



CAMBRIDGE  
CDD@344

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
344 Broadway

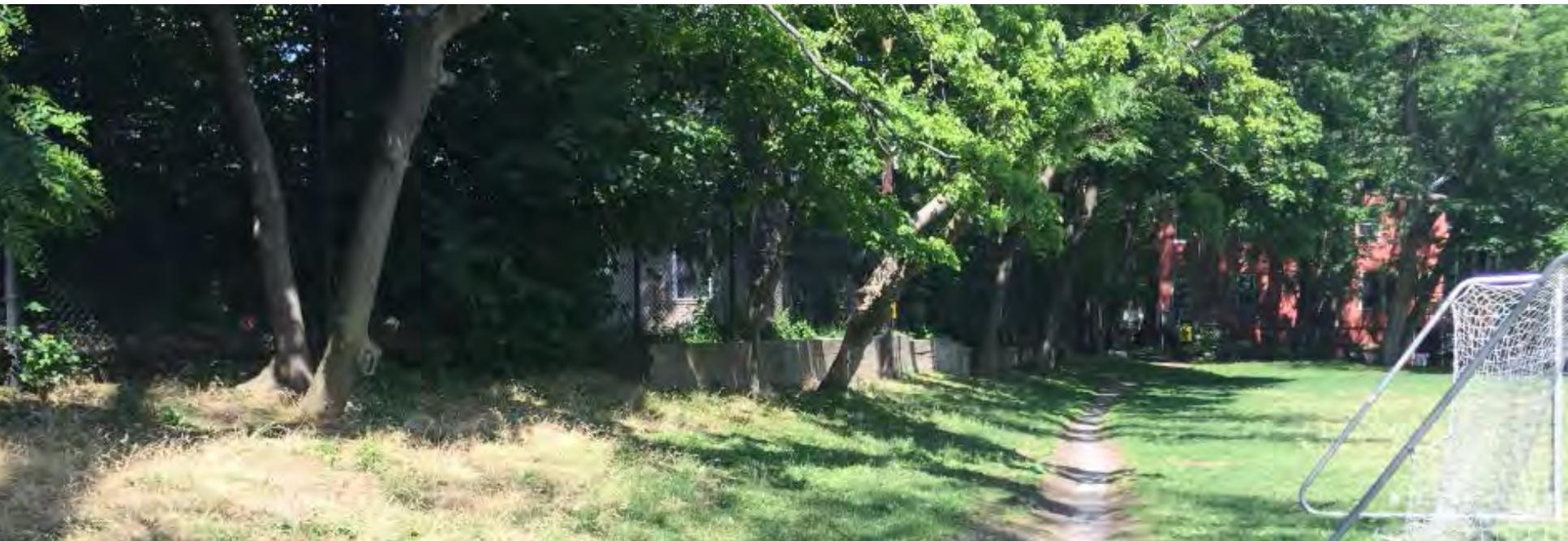
# Sacramento Field Renovation Community Meeting

# **AGENDA**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016**

**6:30PM to 8:00PM**

- Park Renovation Process Overview
- Sacramento Field Design Concept
- Public Comment

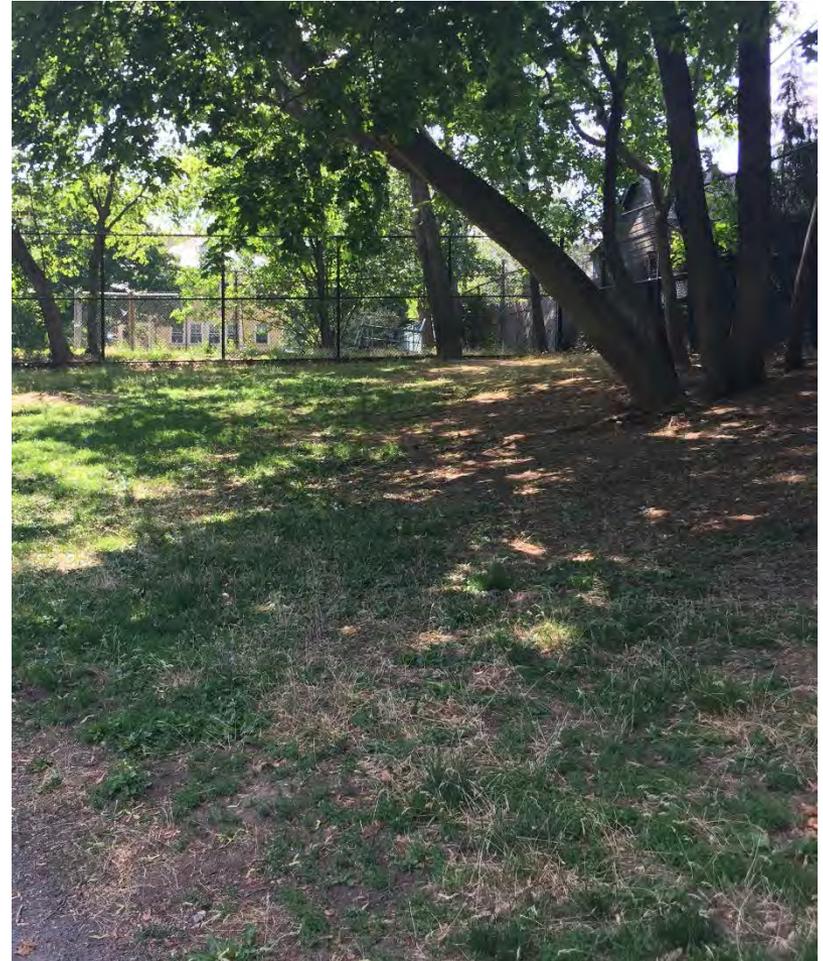


Sacramento Field Overview

# **PARK RENOVATION PROCESS**

# Park Renovation Overview

- City Council appropriation of CPA funds for Open Space projects
- Information gathering & Kick-off public meeting
  - Input from current park users
  - How do people use the park?
  - Ideas for future improvement
- Follow up public meeting(s) to view & discuss a concept plan for the renovated park
- Park renovation/construction



# Park Renovation Process

- At the start of any park renovation process, **our goal is to work with the community to take an existing park and bring it up to date.**
- This includes looking at how the park is used, and considering current standards for safety, materials, accessibility, and maintenance.
- Our role as agents of the City is to supply our expertise in the planning and design of parks. We grapple with many constraints that are physical, technical, and regulatory in nature.
- We are also responsible for overseeing the scope and budget of the renovation.

# Park Renovation Process continued...

- To make this process successful, we look to the community as day-to-day experts on how the park is used.
- We learn many things through the process about how the park is used, what works and what doesn't work, and improvements that the community would like to see in the future.
- While we cannot guarantee that every suggestion will be incorporated into the final design, we feel confident the more we hear from the community, the more successful we will be at arriving at a terrific outcome for the neighborhood.

# Initial Feedback from Community Meeting #1

## Current Use of Sacramento Field:

- Field supports multiple uses including youth sports, soccer, basketball, softball, lacrosse, croquet, frisbee, field hockey, kite flying, star gazing, sledding, snowball fights, bicycle workshops, community events/picnics and more!
- Appreciation for the number of activities the field can support at one time, and that it is not designated for one particular use
- Opportunities for people of all ages including tots, older kids, and seniors
- Heavily used by the afterschool programs and local day care providers, particularly during summertime
- Enjoyment of the “track” for lap walking and bicycle training

# Initial Feedback from Community Meeting #1

## How Sacramento Field might be improved:

- Resod the grass field, and provide better maintenance and irrigation
- Keep the field open so it can continue to support multiple activities as opposed designating it for a single use
- General consideration of both passive and active uses for different ages
- Install benches to support passive use of the park
- Create more interesting edges to the park with plantings, pollinators, and tall grasses

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# Initial Feedback from Community Meeting #1

## How Sacramento Field might be improved:

- Improvements to the tot lot area, the equipment is old & worn
- Add a water fountain
- Voices of both support and opposition for the field as an off-leash area for dogs
- Need for trees and “cooling” spots in the shade
- Improve quality of the basketball court and retaining wall
- Create a dedicated track around the field
- Better access and signage
- Don't overdesign the park, it already supports creative and spontaneous uses



Sacramento Field Overview

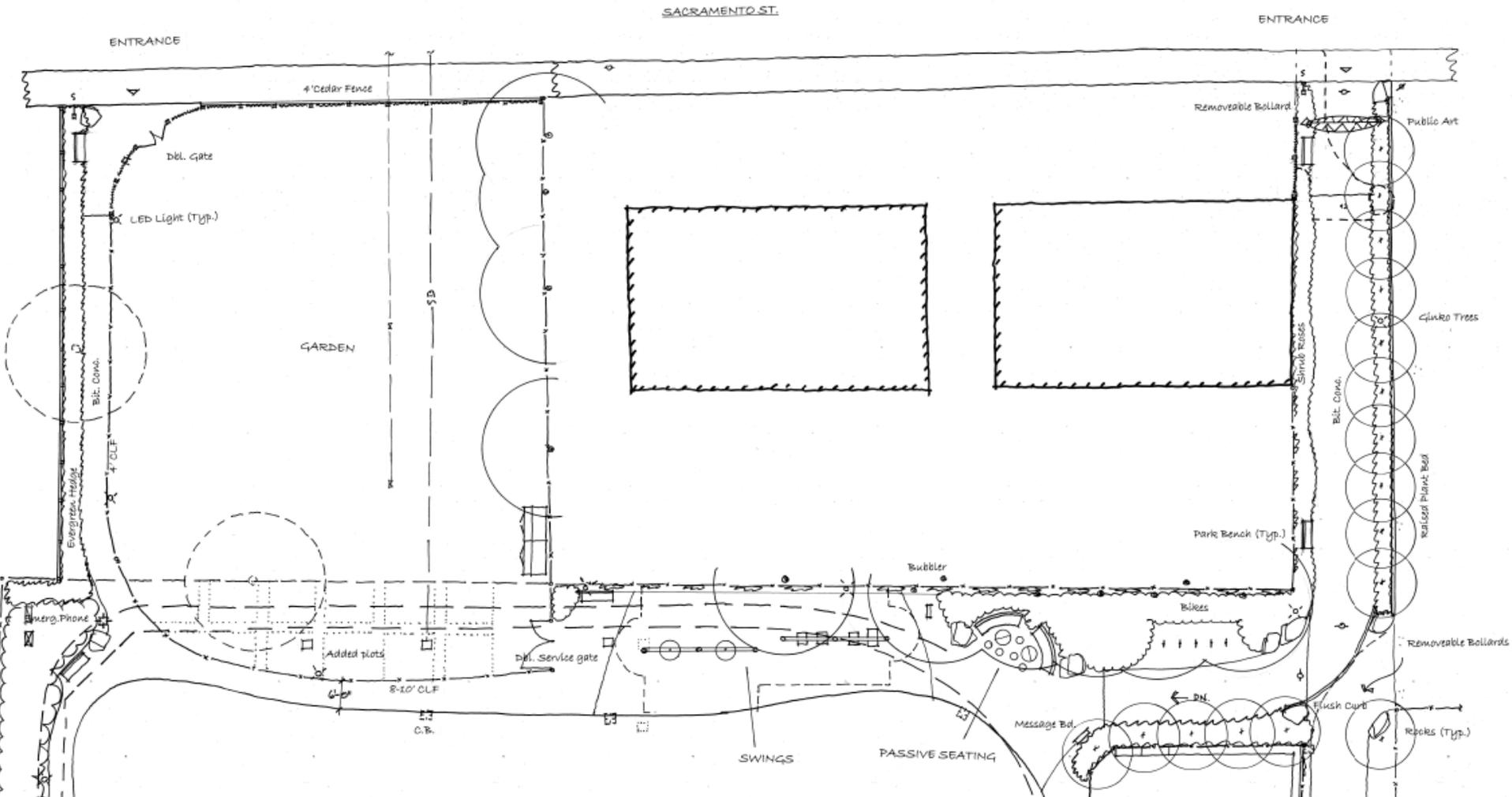
# **DESIGN CONCEPT**

# Design Concept: Sacramento Field Overview

- An important design challenge is to address the lack of connectivity of this park to the surrounding neighborhood.
- To preserve the field so that it will continue being used for unstructured activities; while adding park furniture, expanding play opportunities, and adding other amenities



# TWO PARK ENTRANCES: MAIN + PATH ALONG EDGE OF GARDEN



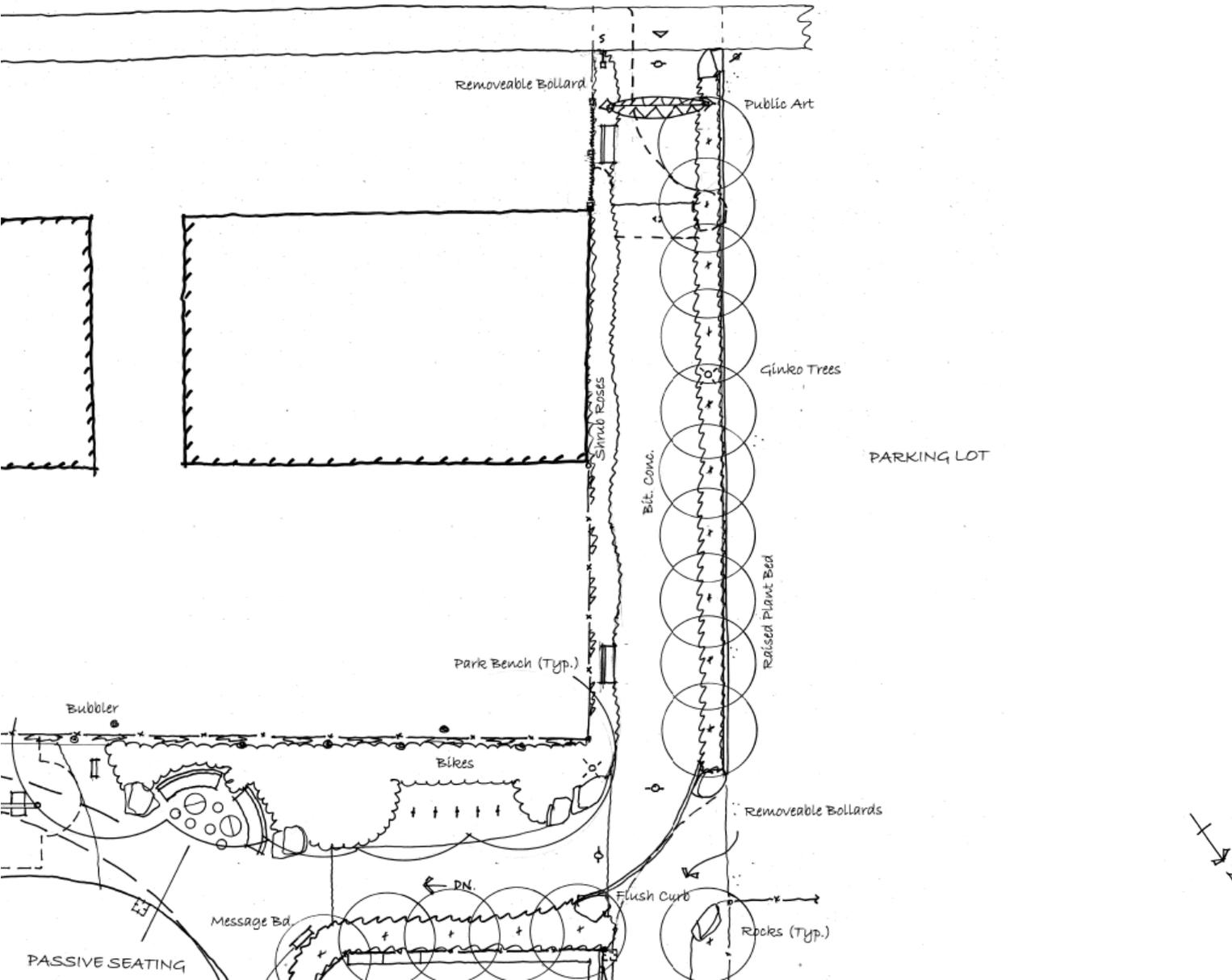
# Design Concept: Two Viable Entrances

- To create at least two connections to the field that are visible, accessible, safe, and well identified with park signage
- Qualitatively both entrances should be wide enough to accommodate two way pedestrian use
- Having two entrances at both ends of the field will set up a more enjoyable circulation pattern, enabling park goers to enter park from either end, walk around the main open space, and exit at the other end
- Having a more convenient way for the neighborhood to be able to access the field is an important consideration; it will also be convenient for the Baldwin School, and Agassiz Baldwin Community programming

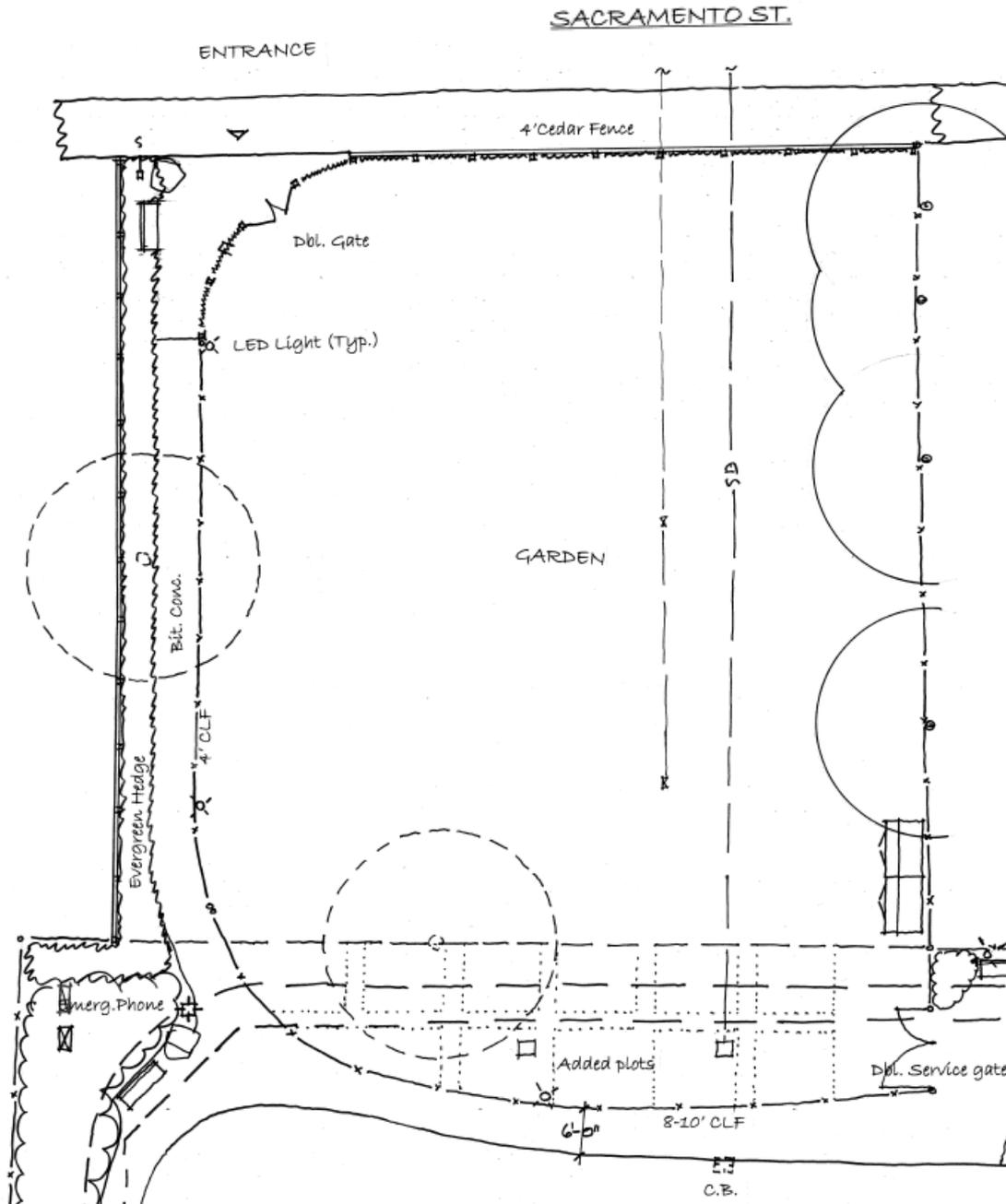
# GUIDANCE CENTER PARKING LOT ENTRANCE

SACRAMENTO ST.

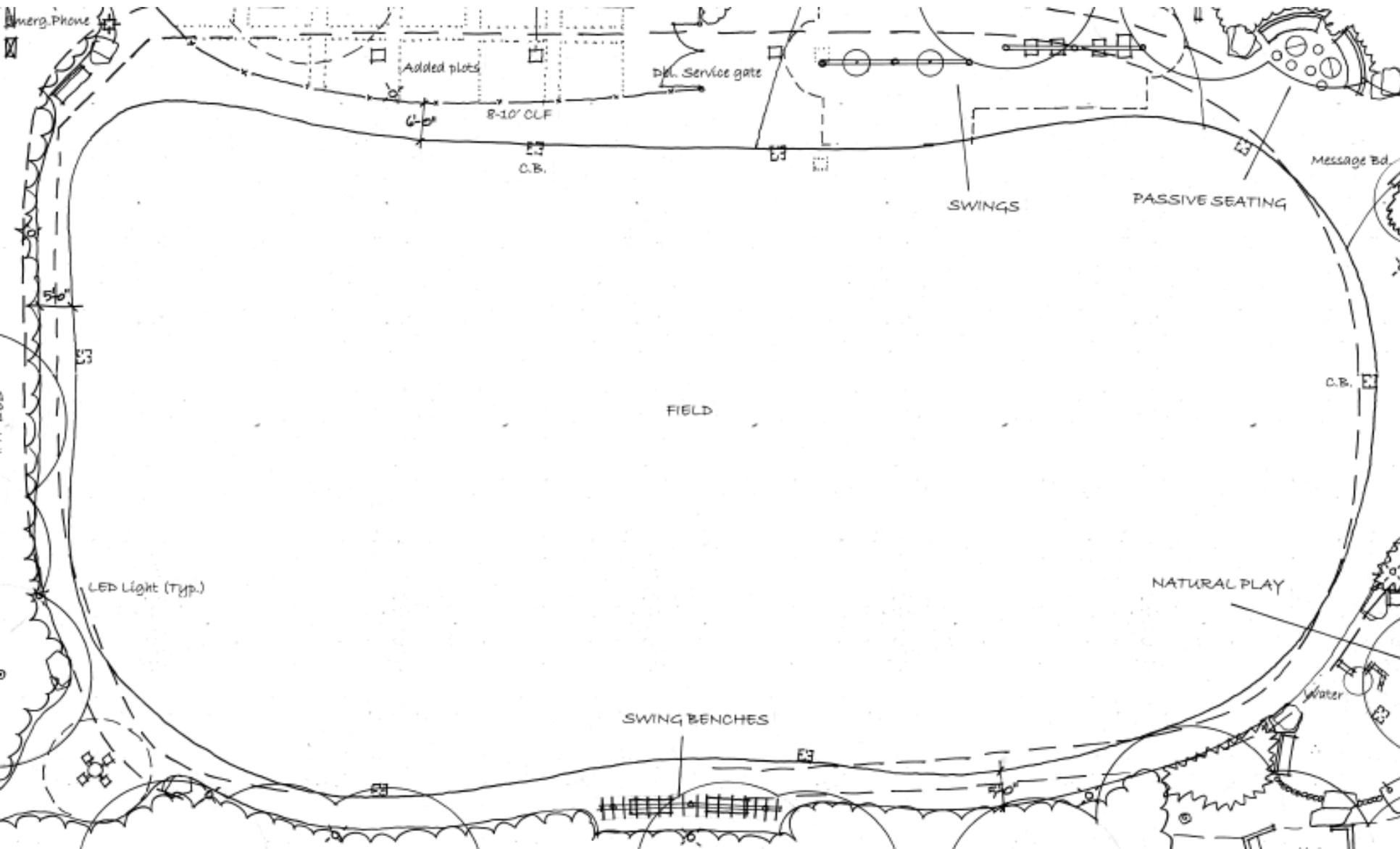
ENTRANCE



# PATH ALONG EDGE OF GARDEN



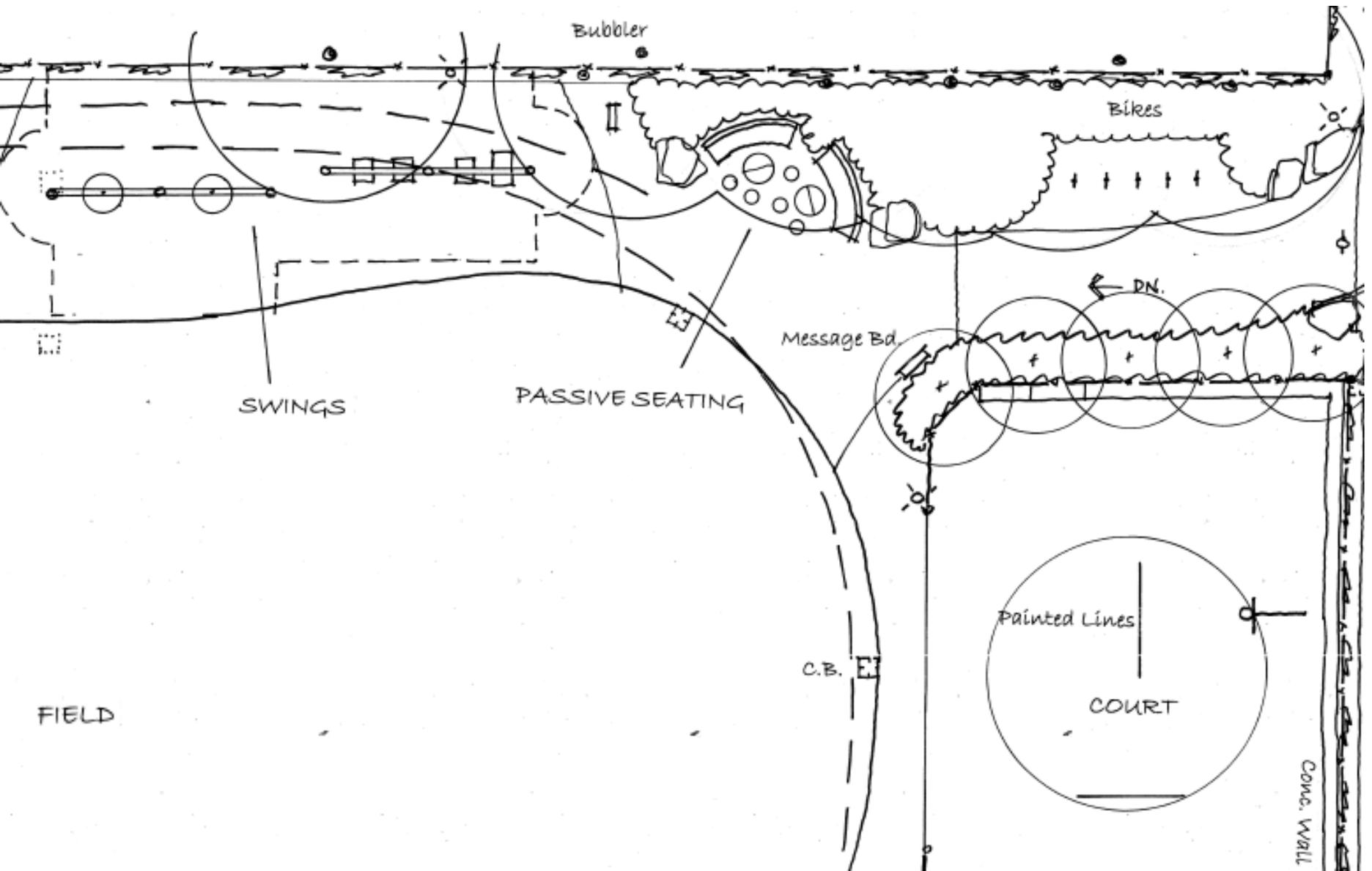
# TRACK AROUND FIELD



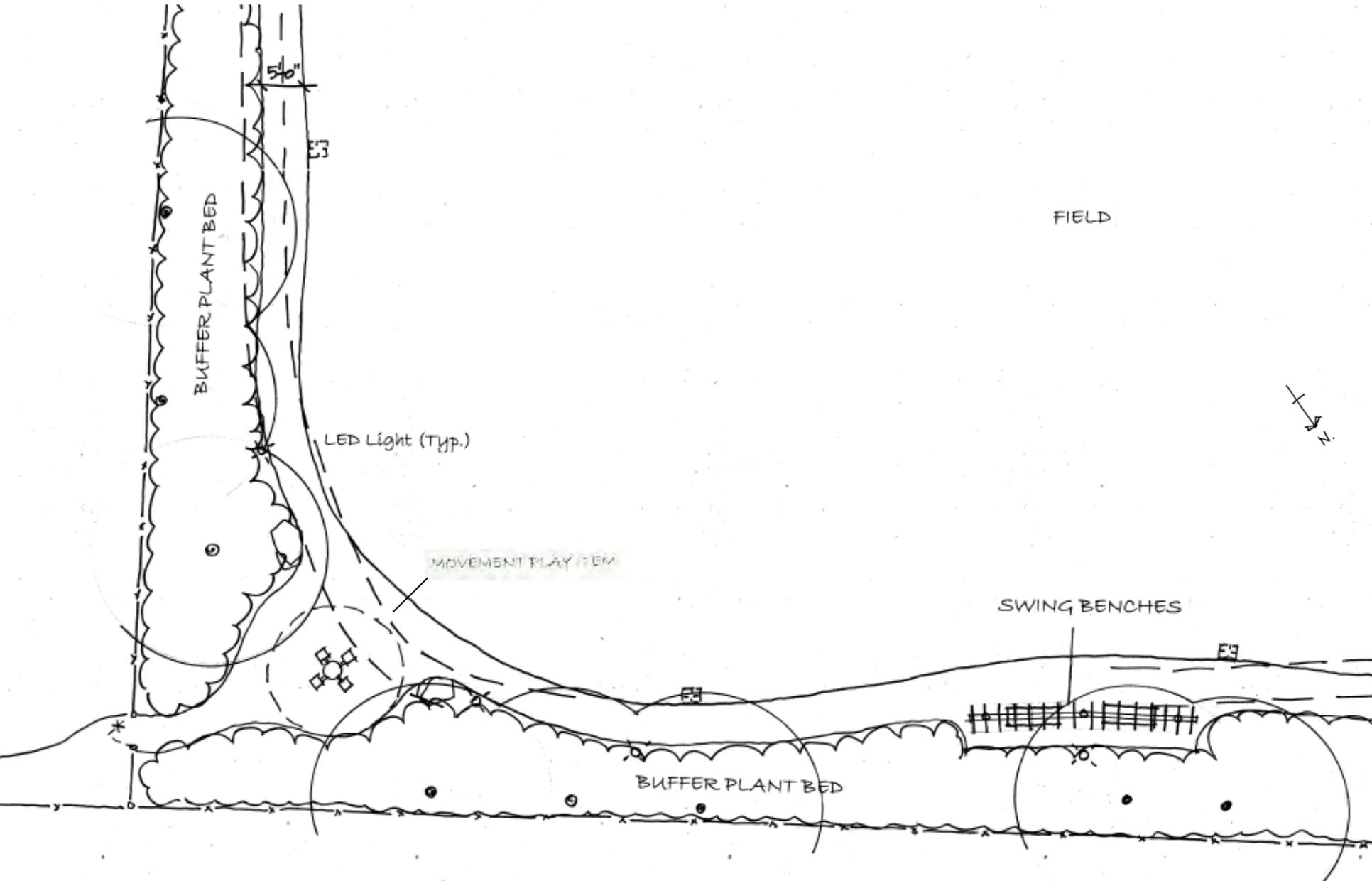
# Design Concept: Path around the Field

- A “track” is proposed around field that is stable, permanent, and wheelchair accessible for walkers, joggers, riding a bike.
- The field area to be completely redone, with drainage improvements, and an automatic irrigation system.
- There are designated small pockets of space around the field area for bikes, a message board, drinking fountain, emergency phone, moveable furniture, tables with game boards, swings, benches, a hanging bench with tot seat, and other movable play equipment, lending library, etc.

# SEATING & TABLES, SWINGS, WATER FOUNTAIN



# MOVEMENT PLAY EQUIPMENT, LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS



# NATURE-BASED PLAY AREA FOR TOTS

FIELD

NATURAL PLAY

Lower Hoop



Climber

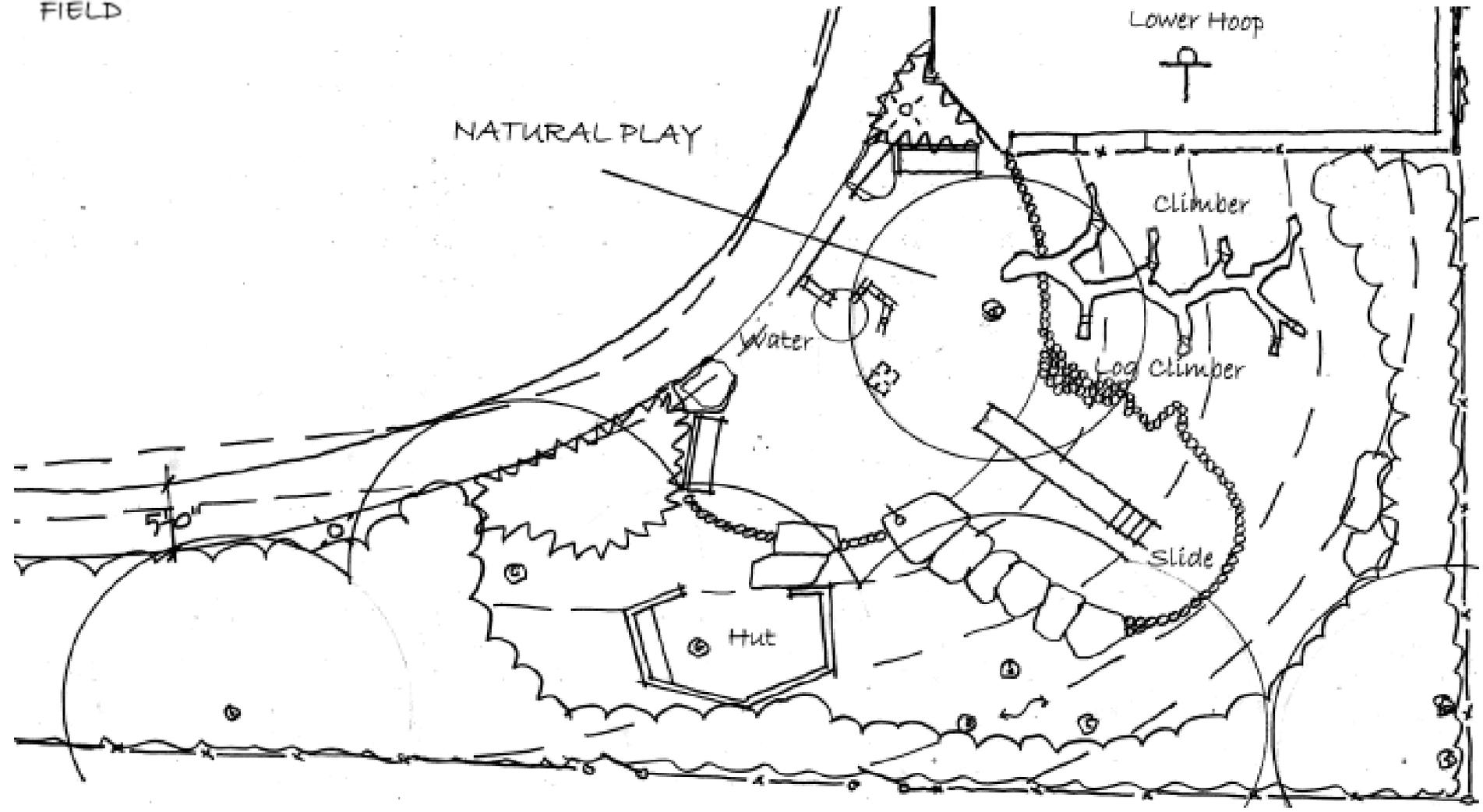
Log Climber

Water

slide

Hut

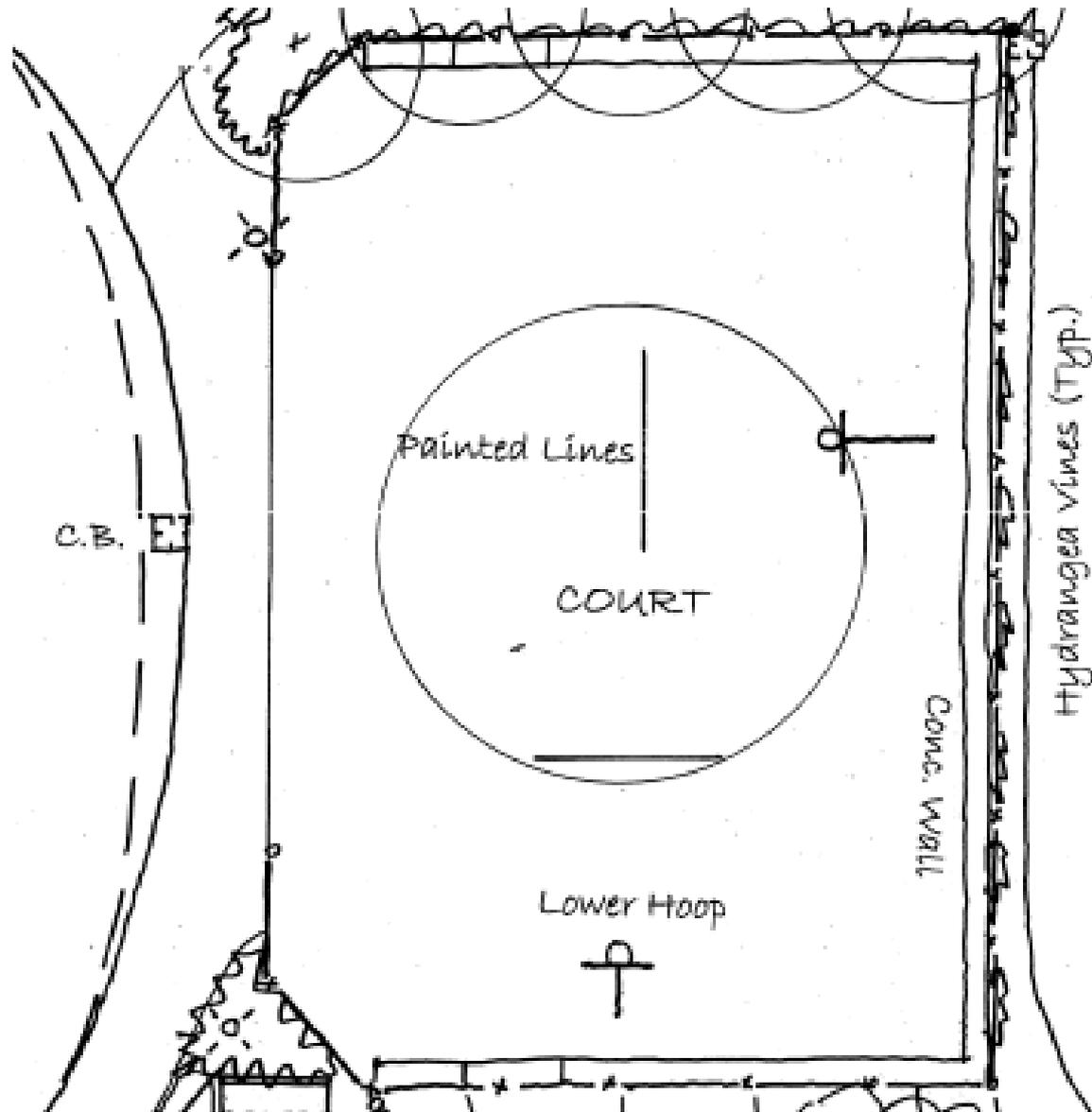
5'0"



# Design Concept: Nature Based Play

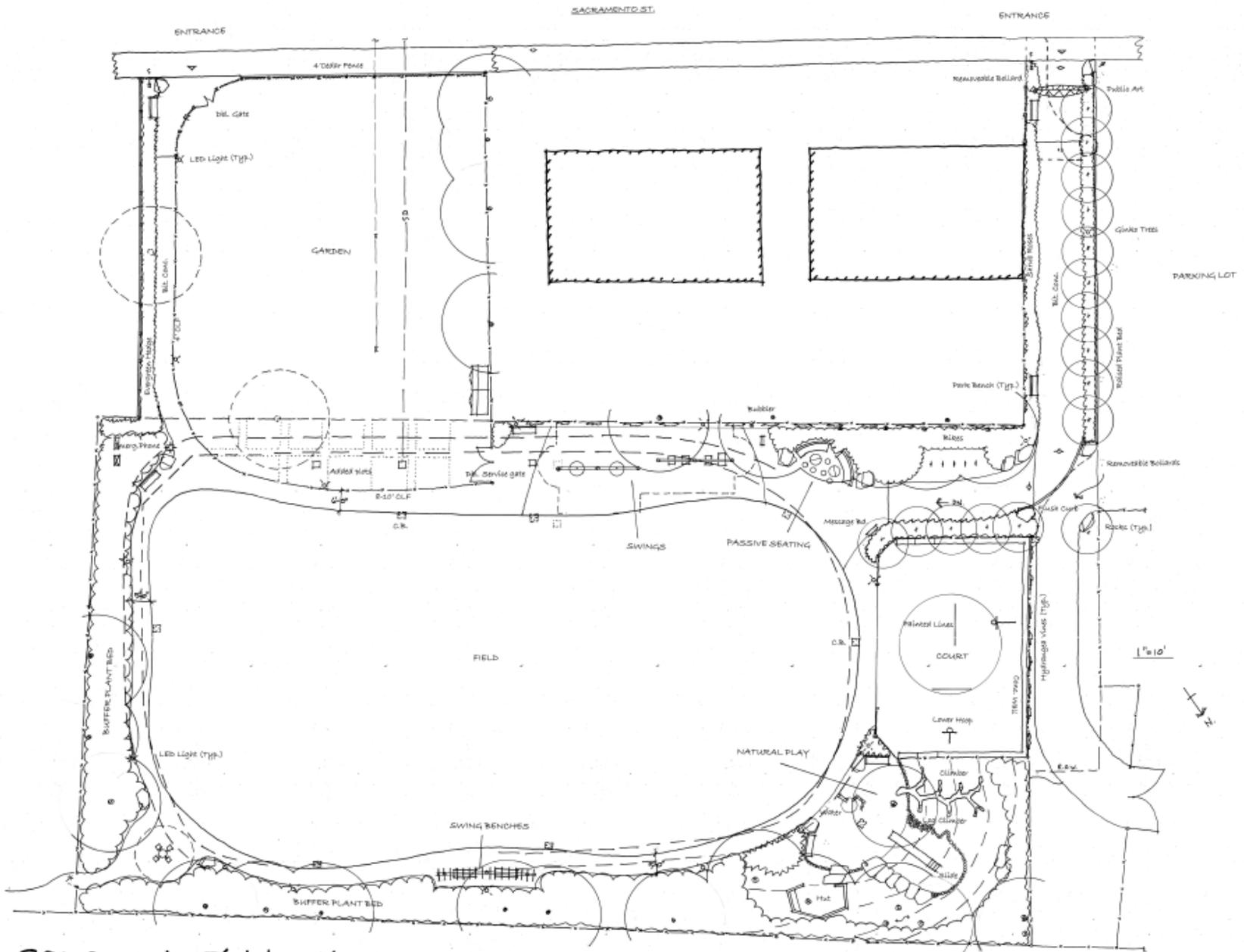
- Intention to create a less artificial looking play area
- A new tot lot with a custom wood tree climber, “tree house”, log steps, and slide built into slope (“bowl” shaped area under trees).
- Movement play equipment is developmentally the most valuable for children, also the most lacking in the neighborhood. The plan includes 2 tot swings, and 2 group swings for older children, and other movement equipment items.
- A small seasonal water element for younger kids (farm pump)

# MULTI USE HARD SURFACE BALL COURT



# Design Concept: Multi-use hard surface ball court

- While not wedded to any specific layout, what we propose is to modify the existing “full” court (undersized) into a regulation half court, with a second lower hoop for younger kids. Another option would be a half court and several “Bankshot” hoops set up for a more diverse group of users.
- Will resurface and re-line court, replace the timber retaining walls with masonry wall, and fencing



Sacramento Field Design Concept

Cambridge Community Development Department

# Design Concept: Lighting

- Pedestrian scale light poles will be installed along all walks. The Cambridge Electrical Department (CED) has the capability to program light fixtures individually, giving them more flexibility in controlling the amount of illumination, and minimizing unwanted impacts
- In addition, several of these lights will have shields to further restrict the light distribution pattern
- We recognize that programming these lights will entail balancing safety concerns with unwanted lighting impacts and night sky pollution. The CED is willing and prepared to work with the neighbors to get it right.

# Design Concept: Landscaping Improvements

- Proposing to plant some trees, where space allows, as well as a buffer planting of shrubs and vines along property boundaries, to give more privacy to abutters, separation, to attract birds, and to visually “soften” these edges and corners around the field
- Play areas will contain some more kid tolerant plantings, to expand the quality of play for roaming through, playing tag, etc.
- Final planting choices to be worked out in collaboration with the Sacramento Street gardeners, and the Public Planting Committee

# Community Garden Improvements

- The square footage loss from the community garden, for the new park path, will be replaced with an equivalent amount of area at the back, field side of the garden
- Selective tree pruning (thinning of branches and removing lower limbs) over a period of several years, to improve light into garden, will be undertaken by the City arborist, including removing the Mulberry tree
- New garden fencing and gates. The height, and style of this fencing, and the location of gates is TBD in collaboration with the gardeners. The lower portion of the garden fence shall be solid and the upper portion more permeable to permit sunlight.

# Community Garden Improvements continued

- The proposed park entrance and path along the edge of the garden will be five feet wide. There will also be a three-foot wide planting bed along the abutting property.
- Sequencing of improvements will be carefully worked out in advance with gardeners, including but not limited to a temporary construction fence, and close coordination to minimize disruptions to garden activities. We anticipate start of construction this fall.
- We will meet most of the requests received from gardeners including: an additional water spigot, making the path permeable, and designed to re-direct salt from snow removal operations, a weather tight message board, some raised planters, and help with a few maintenance issues.

# SACRAMENTO FIELD DESIGN CONCEPT

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

2016

## CREATING A MORE INVITING COMMUNITY PARK



▲ ARBORES WITH SWING SEAT



▲ CONCEPT PLAN



▲ WATERPLAY



▲ ▲ BI-LEVEL TABLES & SEATING



▲ PLAY HUT



▲ GROUP SWINGS



▲ TOT SWINGS



▲ DRAGONSLIDE



▲ MOVEMENT PLAY



▲ "BANKSHOT" BASKETBALL



▲ WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE PATH



▲ NATURAL TREE CLIMBER ▲



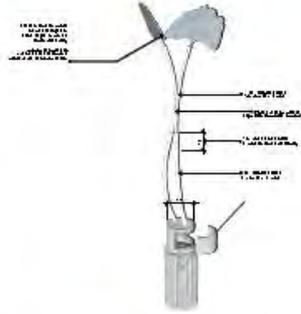
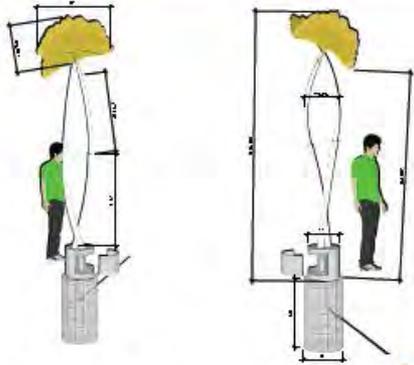
# SACRAMENTO FIELD DESIGN CONCEPT

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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2016

## CREATING A MORE INVITING COMMUNITY PARK



▲ PUBLIC ARTWORK ▲



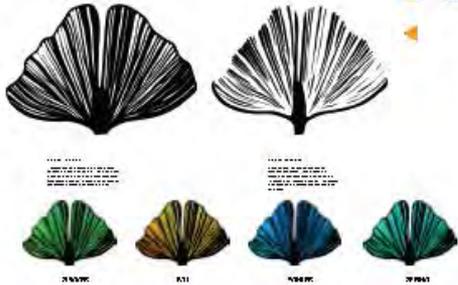
▲ PARK ENTRANCE



▼ BUFFER PLANTINGS ▼ ▶



▲ TREE PLANTING BUFFER



▲ LITTLE LENDING LIBRARY



▲ SITTING BOULDERS



▲ MESSAGE BOARD



▲ EMERGENCY PHONE

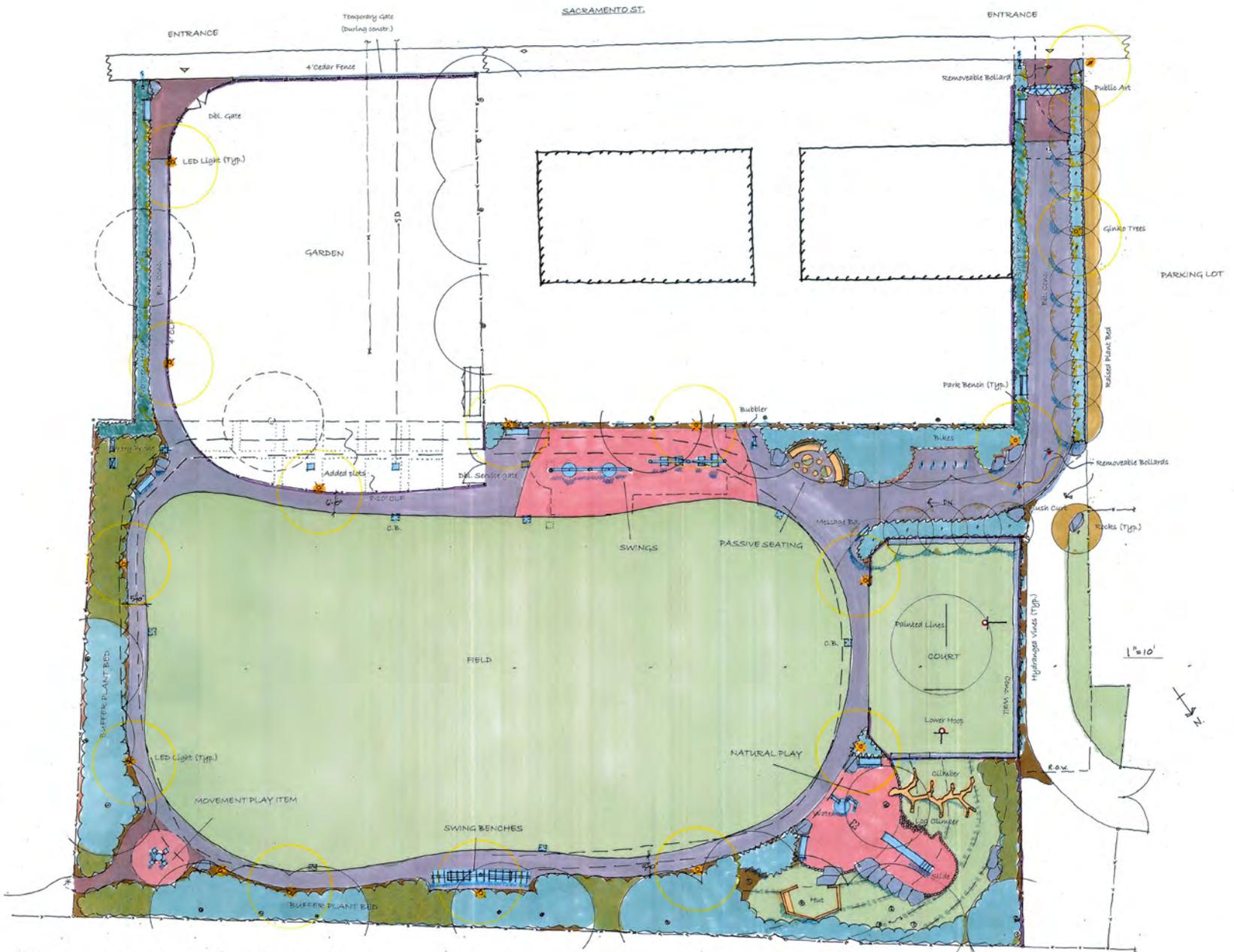


▲ PARK LIGHTING ▲



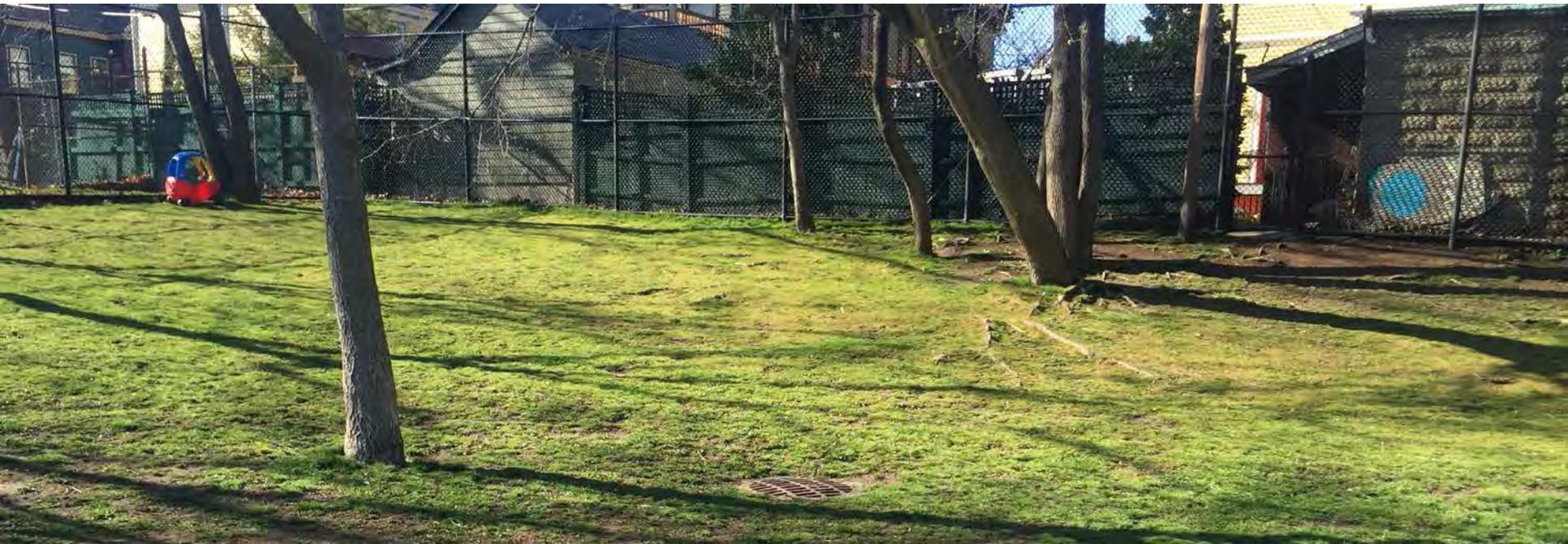
▲ NEW GARDEN FENCE/ENTRY ▲ ▲





Sacramento Field Design Concept

Cambridge Community Development Department



Sacramento Field Design Concept

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- **Overall reactions to the park design:** What do you like? What would you suggest might be different?
- **Identification of specific issues/interests**

# THANK YOU!

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PROJECT WEBPAGE:

**WWW.CAMBRIDGEMA.GOV/SACRAMENTOFIELD**

Please hand in any written comments! Or feel free to email or call if you have additional comments you would like to share with us.

