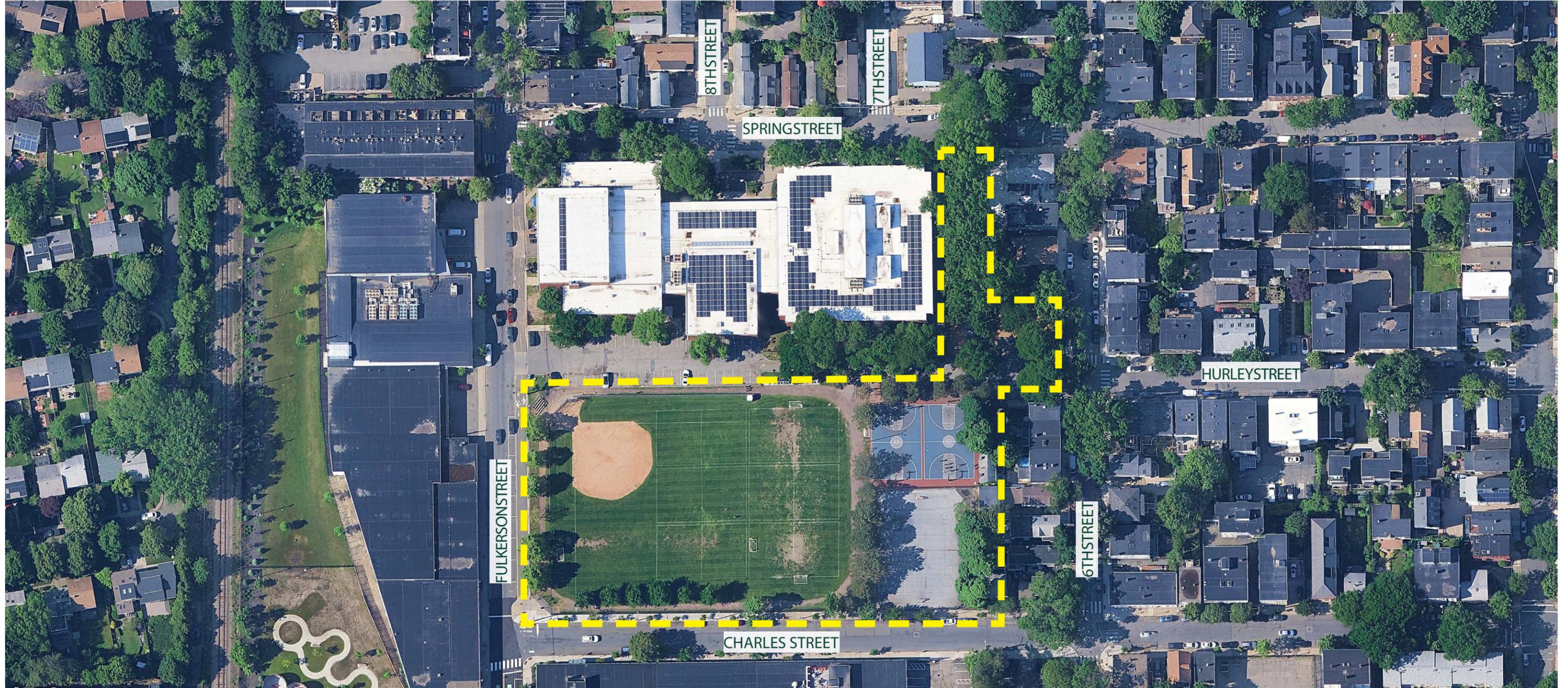


# AHERN FIELD, COURTS, MORRILL PLAYGROUND, AND MUOLO TOTLOT OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 11, 2026



# OPEN HOUSE

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## TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Project Overview**
- 2. Community Engagement & What We Heard**
- 3. Recreation Space Discussion**
- 4. Project Design Framework**
- 5. Breakout Sessions**
- 6. Group Conversation and Next Steps**

# PROJECT SCHEDULE

## PROJECT SCHEDULE



# LOOKING BACK: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

## KEY THEMES FROM COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ARE HELPING GUIDE THE DESIGN DISCUSSION

+/- **142**  
Responses



- We received feedback from 142 community members across 3 events (two in person and one online)!
- Both Children and Adults
- We asked them:

Where do people spend time the most?

What areas (within the Playgrounds, Courts, and/or Fields) need the most improvement?

What specific feedback/comments did participants have about any of the elements or future renovation of the Fields and Playgrounds?

We heard from:

+/- **105**  
Adults

+/- **37**  
Kids

# ENGAGEMENT BOARDS & RESPONSES

## IN PERSON EVENT

EVENT 1 - June 23, 2025

EVENT 2 - July 22, 2025

### What We Heard:

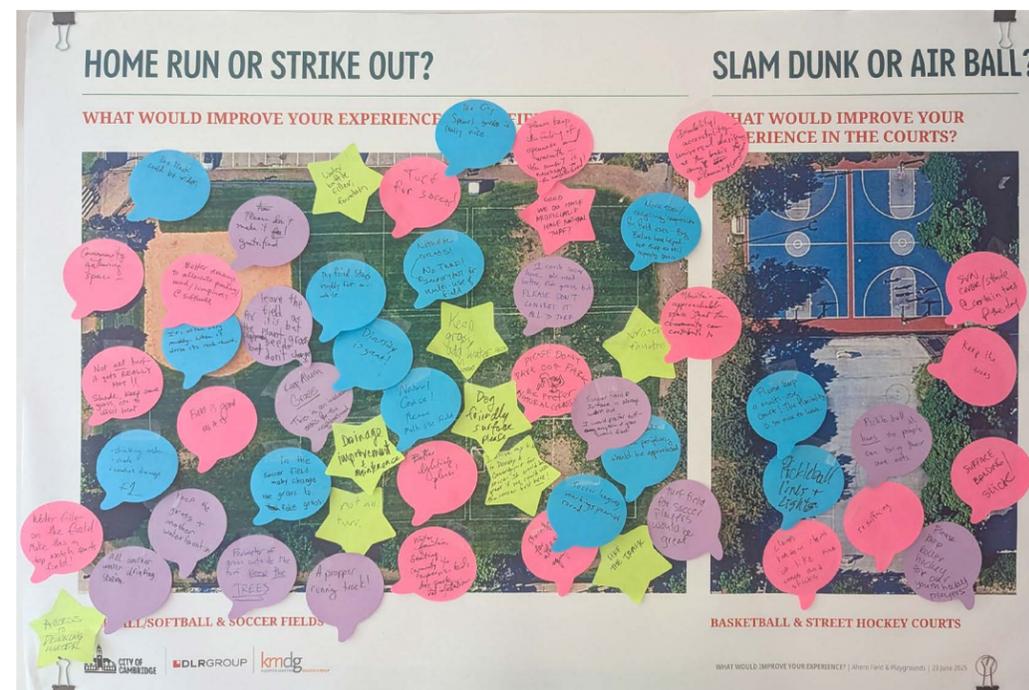
- Improve Water Play
- Improve 5-12 Play Area
- Improve 2-5 Play Area
- More Gathering & Picnic Areas
- More Seating
- More Tree Canopy/Shade
- Keep the Lawn
- Replace the Fields with Artificial Turf



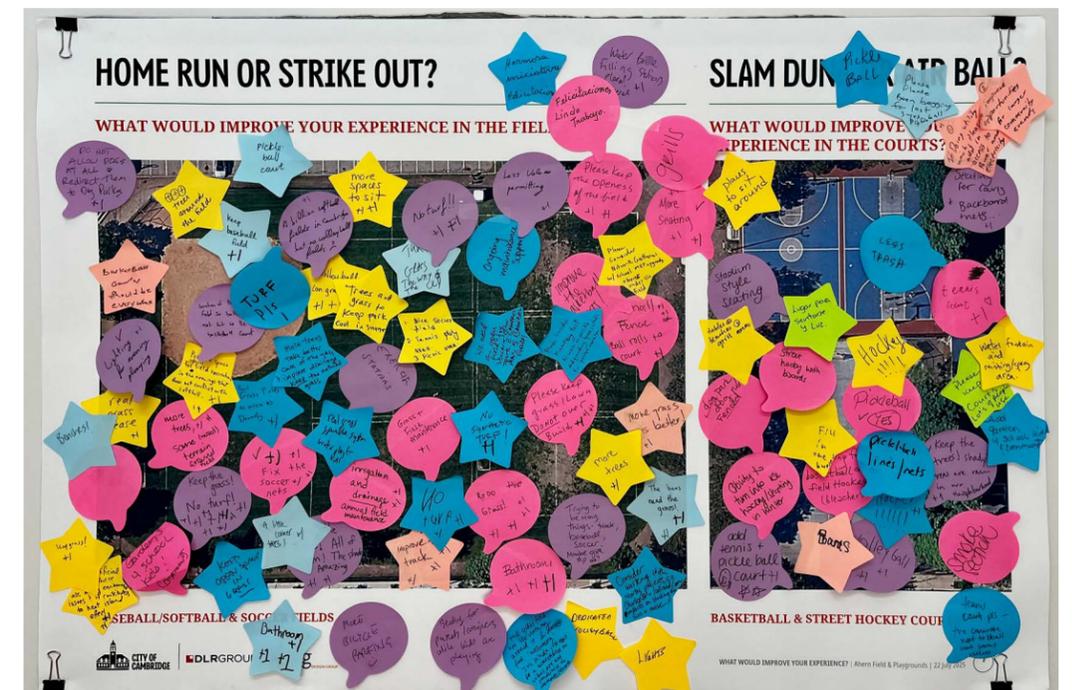
Played on or Played out?



Played on or Played out?



Home Run or Strike Out? Slam Dunk or Air Ball?



Home Run or Strike Out? Slam Dunk or Air Ball?

# SPORTS LEAGUE FOCUS GROUP RESPONSES

## ONLINE EVENT

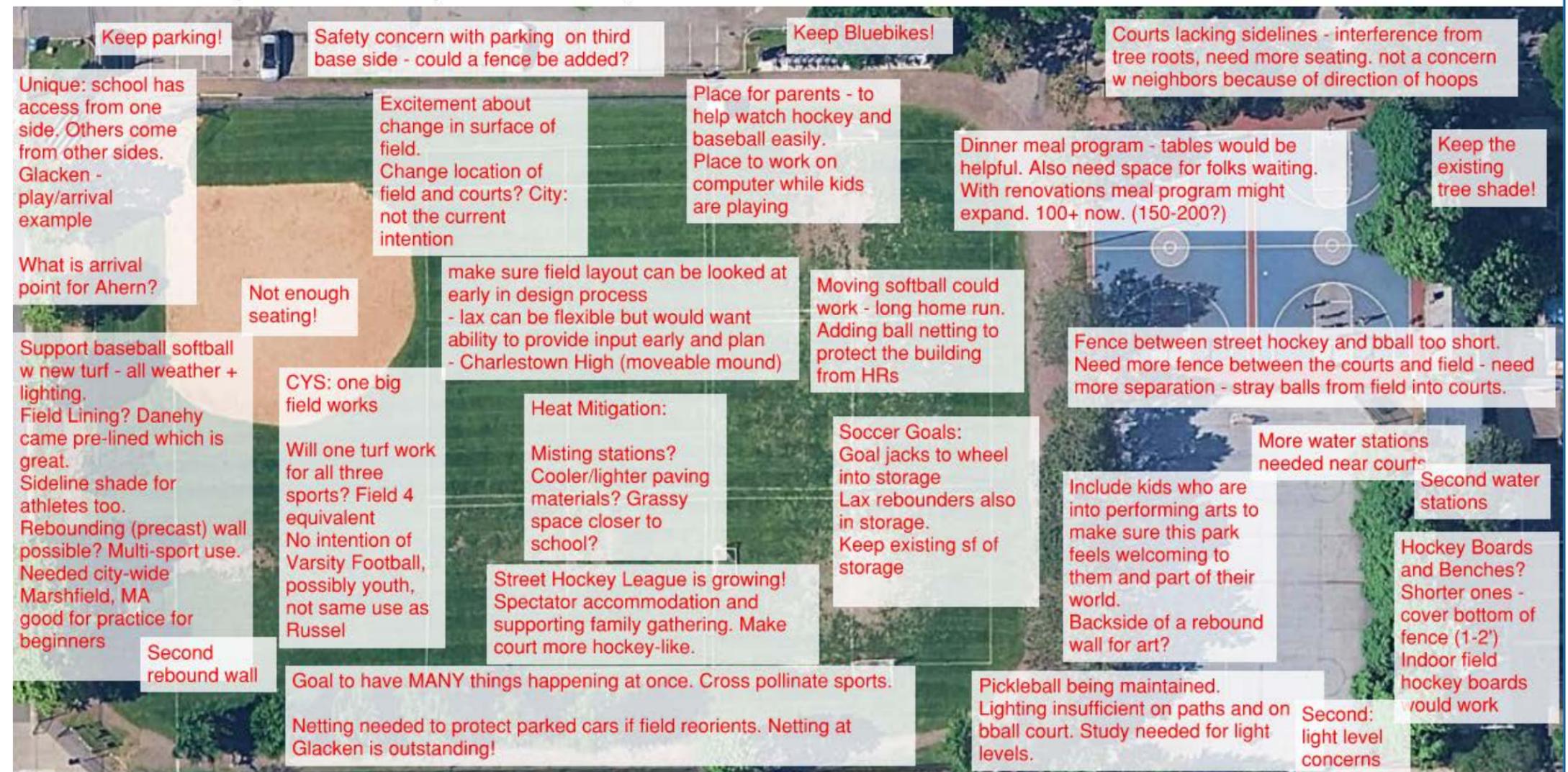
EVENT 3 - September 18, 2025

### What We Heard (Fields):

- Artificial Turf Fields Requested
- Improve the Soccer Fields
- Improve the Walking Loop
- Provide an Open Lawn
- More Seating
- Provide Sport Accessories

### What We Heard (Courts):

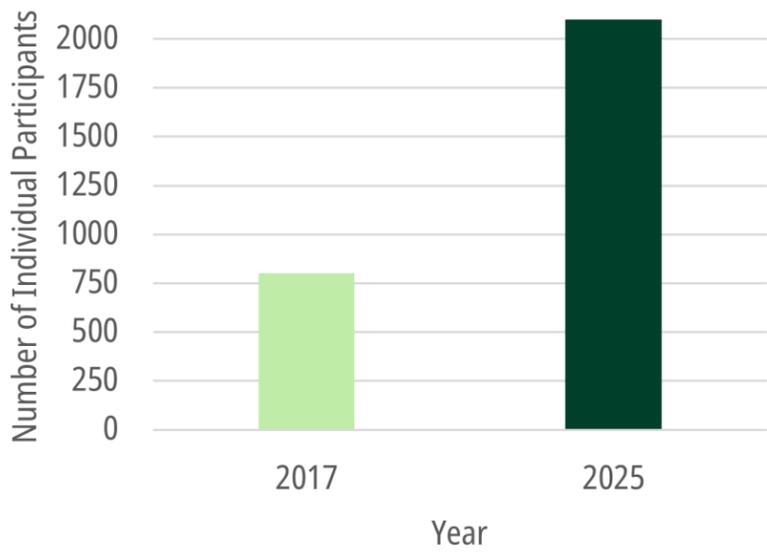
- Improve Court Surfacing
- Improve Lighting
- More Seating
- More Tree Canopy/Shade
- Provide Sport Accessories



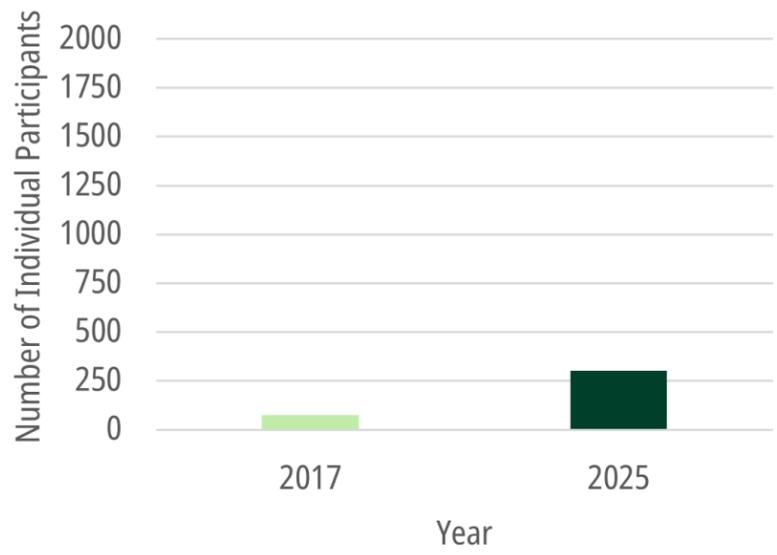
# GROWING DEMAND FOR RECREATION SPACE

RECREATIONAL SPORTS PARTICIPATION HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST DECADE, INCREASING THE DEMAND FOR PLAYABLE FIELD TIME

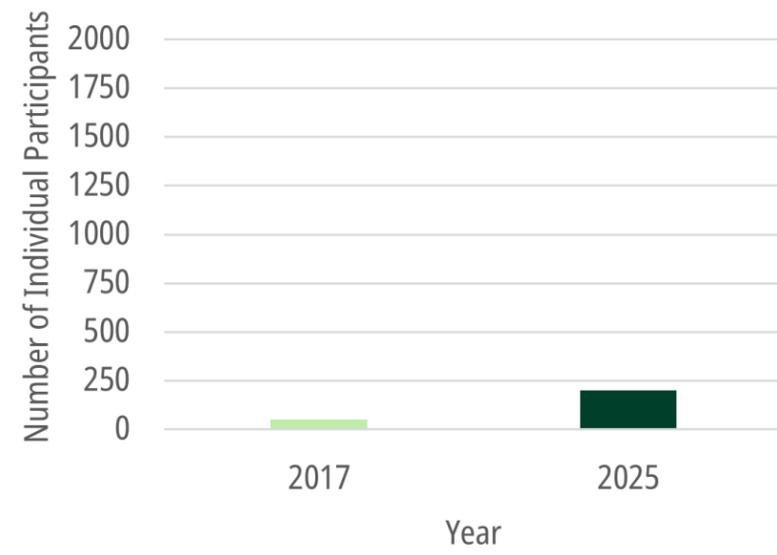
Cambridge Youth Soccer



Cambridge Youth Lacrosse

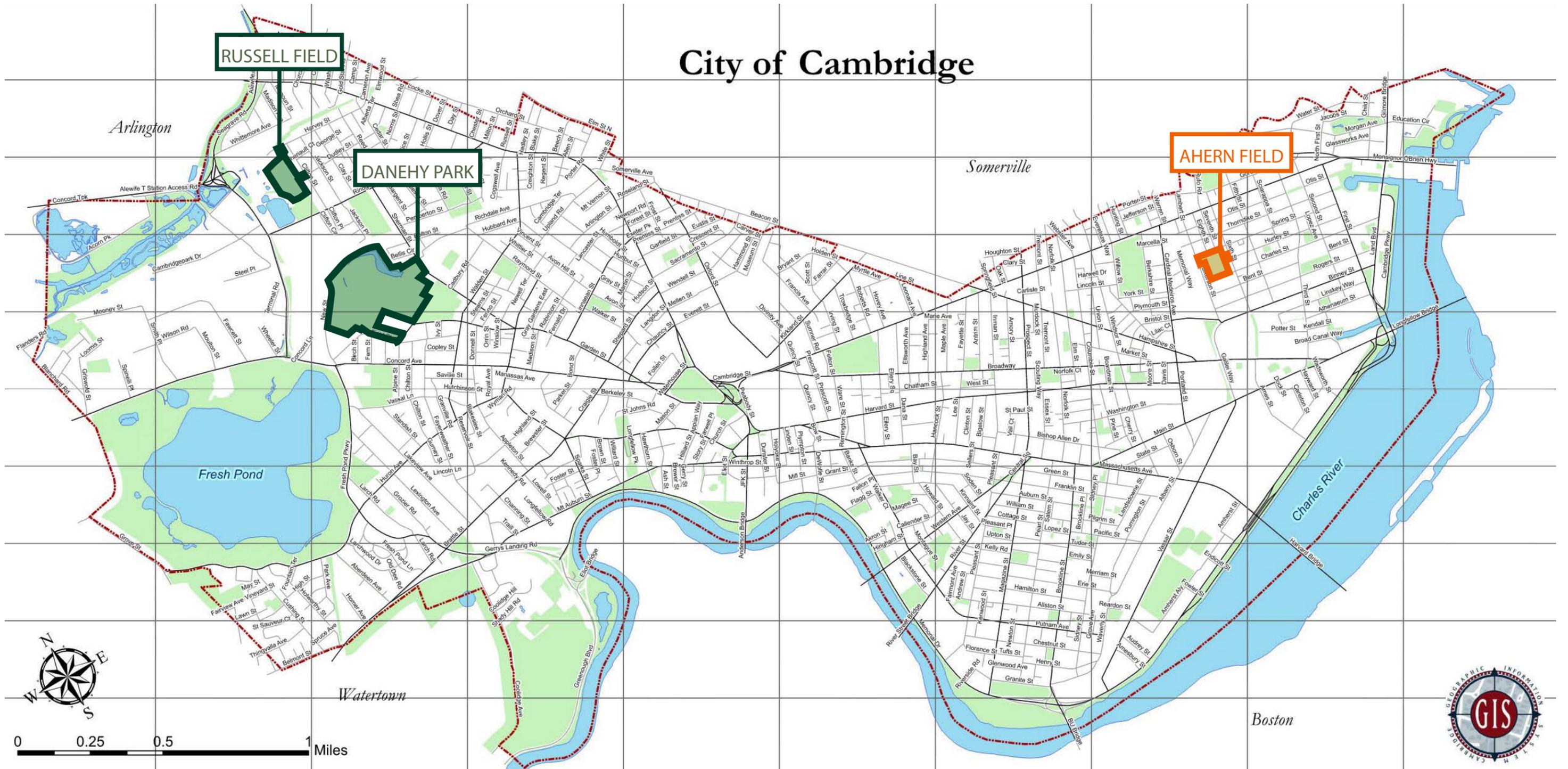


Cambridge Youth Flag Football



# WHERE TURF FIELDS EXIST TODAY

CURRENTLY, THERE ARE NO ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS ON THE EAST SIDE OF CAMBRIDGE



# WHY AHERN MATTERS

## TURF FIELDS SUPPORT SIGNIFICANTLY MORE PLAYABLE HOURS

### Turf Fields Increase Playable Field Capacity

Examples from Cambridge

#### NATURAL GRASS TO TURF: Russell Auxiliary Field

2017:  
161 hours of use (natural grass)

2025:  
796 hours of use (turf field)

#### USE AT EXISTING TURF FIELDS:

Danehy Turf Field #2

~900 hours annually

Danehy Turf Field #4

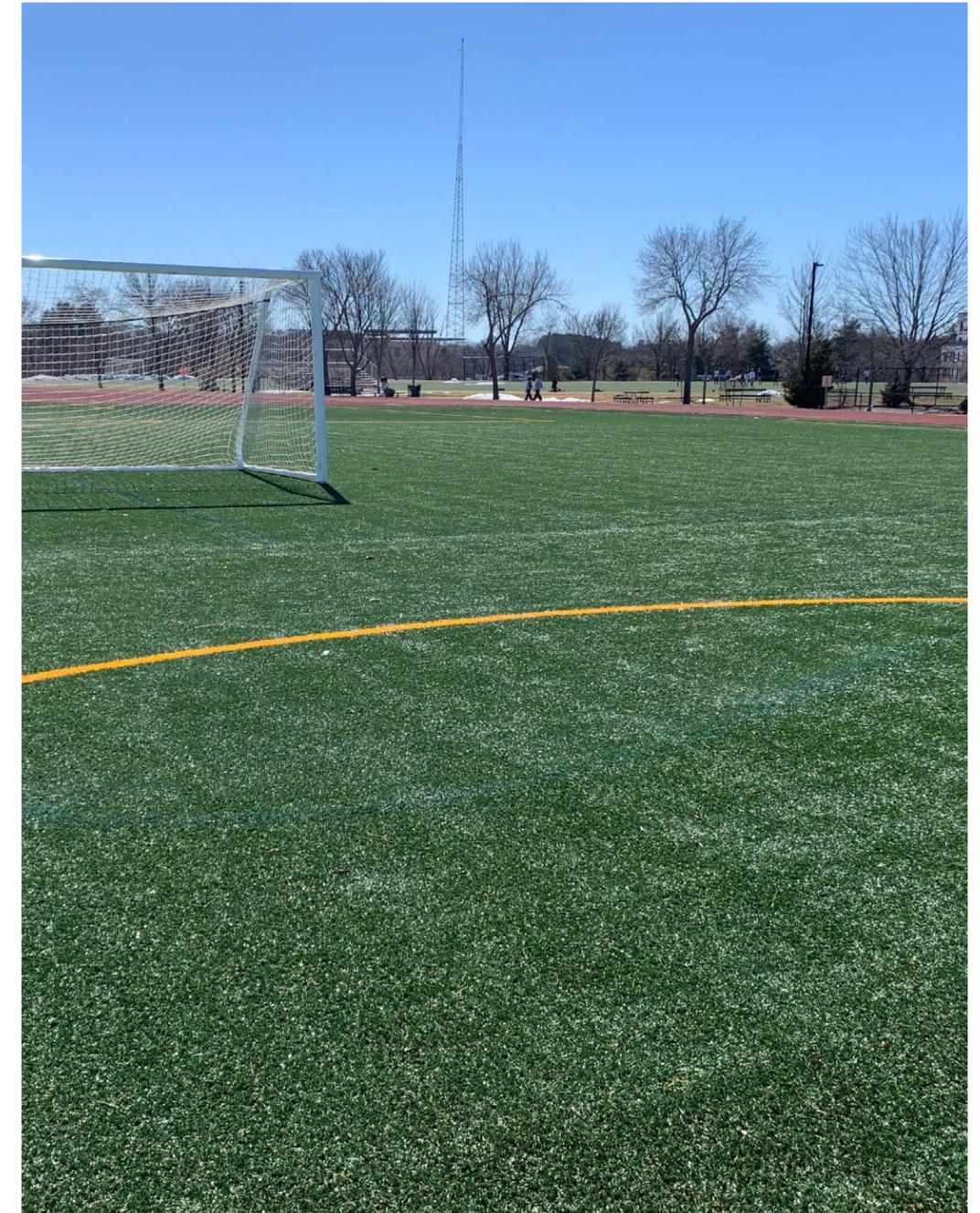
~1,300+ hours annually

NATURAL GRASS FIELDS



Under heavy use, natural grass fields require periods of rest and recovery in order to maximize its use.

TURF FIELDS



Turf fields can withstand extended use and support consistent programming.

# ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACH FOR THE TURF FIELD

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## THESE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

### **No intentionally added PFAS:**

Materials must be manufactured without the intentional use of PFAS

### **Natural infill (no crumb rubber):**

A plant-based or mineral infill will be used rather than recycled rubber

### **Cradle to Cradle™ certified product:**

An independent certification evaluating material health, environmental impact, and product recyclability

### **Manufactured in an ISO 14001 certified facility:**

ISO 14001 is an international standard for environmental management systems that requires manufacturers to monitor and reduce environmental impacts

### **Limits on metals and VOCs:**

Products must meet strict limits for metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are chemicals that can affect indoor and outdoor air quality

### **Recyclable turf system:**

The manufacturer must provide a program to recycle or reuse the turf at the end of its service life

# DESIGNING AHERN FIELDS & PLAYGROUNDS

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**SOME ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT ARE ALREADY DETERMINED, WHILE OTHERS ARE BEING SHAPED THROUGH COMMUNITY INPUT**

## WHAT WILL STAY THE SAME

- How the Park Is Used
- Location of the Sport Fields, Sport Courts, and Walking Loop
- General Location of the Playgrounds & Water Play
- Parking Lot & Number of Spaces
- Blue Bike Availability

## FIXED DESIGN CHOICES

- Project Budget
- Extent of Renovations
- New Sports Lighting (Existing Lighting Will Remain)
- Softball Field Will shift
- Walking Loop Will shift
- Artificial Turf Sports Field
- Retain All Existing Trees In Good Health

## FLEXIBLE DESIGN CHOICES

- Park Entrance Experience
- Gathering Spaces
- Seating Types
- Play Layout
- Planting Enhancements
- Shading

# BREAKOUT STATION #1

## How Do You Enter The Park? Where Has Your Gathering Been In The Park?

### GATHERING EXPERIENCE



Family Gathering



Community Gathering & Picnic



Spectator



Flexible Space & Event Gathering



Rest & Shaded Gathering

### SEATING EXPERIENCE



Game Tables & Seating



Picnic Tables/Group Seating



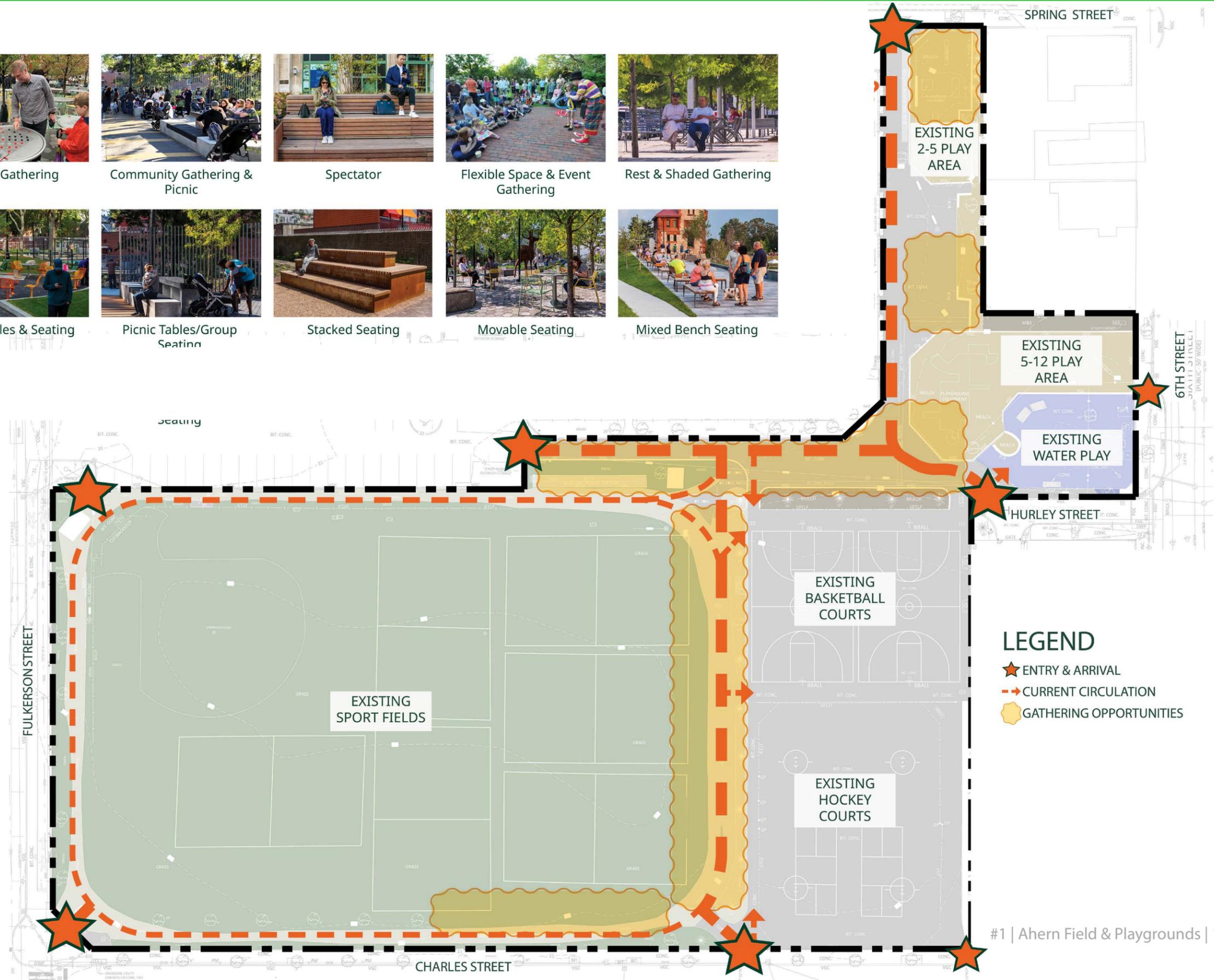
Stacked Seating



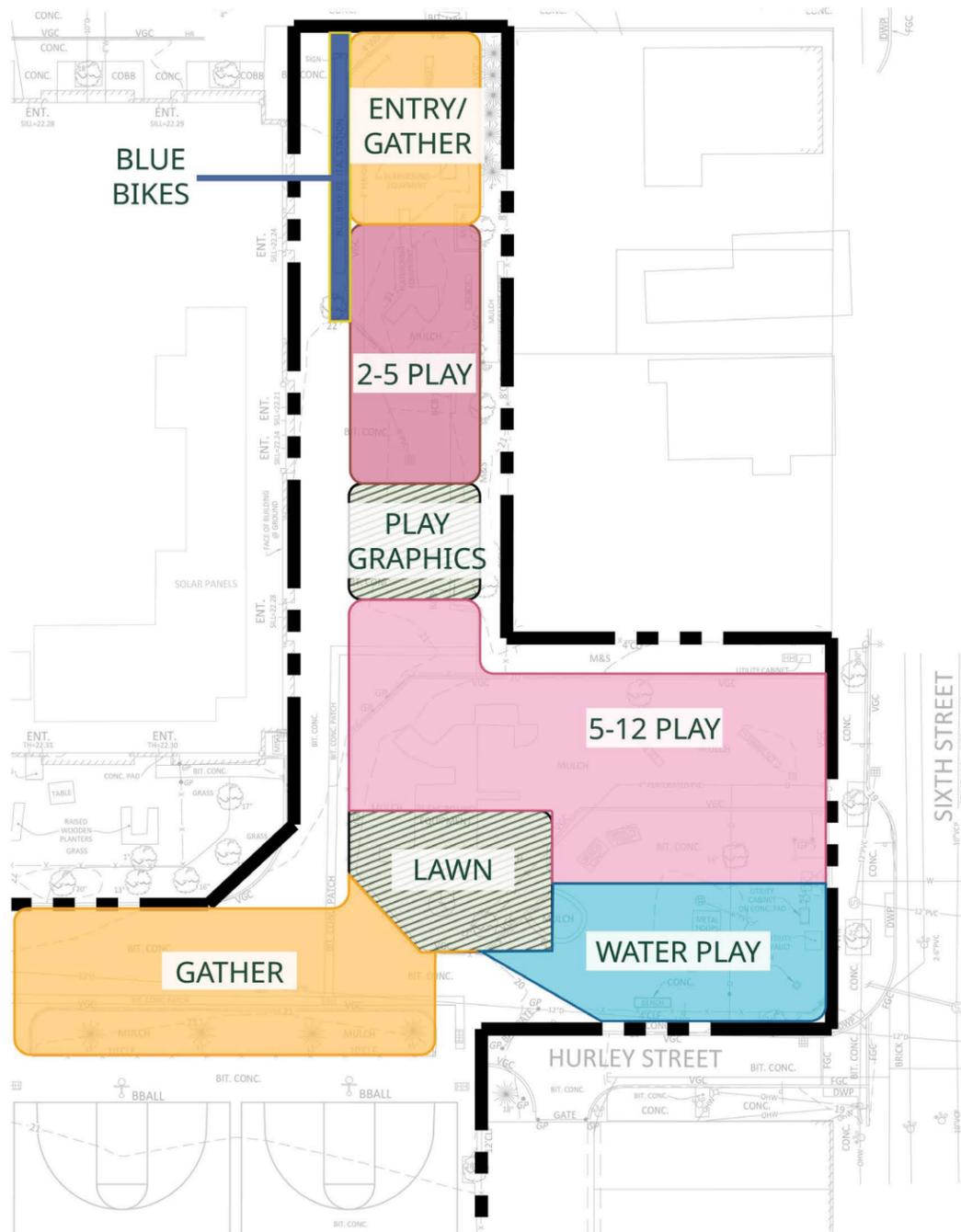
Movable Seating



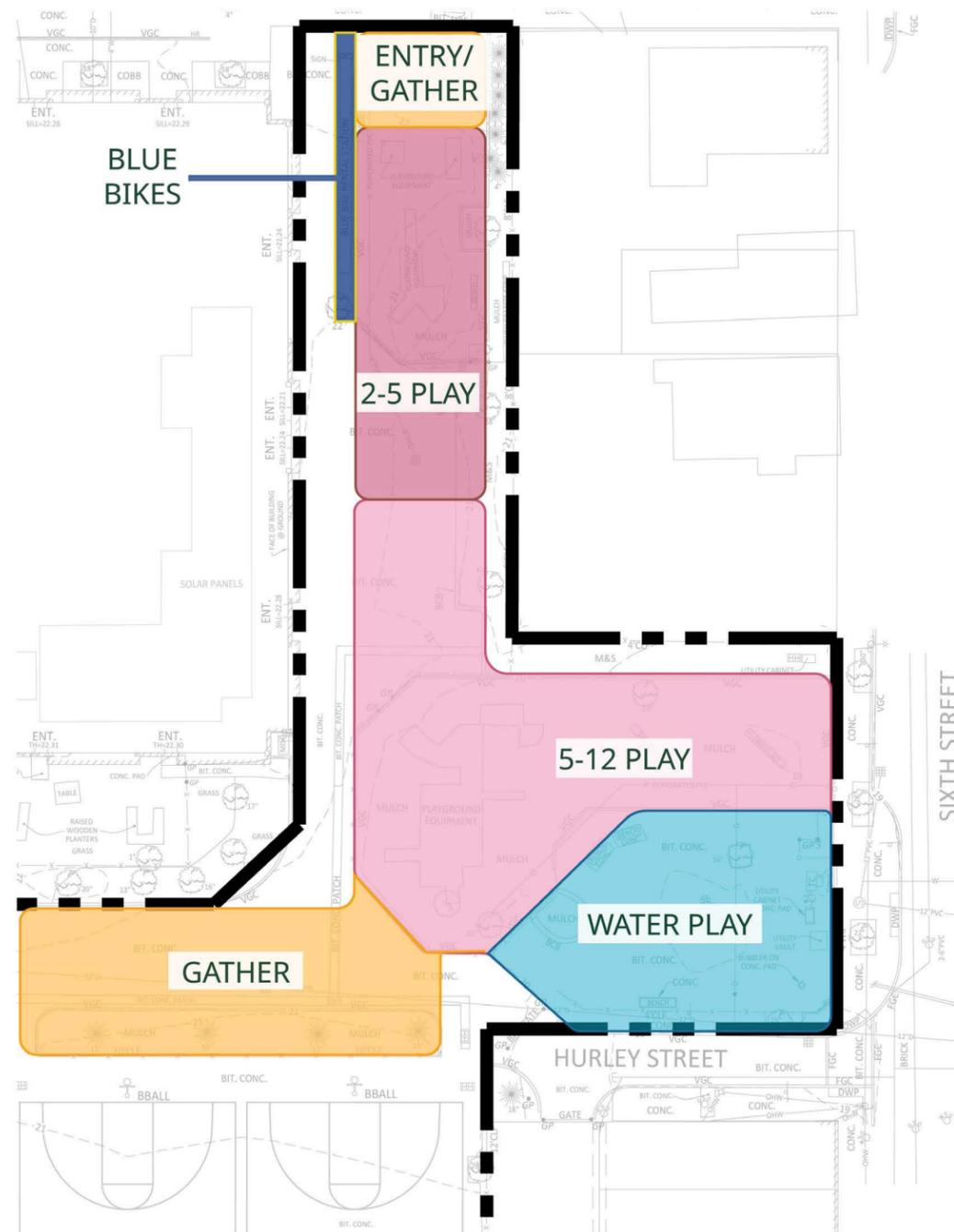
Mixed Bench Seating



# BREAKOUT STATION #2 | Which Playground Layout Do You Like?



- Reduction in 2-5 play for larger Entry/Gather
- Add gated entry experience from Spring St.
- Play graphics separate 2-5 play and 5-12 play
- Introduce a small lawn area space to play ground



- Increase both the 2-5 play and 5-12 play areas
- Add gated entry experience from Spring St.
- 2-5 and 5-12 play spaces are connected
- Expand water play area



“Introduce / update more interactive water play elements that benefit a variety of ages safely.”

“Add a picnic area.”

“I want more big kid things!”

“We need more seats for adults.”

“Please keep all of the trees!”

“That bench is kind of dangerous.”

# BREAKOUT STATION #3 | Which Equipment Types Do You Like?

2-5



SEESAW



ROCKER



GROUP BOUNCER



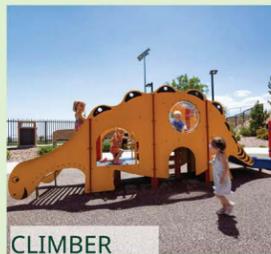
PLAY HOUSE



PLAY MAZE



PLAY PANEL



CLIMBER



POST AND PLATFORM



SLIDE

5-12



ROCKER



POST & PLATFORM



CHILL SPINNER



GROUP SPINNER



TOWER + PLATFORM



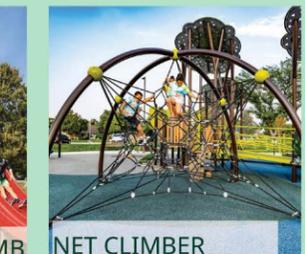
WOBBLE PODS



PANEL CLIMBER



TOWER + CLIMB



NET CLIMBER



HANG OUT DENS

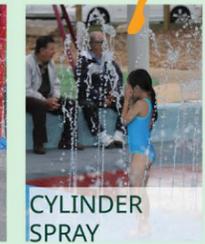


BALANCE BEAM

SPLASH PAD



IN-GROUND SPRAY



CYLINDER SPRAY



WATER TUNNEL



LINKED SPRAY



MIST

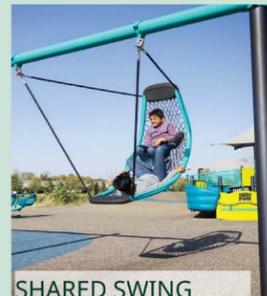


FOUNTAIN SPRAY

SWINGS



GROUP SWING



SHARED SWING



BELT SWINGS



FRIENDSHIP SWINGS



BUCKET SWINGS



TADA SWING

# BREAKOUT STATION #4 | What's Your Ideal Sport Field Experience? Where Do You Want To Watch Sport Field Games From?

## SPORTS FIELDS AMENITIES



Field Lighting



Field Striping



Soccer Goal



Shaded Dugout



Field Striping & Field Lighting



Backstop with Netting



Aluminum Bleachers



Cantilever Dugout



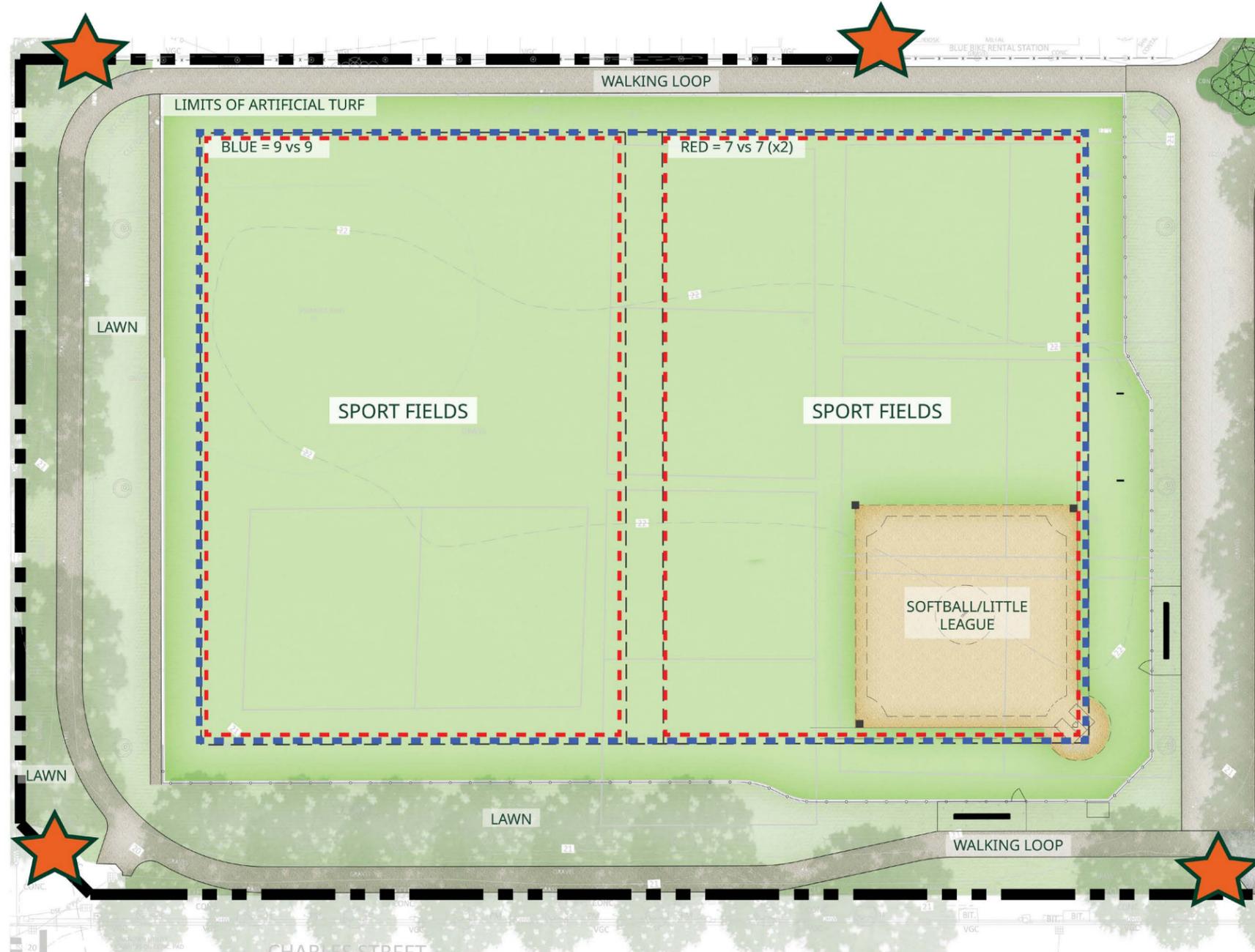
Spiked Bases



Backstop with Chainlink Overhang



Turf Access Frame



## WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID



“The fields need irrigation and drainage, and annual maintenance.”

“Places to sit around the field.”

“Keep the grass! No turf!”

“Turf, please.”

“Disability / accessibility - universal design should be the basis for any planning.”

“More bicycle parking.”

## LEGEND

★ ENTRY & ARRIVAL

# BREAKOUT STATION #5 | What Is Your Ideal Sport Court Experience? Where Do You Want To Watch Sport Court Games from?

## SPORTS COURTS AMENITIES



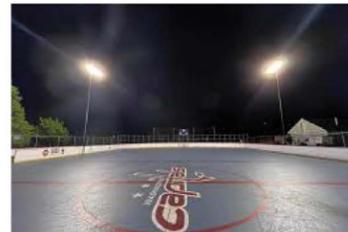
Basketball Surfacing



Multi-use Basketball Court



Street Hockey Rink Lighting



Street Hockey Rink Lighting



Street Hockey Net



Dasher Board System



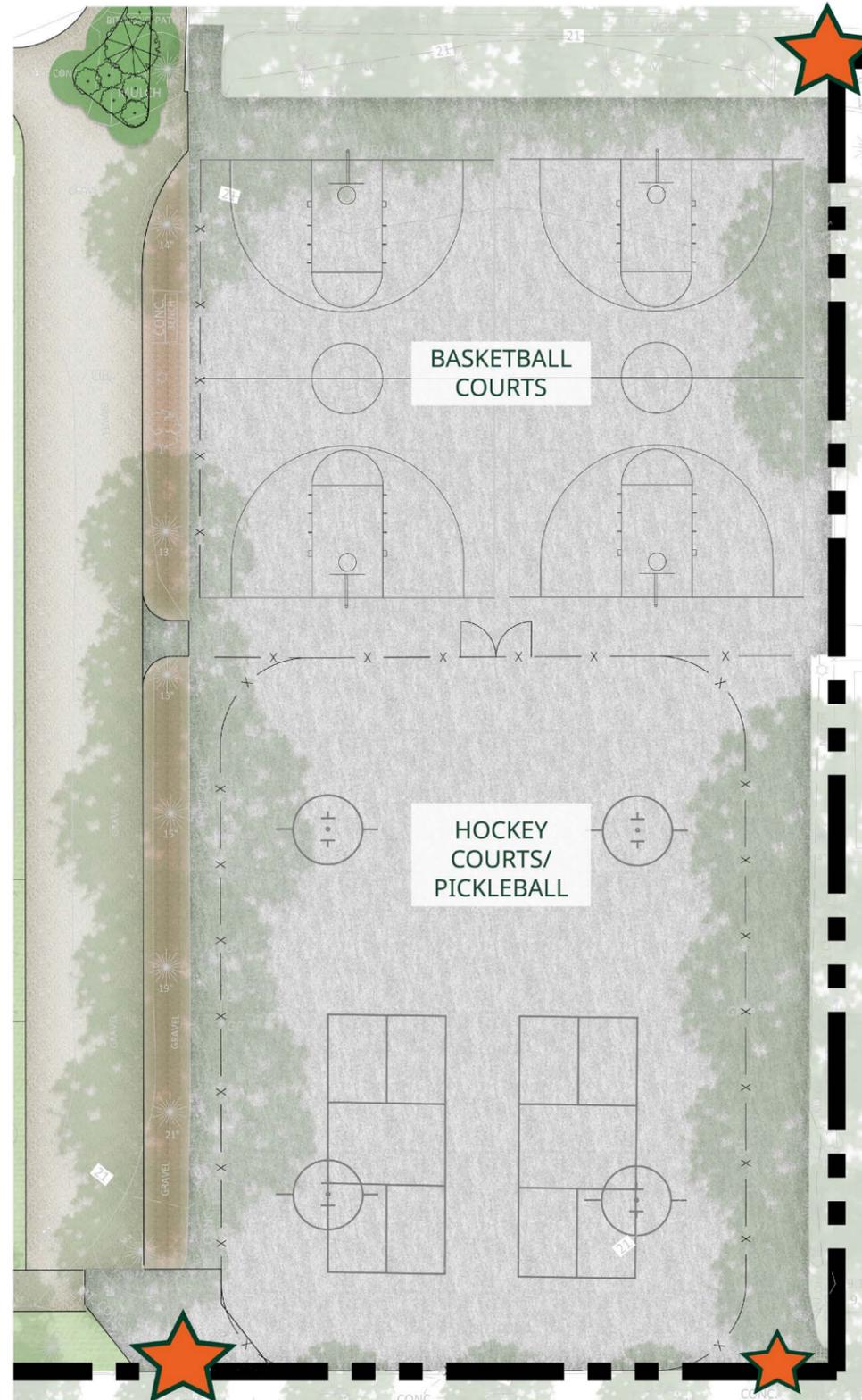
Street Hockey Surface



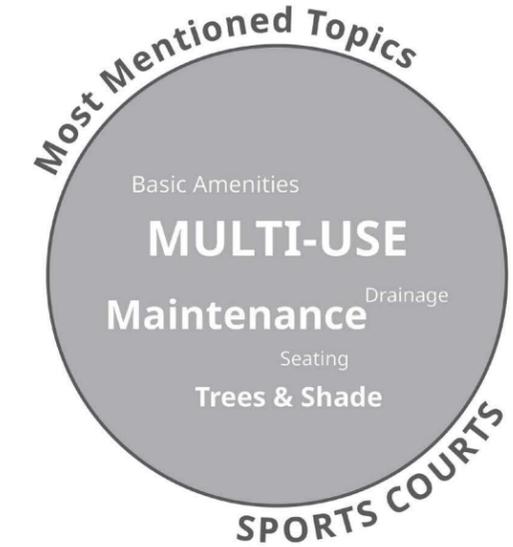
Kick Board System



Basketball Hoop Pad



## WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID



“Ability to turn into ice hockey / skating in winter.”

“Stadium-style seating.”

“Improve opportunities for larger community events.”

“Please add access to power and electricity.”

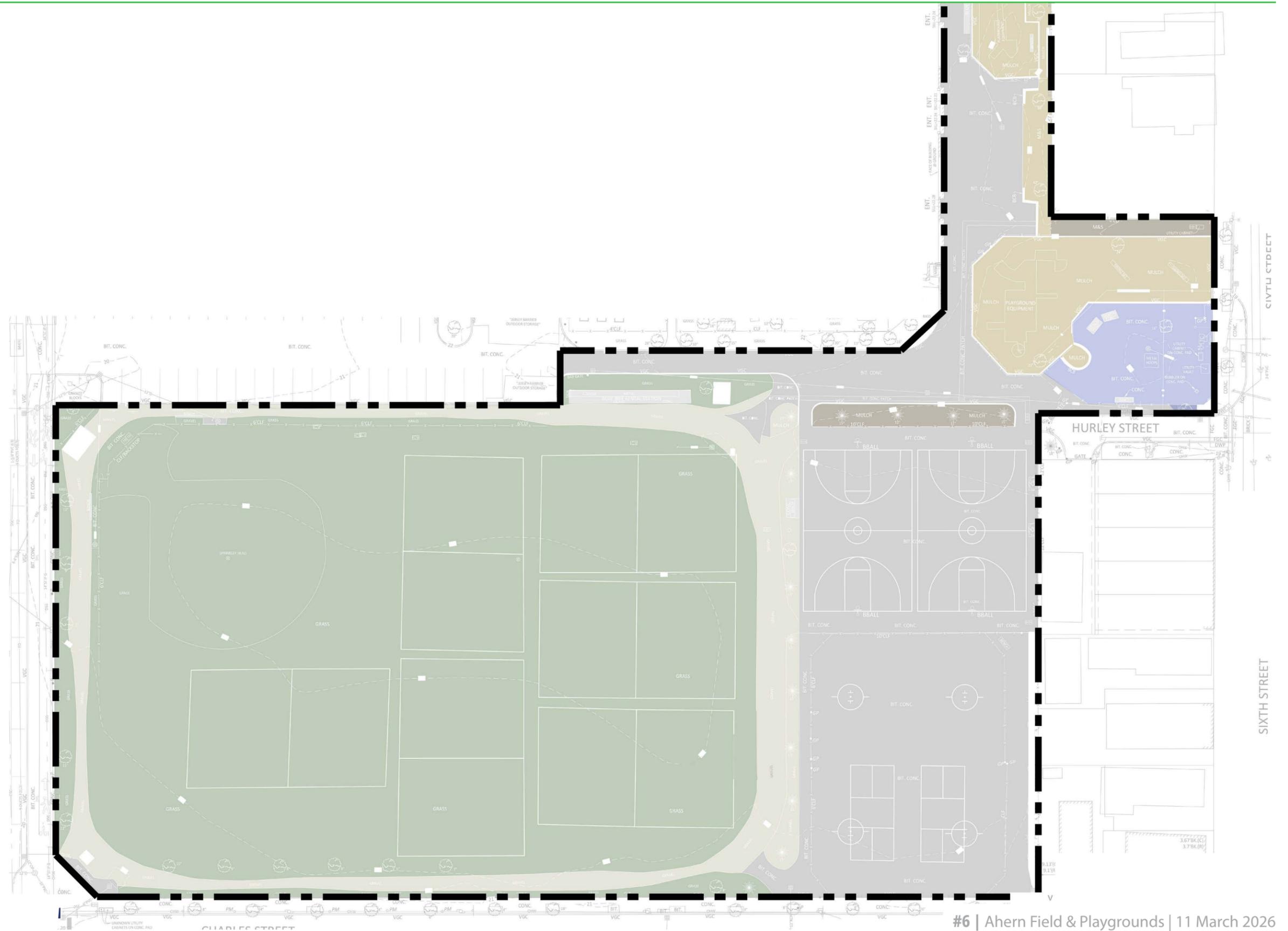
“Keep the trees! Shady areas are rare in our neighborhood.”

“Sun cover / shade at certain times of the day.”

## LEGEND

★ ENTRY & ARRIVAL

# BREAKOUT STATION #6 | What Else Do You Want Us To Know?



# NEXT STEPS

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- 1. Continue Community Input**
- 2. Refine Design Based on Feedback**
- 3. Finalize Construction Documents**
- 4. Anticipated Construction Start: Fall 2026**

# PRELIMINARY PROJECT SCHEDULE

