

Amplify Magnet Destinations



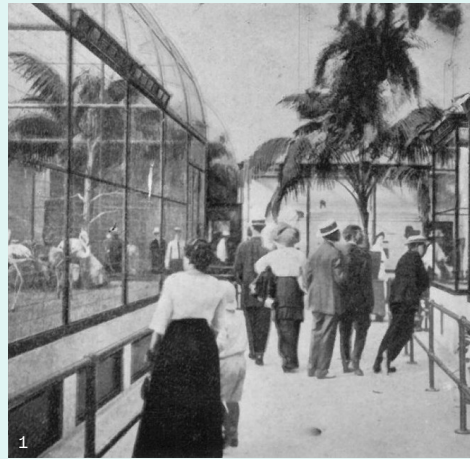
Amplify Magnet Destinations Recommendations

CONTENTS

274	A Short History of Park Use: One Becomes Many
276	What We Heard: Renew Resources & Protect Belonging
278	The Big Picture: Amplify Magnet Destinations
280	Olmsted's Toolkit: Distinguish Uses
282	Support Everyday Use: Provide Basic Amenities Throughout the Park
284	Activate Year-Round: Enhance & Expand Programs Parkwide
286	Celebrate Winter in the Park: Increase Seasonal Access & Programming
288	Make a Civic Gateway: Peabody Circle & Refectory Hill
290	Peabody Circle & Refectory Hill: How can the park's main entrance become a place of gathering and exchange?
292	Make it a Place for People: Consolidate Vehicular Circulation
294	Create a Welcoming Edge: Make Spaces for Gathering
296	Prioritize Shade: Extend the Park's Canopy
298	Reinvest in a Destination for Arts & Recreation: The Playstead & Long Crouch Woods
300	The Playstead: How can The Playstead better support its many activities?
302	Honor Significant Legacies: Return the Elma Lewis Playhouse to The Overlook
306	Inspire Discovery: Introduce Nature Play into Long Crouch Woods
308	Reimagine the Bear Dens: Design for Flexible Use
310	Celebrate Community: Make Spaces for Tailgating & Spectating
312	Make Connections: Remove Barriers & Share Resources
314	Link Destinations: Use Planting to Define Circulation
316	Make a Place for Gathering & Relaxation: Ellicottdale
318	Ellicottdale: How can Ellicottdale better support everyday gatherings and smaller uses?
320	Support Flexible Use: Provide Open Lawns
322	Define a Sense of Place: Use Planting to Structure Circulation
324	Commit to Stewardship: The Yard
326	The Yard: How can the maintenance yard better serve the park to better serve the community?
328	Invest in Small Destinations Too: Expand Mini-Magnets
330	Connect Visitors to High & Low Points: Restore Views & Reveal the Landscape
332	Celebrate the Unique Park Character: Protect Historic Features
334	Discover the Park: Provide Play & Outdoor Education

A Short History of Park Use

One Becomes Many



DESIGN INTENT 1895

Olmsted believed deeply that providing designed scenery complimentary to the natural context put visitors' minds at ease and improved both their mental and physical health. His original design for the park divided the space into two parts, consolidating active program in the "Ante Park". The main park, or "Country Park", emphasized passive enjoyment of scenery, and provided visitors the opportunity to experience the dramatic range of the New England landscape, from open meadow to enclosed woodland with rocky outcrops.

ATTRACTING VISITORS 1912

The Greeting, a primary component of the original plan, intended both for informal people watching and programmed activities, was never fully constructed. In 1912, the zoo, free and open to the public, was established with a design that respected the layout and orientation of The Greeting and extended through Long Crouch Woods. It drew millions of visitors to the park.

CHANGES IN THE CENTER 1930s

As the country's second oldest public golf course, the central meadow was used for informal play early in the park's history, and the acreage was officially dedicated for single-use in the 1930s. This represented a significant shift in the park's design and purpose -- an open center dedicated to free, passive recreation. This transition did, however, preserve the open meadow character of the land and protect it from being replaced by other uses. As one of the first courses to allow Black players, users today still represent a wide range of backgrounds.

CHANGES AT THE EDGES 1940s & 50s

Over the next decade, city government continued to allow other interests to locate large programs on park land, including White Stadium (1944-49) and Shattuck Hospital (1949). During this period, the zoo transitioned to ticketed admission and was no longer free. While these changes provided important semi-public programs, they impacted public access to significant park territory and fragmented the remaining fully-public park acreage.

DISINVESTMENT & DIVERSE USE 1960s & 1970s

While the latter half of the 20th century saw some program offerings expand (more active recreation at The Playstead and the inclusion of smaller playgrounds) the city's upkeep and investment in the park declined, and historic park features and the landscape were left to deteriorate. Local activists and organizations, like the Franklin Park Coalition and Elma Lewis, took action into their own hands, initiating clean-ups, programming, and fundraising. Their work drew attention to the park, and it hosted important community events.

A SHARED ASSET Looking Forward

Collaboration between in-park stakeholders, like the zoo, golf course, and Shattuck Hospital, to dissolve physical and perceived boundaries as much as possible is fundamental to the future of Franklin Park. Investments in new programs and amenities, to build on the legacy of the many ways the park has served its neighbors and to better care for the park as a shared resource, can broaden the role it plays as a place to come together and serve its communities for decades to come.

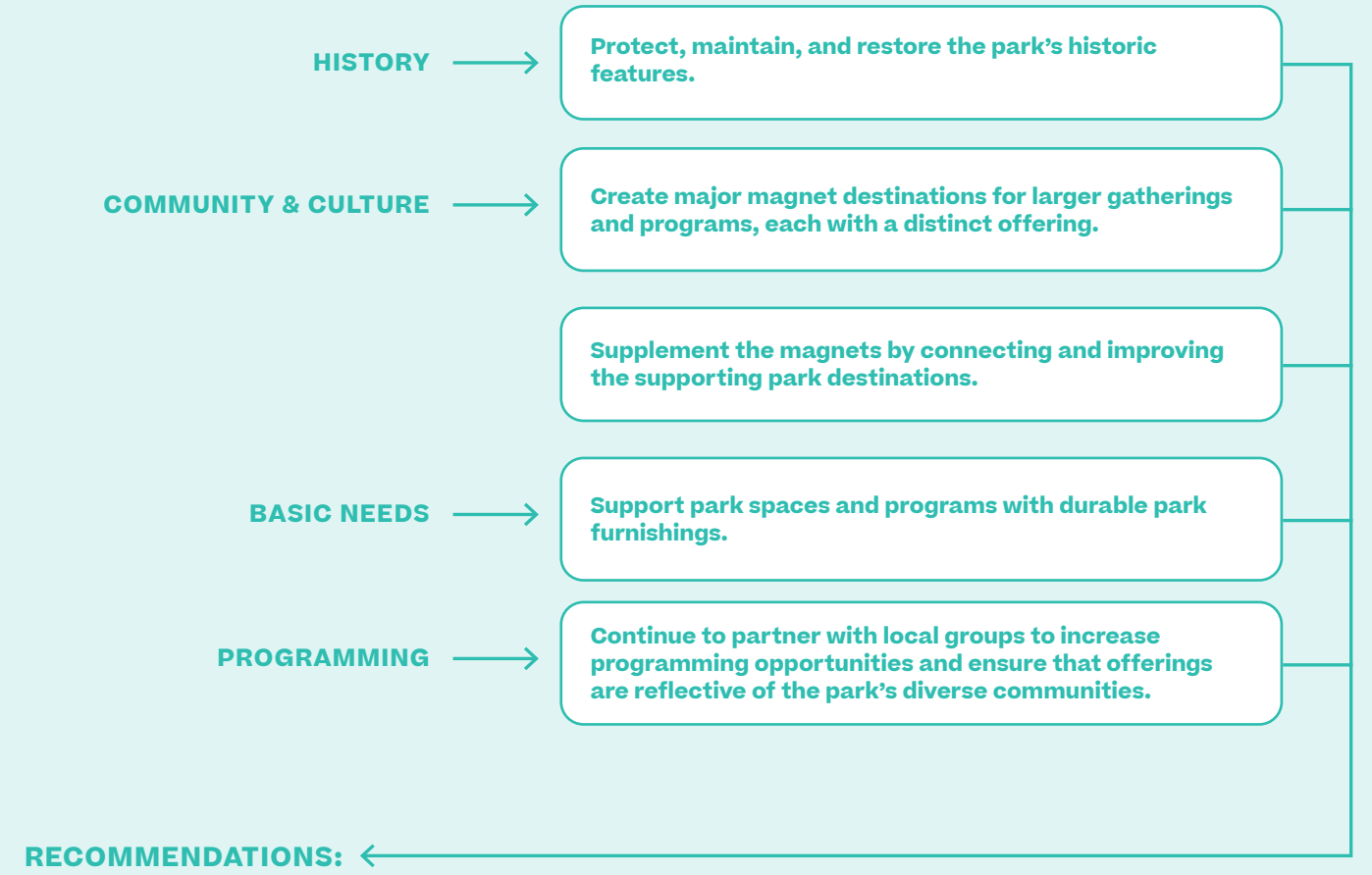
What We Heard

Renew Resources & Protect Belonging

COMMUNITY NEEDS & WISHES



VALUES & GOALS



PROVIDE BASIC AMENITIES THROUGHOUT THE PARK & ACTIVATE YEAR-ROUND

MAKE PEABODY CIRCLE & REFECTORY HILL A CIVIC GATEWAY

REINVEST IN THE PLAYSTEAD & LONG CROUCH WOODS AS A DESTINATION FOR ARTS & RECREATION

MAKE ELLICOTTTDALE A PLACE FOR GATHERING & RELAXATION

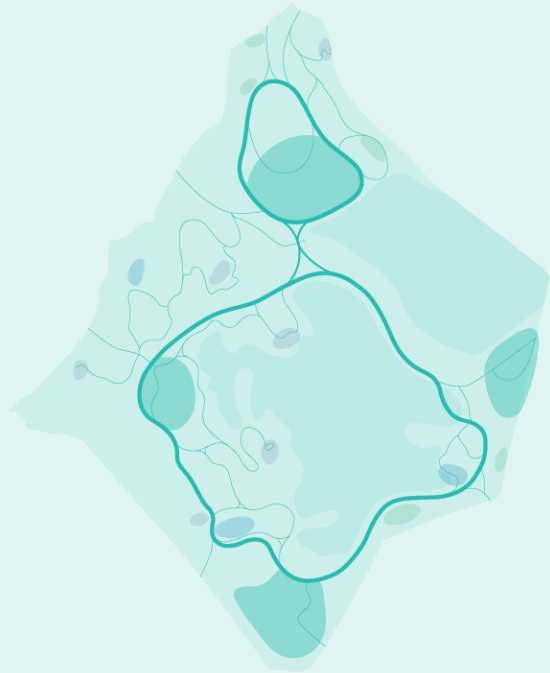
INVEST IN THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE MAINTENANCE YARD TO ACHIEVE STEWARDSHIP GOALS

INVEST IN SMALL DESTINATIONS TOO

The Big Picture

Amplify Magnet Destinations

Franklin Park was intended to serve as a common ground — a place for recreation, relaxation, and to experience nature — welcoming all communities and bringing people together for shared experiences that support discovery, education, and mental and physical health. We must celebrate all it has to offer and build on its long legacy of serving many groups in many ways. Larger centers of activity must be complemented by smaller destinations distributed throughout the park.



Diversifying Destinations

The park already has many, much-loved centers of activity. Larger destinations are often anchored by stakeholder offerings (like the zoo or the stadium), while smaller destinations are usually distributed and repeat throughout the park. Clarifying the design of each of these destinations and expanding their programming where desirable will ensure that all sides of the park can fully, and in distinct ways, serve gatherings both large and small.

Protecting Historic Features

While most of the historic structures in the park no longer exist or are in serious decline, they continue to draw visitors. The key remaining elements deserve a comprehensive conditions assessment and an updated historic structures report to inform either restoration or future transformation.



Investing in the Major Magnets

The park has a long legacy of serving many groups in many different ways - from performance and recreation to education and community building. Recommendations for the Major Magnets build on each of their histories and amplify the programs and character of each space, further enhancing these four major destinations, each with a defined identity and unique offerings.

Ellicottdale:
A Place for
Gathering & Relaxation

The Playstead:
A Center for Arts
& Recreation

Peabody Circle:
A Civic Gateway

The Yard:
A Commitment to
Care & Stewardship

Mini Magnets

- High Points - Lookouts
- Low Points - Unique Ecologies
- Play & Education

Highlighting the Mini Magnets

The park's smaller destinations include wide-ranging improvements and programming that support the day-to-day use of the park. As opposed to the major magnets, these destinations may repeat on multiple sides of the park, promoting a more equitable distribution of certain programs and encouraging convenient and habitual use from the surrounding neighborhoods. Sometimes situated at elevational high or low points, mini magnets also allow visitors to experience the park's dramatic topography.

Olmsted's Toolkit

Distinguish Uses

With nearby Franklin Field (now Harambee Park) dedicated primarily to sports and recreation, Olmsted intentionally split Franklin Park acreage into two zones, the majority of which anticipated passive use. As programmatic wants and needs evolved through time, Franklin Park shifted to include a heavier emphasis on active recreation. The way he used topography, built masonry, and designed planting to structure spaces for program was critical to maintaining the unified experience of a large park. Whether at rest or at play, being together in nature remains vital to the recuperative and community-building experiences Franklin Park continues to offer today.

THE PLAYSTEAD

A Place for Gathering & Recreation

The Playstead's flat, open field was framed by woodlands and designed for active recreation and education for children, as well as activities that would gather large crowds. These uses continue today, holding large scale sporting events, music festivals, and community celebrations. Informal rock outcrops and a carefully designed overlook allowed for spectating to be an equally important part of the experience of the space.



ELLICOTTDALE

A Place for Informal Gathering

This small, open meadow bowl was intended for lawn games, like tennis and croquet. The more intimate scale of the space and its setting within a valley distinguished it from The Playstead and the larger open meadow at the center of the park. The space was supported by a small cottage, one of several in the park, that offered food, changing rooms, and sports equipment rentals.



Temporary lawn tennis was set up with nets that could be rented from the nearby Ellicott cottage.

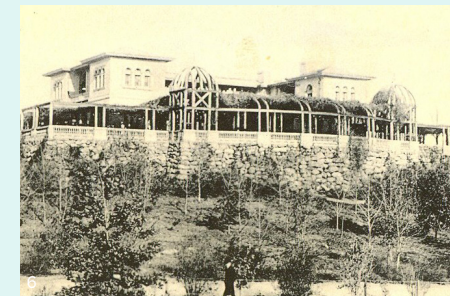


The upper lawn hosts everyday gatherings, like family reunions and birthday parties.

PEABODY CIRCLE & REFECTORY HILL

An Animated Civic Gateway

The park's main gateway was designed to be a grand entrance and threshold between the park and the city, accommodating pedestrian, carriage, and bicycle circulation with tree-lined promenades where visitors could see and be seen. Later the site of a public library branch and a restaurant, Refectory Hill was a convening space for sharing food and ideas.



The Refectory, located on the hill adjacent to Peabody Circle, served refreshments outdoors and later was home to a public library.



The zoo's main entrance sits on Peabody Circle and draws many visitors to the park; there are opportunities for more public cross-programming.

THE NURSERY (TODAY'S MAINTENANCE YARD)

A Center for Stewardship

The Nursery originally served as a space to grow trees for planting in the park. As needs evolved, the city added other maintenance functions to serve the entire park system, but public access has remained off-limits.



The palm house (c. 1924), one of several greenhouses constructed to cultivate the plants once found as understory throughout the park.



Today the maintenance yard is a complex of buildings, stables, and greenhouses, and serves Boston's entire park system.

Support Everyday Use

Provide Basic Amenities Throughout the Park

In order for the park's many offerings to be successful, basic amenities must be provided and upgraded to support use and activity in all seasons. Access to critical infrastructure, like restrooms, water fountains, and places to rest in the shade is essential in a park of this size if it is to truly serve neighbors young and old.

FURNISHING & AMENITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

Equitably Distribute Basic Needs

- Locate restrooms in conjunction with major park magnets at Ellicottdale and The Playstead and potentially in the future in The Yard; Peabody Circle is served by the existing restrooms in the golf course clubhouse.
- Provide water bottle filling stations at accessible locations at major park magnets as well as along the park's primary paths throughout.
- Locate trash and recycling near high-use areas, like the park's major magnets, playgrounds, and periodically along primary paths; employ a 'carry-in/carry-out' policy in woodlands and other natural areas.

Increase Seating

- Locate benches in the shade along primary park paths throughout the park to provide comfortable resting places for users of all ages without obstructing views; select furnishings complementary to their context/setting.
- Locate benches in primary gathering areas within magnet destinations, adjacent to sports courts and playgrounds for viewing.
- Be selective in natural areas; keep furnishings minimal, associated with more significant lookouts or along the main path; consider using natural materials to stay in keeping with the character of the surrounding context.

Support Eating Outdoors

- Expand BBQ locations in the park to include The Tailgate Edge in The Playstead and the upper lawn at Ellicottdale; locate picnic tables in The Playstead's Picnic Grove and the upper lawn at Ellicottdale; provide cafe tables and chairs on the terrace at the Peabody 'Front Porch'.



Historic bench precedent in an Olmsted park.

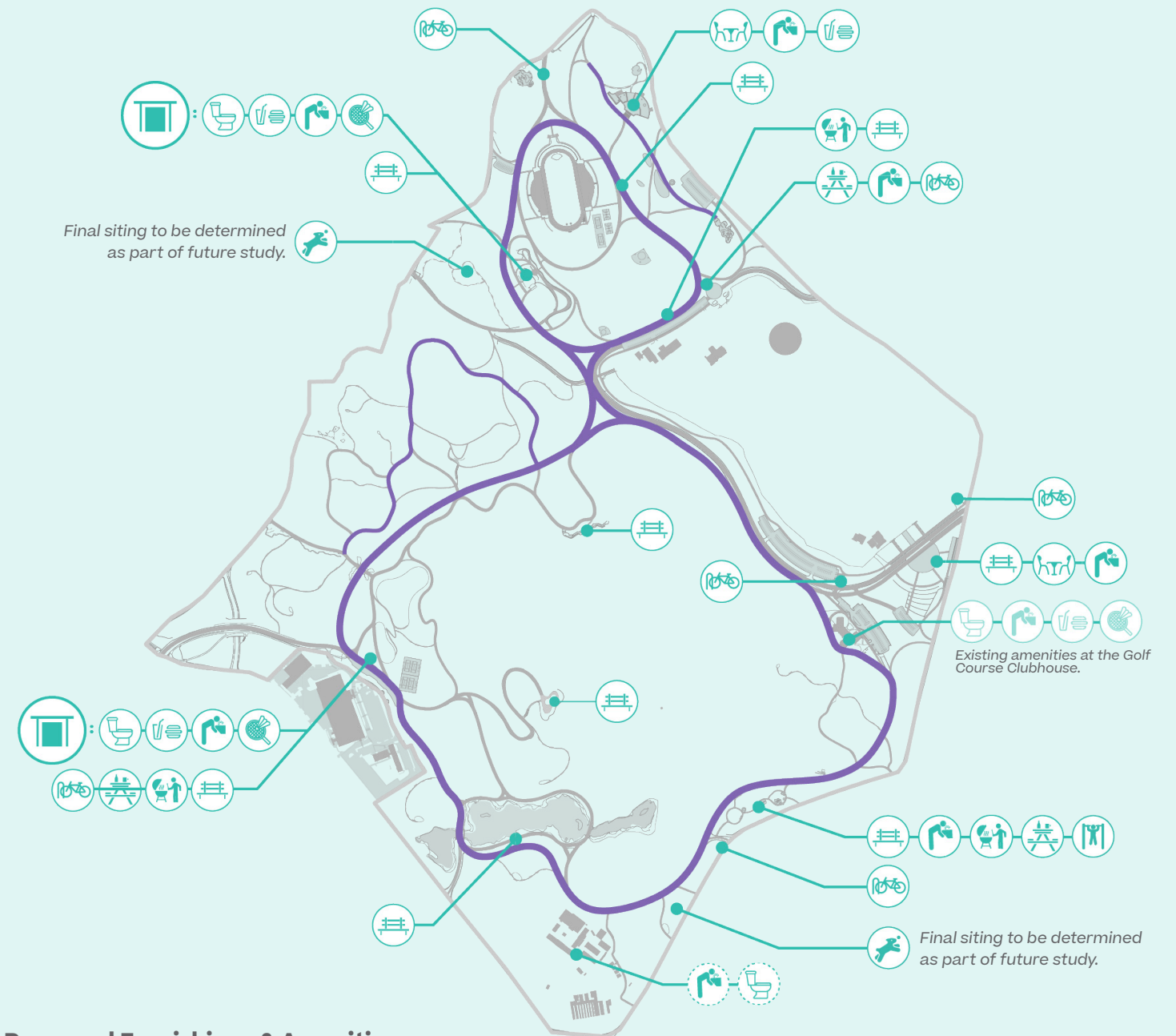


Picnic table precedent.



Water bottle filling station.

SUPPORTING PARK USE AND ENJOYMENT



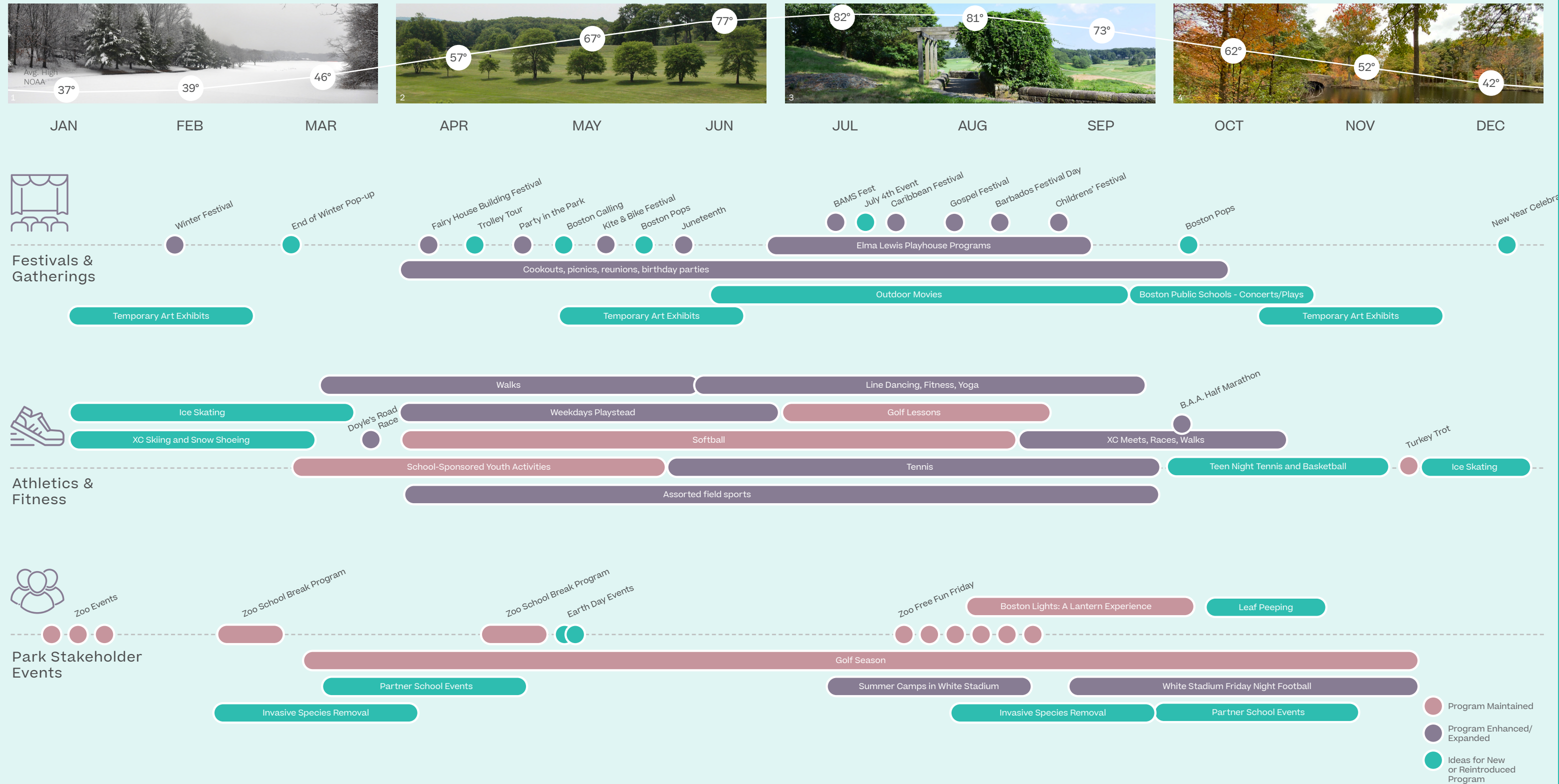
Proposed Furnishings & Amenities

- Seating along Pedestrian Path
- ☑ Comfort Station Structure/Shelter
- ☑ Benches
- ☑ Restrooms
- ☑ Water Fountain / Bottle Filling Station
- ☑ Equipment Rentals
- ☑ Vending
- ☑ Picnic Tables
- ☑ BBQ Pits
- ☑ Cafe Tables & Chairs
- ☑ Bike Parking / Bike Racks
- ☑ Dog Park / Dog Run
- ☑ Fitness Station

As a general guideline, furnishings should be dark in color to recede in to the landscape and should reflect the historic character of the park.

Activate Year-Round Enhance & Expand Programs Parkwide

Physical improvements and investments throughout the park will enable the enhancement and expansion of existing programs and events and support opportunities for many new programs throughout the year.



Celebrate Winter in the Park

Increase Seasonal Access & Programming

Each season in Franklin Park brings its own magic to the landscape. This is especially true during times when the entire park is blanketed in snow and boundaries between programs and uses become blurred, bringing a special focus to the topography that unifies the landscape. Many users expressed the desire to increase opportunities to use the park during this season through expanded access and additional programming unique to these months.

WINTER USE RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide Winter Access

- Expand the network of plowed primary loops and paths, main entrances, and parking areas to provide access to residents on all sides of the park from the edge to a primary loop path.

Designate Areas for Winter Activities

- Allow access through the golf course during the off-season winter months via designated trails that can be used for cross-country skiing or snow-shoeing, giving visitors the chance to experience the expansive open center of the park.
- Use White Stadium or The Playstead to set up a temporary ice skating rink.
- Designate certain trails in The Wilderness for snow-shoeing.
- Allow sledding on the hill at Ellicottdale.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR WINTER USE



Proposed Winter Access & Activities

- Plowed Paths & Parking
- - - Designated Winter Golf Course Path
- Snow Shoe Wilderness Trail
- 1 Ice Skating at White Stadium or The Playstead
- 2 Sledding at Ellicottdale
- 🏠 Existing Structure Serving as Support Facility for Equipment Rentals & Lessons, Warming, and Food & Beverage

Make a Civic Gateway Peabody Circle & Refectory Hill

Peabody Circle & Refectory Hill form the eastern entrance into the park. Dominated almost entirely by vehicular uses today, the space is ready to be reconceptualized as a grand, welcoming gateway into the park as envisioned in Olmsted's original design. Connected to Blue Hill Ave and the neighborhoods beyond, it will support a range of community programs -- including partnerships with the Zoo -- all under the shade of a 100-year-old oak grove.

KEY CHALLENGES

- **Vehicle-Dominated Experience**
- **Unceremonial & Unannounced**
- **Underutilized Space**
- **Lack of Presence at the Street Edge**



The Peabody Circle street edge along Blue Hill Avenue.

PEABODY CIRCLE RECOMMENDATIONS

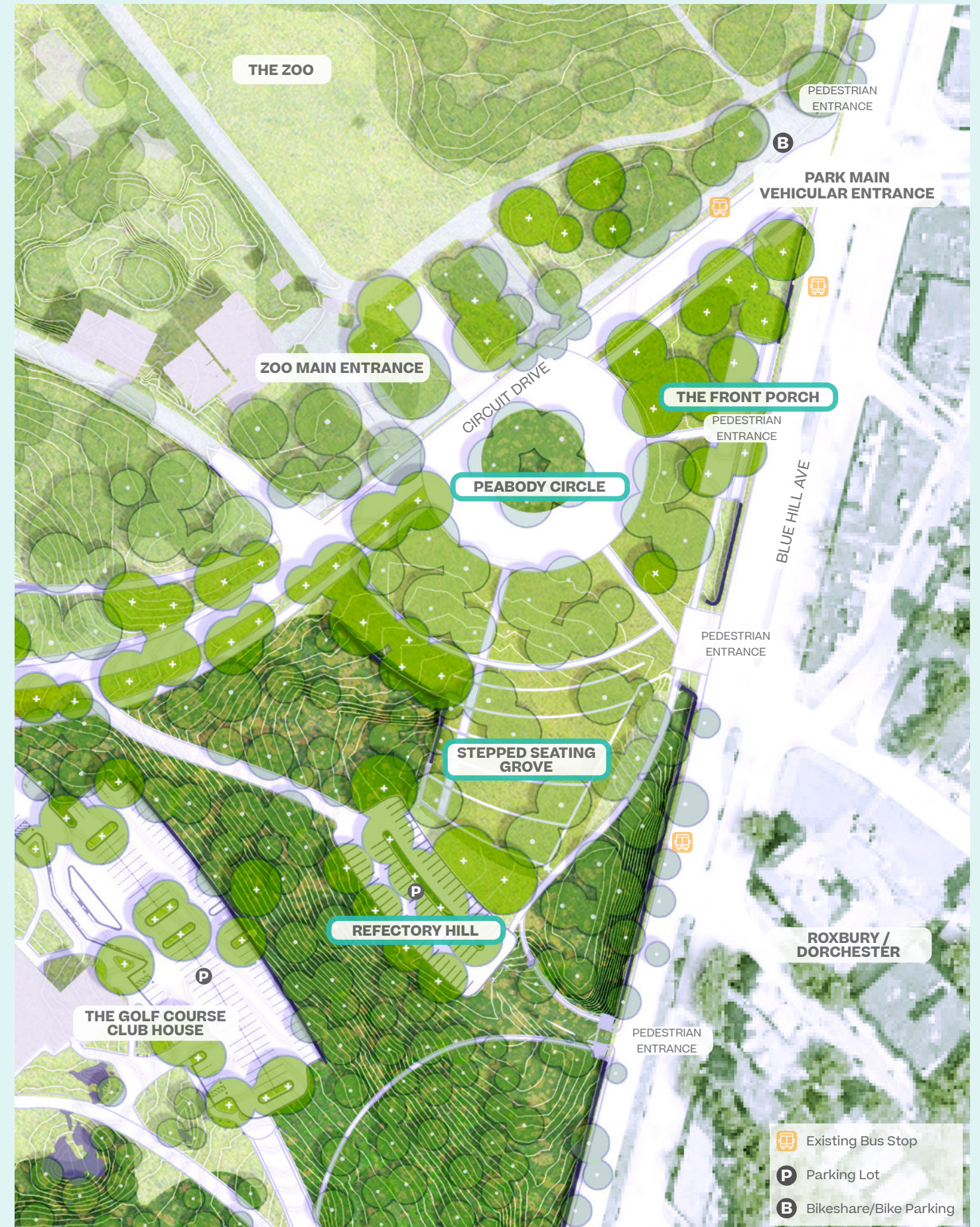
- **Consolidate Vehicular Circulation to Make a Place for People**
- **Create a Welcoming Edge and Make Spaces for Gathering**
- **Prioritize Shade by Extending the Park's Canopy**



A line-dancing fitness class held in the Refectory Hill parking area.



The zoo's main entrance along Franklin Park Road.





Peabody Circle & Refectory Hill: How can the park's main entrance become a place of gathering and exchange?

1 Clarify Circulation

Consolidate vehicular and bus circulation to return a significant portion of Peabody Circle to pedestrian park space.

2 Establish a Welcoming Entrance

Create a generous pedestrian threshold along Blue Hill Avenue to increase access and engage street life; maintain the existing bus stop on Blue Hill Avenue.

3 Activate the Center

Mark the historic Peabody Circle with a paved plaza with space for community events and markets. Events should consider impacts of noise on zoo animals.

4 Create Space for Outdoor Learning

Insert terraced seating shaded with canopy trees to provide space for education and gatherings for groups of all sizes.

5 Reconfigure Parking

Remove parking from the center and create a new lot on Refectory Hill that is embedded in canopy.

6 Celebrate the Zoo

Engage the zoo's main entrance and allow for shared use of the space for programming and events.

Make it a Place for People

Consolidate Vehicular Circulation

Today's Peabody Circle and Refectory Hill are dominated by cars and buses, a complicated network of roads, and parking that is difficult to navigate, with the Refectory Hill parking lot often gated and locked. MBTA Transit stops are confusing and distributed throughout the entrance, and wide roads with heavy traffic make pedestrian crossing difficult. By reorganizing vehicular circulation, park space can be reconnected and expanded, elevating the pedestrian visitor experience and giving land back to more flexible community use.

PEABODY CIRCLE CIRCULATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Redesign Vehicular Circulation

- Consolidate vehicular movement to one entry and exit along Franklin Park Road in front of the zoo; restrict vehicular access to the 'circle'.

Consolidate Transit Stops

- Remove bus staging/idling from inside the park and locate bus stops together in a visible and accessible location.
- Restore the historic head house at the corner of Blue Hill Avenue as a covered transit shelter.

Reconfigure Parking with a New Lot on Refectory Hill

- Relocate parking from Peabody Circle to Refectory Hill and the expanded lot along Circuit Drive, aside from accessible parking spaces.
- Expand parking on Refectory Hill with a lot designed for entry and exit from Franklin Park Road within the park.

Announce Arrival

- Use vehicular-scale signage to announce the park's main entrance and direct visitors to nearby parking areas for primary destinations (like the zoo, golf course, and The Playstead).

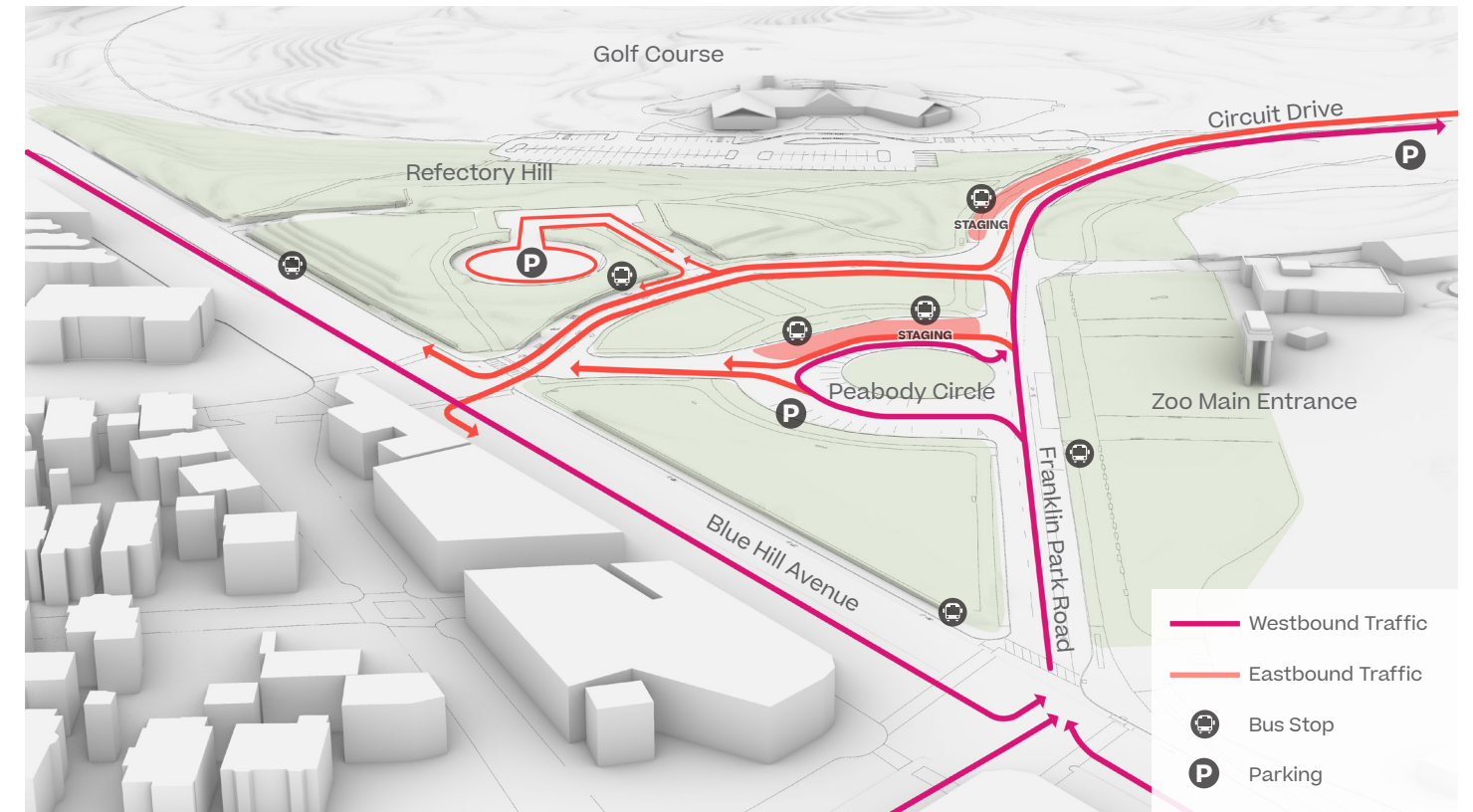


Existing Peabody Circle, dominated by parking and car and bus circulation.

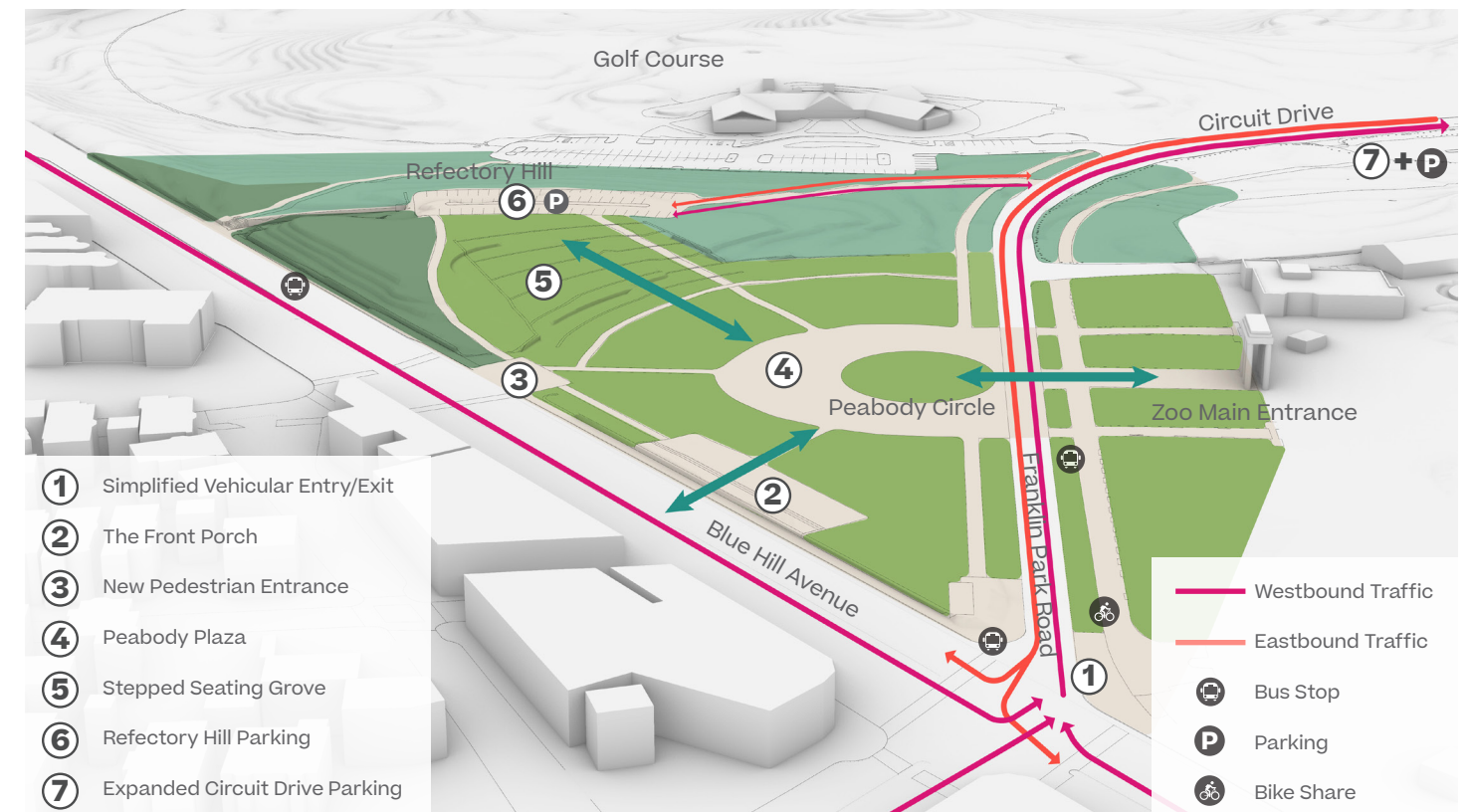


Parking embedded in tree canopy.

EXISTING



PROPOSED



Create a Welcoming Edge

Make Spaces for Gathering

Peabody Circle connects the Dorchester neighborhood to Franklin Park, but there is limited space for park users along this ceremonial gateway. The area resulting from reconfigured vehicular circulation in Peabody Circle provides new opportunities to create flexible gathering spaces, increase access along Blue Hill Avenue, and to give proper presence to the park's main entrance and the zoo's front door. Dorchester residents shared ideas for cross-programming and year-round activation for the shared plaza, amphitheater, and 'front porch'.

PEABODY CIRCLE STRATEGIES

Make a New 'Front Porch'

- Transform a portion of the perimeter wall along Blue Hill Avenue into an outward-facing 'Front Porch' with long, wide steps with open views and pedestrian access into the park. New steps should follow the historic character of other steps in the park.
- Maintain ADA accessible entrances to the east and west of this new entrance.
- Locate a shaded terrace at the top with flexible furnishings for eating lunch and watching street life.
- Advocate for a widened sidewalk of at least 12' with street tree planting along Blue Hill Avenue.



Animate the plaza space with public art or exhibits that highlight the Zoo.

Anchor the Space

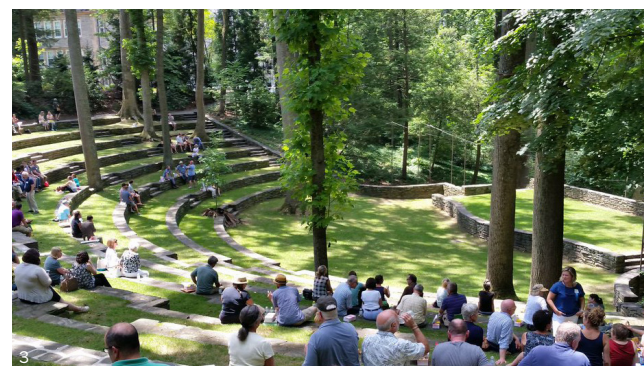
- Replace the parking at Peabody Circle with a shaded pedestrian plaza, while maintaining space for convenient accessible parking; mark the extents of the original circle with the plaza's design; maintain the central circle with historic canopy trees.
- Design the flexible plaza so it functions for both day-to-day use, as well as larger gatherings like outdoor fitness classes, space for parade spectating, markets and festivals, and civic events.
- Collaborate with the zoo and a local artist on a public art installation, such as bronze animal sculptures that greet visitors and make for an iconic meeting place.



Festivals and markets can be hosted in the new Peabody Circle Plaza.

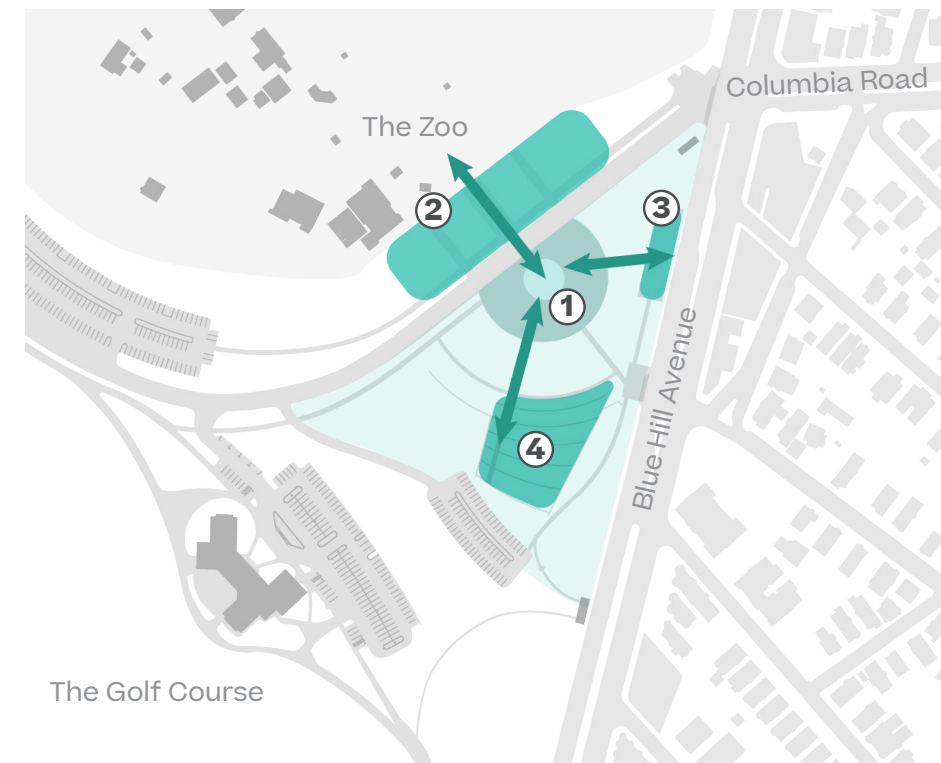
Engage the Hillside

- Create a stepped seating grove on the Refectory Hill slope for shared programming between the community and the zoo. Use stone seating and steps in keeping with the character of the park masonry and set in the shade of new canopy trees.



Outdoor terraced seating can serve individuals and groups.

PEABODY CIRCLE GATHERING SPACES



text

Gathering Spaces & Connections

- ① Peabody Plaza
- ② Zoo Main Entrance
- ③ The Front Porch
- ④ Stepped Seating Grove



Outdoor Learning



Sit in the Shade



Markets



Chess & Checkers



Food Trucks

THE NEW FRONT PORCH



Prioritize Shade

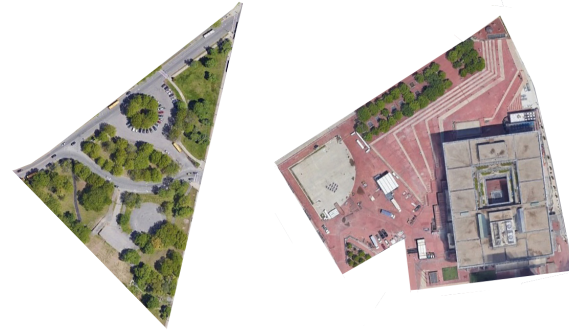
Extend the Park's Canopy

Peabody Circle is home to many mature trees across several landscape characters, but expanses of car-oriented paving leaves large areas devoid of shade and discourages pedestrian use. The Blue Hill Avenue side is left exposed with few large trees holding the park edge, limiting places for respite for those waiting for the bus on hot summer days. Reconfiguring the vehicular circulation not only creates more space for gathering, it allows the landscape to be stitched back together through new tree planting, making for a more gradual transition to the natural areas of the park beyond.

PEABODY CIRCLE PLANTING STRATEGIES

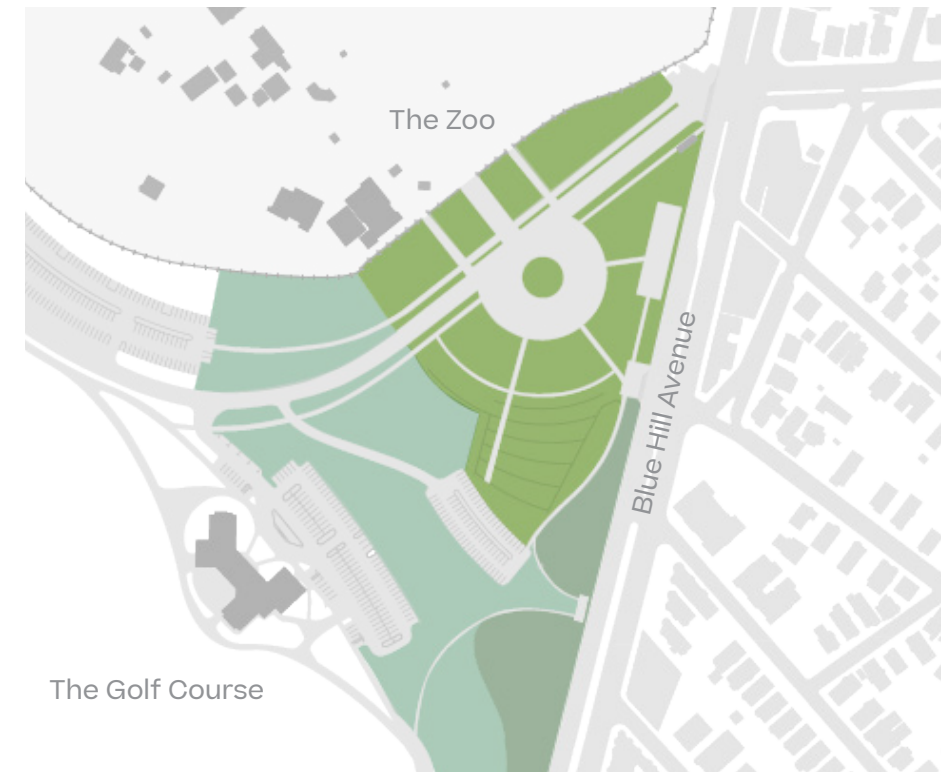
Increase Shade

- Plant new canopy trees to form a shady grove over terraced outdoor seating and on the shaded flat surrounding the plaza to frame the space and provide separation from the street.
- Consider a range of species to increase diversity within the primarily Red Oak canopy in this area of the park, while maintaining the scale and overall character of the canopy. Consider climate change projections when selecting species.
- Introduce understory and shrub species within the wooded embankment as it transitions into the park's woodlands.



Peabody Circle and City Hall Plaza are the same size - about 7 acres; the renovation of Peabody Circle would provide the opportunity to create a new large scale park space at the park's main entrance.

PEABODY CIRCLE PLANTING



Proposed Landscape Character

- Wooded Embankment
- Sloping Grassland with Canopy Trees
- Open Lawn with Tree Groves

CANOPY FROM HIGH TO LOW



Flexible Programming

The stepped seating grove is a flexible community space that can host a variety of programming from an outdoor classroom for schools nearby to a children's performance space, to a shady spot to eat lunch.



The Value of Shade

One of Peabody Circle's most valuable assets is the mature canopy trees, which bring a grand sense of scale and provide essential shade (in contrast to the lack there of along Blue Hill Avenue). By removing excess paving and extending the canopy throughout the area, Peabody Circle will become an important civic gathering space at the edge of the park and reduce the heat island effect along Blue Hill Avenue.



Reinvest in a Destination for Arts & Recreation

The Playstead & Long Crouch Woods

The Playstead, home to gatherings around sports, theater, music, and community activism, has been a particularly important part of the history of the park's Black and brown communities. Intense use and under-resourced maintenance has impacted the health of the landscape and in turn, its ability to serve the community. With investment, resilience can return, and with the Zoo, White Stadium, and a new Elma Lewis Playhouse as anchors, this area can continue to serve as a civic center, celebrating community, recreation, and the arts.

KEY CHALLENGES

- **Decreased Landscape Resiliency**
- **Important Historic Structures in Disrepair**
- **Limited Access to Amenities**
- **Confusing Circulation**

THE PLAYSTEAD RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Return the Elma Lewis Playhouse to The Overlook**
- **Introduce Nature Play into Long Crouch Woods**
- **Reimagine the Bear Dens & Design for Flexible Use**
- **Make Spaces for Tailgating & Spectating in The Playstead**
- **Make Connections by Removing Barriers & Sharing Resources**
- **Link Destinations & Use Planting to Define Circulation**



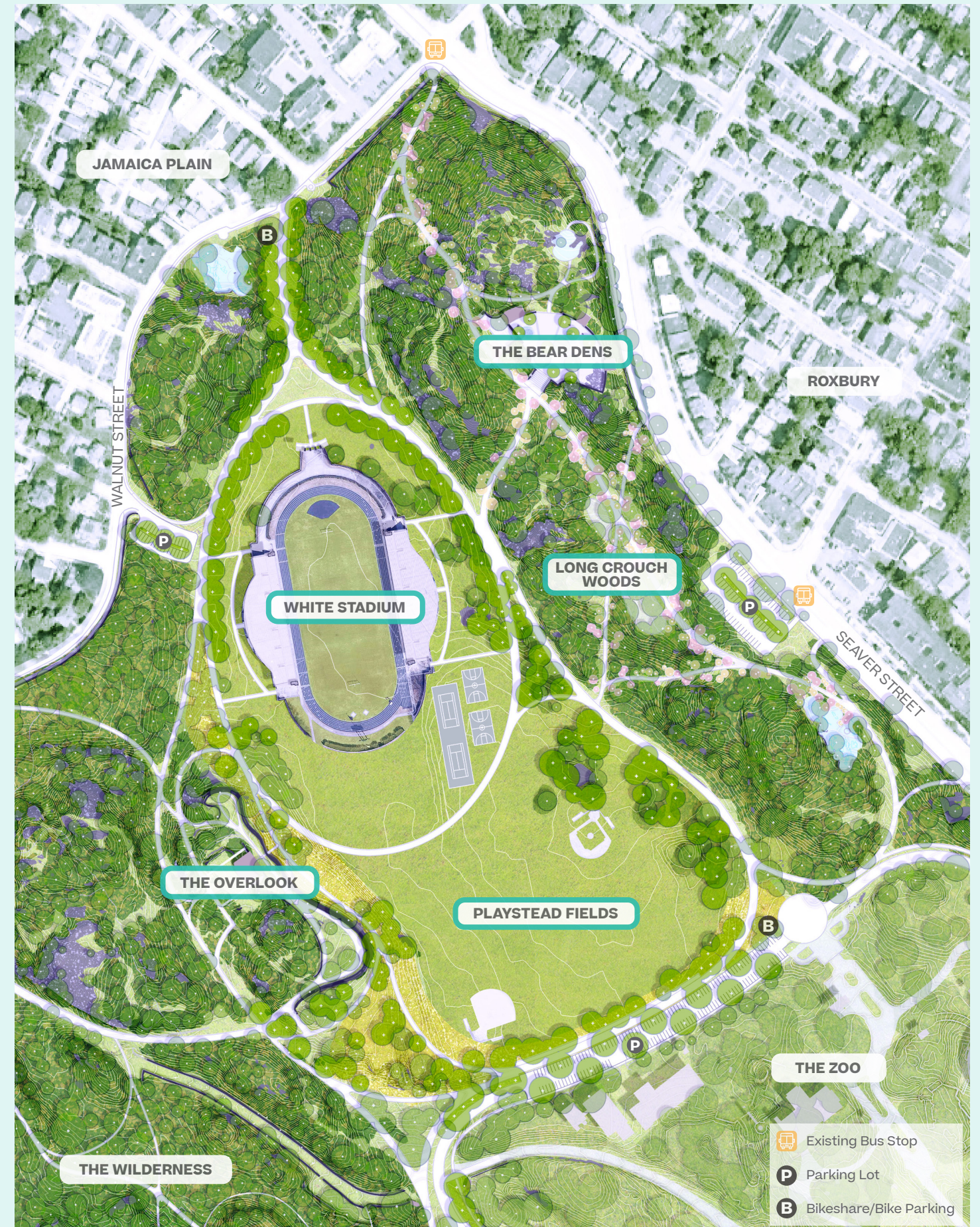
The Playstead today.



Concert-goers at BAMS Fest.



Kids day camp in The Playstead.





The Playstead: How can The Playstead better support its many activities?

1 Expand Shade

Use canopy trees to provide much-needed shade in gathering spaces and along primary circulation routes to make comfortable spaces for walking and spectating.

2 Increase Function & Durability

Establish the fields as the park's main space for sports and active recreation and large festivals and events; rebuild them to manage stormwater to better handle heavy-use throughout the year.

3 Provide Spaces for Gathering & Spectating

Create spaces supported by canopy trees and seating to watch the life of the park, encouraging intergenerational park use.

4 Celebrate Art & Performance

Restore The Overlook ruins and create a multi-purpose space for arts, performance, and education, including a return of the Elma Lewis Playhouse to its historic location.

5 Connect Program with Circulation

Provide walking and biking loops that link the various destinations around the perimeter of The Playstead and in Long Crouch Woods. Support with canopy, lighting, and seating.

6 Open Access for Shared Use

Open the stadium to shared public use; strategically remove fences, walls, and overgrown vegetation south of the stadium to improve the connection to the fields and beyond.

Honor Significant Legacies

Return the Elma Lewis Playhouse to The Overlook

The ruins of the 'Overlook Shelter', the only building ever designed by Olmsted, is an important piece of park history. Its remaining stone steps and walls hosted one of the park's most iconic programs — The Elma Lewis Playhouse — in the 1960s and 70s. Offering free musical education and performances for the surrounding African American community, The Playhouse continues performances in a temporary location under the guidance of the Franklin Park Coalition. Its important legacy of stewardship and arts education is deserving of a new and permanent home in its historic location at The Overlook.

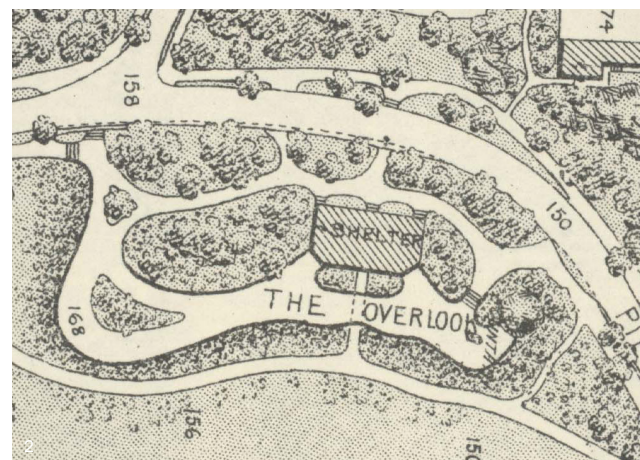
OVERLOOK STRATEGIES

Build the Playhouse

- Design to protect essential elements like rock outcrops and mature canopy; re-establish historic vegetation patterns by opening up the ground plane and removing pioneer trees.
- Restore historic puddingstone masonry elements including walls, benches, and fountains; study the best treatment of the building-related puddingstone including the remaining stairs.
- Reintroduce site specific architecture in the park with a stage, back-of-house storage, vending, and restrooms, and potentially community space.
- Restore prospect views by selectively clearing overgrown vegetation.
- Clarify pedestrian circulation; provide ADA access.



Elma Lewis, artist, educator, bridge leadership activist, and founder of the Elma Lewis Playhouse.



The original Overlook Shelter in Olmsted's General Plan was a building with two-sided functions to support program and use.

OPPORTUNITIES AT THE OVERLOOK



Reintroduce park architecture & reactivate the overlook as a key component of The Playstead.



Stabilize and highlight essential ruins as part of the park's original fabric.



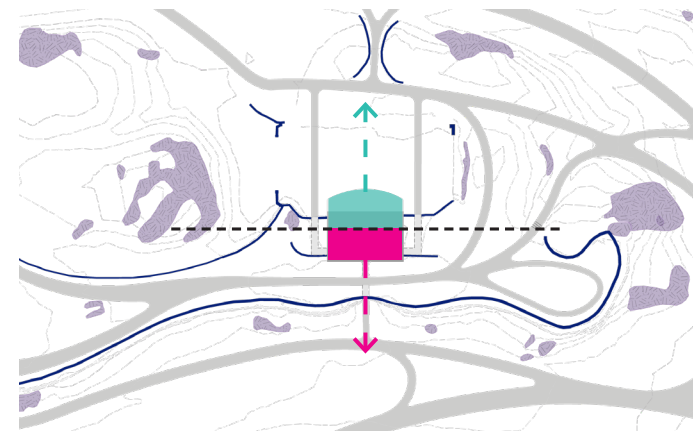
Return The Elma Lewis Playhouse to its Historic Location



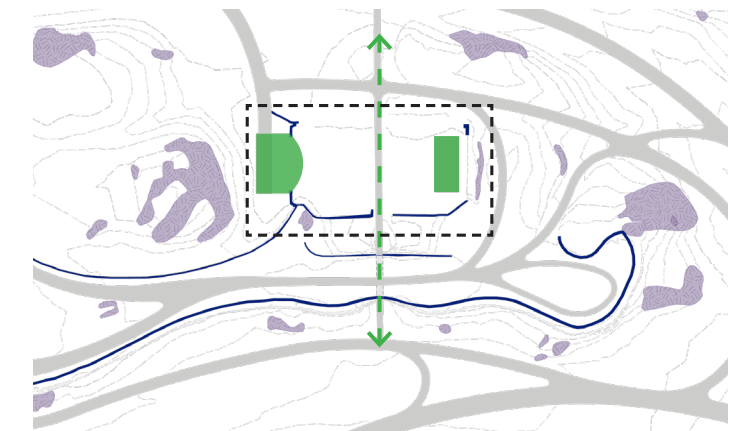
New architecture with a low profile that recedes into the surrounding landscape.



Embed a stage for performance and audience seating with a natural backdrop.

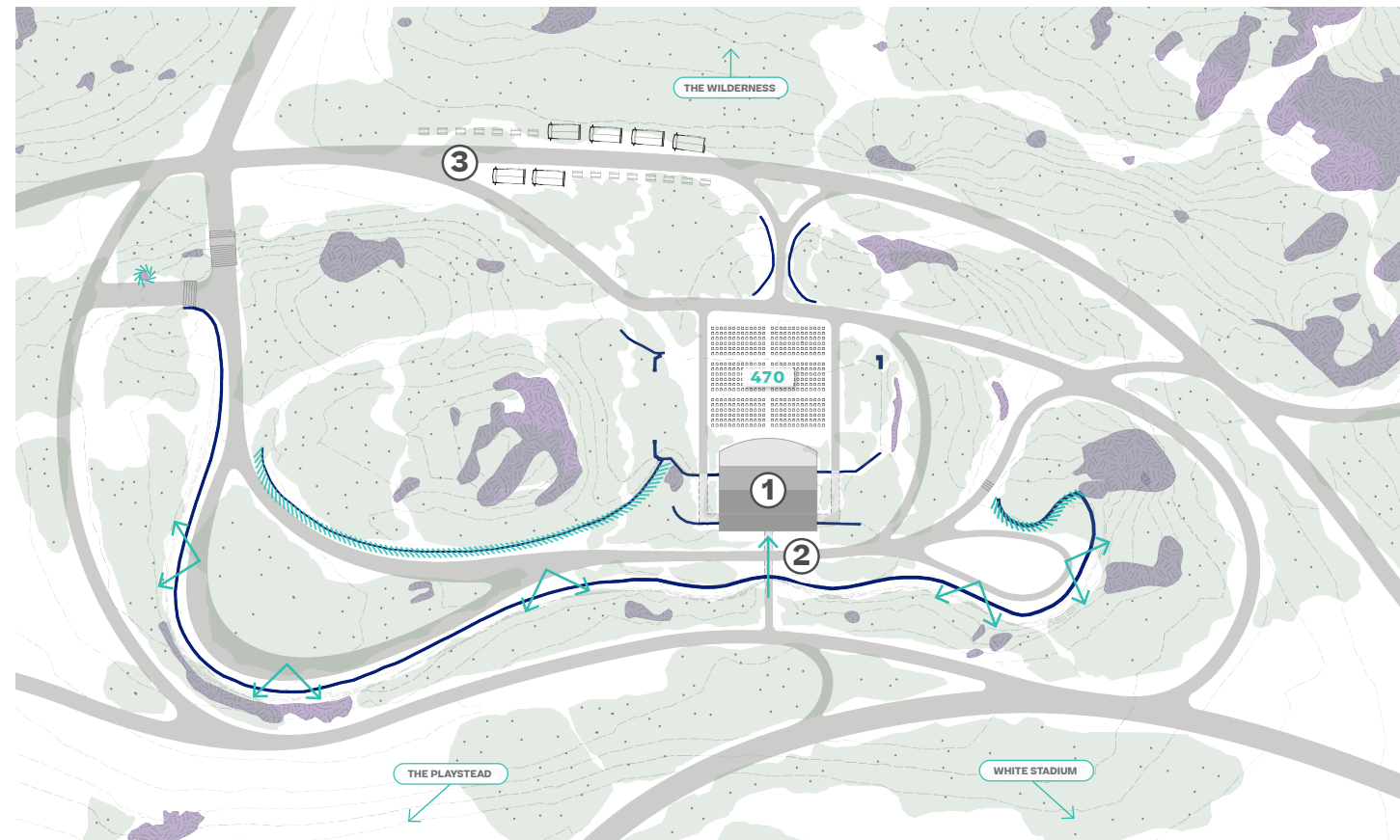


A two-sided building would allow for performance functions (teal) to face seating in the lower ruins, while community program (pink) would engage the upper terrace overlooking the fields below.

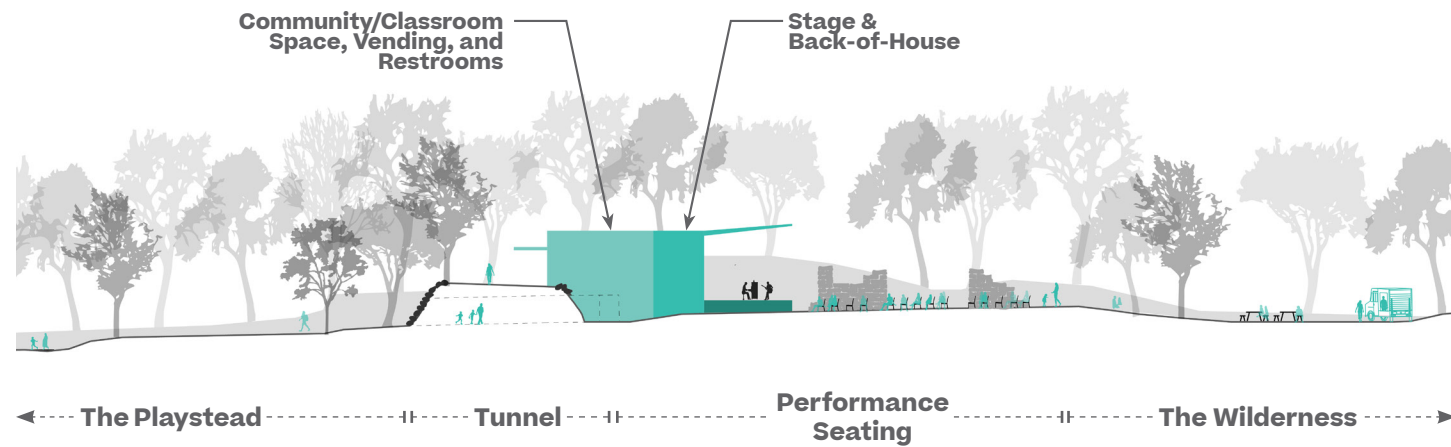


For a lighter-touch option, a series of small pavilions would allow the stage/back-of-house program to be separated from vending and restrooms; both would sit at a lower elevation within The Overlook, out of view from The Playstead fields.

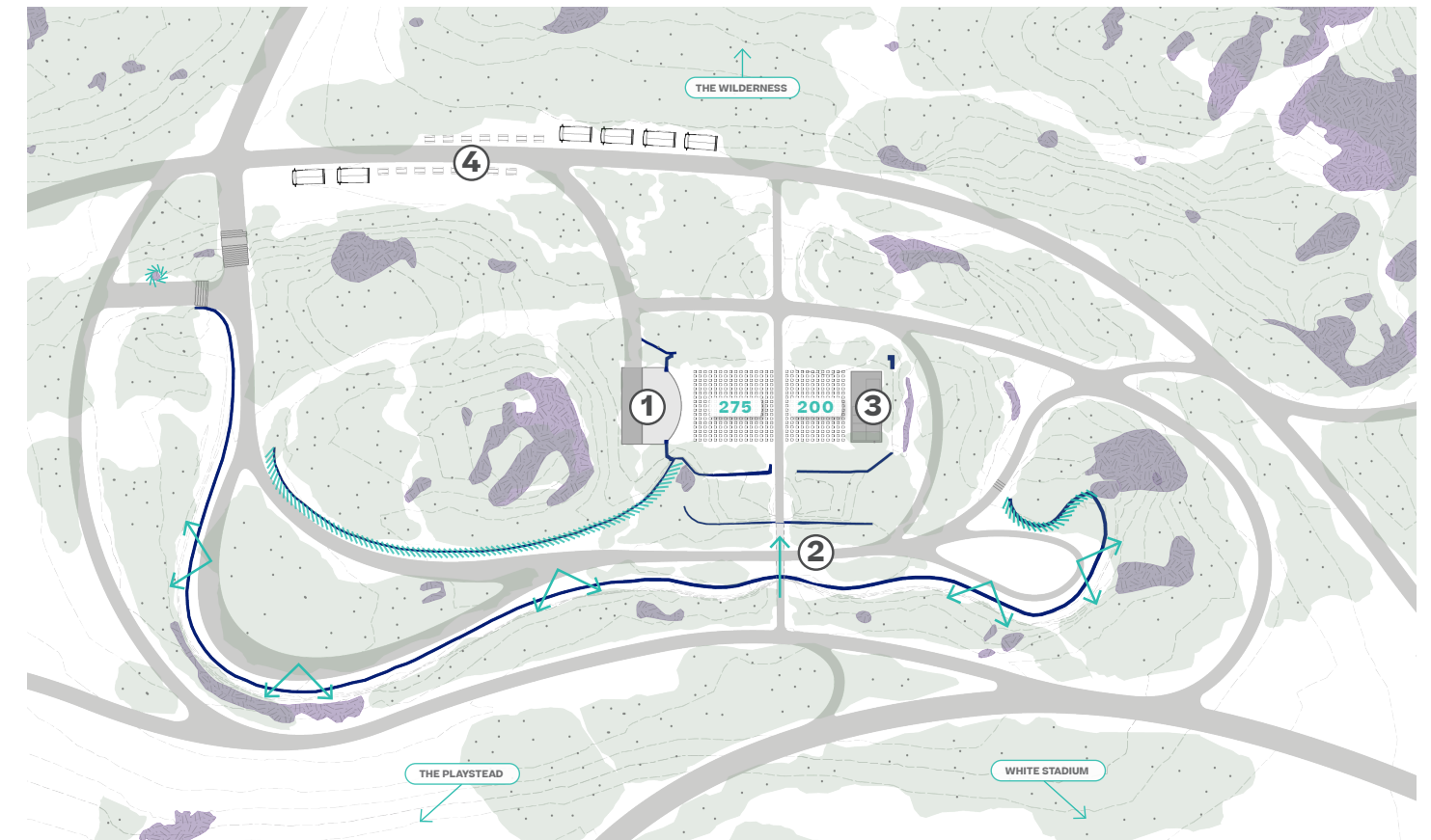
OPTION A: MULTI-FUNCTIONAL BUILDING



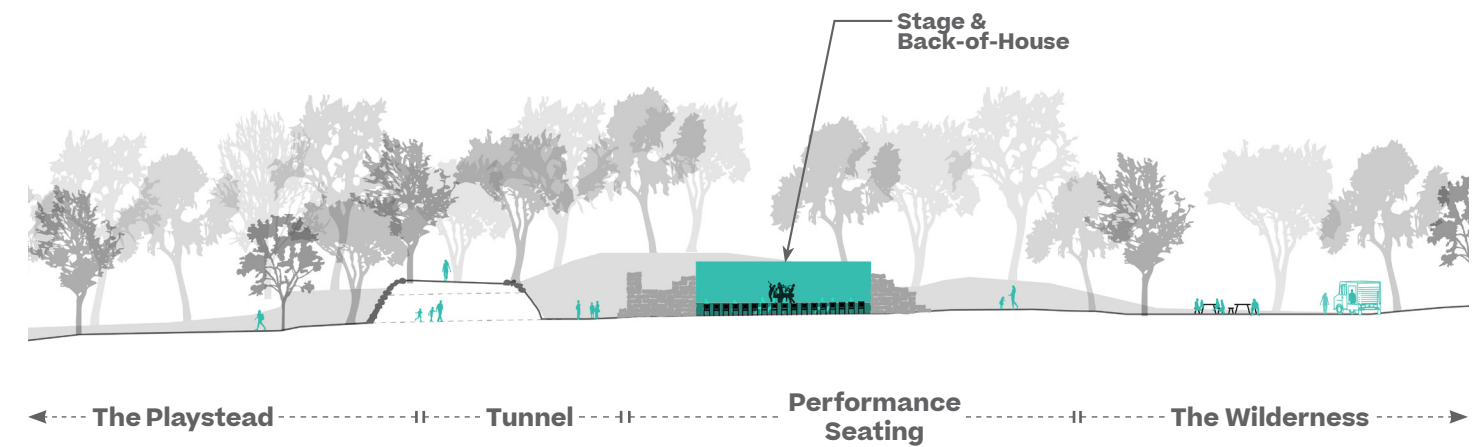
- Tree Canopy Cover
- Rock Outcrops
- Pedestrian Paths
- Restored Historic Puddingstone Masonry
- Restored Historic Puddingstone Benches and Water Fountain
- Restored Open Views
- 1 Stage & Multi-Functional Building
- 2 Tunnel Access
- 3 Temporary Seating & Food Trucks



OPTION B: LIGHT-TOUCH STRUCTURES



- Tree Canopy Cover
- Rock Outcrops
- Pedestrian Paths
- Restored Historic Puddingstone Masonry
- Restored Historic Puddingstone Benches and Water Fountain
- Restored Open Views
- 1 Stage & Back-of-House
- 2 Tunnel Access
- 3 Restrooms & Vendor
- 4 Temporary Seating & Food Trucks



Inspire Discovery

Introduce Nature Play into Long Crouch Woods

Long Crouch Woods, the 26-acre woodland adjacent to Seaver Street, provides unique opportunities to expand access to play and nature for the nearby Roxbury neighborhood. Once dotted with various zoological displays throughout the woods as part of the original zoo, this area was a popular destination early in the park's history drawing millions of visitors per year. Today its woodlands are overtaken by invasive species, park views have closed in, and it lacks destinations aside from the Bear Den ruins.

LONG CROUCH WOODS STRATEGIES

Weave Program through the Woods

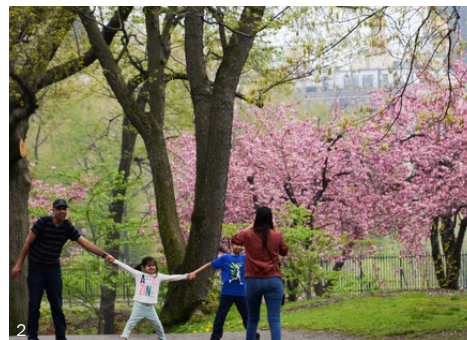
- Establish a sequence of small programmed areas in woodland clearings along the main path.
- Focus on themes of intergenerational gathering, play and nature discovery through programming that engages the puddingstone outcrops, unique tree walks along improved paths (repair and minor regrading where needed), and forest 'rooms'.
- Give new life to old zoological displays: reimagine the bear dens and the raccoon enclosure.
- Provide quiet overlook moments - out to the city skyline and down to The Playstead fields by selectively clearing overgrown vegetation and invasive species.



CHARACTER & OPPORTUNITIES



1 Remnant Woodland



2 Unique Character with Tree & Plant Walks



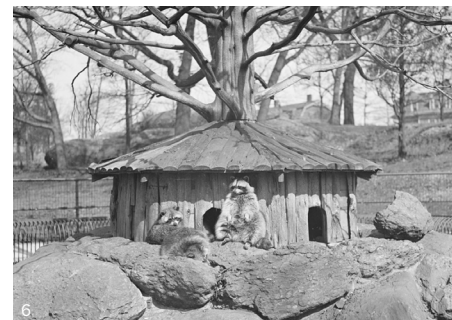
3 Programming & Play



4 Prospect with a View



5 A History of Discovery & Fascination with Nature, inspired by the original zoo exhibits in the park.



6 Reimagined Raccoon Cage Hangout

LONG CROUCH WOODS



Long Crouch Woods Proposed Program

- Existing Tree Canopy Cover
- Existing Rock Outcrops
- Improved Pedestrian Paths & Trails
- Proposed Program Areas
- Long Crouch Woods Loop
- The Playstead Loop
- The Stadium Loop
- 1 City Skyline Overlook
- 2 Reimagined Bear Dens
- 3 Tree Walks
- 4 New Pedestrian Entrance
- 5 Little Kids Nature Play
- 6 Big Kids Nature Play
- 7 The Playstead Overlook
- 8 Raccoon Cage Hangout
- 9 Reconfigured & Expanded Parking
- 10 Pedestrian Path to The Playstead
- 11 Tiffany Moore Tot Lot (to remain in the short-term; program can be updated in the long-term with community input as nature play is introduced in Long Crouch Woods)
- 12 El Parquesito de la Hermandad (to remain in the short-term & receive upgrades in long-term)



1 Precedent image for a city skyline overlook that engages the puddingstone rock outcrops.



8 Precedent image for a reimagined Raccoon Cage Hangout.

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



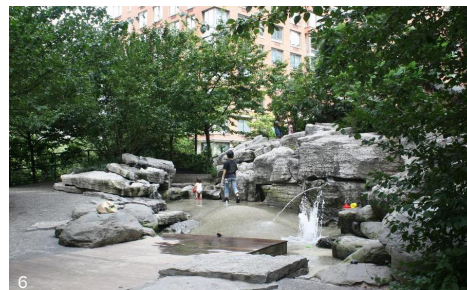
3 Bear Relief Sculpture, Metalwork, & Stone Wall



4 Stone walls & built-in benches with cages behind



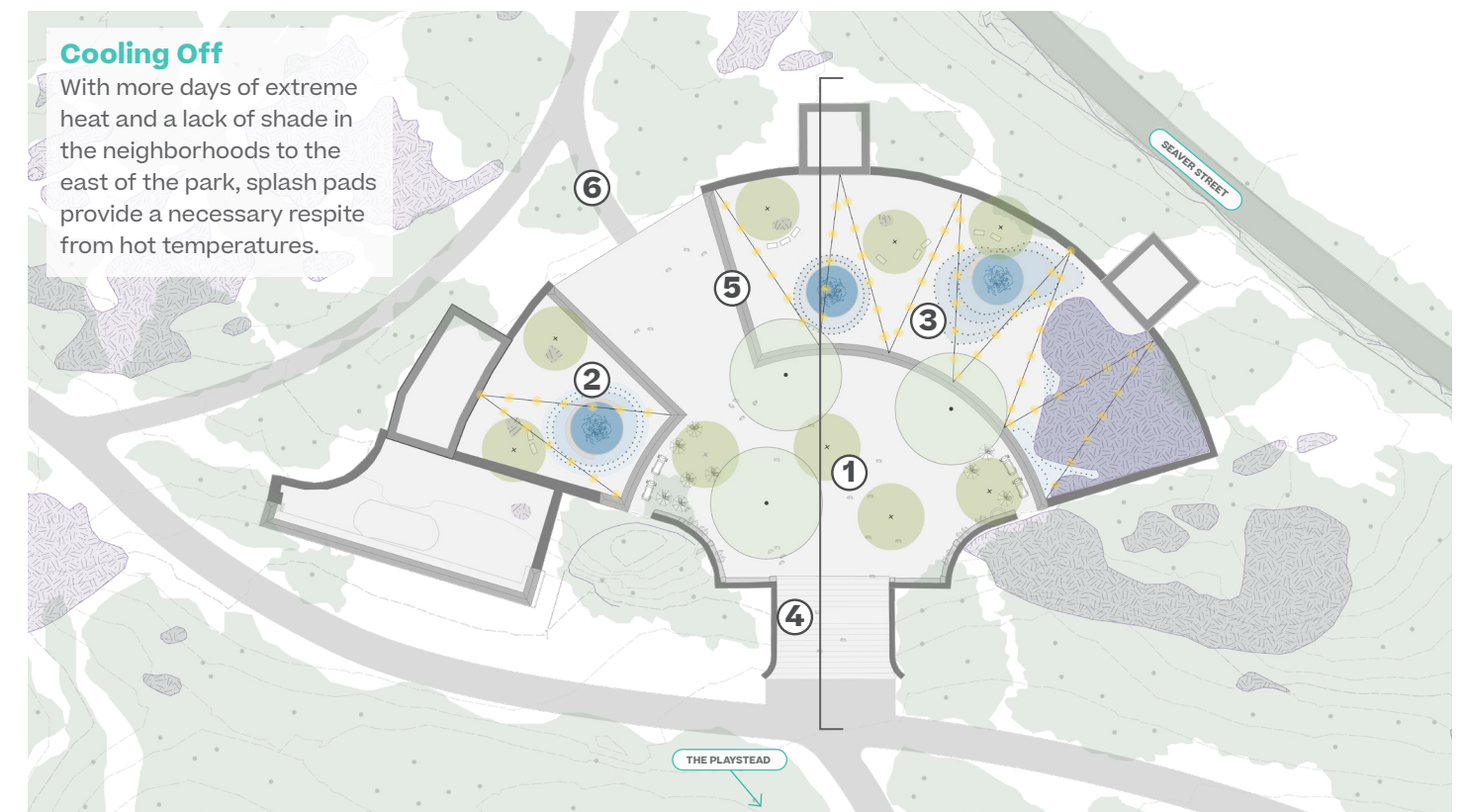
5 Flexible programming with canopy & lighting.



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



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

Celebrate Community

Make Spaces for Tailgating & Spectating

The Playstead has been host to all kinds of play throughout its history - from bike races and kite festivals, to concerts and theater, to sports and recreation. It has always been a place rooted in community and culture, and a place to see and be seen. Today it lacks accessible, comfortable places to sit in the shade and clear views to activity. With improved spaces for family gathering, performance, and spending time together outdoors, The Playstead can better support its many activities and the coming together of all of its neighbors.

GATHERING SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

Make Gathering Spaces at the Edge

- Create a ‘Tailgate Edge’ at the edge of The Playstead along the Pierpont Road parking lot to establish a linear space for tailgating and overlooking the sports fields below; incorporate canopy trees for shade, seating, and BBQs.
- Establish the Prospect Grove in the shade of the existing mature trees; provide new picnic tables for gathering and eating outdoors.

Provide Points of Prospect

- Selectively clear overgrown vegetation to provide views from high points within Long Crouch Woods and at The Overlook to watch activity in the center and take in long views across The Playstead.

Introduce New Places

- Provide a woodland dog park in close proximity to the nearby neighborhood within the area that was intended to be The Steading in Olmsted’s plan, not far from The Overlook.
- Celebrate Long Crouch Woods with new and restored destinations related to nature and play; see the Long Crouch Woods for more detail on the recommendations for this area.



Precedent image for the Prospect Grove.

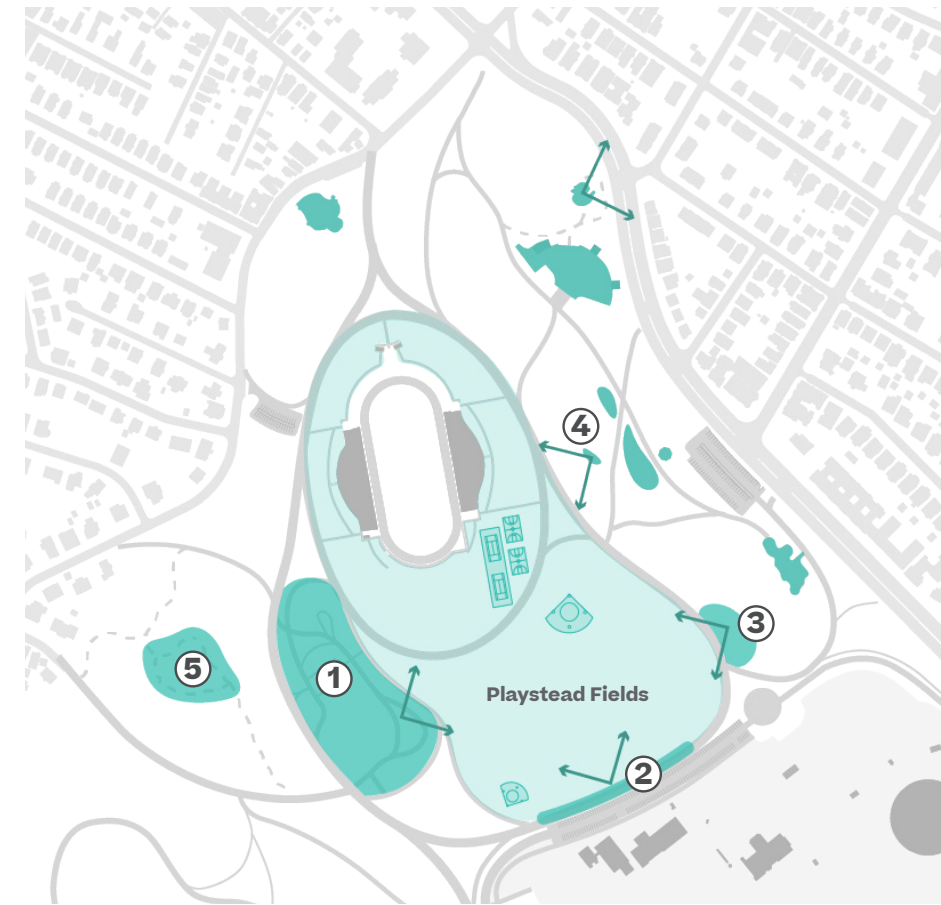


A view of the annual Kite & Bike Festival from The Overlook with the zoo entrance in the background.



Precedent image for a woodland dog park.

PLAYSTEAD DESTINATIONS



text

- The Playstead Fields
- Playstead Destinations

- ① The Overlook
- ② The Tailgate Edge
- ③ The Prospect Grove
- ④ Long Crouch Lookout
- ⑤ Woodland Dog Park



Team Sports



Sit in the Shade



Picnic



BBQ



Concerts & Festivals

THE TAILGATE EDGE

- Embankment
- New Slope
- - - Existing Slope



Make Connections

Remove Barriers & Share Resources

The Playstead fields and White Stadium are well-loved and heavily used for sporting events, camps, and festivals. White Stadium, which serves many nearby Boston Public Schools, was built within the northern half of The Playstead's open fields in the 1940s. Piecemeal additions of parking, fences, and walls to service and secure it have cut the stadium off from its context. Re-organizing field program and removing barriers can establish shared public access to the stadium (in coordination with Boston Public Schools) and make important spatial connections across the fields.

FIELD AND WHITE STADIUM RECOMMENDATIONS

Re-Establish Visual Connections & Shared Access

- Remove chain link fences, central end-zone wall, and overgrown vegetation south of the stadium to regain a visual connection to the fields and beyond; if possible, consolidate track and field programs within the stadium walls to let the building sit within a large open lawn on all sides.
- Add a new 8' metal picket fence with access gates in keeping with the main stadium entrance so it can be secured after hours; design with a porous material to maintain new visual connections.
- Open up the stadium and restroom facilities for shared public access and use during the day.

Gain Efficiency in Field Layout

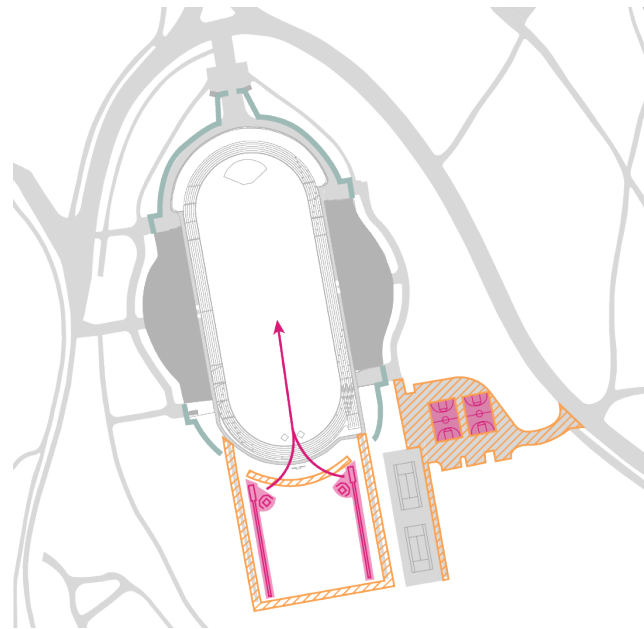
- Reorganize the field layout and permanent sports courts to preserve key views, to enhance spectating, and create better connections.
- Relocate the two basketball courts; remove the excess paving surrounding the existing courts. Protect existing mature trees.
- Maintain the two softball/baseball diamonds; if reconfigured, be conscious of backstops blocking views across the park or from spaces used for gathering and spectating.
- Continue to provide striping for cricket, soccer, and space for open play; reorganize their layout based on reservation data to minimize overlaps between sports at high use times of day; expand offerings if the demand exists and space allows.

Special Events

- Provide electric and water infrastructure as need to continue to host and better support the park's large events and festivals.



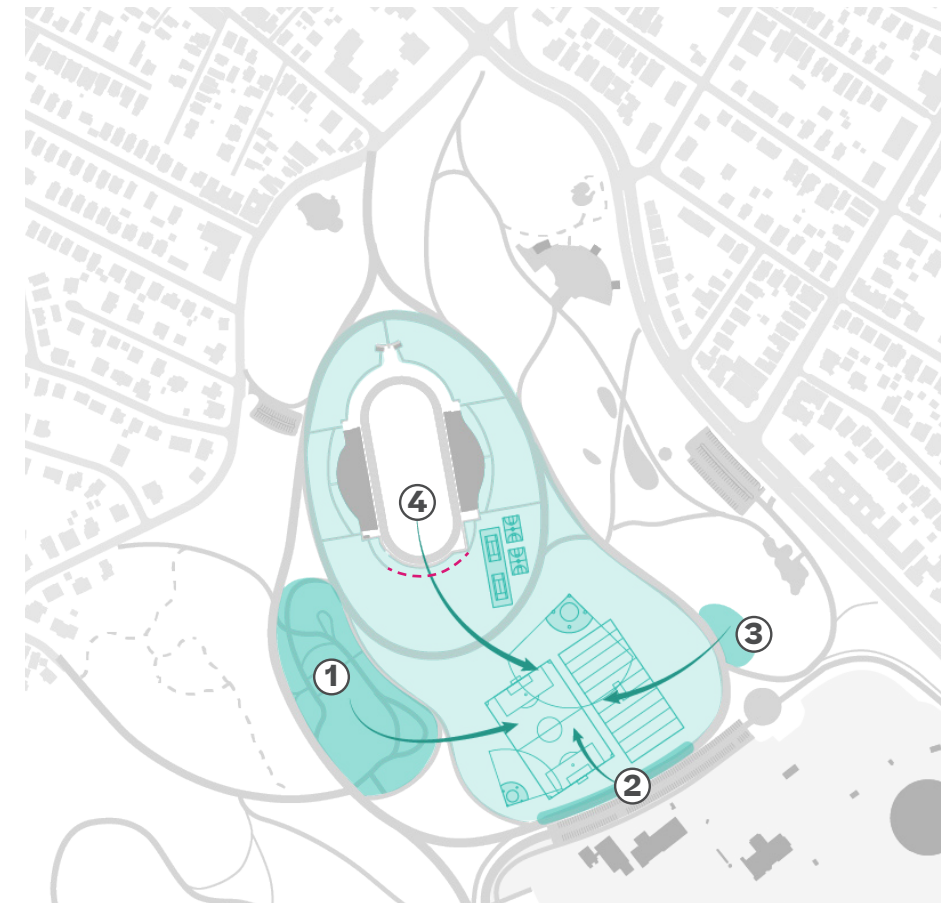
Overgrown vegetation and fences and walls block visual connections with White Stadium today.



Open Up White Stadium

- Paths, Paving, Fences & Walls to be Removed
- Sports Courts & Field Activities to be Relocated
- Stadium Walls to Remain

MAXIMIZE PLAY FIELD AND COURT LAYOUT

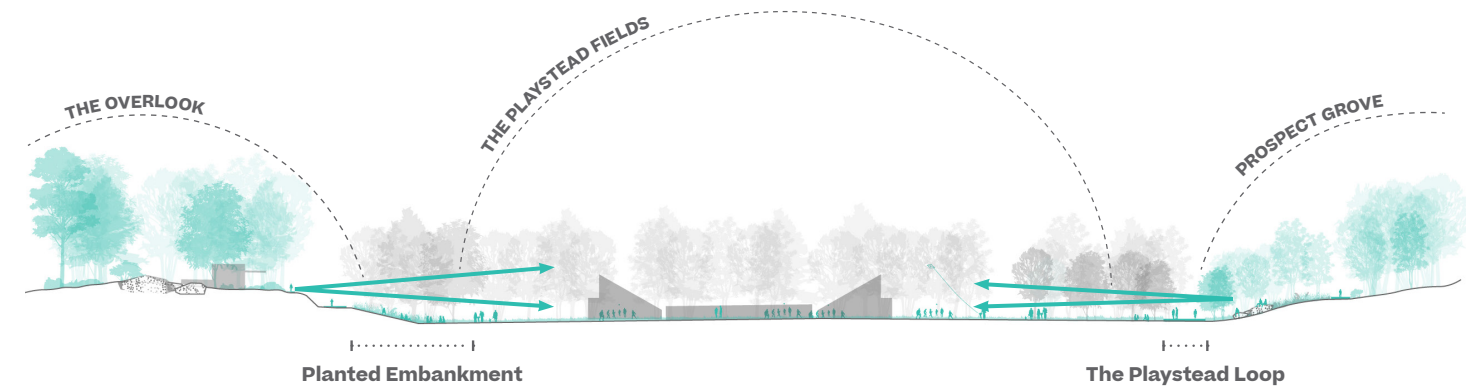


With regular reservations throughout the Fall and Spring, The Playstead's fields are well-used. As fields and courts are relocated to improve efficiency, the fields should be regraded and soils engineered with sub-drainage to improve drainage and better withstand intensive use.

Proposed Fields & Courts



OVERLOOKING THE CENTRAL FIELDS



Link Destinations

Use Planting to Define Circulation

Chief among resident desires for the future of the park were basic upgrades to make it feel safer and welcoming to all communities. Currently, roads and parking interrupt The Playstead's main pedestrian circulation, leaving an unclear and sometimes unsafe way to navigate the perimeter of the fields. Parallel and dead-end paths into adjacent woodlands leave visitors uneasy about exploring. The Playstead's many activities and civic anchors must be supported by clear and safe circulation, canopy tree planting that reinforces movement and the civic scale of the space, and basic park furnishings.

CIRCULATION & PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Link Places with Walking Loops

- Separate pedestrian circulation from parking to re-establish The Playstead Loop as the main walking and biking route around the perimeter, connecting event programming and destinations. Support with seating, lighting, and canopy; maintain a consistent paving material around the loop to facilitate active use by people of all abilities and special access for events set-up as needed.
- Create secondary loops around White Stadium (with access paths into the stadium and to the tennis and basketball courts) and through Long Crouch Woods to link to new program threaded along a single path.
- As improvements are made in Long Crouch Woods, make repairs to existing paths and trails where washout and erosion has occurred, and minor path regrading to improve access throughout.



A primary park path lined by canopy trees and seating.

Canopy & Planting

- Use additional canopy trees to reinforce circulation, indicate primary entries, frame space, and provide shade along The Playstead Loop.
- Highlight the promenade entrance north of White Stadium with formal canopy tree planting to reinforce the civic scale entry sequence and the beauty of the Art Deco stadium building.
- Highlight smaller paths in Long Crouch Woods with Tree Walks by using smaller scale planting focused on seasonal interest (flowering and fruiting or winter character).

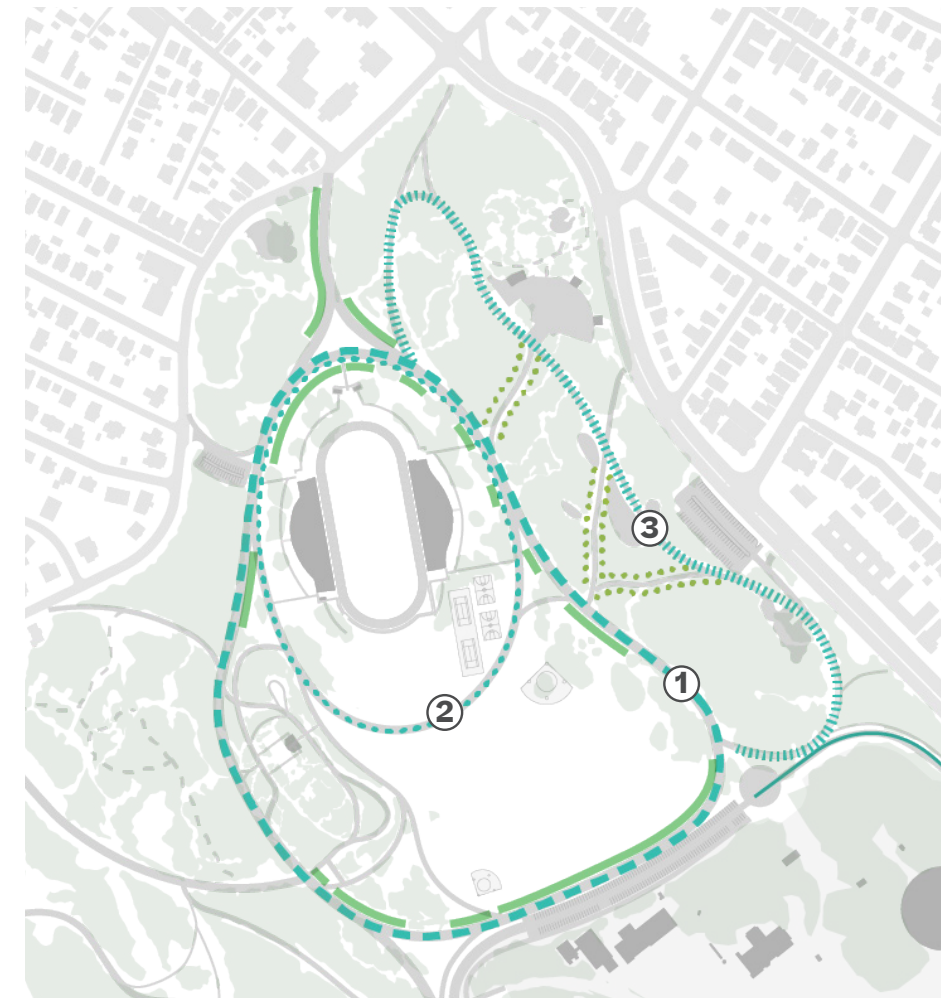


- Mile 1
- Mile 2
- Mile 3

Cross Country Trails

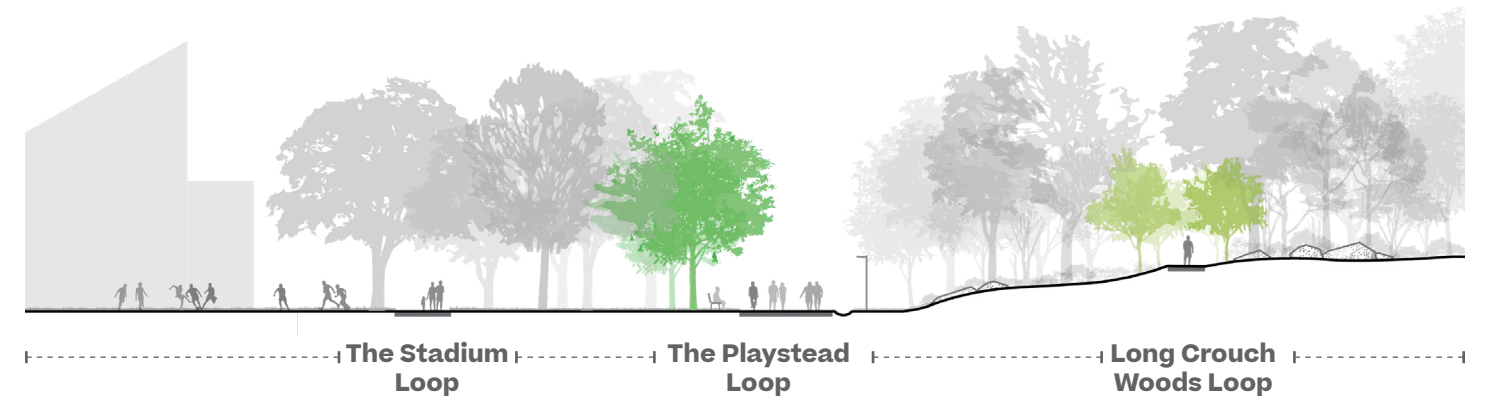
Franklin Park has been home to cross country trails since the early 1900s, and continues to serve several local schools for meets today. Their continued partnership presents the opportunity to educate the public about the sensitive landscape that they run through and opens up stewardship opportunities for years to come.

LINK DESTINATIONS WITH PATHS & PLANTING



Proposed Tree Planting & Paths

- Existing Canopy Cover
- Proposed Tree Canopy Planting Along Paths
- Tree Walks
- ① The Playstead Loop - 1 mile
- ② The Stadium Loop - 1/2 mile
- ③ Long Crouch Woods Loop - 3/4 mile



Make a Place for Gathering & Relaxation Ellicottdale

From birthday parties and family reunions to formal and informal sports and relaxing outside, Ellicottdale serves family and friends by providing spaces in contrast to what The Playstead offers (large-scale events and active recreation). But Ellicottdale's adjacencies – Shattuck Hospital, the golf course, and its dense woodlands – leave the area feeling undefined and its intended uses somewhat ambiguous. By clarifying its edges, the area can better serve its original intent: a smaller version of the Country Park meadow to support flexible use and everyday life.

KEY CHALLENGES

- **Ambiguity Leaves the Space Underused**
- **Shattuck Hospital Acts as a Barrier**
- **Fragmented Ecology**



The existing tennis courts near the Upper Lawn.



Informal activities on the Lower Lawn.

ELLICOTTDAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Support Flexible Use with Open Lawns**
- **Define a Sense of Place & Use Planting to Structure Circulation**





Ellicottdale: How can Ellicottdale better support everyday gatherings and smaller uses?

1 Clarify and Cohere

Regrade the upper and lower lawns, and redesign circulation to better structure both spaces for access and use.

2 Embrace Difference

Use strong vegetation strategies to define edges at the Shattuck Hospital and the golf course.

3 Expand Ecological Diversity

Extend the character of the surrounding ecologies — from woodlands and meadow to wetland and open lawn — to emphasize the richness of this area of the park.

4 Support Existing Uses

Anchor the space with shade, seating, and a small comfort station pavilion with restrooms and water fountains; expand the tennis courts.

5 Offer New Programs

Introduce new programming at this magnet like exercise classes, movie nights, storytelling under the stars, and spring nature walks.

Support Flexible Use Provide Open Lawns

Ellicottdale spans moderate elevation change, with distinct upper and lower lawns joined together by a rolling embankment. The upper lawn, anchored by popular tennis courts, provides flexible space for family and friends to spend time outdoors in open lawn or near the parking at its edge. The lower lawn, shaped like a subtle bowl, sits adjacent to the Ellicott Arch and wet woodland and meadow habitats. As the only remaining open lawn space aside from the Country Park, the valued flexibility of Ellicottdale should be maintained, while improving its beauty and better supporting its use with programming and amenities to serve families and friends coming together.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Engage the Edge

- Provide a pavilion or shade shelter with restrooms, water fountains, and storage adjacent to the parking area, Circuit Loop path, the upper lawn and tennis courts.
- Expand tennis courts along the woodland edge, as to not interrupt the long view through the Upper Lawn to the Lower; provide seating for spectators in the shade.

Make Gathering Spaces on the Upper Lawn

- Establish the upper lawn for family gatherings by providing seating, tables, and BBQ areas for a variety of group sizes within newly planted canopy tree groves.

Return the Lower Lawn to Flexible Use

- Allow the lower lawn at Ellicottdale to be primarily dedicated to passive and flexible uses, like family gatherings, informal games and play, and expanded small-scale programming, like exercise classes.
- Maintain the softball field in the short-term; as active recreation improvements are made at The Playstead, consider phasing out the Ellicottdale softball field to further establish the only flexible passive lawn in the park with community input.



A family reunion BBQ on the Upper Lawn.

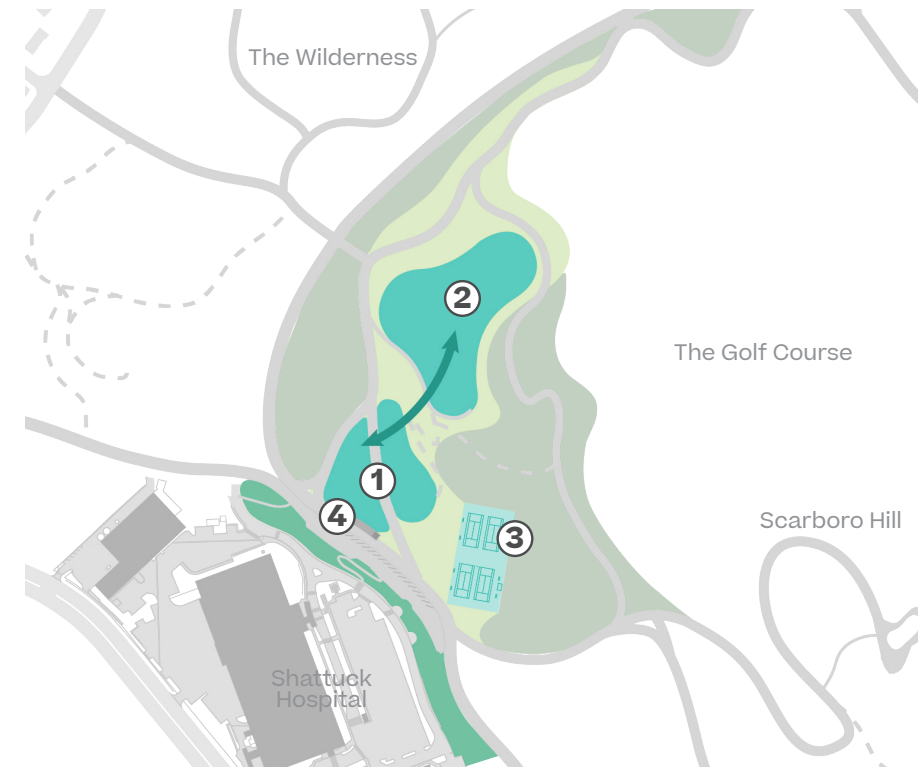


The lower lawn could serve as an open, flexible lawn during the day, like the Long Meadow in Prospect Park.



Movie nights could be hosted on the lower lawn in the evenings.

ELLICOTTDALE'S OPEN LAWNS



Proposed Open Spaces

- ① Upper Lawns
- ② Lower Lawn
- ③ Expanded Tennis Courts
- ④ Pavilion / Shade Structure



Movie Night



Picnic



Informal Lawn Games



Exercise Classes



BBQ

THE LOWER LAWN



Define a Sense of Place

Use Planting to Structure Circulation

Ellicottdale is an ecological crossroads of sorts - a place where rocky woodland and wetland meet to surround intimate open lawns at separate elevations. But the space today lacks definition and a unifying character. The Shattuck edge is harsh with expansive paving and few trees, and the golf course blurs into the lower lawn, discouraging free use. By using planting to extend the unique character of adjacent areas, frame open space, and establish clear connections, Ellicottdale and its frequent users can claim the space to support its everyday use.

CIRCULATION & PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Create Connections & Frame the Lawns

- Emphasize and enhance the range of surrounding ecologies as a distinctive feature of Ellicottdale.
- Transition from woodland to open character along the Shattuck edge; remove the fence and plant the embankment with evergreen species that transition to deciduous moving north; provide views to the upper lawn and make path connections to welcome interaction and shared use.
- Plant the upper area with groves of canopy trees to create spaces for gathering in the shade.
- Define open lawns with meadow buffers; clear open views between the upper and lower lawn, and plant the embankment; establish separation between the lower lawn and the golf course with a meadow edge.
- Let secondary circulation move around open lawns, connecting to adjacent park spaces while leaving the center open for activity and clear views.
- Provide trail and boardwalk access to unique environments, like the wet meadow and wet woodland adjacent to the lower lawn.



The Shattuck Hospital edge today, adjacent to the Ellicottdale parking area (above). With the redevelopment of the Shattuck site comes an opportunity to purposefully re-integrate it into the park. The future site design should include considerations for a unified landscape character that seamlessly blends the Shattuck property with the park, embedding large buildings and parking in a significant landscape buffer on all sides, new ADA pedestrian connections between the Shattuck site and the park, and increased canopy trees throughout.

ELLICOTTDALE CIRCULATION & PLANTING



DEFINE SPACE THROUGH PLANTING



Commit to Stewardship

The Yard

The Maintenance Yard plays a vital role within the park system, serving as the hub for BPRD's care of open space across the city. Investments in existing staff and facilities are essential for maintaining commitments to the community to raise the standard of care across Franklin Park. Into the future, the mission of the yard can expand to support objectives that serve both the community and the park by growing the next generation of stewards.

KEY CHALLENGES

- **Blocks Park Access from the South**
- **Inefficient Layout and In Need of Facility Upgrades**
- **Safety; Official Work Areas Need to be Separated from the Public**



Storage areas in the existing maintenance yard in the southern portion of the park.

THE YARD RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Increase Efficiency & Protect the Park**
- **Invest in Essential Functions**
- **Promote Community Engagement & Stewardship**
- **Provide Park Access**
- **Provide Opportunities to Learn & Grow**



Opportunities for training & education.



Existing Bus Stop



The Yard: How can the maintenance yard better serve the park to better serve the community?

- 1 Increase Efficiency & Protect the Park**
The demand for operational and public program in this space may put pressure on the limits of The Yard. The City should resist the urge to expand The Yard or disturb additional parkland, and instead should be looking to densify and find efficiencies within the existing footprint. Adjacent parkland is characterized by mature woodlands and high points that serve to buffer the Circuit Loop from maintenance activities. Vegetation management in this area must continue to protect the immersive experience of the park.
- 2 Invest in Essential Functions**
Retain the day-to-day operations of the maintenance yard; consolidate program, make necessary upgrades to facilities and equipment, and invest in advanced training for staff. Resist pressures to house unrelated city functions within this area.

- 3 Promote Community Engagement & Stewardship**
Provide training related to workforce development opportunities for youth who live or go to school near the park; create space for volunteer demonstrations to grow the next generation of park stewards at all ages.
- 4 Provide Park Access**
Due to its official capacities, the yard is off limits to the public and blocks park access for neighbors in Mattapan. In the short term, provide a pedestrian access path at the perimeter of the operations areas in The Yard to the park. In the long term, expand parking and programs for shared community use in the evenings and on weekends.

- 5 Provide Opportunities to Grow & Learn**
Look for opportunities to fulfill priorities identified in The Maintenance Yard Master Plan, including interest in space for teaching and learning centered on the green industry, including horticulture, arboriculture, landscape and green infrastructure installation, and maintenance. Look for opportunities for investment to include shared spaces, like new greenhouses to accommodate this program.
- 6 Looking Forward**
Consider places where space can be provided to the community within The Yard, including community gardening plots, bee keeping, and composting. While some maintenance yard functions must be separated for safety, aim to make appropriate functions visible to the public to raise awareness of the many people and tasks it takes to care for the park.

Invest in Small Destinations Too

Expand Mini-Magnets

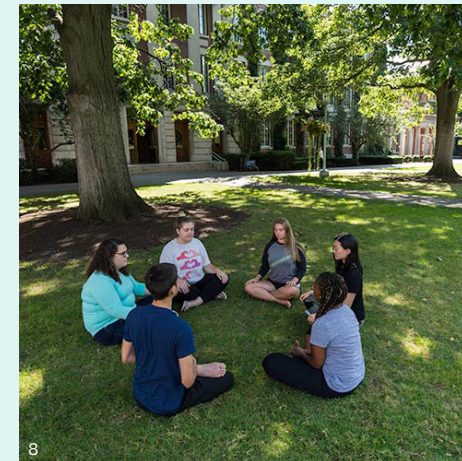
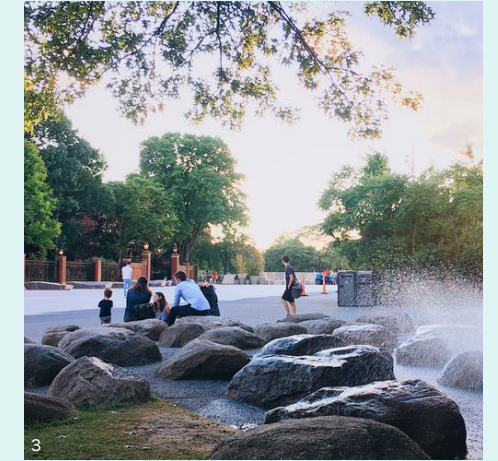
The park's smaller destinations, or 'mini-magnets', support the day-to-day use of the park by providing more intimate places for learning, play, and exploration. Some programs (playgrounds for example) may repeat across the park and serve the community closest to it. By making each unique with a distinct environment, tying it to a moment in history or community culture, or by making places for learning, mini-magnets will, at times, draw neighbors across the park beyond their 'edge'.

KEY CHALLENGES

- **Outdated & Lack of Park Basic Amenities**
- **Deferred Maintenance of Park Ruins**
- **Overgrown Vegetation Obscures Key Views**

MINI-MAGNET RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Restore Views & Reveal the Landscape**
- **Protect Historic Features**
- **Provide Play & Outdoor Education**



Connect Visitors to High & Low Points

Restore Views & Reveal the Landscape

The high points and low points defined by the park's dramatic topography result in a mosaic of unique ecologies, places, and views. In contrast to neighborhood parks, Franklin Park provides the opportunity to be fully immersed in these many environments, with wide expansive views across rolling lawns and intimate moments within nature. Over time, this range of experience has been lost to overgrown or invasive vegetation or a lack of paths. By restoring access to the park's important features, its broad experience can be fully appreciated.

HIGH & LOW POINT RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide Prospect at High Points

- Preserving viewsheds provides a payoff when ascending to the park's high points, cultivates a 'cared for' aesthetic, and provides a sense of safety.
- Selectively thin vegetation to recapture these important viewsheds at historic overlooks and re-establish large scale spatial connections; provide seating where appropriate; protect heritage trees and concentrate efforts on opening up dense understory and removing invasive plants.
- Bring visitors to high points along trails that climb more challenging topography or puddingstone outcrops.



View across the open meadow (the golf course) from Schoolmaster Hill.



Swamp cabbage growing along Ellicott Stream in the spring.



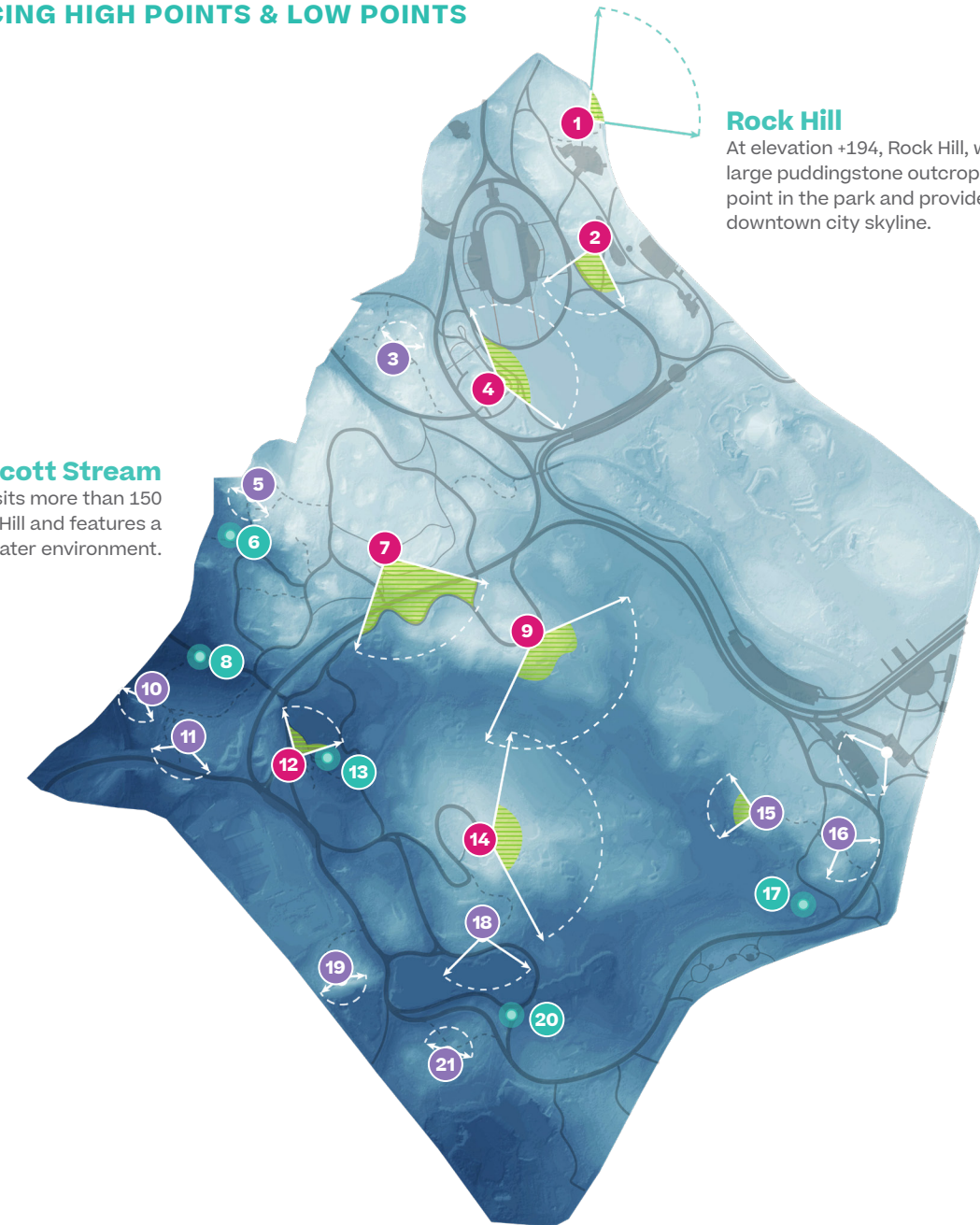
At the top of Scarboro Hill, clear understory and brush vegetation to open broad park views, remove vines and invasive ground layer to reveal the historic stone wall, and define clear walking pedestrian-scale paths for visitors.

EXPERIENCING HIGH POINTS & LOW POINTS

Ellicott Stream
Ellicott Stream sits more than 150 feet below Rock Hill and features a unique freshwater environment.

Rock Hill

At elevation +194, Rock Hill, which features large puddingstone outcrops, is the highest point in the park and provides views to the downtown city skyline.



High Points & Low Points

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> █ High to Low Elevation █ Selective Clearing for Views # High Points with Long Views # High Points Along Trails # Low Points 1 Rock Hill 2 Long Crouch Woods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 The Steading Site 4 The Overlook 5 Sunset Rock 6 The Dell 7 Hagborne Hill 8 Ellicott Stream 9 Schoolmaster Hill | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 White Pine Point 11 Juniper Hill 12 Ellicottdale 13 Ellicottdale Wet Woodland 14 Scarboro Hill*
<small>* Include a designated area for the Massachusetts Tribe ceremonial activities.</small> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Abbottswood 16 Abbottswood 17 Wet Meadow 18 Scarboro Pond 19 Rock Milton 20 Scarboro Pond 21 Rock Morton |
|--|---|--|---|

Celebrate the Unique Park Character

Protect Historic Features

The park's original built features - discrete architecture, walls, bridges, and steps - all deferred to the power of the landscape. A strict attitude towards material, form, and expression resulted in park features that appeared to emerge from the site itself. While many of these features have fallen into disrepair following years of neglect, they continue as markers of the park's past and important destinations for parkgoers. Maintaining the historic fabric of these elements is essential to preserving the park's unique character and history.

HISTORIC MASONRY & RUIN RECOMMENDATIONS

Stabilize Historic Masonry

- Make urgent repairs to masonry walls and steps; create a conditions report to guide future stabilization of these features.
- Stabilize historic walls, steps, and bridges; repoint wall faces, reset treads and adjacent stones, and re-mortar joints as needed for regular upkeep and maintenance. Preserve the historic character.
- Much of the original masonry and other built elements in the park is puddingstone, with the primary exception being the Cape Ann granite bridges at Scarboro Pond; use puddingstone for repair work wherever possible; investigate additional sources of the material that may be available so a stockpile for repairs can be established; if for some reason built puddingstone elements are removed, the material should be salvaged and appropriately stored for future reuse.

Give Structures a New Life

- Many of the historic structures, which now exist as ruins, present opportunities to integrate new use while preserving the remaining historic fabric.
- Use the Secretary of Interior's Standards* to evaluate historic fabric and determine what is essential to preserve and how to best integrate new built elements and uses without compromising the historic integrity.
- Create a historic structures report for more significant masonry structures, including Ellicott Arch, the Bear Dens, the Raccoon Cages, and Schoolmaster Hill, to guide the determination of a preservation approach and the design of any transformative future uses.

- When more extensive restoration and rebuilding is necessary, work with the archives to reference original drawings, details, and photos as available to match the character, form, expression, and materials.

Architecture

- Insertions of new architecture into the park should be carefully considered; character, materials, and location should all be deferential to the landscape.



Historic view of puddingstone steps, walls, and water fountain leading up to The Overlook in The Playstead.



Preserved ruins of the Schoolmaster Hill Shelter and overlook.

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings, and the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.

HISTORIC FABRIC STABILIZATION APPROACHES



Existing Park Ruins, Masonry & Architecture

- Perimeter Wall
- Interior Park Wall
- Steps
- Bridges
- Structures / Ruins
- Park Architecture
- Historic Park Architecture
- Historic Water Fountain
- ① The Bear Dens
- ② Raccoon Cages
- ③ White Stadium
- ④ The Overlook
- ⑤ Glen Road & Valley Gates Head Houses
- ⑥ Hagborne Hill
- ⑦ The 99 Steps
- ⑧ Ellicott Arch
- ⑨ Schoolmaster Hill
- ⑩ Scarboro Hill
- ⑪ Maintenance Yard Brick Shop Buildings



PRESERVE

Take measures to protect and stabilize with ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features, rather than extensive replacement or reconstruction.

- Repair/reset masonry walls and steps



RESTORE

Rebuild to match the historic appearance.

- Rebuild The Overlook puddingstone benches with wood slats

- Rebuild the clay tile roofs on the head houses at The Valley Gates and Peabody Circle

- Add a new roof and pergola to Schoolmaster Hill.

- Stabilize Ellicott Arch, repaint the underside, restore planting, and integrate lighting.



REHABILITATE

Preserve portions or features with historical, cultural, or architectural value; integrate new or compatible uses.

- Reimagine The Bear Dens as a splash pad and space for flexible programming.

- Rebuild historic water fountains for modern function, while preserving their unique character

- Reimagine the Raccoon Cages as a nature play element.

Discover the Park

Provide Play & Outdoor Education

The landscape of the park is well suited to serve as a living classroom and setting for play for nearby schools and neighbors. Opportunities for learning could focus on changing seasons, hydrology, ecological environments, local history, community culture, or the evolution of neighborhoods nearby. With relatively small footprints, these programs can cluster along the edge, each with a unique response to its context through its specific design.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION & PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

Learning in the Landscape

- Provide settings for outdoor learning within a range of environments by providing seating or pathways for summer camps, elementary schools, or small groups to gather, observe, and explore their surroundings.
- Develop individual curriculum related to each unique ecology, history or neighborhood context (urban, woodland, wetland, pond and stream) in partnership with a nearby school, youth or cultural organizations, or with the zoo.



Wet meadow outdoor classroom.

Opportunities for Play

- As upgrades to existing playgrounds are made, give each a unique identity, character, and program that responds to its individual park setting (woodland, grassland, rocky outcrop, etc.)
- Consider natural play elements for a range of ages and abilities that are designed both for imaginative play and to reflect the character of the park. Look for opportunities for intergenerational programming.

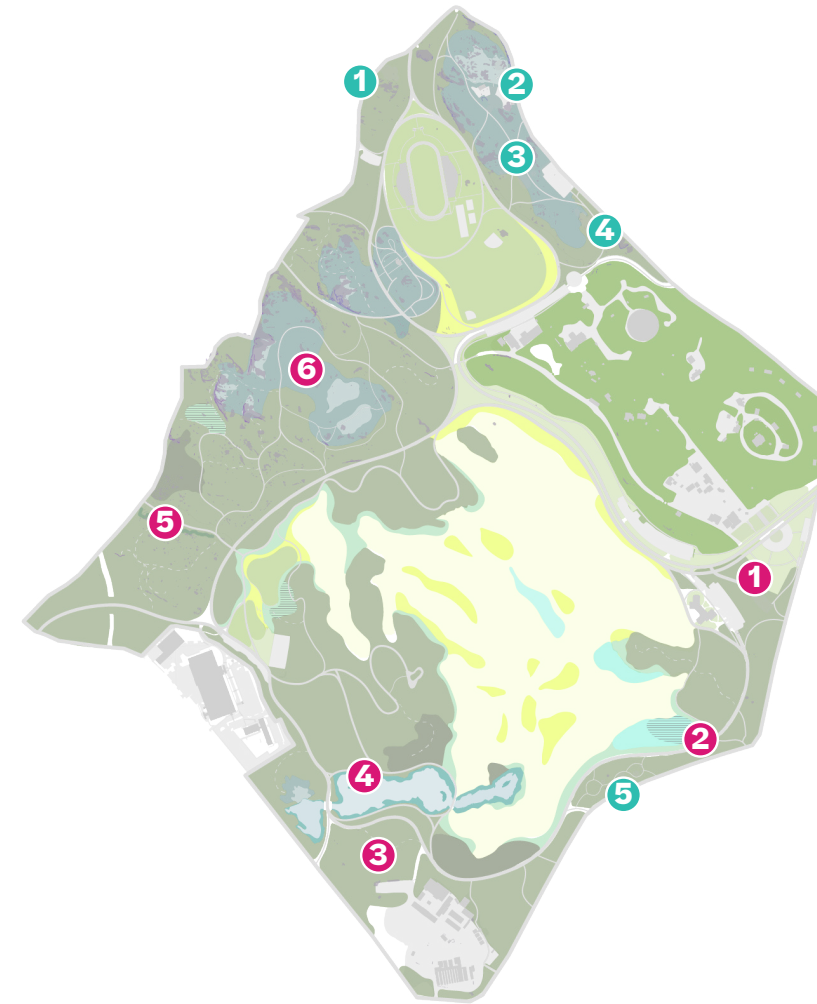


Woodland outdoor learning.



Nature play.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION & PLAY



Water & Play

- 1 El Parquesito de la Hermandad
- 2 The Bear Dens Splash Pad
- 3 Long Crouch Woods Nature Play
- 4 Tiffany Moore Tot Lot
- 5 American Legion Playground

Outdoor Education

- 1 Peabody Circle Amphitheater Seating
- 2 Wet Meadow Outdoor Classroom
- 3 Rock Morton Forest Classroom
- 4 Scarboro Pond Landings
- 5 Ellicott Stream Crossing
- 6 The Wilderness Forest Room

Rock Morton

Rock Morton sits within a unique and relatively undisturbed pocket of woodland in the park. Filled with heritage trees and evergreen canopy, and a lack of invasive plants, it presents a nearby opportunity for classroom excursions for hands-on observation and learning. It also serves as an important buffer from the maintenance yard activities, immersing the nearby Circuit Loop and Scarboro Pond within the park.



←----- Wet Meadow -----|----- Wet Meadow Classroom -----|----- The Circuit Loop ----->