

# Children's Wharf Park

Boston Parks and Recreation Department

Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates

Community Meeting 3

20 October 2016

# Project Schedule



# Project Goals

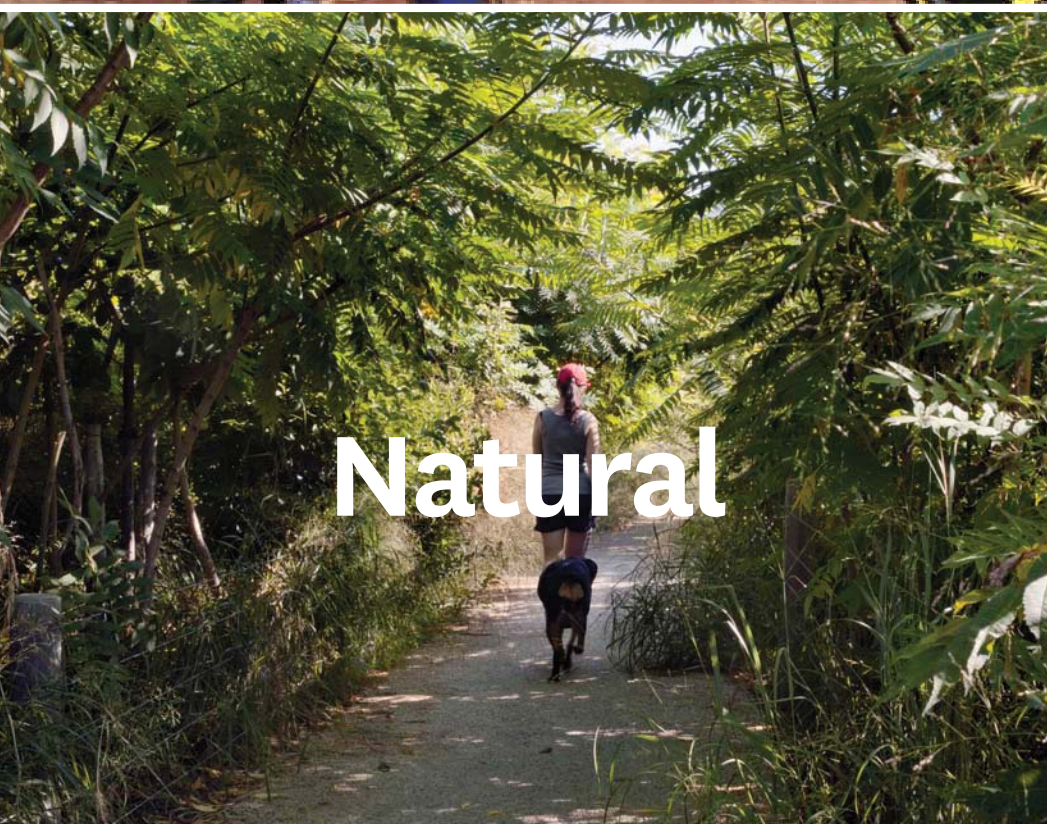
- Inclusive play
- Mixed recreation
- Improve Sleeper Street experience
- Improve pedestrian circulation and safety
- Activate Harborwalk edge
- Collaborative design process



Inclusive



Civic



Natural

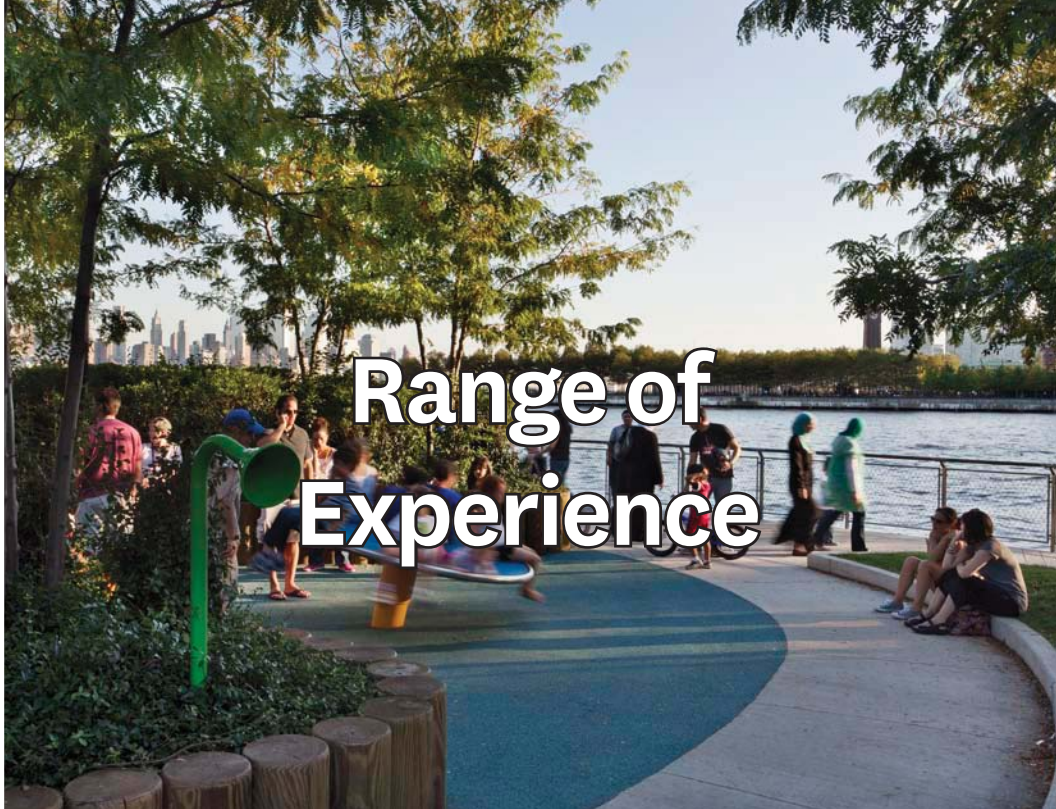


Urban





**Places to Explore**



**Range of Experience**



**Scale + Material**



**Activate Harborwalk**





# Existing Assets





**Boston Children's  
Museum**



**City Views**



**Cultural Context**



**Seaport & Fort Point  
Neighbors**



# Existing Challenges

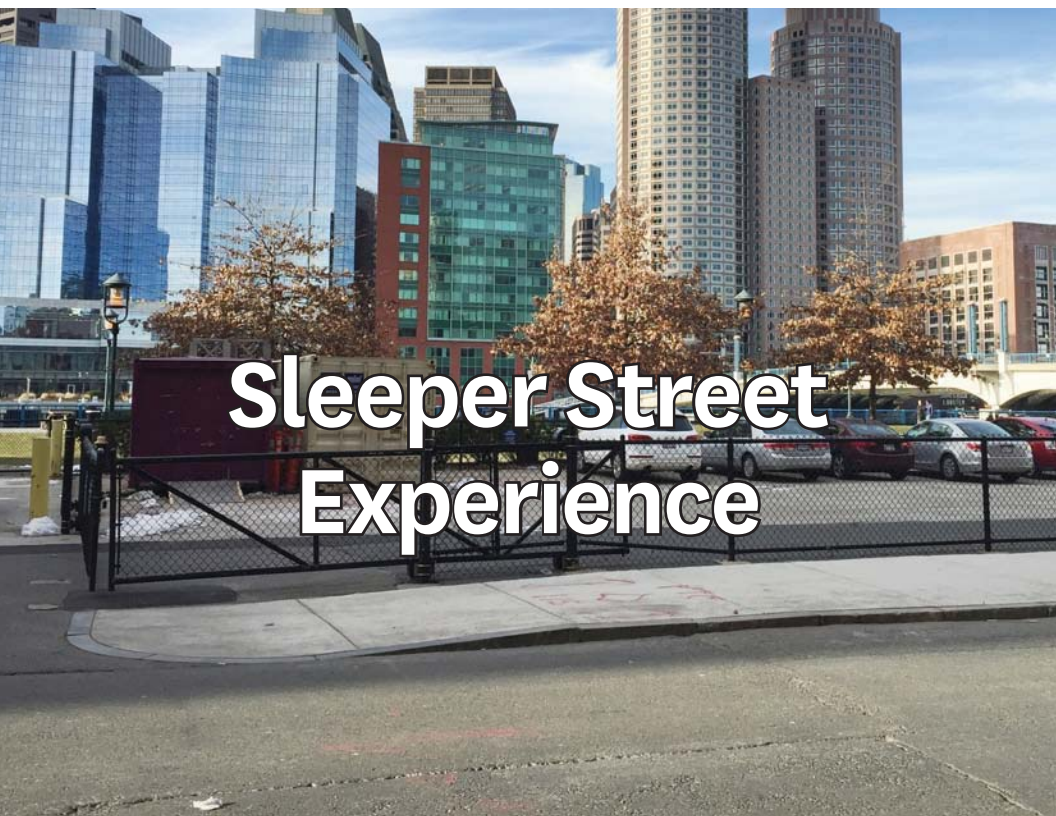




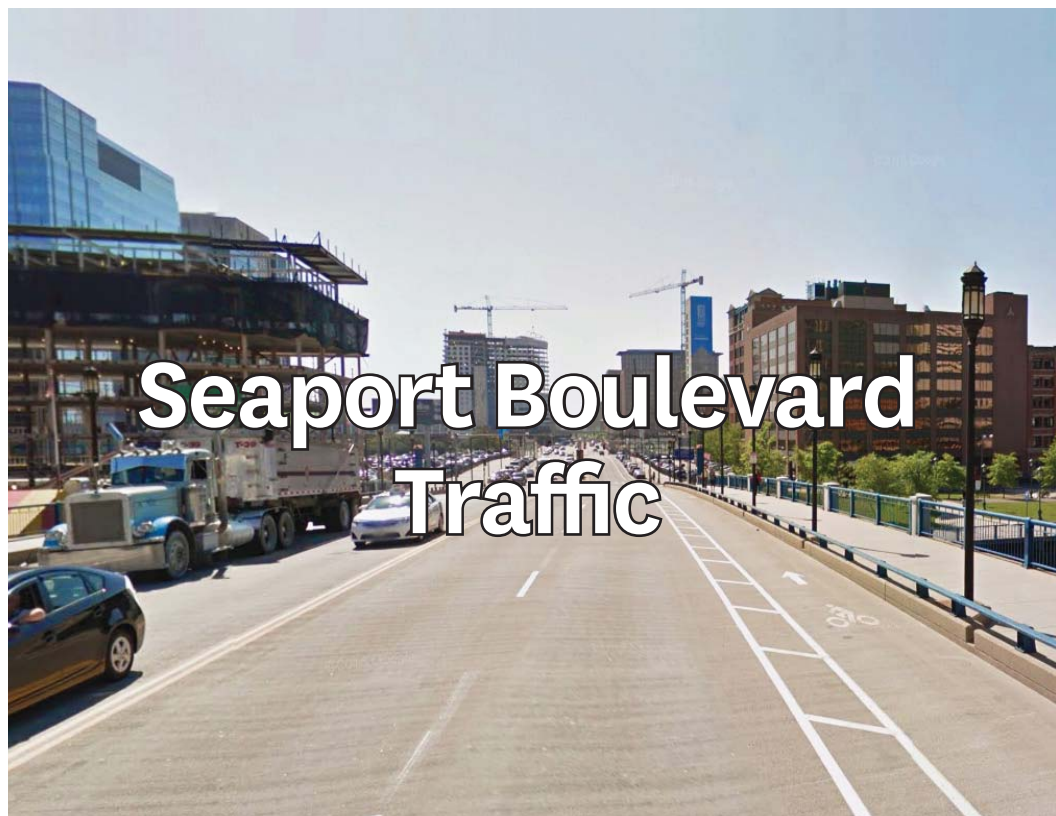
**Flat  
1-Acre Site**



**500,000 Visitors**



**Sleeper Street  
Experience**



**Seaport Boulevard  
Traffic**



## Existing Site



## Expanded Site Boundary





# Concept Plan - April 2016







# Martin's Park Plan



# Designing for Inclusion



## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

For play to be truly inclusive, children need to be socially included. As children play together, they learn to cooperate, take turns, and engage in meaningful dramatic and imaginative play experiences that create lifelong memories. Providing places for children to feel emotionally secure allows them to belong and choose how and when to engage in play.

Under deck activities and dramatic play elements encourage children to think creatively and use their imagination.

Seating areas around, under, and on play structures offer a place to socialize, rest, or observe until emotionally ready to engage.

Signage and unique play elements can create an atmosphere of respect and acceptance and promote cultural/disability awareness.

## PHYSICAL

All children need opportunities to be physically active through play. Play environments that provide a variety of developmentally appropriate activities, offer healthy risk, and challenge children of all abilities, create places where everyone wants to play.

Pathways, natural elements, loose parts, ground level, and freestanding activities encourage higher levels of physical activity.

Play activities that promote fine and gross motor skills and others that require varied operating force, provide choices for how to play.

Beginning, intermediate, and advanced level play events encourage children to move along a developmentally appropriate continuum of skills.

## SENSORY

Play is most meaningful in sensory-rich environments that encourage discovery and exploration. Sensory play through tactile, visual, auditory, smells and tastes, vestibular, and proprioceptive experiences help children understand the world around them.

Consistent multisensory cues, using contrasting colors, landscaping, and textures for orientation and exploration help organize the playscape.

Crawl tubes and under deck activities provide spaces for sensory relief, while activities such as spinning, rocking, or swinging provide sensory input.

Natural materials such as child friendly plants and sand and water provide elements that stimulate the senses.

## COGNITIVE

Children learn through play and interacting with the people and world around them. Supporting intuitive play behaviors that stimulate development can help keep children engaged in meaningful play for longer periods of time. Opportunities for children to problem solve, think abstractly, and develop cause and effect skills help provide unique hands on opportunities to bring learning outside.

Activities that appeal to a variety of interests give children ways to make choices and demonstrate what they know at their level.

Play activities that provide auditory, visual, or tactile feedback reinforce and develop the understanding of cause and effect.

Creative opportunities to bring learning outdoors can support development in new and exciting ways.

## COMMUNICATION

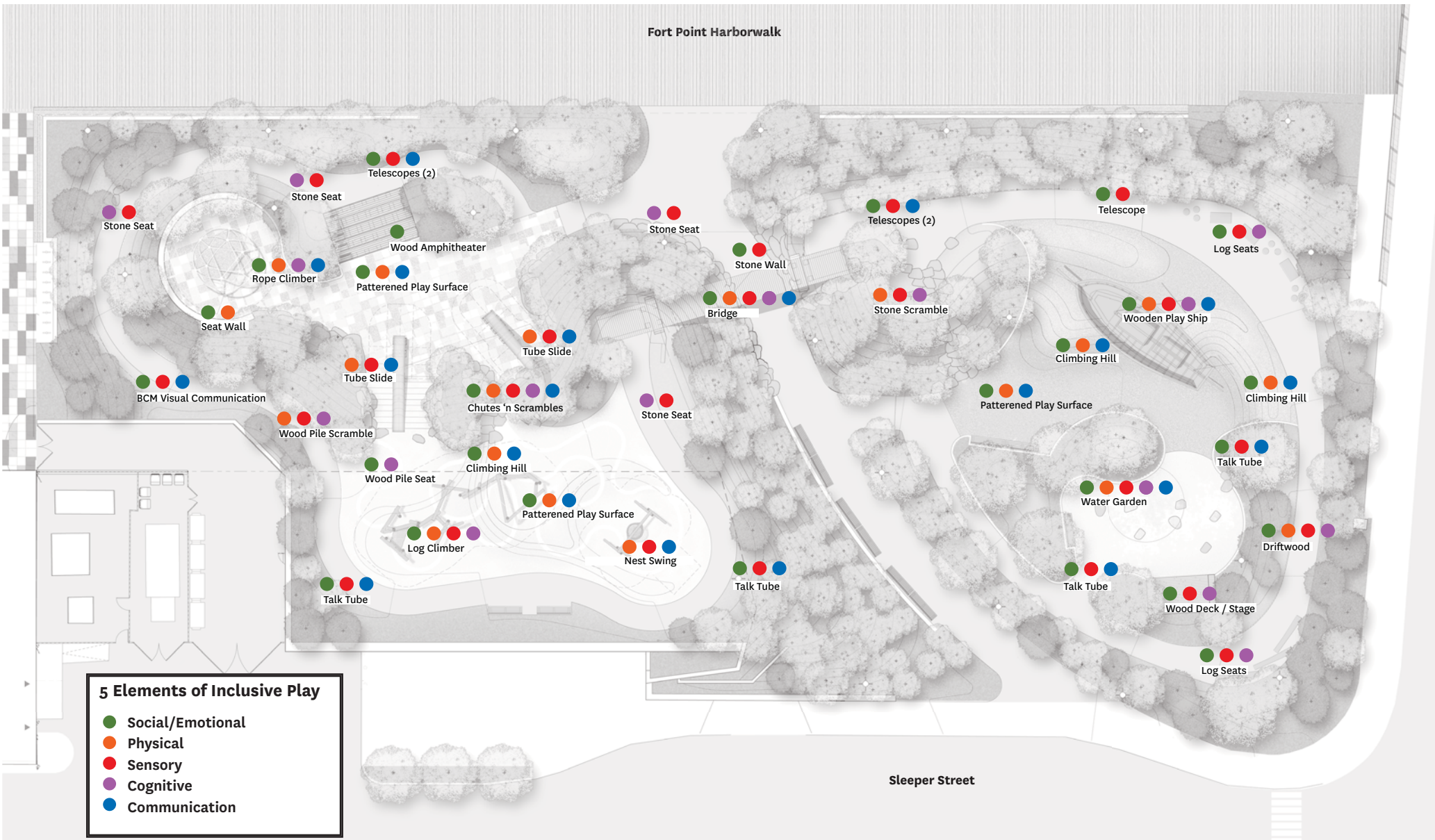
Playgrounds can support the development of receptive and expressive language, allowing children to demonstrate what they know and express themselves. Language development occurs through natural play behaviors and routines and is enhanced through developmentally appropriate play elements, loose parts, and outdoor programming.

Play activities, talk tubes, and interactive games encourage children to communicate, cooperate, and/or vocalize.

Music activities provide children a way to contribute to the sounds of the play environment.

Creative play elements enable children to demonstrate understanding and develop vocabulary.





# Inclusion Scorecard





# A Stroll Through Martin's Park

# An Active Harborwalk





# A Planted Frame







*Cupressus nootkatensis pendula*  
(Weeping Alaskan Cedar)



*Chamaecyparis magnifica, obtusa var. gracilis*  
(Hinoki Falsecypress)



*Taxodium distichum*  
(Baldcypress)



*Thuja occidentalis 'Hetz Wintergreen'*  
(Hetz Wintergreen Arborvitae)



*Sciadopitys verticillata*



*Chamaecyparis obtusa var. formosana*



*Calocedrus decurrens*



*Juniperus chinensis 'Robusta Green'*

# Evergreen Trees





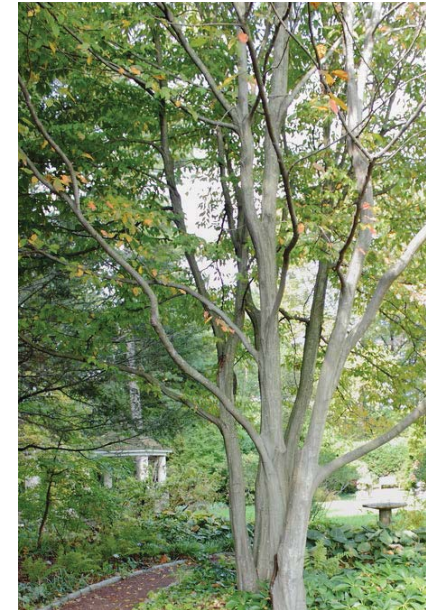
**Quercus 'Regal Prince'**  
(Regal Prince Columnar Oak)



**Viburnum sieboldii**  
(Siebold Viburnum)



**Carpinus betulus 'Pendula'**  
(Weeping European Hornbeam)



**Carpinus caroliniana**  
(American Hornbeam)



**Aesculus pavia**  
(Red buckeye)



**Sassafras albidum**  
(Sassafras)



**Malus x. Zumi var. calocarpa**  
(‘Zumi Callicarpa’ Crabapple)

# Deciduous Trees





***Aronia arbutifolia***  
(Red Chokeberry)



***Rhododendron maximum***  
(Rosebay Rhododendron)



***Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'**  
(Harry Lauder's Walking Stick)



***Salix discolor***  
(Pussy Willow)



***Rhododendron mucronulatum***  
(‘Cornell Pink’ Rhododendron)



***Sambucus canadensis***  
(Elderberry)

# Shrubs



# A Public Corridor





# Comfortable Seating





# Safely Lit Paths



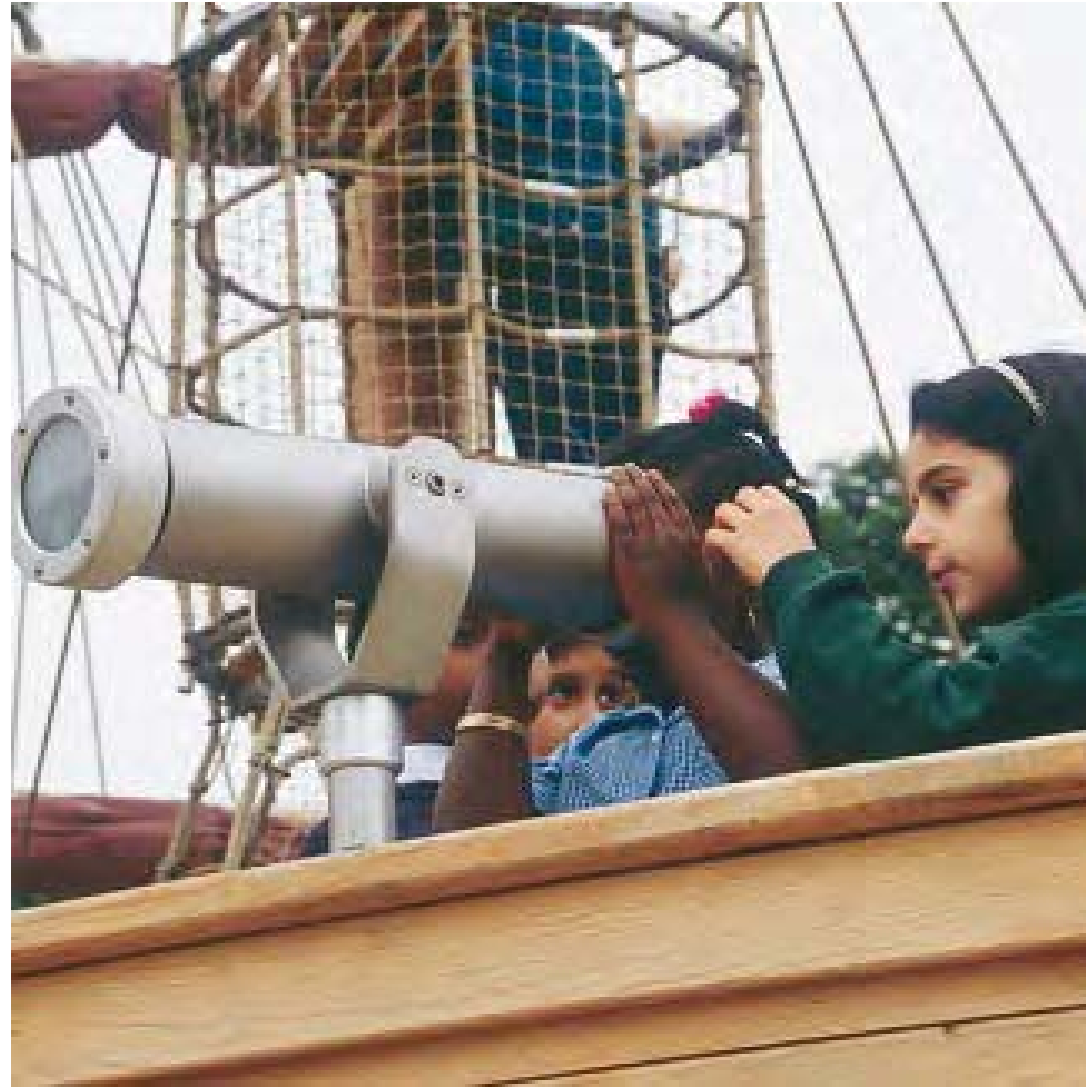




# North Playground



# Adventures at Sea







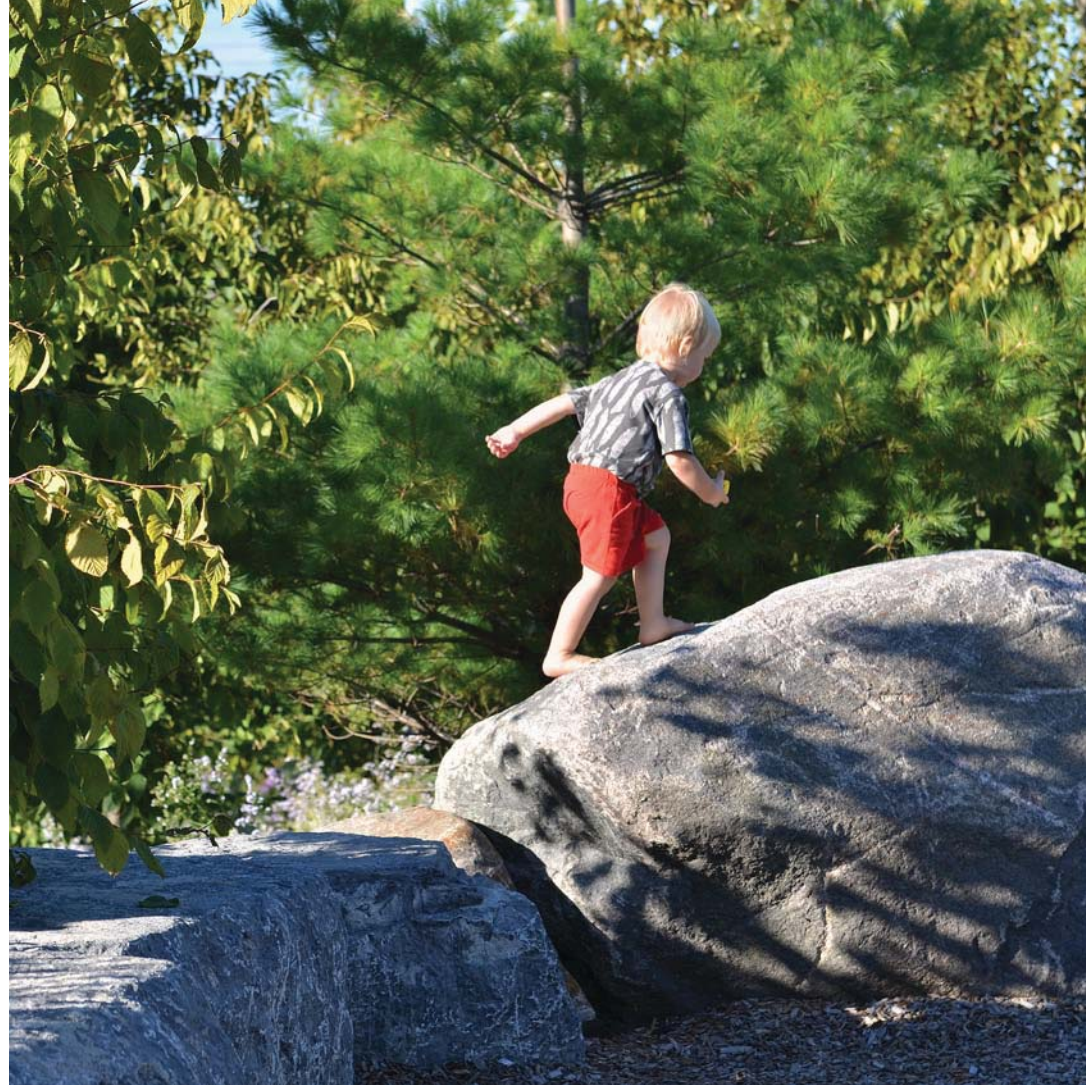


# Water Play Garden





# With Seasonal Interest





# Places to Sit + Perform





# Places to Explore





# Fort Point Overlook



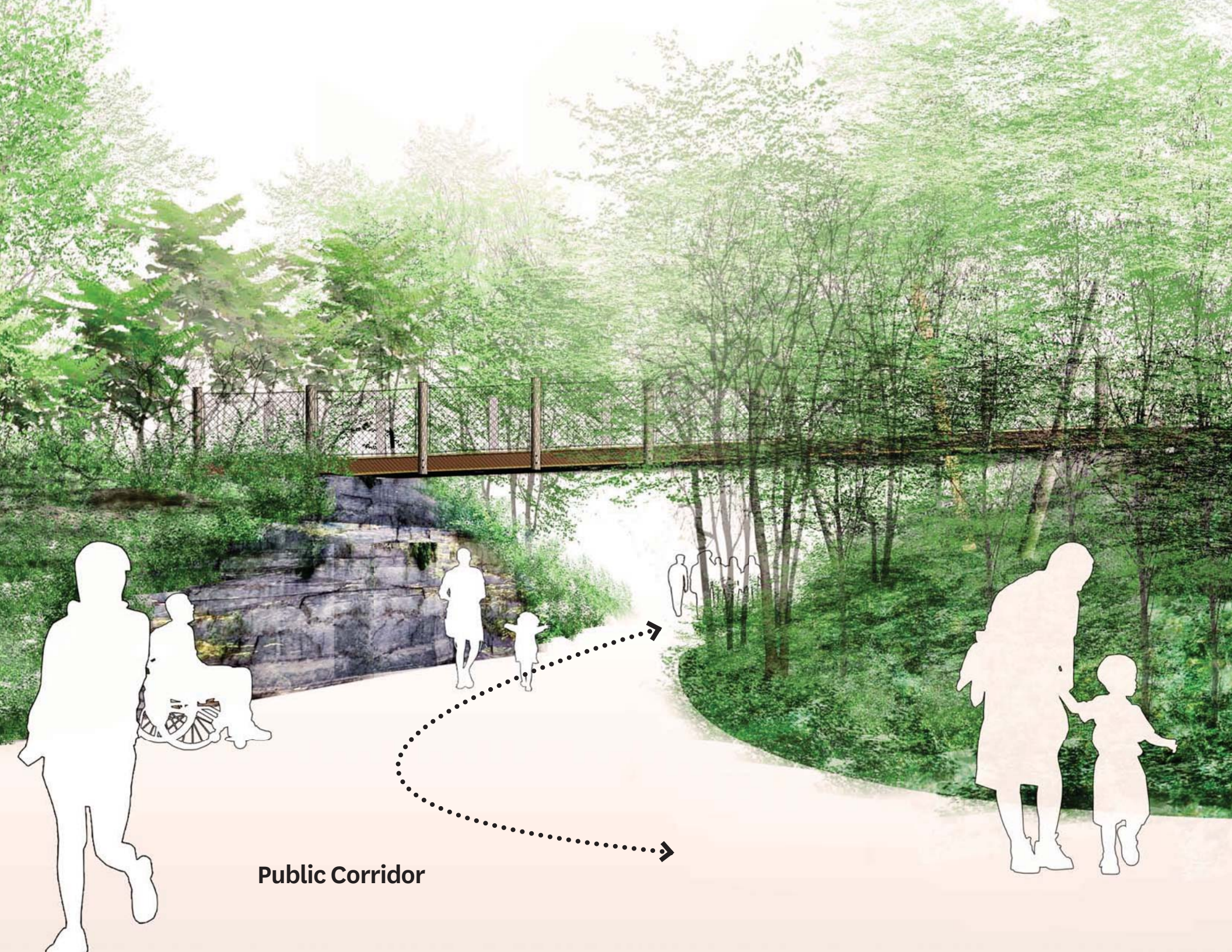




# A Bridge Between Playgrounds







**Public Corridor**





# South Playground





# Chutes 'n Scrambles











**Open  
Embankment Slide  
+9'**

**Enclosed  
Tube Slide  
+14'**



# A Challenging Climber





# A Timber Maze

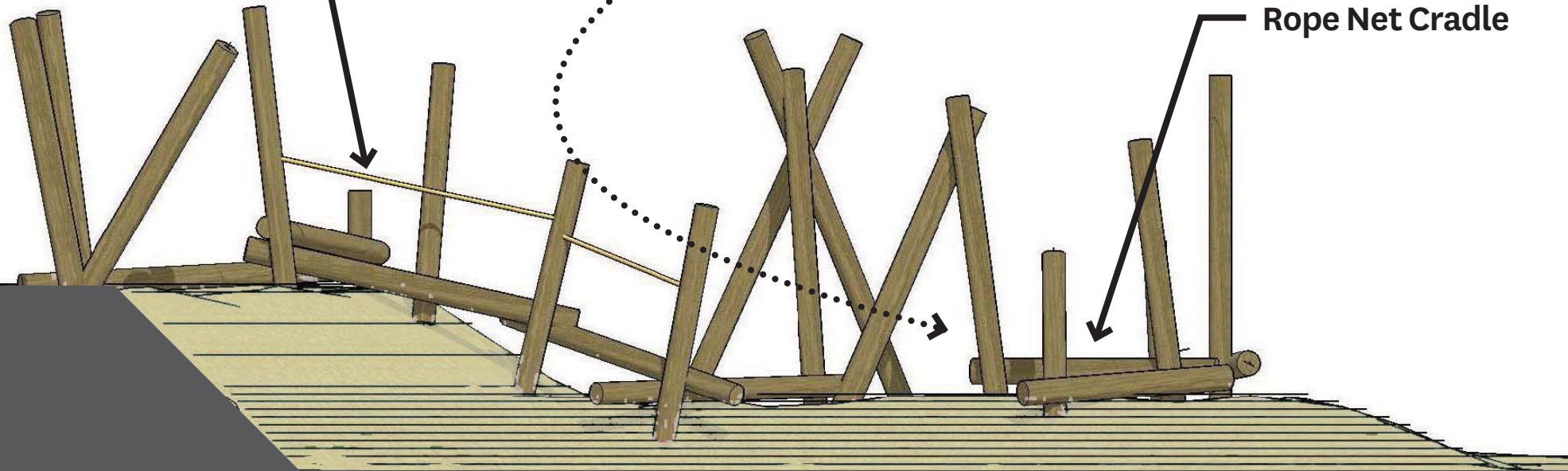




Climbing Ropes

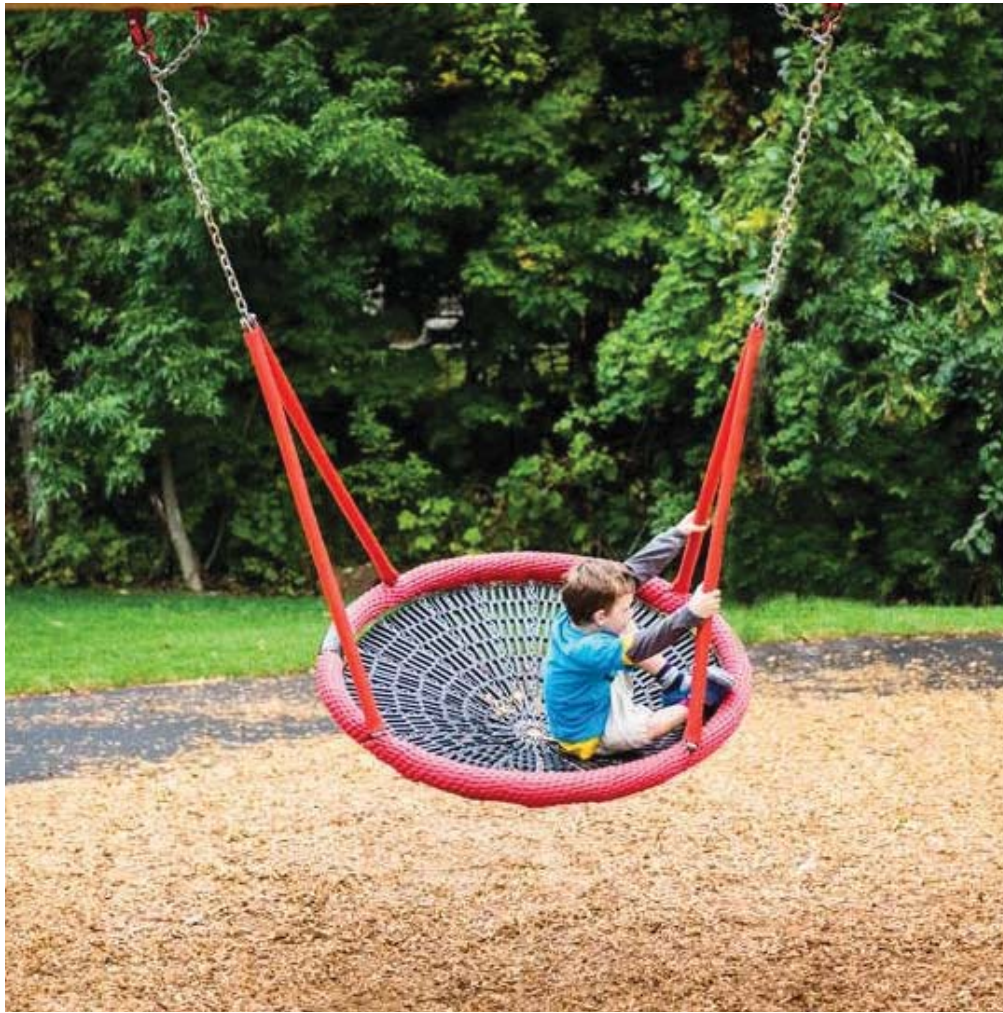
Accessible Routes  
Through for All

Rope Net Cradle





# A Swing for All











# Martin's Park Plan



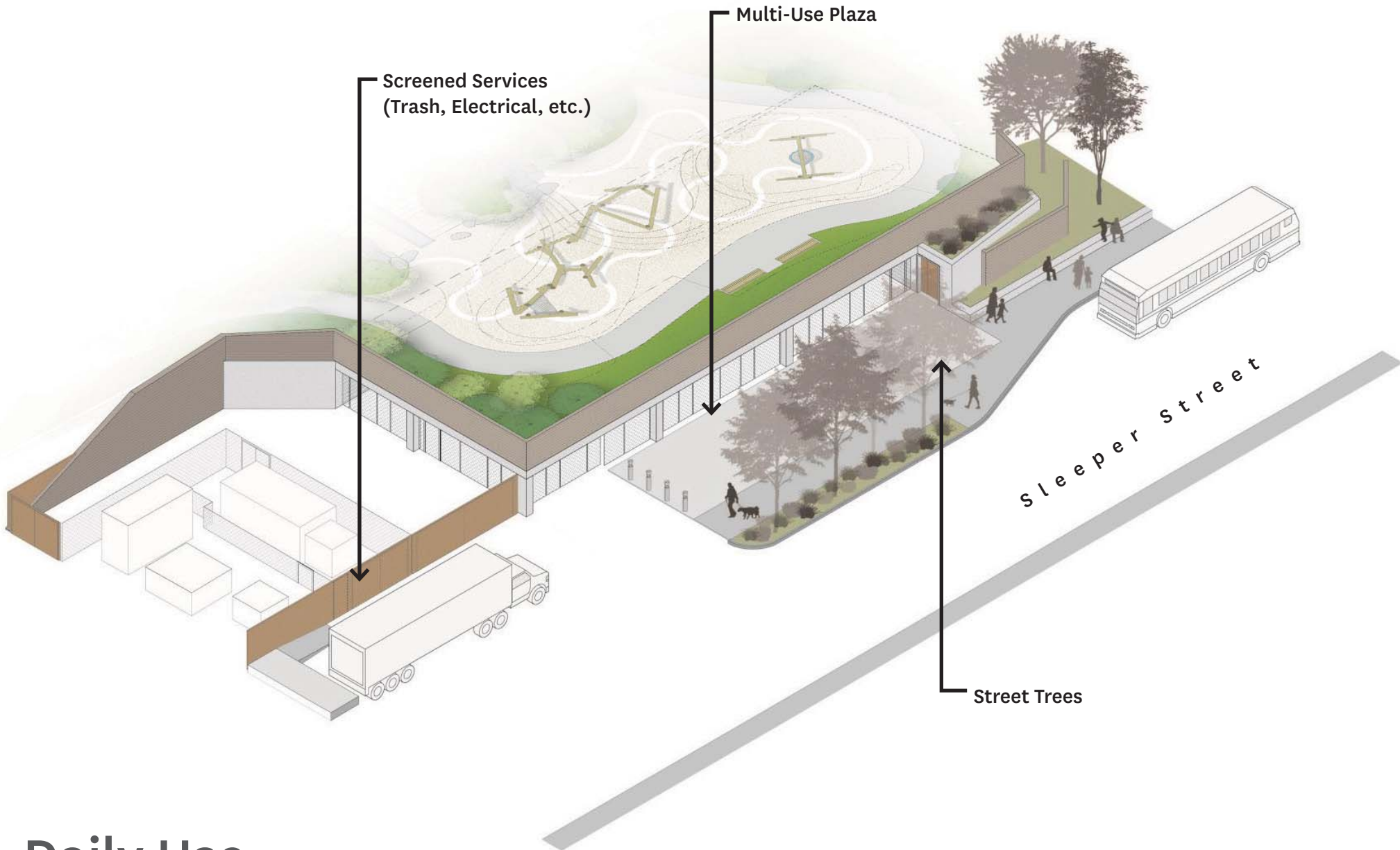




# BCM + Park Services







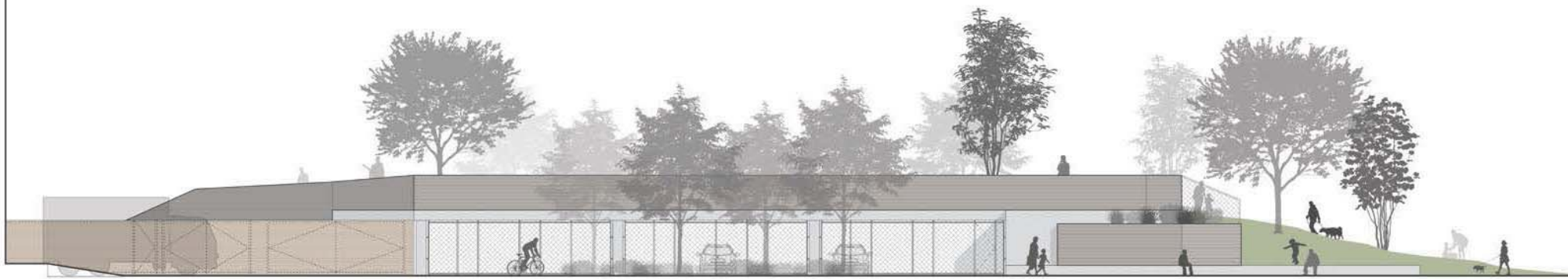
Daily Use





**BCM Exhibit Loading**

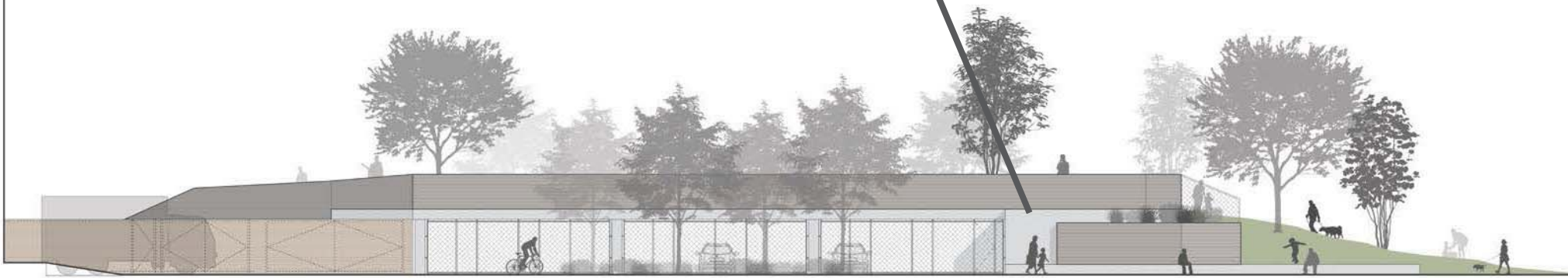




# Material Concept

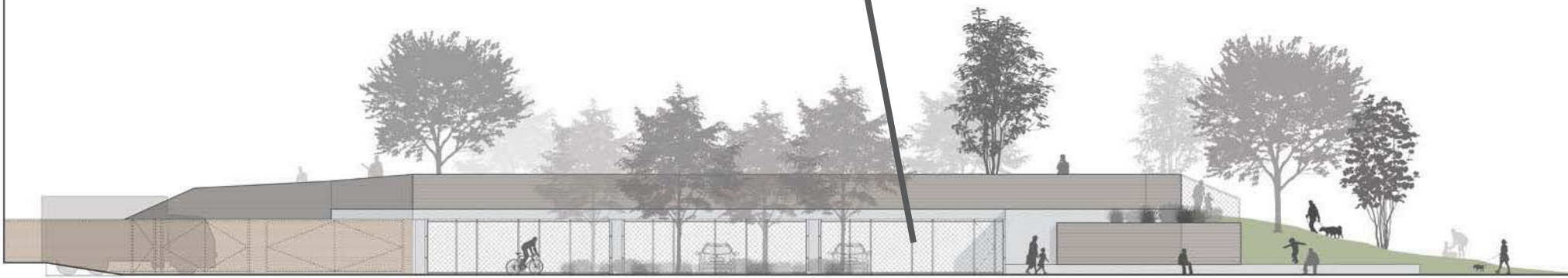
(Sleeper Street Elevation)





**Materials - Concrete**





**Materials - Steel Mesh Enclosure**





**Materials - Wood Screen**





# Martin's Park





# Next Steps

- Gather community input and feedback
- Final Design + Construction Drawings
- Anticipated Construction Start:

*Spring 2017*

*To provide further input or to ask questions, please contact the Boston Parks Department:*

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