



**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**  
**Department of Recreation,  
Parks and Cultural Activities**

# **Fort Ward Park Playground Accessibility Improvements**

## **Pre-Construction Community Meeting**

**September 29, 2025**



# Agenda



<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Project Schedule</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Overview</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Construction Overview</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Questions</b>

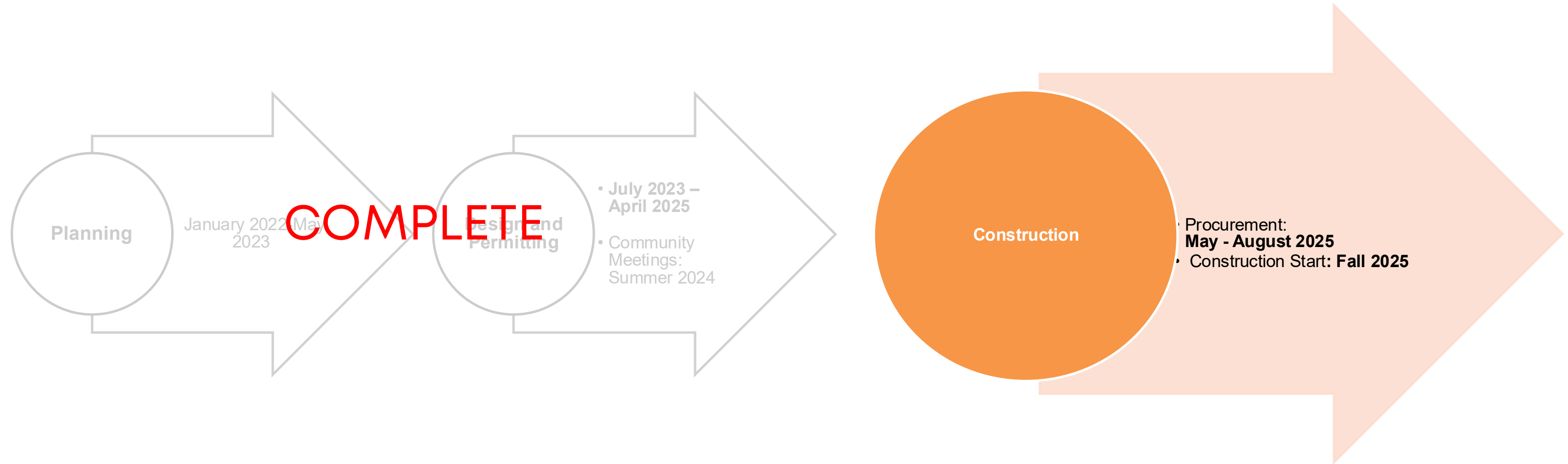


# Community Engagement

January 22, 2022	Community Meeting #1
May 21, 2022	Playground Community Meeting #2/ Site Walk
June 22, 2022	Playground Community Meeting #3 (Virtual)
February 22, 2023	Playground Community Meeting #4 (Virtual)
March 4, 2023 March 11, 2023	Playground Community Open House
February 17 – March 31, 2023	Public Comment Period
May 11, 2023	Playground Community Meeting #5 (Virtual)
December 6, 2023	Playground Community Meeting #6 (Virtual)
December 16, 2023	Playground Community Open House
June 26, 2024	Playground Community Meeting #7 (Virtual)
September 29, 2025	Playground Community Meeting #8 (Virtual)



# Project Schedule



CURRENT STATUS





# Fort Ward Park Playground Accessibility Improvements: Goals and Objectives

- ▶ **Improve Playground Accessibility.** Support the Fort Ward Management Plan recommendation to improve park accessibility by meeting ADA requirements.
- ▶ **Engage Community.** Engage all stakeholders including, the Fort Community descendants, in determining an appropriate location for the playground.
- ▶ **Protect cultural and natural resources.** Limit ground disturbance to minimize impacts. Coordinate and collaborate with Alexandria Archaeology on all project phases, including construction.





# New Playground Location (Area 1/Site B)



**Playground Location**

[https://alexandria.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=29&coa\\_view\\_id=29&coa\\_clip\\_id=5530](https://alexandria.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=29&coa_view_id=29&coa_clip_id=5530)



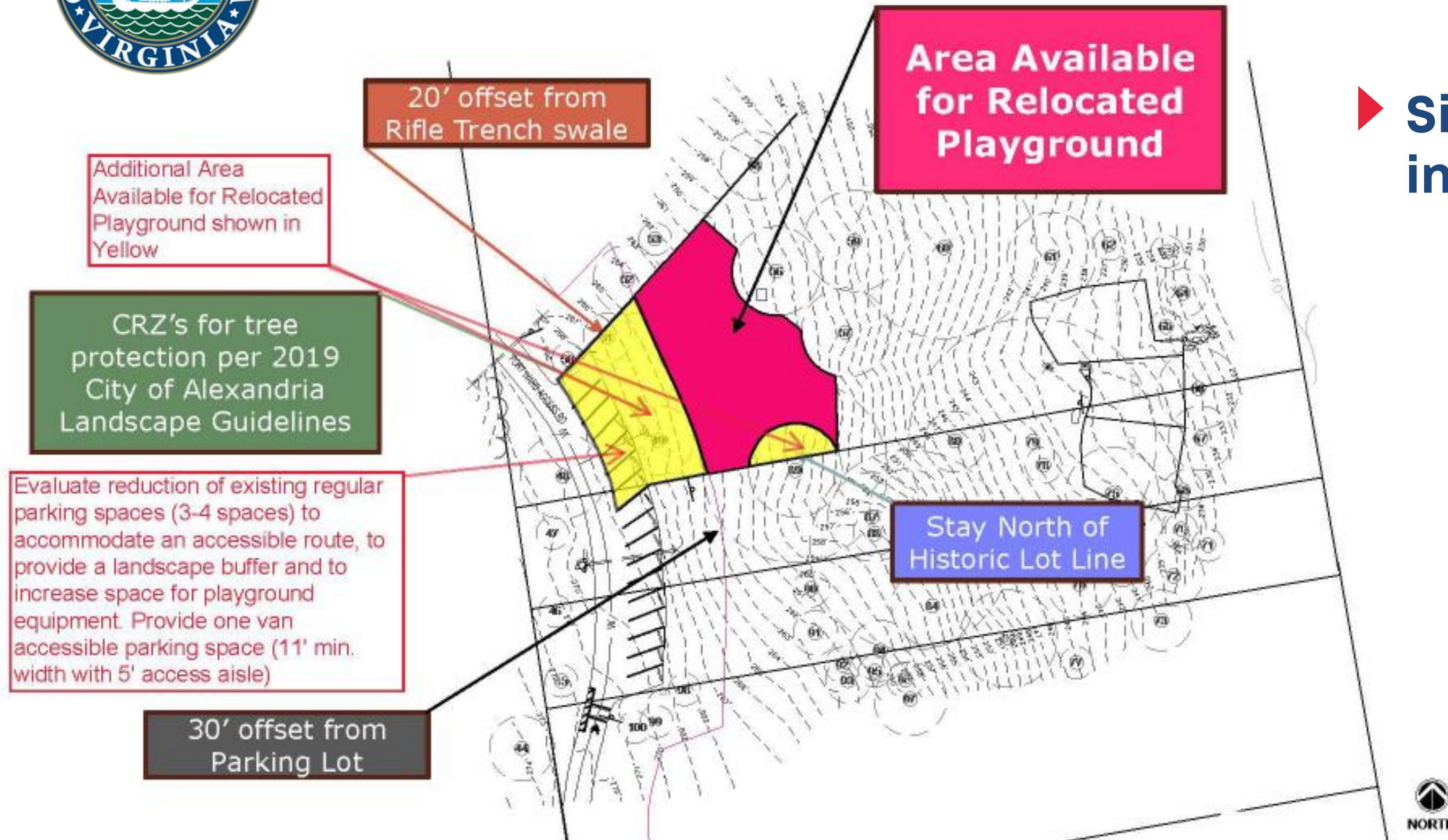


# New Playground Location (Area 1/Site B)

- ▶ Research indicates land historically has been vacant and no homes or structures were built in association with the Fort Community
- ▶ Reduced impacts to natural resources
- ▶ Park restrooms are within walking distance via the park road
- ▶ Existing water source
- ▶ Construction access and reduced land disturbance
- ▶ Remediation of former playground site
- ▶ Public familiarity with current site



# Site Constraints (Area 1/Site B)



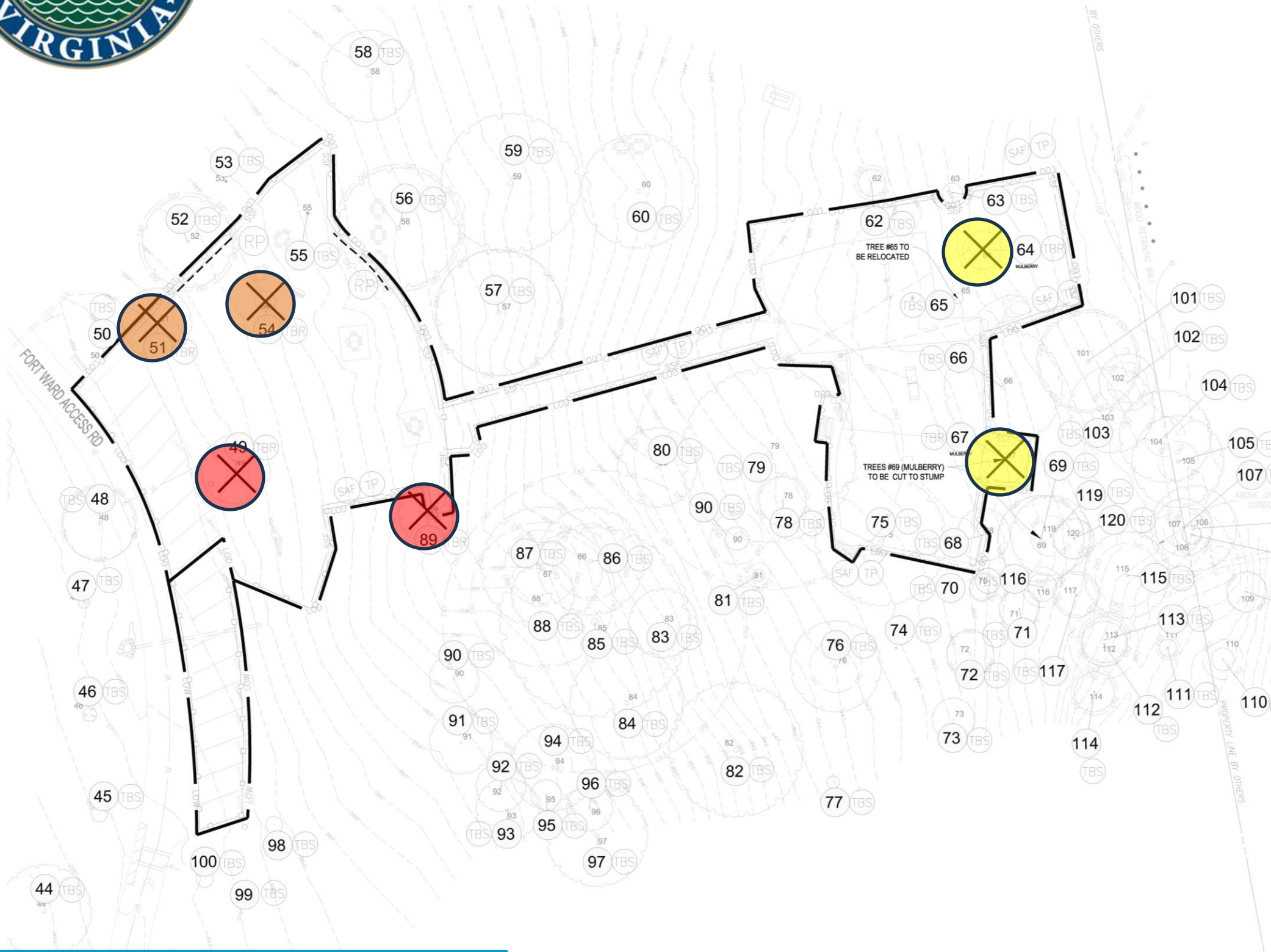
## ► Site Constraints include:

- Historic Lot Line (s)
- Tree Critical Root Zones
- Rifle Trench Buffer
- Safety Buffer from parking lot





# Tree Impacts and Tree Preservation



- ▶ Tree Risk Assessments (TRA) were conducted by the City in 2024 identifying the Persimmon (Tree # 49) and Hickory (Tree #89) as high risk trees to be removed to eliminate the elevated risk near children and families
- ▶ Additional trees to be removed due to tree conditions and site work include
  - Black Cherry (Tree #51)
  - Pin Oak (Tree #54 )
  - Mulberry/*Morus* (Invasive Tree) (Tree# 64 and #69)
- ▶ Tree protection fencing, root pruning, and limited mechanical equipment in sensitive areas



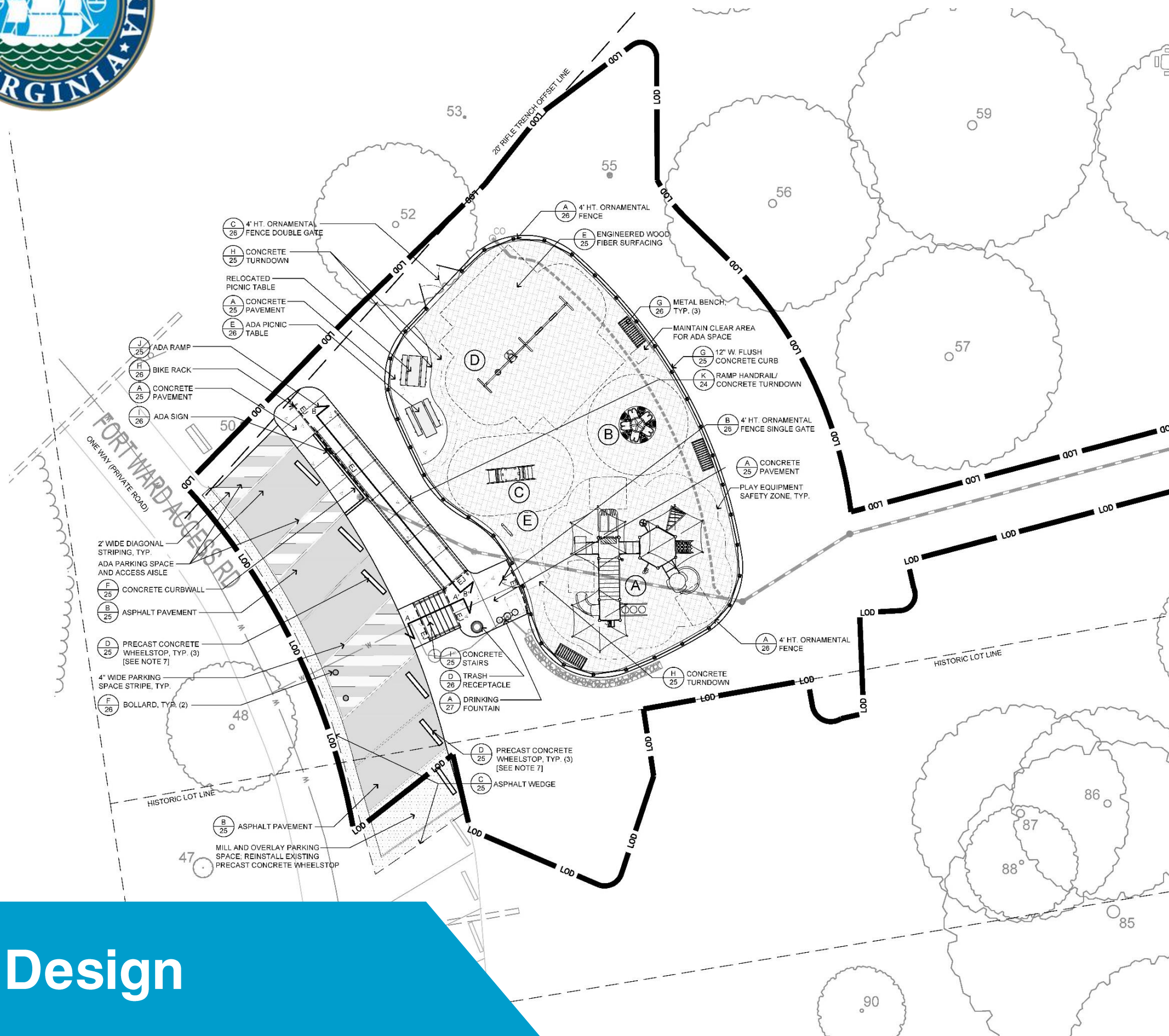


- ▶ **Increase the biodiversity** of native deciduous and evergreen vegetation
  - 28 Nursery Stock Trees
  - 21 Sapling Trees
  - 111 Shrubs
  - 251 Perennials/Grasses
- ▶ **Add successional plantings** to replace older, mature trees
- ▶ **Provide additional shade** in the vicinity of the relocated play area
- ▶ **Support stormwater management**  
Establish forest conservation area
- ▶ **Allocate resources to support tree establishment** – 2 year establishment period





# Fort Ward Park Playground Site Improvements



- ▶ 4' height fence around entire playground perimeter
- ▶ ADA compliant ramp
- ▶ ADA compliant van-accessible parking space
- ▶ ADA compliant water fountain with bottle filler
- ▶ ADA compliant picnic tables and benches
- ▶ Stairwell Entrance
- ▶ Bicycle Parking
- ▶ Final engineered design eliminates retaining walls
- ▶ Level Spreader and Forest Conservation Area

Site Design





# Fort Ward Park Playground Improvements

Accessible Seated Spring  
Rocker;  
ages 2 -12 years

Accessible  
Spinner;  
ages 2 -12 years

Double Bay swing set with 4  
seats  
(2 belt seats, 1 accessible, 1  
tot seat); ages 2- 12 years

Engineered Wood  
Fiber Safety  
Surfacing

Existing Composite Play Structure  
(Miracle Recreation) with updates:

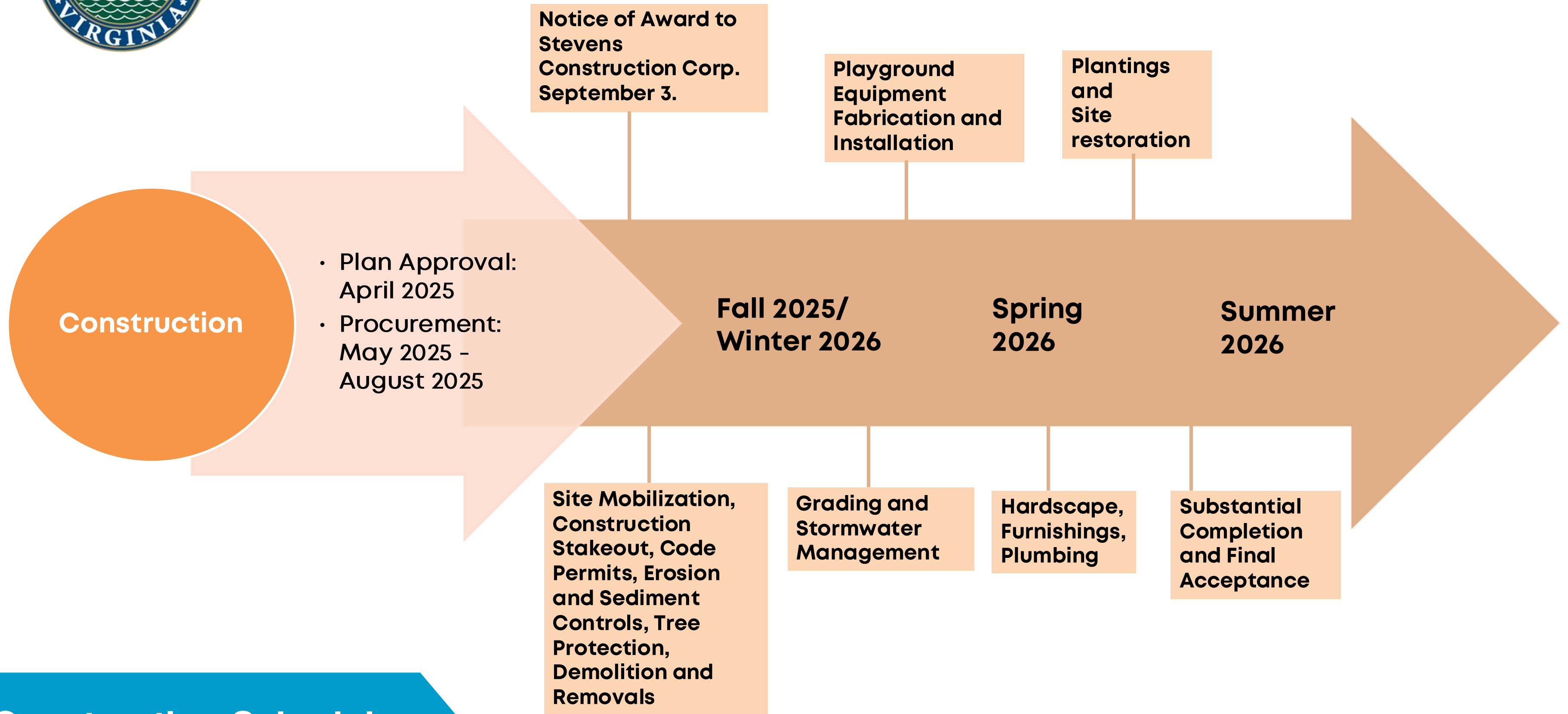
- Fabric roofs to cover slide surfaces
- Spiral slide and climbers for ages 2 – 12 years
- Save other slides, suspension bridge, bongo steps

## Playground Improvements





# Construction Timeline





# Construction Activity



- ▶ Loop road to remain open. Expect intermittent closures for some activities such as paving and deliveries.
- ▶ Construction Hours:  
M-F : 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Saturdays (with advance approval) 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
No work on Sundays
- ▶ Main staging located in Area 1 parking lot.
- ▶ Playground will be closed during construction. Other playground locations can be found [here](#).





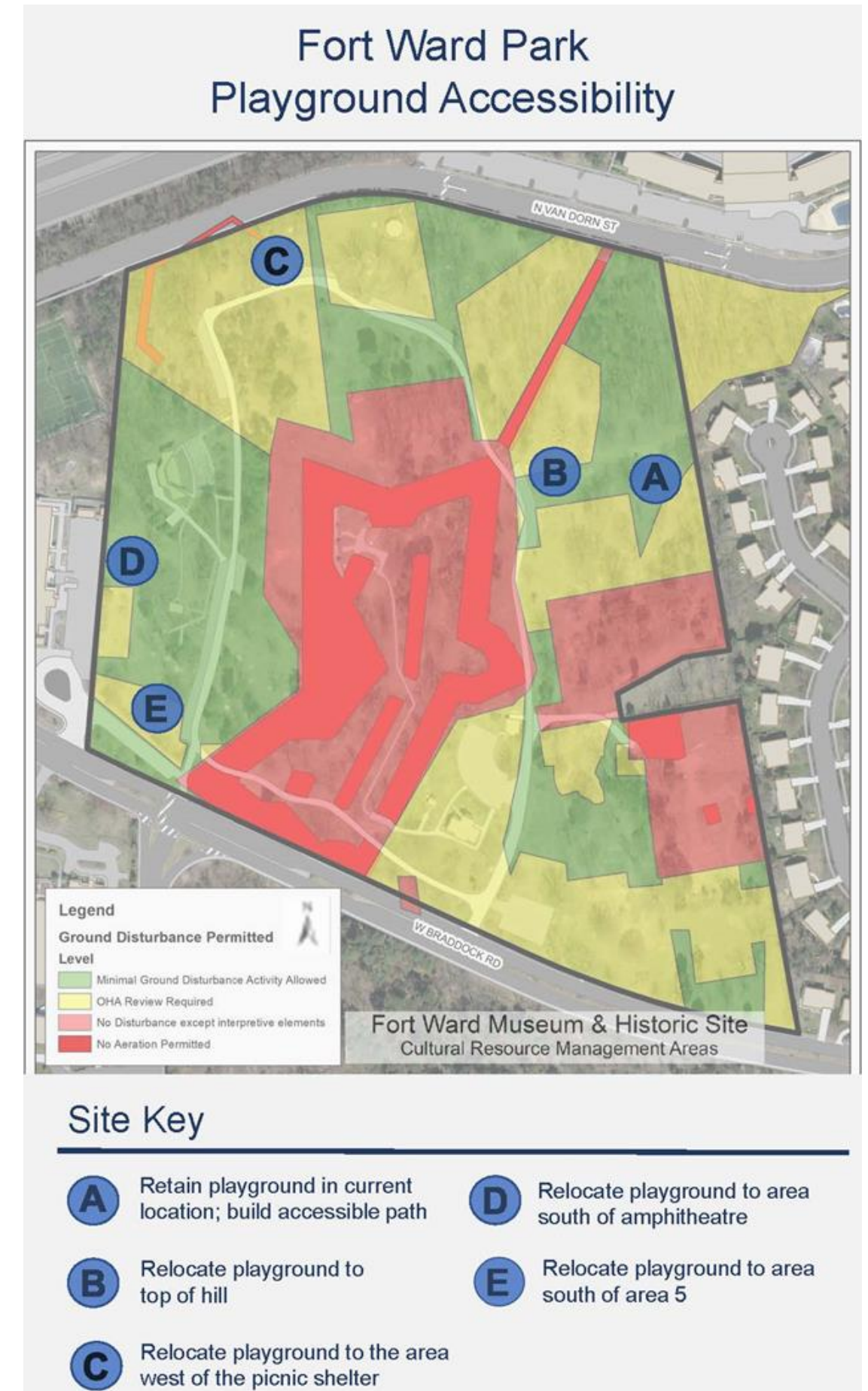
# Ground Disturbance Protocols

Based on past archaeological and historical research, the park is divided into “cultural resource sensitivity areas” that identify both Civil War and Fort Community resources. Alexandria Archaeology reviews all ground disturbing projects proposed for Fort Ward as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the park under Guidelines for Ground Disturbance Resources as outlined below:

## The Review Steps for Cultural Resources:

1. Notify OHA a minimum of seven (7) days before work is to begin in **Yellow** Shaded and **Red** Shaded areas.
2. Courtesy notification preferred for work to take place in **Green** Shaded areas.
3. OHA will review the proposed work site and, when necessary, clearly work with RPCA and T&ES to mark off areas where ground disturbance may occur in accordance with the Management Plan.
4. All capital projects (i.e., planned site improvements) shall include funding and related resources for archaeology in the project timeline and budget. Regardless of location, all ground disturbers must be made aware of the **Call If Finds** requirement in Section IV—Responsibilities of Ground Disturbers, no matter how small the ground-disturbing activity.
5. There will be no disturbance to identified burial locations; all burials will be protected in place. If evidence of burials is discovered during any ground disturbing activities, OHA will immediately update the map showing levels of ground disturbance to ensure that the area of the burials is shaded red. The newly discovered burials will also be protected in place.

## Ground Disturbance







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**Department of Recreation,  
Parks and Cultural Activities**

# Questions and Comments

**Project Webpage:**

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-implementation-projects>

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