

Norman Playground



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



Norman Playground: Introduction

Norman Playground is a 5.9 acre park on the west bank of New Orleans in the Old Aurora neighborhood located at 3201 Eton Street. The Park sits between the new Alice Harte Elementary School and St. Andrew the Apostle School, and is in close proximity to the Edna Karr Magnet School. Due to its location within the residential neighborhood and in close proximity to schools, Norman Playground hosts a number of athletic programs year-round which are sponsored by NORDC and coordinated through the local booster clubs.

Existing park features include a large multi-purpose field with two regulation sized baseball diamonds; two basketball courts; play equipment; a restroom building; and, an old administration building. The Park is currently in need of major updating due to a combination of age and storm related damages which were deferred to determine funding and programming for this site. Between 2010 and 2014, plans for a new 30,000 SF gym facility were scraped and replaced with park programming that has been developed through a community driven process. Currently, the Norman Playground Enhancement Project has \$2.5 million budgeted for construction from State Capital Outlay funds.

Norman Playground: Site Context



**EDNA KARR
MAGNET SCHOOL**

**ST. ANDREW THE
APOSTLE SCHOOL**

NORMAN PLAYGROUND

**ALICE M. HART
CHARTER SCHOOL**

MACARTHUR BLVD.

ETON STREET

BERKLEY DRIVE

Norman Playground: Existing Conditions

The Park is in need of major rehabilitation due to facilities reaching the end of their life expectancy and storm damage caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Isaac. The following is a list of existing conditions for the main park elements:

- The administration building, which houses the Booster Club concessions operation and park equipment storage, is a one-story CMU building (45 feet long by 41 feet wide). This building was damaged by fire in 2013 and incurred severe interior and roof damage and is currently uninhabitable.
- The restroom structure is currently outdated and non-ADA compliant. It also has broken windows and its walls are covered in graffiti.
- The basketball shelter, which houses an NCAA regulation sized basketball court, received damages to its roof and electrical lighting during Hurricane Katrina. The overall structural components are sound, though rusted. The roof is rusted and leaks. The concrete court is in need of resurfacing and stripping, and needs new basketball hoops.
- High mast lights at the field provide evening lighting for the entire site, but are angled such that the field is not well-lit.
- Norman Playground has different fencing styles along the perimeter, which are in poor condition, not gated, and unsecured. Full assessment of the cyclone fencing repair needs will require removal of overgrown vegetation along the fence.
- The play equipment is old with rusting parts, missing panels, and large cracks in the surfacing.
- No on-site parking since there is plenty of off-street parking during the weekends when the two adjacent schools are closed.

Norman Playground: Existing Conditions



Existing basketball structure



Existing uncovered court and batting cage



Existing playground



Existing building

Norman Playground: Existing Conditions



Existing sport field seating



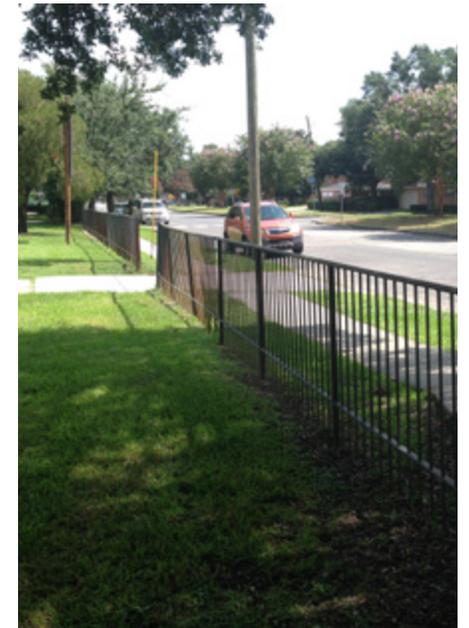
Existing fields



Existing fields



Existing signage



Existing front fence

Norman Playground: Design Approach

Based on a 2013 public engagement meeting between Dana Brown and Associates (DBA), the NORDC CAT E, Boosters, and other community members, the public request to omit plans for a gym and focus on general park improvements was approved by Facility Planning and Controls. In 2014, DBA was introduced as the architect of record for the Norman Park Enhancement Project, with Programming and Schematic Design phases developed through CPA, with NORDC as the Park's End-User Agency. Programming for the park improvements are broken into three main categories: 1) Infrastructure Improvements, 2) Rehabilitation of Existing Facilities; and, 3) Park Enhancements. A more detailed explanation of these program categories is as follows:

1) Infrastructure Improvements

- Master Plan
- Green Infrastructure and Planting Improvements
- Lighting, Fencing, and Site Furnishings
- Facility Maintenance and Access

2) Rehabilitation of Existing Facilities

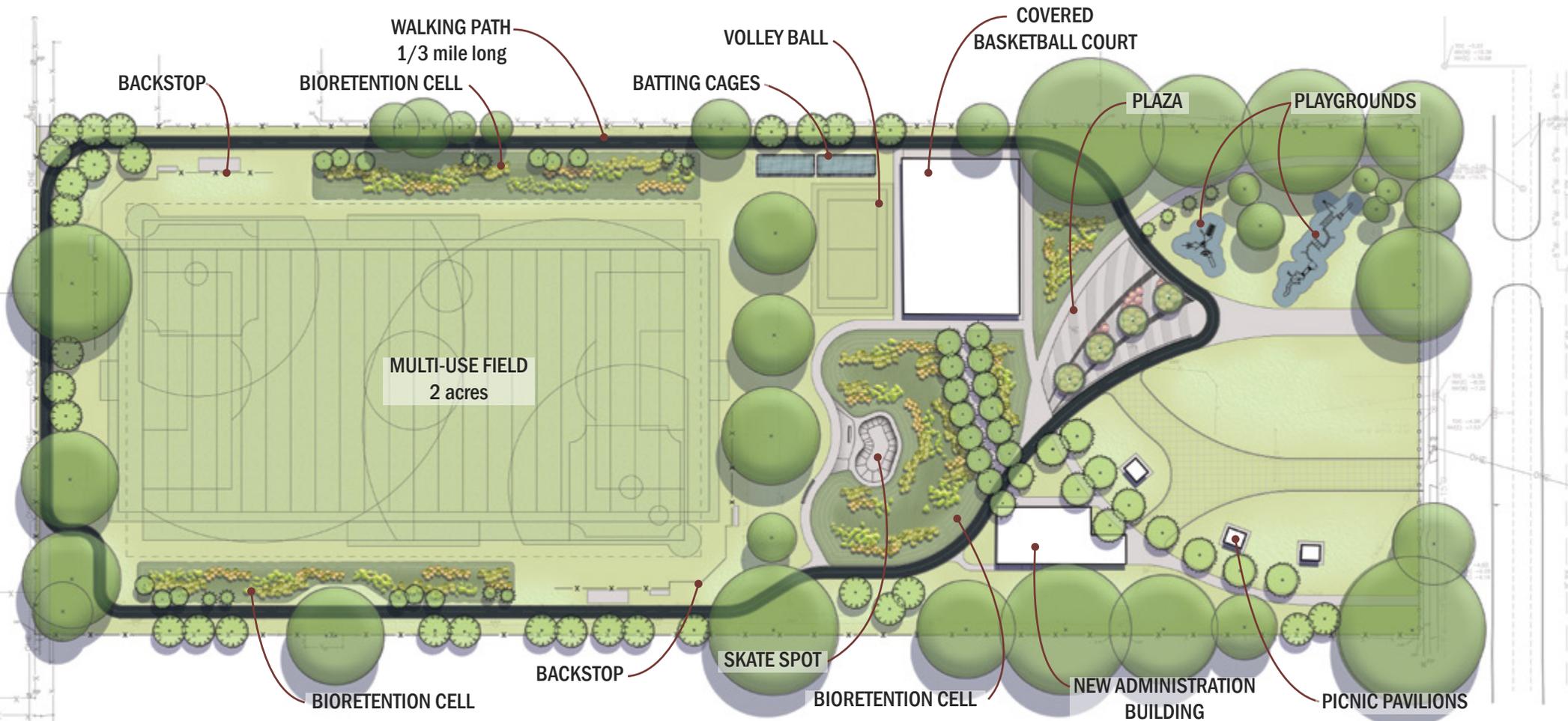
- Administration Building
- Basketball Shelter
- Playground Area

3) Park Enhancements

- Walking Trail
- Volleyball Court
- Skate Spot

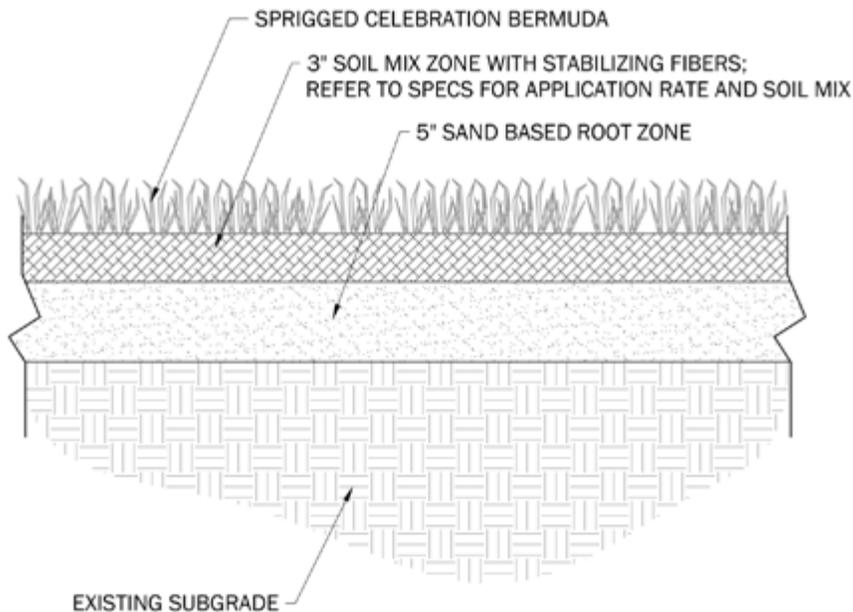
Norman Playground: Master Plan

- **Master Plan:** On any given day a variety of athletic programs, passive recreation, and exercise may be occurring throughout the Park. Norman Park is 840' deep x 307' wide, therefore, its unusual orientation provides logistical challenges with accessing the various park amenities and facilities. The Master Plan for this project calls for an improved site organization plan and well-developed circulation patterns throughout the Park. After close analysis of the Park's usage, this plan maintains the features that are successful, such as the size and configuration of the multipurpose field, while maximizing underutilized areas of the Park by the addition of walking trails at its perimeter. Additionally, a number of hardscape areas provide transitional areas between the various programmatic components so that users can enjoy a variety of experiences within their neighborhood park.



Norman Playground: Improved Field

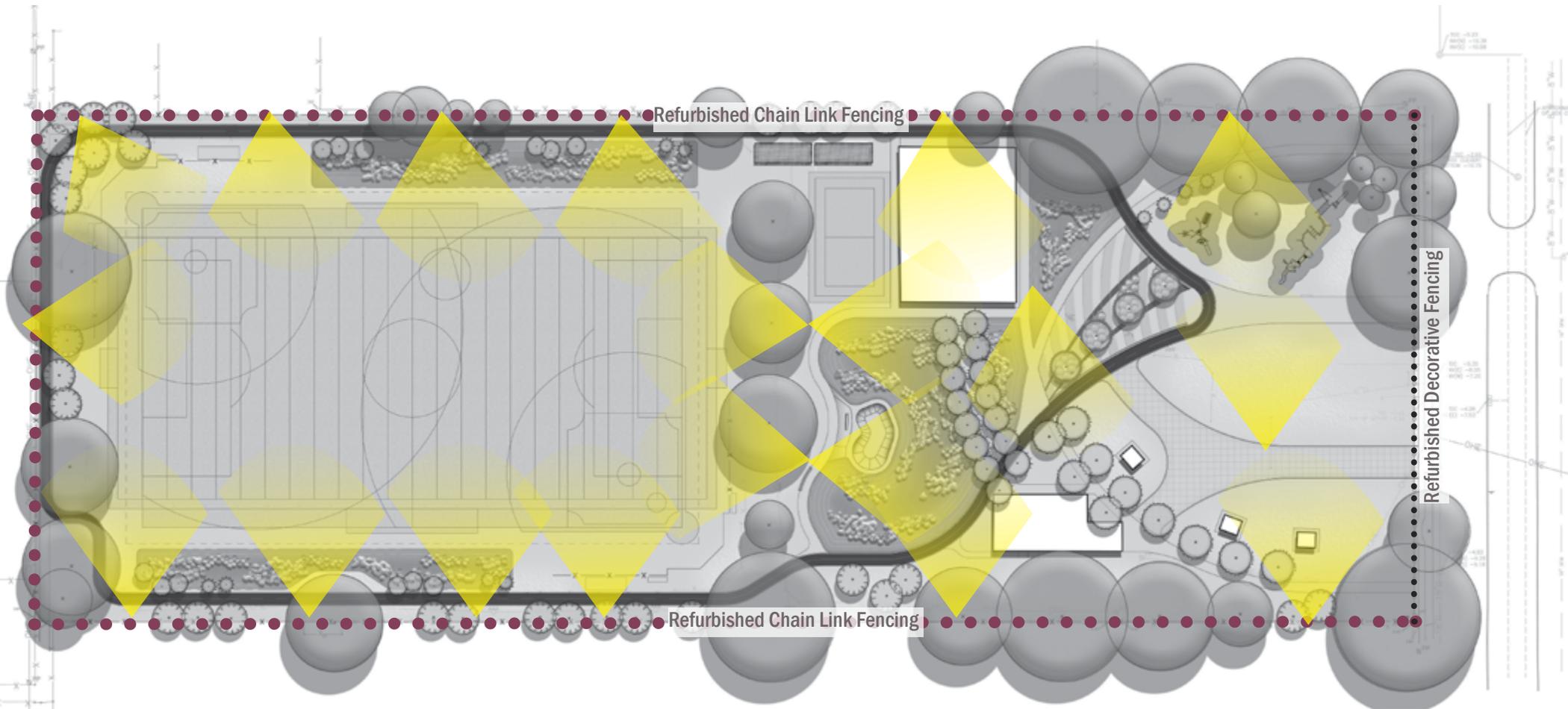
- Due to the frequent use of the existing field, the Master Plan proposes retaining its existing dimensions, however, there will be several improvements made to the field's structure, resiliency, and drainage. The field's surface will be sprigged with Celebration Bermuda, a drought-tolerant, low maintenance turf grass that will provide a more hardy and reliable play surface. Additionally, the field's design will have a number of subsurface improvements. Illustrated in the cross-section below, the proposed field will feature a 3" layer of Fiber Soils and a 5" layer of sand as root base underneath the turf grass. This will not only provide a stable and fertile base for the Bermuda grass, but also serve as storage for stormwater. Void space in the sand/Fiber Soil will retain water allowing the surface of the field to drain more quickly, increasing the field's usability after rain events.



Multi-Use Field Section Detail

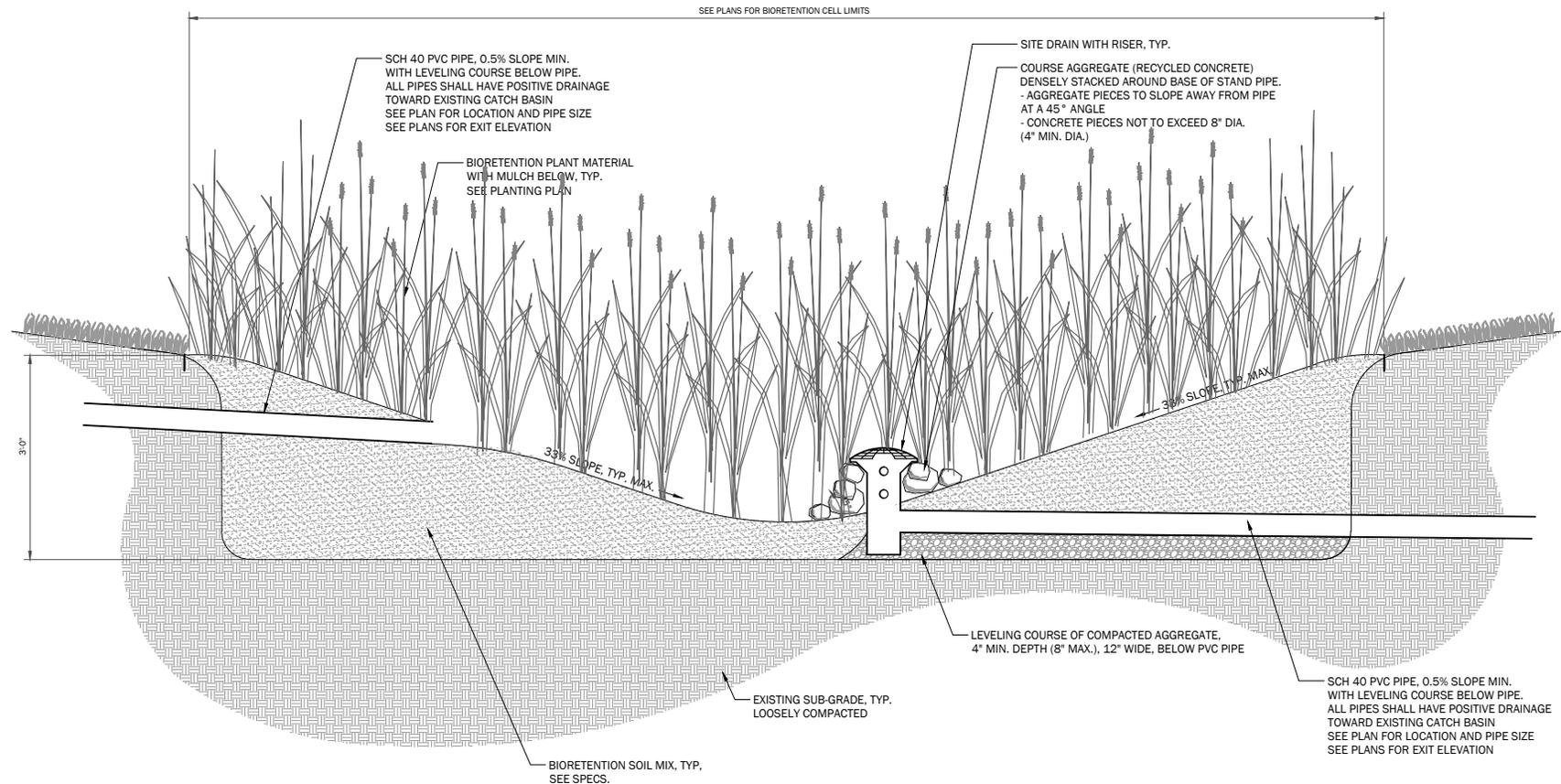
Norman Playground: Updated Lighting & Fencing

- **Lighting, Fencing and Site Furnishings:** The existing high mast lighting and electrical system for the Park will be maintained with minor improvements, as needed. The park lighting will be supplemented to provide additional security and lighting at the new perimeter walking trails, at the rehabilitated basketball shelter and at the new Administration Building. The Park's fencing will be repaired, as needed with new fencing fabric and the addition of some security gates.



Norman Playground: Sustainable Water Management

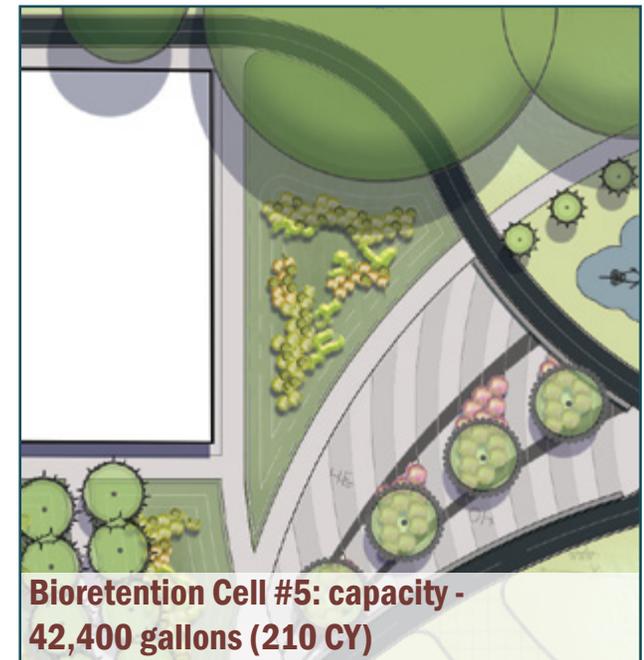
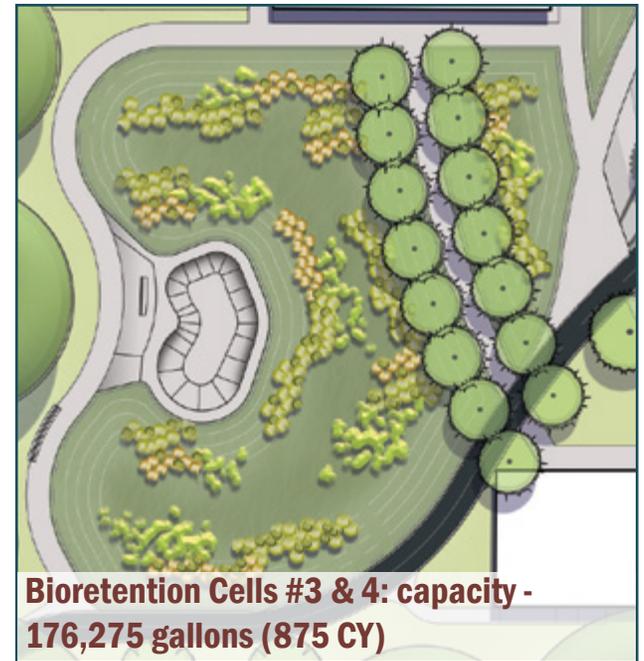
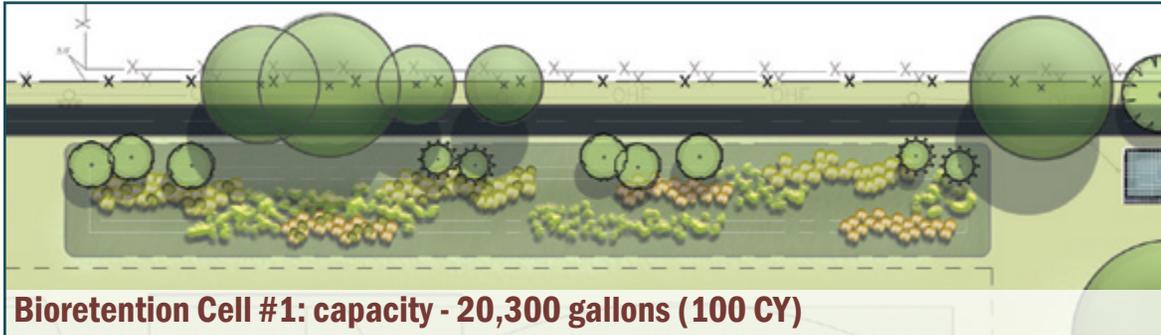
- **Green Infrastructure and Planting Improvements:** The Norman Enhancements project is largely a landscape architecture design project with architectural construction elements. The project will utilize different types of plantings to define functional spaces and create an aesthetically green park. Green infrastructure elements along the Park's perimeter and bioretention cells at locations with chronic drainage issues will improve on-site stormwater management. Native plant species will be used as a way to limit the maintenance that will be required on site.



Bioretention Cell Section Detail

Norman Playground: Sustainable Water Management

Total Capacity: 254,450 gallons of storage



Diverted Runoff (per Event)				
Rainfall Event	Total Precipitation (in inches)	On-Site Event Proposed Runoff (cf)	On-Site Event Captured Runoff (cf)	Percent Captured
	(C)	(E) = (I) - (D)	(F) = min[(D),(C)]	(G) = (D) / (I)
1" of Any Storm	1	-55385.46	3,484	1690%
1.25" of Any Storm	1.25	-52694.15	6,175	953%
2" of Any Storm	2	-42247.81	16,621	354%
One-Year Storm' Event	4.25	-1667.02	57,202	103%
Two-Year Storm' Event	5.75	28295.06	58,869	68%
Ten-Year Storm' Event	9	95863.36	58,869	38%
100-Year Storm' Event	13	180994.70	58,869	25%

Calculations based off an average 24-hour storm event in New Orleans

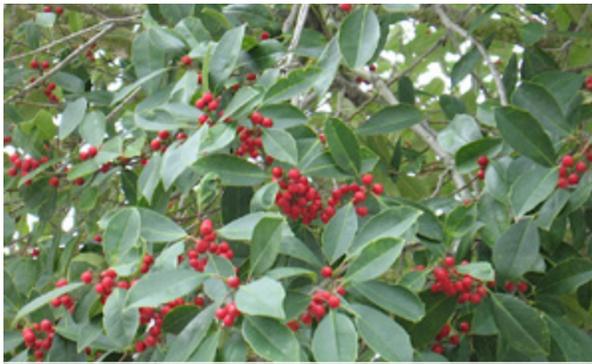
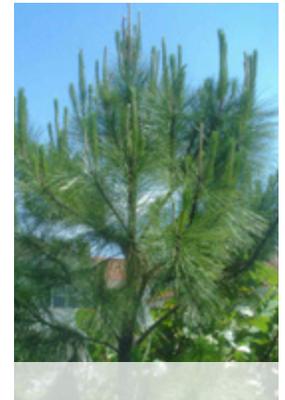
Norman Playground: Plant Material



Betula nigra 'Heritage' - Heritage River Birch



Pinus elliotti - Slash Pine



Ilex opaca - American Holly



Taxodium ascendens - Pond Cypress



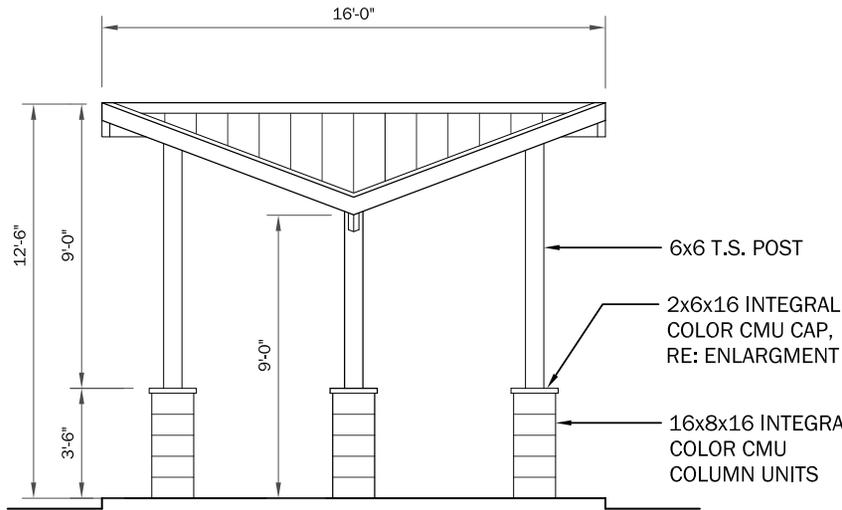
Ilex x attenuata 'Savannah' - Savannah Holly



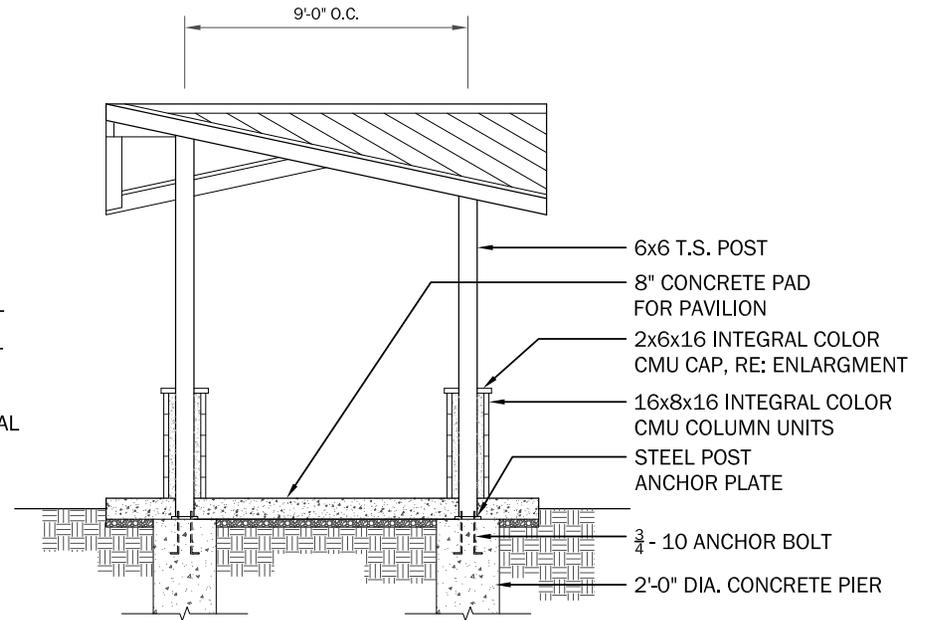
Taxodium distichum - Bald Cypress



Norman Playground: Site Furniture



Picnic Pavilion



Site furniture from Landscape Forms; powder coated stainless steel

Existing site benches to be reused on site

Norman Playground: Rehabilitation of Existing Facilities

Administration Building:

- **Per NORDC's request, DBA was asked to replace the Administration and Restroom Facilities into a consolidated new structure located at a centralized location for convenient access to all park users. The consolidated structure will provide updated public restrooms, an administration office, athletic equipment storage, and a concessions area.**

Basketball Shelter:

- **DBA will rehabilitate the existing steel structure, make repairs, repaint, and add a new roof and siding. The electrical system and lighting will be replaced, the concrete floor resurfaced and stripped, and new basketball equipment will be installed.**

Playground Area:

- **The existing playground equipment will be removed. The area will be expanded and new equipment will be installed. The play area will have spaces for two separate age groups, 2 to 5 years and 5 to 12 years, and will include shading canopies and benches.**

Norman Playground: Building & Basketball Structure



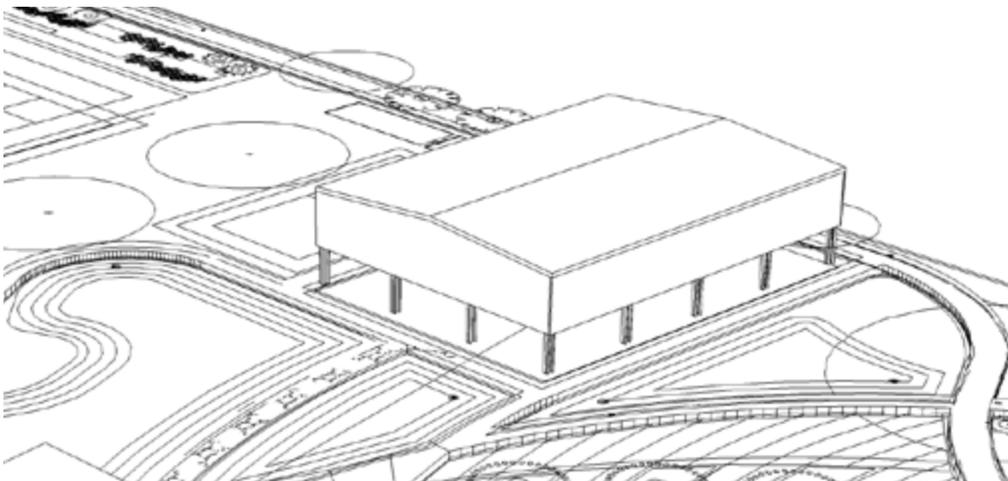
East Elevation



NE Elevation



South Elevation



Covered Basketball Court



Basketball Court Siding

Norman Playground: New Building

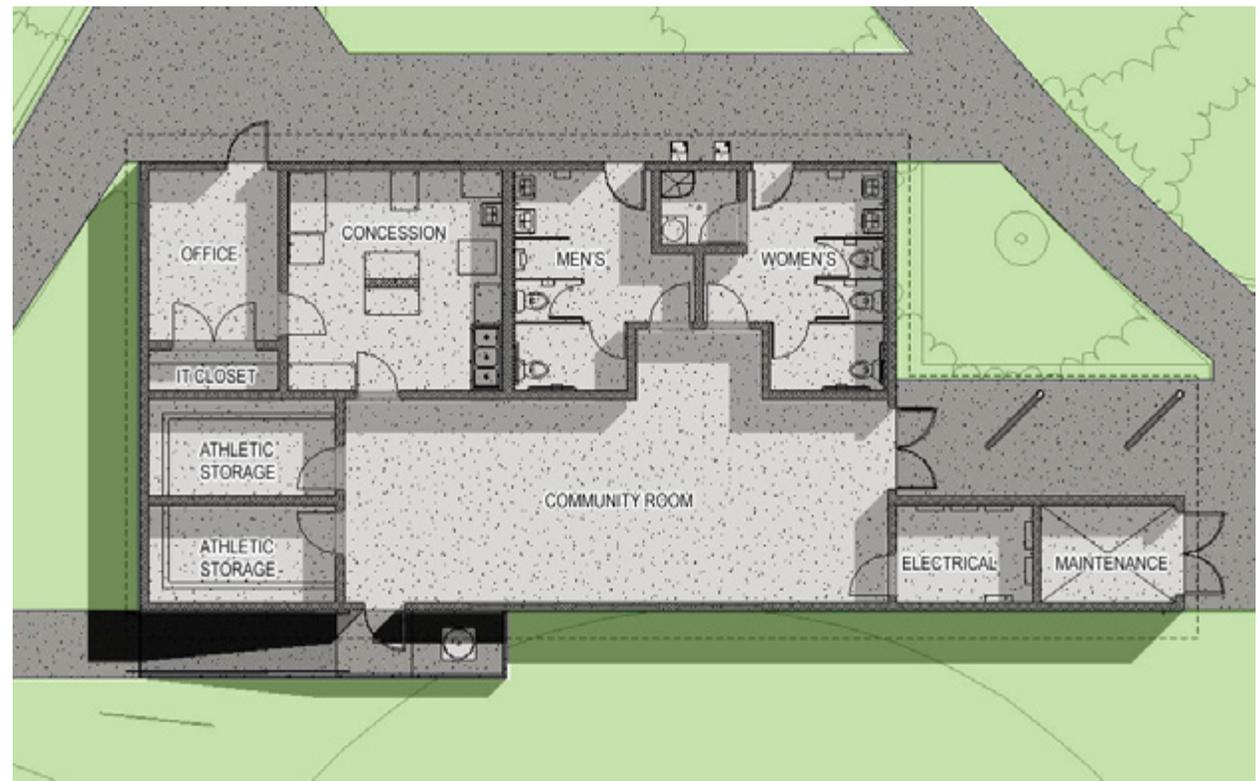
Building Break Down:

2,035 SF includes:

- Athletic storage space - 230 SF
- Maintenance equipment storage - 70 SF
- Mechanical & electrical room - 100 SF
- Electrical room - 70 SF
- Manager's office - 120 SF
- Concession stand - 250 SF
- Community room - 600 SF
- 3 women bathrooms
- 3 men bathrooms

Building Notes:

- Walls are insulated split-face CMU
- Integral color with graffiti resistant coating
- Roof is an insulated corrugated metal
- HVAC and LED lighting systems
- Color and style of the CMU and corrugated roofing will also be used on the picnic pavilions



Building Floorplan

Norman Playground: Play Equipment

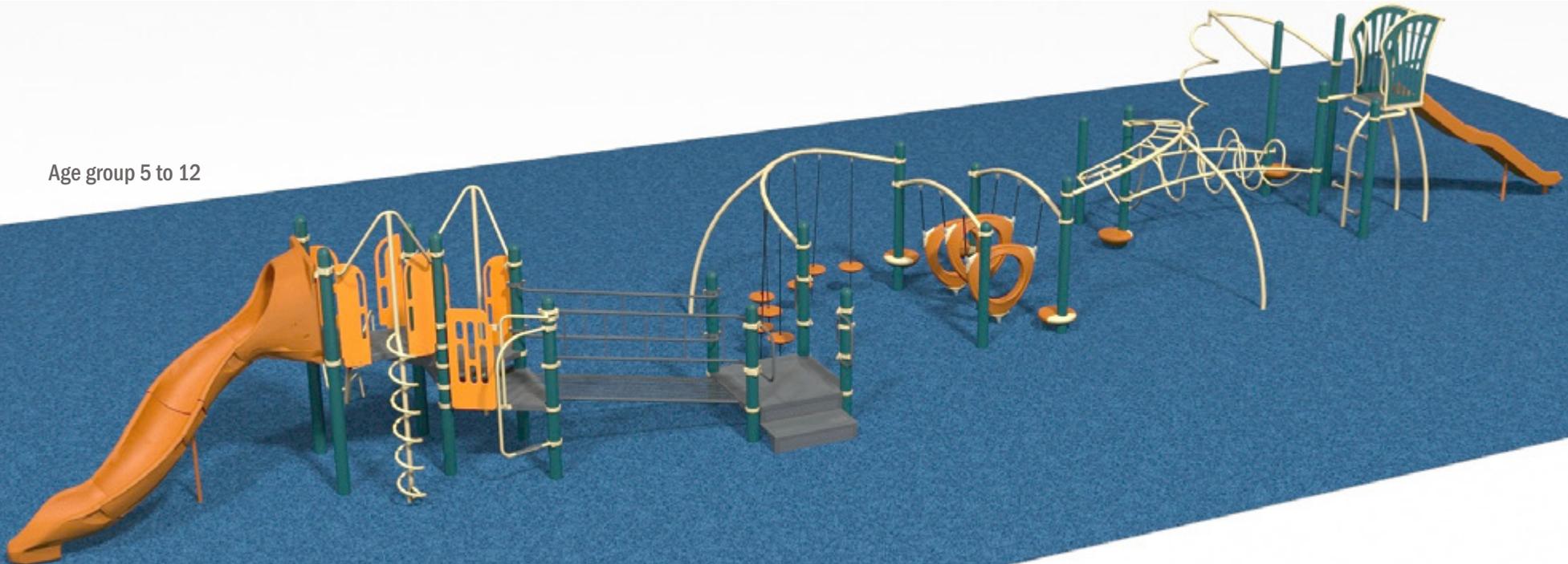


Age group 2 to 5



Canopy Structure

Age group 5 to 12



Norman Playground: Park Enhancements

Walking Trail:

- **A major park addition will be the walking trail, which is a proposed site improvement that was requested by the public during the 2013 design charrette conducted by DBA. The 1/3 mile-long walking trail will be located in the most underutilized areas in the Park, and will greatly enhance the circulation between all the Park's facilities.**

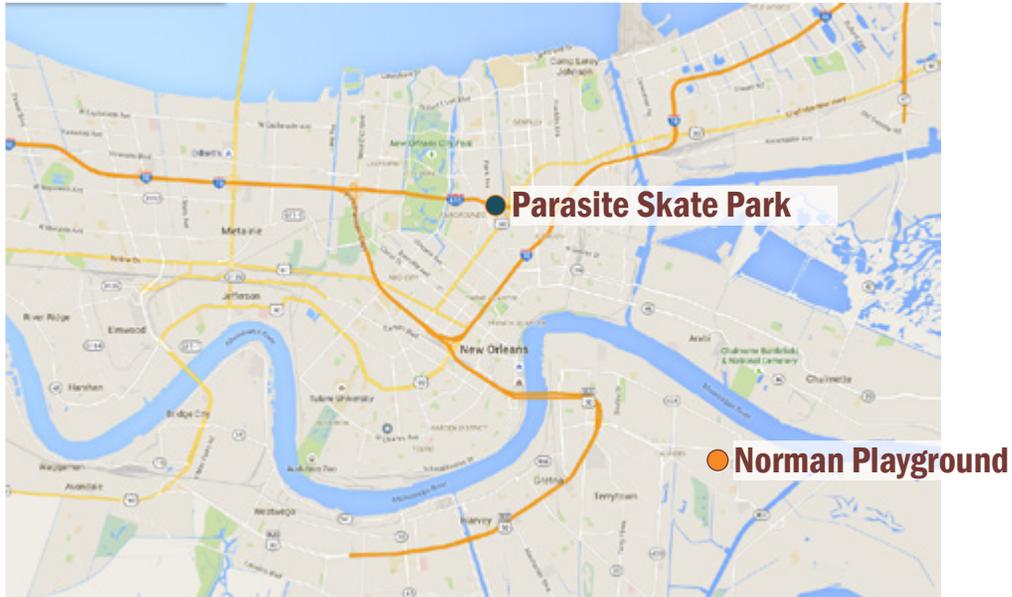
Volleyball Court:

- **The Norman Park multipurpose field can accommodate baseball, softball, soccer, and football. NORDC has requested the addition of a volleyball field near the basketball shelter. The public has embraced the variety of athletic programs that can be hosted at Norman Park and this addition will be greatly utilized.**

Skate Spot:

- **The City has embraced the idea of including skate parks in its booster park facilities and is proposing to include a small skate spot at Norman Park. The public will be asked to vote at the next public engagement meeting, which will be held after the project is bid, and pending the availability of funds.**

Norman Playground: Skate Spot

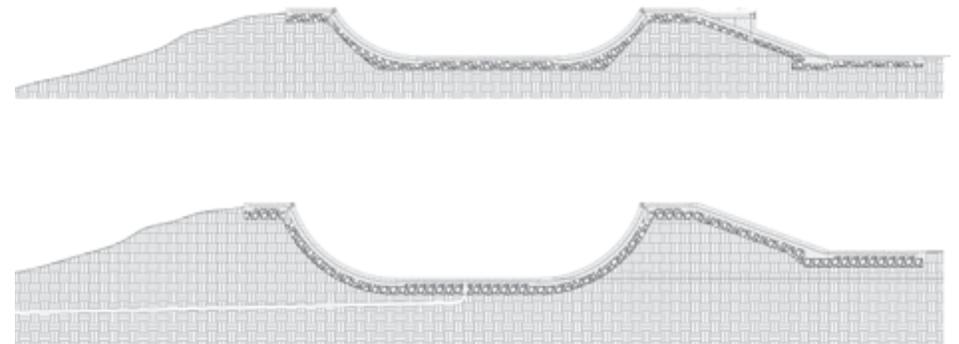


Other Skate Parks in the Region:

- Houma - about 60 miles
- Hammond - about 65 miles
- Baton Rouge - about 85 miles
- Morgan City - about 90 miles
- Lafayette - about 140 miles



Precedent for Norman Playground skate spot



Sections of the skate spot

Norman Playground: Community Input & Master Plan

- **February 18, 2014 - DBA introduced as the Architect of Record**
- **State Capital Outlay - 8 months to amend the funding grant to remove the gym project so that a new AE Contract could be procured**
- **February 23, 2015 - NORDC Westbank Meeting (Norman Playground Update); CPA and DBA presented Design Development Plans**



Norman Playground

