



**Parks**

# Sankofa Park

Schenck Avenue at African Burial Ground between Livonia and Barbey Street  
in the Borough of Brooklyn

PDC Preliminary Presentation  
Submitted: February 26, 2021  
Review: March 22, 2021

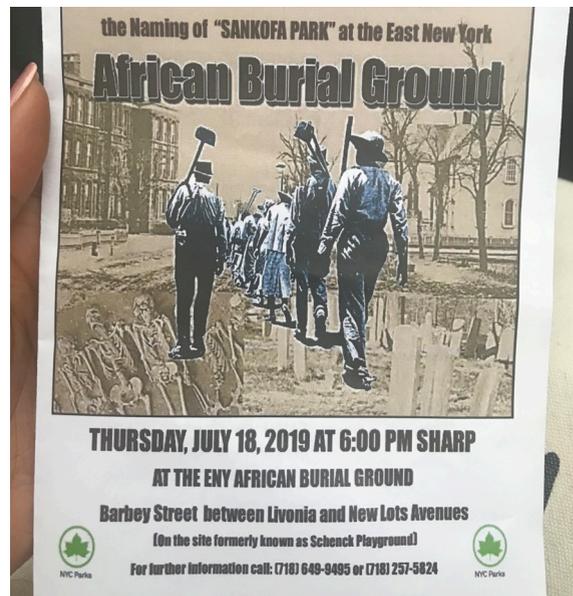
**Total Budget:** **\$4.076M** (\$3.076M + \$1.000M Pending DASNY Grant)  
City Council District 42, Inez Barron - \$194K FY20  
City Council District 42, Inez Barron - \$1.945M FY22  
Borough President, Eric Adams - \$937K FY24  
*DASNY Grant (Pending) - \$1.000M FY21*

**Project Size:** 0.85 ac

# Community Priorities & Design Goals

There is strong interest from the elected officials, community groups, and the descendent community to:

- create a special place to commemorate those who remain buried at Sankofa Park.
- develop a place of reverence to recognize the history of the African Burial Ground site.
- create a cultural education destination within the community.
- include cultural references that honor the lives of the enslaved and free blacks.
- expand the greenspace.
- maintain an active recreation area for a playground and basketball court.





2 MI



Sankofa Playground

Neighborhood: East New York

1000 FT



Site

200 FT



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# Sankofa Park | Project Location



Source: <http://www.nyc.gov/floodhazardmapper>

Base Flood Elevation (BFE): N/A

## Flood Hazard Zones

### 2015 Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map

- **V Zone (100-year floodplain subject to wave action)**  
Areas along coasts subject to inundation by the 1% annual chance flood event with additional hazards associated with storm-induced waves.
- **A Zone (100-year floodplain)**  
Areas subject to inundation by the 1% annual chance flood event.
- **Shaded X Zone (500-year floodplain)**  
Areas within the 0.2% annual chance floodplain, areas of 1% annual chance flooding where average depths are less than 1 foot, areas of 1% annual chance flooding where the contributing drainage area is less than 1 square mile, and areas protected from the 1% annual chance flood by a levee.
- - - **Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA)**  
The inland limit of the area expected to receive 1.5ft or greater breaking waves during the 1% annual chance flood event. Data from 2015 PFIRMs.

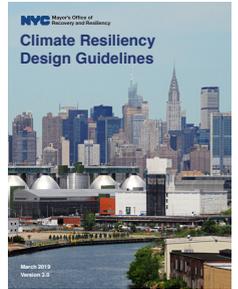
### Future Floodplain 2050s

- Future 1% Annual Chance Floodplain (100-year)
- Future 0.2% Annual Chance Floodplain (500-year)

### Further Information:



NYC Parks: Design and Planning for Flood Resiliency

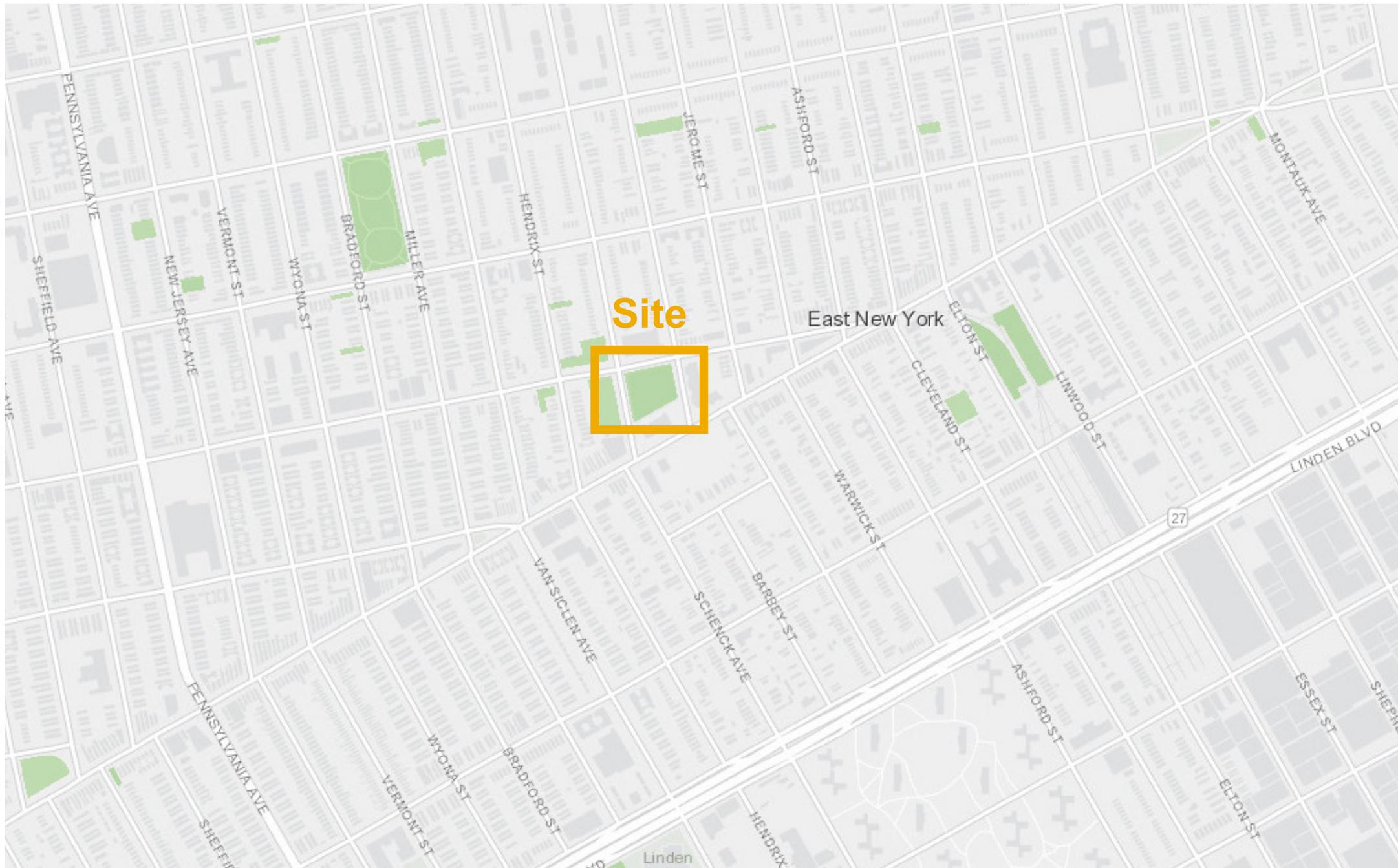


NYC MOR: Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines (v3.0)



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## Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Legend:

### MS4 Drainage Areas



### Parks



### MS4 Outfalls

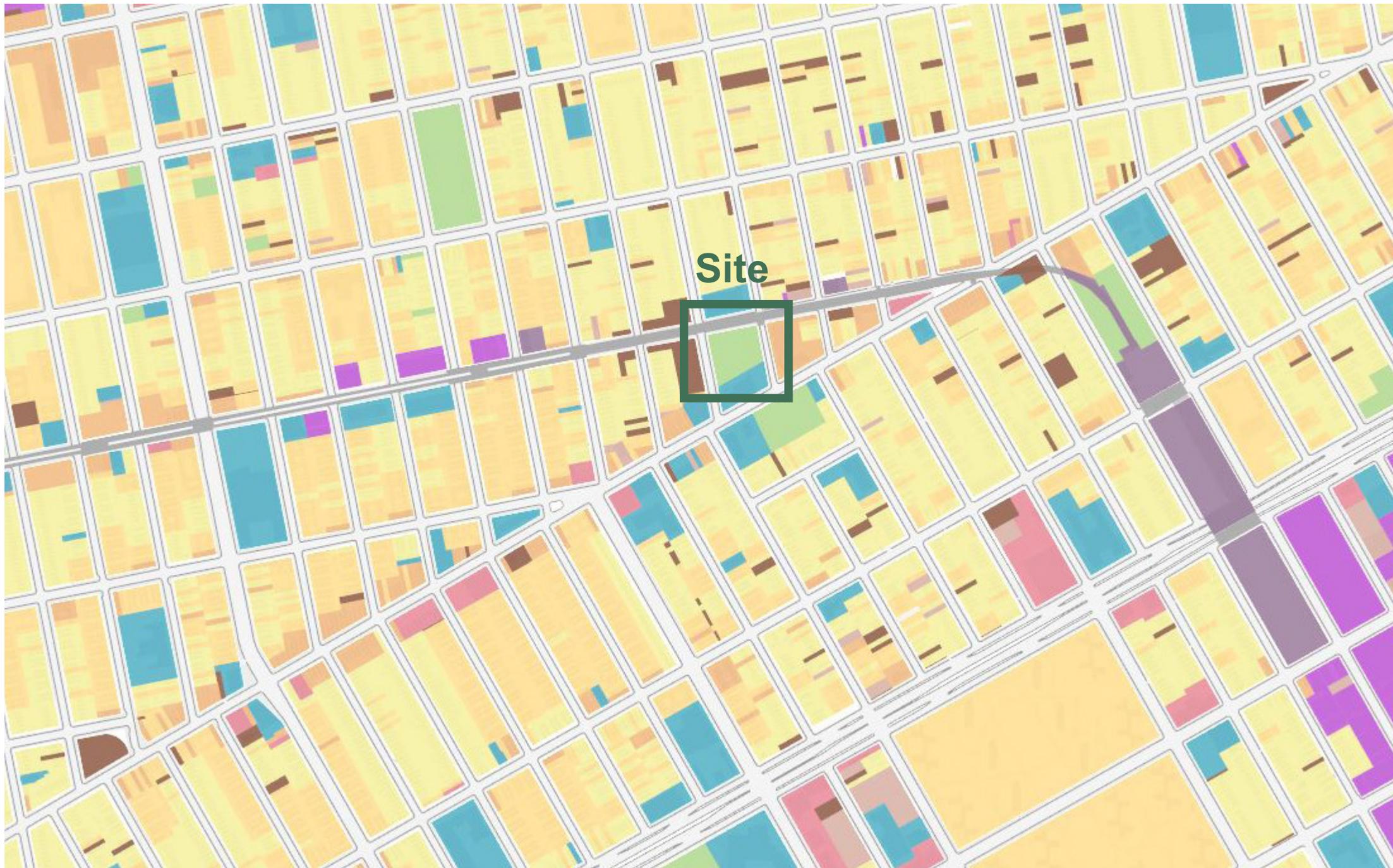
- MS4 Outfall
- CSO with MS4 Connection

A municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is a publicly-owned conveyance or system of conveyances (including but not limited to streets, ditches, catch basins, curbs, gutters, and storm drains) that is designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater and that discharges to surface waters of the State.

**Note:** Any Parks site that directly discharges to surface waters of the State (e.g. East River, Harlem River, Hudson River, Jamaica Bay, Atlantic Ocean) is an MS4 site regardless of what the MS4 map shows. Parks properties immediately adjacent to or near bodies of water are likely to be downstream of combined sewer regulator points, making them MS4 sites.

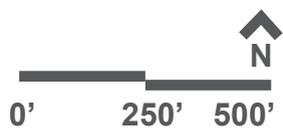
Source: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/municipal-separate-storm-sewer-system.page>





### Land Use Categories

- 1 And 2 Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Mixed Use
- Open Space And Outdoor Recreation
- Commercial
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Parking
- Transportation / Utilities
- Vacant Lots



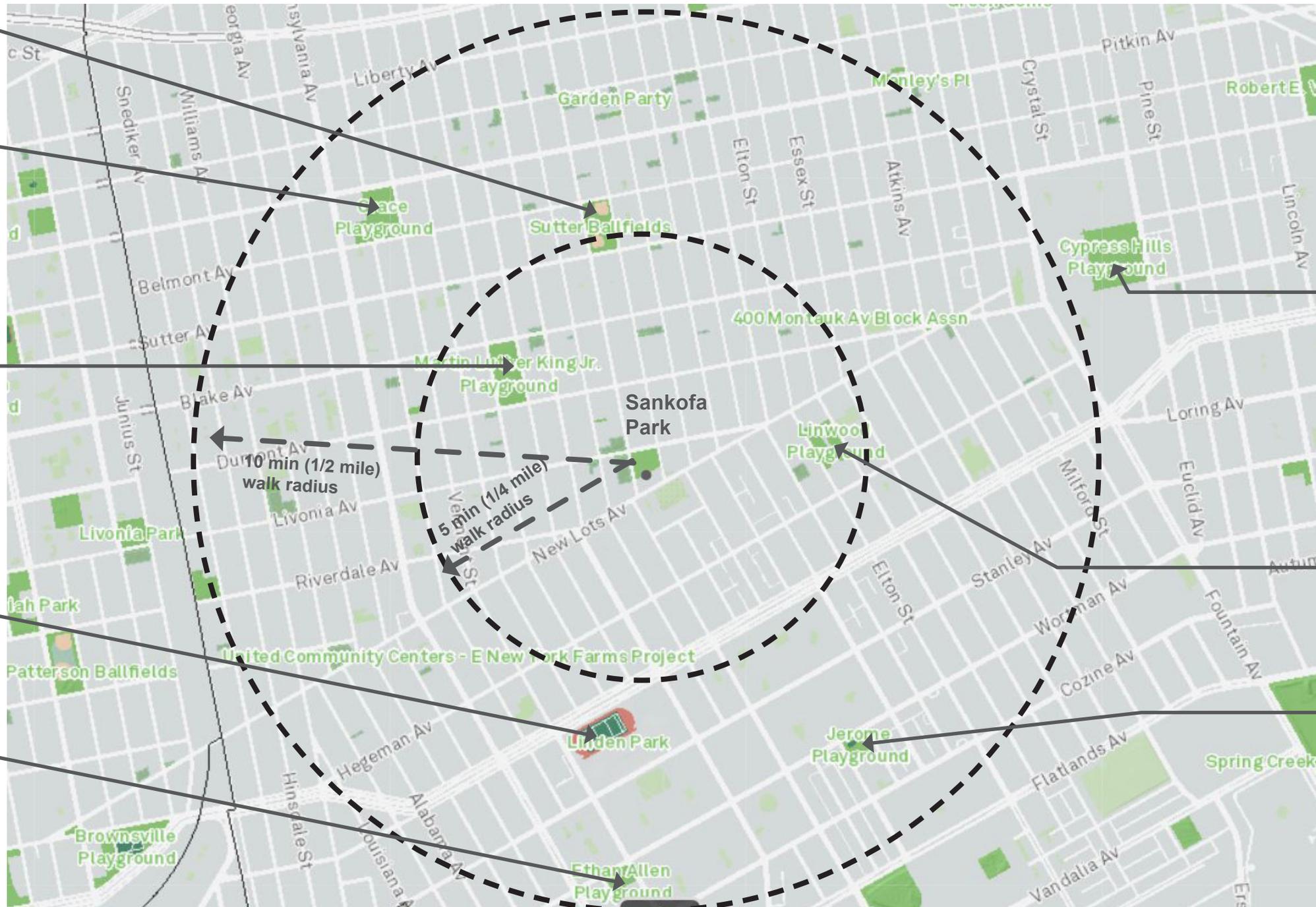
**Sutter Ballfields**  
Baseball

**Grace Playground**  
Play equipment  
Spray showers  
Basketball Courts  
Fitness Equipment  
Handball courts

**Martin Luther King Jr. Playground**  
Play equipment  
Spray showers  
Basketball Courts  
Fitness Equipment  
Handball courts  
Bathrooms

**Andries Playground**  
Play Equipment  
Basketball Courts

**Ethan Allen Playground**  
Play equipment  
Spray showers  
Basketball Courts  
Handball courts  
Bathrooms



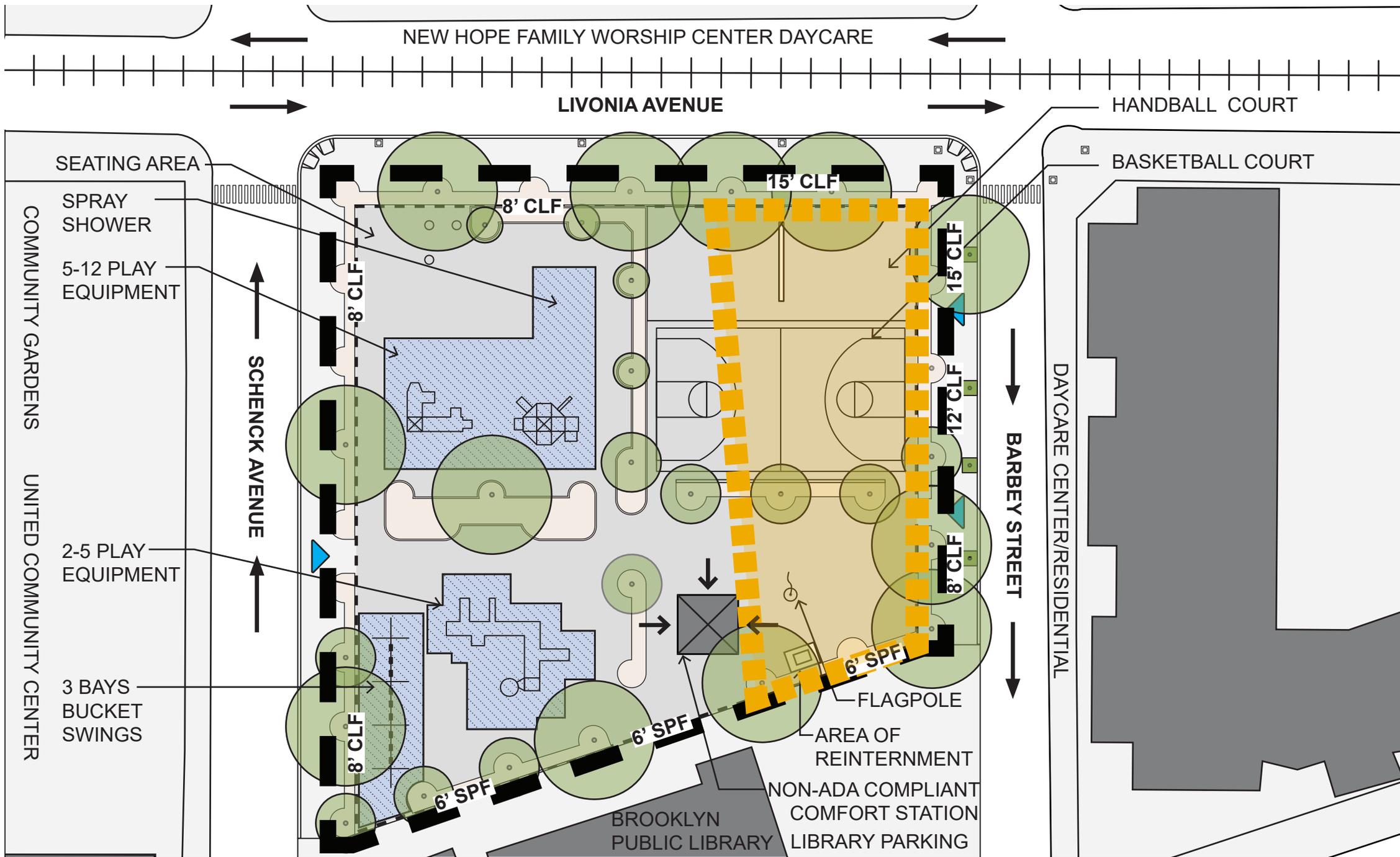
**Cypress Hills Playground**  
Basketball  
Handball  
Playground  
Baseball  
Bathrooms

**Linwood Playground**  
Basketball  
Handball  
Playground

**Jerome Playground**  
Basketball  
Adult Fitness  
Comfort Station  
Playground



## Sankofa Park | Neighborhood Context

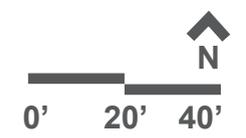


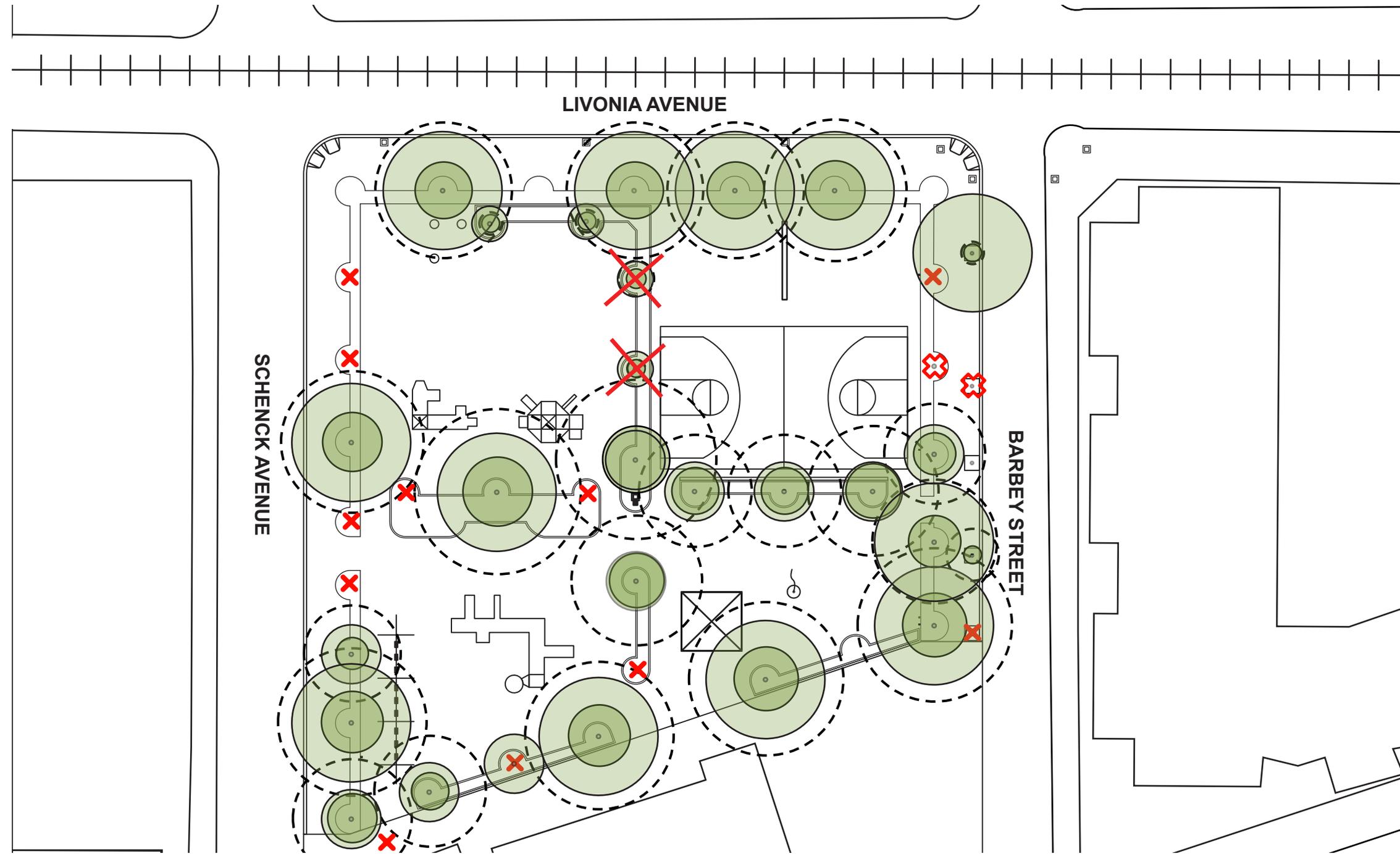
**LEGEND**

- PARK ENTRANCE
- FLAGPOLE
- COMFORT STATION
- CONCRETE PAVEMENT
- ASPHALT PAVEMENT
- GRANITE BLOCK PAVEMENT
- SAFETY SURFACE
- OUTDATED PLAY EQUIPMENT
- HANDBALL WALL
- FENCING
- PROPERTY LINE
- ELEVATED TRAIN #3
- MTA SUPPORT COLUMNS
- STREET CROSSING
- DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- STREET TREE
- EXISTING TREE
- AREA OF REINTERNMENT
- BURIAL GROUND FOOTPRINT



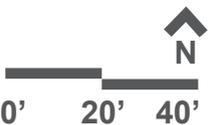
**Sankofa Park | Existing Conditions**

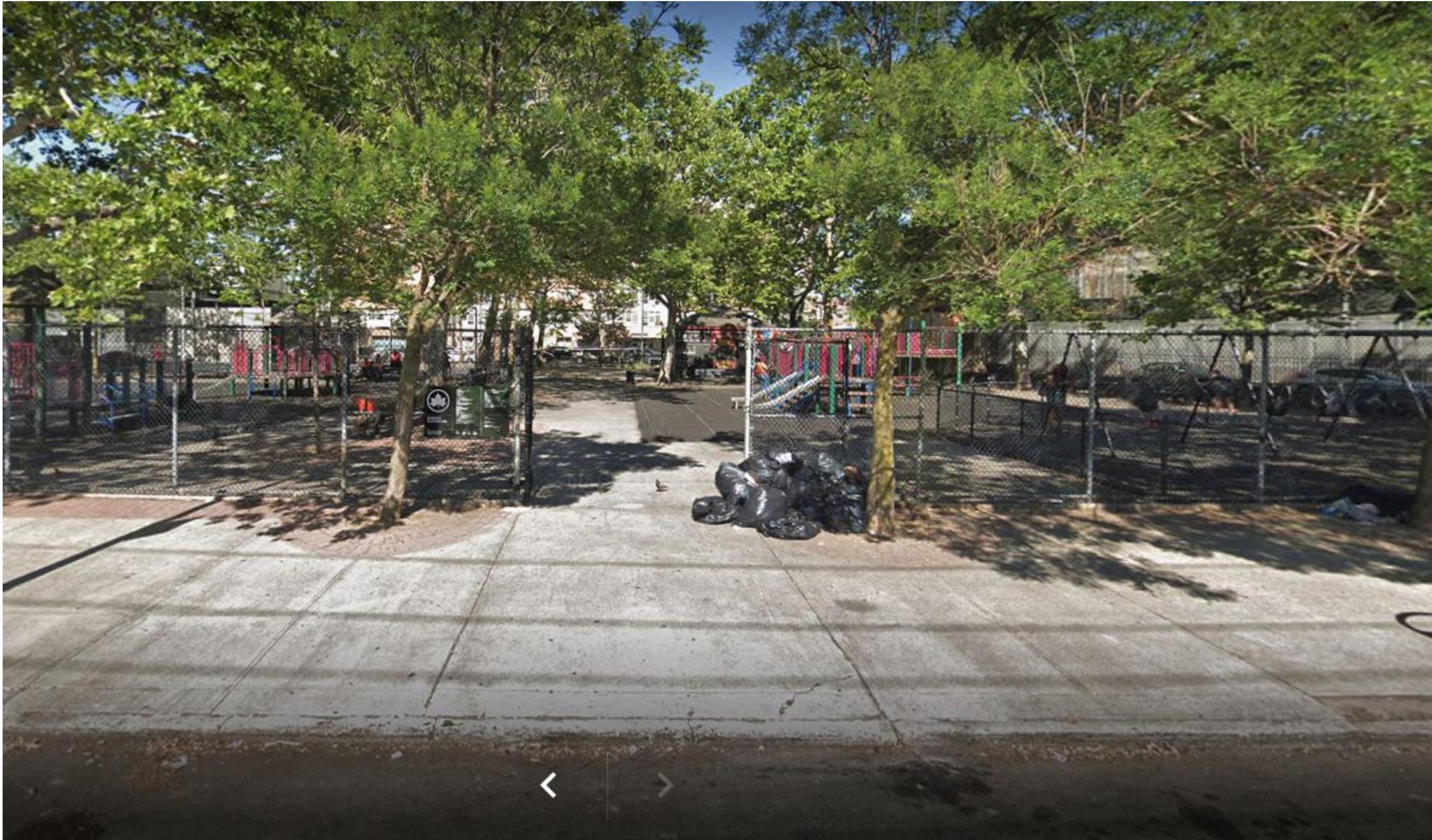




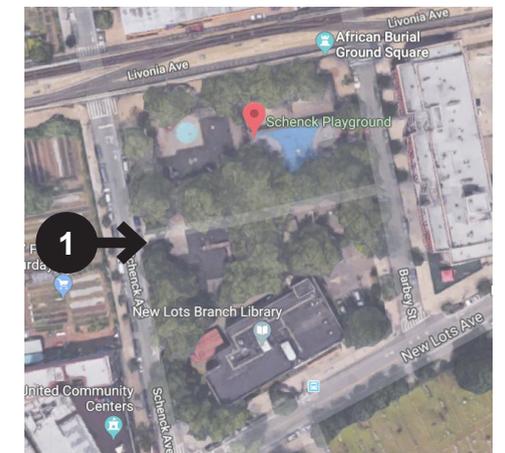
**LEGEND**

-  CANOPY
-  STRUCTURAL ROOT ZONE
-  CRITICAL ROOT ZONE
-  TREE REMOVAL - CONDITION
-  STUMP REMOVAL
-  TREE REMOVAL - DESIGN



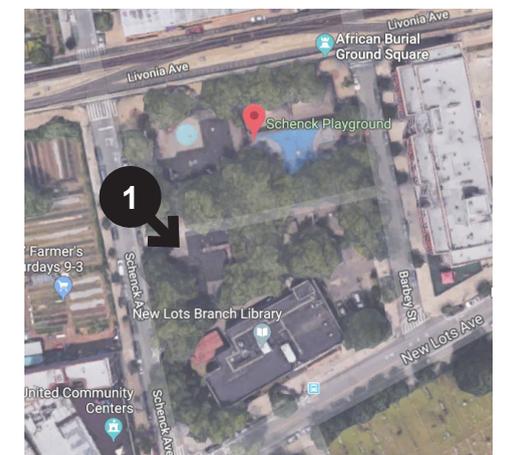


1 - Entry at Schneck Avenue



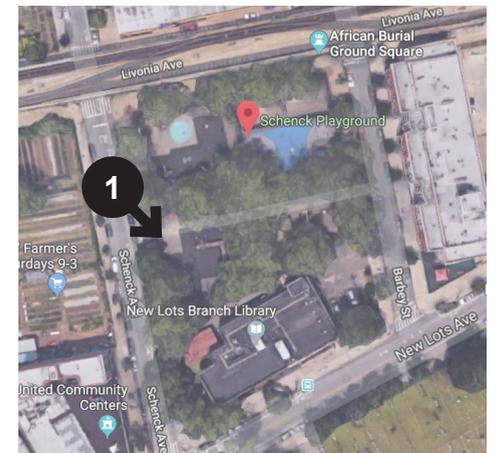


1 - Looking Towards Comfort Station



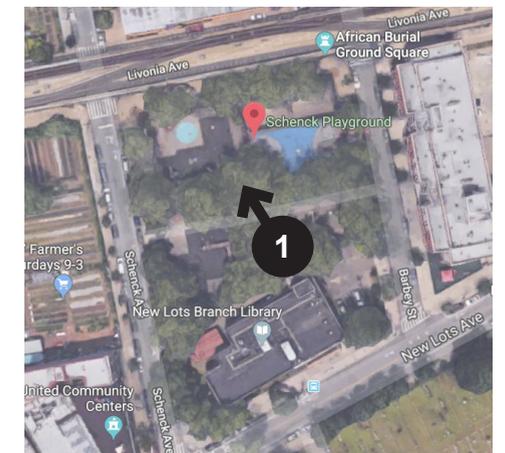


1 - 2-5 Play Equipment and Swings



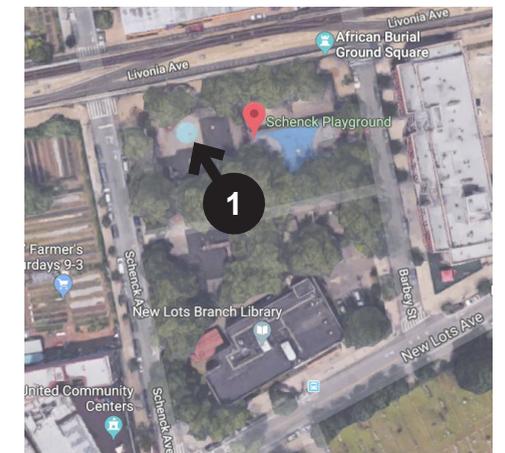


1 - 5-12 Play Equipment



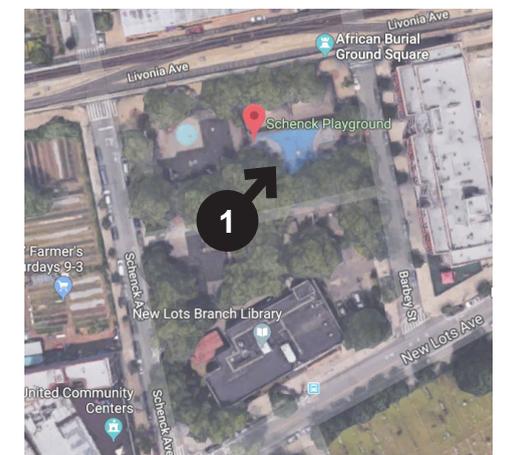


1 - Spray Shower and Seating Area





1 - Basketball Court and Handball Wall



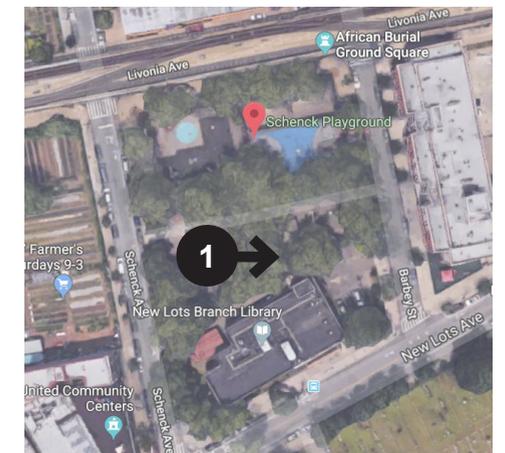
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## Sankofa Park | Existing Site Conditions





1 - Seating Area Adjacent to Comfort Station



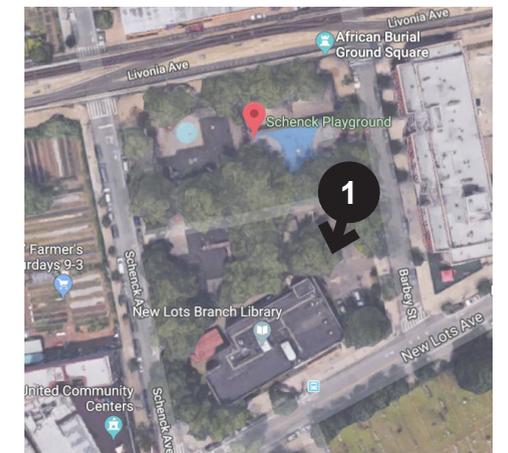
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## Sankofa Park | Existing Site Conditions





1 - Comfort Station

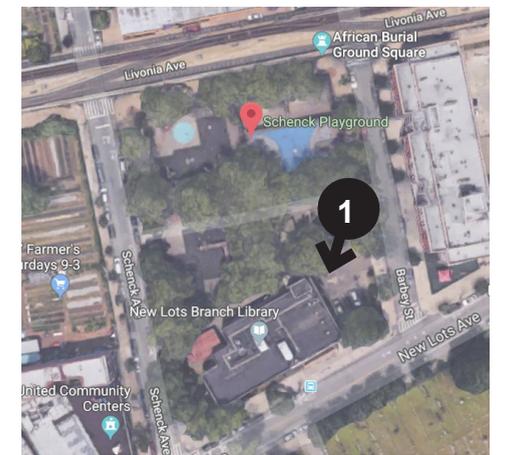




1 - Reinterment Marker



2 - Reinterment Marker



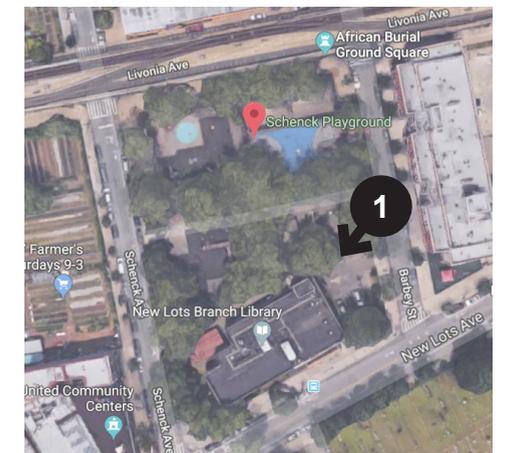
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Sankofa Park | Existing Site Conditions





1 - Reinterment Marker and Closed Seating Area

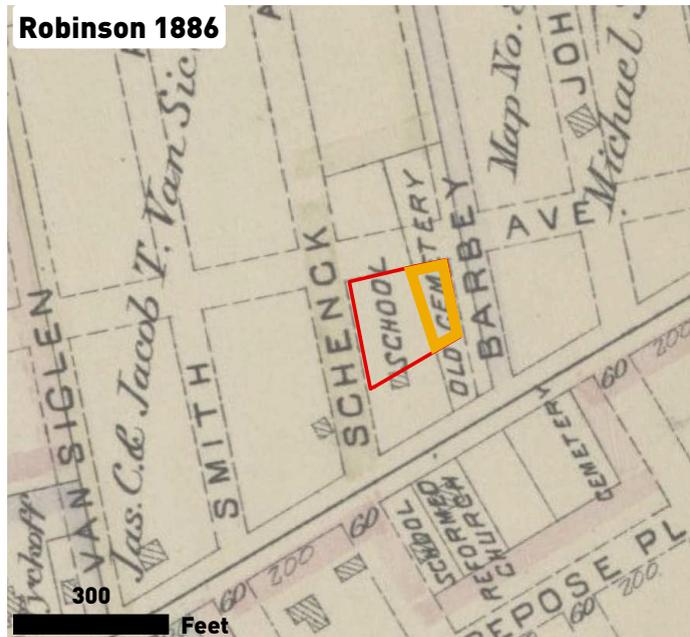


# Summary of Site History

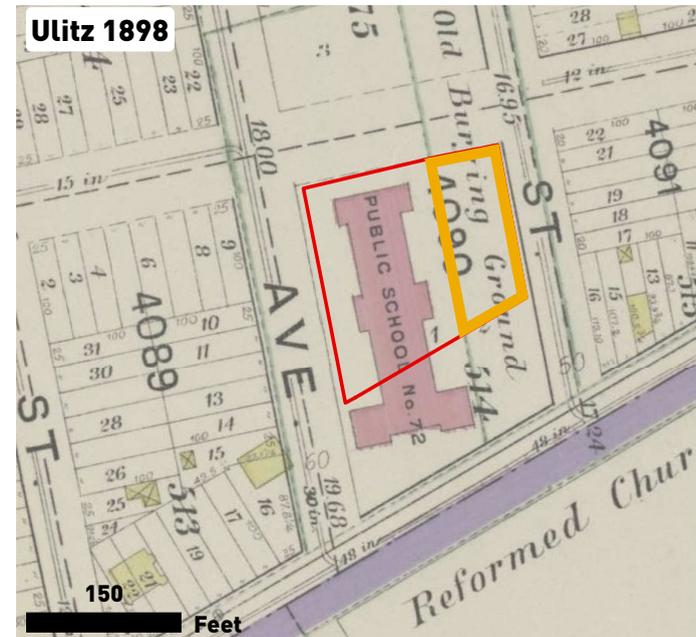
- The eastern portion of Sankofa Park was a burial ground dating to the 17th century.
- The western portion was historically a public school.
- In 1956, NYC converted both portions into a public park consisting of a playground over the western portion and a handball court, a basketball court, and a seating area built over the burial ground. The following year 1957, the New Lots branch of Brooklyn Public Library opened on the southern portion of the site.
- In 2018, NYC Parks conducted archaeological research on-site and has confirmed the existence of intact and disturbed burials.

## LEGEND

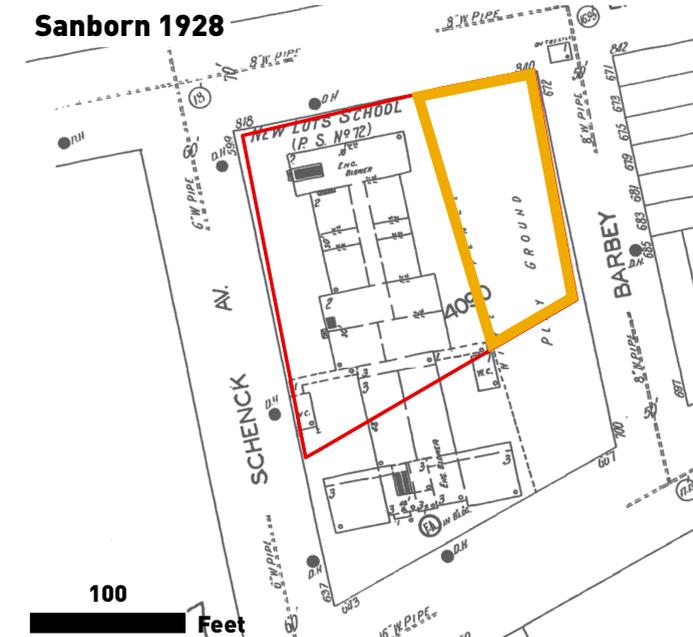
-  CURRENT PARK BOUNDARY
-  HISTORIC CEMETERY BOUNDARY



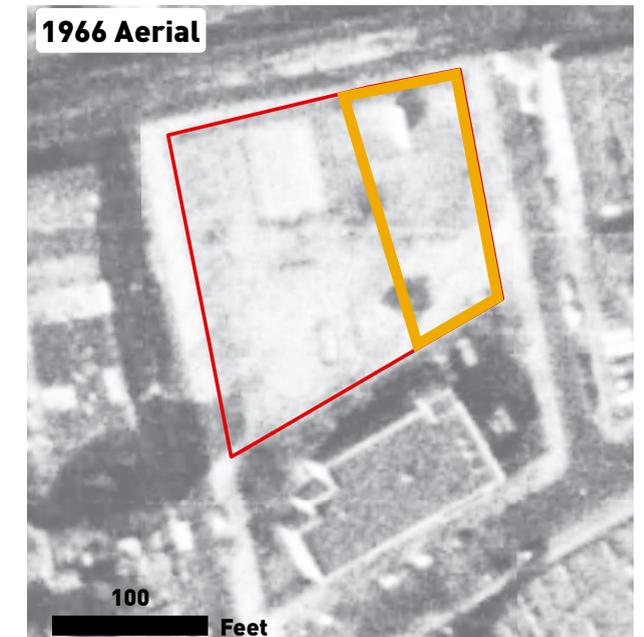
1886 Historic Cemetery and School



1898 - New PS 72 Building and Historic Burying Ground



1928 - PS 72 and New Playground



1966 - New Library and Playground



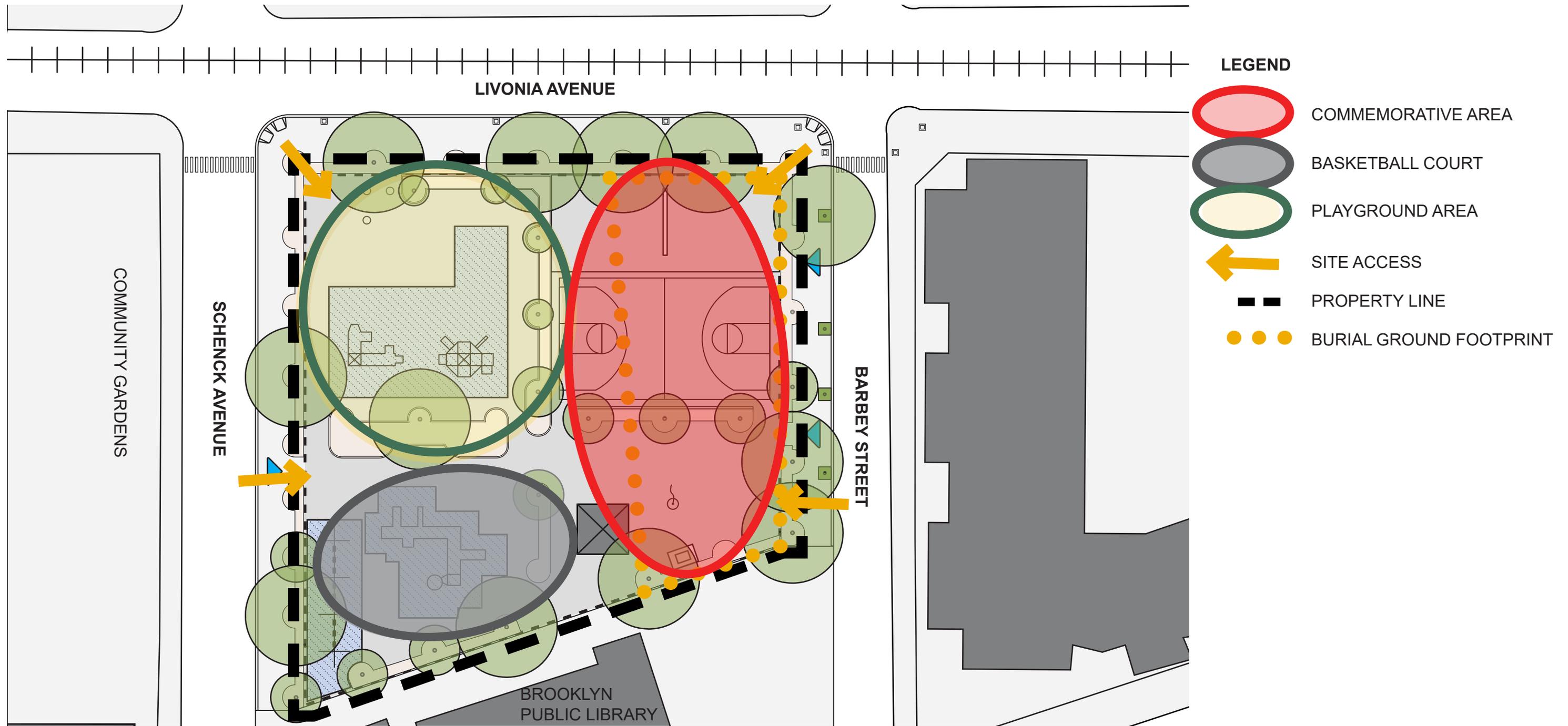


*Old New Lots Burying Ground, circa 1910, Brooklyn Historical Society*



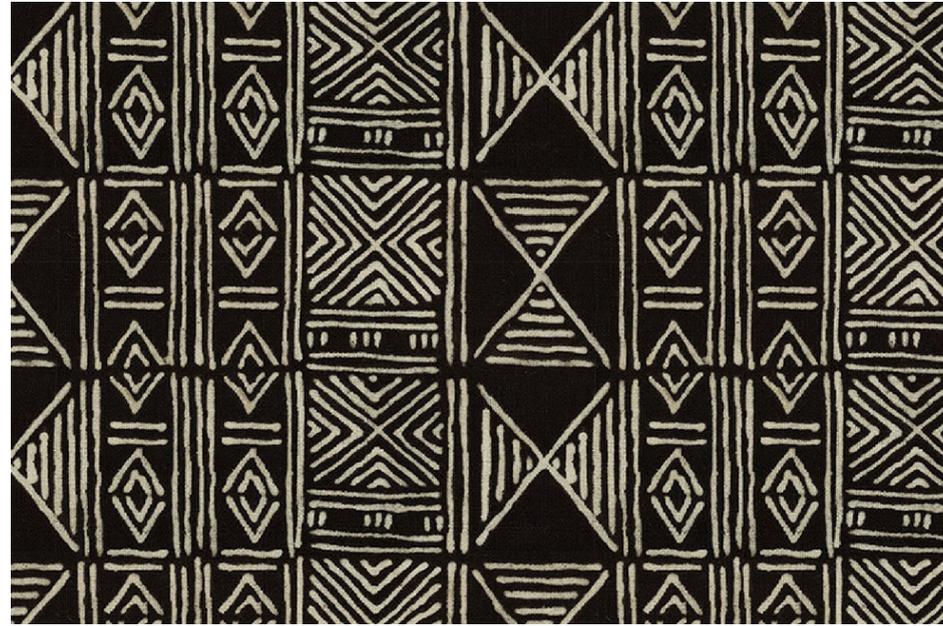
*A Tombstone Lying Across a Much-Trampled Path, 1900, The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*







The Griot, a West African orator



Kente Cloth associated with mourning



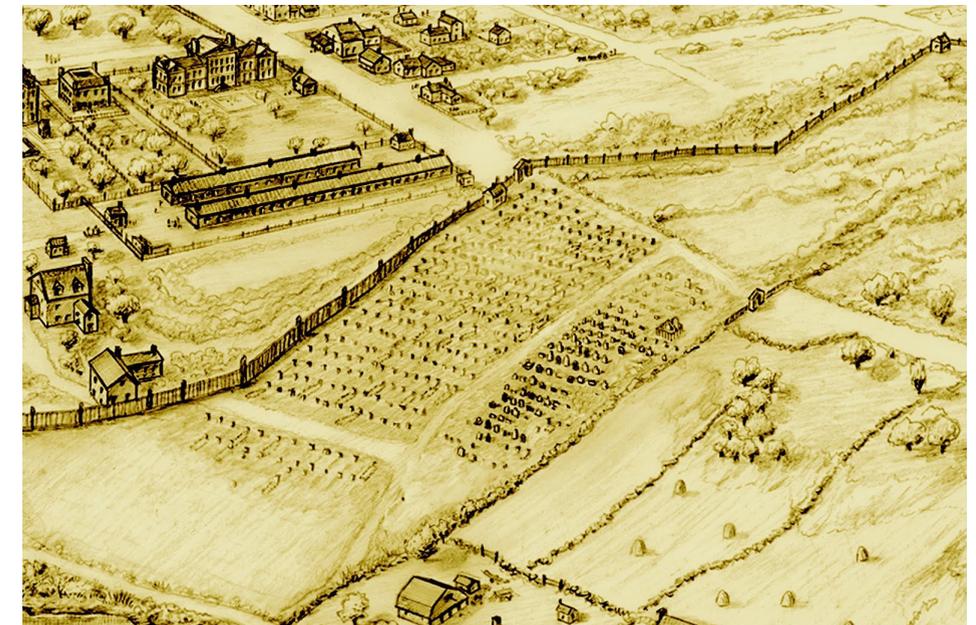
Sankofa symbol: "Looking back to go forward"



Education circle



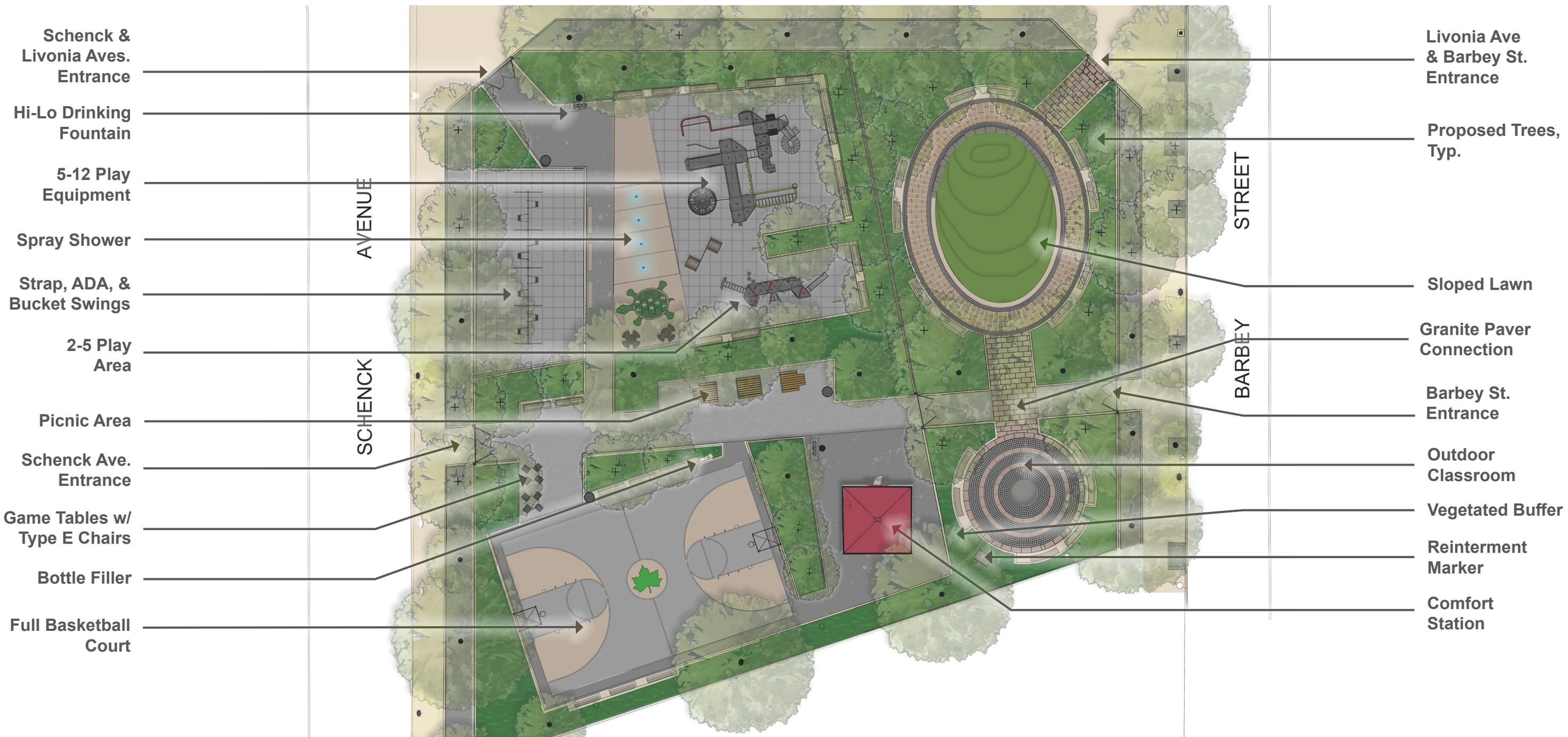
Concentric West African wax cloth



Burial ground plot ca. 1700s



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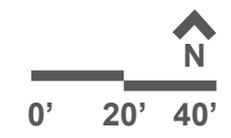


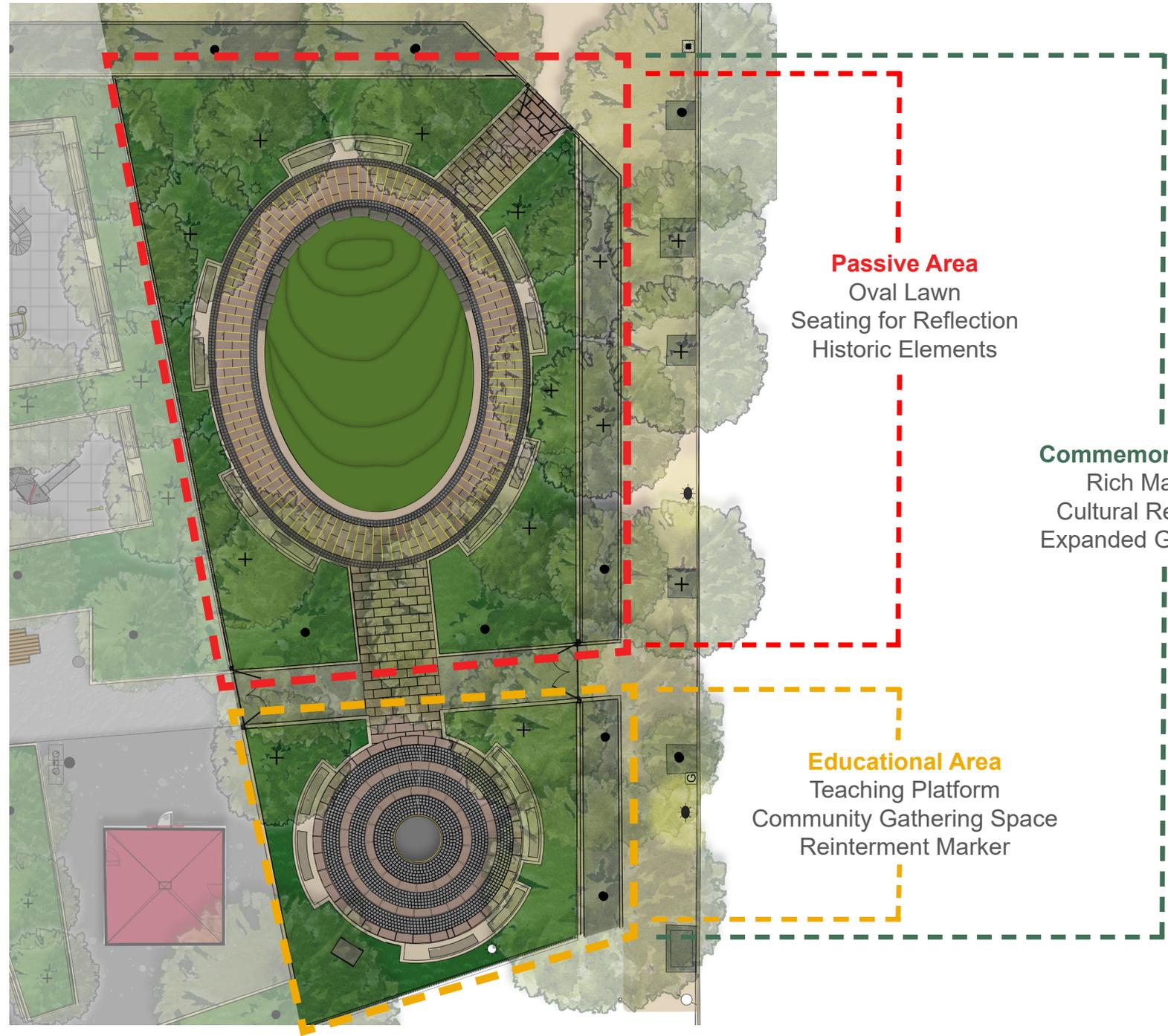
- Schenck & Livonia Aves. Entrance
- Hi-Lo Drinking Fountain
- 5-12 Play Equipment
- Spray Shower
- Strap, ADA, & Bucket Swings
- 2-5 Play Area
- Picnic Area
- Schenck Ave. Entrance
- Game Tables w/ Type E Chairs
- Bottle Filler
- Full Basketball Court

- Livonia Ave & Barbey St. Entrance
- Proposed Trees, Typ.
- Sloped Lawn
- Granite Paver Connection
- Barbey St. Entrance
- Outdoor Classroom
- Vegetated Buffer
- Reinterment Marker
- Comfort Station



**Sankofa Park | Schematic Plan**





**Passive Area**  
 Oval Lawn  
 Seating for Reflection  
 Historic Elements

**Commemorative Area**  
 Rich Materials  
 Cultural References  
 Expanded Greenspace

**Educational Area**  
 Teaching Platform  
 Community Gathering Space  
 Reinterment Marker



Reinterment Area Perspective View



Reinterment Area/Outdoor Classroom Oblique View

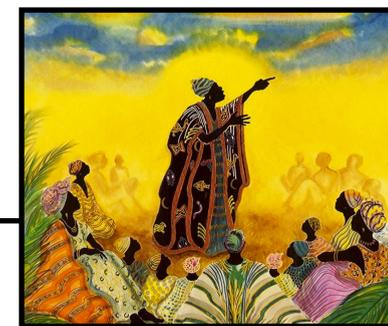




**Vegetated Buffer**  
A layered vegetated buffer will be planted to visually separate the education area from the comfort station. The shrubs and flowering trees will also provide a backdrop for the reinterment marker.



**Granite Pavement**  
The concentric circular pattern is rich in color and texture. It is inspired by a West African wax print. The granite provides a sense of permanence.



**Griot Stone**  
The Griot is a West African poet or storyteller who maintains a tradition the oral history. Here the black granite trimmed in bronze provides a flush platform to orate and teach.



**Reinterment Marker**  
The marker is over the reinterment site. It will be raised to sit above planting and remain visible. The base is black granite with an inscription and trimmed in bronze.



Passive Area Perspective View



Passive Area Oblique View





**Customized Standard Fence**  
Adinkra symbols for Justice and Adaptability are placed on the top rail and the gates. It calls importance to the commemorative area as the historic burial ground.



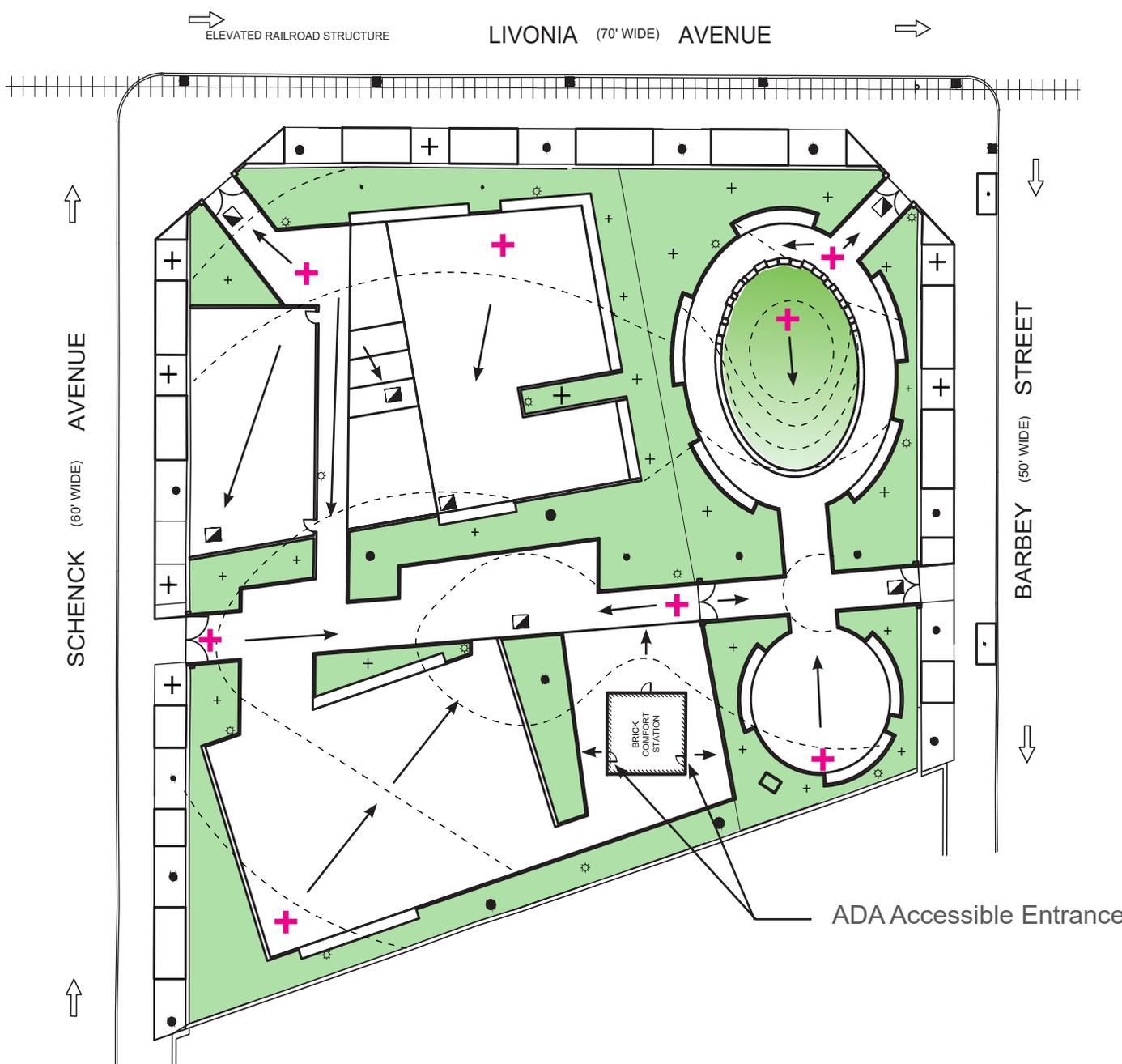
**Sloped Lawn**  
The sloped lawn is the traditional material of the burial ground. The slope represents the historic topography of the site sloping up from south to north.



**Granite Wall**  
Material from early colonial times. The enslaved built the foundation of city with it. The wall retains the sloped landform and prevents the lawn from being used as a cut through.



**Granite Pavement**  
The concentric circular pattern is rich in color and texture. It is inspired by a West African wax print. The granite provides a sense of permanence.



## Grading Strategy

An archaeological work plan will be developed to guide the grading strategy. The work plan will be overseen and approved by the Landmark Preservation Commission and the State Historic Preservation Offices to meet regulations for preserving cultural resources unintentionally encountered during grading operations.

## Legend

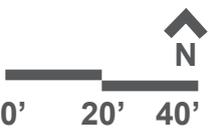
- + High Point
- Slope Direction
- ▣ Drainage Structure
- - - Proposed .5' Contour
- Existing Tree CRZ
- ✚ Proposed Tree

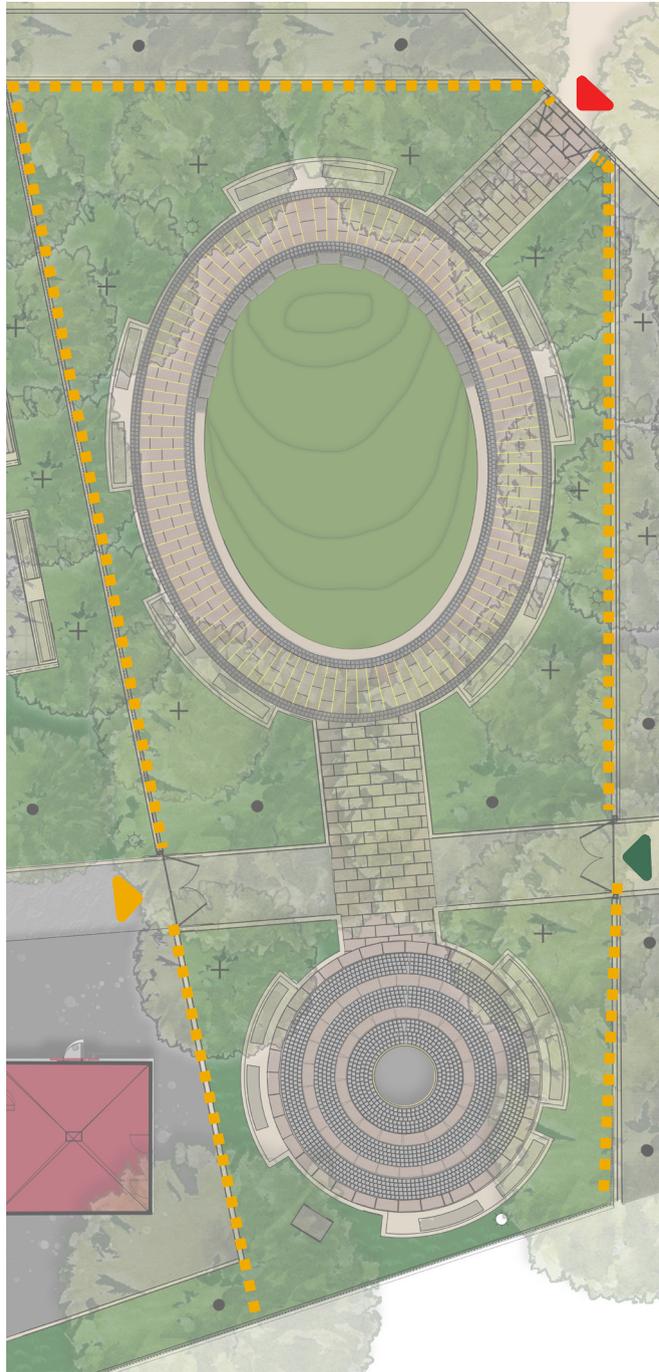




### LEGEND

- EXISTING FENCES (x = HEIGHT)**  
 x STEEL
  
- TALL / SPORT FENCES 8' - 16' HT. (x = HEIGHT)**  
 x CLF
  
- MEDIUM / PERIMETER FENCES 4' - 7'-6" HT. (x = HEIGHT)**  
 x STEEL  
 x CUSTOM STEEL
  
- LOW / PLANTING FENCES 2'-6" - 3'-6" HT. (x = HEIGHT)**  
 x STEEL





## Legend

Symbol	Location
 Sankofa Symbol	4'-0" H. Steel Gate
 Denkyem Symbol	4'-0" H. Steel Gate
 Nsoromma Symbol	4'-0" H. Steel Gate
 Epa Symbol	4'-0" H. Steel Fence

## Symbology

### The Adrinkra Alphabet

The Adinkra alphabet of the Akan people will be employed to teach and remind the visitor of the site's history.



**SANKOFA**  
"looking back to go forward"  
symbol of importance of learning from the past



**DENKYEM**  
"crocodile"  
Symbol of Adaptability



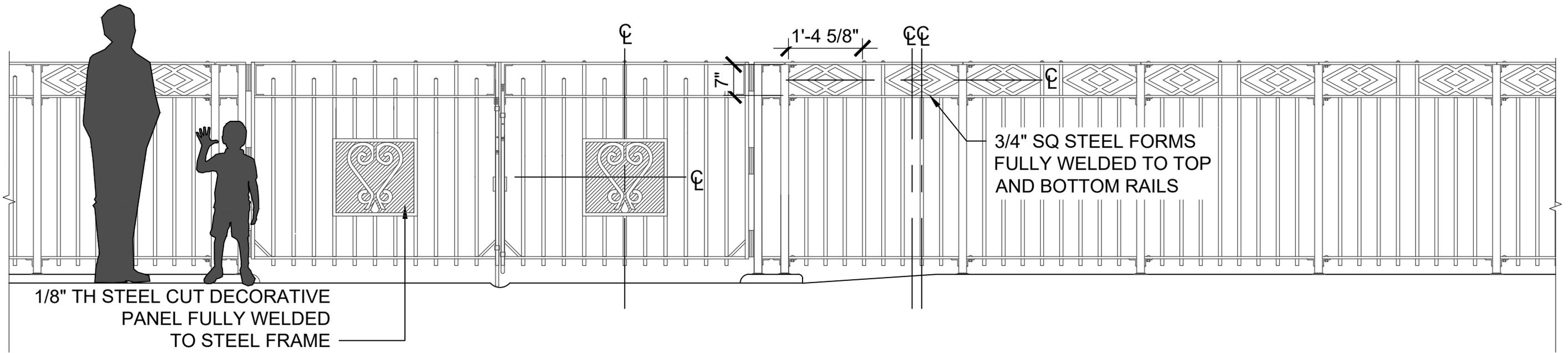
**NSOROMMA**  
"child of the heavens [stars]"  
symbol of guardianship



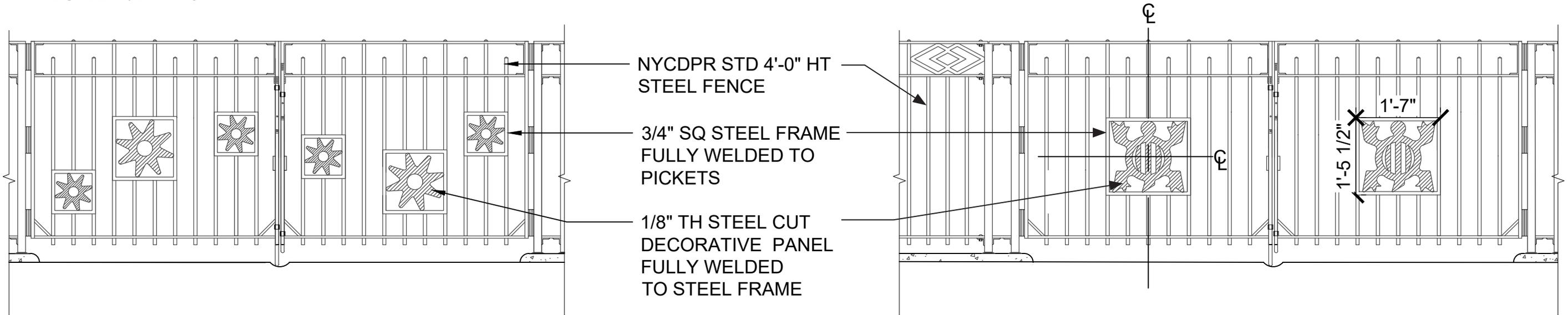
**EPA**  
"justice"  
symbol of law and justice, slavery and captivity



View from Comfort Station looking into Commemorative Area.



① 'Sankofa' 4'-0" HT. Steel Gate Panel and 'Epa' 4'-0" HT. Steel Fence Panel at Entry Gate  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



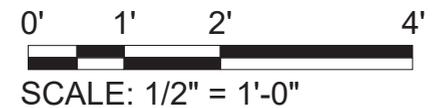
② 'Nsoromma' 4'-0" HT. Steel Gate Panel at Interior Gate  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

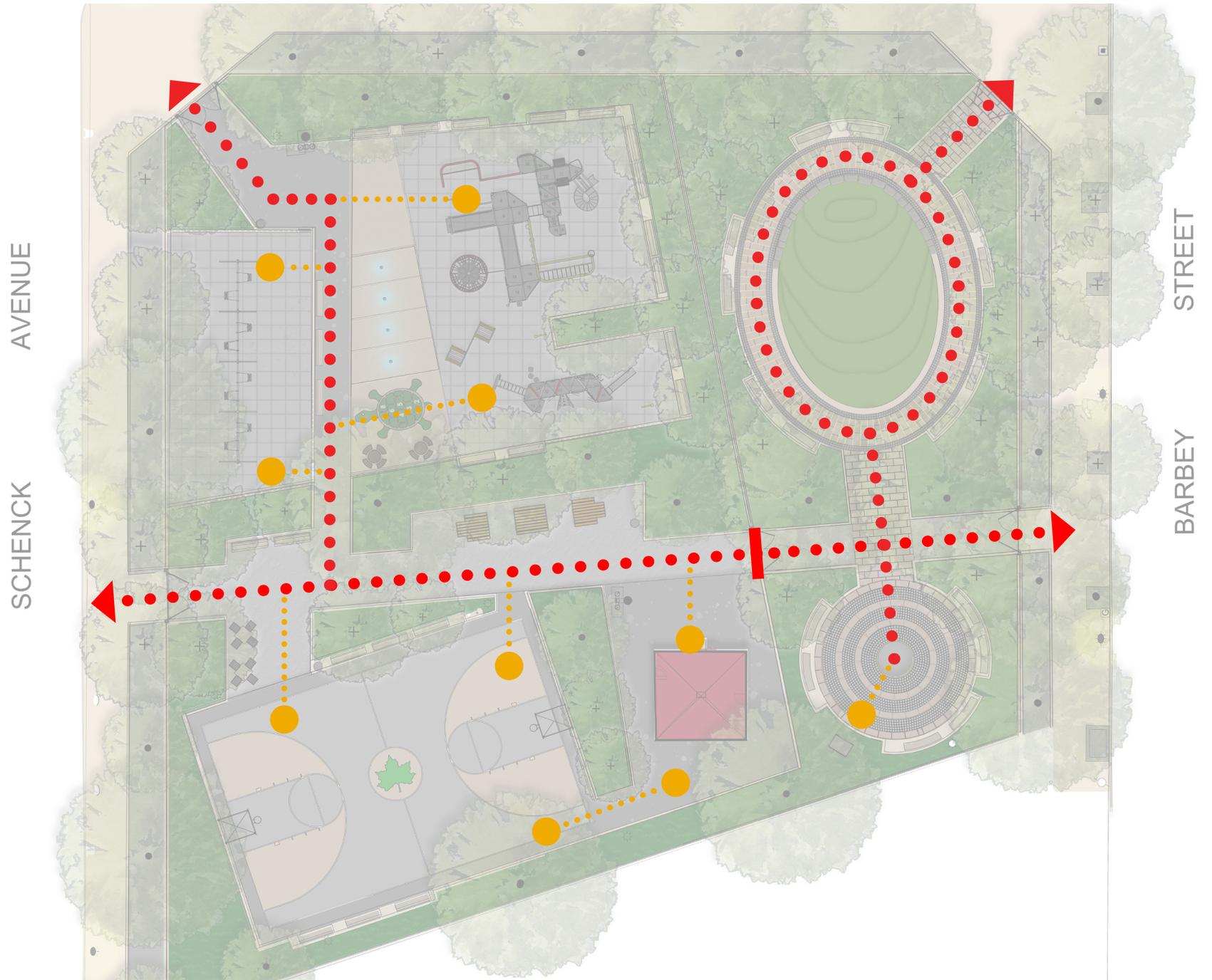
③ 'Denkyem' 4'-0" HT. Steel Gate Panel at Entry Gate  
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



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## Sankofa Park | Gate Symbology Details



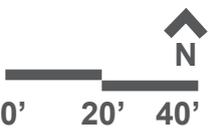


**LEGEND**

- PRIMARY CIRCULATION
- ◀●●●● PARK ENTRANCE/EXIT
- GATED ACCESS POINT
- PATH TO DESTINATION



**Sankofa Park | Circulation Diagram**





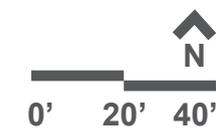


SCHENCK AVENUE

BARBEY STREET



Sankofa Park | Schematic Lighting Plan





**Comfort Station Drinking Fountain**



**'39 WF Bench - Steel: Black, RPL: Weathered Wood**



**Picnic Table - Steel: Black, RPL: Weathered Wood**



**Hi-Lo Drinking Fountain - Black**



**Concrete Game Table w/ Type E Bench - Black**



**Public Space Receptacle Bins - Black**



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**Sankofa Park | Site Furnishings**



**Safety Surface - Gray**



**Color Seal Coat - Color and Color**



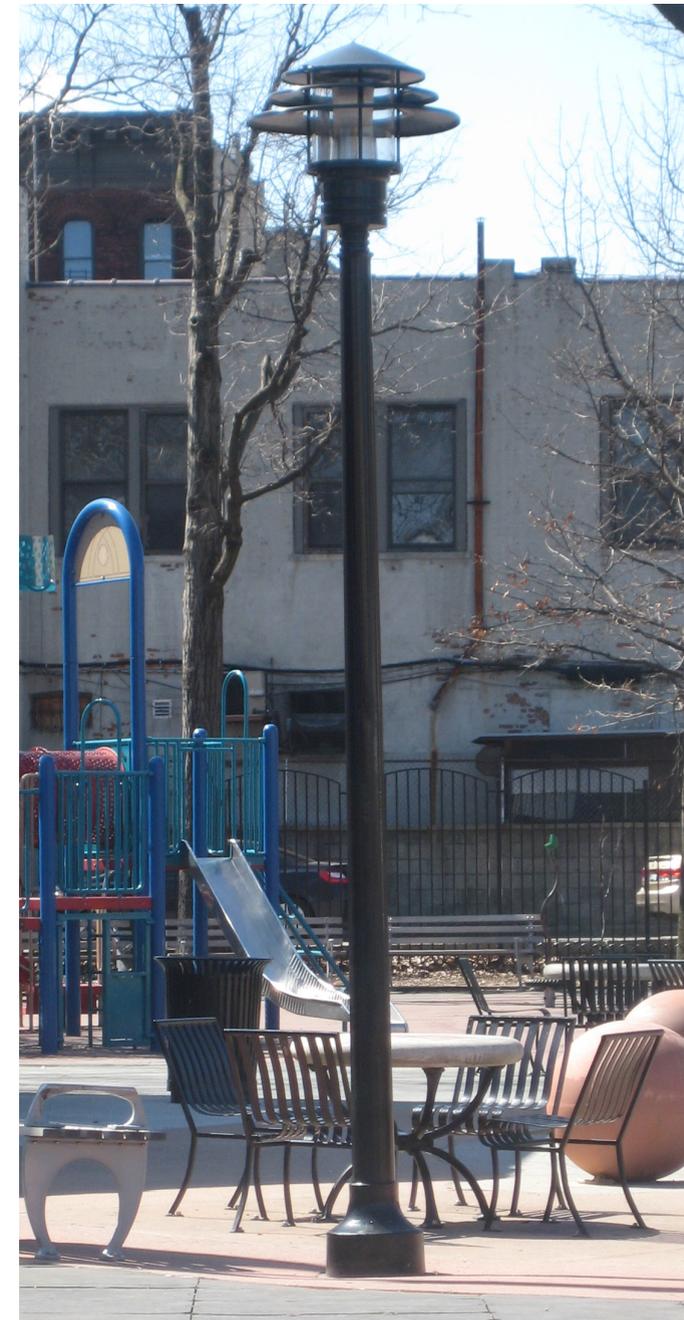
**Colored Concrete - Dark Gray**



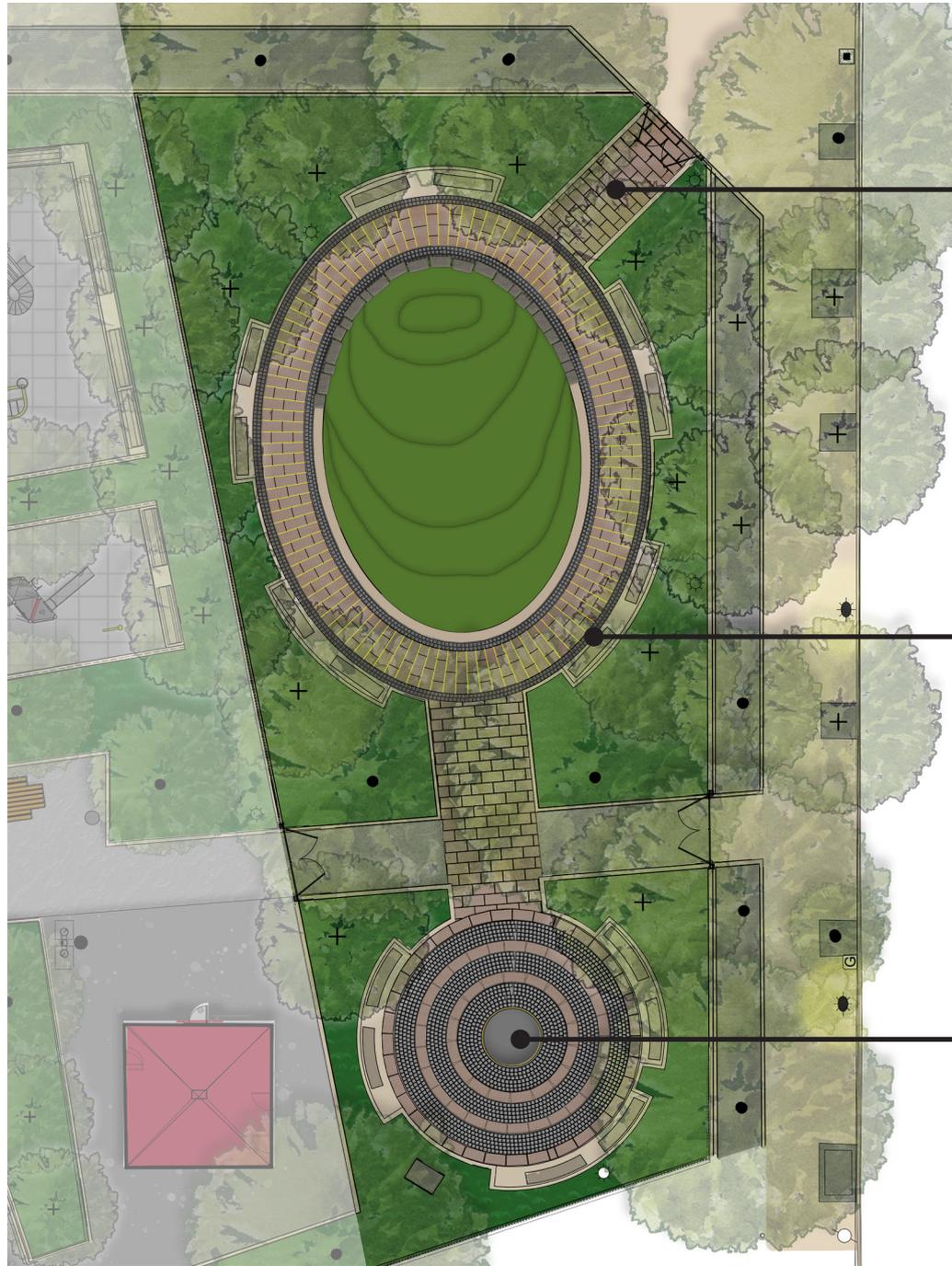
**Steel Picket Fence - 2'-6" & 4'-0" Ht.**



**Colored Concrete - Mesa Beige**



**Flushing Meadow Candela Light Post**



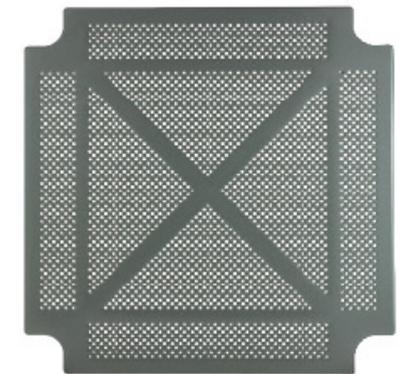
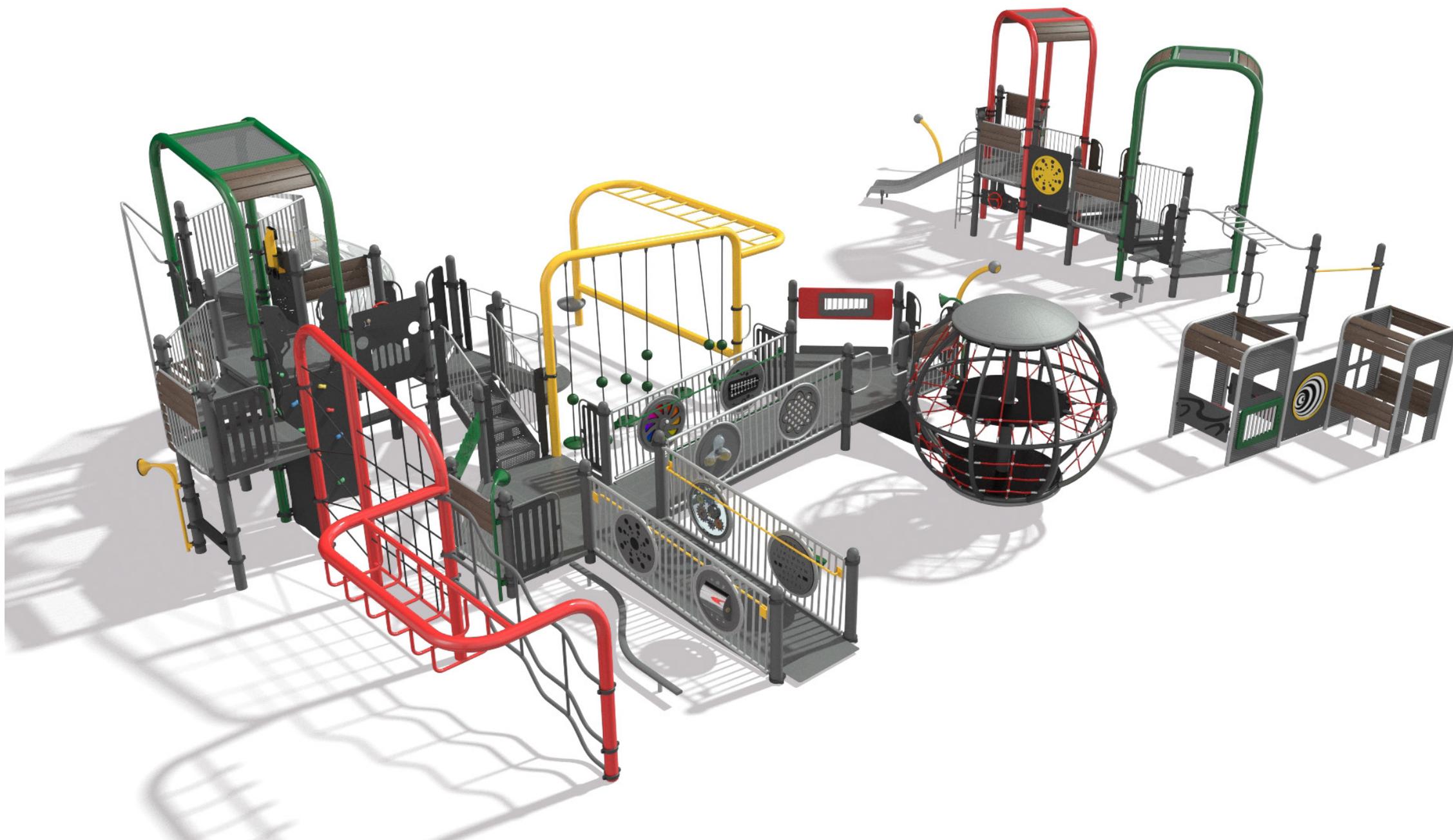
**18"x36" Paver "Indian Sunset"**  
Thermal Finish  
Coldspring Stone



**6"x6" Paver "Carnelian"**  
Thermal Finish  
Coldspring Stone



**Griot's Stone "Mesabi Black"**  
Thermal Finish  
Coldspring Stone



Gray



Black

Red



Cool Silver Matte



Matte Gray



Red

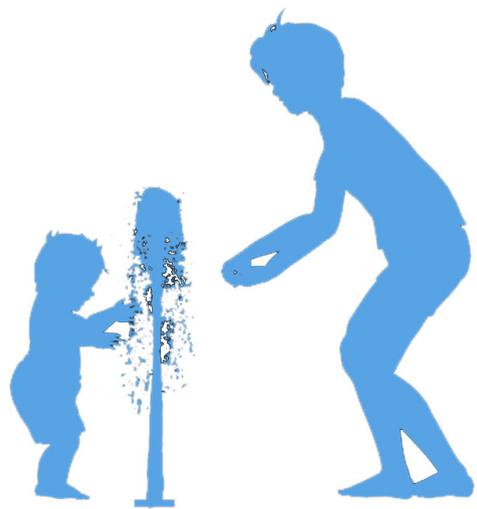


Yellow



Grass

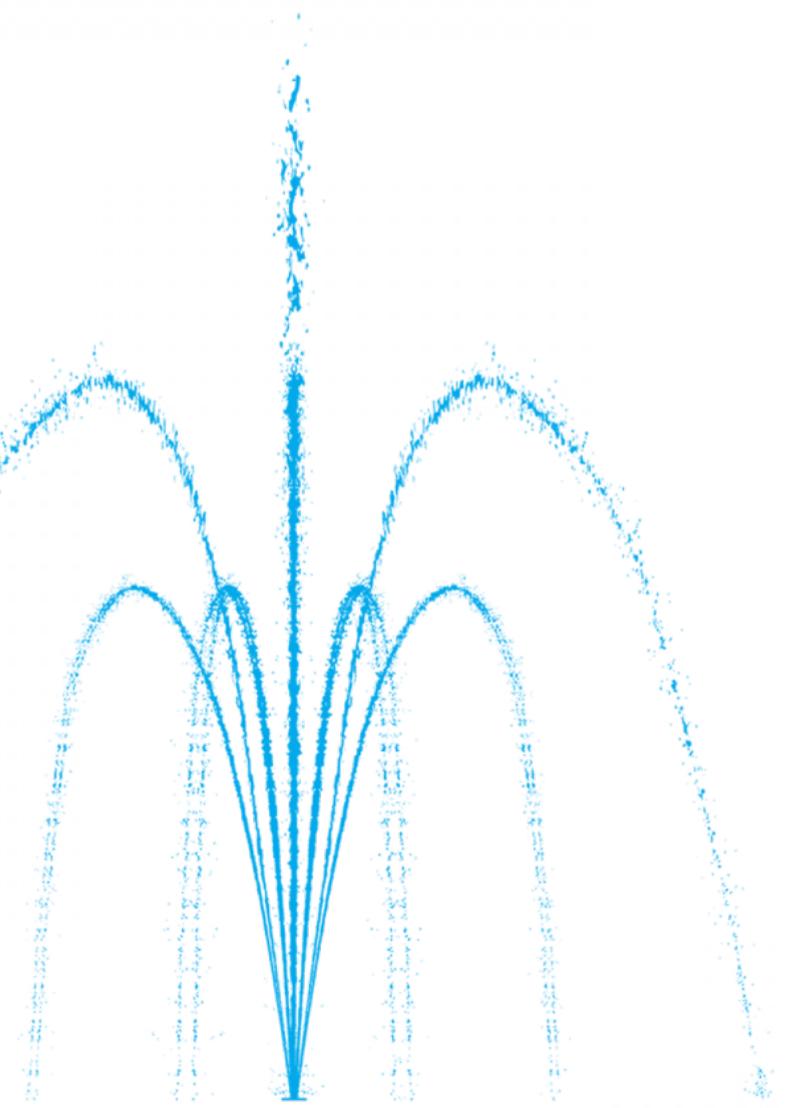
Play Equipment Colors



Jet Stream No. 2



Water Jelly

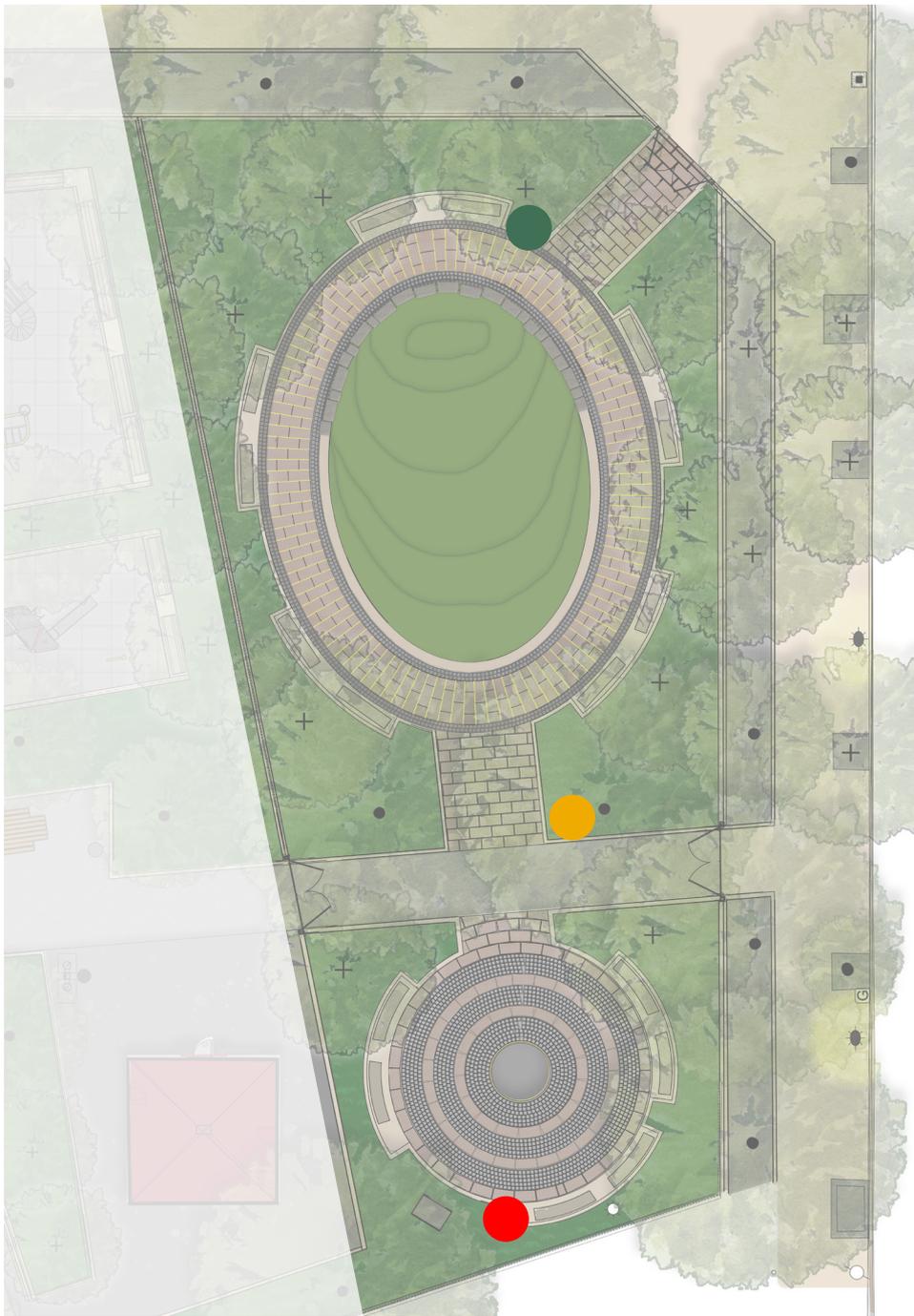


Water Bloom



Activation Bollard





**Sign 1: Land Use and Archaeological Findings**

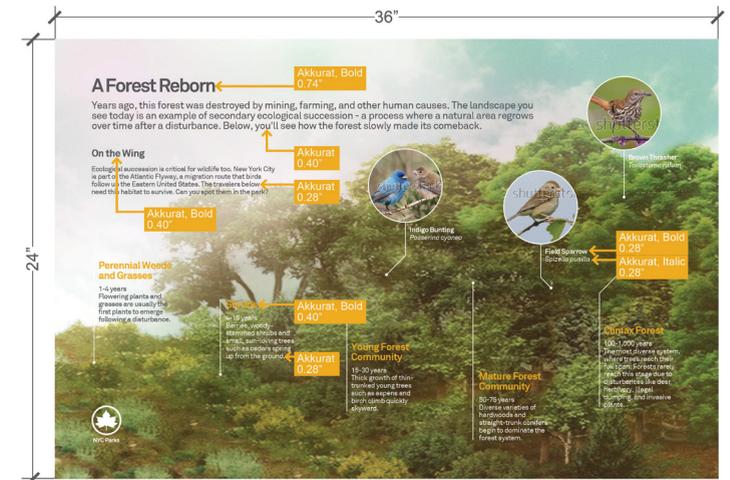
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**Sign 2: African American Community in New Lots**

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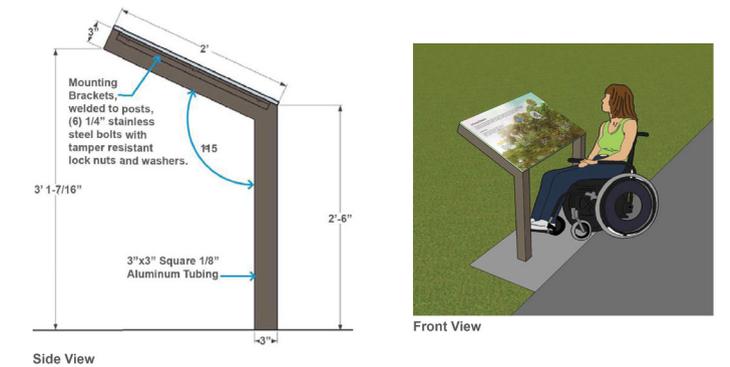
**Sign 3: Sankofa, Looking Back to Go Forward**

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NYC Parks Signage Standards | Interpretive

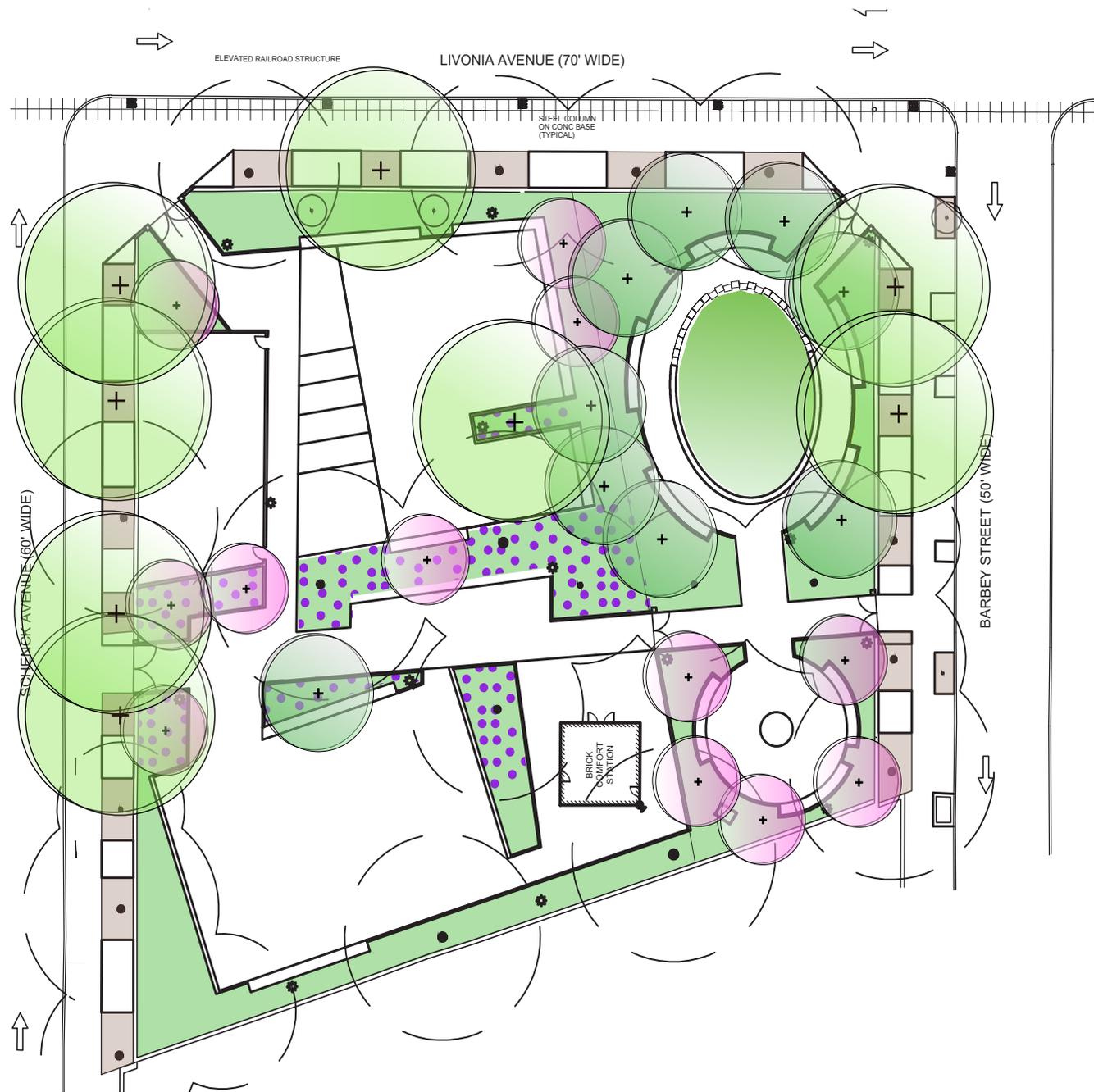
**Signage Style**



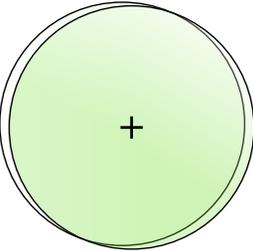
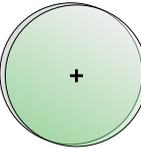
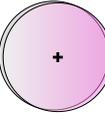
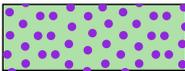
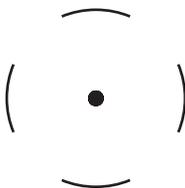
NYC Parks Signage Standards | Angled Square Post

**Signage Mount**





### Legend

-  Large Shade Tree
-  Medium Shade Tree
-  Flowering Understory Tree
-  Deciduous and Evergreen Shrub Mix
-  Groundcover with Bulbs
-  Lawn
-  Mulched Tree Pit
-  Existing Tree CRZ





**Red Maple**



**Arnold Promise Witch Hazel**



**Sargent Crabapple**



**Lacebark Elm Tree**



**Leatherleaf Viburnum**



**Hydrangea Quickfire**



**Cherry Laurel**



**Miss Kim Lilac**



NYC Parks



**Hummingbird Summersweet**



**Arkansas Blue Star**



**Japanese Skimmia**



**Winter Jasmine**



**Hosta Elegans**



**Jacob Christmas Rose**



**Shore Juniper**

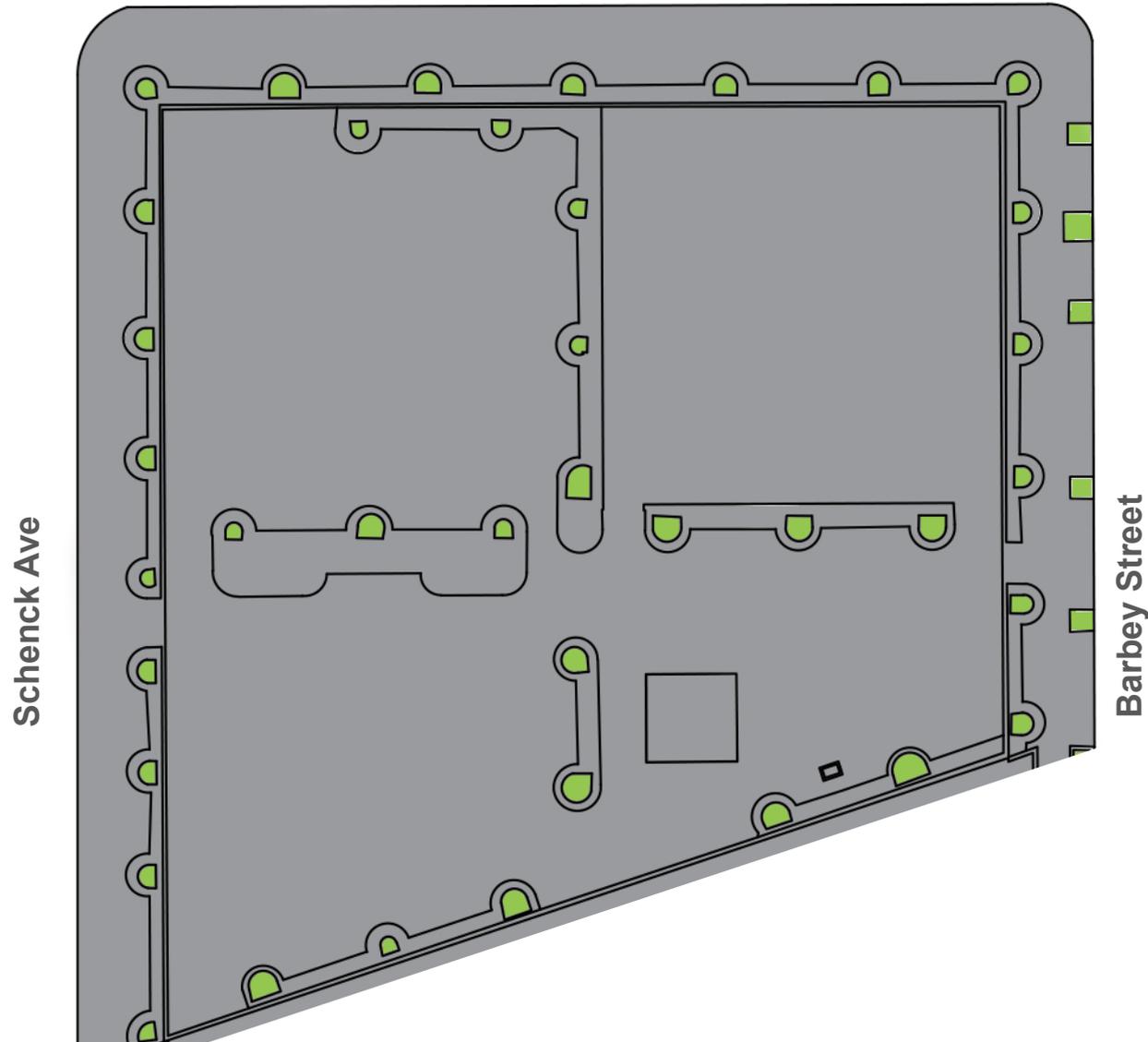


**Lily Turf**



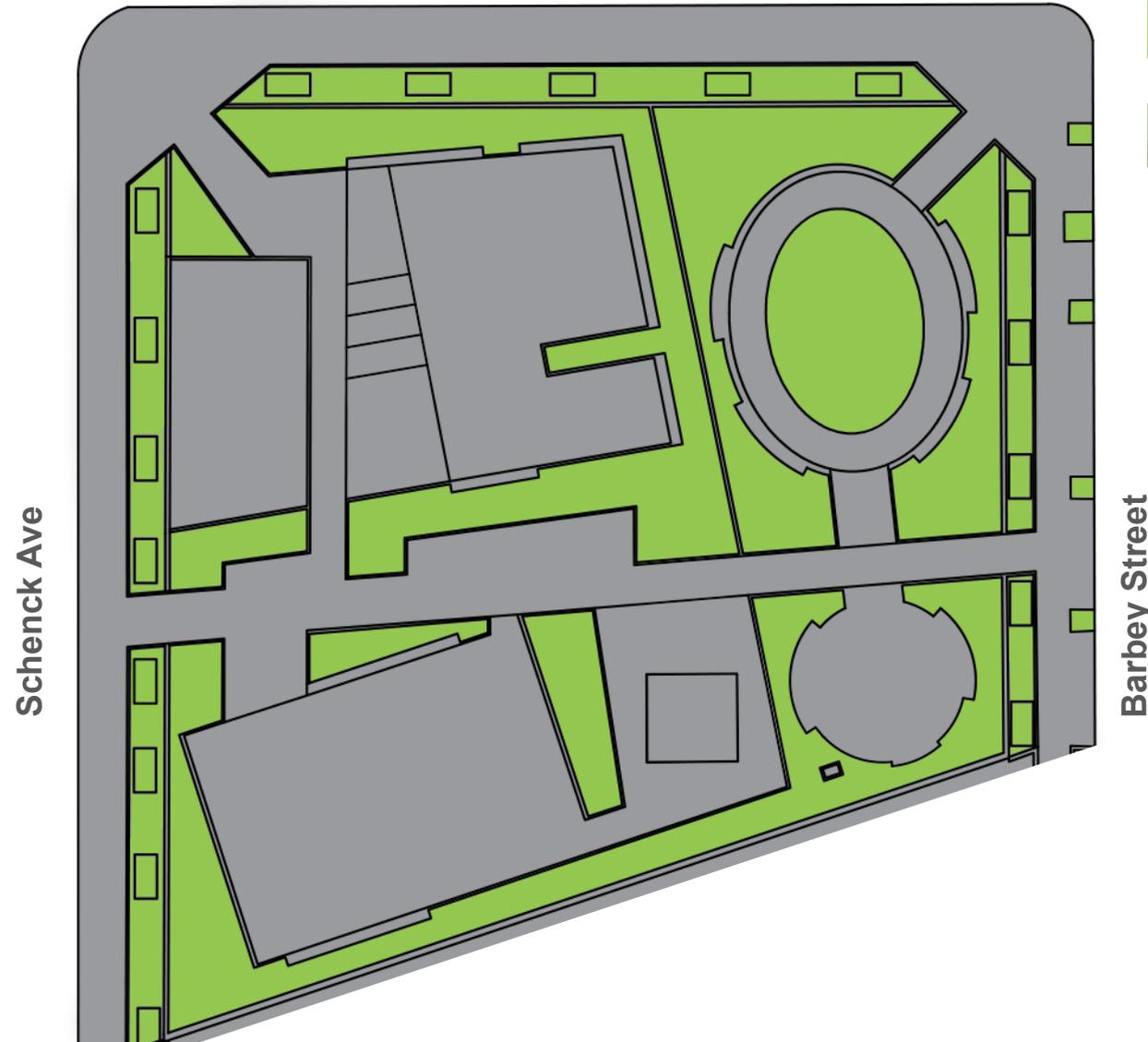
NYC Parks

Livonia Avenue



Existing Permeability: 2%

Livonia Avenue



Proposed Permeability: 40%

Legend

- Permeable
- Impermeable



NYC Parks

Sankofa Park | Site Permeability Study





**Sankofa Park | Perspective**

# Sankofa Park | Schematic Plan

