



Improvements to
MALCOLM X PARK

Community Briefing

Our meeting will begin at 6:00 PM.

For more information, please visit

www.boston.gov/improvements-malcolm-x-park

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.

It is possible that participants may also be recording the meeting with their phones cameras or other devices.

AGENDA

1

INTRODUCTIONS

2

BALANCING OVERALL PROJECT DESIGN GOALS

3

PROJECT GOALS AND SCHEDULE

4

ANALYSIS OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED TREE COVER

5

NEXT STEPS AND DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTIONS



INTRODUCTIONS



Mariama White-Hammond
Chief of Environment, Energy,
and Open Space



Ryan Woods
Commissioner, Boston
Parks and Recreation
Department



Cathy Baker-Eclipse
Director of the Capital
Plan, BPRD



Kristen McCosh
Commissioner, Boston
Disabilities Commission



Christine Brandao
Community Outreach
Coordinator, BPRD



Michael Easler
Project Manager,
Weston & Sampson



BALANCING PROJECT GOALS PROCESS TO DATE





City of Boston
Priorities

Safety Guidelines+
Regulatory
Guidelines

**PARK
DESIGN**

Parks + Recreation
Goals

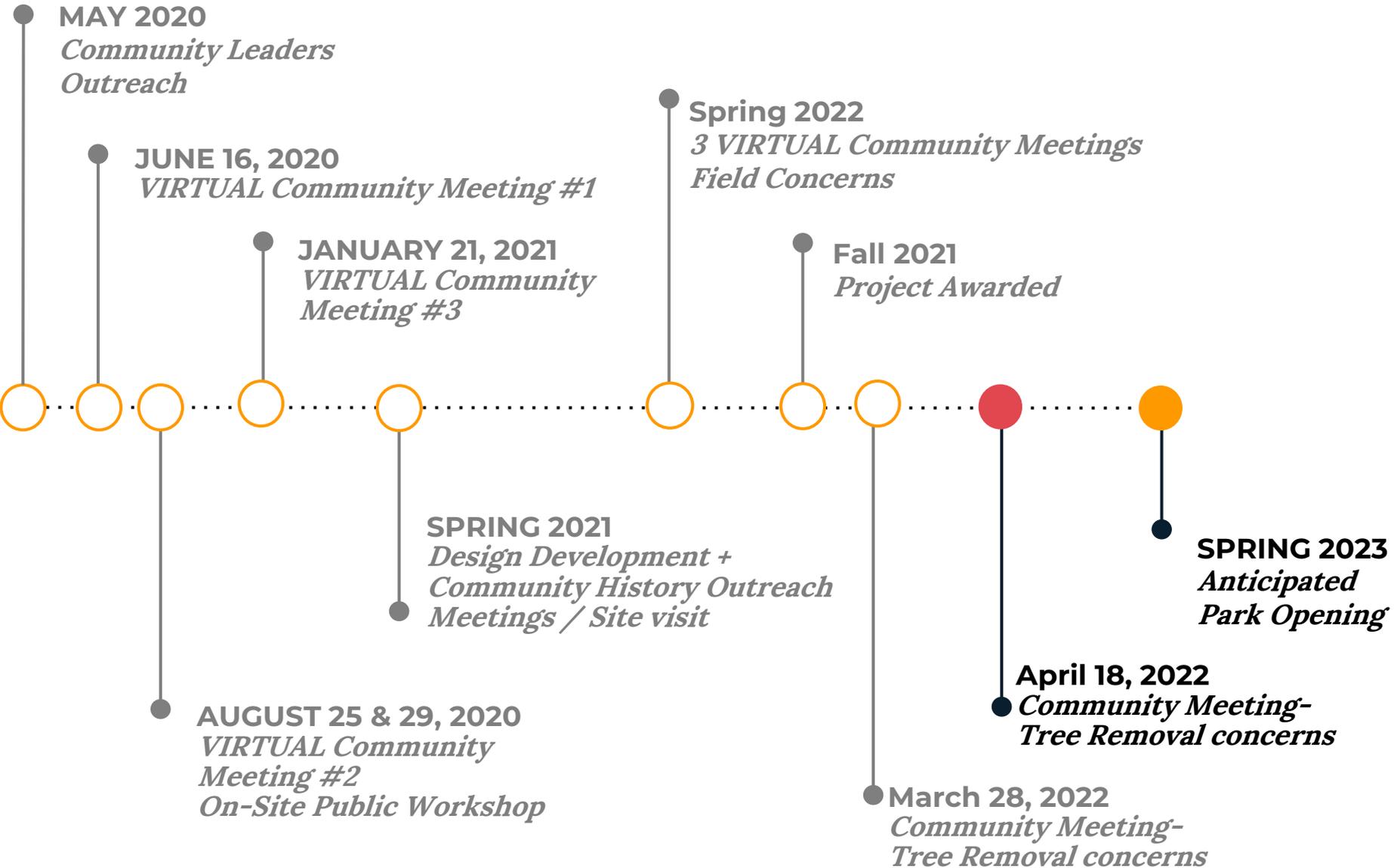
Community
Input

PROJECT GOALS (BPRD AND COMMUNITY)

- Update playground and increase play value
- Increase site-wide accessibility, including entrances
- Upgrade courts and field amenities
- Upgrade and unify park entrances
- Provide community gathering spaces
- Maintain existing tree canopy and supplement with additional trees
- Address safety concerns
- Support climate resilience through stormwater mitigation and provide heat relief
- Strengthen community connection to the park
- Provide meaningful community-based design process
- Protect puddingstone outcroppings and historic walls

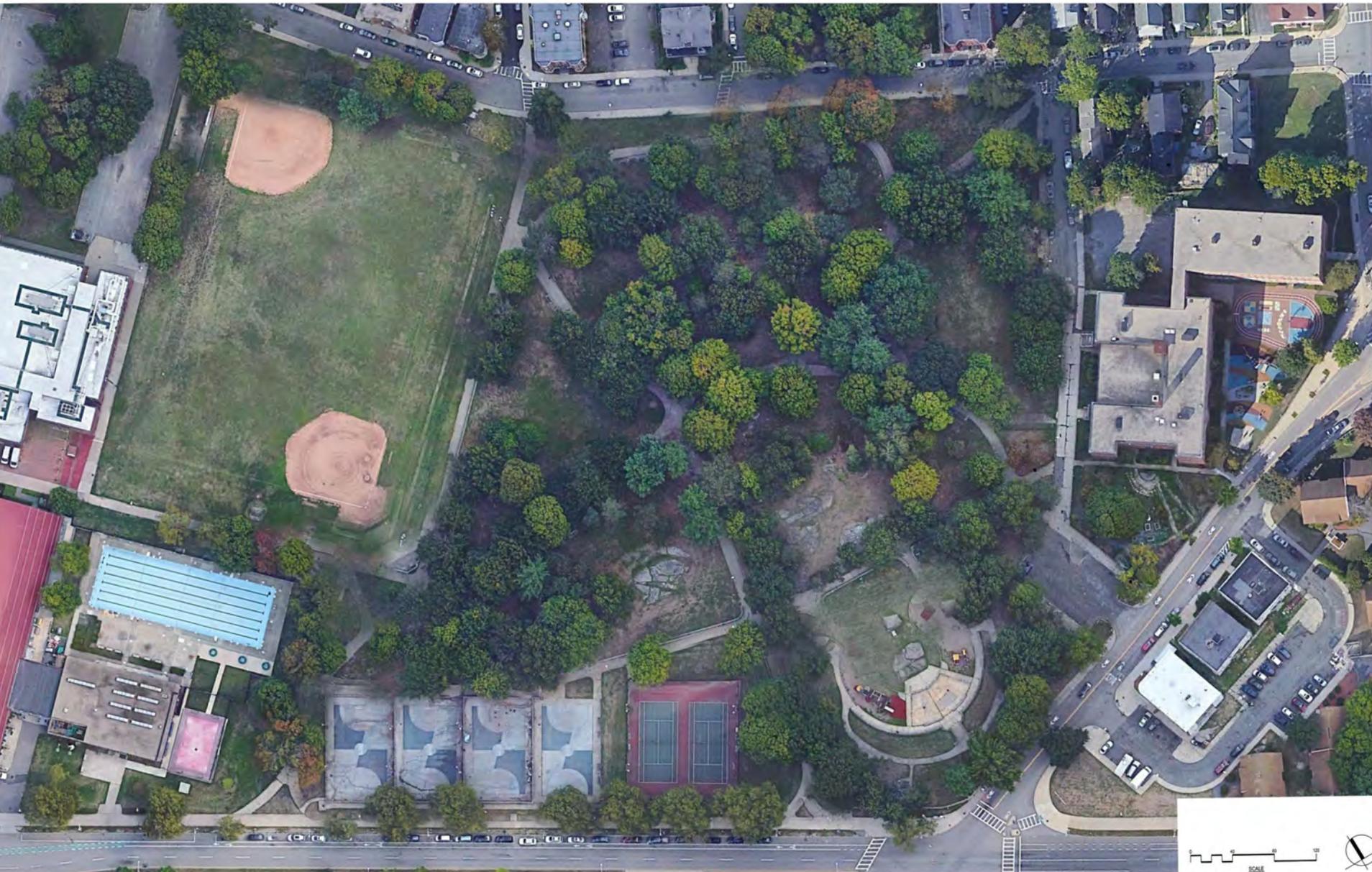


PROJECT SCHEDULE & FUNDING

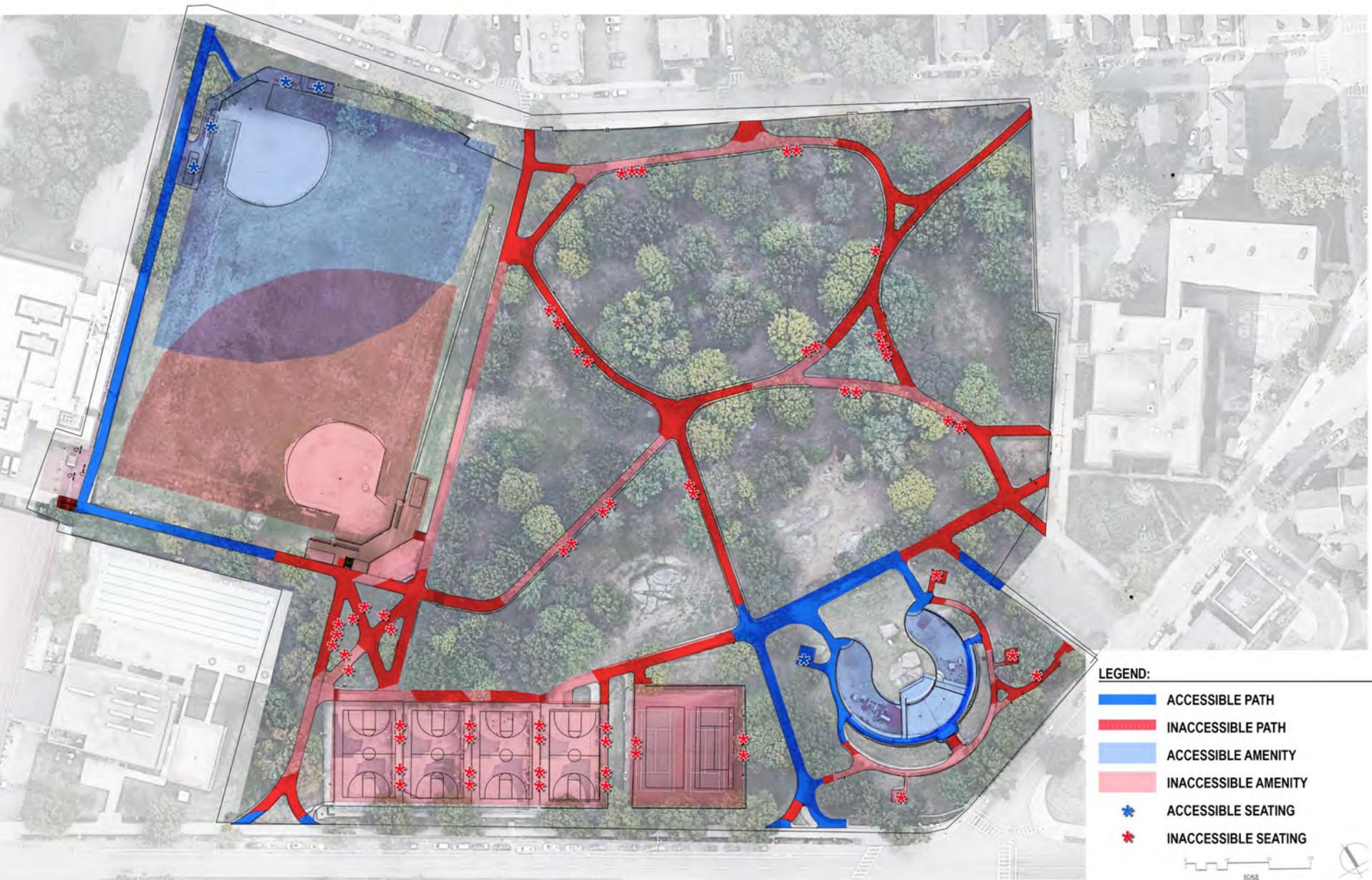


BALANCING ACCESS AND IMPACTS ON-SITE

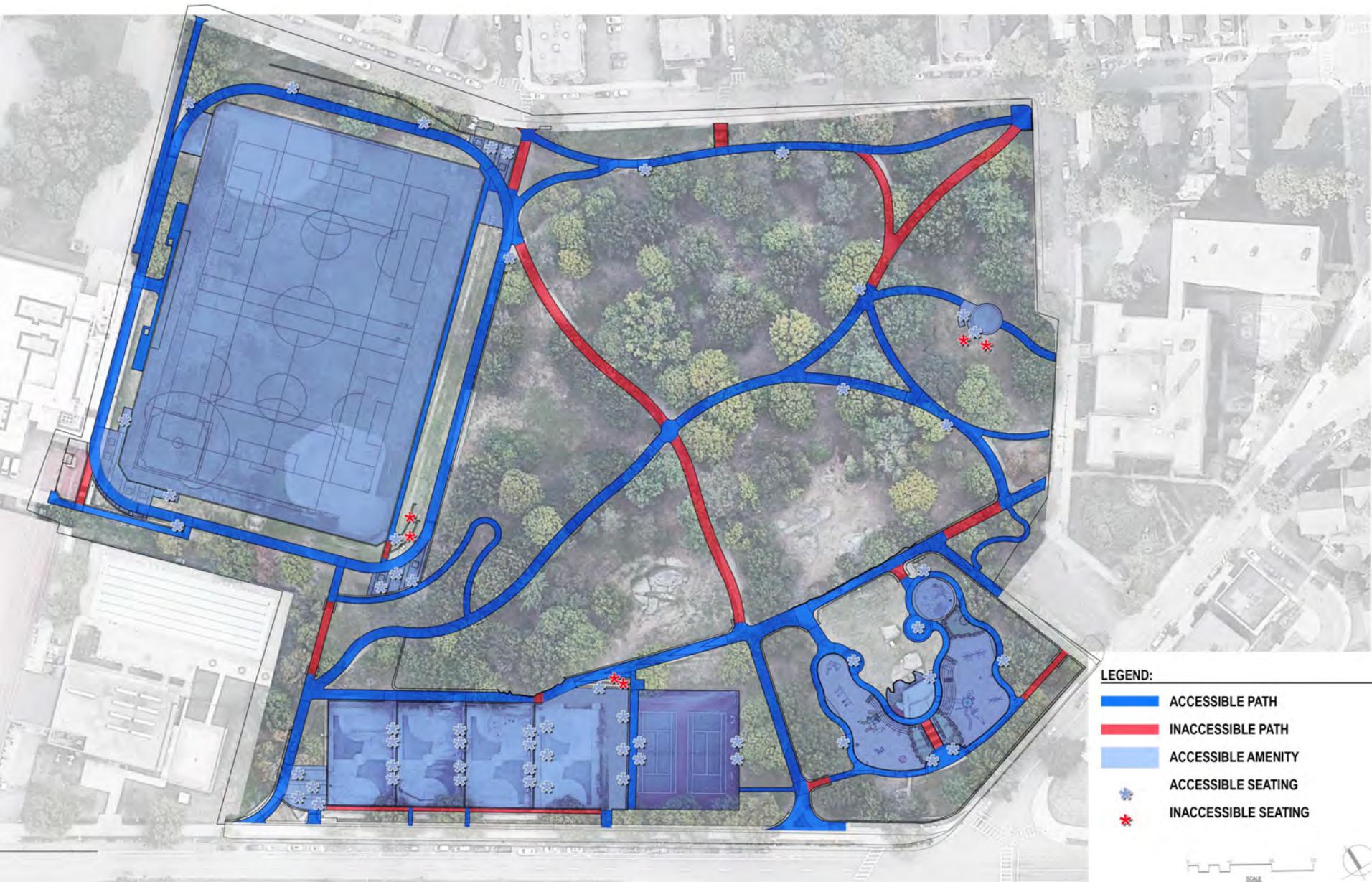




EXISTING PARK CONDITIONS



ANALYSIS: EXISTING ACCESSIBLE ELEMENTS



ANALYSIS: PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE ELEMENTS



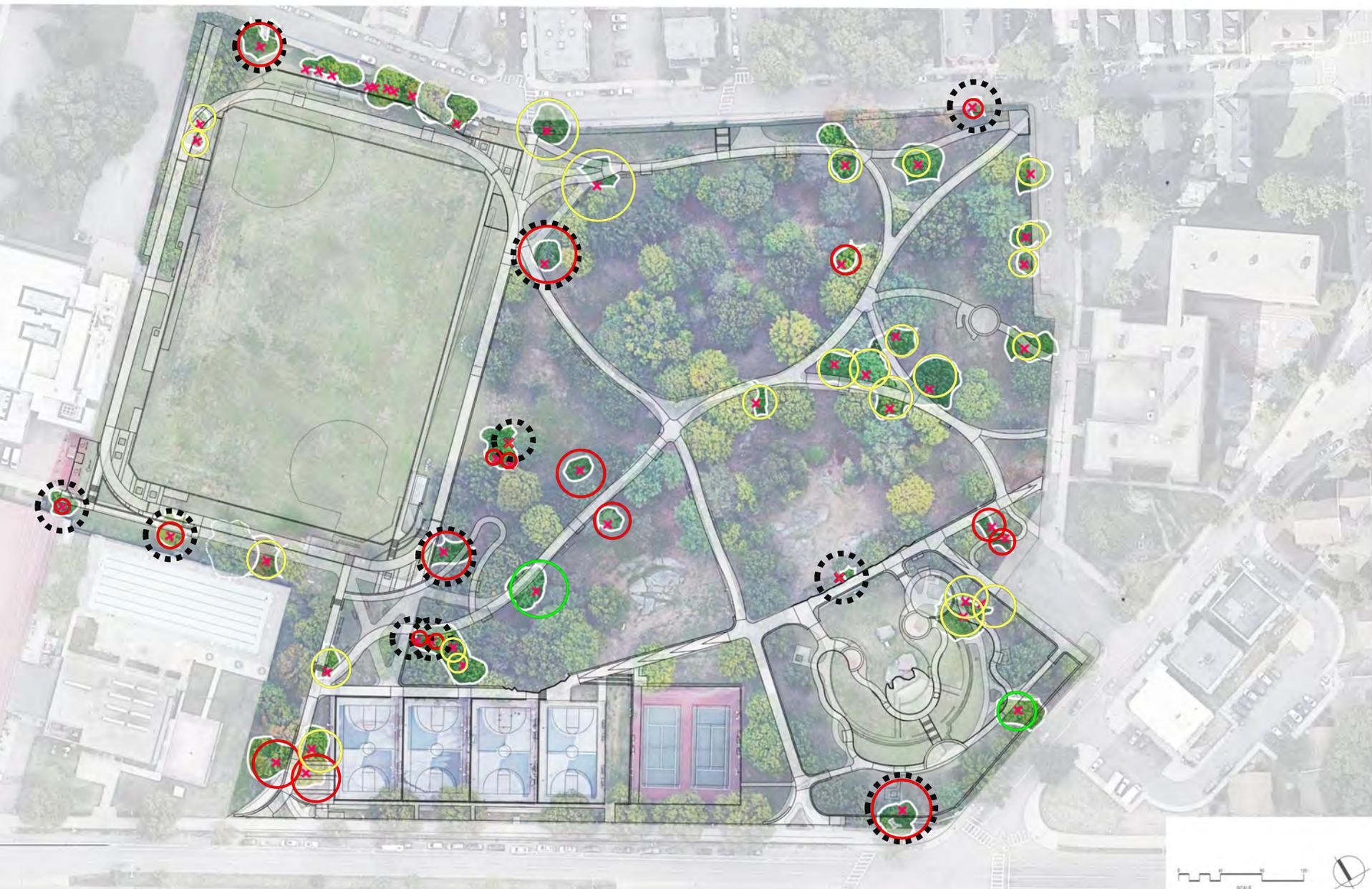
EXISTING CANOPY



ORIGINALLY PROPOSED CANOPY REMOVAL



TREE CONDITIONS: ORIGINALLY PLANNED REMOVALS



DEAD, HAZARDOUS, AND POOR CONDITION TREES

Flowering trees along Dale Street:
Invasive removal, pruning, thinning

Tree along Dale Street:
Re-align walkway and regrade

Trees along Paulding:
No new fencing along Paulding.

Coniferous Tree in decline:
Leave as is

Coniferous Trees:
Regrading, curbing

Small trees on hillside:
Leave as is, remove dead tree

Coniferous Trees in decline:
Leave in current condition

Coniferous Tree:
Realign pathway

Coniferous Tree:
Add low retaining wall

Small tree on hillside:
Leave in current condition

Tree along DCR Pool:
Selective Pruning



LOW IMPACT MODIFICATIONS TO ORIGINAL PLAN



ORIGINAL PLANNED TREE CANOPY TO REMAIN



PROPOSED TREE CANOPY TO REMAIN



PROPOSED CANOPY INCLUDING NEW TREE PLANTING



**Coniferous tree near Regent St:
Ramp, handrails and curb**

**Tree near amphitheater:
Remove amphitheater
and associated
infrastructure**

**Tree on hillside:
Low retaining
wall**

POLL: MEDIUM IMPACT MODIFICATIONS TO ORIGINAL PLAN

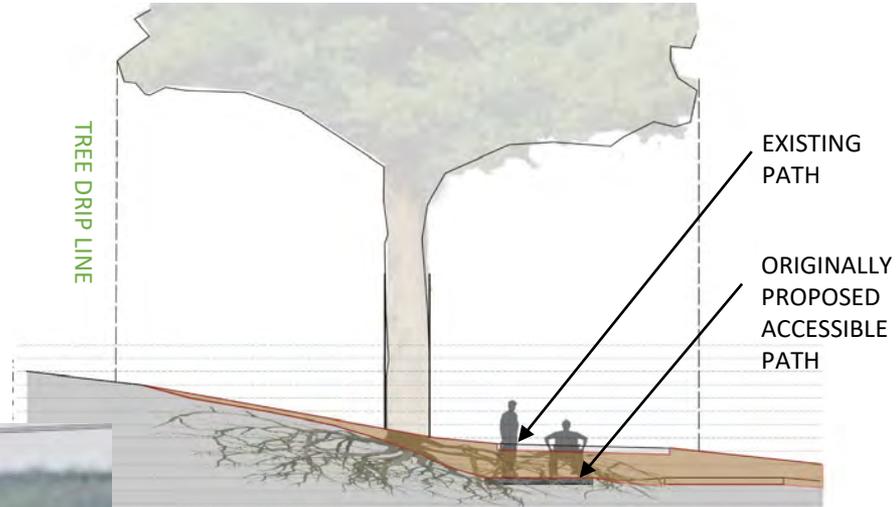
MODIFICATIONS TO SAVE TREE



**MATURE
PINE TREE**

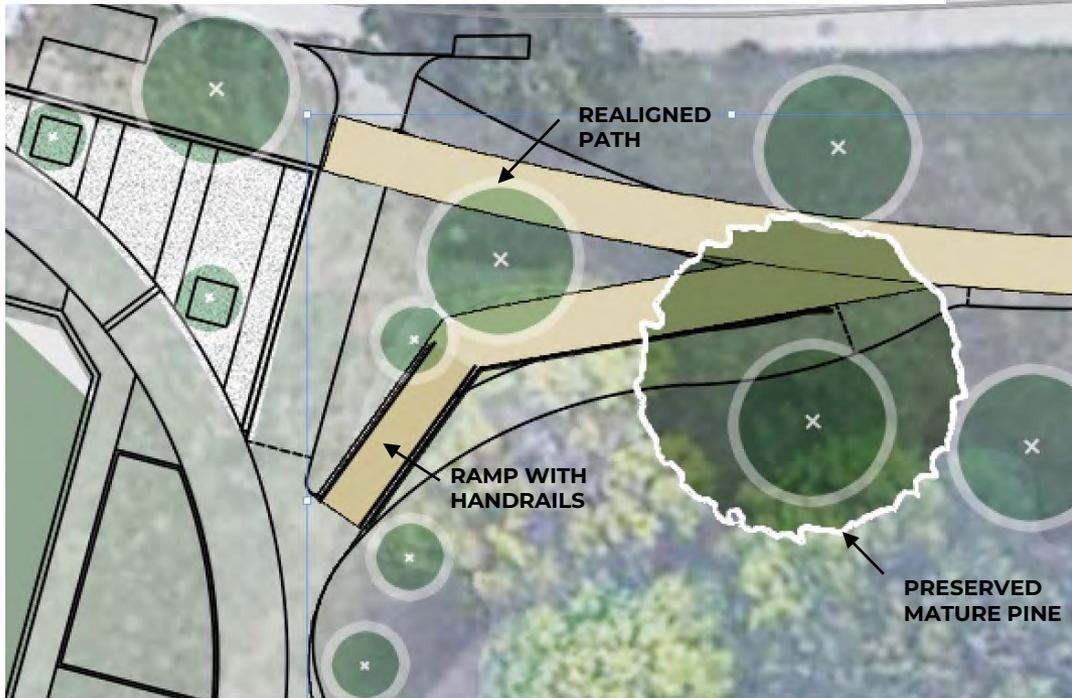


**RAMP AND
HANDRAILS**



**EXISTING
PATH**

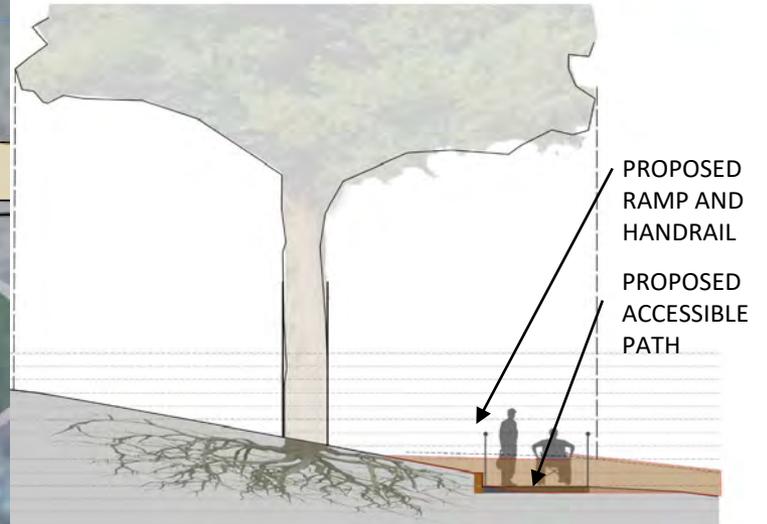
**ORIGINALLY
PROPOSED
ACCESSIBLE
PATH**



**REALIGNED
PATH**

**RAMP WITH
HANDRAILS**

**PRESERVED
MATURE PINE**



**PROPOSED
RAMP AND
HANDRAIL**

**PROPOSED
ACCESSIBLE
PATH**

QUESTION 1

To save the mature pine tree across from Regent Street, an accessible ramp with handrails will be required to traverse the hillside.

Q: Would you prefer to:

- 1. Save the tree and add a section of ramp with handrails at the entrance, visible from the street when looking up towards the hill.**
- 2. Keep the existing design, losing the tree, but keeping paths more visually open and in character with the landscape.**

MODIFICATIONS TO SAVE TREE



PRESERVED
MATURE
LINDEN TREE

MATURE
LINDEN TREE



QUESTION 2

Would you prefer to keep the amphitheater/ open classroom space across from the Higginson-Lewis School, (losing one mature tree) or remove the proposed amphitheater, keeping the existing character of the hillside and saving the tree?

The tree is in fair condition, though overshadowed by neighboring trees, and shows signs of stress including suckering from the base of the trunk and branch dieback in areas of the canopy.

Q: Would you prefer to:

- 1. Keep the accessible amphitheater space for community and school uses, removing the tree.**
- 2. Remove the amphitheater, preserving the mature tree and current character of the hillside.**

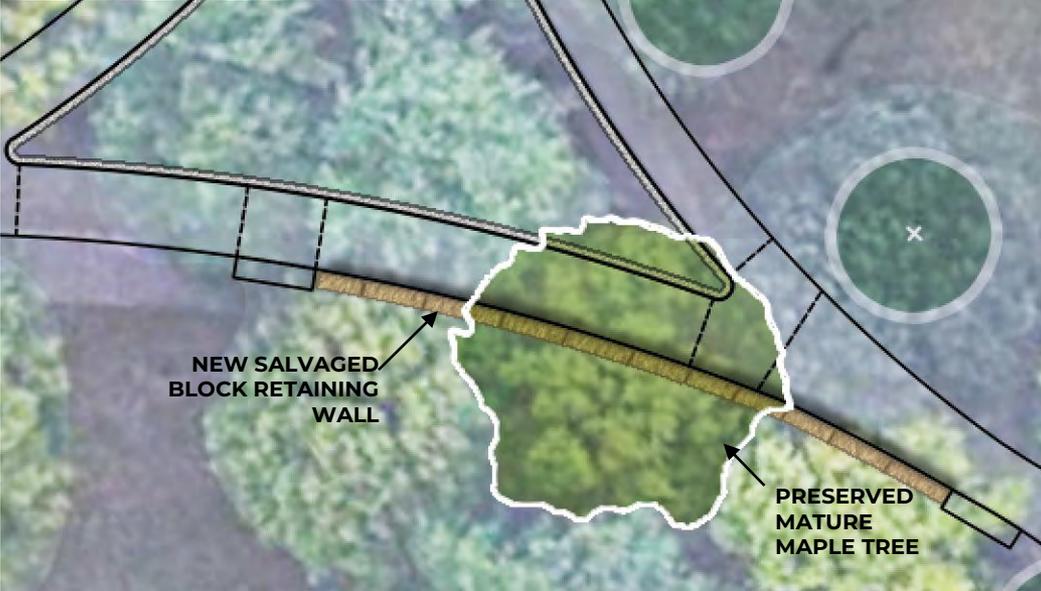
MODIFICATIONS TO SAVE TREE



**MATURE
MAPLE TREE**

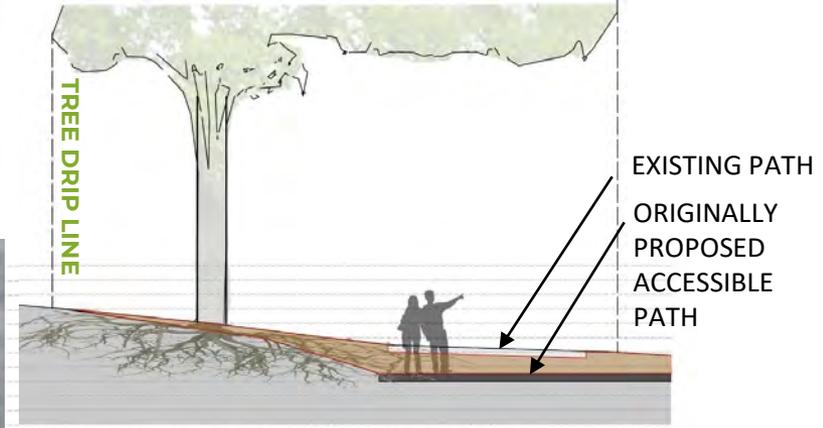


SALVAGED GRANITE BLOCK



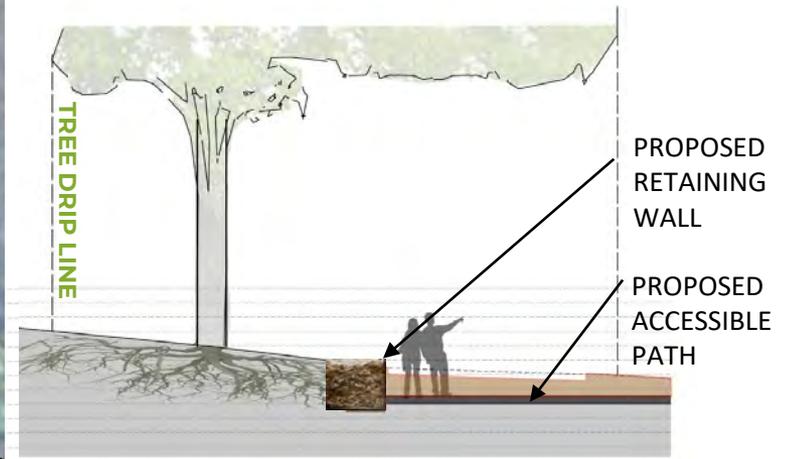
**NEW SALVAGED
BLOCK RETAINING
WALL**

**PRESERVED
MATURE
MAPLE TREE**



TREE DRIP LINE

**EXISTING PATH
ORIGINALLY
PROPOSED
ACCESSIBLE
PATH**



TREE DRIP LINE

**PROPOSED
RETAINING
WALL
PROPOSED
ACCESSIBLE
PATH**

QUESTION 3

Would a low (12"-18") salvaged granite block retaining wall be an acceptable addition to the landscape to save the mature maple tree above the walkway as indicated?

The tree is in fair condition, though it's canopy is overshadowed and overcrowded by adjacent trees.

Q: Would you prefer to:

- 1. Keep the tree and add the low retaining wall.**
- 2. Remove the tree to preserve the open character of the hillside slope.**

QUESTION 4

The Community Stewards and Friends of Malcolm X Park have worked with an arborist to provide an independent assessment of the trees in Malcolm X Park which suggests that there are some dead trees that have not been marked for removal. If this arborist, with confirmation from the city of Boston tree warden, recommends additional tree removals, would you support this additional work?

Q: Would you prefer to:

- 1. Yes, I would support additional tree removals if trees are deemed dead or dying by both arborists.**
- 2. No, no additional removals should occur.**

April 19, 2022

Boston Parks and Recreation



QUESTIONS

For questions after please contact Lauren Bryant, Project
Manager Boston Parks and Recreation Department:

617-961-3019

Lauren.Bryant@boston.gov

For more information, please visit the website:

www.boston.gov/improvements-malcolm-x-park