We believe that a playful state of mind is essential to creativity and discovery, and that the remarkable creative activities in Kendall Square, which currently go on largely behind closed doors, will be boosted dramatically by a playful, connected public realm. Connecting Kendall Square will be a personal thing, a process of discovery, a creative endeavor, different every day, and changing through the seasons. It will be a vivid mental map in all who live, work and study in Kendall, a reflection of the memorable and excitingly programmed new landscapes, public art installations at key locations, and wayfinding cues that will encourage and inspire people to explore, get some thinking done, and above all play a little. Discovery will be made on foot, by bike and online, whether consulting the Connect Kendall app to find out what is going on, taking a looping walk at lunchtime, a morning jog, a quick phone call in the park, or a sledding expedition.
Places for Plants are Places for People

Making Kids Welcome

A Discovery Around Every Corner

Stimulating Creativity

Filling in the Missing Programs
Building Vivid Mental Maps Everywhere

Places for Two, Places Everywhere

Weaving Playfulness into Every Place
Creativity and Imagination

Taking Pleasure in

Multipurpose Spaces
A STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT TO ENRICH EVERYDAY LIFE

A Sledding Expedition
Hi, my name is Kedrick, and we have the coolest new thing in our neighborhood. Yesterday, I took a tube with my little brother to a sledding hill that they have built over by the tracks. On the way over there we built a snow “goalie” at Fulkerson Park, right in the soccer goal. The sledding hill is really cool, it winds down the hill with banked corners, so our tube went down really fast. There is a big tree at the bottom where the adults like to sit, we nearly hit it a couple of times. On the way back home we stopped for a cup of hot chocolate on the corner of Sixth Street.

An Afternoon Dog Walk
Hi, my name is Britt and when I have finished teaching at the Foundry Building I have to get out and walk my dog Max. It is a good excuse for a bit of exercise, and the best way to clear my mind after a busy day. We go over to the dog park at Rogers Street Park, Max plays with his friends, and I chat to mine, it does us both a lot of good. We then go over to the river and on the way I see one of the students I know at the culinary school having a quiet moment amongst the plants and rocks at the First Street Triangle. We walk down the esplanade, and turn down the boardwalk at Broad Canal. We can see Volpe Park in the distance, and stop for a quick drink of water there before turning back towards the Foundry along Fifth Street.

A Phone Call in the Park
Hi, my name is Adam, and I am trying to get my biotech start-up off the ground from one of the incubator spaces in the new Volpe Center. Yesterday afternoon I had to make a particularly tough call to one of our investors, so I headed over to Kendall Green, thinking that strolling through the park might help loosen me up and make a great pitch. Things seemed to be going well, despite the background rhythm of a jazz ensemble playing in the event bowl. I headed up to the top of the hill in the middle of the park, where it was quieter. As I got off the call, I took in the view all the way down the Broad Canal with a sliver of Beacon Hill visible in the distance. Things were looking good.

A Morning Run Before Class
Hi, my name is Lee, and I live in the new MIT graduate student housing right next to the Kendall T. When I come out of my building I can run through the new East Campus landscape, right up and over Memorial Drive on a land bridge, to the river without crossing any roads. My favorite loop is to jog over a new series of bridges and islands along the esplanade, and behind the Science Museum (still no roads to cross) and over to the Boston side. My urban design professor tells us it only took 100 years for Charles Eliot’s Charles River Basin Master Plan vision to be realized, but this morning my mind is focused on getting back over the bridge, grabbing a quick coffee at the kiosk in Point Park, and getting to class.