

A photograph of Walker Playground in Boston, showing various play structures like slides and climbing equipment, with children playing. The image is overlaid with a blue tint. The text "Improvements to WALKER PLAYGROUND" is centered at the top in white, with "Improvements to" in a serif font and "WALKER PLAYGROUND" in a bold sans-serif font.

Improvements to
WALKER PLAYGROUND

Walker Playground Update



April 2021
Boston Parks and Recreation



UPDATE: Walker Playground

1

PROJECT TIMELINE OVERVIEW

2

FUNDING OVERVIEW

2

COMMUNITY INPUT

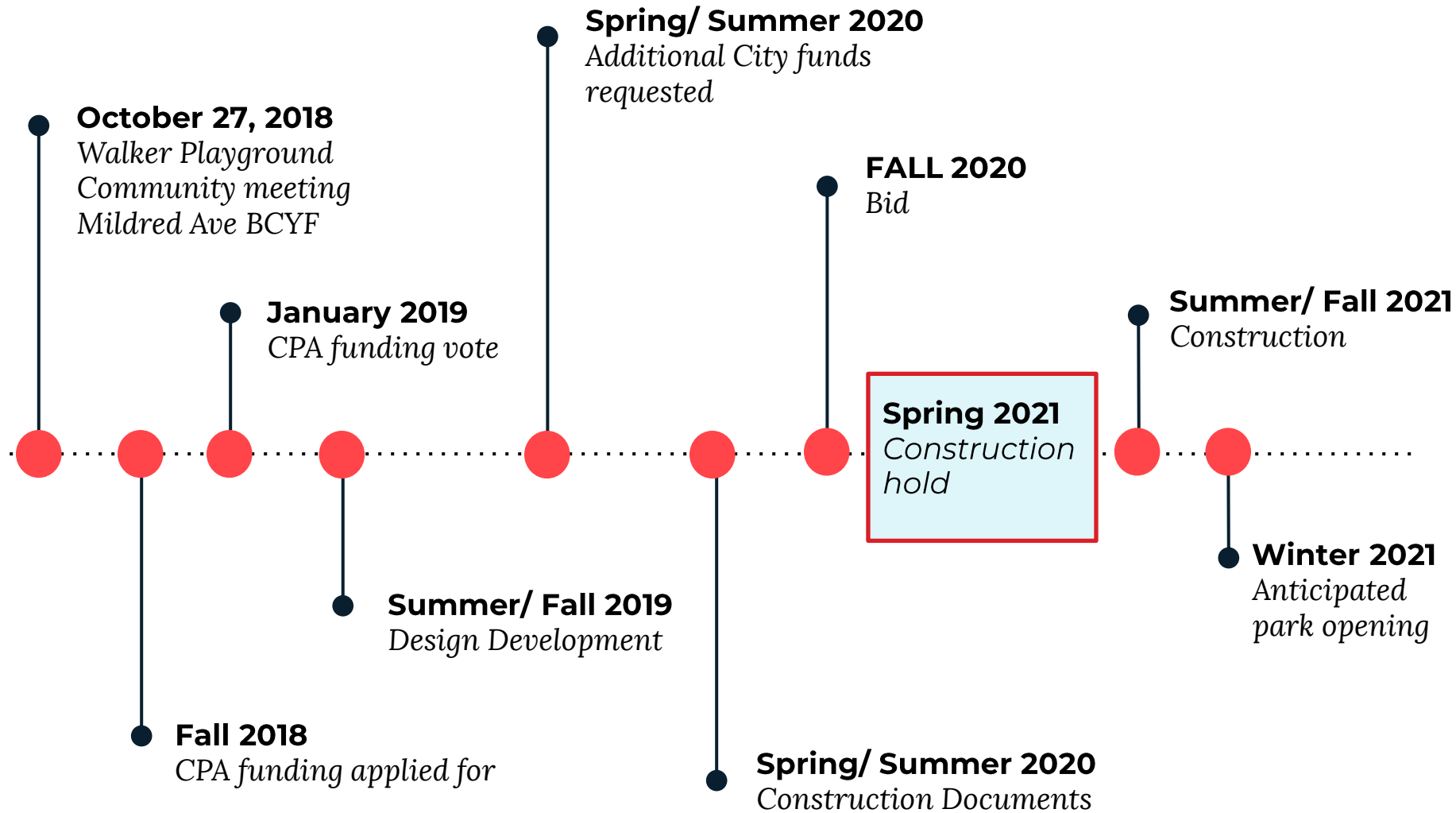
3

PARK DESIGN

4

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE AND PHASING

PROJECT SCHEDULE & FUNDING



*Timeframes may
shift due to COVID-
19

FUNDING

1

City of Boston: original scope

- Playground renovation only, included; play equipment, rubber surfacing, water play, site furnishings
- **\$600,000 City Budget**
 - \$485,000: Construction
 - \$115,000 (design fee, permitting, contingency)

2

CPA funding: field

- **\$680,000 CPA budget**
- \$552,000 Construction
- \$128,000 (design fee, permitting, contingency)

3

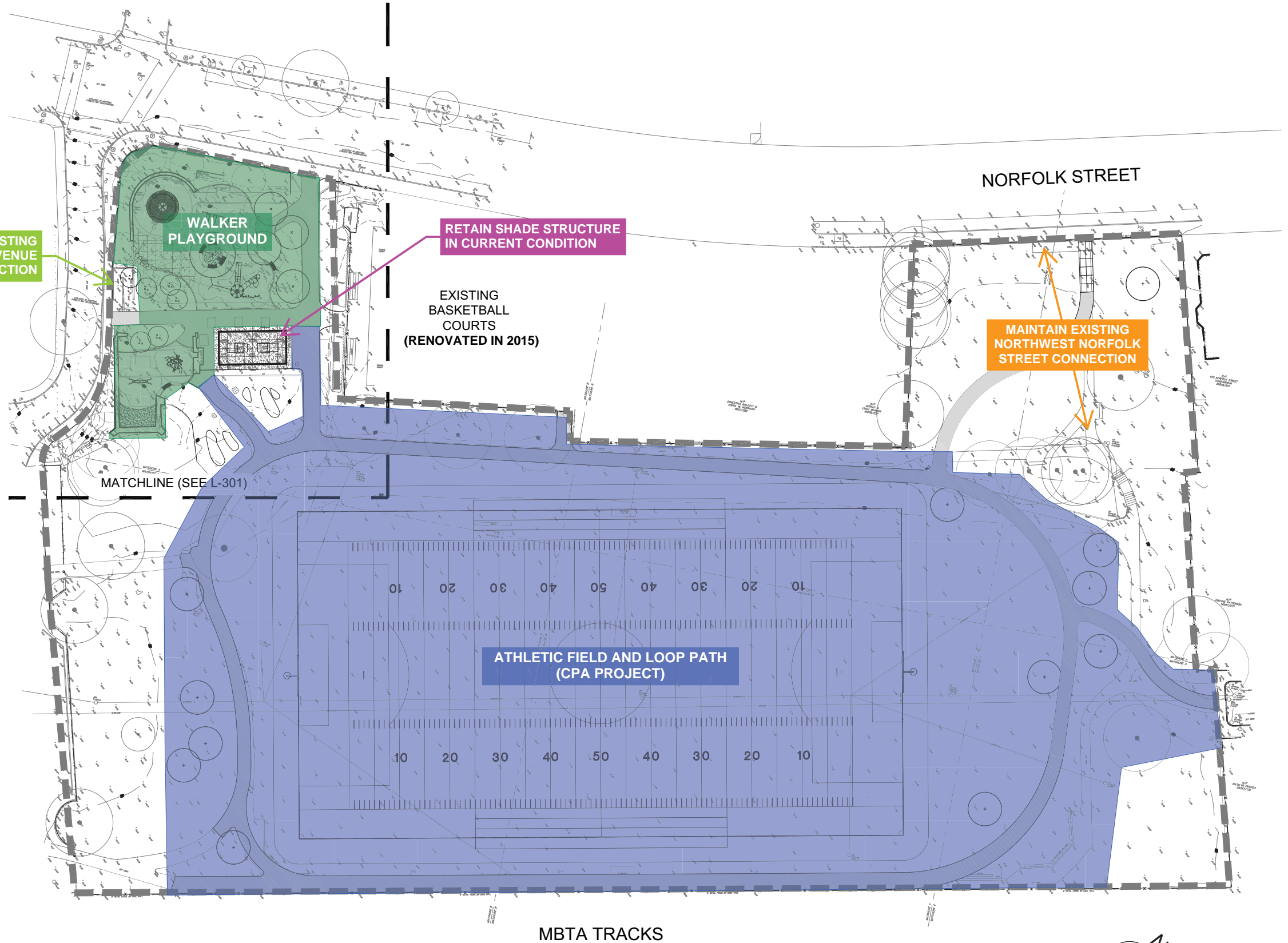
Additional City of Boston funded scope

- Repair shade shelter, Mildred Ave entrance, North Norfolk Street Connection, two additional Mildred Ave edge entrances, upgrading playground fence, Astoria Street Entrance, and additional fencing throughout park
- **\$270,000 Additional City Funds**
- \$225,000 Construction
- \$45,000 (design fee, permitting, contingency)

TOTAL PROJECT CONSTRUCTION BUDGET: \$1,262,000

MATERIAL NOTES

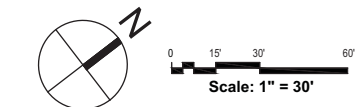
1. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL REVIEW ALL DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS TO DETERMINE THE TOTAL SCOPE OF WORK AND ALL REQUIRED COORDINATION.
2. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A THOROUGH SITE EXAMINATION TO SATISFY HIM OR HERSELF AS TO THE ACTUAL SITE CONDITIONS BEFORE SUBMISSION OF BIDS.
3. CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY ALL EXISTING UTILITY LOCATIONS PRIOR TO EXCAVATION.
4. CONTRACTOR SHALL ARRANGE PRE-INSTALLATION CONFERENCES AT PROJECT SITE FOR PAVEMENT WORK. ATTENDEES SHALL INCLUDE OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND ALL SUB-CONTRACTORS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE WORK.
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MATERIALS LEGEND

- CONCRETE PAVING
- BIT. CONCRETE PAVING
- SEEDED LAWN
- EX. LIGHT POLES
- EX. CHAIN LINK FENCE
- (6) FREESTANDING BENCHES (NOT SHOWN YET)
- TRASH RECEPTACLE (NOT SHOWN YET)
- LIMIT OF WORK

MBTA TRACKS



Prepared By:
 Copley Wolff Design Group
 Landscape Architects & Planners
 www.copley-wolff.com

No.	Date	Revision

Approved By: _____ Date: _____

Project Name.:
IMPROVEMENTS TO WALKER PLAYGROUND

BPRD Project No.	CPR 24799
Date	11/15/19
Scale	AS SHOWN
Drawn	AA/CW
Checked	SS

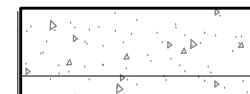


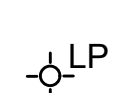
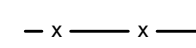



Sheet Name.:
LANDSCAPE MATERIALS PLAN

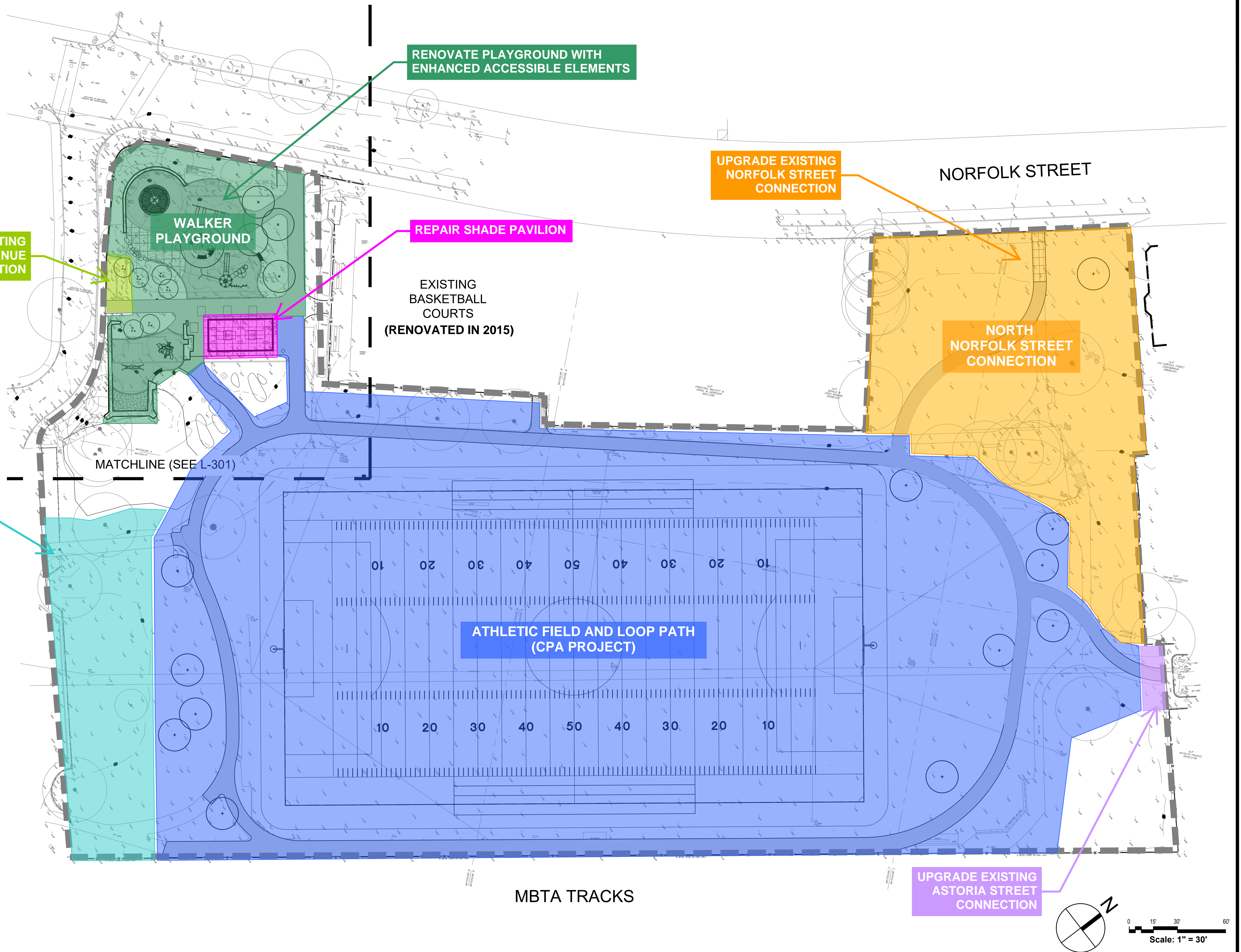
Section:
L-300

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Sheet Name:
LANDSCAPE MATERIALS PLAN

Section:
L-300

COMMUNITY INPUT:

- **WATER PLAY:** water jets similar to what is currently installed is preferred, but with working push buttons; kids fill buckets up with water and put water down the slides
- **SWINGING / SPINNING:** there was interest for a variety of swing types; large spinners for groups were preferred
- **SLIDING:** older community members requested double slides, side-by-side, while younger community members noted a preference for an extra-wide group slide
- **SEATING:** smaller tables with rotating chairs and room to pull up wheelchairs was requested
- **RESILIENT SURFACING:** some preferred muted colors; while others prefer brighter colors, specifically blues

COMMUNITY INPUT:

- Keep (but upgrade) water feature and shelter
- Expand Walker Playground to include more of Norfolk Park
- Hold a ribbon-cutting ceremonies upon completion of the renovation projects to celebrate opening of each playground: Walker Playground, Thetford Evans Playground, and Dorchester Park Playground
- Remove or modify the large fake climbing rock as it is currently unsafe and not used frequently
- Do not use the color red
- Use colors that complement existing court colors
- Add tables with table top games and more benches
- Include fitness equipment for adults
- Give older kids a place to socialize
- Add more trash receptacles; regularly scheduled trash pickup is needed
- Install dog poop signs, bags, not allowed signs
- Improve safety
- Remove and don't plant vegetation that obscures views; don't create places to hide
- Schedule police patrol, especially during events (family, basketball)
- Require permits for birthday parties / private events to avoid conflict and overcrowding

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

HARABEX PARK - ON TALBOT

WHERE DO YOU LIVE / WORK / PLAY ?



- LIVE
- WORK
- PLAY

HOW DO YOU GET TO PLAYGROUND? ●

WALK

BIKE

DRIVE |

OTHER

WALKER PLAYGROUND



OLDER KIDS
↓

THETFORD EVANS PLAYGROUND



DORCHESTER PLAYGROUND



PROJECT SITE

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PLAYGROUND?

- CANOPY - GOOD FOR FAMILIES

• USED BY OLDER KIDS

ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE PLAYGROUND?

- TRASH - REGULAR / SCHEDULED PICK-UP

- MAINTENANCE

- DON'T USE ROCK THAT MUCH
DON'T CLIMB - CAN'T GET DOWN
RUN AROUND IT

- AREA BEHIND SWINGS -
 - ROCKS ARE GREAT
 - NEED BETTER SIGHT LINES
 - LOWER WALL

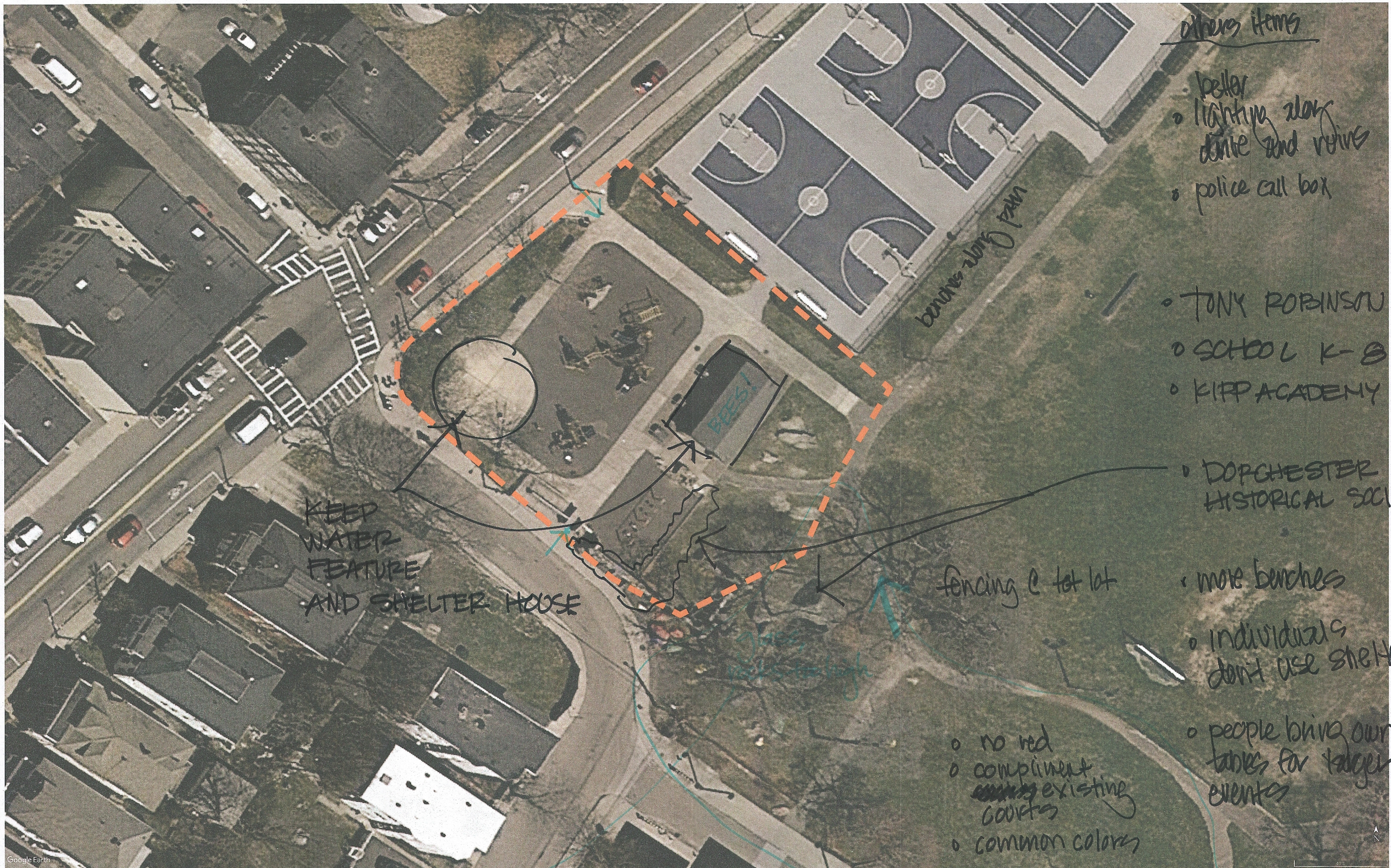
- PEOPLE LURK, GO TO BATHROOM, DRINK ETC.

- KIDS LIKE TO CLIMB ROCKS, TREES (PLAY UNDER)

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT PLAYGROUND?

- ACCESS TO PARKING
- FITNESS EQUIPMENT FOR ADULTS
- SEATING (MORE)
- RECEPTACLES (TRASH)
- OLDER KIDS A PLACE TO SOCIALIZE
- FAMILY WHIRL (SOMERVILLE)
- UPGRADE WATER FEATURE - DON'T SHOOT VERY FAR
- BUTTONS HARD TO PUSH
- BUCKET THING IN CENTER
- SIT ON WATER FEATURE WALL (SHADE)
- ACTIVATOR BUTTON

IS SPACE USED FOR EVENTS? WHAT KIND?



- others items
- better lighting along fence and vines
 - police call box
 - TONY ROBINSON
 - SCHOOL K-8
 - KIPP ACADEMY K-8
 - DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 - more benches
 - individuals don't use shelter
 - people bring own tables for larger events

KEEP WATER FEATURE AND SHELTER HOUSE

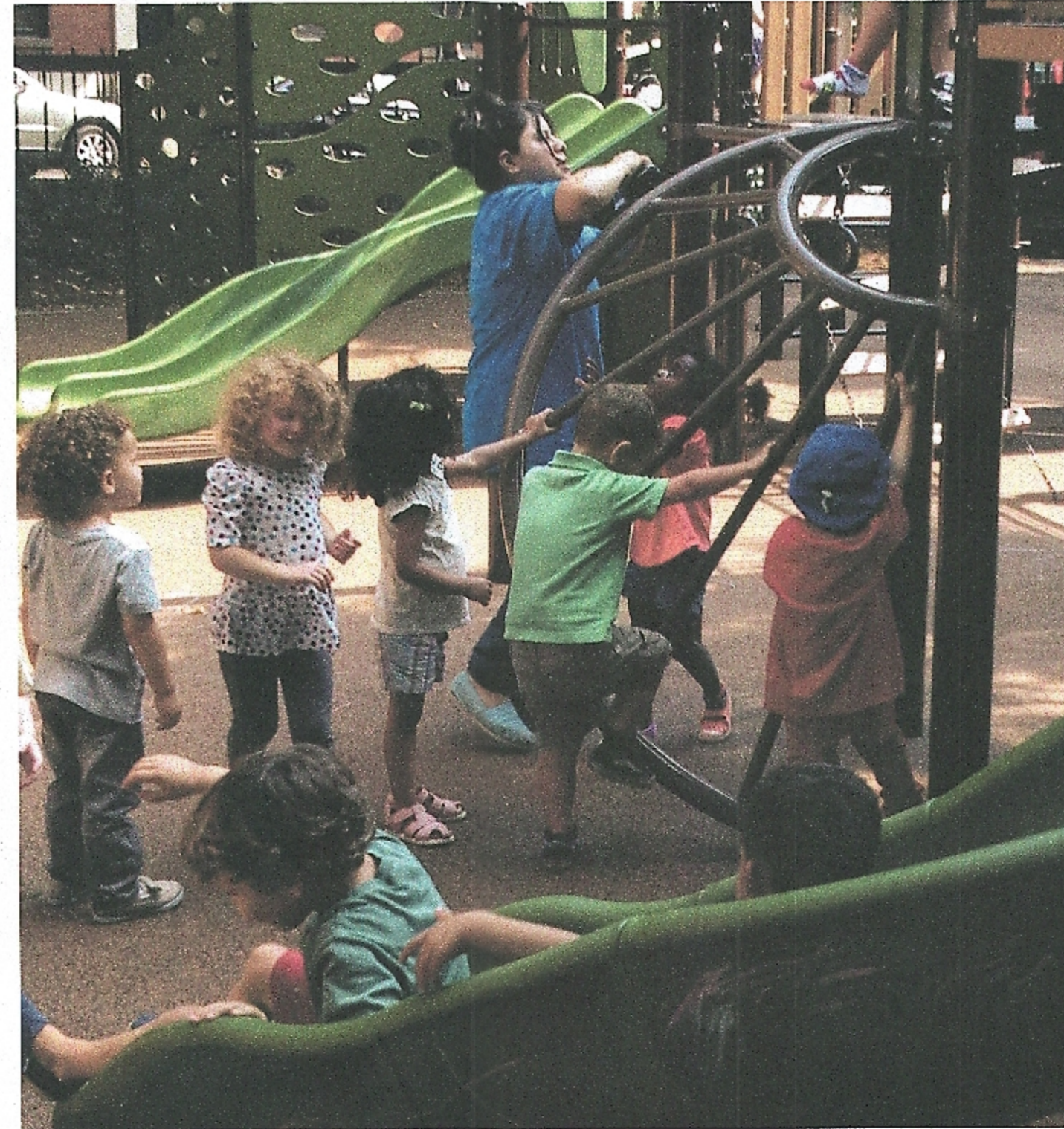
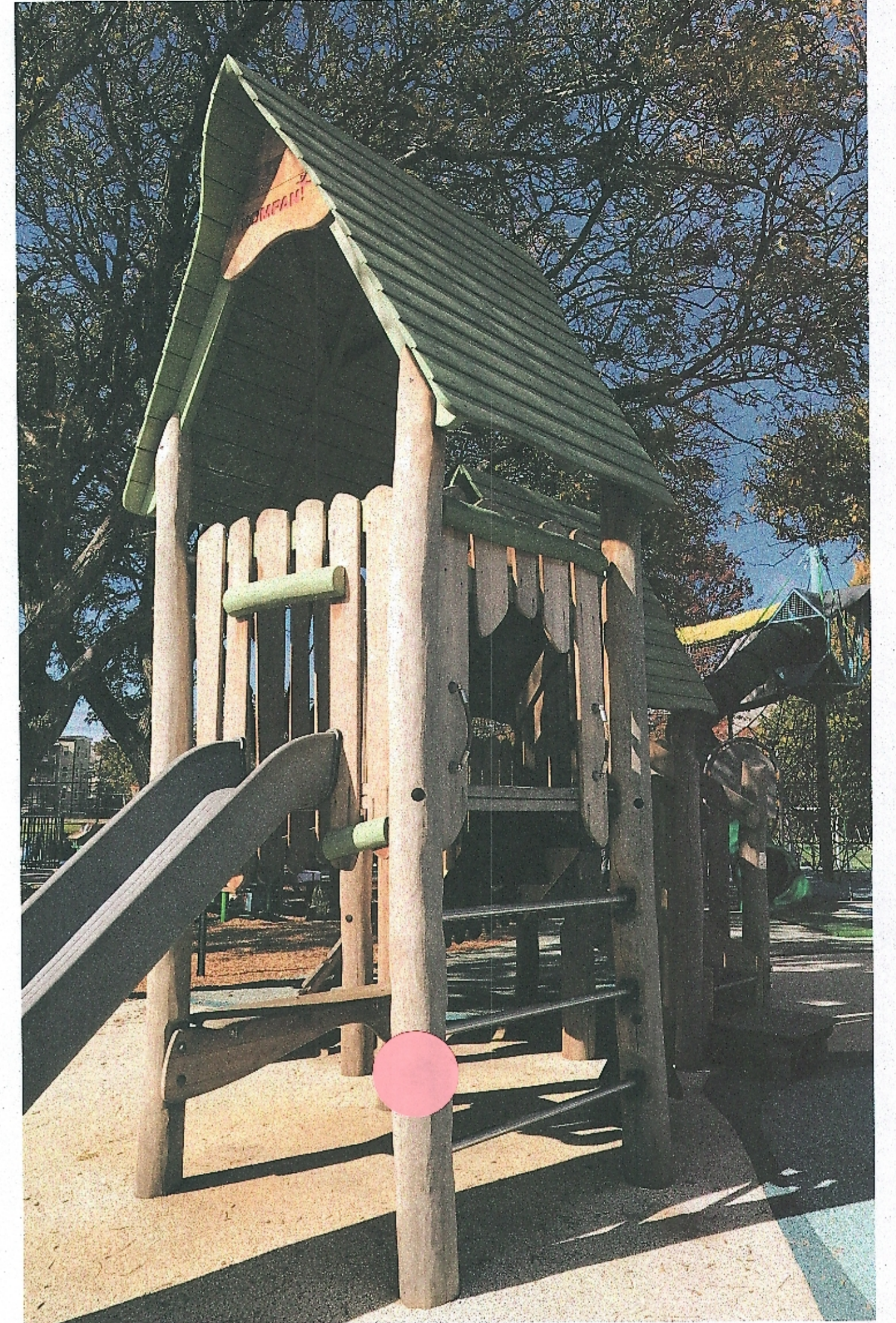
fencing @ tot lot

- no red
- compliment existing courts
- common colors

EXPAND PLAY!

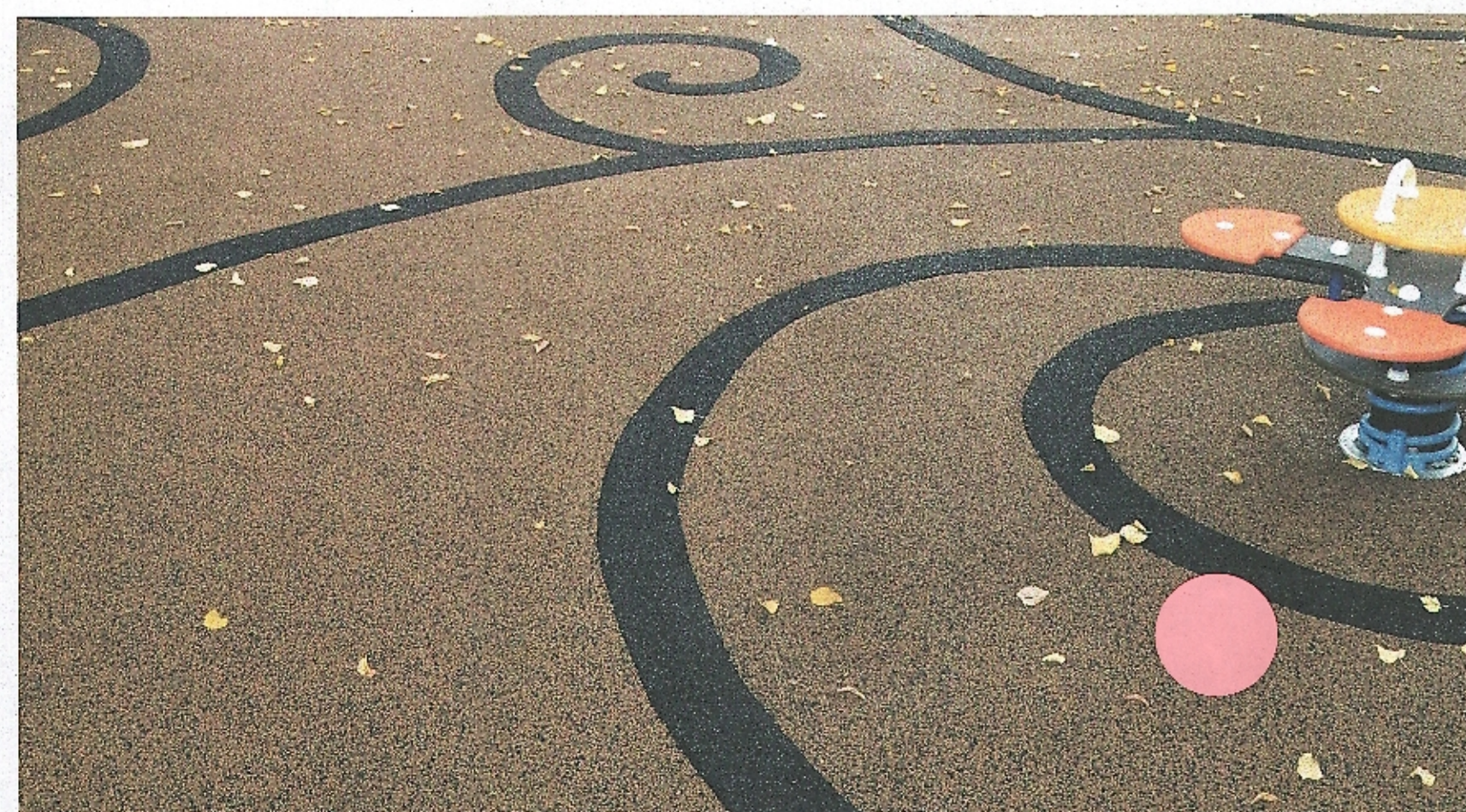
* 4 groups: yellow blue green red
 summer fun day + snack
 stars 2-5 + summer fun stop (free)
 seats for families
 smaller rocks for sitting + hanging out.

CLIMBING

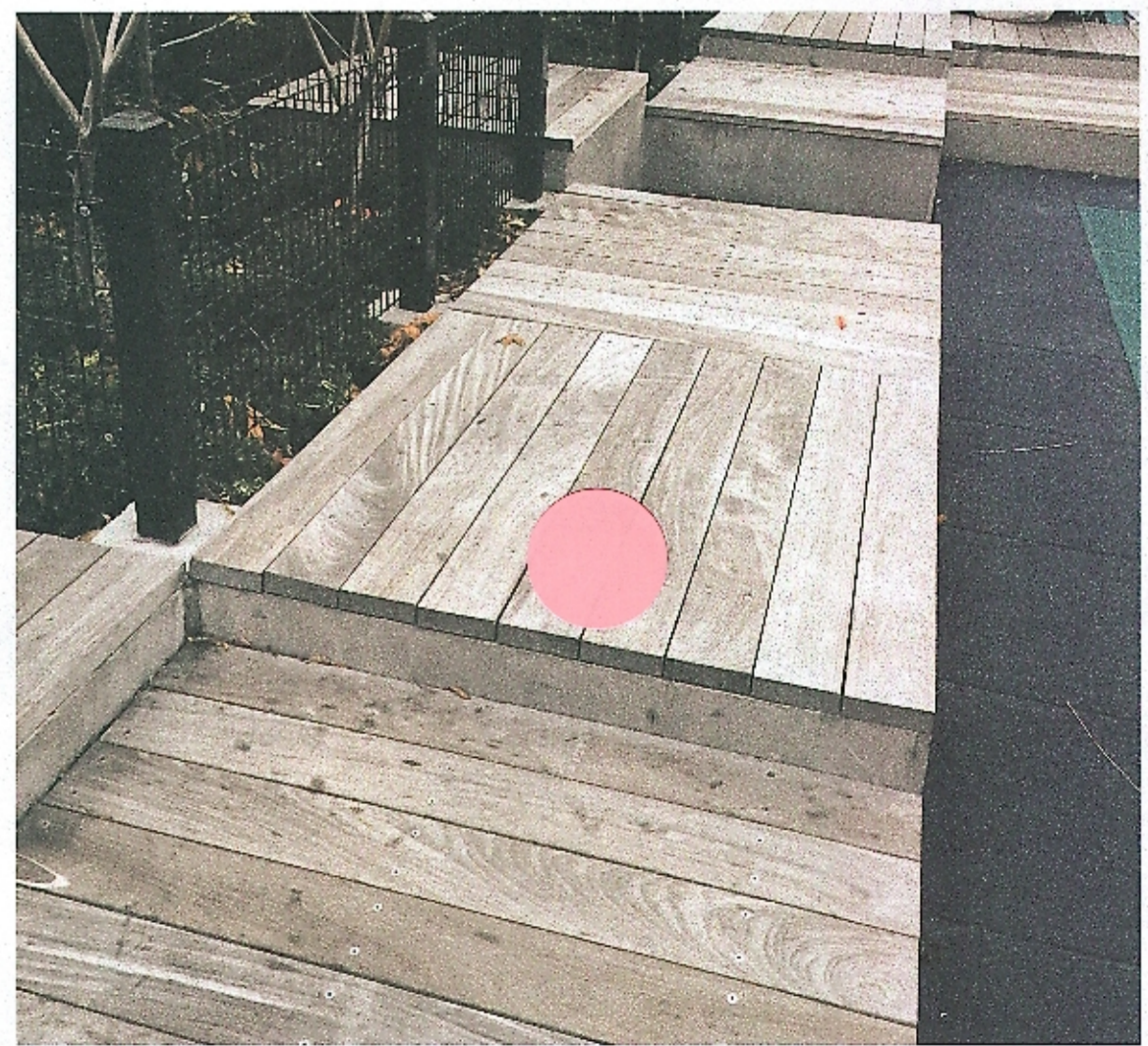
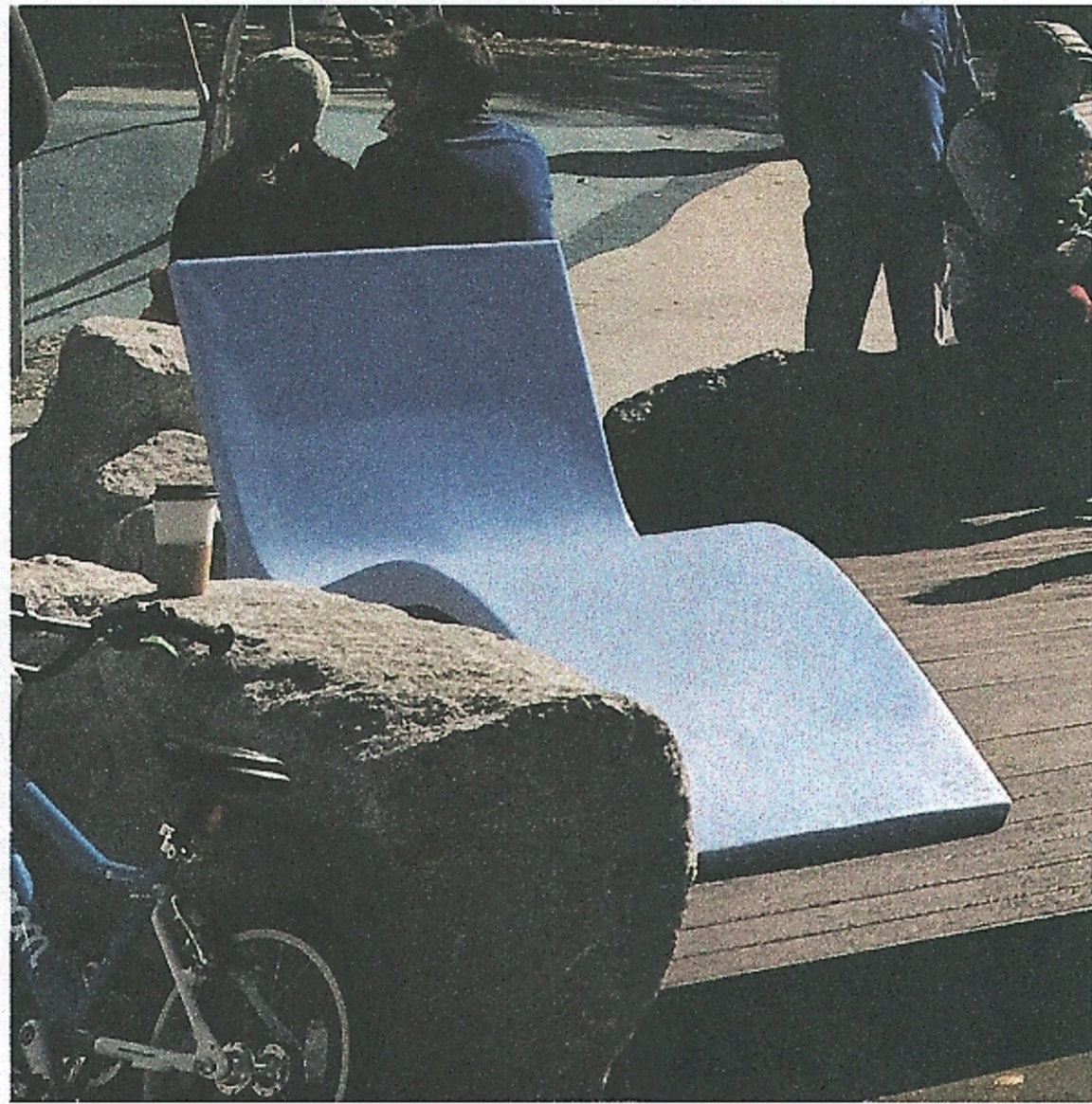


RESILIENT SURFACE

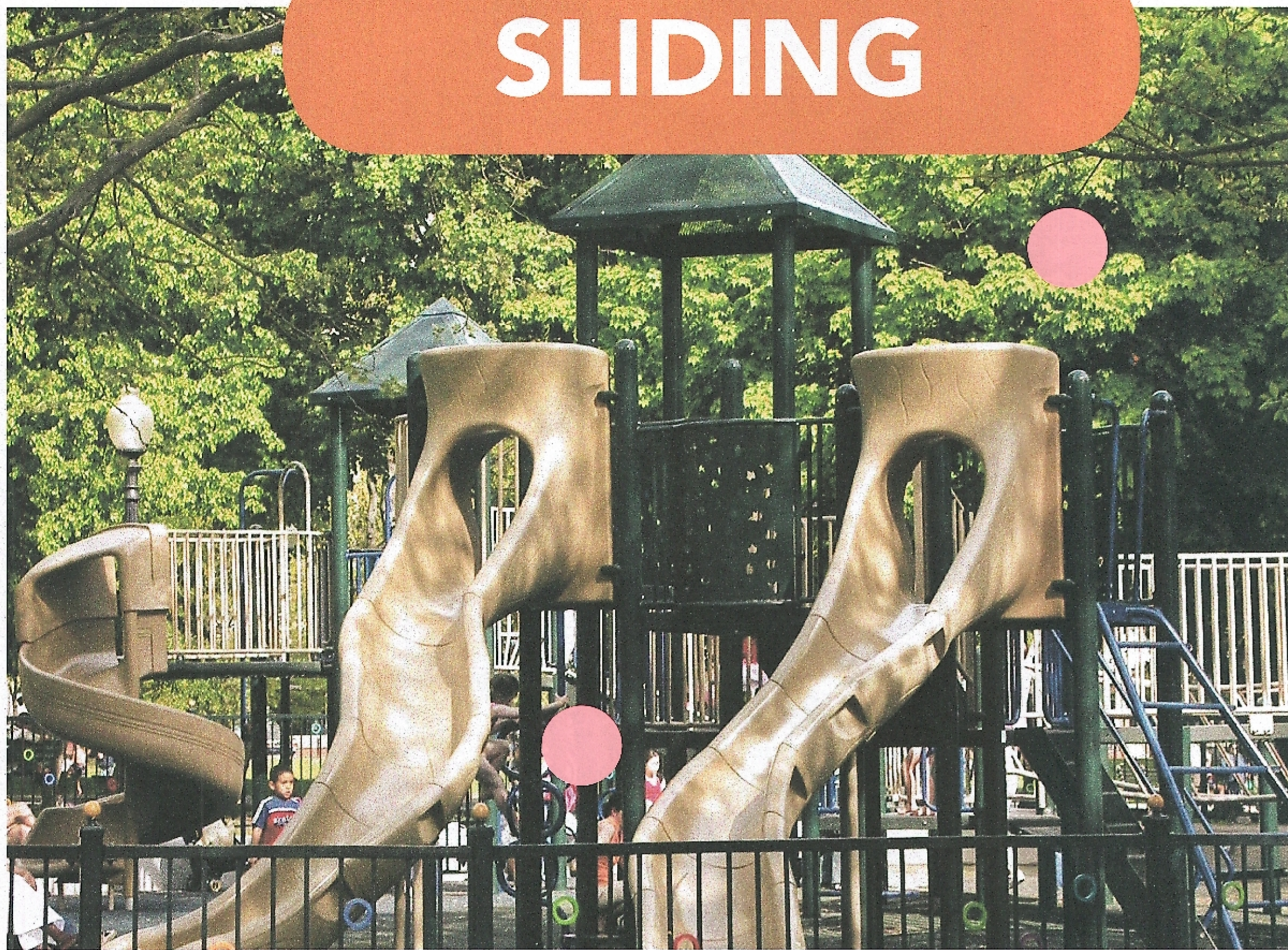
KIDS
EAT
NOT
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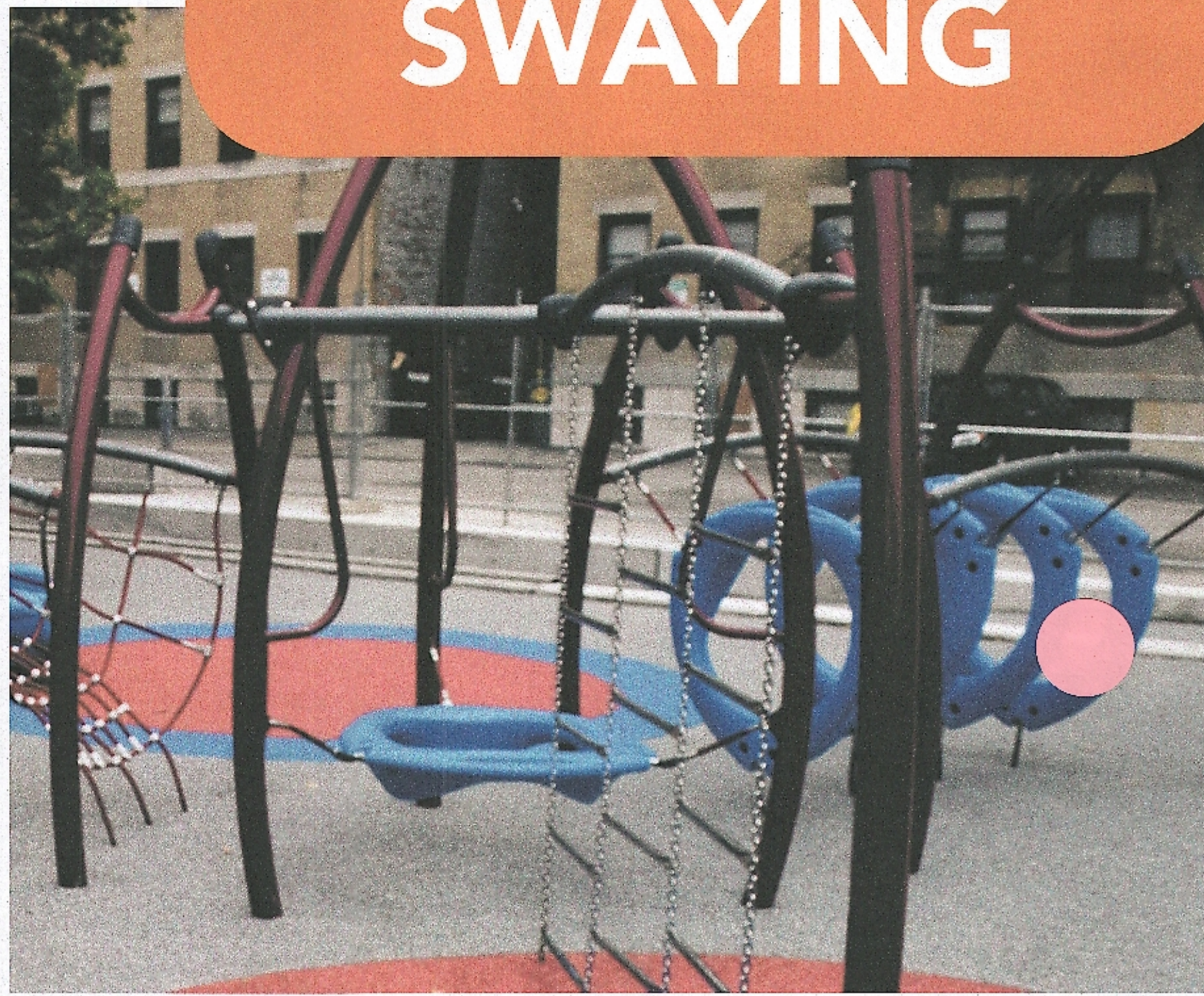
SEATING



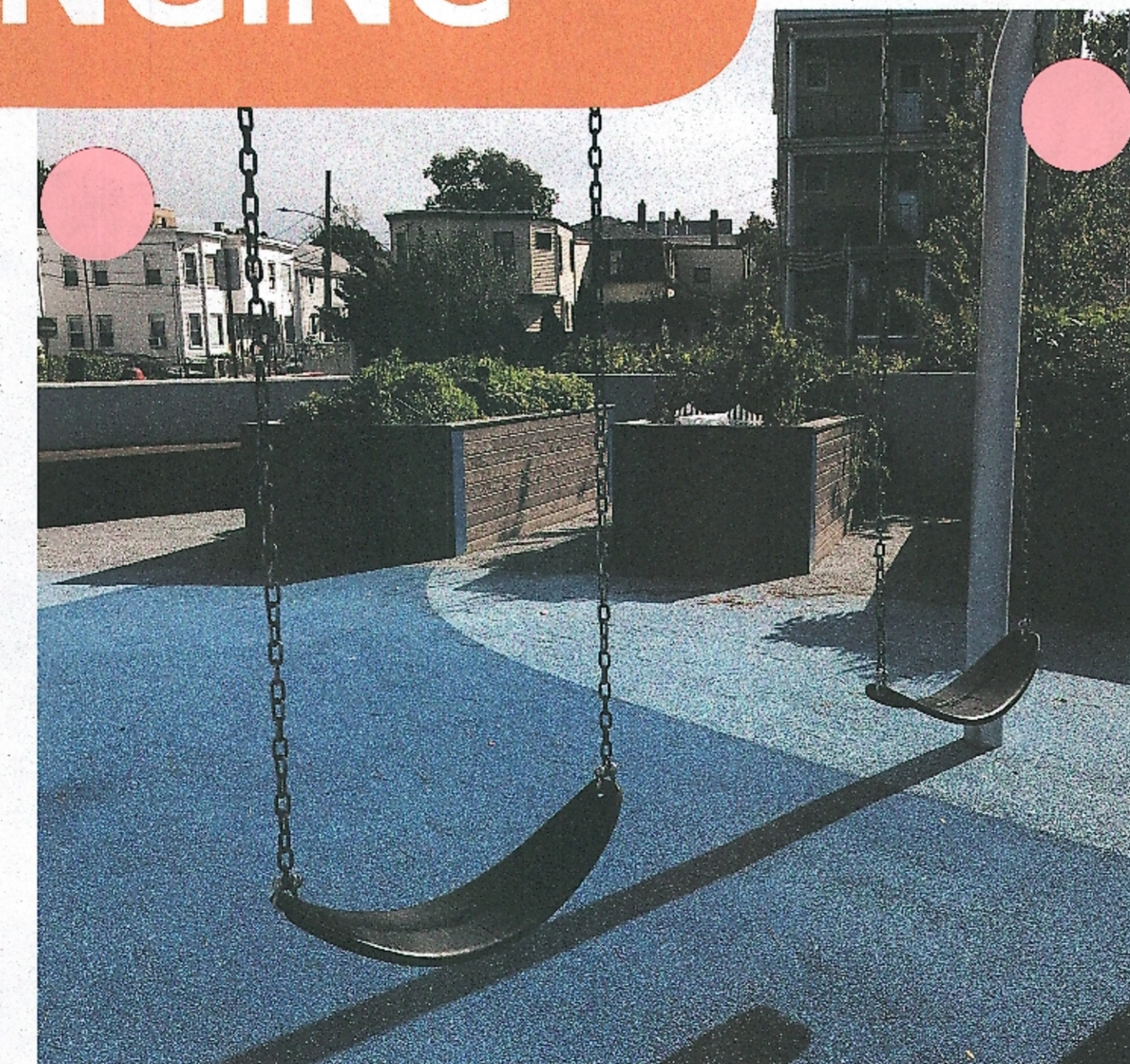
SLIDING



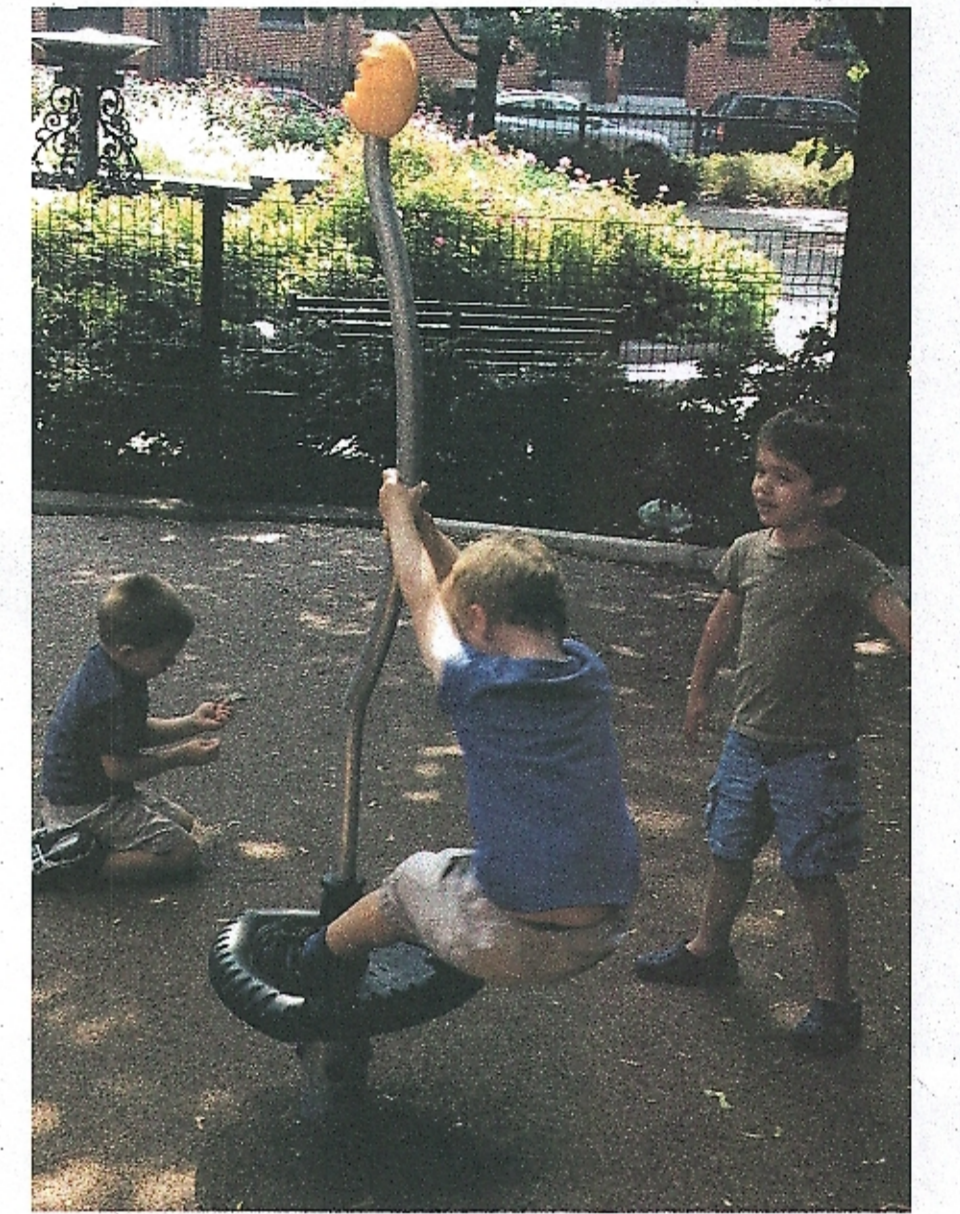
SWAYING



SWINGING



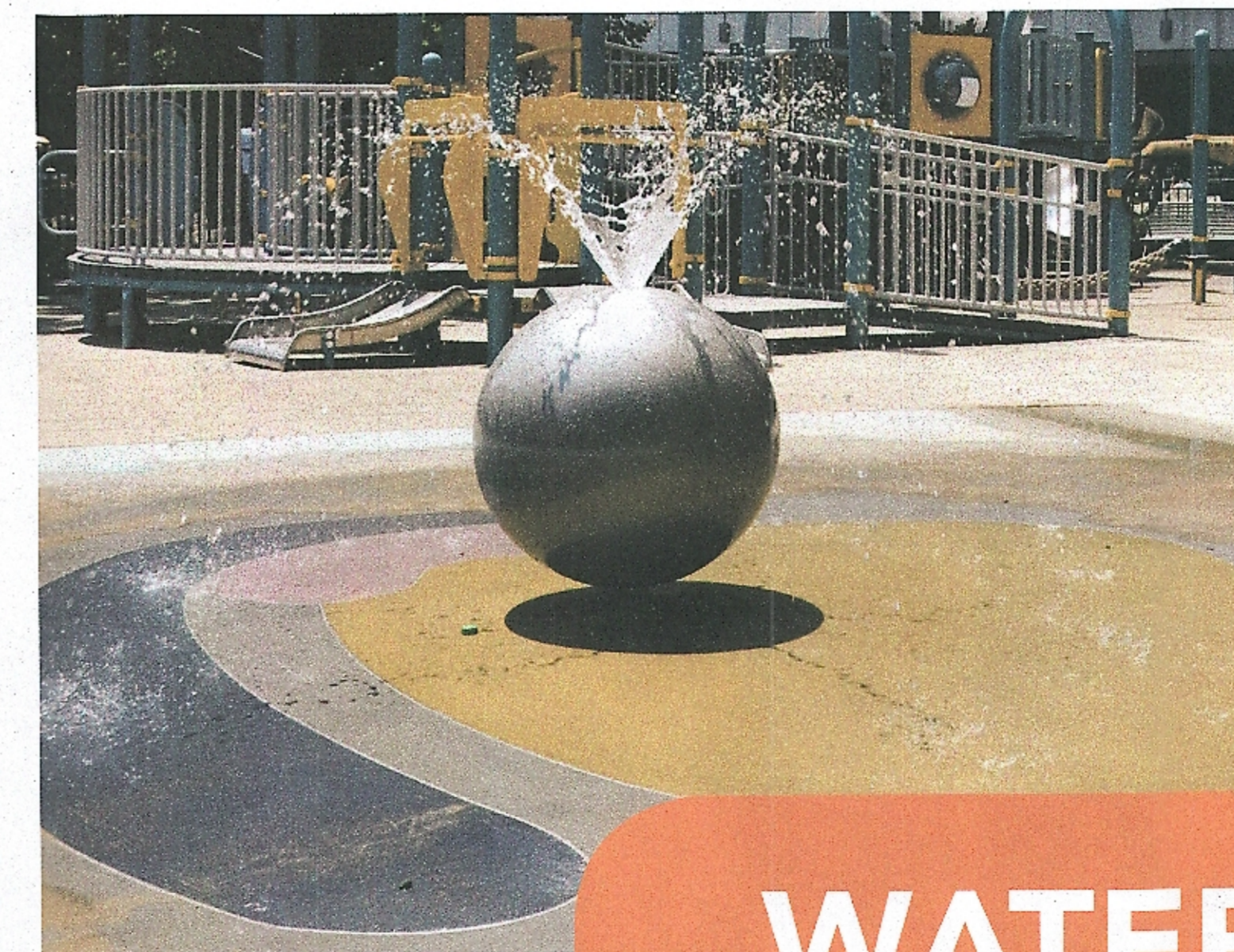
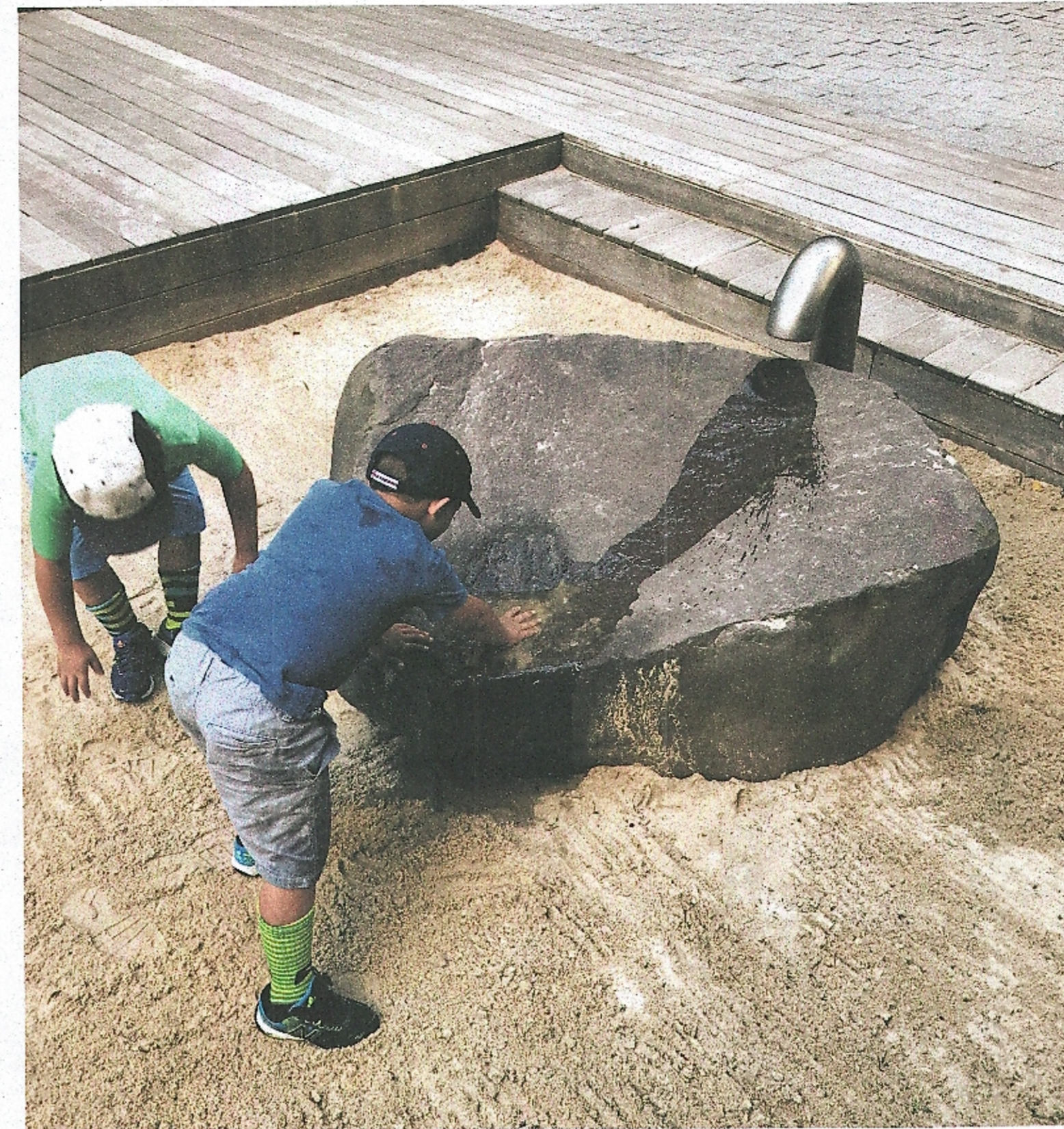
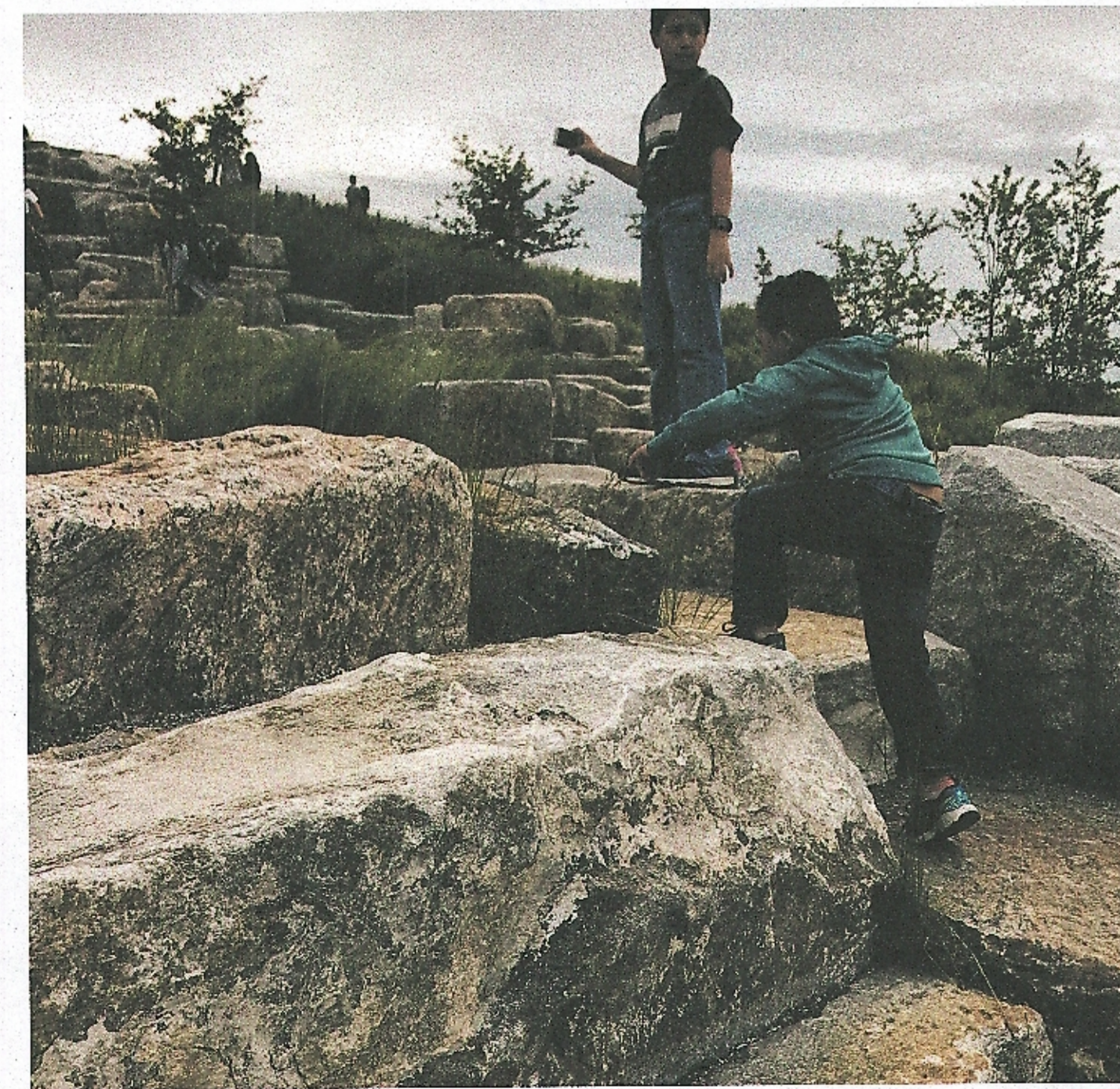
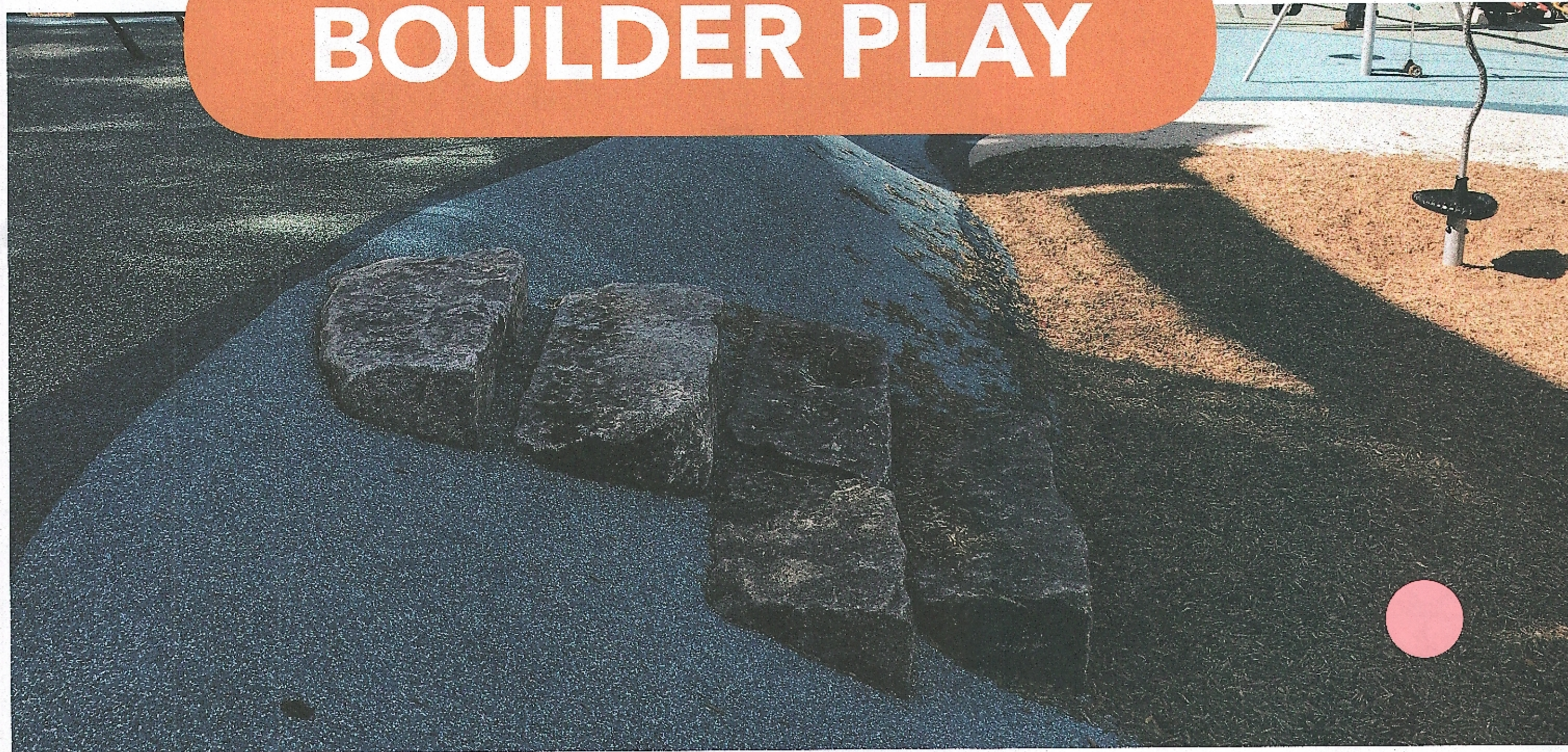
SPINNING



MOTION

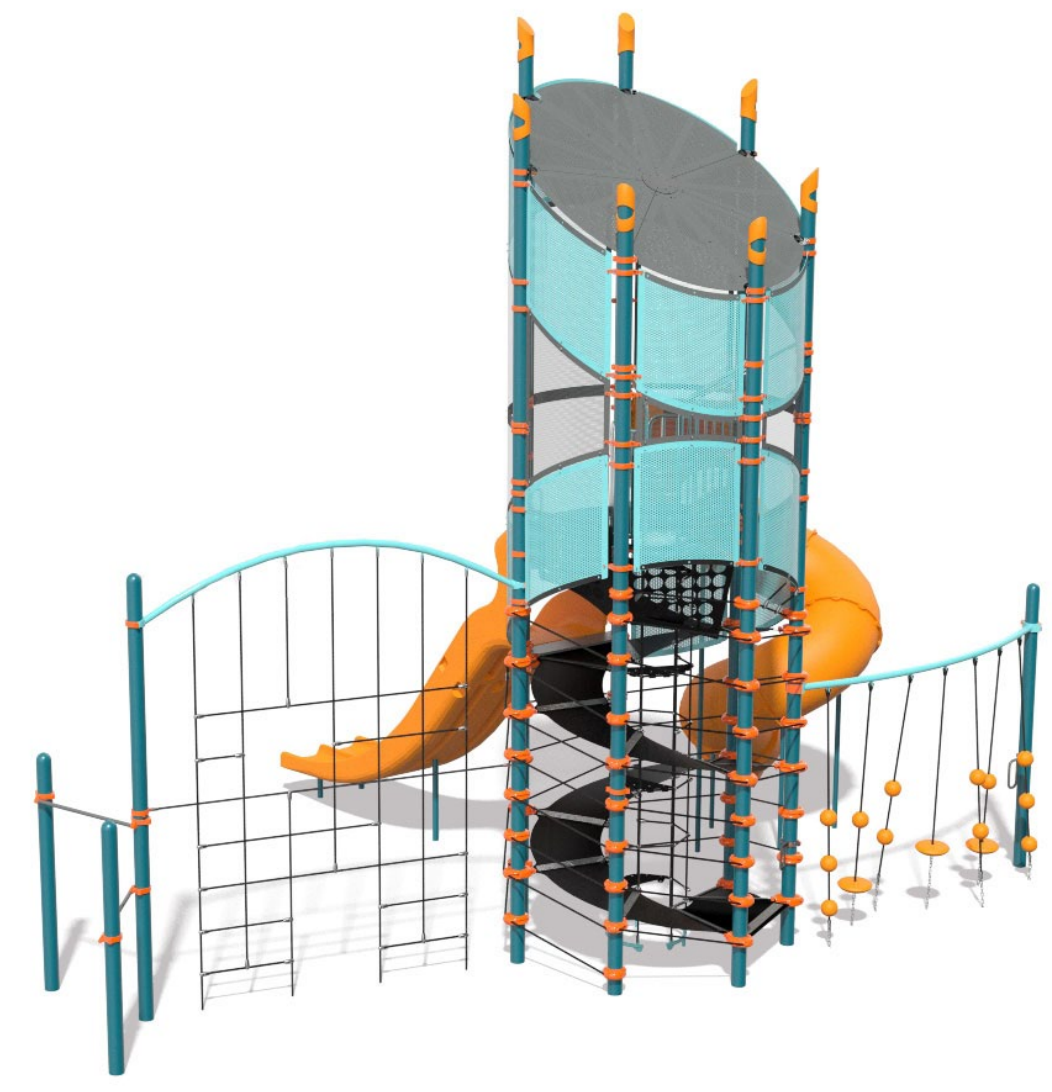


BOULDER PLAY



WATER PLAY





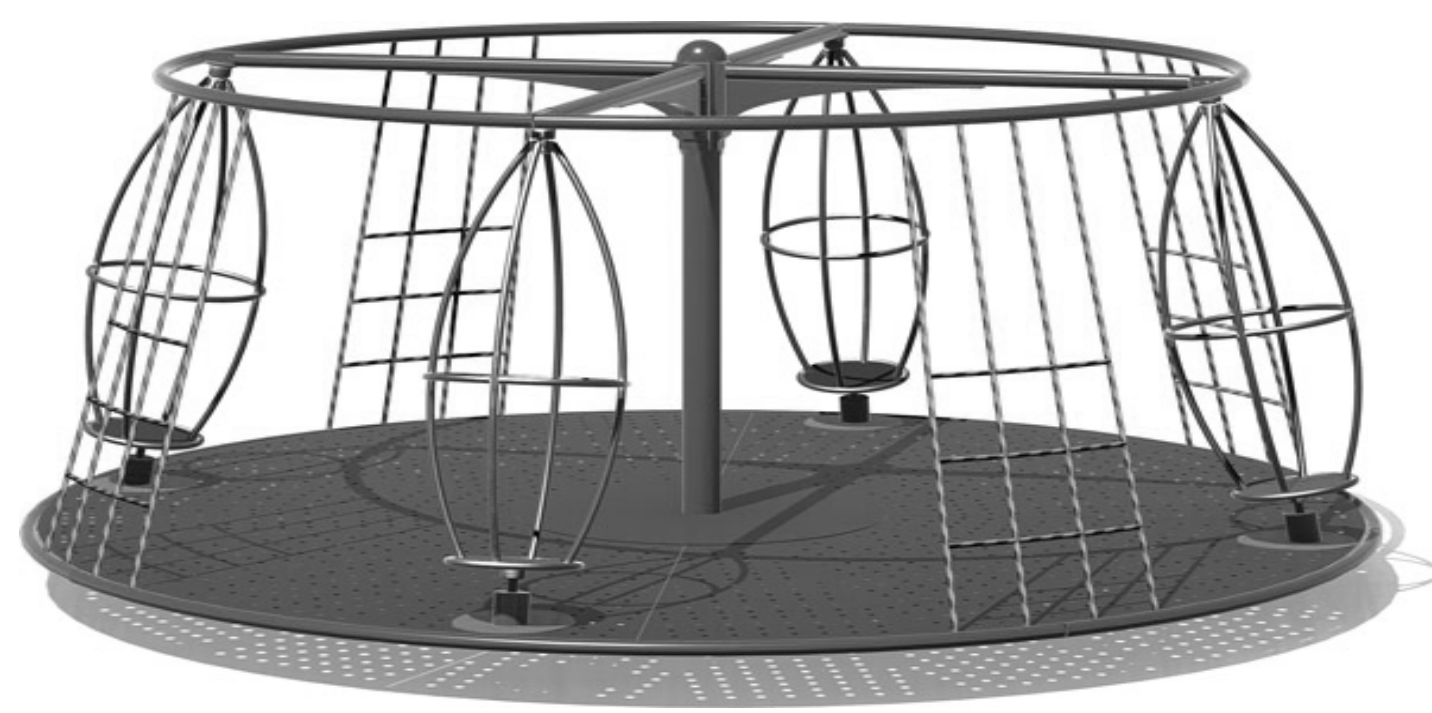
PLAY STRUCTURE (5-12 YEARS OLD)



DOUBLE BAY SWINGS



PLAY STRUCTURE (2-5 YEARS OLD)



LARGE NET SPINNER

