



**NYC Parks**

# **RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK**

Located at 109th Street in Riverside Park,  
Borough of Manhattan

Landmarks Preservation Commission  
July 19, 2016

W Architecture & Landscape Architecture,  
Parks Capital Design

## GOALS

- Update skate park to today's skating standards and community desires
- Enhance and add to the environmental amenities of the site, protect existing trees, add robust planting
- Provide for passive use of the site and add seating
- Eliminate majority of fencing

**TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 1,800,000**

\$ 1,150,000 Councilmember Mark Levine

\$ 300,000 Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

\$ 350,000 Councilmember Helen Rosenthal

**PROJECT SIZE:** 0.70 acres (approximately)





MANHATTAN

CITY

2 MI



UPPER WEST SIDE  
RIVERSIDE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD

1000'



HUDSON RIVER

HENRY HUDSON  
PARKWAY

SKATE PARK

RIVERSIDE PARK

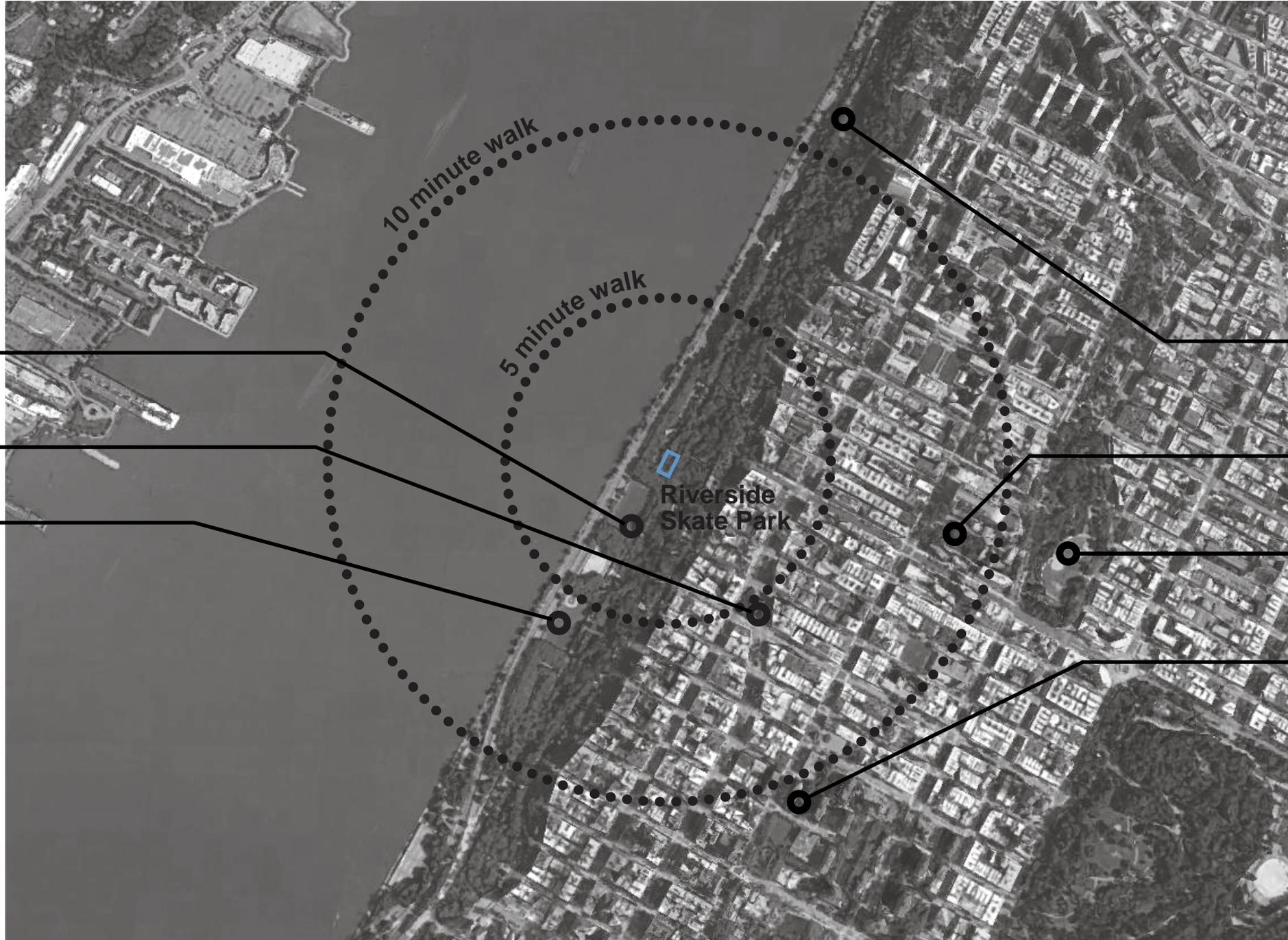
RIVERSIDE  
DRIVE

SITE

200'



# RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK | PROJECT LOCATION



RIVERSIDE PARK  
soccer fields

STRAUS PARK  
small landscaped park

RIVERSIDE PARK  
baseball and  
soccer fields

10 minute walk

5 minute walk

Riverside  
Skate Park

TENNIS COURTS  
RIVERSIDE PARK

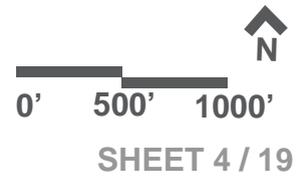
WEST 111TH STREET  
PEOPLES GARDEN  
public garden

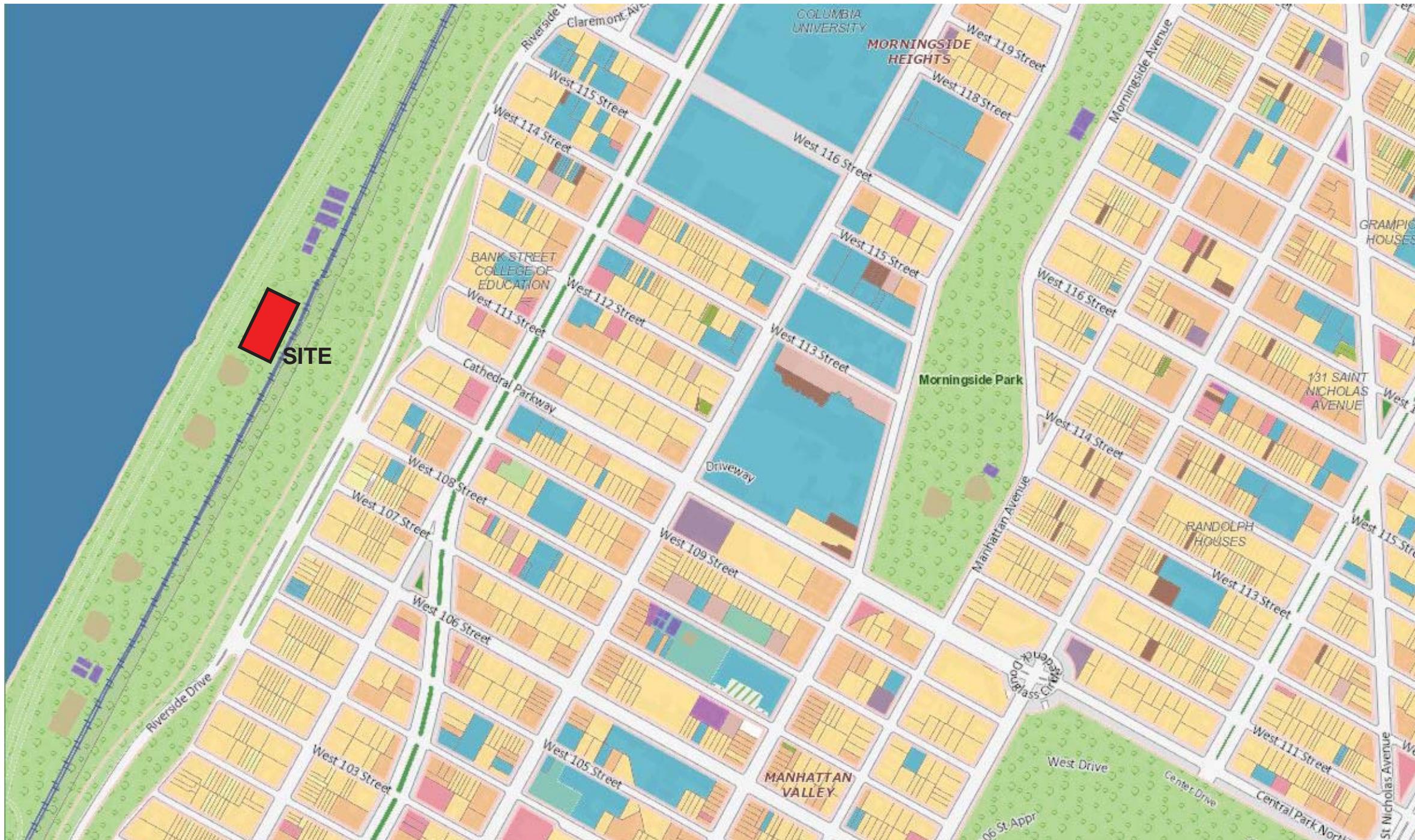
MORNINGSIDE PARK  
playgrounds, athletic  
fields, arboretum

FREDERICK DOUGLAS  
PLAYGROUND  
basketball courts,  
handball courts, pool,  
and playgrounds



# RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK | NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITIES





### LAND USE CATEGORIES

- PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS
- 1 AND 2 FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- MIXED USE
- OPEN SPACE
- COMMERCIAL
- INSTITUTIONAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- PARKING
- TRANSPORTATION / UTILITIES
- VACANT LOTS
- BASKETBALL / HANDBALL / TENNIS COURTS
- BASEBALL/SOCCER/ FOOTBALL FIELDS



## RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK | LAND USE





## FLOOD HAZARD ZONES

- ZONE AE** - 1% annual-chance flood event. BFE exists.
  
- VE** - Areas along coasts subject to inundation by the 1% annual-chance flood event with additional hazards associated with storm-induced velocity wave action. BFE exists.
  
- ZONE X** - Moderate risk areas within the 0.2% annual-chance floodplain.
  
- LIMIT OF MODERATE WAVE ACTION**



## RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK | FLOOD RISK





**RIVERSIDE PARK AS CONCEIVED BY FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED (POST CARD CIRCA 1910)**



**PHOTOGRAPH OF NEWLY OPENED STRETCH OF THE HENRY HUDSON PARKWAY IN RIVERSIDE PARK LOOKING NORTH FROM 72ND STREET ON DECEMBER 6, 1937**

**Left: Riverside Park as conceived by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1880s. Post card shows mature trees, carriage road (Riverside Drive), and Grant's Tomb in the background.**

**Right: The Henry Hudson Parkway, the Freedom Tunnel, and the expansion of Riverside Park between 72nd Street and were constructed concurrently as the West Side Improvement project (constructed between 1934-1937).**



**RIVERSIDE PARK PLAYGROUND (SITE OF CURRENT SKATE PARK), CIRCA 1938**



**ANDY KESSLER AS PHOTOGRAPHED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES IN 1998**

**Left: After the opening of the expanded Riverside Park, the location of the current skate park, seen here, was originally a playground with benches surrounding the enclosed play space.**

**Right: The late Andy Kessler, New York City resident and lifetime skateboarder, constructed Riverside Skate Park in 1996 with the help of a group of 20 teenage skaters from West Harlem and the Upper West Side.**

**At the time, Riverside Skate Park was the first roller blade and skateboard park in New York City.**

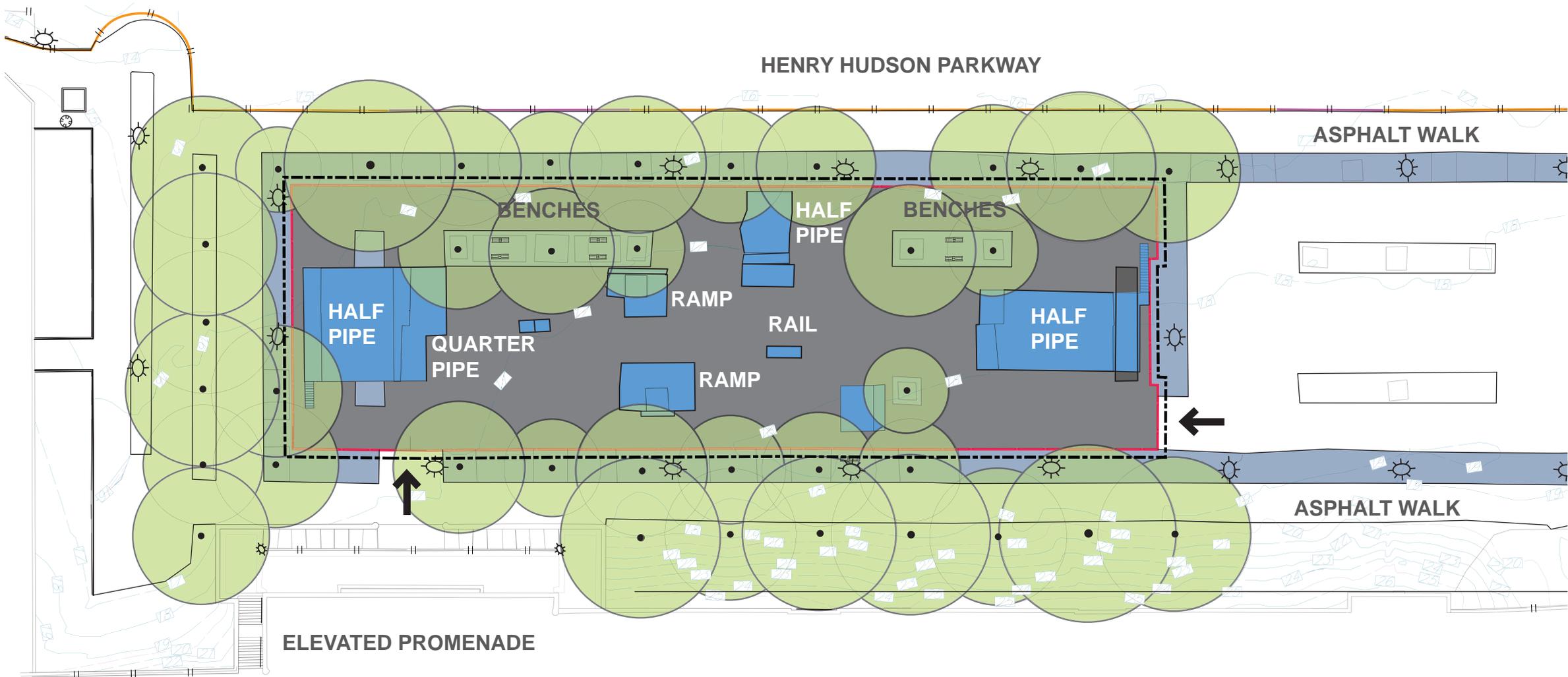


Images from 1996, the year of the construction of Riverside Skate Park, demonstrate the collaboration between the New York City Parks Department, the skate park's visionaries, and the volunteer / youth based construction effort.

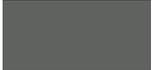


TOP ROW: CLAY MODELS BUILT WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY

BOTTOM ROW: CONSTRUCTION OF SKATE PARK AND OPENING DAY WITH KESSLER



**LEGEND**

-  EXISTING TREE
-  PROJECT AREA
-  CHAIN LINK FENCE (8' HIGH)
-  IRON FENCE (3' HIGH)
-  TEMP. FENCE FOR PARKWAY ACCESS (3' HIGH)
-  EXISTING LIGHTS
-  SQUARE PAVERS
-  ASPHALT PAVING
-  SKATE PARK FEATURES



**RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK | Existing Conditions**





**1 - EXISTING SKATE PARK**

Skate park bounded by chain link fence.



**2 - EXISTING AND RAMPS**

Mini half pipe.



**3 - EXISTING MINI-RAMP**

Mini ramp used primarily by in-line skaters



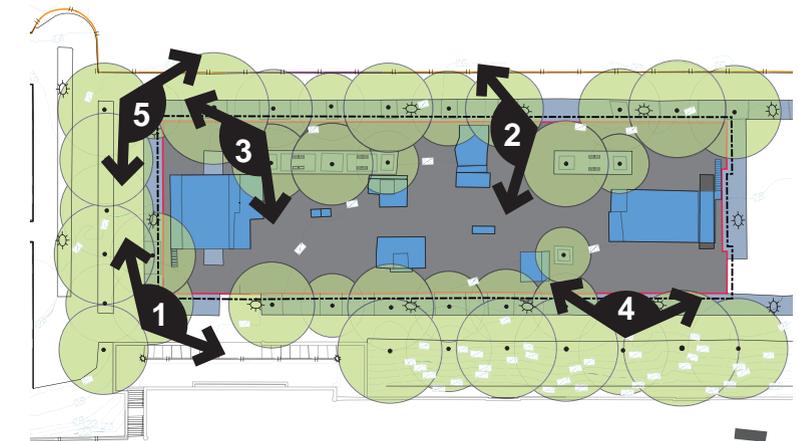
**4 - EXISTING HALF-PIPE**

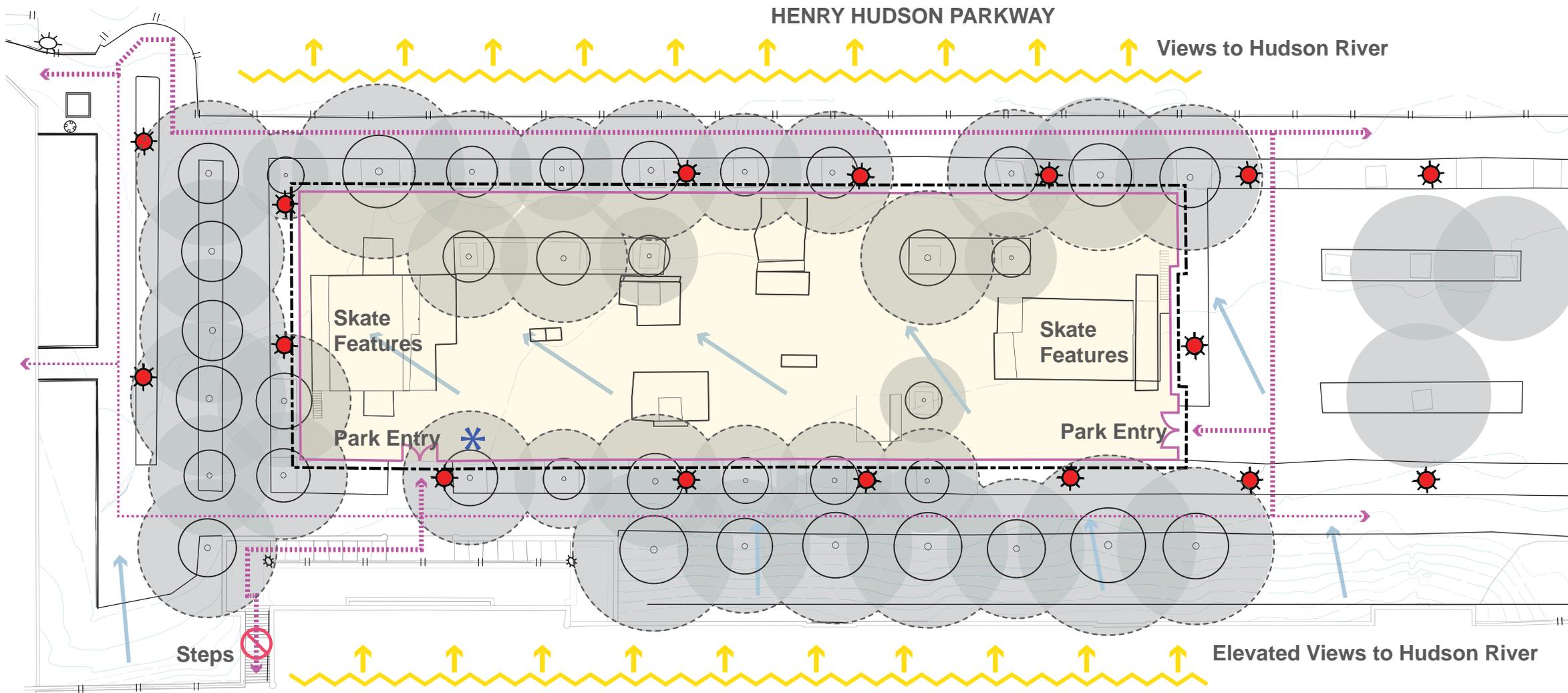
Existing half-pipe is the park's largest skate feature



**5 - TREES AND BENCHES IN SKATE PARK**

Some healthy trees and benches remain in the park



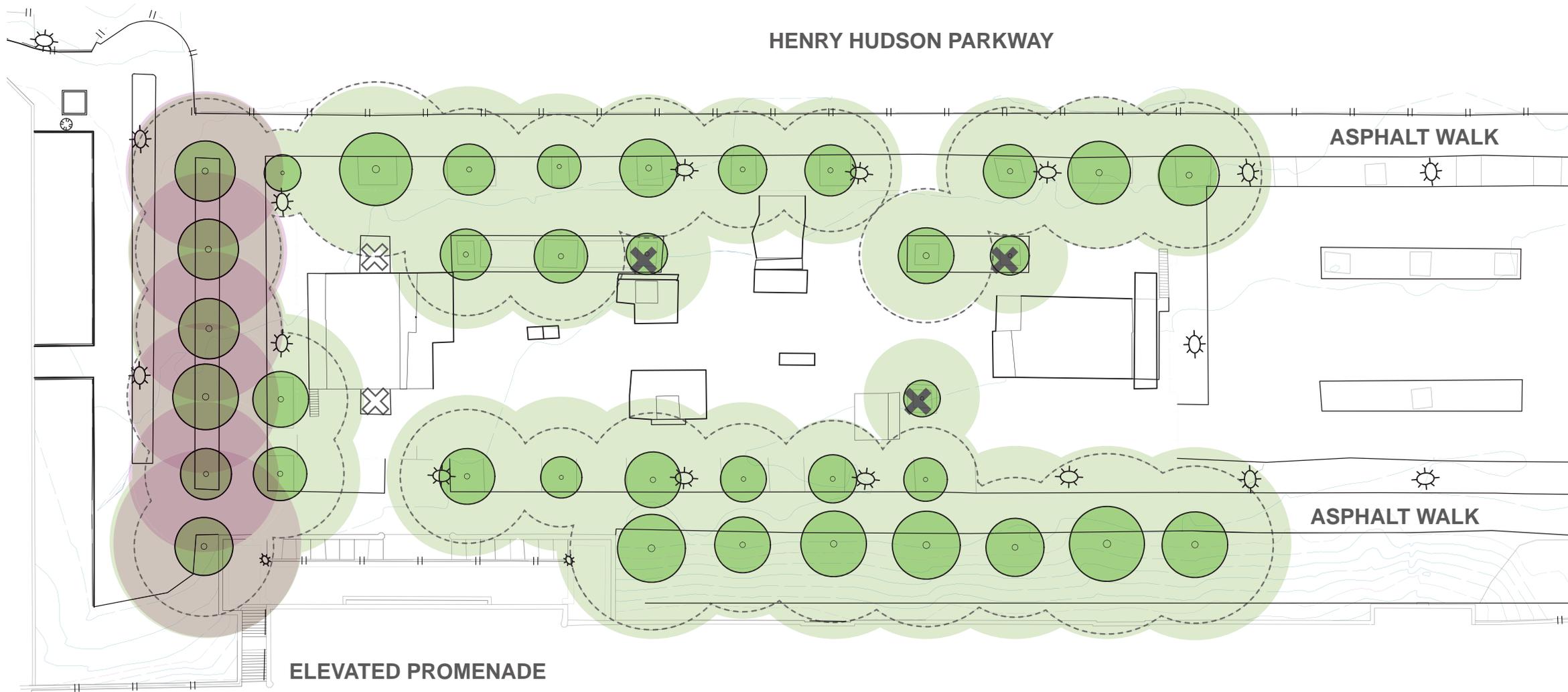


- ### LEGEND
- PROJECT AREA
  - CIRCULATION
  - ⊘ NO ADA ACCESS
  - CHAIN LINK FENCE
  - SKATE PARK ENTRY
  - ✱ DRINKING FOUNTAIN
  - ☀ EXISTING LIGHTS  
B-9 LIGHT POLE (TYP.) WITH RIVERSIDE LUMINAIRE
  - SHADE
  - SKATE ZONE
  - ➔ DIRECTION OF SLOPE
  - ⬆ VIEWS
  - CHAIN LINK FENCE
  - SKATE PARK ENTRY



## RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK | SITE ANALYSIS





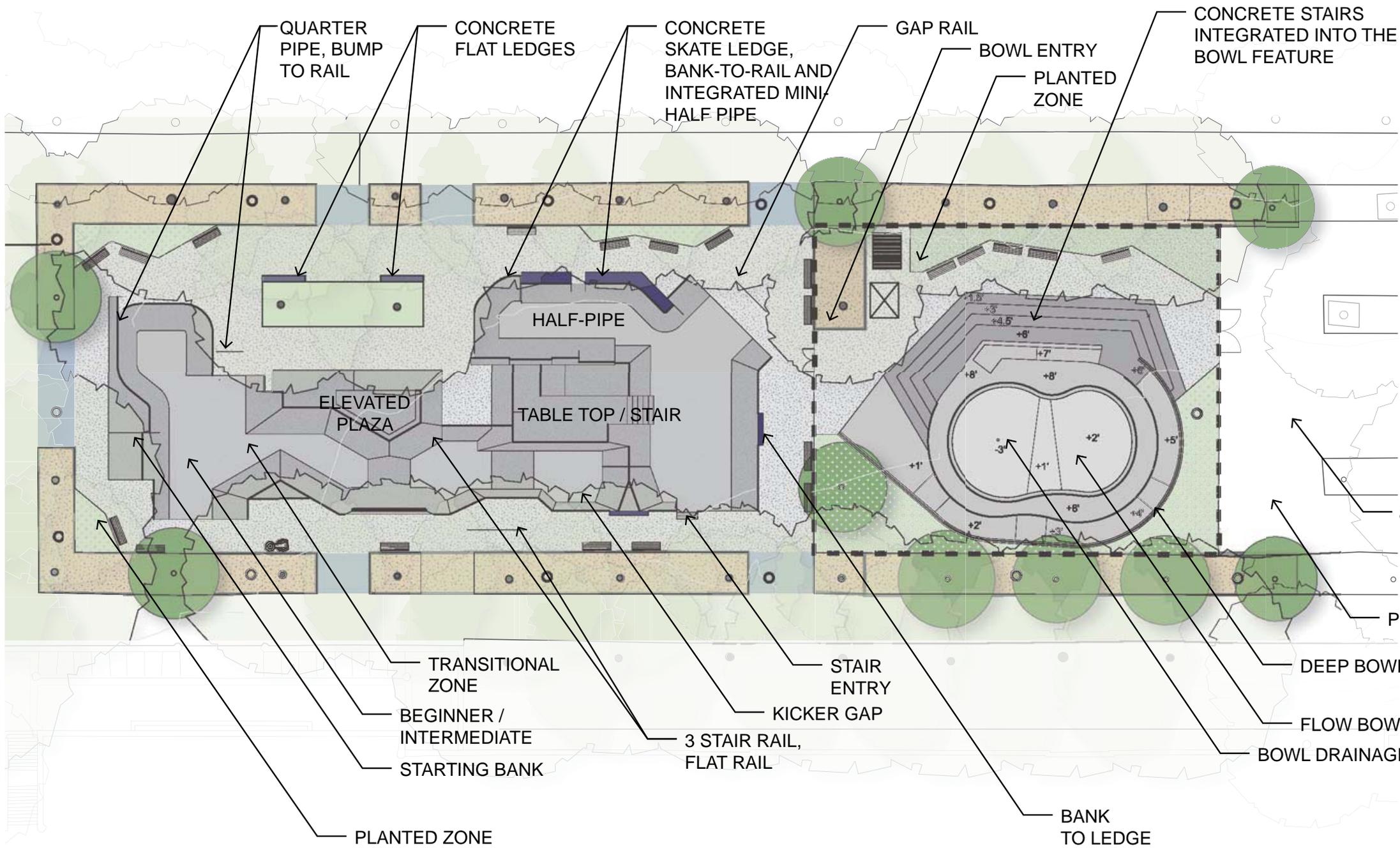
**LEGEND**

-  CANOPY
-  STRUCTURAL ROOT ZONE
-  CRITICAL ROOT ZONE
-  STUMP REMOVAL DUE TO CONDITION
-  TREE REMOVAL DUE TO CONDITION

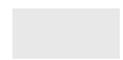
**EXISTING TREE SPECIES**

-  PIN OAK
-  LONDON PLANE TREE





### LEGEND

-  CIRCULATION
-  SKATE PARK ENTRY
-  8' HIGH FENCED SKATE ZONE
-  ASPHALT ENTRANCES
-  CONCRETE SKATE FEATURES
-  CONCRETE PAVING
-  PROPOSED PLANTED ZONE
-  PROPOSED OPEN TREE PITS
-  PROPOSED PAVER ZONE
-  PROPOSED TYPE 'B' BENCH
-  PROPOSED PIN OAK



## RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK | PROPOSED SKATE PARK

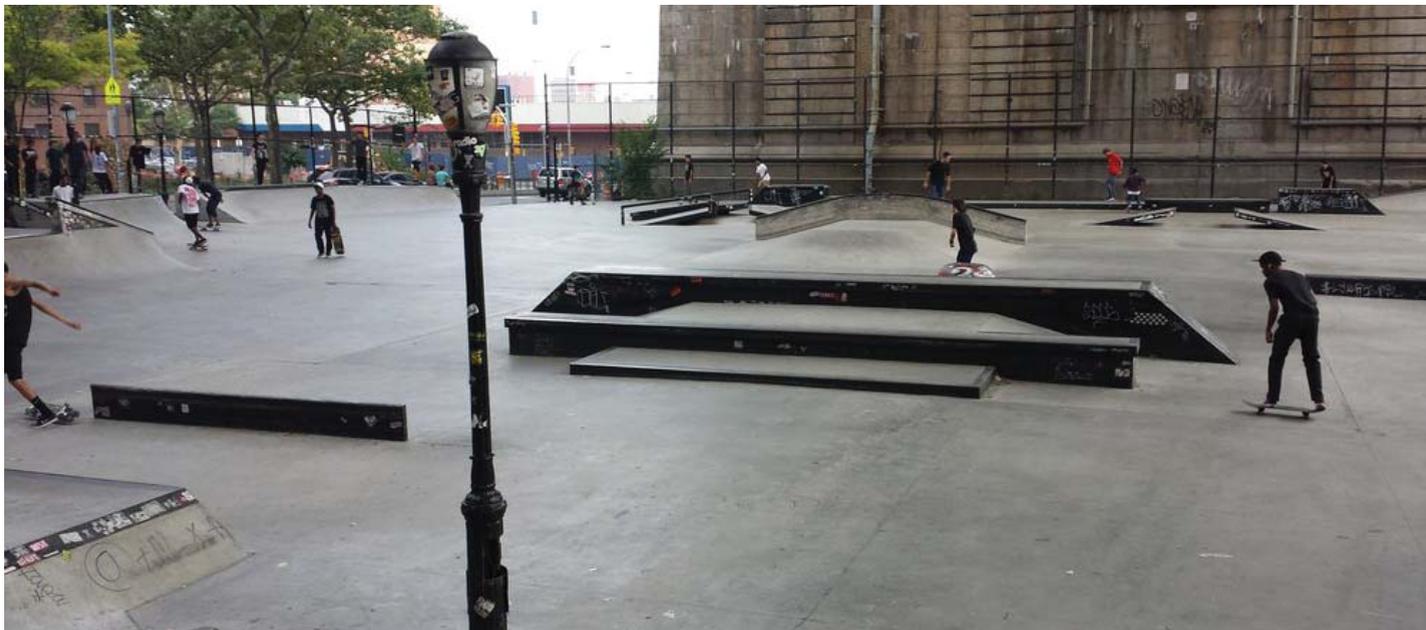




ROCKAWAY SKATE PARK, QUEENS, NY



BARCELONA, SPAIN



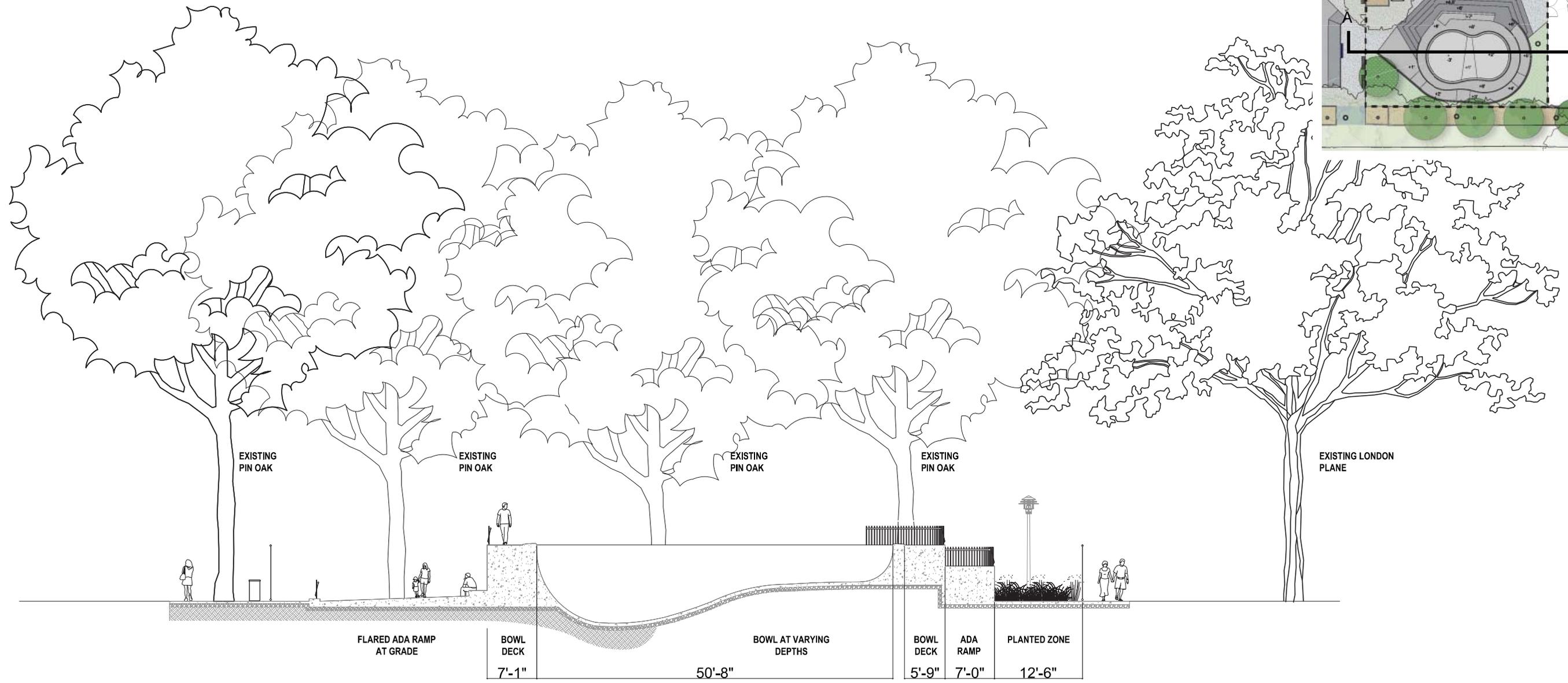
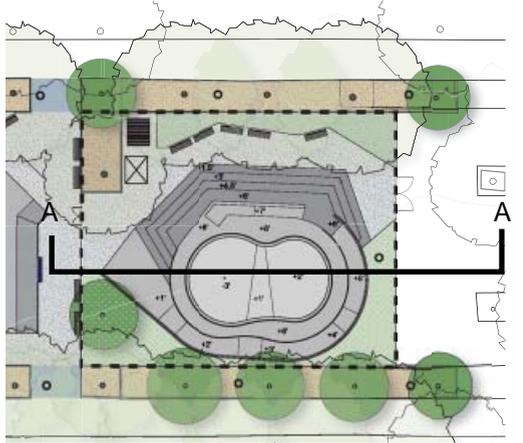
COLEMAN SKATE PARK, NEW YORK, NY



OWL'S HEAD PARK, BROOKLYN, NY



## RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK | PRECEDENT SKATE PARKS

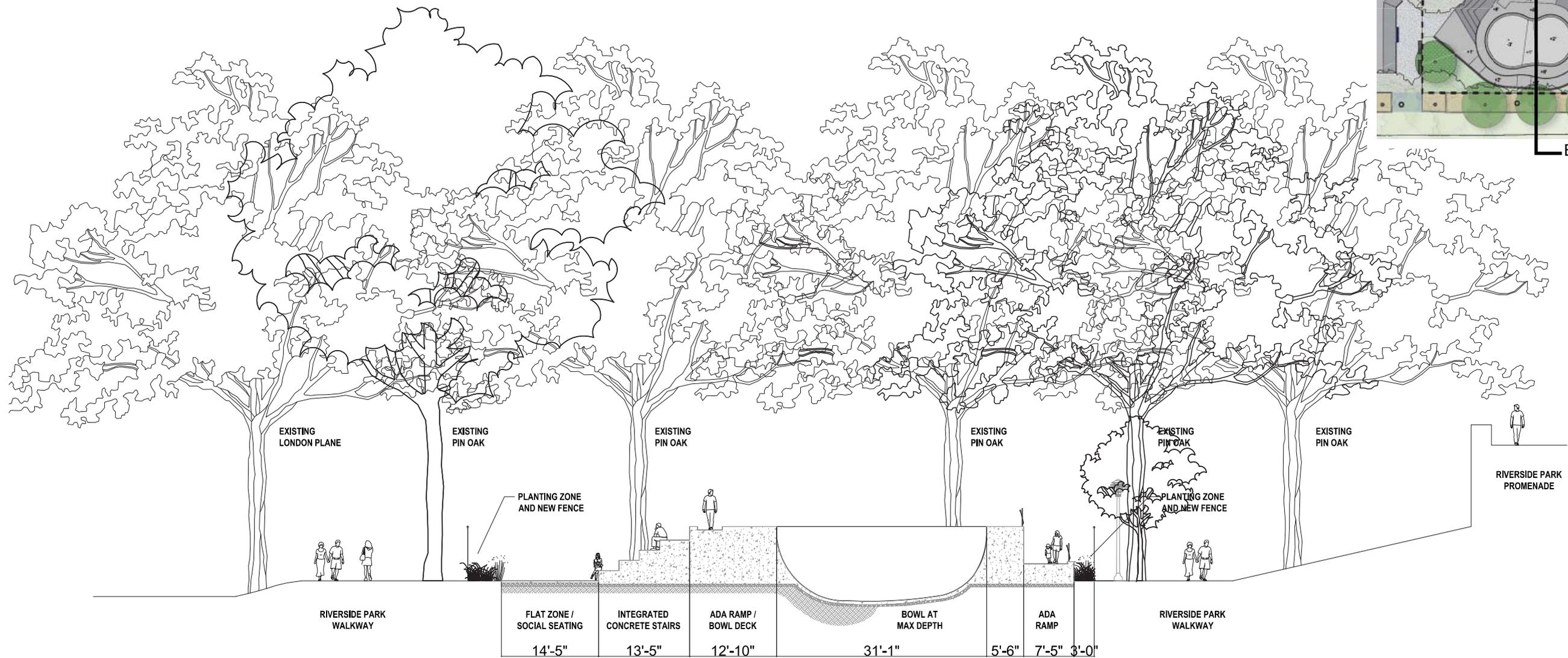
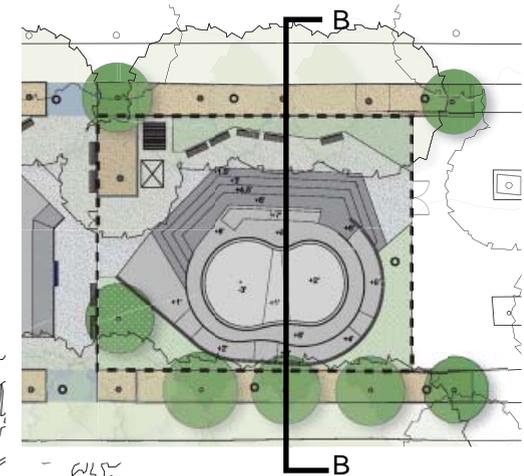


SECTION A - A



RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK | PROPOSED BOWL SECTION





SECTION B - B



RIVERSIDE SKATE PARK | PROPOSED BOWL SECTION





TYPE 'B' BENCHES WITH KEBONY PINE WOOD



B-9 WITH RIVERSIDE LUMINARIE



PIN OAK - QUERCUS PALUSTRIS



CHAIN LINK FENCE - 8' HIGH



TYPE 'E' HIGH / LOW DRINKING FOUNTAIN



LONDON WALK PAVERS AND TYPE 'B' BENCH



18" HIGH WICKET



*Taxus x media* - Dense yew



*Vinca minor* - Periwinkle



*Pachysandra procumbens* - Allegheny spurge



*Polystichum acrostioides* - Christmas fern

