

# *Improvements to* Improvements to Millennium Park



February 4, 2021  
Boston Parks and Recreation Department



# MEETING RECORDING

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department will be recording the meeting and posting to our project webpage for those who are unable to attend the Zoom Webinar live.

Please share with your neighbors and friends!

[boston.gov/millennium-park](https://boston.gov/millennium-park)



# ZOOM WEBINAR TIPS

Please note during this presentation, attendees can see the presenters but we can't see you. Here is how you can participate during the questions and answer part of the presentation.

## DURING THE Q&A:

### VIA WEB



'Q&A' icon to enter questions or comments



Raise hand icon to verbal ask question



### JOINING VIA PHONE?

Press \*9 to raise your hand

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# VIRTUAL MEETING ETIQUETTE

We want to ensure this conversation is a pleasant experience for all and that all community members/ stakeholders are comfortable sharing their comments, questions and feedback.

Please be respectful and mindful of each other's time when asking questions/ providing comments, so that all attendees are able to participate in the meeting.

Keep questions/ comments project-specific and not personal to yield solution-driven discussion.

Please wait until all attendees have had the opportunity to ask a question/ provide a comment before providing additional questions/ comments.

You can always set up a conversation with **Allison Perlman**, **Allison.Perlman@boston.gov** to further discuss the project or process.





# AGENDA

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## **WELCOME – ALLISON PERLMAN PROJECT MANAGER, BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

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### **PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTIONS**

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### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

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## **PROJECT PRESENTATION – GLENN HOWARD PROJECT MANAGER, CDM SMITH**

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### **MILLENNIUM PARK HISTORY**

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### **SITE ANALYSIS – OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS**

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3

### **RECENT PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT EXAMPLES**

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4

### **COMMUNITY INPUT LISTENING & DISCUSSION**

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# PROJECT TEAM

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## CDM SMITH

### ROBERT BUTTON

CLIENT SERVICE LEADER/ENGINEER CDM SMITH  
[buttonro@CDMSmith.com](mailto:buttonro@CDMSmith.com) or 617-452-6586

### GLENN HOWARD

PROJECT MANAGER/LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT CDM SMITH  
[howardgd@CDMSmith.com](mailto:howardgd@CDMSmith.com) or 617-452-6630

### MICHAEL DODSON

PROJECT TECHNICAL LEADER CDM SMITH  
[dodsonma@CDMSmith.com](mailto:dodsonma@CDMSmith.com) or 603-222-8311

### JON BRONENKANT

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER CDM SMITH  
[bronenkantjl@CDMSmith.com](mailto:bronenkantjl@CDMSmith.com) or 617-452-6191

### RACHEL GUILFOIL

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER CDM SMITH  
[guilfoilrm@CDMSmith.com](mailto:guilfoilrm@CDMSmith.com) or 617-452-6441

## CITY OF BOSTON

### ALLISON PERLMAN

PROJECT MANAGER  
[allison.perlman@boston.gov](mailto:allison.perlman@boston.gov) or 617-961-3035

### TOM TIMMONS

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MANAGER  
[tom.timmons@boston.gov](mailto:tom.timmons@boston.gov) or 617-961-3026

### CHRISTINE BRANDAO

OUTREACH COORDINATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[christine.brandao@boston.gov](mailto:christine.brandao@boston.gov) or 617-961-3006

### JACK DUGGAN

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES  
[Jack.duggan@boston.gov](mailto:Jack.duggan@boston.gov)



# PARK LIFETIME

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Millennium Park



Design+  
Construction



Park  
Maintenance





# CITY OF BOSTON PRIORITIES

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- Expanding walkable access to parks
- Addressing equity
- Climate resilience
- Health
- Housing and community building





# PARK & RECREATION GOALS

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- Accessible and available to all
- Diverse, balanced, and efficient mix of uses
- Meaningful and inclusive community engagement
- Adaptive and resilient landscapes
- Promote connections



# PROJECT SCOPE

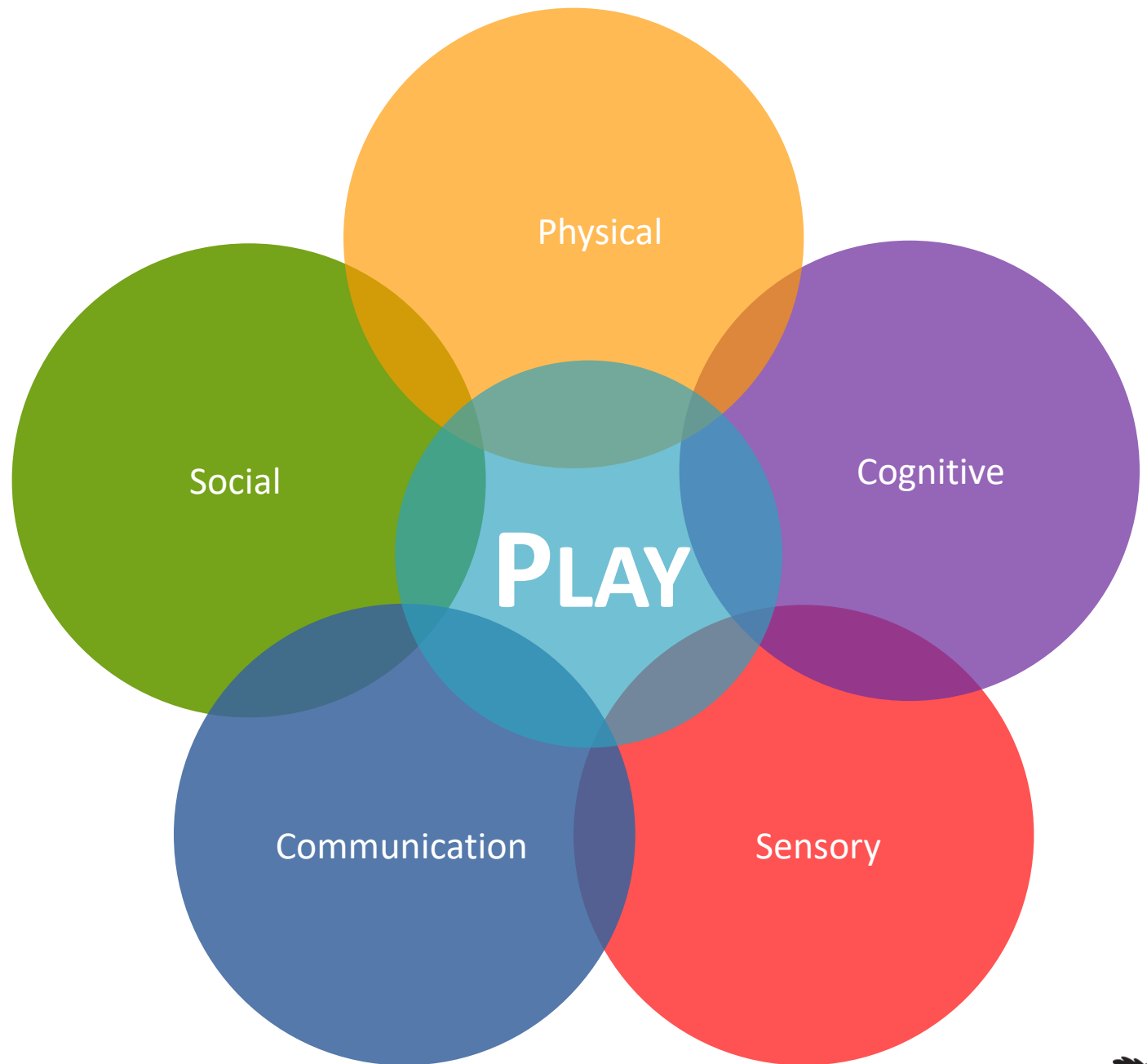
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- Review existing conditions and use of the playground, pathways and parking lots
- Identify new playground elements reflective of the community
- Upgrade playground equipment, safety surfacing and access
- Assess feasibility of new restroom building
- Replace or repair damaged pathways or parking - on-going process





THE **5**  
ELEMENTS  
OF  
PLAY





## **SOCIAL/ EMOTIONAL**

COOPERATION, DRAMATIC +  
IMAGINATIVE PLAY



SEATING + TABLE AREAS, THEMATIC PLAY  
ELEMENTS (SHIPS), PLAY HOUSES

## **PHYSICAL**

GROSS MOTOR/ FINE MOTOR SKILLS,  
FLEXIBILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, HEALTHY RISK +  
VARIETY



DISH SWINGS, MOVEABLE OBJECTS,  
SWINGS, MONKEY BARS, BALANCE

## **SENSORY**

TOUCH, VISUAL. AUDITORY, SMELL  
VESTIBULAR, PROPRIOCEPTIVE +  
INTEROCEPTIVE



PUSH/ PULL ELEMENTS  
WATER ELEMENTS, VARIED TEXTURES +  
COLORS, SPINNING, MOVEABLE OBJECTS,  
ROCKING

## **COGNITIVE**

CREATIVITY, SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT,  
PROBLEM-SOLVING, CAUSE + EFFECT, RISK  
ASSESSMENT



INTERACTIVE WATER ELEMENTS, ROPE  
CLIMBER, LINKED PLAY ELEMENTS

## **COMMUNICATION**

DEVELOPMENT OF RECEPTIVE + EXPRESSIVE  
LANGUAGE

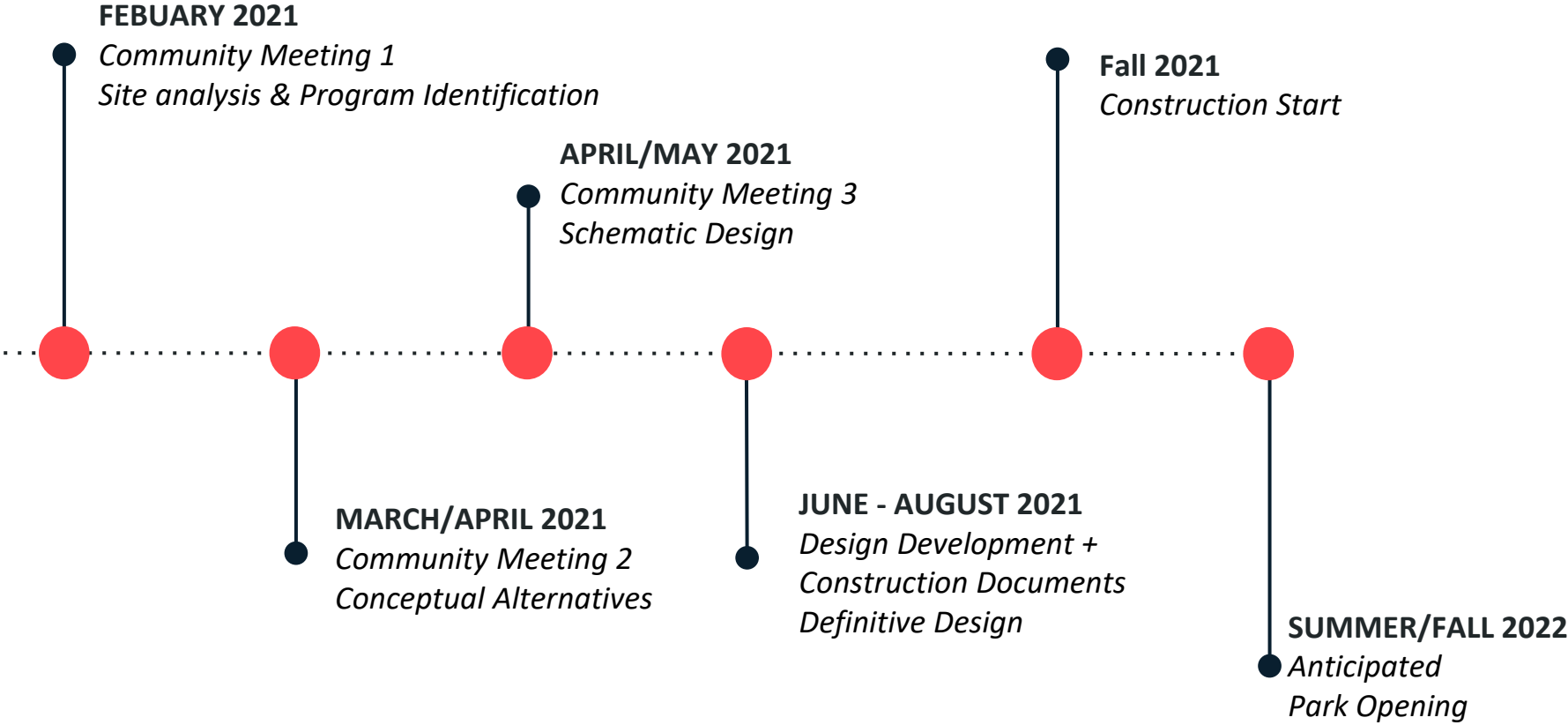


TALK TUBES, SLIDES, THEMATIC PLAY  
ELEMENTS, TRIKE TRACK, SEE SAWS



# PROJECT SCHEDULE

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# MILLENNIUM PARK





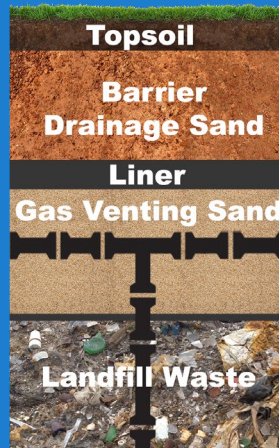
# MILLENNIUM PARK





# HISTORY

- Gardner Street Landfill – Operated as a Boston municipal landfill until the 1980's
- In the 1980's CDM Smith conducted environmental monitoring
- In 1995 CDM Smith worked with Boston Parks and Boston Public Works on the Millennium Park "Vision"
- In 2000 Millennium Park was dedicated – creating a space that is 100 acres larger than the Boston Garden and Public Garden combined
- In 2015 the second phase was completed, consisting of the school site
- Environmental monitoring on the site had continued since 2000 to protect the public's safety





# TIMELINE





# PROJECT OVERVIEW

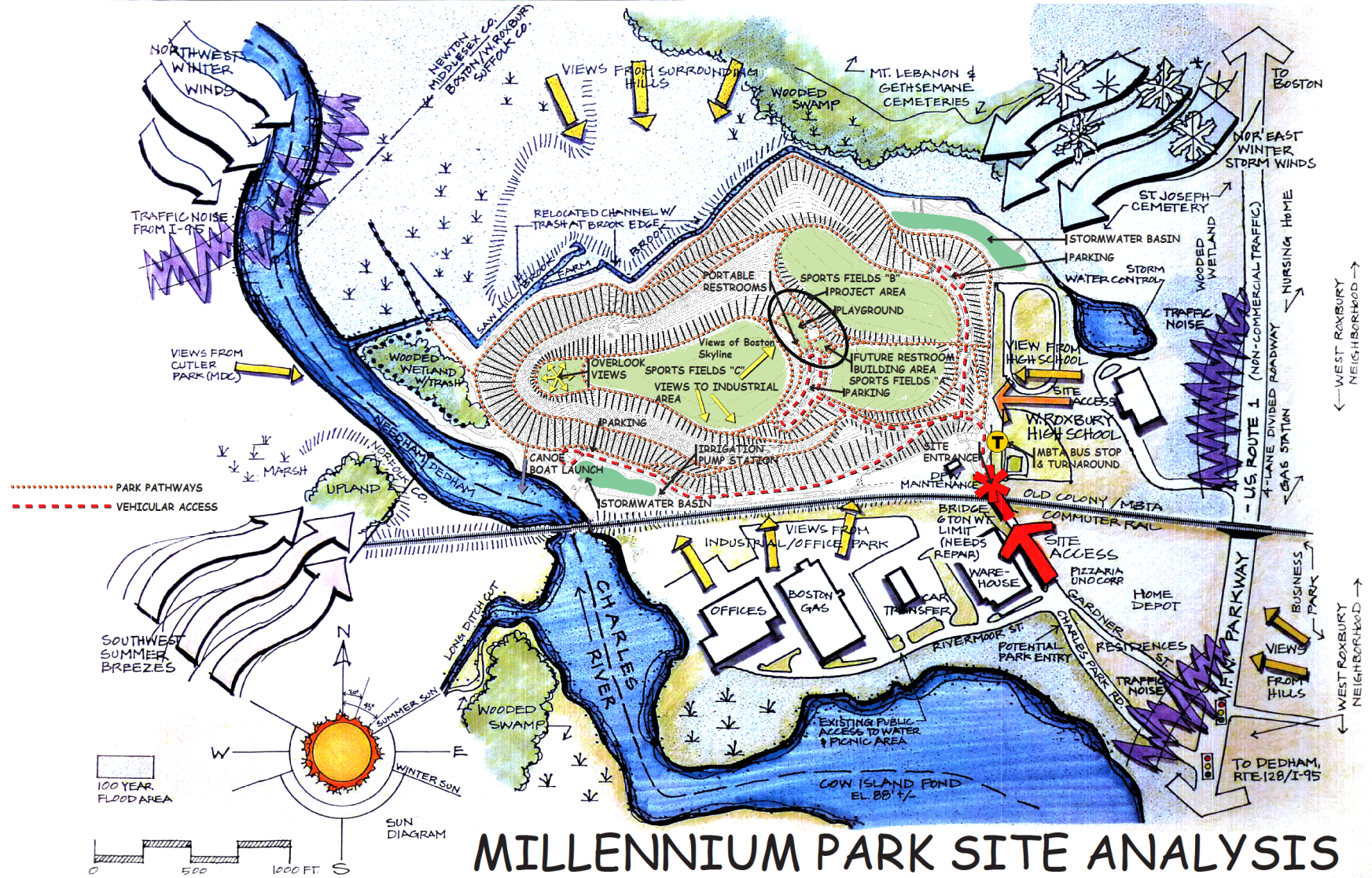


Millennium Park has been a regional destination park over the past two decades. The playground specifically has been a heavily used part of Millennium Park. Updates are needed to improve the playgrounds equipment, making it a more engaging play area that is accessible for children of all ages. Pathways circulating the park create routes for walking and exercise, and improvements that restore placement surfacing could also include different types of exercise equipment along the route to enhance the exercise opportunities. The scope of this project is to analyze, identify and replace new playground elements, to evaluate options for a restroom building, and to evaluate pathway conditions.





# MILLENNIUM PARK SITE ANALYSIS



# MILLENNIUM PARK SITE ANALYSIS





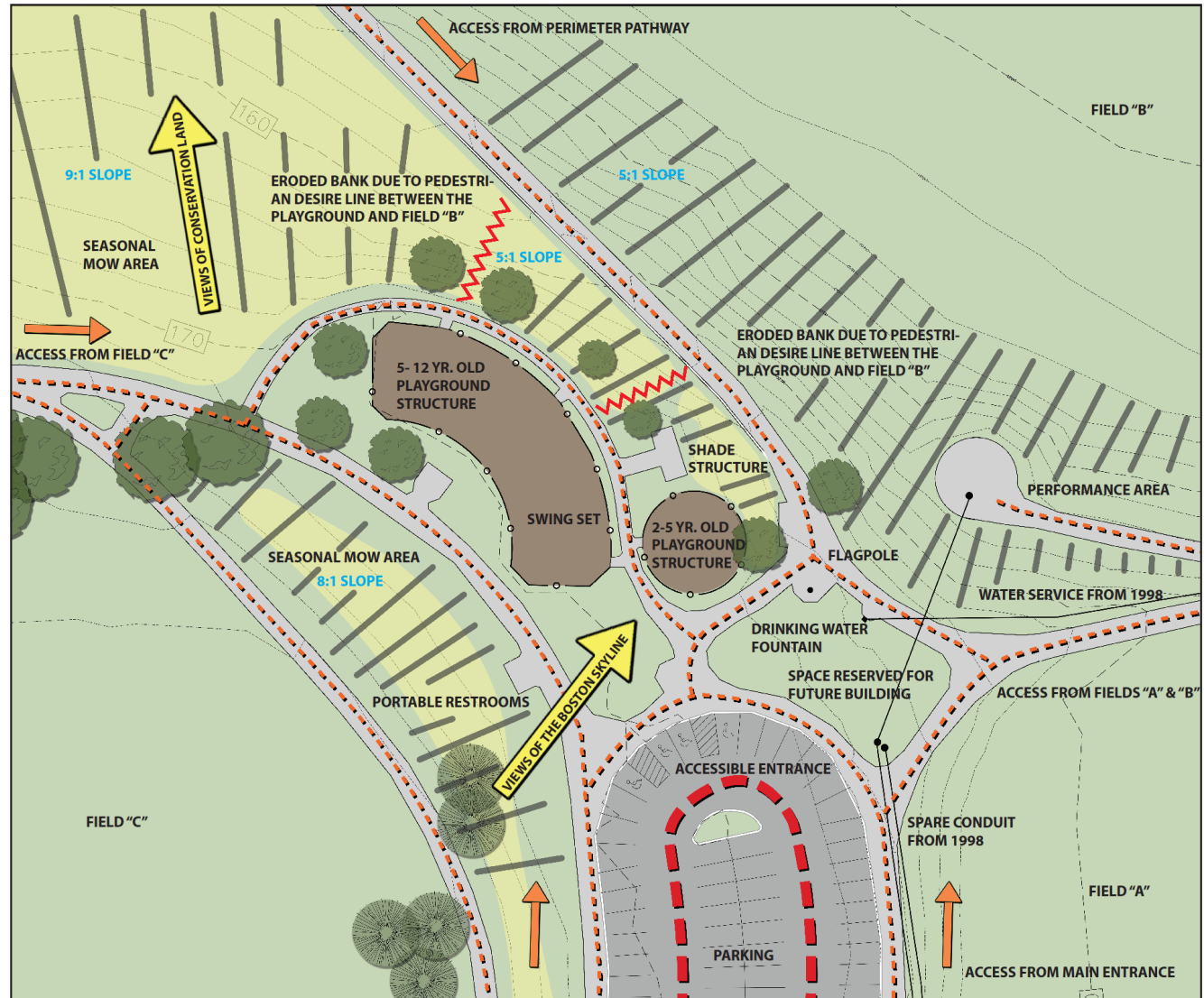
# MILLENNIUM PARK SITE ANALYSIS

## Opportunities

- To provide more inclusive play
- To add more play opportunities to meet the needs of developing children of all abilities
- To utilize custom play structures that are reflective of Millennium Park and it's surroundings
- To create a regional destination playground
- To expand play area to include the slope next to the playground if budget allows
- To increase access and exploration while maintaining safety

## Constraints

- Depth of soil above the landfill cap is a limiting factor for equipment foundations and for additional landscaping
- MDEP must approve all improvements
- Maintenance requirements



# MILLENNIUM PARK SITE ANALYSIS

## Millennium Park - Playground Site Analysis

### Playground Images and Existing Sections



Damaged Playground Roof



5-12 yr. Old Playground



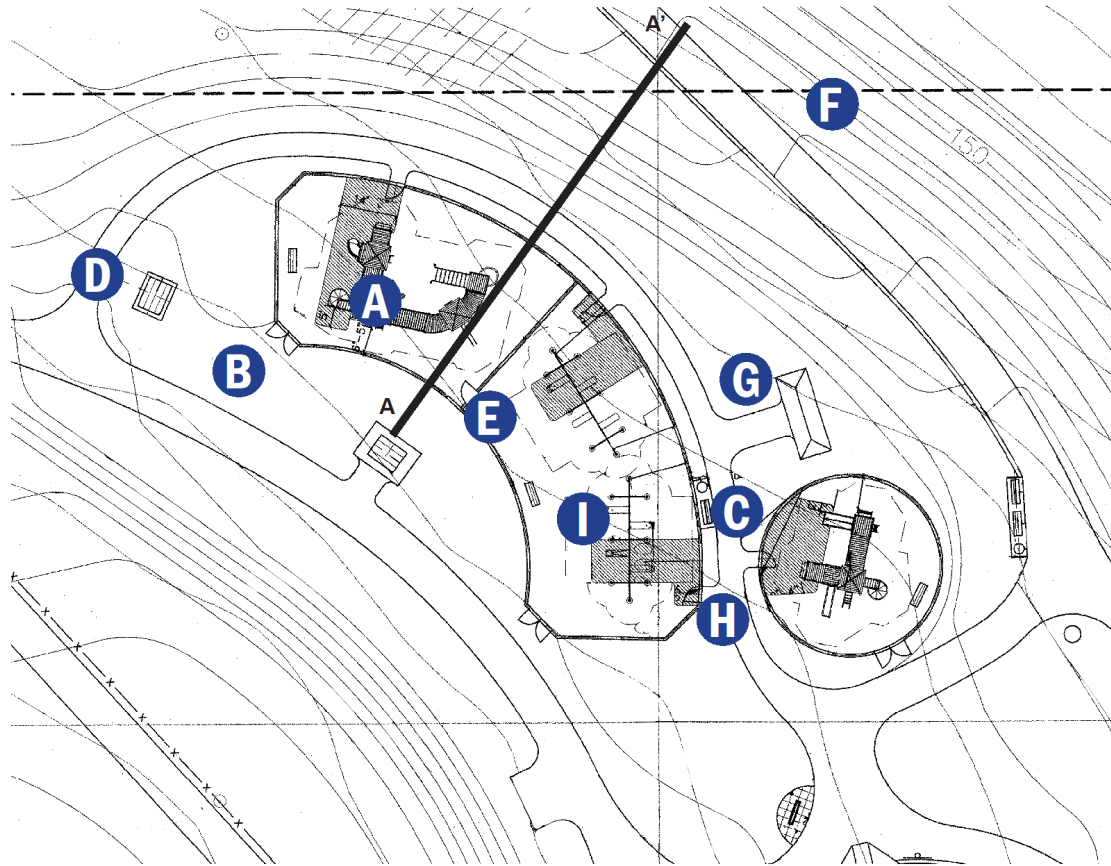
Settled Pathways & Damaged Gate



Pathway Cracking



Damaged Fence



Play Area Plan

Scale: 1" = 10'



Cracked Concrete



Worn Playground Padding



Desire Lines

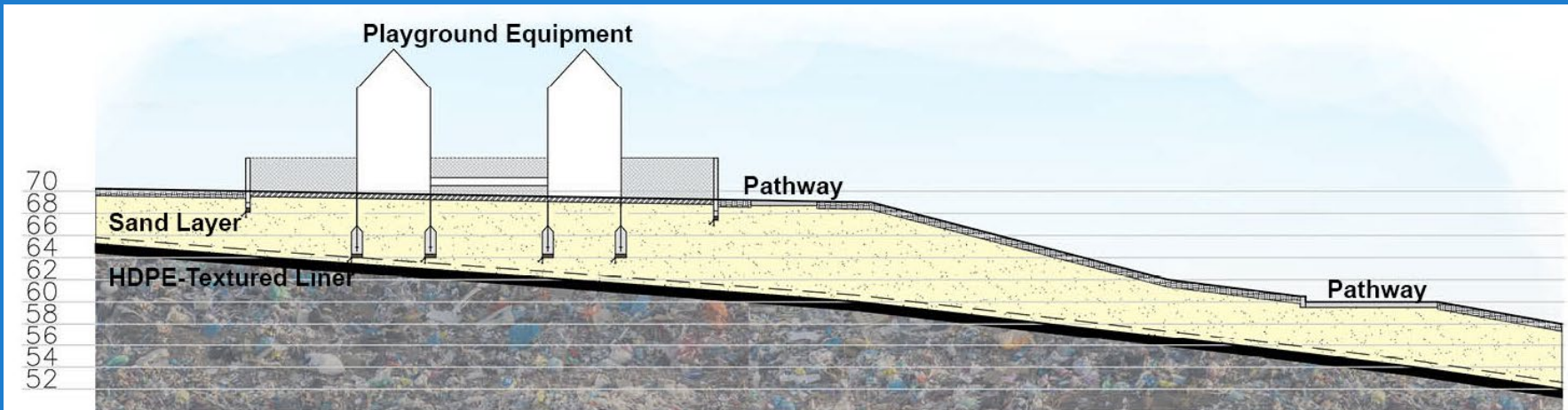
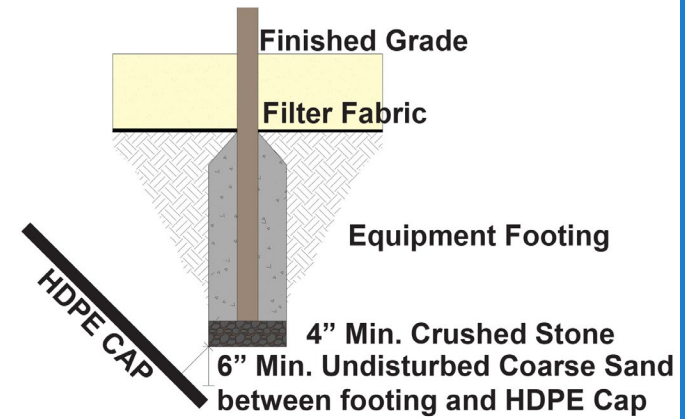


Settling Pathways



# MILLENNIUM PARK SITE ANALYSIS

## Footing Detail



## Available Depth Above Cap System - Section A-A'





# PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT EXAMPLES

Noyes Park & Hunt Almont Park





# PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT EXAMPLES

## Parkman Playground & Elliot Norton Park





# PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT EXAMPLES

Fallon Field – Roslindale





# SPACE SEPARATION

## Utilizing Natural Materials



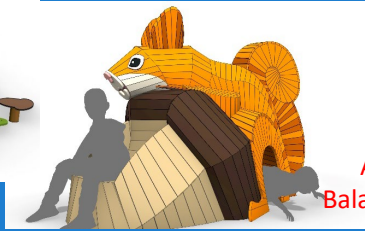


# CHARLES RIVER PLAYGROUND EXAMPLE





# CHARLES RIVER PLAYGROUND EXAMPLE



Animal & Balance Play



Swings



Cableway Zipline



Log Crawl through planted buffer



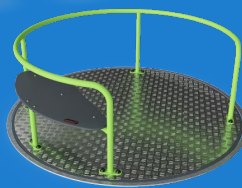
Whirlpool Spinner



Sand Play



Spinning Plate



ADA Carousel





# PLAYGROUND DESIGN INSPIRATION



# LISTENING & DISCUSSION

Help us build great parks.  
Let us know what matters to you.



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# NEXT STEPS

- CDM Smith will summarize and evaluate input from the community
- Develop conceptual alternatives
- Conceptual alternative community presentation in March 2021

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# THANK YOU!

## Next Meeting March, 2021

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

BOS:  
**311**



**CDM  
Smith**

February 4, 2021  
Boston Parks and Recreation Department

