Situated between the neighborhoods of South Boston and the beach, Moakley Park is perfectly positioned to become both a waterfront park for the city, and a backyard we share. The future of the park is envisioned here as a space of social and environmental mixing that anticipates climate-based changes to the shoreline, new types of recreation and neighborhood activity within the park, and increased access while respecting and embracing the park’s history and the many memories and experiences associated with the park.
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Design Rationale (500 words)

Situated between the neighborhoods of South Boston and the beach, Moakley Park is perfectly positioned to become both a waterfront park for the city, and a backyard we share. The future of the park is envisioned as a space of social and environmental mixing that anticipates climate-based changes to the shoreline, new types of recreation and neighborhood activity within the park, and increased access, while respecting and embracing the park’s history and the many memories and experiences associated with the park.

The design seeks to achieve 6 simple goals:

**Build for change and growth**
The shoreline in Boston is changing, parks like Moakley can serve as key components of a resilient, living infrastructure for the city. In addition, people’s attitudes about wellness and fitness change constantly. Today’s users are seeking meaningful and diverse activities.

**Inspire exploration through novelty and variety**
Parks make memories. Provide a variety of flexible spaces and recreational equipment to engage everyone from young children to adults.
Ensure park goers are safe 24/7
Neighbors and park users want their park to be well-lit and managed. Be transparent about issues in the park, and prioritize maintaining a safe and welcoming space for all communities.

Nurture a space for people to meet and learn
People meet in parks spontaneously and intentionally. Moakley Park should be a place for people to come together for recreational activities and socialize with the larger community.

Create a sense of ownership
People value the park by physically and emotionally connecting it to their lives. Strengthen these connections by providing opportunities for people to use and participate in the park’s development.

Preserve the culture and history
Moakley Park and its surrounding neighborhoods have unique stories, cultures, and traditions. Maintain elements that make the experience authentic and embrace new stories and cultures.

These goals are achieved through a series of transformative moves that re-position existing features and open park edges to both the neighborhood and waterfront.

Protective Ridgeline & Marsh
Through the center of the park runs a rising and falling ridgeline protecting the interior park from rising seas, and delineating key park spaces, creating areas for viewing sports, winter sledding, and views of the waterfront and marsh. The marsh anticipates rising tides and builds ecological diversity now while allowing for future flooding.

Waterfront promenade
Weaving between the waterfront and the park’s interior the boardwalk promenade allows visitors an elevated view of park, marsh, and beach. The promenade provides safe access across William J. Day Boulevard and the ability to move fluidly between activities. A beach-front amphitheater and adjacent berm provide space for performances and events along the waterfront.

Parkway and neighborhood oriented programmatic spine
By splitting Old Colony Avenue in two and slowing traffic through a tree-lined parkway, the connection to the neighborhood is made stronger, crossing made safer and access made easier. New flexible facilities and programming are aligned along this new pedestrian edge.

**More & better lighting**
Improved lighting throughout the park and along the waterfront promenade create a safe environment, day and night.