



# Baker Park Field & Site Improvements

## Agenda:

- Recap from last meeting
- Summary of feedback received
- Updated concept
- Questions/Discussion



### Goals of the meeting

- » Review at updated concept plan
- » Are we missing anything?
- » Discuss questions or concerns (please at end)
- » Next steps



### Project Goals

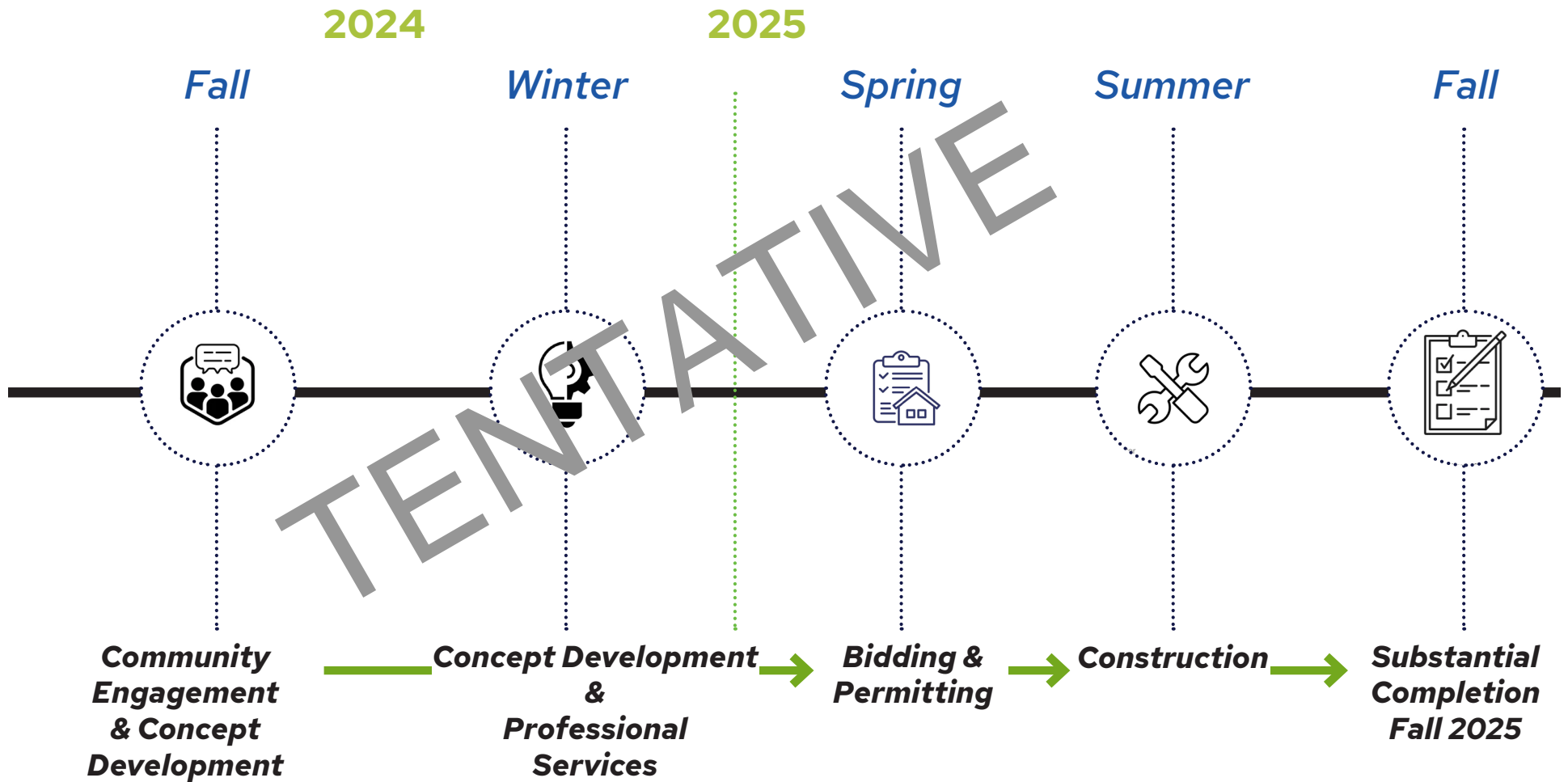
- » Improve park & field space to support current & future activities.
- » Improve tree canopy & provide shade, where possible.
- » Create entrance into the park.
- » Improve existing circulation.

### Project Scope

- » New multi-use synthetic turf field
- ~~» Accessible parking approximately (10-13 stalls)~~
- » Stormwater & site drainage improvements
- » Tree plantings
- » Restroom / storage facility

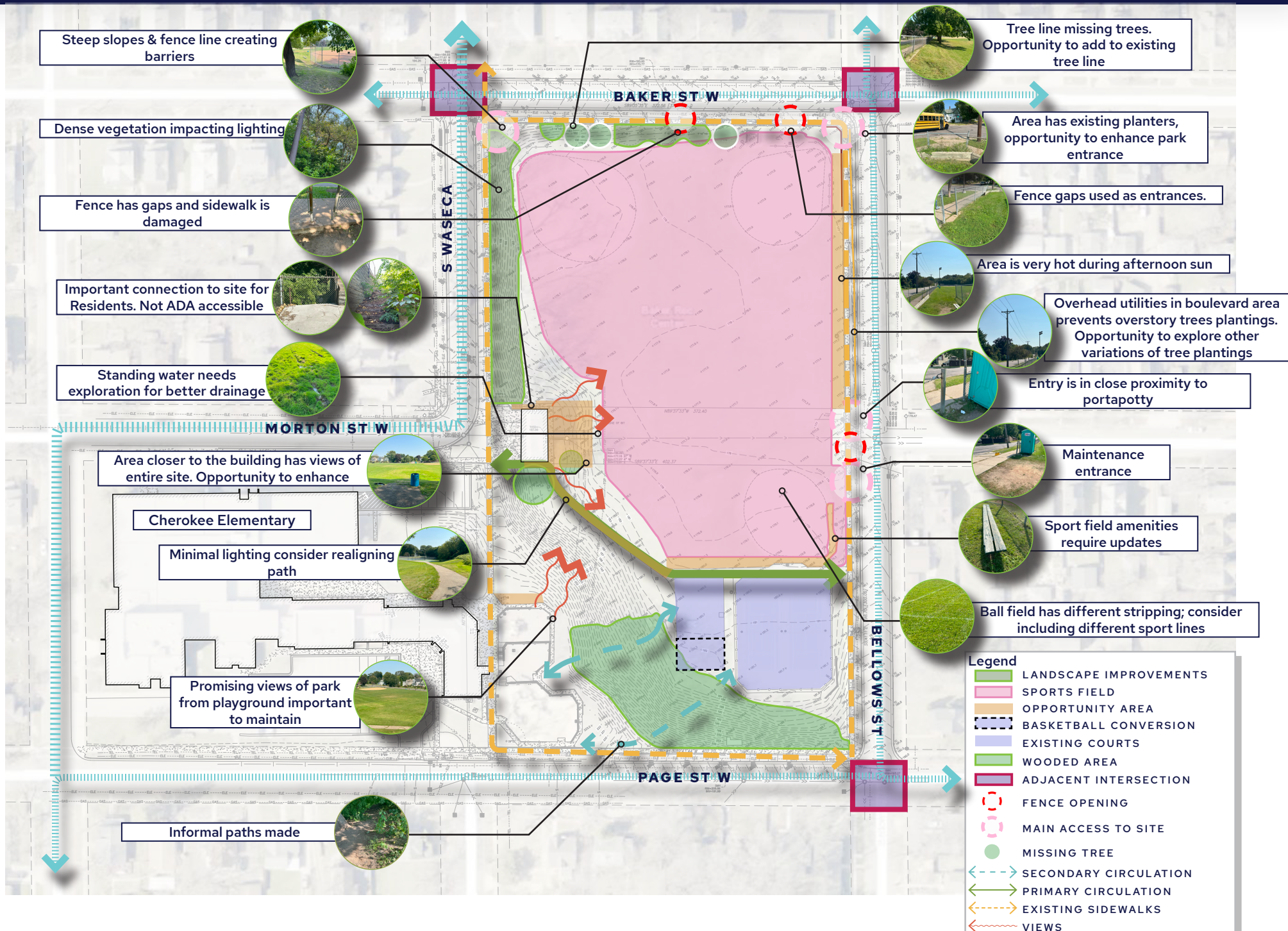


# Tentative timeline





# Analysis board





Concept 1



Concept 2



### Feedback Heard

- » Parking lot not needed.
- » Keep sledding hill. Winter recreation is very important.
- » Explore fencing and where needed.
- » Concerns about artificial turf fields and request for additional information.
- » Include drinking fountain(s).
- » Provide high quality facilities for communities to access.





## Who we talked to



### Baker Park Improvements

We want to hear from you!

St Paul Parks and Rec is planning to advance planning and construction for Baker Park. Learn more and stay engaged at the project website

Share your ideas for project priorities! Scan QR Code for Survey:

Scan Me!

Visit our website to receive updates on upcoming events & future meetings!

Questions or Feedback? Contact:  
Alice Messer, Project Manager  
Alice.Messer@ci.stpaul.mn.us

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SAINT PAUL MINNESOTA

Funding provided by the City of Saint Paul's Common Cent % Sales Tax

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

### **Postcards**

Mailed 200 postcards to residents within 1/2 mile radius of Baker Park. Also installed yard signs on site letting residents know about the project.

### **West Side Boosters**

Attended fall football event and equipment return at Baker Park for Westside Boosters. Connected with about 80 families in attendance on October 17th.

### **Humbolt High School Athletic Director**

On October 28th, staff meet Humbolt AD onsite to discuss current and future use of Baker Park.

### **Recreation Services**

On November 8th, met with Recreation staff to better understand program occurring at El Rio Vista Recreation Center and current and future use at Baker Park.

### **District Council**

On November 3rd, staff attended WSCO's Annual Meeting and attended WSCO Land Use Committee Meeting on November 20th to present two design concepts for Baker Park.

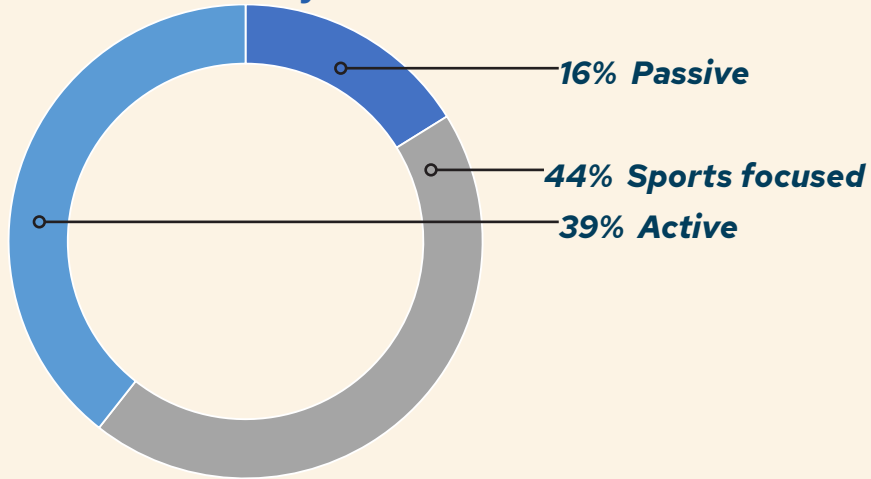
### **Cherokee Elementary**

On November 27th staff met with Principal Hass to understand how the school utilizes the space, upcoming events, and also ways to stay engaged. Upcoming events include 100 year celebration in May 2025.

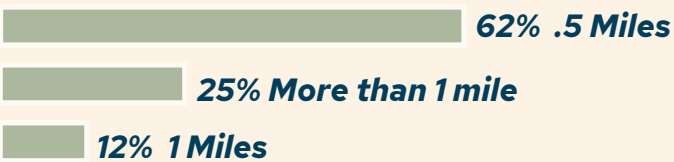


# Summary of survey

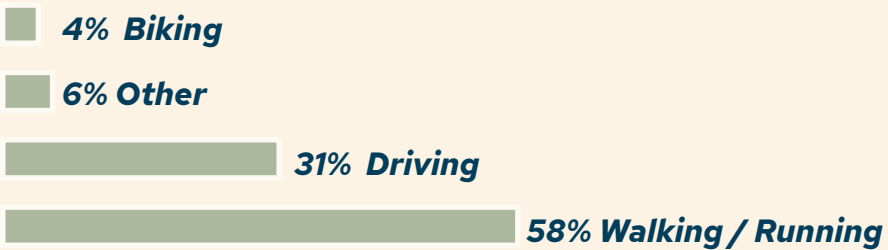
## How do you use Baker Park?



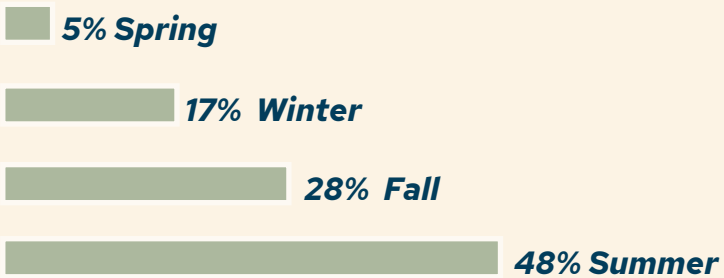
## How far do you live from Baker?



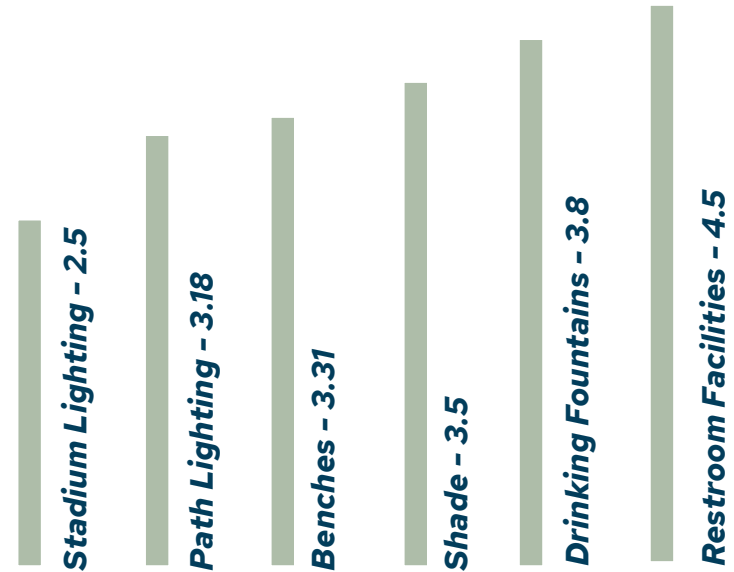
## How far do you get to Baker Park?



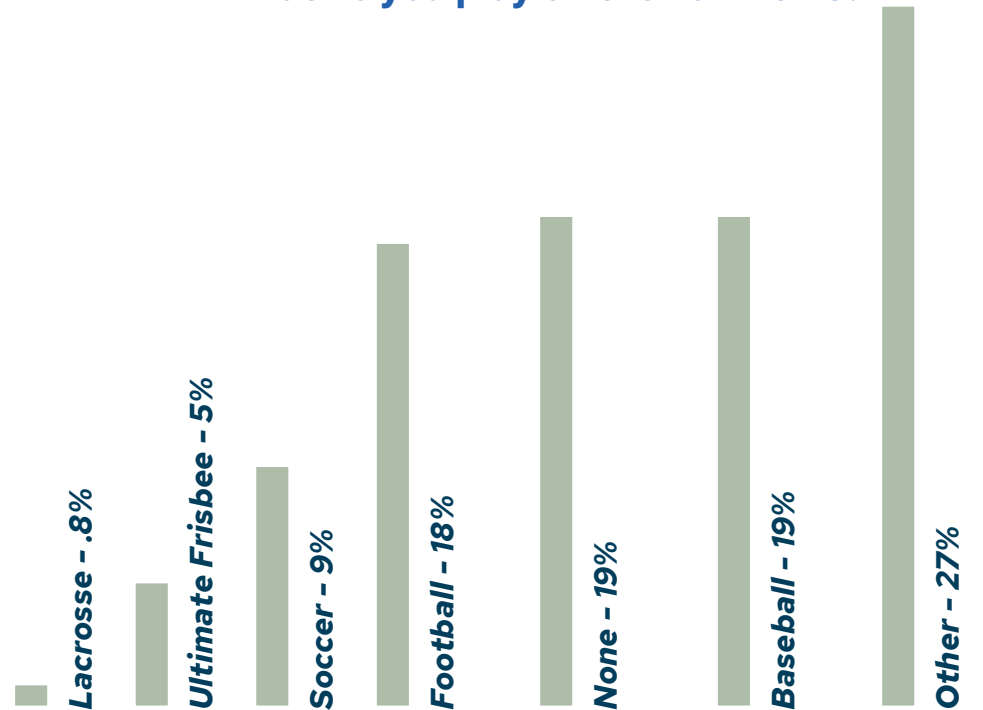
## When do you visit the park?



## Rank what amenities are needed most at Baker Park?

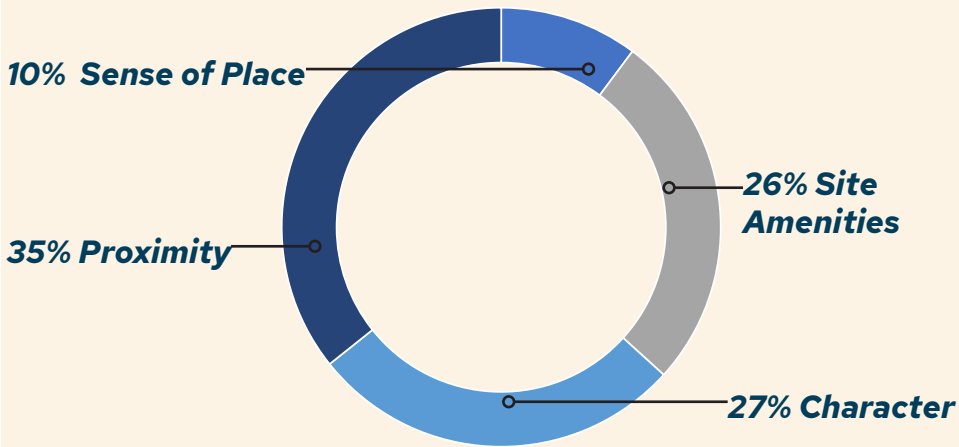


## What do you play on the ball fields?

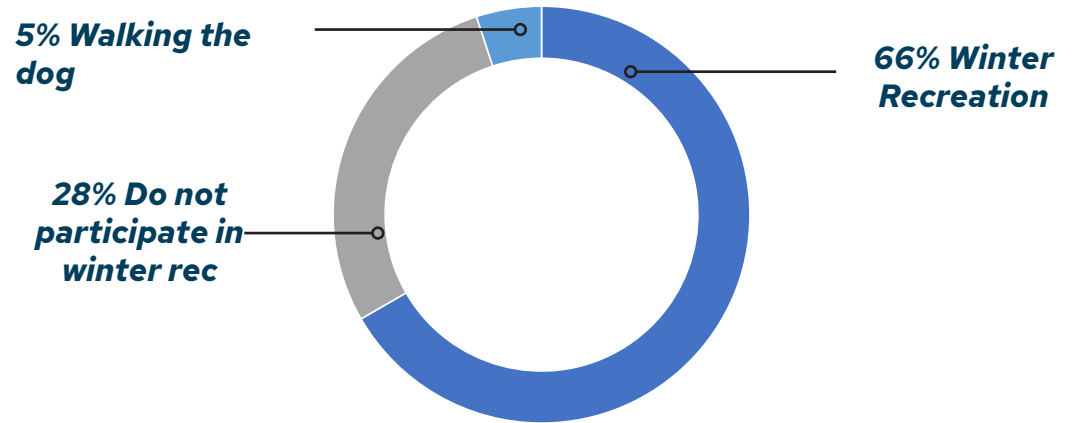


# Summary of survey continued

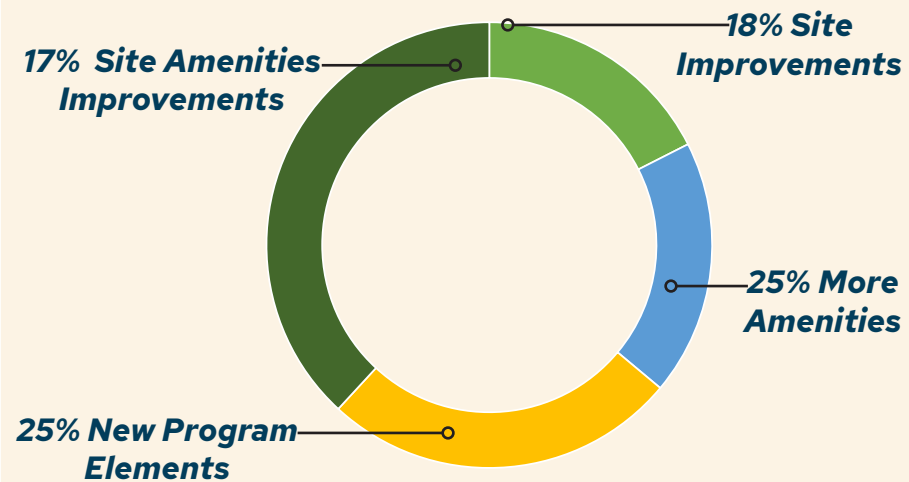
## What do you like about Baker Park?



## How do you use Baker Park in the winter?



## What would make you want to use Baker Park more?

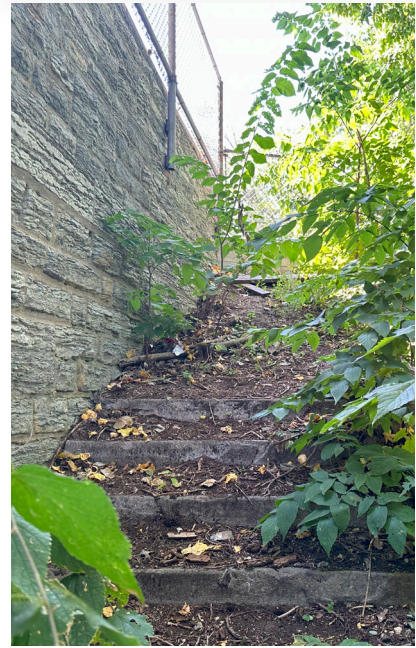


## Do you have anymore feedback?

Site Improvements	New Program Elements	Site Enhancement	Community Improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put up better fencing</li> <li>Plant native plantings</li> <li>Better playing field</li> <li>West side boosters should have an office at Baker</li> <li>An upgrade is much needed</li> <li>Resurfacing the tennis court and fix the nets &amp; posts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add a skating rink</li> <li>Accessible walks &amp; playground features</li> <li>Add a hockey rink</li> <li>Separate playground from school</li> <li>Warming house</li> <li>Vegetable garden</li> <li>Skate park for teenagers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More lighting at night &amp; general security</li> <li>More convenient trash</li> <li>Public bathroom</li> <li>Drinking fountain</li> <li>Better integration with school district</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve park to return back to being a neighborhood hub</li> <li>This space has a lot of memories</li> <li>Its a nice park but enhancements are needed</li> <li>It would be great for this space to be improved</li> <li>Help increase youth sports</li> </ul>



## Site images



*Neighborhood access requires ADA enhancements*



*Fence line creating a barrier from neighborhood*



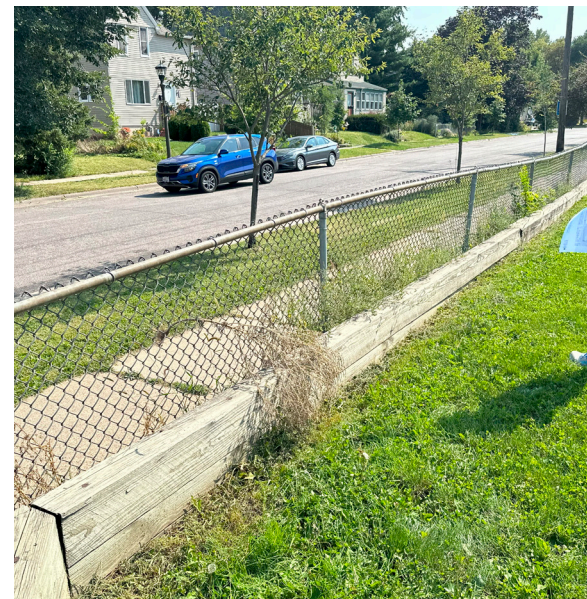
*Steep grades adjacent to park entrance*



*Sidewalk in rough condition creating issues w/ circulation*



*Missing tree line. Opportunity to add to existing tree line*



*Existing planters. Opportunity to use as an entrance*



*Overhead utilities creating issues with proposed plantings*



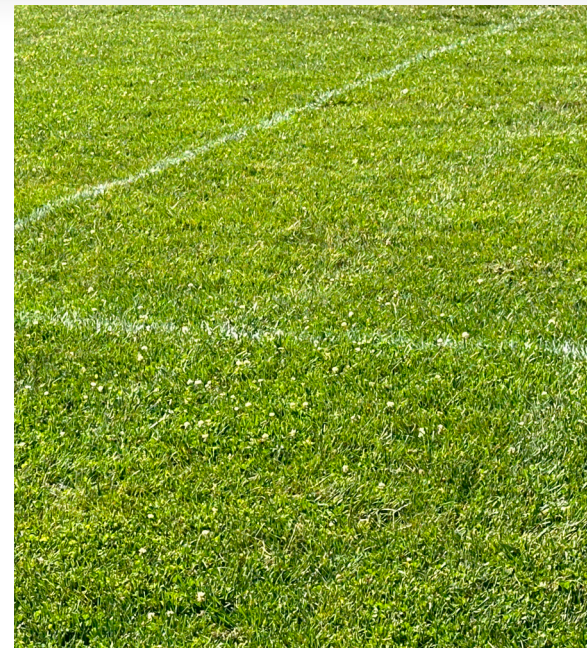
## Site images continued



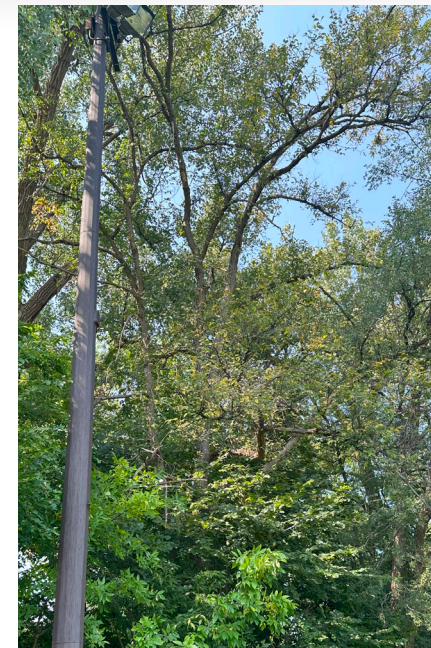
*Ball field amenities requires updates*



*Entry is in close proximity to portapotty and maintenance entrance*



*Existing field has other sports marking .*



*Consider tree pruning/trimming to allow visibility*



*Standing water needs better drainage*



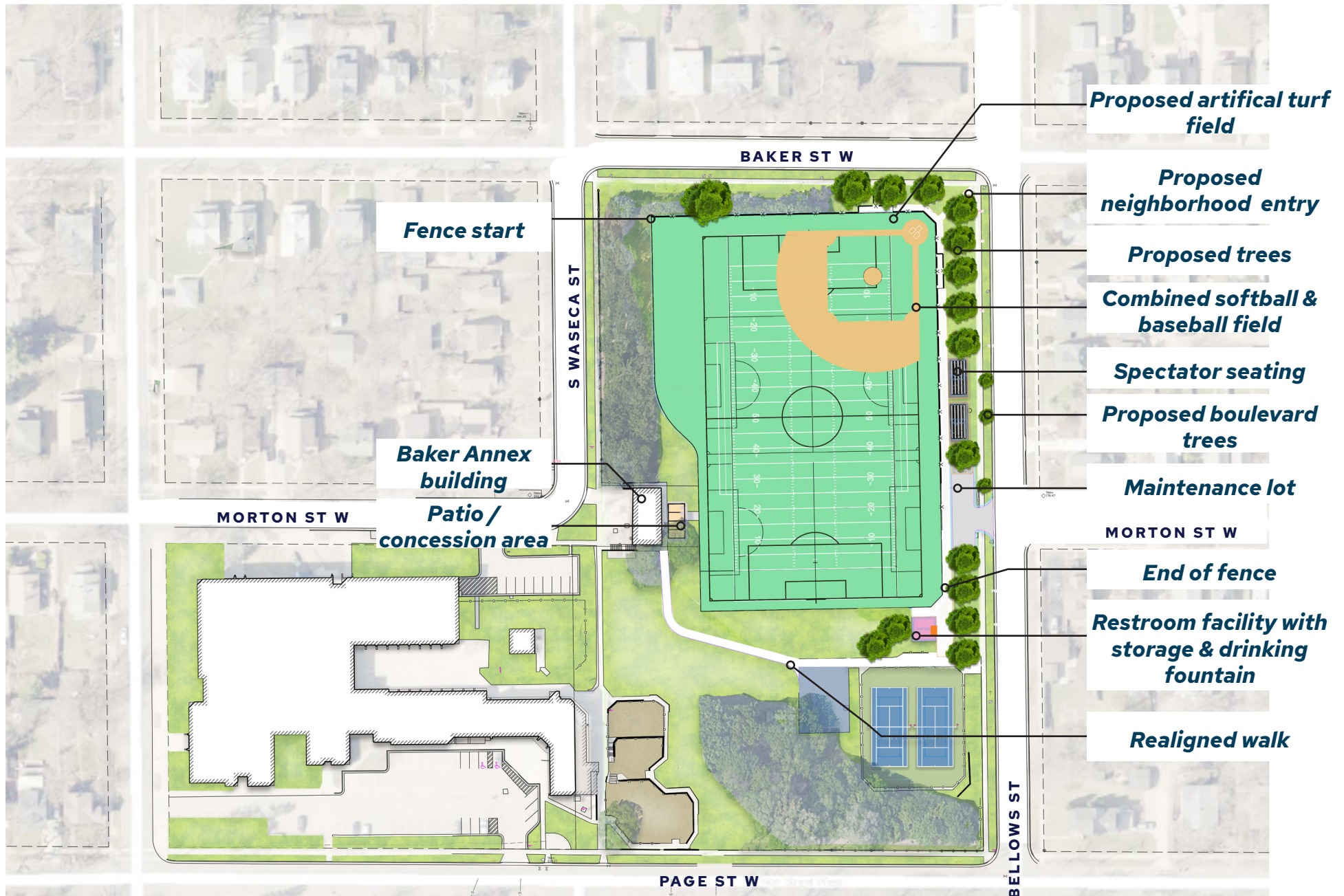
*Consider re-aligning path and adding lighting enhancements*



*Area adjacent to Baker Annex has promising views of entire site*



# Updated concept





# Patio area perspective

## Precedent



## Character

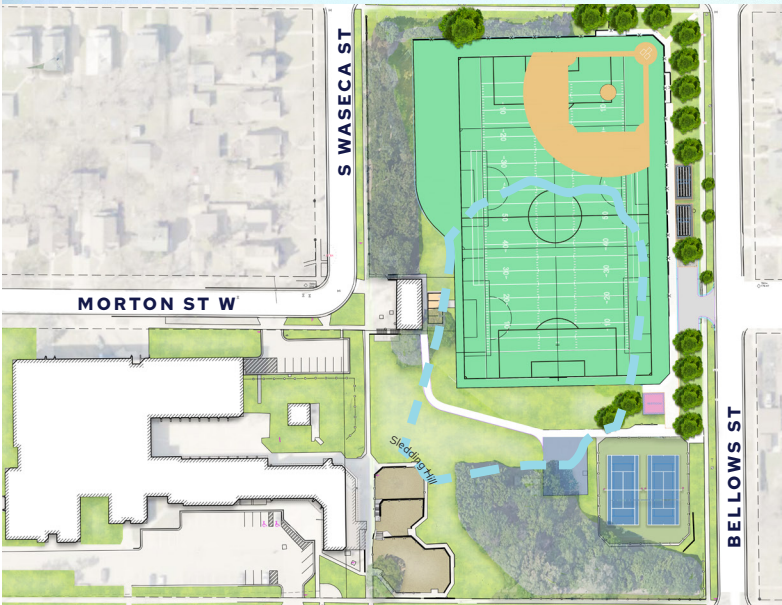


**Shade Elements**

**Concrete picnic tables & trash receptacles**

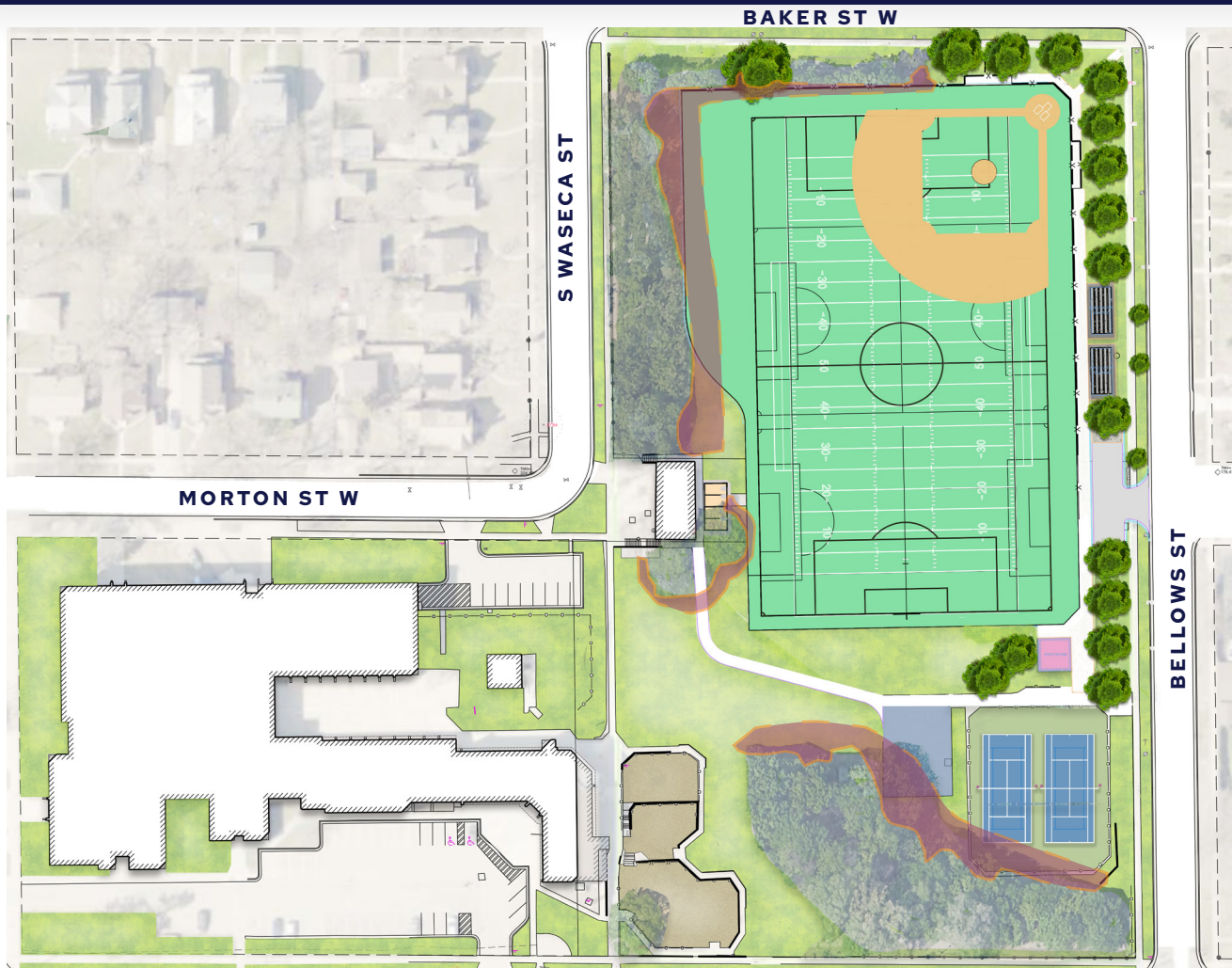


# Winter recreation





# Tree plantings



**Boulevard tree character**



**Proposed tree character**

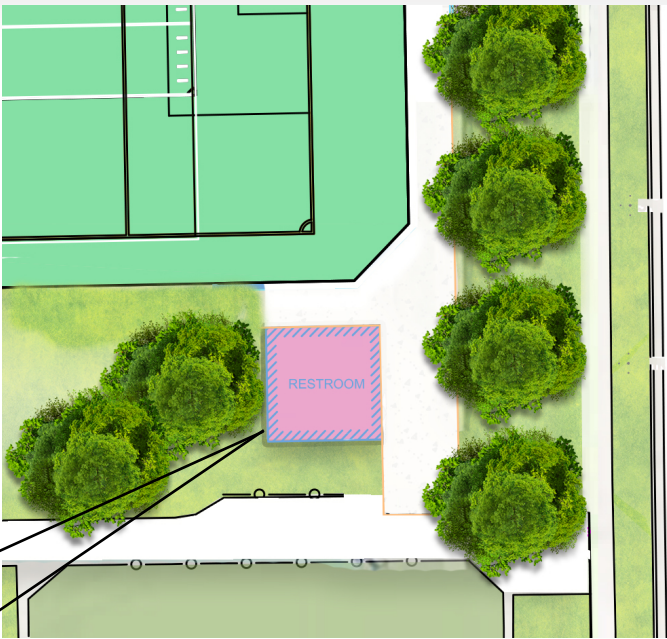
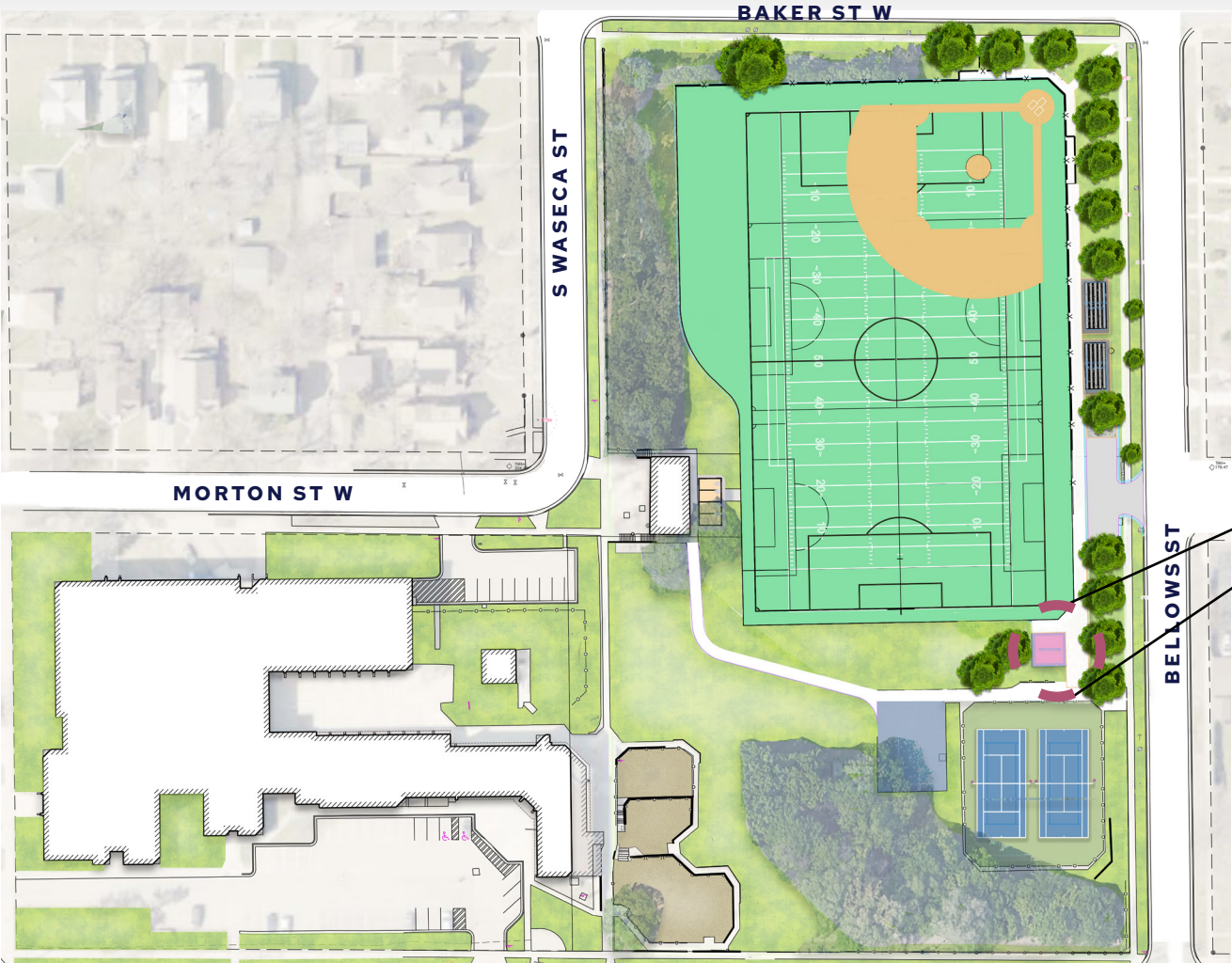
**Key takeaways**

- Boulevard has constraints with overhead utilities
- Overstory trees can only occur around spectator seating area in order to have a clear sledding area.





**Proposed restroom**



**Proposed restroom character**





## Questions received

### ***What is being done to maintain the current fields?***

Mowing every 10-days, weekly porta -potty service,daily trash removal in summer months, snow removal after 1” snow fall with salt-sanding applied as required. No regular fertilizing or weed control at most of our sites unless it is a premier soccer, baseball field.

### ***Will the artificial turf manufacturing and installation company provide a warranty specifying the expected life of the product? Will they provide a bond for the life of the turf?***

8 year warranty is typical coverage.

### ***What conditions or maintenance practices will void the field’s warranty? Will we be able to continue to use the fields for sledding, field day games with Cherokee Elementary School, flying kites, community gatherings such as a school carnival with rides, snow sculpting, etc?***

General use of the site should not impact the warranty. A goal of the project will be to allow all the uses of the park to continue with field improvements. McMurry Fields is an example in St. Paul where we have artificial turf fields,sledding, and large events and other informal uses occur in the space. McMurray Fields do not have site fencing.

## McMurray Field - Como Regional Park



## **Would the infill be new or recycled? Natural, rubber, cork etc?**

This has not been determined yet.

## **What additives and coatings are used on the blades and infill such as colorants, sealants, antimicrobials, and flame retardants?**

City does not add “additives” or coatings to the artificial turf. Field lines are color fabric that is hand stitched into the field. Vendor also confirmed additives/ coatings are not included,

## **What is the composition of each layer?**

This will depend on the type of turf used and soil condition underneath. Below is a section from a project at Sylvan Park. Which shows 18” stone base

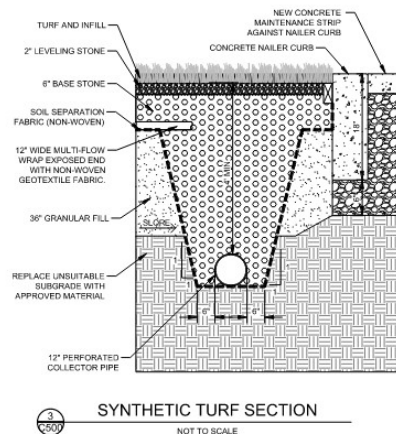
## **Is there an Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provided by the manufacturer that describes each component?**

Yes, we have from a recent vendor.

## **What products are required to sanitize and clean the field and how often must they be applied?**

Artificial turf fields installed outdoors do not require cleaning due to UV light from the sun.

# Slyvan Park





***If we go with artificial turf, will it need to be fenced off and locked in order to maintain the warranty?***

No, this has not been the case with other artificial turf fields in St. Paul . We have examples where fields are not fenced off.

***There is a new MN law that goes into effect 1 Jan 2025 that INCLUDES synthetic turf. It states “Any fabric containing intentionally added PFAS that is marketed or intended for use as a floor covering will be prohibited from sale and distribution in 2025, including car floor mats, recreational vehicle carpeting, outdoor rugs, and synthetic turf.” How will this affect plans for the park? How can we ensure there is no PFAS in their product as a release agent in the process of creating this turf?***

In speaking to our Attorney, Amara’s Law, puts the burden on manufacturers to not sell products that have illegal PFAS. I have reached out to the MPCA and Ramsey County Department of Health. MPCA shared :

They do not have published information on artificial turf. They referenced a study out of California.

They do not have an approved vendor list and park agencies will have to ask suppliers for documentation that their products are free of intentionally added PFAS.

MPCA is concerned with exposure during use of product, as well as manufacturing, and end of life of the product as the agency tackles PFAS. State law goes into affect January 1, 2025.

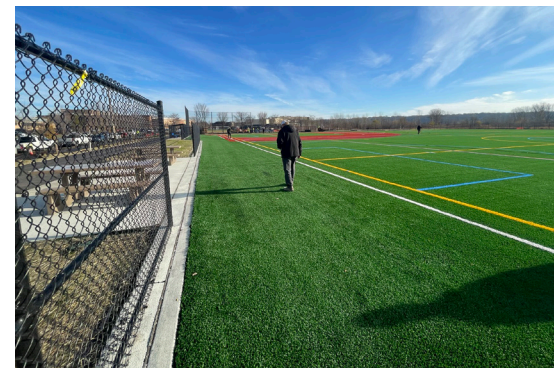
***If stadium lights are installed, will they be left on continuously or just during practice and events?***

They will be on a timer and on only during practice and events.

***Have you talked with the teachers and staff at Cherokee Elementary School to ask for their viewpoint? They use the fields and park maybe more than anyone else.***

Yes, we spoke to Principal Hass. They use the field space every day for recess. She did not have any specific comments on the plans and appreciated the outreach. Cherokee Elementary School is planning their 100 year celebration in the park May 2025.

## ***Victoria Park***



**How will flooding in Baker Park be mitigated? You mentioned the “squishy zone” in front of the building on site. Flooding can ruin not only natural grass fields, but void warranties on synthetic turf fields and cause replacements and repairs to be necessary ahead of anticipated life of the product.**

Preliminary soil borings have been received and we are awaiting a final report. Preliminary responses are below:

The park site has quite a bit of organic material at various depths below the surface as well as ground water in some locations. Some of the borings have “swamp deposit” which is highly organic material and holds a lot of water.

Regarding the wet/soggy area, geotechnical engineer is pretty confident that there is swamp deposit material in that area and also higher groundwater elevation.

It will be important to establish a robust sub-surface drainage system in this area to alleviate the groundwater.

## Baker Park



**BRAUN INTERTEC**  
The Science of the Soil Co.

**LOG OF BORING**

See Descriptive Terminology sheet for explanation of abbreviations

<b>Project Number B2409634</b>				BORING: <b>ST-8</b>			
<b>Geotechnical Evaluation</b>				LOCATION: See attached sketch			
<b>Baker Park Improvements</b>				DATUM:			
<b>209 Page Street West</b>				NORTHING:			
<b>Saint Paul, Minnesota</b>				EASTING:			
DRILLER: M. Barber	LOGGED BY: S. Martin	START DATE: 10/28/24	END DATE: 10/28/24				
SURFACE ELEVATION:	RIG: GP-1	METHOD: 3 1/4" HSA	SURFACING: Grass	WEATHER: Sunny			
Elev./ Depth ft.	Water Level	Description of Materials (Soil-ASTM D2488 or 2487; Rock-USACE EM 1110-1-2908)	Sample	Blows (N-Value) Recovery	q <sub>s</sub> , tsf	MC %	Tests or Remarks
0.9		SANDY SILT (ML), dark brown, moist (TOPSOIL FILL)		1-1-2 (3) 10"			
		ORGANIC CLAY (OL), black, wet (SWAMP DEPOSIT)		0-0-0 WOH/18" 18"			
6.0		ORGANIC SILT (OL), with shells, gray, wet (SWAMP DEPOSIT)		0-0-0 WOH/18" 18"			
9.0		LEAN CLAY (CL), with Silt, brown to gray, wet, medium (ALLUVIUM)		1-1-5 (6) 18"			
11.0		END OF BORING Boring immediately backfilled					Water not observed while drilling.

B2409634      Braun Intertec Corporation      Print Date: 11/26/2024      ST-8      page 1 of 1



### Turf

Vs

### Artificial Turf



#### Pros:

- Looks great when properly maintained.
- Natural grass helps with air quality due to trapping carbon dioxide
- Natural material in landscape
- Less expensive to install and less cost to repair
- Cooler surface temperature

#### Cons:

- Requires ongoing maintenance for irrigation, aerating, reseeding which results in more staff time
- Field restrictions likely needed after rain events until grass is able to absorb water
- Uneven surface can result in more injuries
- Irrigation requires winterization and spring turn-on
- Fencing recommended to control use

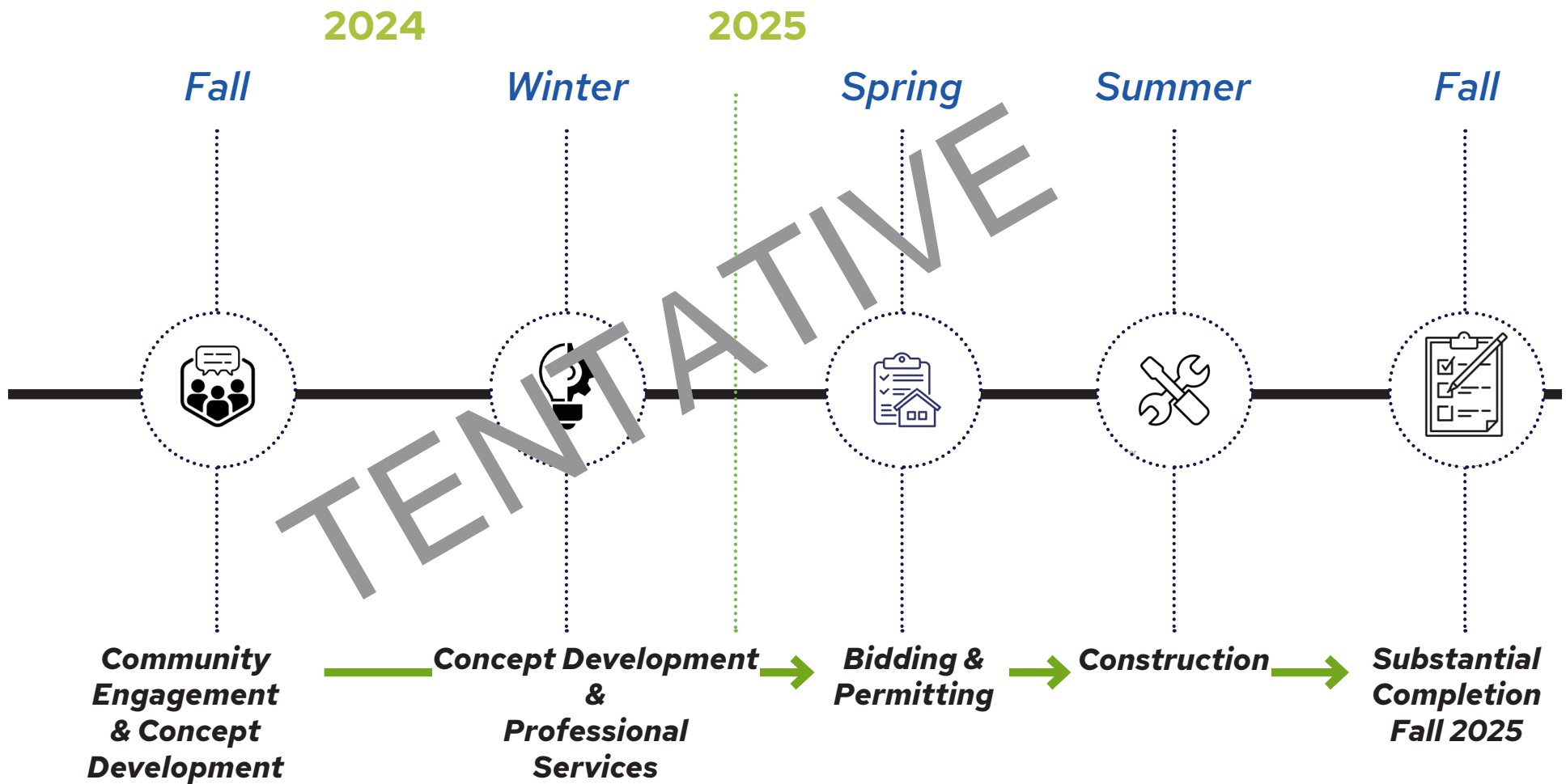
#### Pros:

- Less maintenance & resources required. Limited maintenance staff available for natural grass fields. (Ongoing irrigation, reseeding, aerating)
- Requires less water than natural fields
- Provides high class facility that can be used throughout the season
- Multiple sports can occur on field surface
- Compaction of soil does not occur from heavy use
- Less impact from weather events as can be used soon after rainfall

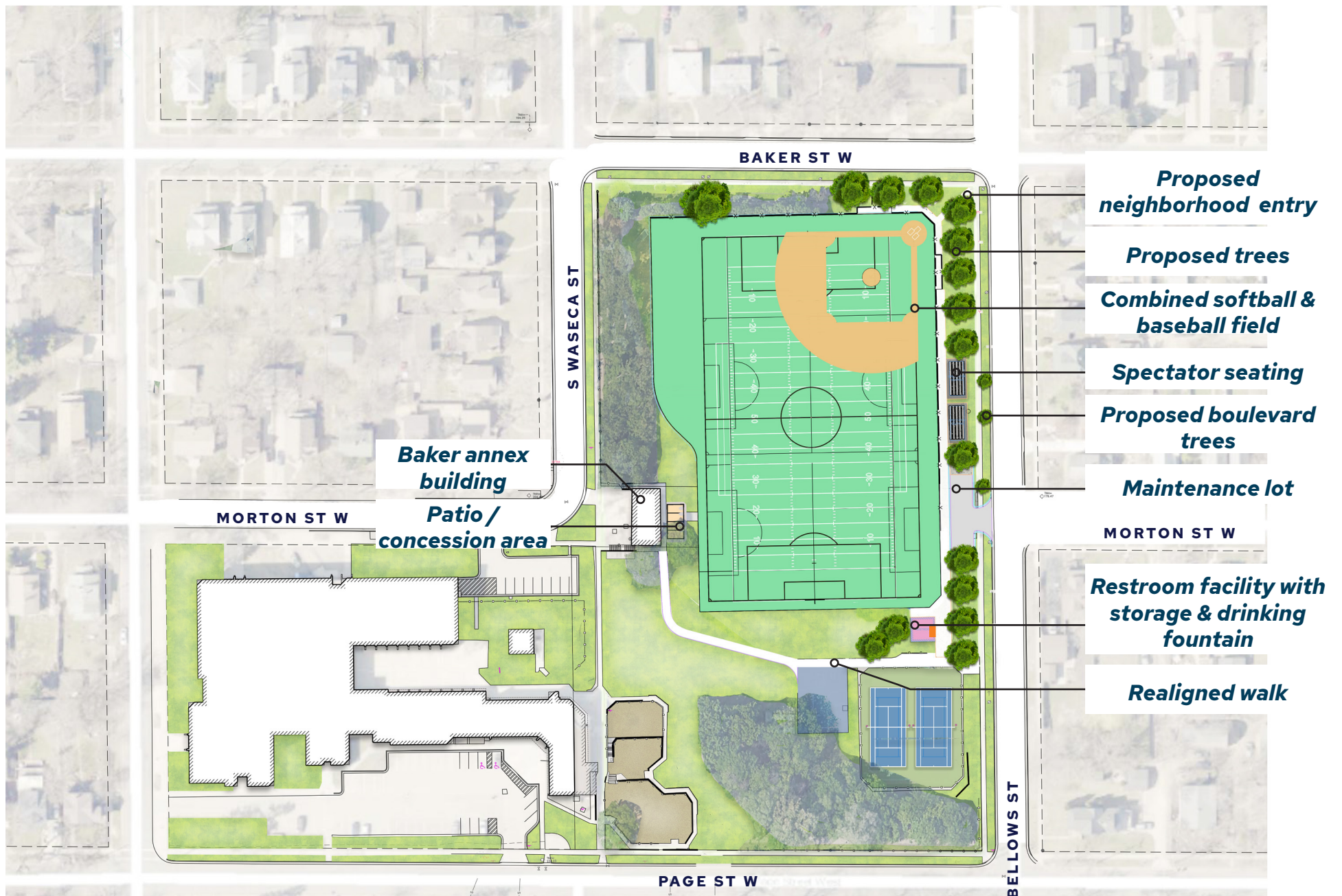
#### Cons:

- Higher initial cost to install and repair
- Public perception of health risks
- Understaffed sites makes programming more difficult with ability for increased play and use
- Fields surface temperature higher than natural grass
- Does not provide ecological habitat/ carbon sequestration.









*Proposed neighborhood entry*

*Proposed trees*

*Combined softball & baseball field*

*Spectator seating*

*Proposed boulevard trees*

*Maintenance lot*

MORTON ST W

*Restroom facility with storage & drinking fountain*

*Realigned walk*

*Baker annex building*  
*Patio / concession area*

BAKER ST W

S WASECA ST

MORTON ST W

PAGE ST W

BELLOWS ST



Questions?

