

CIRCUIT DRIVE TRAFFIC CALMING & DRAINAGE

Franklin Park



May 14, 2025
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 muted and camera off.

*Please share with your neighbors and friends,
boston.gov/circuit-drive*

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

ZOOM TIPS

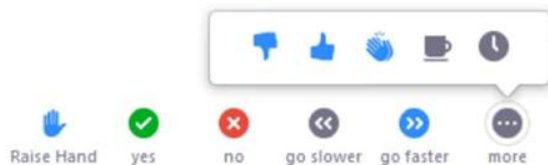
Here is how you can participate during the question and answer part of the presentation.

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.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

A wide-angle photograph of a multi-lane asphalt road lined with mature trees. The road curves gently to the right. In the distance, a few cars are visible on the road. The foreground shows a grassy shoulder with large rocks. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue filter, and the text 'PROJECT OVERVIEW' is centered in the upper half in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

AGENDA

- 1 **PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTION**
- 2 **PROJECT OVERVIEW, STATUS, AND SCOPE OF WORK**
- 3 **PRESENTATION OF HISTORY, INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS**
- 4 **LISTENING & DISCUSSION**
- 5 **CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS**

PROJECT TEAM

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CONSULTANT TEAM

NITSCH ENGINEERING

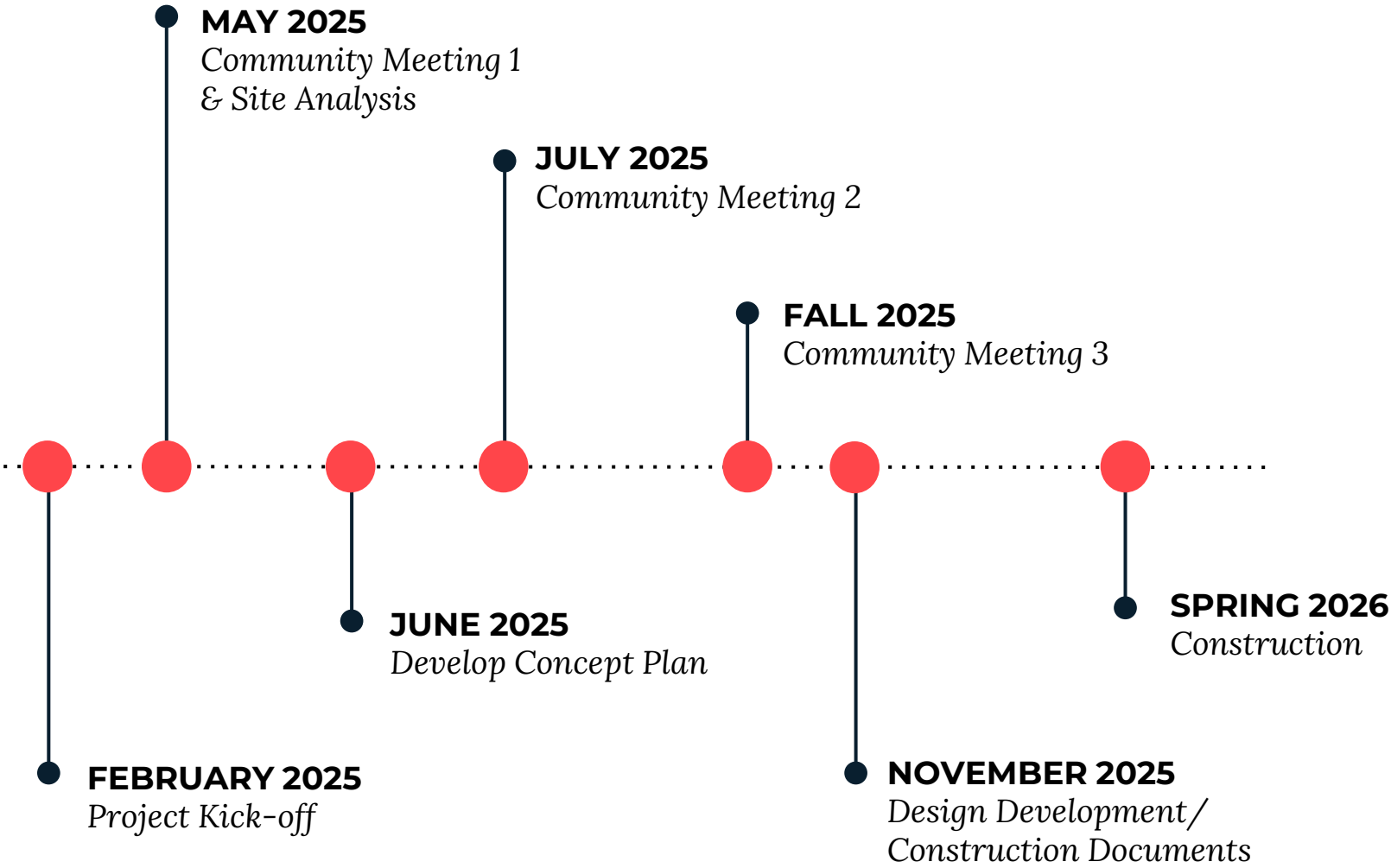
TRANSPORTATION,
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

REED HILDERBRAND

FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN,
ADVISORY INPUT



PROJECT SCHEDULE



FRANKLIN PARK FEATURED INVESTMENTS UNDERWAY

OVERLOOK RUINS RESTORATION STUDY

CURRENT STATUS: DESIGN LED BY STUDIO ZEWDE

BEAR DENS SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

CURRENT STATUS: CONSTRUCTION SUMMER 2025

SHATTUCK PICNIC GROVE TENNIS COURTS: Expansion for Community and BPS Recreation

CURRENT STATUS: CONSTRUCTION FALL 2025

FRANKLIN PARK TRUST PROJECTS: Removing invasive plants, restoring Wilderness Picnic Area, repaving Glen Rd, and safety improvements at Ellicott Arch

CURRENT STATUS: CONSTRUCTION SUMMER 2025

WHITE STADIUM RENOVATION: Year-Round BPS Athletics & Community Hub + Up to 20 Boston Legacy Games Annually

GROUPS WE WILL COORDINATE WITH ON THIS PROJECT

CITY OF BOSTON

Office of Green Infrastructure

Landmarks Commission

Office of Neighborhood Services

Parks Department – Urban Forestry Division

Transportation Department

Disabilities Commission

Planning Department

Boston Public Schools

OUTSIDE PARTNERS

MBTA

Franklin Park Zoo

William J Devine Golf Course

Shattuck Golf Course

Franklin Park Coalition

The Community

PROJECT APPROACH



CITY OF BOSTON PRIORITIES

A city that is:

- **Delivering Exceptional Constituent Services**
- **Green and Growing**
- **Family Friendly**
- **Closing the Racial Wealth Gap**
- **Healthy and Safe**



PARK & RECREATION GOALS

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



MEET THE PROJECT TEAM



Jeffrey T.
Bandini

PE, PTOE
Senior Transportation
Project Manager

Nitsch Engineering



Madeline
Augustine

PE
Transportation
Engineer

Nitsch Engineering



Sydnie
Picard

AICP, EIT, ENV SP
Planner / Senior
Water Resources
Designer

Nitsch Engineering



Lydia Gikas
Cook

Senior Associate

Reed Hilberbrand



Responsible for
Transportation and
Stormwater Analysis



Responsible for the
Franklin Park Action
Plan, Advising Input

PROJECT GOALS

- **Promote pedestrian and bicyclist safety**
- **Slow vehicle speeds**
- **Improve drainage and stormwater management**
- **Implement low-cost recommendations from the Action Plan**
- **Promote Franklin Park as a destination instead of a main thoroughfare**
- **Note: Circuit Drive will not be closed as part of this project**



EDWARD L. LITCHFORD, FRANKLIN WALKER, PAUL A. VENTROIA / COMMISSIONERS

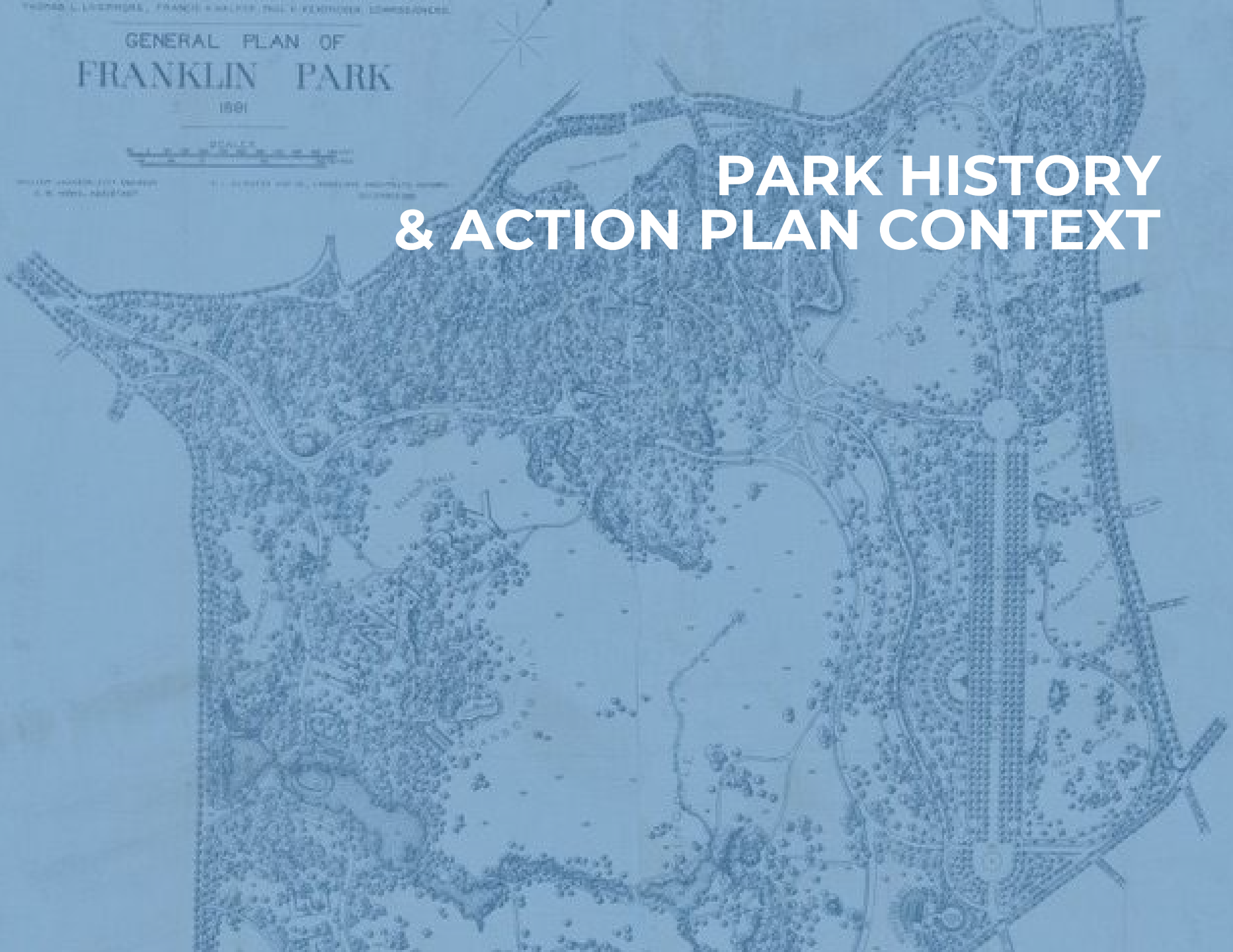
GENERAL PLAN OF FRANKLIN PARK 1891



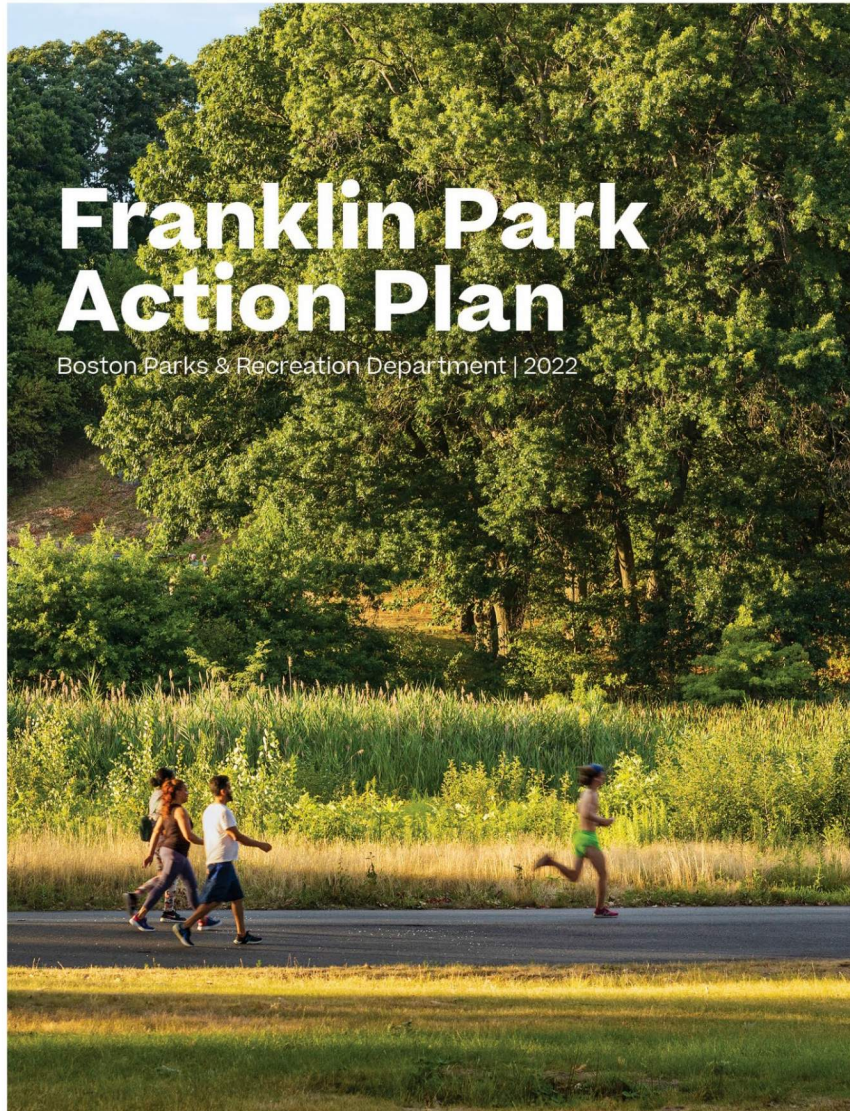
THE CITY OF BOSTON, MASS.
J. B. WHEELER, ARCHT.

THE CITY OF BOSTON, MASS.
J. B. WHEELER, ARCHT.

PARK HISTORY & ACTION PLAN CONTEXT



FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN



FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOUR BIG IDEAS —→ FIVE PRIMARY PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS



MAKE CONNECTIONS & ACTIVATE THE EDGES



CLARIFY MOVEMENT



AMPLIFY MAGNET DESTINATIONS



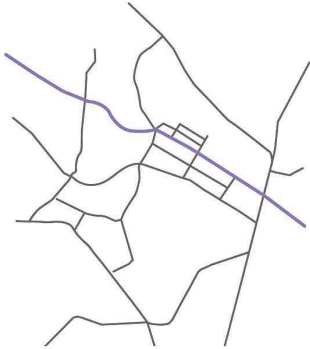
UNIFY THE PARK

+



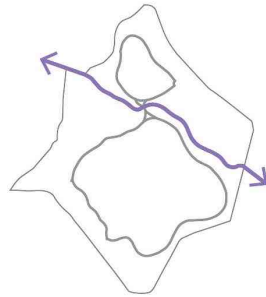
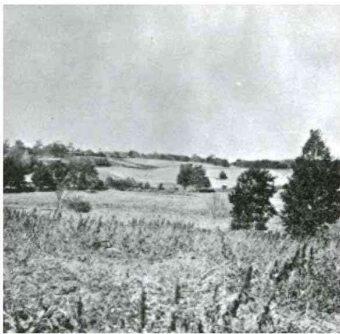
BUILD CAPACITY & ENABLE CHANGE

A SHORT HISTORY OF CIRCULATION CHANGE



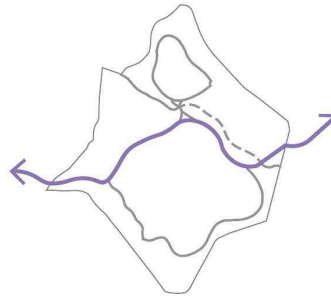
**AGRICULTURAL
HOMESTEADS**
1870s-1880s

Farm Roads



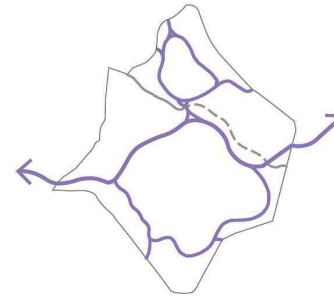
**SHOWCASING SENSE
OF PLACE**
1897-1902

*Carriage Through-Traffic on
Glen Road*



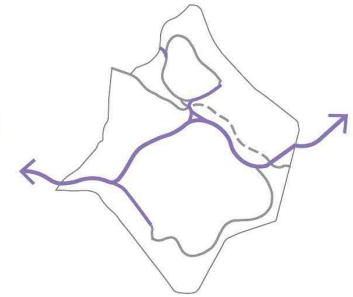
CIRCUIT DRIVE
1930s

Circuit Drive Opened to Cars



CAR INTRUSION
1960s-1970s

*Car Access Extends Further
into the Park*



PROTECTING THE PARK
1980s-PRESENT

*Measures are Taken to
Control Car Access*



CIRCUIT DRIVE TODAY

EXISTING CIRCULATION



CIRCUIT DRIVE TODAY

THE HEART OF THE PARK

Nature
health and well-being



Socializing
with friends and family



Daily Movement
fitness and recreation



Communal Space
for neighbors and parkgoers



Community Events
seasonal and annual traditions

CIRCUIT DRIVE TODAY

CHALLENGES

- Unclear or insufficient path and bicycle infrastructure
- Few designated crossings
- Fast traffic



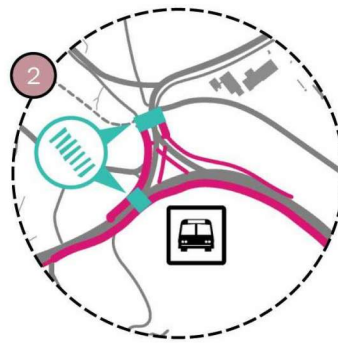
CIRCUIT DRIVE TODAY

CHALLENGES

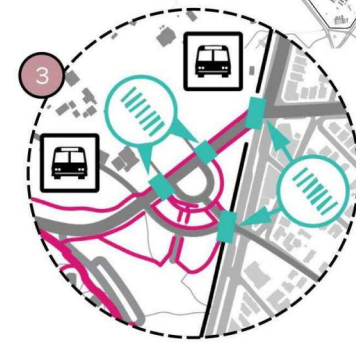
Confusing intersections leave pedestrians and cyclists vulnerable and feeling unsafe.



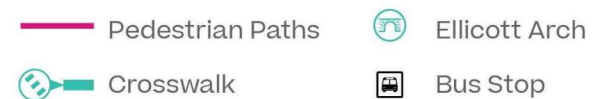
Ellicottdale & Shattuck Hospital



Valley Gates



Peabody Circle & The Zoo



FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN - IMMEDIATE RECOMMENDATIONS, 2022

Before You Build It Next Steps

CLARIFY MOVEMENT

Conduct Future Studies

- Conduct a traffic feasibility study to understand potential impacts of vehicular circulation changes on surrounding streets, signal changes, and bus routes.
- Create a Transportation Demand Management Plan for people visiting and working in the park (including the Zoo, BPRD, White Stadium, etc.), including consideration for bus access and parking during special events.
- Continue coordination with BTD to enhance multi-modal transportation access to key park destinations.
- Conduct a comprehensive lighting study to better understand existing fixtures and utility constraints prior to implementing new ones; select a family of historic and contemporary light fixtures that are in keeping with the park character and establish standards for which kinds of lighting should be part of the City street lighting system and which should be unique to the park and maintained separately.
- Conduct a comprehensive signage study to better understand the full range of existing signage, and define opportunities for new signage typologies that are in keeping with park character.

Implement 'Make Safe' Improvements on Circuit Drive

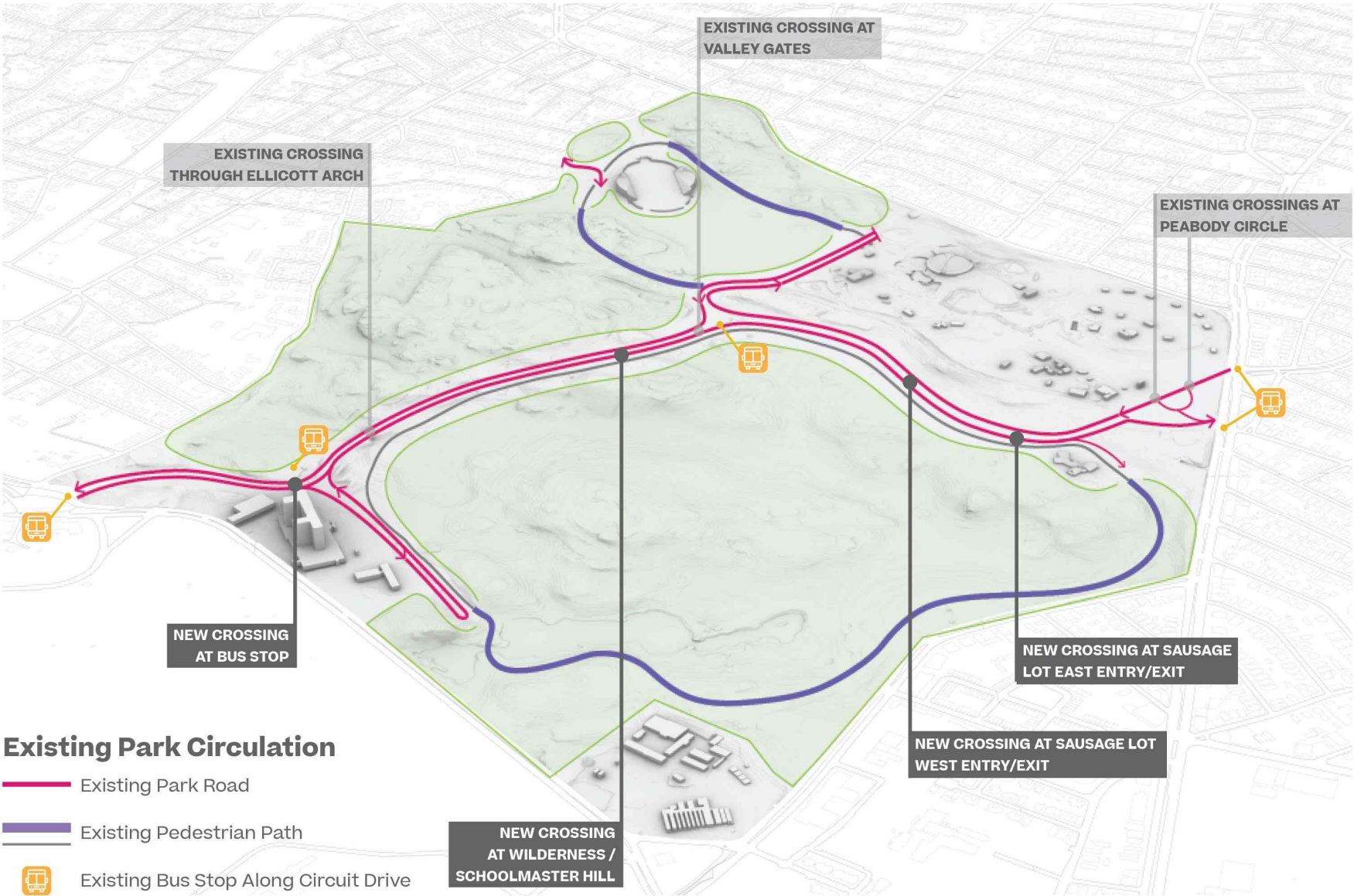
- Implement immediate changes to improve safety for bikes and pedestrians along Circuit Drive, including adding crosswalks across at key locations.
- Consider stop signs or flashing signaled crosswalks at key crossings to prioritize pedestrian safety over out-through traffic.

Pilot a Temporary Closure on Circuit Drive

- Pilot a temporary closure to gain a better understanding of design opportunities and constraints, and get additional feedback from the community on the partial closure of Circuit Drive; test the closure over 6-10 weekends or for 2-3 weeks (7 days a week) during the summer.
- While traffic analysis, bus routes, parking lot expansion, and signage improvements are being implemented, continue to test Circuit Drive modification and closure scenarios (extents, duration, frequency) to learn what is successful and welcomed by the communities surrounding the park.

FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN - IMMEDIATE RECOMMENDATIONS, 2022

IMPLEMENT 'MAKE SAFE' IMPROVEMENTS ON CIRCUIT DRIVE



DRAINAGE TODAY

CHALLENGES

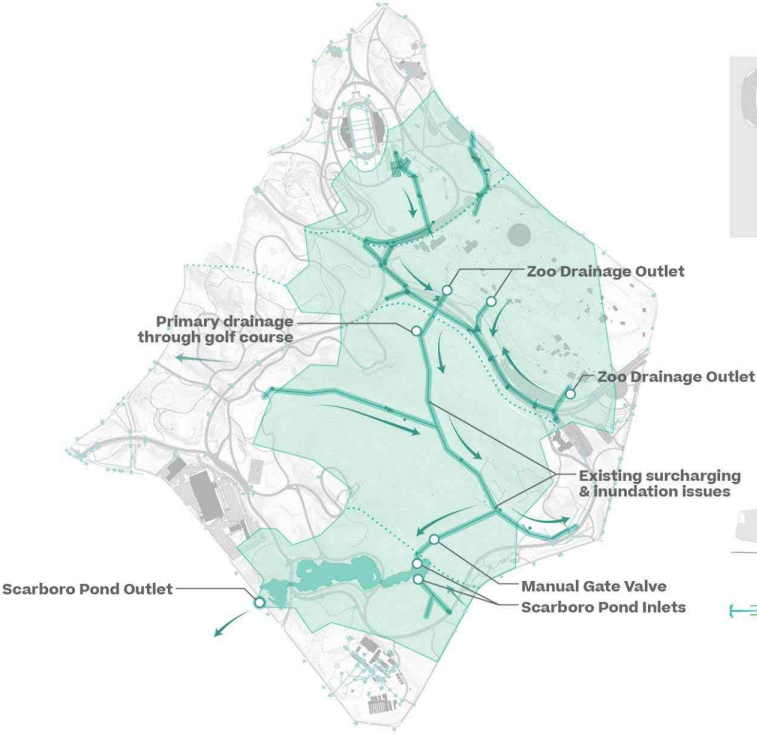


Localized Drainage Issues

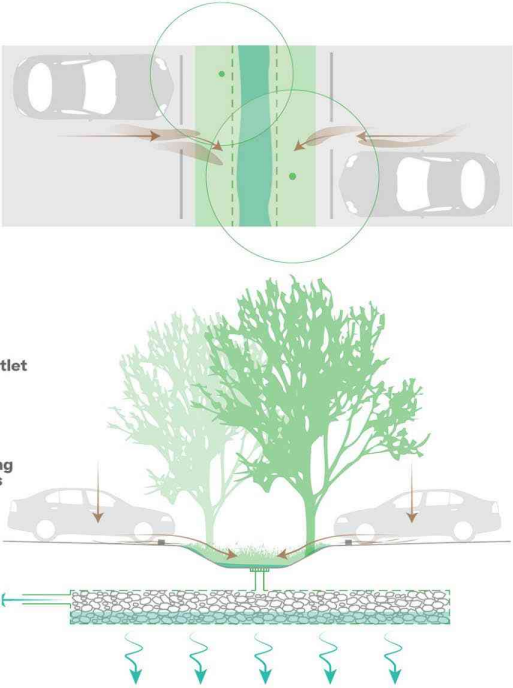
- Localized Drainage Issue
- Below Ground Drainage Infrastructure
- Scarboro Pond & Ellicott Stream
- Drainage Outlet to City System

FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN

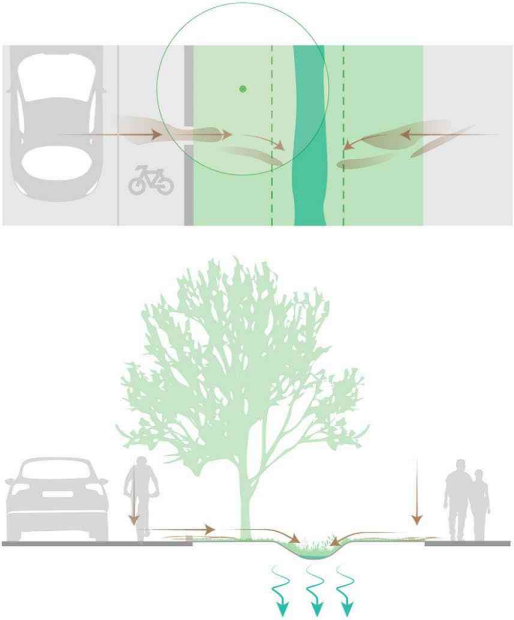
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIES



Manage Piped Drainage



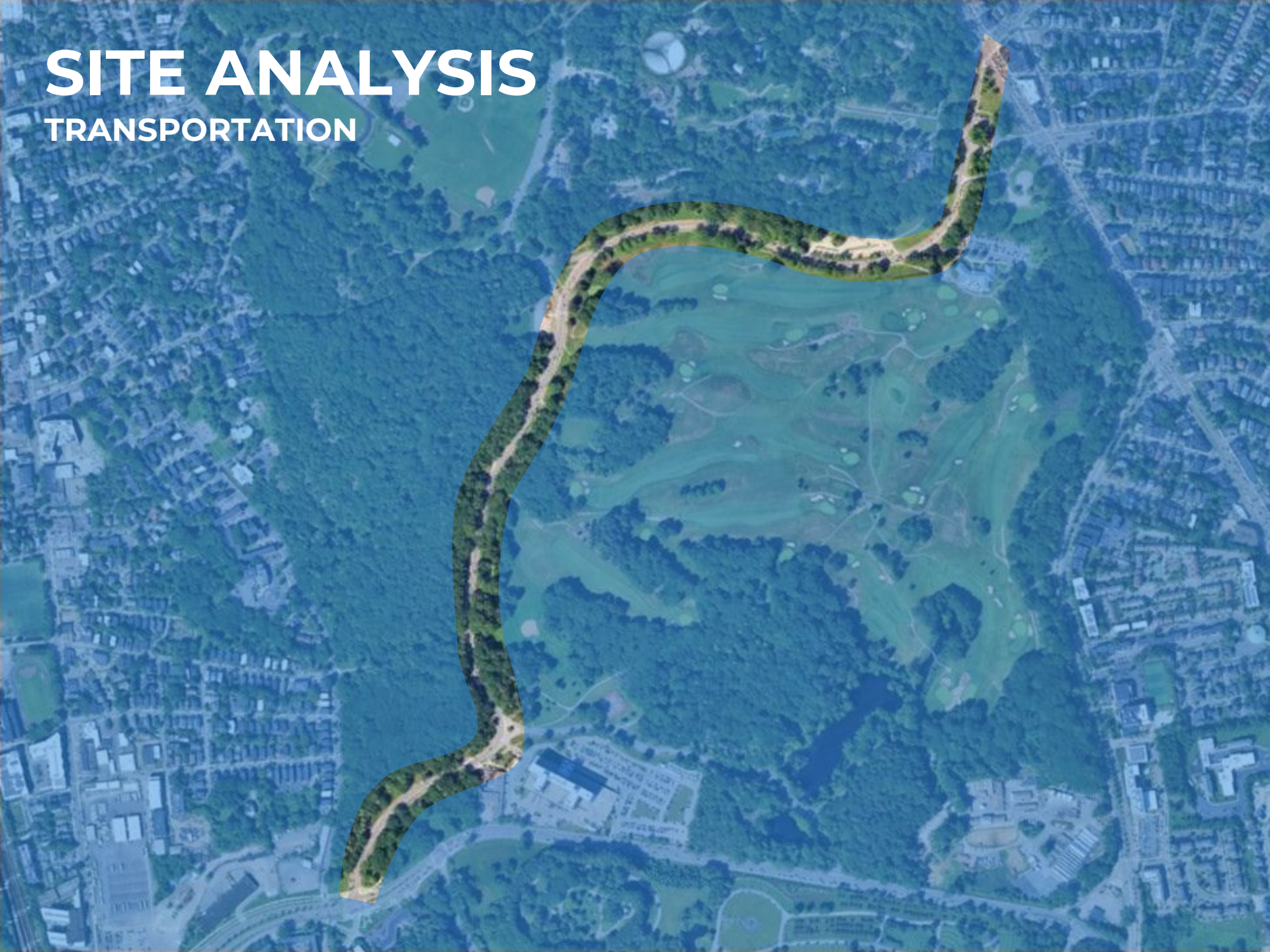
Hold and Release



Slow and Clean

SITE ANALYSIS

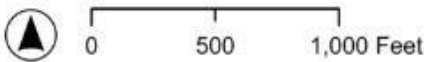
TRANSPORTATION



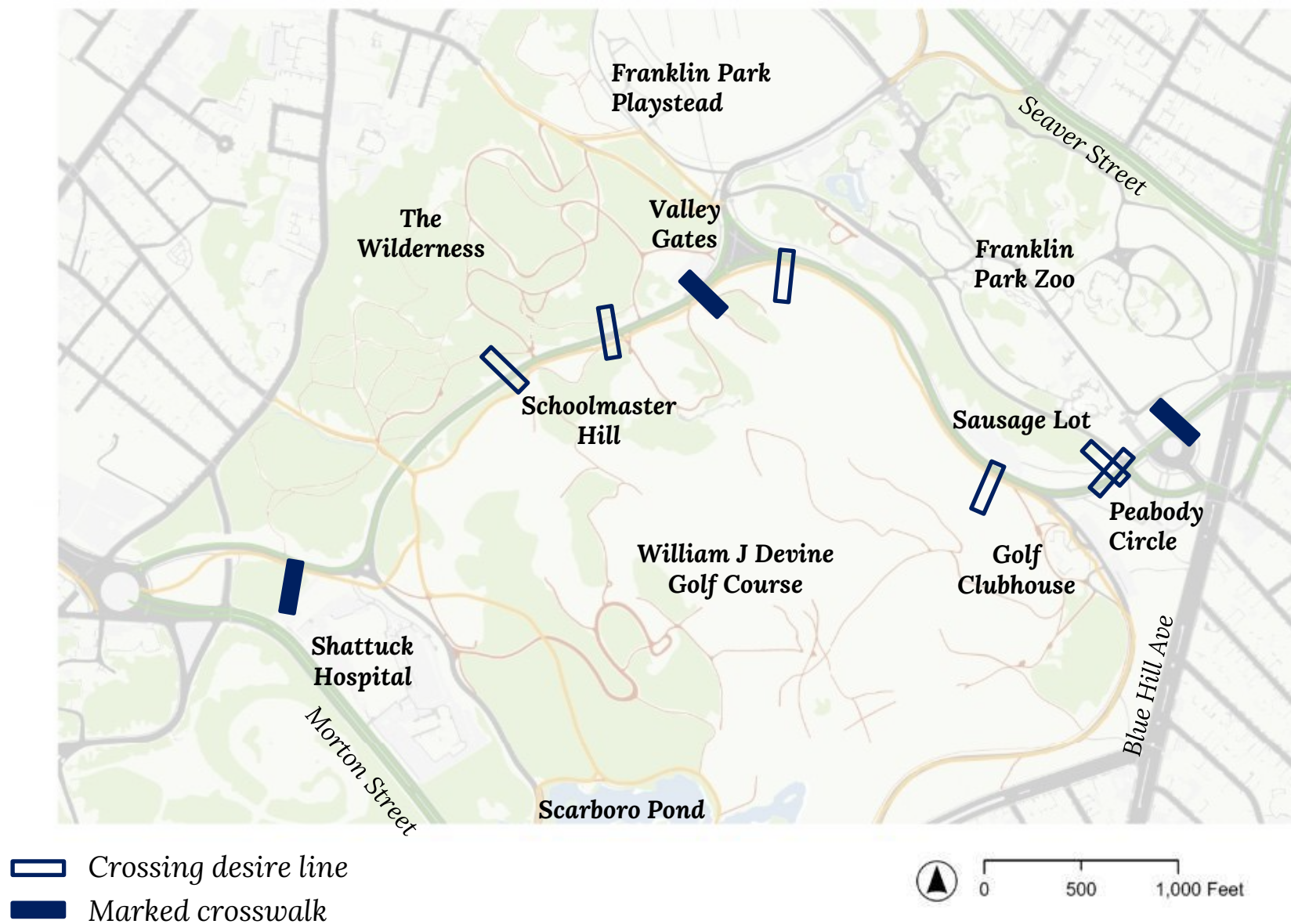
CONTEXT



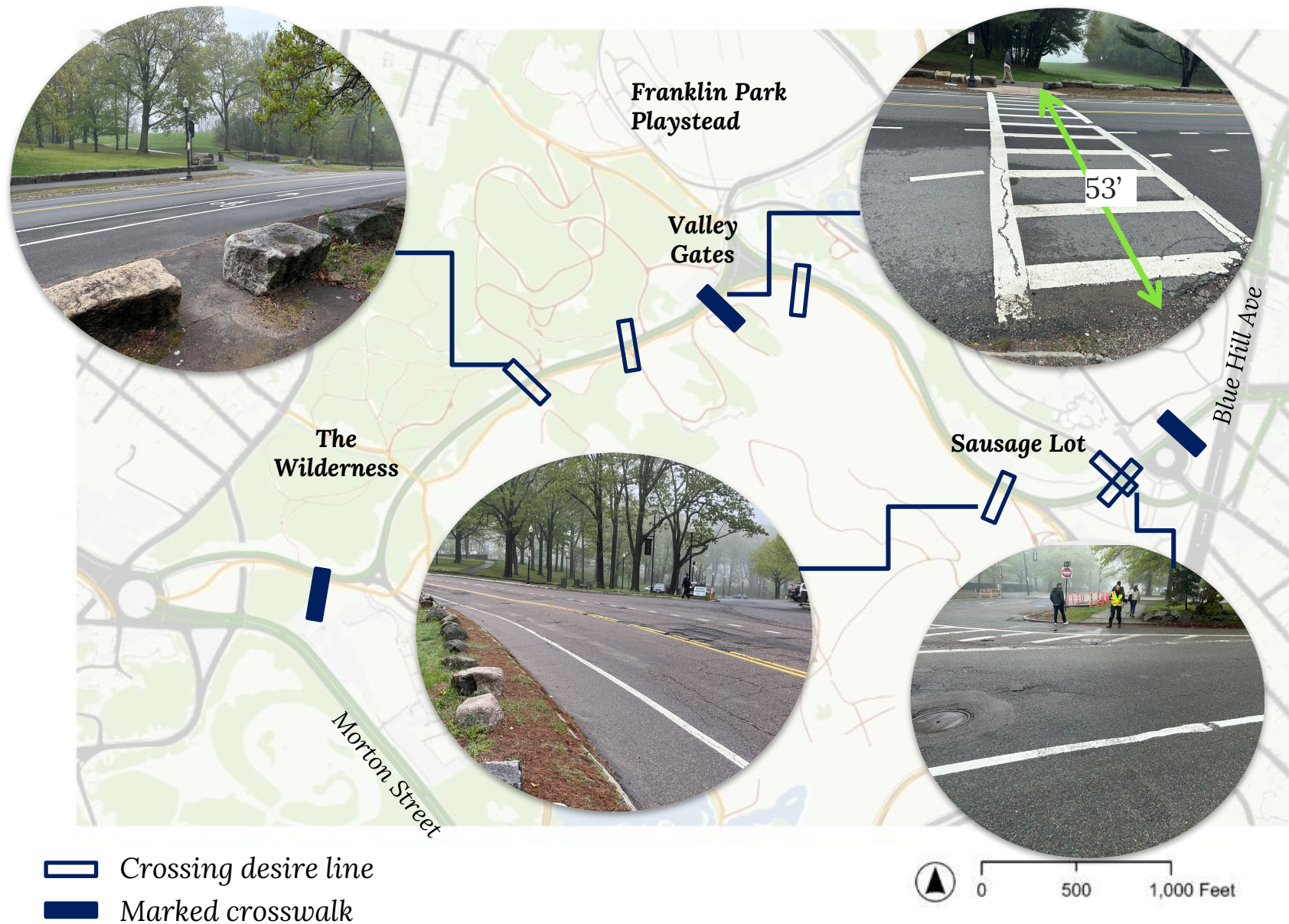
CIRCUIT DRIVE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE



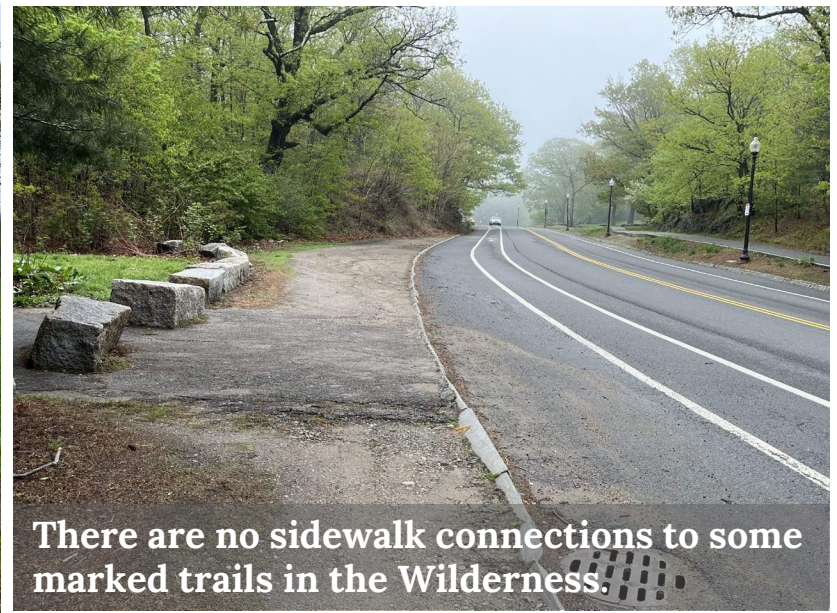
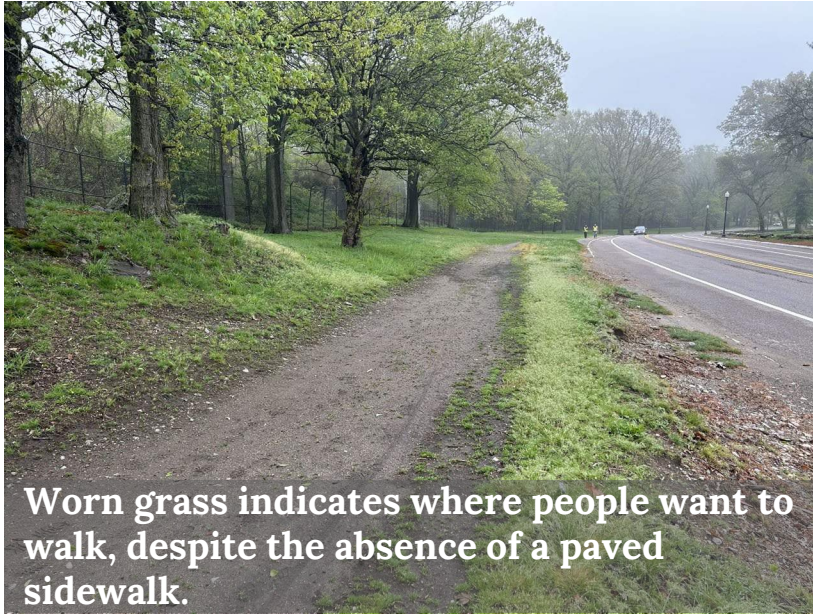
SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS



SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS



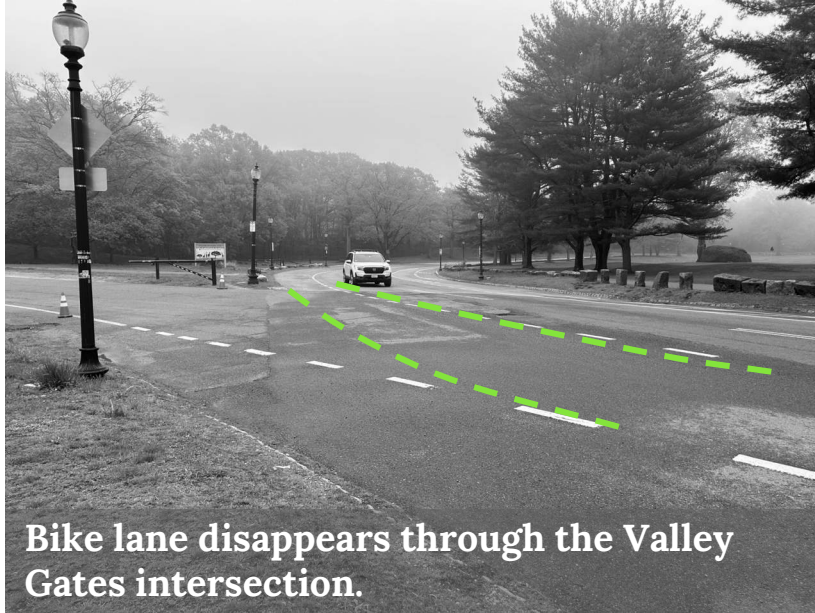
SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – PEDESTRIAN DESIRE PATHS



SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – INCONSISTENT BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE



SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – INCONSISTENT BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE



SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – ACCESSIBILITY AT BUS STOPS



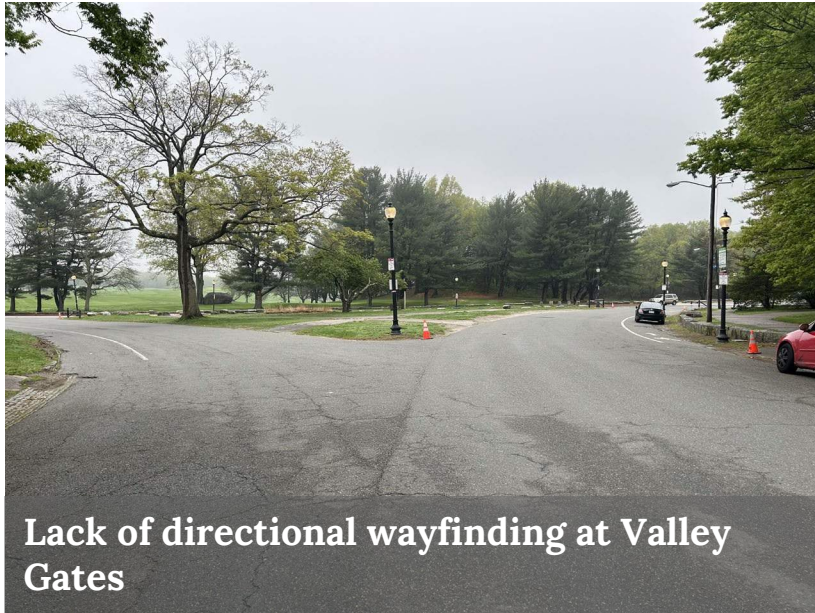
**Sediment impacts at a pedestrian ramp
across from Shattuck Hospital**



**No clear location for bus riders to wait,
board, or alight at Valley Gates.**



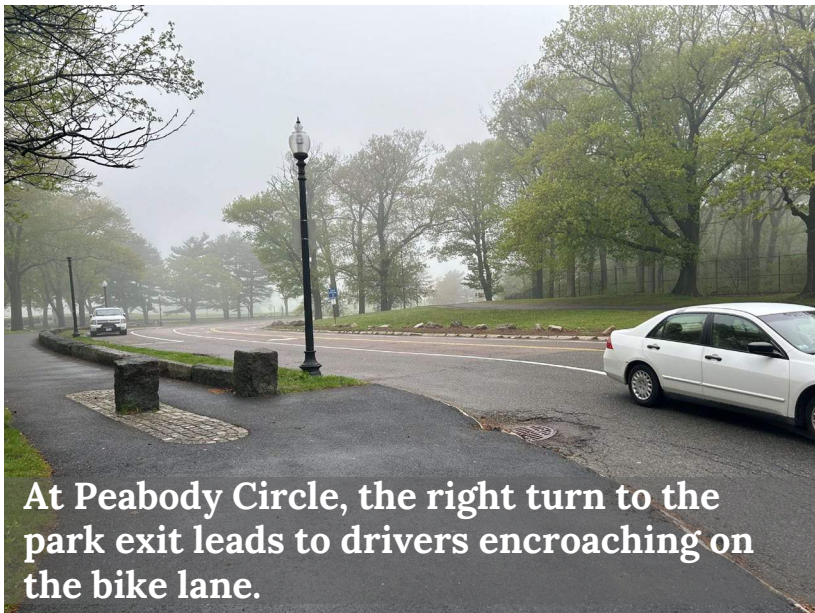
SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – CONFUSING EXPECTATIONS FOR DRIVERS



Lack of directional wayfinding at Valley Gates



Dual signals at Peabody Circle may encourage drivers to speed up to “beat the light”.



At Peabody Circle, the right turn to the park exit leads to drivers encroaching on the bike lane.



Pedestrian crossing signage without a corresponding marked crosswalk near Schoolmaster Hill.

SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – ROAD GEOMETRY ALLOWS HIGH SPEEDS



Wide pavement width at Shattuck Hospital



Wide pavement and turning radius at Valley Gates



Long straightaway by Schoolmaster Hill.



Long straightaway along the Golf Course.

SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – ROAD GEOMETRY ALLOWS HIGH SPEEDS



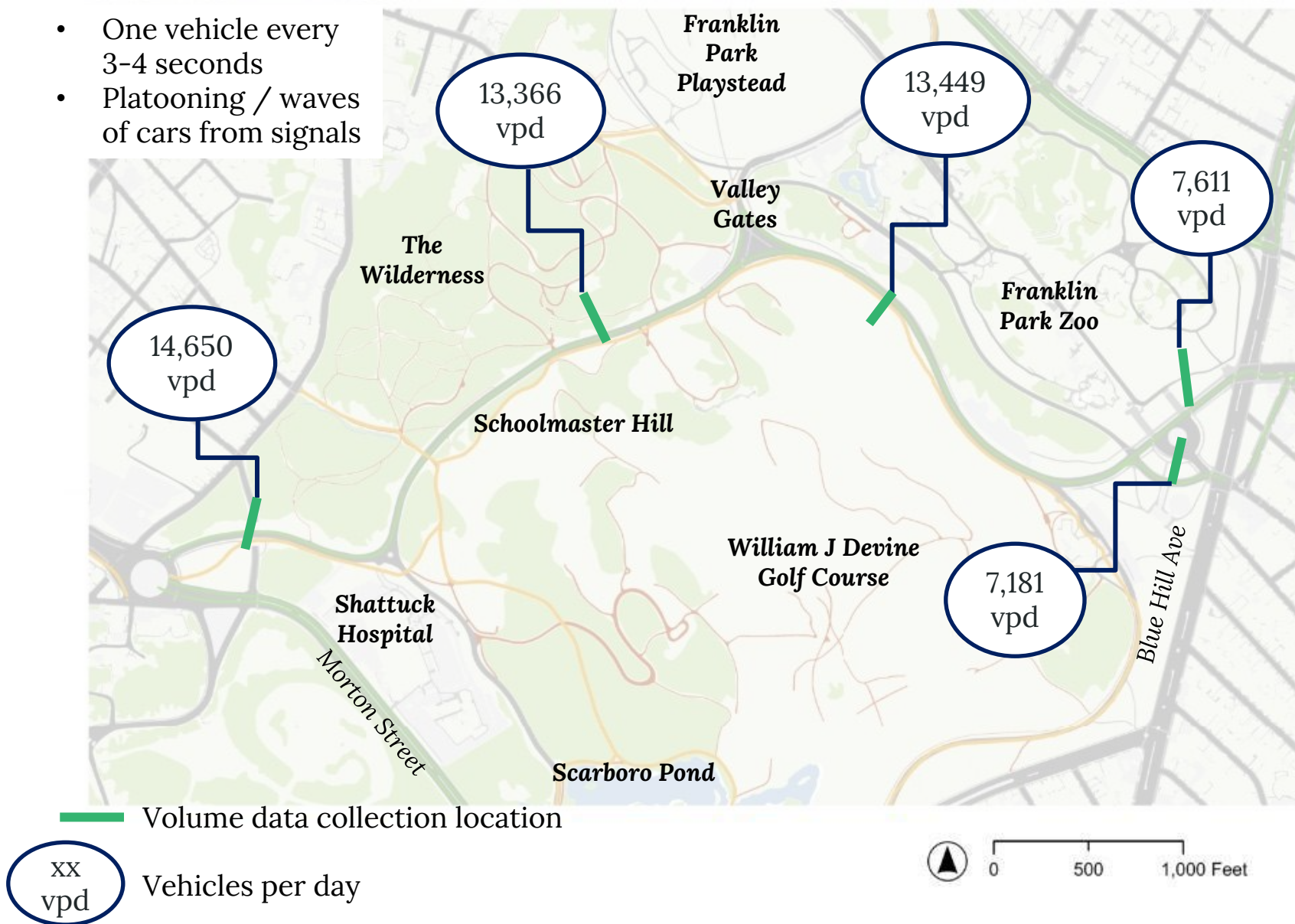
SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – WIDE PAVEMENT MEANS MORE STORMWATER RUNOFF



SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – TRAFFIC VOLUMES

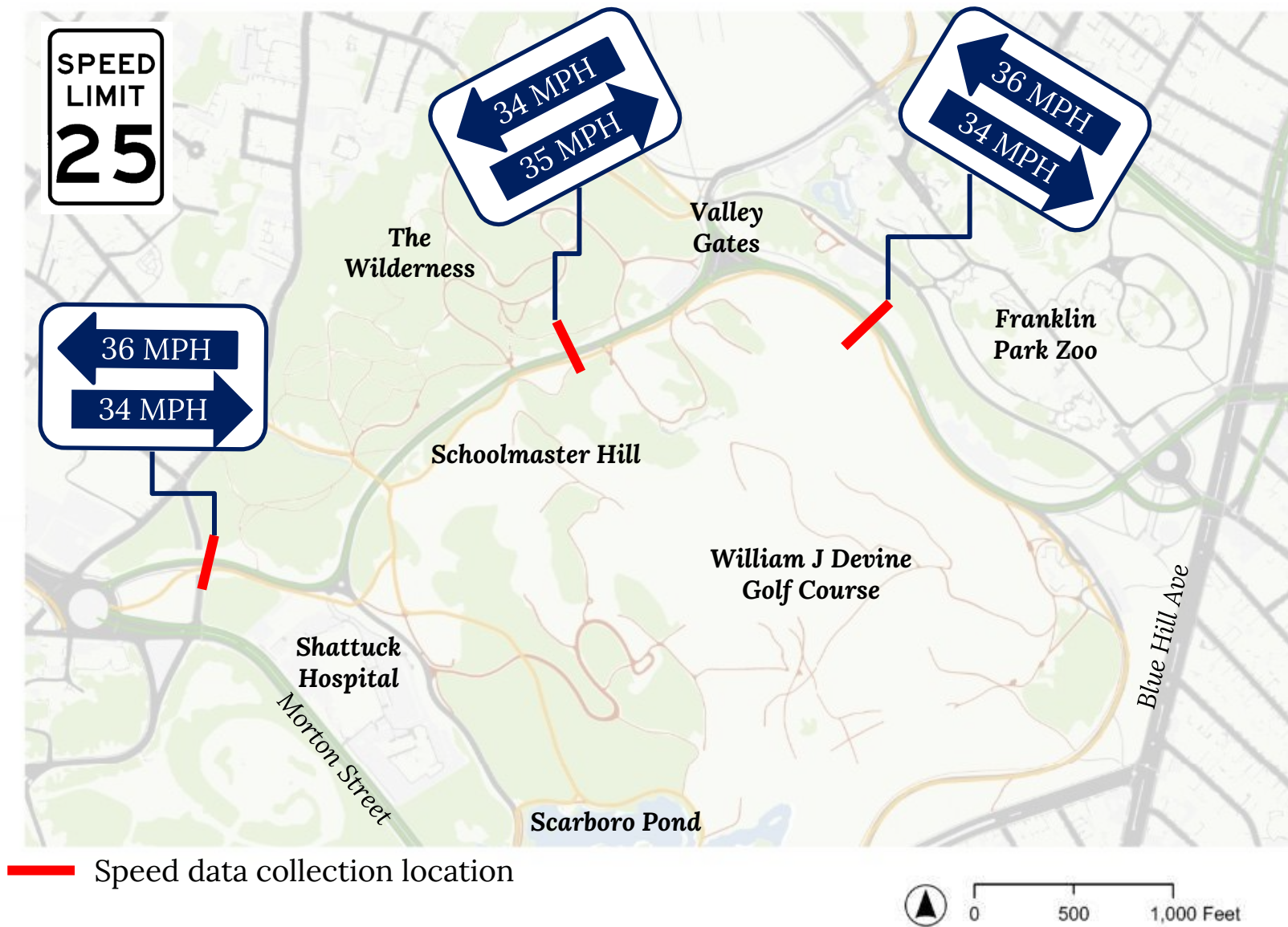
Total volumes on Friday, 3/28/25

- One vehicle every 3-4 seconds
- Platooning / waves of cars from signals

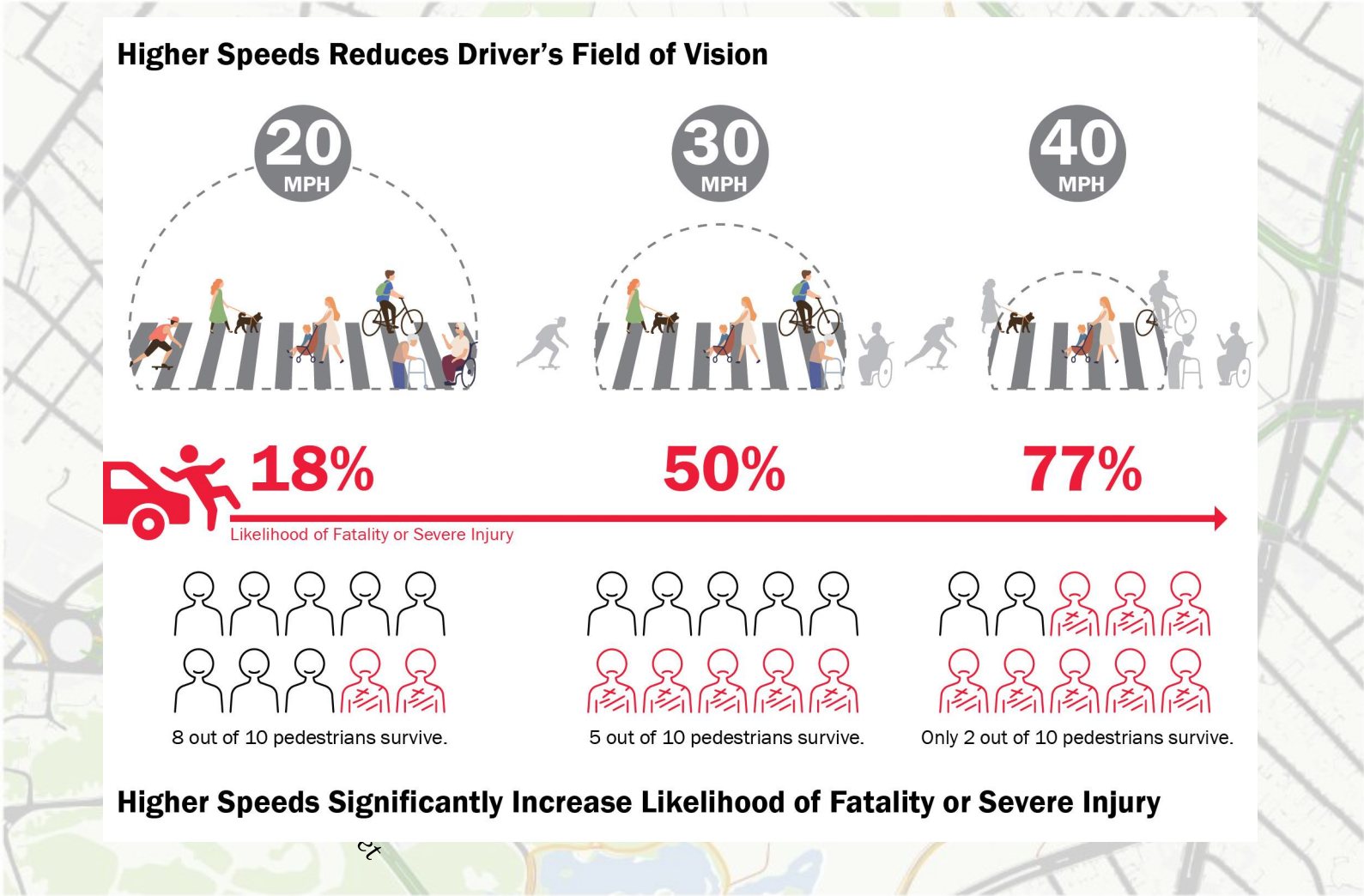


SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – TRAFFIC SPEEDS

Average 24-hr Directional Speeds
on Friday 3/28/25



SAFETY OBSERVATIONS – TRAFFIC SPEEDS



TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT TOOLKIT – SAFER CROSSINGS



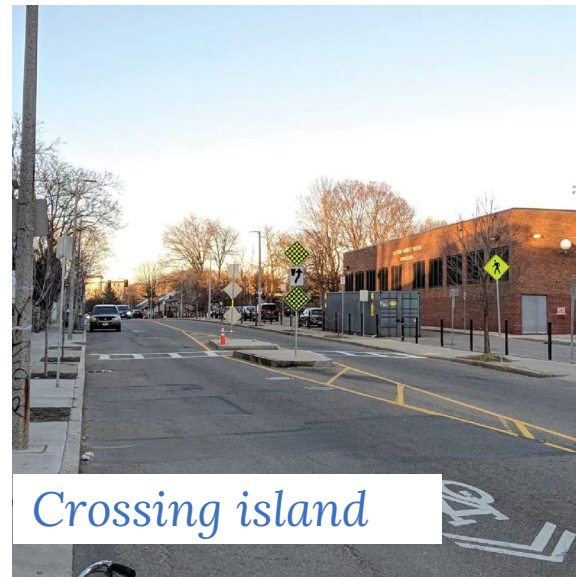
Raised crosswalk



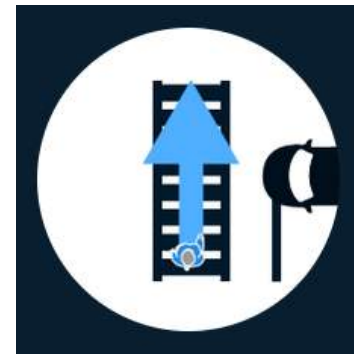
Curb extension



Rapid flashing beacon



Crossing island



TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT TOOLKIT – SAFER TURNS



Slow turn wedge



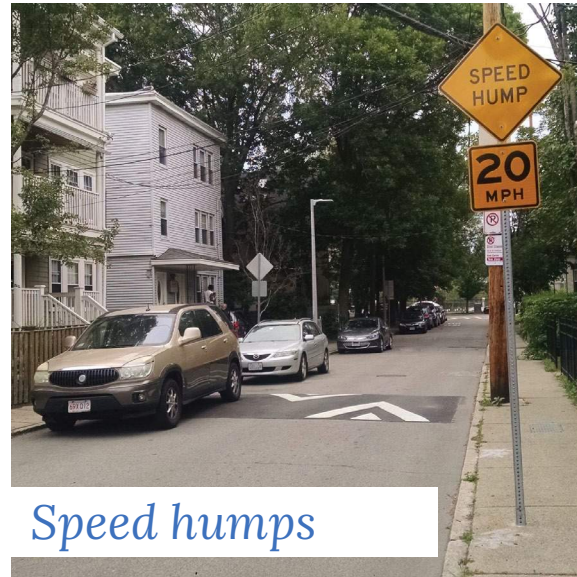
Curb extension



“T” intersection



TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT TOOLKIT – SAFER SPEEDS



PRECEDENTS FROM OTHER BOSTON PARKS

Raised Crossing,
Emerald Necklace



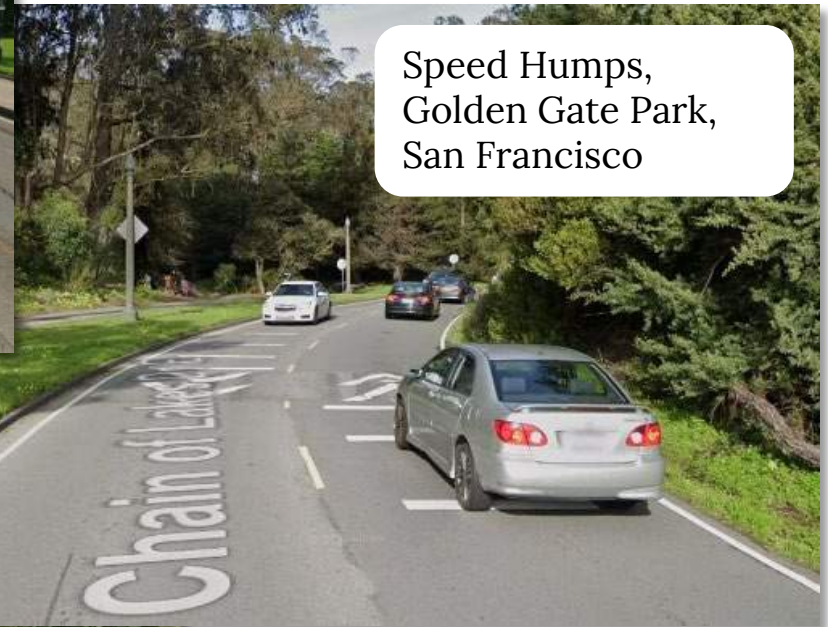
Arnold Arboretum Entrance
Improvements



PRECEDENTS FROM OTHER CITY PARKS



Curb Protected Bike Lane,
Humboldt Park, Chicago



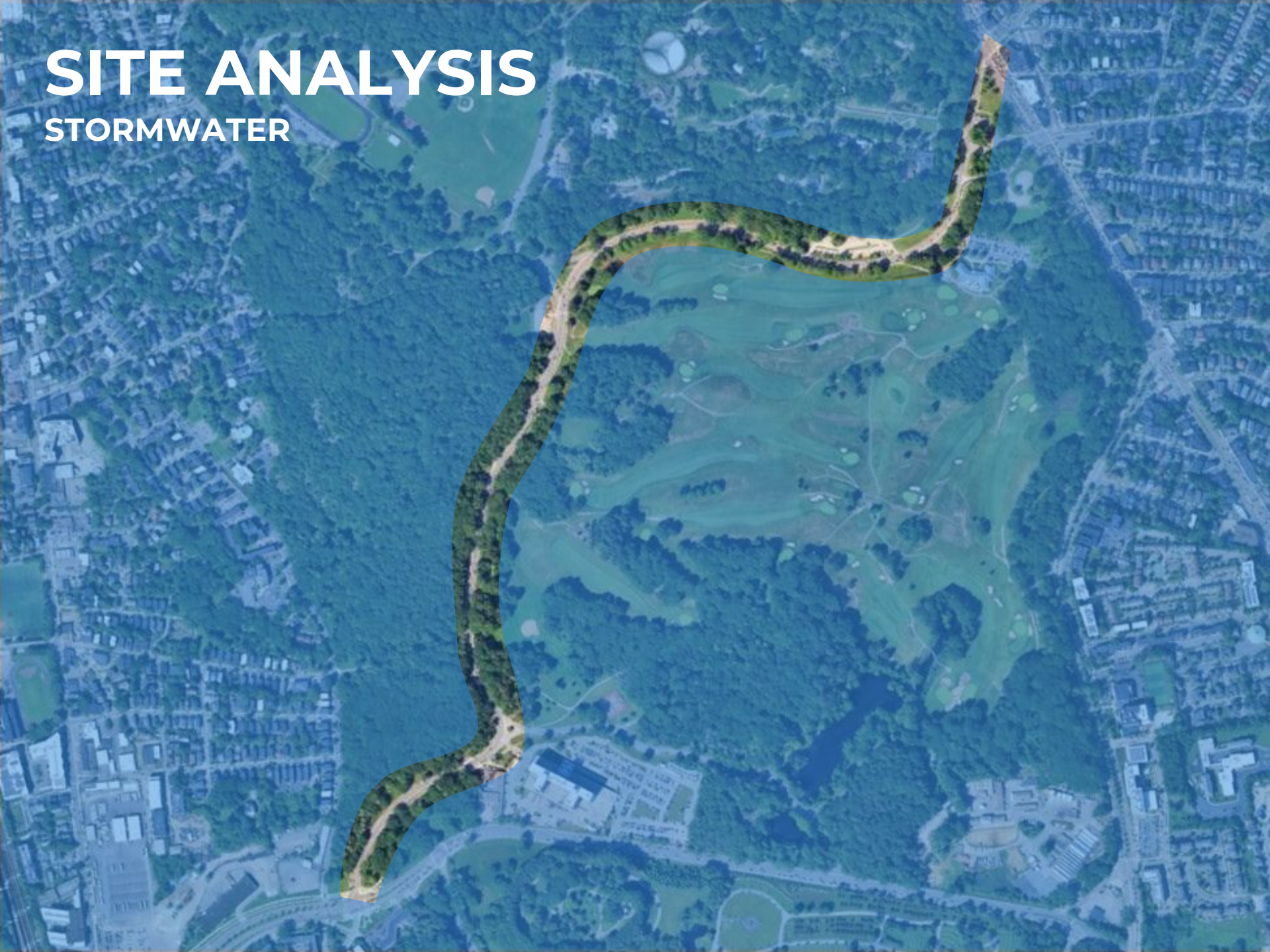
Speed Humps,
Golden Gate Park,
San Francisco



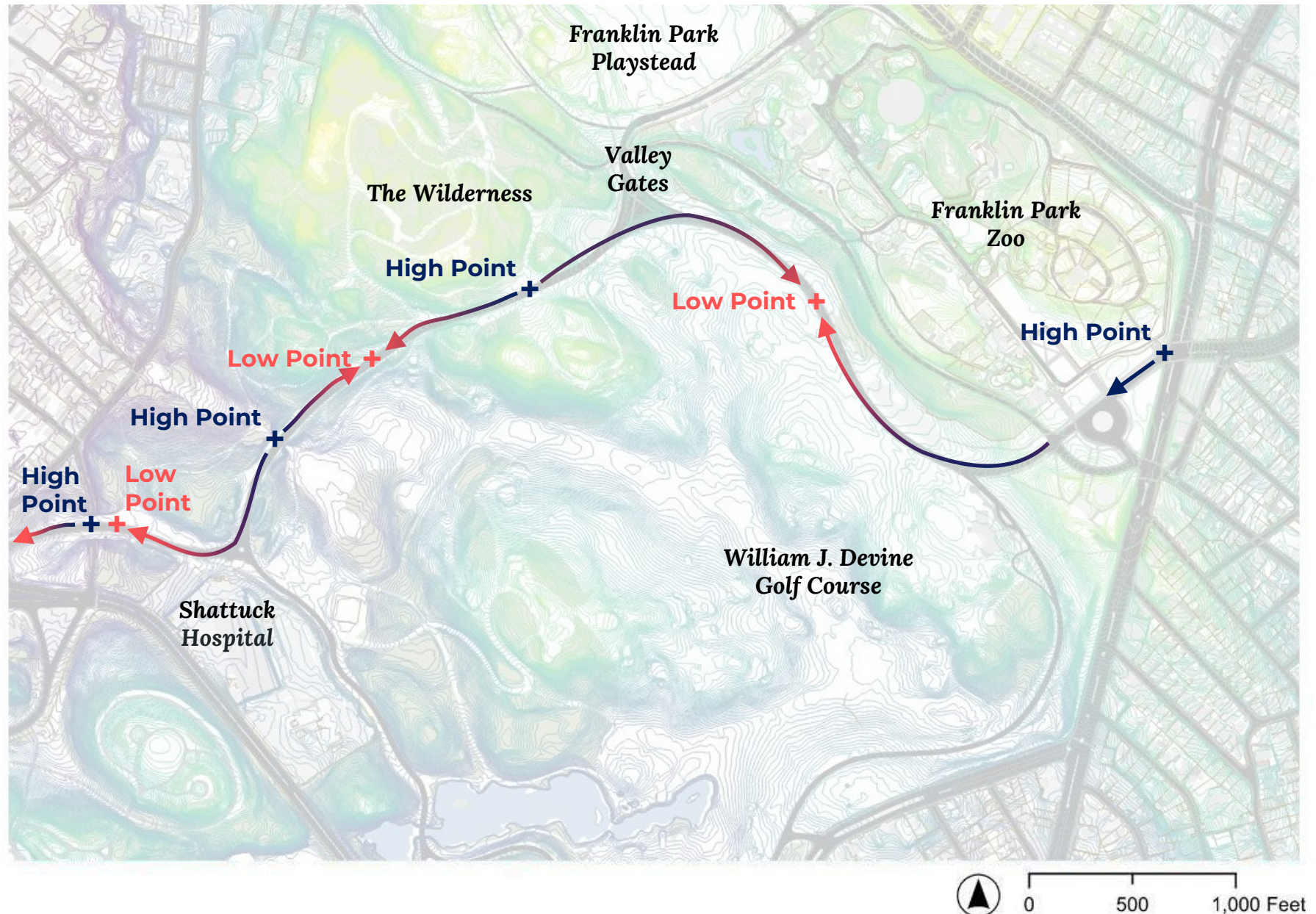
Mode Separation,
Prospect Park,
Brooklyn

SITE ANALYSIS

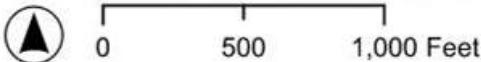
STORMWATER



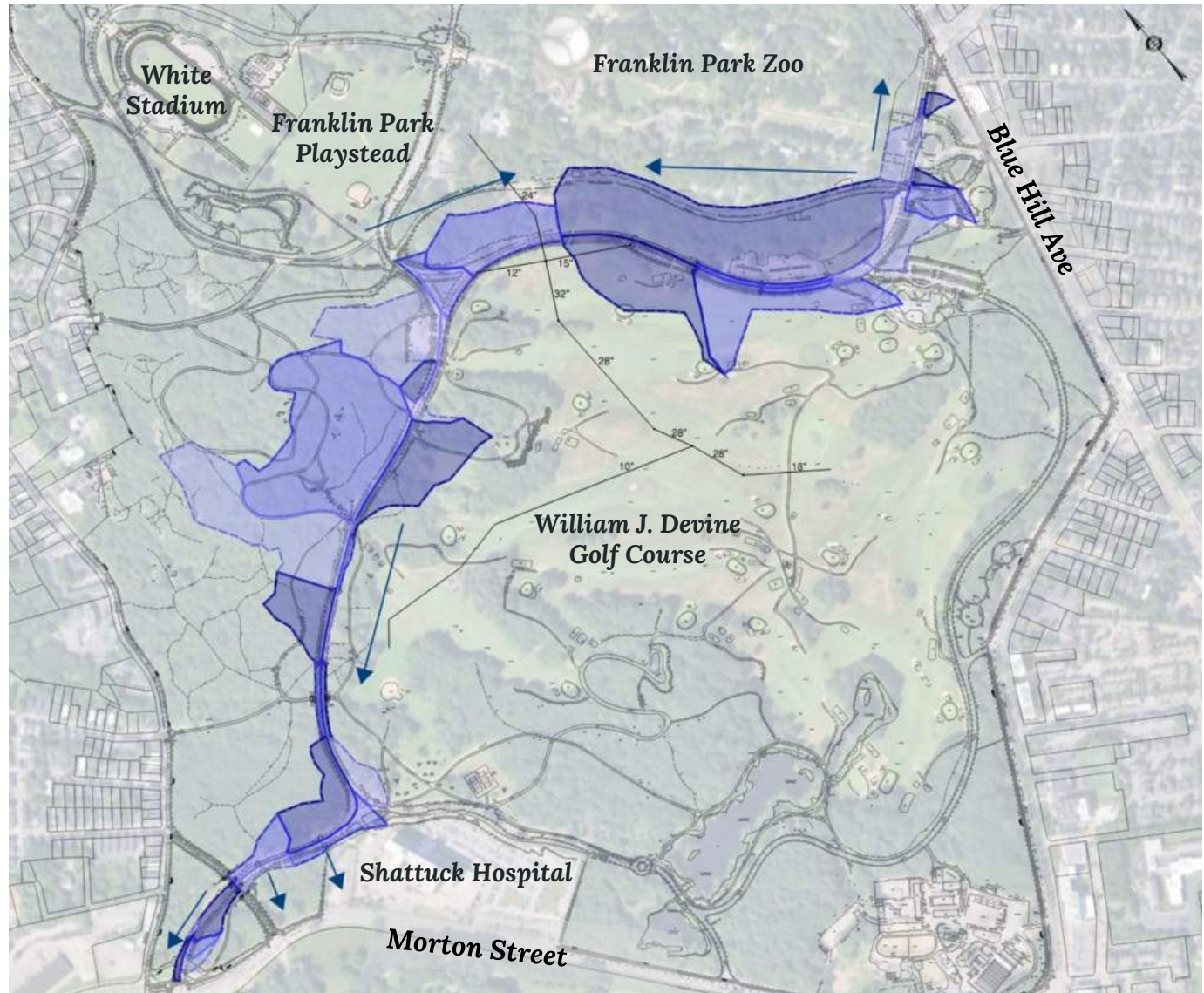
TOPOGRAPHY



KNOWN FLOODING AREAS



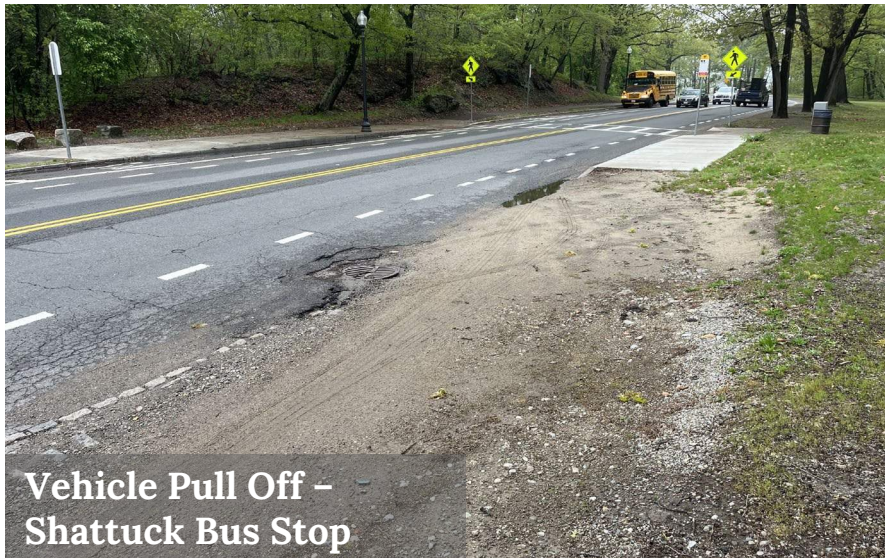
STORMWATER CHALLENGES – LARGE WATERSHEDS/UNDERSIZED DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE



Note: Differing colors denote different catchment areas

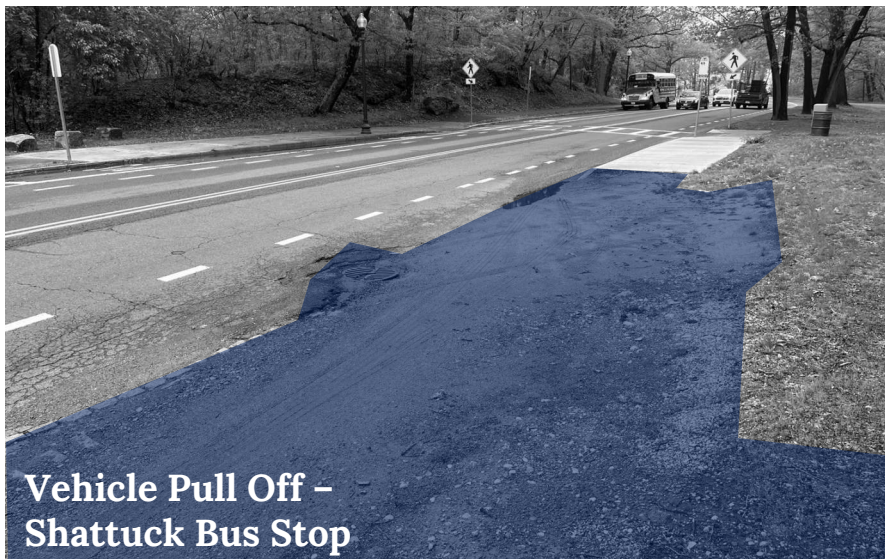
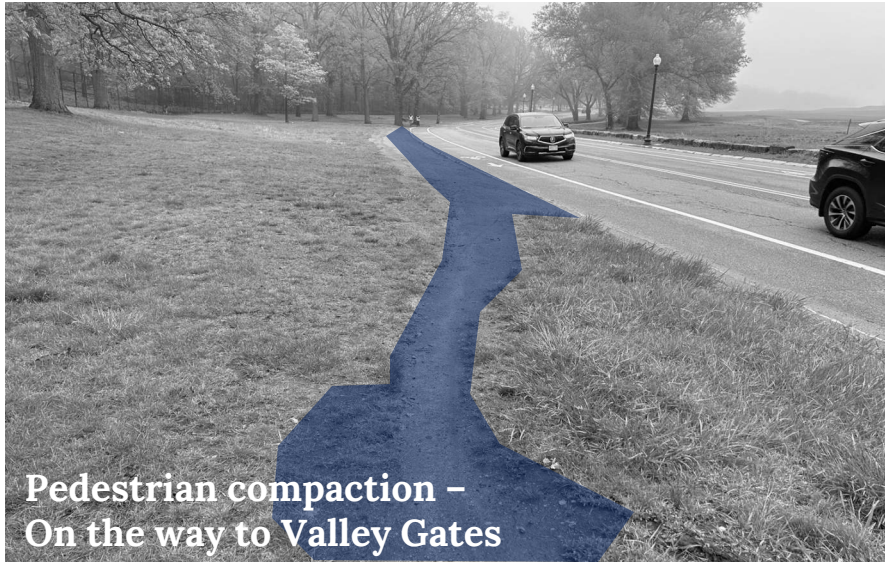
STORMWATER CHALLENGES

1. Erosion and compaction
2. Isolated Low-points
3. Aging and undersized drainage infrastructure

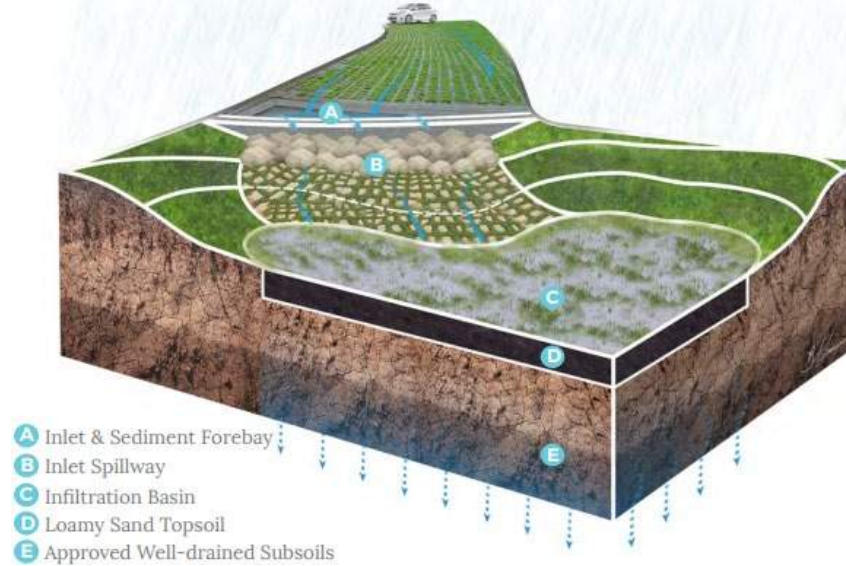


STORMWATER CHALLENGES

1. Erosion and compaction
2. Isolated Low-points
3. Aging and undersized drainage infrastructure



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS



INFILTRATION BASIN

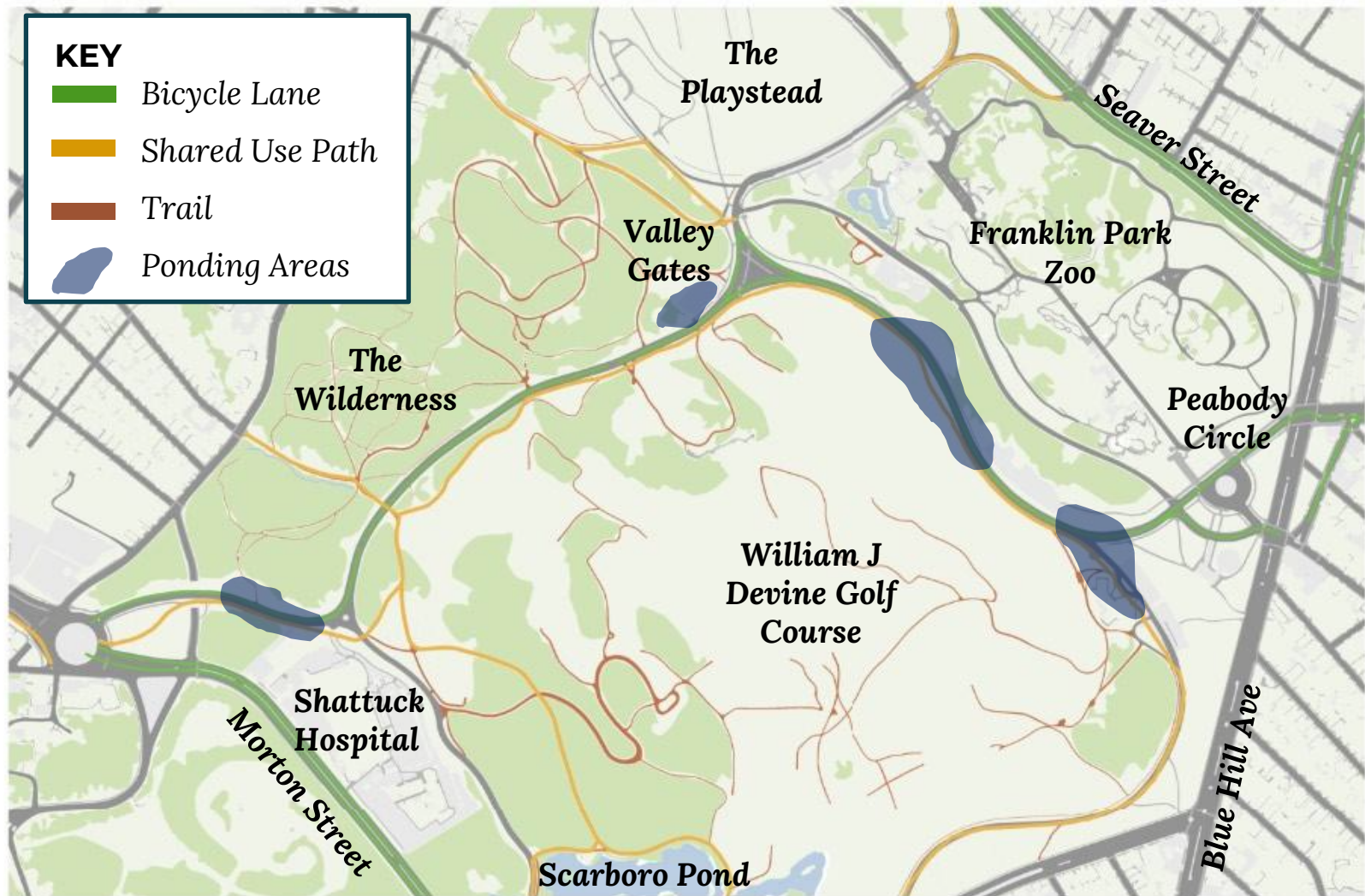


BIORETENTION

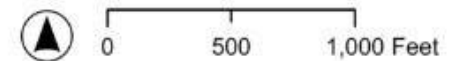


BIORETENTION

Source: Boston Parks and Recreation Green Stormwater Infrastructure Design and Implementation Guide



LISTENING & DISCUSSION



- How do you use Circuit Drive?
- What is your experience as a pedestrian or bicyclist in along Circuit Drive?
- What is your experience as a driver along Circuit Drive?
- How has stormwater impacted your experience at Franklin Park?

NEXT STEPS

We hope to see you at the next community engagement session where potential design solutions will be presented!

~ July 2025

Questions after you leave?

boston.gov/circuit-drive

Contact –

AMY LINNÉ

PROJECT MANAGER

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



THANK YOU!

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

