

Community Meeting #2

James H. Roberts Playground

112 Hooker St, Boston, MA 02134



February 23, 2026
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 phone 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,
<http://boston.gov/james-roberts-playground>.*

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 **Kenya Thompson**, kenya.thompson2@boston.gov, to further discuss the project or process.*

ZOOM TIPS

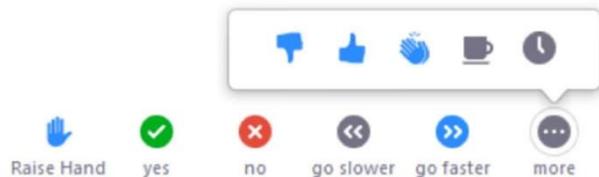
Here is how you can participate during the question and answer part of the presentation.

DURING THE PRESENTATION:



VIA WEB:

Turn video on / off.



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

DURING THE Q&A:



JOINING VIA PHONE?

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



VIA WEB:

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



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

AGENDA

1

PROJECT TEAM & TIMELINE

Introductions
Goals and Objectives

2

SITE INVESTIGATION

Site Location
Site Analysis

3

WHAT WE HEARD LAST TIME

Insight from Community Meeting #1 (December 15, 2025)

4

DESIGN IDEAS

Concept A
Concept B
Concept C

5

LISTENING AND DISCUSSION

Let us know your thoughts

PROJECT TEAM

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Team Leader

Gracie Swansburg, RLA

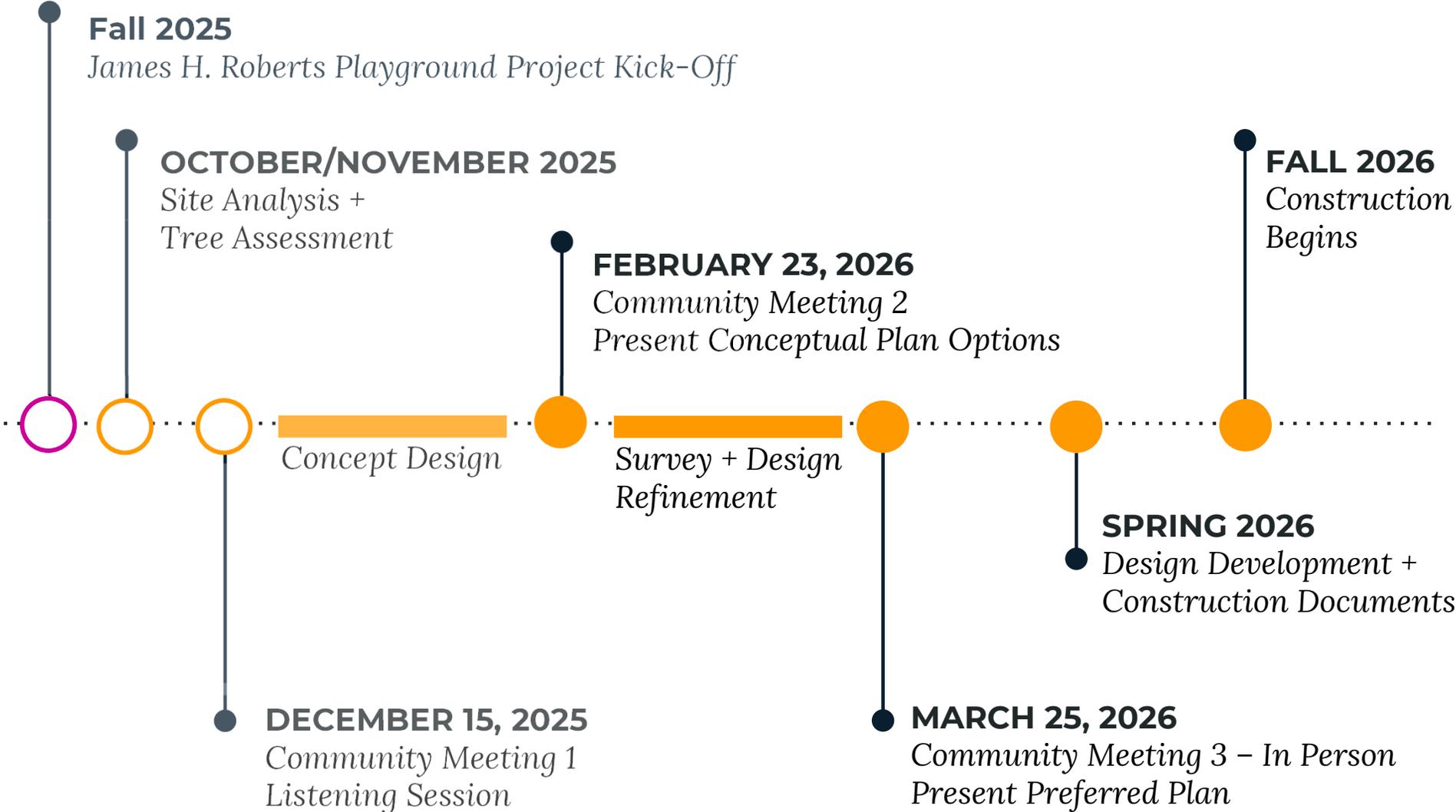
Project Landscape Architect

Emma Uzgis

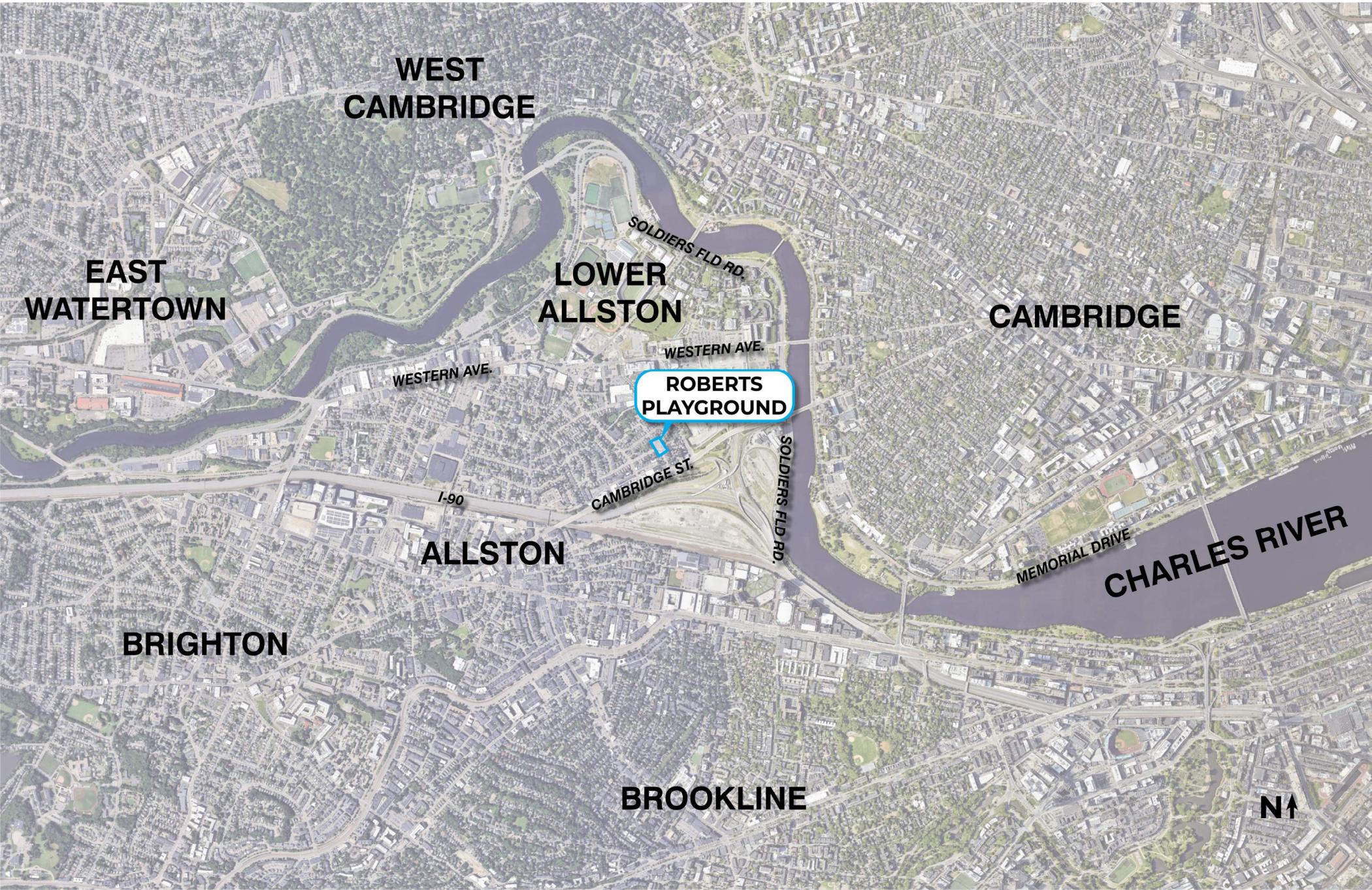
Landscape Designer



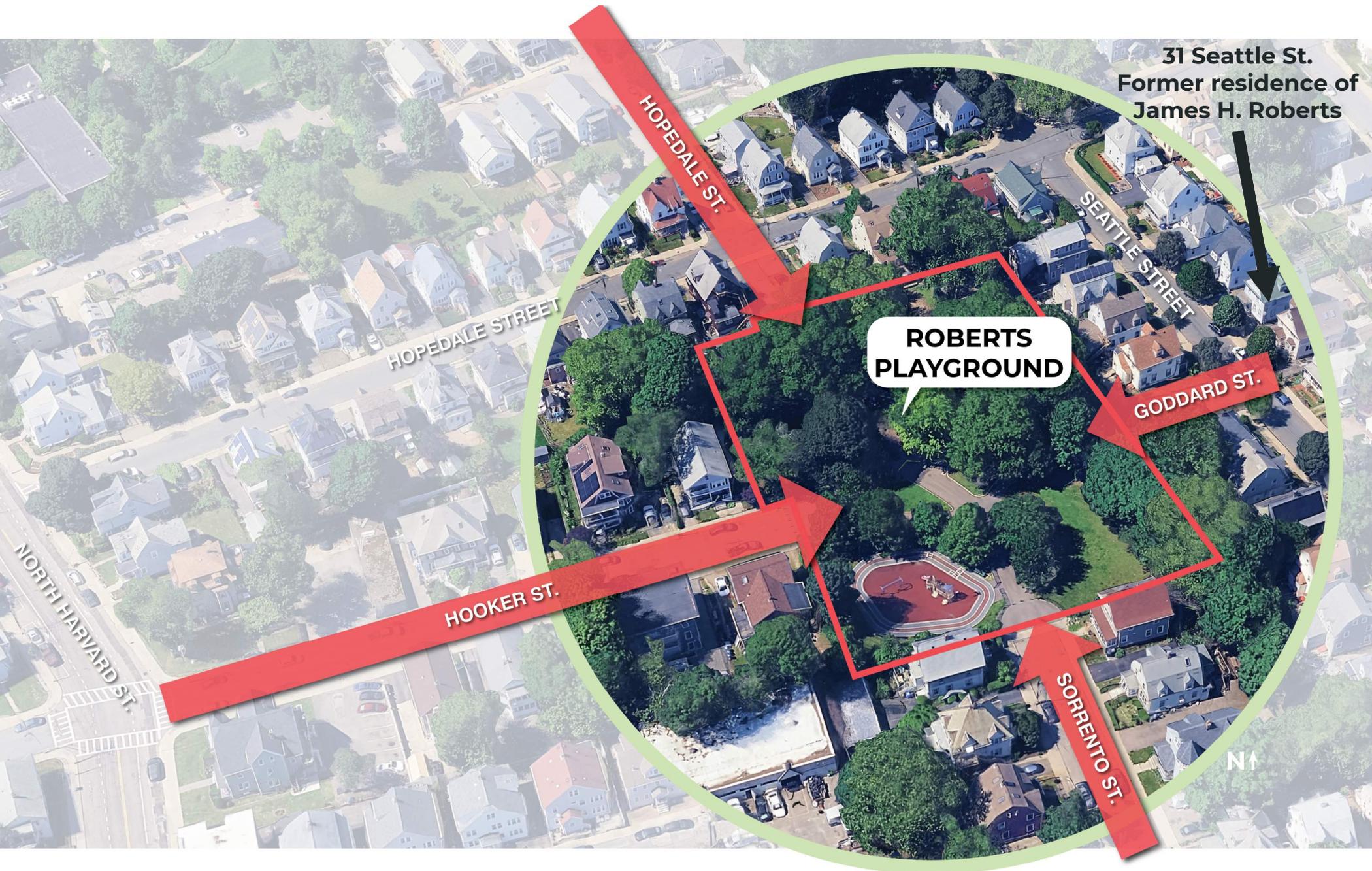
PROJECT TIMELINE



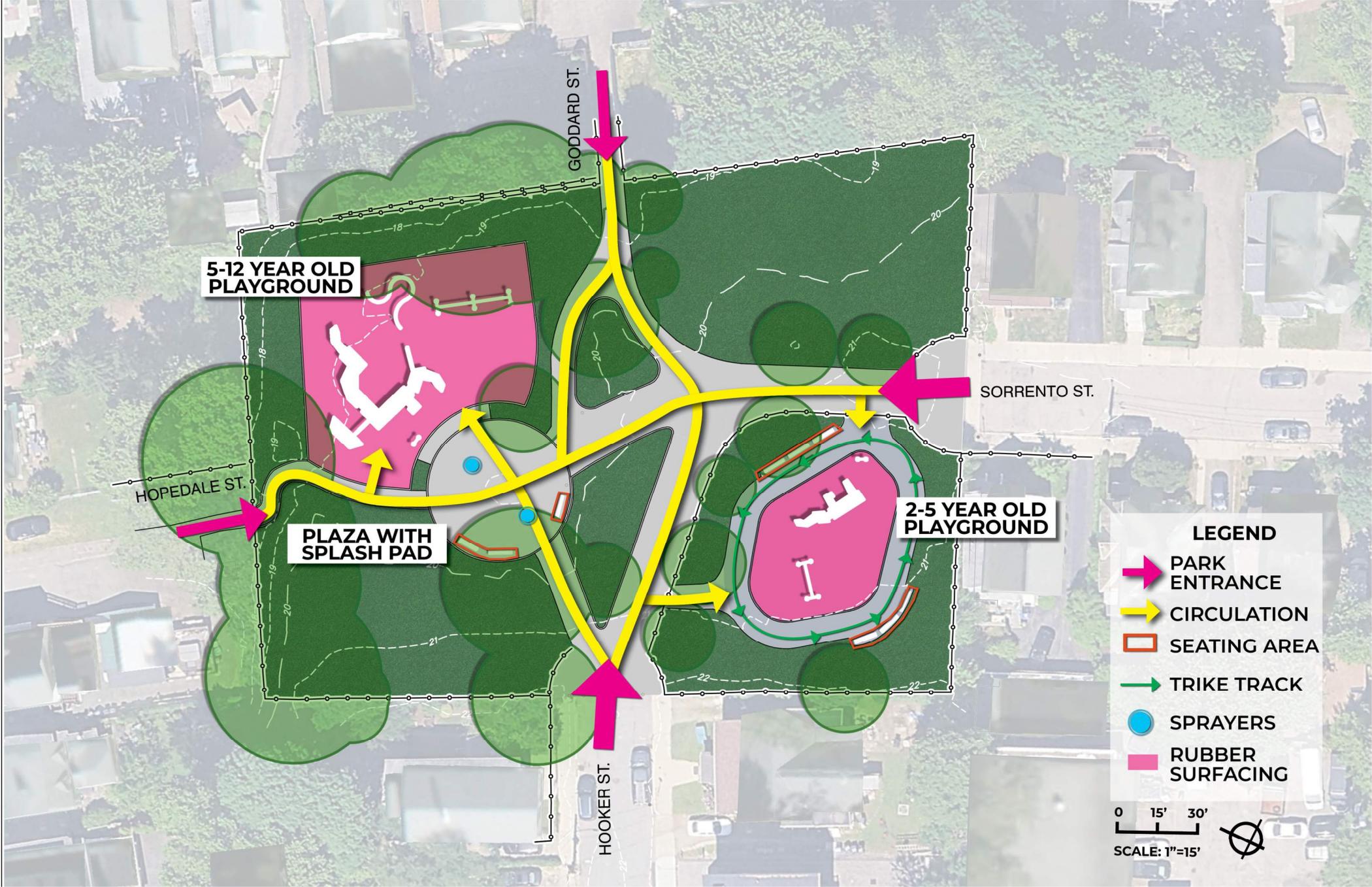
SITE LOCATION



SITE LOCATION | ROBERTS PLAYGROUND NEIGHBORHOOD

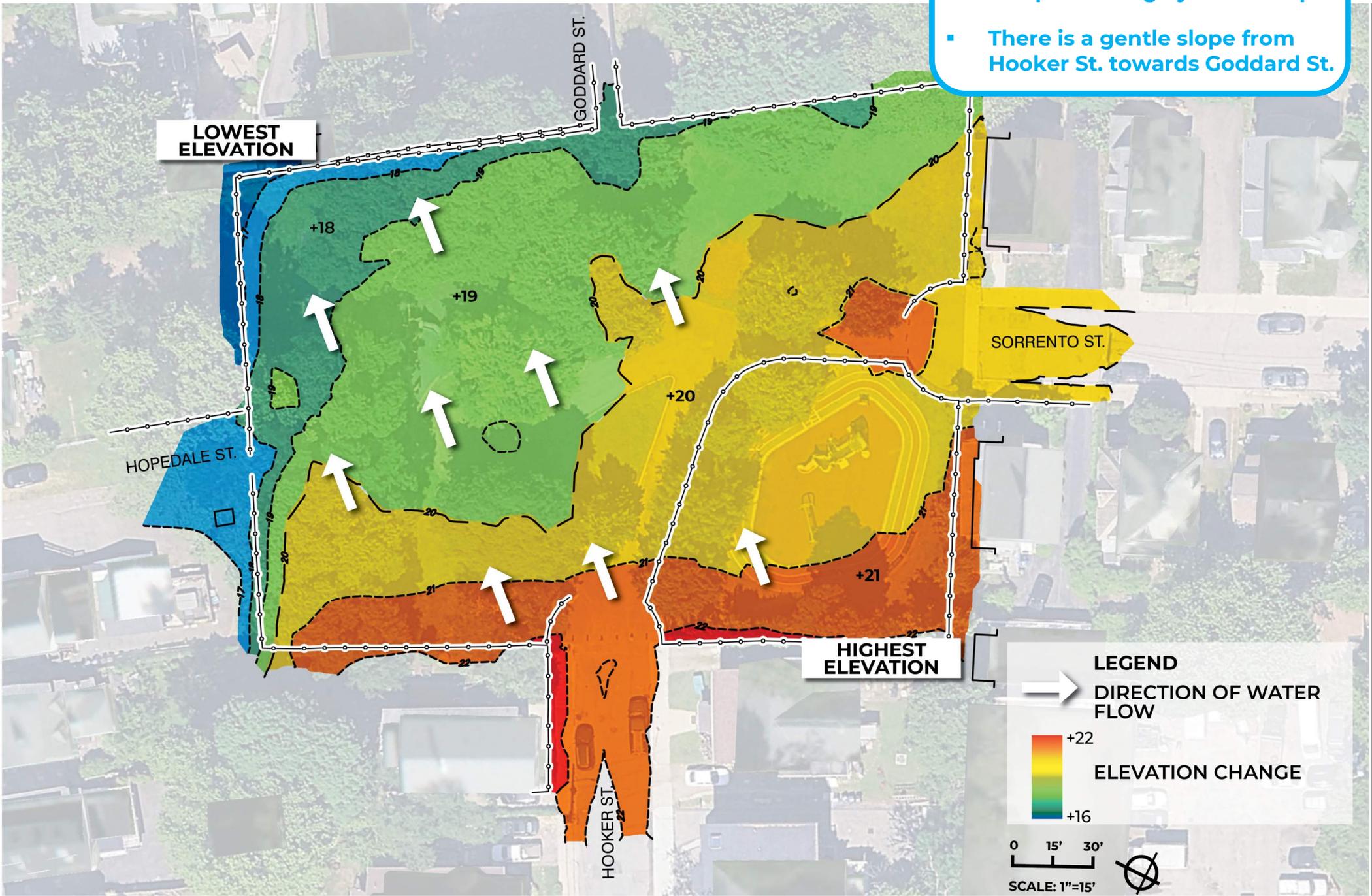


SITE ANALYSIS | CIRCULATION AND SITE ELEMENTS



SITE ANALYSIS | TOPOGRAPHY

- Topography determines where water drains and pools
- The park is largely flat and open
- There is a gentle slope from Hooker St. towards Goddard St.



LOWEST ELEVATION

HIGHEST ELEVATION

LEGEND

→ DIRECTION OF WATER FLOW

ELEVATION CHANGE

+22

+16

0 15' 30'

SCALE: 1"=15'

WHAT WE HEARD LAST TIME

Phase 1 of this project WILL include:



- Grading and drainage improvements
- A new, updated splash pad
- Updates to paths and entrances
- New plazas or seating areas
- New or updated park amenities such as seating, shade structures, water fountains, and trash receptacles
- Existing tree maintenance and potential new plantings

Phase 1 of this project WILL NOT include:

- X** Updates to either play area or the playground equipment

BPRD's Objectives:

1. Protect and care for the existing tree canopy
2. Improve grading and drainage
3. Upgrade the splash pad

WHAT WE HEARD LAST TIME

The splash pad is a beloved neighborhood amenity



Upgraded Design

Make the entrances more clear + accessible



Clear Signage

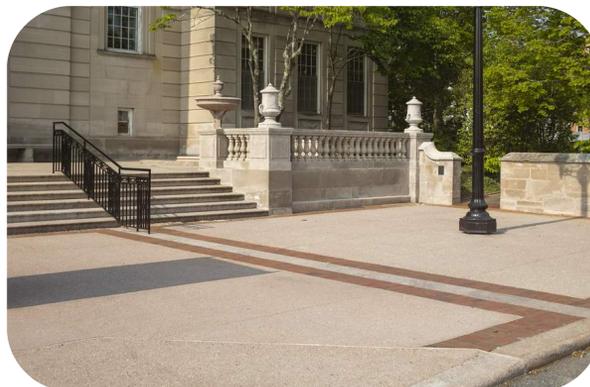
More seating



Picnic Tables + Gathering Space



Cooling Stations



Aligned Materials



Café or Game Tables

WHAT WE HEARD LAST TIME

The large shade trees make it feel like an oasis!



Protect Existing Canopy

Nature-inspired elements that blend into the landscape



Boulders or Blocks

Keep the park family + kid friendly!



Inclusive Amenities

People love to use the park for events + gatherings



Accessibility + Shade

Updated (closed) trash barrels



New Receptacles

Keep some of the open lawn space



Maintain Open Space

WHAT WE HEARD LAST TIME

Entryway
Improvements –
What do YOU like?



Activated Entrance Areas



Formal Posts + Signage



Contemporary Seat + Sign Walls



Simple Fence-Mounted Signage

DESIGN IDEAS | CONCEPT A



MINOR REGRADING FOR STORMWATER REDIRECTION ALONG PERIMETER

CURVED BLOCK SEATING

HOPEDALE ST. ENTRANCE

SPLASH PAD (NOT YET DESIGNED)

WATER FOUNTAIN

GAME TABLE PLAZA

PROPOSED ORNAMENTAL TREES

NARROW PATH TO 12' WIDTH + ACTIVATE ENTRY PLAZA WITH SEATWALLS

GODDARD ST. ENTRANCE

6'

OPEN SPACE

5-12 AGE PLAY AREA TO REMAIN IN PHASE 1

LIMIT OF WORK

LIMIT OF WORK

2-5 AGE PLAY AREA TO REMAIN IN PHASE 1

12'

HOOKER ST. ENTRANCE

NARROW PATHS TO REDUCE PAVEMENT

GATHERING PLAZA + PICNIC TABLES WITH SHADE UMBRELLAS

TRASH RECEPTACLE

BIKE RACKS

SIGN WALL

SORRENTO ST. ENTRANCE

VEHICULAR BOLLARDS

NARROW ENTRANCE + EXTEND TO SIDEWALK

FREESTANDING SEATWALLS

EXISTING INTERIOR FENCE TO BE REMOVED

TRASH RECEPTACLE

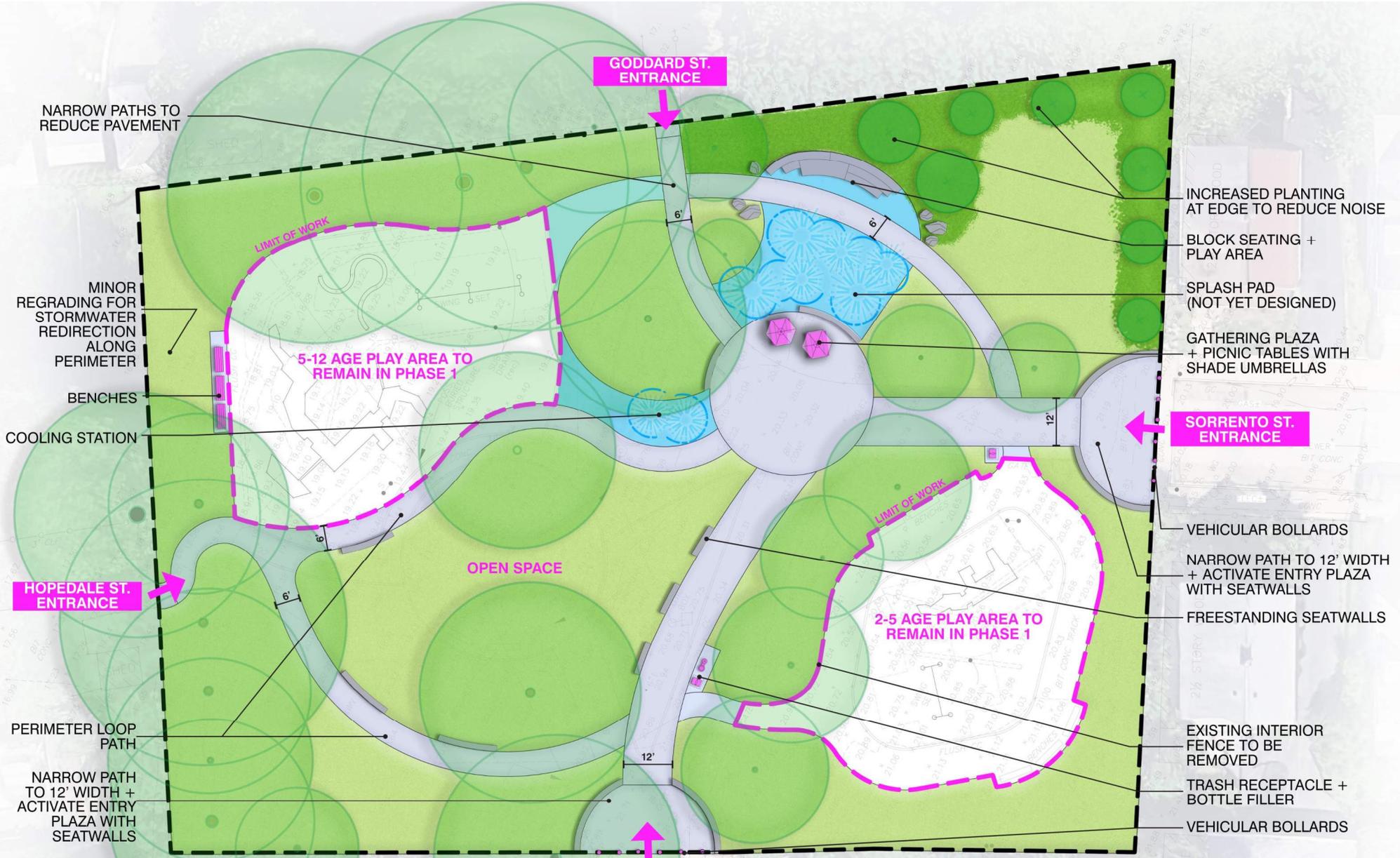
VEHICULAR BOLLARDS



DESIGN IDEAS | CONCEPT B



DESIGN IDEAS | CONCEPT C



NARROW PATHS TO REDUCE PAVEMENT

GODDARD ST. ENTRANCE

INCREASED PLANTING AT EDGE TO REDUCE NOISE

BLOCK SEATING + PLAY AREA

SPLASH PAD (NOT YET DESIGNED)

GATHERING PLAZA + PICNIC TABLES WITH SHADE UMBRELLAS

SORRENTO ST. ENTRANCE

VEHICULAR BOLLARDS

NARROW PATH TO 12' WIDTH + ACTIVATE ENTRY PLAZA WITH SEATWALLS

FREESTANDING SEATWALLS

EXISTING INTERIOR FENCE TO BE REMOVED

TRASH RECEPTACLE + BOTTLE FILLER

VEHICULAR BOLLARDS

MINOR REGRADING FOR STORMWATER REDIRECTION ALONG PERIMETER

BENCHES

COOLING STATION

HOPEDALE ST. ENTRANCE

PERIMETER LOOP PATH

NARROW PATH TO 12' WIDTH + ACTIVATE ENTRY PLAZA WITH SEATWALLS

LIMIT OF WORK

5-12 AGE PLAY AREA TO REMAIN IN PHASE 1

OPEN SPACE

LIMIT OF WORK

2-5 AGE PLAY AREA TO REMAIN IN PHASE 1

HOOKER ST. ENTRANCE

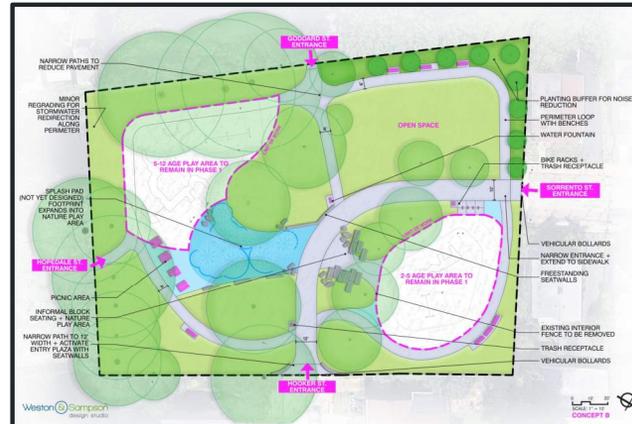
DESIGN CONCEPTS AT A GLANCE

CONCEPT A Games + Gathering



- ❑ New central splash pad
- ❑ New game table plaza with ornamental trees
- ❑ New picnic area with shade structures
- ❑ Similar circulation pattern

CONCEPT B Adventure Play



- ❑ Splash pad + nature play connect playground areas
- ❑ More buffer planting
- ❑ New picnic area within play spaces
- ❑ Perimeter loop path

CONCEPT C Events + Open Space



- ❑ Splash pad in new location
- ❑ More buffer planting
- ❑ Central open lawn
- ❑ Large picnic plaza with shade structures
- ❑ Perimeter loop path

LISTENING + DISCUSSION | WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Which Design Concept is your favorite? Why?**
- Which elements would you be most excited to see at Roberts Playground?**
- Are there any park elements that you think we missed?**



THANK YOU!

Meeting #3 March 25, 2026
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
at the Honan-Allston Library (BPL)
300 N Harvard St, Boston, MA

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



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