

Art Commission Review – Submittal Form

(Applicant complete below section)

Project Name: Negro Leagues Memorial Park Art Screen Installation

Project Address: 1538 Belmont Ave **On Public Property?** Yes No

Total Budget: N/A **Utilizing City Funds?** Yes (specify amount): _____ 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 type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Park/Playground	<input type="checkbox"/> Streetery (Reconsideration)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Project Team:

Agency/Org.: Business Association of West Parkside Design Lead (firm): ContraFuerte, LLC
Other: Digsau

Primary Contact for Project Communications:

Name: Miguel Horn
Affiliation: Lead Artist
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: _____
 Administrative Review (for projects with minimal visual impact on public realm)

Staff Notes (Optional):

Art Commission previously gave Final Approval for construction of wall, and Concept Approval for plaza redesign. Concept Review is for new artwork installation on previously approved wall.

CONTRAFUERTE, LLC
4247 W STILES ST PHILADELPHIA PA 19104

January 29th, 2026

Philadelphia Art Commission
c/o Henry Felsman, Katherine Liss
1515 Arch St., 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Application for Conceptual Approval – Art Screen Installation, Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Art Commission,

Together with Digsau, and the Business Association of West Parkside (BAWP) I respectfully submit this application for conceptual approval of the proposed art screen to be installed as part of the ongoing renovations at the Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park, located at the southwest intersection of Belmont and Parkside Avenues. This 150' art screen, designed by artist Miguel Antonio Horn, is a key element in our comprehensive vision to revitalize this historic public space and honor the legacy of the Philadelphia Stars and the Negro Leagues.

Description of Proposed Artwork

The proposed art screen will feature a series of laser-cut metal silhouettes representing the diverse audience of the ballpark, inspired by the spirit and history of the Philadelphia Stars. These evocative silhouettes will be modeled after actual members of the historic Parkside community, giving form and visibility to the individuals who have shaped and cherished this neighborhood for generations. By incorporating portraits of local residents, the artwork seeks not only to celebrate the legacy of African-American baseball, but also to highlight the ongoing contributions of Parkside's vibrant community. The installation will serve as a living testament to the enduring spirit of inclusion, pride, and connection that defines this place.

The Design Team has secured prior approvals from the Commission for significant project elements, including Final Approval for Phase 1A and Conceptual Approval for Phase 1b at the September 13, 2023 meeting (see attached letters for reference), and continues to work closely with stakeholders to ensure that each phase meets the highest standards of design and community impact. As part of Phase One, the art screen will replace the existing cedar fence and serve both a functional and artistic purpose, enhancing the park's sense of welcome, safety, and engagement.

CONTRAFUERTE, LLC
4247 W STILES ST PHILADELPHIA PA 19104

We have carefully considered the Commission's feedback from previous submissions and have incorporated recommendations regarding material selection, dimensional layout, and contextual integration. The art screen, along with other improvements, will contribute to the park's long-term durability, accessibility, and ability to support diverse programming for the community.

We look forward to presenting further details and receiving your guidance as we advance toward final approval for this transformative project. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to public art in Philadelphia.

Respectfully,



Miguel Antonio Horn
Owner, ContraFuerte, LLC
4247 W Stiles St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(610) 608-7779
Contrafuerte.Phily@gmail.com

Cc: Miller Parker, Marjorie Ogilve, Dennis Lee (BAWP); Adria Longenderfer (Digsau)



The Philadelphia Art Commission Decision Form

The Philadelphia Art Commission

Established 1911

Robert Roesch
Chair

José Almiñana
Carmen Febo San Miguel
Deborah Cahill
Sarah McEneaney
Matthew Kenyatta
Raed Nasser
Pepón Osorio
Mario Zacharjasz

Alex M. Smith
Director

File #:	45-23	Commission Meeting Date:	09/13/2023
Name:	Adria Longenderfer DIGSAU 340 N. 12th Street, Suite 421 Philadelphia, PA 19107		
Project Name & Location:	Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park - Wall 1538 Belmont Avenue		
Proposal:	The proposal is for the construction of a concrete wall by the edge of the existing memorial plaza. The wall will be built to support the installation of a future mural and will be bookended by temporary fencing that will support a future screen wall art installation; both the mural and screen wall art will be reviewed by the Art Commission in a future phase.		
Commission Decision:	FINAL APPROVAL		
Remarks:	The Commissioners appreciated the revisions, including related to: the footprint of the wall; the condition of the northbound pedestrian approach; the impacts on the other side of the wall facing the school; tree protection details; utility access; and technical details. The Commissioners encouraged the applicant to further investigate and explore ways to minimize the impacts of the wall on the root zones of existing trees, and to consider a different tree species near the utility access area that is easier to maintain.		

Alex M. Smith
Director of the Philadelphia Art Commission

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.

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

215-683-4636
artcommission@phila.gov



The Philadelphia Art Commission Decision Form

The Philadelphia Art Commission

Established 1911

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Alex M. Smith
Director

File #:	45-23	Commission Meeting Date:	09/13/2023
Name:	Adria Longenderfer DIGSAU 340 N. 12th Street, Suite 421 Philadelphia, PA 19107		
Project Name & Location:	Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park – Phase 1 Site Improvements		
Proposal:	The proposal is for the redesign of an existing plaza, including: new seating (evoking the grandstand seating at baseball stadiums); new tree plantings; new paving; and new lighting. An existing memorial sculpture will remain in its current central location within the plaza.		
Commission Decision:	CONCEPT APPROVAL		
Remarks:	The Commissioners requested the applicant return with more details on: tree protection within the plaza, including impacts on root zones of proposed trees; design considerations for limiting skateboarding; and future signage, plaques, or historical markers, including as a way to improve the relationship with the bus stop.		

Alex M. Smith
Director of the Philadelphia Art Commission

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One Parkway Building
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Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

ART COMMISSION SUBMISSION
February 11, 2026

CONTRAFUERTE, LLC

DIGSAU





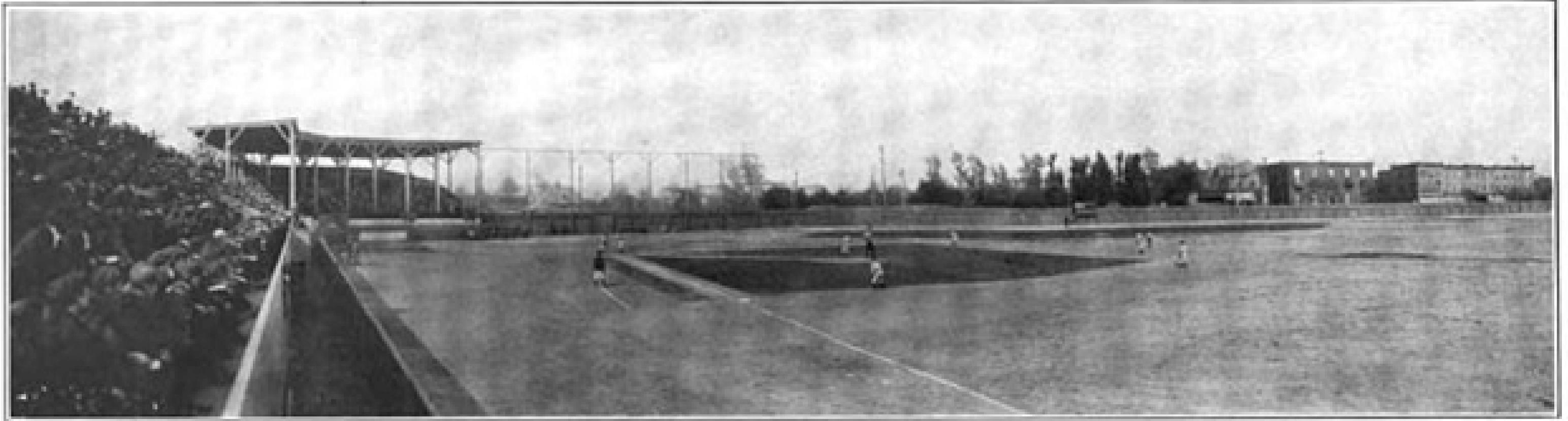
HISTORY PENMAR PARK

Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



HISTORY PENMAR PARK

Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



Athletic Field at Belmont and Parkside Avenues



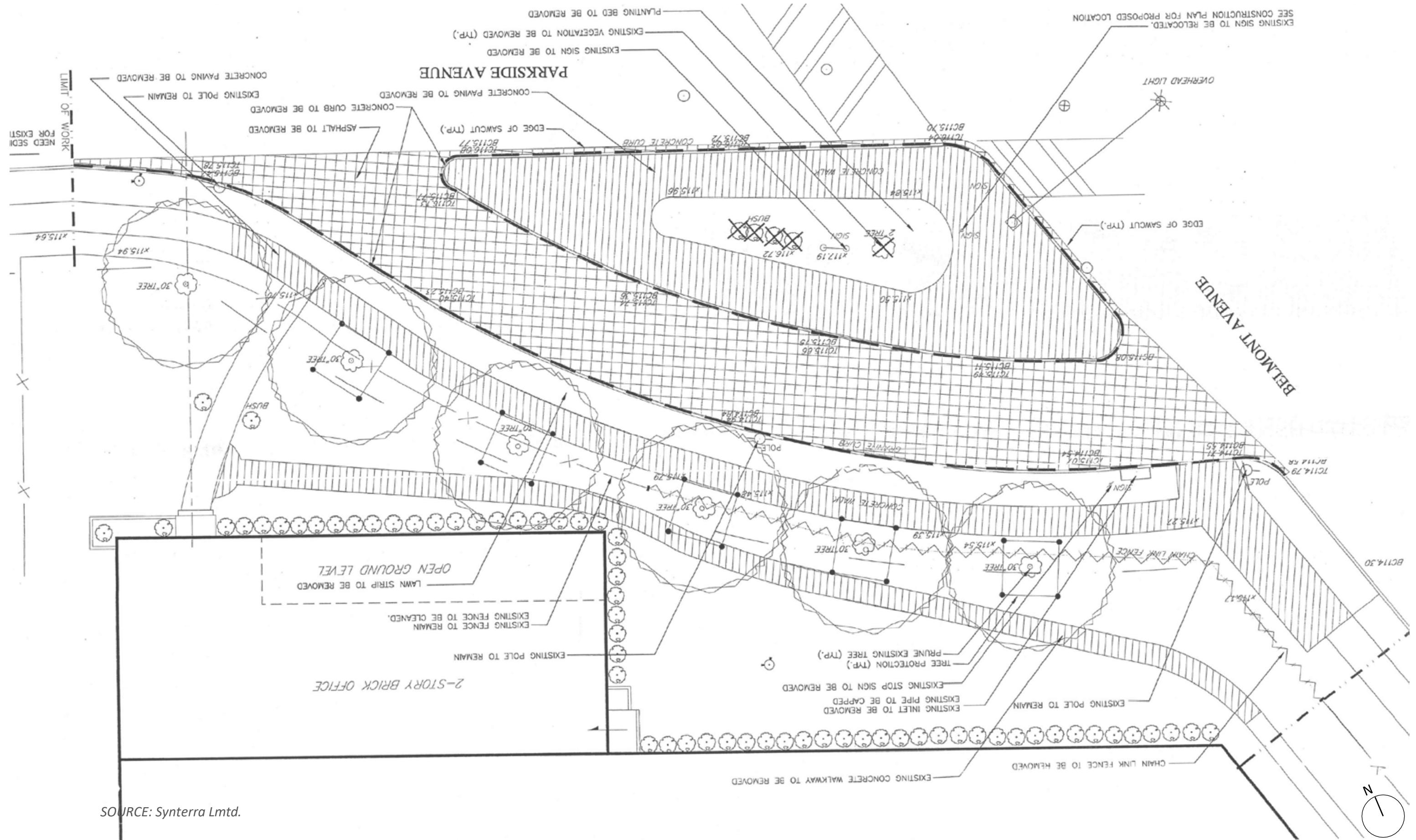
Penmar Field Grandstands

SOURCE: Temple University Digital Collections



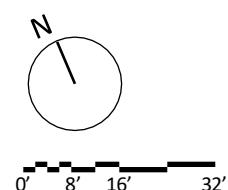
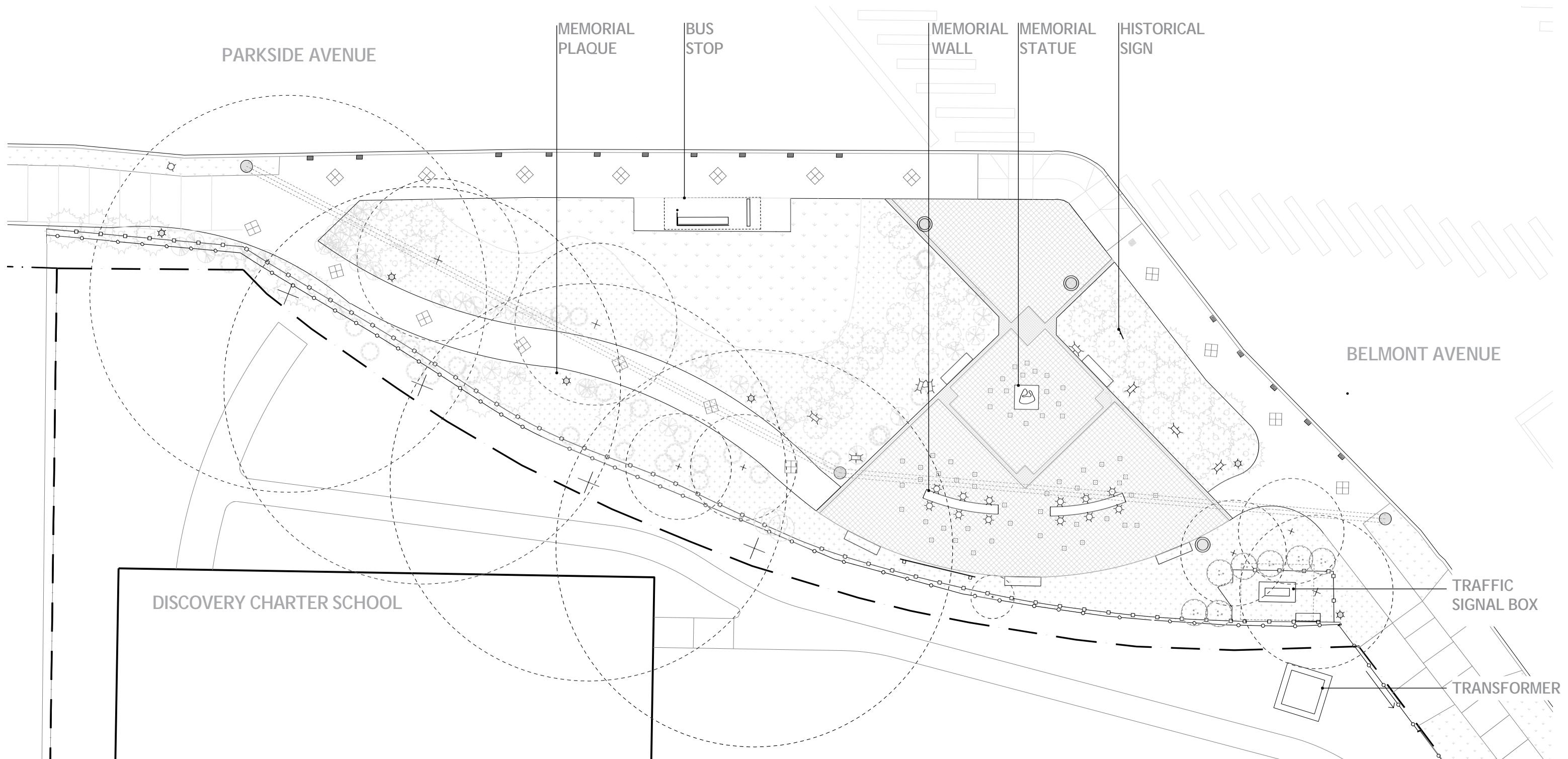
HISTORY PENMAR PARK

Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

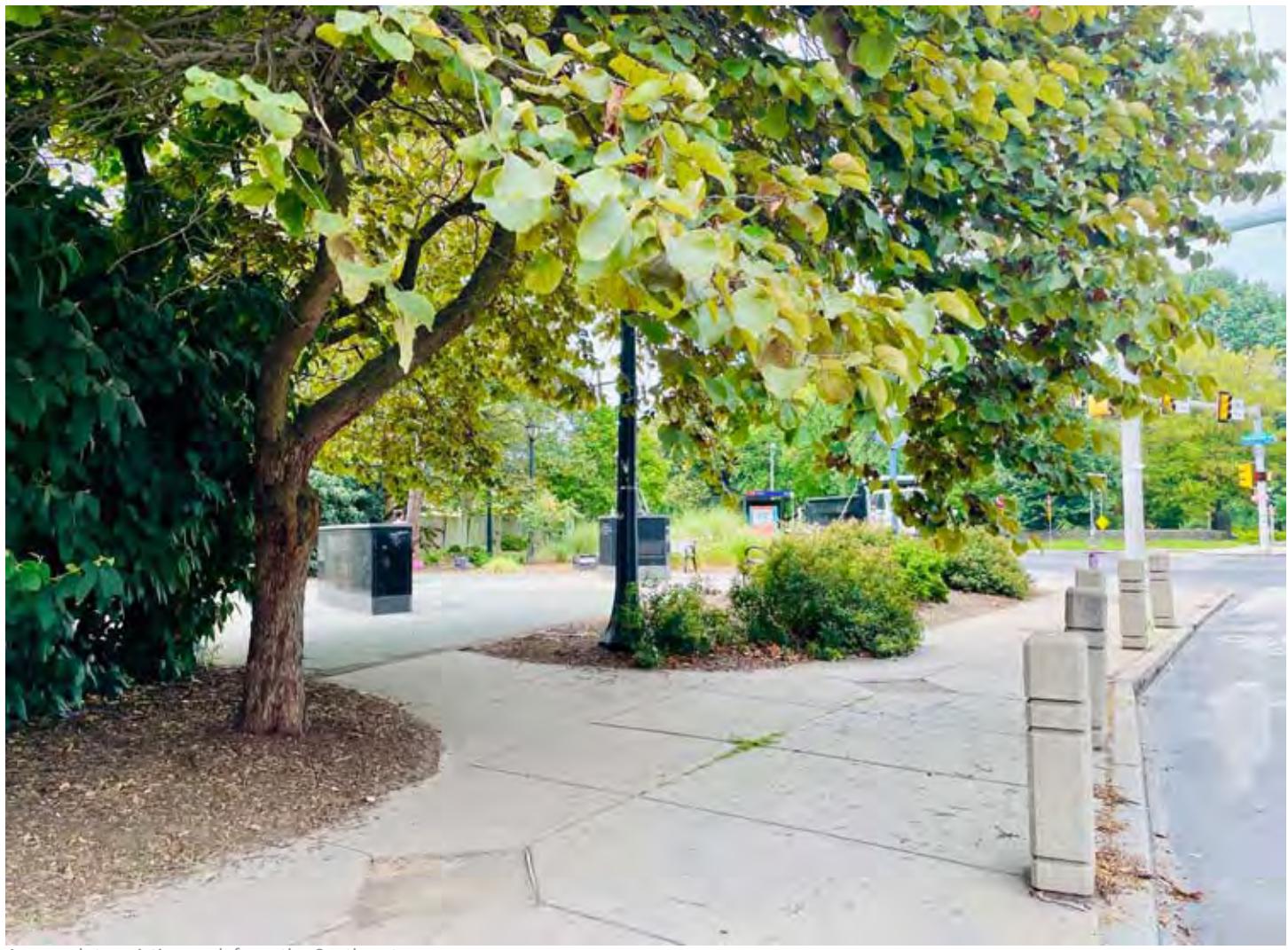


HISTORY PREVIOUS DEVELOPMENT

Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



CURRENT CONDITIONS
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



Approach to existing park from the Southeast



Existing Memorial Statue and Walls



Existing mural dedicated to Philadelphia Stars on building facade facing existing park. Mural is in process of being removed.

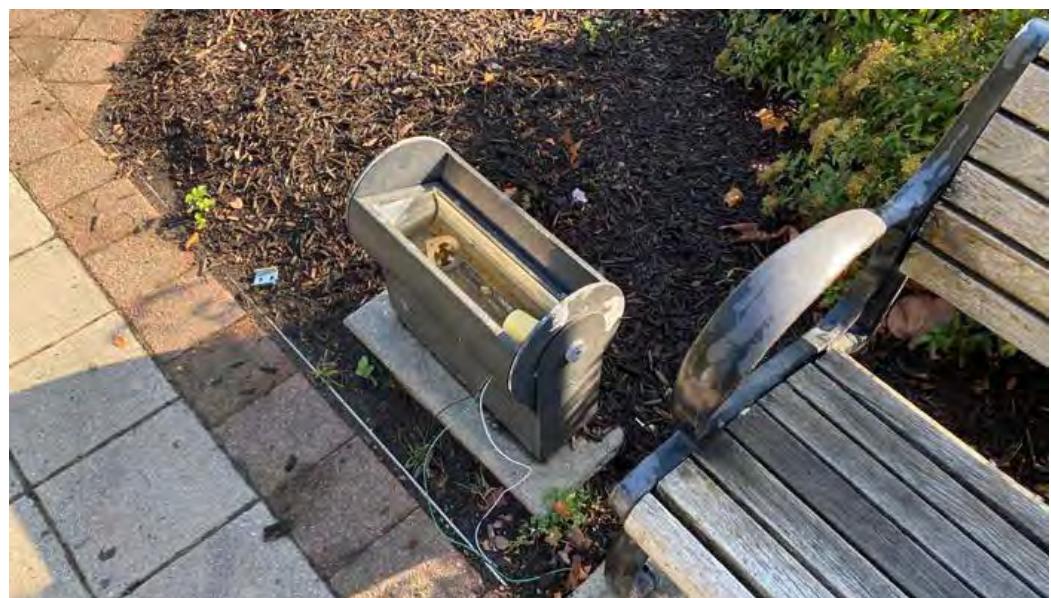
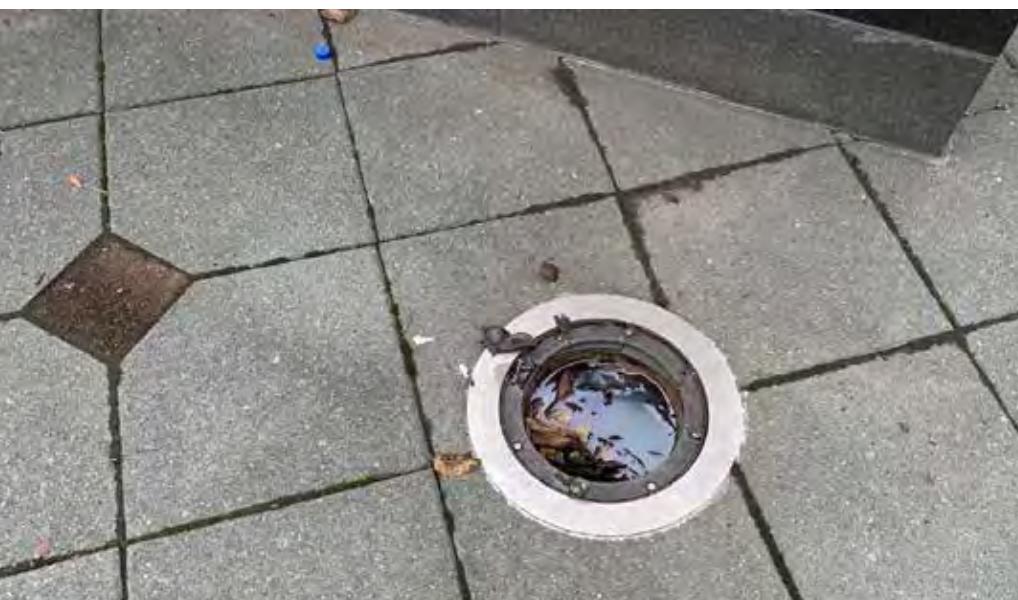
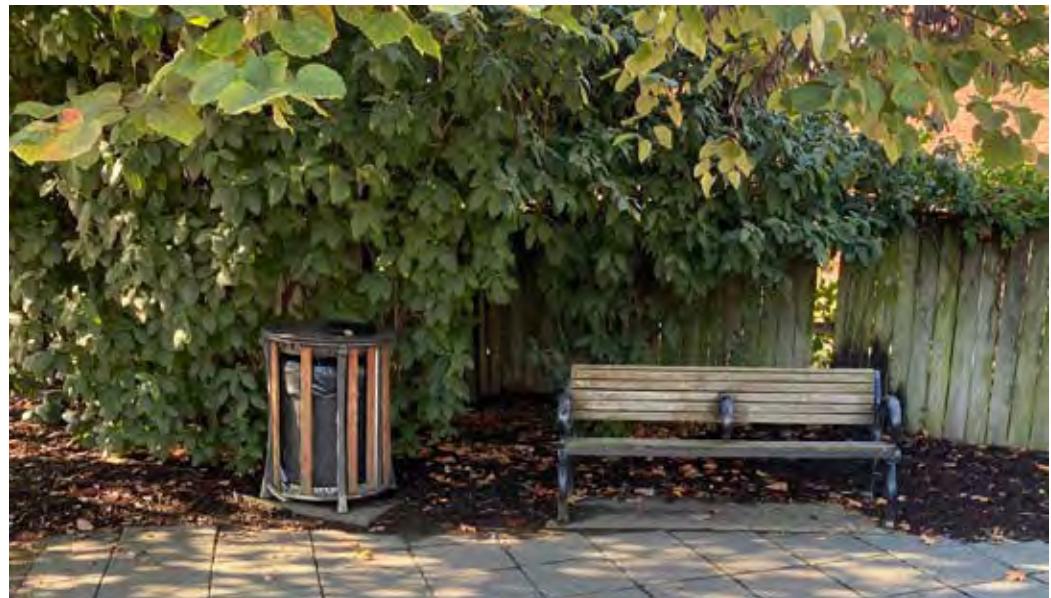


Approach to existing park from the West



Existing fence separating existing park and Discovery Charter School (school side)

CURRENT CONDITIONS
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



CURRENT CONDITIONS

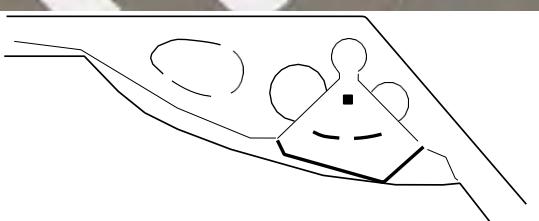
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



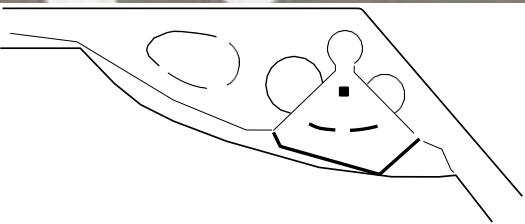
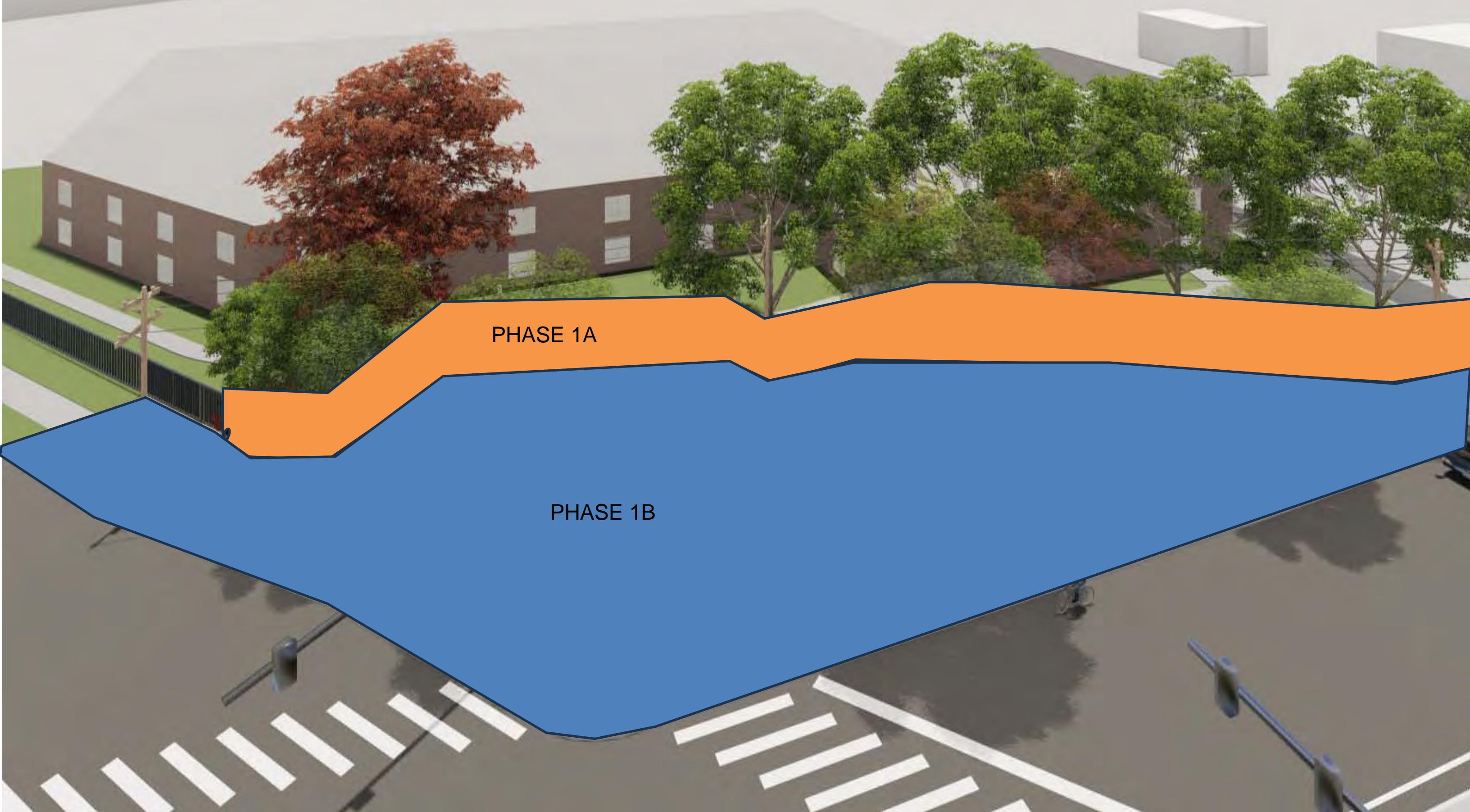
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



NEW MURAL AND SCREEN WALL INSTALLATION
TO BE REVIEWED AT A LATER DATE. SHOWN FOR
CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

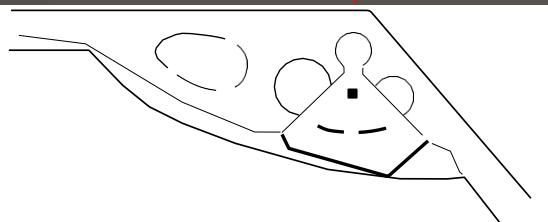


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PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



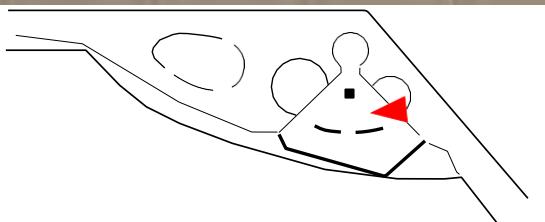
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PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



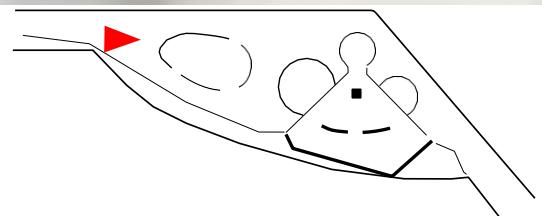
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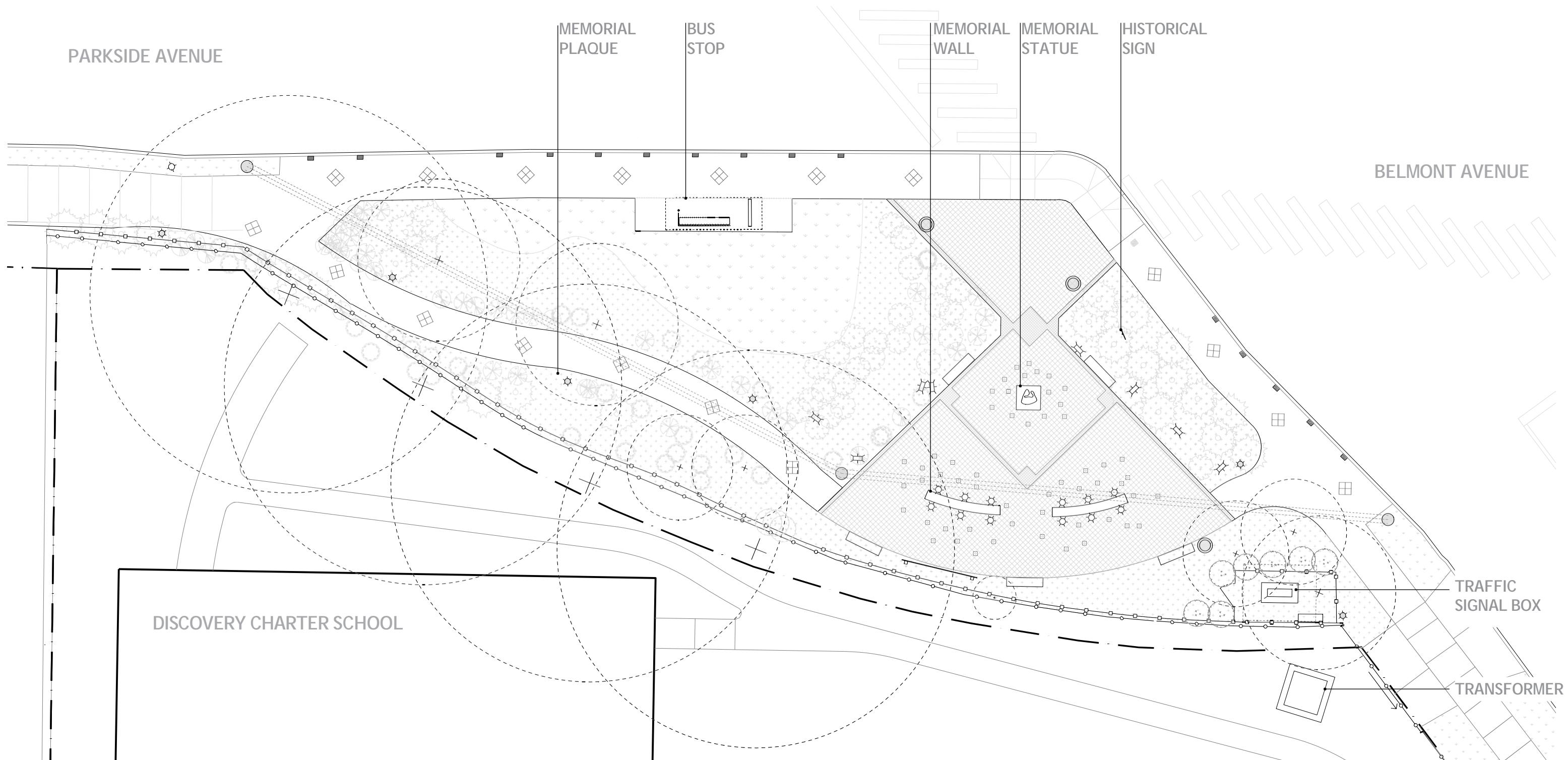
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



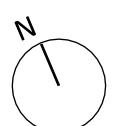
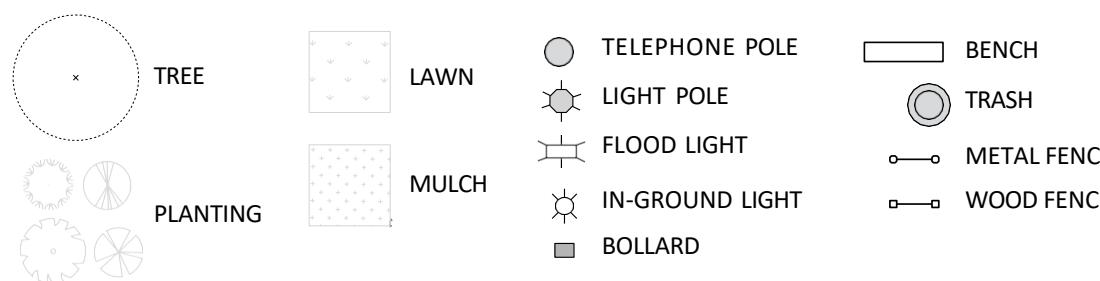
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PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



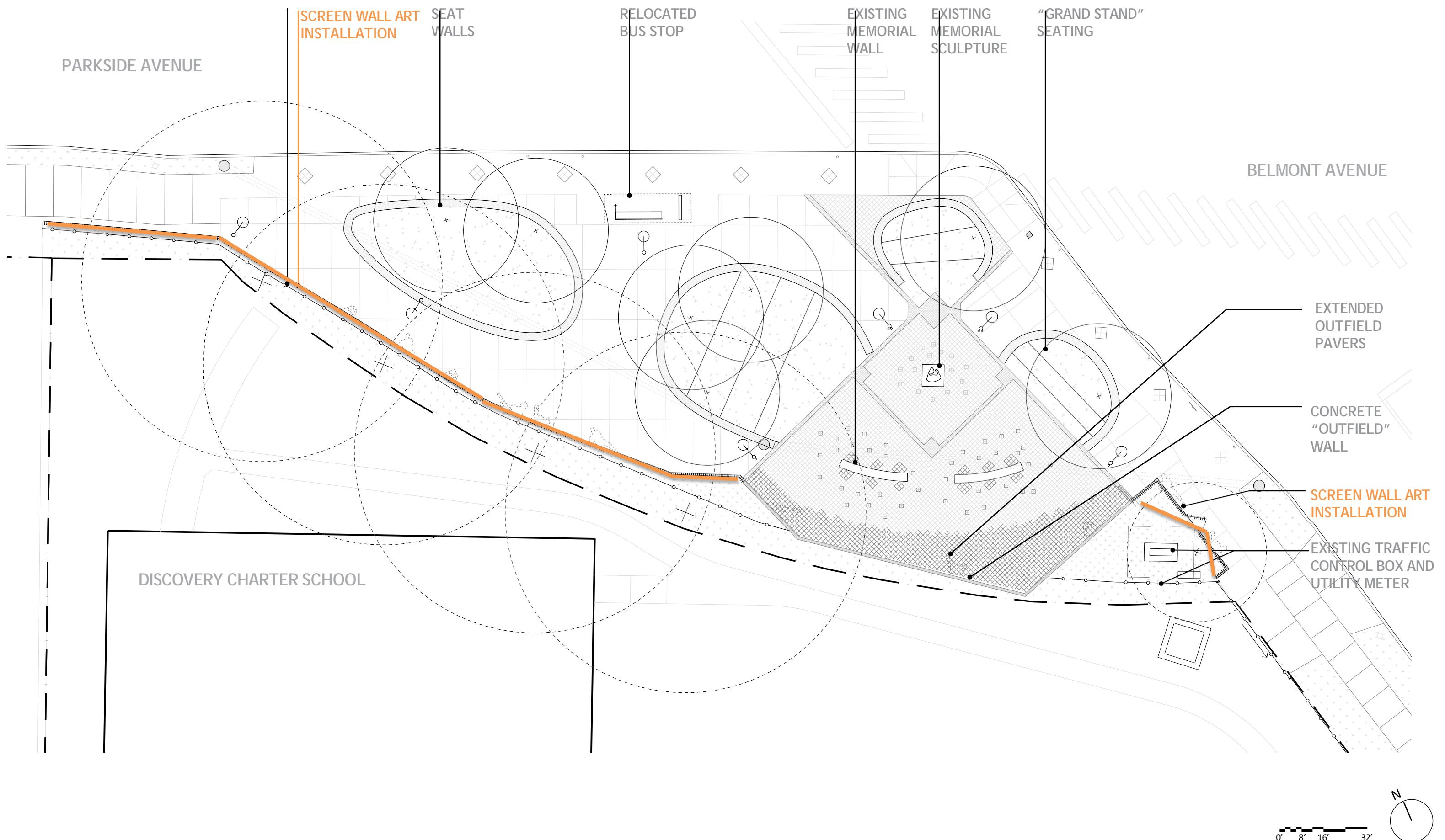
LEGEND



0' 8' 16' 32'

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

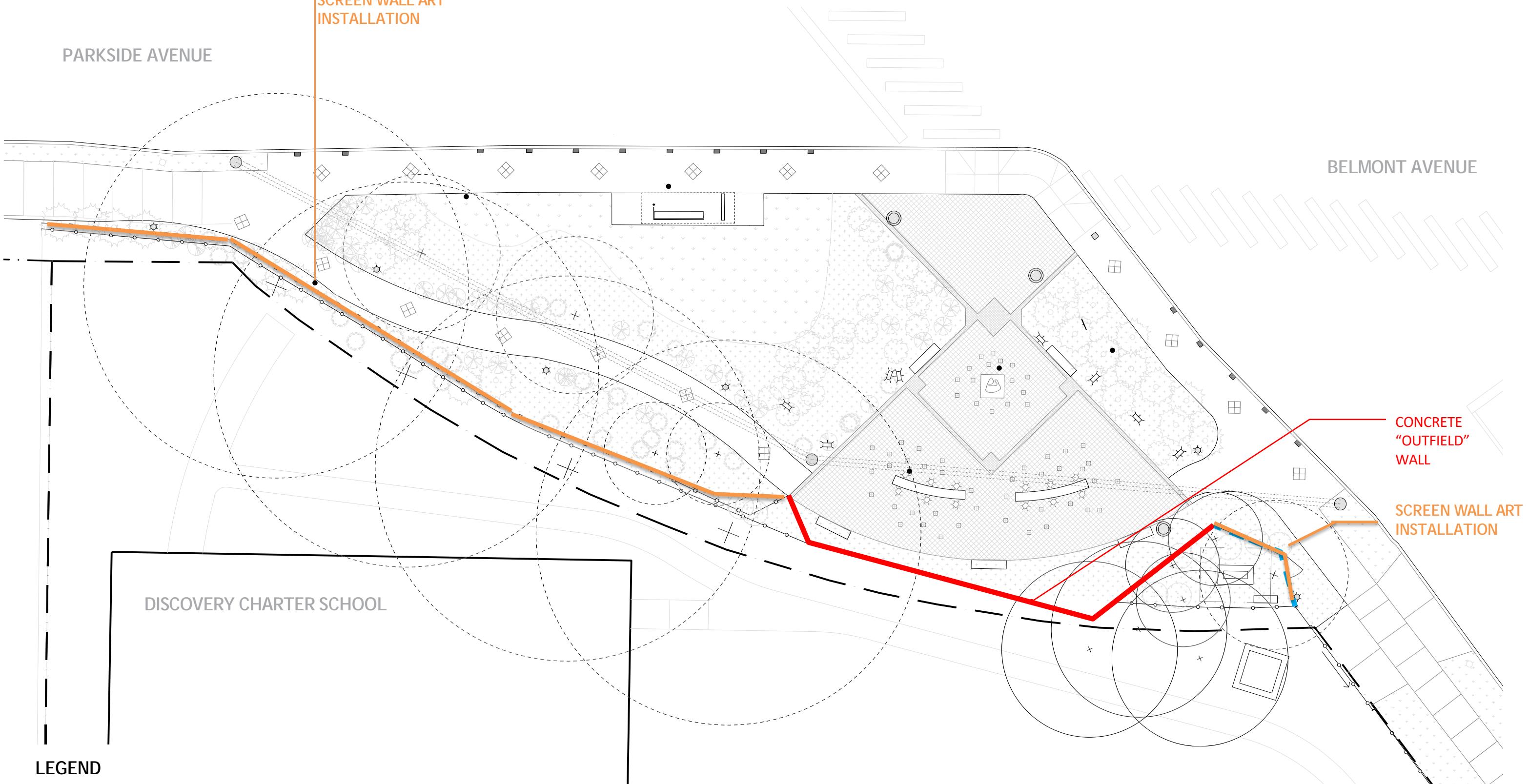


PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS MARCH 2023
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

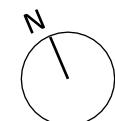
SCREEN WALL ART
INSTALLATION

PARKSIDE AVENUE

BELMONT AVENUE



0' 8' 16' 32'



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1A
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



2024 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



2024 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



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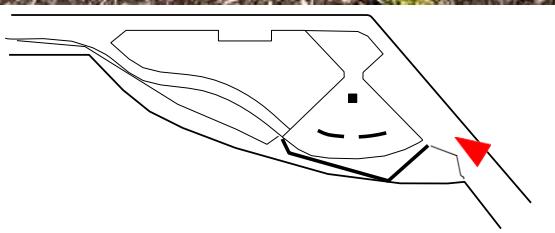
2024 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
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2024 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
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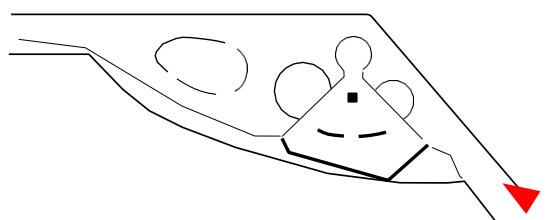


EXISTING CONDITIONS

Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



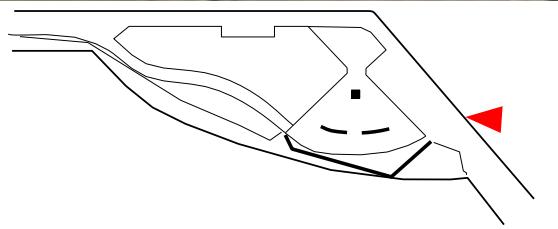
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1B
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



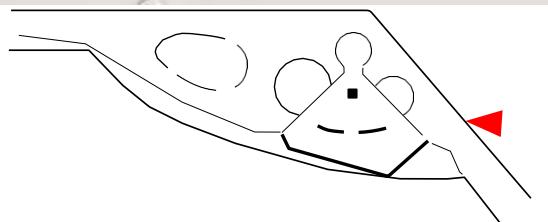
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1A
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



Google



EXISTING CONDITIONS
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1B
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1A
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

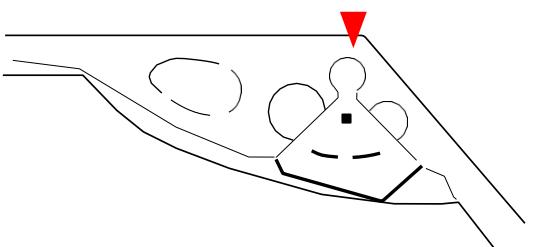


EXISTING CONDITIONS

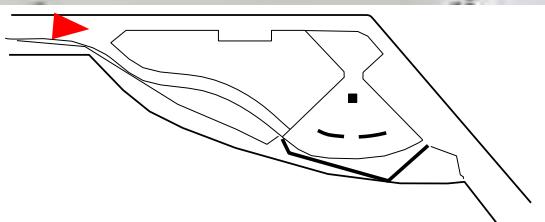
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1B
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

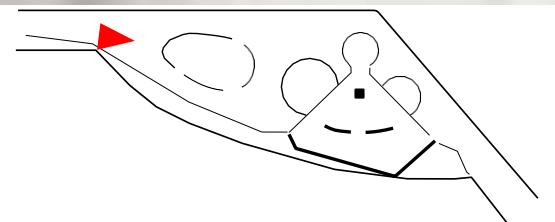


PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1A
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1B
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1A
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

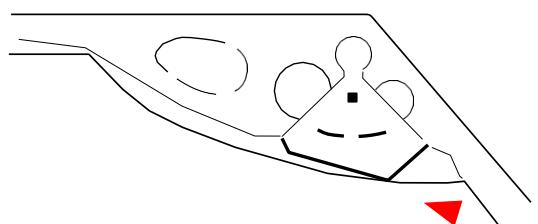


PROJECTION WALL OPTION*

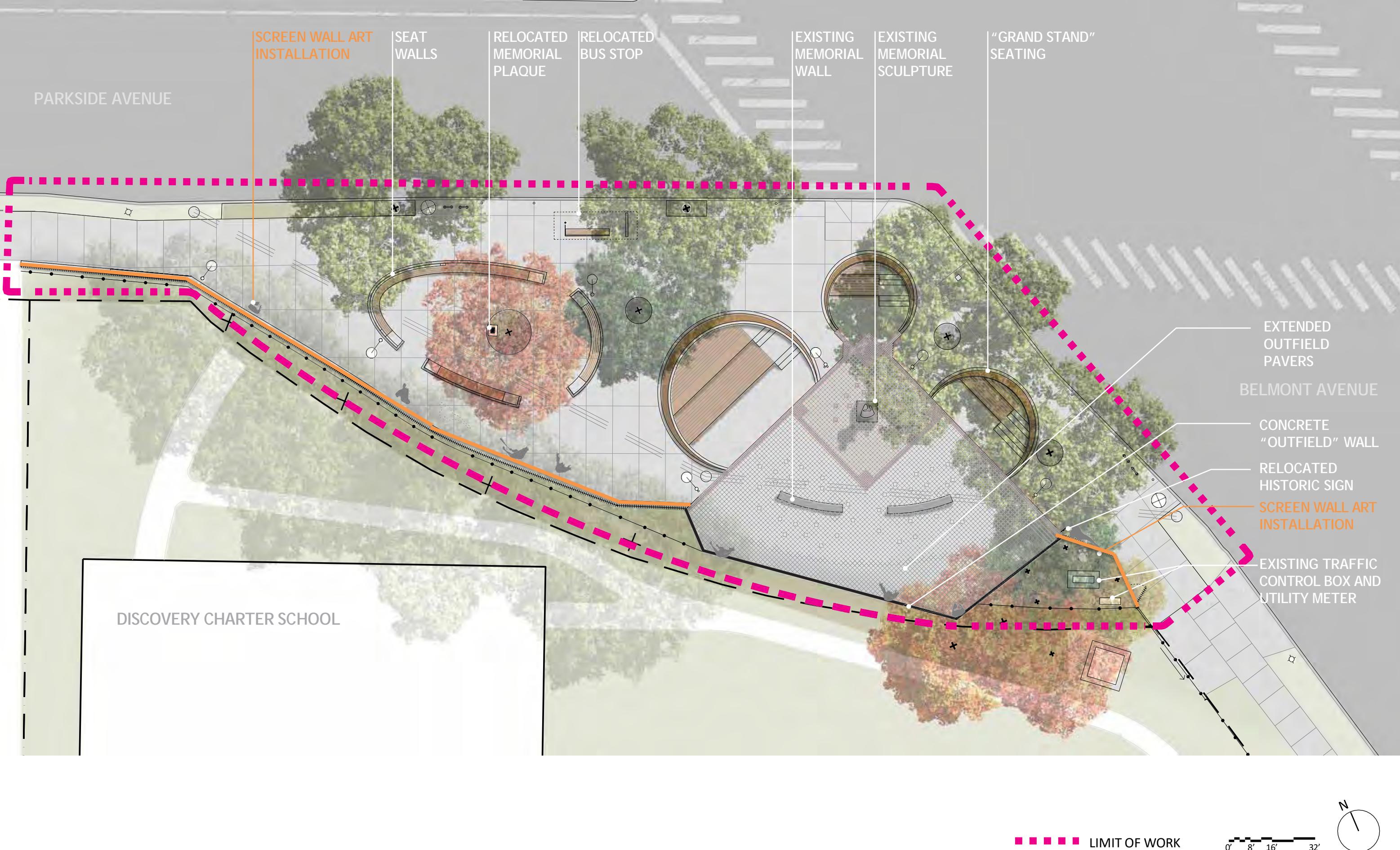
*IMAGES REVIEWED WITH DISCOVERY CHARTER SCHOOL



MURAL WALL OPTION*

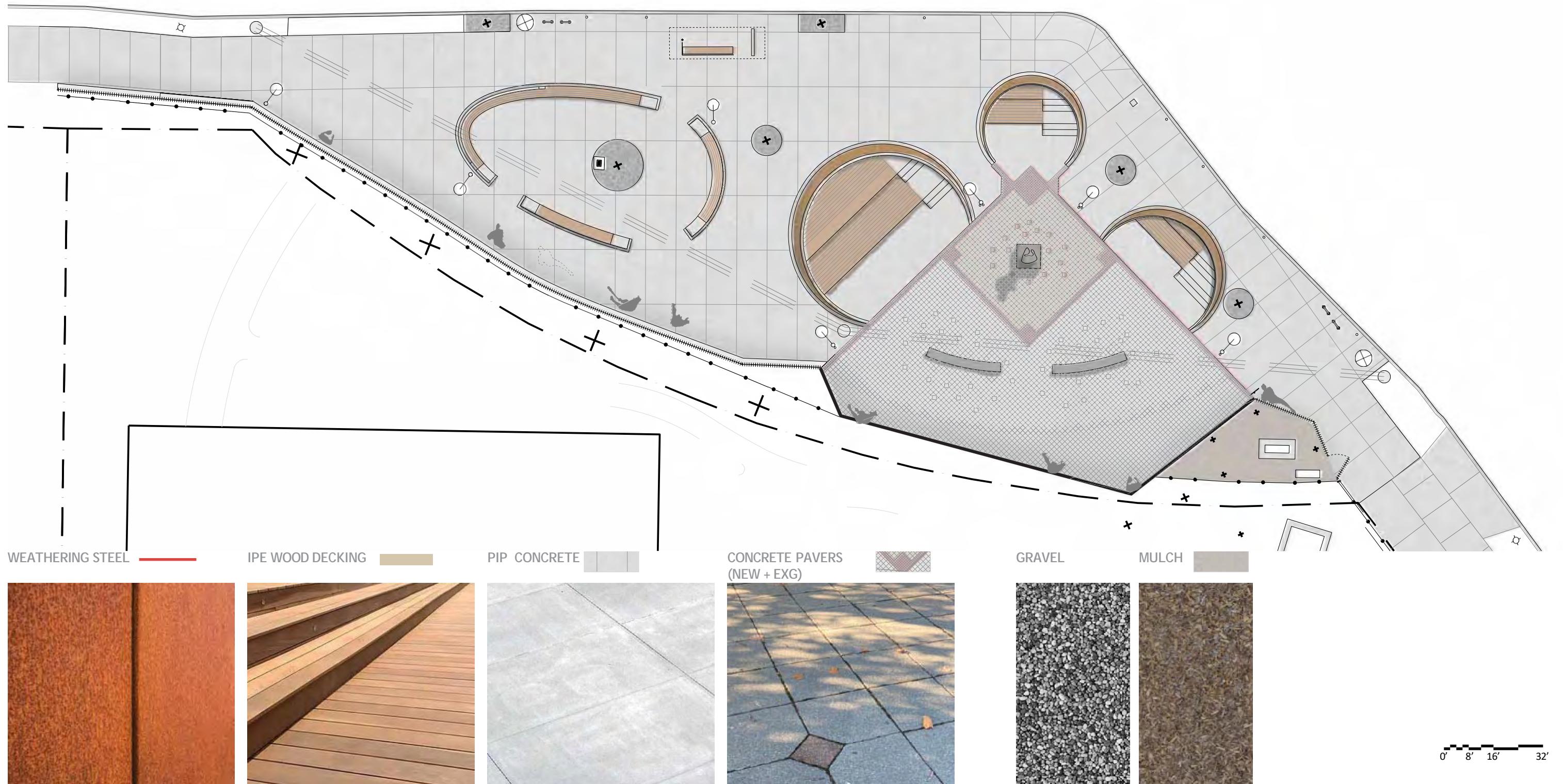


PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1A
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

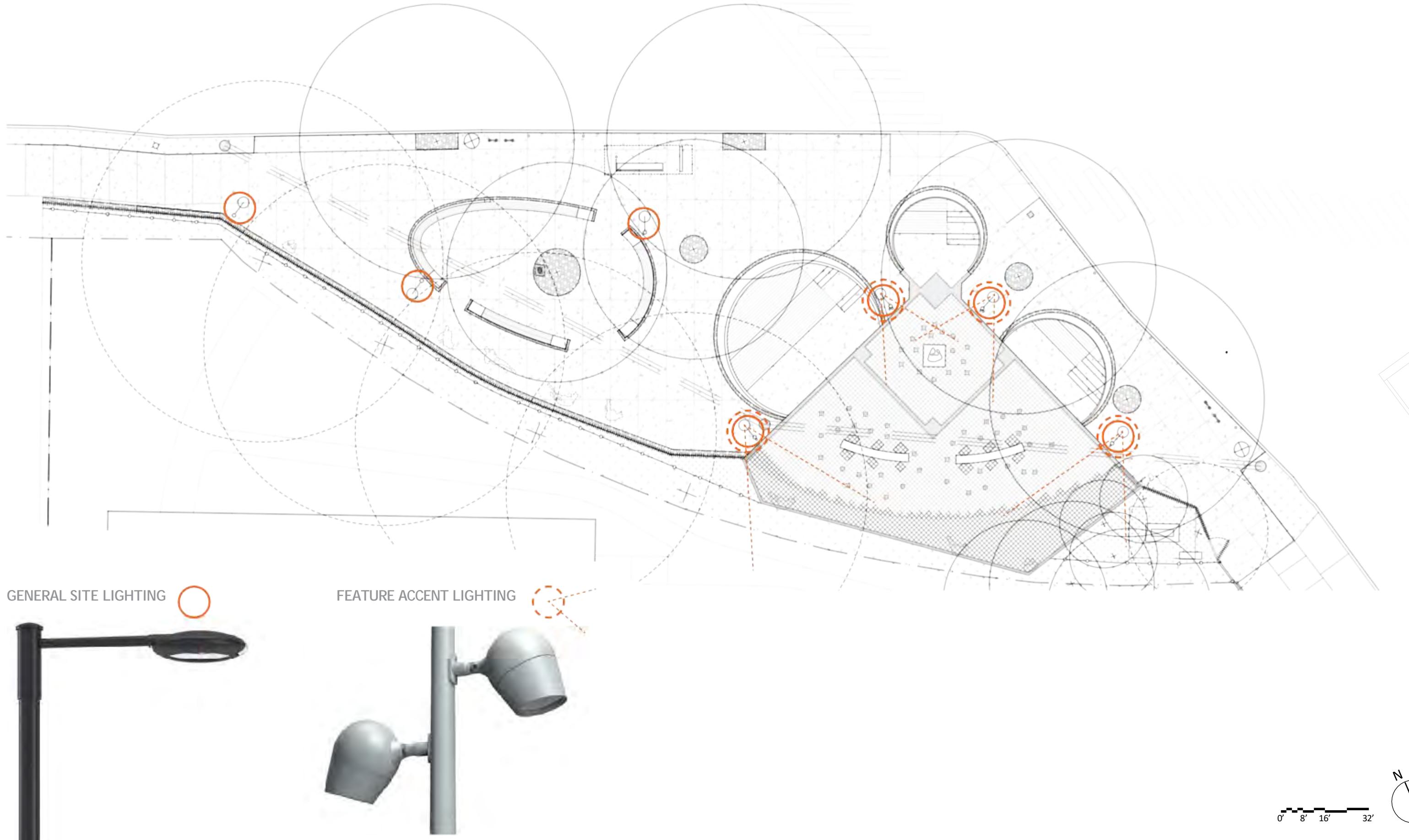


PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1B
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

MATERIALS

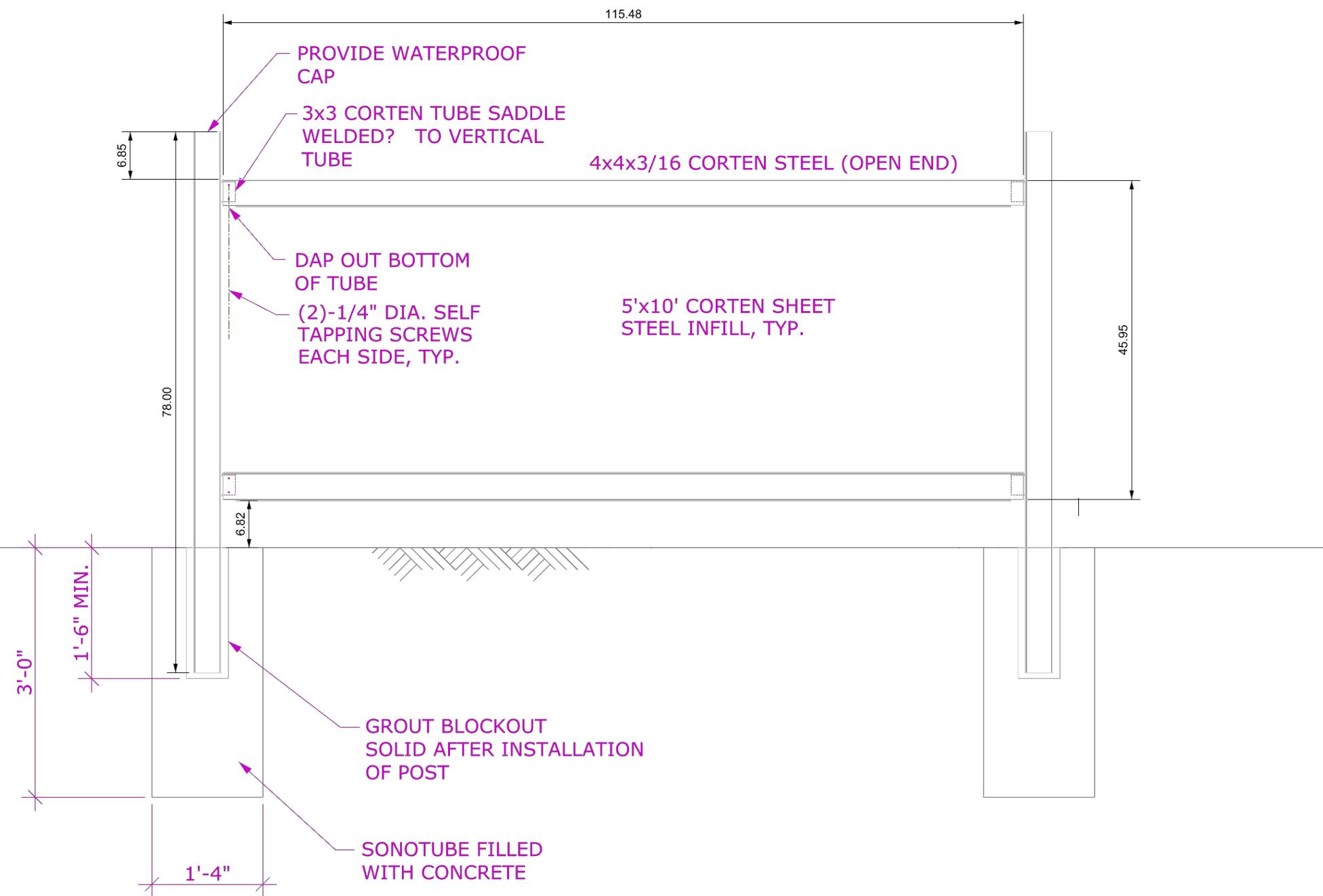


PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1B
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

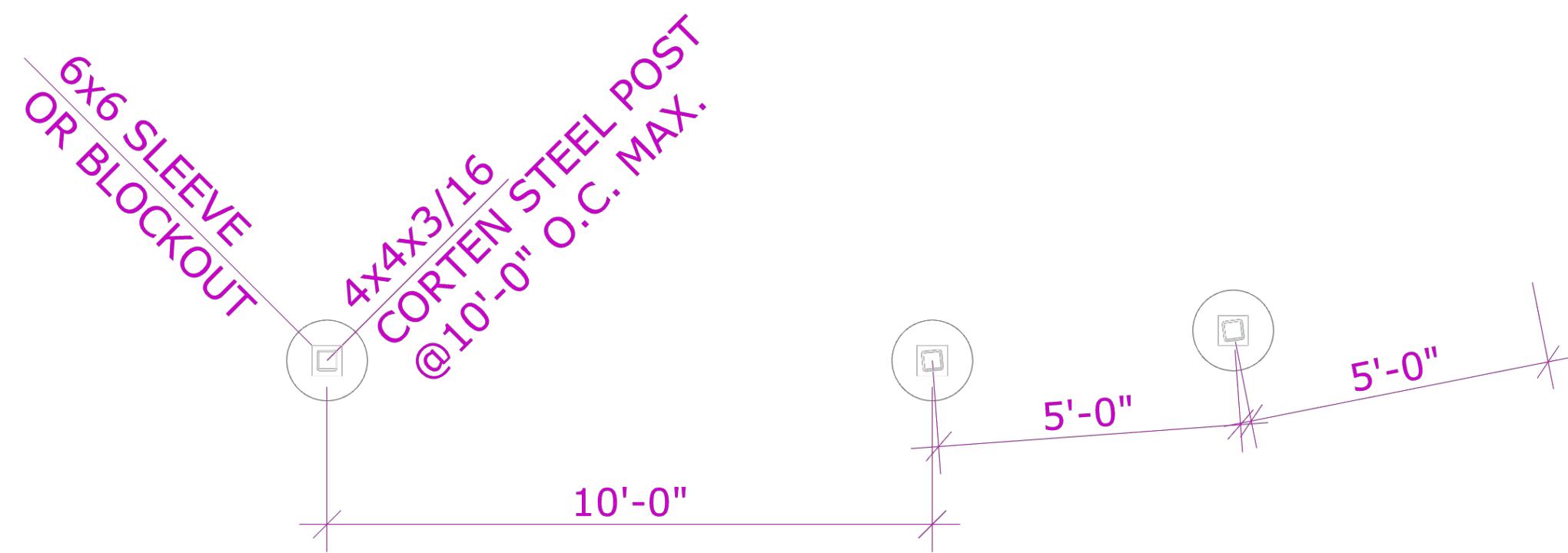


* SELECTIONS FROM PPR STANDARDS

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1B
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



STRUCTURAL DESIGN ELEVATION
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



STRUCTURAL DESIGN PLAN VIEW
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

BOLDEN'S
Phila. STARS



THANK YOU

APPENDICES



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS CONTEXT
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park



RELATED WORKS HIJO DEL ALMA
JOSE MANUEL COLLAZO PLAYGROUND



RELATED WORKS HIJO DEL ALMA
JOSE MANUEL COLLAZO PLAYGROUND



Jose Manuel Collazo 1964 - 1974

Playground est. 2001
Renovated 2017

“Hijo Del Alma” (Son of My Soul)
poem by
José Martí

translated by
Tyler Fisher

“Hijo Del Alma”
2018
Laser cut powder-coated steel
by
Miguel Hora

Artworks made possible with support from:
City of Philadelphia
Trust for Public Land
National Endowment for the Arts
Comisión FJC
Philadelphia Mural Arts Program
Taller de Aerotipografía

Son of my soul,
You float above all
The billowing swells
Of the turbulent night,
On my uncovered chest
Leave you only at dawn;
And the dark, bitter spine
Of the turbulent night
In the day will propel you
Back out with the tides.

Heroic Wee watchman,
Beloved, you guard
The unconsaled door
Of my innermost spirit;
If you hide in shadow
My various sorrows
Pursue me with avarice,
Craving my calm;
Within the dark threshold
Ferocious you rise,
And close off their passage
With your white wings!

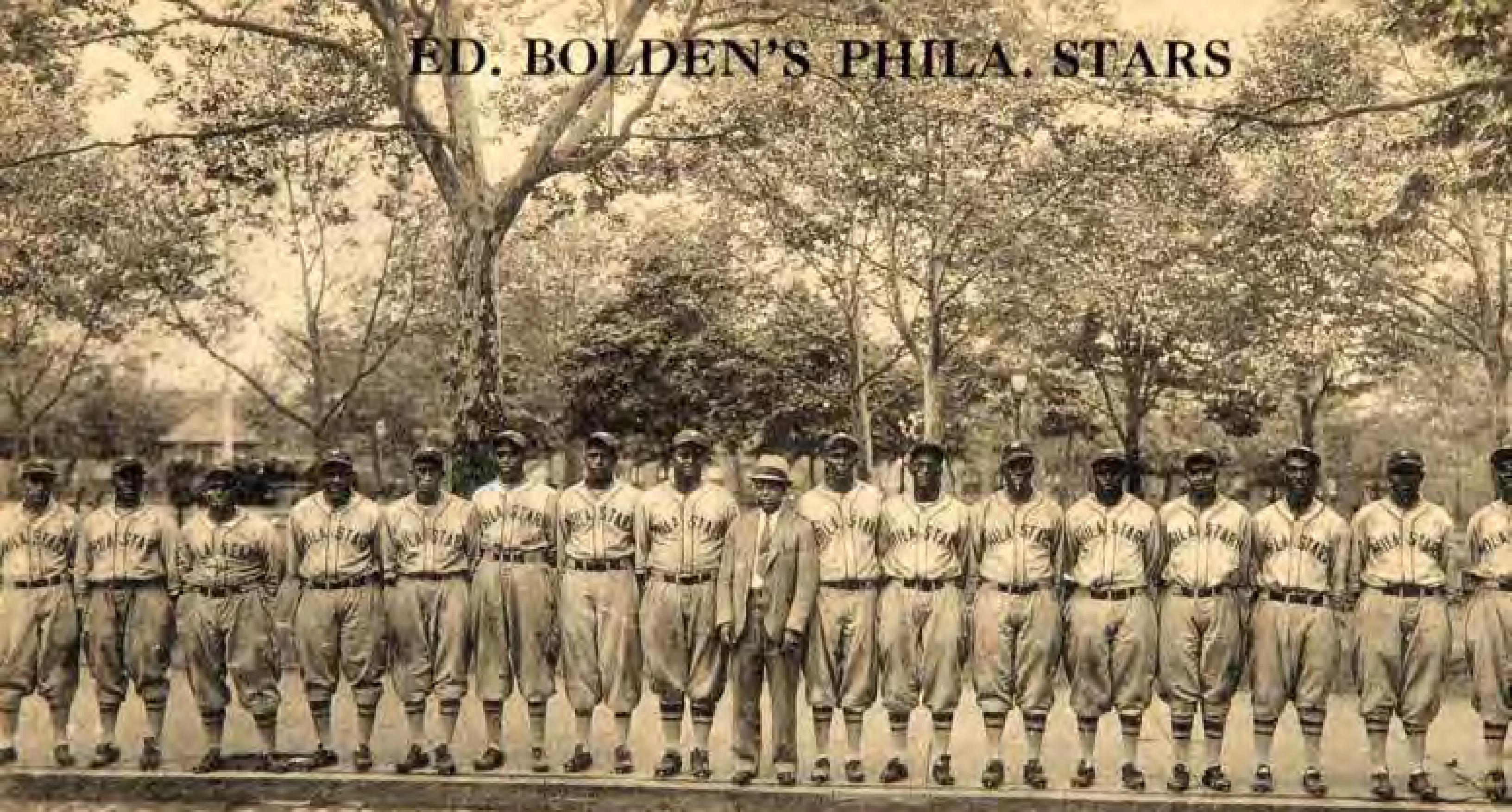
The morning brings billows
Of flowers and light,
And you ride like a horseman
On luminous waves.
No, that which invokes me
Is not the bright daylight,
But rather your soft, little
Hands on my pillow.

Some speak of your distance:
It's madness they speak!
They might have your shadow,
But I have your soul!
Those matters are novel.
Are mine yet foreign.

I know your eyes glisten
In faraway lands,
In gold waves of air
That assail my pale forehead.
I cooed, with my hand
As if harvesting stars,
Gleaning sheaves, I could reap
Shafts of light from your glances!
Son of my soul,
You float above all!

RELATED WORKS HIJO DEL ALMA
JOSE MANUEL COLLAZO PLAYGROUND

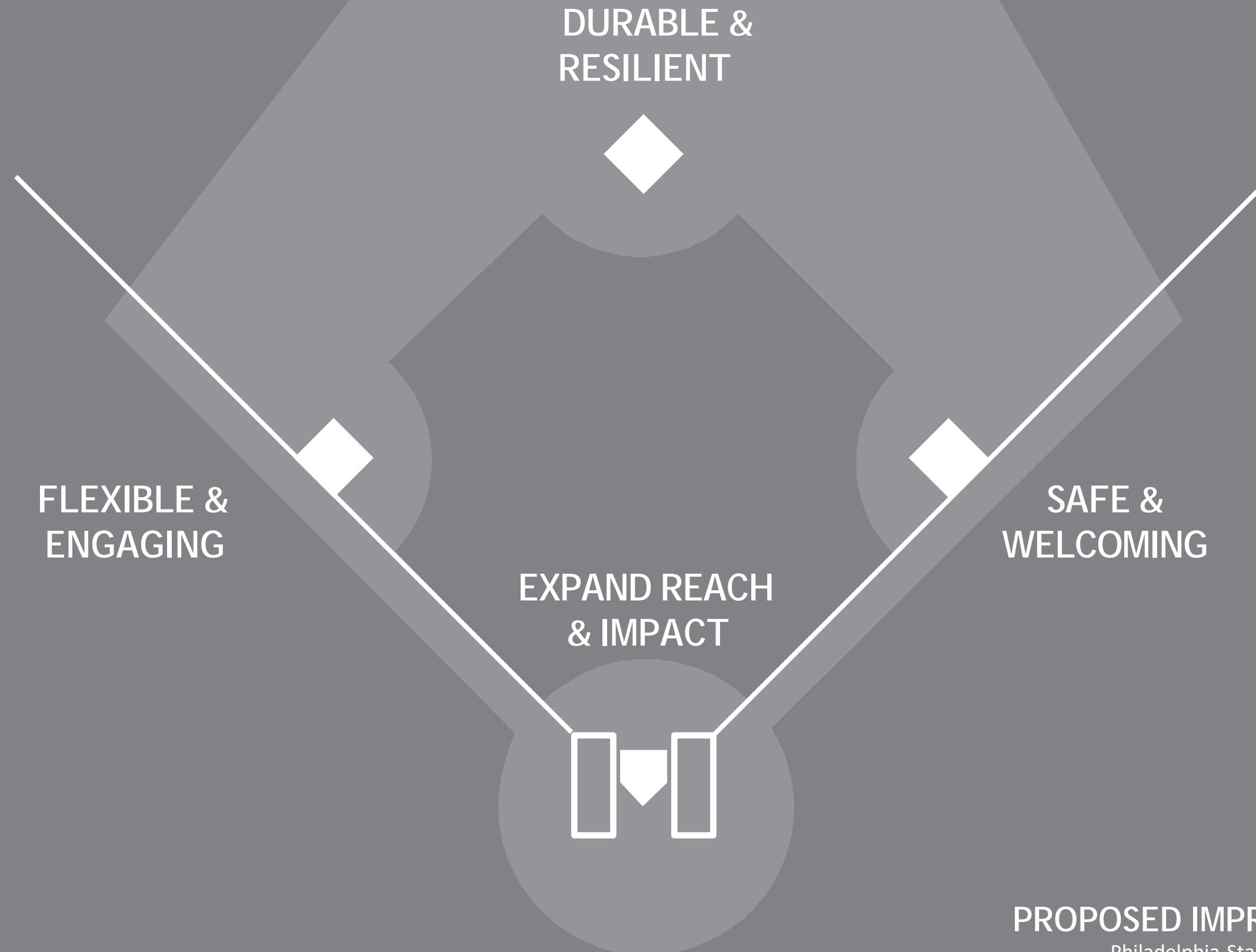
ED. BOLDEN'S PHILA. STARS

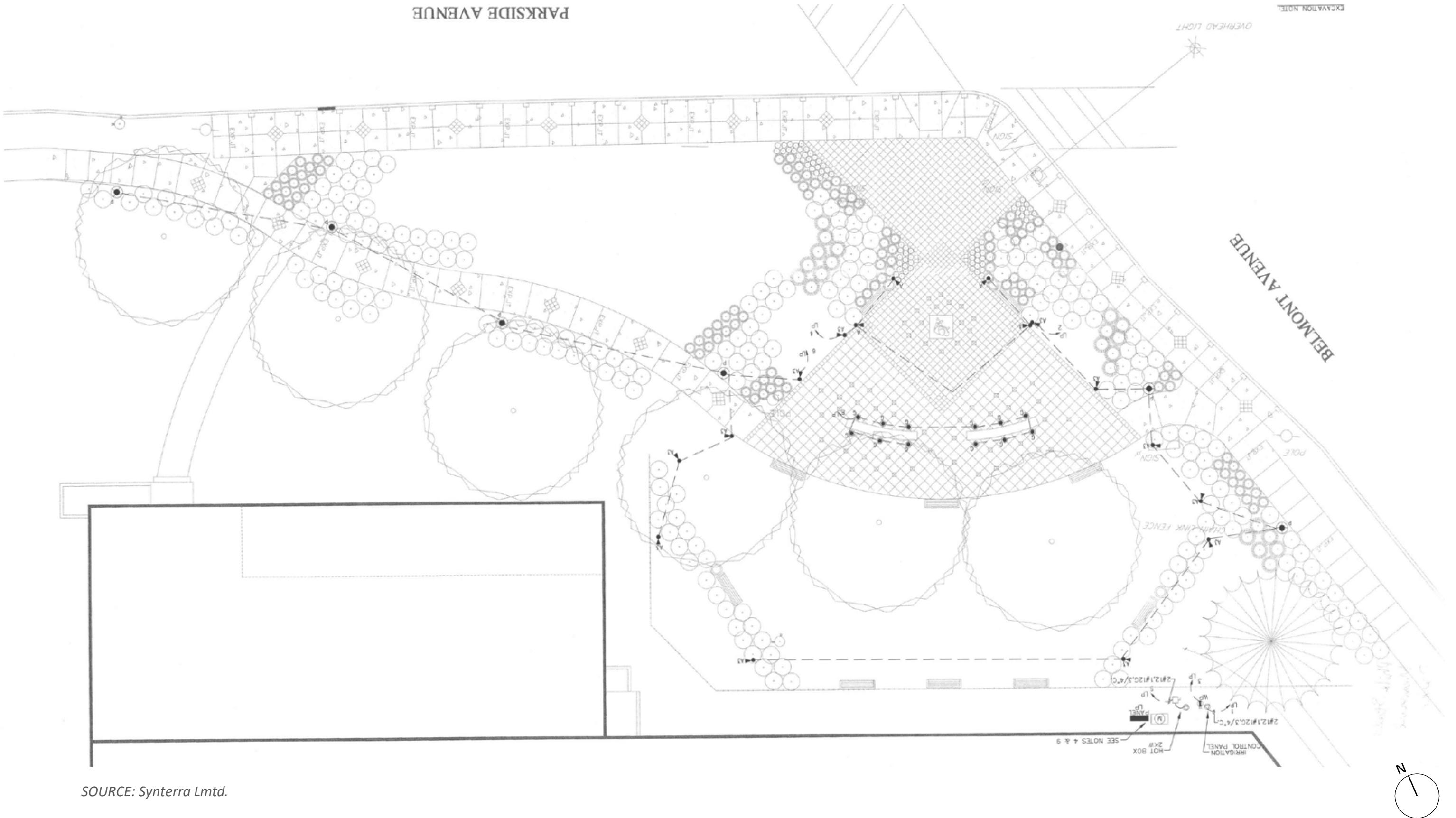


Left to right:- "Jake" Stevens, 2B; Herb Smith, P; Casey, C; Jud Wilson, 3B; Pete Washington, GP; Allen, P; Porter Charleston, P; Biz Mackey, C; Ed Bolden, Mgr.; Paul Carter, P; R. Dixon, RF; Dick Lundy, SS; Chaney White, LF; Eggy Dallard, Infielder; Eddie McDonald, P; Tom Finley, Utility.

HISTORY PHILADELPHIA STARS
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park

GOALS OF RENOVATION





SOURCE: Synterra Lmtd.

HISTORY PREVIOUS DEVELOPMENT
Philadelphia Stars Negro League Memorial Park