



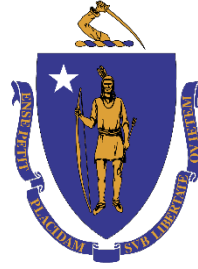
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Farren Playground Improvements

Watertown, Massachusetts

Virtual Public Meeting

December 19, 2024



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Maura T. Healey

Lieutenant Governor

Kimberley Driscoll

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Rebecca L. Tepper

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner


Brian Arrigo



DCR Mission Statement

*To protect, promote, and enhance our
common wealth of natural, cultural
and recreational resources
for the well-being of all.*

Meeting Logistics

- You will have the opportunity to submit comments over the course of the next two weeks at:
 - DCR Public Comments
<https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>
- Two ways to ask questions during the meeting
 - Use chat feature
 - Raise your hand: Click “Reaction”, then click “Raise Hand” , and you will be given permission to unmute and speak.
- *Please note that this public information meeting will be recorded; the recording will be a public record.*

Agenda

- Team Introductions
- Project Scope
- Site Location & Existing Conditions
- Site Analysis
- Design Concepts
- Play Equipment Options & Theming
- Site Amenities
- Schedule
- Q&A and Additional Information

Project Team

Department of Conservation and Recreation

- Sandra Libby, Playground Planner, Design and Project Management
- Beth Walsh, Regional Planner, Design and Project Management

Shadley Associates, P.C. (Landscape Architecture)

- Pam Shadley, Principal
- Skyler Chick, Project Manager

Subconsultants

- Nitsch Engineering – Civil Engineering & Permitting
- Lucas Environmental – Wetland Flagging
- Feldman Geospatial – Surveying

Project Scope

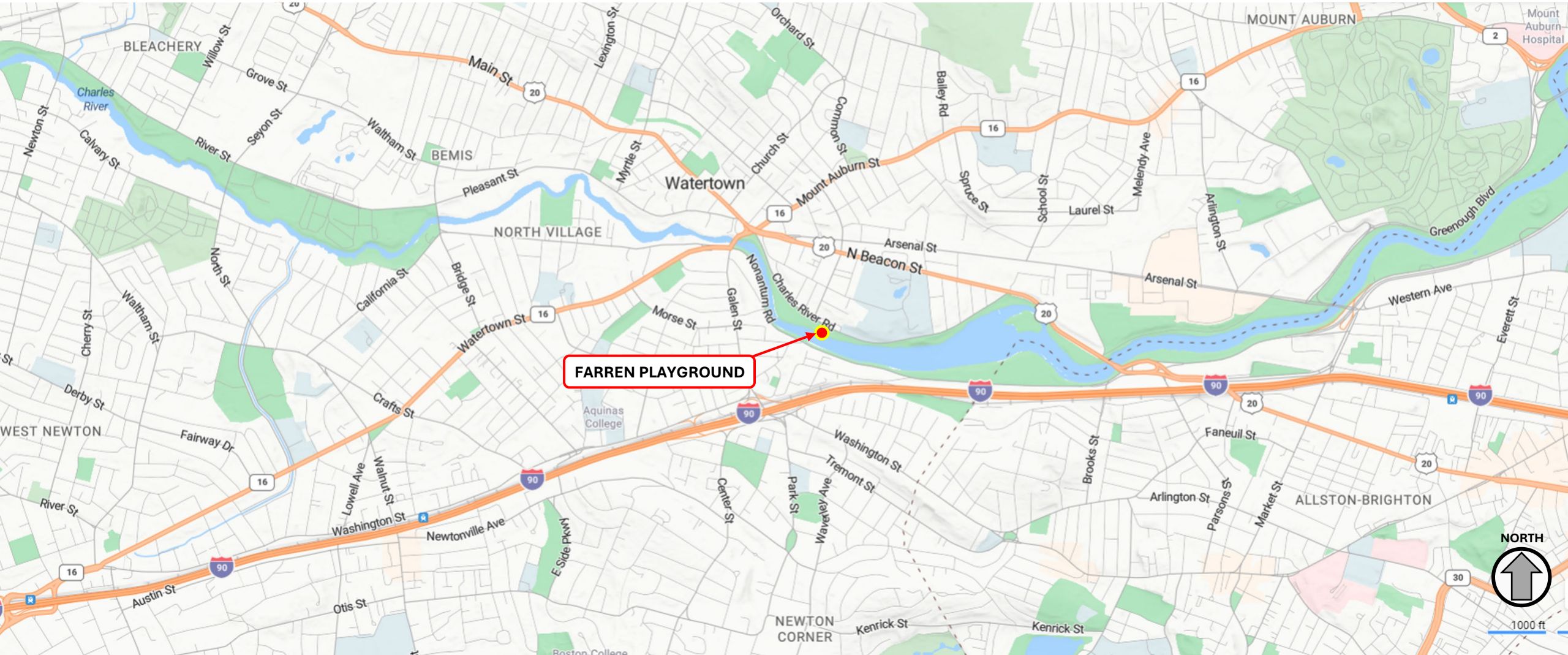
Goals:

- Establish a safe and welcoming playground and recreational area
- Ensure universal accessibility for all park features
- Promote activities for different age groups and abilities
- Be environmentally sensitive in this riverfront location

Objectives:

- Fully reconstruct the playground with new play equipment and surfacing, and reconfigure the playground boundaries
- Improve stormwater management to address ponding in the playground
- Upgrade the basketball court area
- Tie the new design with the recent walkway, seating, and planting improvements

Site Location



Site Context



PERKINS
SCHOOL FOR
THE BLIND

STAIRS,
WALKWAYS,
BIKE PARKING,
SEATING

PROJECT AREA

PLAYGROUND

BASKETBALL
COURTS

BRAILLE TRAIL



CHARLES RIVER

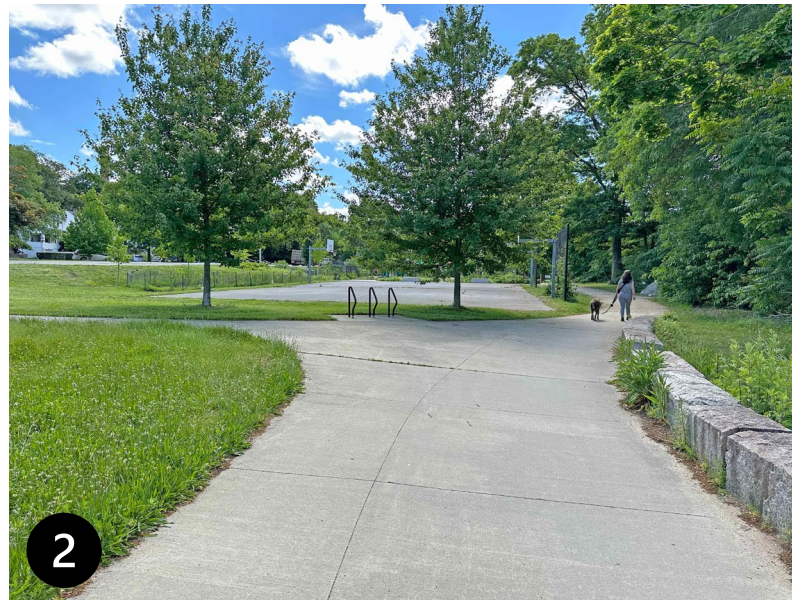
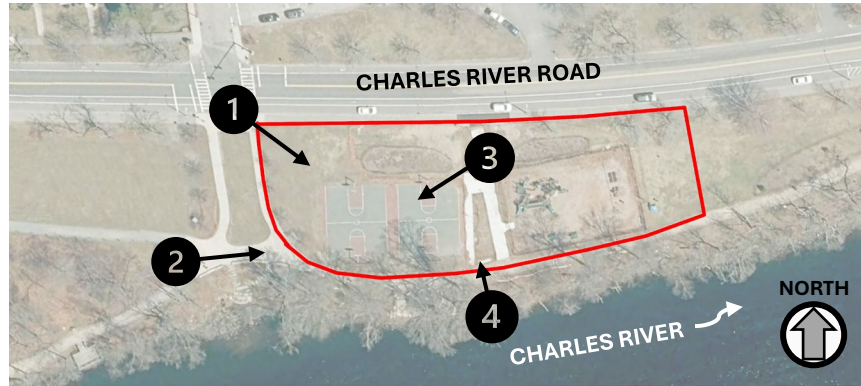
CHARLES RIVER ROAD

POND STREET

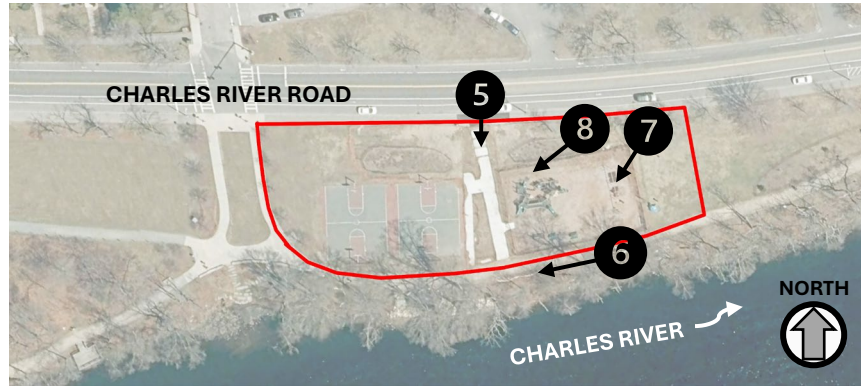
IRVING
STREET

CHARLES RIVER ROAD

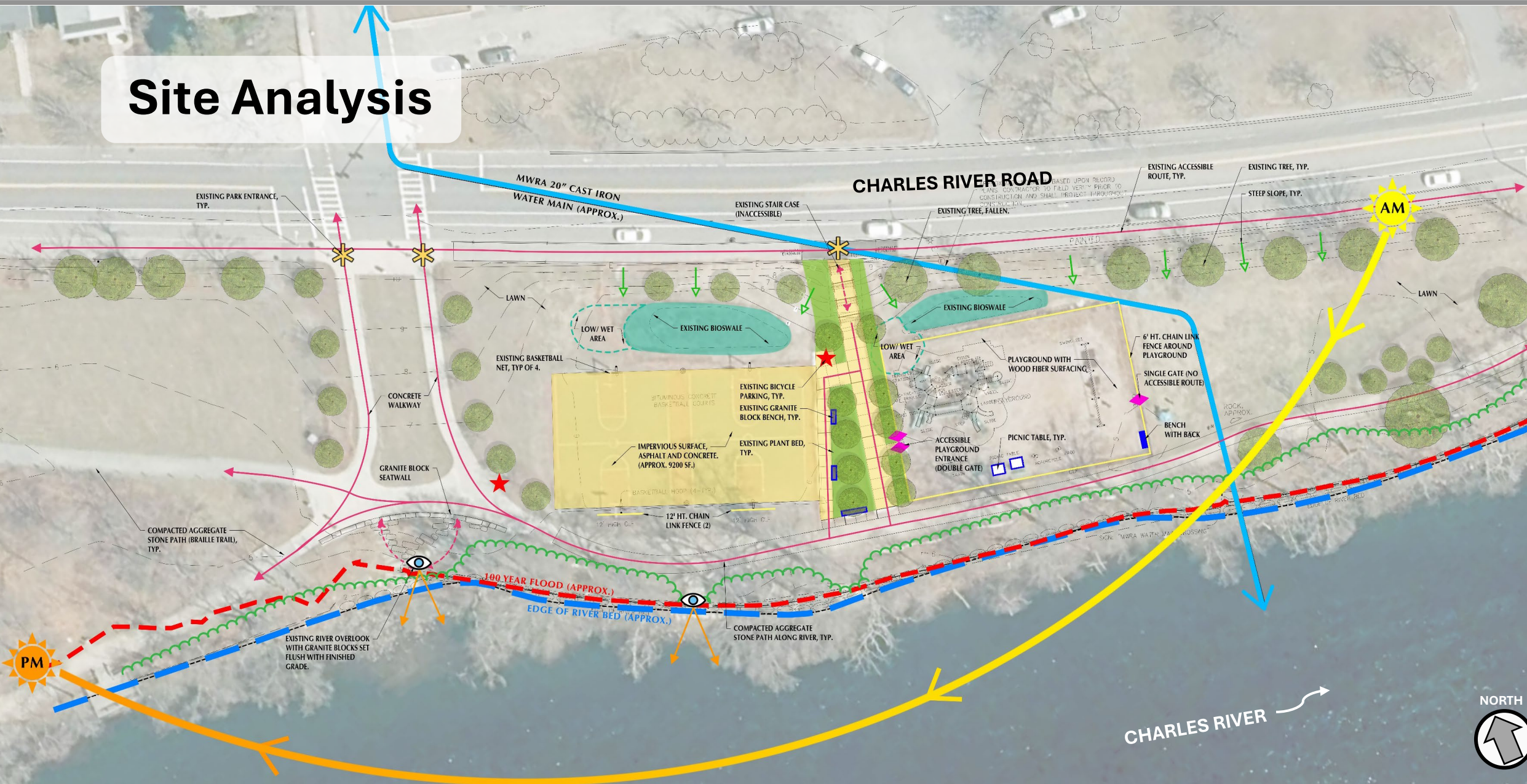
Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions

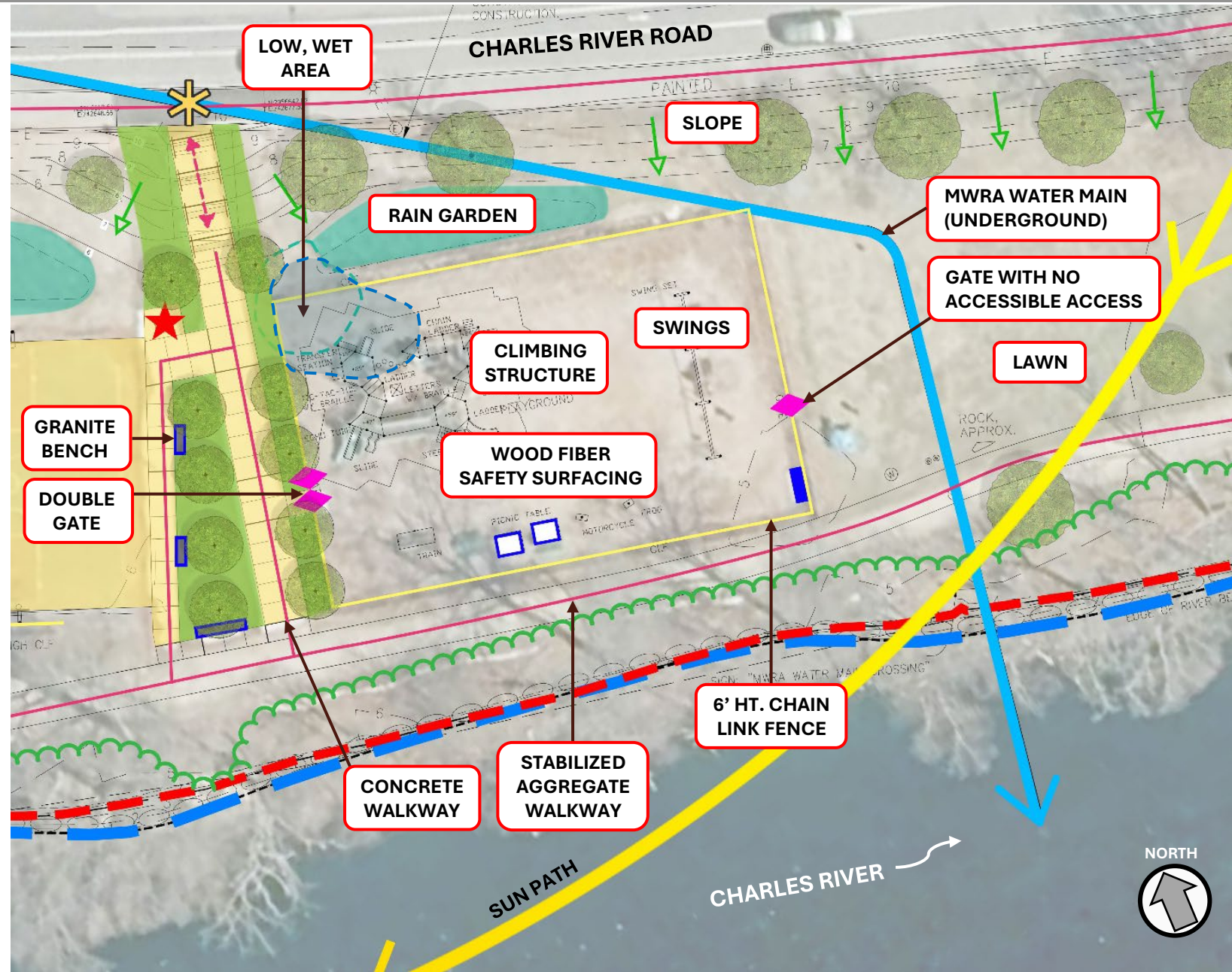


Site Analysis



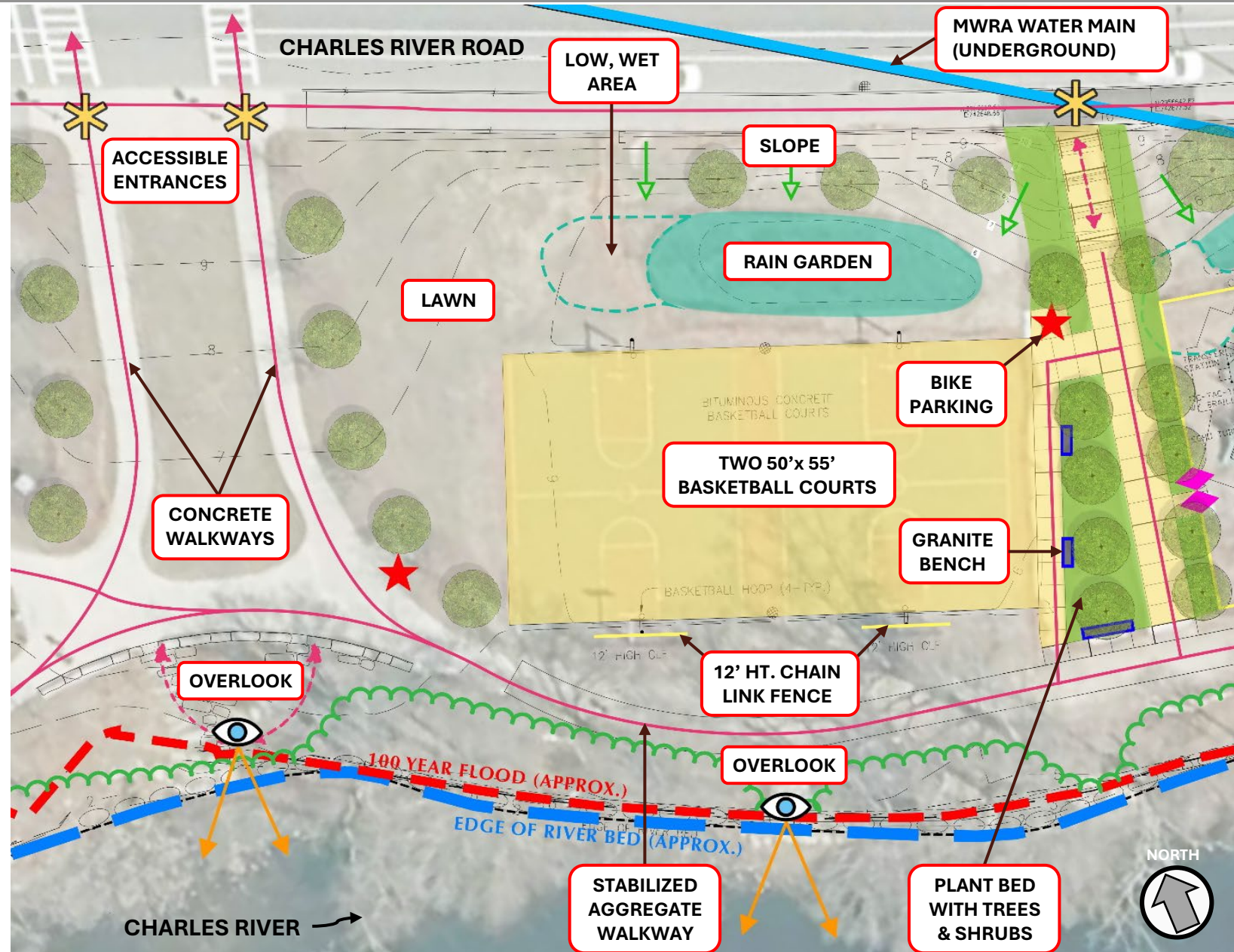
Legend – Site Analysis

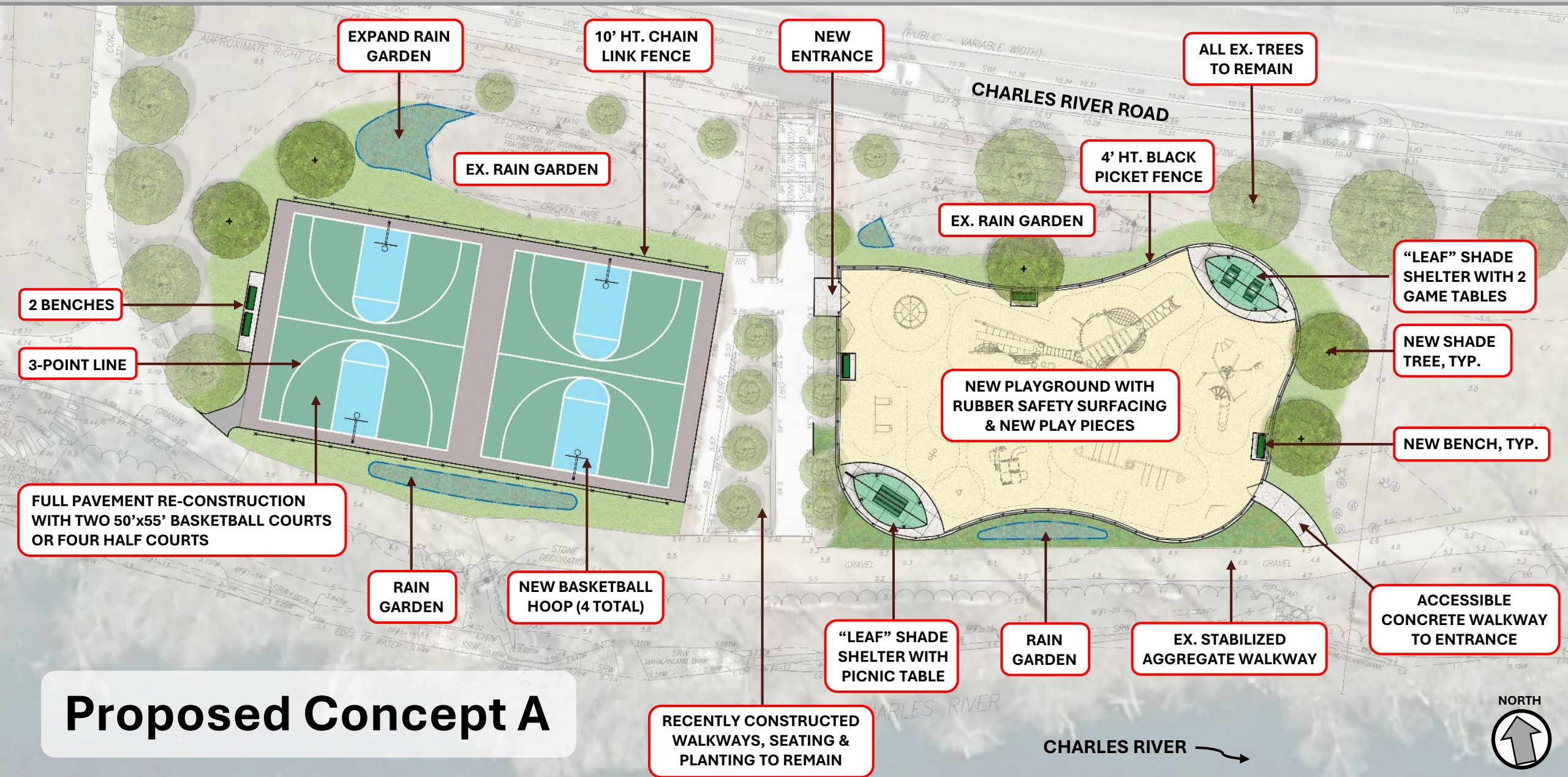
-  Park Entrance
-  Accessible Route
-  Inaccessible Route
-  Steep Slope
-  Seating (Benches & Tables)
-  Bicycle Parking
-  Gate
-  Chain Link Fence
-  River Overlook
-  Existing Tree
-  Tree Line
-  Plant Bed
-  Bioswale
-  Low / Wet Area
-  Impervious Surface
-  Edge of River Bed
-  100 Year Flood Zone
-  MWRA 20" Cast Iron Water Main



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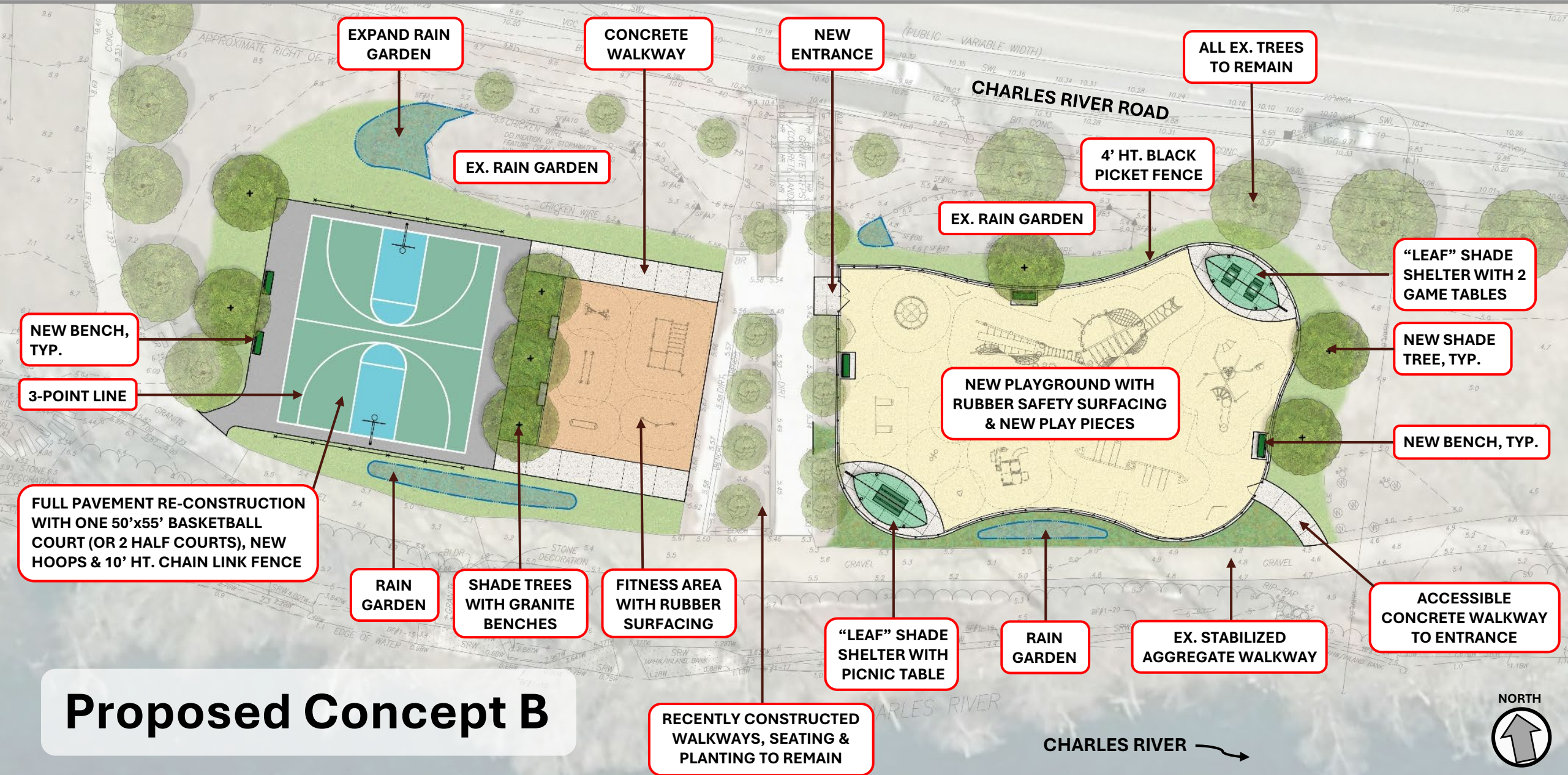
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Proposed Concept A



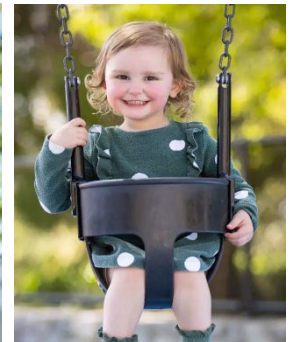
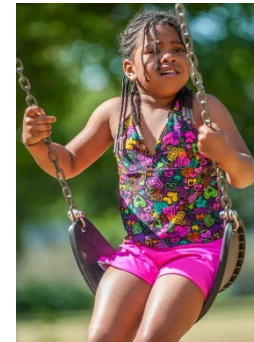
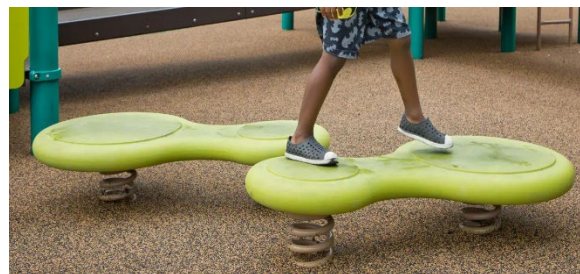


Proposed Concept B

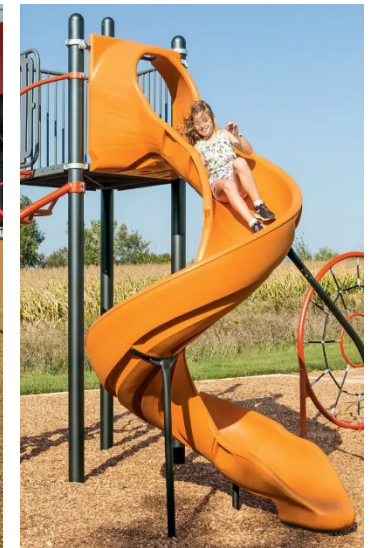
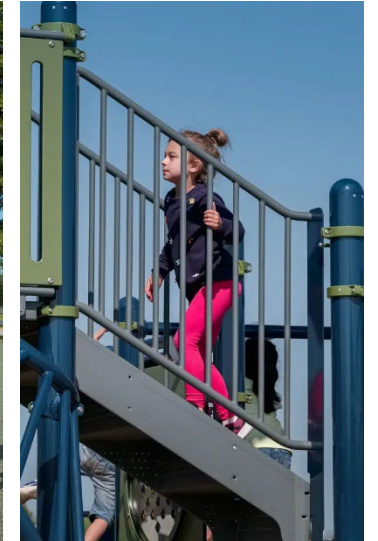


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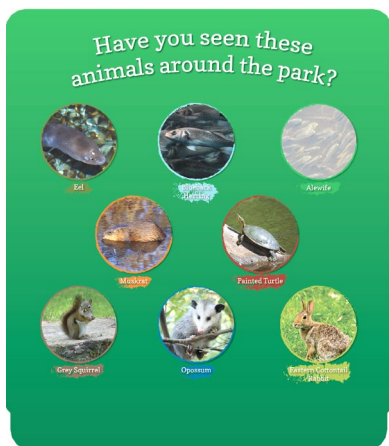
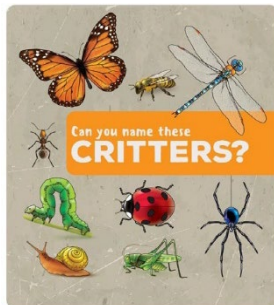
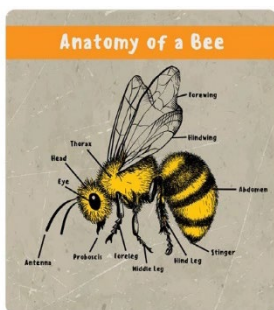
Play Equipment



Play Equipment



Play Equipment – Light Theming



2. Native Animals



Fitness Equipment Examples *(Concept B Only)*



Site Amenities



Shurcliff Bench



Game Table



Picket Fence at Playground



Granite Bench (*Concept B only*)



Picnic Table



“Leaf” Shade Shelter

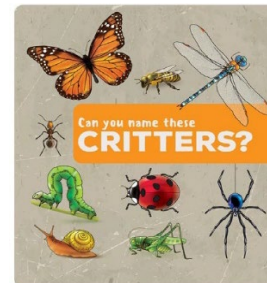
Schedule

- Public Meeting December 19, 2024
- Public Comment Period December 19 – January 7
- Concept Design Complete in January 2025
- Preliminary Construction Documents Spring 2025
- Permitting Spring / Summer 2025
- Final Construction Documents Fall 2025
- Bidding & Construction *Once Funding is Available*

Comments & Questions



- Do you prefer **Concept Plan A** or **Concept Plan B**?
- Which playground theme do you prefer?
 - Pollinators
 - Native Animals
 - River Life



Additional Information

- Recording and tonight's slide deck will be available at:
 - www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings
- If you have comments on this project:
 - *Submit online:* www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment
 - *Deadline:* **Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

Please note: the contents of comments submitted to DCR, including your name, town and zip code, will be posted on DCR's website. Additional contact information provided, notably email address, will only be used for outreach on future updates to the subject project or property.

- If you wish to subscribe to a DCR general information or project-related listserv: contact DCR's Office of Community Relations via email at mass.parks@mass.gov



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



Thank You!

**Farren Playground
Improvements**