

Welcome!

The meeting will start soon.

To start, use the chat feature to tell us your name and how you heard about this workshop.

The screenshot shows a virtual meeting interface. On the left, a green slide displays the title "Improvements to Town Field" in large white font, with "Virtual Public Meeting 1" and "18 October, 2023" below it. A small grey person icon is in the top right corner of the slide. On the right, a chat sidebar is titled "Chat" and contains the text "Add comments and your answers to our questions here!". Below this are three light blue input fields, each preceded by a grey person icon. At the bottom of the chat sidebar, it says "We're recording!". At the bottom of the entire interface is a black control bar with icons for "Audio Settings", "Chat" (circled in yellow), "Raise Hand", "Q&A", and a red "Leave" button.

Improvements to Town Field

Virtual Public Meeting 1
18 October, 2023

Chat

Add comments and your answers to our questions here!

Three input fields for chat messages, each preceded by a grey person icon.

We're recording!

Audio Settings ^

Chat

Raise Hand

Q&A

Leave

Improvements to Town Field

Fields Corner, Dorchester
Boston Parks and Recreation

Virtual Public Meeting 1
18 October, 2023



MEETING RECORDING

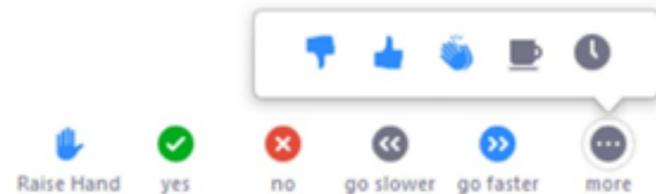
**This meeting is being
recorded!**

- 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 muted and camera off.
- Please share with your neighbors and friends, **boston.gov/town-field**

ZOOM TIPS

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

TONIGHT'S **AGENDA**

Project Overview (15 mins)

Introductions + Team

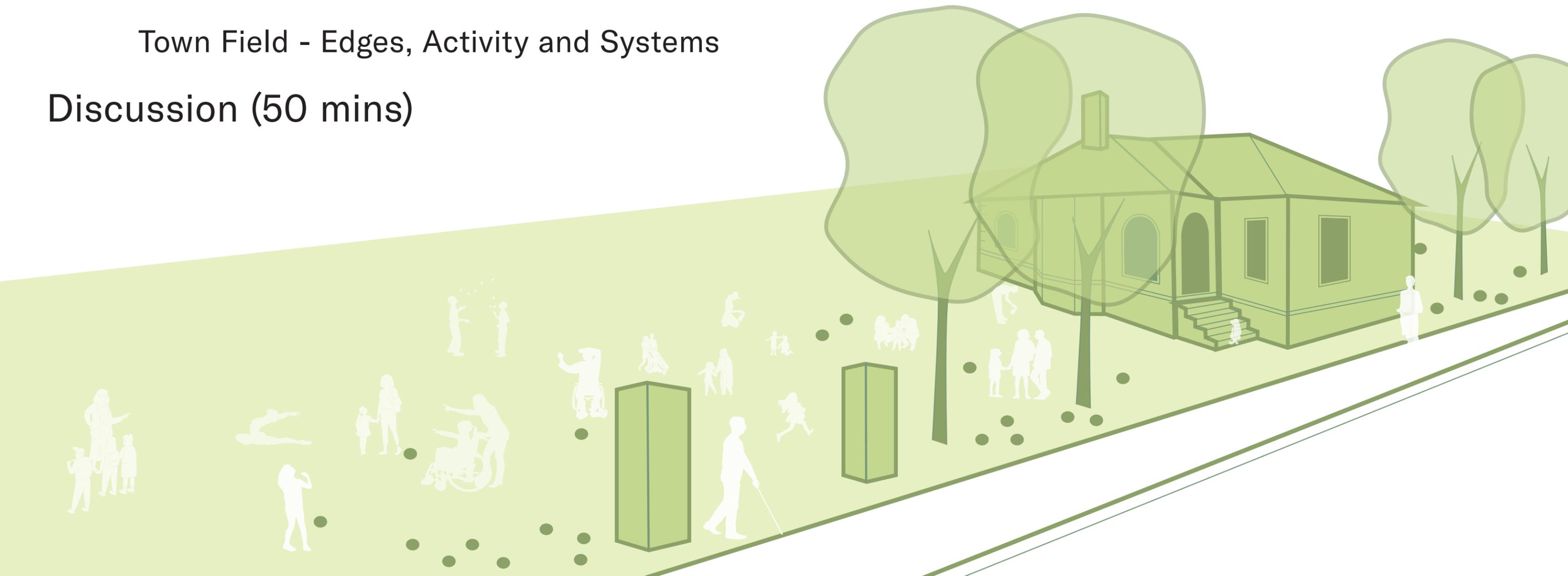
Project Schedule + Process

Existing Conditions (25 mins)

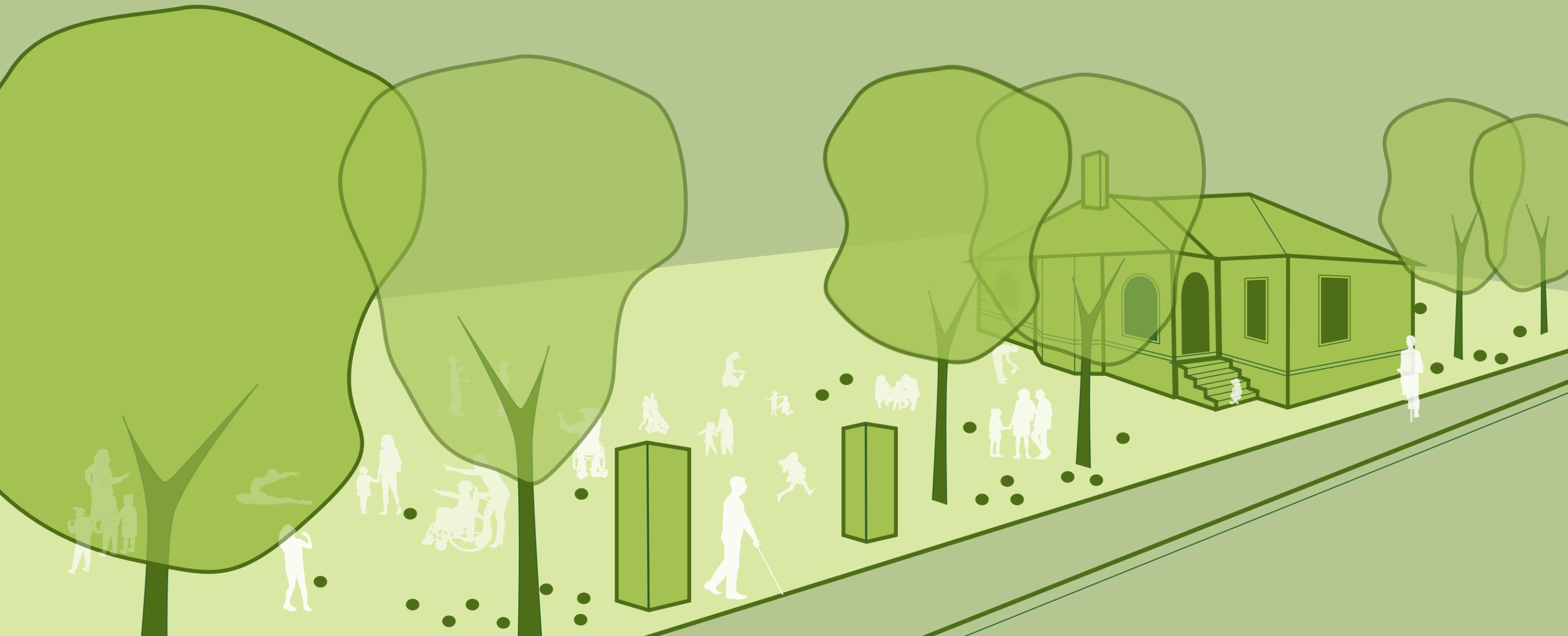
Fields Corner - Neighborhood Context

Town Field - Edges, Activity and Systems

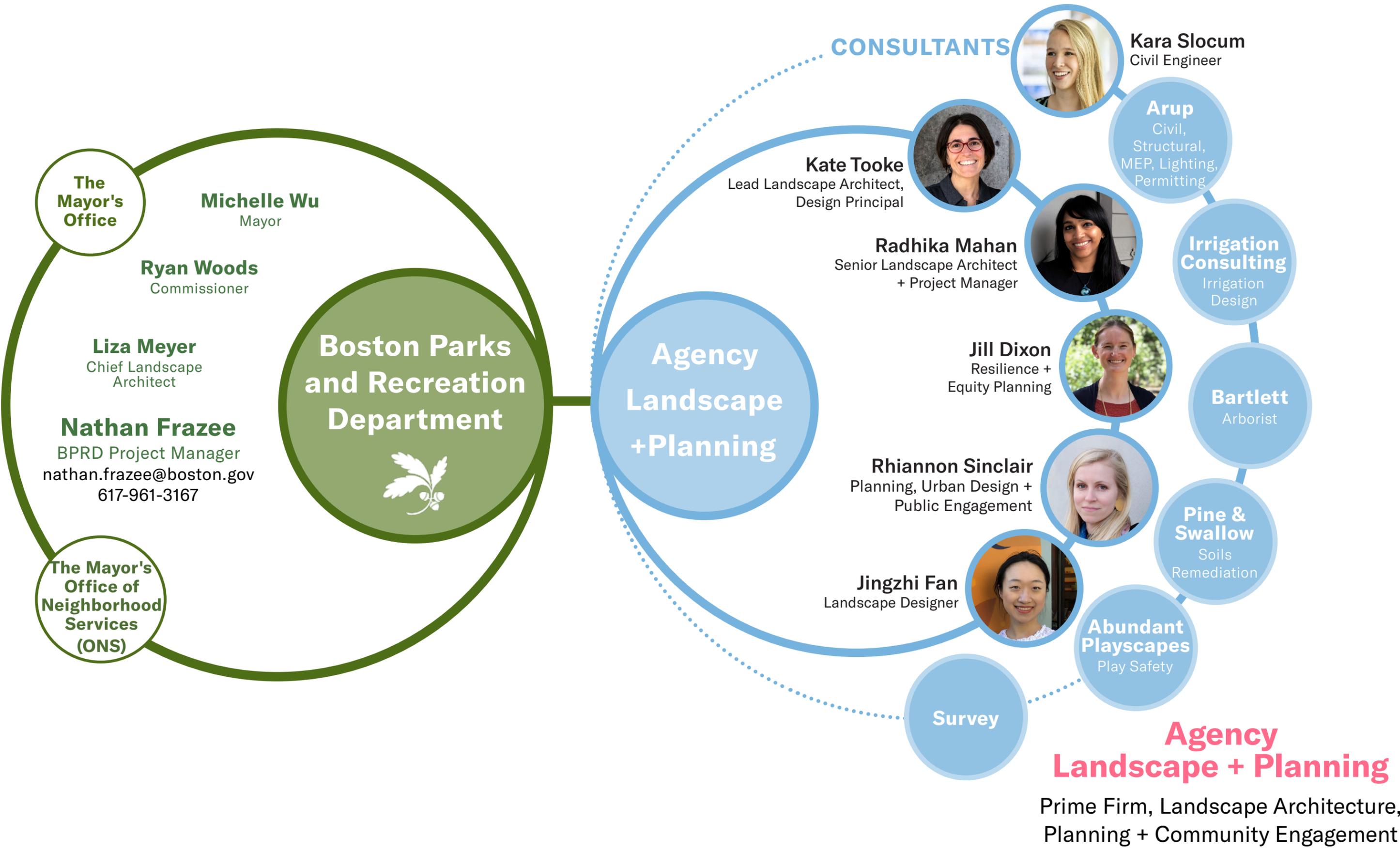
Discussion (50 mins)



Project Overview



INTRODUCTIONS + TEAM



Boston Parks and Recreation Department

Agency Landscape + Planning

The Mayor's Office

Michelle Wu
Mayor

Ryan Woods
Commissioner

Liza Meyer
Chief Landscape Architect

Nathan Frazee
BPRD Project Manager
nathan.frazee@boston.gov
617-961-3167

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS)

CONSULTANTS



Kara Slocum
Civil Engineer

Arup
Civil, Structural, MEP, Lighting, Permitting



Kate Tooke
Lead Landscape Architect, Design Principal



Radhika Mahan
Senior Landscape Architect + Project Manager



Jill Dixon
Resilience + Equity Planning



Rhiannon Sinclair
Planning, Urban Design + Public Engagement



Jingzhi Fan
Landscape Designer

Irrigation Consulting
Irrigation Design

Bartlett
Arborist

Pine & Swallow
Soils Remediation

Abundant Playscapes
Play Safety

Survey

Agency Landscape + Planning

Prime Firm, Landscape Architecture, Planning + Community Engagement

PROJECT SCHEDULE + OVERVIEW

WE ARE HERE!

SITE ANALYSIS PHASE: UNDERSTAND, ENGAGE + ENVISION

Understand the site's past and present; listen to community priorities; imagine the park together!

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PHASE

Develop the design, respond to community feedback, and create documents for pricing.

FINAL DESIGN PHASES (Future)

Once the City reviews and approves a budget for the work, it will move into final design.

FALL
2023

WINTER
2023-2024

SPRING
2024



LISTEN



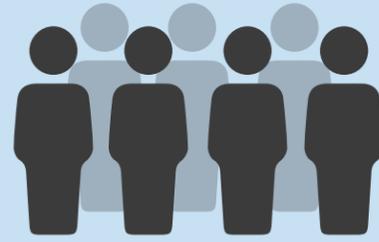
TEST CONCEPTUAL
IDEAS



CONFIRM
REFINED CONCEPT

More Opportunity to Participate
when the design progresses into
construction documents!

Community Input



City of Boston Priorities

- Expanding Walkable Access to Parks
- Addressing Equity
- Climate Resilience
- Health
- Community Building

Parks & Recreation Goals

- Accessible and Available to All
- Diverse, Balanced, and Efficient Mix of Uses
- Meaningful and Inclusive Community Engagement
- Adaptive and Resilient Landscapes Promote Connections

Safety & Regulatory Guidelines



INNOVATIVE DESIGN + QUALITY CONSTRUCTION

Great Boston Parks



**Thank you to the voices that
have already introduced us
to Town Field!**



TONIGHT'S **GOALS!**

The City and the design team are here to listen.

We'll share some information, ask a lot of questions, and look forward to your input.

We hope that you:

- Explore with us the history and current condition of Town Field.
- Share your perspective about Town Field today, and your visions for its future.
- Build excitement to review conceptual options together at the next meeting, based on your input today.

WE ARE GOING TO ASK SOME **QUESTIONS!**

Poll

Select your responses from this pop-up window!

-
-
-
-
-
-

Chat

Add comments and your answers to our questions here!

-
-
-

Mute Stop Video Participants Chat **Share Screen** Record Reactions [Leave](#)

POLL QUESTION 1

Tell us about yourself....How often do you visit Town Field?

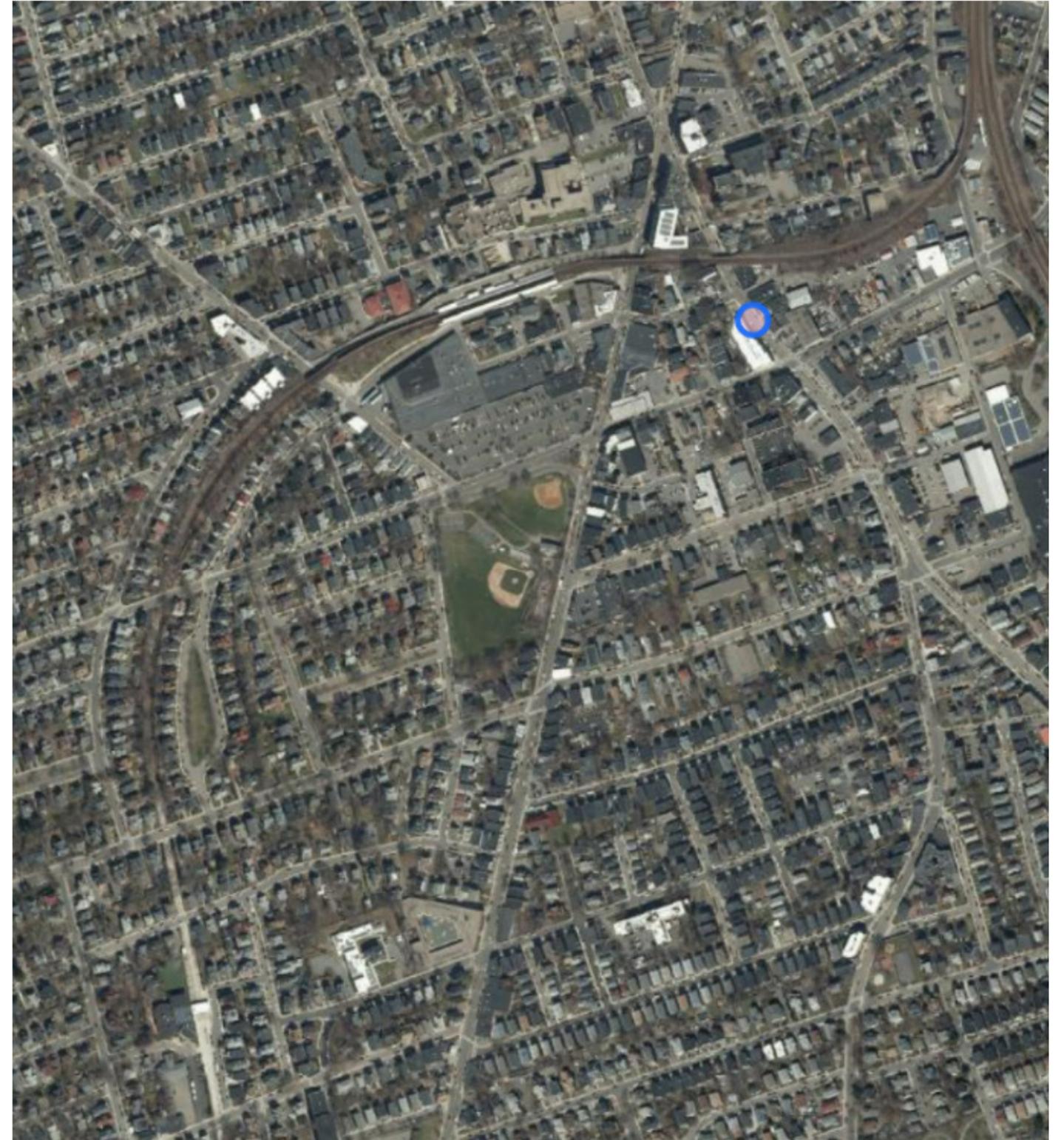
A. Daily

B. Weekly

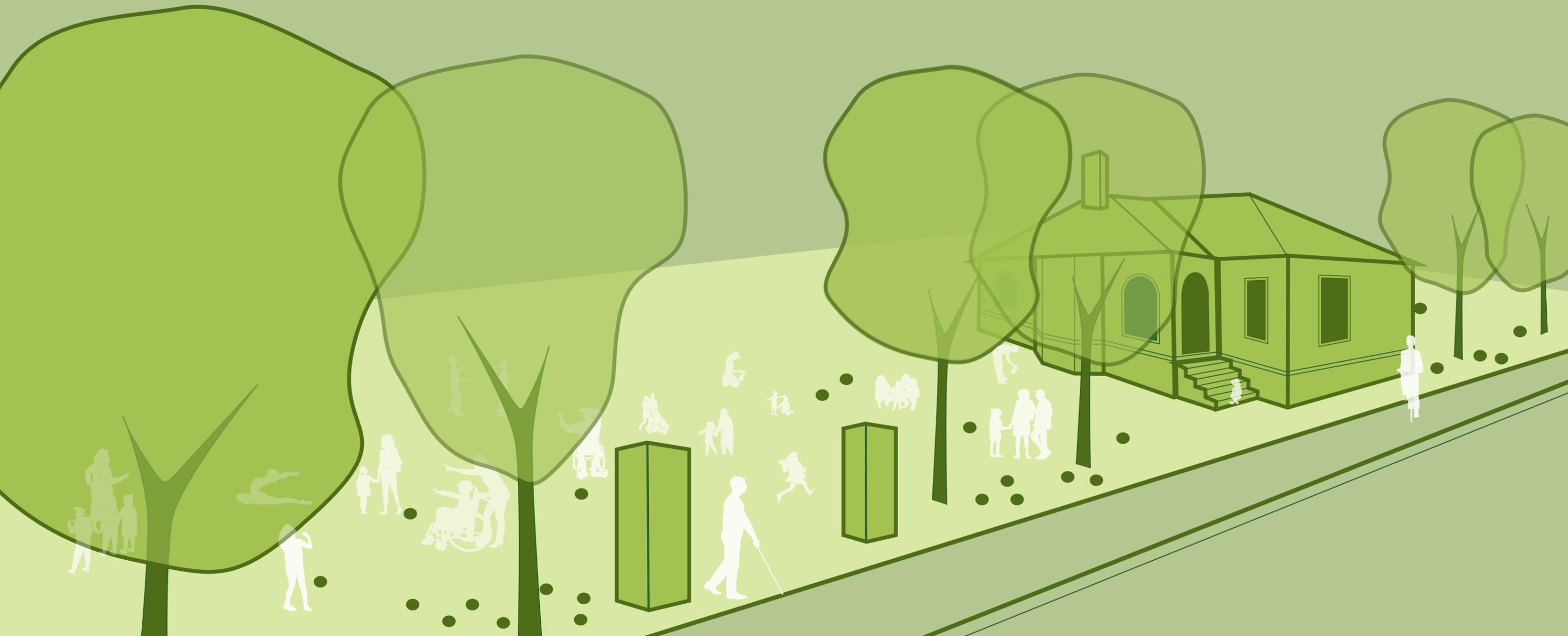
C. Monthly

D. Occasionally

E. I have never been to Town Field



Existing Conditions Analysis



The Fields Corner Neighborhood

What aspects of this neighborhood inform and
have been informed by Town Field?



HOW FIELDS CORNER CAME TO BE...

Native populations hunted and fished in the landscape around Dorchester Bay and Tenean Creek for centuries.

The advent of the streetcar in the late 1800s brought new development to the area.

The Field House

Built in 1795 on the corner of what is now Dorchester Ave and Adams Streets is the only one of 6 original houses that still stands.

The Fields family settled and farmed the area as early as 1630.



Image courtesy of the Dorchester Historical Society

FIELDS CORNER GREW AROUND TOWN FIELD OVER TIME



1882

In the late 1800s, Fields Corner became a regional trade hub for the Boston area due to the development and wide-ranging use of the streetcar.



1899

Railroad shed built on the northwest corner of the park gave way to an extension of Geneva Ave through the park to Gibson Street. The road remained for more than 30 years.



1933

By 1933 commercial and residential uses had completely filled in around the park, and Park Street had been widened for dedicated transit use.



Images courtesy of the Dorchester Historical Society. Town field in the 1930s

POLL QUESTION 2

How long have you lived in the Fields Corner neighborhood?

- A. My whole life!**
- B. More than 10 years**
- C. 2-9 years**
- D. I moved here in the past 2 years**
- E. I don't actually live in Fields Corner!**



Please share your favorite memory from Fields Corner in the chat, after you answer the poll!

NOW ONE OF THE “10 GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS IN AMERICA”

Recognized by the American Planning Association (APA) in 2014, the award cited the significant history, community engagement and cultural amenities of the district



HOME TO A DIVERSE COMMUNITY...



80%

Predominantly BIPOC,
lower income and
english proficiency to
the east



29%

Speak English
“less than very well”



Renter-Occupied
Housing
10% less than Boston



2-7+

Living in larger
household groups



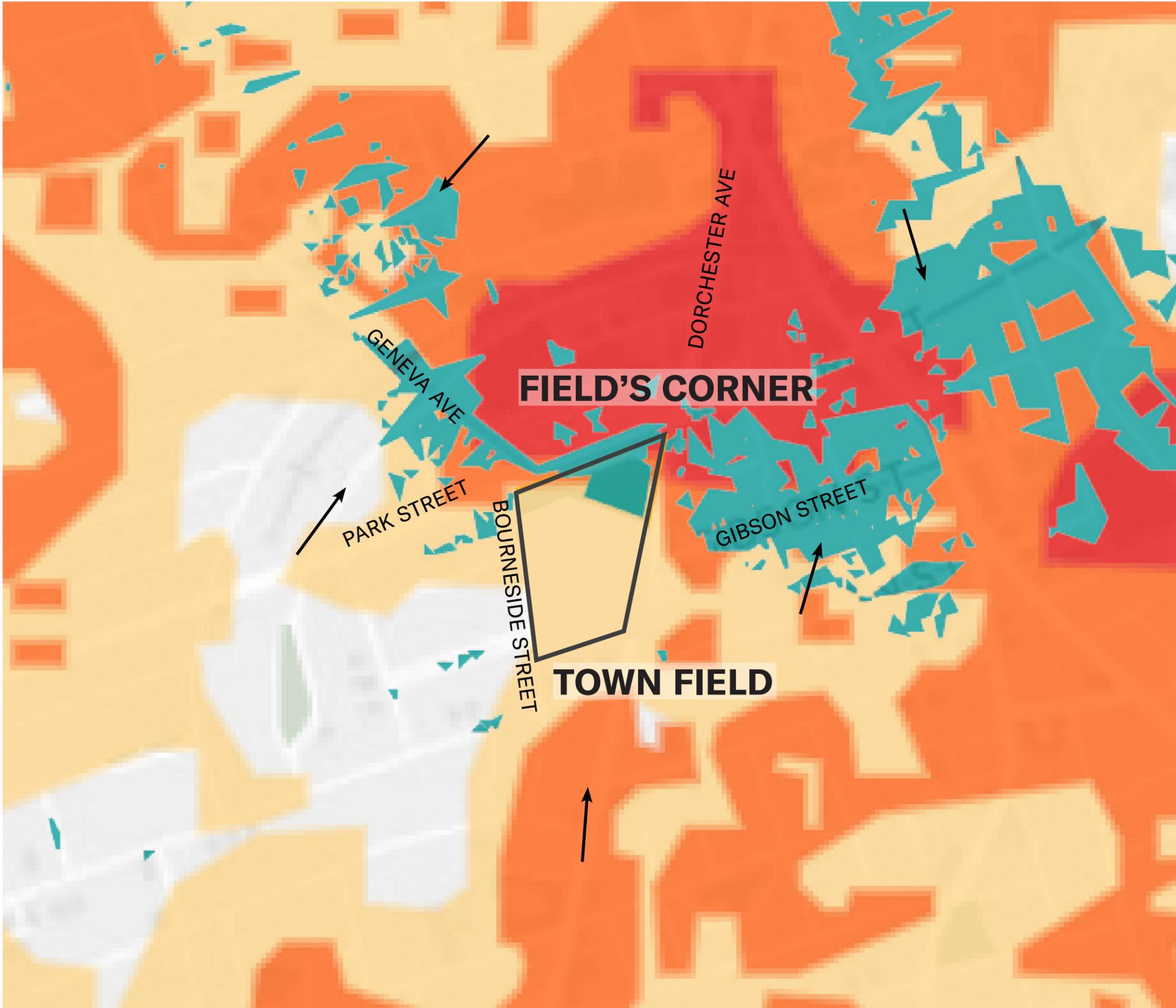
47%

Speak a language other
than English at home
Home to the fifth-largest
Vietnamese population



Median Household
Income
\$17K less than Boston

A NEIGHBORHOOD AT RISK OF HEAT + FLOODING



Daytime Air
Temperature (3PM)
CRB Map Viewer /
Heat Plan



Stormwater Flooding:
Near-term
City of Boston CRB
Map Viewer

Map data courtesy of the Boston Water Sewer Commission Wastewater Facilities Study and the City of Boston Heat Resilience Study

POLL QUESTION 3

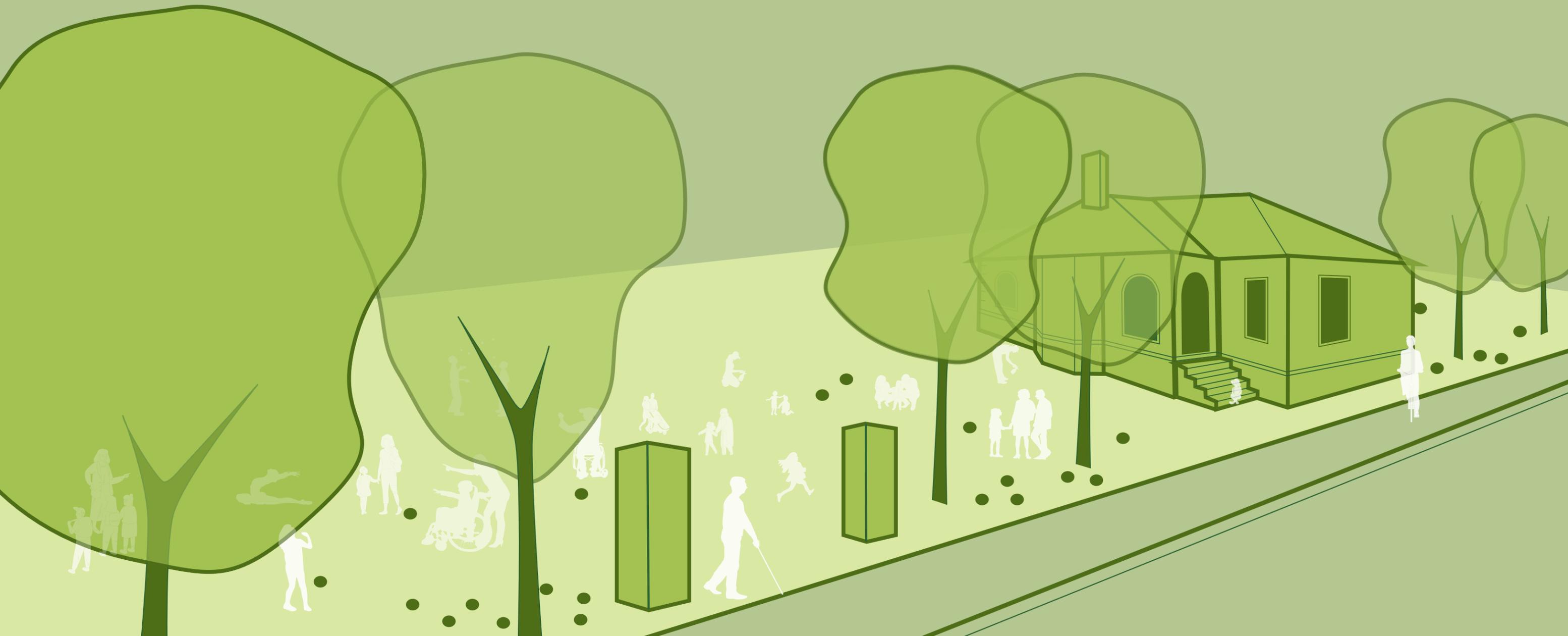
Which neighborhood groups or organizations are advancing the interests of Fields Corner residents?

Please type your response in the chat!

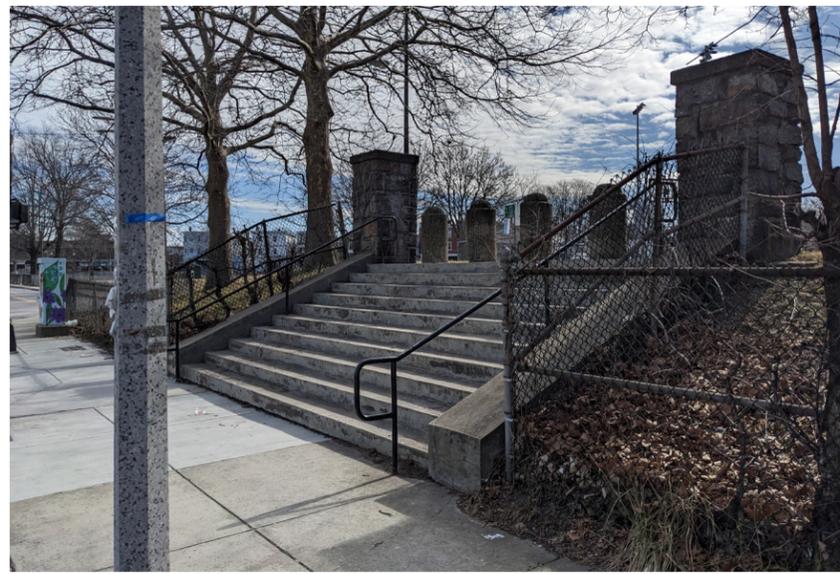


The Park

What are the edges, pathways, activities and systems that make up Town Field?



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK CONNECTION: PARK EDGES + ARRIVAL



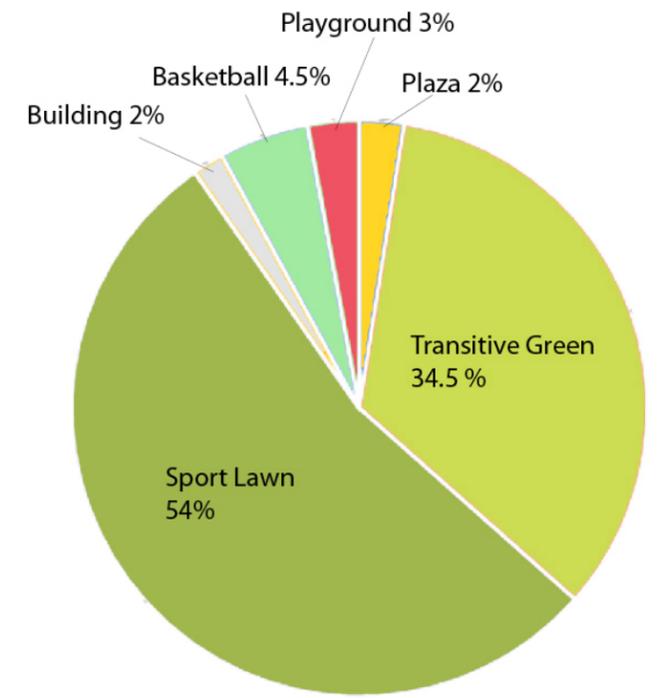
POLL QUESTION 4

How do you usually arrive at the Park?

- A. From Dorchester Ave**
- B. From Geneva Ave or along park Street**
- C. From Bourneside St**
- D. From Gibson Street / at the Field House**



THE SITE TODAY



 **54%**
SPORT LAWN

34.5%
TRANSITIVE LAWN



 **4.5%**
BASKETBALL

 **3%**
PLAYGROUND



16%
CANOPY COVERAGE



**The majority of the park (54%)
is recreational lawn**

THE PARK: CORE PROGRAM AND DAILY ACTIVATION



**ADSL /
Afterschool**



**Basketball
Courts**



**Community
Garden**



**Playground +
Splashpad**



**Baseball
Fields**



Plaza

THE PARK: SPECIAL EVENTS



Mothers Day Walk for Peace
Source: Mothers Day Walk for Peace
(Louis D Brown Peace Institute)



Juneteenth Celebration
Source: Fields Corner Main Street

POLL QUESTION 5

My favorite things to do at
Town Field are: (check 3)

A. Playing/watching sports

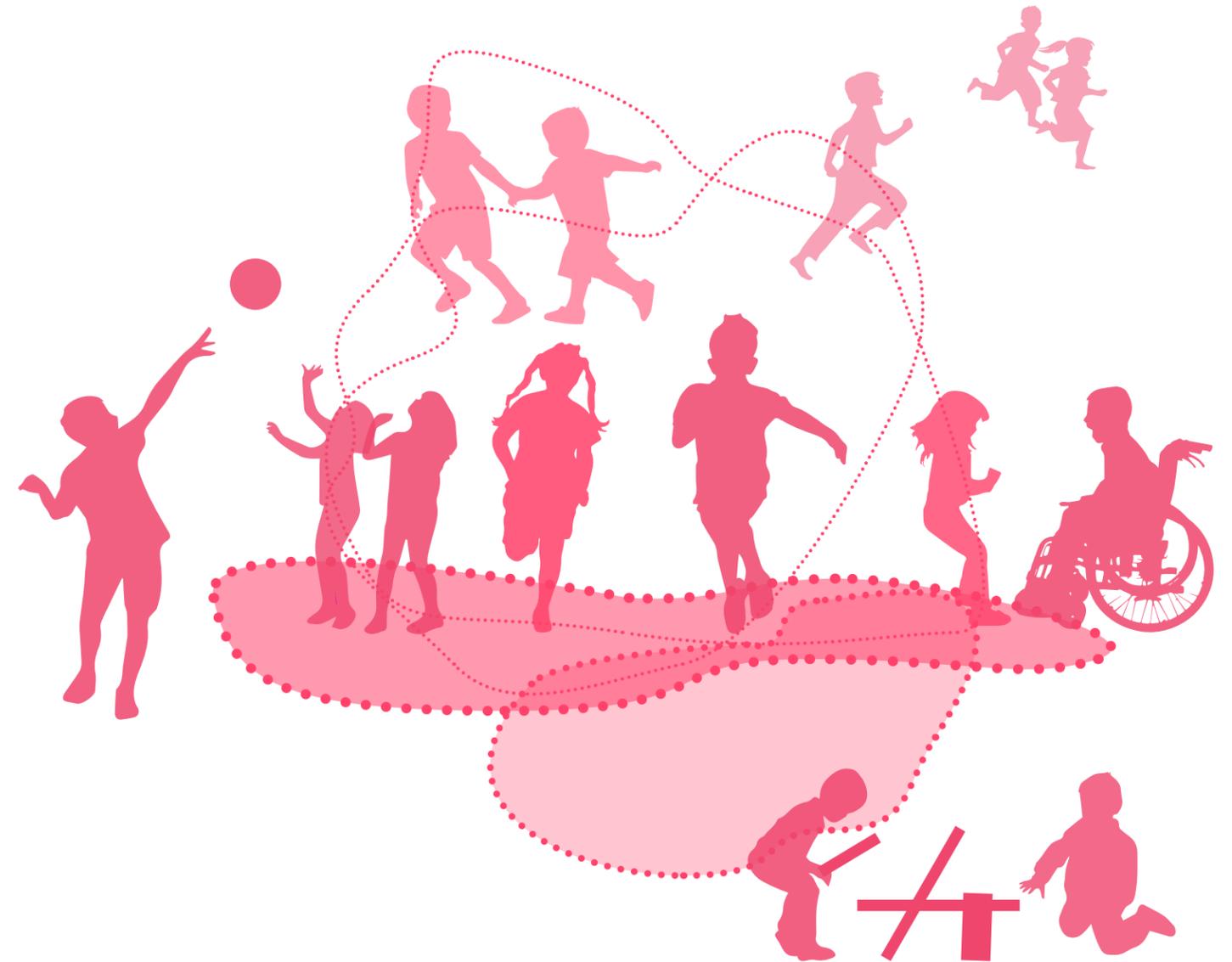
B. Community gardening

C. Playing at the Playground

D. Picnicing / Hanging out

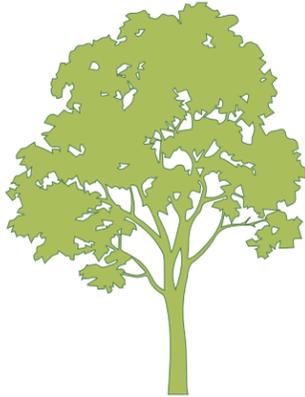
E. Attending events

F. Visiting the field house



G. Other -- tell us in the chat!

THE SITE TODAY: VEGETATION

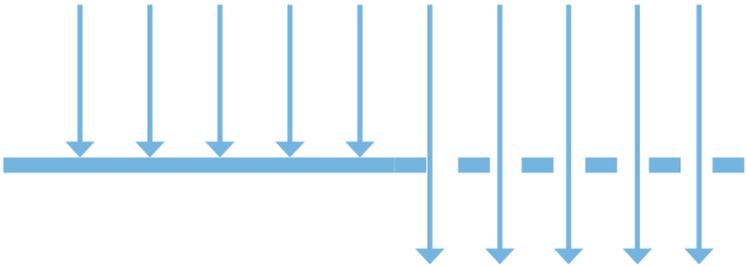


53
Trees

182,711
SF LAWN



82% PERVIOUS
18% IMPERVIOUS





The park has 53 mature canopy trees, mostly around the perimeter.

THE SITE TODAY: TOPOGRAPHY

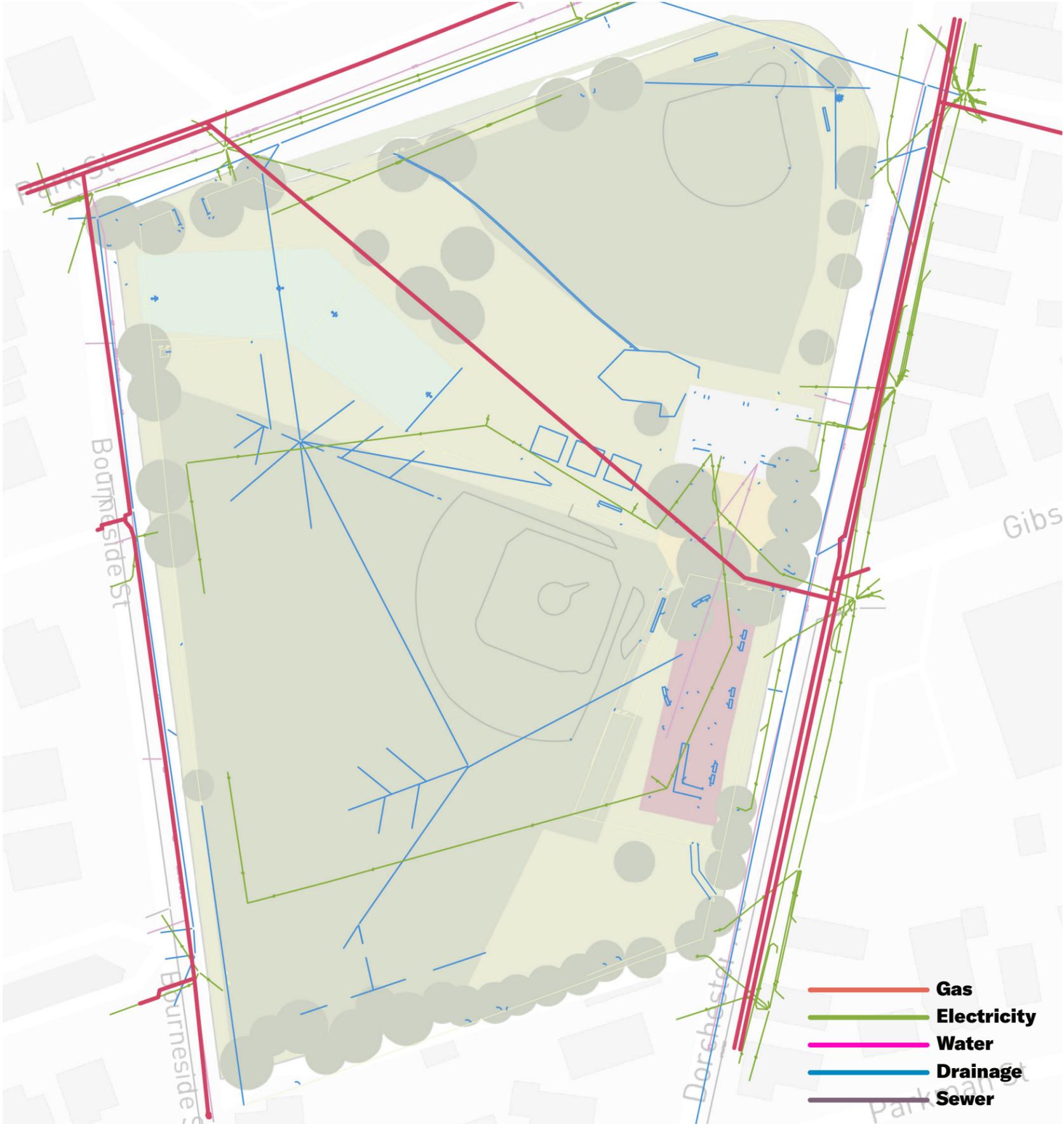


Entry along park edges



Grade change along park edges

THE SITE TODAY: UTILITIES



POLL QUESTION 6

My favorite parts of the park are (check 3):

A. The sports fields

B. The trees

C. The fieldhouse

D. The historic gateways

E. The community garden

F. The courts

G. The playground



THANK YOU!

Please join us for a discussion on the project!



City of Boston
Parks and Recreation

Agency
Landscape + Planning

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

Let's ensure the conversation is respectful and leaves room for all voices!

- 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.
- 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 Nathan Frazee, Nathan.Frazee@boston.gov, to further discuss the project or process.

DISCUSSION!

PLEASE TELL US!

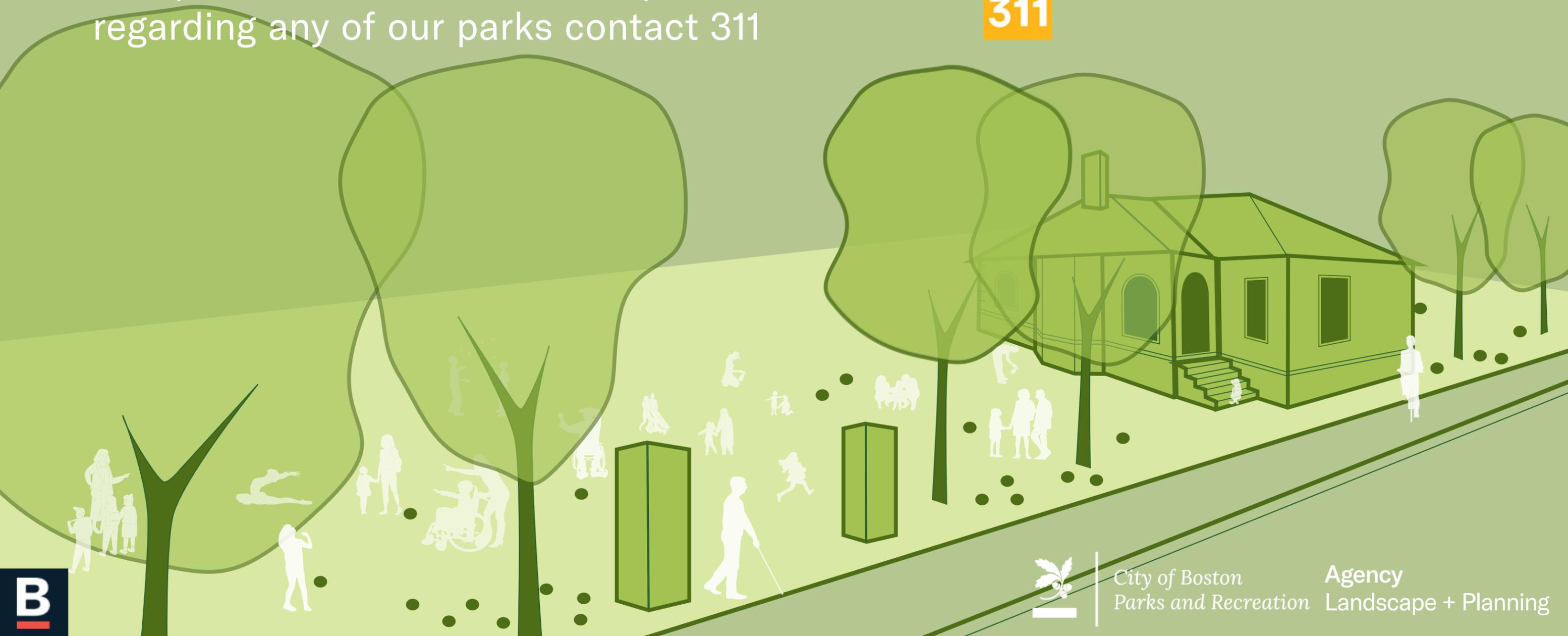
- What else should the team know about the Fields Corner neighborhood or Town Field? What did we miss in our analysis?
- What makes Town Field unique? What will distinguish it moving forward?
- Are there programs or activities at the park that are not used as much as others?
- Are there programs or activities that a renovated park should be sure to accommodate?

THANK YOU!

Please visit the project webpage: boston.gov/town-field

The next community meeting will be in **winter 2023**

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



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Parks and Recreation

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