



# MASON PARK EXPANSION + CHURCH/DODGE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

## Community Meeting #4 | Zoom Teleconference

January 13, 2026 | 6:00 pm

This virtual public meeting builds upon feedback received from Public Meeting #1 (4/10/24), Public Meeting #2 (7/9/24), Public Meeting #3 (9/19/24) and (2) Community Surveys. The purpose of this virtual community meeting was to present and receive feedback about the proposed Mason Park playground concepts to the Mason Park neighborhood.

### MASON PARK EXPANSION AND CHURCH/DODGE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Prior to the meeting, announcement flyers were mailed to approximately 561 households surrounding Mason Park.

Approximately 30 people attended the Virtual Meeting.

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING #4**

Join us at a virtual public meeting to review and provide feedback about Mason Park Play Area Concepts

Tuesday, January 13th, 2026  
6:00pm  
Zoom Teleconference, link below:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88646238854>

For more information about this project and to view past public meeting materials, please visit the project webpage at the link below or scan the QR code with your smart device

[www.cityofevanston.org/MasonChurchDodge](http://www.cityofevanston.org/MasonChurchDodge)



Meeting announcement flyer

At the beginning of the meeting, Council Member Harris and Stefanie Levine, senior project manager with the City of Evanston, welcomed community members to the meeting and provided brief opening remarks. Following the opening remarks, Jodi Mariano, project manager with Teska Associates introduced the consultant team present at the meeting, including Jill Benoist, Design Principal with Teska Associates and Martin Michalowicz, Project Manager with Christopher B Burke Engineering.

## **SLIDE SHOW PRESENTATION**

Jodi Mariano and Jill Benoist presented a slide show including the following:

1. Introduction to the project scope, study area and timeline
2. Discussion of project subareas, organized as the existing Mason Park area to remain, Mason Park expansion area, and Church Street / Dodge Avenue intersection area
3. Existing conditions maps and site photographs highlighting the Mason Park study area and surrounding roadway and bikeway network. The maps highlight existing Mason Park areas to remain and proposed new Mason Park playground. The new playground is to be located at the undeveloped sloped parcel of Mason Park located south of Davis Street, and east of the former railroad embankment.
4. Preferred Concept Plan and enlargement sections presented at Public Meeting #3 (9/19/24), highlighting the area for the proposed Mason Park playground.
5. Playground Concept A, 5-12 Age Group, Hillside Play, including site plan, 3d renderings, and play equipment photographs
6. Playground Concept B, 13+ Age Group, Challenge Course, including site plan, 3d renderings, and play equipment photographs

## **ONLINE VISIONING ACTIVITY**

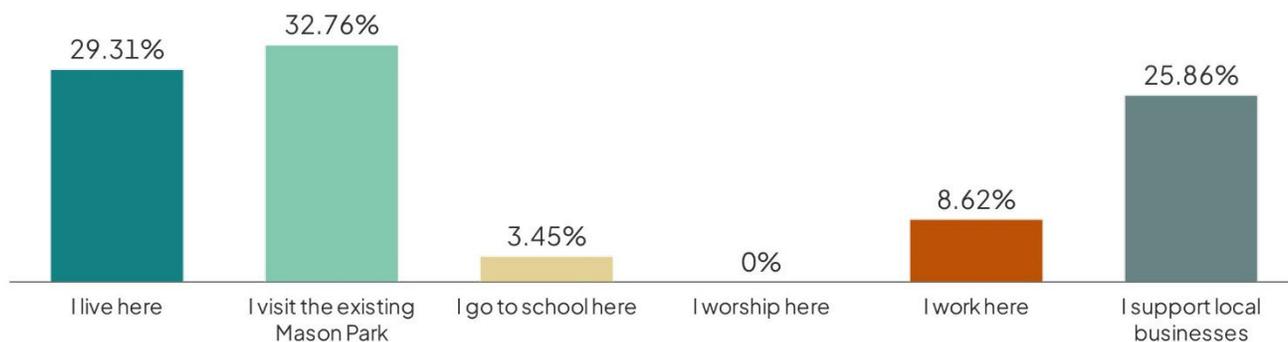
Following the slide show presentation, Jodi Mariano conducted an online visioning activity. Meeting participants were invited to use their personal smart devices to provide online feedback about the proposed Mason Park expansion playground concepts and the overall project. The online activity results, including feedback received, follows below:

# Mason Park + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements

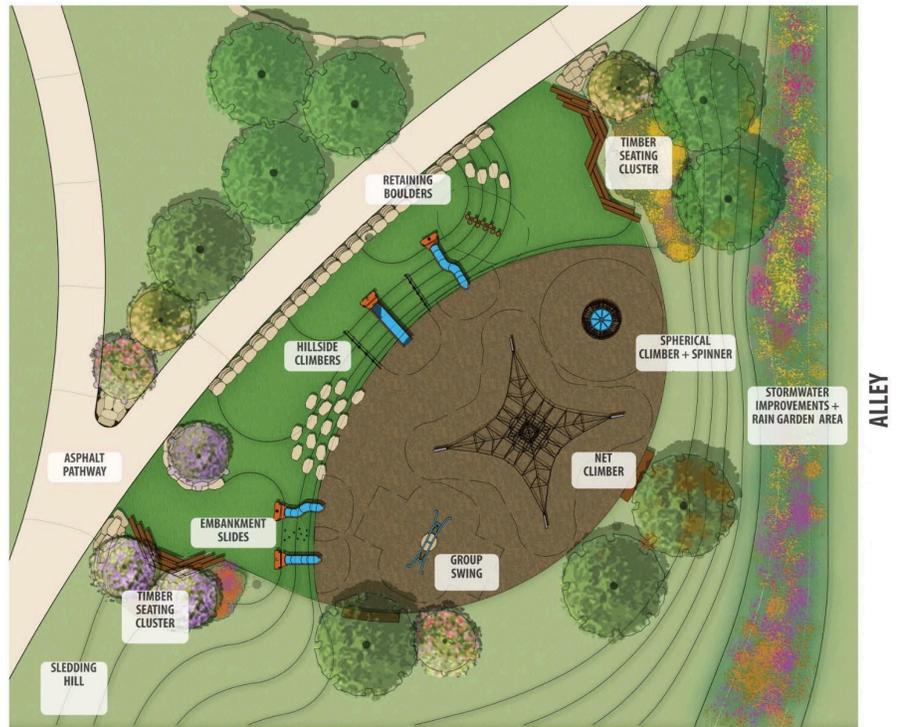
## Public Meeting #4 Activity | Playground Concepts



Thanks for joining us! Please share how you are connected to the Mason Park and Church / Dodge Intersection areas:



5-12 AGE GROUP  
 -----  
 HILLSIDE PLAY

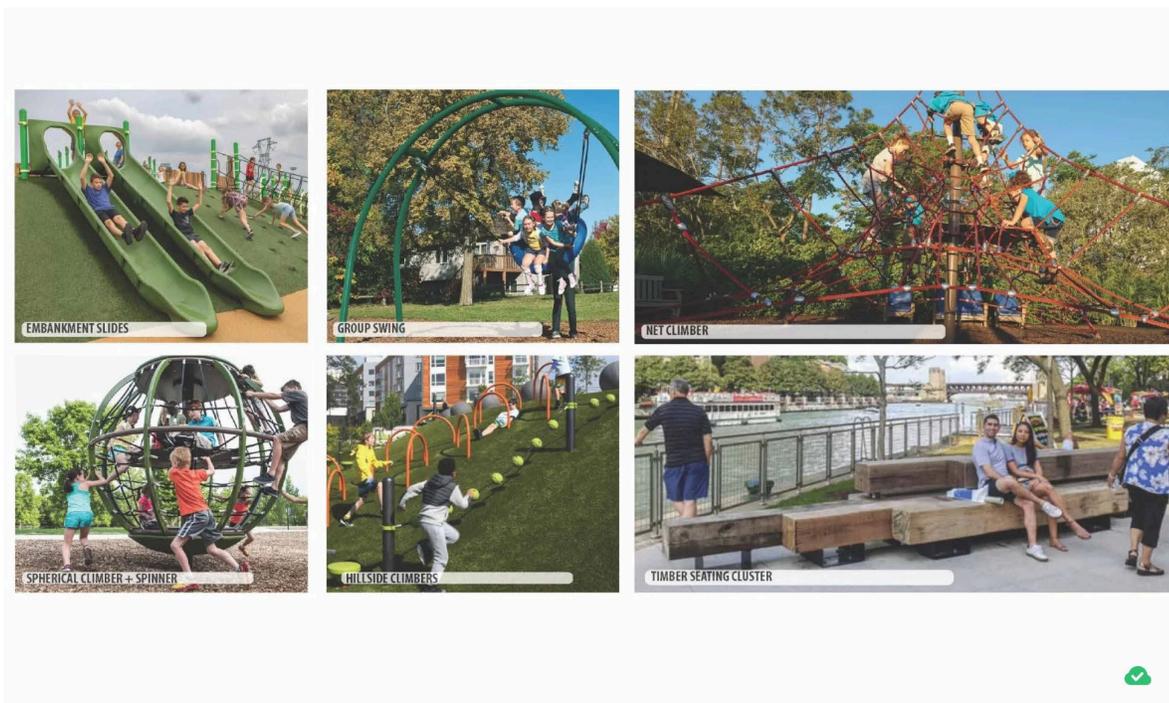


5-12 AGE GROUP  
 -----  
 HILLSIDE PLAY

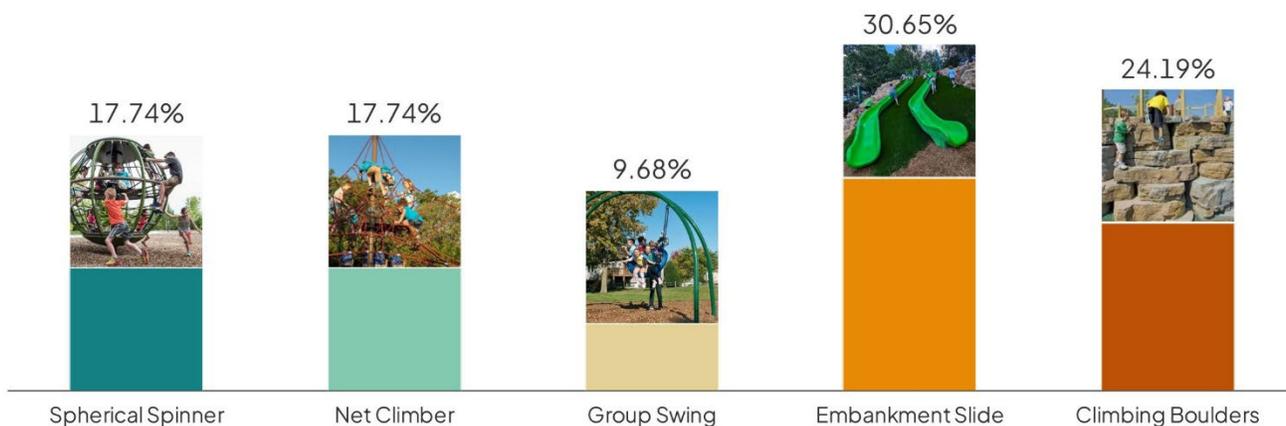


# 5-12 AGE GROUP

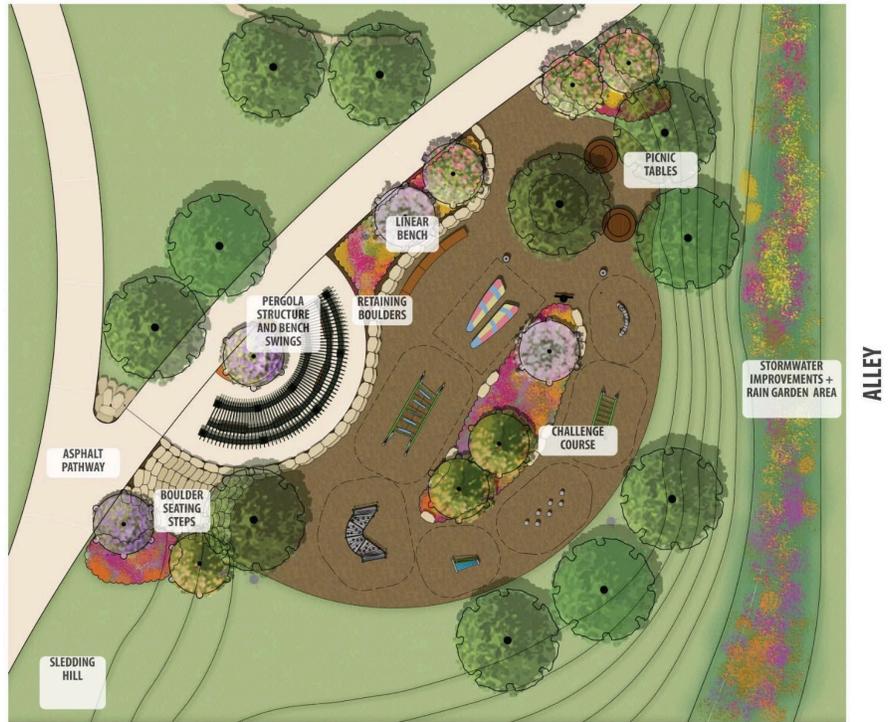
## HILLSIDE PLAY



Which 5-12 playground components do you prefer?  
(select 3)



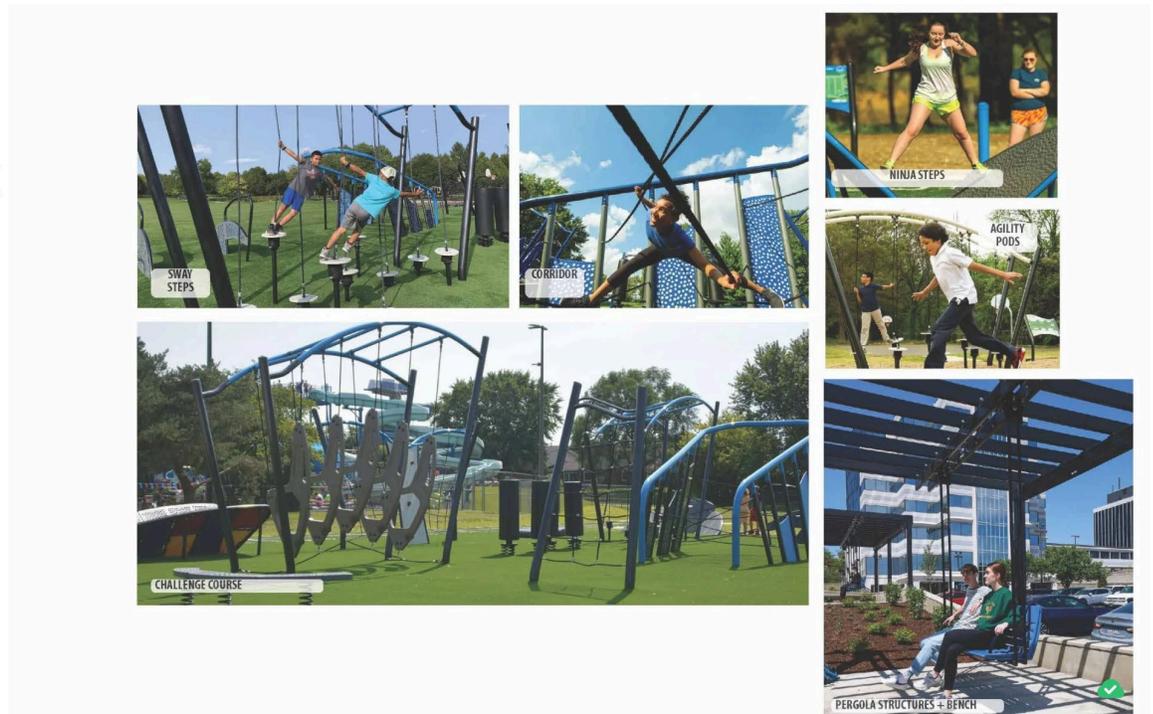
13+ AGE  
GROUP  
-----  
CHALLENGE  
COURSE



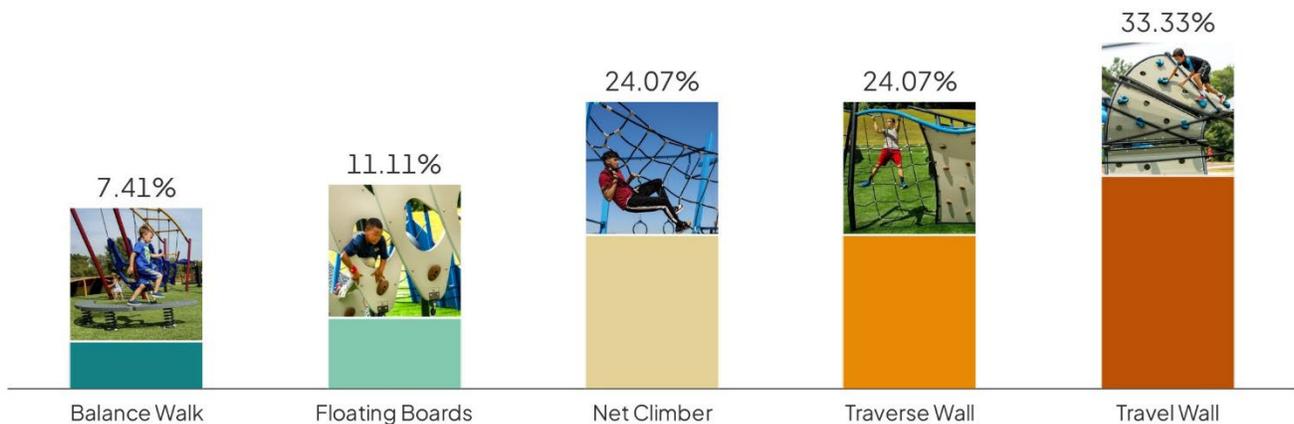
13+ AGE  
GROUP  
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CHALLENGE  
COURSE



13+ AGE GROUP  
-----  
CHALLENGE COURSE



Which 13+ playground components do you prefer?  
(select 3)

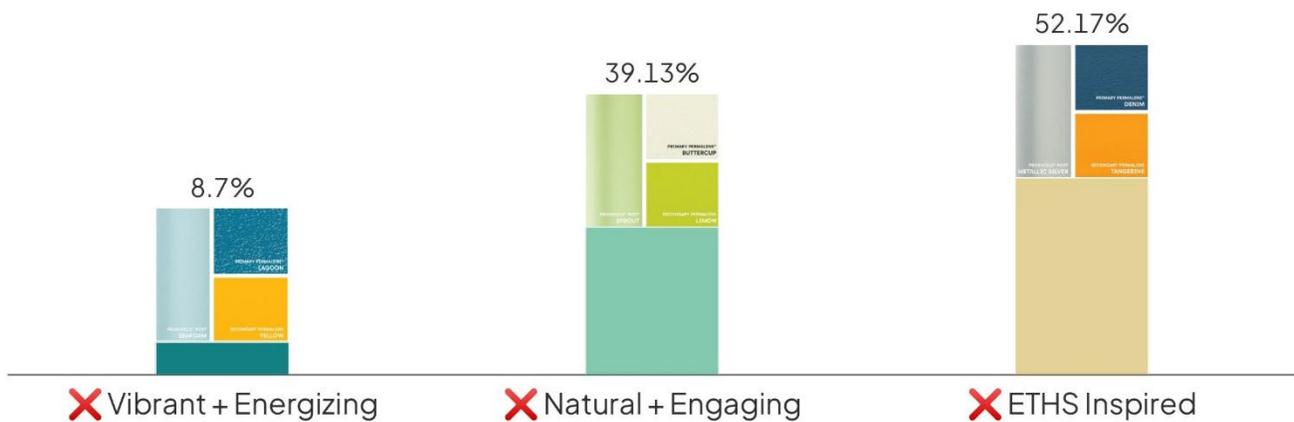


# Please select your preferred playground concept



25 ✓

# Please select your preferred color scheme for the play equipment. (select one)



23 ✓

## Do you have any other comments about the new Mason Park playground area?

No	When is construction slated for?	No
No	Not at this time	Would love to see a splash pad SOMEWHERE 😊.
No	I don't think the city needs an additional playground so close to another existing playground.	I prefer 1.3+ but would like to see an embankment slide incorporated
There already is a playground for younger kids at mason park. And at Penny park very close by. Given this and the proximity to ETHS, catering to older kids makes much more sense.	The embankment slide is the best. For either	Since the park is right next to eths I would like to see a older kid playground
More natural environments and sustainable for wildlife would be my preference.	It doesn't seem another playground is needed when the mason park playground is so close. There was a lot of support for green space. Upgrade mason park playground if needed.	Swings. May be bench Swings
Will there be other times for playground goes to share their opinions on the designs even if they did not attend this meeting?	Will there be lighting?	Well, I think we have to be considerate of this being closer to the high school AND residents that live directly adjacent. Already taken down quite a few trees.
		No

## Do you have any questions or comments about the Mason Park and Church/Dodge Intersection project?

Any plans for community garden plots?

Less stone and concrete at the arena area. Keep natural areas. Picnic tables and benches instead of hardscape.

What is the reason for moving the safer off street bike path on church to a shared bike/bus stop in the plan? It looks like it prioritizes cars over bikes and pedestrians and makes crossing from the parking lot across 3 lanes instead of 2 more dangerous.

The proposal in the recently published update is good. It would be nice to have a light where one side can turn and go straight at once. Similar to what is at the intersection of Lake and Ridge.

It's not clear what will be done with the Church/Dodge intersection.

Managing the bike traffic at Church/Dodge will be important for safety. The expansion of protected lanes on Church is great and ensuring a good bike intersection at Church/Dodge is likely important given the precarious nature of that intersection already.

Has the ETHS student body been directly given a chance to weigh in? Perhaps a survey?

The Church/Dodge intersection improvements should prioritize bike/ped safety over on-street parking capacity.

It would be good to have a safer bike lane, especially near the high school (protected by barriers rather than just road paint).

No

10 

### PARTICIPANT COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Following the slide show presentation, City staff and the consultant team addressed participant questions and comments in the Zoom meeting chat and during discussion. A summary of discussion items follows:

Q1: How are we preparing the area to better support bikers and pedestrians?

A1: *The project will provide dedicated EB and WB bike facilities along Church Street and Davis Street that connect with the City's surrounding bike network. Improved pedestrian crossings will be provided throughout the project area.*

Q2: Why is the existing raised cycle track at the SE corner of Church/Dodge being removed?

A2: *The Church/Dodge intersection currently does not provide a dedicated left turn lane for WB vehicles on Church Street, resulting in conflicts with other vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. Based on traffic studies and the need to accommodate*

*all users, a WB left turn lane on Church Street is included in the plan. The City's bike network includes EB bike lanes on Church Street and WB bike lanes on Davis. Since the proposed Mason Park project will provide a dedicated WB bike facility on Davis Street, the Church Street cycle track is intended to be converted to an EB bike facility.*

Q3: Consider traffic signal improvements for Church/Dodge that are similar to the signalization at Lake/Ridge ("Turn and Go Straight")

*A3: Due to the proposed configuration of the Church / Dodge intersection, a "turn and go straight" signal would put WB traffic in conflict with EB traffic on Church Street and is not included in the project plan.*

Q4: When will construction occur and how will this be funded? How do we ensure we are being fiscally responsible?

*A4: The project is organized into subareas and may be developed in phases, depending on available funding. This project falls within an established tax increment financing (TIF) district and TIF funds may be available. The City may also apply for grants to fund portions of this project. Construction dates have not yet been determined.*

Q5: Why are there no protected bike lanes?

*A5: The project anticipates dedicated one-way bike lanes that are separated from the street with flexible delineators, similar to the Dodge Avenue bike lanes. This facility type is compatible with City of Evanston maintenance capabilities, including keeping bike lanes clear of snow.*

Q6: Will there be a clear path to walk to the high school?

*A6: Yes, the project will create a new walkway connecting Davis Street through the current embankment by removing the embankment at Davis Street.*

Q7: Davis St already has a lot of cars and traffic during school and games held in the existing Mason Park area. Are there plans to eliminate or restrict parking if the city will encourage more bikers to take this route?

*A7: The City does not have any current plans to alter existing street parking in this area.*

Q8: Is there still a sledding hill?

*A8: Yes, a sledding hill is included in the project, and would be located just south of the proposed playground area.*

Q9: I question the need for an additional playground. When was this initially proposed?

*A9: The discussion about a dedicated play space started in 2023 and was concluded in 2024 over the course of three public meetings and two public surveys.*

Q10: Will we be adding bike markings to the road on Davis to indicate the shared lane?

*A10: Yes - we will add what are called "sharrows" which alert drivers that bikers might be on the road as well.*

Q11: Is there a cost estimate and a funding strategy?

*A11: Yes - The funding strategy is to use TIF funds to pay for the majority of the costs.*

Q12: Could they upgrade the existing mason park playground if needed, instead of adding construction.

*A12: The final concept design includes this new playground area. The intent is not to revisit whether or not it is to be added and rather what features we would like to see included in it.*

Q13: Will there be lighting?

*A13: Yes, pole mounted lights will be provided along the proposed trails and throughout the playground.*

Q14: Any plans for community garden plots?

*A14: Community gardens were presented at Public Meeting #1 and we received responses that community members did not want to see community garden plots in this project. Community garden plots are not included in this project.*

Q15: Has the ETHS student body been directly given a chance to weigh in? Perhaps a survey?

*A15: The previous 3 public meetings were conducted at ETHS and the project included 2 online surveys. ETHS staff and students were invited to participate in all public meetings and online surveys.*

The community meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm

### **SELECTED PLAYGROUND CONCEPT**

Based on community feedback received the selected playground concepts is Playground Concept B, 13+ Age Group, Challenge Course.

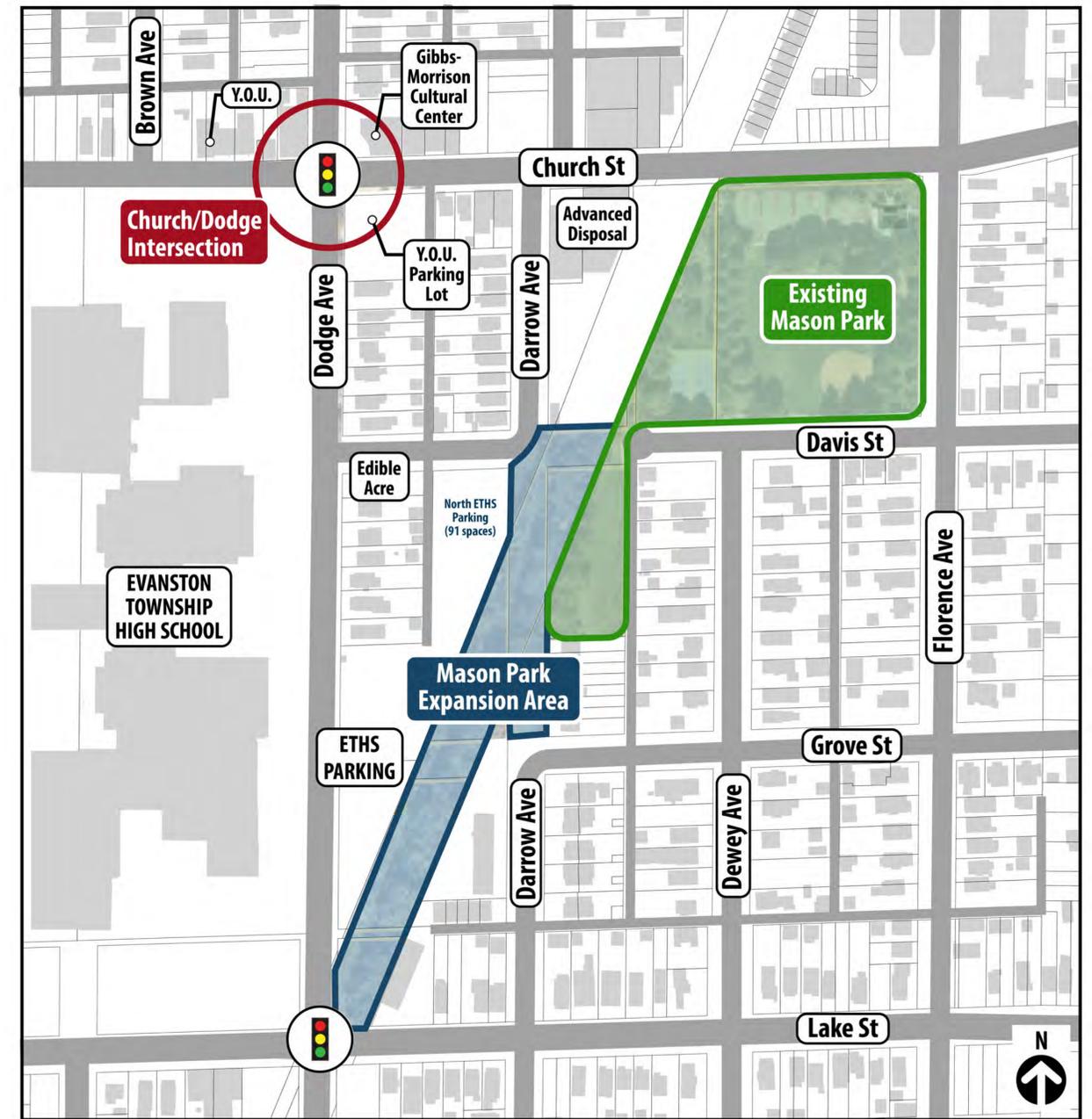
*Encl: Slide show presentation*

# WELCOME TO PUBLIC MEETING #4

## PROJECT SCOPE + STUDY AREA:

This planning project is focused on expanding open space opportunities and improving vehicular, biking, and walking connections for the neighborhoods surrounding the Mason Park and Church-Dodge areas.

-  Existing Mason Park Area
-  Mason Park Expansion Area  
*(former Railroad Embankment)*
-  Church-Dodge Intersection Area



## PROJECT TIMELINE



# PROJECT SUBAREAS



## EXISTING MASON PARK

City owned park includes a field house, basketball courts, tennis courts, a baseball field, a soccer field, and a playground.

Mason Park also includes an undeveloped sloped parcel of property, located south of Davis Street and east of the former Railroad Embankment.



## MASON PARK EXPANSION AREA

Former railroad Right of Way, was discontinued in the 1980's. The land was sold to private owners. Historically, the RR was located west of the majority of Evanston's populated area. The City has since expanded and the embankment now bisects much of the City's west side.

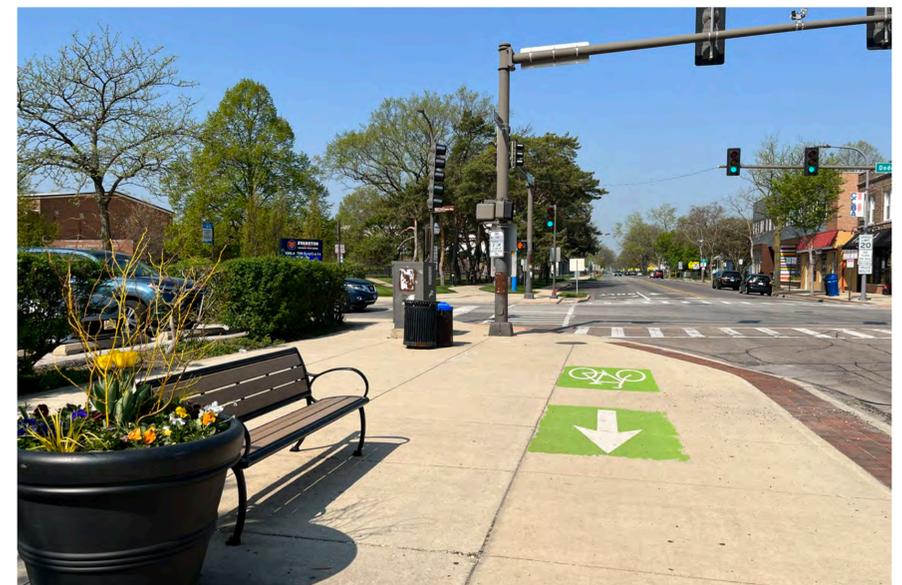
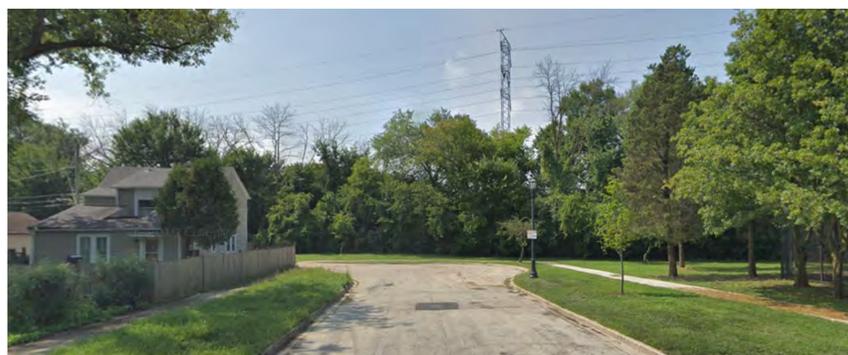
At Mason Park the embankment disrupts neighborhood access, resulting in safety and security concerns. Over the past years, the City purchased former Right-of-Way parcels to correct issues and reconnect neighborhoods.



## CHURCH-DODGE INTERSECTION

The Church-Dodge Intersection is located nearby to active businesses, neighborhoods, and Evanston Township High School (ETHS).

This busy intersection accommodates vehicles, buses, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The intersection often feels congested and lacks continuous flow for all users.



**Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements**

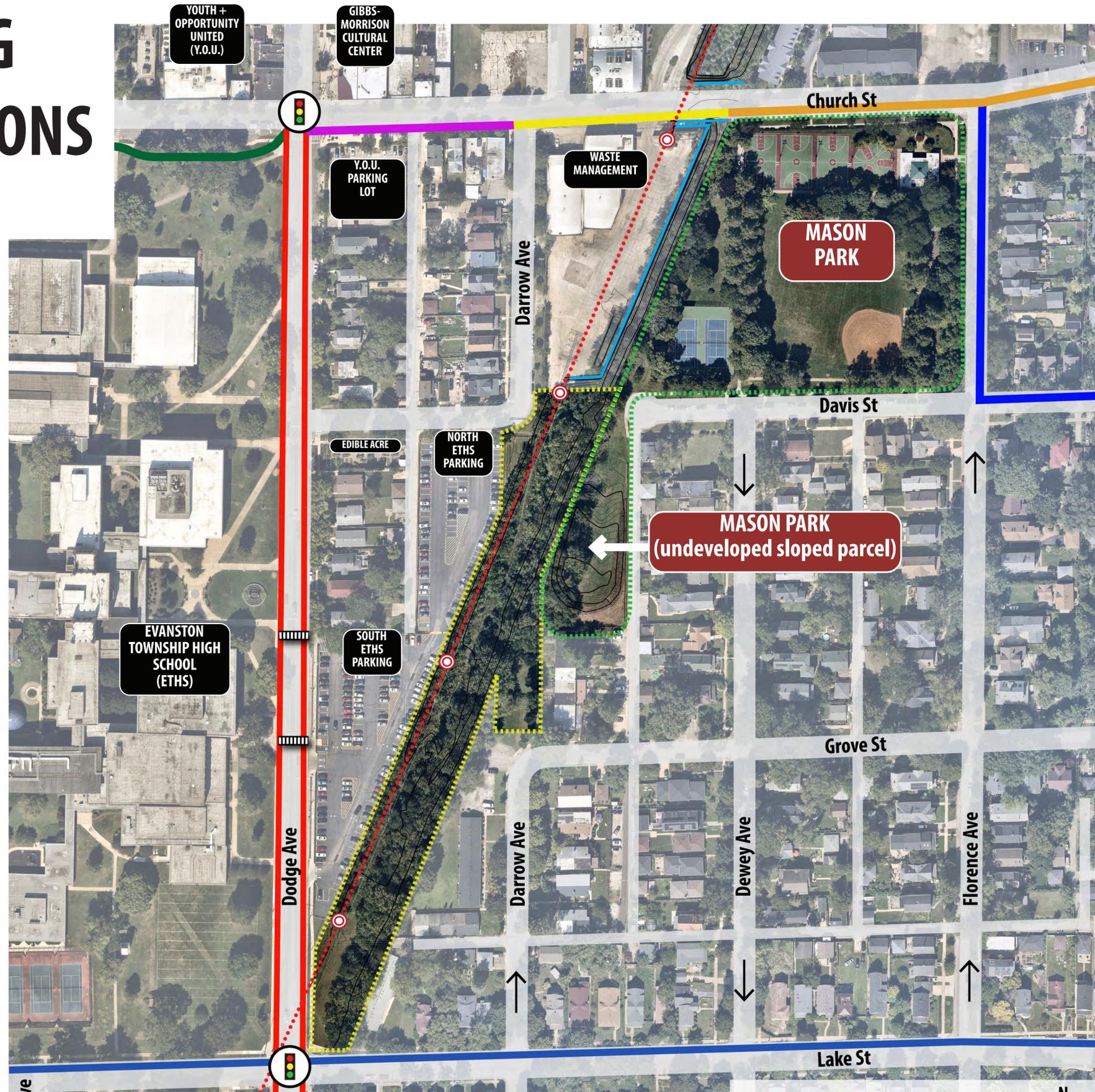
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# EXISTING CONDITIONS



-  Existing Traffic Signal
-  Existing Mid-Block Crossing
-  Embankment Wall
-  Mason Park Expansion Area
-  Existing Mason Park
-  ComEd High Tension Tower/ Overhead Wires
-  Section Elevations (See Section Exhibits)

### Bike Facilities

-  Existing Signed Bike Route
-  Existing Bike Lane
-  Existing Protected Bike Lane
-  Existing Off-Street Cycle Track (2-Way)
-  Existing On-Street Cycle Track (2-Way)
-  Existing Bike Path
-  Existing Bike Route



## Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements

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# EXISTING CONDITIONS



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements

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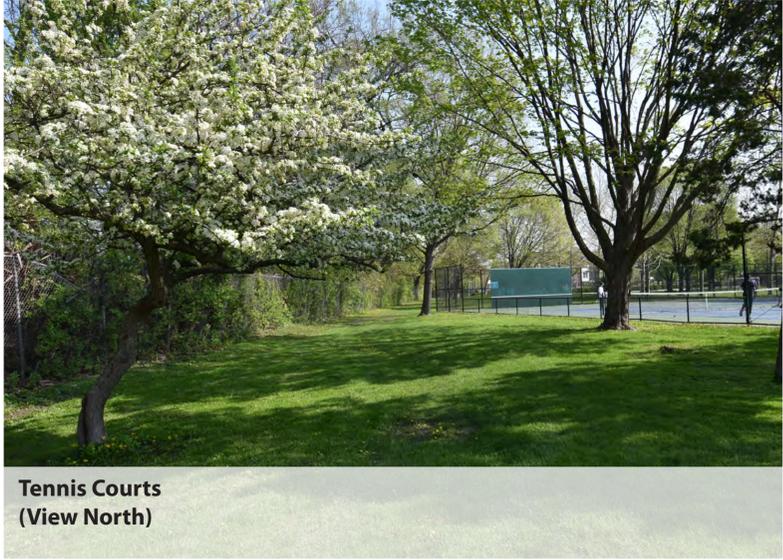
# EXISTING CONDITIONS



Mason Park Entrance at Church / Florence  
(View South)



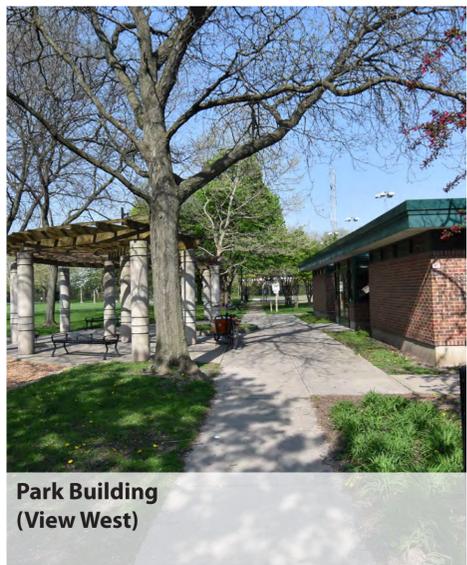
Basketball Courts  
(View West)



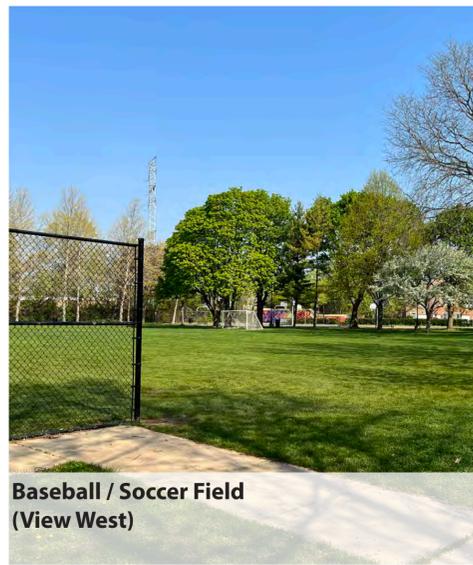
Tennis Courts  
(View North)



Playground  
(View North)



Park Building  
(View West)



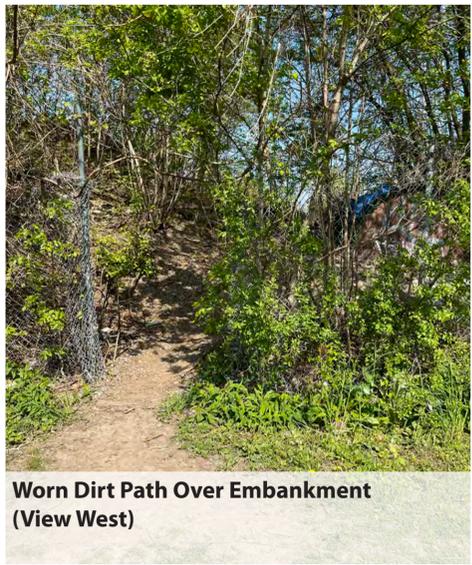
Baseball / Soccer Field  
(View West)



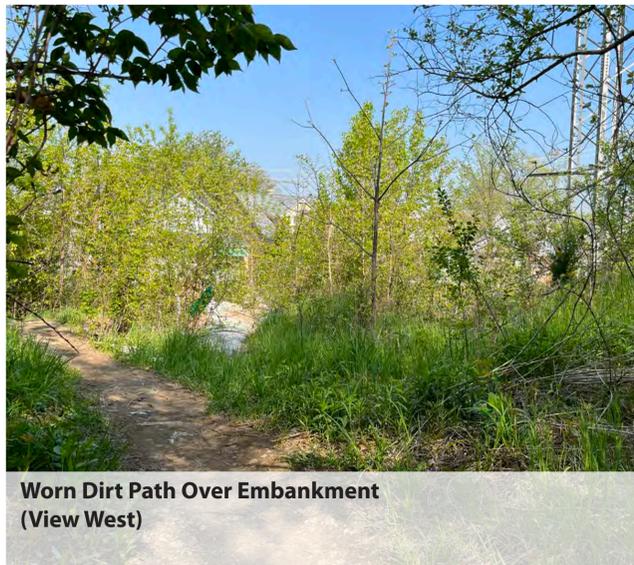
Basketball Court + Soccer Field  
(View South)



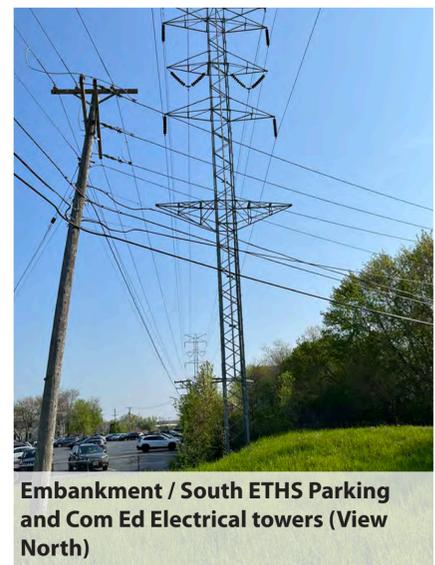
Davis St Along Mason Park Property /  
Base of Embankment (View South)



Worn Dirt Path Over Embankment  
(View West)



Worn Dirt Path Over Embankment  
(View West)



Embankment / South ETHS Parking  
and Com Ed Electrical towers (View North)



# PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN (2024)



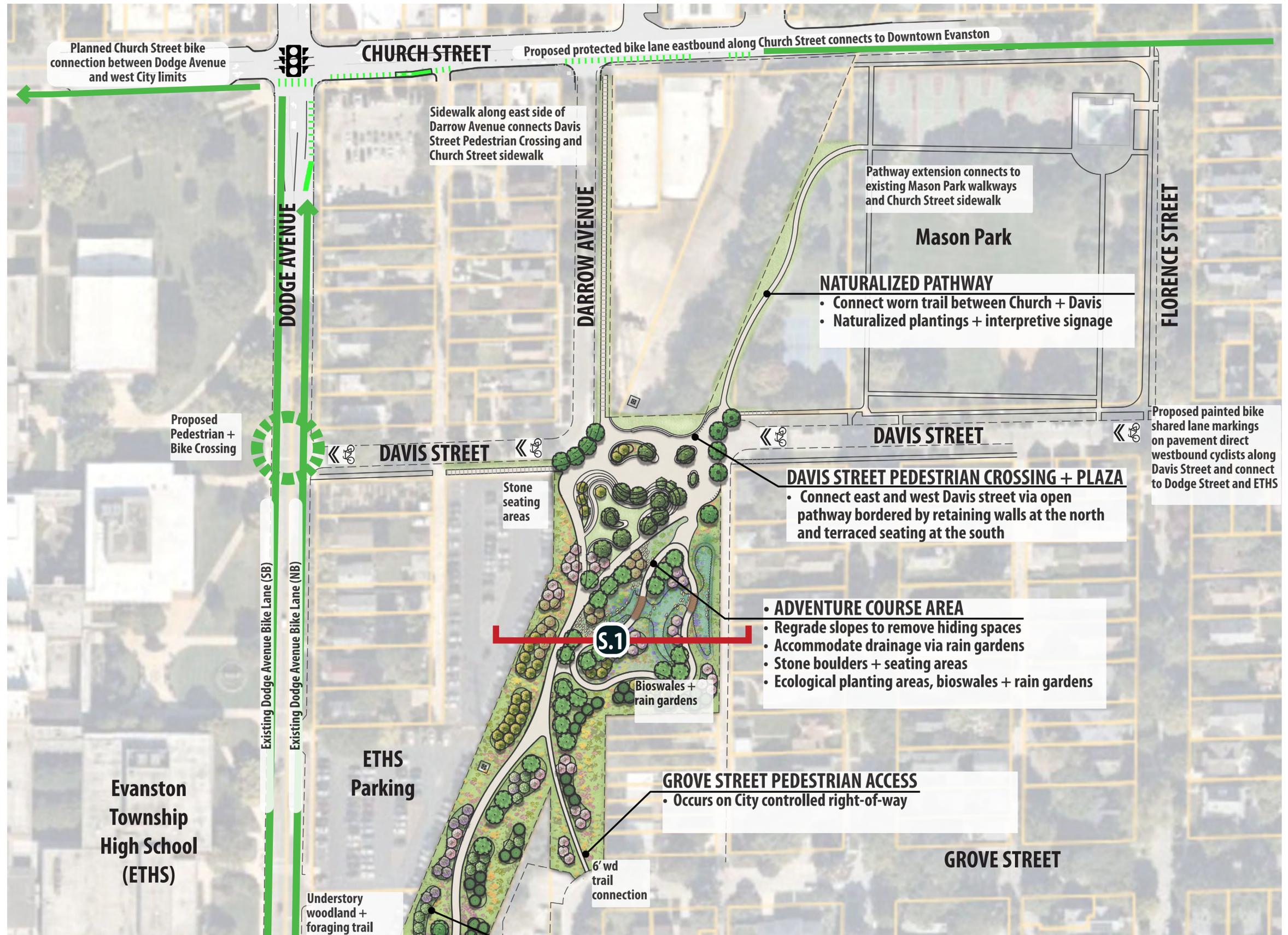
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# PREFERRED CONCEPT PLAN (2024)



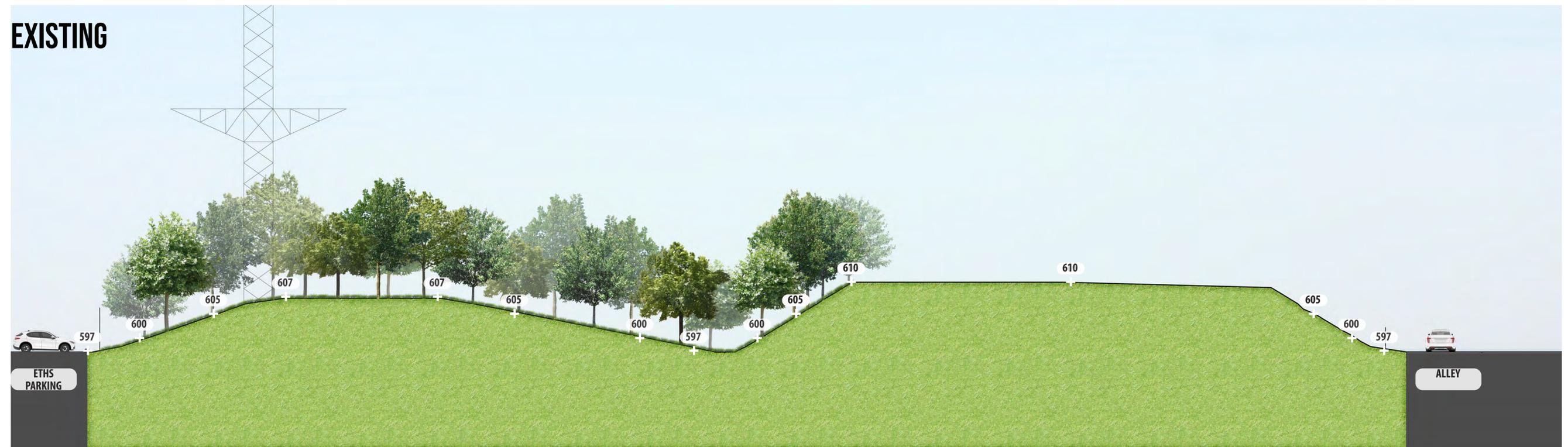
# SECTION 1 CONCEPT

## ETHS NORTH PARKING LOT (WEST) TO ALLEY (EAST), LOOKING NORTH

PROPOSED



EXISTING



Mason Park Expansion + Church/Dodge Transportation Improvements

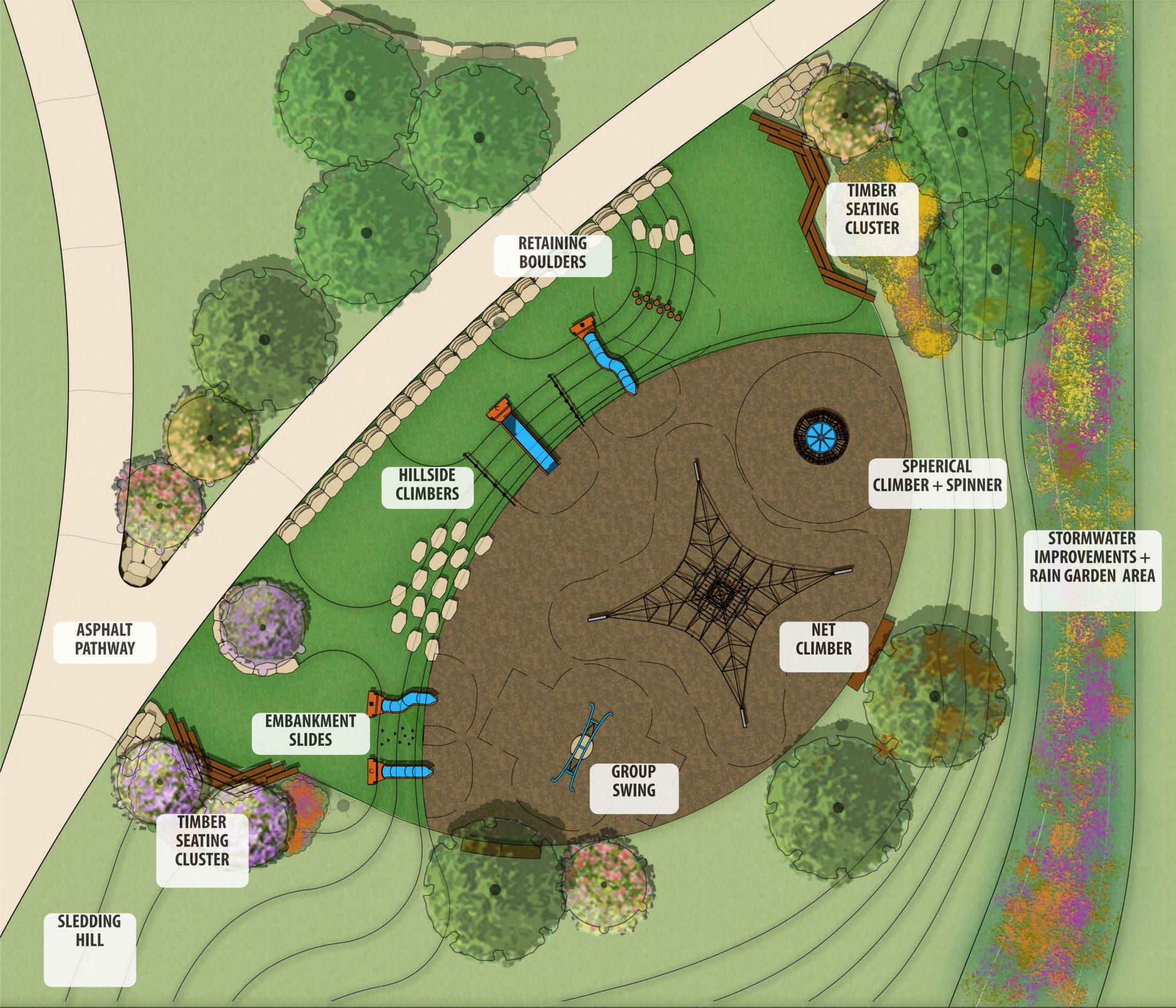
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# PLAYGROUND CONCEPT A

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**5-12 AGE  
GROUP,  
HILLSIDE  
PLAY**



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# PLAYGROUND CONCEPT A

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## 5-12 AGE GROUP, HILLSIDE PLAY



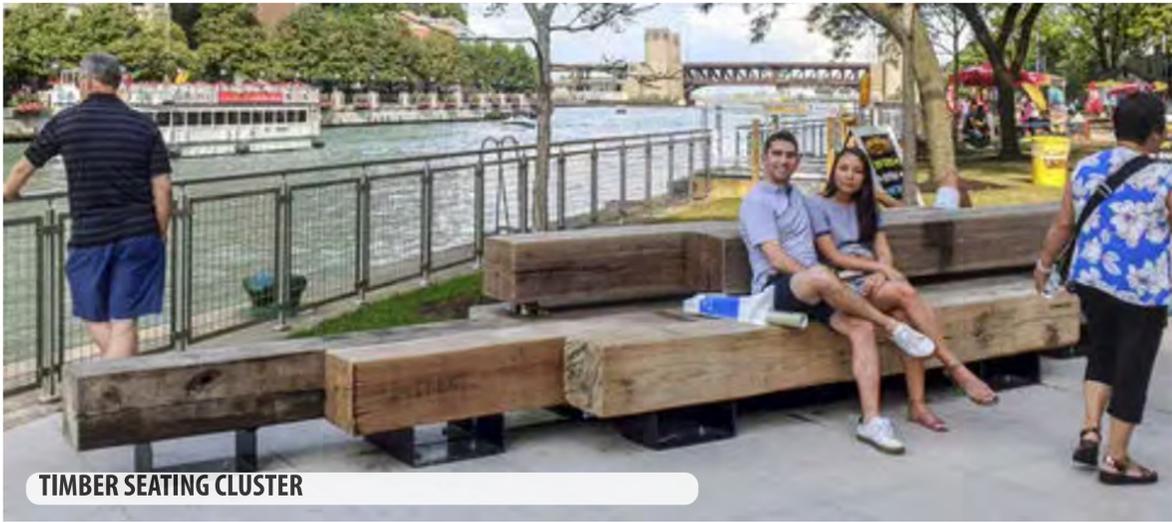
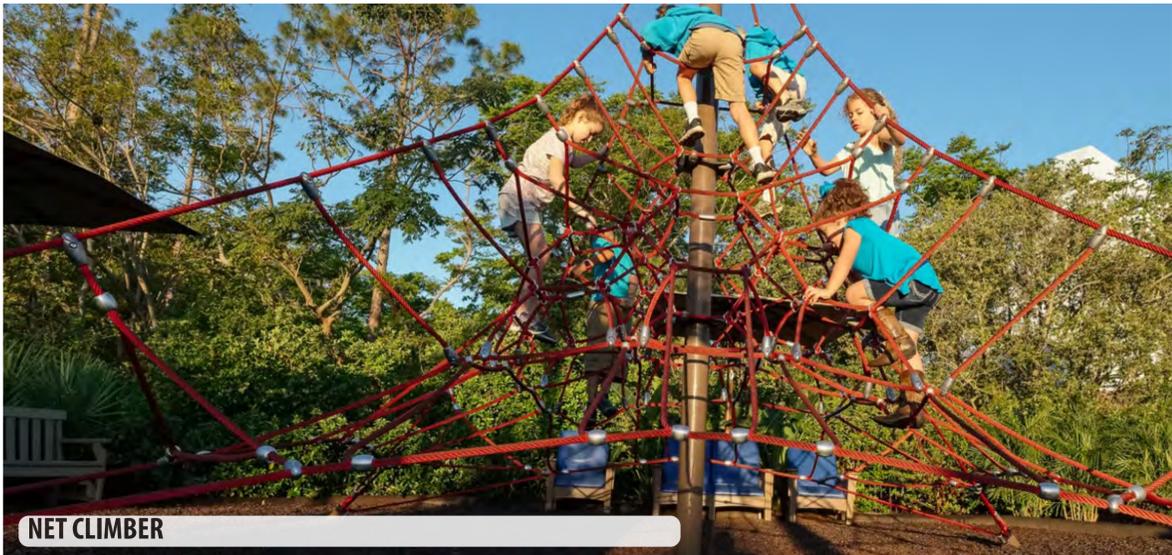
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# PLAYGROUND CONCEPT A

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**5-12 AGE  
GROUP,  
HILLSIDE  
PLAY**



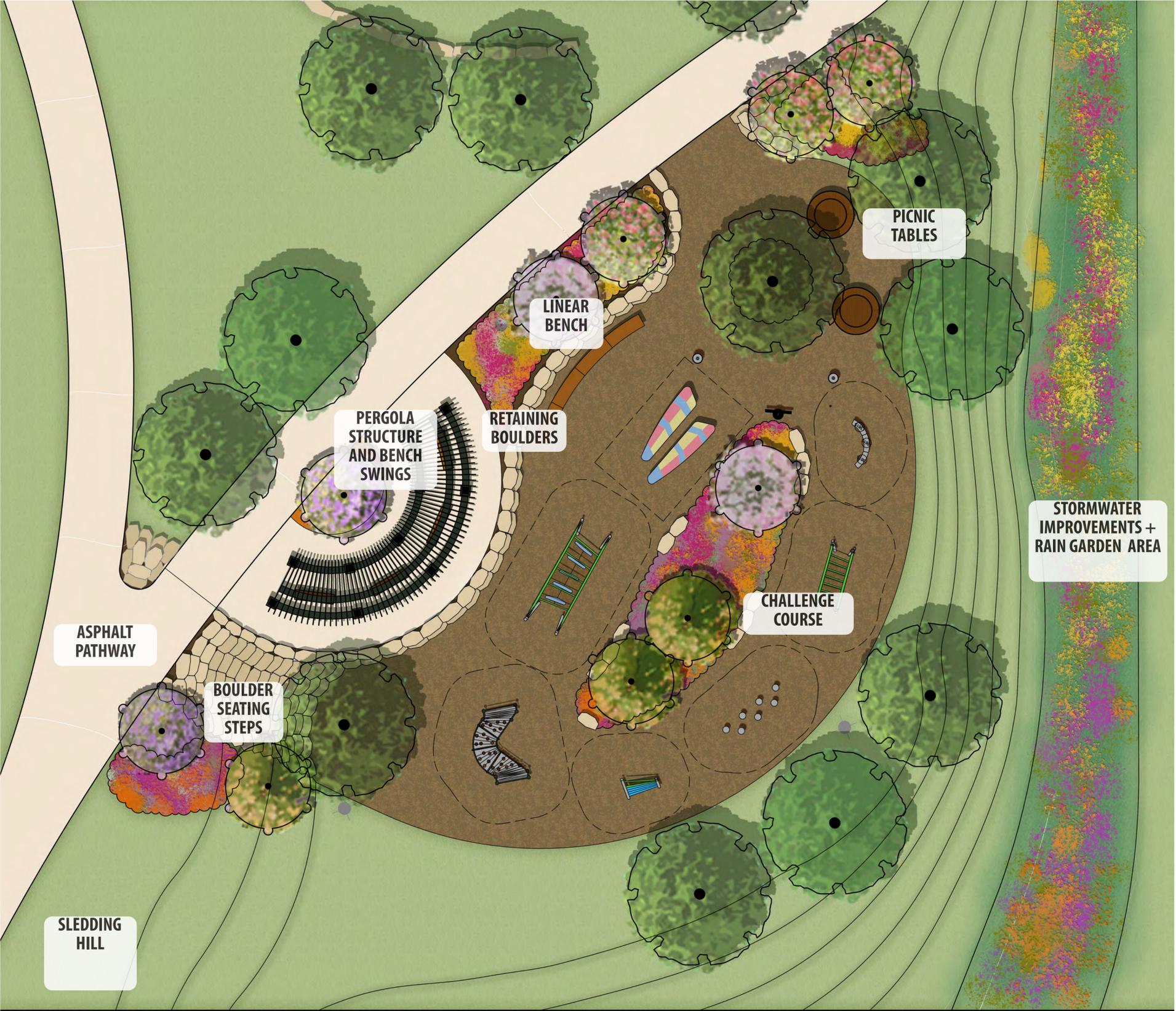
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# PLAYGROUND CONCEPT B

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**13+ AGE  
GROUP,  
CHALLENGE  
COURSE**



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# PLAYGROUND CONCEPT B

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**13+ AGE  
GROUP,  
CHALLENGE  
COURSE**



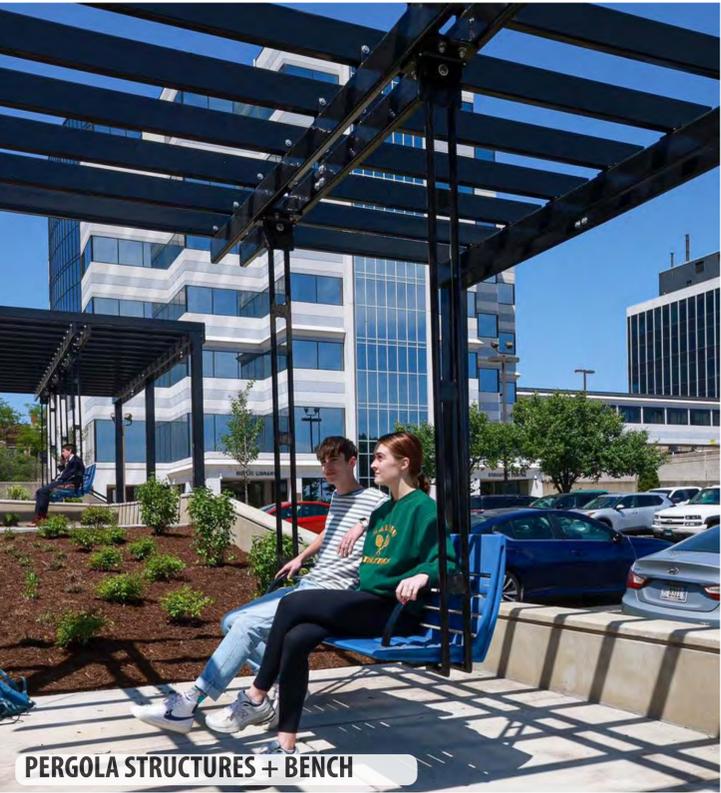
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# PLAYGROUND CONCEPT B

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**13+ AGE  
GROUP,  
CHALLENGE  
COURSE**



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