

OCTOBER 14, 2025



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025, 7:00 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET

MINUTES

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on October 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
- B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- C. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- D. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344
- E. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov
- F. Please Visit the City Council Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/350/City-Council>

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the City Council at 7:00 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors John M. Airasian, Caroline Bays, Lisa J. Feltner, John G. Gannon, Nicole Gardner, Emily Izzo, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were George Proakis, City Manager, Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk, and Doug Newton, Municipal Policy Analyst.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no participants in public forum.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A. Minutes from Special City Council Meeting September 2, 2025

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the minutes from the meeting of September 2, 2025 and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

B. Minutes from City Council Meeting September 23, 2025

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the minutes from the meeting of September 23, 2025 and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Proposed Resolution Regarding the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Process

President Sideris read the resolution outlining the timeline for the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Process.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the resolution and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that there will be Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Committee meetings to create budget policy guidelines as is done every year.

6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS

A. Acceptance of Proclamation

President Sideris remarked that the proclamation was created to honor three members of the Watertown High School Football Team (Riaz Khan, Joel Montoya, Boran Akisik) for their role in assisting the WPD with information of a recent hit and run.

President Sideris then read the proclamation.

Watertown Police Chief Hanrahan took an opportunity to recognize the young men's efforts in an outstanding act of civil responsibility and community responsibility.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

City Manager Proakis stated that this item's purpose is to move funds from the Watertown Square stabilization account to the Watertown Square expenditure account, which will pay for phases of the urban revitalization plan, legal services, and engineering design.

Angie Kounelis – 55 Keenan Street – Remarked that there were previous plans for a garage in the CVS parking lot, and that she hoped that those plans will be reviewed by the engineering firm, so as to not start anew as the infrastructure has not changed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the amendment and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Loan Order that the sum of \$1,350,000 is appropriated to pay construction and construction administration costs of Bemis Park, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029 Capital Improvement Plan, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

City Manager Proakis stated that the FY25 CIP allocated \$960,000, but that costs increased due to stormwater mitigation and general inflation.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the loan order and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report regarding its meeting on September 10, 2025 - Izzo, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that City Council confirm the reappointment of Samantha Henry to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors to a term expiring September 15, 2028

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that City Council confirm the reappointment of James Vershbow to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors to a term expiring September 15, 2028

Councilor Izzo read the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the action items and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- B. Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report regarding its meeting on October 7, 2025 - Feltner, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm the appointment of Allison Eck to the Community Preservation Committee as an At-Large member to a term expiring February 1, 2027

Councilor Feltner read the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the action item and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Solid Waste & Recycling Advisory Committee

City Manager Proakis requested the confirmation of appointment of Alana Berman – Gnivecki to the Solid Waste & Recycling Advisory Committee.

President Sideris stated this item gets referred to the Committee on Public Works.

B. Request for Confirmation of Appointment and Reappointments to the Public Arts & Culture Committee

City Manager Proakis requested the confirmation of appointment for Lei Ma and reappointments of Matt Hanna and Dawn Scaltreto to the Public Arts & Culture Committee.

President Sideris stated that this item gets referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning.

C. Request for Confirmation of Appointment and Reappointments to the Historic District Commission

City Manager Proakis requested the confirmation of appointment for Brendan Shanahan and reappointments of Harvey Steiner and Linda Sternberg to the Historic District Commission.

President Sideris stated that this item gets referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning.

D. Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2027

City Manager Proakis presented the Preliminary Budget Overview (linked and attached).

<https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/DocView.aspx?id=132952&repo=r-5ece5628>

President Sideris thanked the City Manager and staff for their efforts and presentation. He then stated that the next step for the City Council will be to discuss prioritizations to give guidance. There will be a series of Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight meetings following that as well.

13. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

There were no requests.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no participants in public forum.

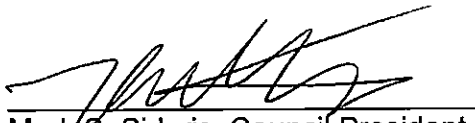
16. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to adjourn and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion was adopted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 28, 2025.


Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/BTM

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
Administration Building, 149 Main Street
List of Documents

1. Proposed FY27 Budget Timeline – Item 5A
2. Acceptance of Proclamation – Item 6A
3. FY26 Budget Amendment – Item 7A
4. Loan Order – Bemis Park – Item 7B
5. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report 25-09-10 – Item 8A
6. Committee on Economic Development & Planning Report 25-10-07 Item 8B
7. Request for Confirmation – Solid Waste & Recycling Advisory Committee – Item 9A
8. Request for Confirmation – Public Arts & Culture Committee – Item 9B
9. Request for Confirmation – Historic District Commission – Item 9C
10. Preliminary Budget Overview for FY27 – Item 9D

**ADDENDUM TO THE
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER
14, 2025 CITY COUNCIL
MEETING**



City Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on October 14, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. Location: Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
- B. This is an in-person meeting — any remote access is provided solely as a courtesy and may not be relied upon as alternative access. Therefore, any interruption in remote access technology shall not interrupt the meeting, and the meeting will proceed accordingly in person. In the event of such interruption, in-person attendance is available and encouraged
- C. The in-person meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- D. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
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- 1. ROLL CALL
 - 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 - 3. PUBLIC FORUM
 - 4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - A. Minutes from Special City Council Meeting September 2, 2025
 - B. Minutes from City Council Meeting September 23, 2025
 - 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - A. Proposed Resolution Regarding the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Process
 - 6. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS
 - A. Acceptance of Proclamation
 - 7. PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
 - B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Loan Order that the sum of \$1,350,000 is appropriated to pay construction and construction administration costs of Bemis

Park, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029 Capital Improvement Plan, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that City Council confirm the reappointment of Samantha Henry to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors to a term expiring September 15, 2028

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that City Council confirm the reappointment of James Vershbow to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors to a term expiring September 15, 2028

- B. Committee on Economic Development & Planning Report regarding its meeting on October 7, 2025

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend that the City Council confirm the appointment of Allison Eck to the Community Preservation Committee as an At-Large member to a term expiring February 1, 2027

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Solid Waste & Recycling Advisory Committee
- B. Request for Confirmation of Appointment and Reappointments to the Public Arts & Culture Committee
- C. Request for Confirmation of Appointment and Reappointments to the Historic District Commission
- D. Preliminary Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2027

10. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. PUBLIC FORUM

13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,

John G. Gannon,

Anthony Palomba,

Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to adopt the minutes from Special City Council Meeting September 2, 2025

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to adopt the minutes from City Council Meeting September 23, 2025

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to accept the resolution outlining the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Process



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION# 102

2025 - R - 102

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET TIMELINE

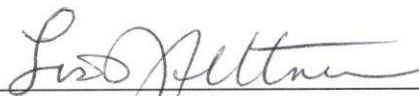
WHEREAS: Article 5 of the Watertown Home Rule Charter sets out a process for the development and adoption of the annual operating budget and capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS: The City Council wishes to establish a timeline, consistent with the Charter, by which it will provide policy guidance to the City Manager on the development of the budget and capital improvement program; and

WHEREAS: Such a timeline will also give city residents notice of their opportunity to offer input on these important financial matters;

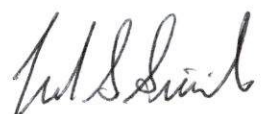
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown establishes the following timeline for the development of the Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget and capital improvement program:

1. The Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Overview will be presented to the City Council by October 14, 2025.
2. The City Council will adopt its Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Policy Guidelines by November 25, 2025.
3. The proposed Fiscal Year 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Program will be presented to the City Council by January 20, 2026.
4. The City Council will adopt its conceptual recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program by February 24, 2026, subject to the availability of funds.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the about Resolution was adopted by a vote of 4 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 14, 2025


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to accept the proclamation honoring Riaz Khan, Joel Montoya, and Boran Akisik



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

PROCLAMATION HONORING RIAZ KHAN, JOEL MONTOYA, AND BORAN AKISIK

WHEREAS: The quality of a community's character can be defined by the actions of its members; and,

WHEREAS: Acts of courage and responsibility can be demonstrated by any member of a community; and,

WHEREAS: On the night of September 25, 2025, Watertown High School students Riaz Khan, Joel Montoya, and Boran Akisik witnessed a vehicular hit and run at the intersection of Palfrey Street and Pearl Street; and,

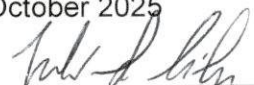
WHEREAS: Kahn, Montoya, and Akisik exhibited collective composure by playing a critical role in assisting responding officers by providing timely and accurate information; corroborating the victim's account, locating and reporting key evidence of a license plate, and providing detailed descriptions of the offender and their vehicle; and,

WHEREAS: As a result of their efforts, the Watertown Police Department was able to identify and locate the vehicle involved shortly after the incident; and,

WHEREAS: Their willingness to step forward and assist exemplifies civic responsibility and community partnership with law enforcement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City Council of Watertown hereby honors Riaz Khan, Joel Montoya, and Boran Akisik for their commendable actions in service to Watertown.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set our hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Watertown to be affixed on this 14th day of October 2025


Mark S. Sideris, Council President



CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ORDER # 103

2025 - O - 103

ORDER ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET

BE IT ORDERED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby adopts an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 General Budget as attached.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That a copy of said Order be forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above order was adopted by a vote of 4 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 14, 2025.


Brendan J. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT

REVENUE	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
TRANSFER FROM WATERTOWN SQUARE STABILIZATION	\$ 2,072,798	\$ 2,072,798
TOTAL REVENUE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 2,072,798	

EXPENDITURES	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
TRANSFER TO CAP PROJECT/CITY 0193059-596502	\$ 2,072,798	\$ 2,072,798
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 2,072,798	



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: September 17, 2025

RE: Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

As you all know we are moving forward with implementation of the next two projects called for in the Watertown Square Area Plan: Urban Revitalization Planning and Roadway and Public Realm Design. For the past several years, we have allocated a total of \$8,921,352.66 to the Watertown Square Stabilization fund in anticipation of this effort.

We respectfully request that the Council transfer funds from the Watertown Square Stabilization account to a new Watertown Square Expenditure account in the amount of \$2,072,798. This amount is broken down as follows:

Redevelopment Planning:

Innes Land Strategies:

Innes Land Strategies has proposed this work in two phases for a total fee of \$298,998. Phase 1 for \$75,000 is already underway with funding from a current fund. Phase 2 is proposed at \$223,998.

Phase 1: Demonstration Project: \$75,000
Phase 2: Full Urban Revitalization Plan: \$223,998

Requested Amount:\$223,998.

Legal Services:

This initial fund request is needed to engage specialized land use services outside the scope of the City's current municipal legal contracts. Additional funds will be requested as needed to support the efforts of the Redevelopment Authority.

Requested Amount:\$50,000.

Engineering/Design Services:

This will fund the bulk of the Engineering services not including landscape architecture which has not yet been bid. We will return to the Council with a specific request for that work when that consultant has been selected. The preferred engineering proposal bid was \$1,798,800.

Requested Amount:\$1,798,800.

TOTAL Requested Amount:\$2,072,798.

There will be extensive public outreach and ongoing information sharing for both projects. We will continue to share information to the website: www.watertownsquareimprovements.com

Given the above, I kindly request that this Amendment be placed on the City Council Agenda for September 23, 2025 as a First Reading to amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Auditor

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472-4410

Megan Langan
City Auditor

Telephone: (617) 972-6460
Facsimile: (617) 972-6563

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR 
DATE: September 17, 2025
RE: AGENDA ITEM – PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Below please find for your review a Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. The proposed amendment is to allow the City to move forward with the implementation of the next two projects called for in the Watertown Square Area Plan: Urban Revitalization Planning and Roadway and Public Realm Design.

REVENUE	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
TRANSFER FROM WATERTOWN SQUARE STABILIZATION	\$ 2,072,798	\$ 2,072,798
TOTAL REVENUE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 2,072,798	
EXPENDITURES	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
TRANSFER TO CAP PROJECT/CITY 0193059-596502	\$ 2,072,798	\$ 2,072,798
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 2,072,798	

Given this Amendment, the Fiscal Year 2026 Revenues and Expenditures will each be increased by \$2,072,798. Therefore, the revised Fiscal Year 2026 Revenues and Expenditures would be \$225,733,231.

Order Confirmation

Brendan McCarthy
Watertown City Council
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Thank you for placing your Legal Notice in The Boston Globe.

Your order information and a preview of your notice are displayed below for your review. If there are any changes or questions, please contact the Classified Department at 617-929-1314 or email legals@globe.com.

Any and all proposed edits, revisions, and/or other changes to the notice must be communicated to us in writing prior to the deadline specified in the Advertising Specs + Deadlines page located at <https://www.bostonglobemedia.com/specs-deadlines>.

Thank you,
Boston Globe Classified Sales

617-929-1314
Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
legals@globe.com

Order Number	757657	Order Price	\$935.41
Sales Rep.	Jackson Kocak	PO No.	
Account	3028420	Payment Type	
Publication	Boston Globe	Number of dates	1
First Run Date	10/01/2025	Last Run Date	10/01/2025
Payment Type			

AD PREVIEW:

The Watertown City Council hereby gives notice of a Public Hearing and vote to be held online and in-person (hybrid) Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 7:00 PM, in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA or online at the following link: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344> which may be found on the City of Watertown's website, on a proposed amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 City Budget. Pursuant to the first Amendment, the Fiscal Year 2026 Revenues and Expenditures will be adjusted as follows:

REVENUE
Transfer from Watertown Square Stabilization
INCREASE (DECREASE)
\$2,072,798
Total Revenue Adjustment
\$2,072,798
TO READ
\$2,072,798

EXPENDITURES
Transfer to Cap Project/City
INCREASE (DECREASE)
\$2,072,798
Total Expenditure Adjustment
\$2,072,798
TO READ
\$2,072,798

Interested parties are encouraged to participate in this HYBRID Public Hearing. A copy of the proposed Loan Order is available for inspection at the Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472 in the City Clerk's Office Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday evening up to 7:00 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m., and on the City's website page: www.watertown-ma.gov.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve a loan order in the amount of \$1,350,000 for Bemis Park



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

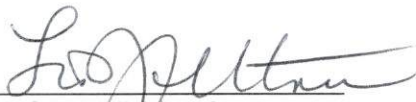
ORDER # 104

2025 - O - 104

ORDER TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF FUNDS FOR BEMIS PARK CONSTRUCTION

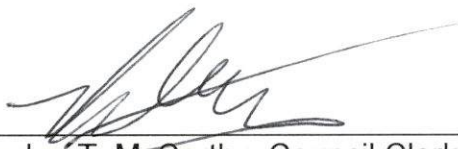
ORDERED: That the sum of \$1,350,000 is appropriated to pay construction and construction administration costs of Bemis Park, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029 Capital Improvement Plan, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That a copy of said Order be forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector

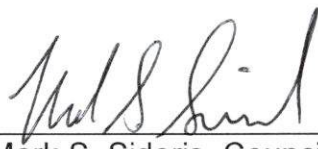


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 14, 2025



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: September 18, 2025

RE: Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order

Attached is a joint memorandum from Steve Magoon, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development and Planning; Erika Oliver Jerram, Director of Community Design; and Michelle Moon, Open Space Planner, requesting approval of \$1,350,000 for the Bemis Park project, including three alternates. Although the FY 2025 CIP budget allocated \$960,000, costs have risen due to increased stormwater mitigation and general inflation.

The bid, opened after Hinckley Allen drafted the loan order language, came in at \$1,148,412. Conceptual Recommendation #18 in the FY 2026–2030 CIP listed Bemis Park at \$960,000 which is \$188,000 below the bid and \$390,000 below the requested loan amount. However, due to Victory Field Phase 2 coming in nearly \$2M under budget (Conceptual Recommendation #32), we can absorb the additional cost.

I respectfully request that the proposed Loan Order be placed on the City Council agenda for First Reading on September 23, 2025.

Thank you for your consideration.



28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-1775
p: 617-345-9000 f: 617-345-9020
hinckleyallen.com

Chelsea A. Tryder
(617) 378-4209
ctryder@hinckleyallen.com

September 15, 2025

George J. Proakis
City Manager
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

RE: Draft Loan Order – Bemis Park Bonds

Dear George:

As requested, I suggest the following form of loan order to approve the borrowing of funds to pay costs of constructing Bemis Park:

ORDERED: That the sum of \$1,350,000 is appropriated to pay construction and construction administration costs of Bemis Park, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029 Capital Improvement Plan, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

The order must be published at least five days prior to the holding of a public hearing with respect to the order and its final passage and requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the City Council, as in the case of any other loan order for bonds.

Please call me if there are any questions about the suggested proceedings.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chelsea A. Tryder

Chelsea A. Tryder



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Department of
Community Development and Planning
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617 972 6417
Fax: 617 972 6484
www.watertown-ma.gov

TO: Mr. George Proakis - City Manager

FROM: Mr. Steve Magoon, Assistant City Manager and DCDP
Ms. Erika Oliver Jerram, Director of Community Design
Ms. Michelle Moon, Open Space Planner

DATE: September 15, 2025

RE: Loan Order Request for Bemis Park

The Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP) respectfully requests that the necessary actions be taken to authorize the Treasurer to borrow \$1,350,000.00 for the project plus the three alternates. The Bemis Park was included in the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for \$960,000.00, the cost is higher due to the increase in stormwater mitigation and general cost increases. The Bemis Park installation will include a new playground, splash pad, and site furnishings conceptual design rendering on page 2.

The Bid Opening is scheduled for Thursday, September 18th. The Bemis Park construction would start in Fall 2025 and continue through Spring 2026.

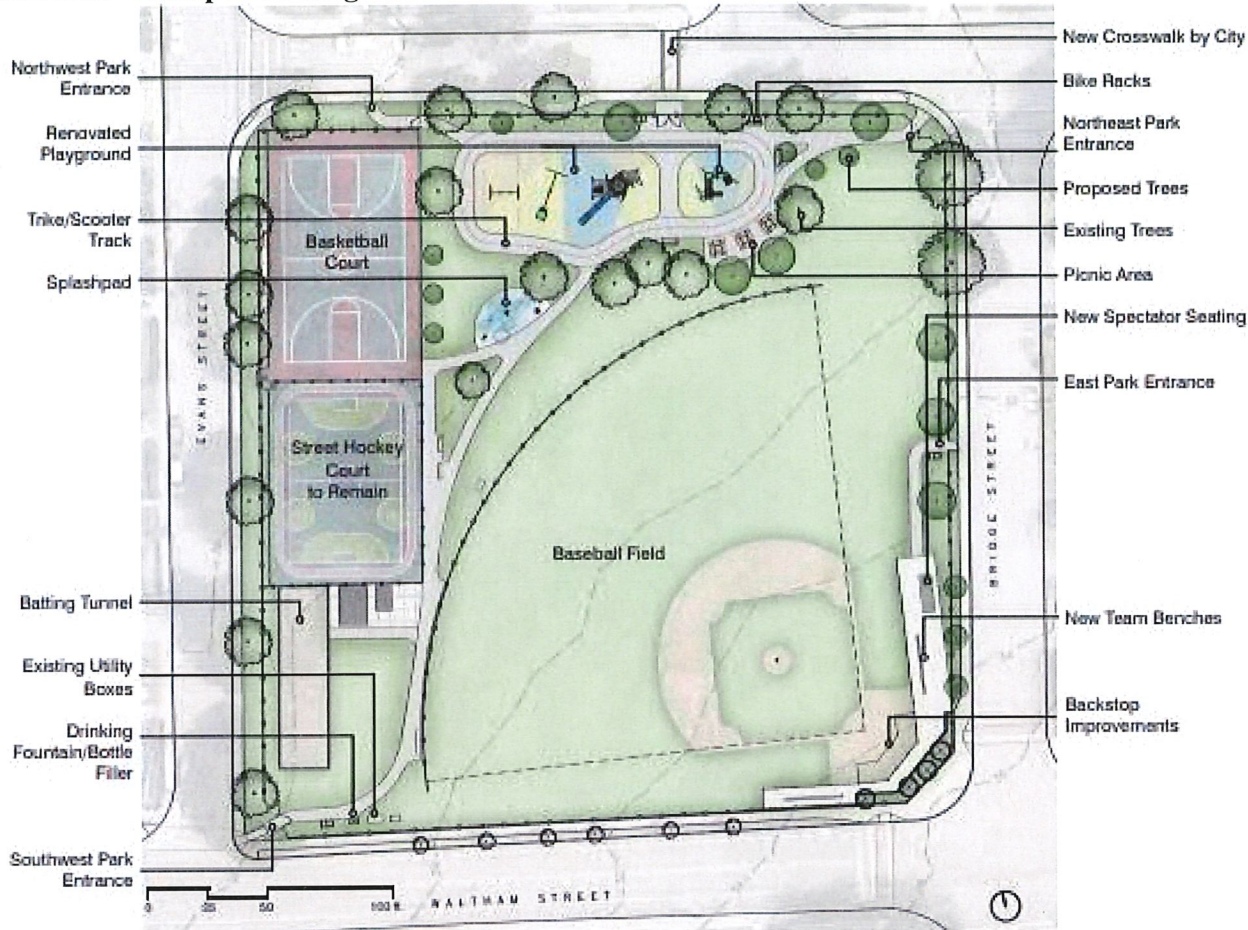
Budget

These funds will be utilized for the construction, construction administration services, and potential construction contingency costs associated with this project. As outlined in the enclosed letter from project engineering firm CBA, the funds will be utilized as follows.

Item	Amount	Remarks
Construction Funding Request (Installation & 12% Contingency)	\$1,350,000.00	Total Project
Construction Administration	\$26,975.00	CBA Landscape Architects (Included as part of existing contract)

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Bemis Park: Concept Drawing



PLAYGROUND CONCEPT - PRECEDENT IMAGES



Age 6-12 Play Tower



Age 2-5 Play Structure



Swings



Track Ride Tower

KEY ATTRIBUTES

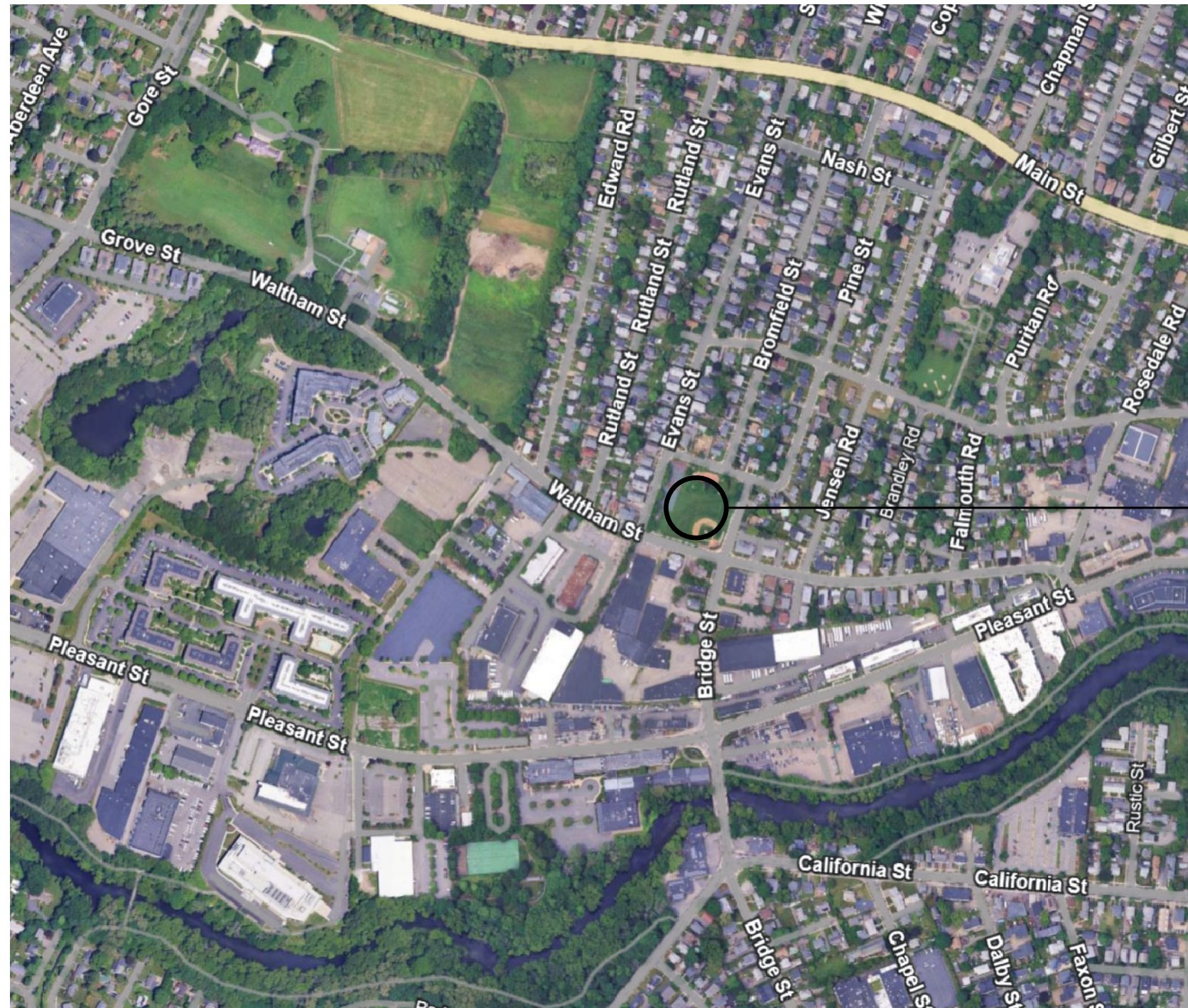
- Centered entrance along Buick Street at proposed new crosswalk
- Baseball spectator seating located near first base
- Picnic area strongly connected to playground in shade
- Splashpad separated from playground and picnic area and located in sun

Plans for
SITE IMPROVEMENTS TO
BEMIS PLAYGROUND
76 Bridge Street
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02472

BID SET

City of Watertown
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

LOCUS PLAN:



Project
Location

Prepared by:

CBA | Landscape Architects LLC

24 THORNDIKE STREET | CAMBRIDGE MA 02141
phone 617.945.9760 | www.cbaland.com | cba@cbaland.com

landscape architecture
urban design
master planning



With:



GCG
ASSOCIATES

84 Main Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

August 28, 2025

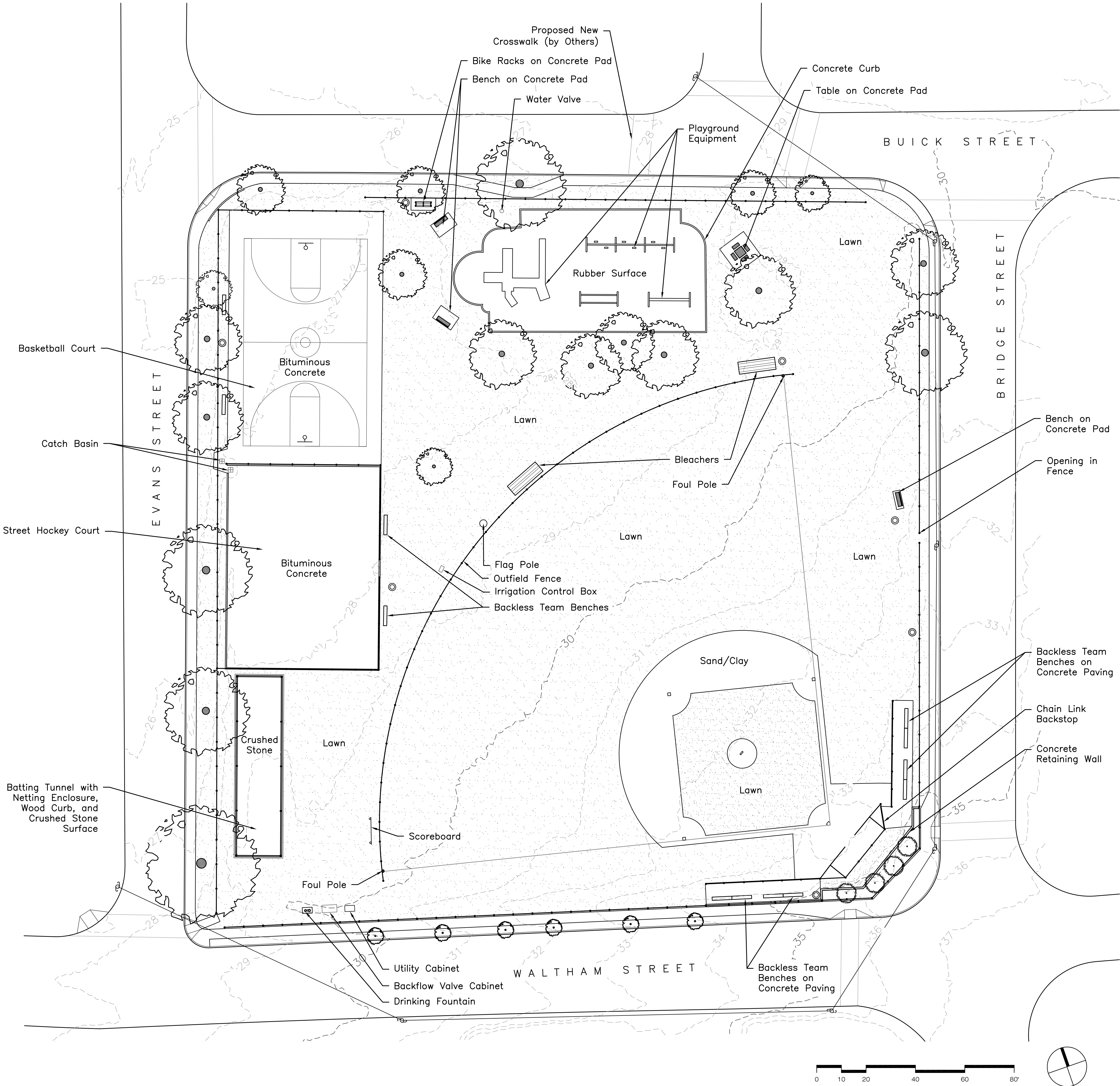
DRAWING LIST	
EC	Existing Conditions Plan
L1.0	Demolition and Removals Plan
L2.0	Materials Plan
L2.1	Materials Plan Enlargement
L3.0	Layout Plan: Paving, Walls and Fencing
L3.1	Layout Plan Enlargement
L3.2	Layout Plan: Site Furnishing and Play Equipment
L4.0	Grading Plan
L5.0	Utilities Plan
L6.0	Planting Plan
L7.0	Details
L7.1	Details
L7.2	Details
L7.3	Details
L7.4	Details
L7.5	Details
L7.6	Details
L7.7	Details
C1.0	Civil Details

LEGEND

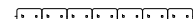
- Curb
- Fence (Chainlink, Height Varies)
- Topographic Contour (1' from GIS)
- Catch Basin
- Trash Receptacle
- Tree

BASE PLAN NOTES:

This Base Map is based off field observations, GIS data provided by the City, and publicly available aerial imagery. Locations of all site features are approximate and this plan has been compiled for INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. Field conditions will differ.

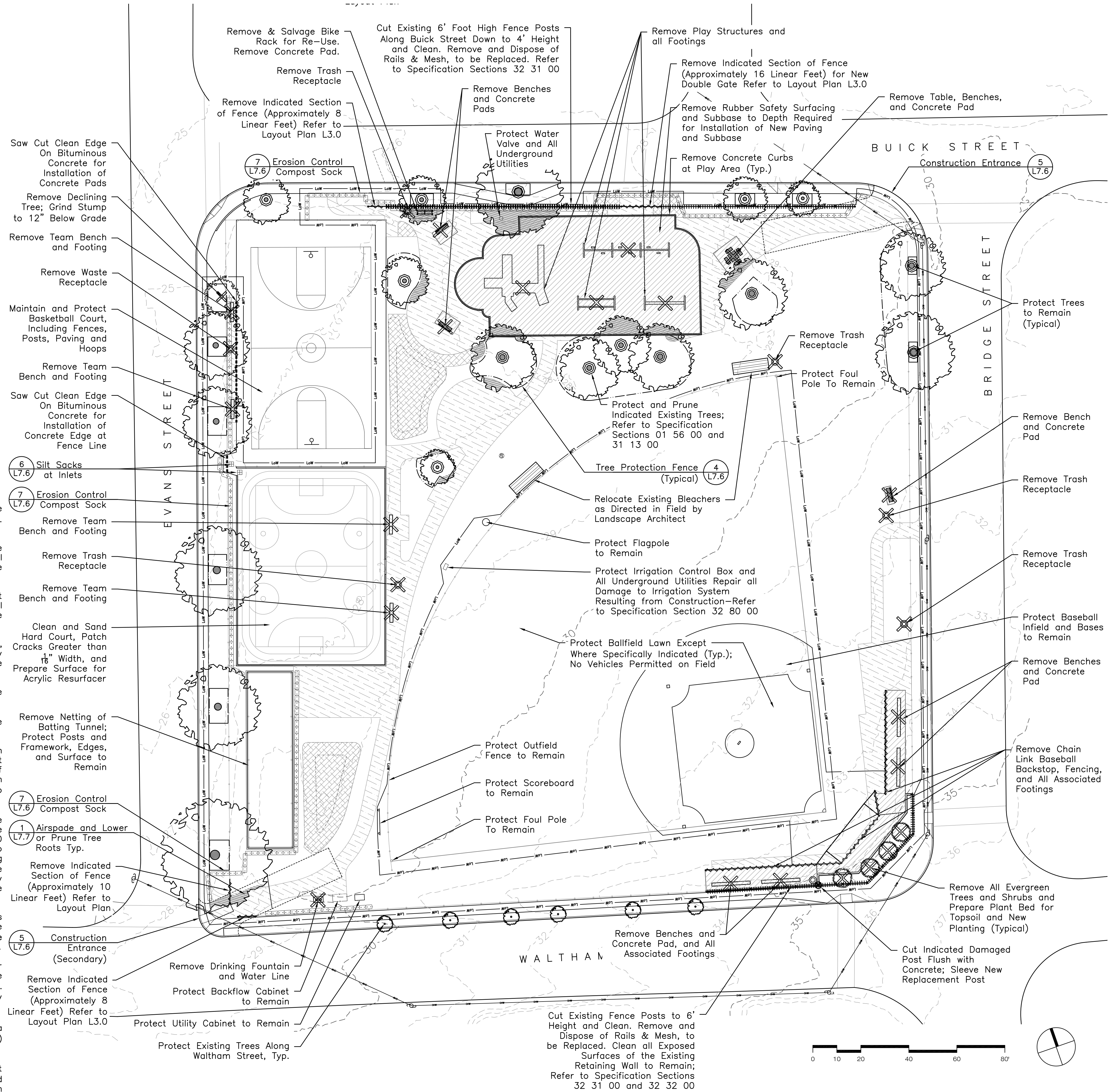


LEGEND

- | | |
|---|---|
|  | Limit of Work |
|  | Erosion Control |
|  | Tree Protection Fence |
|  | Existing Fence to Remain |
|  | Fence Removal |
|  | Remove and Dispose of Concrete Curb |
|  | Refurbish/ Modify Chain Link Fence |
|  | Sawcut Line |
|  | Construction Entrance |
|  | Remove and Dispose of Object and Footings |
|  | Remove Lawn to Depth Required for Proposed Paving and Subbase |
|  | Remove Existing Paving or Surfacing and Subbase |
|  | Remove Topsoil, and Subgrade to Depth Required to Install Proposed Features and Surfaces; Stockpile and Test Topsoil for Reuse After Rough Grading, See Specs |
|  | Existing Tree to Remain |
|  | Prune & Protect Existing Tree to Remain, See Detail 4/L7.6 |
|  | Airsprayer and Lower or Prune Tree Roots, See Details 1/L7.7 |
|  | Hand Dig in Critical Root Zone |
|  | Approximate Limits of Tree Protection Fence |
|  | Existing Tree to be Removed |

DEMOLITION NOTES

3. The Contractor shall verify location of and protect all utilities and drainage structures prior to starting construction. Call DIG-SAFE (1-888-DIG-SAFE). ALL EXISTING UTILITY LINES ARE NOT SHOWN ON PLAN; DIG-SAFE IS REQUIRED.
2. Contractor shall complete all demolition and removals required to complete the intent of the proposed design. Notify Landscape Architect of any and all discrepancies between existing conditions and contract documents before beginning that portion of work.
3. The Owner shall have right of first refusal on all removed materials not indicated for reuse or stockpiling. Contractor is responsible for proper disposal of all refused materials, off-site and in accordance with all local and state regulations.
4. Protect from damage all removed items designated for reuse in the project, or for reuse or stockpiling by the City of Watertown. All materials claimed by the Municipality for future use shall be delivered by the Contractor to the Department of Public Works storage yard.
5. Protect from damage all trees, shrubs, curbs, paving, and any other site feature that is not designated for removal. (See also Notes 7 and 10 below.)
6. Any damaged item not scheduled for removal shall be restored by the Contractor at no extra charge to Owner.
7. ALL REMOVALS AND ALL EXCAVATIONS outside tree protection fencing but within the dripline of existing trees shall be HAND WORK or AIR SPADE ONLY. Cut NO ROOTS without the express permission of Landscape Architect or City of Watertown Tree Warden. Provide 48 hours notice before all such work in "Hand Work Only" areas to allow Landscape Architect or Tree Warden to observe work. (See Specifications 01 57 00 and sheet 7.7.)
8. Temporary fencing with construction signage shall be installed around the perimeter of the work and staging areas to secure project site and notify the public of the closure for construction; see Specifications section 01 56 00 and 01 14 00. The temporary fencing shall be the minimum necessary to enclose the work and staging unless otherwise directed in the field. Existing fencing may be used as part of enclosure at the Contractor's discretion where it provides sufficient protection. Construction fencing shall have privacy screening installed per the specifications. All public pathways outside the indicated fencing shall remain open. See also 01 14 00 regarding access.
9. Contractor shall review items to be removed, proposed staging areas, access routes, and intended procedure for accomplishing the work with the Landscape Architect and Owner's Representative prior to commencement of work. See Spec Section 01 14 00 for Work Access, Staging and Coordination Restrictions.
10. DO NOT REMOVE any existing drainage fabric, soil separator fabric, or other geotextiles under dripline of trees without the approval of the Landscape Architect or the Owner's Representative to avoid damage to feeder roots. (Where necessary, Contractor shall cut fabric and leave areas entangled by roots in place in the ground.)
11. All trees indicated as "Protect and Prune" shall be pruned as needed by a Mass. Certified Arborist to remove all dead or diseased wood (Crown Cleaning) and to meet all regulations for clearances (See Specs.)
12. All trees within limit of work shall receive root zone aeration and amendment measures in the form of vertical mulching and/or radial trenching and mulching as directed by an Arborist, as detailed on sheet L7.7 and in specification section 31 23 17.



	Limit of Work
	4' New or Refurbished Chain Link Fence
	6' New or Refurbished Chain Link Fence
	Concrete Mow Strip Under Fence
	Bituminous Concrete
	Rubber Safety Surface
	Stabilized Stonedust Paving
	Concrete Paving
	Lawn
	Rain Garden
	Amended Ballfield Infield Mix
	6' Backed Bench
	Picnic Table
	Bike Rack
	Trash Receptacle
	Existing Tree to Remain
	Proposed Tree

1. The Contractor shall verify locations of and protect all utilities, and drainage structures prior to commencing work.
2. All site construction shall be in conformance with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Standard Specifications for Highways and Bridges, and the City of Watertown DPW Standards.
3. Contractor shall verify all dimensions and elevations on the ground and report any discrepancies to the Landscape Architect prior to commencing construction.
4. All utility structures and lines to be coordinated with footings for site features.
5. Repair any damage to existing site features to remain and to any disruption beyond the limit of work.

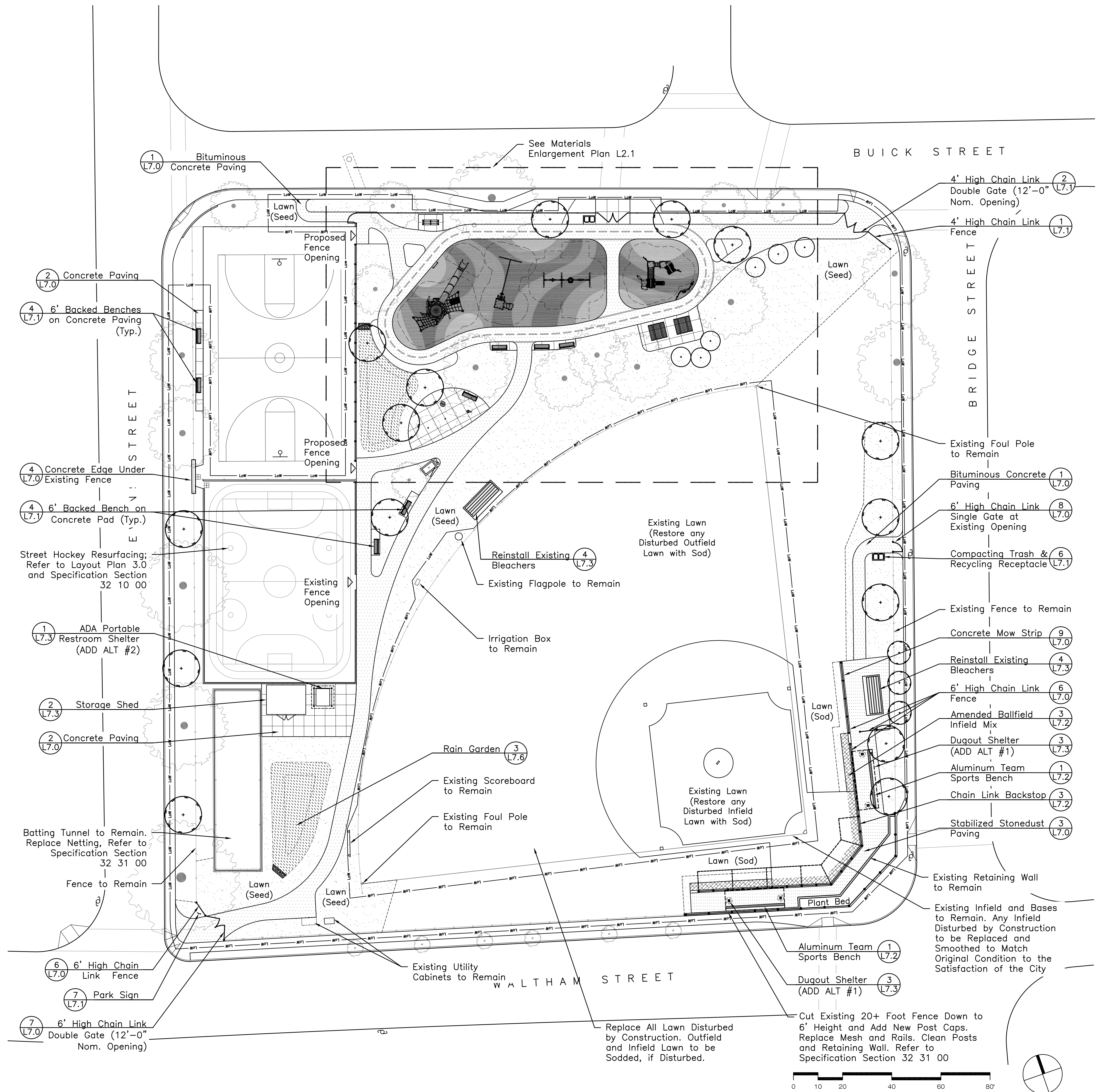
- ADD (2) Dugout Shelters over team benches. See Detail 3/L7.3.

ADD ALTERNATE #2 – Portable Restroom Shelter on Conc. Paving

- ADD (1) ADA Portable Restroom Shelter. See Detail 1/L7.3

ADD ALTERNATE #3 – BASKETBALL COURT FENCE EDGE

- ADD Approximately 90 Linear Feet of 6' High Chain Link Fence along open basketball court edge. See Enlargement Plan L2.1 and Detail 6/L7.0



LEGEND

Limit of Work

4' New or Refurbished Chain Link Fence

6' New or Refurbished Chain Link Fence

Bituminous Concrete

Rubber Safety Surface

Concrete Paving

Lawn

Rain Garden

6' Backed Bench

Picnic Table

Bike Rack

Trash Receptacle

Existing Tree to Remain

Proposed Tree

REFER TO SHEET L2.0 FOR MATERIALS NOTES

Limit of Work

4' New or Refurbished Chain Link Fence

6' New or Refurbished Chain Link Fence

Bituminous Concrete

Rubber Safety Surface

Concrete Paving

Lawn

Rain Garden

6' Backed Bench

Picnic Table

Bike Rack

Trash Receptacle

Existing Tree to Remain

Proposed Tree

REFER TO SHEET L2.0 FOR MATERIALS NOTES

The main site plan for Bemis Playground shows a large central play area with various equipment. Key features include:
 - Play structures: Age 5-12 Play Structure (1 L7.4), Age 2-5 Play Structure (1 L7.4), Play Panel A (1 L7.4), and Play Panel B (1 L7.4).
 - Equipment: Track Ride (1 L7.4), Swings (1 L7.4), 6' Backed Bench (Typ.) (4 L7.1), 6' Accessible Picnic Table (Typ.) (5 L7.1), and a 6' High Chain Link Fence (6 L7.0).
 - Landscaping: Rain Garden (3 L7.6), Lawn, and several Plant Beds.
 - Infrastructure: Sanitary Sewer Connection, Proposed Fence Opening, and Existing Outfield Fence to Remain.
 - Materials: Bituminous Concrete, Rubber Safety Surface, Concrete Paving, and Lawn.
 - Other: Reused Bike rack on Concrete Pad, Existing Tree to Remain (Typical), and Existing Foul Pole to Remain.

CBA Landscape Architects LLC
24 THORNDIKE STREET CAMBRIDGE MA 02141
phone 617.945.9760 cba@cbland.com www.cbland.com
landscape architecture
urban design
master planning

BEMIS PLAYGROUND
Watertown, MA
MATERIALS PLAN ENLARGEMENT

DATE: 08-28-2025
SCALE: 1" = 10' - 0"
FILE: BPW L2 Materials.dwg
DWN BY: MJ/ATF
CKD BY: DJC
PROJ. #: 2311

L2.1

	4' New or Refurbished Chain Link Fence
	6' New or Refurbished Chain Link Fence
	Concrete Mow Strip Under Fence
	Concrete Paving
	Existing Tree to Remain

1. The Contractor shall verify location of and protect all utilities, drainage, and sub-surface drainage structures. All utility lines and subsurface drainage to be coordinated with footings for site features.
2. Contractor shall verify all dimensions and elevations on the ground and report any discrepancies to the Landscape Architect before commencement of construction.
3. Contractor shall stake layout of plan on the site for approval of Landscape Architect before commencement of construction. All curves shall be staked with markers at a minimum of one every two feet.
4. All layout shall be performed by a Registered Surveyor. All layout shall be by the dimensions noted; do not scale directly from the plan. If clarification regarding a dimension or layout order is required, the Contractor shall contact the Landscape Architect.
5. Where not otherwise indicated, all dimensions are to the faces of curbs and walls and to the centerlines of paths or other items shown. Dimensions are measured perpendicular to guidelines, centerlines, and features unless otherwise indicated.
6. Dimensions marked with "±" and/or "(VIF)" are intended for confirmation of conformance to the expected conditions and (where applicable) that acceptable slopes and clearances are provided. Once layout has been established using other dimensions, the Contractor shall verify these dimensions (to within a tolerance of 1/2") and report any discrepancy to the Landscape Architect for acceptance or instruction regarding adjustment. These dimensions shall not be used to lay out elements.

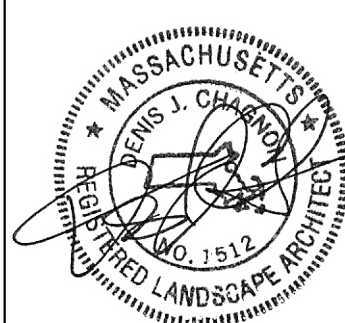


BEMIS PLAYGROUND

Watertown, MA

LAYOUT PLAN: PAVING, WALLS, AND FENCING

DATE:	08-28-202
SCALE:	1" = 20' -
FILE:	BPW L3 LAYOUT.dwg
DWN BY:	MJ/AT
CKD BY:	DJ
PROJ. # :	231

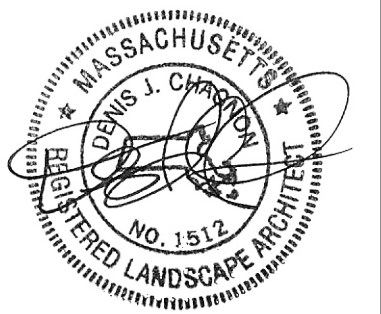
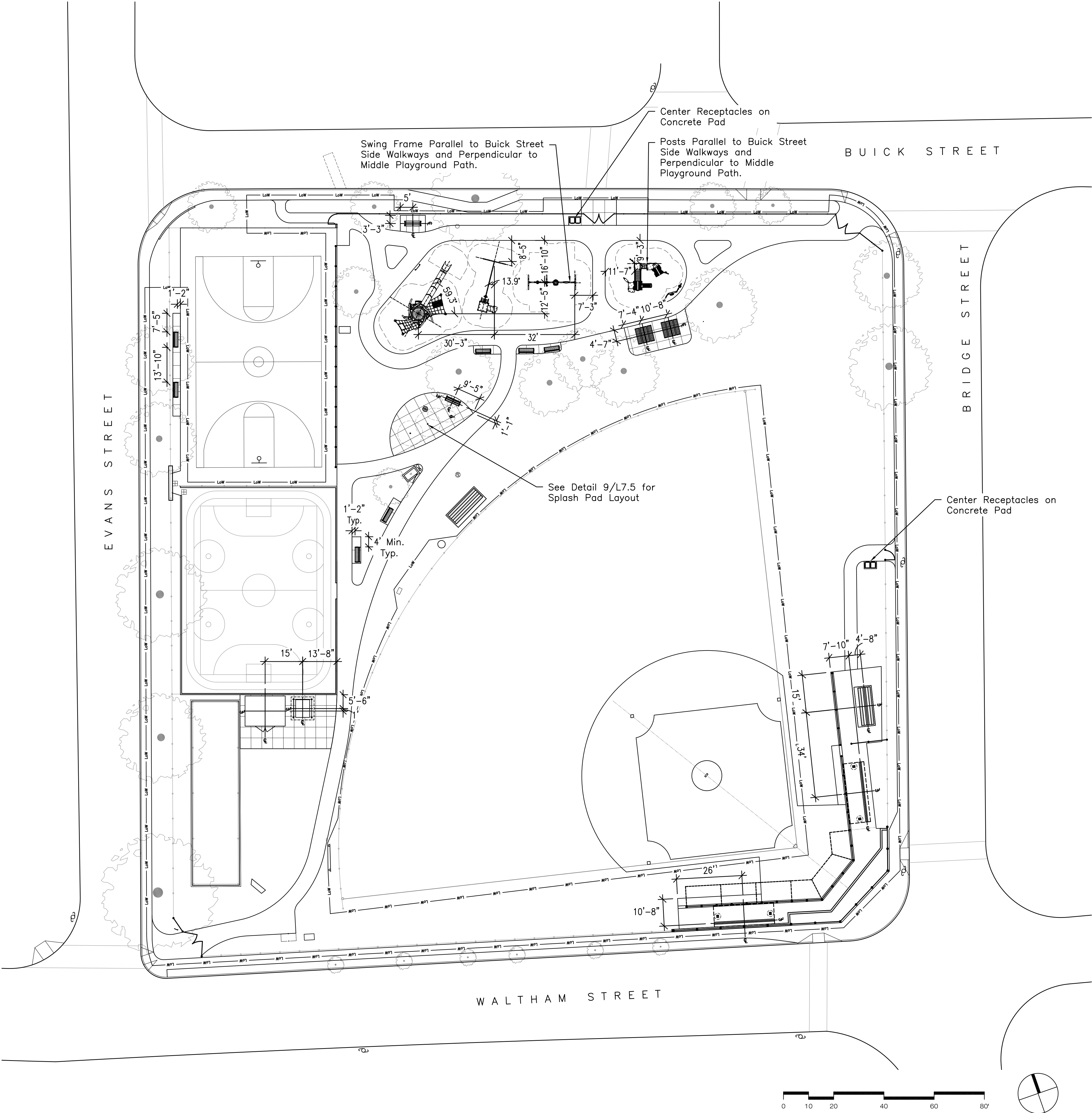


L3.C

LEGEND

- 4' New or Refurbished Chain Link
- 6' New or Refurbished Chain Link
- Concrete Mow Strip Under Fence
- Concrete Paving
- 6' Backed Bench
- Picnic Table
- Bike Rack
- Trash Receptacle
- Existing Tree to Remain

REFER TO SHEET L3.0
FOR LAYOUT NOTES



LEGEND

- LoW —

---50---

—28—

---28.25---

X.X%

+(EX)

Limit of Work

Existing Contour

Proposed Whole-Foot Contour

Proposed Quarter-Foot Contour

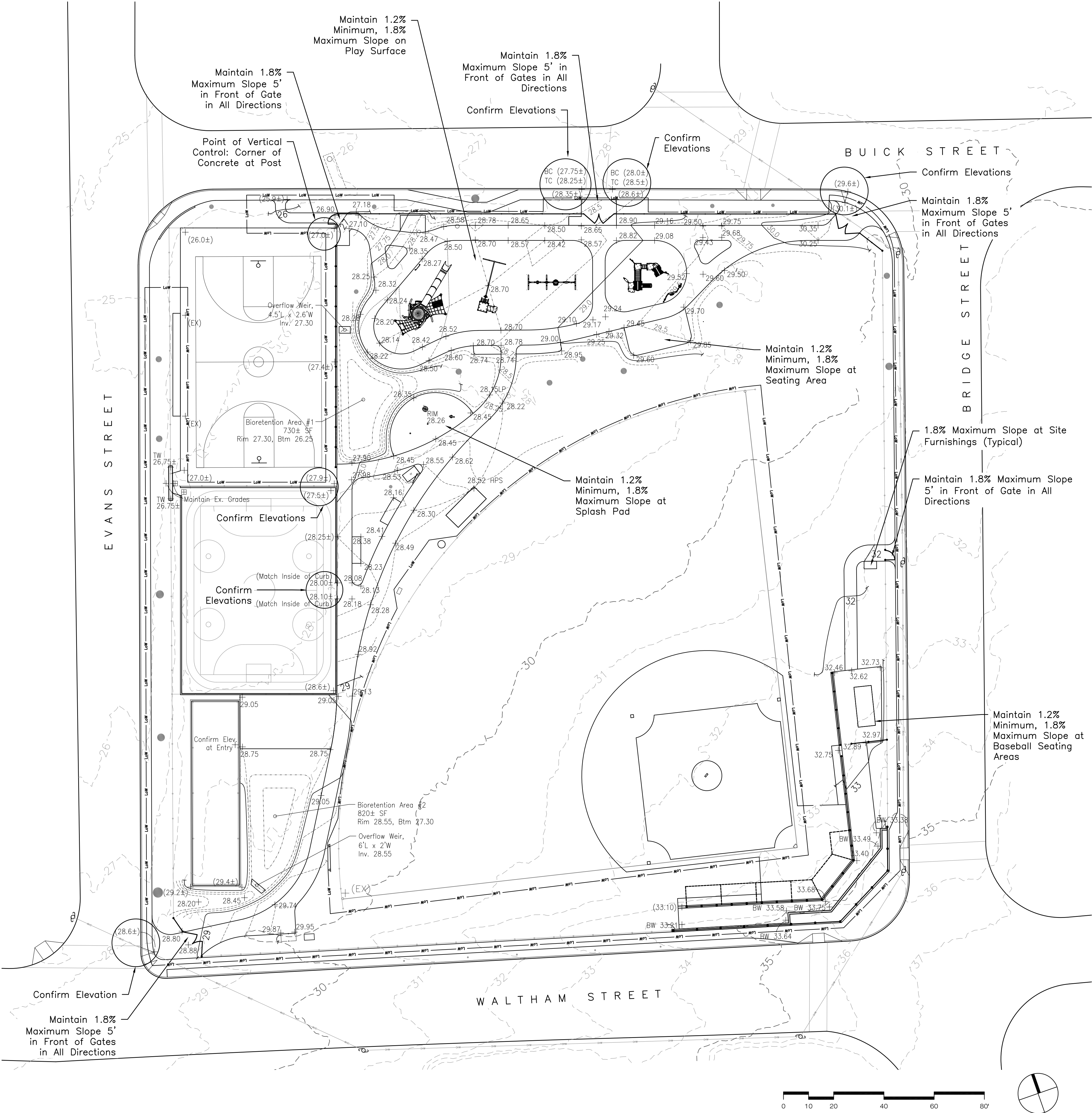
Proposed Slope

Existing Grade to Meet

Ridgeline or Swale Centerline

GRADING NOTES

1. The Landscape Contractor shall verify location of and protect all utilities, drainage, and sub-surface drainage structures prior to commencing work. Call DIG-SAFE.
2. Existing base plan info is compiled by GIS and is NOT a survey, Contractor shall establish control points and survey grades in the field to confirm key elevations of existing features and ensure accessibility
3. Landscape Contractor shall verify all dimensions and elevations on the ground and report any discrepancies to the Landscape Architect prior to commencing construction.
4. Grade stakes to be set for approval by the Landscape Architect prior to installation of gravel bases and prior to all paving, edges, and walls.
5. All transitions to existing grades to be smooth and gradual.
6. Slopes in rubber play areas are not to exceed 1.8% in any direction unless noted otherwise.
7. Grade surfaces to assure positive drainage and to prevent ponding of surface drainage.
8. Any discrepancies not allowing an even pitch to occur shall be reported to the Landscape Architect prior to continuing work.
9. All areas shall be in conformance with the rules and regulations of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
10. All utility & drain lines to be coordinated with footings for site features. Contractor to reset the top of any existing utility structures in the regraded areas to work with the revised grades, i.e. hand holes, rims, etc.
11. Repair any damage to existing site features to remain and to any disruption beyond the limit of work.
12. ALL REMOVALS & EXCAVATIONS outside Tree Protection Fencing but within the dripline of existing trees shall be HAND WORK or AIR SPADE ONLY. Cut NO ROOTS without the express permission of Landscape Architect or Owner's Representative. Provide 48 hours notice before all such work in "Hand Work Only" areas to allow Landscape Architect or Owner's Representative to observe work.



CBA Landscape Architects LLC

24 THORNDIKE STREET | CAMBRIDGE MA 02141
phone 617.945.9760 | www.cbaland.com | cba@cbaland.com

landscape architecture
urban design
master planning

BEMIS PLAYGROUND

Watertown, MA

GRADING PLAN

DATE:	08-28-2025
SCALE:	1" = 20' - 0"
FILE:	BPW L4 GRADING.dwg
DWN BY:	MJ/ATF
CKD BY:	DJC
PROJ. #:	2311



L4.0

LEGEND

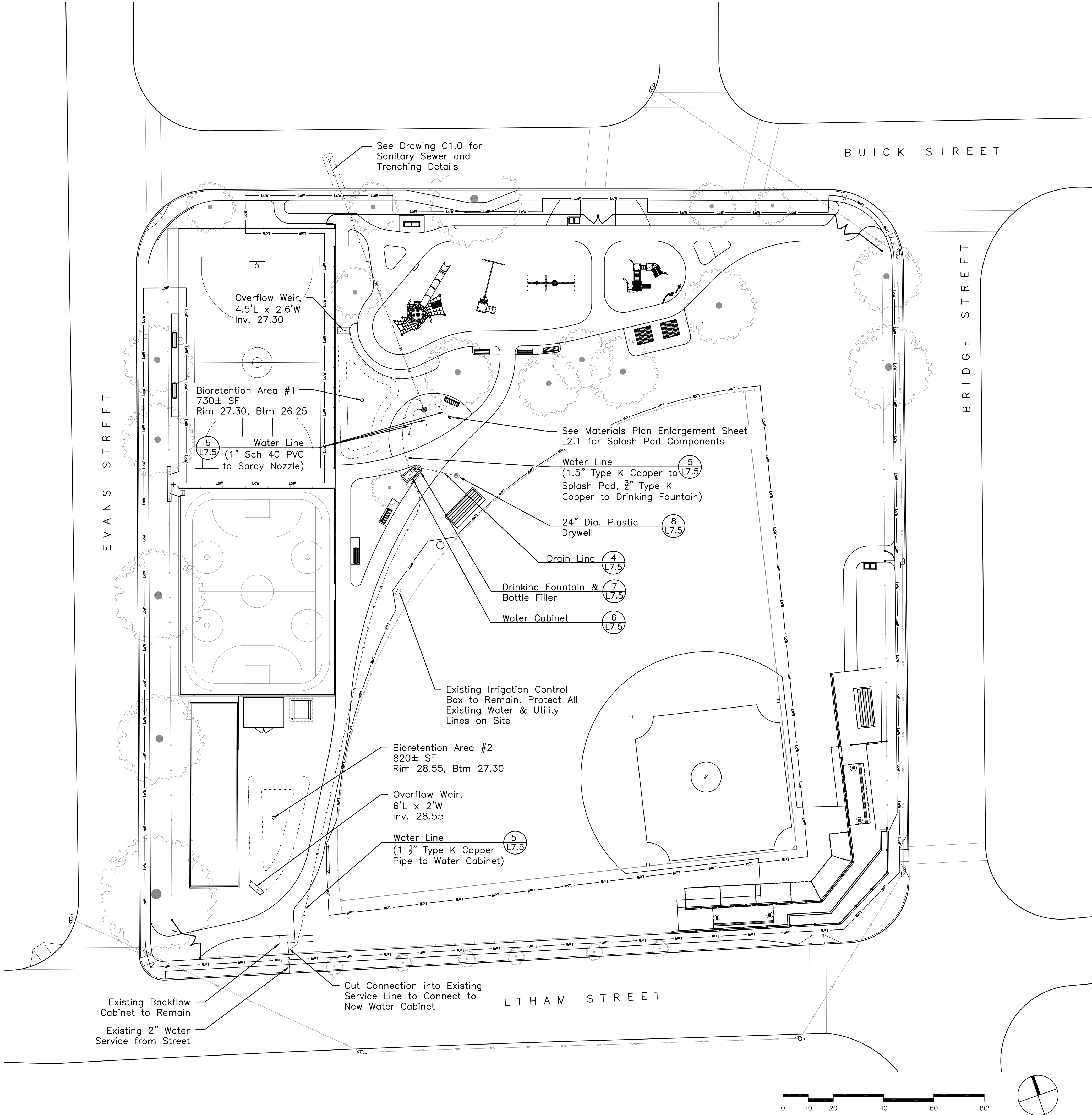
- LoW — Limit of Work
- v — Proposed Water Line
- d — Proposed Drain Line
- ss — Proposed Sanitary Sewer Line
- - - - - Ridgeline or Swale Centerline

UTILITY NOTES

- GENERAL:
- The Landscape Contractor shall verify location of and protect all utilities and drainage structures prior to starting construction.
 - All plumbing and electrical work shall comply with local, state and federal codes and with all City of Watertown standards. All services abandoned, discontinued, or terminated as part of the work shall be made safe according to code.
 - Proposed conduit, drain, and water lines shown are schematic layouts only; adjust as needed to avoid footings and existing structures and to coordinate with tree locations. Contractor shall submit proposed conduit layout, wiring, and plumbing diagrams for approval before beginning utility work, and shall submit as-built drawings showing installed line locations upon completion.

- WATER:
- Connect to the existing water cabinet shown on the plans. Contractor to assess condition of components and replace or add items as required to provide a water connection to the drinking fountain (including backflow preventer).
 - Perform water pressure and flow testing to confirm that water pressure and volume available are sufficient for the proposed systems before installation.

- SANITARY SEWER:
- See civil sheets.



CBA Landscape Architects LLC

24 THORNDIKE STREET | CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141
phone 617.945.9760 | www.cbaland.com | cba@cbaland.com

landscape architecture
urban design
master planning

BEMIS PLAYGROUND

Watertown, MA

UTILITIES PLAN

DATE:	08-28-2025
SCALE:	1" = 20' - 0"
FILE:	BPW L5 UTILITIES.dwg
DWN BY:	MJ/ATF
CKD BY:	DJC
PROJ. #:	2311

L5.0

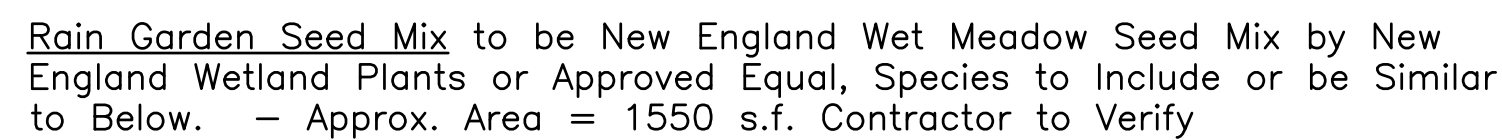
— LoW — Limit of Work

Proposed Tree and Shrub

Existing Tree

1. The Contractor shall protect all utilities prior to starting construction.
2. The Contractor shall supply all plant materials in quantities sufficient to complete all planting shown on this drawing.
3. All plant materials to conform to guidelines established by the American Standard for Nursery Stock published by the American Assn. of Nurserymen.
4. All plant materials to be selected by the Landscape Architect and City Tree Warden at the nursery unless otherwise directed by the Landscape Architect.
5. All plants to be located on the site for approval of the Landscape Architect prior to installation.
6. If the Plant List does not agree with the Planting Plan, the Plan shall be followed.
7. The Contractor shall guarantee all trees for two years following approved installation, and other plant materials for one year following approved installation.
8. All tree plantings to receive 3" un-dyed shredded bark mulch; supply sample for approval by Landscape Architect. See Tree Planting Detail.
9. No trees are to be planted before the rough grades have been accepted by the Landscape Architect.
10. No substitution of plant materials shall be allowed without approval of Landscape Architect.
11. All New lawns to be hydroseeded; see specifications. (any damage to baseball infield or outfield shall be repaired with sod.)
12. All landscaped areas disturbed by construction inside or outside the Limit of Work are to be repaired by the Contractor at no additional cost to owner.

	Grass Seed Mix – See Specification Section 32 90 00
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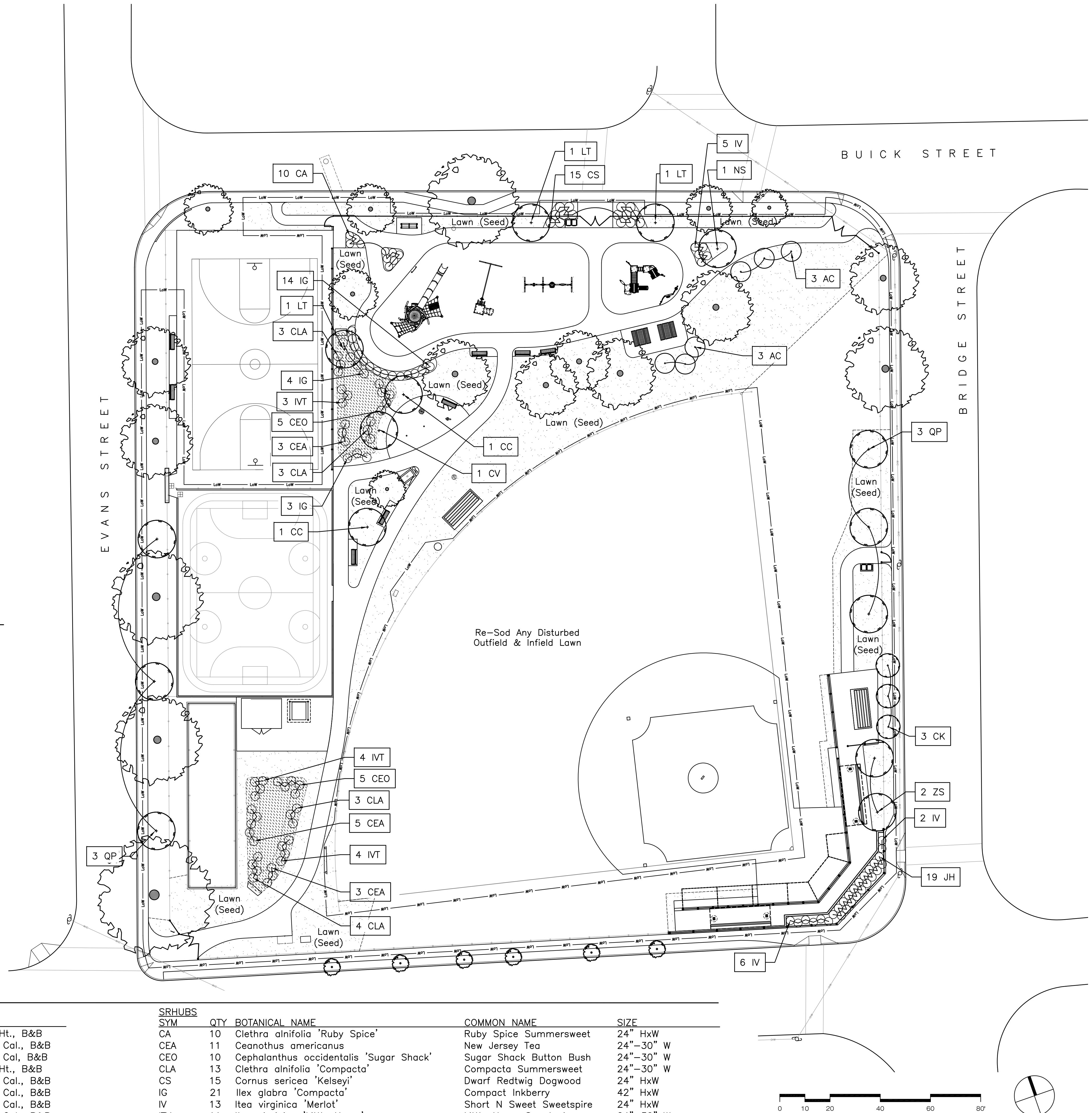


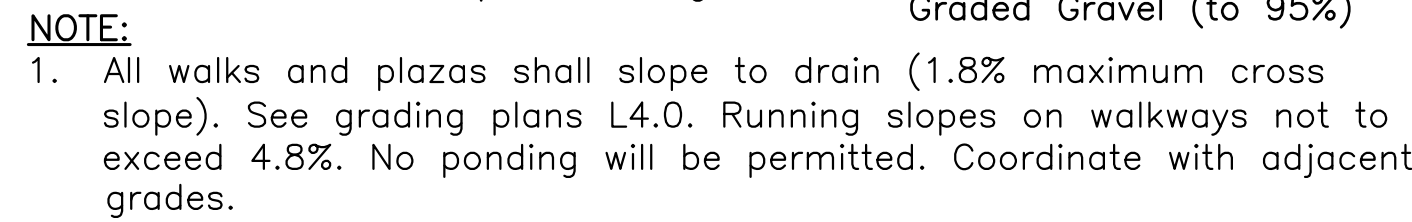
Shrubs: Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), Arrow Wood (*Viburnum dentatum*), Steeple Bush (*Spiraea tomentosa*)

New England Wetland Plants: Address: 820 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002
Phone: (413) 549-4000 Email: info@newp.com

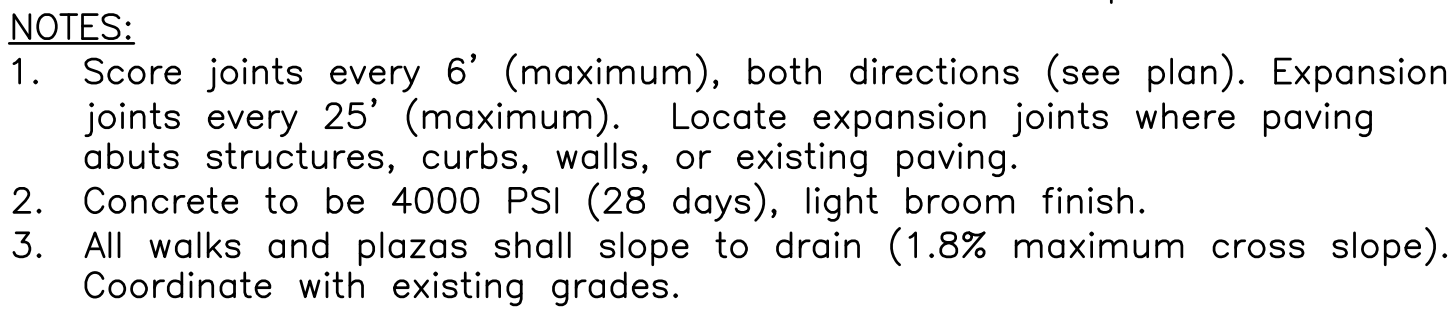
TREES SYM	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE
AC	6	Amelanchier canadensis	Serviceberry	8-10' Ht., B&B
CK	3	Cornus kousa	Kousa Dogwood	2-2.5' Cal., B&B
CC	2	Carpinus caroliniana	American Hornbeam	3-3.5' Cal, B&B
CV	1	Chionanthus virginicus	Fringe Tree	8-10' Ht., B&B
LT	3	Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Poplar	3-3.5' Cal., B&B
NS	1	Nyssa sylvatica 'Wildfire'	Wildfire Tupelo	3-3.5' Cal., B&B
QP	6	Quercus palustris	Pin Oak	3-3.5' Cal., B&B
ZS	2	Zelkova serrata	Japanese Zelkova	3-3.5' Cal., B&B

SYM	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE
CA	10	Clethra alnifolia 'Ruby Spice'	Ruby Spice Summersweet	24" HxW
CEA	11	Ceanothus americanus	New Jersey Tea	24"-30" W
CEO	10	Cephalanthus occidentalis 'Sugar Shack'	Sugar Shack Button Bush	24"-30" W
CLA	13	Clethra alnifolia 'Compacta'	Compacta Summersweet	24"-30" W
CS	15	Cornus sericea 'Kelseyi'	Dwarf Redtwig Dogwood	24" HxW
IG	21	Ilex glabra 'Compacta'	Compact Inkberry	42" HxW
IV	13	Itea virginica 'Merlot'	Short N Sweet Sweetspire	24" HxW
ITV	11	Itea virginica 'Little Henry'	Little Henry Sweetspire	24"-30" W
JH	19	Juniperus horizontalis	Creeping Juniper	24" W

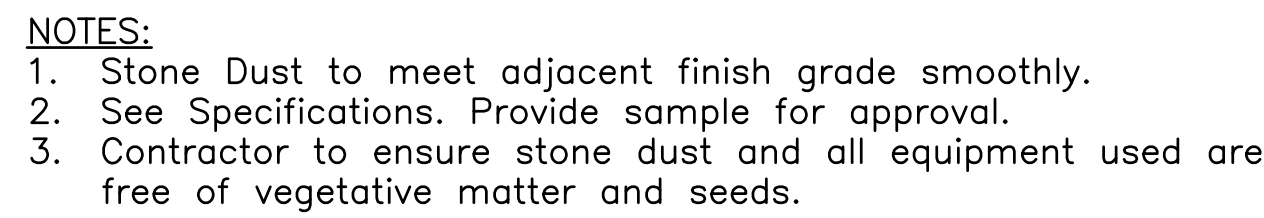




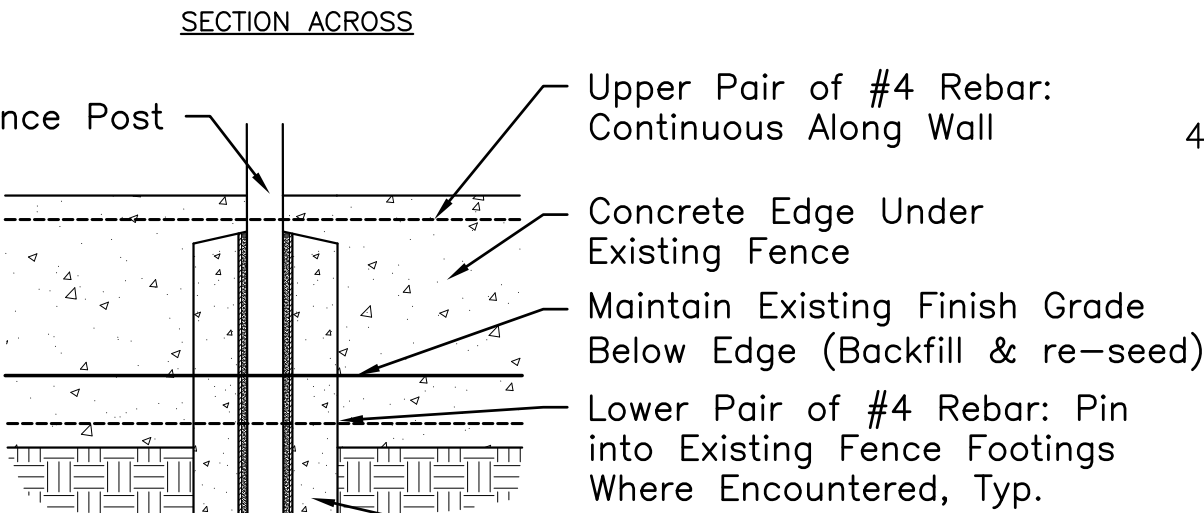
Scale: 1"=1'-0"



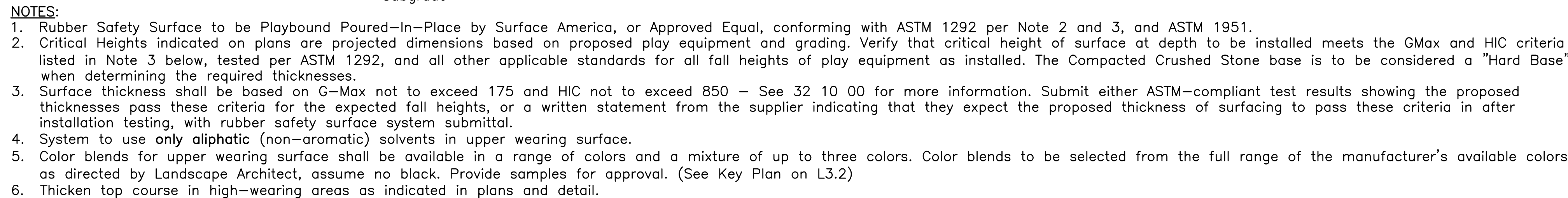
Scale: 1"=1'-0"



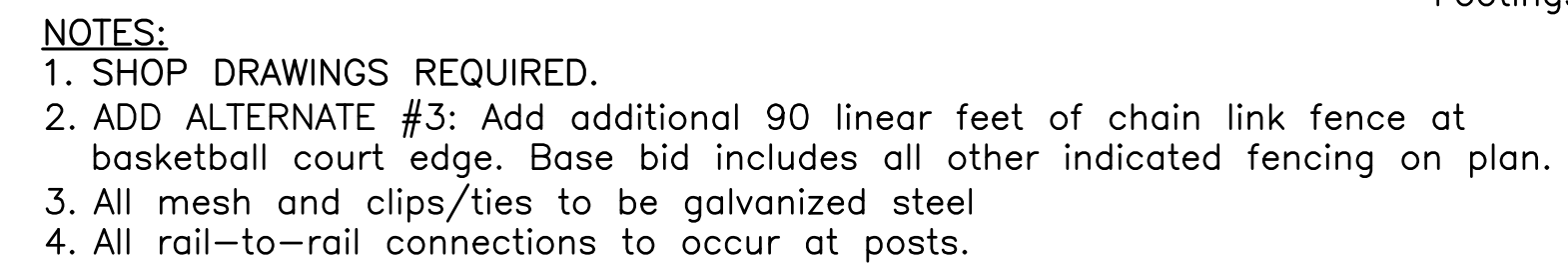
Scale: 1"=1'-0"



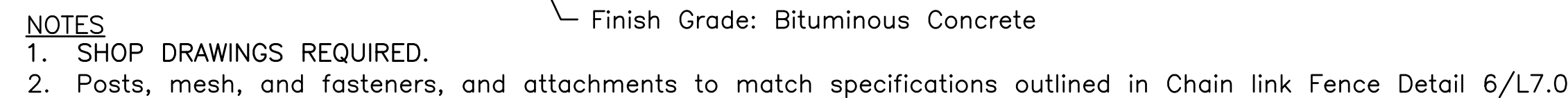
Scale: $\frac{3}{4}" = 1'-0"$



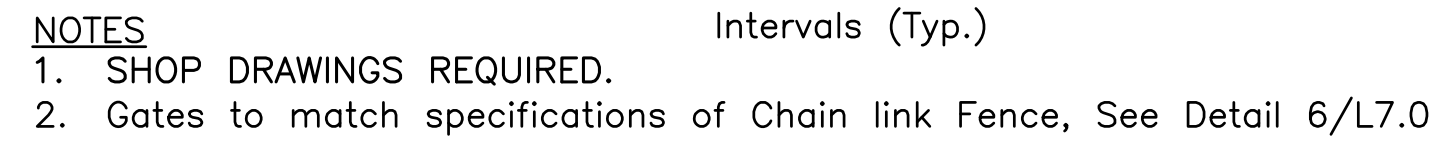
Scale: $1\frac{1}{2}" = 1'-0"$



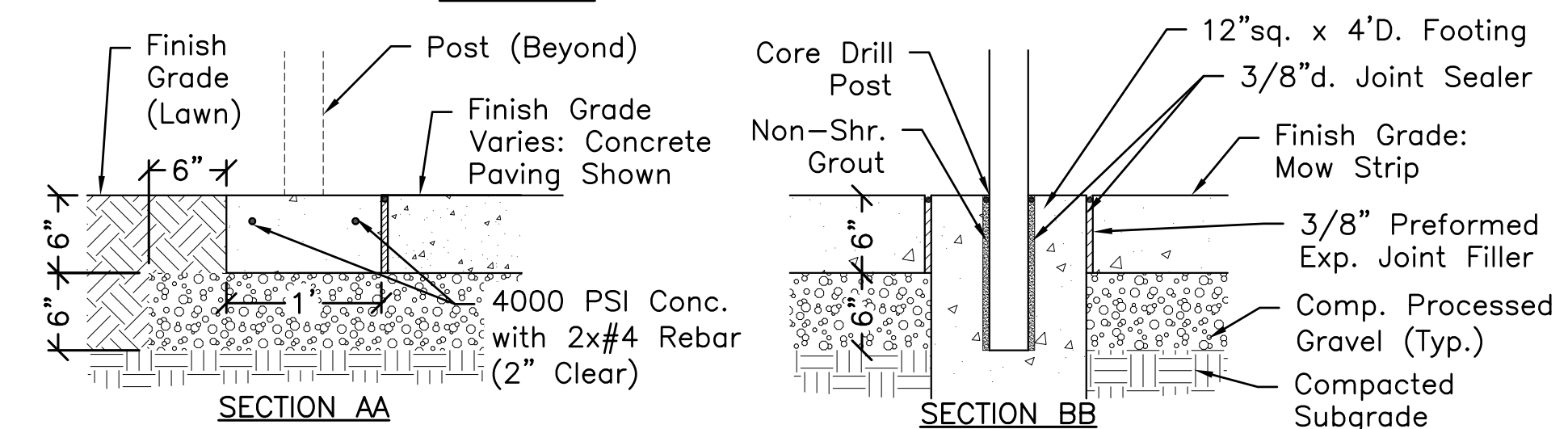
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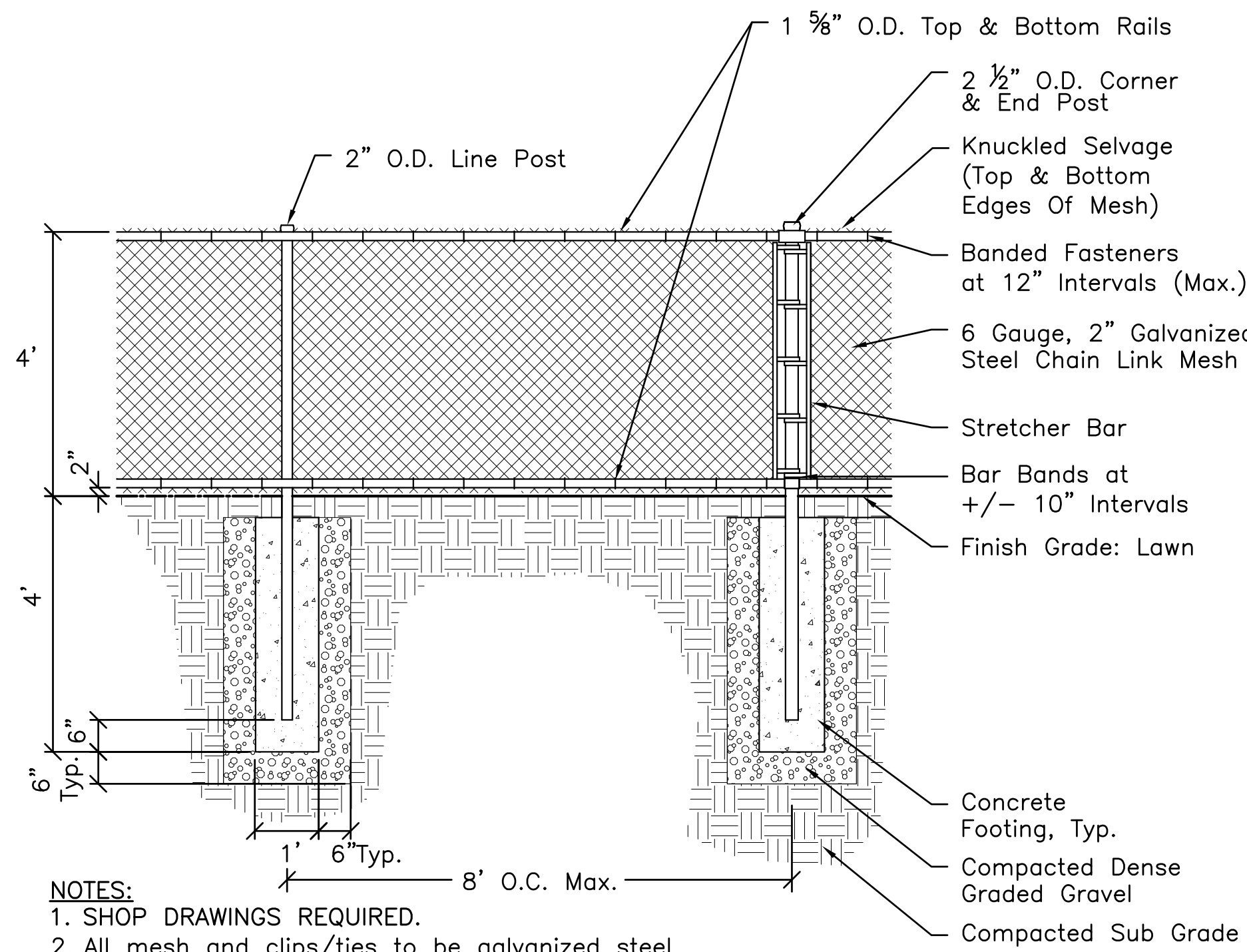
Scale: $1/2'' = 1'-0''$



Scale: $1/2'' = 1'-0''$



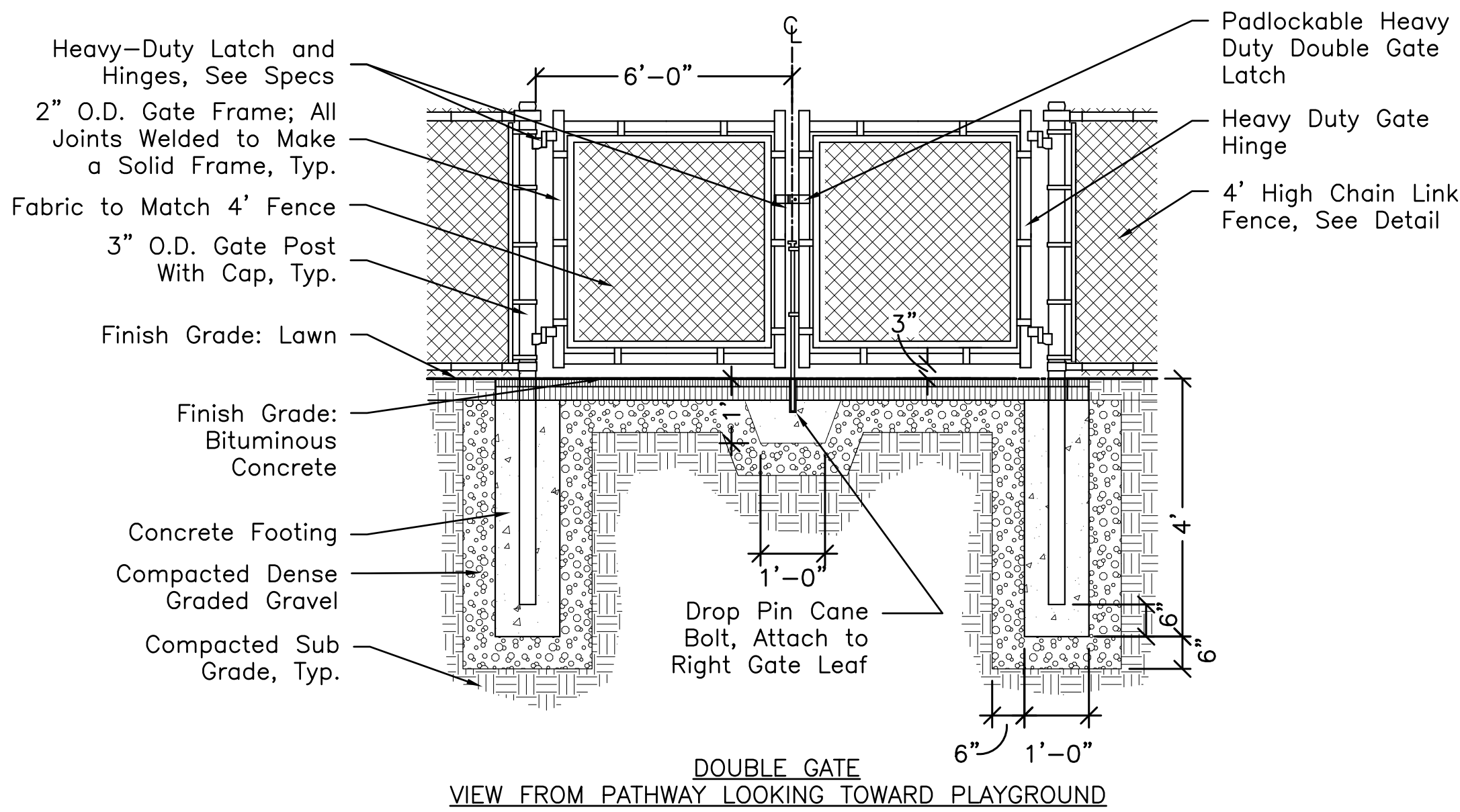
Scale: 1" = 1'-0"



- NOTES:
1. SHOP DRAWINGS REQUIRED.
 2. All mesh and clips/ties to be galvanized steel.
 3. All rail-to-rail connections to occur at posts.

1 4' HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE

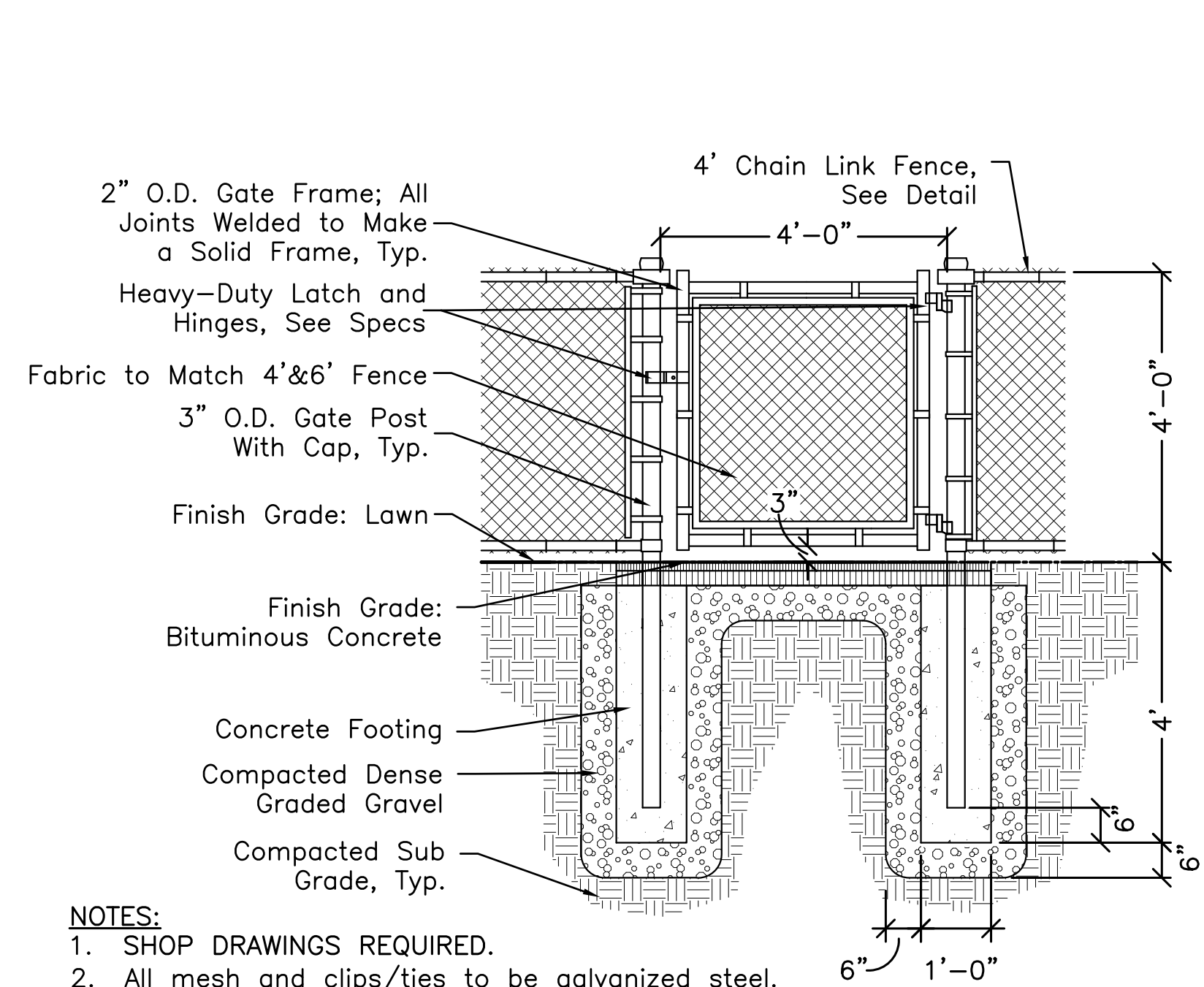
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



- NOTES:
1. SHOP DRAWINGS REQUIRED.
 2. All mesh and clips/ties to be galvanized steel.
 3. All rail-to-rail connections to occur at posts.
 4. Latches to be ADA accessible and lockable.

2 4' HIGH CHAIN LINK DOUBLE GATE

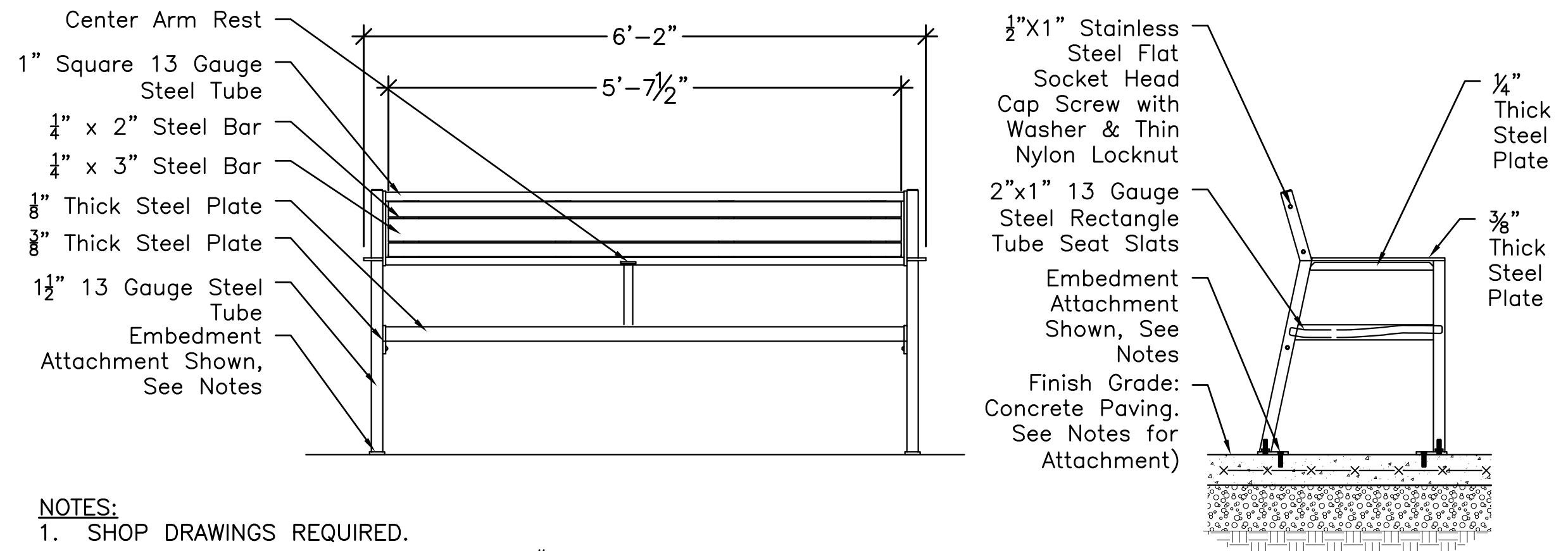
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



- NOTES:
1. SHOP DRAWINGS REQUIRED.
 2. All mesh and clips/ties to be galvanized steel.
 3. All rail-to-rail connections to occur at posts.
 4. Latches to be ADA accessible and lockable.

3 4' HIGH CHAIN LINK SINGLE GATE

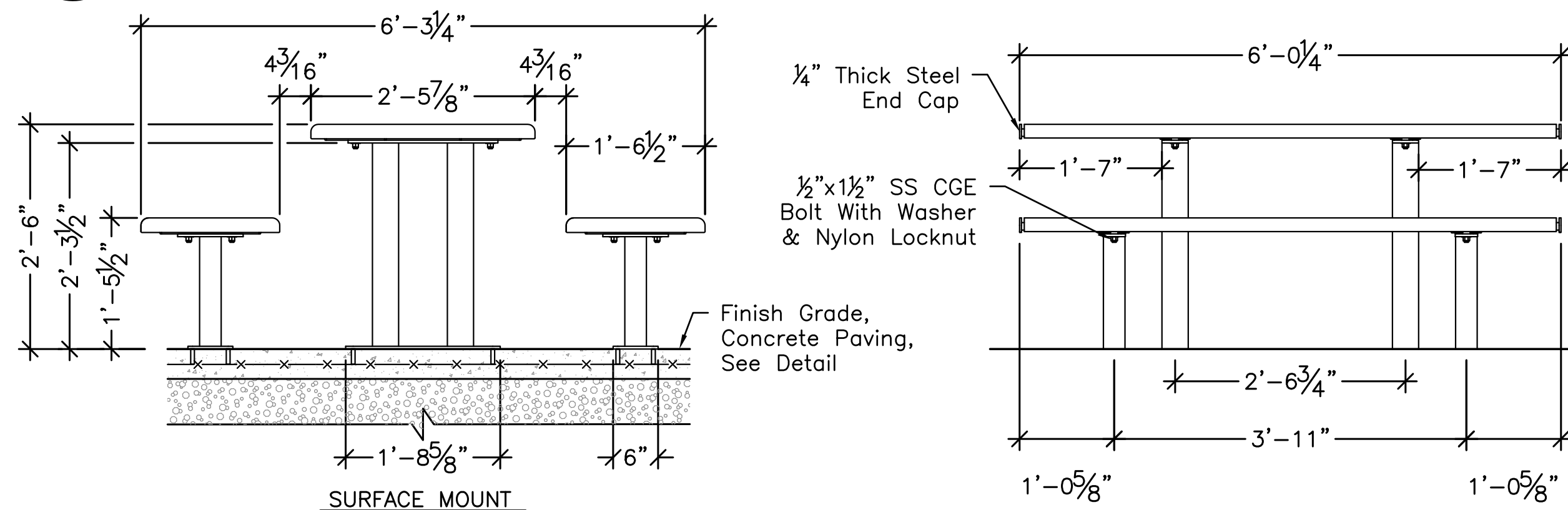
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



- NOTES:
1. SHOP DRAWINGS REQUIRED.
 2. Backed benches to be DuMor Model #500-60HS-3AR, or Approved Equal.
 3. Installation to be completed in accordance with Manufacturer's Specification.
 4. Embedded footing shall be used for benches installed over stabilized stone dust paving and surface-mount shall be used for benches installed over concrete paving.
 5. All steel members to be coated with zinc rich epoxy then finished with polyester powder coating.

4 6' BACKED BENCH

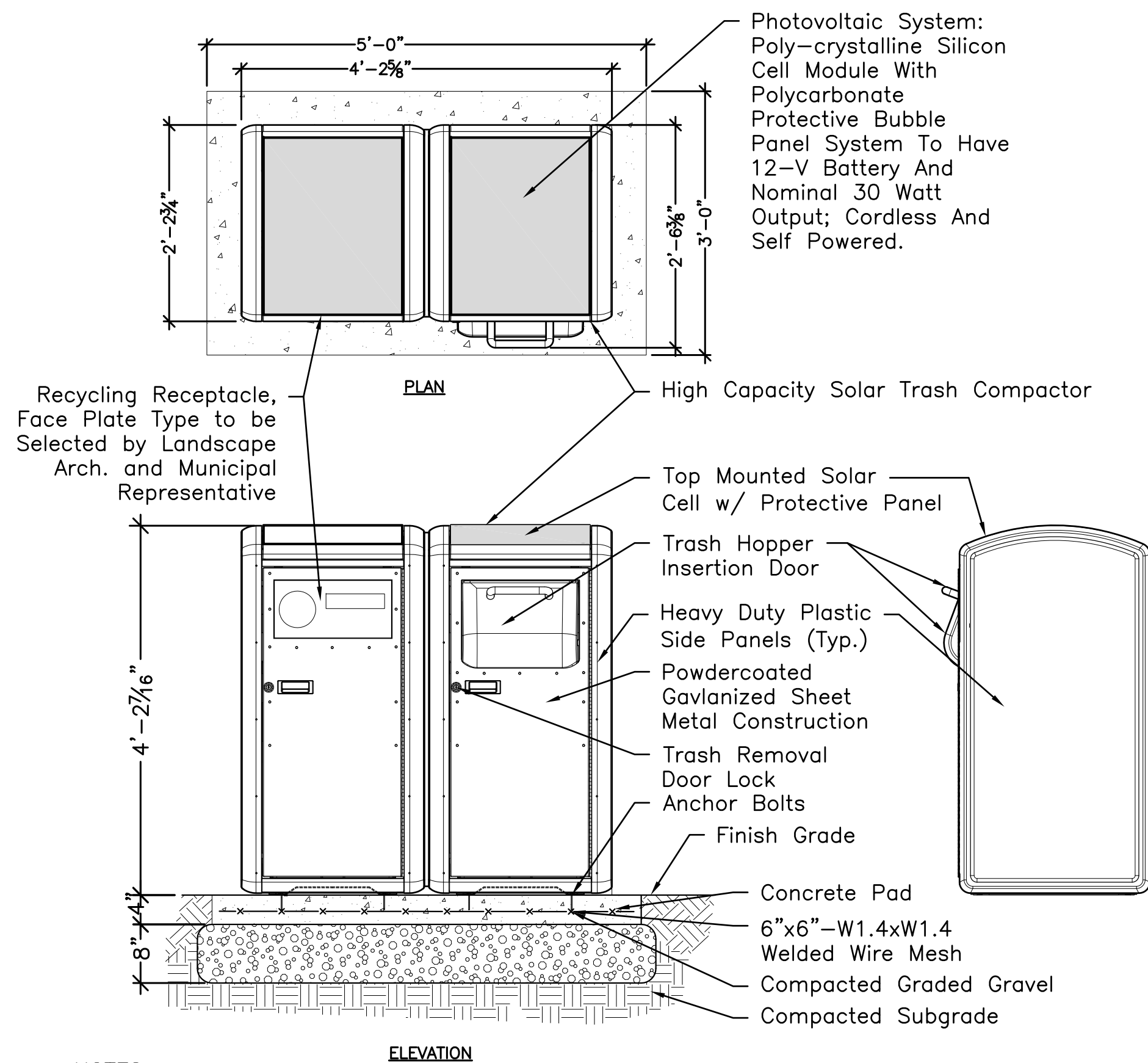
Scale: 3/4" = 1'-0"



- NOTES:
1. SHOP DRAWINGS REQUIRED.
 2. Picnic Table to be model# 298-60-2HS Picnic Table by Dumor, Inc. or Approved Equal.
 3. Follow all of manufacturer's installation instructions.
 4. Table and benches to be surface mounted with stainless steel anchors.
 5. Table and benches to be powdercoated. Color to be selected by Landscape Architect.

5 6' ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLE

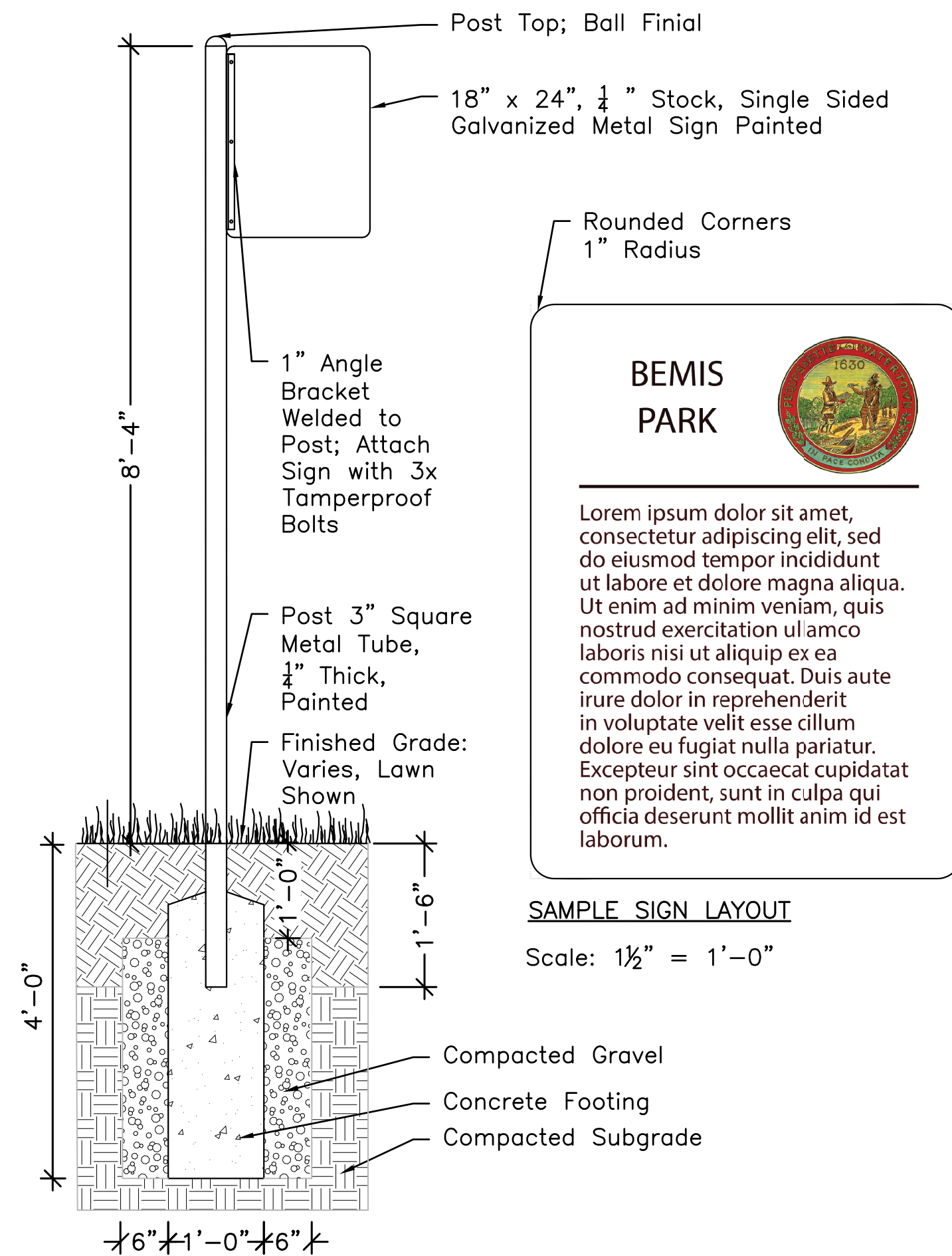
Scale: 3/4" = 1'-0"



- NOTES:
1. Solar Trash Compactor to be "BigBelly SenseMax Solar Compactor"; Recycling Station to be "BigBelly Element" by Seahorse Power Company/ BigBelly Solar of Needham, MA (888-820-0300) or Approved Equal.
 2. System to be fully automated, with a max. compaction force of 1250 lbs., cycle time of 41 seconds or better, and safety controls to prevent user access to compaction area. (Trash only; no compactor in recycling receptacle.)
 3. Polyester powder coat color and plastic panel color to be selected by Landscape Architect & Municipal Representative from Manufacturer's full color options.
 4. Submit Shop Drawing for approval. Mount according to manufacturer's instructions.

6 COMPACTING TRASH & RECYCLING RECEPTACLE

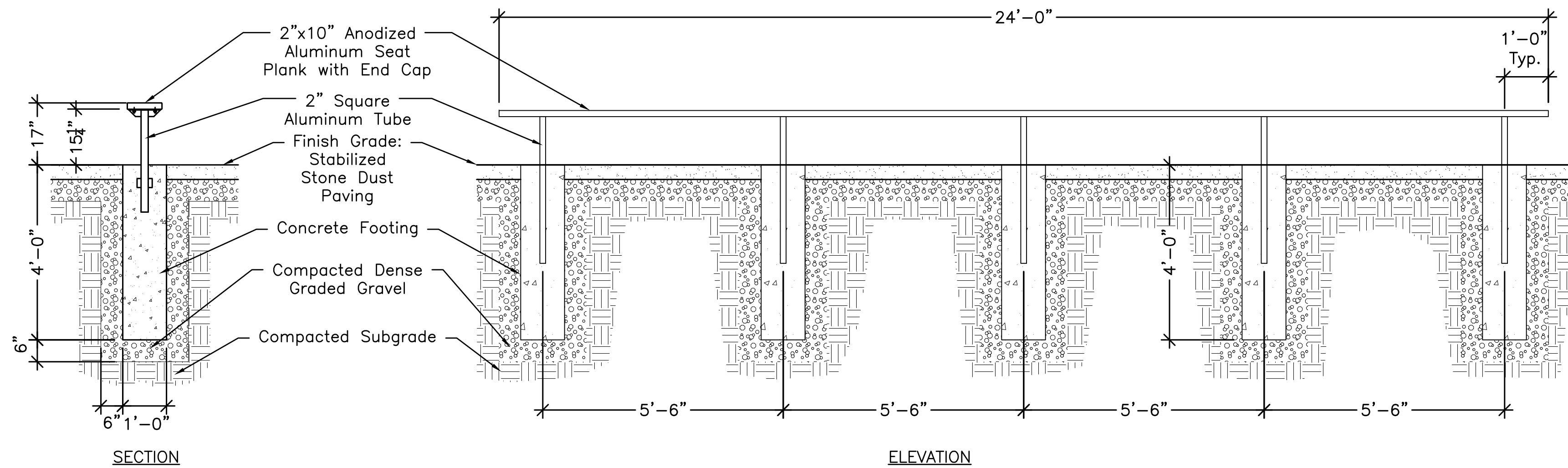
Scale: 3/4" = 1'-0"



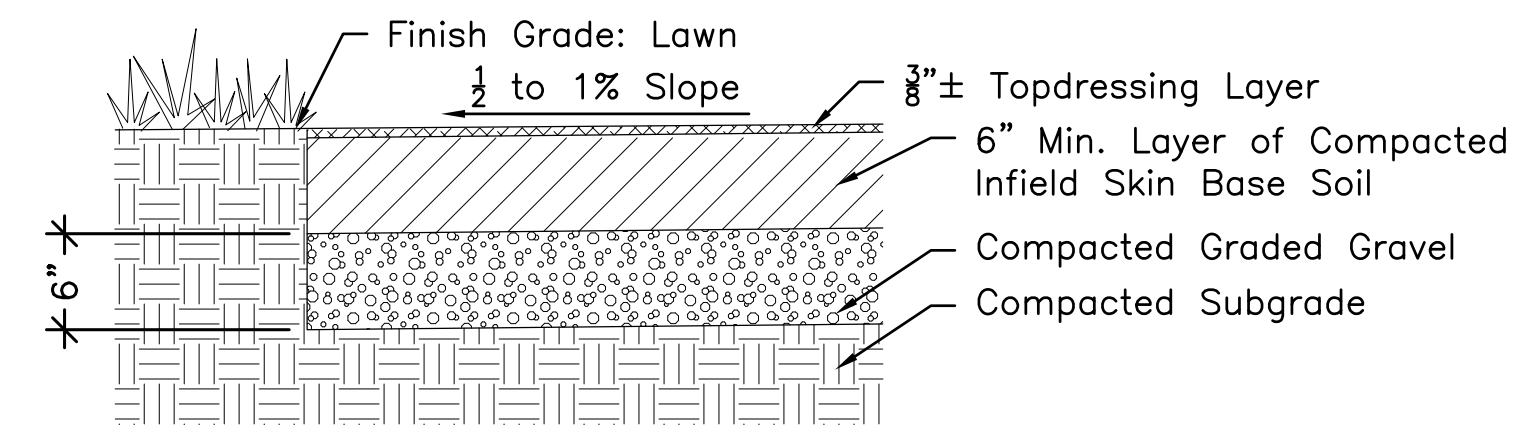
- NOTES:
1. SHOP DRAWINGS REQUIRED.
 2. See specifications for sign materials.
 3. Artwork to be provided by Landscape Architect.
 4. Two signs (same image) required; to be located in the field with Landscape Architect or as shown on the Drawings.

7 PARK SIGN

Scale: 3/4" = 1'-0"



- NOTES:
1. SHOP DRAWINGS REQUIRED.
 2. Team Sports Bench is to be National Recreation Systems 'DD' Permanent Bench W/O Back 24 ft. long, Aluminum Bench or Approved Equal.
 3. Contractor to submit product literature for approval by Landscape Architect prior to ordering.
 4. Follow all Manufacturer's installation instructions.



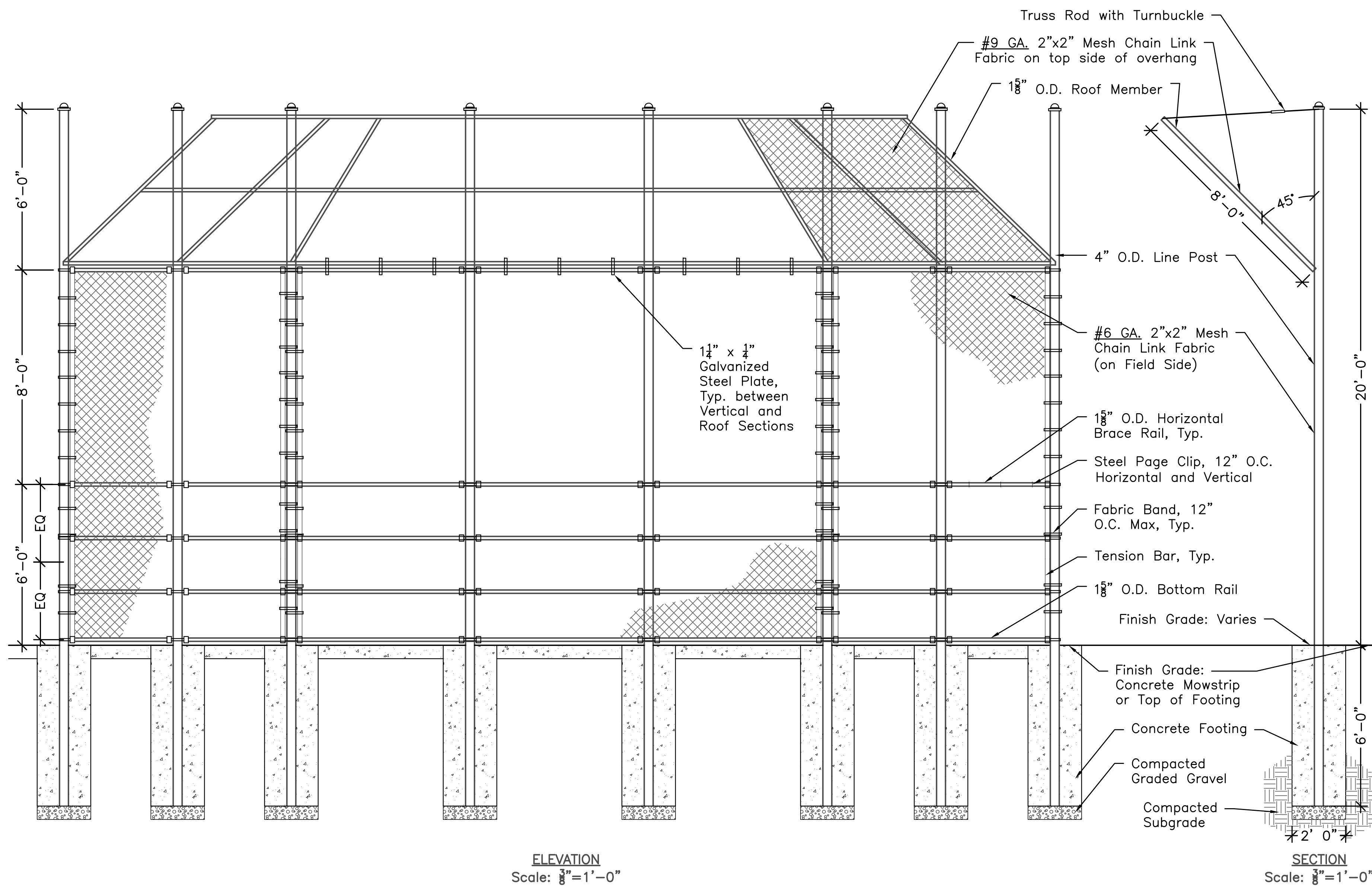
- NOTES:
1. See Specifications 31 10 00 for Infield mix soil product.
 2. Contractor to submit product literature for approval by Landscape Architect prior to ordering.
 3. Follow all Manufacturer's installation instructions.

1 ALUMINUM TEAM SPORTS BENCH

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

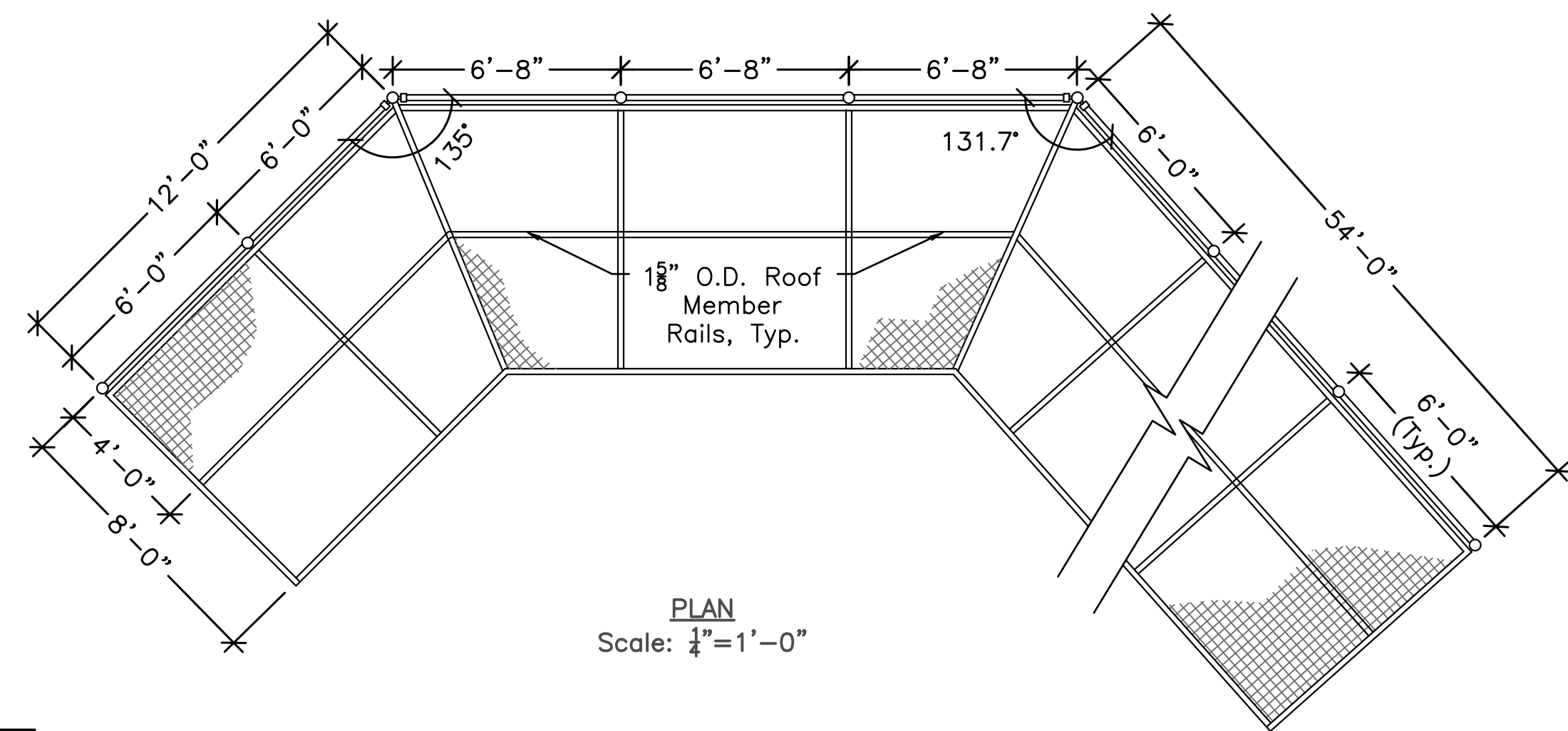
2 AMENDED BALLFIELD INFIELD MIX

Scale: 1" = 1'-0"



ELEVATION
Scale: 3/8" = 1'-0"

SECTION
Scale: 3/8" = 1'-0"

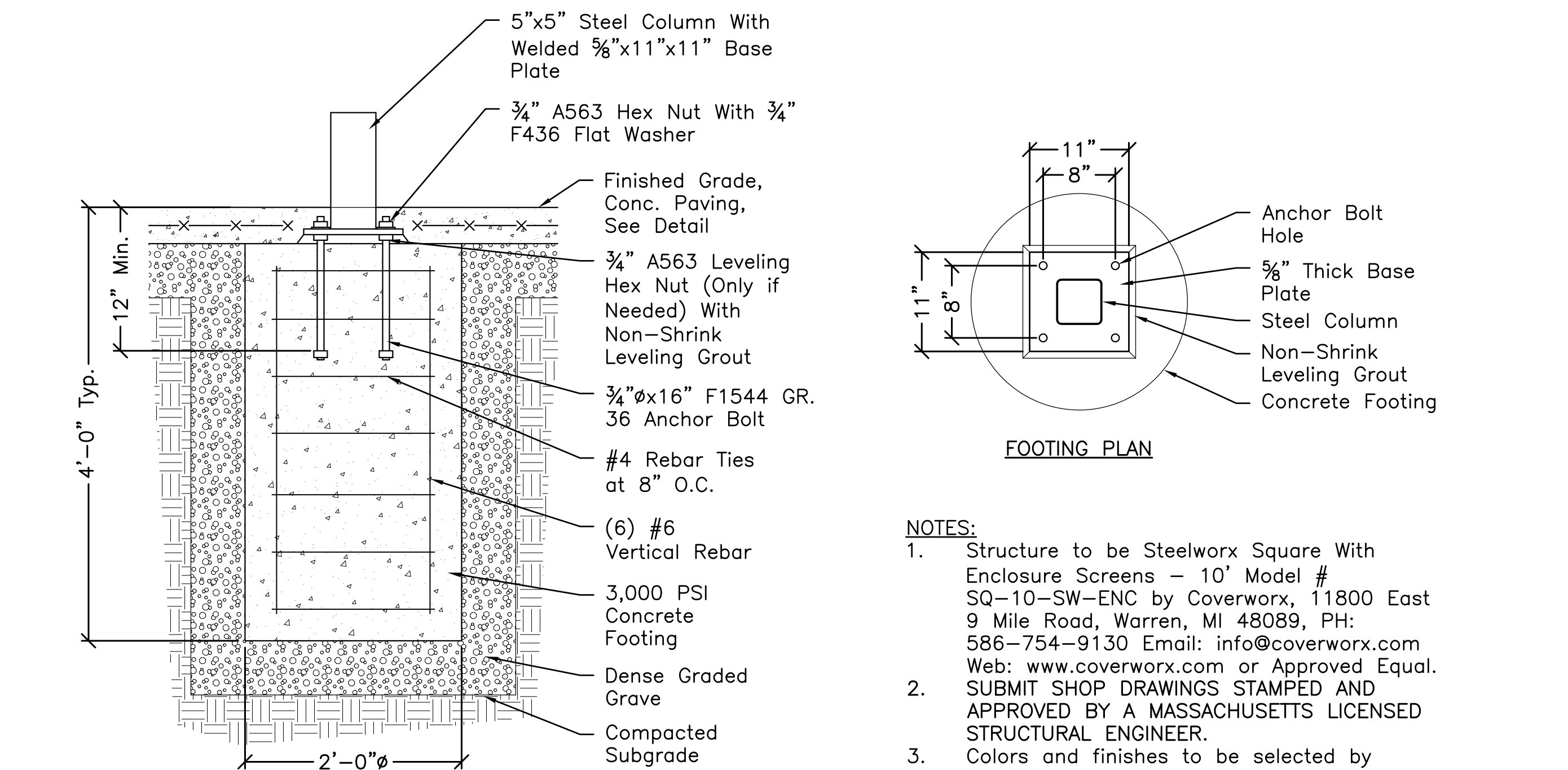
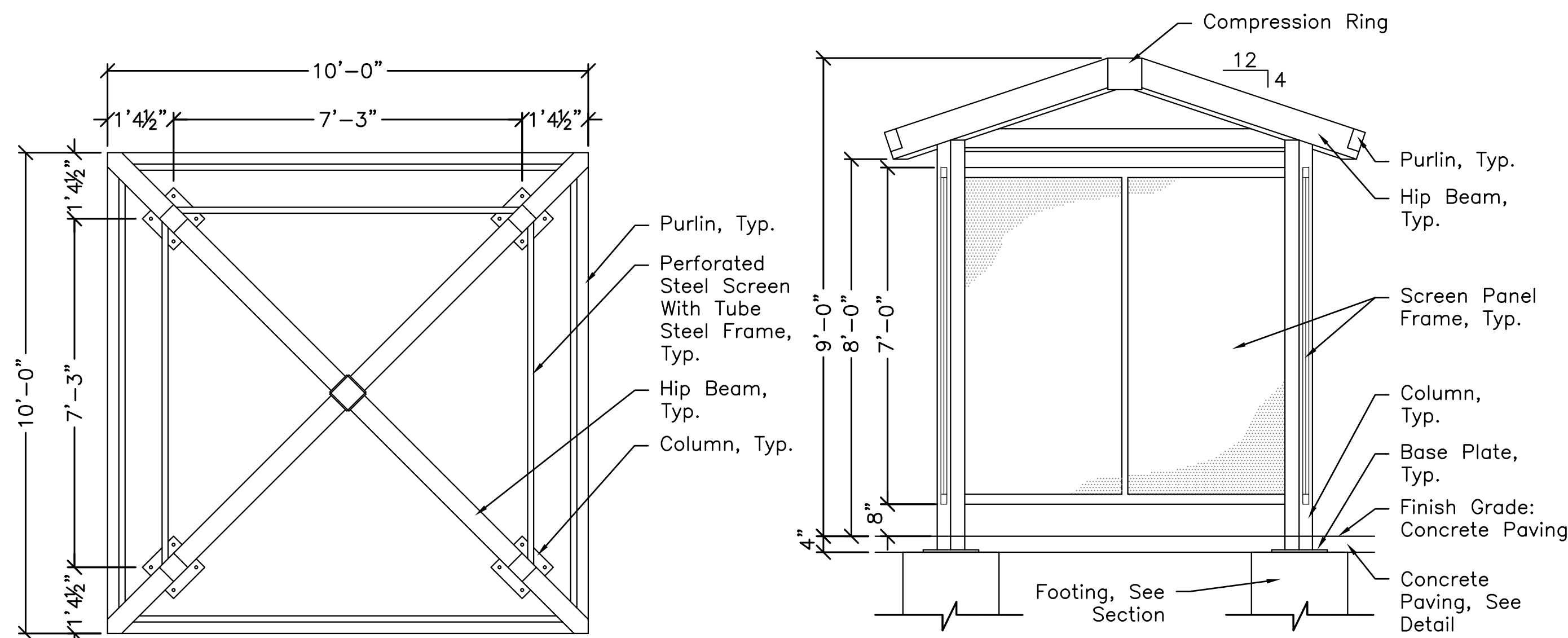
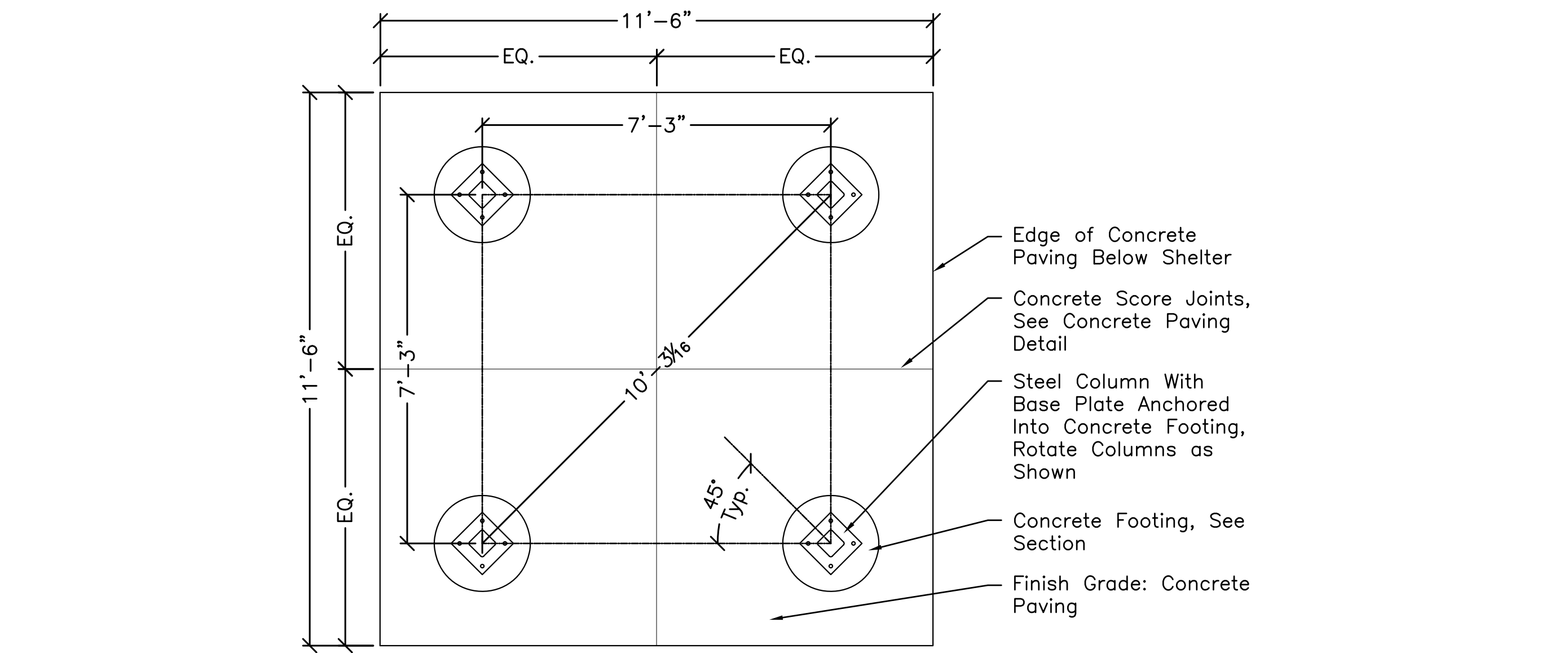


PLAN
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

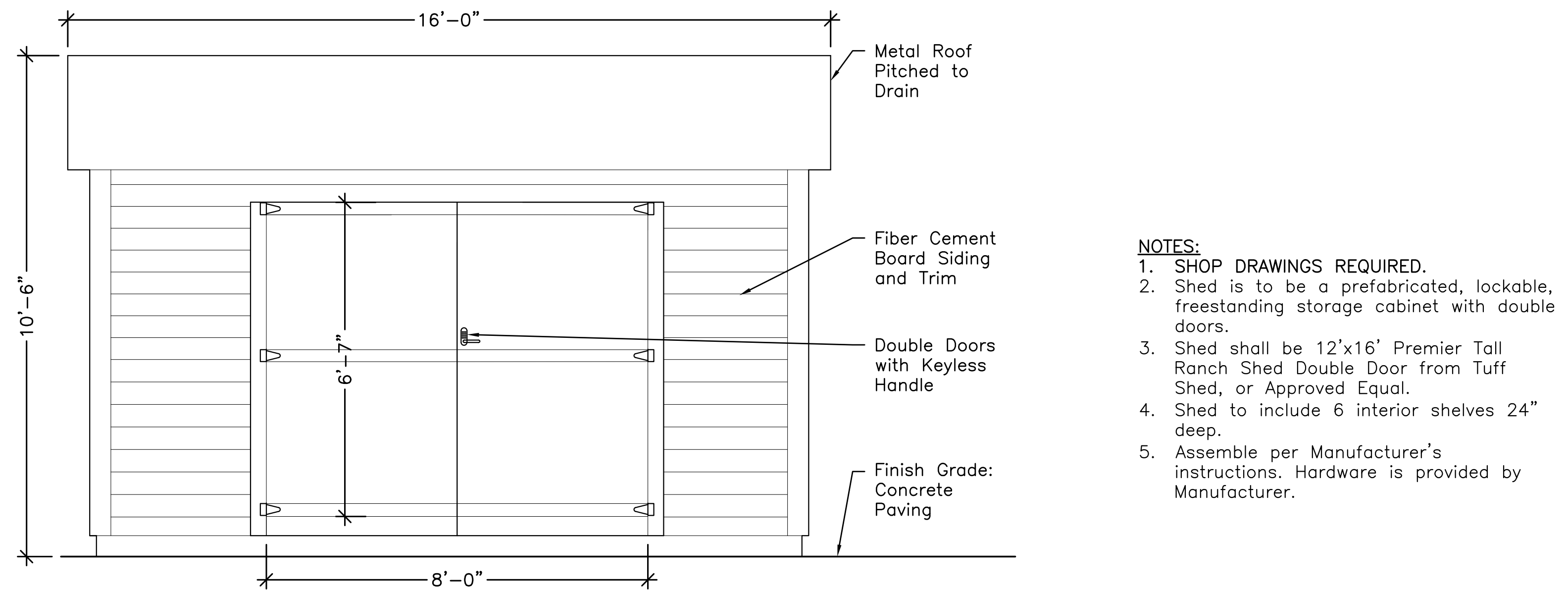
- NOTES:
1. SHOP DRAWINGS REQUIRED.
 2. All fabric, fittings, and other members to be galvanized steel (See Specification section 32 31 00).
 3. All fence fabric to be knuckled selvage, top and bottom.

3 CHAIN LINK BACKSTOP

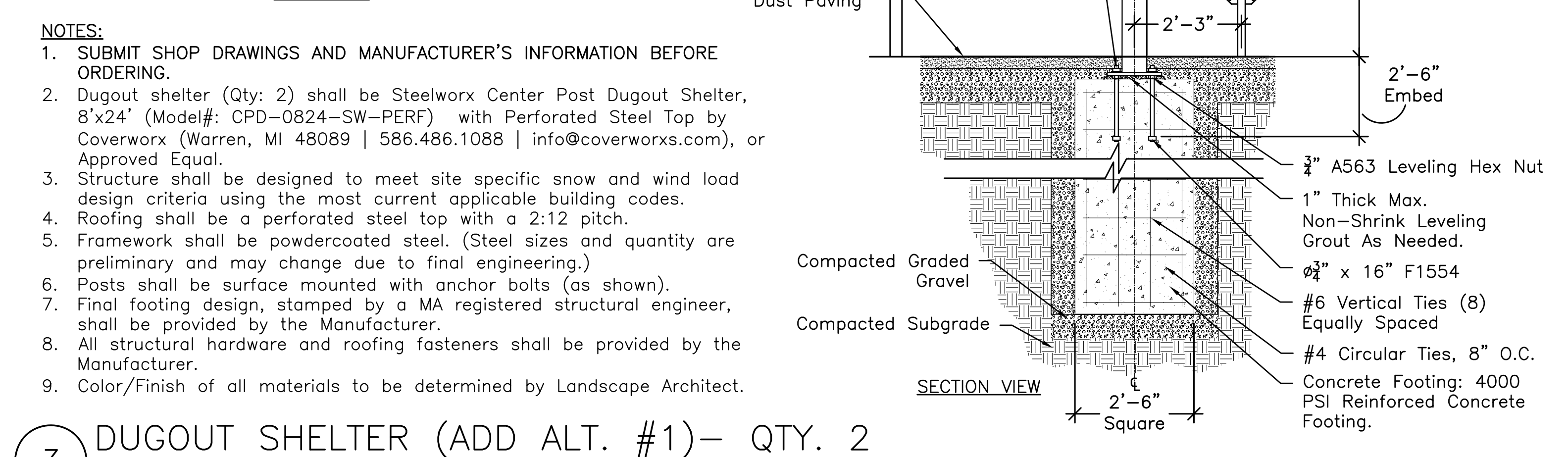
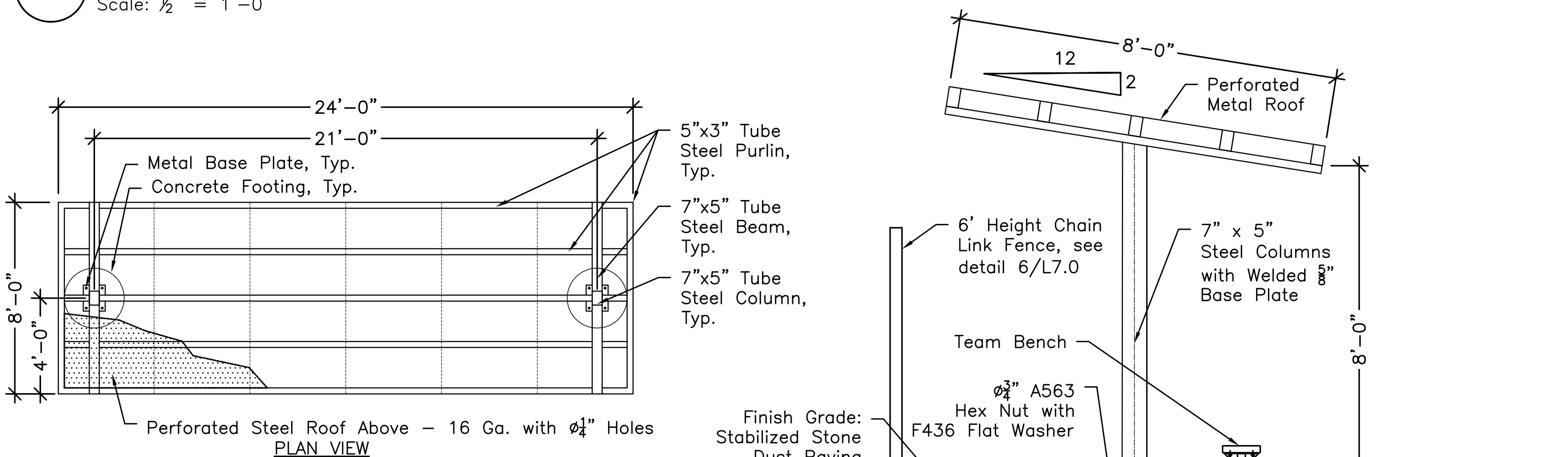
Scale: As Noted



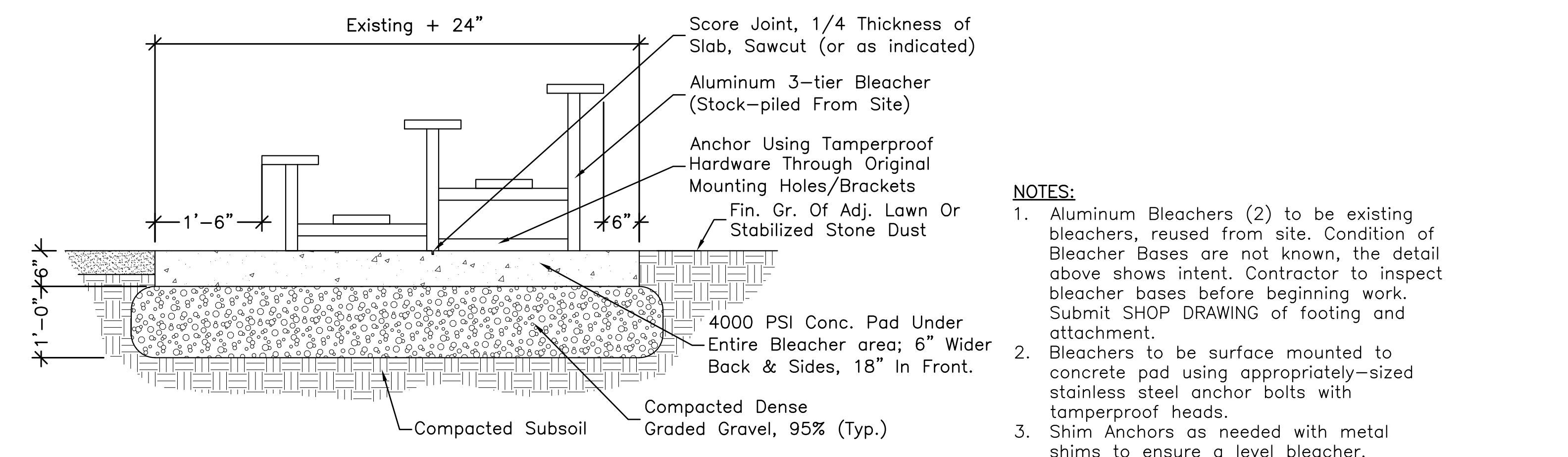
1 PORTABLE RESTROOM SHELTER (ADD ALT #2)
Scale: 1" = 1'-0"



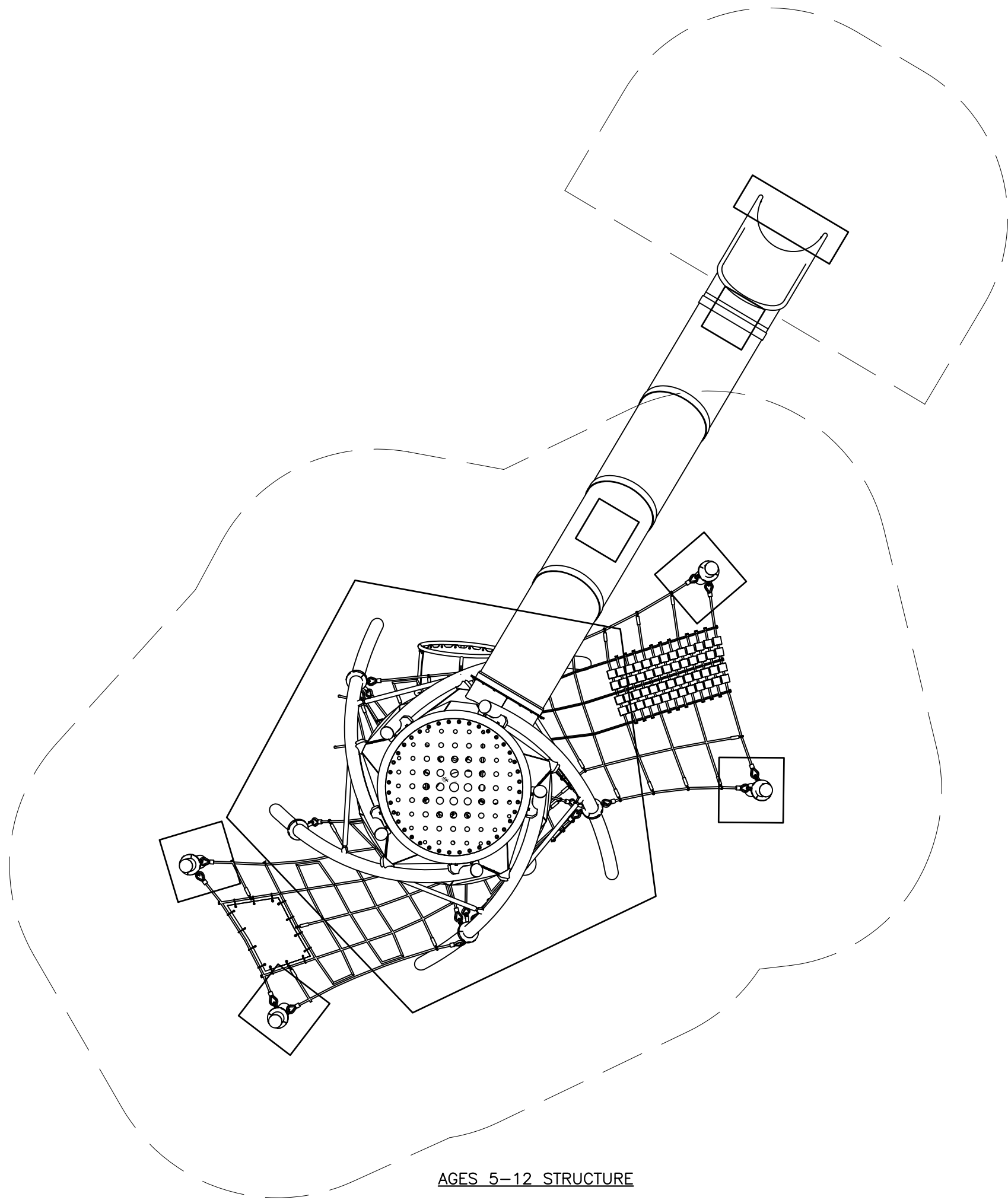
2 STORAGE CABINET
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



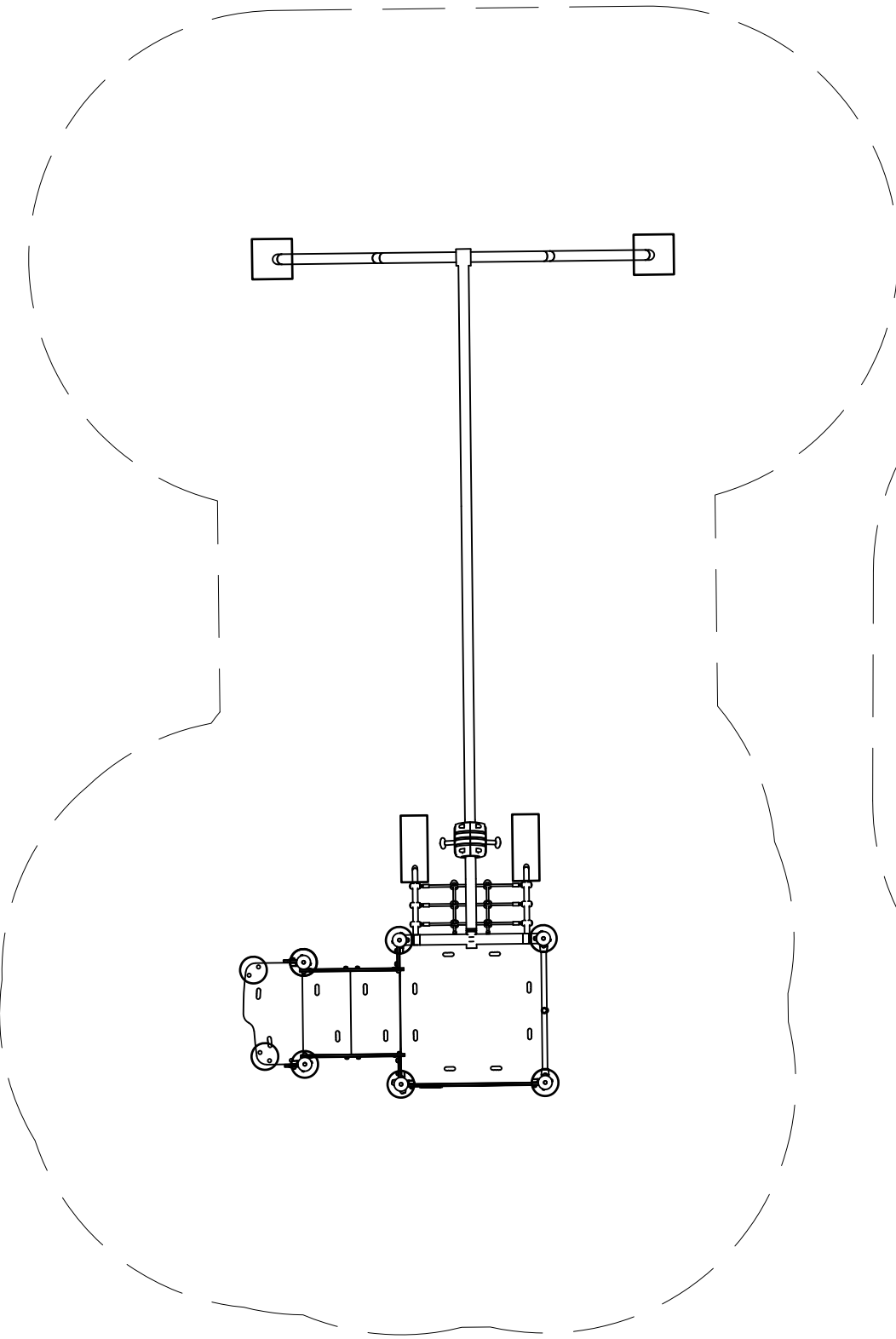
3 DUGOUT SHELTER (ADD ALT. #1)– QTY. 2
Scale: 1/2"=1'-0"



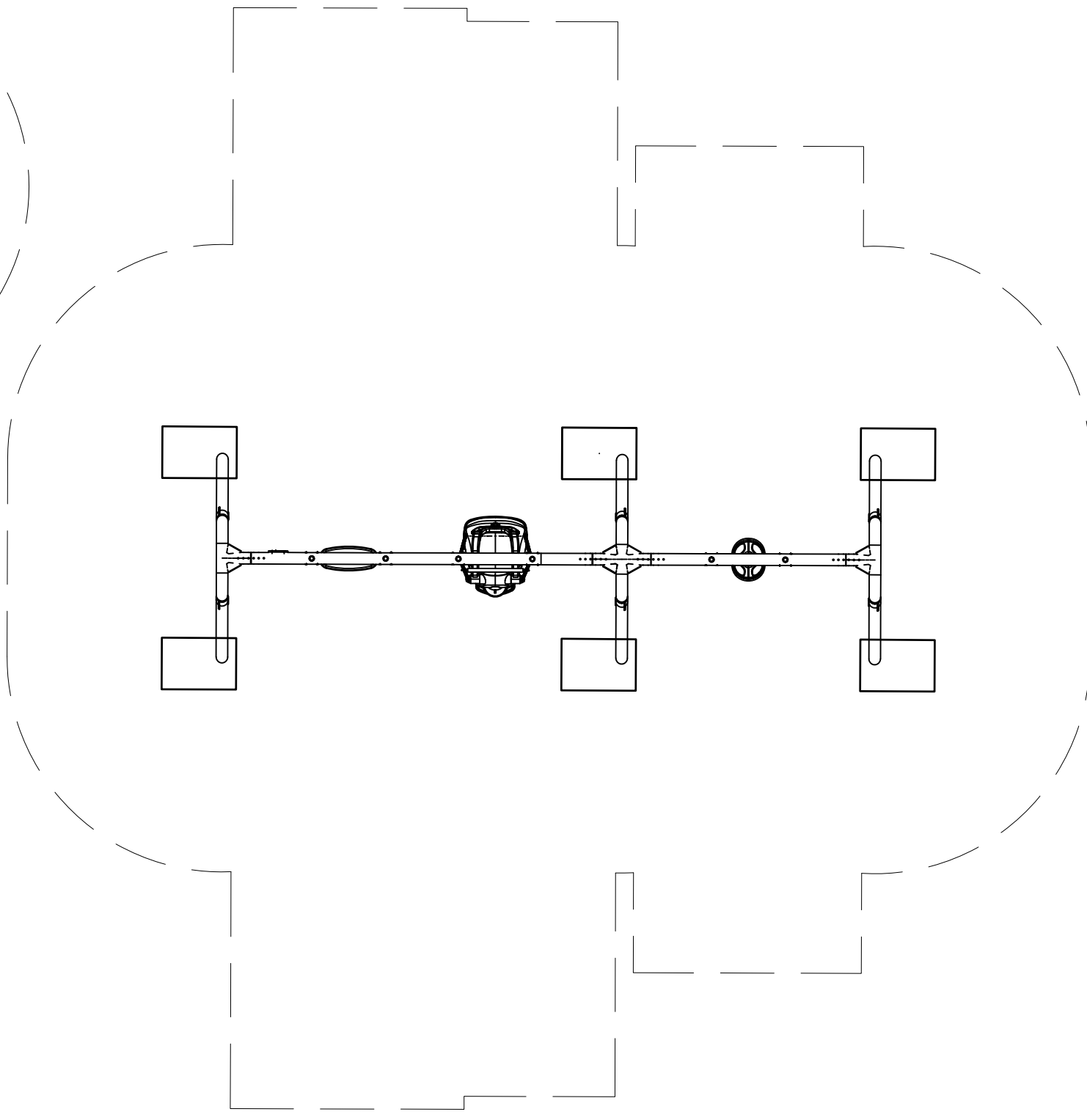
4 REINSTALL EXISTING BLEACHERS ON PAD
Scale: 3/4"=1'-0"



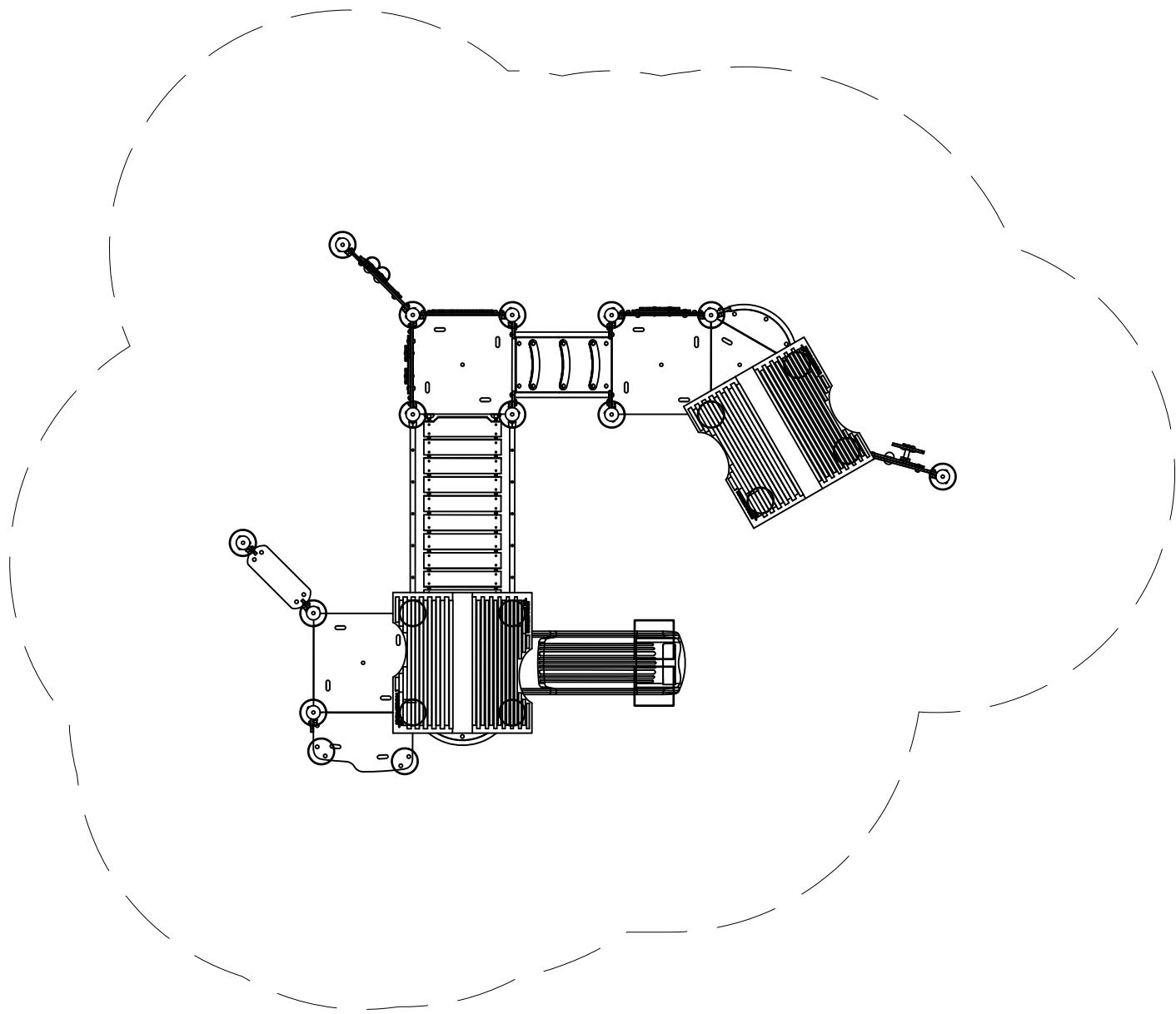
AGES 5-12 STRUCTURE



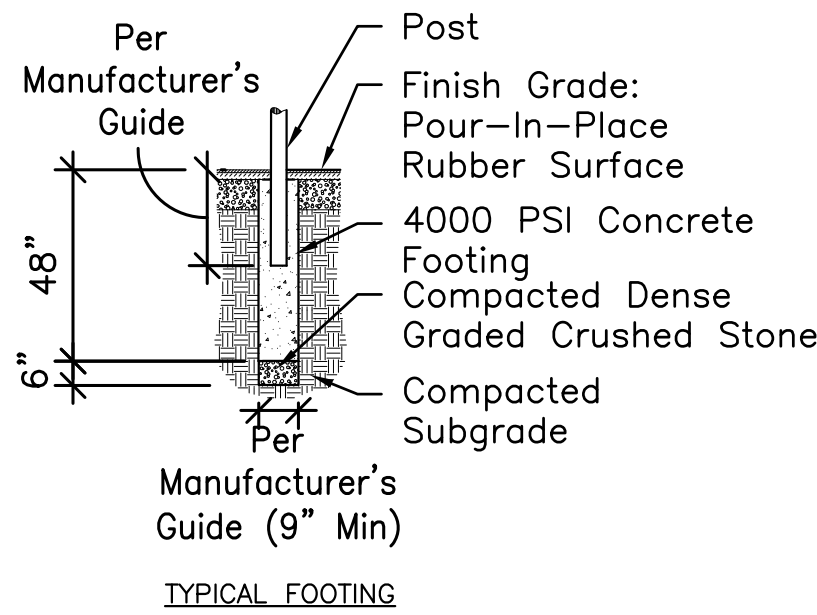
TRACK RIDE



SWINGSSET

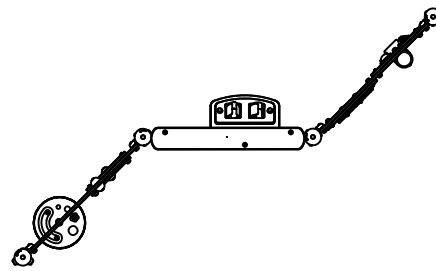


AGES 2-5 STRUCTURE



TYPICAL FOOTING

Footing sizes vary; dimensions shown are minimums. Provide the GREATER of the diameter and depth indicated on the supplier's footing schedule or the size above (footings may be larger/deeper than required by supplier).



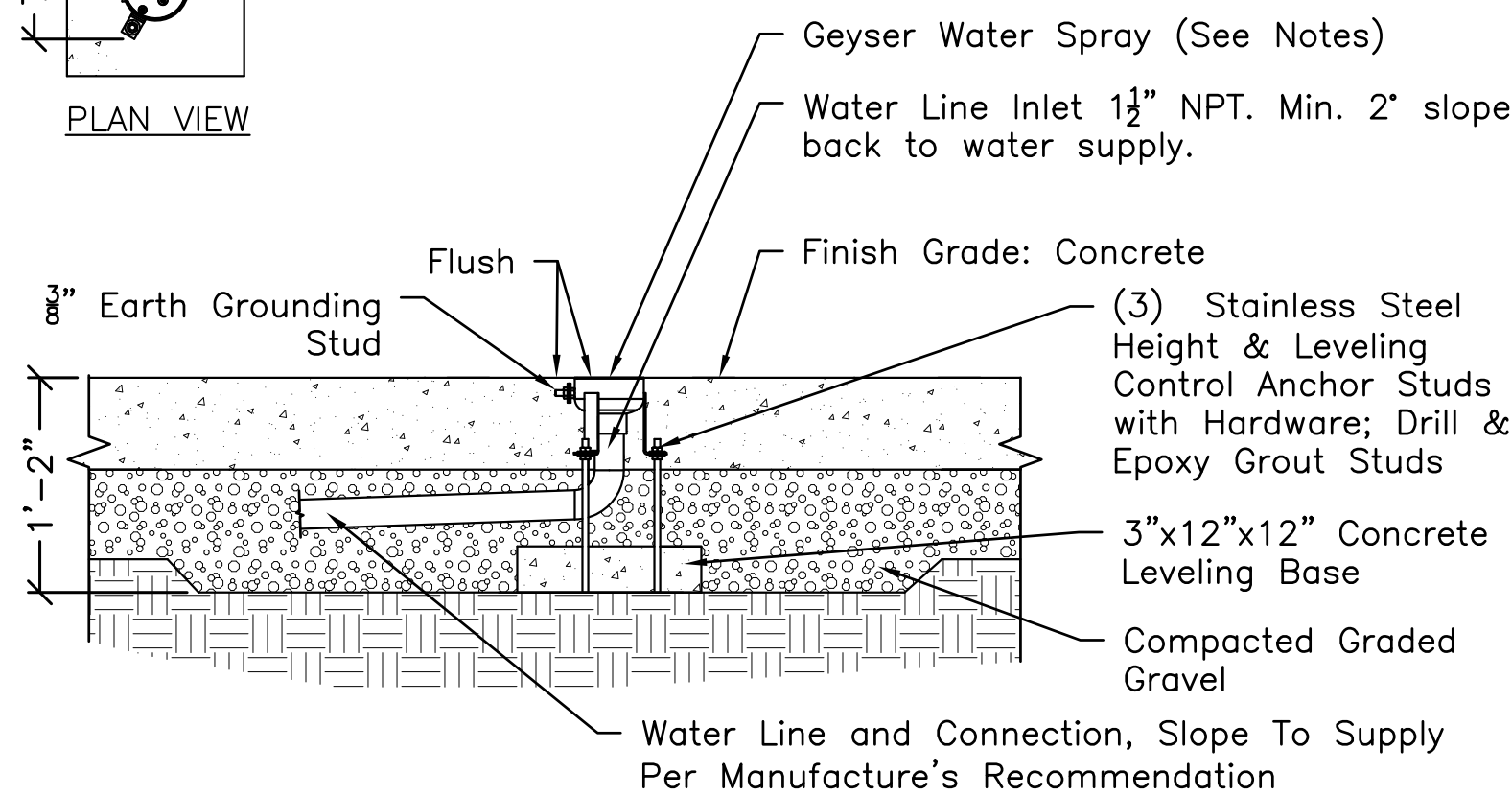
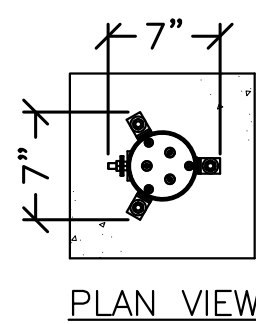
PLAY PANEL A



PLAY PANEL B

PLAY EQUIPMENT NOTES:

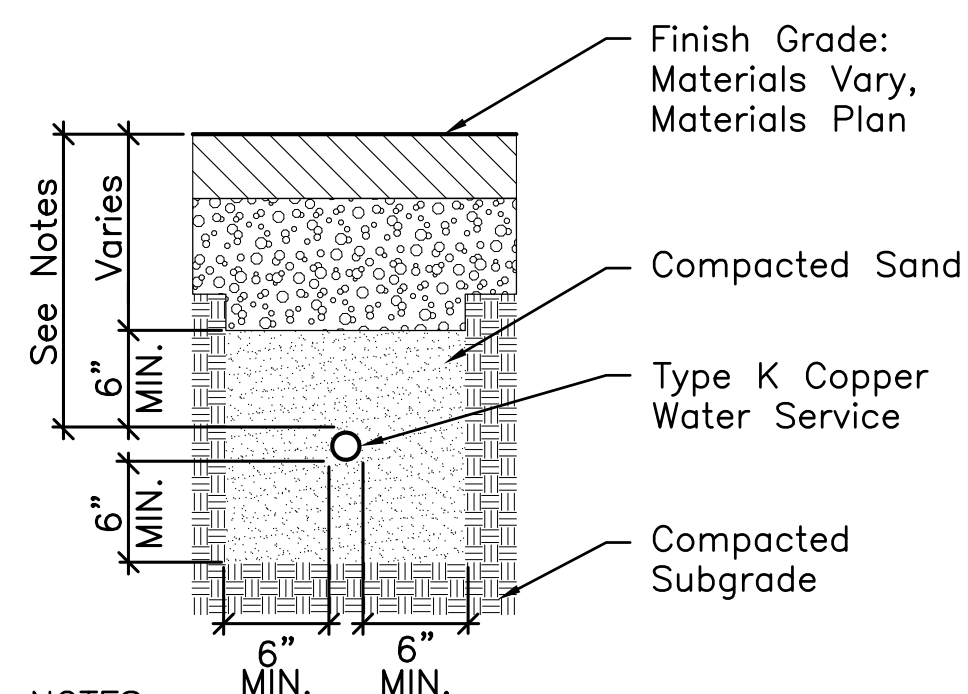
1. SHOP DRAWINGS OF ALL PLAY EQUIPMENT AND POST/FOOTING PLANS REQUIRED.
2. See Rubber Safety Surface Detail. All fall heights and safety surface depths to be confirmed with playground manufacturer and safety surface manufacturer prior to installation.
3. Play structure colors to be selected by Landscape Architect from Manufacturer's full range
4. All installation shall be according to manufacturer's standard procedures and the drawings. Confirm all fall heights, slide and equipment exit heights, and other critical dimensions prior to installing rubber safety surfacing. Adjust elevations of structure as needed in the field to accommodate grade differences.
5. Play equipment safety zones to only include safety surfaces specified. Play equipment to be installed so safety zones do NOT overlap with walls, stairs, manholes, curbs, concrete paving, bituminous concrete paving, etc.
6. Play structure for ages 2-5 years shall be as described in the specifications and as shown on the plan (PCM300531-0603 Triple Play Tower with Bridge by Kompan or Approved Equal). Projected rubber surface depth in the 2-5 Year old structure area is 2.5" based on an expected fall height of 23" and the basis-of-design manufacturer and impact requirements.
7. Playstructure for ages 5-12 years shall be as described in the specifications and as shown on the plan (COR881007-ASTM Custom ADA Sky Twister by Kompan or Approved Equal). Projected rubber surface depth in the 5-12 Year old structure area is 4" based on an expected fall height of 96" and the basis-of-design manufacturer and impact requirements.
8. Track Ride to be US-PCM720134 ADA Track Ride by Kompan, or Approved Equal. Projected rubber surface depth is 3.5" based on an expected fall height of 78" and the basis-of-design manufacturer.
9. Swings Structure to be Product KSW923-Custom ID 20337052 2 Bay Swing by Kompan or Approved Equal with 1 molded seat/harness, 1 belt swings, 1 full bucket swing. Projected rubber surface depth is 4" based on an expected fall height of 95" and the basis-of-design manufacturer.
10. Play Panel A to be PCM003321-0950 Play Panel 3 Learning Classic by Kompan or Approved Equal. No fall height.
11. Play Panel B to be TPP280023-0401 Sensory Multi-Play Panel with Square Posts by Kompan, or Approved Equal. No fall height.



- NOTES:**
1. Water Jet Type A: Spraylink Geyser (VOR-3005) by Vortex, or Approved Equal.
 2. Spray feature shall have three (3) equally spaced nozzle inserts.
 3. Water flow rate 5 gpm; pressure 10-25 psi; inlet size 1 1/2 inch.
 4. Install per Manufacturer's Specifications.

1 WATER JET TYPE A (IN-GROUND)

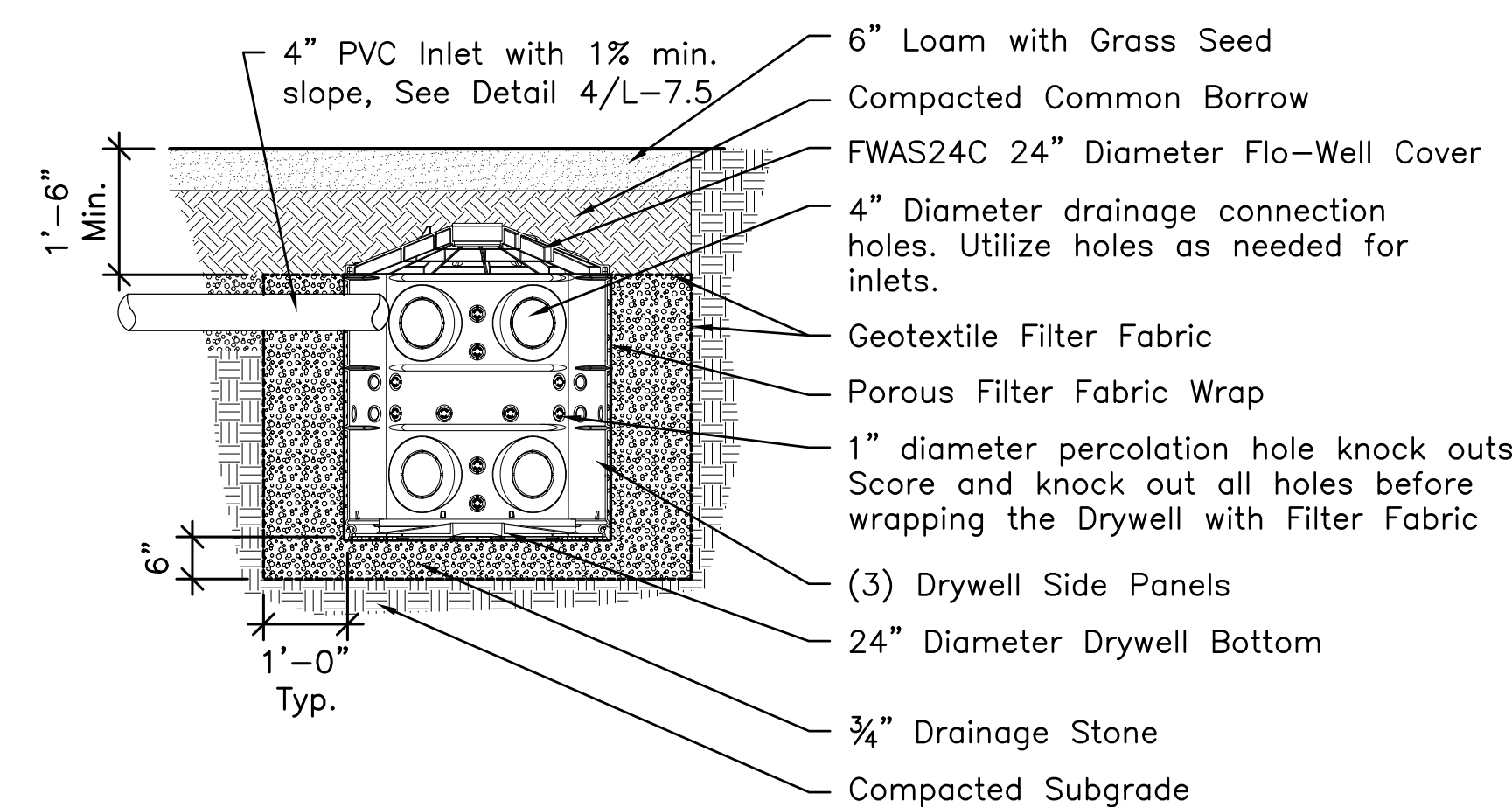
Scale: 1" = 1'-0"



- NOTES:**
1. Water service supply to be 60" minimum below finish grade, or as required by codes. Adjust depth of trench as required.
 2. Revise as needed to meet additional municipal and state codes. Review revisions with Landscape Architect prior to execution.

5 WATER LINE

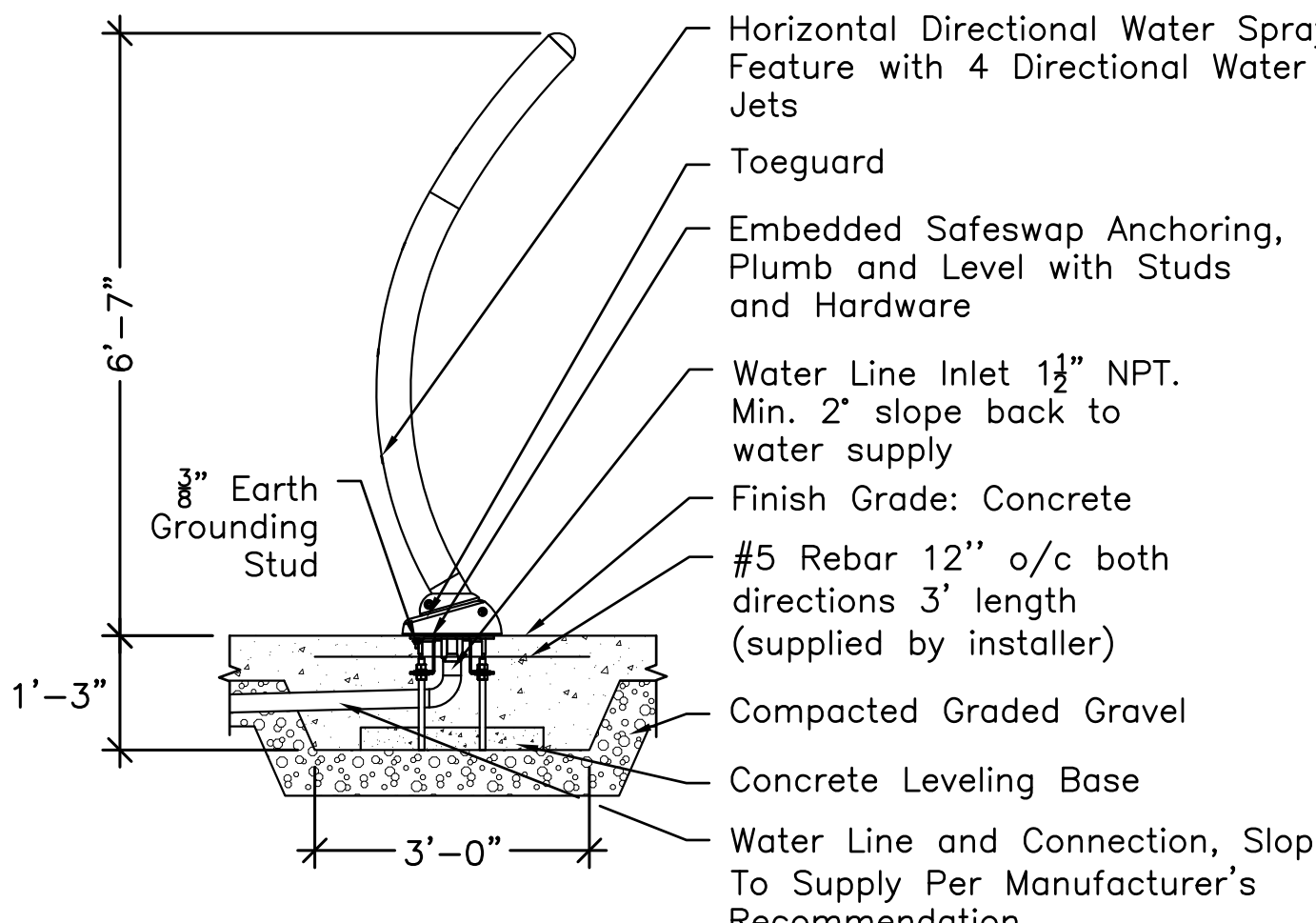
Scale: 1" = 1'-0"



- NOTES:**
1. System to be Flo Well FWAS24 Kit with FWBP24 Flo-Well Bottom by NDS or Approved Equal.
 2. System must be installed 10' away from any structure or foundation.
 3. Installation to be completed in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.
 4. Drainage Stone shall comply with M2.01.4 of S.S.H.B.

8 24" PLASTIC DRYWELL

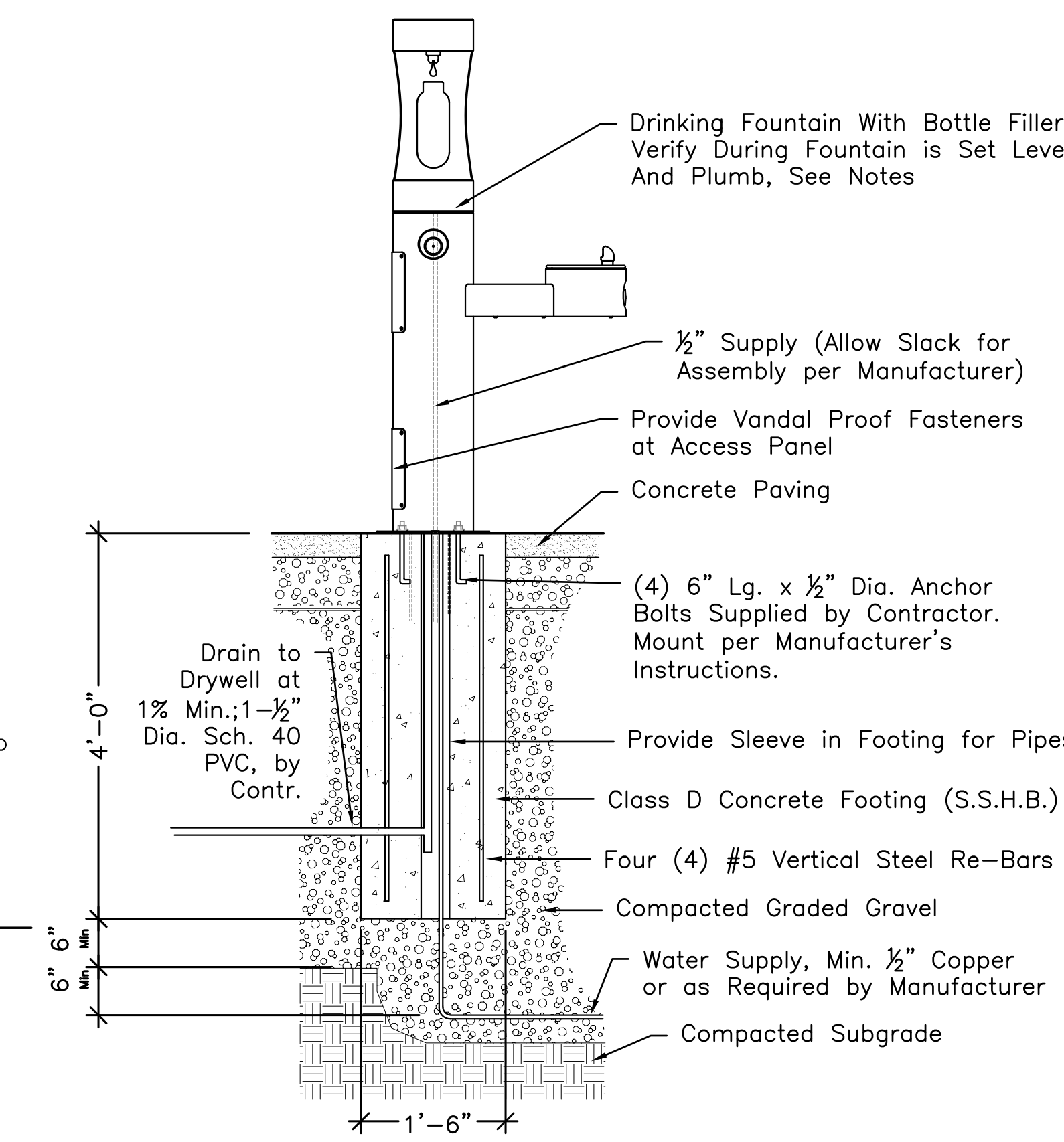
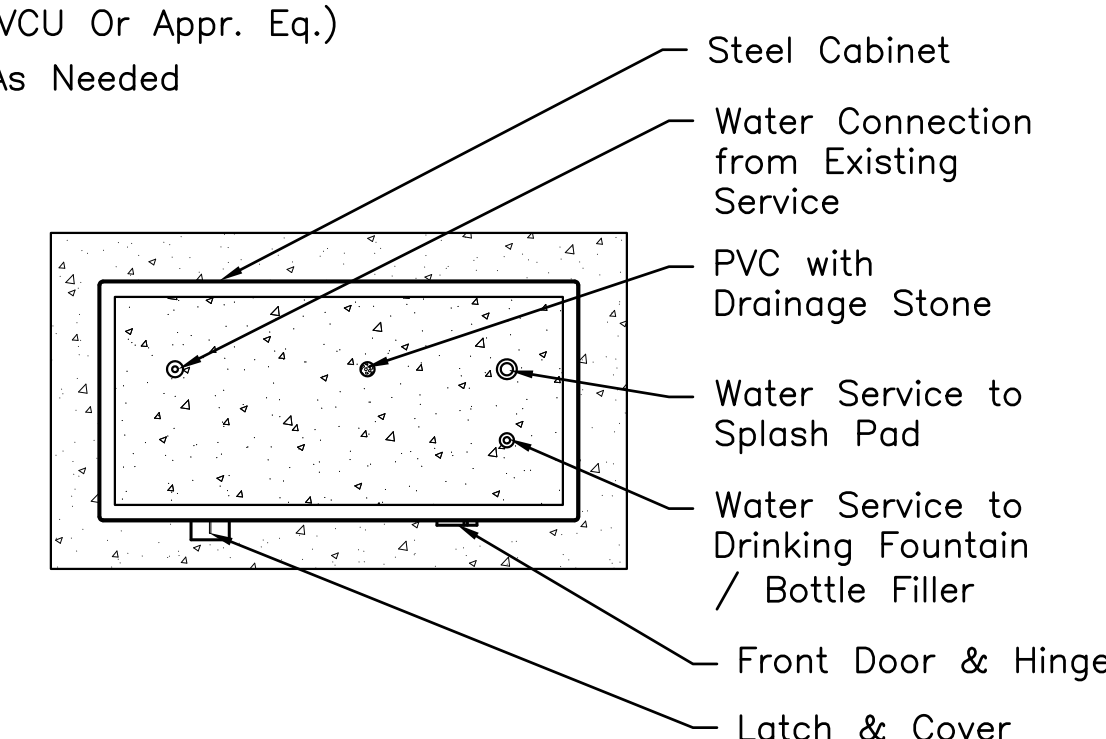
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



- NOTES:**
1. Water Jet Type B to be Vortex Silhouette N°3 (VOR-7774) by Vortex, or Approved Equal.
 2. Water flow rate 4-8 gpm; pressure 5-10 psi; inlet size 1 1/2 inch.
 3. Install per Manufacturer's Specifications.

2 WATER JET TYPE B (SPRAY POLE)

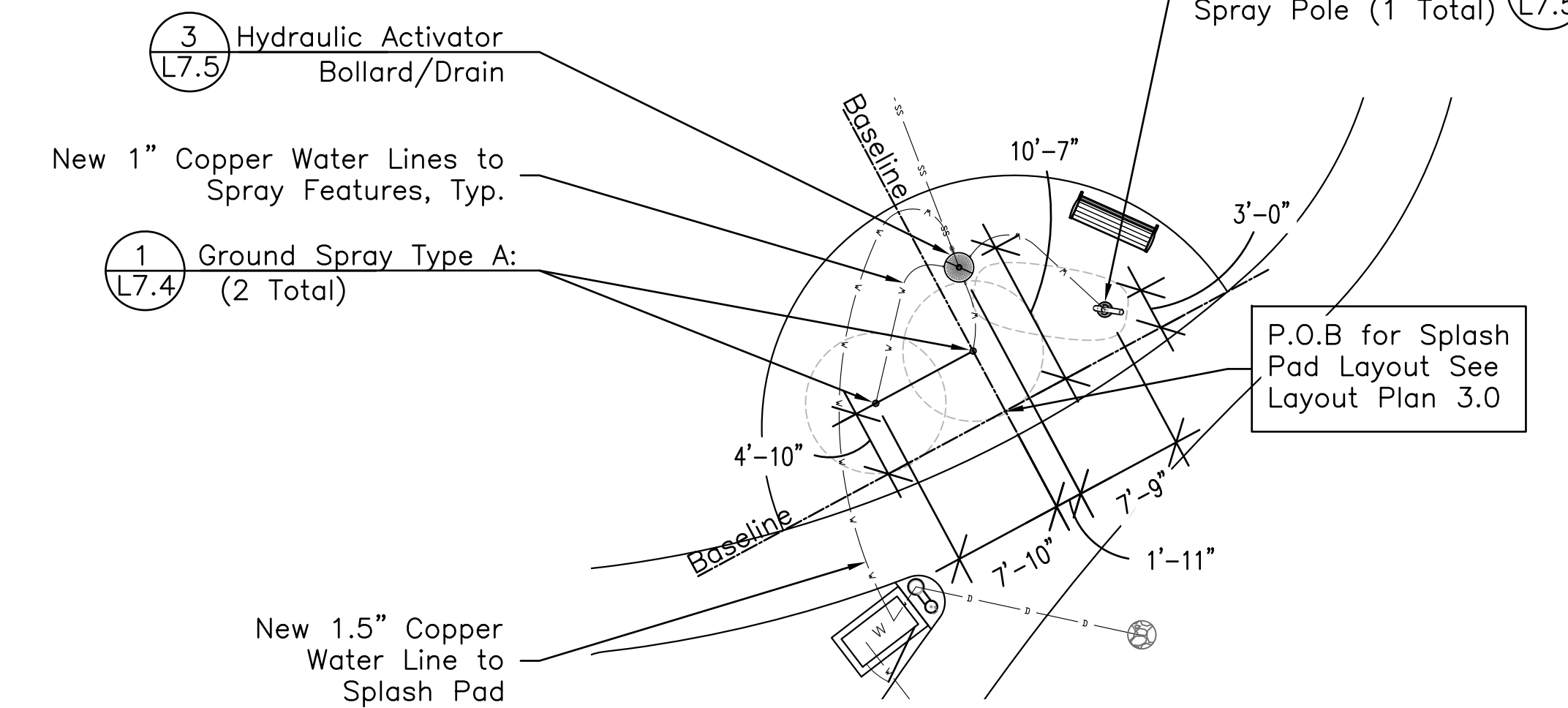
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



- Notes:**
1. SHOP DRAWINGS REQUIRED.
 2. Drinking Fountain to be Elkay Outdoor ezH2O Upper Bottle Filling Station Bi-Level Pedestal Non-Filtered Non-Refrigerated by: Elkay, 511 W, Freshwater Way, Milwaukee, WI 53204. Ph. 1.414.808.0100, or Approved Equal. Color to be Selected from Standard Colors. Water Bowls to be Stainless Steel.
 3. Provide a Dielectric Union at Pipes of Dissimilar Metals.
 4. Install to Meet all Local, State, and Environmental Regulations.
 5. Install to Meet all Handicap/ADA Regulations.
 6. Install drain line from bottle filler to the playground drywell, see utility plan.

7 DRINKING FOUNTAIN WITH BOTTLE FILLER

Scale: 3/4" = 1'-0"

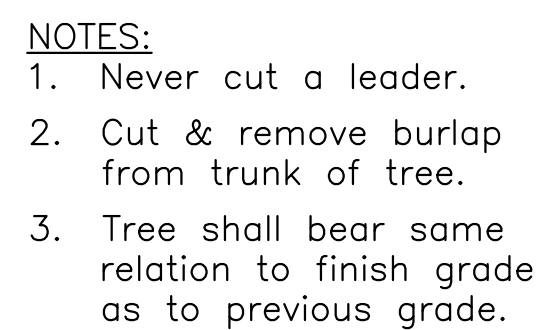


9 SPLASH PAD LAYOUT AND SPRAY FEATURE KEY PLAN

Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

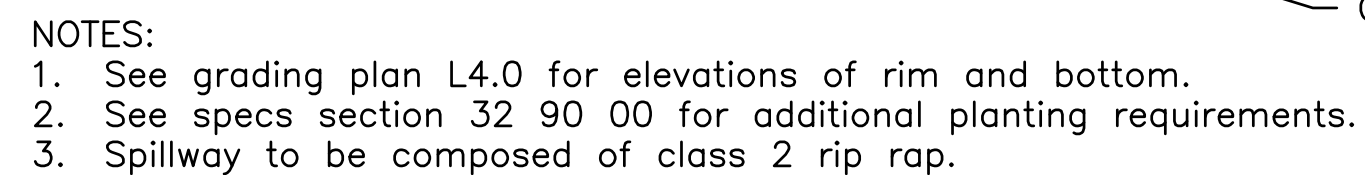


Scale: $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'-0''$

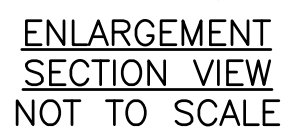


- Use Watering Bags (GatorBags or Equal)
- Stake in Place Adjacent to Tree, Size Stake Appropriately
- 3" Mulch, Hold Back From Trunk
- Cut & Remove Burlap From Top $\frac{1}{3}$ of Ball; Remove Wires Completely
- Finish Grade
- Planting Soil Mix:
 - 4 Parts Topsoil & 1 Part Compost

Scale: $\frac{3}{8}" = 1'-0"$



Scale: $\frac{1}{2}" = 1'-0"$



PLAN VIEW

Scale: $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'-0"$



NOTES:

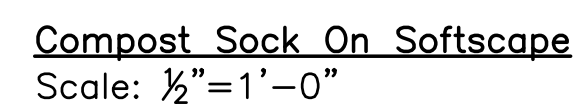
1. Any sediment carried from the site onto the street shall be cleaned up immediately

Scale: $\frac{1}{2}" = 1'-0"$



1. Install siltsack per manufacturer's instructions and recommendations. Empty or remove sediment from siltsack when restraint cord is no longer visible. Clean, rinse, and replace as needed.
2. Silt sacks to be installed during construction operations when the potential for sediment to enter existing and proposed basins exists.
3. Silt sacks to be inspected monthly or after every rain event of 0.5" or greater.

Scale: $\frac{1}{2}" = 1'-0"$



Overlapping Detail On Softscape
Scale: N.T.S.

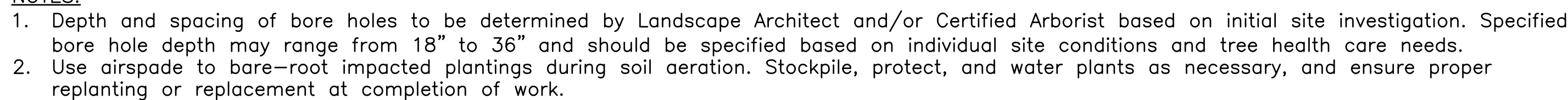
Notes:

1. Contractor to submit Compost Sock product information for approval by Landscape Architect.
2. Follow all manufacturer's specifications and instructions.
3. Snow Fence to be placed in front of all erosion control. See Tree Protection Detail for installation.

Scale: $\frac{1}{2}" = 1'-0"$

1. Spacing, width, and depth of root pruning, vertical mulching, and radial trenching to be determined by Landscape Architect and/or Certified Arborist based on initial site investigation. Specified root pruning, vertical mulching, trenching, and soil augmentation should be based on individual site conditions and tree health care needs. Actual location of root pruning, vertical mulching, and trenching may be adjusted slightly based on field conditions. Root pruning, vertical mulching, and trenches should occur between roots and avoid following primary leaders.
2. All work to be done under the supervision of Certified Arborist. Ensure that the trees are in good health and not experiencing unusual stress prior to commencing work.
3. Protect tree and tree roots throughout construction. Airspade or hand dig only within the critical root zone. Document and assess all damages to trees at commencement and through completion of work. Damages to be compensated based on pre-agreed terms. See specifications.
4. Ensure proper soil moisture levels through duration of work. Soil must be near field capacity, but not saturated, and pass a field moisture test prior to use of an airspade. Hand water trees as necessary before commencement of work and within 24 hours of completion. Cover bare roots and water as necessary during work.
5. Arborist to evaluate the overall health of trees, and to make a report and recommendations for additional tree care before, during, and after the completion of work.
6. Call 811 DIG-SAFE or contact the appropriate local agencies to locate existing utilities prior to any excavation. Protect existing utilities throughout the construction process and repair any damage to these at no cost to the Owner.
7. See Specification section 31 23 17 for additional information. Also see Manufacturer's guide for proper safety and operation.

1. Hand prune roots only by certified Arborist. Do not shear roots.
2. Cover roots and provide supplemental water as necessary. If large roots or a large percentage of roots are removed, extended recovery period may be necessary.

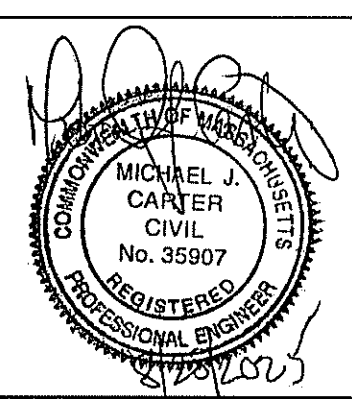


Not to Scale

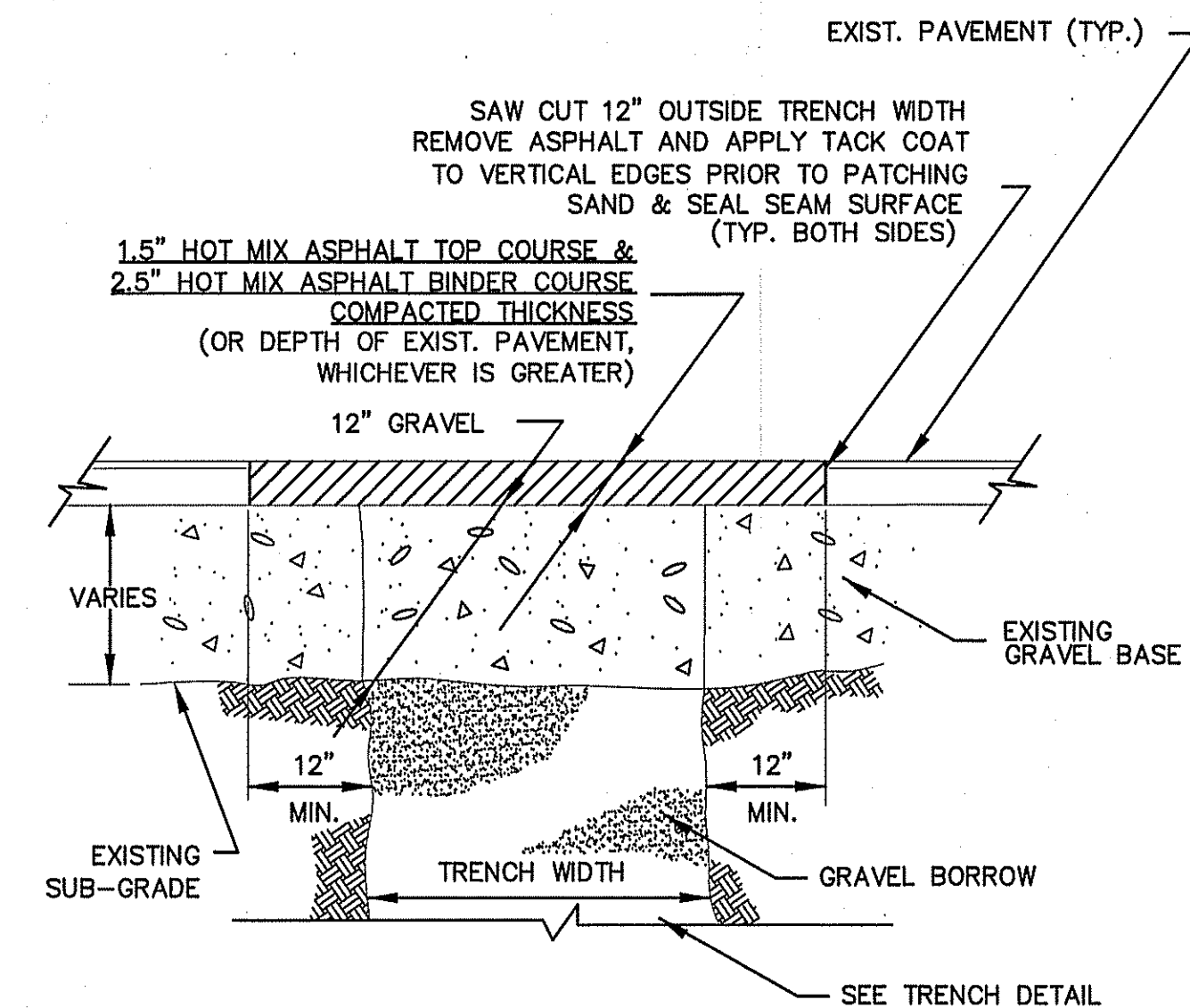


BEMIS PLAYGROUND
Watertown, MA
CIVIL DETAILS

DATE: 08-28-2025
SCALE:
FILE:
DWN BY:
CKD BY:
PROJ. #:

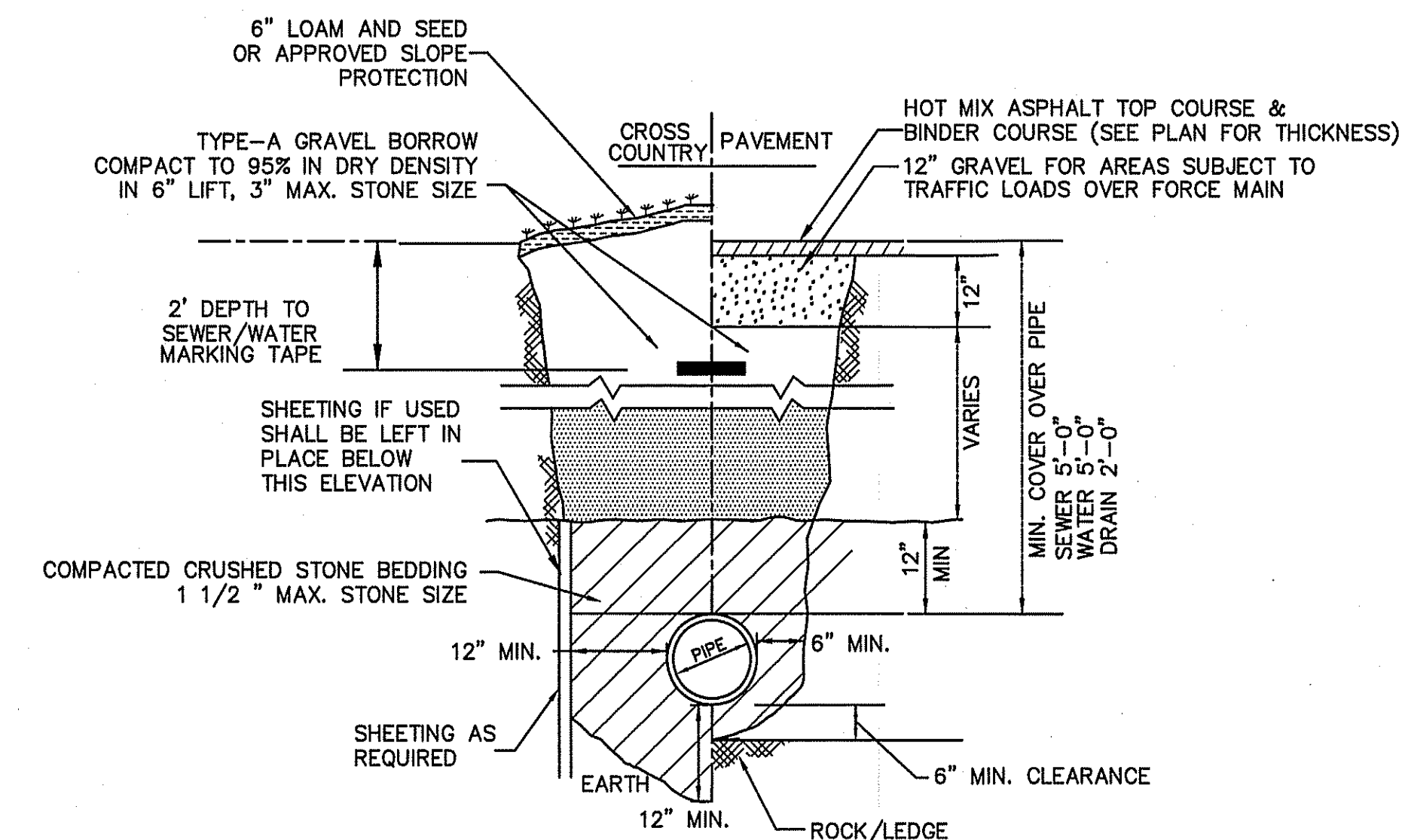


C1.0



- TRENCH DETAIL NOTES:
1. ALL TRENCHES SHALL BE SAWCUT ONLY. NO OTHER METHOD OF CUTTING THE EXISTING PAVEMENT SHALL BE ACCEPTABLE. THIS WORK SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ASSOCIATED TRENCH ITEM.

TRENCH PAVEMENT DETAIL
N.T.S.



NOTE: TRENCH WIDTH SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 3' WIDE OR 2' PLUS THE PIPE DIAMETER, WHICHEVER IS GREATER.

1. GRAVEL BORROW SHALL CONFORM WITH MASS HIGHWAY SPECIFICATION M1.03.0 TYPE B
2. CRUSHED STONE BEDDING SHALL CONFORM WITH MASS HIGHWAY SPECIFICATION M2.01.1

TYPICAL SANITARY SEWER, STORM DRAIN & WATER TRENCH DETAIL
NOT TO SCALE

Ms. Michelle Moon
Senior Planner, Open Space
Watertown Dept. of Community Planning & Development
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Re: Bemis Playground Renovations Project Funding Recommendation Letter

Dear Ms. Moon:

On September 18, 2025, at 11:00 AM, public bids were received and read publicly aloud by the City of Watertown Purchasing Department for the Bemis Playground Renovations project. The bid prices received, as reported to CBA by the Purchasing Department, were as follows:

Vendor	Base Bid Amount	Base + Alt 1	Base + Alt 2	Base + Alt 3
Belko Landscaping	\$ 1,148,412	\$ 1,194,782	\$ 1,227,145	\$ 1,237,595
Argus Construction	\$ 1,175,000	\$ 1,221,000	\$ 1,250,800	\$ 1,259,800
NELM	\$ 1,188,000	\$ 1,240,000	\$ 1,274,000	\$ 1,282,000
JJ Phelan & Sons	\$ 1,372,610	\$ 1,422,610	\$ 1,452,610	\$ 1,459,610
Quirk Construction	\$ 1,367,000	\$ 1,416,000	\$ 1,445,000	\$ 1,456,000

Description of Alternates:

Alternate No. 1 – Shade Structures Over Team Bench Seating (requested by Little League and the Recreation Department, if funding is available)

Alternate No. 2 – Portable Restroom Enclosure (located adjacent to the batting tunnel and storage sheds, for better aesthetics and for protection of the portable restrooms from vandalism)

Alternate No. 3 – 6' High Chain Link Fence at Existing Basketball Court (to better separate the basketball court from the adjacent rain garden)

Low Bidder Evaluation:

The bid results indicate that Belko Landscaping is the apparent low bidder. I have contacted John Belko, the owner of Belko Landscaping, and confirmed that they are comfortable with their bid and have the capacity to construct the project, and are prepared to begin submittals promptly with on-site mobilization expected around the beginning of December 2025, weather permitting. They understand the City's goal of completing work affecting the little league field area to the greatest extent feasible by the April 2026 start of the little league season and are comfortable with meeting that goal.

CBA has worked with Belko Landscaping on a number of projects in recent years, including several ongoing projects, and have found their work to be quite competent with no significant issues. In particular, I have personally worked with them on the Mace Tot Lot and Quigley Park projects in Chelsea, both of which involved playground and splash pad installations, and which had several highly detailed facets to construction, and both projects went smoothly and the results were high quality. In addition, I have spoken to all the other references listed on their form in the bid package. All references spoke highly of the quality of their work and the professionalism of their staff, and all expressed that they would be happy to work with Belko Landscaping again. Based on our own experiences and the discussions with references, we recommend that the City of Watertown proceed with award of the Bemis Playground Renovations project to the low bidder, Belko Landscaping, inclusive of Alternates 1 and 2 to match the available project budget of \$1,350,000 as requested in the Community Development Department's Loan Order Request of September 15, 2025 as outlined below, for a total of \$1,227,145.

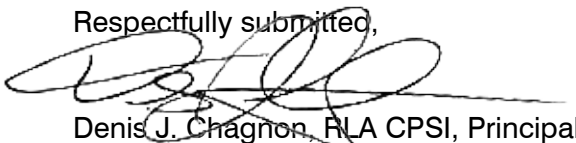
Funding Recommendation Summary:

Please note that CBA's Construction Administration Services have already been funded, as they are included in our current contract. They are included in the table below for clarity as they were mentioned in the Loan Order Request.

Item	Amount	Remarks
Construction Bid Amount (Belko Landscaping, including Alternates 1 and 2)	\$ 1,227,145.00	Per bid results table
Construction Contingency (10%)	\$ 122,714.50	Lowered to 10% (from 12% in Loan Order Request) as we now have firm bids
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION:	\$ 1,349,859.50	
Construction Administration	\$ 26,795.00	CBA Landscape Architects LLC (Included in existing contract; new funding not required)

If you have any questions or require further clarifications, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Denis J. Chagnon, RLA CPSI, Principal
CBA Landscape Architects LLC

Cc: George Proakis – City of Watertown, City Manager
Tom Brady – City of Watertown, Director of Public Works
Steve Magoon – City of Watertown, Community Development & Planning Director
Julie Knight – City of Watertown, Purchasing Agent

Order Confirmation

Brendan McCarthy
Watertown City Council
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Thank you for placing your Legal Notice in The Boston Globe.

Your order information and a preview of your notice are displayed below for your review. If there are any changes or questions, please contact the Classified Department at 617-929-1314 or email legals@globe.com.

Any and all proposed edits, revisions, and/or other changes to the notice must be communicated to us in writing prior to the deadline specified in the Advertising Specs + Deadlines page located at <https://www.bostonglobemedia.com/specs-deadlines>.

Thank you,
Boston Globe Classified Sales

617-929-1314
Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
legals@globe.com

Order Number	757656	Order Price	\$708.35
Sales Rep.	Jackson Kocak	PO No.	
Account	3028420	Payment Type	
Publication	Boston Globe	Number of dates	1
First Run Date	10/01/2025	Last Run Date	10/01/2025
Payment Type			

AD PREVIEW:

Legal Notice The City Council of Watertown hereby gives notice of a public hearing and vote to be held ONLINE and IN-PERSON (HYBRID) Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Richard Mastrangelo Chamber Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA or online at the following link: https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991321344 which may be found on the City of Watertown's website, on a proposed Loan Order as follows: ORDERED: That the sum of \$1,350,000 is appropriated to pay construction and construction administration costs of Bemis Park, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029 Capital Improvement Plan, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor. Interested parties are encouraged to participate in this HYBRID Public Hearing. A copy of the proposed Loan Order is available for inspection at the Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472 in the City Clerk's Office Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday evening up to 7:00 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m., and on the City's website page: www.watertown-ma.gov.
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CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to accept the report of the Committee on Education and School System Matters
from its meeting on September 10, 2025

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve the action items from the report of the Committee on Education and School System Matters from its meeting on September 10, 2025



Watertown City Council

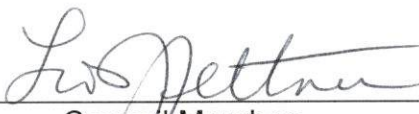
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 106

2025 – R - 106

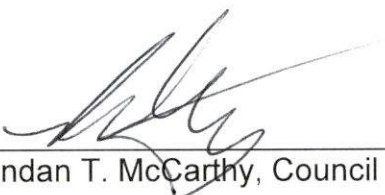
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JAMES VERSHBOW TO THE WATERTOWN CABLE ACCESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the appointment of James Vershbow to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors for a term to expire on September 15, 2028.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 14, 2025



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

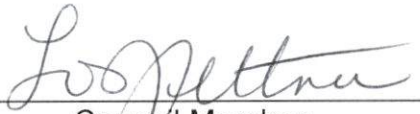
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 105

2025 – R - 105

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF SAMANTHA HENRY TO THE WATERTOWN CABLE ACCESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the appointment of Samantha Henry to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors for a term to expire on September 15, 2028.


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on October 14, 2025


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Committee on Education and School System Matters

The Committee on Education and School System Matters convened on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 5:30 pm in the City Council office. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews with 2 candidates for reappointment for Watertown Cable Access (WCAC) Board of Directors. Present were Emily Izzo, chair; John Airasian, secretary was present via zoom.

Samantha Henry - Samantha has enjoyed her time on the board so far. She mentioned how hard it has been for local media in today's world, yet she is very impressed with staff and how they have dealt with various challenges in a systematic and comprehensive manner. Samantha feels she will continue to bring the role of a working journalist to the Board which dovetails nicely with the overall mission of WCAC. She feels the Board and staff are very good at strategic thinking and feels they are in a good position to negotiate a solid contract with Comcast in the upcoming months.

Action Item – Councilor Airasian made a motion to recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of Samantha Henry to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors with a term expiring September 15, 2028. Motion was seconded by Councilor Izzo and passed 2-0.

James Vershbow – Mr. Vershbow feels he brings a unique perspective to the Board being a volunteer at WCAC. He feels a lot of work has been done leading up to the Comcast negotiation and is hopeful that a fair deal will be attained. He expressed that much work has been getting done leading up to the negotiation. He feels more promotion of the station is needed so people can really follow the issues on a regular basis.

Action Item – Councilor Airasian made a motion to recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of James Vershbow to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors with a term expiring September 15, 2028. The motion was seconded by Councilor Izzo and passed 2-0.

Meeting adjourned
Minutes prepared by John M. Airasian

Emily Izzo,
Chair

Nicole Gardner,
Vice Chair

John M. Airasian,
Secretary

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to accept the report of the Committee on Economic Development & Planning from its meeting on October 7, 2025

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to approve the action item from the report of the Committee on Economic Development & Planning from its meeting on October 7, 2025



Watertown City Council

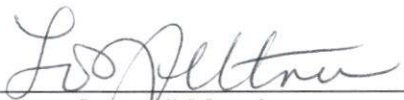
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 107

2025 – R - 107

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF ALISON ECK TO THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the appointment of Alison Eck to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire on February 1, 2027.

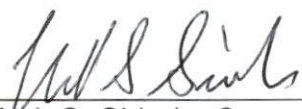


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 4 for, 0 against, and 2 present on October 14, 2025



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

Report of the Committee on Economic Development & Planning Meeting Date: October 7, 2025

The Committee convened on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 5:30 pm in the Council Office. Present were Lisa Feltner, chair; John Gannon, vice chair; and Vincent Piccirilli, secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) confirmation interview.

The discussion focused on qualifications found in our CPC Ordinance, that in addition to community preservation advocates for open space and land for recreational use, historic resources, and community housing, residents should also:

- Have deep connections to different constituencies within the city to make it more responsive to the needs of its residents;
- Can bring specific skills to the execution of tasks required by the Committee;
- Can bring specific outlooks that may not normally be heard through the City's routine procedures; and
- Value new approaches and ideas to identifying projects outside the City's routine budget priority process.

Allison Eck has a dual degree in Physics and Comparative Literature and is currently the Executive Communications Manager for Harvard Medical School. She has lived in Watertown for 13 years, and she has been involved in various community groups including Watertown Community Conversations, Live Well Watertown, and the Immigrant Mutual Aid Network, which have enabled her to build strong community connections. She happily refers to herself as a "Watertown nerd" and loves learning more about the town.

Regarding taking a leadership role, she will have to see after spending some time on the CPC; she does have some leadership experience from being President of the Board of the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra for five years. This leadership experience, as well as her experience as a trained facilitator for Watertown Community Conversations, will be helpful as the CPC navigates difficult issues and tries to avoid split votes for projects. With the CPC updating their 5-year plan next year, she has experience with this, because when she was on the Orchestra board she led their strategic planning process. Outreach to the community is something she wants to prioritize, and her work expertise will be helpful in accomplishing this. She wants to make a broader range of people aware of the funding available and encourage more ideas to come forward for project applications.

- ➔ **Action Item:** Councilor Gannon made a motion, seconded by Councilor Piccirilli, to recommend that the City Council confirm of Allison Eck for appointment to the Community Preservation Committee as an At-Large member for a term expiring February 1, 2027. Voted 3-0

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Report prepared by Vincent Piccirilli



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: October 2, 2025

RE: Request for Confirmation – Appointment to the Solid Waste & Recycling Advisory Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, An Ordinance on the Timing and Process of Appointments to Town Boards, Commissions and Committees, I am transmitting herewith a request for appointment to the Solid Waste & Recycling Advisory Committee which requires Council confirmation. The appointment of Alana Berman-Gnivecki will be to fill the unexpired term of Joseph Ganno.

- Alana Berman-Gnivecki - Appointment as a member of the Solid Waste & Recycling Advisory Committee to a term expiring May 15, 2028

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: October 2, 2025

RE: Request for Confirmation – Appointment and Reappointments to the Public Arts & Culture Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, An Ordinance on the Timing and Process of Appointments to Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees, I hereby submit a request for appointment and reappointments to the Public Arts & Culture Committee, which requires Council confirmation. The appointment of Lei Ma will be to fill the unexpired term of Jason Wilson.

- Lei Ma - Appointment as a member of the Public Arts & Culture Committee to a term expiring November 15, 2027
- Matt Hanna - Reappointment as a member of the Public Arts & Culture Committee to a term expiring November 15, 2028
- Dawn Scaltreto - Reappointment as a member of the Public Arts & Culture Committee to a term expiring November 15, 2028

Thank you for your anticipated consideration in this matter.



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: October 3, 2025

RE: Request for Confirmation – Appointment and Reappointments to the Historic District Commission

Pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, An Ordinance on the Timing and Process of Appointments to Town Boards, Commissions and Committees, I am transmitting herewith a request for appointment to the Historic District Commission which requires Council confirmation.

Attached is a letter from Marilynne Roach, President of the Historical Society of Watertown, nominating Brendan Shanahan to fill Robert Bloomberg's unexpired term on the Historic District Commission under Ordinance 2002-16.

- Brendan Shanahan - Appointment as a member of the Historic District Commission to a term expiring November 15, 2026
- Harvey Steiner - Reappointment as a member of the Historic District Commission to a term expiring November 15, 2028
- Linda Sternberg - Reappointment as a member of the Historic District Commission to a term expiring November 15, 2028

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

A photograph of the Watertown Administration Building, a red brick structure with a classical portico supported by columns. The building's name is inscribed on the frieze. A tall, white, tiered steeple rises from the roof. The scene is set at sunset, with the sun low on the horizon to the right, casting a warm glow. A dark green semi-transparent banner is at the bottom left, and a larger dark blue semi-transparent banner is in the center where the title is located.

City of Watertown Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Overview

Submitted by George J. Proakis, City Manager
October 14, 2025

Today's Presentation

To follow along at home:
watertown-ma.gov/FY27

Today's Presentation

Introduction

Closeout of FY 2025 (through 6/30/25)

Update on FY 2026 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26)

An early look at FY 2027 (starting 7/1/26) and beyond

Introduction

Watertown Home Rule Charter

Preamble

The guiding principles for civic and environmental stewardship in the Home Rule Charter highlight the need to prioritize safety & tranquility; health & well-being; education & excellence; creativity & innovation; equity & diversity; and accountability & transparency.

The preamble notes that taken together, these principles yield:
“vibrant and welcoming neighborhoods, high-quality and inclusive schools, transparent and accountable municipal operations – including performance excellence, responsiveness, and collaboration – and thriving local businesses.”

Charter Guiding Principles

- Safety & Tranquility
- Learning & Excellence
- Equity & Diversity
- Health & Well-Being
- Creativity & Innovation
- Accountability & Transparency

- Continued Fiscal Stability
- Climate Mitigation and Resiliency
- A Commitment to Planning
- Enhanced Organizational Effectiveness
- Building for the Future

City Manager's Strategic Priorities

Leadership Formula

- Maintain the highest ethical standards
- Ensure collaborative departments
- Provide accurate, courteous, and easy customer service
- Transparency in process and outcomes
- Be abnormal – find new and unique solutions to the challenges of leading in local government.

Watertown's City Goals

Charter Preamble Guiding Principles

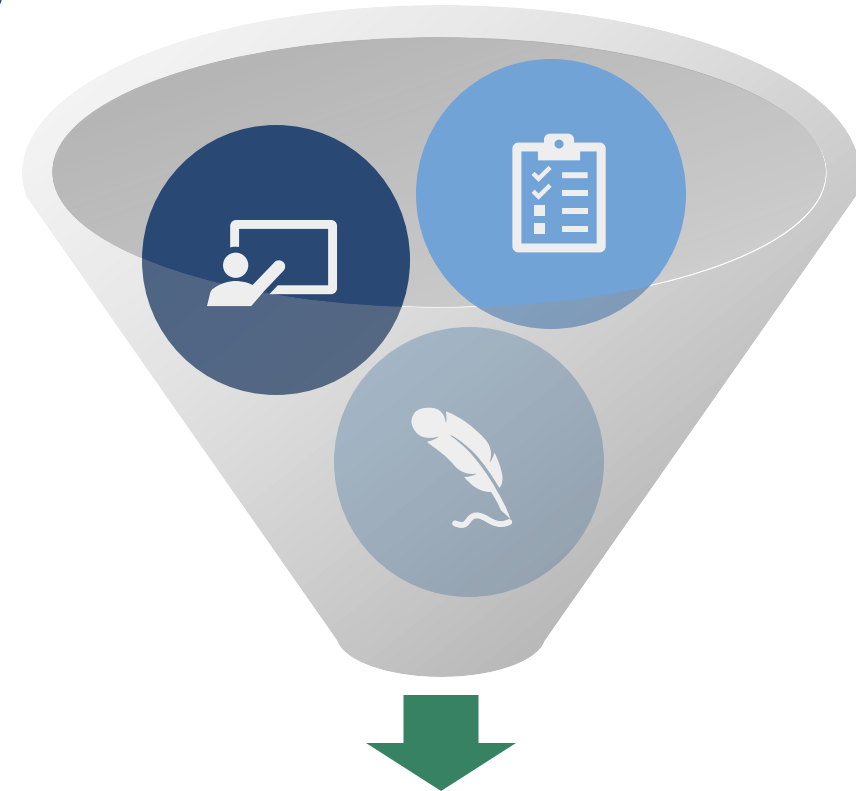
The Charter Preamble is the guiding document of our City and help define many of the successes we aim to achieve in Watertown.

City Manager's Strategic Priorities

A group of five strategic priorities that focus on climate, fiscal stability, planning, and organizational effectiveness.

Leadership Formula

My series of five leadership principles that I point to with my staff in meetings and in presentations to the Council and community.



Watertown's City Goals

A collection of goals that combine the Charter's Guiding principles, strategic priorities, and leadership formula to better capture the mission of our City and define the work staff do each and every day.

**Excellent, Responsive, &
Collaborative Municipal
Operations**

Effective Operations

Fiscal Stability

**Community Engagement & Customer
Service**

**Vibrant & Welcoming
Community**

Public Health & Safety

Commitment to the Future

A Watertown for All

Effective Operations

The City of Watertown will operate an ethical, efficient, and creative organization that delivers timely and high-quality services that meet the needs of the community. We will continually modernize systems and foster a culture of collaboration to achieve the highest standards of performance.

Fiscal Stability

The City of Watertown will manage our finances in a professional and responsible manner to maintain our strong fiscal position. We will operate using sound financial policies and practices to most effectively use taxpayer dollars and ensure we are equipped to weather economic uncertainty.

Community Engagement & Customer Service

The City of Watertown will prioritize proactive communication and responsive customer service to effectively inform, educate, and empower its constituents. We will ensure that all voices in the community are heard by offering a variety of meaningful opportunities for engagement and civic participation.

Public Health & Safety

The City of Watertown will enhance the health, wellbeing, and safety of the Watertown community. We will provide programs, resources, and professional emergency response services to ensure a healthy Watertown that is safe for all who live, work, and visit here.

Commitment to the Future

The City of Watertown will make responsible and timely investments to deliver a resilient and beautiful future for Watertown. By enacting meaningful climate and energy policies, implementing thoughtful community design, supporting flourishing businesses, and investing in state-of-the-art schools, we will ensure that future generations can thrive.

A Watertown for All

The City of Watertown will foster a welcoming, inclusive, and accessible environment. We will invest in cultural assets and provide diverse programming that makes Watertown a desirable community for all to enjoy.

**Excellent, Responsive, &
Collaborative Municipal
Operations**

Effective Operations

Fiscal Stability

**Community Engagement & Customer
Service**

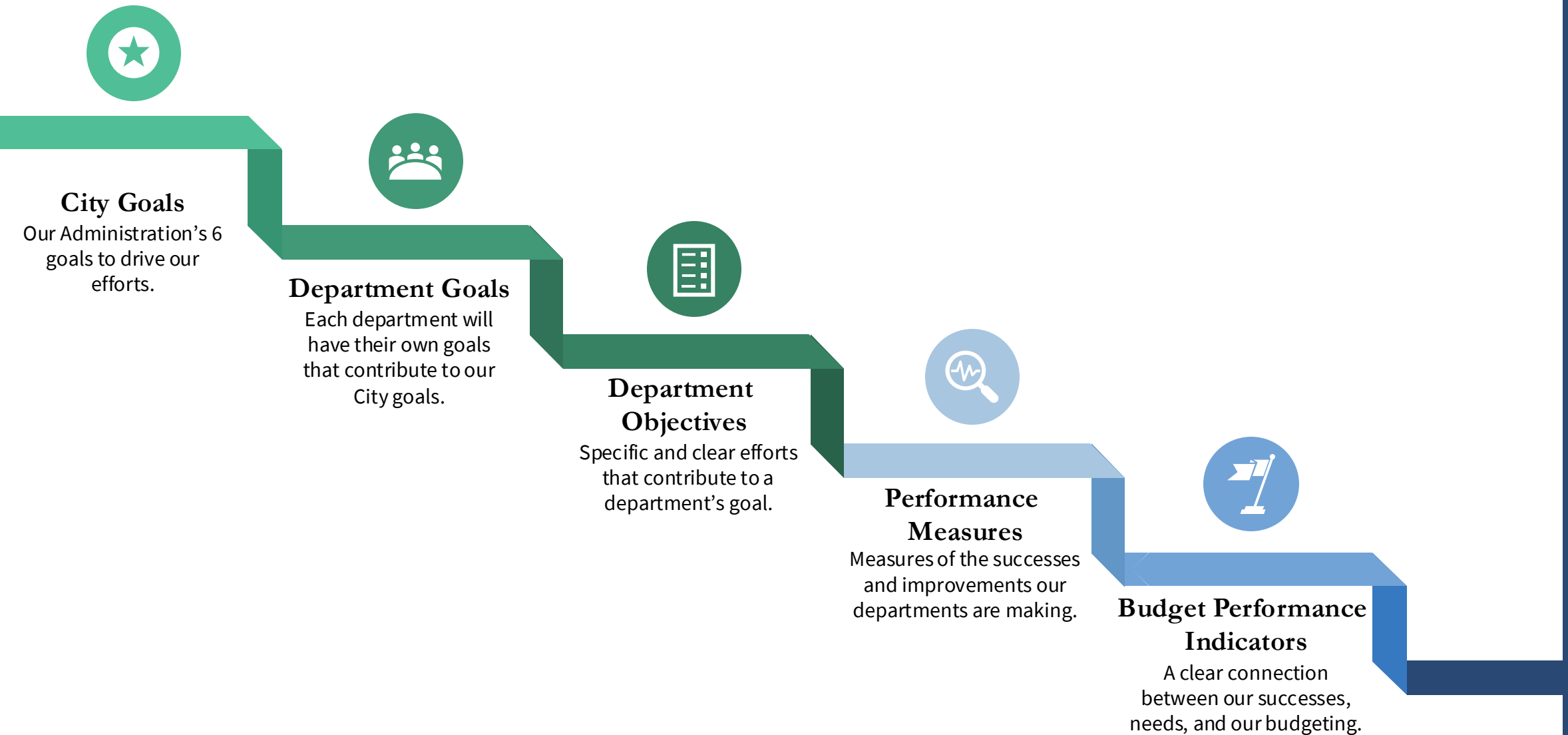
**Vibrant & Welcoming
Community**

Public Health & Safety

Commitment to the Future

A Watertown for All

Connecting our City Goals to the Budget



Budget Development

To preserve the City's financial condition we are committed to:

1. Provide the highest level of services possible to meet community needs with the most efficient utilization of resources.
2. Ensure annual costs of all operations to be funded on an annual basis out of current revenues.
3. Not defer maintenance and/or recognition of costs of capital equipment, facilities and infrastructure to future years.
4. Remain focused on achieving our long-term goal of sound financial management and fiscal stability.
5. Present budget based on sound business practices.

City Council FY 2026 Budget Policy Guidelines

(Page 1 of 4)

(adopted November 26, 2024)

The following are the top two priorities of the ranked Cost-Savings/Revenues Guidelines:

1. Continue to proceed with the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan, with the long-term goal to promote a **diversified and growing tax base**, and a renewed focus on small business, retail corridors, and emerging industry clusters.
2. Continue to pursue the implementation of the **Watertown Square Area Plan** with the long-term goal of increasing our tax base through the development of multi-family housing and small and medium sized businesses in the Square.

City Council FY 2026 Budget Policy Guidelines

(Page 2 of 4)
(adopted November 26, 2024)

The following are the top seven priorities of the ranked Program Enhancements/Expenditures Guidelines:

1. All departmental budgets should prioritize and enhance the ability of the City to implement the strategies and action items in the **Climate and Energy Plan**.
2. Provide resources to address the strategies and action items in the **Comprehensive Plan** and **Watertown Square Area Plan**.
3. Continue to work collaboratively with the Watertown Public Schools on the comprehensive multi-year educational budget that assures **sustainable funding for our schools** and the successful education of our children, and seek to accommodate a 3.5% annual increase for FY25 for the Education appropriation that will provide level-service funding for our schools.

City Council FY 2026 Budget Policy Guidelines

(Page 3 of 4)

(adopted November 26, 2024)

The following are the top seven priorities of the ranked Program

Enhancements/Expenditures Guidelines:

4. Based on the final City Council policy direction, develop a budgetary plan, within the confines of Proposition 2 ½ for the **five unfunded capital items**:
 - Senior Center
 - East End Fire Station
 - DPW Staging Area
 - Watertown Square Implementation
 - Middle School Renovations
5. Continue support for Building for the Future Initiative funding in collaboration with the School Building Committee, for the MSBA **High School project**, without debt exclusion funding.

City Council FY 2026 Budget Policy Guidelines

(Page 4 of 4)
(adopted November 26, 2024)

The following are the top seven priorities of the ranked Program

Enhancements/Expenditures Guidelines:

6. Fund the recommendations of the **Community Health & Human Services Assessment** in the FY26 budget.
7. Provide funding and resources to ensure that the 5-year **rolling plans for streets, sidewalks, water, sewer, stormwater, and underground utilities** are effectively planned and executed for optimal results.

- The biotech industry
- Federal grants
- Tariffs & new development
- Municipal operating costs:
 - Inflation
 - Department expenses
 - Insurance costs
- A risky moment with the “tax split home rule”

Financial Headwinds



A Perfect Storm: Cities and Towns Face Historic Fiscal Pressures

| An Analysis of Fiscal Pressures on Massachusetts Municipalities

OCTOBER 2025



Financial Headwinds

<https://www.mma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/MMA-APerfectStorm-HistoricFiscalPressures-report-10.9.25.pdf>

- Watertown does better:
 - We had the benefit of new growth – first residential and then commercial growth
 - We have built in conservative financial strategies in our budget
 - We maintain stabilization funds for capital projects
- This gives us OPTIONS and FLEXIBILITY
- **As City Manager, I aim to maintain those options and flexibility**

Financial Headwinds

FY 2025

A Look Back

**FY 2025
General Fund
Revenue**

- Real and Personal Property Tax
- State Aid
- Local Receipts
- “Other Sources”

Revenue and Other Sources	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget
Real & Personal Property Tax	\$ 157,286,627	\$ 157,173,273	\$ 167,525,917	\$ 168,708,735	\$ 174,240,316
State Aid	\$ 16,064,530	\$ 15,916,182	\$ 16,597,664	\$ 16,654,474	\$ 16,926,406
Total	\$ 173,351,157	\$ 173,089,455	\$ 184,123,581	\$ 185,363,209	\$ 191,166,722

REVENUE PROPERTY TAX AND STATE AID

Source	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget
Motor Vehicle	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 5,246,683	\$ 4,600,000	\$ 5,239,044	\$ 4,725,000
Meals Excise	\$ 800,000	\$ 967,954	\$ 850,000	\$ 935,349	\$ 900,000
Hotel and Other Excise	\$ 1,125,000	\$ 1,595,324	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,436,339	\$ 1,250,000
Cannabis Excise	\$ 475,000	\$ 475,387	\$ 475,000	\$ 395,125	\$ 475,000
Opioid Settlement	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,258	\$ -
Penalties & Interest	\$ 250,000	\$ 372,745	\$ 250,000	\$ 528,528	\$ 250,000
PILOT	\$ 87,628	\$ 47,044	\$ 88,168	\$ 102,286	\$ 78,708
COMM. Trash	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,457	\$ 20,000	\$ 32,778	\$ 20,000
Fees	\$ 4,477,000	\$ 6,872,162	\$ 4,597,000	\$ 6,229,877	\$ 4,597,000
Rentals	\$ 752,215	\$ 723,662	\$ 526,644	\$ 510,341	\$ 569,267
Cemetery	\$ 100,000	\$ 90,175	\$ 100,000	\$ 89,550	\$ 100,000
Recreation	\$ 420,000	\$ 411,033	\$ 420,000	\$ 466,108	\$ 420,000
License & Permits	\$ 225,000	\$ 264,373	\$ 225,000	\$ 269,753	\$ 228,000
Fines & Forfeits	\$ 350,000	\$ 367,970	\$ 350,000	\$ 460,814	\$ 350,000
Investment Income	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 8,890,524	\$ 2,760,000	\$ 7,930,928	\$ 2,760,000
Sale of City Prop.	\$ 5,000	\$ 25,280	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,970	\$ 5,000
Grant/Employee Reimb.	\$ 27,749	\$ 43,014	\$ 32,129	\$ 43,342	\$ 32,129
Medicaid	\$ -	\$ 304,979	\$ -	\$ 401,326	\$ -
Miscellaneous*	\$ -	\$ 247,024	\$ -	\$ 290,335	\$ -
Total	\$ 15,174,592	\$ 26,975,788	\$ 16,548,941	\$ 25,449,051	\$ 16,760,104

REVENUE

LOCAL RECEIPTS

Source	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget
Motor Vehicle	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 5,246,683	\$ 4,600,000	\$ 5,239,044	\$ 4,725,000
Meals Excise	\$ 800,000	\$ 967,954	\$ 850,000	\$ 935,349	\$ 900,000
Hotel and Other Excise	\$ 1,125,000	\$ 1,595,324	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,436,339	\$ 1,250,000
Cannabis Excise	\$ 475,000	\$ 475,387	\$ 475,000	\$ 395,125	\$ 475,000
Opioid Settlement	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,258	\$ -
Penalties & Interest	\$ 250,000	\$ 372,745	\$ 250,000	\$ 528,528	\$ 250,000
PILOT	\$ 87,628	\$ 47,044	\$ 88,168	\$ 102,286	\$ 78,708
COMM. Trash	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,457	\$ 20,000	\$ 32,778	\$ 20,000
Fees	\$ 4,477,000	\$ 6,872,162	\$ 4,597,000	\$ 6,229,877	\$ 4,597,000
Rentals	\$ 752,215	\$ 723,662	\$ 526,644	\$ 510,341	\$ 569,267
Cemetery	\$ 100,000	\$ 90,175	\$ 100,000	\$ 89,550	\$ 100,000
Recreation	\$ 420,000	\$ 411,033	\$ 420,000	\$ 466,108	\$ 420,000
License & Permits	\$ 225,000	\$ 264,373	\$ 225,000	\$ 269,753	\$ 228,000
Fines & Forfeits	\$ 350,000	\$ 367,970	\$ 350,000	\$ 460,814	\$ 350,000
Investment Income	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 8,890,524	\$ 2,760,000	\$ 7,930,928	\$ 2,760,000
Sale of City Prop.	\$ 5,000	\$ 25,280	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,970	\$ 5,000
Grant/Employee Reimb.	\$ 27,749	\$ 43,014	\$ 32,129	\$ 43,342	\$ 32,129
Medicaid	\$ -	\$ 304,979	\$ -	\$ 401,326	\$ -
Miscellaneous*	\$ -	\$ 247,024	\$ -	\$ 290,335	\$ -
Total	\$ 15,174,592	\$ 26,975,788	\$ 16,548,941	\$ 25,449,051	\$ 16,760,104

Permit Fees

Interest Income

REVENUE
LOCAL RECEIPTS

Source Transfer from:	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget
Sale of Lots	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Parking Meter	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Opioid Settlement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Capital Proj. Stab. Fund	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
O'Neill Properties Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ESCO Capital Project Stab. Fund	\$ 494,438	\$ 494,438	\$ 493,225	\$ 493,225	\$ 492,125
New High School Stab. Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Utilization Of Overlay Surplus	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Free Cash	\$ 5,688,029	\$ 5,688,029	\$ 11,300,000	\$ 11,300,000	\$ 10,900,000
Acquisition of Land Stab. Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Collective Bargaining Stab. Fund	\$ 860,550	\$ 860,550	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Water Fund	\$ 1,423,464	\$ 1,423,464	\$ 1,615,298	\$ 1,615,298	\$ 1,665,625
Sewer Fund	\$ 1,494,512	\$ 1,494,512	\$ 1,718,878	\$ 1,718,878	\$ 1,895,857
Total	\$ 11,740,993	\$ 11,740,993	\$ 15,907,401	\$ 15,907,401	\$ 15,733,607

REVENUE

OTHER SOURCES

Source	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget
Property Tax	\$ 157,286,627	\$ 157,173,273	\$ 167,525,917	\$ 168,708,735	\$ 174,240,316
State Aid	\$ 16,064,530	\$ 15,916,182	\$ 16,597,664	\$ 16,654,474	\$ 16,926,406
Local Receipts	\$ 15,174,592	\$ 26,975,788	\$ 16,548,941	\$ 25,449,051	\$ 16,760,104
Other Sources	\$ 11,740,993	\$ 11,740,993	\$ 15,907,401	\$ 15,907,401	\$ 15,733,607
Total Revenue	\$ 200,266,742	\$ 211,806,237	\$ 216,579,923	\$ 226,719,661	\$ 223,660,433

REVENUE
SUMMARY

(PAGE 1 OF 2)

Source	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	Variance	FY 2026 Budget
Property Tax	\$ 167,525,917	\$ 168,708,735	\$ 1,182,818	\$ 174,240,316
State Aid	\$ 16,597,664	\$ 16,654,474	\$ 56,810	\$ 16,926,406
Local Receipts	\$ 16,548,941	\$ 25,449,051	\$ 8,900,110	\$ 16,769,104
Other Sources	\$ 15,907,401	\$ 15,907,401	\$ -	\$ 15,733,607
Total Revenue	\$ 216,579,923	\$ 226,719,661	\$ 10,139,738	\$ 223,660,433

Last Year: \$11.5m

REVENUE SUMMARY

(PAGE 2 OF 2)

Departmental Expenses

Debt Service and Capital Projects

State & County Charges

Pension and OPEB

Insurance and Employee Benefits

Other Financing Uses

**FY 2025
General Fund
Expenditures**

	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget
General Government	\$ 14,558,749	\$ 10,130,133	\$ 14,247,325	\$ 13,644,466	\$ 19,307,258
Public Safety	\$ 25,399,729	\$ 24,266,264	\$ 26,059,607	\$ 25,783,770	\$ 28,146,405
Public Works	\$ 7,781,828	\$ 6,817,443	\$ 7,686,946	\$ 7,335,158	\$ 8,732,868
Snow & Ice	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,141,600	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,493,520	\$ 1,500,000
Waste Disposal	\$ 5,476,705	\$ 5,330,855	\$ 5,516,607	\$ 5,353,541	\$ 6,185,500
Health & Human Services	\$ 1,713,566	\$ 1,475,455	\$ 1,809,916	\$ 1,714,149	\$ 2,215,420
Library	\$ 3,754,120	\$ 3,594,275	\$ 4,104,650	\$ 4,014,928	\$ 3,991,377
Recreation Department	\$ 508,943	\$ 492,078	\$ 579,829	\$ 571,393	\$ 600,085
Skating Arena	\$ 456,658	\$ 419,478	\$ 345,360	\$ 337,799	\$ 382,083
Education	\$ 57,583,829	\$ 57,583,829	\$ 59,704,263	\$ 59,704,263	\$ 61,893,912
Total Departmental	\$ 118,734,127	\$ 111,251,410	\$ 121,554,503	\$ 119,952,987	\$ 132,954,908

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

General Government FY 2026 budget amount includes City Council Reserve of \$3,900,000

	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget
General Government	\$ 14,558,749	\$ 10,130,133	\$ 14,247,325	\$ 13,644,466	\$ 19,307,258
Public Safety	\$ 25,399,729	\$ 24,266,264	\$ 26,059,607	\$ 25,783,770	\$ 28,146,405
Public Works	\$ 7,781,828	\$ 6,817,443	\$ 7,686,946	\$ 7,335,158	\$ 8,732,868
Snow & Ice	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,141,600	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,493,520	\$ 1,500,000
Waste Disposal	\$ 5,476,705	\$ 5,330,855	\$ 5,516,607	\$ 5,353,541	\$ 6,185,500
Health & Human Services	\$ 1,713,566	\$ 1,475,455	\$ 1,809,916	\$ 1,714,149	\$ 2,215,420
Library	\$ 3,754,120	\$ 3,594,275	\$ 4,104,650	\$ 4,014,928	\$ 3,991,377
Recreation Department	\$ 508,943	\$ 492,078	\$ 579,829	\$ 571,393	\$ 600,085
Skating Arena	\$ 456,658	\$ 419,478	\$ 345,360	\$ 337,799	\$ 382,083
Education	\$ 57,583,829	\$ 57,583,829	\$ 59,704,263	\$ 59,704,263	\$ 61,893,912
Total Departmental	\$ 118,734,127	\$ 111,251,410	\$ 121,554,503	\$ 119,952,987	\$ 132,954,908

Actual department expenses are much closer to budget in FY 2025 than in FY 2024

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

DEBT SERVICE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS EXPENDITURES

	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget
Debt Retirement	\$ 25,777,300	\$ 24,193,402	\$ 28,409,701	\$ 28,171,220	\$ 34,770,413
School Capital Projects	\$ 390,000	\$ 390,000	\$ 1,110,000	\$ 1,110,000	\$ 155,000
City Capital Projects	\$ 6,423,528	\$ 6,419,128	\$ 7,105,495	\$ 7,105,495	\$ 2,342,800
Total Debt Svc. & Cap. Proj.	\$ 32,590,828	\$ 31,002,530	\$ 36,625,196	\$ 36,385,715	\$ 37,268,213

	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget
Debt Retirement	\$ 25,777,300	\$ 24,193,402	\$ 28,409,701	\$ 28,171,220	\$ 34,770,413
School Capital Projects	\$ 390,000	\$ 390,000	\$ 1,110,000	\$ 1,110,000	\$ 155,000
City Capital Projects	\$ 6,423,528	\$ 6,419,128	\$ 7,105,495	\$ 7,105,495	\$ 2,342,800
Total Debt Svc. & Cap. Proj.	\$ 32,590,828	\$ 31,002,530	\$ 36,625,196	\$ 36,385,715	\$ 37,268,213

DEBT SERVICE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS EXPENDITURES

	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget
Total Departmental	\$ 118,734,127	\$ 111,251,412	\$ 121,554,503	\$ 119,952,987	\$ 132,954,908
Total Debt Svc. & Cap. Proj.	\$ 32,590,828	\$ 31,002,530	\$ 36,625,196	\$ 36,386,715	\$ 37,268,213
State & County Charges	\$ 3,375,115	\$ 3,148,484	\$ 3,153,666	\$ 3,015,323	\$ 3,120,643
Pension & OPEB	\$ 10,930,432	\$ 10,920,858	\$ 10,802,717	\$ 10,801,768	\$ 7,504,283
Insurance & Employee Benefits	\$ 23,124,838	\$ 23,106,928	\$ 21,095,060	\$ 21,076,082	\$ 25,509,523
Other Financing Uses	\$ 11,511,402	\$ 11,492,850	\$ 23,348,781	\$ 23,347,987	\$ 17,302,863
Grand Total	\$ 200,266,742	\$ 190,923,062	\$ 216,579,923	\$ 214,580,862	\$ 223,660,433

EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

(PAGE 1 OF 2)

	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	Variance	FY 2026 Budget
General Government	\$ 14,247,325	\$ 13,644,466	\$ 602,859	\$ 19,307,258
Public Safety	\$ 26,059,607	\$ 25,783,770	\$ 275,837	\$ 28,146,405
Public Works	\$ 7,686,946	\$ 7,335,158	\$ 351,788	\$ 8,732,868
Snow & Ice	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,493,520	\$ 6,480	\$ 1,500,000
Waste Disposal	\$ 5,516,607	\$ 5,353,541	\$ 163,066	\$ 6,185,500
Health & Human Services	\$ 1,809,916	\$ 1,714,149	\$ 95,767	\$ 2,215,420
Library	\$ 4,104,650	\$ 4,014,928	\$ 89,722	\$ 3,991,377
Recreation Department	\$ 579,829	\$ 571,393	\$ 8,436	\$ 600,085
Skating Arena	\$ 345,360	\$ 337,799	\$ 7,561	\$ 382,083
Education	\$ 59,704,263	\$ 59,704,263	\$ -	\$ 61,893,912
Total Departmental	\$ 121,554,503	\$ 119,952,987	\$ 1,601,516	\$ 132,954,908
Total Debt Svc. & Cap. Proj.	\$ 36,625,196	\$ 36,386,715	\$ 238,481	\$ 37,268,213
State & County Charges	\$ 3,153,666	\$ 3,015,323	\$ 138,343	\$ 3,120,643
Pension & OPEB	\$ 10,802,717	\$ 10,801,768	\$ 949	\$ 7,504,283
Insurance & Employee Benefits	\$ 21,095,060	\$ 21,076,082	\$ 18,978	\$ 25,509,523
Other Financing Uses	\$ 23,348,781	\$ 23,347,987	\$ 794	\$ 17,302,863
Grand Total	\$ 216,579,923	\$ 214,580,862	\$ 1,999,061	\$ 223,660,433

EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

(PAGE 2 OF 2)

General Government FY 2026 budget amount includes City Council Reserve of \$3,900,000

	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Actual	Variance	FY 2026 Budget
General Government	\$ 14,247,325	\$ 13,644,466	\$ 602,859	\$ 19,307,258
Public Safety	\$ 26,059,607	\$ 25,783,770	\$ 275,837	\$ 28,146,405
Public Works	\$ 7,686,946	\$ 7,335,158	\$ 351,788	\$ 8,732,868
Snow & Ice	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,493,520	\$ 6,480	\$ 1,500,000
Waste Disposal	\$ 5,516,607	\$ 5,353,541	\$ 163,066	\$ 6,185,500
Health & Human Services	\$ 1,809,916	\$ 1,714,149	\$ 95,767	\$ 2,215,420
Library	\$ 4,104,650	\$ 4,014,928	\$ 89,722	\$ 3,991,377
Recreation Department	\$ 579,829	\$ 571,393	\$ 8,436	\$ 600,085
Skating Arena	\$ 345,360	\$ 337,799	\$ 7,561	\$ 382,083
Education	\$ 59,704,263	\$ 59,704,263	\$ -	\$ 61,893,912
Total Departmental	\$ 121,554,503	\$ 119,952,987	\$ 1,601,516	\$ 132,954,908
Total Debt Svc. & Cap. Proj.	\$ 36,625,196	\$ 36,386,715	\$ 238,481	\$ 77,268,213
State & County Charges	\$ 3,153,666	\$ 3,015,323	\$ 138,343	\$ 3,120,643
Pension & OPEB	\$ 10,802,717	\$ 10,801,768	\$ 949	\$ 7,504,283
Insurance & Employee Benefits	\$ 21,095,060	\$ 21,076,082	\$ 18,978	\$ 25,509,523
Other Financing Uses	\$ 23,348,781	\$ 23,347,987	\$ 794	\$ 17,302,863
Grand Total	\$ 216,579,923	\$ 214,580,862	\$ 1,999,061	\$ 223,660,433

Last Year: \$9.3m

EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

(PAGE 2 OF 2)

General Government FY 2026 budget amount includes City Council Reserve of \$3,900,000

Debt

as of June 30, 2025

Capital Improvement Program

The five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is included within the FY 2026 Budget. The Fiscal Year 2026-2030 General Fund CIP totals \$273,090,100 . This includes the anticipated \$70,000,000 of borrowing and for the middle school.

The Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds CIP totals \$76,165,000. The CIP includes all known capital needs, regardless of the sources of funding.

	Permanent Debt Balances 6/30/25	Budgeted FY 2026 Bond Payments	Permanent Debt Balances 6/30/26
FY 2008 Bond Issue	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,500,000
FY 2010 Bond Issue	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 840,000
FY 2012 Bond Issue	\$ 250,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
FY 2013 Bond Issue	\$ 2,715,000	\$ 305,000	\$ 2,410,000
FY 2014 Bond Issue	\$ 650,000	\$ 205,000	\$ 445,000
FY 2018 Bond Issue	\$ 1,155,000	\$ 280,000	\$ 875,000
FY 2019 Bond Issue	\$ 925,000	\$ 240,000	\$ 685,000
FY 2020 Bond Issue	\$ 8,915,000	\$ 713,000	\$ 8,200,000
FY 2021 Bond Issue	\$ 41,705,000	\$ 2,610,000	\$ 39,095,000
FY 2021 Bond Issue	\$ 29,540,000	\$ 2,375,000	\$ 27,165,000
FY 2022 Bond Issue	\$ 4,565,000	\$ 755,000	\$ 3,810,000
FY 2022 Bond Issue	\$ 22,735,000	\$ 1,345,000	\$ 21,390,000
FY 2023 Bond Issue	\$ 72,780,000	\$ 3,760,000	\$ 69,020,000
FY 2024 Bond Issue	\$ 57,510,000	\$ 2,375,000	\$ 55,135,000
FY 2025 Bond Issue	\$ 54,060,500	\$ 2,300,500	\$ 51,760,000
TOTAL	\$ 300,555,500	\$ 18,100,500	\$ 282,455,000

PERMANENT GENERAL FUND DEBT SUMMARY

Reflects existing bonds issued for general fund purposes as of June 30, 2025. 0% interest MWRA Loans and bonds issued for water and sewer projects are not included.

Date of Loan Order Vote	Description	Amount
	Total Permanent General Fund Debt	\$ 282,455,000
	Authorized General Fund Debt (not yet issued):	
06/24/2025	Victory Field	\$ 8,932,206
06/24/2025	Parker Annex	\$ 5,778,000
09/09/2025	Streets and Sidewalks	\$ 2,750,000
09/23/2025	DPW Roof Replacement	\$ 1,886,000
09/23/2025	Purchase of EV and outfitting	\$ 60,000
09/23/2025	IT Infrastructure Buildout Parker Annex 2nd fl	\$ 250,000
	Subtotal Authorized Unissued Debt:	\$ 19,656,206
	Total Permanent & Short Term And Authorized Un-issued Debt	\$ 302,020,206
	Previously authorized projects, which have been permanently financed, are not included in the above list as any remaining portions are expected to be rescinded.	

GENERAL FUND DEBT SUMMARY

Rank	Municipality	Total Outstanding Debt	Equalized Values (EQV)	Outstanding Debt as a % of EQV	Population	Total Budget
1	Worcester	1,013,187,032	18,737,985,800	5.41%	205,918	856,430,066
2	Pittsfield	225,591,828	4,240,409,000	5.32%	43,641	209,091,469
3	Quincy	1,045,371,162	20,526,193,400	5.09%	101,119	431,411,967
4	Brockton	501,800,235	10,593,077,300	4.74%	105,446	508,319,950
5	Orange	30,676,976	704,170,400	4.36%	7,577	27,787,207
6	Spencer	60,289,914	1,407,446,100	4.28%	11,928	27,137,525
7	Fall River	330,915,061	7,843,860,400	4.22%	93,884	388,454,399
8	Gardner	70,095,248	1,722,018,500	4.07%	21,191	76,226,045
9	Chicopee	180,188,096	4,667,842,700	3.86%	55,190	284,453,162
10	Greenfield	65,939,861	1,751,876,500	3.76%	17,652	70,128,892

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46	Watertown	273,202,650	11,132,886,300	2.45%	35,149	210,019,191
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OUTSTANDING DEBT AS PERCENT OF FULL AND FAIR CASH VALUE OF REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY (FY 2024)

Rank	Municipality	Population	Outstanding Debt Per Capita	Total Budget
1	Gosnold	70	\$23,174	\$1,542,837
2	Eastham	5,832	\$18,634	\$42,998,293
3	Nantucket	14,491	\$17,746	\$160,533,929
4	Tisbury	4,920	\$17,335	\$46,078,390
5	Chatham	6,703	\$15,818	\$64,104,683
6	Provincetown	3,708	\$15,788	\$44,894,644
7	Orleans	6,411	\$12,815	\$52,005,173
8	Lincoln	6,890	\$11,960	\$47,742,096
9	Quincy	101,119	\$10,338	\$431,411,967
10	Andover	36,517	\$9,660	\$218,531,203
11	Belmont	26,838	\$8,780	\$156,117,544
12	Monroe	116	\$8,769	\$1,187,885
13	Watertown	35,149	\$7,773	\$210,019,191
14	Wellfleet	3,635	\$7,758	\$33,698,479
15	Hingham	24,311	\$7,716	\$145,037,971

DEBT PER CAPITA (FY 2024)

Rank	Municipality	Population	Outstanding Debt Per Capita	Total Budget
1	Gosnold	70	\$23,174	\$1,542,837
2	Eastham	5,832	\$18,634	\$42,998,293
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14	Wellfleet	3,635	\$7,758	\$33,698,479
15	Hingham	24,311	\$7,716	\$145,037,971

DEBT PER CAPITA (FY 2024)

**In FY 2026, Watertown
is at \$8,036**

Rank	Municipality	Population	Debt Service as % of Budget	Total Budget
1	Stockbridge	2,003	16.65%	\$15,062,953
2	Quincy	101,119	14.74%	\$431,411,967
3	Eastham	5,832	14.73%	\$42,998,293
4	Tisbury	4,920	14.38%	\$46,078,390
5	Orleans	6,411	13.67%	\$52,005,173
6	Watertown	35,149	11.52%	\$210,019,191
7	Andover	36,517	11.51%	\$218,531,203
8	Arlington	45,617	11.45%	\$207,270,355
9	Sharon	18,494	11.45%	\$110,663,593
10	Chatham	6,703	10.70%	\$64,104,683
11	Templeton	8,160	10.46%	\$20,168,099
12	Marblehead	20,296	10.40%	\$105,800,948
13	Harvard	6,844	10.37%	\$37,530,666

DEBT SERVICE AS PERCENT OF BUDGET (FY 2024)

*All 338 remaining cities and towns were below 10%

Rank	Municipality	Population	Debt Service as % of Budget	Total Budget
1	Stockbridge	2,003	16.65%	\$15,062,953
2	Quincy	101,119	14.74%	\$431,411,967
3	Eastham	5,832	14.73%	\$42,998,293
4	Tisbury	4,920	14.38%	\$46,078,390
5	Orleans	6,411	13.67%	\$52,005,173
6	Watertown	35,149	11.52%	\$210,019,191
7	Andover	36,517	11.51%	\$218,531,203
8	Arlington	45,617	11.45%	\$207,270,355
9	Sharon	18,494	11.45%	\$110,663,593
10	Chatham	6,703	10.70%	\$64,104,683
11	Templeton	8,160	10.46%	\$20,168,099
12	Marblehead	20,296	10.40%	\$105,800,948
13	Harvard	6,844	10.37%	\$37,530,666

DEBT SERVICE AS PERCENT OF BUDGET (FY 2024)

**FY 2026 Budget puts
Watertown at 15.55%**

*All 338 remaining cities and towns were below 10%

Enterprise Funds in FY 2025

	FY 2025 BUDGET	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 BUDGET
REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES:			
USAGE CHARGES	\$ 9,197,054	\$ 9,628,770	\$ 9,431,532
MUNICIPAL CHARGES	\$ 201,348	\$ 201,348	\$ 239,111
INTEREST AND PENALTY CHARGES	\$ 50,000	\$ 70,285	\$ 50,000
WATER LIENS	\$ -	\$ 501,489	\$ -
OTHER UTILITY CHARGES	\$ 100,000	\$ 128,809	\$ 100,000
TEST CHARGES	\$ 80,000	\$ 98,812	\$ 80,000
USE OF RETAINED EARNINGS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SALE OF PROPERTY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 5,000	\$ 11,893	\$ 5,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 9,633,402	\$ 10,641,406	\$ 9,905,643
EXPENDITURE & OTHER USES:			
PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$ 1,281,231	\$ 1,188,721	\$ 1,316,084
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	\$ 471,475	\$ 420,734	\$ 492,757
MWRA ASSESSMENT	\$ 4,592,938	\$ 4,592,105	\$ 4,688,527
CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$ 286,000	\$ 286,000	\$ 286,000
TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,615,298	\$ 1,615,298	\$ 1,665,625
TRANSFER TO CAP. PROJECT/WATER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DEBT SERVICE	\$ 1,386,460	\$ 1,164,200	\$ 1,456,650
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 9,633,402	\$ 9,267,058	\$ 9,905,643

WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

	FY 2025 BUDGET	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 BUDGET
REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES:			
USAGE CHARGES	\$ 12,352,969	\$ 13,021,653	\$ 13,157,650
MUNICIPAL CHARGES	\$ 128,731	\$ 128,731	\$ 128,751
INTEREST AND PENALTY CHARGES	\$ 60,000	\$ 105,199	\$ 60,000
SEWER LIENS	\$ -	\$ 776,077	\$ -
OTHER UTILITY CHARGES	\$ -	\$ 210	\$ -
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 5,000	\$ 16,324	\$ 5,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 12,546,700	\$ 14,048,194	\$ 13,351,401
EXPENDITURE & OTHER USES:			
PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$ 885,697	\$ 796,215	\$ 924,601
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	\$ 511,000	\$ 464,259	\$ 513,775
MWRA ASSESSMENT	\$ 7,332,350	\$ 7,277,190	\$ 7,713,813
CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$ 1,405,000	\$ 1,404,205	\$ 1,405,000
TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND	\$ 1,718,878	\$ 1,718,878	\$ 1,895,857
DEBT SERVICE	\$ 693,775	\$ 419,904	\$ 898,355
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 12,546,700	\$ 12,080,651	\$ 13,351,401

Fund Balances as of June 30, 2025

Fund Balances as of June 30, 2025

Overlay Accounts

Special Revenue Accounts

CPA Fund Balances

Capital Projects Accounts

Stabilization, Trust and Agency Accounts

OVERLAY ACCOUNTS

BALANCES AS OF
JUNE 30, 2025

Fiscal Year	Amounts
2021	\$ 297,723
2022	\$ 601,401
2023	\$ 547,389
2024	\$ 565,954
2025	\$ 631,101
	\$ 2,643,568

Fund Description	Fund Balance
Circuit Breaker	\$ 3,514,134
School Extended Day Program	\$ 3,316,201
ARPA Fund	\$ 3,237,658
Parking Meter Fund*	\$ 1,748,299
School Lunch Program	\$ 1,414,082
Cannabis Host Agreement	\$ 821,652
Recreation Revolving	\$ 573,277
Library Lig/Meg Fund	\$ 550,989
Food Pantry	\$ 513,727
Multi Drug Task Force	\$ 495,367
Supplemental Liquor Licenses	\$ 442,406
Sale Of Cemetery Lots*	\$ 372,685
Before School Program	\$ 285,457
School Foundation Reserve	\$ 250,000
Top Fourteen Total	\$ 17,535,932
All Others (139)	\$ (249,608)
Total Special Revenue (153)	\$ 17,286,324

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS

**BALANCES AS OF
JUNE 30, 2025**

* Includes amounts to be transferred for FY 2026 Budget.

Account Description	Account Balance
FY 2018 – FY 2020 Reserve for Open Space/Recreation	\$ 634,879
FY 2021 Reserve for Open Space/Recreation	\$ 260,000
FY 2022 Reserve for Open Space/Recreation	\$ 10,926
FY 2023 Reserve for Open Space/Recreation	\$ 250,195
FY 2024 Reserve for Open Space/Recreation	\$ -
FY 2025 Reserve for Open Space/Recreation	\$ 365,000
Total Reserve Open Space/Recreation	\$ 365,000
FY 2018 – FY 2020 Reserve for Historic Preservation	\$ 634,879
FY 2021 Reserve for Historic Preservation	\$ 260,000
FY 2022 Reserve for Historic Preservation	\$ 272,121
FY 2023 Reserve for Historic Preservation	\$ 125,640
FY 2024 Reserve for Historic Preservation	\$ 392,750
FY 2025 Reserve for Historic Preservation	\$ 350,497
Total Reserve for Historic Preservation	\$ 2,035,887

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)

**BALANCES AS OF JUNE
30, 2025**

(PAGE 1 OF 2)

Account Description	Account Balance
FY 2018 – FY2020 Reserve for Community Housing	\$ 634,879
FY 2021 Reserve for Community Housing	\$ 260,000
FY 2022 Reserve for Community Housing	\$ 305,121
FY 2023 Reserve for Community Housing	\$ 195,000
FY 2024 Reserve for Community Housing	\$ 400,000
FY 2025 Reserve for Community Housing	\$ 365,000
Total Reserve for Community Housing	\$ 2,160,000
Reserve for Expenditures	\$ 4,000,964
Reserve for Encumbrances	1,360,167
Undesignated Fund Balance	\$ 13,357,900
Total:	\$ 23,279,918
NOTE: During Fiscal Year 2026, it is estimated that the CPA fund will grow another \$3,737,500.	

**COMMUNITY
PRESERVATION ACT
(CPA)**

**BALANCES AS OF
JUNE 30, 2025**

(PAGE 2 OF 2)

Fund Description	Fund Balance
Watertown High School Project	\$ 21,934,461
3 Elementary School Project	\$ 3,376,334
Public Buildings Capital Projects	\$ 3,323,162
Street & Sidewalks	\$ 2,625,000
ARPA Cottage Street Project	\$ 2,000,000
Rink Improvements	\$ 1,373,201
Sewer System Improvements	\$ 1,361,940
Greystar Capital Mitigation	\$ 1,250,000
MWRA I&I	\$ 1,217,544
DPW Streets & Sidewalks	\$ 1,144,942
Top Ten Total	\$ 39,606,584
All Others (89)	\$ 11,194,432
Total Capital Projects (99)	\$ 50,801,016

CAPITAL PROJECT ACCOUNTS

**BALANCES AS OF
JUNE 30, 2025**

STABILIZATIONS, TRUSTS AND AGENCY ACCOUNTS

BALANCES AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

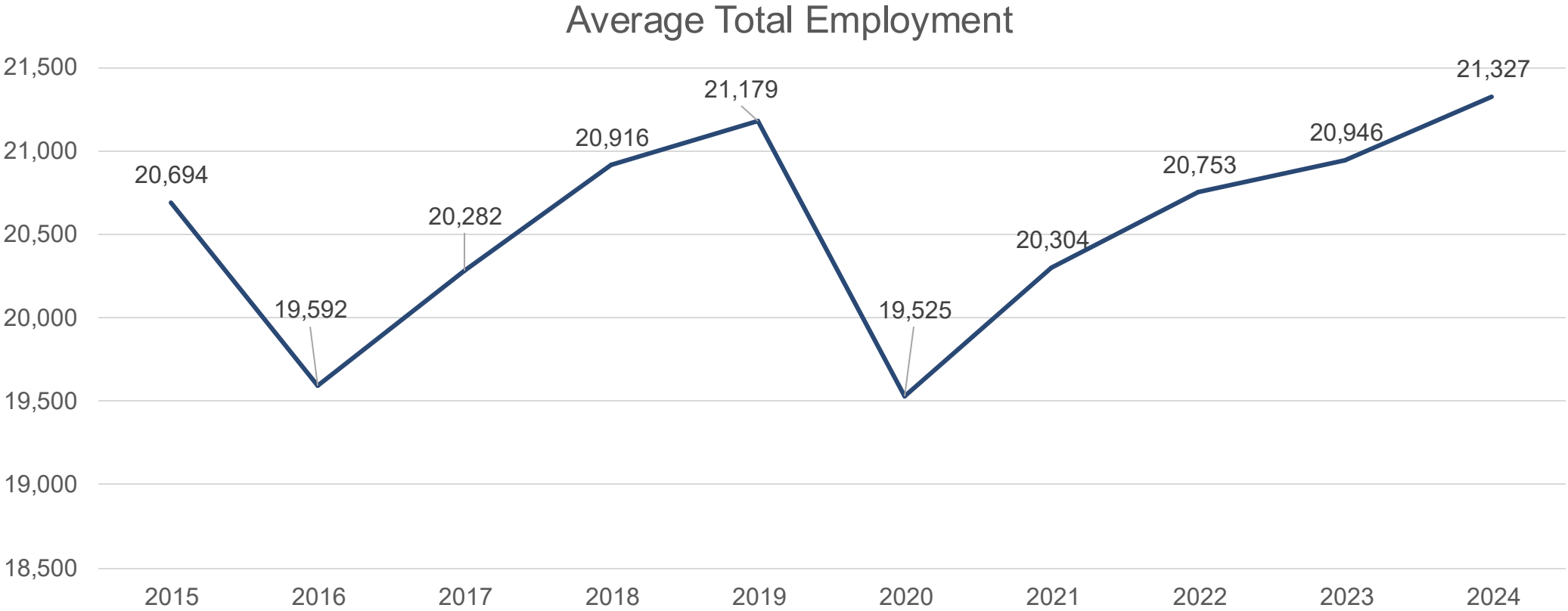
Fund Description	Balance
OPEB Trust Fund	\$ 63,879,218
Middle School Stabilization*	\$15,200,000
New High School Stabilization	\$14,270,493
Watertown Square Stabilization*	\$ 8,863,692
Capital Proj. Stabilization*	\$ 6,860,499
Unfunded Pension Stabilization	\$ 5,195,768
Acquisition of Land/Open Space Stabilization*	\$ 5,295,623
Top Seven Total	\$ 119,565,293
All Others (71)	\$ 9,543,372
Total Trusts & Agency (78)	\$ 129,108,665

* Includes amounts to be transferred for FY 2026 Budget

FY 2026:
Where are we now?

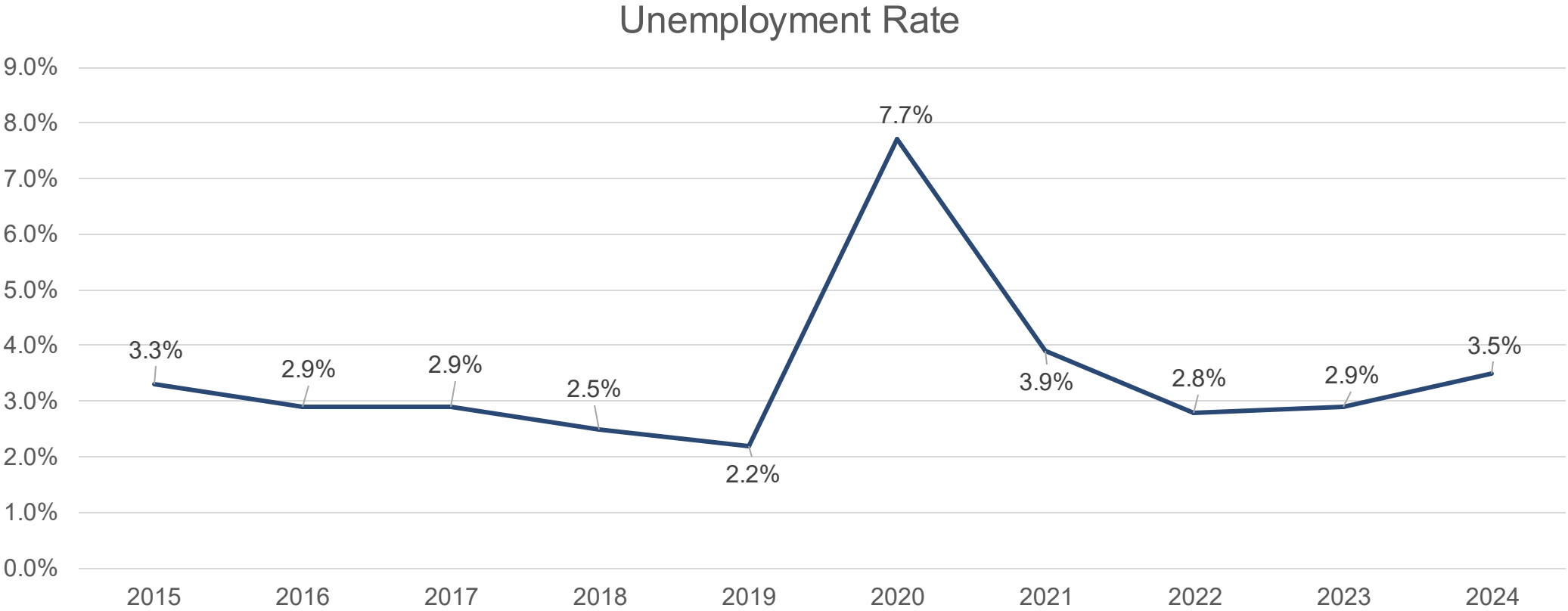
Economic Indicators

Employment Data



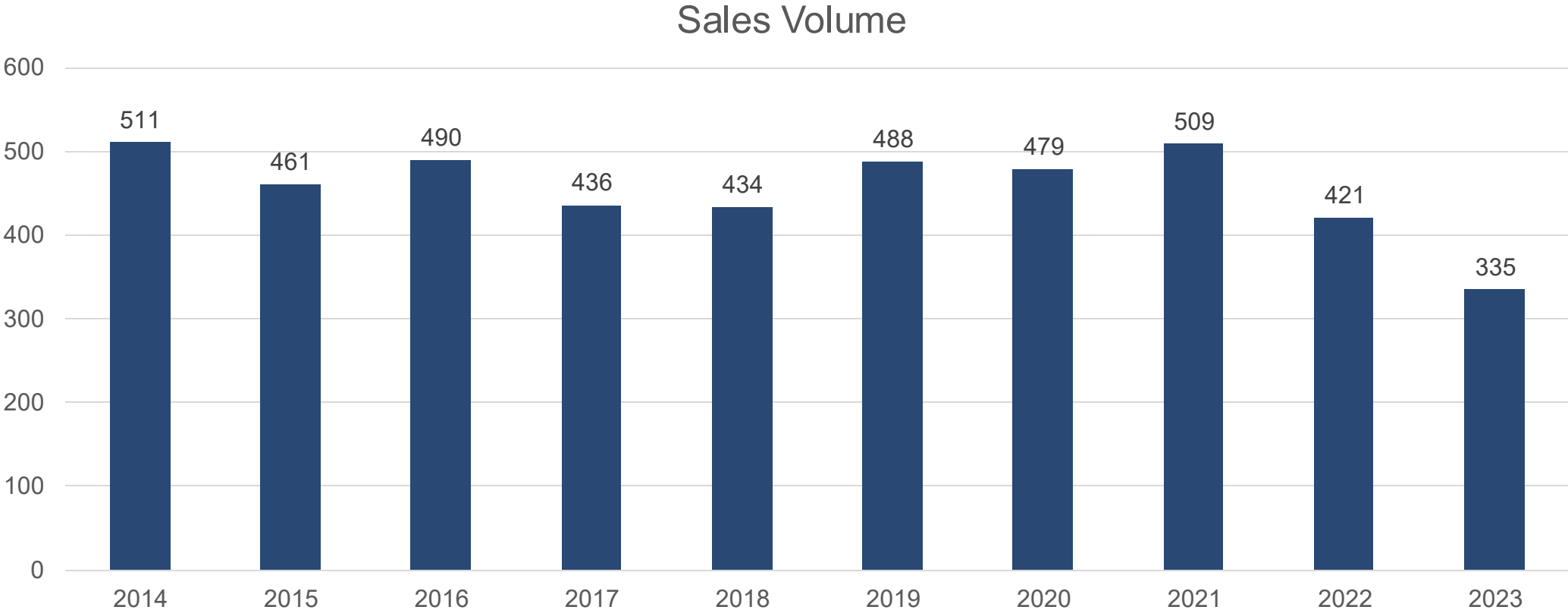
Source: MA Dept of Economic Research

Employment Data



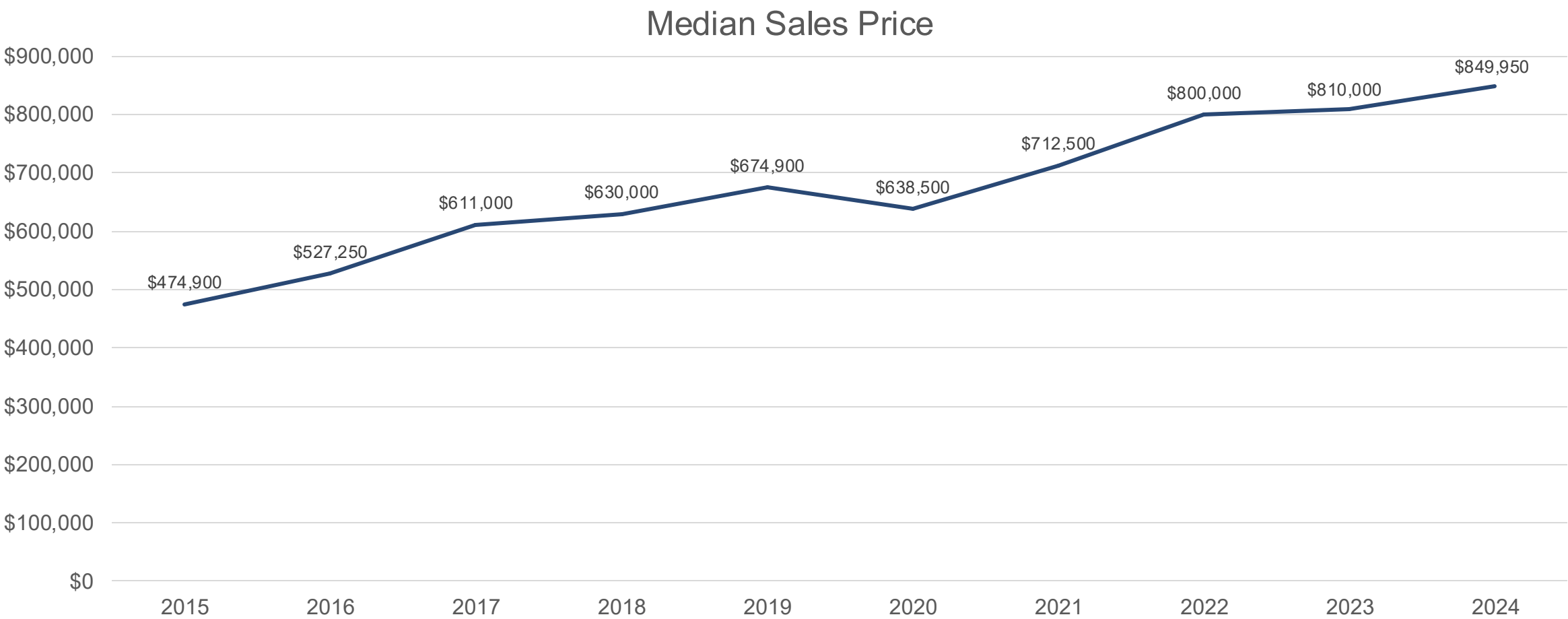
Source: MA Dept of Economic Research

Residential Sales Data



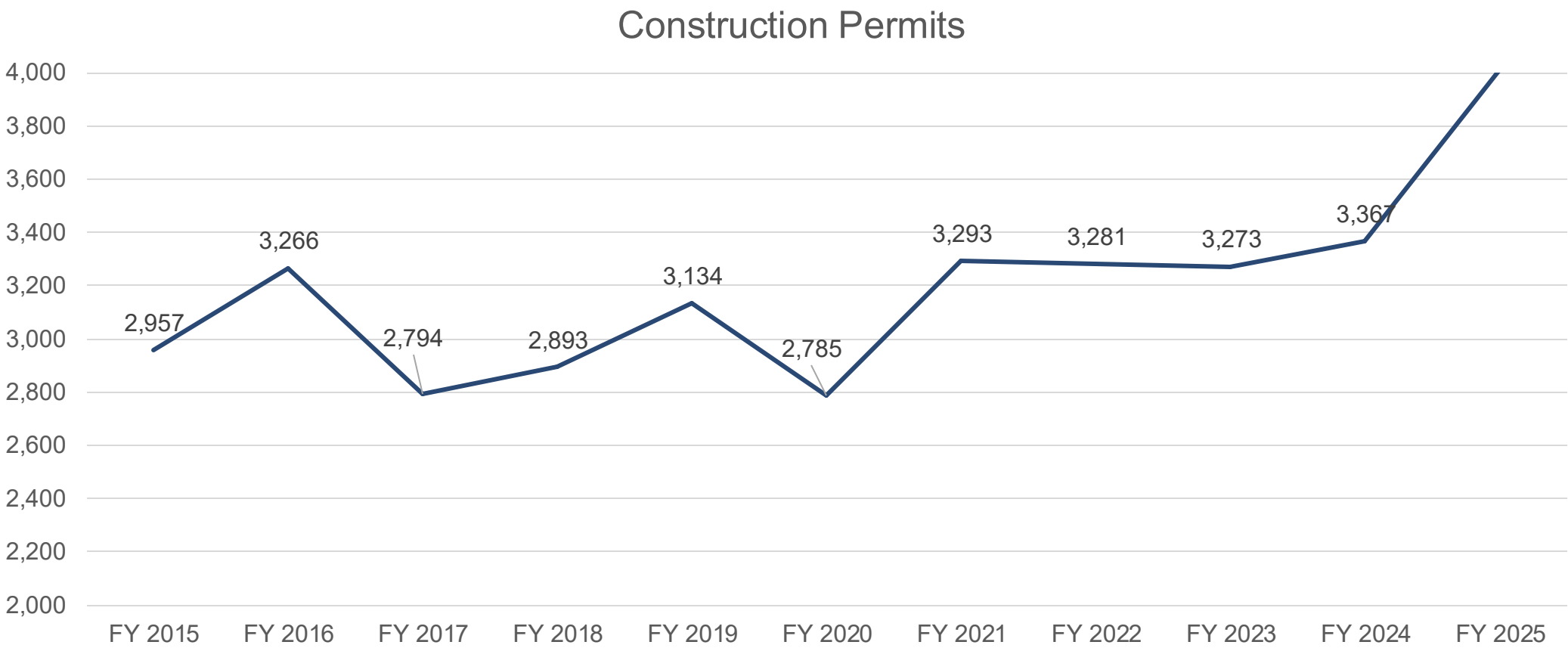
Source: Banker & Tradesman

Residential Sales Data



Source: Banker & Tradesman

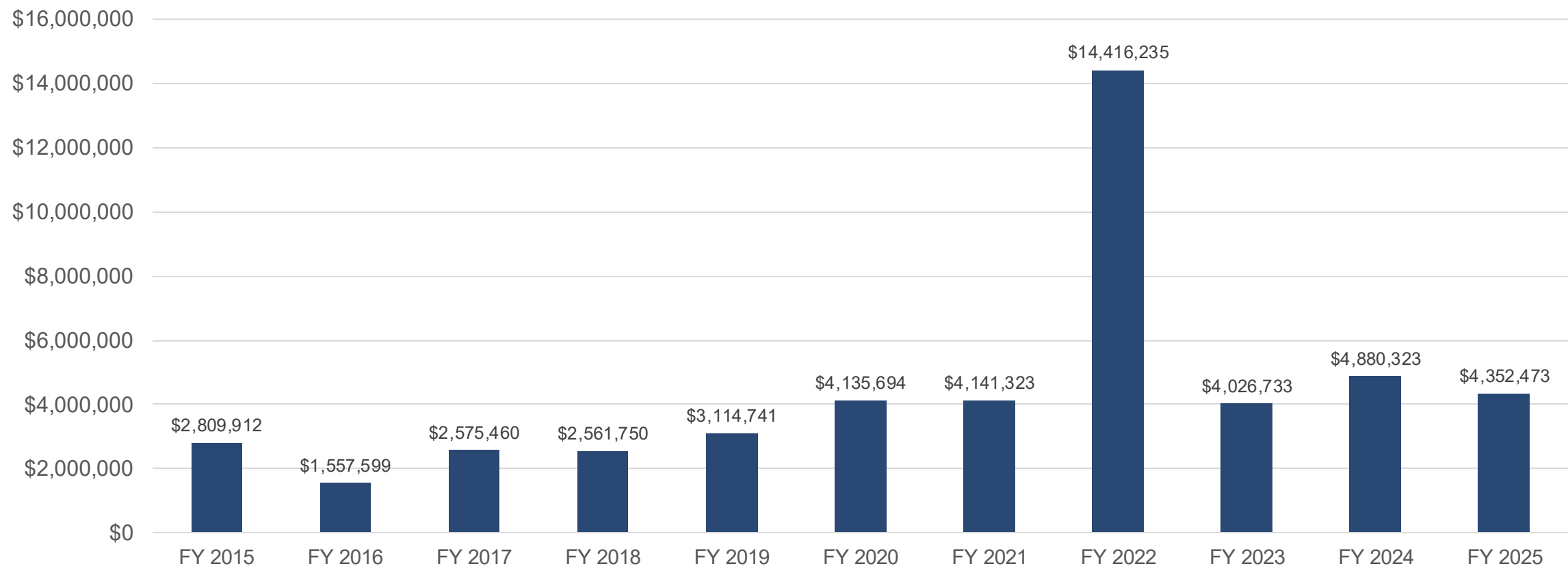
Construction Data



Source: City of Watertown Inspectional Services Division

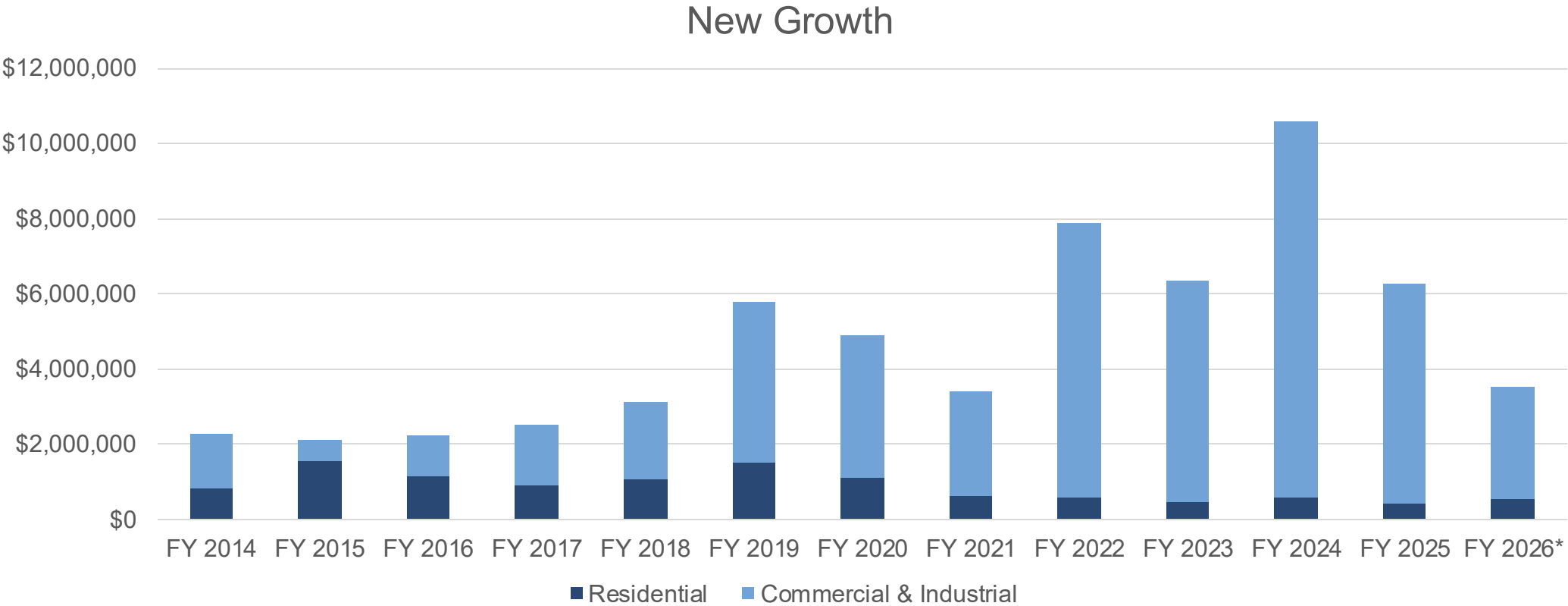
Construction Data

Permit Fee Revenue



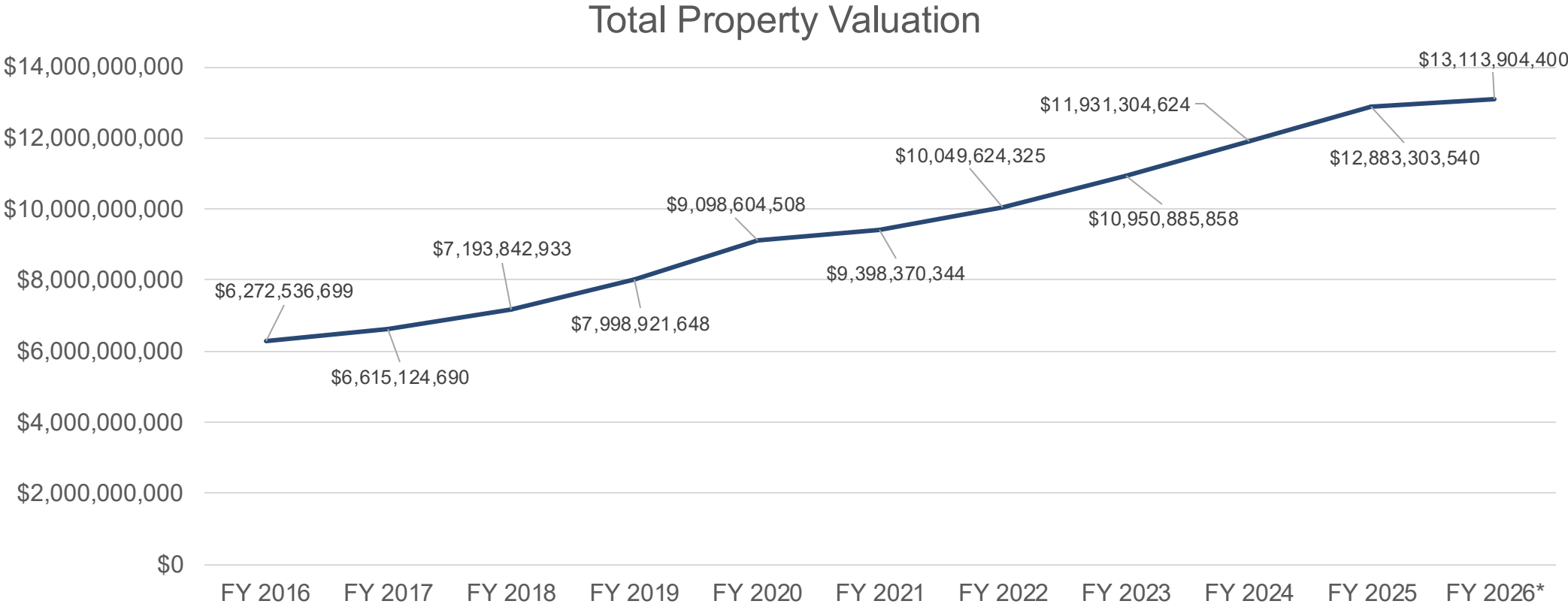
Source: City of Watertown Inspectional Services Division

Assessment Data



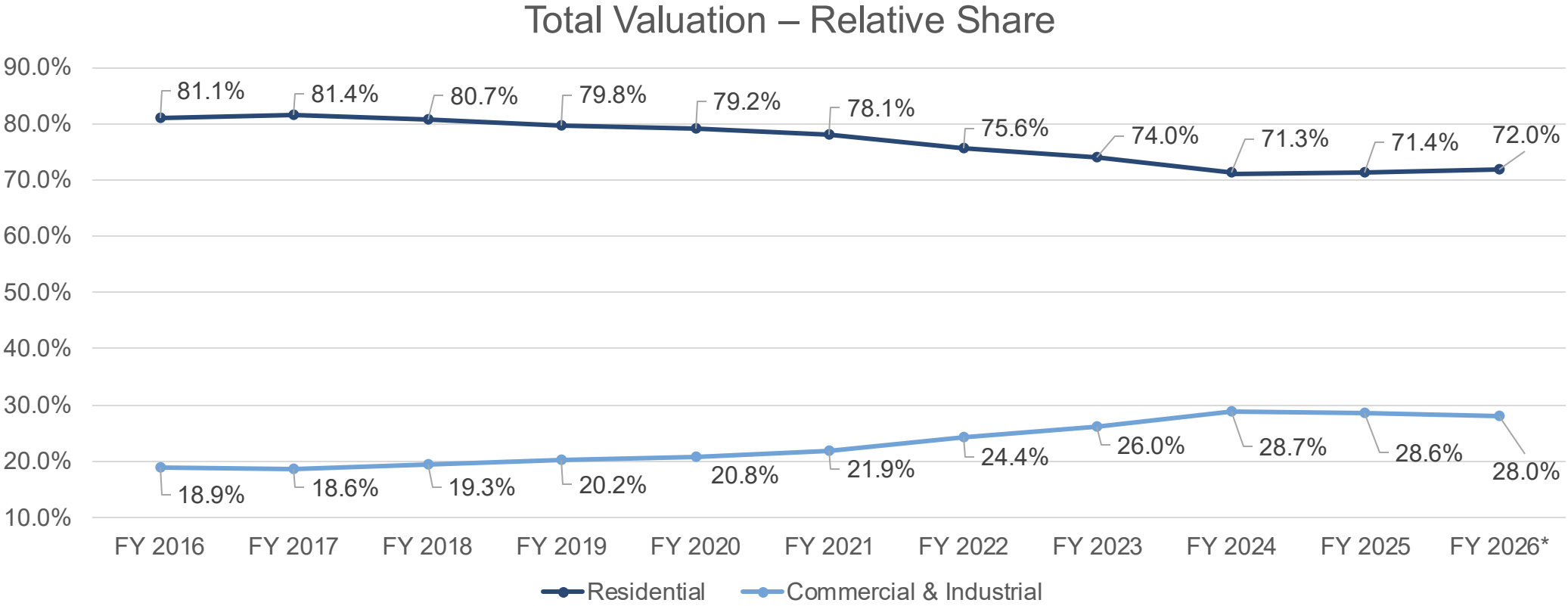
**FY 2026 numbers are awaiting certification from the Department of Revenue*

Assessment Data



**FY 2026 numbers are awaiting certification from the Department of Revenue*

Assessment Data



**FY 2026 numbers are awaiting certification from the Department of Revenue*

FY 2026: Update on Goals

**Excellent, Responsive, &
Collaborative Municipal
Operations**

Effective Operations

Fiscal Stability

**Community Engagement & Customer
Service**

**Vibrant & Welcoming
Community**

Public Health & Safety

Commitment to the Future

A Watertown for All



Filling Vacancies

We continue to improve our hiring process to fill vacant positions quickly and with qualified candidates.



Admin Code Submission

We submitted the draft Administrative Code to the City Council on 9/23.



Department Collaboration

Our departments are collaborating more than ever before, streamlining projects and improving service to our residents.

**Excellent, Responsive, &
Collaborative Municipal
Operations**

Effective Operations



Pension

We continue to fully fund our pension.



OPEB Projections

We continue to fund OPEB and expect it to be fully funded by 2031.



High Marks

We continue to utilize sound financial practices that maintain our AAA bond rating.

Excellent, Responsive, &
Collaborative Municipal
Operations

Fiscal Stability



311 Calls Going Up

311's call volume continues to grow, exceeding 100 calls a day this summer, as residents learn of and gain trust in the service.



DPW Comms Hiring

We are in the hiring process for a position in DPW to assist with construction communication.



Adding Engagement Pathways

Our Communications Team continues to add engagement opportunities with City efforts for our residents.

**Excellent, Responsive, &
Collaborative Municipal
Operations**

**Community Engagement & Customer
Service**

Vibrant & Welcoming Community

Public Health & Safety



Human Services Department

The City established the Human Services Department and hired a Director.



Public Health Programming

Our Health Department has increased community programs – from our sharps collection kiosk to sunscreen in parks.



Emergency Response Investments

We have started to fund a second in-house ALS ambulance and rolled out our body-worn camera program with WPD.

Vibrant & Welcoming Community

Commitment to the Future



Parker Building

The City continues to make significant progress on the Parker Building.



Watertown High School

The City's new Watertown High School is preparing to open in 2026.



Watertown Parks

The City continues to invest in its parks, and those projects continue to move forward.



PARKER BUILDING RENOVATION

New Meeting Room

A new space to host meetings, hearings, and events is close to completion.

New Food Pantry

The new food pantry space is under construction and expected to open in early 2026.

New Office Space

All CDP staff will be located together in new office space in early 2026.



WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Remain On Budget

We are on budget at \$220,388,049 and meeting sustainability goals.

High School Stabilization

The high school stabilization account sits at \$14,270,493.

Budget Remain Within Confines

The project budget remains within the confines of proposition 2 ½ and the confines of the CIP.



WATERTOWN PARKS

Parks Completed

Arsenal Park Phase B is open.
Lowell Playground & Upper
Saltonstall are near completion.
7 parks completed since 2022.

New Construction

Victory Field Phase II under
construction.
Bemis Park is next.

Parks Projects

Community meetings for
Walker Pond are underway
and expected to be
completed this winter.

Vibrant & Welcoming Community

A Watertown for All



ADA Self Evaluation & Transition Plan

Self-evaluation plan was completed by KMA; transition plan is being refined by City staff.



Promoting Our Festivals and Events

Watertown's Faire on the Square and Arts Market each yielded over 3,500 visitors each this year.



Building Belonging Across Watertown

Our City continues our commitment to ensuring everyone in Watertown feels they belong and are represented.

FY 2026: Budget Amendment

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment #2

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT 2

REVENUE	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 1,030,620	\$ 175,270,936
UTILIZATION OF FREE CASH	\$ 285,456	\$ 11,185,456
STATE AID	\$ 149,232	\$ 17,075,638
TOTAL REVENUE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 1,465,308	
EXPENDITURES	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
SCHOOL CHOICE ASSESSMENT 0182056-560629	\$ 71,280	\$ 274,151
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL 0182056-560641	\$ (32)	\$ 21,382
MBTA ASSESSMENT 0182056-560661	\$ (326)	\$ 2,705,579
CHARTER SCHOOL ASSESSMENT 0182056-560630	\$ 15,303	\$ 133,435
EDUCATION 0195000-590999	\$ 211,875	\$ 62,105,787
FIRE FULL TIME SALARIES 0122051-510111	\$ 681,752	\$ 9,897,053
VETERANS FULL TIME SALARIES 0154351-510111	\$ (110,139)	\$ -
HUMAN SERVICES FULL TIME SALARIES 0153051-510111	\$ 110,139	\$ 460,364
FIRE MEDICAL SUPPLIES 0122052-550500	\$ 40,000	\$ 108,065
CITY HEALTH INSURANCE 0191200-510180	\$ 160,000	\$ 6,899,723
TRANSFER TO OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND 0194000-596822	\$ 285,456	\$ 285,456
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 1,465,308	

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment #2

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT 2

New Growth

REVENUE	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 1,030,620	\$ 175,270,936
UTILIZATION OF FREE CASH	\$ 285,456	\$ 11,185,456
STATE AID	\$ 149,232	\$ 17,075,638
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VETERANS FULL TIME SALARIES 0154351-510111	\$ (110,139)	\$ -
HUMAN SERVICES FULL TIME SALARIES 0153051-510111	\$ 110,139	\$ 460,364
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CITY HEALTH INSURANCE 0191200-510180	\$ 160,000	\$ 6,899,723
TRANSFER TO OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND 0194000-596822	\$ 285,456	\$ 285,456
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 1,465,308	

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment #2

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT 2

**Fund Opioid
Settlement
Account
With
Receipts
from Legal
Settlements**

REVENUE	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 1,030,620	\$ 175,270,936
UTILIZATION OF FREE CASH	\$ 285,456	\$ 11,185,456
STATE AID	\$ 149,232	\$ 17,075,638
TOTAL REVENUE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 1,465,308	
EXPENDITURES	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
SCHOOL CHOICE ASSESSMENT 0182056-560629	\$ 71,280	\$ 274,151
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL 0182056-560641	\$ (32)	\$ 21,382
MBTA ASSESSMENT 0182056-560661	\$ (326)	\$ 2,705,579
CHARTER SCHOOL ASSESSMENT 0182056-560630	\$ 15,303	\$ 133,435
EDUCATION 0195000-590999	\$ 211,875	\$ 62,105,787
FIRE FULL TIME SALARIES 0122051-510111	\$ 681,752	\$ 9,897,053
VETERANS FULL TIME SALARIES 0154351-510111	\$ (110,139)	\$ -
HUMAN SERVICES FULL TIME SALARIES 0153051-510111	\$ 110,139	\$ 460,364
FIRE MEDICAL SUPPLIES 0122052-550500	\$ 40,000	\$ 108,065
CITY HEALTH INSURANCE 0191200-510180	\$ 160,000	\$ 6,899,723
TRANSFER TO OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND 0194000-596822	\$ 285,456	\$ 285,456
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 1,465,308	

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment #2

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT 2

REVENUE	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 1,030,620	\$ 175,270,936
UTILIZATION OF FREE CASH	\$ 285,456	\$ 11,185,456
STATE AID	\$ 149,232	\$ 17,075,638
TOTAL REVENUE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 1,465,308	
EXPENDITURES	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
SCHOOL CHOICE ASSESSMENT 0182056-560629	\$ 71,280	\$ 274,151
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL 0182056-560641	\$ (32)	\$ 21,382
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TRANSFER TO OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND 0194000-596822	\$ 285,456	\$ 285,456
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 1,465,308	

**Move
Veterans
Office
Salary to
Human
Services
Dept**

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment #2

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT 2

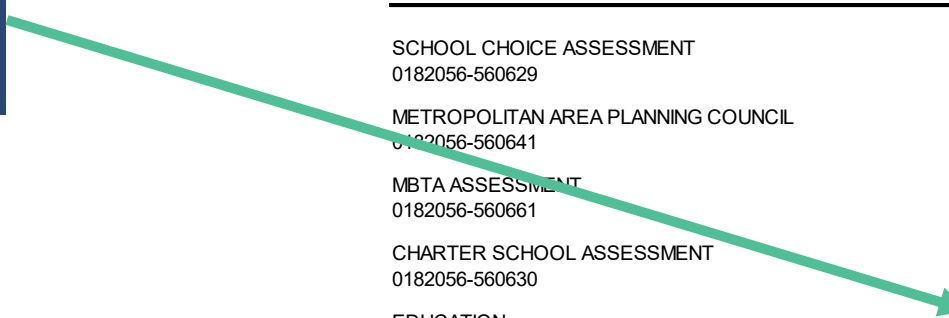
REVENUE	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
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VETERANS FULL TIME SALARIES 0154051-510111	\$ (110,139)	\$ -
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CITY HEALTH INSURANCE 0191200-510180	\$ 160,000	\$ 6,899,723
TRANSFER TO OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND 0194000-596822	\$ 285,456	\$ 285,456
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 1,465,308	

**Full Funding
for Second
Ambulance**

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment #2

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT 2

**Additional
Chapter 70
for Schools**



REVENUE	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
REAL ESTATE AND PROPERTY TAXES	\$ 1,030,620	\$ 175,270,936
UTILIZATION OF FREE CASH	\$ 285,456	\$ 11,185,456
STATE AID	\$ 149,232	\$ 17,075,638
TOTAL REVENUE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 1,465,308	
EXPENDITURES	INCREASE (DECREASE)	TO READ
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TRANSFER TO OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND 0194000-596822	\$ 285,456	\$ 285,456
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENT	\$ 1,465,308	

Unreserved Fund Balance at End of FY 2025

What Exactly Is Free Cash?

“Free Cash” represents the amount of funds unrestricted and available for supplemental appropriations.

In a given year, free cash is generated by unanticipated revenue or by unspent funds in budgeted expenditure accounts.

Free Cash is not available for use until after it is certified by the Commonwealth and can only be appropriated in the current budget year.

Free Cash plays an important role in sustaining strong credit.

As a non-recurring source, free cash should be restricted to paying one-time expenditures, funding capital projects, or replenishing other reserves.

Watertown will put \$2 million in free cash into the annual budget, but this amount is less than the total “Tax Revenue” capital expenses budgeted each year.

At no time can free cash pay for ongoing programs or employee salaries with free cash

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Unreserved Fund Balance - Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ 22,212,609	\$ 24,822,306	\$ 33,810,897	\$ 27,457,483	\$ 46,782,693
Revenues Over/(Under) Budget	\$ 12,337,314	\$ 9,873,298	\$ 8,742,357	\$ 11,539,495	\$ 10,139,736
Expenditures (Over)/Under Budget	\$ 2,125,255	\$ 1,439,072	\$ 3,202,868	\$ 9,343,681	\$ 1,999,059
Use of Free Cash	\$ (11,000,000)	\$ (2,000,000)	\$ (17,688,029)	\$ (2,000,000)	\$ (20,200,000)
GAAP Adjustments	\$ (852,872)	\$ (323,779)	\$ (610,610)	\$ 442,034	\$ 460,310
Unreserved Fund Balance - End of Fiscal Year	\$ 24,822,306	\$ 33,810,897	\$ 27,457,483	\$ 46,782,693	\$ 39,181,798
Certified Free Cash	\$ 22,663,363	\$ 30,557,663	\$ 25,322,330	\$ 43,649,326	\$ 33,000,000*

*FY 2025 Certified Free Cash is an estimated figure.

UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE

CERTIFIED FREE CASH ANALYSIS

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Unreserved Fund Balance - Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ 22,212,609	\$ 24,822,306	\$ 33,810,897	\$ 27,457,483	\$ 46,782,693
Revenues Over/(Under) Budget	\$ 12,337,314	\$ 9,873,298	\$ 8,742,357	\$ 11,539,495	\$ 10,139,736
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GAAP Adjustments	\$ (852,872)	\$ (323,779)	\$ (610,610)	\$ 442,034	\$ 460,310
Unreserved Fund Balance - End of Fiscal Year	\$ 24,822,306	\$ 33,810,897	\$ 27,457,483	\$ 46,782,693	\$ 39,181,798
Certified Free Cash	\$ 22,663,363	\$ 30,557,663	\$ 25,322,330	\$ 43,649,326	\$ 33,000,000*

UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE

CERTIFIED FREE CASH ANALYSIS

*FY 2025 Certified Free Cash is an estimated figure.

Financial Reserve Goal

Our goal remains to fund and maintain Financial Reserves of 8 – 15% of the City's annual budget.

We must:

1. Preserve the City's AAA bond rating
2. Promote financial flexibility and stability
3. Meet extraordinary and unforeseen events
4. Have sufficient liquidity and cash flow to pay bills on time without the necessity of short-term borrowing

Financial Reserve Goal

“Financial Reserves” include:

- Our general Stabilization Account
- Free Cash

FY 2025 estimated free cash plus general stabilization fund balance will be equal to about 15% of the final FY 2026 budget.

FY 2027: A Look Ahead

- Annual revenues and expenditures will be estimated by use of objective analysis. The assumptions and factors through which the estimates are derived will be clearly stated and explained during the budget process.
- The numbers provided are preliminary and subject to change as the budget process evolves.

Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Overview

Revenues & Expenditures

- Real and Personal Property Tax
- State Aid
- Local Receipts
- “Other Sources”

FY 2027 General Fund Revenue Forecast

- Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are increased 2.5% per year.
- New growth is projected to be \$2,250,000 in FY 2027, \$2,750,000 in FY 2028 and 3,000,000 in FY 2029.
- Funding for the Optional Tax Exemption for homeowners at 100% over the statutory level is included in the overlay adjustment.
- State Aid is level funded at the FY 2026 amount.
- Once again, our forecast is based upon the projection that no new biotechnology lab buildings start construction in FY 2027.

Revenue Forecast:

Assumptions (page 1 of 3)

- The majority of Local Receipts are projected to remain constant or increase 2.5% annually. Inspection Fees are projected at \$2,750,000 and Investment Income is projected at \$2,760,000 annually through FY 2029.
- Motor Vehicle Excise is projected at \$4,725,000 in FY 2027- FY 2029. Meals Excise is projected to increase \$50,000 annually from FY 2026 through FY 2029. Hotel Excise is projected at \$1,250,000 in FY 2027 through FY 2029.

Revenue Forecast:

Assumptions (page 2 of 3)

- Other Financing Sources reflect transfers; from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Expendable Trust Fund and the Sale of Lots Fund to partially offset the Department of Public Works Cemetery Budget; from the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds to cover applicable indirect costs; and from the Parking Meter Fund to partially offset the Parking Lots and Meters Budget.
- Utilization of Free Cash is recommended at a level of \$2,000,000 annually through FY 2029. Transfer from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund is projected at \$500,000 annually through FY 2029.
- The budget includes \$250,000 annually for the Special Education Stabilization Fund for FY 2027 through FY 2029.
- Transfer from the ESCO Capital Project Stabilization Fund includes projected funds from departmental energy savings, rebates and grants.

Revenue Forecast

Assumptions (page 3 of 3)

Taxes	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Prior Year Levy Limit	\$ 168,575,917	\$ 176,320,936	\$ 182,978,960	\$ 190,303,434
Add 2.5%	\$ 4,214,399	\$ 4,408,024	\$ 4,574,474	\$ 4,757,586
New Growth	\$ 3,530,620	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 3,000,000
Adjusted Levy Limit	\$ 176,320,936	\$ 182,978,960	\$ 190,303,434	\$ 198,061,020
Overlay	\$ (1,050,000)	\$ (1,050,000)	\$ (1,050,000)	\$ (1,050,000)
Net Levy Limit	\$ 175,270,936	\$ 181,928,960	\$ 189,253,434	\$ 197,011,020

REVENUE FORECAST

TAXES

State Aid	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Cherry Sheet Receipts	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638
Total State Aid	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638

REVENUE
FORECAST

STATE AID

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$ 4,725,000	\$ 4,725,000	\$ 4,725,000	\$ 4,725,000
Meals Excise	\$ 900,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,050,000
Hotel Excise	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,250,000
Cannabis Excise	\$ 475,000	\$ 475,000	\$ 475,000	\$ 475,000
Penalties & Interest	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
PILOT	\$ 78,708	\$ 79,248	\$ 79,788	\$ 80,328
Commercial Trash	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Fees	\$ 4,597,000	\$ 4,597,000	\$ 4,597,000	\$ 4,597,000

REVENUE
FORECAST

LOCAL RECEIPTS
(1 OF 2)

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Rentals	\$ 569,267	\$ 569,267	\$ 569,267	\$ 569,267
Cemetery	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Recreation	\$ 420,000	\$ 420,000	\$ 420,000	\$ 420,000
Licenses & Permits	\$ 228,000	\$ 228,000	\$ 228,000	\$ 228,000
Fines & Forfeits	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
Investment Income	\$ 2,760,000	\$ 2,760,000	\$ 2,760,000	\$ 2,760,000
Sale of City Property	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Grant/Employee Reimbursements	\$ 32,129	\$ 32,129	\$ 32,129	\$ 32,129
Total Local Receipts	\$ 16,760,104	\$ 16,810,644	\$ 16,861,184	\$ 16,911,724

REVENUE
FORECAST

LOCAL RECEIPTS
(2 OF 2)

Transfer from:	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Sale of Lots	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Parking Meter	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Capital Project Stabilization	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
ESCO Capital Proj. Stabilization	\$ 492,125	\$ 485,950	\$ 484,400	\$ 485,980
Water Fund	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625
Sewer Fund	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857
Free Cash	\$ 11,185,456	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Total Other Sources	\$ 16,019,063	\$ 6,827,432	\$ 6,825,882	\$ 6,827,462

REVENUE FORECAST

OTHER FINANCING SOURCES

Transfer from:	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Sale of Lots	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Parking Meter	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Capital Project Stabilization	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
ESCO Capital Proj. Stabilization	\$ 492,125	\$ 485,950	\$ 484,400	\$ 485,980
Water Fund	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625
Sewer Fund	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857
Free Cash	\$ 11,185,456	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Total Other Sources	\$ 16,019,063	\$ 6,827,432	\$ 6,825,882	\$ 6,827,462

REVENUE FORECAST

OTHER FINANCING SOURCES

Transfer from:	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Sale of Lots	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Parking Meter	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Capital Project Stabilization	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
ESCO Capital Proj. Stabilization	\$ 492,125	\$ 485,950	\$ 484,400	\$ 485,980
Water Fund	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625	\$ 1,665,625
Sewer Fund	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857	\$ 1,895,857
Free Cash	\$ 11,185,456	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Total Other Sources	\$ 16,019,063	\$ 6,827,432	\$ 6,825,882	\$ 6,827,462

Includes transfer of \$8.9 million for purchase of 148 Waltham Street and transfer back for Opioid Fund

REVENUE FORECAST

OTHER FINANCING SOURCES

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Real Estate & Personal Prop. Tax	\$ 175,270,936	\$ 181,928,960	\$ 189,253,434	\$ 197,011,020
State Aid	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638
Local Receipts	\$ 16,760,104	\$ 16,810,644	\$ 16,861,184	\$ 16,911,724
Other Financing Sources	\$ 16,019,063	\$ 6,827,432	\$ 6,825,882	\$ 6,827,462
Total Revenue	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 222,642,674	\$ 230,016,138	\$ 237,825,844

REVENUE FORECAST SUMMARY

3.1% increase in FY 2027*
3.3% increase in FY 2028
3.4% increase in FY 2029

***excluding transfer for one-time purchase in FY 2026**

REVENUE FORECAST SUMMARY

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Real Estate & Personal Prop. Tax	\$ 175,270,936	\$ 181,928,960	\$ 189,253,434	\$ 197,011,020
State Aid	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638	\$ 17,075,638
Local Receipts	\$ 16,760,104	\$ 16,810,644	\$ 16,861,184	\$ 16,911,724
Other Financing Sources	\$ 16,019,063	\$ 6,827,432	\$ 6,825,882	\$ 6,827,462
Total Revenue	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 222,642,674	\$ 230,016,138	\$ 237,825,844

From FY 2025 to FY 2026

Tax receipts excluding new growth:	Up 2.5%
Total budget expenditures*:	Up 4.2%
Average exempted residential tax bill:	Up 6.2%

From FY 2026 to FY 2027

Tax receipts excluding new growth:	Up 2.5%
Total budget expenditures*	Up 3.1%
Average exempted residential tax bill (with home rule)	Up 4.2%
Average exempted residential tax bill (without home rule)	Up 18.4%

*excluding one-time transfers

**A NOTE
ABOUT TAXES**

Policies and Goals

Baseline Forecast Assumptions

Standard Department Funding Strategies

The OPEB and School Debt Situation

A Preliminary Expenditure Forecast

Middle School Scenario Analysis

FY 2027 Preliminary General Fund Expenditure Forecast

Policies and Goals

Baseline Forecast Assumptions

Standard Department Funding Strategies

The OPEB and School Debt Situation

A Preliminary Expenditure Forecast

Middle School Scenario Analysis

FY 2027 Preliminary General Fund Expenditure Forecast

Each year following the Preliminary Budget Overview, the City Council provides the City Manager with a set of Budget Policy Guidelines that inform the policy decisions surrounding the budget.

This is a process developed by the council with administrative support from the city manager's office and auditor's office

As we begin that process, here are a few things to consider as it relates to each of the six goals that will be used to develop budget policy indicators in FY 2027.

Budget Policy Guidelines

**Excellent, Responsive, &
Collaborative Municipal
Operations**

Effective Operations

Fiscal Stability

**Community Engagement & Customer
Service**

**Vibrant & Welcoming
Community**

Public Health & Safety

Commitment to the Future

A Watertown for All



HR Study Implementation

Continue modernizing back-end systems to unlock more streamlined HRIS processes and improve accountability and transparency.



Complete City Hall Renovations

Complete office and break room renovations and move remaining departments into their new locations.



Internal Policy Development

Develop and update policies across the organization to ensure departments and staff operate according to best practices.

FY 2027 | A Look Ahead

**Excellent, Responsive, &
Collaborative Municipal
Operations**

Effective Operations



Pension

Ensure full pension funding, with second year of adjustments due to class & comp study.



OPEB Projections

Continue funding OPEB with a goal to be fully funded by 2031, with adjustments if recommended to address other needs.



New Growth

Continue to encourage new growth, especially around Watertown Square, as we adjust to limited growth in the biotech lab sector.

FY 2027 | A Look Ahead

Excellent, Responsive, &
Collaborative Municipal
Operations

Fiscal Stability



Responsive City Hall

Provide constituents with new ways to access the 311 Service Center.



Construction Communications

Provide improved communication to constituents so they can better prepare for the impacts of construction.



Adding Engagement Pathways

Continue to seek out and implement strategies to engage populations that have been historically underrepresented in civic activity.

FY 2027 | A Look Ahead

**Excellent, Responsive, &
Collaborative Municipal
Operations**

**Community Engagement & Customer
Service**

FY 2027 | A Look Ahead

Vibrant & Welcoming Community

Public Health & Safety



Housing Stability & Food Access

Enhance collaboration with community partners to provide wraparound services to constituents facing housing instability and food insecurity.



Substance Use Programming

Use opioid settlement funds to invest in harm reduction, community education, and enhanced treatment and recovery services.



Emergency Response Investments

Finalize implementation of the second ALS ambulance and modern computer-aided dispatch system.

FY 2027 | A Look Ahead

**Vibrant & Welcoming
Community**

Commitment to the Future



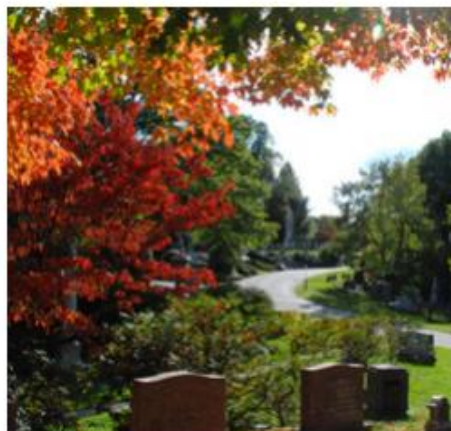
Climate Plan & Comprehensive Plan
Continue implementation of Comprehensive Plan and Climate Plan goals.



Watertown Square
Continue implementation of the Watertown Square plan.



Watertown Parks
Continue Investment in community parks and open spaces.



CLIMATE PLAN

Electrification

Continue to shift City fleet to electric vehicles while continuing energy upgrades in City buildings.

Home Improvements

Continue to encourage private investment in solar and heat pumps to meet our climate goals.

Multi-Modal Transportation

Address vehicle-reduction strategies in new developments, street designs, policies, and transit operations.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Citywide Zoning

Continue efforts to update zoning to address resiliency, neighborhoods, economic development, and housing.

Economic Growth

Continue economic development strategies focused on small businesses, corridors and emerging industry.

Additional Plans

Focus on implementing the historic preservation plan and updating the complete streets policies.



WATERTOWN SQUARE

Implement Revitalization

Implement demonstration project plan while continuing revitalization plan efforts.

High Quality Design

Complete phases of the streetscape and open space designs in the Square.

Funding Strategy

Develop a funding strategy for each phase of the Watertown Square plan.



WATERTOWN PARKS

What's Next

Construction to be underway at How and Sullivan playgrounds in FY 2027.

In Design

Victory: Phase III and Tot Lot;
Saltonstall Tot Lot:
ready for design in FY 2027.

Parks Projects

Walker Pond will be ready to move from design to construction in FY 2027.

FY 2027 | A Look Ahead

**Vibrant & Welcoming
Community**

A Watertown for All



ADA Self Evaluation & Transition Plan

Continue addressing issues identified in the ADA plan to increase access to our buildings and programs.



Promoting Watertown

Continue investing citywide in our cultural assets, including a focus on our new cultural district.



Building Belonging Across Watertown

Empower our departments to prioritize innovative and diverse programs that meet the needs of every resident in Watertown.

Policies and Goals

Baseline Forecast Assumptions

Standard Department Funding Strategies

The OPEB and School Debt Situation

A Preliminary Expenditure Forecast

Middle School Scenario Analysis

FY 2027 Preliminary General Fund Expenditure Forecast

General Government expenditures are again projected in the baseline case to increase 2.5% annually from FY 2027 through FY 2029.

The Education appropriation is again projected in the baseline case to increase 3.5% annually from FY 2027 through FY 2029.

Snow and Ice Removal is projected at \$1,500,000 through FY 2029.

The Waste Disposal appropriation is projected to increase 5% annually from FY 2026 through FY 2029.

State Assessments, exclusive of the MBTA Assessment, are projected to increase 2.5% annually. The MBTA Assessment is projected to increase 2.75% annually.

Expenditure Forecast: Assumptions (page 1 of 3)

General Government expenditures are again projected in the baseline case to increase 2.5% annually from FY 2027 through FY 2029.

The Education appropriation is again projected in the baseline case to increase 3.5% annually from FY 2027 through FY 2029.

Snow and Ice Removal is projected at \$1,500,000 through FY 2029.

The Waste Disposal appropriation is projected to increase 5% annually from FY 2026 through FY 2029.

State Assessments, exclusive of the MBTA Assessment, are projected to increase 2.5% annually. The MBTA Assessment is projected to increase 2.75% annually.

Expenditure Forecast: Assumptions (page 1 of 3)

% Increase in Budget from Prior Fiscal Year						
Forecast Line	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	Avg	Assumption in Forecast
City Departments	3.28%	18.35%	9.62%	6.47%	9.43%	2.50%
Snow & Ice Removal	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Waste Disposal	22.09%	21.49%	5.02%	7.54%	14.04%	5.00%
Education	3.50%	3.50%	3.68%	3.67%	3.59%	3.50%
All Departments	4.02%	10.54%	6.41%	5.12%	6.52%	3.07%

Department Expenses

Historical Data

% Increase in Budget from Prior Fiscal Year						
Forecast Line	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	Avg	Assumption in Forecast
City Departments	3.28%	18.35%	9.62%	6.47%	9.43%	2.50%
Snow & Ice Removal	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Waste Disposal	22.09%	21.49%	5.02%	7.54%	14.04%	5.00%
Education	3.50%	3.50%	3.68%	3.67%	3.59%	3.50%
All Departments	4.02%	10.54%	6.41%	5.12%	6.52%	3.07%

Department Expenses

Historical Data

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Government	\$ 15,789,258	\$ 16,183,991	\$ 16,588,590	\$ 17,003,305
Public Safety	\$ 28,868,157	\$ 29,589,861	\$ 30,329,607	\$ 31,087,848
Public Works	\$ 8,732,868	\$ 8,951,190	\$ 9,174,969	\$ 9,404,344
Snow & Ice Removal	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Waste Disposal	\$ 6,185,500	\$ 6,494,775	\$ 6,819,514	\$ 7,160,489
Health & Human Services	\$ 2,215,420	\$ 2,270,806	\$ 2,327,576	\$ 2,385,766
Library	\$ 3,991,377	\$ 4,091,161	\$ 4,193,440	\$ 4,298,276
Recreation	\$ 982,168	\$ 1,006,722	\$ 1,031,890	\$ 1,057,688
Education	\$ 62,105,787	\$ 64,279,490	\$ 66,529,272	\$ 68,857,796
Total Departmental	\$ 130,370,535	\$ 134,367,996	\$ 138,494,858	\$ 142,755,512
Insurance & Employee Benefits	\$ 25,669,523	\$ 25,124,217	\$ 26,908,362	\$ 28,824,176

EXPENDITURE FORECAST

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

General Government expenditures are again projected in the baseline case to increase 2.5% annually from FY 2027 through FY 2029.

The Education appropriation is again projected in the baseline case to increase 3.5% annually from FY 2027 through FY 2029.

Snow and Ice Removal is projected at \$1,500,000 through FY 2029.

The Waste Disposal appropriation is projected to increase 5% annually from FY 2026 through FY 2029.

State Assessments, exclusive of the MBTA Assessment, are projected to increase 2.5% annually. The MBTA Assessment is projected to increase 2.75% annually.

Expenditure Forecast: Assumptions (page 1 of 3)

Health Insurance costs, included within Insurance & Employee Benefits, are projected in the baseline case to increase 7.5% annually.

Public Employee Pension costs projections are projected to be \$4,039,557 in FY27 and \$1,150,000 annually for future years.

A long-range financial plan will pay down of the Unfunded Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability has by FY 2031. Funding of the OPEB Liability is projected at \$4,031,193 in FY 2027, \$4,620,250 in FY 2028 and \$3,995,650 in FY 2029.

Expenditure Forecast: Assumptions (page 2 of 3)

Health Insurance costs, included within Insurance & Employee Benefits, are projected in the baseline case to increase 7.5% annually.

Public Employee Pension costs projections are projected to be \$4,039,557 in FY27 and \$1,150,000 annually for future years.

A long-range financial plan will pay down of the Unfunded Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability has by FY 2031. Funding of the OPEB Liability is projected at \$4,031,193 in FY 2027, \$4,620,250 in FY 2028 and \$3,995,650 in FY 2029.

Expenditure Forecast: Assumptions (page 2 of 3)

Debt figures are from current and projected future debt as listed in the FY 2026-2030 CIP / Debt Projection Table of the Capital Improvement Program. This baseline projection maintains the previously planned \$70 million of borrowing for the middle school project.

Street and Sidewalk Improvements are projected to increase 5% annually.

Transfer to the Acquisition of Land/Open Space Stabilization Fund is projected at \$1,250,000 annually from FY 2025 through FY 2028.

Expenditure Forecast: Assumptions (page 3 of 3)

April 2022	\$11,080,000	2.489%
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June 2023	\$80,310,000	3.603%
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June 2024	\$61,080,000	3.818%
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May 2025	\$55,440,000	4.288%
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Borrowing Rates

Policies and Goals

Baseline Forecast Assumptions

Standard Department Funding Strategies

The OPEB and School Debt Situation

A Preliminary Expenditure Forecast

Middle School Scenario Analysis

FY 2027 Preliminary General Fund Expenditure Forecast

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Government	\$ 15,789,258	\$ 16,183,991	\$ 16,588,590	\$ 17,003,305
Public Safety	\$ 28,868,157	\$ 29,589,861	\$ 30,329,607	\$ 31,087,848
Public Works	\$ 8,732,868	\$ 8,951,190	\$ 9,174,969	\$ 9,404,344
Snow & Ice Removal	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Waste Disposal	\$ 6,185,500	\$ 6,494,775	\$ 6,819,514	\$ 7,160,489
Health & Human Services	\$ 2,215,420	\$ 2,270,806	\$ 2,327,576	\$ 2,385,766
Library	\$ 3,991,377	\$ 4,091,161	\$ 4,193,440	\$ 4,298,276
Recreation	\$ 982,168	\$ 1,006,722	\$ 1,031,890	\$ 1,057,688
Education	\$ 62,105,787	\$ 64,279,490	\$ 66,529,272	\$ 68,857,796
Total Departmental	\$ 130,370,535	\$ 134,367,996	\$ 138,494,858	\$ 142,755,512
Insurance & Employee Benefits	\$ 25,669,523	\$ 25,124,217	\$ 26,908,362	\$ 28,824,176

EXPENDITURE FORECAST

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Policies and Goals

Baseline Forecast Assumptions

Standard Department Funding Strategies

The OPEB and School Debt Situation

A Preliminary Expenditure Forecast

Middle School Scenario Analysis

FY 2027 Preliminary General Fund Expenditure Forecast

Expenditure Forecast 04/08/2025 – Submission of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Pension	\$ 3,935,255	\$ 4,039,557	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 1,150,000
Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)	\$ 3,569,028	\$ 4,031,193	\$ 4,620,250	\$ 3,995,650
3 Elem School Proj. & High School Proj. –Debt Service	\$ 19,279,050	\$ 19,145,917	\$ 18,611,417	\$ 17,946,017
New Middle School Debt Service	\$ -	\$ 783,333	\$ 3,118,333	\$ 5,408,333
Transfer To Middle School Stabilization	\$ 3,800,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer To New Senior Center Stabilization	\$ -	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 6,000,000
TOTAL	\$ 34,500,000	\$ 34,500,000	\$ 34,500,000	\$ 34,500,000

Expenditure Forecast 10/14/2024 – Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget Overview

Source	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Pension	\$ 3,935,255	\$ 4,039,557	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 1,150,000
Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)	\$ 3,569,028	\$ 4,031,193	\$ 4,620,250	\$ 3,995,650
3 Elem School Proj. & High School Proj. –Debt Service	\$ 19,279,050	\$ 19,145,917	\$ 18,611,417	\$ 17,946,017
New Middle School Debt Service	\$ -	\$ 783,333	\$ 3,118,333	\$ 5,408,333
Transfer To Middle School Stabilization	\$ 3,800,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer To New Senior Center Stabilization	\$ -	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 6,000,000
TOTAL	\$ 34,500,000	\$ 34,500,000	\$ 34,500,000	\$ 34,500,000

Variance Between the Expenditure Forecasts

Source	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Pension	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3 Elem School Proj. & High School Proj. –Debt Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
New Middle School Debt Service				
Transfer To Middle School Stabilization	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer To New Senior Center Stabilization	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

- As of July 1, 2024, the Unfunded OPEB Liability is estimated to be \$38,000,000 which is projected to be fully funded in FY 2031.

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
3 Elem School Proj. & High School Proj. – Permanent Debt/Interest	\$ 23,195,717	\$ 19,145,917	\$ 18,611,417	\$ 17,946,017
Middle School Project – Authorized/Unissued Debt	\$ -	\$ 783,333	\$ 3,118,833	\$ 5,408,333
Transfer To Middle School Stab.	\$ 3,800,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer to Senior Center Stab	\$ -	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 6,000,000
Pension & OPEB	\$ 7,504,283	\$ 8,070,750	\$ 5,770,250	\$ 5,145,650
Total	\$34,500,000	\$34,500,000	\$34,500,000	\$34,500,000

- 1) Fiscal Year 2025 is the projected high point for the 3 elementary schools debt service.
- 2) New High School Project estimated at \$200,000,000 (\$150,000,000 City & \$50,000,000 MSBA)
- 3) New High School debt service will be financed over 30 years.
- 4) New Middle School debt service will be financed over 30 years.
- 5) Fiscal Year 2026 is the projected high point for the New High School debt service.
- 6) Fiscal Year 2029 is the projected high point for the new Middle School debt service.

SCHOOL PROJECTS, SENIOR CENTER, PENSION AND OPEB

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Permanent Debt/Interest	\$ 6,127,401	\$ 8,970,800	\$ 8,167,362	\$ 7,449,736
ESCO - Permanent Debt/Interest	\$ 492,125	\$ 485,950	\$ 484,400	\$ 485,980
3 Elem School Proj. & High School Proj. – Permanent Debt/Interest	\$ 19,279,050	\$ 15,304,250	\$ 14,844,750	\$ 14,254,350
High School Project - Authorized/Unissued	\$ 3,916,667	\$ 3,841,667	\$ 3,766,667	\$ 3,691,667
New Middle School Project – Authorized/Unissued	\$ -	\$ 783,333	\$ 3,118,333	\$ 5,408,333
Street & Sidewalk – Auth/Unissued & Planned	\$ 2,413,250	\$ 3,861,975	\$ 5,235,850	\$ 6,682,550
Other Debt – Authorized/Unissued & Planned	\$ 2,536,920	\$ 5,516,505	\$ 6,416,926	\$ 8,773,008
Cost of Certifying Bonds	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Total Expenditure	\$ 34,770,413	\$ 38,769,480	\$ 42,039,288	\$ 46,750,624

EXPENDITURE FORECAST

DEBT AND INTEREST

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
City Capital	\$ 920,000	\$ 870,000	\$ 951,000	\$ 790,000
School Capital Projects	\$ 155,000	\$ 230,000	\$ 255,000	\$ 255,000
Street & Sidewalk Improvements	\$ 1,422,800	\$ 1,493,800	\$ 1,568,600	\$ 1,647,000
Total Expenditure	\$ 2,497,800	\$ 2,593,800	\$ 2,774,600	\$ 2,692,000

EXPENDITURE FORECAST

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Policies and Goals

Baseline Forecast Assumptions

Standard Department Funding Strategies

The OPEB and School Debt Situation

A Preliminary Expenditure Forecast

Middle School Scenario Analysis

FY 2027 Preliminary General Fund Expenditure Forecast

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Departmental	\$ 130,370,535	\$ 134,367,996	\$ 138,494,858	\$ 142,755,512
Total Debt Svc.	\$ 34,770,413	\$ 38,769,480	\$ 42,039,288	\$ 46,750,624
Total Cap. Proj.	\$ 2,497,800	\$ 2,593,800	\$ 2,774,600	\$ 2,692,000
State & County Charges	\$ 3,206,868	\$ 3,205,424	\$ 3,292,510	\$ 3,381,965
Pension & OPEB	\$ 7,504,283	\$ 8,070,750	\$ 5,770,250	\$ 5,145,650
Insurance & Employee Benefits	\$ 25,669,523	\$ 25,124,217	\$ 26,908,362	\$ 28,824,176
Other Financing Uses & Misc.	\$ 21,106,319	\$ 14,113,899	\$ 13,775,266	\$ 12,936,974
Total Expenditure	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 226,245,566	\$ 233,055,134	\$ 242,486,901

EXPENDITURE FORECAST

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Revenue	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 222,642,674	\$ 230,016,138	\$ 237,825,844
Total Expenditures	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 226,245,566	\$ 233,055,134	\$ 242,486,901
Projected Surplus/(Deficits)	\$ (0)	\$ (3,602,892)	\$ (3,038,996)	\$ (4,661,057)

FORECAST SUMMARY

Deficits to close

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Revenue	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 222,642,674	\$ 230,016,138	\$ 237,825,844
Total Expenditures	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 226,245,566	\$ 233,055,134	\$ 242,486,901
Projected Surplus/(Deficits)	\$ (0)	\$ (3,602,892)	\$ (3,038,996)	\$ (4,661,057)

FORECAST SUMMARY

Policies and Goals

Baseline Forecast Assumptions

Standard Department Funding Strategies

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A Preliminary Expenditure Forecast

Middle School Scenario Analysis

FY 2027 Preliminary General Fund Expenditure Forecast

The Middle School: Reviewing Our Next Generation Challenges

Last Year we discussed and prioritized unfunded capital items:

- Senior Center / Recreation
- East End Fire Station
- DPW Staging Area
- Watertown Square Plan Implementation
- Middle School

Reviewing Our Next Generation Challenges

At the end of that conversation, we built the FY 26-30 Capital Plan with:

- Middle School funded at \$70 million in borrowing FY26-28
 - Stabilization up to \$17.2 million
- Watertown Square unfunded (to be funded from stabilization as well as new growth in the square)
 - Design funded from stabilization starting in FY 2026
- Senior Center at \$25m unfunded in FY 2030
 - Feasibility funded in 2026 operating budget
 - Aggressive forecasted stabilization contributions designed to reduce the need to borrow
- DPW staging unfunded
 - Temporary use of 148 Waltham Street site to address this need
- East Fire Station unfunded – for potential start after FY 2030

As Presented At FY'26 Preliminary Budget Presentation | Watertown Middle School

- Middle school options and costs:
 - Tear down and rebuild school: \$132.0 million
 - Base repair and code upgrades: \$76.7 million
 - Complete renovation: \$127.8 million
 - Renovate 1922 / upgrade remaining areas: \$120.7 million
 - Replace 1922 / upgrade remaining areas: \$84.8 million

As Presented At FY'26 Preliminary Budget Presentation | Watertown Middle School

- Middle school options and costs:
 - Tear down and rebuild school: \$132.0 million
 - Base repair and code upgrades: \$76.7 million
 - Complete renovation: \$127.8 million
 - Renovate 1922 / upgrade remaining areas: \$120.7 million
 - Replace 1922 / upgrade remaining areas: \$84.8 million

What happened next?



- November 2024: City Council voted to prioritize Middle School renovation, if it can be done within prop 2 ½ confines.
- January 2025: City approves capital plan that repurposes funds to allocate \$70m for middle school borrowing.
- January-April 2025: School Building Committee selected a design consultant to conduct a feasibility study and conducted visioning sessions.
- June 2025: Ai3 Architects presented preliminary cost estimates for the project, with the two preferred options exceeding priced at over \$120m.
- June-August 2025: Ai3 explored options to reduce cost of the preferred designs to making these options more viable financially.

Watertown Middle School Revised Cost Options

	Preferred Option 1	Preferred Option 2
Type of Construction	Add/Renovation	New Build
Project Delivery Method	CM at Risk	CM at Risk
Square Footage	123,152	113,373
Number of Students	630	630
Project Cost	\$116,042,289	\$112,239,426

Our budget for this project was estimated to be \$84.7 million to be possible without a Prop 2 ½ override or debt exclusion.

Middle School Math



- Early 2025 plan included:
 - \$14.7m in stabilization funds
 - \$12.7m set aside
 - \$2m anticipated from funds remaining in the elementary school accounts
 - \$70m in borrowing
 - Total available funds: \$84.7m
 - Additional funds needed to cover rent of modulars and reimbursement of MSBA
 - This plan substantially squeezed the capital plan
- June 2025:
 - Additional \$2.5m added to stabilization to account for possible costs of modulars and reimbursement
 - Total available: \$17.2m in stabilization
 - Total project funds available: \$87.2m
- August 2025 proposal:
 - \$103m proposal matches original plan but does not meet educational needs
 - \$112m plan meets educational needs.
- Total project gap: \$25.8m PLUS:
 - Costs due to additional delays
 - MSBA reimbursements

So . . . Can we do this
middle school project?

Better Questions:

What happens if we do this project?

What are the risks?

How does this project impact our
OPTIONS and FLEXIBILITY?

How do we maintain OPTIONS and FLEXIBILITY?

1. Fund Pension + OPEB + “Building for the Future” at a set rate (currently \$34.5 million).
2. Contribute annually to key stabilization funds that can be rolled back in a financial crisis without an impact on the operating services provided by the city.
3. Work to fund our future capital projects out of stabilization or unspent “debt service” funds to reduce total borrowing.

**Maintaining
Fiscally
Conservative
Budgets**

Why do we need OPTIONS and FLEXIBILITY?

1. Department operating budgets have exceeded our estimates year after year - as we seek to implement the council's budget priorities and focus on being an employer of choice that offers salaries that match our market.
2. Construction costs continue to escalate, including materials, labor and borrowing interest rates.
3. Insurance costs, especially health insurance, are growing at a rate faster than inflation.

In the past, “new growth” has been adequate to fund our additional programs, allow us to grow debt AND limit the impacts of these risks, but low-growth years will impact us.

There is also risk if the “tax split home rule” does not pass. This risk may not be significant, but it is worth understanding

Maintaining Fiscally Conservative Budgets

Fiscal Year 2029 Outlook

	With Home Rule	Without Home Rule With \$10 Million of Tax Relief
Without Middle School	?	?
With Middle School	?	?

Base Case Forecast:

Budget Deficits

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Revenue	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 222,642,674	\$ 230,016,138	\$ 237,825,844
Total Expenditures	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 226,245,565	\$ 233,055,134	\$ 242,486,900
Projected Surplus/(Deficits)	\$ (0)	\$ (3,602,891)	\$ (3,038,996)	\$ (4,661,056)

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Government	\$ 15,789,258	\$ 16,183,991	\$ 16,588,590	\$ 17,003,305
Public Safety	\$ 28,868,157	\$ 29,589,861	\$ 30,329,607	\$ 31,087,848
Public Works	\$ 8,732,868	\$ 8,951,190	\$ 9,174,969	\$ 9,404,344
Snow & Ice Removal	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Waste Disposal	\$ 6,185,500	\$ 6,494,775	\$ 6,819,514	\$ 7,160,489
Health & Human Services	\$ 2,215,420	\$ 2,270,806	\$ 2,327,576	\$ 2,385,766
Library	\$ 3,991,377	\$ 4,091,161	\$ 4,193,440	\$ 4,298,276
Recreation	\$ 982,168	\$ 1,006,722	\$ 1,031,890	\$ 1,057,688
Education	\$ 62,105,787	\$ 64,279,490	\$ 66,529,272	\$ 68,857,796
Total Departmental	\$ 130,370,535	\$ 134,367,996	\$ 138,494,858	\$ 142,755,512
Insurance & Employee Benefits	\$ 25,669,523	\$ 25,124,217	\$ 26,908,362	\$ 28,824,176

Adjusted Department Expenses

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Government	\$ 15,789,258	\$ 16,420,828	\$ 17,077,662	\$ 17,760,768
Public Safety	\$ 28,868,157	\$ 30,022,883	\$ 31,223,799	\$ 32,472,751
Public Works	\$ 8,732,868	\$ 9,082,183	\$ 9,445,470	\$ 9,823,289
Snow & Ice Removal	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Waste Disposal	\$ 6,185,500	\$ 6,494,775	\$ 6,819,514	\$ 7,160,489
Health & Human Services	\$ 2,215,420	\$ 2,304,037	\$ 2,396,199	\$ 2,492,047
Library	\$ 3,991,377	\$ 4,151,032	\$ 4,317,073	\$ 4,489,756
Recreation	\$ 982,168	\$ 1,021,455	\$ 1,062,313	\$ 1,104,806
Education	\$ 62,105,787	\$ 64,690,018	\$ 67,277,619	\$ 69,968,724
Total Departmental	\$ 130,370,535	\$ 135,687,211	\$ 141,119,649	\$ 146,772,630
Insurance & Employee Benefits	\$ 25,669,523	\$ 25,124,217	\$ 26,908,362	\$ 28,824,176

Adjusted Department Expenses

This scenario still does not address:

- Potential impacts of collective bargaining:
 - Generally, we seek to cover these costs by increasing council reserve during years when contracts need to be renewed.
- Likely higher insurance costs:
 - Increase in FY 2027 likely over 10%
- Continued increases in capital costs:
 - Due to inflation / tariffs

A Note About This Scenario

Adjusted Department Expense Forecast:

Budget Deficits

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Revenue	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 222,642,674	\$ 230,016,138	\$ 237,825,844
Total Expenditures	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 227,564,782	\$ 235,679,924	\$ 246,504,017
Projected Surplus/(Deficits)	\$ (0)	\$ (4,922,108)	\$ (5,663,786)	\$ (8,678,174)

Now . . .

Add the additional middle school borrowing:

- Assuming 30-year borrowing
- Assuming \$98.2 million in borrowing instead of \$70 million

This scenario also does not address costs due to:

- Delay of start beyond June 2026
- Refunds due to MSBA

**Add
Additional
Middle School
Borrowing**

Fiscal Year 2029 Outlook

	With Home Rule	Without Home Rule With Alternative Tax Relief
Without Middle School	?	?
With Middle School	?	?

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Permanent Debt/Interest	\$ 6,127,401	\$ 8,970,800	\$ 8,167,362	\$ 7,449,736
ESCO - Permanent Debt/Interest	\$ 492,125	\$ 485,950	\$ 484,400	\$ 485,980
3 Elem School Proj. & High School Proj. – Permanent Debt/Interest	\$ 19,279,050	\$ 15,304,250	\$ 14,844,750	\$ 14,254,350
High School Project - Authorized/Unissued	\$ 3,916,667	\$ 8,341,667	\$ 3,766,667	\$ 3,691,667
New Middle School Project – Authorized/Unissued	\$ -	\$ 783,333	\$ 3,118,333	\$ 5,408,333
Street & Sidewalk – Auth/Unissued & Planned	\$ 2,413,250	\$ 3,861,975	\$ 5,235,850	\$ 6,682,550
Other Debt – Authorized/Unissued & Planned	\$ 2,536,920	\$ 5,516,505	\$ 6,416,926	\$ 8,773,008
Cost of Certifying Bonds	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Total Expenditure	\$ 34,770,413	\$ 38,769,480	\$ 42,039,288	\$ 46,750,624

Add
Middle
School
Borrowing

Source	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Permanent Debt/Interest	\$ 6,127,401	\$ 8,970,800	\$ 8,167,362	\$ 7,449,736
ESCO - Permanent Debt/Interest	\$ 492,125	\$ 485,950	\$ 484,400	\$ 485,980
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High School Project - Authorized/Unissued	\$ 3,916,667	\$ 8,341,667	\$ 3,766,667	\$ 3,691,667
New Middle School Project – Authorized/Unissued	\$ -	\$ 783,333	\$ 4,136,667	\$ 7,425,500
Street & Sidewalk – Auth/Unissued & Planned	\$ 2,413,250	\$ 3,861,975	\$ 5,235,850	\$ 6,682,550
Other Debt – Authorized/Unissued & Planned	\$ 2,536,920	\$ 5,516,505	\$ 6,416,926	\$ 8,773,008
Cost of Certifying Bonds	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Total Expenditure	\$ 34,770,413	\$ 38,769,480	\$ 43,057,622	\$ 48,767,791

Add
Middle
School
Borrowing

Adjusted Middle School Borrowing Forecast:

Budget Deficits

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Revenue	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 222,642,674	\$ 230,016,138	\$ 237,825,844
Total Expenditures	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 227,564,782	\$ 236,698,258	\$ 248,521,184
Projected Surplus/(Deficits)	\$ (0)	\$ (4,922,108)	\$ (6,682,120)	\$ (10,695,341)

FY 2027:

- Reduce contribution to OPEB from \$4 million to \$2 million
- Reduce Senior Center stabilization from \$6.5 million to \$3.6 million

FY 2028:

- Reduce contribution to OPEB from \$4.6 million to \$1.5 million
- Reduce contribution to senior center from \$7 million to \$3.5 million

FY 2029:

- Reduce contribution to OPEB from \$4 million to \$800,000
- Eliminate senior center stabilization payment of \$ 6 million
- Eliminate open space contribution of \$1.1 million
- Eliminate affordable housing contribution of \$250,000

**Adjusted
Middle School
Borrowing
Forecast:**

**Closing
The Gap**

The impact of these changes:

- We have no borrowing capacity for the senior center project
- The strategy of depending on new growth to cover Watertown Square expenses becomes more limited if all new growth is needed to reach this position
- OPEB payoff is delayed past 2031
- By FY 2029 there are limitations on funding for open space and affordable housing

**Adjusted
Middle School
Borrowing
Forecast:**

**Closing
The Gap**

Fiscal Year 2029 Outlook

	With Home Rule	Without Home Rule With \$10 Million of Tax Relief
Without Middle School	?	?
With Middle School	- Reduce OPEB FY27-29 - Reduce Senior Center contributions FY27-28 and eliminate in FY29 - Eliminate open space and affordable housing contributions in FY29	?

Fiscal Year 2029 Outlook

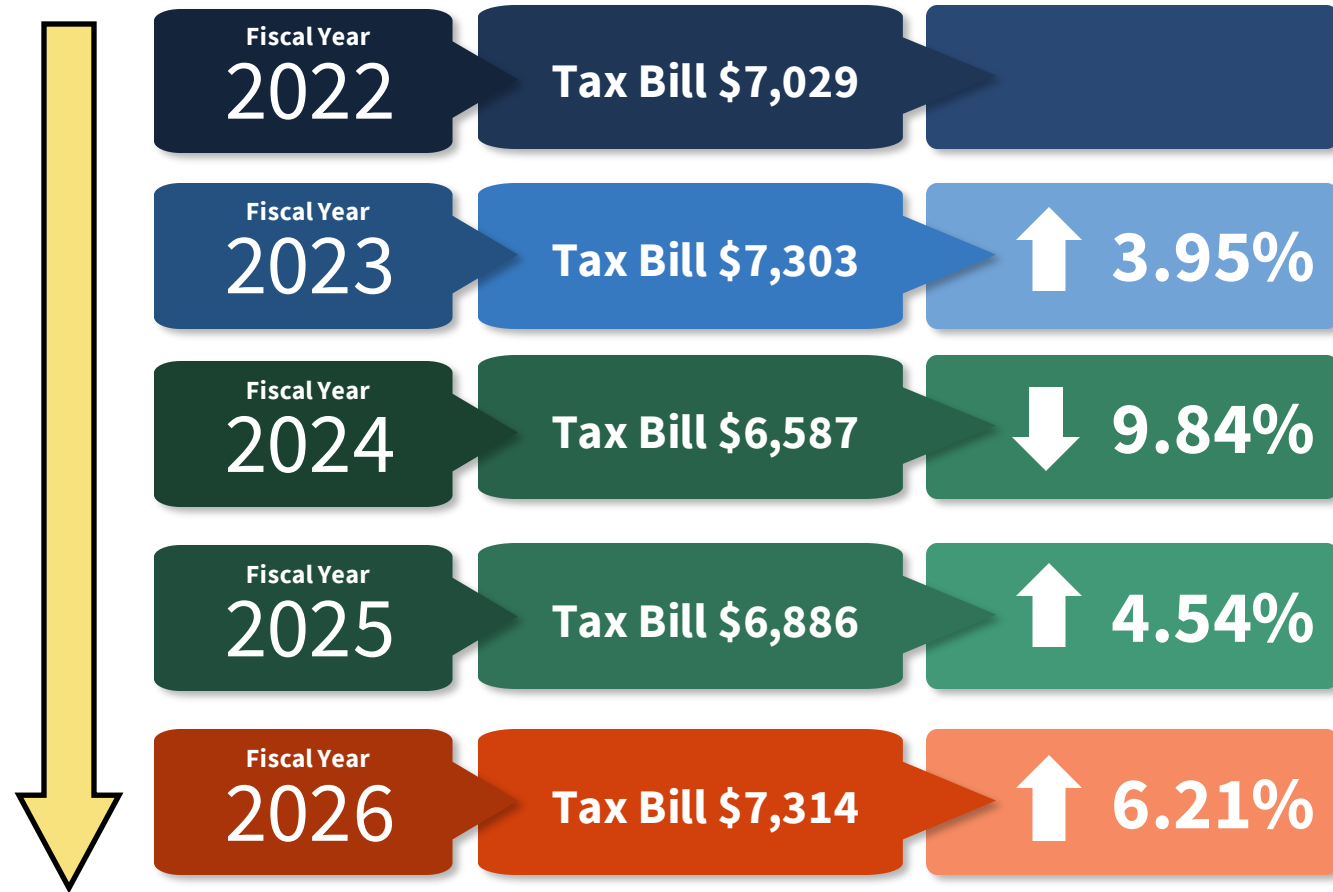
	With Home Rule	Without Home Rule With \$10 Million of Tax Relief
Without Middle School	?	?
With Middle School	- Reduce OPEB FY27-29 - Reduce Senior Center contributions FY27-28 and eliminate in FY29 - Eliminate open space and affordable housing contributions in FY29	?

Fiscal Year 2029 Outlook

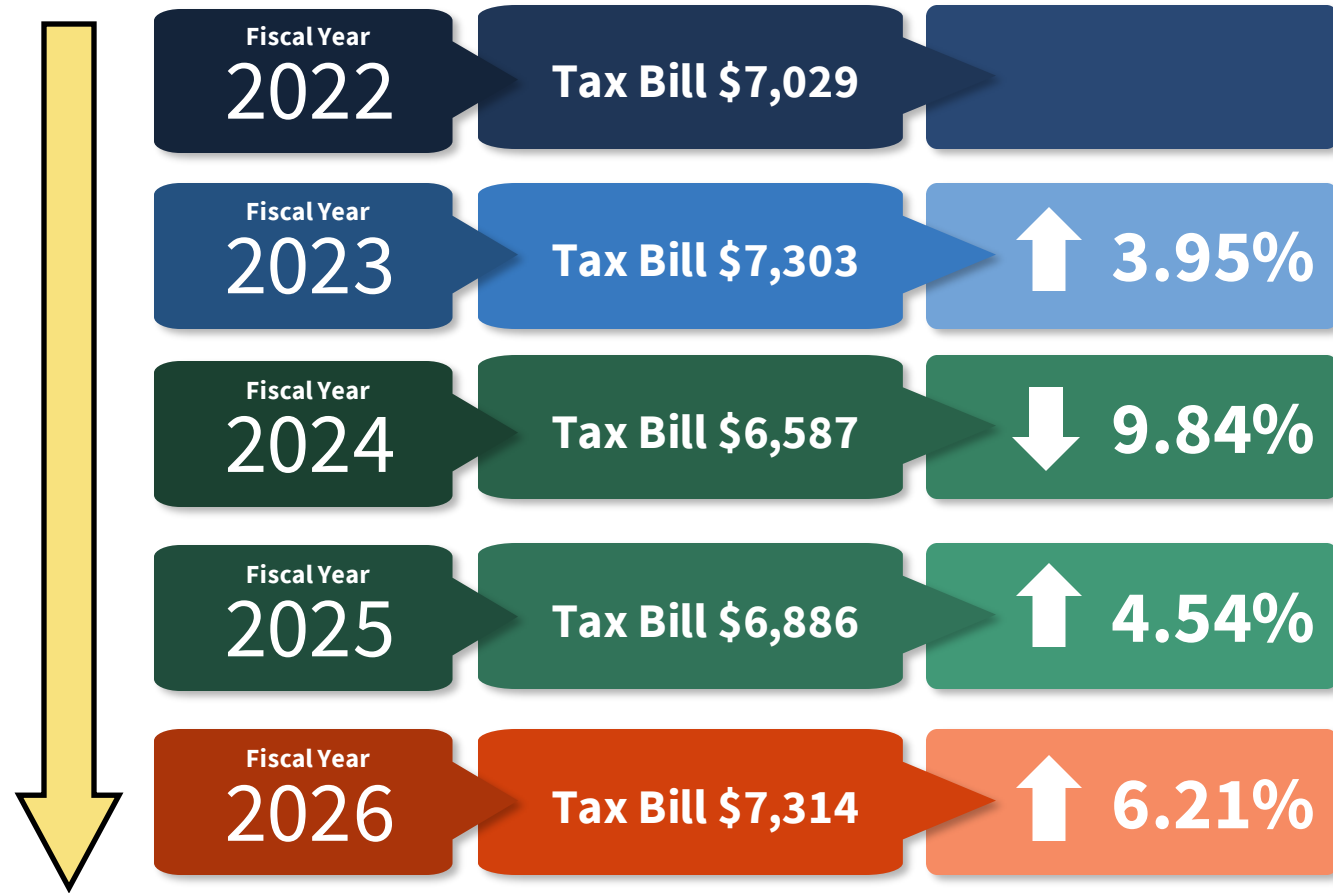
	With Home Rule	Without Home Rule With \$10 Million of Tax Relief
Without Middle School	- Reduce contributions to the Senior Center stabilization fund by average of \$3.3 million FY27-29 to balance the budget	?
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Fiscal Year 2029 Outlook

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The Tax Split Home Rule Problem



**With
Home Rule**



**Without
Home Rule**



The Tax Split Home Rule Problem

Our delegation is working hard to get this home rule done.

But if it doesn't pass – we need to either:

- accept this large tax increase, OR
- tax below the cap.

A one-year delay in the home rule may be addressed with a one-time infusion of free cash:

- But – we don't usually use free cash to cover operating costs – this can only be done for one year, AND
- This is why we should leave our free cash at 15% of our budget this year.

Otherwise, we need to see if we have OPTIONS and FLEXIBILITY to tax below the Proposition 2 ½ cap.

What does this look like?

- Taxing \$10 million below the cap would reduce the FY27 tax increase
 - But it still will likely be over 11%

The Tax Split Home Rule Problem

Taxes	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Prior Year Levy Limit	\$ 168,575,917	\$ 176,320,936	\$ 182,978,960	\$ 190,303,434
Add 2.5%	\$ 4,214,398	\$ 4,408,023	\$ 4,574,474	\$ 4,757,586
New Growth	\$ 3,530,620	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,750,000	\$ 3,000,000
Adjusted Levy Limit	\$ 176,320,936	\$ 182,978,960	\$ 190,303,434	\$ 198,061,020
Overlay	\$ (1,050,000)	\$ (1,050,000)	\$ (1,050,000)	\$ (1,050,000)
Net Levy Limit	\$ 175,270,936	\$ 181,928,960	\$ 189,253,434	\$ 197,011,020

The Tax Split Home Rule Problem

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Overlay	\$ (1,050,000)	\$ (1,050,000)	\$ (1,050,000)	\$ (1,050,000)
Net Levy Limit	\$ 175,270,936	\$ 181,928,960	\$ 189,253,434	\$ 197,011,020
Residential Tax Relief		\$ (10,000,000)	\$ (10,250,000)	\$ (10,506,250)
LEVY AFTER TAX RELIEF	\$ 175,270,936	\$ 171,928,960	\$ 179,003,434	\$ 186,504,770

The Tax Split Home Rule Problem

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Revenue	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 222,642,674	\$ 230,016,138	\$ 237,825,844
Total Expenditures	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 227,564,782	\$ 236,698,258	\$ 248,521,184
Projected Surplus/(Deficits)	\$ (0)	\$ (4,922,108)	\$ (5,663,786)	\$ (8,678,174)

The Tax Split Home Rule Problem

	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Revenue	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 212,642,674	\$ 219,766,138	\$ 227,319,594
Total Expenditures	\$ 225,125,741	\$ 227,564,782	\$ 236,698,258	\$ 248,521,184
Projected Surplus/(Deficits)	\$ (0)	\$ (14,922,108)	\$ (16,932,120)	\$ (21,201,591)

The Tax Split Home Rule Problem

FY 2027:

- Eliminate contributions to OPEB, Senior Center, Watertown Square, Land Acquisition and Affordable Housing trust
- Reduce Council Reserve from \$3.5 million to \$1.6 million.

FY 2028:

- Eliminate contribution to OPEB, Senior Center, Watertown Square, Land Acquisition and Affordable Housing trust
- Reduce Council Reserve from \$3.65 million to \$1.65 million.
- Additional \$1.8 million in deficit to be closed with program cuts.

FY 2029:

- Eliminate contribution to OPEB, Senior Center, Watertown Square, Land Acquisition and Affordable Housing trust
- Reduce Council Reserve from \$3.8 million to \$1.7 million.
- **Additional \$7.6 million in deficit to be closed with program cuts.**

**Tax Split
Home Rule
Problem:**

**Closing
The Gap**

Fiscal Year 2029 Outlook

	With Home Rule	Without Home Rule With \$10 Million of Tax Relief
Without Middle School	- Reduce contributions to the Senior Center stabilization fund by average of \$3.3 million FY27-29 to balance the budget	?
With Middle School	- Reduce OPEB FY27-29 - Reduce Senior Center contributions FY27-28 and eliminate in FY29 - Eliminate open space and affordable housing contributions in FY29	?

Fiscal Year 2029 Outlook

	With Home Rule	Without Home Rule With \$10 Million of Tax Relief
Without Middle School	- Reduce contributions to the Senior Center stabilization fund by average of \$3.3 million FY27-29 to balance the budget	?
With Middle School	- Reduce OPEB FY27-29 - Reduce Senior Center contributions FY27-28 and eliminate in FY29 - Eliminate open space and affordable housing contributions in FY29	- Substantial reductions in council reserve - No contributions to open space, Senior Center, affordable housing, and Watertown Square between FY 2027-2029 - No contributions to OPEB FY27-29 - Program cuts in FY28 and beyond

Fiscal Year 2029 Outlook

	With Home Rule	Without Home Rule With \$10 Million of Tax Relief
Without Middle School	- Reduce contributions to the Senior Center stabilization fund by average of \$3.3 million FY27-29 to balance the budget	?
With Middle School	- Reduce OPEB FY27-29 - Reduce Senior Center contributions FY27-28 and eliminate in FY29 - Eliminate open space and affordable housing contributions in FY29	- Substantial reductions in council reserve - No contributions to open space, Senior Center, affordable housing, and Watertown Square between FY 2027-2029 - No contributions to OPEB FY27-29 - Program cuts in FY28 and beyond

Fiscal Year 2029 Outlook

	With Home Rule	Without Home Rule With \$10 Million of Tax Relief
Without Middle School	- Reduce contributions to the Senior Center stabilization fund by average of \$3.3 million FY27-29 to balance the budget	- Reduce OPEB FY27-29 - No contributions to senior center and open space in FY27-29 - Reduce council reserve FY27-29
With Middle School	- Reduce OPEB FY27-29 - Reduce Senior Center contributions FY27-28 and eliminate in FY29 - Eliminate open space and affordable housing contributions in FY29	- Substantial reductions in council reserve - No contributions to open space, Senior Center, affordable housing, and Watertown Square between FY 2027-2029 - No contributions to OPEB FY27-29 - Program cuts in FY28 and beyond

Fiscal Year 2029 Outlook

	With Home Rule	Without Home Rule With \$10 Million of Tax Relief
Without Middle School	MAINTAINS FLEXIBILITY AND OPTIONS	USES MUCH OF OUR FLEXIBILITY BUT MAINTAINS FUTURE OPTIONS
With Middle School	USES MUCH OF OUR FLEXIBILITY AND REDUCES FUTURE OPTIONS	SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAM CUTS

What happens now?

OPTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL

PURSUE
MIDDLE SCHOOL
PROJECT
IMMEDIATELY AT
\$112 MILLION PLUS
EXTRA COSTS

HOLD ON MIDDLE
SCHOOL PROJECT
AND PURSUE ONE
OF FOUR OPTIONS



New School



- Immediately restart design for a full new school using CM at risk construction
- Borrowing at \$98 million+ (final number TBD)
- Build a capital plan around this new situation

What happens now?

FOUR OPTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL IF WE DON'T DO A FULL MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT NOW

HOLD
STABILIZATION
FUNDS AND
RELEASE
MODULARS

UPDATE THE
MIDDLE SCHOOL
OVER THE NEXT
FEW SUMMERS
USING
STABILIZATION
FUNDS

UPDATE THE
MIDDLE SCHOOL
OVER ONE
SCHOOL YEAR
USING MODULARS
AND
STABILIZATION
FUNDS

SEEK A SITE FOR A
FUTURE MIDDLE
SCHOOL USING
STABILIZATION
FUNDS AND
PURSUE A FUTURE
PROJECT ON
THAT SITE



A. Hold Funds

- No immediate action
- Release modulars and rebuild Moxley Field
- Seek MSBA funding at some future date





B. Summer Updates

- Maintain the current school for a longer time until future funds are available for a new school
- Use funds over summers to improve the middle school
- Release modulars and restore Moxley Field



C. One Year Updates

- Maintain the current school for a longer time until future funds are available for a new school
- Use funds over school year 2026-27 to improve the middle school
- Use modulares for middle school until June 2027



D. Secure a Site

- Purchase land somewhere in Watertown for a new school
- Release modularity and restore Moxley Field
- Maintain the current school – without upgrades - for a longer time until future funds are available for a new school

What happens now?

OPTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL

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MIDDLE SCHOOL
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What happens now?

FOUR OPTIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL IF WE DON'T DO A FULL MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT NOW

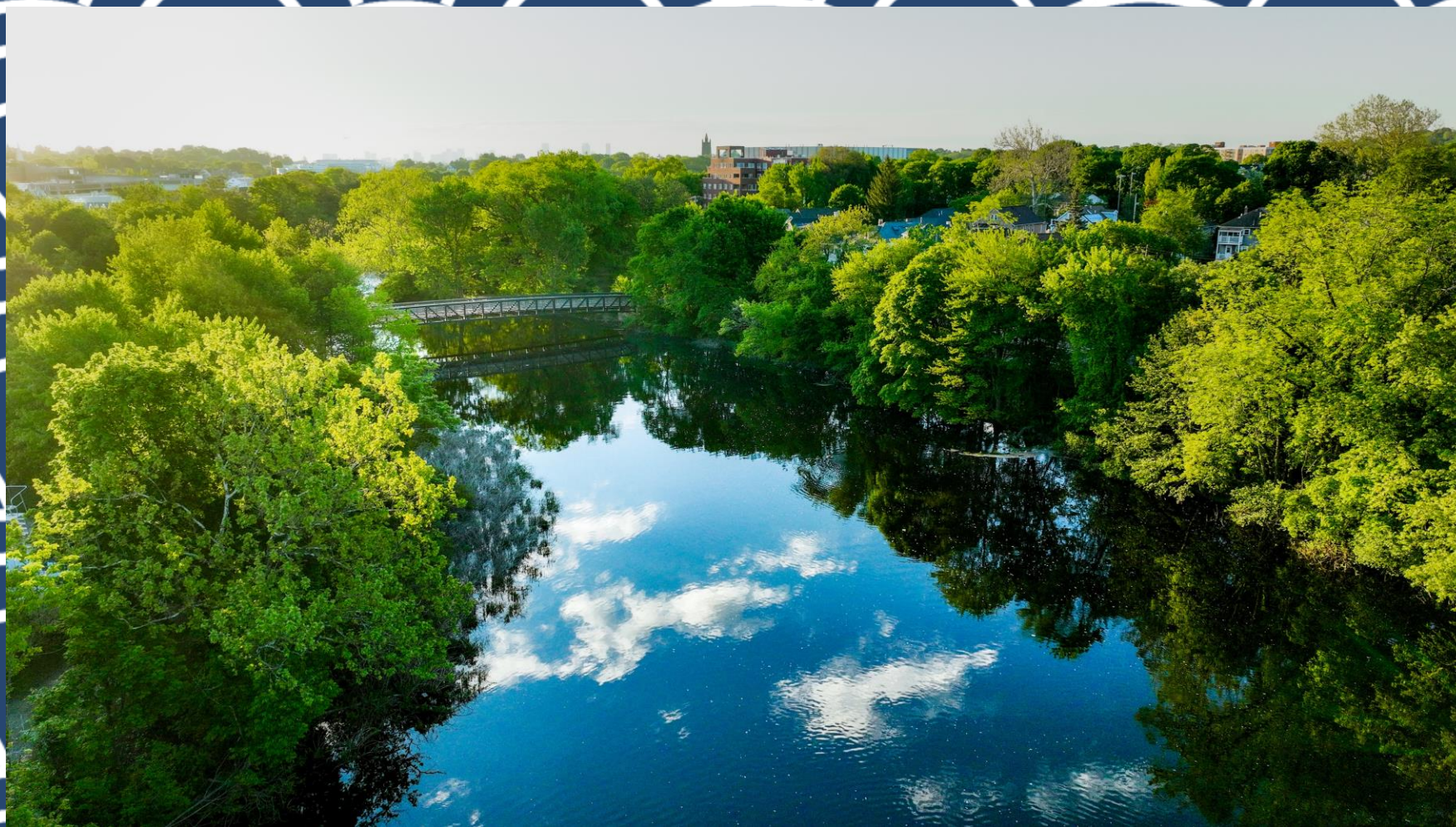
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THANK YOU