



Grand Army Plaza Berms & Paving at Bailey Fountain

Located North of Prospect Park and at the confluence of Flatbush Avenue, Vanderbilt Avenue and Eastern Parkway, in the Borough of Brooklyn

Landscape Preservation Commission Review DOCKET # LPC-20-00160

August 13, 2019

Justine Heilner, Prospect Park Alliance

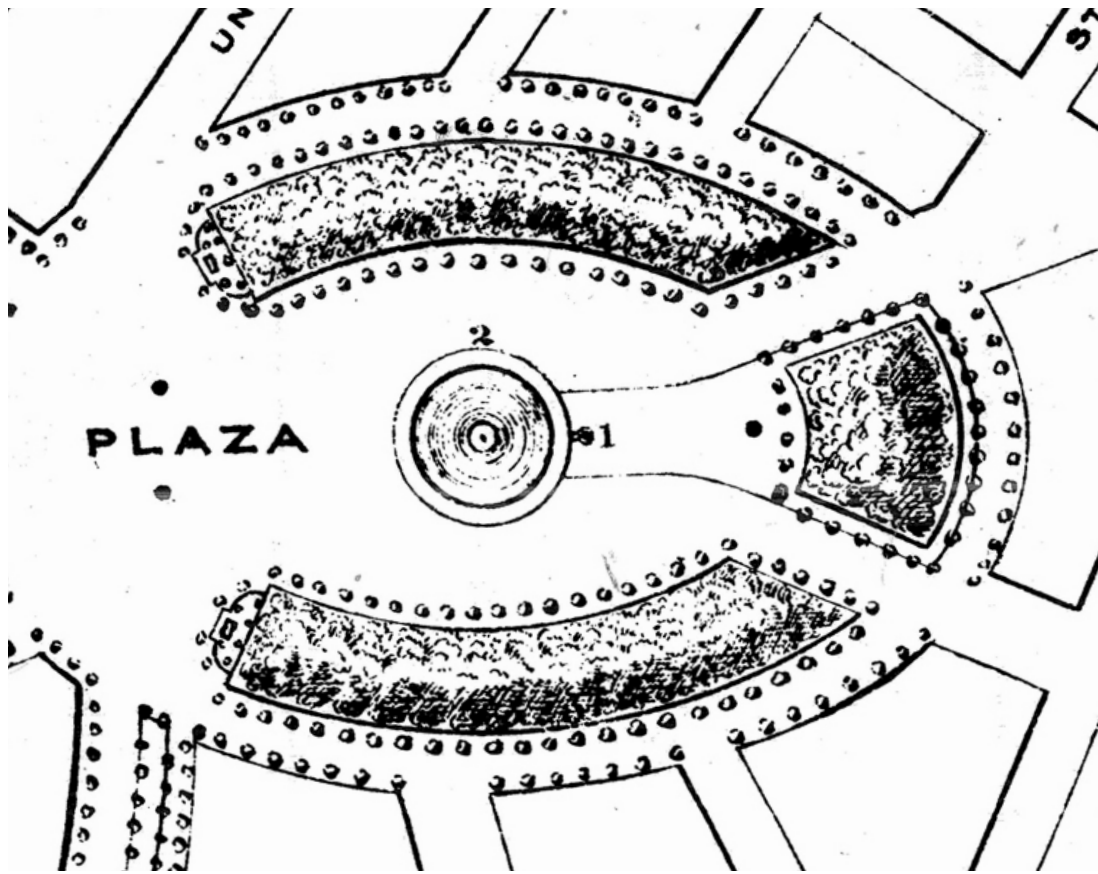
Total Budget: Mayor, Bill de Blasio - \$2.95m FY19

Project Size: Portions of 13 acres



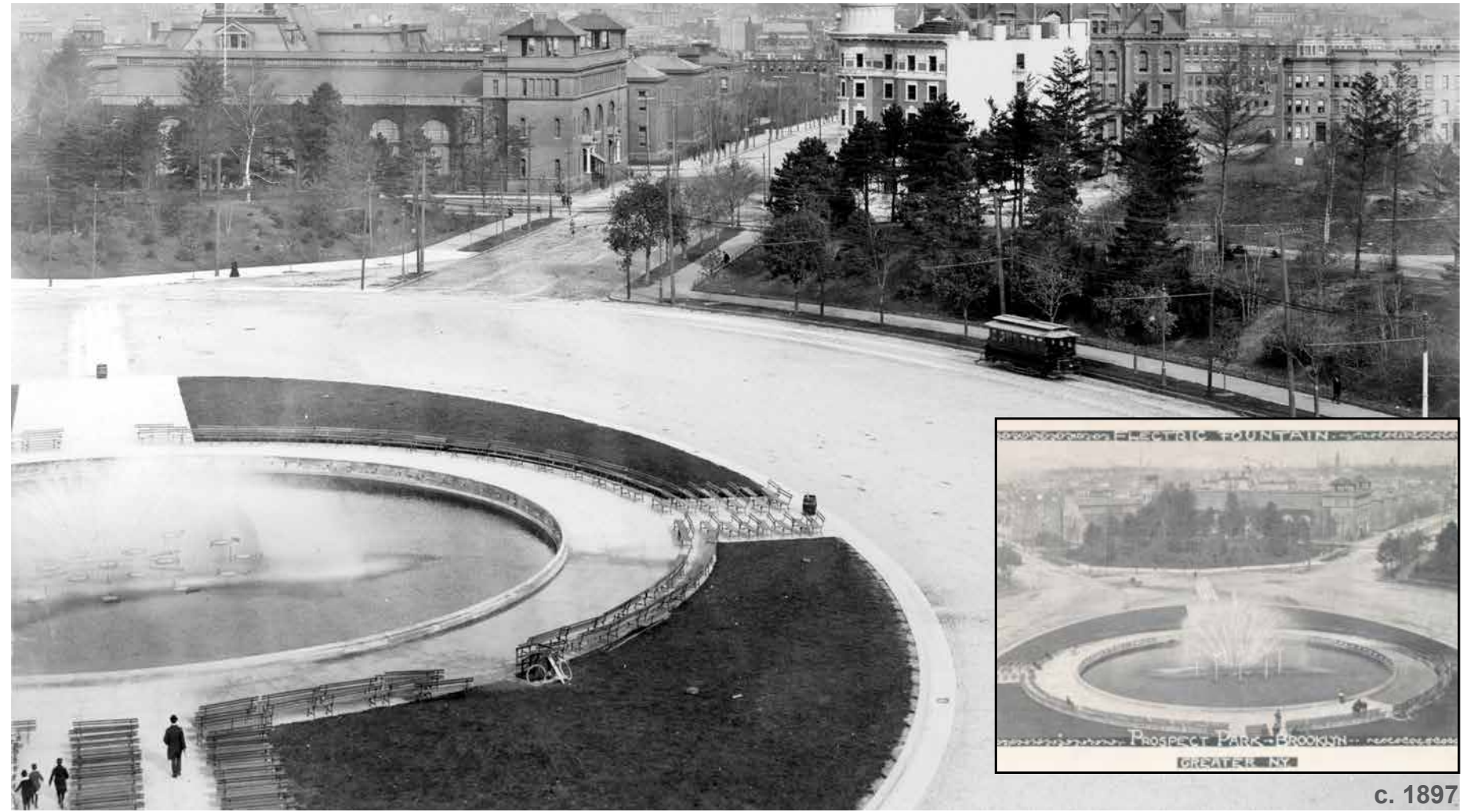
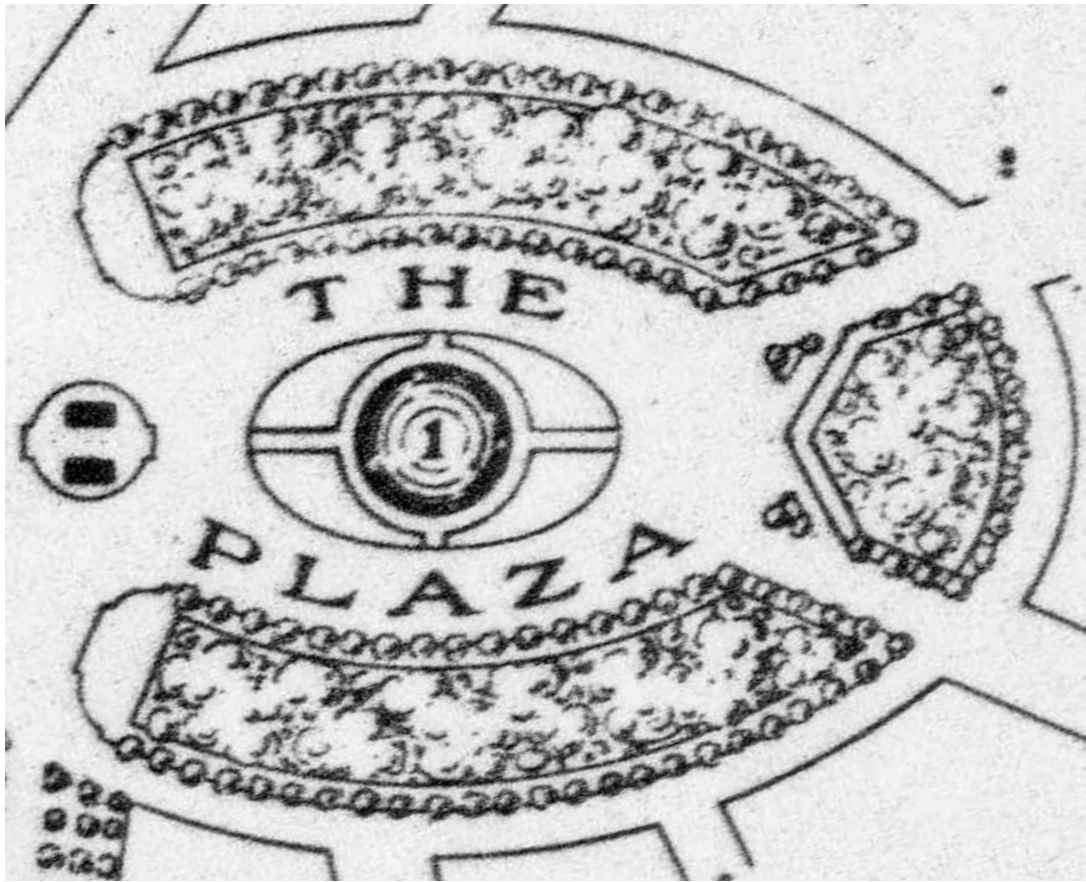
Prospect
Park
Alliance

Grand Army Plaza | Project Location



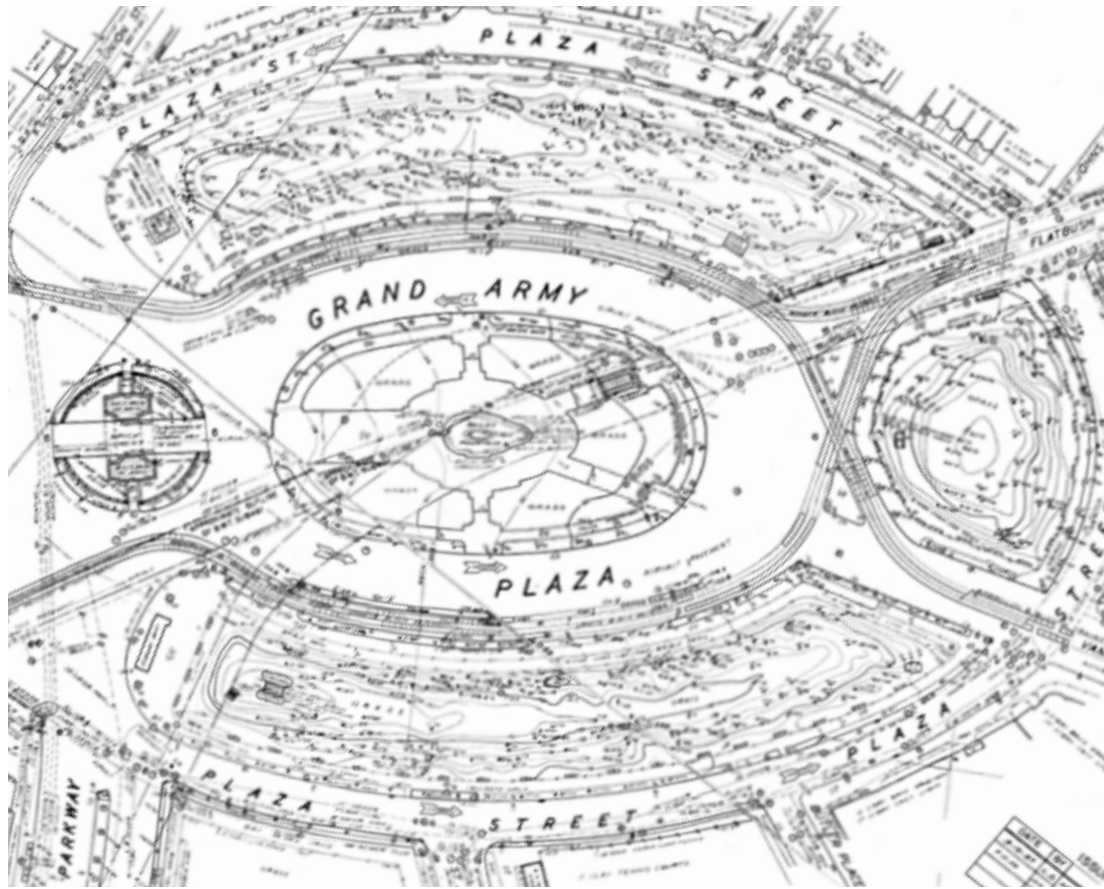
The Plaza was one of the first parts of Prospect Park to be built. Work began on the mounds (berms) and pavement almost immediately after the design was approved. The Plaza was paved with Belgian block and the walks with a new form of concrete. Completed by 1880, the fountain was “the most conspicuous ornament of the Plaza,” designed to relieve what would otherwise have proved a “monotonous and too utilitarian” space.

During the 1880s, grading, planting, pruning, and other improvements to the entrance area and surrounding streets were implemented.



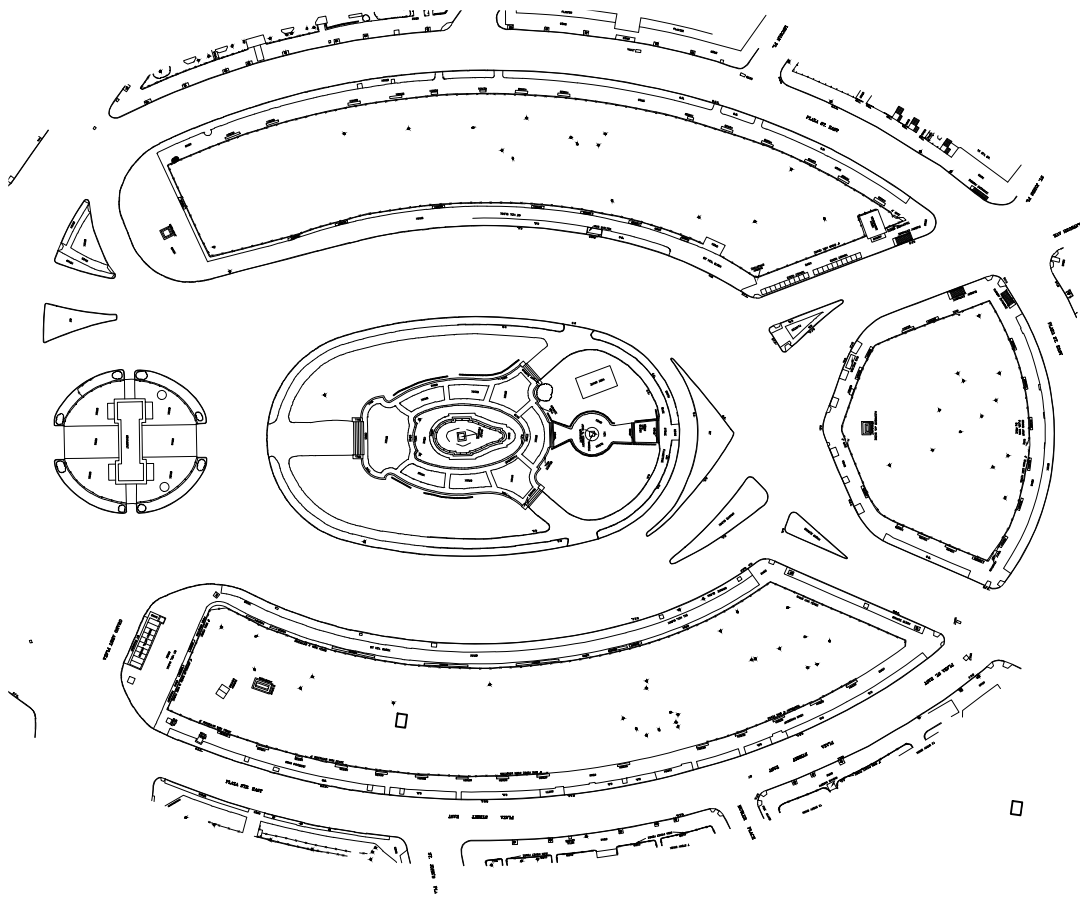
In the midst of many architectural and sculptural renovations (including the Installation of the Soldiers and Sailor's monument and the entrance column ensemble), Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot took on the project of refurbishing the landscape of the Plaza. Their work involved rerouting the trolley tracks at the north end to cross in front of the north mound, extending the mound to provide a platform for waiting visitors, and planting a curb along the lines of the east and west mounds to enclose the trolley tracks and create a second platform.

In 1897, a new electric fountain designed by F.W. Darlington was installed and its predecessor demolished. The new piece was simpler than Vaux's fountain, but its form was secondary to the complex, colorful, illuminated displays it was designed to create. The fountain was an immediate success and became immensely popular.



The greatest changes to the Plaza during the first decades of the twentieth century occurred in conjunction with the construction of Brooklyn's subway lines. The subway forced the removal of the Plaza's original paving and beloved electric fountain, but otherwise the space retained its original form and layout. The third fountain to grace the Plaza, designed by architect Egerton Swartout, with bronze sculptures by Eugene Savage, was installed between 1929 and 1932. The paving was changed to bluestone bands in ashlar pattern and granite block in fan-pattern, all bound by low granite walls as we see them today.

A chain link fence erected around the mounds in the 1930s broke up their gentle contours and diminished their intended rural effect. An ungainly newsstand and bus shelter, constructed on the west mound in the 1960s of timber framing with corrugated metal. Various minor refurbishments also improved the Plaza's appearance: in 1962 the plumbing, paving, lighting, and steps were rehabilitated in order to repair damage caused by subway vibrations and water leakage.



2000



2019

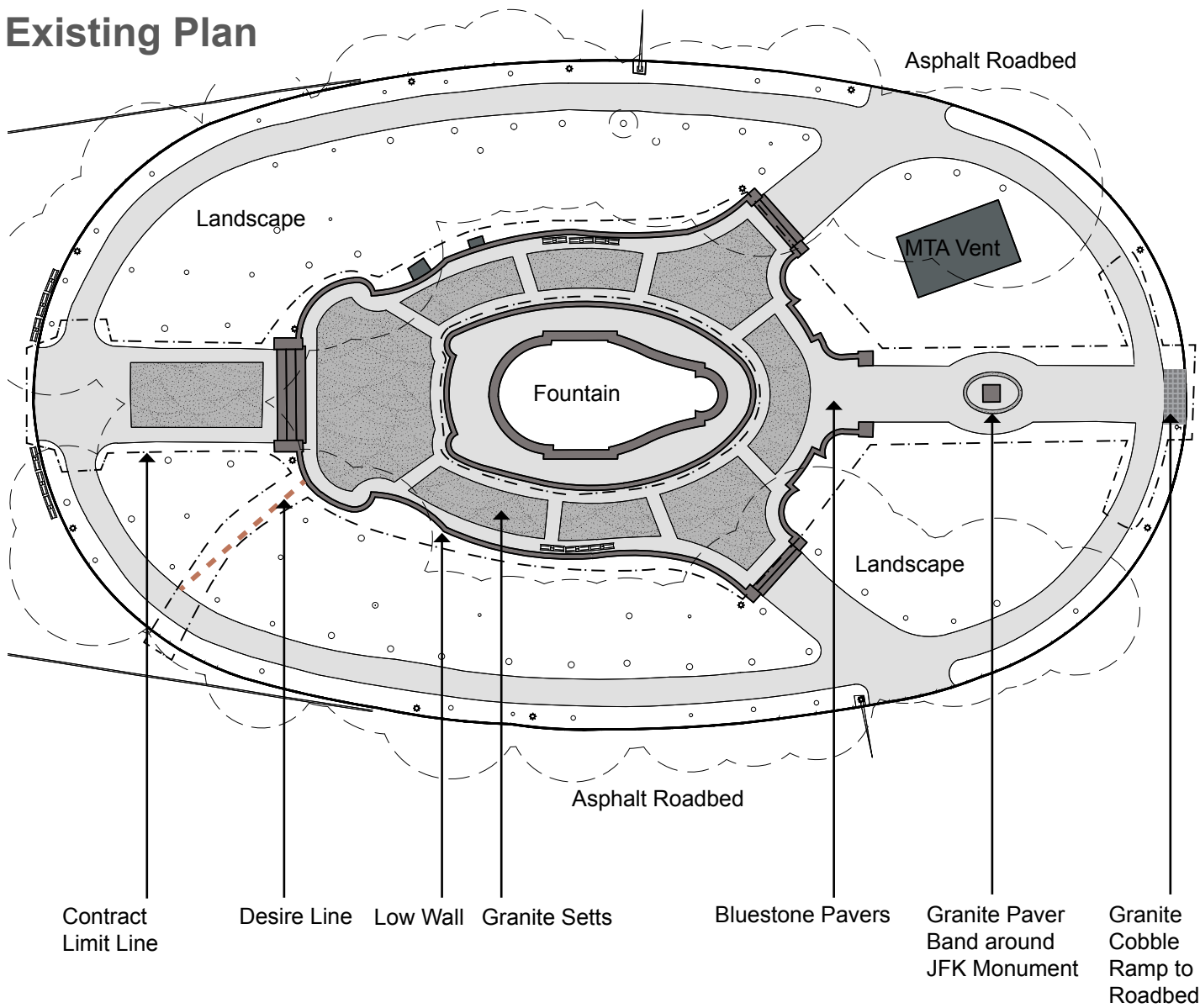
In 2001, the Prospect Park Alliance embarked on a project to reconstruct and stabilize Bailey Fountain and the surrounding Plaza area. By this time, the pavement around the fountain had become warped and sunken, the steps dislocated, and the sculpture tilted to one side as a result of subway vibrations. The fountain was removed, restored, and reinstalled with a sounder foundation, new pumps, and new plumbing, and the surrounding pavement and landscape were refurbished. Bluestone paving was added around the JFK Memorial.

From 2002

Landmarks Preservation Commission Advisory Report:

“The Commission finds that the removal of concrete pavers will not remove significant historic fabric; that the new granite and bluestone pavers will enhance the landscape and sculpture; and that the new granite and bluestone pavers will protect the surrounding area from further damage due to water infiltration;...”

Existing Plan



Proposed Plan

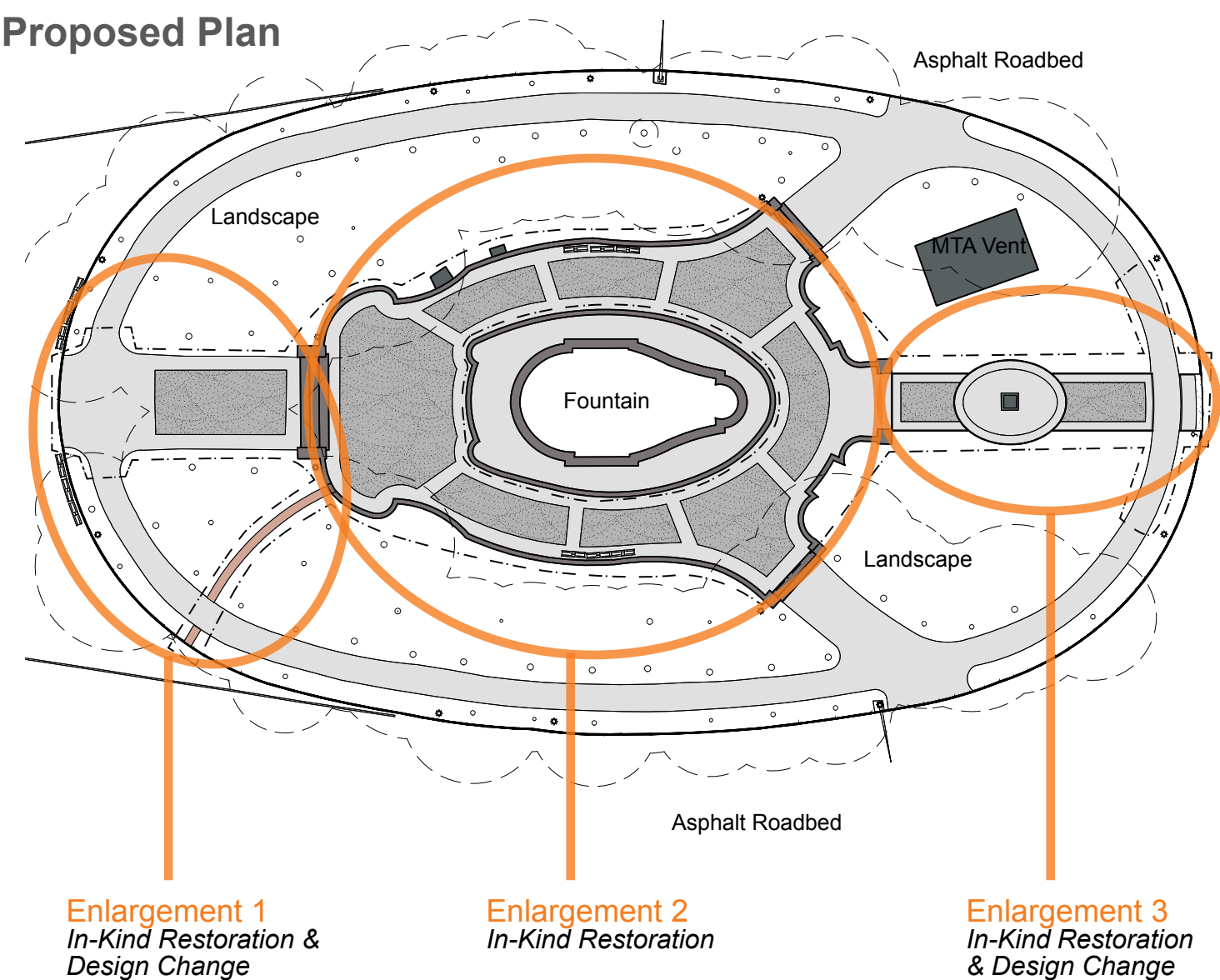




PHOTO 1

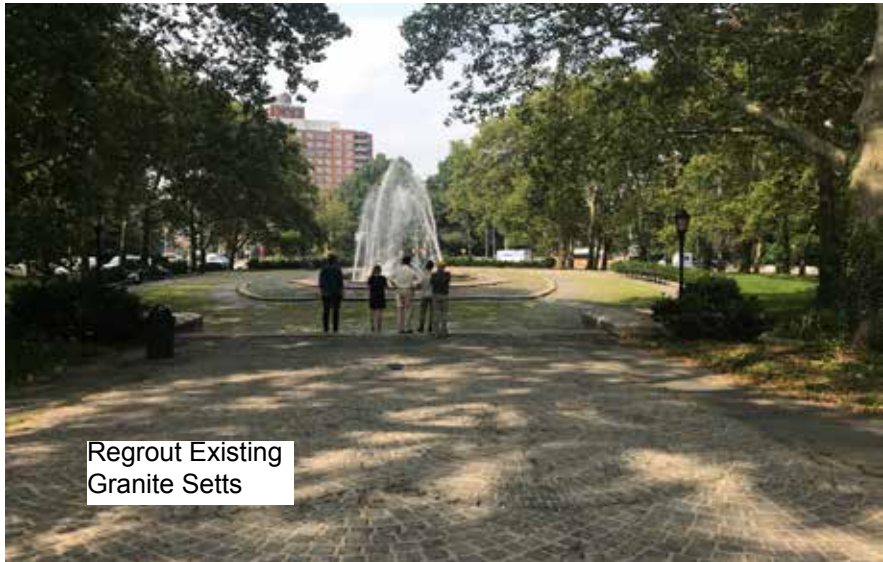


PHOTO 2

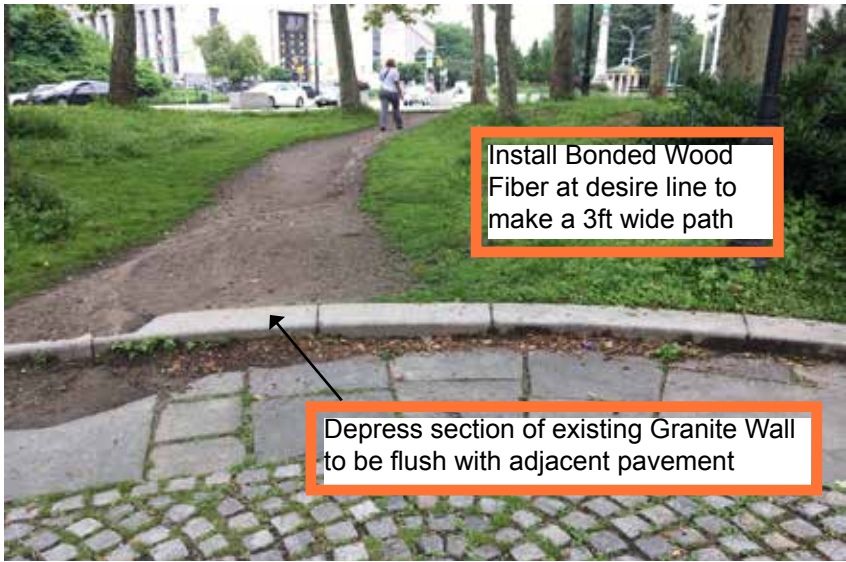
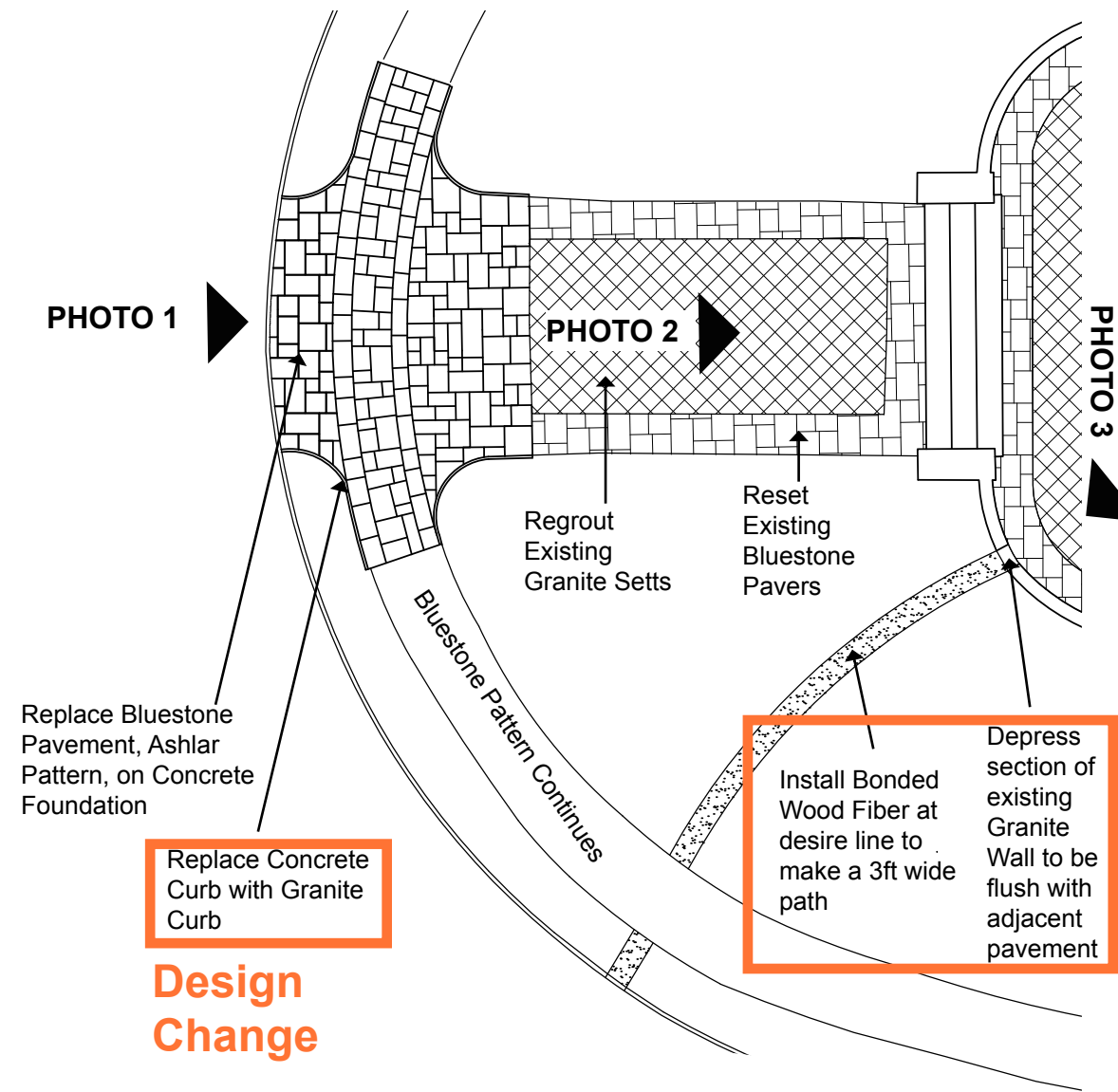


PHOTO 3

Existing & Proposed Plan

In-Kind Restoration & **Design Change**



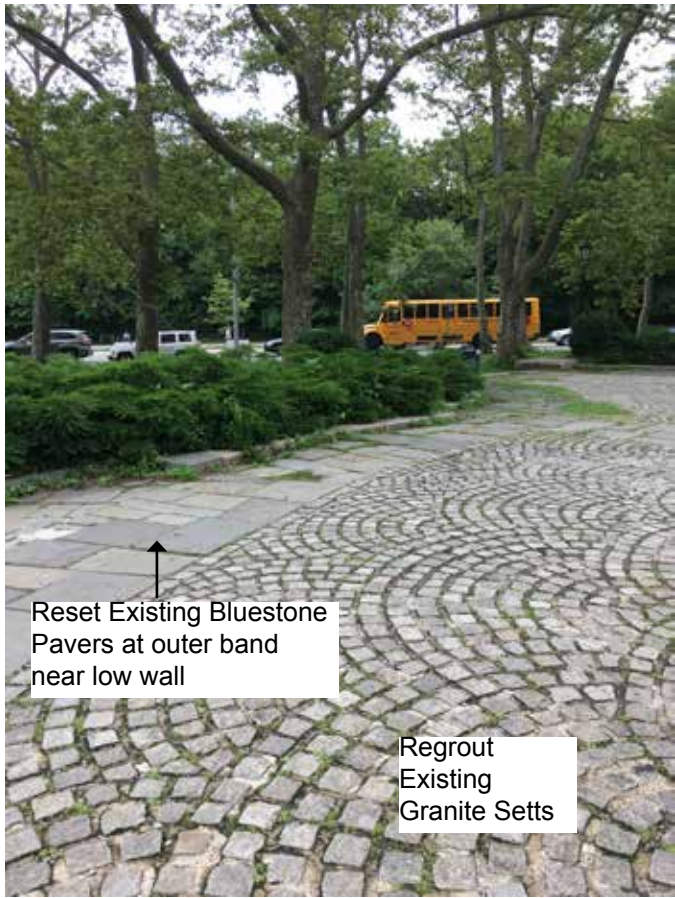


PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2

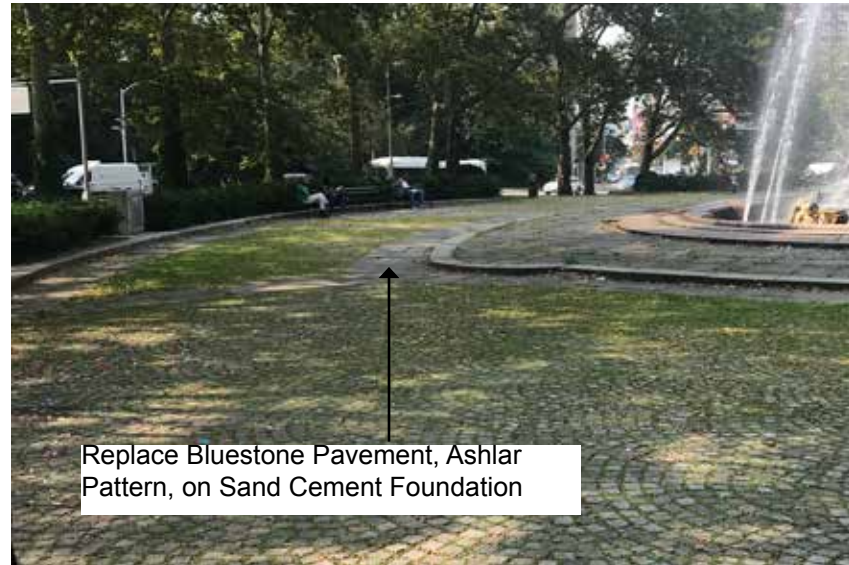
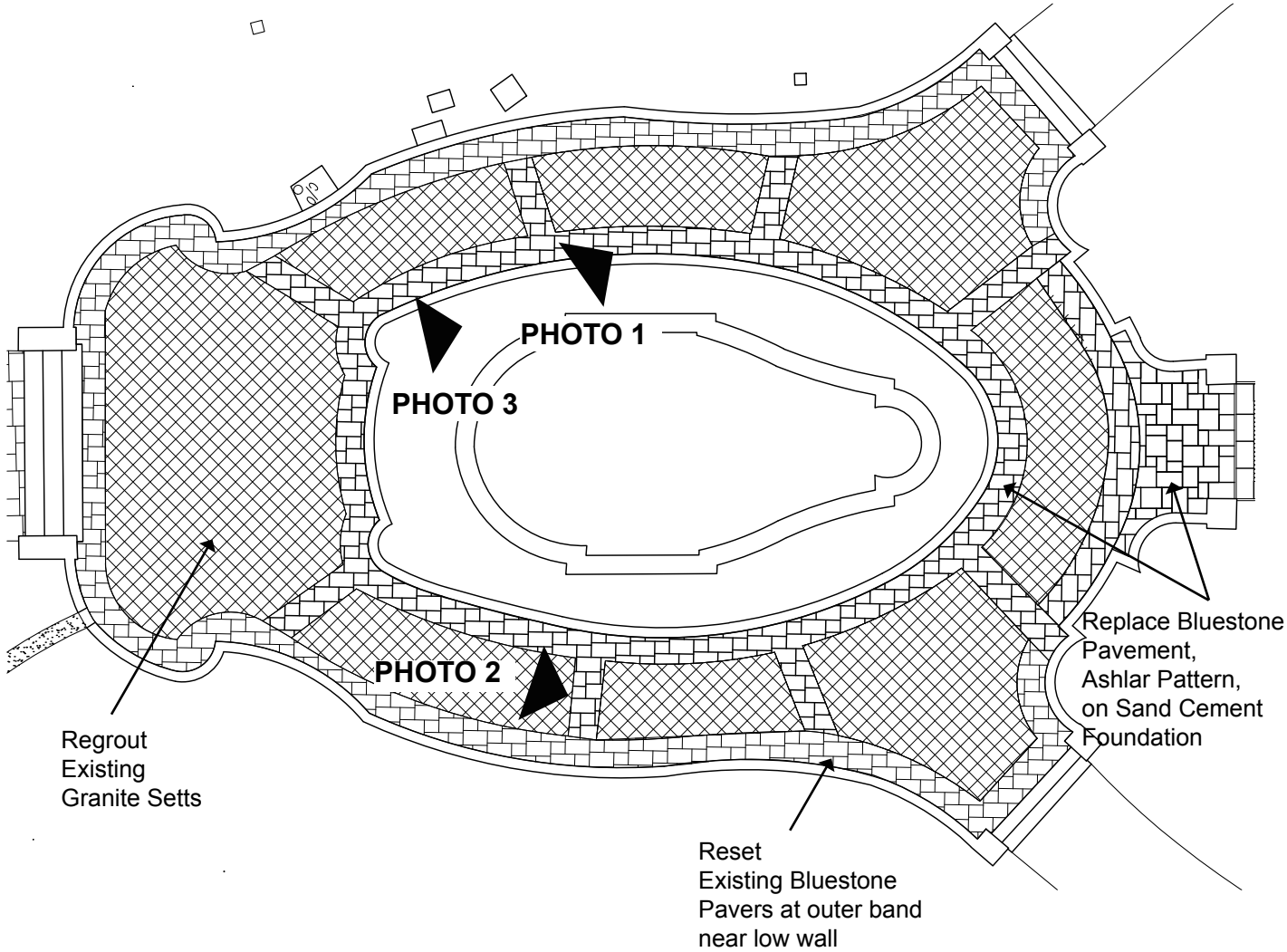


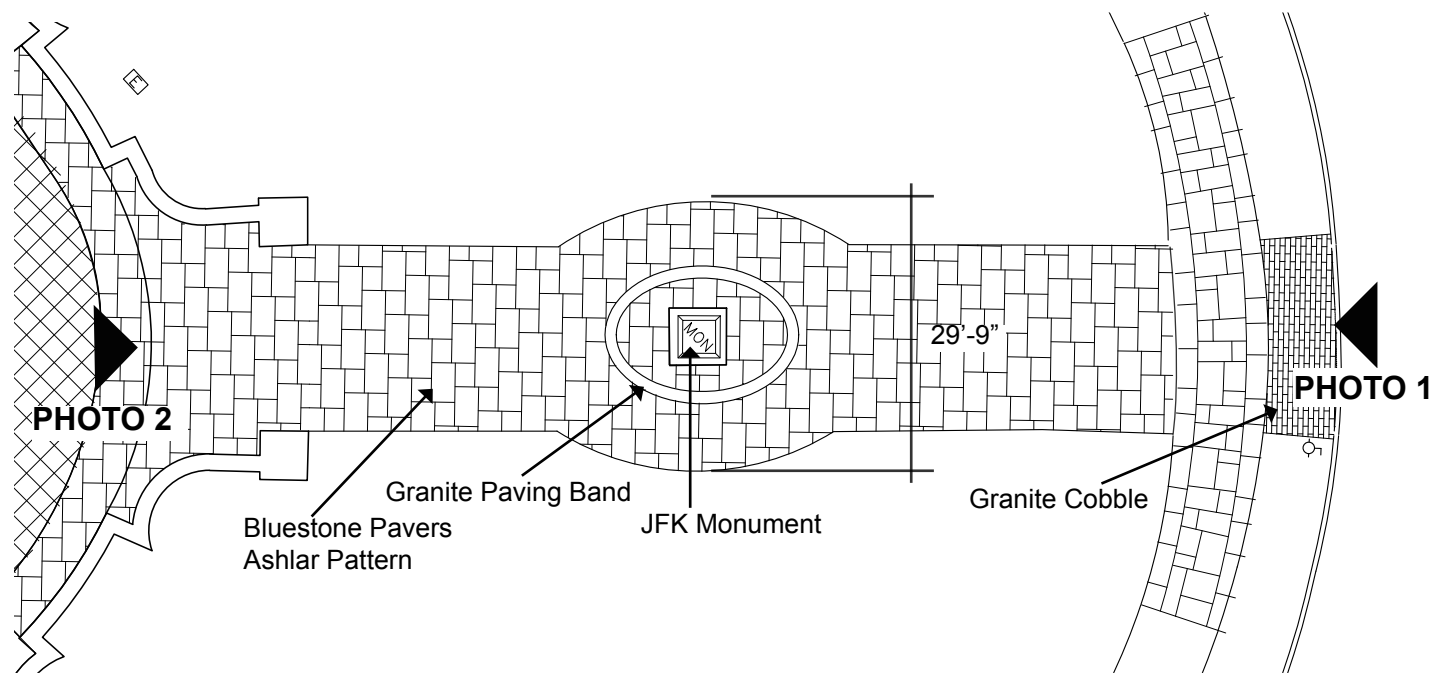
PHOTO 3

Existing & Proposed Plan

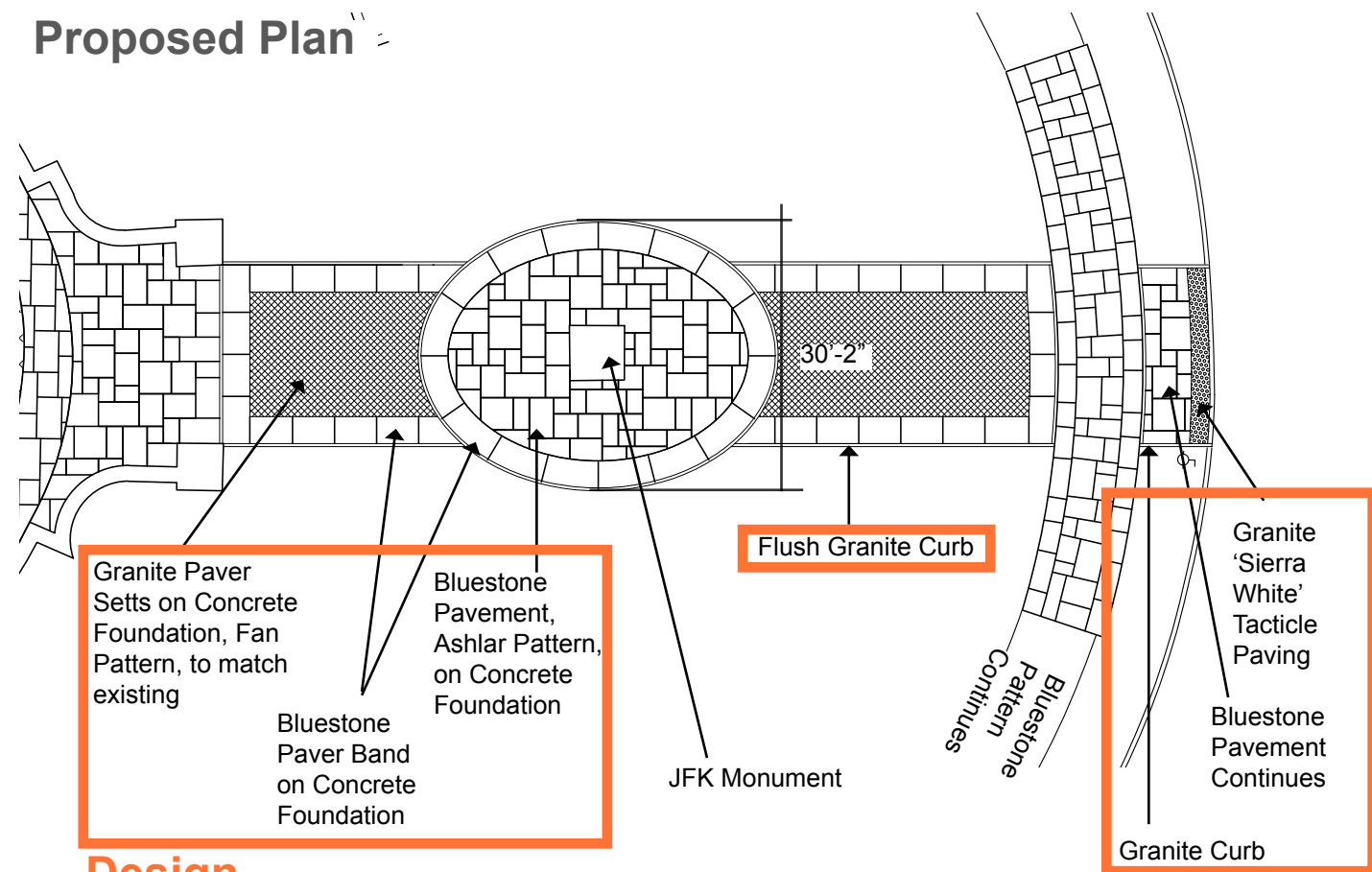
In-Kind Restoration **No Design Change**



Existing Plan



Proposed Plan



Design Change



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2

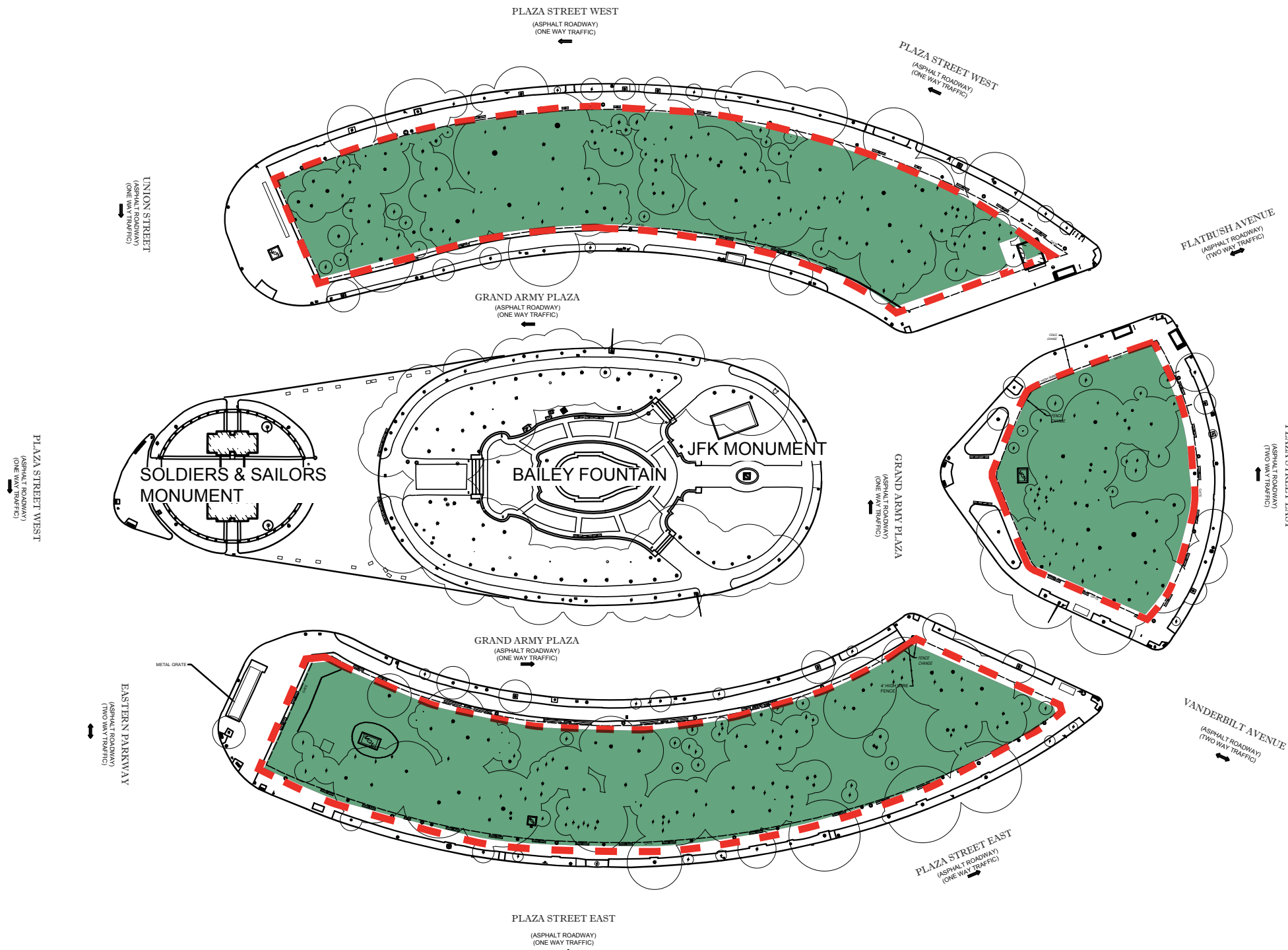
Legend

 4 Ft Ht Chain Link
to be replaced by 2.5 Ft Ht
Steel Fence

 Invasive plants
on Berms

**To Remove
(Poor Condition):**
35 Trees
13 Stumps

To Install:
194 Trees
tbd Shrubs





Missing or broken chain link fence, vegetation in need of pruning, invasive plant removal, restoration of woodland



2'-6" Ht Steel Fence to replace Chain Link Fence



Bluestone Pavers, ashlar pattern, on concrete



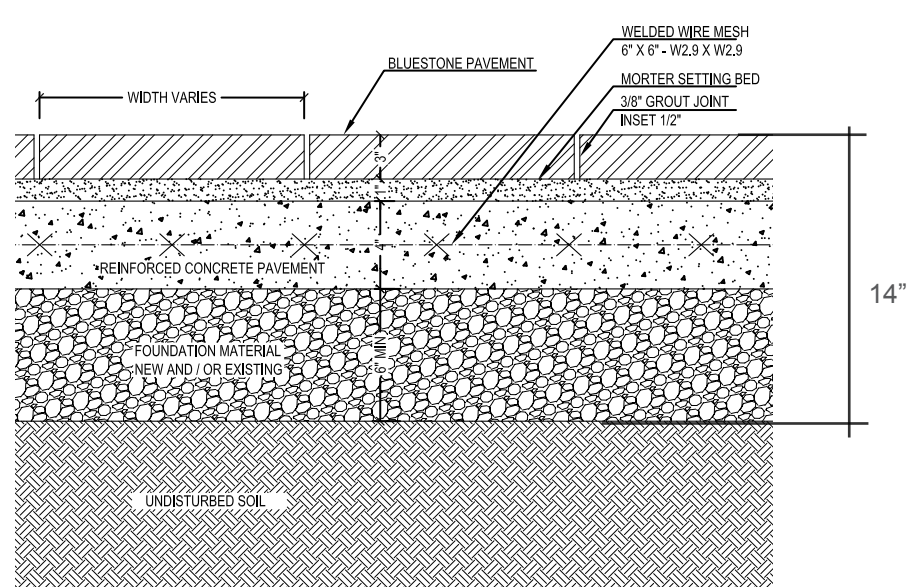
Granite Sett, fan pattern, sawn and sanded finish, on concrete



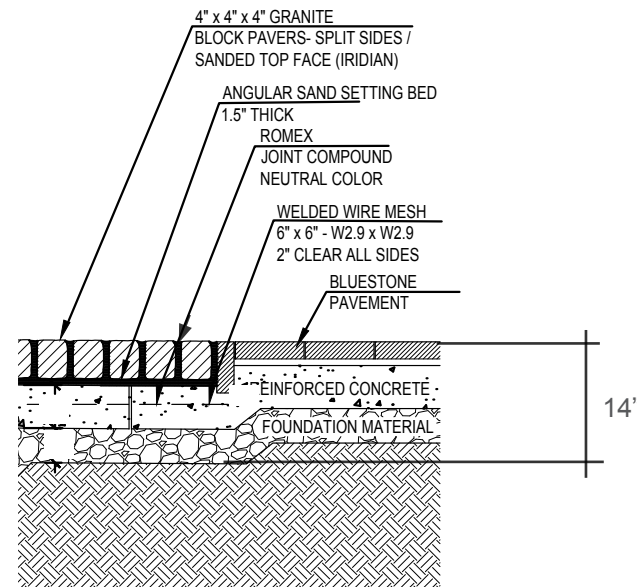
Detectable Warning Strip, 'Sierra White' Granite



Bonded Wood Fiber w/ Steel Edging

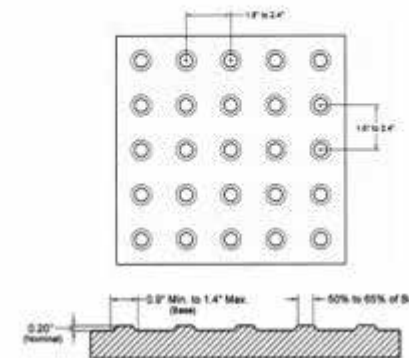


New Bluestone Pavers on Concrete

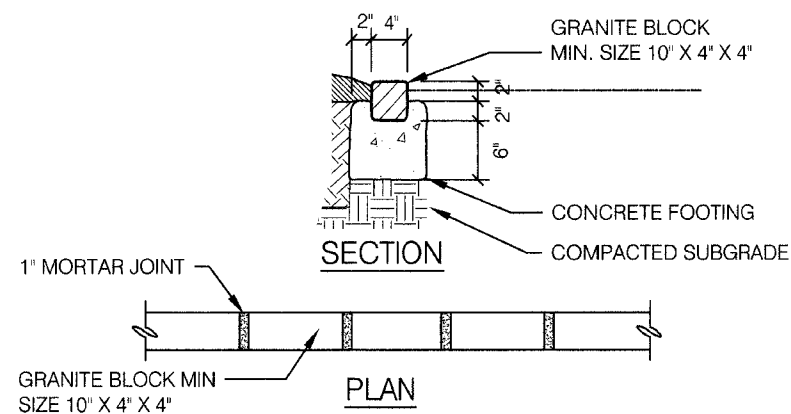


New Granite Sett Pavers on Concrete

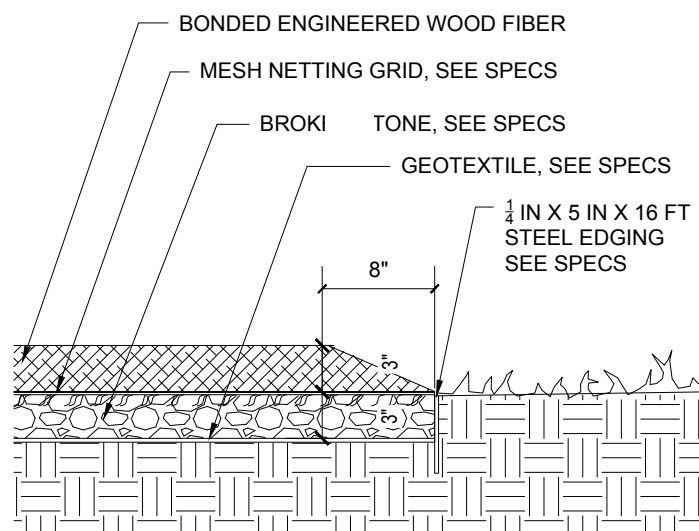
- Detectable warning surfaces shall contrast visually with adjacent walking surfaces either light-on-dark or dark-on light.



Detectable Warning Strip, 'Sierra White' Granite



Granite Block Curb



Bonded Wood Fiber w/ Steel Edging