

CIRCUIT DRIVE TRAFFIC CALMING & DRAINAGE

Franklin Park



July 30, 2025
Boston Parks and Recreation



PROJECT TEAM

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NITSCH ENGINEERING

TRANSPORTATION,
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

REED HILDERBRAND

FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN,
ADVISORY INPUT



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

Boston Police Department, B-2

Park Rangers

OUTSIDE PARTNERS

MBTA

Franklin Park Zoo

William J Devine Golf Course

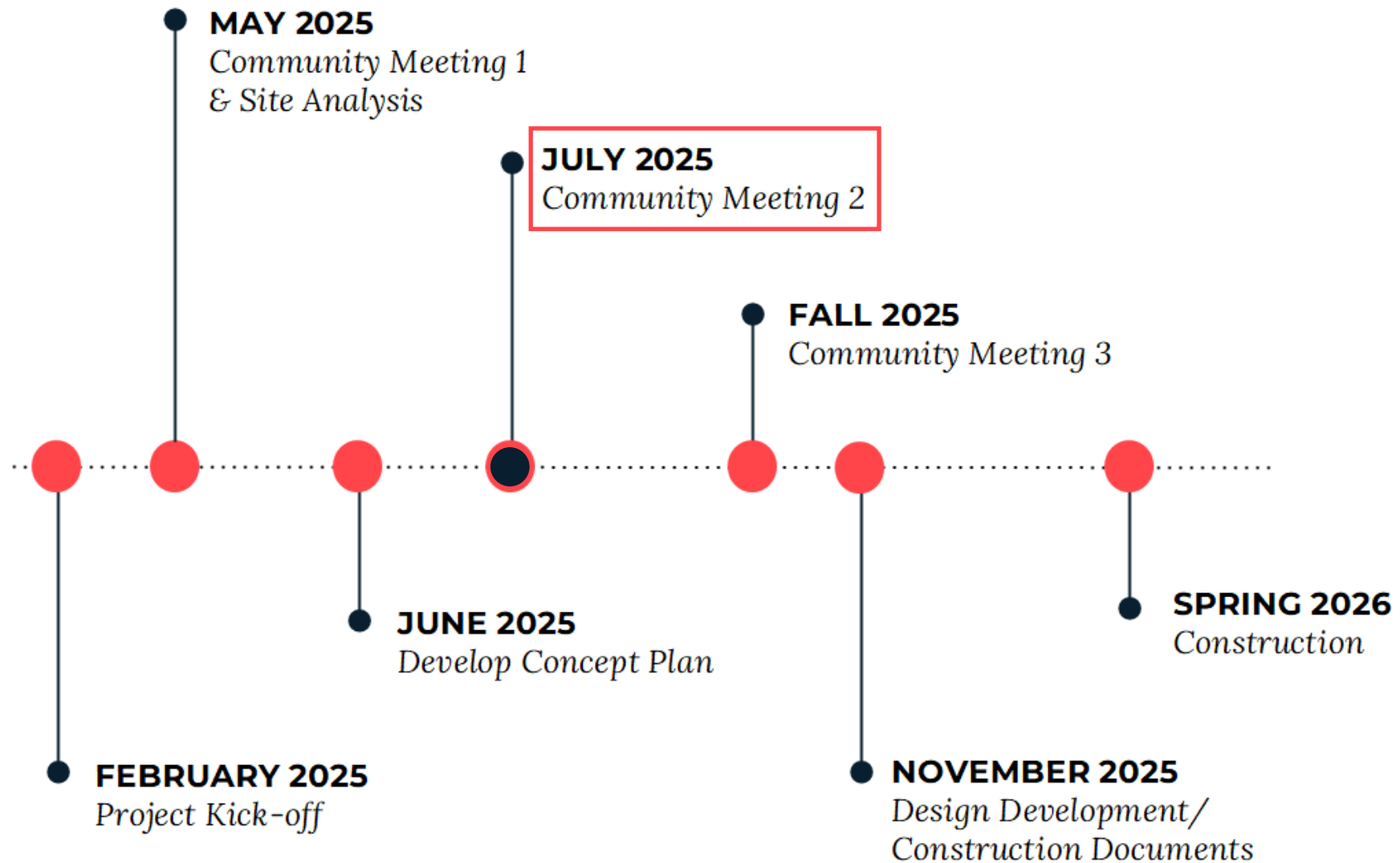
Shattuck Hospital

Franklin Park Coalition

The Community

Massachusetts State Police

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



KEY PLAN

CIRCUIT DRIVE, FRANKLIN PARK, BOSTON, MA

Project: *CIRCUIT DRIVE TRAFFIC & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS*
 Project No.: 16118
 Client Name: BOSTON PARKS DEPT

Drawn By: MCA
 Checked By: JTB
 Date: 07/28/2025

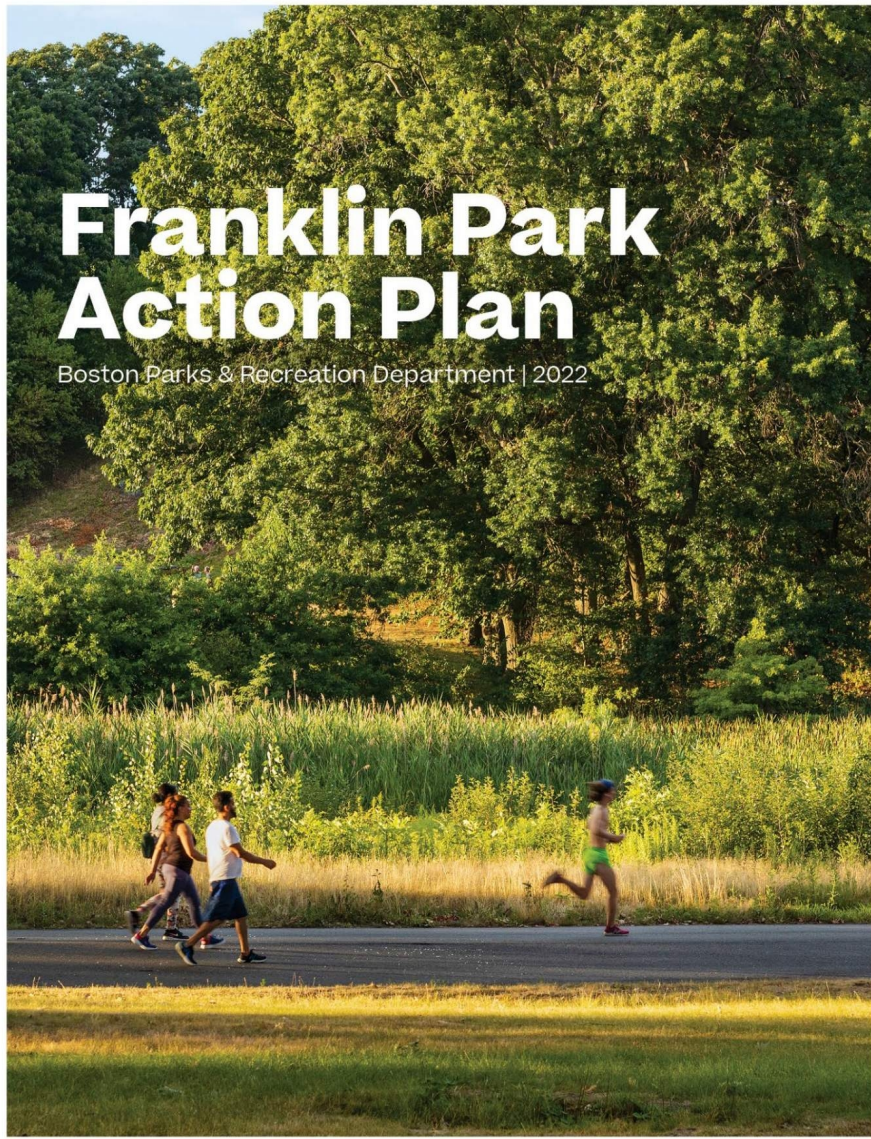
KEY PLAN

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN

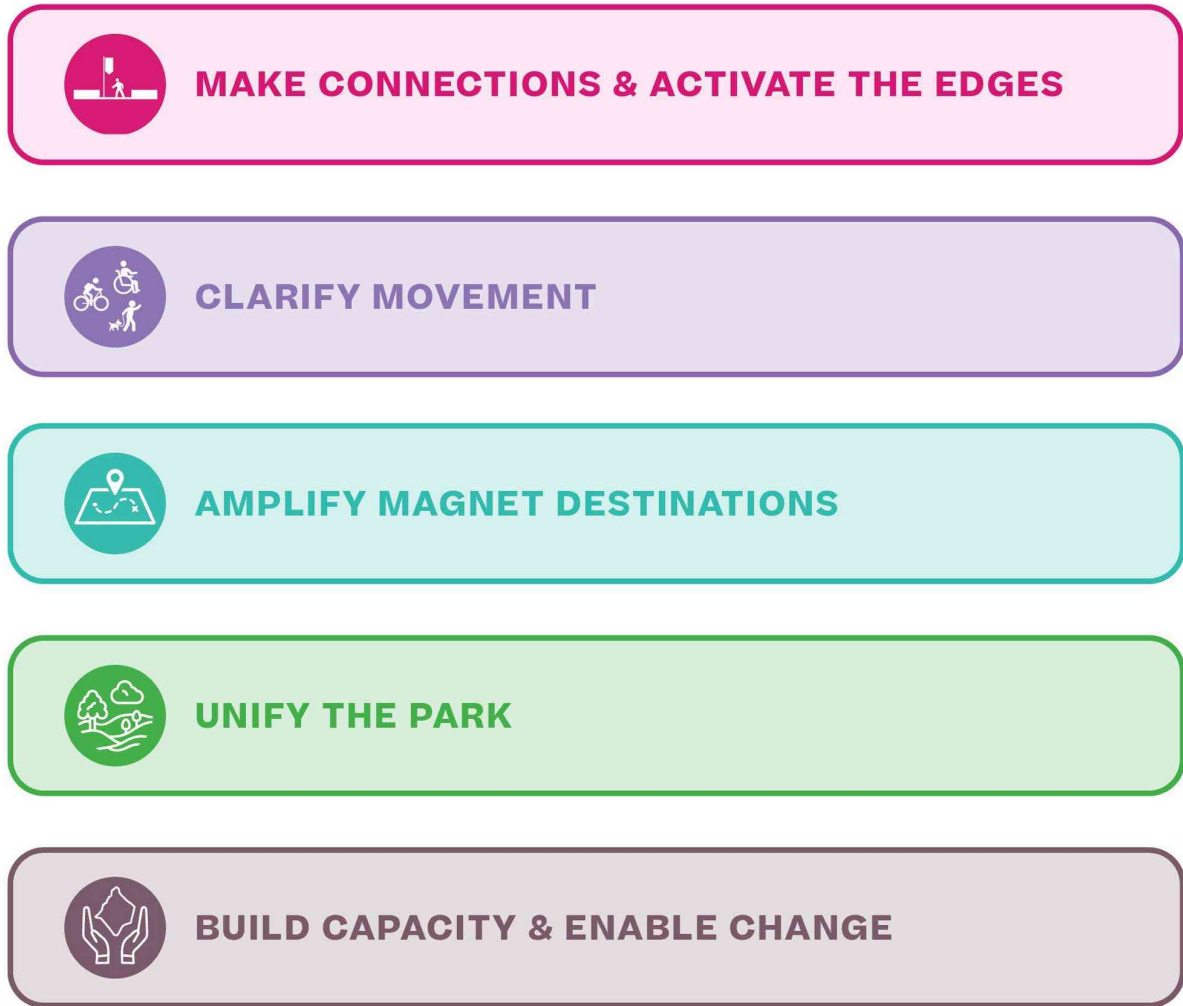
PROJECT GOALS

- 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

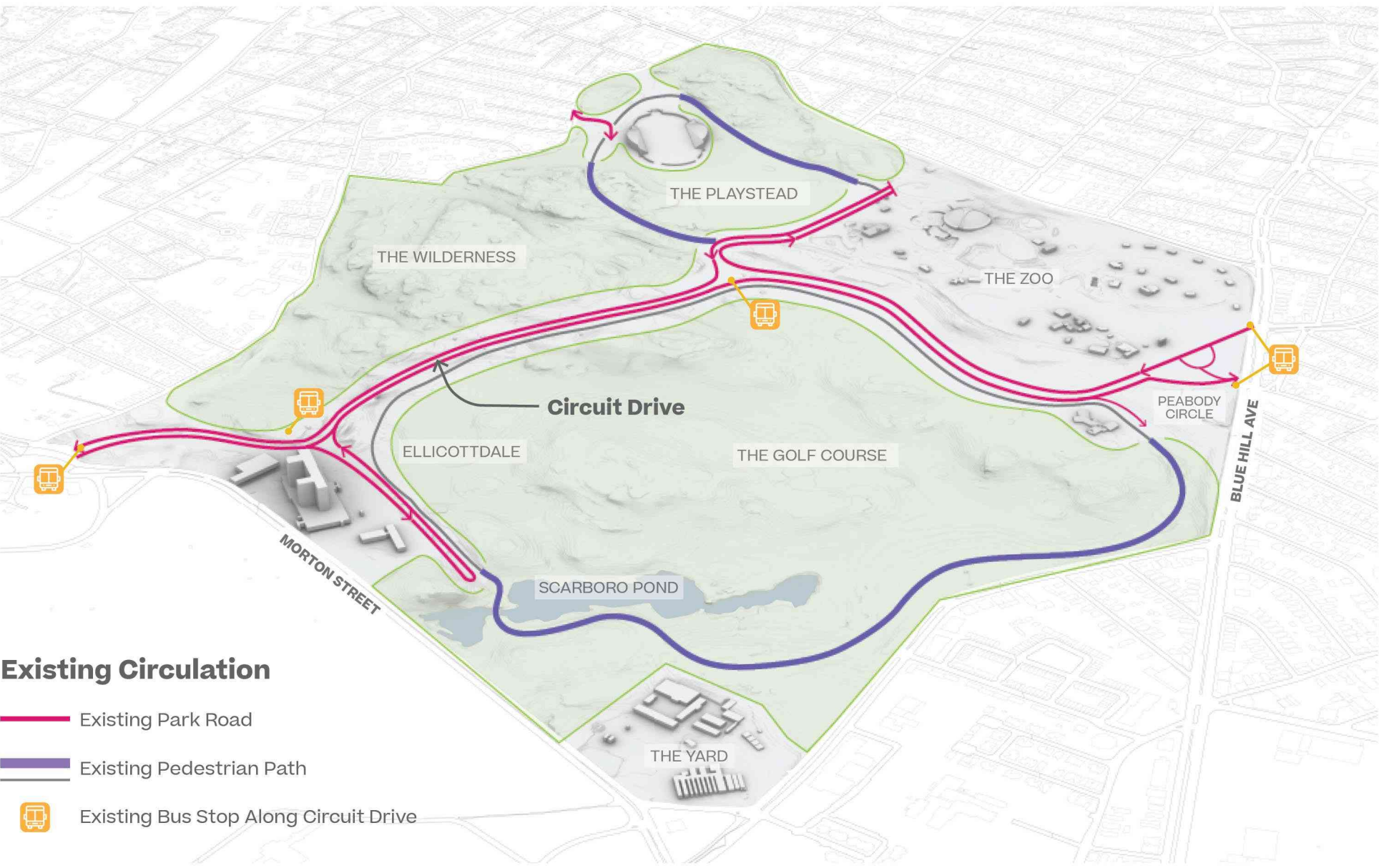
FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN



FOUR BIG IDEAS → FIVE PRIMARY PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS



CIRCUIT DRIVE TODAY EXISTING CIRCULATION



DRAINAGE TODAY CHALLENGES



CIRCUIT DRIVE TODAY THE HEART OF THE PARK



CIRCUIT DRIVE TODAY CHALLENGES

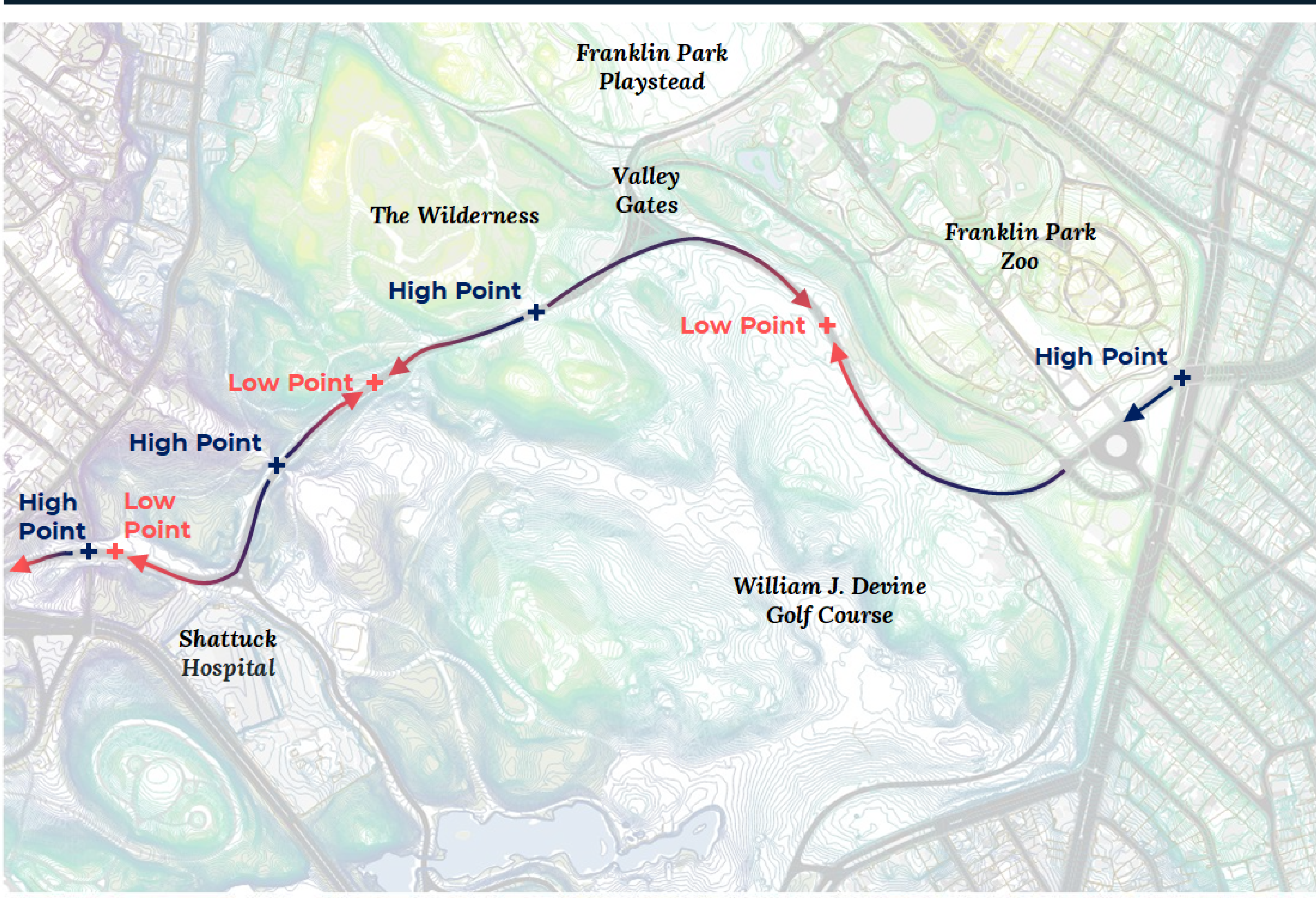


STORMWATER CONSIDERATIONS

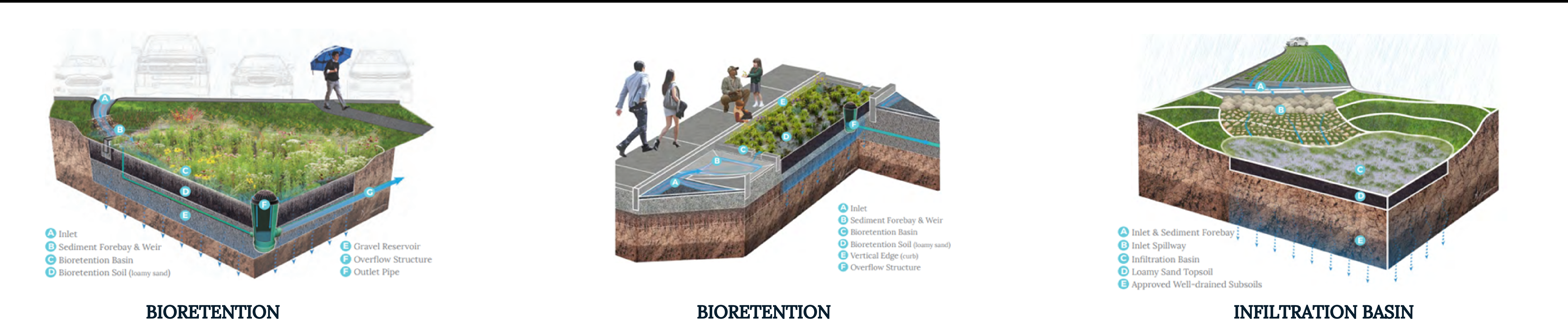
KNOWN FLOODING AREAS



TOPOGRAPHY

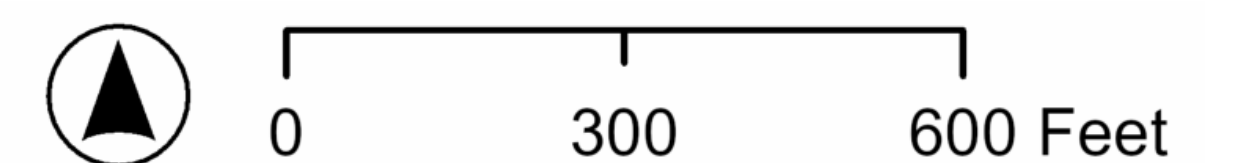
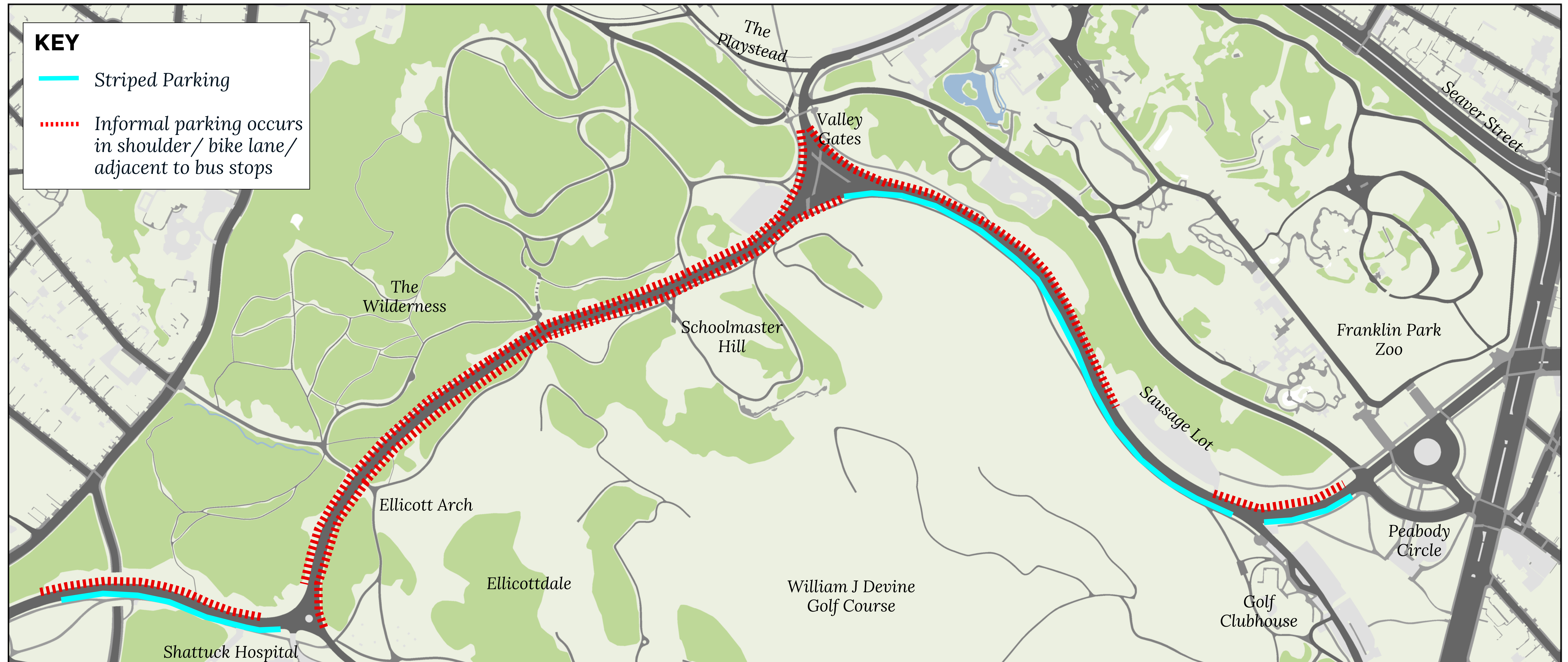


POTENTIAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS



EXISTING PARKING

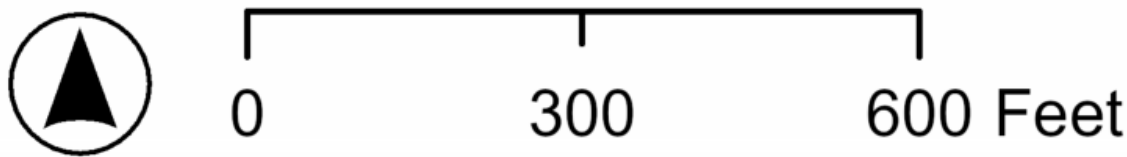
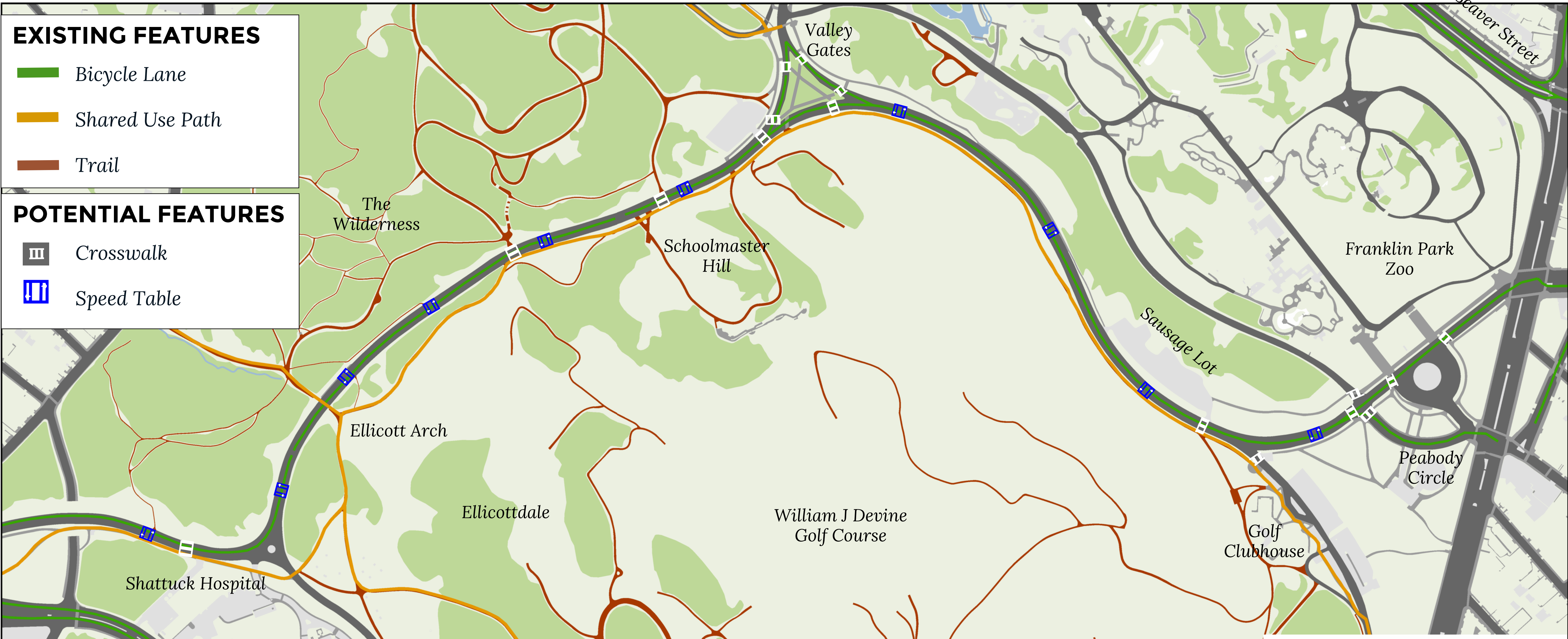
- High parking demand during events creates surges in parking usage compared to normal activities
- Conflicts between bicyclists, drivers trying to park, parked cars, and pedestrians walking to park pathways
- Informal parking in shoulder and landscape degrades off-pavement landscape and creates drainage challenges



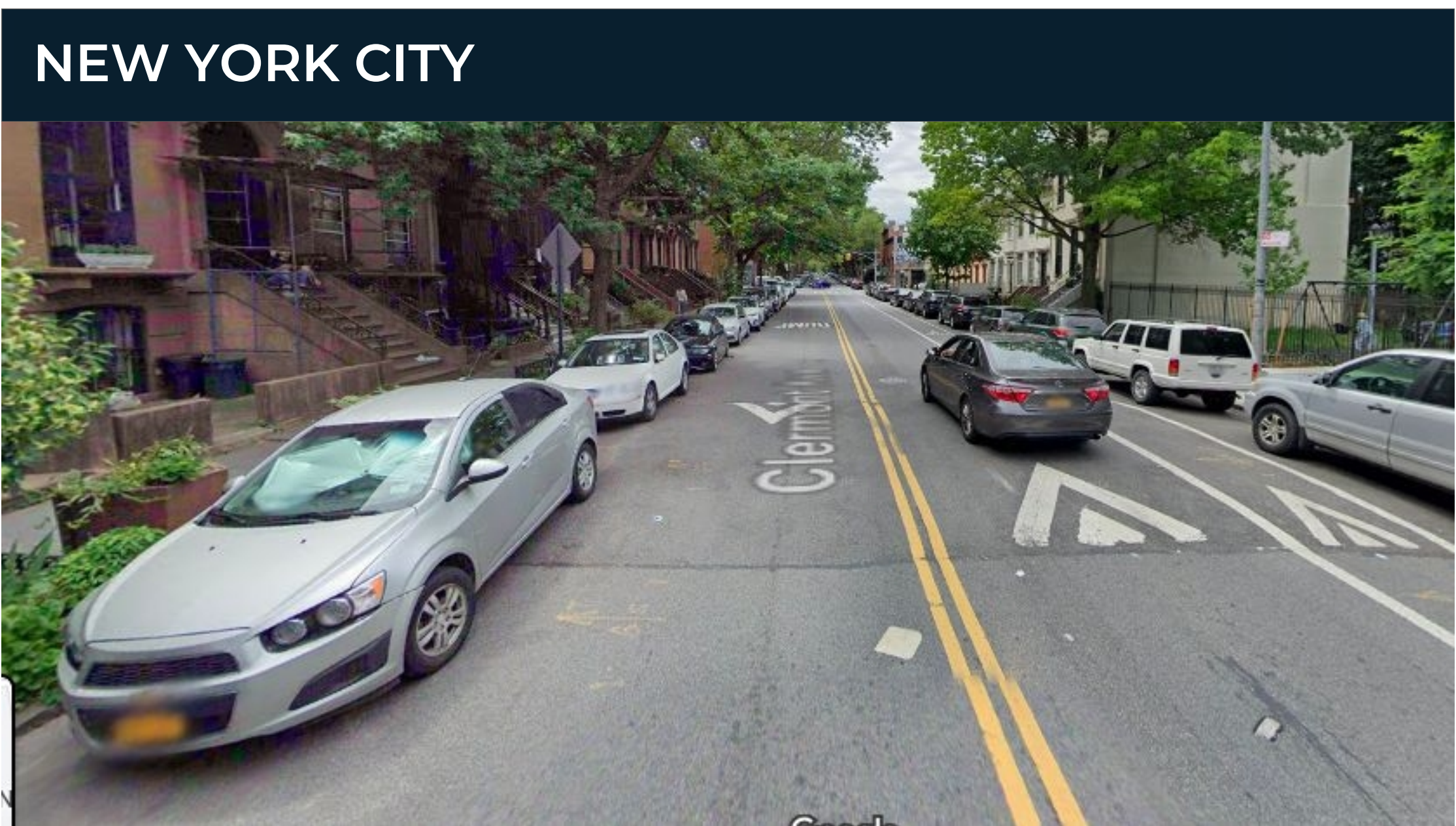
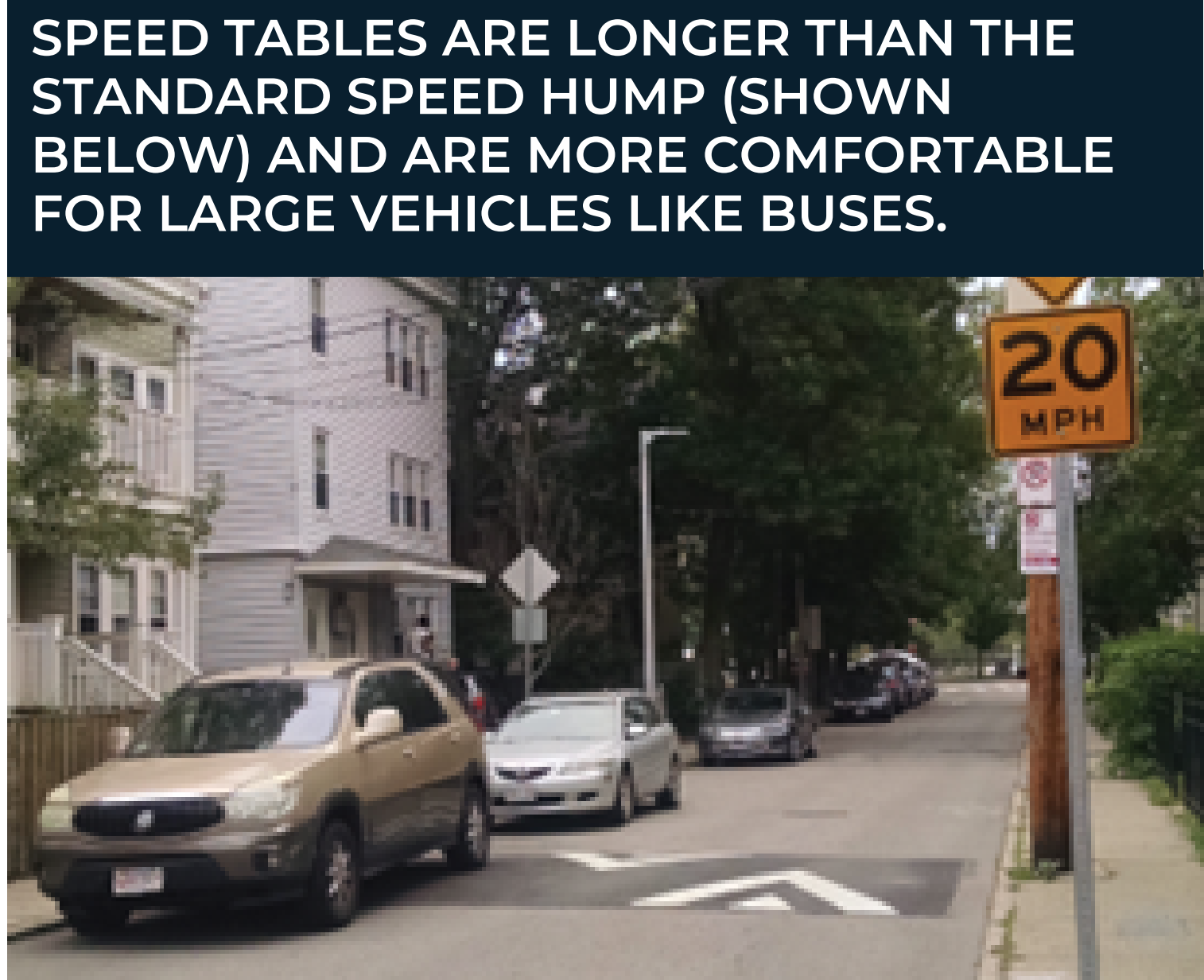
Informal parking activity during a recent event.

TRAFFIC CALMING - CROSSWALKS AND SPEED TABLES

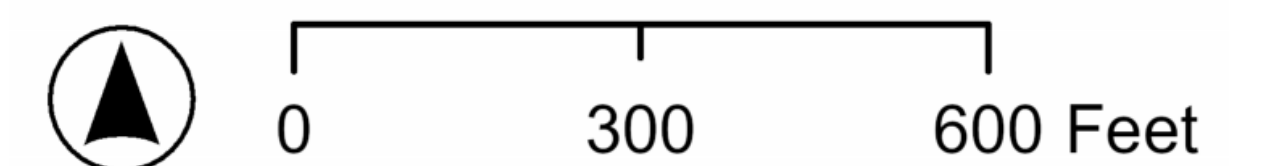
- Potential for 5 new crosswalks along Circuit Drive to increase pedestrian safety and park connectivity
- Potential for 10 speed tables, spaced to encourage slower vehicle speeds through the park



SPEED TABLE EXAMPLES FROM OTHER CITIES



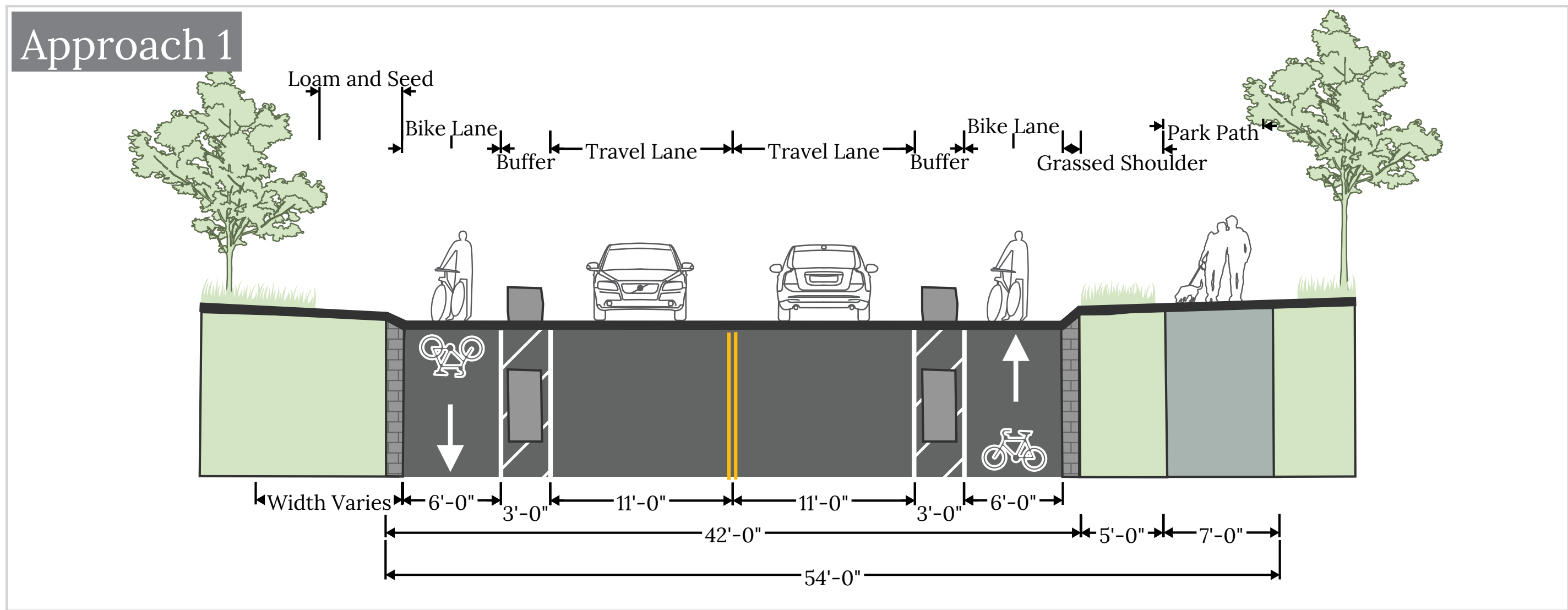
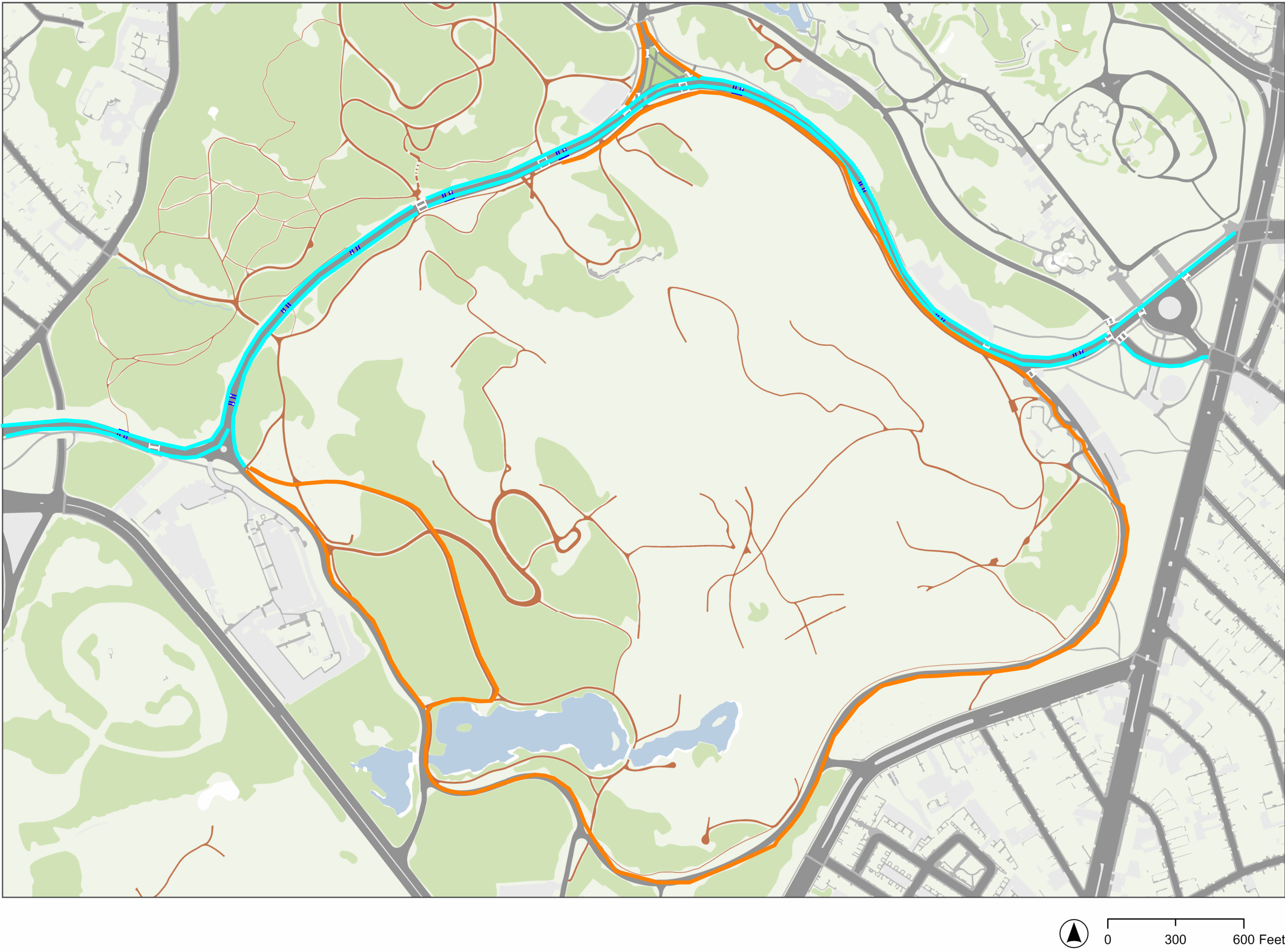
POTENTIAL LOCATIONS OF SHORT-TERM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS



- Locations selected in coordination with transportation upgrades, and drainage upgrades will be constructed simultaneously with transportation work.
- Plant selections made to prioritize continuity with the prevailing landscape character of adjacent park areas.
- Longer term investments for drainage infrastructure would also be required.

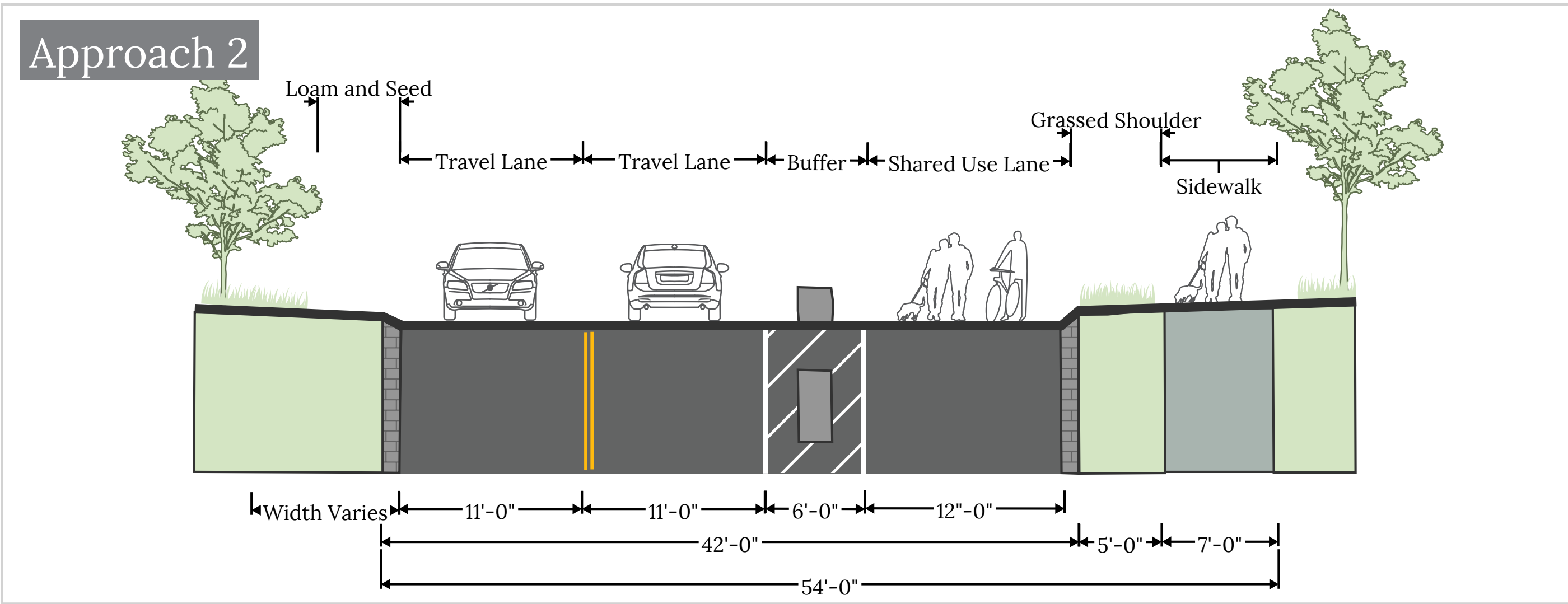
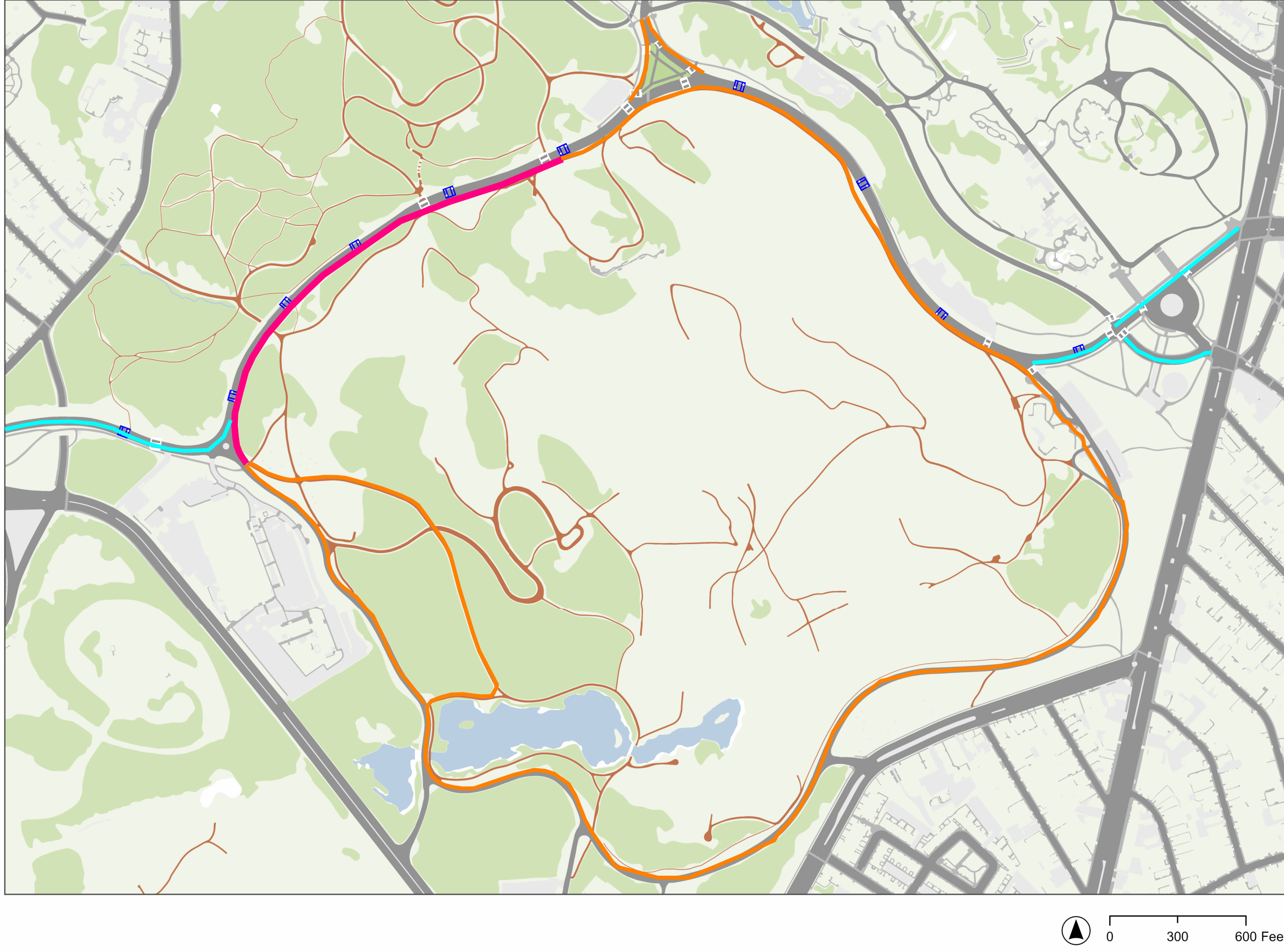
APPROACH 1 – BUFFERED BIKE LANES

Creates separated, designated, and continuous travel lanes for cyclists to move through the park from one end to another.



APPROACH 2 – SHARED USE PATH

Completes the Circuit Loop by combining pedestrian and bicyclist use into a single space, while maintaining vehicular traffic along Circuit Drive and accommodating bike through traffic.



PRECEDENTS

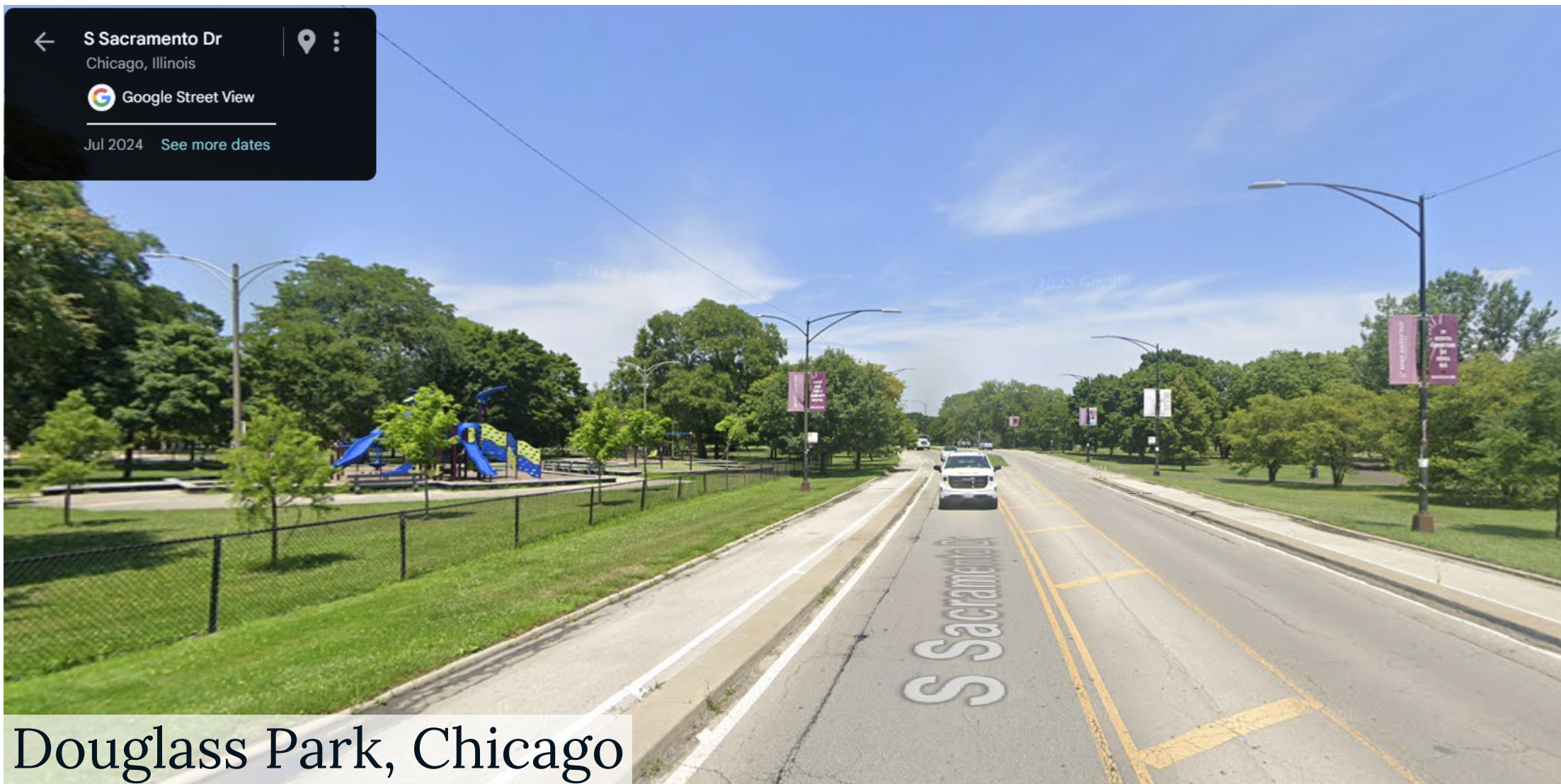
MODE SEPARATION

PAINTED SEPARATION



Public Garden, Boston

PHYSICAL SEPARATION



Douglass Park, Chicago



Central Park, New York City



Central Park, New York City

CURB HARDENING AND REINFORCEMENT



Prospect Park, New York City

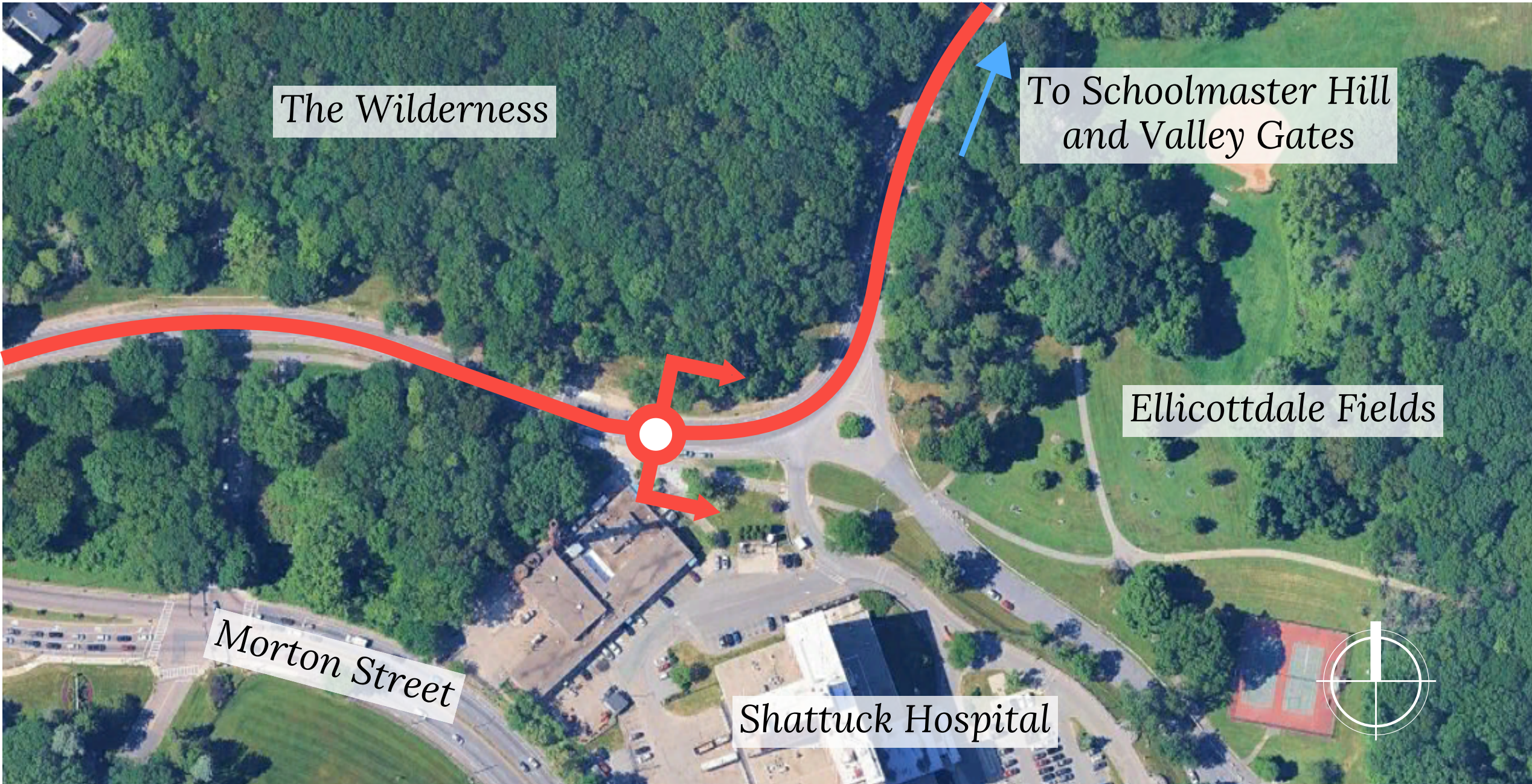


Boston, MA

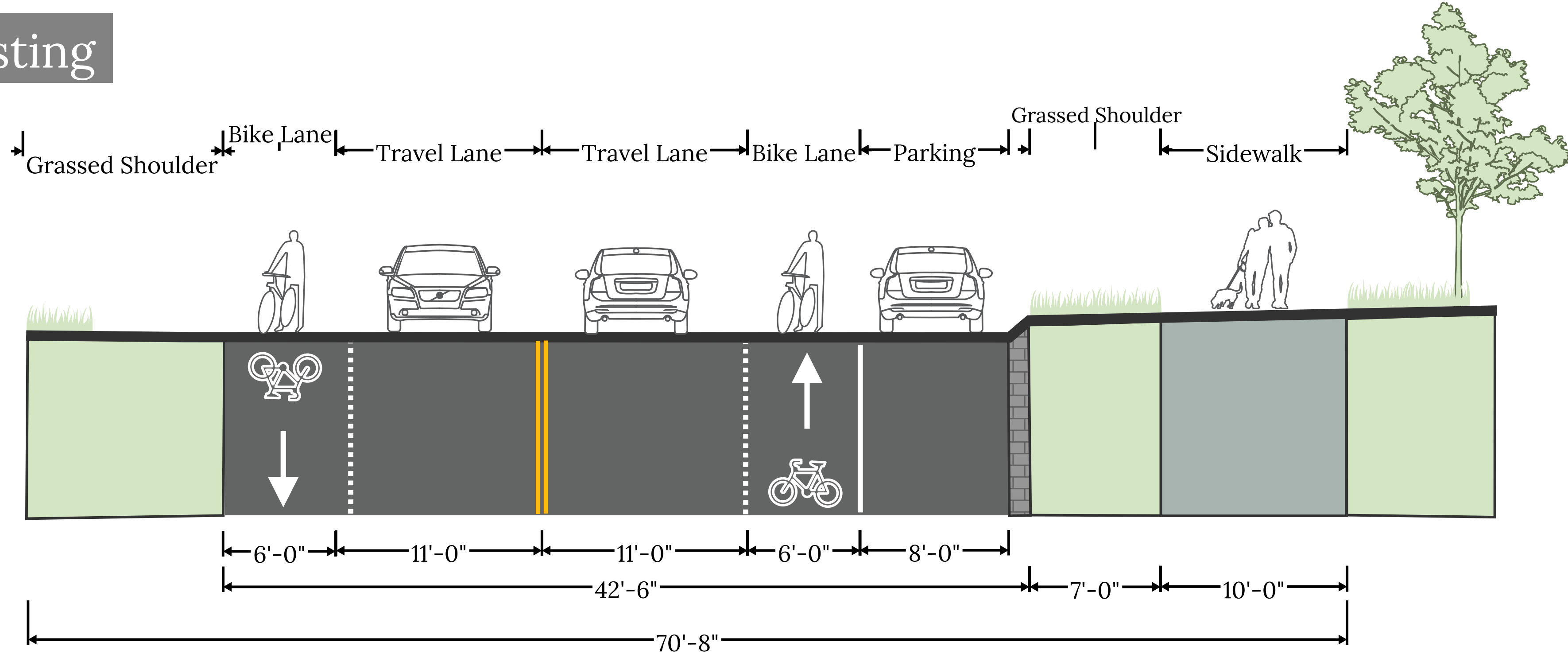


Arborway, Boston

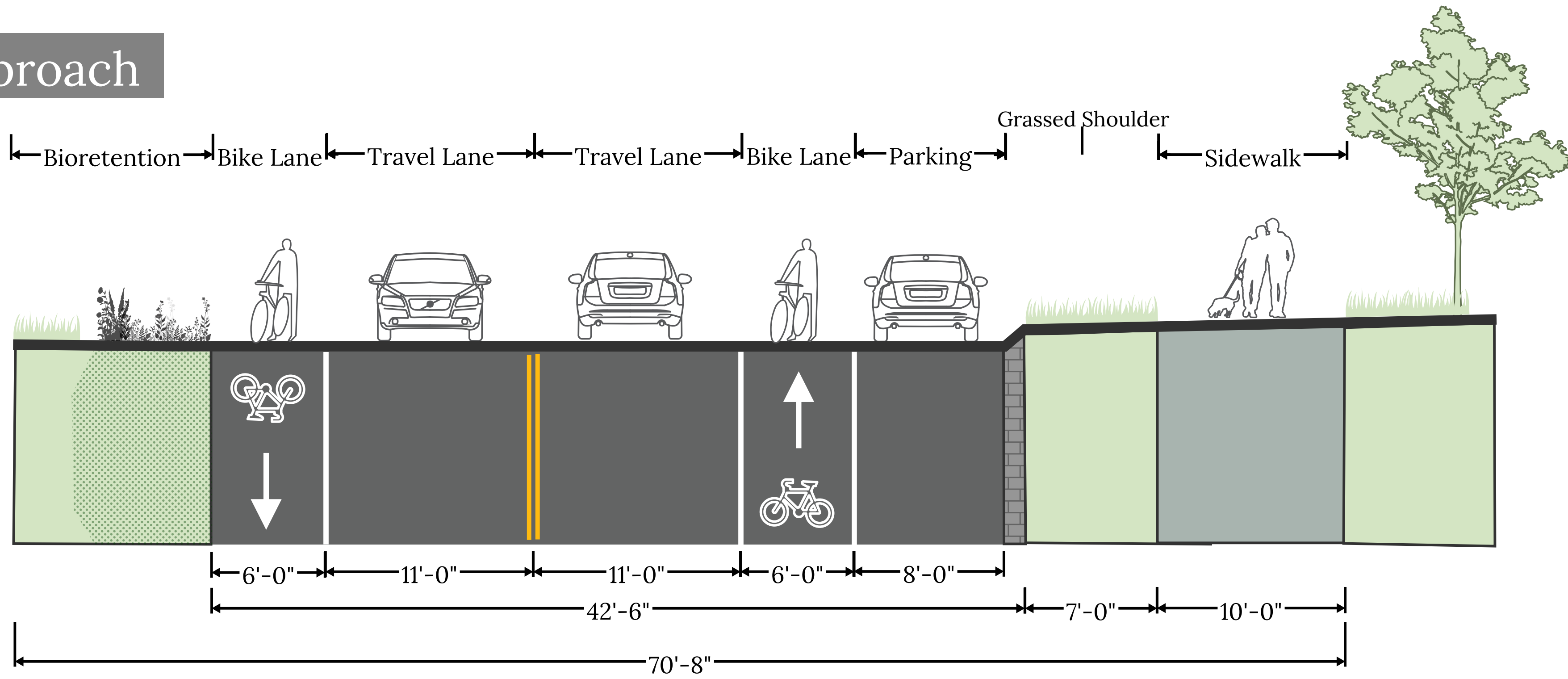
LOCATION 1 - SHATTUCK HOSPITAL



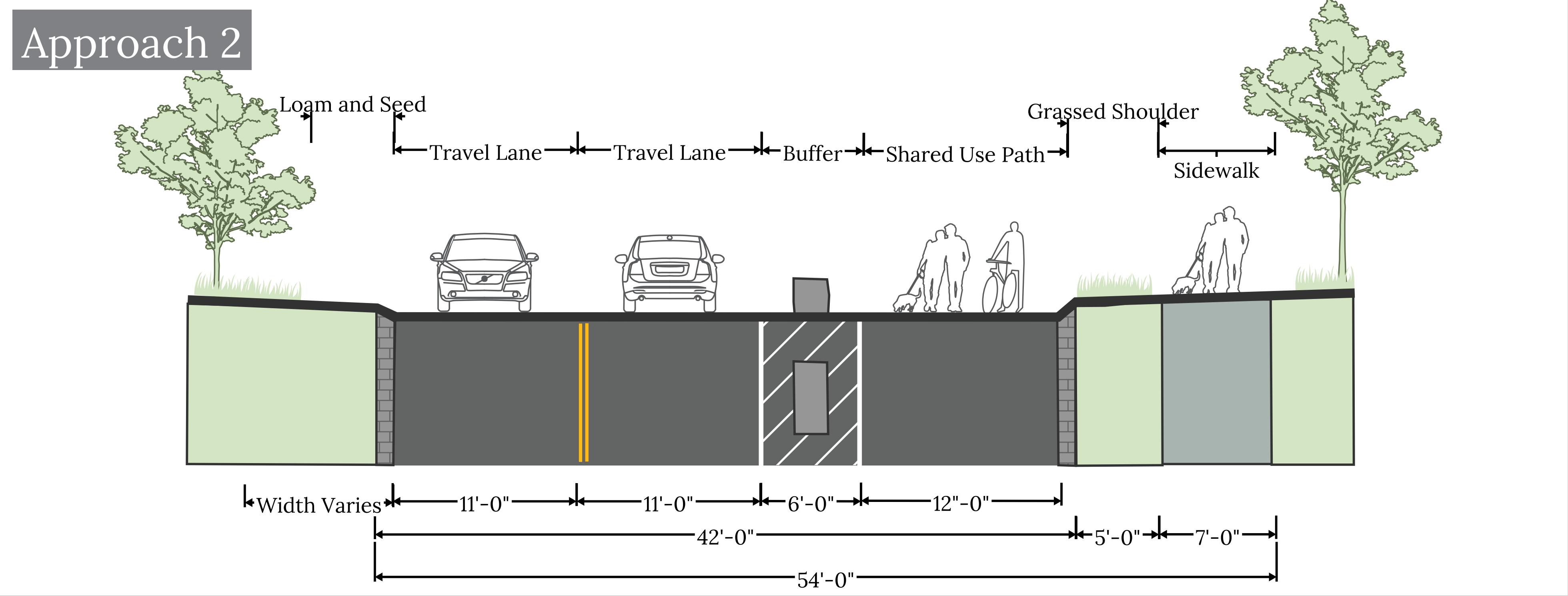
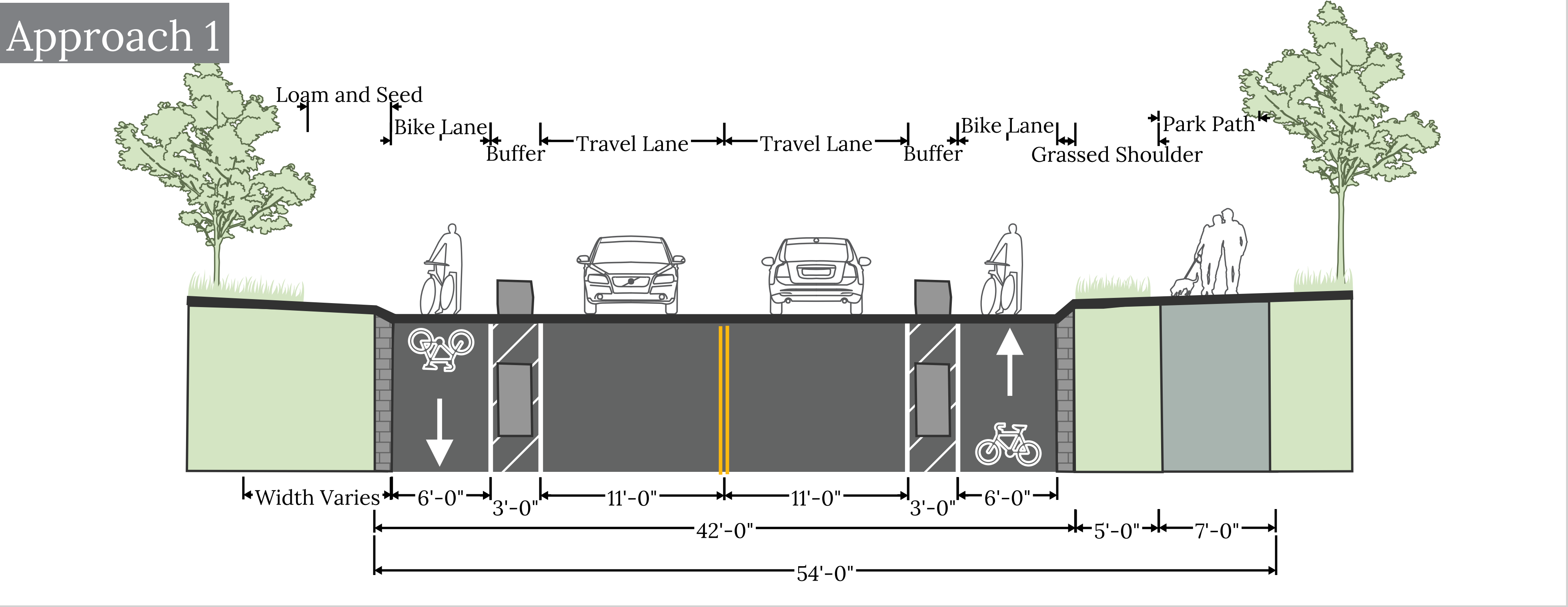
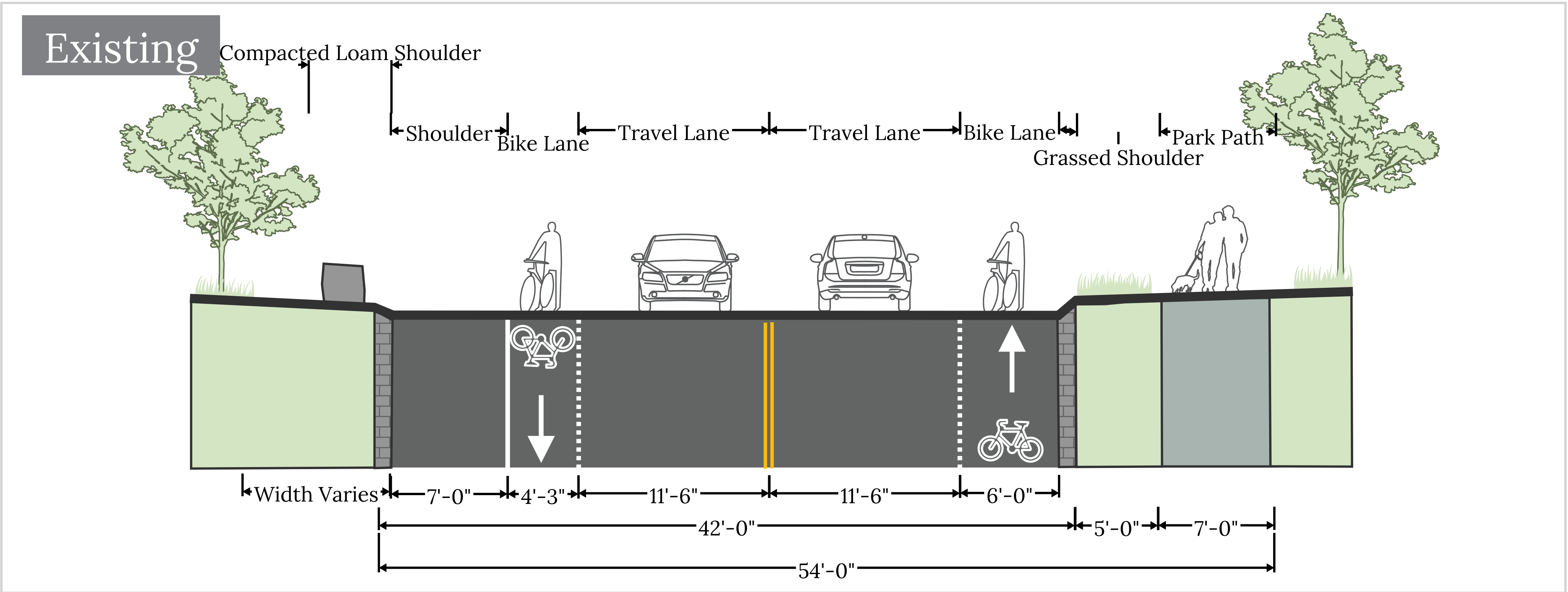
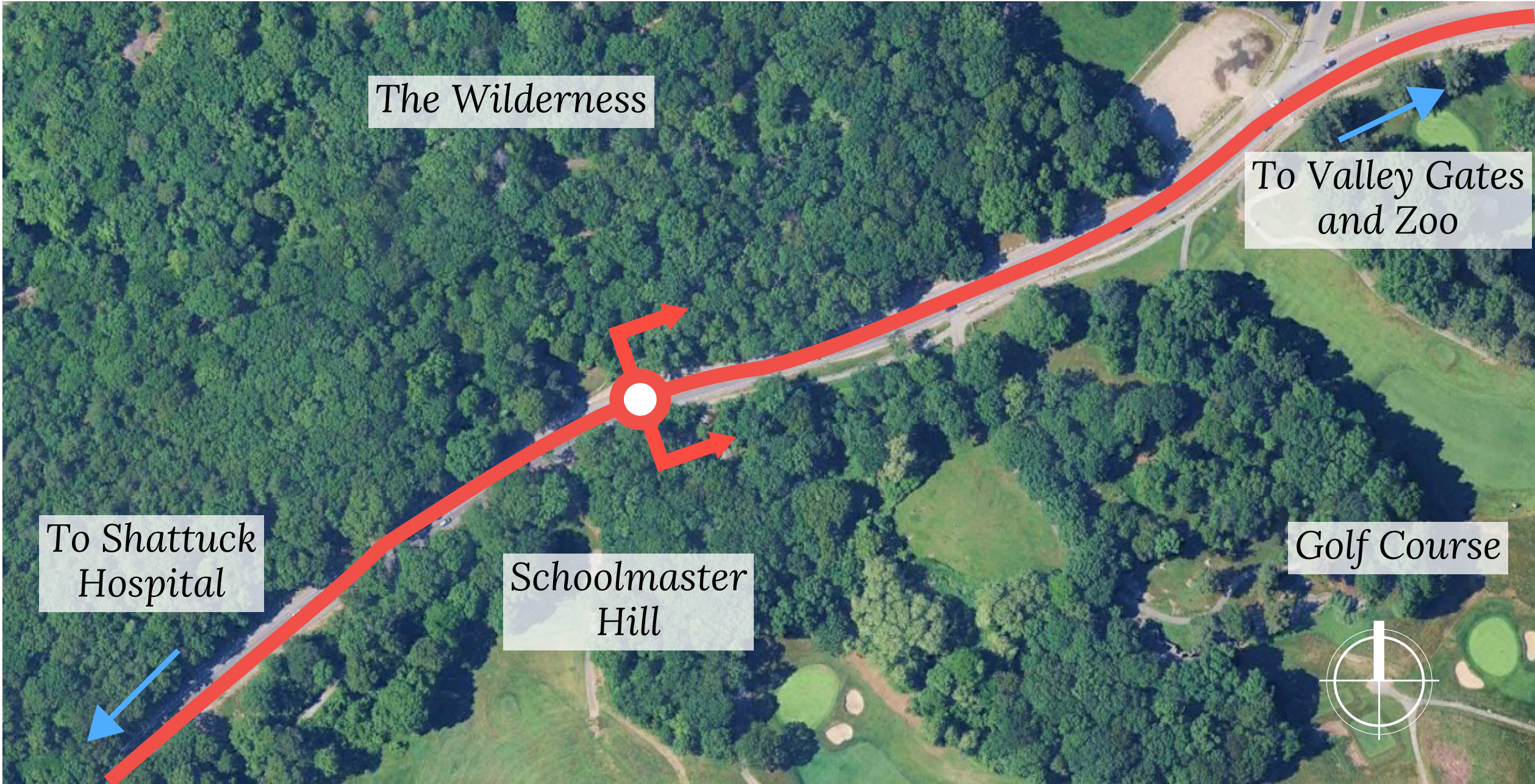
Existing



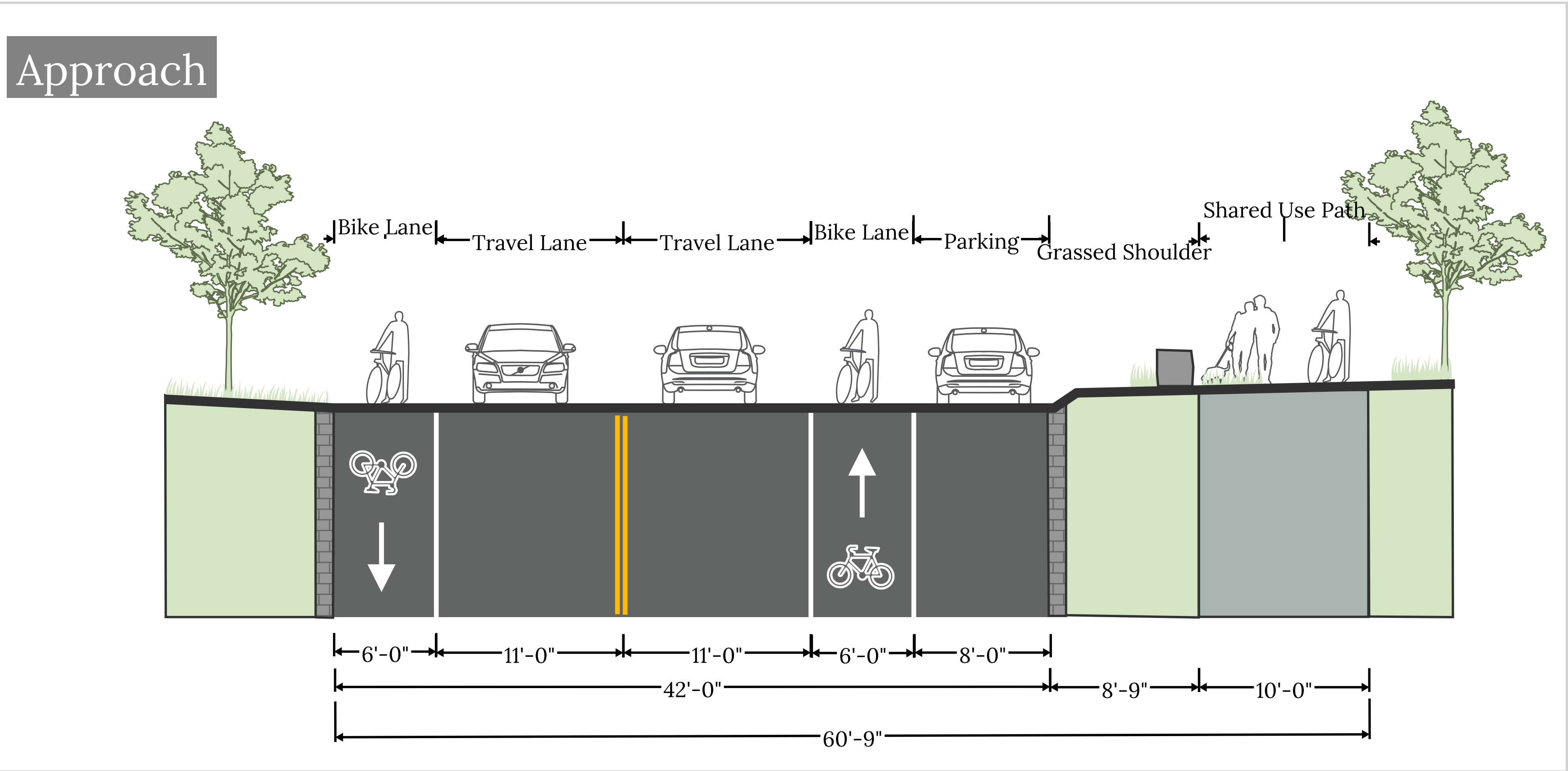
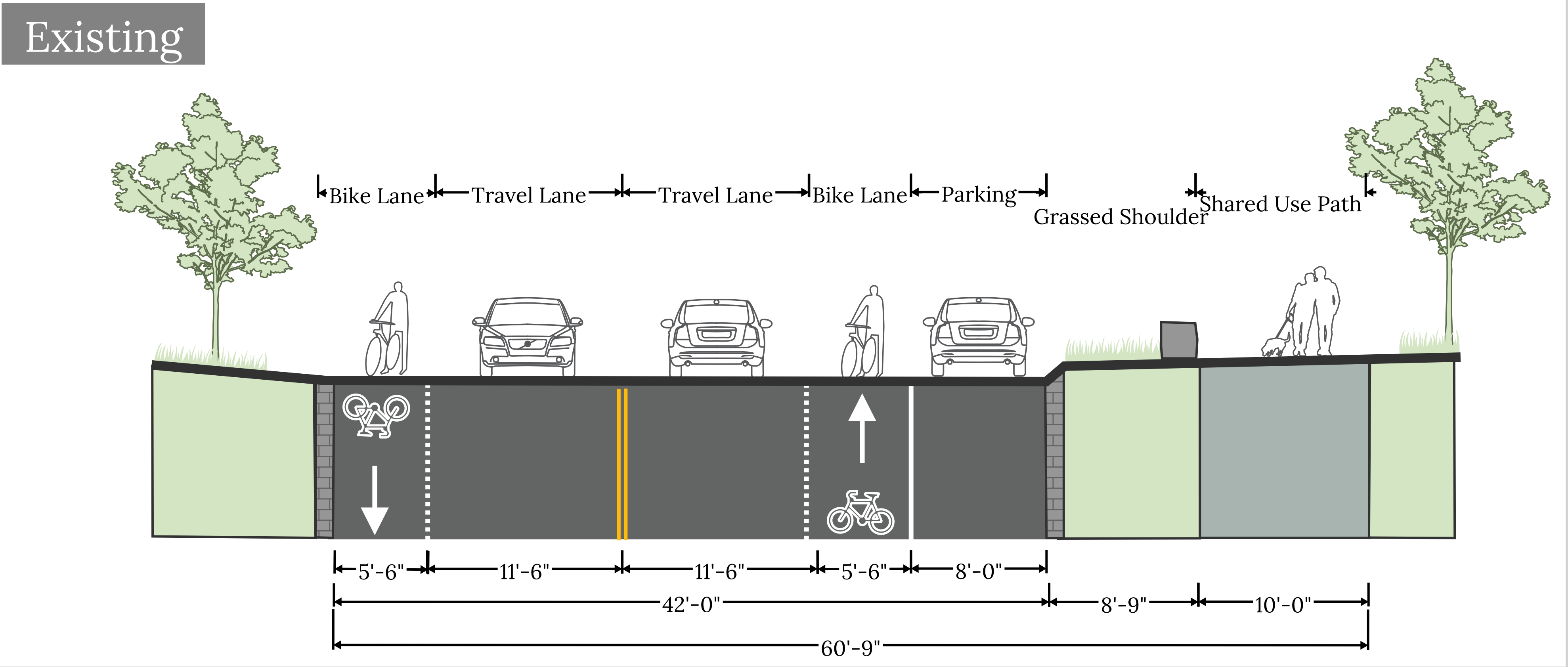
Approach



LOCATION 2 - SCHOOLMASTER HILL



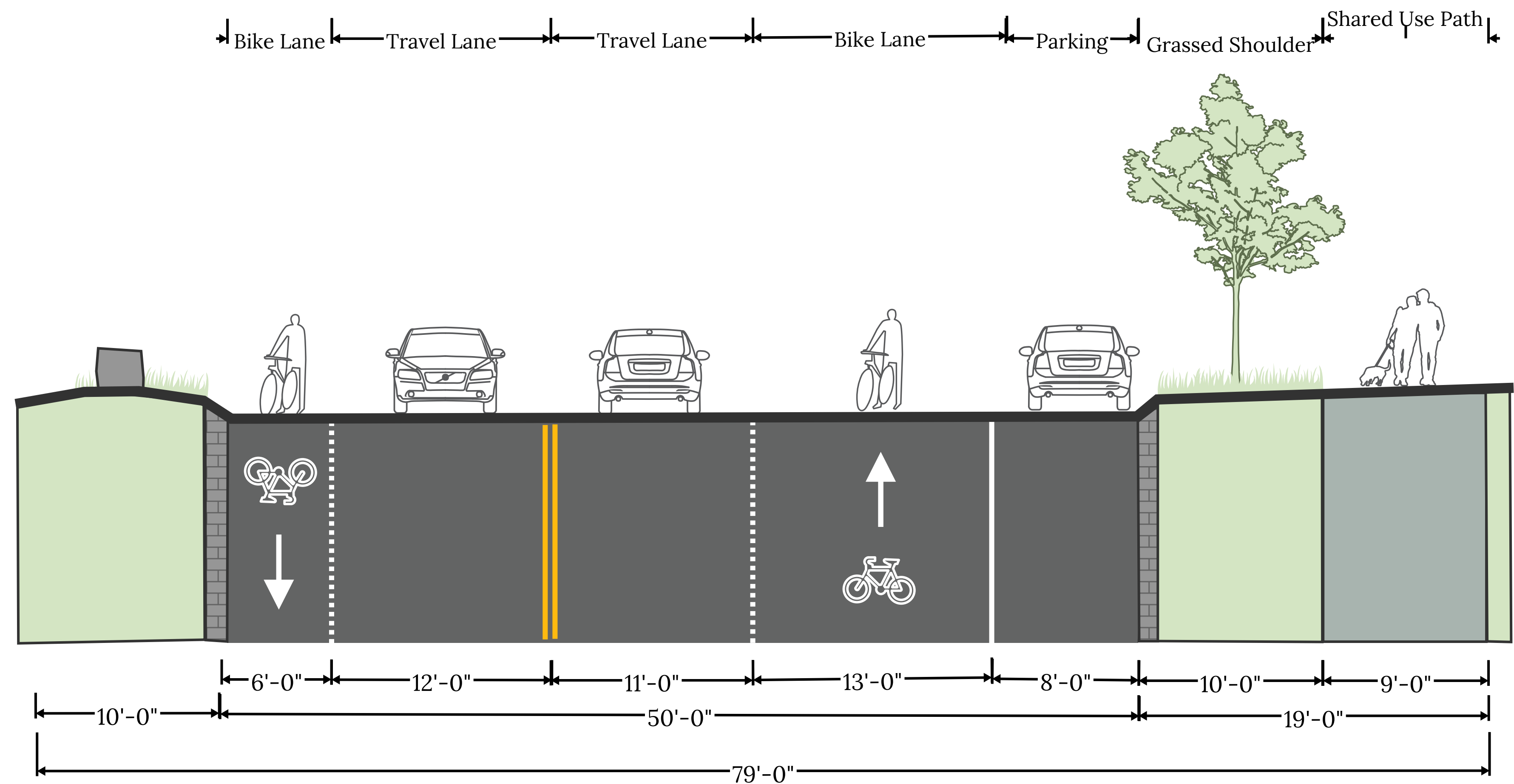
LOCATION 3 - VALLEY GATES



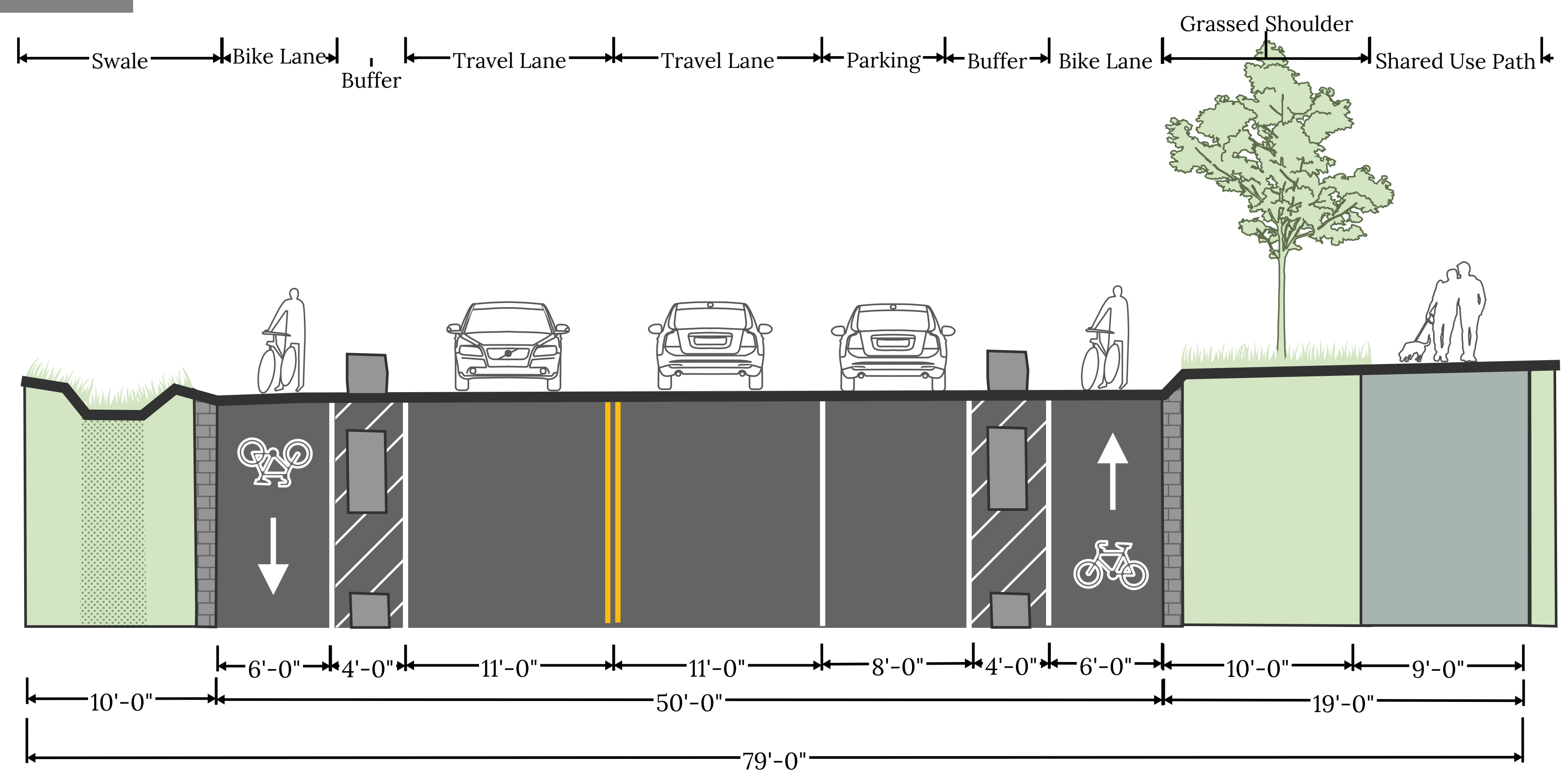
LOCATION 4 - GOLF COURSE



Existing



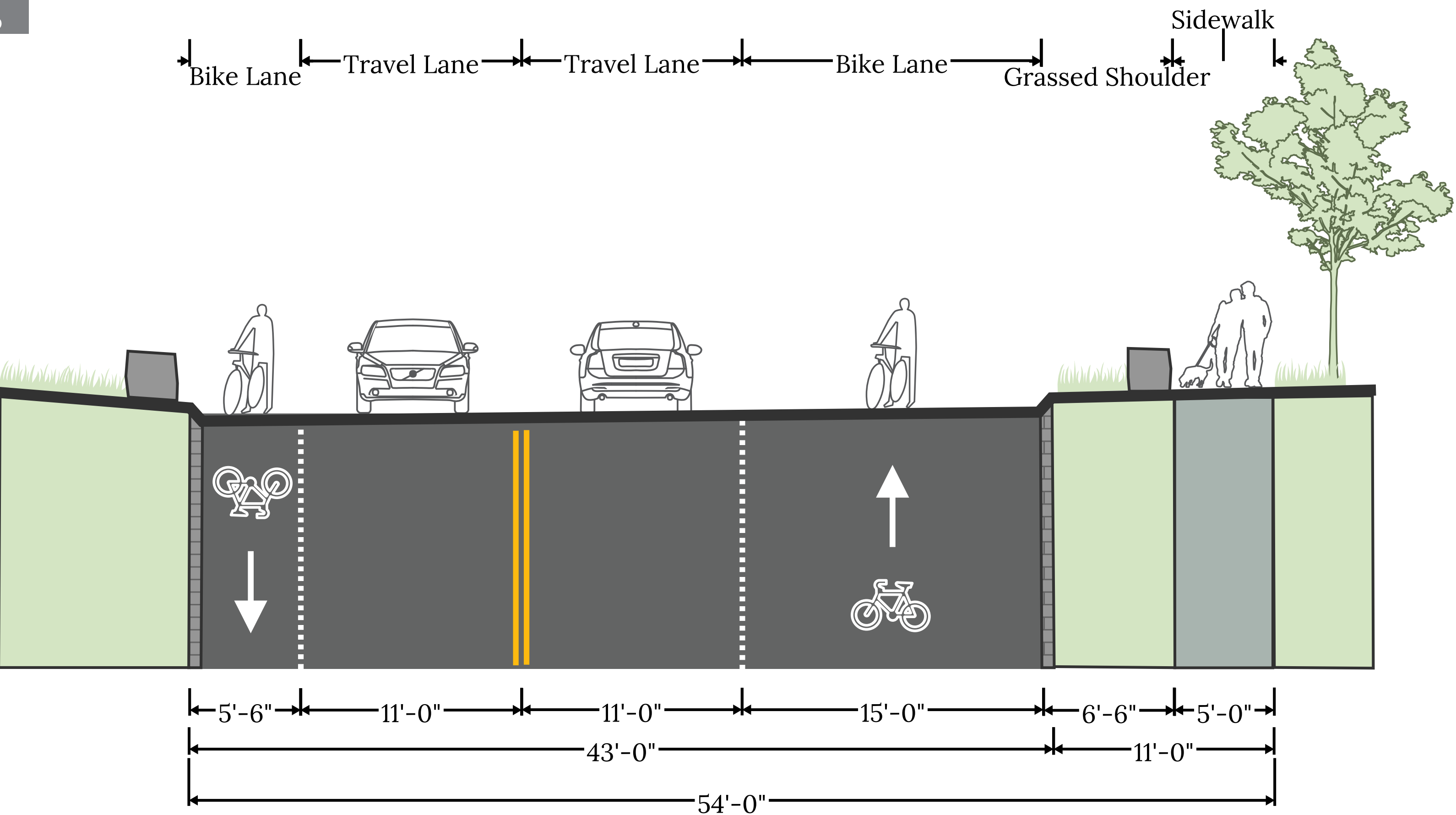
Approach



LOCATION 5 - PEABODY CIRCLE AREA



Existing



Approach

