

Creating Community Parks at

# Sunset School Site & Boeing Creek Open Space

May 2010

Led and Developed by POMEGRANATE CENTER for  
City of Shoreline, Shoreline School District, Friends of Sunset Park and Shoreline community members



**POMEGRANATE CENTER**  
GATHERING PLACES, MEANINGFUL SPACES



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# Help create a community vision for the Sunset Park/Boeing Creek Open Space

**Your participation is needed at four community meetings**

**Tues: Jan. 19, 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Tues: Feb. 23, 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Sat: Mar. 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
design workshop

**Tues: Apr. 6, 6 to 8 p.m.**

Meetings to be held at  
**First Lutheran Church**  
18354 8th Ave. N.W.  
Shoreline, WA

For more information visit:

[www.friendsofsunsetpark.com](http://www.friendsofsunsetpark.com)

[www.shorelineschools.org](http://www.shorelineschools.org)

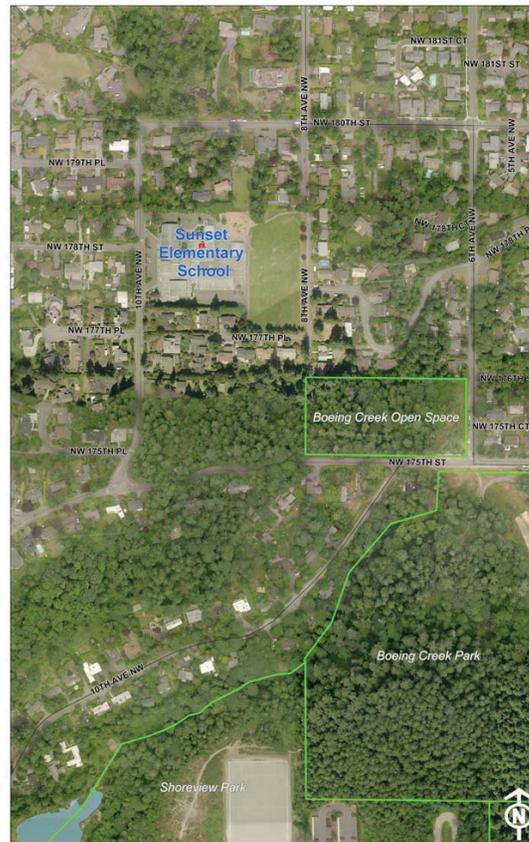
[www.shorelinewa.gov](http://www.shorelinewa.gov)

or contact:

Dave Buchan, Project Manager

(206) 801-2475

A joint project of the  
**Shoreline School District,**  
the **City of Shoreline**  
and **Friends of Sunset Park.**



[Community meeting flyer]

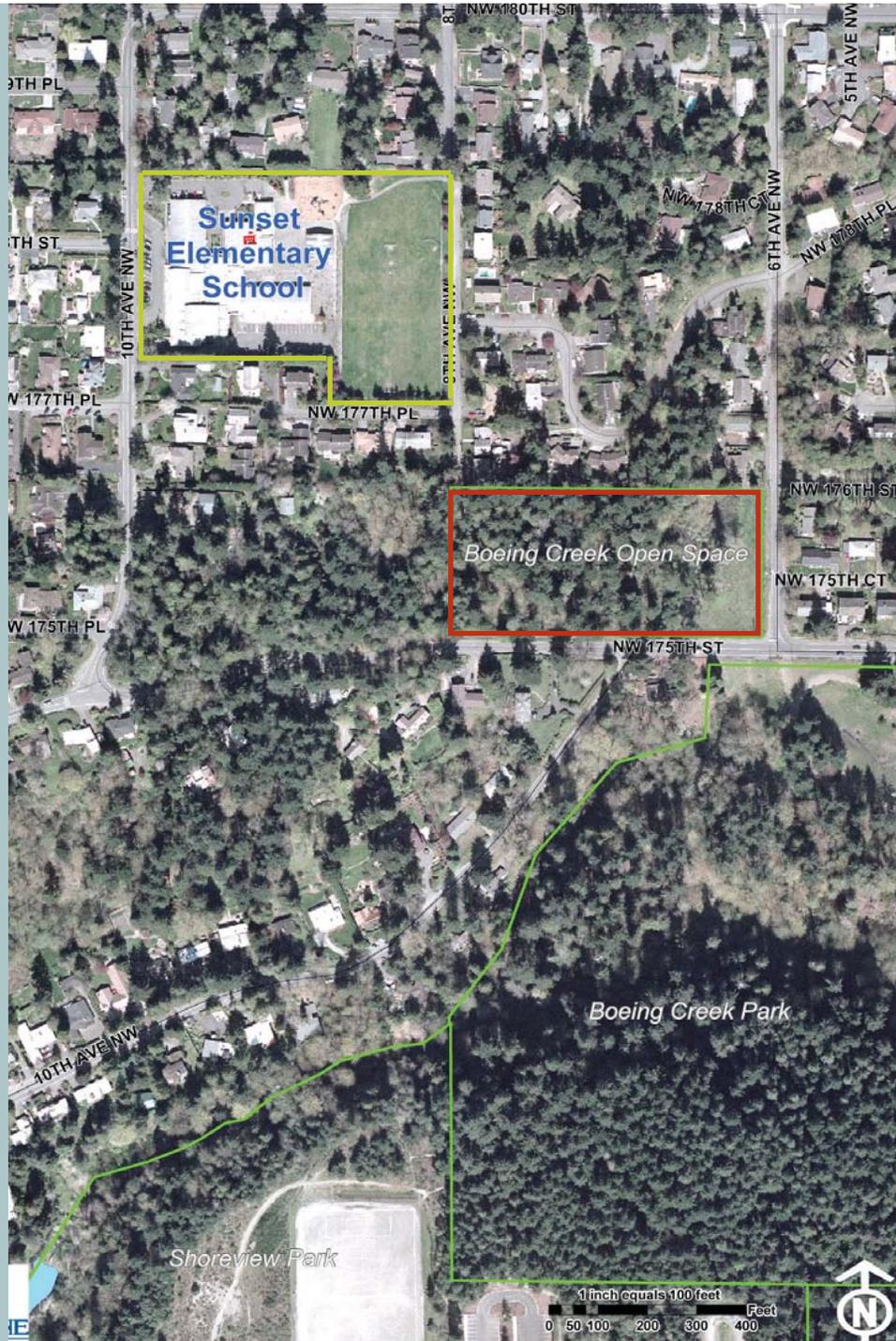
# Introduction

Sunset School and Boeing Creek Open Space are located in the City of Shoreline, in a mostly residential neighborhood tucked between Shoreline Community College to the South, a small business district to the north and a number of large and expanding green belts. The Sunset School site has 6.5 acres and a currently closed school building. It features basketball courts, an aging playstructure, a treasured memorial garden and an open, well used playfield. Boeing Creek Open Space is a 4.5 acre site that remains natural and undeveloped with some informal steep trails, lots of natural habitat and some old growth trees. The two sites are in close proximity to one another with the potential to connect via formal trails and paths through a right-of-way access point on 8th Avenue NE.

The improved Sunset School site and Boeing Creek Open Space will become part of the vast system of neighborhood and regional parks and trails in Shoreline. The development and care of these two sites mandates an ongoing partnership between Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Shoreline School District, and Shoreline community members. By cultivating these strong relationships and collaboration with others, such as non-profits and corporate partners, this project enhances park amenities while reducing costs and contributing to the region's exceptional quality of life.

**“ This project impacted our community as a whole. The planning structure of this project made everyone feel like they had a chance to share ideas and truly get their voice heard. Overall, this project brought the community closer together and created a community park that we know we all contributed to and can enjoy.”**

*-Sadie Kent, Steering group member and Shorewood High School student*



# Project Background

The Friends of Sunset Park, the Shoreline School District and the City of Shoreline have partnered to create a community-owned concept plan for development and use of the Sunset School site and Boeing Creek Open Space in Shoreline.

## HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

In 2007 Sunset Elementary School was closed due to declining enrollment. The Shoreline School Board determined that it is unlikely that the former school site will be needed for District purposes in the foreseeable future.

Following the school closure, there was growing interest within the community as to the future of the school site and adjacent open space. This interest led to the creation of a citizens group called "Friends of Sunset Park" with the goals of supporting the development of a community park and gathering place at the former school site. They raised funds within the local community to help support a professional planning process to involve the community in the development of a plan for the two sites.

The Friends invited the involvement of both the City of Shoreline and the Shoreline School District to establish a partnership to develop an imaginative and realistic plan. Pomegranate Center, a nonprofit organization specializing in community engagement, was invited to facilitate the planning process.

With an overall project goal of creating an actionable vision to transform Sunset School and Boeing Creek Open Space into a vibrant, safe and frequently-used community asset, this effort sought to simultaneously encourage community participation and engagement, strengthen collaborative relationships, and build leadership capacity to accomplish future goals within the greater Shoreline neighborhood.







# Participants

A Leadership Team and a Steering Group helped to provide guidance to the community process. The Leadership Team is comprised of representatives of the Friends, the City, the District and the Shoreline Park Board to provide overall policy guidance to the process. The Steering Group includes 15 individuals who will provide input from various community groups and youth programs in the Shoreline area. During the six months of community planning, over 400 community members participated. The following are the names of those who signed-in:

A. Gorgen	Christy Mackey	Henrick Lind	Londa Jacques	Rose Lenda
Afia Menke	Cindy McCormick	Hye-Young Nam	Lynn Huston*	Rosemary Rya
Aidan Jurowiec	Clair Miller	Jack Hayes	Lynn Mortimer	Sadie Kent*
Al Wagar*	Courtney Brown	Jacque Gwaltney	Maggie Keuter	Sally Ebel
Alex Sova	Craig S. Anderson	Jayce Lengafeet	Mandi Counter*	Sara Raab
Alice Street	Curtis LaPierre	Jeannie Marinella*	Marcia Harris	Shirley Taylor
Althea Jurowiec	Cynthia Esselman*	Jeff Benesi	Margie King	Stacie Crooks
Amelia Bowers	D.J. Yasui	Jeff Lewis	Marshall Blaine	Steve Ellersick
Annika McIntosh	Dale Brandensten	Jens Clark	Mary Coss	Su Liew
Anthony Gnanarajah	Dan Matlock	Jocelyn D'Ahmed	Matt G	Sue Nicol
Art Marceau	Danny Kulseth	John Hagman	Matt Loper*	Sue Walker
Augie Nounens	David Anderson	John Swanson	Maureen Colaizzi*	Summer Hofford
Baige Blomso	David Buchan*	Jonathan Gugger	Mei-shiou Lin	Susannah Chace
Barbara Hayes	David Wilson*	Josephine Gnanarajah	Michael McMasters	Suzanne Gugger*
Barbara Lewandowski	Dean L. Barta	Judy Griesel	Michael Micheletti	Suzanne Pardee
Betsy Rand	Debi Ehrlichman	Julie Fredrickson	Michael Walker	Teri LeClair*
Bill Montero	Diane Cottingham	Julie Miller	Michelle Hickman*	Terri Cole
Bill Walker	Dianna Klug	Juniper Nammi	Michiyo Uhitig	Thomas Peterson
Blair Buchan	Dick Deal*	Justin Stapp	Milre Jurowiec	Tom Lenda
Bob Paegei	Don Dalziel*	Katy Kuznetsova	Nancy Walker	Tosh Drake
Bob Phelps	Don Norman	Keaton Eggert	Patrick Limb	Troy Hickman
Brian Anderson	Donna Larson	Keith Bates	Patty Hale	Troy Hickman
Bruce Town	Donna Taylor	Keith Carpenter	Paul Sutphen	Vicki Klein
Buzz Hufford	Ed Adams	Kent Cottingham	Pavel Souz	Wendy DiPeso
Carol Omland	Ed Cavel	Kevin Guttu	Peg World	William Hubbell*
Caroline Gugger	Ed Slater	Kimberly Anne Cambern	Peter Esselman	
Casey Hofford	Ed Waale	Kris Beatty	Ralph Keuter	
Cassi Marler	Emily Miller	Kristen Clem	Randy Inouye	
Cathy Inouye	Eric Strandberg	Kumiko Huff	Red Robinson	
Char Erickson	Erick Volkstorf	Kyle Gugger	Richard Potter	
Charlotte Greenwaugh	Erika Seather	Laura Brodax	Rick Leary	
Cheri Micheletti	Gery Epps	Laura Taylor	Rick Mackey	
Cheryl Waale	Glenn Dalby	Leanne Hofford*	Rick McClurg	
Chip Erickson	Harvey Page	Lee A. Michaelis	Rika Cecil	
Chris Bowers	Hayden Street	Leksa Jurowiec	Ritva Manchester	
Chris Caim	Hayra Gunn	Liaka Mukerji	Robert A. Rosinson	
Chris Eggan	Heather Roberts	Linda Jaques	Robert Lewandowski	
Chris Roberts	Helen Shelton	Lisa Hirohata	Robin Lewis	
Christine Huffstetter	Helga Marceau	Lisa Surowiec	Ros Bird*	

\* Steering committee members

**We, the members of the Steering Group,  
whole-heartedly support the conceptual  
plan for Sunset Park and Boeing Creek Open  
Space as documented in this report.**

Signed April 13, 2010

jeanie marinella  
Sodie ~~Hunt~~  
Al Wagar  
Leanne L. Hofford  
Cynthia Esselman  
Ros Bird  
Jeri Le Clair  
David McNeal  
Dave Bird

Lynn Huston  
Matthew Ger  
Mandi S. Givson  
Susan Steyer  
Michelle Wickman  
John Sauer

# Process and Guiding Principles

The community planning process involved a series of six steering group meetings, three community meetings, a community design workshop, a number of youth surveys and ongoing coordination of a small leadership team made up of representatives from the City, School District, Friends of Sunset Park and Pomegranate Center. At the first community meeting on January 19, 2010, the steering group identified a set of principles and values unique to Shoreline residents.

Each of the three community meetings began by reviewing these guiding principles and values as a reminder that the design solutions are a way of realizing these values. The community members then developed design concepts aligned with these criteria.

Finally, Pomegranate Center integrated the community-generated suggestions into this document with the assistance of Shoreline agencies, landscape architects, engineers and other technical support.



Steering Committee

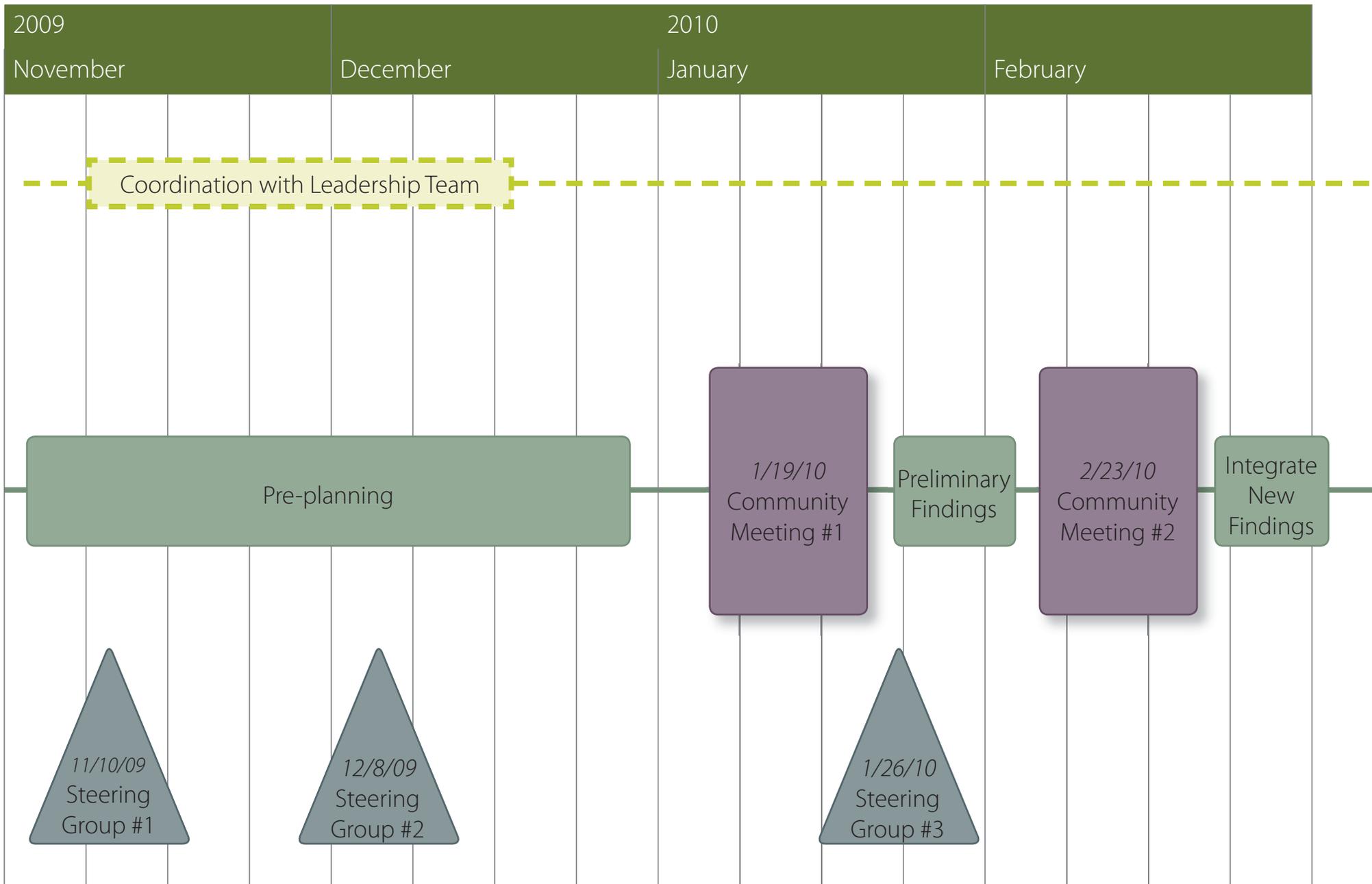
## Guiding Principles:

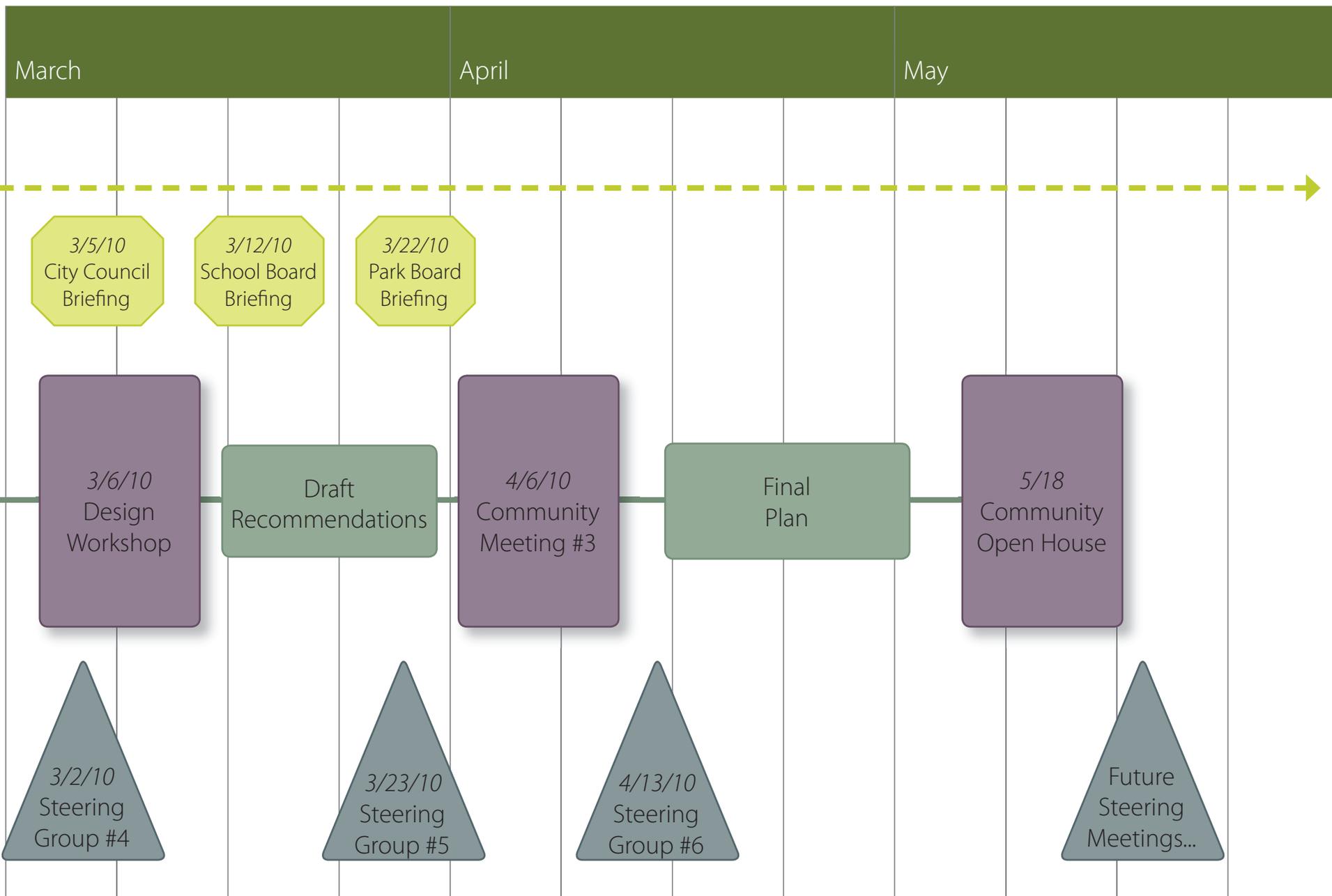
- Preserve the school foot print for possible future school needs
- Build upon current uses of the site
- Link the two sites
- Preserve the memorial garden
- Enhance views to the west
- Keep the name "Sunset"
- Follow site/environmental constraints of Boeing Creek Open Space
- Strike a balance between neighborhood integration and new possibilities

## Values:

- Make it multi-use and multi-generational
- Provide access to and connectivity between sites and beyond
- Encourage community involvement and ownership
- Engage in sustainable practices
- Educate about the natural and human history
- Integrate art into the designs
- Create safety for all
- Honor local culture
- Promote healthy activities

# Community Engagement Process





# SUNSET SITE AMENITIES

## SITE-WIDE

1. Pathways
2. Benches
3. Gateways
4. Kiosks
5. Shelters
6. Trees

## LOWER ZONE

1. Open lawn area
2. Gardens
3. Orchard
4. Memorial garden
5. Basketball court
6. View Corridor
7. Playground
8. Parking

## TRANSITION ZONE

1. Slope
2. Gathering place
3. Vista point
4. Mounds
5. Fence
6. Stairs
7. Slide
8. Restroom

## UPPER ZONE

1. Upgraded athletic field
2. Fence
3. Open space

# BOEING CREEK SITE

1. Wilderness trails
2. ADA pathway
3. Fence
4. Kiosks
5. Gateways
6. Shelter
7. Dry creek bed
8. Bridges
9. On-street parking

# Community Vision

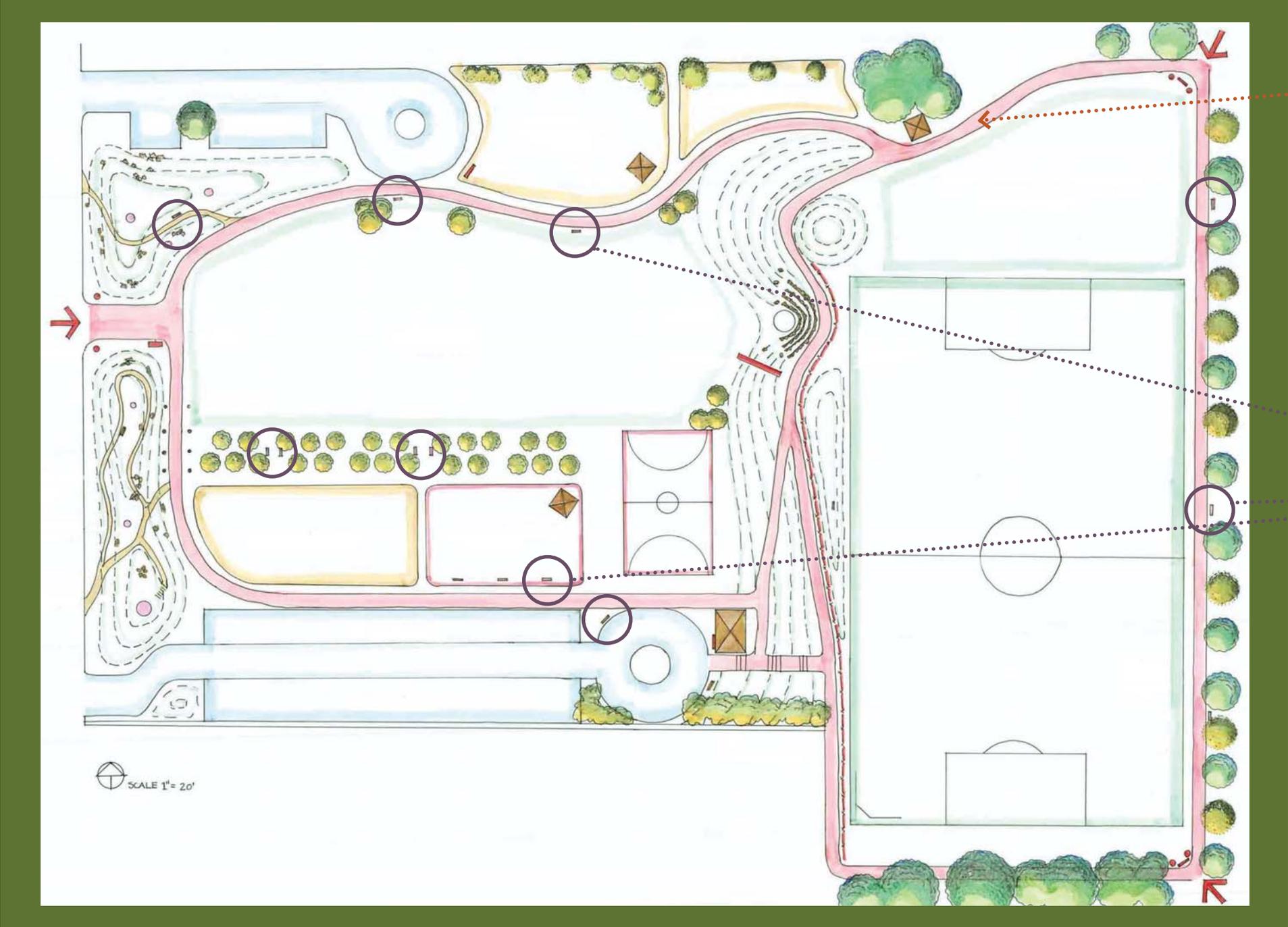
This community generated plan envisions a Sunset School site which balances social and recreational amenities and connects with enhanced natural amenities at the adjacent Boeing Creek Open Space. The eastern part of the Sunset site (*upper zone*) is intended to remain as the active, recreational hub of the site by enhancing the already well-used sports field, improving access and seating for athletic events and highlighting picnic areas. The western portion the site (*lower zone*) serves both social, contemplative as well as programmed and spontaneous uses with a p-patch, an expanded memorial garden, an open lawn area for improvised play, and playground equipment. Between the upper and lower zones is a transition area which uses elevation change to feature a small amphitheater with grassy slopes and viewing mounds to take advantage of western views of the Sound.

Boeing Creek Open Space remains a natural park space which acts as a green connection to other parks and trails in the region. Enhanced features of the site include trails, both for ADA accessibility in the southeast corner and for pedestrian access through the northwest corner of the site, kiosks and interpretive signage.

Each amenity is intended to serve many purposes at once. As such, the concepts leave certain specificities up to the community members to develop so their handiwork and ownership are honored. For example, community gardens in the lower zone can start small in one section and, if there is more demand, expand to another area. The priority of implementation for each amenity will, in part, depend on a long-term stewardship commitment from community members. The Friends of Sunset Park could serve as an umbrella group representing community members and park user groups and could advocate for the park among the broader community.

The community vision has been developed into conceptual drawings (pages 14-39) that illustrate the general vision for the two sites. This vision will be further refined through a design process, where concepts are turned into real construction details needed by contractors. During the design process, some modifications will occur based on site details and new information that were not known during the visioning process. A draft of the refined drawings are depicted on pages 42-47 with an explanation needed refinements from the concept level drawings.

# SUNSET SITE: OVERARCHING FEATURES



# SUNSET SCHOOL SITE: OVERARCHING FEATURES

## Pathways

Trails run from the southern parking lot to the upper, lower and transition zones providing ADA accessibility to all areas of the park.

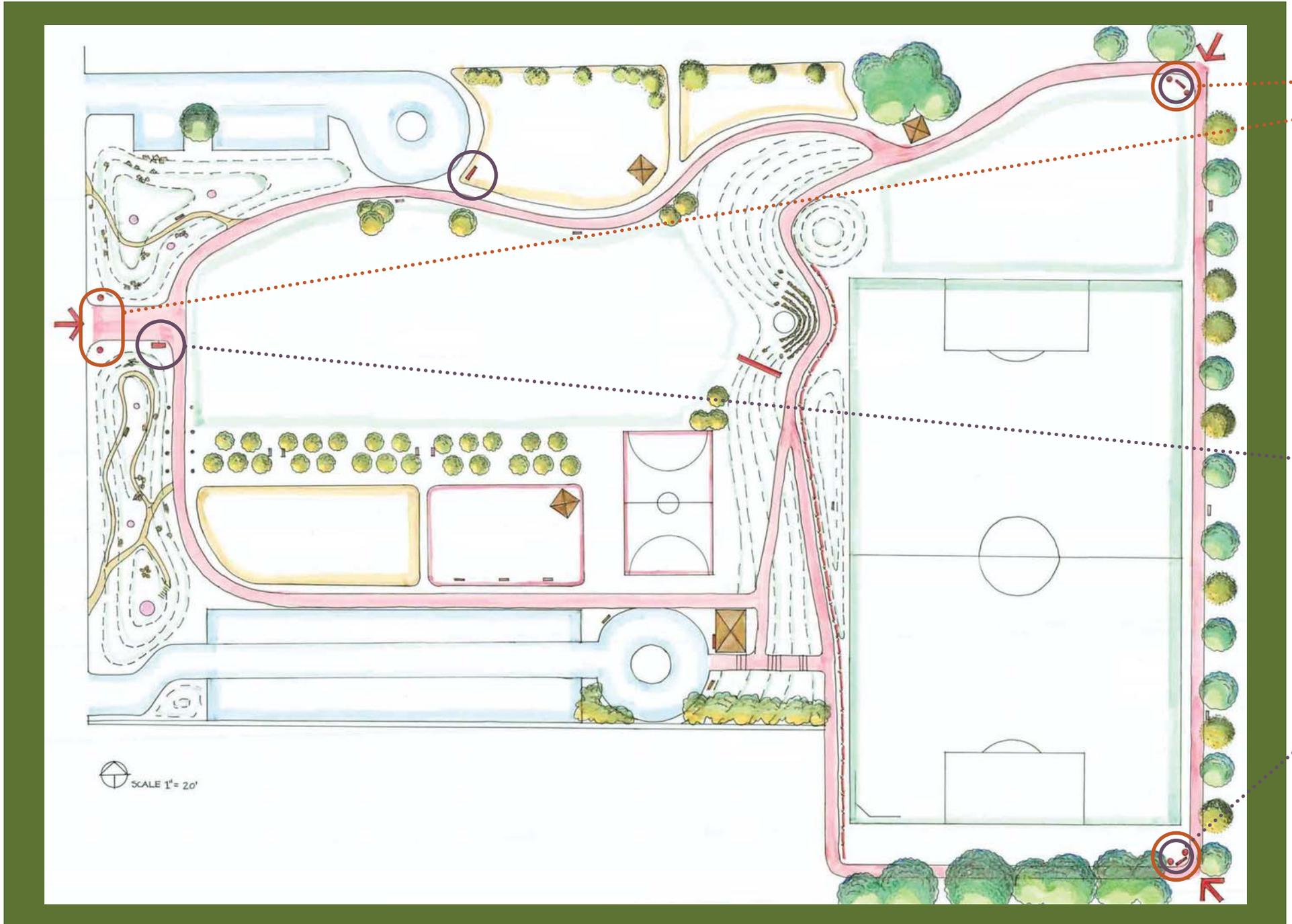


## Benches

Benches can be strategically placed throughout the lower zone to take advantage of the views, encourage parental supervision of children playing and offer places of pause. Benches can be constructed of salvaged materials and serve as a great canvas for integrated art.



# SUNSET SITE: OVERARCHING FEATURES



# SUNSET SCHOOL SITE: OVERARCHING FEATURES

## Gateways

Gateways serve as identity pieces by which people locate an entrypoint. The main gateway in the lower zone of Sunset Park will be located at 178th and 10th to preserve the view corridor of the Puget Sound. All gateways will mark the entrances, as well as feature signage, art works and kiosks.

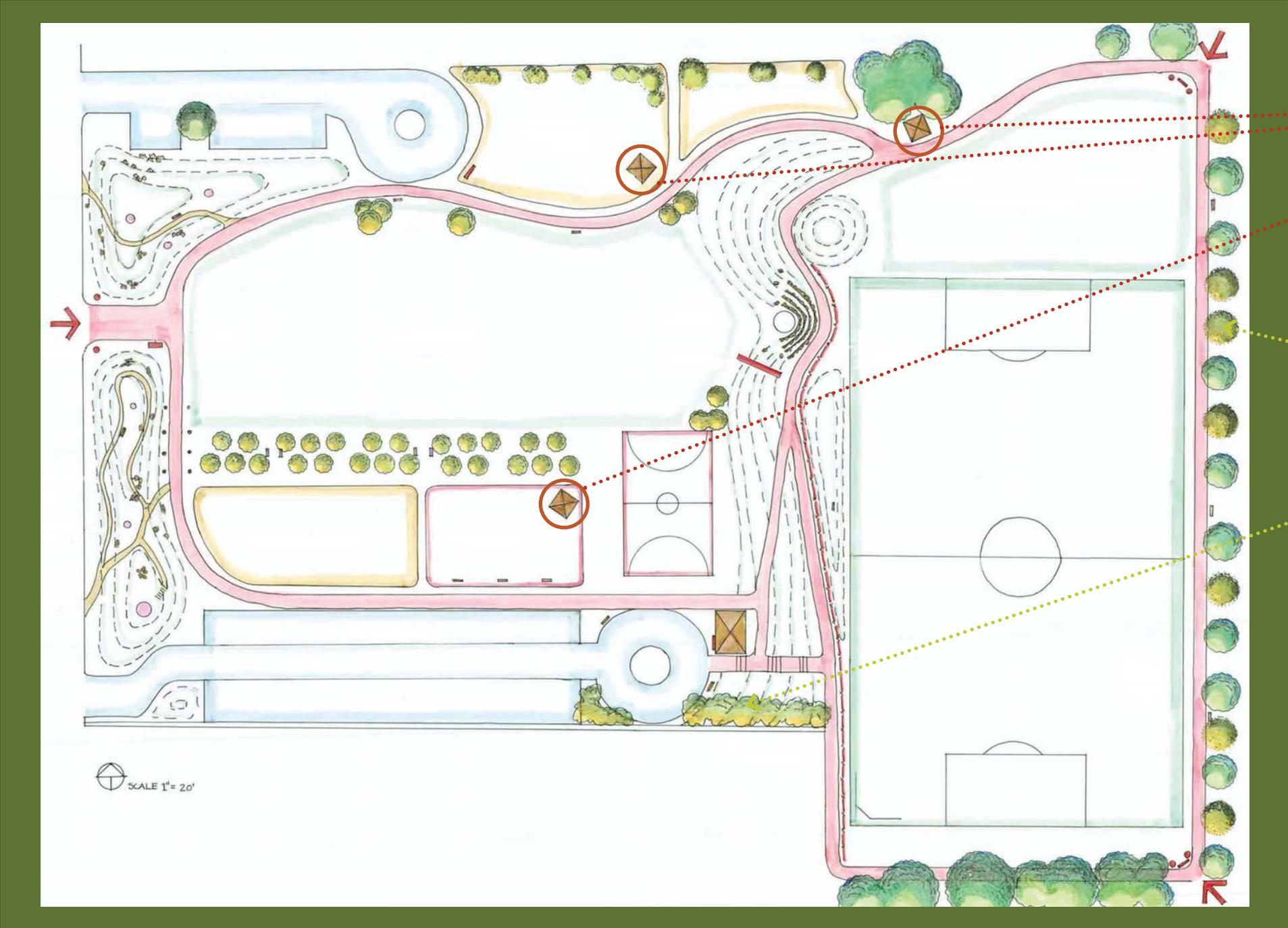


## Kiosks

Kiosks are strategically placed throughout the park near entrances and activity spots. They can hold information about park events, community events and illustrate regional trail and path connections between parks.



# SUNSET SITE: OVERARCHING FEATURES



# SUNSET SCHOOL SITE: OVERARCHING FEATURES

## Shelters

Shelters serve as a refuge from sun or rain and provide a place for informal occasions like picnics, BBQs, family gatherings, and parties. Shelters can be stationed in key locations to take in the view, supervise young children in the playground, oversee activities in the basketball courts and open space or enjoy the peace of quieter corners like the community gardens. Each shelter is approximately 15' x 15' and can feature tables, benches and community art.

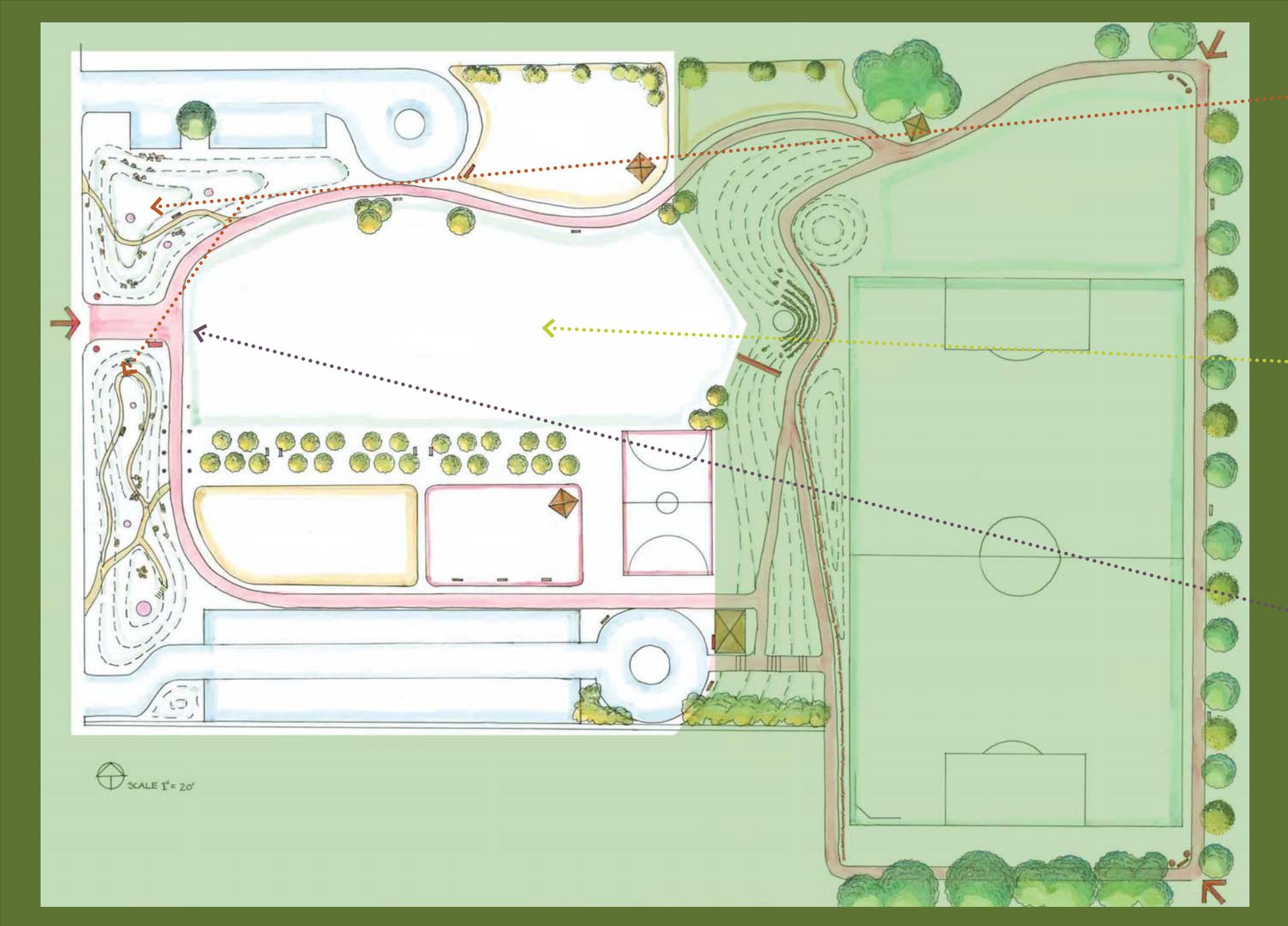


## Additional Trees

Planting additional trees throughout the site can improve privacy for neighbors, act as edges for the open space and offer shade and retreat.



# SUNSET SITE: LOWER ZONE



# SUNSET SCHOOL SITE: LOWER ZONE

## Expanded Memorial Garden

The current memorial garden should be expanded along the 3' high mounds at the western edge of the lower zone along 10th Avenue NW. It can feature meandering paths which intersect with key points of interest like sculptural art, salvaged rocks from the rock wall in the transition zone and low-growing native plants to preserve the views.



## Open Lawn Area

This open lawn area could be suitable for informal activities such as frisbee, soccer, bocce, kite-flying, etc. In Sunset Park, such a space will be located in the center of the lower zone to preserve the view corridor at 10th and 178th. It can also accommodate future community gardens if the need emerges. Its approximate size is 240' x 100'.



## View Corridor

There are numerous spots throughout the Sunset School site where sweeping views of the Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains can be captured. This specific location was identified as an area that should be highlighted and remain unobstructed in future site development.



# SUNSET SITE: LOWER ZONE



# SUNSET SCHOOL SITE: LOWER ZONE

## Gardens

There are four areas designated to the public for fruit, flower and vegetable growing. The plan has placeholders for community gardens, which will be implemented based on the community's interest and commitment to ongoing maintenance of such spaces.



## Orchards

In addition to the community gardens, residents expressed interest in incorporating an orchard.

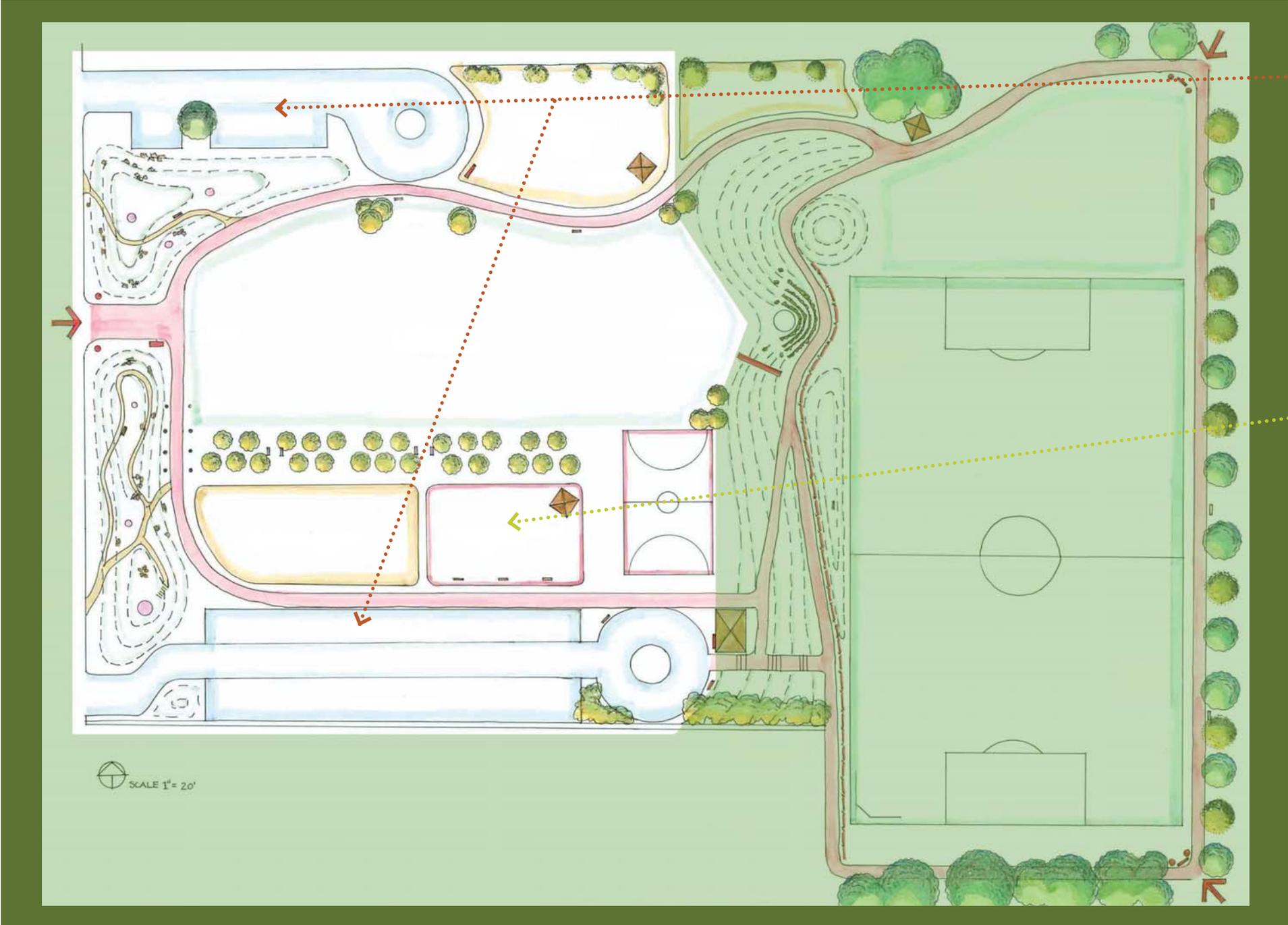


## Basketball

Basketball courts located in parks function as a place for organized and spontaneous sports activity. There are several basketball courts at the current site that are underutilized. The future court could be placed near the restroom and parking/drop-off area for convenient access and to encourage more use.



# SUNSET SITE: LOWER ZONE



# SUNSET SCHOOL SITE: LOWER ZONE

## Parking

Parking lots are planned for both the north and south ends of the lower zone of Sunset Park. The southern parking lot could feature approximately 40-50 spaces along with a drop-off area, in close proximity to trails, and stairs connecting to the upper zone. The northern parking lot includes approximately ten spaces and retains the current round-about for drop-off and pick-up. This lot is located close to the community garden for easy loading.

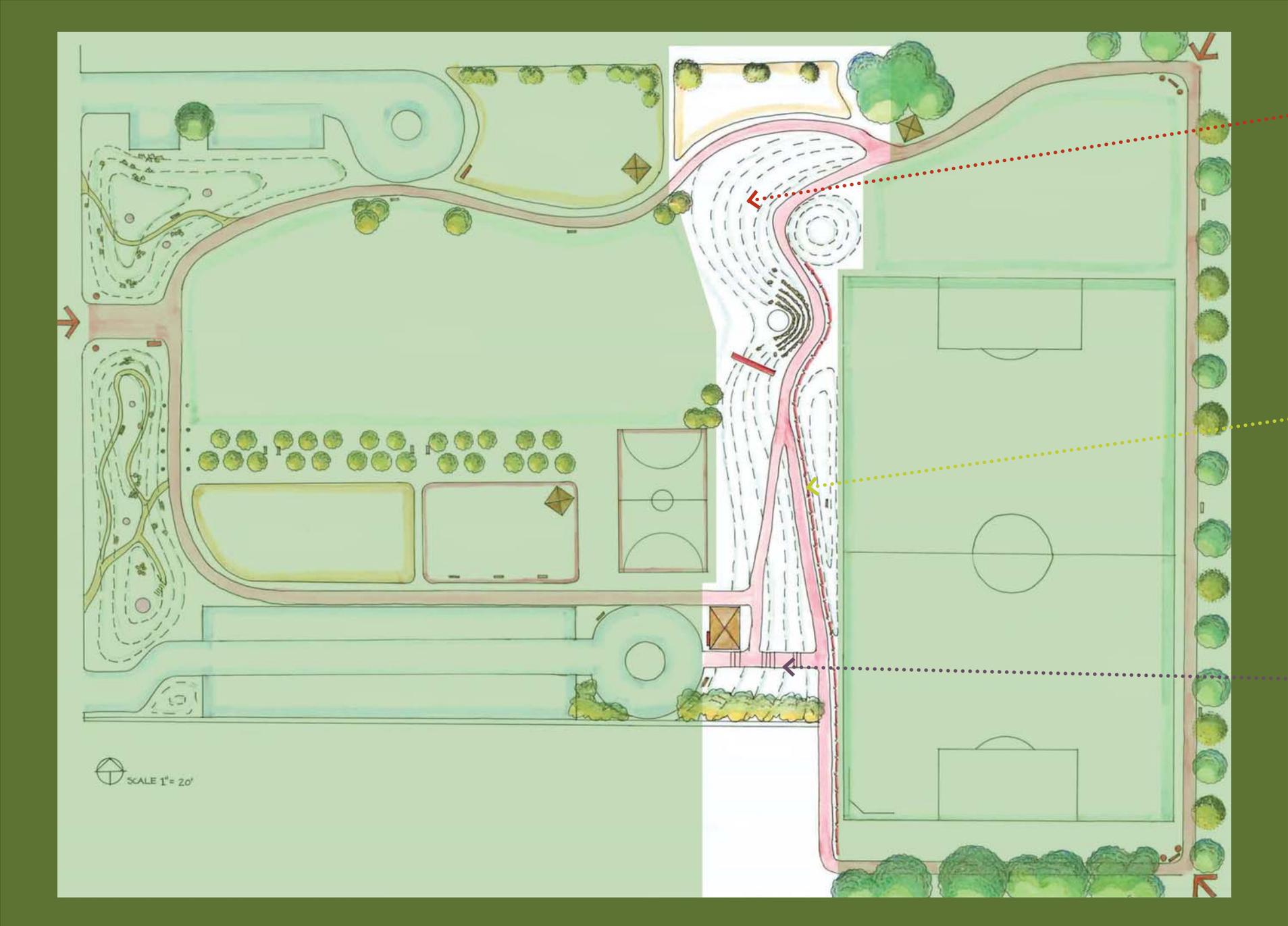


## Play Structures

The community recommends an upgrade and relocation of the current play structure (closer to the restrooms) as an important way of generating multi-generational play in the park. Special features in the new play equipment can include equipment for a broad age range of children and a nearby shelter for supervising parents. Size appropriate swings and a slide could accommodate teens who expressed an interest play equipment.



# SUNSET SITE: TRANSITIONAL ZONE



# SUNSET SCHOOL SITE: TRANSITION ZONE

## Slope

A gentle slope replaces the current 10' retaining wall which separates the upper and lower zones of the park. This slope could help connect the two areas and provide opportunities for pathways and for children to play.



## Fence

Alongside the pathway bordering the upper zone, a 4' fence can prevent balls from the athletic fields from running down the slope.

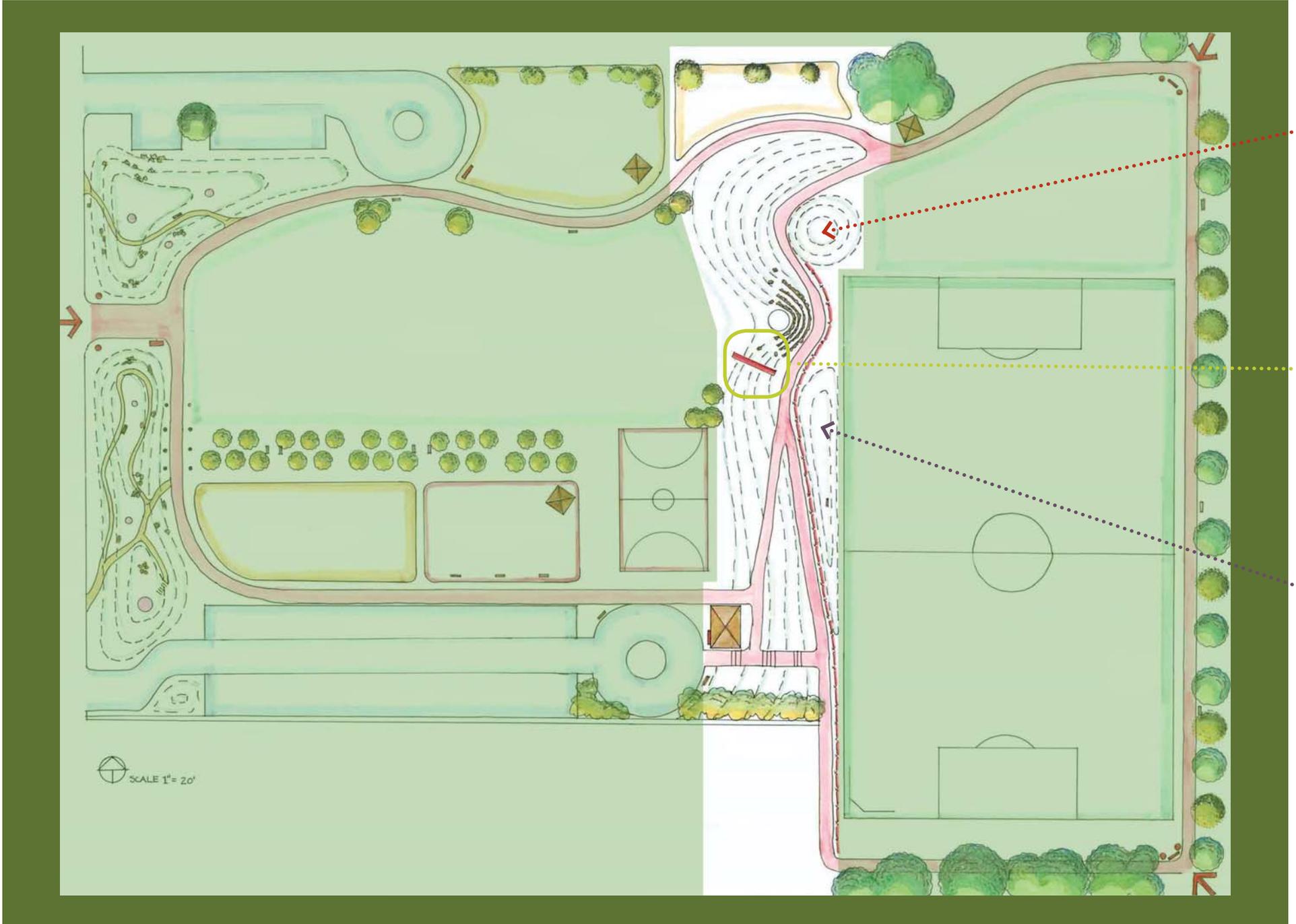


## Stairs & ADA Pathway

Both the stairs and the ADA path connect the drop-off area in the southern parking lot to the upper field and provide easy access to other important park facilities like the restrooms.



# SUNSET SITE: TRANSITION ZONE



# SUNSET SCHOOL SITE: TRANSITION ZONE

## Vista Point

The vista point is approximately a 3' mound that acts as a counterpoint to the sunken gathering place. It is the highest point in the park from which the most optimal view of mountains and sound can be appreciated. It can feature an artistic focal point at its center such as a sundial (a recommendation from the youth participants).



## Giant Slide

The request for this unique amenity came from a number of high school youth who desire age appropriate play equipment. The slide, built into the slope, takes advantage of the elevation change between the upper and lower zones.

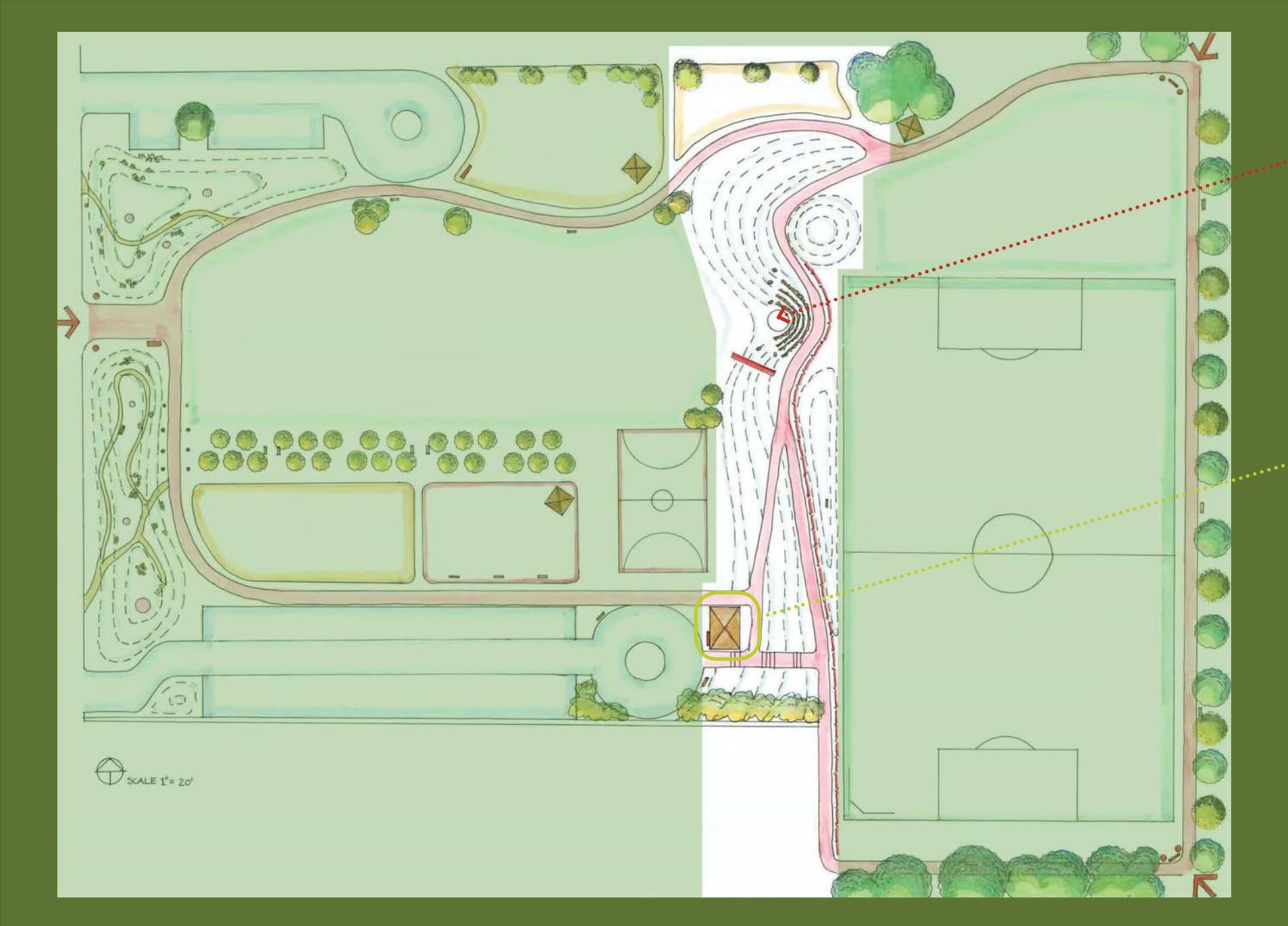


## Elongated Mound

The elongated mound is roughly 3' higher than the athletic field at its highest point. This mound serves both the lower and upper zones of the park: it provides informal seating, contains balls used during athletic events within the upper zone and provides an elevated viewing area over the lower zone.



# SUNSET SITE: TRANSITION ZONE



# SUNSET SCHOOL SITE: TRANSITION ZONE

## Gathering Place

This small gathering place, accommodating approximately 50 people, serves as a venue for intimate performances, storytelling, ceremonies and celebrations. It is located within the view corridor with a stage 15' across and seating made from rocks salvaged from the current retaining wall.

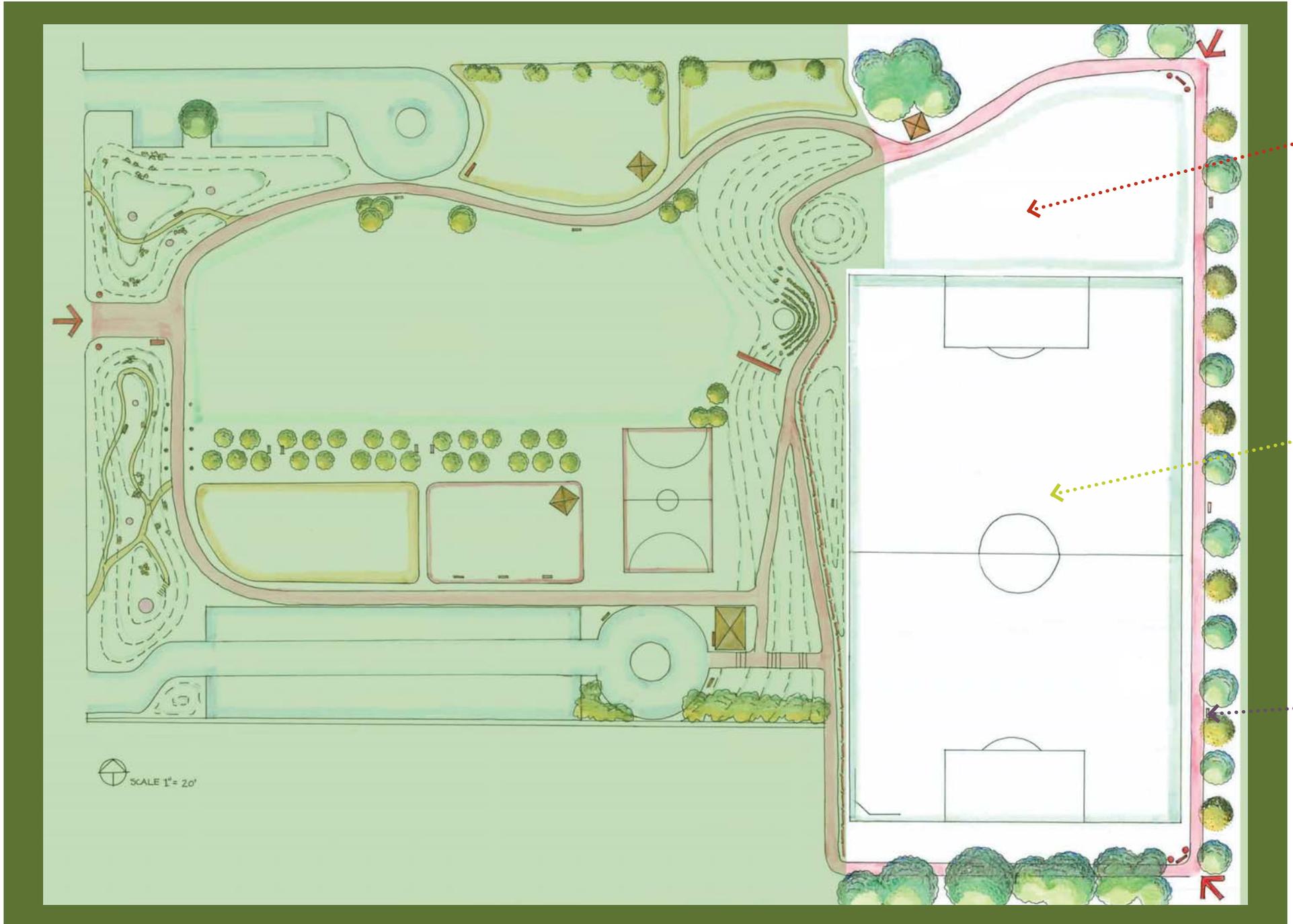


## Restrooms

The community expressed that a restroom facility is a priority. Its location should be central, making it easily accessible by the majority of park users and close to the parking lot drop-off, athletic fields and ADA path. It should be designed to also serve as a kiosk, provide shelter and reuse materials like children's tile from the old school to make it an attractive facility.



# SUNSET SITE: UPPER ZONE



# SUNSET SCHOOL SITE: UPPER ZONE

## Open Lawn Area

The current open space on the north side of the upper zone should be preserved as a flat, open space for game warm-ups and informal picnicking and play.



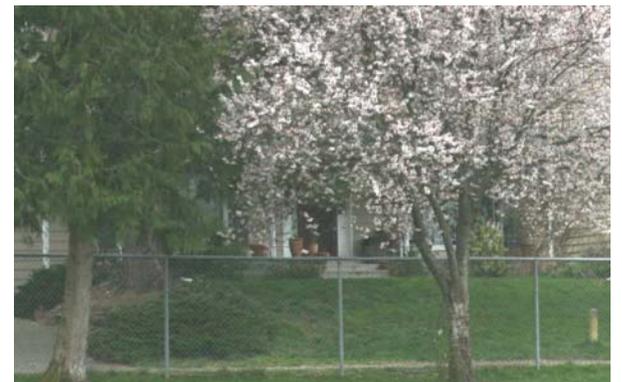
## Upgraded Athletic Field

The current field is used for soccer and baseball, but needs improvements and programming to better manage its impact on the neighborhood. The field can be moved 20'-25' to the north to accommodate more pathway space on the south side of the upper zone.

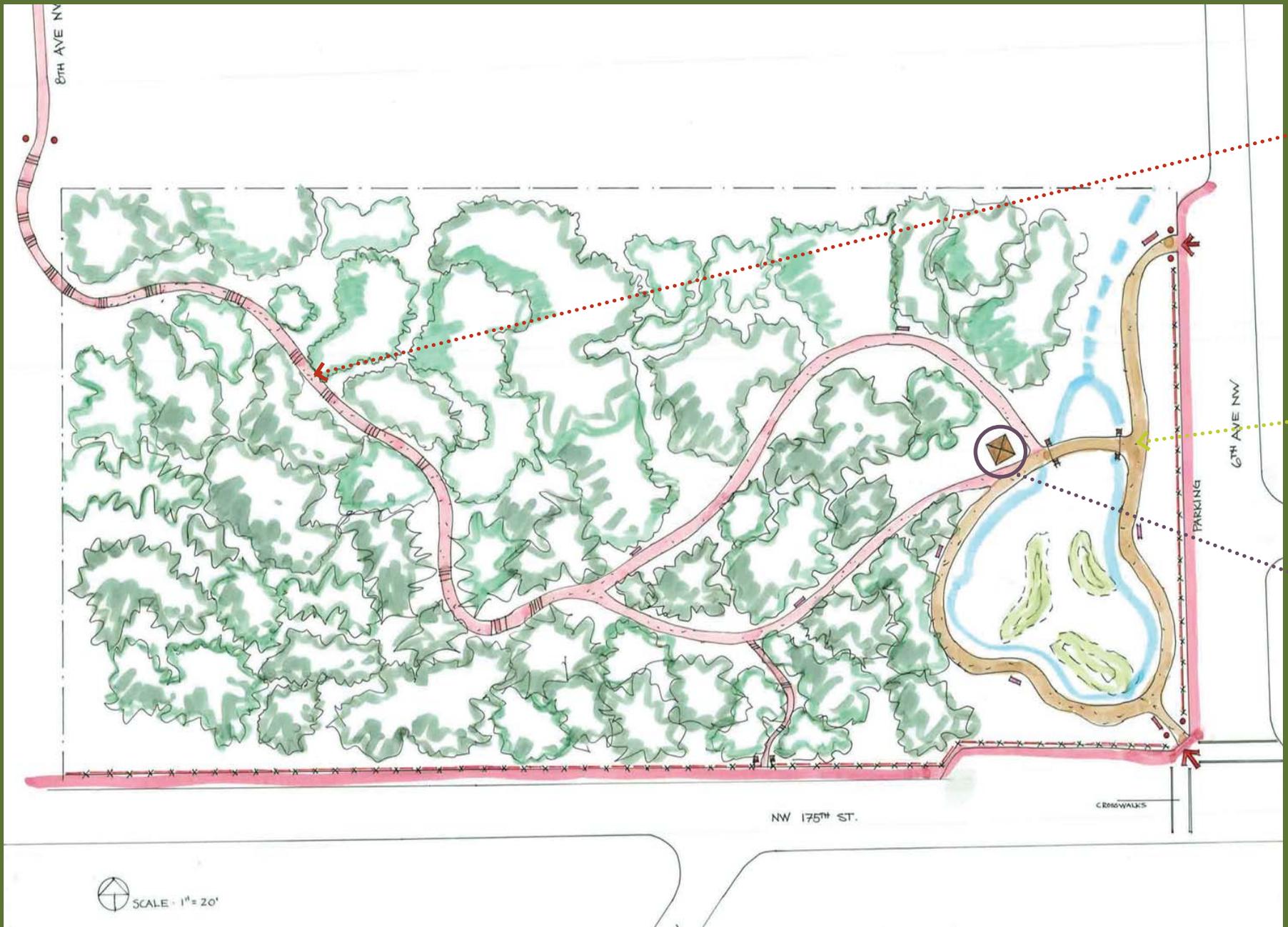


## Fence

The existing fence should be retained or replaced by a new fence to ensure safety and separation between the park activities, the street and the nearby residences. This fence can double as a canvass for artwork.



# BOEING CREEK SITE



## Wilderness Trails

The wilderness trails will connect the NW corner with the lower east area of Boeing Creek Open Space. The trails can feature interpretive signage or numbered posts with dial-in audio from cell phones (Kruckeberg Garden provides a nice model), trail mile markers, strategically located benches, and stairs to negotiate steep areas if needed (possibly using salvaged retaining wall rocks). Implementing the wilderness trails is a could serve as a good opportunity for an community initiated early success project.



## ADA Pathway

The ADA loop begins along the flat east area of the open space with connection to parking and Boeing Creek Park. The pathway can also interpretive signage.



## Shelter

A shelter will be located at the intersection between the ADA and wilderness trail in the lower area of the open space. It will feature benches and a table for picnics or other small and informal gatherings.



# BOEING CREEK SITE

