

M-NCPPC Montgomery County Parks



Caroline Freeland Park Facility Plan Project

Presentation:

Edgemoor Citizens Association (ECA)

Tuesday, January 20, 2015



Tonight's Meeting

- ❖ **Project Timeline**
- ❖ **Community Feedback – Meeting #1**
- ❖ **Program of Requirements**
- ❖ **Community Feedback – Meeting #2**
- ❖ **The Preferred Plan (15% Design)**
- ❖ **Project Status**
- ❖ **Questions / Discussion**



Project Timeline

- ❖ **Summer 2013** – Assess site conditions, opportunities and constraints.
- ❖ **November 2013** – Community Meeting #1 to gather input and preferences for the park.
- ❖ **Winter 2013-2014** – Develop design alternatives.
- ❖ **March 2014** – Community Meeting #2, review design alternatives and obtain input.
- ❖ **Summer / Fall 2014** – Develop preferred design based on community input, obtain preliminary permits, and develop cost estimate.
- ❖ **Winter / Spring 2015** – Additional coordination, preliminary permits, and development of Draft Facility Plan Package.
- ❖ **May 2015** – Planning Board Meeting (open for public testimony) requesting approval of project.



Questionnaire Results

From Community Meeting #1
November 6, 2013



Meeting #1 Questionnaire

- ❖ What is the **best thing** about Caroline Freeland Park today?
 - Playground with fence
 - Mature trees
 - Green space
 - Benches
 - Buffer for the residences



Meeting #1 Questionnaire

- ❖ What is the **worst thing** about Caroline Freeland Park today?
 - Noise and traffic from Arlington Road
 - No focal point
 - After hours use & noise
 - Drinking & smoking activity
 - Poorly maintained park



Meeting #1 Questionnaire

- ❖ What elements of the park today **should change** as the park is renovated?
 - Create more generous and safe sidewalks on Arlington Road.
 - Use Hampden Lane space better.
 - Design park to better integrate and connect uses, including the playground.
 - Add nature into the play area.
 - Add access from the library.



Meeting #1 Questionnaire

- ❖ What elements of the park **should remain** as the park is renovated?
 - Playground size and fence
 - Sculpture



Meeting #1 Questionnaire

❖ If you could **add one element** to the park, what would you add?

- More shade for the playground.
- Park rules signage.
- Public art.
- Water for play.
- Fencing along the Arlington Road and Elm Street.
- A nice grassy elevated area to sit down on a blanket.
- Different kinds of places to sit and eat.
- Bike racks.
- Wi-fi, if it does not already exist.



Meeting #1 Questionnaire

- ❖ If you could **take away one element** from the park, what would you take away?
 - Pavilion
 - Planter boxes

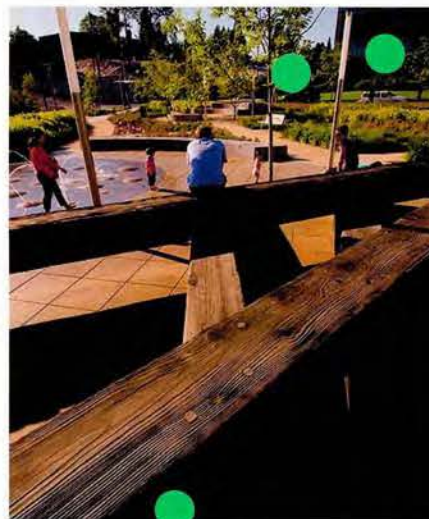


Caroline Freeland Urban Park
Bethesda, Maryland

SEATING CHARACTER

PARKERRODRIGUEZ, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
URBAN DESIGN
PLANNING

“Red Dot / Green Dot” exercise during Community Meeting #1 (11/6/13)

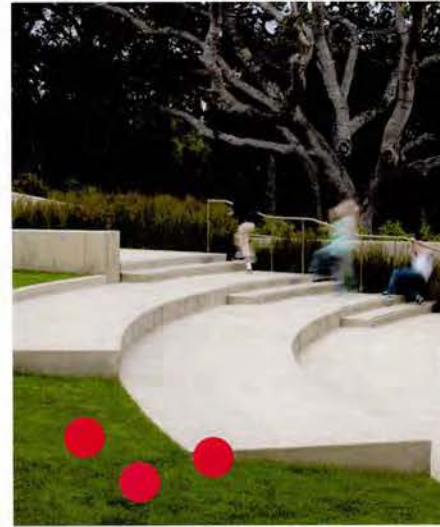
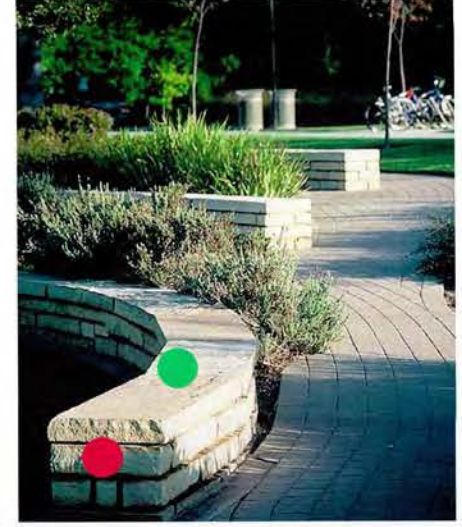
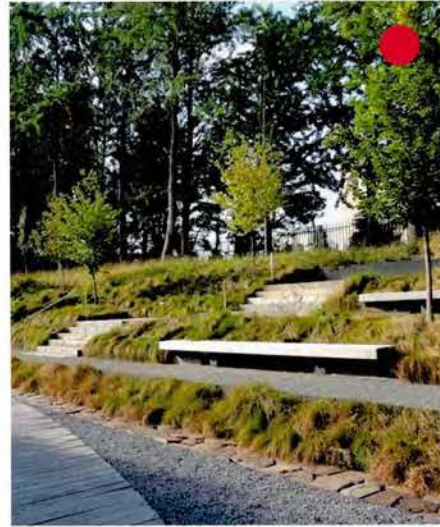
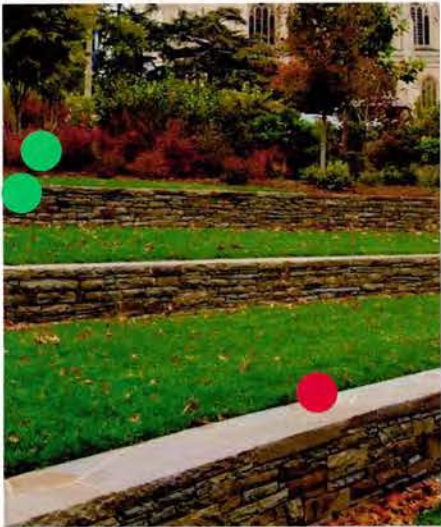


Caroline Freeland Urban Park
Bethesda, Maryland

PLAYFUL ELEMENTS

PARKERRODRIGUEZ, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
URBAN DESIGN
PLANNING

“Red Dot / Green Dot” exercise during Community Meeting #1 (11/6/13)

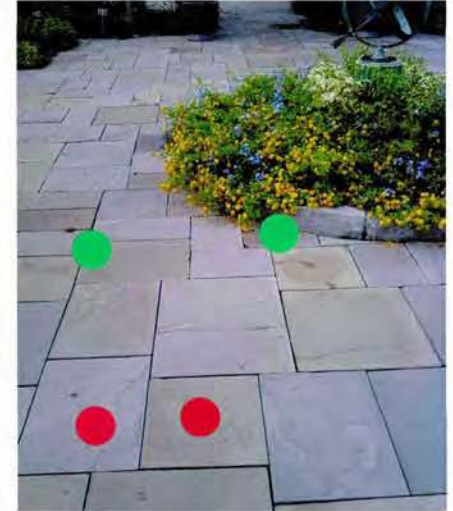


Caroline Freeland Urban Park
Bethesda, Maryland

WALL CHARACTER

PARKERRODRIGUEZ, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
URBAN DESIGN
PLANNING

“Red Dot / Green Dot” exercise during Community Meeting #1 (11/6/13)

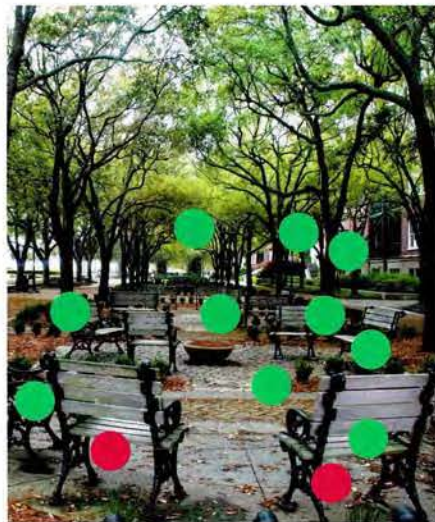
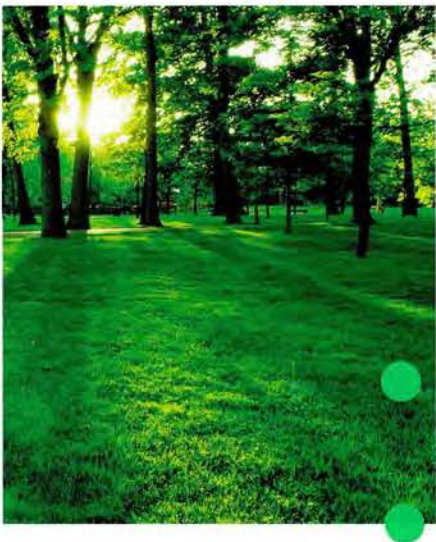
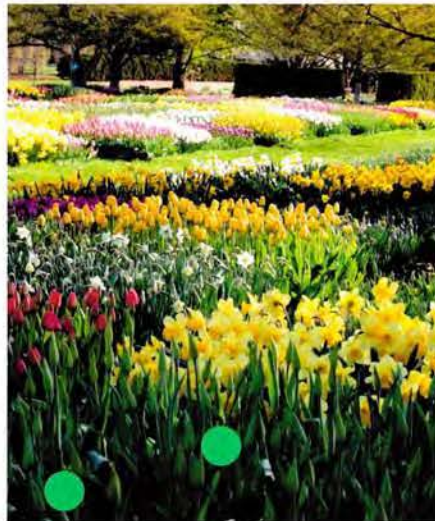


Caroline Freeland Urban Park
Bethesda, Maryland

PAVING CHARACTER

PARKER RODRIGUEZ, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
URBAN DESIGN
PLANNING

“Red Dot / Green Dot” exercise during Community Meeting #1 (11/6/13)



Caroline Freeland Urban Park
Bethesda, Maryland

PLANTING CHARACTER

PARKER RODRIGUEZ, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
URBAN DESIGN
PLANNING

“Red Dot / Green Dot” exercise during Community Meeting #1 (11/6/13)



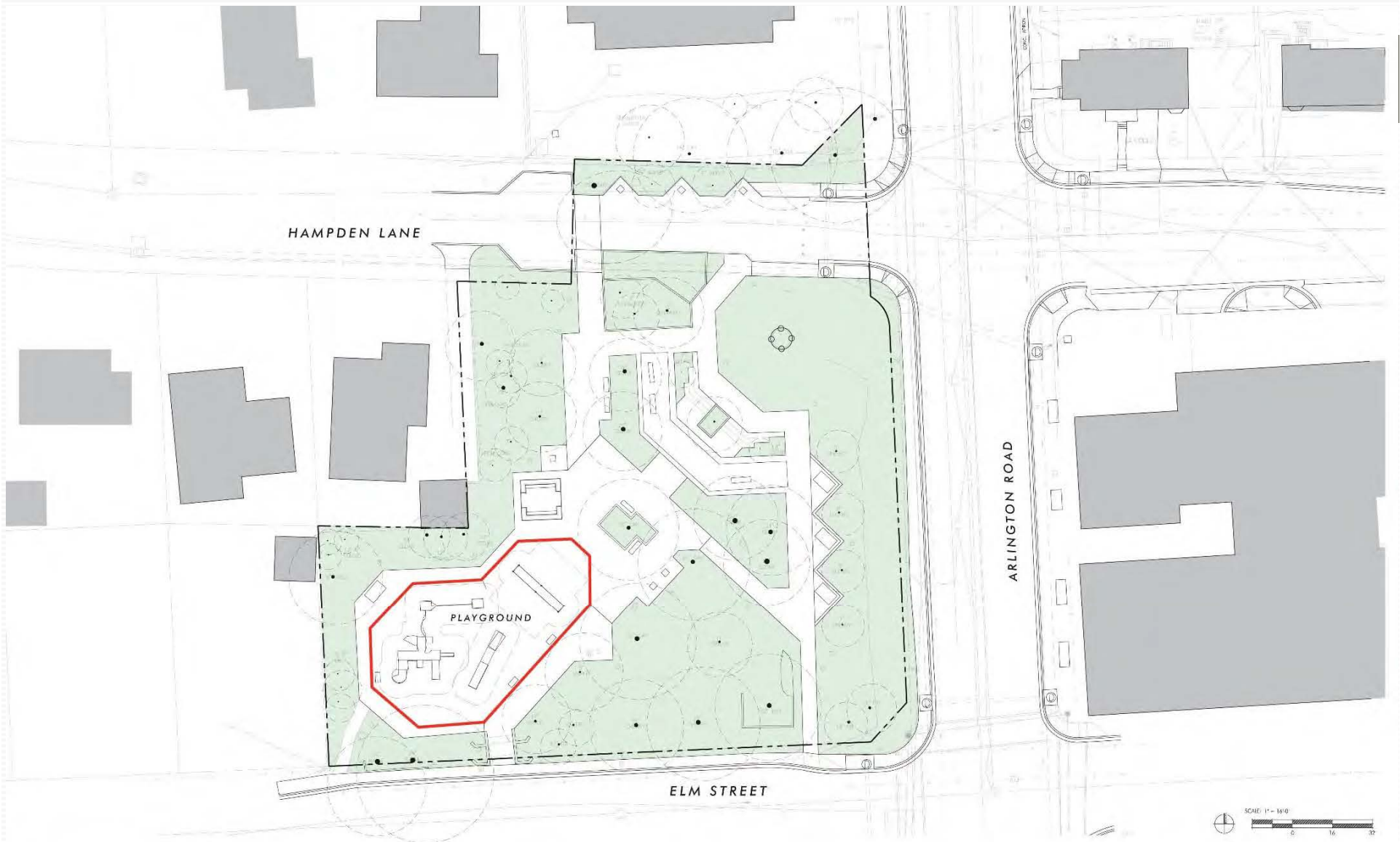
Program of Requirements

- ✓ Playground
- ✓ Community Open Space
- ✓ Seating
- ✓ Sidewalk/Streetscape Improvements
- ✓ Landscape Buffer
- ✓ Lighting
- ✓ Tree Preservation
- ✓ Existing Sculpture



Concept Plan Alternatives

From Community Meeting #2
March 12, 2014



Caroline Freeland Urban Park
Berhesda, Maryland

EXISTING CONDITIONS

PARKERRODRIGUEZ, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
URBAN DESIGN
PLANNING



As presented during
Community Meeting #2
March 12, 2014



SCALE: 1"=20'-0"
DATE: 03-12-14



Caroline Freeland Urban Park
Bethesda, Maryland

OPTION A

PARKERRODRIGUEZ, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
URBAN DESIGN
PLANNING



As presented during
Community Meeting #2
March 12, 2014



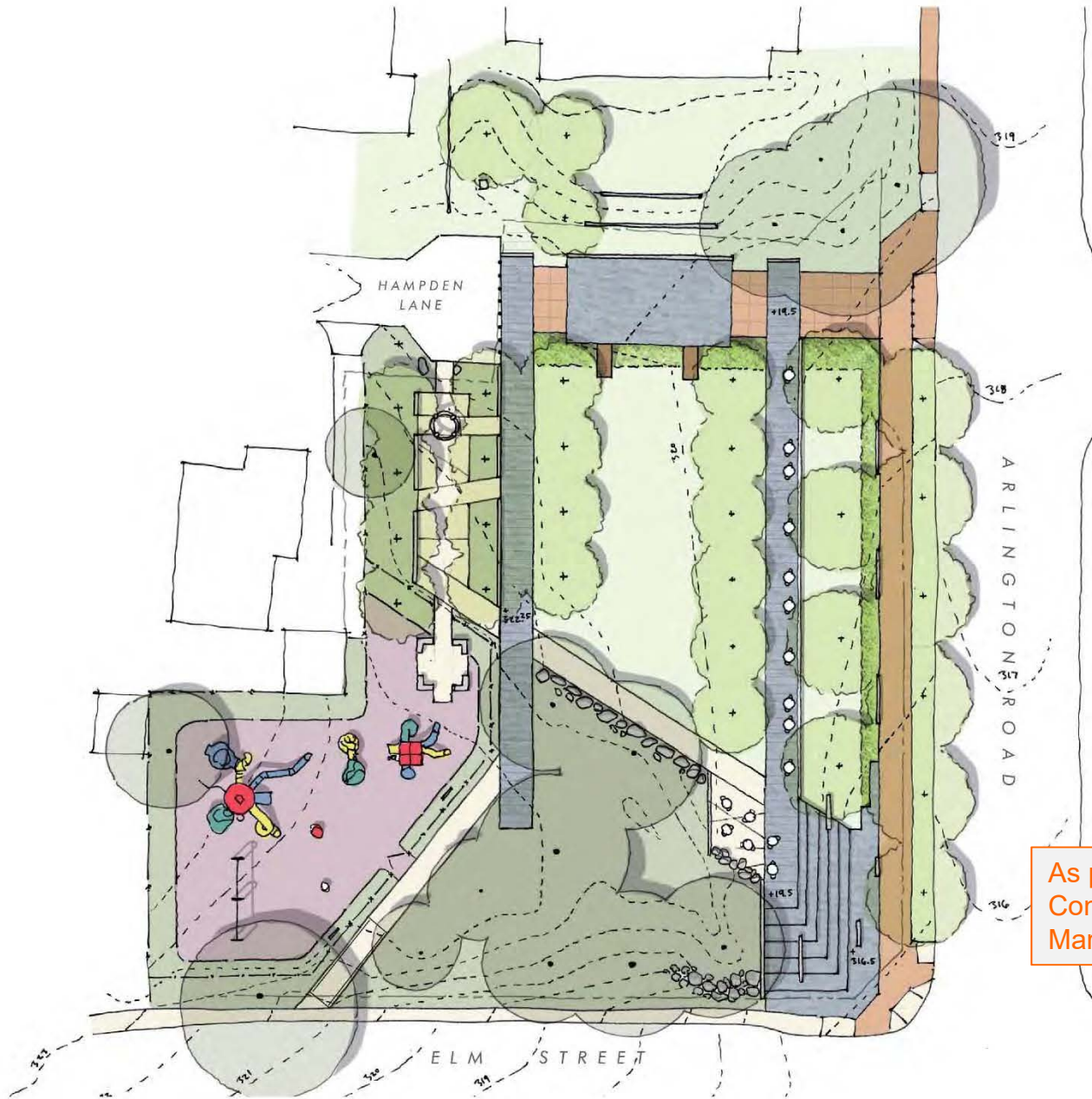
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DATE: 03-12-14



Caroline Freeland Urban Park
Bethesda, Maryland

OPTION B

PARKER RODRIGUEZ, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
URBAN DESIGN
PLANNING



As presented during
Community Meeting #2
March 12, 2014



SCALE: 1"=20'-0"
DATE: 03-12-14



Caroline Freeland Urban Park
Bethesda, Maryland

OPTION C

PARKER RODRIGUEZ, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
URBAN DESIGN
PLANNING



Community Feedback

From Community Meeting #2
March 12, 2014



Meeting #2 Feedback

GENERAL:

- The flat usable green space is good and is nice next to shade.
- Entry steps should be appropriately scaled for this size of park.
- Prefer the softness of curvilinear path and boulders.
- Park capacity – with increasingly more people moving to Bethesda, the park could get overused and overcrowded.
- Consider displaying local art in the park.
- Ensure that accessible entrances are maximized.



Meeting #2 Feedback

PLAY:

- Increase fenced-in playground and provide play opportunities for multiple ages.
- Clear views and connections between play areas of different age groups.
- Options for play outside of fence using natural features.
- Shade in play area is important.
- The playground should not be overemphasized since it creates a lot of noise adjacent to residential properties.



Meeting #2 Feedback

SEATING:

- Community place for family gathering and activities. The plan is intended to serve families, residents, and visitors.
- Older kids like to meet and interact with each other. Provide social spaces that allow people to interact.
- Tables/Chairs are important, especially away from Arlington Road. They offer opportunities to gather in different ways.



Meeting #2 Feedback

SAFETY:

- Not good to encourage play so close to Arlington Road.
- The boulders are good for older kids. Safety concerns would need to be addressed if boulders are used in the design.
- Ensure that open lawn area is not too close to Arlington Road – should consider separation or barrier.



Meeting #2 Feedback

BUFFER:

- Be mindful of the residential edge.
- Provide a vegetated buffer along adjacent residences to reduce noise from playground.



'Option B' →

COMBINED TO
DEVELOP
PREFERRED PLAN

← 'Option C'



Preferred Plan (15% Design)

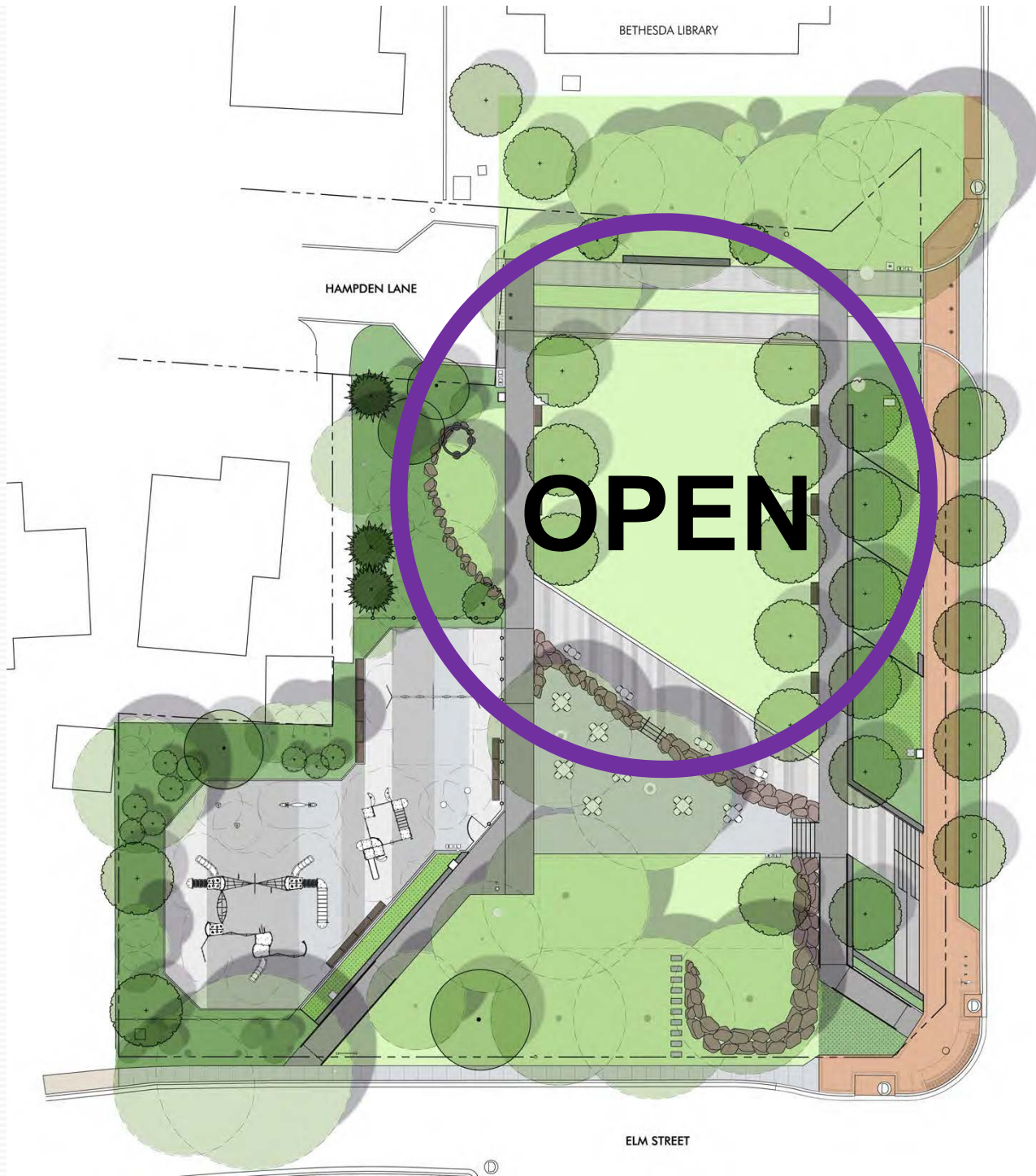




ELM STREET

ARLINGTON ROAD





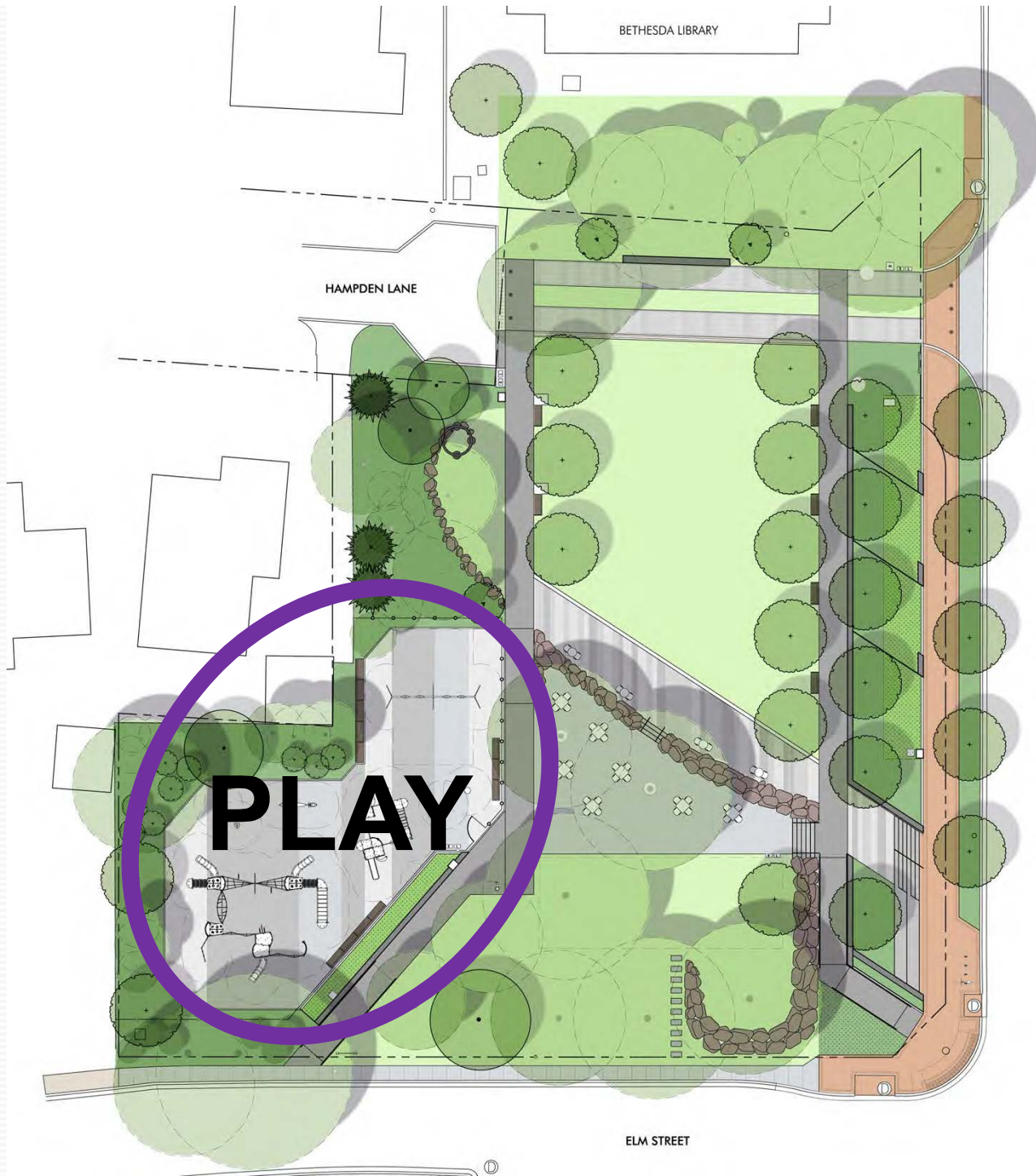
❖ Provide open lawn area for passive recreation and general community use.

**IMPROVE:
OPEN SPACE**



- ❖ **Protect existing shade trees.**
- ❖ **Improve tree health by reducing paved areas within critical root zone of existing trees.**

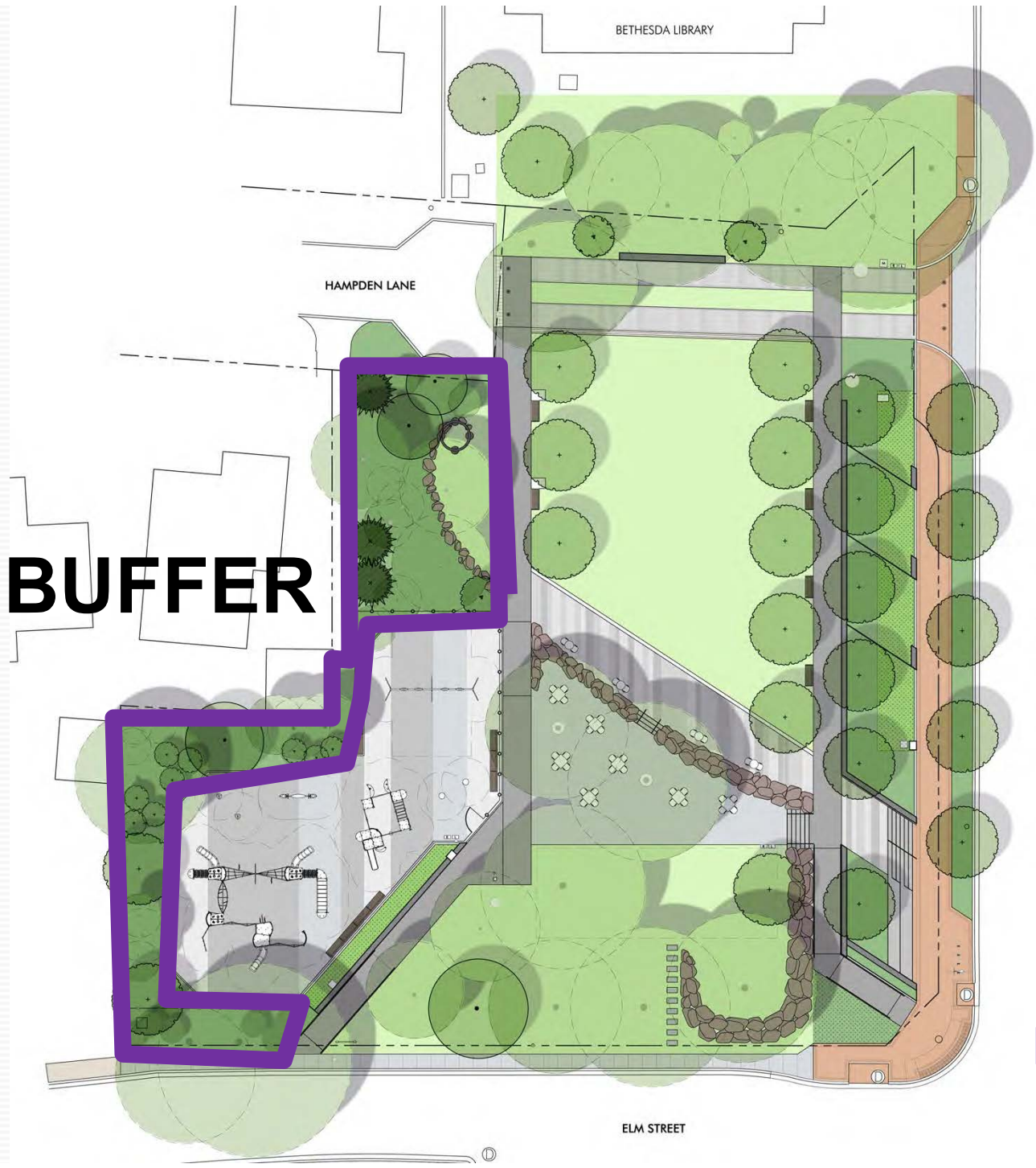
**IMPROVE:
TREE GROVE**



❖ Expand play area and upgrade playground equipment.

**IMPROVE:
PLAYGROUND**

BUFFER



❖ Increase vegetation along fence that is adjacent to residential properties.

**IMPROVE:
PLANTED BUFFER**



ARLINGTON ROAD

**IMPROVE:
STREETScape**





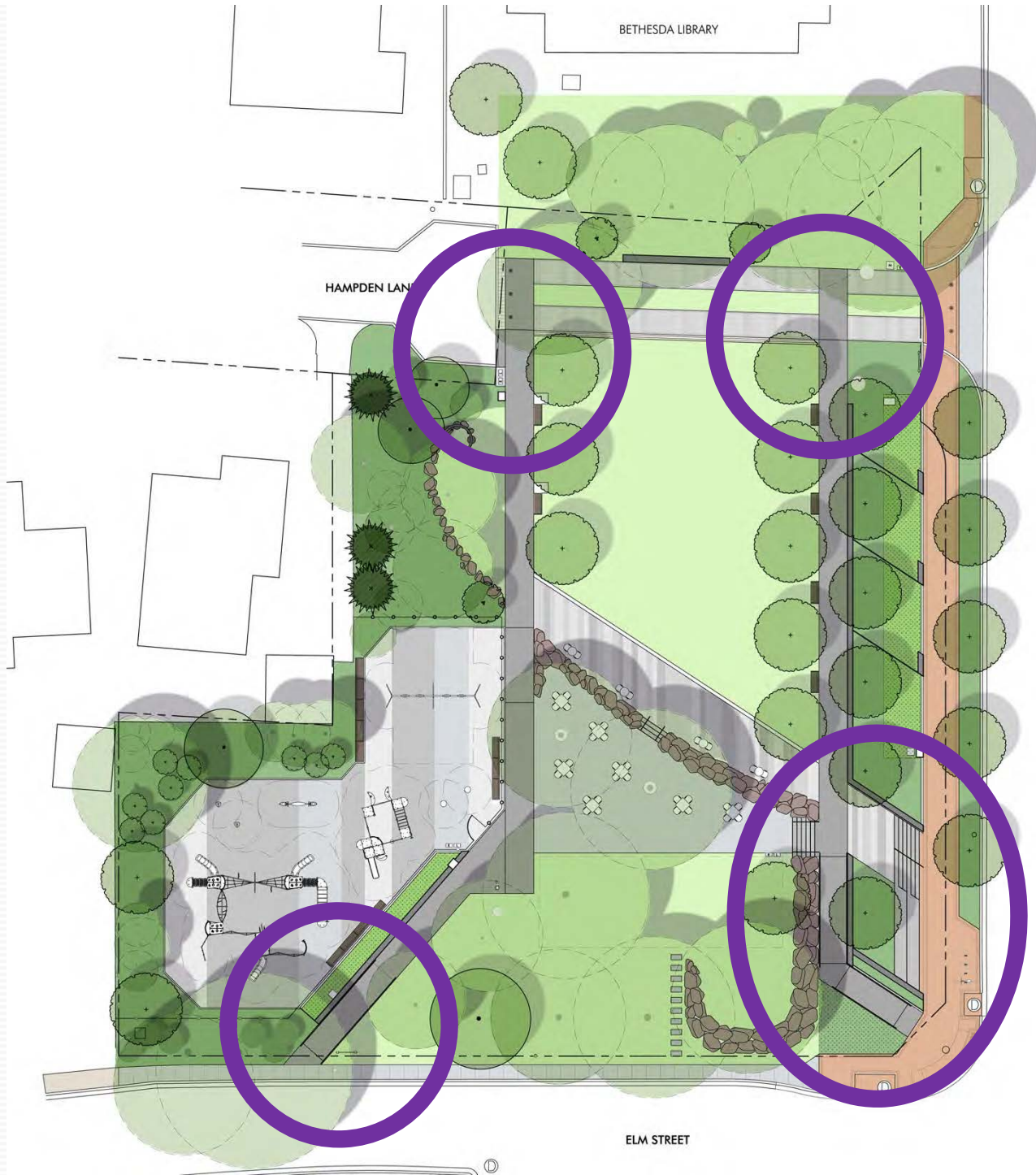
- ❖ Increase separation between sidewalk and roadway.
- ❖ Plant trees along roadway.
- ❖ Widen sidewalk.



❖ Improve visibility into the park.

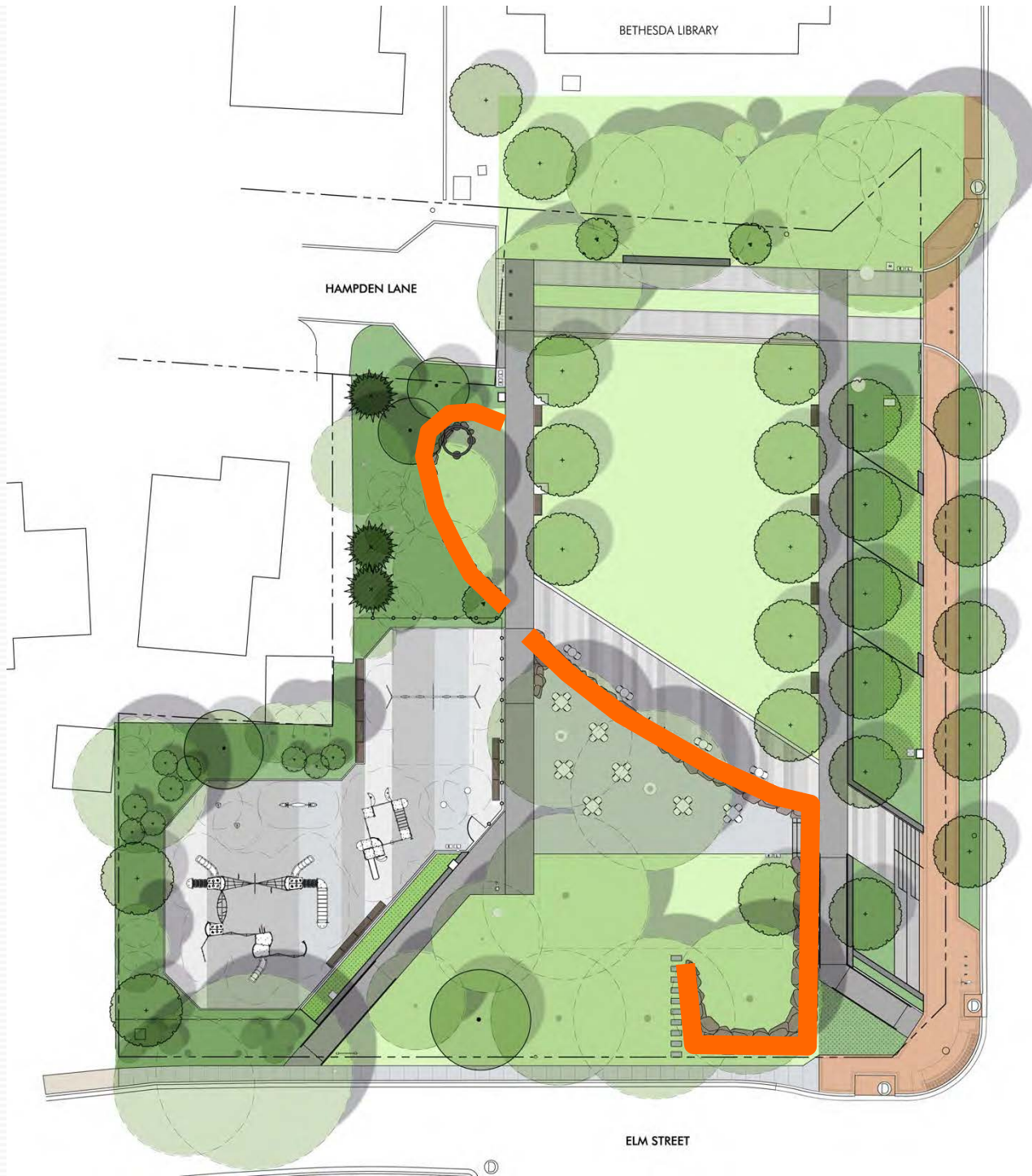
❖ Transform entrance into a memorable 'Park Gateway'.

**IMPROVE:
MAIN ENTRANCE**



❖ Ensure that all park entrances are fully accessible.

**IMPROVE:
PARK ACCESS**



❖ **BOULDER WALL
FEATURE**

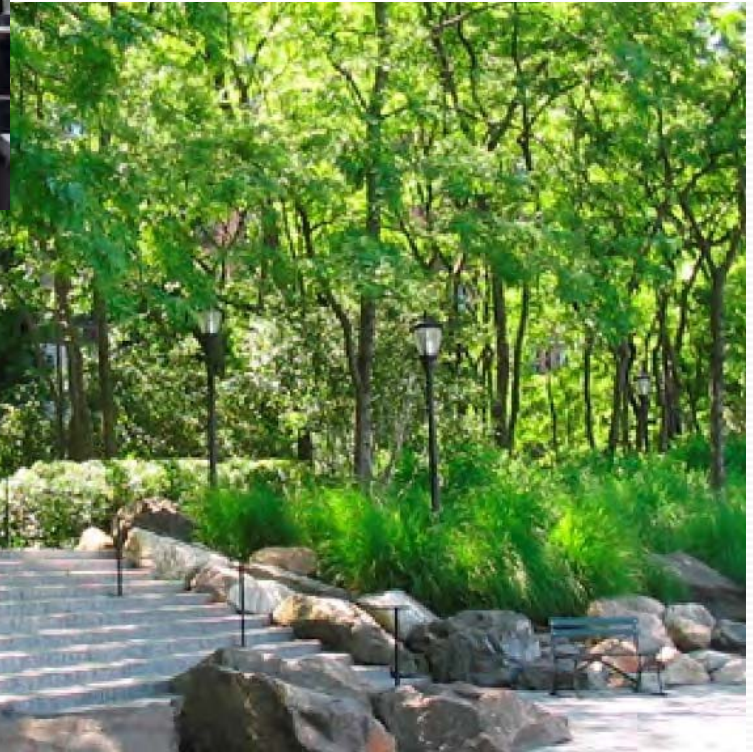


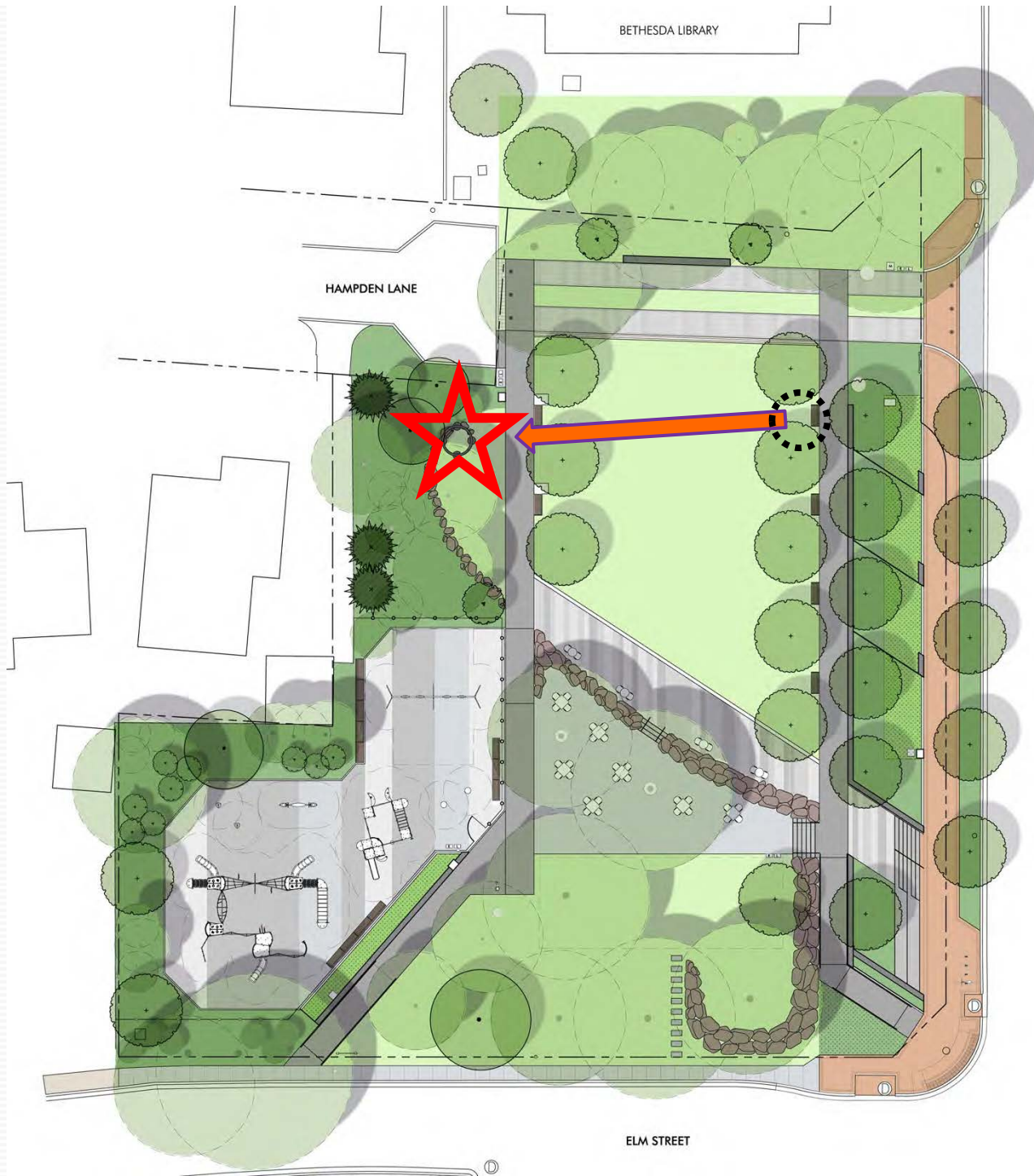
Existing boulders on site

**IMPROVE:
PARK FEATURES**



❖ Boulder wall
imagery from
New York City.





❖ BOULDER
WALL FEATURE

❖ RELOCATED
SCULPTURE
(Non-interactive)

ARLINGTON ROAD



*George Greenamyer
Commissioned, 1989*

**IMPROVE:
PARK FEATURES**



❖ BOULDER WALL
FEATURE

❖ RELOCATED
SCULPTURE

❖ RAIN GARDENS
(Stormwater
Management)

ARLINGTON ROAD

**IMPROVE:
PARK FEATURES**



❖ **Stormwater Management plantings can be attractive.**



❖ BOULDER WALL FEATURE

❖ RELOCATED SCULPTURE

❖ RAIN GARDENS

❖ INTERACTIVE ART (Accessible)

**IMPROVE:
PARK FEATURES**



❖ Seating to be upgraded and made accessible.

★ BENCHES

**IMPROVE:
SEATING**



❖ Seating to be upgraded and made accessible.

★ BENCH

★ TABLE / CHAIR

**IMPROVE:
SEATING**



❖ Seating to be upgraded and made accessible.

★ BENCH

★ TABLE / CHAIR

★ MOVABLE SEATING

**IMPROVE:
SEATING**



❖ Seating to be upgraded and made accessible.

★ BENCH

★ TABLE / CHAIR

★ MOVABLE SEATING

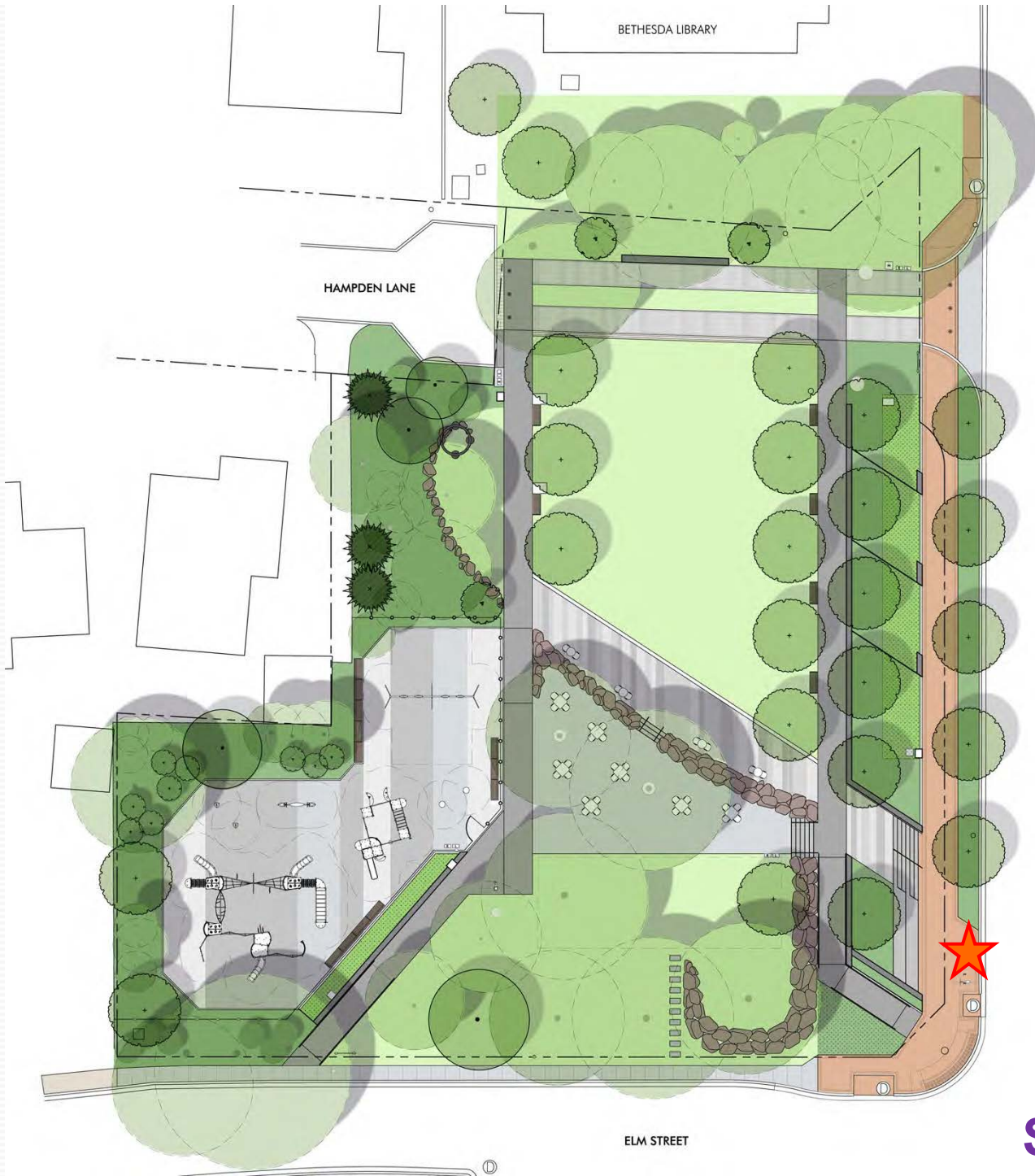
★ SEAT WALL

**IMPROVE:
SEATING**



❖ Flexible seating use
in New York City.





❖ Upgrade site furnishings:

★ BIKE RACKS

**IMPROVE:
SITE FURNISHINGS**

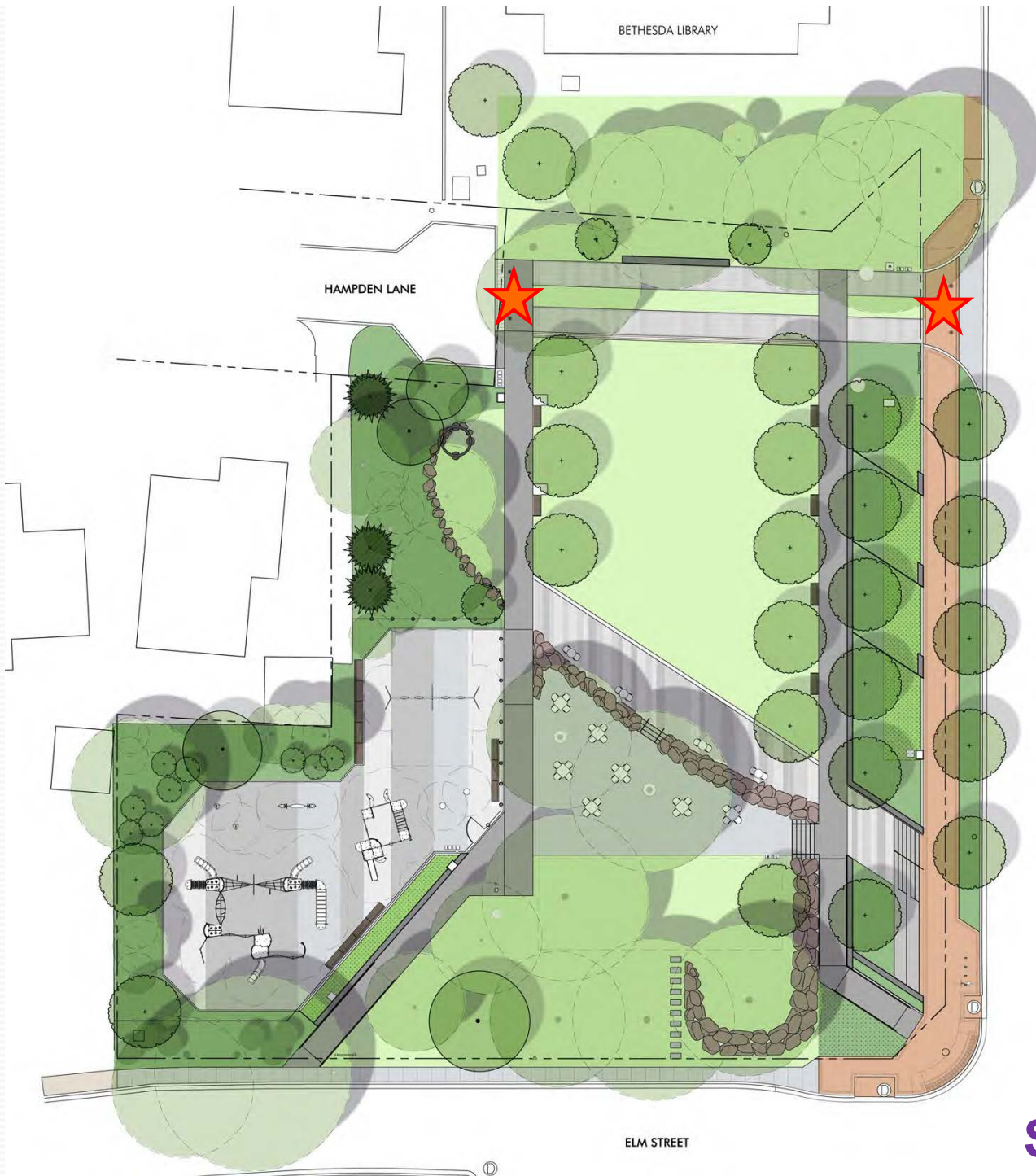


❖ Upgrade site furnishings:

- ★ BIKE RACKS
- ★ TRASH RECEPTACLES

Bethesda Receptacle

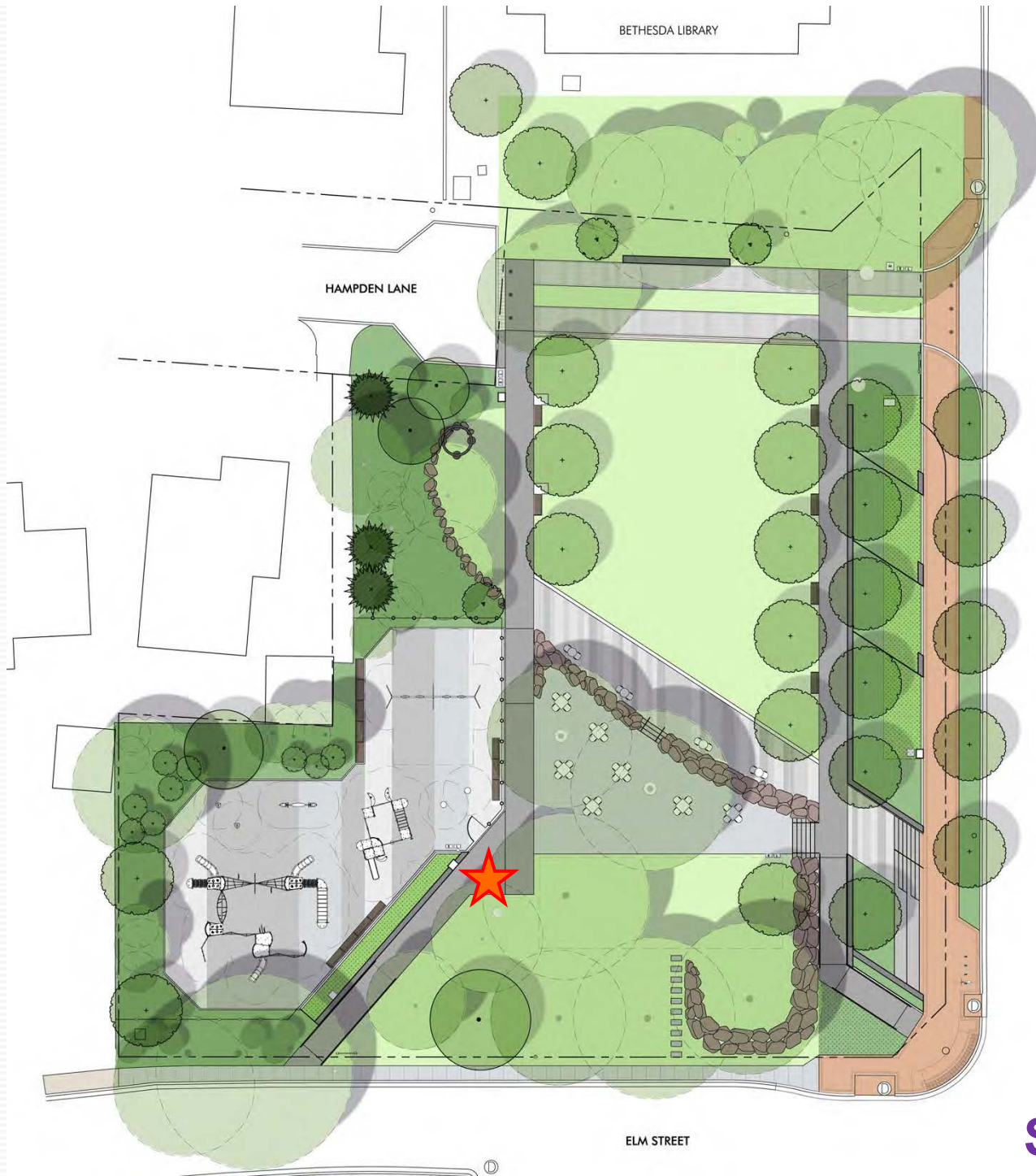
**IMPROVE:
SITE FURNISHINGS**



❖ Upgrade site furnishings:

- ★ BIKE RACKS
- ★ TRASH RECEPTACLES
- ★ BOLLARDS

**IMPROVE:
SITE FURNISHINGS**



❖ Upgrade site furnishings:

- ★ BIKE RACKS
- ★ TRASH RECEPTACLES
- ★ BOLLARDS
- ★ DRINKING FOUNTAIN

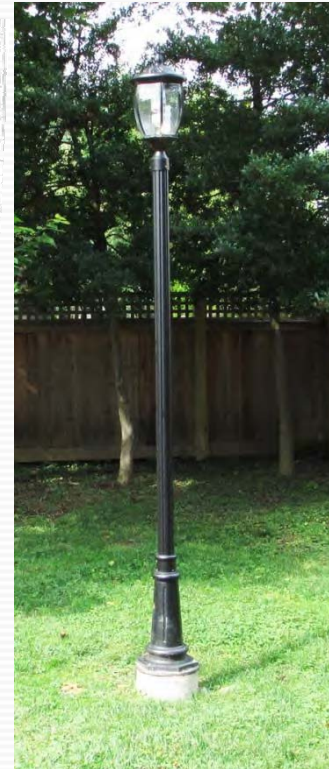
**IMPROVE:
SITE FURNISHINGS**



❖ Upgrade site furnishings:

- ★ BIKE RACKS
- ★ TRASH RECEPTACLES
- ★ BOLLARDS
- ★ DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- FENCING

**IMPROVE:
SITE FURNISHINGS**



★ CURRENT
LOCATIONS

**IMPROVE:
LIGHTING**



- ❖ Upgrade existing lighting to maintain and improve security, while reducing overspill onto adjacent residential properties.
- ❖ Provide soft ‘moonlighting’ coverage within the park that is intended to aid safer pedestrian passage during dark hours.
- ❖ Bethesda standard globe lights are proposed along the Arlington Road sidewalk, as shown.

**IMPROVE:
LIGHTING**



Project Status

❖ Ongoing Agency Coordination – Fall 2014 / Winter 2015

- Department of Permitting Services (DPS) - *Stormwater Management*
- Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)
- PEPCO
- Washington Gas
- WSSC
- Montgomery County Fire
- M-NCPPC Department of Environmental Planning – *Tree Preservation & Inventory of Natural Resources*
- Comcast
- Verizon



Caroline Freeland Park Facility Plan

Project Contact:

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Project Website:

[https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/
caroline-freeland-urban-park-facility-plan/](https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/caroline-freeland-urban-park-facility-plan/)