

# ST. JAMES STREET PARK

39 ST. JAMES STREET, ROXBURY, MA, 02119

*Community Meeting #1*



March 9, 2026  
Boston Parks and Recreation



# 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 muted and camera off.*

*Please share with your neighbors and friends,  
[boston.gov/st-james-street](https://boston.gov/st-james-street)*

# VIRTUAL MEETING ETIQUETTE

*We want to ensure this conversation is a pleasant experience for all and that all community members/stakeholders are comfortable sharing their comments, questions and feedback.*

*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.*

*Keep questions/ comments project-specific and not personal to yield solution-driven discussion.*

*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 **Kenya Thompson**, [kenya.thompson2@boston.gov](mailto:kenya.thompson2@boston.gov), to further discuss the project or process.*

# ZOOM TIPS

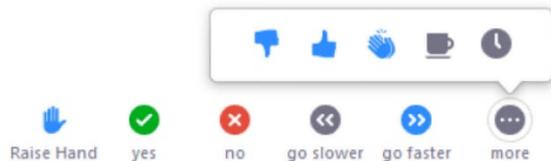
Here is how you can participate during the question and answer part of the presentation.

## 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

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1

**PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTION**

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2

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

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3

**PRESENTATION**

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4

**LISTENING & DISCUSSION**

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5

**CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS**

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# PROJECT TEAM

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## CITY OF BOSTON

### **KENYA THOMPSON**

PROJECT MANAGER

[kenya.thompson2@boston.gov](mailto:kenya.thompson2@boston.gov) or 617-961-3098

### **MY'KEL McMILLEN**

OUTREACH COORDINATOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[corey.mcmillen@boston.gov](mailto:corey.mcmillen@boston.gov) or 617-201-1294

### **ASHA JANAY**

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

[asha.janay@boston.gov](mailto:asha.janay@boston.gov) or 617-635-3296

## **G2 COLLABORATIVE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**

### **LISA GIERSBACH**

Principal

### **JAMES PFEIFFER**

Senior Associate

### **JONATHAN KUHR**

Landscape Designer



# PROJECT SCHEDULE

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**JANUARY 2026**

*St. James Street Park Project Kick-Off*

**FALL 2026**

*Design Development +  
Construction Documents*

**Est. MAY 2026**  
*Community Meeting #2*

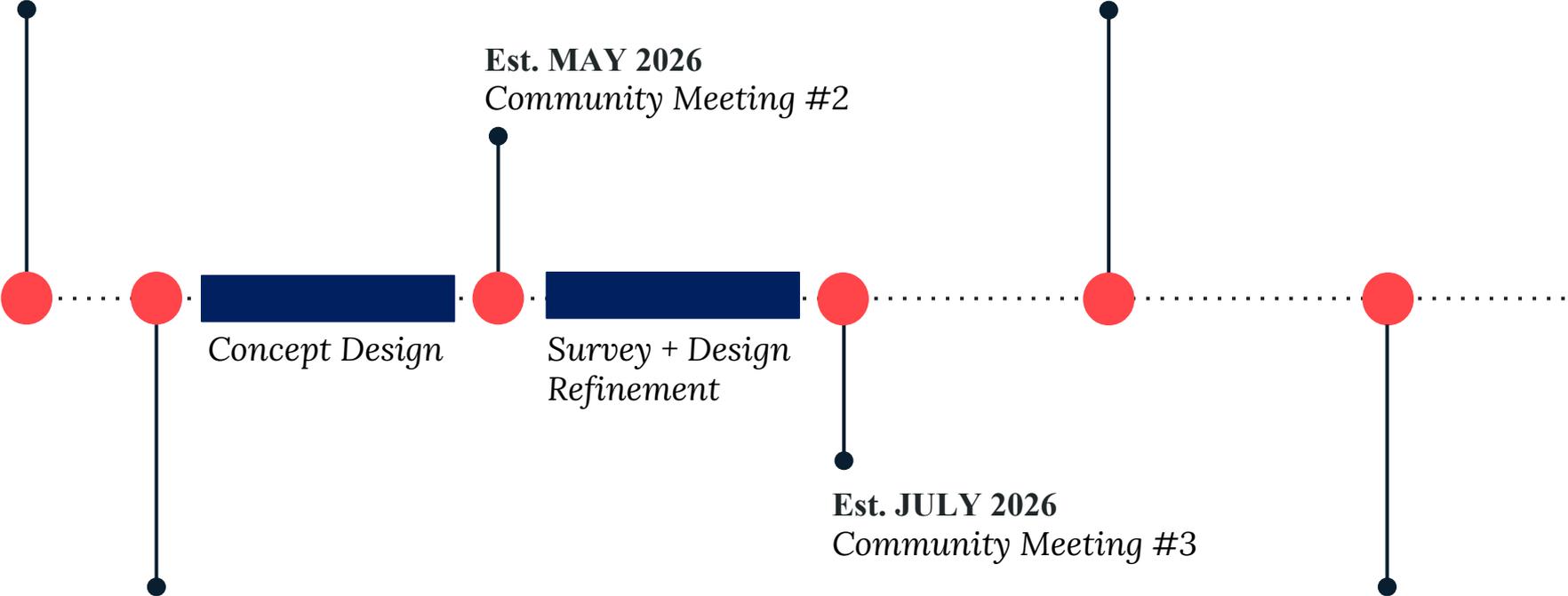
*Concept Design*

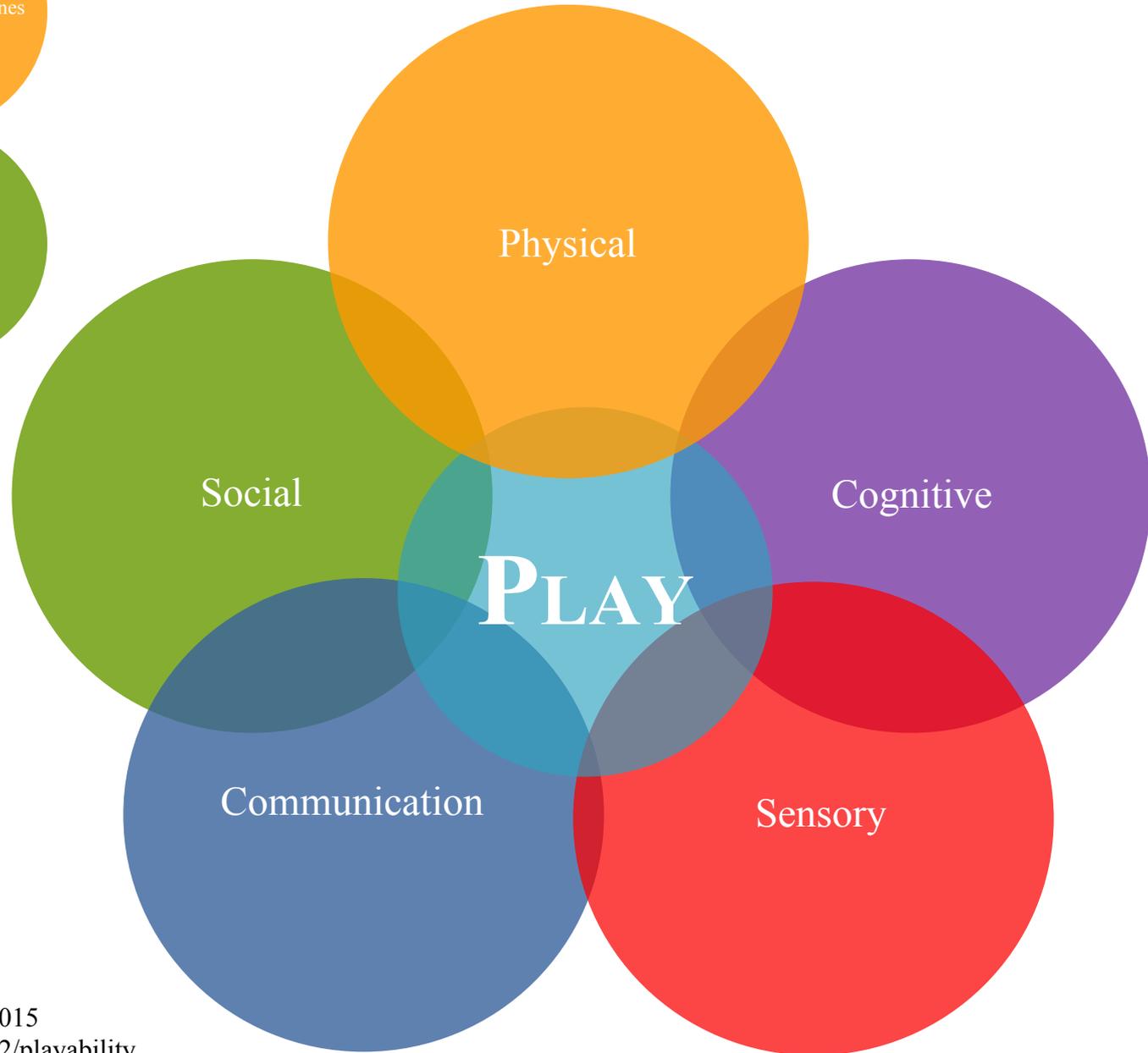
*Survey + Design  
Refinement*

**Est. JULY 2026**  
*Community Meeting #3*

**MARCH 9, 2026**  
*Community Meeting #1*

**SPRING 2027**  
*Construction  
Preliminary  
Budget Estimate:  
\$1,000,000*





# THE **5** ELEMENTS OF PLAY

**SOCIAL/ EMOTIONAL**  
COOPERATION, DRAMATIC +  
IMAGINATIVE PLAY



SEATING + TABLE AREAS,  
THEMATIC PLAY ELEMENTS  
(SHIPS), PLAY HOUSES

**PHYSICAL**  
GROSS MOTOR/ FINE MOTOR SKILLS,  
FLEXIBILITY, ACCESSIBILITY,  
HEALTHY RISK + VARIETY



DISH SWINGS, MOVEABLE  
OBJECTS, SWINGS, MONKEY BARS,  
BALANCE

**SENSORY**  
TOUCH, VISUAL, AUDITORY, SMELL  
VESTIBULAR, PROPRIOCEPTIVE +  
INTEROCEPTIVE



PUSH/ PULL ELEMENTS  
WATER ELEMENTS, VARIED  
TEXTURES + COLORS, SPINNING,  
MOVEABLE OBJECTS, ROCKING

**COGNITIVE**  
CREATIVITY, SENSE OF  
ACCOMPLISHMENT,  
PROBLEM-SOLVING, CAUSE +  
EFFECT, RISK ASSESSMENT



INTERACTIVE WATER ELEMENTS,  
ROPE CLIMBER, LINKED PLAY  
ELEMENTS

**COMMUNICATION**  
DEVELOPMENT OF RECEPTIVE +  
EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE

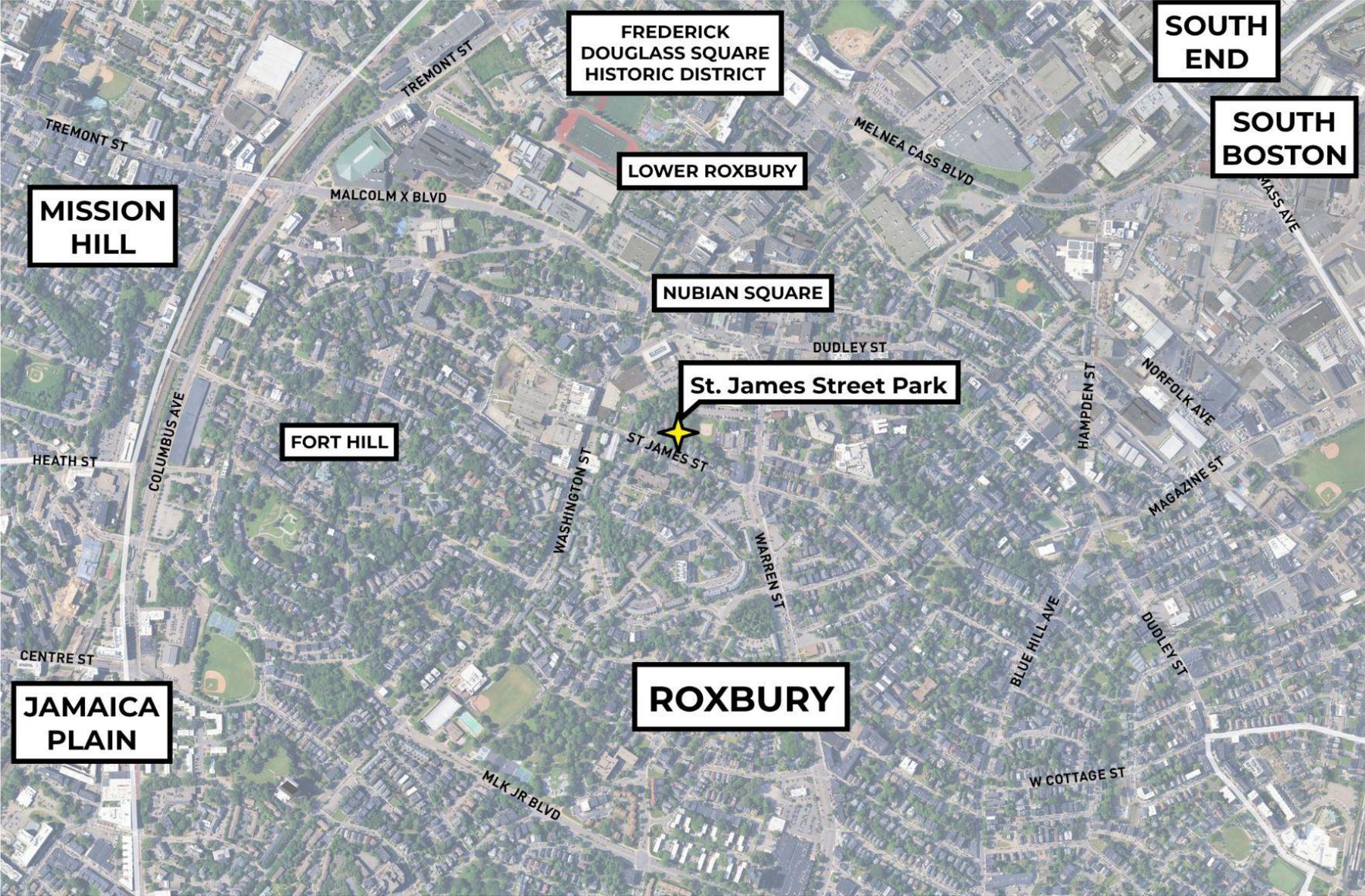


TALK TUBES, SLIDES, THEMATIC  
PLAY ELEMENTS, TRIKE TRACK,  
SEE SAWS

# SITE ANALYSIS + PROJECT OVERVIEW

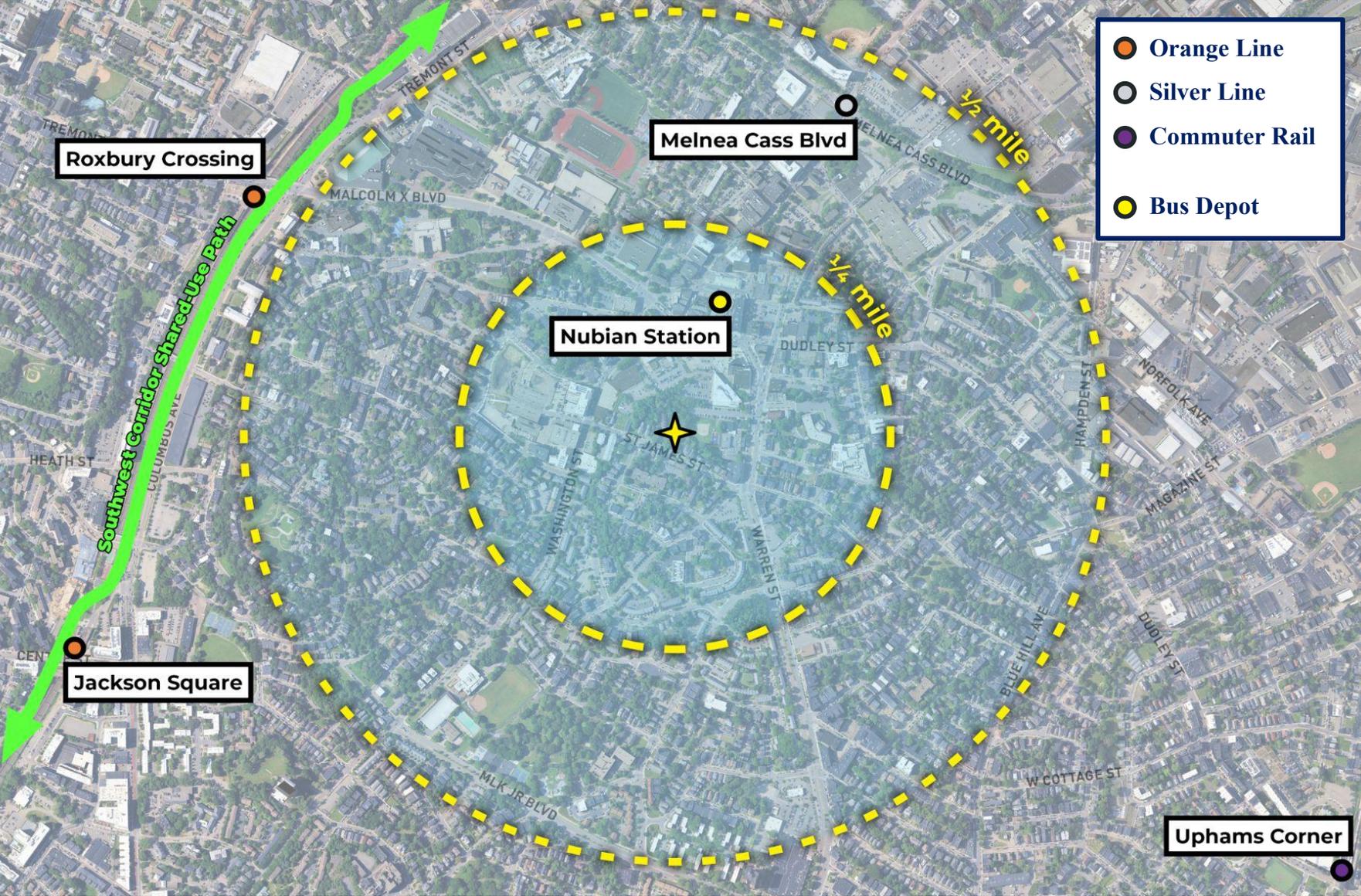
An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The image shows several houses with grey roofs, green lawns, and numerous trees. A circular area in the center-right is highlighted with a blue border, containing a tree and a small structure. A road with parked cars is visible on the left side, and a parking lot with several cars is on the right. The overall scene is a typical suburban residential area.

# PARK CONTEXT

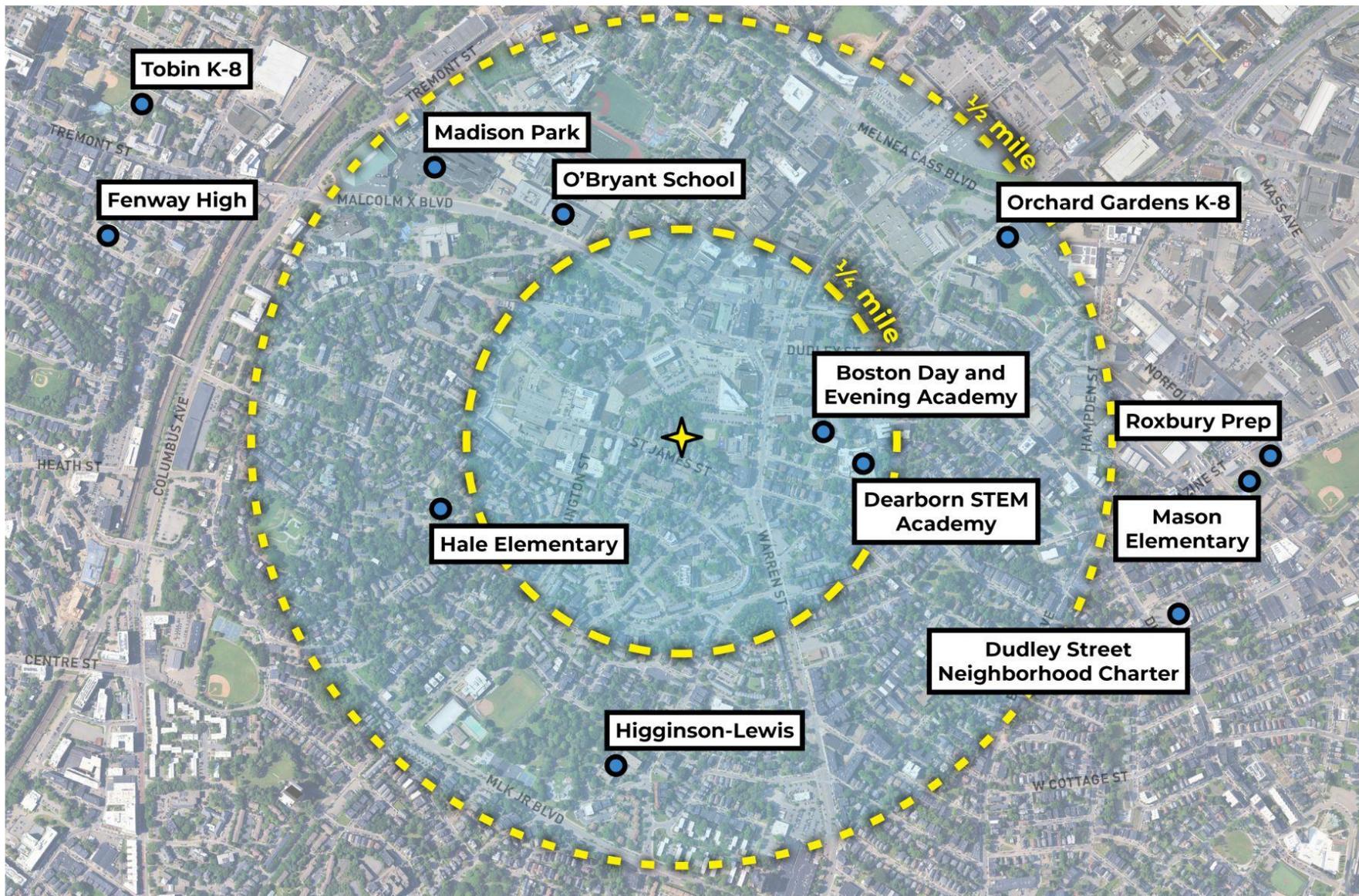




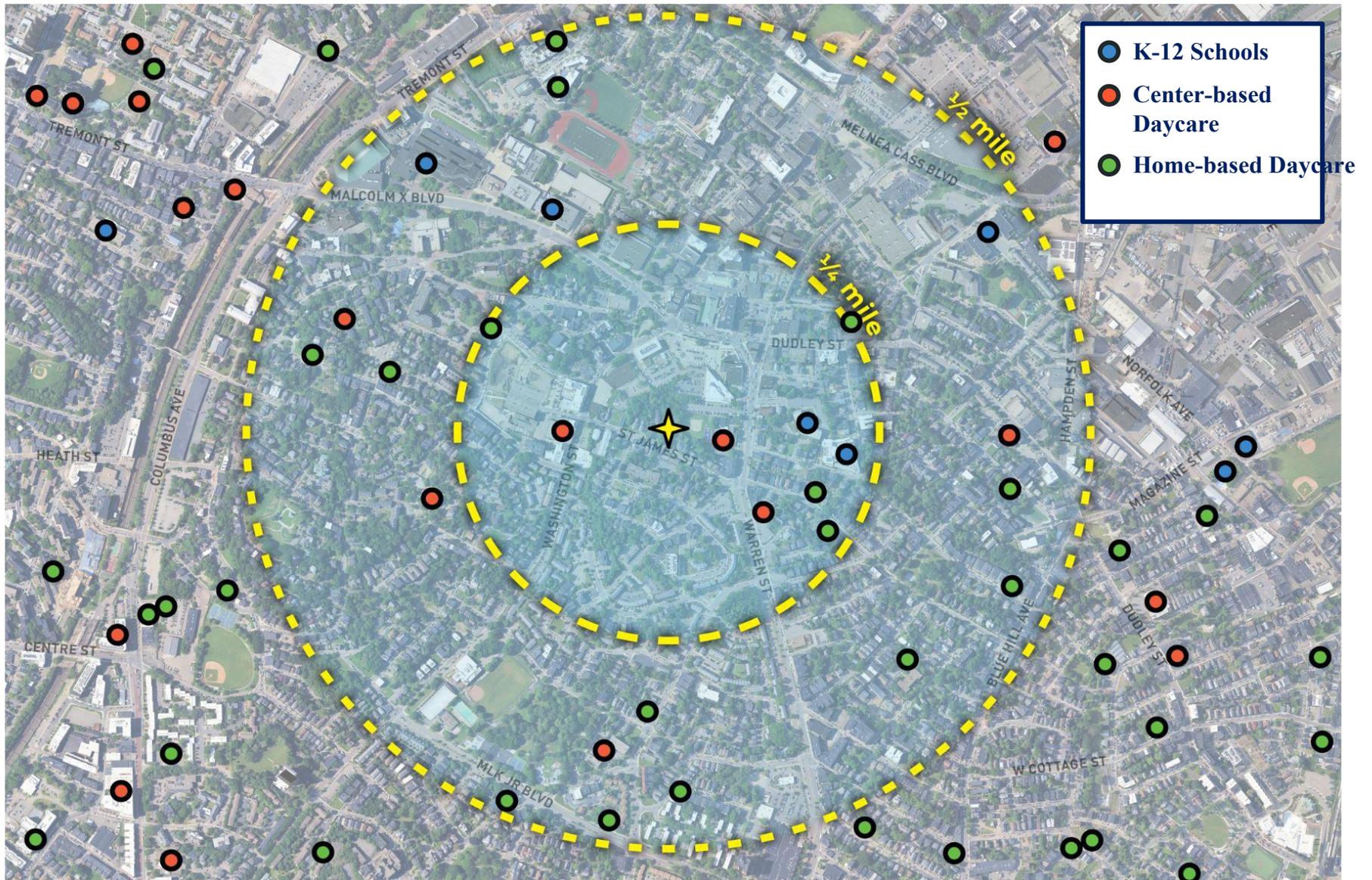
# PARK CONTEXT // TRANSIT



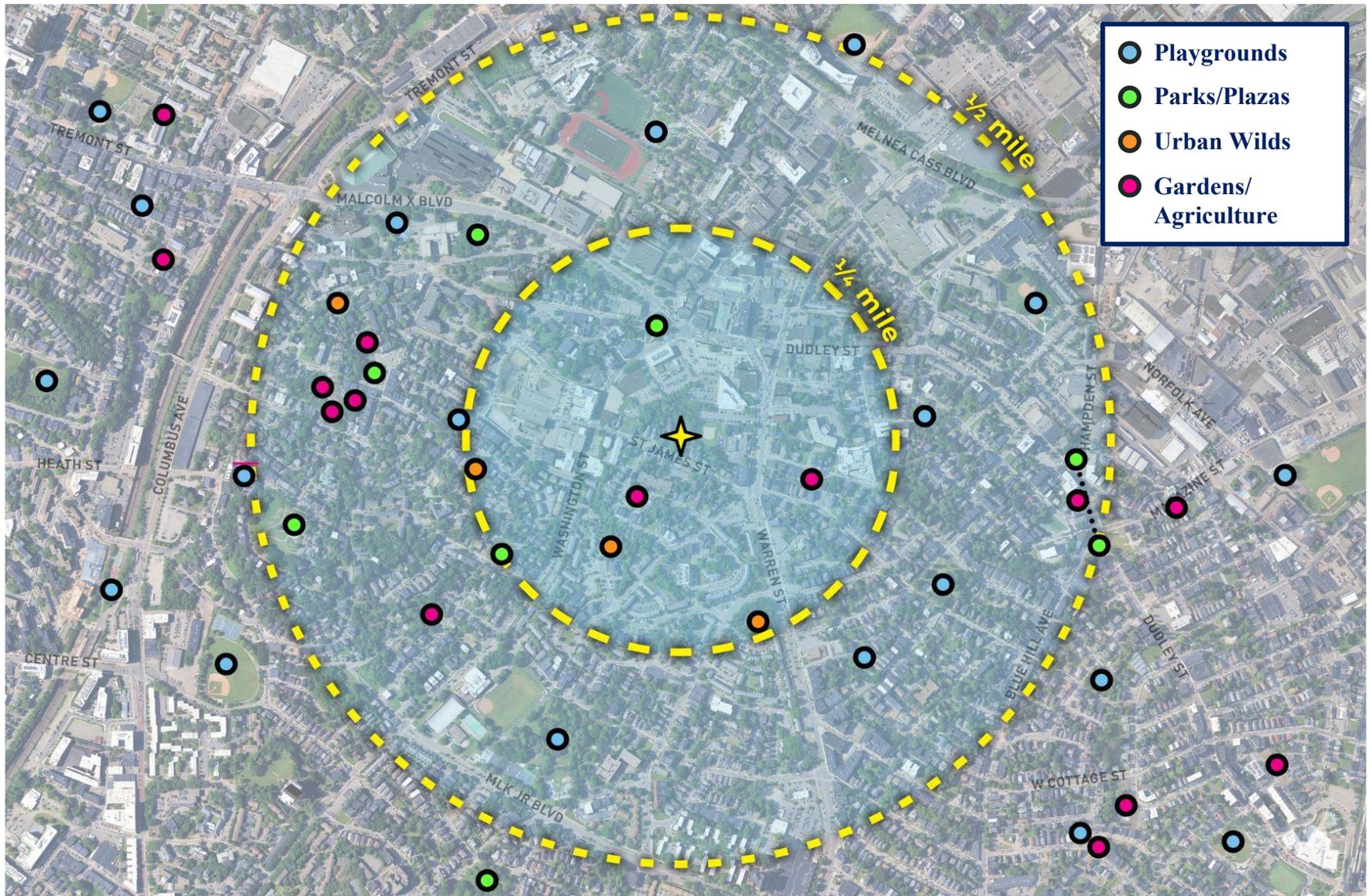
# PARK CONTEXT // K-12 SCHOOLS



# PARK CONTEXT // SCHOOLS + DAYCARES

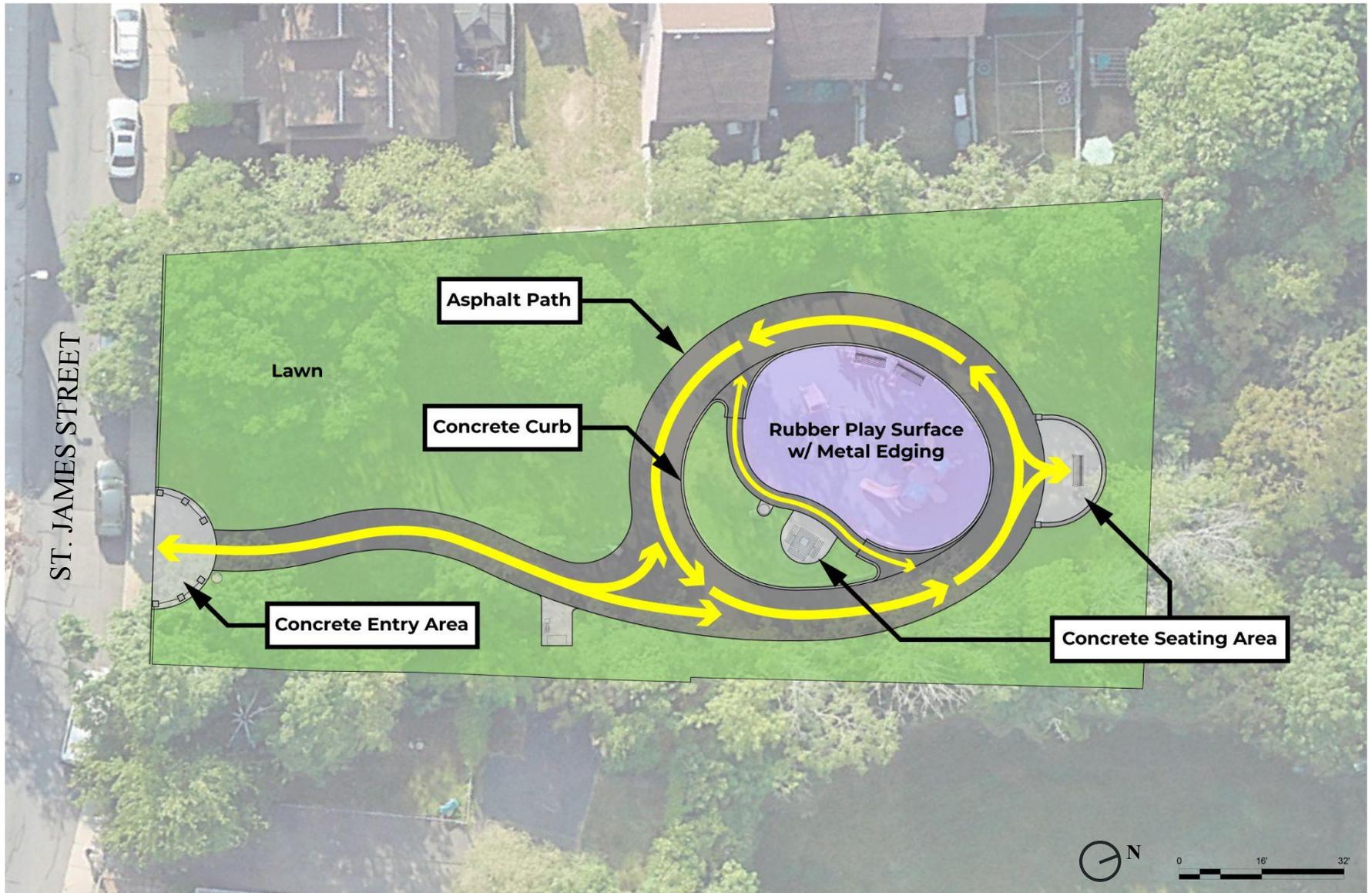


# PARK CONTEXT // OPEN SPACE

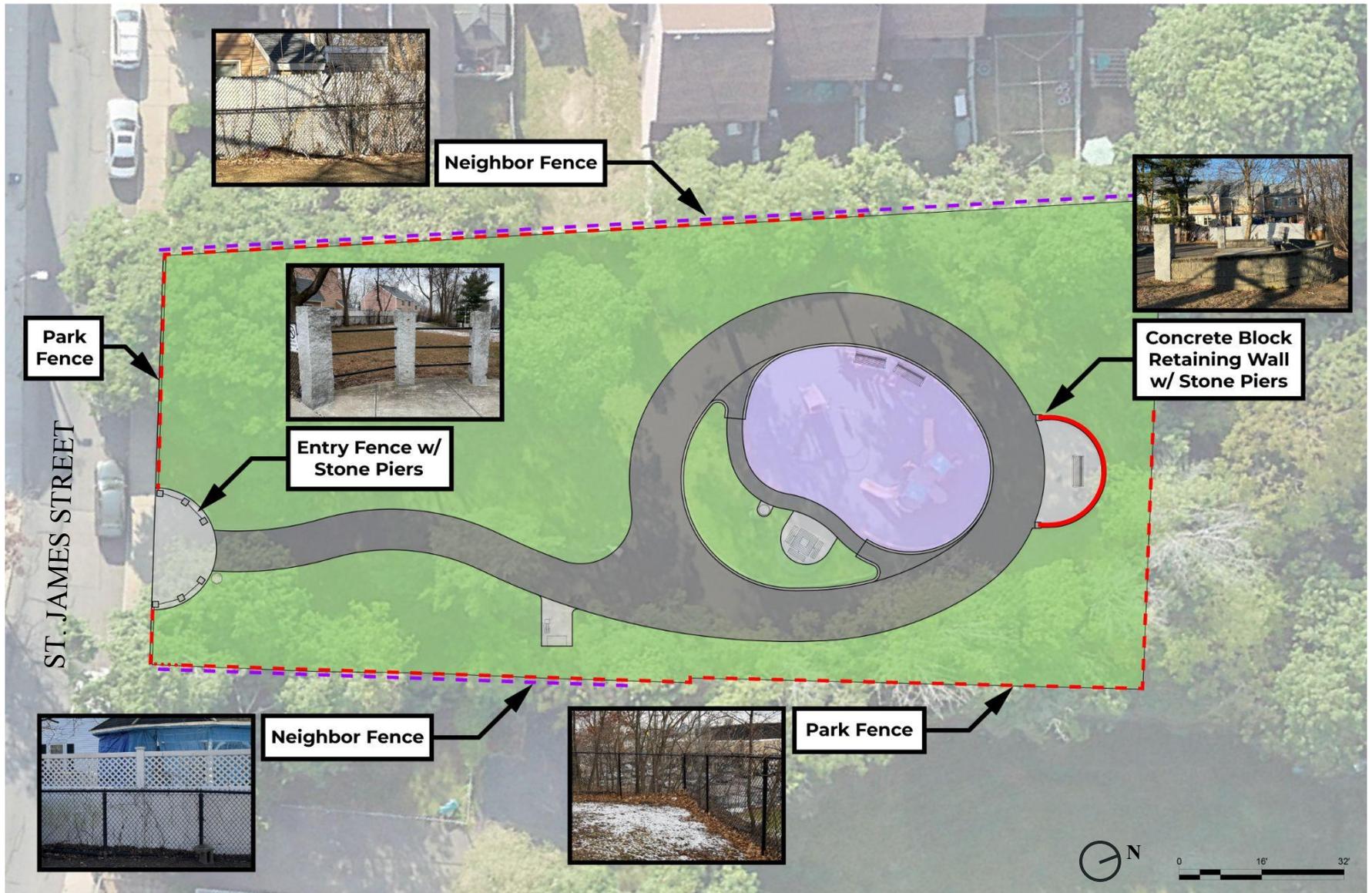




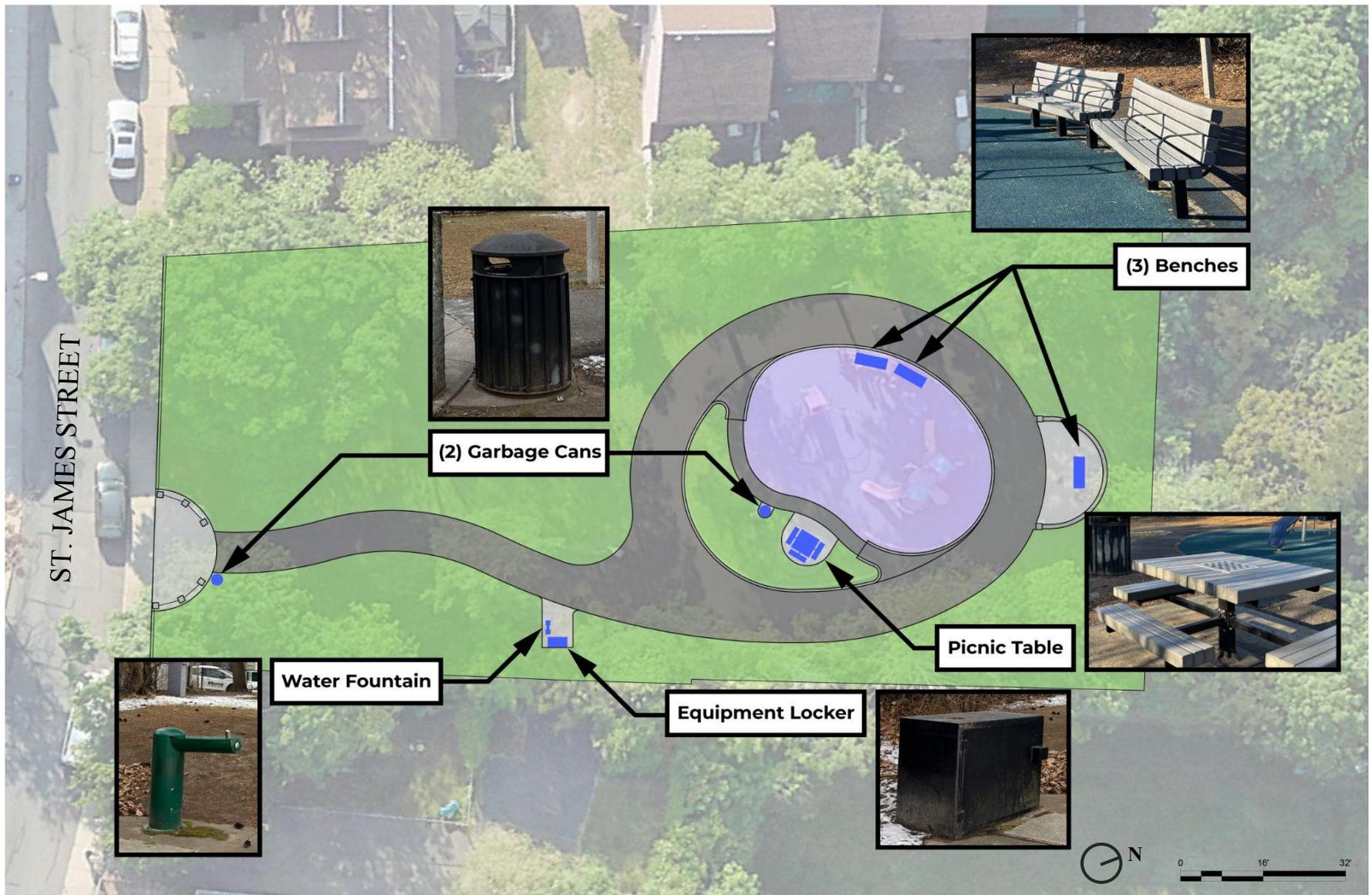
# EXISTING CONDITIONS // PARK LAYOUT



# EXISTING CONDITIONS // FENCES + WALLS



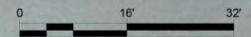
# EXISTING CONDITIONS // FURNISHINGS



# EXISTING CONDITIONS // ACTIVITY



Much of the space in St. James Street Park is open space for passive play. Some areas have limited access due to steep slopes.



# EXISTING CONDITIONS // ACTIVE PLAY

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Ages 2-5



Ages 5-12

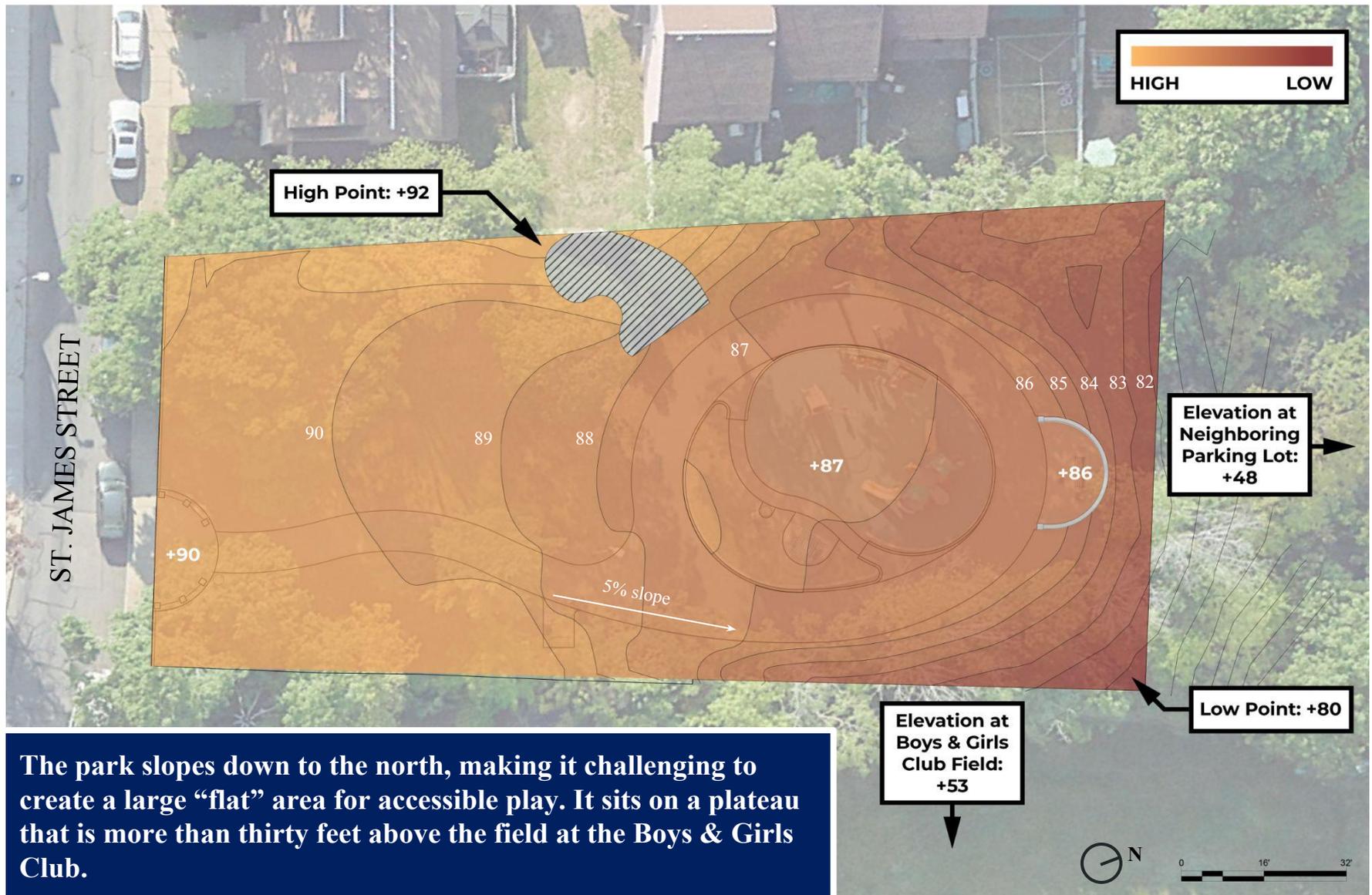
# EXISTING CONDITIONS // PASSIVE PLAY

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**There is significant open lawn space for passive play in the park.**

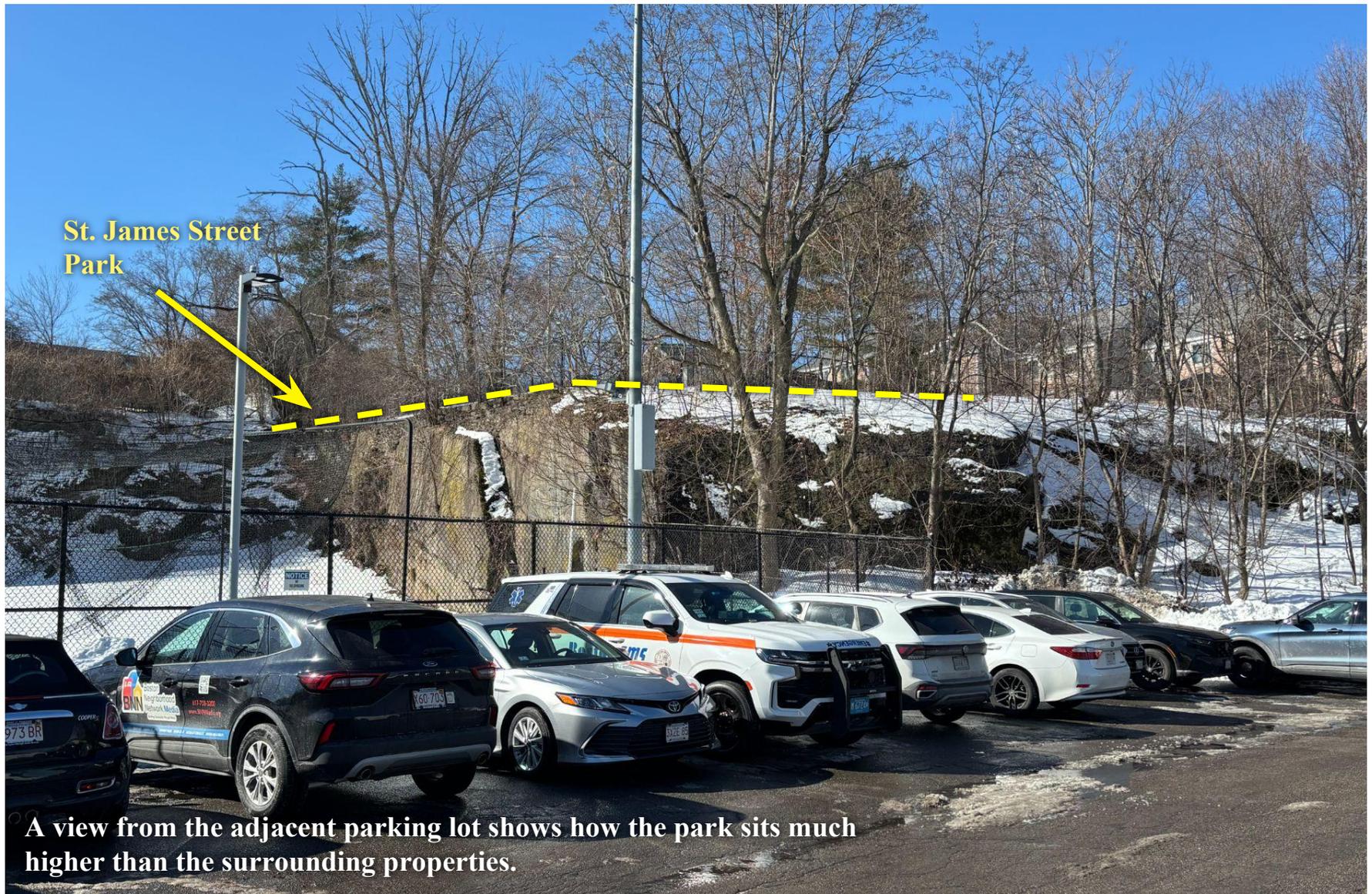
# EXISTING CONDITIONS // TOPOGRAPHY



The park slopes down to the north, making it challenging to create a large “flat” area for accessible play. It sits on a plateau that is more than thirty feet above the field at the Boys & Girls Club.

# EXISTING CONDITIONS // VIEWS

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# EXISTING CONDITIONS // VIEWS

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Views of the city skyline are apparent through the winter tree line.

# EXISTING CONDITIONS // TREE CANOPY



# OBSERVATIONS // VEGETATION

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Mature Canopy Trees



Plants Growing through Fences



Trees in Poor Health

# OBSERVATIONS // EXPOSED LEDGE

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St. James Street Park



Howes Playground, Roxbury



Horatio Harris Park, Roxbury

# INSPIRATION // THEMES



Traditional

Imaginative

Nature-based

# INSPIRATION // TYPES OF PLAY



Climb + Balance

Spin + Slide

Sensory

# INSPIRATION // GATHERING SPACES

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Formal

Informal

Performance

# LISTENING + DISCUSSION



# **LISTENING + DISCUSSION**

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- **What do you like most about St. James Street Park?**
- **What makes you come to this park vs. others?**
- **What new features would make St. James Street Park even better?**
- **Is there anything we haven't mentioned that is important for us to know about the park?**
- **How would you like to meet moving forward? Virtually or in-person? At the park or another venue?**

# THANK YOU!

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

