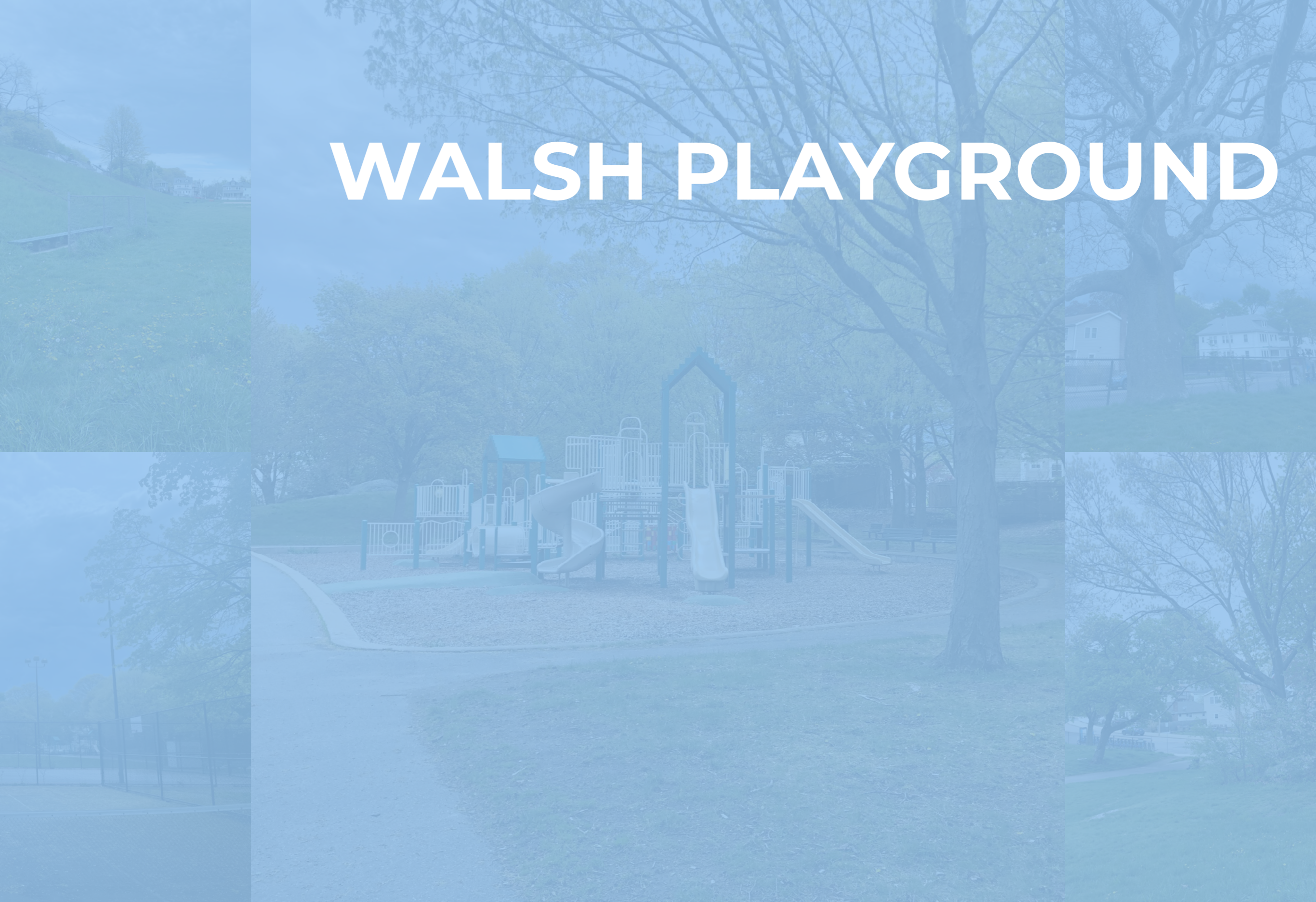


# WALSH PLAYGROUND



# Interpretation Information



**English: For interpretation in [\_\_\_\_],**

1. Go to the horizontal control bar at the bottom of your screen. Click on “Interpretation.”
2. Then click on the language that you would like to hear.
3. You are now accessing this meeting in [\_\_\_\_\_]

**Spanish:** Para traducción en Español,

1. Vaya a la parte baja de la pantalla, en la barra horizontal, y presione la tecla “Interpretation”.
2. Luego seleccione el idioma que desea escuchar.
3. Después de seleccionar, usted entrará a la reunión en el idioma “Español”.

**Haitian Creole:** Pou entèpretasyon Kreyòl ayisyen,

1. Ale nan kontwòl ba nan pati anba ekran an epi klike sou "Interpretation"
2. Apre sa, klike sou lang ke ou ta renmen tande a.
3. Kounye a ou gen aksè a reyinyon an Kreyòl ayisyen

**Vietnamese:** Cho thông dịch Tiếng Việt

1. Tìm thanh điều khiển ngang phía dưới màn hình của bạn. Bấm vào từ: "Interpretation"
2. Sau đó chọn lựa ngôn ngữ mà bạn cần lắng nghe.
3. Hiện tại bạn đang tham gia buổi họp bằng Tiếng Việt



# WALSH PLAYGROUND

## DESIGN MEETING 3

Amy Linné  
Boston Parks and Recreation  
[amy.linne@boston.gov](mailto:amy.linne@boston.gov)



December 5, 2023  
Boston Parks and Recreation



# MEETING RECORDING



The Boston Parks and Recreation Department will be recording the meeting and posting to our project webpage for those who are unable to attend the Zoom meeting live.

It is possible that participants may also be recording the meeting with their phones cameras or other devices. If you do not wish to be recorded during this meeting, please keep your microphone and camera off.

# VIRTUAL MEETING ETIQUETTE

*We want to ensure this conversation is a pleasant experience for all and that all community members/stakeholders are comfortable sharing their comments, questions and feedback.*

*Please be respectful and mindful of each other's time when asking questions/ providing comments, so that all attendees are able to participate in the meeting.*

*Keep questions/ comments project-specific and not personal to yield solution-driven discussion.*

*Please wait until all attendees have had the opportunity to ask a question/ provide a comment before providing additional questions/ comments.*

*You can always set up a conversation with **Amy Linne, amy.linne@boston.gov**, to further discuss the project or process.*

# ZOOM TIPS

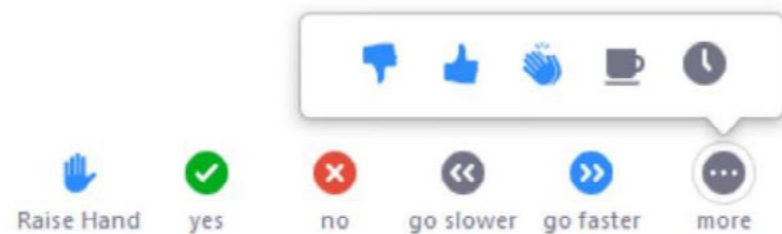
Here is how you can participate during the question and answer part of the presentation.

## DURING THE PRESENTATION:



### VIA WEB:

Turn video on / off.



To use these non-verbal options click on participants (bottom of screen); these options will pop up in side bar.

## DURING THE Q&A:



### JOINING VIA PHONE?

Use \*9 to raise hand to ask for audio / video permission to ask questions or provide comments.



### VIA WEB:

Chat to ask questions / comments or provide responses to poll questions



Raise hand to ask for audio / video permission to ask questions or provide comments.

# AGENDA

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1

**PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTION**

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2

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

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3

**PRESENTATION**

---

4

**LISTENING & DISCUSSION**

---

5

**CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS**

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# PROJECT TEAM

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## **AMY LINNÉ**

PROJECT MANAGER

[amy.linne@boston.gov](mailto:amy.linne@boston.gov) or 617-961-3045

## **KWANNA WISE**

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT,  
ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND OPEN SPACE CABINET AT THE CITY OF BOSTON

[kwanna.wise@boston.gov](mailto:kwanna.wise@boston.gov)

## **MEGAN NICHOLS TOMKINS**

Principal, CBA Landscape Architects

## **AMY FOSTER**

Landscape Architect, CBA Landscape Architects

## **ERIC JAMES (MATTAPAN LIAISON)**

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

[eric.james@boston.gov](mailto:eric.james@boston.gov)

## **ROSS COCHRAN (DORCHESTER LIAISON)**

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

[ross.cochran@boston.gov](mailto:ross.cochran@boston.gov)





# PROJECT APPROACH

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# PARK & RECREATION GOALS

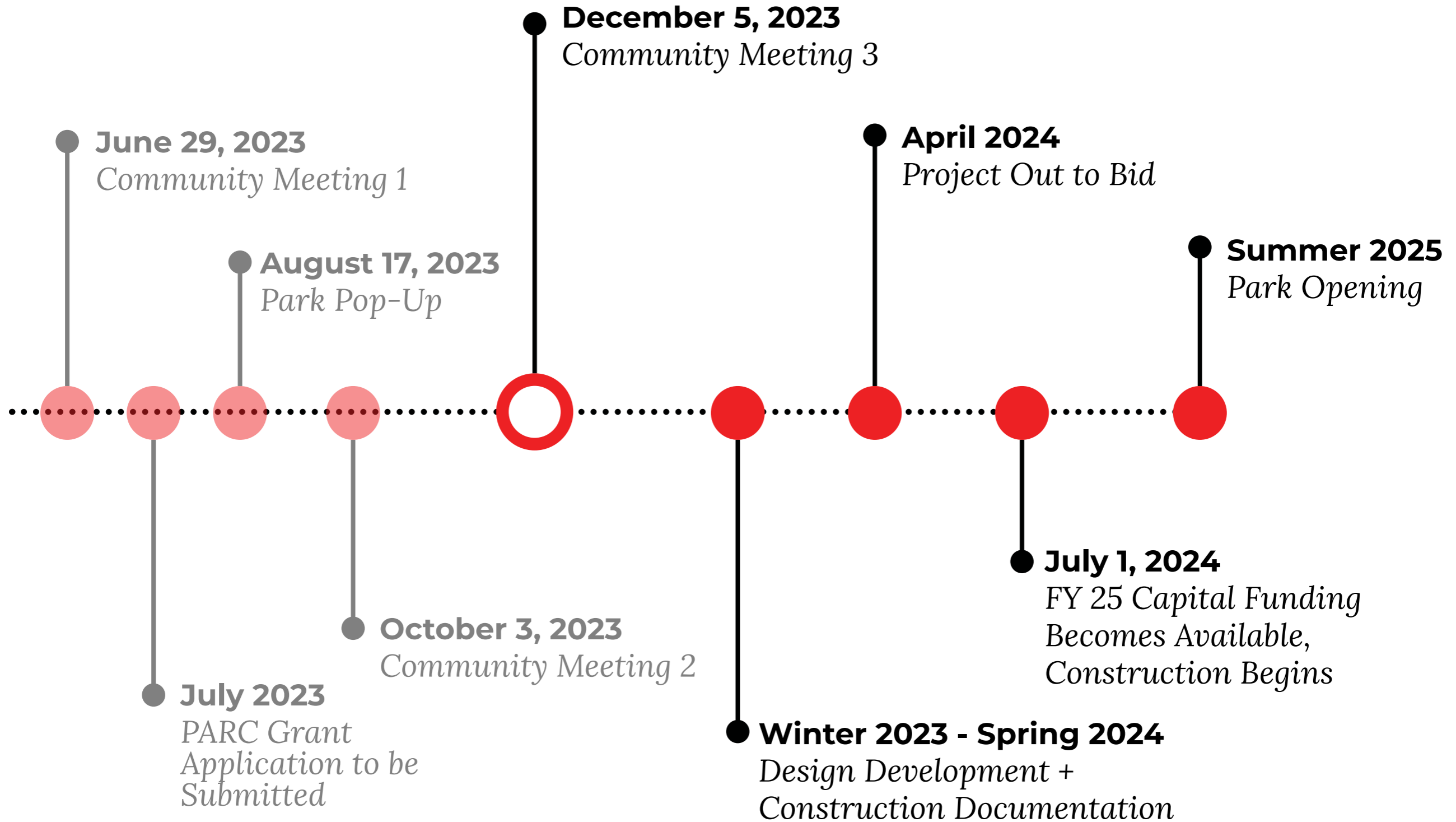
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- **Accessible and available to all**
- **Diverse, balanced, and efficient mix of uses**
- **Meaningful and inclusive community engagement**
- **Adaptive and resilient landscapes**
- **Promote connections**



# PROJECT SCHEDULE & FUNDING

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# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

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*Community Meeting 1*  
**June 29, 2023**



**participants**  
(Zoom meeting)

*Park Pop-Up*  
**August 17, 2023**



in-person participation

*Survey #1*  
**Aug 17 - Sept 22, 2023**



**participants**  
(online survey submissions)

*Community Meeting 2*  
**October 3, 2023**



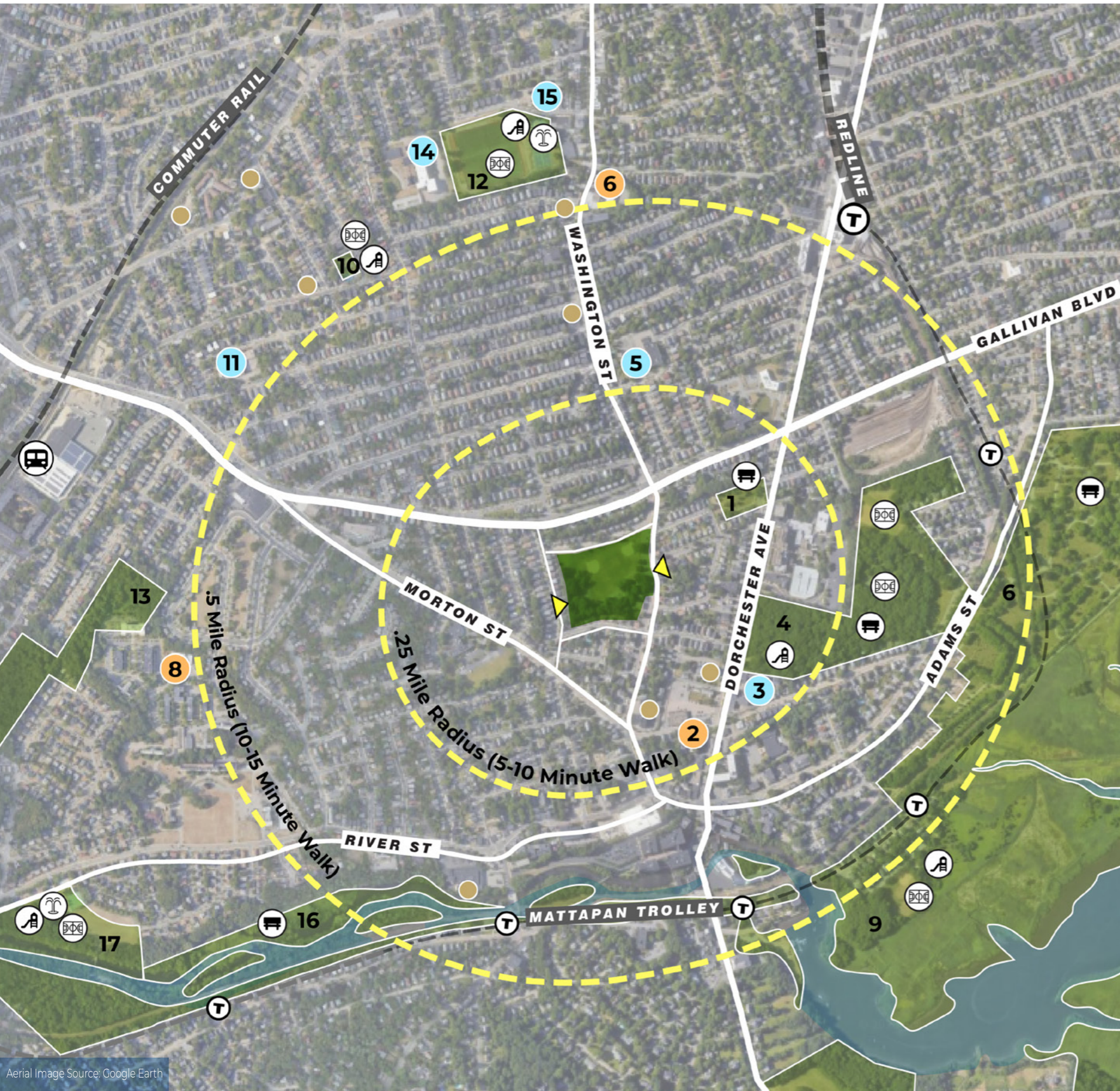
**participants**  
(Zoom meeting)

*Survey #2*  
**Nov 2 - 15, 2023**



**participants**  
(online survey submissions)

# NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT



## LEGEND

- Walsh Playground Entrance
- School
- Community Center / Library
- Church / Temple
- Park
- Playground
- Passive Recreation
- Sport Field / Court
- Splash Pad









1. Dorchester South Burying Ground
2. Boston Library - Lower Mills
3. Saint Paul II Catholic Academy
4. Dorchester Park
5. Dr. William W. Henderson Inclusion Upper School
6. Cedar Grove Cemetery
7. Dorchester YMCA
8. Gallivan Community Center
9. Ventura Park (DCR)
10. Thetford Evans Playground
11. Boston International High School
12. Roberts Playground
13. Gladeside I Urban Wild
14. TechBoston Academy
15. Lee Academy Pilot School
16. Neponset River Trail (DCR)
17. Ryan Playground (DCR)



# IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS



## LEGEND

-  Walsh Playground Entrance
-  Walsh Playground Fence
-  Residential
-  Commercial
-  Industrial Commercial
-  Healthcare
-  School
-  Church / Temple
-  Park
-  Bus Stop

1. Dorchester South Burying Ground
2. Carney Hospital
3. Dorchester Park
4. Harbor Health Services
5. Saint Gregory Parish Catholic Church
6. Wesley United Methodist Church
7. Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy
8. The Boston Home



# EXISTING CONDITIONS | SITE PLAN



## LEGEND

- ..... Internal Fencing
- Perimeter Fence
- ▲ Park Entrance
- Lawn
- Infield Clay / Sand
- Playground
- Tree Canopy
- Rock Ledge

# EXISTING CONDITIONS | UTILITIES



Sport Court Lights  
(Out of Order)



Utility Cabinets  
(Poor Condition)



## LEGEND

- Existing Tree
- Hosebib Chamber
- Manhole
- Catch Basin
- Above-Ground Utility (Out of Order)
- Tree Canopy
- Rock Ledge



Hose Bib Chambers  
(Out of Order)



Manhole Covers  
(Sewer and Drain Lines assumed to be 12+ ft Below Grade)



Catch Basins  
(Varying Condition)



# EXISTING CONDITIONS | SLEDDING HILL



Sledding Hill  
(Winter)



Cross-training Hill  
(Spring, Summer, Fall)



## LEGEND

○ Existing Tree

■ Sledding Hill

■ Tree Canopy

■ Rock Ledge

# EXISTING CONDITIONS | NOTABLE MATURE SHADE TREES



Sugar Maple Trees



Mature Oak Trees



Mature Sycamore Tree



Norway Maple Trees  
(Varying Condition)

NOTE: Many Norway Maples were intentionally planted in the park in the 1970s and 1980s, but are now considered an invasive species by the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG) and the USDA

## LEGEND

- Notable Mature Native Tree
- Tree Canopy
- Mature Norway Maple Tree
- Rock Ledge
- Existing Tree

# EXISTING CONDITIONS | VEGETATION CONCERNS



Lawn in Poor Condition



**Invasive Plant Species**  
*(English Ivy, Norway Maple saplings. Poison Ivy is also present; it is a native plant, but is considered a nuisance)*



**Invasive Plant Species**  
*(Garlic Mustard)*







**Norway Maple Trees**  
*(Varying Condition)*



**Invasive Plant Species**  
*(Japanese Knotweed, Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard)*

## LEGEND

-  Invasive Understory
-  Existing Tree

-  Tree Canopy
-  Rock Ledge

# EXISTING CONDITIONS | ROCK LEDGE



Rock Outcroppings



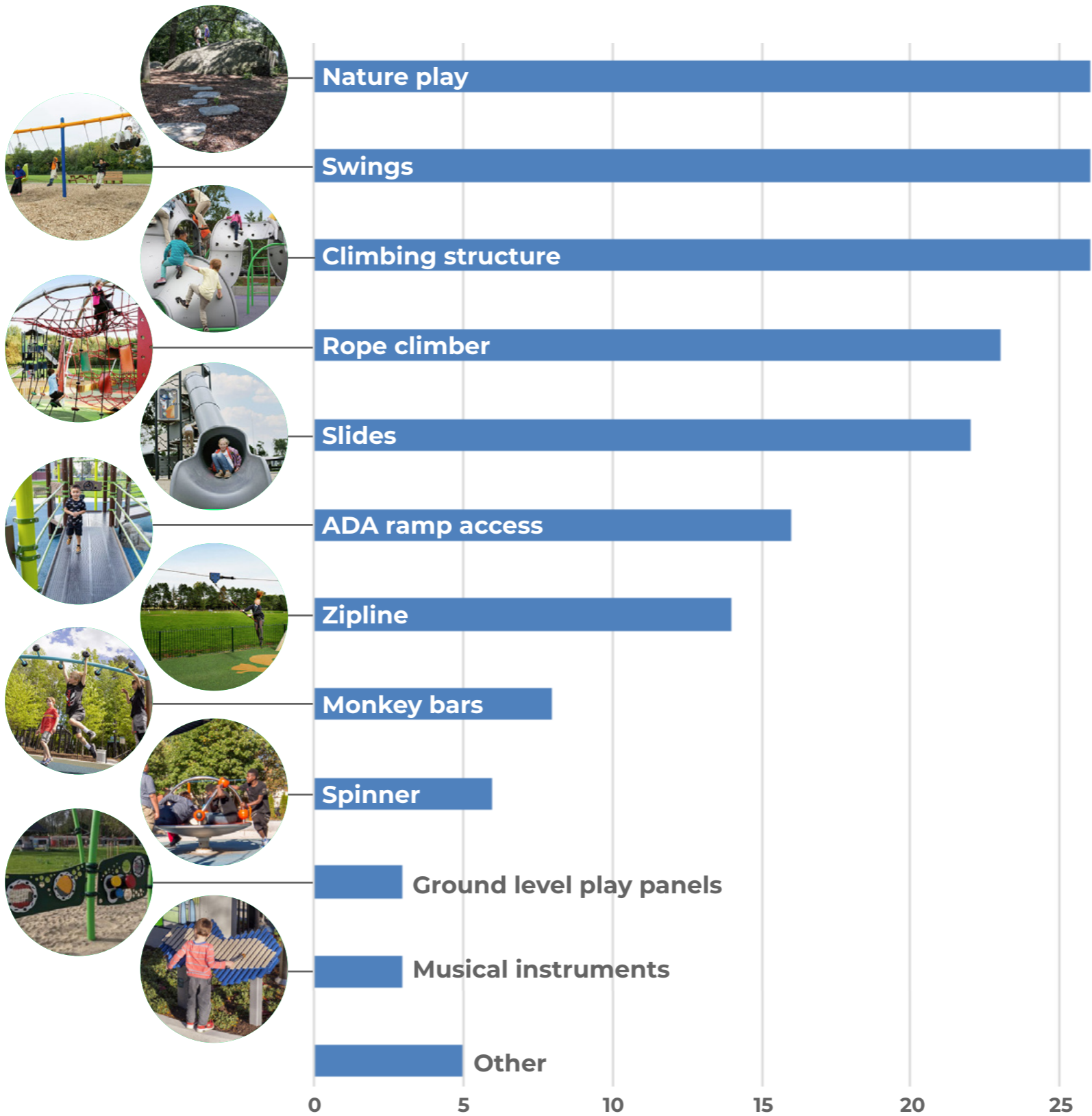
Rock Outcroppings

## LEGEND

- Existing Tree
- Tree Canopy
- Rock Ledge

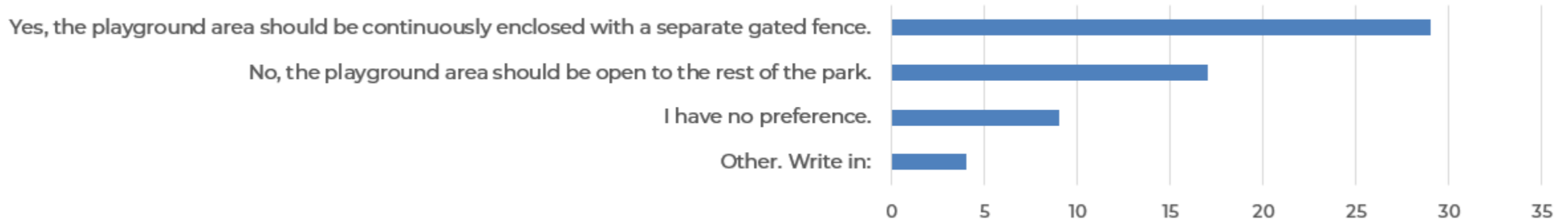
# SURVEY RESULTS (59 Responses, Online Survey Nov. 2023)

*What are your highest priority playground components?*

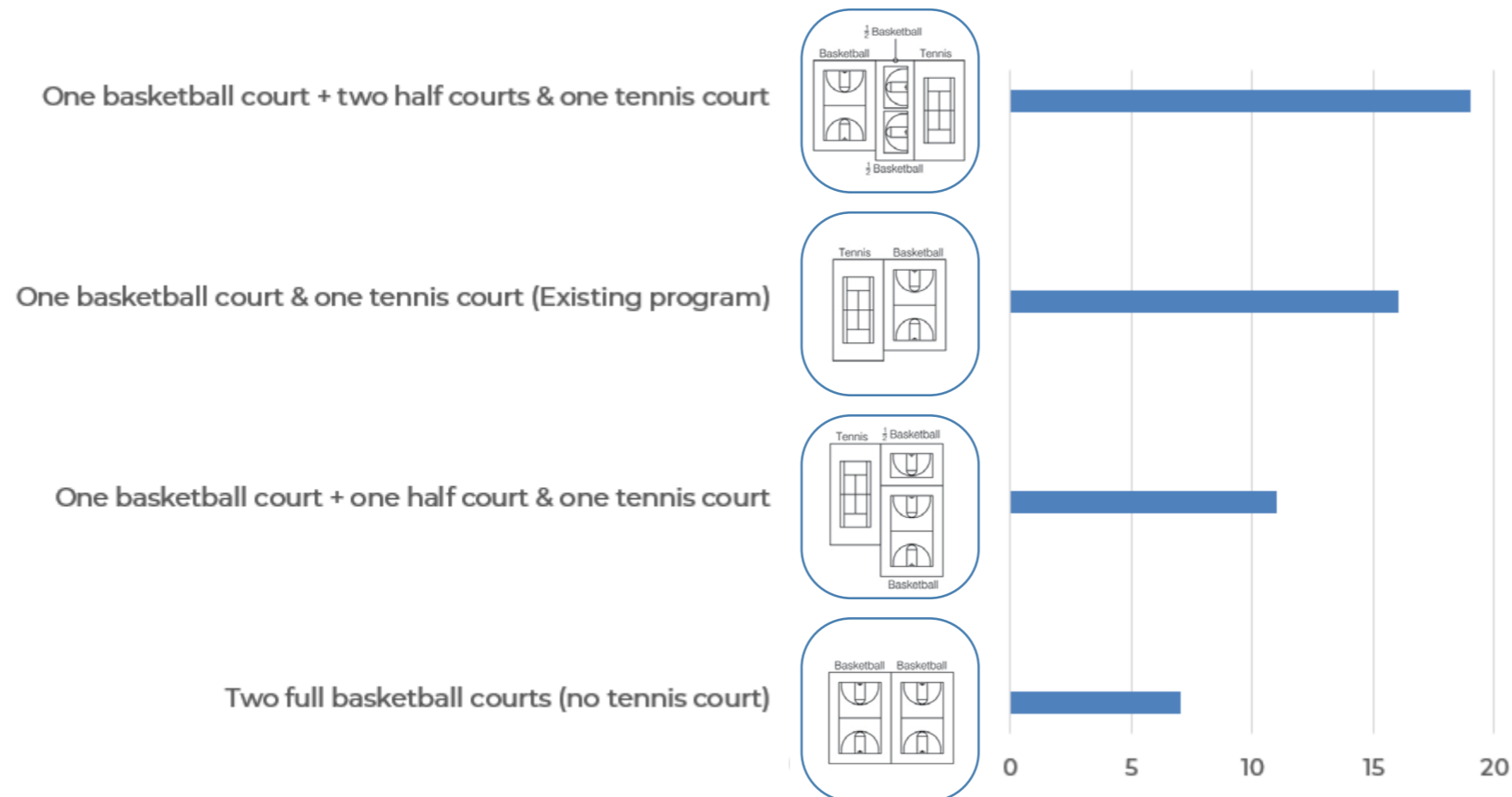


# SURVEY RESULTS (59 responses Online Survey Nov. 2023)

*Do you think the playground area of the park should have a fence around the play equipment?*

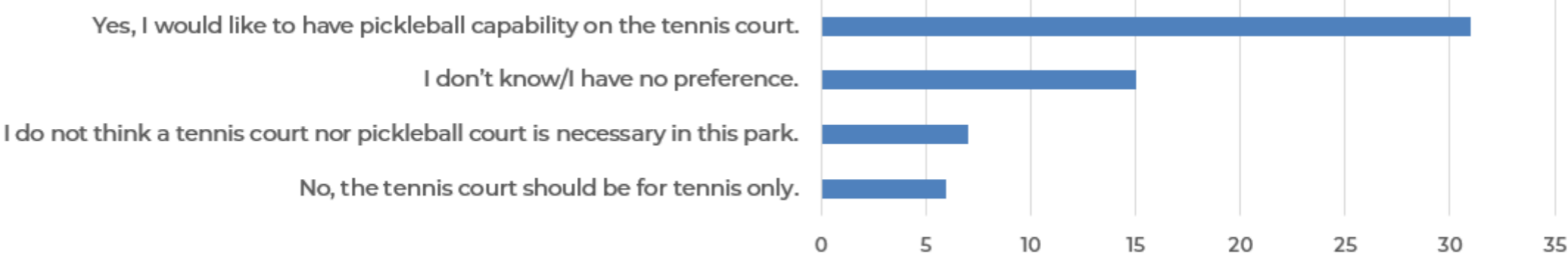


*What is your preferred court program?  
(Please note that the exact layout may vary slightly from the diagram shown)*

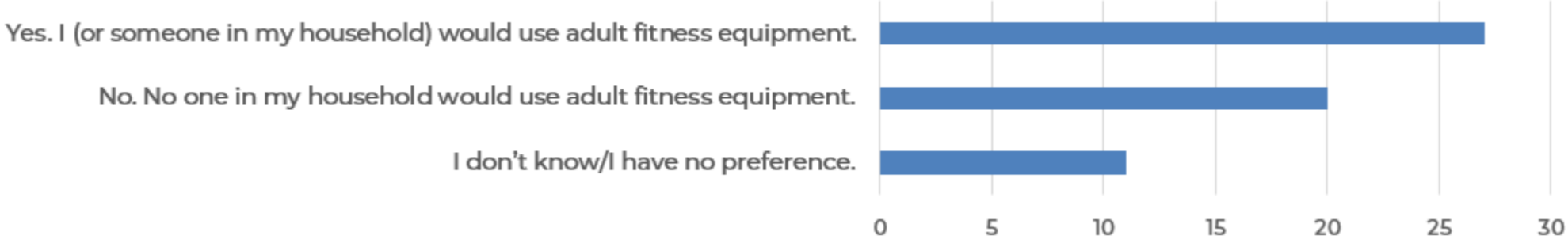


# SURVEY RESULTS (59 responses, Online Survey Nov. 2023)

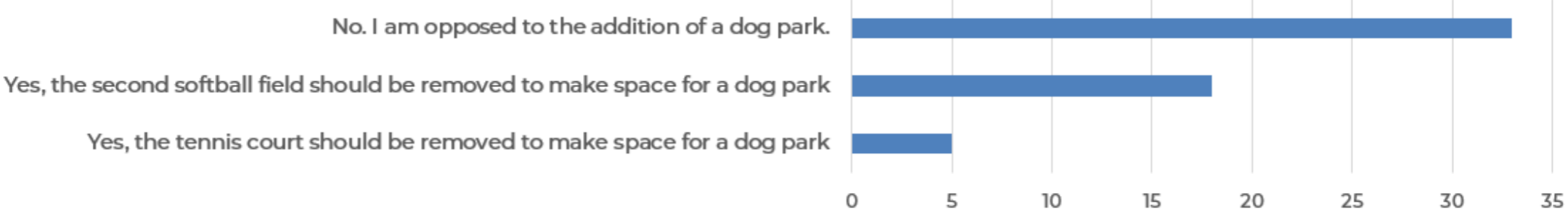
*If a tennis court is to be renovated and included in the park, would you want overlaid pickleball lines on the court and an adjustable net?*



*Would you or someone in your house use adult fitness equipment if it was added to the park?  
(Adding adult fitness equipment would likely not affect the other program elements at Walsh Playground)*



*Do you feel that the dog park should be a priority? If so, what should be removed to make space for the dog park?*
















# PROPOSED DESIGNS | SURVEY 2 CONCERNS (Online Survey Nov. 2023)

## GENERAL:

*“None of the options show an increased basketball court...”*

*“...[no] soccer fields and pickle ball courts”*

*“...why isn't there an entrance on Clancy Rd. near Pleasant Hill like there is now?”*

- |  |   |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|---|
|  Playground   |  Adult Fitness Station |  Dog Park           |  Existing Tree Canopy |  Existing Tree |
|  Splash Pad   |  Basketball Court      |  Infield Clay       |  Pedestrian Paving    |  Proposed Tree |
|  Seating Area |  Tennis Court          |  Lawn / Groundcover |  |   |



### OPTION A

*“...the splash pad doesn't seem as large in other designs...”*

*“...only [need] one softball field. Currently only one is regularly used and maintained”*

*“...splash pad [should be] slightly separated from the playground...”*



### OPTION B

*“Softball needs to be a priority...”*

*“...concern with visibility to the playground from the fields...”*

*“I do not like a dog park here especially not adjacent to a kids playground.”*



### OPTION C

*“...would potentially limit sledding in the winter...”*

*“I would like to see the splashpad in the sun”*

*“Does it need two softball fields?”*



# PROPOSED DESIGNS | SURVEY 2 FEEDBACK (Online Survey Nov. 2023)

- |              |                       |                    |                      |               |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Playground   | Adult Fitness Station | Dog Park           | Existing Tree Canopy | Existing Tree |
| Splash Pad   | Basketball Court      | Infield Clay       | Pedestrian Paving    | Proposed Tree |
| Seating Area | Tennis Court          | Lawn / Groundcover |                      |               |

**11** votes



**OPTION A**

“...I like the playground in the relative same area it is now – the same with the courts”

“I like the configuration of the facilities to preserve the open space for sledding”

“...girls deserve two softball fields...”

**19** votes



**OPTION B**

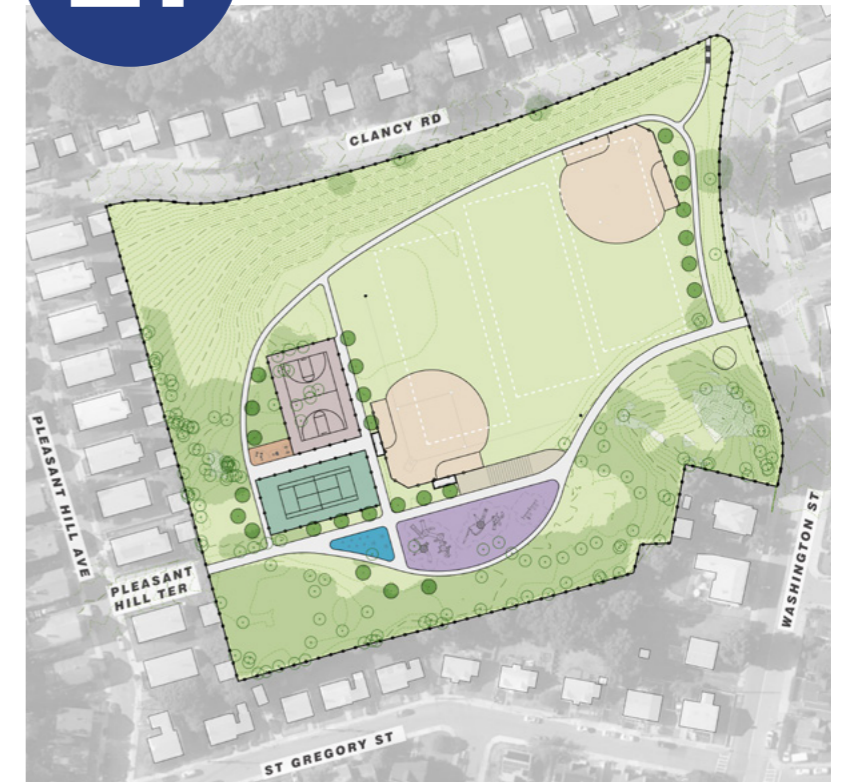
“...splash pad farther away from trees”

“I like the fitness stations along the path”

“I like the dog park so I can take my son and dog to play in the same trip”

“...the 3 multi-use fields have the least overlap with the softball infield...”

**21** votes



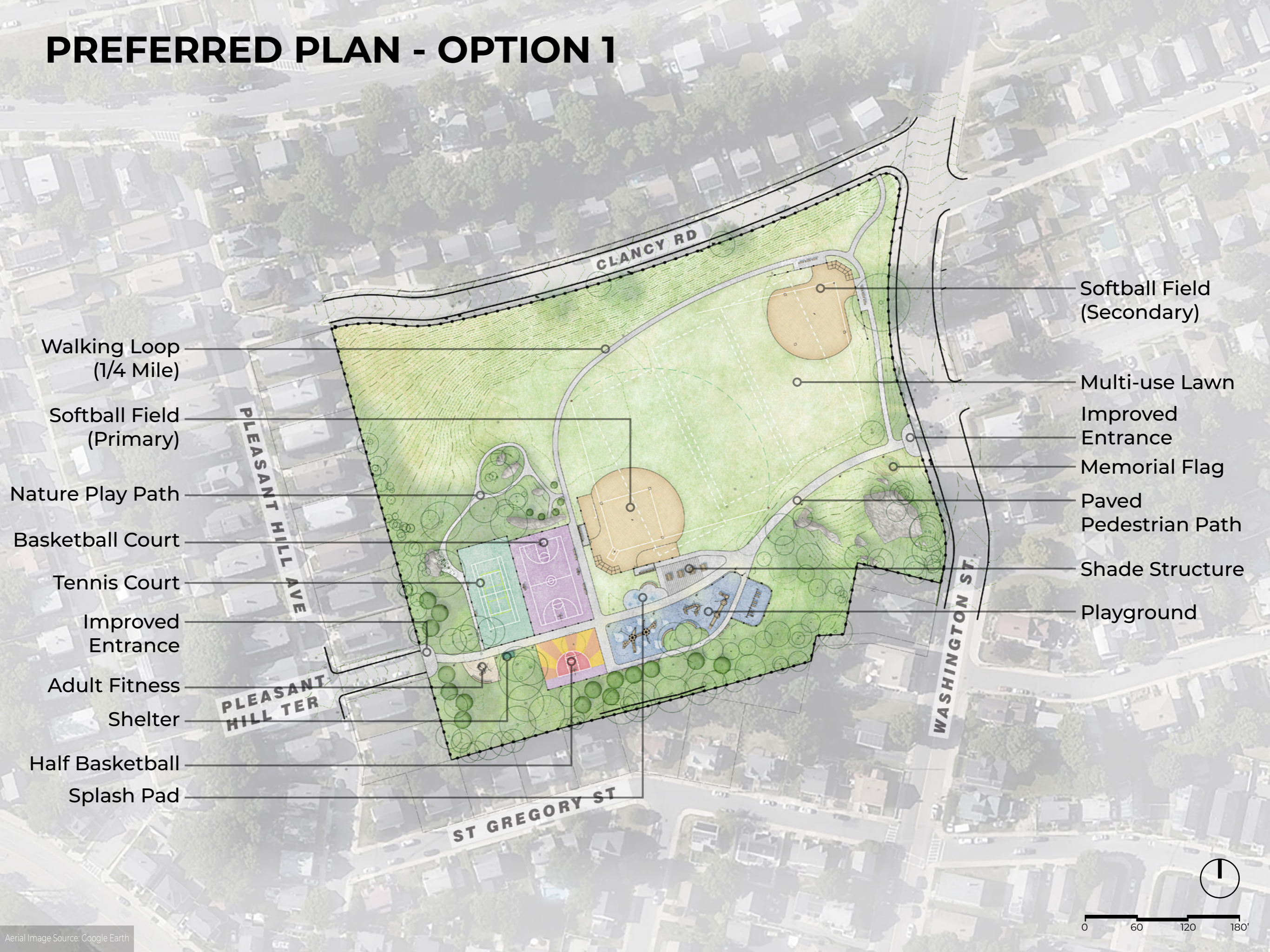
**OPTION C**

“...largest play area for kids”

“...having all the fitness equipment all in the same area is best...”

“Love the idea to move activities further away from the fence lines...”

# PREFERRED PLAN - OPTION 1



Walking Loop  
(1/4 Mile)

Softball Field  
(Primary)

Nature Play Path

Basketball Court

Tennis Court

Improved  
Entrance

Adult Fitness

Shelter

Half Basketball

Splash Pad

Softball Field  
(Secondary)

Multi-use Lawn

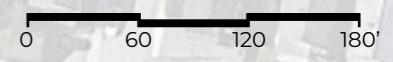
Improved  
Entrance

Memorial Flag

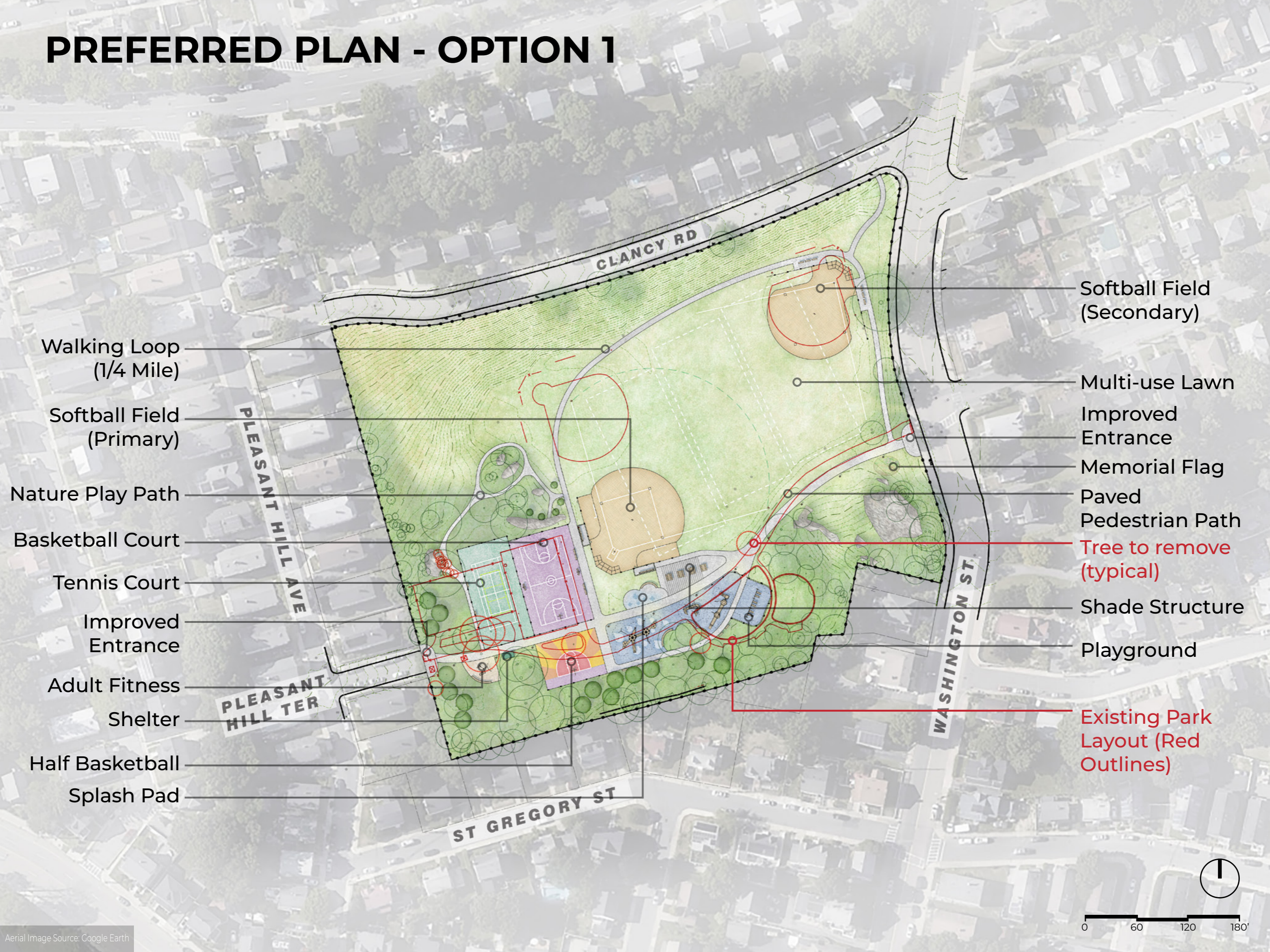
Paved  
Pedestrian Path

Shade Structure

Playground



# PREFERRED PLAN - OPTION 1



Walking Loop  
(1/4 Mile)

Softball Field  
(Primary)

Nature Play Path

Basketball Court

Tennis Court

Improved  
Entrance

Adult Fitness

Shelter

Half Basketball

Splash Pad

Softball Field  
(Secondary)

Multi-use Lawn

Improved  
Entrance

Memorial Flag

Paved  
Pedestrian Path

Tree to remove  
(typical)

Shade Structure

Playground

Existing Park  
Layout (Red  
Outlines)

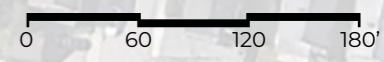
PLEASANT HILL AVE

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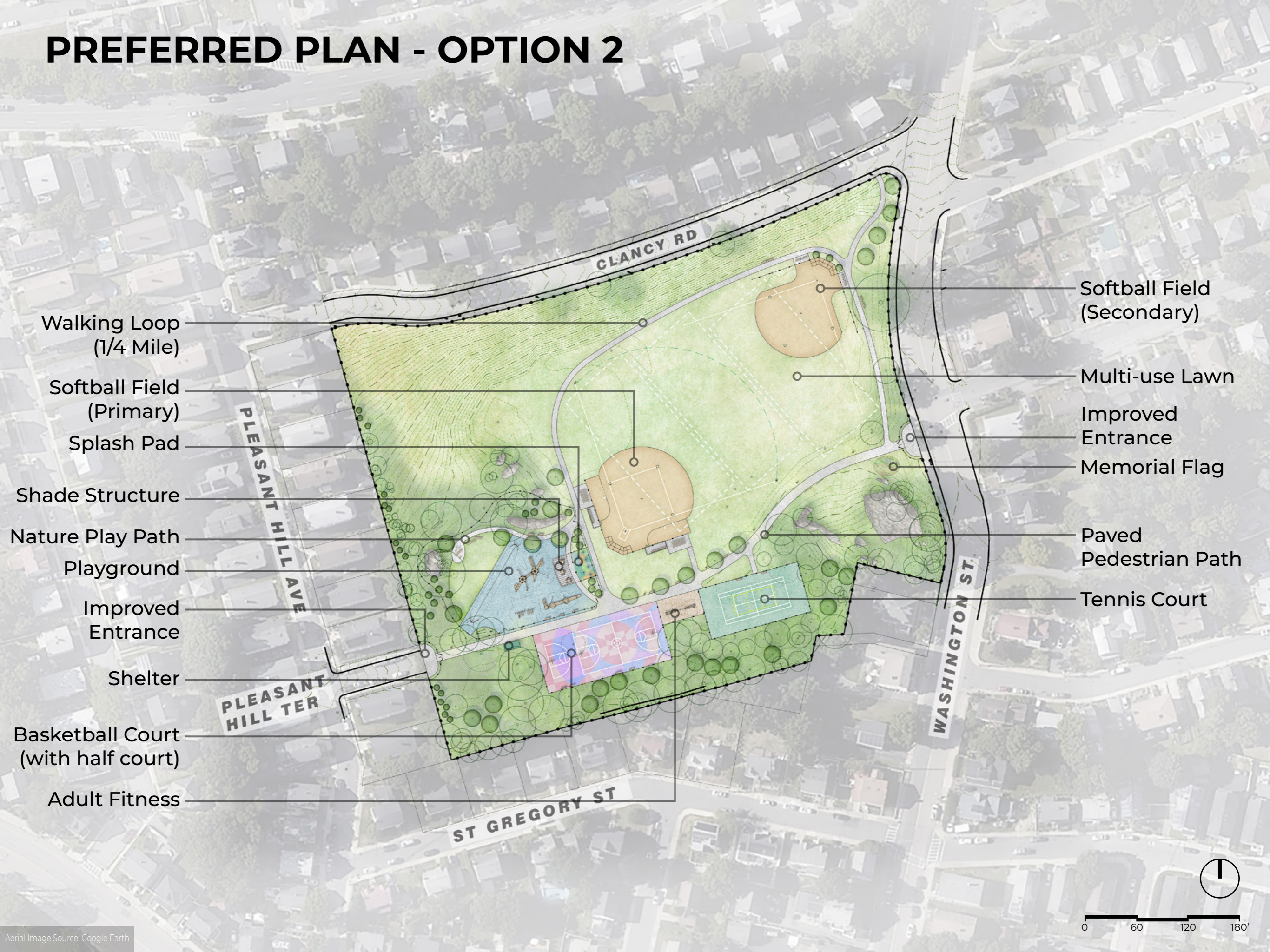
ST GREGORY ST

CLANCY RD

WASHINGTON ST



# PREFERRED PLAN - OPTION 2



Walking Loop  
(1/4 Mile)

Softball Field  
(Primary)

Splash Pad

Shade Structure

Nature Play Path

Playground

Improved  
Entrance

Shelter

Basketball Court  
(with half court)

Adult Fitness

Softball Field  
(Secondary)

Multi-use Lawn

Improved  
Entrance

Memorial Flag

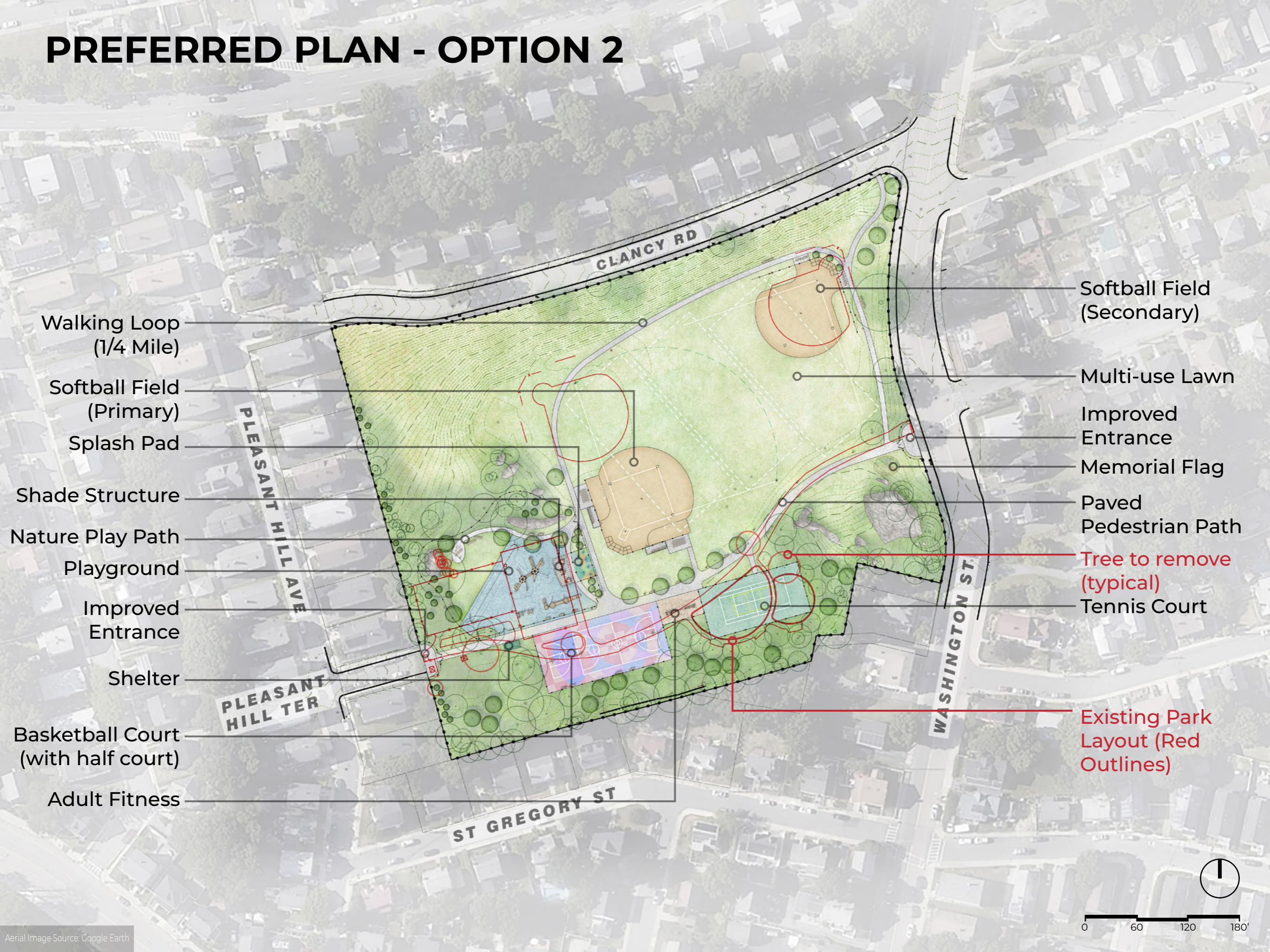
Paved  
Pedestrian Path

Tennis Court

0 60 120 180'



# PREFERRED PLAN - OPTION 2



Walking Loop  
(1/4 Mile)

Softball Field  
(Primary)

Splash Pad

Shade Structure

Nature Play Path

Playground

Improved  
Entrance

Shelter

Basketball Court  
(with half court)

Adult Fitness

Softball Field  
(Secondary)

Multi-use Lawn

Improved  
Entrance

Memorial Flag

Paved  
Pedestrian Path

Tree to remove  
(typical)

Tennis Court

Existing Park  
Layout (Red  
Outlines)

0 60 120 180'



# PROPOSED DESIGNS | PREFERRED OPTIONS



## OPTION 1

### DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

- Full basketball and tennis courts are located in same general location as existing and oriented north-south
- Half basketball court is continuous with the playground to provide a flexible hardcourt play area
  - Tennis court has pickleball court striping
  - Primary softball field is the interior field
  - Shade structure and gathering area are located at the intersection of the softball field, playground, and splashpad
- Playground is partially fenced but open to the shade structure and other park program
- Nature play walking path is separated from the playground area



## OPTION 2

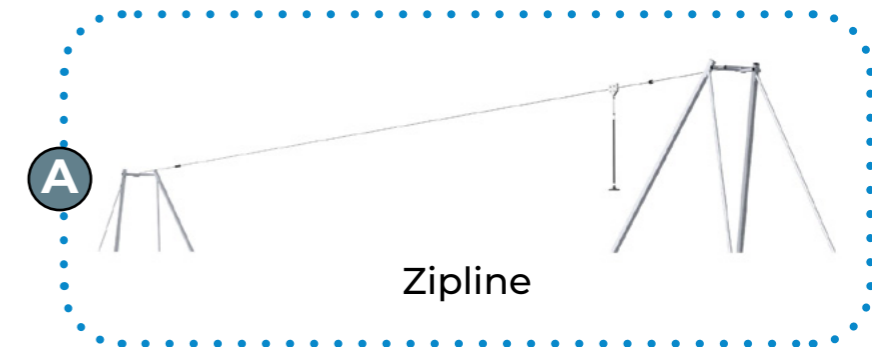
### DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

- Sport courts and playground switch locations to give direct sight line to playground from Washington Street
  - Basketball and tennis courts are oriented east-west
- Half basketball court is continuous with the full basketball court
  - Tennis court has pickleball court striping
  - Primary softball field is the interior field
- Playground is fully enclosed with a continuous fence and gates
- Shade structure and splash pad are included in the playground
  - Nature play is integrated in the playground

# PREFERRED PLAN - PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES (CONCEPT)



# PREFERRED PLAN - PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES (CONCEPT)





# PREFERRED PLAN - ACTIVE PROGRAM



**A**

Renovated Tennis Court  
with pickleball lines



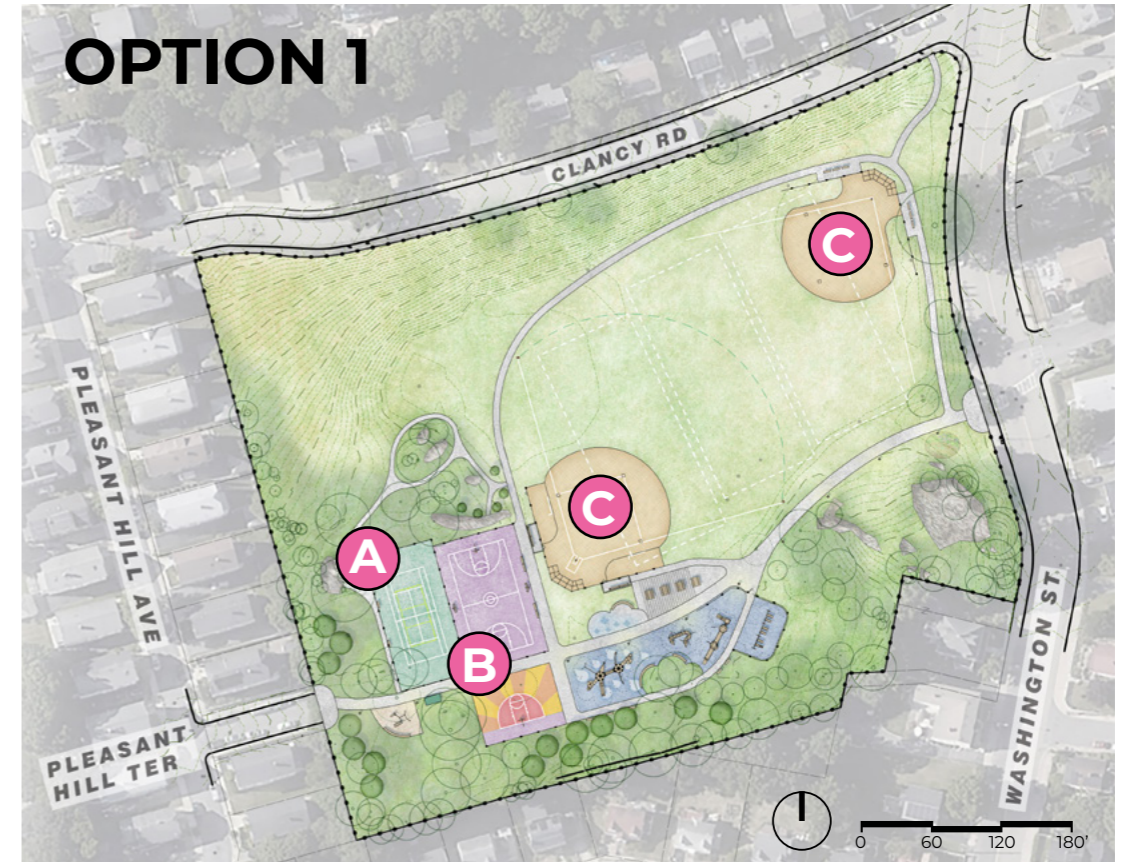
**B**

Renovated Basketball Court  
& Added Court Space



**C**

Renovated Softball Field & Backstop



# PREFERRED PLAN - ACTIVE PROGRAM



**A**

Renovated Playground



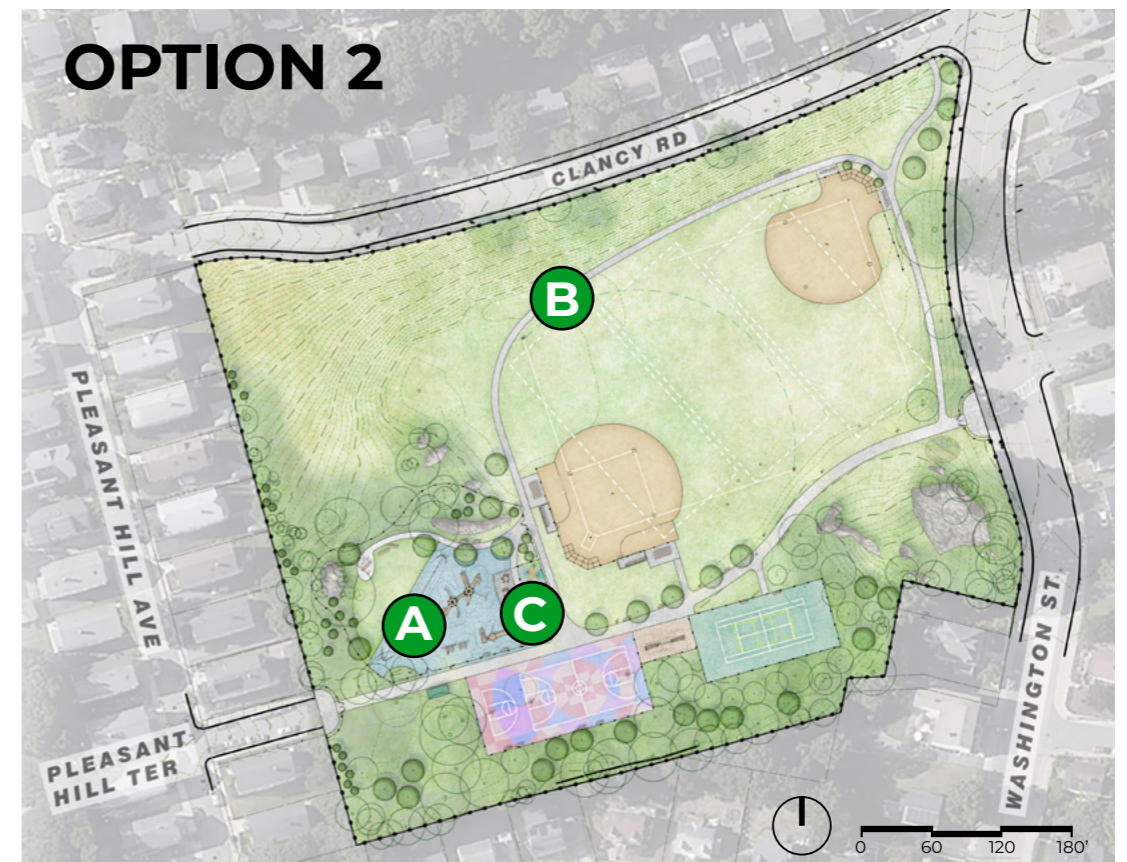
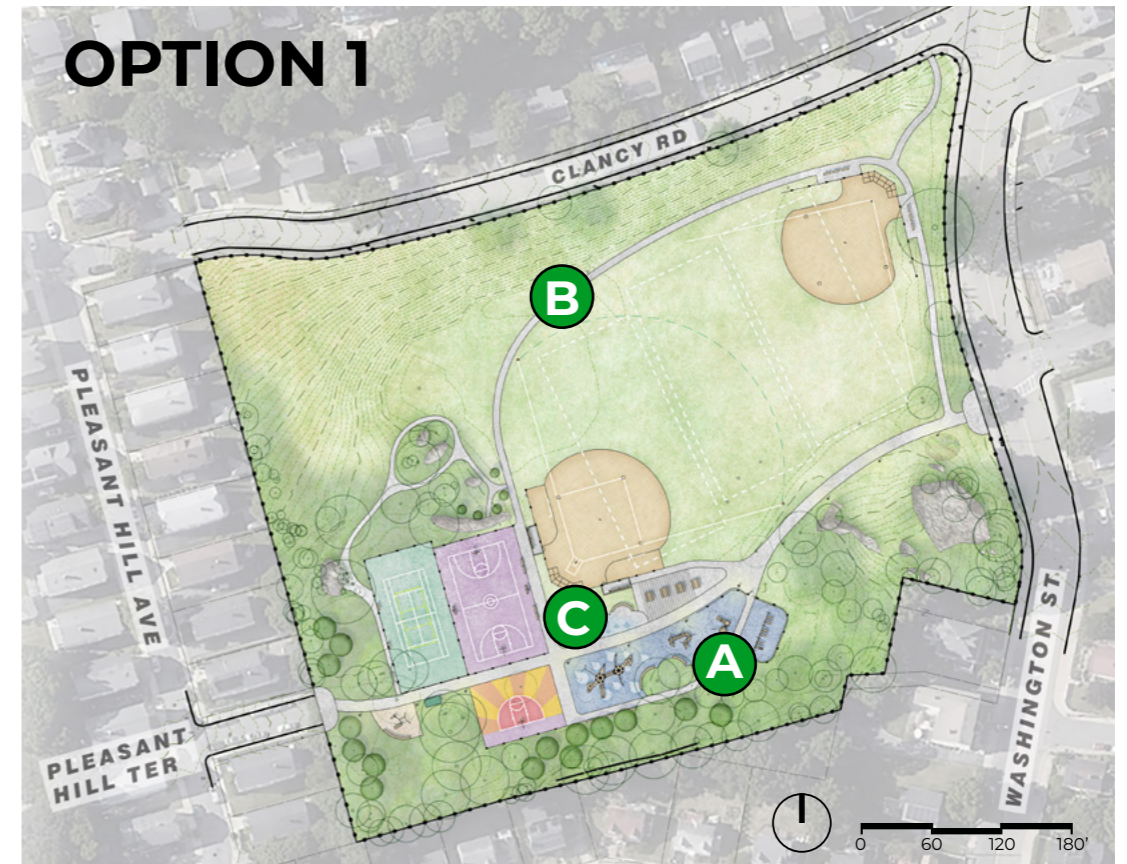
**B**

Accessible Walking Loop



**C**

New Splash Pad



# PREFERRED PLAN - VEGETATION MANAGEMENT



Aslan Foundation

Invasive Understory Removal



Penny Whistle Photography

New Fence with Concrete Mow Strip at Clancy Road



thegrassmaster.com

Renovated Multi-use Lawn



Protect Existing Mature Trees



Morton Arboretum, Earl Richardson

New Shade & Ornamental Tree Plantings



Texas Tree Surgeons

Branch Pruning on Existing Trees for Health & Safety



# PREFERRED PLAN - SITE FURNISHINGS



New Bike Racks



New Pedestrian Lighting on Main Walking Path



New Bottle Filler & Drinking Fountain



Improved Entry Gates



New Shade Structure



New Trash Receptacles



# FUNDING PRIORITIES

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## HIGH PRIORITIES

- *Playground renovation including new equipment and rubber safety surfacing*
- *Accessibility improvements including new walkways and an added walking loop*
- *Sport court renovation (minimum 1 basketball court, 1 tennis court)*
- *Field and lawn renovation (minimum 1 softball field)*
- *Add a splash pad and drinking fountain / bottle filler*
- *Improved site furnishings, including seating, bike racks, and waste receptacles*
- *New shade structure*
- *New shade and ornamental tree plantings*
- *Basic entrance upgrades (lockable vehicular gate or bollard)*
- *Nature Play*

---

## MEDIUM PRIORITIES

- *Sport program expansion, including the second softball field, and added basketball half courts or hoops*
- *Repaired basketball court lighting*
- *New pedestrian path lighting*
- *Vegetation management including invasive plant removal*

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## LOW PRIORITIES

- *Adult fitness area*
- *Fence improvements along Clancy Road*
- *Enhanced ornamental entrance upgrades (example: metal arch or stone wall / columns)*



# LISTENING & DISCUSSION

Help us build great parks.  
Let us know what matters to you.

# THANK YOU!

Visit the Project Webpage for Updates  
[www.boston.gov/walsh-playground](http://www.boston.gov/walsh-playground)  
or email the BPRD project manager  
[amy.linne@boston.gov](mailto:amy.linne@boston.gov)

For questions, maintenance requests or  
concerns regarding any of our  
parks contact 311

