

February 7, 2023

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

**Re: Belmont Grove Playground
1800 Belmont Mansion Dr,
Philadelphia, PA 19131**

Dear Commissioners,

We are reaching out to formally request a slot on the agenda for your upcoming meeting on Feb 14th, to present for final approval for the Belmont Grove Playground project, managed by PPR Capital. The designated project site is situated in West Fairmount Park at 1800 Belmont Mansion Dr, Philadelphia, PA 19131.

Nestled atop the scenic Belmont Plateau, our playground design is inspired by the surrounding woodland and geological features, creating an immersive play space that integrates with the natural beauty of the area. Tasked by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation to create a destination playground to complement one of the City's most beloved picnic areas, the design focuses on providing an exciting play environment that is inclusive, accessible, safe, and adventurous, one that is more than just a collection of play equipment but integrates existing and new topography to encourage children to explore and be active outdoors.

The playground seamlessly integrates play areas tailored for different age groups, fostering inclusivity and collaboration. Divided into zones for 2-5 and 5-12-year-olds, the playground caters to the diverse needs of children. The swing area and the climbing structures are designed as shared zones that are suitable for all age groups. Additionally, imaginative play features like the undulating play mounds, circular loop paths are proposed to further spark interaction across age groups, creating a space where children can learn and grow together in a shared environment. Adjacent to the play zones, there are new picnic spaces for family/group gatherings, as well as a misting area and an improved basketball court to add to the diverse sensory experiences. The design also includes replacement of the existing gravel surface with concrete pathways, making the overall site more accessible by connecting the parking lot to the picnic pavilions and the new playground.

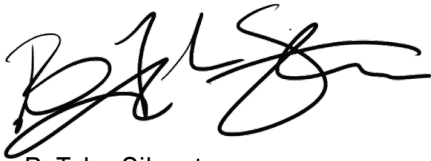
Upon review of our conceptual design approval we received a comment about the gender sensitivity of a basketball court. We agree that a simple basketball court can be exclusive to one form of recreation so we

have redesigned the existing basketball court area into a more flexible and inclusive form or recreation for a wider audience of users. The existing basketball hoops will remain but the painting of the court will transition to provide an exterior track for active recreation as well as other opportunities for the traditional basketball court to become more approachable to more ages and genders. A direct path has also been added to connect the playground to this area to further create cohesiveness and inclusivity throughout Belmont Playground.

Belmont Playground also deeply considers the existing tree canopy in its design. It is imperative that all mature trees are maintained and protected during construction so as to keep a shaded environment from day one of the Belmont Playground. Marvel will adhere to the standards set forth by the Philadelphia Parks Department as well as the consulting arborists to maintain health and longevity of existing tree canopy by respecting construction methods in the construction documentation.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Tyler Silvestro', with a stylized, flowing script.

B. Tyler Silvestro
Partner
Marvel

BELMONT GROVE

A PLAY SPACE FOR THE PLATEAU

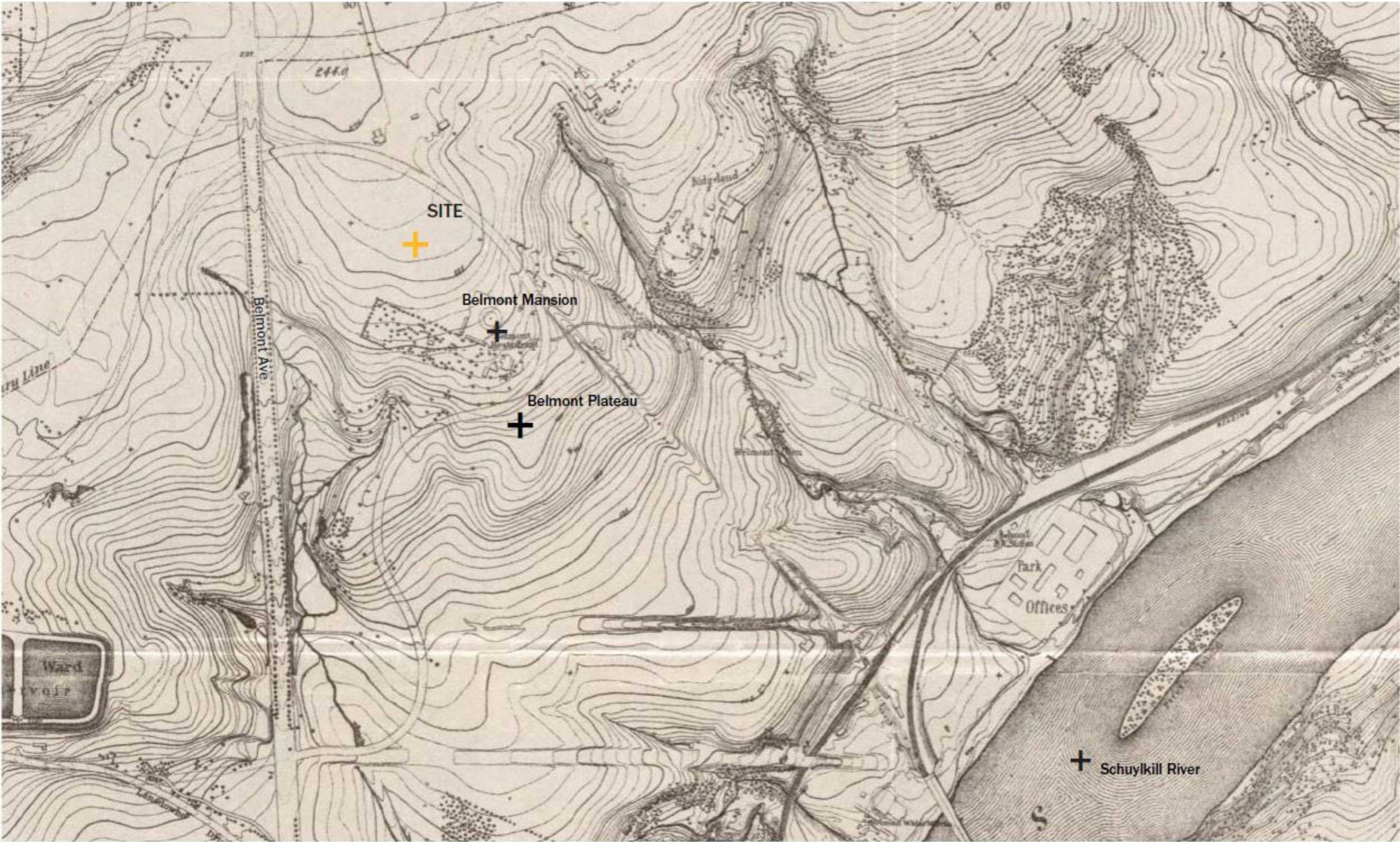
Arts Commission Presentation

February 14th, 2024

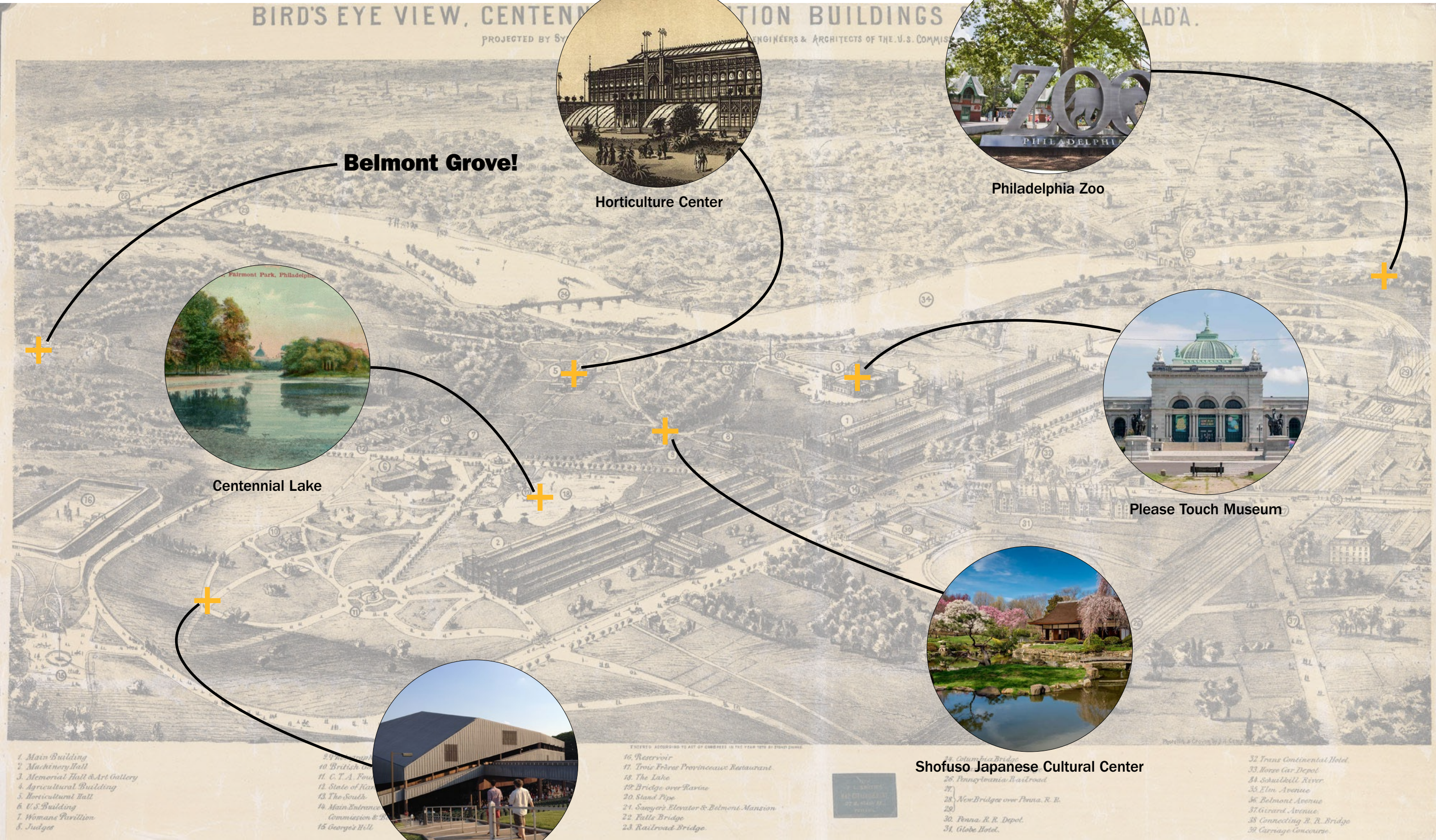
SITE CONTEXT

COMMUNITY CONTEXT





CULTURAL CONTEXT



SITE CIRCULATION



Main Entrance



Secondary Entrance (From Belmont Mansion Parking Lot)

SITE STRUCTURES



Pavilions (Can hold 250 ppl each)



Public Bathroom



Belmont Mansion

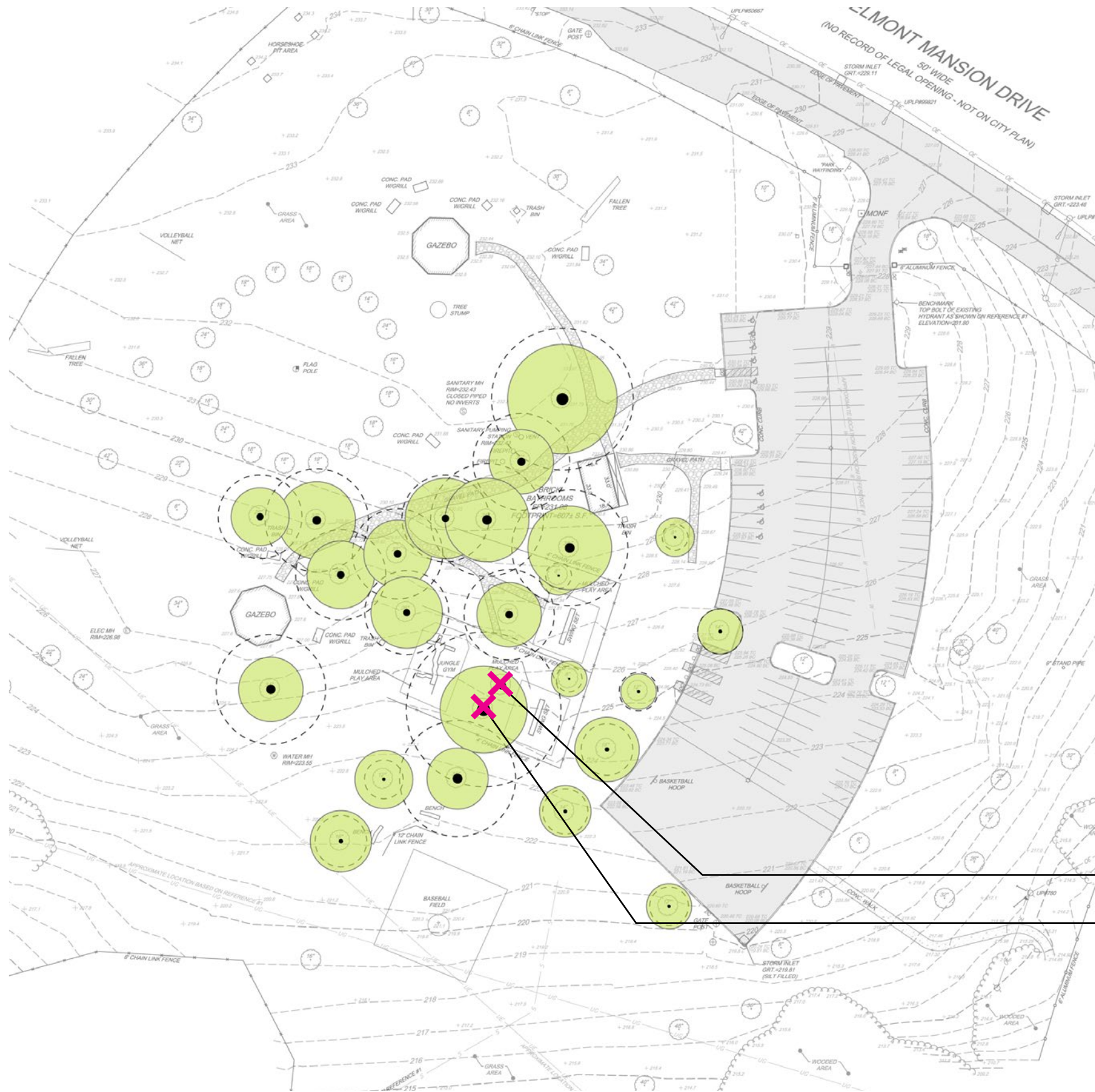


EXISTING PLAYGROUND AND GAZEBO



EXISTING BASKETBALL COURT

EXISTING TREE SURVEY

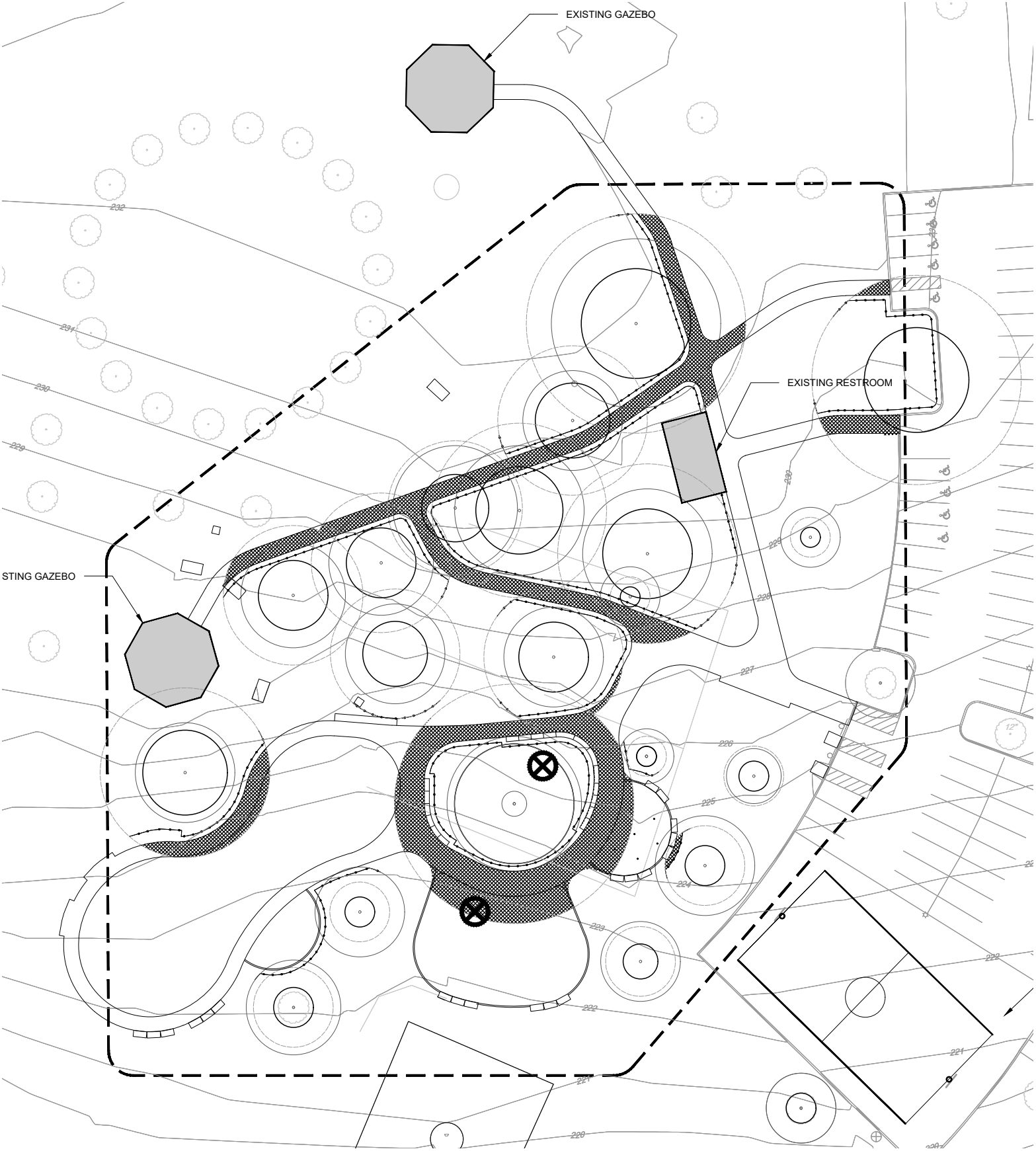


TREE REMOVAL DUE TO POOR CONDITION (2 Total)

TREES PROTECTED WITHIN PROJECT LIMITS

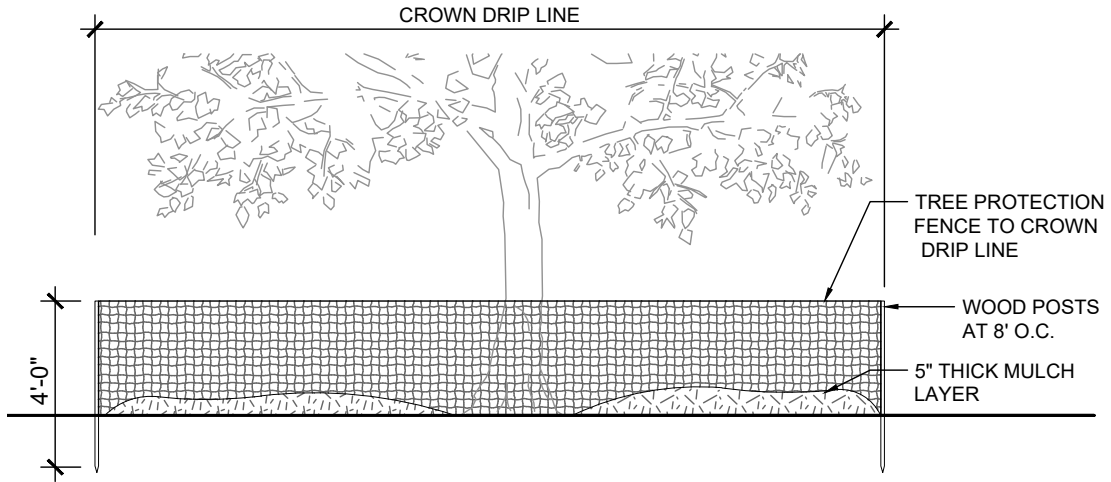


TREE PROTECTION PLAN



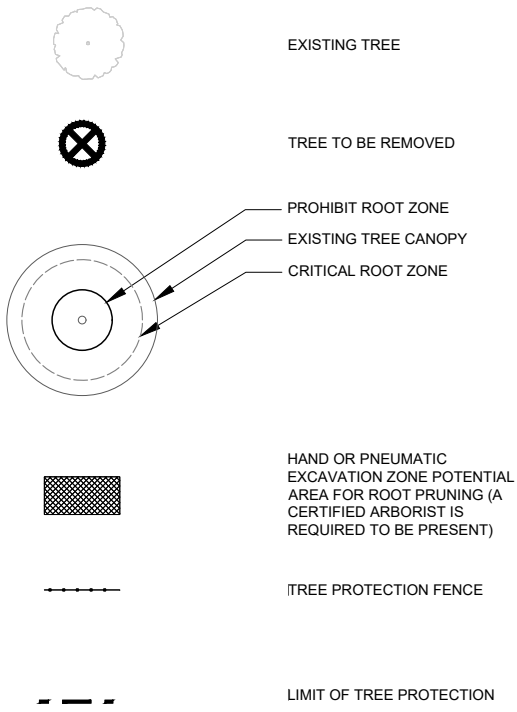
NOTES:

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.



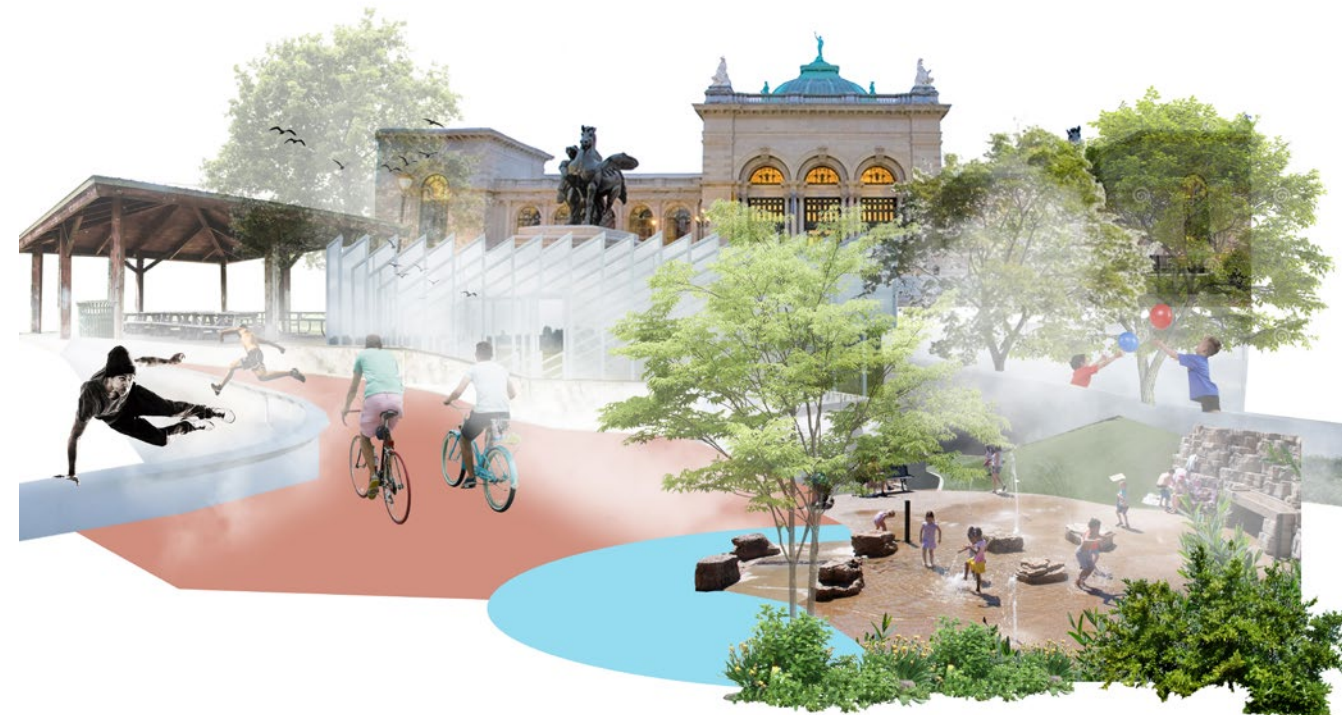
4 TREE PROTECTION FENCE DETAIL

NTS



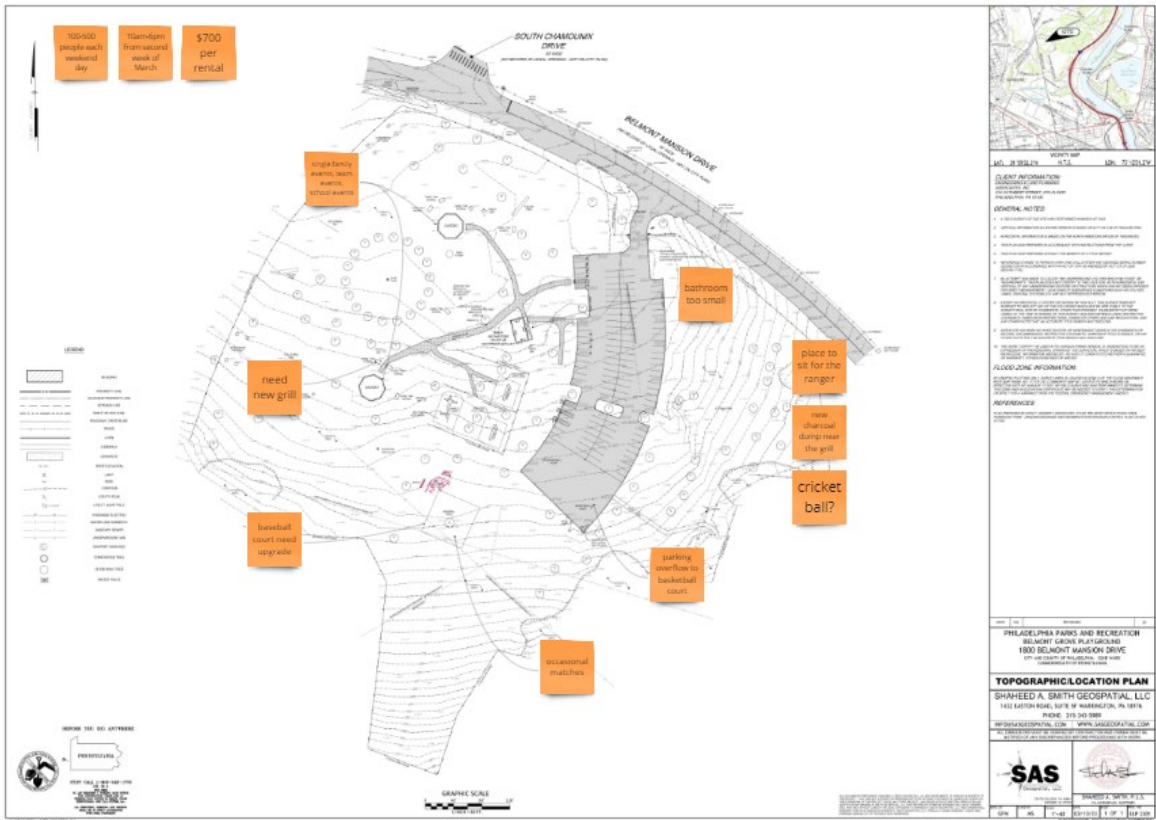
DESIGN APPROACH

CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE



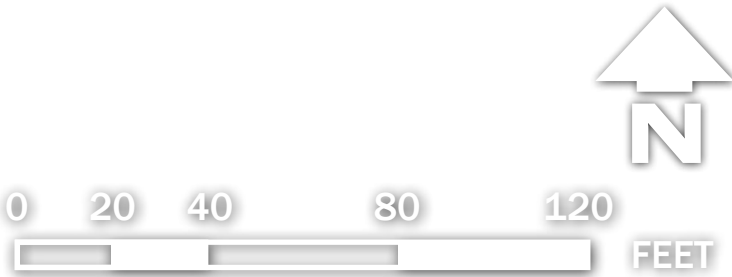


COMMISSIONER PRESENTATION
03/15/2023



SPECIAL EVENT TEAM AND PPR MAINTENANCE TEAM MEETING
03/30/2023

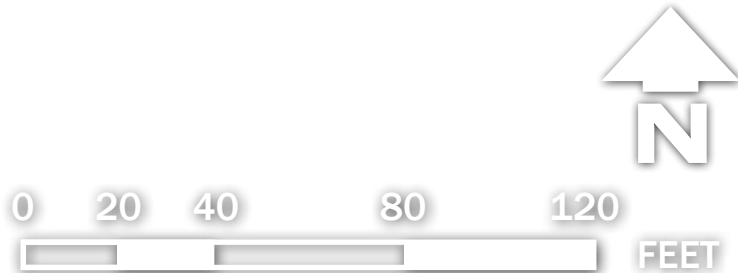
PROGRAM DIAGRAM



SITE PLAN








- 1 SUPER NETPLEX
- 2 QUANTIS M
- 3 WE SAW
- 4 SPINNER
- 5 SWINGS
- 6 LOG BALANCE BEAM
- 7 STEPPERS
- 8 RINGTANGLE BRIDGE
- 9 HANDHOLD AND ROPE PULL
- 10 STAINLESS STEEL TUNNEL
- 11 DOUBLE SLIDE
- 12 RIBBON SLIDE
- 13 PLAY PANEL
- 14 MISTING PLAZA
- 15 PICNIC AREA
- 16 REPAINTED BASKETBALL COURT
- 17 BASEBALL FIELD



SEATING PLAN



- 1  BACKED BENCHES
- 2  NATURAL GRANITE BOULDER SEATING
- 3  PRECAST CONCRETE SEAT WALL (2-SIDED)
- 4  ADA ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLES
- 5  COMPANION SEATING
- 5  ADA ACCESSIBLE PARKING

0 20 40 80 120 FEET



MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS



BENCH - BLACK WITH WOOD ACCENT



PICNIC TABLE - BLACK WITH WOOD ACCENT



NATURAL GRANITE BENCHES



PRECAST CONCRETE FEATURE BENCHES



CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE



COLOR SEAL COAT



STONE PAVER



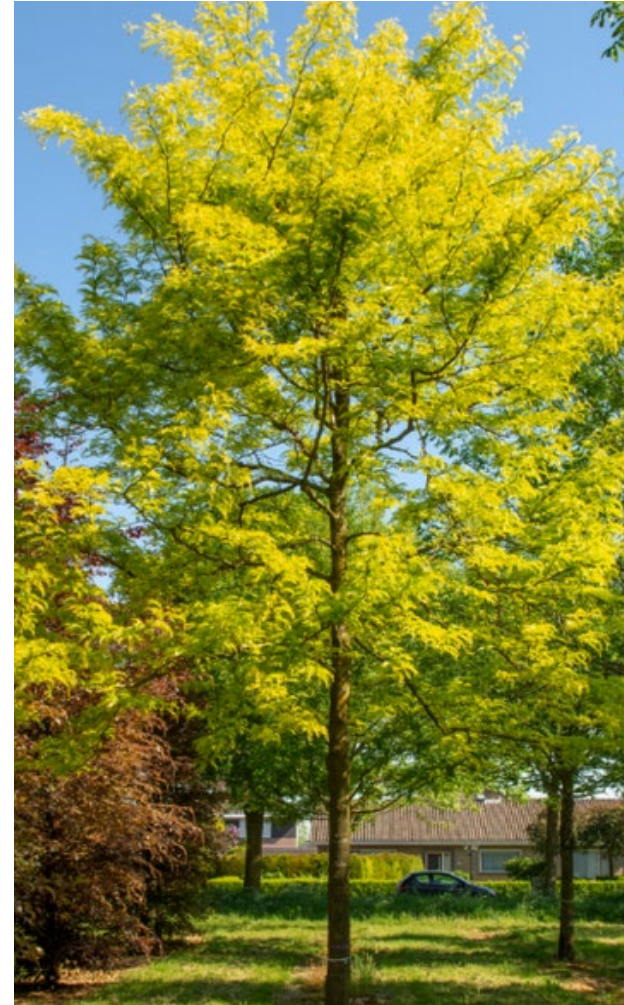
RUBBER SAFETY SURFACE



RECEPTACLE - BLACK



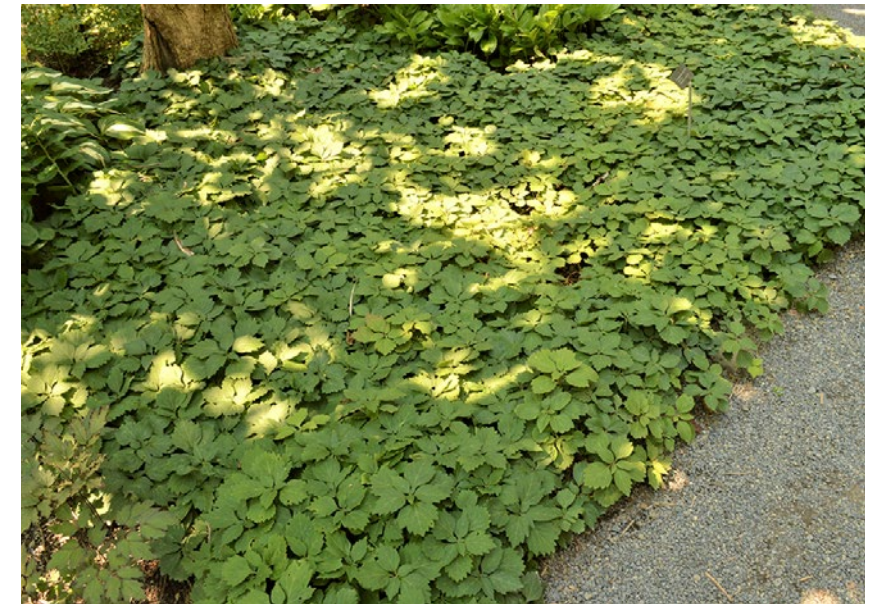
SCARLET OAK



HONEY LOCUST



FLOWERING DOGWOOD



ALLEGHANY SPURGE - GROUNDCOVER PLANTING

SITE SECTION



Swing Play for all

Movement & Balance

Engagement & Collaboration



SWINGS FOR ALL

Custom Swing Sets for All Ages



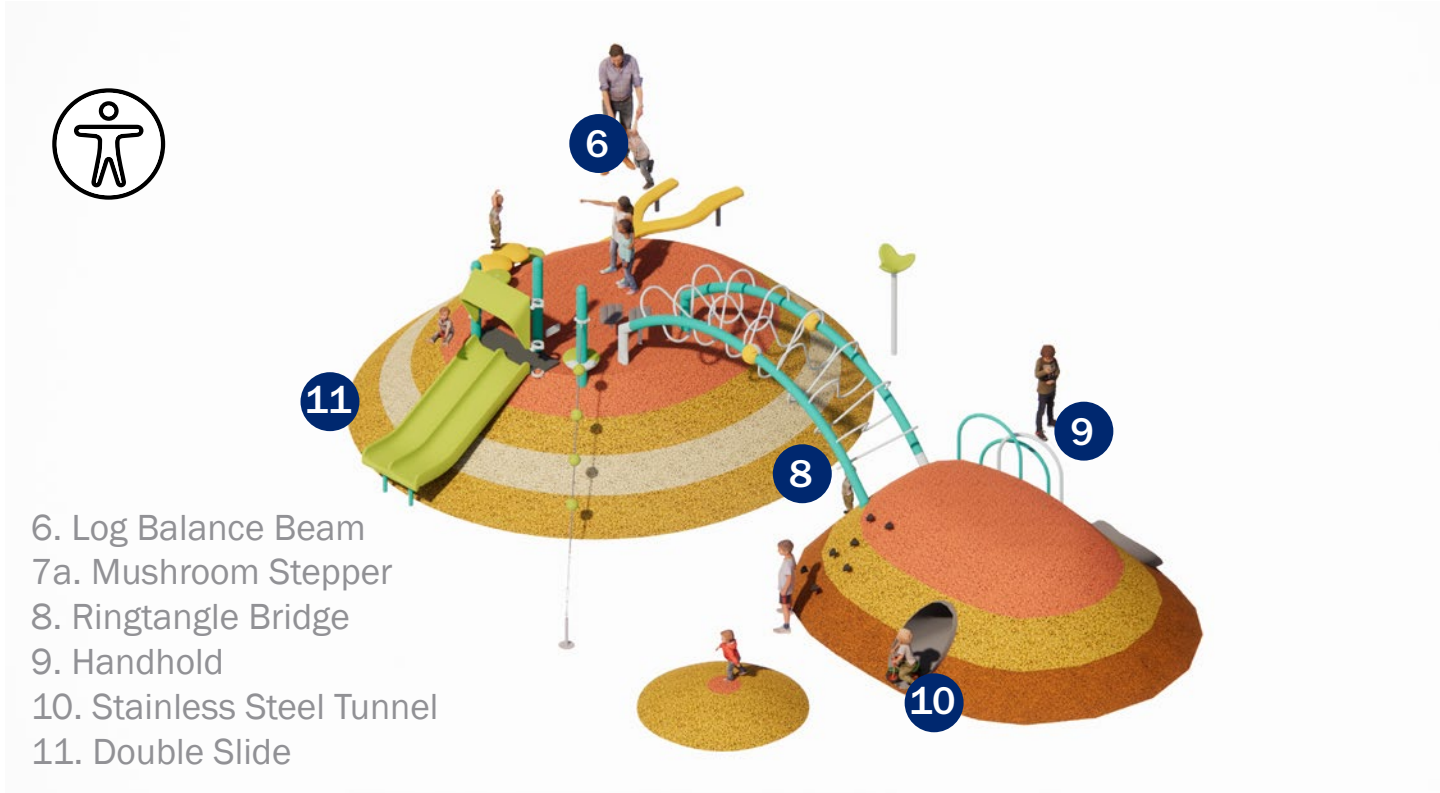
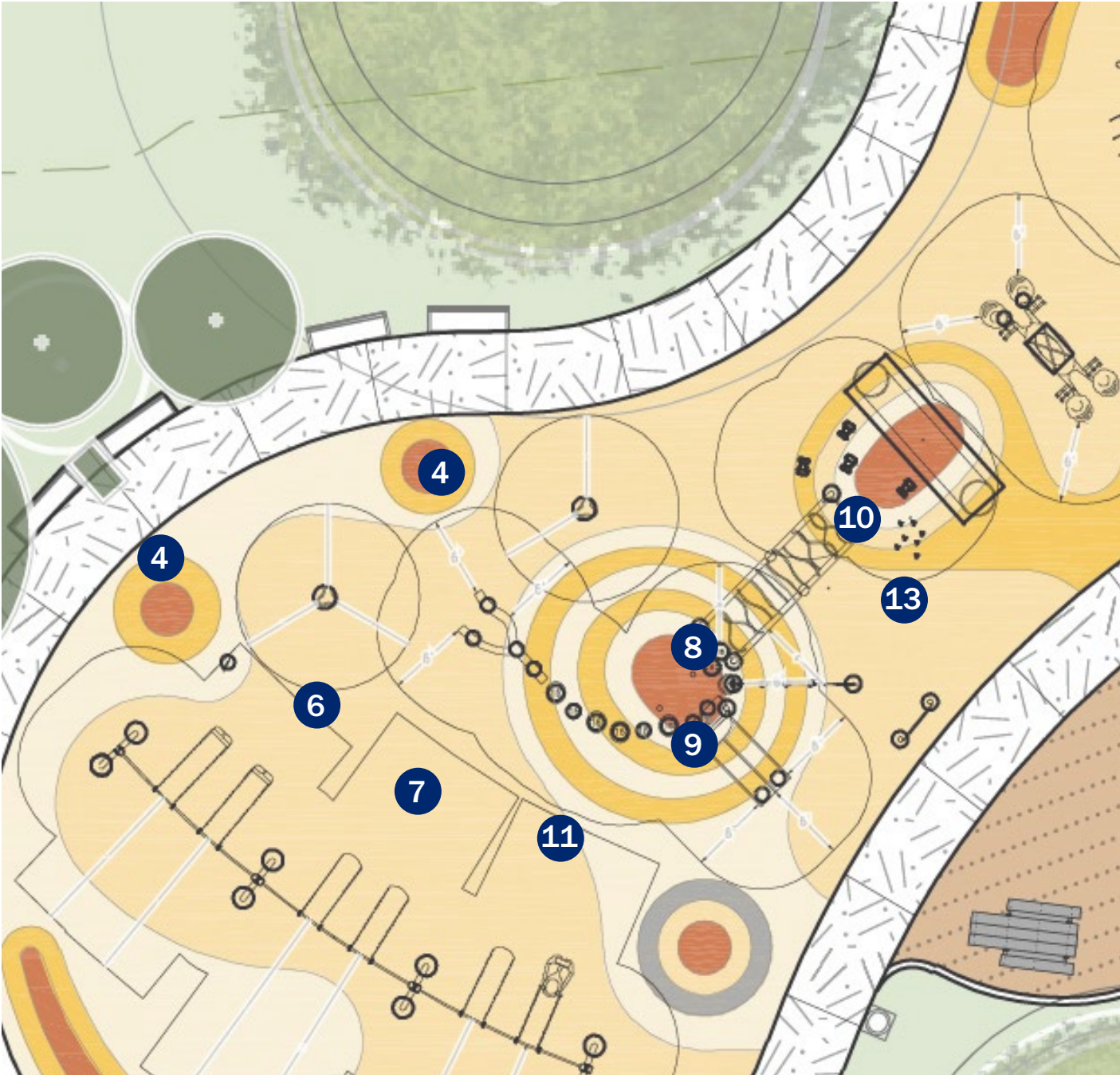
2x 2-5 age group bucket seats
2x 2-12 age group belt seats
1x 5-12 age group belt
1x ADA seat – molded bucket seat with harness

5 Custom Swing Set



LITTLE HILL

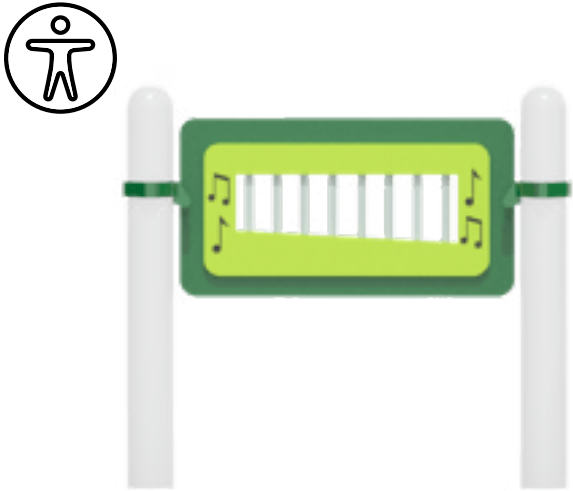
Movement & Balance, Sensory Play for 2-5 years old



- 6. Log Balance Beam
- 7a. Mushroom Stepper
- 8. Ringangle Bridge
- 9. Handhold
- 10. Stainless Steel Tunnel
- 11. Double Slide



4a Saddle Spinner

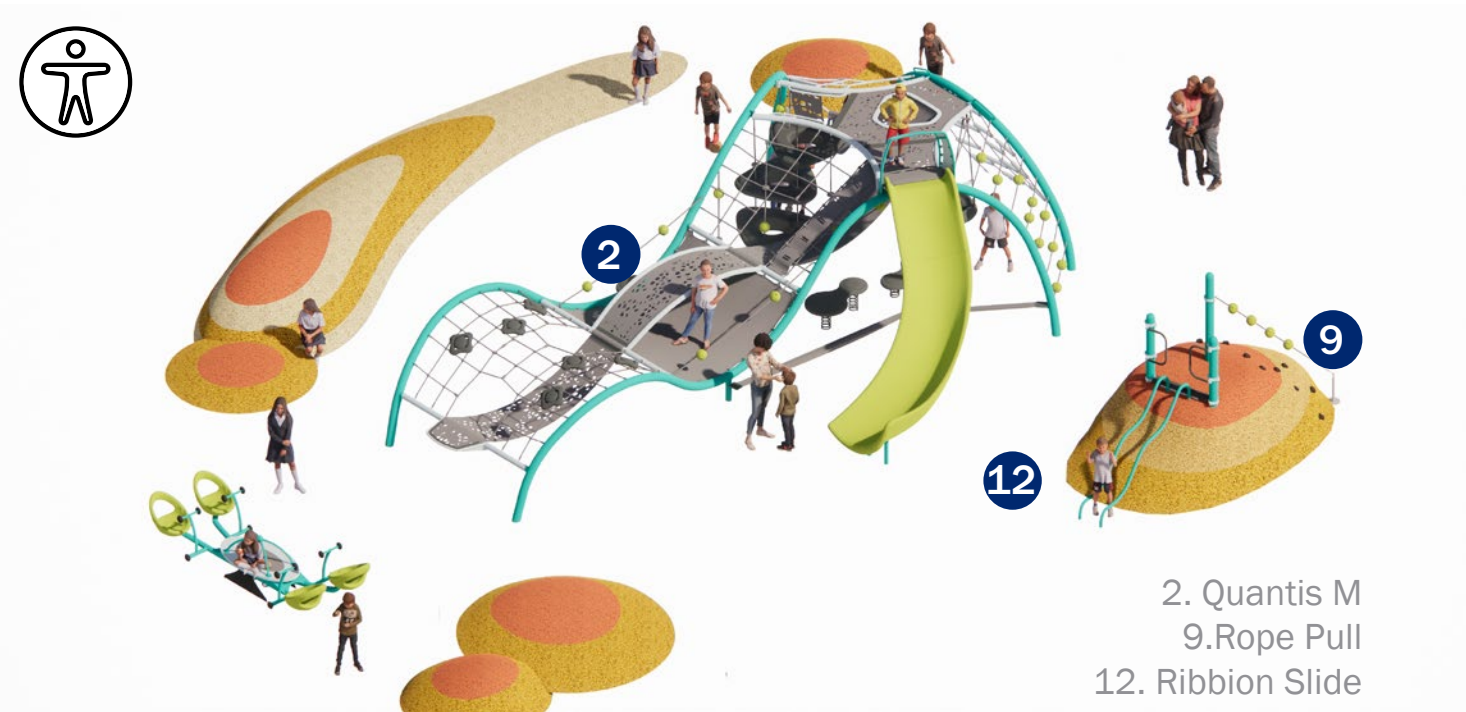


13 Music Play Panel



ADVENTURE HILL

Encourage engagement and collaboration between different age

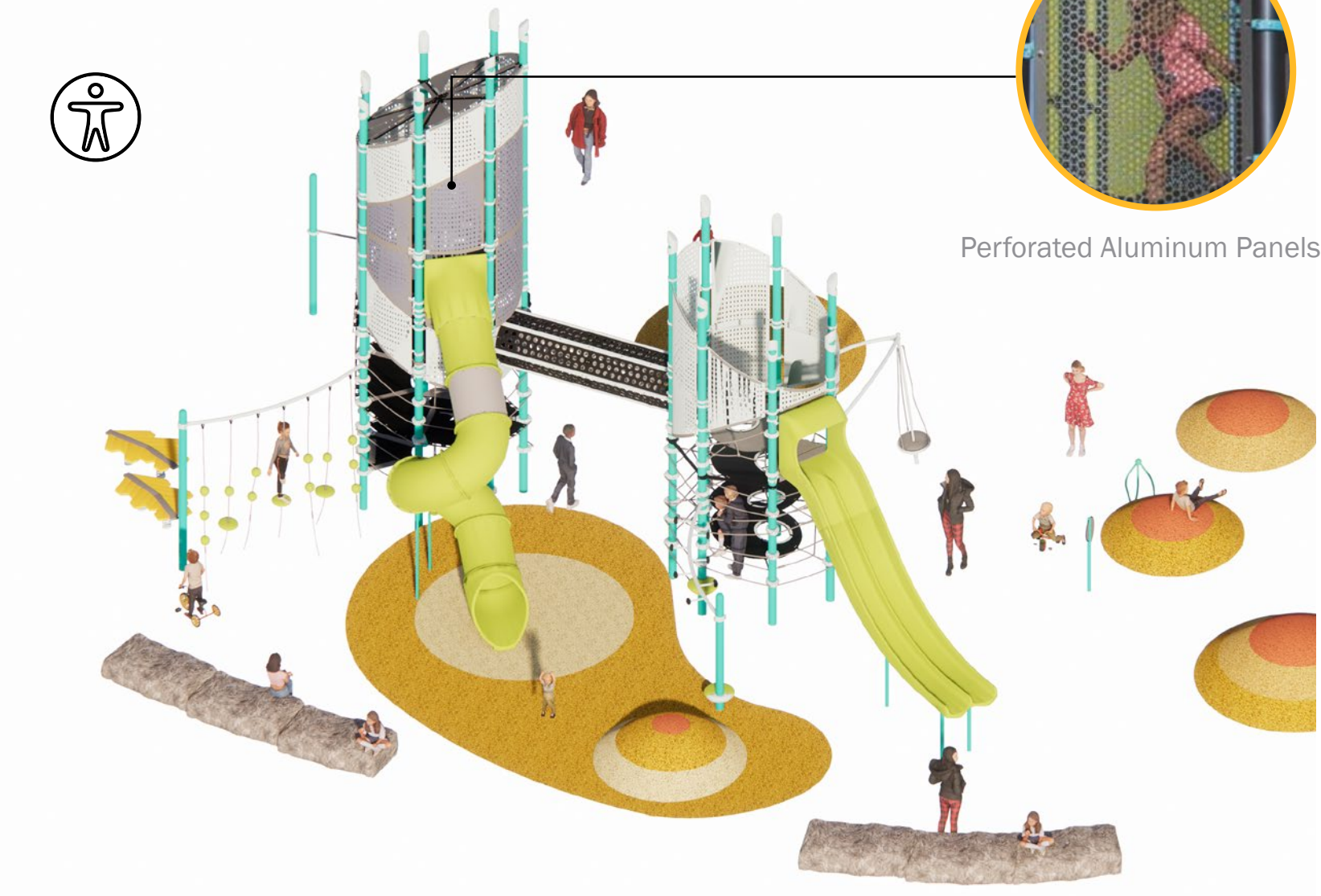
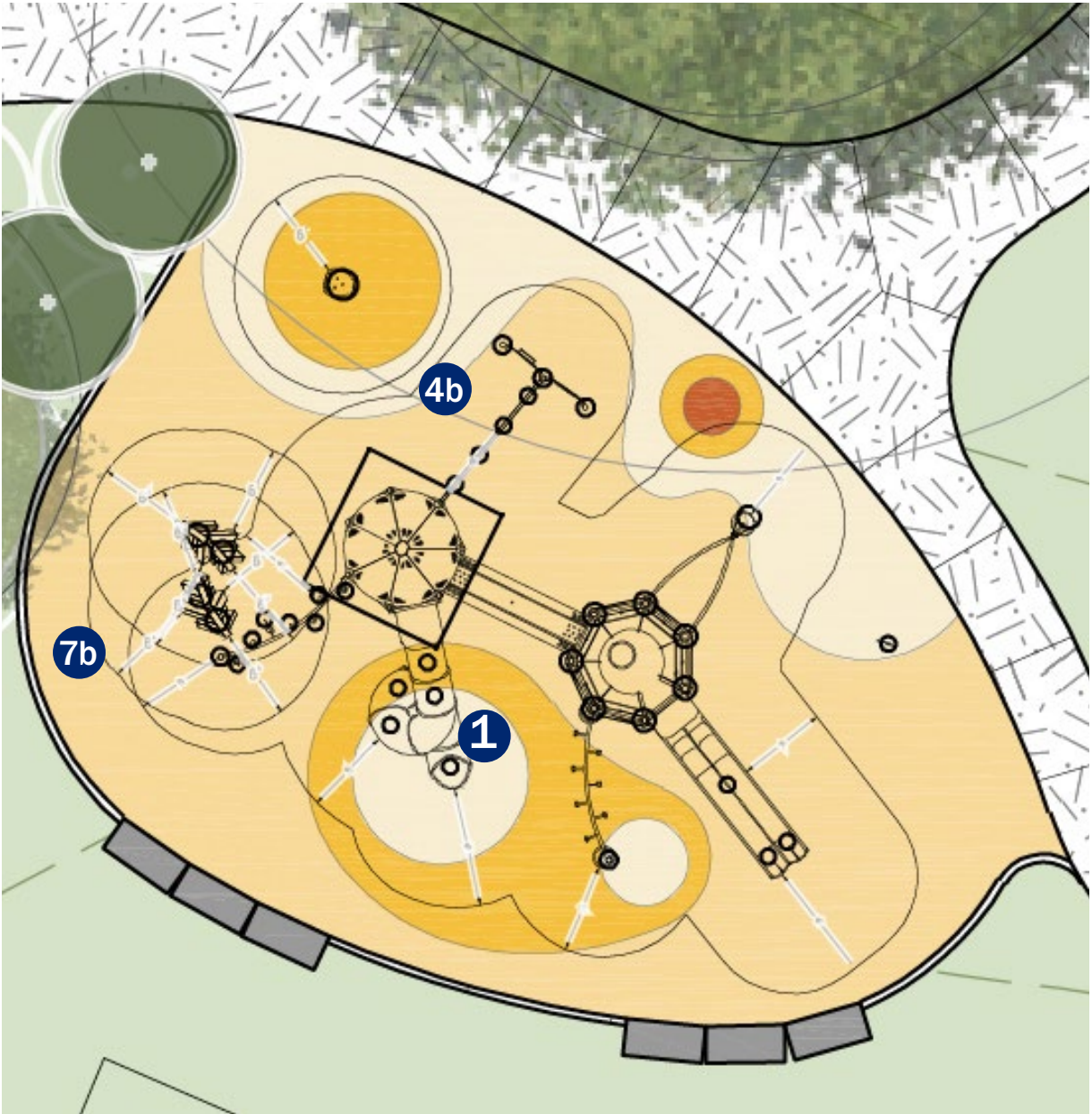


3 We Saw



TOWER HILL

Advance Challenge Play for 5-12 years old



Perforated Aluminum Panels



7b Leaf Stepper



4b Chill Spinner

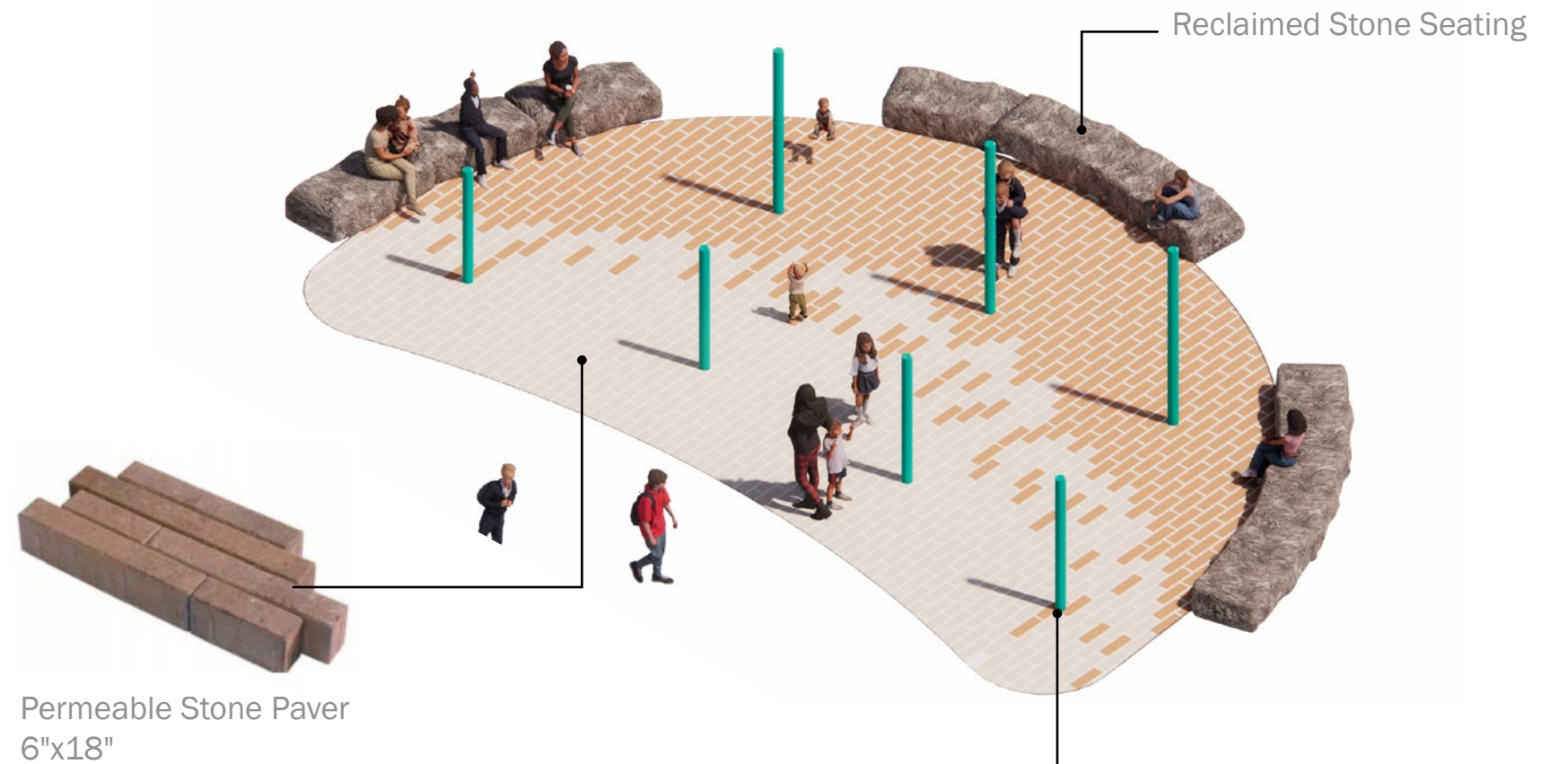
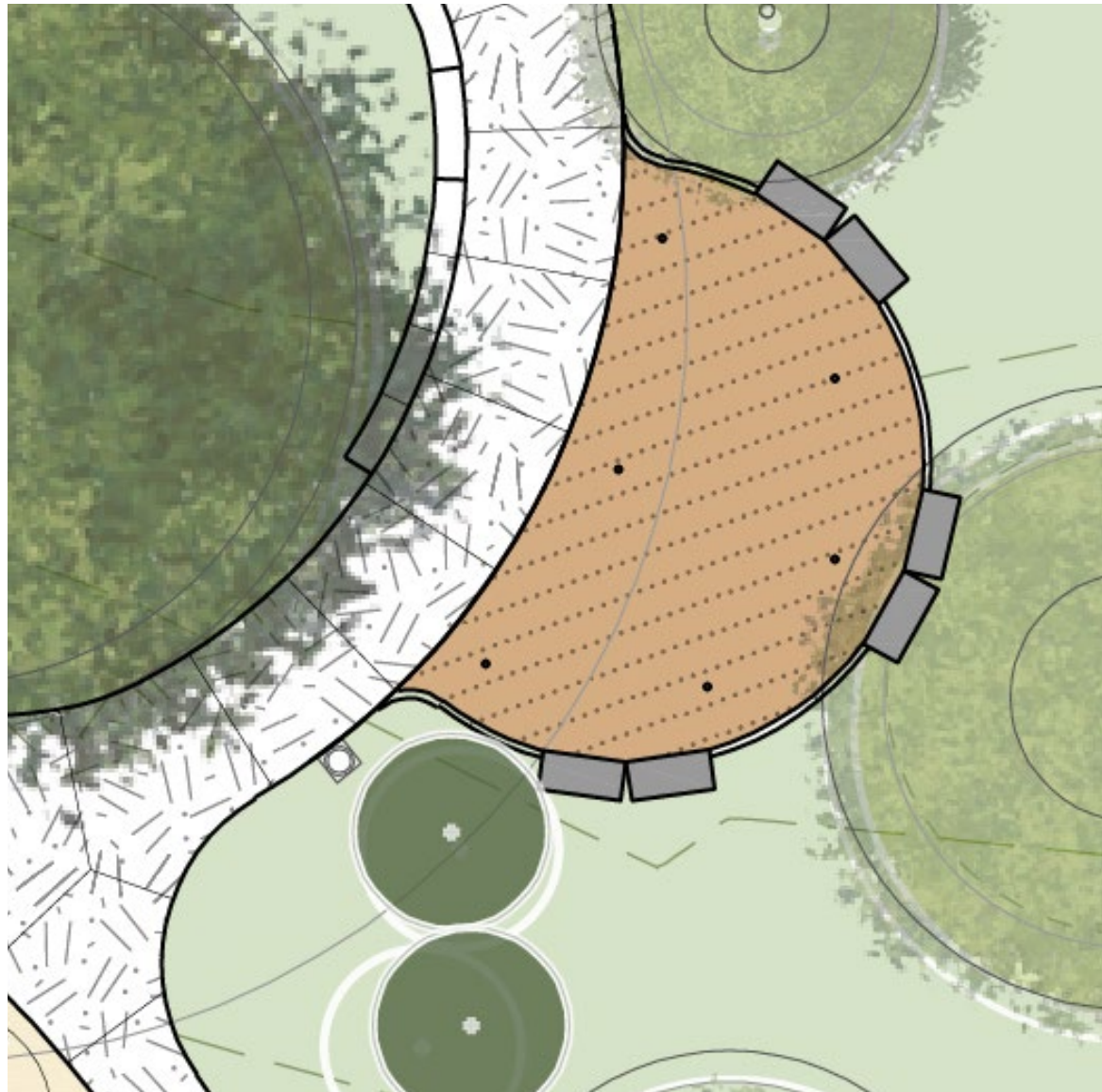


13 Sensory Panel



MISTING PLAY

Misting Post at 10' spacing



Permeable Stone Paver
6"x18"



Stainless Steel Misting
Poles (8') x3
Stainless Steel Misting
Poles (6') x4

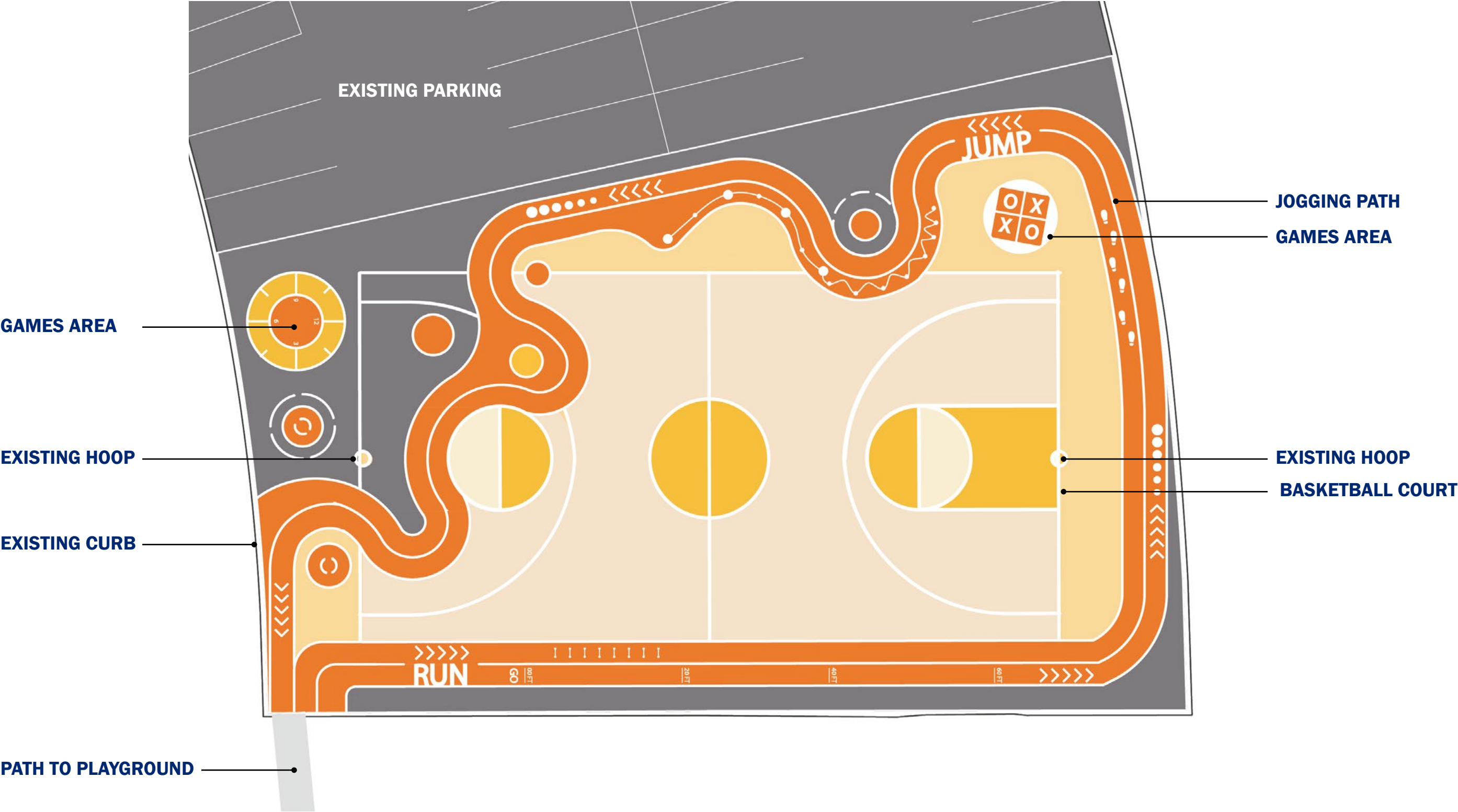
MISTING PLAZA



REPAINTED BASKETBALL COURT



BASKETBALL COURT + PLAY PATH



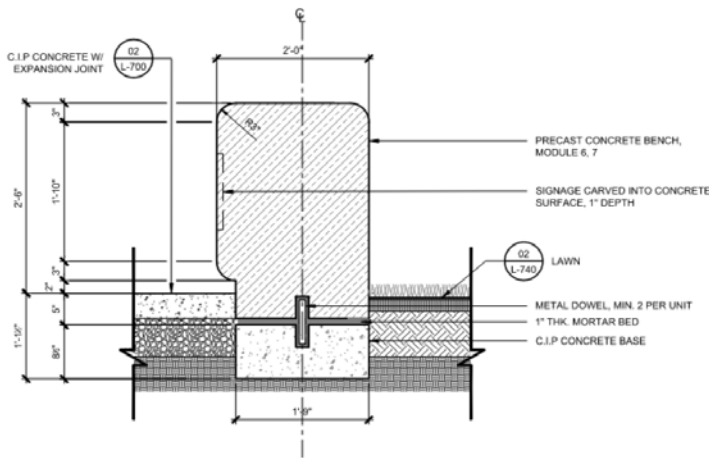
BASKETBALL COURT + PLAY PATH



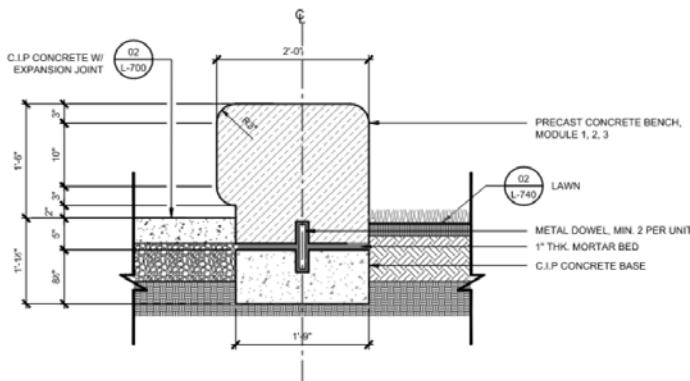
BASKETBALL COURT + PLAY PATH



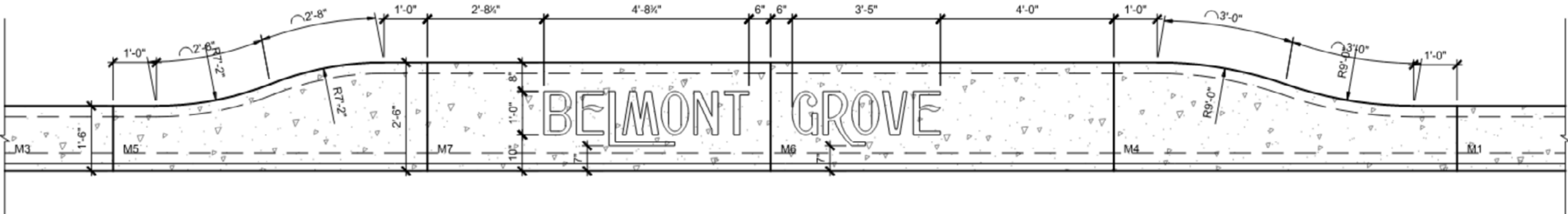
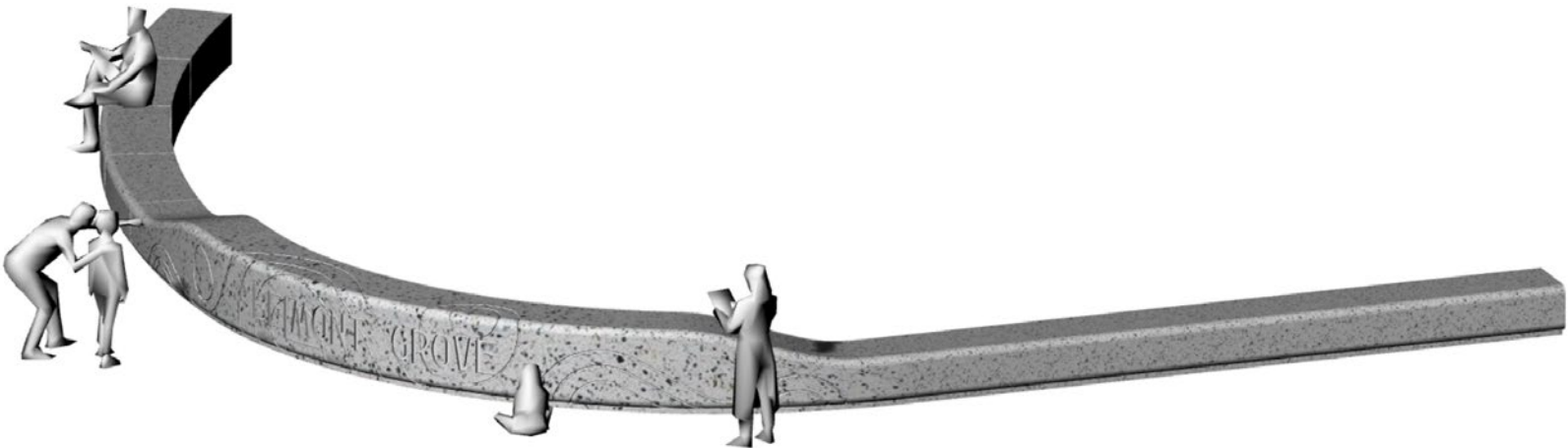




03 PRECAST CONCRETE BENCH, MODULE 6, 7 - SECTION
1"=1'-0"



02 PRECAST CONCRETE BENCH MODULE 1, 2, 3 - SECTION
1"=1'-0"



THANK YOU!