

Art Commission Review – Submittal Form

(Applicant complete below section)

Project Name: Starr Garden Playground Improvements

Project Address: 600-44 Lombard Street **On Public Property?** Yes No

Total Budget: \$1,392,000 **Utilizing City Funds?** Yes (specify amount): \$1,032,000 No

Project Type (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Building – New Construction or Addition	<input type="checkbox"/> Encroachment in/over ROW
<input type="checkbox"/> Building – Renovation or Repair	<input type="checkbox"/> Signage (Reconsideration)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Park/Playground	<input type="checkbox"/> Streetery (Reconsideration)
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Project Team:

Agency/Org.: CPO / Parks & Rec. Design Lead (firm): Ground Reconsidered, Inc

Other: _____

Primary Contact for Project Communications:

Name: Mark Paronish

Affiliation: Project Coordinator - CPO

Email: [REDACTED]

(Art Commission staff complete below section)

Art Commission Meeting Date of Project Review: 2/11/26

Level of Review:

Concept Review Final Review If Final, specify date of preceding Concept Review: 10/8/25

Administrative Review (for projects with minimal visual impact on public realm)

Staff Notes (Optional):



Memorandum

To: Katherine Liss, Art Commission Director
From: Francesco Cerrai, Project Director, Capital Program Office
Mark Paronish, Project Coordinator
Date: January 28, 2026
Re: Request for Art Commission Review and Response to Decision Form – file # 246-25

We request to be included in the agenda for the February 11, 2026 Art Commission meeting, in anticipation of this being the Final Review of the ***Starr Garden Playground Renovation*** project, located at Starr Garden Playground, 600-44 Lombard Street.

We will provide PowerPoint presentation in separate email:

- 2026-02-11 Starr Garden Art Commission Presentation

Thank you for your attention.

Mark Paronish

Mark Paronish, Project Coordinator

cc: Pedro Pinto, Deputy Director - CPO
Leigh Ann Campbell, Deputy Commissioner - PPR
Francesco Cerrai, Project Director - CPO
File: Project # 16-17-4868-01, Section 2.12



The Philadelphia Art Commission Decision Form

The Philadelphia Art Commission

Established 1911

File #: 246-25 **Commission Meeting Date:** 10/08/2025

Name: Mark Paronish
Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
1515 Arch Street, 11th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Raed Nasser
Chairperson

Carmen Febo San Miguel
Vice Chairperson

Matthew Kenyatta
James Lowe
Pepón Osorio
Rebecca Segall

Project Name & Location: Starr Garden Playground Improvements
600-44 Lombard Street

Proposal: The proposal is for the renovation of the existing playground on the corner of S 6th & Rodman Streets and related site improvements, including: new play equipment and safety surface; new splash pad and drinking fountain; new splash pad; new site furniture and fencing; new basketball backboards; and landscaping.

Commission Decision: CONCEPT APPROVAL

Remarks: The Commissioners had questions for which more details will be expected at the Final Review, including: clarification on nighttime conditions, given the site will be open until 9 pm (night rendering of playground encouraged if open after dark); signage (existing or new); and a summary of the community engagement process. The Percent for Art component of the project is to be determined and will follow a separate Art Commission review process.

Octavia Howell
Deputy Director for Planning and Zoning,
Department of Planning and Development

One Parkway Building
1515 Arch Street
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

215-683-4636
artcommission@phila.gov

Art Commission approval is not an endorsement for any approval, exception or variance that the proposal might require from any other department, board or commission.

Starr Garden Playground Renovation Final Review

Responses to Art Commission request for additional details

February 11, 2026



**PHILADELPHIA
PARKS &
RECREATION**



Starr Garden Renovations community engagement process:

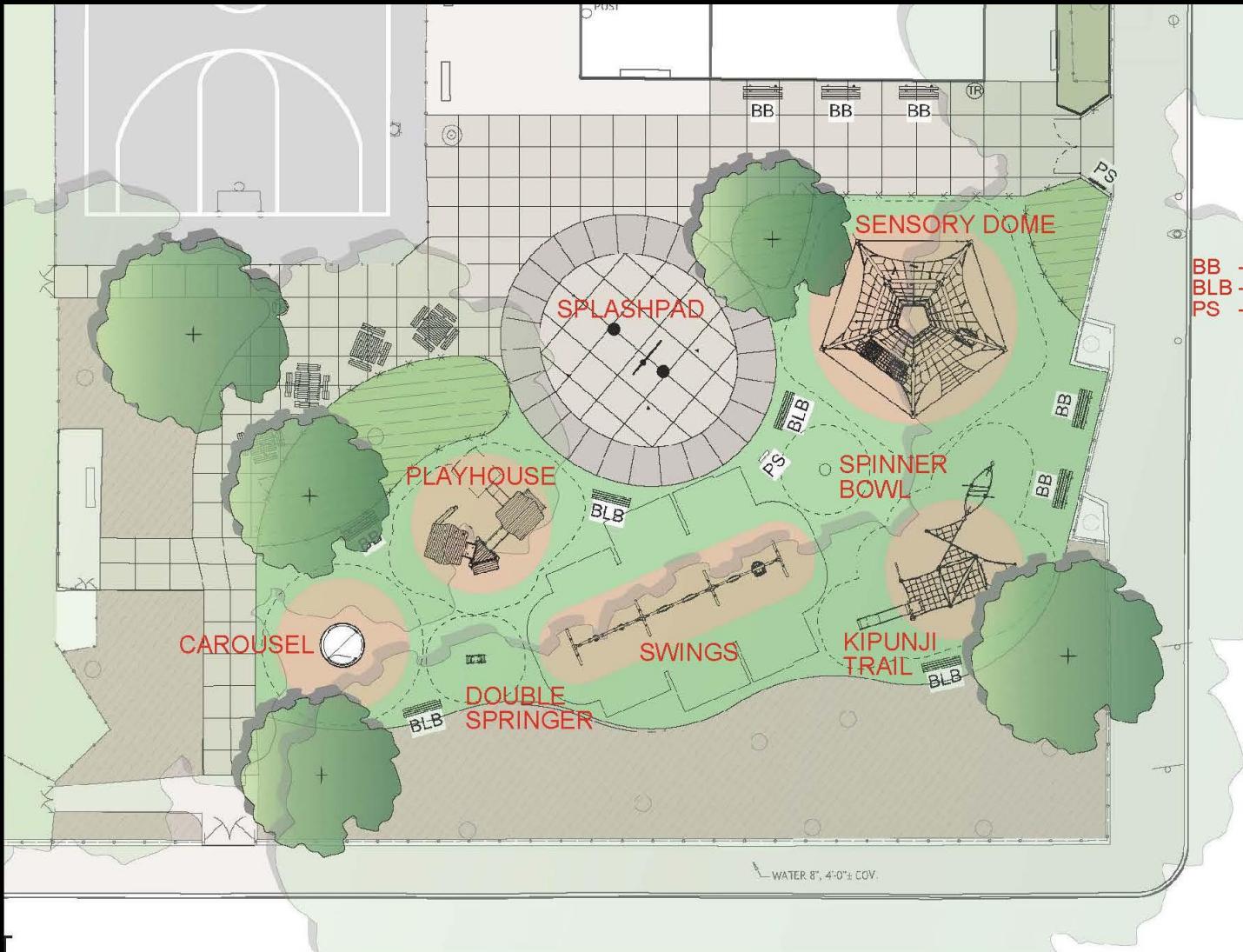
Requirements design contract – Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 2018-2020 = Schematic Design Completed

Parks & Recreation – internal design = engagement with community, play equipment and spray ground manufacturers

Requirements design contract – Ground Reconsidered, May 2024-present = Design Development/CDs/CA

- 06/05/2018 - Starr Garden Neighbors and Friends Community Meeting: Give us Your Feedback on Starr Garden Redesign
- 11/13/2019 - Starr Garden Neighbors and Friends Community Meeting II: Present Concept Designs
- The Society Hill Reporter article calling for community collaboration and engagement in this park renovation. – Jan 2020
- The Society Hill Reporter article encouraging attendance of the upcoming Playground Renovation Strategy Meeting – 01/30/2020
- 6/10/2022 Transfer to Parks and Recreation Capital Program Office staff for next phase of design development documentation and kickoff meeting with community advisors at the site.
- 09/19/2023 Starr Garden Neighbors and Friends (SGNF) Community Meeting: Playground Renovation Strategy Meeting
- 11/06/2023 Presentation to the Society Hill Civic Association and Starr Garden Neighbors and Friends by Parks and Recreation.
- Starr Garden Neighbors and Friends posted on Facebook that the Playground renovation is a 'go' and timing in Summer/Fall 2024.
- Monthly updates and discussions about Starr Garden at the Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) Board meetings presented by the recently formed Starr Garden Committee of SHCA.
- 2/28/2024 Met with Jeanne Barrett Ortiz, the DCNR Grant Advisor, with Parks and Recreation at Starr Garden.
- Spring 2024 almost daily discussions by SGNF with Parks and Recreation and the neighborhood groups pertaining to the progress of the DCNR Grant Application resulting in successful grant award.
- 08/14/2024 Provided draft final design rendering to Councilperson and Starr Garden Neighbors and Friends advisory committee for comments prior to finalization and distribution to wider community.
- 02/13/2025 Email update on progress of project to Councilperson and Starr Garden Neighbors and Friends advisory committee.
- 05/02/2025 Posting of plans & renderings at Starr Garden Spring Fest including flyers with QR code link to upcoming virtual community meeting/presentation with Councilperson.
- 05/13/2025 Virtual community meeting with Councilperson to present final plans, and to select safety surface colors with community input, resulting in approval to move forward with the overall construction plans.
- Ongoing email updates to Starr Garden Neighbors and Friends advisory committee

Rendered Plan Enlargement





Free Standing Drinking Fountain



Backed Bench



Picnic Table



Backless Bench



Trash Receptacle

PPR - APPROVED STANDARD SITE FURNISHINGS
 STARR GARDEN PLAYGROUND RENOVATION PROJECT – CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
 05/02/2025



GRADING PLAN
 STARR GARDEN PLAYGROUND
 05/02/2025

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING!
 TO PRESENT THE FINAL PLANS FOR THE
 STARR GARDEN PLAYGROUND RENOVATION
 Tuesday, May 13, 2025
 4PM-5:30PM
 Microsoft Teams
[Visit: bit.ly/StarrGardenMeet](https://bit.ly/StarrGardenMeet)
 or dial in by phone:
 +1 267-404-3440
 Phone conference ID:
 437 139 023#



Questions: email
 Mark.Parsons@phila.gov



MAY 3RD, 2025

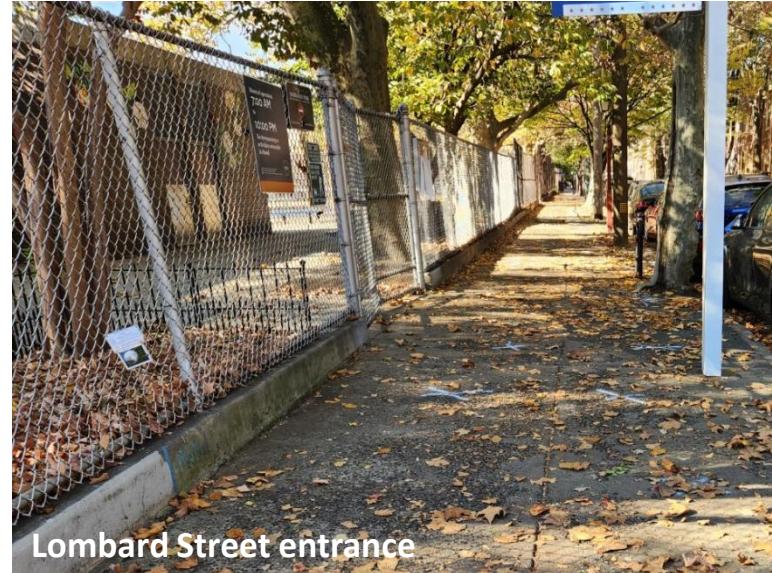
STARR GARDEN PLAYGROUND RENOVATION



Starr Garden existing signage:



Sixth Street entrance



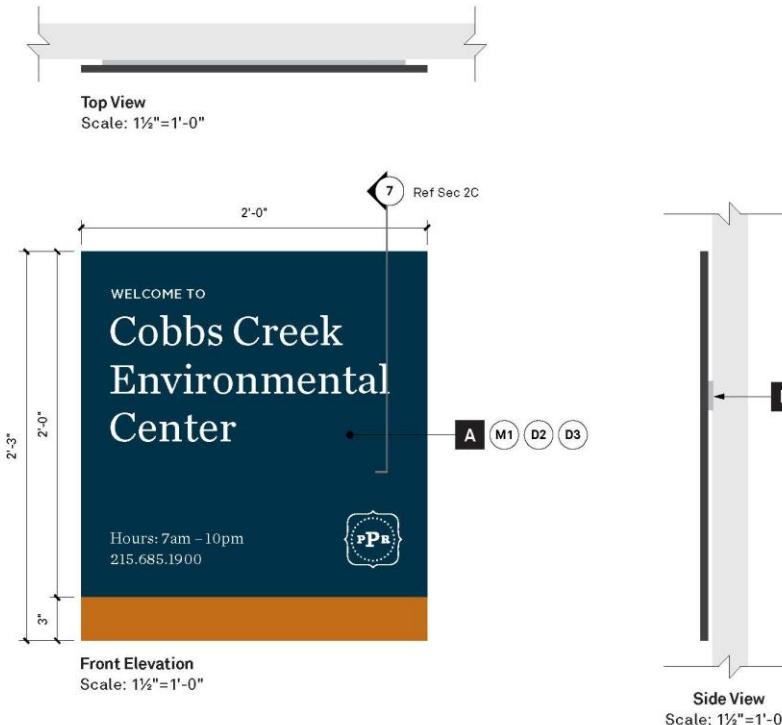
Lombard Street entrance

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation SIGNAGE STANDARDS MANUAL

BID.1

Sign Type Description

This sign type is to be used to identify buildings or structures owned by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.



- A** **Sign Panel**
½" thk custom high pressure laminate panel (CHPL). Printed messages and panel colors. Match colors as noted.
- B** **Z-Clip**
Aluminum panel clip. Not visible from face of sign. Minimize penetrations at mounting location.

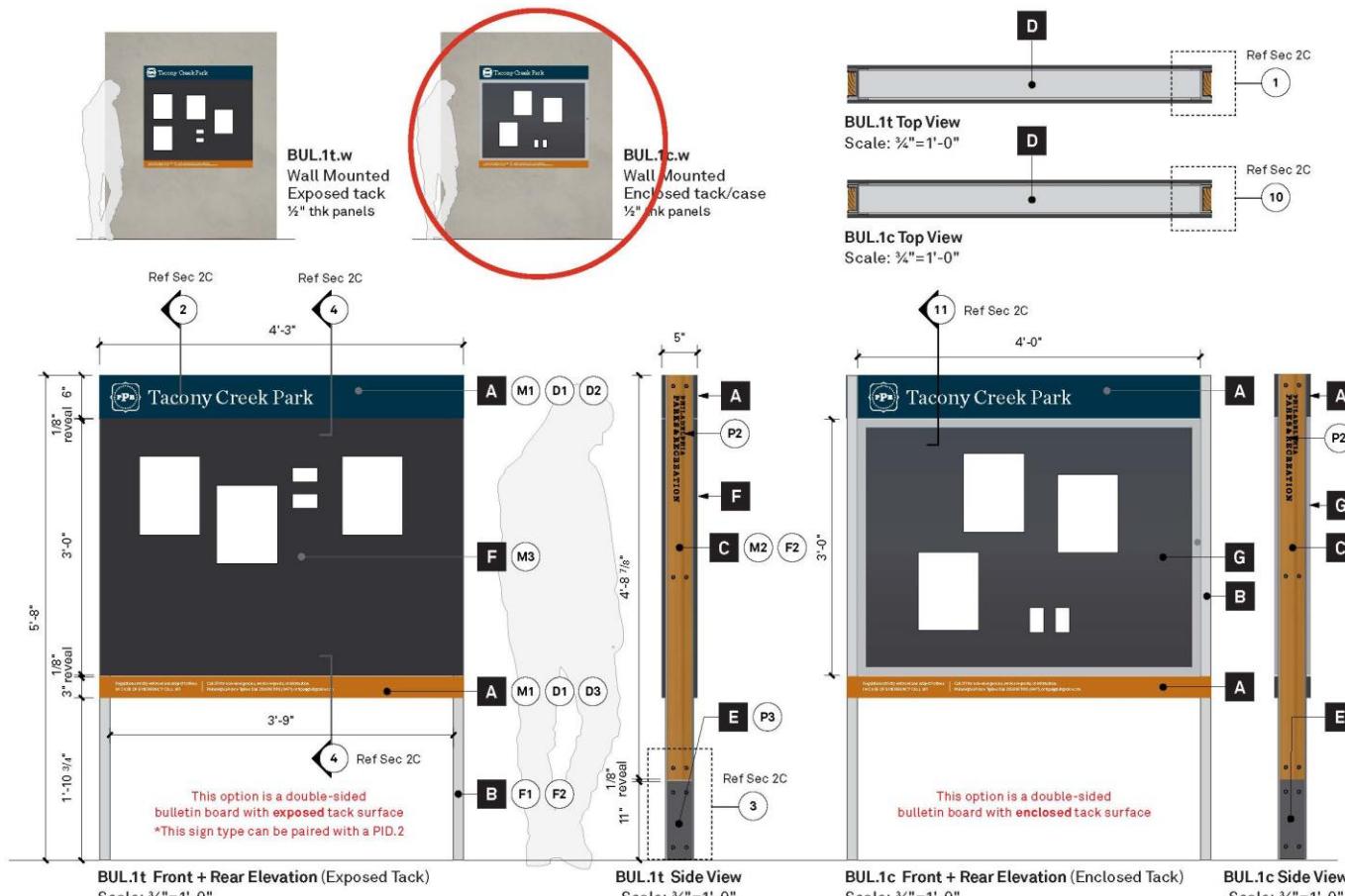
TO BE INSTALLED ON EXTERIOR
OF FENCE AT SIXTH- AND LOMBARD
STREET ENTRANCES

Construction Details

Refer to Section 2C + 2D for construction drawings and mounting details and Section 2E for placement guidelines.

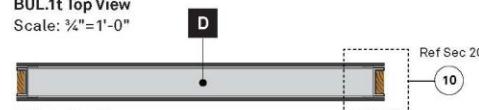
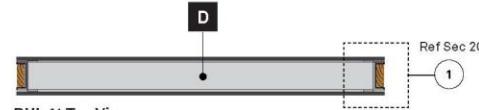
BUL.1

ENCLOSED LOCKING BULLETIN BOARD TO BE MOUNTED ON EXTERIOR OF FENCE AT 6TH STREET ENTRANCE



Sign Type Description

This sign type provides a means to organize postings at a site. Two options are available to choose from: enclosed cabinet and exposed tack surface. The enclosed cabinet is a standalone unit while the exposed tack surface can be standalone or backed up to the corresponding PID (Park Identification) sign type.



A Sign Panels
Sizes vary. $\frac{1}{2}$ " thk custom high pressure laminate panels (CHPL). Printed messages and panel colors. Match colors as noted.

B Aluminum Channel
4" x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x .125 web 6063-T52 architectural (non-tapered) aluminum channel. Lengths vary. Finished and coated to match as noted.

C Logo Panels
3 3/8" x 1" thk black locust lumber. #1 grade, eased edges. Lengths vary. Laser etch and fill logo graphic. UV clear coated. Recess fasteners, first and second surfaces. See Detail 3 for fastener connections and sizes.

D Support Tube
2 x 4 aluminum tube welded to aluminum channels.

E Footer Attachment
3 3/8" x 1" thk aluminum welded to $\frac{1}{4}$ " thk aluminum plate. Drill and tap as required. Painted to match color as noted. Attach plate to concrete footer. Secure sign (channels) to footer attachments. Footer plate should be below grade and covered as specified in Detail 3.

F Tack Surface
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick colored cork (Forbo panel) permanently adhered to $\frac{1}{4}$ " layer of durable and moisture-resistant MDF.

G Glass Enclosed Case
48wx36h2d, 2 door enclosed bulletin board, hinged, shatter-resistant acrylic door with lock, interior back with tackable vinyl.

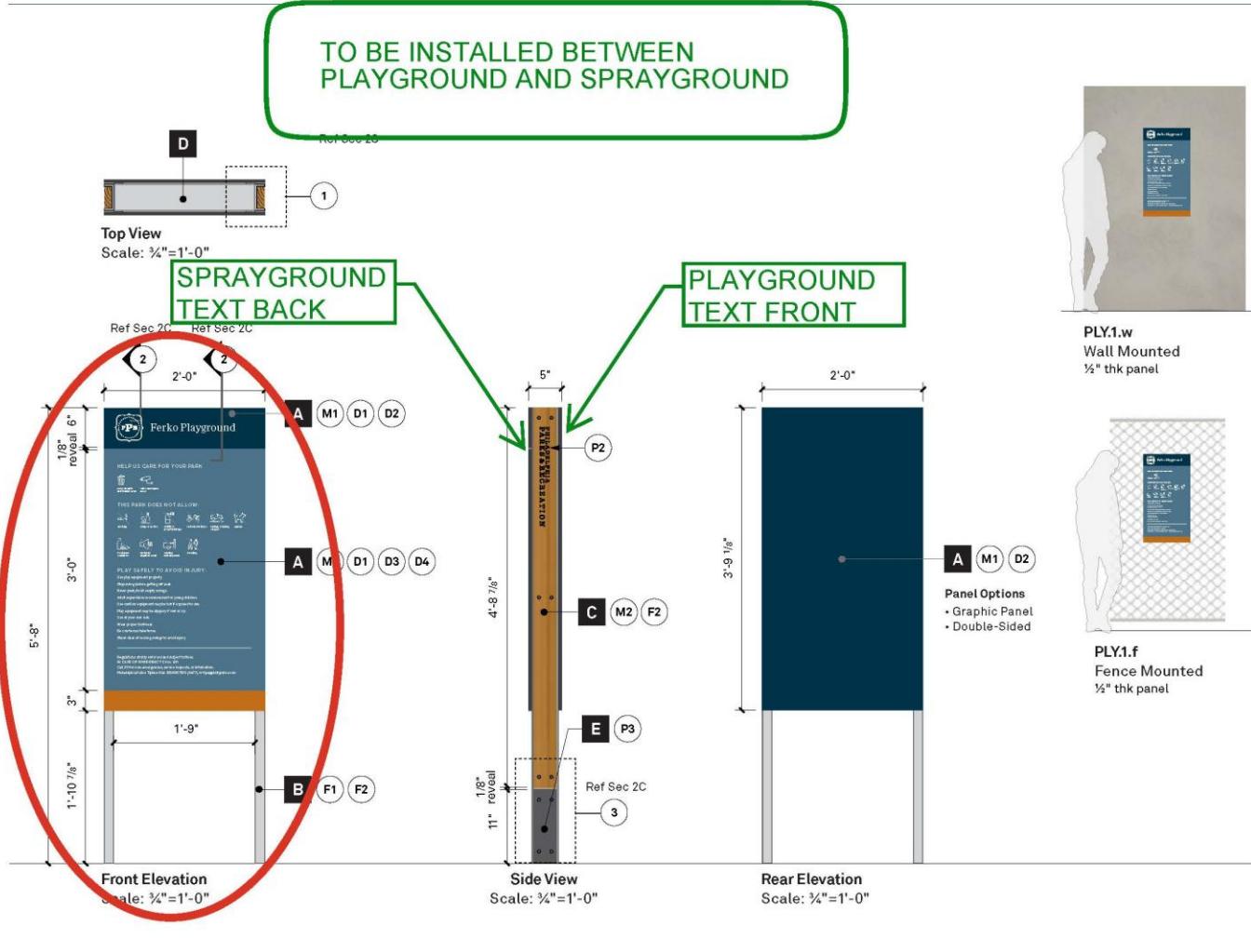
Construction Details

Refer to Section 2C + 2D for construction drawings and mounting details and Section 2E for placement guidelines.

PLY.1

Sign Type Description

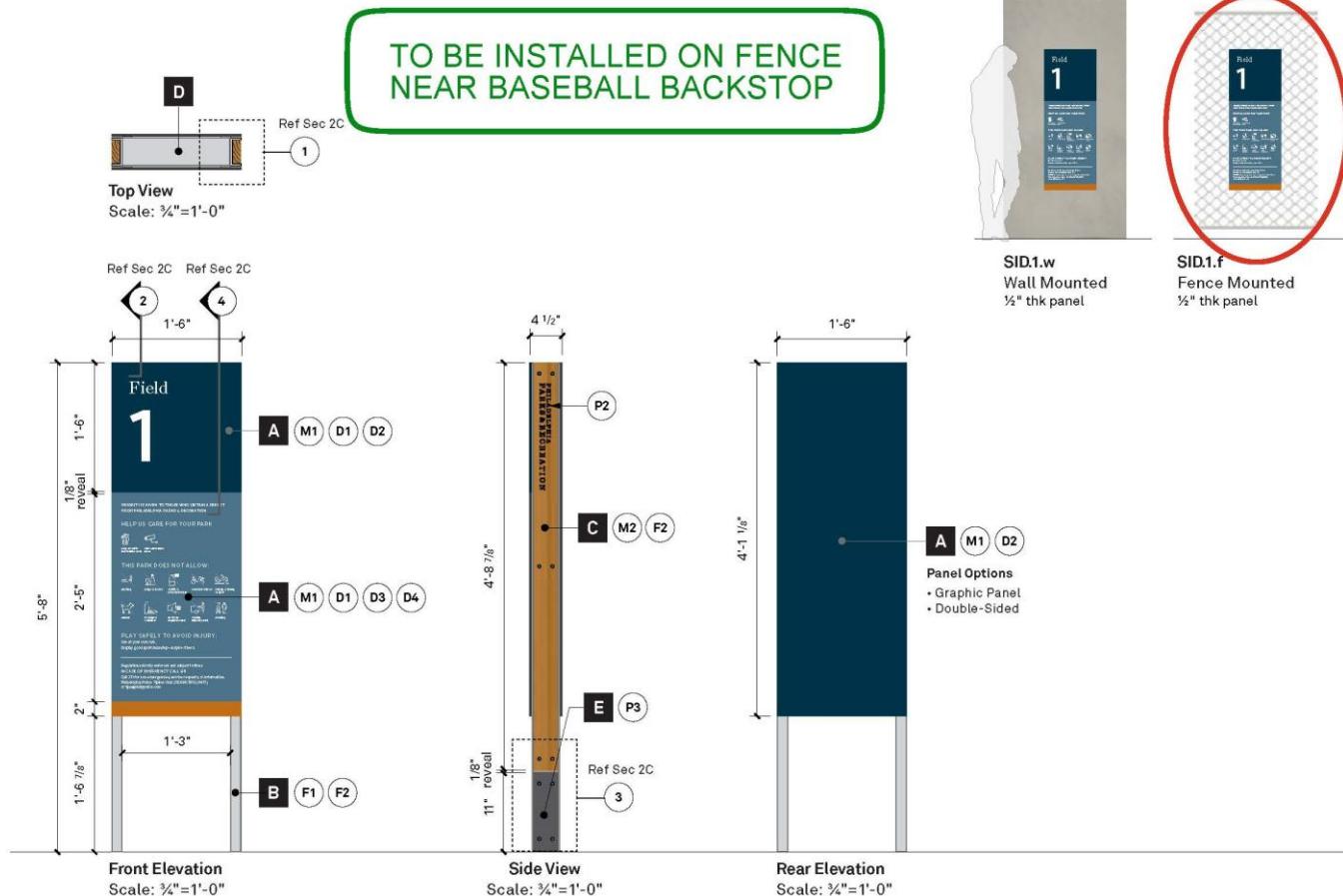
This sign type is used to identify a playground within a Philadelphia Parks & Recreation site. This sign type is also used to post the playground rules and regulations.



SID.1

Sign Type Description

This sign type is used to identify and post rules and regulations about specific sites within a Philadelphia Parks & Recreation property including: fields, courts, picnic areas, etc.



A **Sign Panels**
Sizes vary. $\frac{1}{2}$ " thk custom high pressure laminate panels (CHPL). Printed messages and panel colors. Match colors as noted.

B **Aluminum Channel**
4" x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x .125 web 6063-T52 architectural (non-tapered) aluminum channel. Lengths vary. Finished and coated to match as noted.

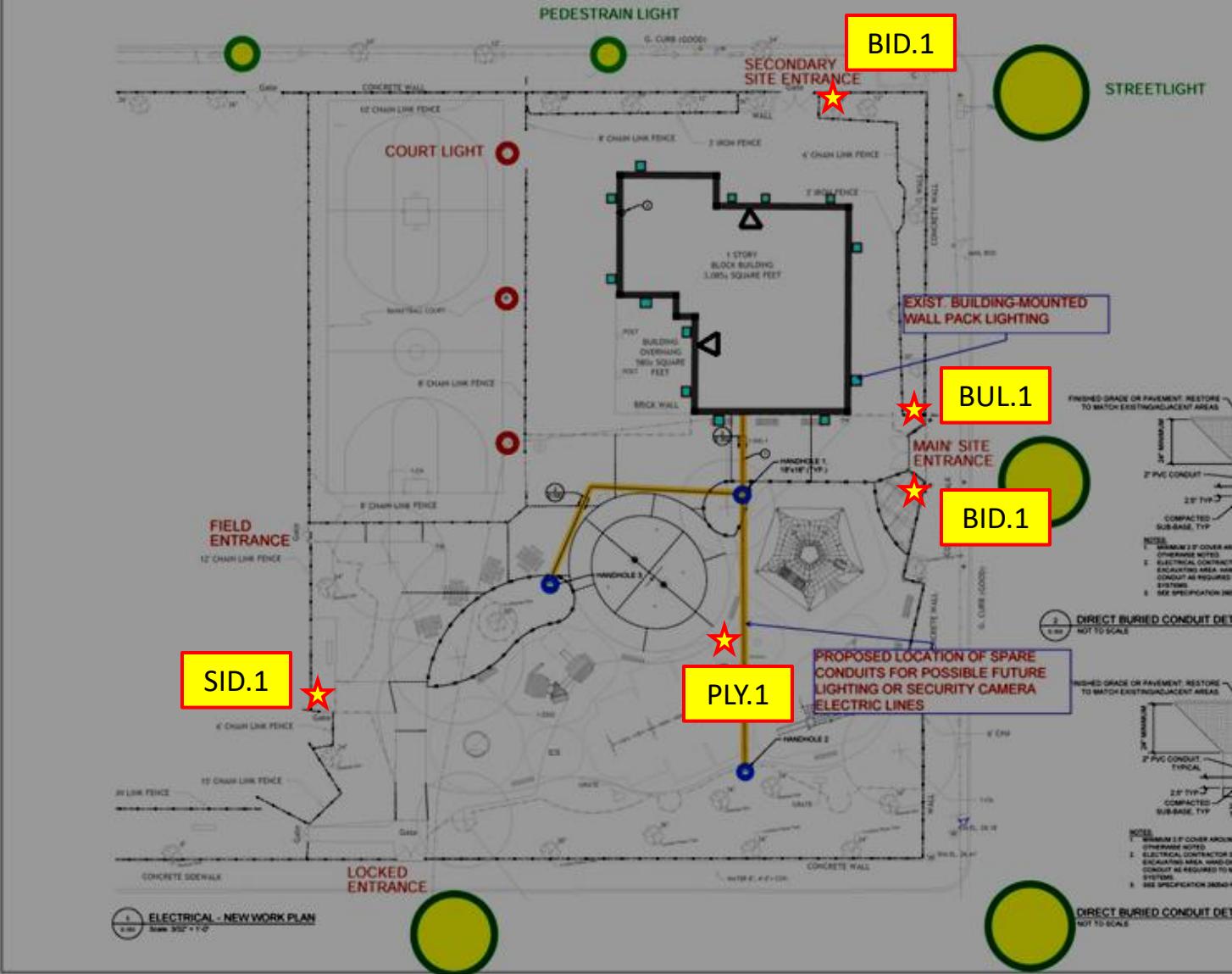
C **Logo Panels**
3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 1" thk black locust lumber. #1 grade, eased edges. Lengths vary. Laser etch and fill logo graphic. UV clear coated. Recess fasteners, first and second surfaces. See Detail 3 for fastener connections and sizes.

D **Support Tube**
2 x 4 aluminum tube welded to Aluminum Channels.

E **Footer Attachment**
3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 1" thk aluminum welded to $\frac{1}{4}$ " thk aluminum plate. Drill and tap as required. Painted to match color as noted. Attach plate to concrete footer. Secure sign (channels) to footer attachments. Footer plate should be below grade and covered as specified in Detail 3.

Construction Details

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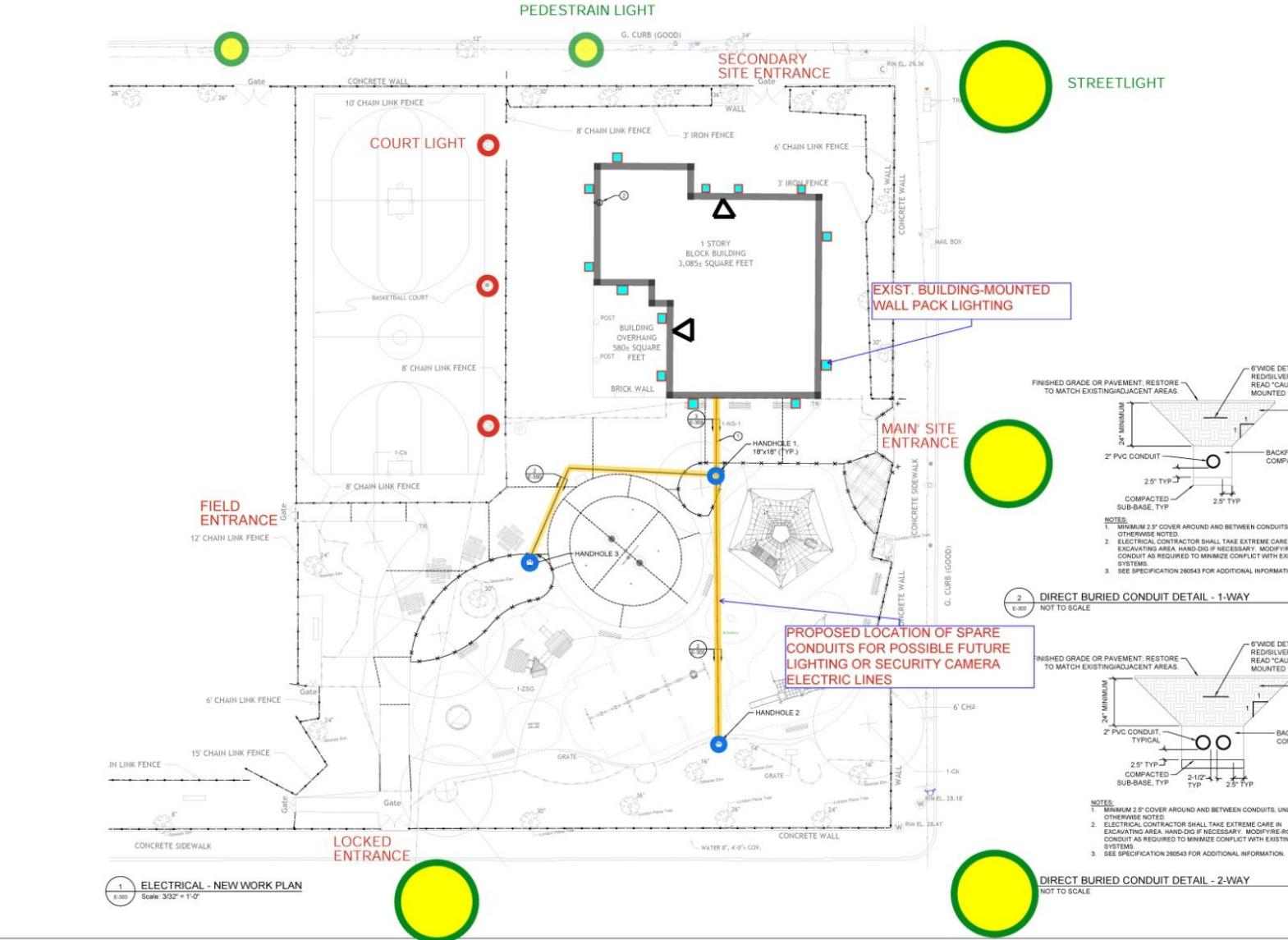
Initial Art Commission meeting – exhibit of existing lighting conditions and entrances

1. LIGHTING. ELBOW UNDERGROUND CONDUIT AGAINST BUILDING EXTERIOR WALL. TRANSITION TO DUE NORTH. CONDUIT TO BE BURIED 24" DEPTH, 2'-0" ABOVE FINISHED GRADE AND CAP CONDUIT.

2. NEVER USE ELBOWS IN CONDUIT.

3. REFER TO THE CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

4. THE CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY. THEY ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.



Existing conditions and layout rendering

Lombard St



Rodman St

Existing conditions and proposed layout

Lombard St

WATER, 4" D. COV.

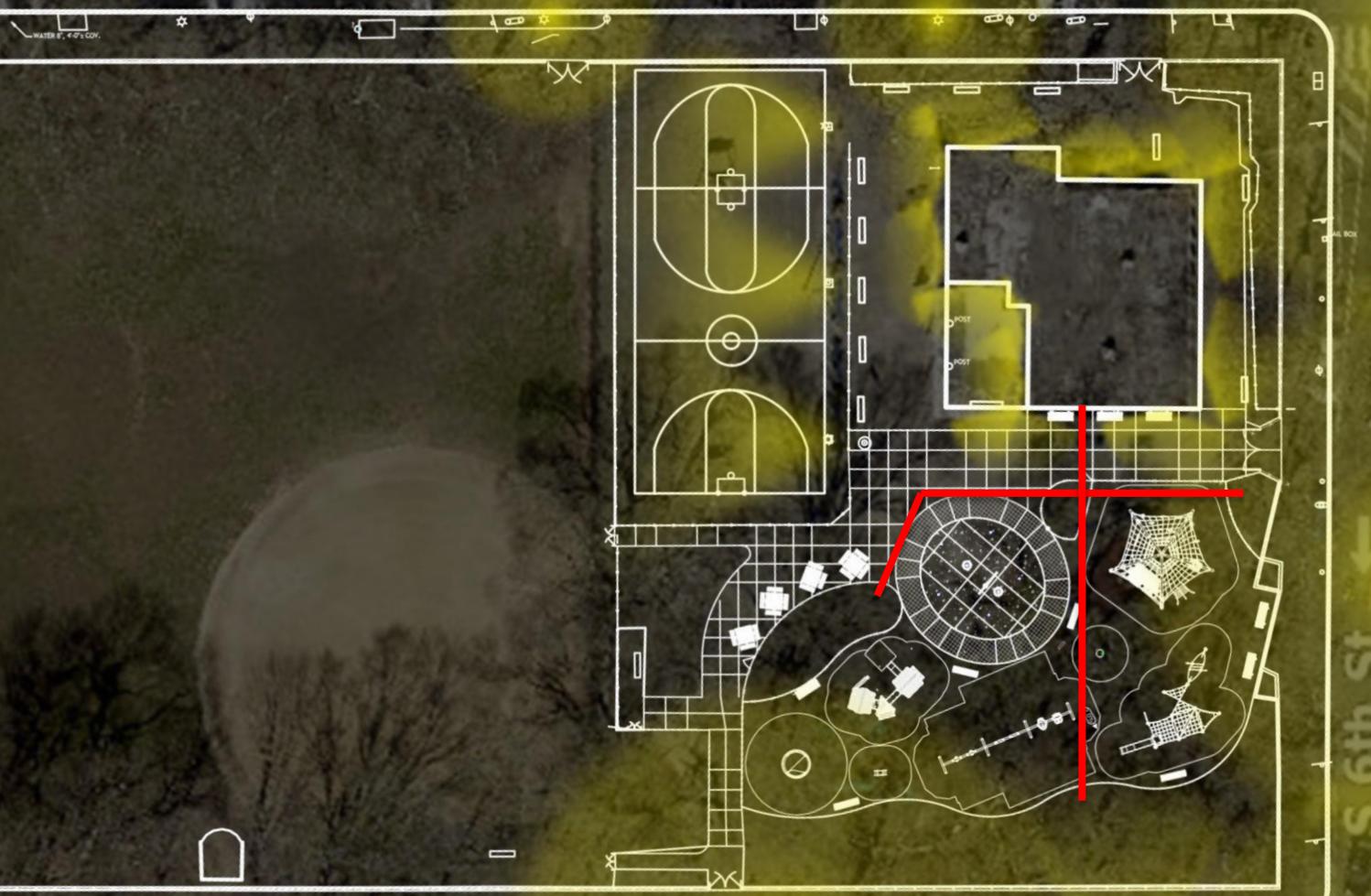


S 6th St

Rodman St

Proposed layout with conduit for Phase 2

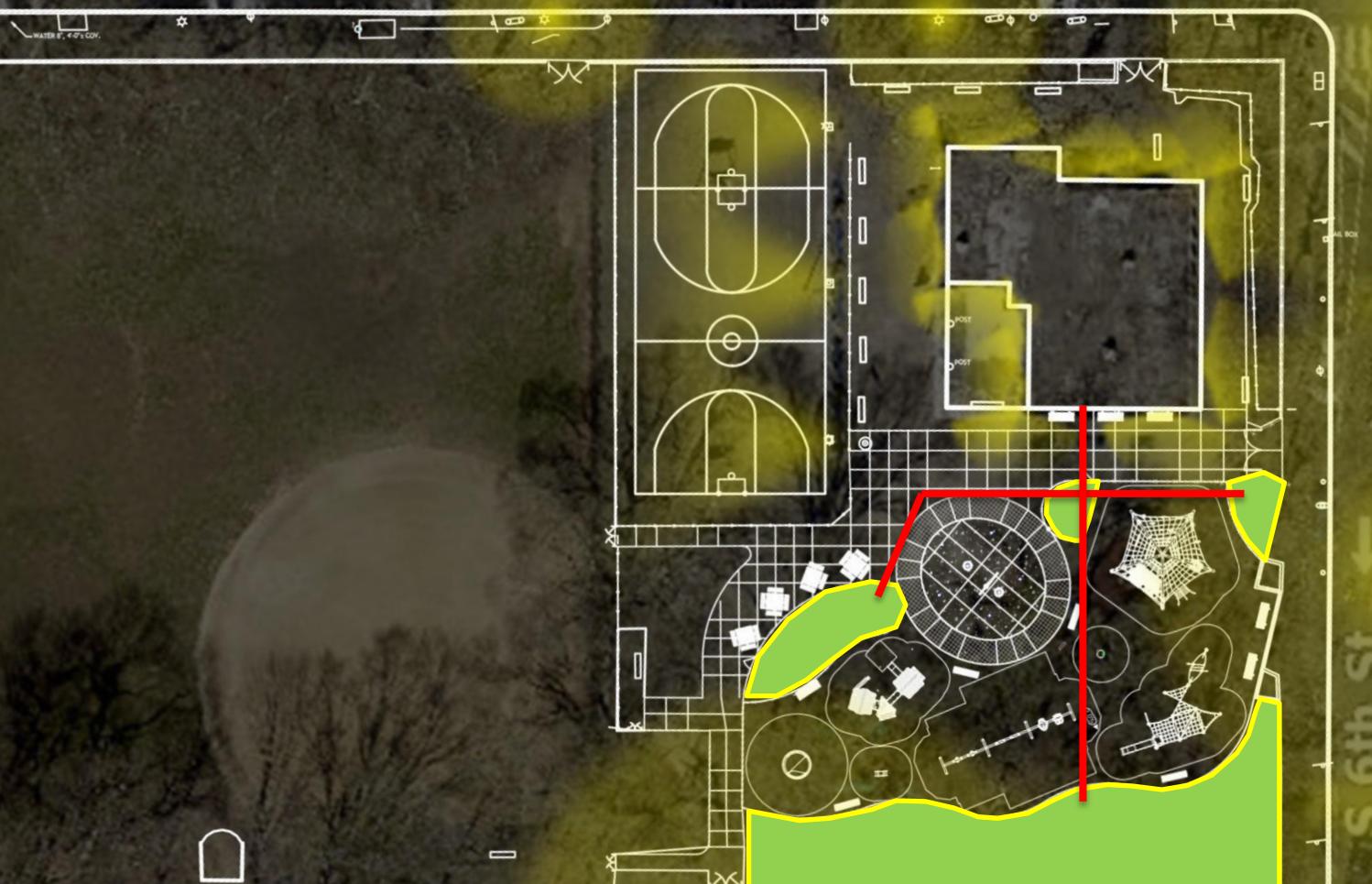
*Conduit to be installed with current construction



S 6th St

Rodman St

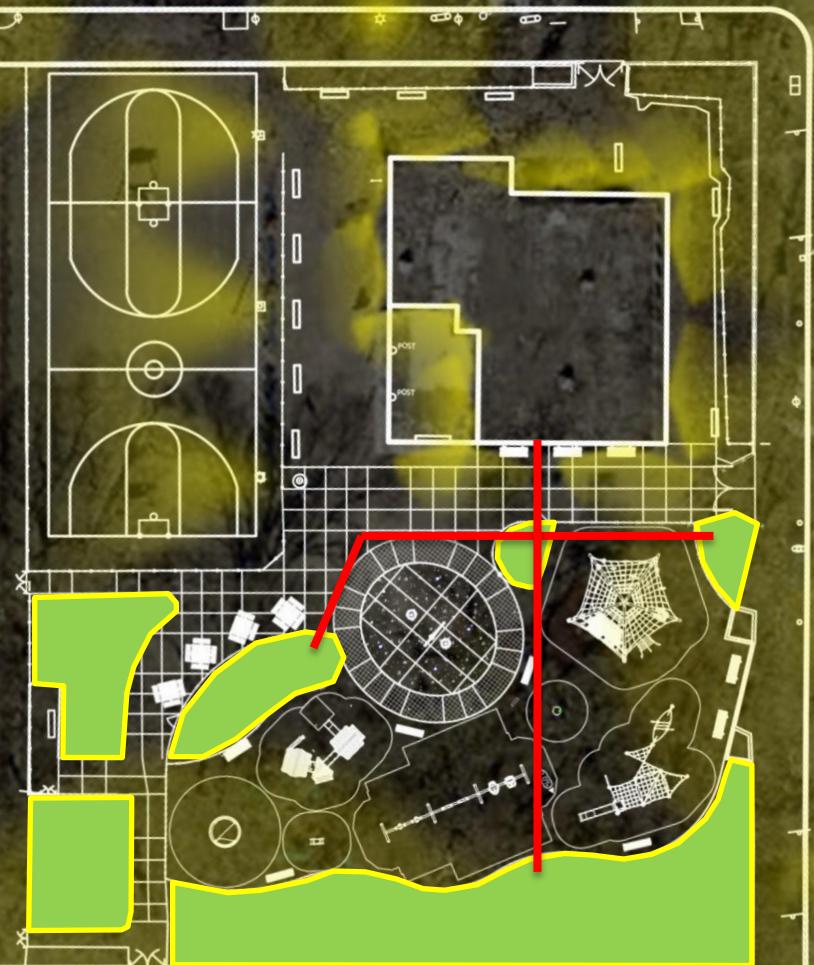
... linking to adjacent landscape areas where conduit can be more readily extended as needed



Lombard St



WATER, 4-6' COV.



Rodman St



Starr Garden Playground Renovation timeline goals:

- February – March 2026: final permit approvals, coordinate and alert community of schedule. Mobilization and demolition
- March – April 2026: installation of underground utilities - conduit and plumbing for sprayground, drinking fountain, site grading
- First week of April 2026: anticipated delivery of sprayground and playground equipment structures
- April – May 2026: installation of sprayground and playground equipment, fencing, concrete pavement and safety surface, along with basketball court renovation
- May – mid June 2026: landscaping, signs and remaining site furniture – installation completed
- July 1, 2026: beginning of Summer Camp

Thank you!



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RECREATION



September 3, 2025

Katherine Liss
The Philadelphia Art Commission
One Parkway, 1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102



Re: Letter of Intent for Percent for Art Funds @ Starr Garden Playground

Dear Katherine:

Creative Philadelphia would like to inform the Philadelphia Art Commission of our intent to administer Percent for Art funds triggered by the Starr Garden Playground project, located at 600-44 Lombard Street in South Philadelphia. Estimated at \$1.2 million, the capital project consists of playground renovations with new landscaped areas, new paving and exterior site features.

The timeline and scope for the administration of Percent for Art funds is still being determined in collaboration with Creative Philadelphia, Capital Program Office (CPO) and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR). Given the limited size of the capital project, the Percent for Art funds representing 1% of the total project budget may be pooled with another future Percent for Art project in the same District, in keeping with the City's Percent for Art guidelines, or another allowable strategy may be utilized to maximize the impact of public art dollars in this District.

Once the plan for the administration of art funds is further developed, Creative Philadelphia will initiate a separate review process with the Philadelphia Art Commission for approval.

We look forward to working with Capital Programs Office, Parks and Recreation and all stakeholders to administer these public art funds on behalf of the community, while enhancing the City's renowned collection of public art. Should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to call me at 215.686.4596.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Anglin, RA, NOMA
Public Art Director
Creative Philadelphia
City of Philadelphia