

Art Commission Review – Submittal Form

(Applicant complete below section)

Project Name: Simons Recreation Center - Boxing and Gymnastics

Project Address: 7200 Woolston Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19138 **On Public Property?** Yes No

Total Budget: \$16,000,000 **Utilizing City Funds?** Yes (specify amount): 100% No

Project Type (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Public Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Project Team:

Agency/Org.: City of Philadelphia, PPR Design Lead (firm): Heckendorn Shiles Archite

Other: _____

Primary Contact for Project Communications:

Name: Jared Bookhamer

Affiliation: Architect

Email: [REDACTED]

(Art Commission staff complete below section)

Art Commission Meeting Date of Project Review: 5/13/26

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):

New building construction. Separate project consisting of exterior improvements elsewhere on site previously approved by Art Commission in July 2023.

COVER LETTER – Simons Recreation Center Gymnastics & Boxing Center

To: **Philadelphia Art Commission**

From: **Jared Bookhamer, AIA**

CC: **Aparna Palantino, City of Philadelphia - Deputy Managing Director, Capital Program Office**
Pedro Pinto, City of Philadelphia - Deputy Director, Project Management
Matt Heckendorn, Heckendorn Shiles Architects
TJ Barszczewski, Heckendorn Shiles Architects

Date: **April 16, 2026**

Re: **Simons Recreation Center – New Building – Gymnastics & Boxing Center**
7200 Woolston Ave, Philadelphia

Project Background:

Simons Recreation Center serves as an important neighborhood recreation facility providing indoor and outdoor programming for youth and community members. The site is currently undergoing a significant City-led renovation effort focused on improving the outdoor recreational amenities and overall functionality of the campus.

The broader site project includes improvements to outdoor athletic and recreation areas, circulation, and gathering spaces intended to enhance the facility’s ability to serve the surrounding community. While the outdoor improvements significantly expand programming opportunities, the existing building has limited capacity to support several growing programs and lacks sufficient storage space for recreation equipment associated with the expanded site uses.

The existing conditions therefore present both operational challenges and opportunities. As the site improvements progress, the need for additional indoor program space and dedicated storage areas has become increasingly evident in order to support the full functionality of the renovated recreation campus.

At the request of the Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation, the project proposes the addition of a new building that will support key recreation programs and provide appropriate operational support space for the facility.

The proposed structure will provide dedicated space for the recreation center’s boxing and gymnastics programs, both of which benefit from clear-span interior spaces that allow for flexible layouts and safe athletic training environments. In addition, the building will include a large storage facility to support both the expanded site programming and the operational needs of the recreation center.

COVER LETTER – Simons Recreation Center Gymnastics & Boxing Center

The proposed building will function as a programmatic extension of the recreation center, supporting expanded athletic opportunities while ensuring the facility can effectively operate and maintain the newly renovated site.

The objective of the project is to complete all of the renovations by the end of this year.

Existing Building Materials and Character

The existing recreation center buildings exhibit a playful and varied material palette that reflects the civic and recreational nature of the facility. The primary building incorporates glazed masonry units in multiple colors and scales, combined with areas of painted brick, creating a lively composition of masses across the façades.

Openings within the existing structures are generally minimal and designed with durability and security in mind. Windows are limited in size and typically include utilitarian security grilles, while most exterior doors are solid metal doors with small porthole-style vision panels, also protected with security grilles.

At the enclosed hockey rink portion of the facility, the exterior treatment transitions to painted stucco to approximately 10 feet above grade, with ribbed metal wall panels and translucent wall panels above, allowing natural light to enter the space while maintaining durability and security.

Additional elements across the campus reflect the operational nature of the recreation facility. Metal screen enclosures have been added in select locations of lower roof lines to limit access to the roof, providing a minimum 15' "parapet".

Several smaller existing outbuildings constructed of painted concrete are also located on the site and serve maintenance and storage functions.

As part of the ongoing site renovation project, new locker room buildings currently under construction introduce a more contemporary interpretation of the campus material palette. These structures utilize glazed brick in dark blue and yellow, establishing a durable and vibrant architectural expression consistent with the recreational identity of the site.

The new building location is being proposed to be overbuilt at the existing tennis courts. The existing courts were in disrepair and anticipated to be demolished to accommodate the new site project.

COVER LETTER – Simons Recreation Center Gymnastics & Boxing Center

Proposed Building Materials and Character

Due to the need for large open interior spaces and the project's accelerated delivery schedule, a pre-engineered building system with some onsite construction infill has been selected as the construction approach. This system allows for efficient long-span structural capability while also supporting the City's request that the project be completed by December 2026.

The proposed new building will draw from the durable material palette already present across the Simons Recreation Center campus while introducing a contemporary interpretation appropriate for a new recreational facility.

At the lower height portion of the building, glazed brick and masonry block will be used to establish a durable base that relates to both the existing recreation center building and the new locker room structures currently under construction. Above this masonry base, the façade will transition to a combination of insulated metal panels and translucent wall panels, allowing natural light into the interior program spaces while maintaining a robust exterior envelope suitable for an active recreation facility. The metal panel and translucent wall panels are intended to be similar to existing wall assemblies at the existing ice rink enclosure onsite.

The project team is evaluating opportunities to incorporate color accents within the façade, drawing inspiration from both the existing Simons Recreation Center building and other recently completed Parks and Recreation facilities throughout the city. These color elements will reinforce the recreational character of the building and visually connect the new structure with the broader campus. The color palate at the entrance of the building is intended to match the existing building entrance palate.

At the primary entry, the lobby and vestibule areas will incorporate larger expanses of glass to improve visibility and create a welcoming presence for visitors arriving from the site. These glazed areas will be protected with security screens consistent with Parks and Recreation standards.

Through these material and design strategies, the proposed building aims to complement the evolving Simons Recreation Center campus while providing a durable, functional, and visually engaging addition to the community facility.

COVER LETTER – Simons Recreation Center Gymnastics & Boxing Center

Construction Estimate

The current construction cost estimate is \$16,000,000.

Agenda Request

By copy of this cover letter, we are requesting placement on the May 13, 2026 Agenda.

Contact Information:

Questions regarding this application and Art Commission decisions should be sent to:

Jared Bookhamer, AIA
Heckendorn Shiles Architects
347 East Conestoga Road
Wayne, Pa 19087
610-994-3511 (Office Phone)
jared@hsarch.com

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA | MAY 5, 2026

SIMONS GYMNASTICS AND BOXING CENTER



CONTENTS

01 SITE CONDITIONS
EXISTING PHOTOS AND AERIAL VIEW

02 PREVIOUS PROJECTS ONSITE

03 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

04 PLANS AND ELEVATIONS
OUR PROPOSED DESIGN

05 RENDERINGS
A VIEW INTO SIMONS

01

SITE CONDITIONS

SITE LOCATION





EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

Adjacent to existing Simons Recreation Center



01



02

KEY PLAN:



03



04

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

Adjacent to existing Simons Recreation Center



01



02

KEY PLAN:



SIMONS REC
SCANLON ICE RINK

03



EXISTING
METAL PANEL

04

CURRENT CONSTRUCTION

Adjacent to existing Simons Recreation Center

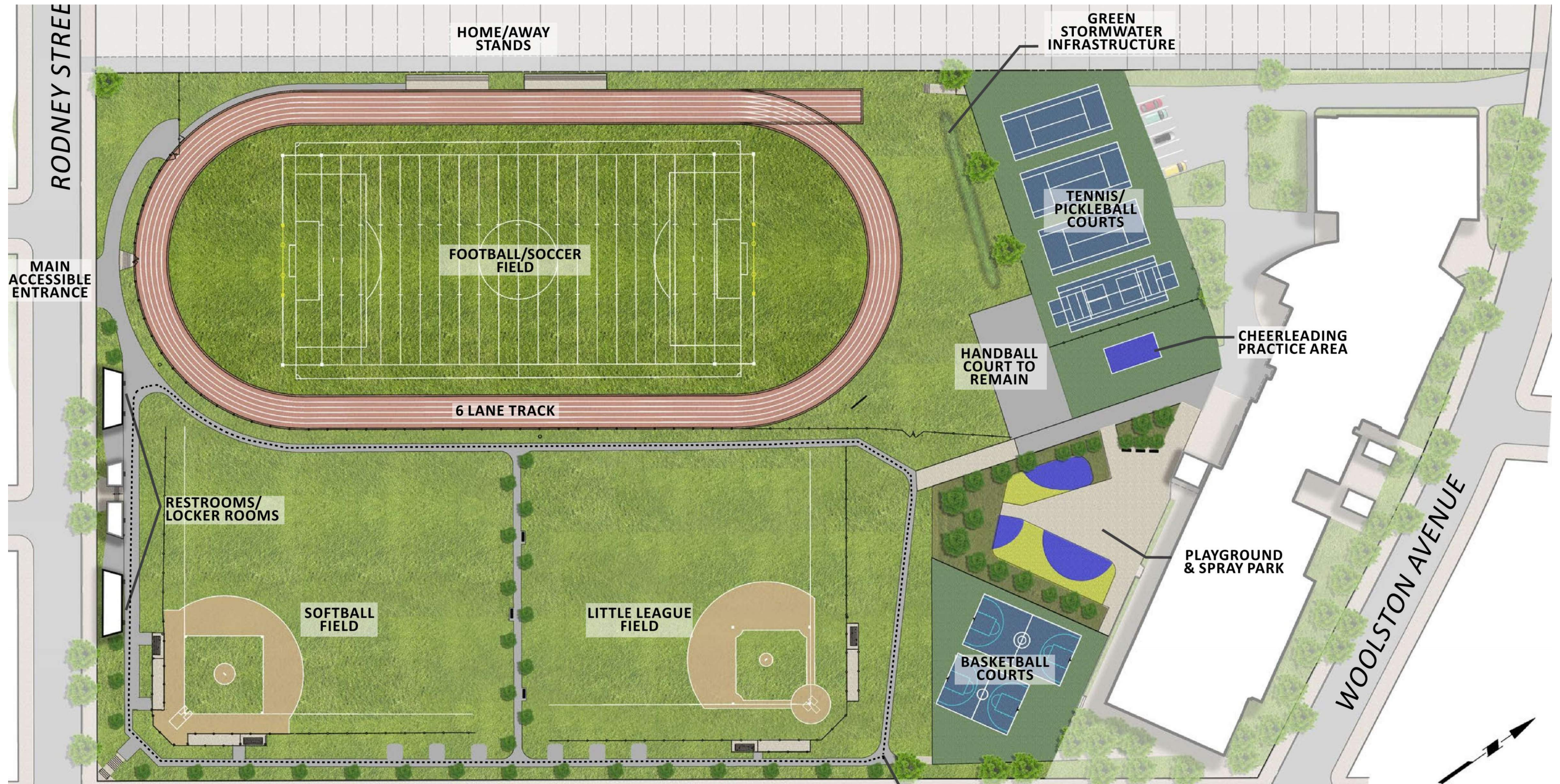
KEY PLAN:



02

PREVIOUS PROJECTS ONSITE

PHASE 1 PREVIOUS PLAN APPROVED BY ART COMMISSION - AS PER EDITS SUBMITTED JULY 20, 2023



03

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

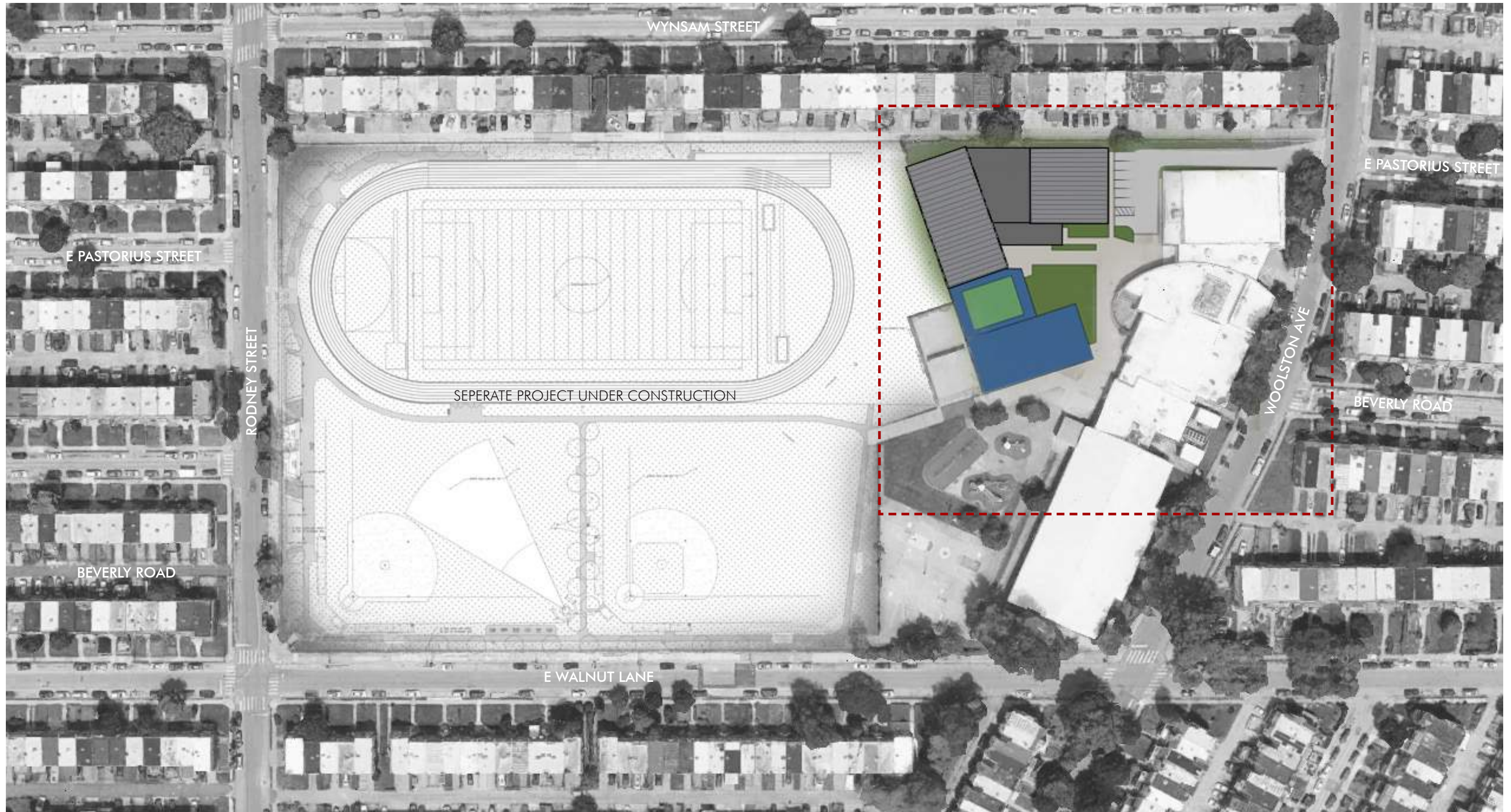
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the process of site and building improvements at Simons community engagement has been the primary source for the determination of project scope. In fact, this new structure is being proposed in response to the stated need for facilities to house programs for gymnastics and boxing and to provide storage for field and other site equipment. There is, therefore, broad-based community support for this new facility.








04

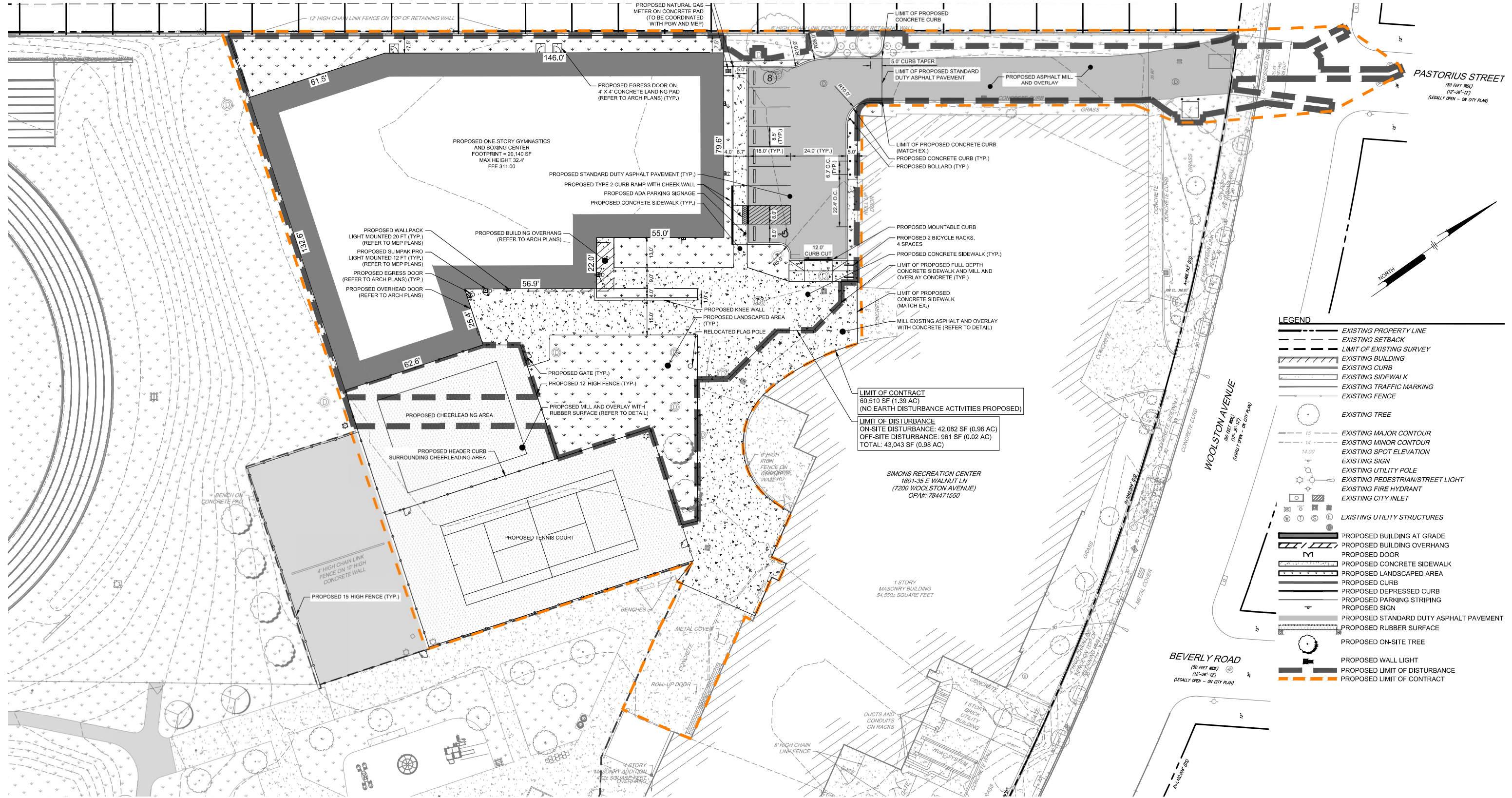
PLANS AND ELEVATIONS



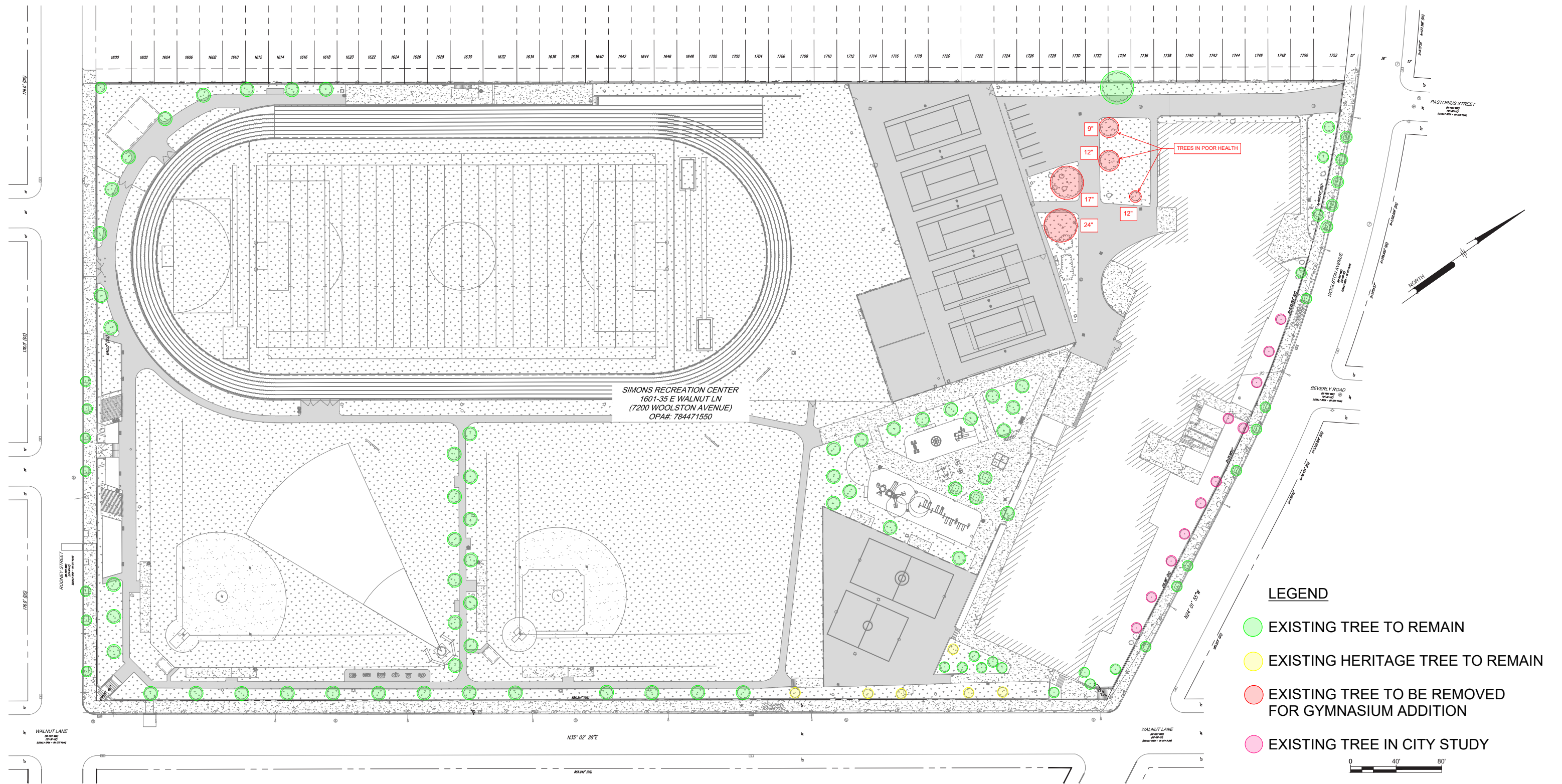
LEGEND:

-  BUILDING ACCESS
-  VEHICULAR ACCESS
-  NEW PERIMETER FENCE AS PART OF PHASE 1
-  NEW 12' HEIGHT SPORTS FENCING
-  NEW 15' HEIGHT SPORTS FENCING
-  EGRESS EXITS

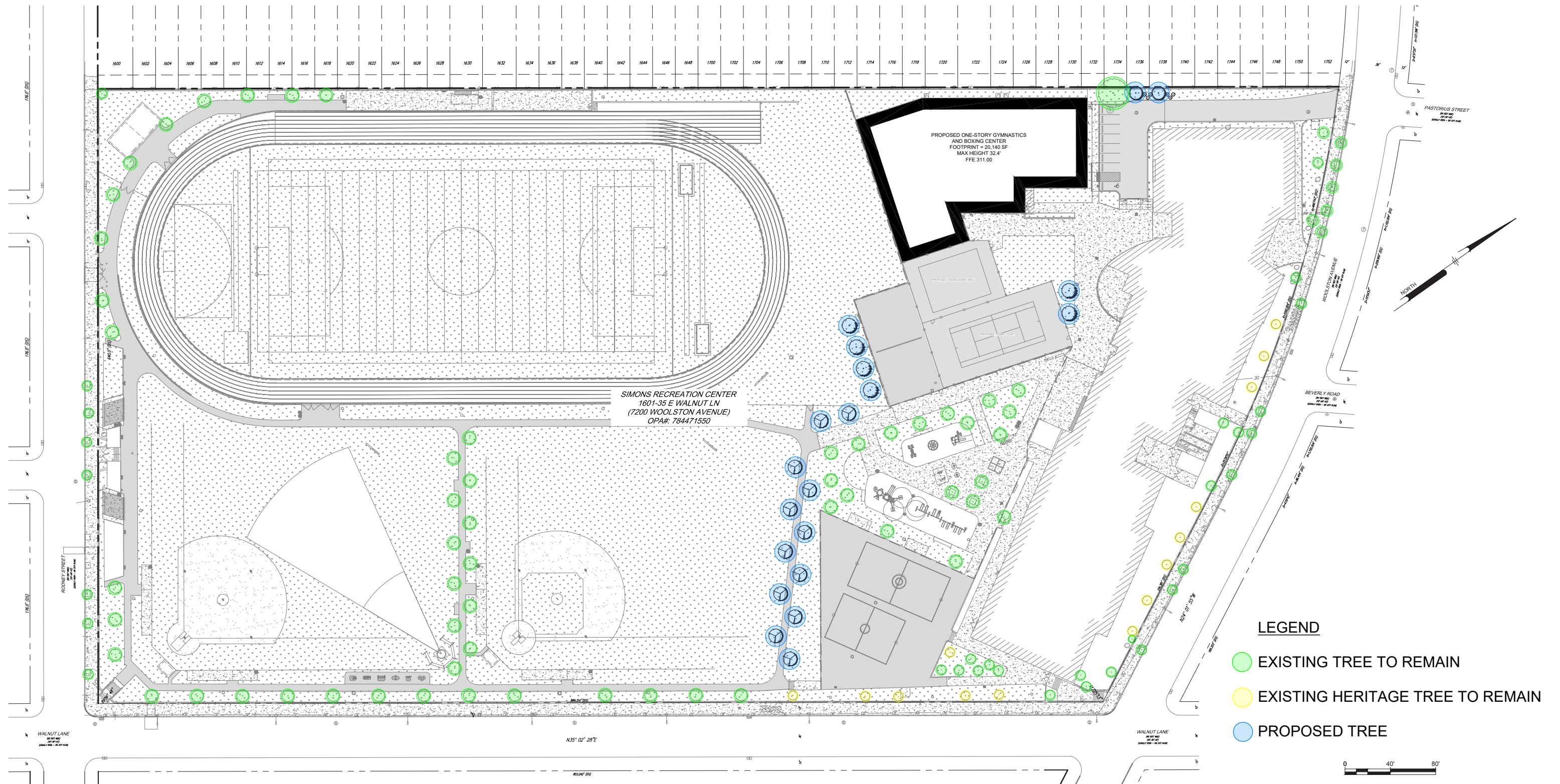




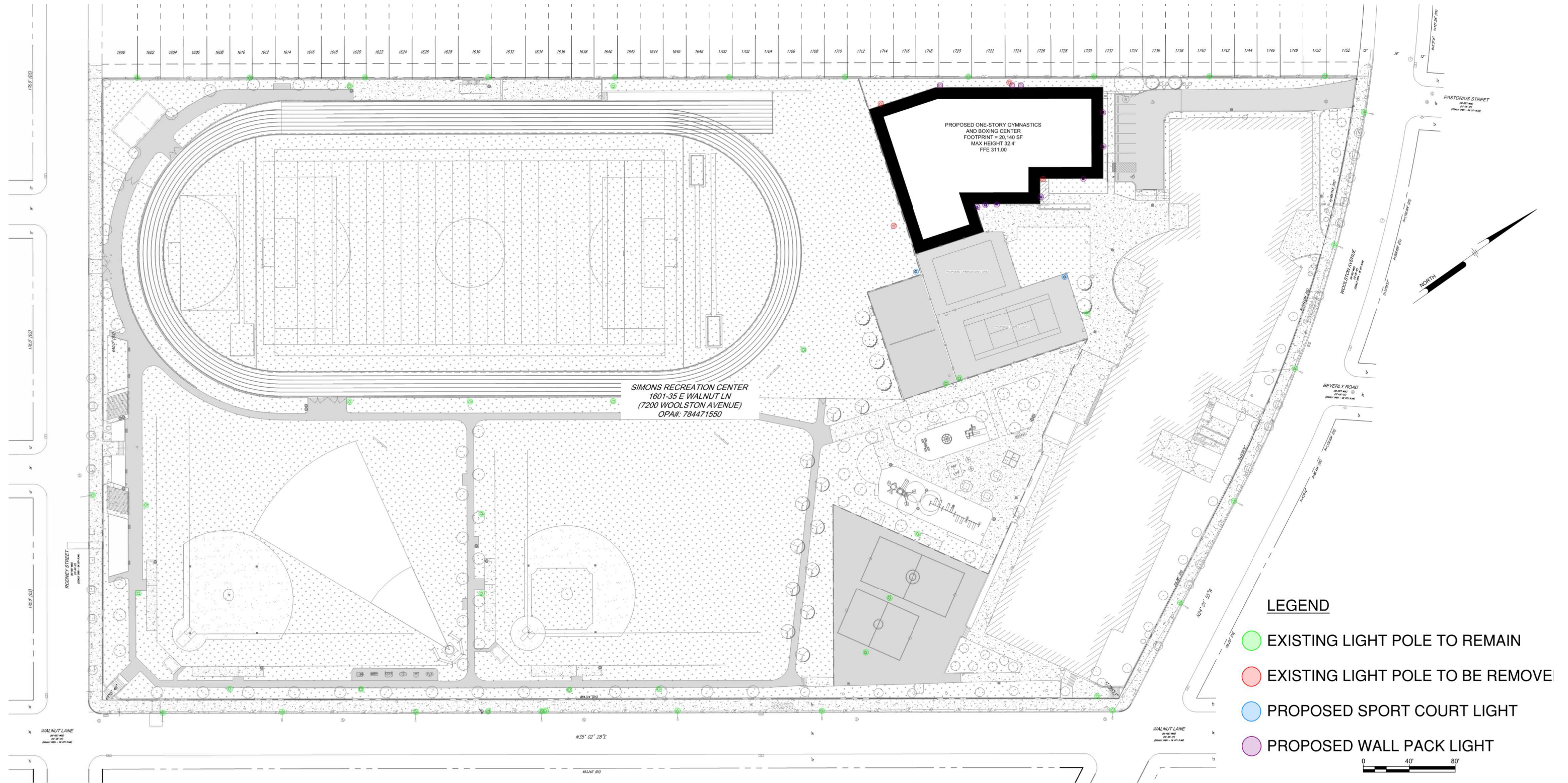
EXISTING TREE SURVEY



PROPOSED LANDSCAPE PLAN



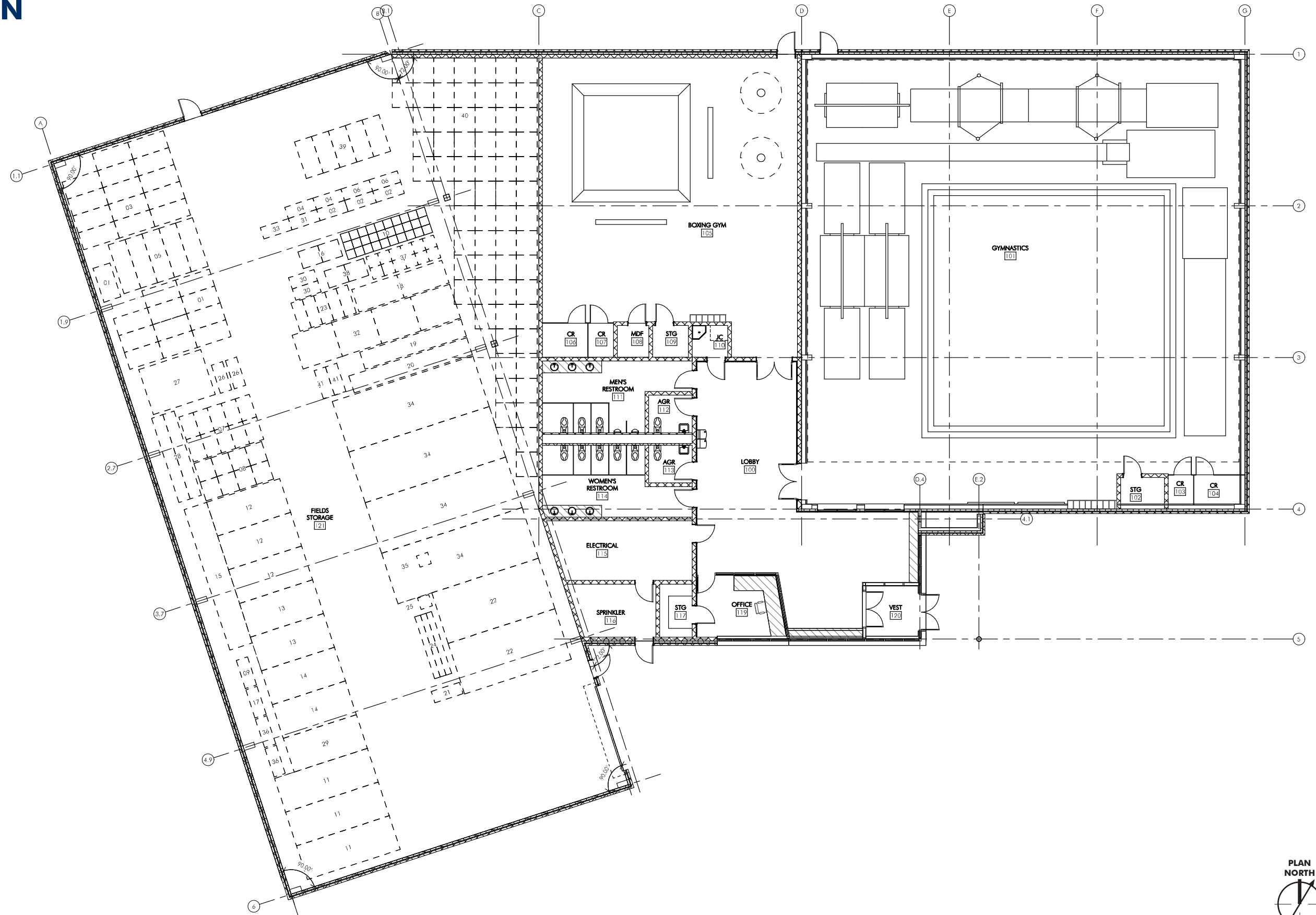
PROPOSED LIGHTING PLAN



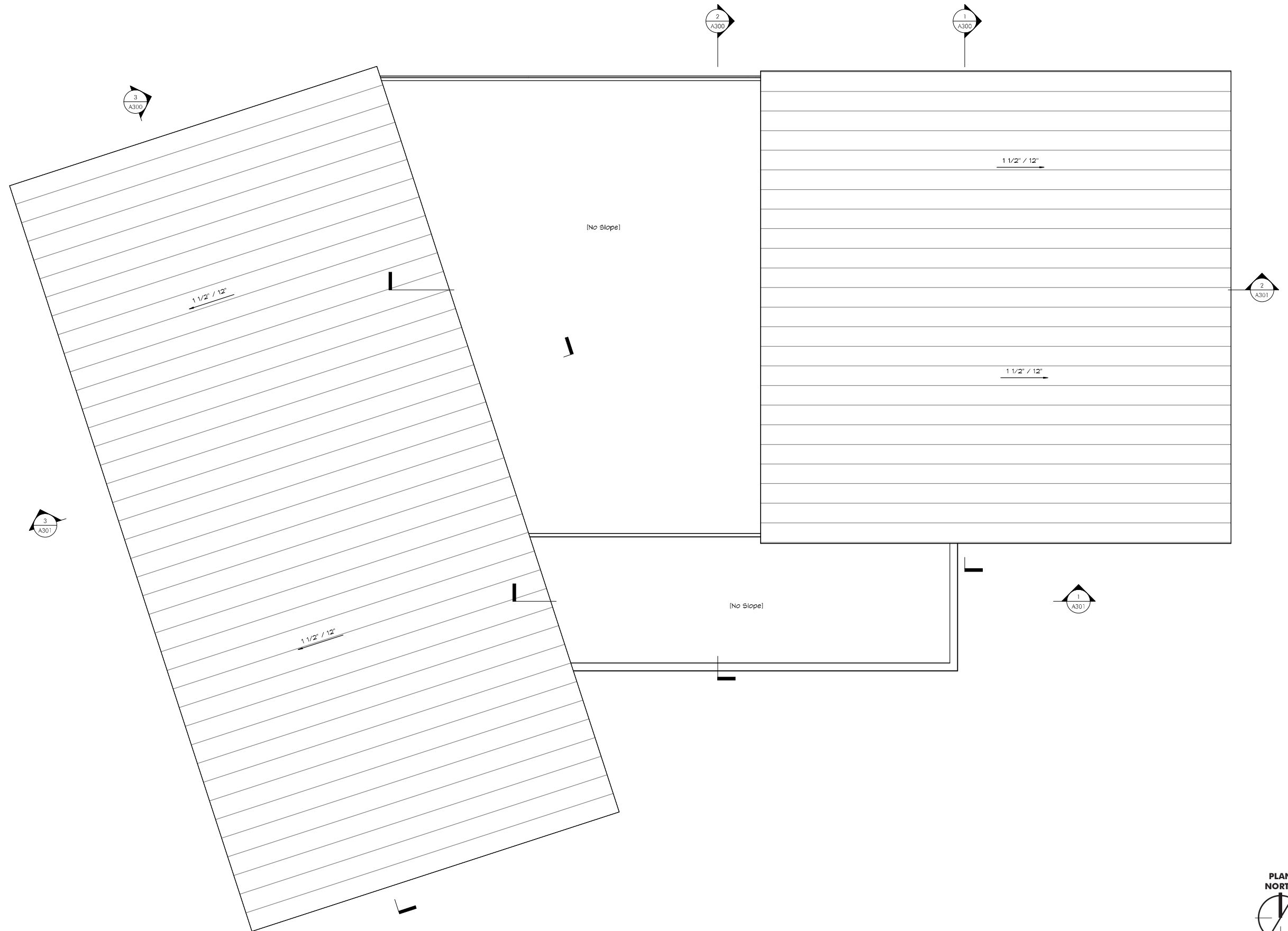
DIAGRAMMATIC LIGHTING PLAN



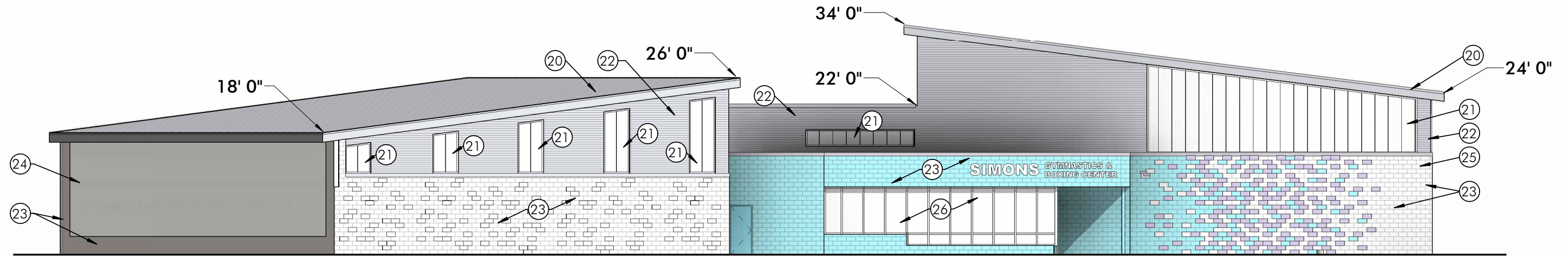
NEW CONSTRUCTION FF&E PLAN



NEW CONSTRUCTION ROOF PLAN



ELEVATIONS



1 SOUTH
06 1/16" = 1'-0"



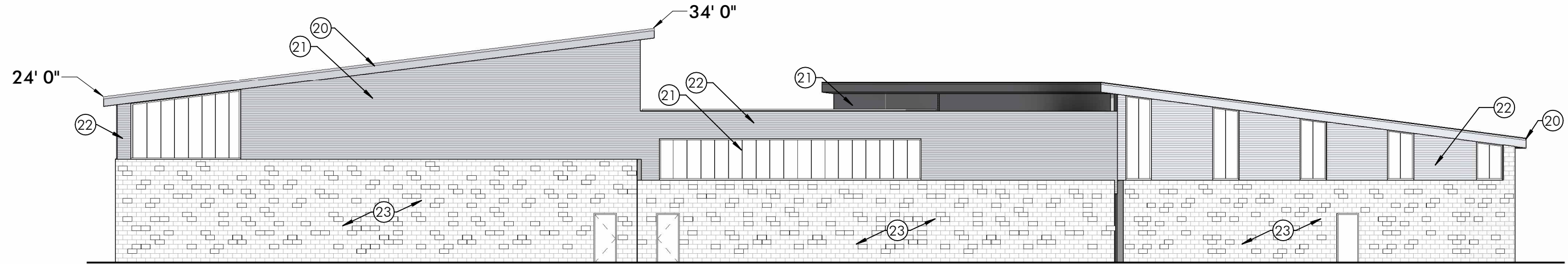
2 EAST
06 1/16" = 1'-0"

SHEET KEYNOTES

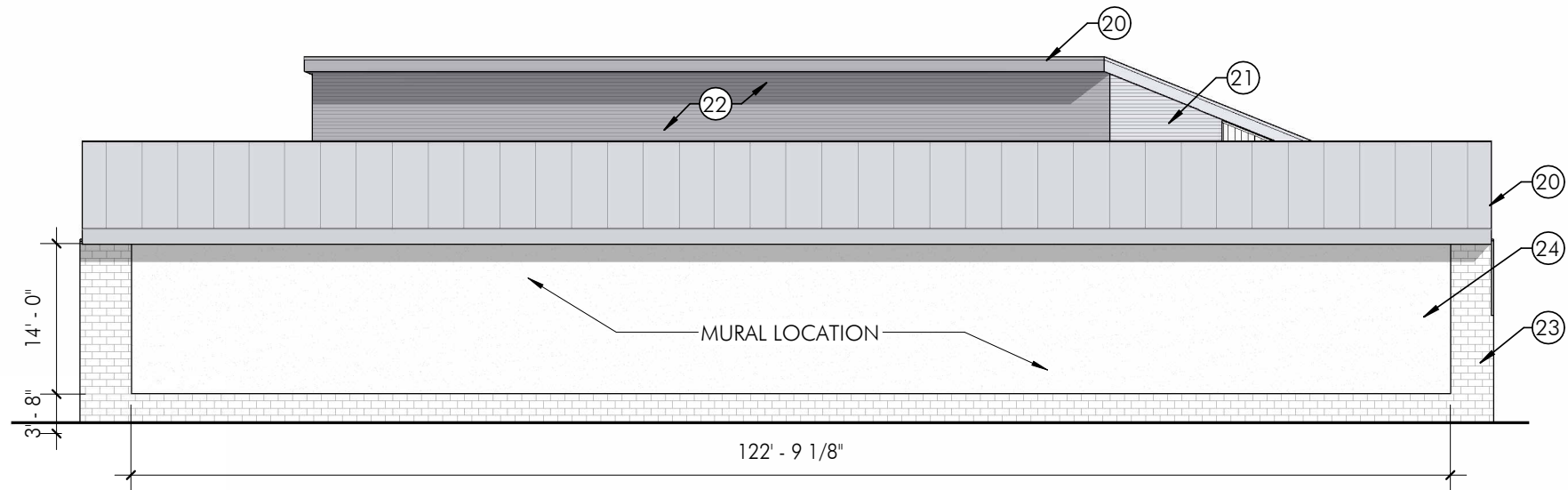
(X00) = KEYNOTE TAG

- 20 INSULATED STANDING SEAM ROOF PANEL SYSTEM; BOD: KINGSPAN 5" THK KINGSEAM STANDING SEAM ROOF PANEL
- 21 TRANSLUCENT WALL SYSTEM; BOD: KINGSPAN UNIQUAD POLYCARBONATE PANEL
- 22 HORIZONTAL ALUMINUM BOX RIB PROFILE; BOD: MORIN BY KINGSPAN
- 23 GLAZED BLOCK VENEER
- 24 PAINTED MURAL BY OTHERS ON CONCRETE BLOCK SUBSTRATE
- 25 ALUMINUM PIN MOUNTED LETTERING BUILDING SIGNAGE
- 26 STOREFRONT GLAZING SYSTEM
- 27 OVERHEAD COILING DOOR

ELEVATIONS



1 NORTH
07 1/16" = 1'-0"



2 WEST
07 1/16" = 1'-0"

SHEET KEYNOTES

(X00) = KEYNOTE TAG

- 20 INSULATED STANDING SEAM ROOF PANEL SYSTEM; BOD: KINGSPAN 5" THK KINGSEAM STANDING SEAM ROOF PANEL
- 21 TRANSLUCENT WALL SYSTEM; BOD: KINGSPAN UNIQUAD POLYCARBONATE PANEL
- 22 HORIZONTAL ALUMINUM BOX RIB PROFILE; BOD: MORIN BY KINGSPAN
- 23 GLAZED BLOCK VENEER
- 24 PAINTED MURAL BY OTHERS ON CONCRETE BLOCK SUBSTRATE

03

RENDERINGS

EXTERIOR RENDERING



EXTERIOR RENDERING OF MURAL



RENDERING OF LOBBY



RENDERING OF LOBBY



RENDERING OF OFFICE



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA | MAY 5, 2026

THANK YOU!
