



FRANKLIN PARK BEAR DENS MEETING #2

Recommendations for Safety Improvements



March 14, 2024
Boston Parks and Recreation



Zoom Interpretation Services



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 [_____]

Mandarin: 若需普通话口译服务：

1. 在屏幕下方的长方形控制栏中，请点击“Interpretation.”
2. 请点击您所需收听的语言。
3. 您即可收听普通话的会议口译。

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

Cabo Verdean Creole: Gossim bu ta entra na reuniao na kriolu,

1. Bai na barra de controlo horizontal na parte inferior di computador bu kalka na “Interpretation”.
2. Depos kalka na idioma qui bu kre ovi.
3. Agora djabu sta ta entra na reuniaun em creole.

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”.

Cantonese: 若需粵語口譯服務：

1. 與屏幕下方之長方形控制欄中，煩請點擊“Interpretation.”
2. 煩請點擊您所需收聽的語言。
3. 您即可聽到粵語的會議口譯。

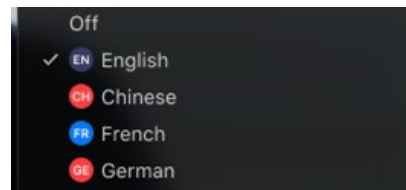
Haitian Creole: Pou entèpretasyon Kreyòl ayisyen,

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

1.



2.



3.





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Recommendations for Safety Improvements



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MEETING RECORDING



Scan me with your phone's camera!



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 muted and camera off.

Please share with your neighbors and friends

WEB LINK:

www.boston.gov/bear-dens

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.

Please keep questions/ comments to 2 minutes.

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 Linné**, amy.linne@boston.gov, to further discuss the project or process.*

ZOOM TIPS

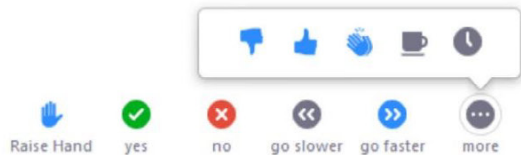
Here is how you can participate during the question and answer part of the presentation.

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

1

PROJECT TEAM

2

PROJECT STATUS AND SCOPE OF WORK

3

**PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

4

LISTENING AND DISCUSSION

5

CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS

PROJECT TEAM

Amy Linné

Project Manager

amy.linne@boston.gov or 617-961-3045

Lauren Bryant

Project Manager, Franklin Park Action Plan

lauren.bryant@boston.gov or 617-961-3019

Kwanna Wise

Director of Community Engagement - Environment, Energy & Open Space Cabinet

Kwanna.wise@boston.gov or 617-961-3006

Office of Neighborhood Services

www.boston.gov/ONS or 617-961-3485

-Roxbury: Asha Janay

-Dorchester: Ross Cochran

-Mid-Dorchester: Ashley Gomes

Kyle Zick

Principal, Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, Inc.

Mike Doucette

Project Landscape Architect, Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, Inc.



GROUPS WE HAVE COORDINATED WITH

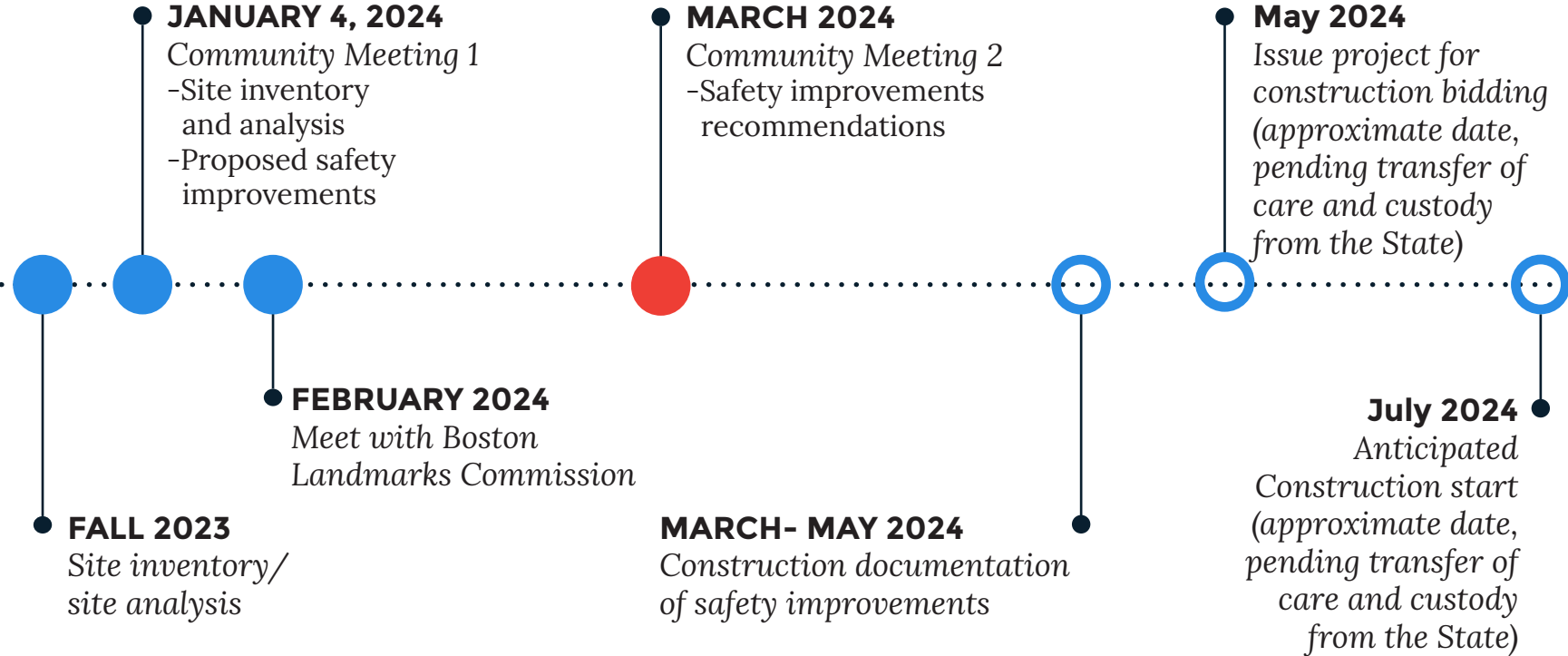
- **Franklin Park Coalition**
- **Emerald Necklace Conservancy**
- **Boston Landmarks Commission**
- **Community**
- **Power Corps**
- **City of Boston Arborists**
- **City of Boston Office of Neighborhood Services**

PROJECT SCHEDULE

BEAR DENS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$900,000

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET: \$720,000



DESIGN TEAM ORGANIZATION CHART

City of Boston
Parks and Recreation

Prime Consultant
Landscape Architect
Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, Inc.
Kyle Zick, ASLA — Principal-in-Charge
Mike Doucette, RLA — Project Landcape Architect

Structural Engineers
Silman-Structural Engineers
Mike Auren, PE

3D Scanning
ScanSure
Doug Magners

Historic Preservation
Consultant
Building Conservation
Associates
Lisa Howe

Survey
Nitsch Engineering

FRANKLIN PARK BEAR DENS PROJECT SCOPE OF WORK

Analyze existing conditions and make recommendations to improve Bear Dens:

- **Safety (funding will be prioritized for safety issues)**
- **Stabilization of historic features**

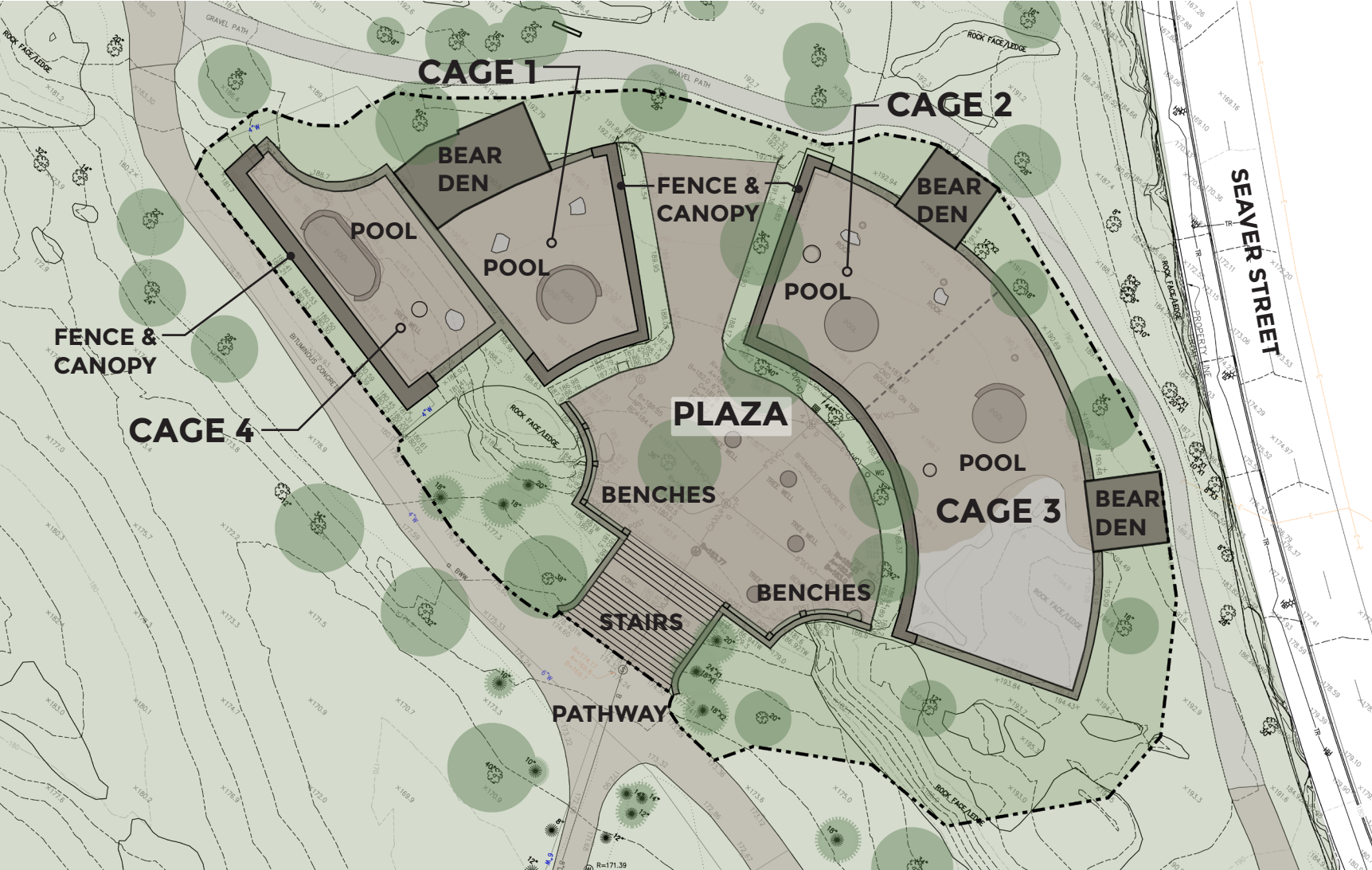


MEETING GOALS

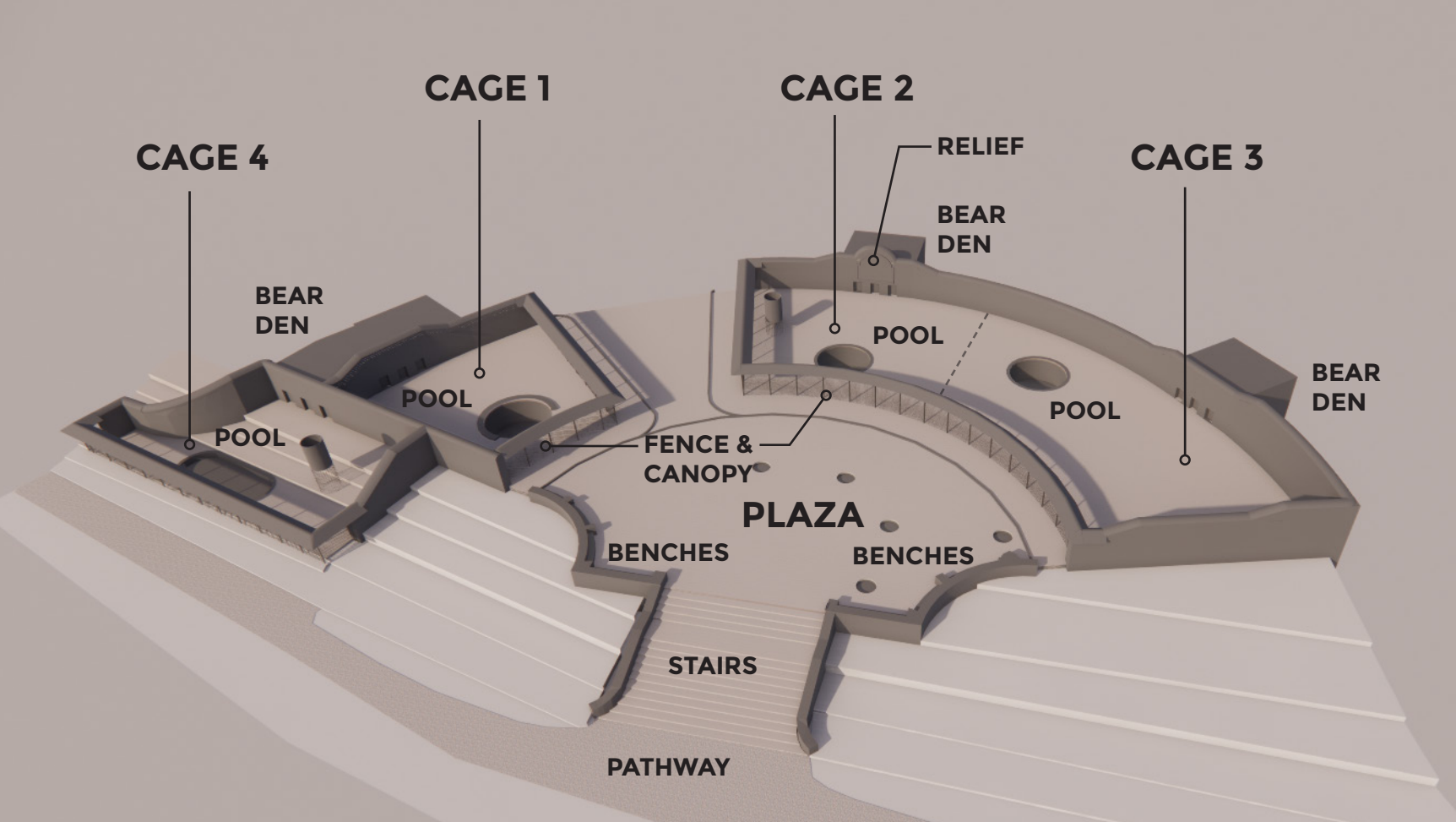
- **Summarize safety issues as presented in Meeting #1**
- **Share recommendations for addressing safety issues and prioritizing improvements**
- **Share how the recommended improvements fit within the construction budget**



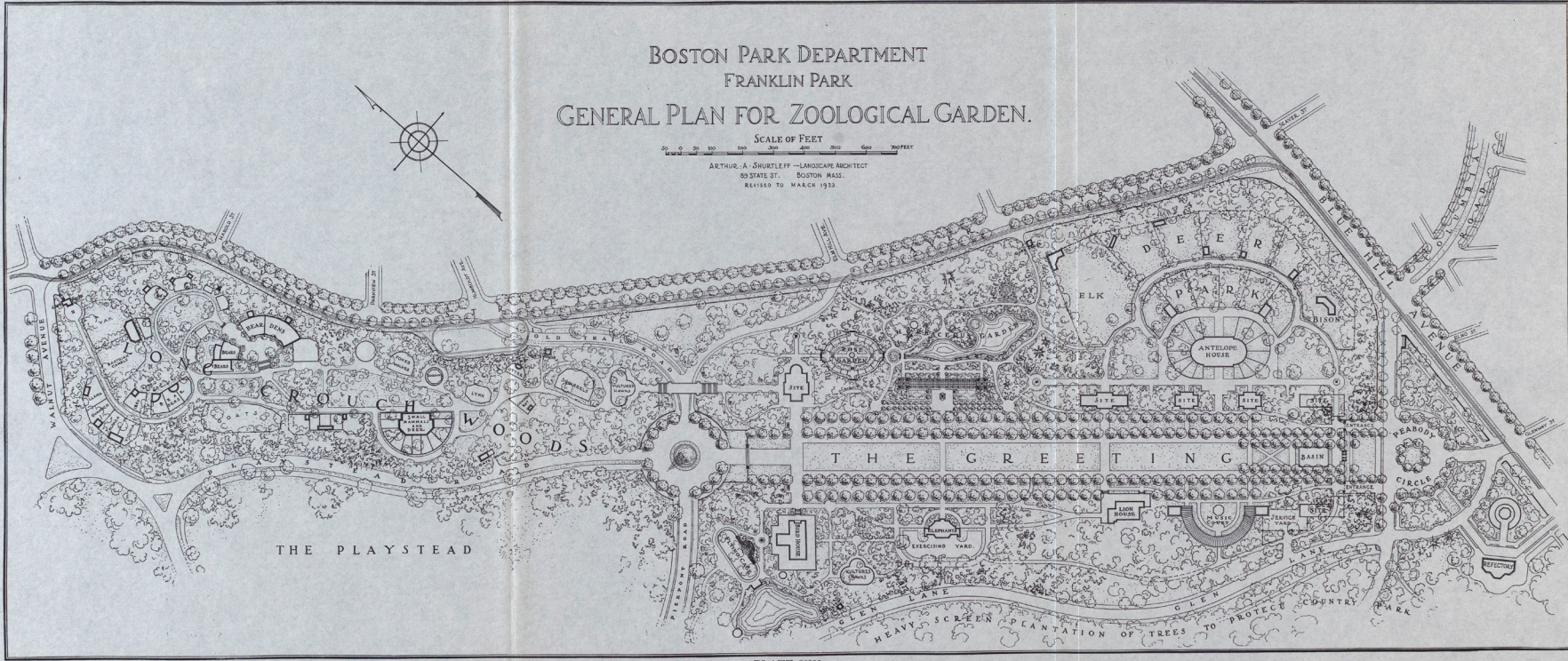
FRANKLIN PARK BEAR DENS EXISTING CONDITIONS



FRANKLIN PARK BEAR DENS SITE OVERVIEW

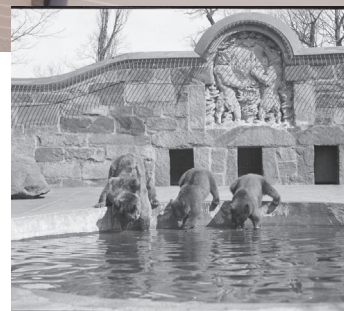
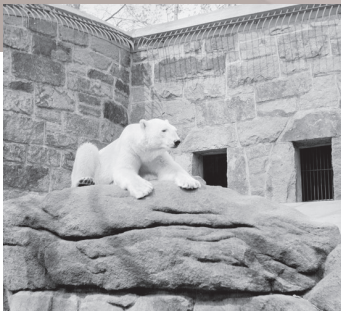
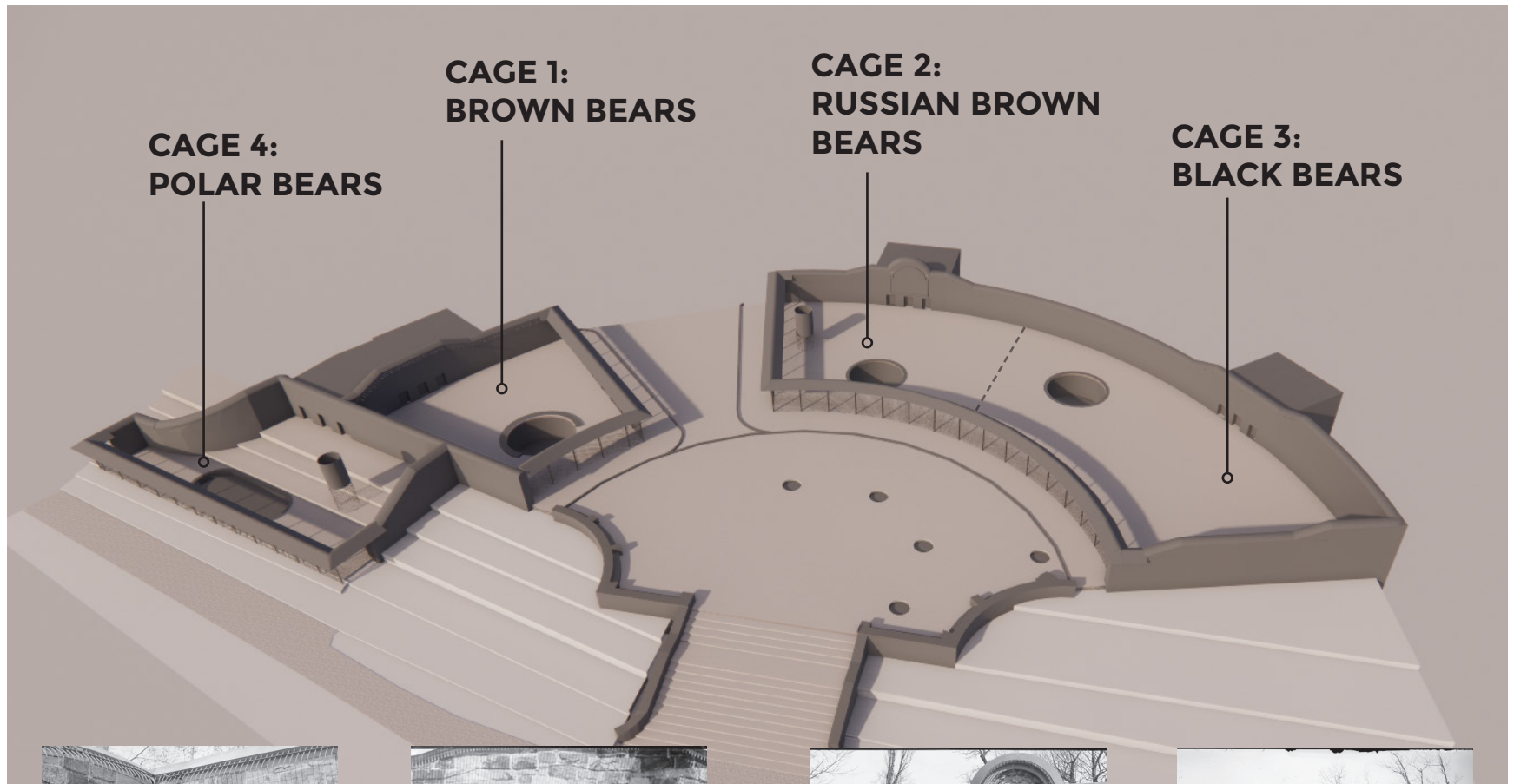


FRANKLIN PARK ZOO ORIGINAL PLAN



Source: Shurcliff, A., & Boston (Mass.). Department of Parks. ([1925]). Franklin Park general plan for zoological garden [Map]. Retrieved from <https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/vd66zg13x>

FRANKLIN PARK BEAR DENS BEAR TYPOLOGY



FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN, 2022

Reimagine the Bear Dens Design for Flexible Use

As part of the original set of zoological displays from 1912, the Bear Dens served as the anchoring attraction in Long Crouch Woods. Due to increasing expenses, the display was closed in the mid-1950s when the zoo was migrated to its existing location, and the dens were left to deteriorate in the woods. Stabilizing this important park feature presents a prime opportunity for imaginative new uses that respect the historic fabric, while integrating elements of fun and play, with flexibility for gathering and smaller programs to serve the Roxbury side of the park.

BEAR DENS STRATEGIES

Restore the Dens & Integrate New Use

- Stabilize and restore the character defining features of the Bear Dens, including the metal work and overhang, masonry walls, steps, and benches, the relief sculpture, and the attached buildings.
- Integrate new program within the framework of the dens with flexible use in mind.
- Inspired by the historic bear pools, introduce shallow splash pads, designed to allow the space to function both for water play and for flexible events when turned off.
- Provide temporary furnishings throughout.
- Extend the woodland canopy cover with new trees.
- Install festive catenary lighting for evening events.



Park goers use stabilized ruins as flexible space for a variety of programming today, like yoga in the Schoolmaster Hill Shelter. Restoring the Bear Dens would provide a similar space on the east side of the park, which does not exist today.

BEAR DENS OPPORTUNITIES



2 Metal Overhang/Awning



3 Bear Relief Sculpture, Metalwork, & Stone Wall



4 Stone walls & built-in benches with cages behind



5 Flexible programming with canopy & lighting.

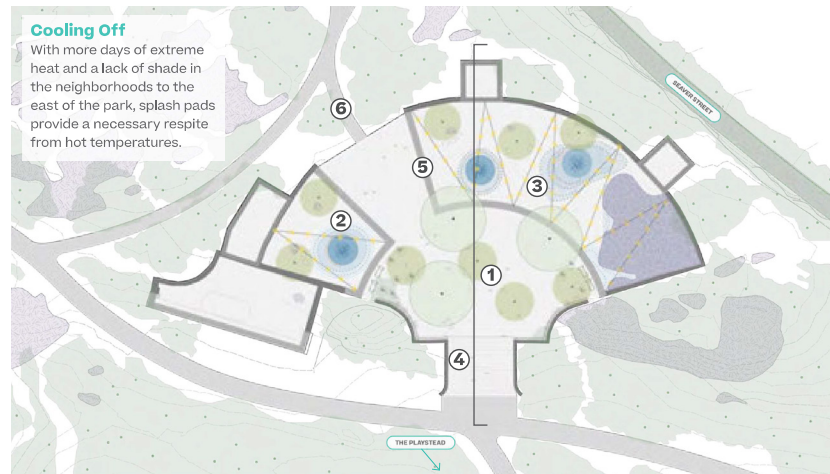


6 Splash pad & water play in rock outcrops for children at a range of ages.



7

RESTORE THE RUINS, INSERT NEW PROGRAM



The Bear Dens Proposed Program

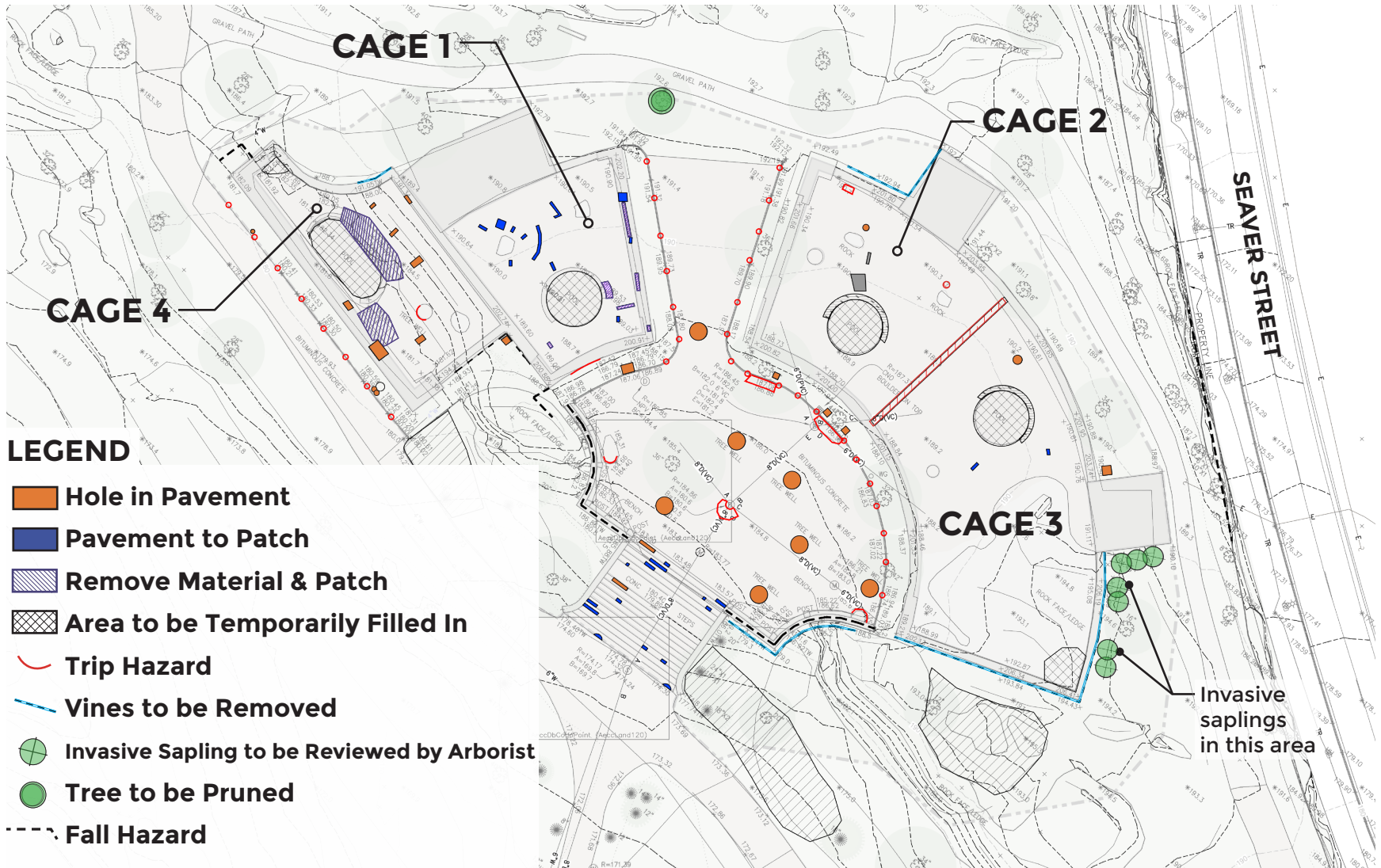
- Tree Canopy Cover
- Rock Outcrops
- Pedestrian Paths
- Walls
- Section Cut Line
- Proposed Canopy Tree
- Existing Canopy Tree
- Proposed Catenary Lights
- 1 Central Grove with Next Generation Canopy Tree Planting
- 2 Little Kids Splash Pad
- 3 Big Kids Splash Pad
- 4 Restored Steps, Walls, & Built-in Benches
- 5 Restored Historic Metal Overhang
- 6 Accessible Point of Entry



← Seaver Street → Splash Pad → Central Grove → The Playstead →

Source: Boston Parks and Recreation,
<https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/franklin-park-action-plan>

FRANKLIN PARK BEAR DENS - SITE INVENTORY



OVERALL SAFETY ISSUES



Several tripping hazards



Existing pool areas



Failing steel fence & canopy



Areas of failing concrete; sink holes

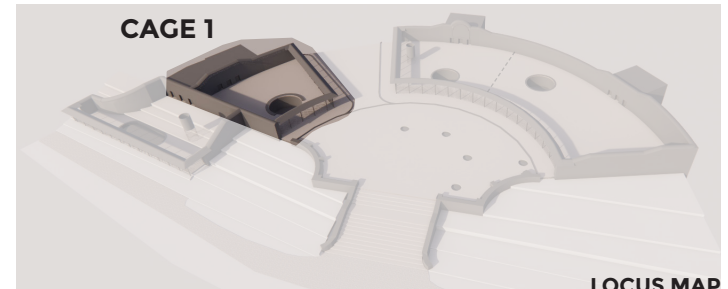
OVERALL STABILIZATION ISSUES



CAGE 1 OVERALL ISSUES



- Limited access in and out of cage
- Pool, fall hazard
- Fence canopy deterioration
- Trip hazards
- Missing fence panel
- Graffiti



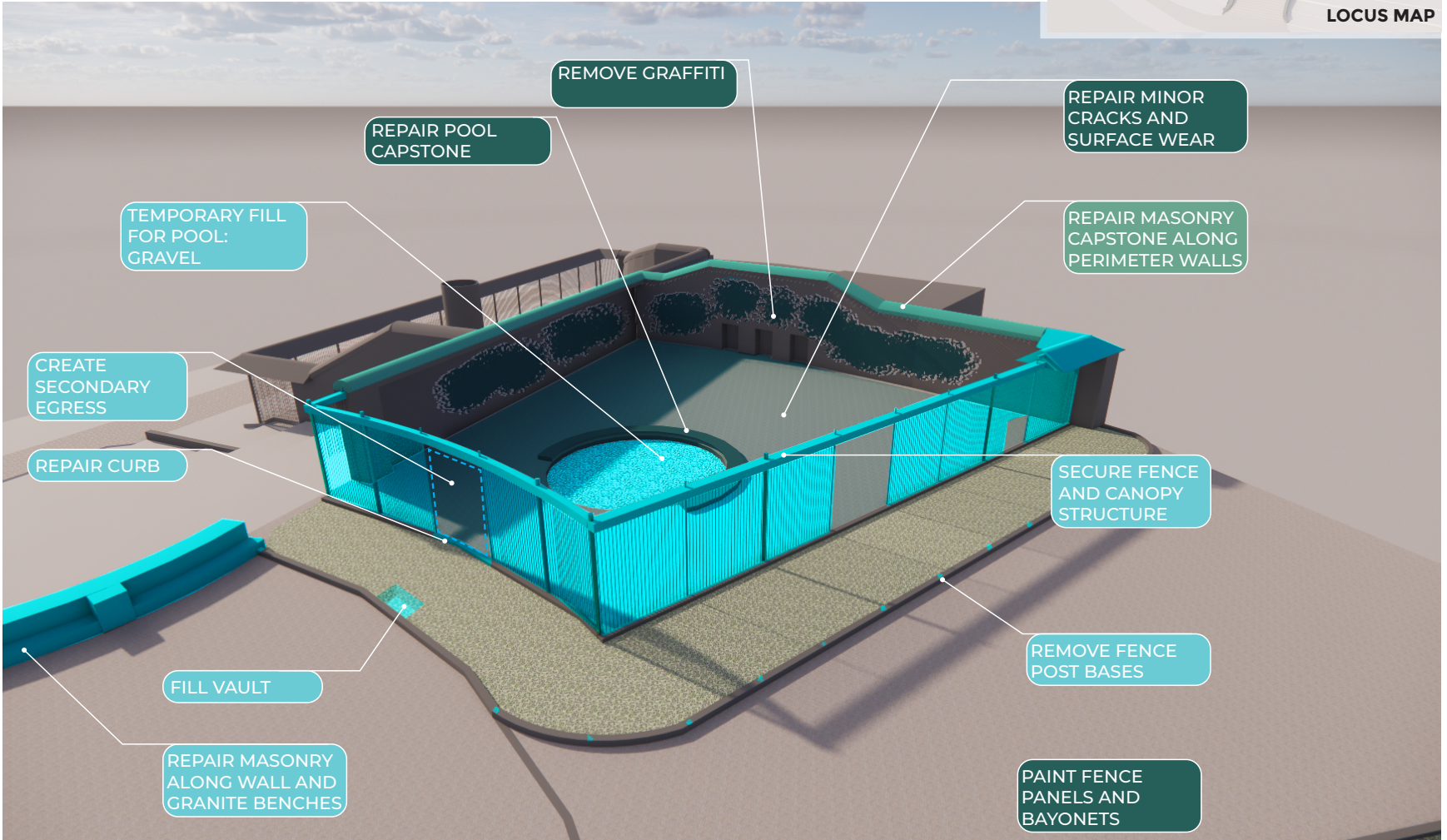
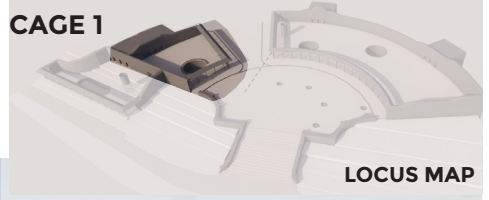
CAGE 1 RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITY WORK

PRIORITY 1:
MAKE SAFE

PRIORITY 2:
STABILIZATION

PRIORITY 3:
MISCELLANEOUS

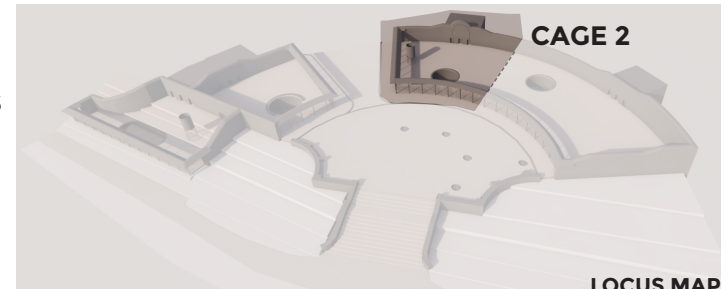
CAGE 1



CAGE 2 OVERALL ISSUES



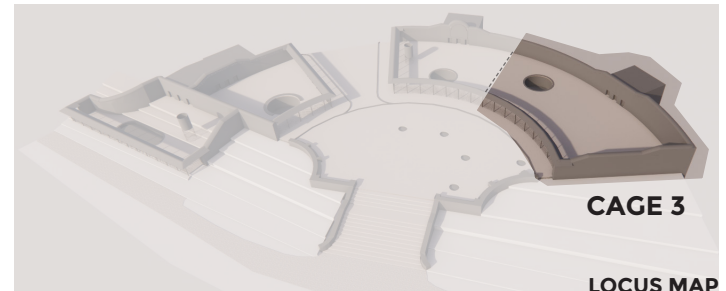
- Tree cage instability
- Multiple sink holes/failing pavement
- Curb dividing cages, trip hazard
- Failing fence canopy
- Pool, fall hazard
- Remnant fence post bases along perimeter, trip hazard
- Graffiti



CAGE 3 OVERALL ISSUES



- Failing fence canopy
- Fence instability
- Deteriorating wall cap
- Leaning retaining wall
- Pool, fall hazard
- Remnant fence post bases along perimeter, trip hazard
- Curb dividing cage, trip hazard
- Graffiti



CAGE 3

LOCUS MAP

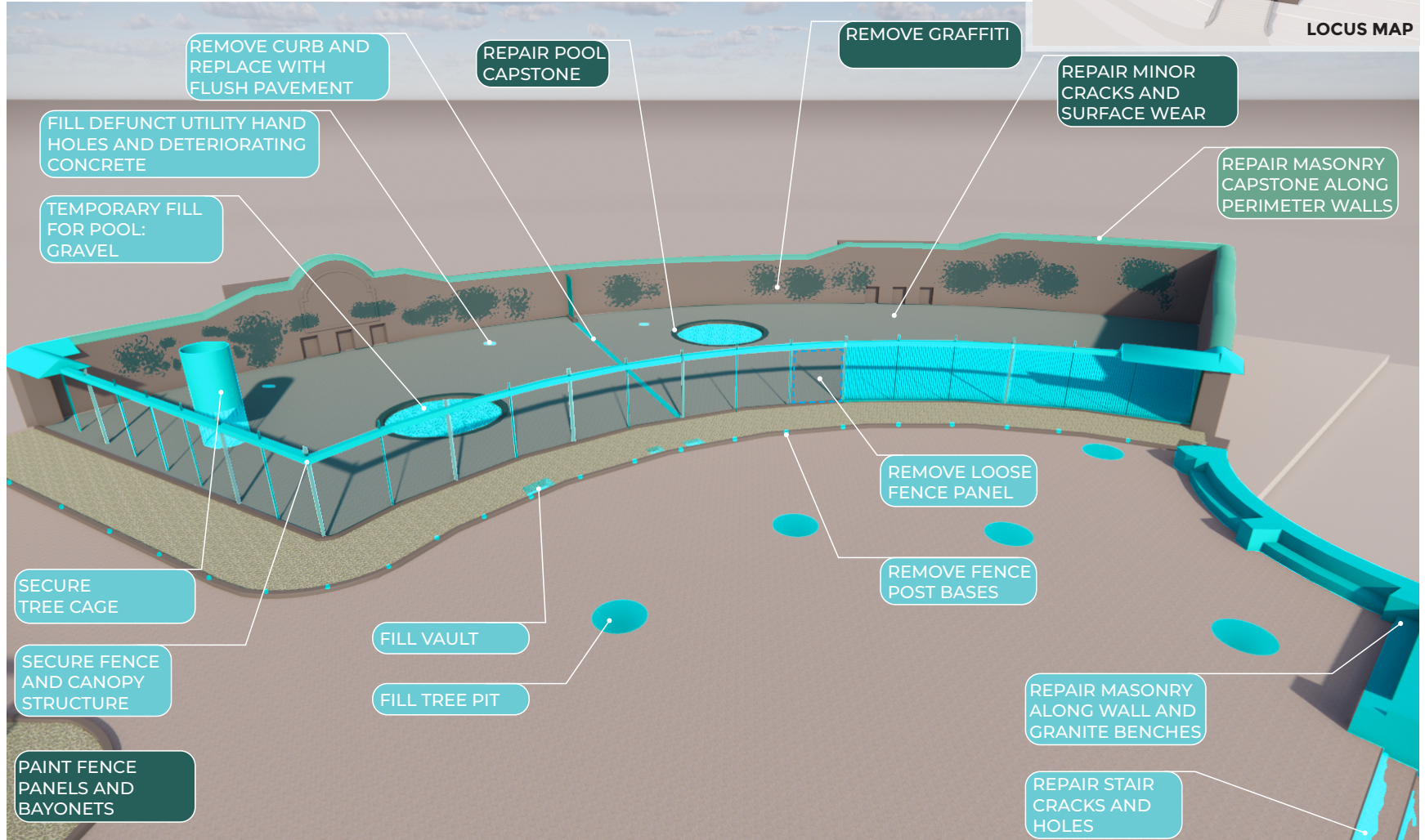
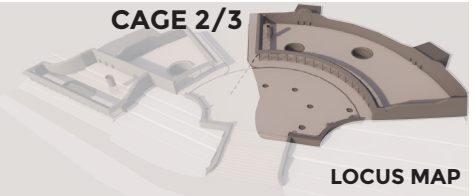
CAGE 2 AND 3 RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITY WORK

PRIORITY 1:
MAKE SAFE

PRIORITY 2:
STABILIZATION

PRIORITY 3:
MISCELLANEOUS

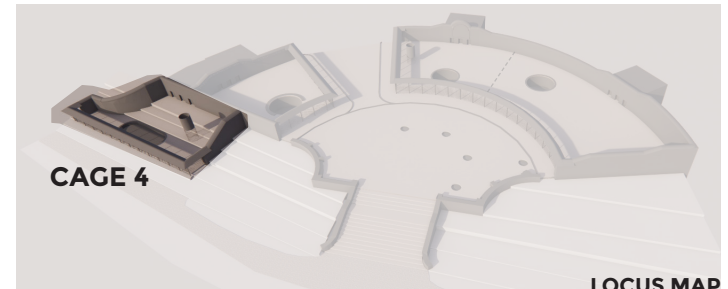
CAGE 2/3



CAGE 4 OVERALL ISSUES



- Extensive safety issues
- Only cage with a semi-intact canopy
- Steep grade change
- High number of fall and tripping hazards within this cage



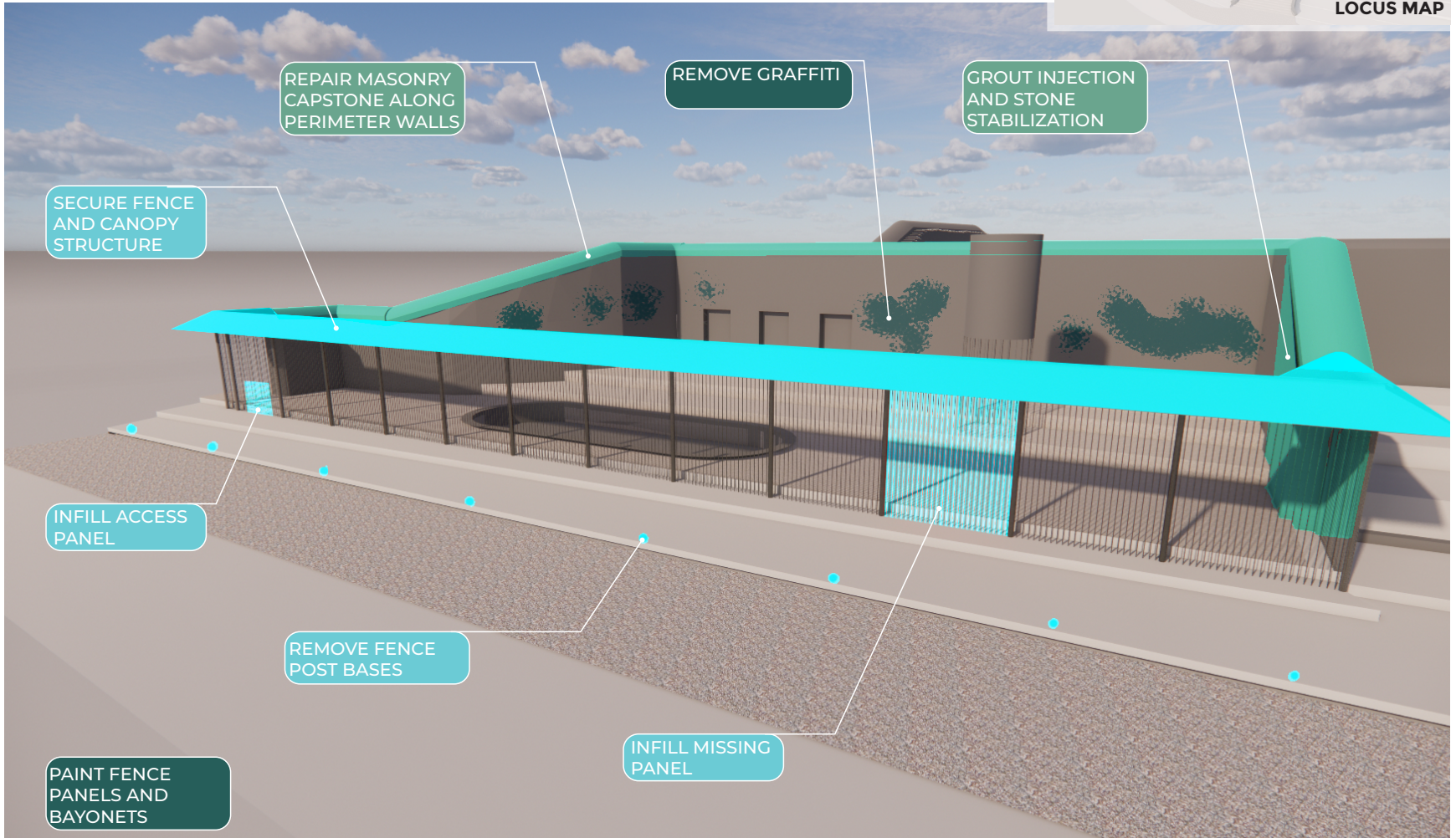
LOCUS MAP

CAGE 4 RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITY WORK

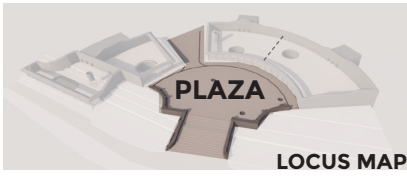
PRIORITY 1:
MAKE SAFE

PRIORITY 2:
STABILIZATION

PRIORITY 3:
MISCELLANEOUS

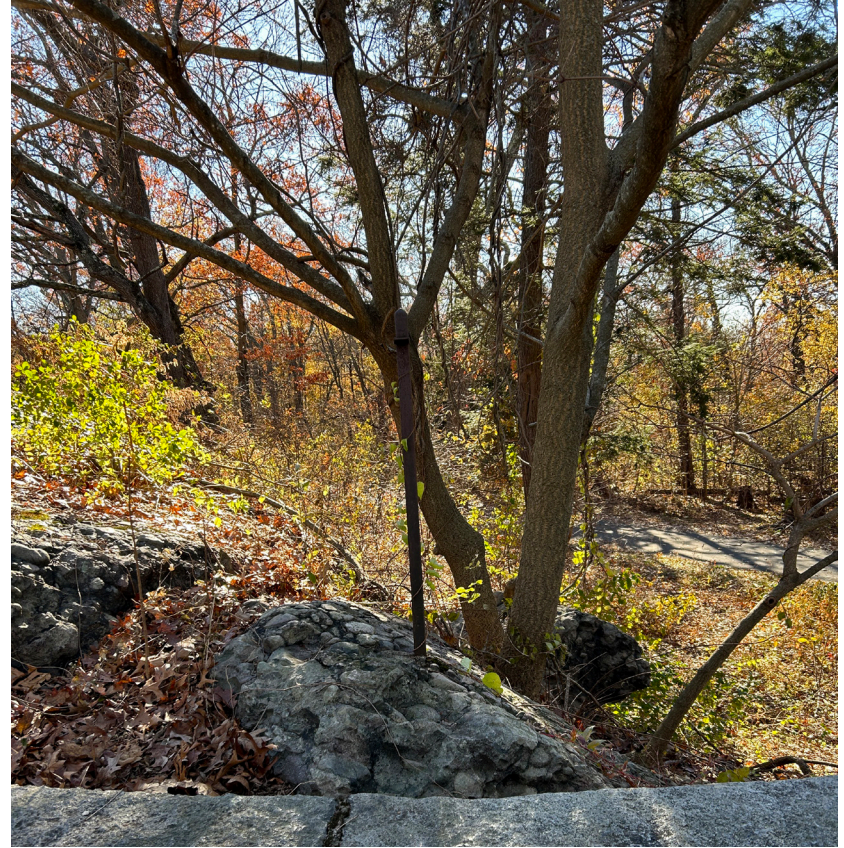


OVERALL PLAZA AND STAIR RECOMMENDATIONS

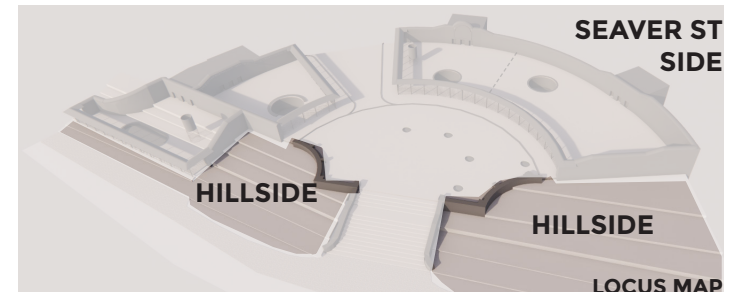


- **Granite bench pieces have fallen, creating fall hazards** - *Recommendation: Replace fallen stones*
- **Multiple empty tree pits, trip hazards** - *Recommendation: Fill tree pits with asphalt*
- **Concrete stairs have voids, sub base eroded** - *Recommendation: Patch with concrete*
- **Fence post bases along perimeter, trip hazard** - *Recommendation: Grind fence post base to be flush with curbing*
- **Fence growing into tree** - *Monitor for tree future tree decline*
- **Graffiti** - *Recommendation: Remove paint covering graffiti and apply anti-graffiti coating*

ADDITIONAL ISSUES



- **Perimeter pathway along rear of Bear Dens and Seaver Street, is a very steep drop to the roadway, fall hazard**
- **Multiple areas along ledge areas create slick walking conditions, fall hazard**



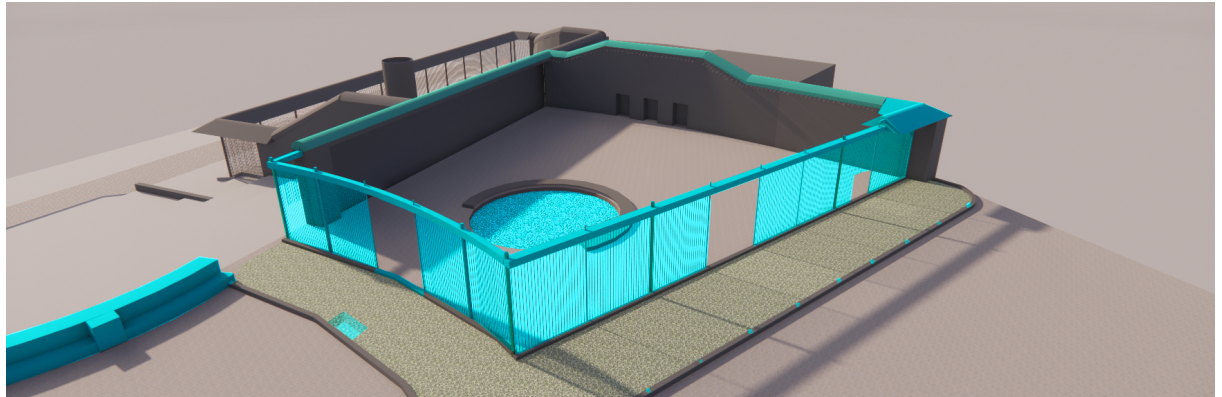
SEAVER STREET RECOMMENDATIONS



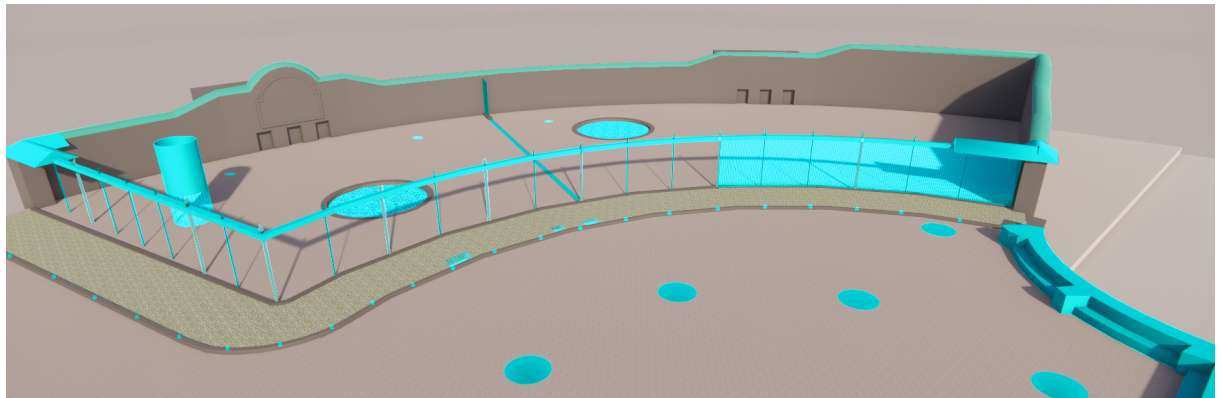
- **Steel Posts with 4-6 cable fence**

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITY WORK SUMMARY

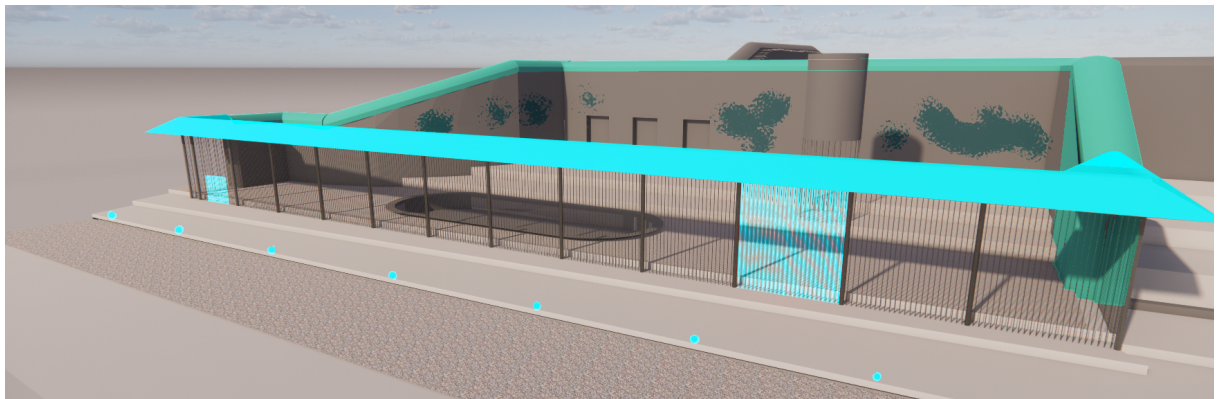
CAGE 1:



CAGE 2 AND 3:



CAGE 4:



COST ESTIMATE SUMMARY

COST ESTIMATE - \$989,701

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**PRIORITY 3:
MISCELLANEOUS**

\$321,003

- Removing rust on fence and bayonets
- Painting fence & bayonets
- Graffiti removal (long-term)

\$51,302

- Graffiti removal (Cage 4)
- Invasives removal (Work could potentially be done by PowerCorps)

**PRIORITY 2:
STABILIZATION**

\$375,326

- Repair stonewall in Cage #4
- Repair capstones

\$375,326

**PRIORITY 1:
MAKE SAFE**

\$293,372

- Tripping hazards
- Pavements repair
- Stair/seatwall repair
- Pool infill

\$293,372

\$720,000
Construction Budget



LISTENING & DISCUSSION

Please keep discussion focused on Bear Dens Safety Improvements Project. In order to get to as many people as possible, please keep questions/comments to 2 minutes each.

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

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

- Complete Construction Documents
- Transfer of Custody and Care from DCR

VISIT PROJECT WEBSITE

WEB LINK:

www.boston.gov/bear-dens

Scan me with your
phone's camera!



Improvements to
Franklin Park Bear Dens
Meeting 2 | Recommendations



THANK YOU!

See the project website for future updates.

BOS:
311

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

B

March 14, 2024
Boston Parks and Recreation



FRANKLIN PARK TRUST PROJECTS

Year 1 (2023)

Maintenance:

- Invasive vegetation removal and treatment at the Overlook
- Debris removal at Blue Hill Ave/Refectory entrance
- Cobble gutter cleaning
- Drain cleaning

Design work:

- Glen Road pathway repaving
- Overlook stairs resetting and repointing

Programming through Franklin Park Coalition:

- Music in the Park
- Kite Festival
- Nature Tours

Year 2 (2024)

Maintenance:

- Repaving of Glen Road pathway
- Repair of Overlook stairs
- Continued invasive vegetation treatment
- Continued cobble gutter cleaning
- Rehabilitation of picnic area in the Wilderness

Programming through Franklin Park Coalition:

- Music in the Park
- Kite Festival
- Nature Tours

FRANKLIN PARK BEAR DENS - SITE INVENTORY

