

# CEYLON PARK

## Design Meeting 1

April 12, 2023



# 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 meeting live.

It is possible that participants may also be recording the meeting with their phones cameras or other devices. If you do not wish to be recorded during this meeting, please keep your microphone and camera off.

# VIRTUAL MEETING ETIQUETTE

We want to ensure this conversation feels accessible to everyone and each one of you feels comfortable sharing your questions and comments.

Please be respectful and mindful of 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 a solution driven discussion.

You can always set up a conversation with Amy Linné, [amy.linne@boston.gov](mailto:amy.linne@boston.gov) to further discuss the project or process.



# ZOOM TIPS

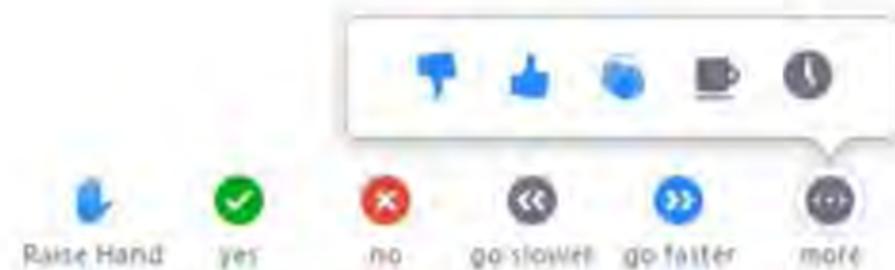
Here is how you can participate during the question and answer part of the presentation.

## 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

- 1 Project Team Introduction
- 2 Project Overview
- 3 Presentation
  - History and Context
  - Programming
  - Analysis
- 4 Listening & Discussion
- 5 Closing Remarks & Next Steps



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# PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTION



# PROJECT TEAM

## Amy Linné

Project Manager

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## Alize Cabral

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW



# PROJECT SCHEDULE | DESIGN PROCESS

## FIELD RENOVATION

We are here!



## PARK RENOVATION



# PROJECT APPROACH



# CITY OF BOSTON PRIORITIES

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



# PARKS AND 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



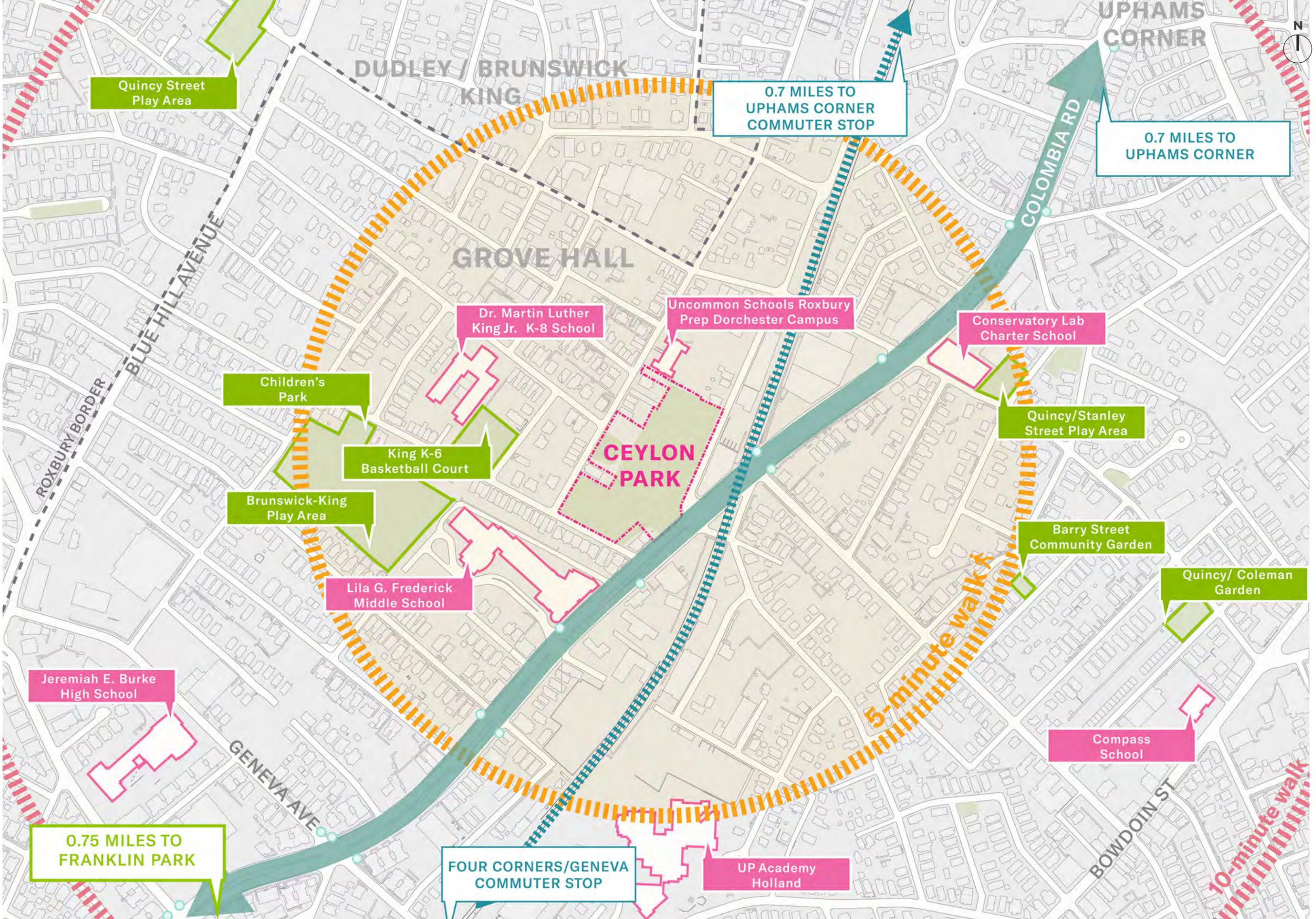
**3**

# PRESENTATION



# History + Context





# Surrounding Green Spaces



**Children's Park**



**Brunswick-King Play Area**



**King K-6 Field**



**King K-6 Basketball Court**



**King K-6 Playground**



**Quincy/Stanley Play Area**



**Barry St. Community**



**Quincy/Coleman Garden**



# What is your relationship to the neighborhood and Ceylon Park?

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**a. Abutter**

**a. Local Resident (Non-Abutter)**

**b. Student, Staff, or Parent at a local school**

**c. Employee at a local business**

**d. Local business owner**

**e. Visit the park for sporting events**

**f. Other**



# What is special about Ceylon Park? How is it special compared to other parks in the neighborhood?

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# An Historic Park

Acquired by the City of Boston in 1923, the Park and Playground are 100 years old!

The historic character of the neighborhood carries through the park in the form of rolling lawns and an abundance of mature trees.



Mature Shade Trees Summer 2022



Photograph from City of Boston Archives



# An Evolving Park



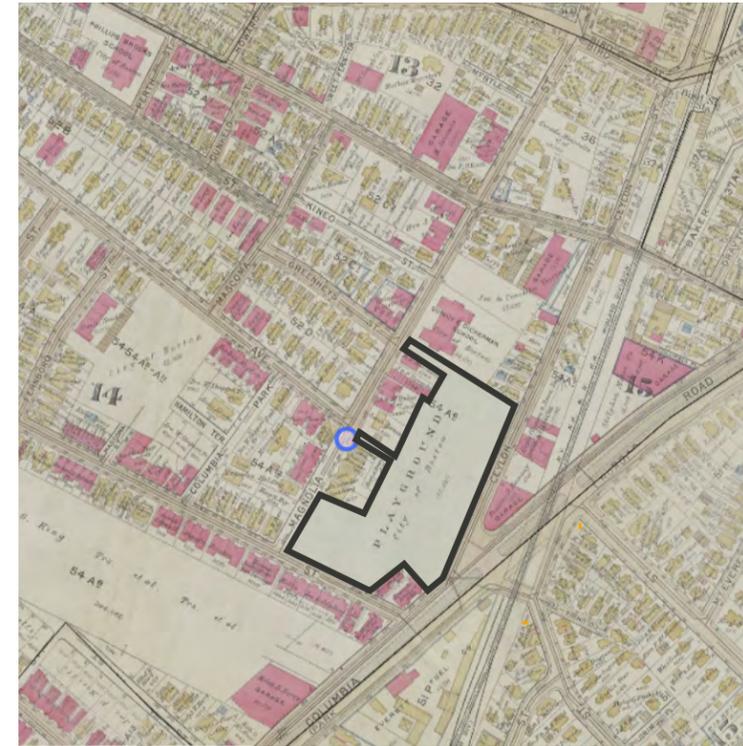
**1870**

Early maps of the area depict the dramatic topography still evident on site today



**1874**

In the late 1800s, the road network and buildings surrounding the site were not yet fully constructed. Columbia road had not yet been realigned



**1933**

This map depicts the neighborhood 10 years after the City of Boston acquired the park in 1923



**1964**

By the mid 1900s a large open sports field, a pool, and restrooms shaped the site

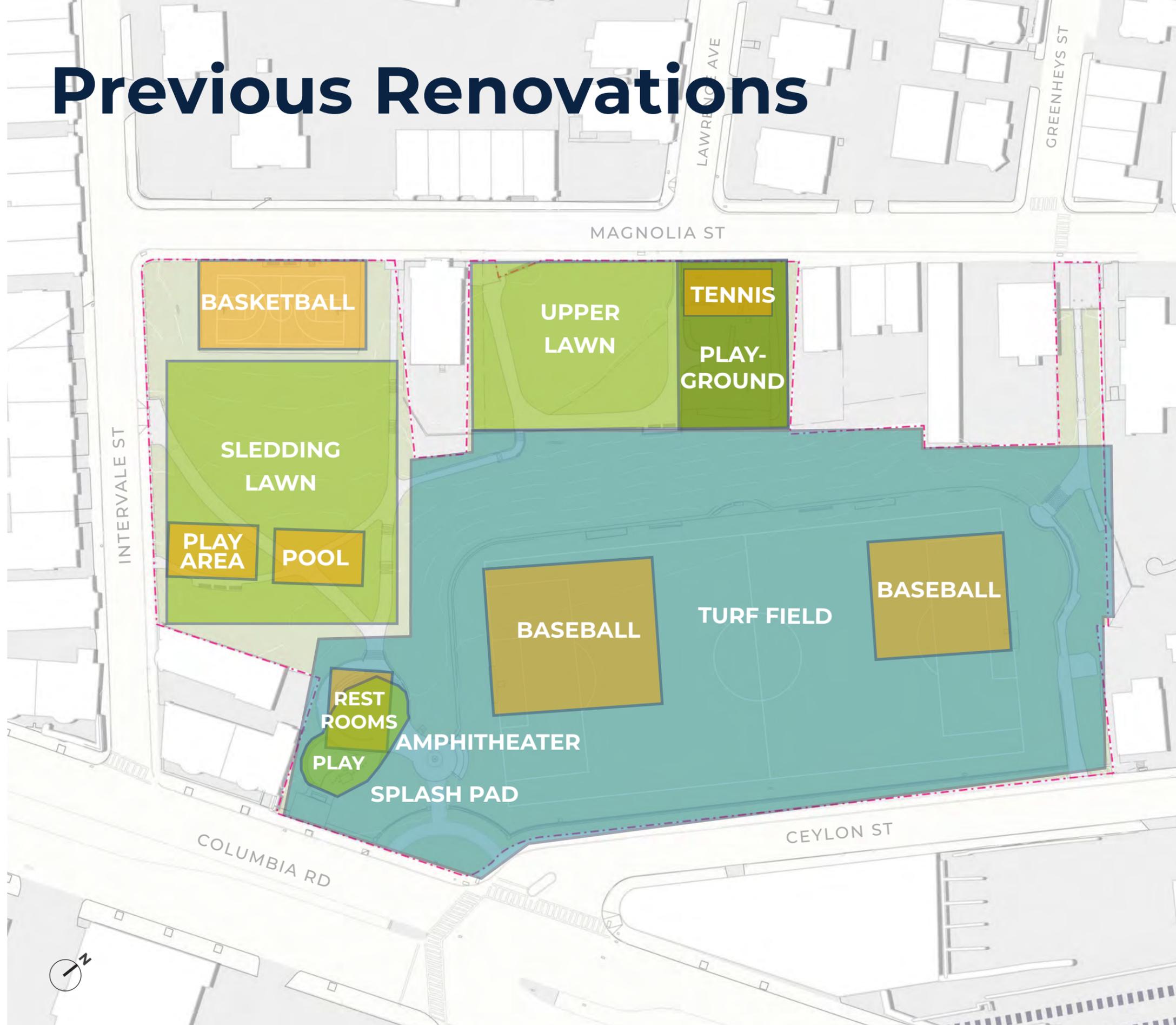
Sources:

Atlascope: <https://www.atlascope.org/> and

BPDA Boston Atlas: <https://www.bostonplans.org/3d-data-maps/historical-maps/the-boston-atlas/single-sheet-historical-maps>



# Previous Renovations



## 1969 Boston Parks & Recreation

- > Basketball Court
- > Pool & Play Area
- > Baseball Field

## 1991 Carol R. Johnson & Associates, Inc.

- > Sloping Pathways
- > Sledding Slope
- > Lower Play Area
- > Upper Lawn

## 1993 Wallace, Floyd, Associates Inc.

- > Ceylon Playground

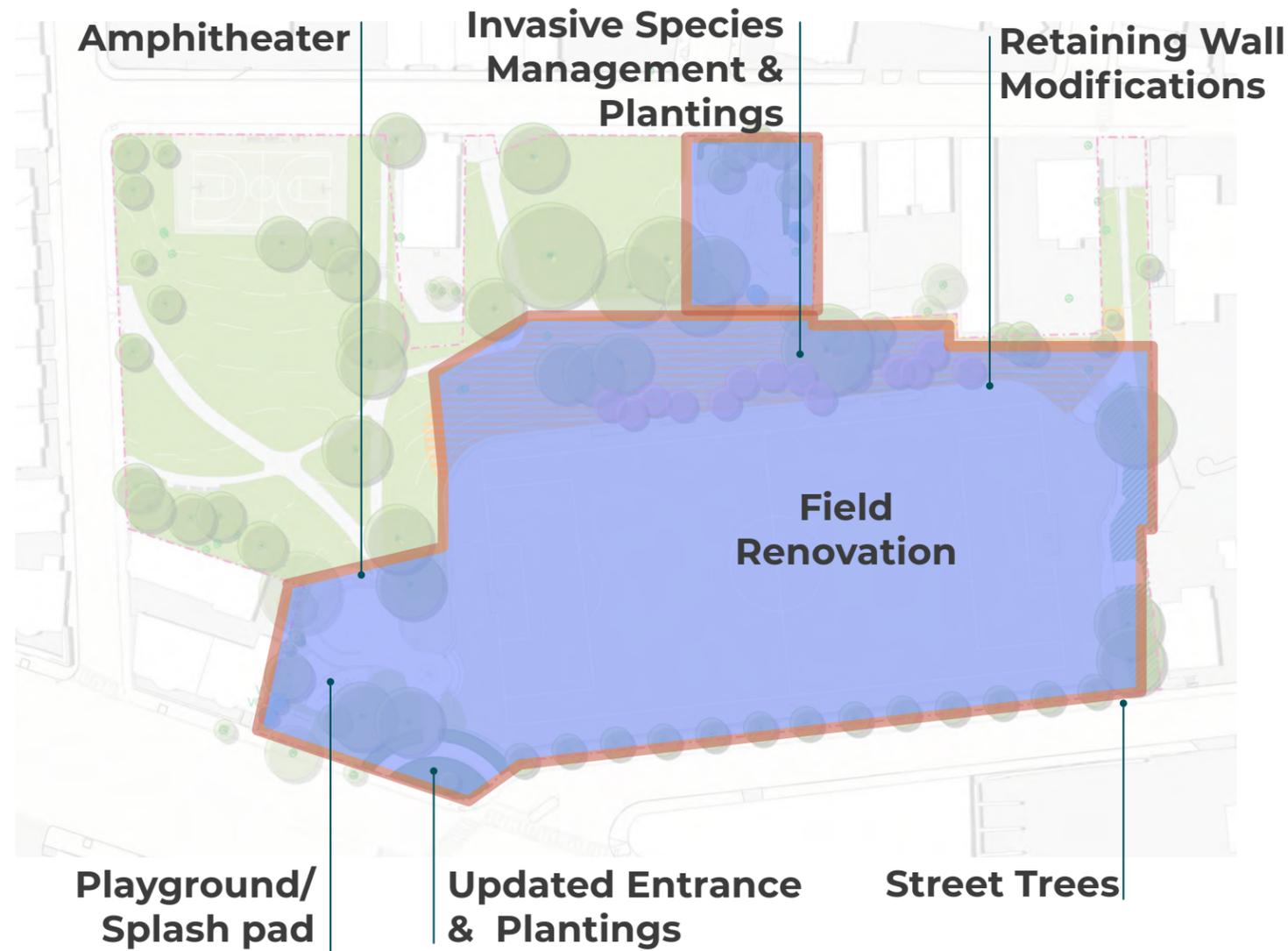
## 2008 Weston & Sampson

- > Turf Field Install
- > Amphitheater
- > Splash Pad



# 2008 Renovations

In 2008, the park underwent significant renovations, including: the sports field, upper play area, lower play area, and community event space



# Why Renovate Today?

Update a much-loved community Park to 21st Century standards

Improve Access



Landscape Management



Upgrade the Field



# Why Renovate Today?

Celebrate existing character while update aging materials

Materials Repair



Celebrate Historic Materials



Update Paving

Refresh Play  
Increase Lighting  
?  
Welcoming Entries  
New Seating

# Which areas should be prioritized for renovation?

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- a. Playground at Magnolia St**
- b. Basketball court**
- c. Sports field**
- d. Columbia RD entrance**
- e. Improve accessibility**
- f. Improve lighting**
- g. Seating**



# What is your biggest concern about Ceylon Park?

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# Programming

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## How is Ceylon Park used?



# A Place for Gathering + Play



Photo of community member Yolanda Rodrigues. Photo by Yoon S. Byun/Boston Globe



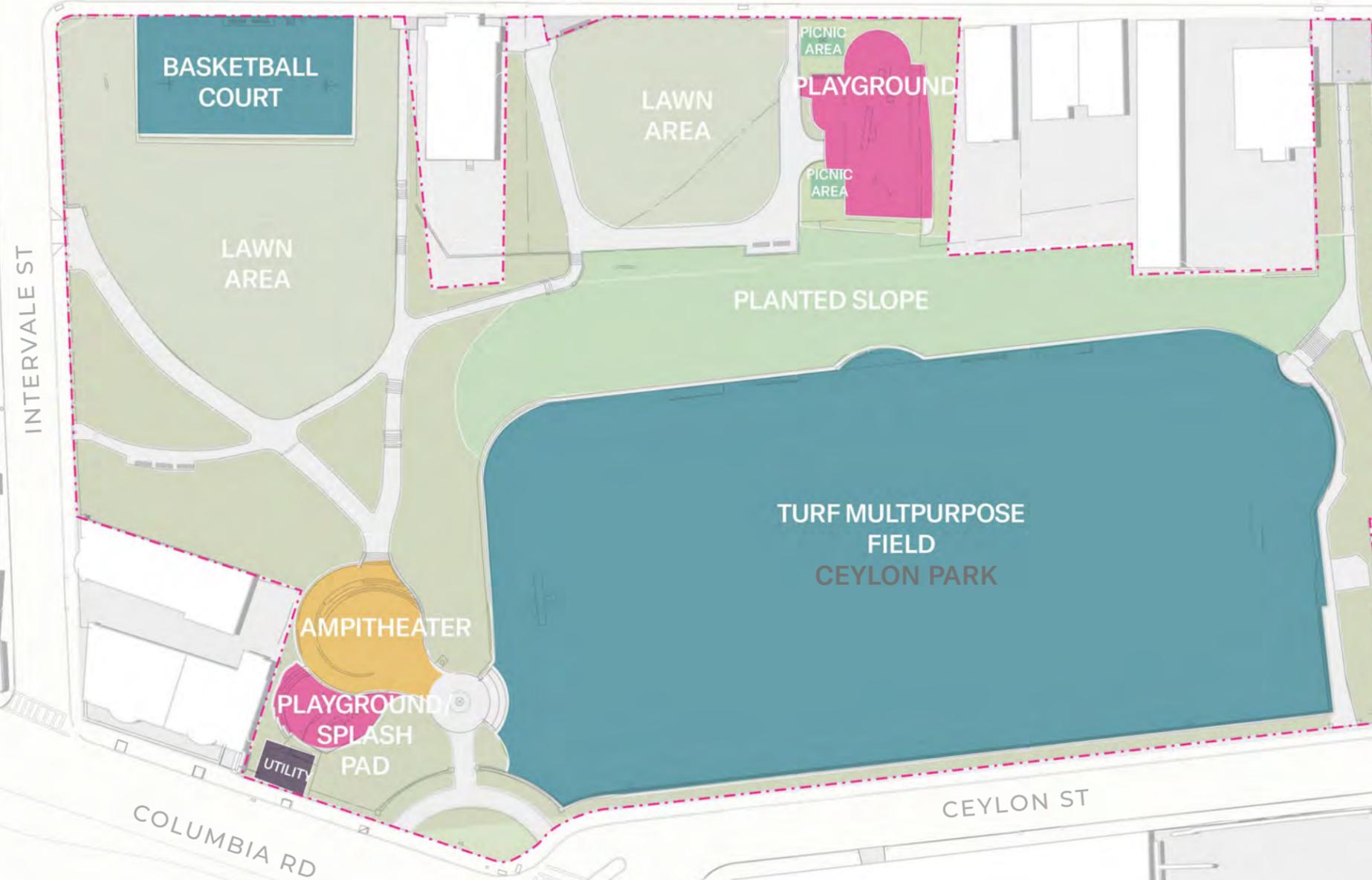
Photo of lower play area and amphitheater following the 2008 renovation - Photo by Weston and Sampson



Photo of sports field following the 2008 renovation - Photo by Weston and Sampson



# A Place for Gathering + Play



**47%** Active Use Areas

**2** Playground areas totaling 27,000 sq. ft.

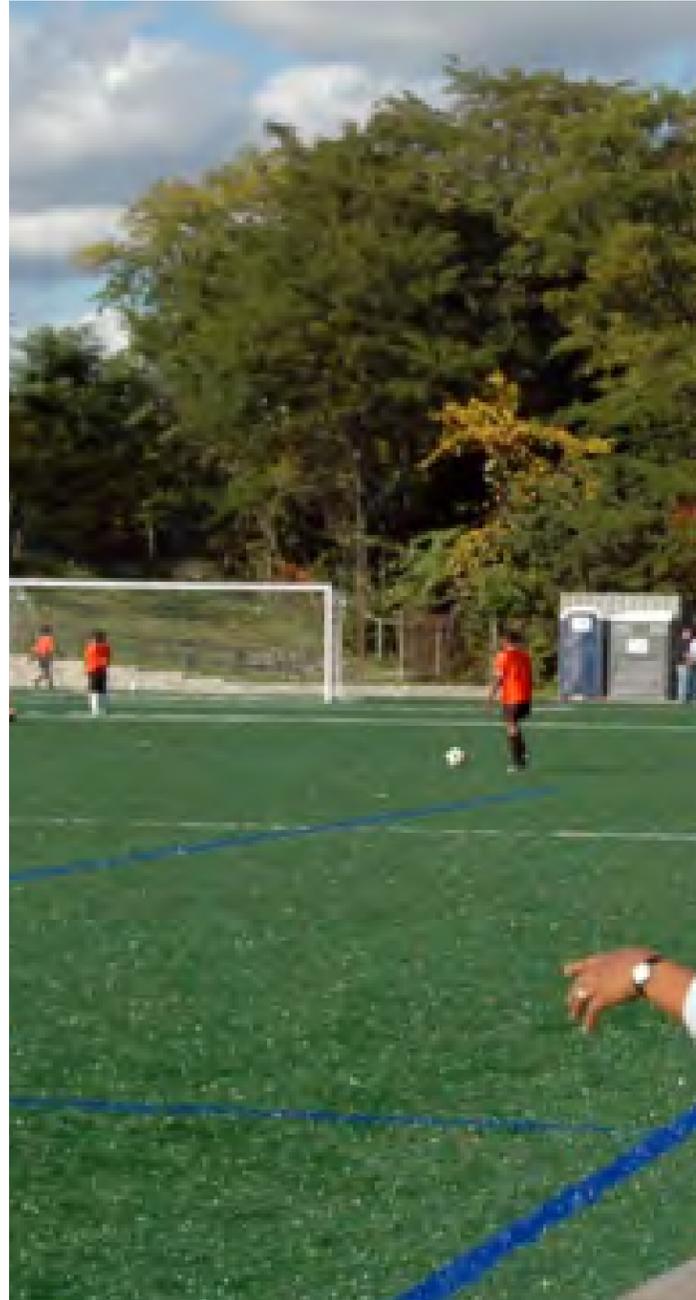
**1,500+** Students from 3 schools within a 5 minute walk



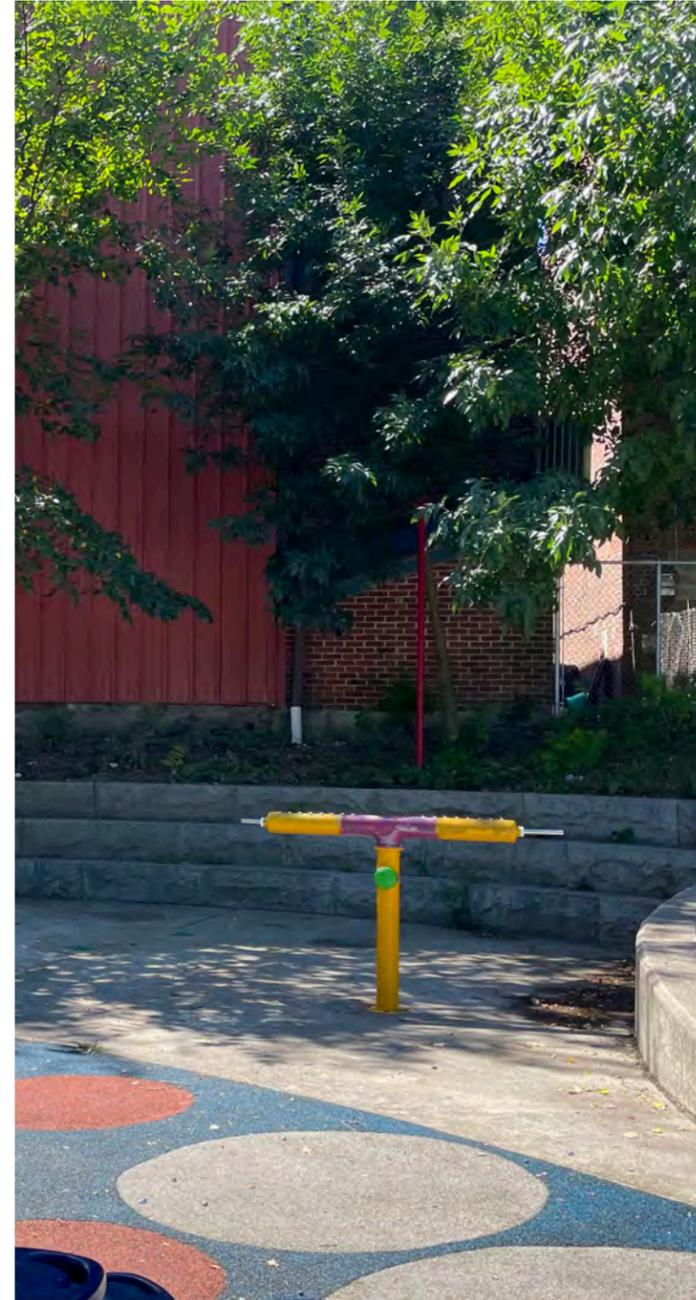
# Play Elements



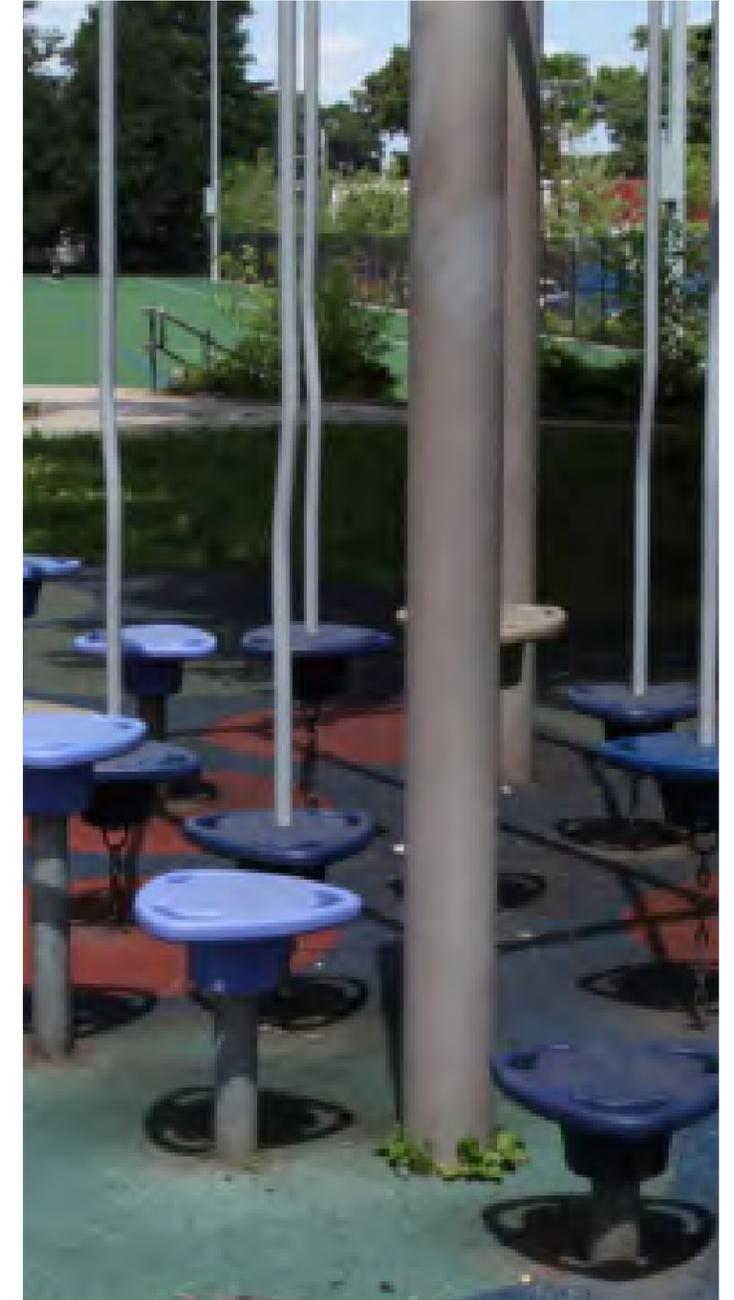
**Basketball**  
Ages 2-Adult



**Soccer**  
Ages 2-Adult



**Water Play**  
Ages 1-12yrs



**Climbing, Stepping**  
Ages 2-12yrs



# Play Elements - Upper Play



**Sliding**  
Ages 2-12yrs



**Climbing, Pulling**  
Ages 5-12yrs



**Swinging**  
Ages 2-12yrs



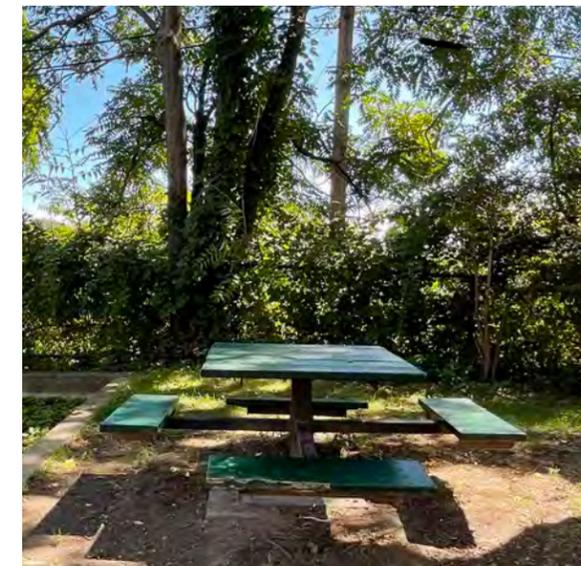
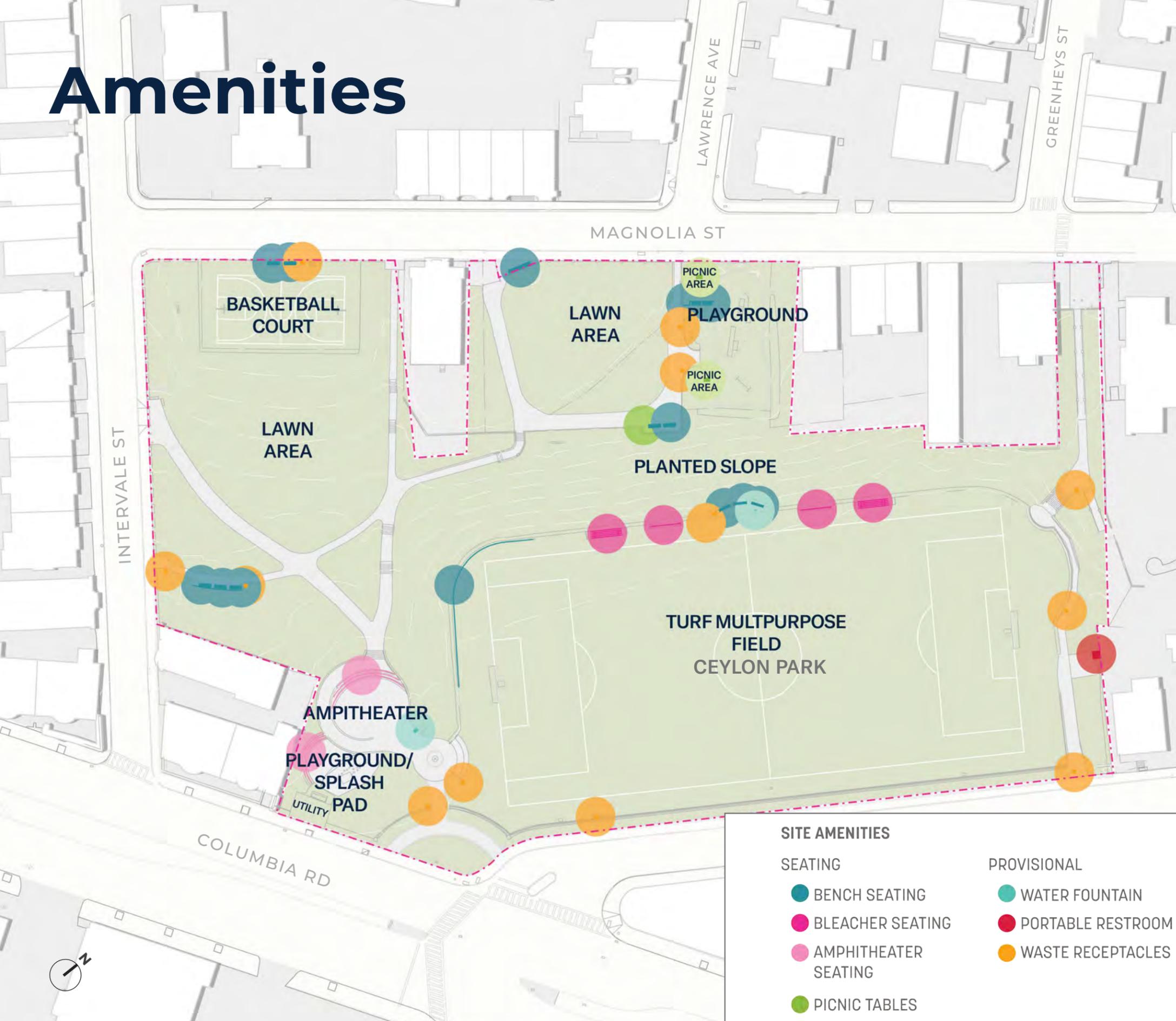
**Stepping, Crawling**  
Ages 1-12yrs



# Turf Field Renovation



# Amenities



# How often do you visit Ceylon Park?

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- a. Daily**
- b. Multiple times a week**
- c. Weekly**
- d. Monthly**
- e. A few times a year**
- f. Once a year / Infrequently**
- g. Never**



# What do you typically do at Ceylon Park?

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**a. Sports at the Turf Field**

**b. Informal sports**

**c. Basketball**

**d. Play at the upper  
playground**

**e. Splash Pad**

**f. Walk / Exercise**

**g. Cooking/Grilling/  
Picnicking**

**h. Sit on Benches / Relax**

**i. Social Gatherings**

**j. Other**



# What is your favorite place or event at Ceylon Park?

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# Analysis



How is Ceylon Park performing?



# Natural Landscape



**Mature trees create shaded areas and define the character of Ceylon Park**



**Invasive Species at Overgrown Slope**



**Entry Planting Overgrown**



# Natural Landscape

**41** Mature Trees  
(+ 20 years old)

**1.6** Acres of  
Lawns

**.75** Acres of  
planted  
areas



## VEGETATION INVENTORY

### VEGETATIVE PLANTINGS

- Planting Area
- Overgrown Area
- Lawn Area (fair condition)
- Lawn Area (poor condition)

### TREES

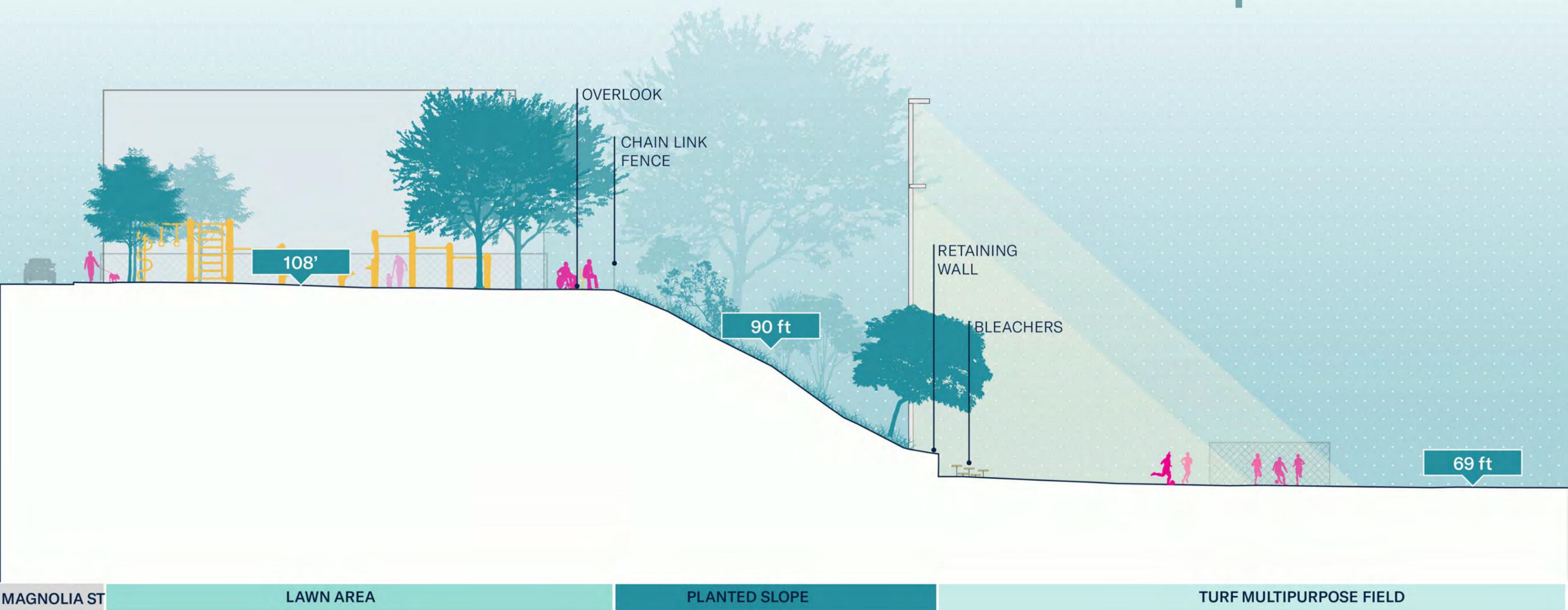
- Deciduous Trees
- Flowering Trees
- Coniferous Trees



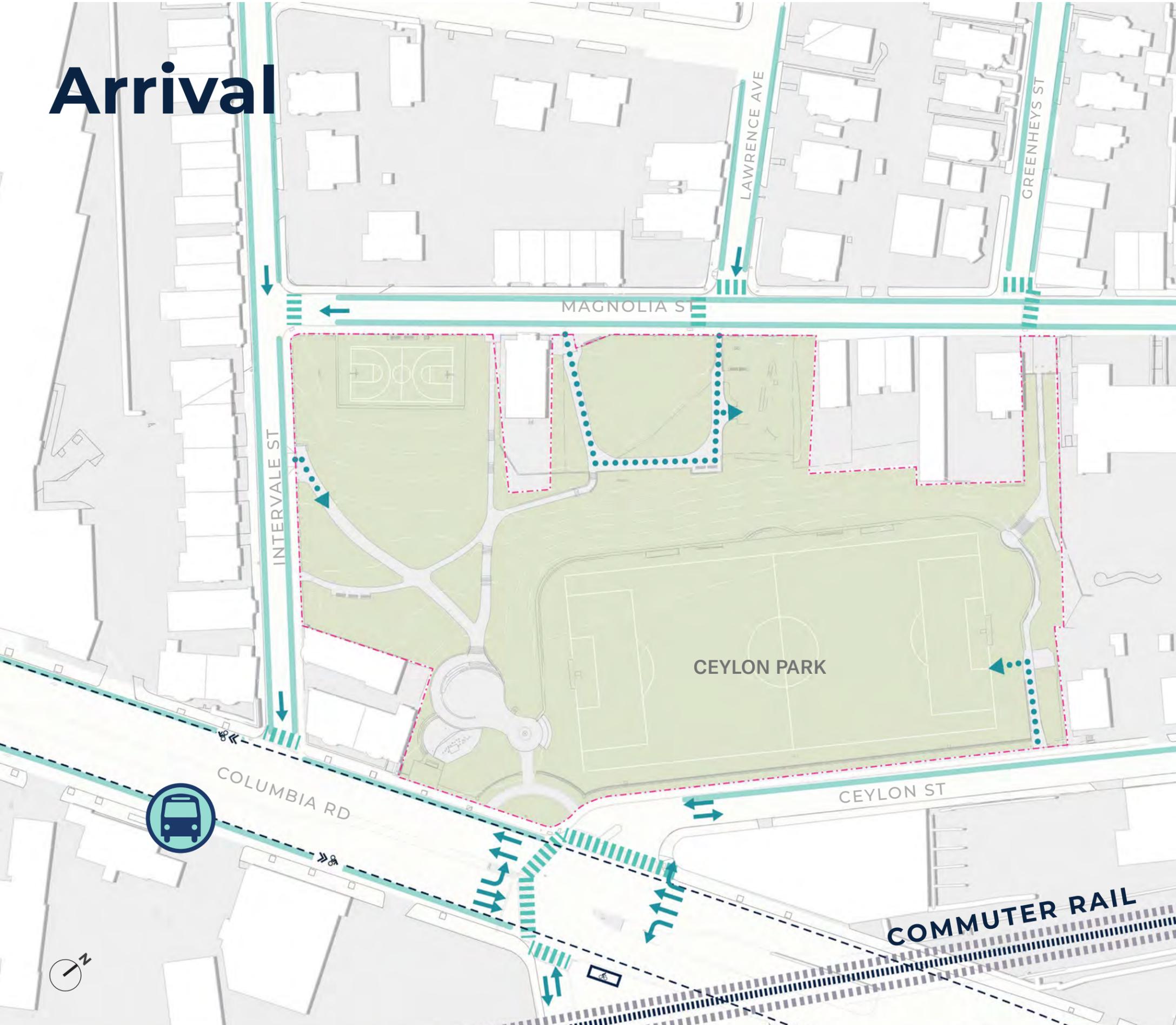
# Dramatic Topography

40' of Elevation Change

1:2 planted slope



# Arrival



## Columbia Road

**.7** Miles to Upham's Corner

**.7** Miles to Franklin Park

**T** Route 16 Bus Stop at Columbia Rd

**.5** Miles to Four Corners / Geneva Commuter Rail

### VEHICULAR CIRCULATION & TRANSIT

#### VEHICULAR ACCESS

- Right of Ways
- Street Parking
- Maintenance Vehicle Access

#### TRANSIT

- Bike Path: shared
- Blue Bike Station
- MBTA Bus: Route 16
- MBTA Commuter Rail: Fairmont Line Franklin/Foxboro

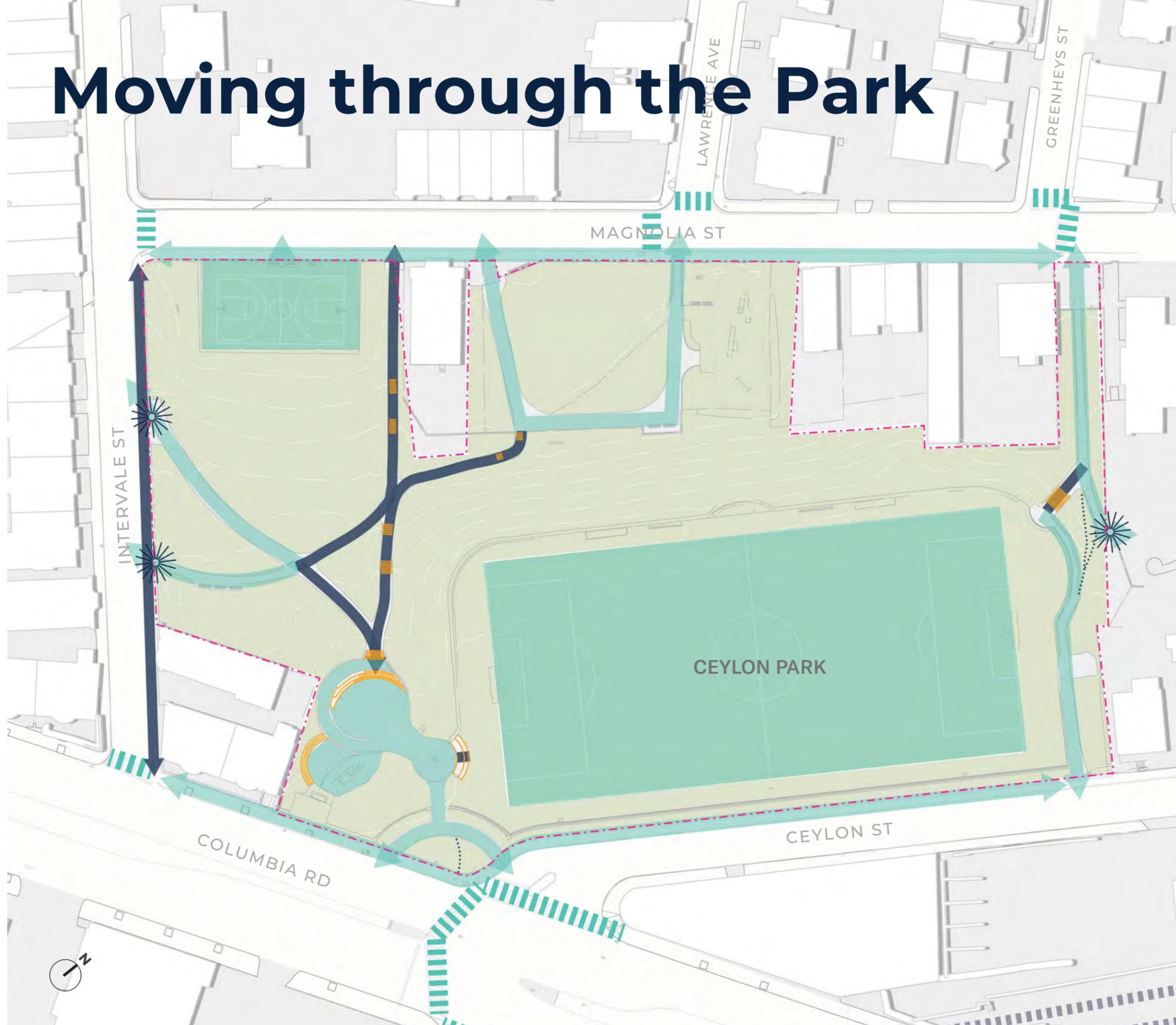


# Moving through the Park

**50** Ft of Elevation Change

**1,200** Ft of Accessible Pathways

**550** Ft of Inaccessible Pathways



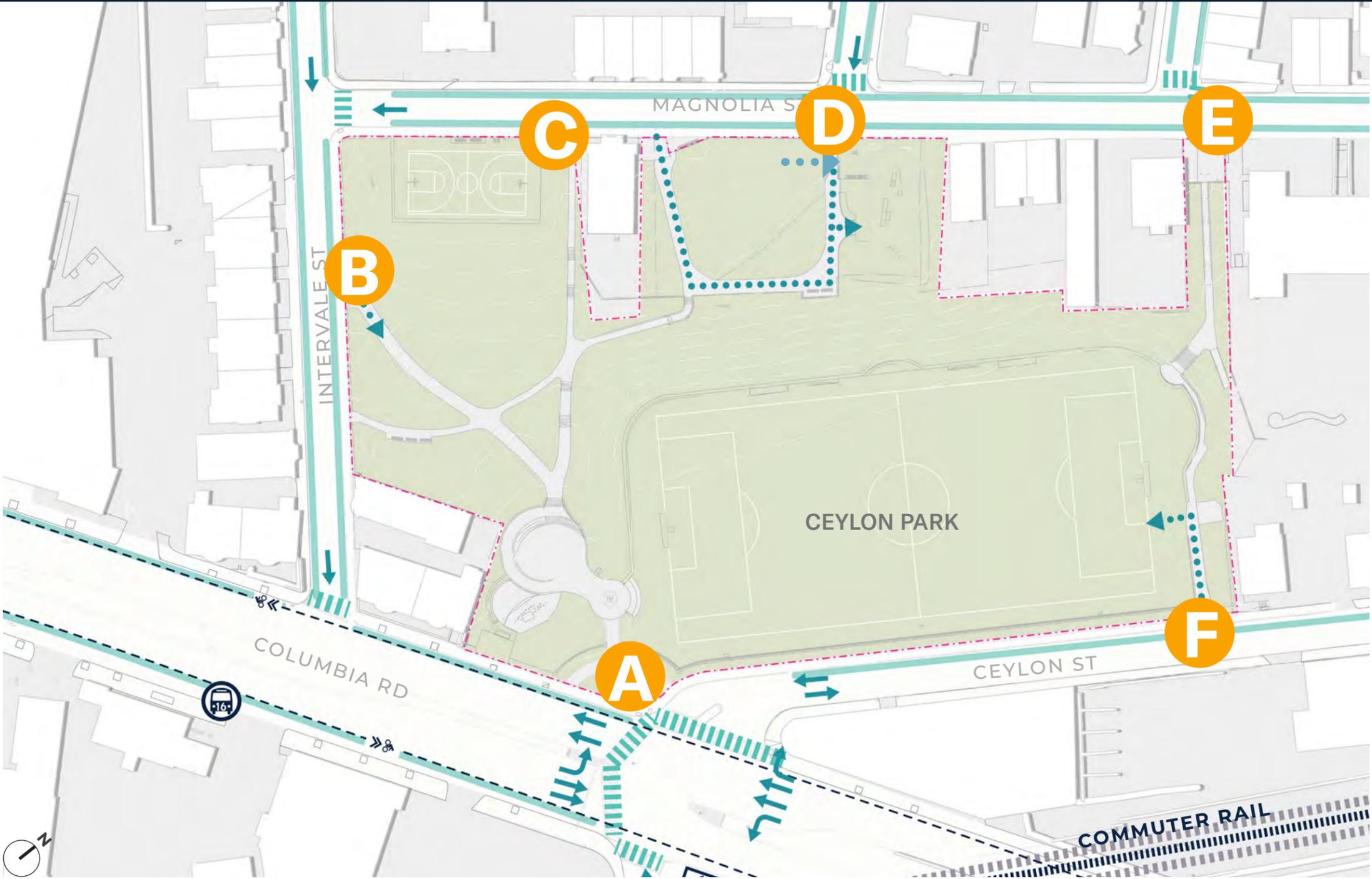
# How do you get to Ceylon Park?

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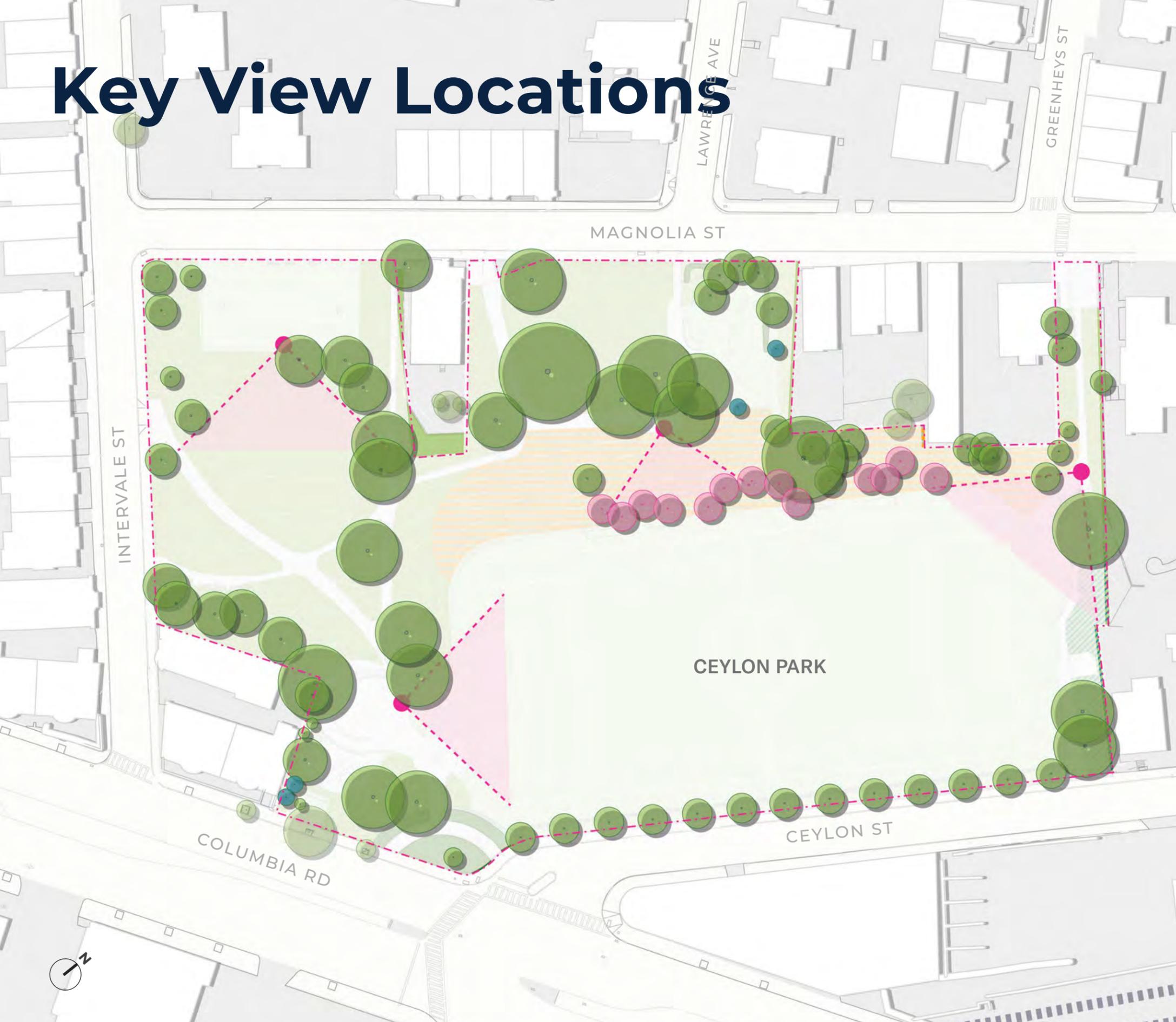
- a. By foot**
- b. By bike**
- c. By car**
- d. By bus**
- e. By Train**



# Which entrance to Ceylon Park do you use most often?



# Key View Locations



Consistent slopes and large trees frame key views throughout the park.

Visibility between spaces is limited by overgrown species on the slope, as well as narrow entryways along Magnolia Street

## VEGETATION INVENTORY

### VEGETATIVE PLANTINGS

- Planting Area
- Overgrown Area
- Lawn Area (fair condition)
- Lawn Area (poor condition)

### TREES

- Deciduous Trees
- Flowering Trees
- Coniferous Trees

### VIEWSHEDS

- Key Views



# Lighting at Field, Court, and Streets



**11** Surrounding Street Lights

**7** Sports Field Lights

Most lighting is provided by street lights and sports field lighting



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# LISTENING & DISCUSSION



# Discussion Prompts

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- a. What do you like most about Ceylon Park?**
- b. What would you like to see in this renovation?**
- c. Are there any amenities that would make it easier to have community gatherings?**
- d. What do you think is missing from Ceylon Park?**
- e. Would you like to see different kinds of play equipment or play areas? Do you have a favorite playground?**
- f. Are there any areas of Ceylon Park that are not used a lot?**
- g. What are your biggest suggestions for Ceylon Park?**





# 5 CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS



# Thank You!



# Improvements to Ceylon Park Project Information

**Amy Linné**

Project Manager

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## Project Website

Short Link: [www.boston.gov/  
ceylon-park](http://www.boston.gov/ceylon-park)



Full Link: [https://www.boston.gov/  
departments/parks-and-recreation/  
improvements-ceylon-park](https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/improvements-ceylon-park)

## Survey Link

Short Link: [bit.ly/CeylonSurvey](https://bit.ly/CeylonSurvey)



Full Link: [https://survey.alchemer.  
com/s3/7293769/Ceylon-Park-  
Renovation](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7293769/Ceylon-Park-Renovation)



