

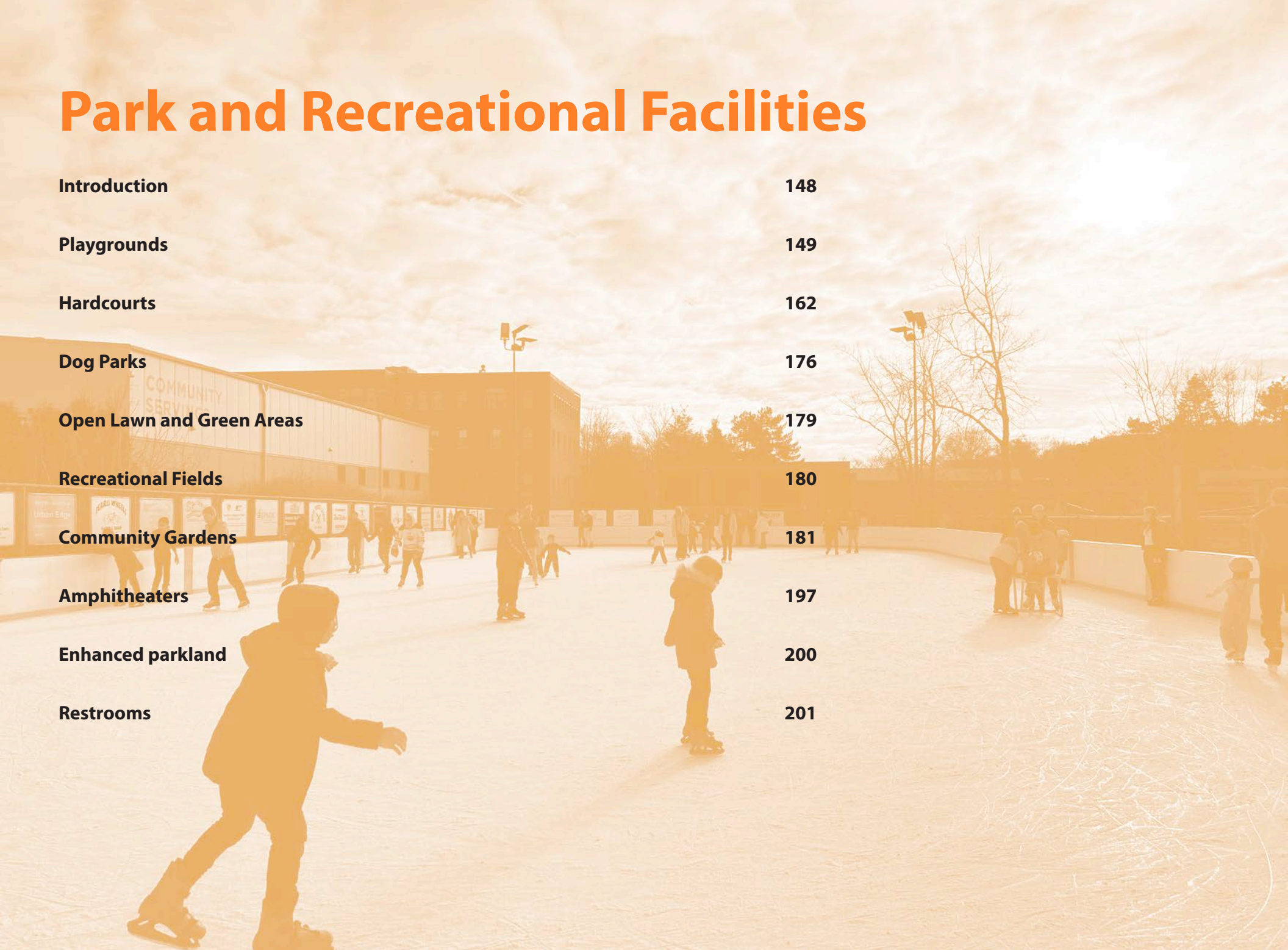
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Park and Recreational Facilities

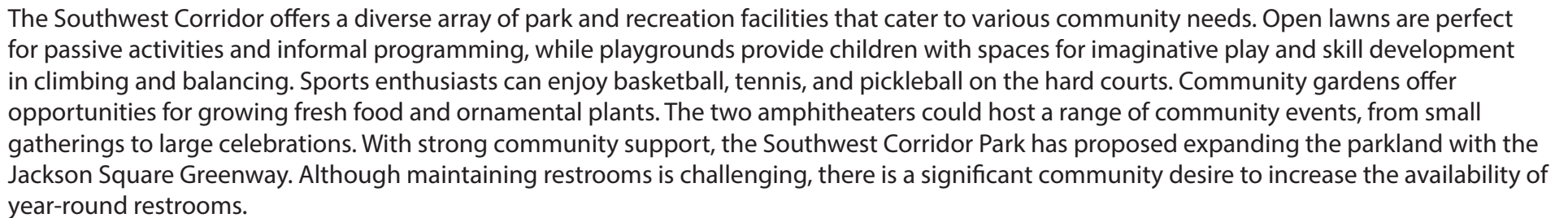


Park and Recreational Facilities

Introduction	148
Playgrounds	149
Hardcourts	162
Dog Parks	176
Open Lawn and Green Areas	179
Recreational Fields	180
Community Gardens	181
Amphitheaters	197
Enhanced parkland	200
Restrooms	201



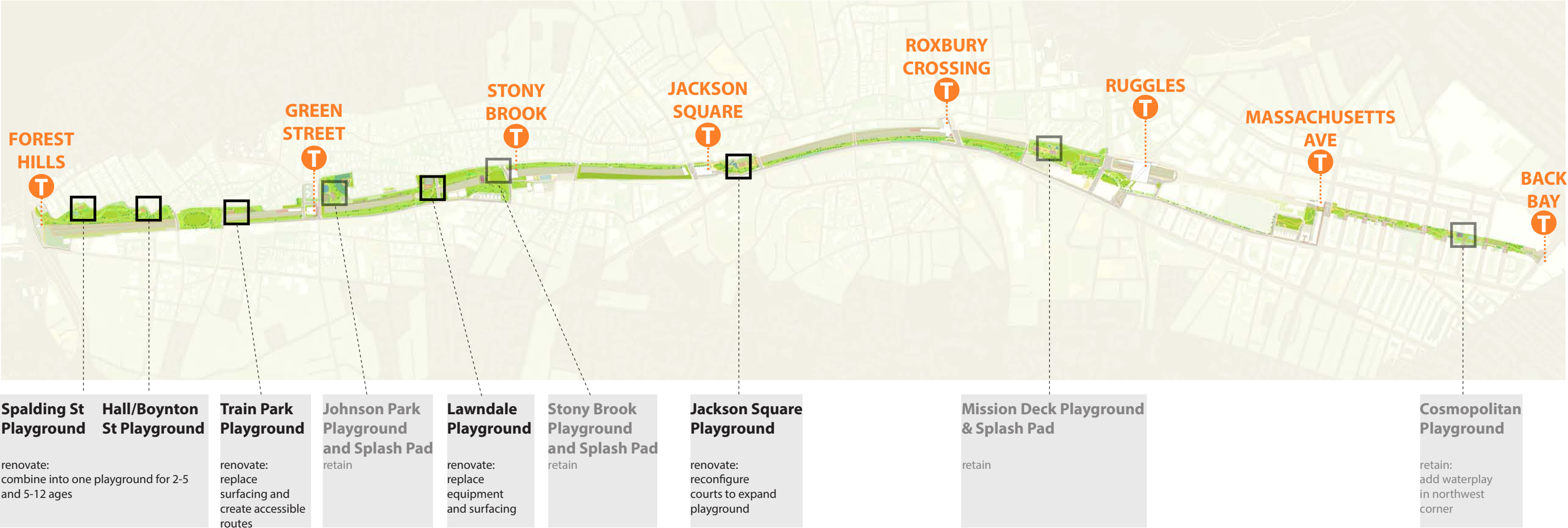
Introduction



Playgrounds

The nine playgrounds within the Southwest Corridor Park are cherished, well-used community assets that serve as spaces for socializing, imaginative play, exercise, and fun for children, families, friends, and caregivers. However, our observations and usage data indicate inconsistent use of the playgrounds, influenced by their location, the condition of the facilities, and the program elements offered.

Of the nine playgrounds, five should undergo complete renovations, including new equipment, surfacing, furnishings, and fencing. To mitigate heat, it is essential to prioritize shade and consider incorporating water play where feasible. Given the urban setting, the new equipment should be compact, suitable for a wide range of ages, and utilize vibrant colors instead of earth tones to create an inviting atmosphere.

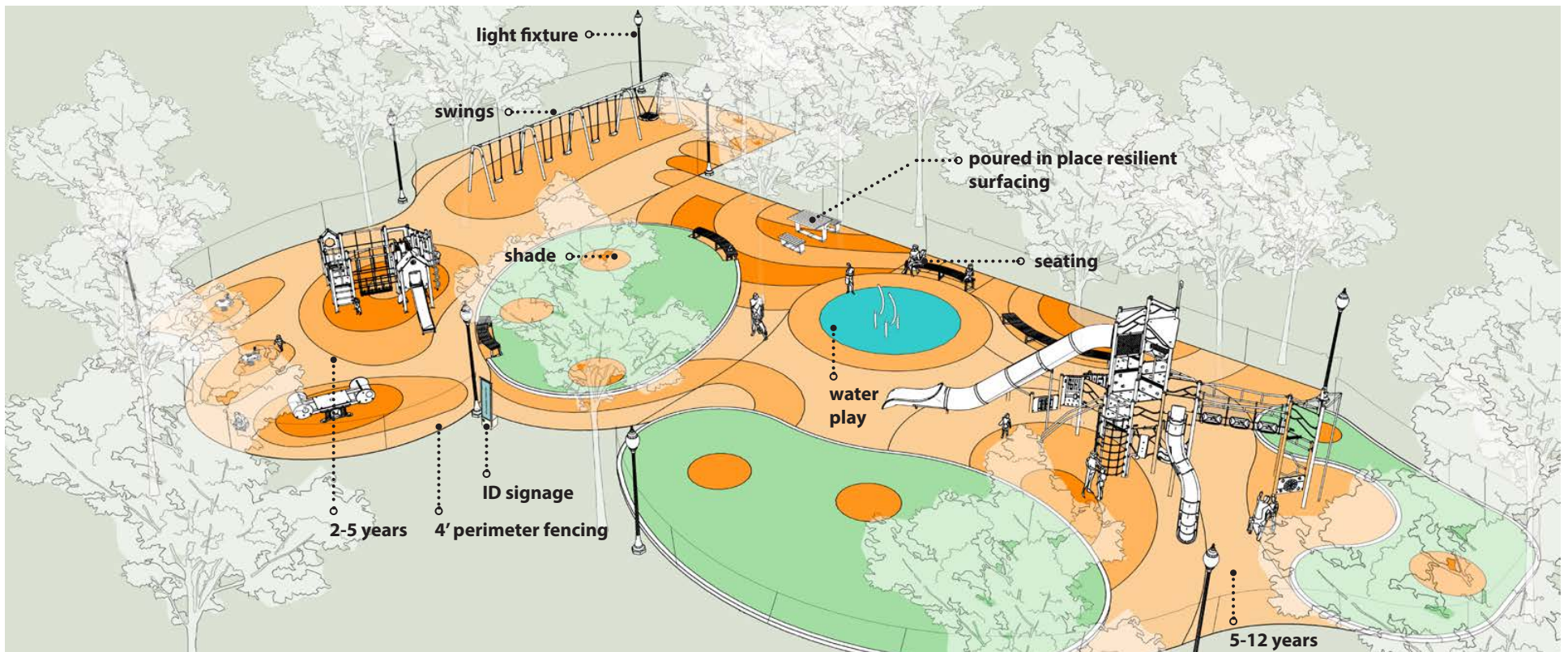


Playgrounds

General

Playgrounds along the Southwest Corridor Park offer a welcome outlet for children to explore, learn, and play in dynamic, safe, and inclusive spaces. The playgrounds should have variety, with some playgrounds being “destination” playgrounds that are larger with unique features and other “neighborhood” playgrounds that are smaller. The playgrounds that are recommended to be replaced should consider the following:

1. Inclusivity and Accessibility
2. Age-Appropriate Zones
3. Safety and Supervision
4. Variety of Play Experiences
5. Aesthetic and Thematic Design
6. Community Involvement
7. Sustainability and Durability



Spalding Street Playground

Renovate

The existing playground is a tot lot designed for the 2-5 year age range. Given the need for renovation, combining this playground with the adjacent Hall/Boynton playground would be advantageous. This consolidation would create a single location that can better accommodate a more diverse age range and provide improved facilities for all children. This approach shown here proposes expanding the existing playground and removing the Hall/Boynton playground. If this option is pursued, the park entrance would need to be relocated to avoid bisecting the playground.

Existing Conditions

Size: 3,160 sf

Age Group: 2-5 years old

Safety Surfacing: Engineered wood fiber

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and tree canopy

Accessibility: Currently no accessible route

Proposed Plan: Renovate Playground

Size: 8,150 sf

Target Age Group: 2-5 and 5-12 in separate play areas

Safety Surfacing: Poured in place resilient surfacing

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and tree canopy

Accessibility: Create a new accessible route



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Hall/Boynton Street Playground

Remove

The lack of accessibility, aging play equipment, and poor pavement conditions necessitate the replacement of this playground. As mentioned in the Spaulding Playground text, it would be beneficial to combine these two playgrounds at one of the two locations. If this occurs at Hall/Boynton, the playground could wrap around the community garden, which would feature a new entrance separate from the playground.

Existing Conditions

Size: 3,650 sf

Age Group: 5-12 years old

Safety Surfacing: Engineered wood fiber

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and tree canopy

Accessibility: Currently no accessible route

Proposed Plan: Renovate Playground

Size: 7,000 sf

Target Age Group: 2-5 and 5-12 in separate play areas

Safety Surfacing: Poured in place resilient surfacing

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and tree canopy

Accessibility: Create a new accessible route



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Train Park Playground

Renovate

This playground should undergo a complete renovation, including new equipment, resilient surfacing, fencing, and site furnishings. Incorporating train viewing into the play area design could enhance the experience. Additionally, the Williams Street edge should be regraded to provide an accessible route as an alternative to the existing stairs. Considering perimeter fencing is also important, given the proximity of adjacent roads and the proposed dog park.

Existing Conditions

Size: 5,700 sf

Age Group: 2-5 and 5-12 years old

Safety Surfacing: Engineered wood fiber

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and tree canopy

Accessibility: Currently no accessible route

Proposed Plan: Renovate Playground

Size: 5,700 sf

Target Age Group: 2-5 and 5-12 in separate play areas

Safety Surfacing: Poured in place resilient surfacing

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and tree canopy

Accessibility: Create a new accessible route



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Johnson Park Playground and Splash Pad

Retain

Johnson Park features a large playground and splash pad that were renovated approximately 10 years ago. While the equipment and resilient surfacing are in fair condition and do not require immediate repairs or replacement, the perimeter fencing and gates should be reviewed given their height.

Existing Conditions

Size: 15,800 sf

Age Group: 2-5 and 5-12 years old

Safety Surfacing: Poured in place resilient surfacing

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and tree canopy

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Lawndale Playground

Renovate

This playground should be completely renovated with new equipment, resilient surfacing, fencing, and site furnishings. Special attention should be given to site drainage, as well as creating a clear separation between the playground and tennis court circulation to enhance safety and usability.

Existing Conditions

Size: 4,350 sf

Age Group: 5-12 years old

Safety Surfacing: Engineered wood fiber

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and tree canopy

Accessibility: Currently no accessible route

Proposed Plan: Renovate Playground

Size: 4,350 sf

Target Age Group: 2-5 and 5-12 years old

Safety Surfacing: Poured in place resilient surfacing

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and tree canopy

Accessibility: Create a new accessible route



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Stony Brook Playground and Splash Pad

Retain

The Stony Brook playground and splash pad were renovated in 2023, and the equipment, resilient surfacing, and site furnishings are in good condition, requiring no improvements. However, the perimeter fence should be reviewed to assess its height and the size of the chain link mesh openings.

Existing Conditions

Size: 1,880 sf

Age Group: 2-5 and 5-12 years old

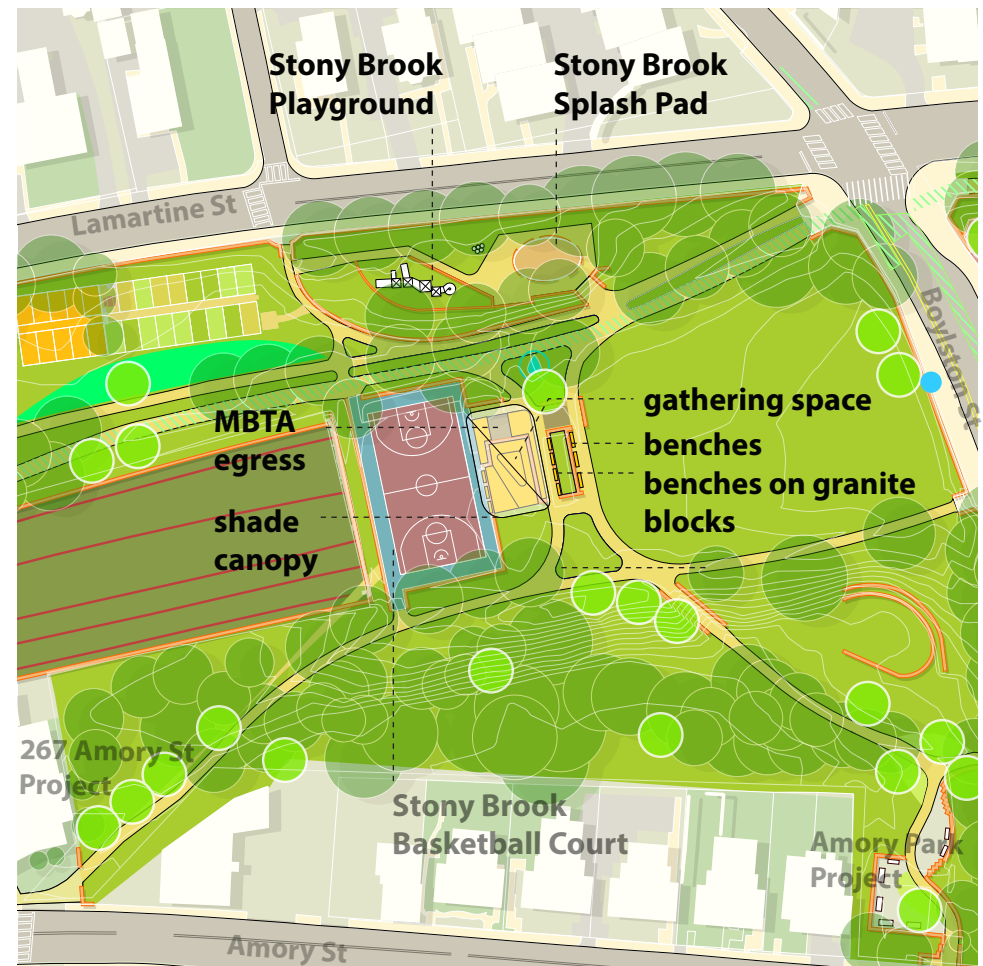
Safety Surfacing: Poured in place resilient surfacing

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and tree canopy

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Jackson Square Playground (Lorber Family Playground)

Retain

The current playground space is unique because the Walhalla wall structure and zipline playground equipment are more appropriate for older children. Constructability issues arise from the existing tunnel structure, which complicates foundation designs. Additionally, the space is too small to adequately accommodate both the 2-5 and 5-12 age ranges. To address this, consider rearranging the courts to expand the playground area, allowing for a more inclusive and functional play environment. Add fencing at the playground perimeter given the shared use path and MBTA station vehicular traffic.

Existing Conditions

Size: 5,730 sf

Age Group: 5-12 years old

Safety Surfacing: Poured in place resilient surfacing

Seating and Shade Elements: Stone seatwalls and no shade

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Jackson Square Playground (Lorber Family Playground)

Renovate Option 01

The playground could be expanded with features on both sides of the Walhalla structure. To accommodate this, the tennis court would be removed and a half court basketball court would be added.

Proposed Plan: Renovate Playground

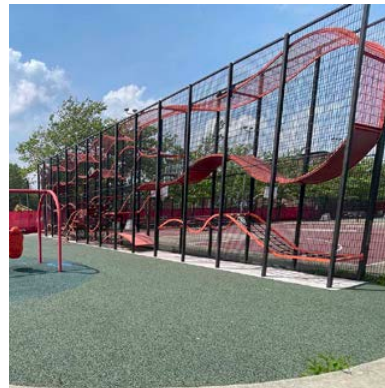
Size: 5,730 sf

Target Age Group: 2-5 and 5-12 in separate play areas

Safety Surfacing: Poured in place resilient surfacing

Seating and Shade Elements: Add shaded seating

Accessibility: Create a new accessible route



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Jackson Square Playground (Lorber Family Playground)

Renovate Option 02

The playground could be expanded to offer more play opportunities for 2-5 year-olds if the zip line were removed. This change would allow for the retention of the full basketball court. Additionally, the Wallhalla wall structure would remain, providing an effective separation between the play area and the hard courts.

Proposed Plan: Renovate Playground

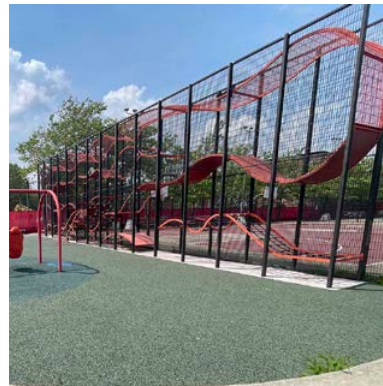
Size: 5,730 sf

Target Age Group: 2-5 and 5-12 in separate play areas

Safety Surfacing: Poured in place resilient surfacing

Seating and Shade Elements: Add shaded seating

Accessibility: Create a new accessible route



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Mission Deck Playground and Splash Pad

Retain

The Mission Deck playground and splash pad was replaced in 2023 with all new play equipment for 2-5 and 5-12 ages, site furnishings and water play. No further improvements are needed.

Existing Conditions

Size: 2,860 sf

Age Group: 2-5 and 5-12 years old

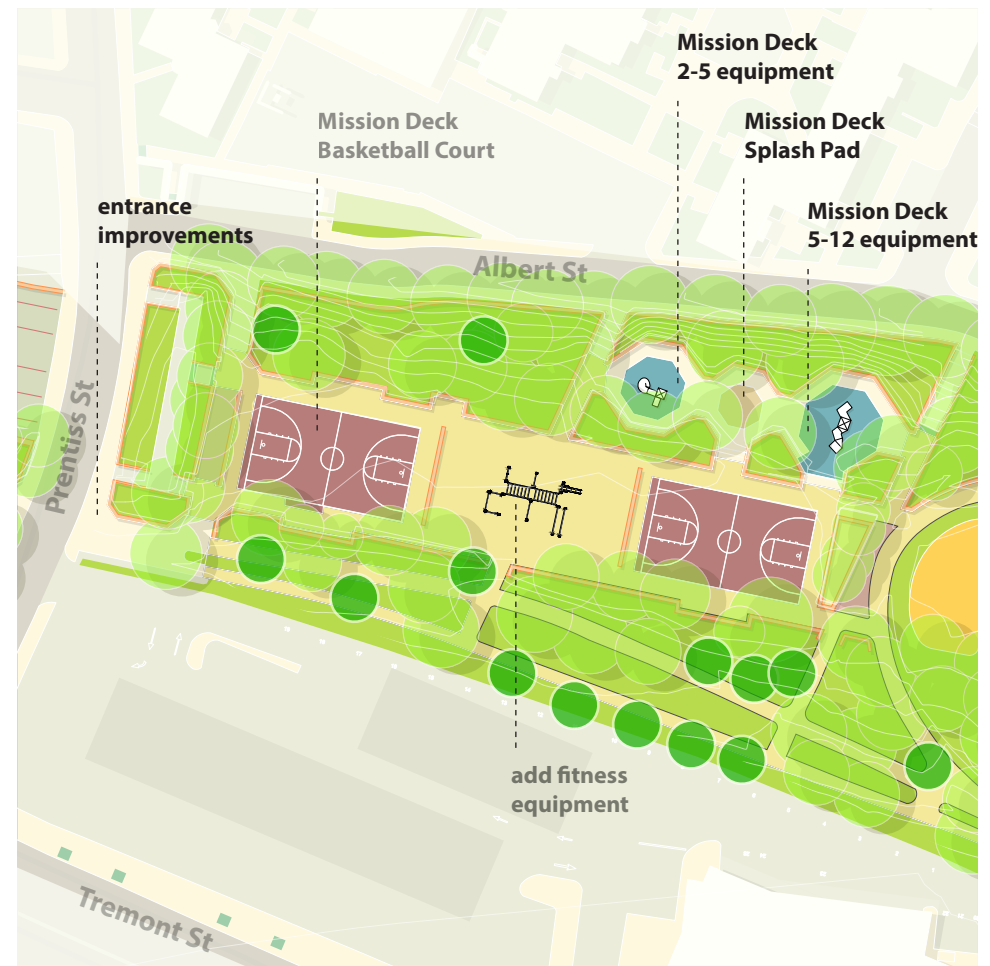
Safety Surfacing: Poured in place resilient surfacing

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and tree canopy

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Cosmopolitan Playground

Retain

The play equipment and resilient surfacing in this tot lot are in good condition. Adding a small water play element in the northwest corner could provide cooling opportunities. However, the perimeter fencing and gate need modifications to address the picket spacing, which is currently greater than 4 inches, and to ensure the gate latch and closing mechanism comply with ASTM standards. The southern edge of the playground is heavily used for snack breaks, parties, and stroller parking. This area could benefit from a redesign to better accommodate these activities and enhance the overall functionality of the space.

Existing Conditions

Size: 4,890 sf

Age Group: 2-5 years old

Safety Surfacing: Poured in place resilient surfacing

Seating and Shade Elements: Wood benches and picnic tables

Accessibility: Compliant



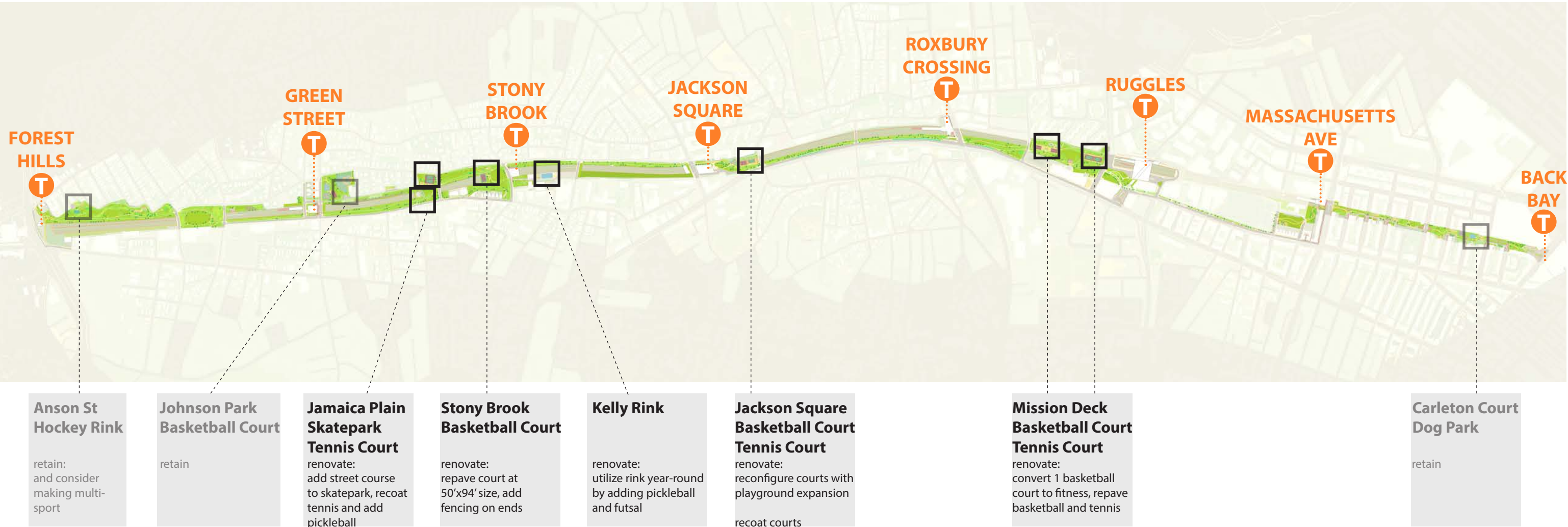
Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Hardcourts

The hardcourts in the Southwest Corridor Park provide a variety of recreational opportunities, including basketball, tennis, pickleball, street hockey, ice skating, and a dog park. These facilities are located both at grade and spanning the railroad, with the decked areas being more challenging to maintain due to vibrations from passing trains, which degrade the pavement more quickly. Since the park’s opening in 1990, community demographics and recreational needs have evolved, prompting a recommendation for reprogramming some of these hard courts to better meet current demands.



Basketball Courts

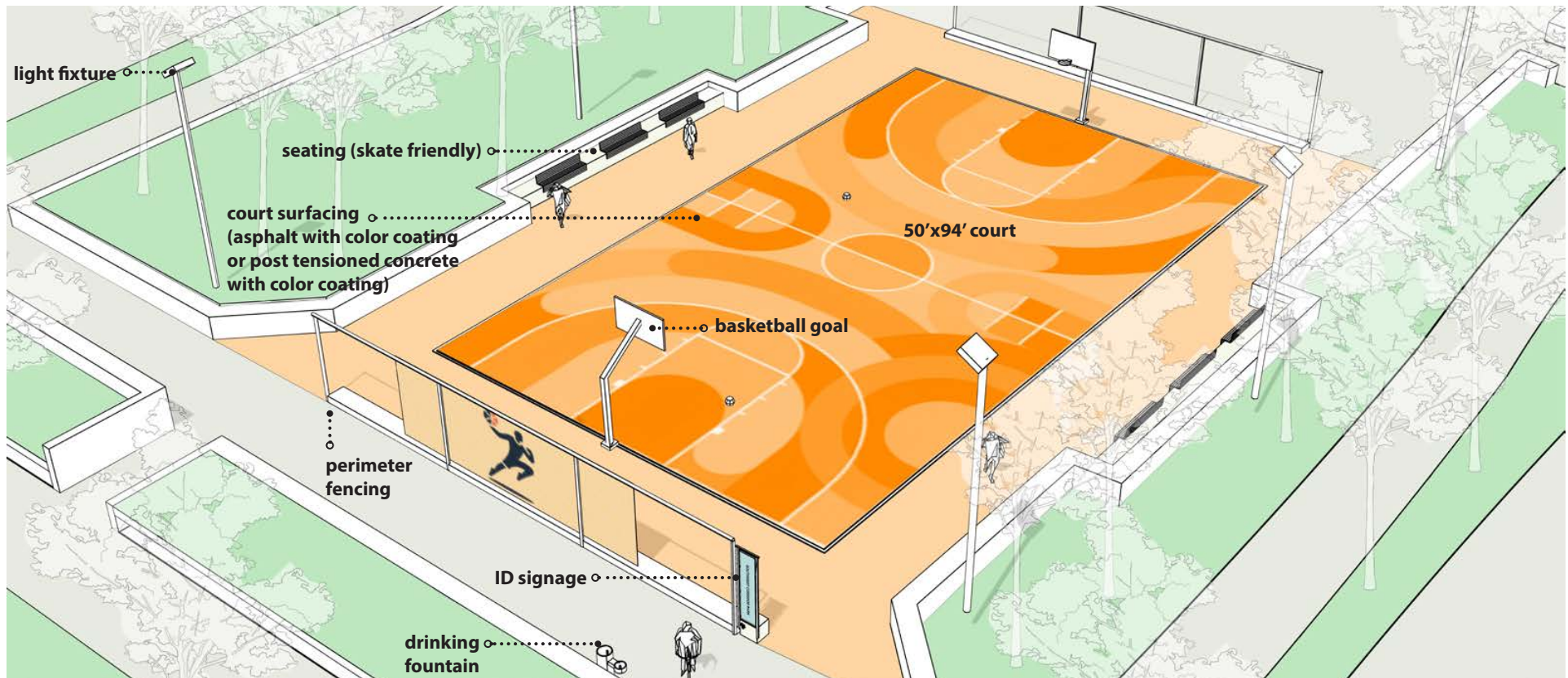
General

Most of the basketball courts in the Southwest Corridor Park are located on deck structures over the rail corridor. This construction affects the detailing and longevity of the court features. Currently, the courts are paved with asphalt and a color coat, but post-tensioned concrete with a color coat could be considered for its better resistance to degradation from vibration, thus improving longevity.

Aesthetically, the courts are quite typical, often featuring maroon or green color coatings. For future recoating or repaving, incorporating court murals and more vibrant color schemes should be considered to enhance visual appeal. Basketball court use is not consistent throughout the day, presenting opportunities for multi-use functions. Designing walls and seating to be skateboard-friendly can maximize the utility of the space.

Large-scale windscreen graphics could reinforce the SWCP identity and increase community awareness of site uses.

Additionally, to provide protection from the sun and heat, shade should be incorporated, whether from tree canopies or built structures, and court lighting should be maintained for evening use. A drinking fountain should be located at each court complex.

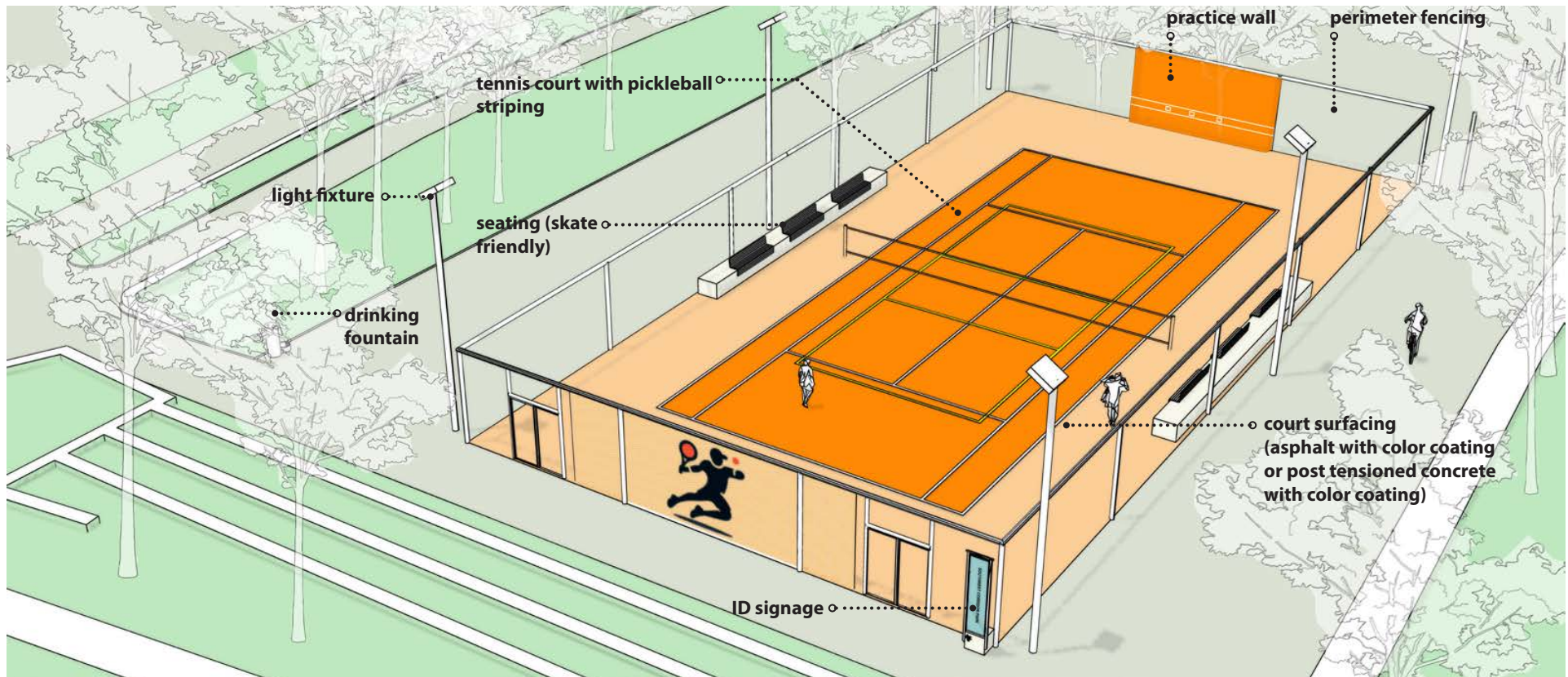


Tennis Courts

General

Tennis courts are well-used in the Southwest Corridor Park (SWCP), and there is growing demand to add pickleball striping to the courts. To create a cohesive look and improve durability, the pavement system and color coating of the tennis courts should be coordinated with the basketball courts, featuring the same construction and complementary color schemes.

Designing seating and walls that are skateboard-friendly expands the usability of these courts, making them multi-functional and appealing to a broader range of users. Incorporating large-scale windscreen graphics can reinforce the SWCP identity and increase community awareness of the various site uses. Adding a practice wall at each location would be greatly appreciated by tennis players, offering opportunities for individual practice and tennis lessons. To protect players from the sun and heat, shade should be incorporated, whether from tree canopies or built structures. Additionally, maintaining court lighting for evening use ensures the courts are accessible and safe during later hours.



Anson Street Hockey

Retain and Consider Making Multi-Sport

The street hockey court is in good condition but is currently underutilized. As a multi-sport court designed for street hockey, futsal, and basketball, this space has the potential to provide more opportunities for the community and increase its usage. Enhancing awareness and programming could help maximize the court's benefits.

Existing Conditions

Size: 3,450 sf

Court Material:

Fencing: Yes

Seating and Shade Elements: None

Lighting: No

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Johnson Park Basketball Court

Retain

The two half-court basketball courts are in good condition and are well utilized, requiring no improvements at this time.

Existing Conditions

Size: 4,560 sf

Court Material: Asphalt with color coating

Fencing: No

Seating and Shade Elements: None

Lighting: No

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Jamaica Plain Skatepark

Renovate

Skateboarding is very popular along the Southwest Corridor Park, with users making the most of both the hard courts and the skatepark. Community feedback indicates that while the skatepark is well used, it is primarily suited for more skilled, advanced users, and the bowl design is not conducive to accommodating multiple users. Expanding the skatepark to include a street course would greatly enhance the facility by providing options for beginners and allowing for more simultaneous use. Additionally, a street course would help alleviate pressure on the hard courts, which are currently not designed for skateboarding.

Existing Conditions

Size: 3,500 sf

Court Material: Cast in place concrete

Fencing: No

Seating and Shade Elements: None

Lighting: No

Accessibility: Compliant

Proposed Plan: Renovate Hardcourt

Size: 8,000 sf

Court Material: Cast in place concrete

Fencing: No

Seating and Shade Elements: Add shaded seating

Lighting: No

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Jamaica Plain Skatepark Expansion

The existing skatepark should be expanded to provide facilities that accommodate more users and are suitable for beginners. The street course would feature concrete steps, curbs, walls, and ramps, as well as steel rails. The design of the course could be inspired by Stony Brook, which runs underground near this location.



Lawndale Tennis Court

Renovate

The resurfacing of this court should include tennis and pickleball striping. Additionally, as noted in the Lawndale playground recommendations, access to the tennis courts and playground should be separated to ensure safety and improve the overall user experience.

Existing Conditions

Size: 13,100 sf
Court Material: Asphalt with color coating
Fencing: Yes
Seating and Shade Elements: None
Lighting: Yes
Accessibility: Non-compliant route

Proposed Plan

Size: 13,100 sf
Court Material: Asphalt with color coating, tennis and pickleball striping
Fencing: Yes
Seating and Shade Elements: None
Lighting: Yes
Accessibility: Provide an accessible route



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Stony Brook Basketball Court

Renovate

This highly utilized court should be expanded to the full size of 50' x 94' and have fencing added at the goal ends to prevent stray balls from entering adjacent paths. There is a significant opportunity to incorporate a shade structure and seating for spectators, which would also benefit users of the Stony Brook lawn. Additionally, this court is well-suited for multi-sport use, accommodating activities such as basketball and futsal.

Existing Conditions

Size: 6,950 sf

Court Material: Asphalt with color coating

Fencing: No

Seating and Shade Elements: None

Lighting: No

Accessibility: Compliant

Proposed Plan: Renovate Hardcourt

Size: 7,300 sf

Court Material: Asphalt with color coating

Fencing: Yes

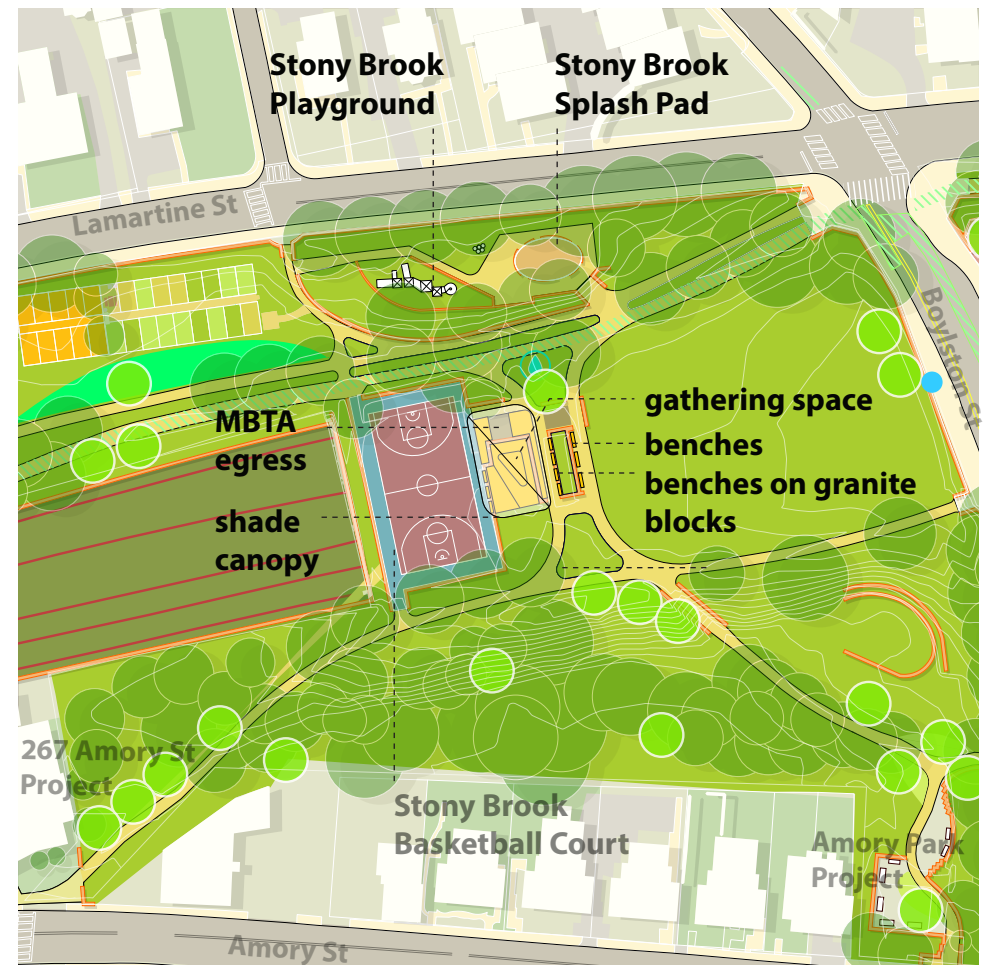
Seating and Shade Elements: Add

Lighting: No

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Kelly Rink

Renovate

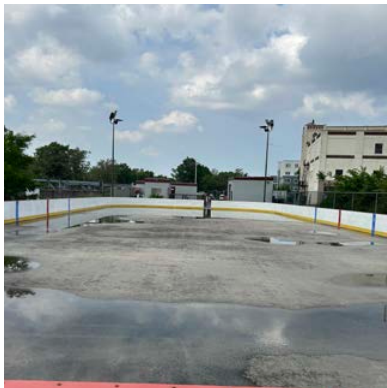
Originally designed as a temporary rink to replace the Kelly Rink in the Emerald Necklace, this facility has exceeded its intended lifespan and is in need of improvements. Despite being a temporary setup, the rink remains extremely popular. DCR is studying enhancements to the rink complex to improve operations and user experience, aiming to incorporate year-round programming. The Kelly Rink and adjacent parcels are owned by the MBTA, which is open to modifying leases to allow a greenway extension from Atherton Street to the rink and further to Boylston Street. To maximize usability, the paved areas around the rink should be repaved and repurposed as a traffic park for children, street skateboarding, and viewing rink activities. After the ice skating season, the rink could also be used for pickleball or futsal, although fencing and drainage improvements would be necessary to support these activities.

Existing Conditions

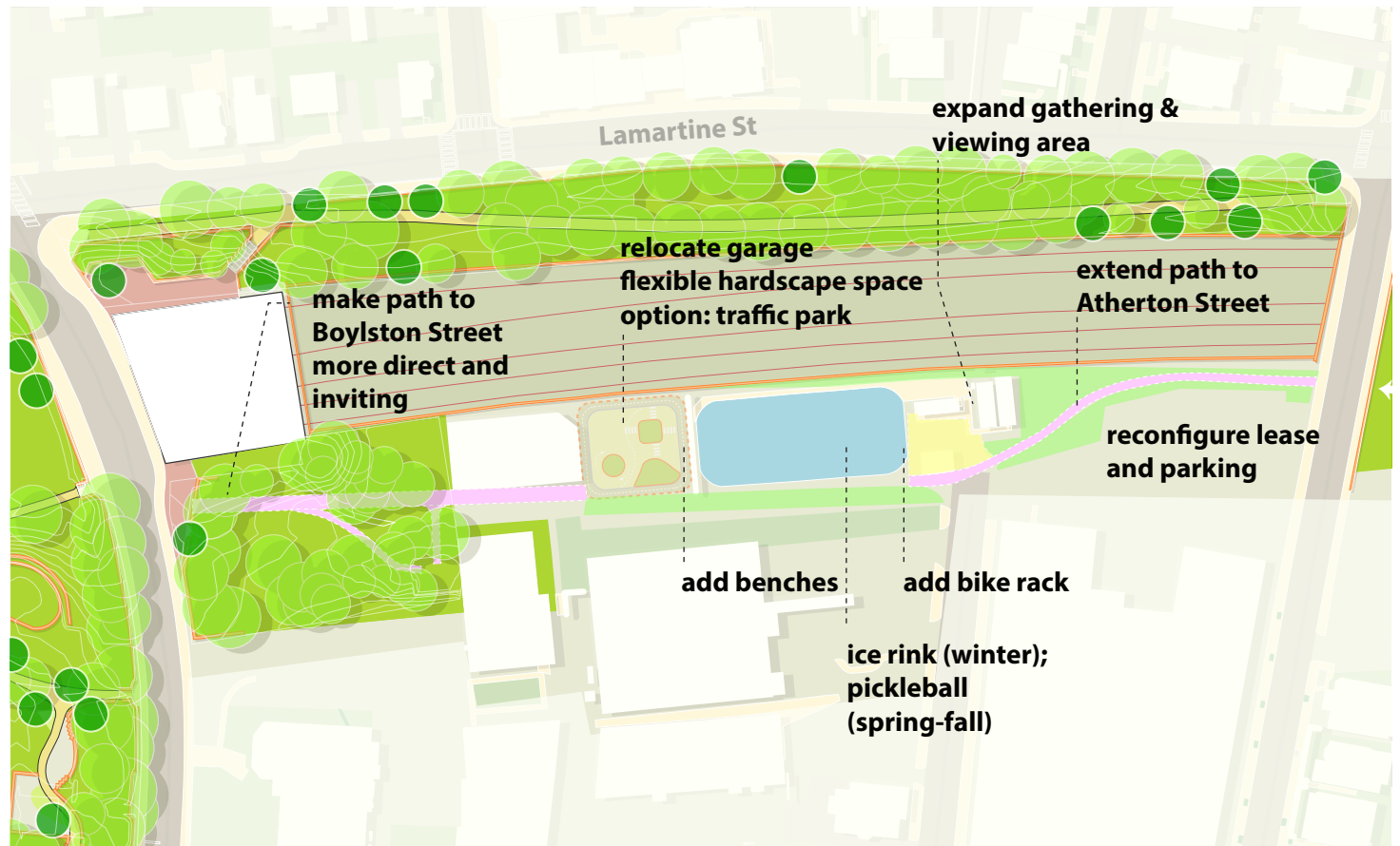
Size: 9,020 sf
Court Material: Cast in place concrete
Fencing: Yes
Seating and Shade Elements: None
Lighting: Yes
Accessibility: Compliant

Proposed Plan: Renovate Rink

Size: 9,020 sf
Court Material: Cast in place concrete
Fencing: Yes
Seating and Shade Elements: Add
Lighting: Yes
Accessibility: Complaint



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Jackson Square Basketball Court

Renovate

The current playground space is unique because the Walhalla wall structure and zipline playground equipment are more appropriate for older children. Constructability issues arise from the existing tunnel structure, which complicates foundation designs. Additionally, the space is too small to adequately accommodate both the 2-5 and 5-12 age ranges. To address this, consider rearranging the courts to expand the playground area, allowing for a more inclusive and functional play environment. Add fencing at the playground perimeter given the shared use path and MBTA station vehicular traffic.

Existing Conditions

Size: 7,360 sf

Court Material: Asphalt with color coating

Fencing: Yes

Seating and Shade Elements: None

Lighting: Yes

Accessibility: Complaint

Proposed Plan: Renovate Hardcourt

Size: 7,360 sf

Court Material: Asphalt with color coating or post tensioned concrete

Fencing: Yes

Seating and Shade Elements: Add

Lighting: Yes

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Jackson Square Tennis Court

Renovate

This court should be recoated and restriped with both tennis and pickleball striping. Additionally, a practice wall should be incorporated into the fencing.

Existing Conditions

Size: 6,000 sf

Court Material: Asphalt with color coating

Fencing: Yes

Seating and Shade Elements: None

Lighting: Yes

Accessibility: Compliant

Proposed Plan: Renovate Hardcourt

Size: 6,000 sf

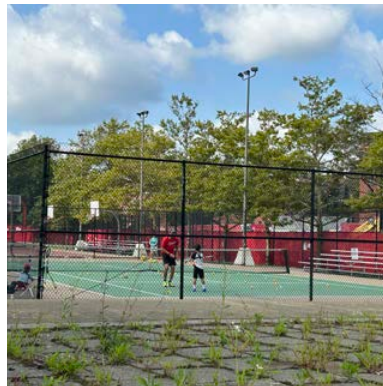
Court Material: Asphalt with color coating or post tensioned concrete

Fencing: Yes

Seating and Shade Elements: Add

Lighting: Yes

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Mission Deck Basketball Court

Renovate

Due to the poor condition of this court complex, repaving is necessary. The steel access covers in the middle court hinder play and pose safety concerns. This middle court should be transformed into a space featuring fitness equipment, a shade structure, and skate-friendly elements. The outer basketball courts should remain intact to continue serving their purpose.

Existing Conditions

Size: 15,000 sf

Court Material: Asphalt with color coating

Fencing: Yes

Seating and Shade Elements: None

Lighting: Yes

Accessibility: Compliant

Proposed Plan: Renovate Hardcourt

Size: 10,000 sf

Court Material: Asphalt with color coating or post tensioned concrete

Fencing: Yes

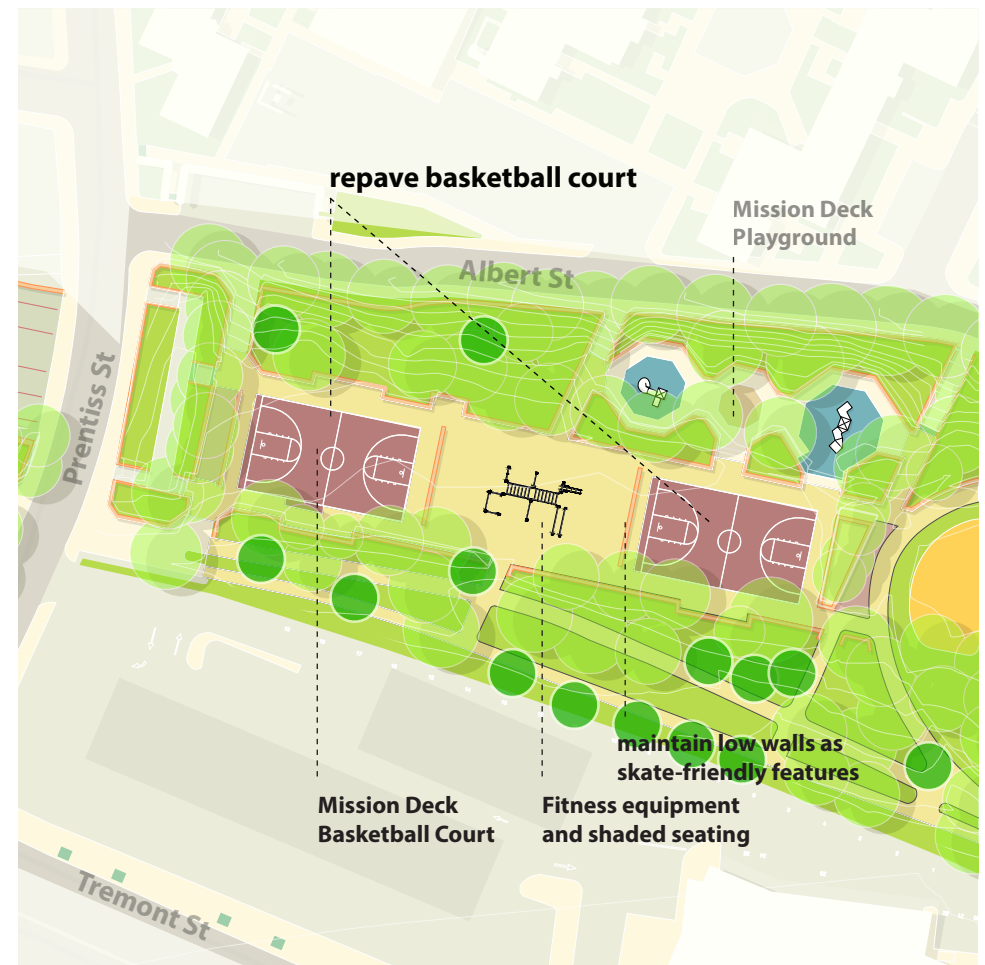
Seating and Shade Elements: add

Lighting: Yes

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Mission Deck Tennis Court

Renovate

This court should be repaved and striped with lines for both tennis and pickleball. Additionally, a practice wall should be incorporated into the fencing to enhance training opportunities for users.

Existing Conditions

Size: 13,050 sf

Court Material: Asphalt with color coating

Fencing: Yes

Seating and Shade Elements: None

Lighting: Yes

Accessibility: Compliant

Proposed Plan: Renovate Hardcourt

Size: 13,050 sf

Court Material: Asphalt with color coating or post tensioned concrete

Fencing: Yes

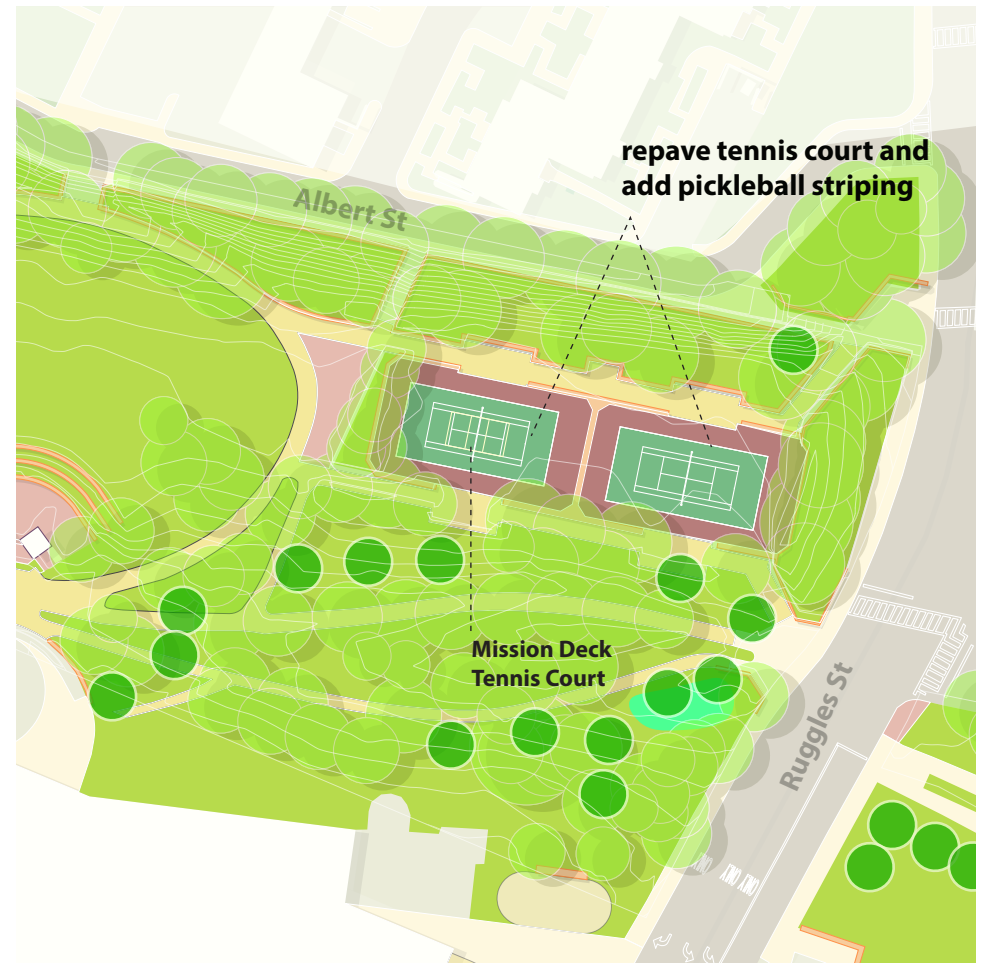
Seating and Shade Elements: Add

Lighting: Yes

Accessibility: Compliant



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Dog Parks

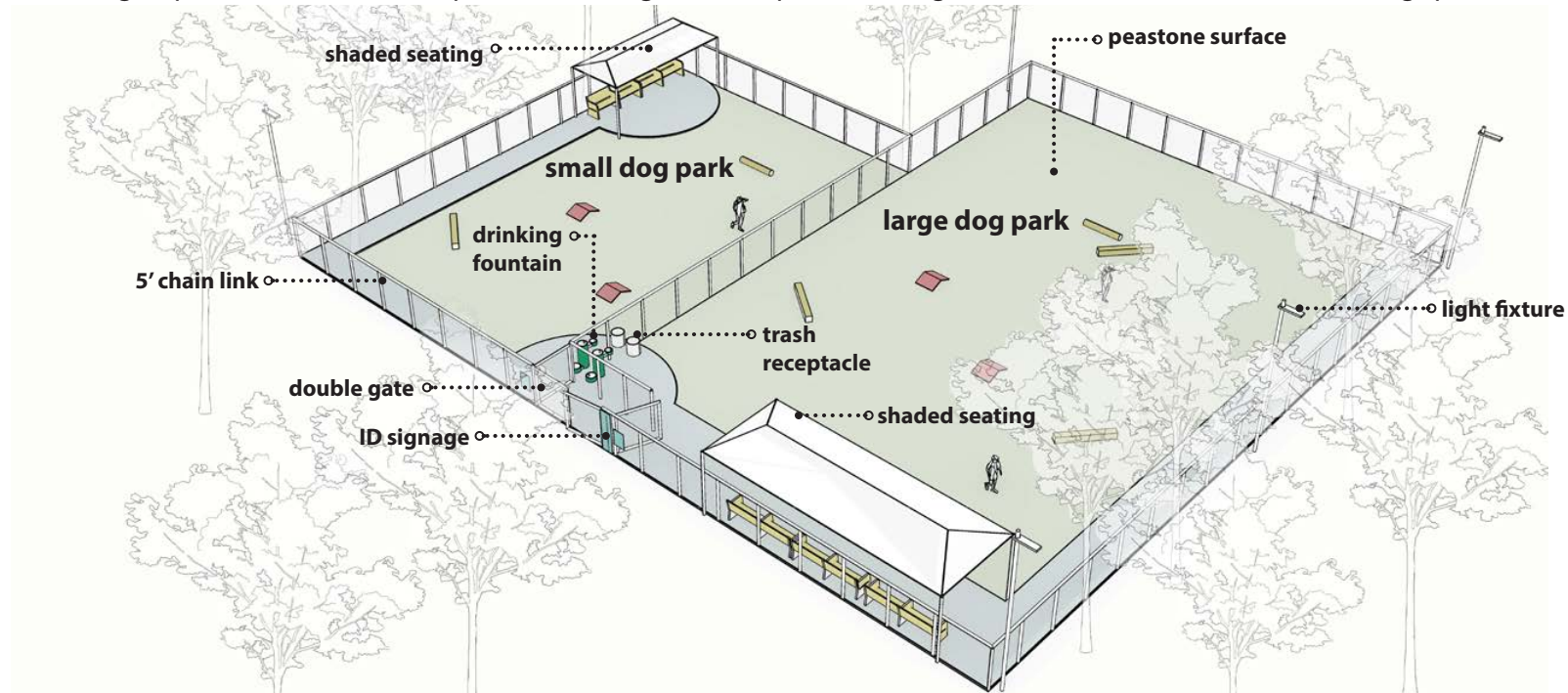
General

There has been great community support for dog parks in the Southwest Corridor Park. Considerable thought has been given to selecting potential sites that meet key criteria: a minimum size of 10,000 square feet, 100'-15-' in length, a distance of more than 100 feet from residential properties, good drainage, access to a water supply, and a central location within the community.

The following are the recommended components for a dog park:

- 5'Tall Chain Link Fence with Mow Strip: Ensures the security of the dogs and helps in maintaining the grass around the fence.
- Double-Gated Entry System: Provides a safe buffer zone for dogs entering and exiting the park, reducing the risk of escapes.
- Drinking Fountain with Hose Bib: Supplies fresh water for dogs and facilitates cleaning the park.
- Accessible Route from Park Pathways: Ensures that all community members, including those with disabilities, can easily access the park.
- Peastone Surface Material: Provides a comfortable and durable surface for dogs to run and play on.
- Shade for Dog Owners and Dogs: Protects users from the sun and heat, making the park more enjoyable during warmer months.
- Trash Receptacles: Encourages cleanliness and responsible pet ownership by providing convenient places to dispose of waste.
- Planting Outside the Dog Park: Offers screening or additional shade, enhancing the park's aesthetic and environmental benefits.

A dedicated friends group is also essential to help maintain and govern the park, ensuring it remains a clean, safe, and welcoming space for all users.



Proposed Everett Street Dog Park

Add New

In response to considerable community feedback, a dog park is recommended for the open space along Everett Street. This location offers sufficient setback from residences and ample space for the park. The off-leash dog park would feature a perimeter fence and separate areas for small and large dogs. A double gate system would prevent dogs from running out as users enter and exit. The park will include amenities such as a drinking fountain, dog waste dispensers, trash receptacles, and seating. The ground surface will be peastone, which is resistant to erosion, safe for paws, and easy to clean.

Existing Conditions

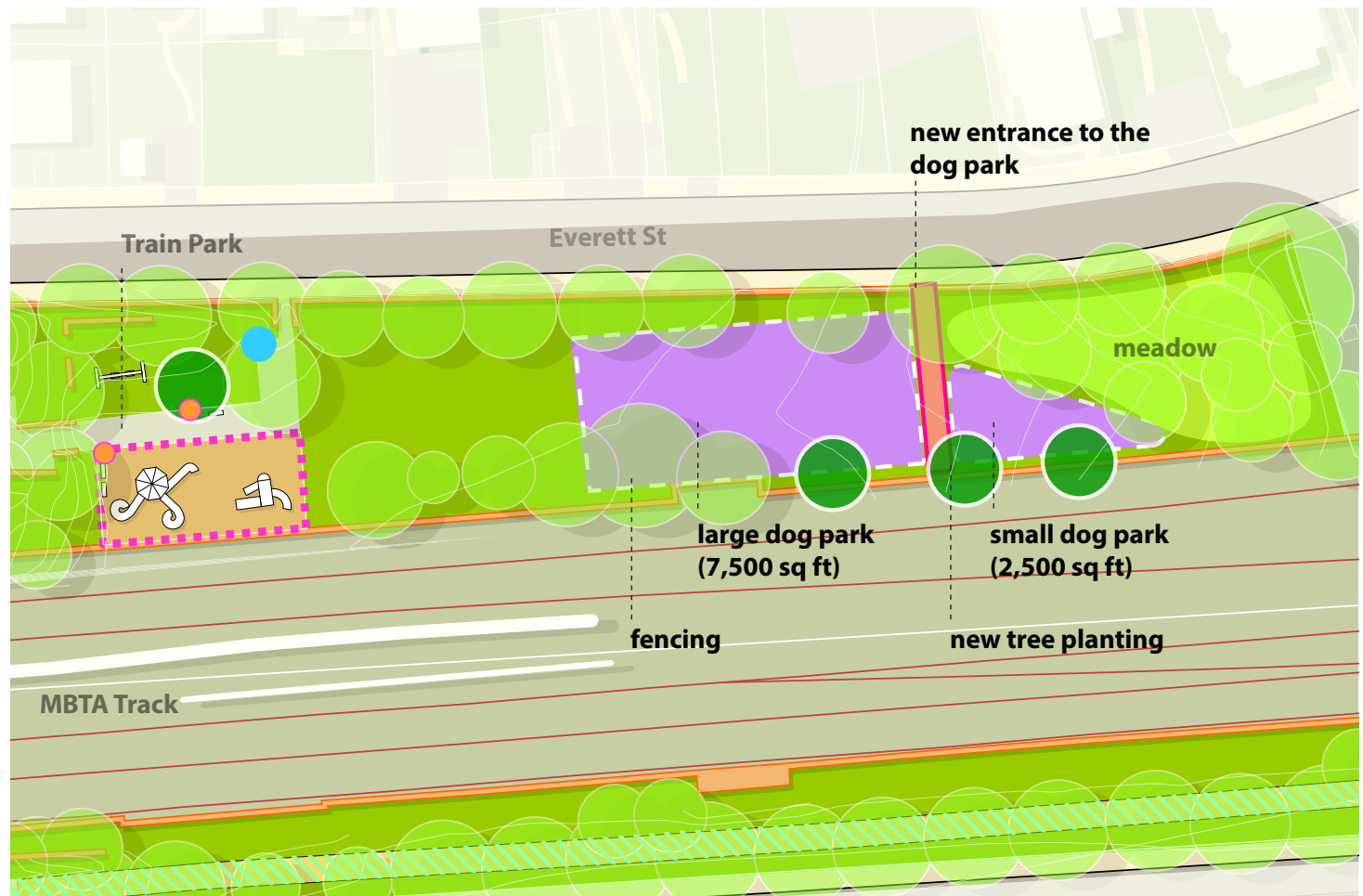
Size: N/A
Court Material: N/A
Fencing: No
Seating and Shade Elements: None
Lighting: Yes
Accessibility: None

Proposed Plan: Add New Dog Park

Size: 9,000 sf
Court Material: Peastone Surface
Fencing: Yes
Seating and Shade Elements: Add
Lighting: Yes
Accessibility: Complaint



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Carleton Court Dog Park

Retain

This highly popular dog park was established on a former basketball court and is actively managed and maintained by a dedicated friends group. Currently, no improvements are needed, as the space effectively serves its purpose.

Existing Conditions

Size: 3,950 sf

Court Material: Asphalt with color coating

Fencing: Yes

Seating and Shade Elements: None

Lighting: No

Accessibility: Compliant



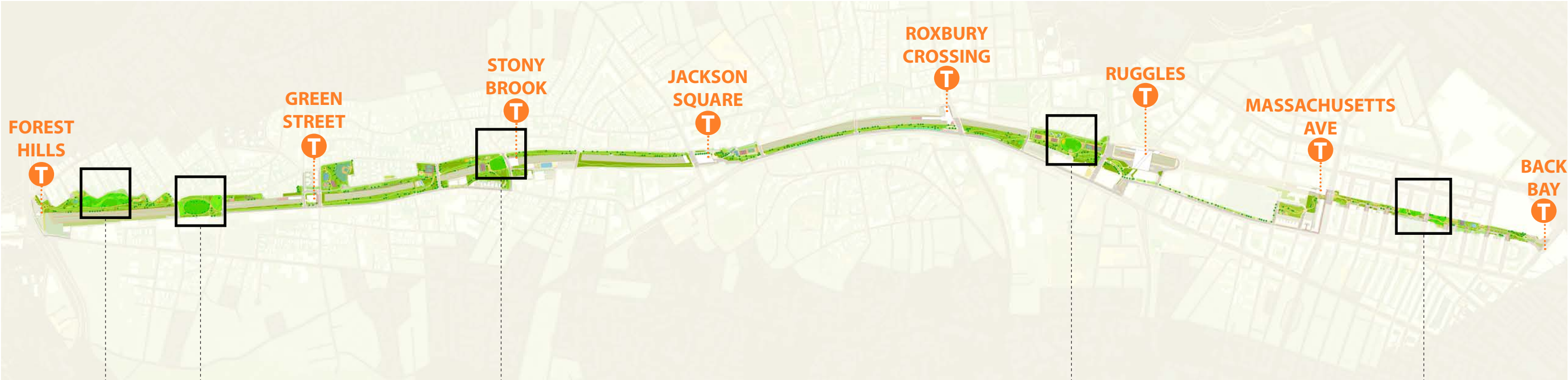
Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Open Lawn/Green Areas

The open lawns are used flexibly. Informal programming includes lounging, frisbee, picnicking, daycare, and dog walking. The community wishes to preserve this informal character and avoid adding sports fields or dog parks. The open lawns vary significantly in character; some feature rolling topography, while others are flat ovals situated over railroad tracks. Overall, the turf condition is fair, but in the South End, it has been worn down to bare earth due to intense use. At Mission Deck, incorporating a community garden in the sunny lawn area would greatly benefit the community.



Open Lawn Spalding St

This rolling lawn features diverse outdoor rooms created by the varied landform, making it ideal for activities such as dog walking, passive recreation, and informal sports. Converting steep slopes to meadow can enhance biodiversity and prevent erosion.

Open Lawn Call St

Given its proximity to English High School and a dense residential neighborhood, this lawn serves a large number of people for informal uses. Widening the perimeter paths, adding more seating, and pruning trees will enhance its usability.

Open Lawn Stony Brook

The deck over the railroad tracks is highly popular for informal use and community events. The community deeply values this open space and strongly desires to preserve it without introducing additional programming.

Open Lawn Mission Deck

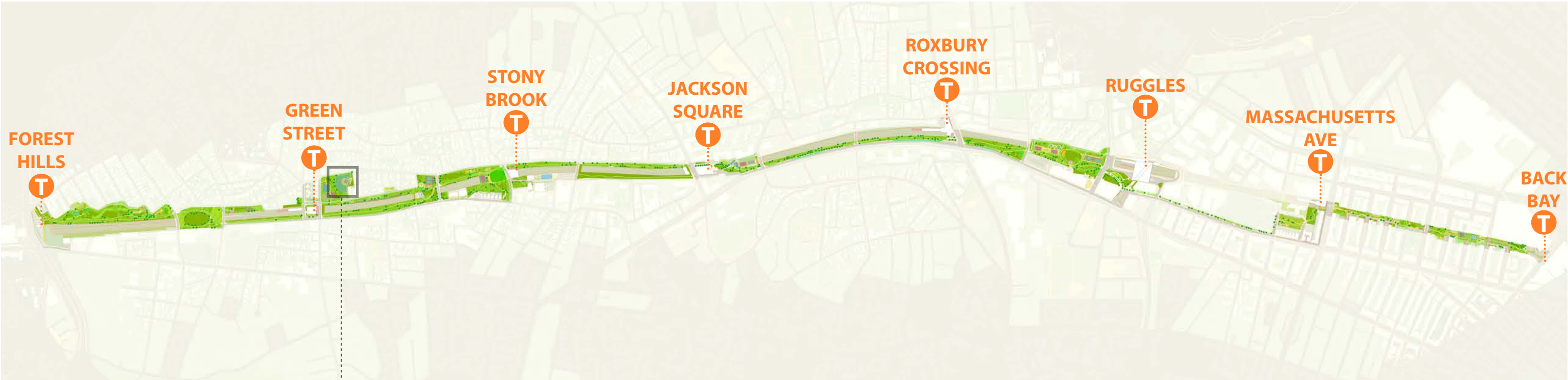
Another lawn spans over the railroad tracks, but unlike the first, this lawn lacks the same community ownership and use. Introducing a community garden in this space could provide the community with access to fresh food.

Open Lawn South End

The corridor in the South End hosts several small lawns. Some of these lawns provide quiet, solitary spaces, while many others are heavily used as informal dog parks.

Recreational Fields

The Southwest Corridor Park has just one recreational field, a little league/softball field located in Johnson Park. This field is a valuable asset for the local youth baseball and softball league. To enhance its functionality and accessibility, site furnishings such as benches and trash receptacles should be updated, and the paths providing accessible routes to the field should be improved.



**League/Softball field
at Johnson Park**

retain
update furnishings and accessible route

Community Gardens

When the Southwest Corridor Park opened in 1990, the community gardens introduced valuable new amenities to the neighborhoods along the corridor. However, these twelve gardens have seen minimal updates since their construction over 30 years ago. Built before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the gardens now require modernization, repairs, and upgrades to restore them to their full potential, ensure compliance with regulations, and align with DCR’s inclusivity goals.

Improvements should include better accessibility throughout the gardens, improved plot layouts, reliable water service, standardized materials, gathering spaces, enclosed storage, secure fencing, low-maintenance materials, ADA compliance, and enhanced inclusivity.

More detailed recommendations are addressed in the Southwest Corridor Community Gardens Implementation Plan.



Community Gardens

Fencing: Each garden should have secure fencing, either chain link or picket, to limit access. To exclude animals, a mow strip and fence mesh with openings less than 1 inch in diameter are recommended. Gardens should have gates with a minimum opening width of 36 inches.

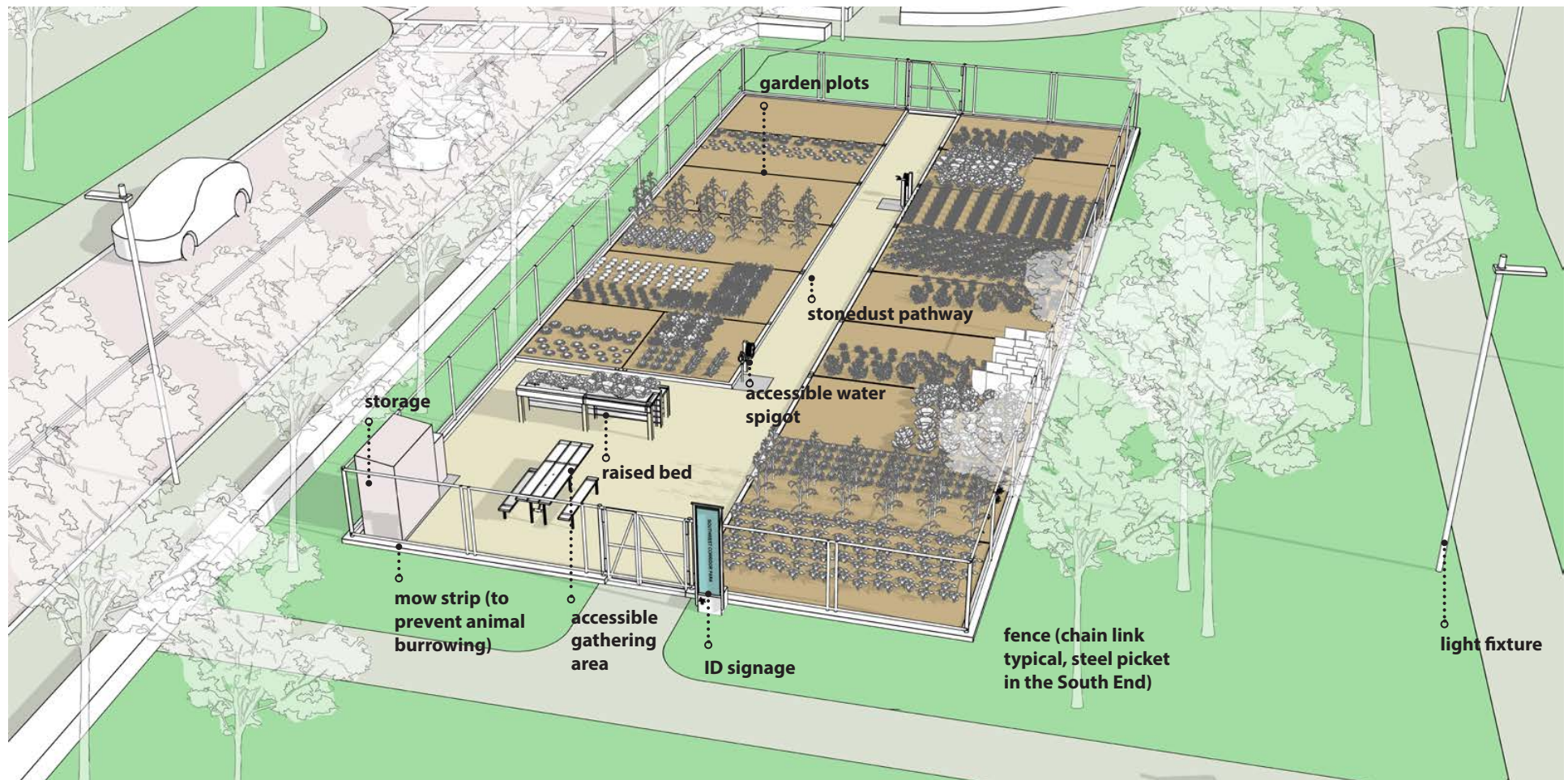
Pathways: Stonedust pathways with a minimum width of 5 feet are recommended for aesthetics and budget considerations. Incorporating a geogrid within the stonedust will improve stability and load-bearing capacity.

Pathway Edging and Plot Dividers: Granite should be used to border the paths and define the garden bed limits.

Raised and Accessible Plots: Raised/accessible beds constructed from wood should be provided in each garden to enhance inclusivity.

Water Fixtures: Each garden should have a seasonal water supply with accessible height controls. Multiple fixtures should be installed as needed to allow access to all plots with a 50-foot hose.

Garden Amenities: Secure storage for tools and supplies, composting bins, and gathering spaces should be included in each garden.



Anson Street Garden

Update

Key features include separation of the garden entrance from the playground entrance, reconfigured plots, the addition of two accessible plots/raised beds, uniform fencing and an upgraded gathering area, as well as dedicated storage. Pruning of overhanging trees is also recommended.

Existing Conditions:

Size: 4,500 sf

Path Material: Stonedust, 1/4" crushed stone, packed earth

Seating/Gathering Area: Area under tree, picnic table; Not accessible

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

Size: 4,500 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

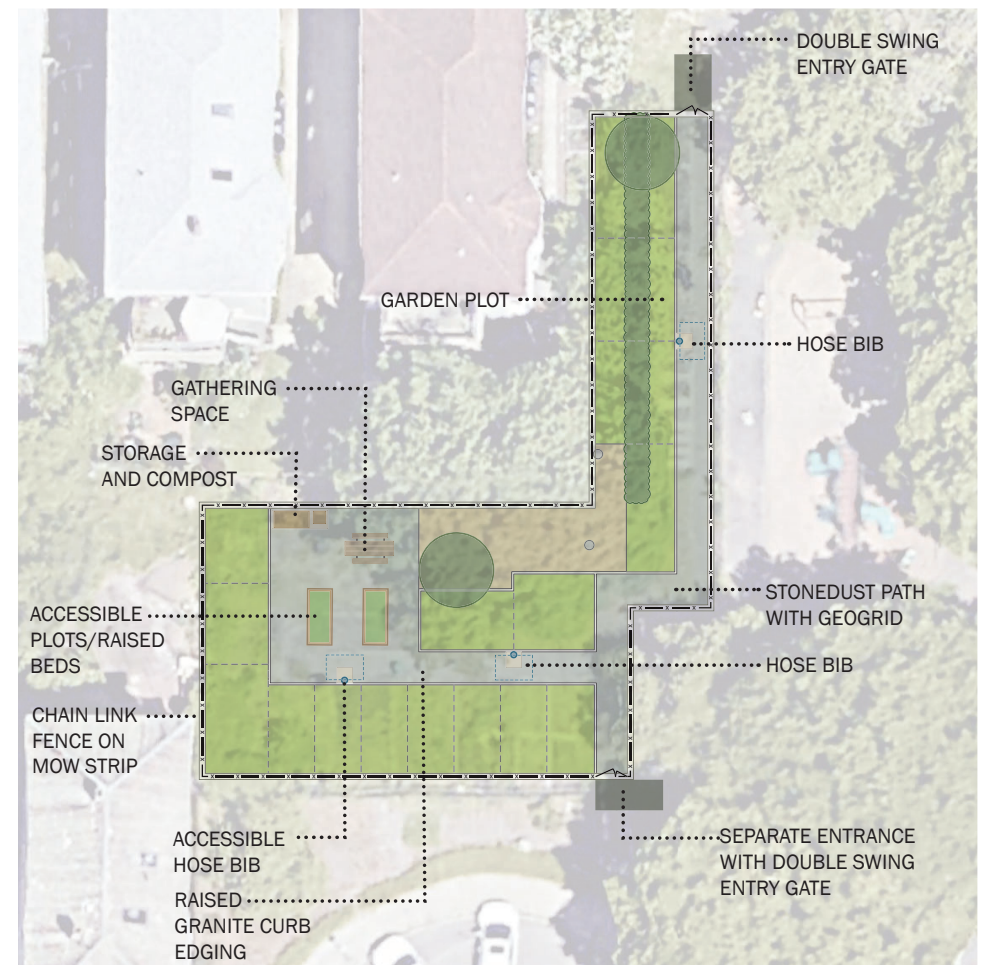
Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Hall/Boynton Street Garden

Update and Expand

Key features include a gathering space, the addition of an accessible plot/raised bed, dedicated storage, and a new perimeter fence with double swing gate, all set in a concrete mow strip.

Existing Conditions:

Size: 3,850 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

Seating/Gathering Area: None

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

Size: 3,850 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

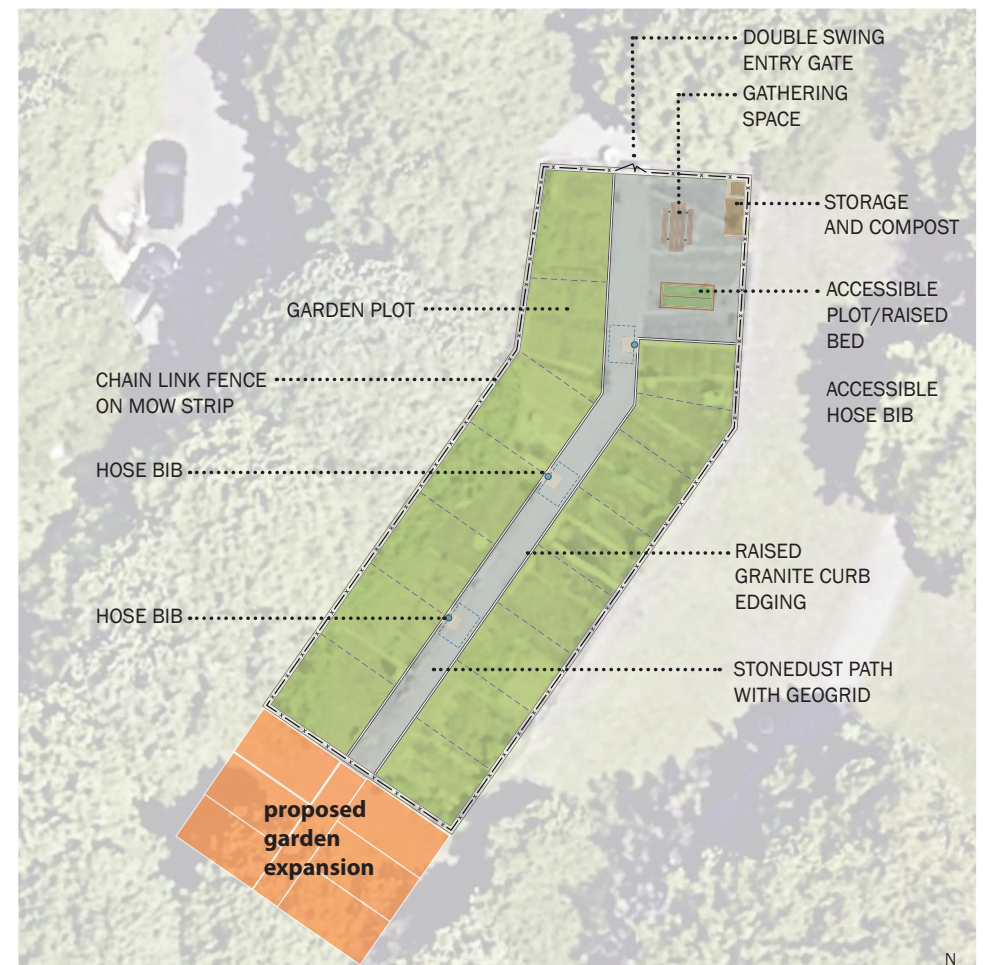
Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

McBride/Boynton Street Garden

Update and Expand

Key features include the addition of a gathering space, dedicated storage, an accessible plot/raised bed, and splash pads at each hose bib. A new fence on a concrete mow strip secures the perimeter and a rebuilt entrance improves accessibility.

Existing Conditions:

Size: 2,050 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

Seating/Gathering Area: None

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

Size: 2,050 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

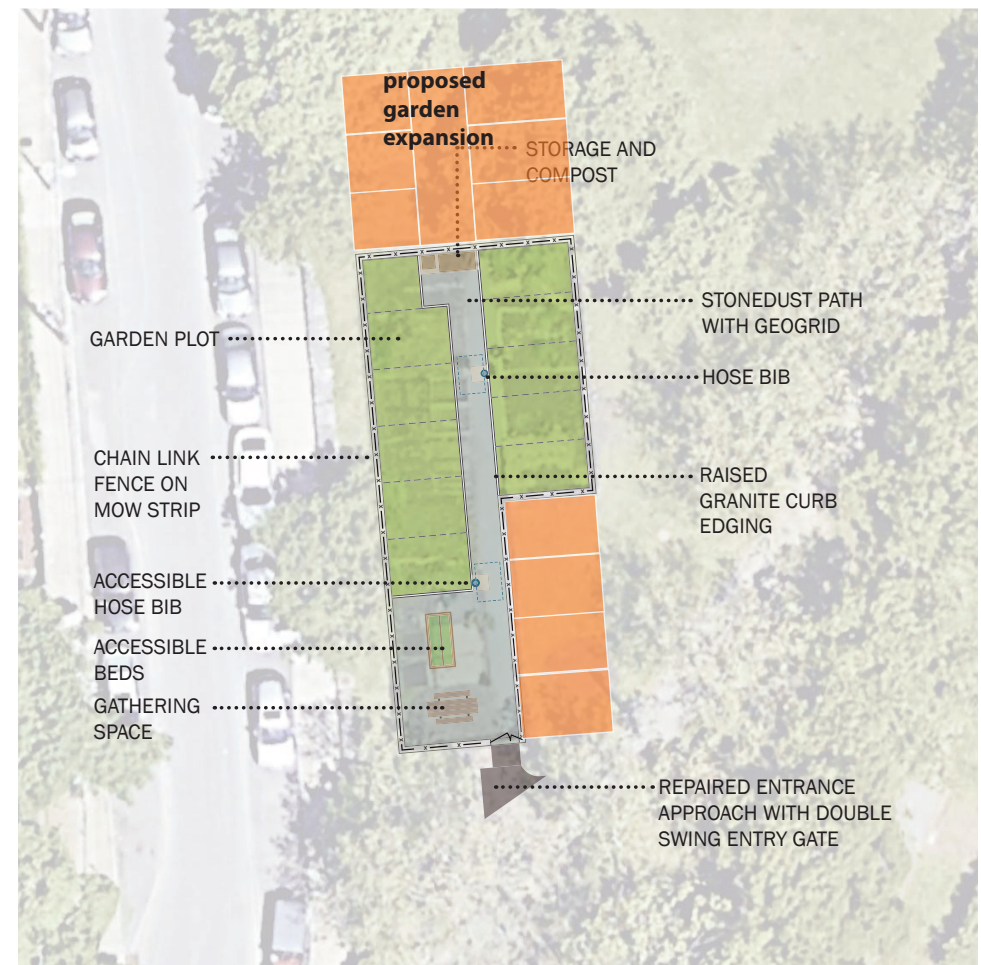
Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Oakdale Garden

Update

Key features include the addition of internal water service, a retaining wall to provide level gardening space, an accessible plot/raised bed, and materials generally matching the rest of the Corridor's gardens. Some features are reminders of the garden's history - including the grape arbor and fruit trees.

Existing Conditions

Size: 4,900 sf

Path Material: Bare soil/leaf litter, mulch, pavers, bricks

Seating/Gathering Area: Larger area near shed. Two smaller areas on the western edge; Not accessible

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

Size: 4,900 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

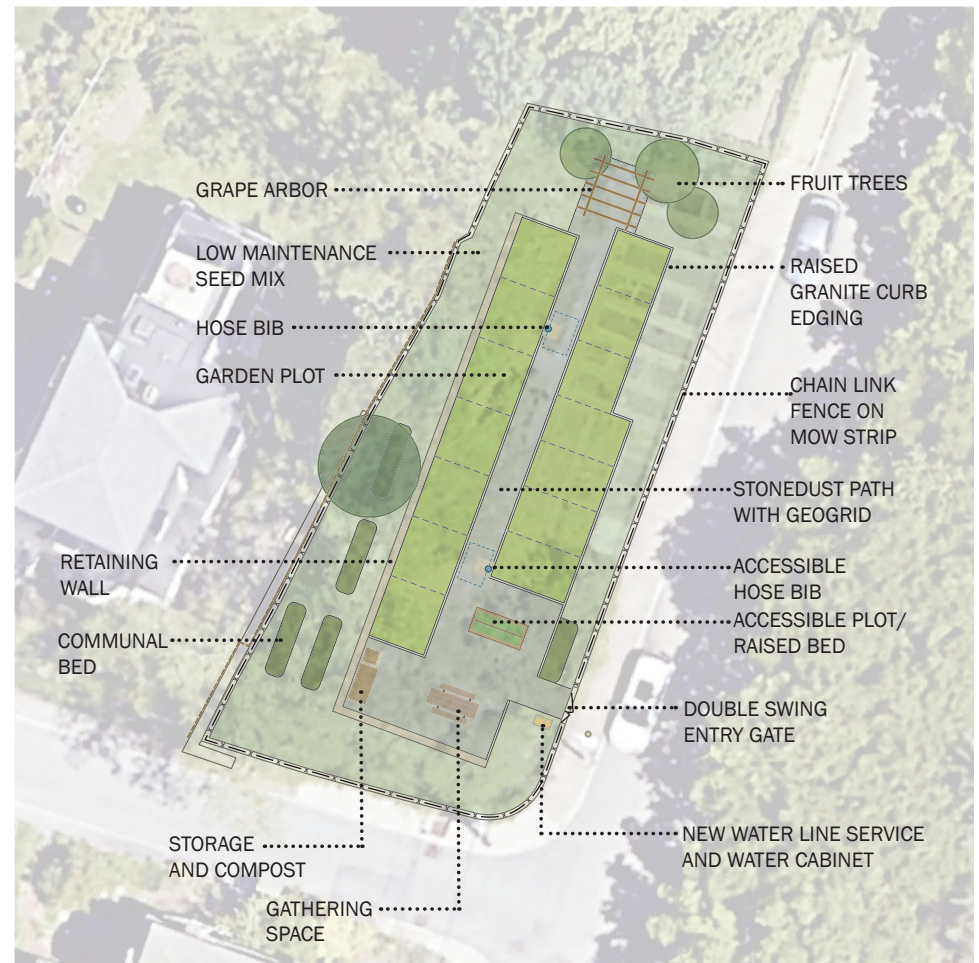
Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Lawndale Terrace Garden

Update

Key features include closing off the entrance from the playground, adding two accessible plots/raised beds, installation of a proper water cabinet and the addition of a dedicated storage shed. A new fence with concrete mow strip secures the perimeter.

Existing Conditions

Size: 3,975 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

Seating/Gathering Area: Combined tools storage and gathering area near south entrance; Not accessible

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

Size: 3,975 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

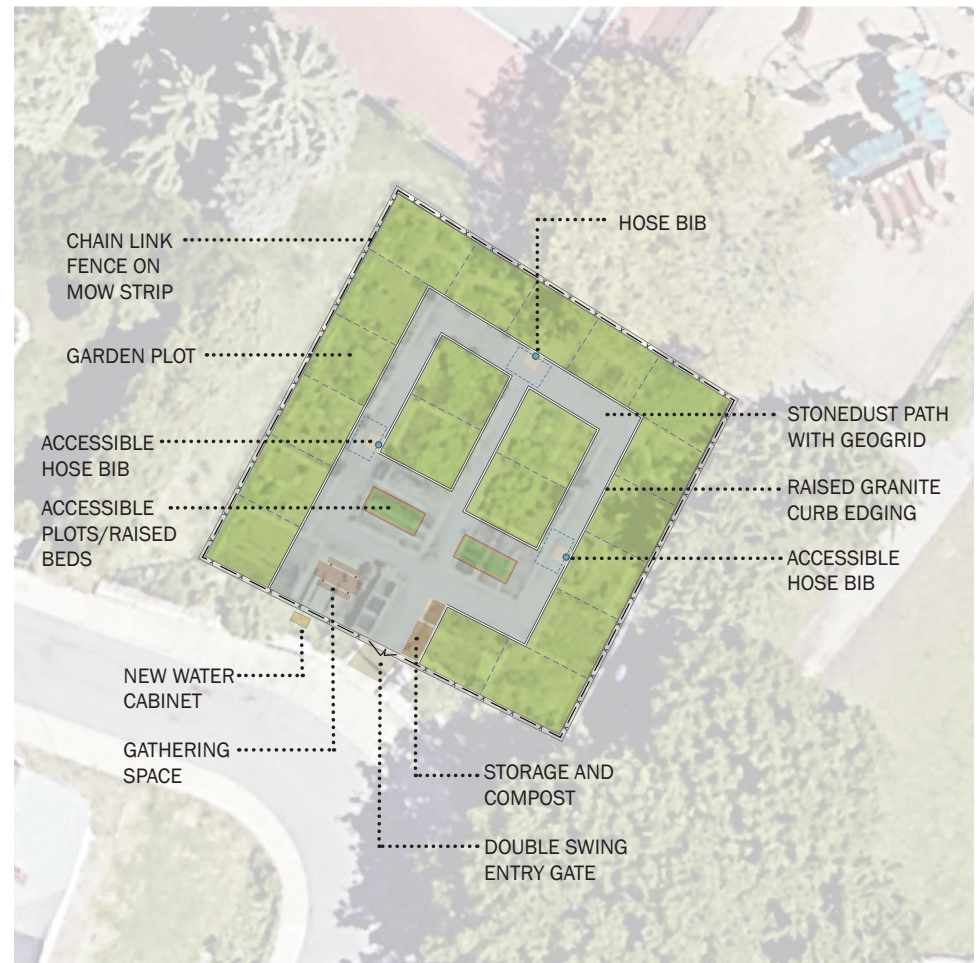
Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Lamartine/Hubbard Street Garden

Update

Key features include relocation of the garden entrance to provide an accessible route, a compliant gathering space with dedicated storage and an accessible plot/raised bed. A new fence with concrete mow strip secures the perimeter.

Existing Conditions

Size: 3,525 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

Seating/Gathering Area: Composters, wheelbarrow, some tools and miscellaneous materials; Accessible

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

Size: 3,525 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Proposed Community Garden at Mildred Hailey

Private Developer To Implement

As part of the reconstruction of the Mildred Hailey Housing Development, a new building adjacent to the Southwest Corridor Park will feature a community garden. While the design details and stewardship model for this garden are not yet known, it is anticipated to be a valuable asset for the Jackson Square area, providing much-needed green space and gardening opportunities for the community.



Proposed Condition

Proposed Community Garden at Mission Deck

New Garden Model and Stewardship To Be Determined

The original design of the Southwest Corridor Park omitted a community garden from the Roxbury portion of the park due to community feedback at the time. However, feedback from this Action Plan supports the addition of a community garden to Mission Deck. The garden model and stewardship structure require further discussion with the gardening community. There is sufficient space within the oval lawn to add a community garden in full sun that will not detract from the other uses of this lawn.



Saranac/New Castle Garden

Modify North End And Update

Features include an updated gathering space, new fencing on a concrete mow strip, the addition of two accessible plots/raised beds, dedicated storage and food waste composting units, and the addition of a double swing entry gate. Pruning of overhanging trees is also recommended.

Existing Conditions

Size: 8,825 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

Seating/Gathering Area: Seating, trees in constructed planters

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

Size: 8,825 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

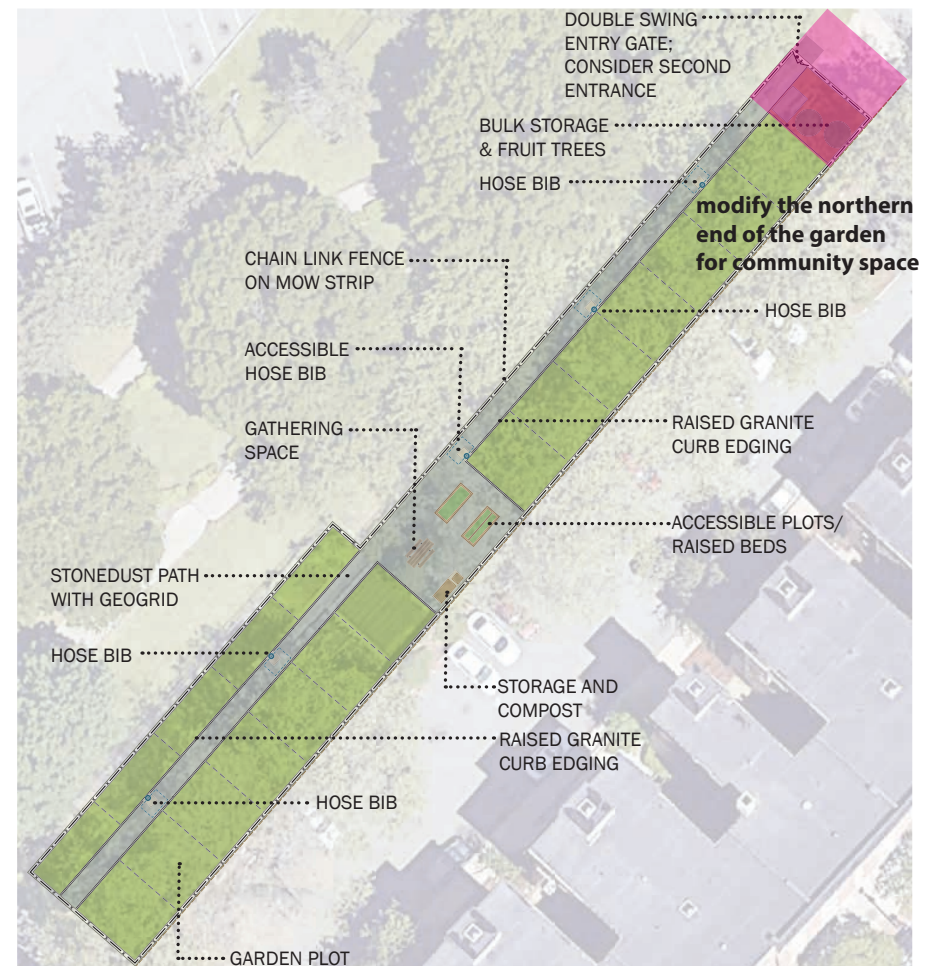
Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Blackwood/Claremont Street Garden

Update

Features include a compliant drainage grate, dedicated storage and closed compost for food waste, adjusted water locations for better access, and a gathering space and accessible plot/raised bed.

Existing Conditions

Size: 3,275 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

Seating/Gathering Area: Storage and gathering area

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

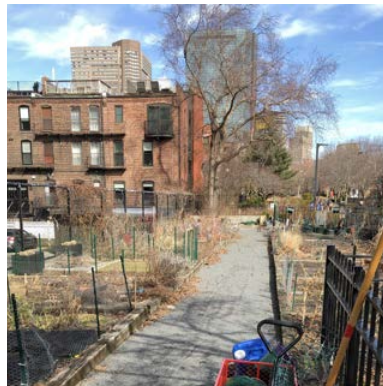
Size: 3,275 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

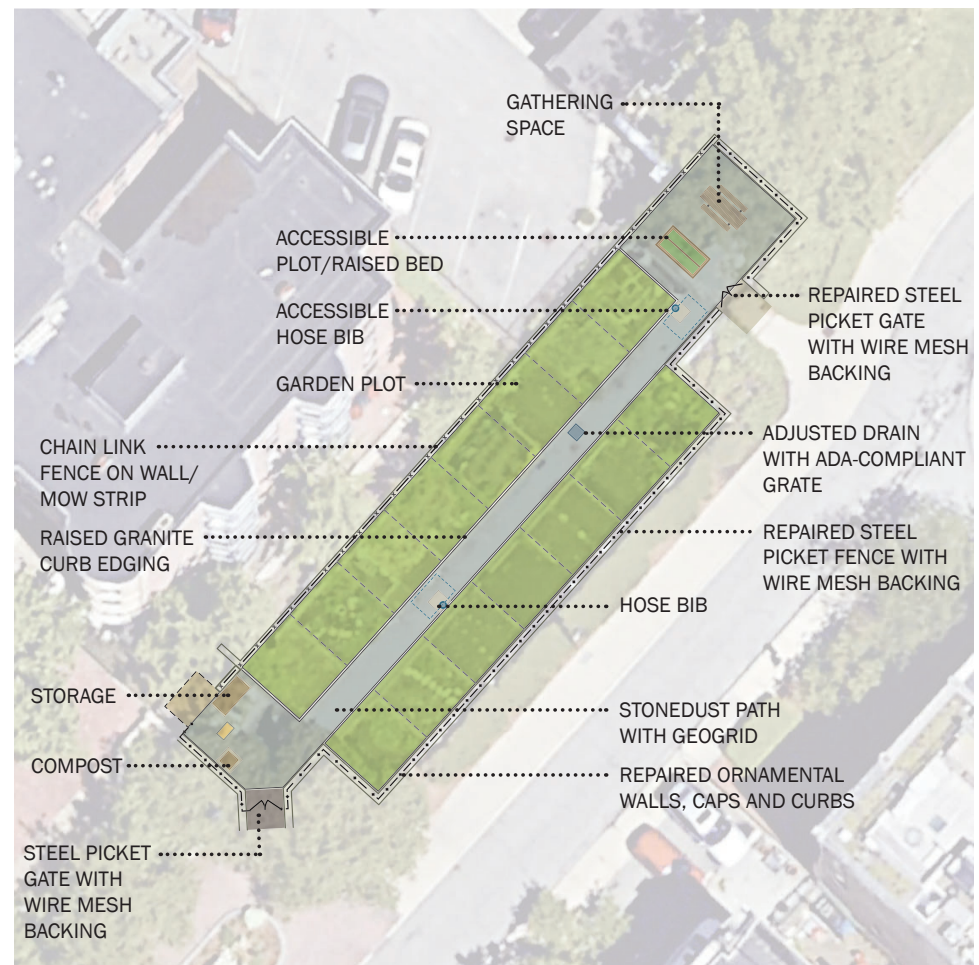
Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Greenwich/Cumberland Street Garden

Update

Features include a revised plot layout, the addition of a third water source, a dedicated gathering space and accessible plot/raised bed, repaired fences and stone/masonry walls, and a relocated ADA-compliant drain.

Existing Conditions

Size: 3,775 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

Seating/Gathering Area: Tool storage, trash and seating

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

Size: 3,775 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

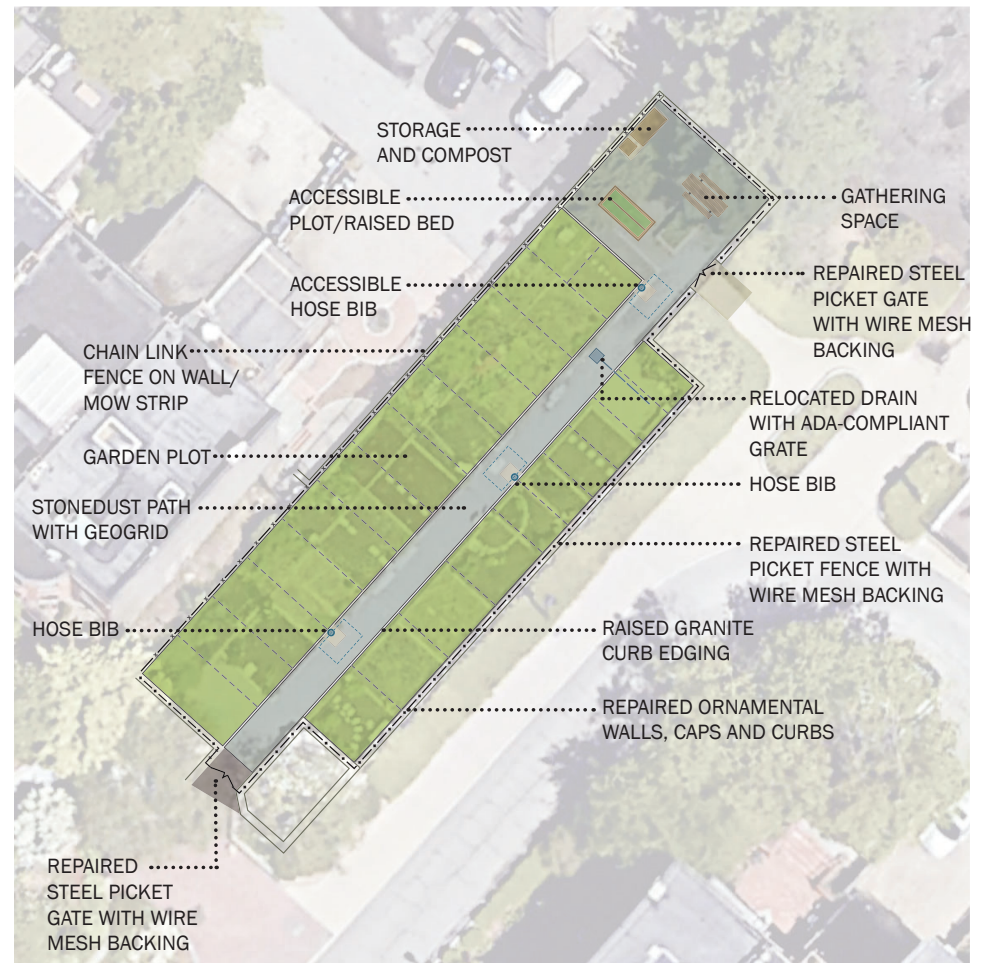
Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Braddock Park Garden

Update

Features include the repair of the non-compliant access route path, rebuilding two accessible plots/raised beds with compliant clearances, the addition of a second water source and dedicated storage and food waste composter.

Existing Conditions

Size: 2,250 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

Seating/Gathering Area: None

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

Size: 2,250 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

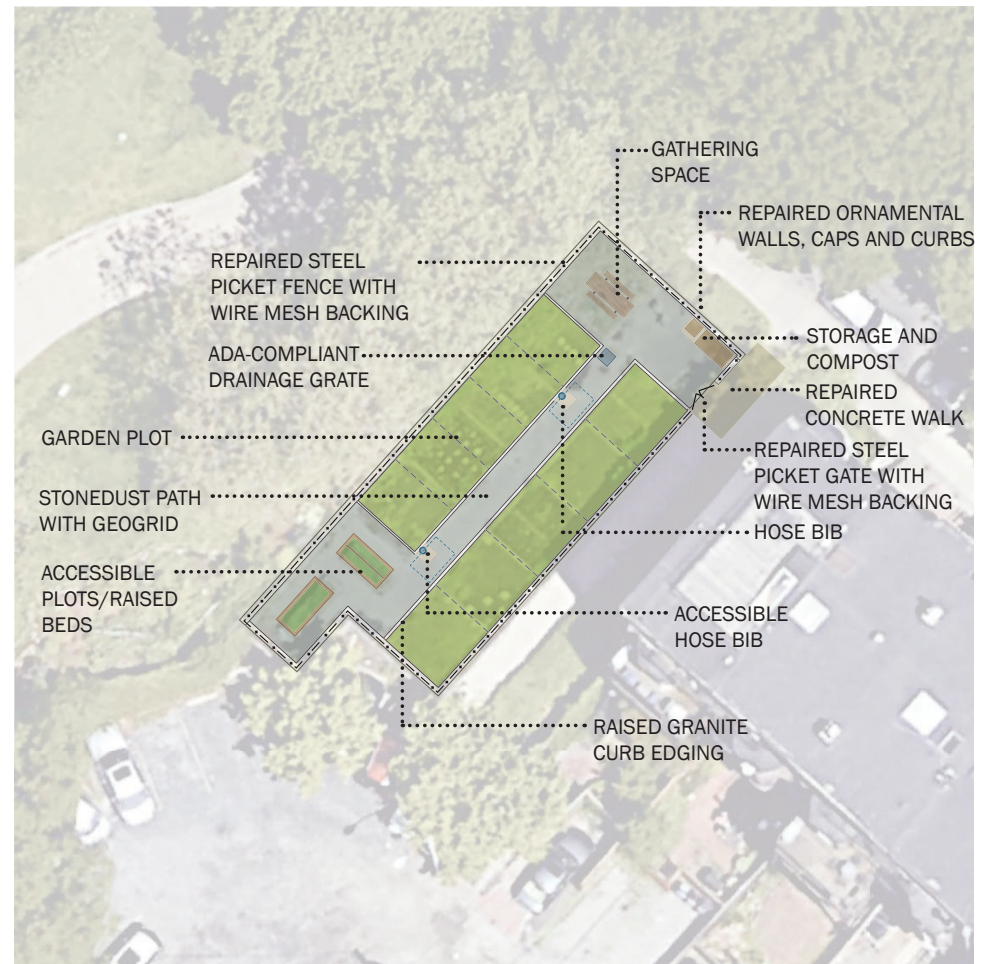
Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Follen Street Garden

Update

Key features include adding an expanded gathering space, spacing water spigots for better access, the construction of a new accessible plot/raised bed, and dedicated storage.

Existing Conditions

Size: 3,050 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

Seating/Gathering Area: No

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

Size: 3,050 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

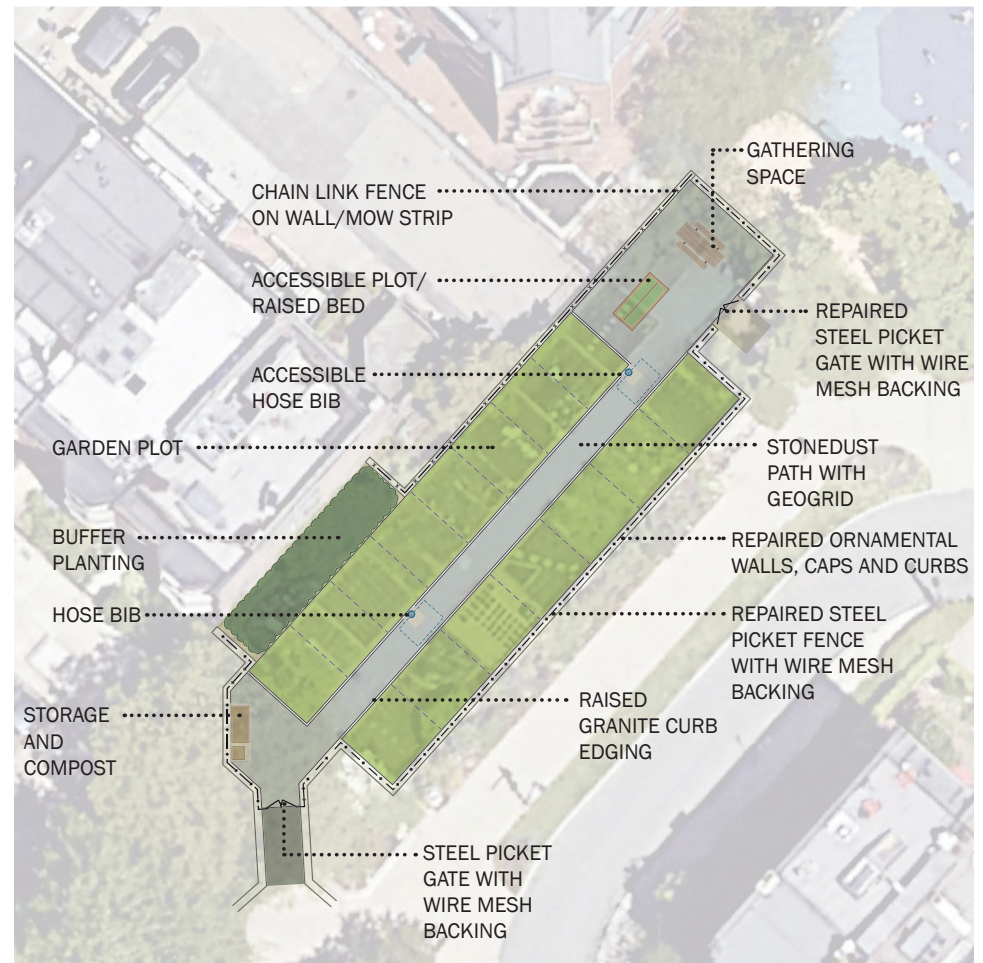
Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Harcourt/West Canton Street Garden

Update

Key features include giving this garden its own water supply, adding mesh backing to the existing steel fences to protect against rodents and rabbits, and the addition of a gathering space storage and a food-waste composter.

Existing Conditions

Size: 1,675 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

Seating/Gathering Area: 4' metal bench

Accessible Plots: No

Accessible Hose Bibs: No

Proposed Plan:

Size: 1,675 sf

Path Material: Stonedust

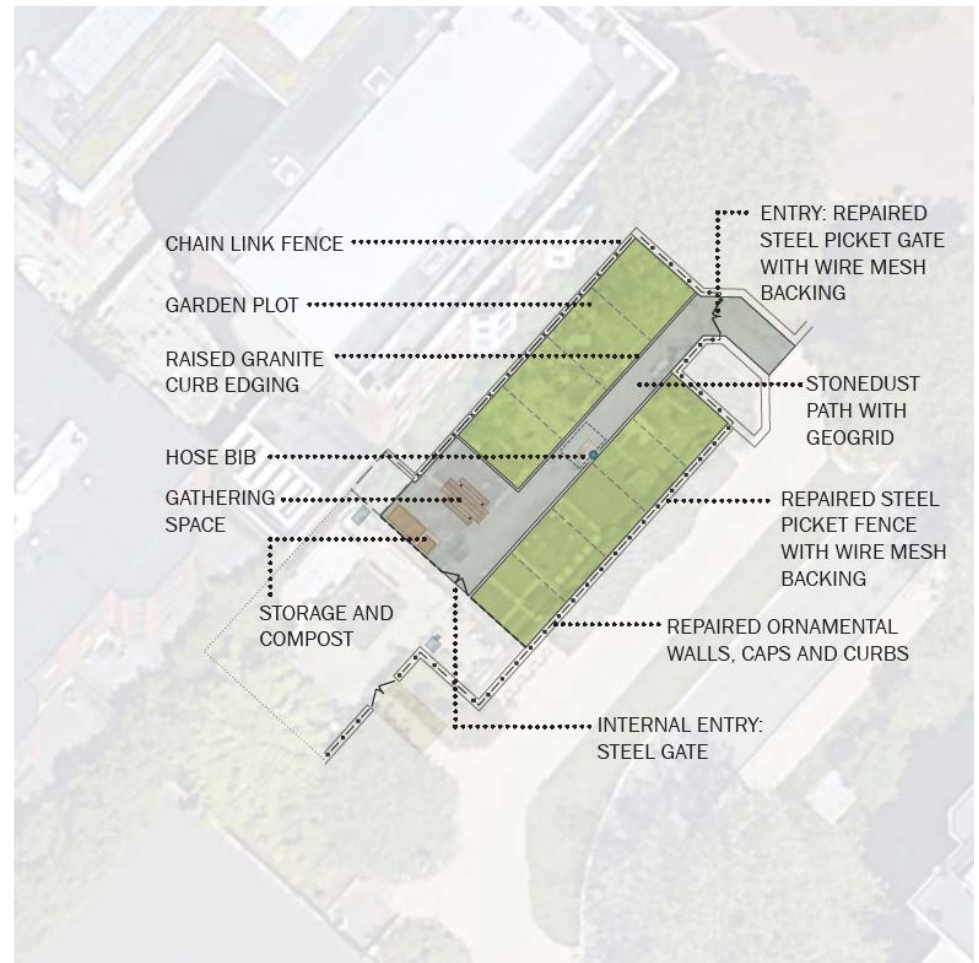
Seating/Gathering Area: ADA picnic table

Accessible Plots: 2

Accessible Hose Bibs: 1



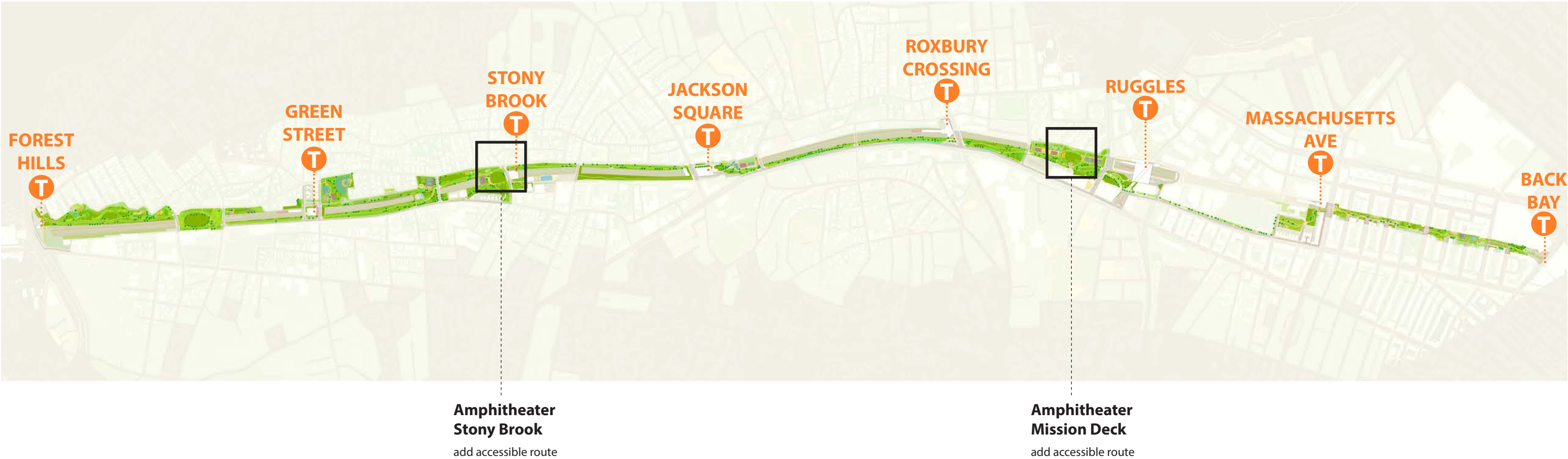
Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Amphitheaters

The Southwest Corridor Park features two amphitheaters that serve as venues for day-to-day interactions as well as larger community events. In Roxbury, the Mission Deck amphitheater is situated adjacent to the large open lawn and the dual path system. Near Stony Brook, an amphitheater is located between the large open lawn and Amory Park.



Stony Brook Amphitheater

Retain

The Stony Brook amphitheater features an organic-shaped space with two levels of granite blocks providing seating. To improve accessibility, a paved route from the adjacent pathway to the spectator seating is needed.



Existing Condition

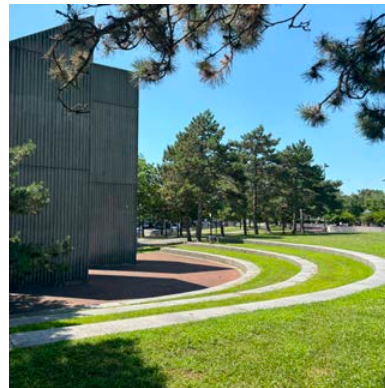


Proposed Condition

Mission Deck Amphitheater

Retain

The Mission Deck amphitheater features an angular and architectural design with a brick stage and concrete retaining walls for seating. The stage is framed by two large concrete vent structures. An accessible route as an alternative to the stairs leading to the stage and seating is needed.



Existing Condition

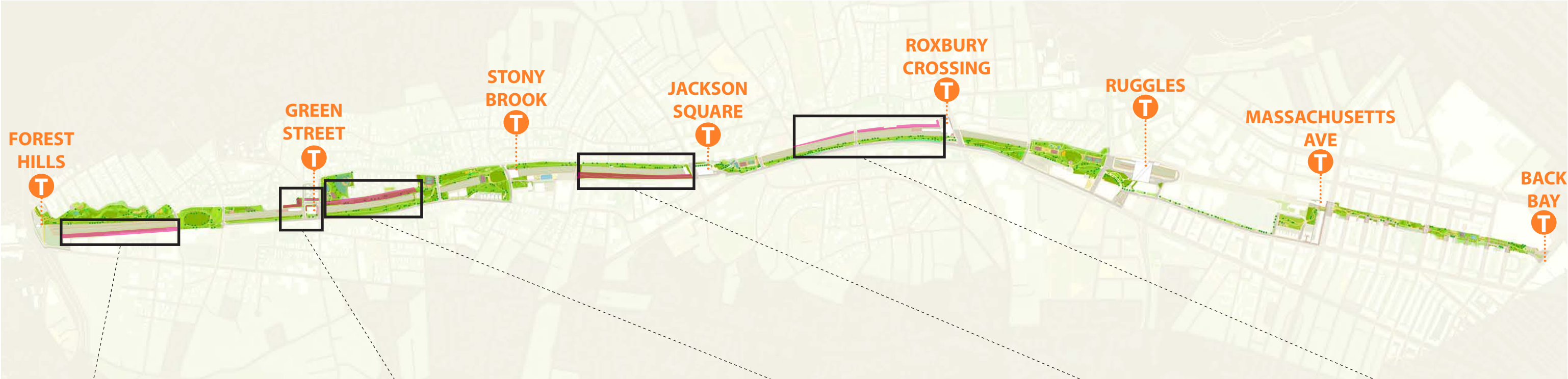


Proposed Condition

Enhanced Parkland

Since the opening of the Southwest Corridor Park in 1990, the park’s extents have remained the same, but there continues to be community-driven support to expand the park to provide more recreational opportunities and greater connectivity. Some of the original park parcels lack connectivity, are too narrow, too steep, or too densely vegetated to be suitable for public use. These parcels will remain vegetated, contributing to the tree canopy, providing habitat, and serving as buffers for neighboring properties.

As the industrial parcels along the Washington Street corridor in Jamaica Plain have transitioned to residential use, community members have sought to develop a greenway on the east side of the rail corridor from the Arborway to McBride Street. More coordination with the MBTA is required since they utilize this space for maintenance access and material storage. Additionally, the stewardship of this greenway would need to be determined, as DCR does not currently have maintenance responsibilities for this parcel.



Between Atherton Street and Centre Street

As the industrial parcels along the Washington Street corridor in Jamaica Plain have transitioned to residential use, community members have sought to develop a greenway on the east side of the rail corridor from the Arborway to McBride Street. More coordination with the MBTA is required since they utilize this space for maintenance access and material storage. Additionally, the stewardship of this greenway would need to be determined, as DCR does not currently have maintenance responsibilities for this parcel.

Disconnected Park Parcels West of the Green Street MBTA

- 1. Steep, Wooded Tract:** This parcel serves as a buffer between the adjacent properties and the rail corridor. While there is an access gate, the site’s steep and wooded nature makes it unsuitable for public use.
- 2. Pocket Park at Gordon Street and Woolsley Square:** This small park is currently underutilized. To enhance its appeal, the low chain link fence at the back of the sidewalk should be removed, and a small loop path with seating should be added. Enhanced planting for biodiversity and seasonal interest is also recommended.
- 3. Linear Open Space West of Woolsley:** This area currently serves as a buffer between residences and the street, as well as the MBTA station. Additional tree planting is recommended to provide more buffering and expand the tree canopy.

Linear Open Space Between The Rail Corridor and Oakdale Street

When originally designed, the linear open space between the rail corridor and Oakdale Street was not intended to be part of the park; it was designated for maintenance access. However, the public has adopted this parcel and now uses it for dog walking and as a connectivity route between Lawndale and Green Street. While this space has been considered for a large dog park, its long, narrow shape limits its utility. Some community members have expressed a desire to formalize a linear path through this space to enhance its functionality and connectivity.

Between Atherton Street and Centre Street

Between Atherton Street and Centre Street, several developers are planning and constructing the Jackson Square Greenway. This linear park will transform an overgrown, underutilized parcel by adding a path, lighting, furnishings, and planting. The greenway will enhance connectivity with the Kelly Rink south of Atherton Street, creating a more accessible and appealing space for the community.

Adjacent to The DCR Park Operations Building

Adjacent to the DCR Park Operations Building, from New Heath Street north to Tremont Street, there are narrow, vegetated park parcels. While the opportunity for park expansion and connectivity might seem appealing on paper, these spaces are too narrow and lack the necessary connectivity to be viable as park parcels. Therefore, these parcels should remain vegetated, contributing to the tree canopy and biodiversity.

Restrooms

Seasonal, temporary restrooms are provided by DCR in several locations along the Southwest Corridor Park. Additional seasonal restrooms are recommended in areas with the most intense usage. The community has expressed strong support for the addition of year-round restrooms within the park. However, providing year-round facilities is challenging for DCR due to issues related to maintenance, security, safety, vandalism, and funding.

Maintaining year-round restrooms requires consistent cleaning and upkeep, which can be resource-intensive. Ensuring security and safety involves addressing concerns about potential misuse and providing adequate lighting and monitoring. Vandalism is an ongoing issue that can quickly degrade the condition of restrooms, necessitating frequent repairs and preventive measures.

Funding is a significant obstacle, as the construction and operation of permanent, year-round restrooms require substantial investment. Overcoming these challenges will require innovative solutions and possibly new partnerships to meet the community’s needs and enhance the park’s amenities.

