

The current proposal is:

Preservation Department – Item 3, LPC-25-12960

St. Mark's Playground – Crown Heights North III Historic District Borough of Brooklyn

To testify virtually, please join Zoom

Webinar ID: 160 754 1478

Passcode: 641898

By Phone: 646-828-7666 (NY)

833-435-1820 (Toll-free)

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St. Mark's Playground Community Parks Initiative

Located on St. Mark's Avenue between Kingston and Albany Avenues in the Borough of Brooklyn.

Landmarks Preservation Commission August 5, 2025

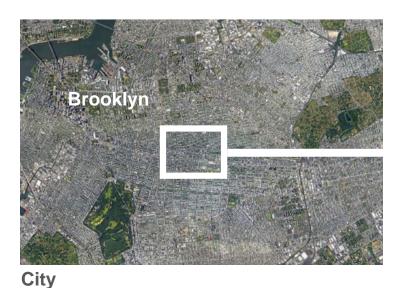
Total Budget: \$2.83m

Mayor, Eric Adams - \$ 2.83m

Project Size: 0.263 ac

Project Goals:

- Increase amenities for children
- Create a design complementary to its history
- Integrate the park into the streetscape
- Maintain and improve sight lines and safety
- Modify sidewalks to recall the historic paving





Neighborhood

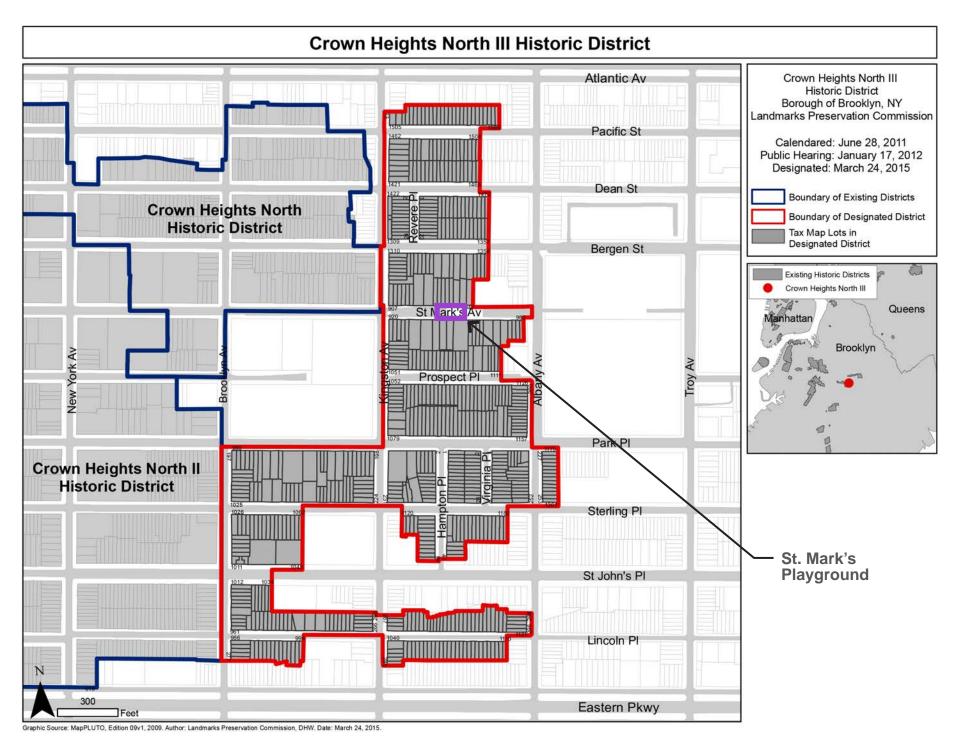
- NYC Parks is reconstructing St. Mark's Playground and adjacent sidewalks
- This Park is on NYC DOT Property
- The sidewalk treatment adjacent to the playground will set a precedent for how the sidewalk should be treated on the rest of the block.

St. Mark's Playground Project Boundary --Managed by NYC Parks



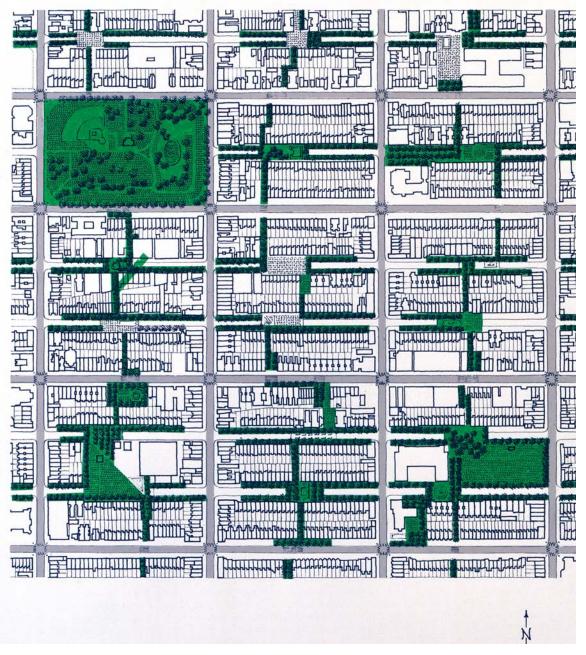
-St. Mark's Avenue ----







St. Mark's Playground | LPC Historic District



- Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp (BSRC)
 - Formed during the 1960s as the country's first federally funded community development corporation
- Architect I.M. Pei created a master plan for the neighborhood including the Superblock concept
- Landscape Architect, M. Paul Friedberg designed St. Mark's Playground (1969)
- NYC Parks Fully Reconstructed the Park in 2002

Legend



Green colored areas indicate the types of interventions.

Green does not necessarily indicate areas of vegetation

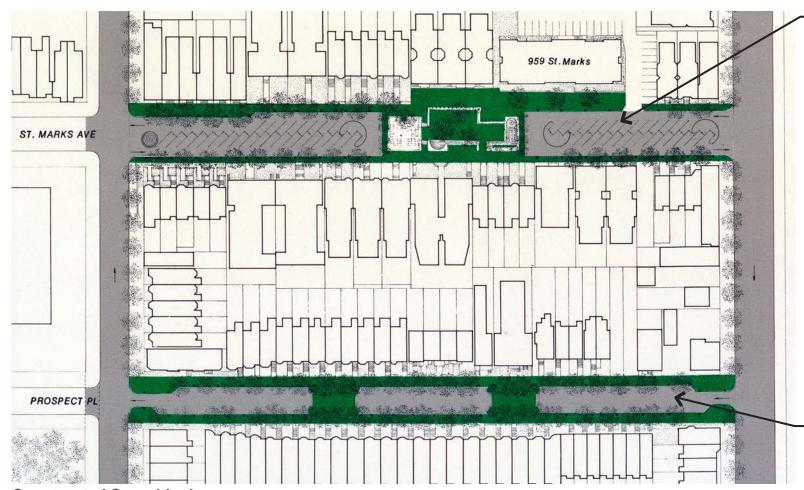


Courtesy of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners. Not for publication without prior authorization





St. Mark's Playground | History - 1960's Conceptual Neighborhood Redevelopment



Constructed Superblocks

Courtesy of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners. Not for publication without prior authorization

This is an early conceptual/schematic representation of the two superblocks

St. Mark's Avenue:

Playground in the center. Street dead-ends on either side of the park. Parking in the center. Distinctive brick pavement for sidewalk.

Prospect Place:

Designed as a street for vehicles. Curb Extensions and wide speed bumps, bollards, raised planters

Legend



Green colored areas indicate the types of interventions.

Green does not necessarily indicate areas of vegetation

St. Mark's Superblock -Includes Mid-Block Park



-Bird's Eye of park circa 1970s
Photo courtesy of Gil Amiaga - Not for publication without prior authorization



-Streetscape circa 1970s

Prospect Place Superblock



-Mid Block traffic calming circa 1970s Photo courtesy of Gil Amiaga - Not for publication without prior authorization

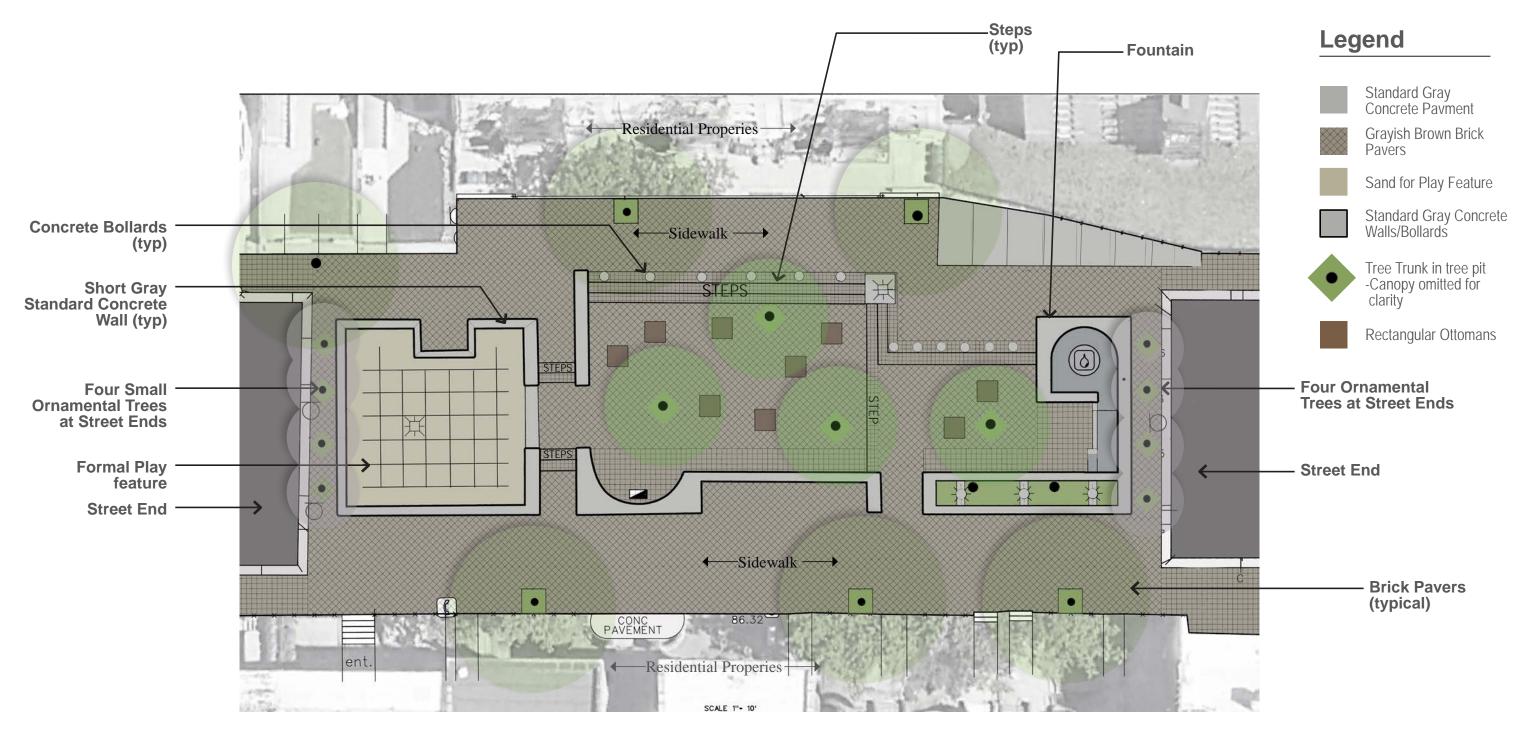


-Streetscape circa 1970s Photo courtesy of Gil Amiaga - Not for publication without prior authorization



Community Parks Initiative

St. Mark's Playground | History - 1960's Superblock Plans







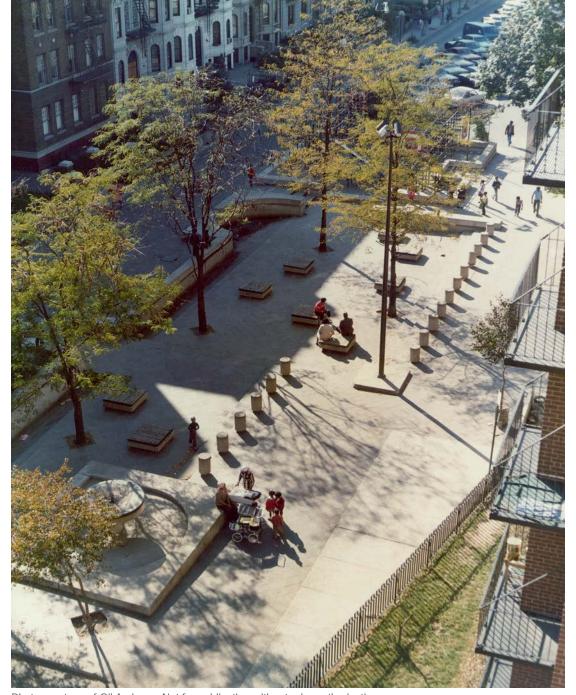


Photo courtesy of Gil Amiaga - Not for publication without prior authorization

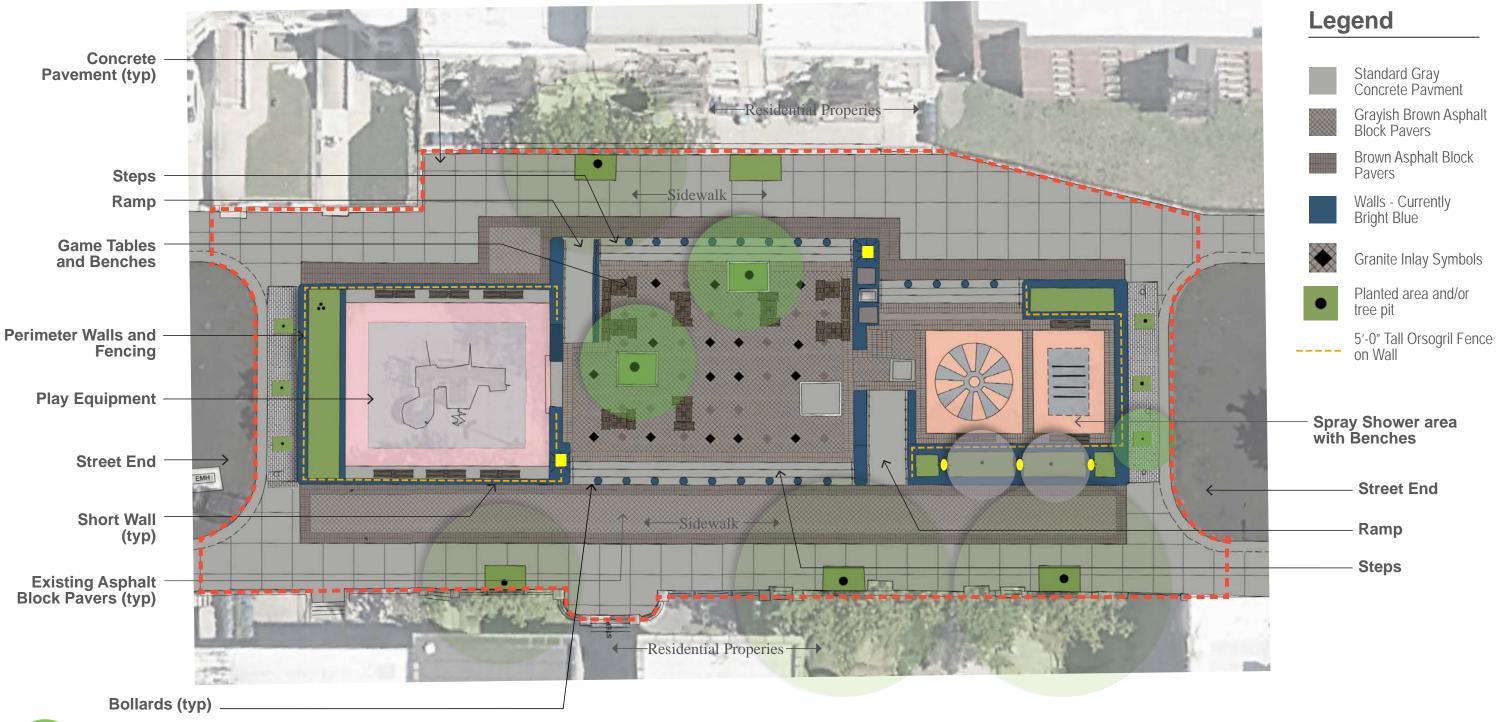


Photo courtesy of George Cserna - Not for publication without prior authorization



Photo courtesy of Gil Amiaga - Not for publication without prior authorization









St. Mark's Playground | Existing Playground Condition - 2002 DPR Design

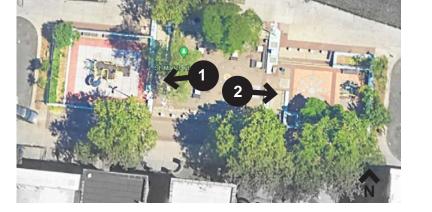






1 - Play Equipment

2 - Spray Shower Area









Community Parks Initiative

St. Mark's Playground | Existing Playground Condition - Site Photo





Community Parks Initiative

St. Mark's Playground | Existing Playground Condition - Site Photo



Gray Tinted Concrete



Gray Tinted Concrete





All 4 corners on St.
Mark's Avenue have
been reconstructed with
tinted 'Landmarks Gray'
concrete pavement with
sawn joints



Gray Tinted Concrete



NYC Parks

St. Mark's Playground | Existing Sidewalk Condition - Corners



Original Brick Pavers Original Brick Pavers



Original Brick Pavers





NYC Parks

Original Brick Pavers



Original Brick Pavers

Original Brick Pavers



St. Mark's Playground | Existing Sidewalk Condition - Sections of block with remaining 1969 Brick Pavers



Natural Gray Concrete Pavement



Natural Gray Concrete Pavement



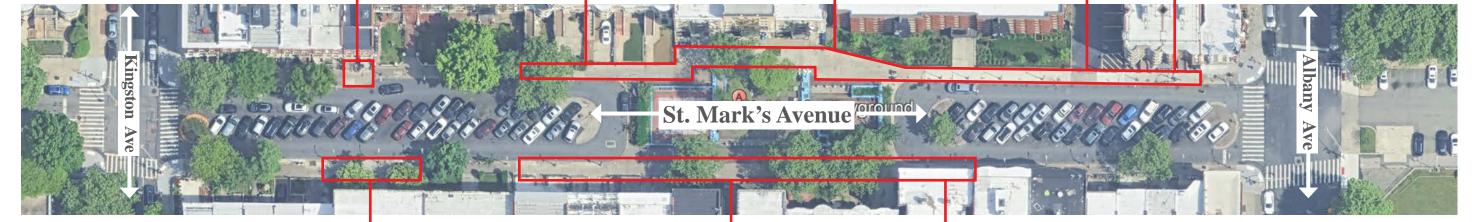
Natural Gray Concrete Pavement



Natural Gray or White Concrete Pavement



Natural Gray Concrete Pavement





Natural Gray & White Concrete Pavement



Natural Gray Concrete Pavement



Natural Gray Concrete Pavement

Definitions:

Natural Gray Concrete Pavement

- Un-tinted concrete Pavement that appears gray in color

White Concrete Pavement:

 Un-tinted concrete pavement that appears more white in color



Community Parks Initiative

St. Mark's Playground | Existing Sidewalk Condition - Sections w/ Natural Gray or "White" Concrete Pavement



1 - St. Marks - Original, Uneven, Cracked, Broken, Existing Pavers on St. Mark's (2025)



2 - St. Mark's - Original, Uneven, Cracked, Broken, Existing Pavers on St. Mark's (2025)



3 - St. Mark's - Original Patched Pavers abutting Redone, Natural Gray Concrete



1 - Prospect Place - Example of Uneven and Damaged Brick Pavers



2 - Prospect Place - Example of Uneven and Damaged Brick Pavers

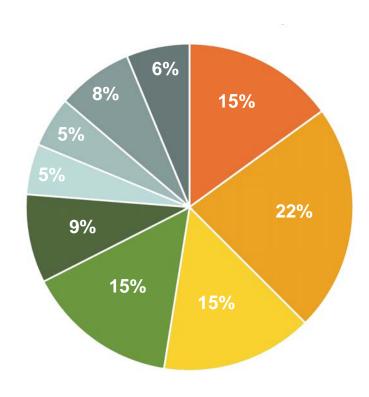


1 - St. Mark's - Example of Existing Concrete Sidewalk



2 - St. Mark's - Example of Existing Concrete Sidewalk

Community Priorities



Vehicular Conflicts

Vehicles drive on the sidewalk Emergency Vehicles ROW Delivery Trucks Scooter Parking in planting beds

Children's Playground

Expand playground
Park should be mainly for children
Play for all age groups
Water Play

Noise/Nighttime Activity

Adults use the park at night Alcohol and Parties Noise is an issue

Green Space

More Trees and plantings Shade

History, Culture & Community

Space used by whole community Reference the original design Design influence culture Park should refelct street culture

Other

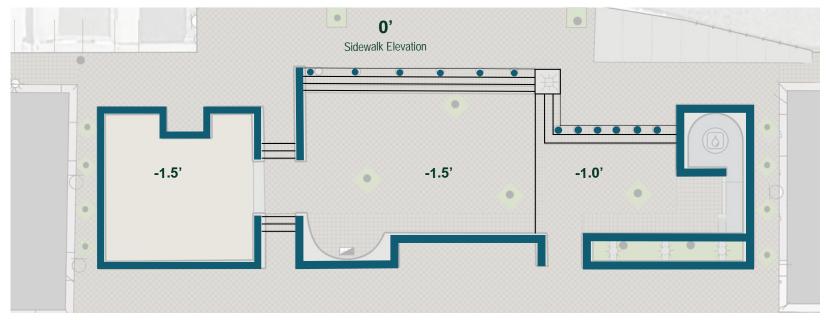
Security Lighting
Adult/Family Activities
Fencing areas for children
Signage
Universal Access
Seating with Backs



Note the 'push and pull' within the park and along the sidewalks. This creates 'moments' along the interior and exterior of the park.

Shifting ground planes, steps, and perimeter walls are included in the design.

Opportunity to combine updated requirements and community needs with these original design concepts in the proposed plan

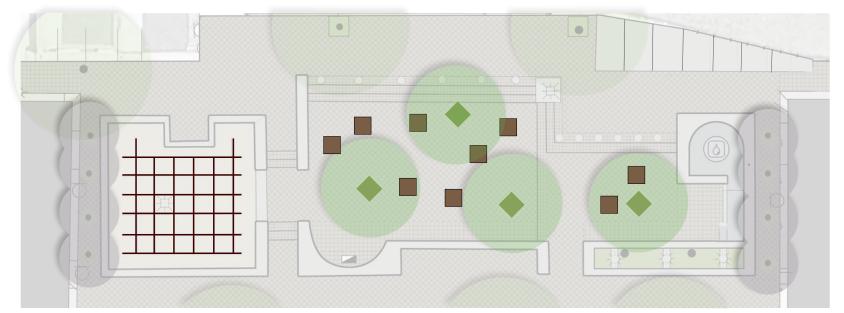


1969 Friedberg Plan - Forms and Planes Analysis

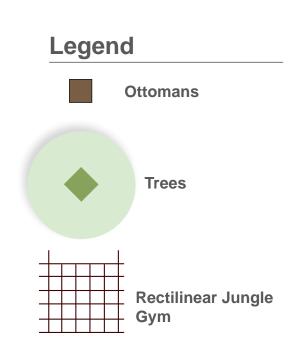
Note the 'random' arrangement of the trees and ottomans in the Friedberg design.

The formal play feature is orthogonal

Opportunity to incorporate this into the proposed design



1969 Friedberg Plan - Site Furnishing Arrangement



Legend

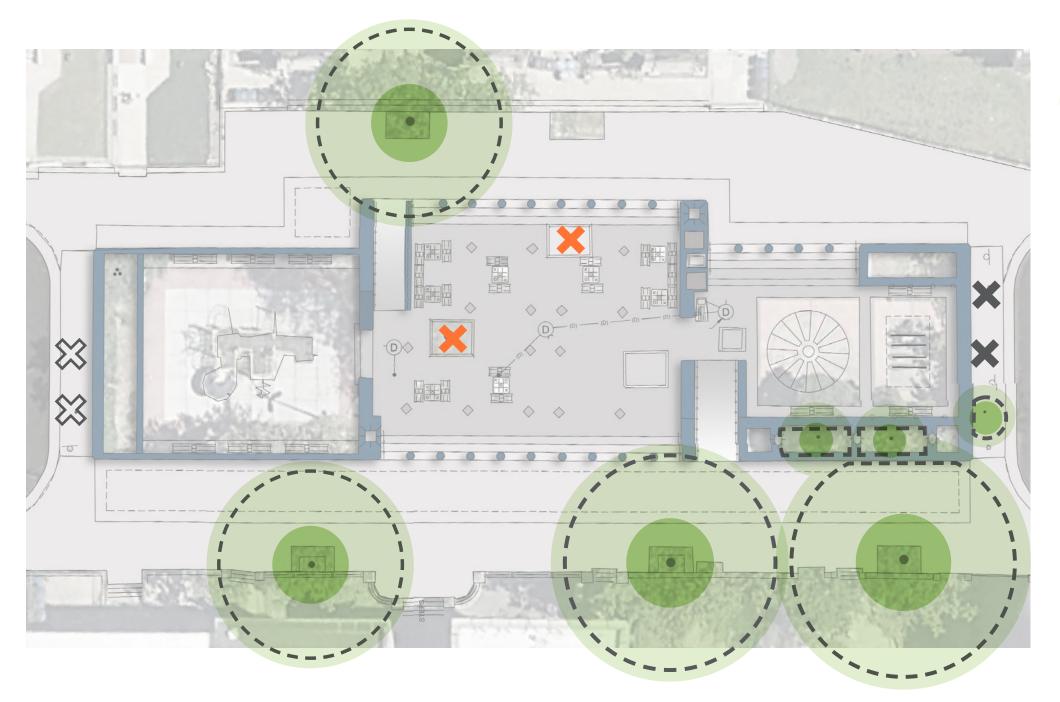
Walls

Steps

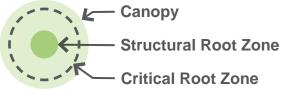
Bollards



N









Stump Removal



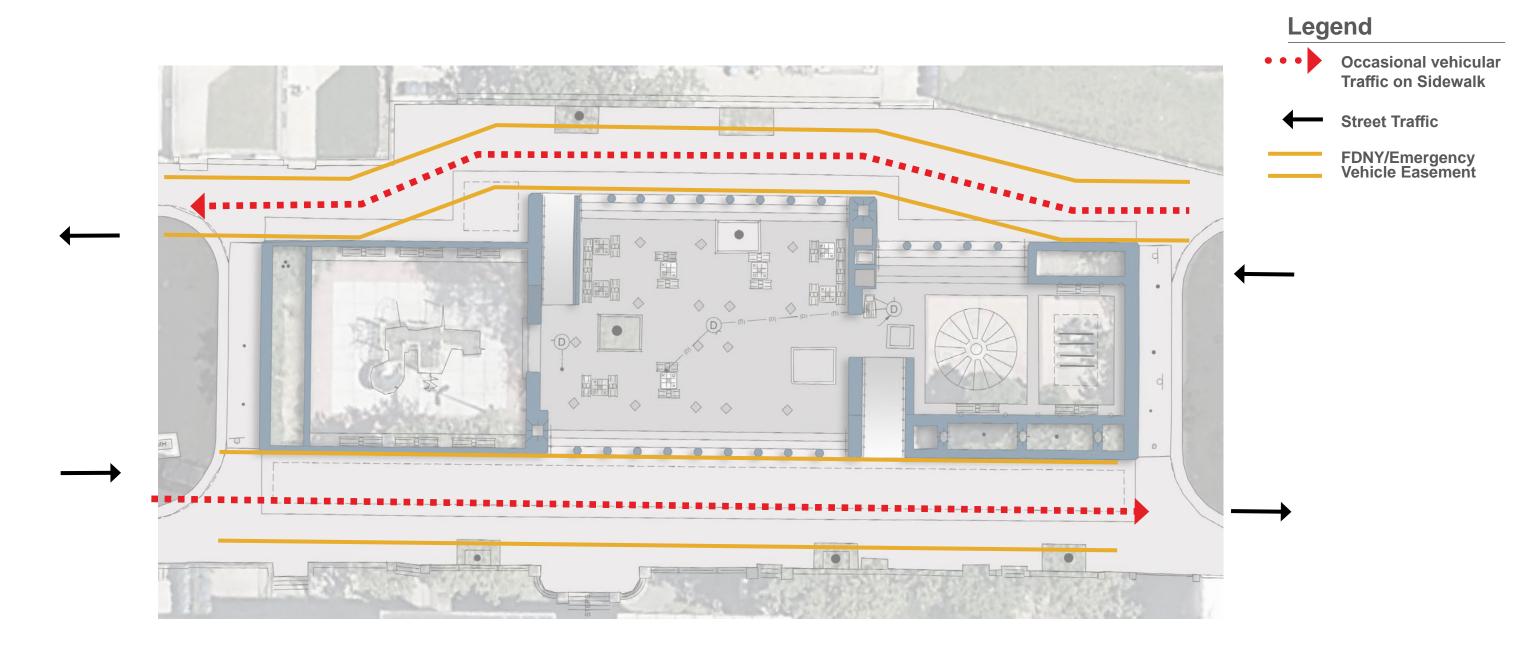
Tree Removal due to poor condition



Tree Removal due to design considerations

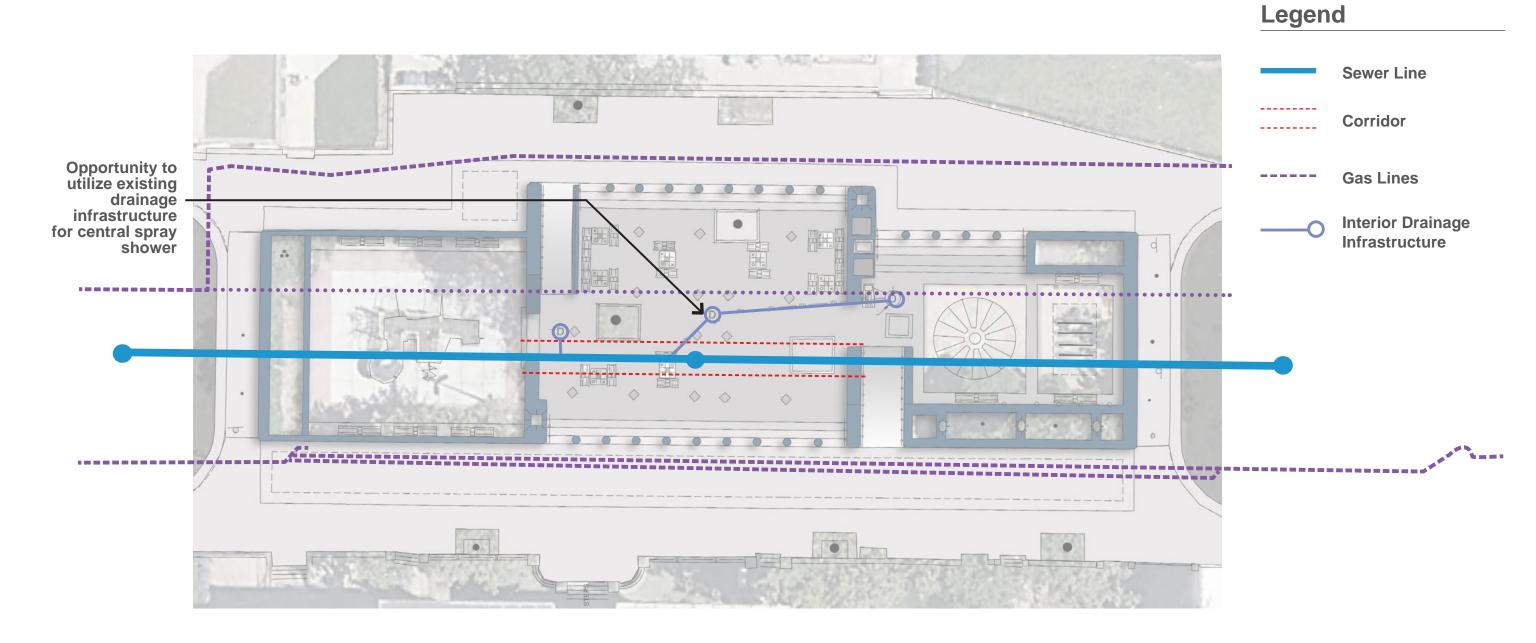






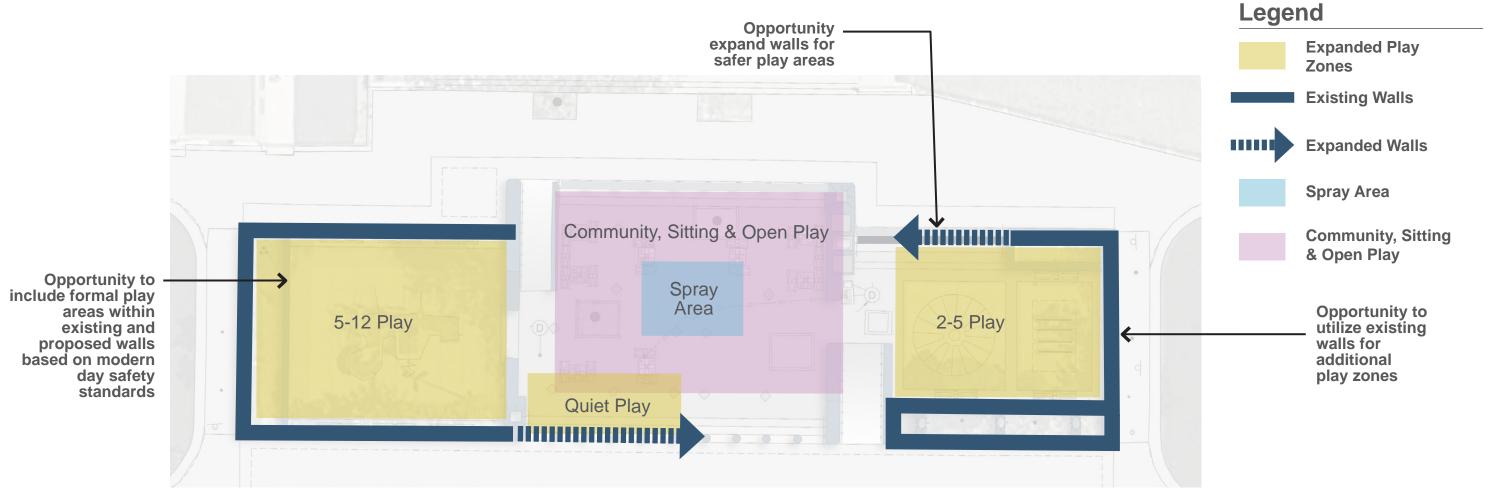


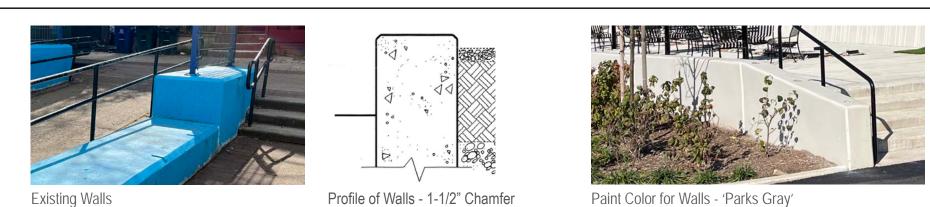




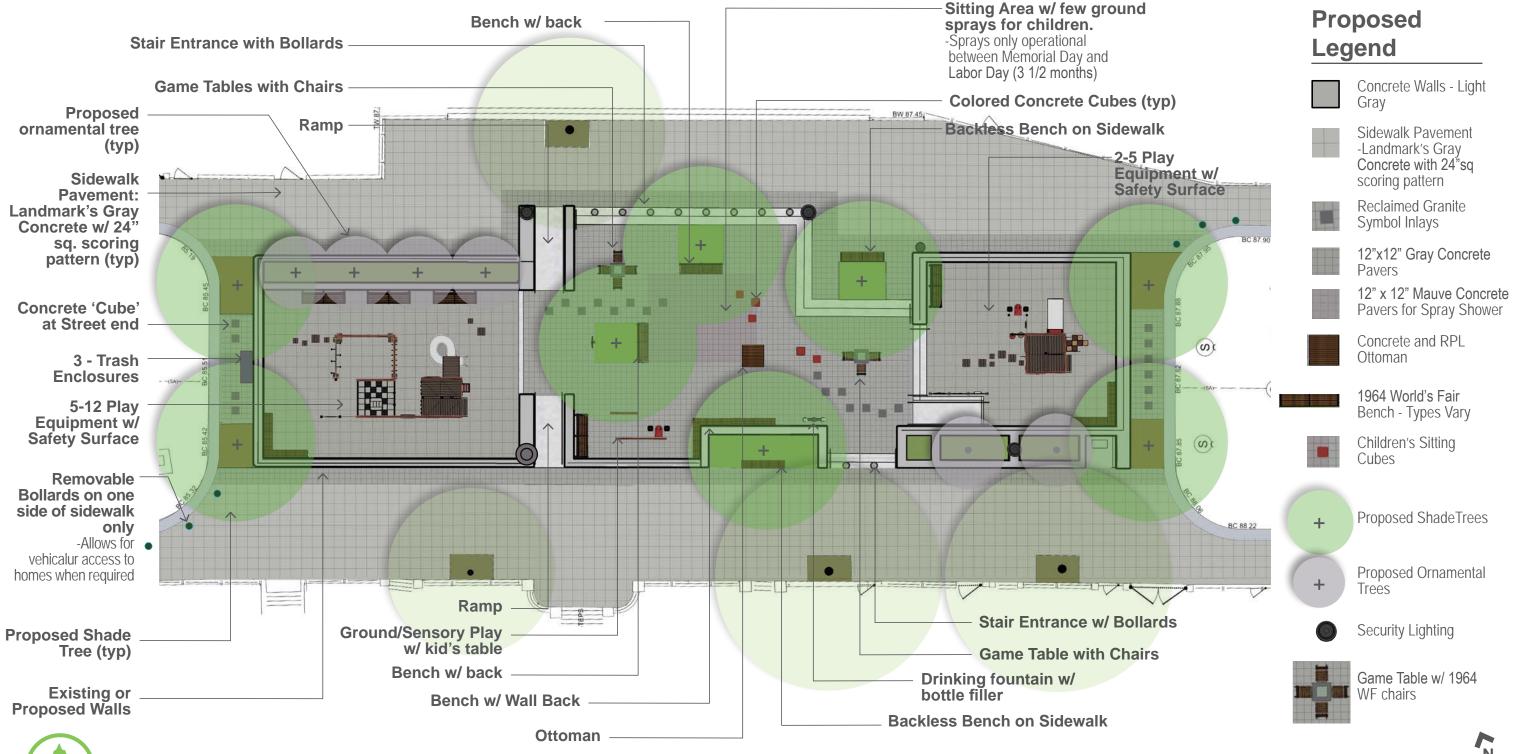














NYC Parks

St. Mark's Playground | Schematic Design



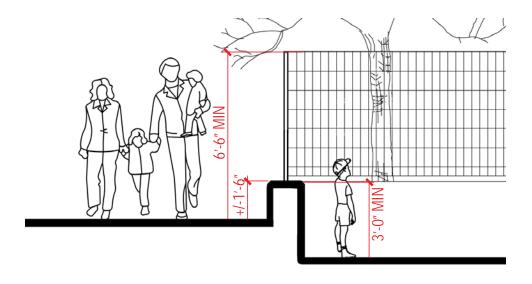
Legend

EXISTING 5'-0"
ORSOGRIL FENCE ON
WALLS

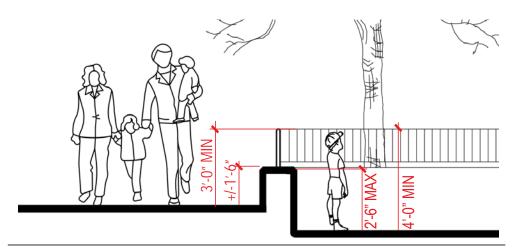
EXISTING HANDRAILS



Existing Orsogril Fence on Wall



Elevation Change - Before



Elevation Change - After



1 - Northern Sidewalk

APPROXIMATE HEIGHT OF PROPOSED FENCE





Legend

1'-6" STEEL PICKET
FENCE ON 1'-6" WALL

2'-0" STEEL PICKET FENCE ON 1'-0" WALL

HANDRAIL



Proposed Steel Picket Fence on Wall

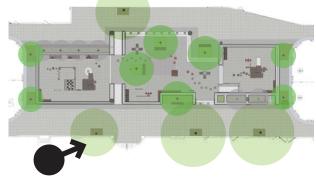


Similar Steel Picket Fence



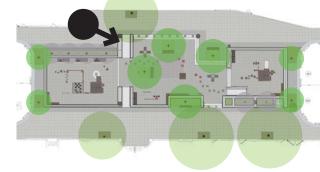


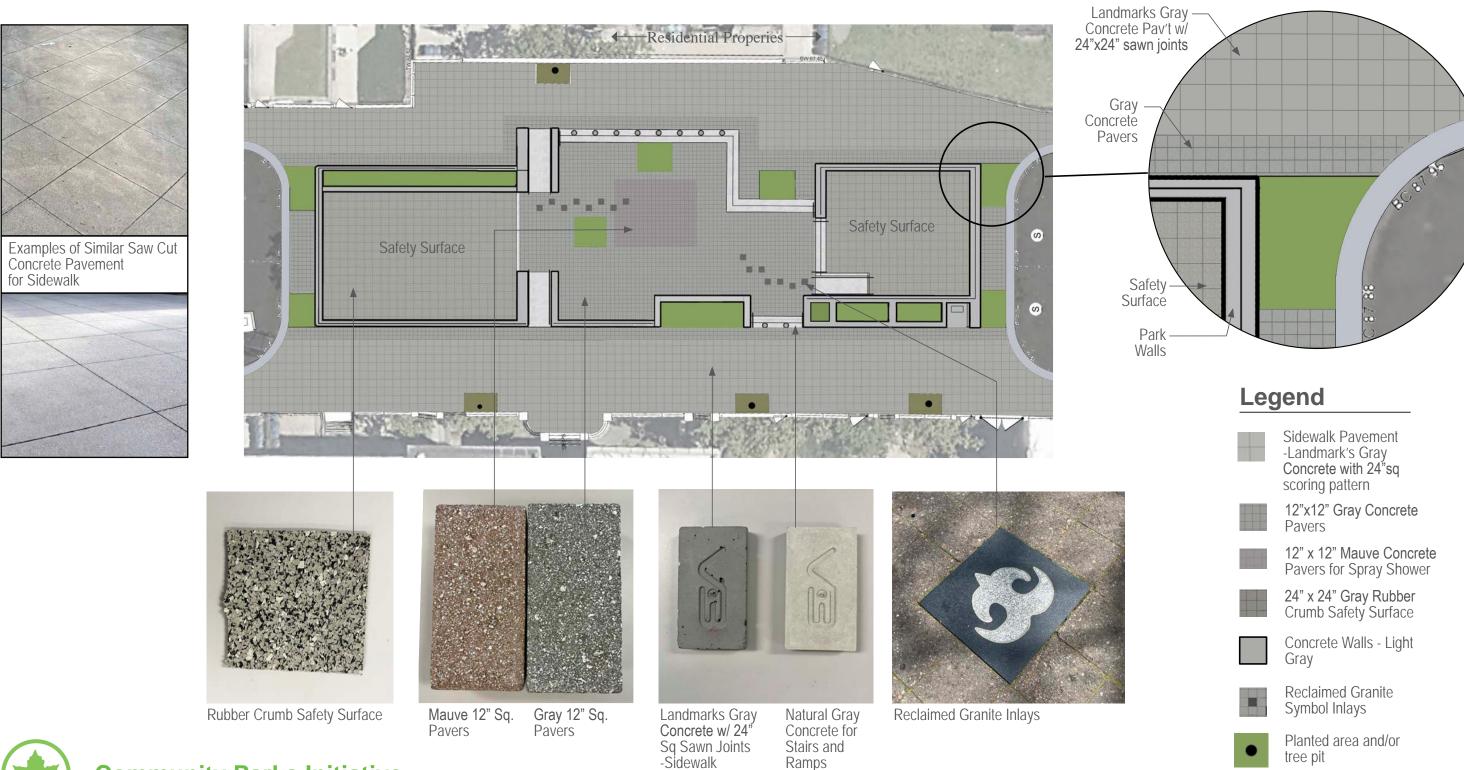






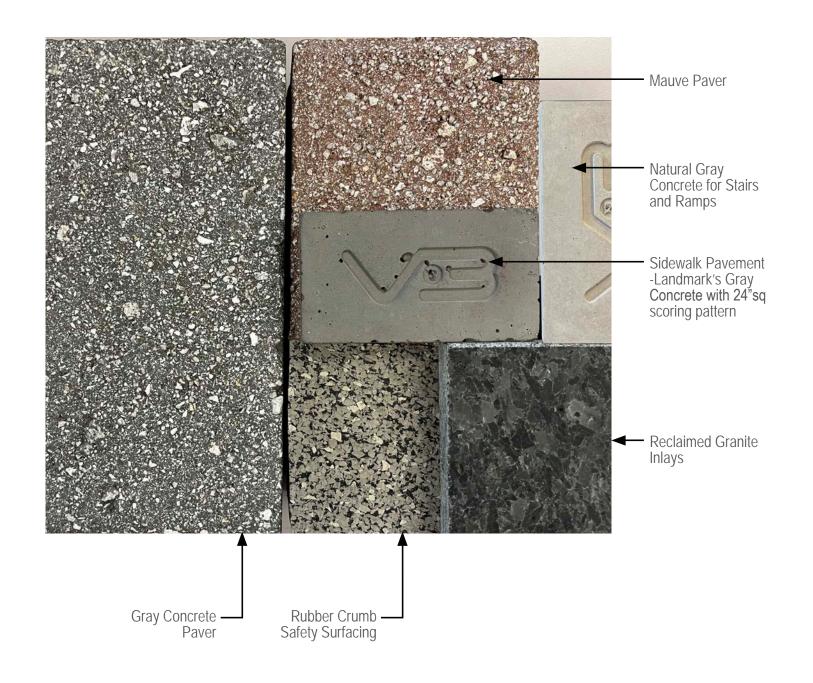


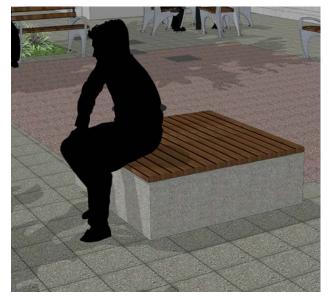






Community Parks Initiative St. Mark's Playground | Pavement Materials





4'-0" SQ Concrete and RPL Ottoman

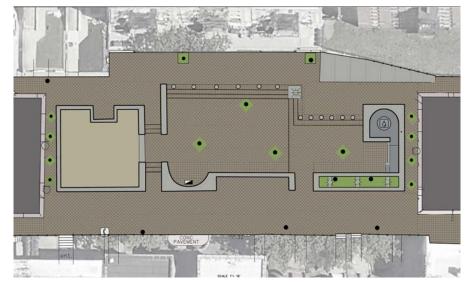


Bollards - Painted same color as Walls

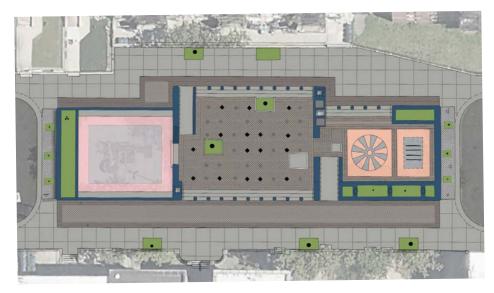


Paint Color for Walls - 'Parks Gray'

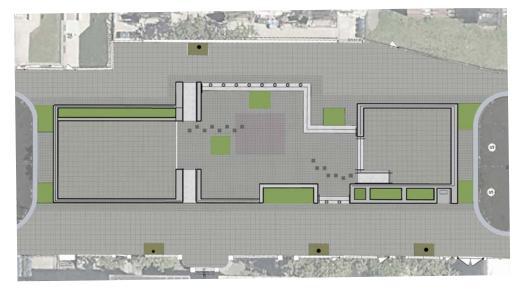




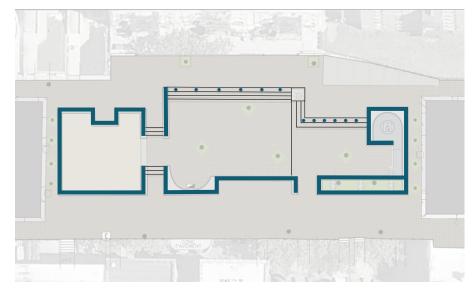
1 - 1969 Friedberg Design - Forms/Pavement



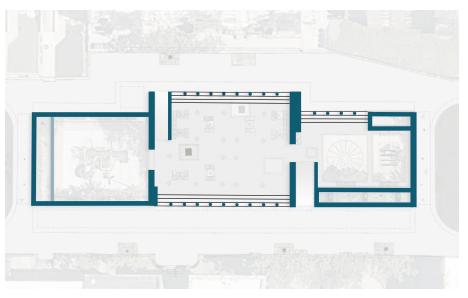
2 - 2002/Existing Condition Playground Forms/ Pavement



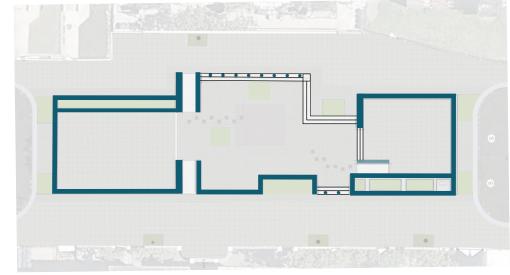
3 - Proposed Playground - Forms/Pavement



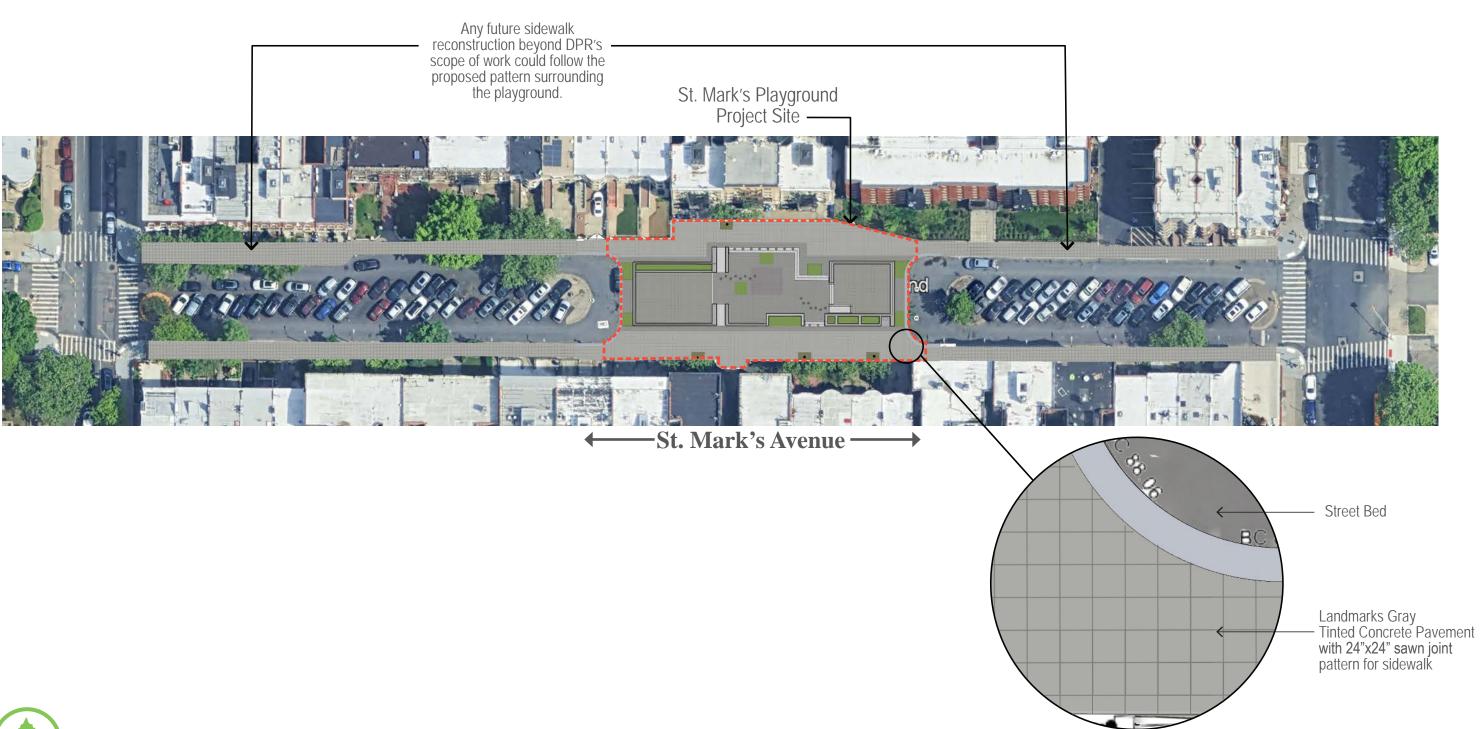
1 - 1969 Friedberg Design - Forms



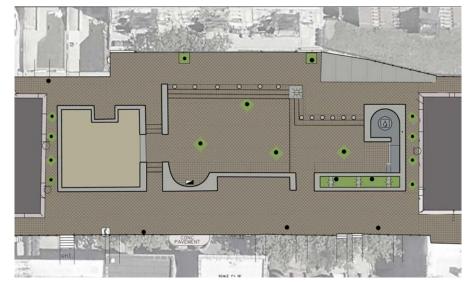
2 - 2002/Existing Condition Playground Forms



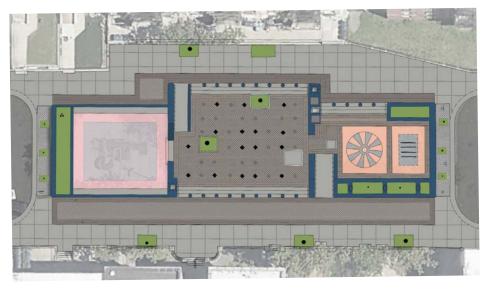
3 - Proposed Playground - Forms



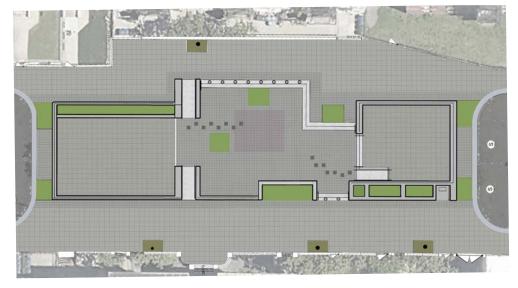




1 - 1969 Friedberg Design - Forms/Pavement



2 - 2002/Existing Condition Playground Forms/ Pavement



3 - Proposed Playground - Forms/Pavement



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APPENDIX



Public Space Trash Receptacle



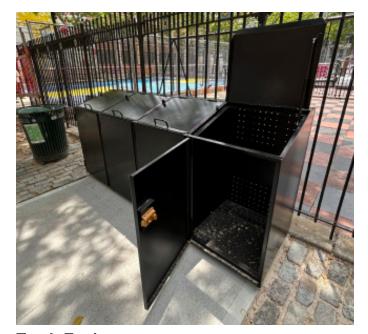
Game Tables w/ 1964 WF Chairs



Bottle Filler With Hi-Lo Drinking Fountain



4'-0" SQ Concrete and RPL Ottoman



Trash Enclosures



Concrete Bollards - Painted the Same Color as Walls



Security Light - Candela





1964 World's Fair Bench - Backless



1964 World's Fair Bench w/ Back



Removable Bollards on Sidewalk



1'-6" and 2'-0" Steel Fence on Wall



Colored Concrete Cubes
-Sim to cubes at Callahan Kelly Park



Concrete Cubes for Street Ends-Sim to cubes at Callahan Kelly Park



Reconstructed Park Interpretive signage





Reclaimed Granite West African Symbols



Sidewalk Pavement: Landmarks Gray Concrete w/ Sawn Joints - 24" Square Sawn Joint Pattern



12" sq. Concrete Paver Similar to Concrete Pavement



12" sq. Concrete Paver
-Mauve for Spray Shower



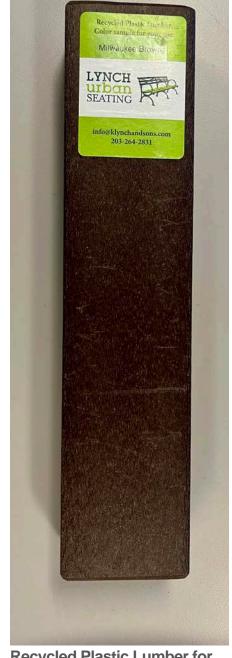
Paint Color for Walls - 'Parks Gray'



Natural Concrete for Steps, ramps, and Curbs

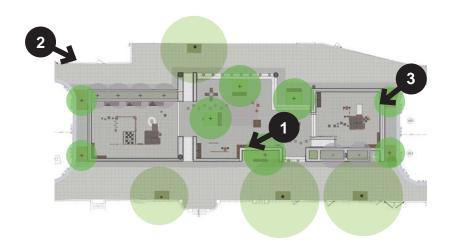


Play Equipment Colors & Safety Surfacing



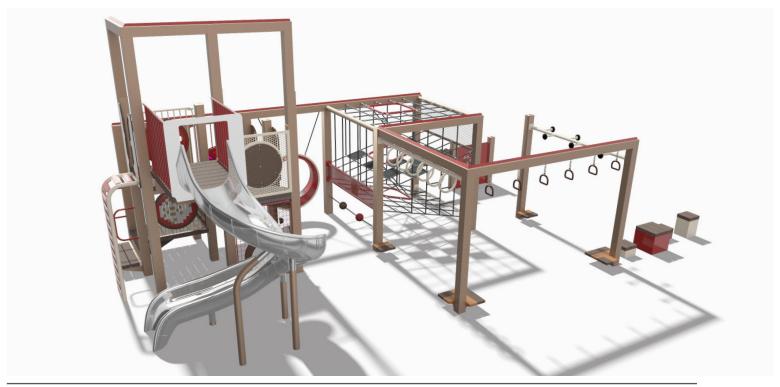
Recycled Plastic Lumber for Benches and Ottomans - Brown







1 - Sensory & Ground Play



2 - Larger Play Unit - 5-12 years old



3 - Smaller Unit - 2-5 years old



TREES







Red Oak



Star Magnolia

SHRUBS & PERENNIALS



Sarcococca



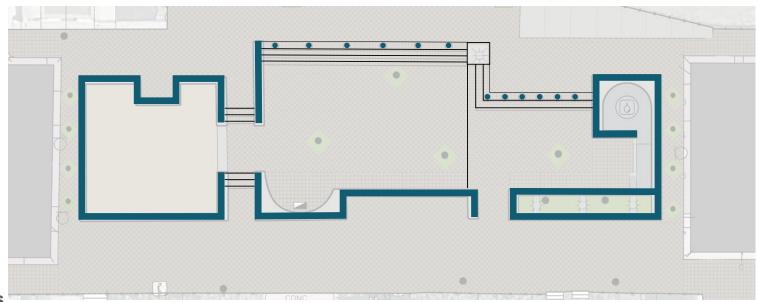
Day Lily



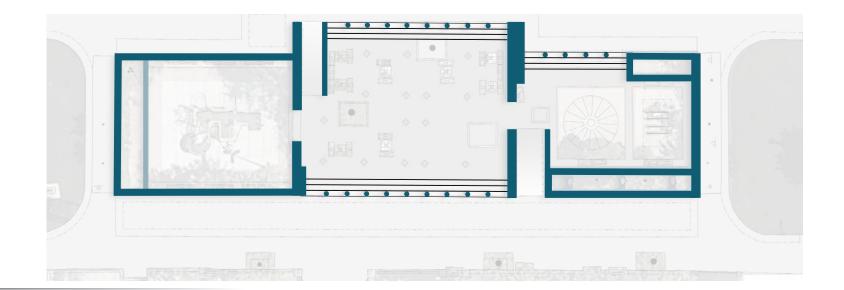
Hydrangea Quercifolia 'pee wee'



Community Parks Initiative
St. Mark's Playground | Plant Palette

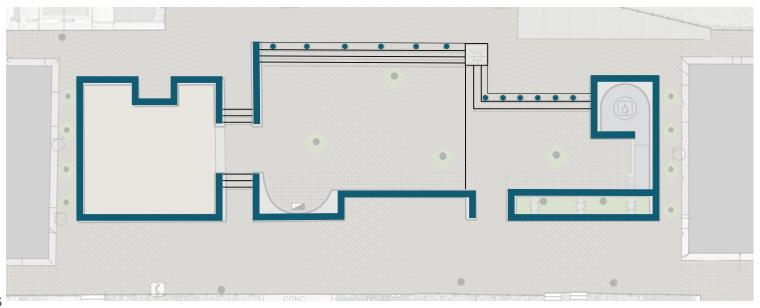


Friedberg Design - Forms

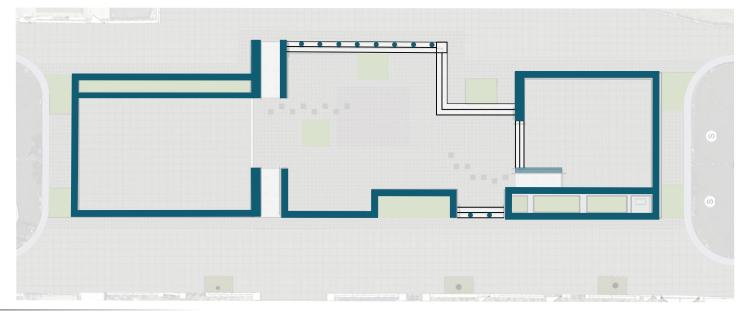


2002 DPR - Forms



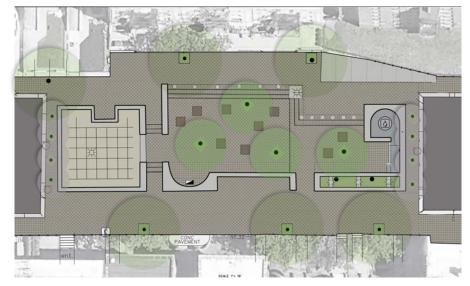


Friedberg Design - Forms



Proposed Design - Forms





1 - 1969 Playground - Full Design



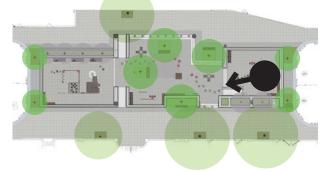
2 - 2002/Existing Condition Playground - Full Design



3 - Proposed Playground - Full Design









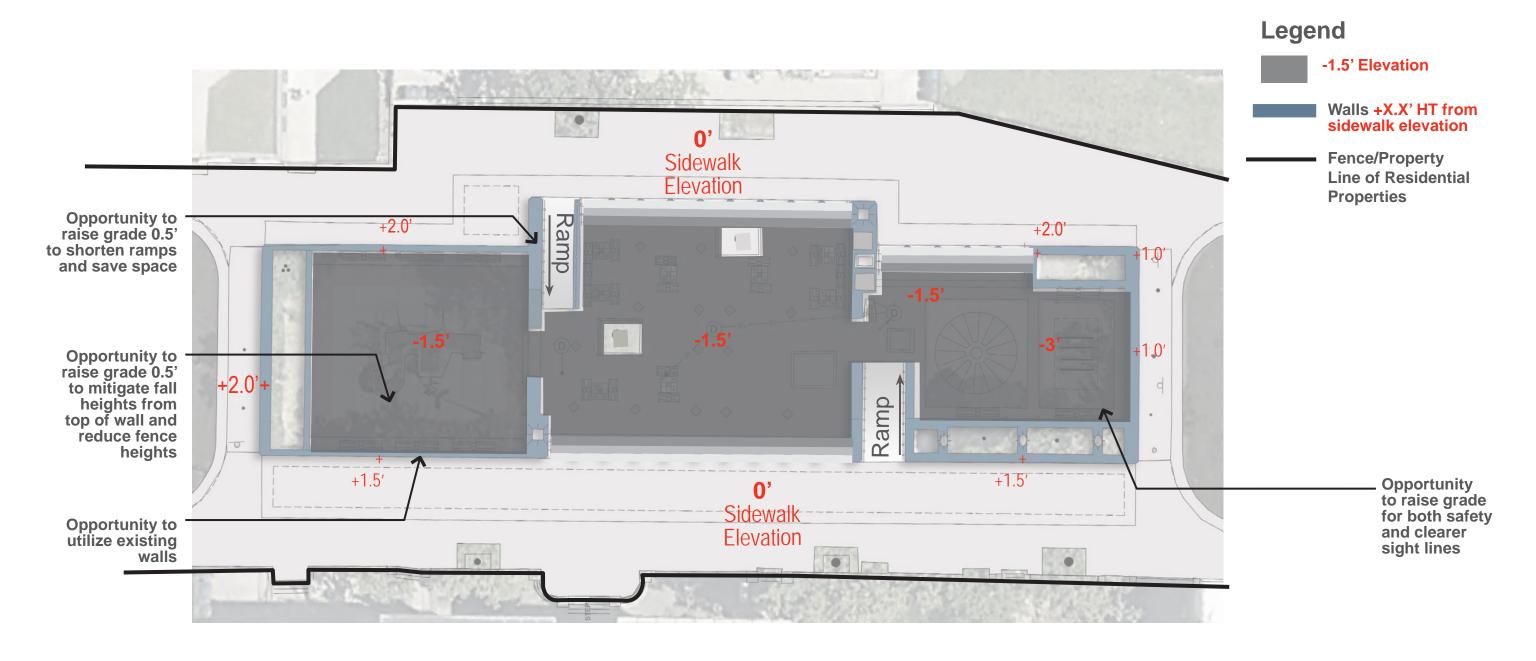






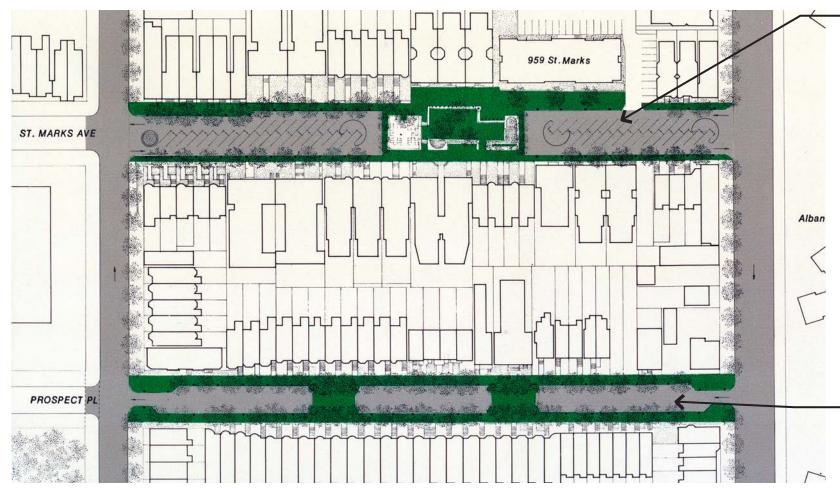








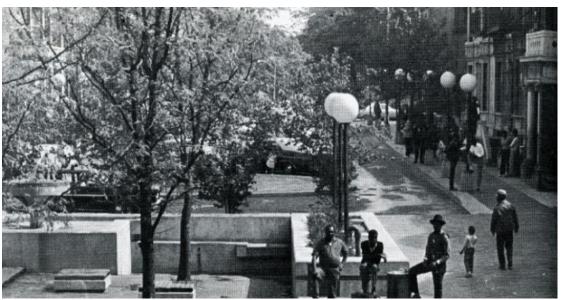




Two Chosen Superblocks

Courtesy of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners. Not for publication without prior authorization

St. Mark's Superblock -Includes Mid-Block Park



-Playground and Sidewalk circa 1970's

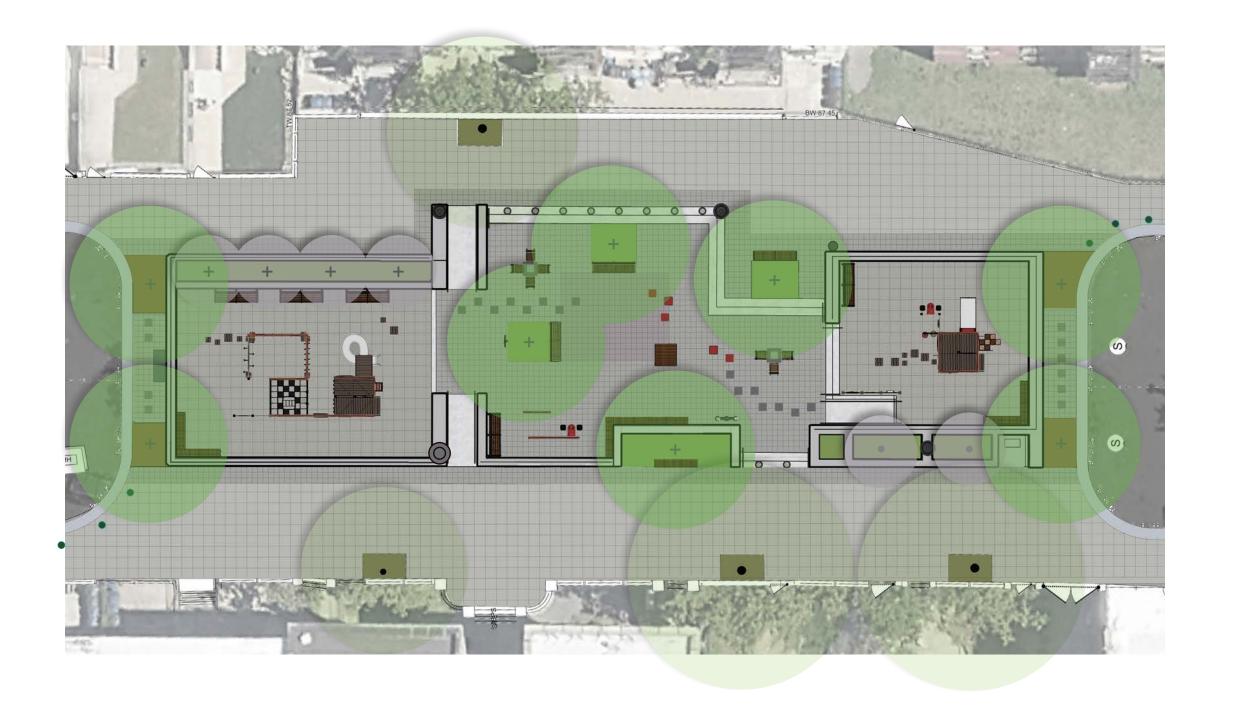
Prospect Place Superblock



-Mid Block traffic calming circa 1970s

Photo courtesy of George Cserna - Not for publication without prior authorization









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