

# MCLAUGHLIN PLAYGROUND



JUNE 16, 2026  
Boston Parks and Recreation



# ZOOM TIPS

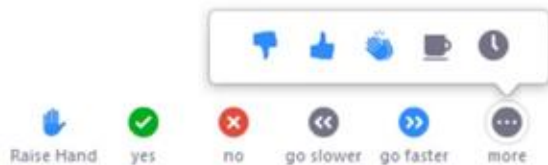
Here is how you can participate during the question and answer part of the presentation.

## 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

**PRESENTATION**

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3

**LISTENING & DISCUSSION**

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4

**CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS**

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# PROJECT TEAM

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## **B CHATFIELD**

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

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## **My'Kel McMillen**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

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## **NAOMI COTTRELL**

Principal, Crowley Cottrell

## **MARK WARFEL JR.**

Associate, Crowley Cottrell

[mark@crowleycottrell.com](mailto:mark@crowleycottrell.com)



# PROJECT SCHEDULE & FUNDING

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City of Boston  
Priorities

Safety Guidelines+  
Regulatory  
Guidelines

**PARK  
DESIGN**

Parks + Recreation  
Goals

Community  
Input

# CITY OF BOSTON PRIORITIES

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**A city that is:**

- **Delivering Exceptional Constituent Services**
- **Green and Growing**
- **Family Friendly**
- **Closing the Racial Wealth Gap**
- **Healthy and Safe**



# PARK & RECREATION GOALS

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- **Accessible and available to all**
- **Diverse, balanced, and efficient mix of uses**
- **Meaningful and inclusive community engagement**
- **Adaptive and resilient landscapes**
- **Promote connections**



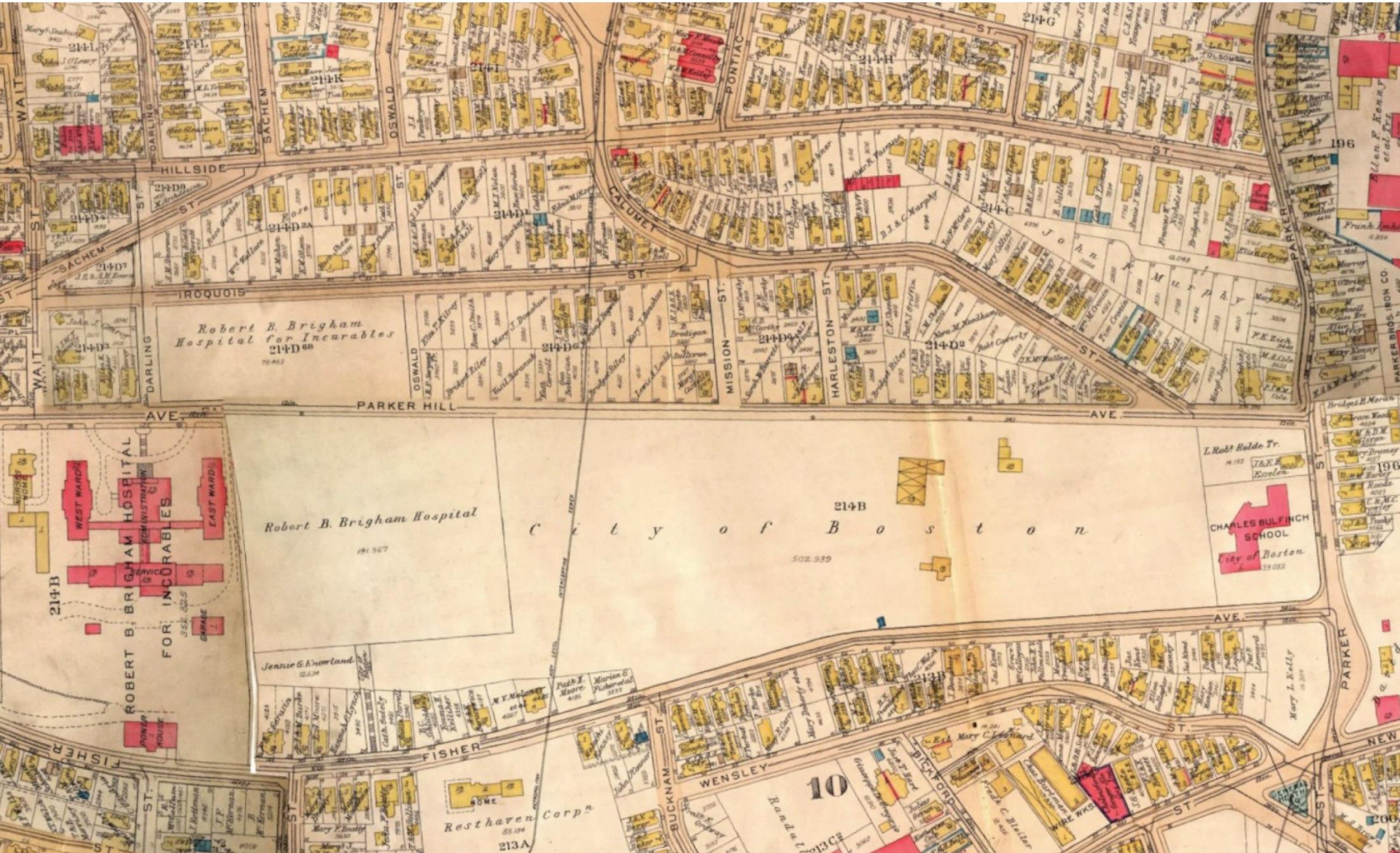
# SITE ANALYSIS



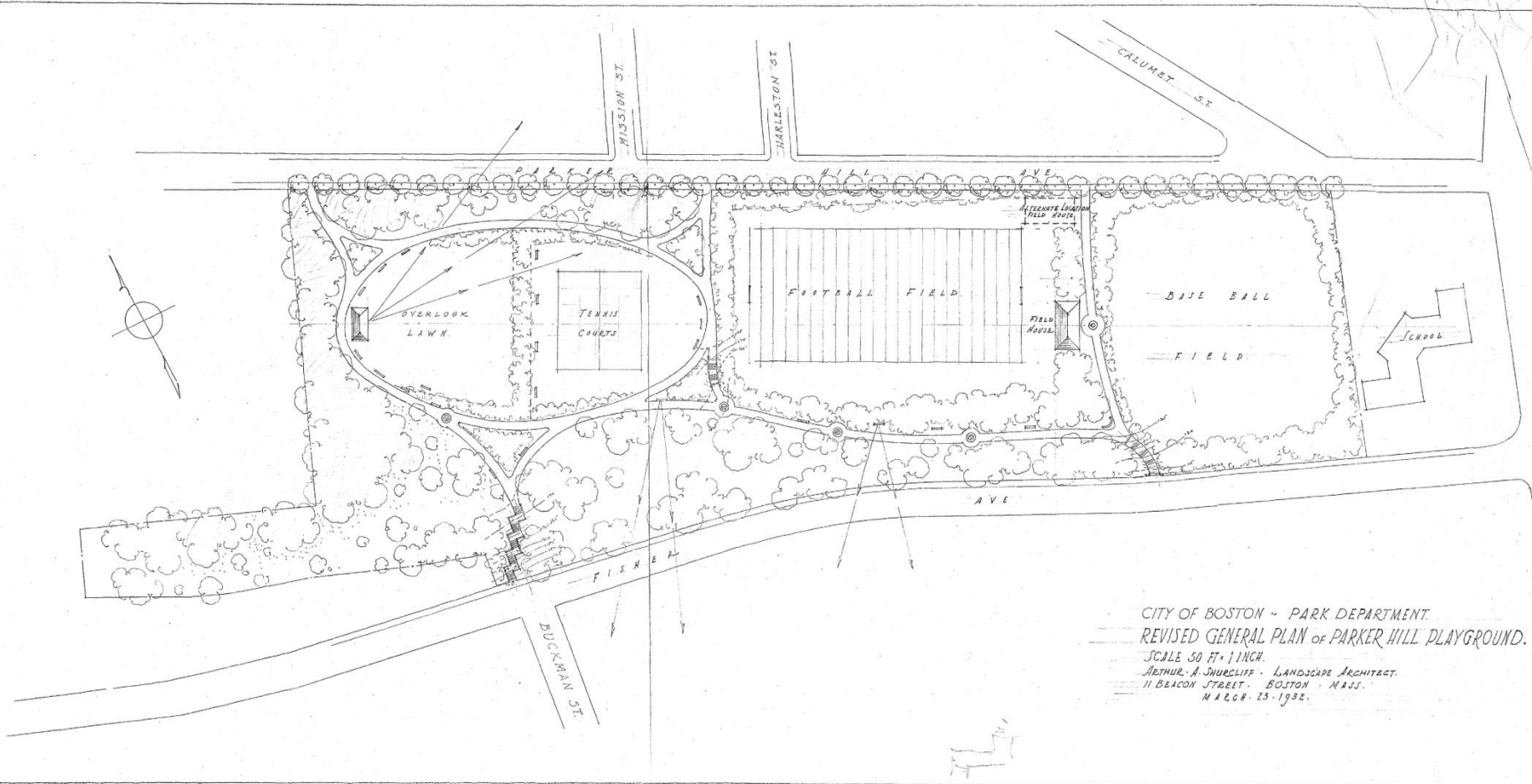
# HISTORIC MAP: 1915



# HISTORIC MAP: 1931



# CONCEPT DESIGN PLAN: 1932



CITY OF BOSTON - PARK DEPARTMENT.  
REVISED GENERAL PLAN OF PARKER HILL PLAYGROUND.  
SCALE 50 FT. = 1 INCH.  
ARTHUR A. SHURCLIFF, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.  
11 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MASS.  
MARCH 25, 1932.

ARTHUR SHURCLIFF

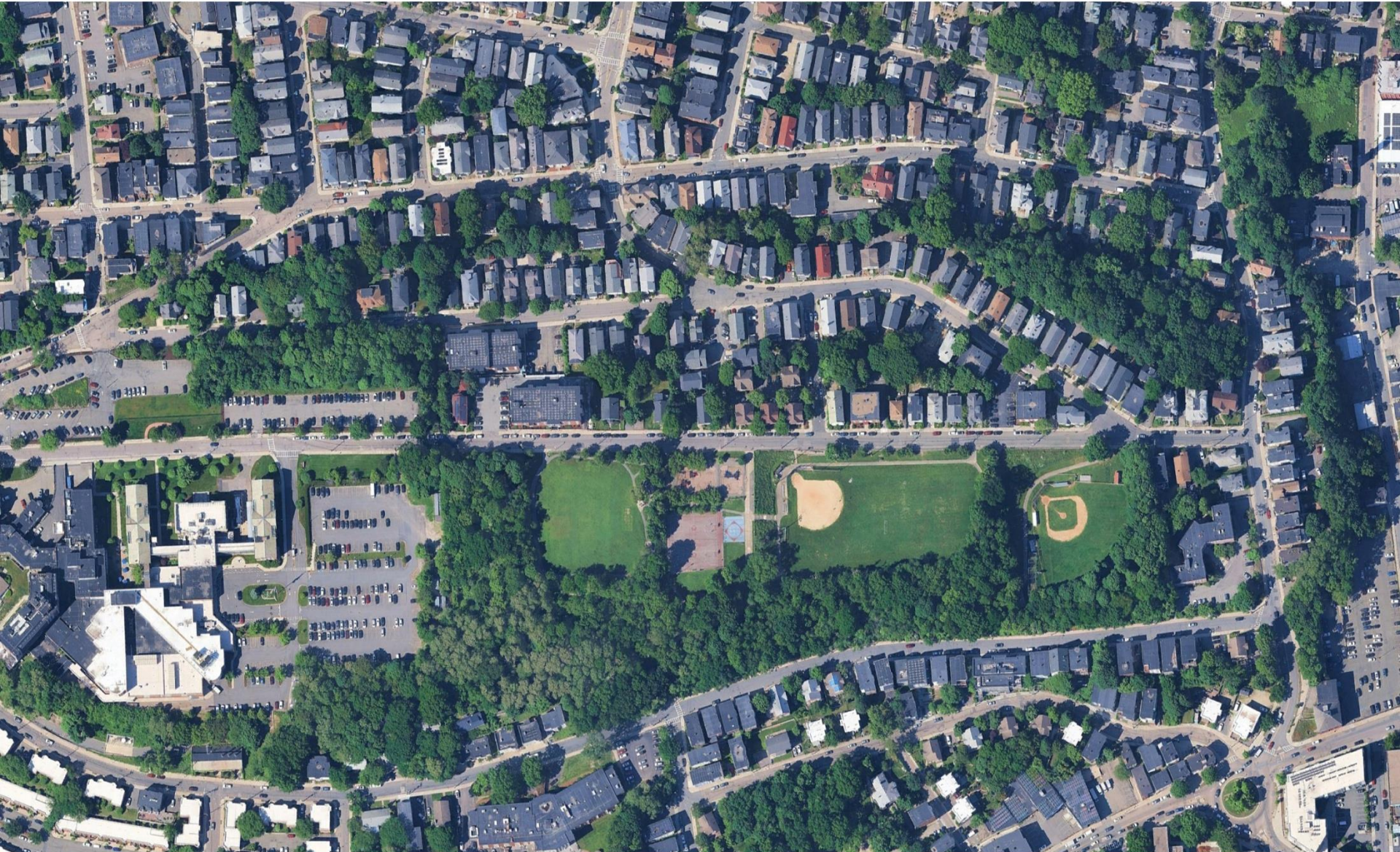
# HISTORIC AERIAL: 1955



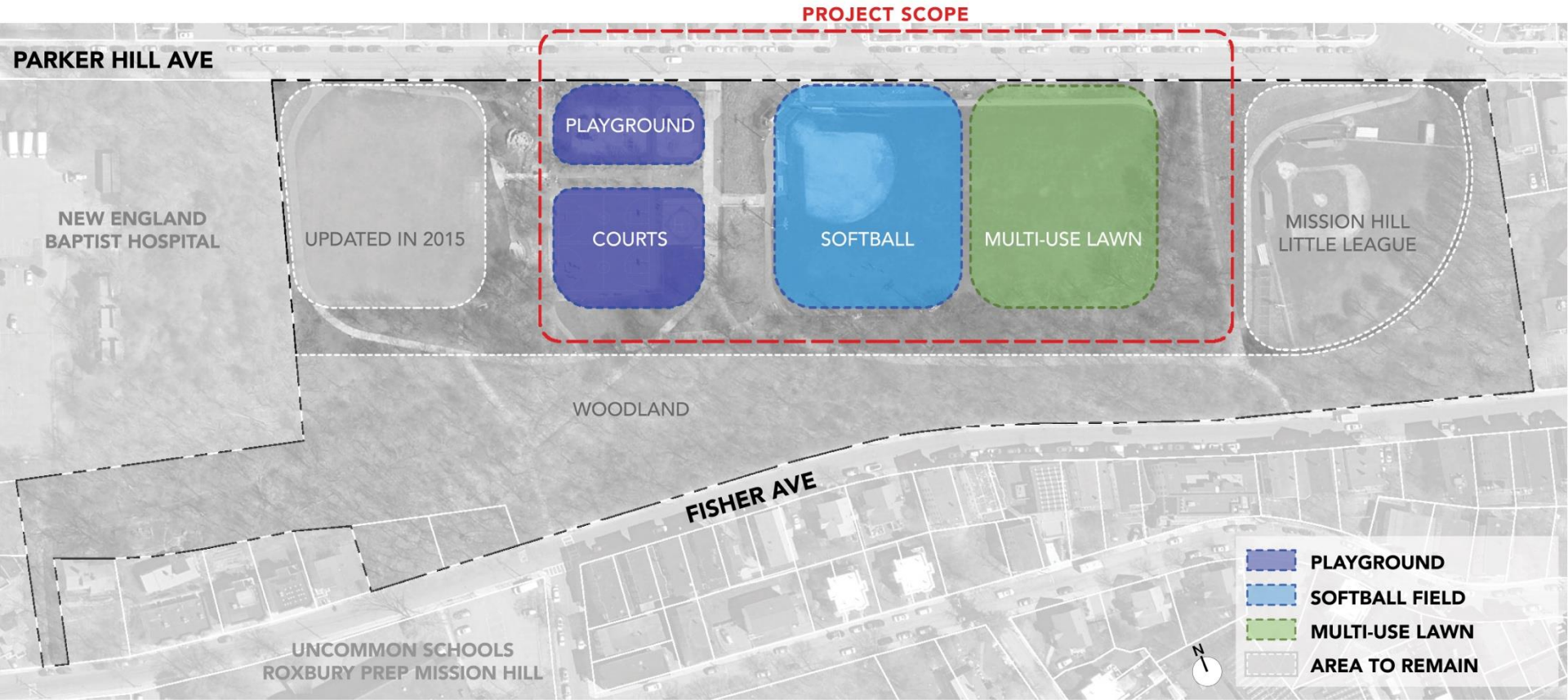
# HISTORIC AERIAL: 1995



# CURRENT AERIAL: 2026



# PROJECT SCOPE



PLAYGROUND



COURTS



SOFTBALL

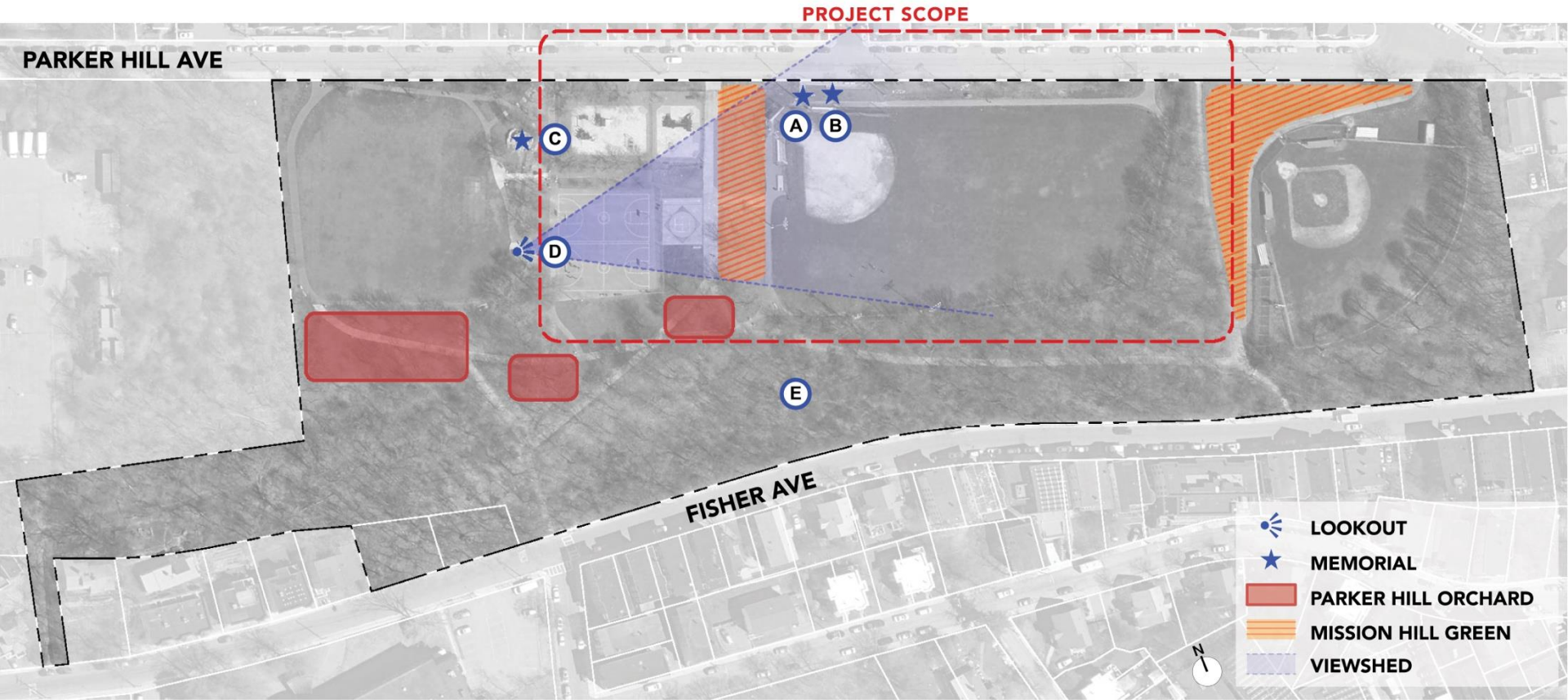







MULTI-USE LAWN

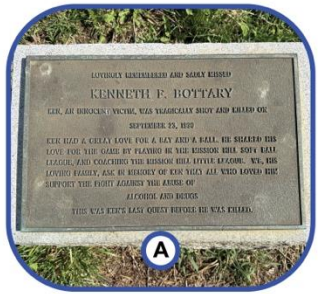
# EXISTING USE AREAS



# PLACES OF INTEREST



-  LOOKOUT
-  MEMORIAL
-  PARKER HILL ORCHARD
-  MISSION HILL GREEN
-  VIEWSHED



**BOTTARY MEMORIAL**



**WELDON MEMORIAL**



**BEN'S TOWER**

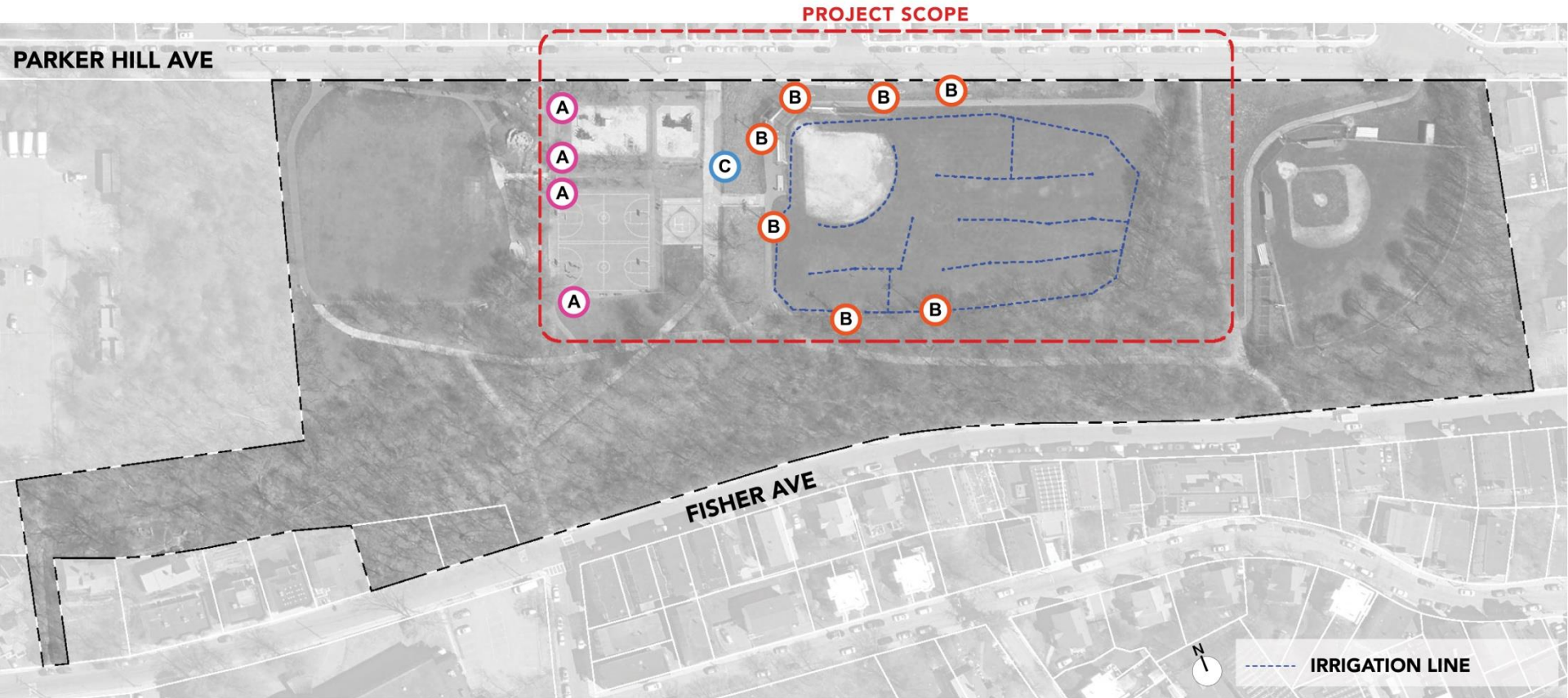


**LOOK OUT**



**MISSION HILL GREEN**

# EXISTING UTILITIES



POST LIGHT



FIELD LIGHT



DRINKING FOUNTAIN

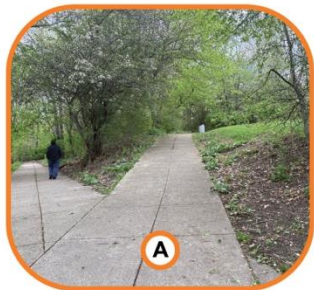
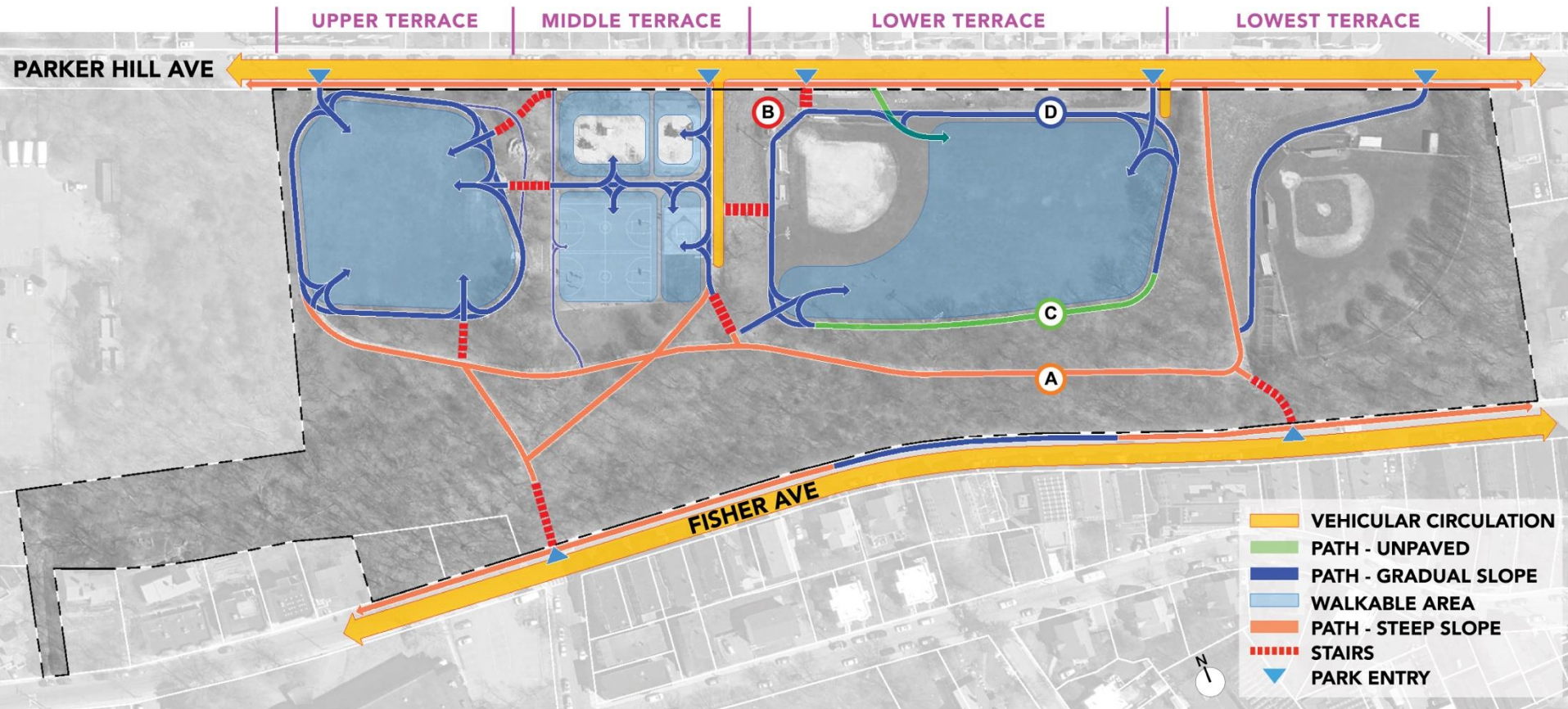
## OPPORTUNITIES:

- UPDATE LIGHTING TO BE BETTER PERFORMING AND MORE EFFICIENT
- ADD DRINKING FOUNTAINS
- POSSIBLE CONNECTION FOR SPLASH PAD

## CHALLENGES:

- UTILITIES CAN BE EXPENSIVE

# EXISTING CIRCULATION



PATH - STEEP SLOPE



STAIRS



PATH - UNPAVED



PATH - GRADUAL SLOPE

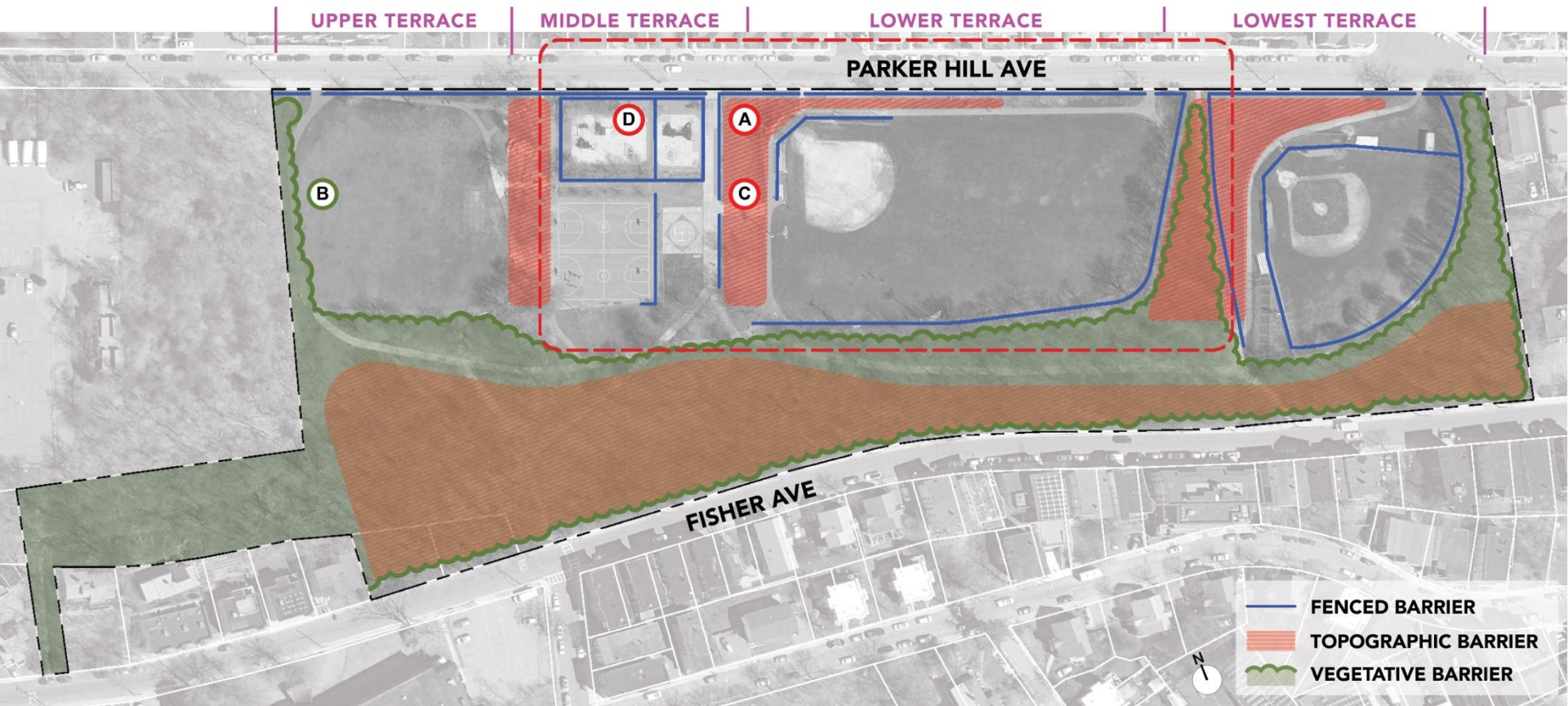
## OPPORTUNITIES:

- IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY
- IMPROVE CONNECTIONS
- PRESERVE WHAT WORKS

## CHALLENGES:

- TOPOGRAPHY
- SCOPE AND BUDGET

# EXISTING BARRIERS



**A** FENCE ON PARKER HILL

**B** THICK VEGETATION

**C** STEEP SLOPES

**D** FENCE AROUND PLAYGROUND

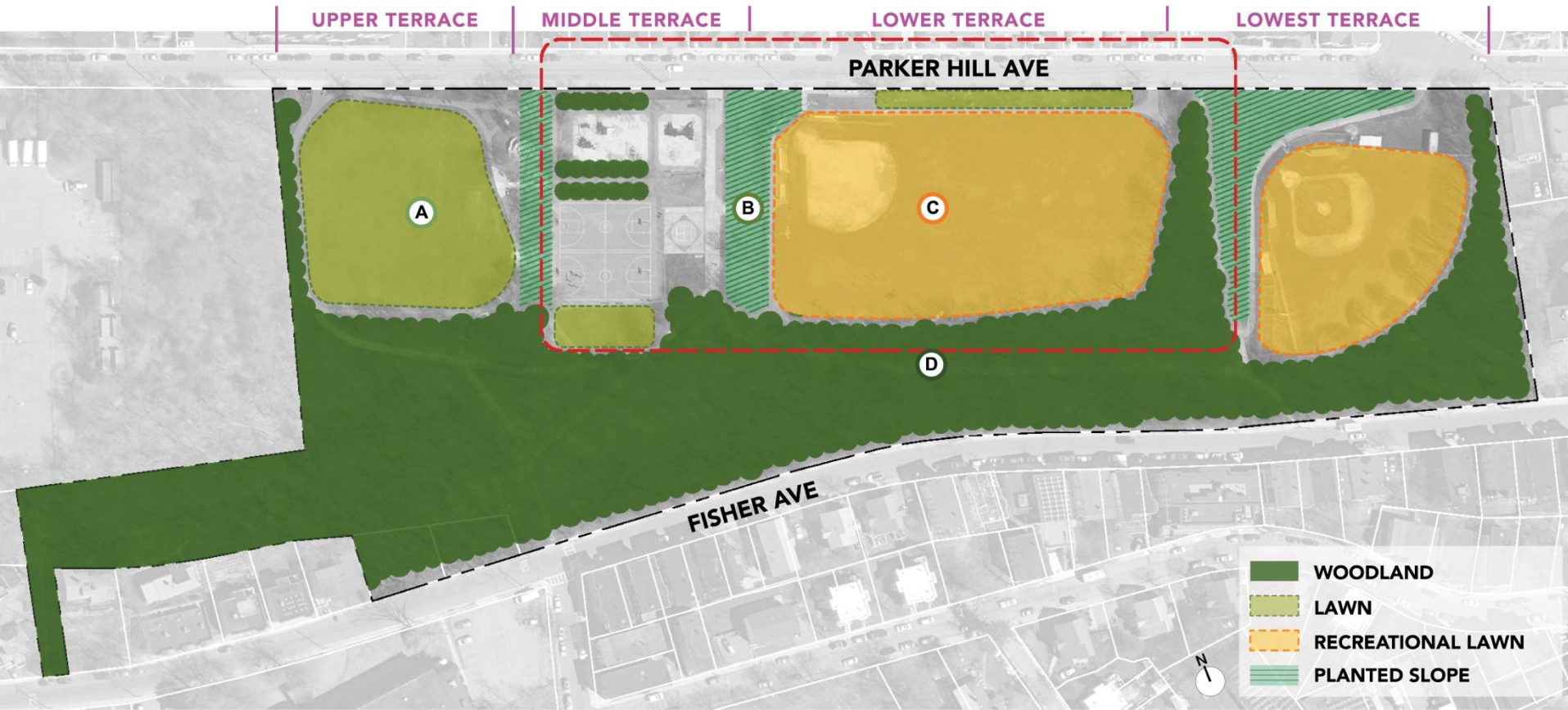
**OPPORTUNITIES:**

- REMOVE BARRIERS TO IMPROVE CIRCULATION
- TOPOGRAPHY PROVIDES INTEREST AND VIEWS

**CHALLENGES:**

- FENCE CONDITION
- STEEP SLOPES LIMIT EASY CIRCULATION

# EXISTING VEGETATION



LAWN



PLANTED SLOPE



RECREATIONAL LAWN



WOODLAND

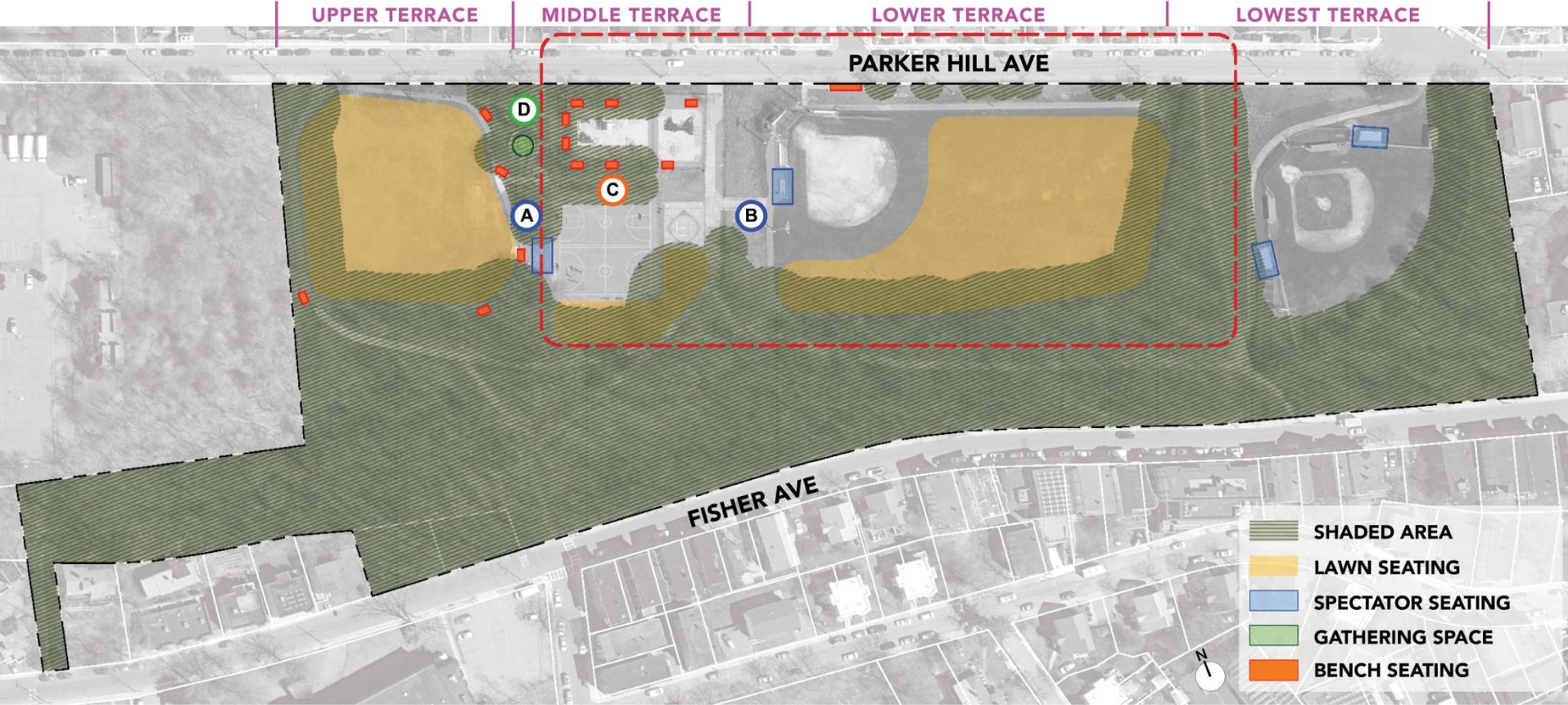
## OPPORTUNITIES:

- VARIETY OF PLANTING TYPOLOGIES
- EVIDENCE OF COMMUNITY INTEREST IN PLANTING
- INCREASE PLANT DIVERSITY

## CHALLENGES:

- MAINTAINING ACCESS AND VIEWS
- MAINTAINABILITY

# EXISTING SEATING



A

WALL SEATING



B

BLEACHERS



C

BENCH SEATING



D

GATHERING SPACE

## OPPORTUNITIES:

- PROVIDING SEATING OR GATHERING WITH SHADE
- ADD MORE PLACES TO GATHER

## CHALLENGES:

- ACTIVE RECREATION IS DIFFICULT TO SHADE
- PROVIDE SEATING WHERE IT IS NEEDED

# EXISTING PLAYGROUND / COURTS



**WORN SURFACING**



**DATED EQUIPMENT**



**HEAVING PAVEMENT**



**ERODED SLOPE**



**CRACKED ASPHALT**



**FADED PAINT**

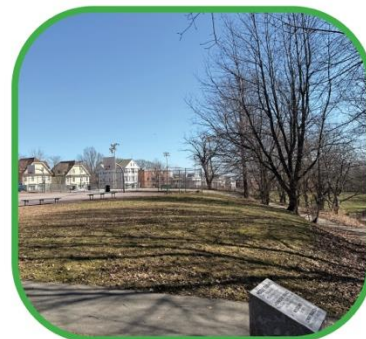
# EXISTING PLAYGROUND / COURTS



SEATING ON SLOPE



VIEW



SHADED LAWN



TREE BUFFER

# EXISTING LOWER TERRACE



**WEATHERED BENCH**



**WORN PATH**



**WARPED FENCE**



**FIELD LIGHTING**



**ELECTRICAL CABINET**



**WORN STAIRS**

# EXISTING LOWER TERRACE



**SOFTBALL FIELD**



**COMMUNITY IDENTITY**

# EXISTING LOWER TERRACE



**GAP IN TREELINE**



**VEGETATION IN FENCE**



**MULTI-USE FIELD**



**WOODLAND BUFFER**



# LISTENING & DISCUSSION

Help us build great parks.  
Let us know what matters to you.



**UPPER TERRACE** | **MIDDLE TERRACE** | **LOWER TERRACE** | **LOWEST TERRACE**

**PARKER HILL AVE**

**FISHER AVE**

# ONLINE OPINION SURVEY

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2MGTZQ2>

**CLOSES JULY 14 AT MIDNIGHT**



# THANK YOU!

## Next Meeting August 2026

Check our progress page for updates:  
[boston.gov/mclaughlin](https://boston.gov/mclaughlin)



June 16, 2026  
Boston Parks and Recreation

