

# Parkman Plaza and Tremont Street Edge Boston Common Landscape Site Improvements



## Community Meeting

February 25, 2016

Martin J. Walsh  
Mayor



Christopher Cook  
Commissioner

# PROJECT TEAM



## **Boston Parks and Recreation Department**

Margaret Dyson, Director of Historic Parks

Michele Folts, Project Manager

## **Pressley Associates, Inc.**

Marion Pressley, Landscape Architect

Gary Claiborne, Project Manager

# PROJECT OVERVIEW



**BOSTON  
PARKS &  
RECREATION**  
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

## Project Goals

- Enhance park user experience along the Tremont Street edge with a cohesive design approach.
- Improve the functionality of Parkman Plaza to meet current and future user and programming demands.

## Schedule

- Winter - Spring 2016: Community Briefings and Permitting
- Late Spring 2016: Bid Project
- Summer 2016 - Spring 2017: Construction

# Project Location



# Project – Proposed Limit of Work



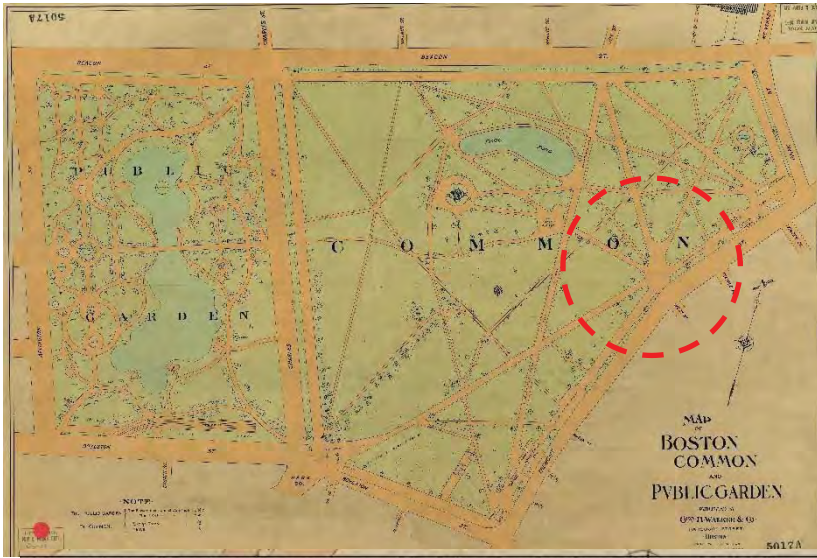
Limit of Work as shown = approx. 76,000 square feet (1.75 acres)

# Site History

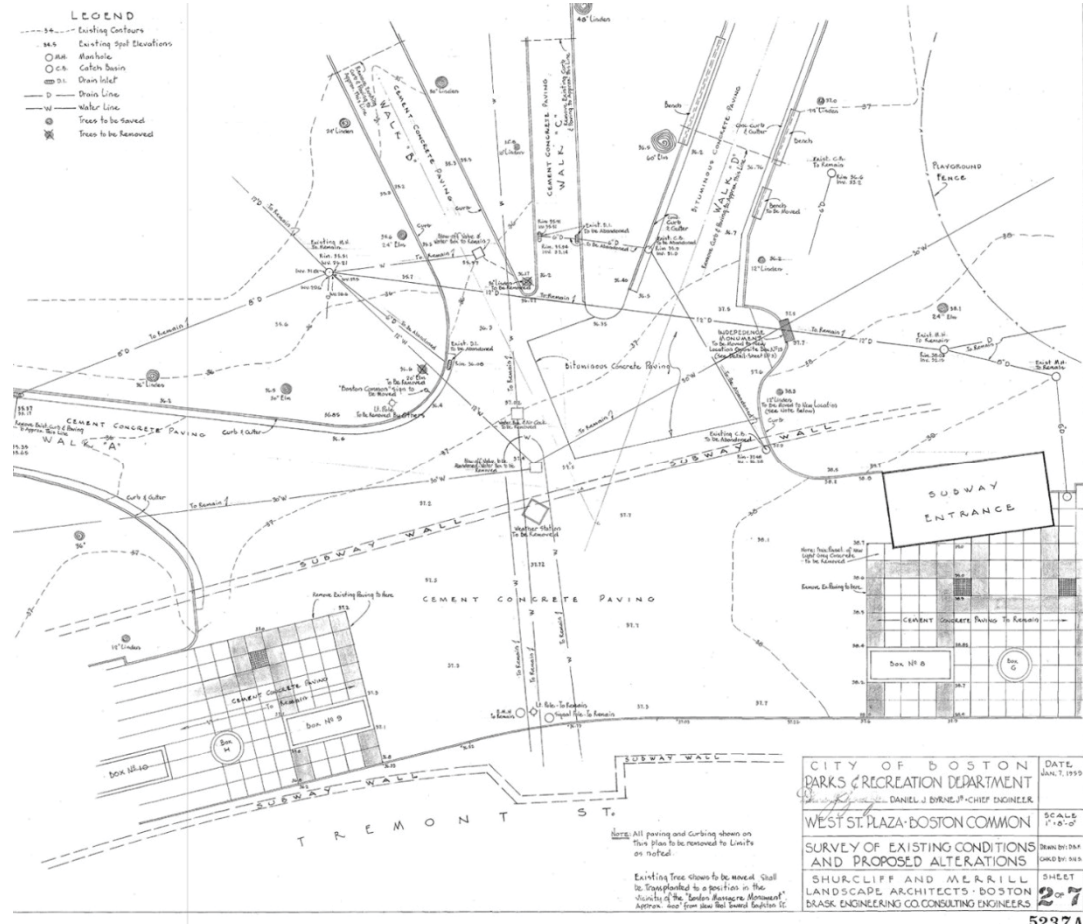


1897 circa – Construction of subway tunnel (current MBTA Green Line) taken near present day Parkman Plaza. Courtesy Boston Public Library

# Parkman Plaza - Site History



1901 - Map of Boston Common and Public Garden by George H. Walker and Company (Boston Public Library Leventhal Map Center)



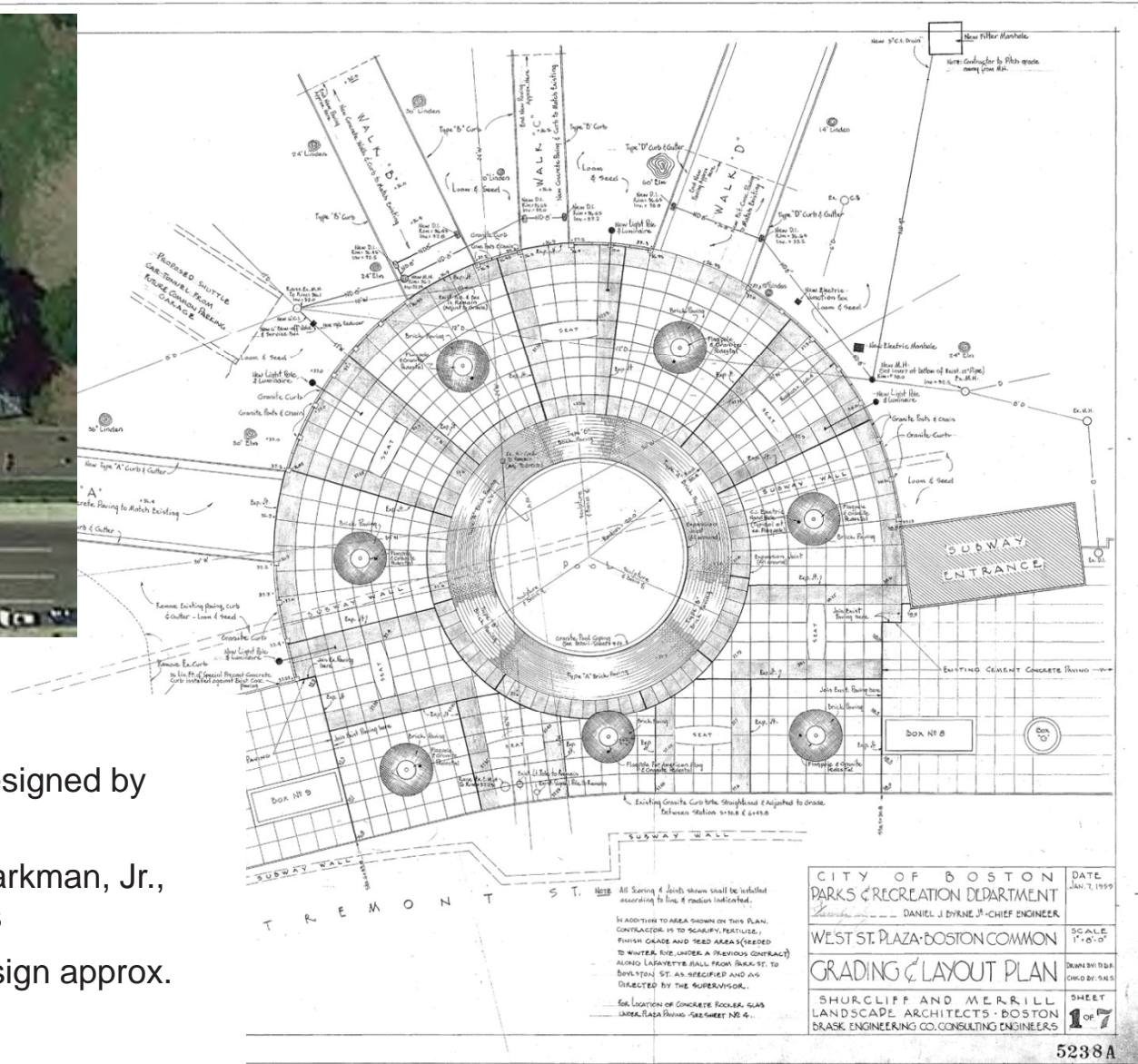
1959 West Street (Parkman) Plaza Plan Set - 1959 Existing Conditions

# Parkman Plaza - Site History



**LEGEND**

- 315 Existing spot Elevations to Remain
- 315 Proposed spot Elevations

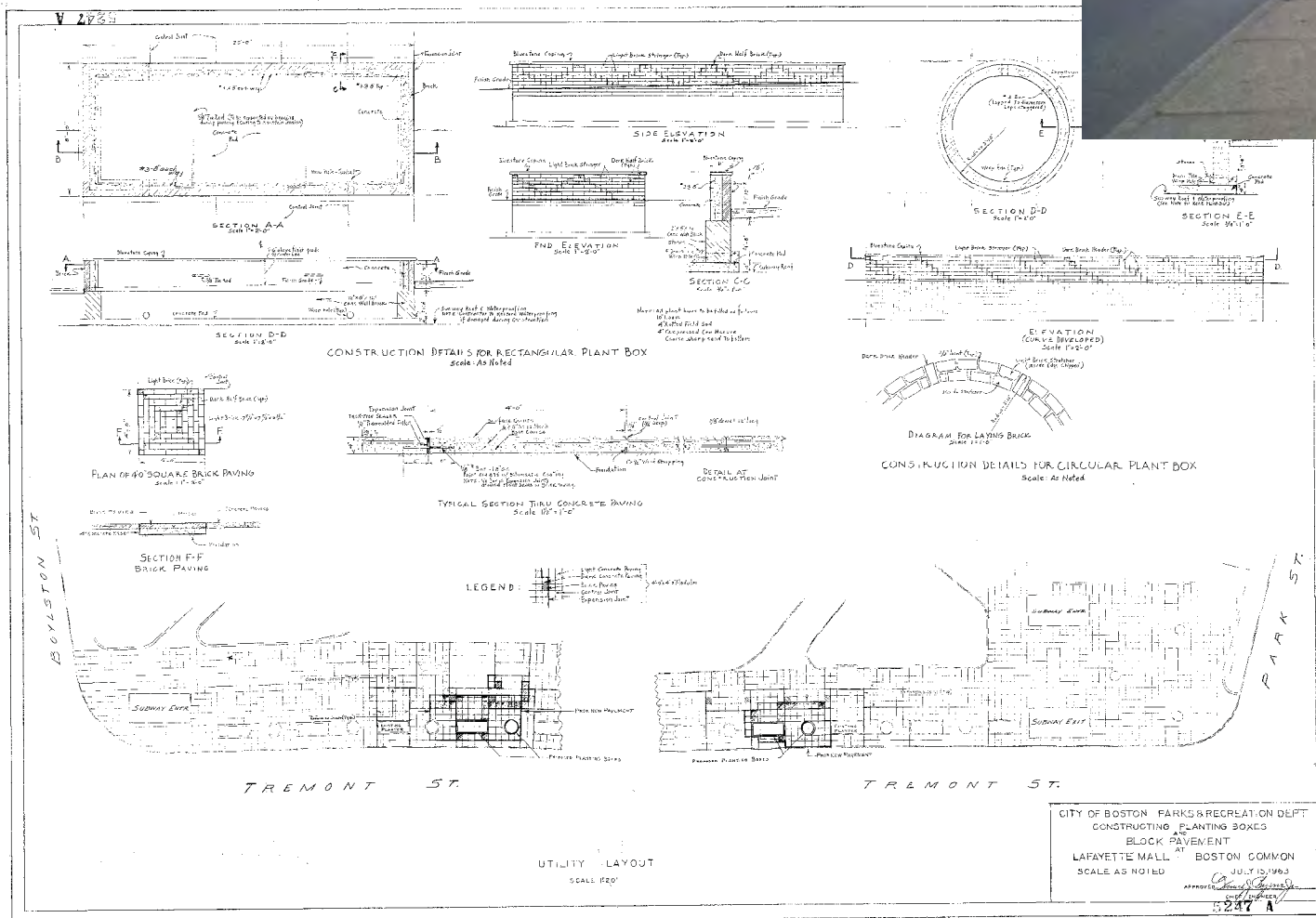


## General

- Plaza constructed in 1960; designed by Shurcliff and Merrill.
- Plaza dedicated to George Parkman, Jr., philanthropist to Boston parks
- Plaza is of a semi-circular design approx. 130 feet in diameter.



# Lafayette Mall - Site History



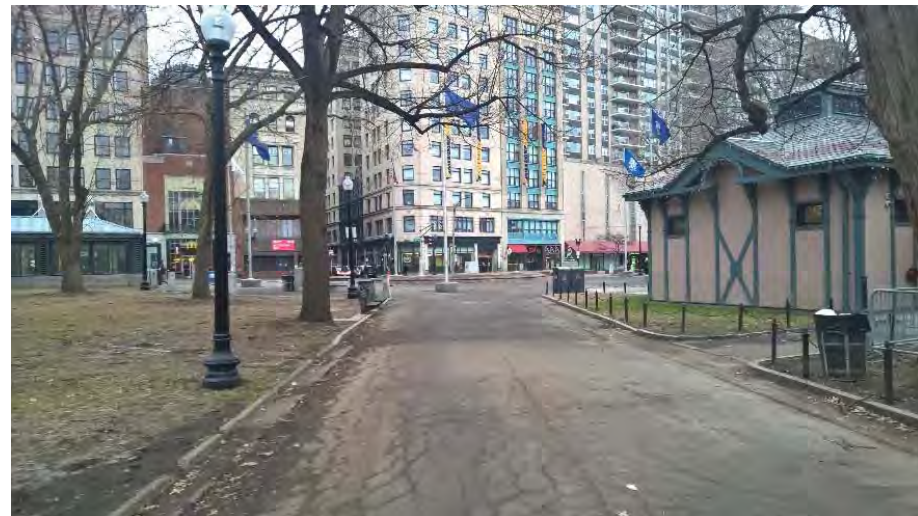
1959 West Street (Parkman) Plaza Plan Set – Brick Planters along Tremont Street Mall



# Parkman Plaza - Existing Conditions



# Parkman Plaza – Existing Conditions



# Parkman Plaza – Existing Conditions

## Art Pieces

- 3 plaza statues are the works of Arcangelo Cascieri and Adio DiBiccari and symbolize Religion, Industry, and Learning; added to original 1959 plaza design with granite benches fronting the sculpture base.



“Religion” Sculpture



“Industry” Sculpture



“Learning” Sculpture

# Lafayette Mall – Existing Conditions



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# Lafayette Mall – Existing Conditions



# Parkman Plaza – Preliminary Design Stakeholder Interviews

Interviews conducted with various BPRD departments, Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, Freedom Trail Foundation, Friends of the Public Garden, Boston Landmarks Commission, and Boston Art Commission during May and June 2013.

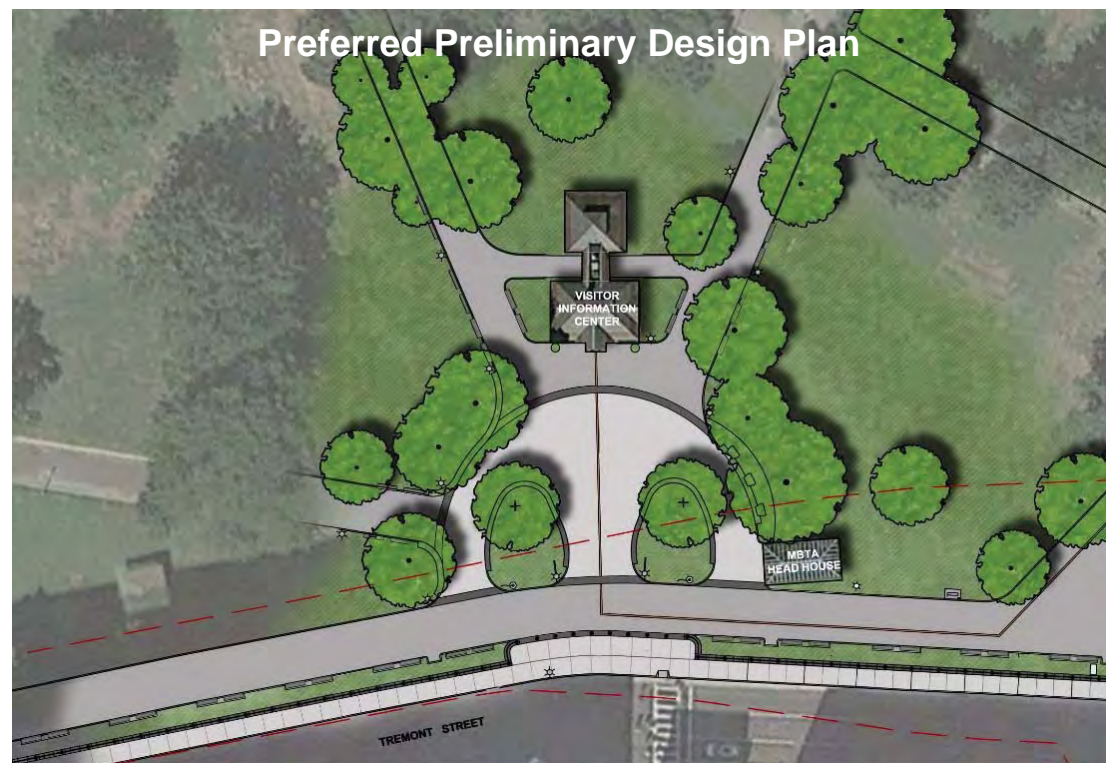
## Key Points from Interviews

- Large volumes of pedestrian traffic through Plaza, but most use transient.
- The Visitor Information Center (VIC) hosts 3500 to 5000 visitors per day during peak season; open year around
- Four regular tour companies; Freedom Trail Foundation and three smaller tour companies. VIC used for on-site ticket sales. Tours operate on alternating schedules and gather outside of main Plaza space.
- Tourists sometimes find the VIC difficult to locate.
- Area in front of VIC frequently congested during peak times.
- Freedom Trail should be better identified (signs, etc.).
- Five vendors spaces currently permitted in Plaza.
- Few interviewed are attached to the existing site design or furnishings.
- General consensus to keep the Plaza open to Tremont Street.



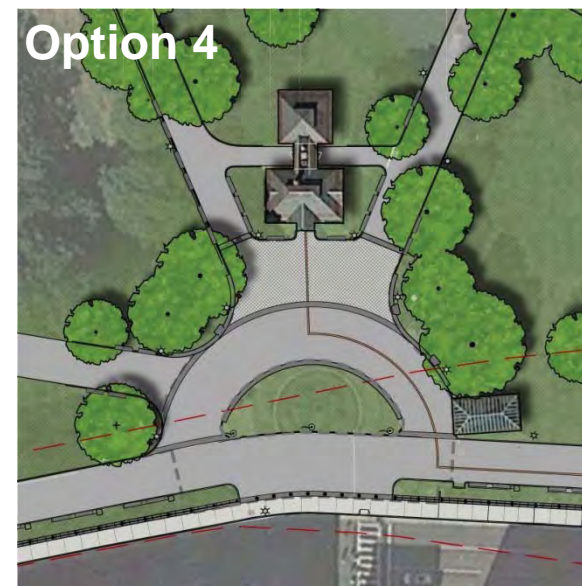
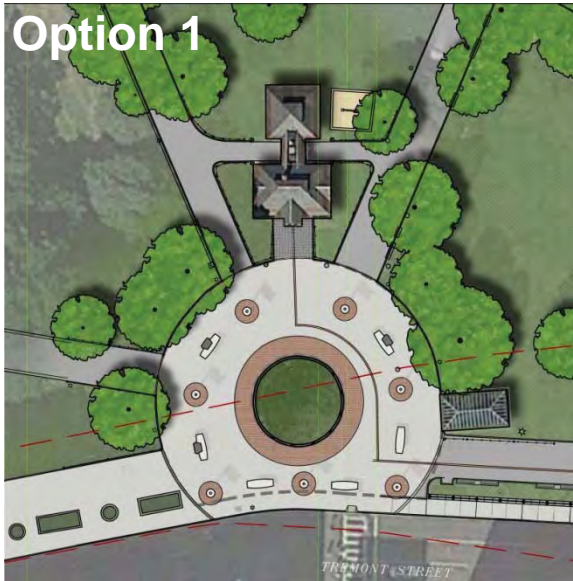
# Parkman Plaza – Preliminary Design Objectives

- Improved space unification, circulation, and orientation for both large gatherings and pedestrian traffic.
- Integrate Plaza with the greater Boston Common but still maintain a unique identity.
- Maintain or expand pedestrian (paved) area and seating opportunities.
- Relocate or eliminate site objects that interfere with pedestrian movement and site maintenance.
- Sculptures will need to remain a part of the Plaza space, but can be relocated.





# Parkman Plaza – Preliminary Design Options



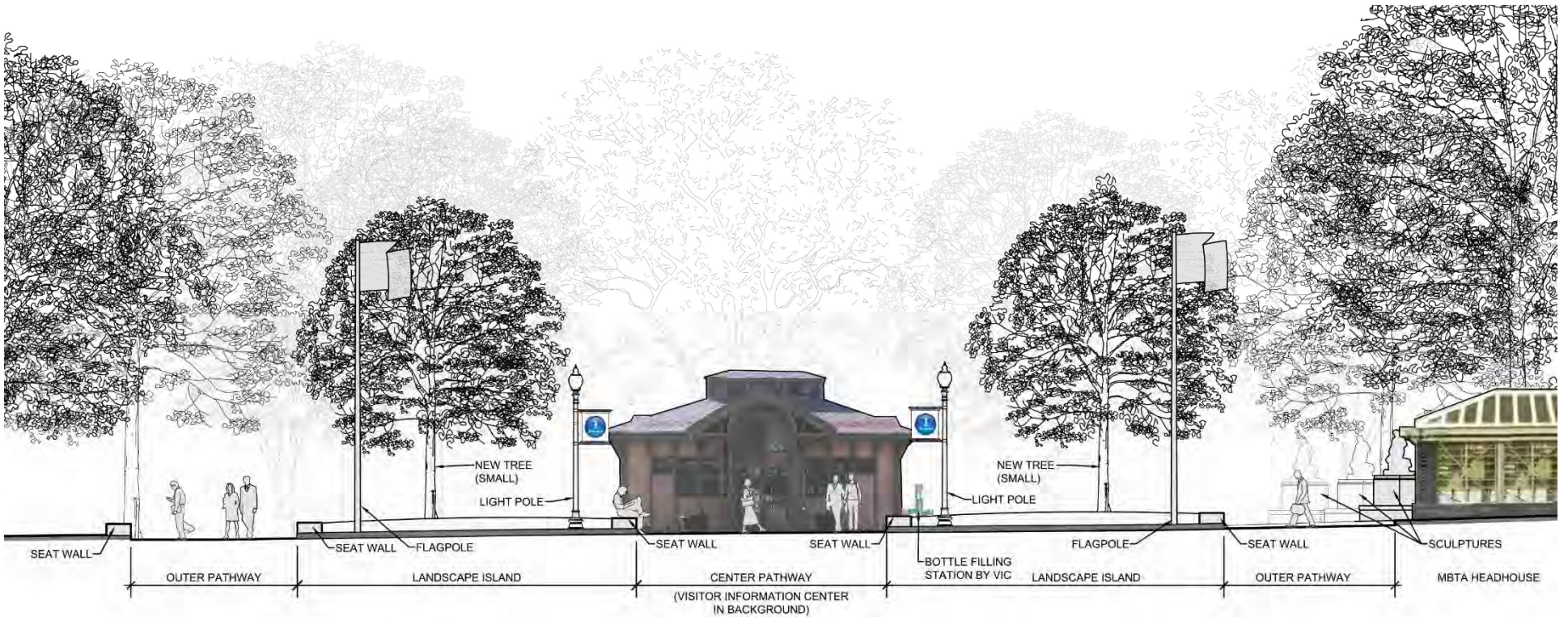
# Parkman Plaza – Proposed Plaza Design



# Parkman Plaza – Proposed Plaza Design



# Parkman Plaza



# Parkman Plaza



# Parkman Plaza – Existing vs. Proposed



Existing Parkman Plaza

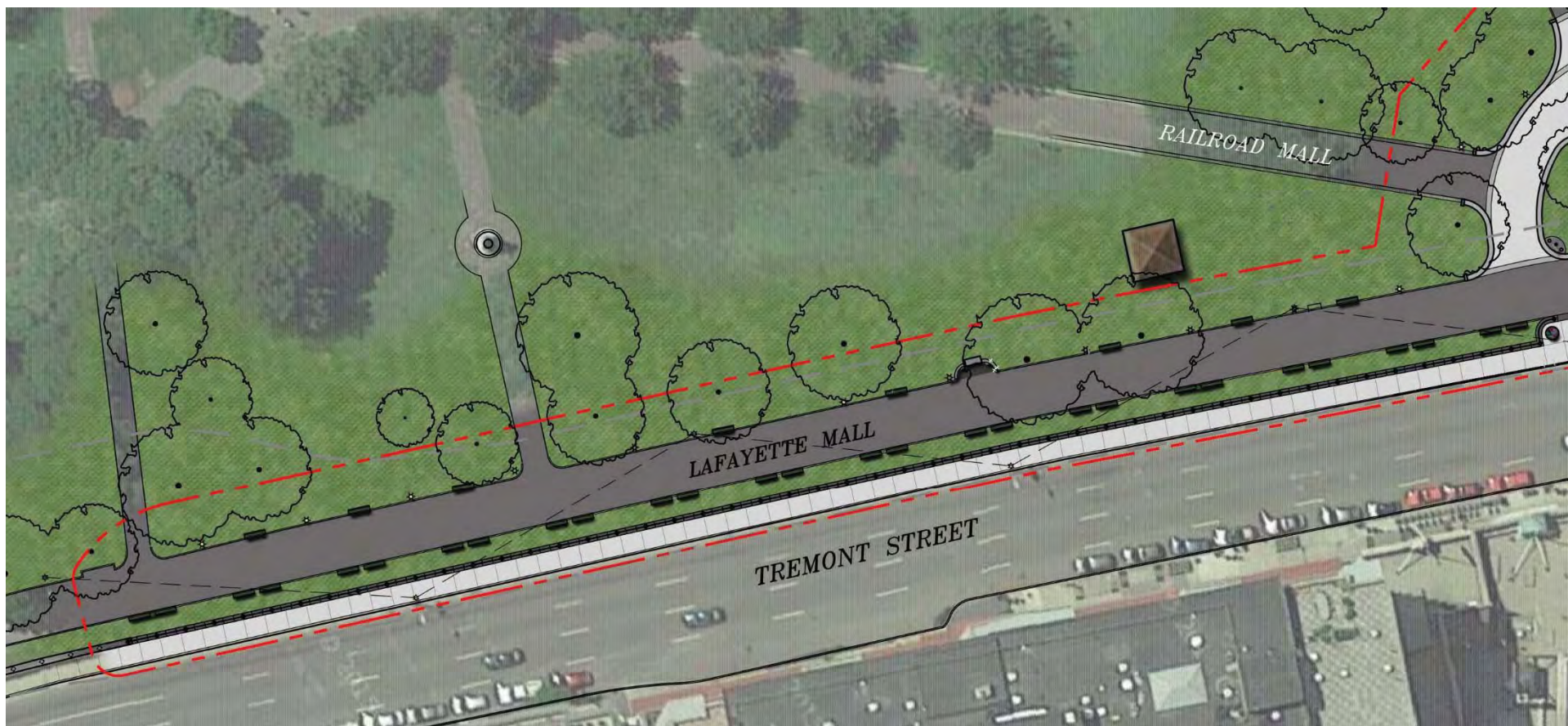


Proposed Parkman Plaza Design

# Parkman Plaza and Tremont Street Edge Proposed Design

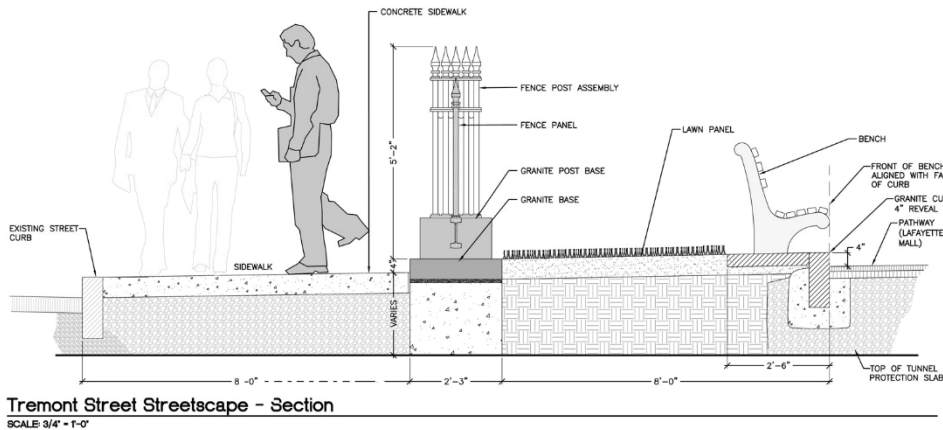


# Lafayette Mall and Tremont Street Sidewalk Design





# Lafayette Mall and Tremont Street Sidewalk Design



Tremont Street Mall 2014 Improvements



Tremont Street Mall 2001 Improvements



Tremont Street Mall 2014 Improvements



# Parkman Plaza and Lafayette Mall Proposed Design



# THANK YOU!



Should you have any additional questions, comments or concerns regarding this project, please contact:

**Michele Folts – Project Manager**

**Design & Construction Unit**

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**[michele.folts@boston.gov](mailto:michele.folts@boston.gov)**

For general park and maintenance concerns, please contact **City of Boston 3-1-1**