

*Improvements to*  
**RYAN PLAYGROUND  
IN CHARLESTOWN**

Community Meeting No. 2



# ZOOM TIPS

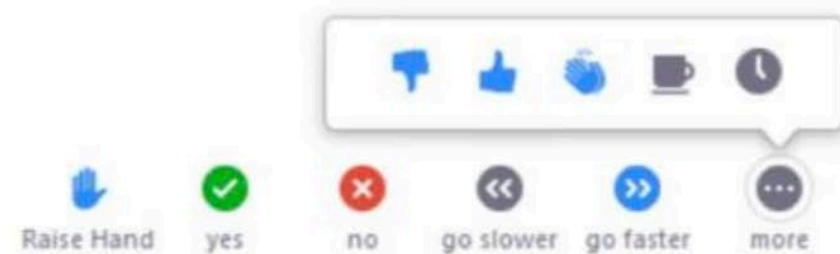
Here is how you can participate during the question and answer part of the presentation.

## DURING THE PRESENTATION:



### VIA WEB:

Turn video on / off.



To use these non-verbal options click on participants (bottom of screen); these options will pop up in side bar.

## DURING THE Q&A:



### JOINING VIA PHONE?

Use \*9 to raise hand to ask for audio / video permission to ask questions or provide comments.



### VIA WEB:

Chat to ask questions / comments or provide responses to poll questions



Raise hand to ask for audio / video permission to ask questions or provide comments.

# AGENDA

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1

**PROJECT TEAM AND PROJECT GOALS**

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2

**WHAT WE HEARD AT MEETING NO. 1**

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3

**PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATIONS**

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4

**CONCEPT PROPOSALS**

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5

**LISTENING & DISCUSSION**

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6

**CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS**

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An aerial photograph of a city, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The image shows a mix of urban buildings, a multi-lane highway running diagonally from the top right to the bottom right, and a large green area in the center containing several baseball fields. A river or canal is visible in the bottom left corner. The text 'PROJECT TEAM AND PROJECT GOALS' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the upper left portion of the image.

# PROJECT TEAM AND PROJECT GOALS

# PROJECT TEAM

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## **B Chatfield, Boston Parks and Recreation Department**

Project Manager, City of Boston

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## **Brandon Kunkel, RLA**

Sr. Team Leader, Weston & Sampson Design Studio

## **Farah Dakkak**

Project Landscape Architect, Weston & Sampson Design Studio

## **Gracie Villa**

Landscape Designer, Weston & Sampson Design Studio

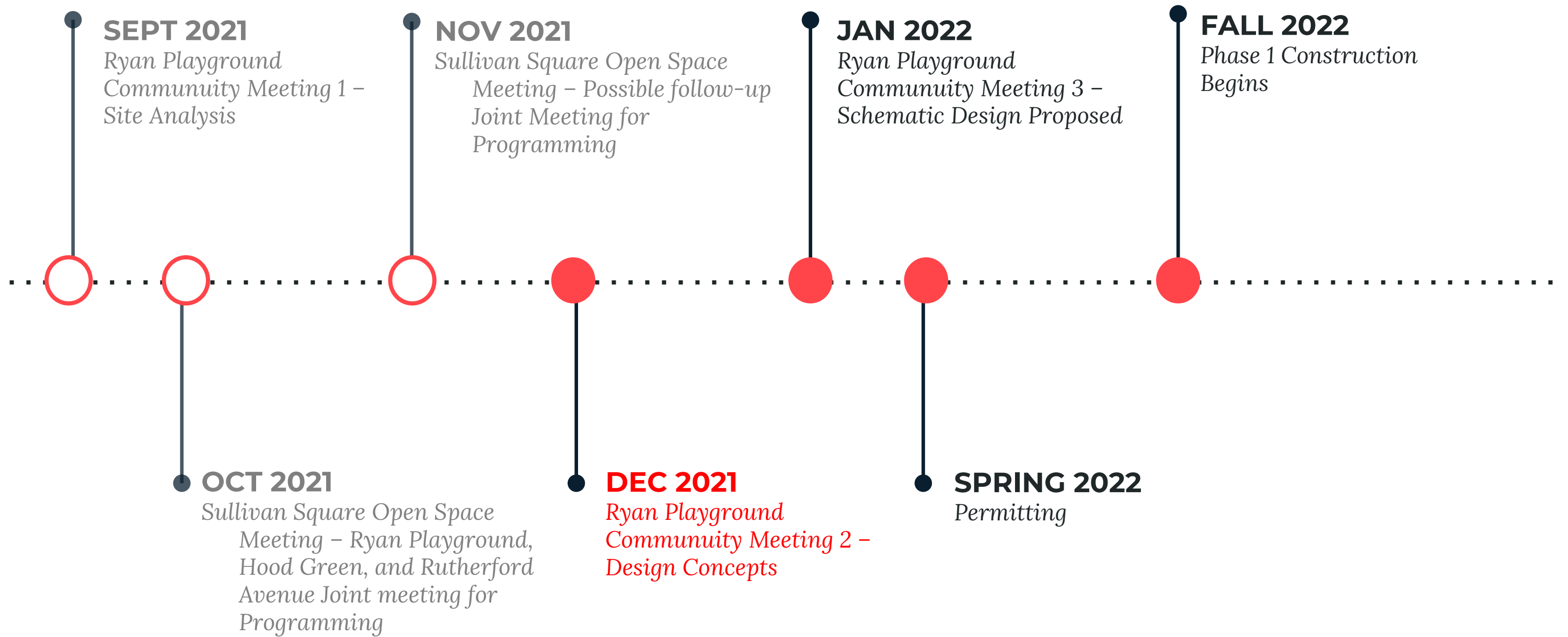
## **Christine Brandao, Boston Parks and Recreation Department**

Outreach Coordinator

[Christine.brandao@boston.gov](mailto:Christine.brandao@boston.gov) or 617-961-3006

# PROJECT SCHEDULE

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# EXISTING SITE (WITH PROPOSED EXTENSION)



PROPOSED  
EXTENSION

RYAN PLAYGROUND

SCHRAFT'S CITY CENTER

MYSTIC RIVER

ALFORD ST



# EXISTING SITE ANALYSIS



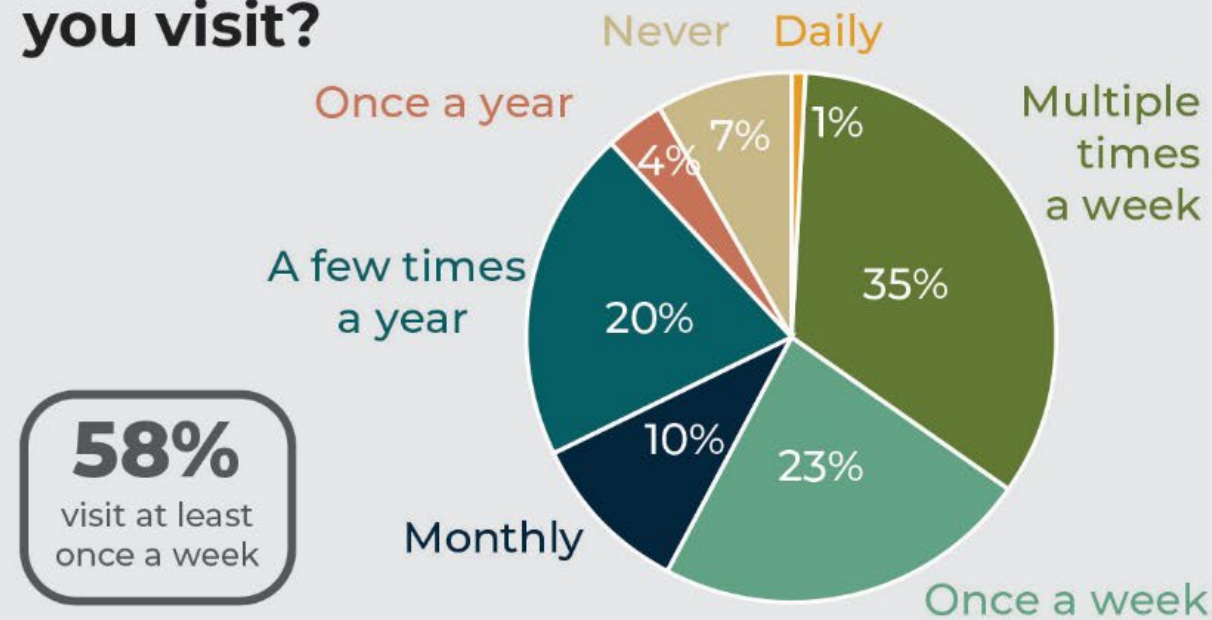
An aerial photograph of a city, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The image shows a mix of urban buildings, a multi-lane highway running diagonally from the top right to the bottom right, and a large green baseball field with several diamond-shaped fields. A river or canal is visible in the bottom left corner. The text 'WHAT WE HEARD AT MEETING NO. 1' is centered in the upper half of the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

# WHAT WE HEARD AT MEETING NO. 1

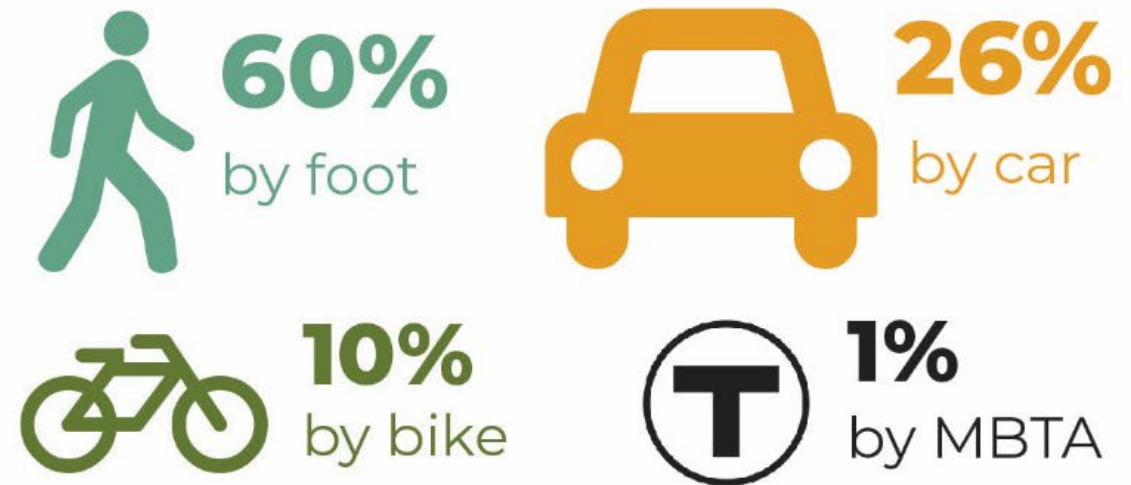
# SUMMARY OF ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

112 SURVEY RESPONSES

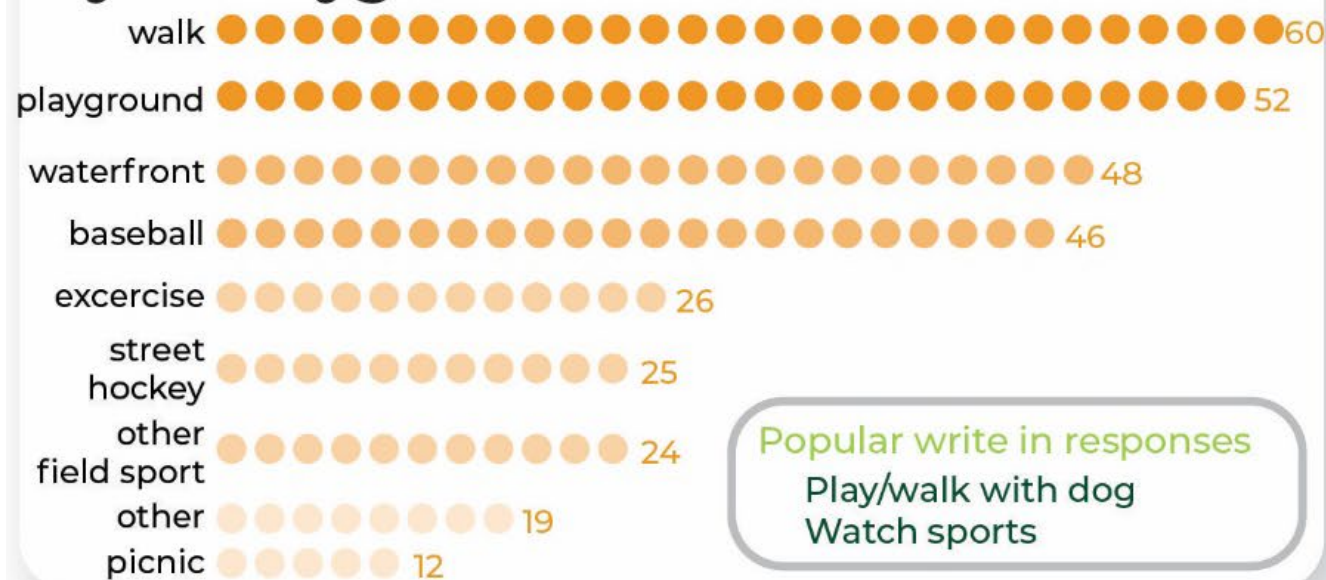
## How often do you visit?



## How do you get to the park?

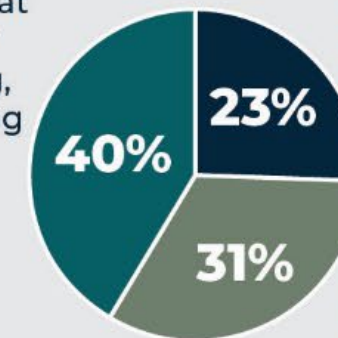


## What do you typically do at Ryan Playground?



## When addressing rising water elevations and flooding...

Want a method that increases areas for picnicking, seating, and passive viewing



Want a method that looks similar to what is there now - a boardwalk on top of a seawall

Want a method that provides opportunity to physically interact with the water, such as steps or platforms

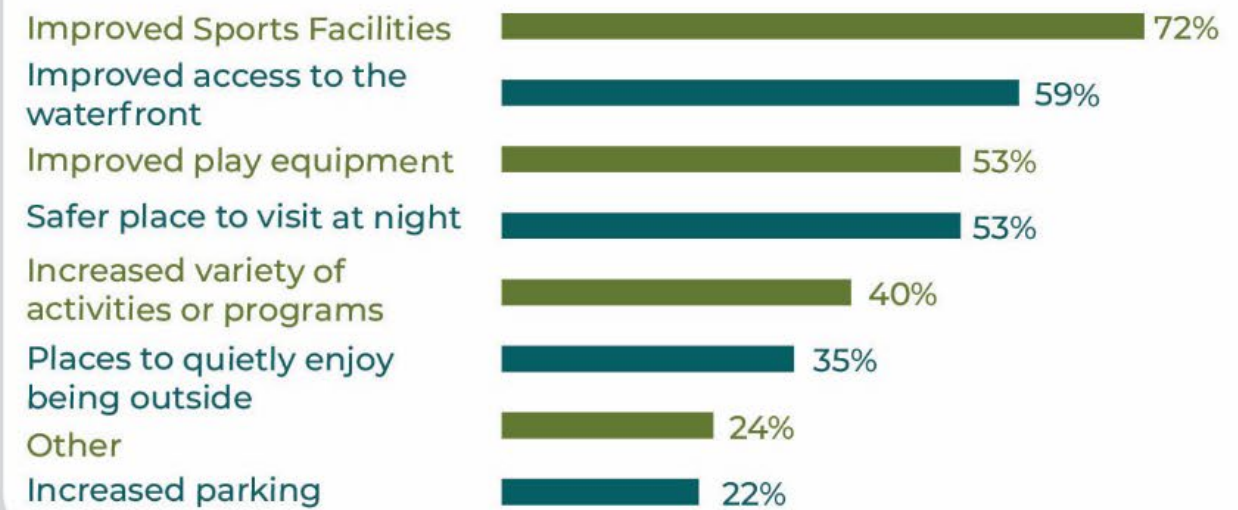
# SUMMARY OF ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

112 SURVEY RESPONSES

## Top 10 most desired park amenities



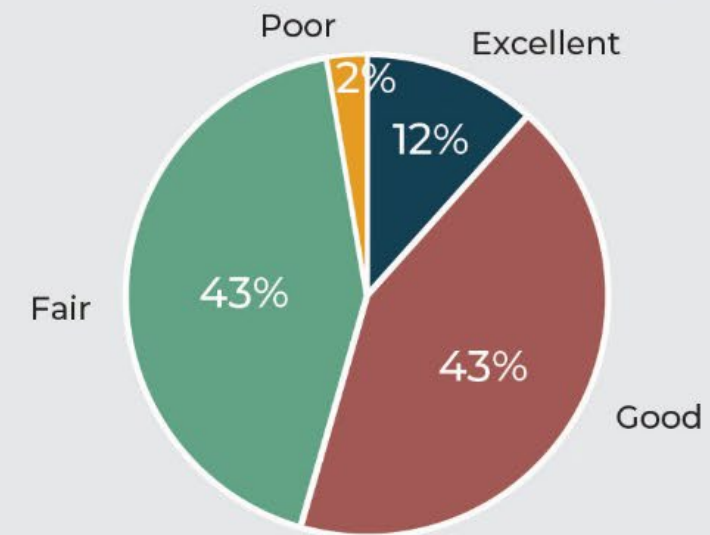
## What changes to the park would encourage you to use it more?



## What do you love about Ryan Playground



## How would you describe your level of comfort or safety at Ryan Playground?



# COMMUNITY COMMENTS

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## PLAYGROUND

“The current playground is underused because it is outdated and on the periphery of the park, making it difficult for parents to see their kids.”

## ACTIVE RECREATION

“Field space is very limited in Charlestown and having dedicated baseball-only fields doesn’t make sense. The improvement should put a turf field that can be used for multiple sports.”

## WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT RYAN PLAYGROUND

“Waterfront open space, the playground, proximity to my home and mature trees.”

## CONNECTIVITY

“Connectivity to the park is critical to its future use and success.”

## DOG PARK

“There are many dog parks in Charlestown, but none are fenced in which gives the dogs an extra measure of protection and keeps the public undisturbed.”

# PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATIONS

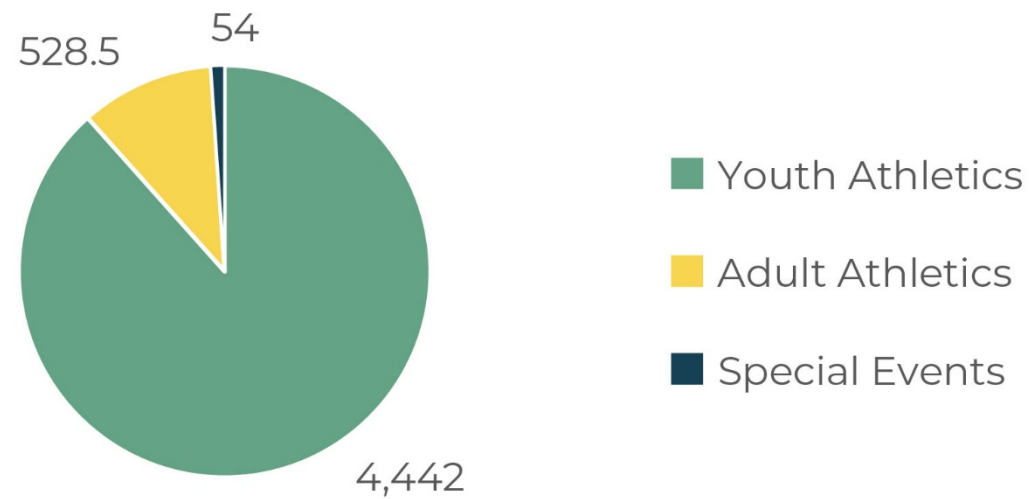


# RECREATION FIELDS: CURRENT USE HOURS

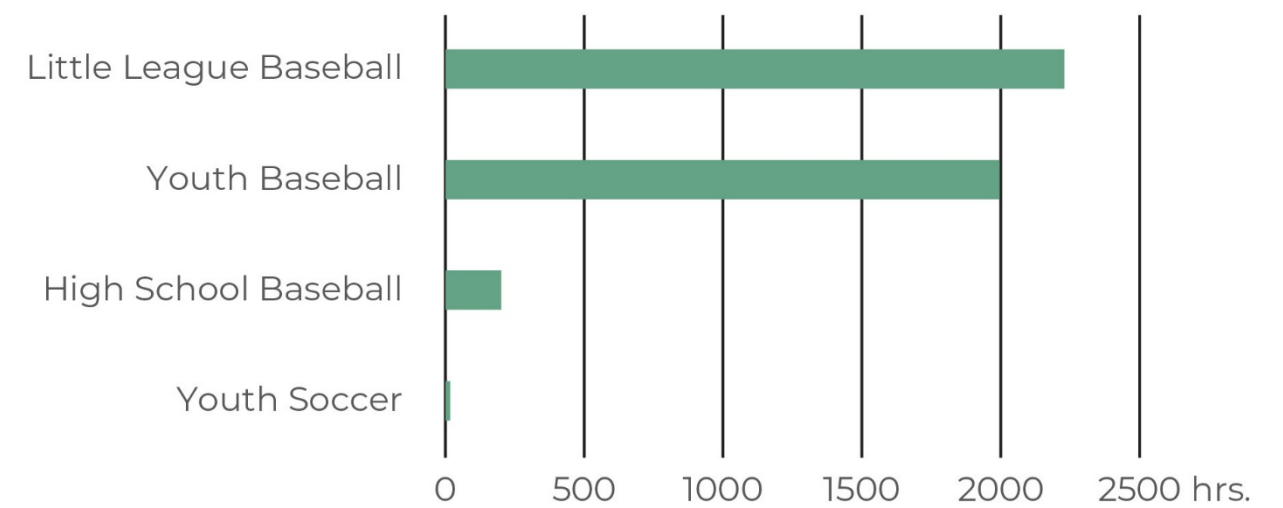
## IMPROVEMENTS TO RYAN PLAYGROUND 2019 PERMITTING - CURRENT USE HOURS



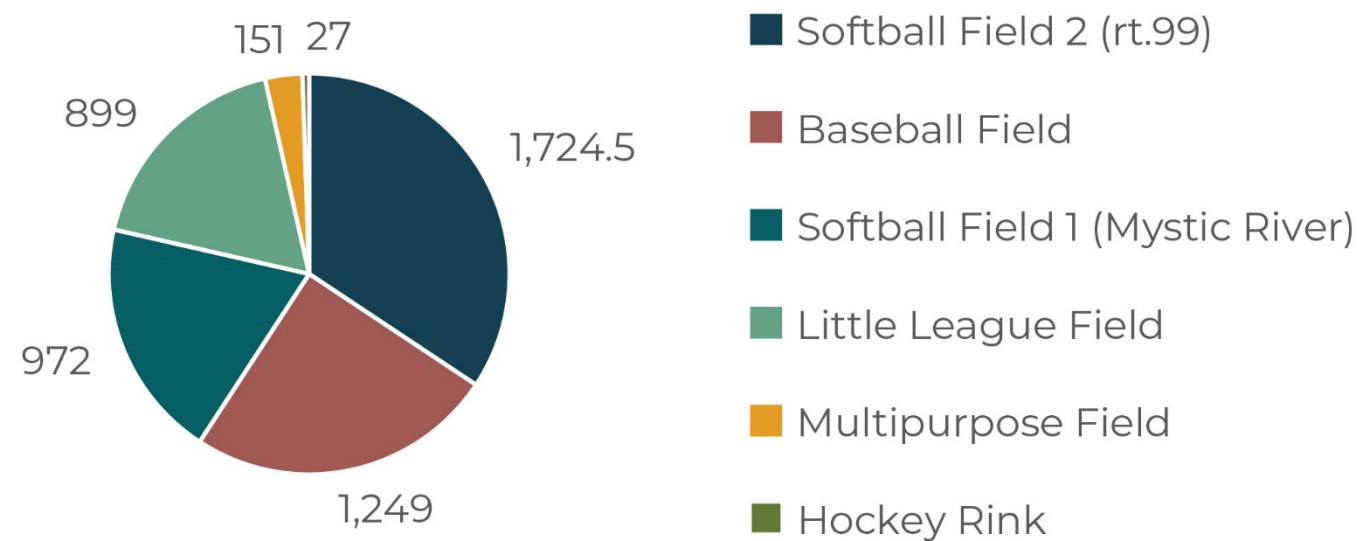
TOTAL CURRENT USE BY CATEGORY



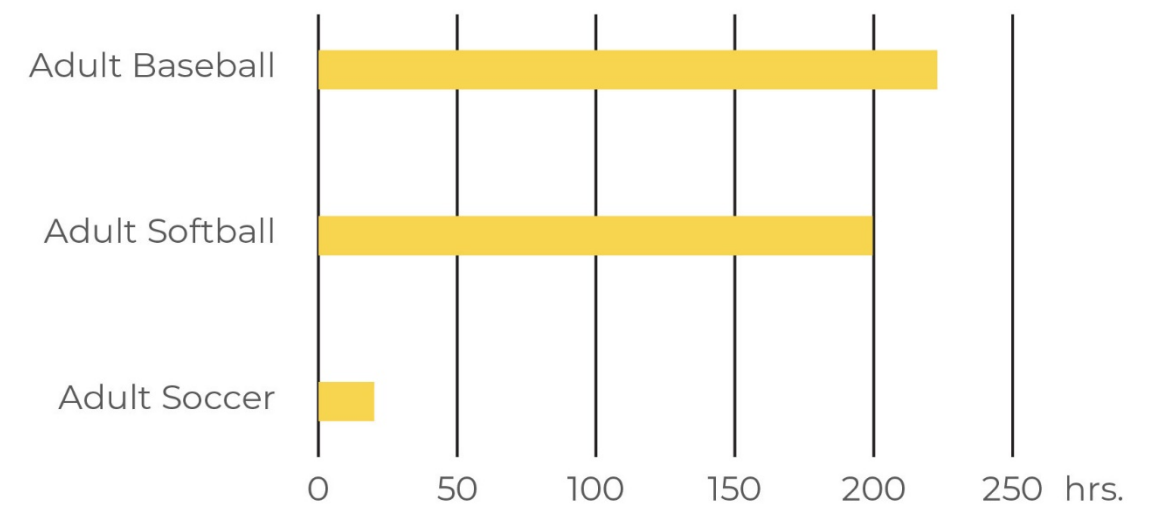
CURRENT USE BY YOUTH ATHLETICS



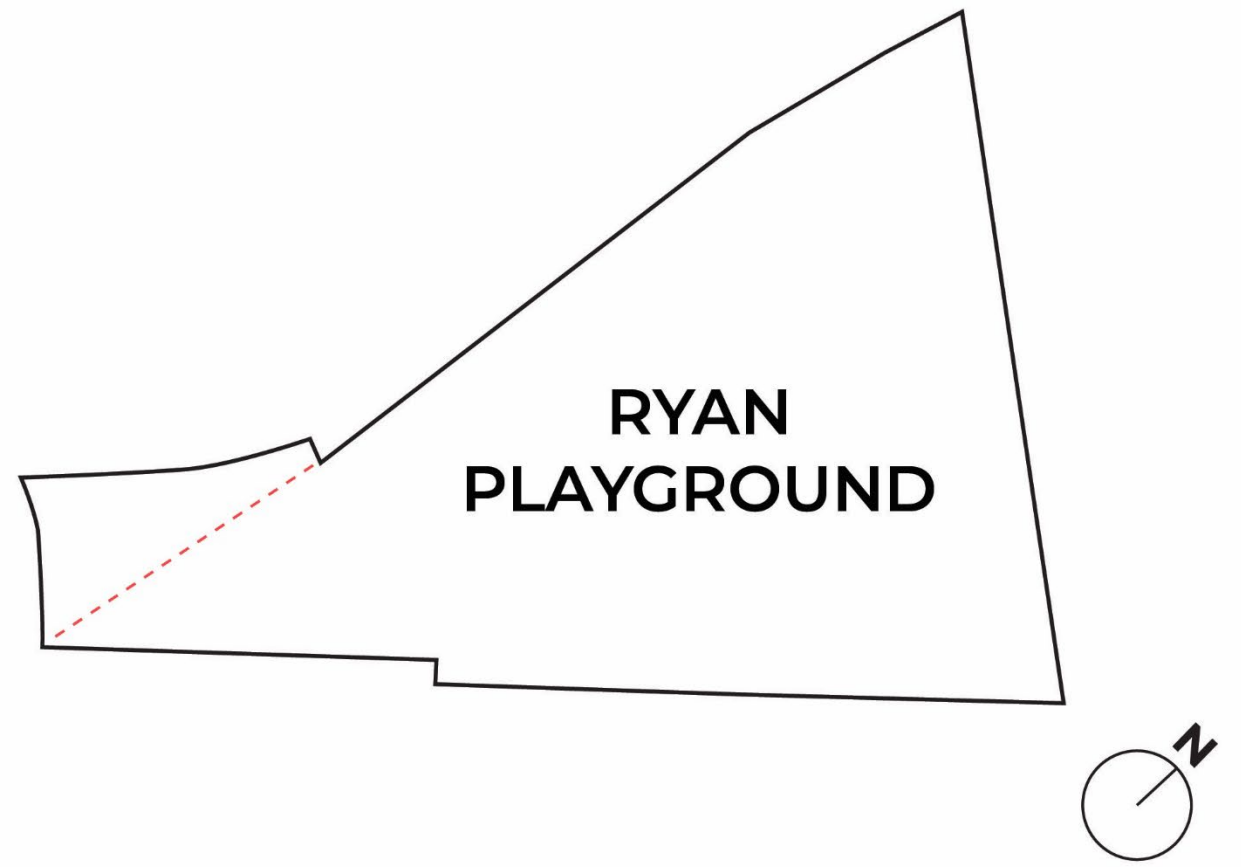
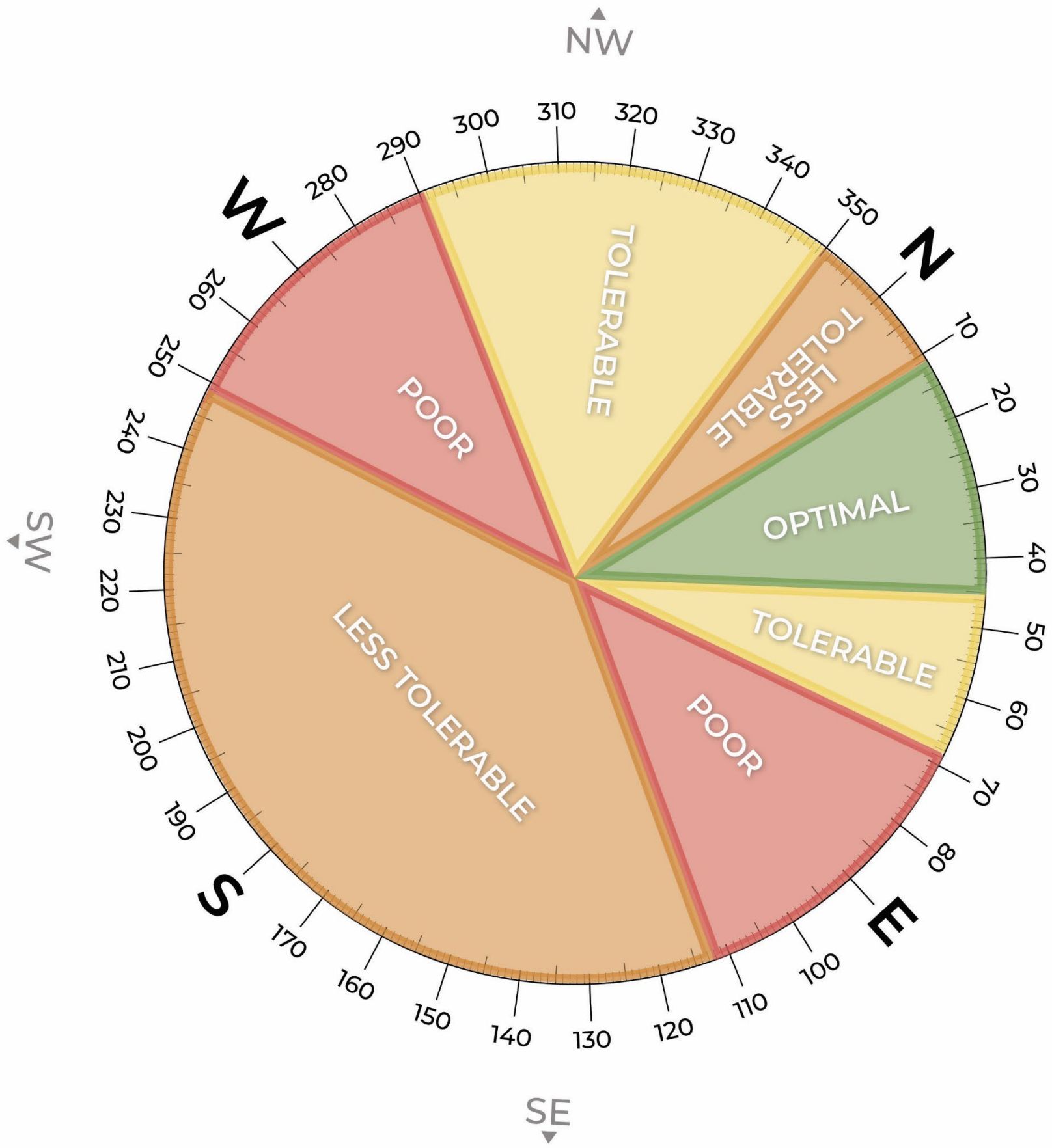
TOTAL CURRENT USE BY FIELD TYPE



CURRENT USE BY ADULT ATHLETICS

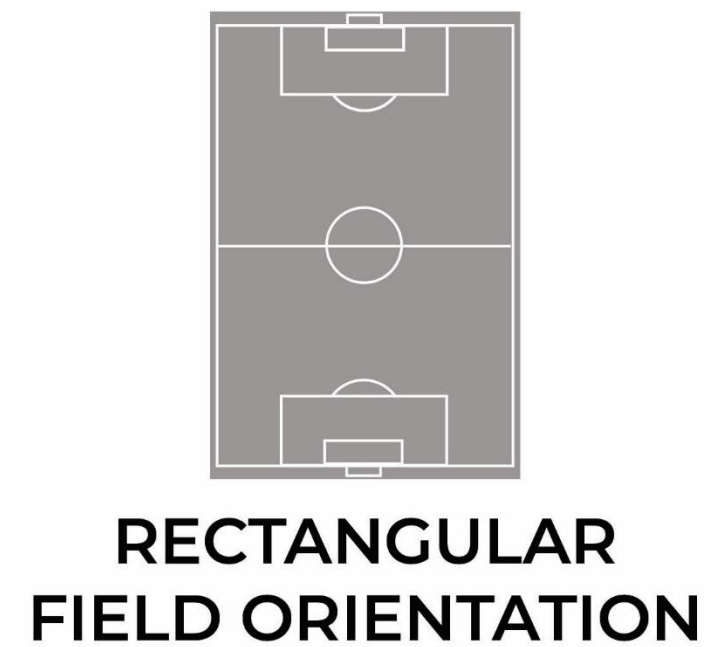
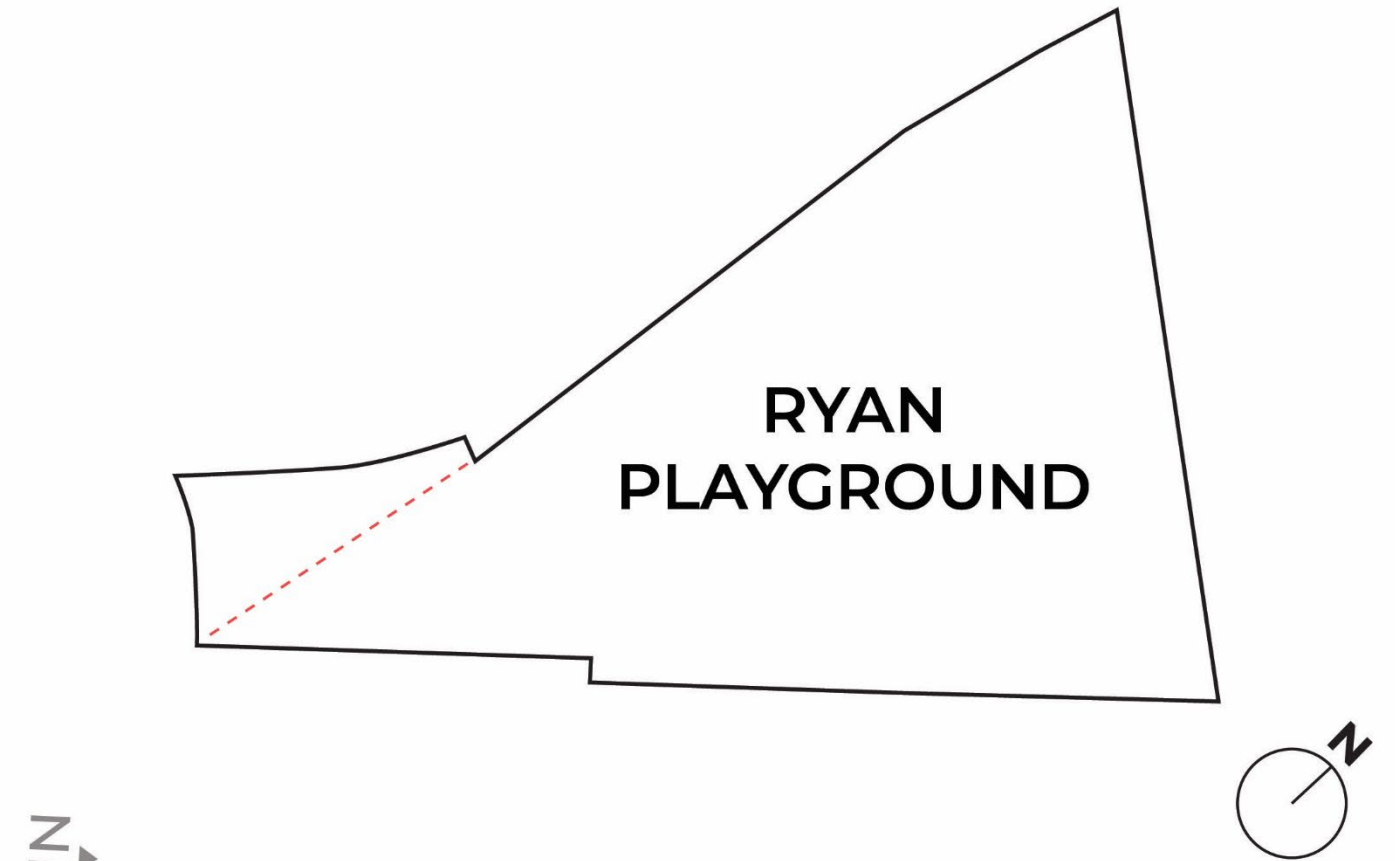
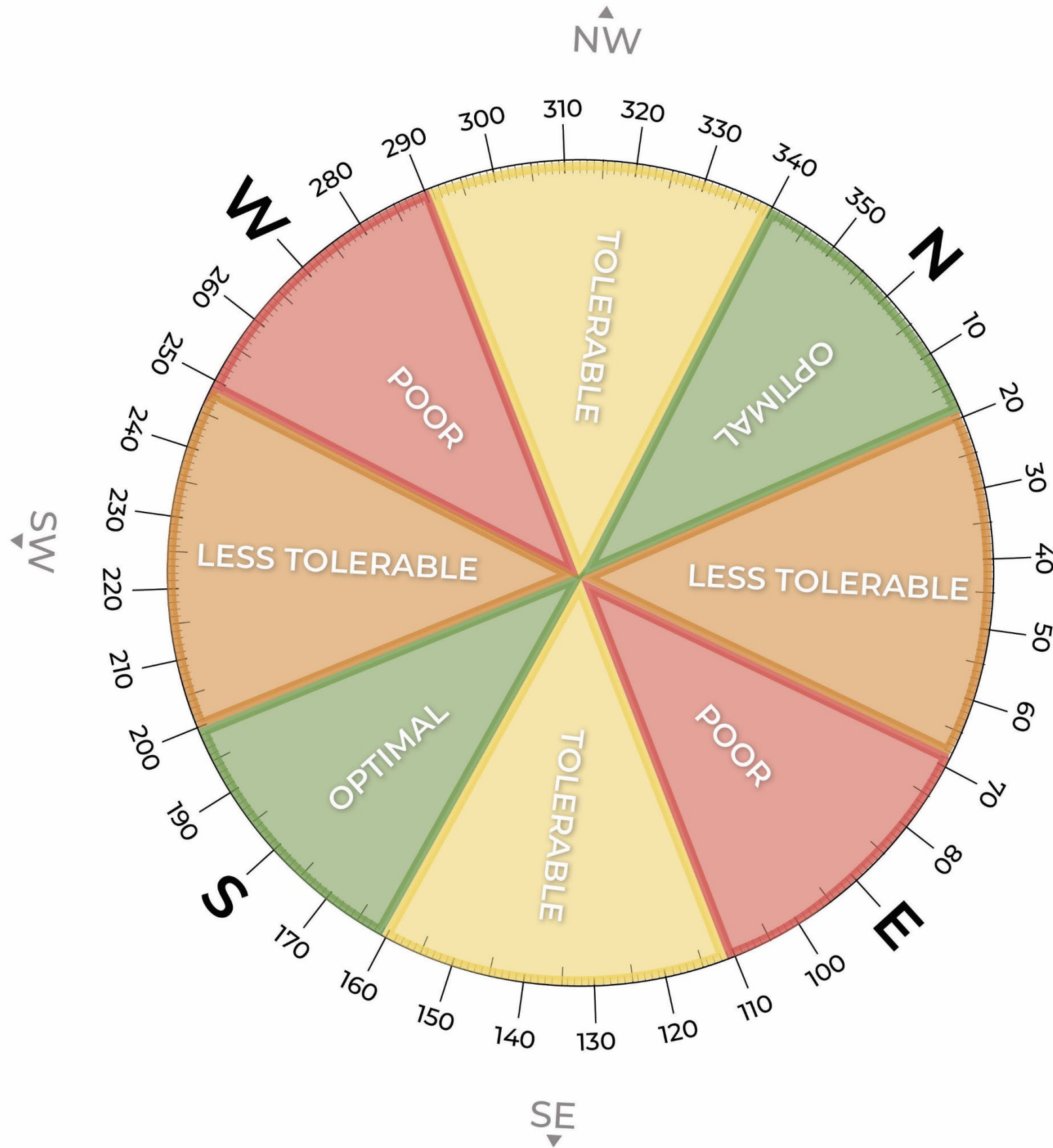


# SPORTS FIELD ORIENTATION





# SPORTS FIELD ORIENTATION



# TURF VS. NATURAL GRASS

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## Synthetic Turf Fields

- Higher initial cost – more expensive to build, repair, and replace

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- More playing time – can support higher intensity of use and can extend the playing hours and season

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- Less intensive maintenance program

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- Fewer injuries due to even playing surface and consistent G-max performance

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- Environmental Impacts: potential heat hazards

## Natural Turf Fields

- Lower initial cost – cheaper to construct and replace/re-sod

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- Limited playing time – weather and field recovery time can limit access and recommended use hours are 350-600 hours per year

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- More intensive maintenance program

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- Increased chance of injury due to natural inconsistencies in playing surface

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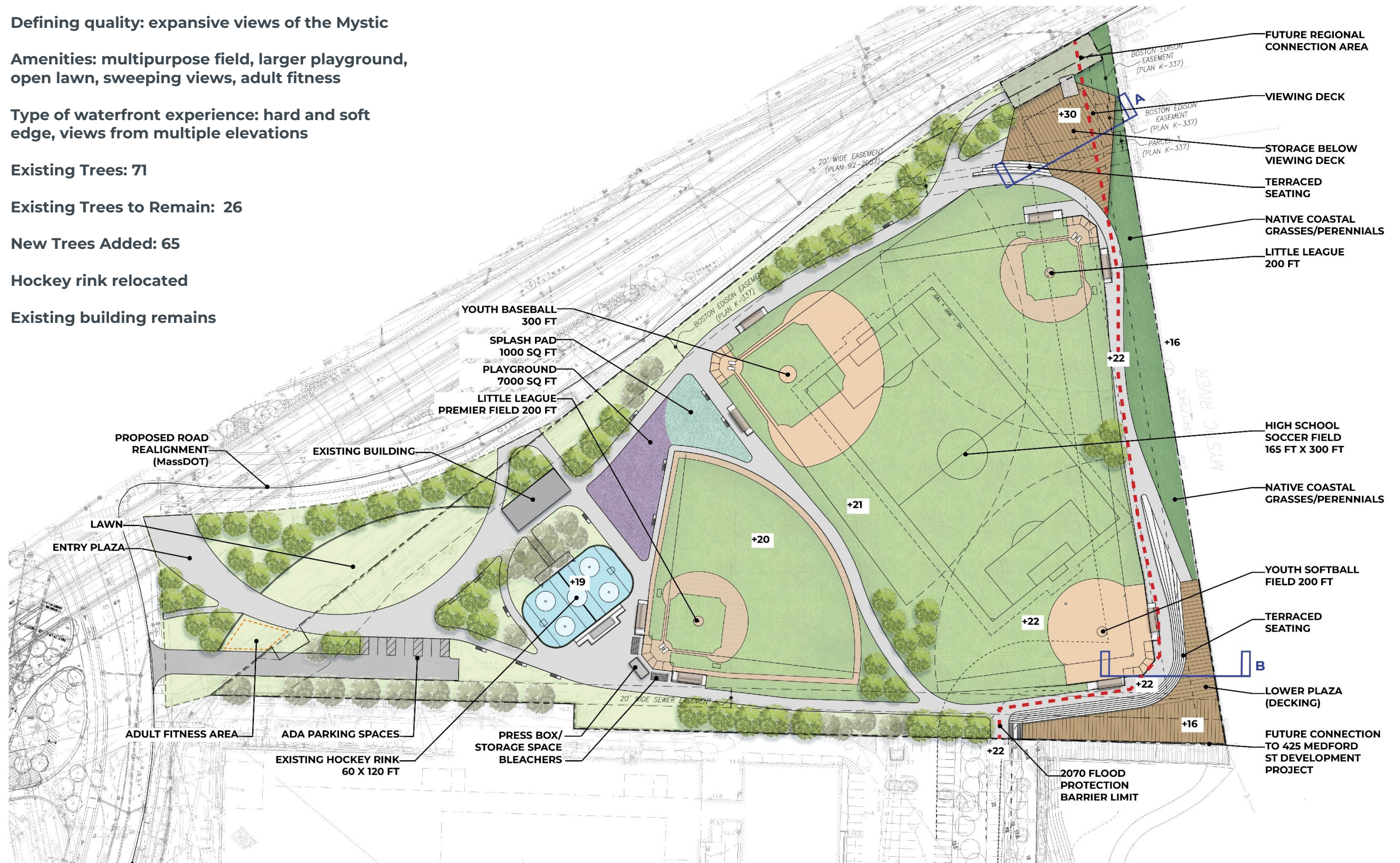
- Environmental impacts: high water use when irrigated, fertilizer, and pesticides [Note: it is not standard practice for BPRD to irrigate, or use fertilizer or pesticides]

# RYAN PLAYGROUND DESIGN CONCEPTS



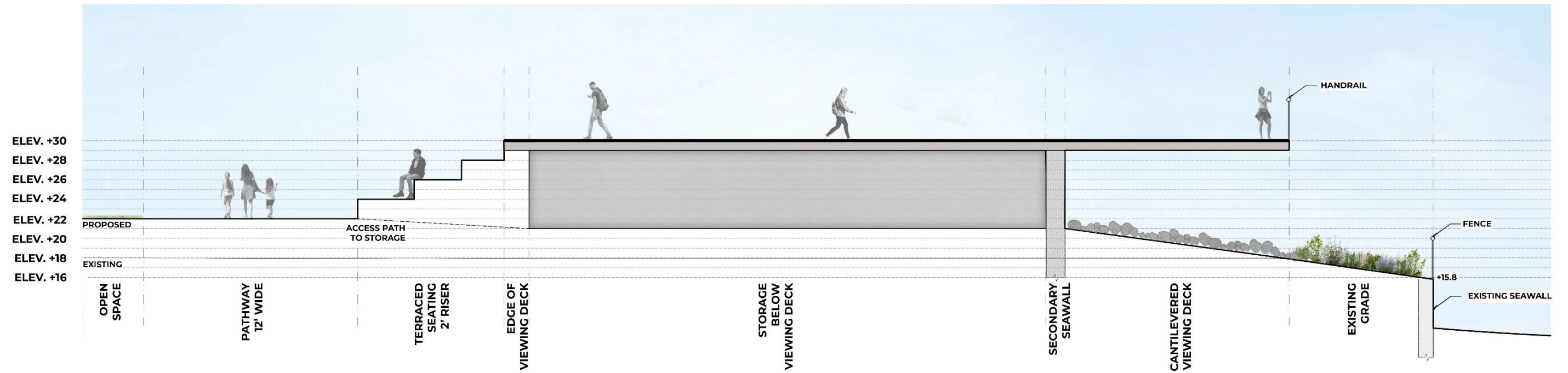
# CONCEPT A - PLAN

- Defining quality: expansive views of the Mystic
- Amenities: multipurpose field, larger playground, open lawn, sweeping views, adult fitness
- Type of waterfront experience: hard and soft edge, views from multiple elevations
- Existing Trees: 71
- Existing Trees to Remain: 26
- New Trees Added: 65
- Hockey rink relocated
- Existing building remains

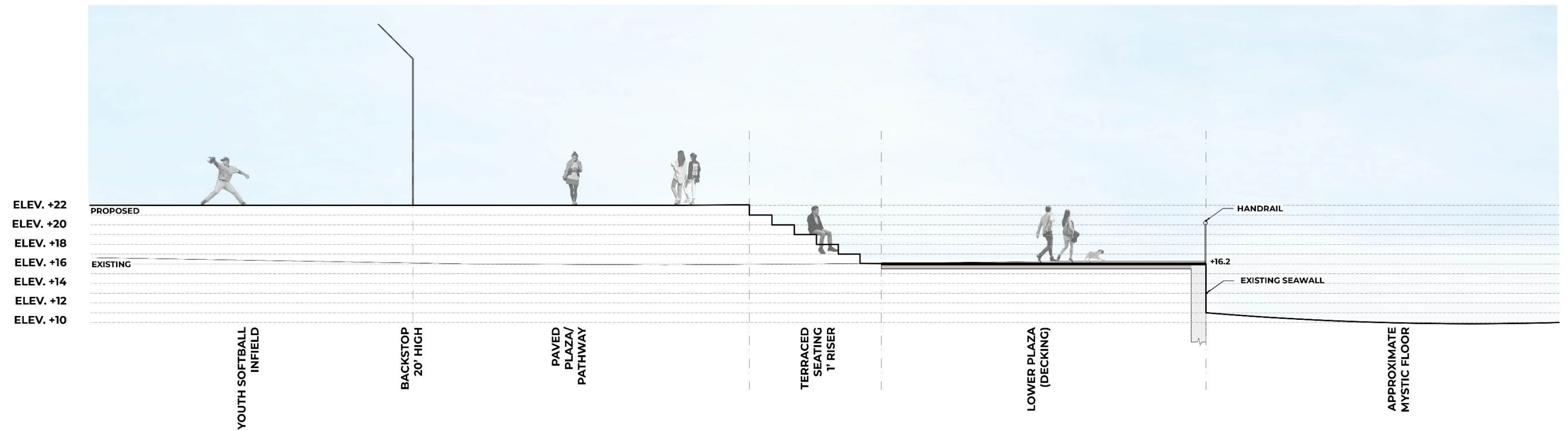


# CONCEPT A - SECTIONS

SECTION A

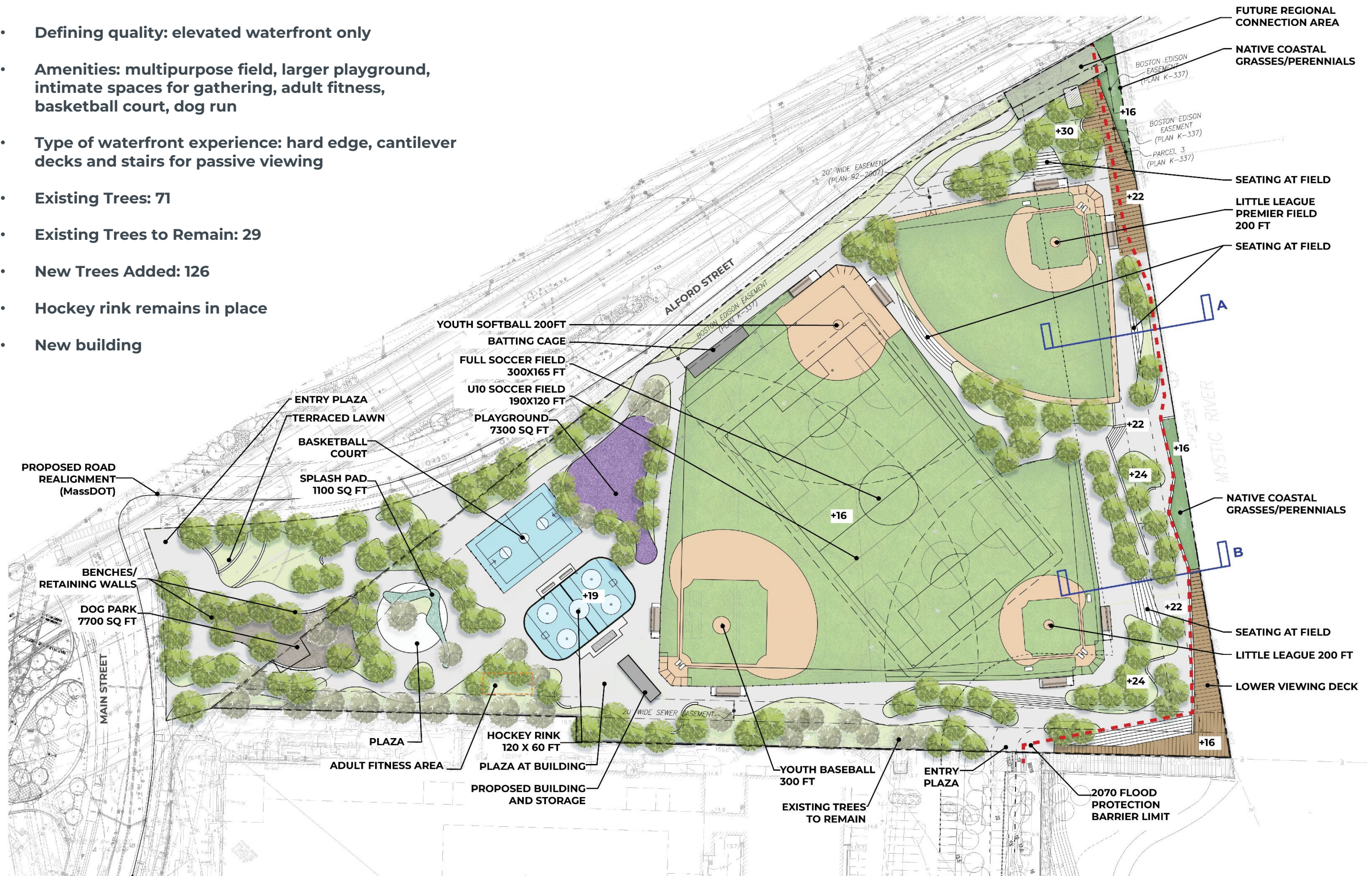


SECTION B



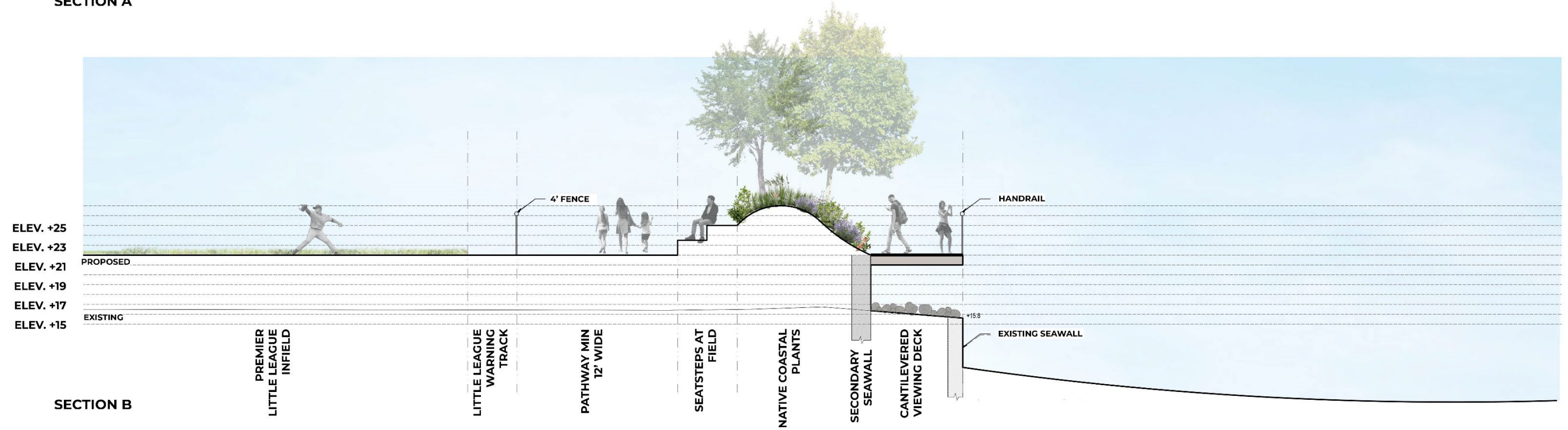
# CONCEPT B - PLAN

- Defining quality: elevated waterfront only
- Amenities: multipurpose field, larger playground, intimate spaces for gathering, adult fitness, basketball court, dog run
- Type of waterfront experience: hard edge, cantilever decks and stairs for passive viewing
- Existing Trees: 71
- Existing Trees to Remain: 29
- New Trees Added: 126
- Hockey rink remains in place
- New building

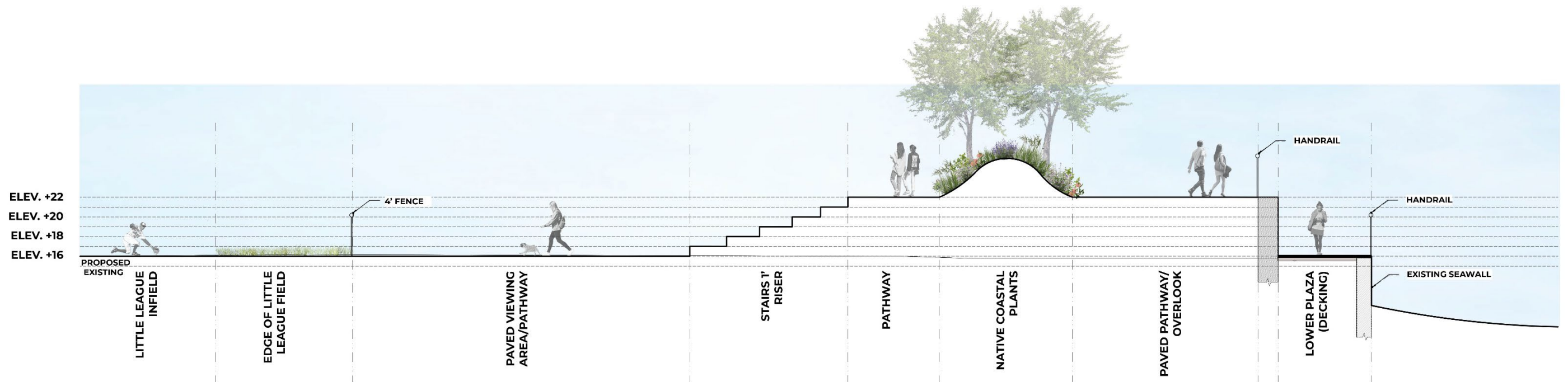


# CONCEPT B - SECTIONS

SECTION A

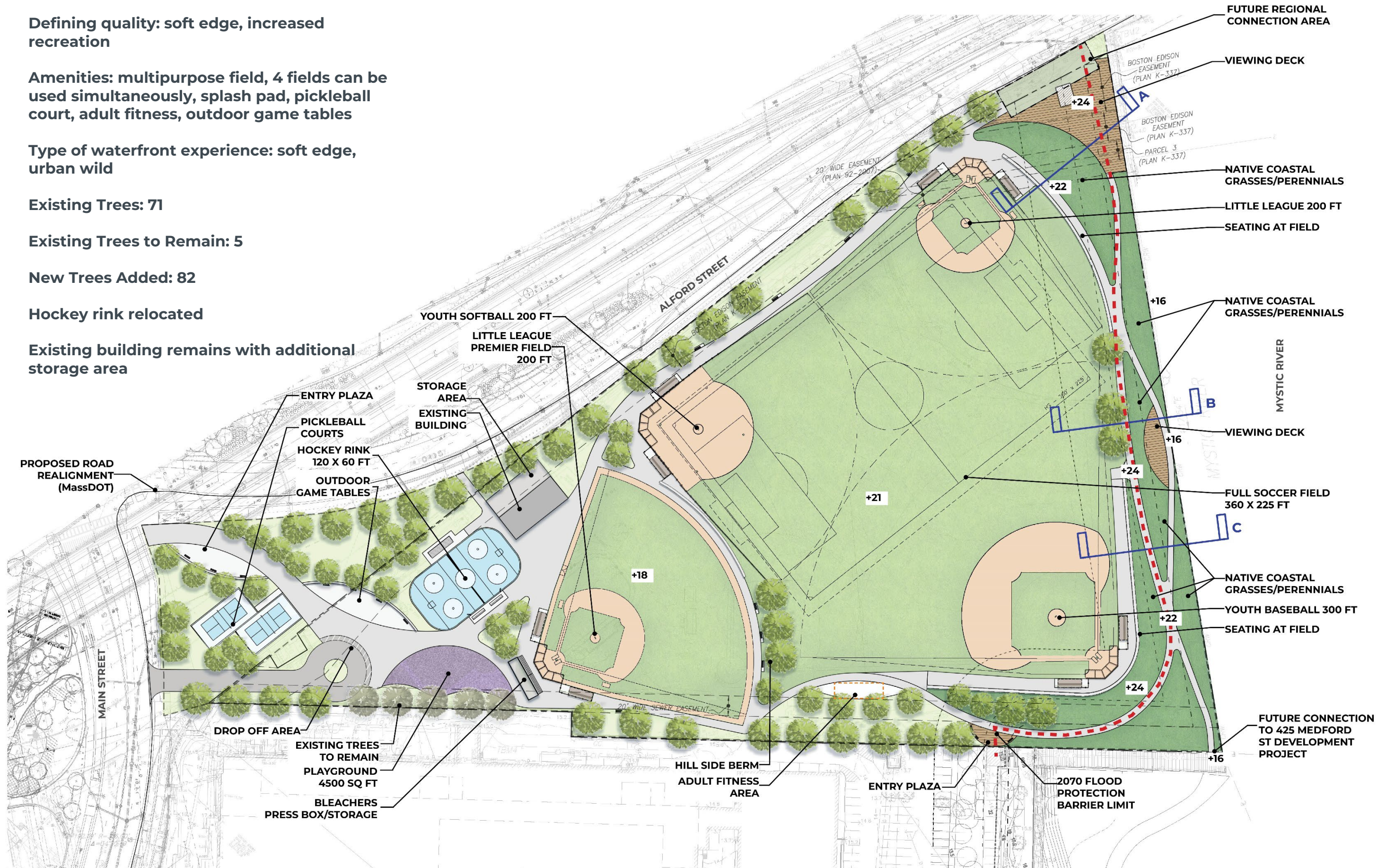


SECTION B



# CONCEPT C - PLAN

- Defining quality: soft edge, increased recreation
- Amenities: multipurpose field, 4 fields can be used simultaneously, splash pad, pickleball court, adult fitness, outdoor game tables
- Type of waterfront experience: soft edge, urban wild
- Existing Trees: 71
- Existing Trees to Remain: 5
- New Trees Added: 82
- Hockey rink relocated
- Existing building remains with additional storage area



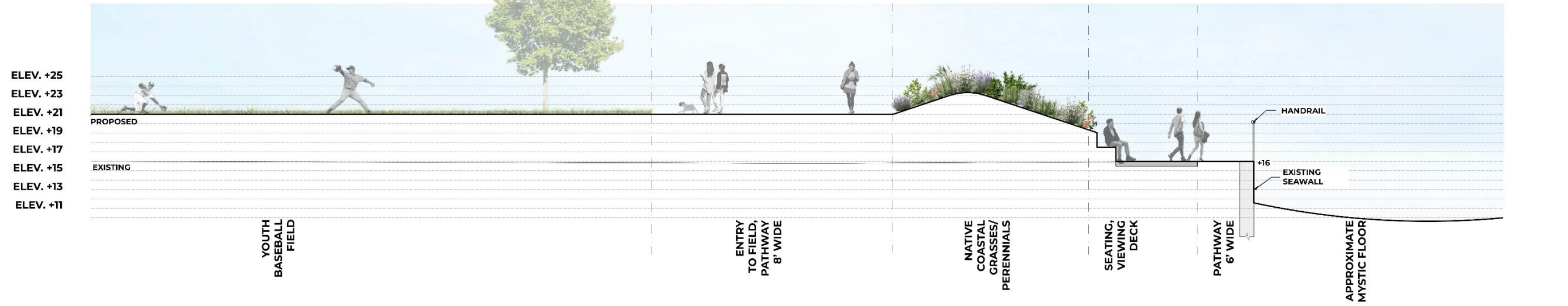


# CONCEPT C - SECTIONS

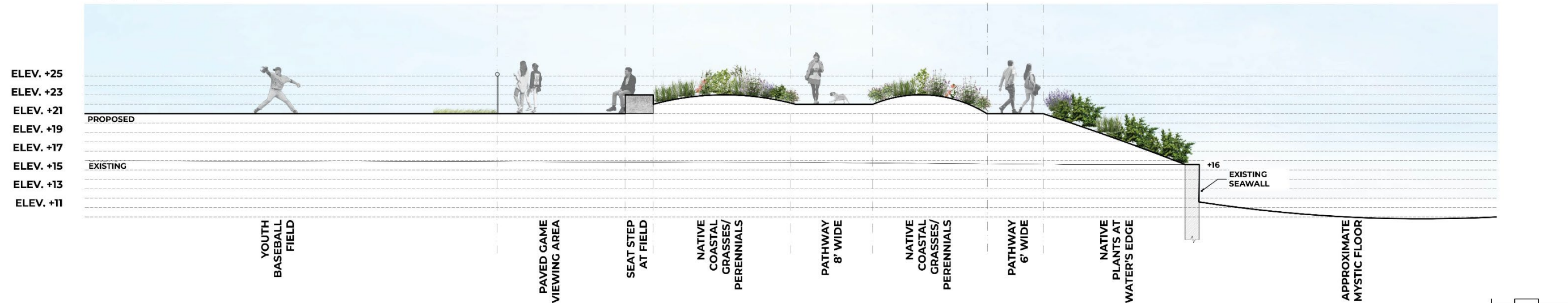
SECTION A



SECTION B



SECTION C



# RYAN PLAYGROUND CONCEPT PROPOSALS AT A GLANCE

## CONCEPT A



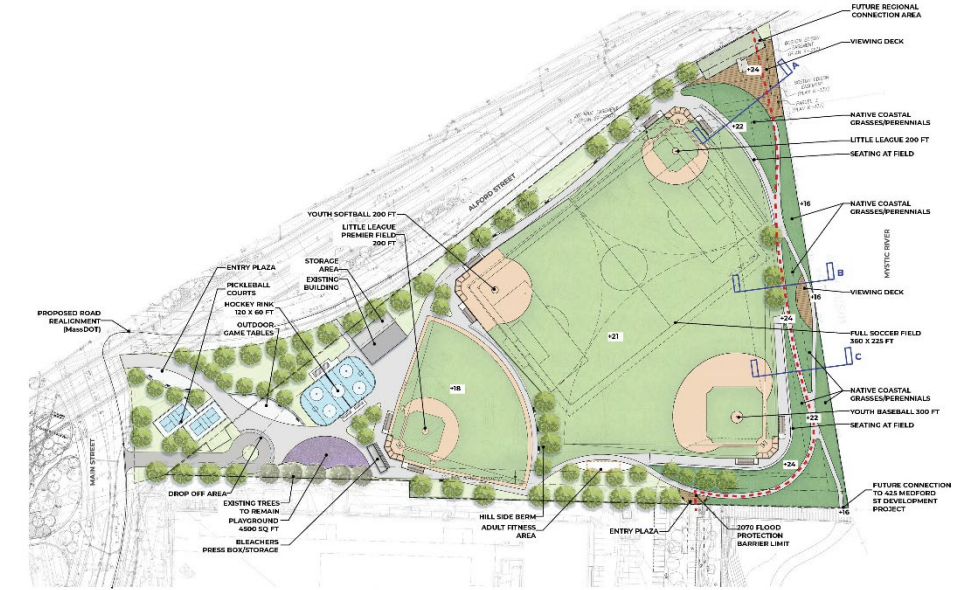
- **Defining quality:** expansive views of the Mystic
- **Amenities:** multipurpose field, larger playground, open lawn, sweeping views, adult fitness
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## CONCEPT B



- **Defining quality:** elevated waterfront only
- **Amenities:** multipurpose field, larger playground, intimate spaces for gathering, adult fitness, basketball court, dog run
- **Type of waterfront experience:** hard edge, cantilever decks and stairs for passive viewing
- **Existing Trees:** 71
- **Existing Trees to Remain:** 29
- **New Trees Added:** 126
- Hockey rink remains in place
- New building

## CONCEPT C



- **Defining quality:** soft edge, increased recreation
- **Amenities:** multipurpose field, 4 fields can be used simultaneously, splash pad, pickleball court, adult fitness, outdoor game tables
- **Type of waterfront experience:** soft edge, urban wild
- **Existing Trees:** 71
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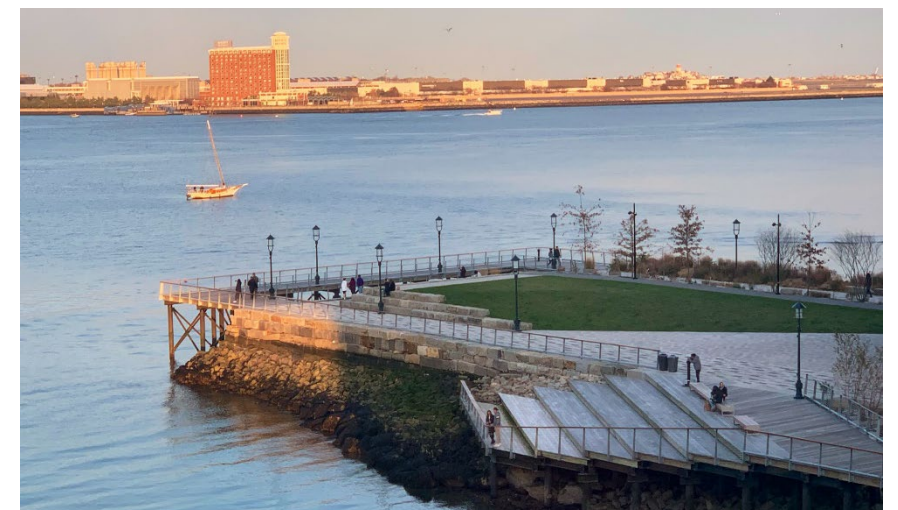
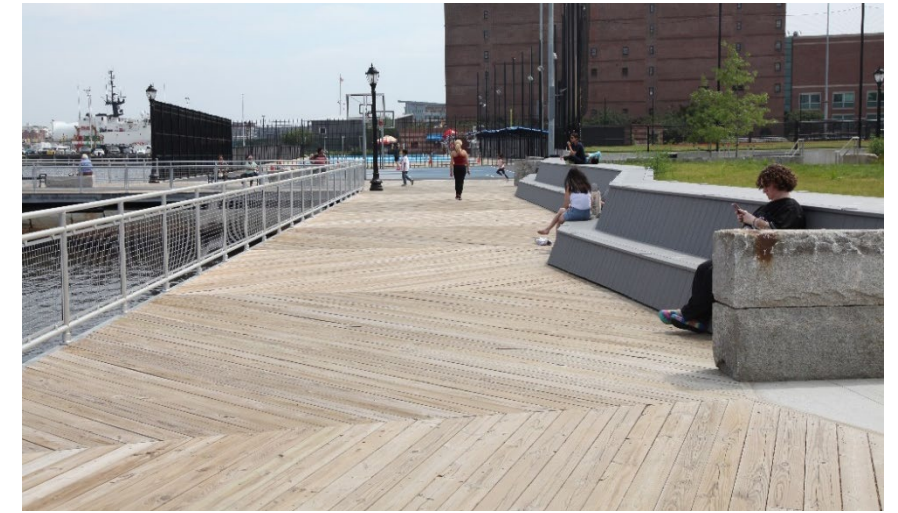
# PRECEDENT IMAGES - WATERFRONT

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## SOFT EDGES



## HARD EDGES



# PRECEDENTS IMAGES – ACTIVE RECREATION

MULTI-USE FIELDS



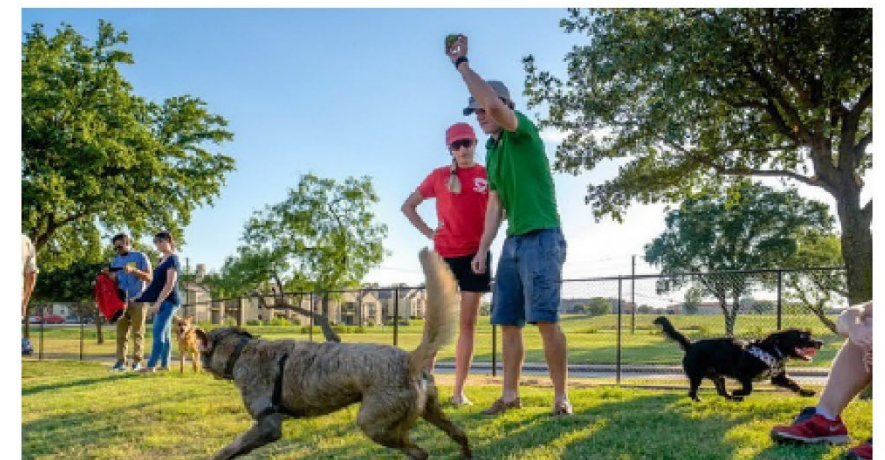
COURT SPORTS



FITNESS



DOG RUN



OUTDOOR GAME TABLES



# PRECEDENT IMAGES - PLAYGROUND STYLES

TRADITIONAL



NATURE INSPIRED



CONTEMPORARY



# PRECEDENT IMAGES – SENSORY PLAY

TRADITIONAL



SPLASH PADS



NATURE INSPIRED



SOUND, SIGHT, TOUCH





# LISTENING & DISCUSSION

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



# THANK YOU!

## Next Meeting: January / February 2022

Your voice matters!  
Take our survey:



Keep up to date by checking  
our Project Page:

[boston.gov/ryan-charlestown](https://boston.gov/ryan-charlestown)



Project Manager: B Chatfield, 617-504-7709, [abigail.chatfield@boston.gov](mailto:abigail.chatfield@boston.gov)

December 16, 2021  
Boston Parks and Recreation 