

Special Called Joint Town Council and I/EDA Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2026

Present:

Mayor Joe Beasley (Virtual)
Councilmember Danny Willis
Councilmember Zach Cline
Councilmember Takach

Absent:

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins
Councilmember David Fox
Councilmember Gleen Keen, Jr.

I/EDA Chairperson Cara Spivey
I/EDA Member Tammy Smith
I/EDA Member Alicia Bales
I/EDA Member Rick Alley

I/EDA Member Luce D'Amato
I/EDA Member Susan Whittaker
I/EDA Member Justin Takach

Staff members present were Town Manager, Leeanne Regon; Clerk-Treasurer, Jessica Hayes; Building and Zoning Official, Chris Hurley; Public Works Director, Dave Scrotsky.

Call to Order

Cara Spivey, Chair of the I/EDA, called the meeting to order.

Conceptual Architectural Design Proposal- old Ramey Lot

Kevin Jones of Architecture, LLC presented conceptual designs for the Ramey's Lot property. Mr. Jones reviewed several layout options for multi-purpose fields. He shared drawings that showed the potential for a more welcoming entrance into town, allowing the possibility of multipurpose fields, a walking track, playground, green space and restrooms.

In Option 1, he presented an overview of the multiple parcels that make up Ramey's Lot. Foundation Lane would need to remain in place to provide access for the Public Works Department. Mr. Jones asked Building and Zoning Official Hurley whether zoning regulations require a specific number of parking spaces. He will look into this and if there are specific needs it will be added to the design.

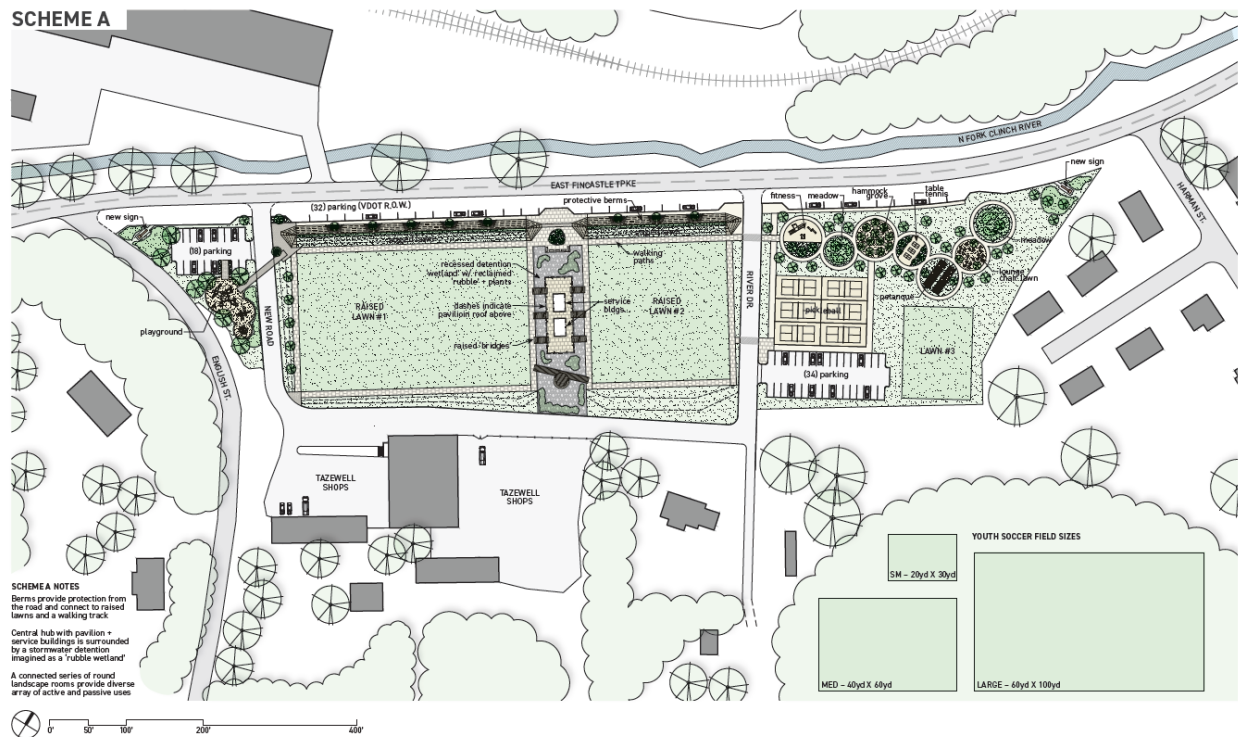
The group also discussed drainage needs, including raising the fields to meet base flood elevation requirements, using plantings to improve drainage, and building up the edge near the roadway with a berm for protection, this could also act as a place on the other side for people to sit. Existing drainage gates were noted.

Features on the west side could include a small playground, pickleball, multipurpose activity areas, ping pong, bocce ball, and hammocks groves. The fields could be striped for multiple soccer configurations to serve different age groups.

Additional discussion focused on road and park safety, tree planting, and grading the edges for protection. I/EDA Member Smith suggested incorporating inclusive and accessible equipment, which the group supported. Councilmember Cline recommended making the fields as multipurpose as possible.

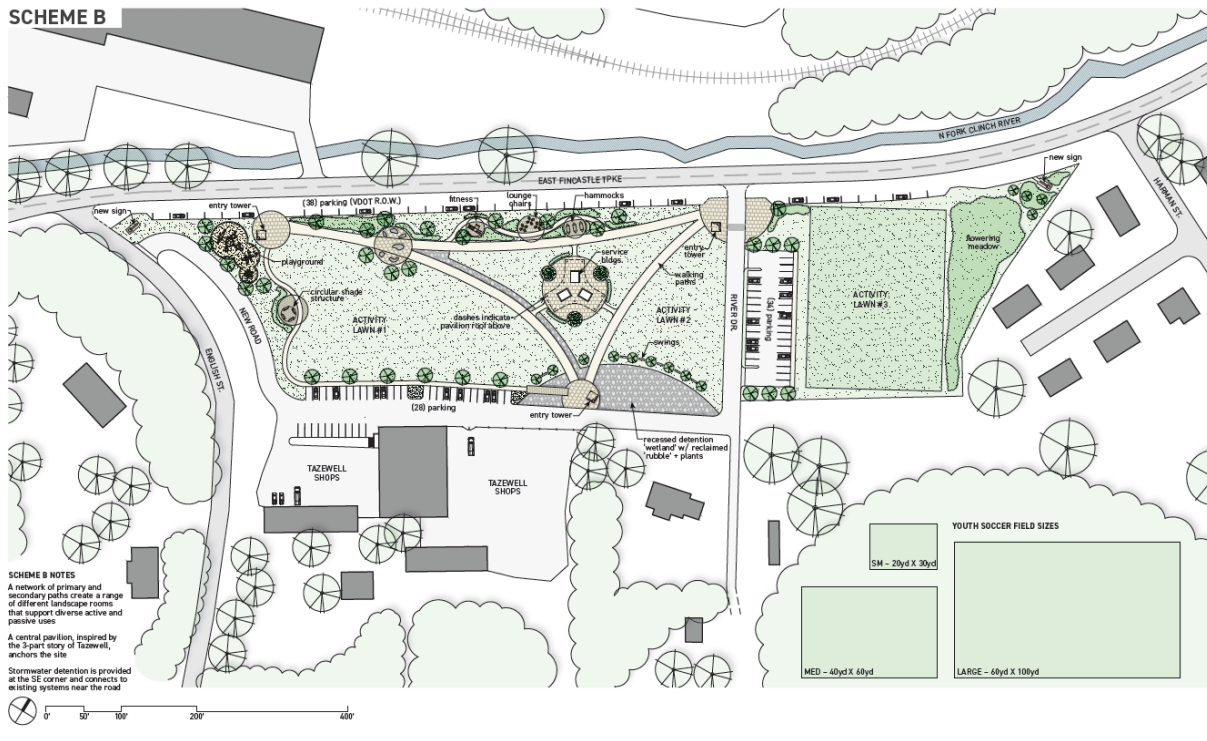
Renee Addair suggested adding fencing around the playground, and Mr. Jones said that could be included even though it was not shown in the drawing. Pickleball and table tennis were shown on the east side. Public Works Director Scrotsky noted that he thinks 34 parking spaces would not be enough and recommended increasing parking. Manager Regon added that more than 180 children participated in spring soccer this season and agreed that additional parking is necessary.

Councilmember Cline asked whether River Road could be moved, noting that residents would need a different access point if moved. Manager Regon responded that town utilities would need to be considered and that relocating the road might not be feasible. Councilmember Willis asked whether relocating the town shop would improve the park design and free up space for parking. The group noted that the Public Works Department had only recently been moved to that property, so relocating it again may not be the best solution.



In Option 2, the roadway buffer remains in place, while gardens and activity areas would be located at the back of the lot. This option does not include the large field, but the remaining field could still be configured for multiple age groups and uses.

Mr. Jones recommended an access route from English Street that would branch off onto Foundation Lane behind the fields.



Chairperson Spivey asked the council about their plans for baseball at Lincolnshire and if they could utilize these fields. Councilmember Cline said that adding a backstop would allow the fields to be used more often for baseball. Councilmember Willis noted that he did not believe a full a backstop necessary, but the fields could be used for teaching basic skills and practice would be appropriate, even if the fields were not used for games. He added that the town is hoping to upgrade the fields at Lincolnshire soon, which would help provide more usable field space for our community.

I/EDA Member Alley said the project should be different from Lincolnshire and noted that the proposed options appeared more welcoming for older residents as well. Chairperson Spivey explained that the goal of the design request was to create a multigenerational space that people of all ages could enjoy.

Building and Zoning Official Hurley also noted that the restroom should be located outside the floodway.

Mayor Beasley stated that he preferred Option 1 because it offered greater roadway safety and a larger field, although he also liked the green space included in Option 2. He suggested evaluating whether River Drive could be moved to connect to McCann Street. This would open more space and allow for another large field. Chairperson Spivey noted that residents of River Drive were present and asked for their thoughts; they said they would like more time to consider it. Mayor Beasley also said he would like to see River Drive connect to the TMS sports fields, potentially through the gravel lot near the concession stand. This would allow for a large outdoor sports complex. This would require collaboration with multiple property owners. Public Works Director Scrotsky noted that there is already a grass access road in that area, although it currently serves as a property owner's access route.

Chairperson Spivey asked what the next step should be. Mr. Jones said that receiving a consolidated list of feedback would help him move forward and prepare a revised design that reflects the town's needs and priorities.

Public Works Director stated he believed Option 1 best supports the town's sports-focused vision and would be the best fit for current needs.

Chairperson Spivey asked the council members present whether they preferred Option 1, and they all agreed. The group also supported reducing the number of pickleball courts from six to four and finding creative ways to add more parking.

I/EDA Member Smith suggested removing the green space on the east side and replacing it with a field that could also serve as overflow parking or practice space. Renee Addair asked whether the exercise equipment currently on the Barnes Trail could be relocated for use in the new design, and Public Works Director Scrotsky agreed that doing so would make better use of equipment the town already owns.

The group asked how water drainage would be handled near River Drive. Mr. Jones proposed a drainage catch point in the center of the lot that would carry water to the river. Mayor Beasley added that if River Drive, which runs through the middle of the site, were removed, the design could accommodate two larger fields. He also suggested eliminating the current lawn area and shifting development toward the road to create more parking.

Key priorities identified by the group included all-age soccer fields, a small playground, a walking track, exercise equipment, pickleball courts, and additional parking.

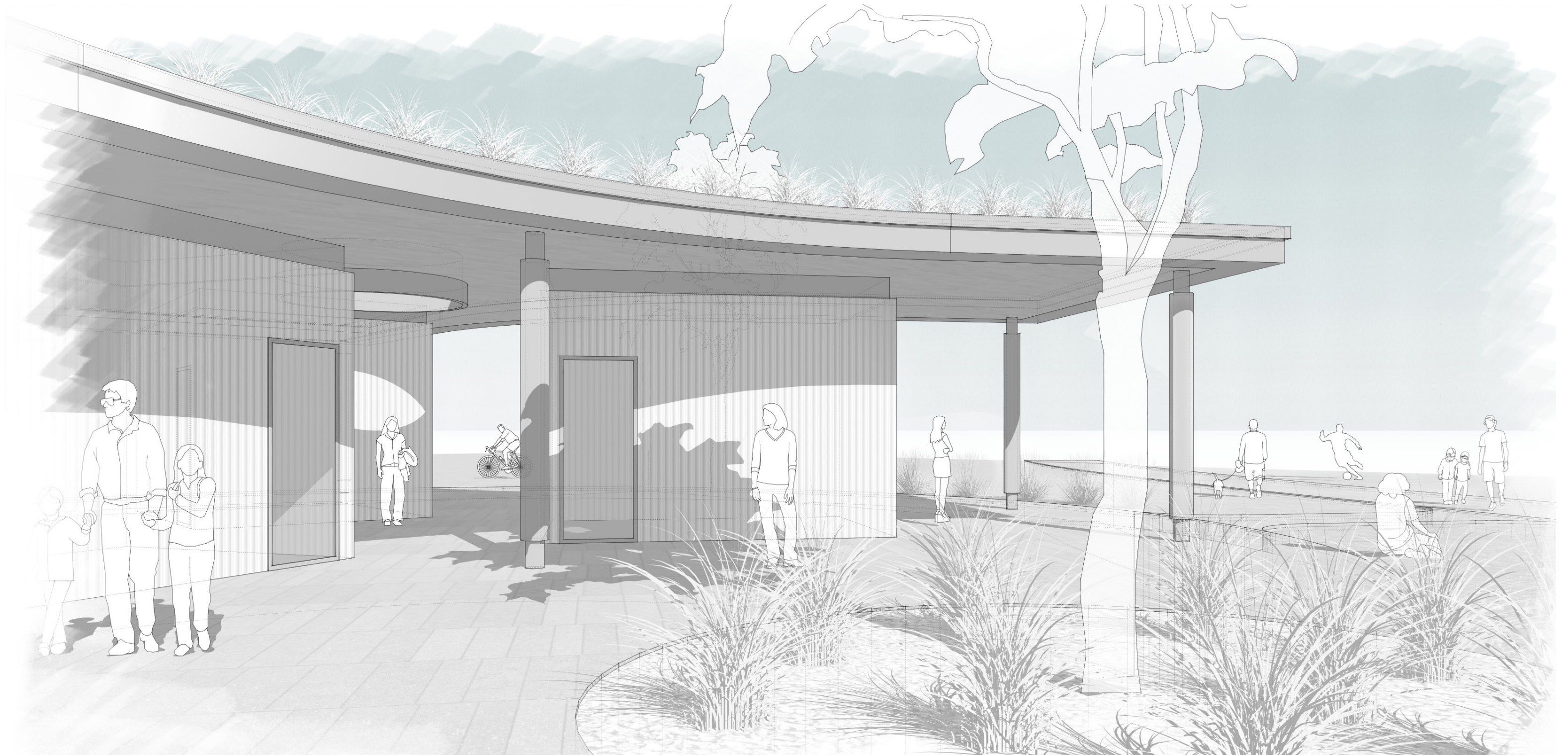
After Mr. Jones receives the group's feedback, another meeting will be scheduled. A decision about River Drive will be needed before he can complete the next phase of the design.

Adjournment

Councilmember Takach made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Cline seconded the motion. On Vote: Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

I/EDA Member Bales made a motion to adjourn. I/EDA Member Smith seconded the motion. On
Vote: I/EDA Chairperson Spivey, aye; I'EDA Member Smith, aye; I/EDA Member Bales, aye;
I/EDA Member Alley, aye.

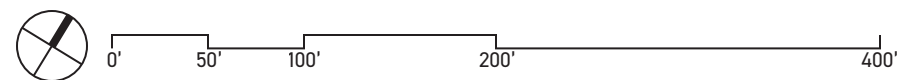
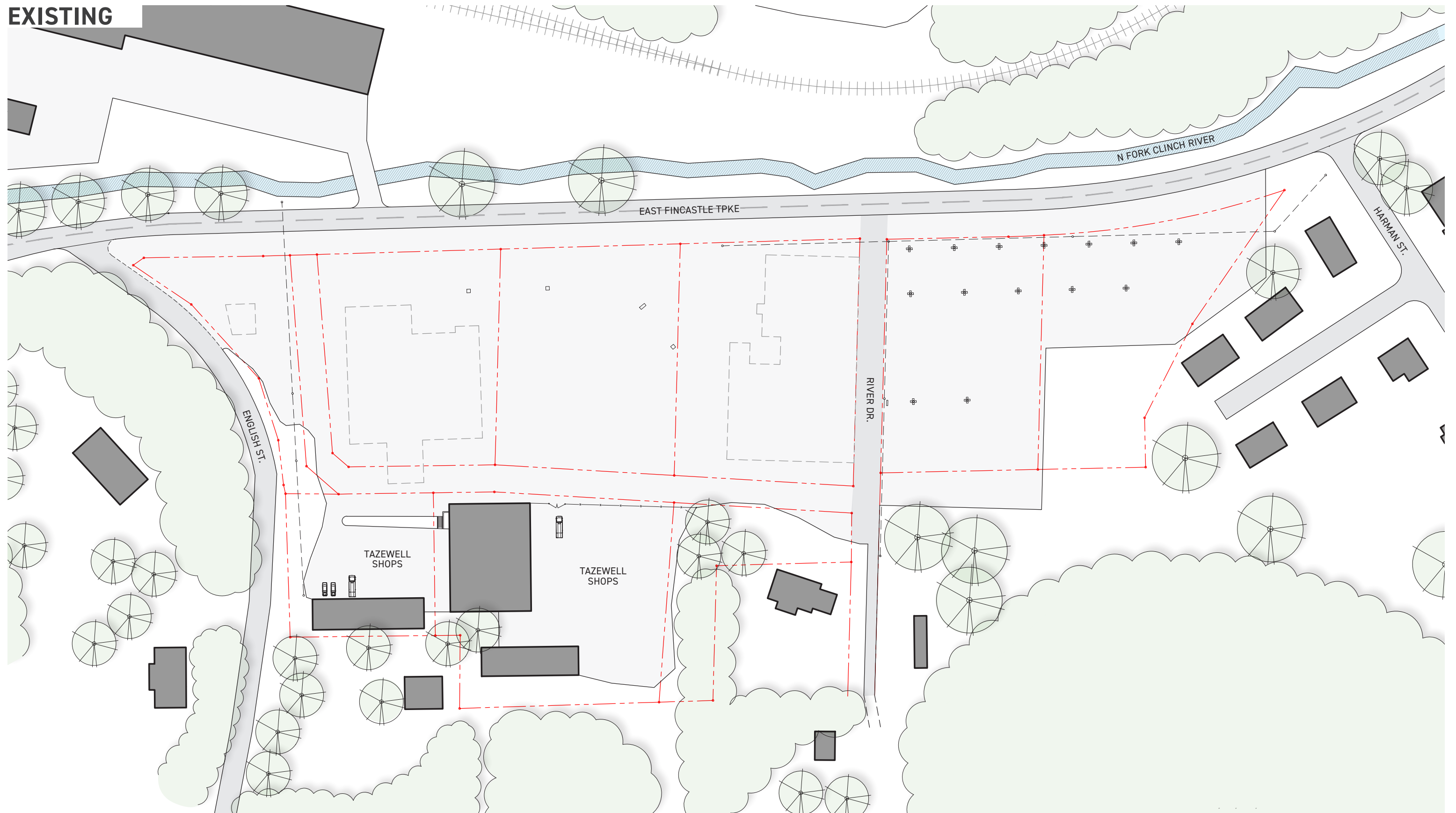
Meeting adjourned at 11:20am.



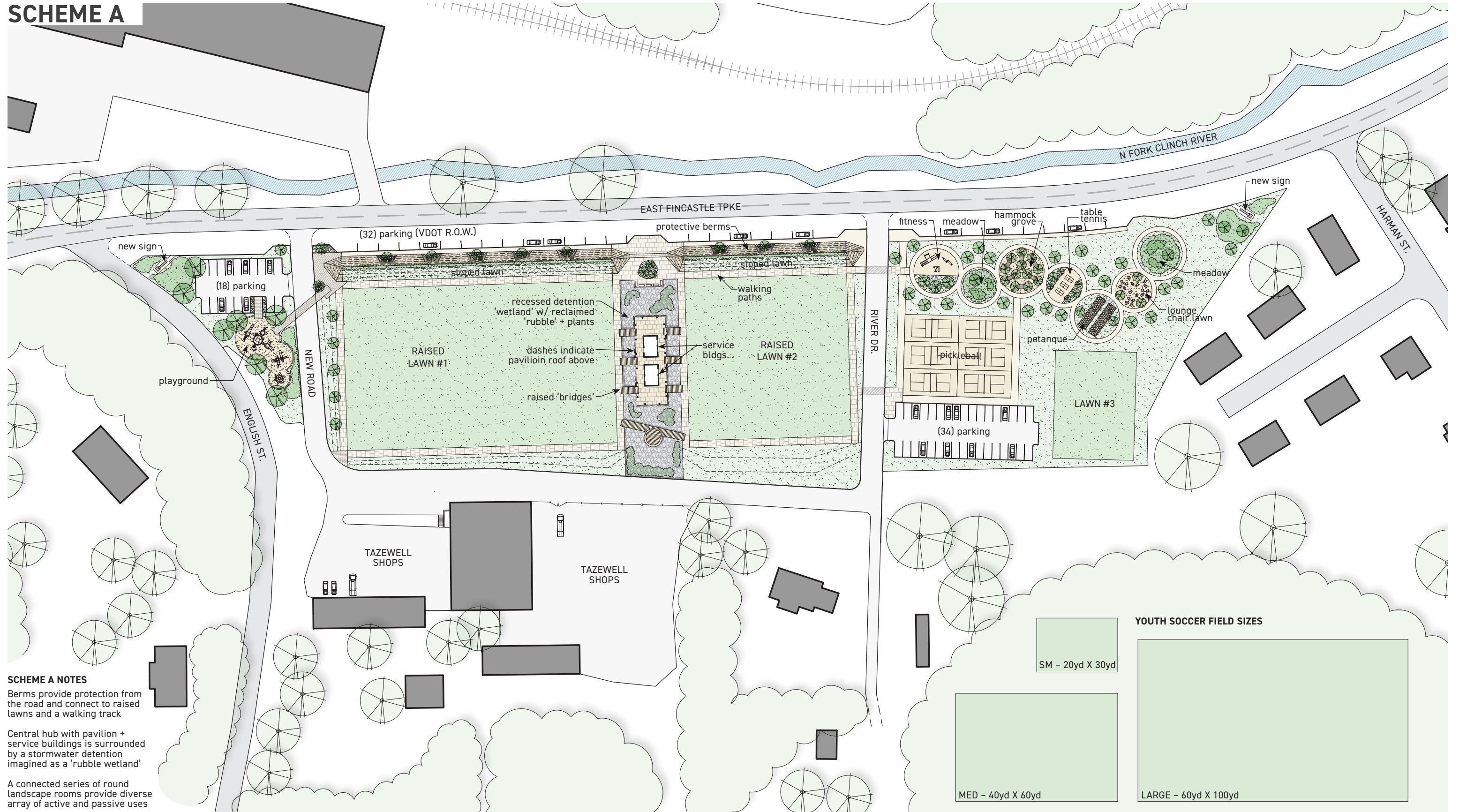
TAZEWELL GATEWAY PARK

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN • ROUND 01

EXISTING



SCHEME A

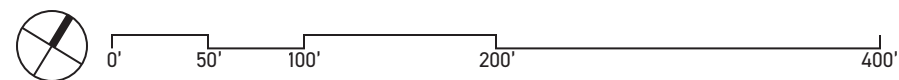


SCHEME A NOTES

Berms provide protection from the road and connect to raised lawns and a walking track

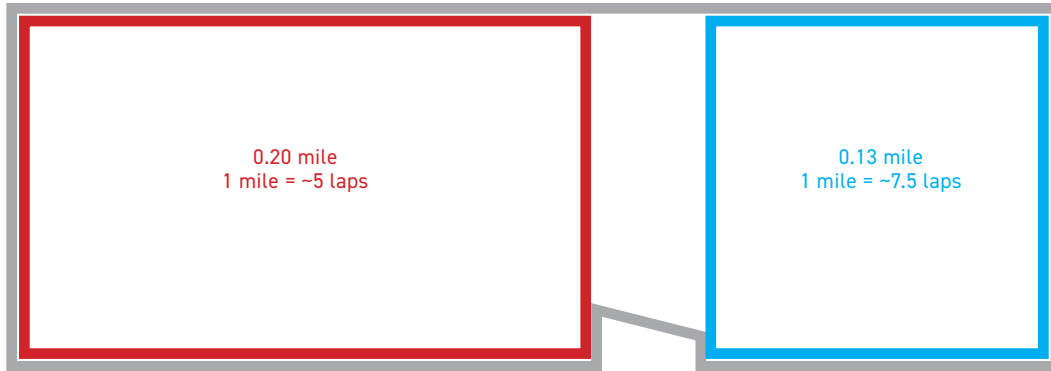
Central hub with pavilion + service buildings is surrounded by a stormwater detention imagined as a 'rubble wetland'

A connected series of round landscape rooms provide diverse array of active and passive uses



SCHEME A - DETAILS

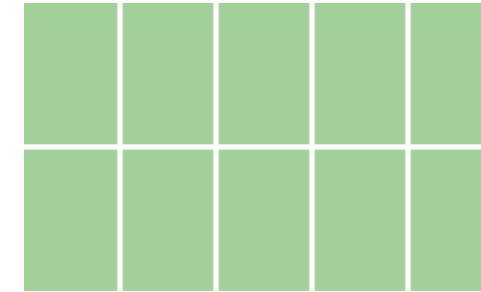
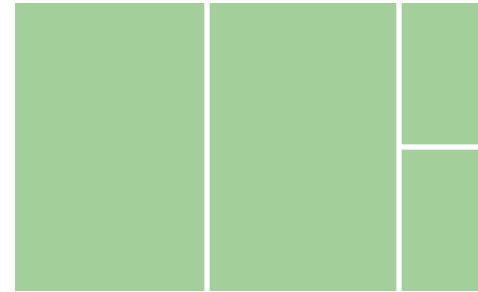
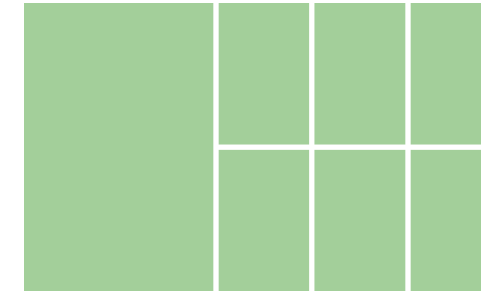
WALKING PATH - LENGTHS



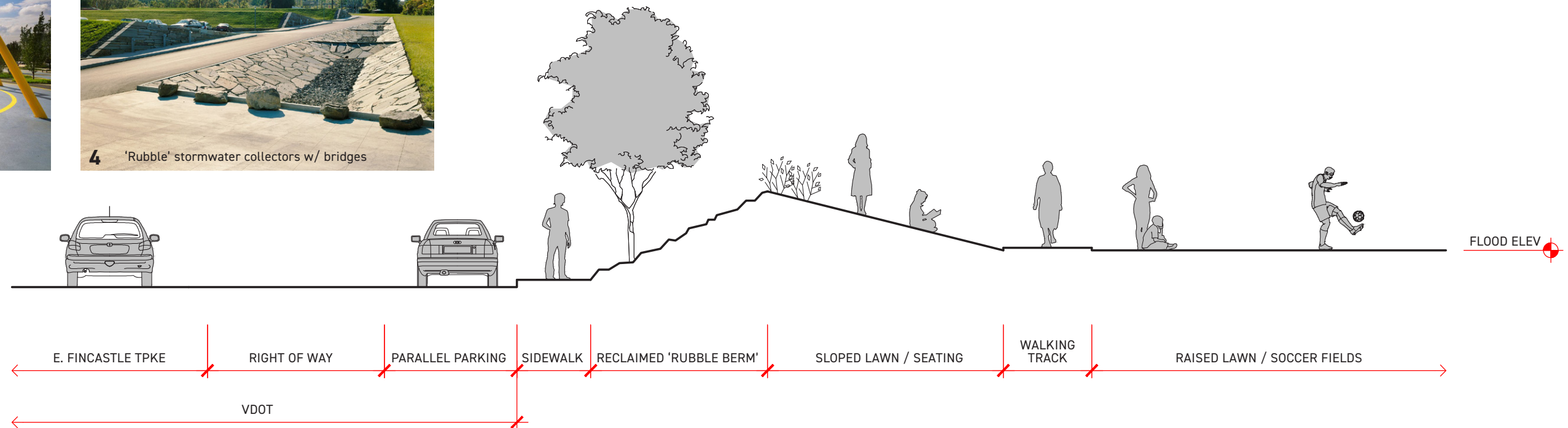
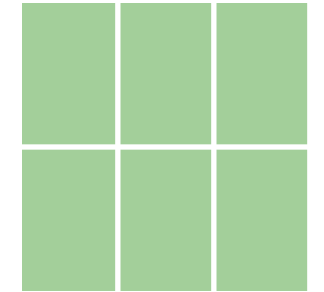
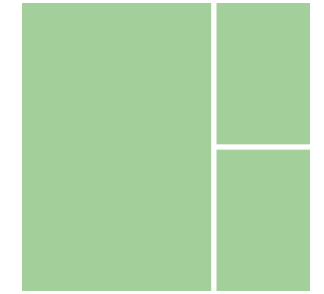
0.28 mile
1 mile = ~4 laps



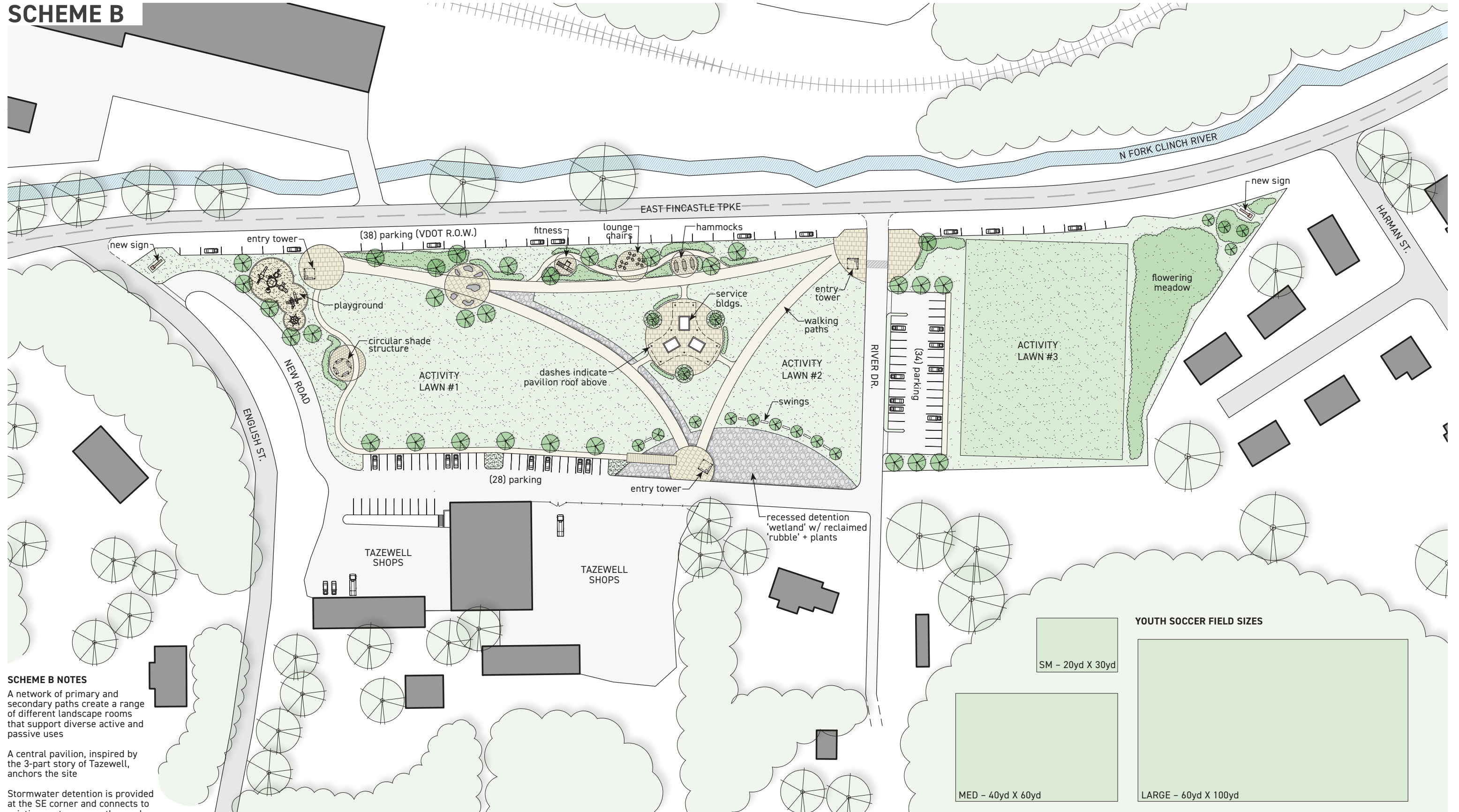
LAWN #1 - FIELD OPTIONS



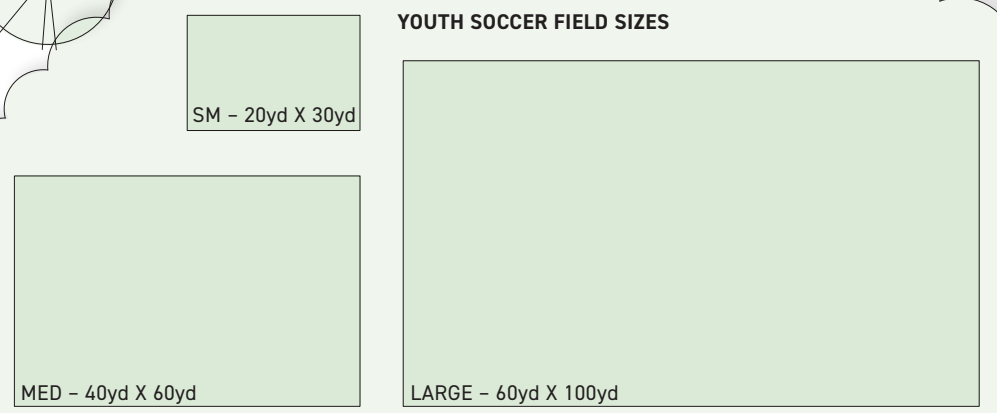
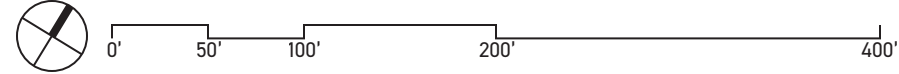
LAWN #2 - FIELD OPTIONS



SCHEME B

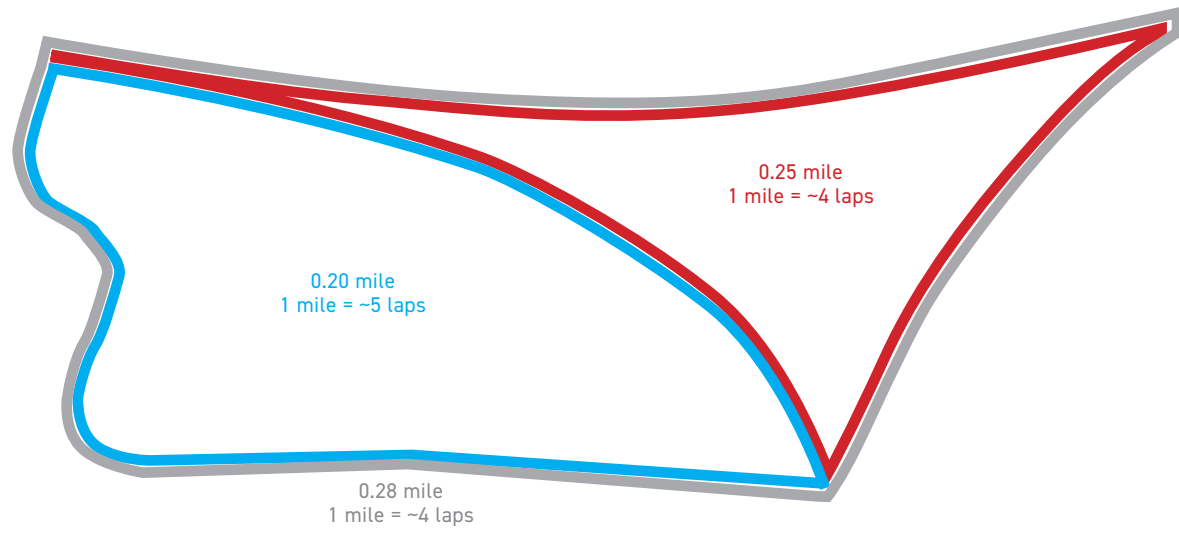


SCHEME B NOTES
 A network of primary and secondary paths create a range of different landscape rooms that support diverse active and passive uses
 A central pavilion, inspired by the 3-part story of Tazewell, anchors the site
 Stormwater detention is provided at the SE corner and connects to existing systems near the road

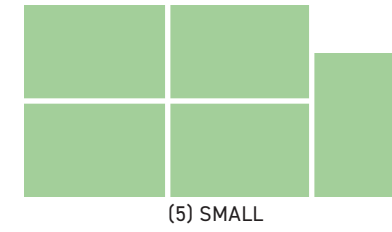
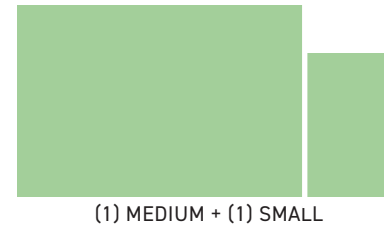


SCHEME B - DETAILS

WALKING PATH - LENGTHS



LAWN #1 - FIELD OPTIONS



LAWN #2 - FIELD OPTIONS



LAWN #3 - FIELD OPTIONS

