles.

Directs people across street to viewing platforms.

**Shuttle Stop**

Native "Lodgepole Pine" timber

Brushed Concrete

Colored Concrete
RAISED VIEWING PLATFORMS STRATEGICALLY PLACED TO OFFER THE BEST OVERLOOKS TO VISITORS VIEWING THE SITE.

THE RIVER WALKS MINIMALISTIC DESIGN ALLOWS IT TO BLEND IN WITH THE SURROUNDING VEGETATION KEEPING THE STRUCTURE FROM BECOMING A VISUAL DISTRACTION.

METAL GRATE FLOORING ON VIEWING PLATFORMS AND RIVER WALK ALLOWS FOR SUN AND RAIN TO REACH THE MEADOW BELOW.

WITH PLANT RE-ESTABLISHMENT, VARIETIES OF PLANTS SHOULD AMOUNT TO 70% SEDGES & 30% FLOWERING FORBS IN ORDER TO BLEND INTO THE NATURAL PRAIRIE.

THE RIVER WALK PLACEMENT KEEPS THE PATHWAY ABOVE WATER ALL THROUGH THE YEAR, EVEN DURING SPRING FLOODING. THIS ALLOWS VISITORS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE ALL YEAR LONG.

DEPHT IN FEET
- Regular Water Level
- 0 - 1
- 2 - 5
- > 5

THE RIVER WALK SECTION

4” steel lip welded
1.3’ rise
5-10’ wide
walkway
1-3’ rise
transparent metal grated flooring
steel supports every 10’
plant re-establishment

RAISED VIEWING PLATFORMS

strategically placed to offer the best overlooks to visitors viewing the site.

Native "Lodgepole Pine" Timber

Metal Grate

Glass Wall Metal Grate

 Raised viewing platform

River walk section

Spring flooding levels

The river walk placement keeps the pathway above water all through the year, even during spring flooding. This allows visitors a unique experience all year long.

The river walks minimalistic design allows it to blend in with the surrounding vegetation keeping the structure from becoming a visual distraction.

Raised viewing platforms strategically placed to offer the best outlooks to visitors viewing the site.

With plant re-establishment, varieties of plants should amount to 70% sedges & 30% flowering forbs in order to blend into the natural prairie.

Depth in feet
- Regular Water Level
- 0 - 1
- 2 - 5
- > 5

Spring flooding levels

The river walk section

4” steel lip welded
1.3’ rise
5-10’ wide
walkway
1-3’ rise
transparent metal grated flooring
steel supports every 10’
plant re-establishment

Raised viewing platform

Native "Lodgepole Pine" Timber

Metal Grate

Glass Wall Metal Grate

River walk section

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