

SALT LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

MUIR-POULSEN HOME MASTER PLAN

Dimple Dell Regional Park





FARM HOUSE

IRRIGATION DITCH (DRY)

KITCHEN GARDEN
Historic Home

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
ORNAMENTAL BEDS

WELCOME AND ORIENTATION KIOSK

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

LOCUST GROVE

MOUNT JORDAN ROAD

RESTROOM

PARKING AREA

Irrigation Structures

Root Cellar

IMPROVED TRAILHEAD WITH WAYFINDING

Dugout Homes

GRANITE HISTORY WALK

Chicken Coops

Farm Pond

Early Settlers

Mining and Quarries

ORCHARD

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

POND NATURE LOOP

Native Peoples

WINDBREAK

Irrigation Diversion

SUNRISE POINT TRAIL

"BARN" PAVILION

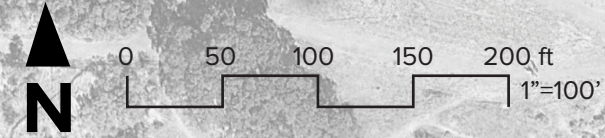
Historic Barn

PASTURE

SEGO LILY TRAIL

DIMPLE DELL TRAIL

☀ Interpretive Panel



Introduction

The Muir-Poulsen Home is a family farm located in historic Granite, Utah, with its roots tracing back to the year 1897. James and Janet Muir constructed their Victorian Eclectic house from locally-sourced granite block and established a small farm on the property, primarily centered around fruit production. In addition to the orchards, the home originally featured livestock buildings and pasture. In the 1950s, the home became the residence of George and Alta Poulsen, who made several upgrades to the property including an addition to the home and an expanded irrigation system with a retention pond.

Changing times eventually left the home to abandonment and many of the features no longer remain. However, new interest in the property has set in motion the restoration of the farm house as a living museum component of Dimple Dell Regional Park. The purpose of this Master Plan is to create a vision for restoring the remainder of the site to its former glory while creating a educational and recreational space for the public to enjoy. The design intent is to restore the site with features and materials that are appropriately characteristic of both the home and the regional park setting, in an effort to honor the “spirit of the place”. Recommendations for treatment of each of the proposed features on the site follow:

Entrance Area

WELCOME AND ORIENTATION KIOSK

An information kiosk helps visitors learn the lay of the land and be informed about notices or events within the park. The kiosk may contain a map of the home and its features. Design of the kiosk should be coordinated with other kiosks in the park and the *Dimple Dell Regional Park Master Plan*, as well as incorporate similar architectural features to the historic farm house.



RESTROOM

A restroom may be located at the entrance node adjacent to the orientation kiosk, for the purpose of serving both visitors to the home and regional park trail users. The design of the restroom should be coordinated with the *Dimple Dell Regional Park Master Plan* and incorporate similar architectural features to the historic farm house.

PARKING AREA

The existing parking area is to remain in its current state, but as the home site develops it should be upgraded to accommodate increased traffic. Details for the parking lot are anticipated to be addressed in the *Dimple Dell Regional Park Master Plan*.

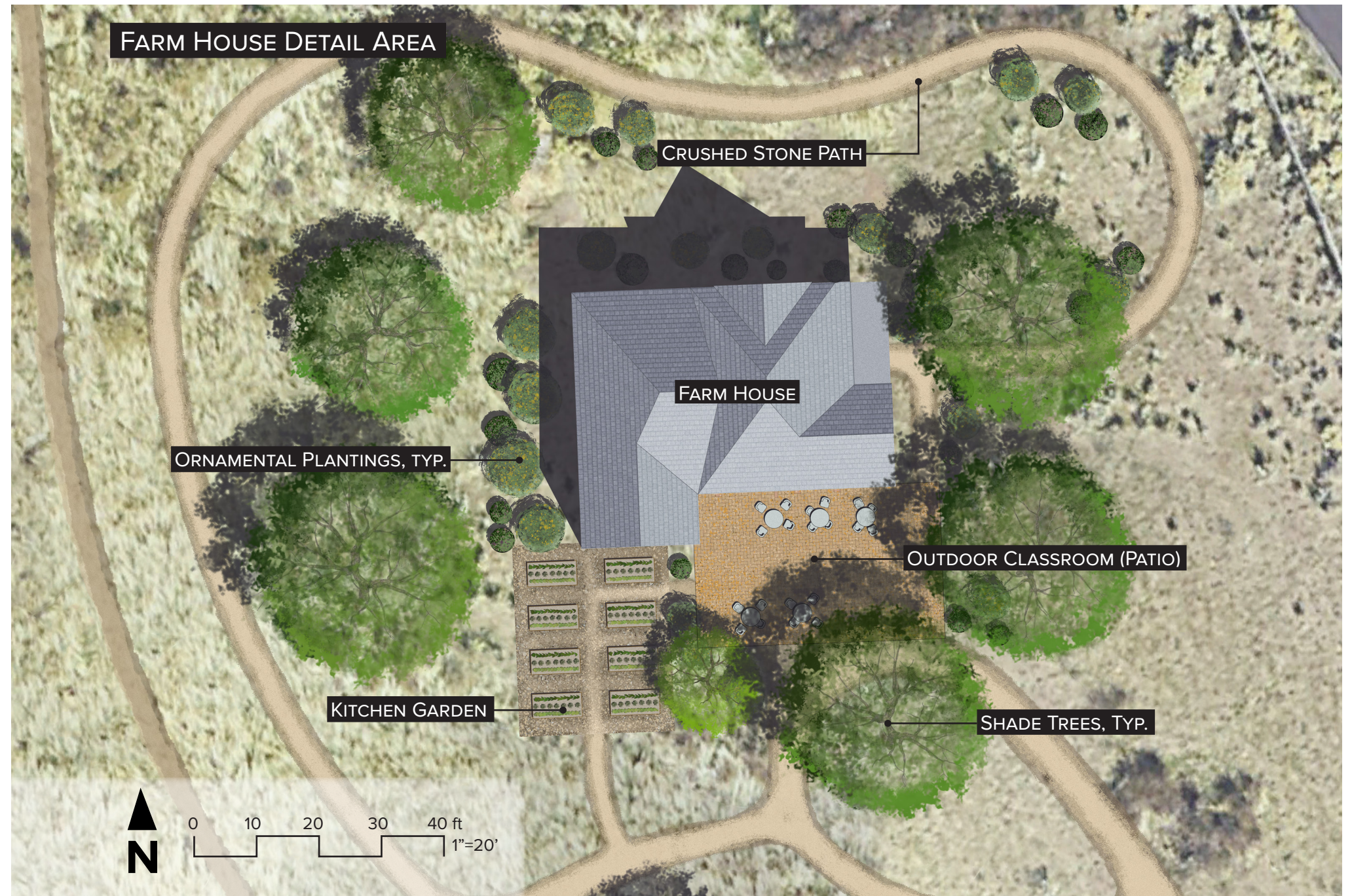
Farm House

The historic farm house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the most significant remaining feature of the original home. As the centerpiece of the home, it is envisioned to become an important community center through its restoration as a functional building. Structural modifications of the home are required to make the home a useable space. Anticipated uses for the building may include a space for community group events, classes or workshops, and museum space for artifacts from the home or the Granite community.



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM (PATIO)

An expanded patio on the south side of the house will serve as an outdoor gathering space for community group events, classes and workshops. As a highly trafficked space, a durable hardscape surface should be used for this patio. Ideally, the material used will be granite cobble pavers, but may use other pavers or decorative concrete if necessary, while still respecting the architectural character of the home in color and texture. The patio should be furnished with movable small tables and chairs to maximize flexibility in the use of the space.



ORNAMENTAL PLANTINGS

The ornamental plantings surrounding the historic home are intended to beautify and enhance the experience of visiting the home, while also respecting its historic qualities of a minimalist landscape and not being overdone. Ornamental plantings should refrain from being formalized beds with edges, and should include pioneer-era plant favorites such as:

- Lilac
- Peony
- Iris
- Hollyhock
- Tulip
- Daffodil
- Hyacinth
- Rose
- Poppy
- Cornflower
- Lavender
- Daylily



KITCHEN GARDEN

The classic vegetable garden is still commonplace today as it was many years ago. Located on the south side of the home, outside the kitchen window, this small garden serves as a space in which volunteer or school groups may engage with agriculture and grow a few crops for harvest. The garden may be grown at-grade or in raised planters depending on maintenance requirements.



VIEW OF FARM HOUSE AND OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Locust Grove

An existing grove of Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) trees lies between the farm house and the orchard. This tree species was commonly planted by settlers and holds importance for its historic use in making furniture, tools and other implements. The existing trees should be kept and pruned regularly as part of an established maintenance plan. As the primary shade of the home site, the grove should also be expanded to provide additional shade for pathways, gathering areas, and picnic tables.

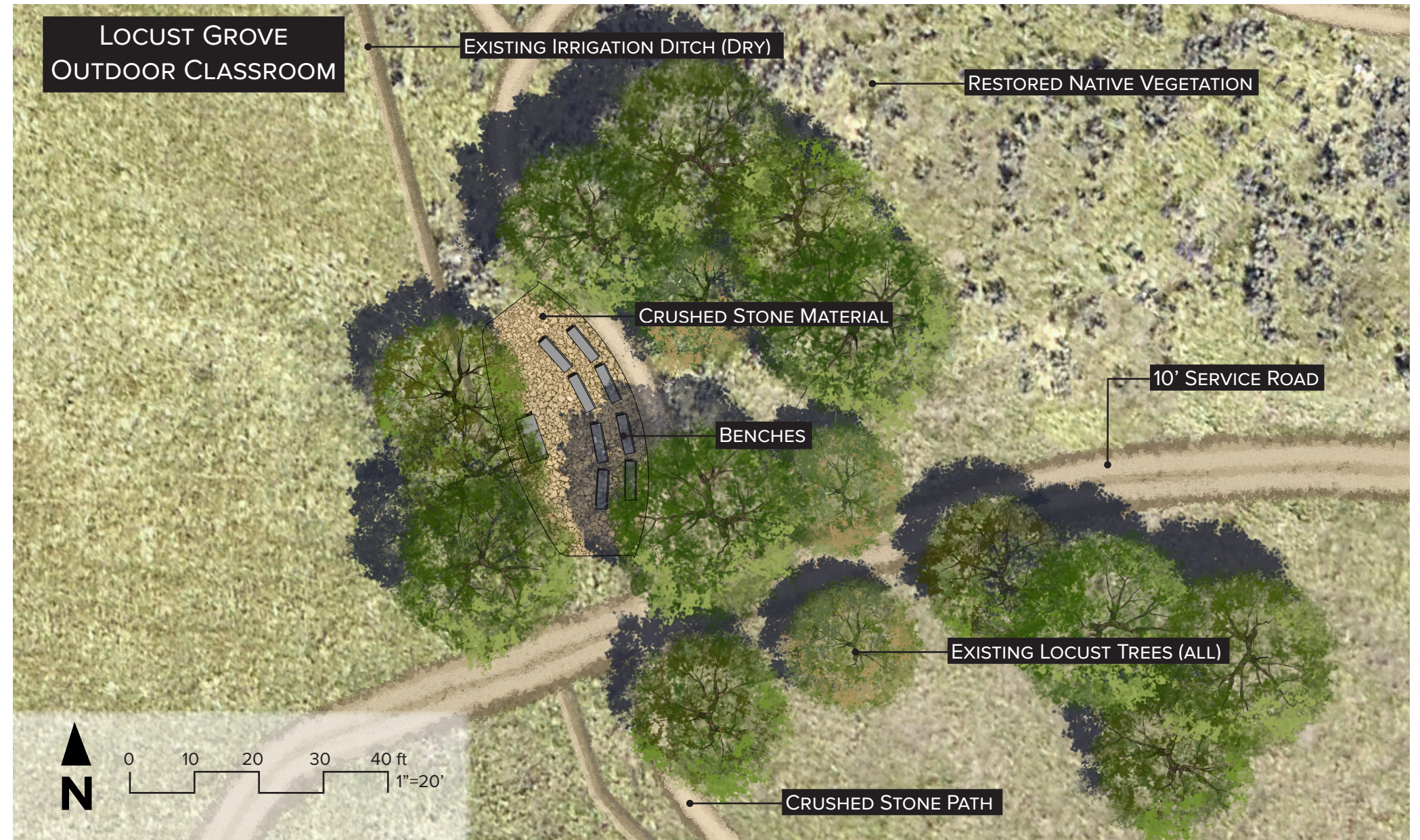


Existing Locust Grove

Conducting research on the existing trees is recommended to determine which trees are original and which trees are volunteer or sucker growth. Original trees may receive more focused attention to improve health while volunteers may be removed or transplanted if desired. Grafting branches from the original trees on to new root stock is also a possibility.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM (LOCUST GROVE)

This outdoor classroom is to be located at the southwestern corner of the locust grove, adjacent to the farm road and irrigation ditch. Its intended use is primarily as an educational space, and is envisioned to have a group of benches where a small class can be seated and receive instruction. The ground material should be a durable crushed rock surface, similar to that used for site pathways. Benches may be constructed of wood timbers or stone complementary of the farm house.



CRUSHED STONE



LOCUST TREES



TIMBER BENCHES



RESTORED NATIVE VEGETATION

Orchard

FRUIT TREES

The orchard is another crown feature of the home site. Historically, the orchard supplied the family with a variety of fruits including apple, pear, apricot, peach and plum. Today a number of the original fruit trees are still alive, though most are in serious decline. The vision for the orchard is to recreate this working space as a hands-on community asset. The existing fruit trees are to remain when possible, and also possibly be grafted into new root stock of trees to be planted. Suckers and volunteer trees should be removed. Where grafting is not possible, new fruit trees to be planted should be primarily heirloom varieties. The restored orchard will be watered by an automatic drip irrigation system and require an active management plan for on-going training, pruning, and fruit production. Ideally, the orchard will be managed by community volunteers and/or with cooperative partners such as USU Extension or master gardener programs.



WINDBREAK

Windbreaks, rows of tall narrow trees planted at the edge of a farm, are a commonplace element of many farms both past and present. The windbreak located at the western edge of the orchard will provide shelter from strong winds and cooling for the fruit trees in the late heat of the day. In Utah, the Lombardy Poplar was historically the tree of choice for these features because of their rapid growth, but these trees are often short-lived. More resilient varieties of columnar trees such as Swedish Aspen (*Populus tremula* 'Erecta') or Columnar Oaks (*Quercus robur fastigiata*) are recommended instead.



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM (ORCHARD)

This outdoor classroom is to be located in the middle of the orchard at the terminus of the irrigation ditch. Its intended use is primarily as an educational space related the orchard activities, stocked with picnic tables for laying out tools or facilitating hands-on projects. A small tool shed may also be located within the space if desired. The ground material should be a durable crushed rock surface, similar to that used for site pathways.



Farm Buildings and Pasture

BARN PAVILION

The historic barn was the second most significant structure of the home site, housing livestock and animal feed. Although no longer standing today, a small pavilion adjacent to its pad is envisioned to replicate the structure and provide a gathering place for the community (see illustration at right).

The pavilion is intended to look as much like the original barn structure as possible, featuring a high-lofted roof and a primary entry on the long side. This pavilion will require custom architectural design.



Original barn structure

HISTORIC STRUCTURE FOUNDATIONS

The foundations of the historic barn and other livestock buildings still remain on the site, but are too old to have structures rebuilt on them. Instead these are envisioned to remain as they are and interpreted through signage and photographs. The foundations should be cleared of weeds and edged with gravel for maintenance.



Remaining foundation of the barn

PASTURE

The pasture area adjacent to the barn has a historic precedent and may be restored for equestrian or aesthetic purposes. The pasture should be cleared of existing vegetation and seeded with a dryland pasture seed mix that requires no supplemental irrigation. It should also be fenced with an access gate off the farm road loop.



VIEW OF BARN PAVILION AND PASTURE

Farm Pond

The retention pond on the east of the property once supplied the home site with irrigation water but is now dry. In the years that it has been out of commission, the native plant community has infilled the basin very well with a diversity of species. A small trail loop around the bottom of the pond with strategic interpretive panels will offer the visitor an opportunity to appreciate the task of digging such a pond, learn about the native plants, and admire the mountain views to the east.

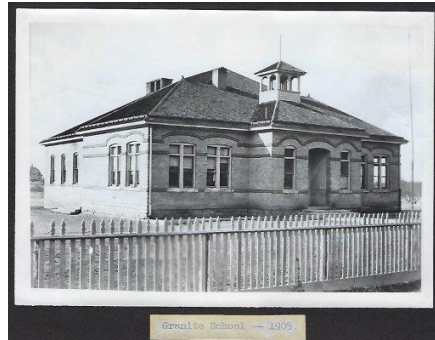


Native vegetation has filled in the retention pond. Original water line dashed in blue.



Granite History Walk

The Muir-Poulsen Home cannot be fully appreciated without understanding the context of the Historic Granite community in which it is located. Granite has a rich history which remains largely unknown to many. In the natural prairie area on the west of the home, a walking trail will highlight remaining historic features of the home, as well as tell the greater history of Granite through the use of interpretive panels, as shown on the illustrative plan.



Other Site Features

PATHWAYS

Pathways should be well-graded and constructed with durable, natural, ADA-compliant materials such as decomposed granite or other crushed rock surfacing. Pathways should refrain from using concrete, pavers, edging material or other hardscape materials that are inappropriate for the rural/natural setting.



The hierarchy of pathways within the site is important for the guidance of user groups and park maintenance. The farm road loop trail around the orchard and the approach to the house should be wide enough for maintenance vehicles to use. All other trails shown in the plan should be pedestrian in nature, with a maximum width of six feet.

FENCING

Site fencing should be similar to the post and rail fences typical throughout Dimple Dell Regional Park. The pasture is the only area on the site intended to receive new fencing. The fence bordering the parking area and road will also require modification to allow for new points of access.



IRRIGATION DITCH

The primary irrigation ditch for the home site historically runs along the west side of the house and through the middle of the orchard. While not intended to still function with running water, the ditch should be preserved in a dry condition as a historic feature. Cleanup of the ditch will require removal of overgrowth and possibly regrading in some areas, and an ongoing maintenance plan should be in place to prevent overgrowth from filling the channel in the future.

INTERPRETIVE PANELS

A series of interpretive panels located at various places indicated on the master plan are envisioned to tell the story of the Muir and Poulsen families and their home site, as well as the greater history of the area. The signs will contain both written and visual content, and should be constructed of durable materials to reduce maintenance and maximize lifespan.

