

# MOAKLEY PARK REDESIGN

## BRIDGING THE GAPS

Moakley Park has a long and successful history as a neighborhood park, gathering space & center for athletic pursuits. How can it improve on that record, even as it faces substantial challenges from rising sea levels, aging facilities, and multilane roads that divide it from the communities it serves? By creating a central raised area which connects the neighborhood, organizes the active & passive use areas and creates a landmark connection to the long-neglected Emerald Necklace, this redesign creates resilient and dynamic new connections to serve Bostonians for generations to come.

### CHALLENGES

heat island/heat wave erosion & sea level rise accessible park and play spaces



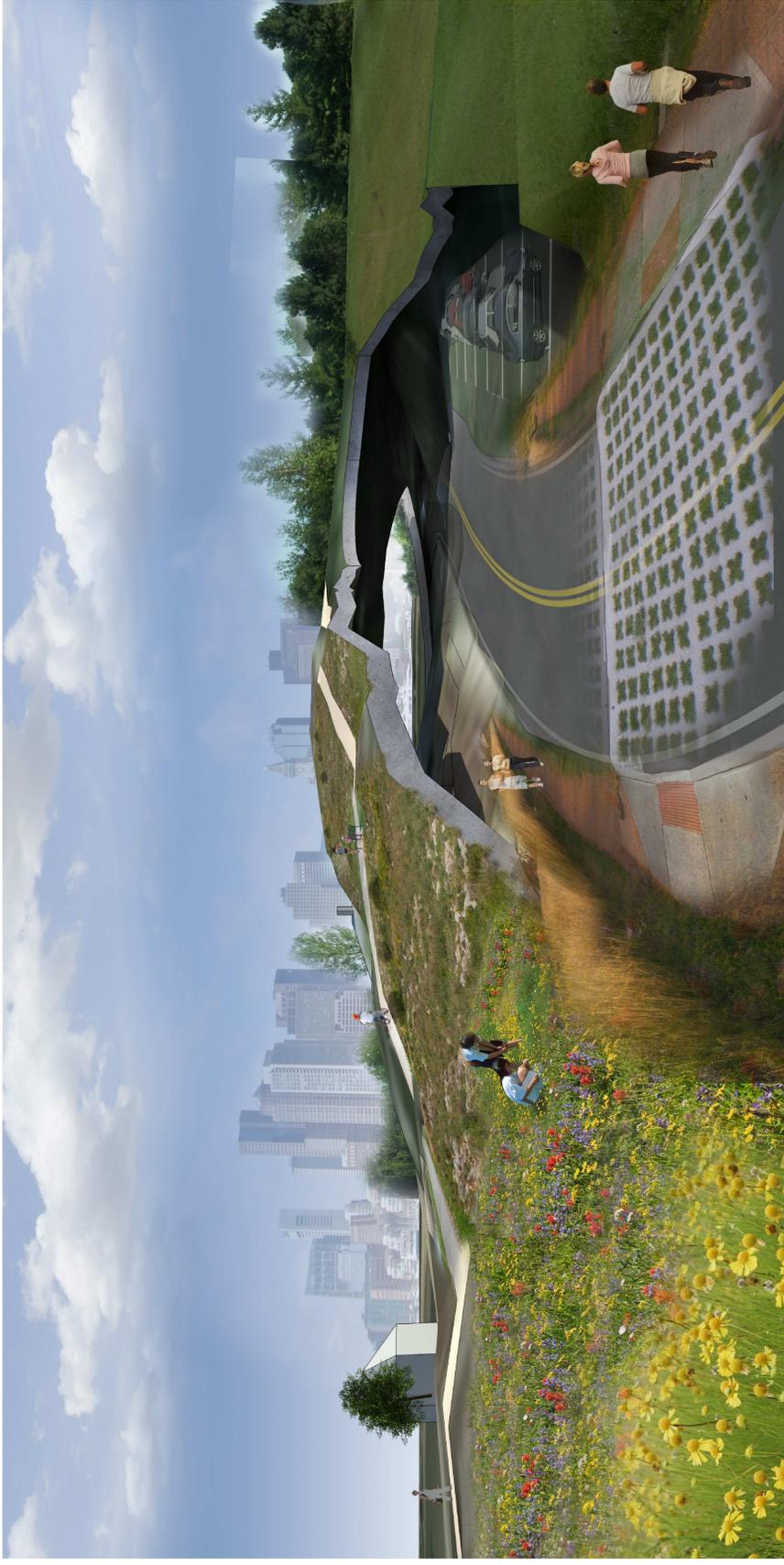
### PRECEDENTS

Cheonggyecheon Stream animal overpasses nature-integrated parks



### PROCESS

floodplain/sectional analysis user experience analysis programming analysis



perspective



Existing Flood Plain



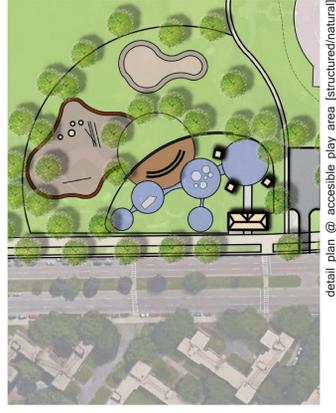
Modified Flood Plain



Use Plan



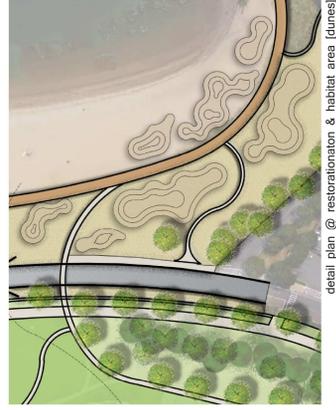
Site Plan



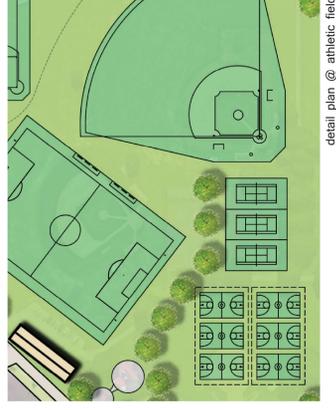
detail plan @ accessible play area (structured/natural)



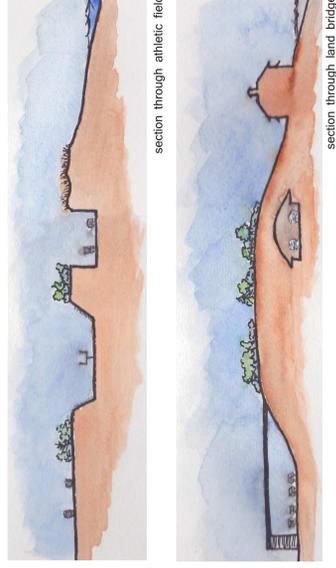
detail plan @ land bridge ocean overlook



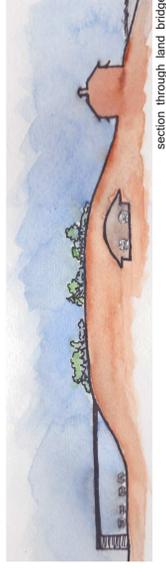
detail plan @ restoration & habitat area (dunes)



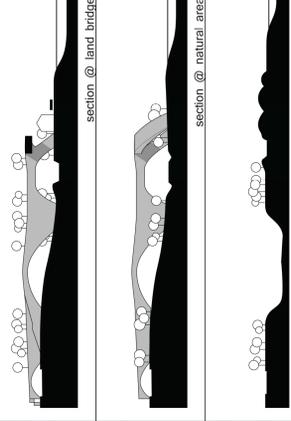
detail plan @ athletic fields



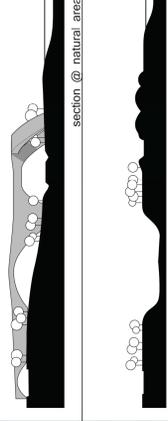
section through athletic field



section through land bridge



section @ land bridge



section @ natural area



section @ dunes area

# John Moakley Park Ideas Competition Narrative

## **CANNONDESIGN** **Bridging the Gaps**

The proposed ideas and concepts for a future John Moakley Park in South Boston addresses multiple challenges and opportunities that we identified as “**Gaps**”.

### ***Bridging the Gap with History***

The grand, interconnected parks and parkways of the Emerald Necklace system envisioned by Frederick Law Olmsted over one hundred years ago included a connection with South Boston that was never fully realized.

The proposed solution attempts to establish and reinforce the continuity with the surrounding neighborhood by creating wide, natural walking areas for travelers with views of Boston Harbor. The William J. Day Boulevard would be relocated inland, reduced to two lanes and limited to North direction traffic only in order to create a more direct connection to the beach and the Necklace.

### ***Bridging the Gap with Community***

The adjacent neighborhoods rely on the Moakley Park as a sanctuary from the City and dense housing environment. Improving the community connection as well as balancing the active and passive play areas were particular areas of focus of the proposed concepts.

The expansion of the Dorothy Curran Playground and wet play areas will be important for addressing the growing population and as our climate change forecasts higher summer temperatures and longer heat waves while the adjacent natural area provides opportunities for natural exploratory play.

The active recreation area reduces the number but preserves and focuses the area utilized for ball fields and courts while balancing the array of sport types. The unstructured, passive areas and walking trails provide an opportunity for spontaneous activity, group gatherings and free exploration.

### ***Bridging the Gap with Nature***

Understanding the climate change predictions for increased frequencies and intensities of precipitation events, sea level rise, and higher average temperatures, the proposed ideas attempt to mitigate impacts of future environmental changes.

Restoration of dunes and natural habitat area along the Olmsted trail provides a unique connection while helping to absorb minor sea flooding events.

Berms and raised walking trails embraces the future flooding events to strategically allow some areas to become wet while protecting other areas.

The naturally landscaped pedestrian bridge provides views of the ocean while connecting the park with the beach and Olmsted trail. The height of the bridge is above the predicted sea level and storm surge so even after the low areas of the park are flooded there is the potential for continued use. Under the bridge is a wide, sheltered

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**CANNONDESIGN**

### **Bridging the Gaps**

area that can be used for play or possible farmers market when dry or as a connection between wet areas when flooded.