

# ELLIOTT



# MASTER PLAN

A PARK FOR ALL



PLAN PREPARED FOR:



IN COLLABORATION WITH:



COMMUNITY TASK FORCE:

**Louisville Metro Police Department**, Division 2  
**Representative Attica Scott**  
**Bill Tolbert**, Elliott Park User  
**Reverend David Snardon**, Pastor at Joshua Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church; President for Concerned Pastors of Russel  
**Councilwoman Donna Purvis**  
**Dreema Jackson**, Board Member at One West  
**Elliott Park Place Apartment's Resident Council**  
**Haven Harrington**, Russell Neighborhood Stakeholder  
**Kenyon Biggers**, Head Coach Youth Football  
**Kevin Fields**, President/CEO of Louisville Central Community Centers  
**Lisa Smith**, Director of Social Services & Neighborhood Engagement  
**Richard Hudson**, Elliott Park User

PLAN PREPARED BY:  
PRIME CONSULTANT



SUBCONSULTANT



# ELLIOTT PARK MASTER PLAN

DECEMBER 2020

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# ELLIOTT PARK MASTER PLAN

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Task Force Meetings  
Public Engagement On-Site Boards  
Expanded Cost Opinion  
Elliott Park History Report

# INTRODUCTION

# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION



## *INTRODUCTION*

- 03 About This Plan
- 05 Guiding Principles
- 07 The Olmsted Legacy
- 11 The Park System
- 13 The 7 'S' of Design: At a National Level

## ABOUT THIS PLAN

The development of the Elliott Park Master Plan builds on Olmstedian design principles to rethink a community park in a contemporary context. The project team utilized an inclusive, community-led process to inform the recommendations of this plan so future park development responds to the community's needs and ambitions.

The original Olmsted plan provides guidance to the intended purpose of the park: create a civic-oriented community space where people of all ages can commune and enjoy a variety of activities. For the purposes of this plan, the design team has taken the approach of examining the role of a park as providing equity, accessibility, and sustainability.

Olmsted parks are designed to bring people closer to their environments and each other. The design of these spaces creates unique experiences that transcend daily life and evoke positive responses.

Elliott Park exists on a 4-acre city block and serves the surrounding community with programmed passive and active spaces. Olmsted Parks Conservancy describes the park as "...an oasis of green sandwiched between residential properties on the east, industrial to the north and west, and retail on the south." The plan is to conserve this "oasis" by paying respect to the historic design, which is reminiscent in the current layout of the property.

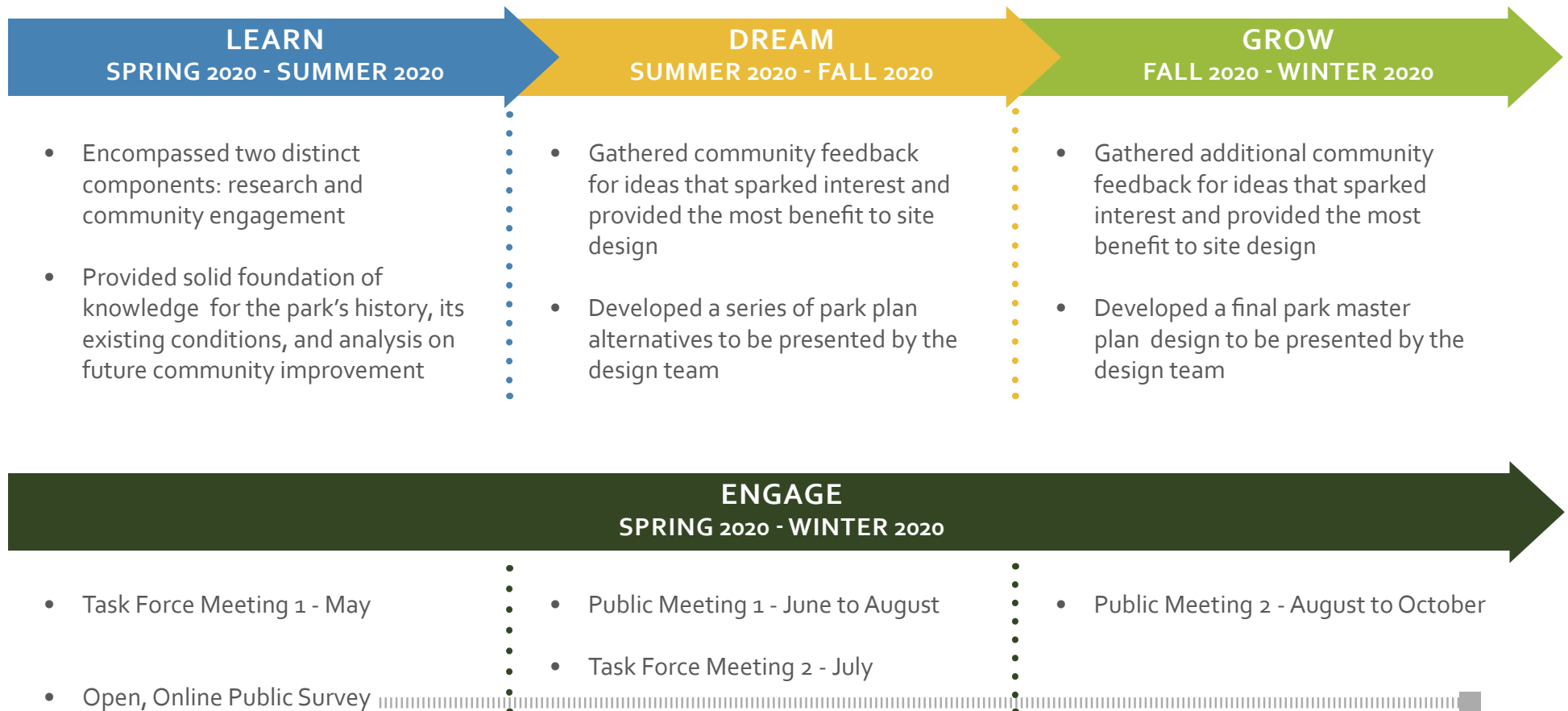
Over the course of approximately 9 months, the design team worked to develop a vision for the space that not only takes the original design into consideration but also the input of the community members of which the park serves. Through a series of task force and public meetings, current needs were evaluated and considerations made for how the site can respect the 1906 Olmsted design, while still functioning for modern activities.

The updated design follows guiding principles - centered around making the park a lasting, inclusive experience for people of the Russell and adjoining neighborhoods that focuses on how the space can become more accessible, equitable, and sustainable.

“

Elliott Park is, "...an **oasis of green** sandwiched between **residential** properties on the east, **industrial** to the north and west, and **retail** on the south." - *Olmsted Parks Conservancy*

# PROJECT SCOPE



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES



“ Our Olmsted Parks are beautiful, vibrant, and healthy greenspaces designed to give ALL residents – regardless of race, income, mobility, or background – a chance to connect with nature while providing important recreational opportunities in urban environments. At their best, historic Olmsted Parks of Louisville enhance social equity by improving health outcomes and property values, make our city more sustainable by investing in ecological advancement, and foster a deeper sense of community, improving the quality of life for park users.

But it takes constant work to maintain the quality of these parks to ensure they meet the needs of loyal park users. Our parks are threatened by invasive plants, city budget cuts, and reduction in tree canopies. Neighbors

are starved for programming and amenities. And so, our job is never done. Since 1989, Olmsted Parks Conservancy has contributed \$40 million in investments into Olmsted Parks, guided 10,000 volunteers and formed the Team for Healthy Parks to maintain natural areas of our parks, and developed a robust community engagement program, including the Friends of Elliott Park. The creation of our Olmsted Parks system shaped our city over a century ago, and today enhancing, restoring, and protecting our Olmsted Parks – including Elliott Park – is the key to strengthening the city we all know and love.

Design of these spaces focuses on Accessibility, Equity, & Sustainability.

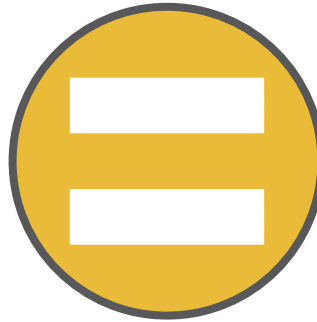
*- Olmsted Parks Conservancy  
of Louisville. Kentucky*





## ACCESSIBILITY

Louisville is home to over 2,200 acres of public green space in the Olmsted Parks of the West, South, and East areas of the city, connected by 15 miles of tree-lined Olmsted Parkways. This system of vital greenspaces was intentionally and strategically designed over a century ago, with a footprint that spans the entirety of Louisville Metro to give everyone in the city—regardless of race, income, mobility, or background—access to walk, ride, or commute quickly and easily to a park.



## EQUITY

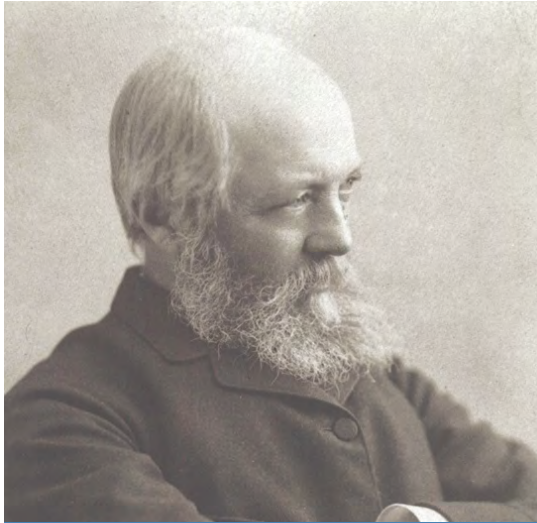
The neighborhoods surrounding the Olmsted Parks are the most diverse in the city, and a major amenity for low-income families. Nearly 40% of households within a 10-minute walk of Olmsted Parks make less than \$25,000 annually. Olmsted Parks provide free opportunities for recreation and community gatherings, contribute to positive health and wellness outcomes, and raise property values to drive economic growth.



## SUSTAINABILITY

The Olmsted Parks have a diverse tree canopy composition with more than 1.5x trees per acre than the rest of the city. Trees in the Olmsted Parks help reduce 21 million pounds of carbon emissions, mitigate over 93.4 million gallons of storm water runoff, and lower temperatures to combat the urban heat island effect.

# THE OLMSTED LEGACY



FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED

Louisville has a rich legacy of a park system that includes 17 Olmsted Parks and nearly 15 miles of Parkways (linear parks connecting the park system). The scale and magnitude of this system rivals any in the country. While this may sound extraordinary, what does it mean? What exactly is a park and why is an Olmsted park so special?

To answer these questions, we must first answer: where do parks come from?

Over a century and a half ago, cities were lacking the sanitation infrastructure to handle the ever-growing density

of people. Diseases like cholera and typhoid ravaged communities due to poor conditions. The desire for clean air and water drove those with means to acquire escapes outside of the city. Those with lesser means would use cemeteries as places to enjoy green space. There was a desperate need to have access to green space, fresh air, and recreation to escape the urban conditions.

By the mid-1800's, New York City decided to make an investment in a public park. A site was identified, surveyed, and a group was formed to oversee the design and implementation of the park. At that time, Frederick Law Olmsted was a park superintendent. Prior to this position, Olmsted, in his mid-thirties, already held several careers that ranged from journalist to gentleman farmer. As a journalist, Olmsted traveled to England and visited famous estates, gardens, and private parks, which made a profound impression upon him. He also traveled through the southern states during the first six months of the civil war, which also had a profound impression on how he viewed the world. Given his varied experiences, Olmsted was uniquely suited to what came next. In April 1857, The Central Park Commission began a design competition for what would become known as Central Park. With

no design experience, Olmsted teamed with a well-known architect, Calvert Vaux, and won the competition with a submittal entitled "Greensward Plan". At the time, there was not a well-established understanding of what a park is, so the submittals ranged from a series of intricate manicured gardens to a patchwork of smaller green spaces divided by a network of streets. The Greensward Plan took the approach of creating naturalistic views and uninterrupted beauty by sinking the roads below the park, which provided vast spaces for people to enjoy.

Frederick Law Olmsted went on to have an illustrious career in a profession that became known as Landscape Architecture. He and his firm designed over 6,000 landscapes across North America that ranged from parks, neighborhoods, estates, campuses, and park systems. Throughout his career, Olmsted worked to plan and design landscapes to bring people closer to their environment. He believed in the healing power of nature and that all people deserve access to nature. Later in his career, Olmsted developed the idea that cities could be designed around a park system - a network of parks of various sizes that are interconnected through parkways (linear parks).



Throughout his career, Frederick Law Olmsted and his firm developed and refined what a designed landscape could be and how it can serve the public to enhance the quality of life. Olmsted wrote prolifically about his thoughts on landscape, society, and individual projects. Within these writings, he outlines the principles by which he approaches design: embracing genius of place - taking advantage of the unique site, creating a unified composition - blending the constructed with nature, orchestrating movement - directing the user through the landscape, respecting the site - designing sustainably with environmental conservation in mind, and allowing a comprehensive approach - acknowledging the site's surroundings.

Noted historian Charles Beveridge summarizes Olmsted design into the Seven S's: scenery, suitability, style, subordination, separation, sanitation, and service. These Seven S's (explained in further detail at the end of this chapter) will be referenced as the guiding design elements seen in every step of the master plan process from inventory and analysis to final design.



Central Park - New York, NY



Golden Gate Park - San Francisco, CA



The Olmsted Firm

## THE OLMSTED LEGACY CONTINUED



JOHN CHARLES OLMSTED



FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED JR.

Late in his career, Frederick Law Olmsted was called to Louisville by the Louisville Board of Park Commissioners in 1891. Many of the urban neighborhoods were well established. Olmsted set upon Louisville with a revolutionary idea that the city should be organized by a system of parks that are interconnected, so one could move between the parks without ever leaving a park experience.

By this point, Fredrick Law Olmsted was winding down in his career (retired by 1895) and a new generation of designers, his sons John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., were leading the firm. The Olmsted Brothers had a profound influence implementing the grand vision of a Louisville park system.

The park system consists of three large flagship parks (Cherokee Park, Shawnee Park, and Iroquois Park) that are located along the outer edges of town and interconnected through parkways that link to smaller, neighborhood-serving parks. As the city grew, the three large parks acted as magnets for suburban development and were gradually enveloped by neighborhoods and communities.

(History information obtained from the National Association for Olmsted Parks)



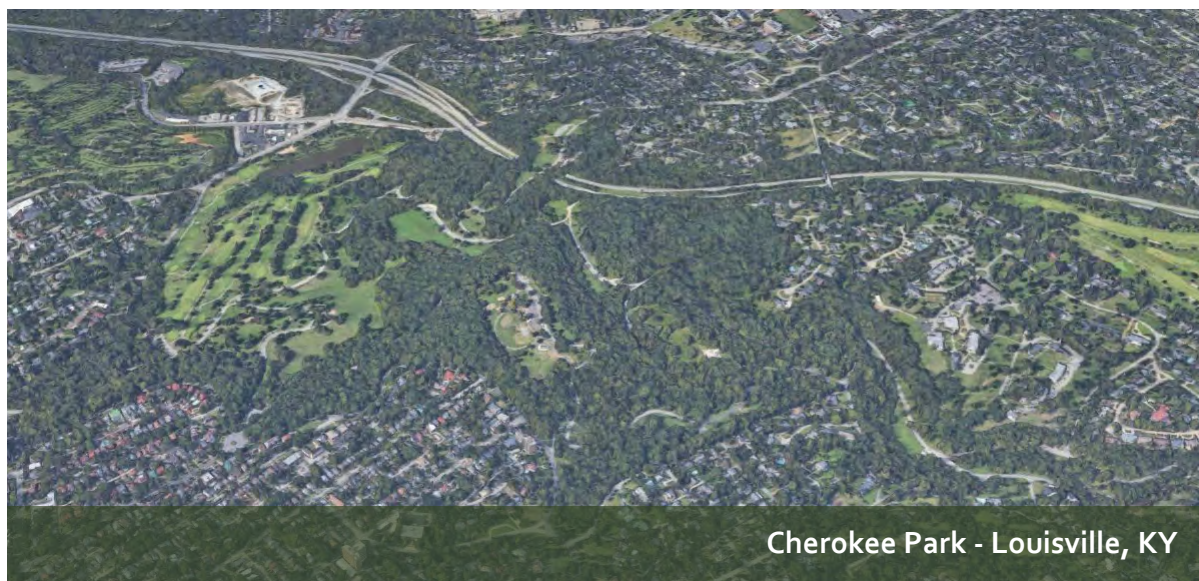




Iroquois Park - Louisville, KY



Shawnee Park - Louisville, KY



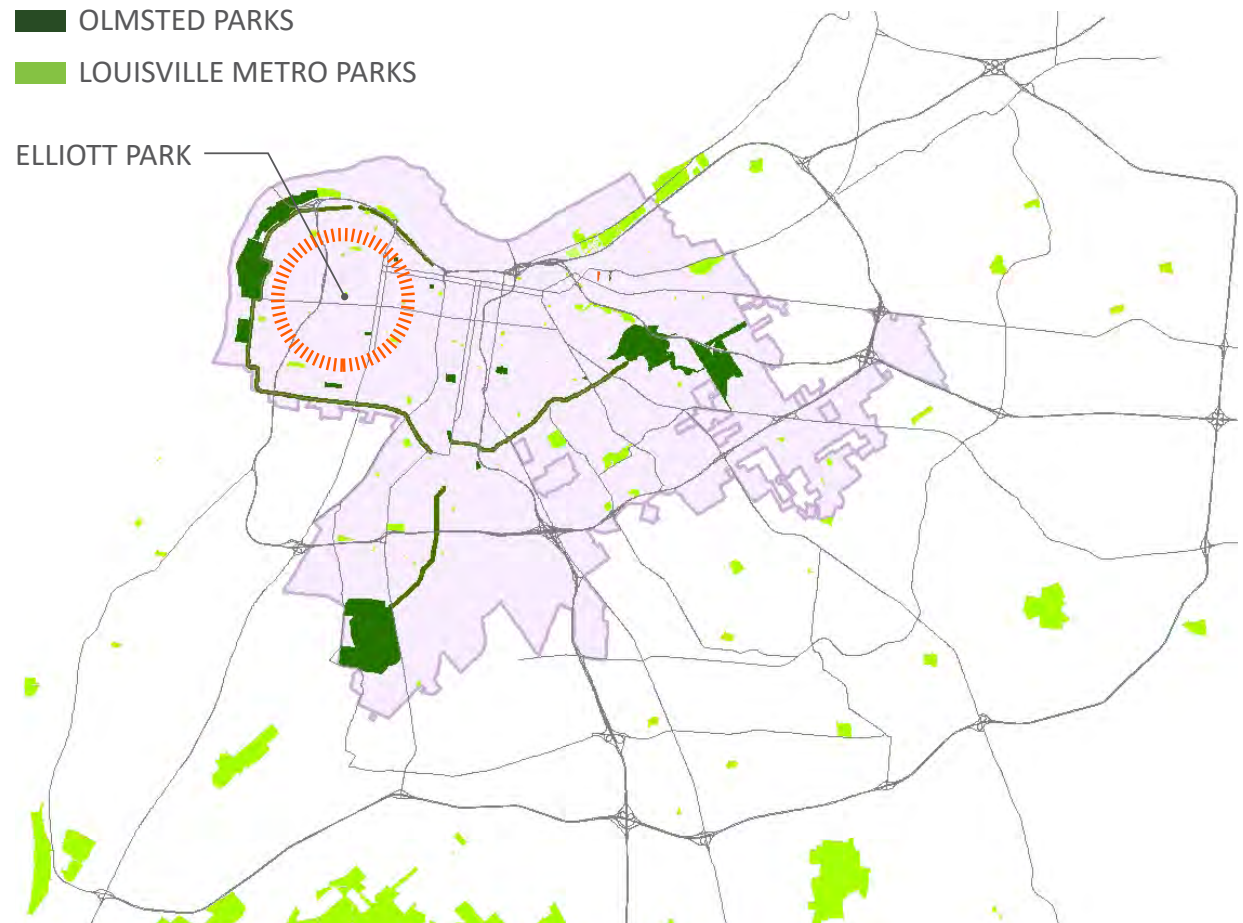
Cherokee Park - Louisville, KY



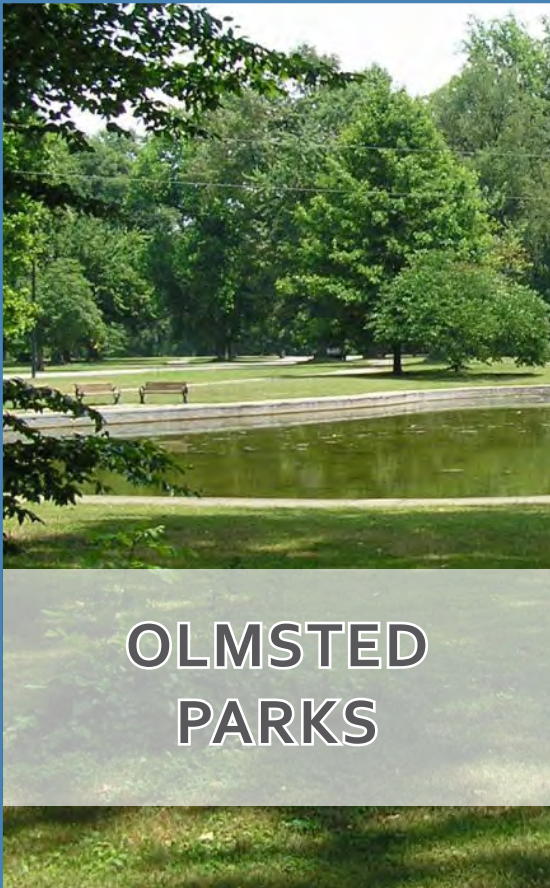
# THE PARK SYSTEM

The park system relies on a network of parks and communities, interwoven to create destinations and important connections. Typical Olmsted fashion was the idea that the creation of a park led to the development of an encompassing neighborhood.

Neighborhood parks, like Elliott Park, are vital to providing a walkable destination with features uniquely suited to the needs of a specific community. These spaces often form the backdrop for neighborhood gatherings and festivities, serving as walkable destinations for families with children, for those looking for a quick game of basketball, or even a leisurely walk and rest on a bench. While the neighborhood park is at the smallest scale, they often provide the most personal impact for those who live in the area. Investing in these parks is investing in the individual communities that make up the city.



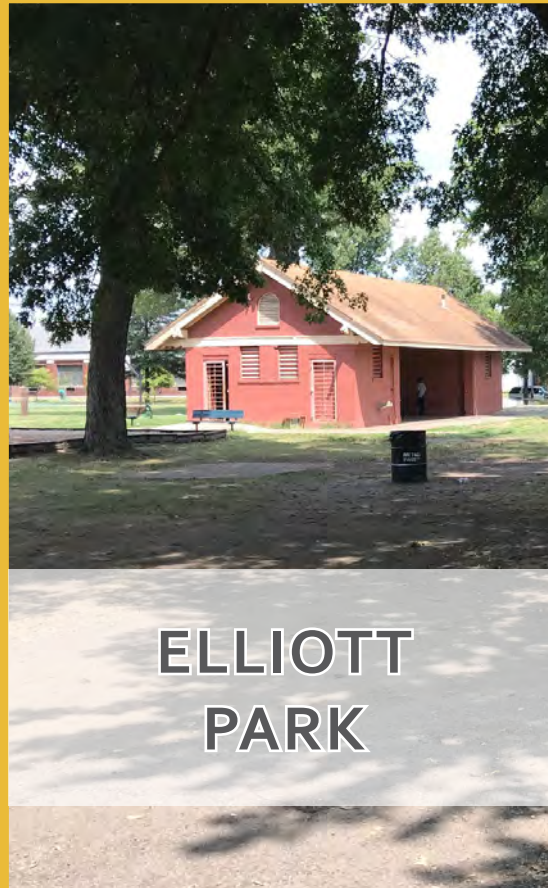
- Algonquin Park
- Baxter Square
- Bingham Park
- Boone Square
- Central Park
- Cherokee Park
- Chickasaw Park
- Elliott Park
- Iroquois Park
- Seneca Park
- Shawnee Park
- Shelby Park
- Stansbury Park
- Tyler Park
- Victory Park
- Wayside Park
- Willow Park



## OLMSTED PARKS

### PARK SYSTEM

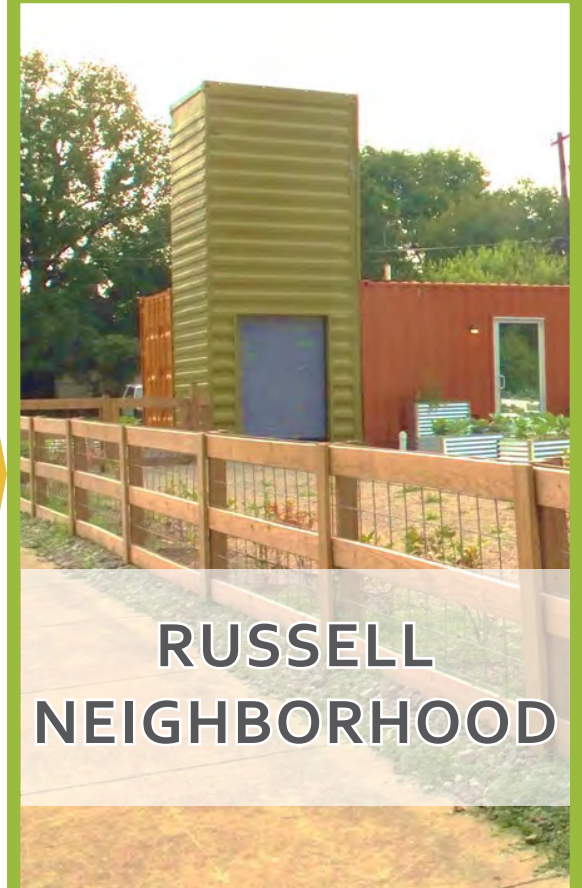
Frederick Law Olmsted was inspired by scenic American landscapes, appreciating their natural order. It was this natural movement and character that he wished to emulate in his designs, not just within individual parks but an entire park network.



## ELLIOTT PARK

### PARK

In the fashion “service must precede art”, Olmsted saw the park as the building block for the development of a neighborhood with a strong sense of community. This exemplifies a “build it and they will come” mentality: park first, neighborhood second.



## RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD

### COMMUNITY

The Elliott Park site was pivotal in making the Russell Neighborhood the community that it is today. Its use as a baseball field from the early 1880’s to mid 1920’s solidified the land as both a formal and informal recreation space for the neighborhood.



## SEVEN 'S' OF DESIGN:

## AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

Throughout his career, Frederick Law Olmsted and his firm developed and refined what a designed landscape could be and how it can serve the public to enhance quality of life for users. As mentioned earlier, this included the evolution of what became known as Olmstedian design elements that combine to meet the design principles. Noted historian, Charles Beveridge, summarizes the elements as the "Seven S": Scenery, Style, Suitability, Subordination, Separation, Sanitation, and Service. The included imagery relates the elements to the design of Central Park in New York City.

The overall master planning process was viewed through the lens of each of these elements. The *Learn* phase of the process used these elements to develop a park analysis from the inventory collected by the design team. This analysis was then translated into the development of design concepts in the *Dream* phase of engagement and design. Finally, the Seven 'S' of Olmsted Design continued to inform the final master plan, acting as a "checklist" for achieving a design that respects the Olmstedian style.

### STYLE



**Embrace the natural green.**

"Designing in 'Pastoral' style of open green space, small bodies of water and scattered groves or in 'Picturesque' style with profuse planting on steep and broken terrain."

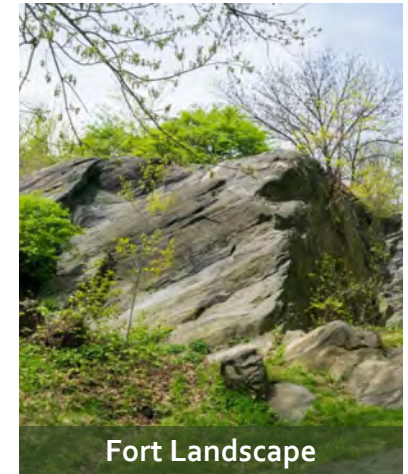
### SCENERY



**Stay true to the given space.**

"Designing for the "passages of scenery" even in the small spaces and in areas intended for active use. Creation of designs that give enhanced sense of space."

### SUITABILITY



**Respect the natural setting.**

"Creation of designs that are in keeping with the natural scenery and topography of the site: respect for, and full utilization of, the "genius of the place."

## SUBORDINATION



Bethesda Terrace

**Keep overall design simple.**

"Subordination of all elements, all features and objects, to the overall design and the effect it is intended to achieve. The "Art to conceal Art."

## SEPARATION



Conservatory Gardens

**Make sure there is purpose.**

"Separation of areas designed in different styles, so that an "incongruous mixture of styles" will not dilute the intended effect of each."

## SANITATION



Loeb Boathouse

**Achieve function over flash.**

"Provision for adequate drainage and engineering considerations, not simply arranging of surface features: promoting both the physical and mental health of users."

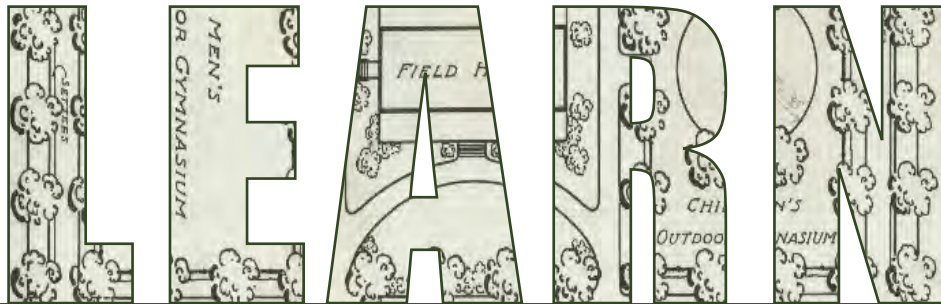
## SERVICE



The Reservoir

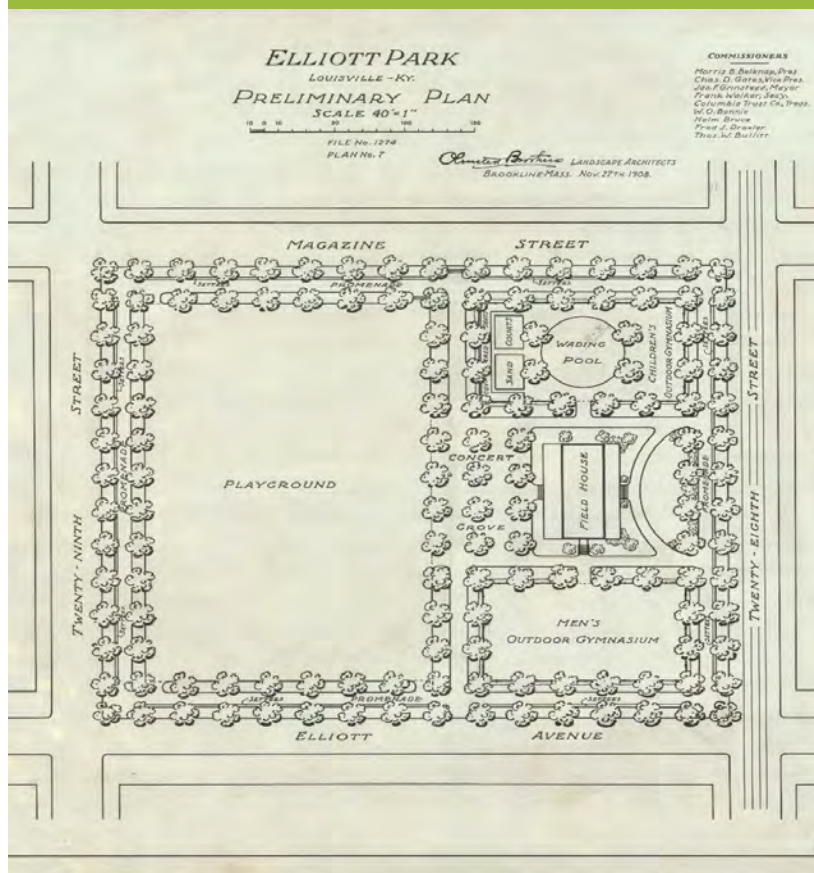
**Aim to make a better place.**

"Planning of designs so that they will serve a "purpose of direct utility or service;" that is, will meet fundamental social and psychological needs."





# CHAPTER 2: LEARN



## LEARN

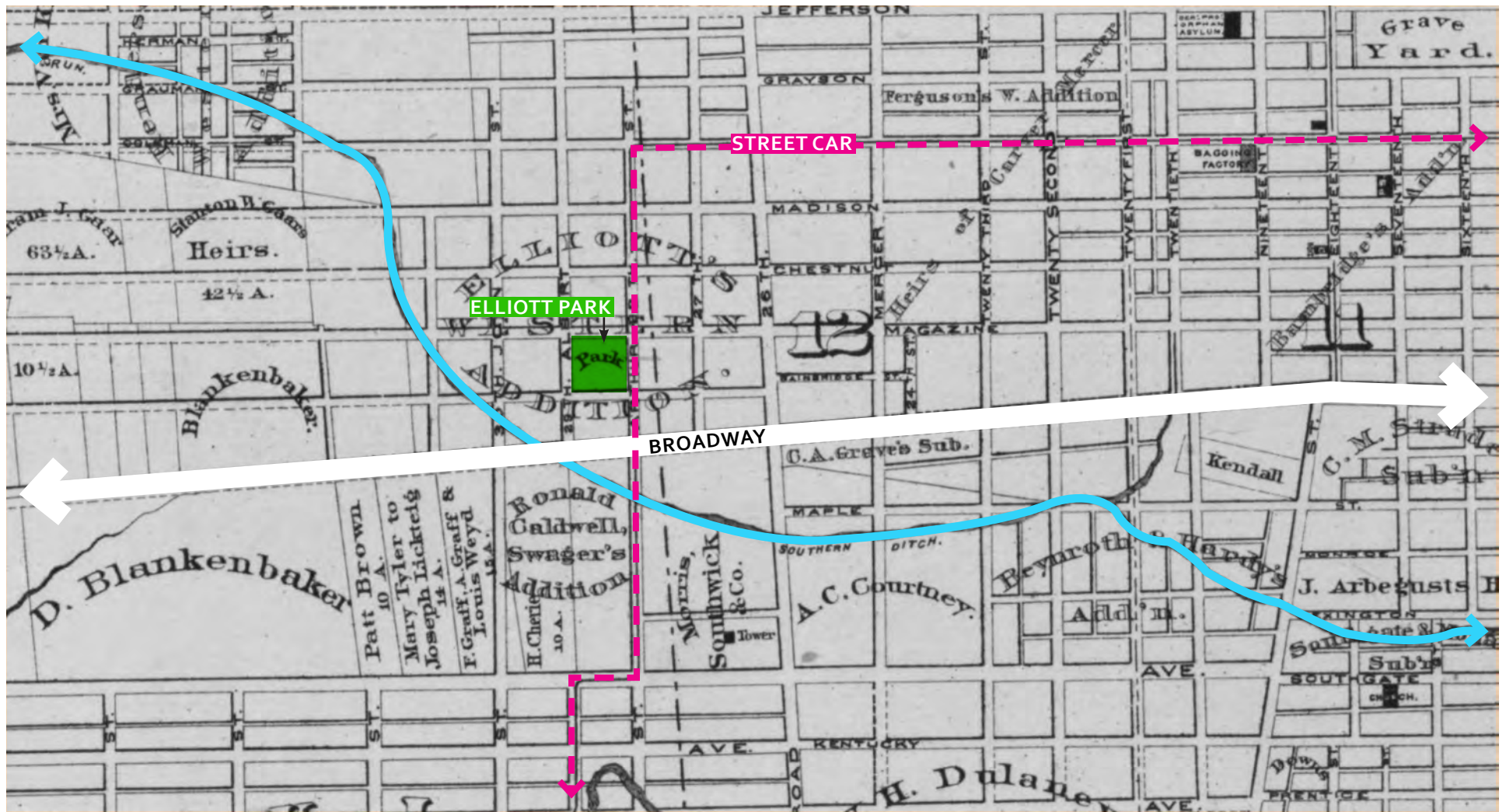
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- 43 Site Analysis

## ELLIOTT PARK LEGACY

The site where Elliott Park sits today is full of history. Even before it became an official city park, the space served as the field for three important baseball teams; the Eclipse, the Louisville Colonels, and the Louisville Unions. The Slugger bat made it's debut here in the location where Honus Wagner hit his first homerun. As the city expanded and property around the park was parceled and auctioned off, residents had the foresight to preserve the space for a proper park.



1908 Louisville Unions baseball teammates.

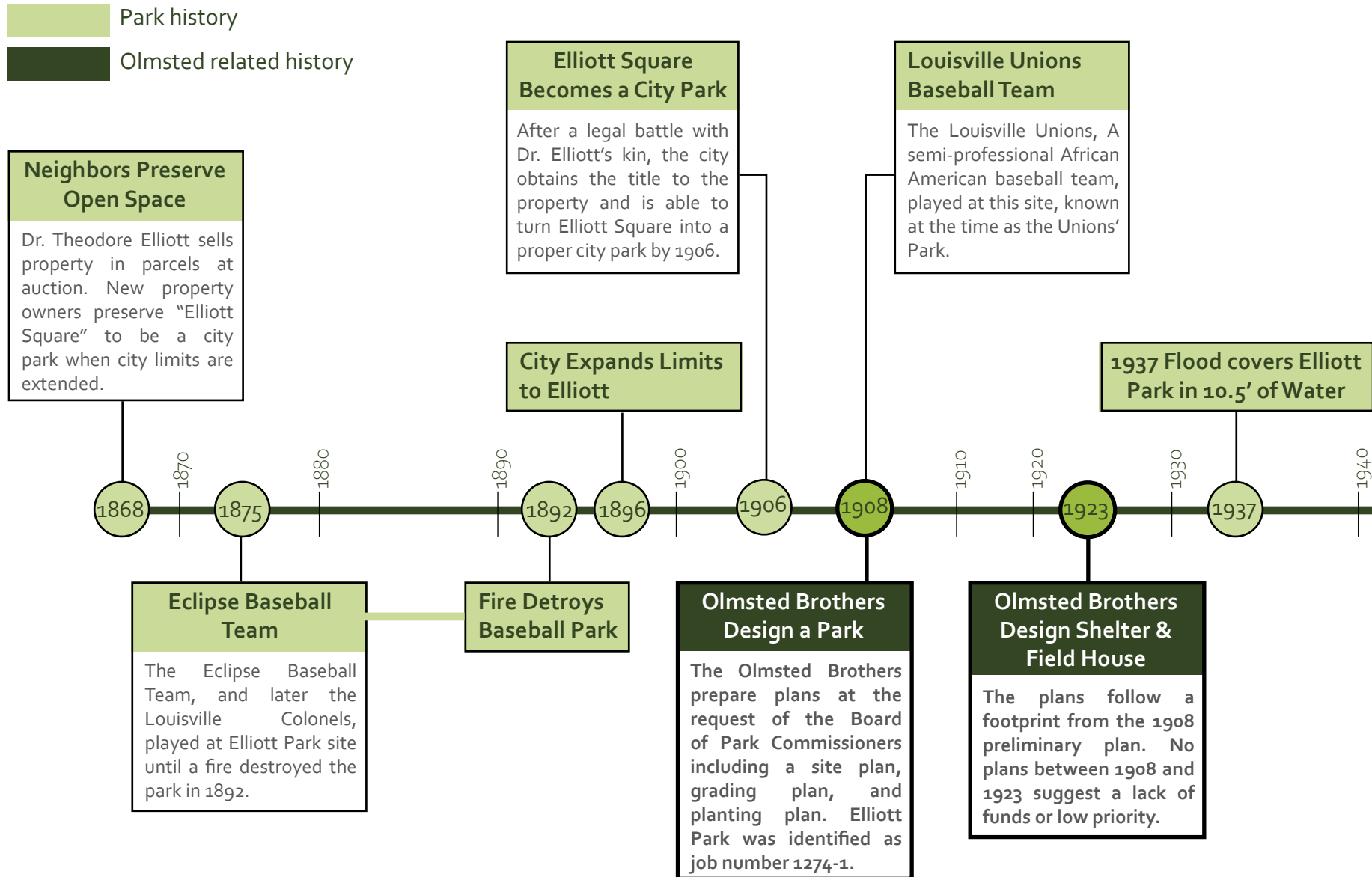


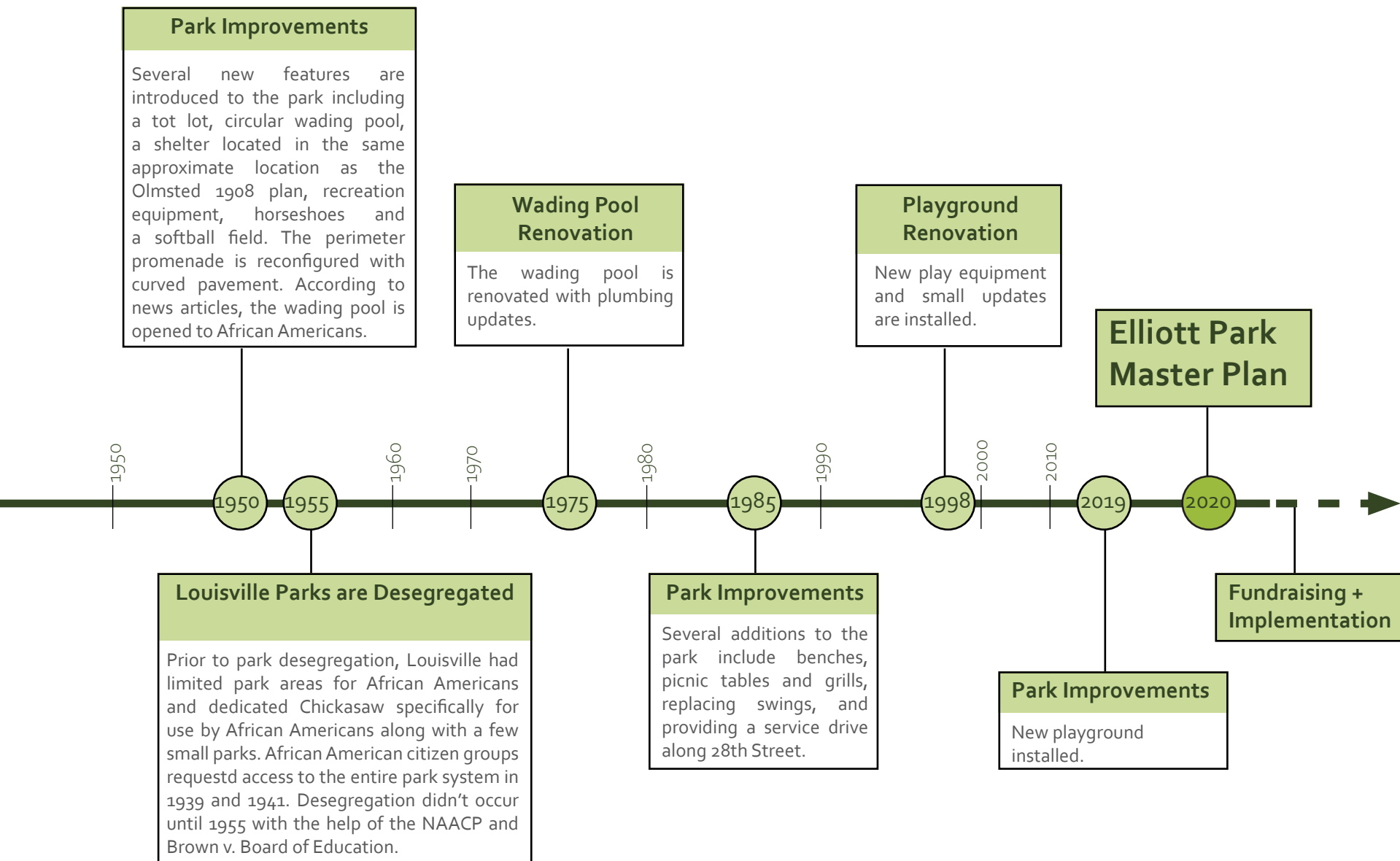
A map from 1893 labels the area as “Elliott’s Western Addition” and labels the Park. When the property was parceled and auctioned in 1868, the new property owners set aside this block of land to be preserved for a city park in anticipation of the city expansion.

Interestingly, Southern Ditch appears to be a stream that runs south and west of the Park area possibly explaining some of the underlying flood prone zones. The map also shows a street car line on 28th Street.



# ELLIOTT PARK SITE HISTORY





## THE OLMSTED PLAN:

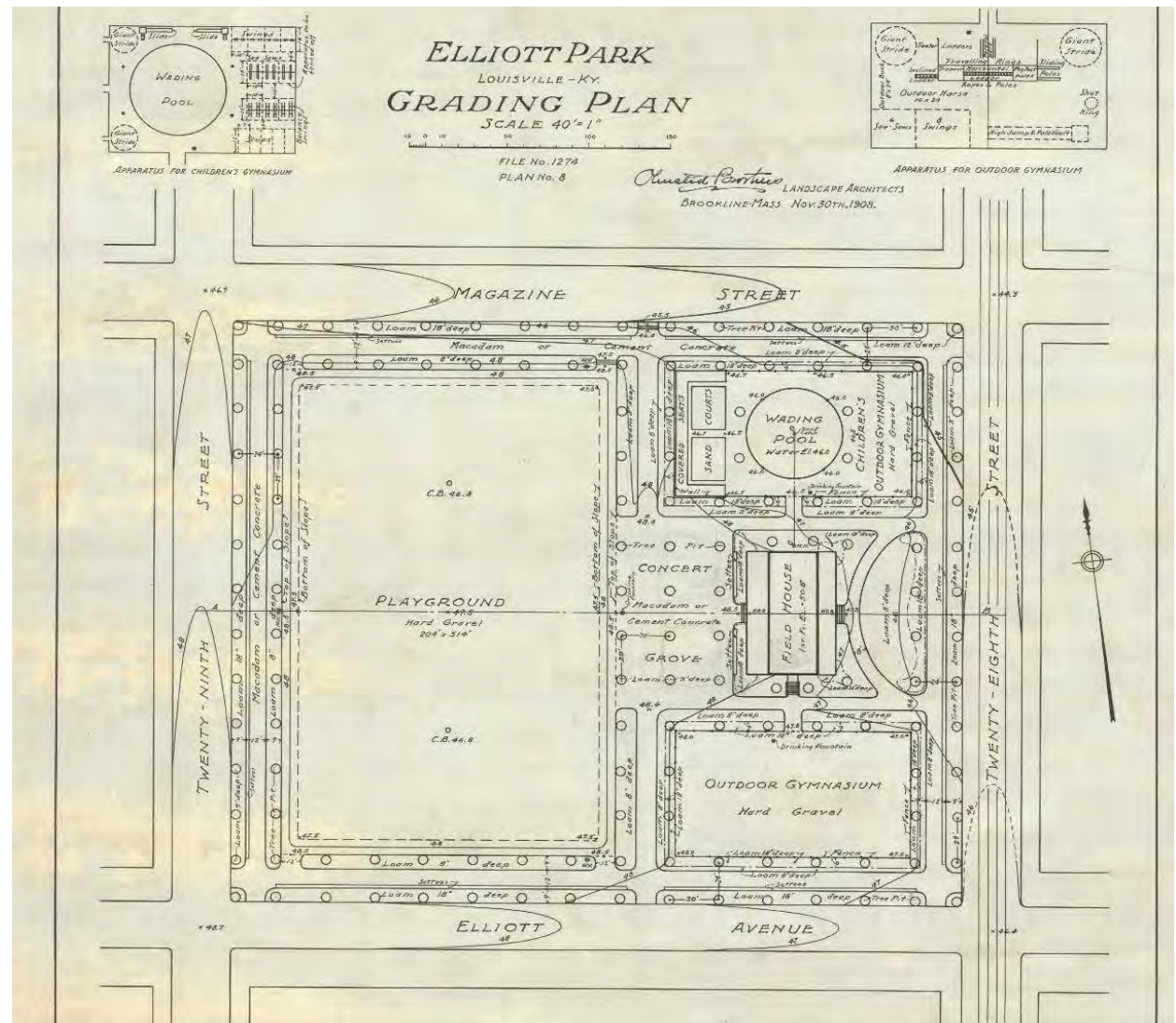
In 1908, the Olmsted Brothers prepared a series of plans at the request of the Board of Park Commissioners including a site plan, grading plan, and planting plan. The Elliott Park job number is recorded as 1274-1 at the Olmsted firm.

The plan indicates the vision for the park is influenced by the physical square nature of the site and the urban context creating a framed “square-like” park that fits an urban block. Such as the “genius of the place” the Olmsted design offers a neighborhood park, reinforcing the urban block with a perimeter path framed with trees and a formal arrangement of active areas for all ages.

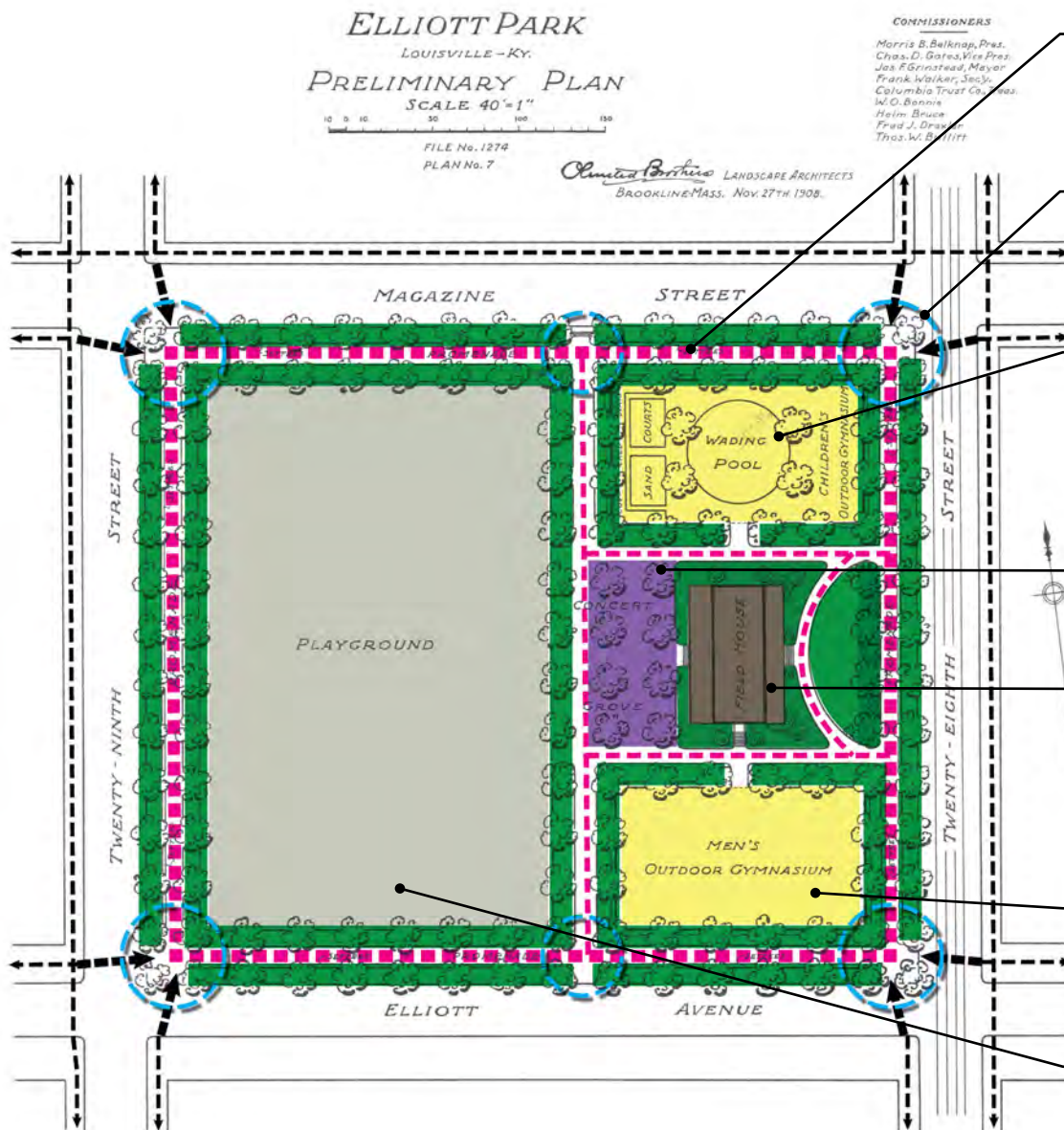
The central Concert Grove and the Field House serve park users as a stage for performing arts and social settings. The architecture is placed prominently mid block and framed by the only sweeping paths in the park and ornamental trees.

The majority of active programmed spaces are concentrated on the Eastern side of the park while the Western side is left open for flexible uses and framed by the perimeter path.

## SPATIAL ORGANIZATION



1908 Elliott Park Grading Plan by the Olmsted Brothers.



### Tree-lined Promenade

A perimeter 'allee' or walkway flanked by pairs of trees.

### Multiple Entry Points

All four corners of the park are gateways as they interface with the surrounding neighborhood.

### Children's Gymnasium

The children's gymnasium included a wading pool, two slides, several swings, seesaws, balance swings and other play features. The area was noted to be "fenced off" likely as a safety measure.

### Concert Grove

A space with deliberately spaced trees to provide shade during outdoor concerts.

### Field House

As designed, the Field House was prominently placed mid-block, raised on a porch with steps, and flanked with ornamental landscape. The plans call for restrooms, closets, a locker room, a supply closet, and space for administration.

### Men's Outdoor Gymnasium

Documents describe equipment in this area to include teeter, ladders, traveling rings, pole vault and more.

### Playground

Half of the park was dedicated to a large flexible active space with a gravel surface.



## THE OLMSTED PLAN:

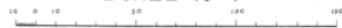
The Olmsted Brothers Planting Plan for Elliott Park is a formal approach to the square-like setting. Lining all major walkways are large shade trees. Framing the Field House are a handful of smaller ornamental trees, shrubs and perennials. Shrubs and perennials are used to identify entrances and destinations and are used along many edges including the park perimeter and the concentrated activity areas.

## PLANTING LAYOUT



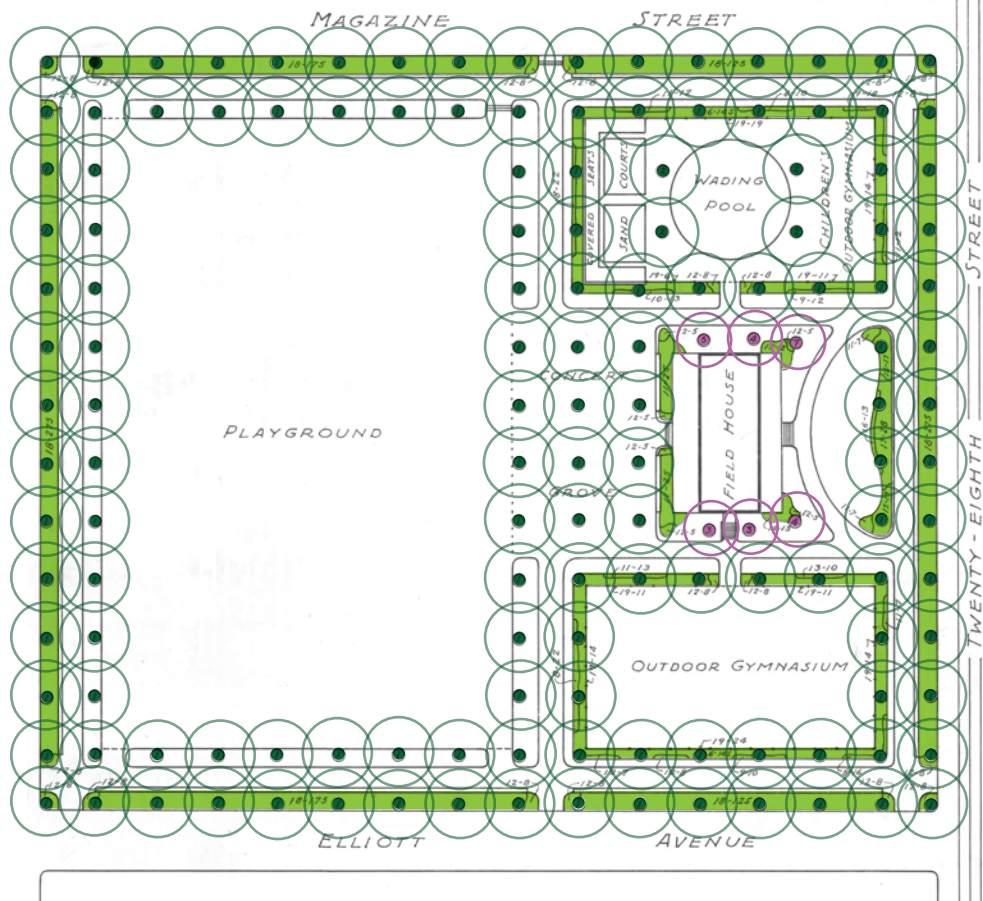


ELLIOTT PARK  
LOUISVILLE - KY.  
PLANTING PLAN  
SCALE 40' = 1"



FILE No. 1274  
PLAN No. 10

*Oliver Brothers*  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS  
BROOKLINE MASS. DEC. 31 ST., 1908.



PLANTING LIST

1. *Tilia europaea*, 136 plants  
European Linden
2. *Acer platanoides*, 4 plants  
Norway Maple
3. *Crataegus cordata*, 2 plants  
Washington Thorn
4. *Cornus florida*, 2 plants  
White Flowering Dogwood
5. *Rhamnus fraxinea*, 1 plant  
Alder Buckthorn
6. 2 beds, 290 plants, 3' apart  
*Berberis vulgaris*, 20 plants  
Common Barberry  
*Rhodotypos kerrioides*, 35 plants  
White Kerria  
*Symphoricarpos vulgaris*, 40 plants  
Indian Currant  
*Ligustrum ibota*, 15 plants  
Chinese Privet  
*Euonymus alatus*, 20 plants  
Cork-barked Euonymus  
*Itea virginica*, 30 plants  
Virginia Willow  
*Lonicera fragrantissima*, 20 plants  
Honeysuckle  
*Deutzia scabra*, 30 plants  
Deutzia  
*Cornus paniculata*, 30 plants  
Gray Dogwood  
*Deutzia lemoinei*, 35 plants  
Deutzia  
*Aralia pentaphylla*, 15 plants  
Five-leaved Aralia
7. *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, 1 plant  
Tree of Nippon
8. 4 beds, 70 plants, 2 1/2' apart  
*Euonymus radicans*, 40 plants  
Broad-leaved Euonymus  
*Berberis sinensis*, 30 plants  
Chinese Barberry
9. 3 beds, 40 plants, 2 1/2' apart  
*Desmodium penduliflorum*, 20 plants  
Pea Bush  
*Diervilla trifida*, 20 plants  
Yellow Bush Honeysuckle
10. *Spiraea thunbergii*, 21 plants  
Thunberg's Spiraea
11. 8 beds, 108 plants, 2 1/2' apart  
*Rosa lucida*, 30 plants  
Wild Rose  
*Rosa blanda*, 78 plants  
Swamp Rose
12. *Berberis thunbergii*, 190 plants, 2 1/2' apart  
Japan Barberry
13. 2 beds, 17 plants, 2 1/2' apart  
*Spiraea callosa*, 7 plants  
Fortune's Spiraea  
*Kerria japonica*, 5 plants  
Globe Flower  
*Zanthorrhiza apiifolia*, 5 plants  
Yellow Root
14. *Rhodotypos kerrioides*, 13 plants, 3' apart  
White Kerria
15. 3 beds, 48 plants, 2 1/2' apart  
*Rosa rugosa*, 24 plants, 2 1/2' apart  
Ramanas Rose  
*Rosa rugosa alba*, 24 plants  
White Ramanas Rose
16. *Spiraea Van Houttei*, 13 plants, 3' apart  
Van Houtte's Spiraea
17. 1 bed, 28 plants, 3 1/2' apart  
*Viburnum cassinoides*, 7 plants  
Withered  
*Euonymus alatus*, 7 plants  
Corked Bark Euonymus  
*Ligustrum ibota*, 7 plants  
Chinese Privet  
*Viburnum dentatum*, 7 plants  
Arrow-wood
18. 6 beds, 1150 plants, 2 1/2' apart  
*Rosa lucida*, 250 plants  
Wild Rose  
*Rosa lucida alba*, 250 plants  
White Wild Rose  
*Rosa blanda*, 300 plants  
Swamp Rose  
*Symphoricarpos vulgaris*, 350 plants  
Indian Currant
19. *Celastrus scandens*, 124 plants, 6' apart  
Bittersweet

Large Shade Trees

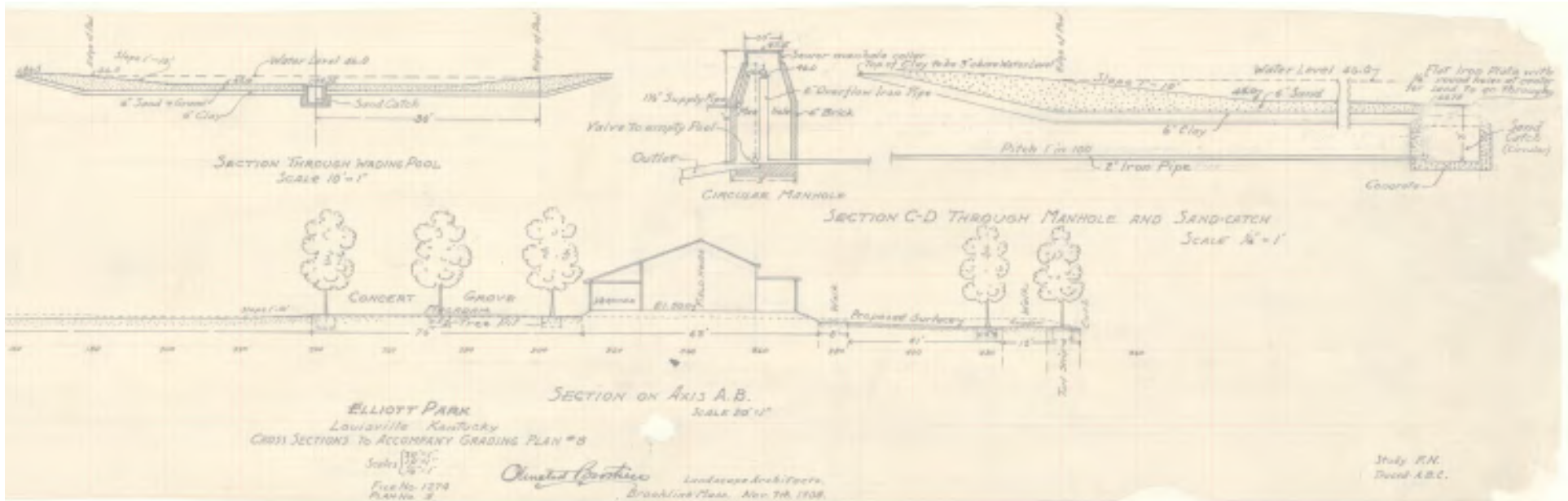
Medium to Small  
Ornamental Trees

Shrubs + Perennials

Medium to Small  
Ornamental Trees

Shrubs + Perennials

# THE OLMSTED PLAN: ARCHITECTURE



1923 FIELD HOUSE SKETCH : SECTION AND DETAILS

In 1923, the Olmsted Brothers developed a set of plans for a shelter and field house in Elliott Park. The existing field house seen in the park today is smaller and doesn't reflect the original architectural drawings and sketches. To this day, it is unknown if the building was constructed as designed, then modified over time. No additional plans or information have been located since the 1923 Olmsted plans.

When first introduced in the master plan by the Olmsted Brothers, the field house was intended as a featured architectural element on the eastern half of the site. The structure was identified as a public gathering space that also served for back-of-house programming such as restrooms, utilities, and storage. Many of these functions are still used as intended in the existing structure.

The original architectural drawings for the field house display a rectangular and symmetrical form that rests on an elevated podium bounded by railing. The front elevation called for 3 arches at equal distance that led to a covered gathering space. Storage and other back-of-house programming bordered the covered space.

The integrity of the design is seen in many details of the original Olmsted drawings. Although Art Deco was the new and developing architectural style throughout the 1920's, the Field House exhibits more of a Revival style seen in the early 1900's. This is supported by the drawing elevations, which show traditional arches and railings of the time, as well as a secondary pitch in the hip roof.

### 1923 FIELD HOUSE SKETCH : PLAN



## ELLIOTT PARK CONTEXT

Elliott Park and the Russell Neighborhood have seen many changes over the last century. While some of the original master plan was implemented, much was not.

Elliott Park serves a crucial role in the neighborhood, but as budgetary struggles persist, much of the park is in disrepair and there are many opportunities to improve this space for the people who need it the most.

As a neighborhood park, its important to serve the adjacent community. To begin identifying the primary park users, the Context Map on the following page shows a 10-minute walking radius.





#### LEGEND

- ELLIOTT PARK
- OLMSTED PARKS
- LOUISVILLE METRO PARKS
- OLMSTED PARKWAY
- RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD EXTENTS

- Located in the Russell neighborhood, the area was once known as “Louisville’s Harlem” for its strong African American business presence along Walnut Street (Muhammad Ali Blvd.).
- Russell is one of the 9 neighborhoods that make up West Louisville and its 9,500 residents make up 15% of the total West Louisville population.
- While less than a quarter of the Louisville population is black, the Russell neighborhood is predominantly black (91%).
- The population tends to be younger with more Russell households having children than the city as a whole.
- Russell’s poverty rate is 3.5 times higher than the general Louisville population.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS: THE OVERALL PARK



### USERS

- Elliott Park is located in the Russell Neighborhood near Broadway, one of the cities most important public transportation corridors.
- There are over 2,700 people who live within a 10-minute walk of Elliott Park.
- Nearly 30% of that population are children and 15% are seniors.
- The park is adjacent to multiple senior housing complexes including Elliott Park Apartments and Elder Serve Senior Center.
- Nearly 70% of residents within a 10-minute walk are identified as low income.
- *Data referenced from the Trust for Public Land ParkServe analysis tool.*



### AMENITIES

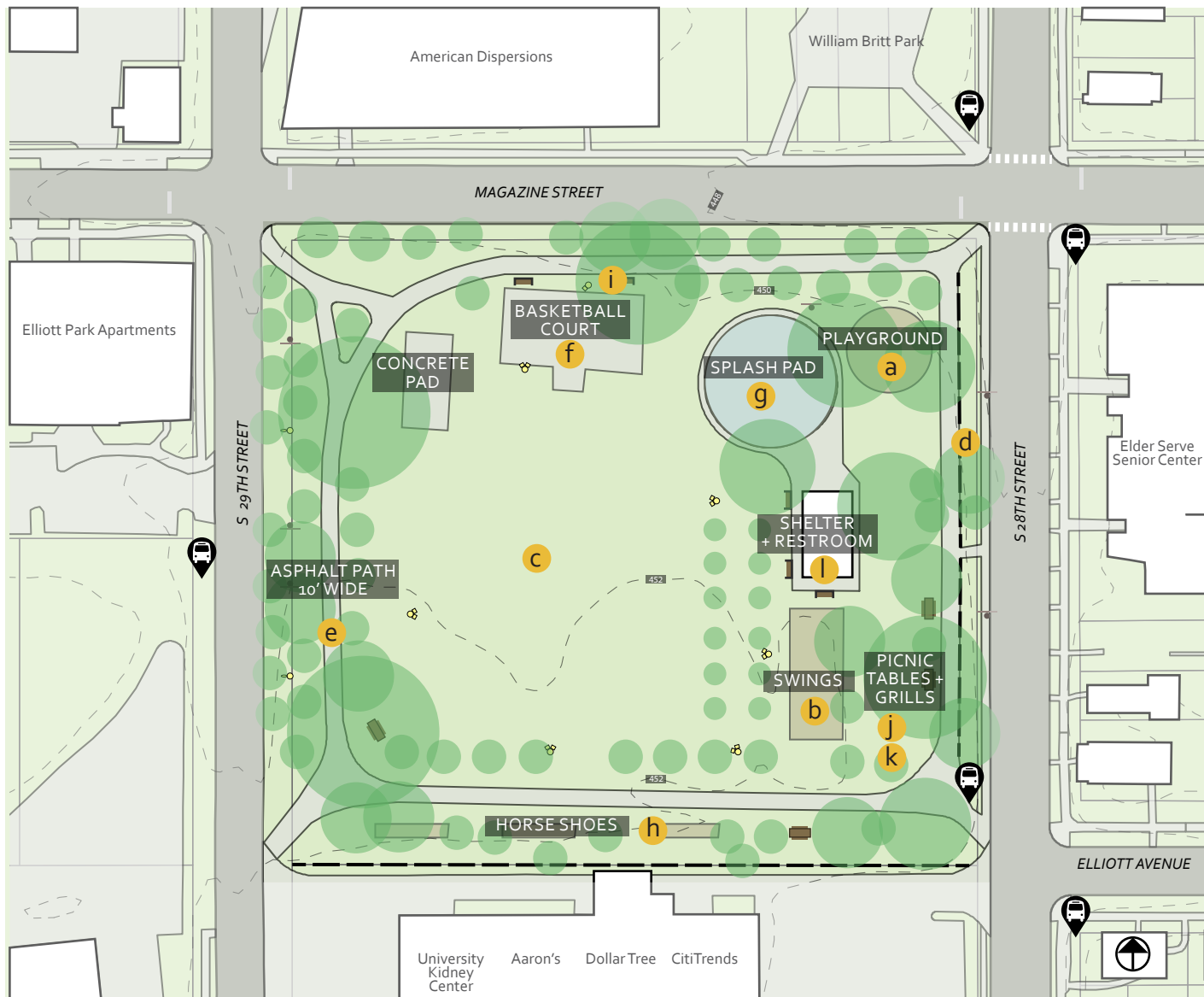
- For younger park users, the playground, splash pad and swings offer a range of activities but are somewhat separated by the field house making it difficult for parents to watch. The splashpad is aged and outdated. The swing set presents an accessibility challenge due to the rubber edging.
- While a basketball court and horseshoe pits weren't in the original 1908 plan, they are heavily used.
- Picnic tables and a variety of benches are scattered throughout the site and may not be enough or in the best locations.
- The shelter building houses restroom facilities that are in extreme disrepair.



### PROGRAM

- While some structured programming exists, Elliott Park is not a heavily programmed park.
- Elliott Park's Annual Reunion Day has been held for more than two decades. The event is held in September every year.
- The large field offers multi-use open space that is utilized by a youth football league for team practice.
- The open space and spaces along 28th Street are heavily utilized for ad-hoc activities including large group BBQs.
- A bike club often meets at the park before and/or after rides through the city and neighborhoods.
- Seniors walk the perimeter path daily.





## EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP

### LEGEND

- LIGHT POLE
- UTILITY POLE
- EXISTING TREES
- EXISTING FENCE
- TARC BUS STOP
- EXISTING SEATING
- AMENITY INVENTORY - SEE PAGES 20-21

### SITE DATA

SITE AREA - 3.98 AC.  
IMPERVIOUS SURFACE - 25%

## EXISTING CONDITIONS: SITE AMENITIES



a

PLAYGROUND - Installed in 2019, in the same location as "Children's Gymnasium" of the Olmsted Plan.



b

SWING SET - Install date unknown, located in the "Men's Gymnasium" of the Olmsted Plan, inaccessible due to edge.



c

OPEN FIELD (PLAYGROUND) - Active multi-use space original to the Olmsted Plan. However, it is now, and likely always has been, lawn instead of gravel.



g

SPLASH PAD - Install date unknown, likely not original, same general location as "Wading Pool" of the Olmsted Plan.



h

HORSESHOE PIT - Installed 1950, not original to Olmsted Plan, but now has local, historical significance.



i

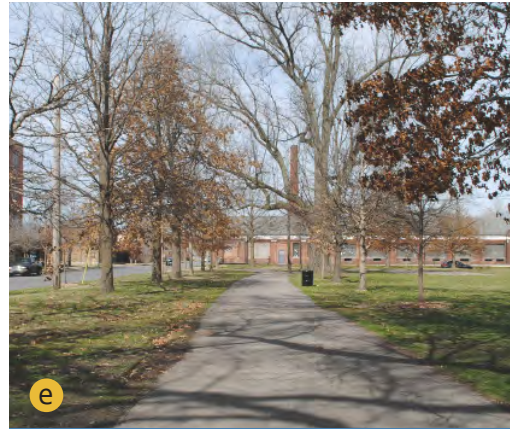
WOODEN SLAT BENCHES - Installed 1985 or later, poor condition.





d

CHAIN LINK FENCE - Install date unknown, appears to have been installed for safety reasons.



e

PERIMETER PATH - Install date unknown, in location of the original Olmsted Plan w/ modifications - deteriorating condition.



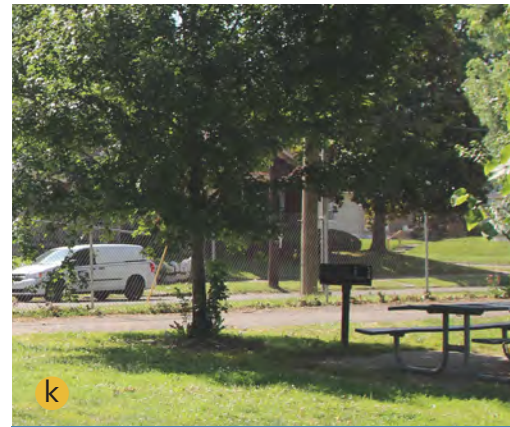
f

BASKETBALL COURT - Installed in 1985 and updated since, located in the open field "Playground" of the Olmsted Plan.



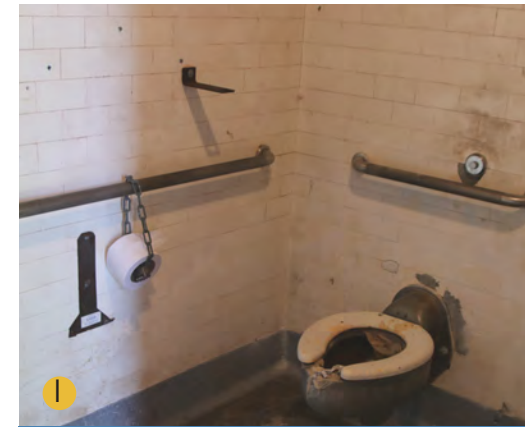
j

PICNIC TABLES - Install date unknown.



k

CHARCOAL GRILLS - 1985 or later, exact date unknown.



l

RESTROOMS - Install date unknown, poor condition.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS: INFRASTRUCTURE



### STORMWATER

- The park gently slopes from the high point at the Southwest corner of the site to the low point at the Northeast corner of the site.
- Within the park, stormwater generally surface flows to two surface inlets that connect to the combined sewer infrastructure along the street. Additionally, some stormwater surface flow is collected in curb culverts along the edge of the park.
- The stormwater is collected and transferred in a combined sanitary sewer system that runs North/South along 28th and 29th Streets.



### UTILITIES

- Overhead utilities run along 28th and 29th Streets between the park perimeter path and the street. Distance to tree canopies varies but can cause challenges for large tree establishment.
- There are several large overhead light fixtures within the park that serve the large open field and the basketball court.
- There are several old and unused utility poles in the park.
- While not surveyed, we can assume there are sanitary laterals, water, and electric serving the shelter building and the splash pad.










### FLOOD PRONE

- While there is no FEMA floodplain located within the park, a combined sewer overflow flood prone area exists at the northeastern corner of the Magazine Street and 28th Street intersection.
- The flooding appears to be contained within the street, but could also include the sidewalk and park edge.



## INFRASTRUCTURE MAP

### LEGEND

-  LIGHT POLE
-  UTILITY POLE
-  OVERHEAD ELECTRIC ZONE
-  COMBINED SEWER
-  FLOOD PRONE AREA
-  DRAINAGE PATTERN
-  SURFACE INLET

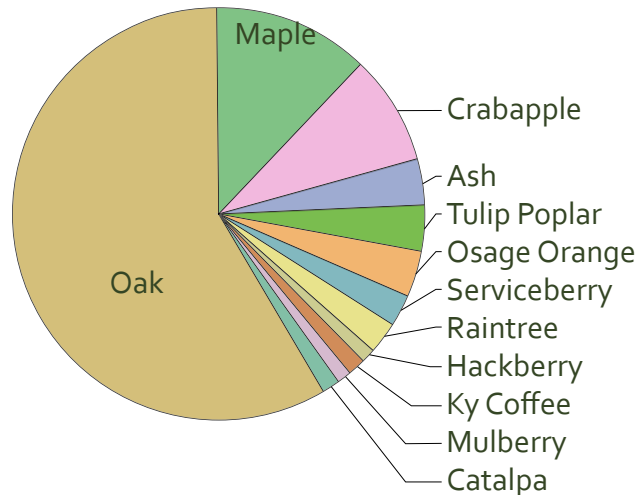
### SITE DATA

SITE AREA - 3.98 AC.

IMPERVIOUS SURFACE - 25%

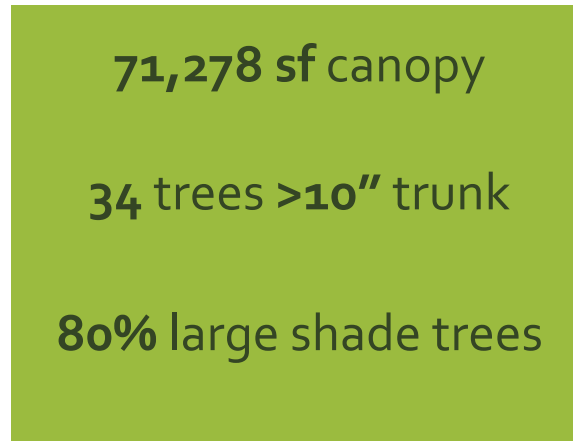


## EXISTING CONDITIONS: LANDSCAPE



### TREE DIVERSITY

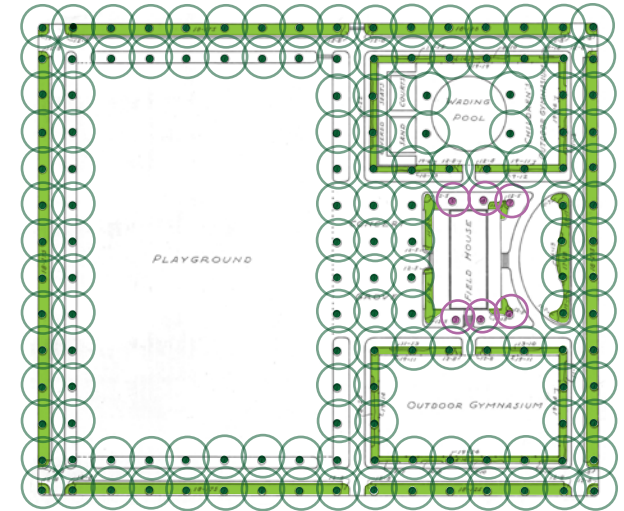
- Of the 84 trees at the park, there are 12 different genus types and 27 different species adding up to a diverse range of tree types; most are large shade trees.
- 10% of the trees are listed as fair/poor condition, noted in the Tree Survey Map circled with red and yellow.
- Sizes range from recently planted 1" diameter at breast height (dbh) to trees that have been there for decades. The largest is a Pin Oak of 60" dbh.
- 12 trees are considered "heritage" with dbh greater than 30".
- The majority are native oak species.
- Crabapples and white mulberry are the only non-native species present.



### TREE CANOPY

- Using Louisville's Land Development Code, the tree canopy totals 71,278 sf, covering 41% of the site, most of which is concentrated along the edge.
- 68 of the trees fall into size class A (large), 4 are size class B (medium), and 10 are size class C (small).
- A wide range in dbh size indicates a healthy future for the tree canopy.

The park today has a wide range of tree species compared to the original Olmsted Planting Plan. Tree diversity leads to long term sustainability by offering resilience to disease and infection, and supports urban wildlife.



### THE OLMSTED PLAN

- The historical Olmsted Brothers Planting Plan had little tree diversity and included many non-native and/or invasive species.
- While the historic plan shows shrubs and perennials edging the perimeter and programmed areas and framing the building, the current planting has no shrubs or perennials.



# TREE SURVEY MAP

## LEGEND

- Quercus / Oak
- Acer / Maple
- Unidentified
- Celtis / Hackberry
- Glymnocladus / Ky Coffee
- Liriodendron / Tulip Poplar
- Catalpa / Catalpa
- Maclura / Osage Orange
- Koelreuteri / Raintree
- Fraxinus / Ash
- Malus / Crabapple
- Amelanchier / Serviceberry
- Morus / Mulberry
- Tilia / Linden

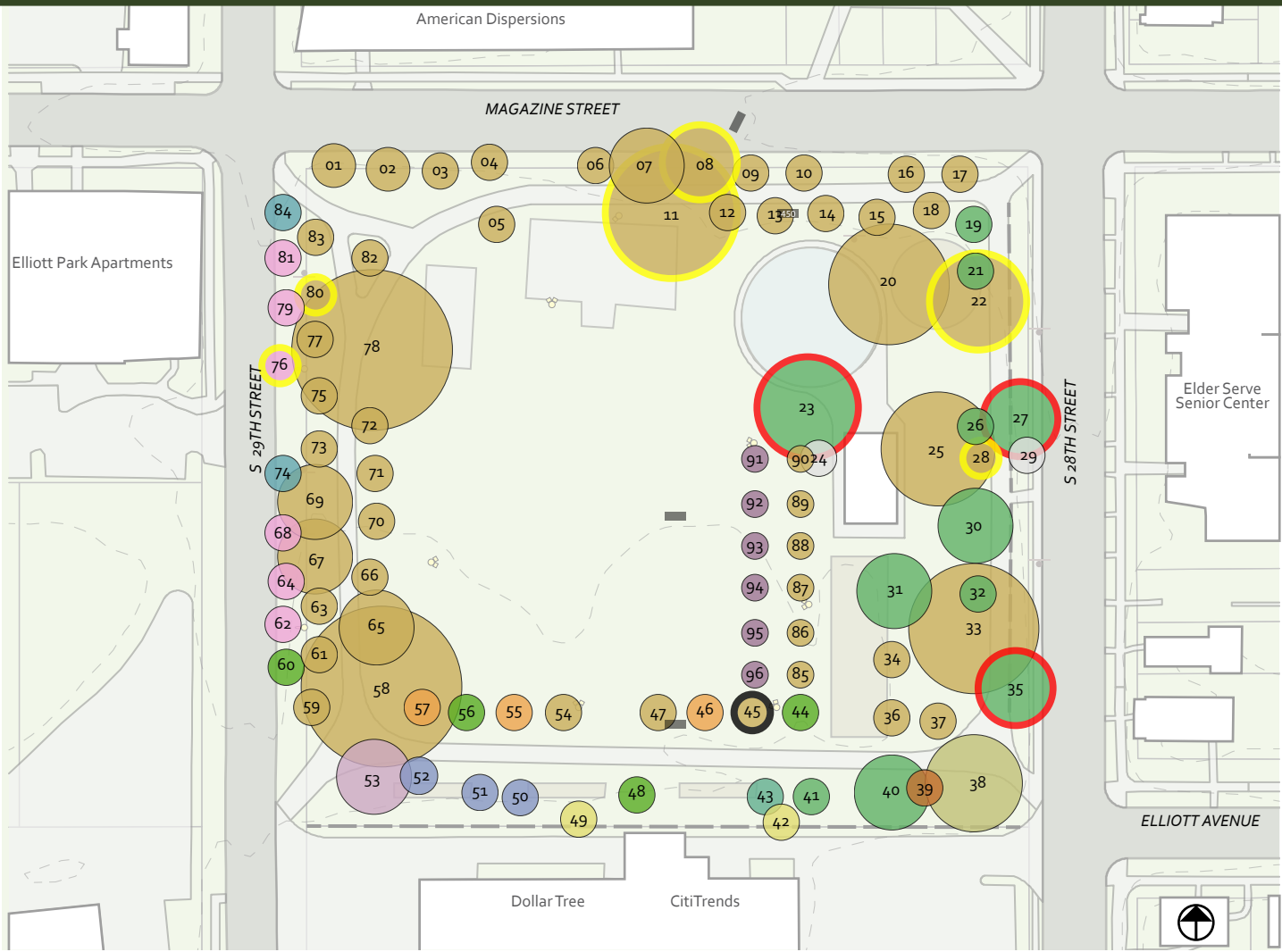
- Fair Condition
- Poor Condition
- Tree Removed
- 01 See the following spread for a full tree species list.

## SITE DATA

SITE AREA - 3.98 AC.  
CANOPY COVERAGE - 41%



# EXISTING CONDITIONS: LANDSCAPE, TREE SURVEY

































































## SPECIES & CONDITIONS LEGEND

- |                    |                             |                            |                  |                |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Quercus / Oak      | Glymnocladus / Ky Coffee    | Koelreuteri / Raintree     | Morus / Mulberry | Fair Condition |
| Acer / Maple       | Liriodendron / Tulip Poplar | Fraxinus / Ash             | Tilia / Linden   | Poor Condition |
| Unidentified       | Catalpa / Catalpa           | Malus / Crabapple          | Tree Removed     |                |
| Celtis / Hackberry | Maclura / Osage Orange      | Amelanchier / Serviceberry |                  |                |

## INDIVIDUAL TREE LEGEND

- | KEY | LATIN NAME          |
|-----|---------------------|
| 01  | Quercus rubra       |
| 02  | Quercus shumardii   |
| 03  | Quercus shumardii   |
| 04  | Quercus imbricaria  |
| 05  | Quercus lyrata      |
| 06  | Quercus phellos     |
| 07  | Quercus shumardii   |
| 08  | Quercus shumardii   |
| 09  | Quercus rubra       |
| 10  | Quercus bicolor     |
| 11  | Quercus palustris   |
| 12  | Quercus pagodifolia |
| 13  | Quercus bicolor     |
| 14  | Quercus phellos     |
| 15  | Quercus lyrata      |
| 16  | Quercus bicolor     |
| 17  | Quercus phellos     |
| 18  | Quercus imbricaria  |
| 19  | Acer rubrum         |
| 20  | Quercus lyrata      |
| 21  | Acer rubrum         |
| 22  | Quercus coccinea    |
| 23  | Quercus coccinea    |

| DBH  | CONDITION | KEY  | LATIN NAME              | DBH  | CONDITION | KEY  | LATIN NAME              | DBH  | CONDITION | KEY   | LATIN NAME             | DBH | CONDITION |
|------|-----------|--|-------------------------|------|-----------|--|-------------------------|------|-----------|---|------------------------|-----|-----------|
| 12"  | Good      |  24   | Uninventoried           | 1"   | n/a       |  47   | Quercus lyrata          | 0-3" | Good      |  70      | Quercus bicolor        | 10" | Good      |
| 2"   | Good      |  25   | Quercus coccinea        | 31"  | Good      |  48   | Liriodendron tulipifera | 10"  | Good      |  71      | Quercus rubra          | 7"  | Good      |
| 14"  | Good      |  26   | Acer rubrum             | 2"   | Good      |  49   | Koelreuteria paniculata | 8"   | Good      |  72      | Quercus alba           | 2"  | Good      |
| 11"  | Good      |  27   | Acer rubrum             | 23"  | Poor      |  50   | Fraxinus pennsylvanica  | 10"  | Good      |  73      | Quercus shumardii      | 15" | Good      |
| 0-3" | Good      |  28   | Quercus coccinea        | 35"  | Fair      |  51   | Fraxinus pennsylvanica  | 10"  | Good      |  74      | Amelanchier canadensis | 2"  | Good      |
| 10"  | Good      | 29   | Not listed?             |      |           |  52   | Fraxinus pennsylvanica  | 6"   | Good      |  75      | Quercus michauxii      | 6"  | Good      |
| 2"   | Good      |  30   | Acer rubrum             | 2"   | Good      |  53   | Morus alba              | 47"  | Good      |  76      | Malus spp.             | 1"  | Fair      |
| 2"   | Fair      |  31   | Acer saccharum          | 32"  | Good      |  54   | Quercus imbricaria      | 0-3" | Good      |  77      | Quercus shumardii      | 8"  | Good      |
| 12"  | Good      |  32   | Acer rubrum             | 2"   | Good      |  55   | Maclura pomifera        | 0-3" | Good      |  78      | Quercus palustris      | 61" | Good      |
| 12"  | Good      |  33   | Quercus coccinea        | 52"  | Good      |  56   | Liriodendron tulipifera | 0-3" | Good      |  79      | Malus spp.             | 1"  | Good      |
| 60"  | Fair      |  34   | Quercus lyrata          | 2"   | Good      |  57   | Maclura pomifera        | 0-3" | Good      |  80      | Quercus imbricaria     | 6"  | Fair      |
| 14"  | Good      |  35   | Acer saccharum          | 25"  | Poor      |  58   | Quercus palustris       | 51"  | Good      |  81      | Malus spp.             | 1"  | Good      |
| 11"  | Good      |  36   | Quercus lyrata          | 2"   | Good      |  59   | Quercus imbricaria      | 6"   | Good      |  82      | Quercus muehlenbergii  | 2"  | Good      |
| 13"  | Good      |  37  | Quercus lyrata          | 2"   | Good      |  60  | Liriodendron tulipifera | 0-3" | Good      |  83     | Quercus macrocarpa     | 2"  | Good      |
| 0-3" | Good      |  38 | Celtis laevigata        | 34"  | Good      |  61 | Quercus imbricaria      | 2"   | Good      |  84    | Amelanchier canadensis | 2"  | Good      |
| 10"  | Good      |  39 | Glymnocladus dioicus    | 2"   | Good      |  62 | Malus spp.              | 1"   | Good      |  85-90 | Quercus alba           | 2"  | Good      |
| 9"   | Good      |  40 | Acer saccharum          | 35"  | Good      |  63 | Quercus bicolor         | 7"   | Good      |  91-96 | Tilia americana        | 2"  | Good      |
| 9"   | Good      |  41 | Acer rubrum             | 6"   | Good      |  64 | Malus spp.              | 1"   | Good      |   |                        |     |           |
| 2"   | Good      |  42 | Koelreuteria paniculata | 11"  | Good      |  65 | Quercus rubra           | 11"  | Good      |   |                        |     |           |
| 40"  | Good      |  43 | Catalpa speciosa        | 11"  | Good      |  66 | Quercus lyrata          | 0-3" | Good      |   |                        |     |           |
| 2"   | Good      |  44 | Liriodendron tulipifera | 0-3" | Good      |  67 | Quercus rubra           | 12"  | Good      |   |                        |     |           |
| 46"  | Fair      |  45 | Quercus velutina        | 0-3" | Good      |  68 | Malus spp.              | 1"   | Good      |   |                        |     |           |
| 48"  | Poor      |  46 | Maclura pomifera        | 0-3" | Good      |  69 | Quercus imbricaria      | 13"  | Good      |   |                        |     |           |

## EXISTING CONDITIONS: TRANSPORTATION



TARC Bus Stop at Southeast corner of the park



Southwest corner of the park looking North



Corner of Magazine Street & 28th Street

### 28th STREET

- 28th Street has always served as a transit connection, historically a street car ran along 28th street and today there is a TARC stop at the park for the 19 and 21 routes on 28th street.
- Even though this is a neighborhood park, the only street with consistent housing facing the park is 28th Street (see Transportation and Incident Map).
- While there is a striped crosswalk at 28th Street and Magazine Street, there is no stop sign to control north and south traffic, leading to dangerous accessibility issues.
- In addition to these factors, there is a heavy concentration of uses on the east side, creating pedestrian conflicts.

### 29th STREET

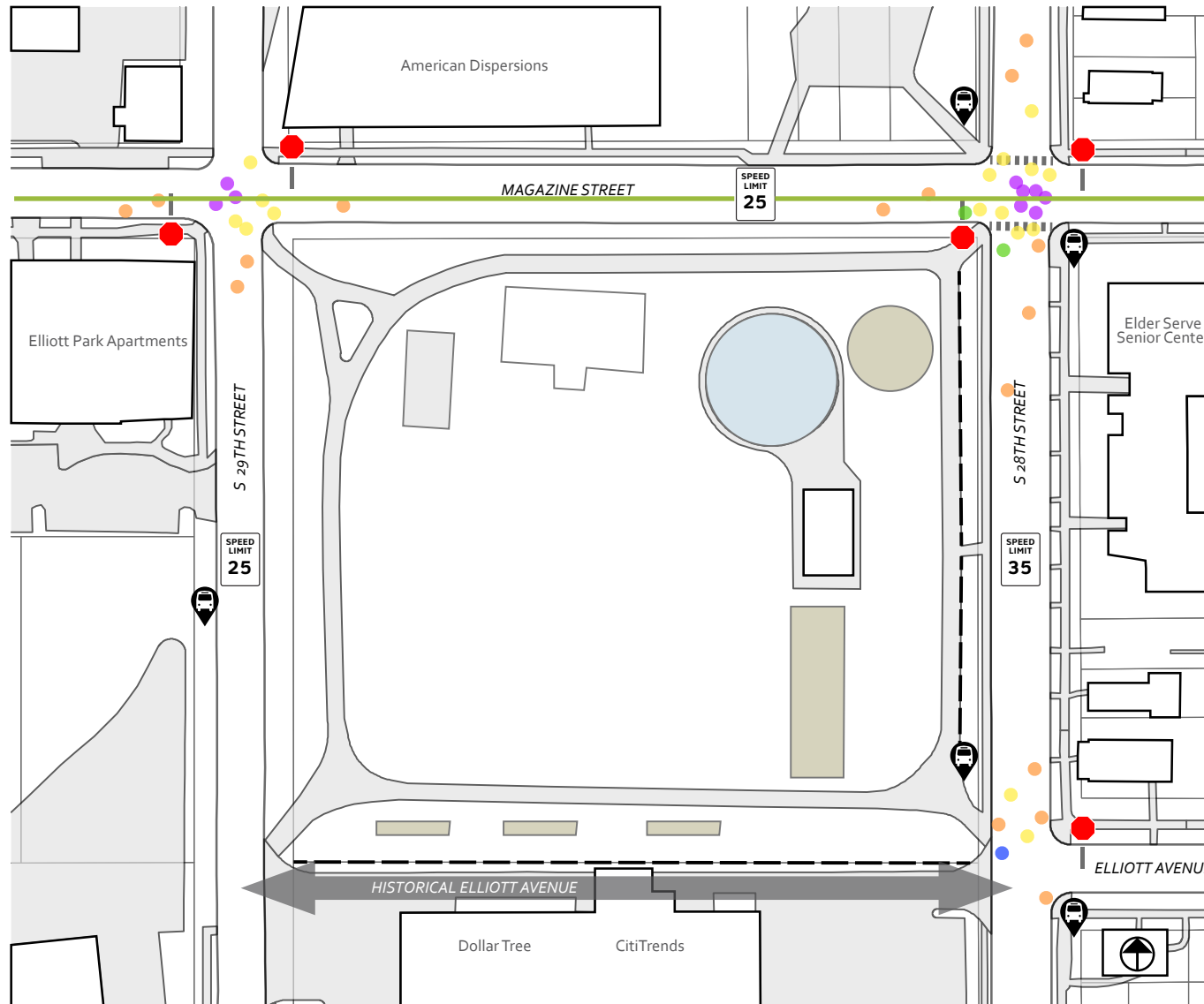
- The western edge of the park has 2 entry points. The corner at Magazine Street serves as an entry point for residential areas to North and West.
- The block facing the park has a mid-rise apartment building and an industrial lot.
- The southwest corner has been modified from the original plan and is now large enough for vehicles to enter the park driving on the perimeter walk.

### MAGAZINE STREET

- Magazine Street runs along the North edge of the park and has light industry and a corner pocket park, William Britt Park.
- At each corner of the park, Magazine Street stops while traffic on 29th and 28th street moving north/south does not stop. This plays a large role in many of the documented traffic incidents.

**28th and 29th Streets are wide and lack parking delineation. Without traffic control and calming strategies, these conditions will continue to contribute to high rates of speed and low yielding behaviors to pedestrians, which compromises accessibility and creates dangerous safety issues.**





## TRANSPORTATION AND INCIDENT MAP

### LEGEND

NEIGHBORWAY BIKE LANE

STOP SIGN

TARC BUS STOP

### TRAFFIC INCIDENTS

INVOLVED PARKED VEHICLES

ENTERING/LEAVING PARK

ANGLED COLLISIONS

INTERSECTION COLLISIONS

PEDESTRIAN INVOLVED COLLISIONS

### CRASH DATA (2015-2019)

59 recorded incidents during this time. Only one of which involved a pedestrian at the corner of Elliot Avenue.

### STREETS

28 INCIDENTS ON 28TH STREET

8 INCIDENTS ON MAGAZINE STREET

6 INCIDENTS ON 29TH STREET

### INTERSECTIONS

11 INCIDENTS @ 28TH / MAGAZINE

4 INCIDENTS @ 29TH / MAGAZINE

2 INCIDENTS @ 28TH / ELLIOTT

Historically, Elliott Avenue continued along the bottom of the park but was removed as commercial development grew south of the park.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS: THE FIELD HOUSE



EXISTING CONDITIONS: 2020 FIELD HOUSE

The current Field House conditions are vastly different from the original architectural drawings. The structure is directed towards more of a functional use as a partly covered shelter and host for restrooms, rather than an architectural feature for the park intended to be a prominent gathering space. As seen in the elevation, a more dramatic pitched roof is shown as well as the three traditional arches and a raised podium. Other more detailed items are missing from

the existing Field House like decorative window treatments and a traditional railing that bordered the raised slab.

All of these architectural elements are important to the reestablishment of the Field House identity. Various details and other moments of design can not only improve the authenticity of the building, but celebrate its past and historical value.

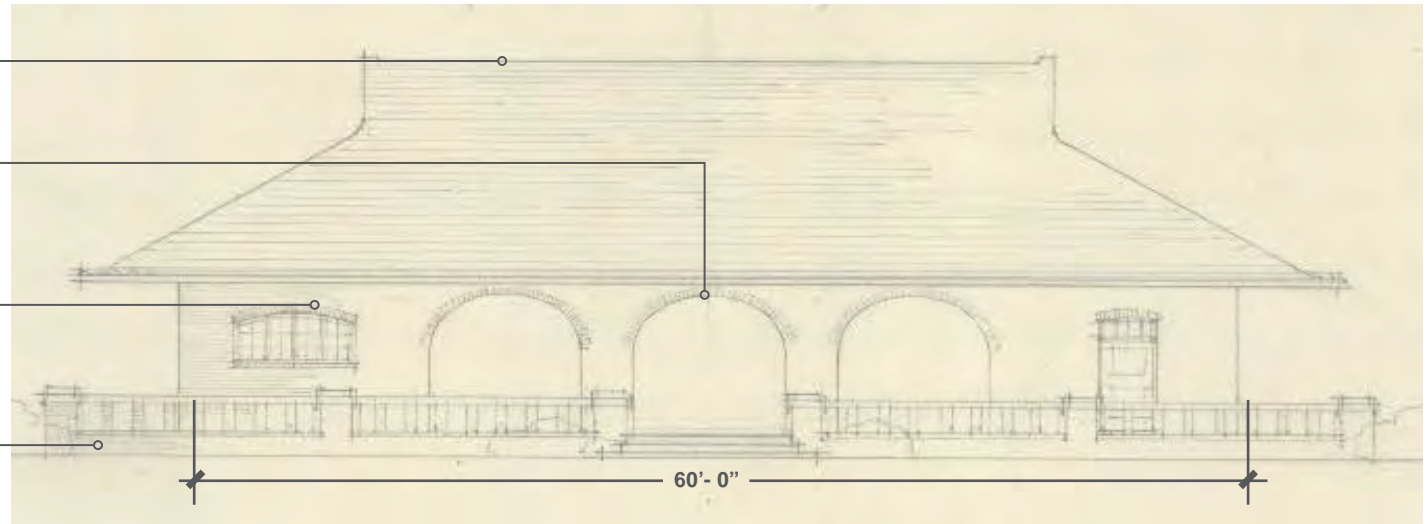
The facilities lack modern basic standards for public restrooms and are in dire need for complete renovation. While the dimensions of the restroom space facilitate ADA requirements, the interior conditions appear neglected and lack basic sanitary standards such as the lack of a sink in the men's restroom. This condition encourages further abuse from visitors.

SECONDARY PITCH IN HIP ROOF

TRADITIONAL ARCHES

DECORATIVE ARCHED  
WINDOW TREATMENT

TRADITIONAL RAILING AND  
RAISED PODIUM

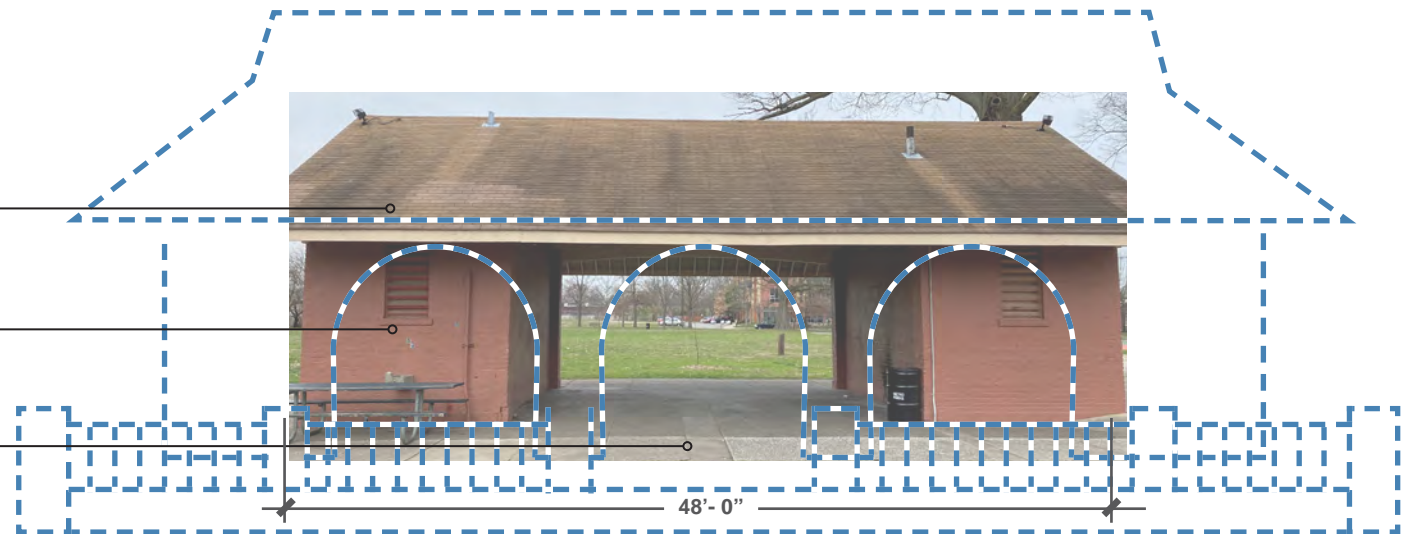


1923 FIELD HOUSE SKETCH : ELEVATIONS

GABLE ROOF

CONTEMPORARY WINDOW  
TREATMENT AND DETAIL

SLAB ON GRADE  
CONCRETE FOUNDATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS: 2020 FIELD HOUSE



## SITE ANALYSIS

The Seven 'S' of Olmsted design developed by Charles Beveridge in 1986 represent fundamental characteristics of Frederick Law Olmsted's approach to design. Each element works together to achieve "elegance of design." The following is a summary of key considerations for how to evaluate potential improvements to Elliott Park, while keeping with the intent of the original master plan.

### SCENERY

The design should take special care to strengthen view sheds and view corridors. The long views along the tree lined walkways and views from the Field House to the lawn are especially significant.

### SUITABILITY

The plan should ensure that the design strengthens the park's relationship to the neighborhood context, by way of improving its entryways, edge conditions and views into and out of the Park.

### STYLE

Elliott Park is quite a different style than traditional Olmsted Parks. However, the use of enhanced plantings of under story trees, shrubs, perennials as well as the geometric organization of trees, walkways and walls can reflect the original design intent.

### SUBORDINATION

The design in this case should consider elements like the fence along 28th Street, the playground, basketball court, water features and others to ensure all elements of the park fit the space appropriately and do not detract from the overall park experience.

### SEPARATION

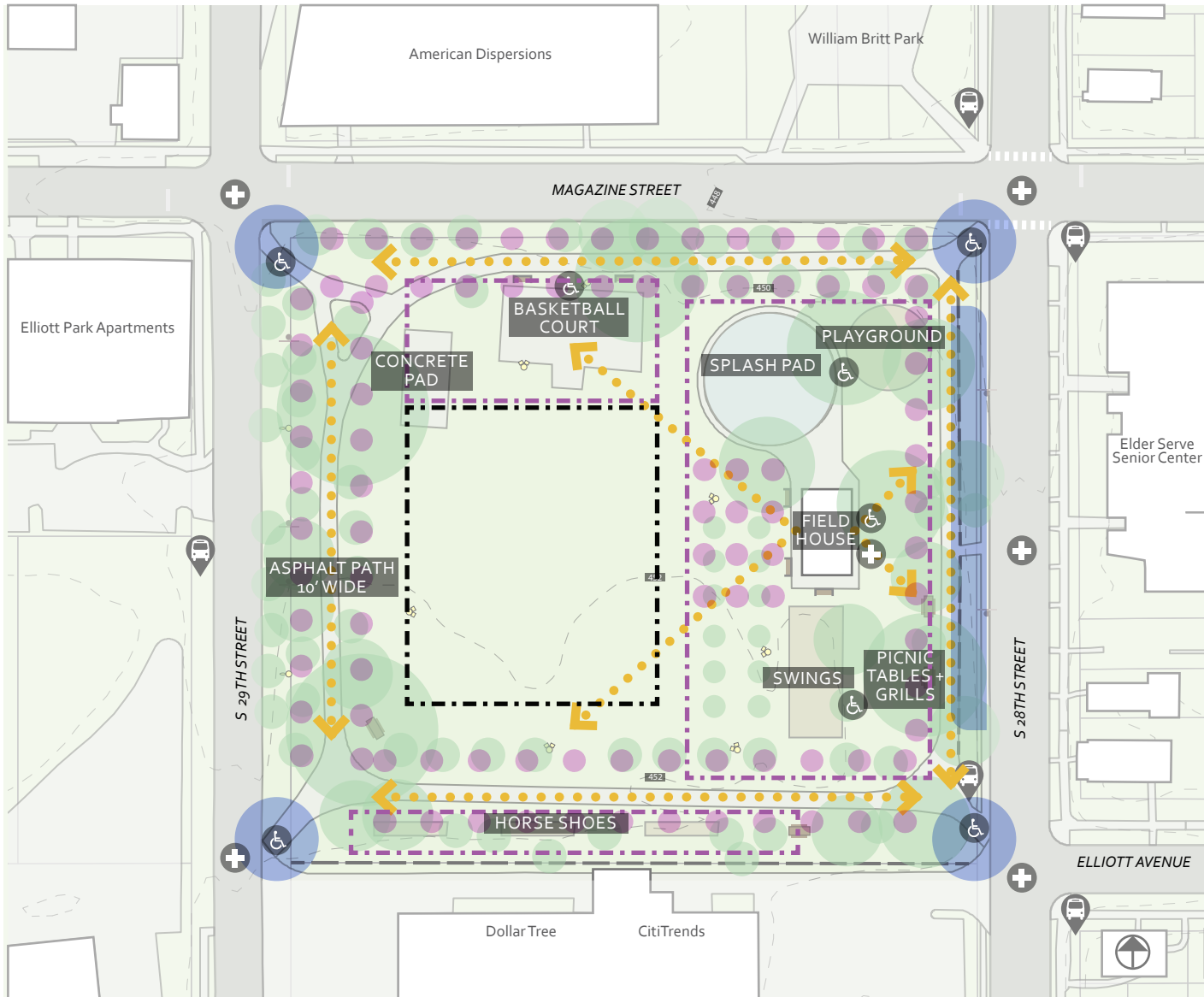
Taking into consideration the various activities and programs across Elliott Park is key to achieving a "room-like" separation of spaces. The original plan provided clear and organized areas for specific uses with strong edge conditions around and within the park.

### SANITATION

While Elliott park is mostly flat, consideration should be given to drainage across the open lawn, creating the best use space for athletic and social events. The park could also play a role in working to alleviate the documented CSO flooding issues in the neighborhood.








### SERVICE

Elliott Park should provide for its core neighborhood users - the elderly and local children and their families. Accessibility and safety should be paramount with considerations for how to make the Field House and park amenities better community assets.



## SITE ANALYSIS MAP

### LEGEND

-  Strengthen views from the field house and along the walkways.
-  Improve entryways, crosswalks, and edge conditions and consider vehicular access
-  Evaluate additional tree plantings and consider new understory plantings
-  Update, renovate and reconfigure amenities, features and infrastructure.
-  Evaluate best management drainage and grading of lawn to ensure best practices/safety for activities and sports.
-  The entire park-user experience should consider accessibility. Address walkways, crosswalks, swings, seating and more.
-  Address personal safety issues through improved lighting, crosswalk treatments, and improvements to the Field House.





# CHAPTER 3: DREAM



## DREAM

- 47 Key *LEARN* Takeaways
- 49 Public Engagement
- 53 Designing Outdoor Rooms: Spatial Programming in Olmsted Design
- 55 7 S of Design: At a Local Level
- Concepts
  - 57 Concept A
  - 61 Concept B

## KEY LEARN TAKEAWAYS

The existing park tells many stories about the past and the people who love it. The history, its users, and the physical landscape will inform the future of the park. The following five takeaways will influence the next step of the design process and be reflected in the components of the final design.

### ELEVATE THE OLMSTED INFLUENCE

While much of the original Olmsted Plan remains, there are valuable features that were either never built or no longer exist. The park would benefit from reflecting the character of the proposed features like the Concert Grove, the original Field House, and the landscape material in the new park design.

### CELEBRATE THE PARK'S STORY

The park's rich history, the neighborhoods that surround it, the people that use it, all tell a beautiful story. Finding ways to highlight and tell these stories can be fruitful and create a long-lasting tie across generations.

### STRENGTHEN THE HEART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

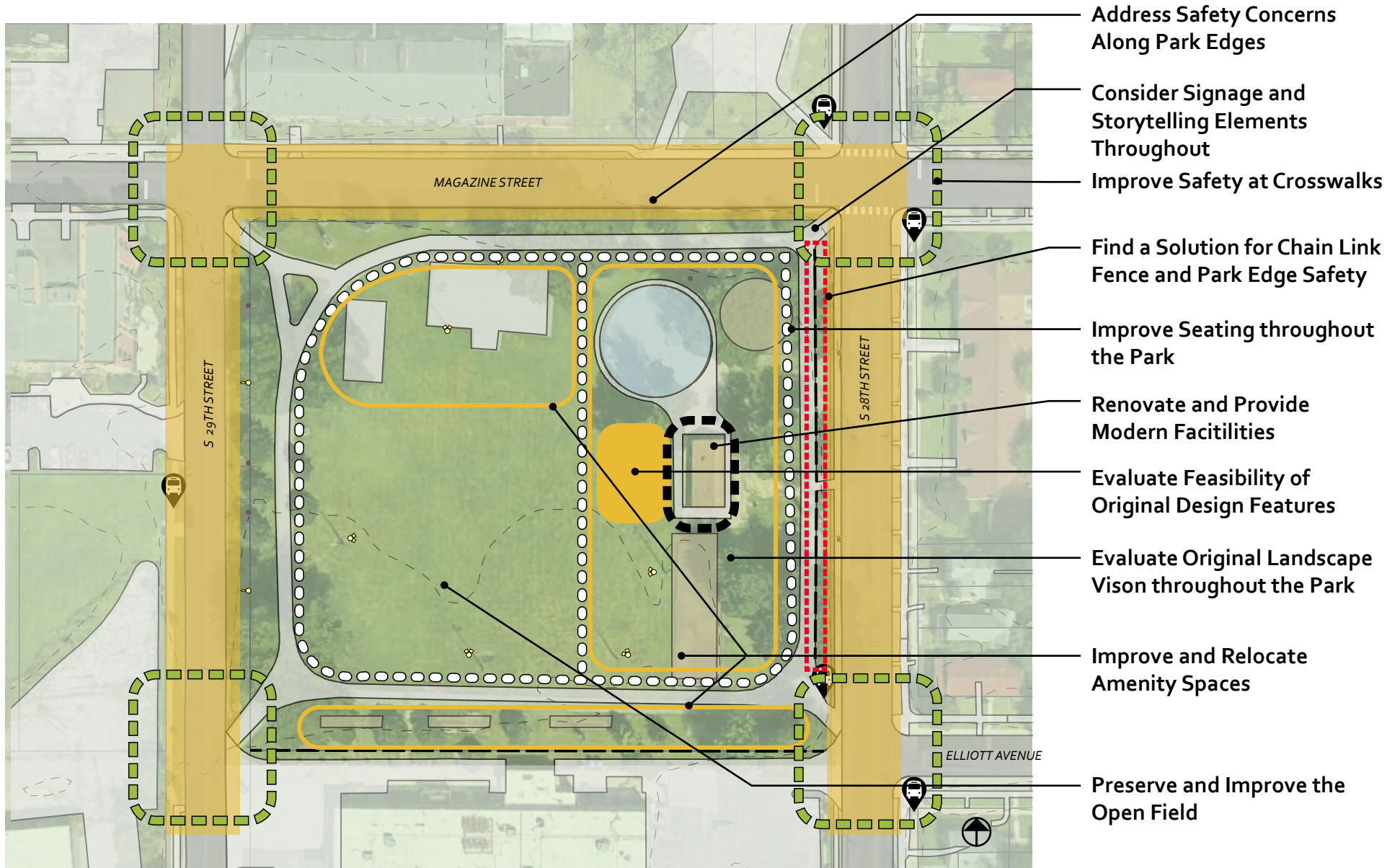
For the western part of the Russell Neighborhood, Elliott Park is the closest public green space for miles. Disrepair and unsafe connections create inequity. The park should be a safe place for play and activity without risk from traffic along the edges.

### CREATE A PLACE FOR ALL TO ENJOY

From senior citizens to small children, Elliott Park should be accessible and safe for everyone. Basic needs such as clean, usable restrooms and programmable spaces for community activities should be provided to make a multi-generational park.

### GROW A HEALTHY LANDSCAPE

Fostering a healthy landscape relies on preserving the mature, healthy trees and enhancing the space with diverse tree species. Investment in a diverse tree canopy and beneficial landscape is an investment in the surrounding community.





## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The design team engaged the greater Elliott Park community through three primary outlets for the provision of information and the collection of community feedback over the course of the 9-month planning process:

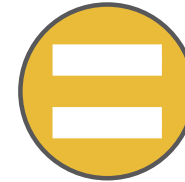
1. **Task Force** - a series of meetings were held with a group of stakeholders and community members to discuss their concerns with Elliott Park and possible solutions, as well as assist in the conveyance of information and solicitation of feedback from the community.
2. **Online Surveying** - a 16-question survey was made open to the public in the month of February 2020 and remained open for the course of the master planning process. Seventeen (17) people participated in the survey.
3. **Public Input & Direct Text** - Four (4) informational boards we placed in the park to educate users of the planning process and solicit feedback. Ten (10) people participated by contacting the project team via the text feature or the contact information provided.

## THEMES DERIVED FROM TASK FORCE FEEDBACK



### ACCESSIBILITY

The design should improve movement for people of all abilities visiting and using the park amenities.



### EQUITY

The design should cater to all age groups, families, and be flexible for various activities and gathering sizes.



### SUSTAINABILITY

The design should improve upon existing amenities and preserve valuable landscape features (mature trees).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings, most of the public engagement opportunities were done via virtual formats, such as Zoom meetings, conference calls, and the digital publishing and distribution of informational materials.

Unfortunately, the first Task Force meeting did not result in the number of participants hoped. This was largely due to the unfamiliarity of task force members with the virtual outreach tools. In order to ensure each member was engaged and the appropriate feedback was collected, the design team took a more personalized approach in the remainder of the process.

- Various on-site visits were made, in small groups, between members of the design team and Task Force to discuss park opportunities and engage with the community directly.
- Individual phone calls were made between members of the design team and Task Force to better engage those unable to participate in the online meetings.
- New tools, like the Direct Text feature, engaged the broader community and park users.

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD



### UPDATE AMENITIES:

- "Restore/replace the existing spray feature with a sprayground to cool off and wading pool to teach swimming."
- "Restore the horseshoe pits."
- "Make the restroom facility accessible."
- "Make the paths level for seniors."

### ADD AMENITIES:

- "Add a shade pavilion and more picnic tables along 29th Street."
- "It would be nice to have outdoor chess tables."
- "Add goal posts for the football team."

### MAINTENANCE:

- "There needs to be clean restrooms that are locked at night."
- "The grass needs to be cut before long holiday weekends."
- "Remove the old utility posts."
- "Discourage vehicles in the park."

### SAFETY:

- "Perform a traffic study of 28th and 29th Streets to implement traffic-calming."
- "Have 'Park Ambassadors' to discourage negative activity."
- "Improve lighting in & around the park."
- "Keep cars out of the park and off paths."

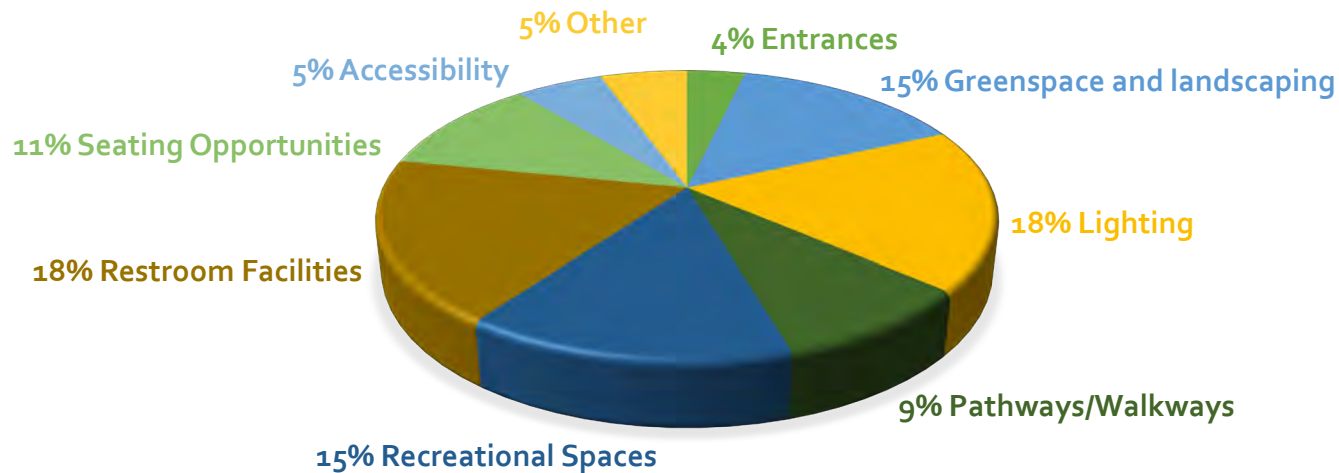
### PROGRAMMING:

- "Create opportunities for the Louisville Metro Police Department to engage with neighborhood kids."
- "Provide space for athletic practices."
- "Hold movie nights in the park."
- "Develop spaces for large groups and gatherings."

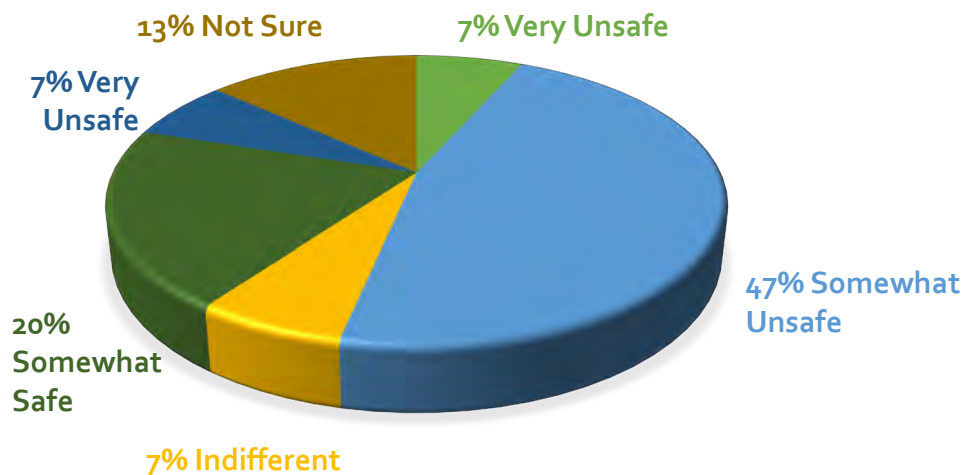
# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT CONTINUED

## PUBLIC SURVEY FEEDBACK

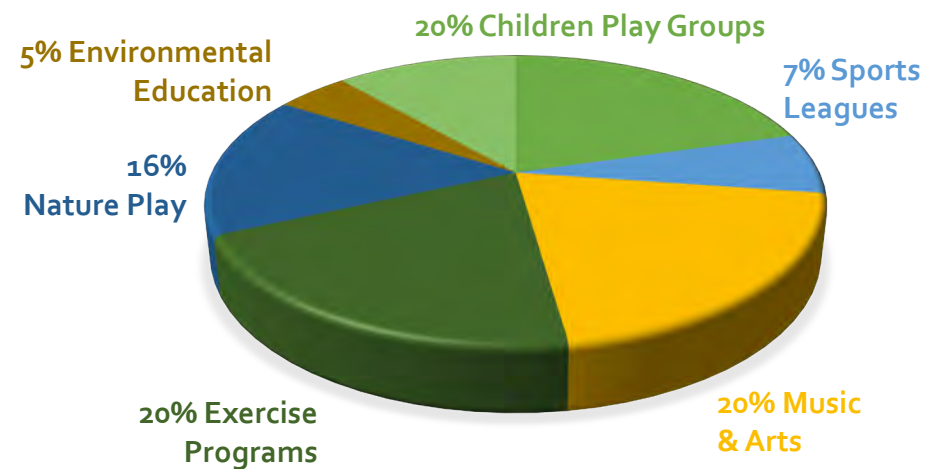
WHAT 3 EXISTING AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE IMPROVED?



HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE PARK?

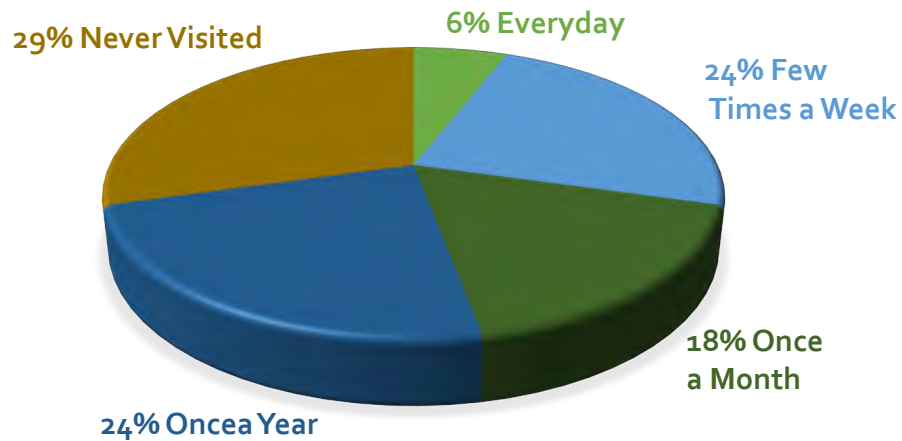


WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE INCLUDED?

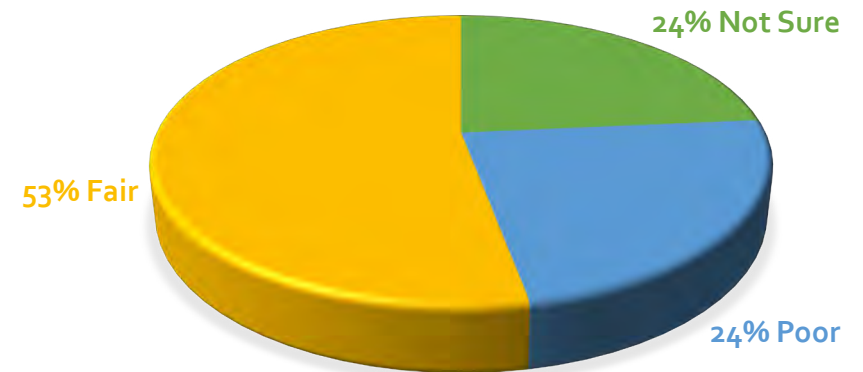




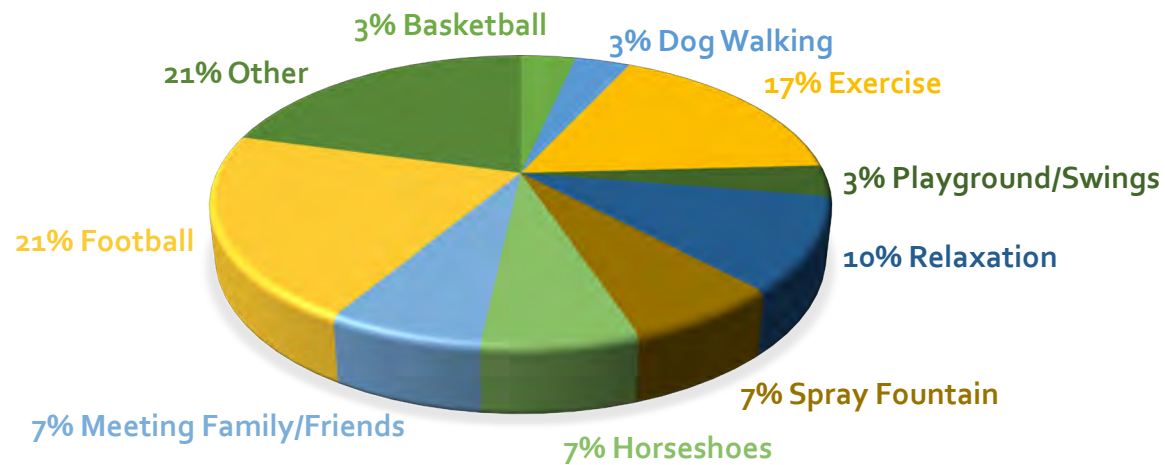
HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE PARK'S CURRENT CONDITIONS?



HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY USE THE PARK?



## DESIGNING OUTDOOR ROOMS: SPATIAL PROGRAMMING IN OLMSTED DESIGN

The designs of Frederick Law Olmsted generally follow one of two styles: “Pastoral” or “Picturesque”. The success of each style relies heavily on expansive spaces to either create a naturalized environment - such as the development of Central Park in New York City on previously cleared land - or expand upon existing natural features - similar to the growth of the Louisville Park System to encompass compelling natural sites around the city.

Elliott Park is unique in its small, one-block footprint within the developed city grid. With few natural cues from which to pull design inspiration for either the “Pastoral” or “Picturesque” styles, the original plan designs for the “Genius of Place”. While Olmsted typically achieved this by emphasizing certain qualities of the natural environment, Elliott Park was designed to heighten the functionality of the space and provide opportunities for connecting people with nature. This translated into a series of spaces that met the community’s needs for outdoor recreation. The layout of the site is reminiscent of the blue print of a home with each space portraying an outdoor room.

1

**“Playground”** was proposed as an open, gravel area for recreation. This treatment was unusual for Olmsted design, which commonly saw open areas as turf. (Image to the right: Existing lawn functioning as a multi-use athletic field.)



2

**“Children’s Outdoor Gymnasium”** was comprised of zones programmed for children’s play with the largest, centralized zone dedicated to a water feature. (Image to the right: Existing playground on a mulched surface and concrete sprayground.)



3

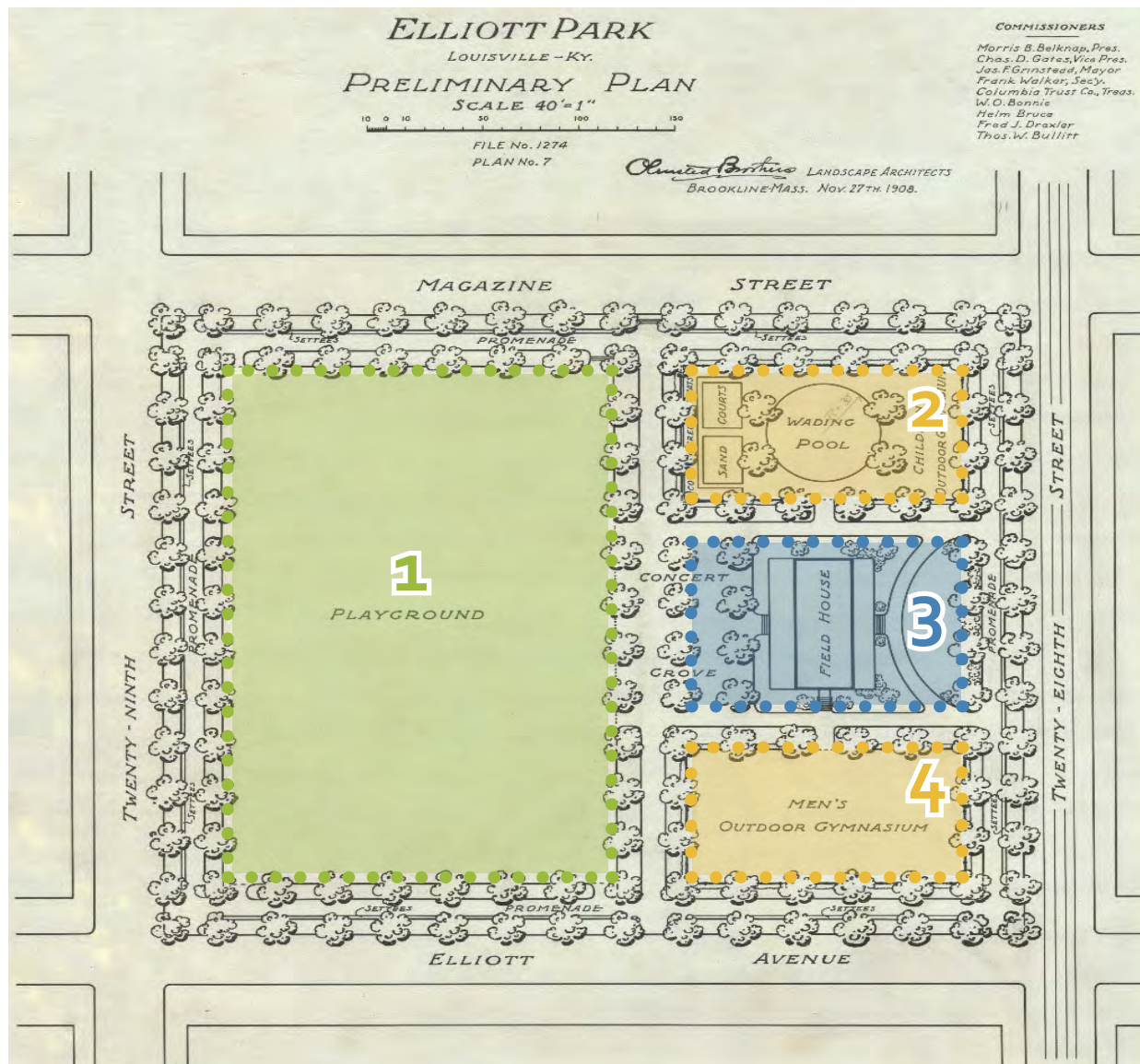
**“Field House & Concert Grove”** was the central hub for the park with a structure housing restrooms, and programmable rooms, and an area for small performances. (Image to the right: Existing field house structure with restrooms and breezeway.)



4

**“Men’s Outdoor Gymnasium”** was an area for adult recreation and exercise with the name suggesting it only be used by older males. (Image to the right: Existing space with a series of swings on a mulched surface.)





\*Site programming - particularly in Active Spaces #2 and #4 - focuses on specific user groups and does not create an inclusive park experience.

The original Olmsted Plan with outdoor rooms layout for Elliott Park.



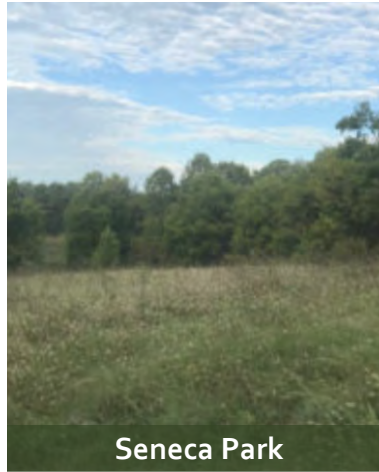
## SEVEN 'S' OF DESIGN:

## AT A LOCAL LEVEL

In order to envision how the 7 S of Olmsted Design could be met in the master plan for Elliott Park, it is important to look at local examples. While the *Introduction* chapter provided precedent imagery of Central Park in New York City as strong examples showcasing each design element, recognizing application of these elements within context of the Louisville Park System is important. This strengthens the design choices being made within Elliott Park as a reflection of the Olmstedian style.

Rather than look at one single park, Louisville's entire Olmsted Park System was referenced when considering how such design could be applied to Elliott Park. While scale and amenities may differ between the spaces seen in the precedent imagery in this spread and the available land at Elliott Park, something to aspire to is what this phase of the design process is all about: dreaming about endless possibilities. These "dreams" for the Park will help shape the design by balancing fantasy with feasibility.

### STYLE



Seneca Park

#### Embrace the natural green.

The sweeping vistas and woodland edge within Seneca Park embody the 'Pastoral' style often referenced by Olmsted design.

### SCENERY

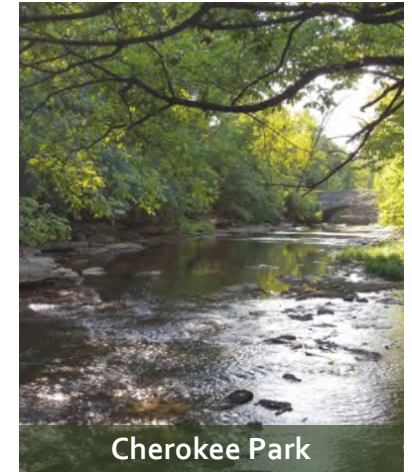


Chickasaw Park

#### Stay true to the given space.

The 77th Street Bridge was designed as an anchor across the water for adjoining spaces, reflecting the natural scenery in its materiality.

### SUITABILITY



Cherokee Park

#### Respect the natural setting.

Cherokee Park capitalized on the presence of Middle Fork Beargrass Creek, making it part of the experience rather than an edge condition.

## SUBORDINATION



Iroquois Park

**Keep overall design simple.**

The North Overlook within Iroquois Park was designed in a way that does not distract from the view, but rather frame it and direct the eye.

## SEPARATION



Central Park

**Make sure there is purpose.**

The grand Pergola in Central Park acts as an overhead plane for pedestrians while also visually separating use spaces.

## SANITATION

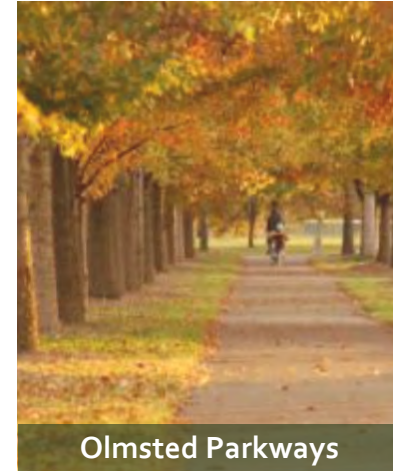


Tyler Park

**Achieve function over flash.**

The new restrooms in Tyler Park provide the necessary facilities to visitors with a design that respects the Olmsted fashion.

## SERVICE

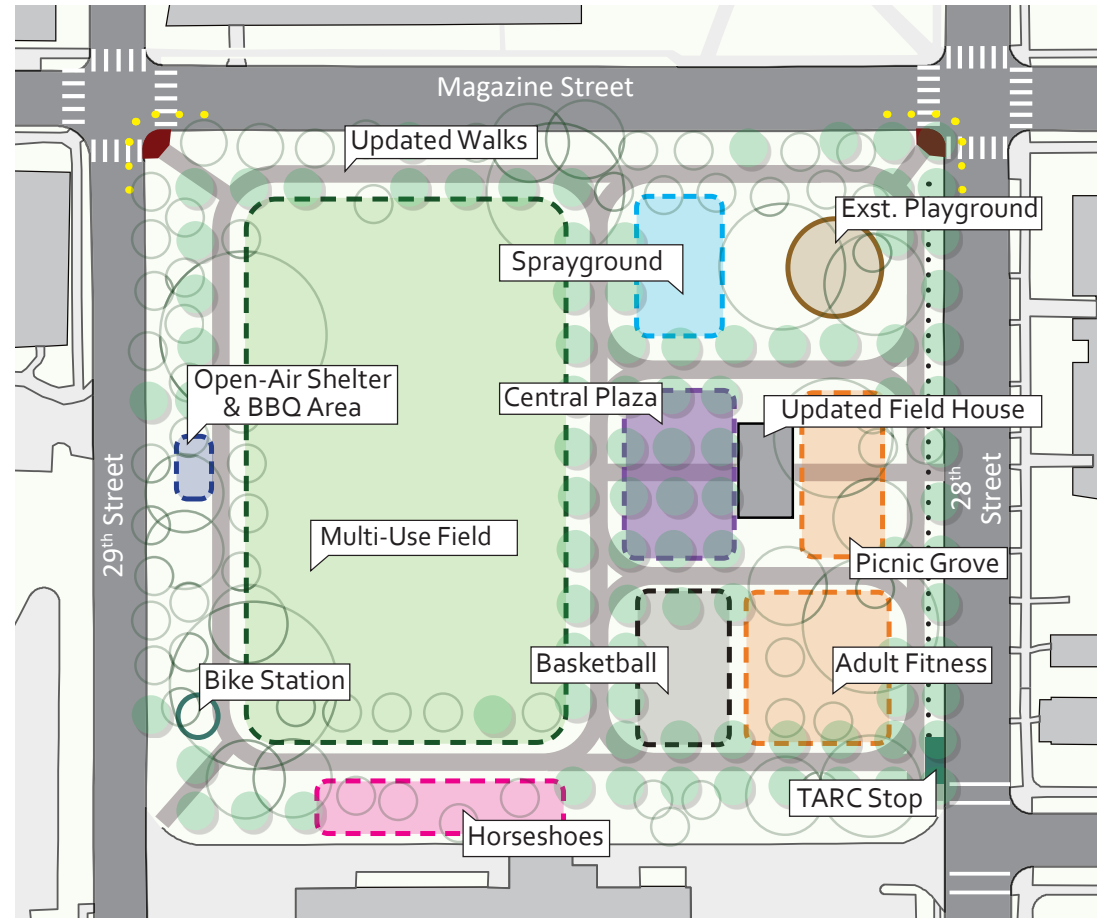
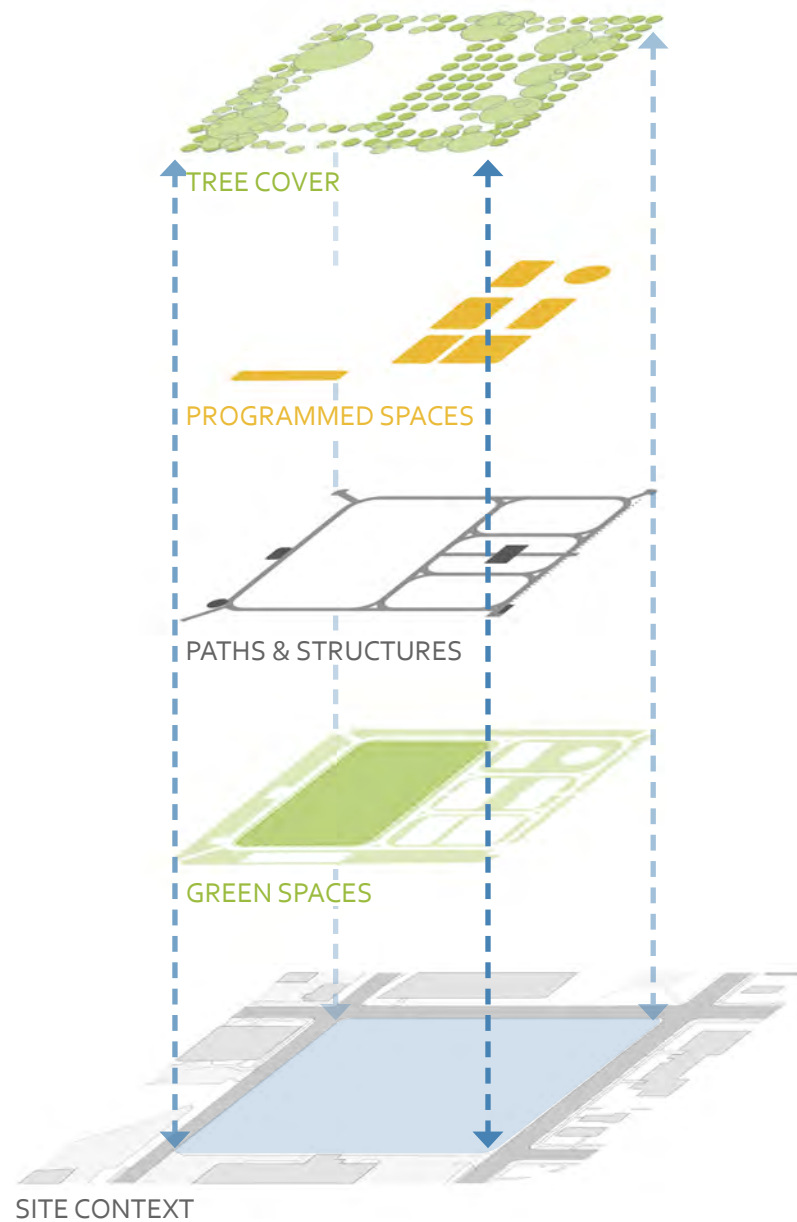


Olmsted Parkways

**Aim to make a better place.**

Olmsted Parkways provide safe, enjoyable connections between the parks of the system and reinforce the presence of nature in the city.

# CONCEPT A



In keeping with design for the “Genius of Place”, Concept A considers a spatial arrangement that defines outdoor rooms (above) in a way that reflects the original Olmsted plan while providing for modern necessities and amenities for the surrounding community.

The diagram to the left shows how the space was designed from the ground up to include all components that speak to the original plan from the grid arrangement of trees to the locating of program spaces to the layout of pedestrian paths and structures.





Concept A (left) creates outdoor spaces defined by a fluid circulation network with broader corners and rounded edges. This design improves visitor experience by adding more walkways in and around the park.

The design updates the existing field house with new restrooms and a plaza, and includes a small, open-air shelter on the west side of the multi-use field for gathering and events.

The main BBQ area is concentrated around the open-air shelter and Adult Fitness equipment is set up similarly to the open floor plan of an interior gym. The Children's Area includes a new sprayground comprised of surface water jets.



## CONCEPT A PRECEDENT IMAGERY

### 1A CHILDREN'S AREA



*Jetted Sprayground with different types of surface water jets.*



*Existing Playground*

### 2A FIELD HOUSE



*Existing Field House with updated restrooms & necessary maintenance.*

### 2A COMMUNITY SPACES



*Open Promenade for movement between use spaces & clear views.*



*Plaza Turf Panel with Perimeter Amenities includes grills & seating.*



*Clustered Picnic Tables for larger gatherings & group events.*



### 3A ADULT FITNESS



*Standalone Basketball Court with sports surfacing & clear backboard.*



*Open Air Gym Equipment set up like open floor plan of an interior gym.*

### 4A PARK EDGES



*Crushed Stone & Sand Horseshoe Pits defined from the lawn.*



*Group BBQ Stations for larger gatherings & events.*

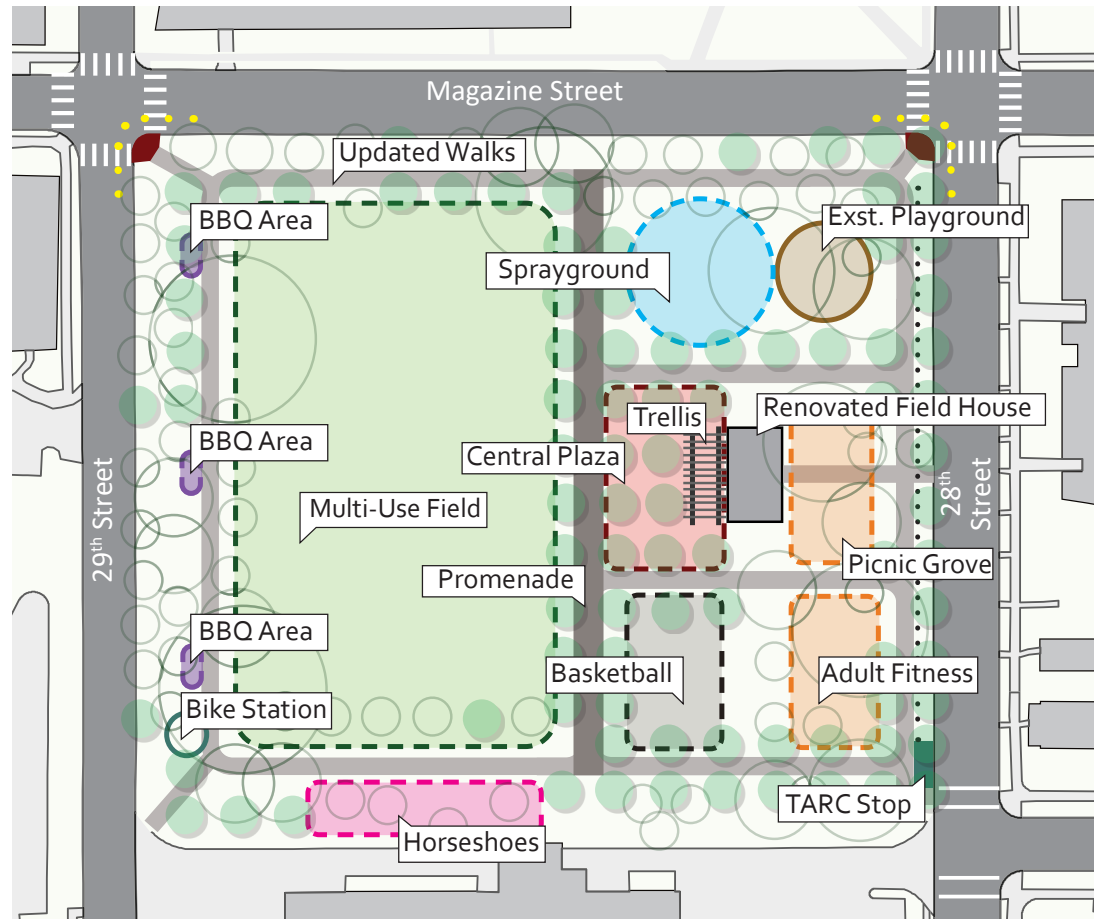
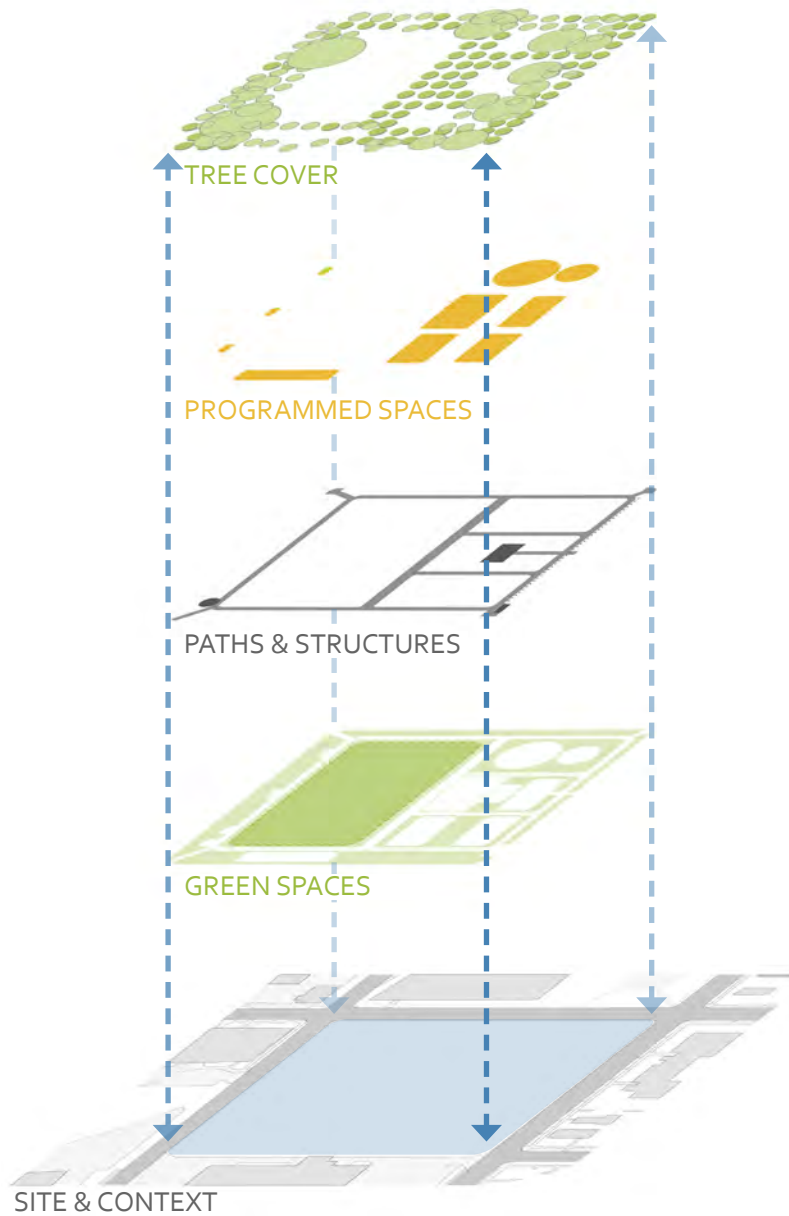
The precedent imagery to the left relates to the plan on the previous page with the “#letter” combination correlating with the outdoor room space. Concept A is less invasive in its approach on the site, keeping structural and hardscape network footprints largely similar to the existing condition.

The Children’s Area (1A) would retain the same play equipment and largely the same surface spray ground treatment while the Fieldhouse (2A) would see largely cosmetic updates and work to make the restrooms functioning once again. The large multi-use field would also remain, but be expanded by the relocation of the basketball court.

Areas where there is a greater change include the Community Spaces (2A) - with the Central Plaza being the most dramatic change of a hardscape patio and a tree grove off the western side of the Fieldhouse, and the addition of an open-air shelter to the west fo the multi-use field (4A) for gatherings.



## CONCEPT B



In keeping with design for the “Genius of Place”, Concept B considers a spatial arrangement that defines outdoor rooms (above) in a way that reflects the original Olmsted plan while providing for modern necessities and amenities for the surrounding community.

The diagram to the left shows how the space was designed from the ground up to include all components that speak to the original plan from the grid arrangement of trees to the locating of program spaces to the layout of pedestrian paths and structures.



Concept B (left) creates a layout where the outdoor spaces are defined by a rigid circulation pattern with a strong, central axis - the promenade. This design takes further consideration in the creation of defined areas for gathering and programming.

The design renovates and expands the field house and restrooms to include more covered shelter in the form of a trellis, a surrounding patio, and a larger plaza space for gathering and events.

Standalone BBQ areas are placed around the park in pod-like clusters and Adult Fitness equipment is clustered by workout type to help separate multiple gatherings. The Children's Area includes a sculptural sprayground with expanded play equipment.



## CONCEPT B PRECEDENT IMAGERY

### 1A CHILDREN'S AREA



*Sculptural Sprayground with interactive water play equipment.*



*Existing Playground + Expanded Play Area*

### 2A FIELD HOUSE



*Renovated Field House: Olmstedian details, trellis, & updated restrooms.*

### 2A COMMUNITY SPACES



*Defined Promenade separates spaces with plantings & strong edges.*



*Plaza Stationary Game Tables that could double for dining.*



*Stand-Alone Picnic Tables for separate dining & spaced groups.*



### 3A ADULT FITNESS

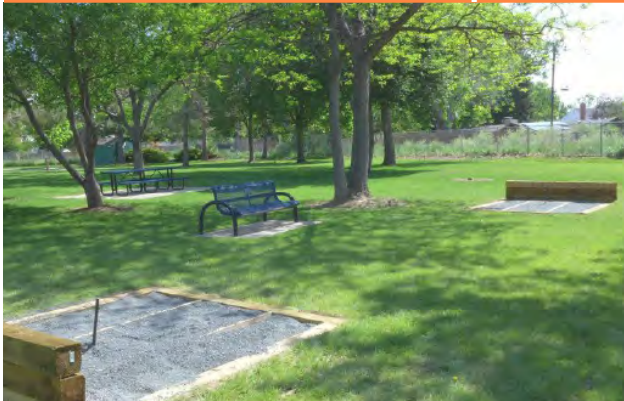


*Multi-Use Court with sports surfacing & athletic amenities.*



*Covered Gym Equipment clustered in groups by equipment type.*

### 4A PARK EDGES



*Crushed Stone & Turf Horseshoe Pits integrated with the lawn.*



*Stand-Alone BBQ Stations for separate dining & spaced groups.*

The precedent imagery to the left relates to the plan on the previous page with the “#letter” combination correlating with the outdoor room space. Concept B is more detailed in its approach, creating further defined outdoor room spaces and including amenity features not present in Concept A.

The Children’s Area (1A), while still retaining the existing play structure, could see the additional install of more accessible play equipment and a spray ground that is more structural and playful in design. The Field House (2A) would receive a significant cosmetic facelift with a surrounding porch and trellis on the western side extending out over the Central Plaza, in addition to necessary maintenance updates for functioning bathrooms.

Aside from the renovations to the Field House and addition of the surrounding patio, areas of greater change include the expanded play area with swings and outdoor play equipment and a larger sprayground.



# CHAPTER 4: GROW



## GROW

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## DESIGN PRIORITIES

The top priorities of the Elliott Park Master Plan are directed by the *Guiding Principles* for the project, focusing on making the park accessible, equitable, and sustainable. Both Concept A and B took this into consideration, integrating the feedback received from Task Force Meetings, Public Meetings (via direct text and on-site visits), and Online Surveys as well as the information received from Client-Design Team Meetings.

The specifics of Top Priorities evolved from the themes collected as part of the Task Force Meetings as well as the information received through public feedback collected digitally and on site. These Top Priorities were carried forth in the final Elliott Park design as check points for staying true to the design process and public engagement. The final design resulted in a hybrid, comprised of features and elements seen in both Concept A and Concept B, that responds to all feedback received.



Top Priorities, while might be specific to parts of the park, apply to the overall site.



Park users interacting with public boards outlining the Elliott Park Master Plan Project.



## ACCESSIBILITY

The design should improve movement for people of all abilities visiting and using the park amenities.

- Renovate the restrooms and field house for ADA accessibility.
- Create a network of easy to navigate walkways for seniors and others with mobility issues.
- Provide interspersed seating throughout the park.
- Provide a series of measures to improve the intersections at 28th and Magazine St and 29th and Magazine St.
- Remove the existing chain link fence and provide lower fencing to define park spaces without creating a visual barrier.
- Regrade the park to make lawn areas safer to use.



## EQUITY

The design should cater to all age groups and families, and be flexible for various activities and gathering sizes.

- Update & improve the children's play area with additional play equipment, new surfacing, seating, & sprayground.
- Regrade and define the open lawn as a multi-purpose field.
- Update horseshoe pits to continue the tradition.
- Relocate and upgrade the basketball court and add an adult fitness area for exercise.
- Create a safe, well-lit walking path network with seating.
- Develop a park steward program to oversee the park.
- Rethink the "Concert Grove" as a BBQ plaza with grills & seating.
- Provide an additional shade structure for smaller gatherings.
- Provide a bike area with a "fix it" station and bike racks.
- Provide an improved bus stop for TARC riders.



## SUSTAINABILITY

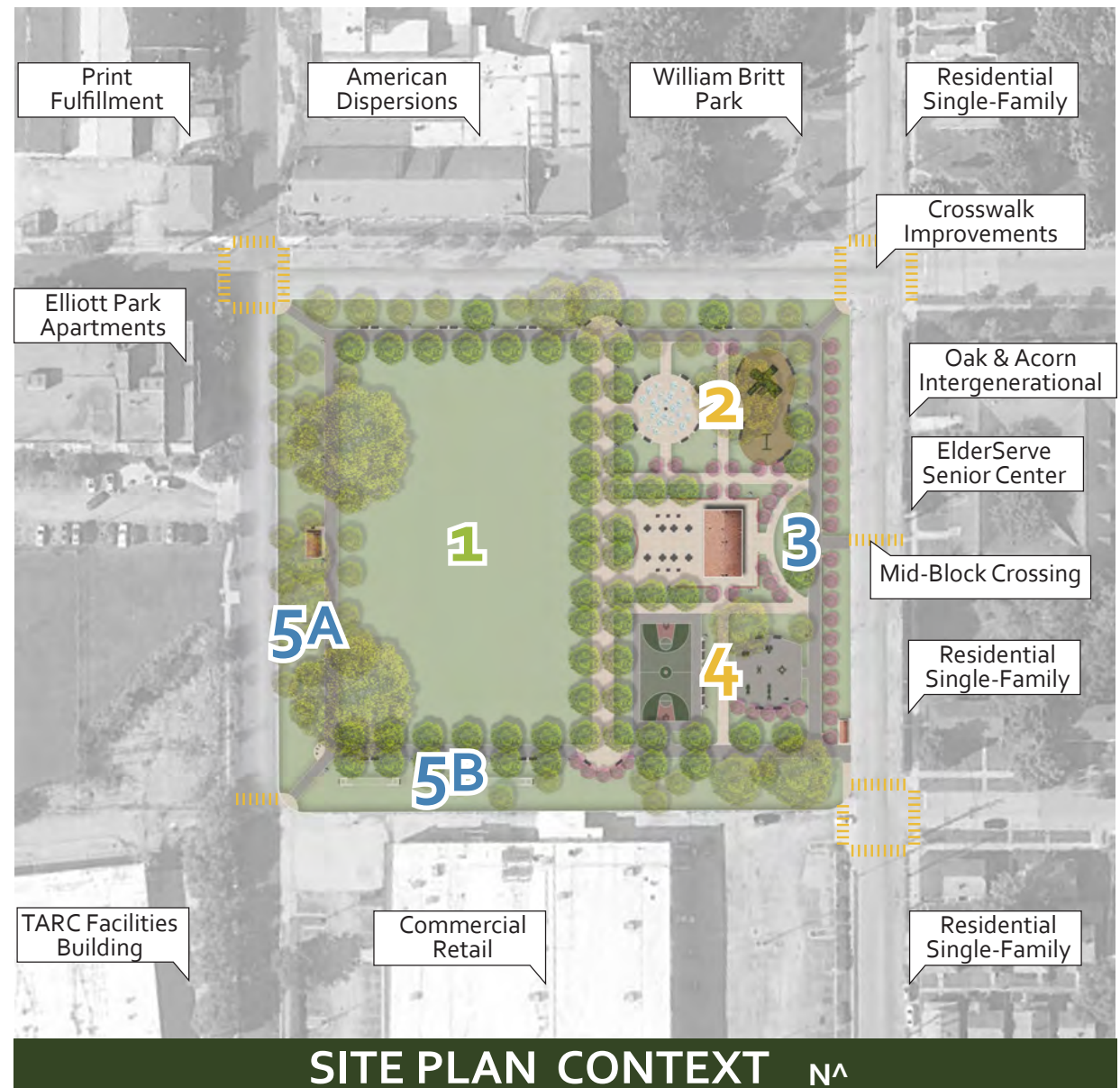
The design should improve upon existing amenities and preserve valuable landscape features such as the mature, healthy trees.

- Preserve trees in good health, while building on the existing canopy with new tree plantings to expand the canopy coverage of the park.
- Update and improve the existing field house.
- Provide ADA access to not only the Field House and restrooms but all park areas.
- Use durable materials and products to reduce maintenance needs. Products and materials should correspond with what is currently used by the Metro Parks and Recreation to reduce the need for maintaining unique features.
- Utilize native plantings that tolerate the local conditions and park context.

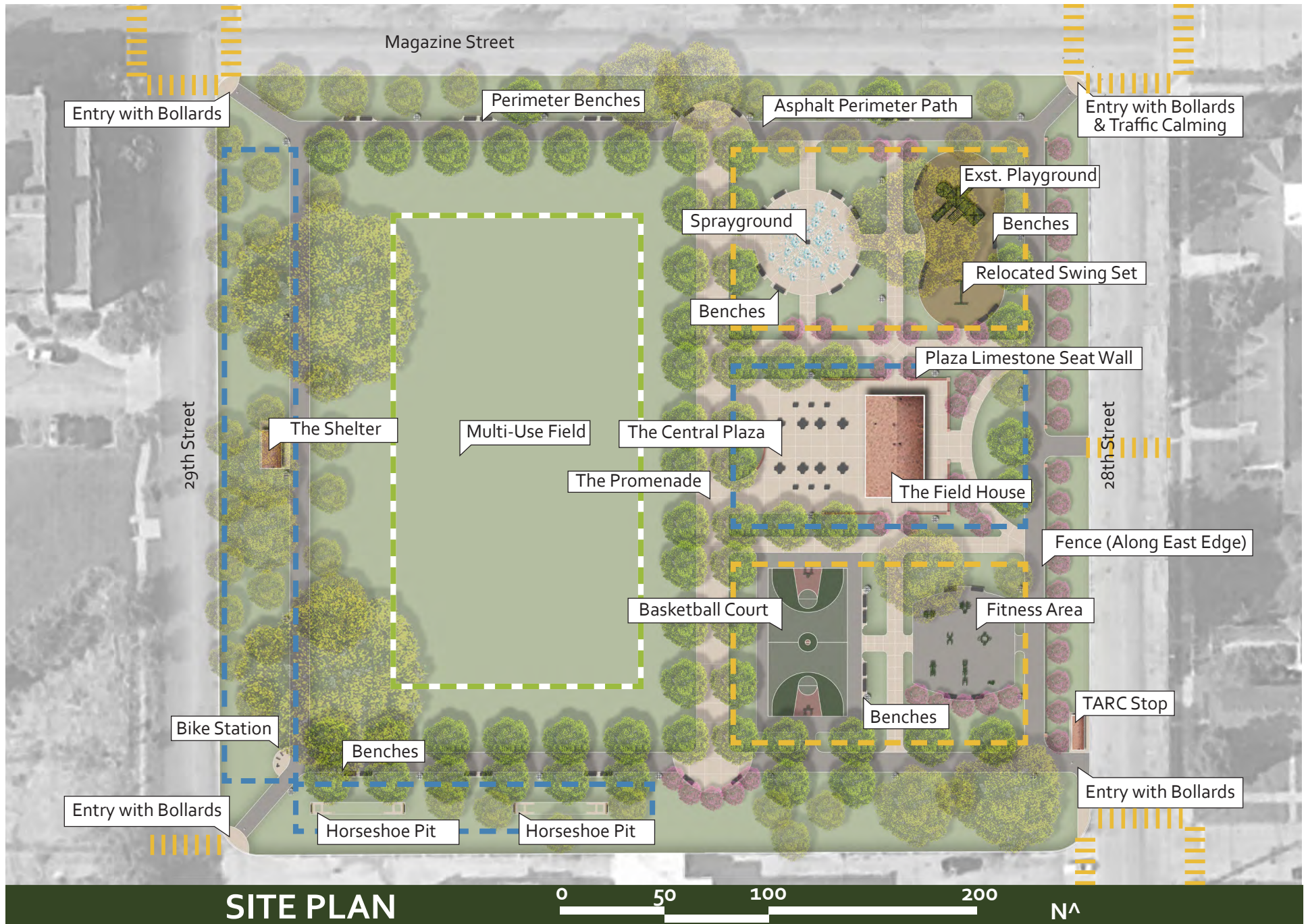
## ELLIOTT PARK DESIGN:

- 1 RECREATION** - "The Multi-Use Field" would perform as originally intended with a large, open, area for activities, but it will remain existing turf rather than the proposed gravel.
- 2 IMAGINATION** - "The Kids' Corner" would perform as originally intended with zones for children of varying ages but it needs areas for relaxation of watchful caregivers.
- 3 INVITATION** - "The Field House" would act as the welcoming front door to the park with updated restrooms and "The Central Plaza" off the back connecting to "The Promenade".
- 4 CONGREGATION** - "The Outdoor Gym" would perform as originally intended with zones for group fitness including a basketball court and fitness area with equipment.
- 5 RELAXATION** - "The Park Edges" include the southern edge, land gained from the early removal of Elliott Avenue, which houses horseshoe pits (5B), and the western edge, which houses "The Shelter" (5A). These spaces are intended for passive recreation and gathering.

## DESIGNING OUTDOOR ROOMS FOR PROGRAMMING







# HISTORY IN DESIGN

## ORIGINAL DESIGN, RETAINED FEATURES

\*THE SITE LAYOUT OF  
PROGRAMMABLE "ROOMS"  
IS LARGELY THE SAME

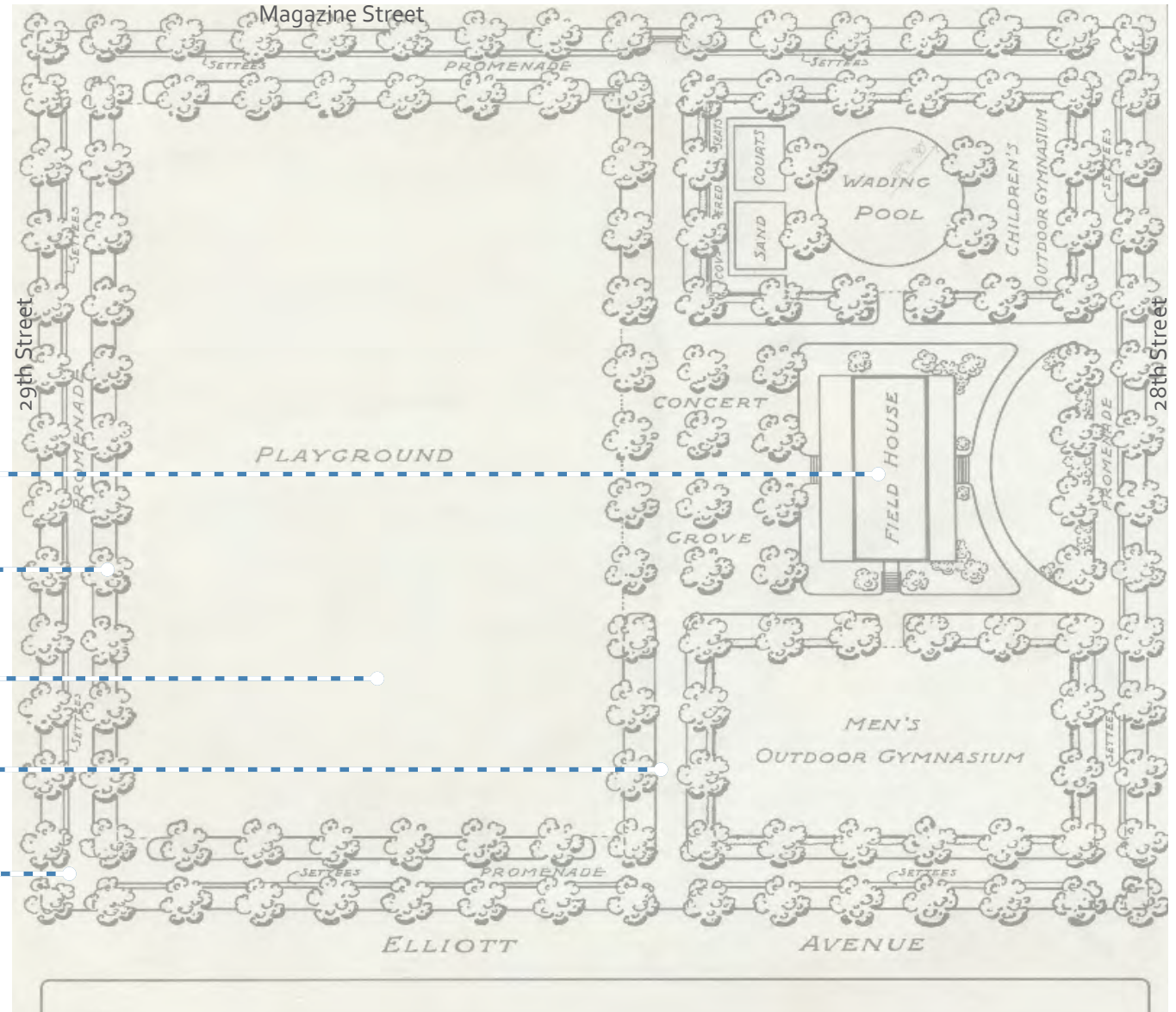
FIELD HOUSE WITH  
GATHERING SPACE OFF THE REAR

TREE GRID LAYOUT & ALLEES

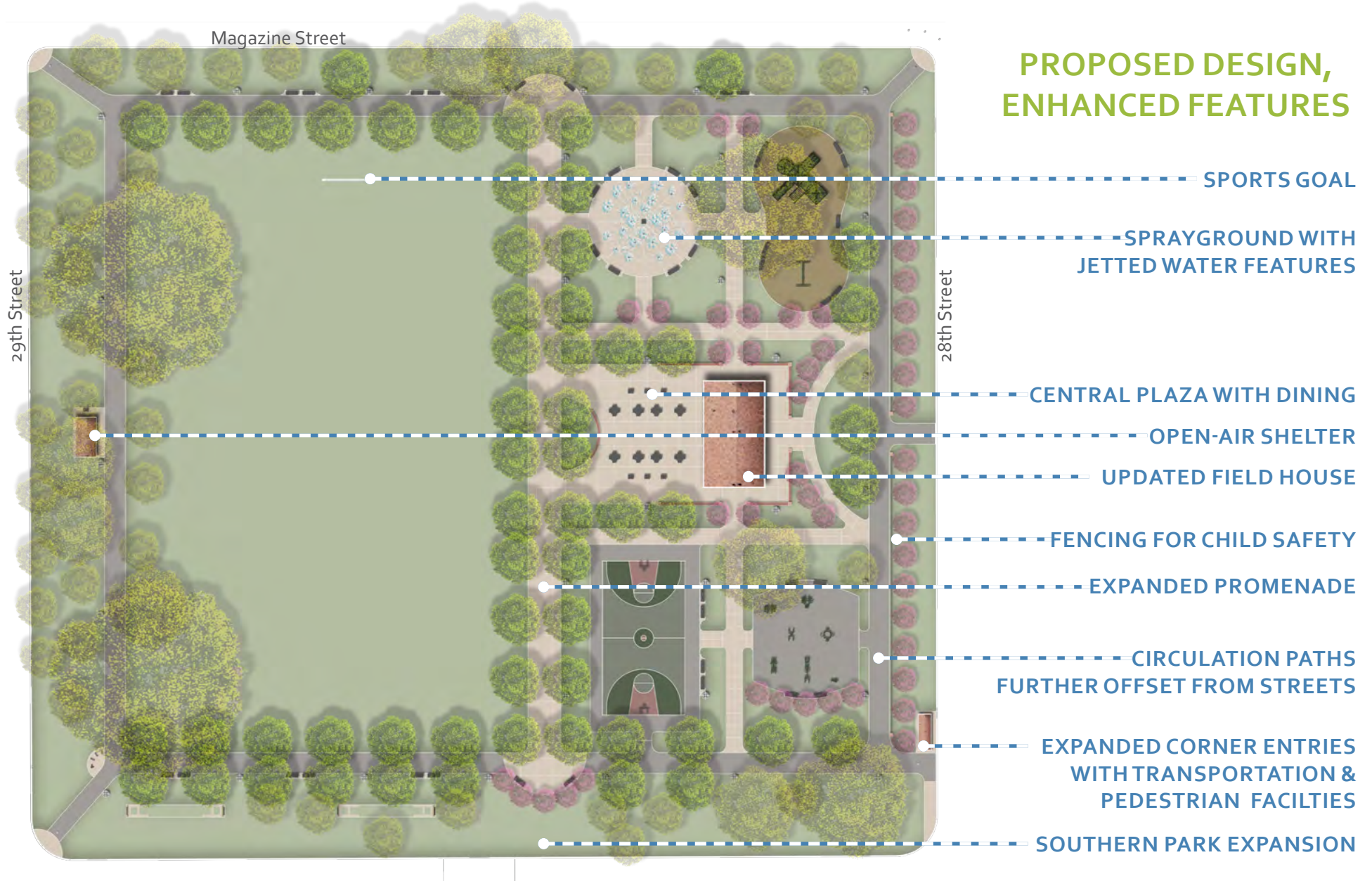
OPEN, MULTI-USE SPACE

SITE CIRCULATION  
LAYOUT LARGELY THE SAME

CORNER ENTRIES









## SEVEN 'S' OF DESIGN:

## AT A SITE LEVEL

The proposed improvements for Elliott Park utilize the Seven 'S' of Olmstedian design to help create a park that is equitable, accessible, and sustainable. It is important to note that each example shown for the given 'S' of design is not the only reflection of that element within the park. These elements were chosen to highlight some that reflect specific feedback from the community.

Olmsted design follows the basic premise that "Service Must Precede Art". If a designed space does not function for the user, it is not a beneficial addition to the landscape. While aesthetics are important, the new plan for Elliott Park pushes the park into the modern age but respects its past, all while strengthening it as a destination within the community.

### STYLE



#### Embrace the green.

Preserving as many existing mature trees as possible will help keep the established feel of the park. Any new trees will be planted to complete the original Olmsted layout to achieve a more naturalized feel amongst the urban

### SCENERY



#### Stay true to the space.

The historic design is an urban neighborhood park, which is different from larger scenic parks. The recommendations in this plan will build on the history, while embracing the neighborhood context to create inclusive spaces.

### SUITABILITY



#### Respect the setting.

The new design reflects the intent of the original plan, creating a park within the city grid that welcomes people of the community with corner entries as points of connectivity and a mid-block, field house entry acting as the front door.

## SUBORDINATION



The Shelter (Western Edge)

### Encourage timeless design.

The simple design provides versatile gathering spaces around the park for the passive recreation of users. The proximity of these spaces to more active or programmed spaces makes them good areas from which to observe activities.

## SEPARATION



The Promenade

### Organize thoughtful spaces.

The new design relies on the integration of a path layout reminiscent of the original plan, separating uses into spaces that mimic outdoor rooms. Spaces are both connected and defined by updated hardscape, which includes a new Promenade.

## SANITATION



Sprayground

### Follow "Green is Clean".

On-site usage and treatment of water is very important particularly in areas such as the sprayground, which will use modern technology for the conservation and filtering of water, and the Multi-Use Field which will handle stormwater runoff.

## SERVICE



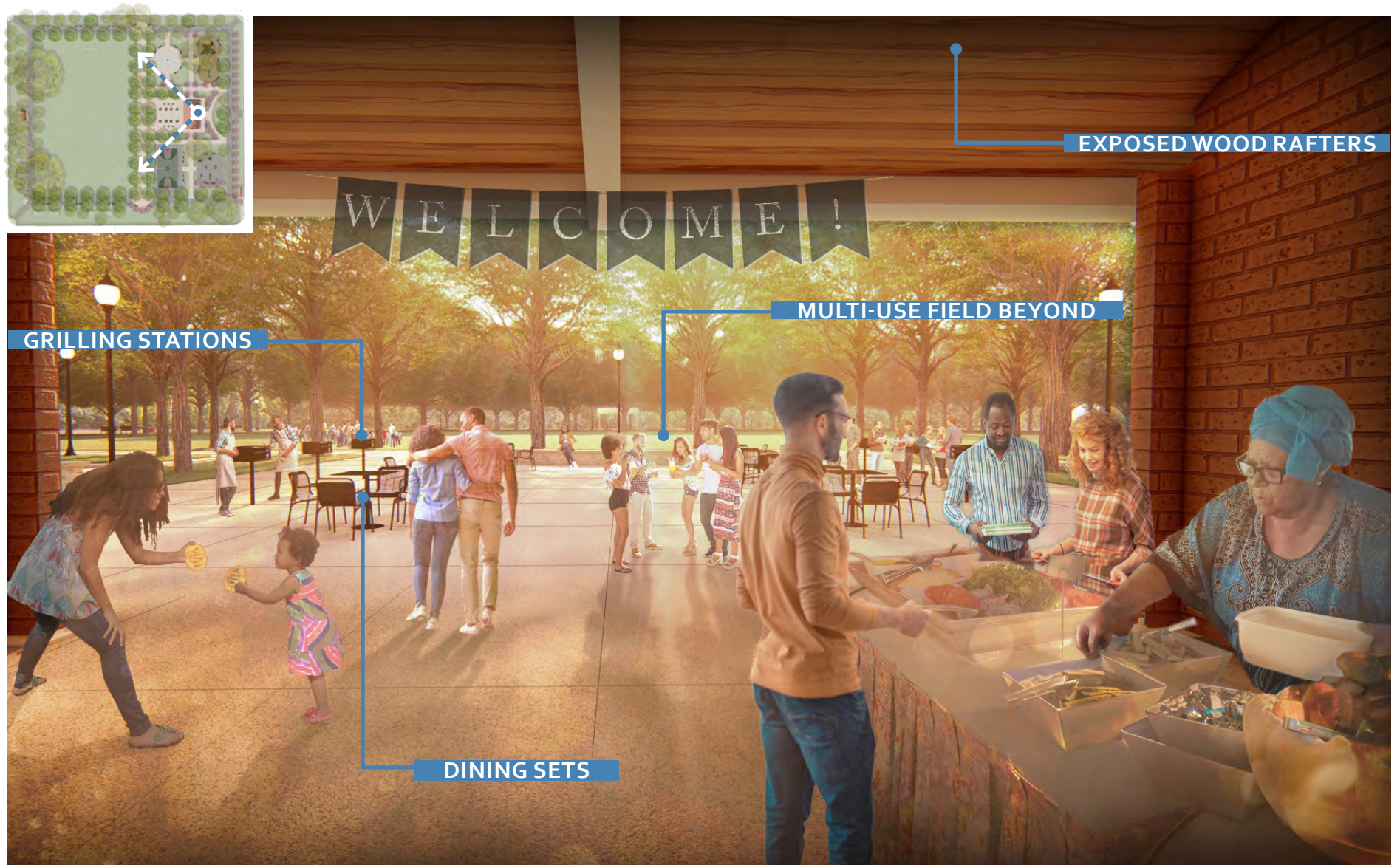
Fitness Area Equipment

### Create a park for all.

In an effort to make the park more inclusive, the different spaces created will cater to a wide range of park users. Amenities such as the new outdoor fitness equipment and the updated splashpad offer flexible use for various age groups and abilities.



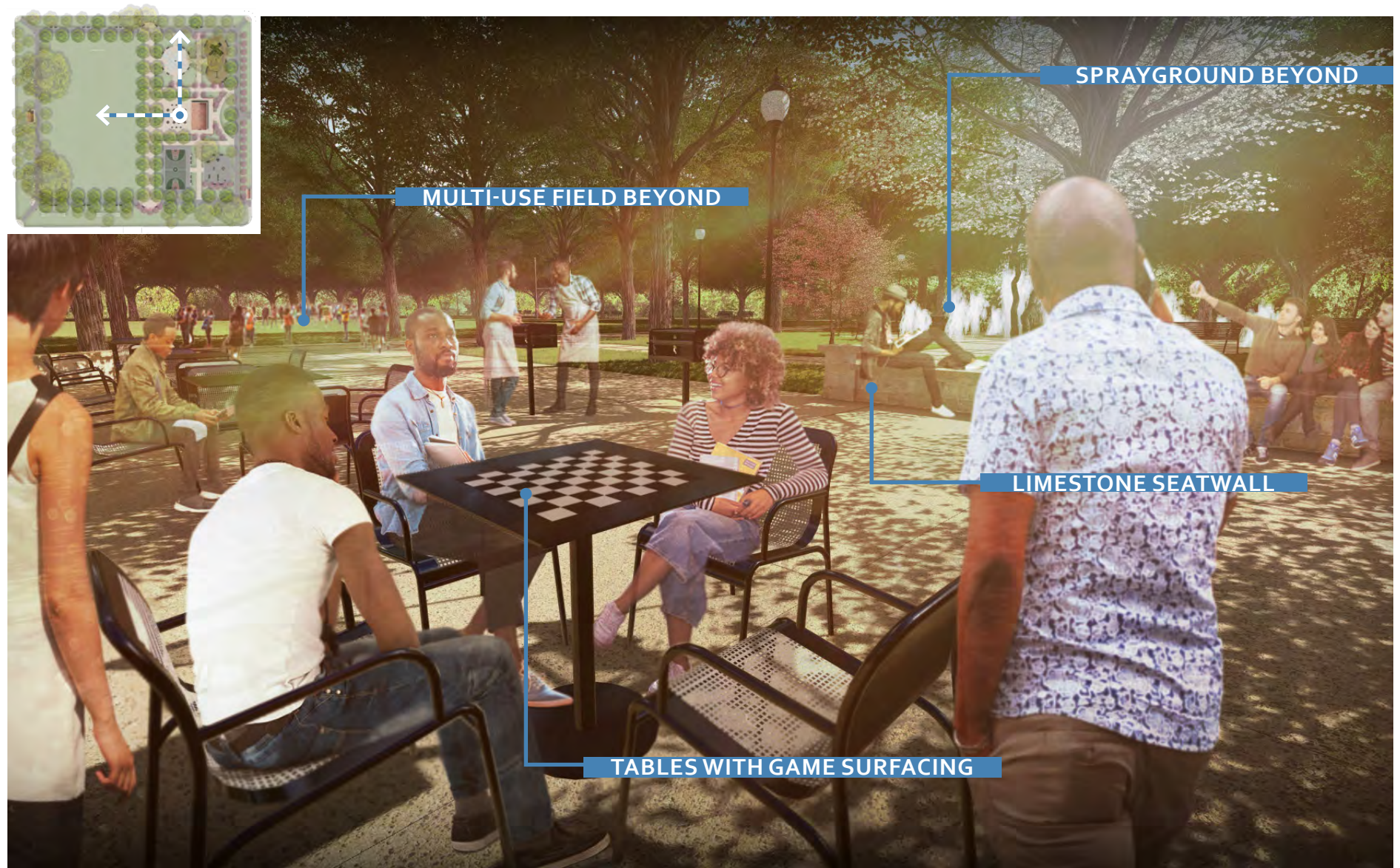
## ELLIOTT PARK TOUR: THE FIELD HOUSE



The Field House - renovation includes updated restrooms, tongue & groove ceilings in the breezeway, and an expanded patio for gathering - is now a community hub.



## ELLIOTT PARK TOUR: THE CENTRAL PLAZA



The Central Plaza includes large grills, a perimeter stone seat wall, chess dining sets, and overhead tree canopies.



# ELLIOTT PARK TOUR: SITE ARCHITECTURE

## RENOVATED FIELD HOUSE

The Field House would receive a facelift with a tongue & groove ceiling in the breezeway, new paint throughout, and ADA accessible walks and entries as well as updated restroom facilities. The addition of The Central Plaza in the rear will be tied in with a seat wall that wraps around the structure to create a patio and welcoming front entry sequence flanked by plantings.

TONGUE & GROOVE CEILING

UPDATED RESTROOMS

CENTRAL PLAZA BEYOND

STONE SEAT WALL

ENTRY PLANTINGS

UPDATED WALK SURFACES



Renovated Field House looking west at the front entry from 28th Street.



— LOCATED ADJACENT TO MATURE TREES

— PROPOSED SHELTER

— MULTI-USE FIELD/FIELD HOUSE BEYOND

— GRILLING STATION

— OUTDOOR DINING

## PROPOSED SHELTER

The proposed shelter would be located on the western edge of the site along 29th Street. Public feedback noted that the edge could benefit from a more formal gathering space that was secondary in its presence to the Field House. The shelter would include outdoor dining tables and a large grill/smoker. The materiality of the structure could vary, but would match approved colors (next page).

Proposed open-air shelter looking east from 29th Street.



## ELLIOTT PARK TOUR:

The following condensed palette of finishes, materials, and furnishings take cues from classic Olmstedian style seen in other parks within the Louisville system, as well as Olmsted parks across the nation, to create a timeless look and feel in Elliott Park.

Consistency in matching the familiar, durable materials and products seen in other Louisville parks will reduce the maintenance needs and associated costs for the Louisville Metro Parks Department.

## SITE DESIGN PALETTE

### ARCHITECTURAL PAINT FINISHES



**"Bone White"**

Benjamin Moore

**Application:** Wood Trim,  
Metal Elements & Interiors



**"Chimayo Sage"**

Glidden

**Application:** Eaves



**"California Red"**

Benjamin Moore

**Application:** Brick

### MAIN SURFACING MATERIAL FINISHES



**Hardwood Mulch**

**Application:** Playground



**Historic Mix Concrete**

**Application:** Street Entries,  
Internal Walks, Central  
Plaza, & Sprayground



**Asphalt**

**Application:** Perimeter  
Walking Path & Basketball  
Court

## FURNISHINGS



Limestone Seat Wall



Wood & Iron Bench  
(match Olmsted Parks)



Carousel Dining Sets with  
Game Surfacing



Fencing with  
Limestone Columns



Acorn Lighting  
(match Olmsted Parks)



Litter Receptacle w/  
Self-Closing Lid  
(match Olmsted Parks)



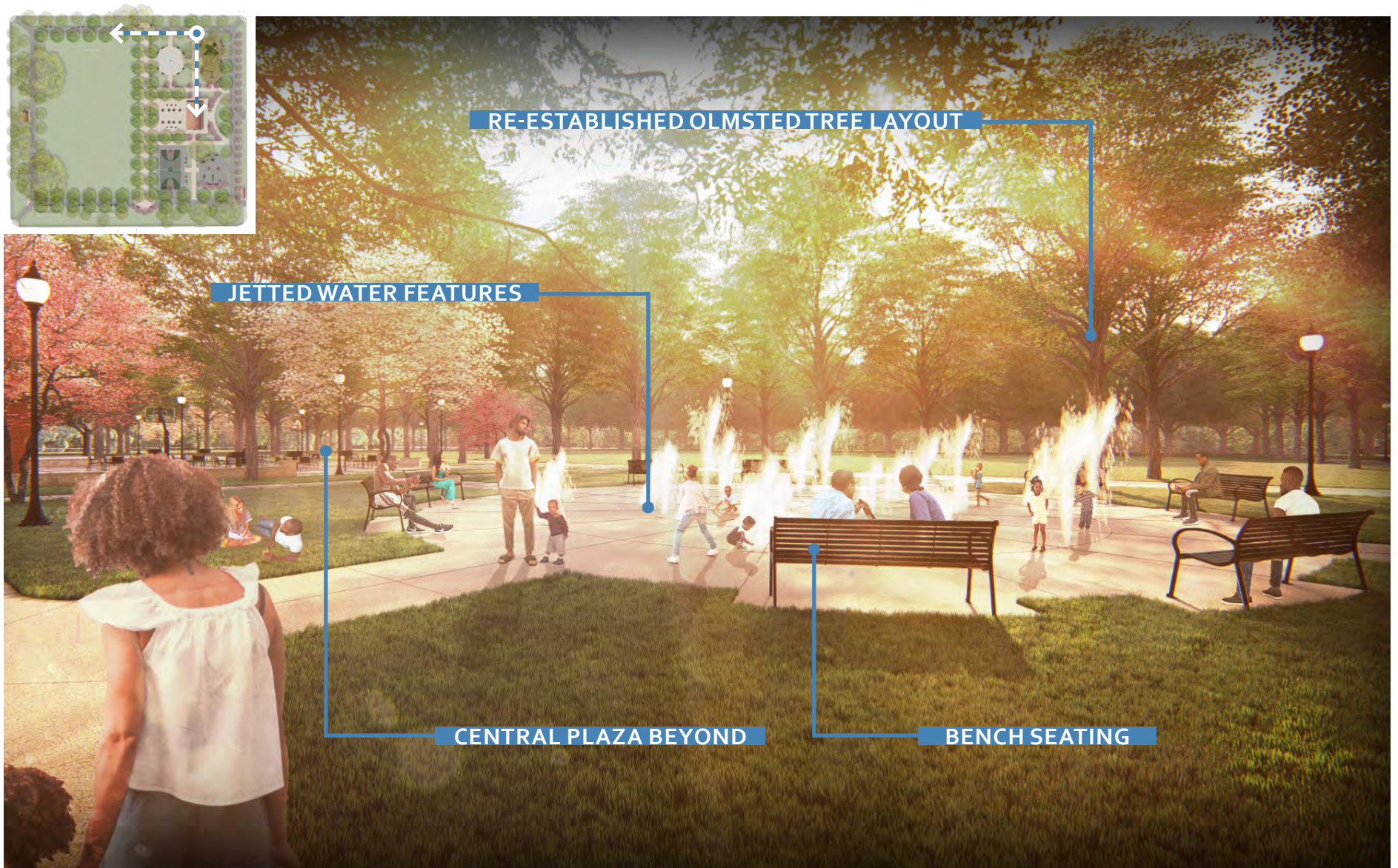
Covered BBQ Grill/Smoker



Outdoor Exercise  
Equipment



## ELLIOTT PARK TOUR: THE KIDS' CORNER - SPRAYGROUND



The simple redesign of The Kids' Corner with a sprayground of jettted water features is more sustainable in its water use, and the seating makes the space more functional.



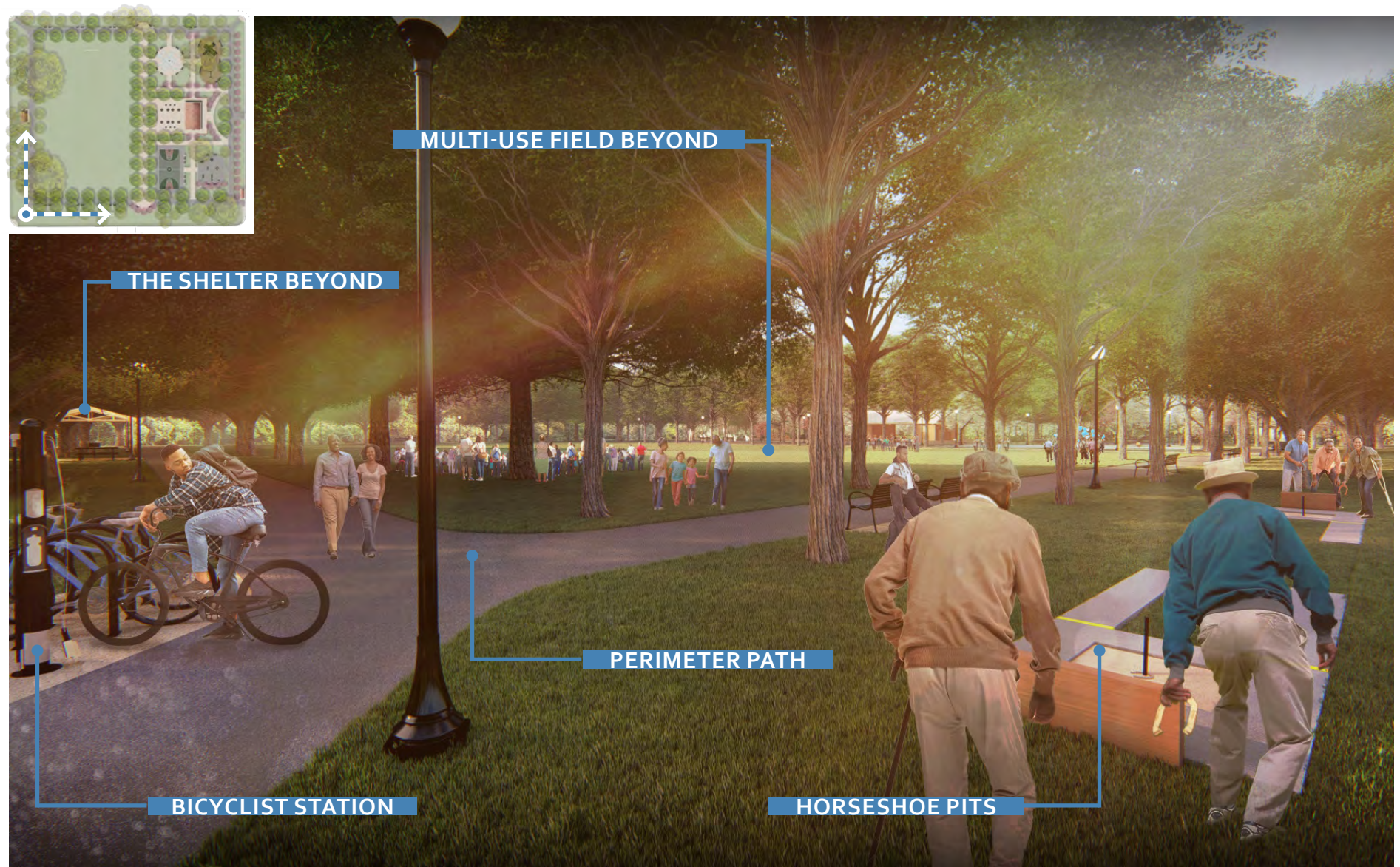
## ELLIOTT PARK TOUR: THE OUTDOOR GYM & PROMENADE



The Outdoor Gym contains the relocated basketball court as well as fitness equipment, making it an ideal space for varying ages and abilities to engage in group fitness.



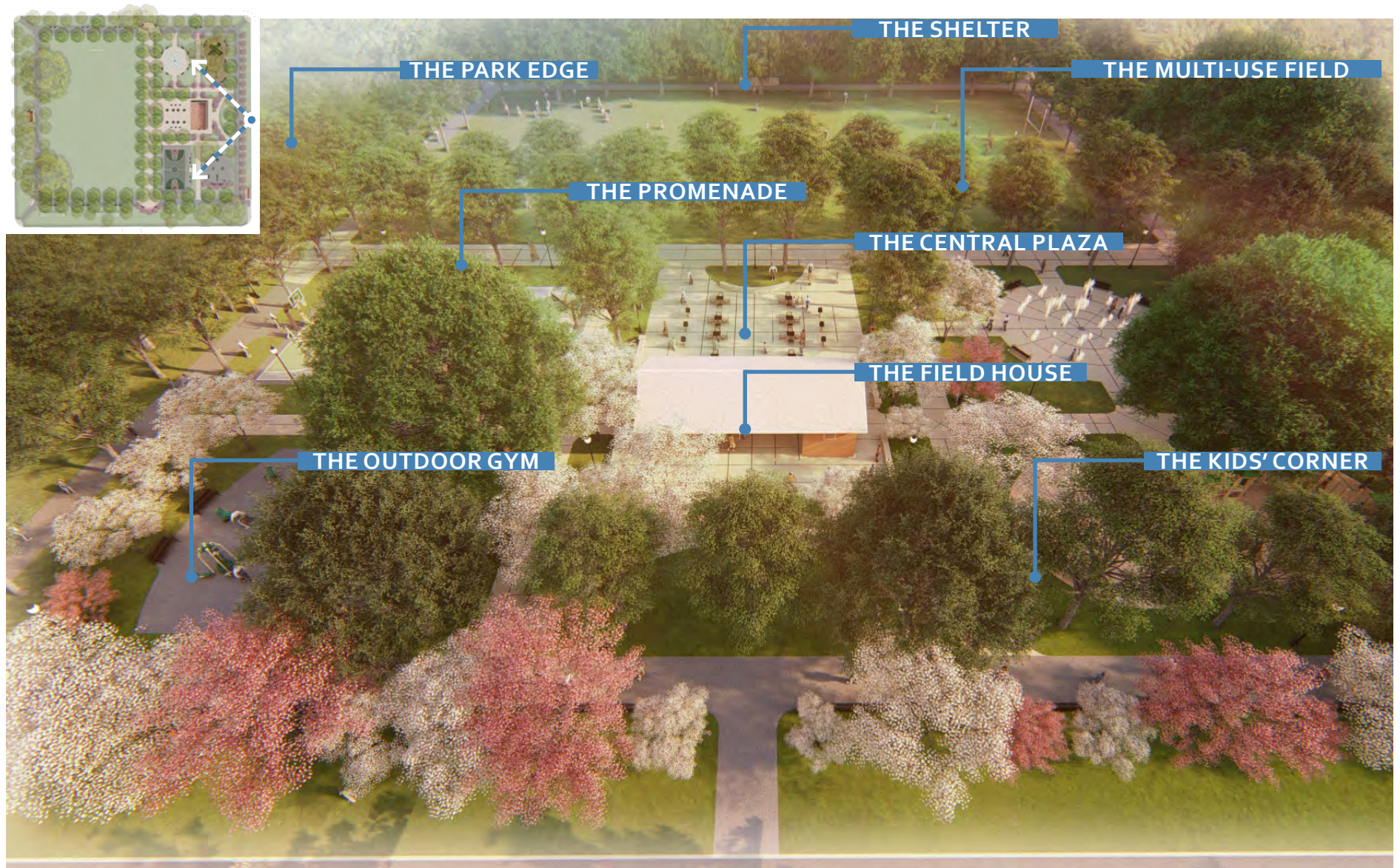
## ELLIOTT PARK TOUR: THE PARK EDGES



The Park Edges have been activated with the southern edge including horseshoe pits and the western edge including the bicyclist station and The Shelter.



## ELLIOTT PARK TOUR: 2040 AERIAL VIEW



The Elliott Park redesign is reflective of the original Olmsted Plan with a series of spaces that will meet the community's modern needs for outdoor recreation.







*IMPLEMENT*

|     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
|     | Recommendations            |
| 87  | Summary                    |
| 89  | Outline                    |
| 91  | The Kids' Corner           |
| 93  | The Central Plaza          |
| 95  | The Outdoor Gym            |
| 97  | The Park Edges             |
| 99  | Park Structures            |
| 101 | Park Site                  |
| 105 | Park Access                |
| 107 | Park Programming           |
| 109 | Cost Opinion               |
| 111 | The Future of Elliott Park |

## RECOMMENDATIONS: SUMMARY

The recommendations provided in the following sections reflect input received from public engagement, observations by the design team at the park site, and feedback received from community leaders and the Task Force which was formed to help guide the development of this plan. While the recommendations provided might individually respond to specific user groups or activities, it is the intention of this plan to provide a park that is inclusive and representative of the community. Elliott Park is unique to have a very broad user group that ranges in age and background. For example, adjacent to the park is a senior living community, so design for safe and easy to navigate walkways with a combination of well distributed benches is recommended. Younger park users utilize the park for football practice, the play and spraygrounds and free play, so those areas are recommended for improvement. The recommendations here are intended to serve the breadth of current and future park users.

In addition to community input, the historic Olmsted Brother's plan provides a strong foundation for design guidance. The historic plan organizes uses and provides a rational circulation system that maximizes the relatively small site for greatest use and community impact. The physical organization of the proposed master plan represents the guidance provided from the historic plan but varies in use and detailing to respond to contemporary needs of existing and future park users. For example, play equipment has changed substantially since 1908 and modern equipment will be used; it is not appropriate to utilize gravel for multi-use field areas so turf is recommended instead; and the Concert Grove was determined to be better utilized for BBQ's, picnicking, and chess tables instead. Balancing between the historic plan and community input guided the formation of the resultant plan and following recommendations. The following pages outline recommendations for each area and improvements for each of the park elements within that area.









## RECOMMENDATIONS: OUTLINE

### KID'S CORNER

1. Add a new swing set to the east of the existing play equipment.
2. Adjust the footprint and formalize playground edge.
3. Improve playground surface and edge treatment.
4. Add bench seating around playground and sprayground areas.
5. Remove the existing sprayground and update with modern plumbing, spray equipment, and concrete surface.

### CENTRAL PLAZA

6. Create a concrete plaza on the west side of the Field House.
7. Provide a low stone wall for informal seating on the north and south edge of the plaza.
8. Provide four-person dining tables that can be used for BBQ's, daily gathering, and incorporate a chess board on their surface.
9. Provide large charcoal style BBQ grills.

### OUTDOOR GYM

10. Relocate a new basketball court to the Outdoor Gym area.
11. Provide bench seating throughout the Outdoor Gym area.
12. Provide a mix of outdoor exercise equipment to accommodate different age and ability groups
13. Provide a poured-in-place surface for easy access to equipment.

### PARK EDGE

14. Provide new horseshoe pits at the southwestern edge of the park.
15. Provide a bike fix-it-station with bike mount, tools, bike racks, and air pump.
16. Provide bench seating along paths and walkways.
17. Work with TARC to improve the existing stop (shelter, bench, and waste receptacle) on 28th Street near Elliott Avenue.

### ARCHITECTURE

18. Provide a structural review of the Field House to identify necessary updates not already identified in this master plan.
19. Provide a new shingle roof.
20. Open the ceiling in the breezeway and provide a T&G wood ceiling.
21. Remodel the existing restrooms – provide ADA clearance.
22. Repair chipped/crumbling bricks and mortar and repaint the building.
23. Provide a new 10' x 20' open-air shelter on the west edge of the park.
24. Provide a concrete pad, picnic tables, and BBQ grill to support use of the shelter.

### PARK SITE

25. Provide all park entrances with detectable warning pavement, between the park entrance and the road, to assist visually impaired park users.
26. Provide a removable bollard to be placed in the center of the path at all entrances to deter vehicular access into the park.
27. Maintain existing tree canopy in good condition and plant new trees to reclaim the Olmsted design intent for the park.
28. Replace the existing chain link fence along 28<sup>th</sup> Street with a 3' tall, black steel fence with stone columns at the end of fence sections. This will maintain a barrier put in place for children, but also create a more welcoming entrance into the park
29. Create a park perimeter walkway as a 10' asphalt path.
30. Create a central promenade - a 16'-wide tree-lined path of historic mix concrete separating the eastern and western halves of the park.
31. Provide pedestrian lighting throughout the park in the form of a 10' pole with LED, acorn style fixture atop.
32. Create an open lawn (Multi-Use Field) with a multi-use sports goal to accommodate a variety of sports, leisure, and gathering activities.



## PARK ACCESS

### Short-term recommendations:

33. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works to install “paint and post” curb extensions and pedestrian refuges.
34. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works to install high visibility signage and pedestrian striping to help clearly demarcate pedestrian crossings and indicate “slow speed zones” around the park.
35. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works to install rectangular rapid flashing beacons at key intersections on 28th and 29th Streets. These signs are highly visual, pedestrian activated indicators which warn oncoming traffic of a pedestrian’s presence.
36. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works to evaluate the 35-mph posted speed limit on 28th Street.
37. Consider adding stop signs at intersections without to further calm traffic.
38. Work with LG&E to evaluate and repair any out-of-service street lighting near Elliott Park.
39. Partner with TARC to evaluate bus stop locations, accessibility and visibility issues around the park. Any stop location changes should be completed in coordination with other safety improvements like curb extensions and crosswalk improvements.

### Long-term recommendations:

40. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works to use the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to study the Magazine Street intersections at 28th and 29th Streets and explore options and potential costs for permanent curb extensions, raised intersections, pedestrian refuge’s and/or mini roundabouts.
41. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works and the Department of Advanced Planning to evaluate the applicability of pursuing a Federal Transportation Alternatives Grant (TAP) and

apply for funding for permanent pedestrian safety improvements.

## PARK PROGRAMMING

42. Foster and develop a Friends of Elliott Park group.
43. Provide free Wifi access to the park.
44. Utilize the Friends of Elliott Park group and other local leaders to provide community programming in the park.
45. Collaborate with organizations such as Olmsted Parks Conservancy and Play Cousins to provide pop-up activities that feature play during community events.

### Park Ambassador Program

#### Short-Term Recommendations:

46. Identify park volunteers from the Friends of Elliott Park group to help keep eyes on the park and coordinate identified needs with Olmsted Parks Conservancy – examples of needs include the following: broken equipment, lock/unlock restrooms, coordination for community events, lights in need of repair, etc.
47. Develop a scope for a future Park Ambassador program guided by Olmsted Parks Conservancy and Friends of Elliott Park with input from LMPD, Louisville Parks and Recreation, Neighborhood Place, One West, and other agencies and organizations that can serve as resources for the development of this program.
48. Develop a funding mechanism for a sustained Park Ambassador program that will fund the presence of a Park Ranger.

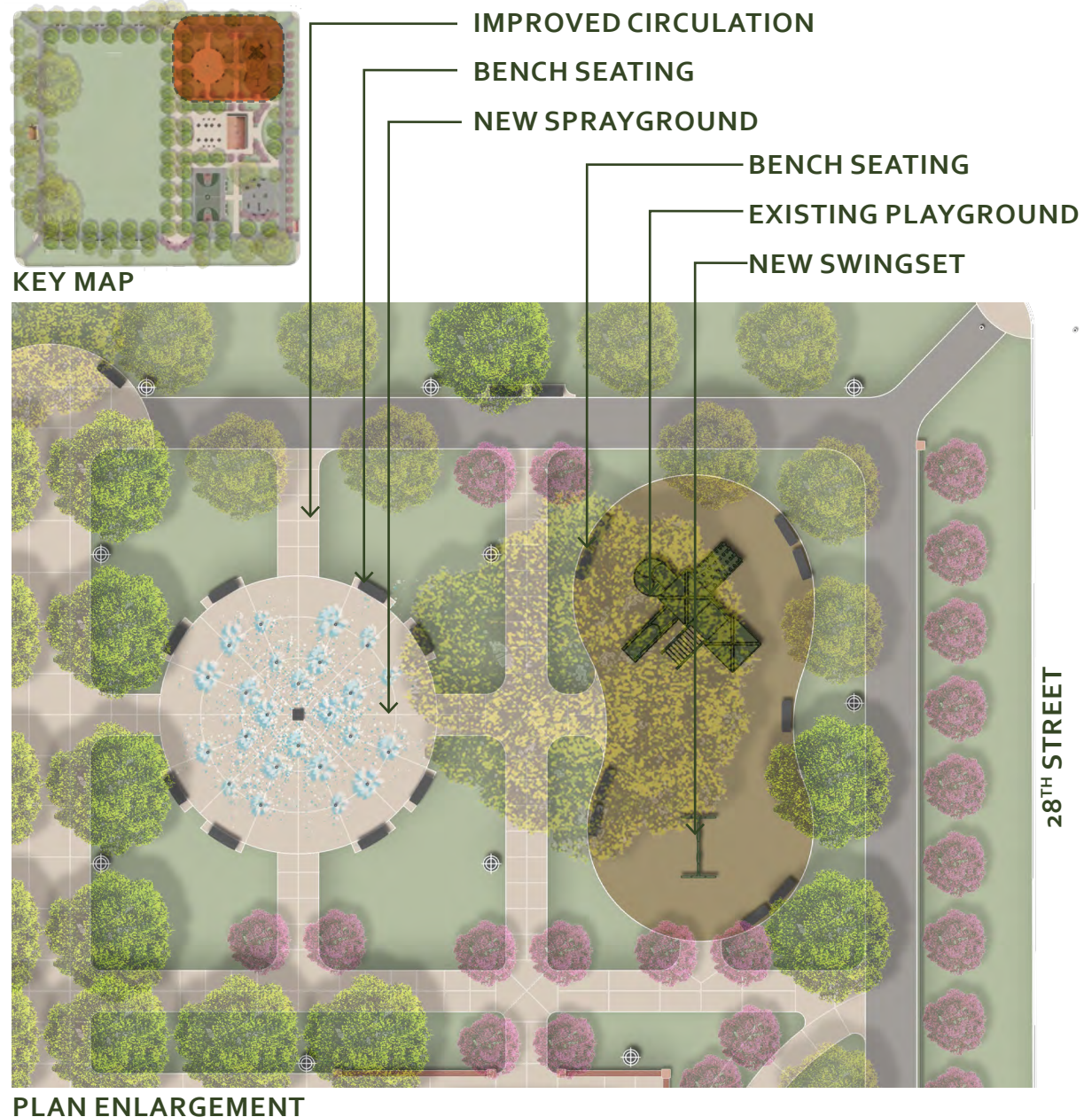
#### Long-Term Recommendations:

49. Employ a Park Ambassador to provide community presence, deter unwanted activity, and serve as a liaison between Elliott Park users and Metro and local non-profit agencies.
50. Develop a framework to continually build community trust through engagement.



## THE KIDS' CORNER

The Kids' Corner is in the northeastern corner of Elliott Park and is the first programmed area accessible from the 28th Street and Magazine Street entrance. The existing condition of the area consists of a sprayground, which was first installed in 1950 as a wading pool and then updated in 1975, and a playground area that was recently updated in 2019. Existing walkways are not well connected and there is currently a lack of seating for people visiting this area. Several large trees are located in this part of the park, some in poor condition and others in good condition. The trees in poor condition should be removed and the trees in good condition preserved. A conceptual planting layout for the park is included as part of the recommendations and will help restore some of the gaps in canopy coverage for this area.







### PLAYGROUND

1. Add a new two-bay swing set to the east of the existing play equipment.
2. Adjust the footprint and formalize playground edge.
3. Mulch play surfacing is recommended for the playground area. When the existing playground equipment becomes in need of replacement, evaluate poured-in-place rubberized play surface to provide for more accessible play.
4. Add benches around the playground to provide a seating area for parents.

### SPRAYGROUND

1. Remove the existing sprayground.
2. Update the sprayground with modern plumbing, spray equipment, and concrete surface.
3. Provide bench seating around the sprayground.

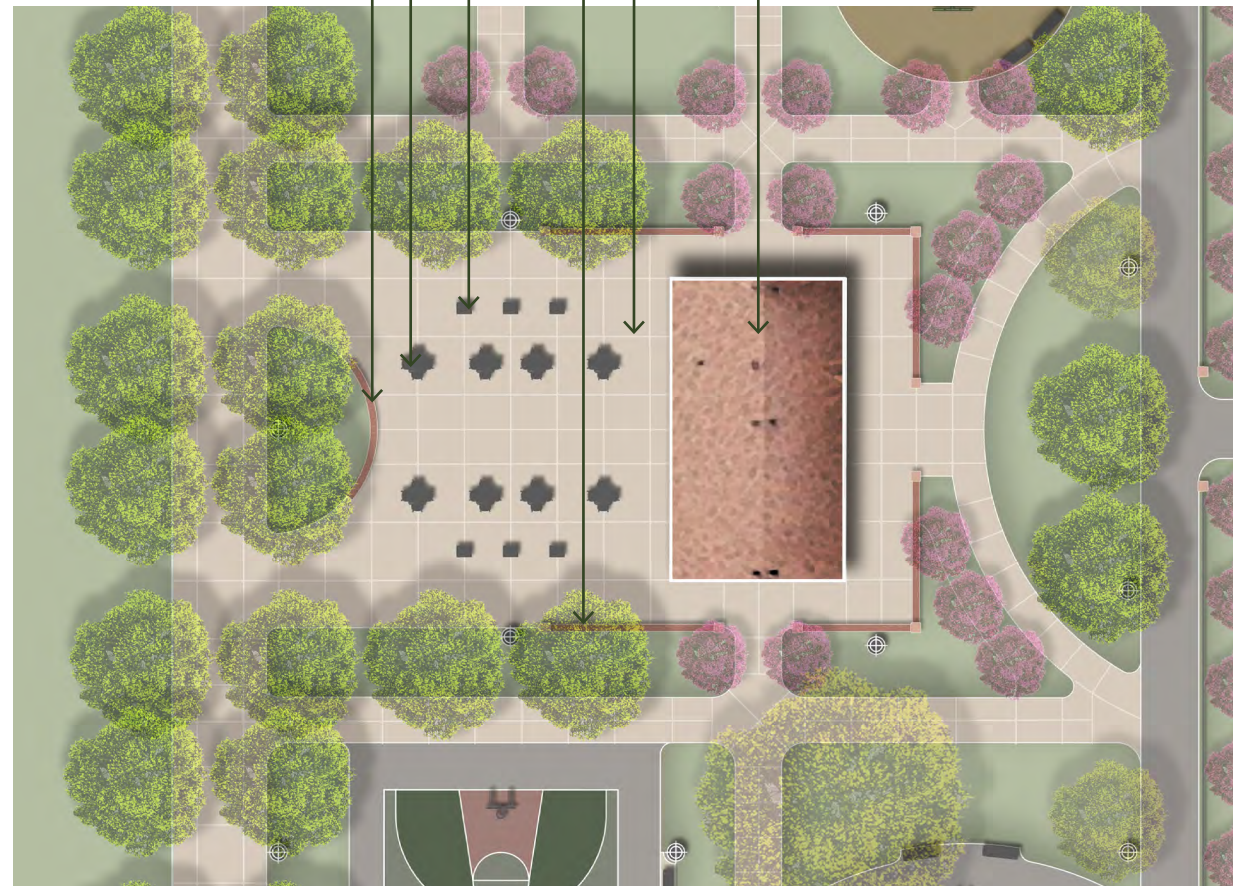


## THE CENTRAL PLAZA

The space to the west of the Field House, called the Concert Grove on the historic plan, is not well defined. It lacks any discernible park elements to help define it as a gathering space. The plan recommendation for this area will help create a space by organizing the walkways, pavement treatment, plantings, and furniture. While the historic plan calls this area a “Concert Grove” the master plan redefines this space to represent the intended use, which is a flexible plaza. This will be a gathering space in the middle of the park that will host events from BBQ’s to chess tournaments. It will serve as the civic heart of the park and be a central meeting place for community activities.



KEY MAP



PLAN ENLARGEMENT

LIMESTONE SEAT WALL

CHESS/DINING TABLES

LARGE BBQ GRILLS

LIMESTONE SEAT WALL

HISTORIC MIX CONCRETE

RENOVATED FIELD HOUSE





### PLAZA HARDSCAPE

1. Provide a simple plaza hardscape with “Historic Mix” concrete and simple scoring to define the space.
2. Provide a low stone wall for informal seating on the north and south edge of the plaza.

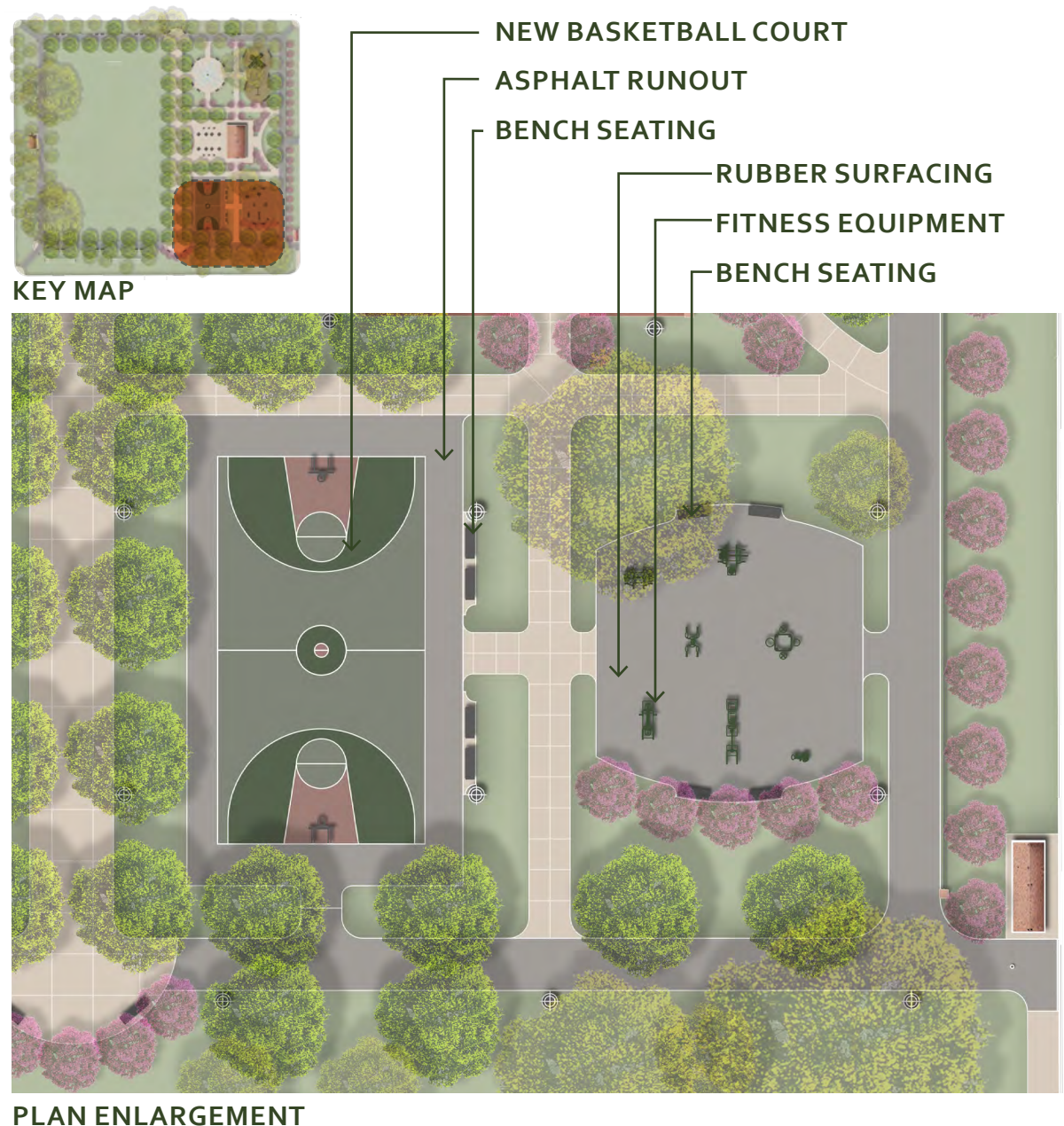
### PLAZA FURNITURE

1. Provide four-person dining tables that can be used for BBQ’s, daily gathering, and incorporate a chess board top to allow for board games at the park
2. Provide large charcoal style BBQ grills



## THE OUTDOOR GYM

The Outdoor Gym is the area south of the Field House. The existing conditions of this area include a swing set and several scattered picnic tables. This corner is a gathering area for some of the existing park users who enter from 28th Street and Elliott Avenue. This area is defined as an Adult Gymnasium in the historic plan and is suitable to meet the active recreation needs for park users who utilize the basketball court (currently located in the open lawn area). In addition to basketball, the public engagement feedback revealed a desire to incorporate adult fitness equipment. Adult fitness equipment can be selected for a variety of ages and abilities to accommodate the broadest range of park users. By grouping the basketball court and adult fitness areas together, it helps define and organize this space within Elliott Park.







### **BASKETBALL COURT**

1. Remove and relocate the existing basketball court to the Outdoor Gym location.
2. Orient the new court along the north/south axis to provide optimal sun angles for play.
3. Provide sufficient runout distances for a safe playing area.
4. Provide bench seating for those waiting to play.

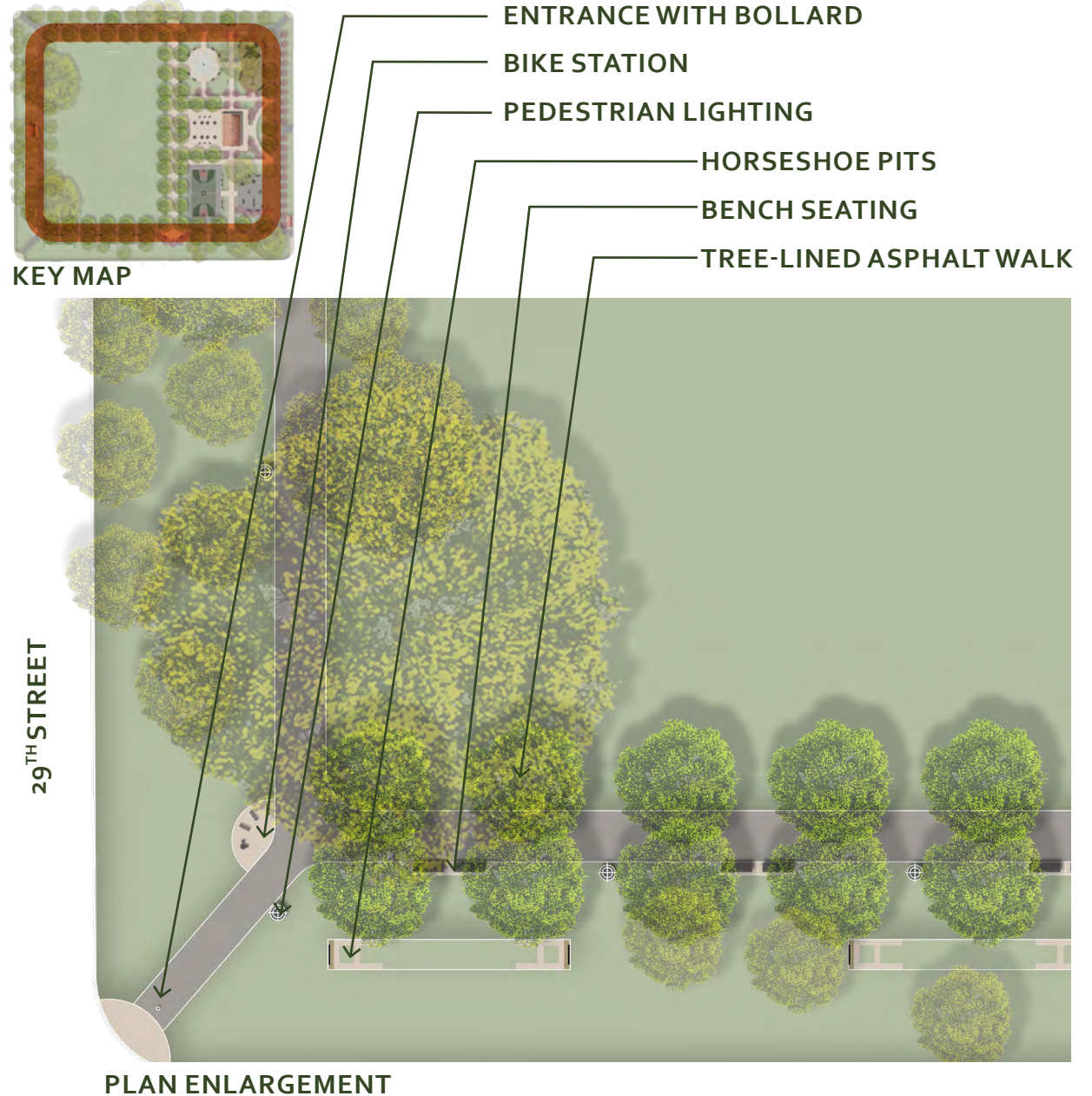
### **FITNESS AREA**

1. Provide a mix of outdoor adult exercise equipment to accommodate different age and ability groups.
2. Provide a poured-in-place surface for easy access to equipment.
3. Provide bench seating.



## THE PARK EDGES

The edges of a park are some of the most important and overlooked spaces. The existing conditions for the park include a well-used walking path around the park that is in poor condition in several areas. Seating is scarce around the park edge and, when provided, often in poor condition. Despite the limitations of the existing park edge, it is still a popular area for daily gathering. Park users take advantage of the well-developed shade trees, use available park seating (sometimes bringing their own) and use the path around the park for walking. The recommendations for the Park Edge include safe walking paths, bench seating, a bike station, improved TARC stop, and horseshoe pits. With these additions, the park edge will be a more comfortable and welcoming environment for current and future park users.







### HORSESHOE PITS

1. The once popular horseshoe pits will be returned the park along the south edge.
2. New pits should be constructed of durable materials suitable for a park setting.

### BIKE STATION

1. Provide a concrete pad where all bike related equipment can be installed together.
2. Provide a bike fix-it-station with bike mount, tools, and air pump.
3. Provide bike racks for bike storage.

### TARC STOP

1. Work with TARC to improve the existing stop on 28th Street near Elliott Avenue.
2. The stop should include a shelter, bench, and waste receptacle. The shelter and furniture should reflect similar designs near other Olmsted Parks and Parkways within Louisville.

### WALKWAYS

1. Park perimeter walkways will be 10' asphalt walks.
2. Walkways around the Field House, Kids' Corner, Central Plaza, and Outdoor Gym will be 8' wide and constructed with "Historic Mix" concrete
3. All walkways will be designed to meet ADA standards.



## PARK STRUCTURES

There is only one existing park structure. The Field House, of which the exact date of construction is unknown at this time, is located in the middle of the eastern half of the park. The existing structure is much smaller and less pronounced than the original plans developed by the Olmsted Brothers in 1923, which show a larger structure with archways and low site walls surrounding the building to create a civic presence. While the existing structure is not as well-developed as the original plans intended, it does serve a purpose and is situated in the same location as in the historic plans. For the purposes of this plan, it is recommended to maintain and improve the existing structure rather than demolish and reconstruct a new building. The existing building only received visual inspection by an architect and a more thorough review will be required to fully develop the recommendations necessary for implementation. In addition to the Field House, the community engagement process revealed a need for an additional structure to accommodate park gatherings. A new open-air shelter is recommended on the west edge of the park to provide a covered gathering space for park users



KEY MAP



FIELD HOUSE



### FIELD HOUSE

1. Provide a structural review of the building and identify necessary updates not already identified in this section.
2. Provide a new shingle roof – evaluate rafter and sheeting in need of replacement.
3. Open the ceiling in the breezeway and provide a T&G wood ceiling.
4. Remodel the existing restrooms – provide ADA clearance.
5. Repair chipped/crumbling bricks and mortar and repaint the building.
6. Repair/restore all ornamental wood members.

### PICNIC SHELTER

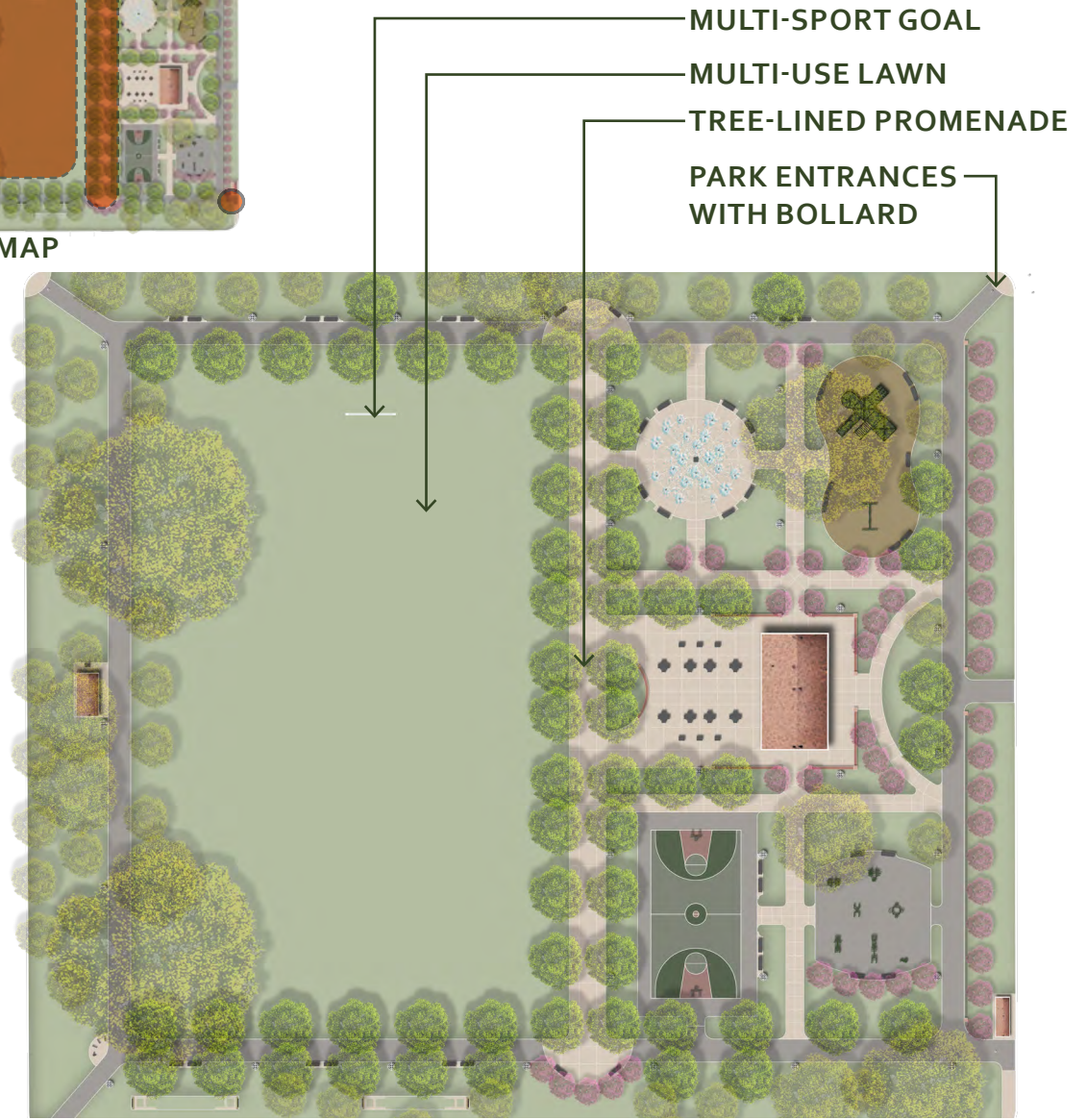
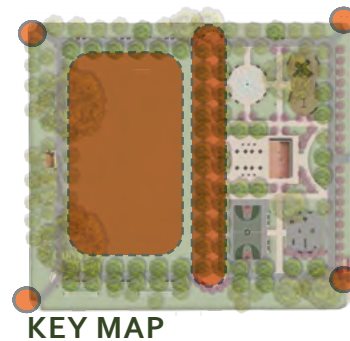
1. Provide a new 10'x20' open-air shelter on the west edge of the park.
2. Provide a concrete pad, picnic tables, and BBQ grill to support use of the shelter.
3. The aesthetic of the new shelter should blend with the visual aesthetic of the park so it remains subordinate in design to its surroundings.



## PARK SITE

The existing park site is nearly 4-acres of flat ground that includes the park walks, Field House, sprayground, playground, swings, basketball court, and several benches and tables scattered throughout. The eastern edge along 28th Street is demarcated with a 6' chain link fence due to safety concerns regarding the close proximity of children to street traffic. The eastern half of the park is designed with more programmed activities and the western half is characterized by the large, open-space multi-use field. Existing circulation patterns favor the edges but do not provide strong cross-access connections between the eastern and western part of the park.

The proposed master plan, using the historic plan as a guide, will create a network of walks between different programmed areas to connect and organize the park. During the public engagement process, the community repeatedly voiced concerns about safety and the need for good lighting. The recommended master plan incorporates pedestrian-scale lighting throughout.



**MULTI-SPORT GOAL**

**MULTI-USE LAWN**

**TREE-LINED PROMENADE**

**PARK ENTRANCES  
WITH BOLLARD**





## ENTRANCES

1. The park entrances will include detectable warning pavement to assist visually impaired park users between the park entrance and the road.
2. A removable bollard will be placed in the center of the path at all entrances to deter vehicular access into the park.
3. The existing chain link fence along 28th Street will be removed and replaced with a 3' black steel fence with stone columns at the end of fence sections. This will maintain a barrier put in place for children, but also create a more welcoming park entry.



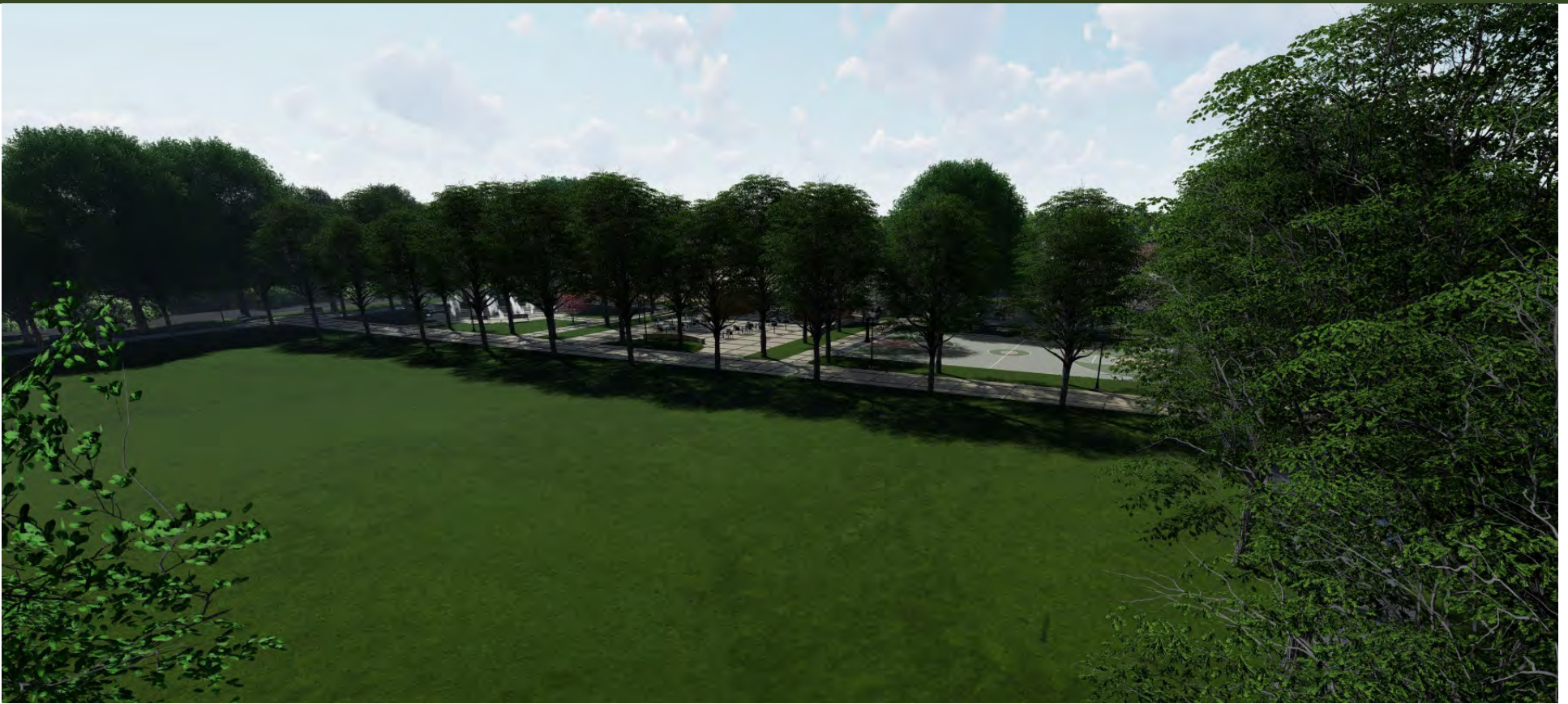
## PARK SITE



### PROMENADE

1. The Promenade is a 16'-wide tree-lined path that separates the eastern and western halves of the park and was a preferred feature of Concept B during the public engagement process.
2. The Promenade will be constructed of "Historic Mix" concrete.





## LIGHTING

1. Pedestrian-scale lighting (10' pole with LED acorn-style fixture atop to match the Louisville Olmsted Park System's product) will be provided throughout the park.
2. The fixture should utilize LED lighting to maximize efficiency.

## COMMUNITY GREEN

1. The Multi-Use Field will serve a variety of activities and be regraded to provide an even, well-draining surface.
2. During the public engagement process, input was given to provide a field goal for the football team that currently utilizes the area for practice – a multi-use goal post should be provided on the northern edge of the lawn, approximately 25' from the edge of the perimeter path.



## PARK ACCESS

Elliott Park is situated within the Russell Neighborhood and is adjacent to a mixture of different residential, commercial and industrial uses. The residences across the street from the park include many senior citizen residents and daycare facilities with children who enjoy using the park and visit it often by walking across the street.

As evident in the traffic incident data collected from the Kentucky State Police Collision Analysis database, combined with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet data on street characteristics, the streets adjacent to Elliott Park have proven to be dangerous to cross, especially for vulnerable populations like seniors and children. High vehicular speeds, unsafe pedestrian crossings, poor lighting, and TARC stop conflicts all contribute to the safety of the park access points. Improvements to these conditions are vital for safe access to the park but meaningful improvements will take time.

With that in mind, a series of short-term and long-term recommendations have been provided so safety improvements can begin immediately, while sustained long-term improvements develop over time.

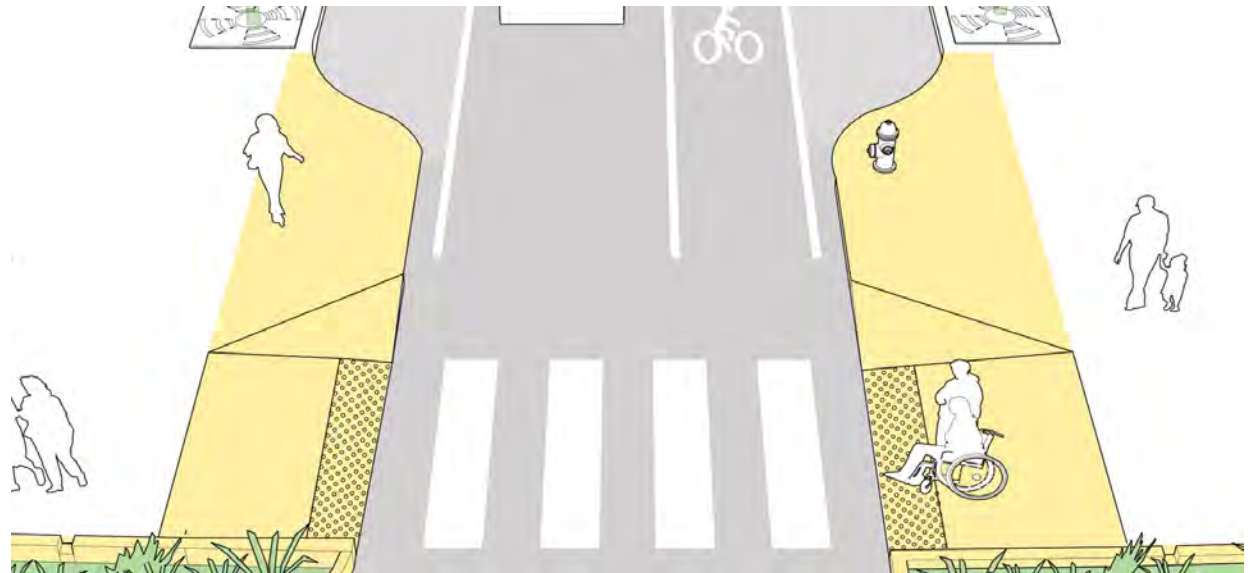


image reference: Nacto.org

### LONG-TERM

Knowing that improvements to public streets can be costly with funding hard to come by, long-term recommendations require strategy and foresight. By partnering with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works, opportunities for the provision of state and federal grants can be evaluated to address the identified safety issues. The following are recommended potential paths to long-term and permanent improvements:

1. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works to use the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to study the Magazine Street intersections at 28th and 29th Streets in more detail and explore options and potential costs for permanent curb extensions, raised intersections, pedestrian refuge's and/or mini roundabouts.
2. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works and the Department of Advanced Planning to evaluate the applicability of pursuing a Federal Transportation Alternatives Grant (TAP) and apply for funding for permanent pedestrian safety improvements.



## SHORT-TERM

Immediate implementation items to pursue focus on utilizing low cost, high impact methodologies for traffic calming to slow vehicle speeds, slow turning movements, and improve pedestrian visibility and safety.

1. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works to install "paint and post" curb extensions and pedestrian refuges. These should be evaluated and added at all warranted intersections.
2. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works to install high-visibility signage and pedestrian striping to help clearly demarcate pedestrian crossings and indicate "slow speed zones".
3. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works to install rectangular rapid flashing beacons at key intersections on 28th and 29th street. These signs are pedestrian activated indicators which warn oncoming traffic of pedestrians.
4. Partner with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Works to evaluate the 35-mph posted speed limit on 28th Street.
5. Consider adding stop signs at intersections without to further calm traffic.
6. Work with LG&E to evaluate and repair any out-of-service street lighting.
7. Partner with TARC to evaluate bus stop locations, accessibility and visibility issues around the park. Stop location changes should be completed in coordination with other safety improvements like curb extensions and crosswalk improvements.



## PARK PROGRAMMING

A master plan focuses on physical improvements to the park, but without strong community stewardship, a master plan can be limited in its ability to improve the experience of a park. Throughout the planning process, Olmsted Parks Conservancy and the Project Team worked with the community to create a dialogue about Elliott Park, improvements they would like to see, and how to become more engaged with the future of the park. As a result, several programmatic recommendations were developed to reinforce the physical improvements at the park. These improvements range from fostering and developing a strong Friends of Elliott Park group, providing Wifi access within the park, offering community programs, and developing a Park Ambassador program to help monitor the park and increase the feeling of safety in the park.



### PARK AMBASSADOR

The public engagement process revealed several concerns about safety in the park. Safety concerns can be attributed to a range of issues from poor lighting to crime that is occurring on park property. This plan recommends a local presence to help curtail activities in the park that can be perceived as unsafe by developing a Park Ambassador program. This program would utilize the presence of a trained Park Ambassador who has a local understanding and community trust to help keep eyes on the park and be a liaison between the community and Metro agencies. Since a new program will take time to develop, the recommendations have been organized into short and long-term time lines.

#### Long-Term Recommendations:

1. Employ a Park Ambassador to provide community presence, deter unwanted activity, and serve as a liaison between Elliott Park users and Metro and local non-profit agencies. Develop a framework to continually build community trust through engagement.

#### Short-Term Recommendations:

2. Identify park volunteers from the Friends of Elliott Park group to help keep eyes on the park and coordinate identified needs with Olmsted Parks Conservancy – examples of needs include the following: broken equipment, lock/unlock restrooms, coordination for community events, lights in need of repair, etc.
3. Develop a scope for a future Park Ambassador program guided by Olmsted Parks Conservancy and Friends of Elliott Park with input from LMPD, Louisville Parks and Recreation, Neighborhood Place, One West, and other agencies and organizations that can serve as resources for the development of this program.
4. Develop a funding mechanism for a sustained Park Ambassador program that will fund the presence of a Park Ranger.

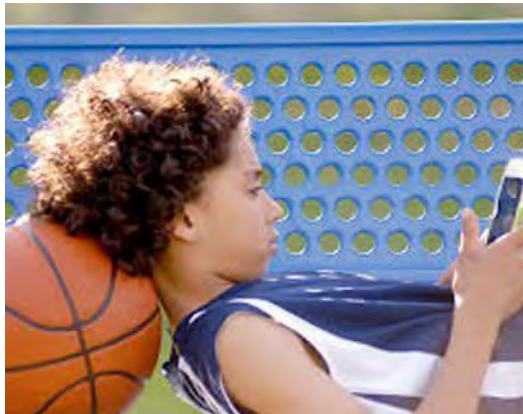
### FRIENDS OF ELLIOTT PARK GROUP

1. A Friends of Elliott Park group was developed as part of this planning process to provide a sounding board for the development of this plan and also act as stewards of this plan and the park moving forward.
2. The Friends of Elliott Park group is comprised of local leaders, community members, park users, and adjacent facility representatives.



### WIFI ACCESS

3. The COVID-19 pandemic occurred as this project was beginning. As a result, the engagement process had to shift from in-person to a variety of virtual formats. Viable internet access came up as a limiting factor for widespread engagement.
4. Elliott Park can serve as a free Wifi hotspot so members of the community can access internet while at the park.



### PROGRAMS

5. Utilize the Friends of Elliott Park group and other local leaders to provide community programming in the park.
6. Collaborate with organizations such as Olmsted Parks Conservancy and Play Cousins to provide pop-up activities that feature play during community events.





## COST OPINION

A cost opinion has been provided for the implementation of the Elliott Park Master Plan. The costs reflect a planning-level cost opinion and a more detailed construction cost estimate should be developed during the development of construction documents for the park improvements.

This cost estimate does not include information regarding a detailed survey, detailed utility investigation, or a detailed structural assessment of the Field House, which can all impact project costs. In recognition of potential cost fluctuations, a 20% contingency has been added to the total project cost to account for uncertainties.

The project costing is organized into specific types of construction activities and specific areas within the park. Costs listed for such areas as the Kid's Corner or Outdoor Gym can be used in conjunction with the graphics provided to develop marketing materials for potential sponsors who want to invest in the improvements at Elliott Park.

**\*\*\*The provided "Outline Cost Opinion" only includes costs for construction; it does NOT include soft costs for site survey, construction documents, permits, or construction administration.**



# OUTLINE COST OPINION

## A. SITE PREPARATION

The Contractor will prepare the site for construction by installing erosion control measures, establishing maintenance of traffic measures, and clearing debris.

**\$128,000**

## B. DEMOLITION & GRADING

The Contractor will remove and dispose of all pavement and materials scheduled for demolition in the construction plans.

**\$95,322**

## C. UTILITIES

The Contractor will install all necessary utilities for the project including electrical, storm/sewer drainage, and water.

**\$135,000**

## D. ELECTRICAL & LIGHTING

The Contractor will install all necessary wiring for electrical features and install electrical features as the pedestrian lighting.

**\$115,000**

## E. PAVEMENT AND ENTRANCES

The pavement and entrance materials include "Historic Mix" concrete, asphalt, and detectable warning pavers at park entrances. For the purposes of this report, some pavement costs have been broken

out into program areas to help better understand the costs associated with these spaces.

**\$208,824**

## F. KIDS' CORNER

The Kids' Corner includes improvements to the existing playground, a new swing, a new sprayground, and new walkways and bench seating throughout.

**\$162,530**

## G. CENTRAL PLAZA

The Central Plaza includes the area west of the Field House and includes the historic mix concrete, limestone seat walls, large BBQ grills, and dining tables that double as chess tables.

**\$117,656**

## H. OUTDOOR GYM

The Outdoor Gym includes a space for fitness equipment and accessible surfacing, a new basketball court, and bench seating throughout.

**\$117,009**

## I. FURNITURE ALONG PARK EDGE

The furniture along the park edge includes bench seating, picnic tables, waste

receptacles, grills, a bike fix-it station, bike racks, horse shoe pits, and a multi-use sports goal.

**\$65,075**

## J. ARCHITECTURE

The architecture includes improvements to the Field House - new roof, repairs to the existing building, renovate the restrooms, and open the breezeway ceiling. The architecture also includes the addition of a 10'x20' open-air shelter on the west edge.

**\$171,500**

## K. SIGNAGE

The signage for the park includes small entrance or interpretive signs. Olmsted Parks Conservancy is currently developing a park signage system that could be applied to Elliott Park.

**\$25,000**

## L. PLANTINGS

The Plantings for the park include a mix of shade trees, ornamental trees, perennials, and seed/sod for turf areas.

**\$123,986**

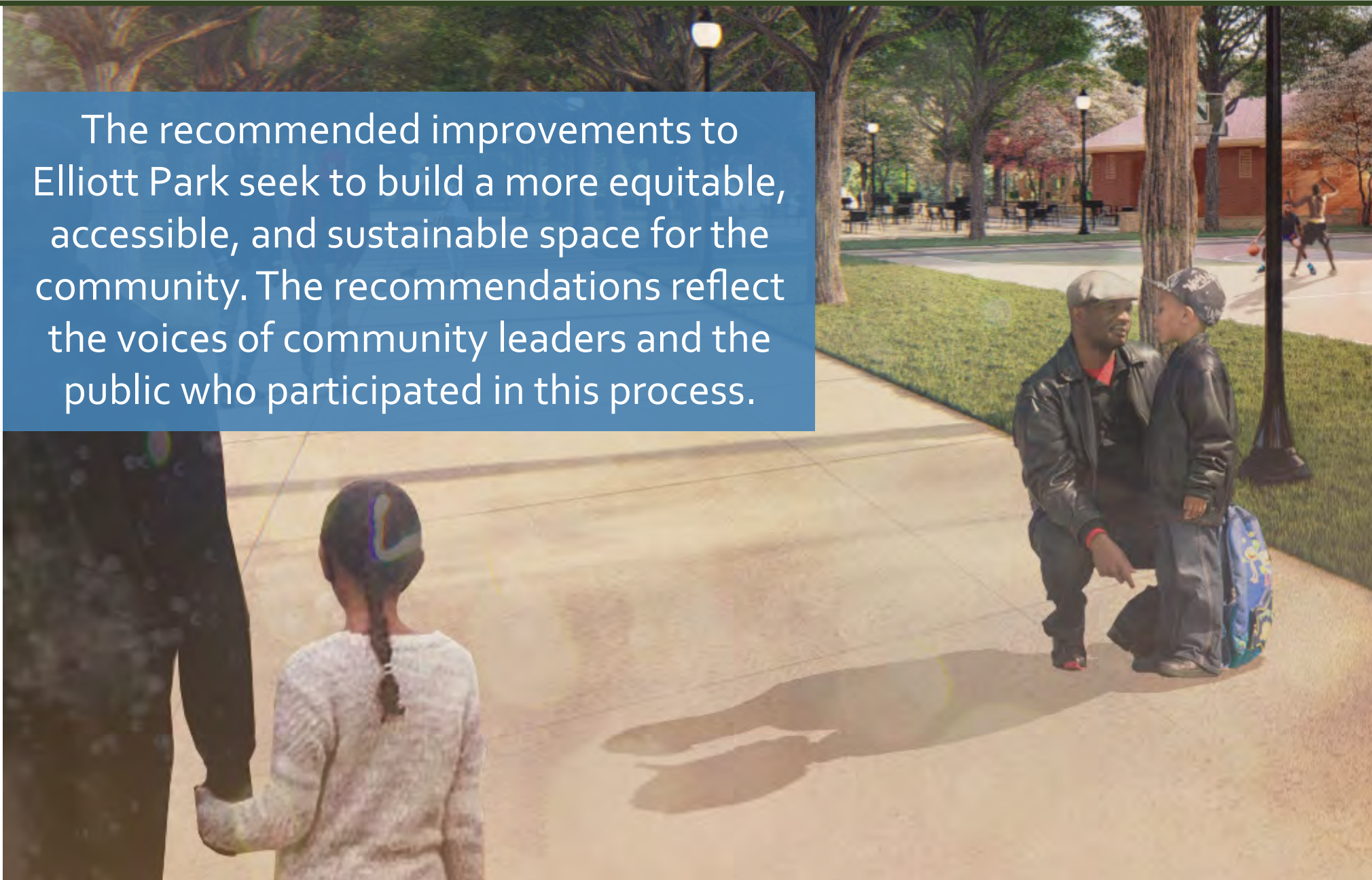
## M. TOTAL

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Subtotal           | \$1,464,902        |
| 20% Contingency    | \$292,980          |
| Construction Total | <b>\$1,757,882</b> |

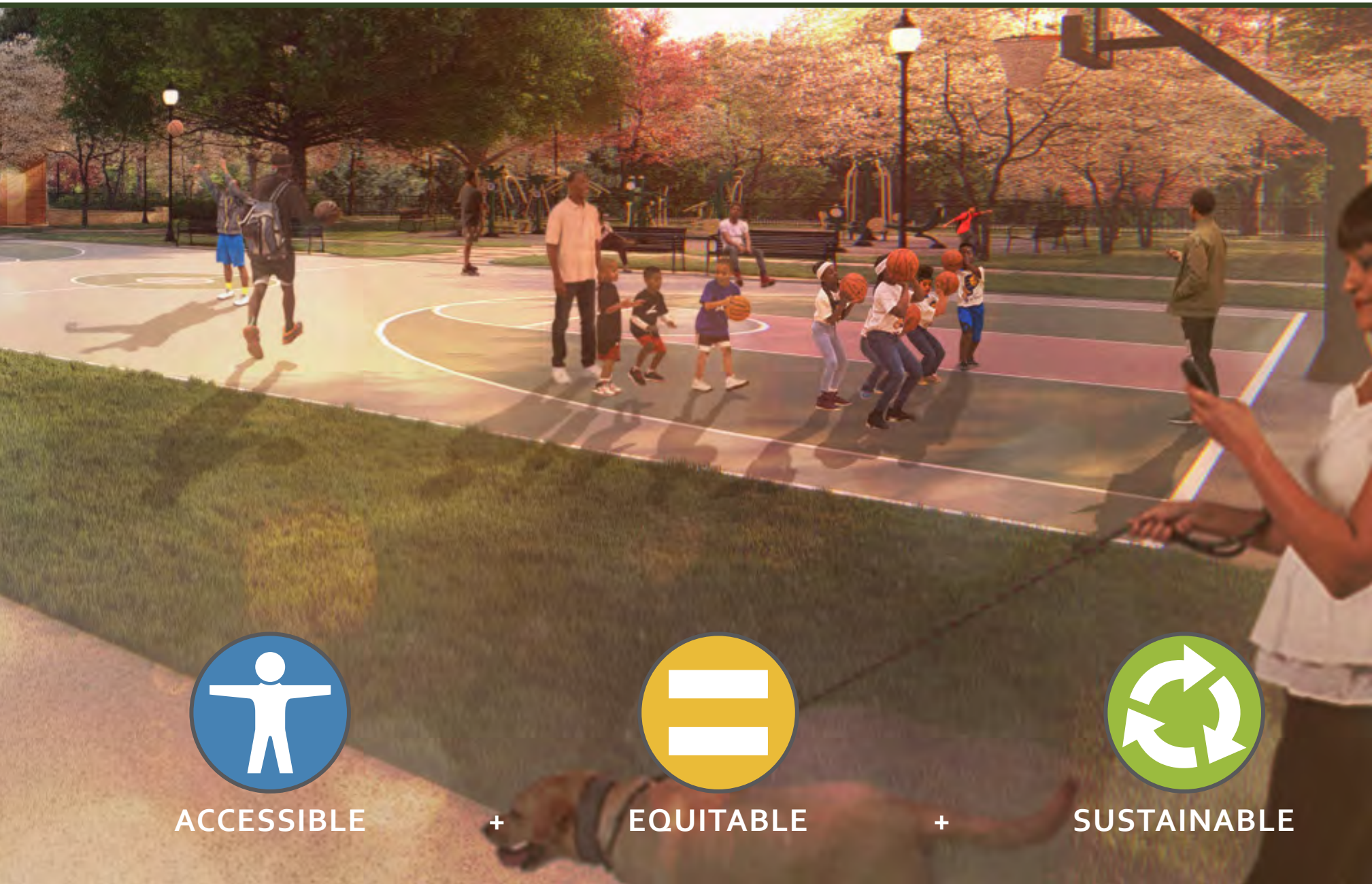


## THE FUTURE OF ELLIOTT PARK

The recommended improvements to Elliott Park seek to build a more equitable, accessible, and sustainable space for the community. The recommendations reflect the voices of community leaders and the public who participated in this process.







ACCESSIBLE

+



EQUITABLE

+



SUSTAINABLE



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# ELLIOTT PARK MASTER PLAN

A PARK FOR ALL