

Resident Response on proposed design for Newark Riverfront Park

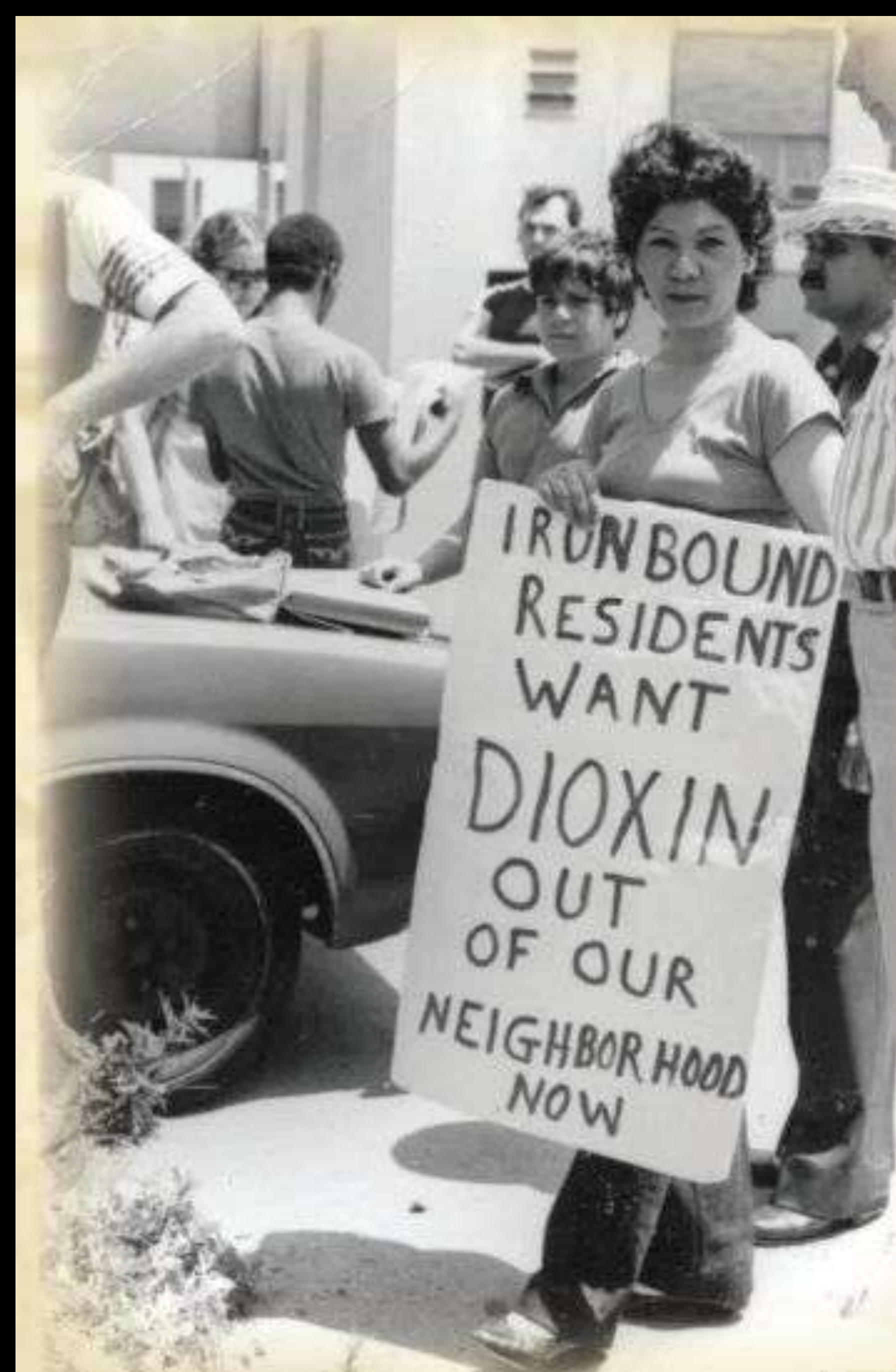


4/27/23

Our organizations wish to work with city government, Invest Newark, and Tetrattech to make this project a wonderful success and for the city to get the value of its investment

Deep Background

1980–2016



ORGANIZE!

PARK 1 -- STADIUM 0 THE PEOPLE WIN!

By Nancy Zak

In April 1996 residents of Newark's Ironbound neighborhood—an old industrial area now home to a thriving immigrant population—read in a suburban newspaper, the *South Orange-Maplewood News Record*, that Riverbank Park was slated to be used for a minor league baseball stadium. Riverbank Park is one of only two public parks in the neighborhood. Less than ten acres in size, it represents over 50 percent of the recreational space in a neighborhood with over 50,000 residents. Essex County and the City of Newark planned to give the neighborhood a “replacement” park—some fields across a busy highway. This news galvanized residents to form Save the Park at Riverbank (SPARK) and fight the plan.

SPARK faced a tough fight. Newark, one of the country's poorest cities, and Essex County, had been convinced to each cough up half of the \$22 million needed to fund the stadium. The city and county would cut expenses by building on the site of an existing public park, making the land “free.” The area's city councilman was on the payroll as a consultant for the construction project. Former New York Yankees announcer Rick Cerone, whose team would use the stadium, promoted the plan with politicians and on television talk shows. They had it all planned—until they came up against SPARK.



Photo courtesy SPARK

and press the issue, SPARK got a public hearing in the neighborhood. Hundreds of people came out to tell the freeholders that they were against the baseball stadium. But the very next night, at meetings held simultaneously in different towns, the city voted 8 to 1, and Essex County voted 9 to 0, to fund the stadium.

An Election Day Strategy

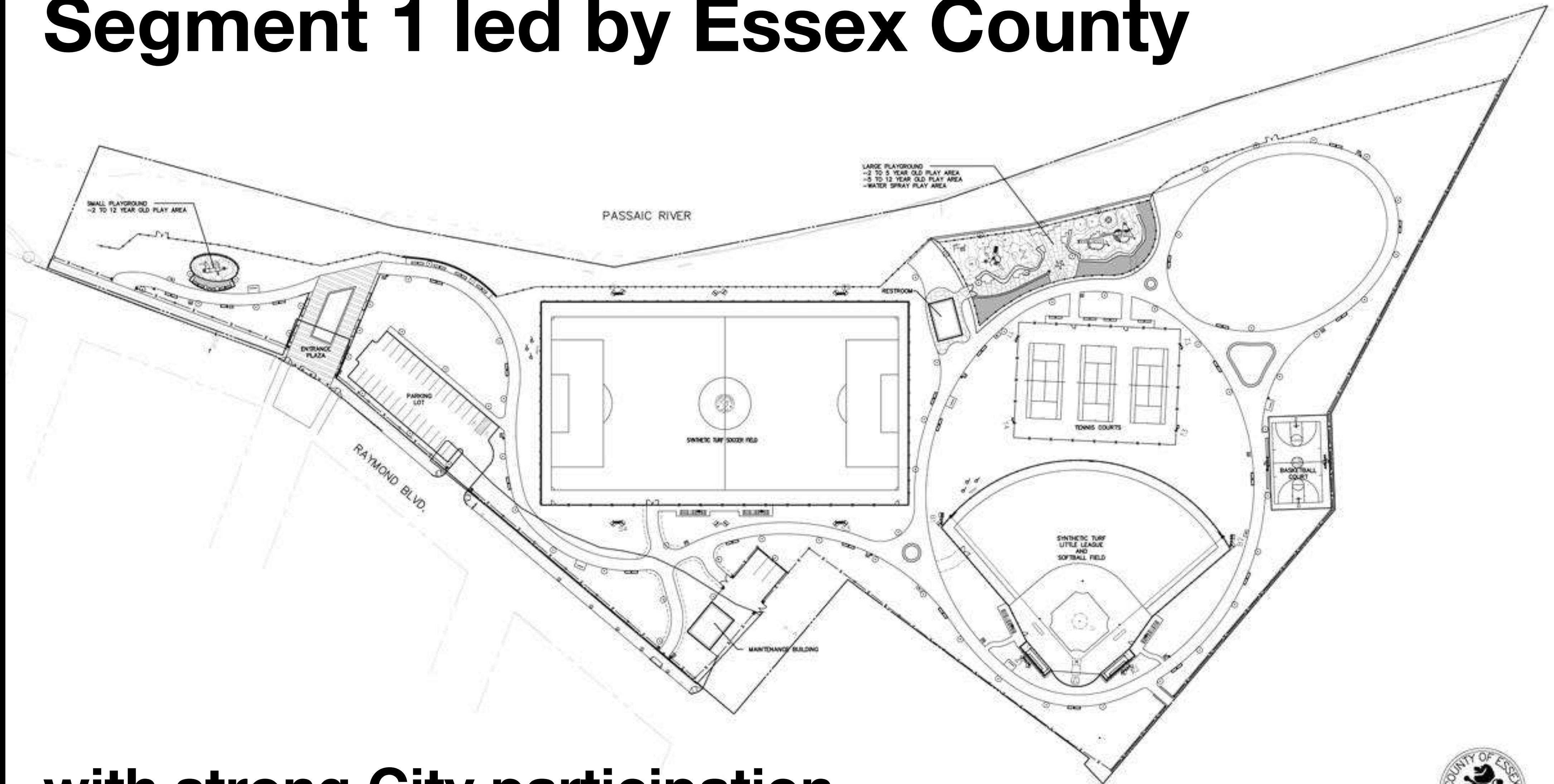
SPARK came up with a new strategy: to collect enough signatures to force a referendum on the issue. This had never been done in Newark, but with the presidential election two weeks away—when lots of registered voters would be at the polls—it was worth a try. In less than a month, SPARK members collected more than the 4000 signatures they needed, half on Election Day itself. Proponents of the stadium outspent SPARK 25 to 1. But the strategy was successful in three ways: it delayed the start of the stadium (and SPARK members knew that Rick Cerone had a timeline for opening the stadium); it generated tremen-

dreds of names on petitions. Architects who lived in the neighborhood took photographs of the beautiful park with children and senior citizens in it and prepared a glossy book to be mailed to every decision-maker.

A third strategy then developed. A statewide environmental group—the New Jersey Conservation Foundation—joined the fight and linked SPARK to local historic preservationists. Riverbank Park is part of the country's oldest county park system, designed by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, which is famous for New York City's Central Park, among others. The local preservation community moved to have Riverbank declared a “historic site.” Although this proposal went nowhere at the city level, preservationists began working to present the case to the state. Letters from national preservation associations and statewide environmental groups began to flood the governor's office. At an emotional hearing in Trenton, the state's advisory board on historic preservation voted unani-

Tradition of Environmental Organizing

Segment 1 led by Essex County



**with strong City participation,
including agreement on using same design team for Segments 1-3**





Segment 1 near Terrell Homes completed 2012

Design coordination of Segment 1 & Segment 2

2011 Projects

Independence	400,000 G	400,000 OS	800,000
Gowerden land	239,000 G	400,000 G	639,000
Becker Farm	400,000 G	400,000 OS	800,000
+ Road	140,000 G	140,000 OS	280,000
			940,000



Long-term series of public programs with residents and organizations to shape design



Long-term series of public programs with residents and organizations to shape design



Segment 2 completed 2013



Led by City with TPL

Friends of Riverfront Park established to volunteer, steer programs, raise funds





Work to make riverfront a citywide asset

Segment 3 completed 2015

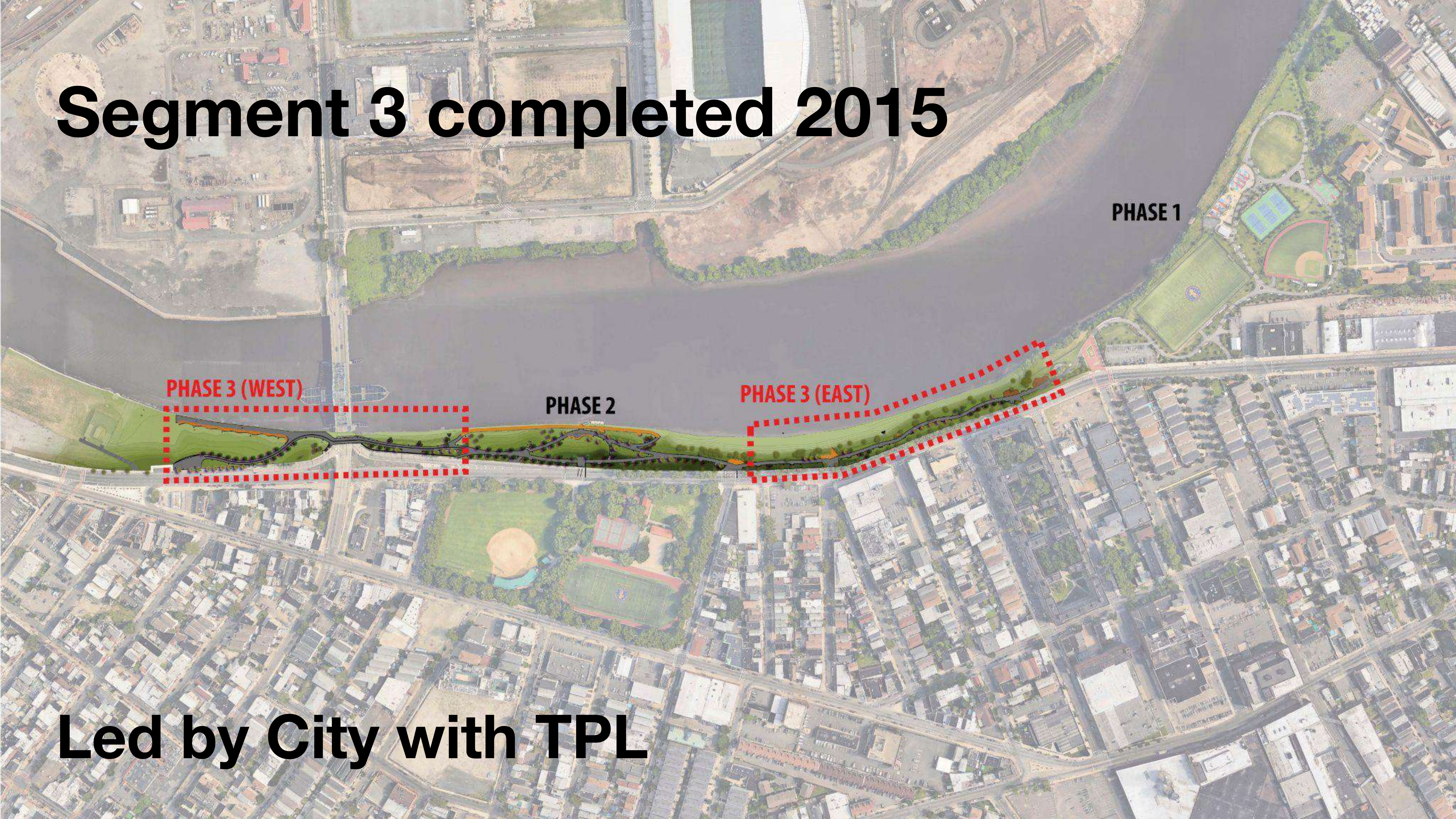
PHASE 3 (WEST)

PHASE 2

PHASE 3 (EAST)

PHASE 1

Led by City with TPL



Segment 3 completed 2015





NJASLA @njasla · Oct 11, 2018

NEWARK RIVERFRONT PARK by Weintraub Diaz Landscape Architecture
2017 NJASLA Honor Award Winner

Our Call for Entries for our 2019 NJASLA Awards is out now! Please refer to our website! [#tbt](#) [#NJASLA](#) [#LandscapeArchitecture](#)





Ongoing Maintenance and upkeep Challenges



Downtown path built by Matrix in 2014

Recent Background

2016–2023

2016.06.14

James Corner Field Operations Named Lead Designer for Newark Riverfront Park's Next Phase of Development

James Corner Field Operations will take over the next phase for Newark's Riverfront Park as the new lead designers. Full story on Newark Times

[here](#)...



Newark Economic Dev @NwkDev · 29m

Friends of Newark: James Corner & The Urban Design Team for #RiverfrontPark_Nwk @CityofNewarkNJ @bayewilson



**Change in design team
City no longer has supervising designer(s) on staff**

Designer behind NYC's High Line developing N.J. park expansion



By [Jessica Mazzola | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on June 15, 2016 at 9:39 AM, updated June 15, 2016 at 9:40 AM

NEWARK — The creative forces behind New York City's [High Line Park](#) are bringing their design prowess to New Jersey.

Newark officials gathered Tuesday to announce that James Corner Field Operations – the architect behind the elevated greenway that runs along an old Manhattan rail line – will lead a design team in configuring a mile-long addition to the city's Riverfront Park. The firm is known for high profile park projects in major cities across the world, including the Central Waterfront in Seattle, London's South Park at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, and the Tsim Sha Tsui Waterfront in Hong Kong.

"This is an incredible opportunity for the City of Newark to transform and re-focus itself around one of its greatest assets – the Passaic River," said James Corner, Founder and Director of Field Operations.

CITY OF **NEWARK**
Mayor Ras J. Baraka



**JULY
26**

2017

RIVERFRONT PARK DESIGN

920 BROAD, CITY HALL

6:30-8:30 PM

**PUBLIC
MEETING**

E.H.D

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
& HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

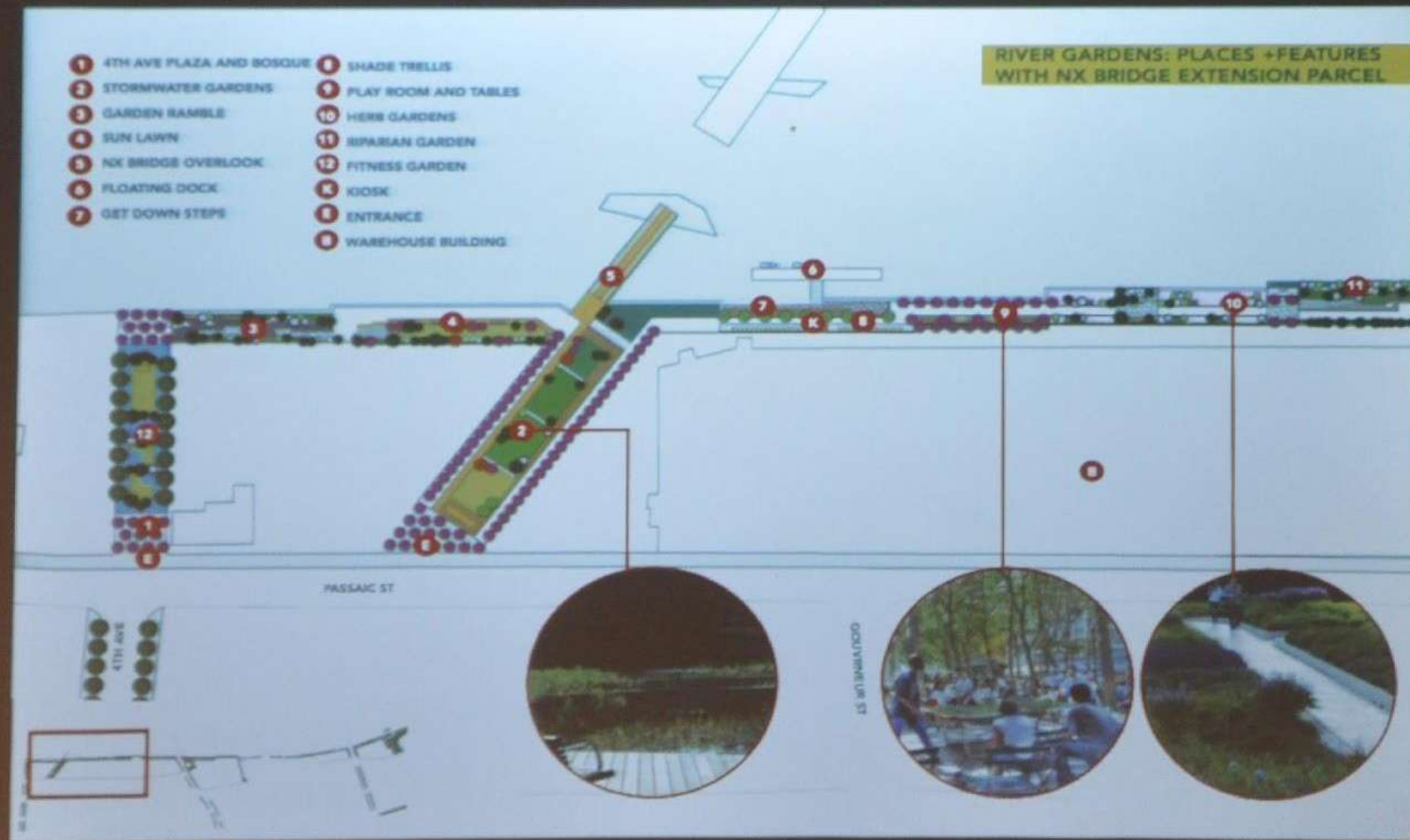
RIVERFRONT PARK EXPANSION DESIGN PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Baraka and Deputy Mayor Adofo-Wilson

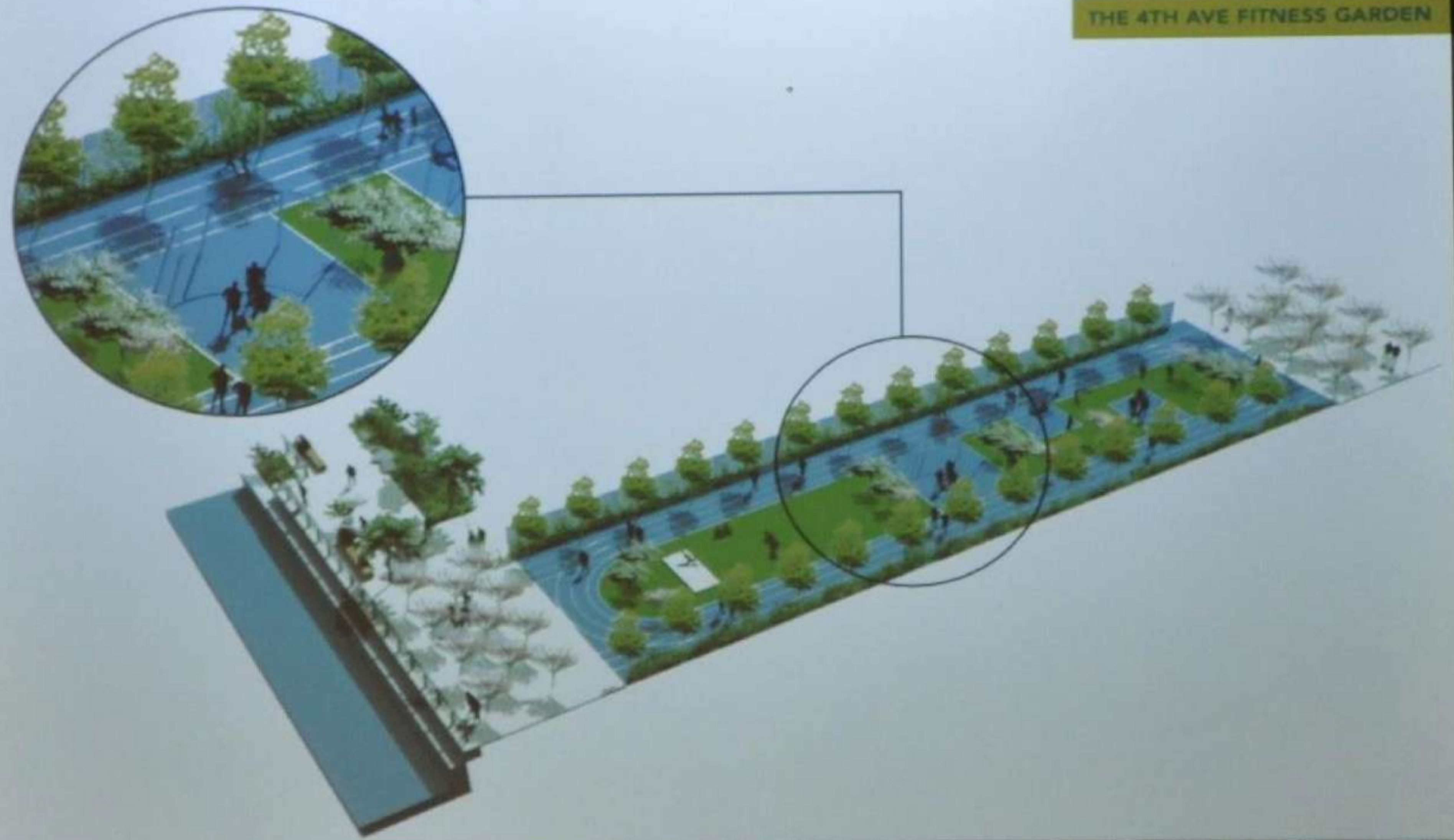
Want to Hear from You!

After an extensive search, James Corner Field Operations - designer of the Manhattan High Line - has been hired to take input from businesses, cultural institutions, community groups and YOU.

One public meeting to review design



Difficult to understand Design Drawing presented by James Corner Field Operations (JCFO) at single public meeting during 3-month design process in Summer 2017



Difficult to understand Design Drawing presented by James Corner Field Operations (JCFO) at single public meeting during 3-month design process in Summer 2017



Difficult to understand Design Drawing presented by James Corner Field Operations (JCFO) at single public meeting during 3-month design process in Summer 2017

2017

JUNE 14	PROJECT KICKOFF
JUNE 27	STAKEHOLDER MEETING 1
LATE JUN-JULY	ONLINE PUBLIC SURVEY
JULY 26	PUBLIC MEETING
JULY 28	STAKEHOLDER MEETING 2
AUG 17	STAKEHOLDER MEETING 3
MID-AUGUST	BEGIN SCHEMATIC DESIGN (DOWNTOWN, IRONBOUND & EAST FERRY)
SEPT 07	PUBLIC MEETING (LOWER BROADWAY)
EARLY OCTOBER	COMPLETE SCHEMATIC DESIGN (DOWNTOWN, IRONBOUND & EAST FERRY)
LATE OCTOBER	COST ESTIMATE + PLANNING BOARD MEETING +PUBLIC MEETING (DOWNTOWN, IRONBOUND & EAST FERRY)

It requires more than 3 “stakeholder” meetings and one public meeting to design an \$80 million project in harmony with the beautifully complex people of Newark

3. CPB16-55

Address: Newark Riverfront Park Phase 4

Project Area 1 - Bridge Street to Madison Street

Project Area 2 - East Ferry

Block: 1; Lots: 24, 30, 46 & 60

Block: 2; Lots: 15, 27 & 29

Block: 3; Lots: 1 & 13

Block: 4; Lots: 1, 9 & 119

Block: 130; Lots: 1, 12, 29 & 47

Block: 133; Lot: 1

Block: 134; Lot: 10

Block: 169.01; Lots: 58, 60, 70, 71 & 75

Block: 170; Lots: 1, 15 & 20

Block: 171; Lots: 1, 6, 8, 11, 40, 41 & 42

Block: 172; Lots: 1, 3, 31, 33 & 35

Block: 2442; Lot: 1

Description: Proposed expansion of Riverfront Park in two project areas. Proposed Project Area 1 consists of the development of additional park amenities, and a promenade to connect to the previously developed phases of the riverfront development projects. Project Area 2 will include a skate park area, a splash pad, and landscaping area.

Applicant/Owner: City of Newark

Courtesy Review

Zone: Newark's River

Redevelopment Plan

Ward: Central & East

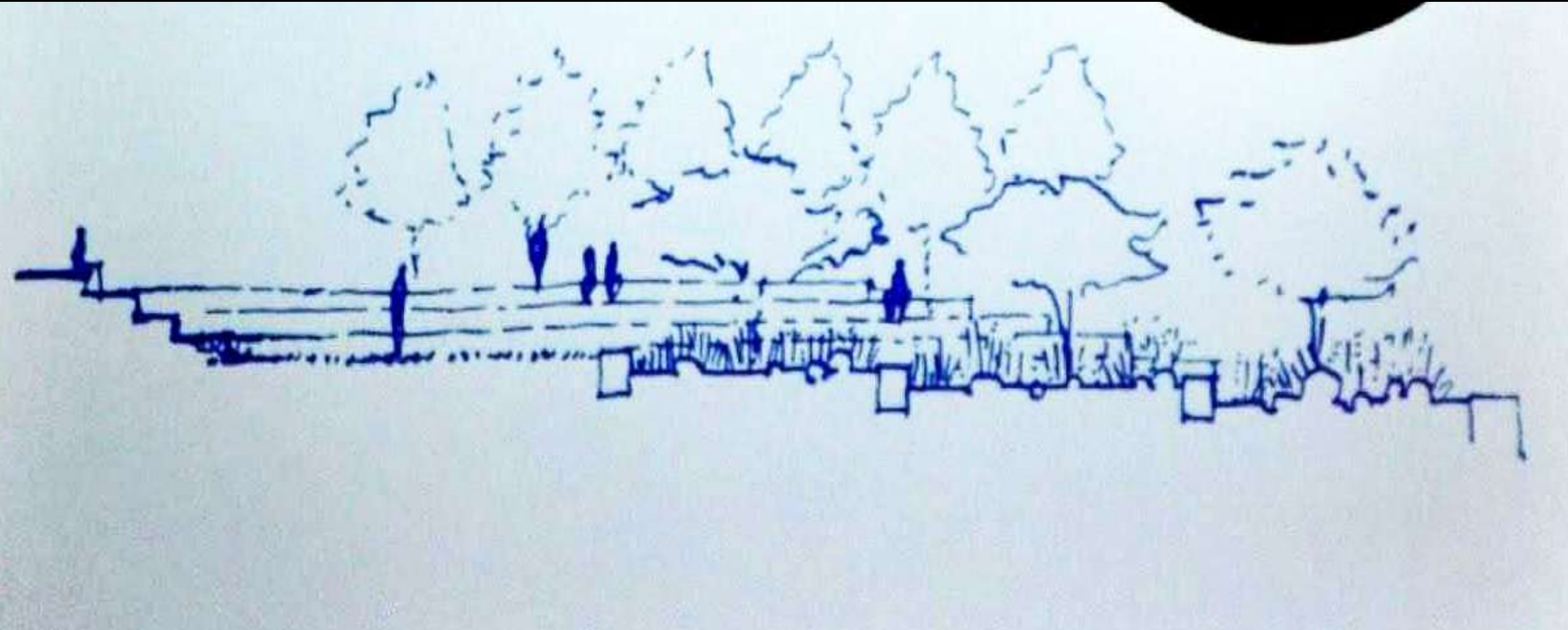
Architect/Engineer: James Corner;

James Corner Field Operations

Variances: N/A

**7/28/17 at
Planning Board,
no time for
any feedback
or changes**

From this natural looking drawing...





...to hard concrete

Downtown riverfront completed by JFCO



Downtown riverfront completed by JFCO



Downtown riverfront completed by JFCO



Sergio Rodrigues He overdesigned Newark's riverfront park, providing plenty of flashy features to include in future marketing.

But failing to provide simple things that would be important for local residents a like protected bike lanes, or any dedicated bike lanes at all, in the style of the now famous Hudson River Greenway in NY.

With a completely blank slate with the only long continuous piece of land, uninterrupted by fast moving motor vehicles, in downtown Newark, it's a mistake. What a travesty to let pass an opportunity that won't come around again in a lifetime.

Worse, many of the features were shoehorned into the least wide sections, creating unnecessary bottlenecks. And making it either impossible or very expensive if a future generation, wants to put in the basic infrastructure for safety.

Like · Reply · 1 min



**ACCESSIBILITY
ISSUE**

Downtown riverfront completed by JFCO

ACCESSIBILITY ISSUE



stairs

ramp begins

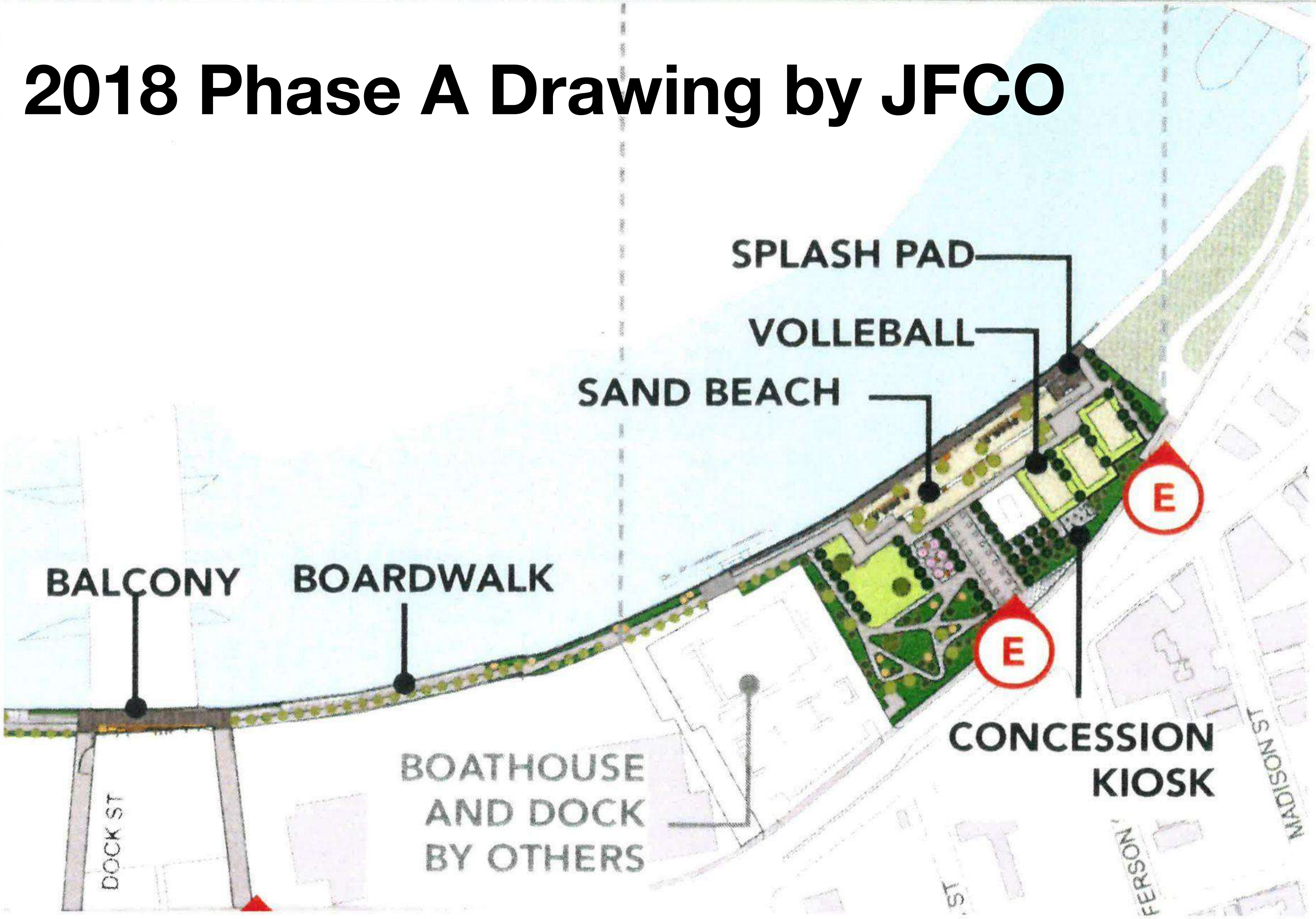
no sidewalk

sidewalk ends

Centre Place
(south of FBI)

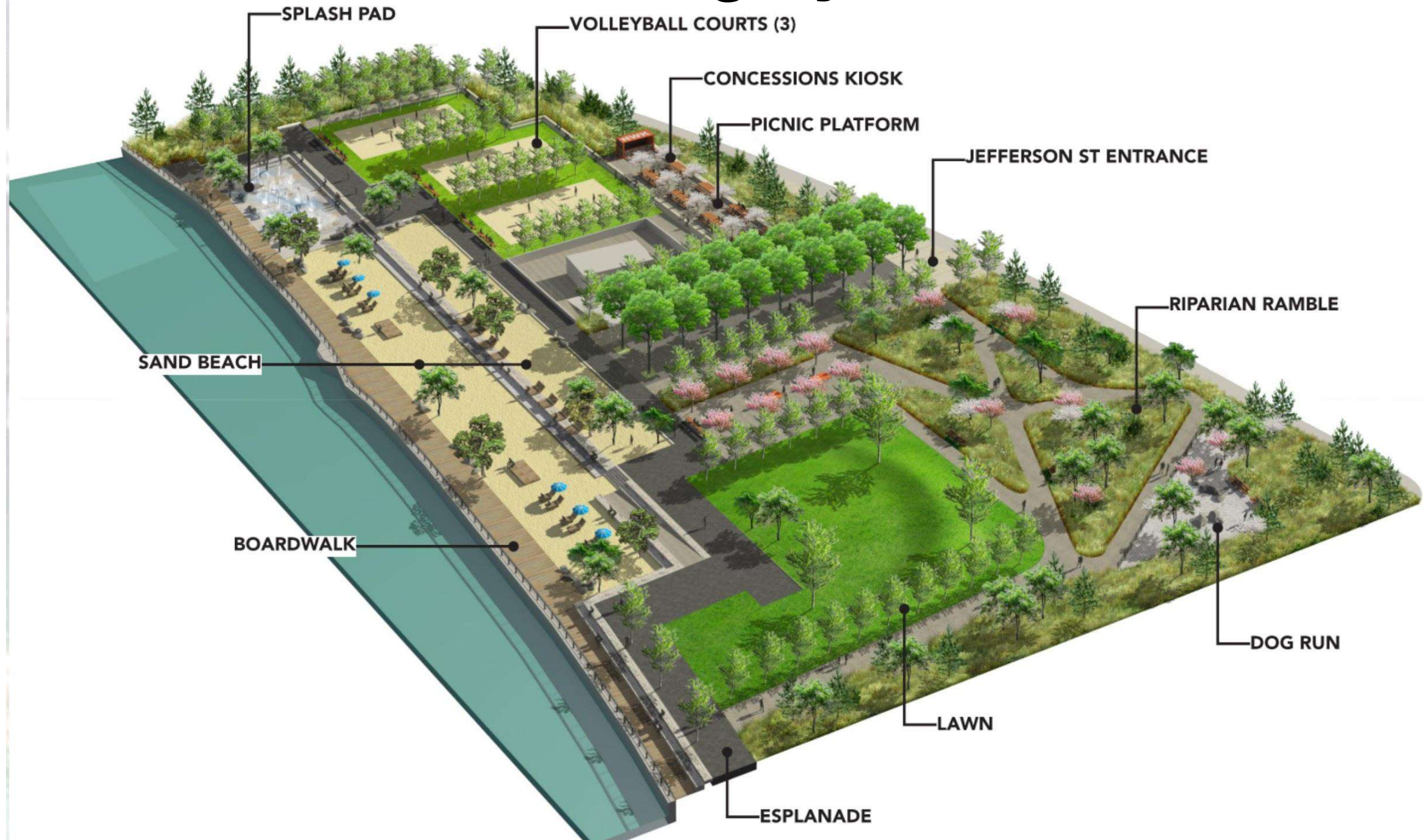
Phase A

2018 Phase A Drawing by JFCO



2018 Phase A Drawing by JFCO

THE BEACH



Aug 2021 Friends letter

Friends of Newark Riverfront Park

% ICC, 317 Elm Street, Newark, NJ 07105

August 31, 2021

Ms Bisola Taiwo, Assistant Director
City of Newark Department of Economic and Housing Development
920 Broad Street Suite 218
Newark, NJ 07102

Assistant Director Taiwo,

Thank you for attending our July meeting. As a group, we are grateful and admiring supporters of you and all civil servants who continue to implement the long-held vision of Newark residents to get to and enjoy their riverfront.

Friends of Riverfront Park is a volunteer organization started by Newark residents in partnership with the City of Newark and County of Essex in 2012 in coordination with the County's completion of Phase 1 from Terrell Homes to Oxford Street. We hold open monthly meetings, and have hosted Mayor Baraka & County Parks Director Salvante among others. Along with residents from East and other wards, attendees usually include a representative from Ironbound Community Corporation, Marcy DePina from Newark Riverfront Revival and Newark City Parks Foundation, and Scott Dvorak from the Trust for Public Land. We support riverfront programming by providing resident feedback and guidance, acting as eyes and ears on the park, and volunteering at events like Newark Riverfront House with DJ Omar Abdallah.

At our July meeting, we were excited to hear about progress towards completing "Phase C" of the park between Penn Station and FBI building. We understand this will allow work to advance on "Phase A" between Congress and Madison Streets, which is the other subject we'd like to raise with this letter. *We write to respectfully share and reiterate our guidance as community advocates and stewards that design changes should be made to "Phase A" before it is constructed.*

As you know, James Corner Field Operations completed a schematic design for Phases A, B, C, D and E in one swoop over a few months in 2017, and design work was completed between the departure of Deputy Mayor Ladd's predecessor in 2017 and her arrival in 2019. At the time, our group took advantage of the few opportunities provided to clearly communicate our feedback. Realizing that there has been a full turnover in City and Invest Newark staff supervising this project, please find our summarized feedback attached in hopes that it will be helpful as you deliver this amazing new public place for us and our fellow Newarkers.

In contrast to the public deliberations that fueled the design for the first three segments of Riverfront Park, constructed by the County and City, the process for Phases A, B, C, D and E depended on internet multiple choice polling rather than robust interactive public discussions between residents and the design team. For example, clear drawings for public review, rather than graphic renderings, have never been released, and we know of no instances when the design was adjusted in response to comments from our group or other residents, which is far from a best practice in public space design for multiple users.

As lovers of Newark, parks, and our river, we deeply believe that inspiring and durable public space design depends on lots of talking to people, including elders, young people, parents, athletes, artists, and more. We truly hope that it is not too late to make important alterations to make this the best possible project for Newarkers.

Sincerely,

Nancy Zak, on behalf of Friends of Riverfront Park

Aug 2021 Friends letter

At our July meeting, we were excited to hear about progress towards completing "Phase C" of the park between Penn Station and FBI building. We understand this will allow work to advance on "Phase A" between Congress and Madison Streets, which is the other subject we'd like to raise with this letter. *We write to respectfully share and reiterate our guidance as community advocates and stewards that design changes should be made to "Phase A" before it is constructed.*

As you know, James Corner Field Operations completed a schematic design for Phases A, B, C, D and E in one swoop over a few months in 2017, and design work was completed between the departure of Deputy Mayor Ladd's predecessor in 2017 and her arrival in 2019. At the time, our group took advantage of the few opportunities provided to clearly communicate our feedback. Realizing that there has been a full turnover in City and Invest Newark staff supervising this project, please find our summarized feedback attached in hopes that it will be helpful as you deliver this amazing new public place for us and our fellow Newarkers.



MAINTAINABILITY

- Foremost among our feedback is that based on our experience with the first 3 phases of riverfront park, we believe that that maintenance requirements for a “sand beach” to be safe, clean, and enjoyable will far exceed the regular maintenance resources available. We anticipate issues with sharp objects like broken glass and health concerns such as dog feces. We advocate for this area to be an alternative surface material, ideally decking as seen in Segment Three directly to the east.
- The design appears to have major horticultural requirements for plant upkeep and maintenance that far exceed the requirements for existing park segments. We recommend examining the plant selection and layout in collaboration with the private maintenance contractors who have worked at existing park segments in order to test maintenance requirements against available resources, potentially editing the plant list and creating more continuous areas of planting rather than the current “mosaic” layout.

Aug 2021 Friends letter

CIRCULATION

- From the available rendering, it appears that the layout does not create easy perpendicular access from Raymond Blvd to the water's edge. We recommend redesigning elements including the "Riparian Ramble" to ease access, especially for elders and disabled people, rather than the "jumble" of paths at this key corner that provide no direct path to the water.
- The current "mosaic" layout appears to make it difficult to cross this large space since the paths are often turning or twisting. This especially creates issues with sight lines and safety. We recommend "opening up" sight lines and circulation by removing some of the natural and hardscape barriers.
- From the available rendering, it is not clear if the parallel waterfront walkway is continuous with the waterfront walking in Segment 3 directly to the east. We recommend that this be a clear and direct connection, not a buffer of shrubs as it is depicted.

Friends of Newark Riverfront Park

% ICC, 317 Elm Street, Newark, NJ 07105

February 18, 2022

Feb 2022 Friends letter

Deputy Mayor Allison Ladd, Director
City of Newark Department of Economic and Housing Development
920 Broad Street Suite 218, Newark, NJ 07102

Deputy Mayor Ladd,

Thank you for having Ms Bisola Taiwo attend our recent meeting. As a group, we are grateful and admiring supporters of you and all civil servants who continue to implement the long-held vision of Newark residents to get to and enjoy their riverfront. After learning that Ms Taiwo is no longer with the City, we are writing to share and reiterate our guidance as community advocates and stewards about certain design changes we strongly believe should be made to the current proposal for Phase A between Congress and Madison Streets. While detailed feedback is included below, key concerns are:

- Maintenance – proposed sand beach and other features will be very difficult to maintain
- Circulation – current design creates challenges for those with limited mobility
- Flexibility of Use – current design restricts many spaces to single uses (for example, just volleyball) and inappropriately places picnic tables right next to Raymond Boulevard

Friends of Riverfront Park is a volunteer organization started by Newark residents in partnership with the City of Newark and County of Essex in 2012 in coordination with the County's completion of Phase 1 from Terrell Homes to Oxford Street. We hold open monthly meetings, and have hosted Mayor Baraka & County Parks Director Salvante among others. Along with residents from East and other wards, attendees usually include a representative from Ironbound Community Corporation, Marcy DePina from Newark Riverfront Revival and Newark City Parks Foundation, and Scott Dvorak from the Trust for Public Land.

November 2022

**City Parks Foundation shares revised
design dated October 2021**

thank you!

January 19, 2023

Deputy Mayor Allison Ladd, Director
Mr Trevor Phillips
Mr Steven Etienne
City of Newark Department of Economic and Housing Development
920 Broad Street Suite 218, Newark, NJ 07102

Deputy Mayor Ladd, Mr Phillips, and Mr Etienne,

This our third letter since August 2021 requesting significant changes to the proposed design for the design of Riverfront Park Phase A, between Congress and Madison Streets, the last remaining piece of Ironbound's public riverfront. We believe the current proposal is deeply misguided for this prime public property, and does not respond to the needs and desires of the community, who have worked tirelessly for over 25 years to realize this project.

Please find detailed feedback below concerning:

- Maintenance – features such as sand beaches, sand volleyball, and intricate plantings require tremendous investment in park maintenance that has been very challenging for previously completed riverfront park segments
- Circulation – current design creates challenges for those with limited mobility, and make it difficult to bike, rollerblade or run along the river
- Flexibility of Use – current design restricts many spaces to single uses and creates constricted spaces (for example, three sand volleyball courts with trees between)

BACKGROUND

James Corner Field Operations completed the schematic design for Phases A, B, C, D and E (from the Ironbound to North Ward) in a single swoop over a few months in 2017 in the interim between the arrival of Deputy Mayor Ladd and her predecessor's departure. At the time, our group took advantage of the few opportunities provided to clearly communicate our feedback. Realizing that there has been a full turnover in City and Invest Newark staff supervising this project, we shared our summarized feedback by letter on 8/31/21, then again on 2/18/22 after learning about the departure of Bisola Taiwo.

At our Friends of Riverfront Park meeting on 11/17/22, we hosted Trevor Phillips and Steven Etienne from your office. Karen Tamir of Field Operations also attended, and gave a brief presentation of the Phase A design. While the design had been updated since our last view of it, we were disappointed that the changes seemed to ignore our suggestions entirely.

In contrast to the public deliberations that fueled the design for the first three segments of Riverfront Park, constructed by the County and City, the process for Phases A, B, C, D and E depended on internet multiple choice polling instead of than robust interactive public discussions between residents and the design team. For example, clear drawings for public review, rather than graphic renderings, have never been released, and we know of no instances when the design was adjusted in response to comments from our group or other residents, which is far from a best practice in public space design for multiple users.

As lovers of Newark, parks, and our river, we believe that inspiring and durable public space design depends on lots of talking to people, including elders, young people, parents, athletes, artists, and more. Realizing that changes will have costs in time and funds, we truly hope that it is not too late to make important alterations to make this the best possible project for future generations of Newarkers.

Sincerely,

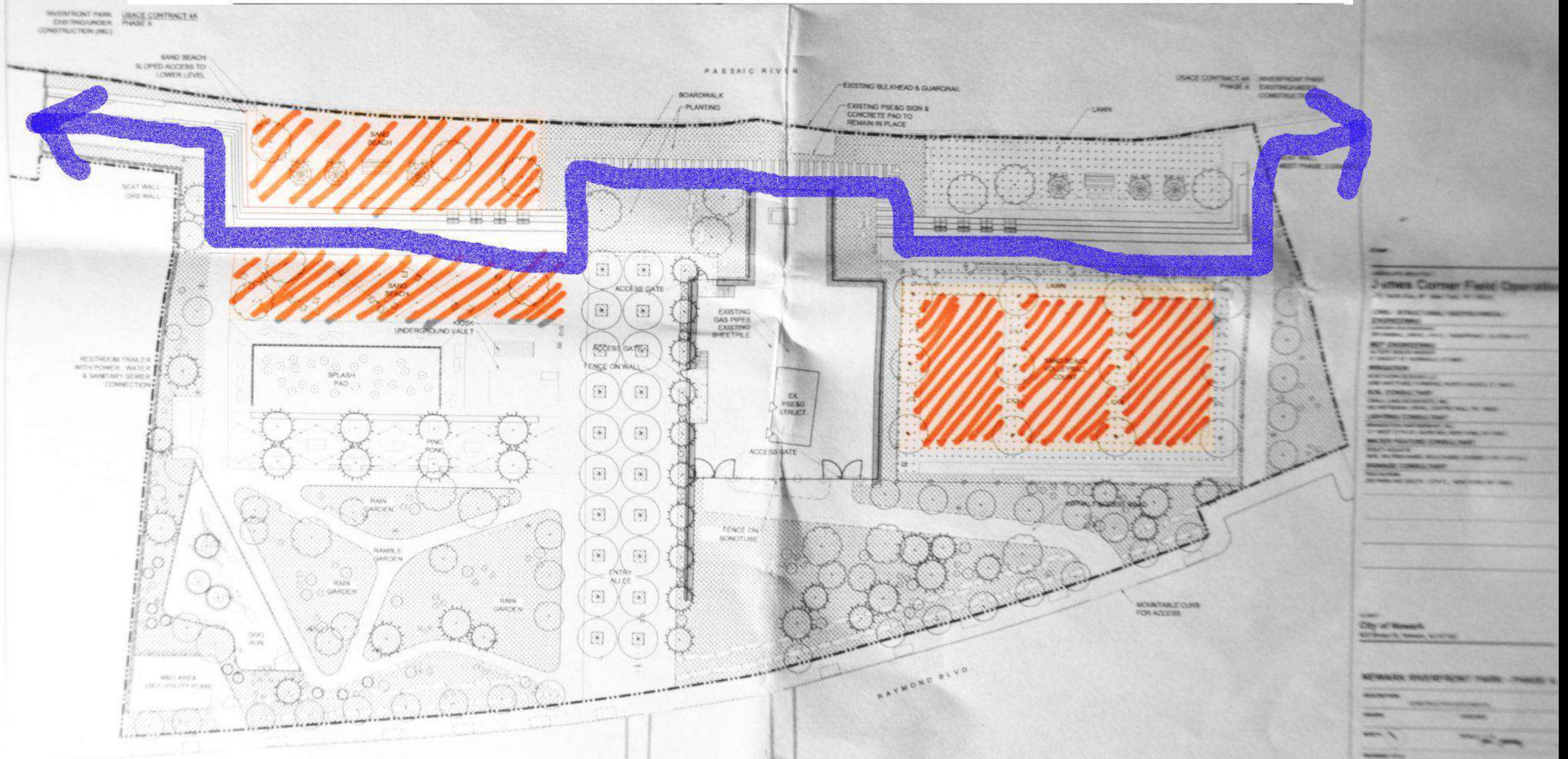
Nancy Zak, Friends of Riverfront Park

January 2023 Friends letter

Exhibit A. Riverfront Park Phase A Proposed Design Layout Plan

Orange = sand areas

Purple line = crooked riverfront park



February 2023

**City Parks Foundation tells Friends,
ICC and UPAO that sand areas can
be removed, and requests final
comments on replacement amenities**

thank you!

April 2023 Friends/ICC/UPAO meeting



April 2023 Friends/ICC/UPAO meeting

Friends of
Riverfront Park



Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Fixing the design for Riverfront Park "Phase A"

Friends of
Riverfront

Friends of Riverfront Park, a volunteer resident group that helps program and maintain Newark Riverfront Park, has been asked by the city government to give final feedback on this proposed design for the last piece of Ironbound's riverfront. To inform our feedback, we ask for comments from Newark residents on how this public land can best support the riverfront we want.



Phase A Area Summer 2022

Newark - Pennsylvania Station

Segment 2

**Phase A Area
Summer 2022**



Current Phase A Design



Phase A Area Summer 2022



Current Phase A Design

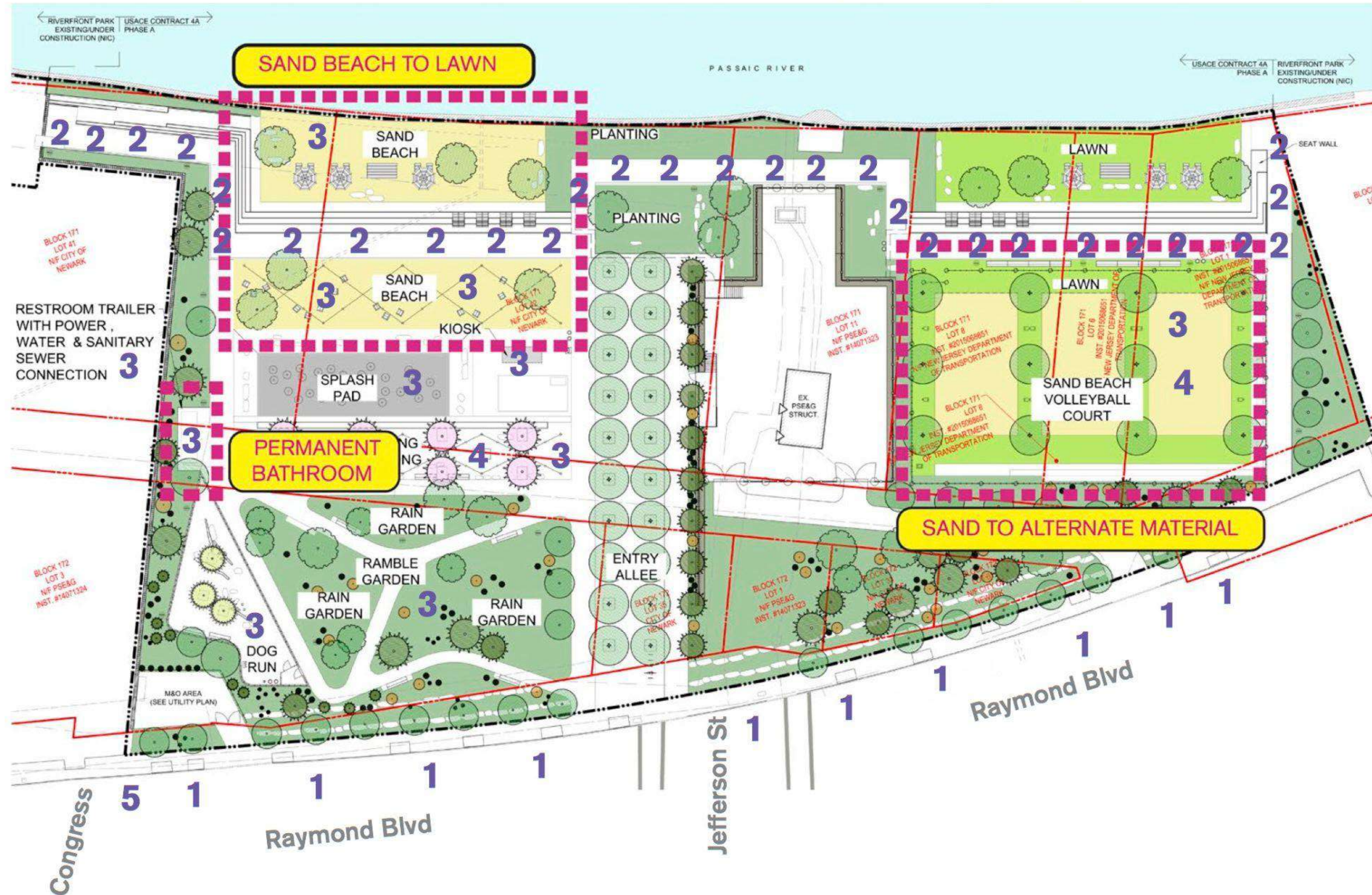


**4/11/23 Friends of Riverfront Park (Friends)
United Parks As One (UPOA)
Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC)**

- **UPAO & ICC reps welcomed & introduced**
- **Lenny & Nancy gave background**
- **Interpreters & additional facilitators were present**
- **We sat at tables provided with context documents**
- **Groups reviewed proposed park design by JCFO for final stretch of the Ironbound riverfront.**

Some Issues with the proposed design

- 1. Unfriendly & mostly uncrossable "front door" along Raymond**
- 2. Jagged & unsafe riverfront path for biking etc – accessible?**
- 3. Hard to maintain**
- 4. Only active areas are for sand volleyball & ping-pong**
- 5. No easy way to go from Congress & Raymond to riverfront path**
- 6. Overall layout feels cramped, fragmented & inflexible**



April 2023 Friends/ICC/UPAO meeting

1. How to make the “front door” along Raymond friendlier and more accessible?

2. How to improve the paths and ways to move through the park, where people will want to walk/bike/skate?

3. What other kinds of spaces do we want? What should replace the sand areas?

4. How can this park be easier to maintain?

Friends of
Riverfront Park



WELCOME!
¡BIEN VENIDXS!
FRIENDS OF
RIVER FRONT PARK
¡AMIGUES DE EL
PARQUE RIVER FRONT!

④ MAINTENANCE

Hire people ~~to~~
Whose job?
SAVE \$ FOR STAFF
CONSOLIDATE ACTIVE AREAS
TRASH CANS

③ New AREAS/SPACES?

SKATE PARK
✓ PICKLEBALL
MULTI-USE
LITTLE PLAZA FOR EVENTS
PARKING
MORE WATERPARK
HANDBALL (ON PSEB BLDG)
TURF FOR VOLLEYBALL
CONCESSION - RENT
NOT SHIPPING CONTAINER
GRILLS
WATER FOUNTAINS
PERFORMANCE AREA
V-BALL
VOLLEYBALL (NO SAND)
PLAYGROUND
RAIN GARDEN ALONG PATH
FUTSOL
BOAT DOCK
CONTINUATION
OF
EXISTING
PARK
BENCHES
CHESS AREA
MORE OPEN
CHARGING
STATION

① "FRONT DOOR"

STRESSFUL
MORE ENTRANCES ALIGNED w/ STREETS
TO PENN
BIG SIGN
ACCESSIBLE TO BIKING
SAFETY - STREET CROSSINGS
OVERPASS / STREET LIGHT
CHERRY BLOSSOM
WIDER
MORE OPEN
MOVE MAINT

② PATHS

NO
NO LABYRINTH
CONNECT
WIDER
SEPARATE BIKE LANES
SOLAR LIGHTING
NO RIGHT TURNS "DAT MRE"
SMOOTHER
PARK PATROL / AMBULANCE
NO RAMBLE

**How to make
the “front door”
along Raymond Blvd
friendlier and more
accessible?**

Friendlier More Accessible Front Door

1. Project must include creating safe crossings across Raymond Blvd

- i. Raymond Blvd is a City street with a 35 mph speed limit**
- ii. As everyone knows, it is designed and driven like a highway**
- iii. Several people have died in a single year crossing this street**
- iv. This is needed at minimum at Prospect, Congress, Jefferson and Madison**

Oct 2017

Raymond & Jefferson

ESSEX

Authorities work to ID pedestrian killed in Newark

Updated: Oct. 17, 2017, 11:38 p.m. | Published: Oct. 17, 2017, 10:38 p.m.

NEWARK -- A pedestrian was struck and killed by a vehicle in Newark Monday night, according to officials.

The incident occurred near Raymond Boulevard and Jefferson Street around 9 p.m., authorities said.

July 2021

Raymond & Madison

Pedestrian Severely Injured by Car in Newark's Ironbound Section

July 20, 2021 at 5:55 a.m. EDT

One person suffered life-threatening injuries after a vehicle struck them in a section of Newark's Ironbound Monday night.

According to reports, just before 9:50 p.m., police were called to the area of Raymond Boulevard's extension to Market Street near Madison Street to investigate reports of an injured person.

Upon arrival, police found a seriously injured person lying on the ground after a vehicle struck them at that location.

Must include safer crossings on Raymond



Prospect

Congress

Jefferson

Madison

Friendlier More Accessible Front Door

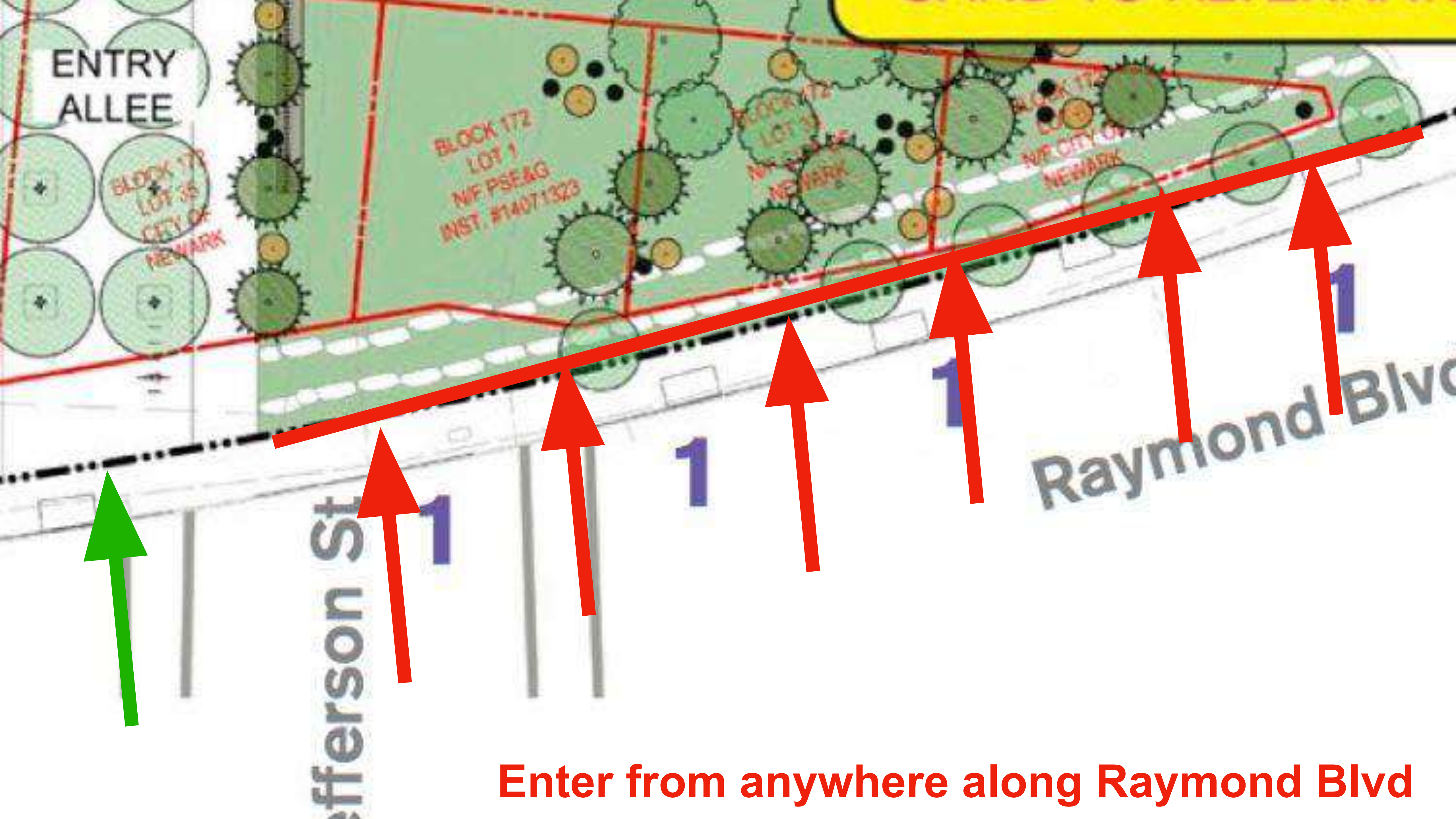
2. People should be able to enter from anywhere along Raymond Blvd

- **Proposed design includes uncrossable planting areas along most of Raymond**
- **Relocate rain garden from Raymond edge**
 - **uncrossable planting not good in this location**
 - **“no hiding place bushes”**



Raymond Blvd

Enter from anywhere along Raymond Blvd



Enter from anywhere along Raymond Blvd

Friendlier More Accessible Front Door

**3. Add entrances from
Congress and Prospect:
align entrances with streets**

Current Phase A Design



PERMANENT BATHROOM

SAND TO ALTERNATE MATERIAL

SAND BEACH

SAND BEACH

SAND BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT

PERMANENT BATHROOM

PERMANENT BATHROOM

PERMANENT BATHROOM

PERMANENT BATHROOM

PERMANENT BATHROOM

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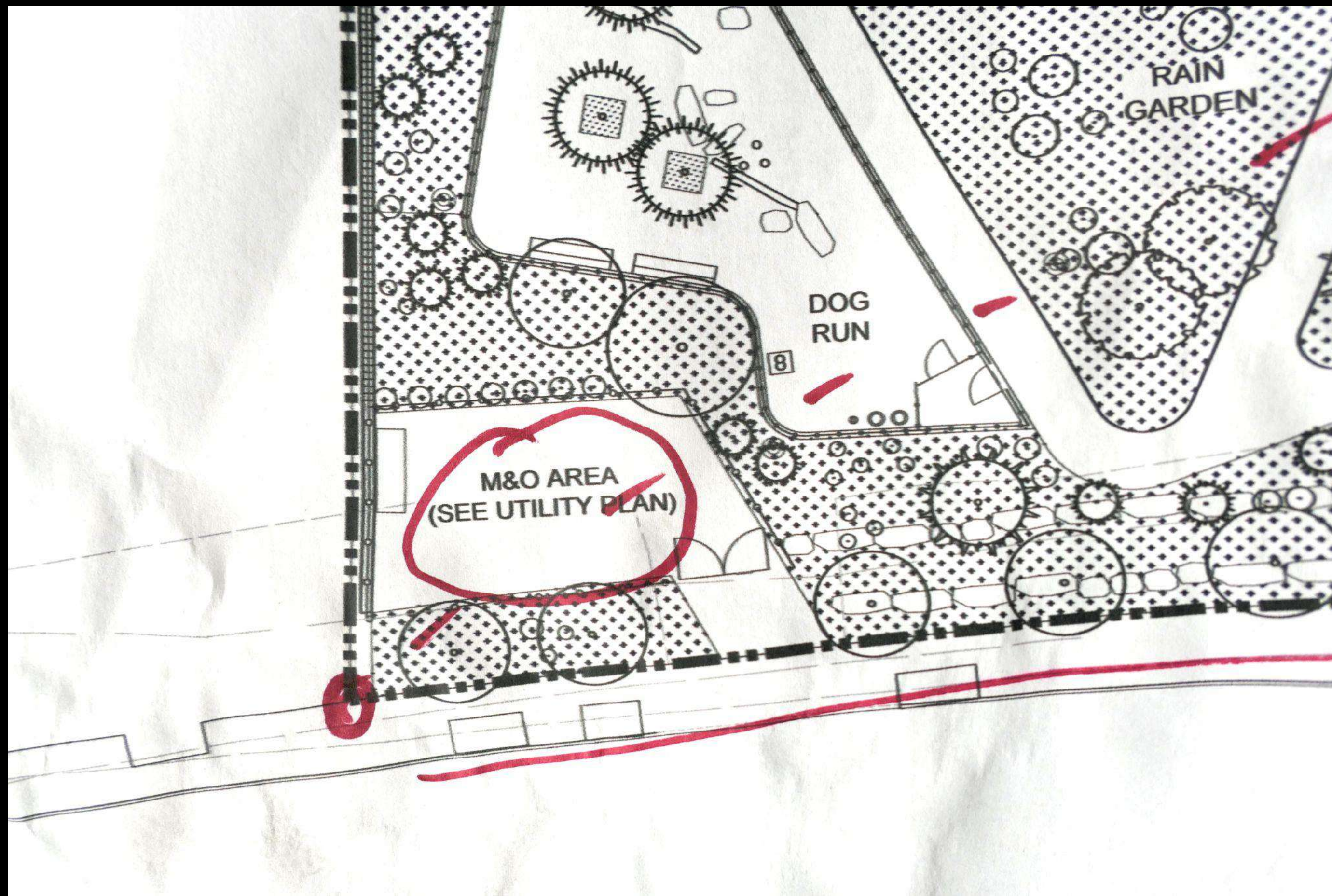
PERMANENT BATHROOM

PERMANENT BATHROOM

Friendlier More Accessible Front Door

ALSO

- Functional and decorative lighting
- Less cement right at door: “Current design is stressful”
- Make Pedestrian improvements leading from Penn Station
- More accessible for biking, scooters, and skaters with wider paths
- Relocate Maintenance & Operation area away from first thing you see walking from Penn Station

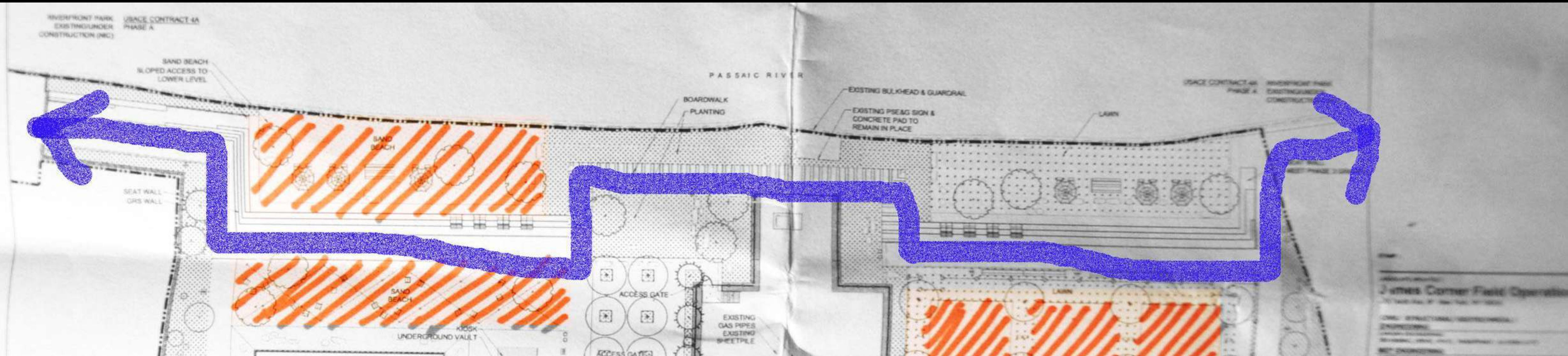


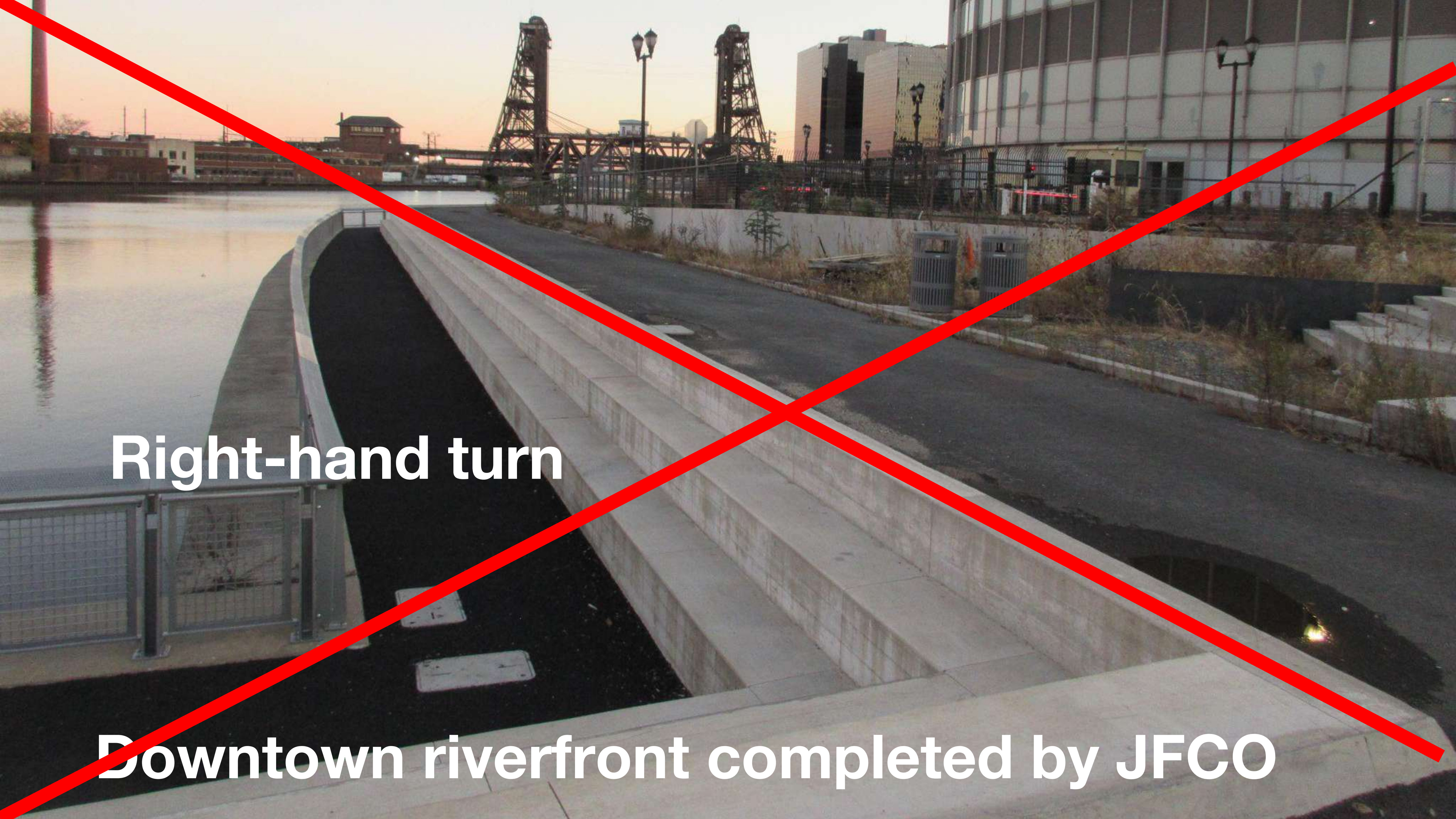
**How to Improve
the paths and
ways to move
thru the park?**

Paths & Moving Thru the Park

1. Provide straighter or slightly curved riverfront path instead of jagged design

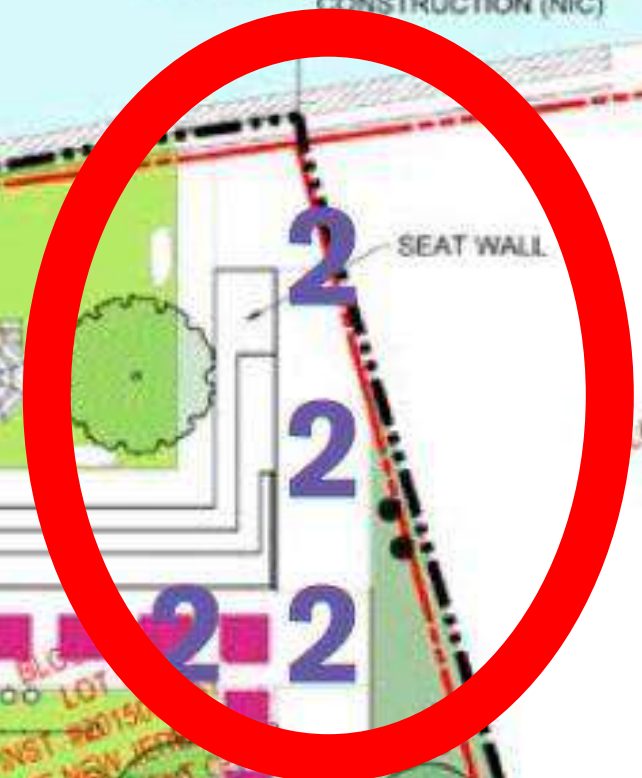
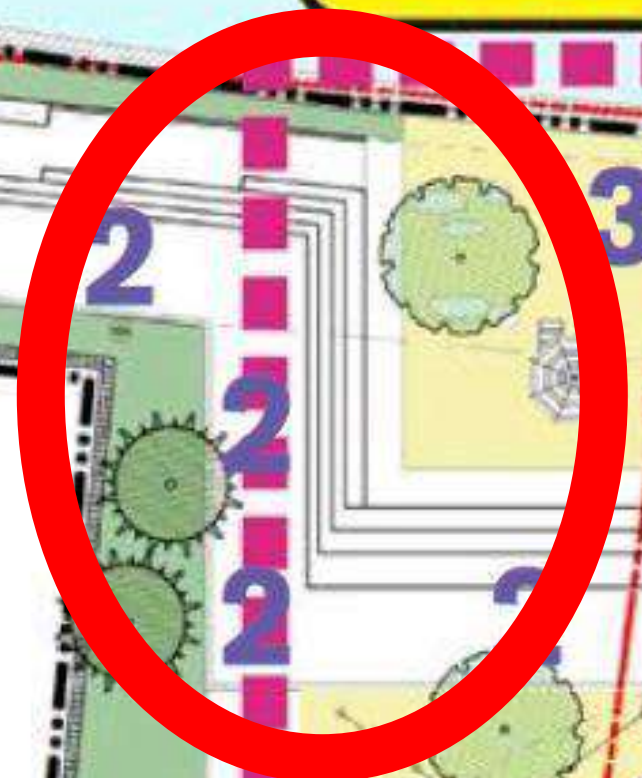
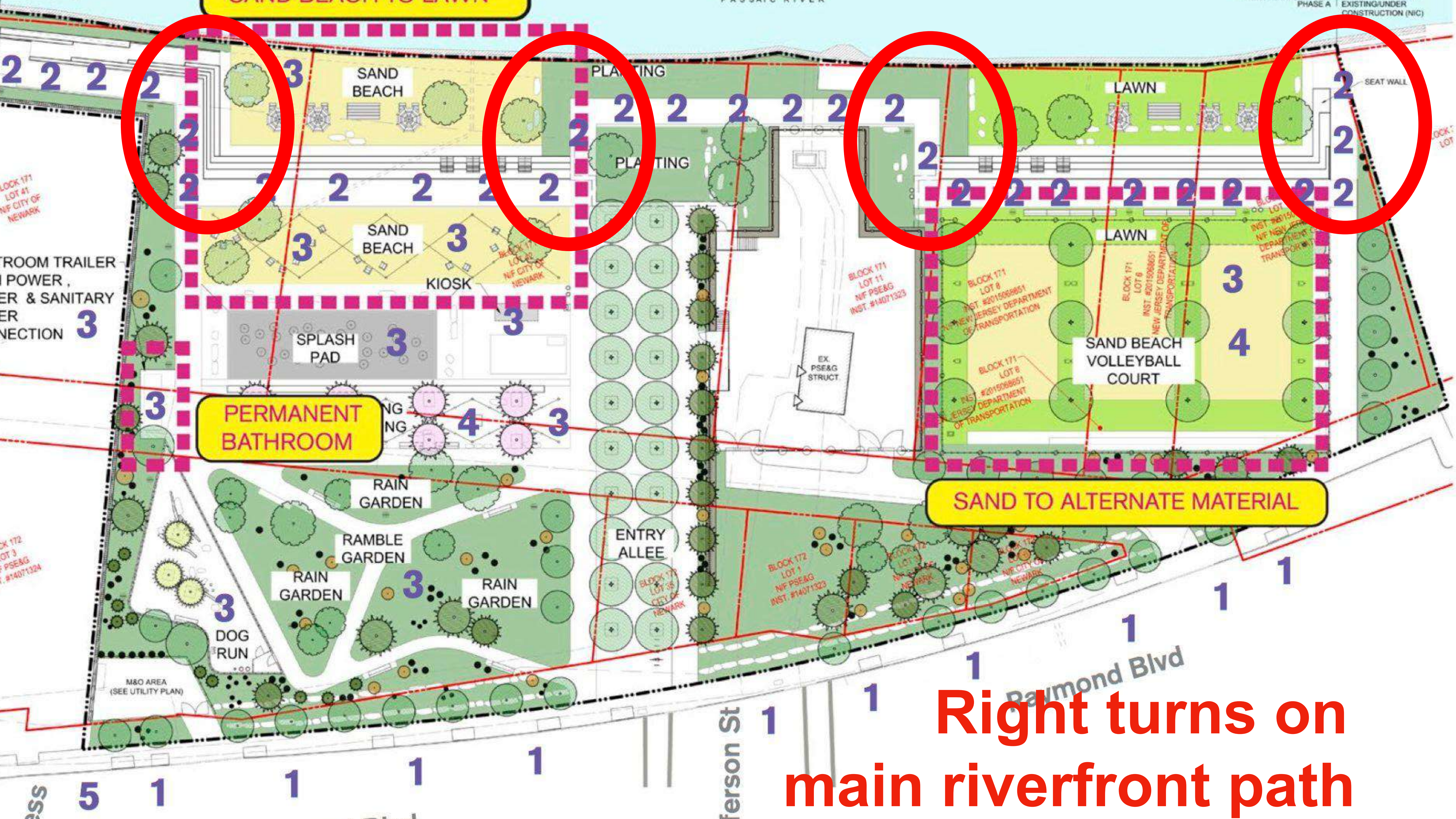
- Provide smoother path along river edge instead of current proposal that includes eight 90-degree turns
- Separate bike lane





Right-hand turn

Downtown riverfront completed by JFCO



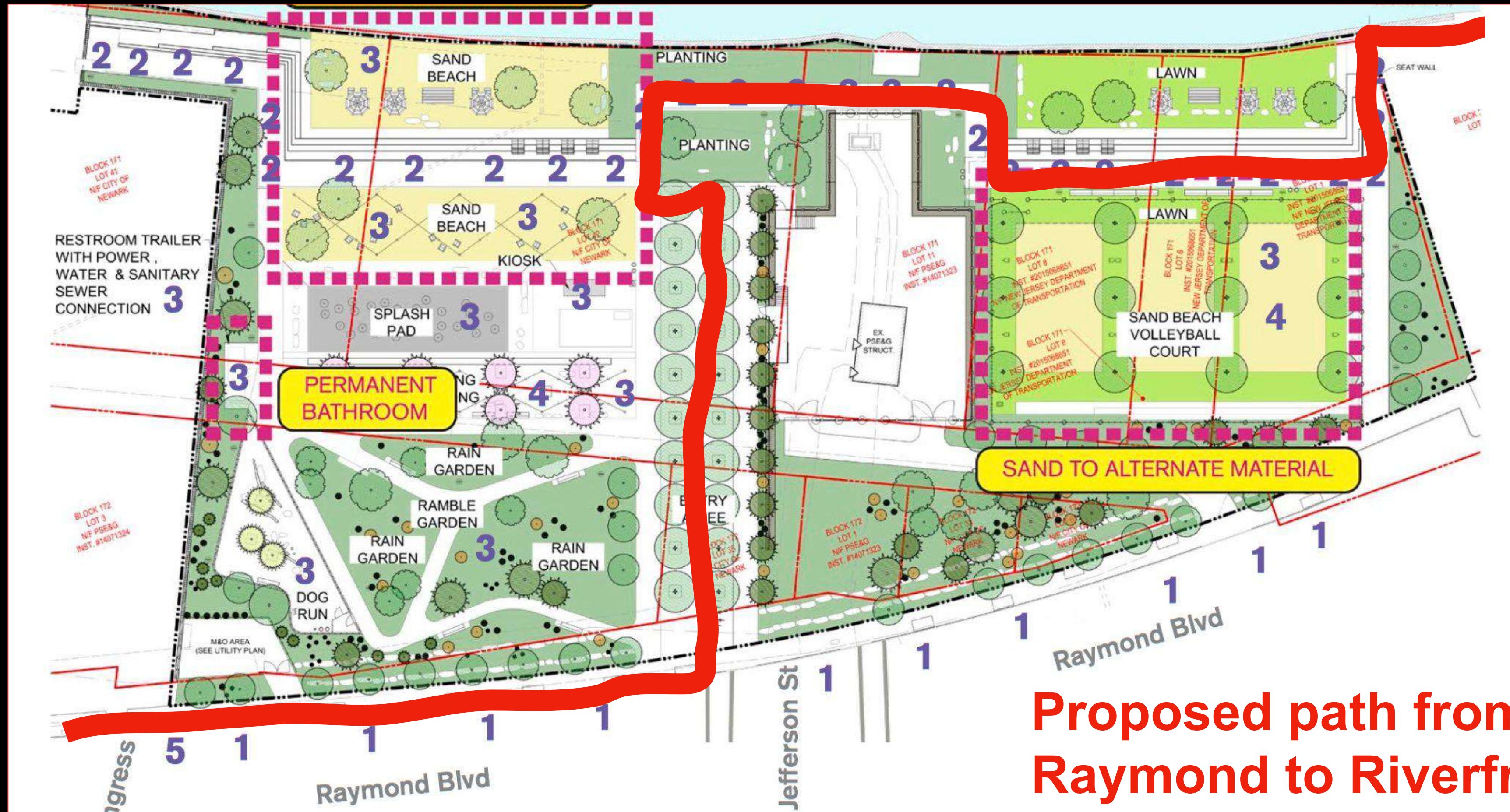
PERMANENT BATHROOM

SAND TO ALTERNATE MATERIAL

Right turns on main riverfront path

Paths & Moving Thru the Park

2. Provide more direct and accessible path from Raymond & Prospect / Raymond & Congress to riverfront path

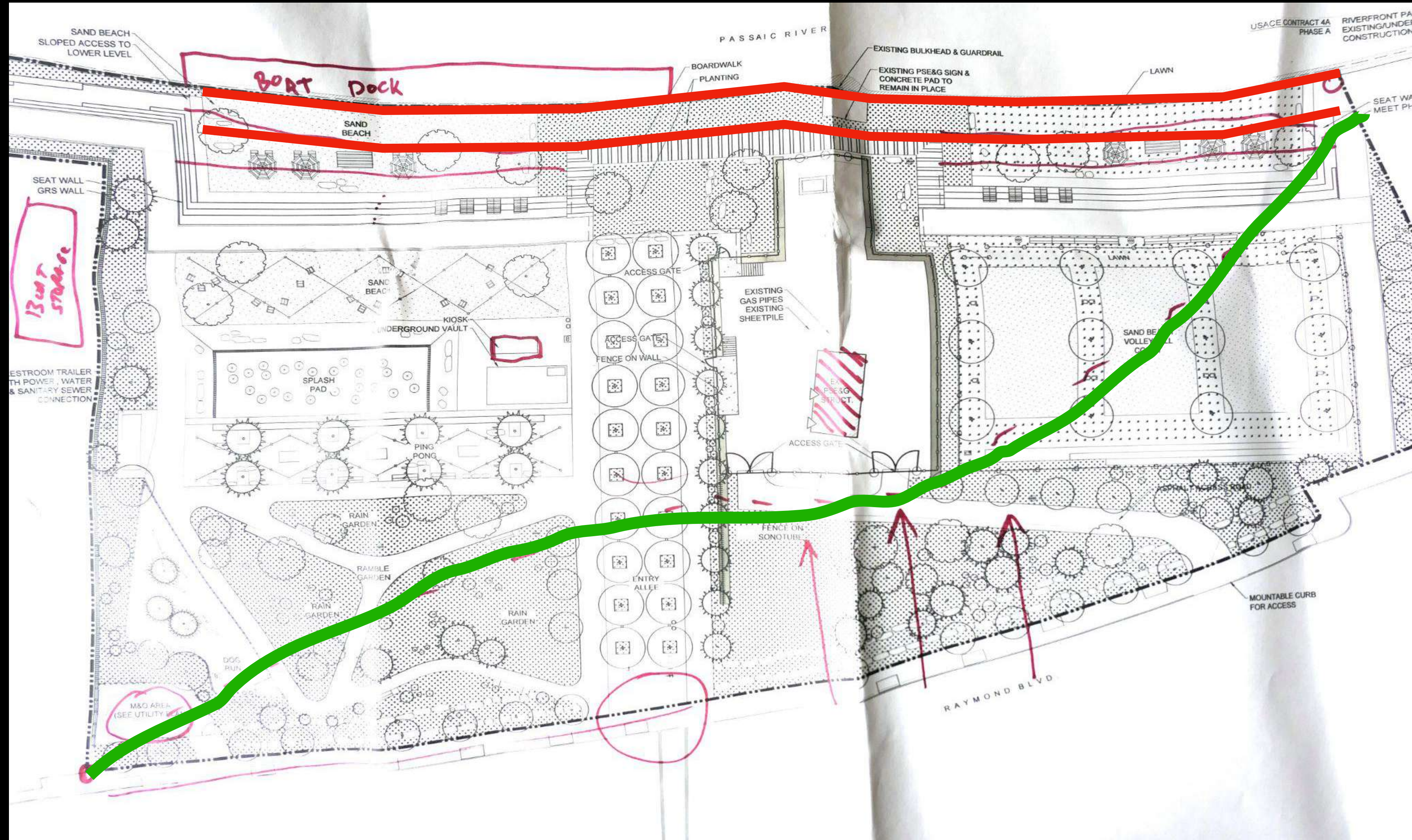


Proposed path from Raymond to Riverfront

Paths & Moving Thru the Park

Straighten riverfront path with room for walking, standing, sitting, and biking

Create diagonal path that leads from sidewalk to riverfront



Paths & Moving Thru the Park

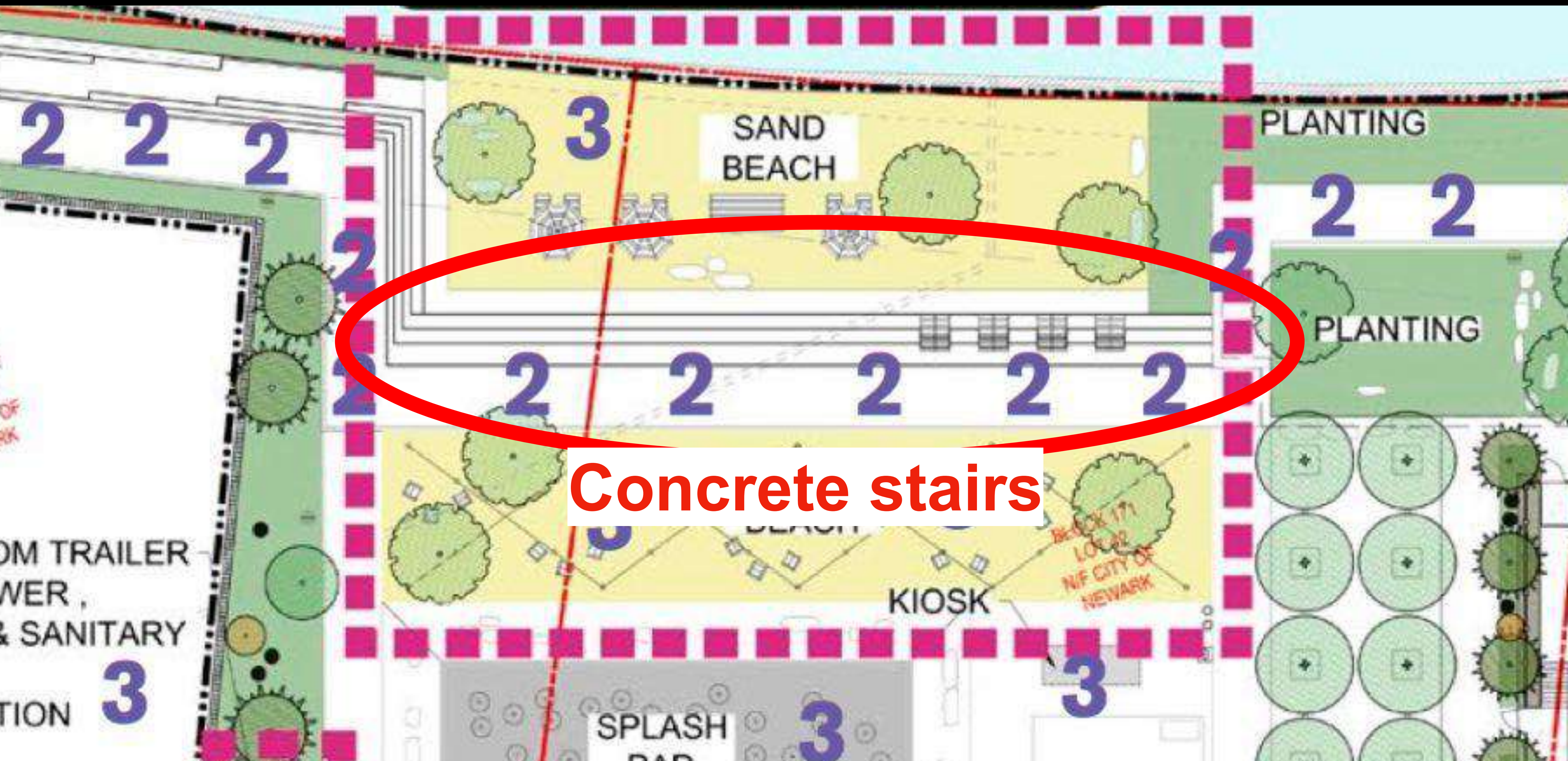
3. Rework grading to eliminate large amounts of concrete stairs that divide the site

- No concrete stairs like downtown
- “These stairs are absurd”
- Don’t split space with stairs
- More ramps

Paths & Moving Thru the Park

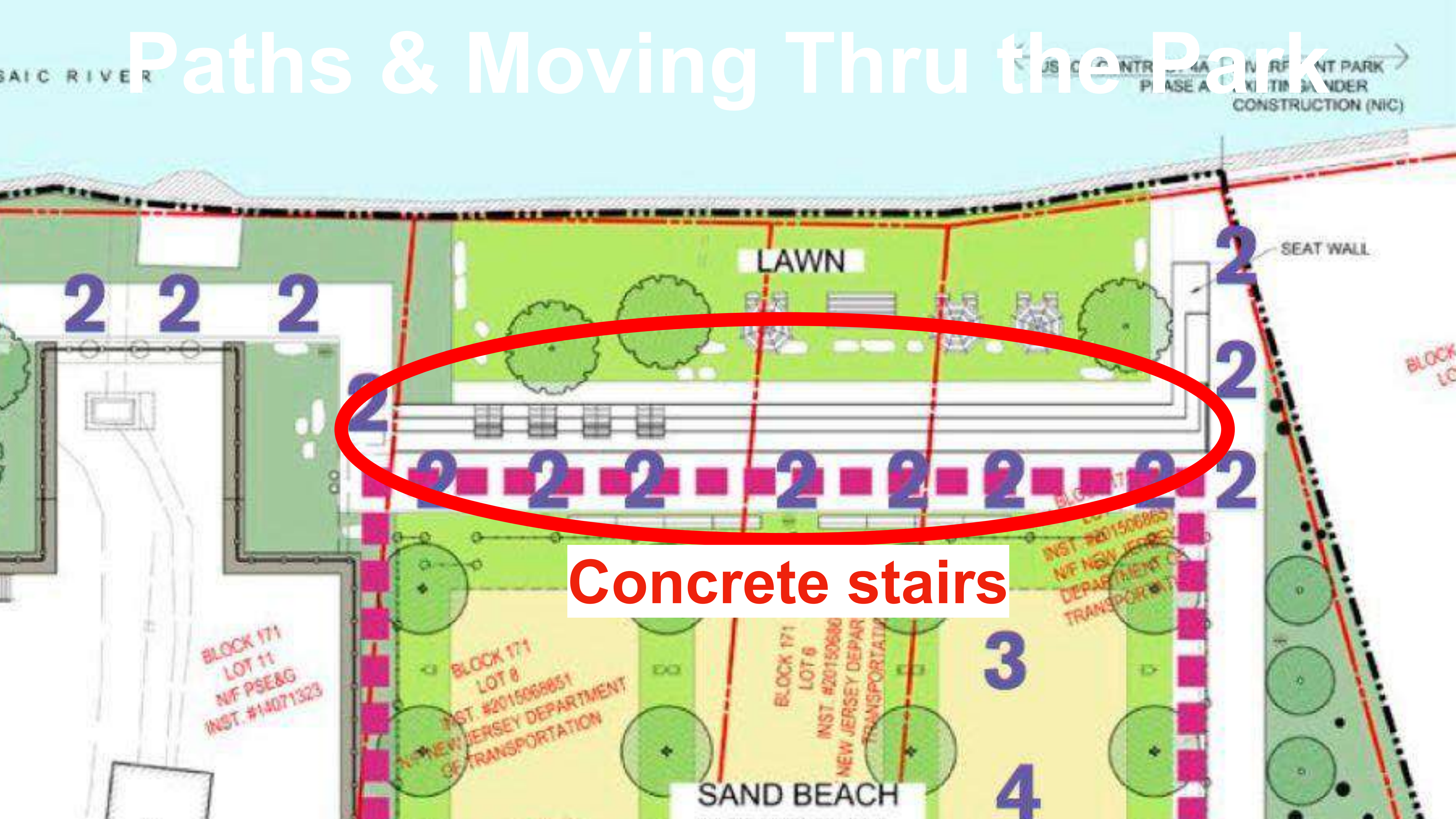
Downtown riverfront completed by JFCO

Paths & Moving Thru the Park

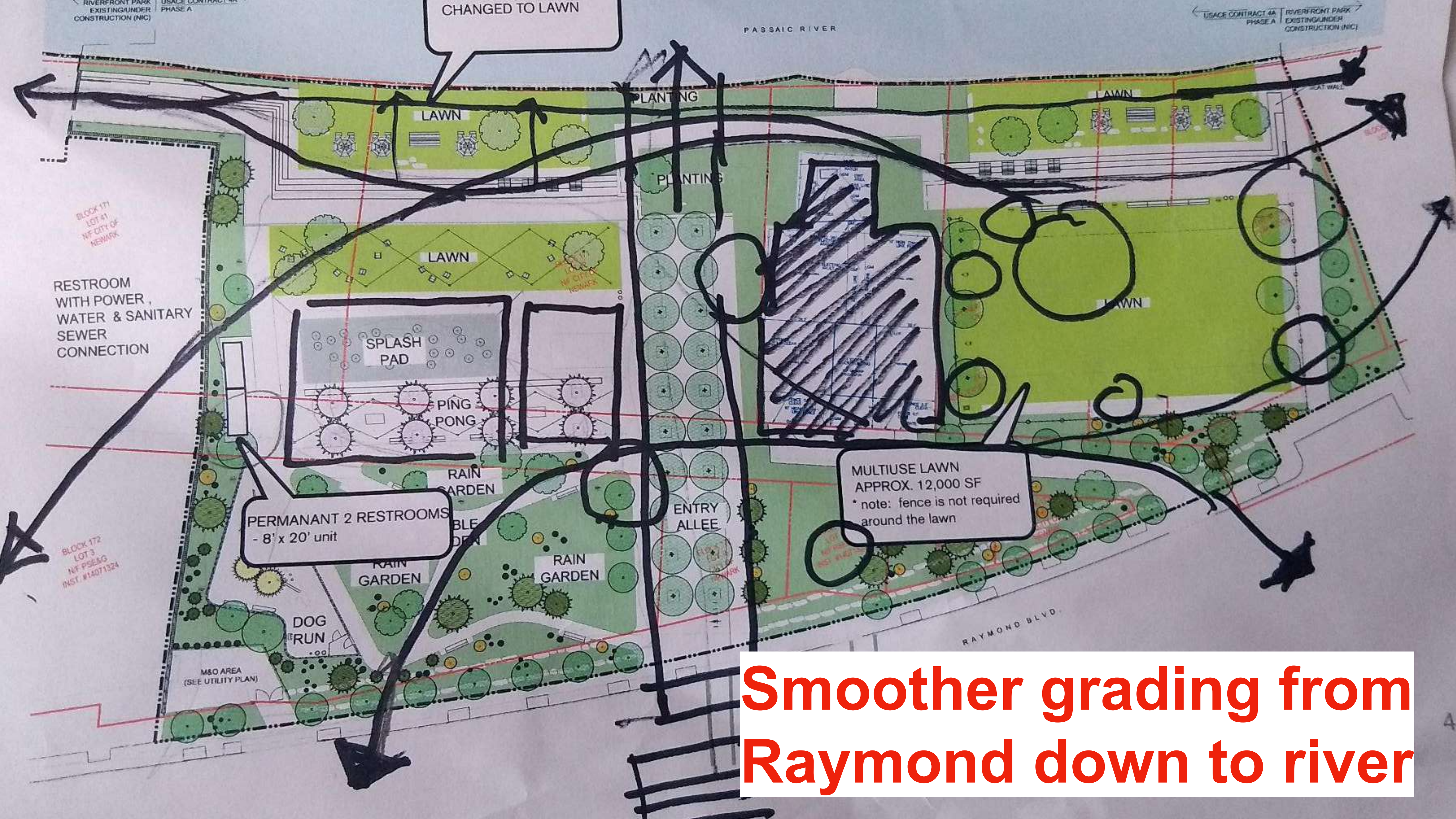


Concrete stairs

Paths & Moving Thru the Park



Concrete stairs



CHANGED TO LAWN

PASSAIC RIVER

USAGE CONTRACT 4A PHASE A RIVERFRONT PARK EXISTING UNDER CONSTRUCTION (NIC)

PLANTING

LAWN

LAWN

PLANTING

LAWN

LAWN

RESTROOM WITH POWER, WATER & SANITARY SEWER CONNECTION

SPLASH PAD

PING PONG

RAIN GARDEN

ENTRY ALLEE

MULTIUSE LAWN APPROX. 12,000 SF * note: fence is not required around the lawn

PERMANANT 2 RESTROOMS - 8' x 20' unit

RAIN GARDEN

RAIN GARDEN

DOG RUN

M&O AREA (SEE UTILITY PLAN)

RAYMOND BLVD.

Smoother grading from Raymond down to river

BLOCK 171 LOT 41 N/C CITY OF NEWARK

BLOCK 172 LOT 3 N/C PSE&G INST. #14071324

Paths & Moving Thru the Park

OVERALL

- **Smooth paths, more of a wave than a square, and seamless**
- **Encourage fluid walkability**
- **Make grading more gradual**
- **Less fencing**

Use of Space and Programming

Use of Space and Programming

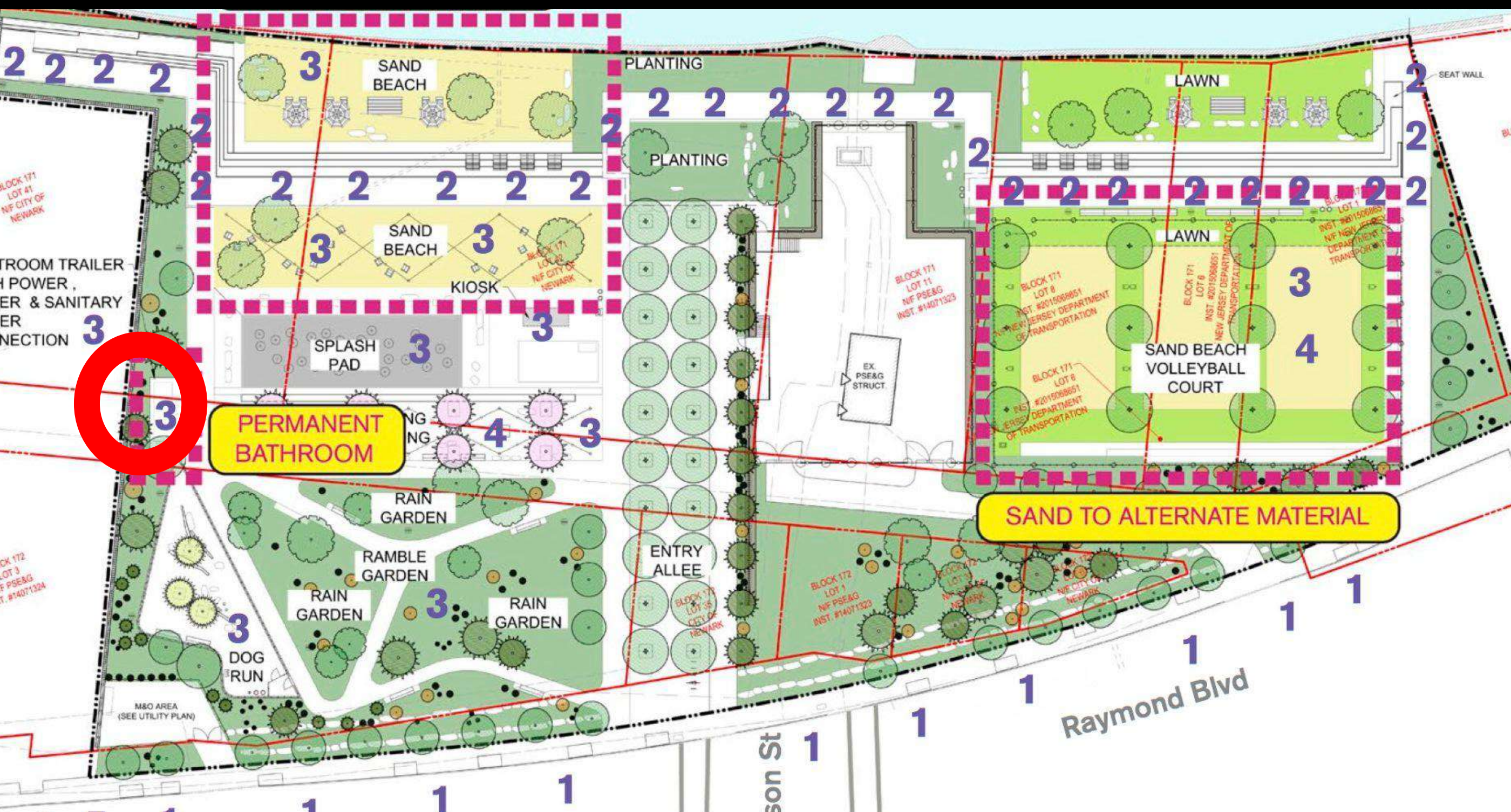
1. Extend at least interim improvements to eastern edge of City-controlled property, closer to Penn Station



Use of Space and Programming

2. Relocate bathroom more in center of activity for natural surveillance

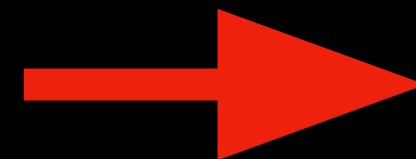
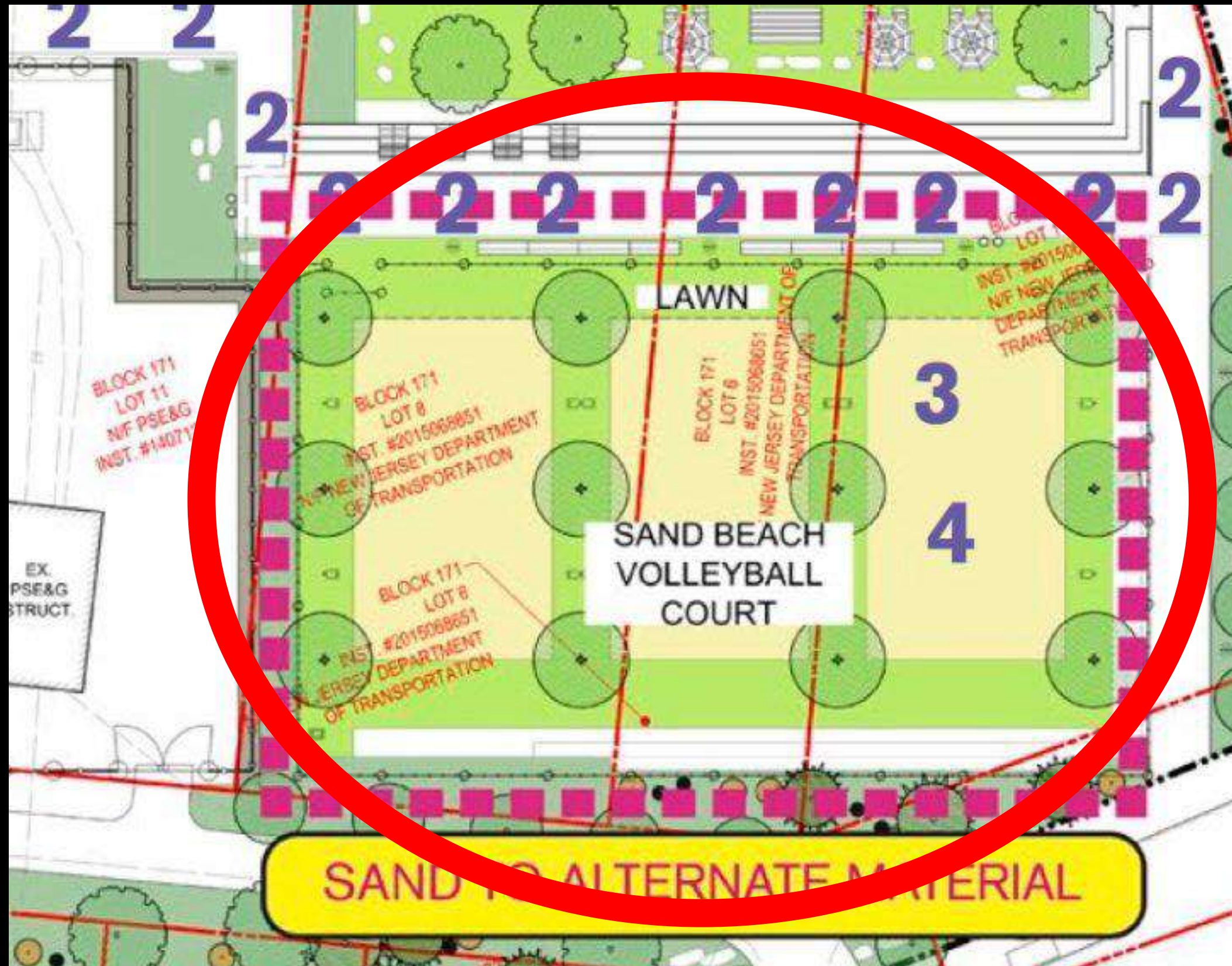
- Current location is on secluded edge of park
- Change appearance so doesn't look & feel like a shipping container



Use of Space and Programming

3. Replace 3 sand volleyball courts

- Most favored replacement so far: basketball/volleyball combination
 - basketball without fence like Phase 1
 - volleyball (turf or paving, not sand)
- Other suggestions: handball (on PSEG building), Futsol

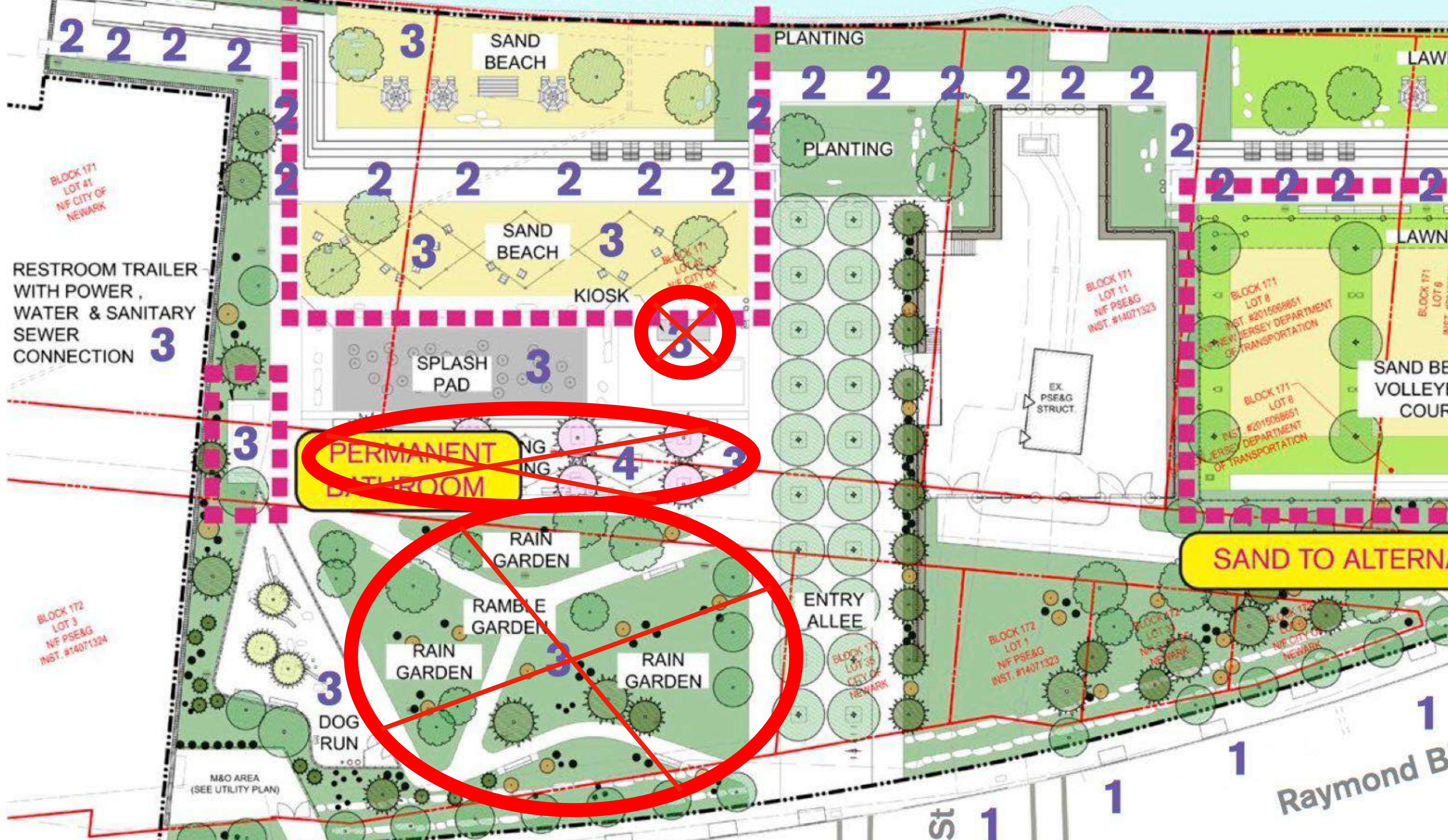


No fence around basketball, like Segment 1 court

Use of Space and Programming

4. Please remove these features and rededicate space to benches and sitting areas with chargers, chess area, small plaza / performance area, grilling area, and community/zen garden:

- **3 Ping Pong Tables**
 - Unneeded use of space considering few people own or carry paddles and balls
 - We attended all public meetings and did not hear anyone make this request
 - Replace with kid's play equipment, consider water activity space
- **Vending kiosk: already have three unused kiosks just north of Penn Station**
- **“Ramble Garden” Area: this space with the intentionally crooked paths, which make it impossible to see across, looks unsafe and like an unfriendly front door on Raymond**
 - We attended all public meetings and did not hear anyone make this request



BLOCK 171
LOT 41
NF CITY OF
NEWARK

RESTROOM TRAILER
WITH POWER,
WATER & SANITARY
SEWER
CONNECTION 3

SAND
BEACH

PLANTING

SAND
BEACH

KIOSK

SPLASH
PAD

PERMANENT
BATHROOM

RAIN
GARDEN

RAMBLE
GARDEN

RAIN
GARDEN

RAIN
GARDEN

ENTRY
ALLEE

EX.
PSE&G
STRUCT.

BLOCK 171
LOT 11
NF PSE&G
INST. #14071323

BLOCK 171
LOT 8
NF PSE&G
INST. #2015068851
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

SAND TO ALTERN

BLOCK 172
LOT 3
NF PSE&G
INST. #14071324

BLOCK 172
LOT 1
NF PSE&G
INST. #14071323

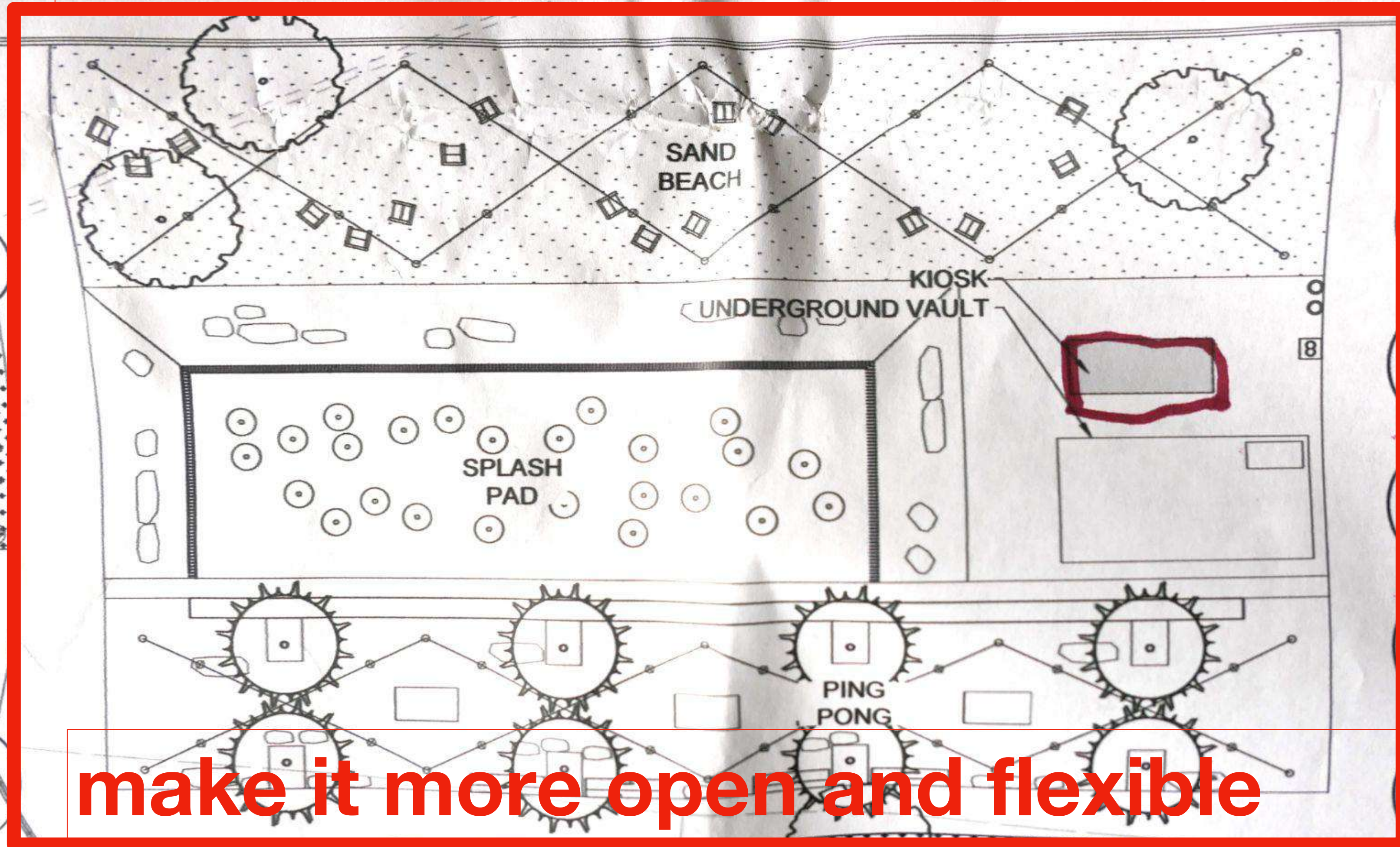
BLOCK 172
LOT 3
NF PSE&G
INST. #14071324

BLOCK 172
LOT 5
NF PSE&G
INST. #14071324

M&O AREA
(SEE UTILITY PLAN)

Raymond B

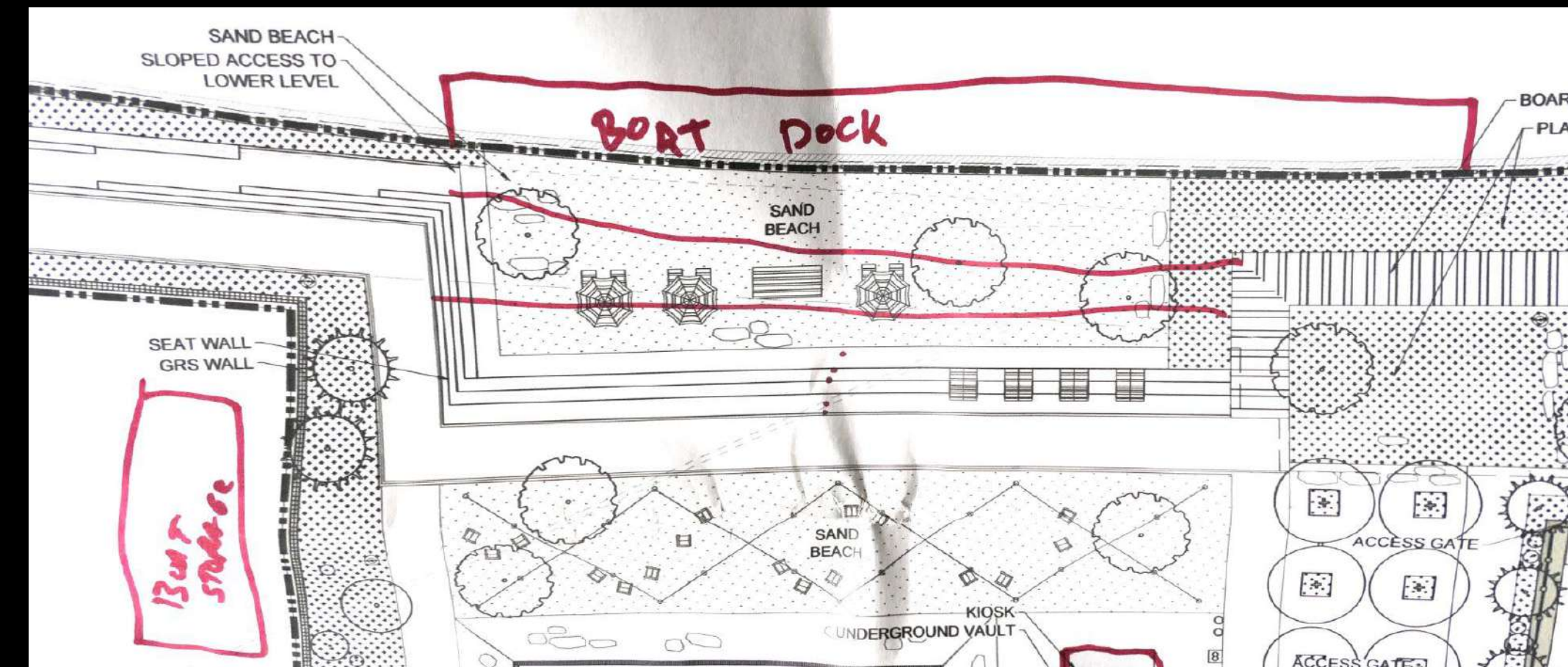
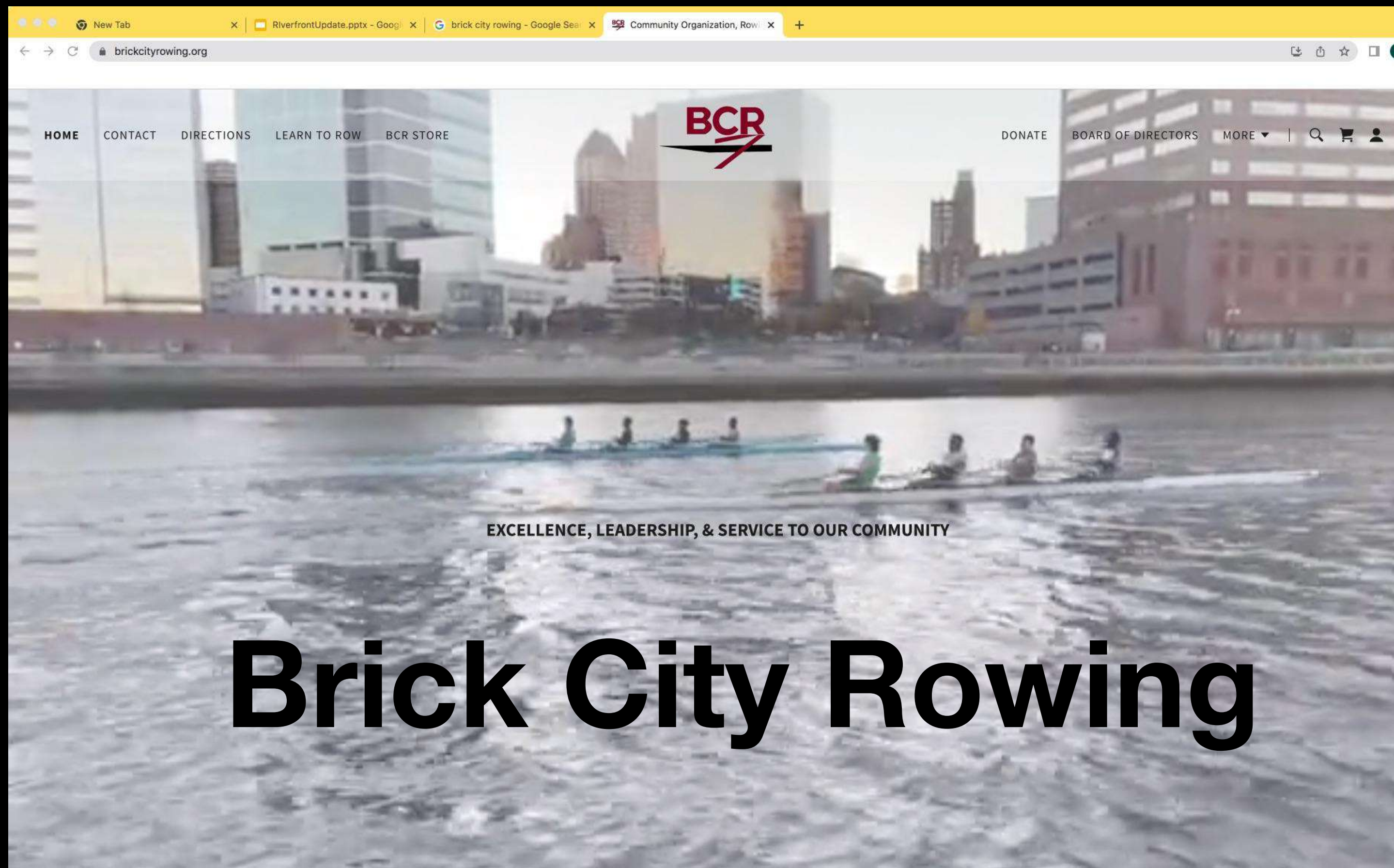
unify this fragmented space



make it more open and flexible

Use of Space and Programming

5. Add boat dock (150-300 feet long) and storage for longer boats in partnership with Brick City Rowing



- Brick City Rowing (BCR) is committed to paying for, and assuming programmatic liability (permits, expanded liability insurance, etc.) for this dock installation, which will reduce the financial burden for the City
- Ideally, this dock will be 150 - 300 feet to allow for multiple programs to take place simultaneously
- BCR would like to lead or partner with the City of Newark to develop dock and storage structure

Use of Space and Programming

6. Make it look and feel more like an extension of existing 3 segments of riverfront park

- “Current layout signals different separated parks right next to each other”
- “Overall layout should be more open with less separated areas”
- “Increase flexible play space for kids”

2001 ICC plan



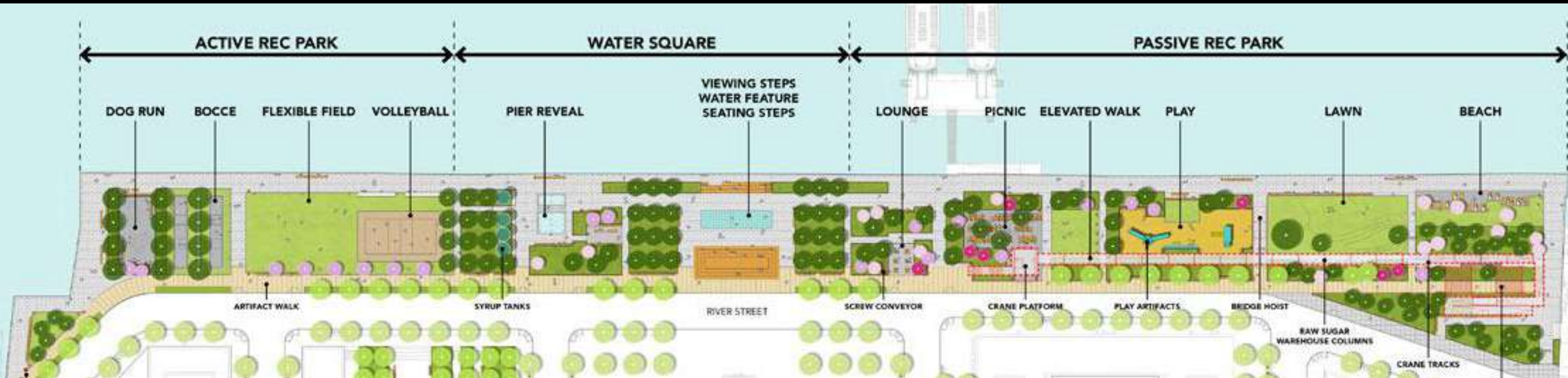
2001 ICC plan



**How Can This
Park Be Easier
to Maintain?**

Comparison: Domino Park designed by JFCO

Opened 2018 in Brooklyn, NY
1200 feet x 100 feet (2.75 acres)



“To keep the park looking pristine, a staff of approximately 17 manage and maintain the site. In contrast, for a public park of this size elsewhere in [NYC], perhaps only a few parks department maintenance staff would be available, and they would also be tending to other parks.”

<https://dirt.asla.org/2022/01/27/domino-park-privately-managed-publicly-owned-coastal-infrastructure/>



Easier to Maintain

1. Hire Newark residents to do the work, make it clear whose job it is

- Don't spend all funds on building, save funds for staffing**

2. Relocate rain garden from edge of Raymond Blvd

- Will collect litter and debris in current position**
- Creates unfriendly front door to park area**

Easier to Maintain

3. Confirm necessary maintenance capacity before installing equipment

- Figure out maintenance of irrigation system or don't install one
 - Segment 2 irrigation system inoperable due to lack of maintenance
- Figure out operation and staffing of bathroom or don't build one
 - Mulberry Commons bathrooms frequently out of service
- Confirm maintenance of computerized splash pad or install traditional sprayground
 - Mulberry Commons computerized splash pad frequently out of service

OVERALL

- Include trash cans: maybe easiest if match phases 1-3
- Examine what worked & didn't in completed phases
- Work with community to make multiple rounds of revisions until it's ready
- Consider retaining different design team based on poor downtown outcomes

**We wish to work with the city government,
Invest Newark, and Tetrattech to make this
project a wonderful success and for the city
to get the value of its investment**

Next Steps?