

Memorandum



To: Alex Smith, Director, Art Commission
From: Megan Funk, Capital Projects Division, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
Date: 10/19/2023
Re: Request for Art Commission Review for Pennypack Park Universal Playground

We respectfully request a conceptual review of the proposed Pennypack Park Universal Playground project (Rhawn Street & Holmhurst Ave.) during the upcoming November 8th Art Commission meeting.

The project scope includes a new universally accessible playground in the wooded Pennypack Park. There will be a 2-5 play area, 5-12 play area, music and sensory path, misting zone, picnic and seating areas, and an abundance of integrated playful learning.

The budget for this project is \$3 million. This project is partially funded through state grants.

We will submit a cover letter and presentation upon request approval.

Thank you for your attention.

cc: Aparna Palantino, Deputy Commissioner, PPR
Francesco Cerrai, Project Director, PPR
Tyler Silvestro, Landscape Architect, MARVEL
Sami Sikanas, Landscape Architect, MARVEL

October 25, 2023

To: Philadelphia Art Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

**Re: Pennypack Park Universal Playground
Rhawn Street & Holmehurst Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19136**

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to request a place on the agenda for your November 8th meeting, to present for conceptual approval for the Pennypack Park Universal Playground project, managed by PPR Capital.

The project site is located at Rhawn Street & Holmehurst Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19136, just off the existing Pennypack Park Parking Lot. The playground is set in scenic Pennypack Park, where mature trees provide a natural, wooded, and, most importantly, shaded space for children of all ages to congregate and play. Our team has taken particular care to be sensitive to the natural setting by preserving the existing tree canopy and selecting more natural materials for the different site features. In addition to the unique setting for the playground, all play, paving, and furnishing elements are imbued with inclusivity. Particular care has been taken to make sure this site will go beyond standard ADA compliance. Play pieces and the sculptural ground plane create unique spaces that are accessible by both foot and wheelchair.

Included at the new Pennypack Park Universal Playground are two active play zones, one for 2–5-year-olds and one for 5–12-year-olds, as well as a misting area for water/sensory play, a nature walk with musical play pieces, and a picnic area for gathering. Improvements to the park entrance and parking lot drop off will also be made as part of this project, to improve connectivity and promote multi-modal transportation. A new accessible path will connect the playground to the Rhawn Street sidewalk and the nearby bus stop. The addition of bike racks near the entrance of the playground will accommodate riders. Existing picnic tables at the parking lot island will be replaced with new ADA picnic tables and will connect to the playground by a cut-through path with a raised crosswalk. The playground itself will be contained by a fence, which can be closed at night. New light poles with security lighting will ensure safety.

PPR has received multiple grants for this project, including one from William Penn in order to integrate Playful Learning throughout the site. Prompts adjacent to the musical play pieces will encourage creativity

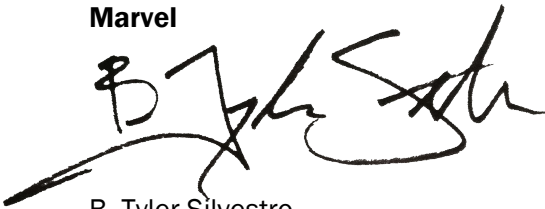
while engaging the auditory system. The ground plane at the misting area will include a supergraphic embedded with activities while providing a sensory experience as children move through the mist. Other Playful Learning principles are included in the design of site furnishings, like a custom guardrail and a “makers table.”

PPR has reached out to Percent for Art and will be engaged through their process. Stormwater management is also a key part of this project and has been going through the appropriate PWD approvals. This project is partially funded through state funding.

We appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing this application and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Marvel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Tyler Silvestro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

B. Tyler Silvestro

PENNYPACK PARK UNIVERSAL PLAYGROUND

Rhawn Street & Holmehurst Avenue

Arts Commission Presentation

November 8, 2023

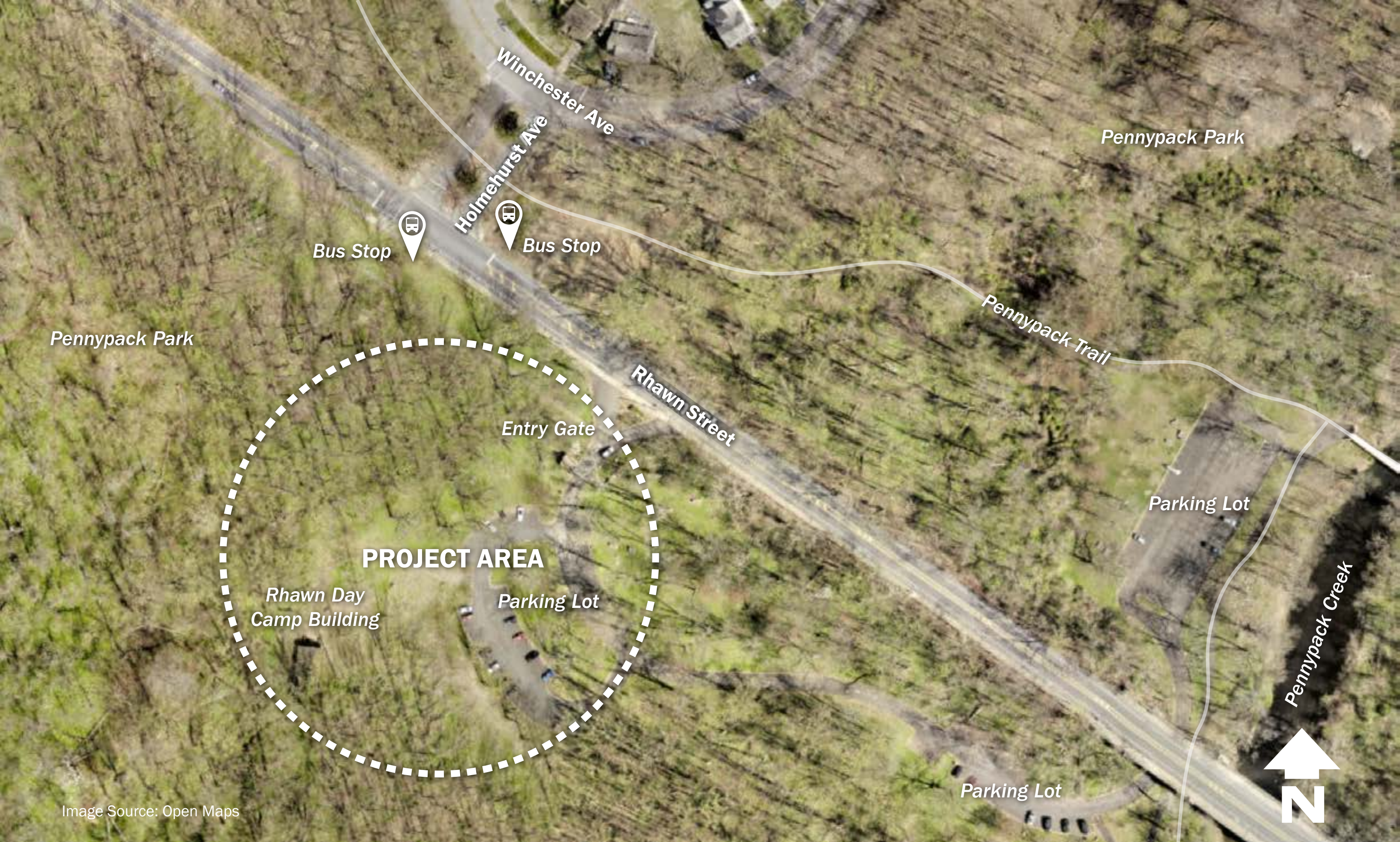


Image Source: Open Maps

Project Area

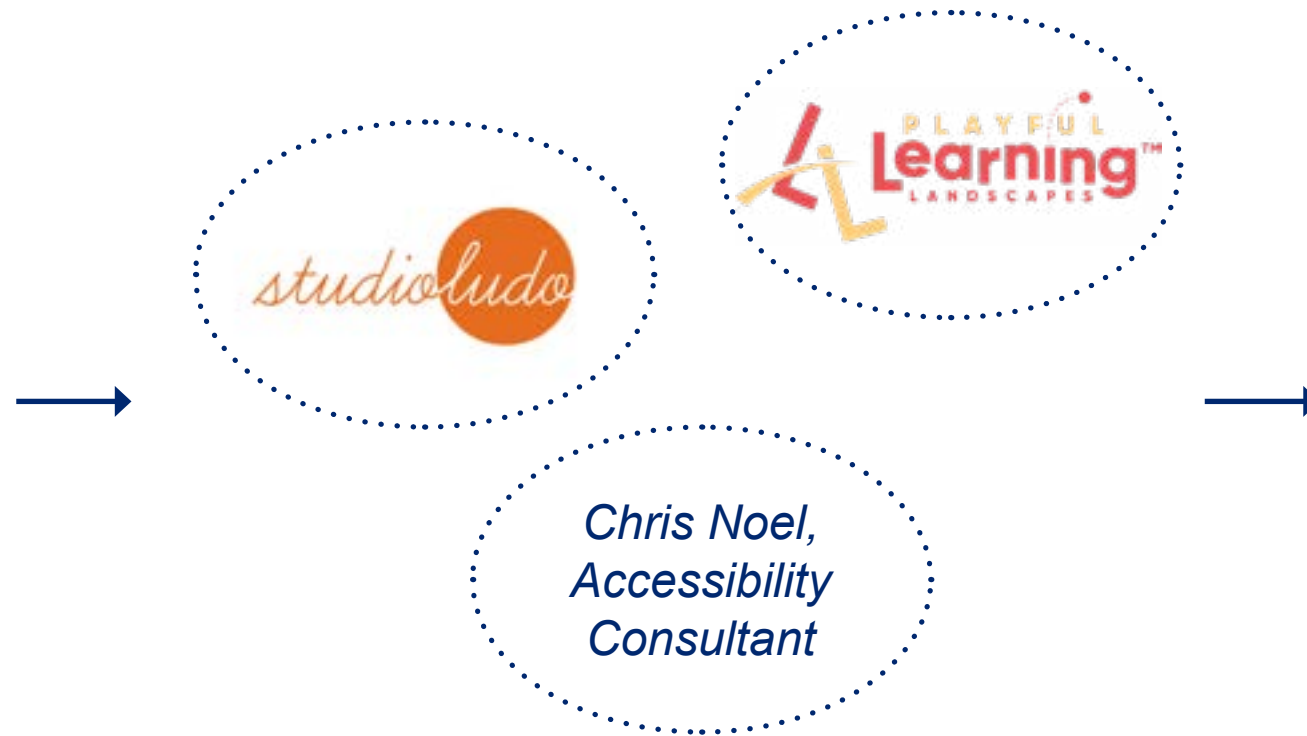


Community Engagement and Inclusivity Project Partners



Community Meeting #1: Listening

September 30, 2021



Engagement Patners for Inclusivity Review

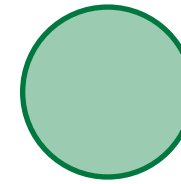
Fall 2021 + ongoing



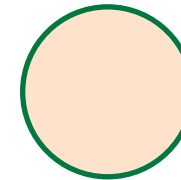
Community Meeting #2: Concept + Feedback

December 14, 2021

Demolition and Tree Protection



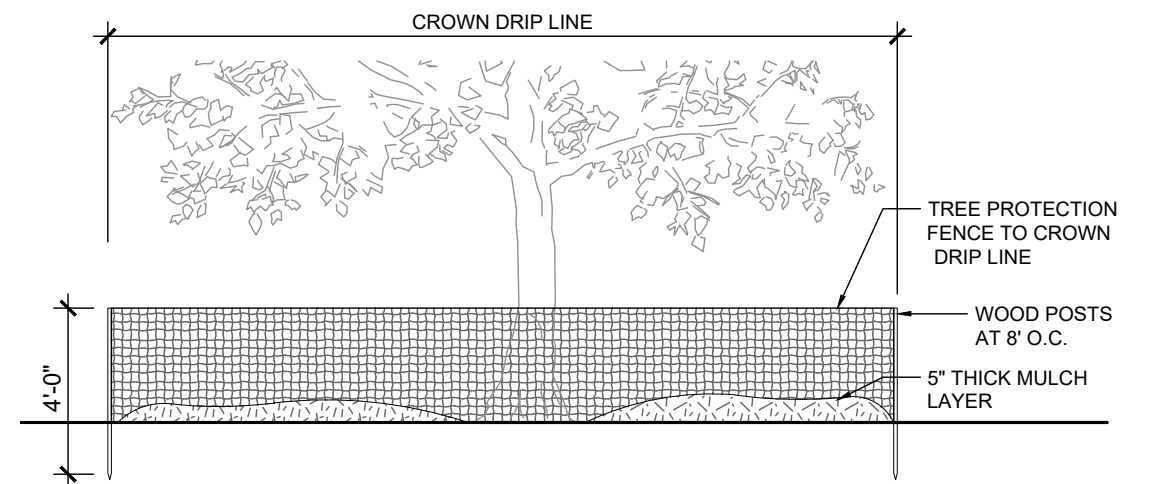
Trees Protected within Project Limits



Trees Avoided and out of Project Limits

NOTES:

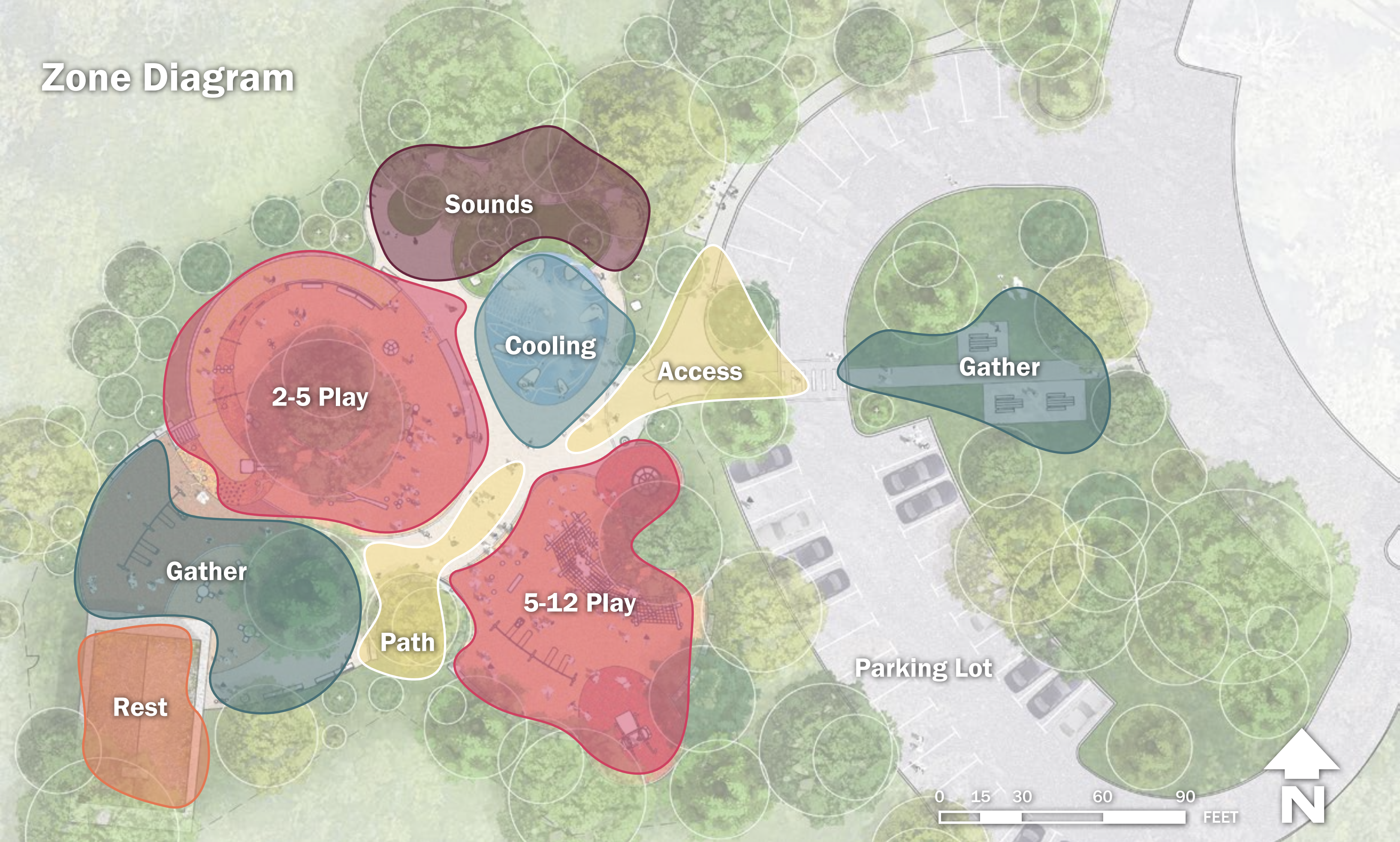
1. TREE PROTECTION FENCE TO BE LOCATED AT A DISTANCE OF 12 TIMES THE TRUNK DBH, OR TO THE TREE'S DRIPLINE, WHICHEVER DISTANCE IS GREATER, OR AS DIRECTED BY THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER.
2. THE EDGE OF DRIPLINE IS TO BE VERIFIED BY THE PROJECT MANAGER.
3. BOARDS SHALL NOT BE NAILED TO TREES DURING BUILDING OPERATIONS.
4. ANY TREES NOT SCHEDULED TO BE REMOVED THAT ARE IRREPARABLY DAMAGED DURING CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE REPLACED.
5. NO MATERIALS ARE TO BE STORED IN THE TREE PROTECTION AREA.
6. TREE PROTECTION FENCING SHALL REMAIN IN PLACE DURING ANY PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION DURING WHICH THE TREE MAY BE AFFECTED.



4 TREE PROTECTION FENCE DETAIL

NTS

Zone Diagram



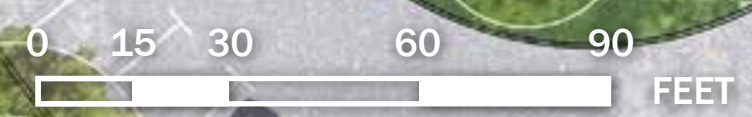
0 15 30 60 90 FEET








Site Plan

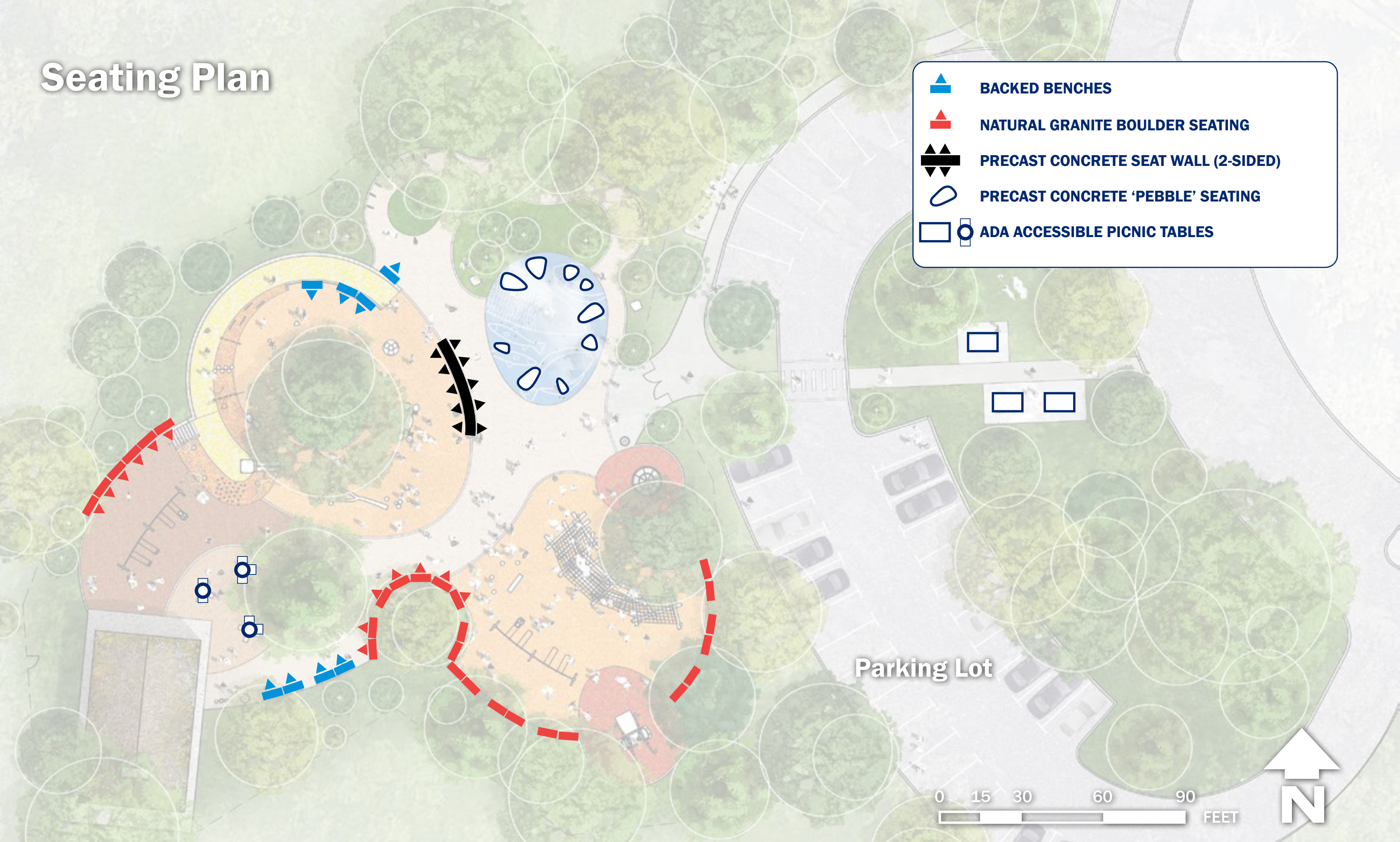


	PAINTED CONCRETE
	RUBBER SAFETY SURFACE (POROUS)
	BOUND AGGREGATE (POROUS)
	CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE
	CORKEEN (CORK-BASED POROUS SURFACE)

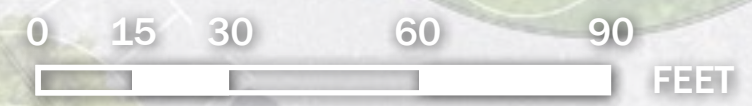


Seating Plan

-  **BACKED BENCHES**
-  **NATURAL GRANITE BOULDER SEATING**
-  **PRECAST CONCRETE SEAT WALL (2-SIDED)**
-  **PRECAST CONCRETE 'PEBBLE' SEATING**
-  **ADA ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLES**



Parking Lot



Lighting Strategy



Materials and Furnishings



BENCH - BLACK WITH WOOD ACCENT



RECEPTACLE - BLACK



BIKE RACK - BLACK



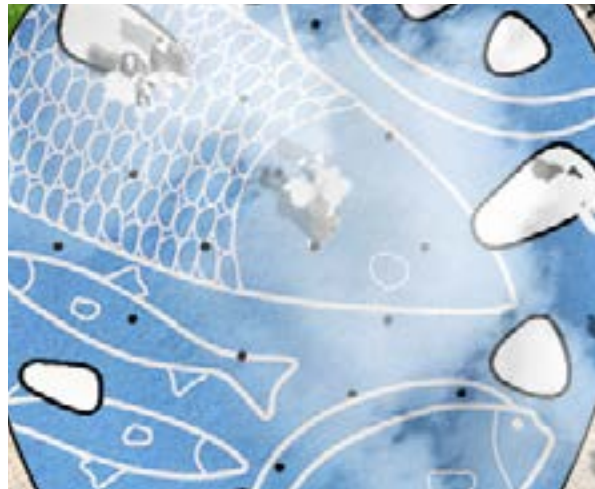
PICNIC TABLE - BLACK WITH WOOD ACCENT



PICNIC TABLE - BLACK WITH WOOD ACCENT



CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE



CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE - PAINTED



BONDED AGGREGATE - POROUS



BONDED AGGREGATE - POROUS



CORKEEN - CORK-BASED SAFETY SURFACE



RUBBER SAFETY SURFACE

APPROVED FALL ZONE SURFACE MATERIALS USED IN VICINITY OF PLAY EQUIPMENT

Materials and Furnishings



NATURAL GRANITE BENCHES



PRECAST CONCRETE FEATURE BENCHES



FLOWERING DOGWOOD



ALLEGHANY SPURGE - GROUNDCOVER PLANTING



PLAYGROUND / PARKING LOT LIGHTING - BLACK



ACCESSIBLE DRINKING FOUNTAIN AND BOTTLE FILLER - BLACK



8' DECORATIVE SECURITY FENCE AT ENTRANCE




8' STANDARD CLF - BLACK VINYL COATING

Play Equipment: Music Path

 = Inclusive



Play Equipment: 2-5yo Play Area

 = Inclusive




Play Equipment: 5-12yo Play Area

 = Inclusive



Play Equipment: Swing Sets

 = Inclusive



5-12yo Play Area



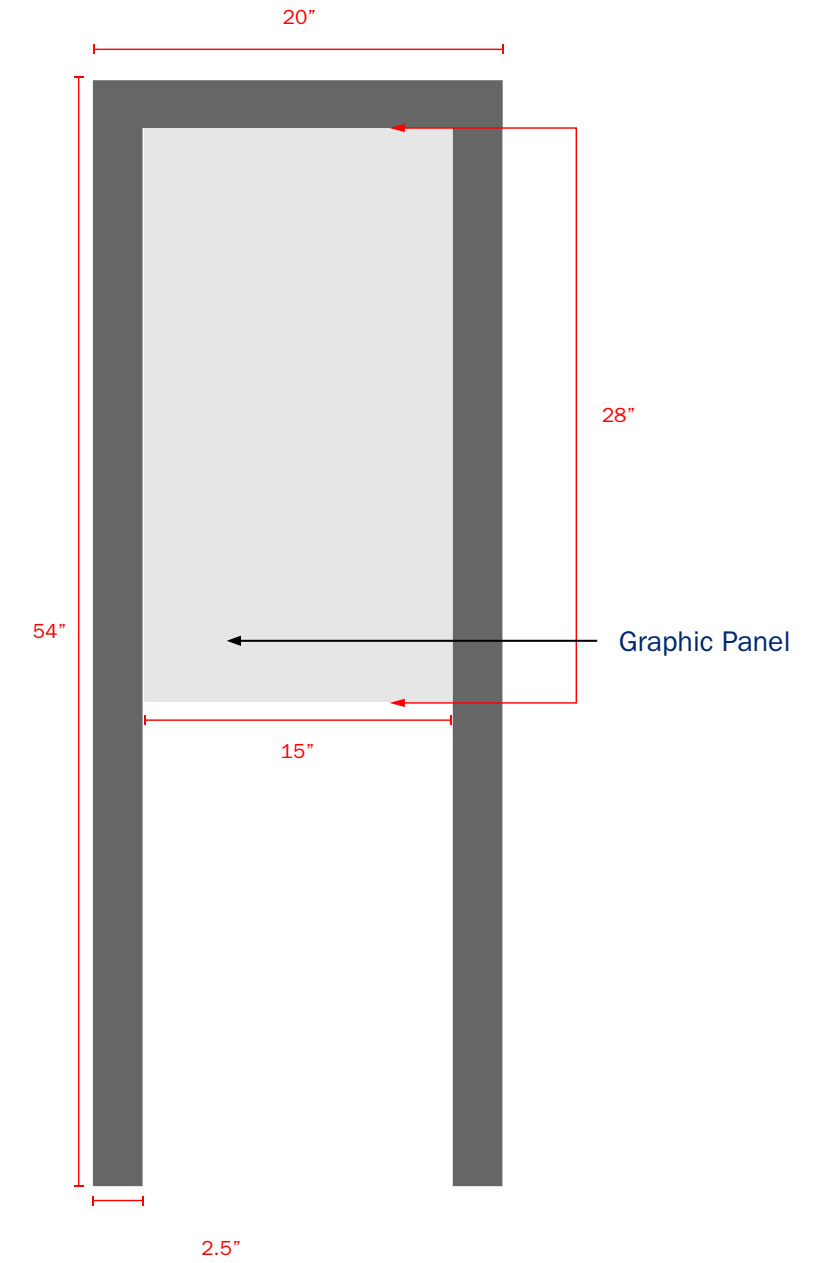
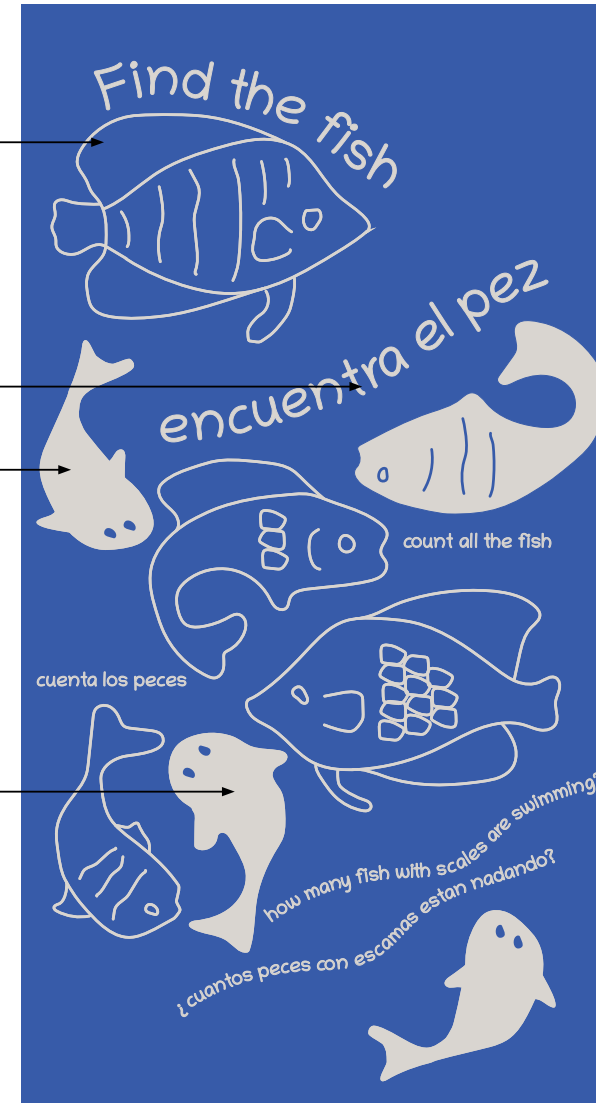
Picnic Area

Playful Learning: Misting Supergraphic


 = Inclusive

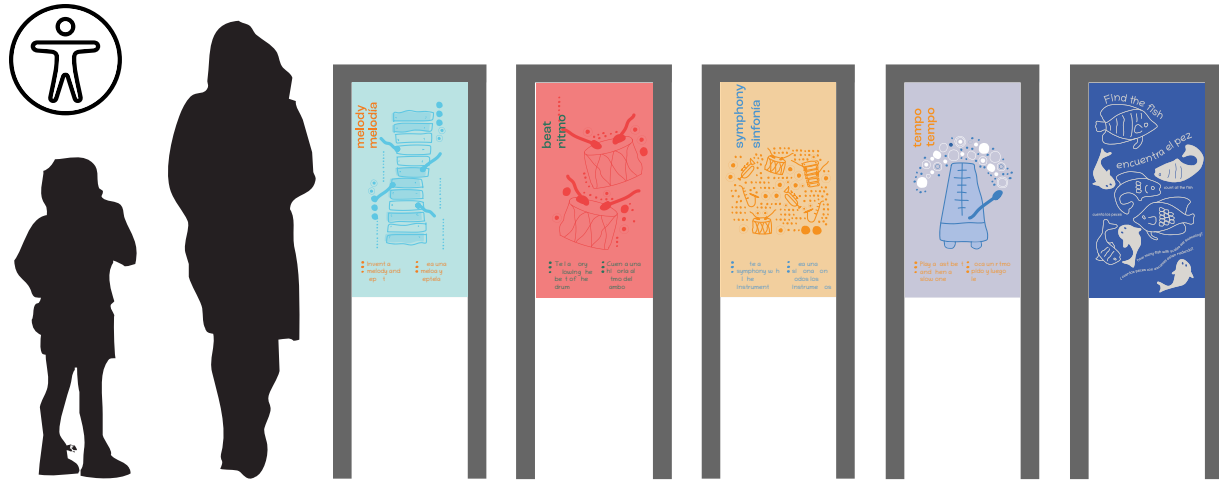


- Identify the fish
- Different form
- Different Features
- Swimming Directions
- Count the fish
- Identify the difference



Playful Learning: Music Prompts

 = Inclusive



Playful Learning Elements

Signage 01

- Dual Language
- Music Creation
- Practice through repetition

Signage 02

- Dual Language
- Collaboration
- Follow rhythm
- Creation of narrative

Signage 03

- Dual Language
- Collaboration with multiple instruments
- Coordination

Signage 04

Dual Language
Music Creation
Idea of slow and fast paced beat

melody
melodía

- Invent a melody and repeat it
- Crea una melodía y repítela

beat
ritmo

- Tell a story following the beat of the drum
- Cuenta una historia al ritmo del tambor

symphony
sinfonía

- Create a symphony with all the instruments
- Crea una sinfonía con todos los instrumentos

tempo
tempo

- Play a fast beat and then a slow one
- Toca un ritmo rápido y luego lento



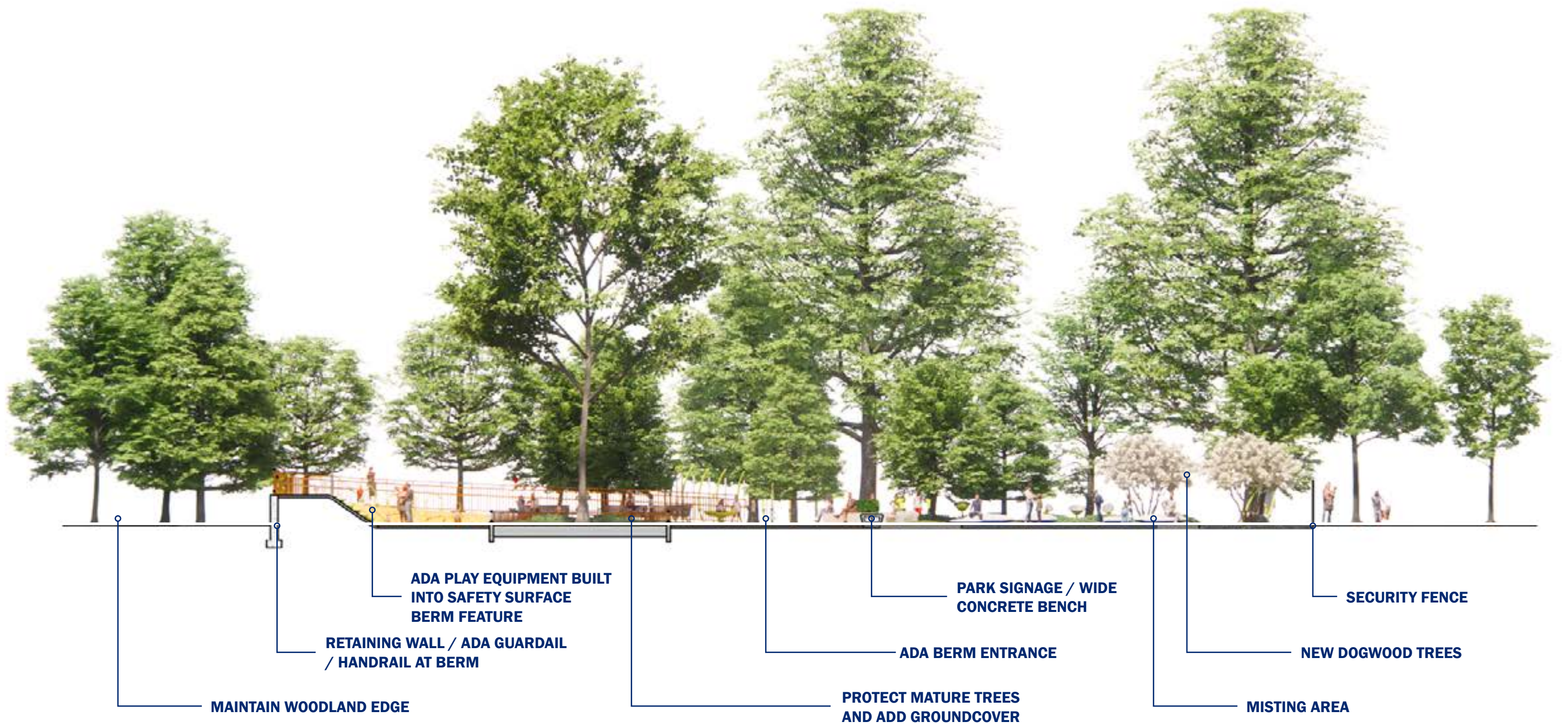














**CONCRETE PAD AT
PLAYGROUND ENTRANCE**

ADA ACCESSIBLE SPINNER

NATURAL WOOD CLIMBING FEATURE

**ADA ACCESSIBLE
SWING AND RAMP**

**PROTECT EXISTING
TREES**

SECURITY FENCE

Site Plan



	PAINTED CONCRETE
	RUBBER SAFETY SURFACE (POROUS)
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	CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE
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