

# Community Meeting #1

# Henry Hansen Memorial Park

Somerville, MA

## AGENDA

- Introductions
- Design Schedule
- History
- Existing Conditions & Site Analysis
- Possible Precedents
- Questions for Discussion

**Monday March 26, 2018**

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

# INTRODUCTIONS

## **City of Somerville**

Bryan Bishop, Commissioner of Veterans' Services

## **CBA Landscape Architects LLC**

D.J. Chagnon, Principal-in-Charge & Project Manager

Jessica Choi & Liz Thompson, Staff Landscape Designers

**Community Meeting 1 (March 26, 2018):** Present history, site analysis, and precedents. Gather community input, and develop wish list to guide Schematic Designs for future meetings.

**Community Meeting 2 (Late April 2018):** Present Schematic Design Alternatives based on first meeting input. Community review and discussion, with the goal of developing a final Preferred Design Plan.

**Community Meeting 3 (Early June 2018):** Present Definitive Design for park construction, including features and site furnishings based on community discussion at Meeting 2. With community input, discuss project budget, bidding process, suggested Alternates, and prioritize strategy to maximize budget.

**Design Development (Summer 2018):** CBA will further develop and refine Definitive Design.

**Funding Application (Fall 2018):** City of Somerville will apply for Funding.

**Construction Documents (Winter - Spring 2019):** CBA will finalize Definitive Design and suggested Alternates into detailed Construction Documents suitable for bidding purposes.

**Construction Start (Late Spring - Summer 2019)**

To renovate Henry Hansen Park - a small gem of Somerville's park system with an important story to tell in both local and national history.

The new design will honor an important local son and war veteran, Henry ("Hank") Hansen, the national historic event in which he participated, and other Somerville veterans. The park is also intended to provide a calm respite from the surrounding city where visitors can have contact with nature and experience the qualities of the natural landscape.

## **Key Design Elements**

- Quality, Sustainable Materials
- Thoughtful, Interpretive Signage / Features
- 100% ADA Compliance
- Safe and Attractive Entrances
- Imaginative Lighting
- Landscape Plantings
- Low-maintenance Design

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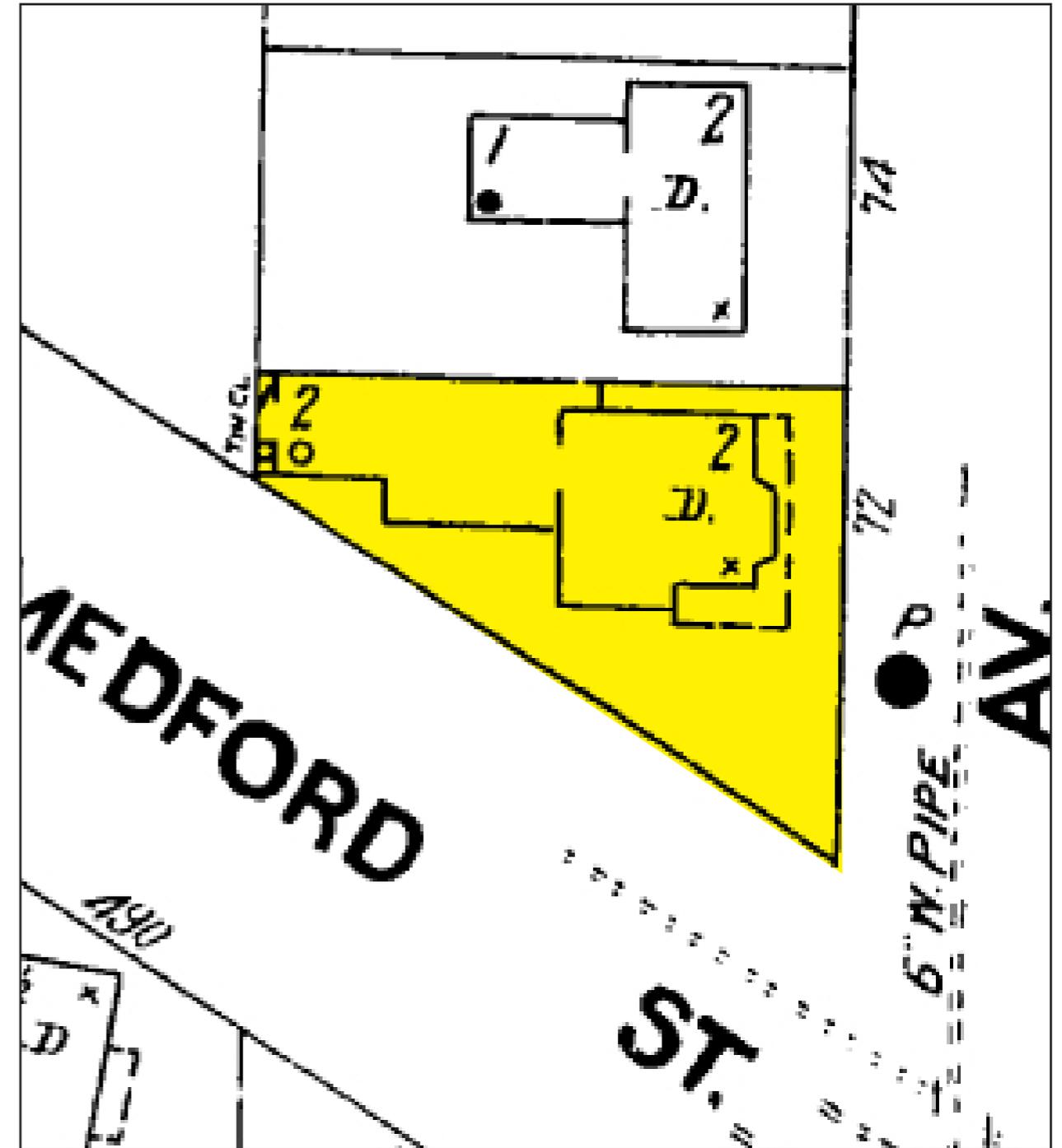
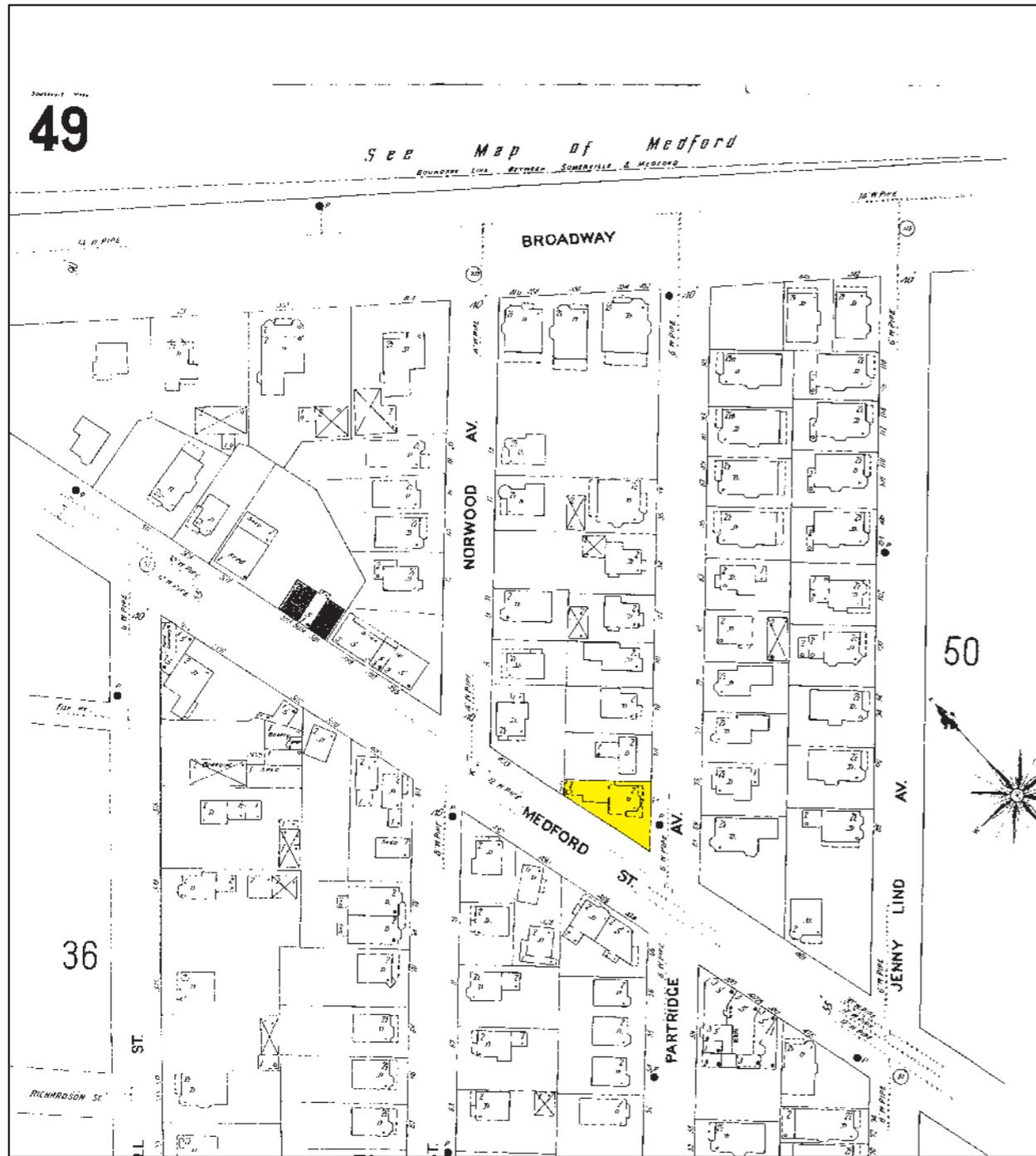
# HISTORY



*Henry Oliver “Hank” Hansen was born and raised near Magoun Square with one sister and three brothers. He graduated from Somerville High in 1938, and joined the US Marine Corps in 1939.*

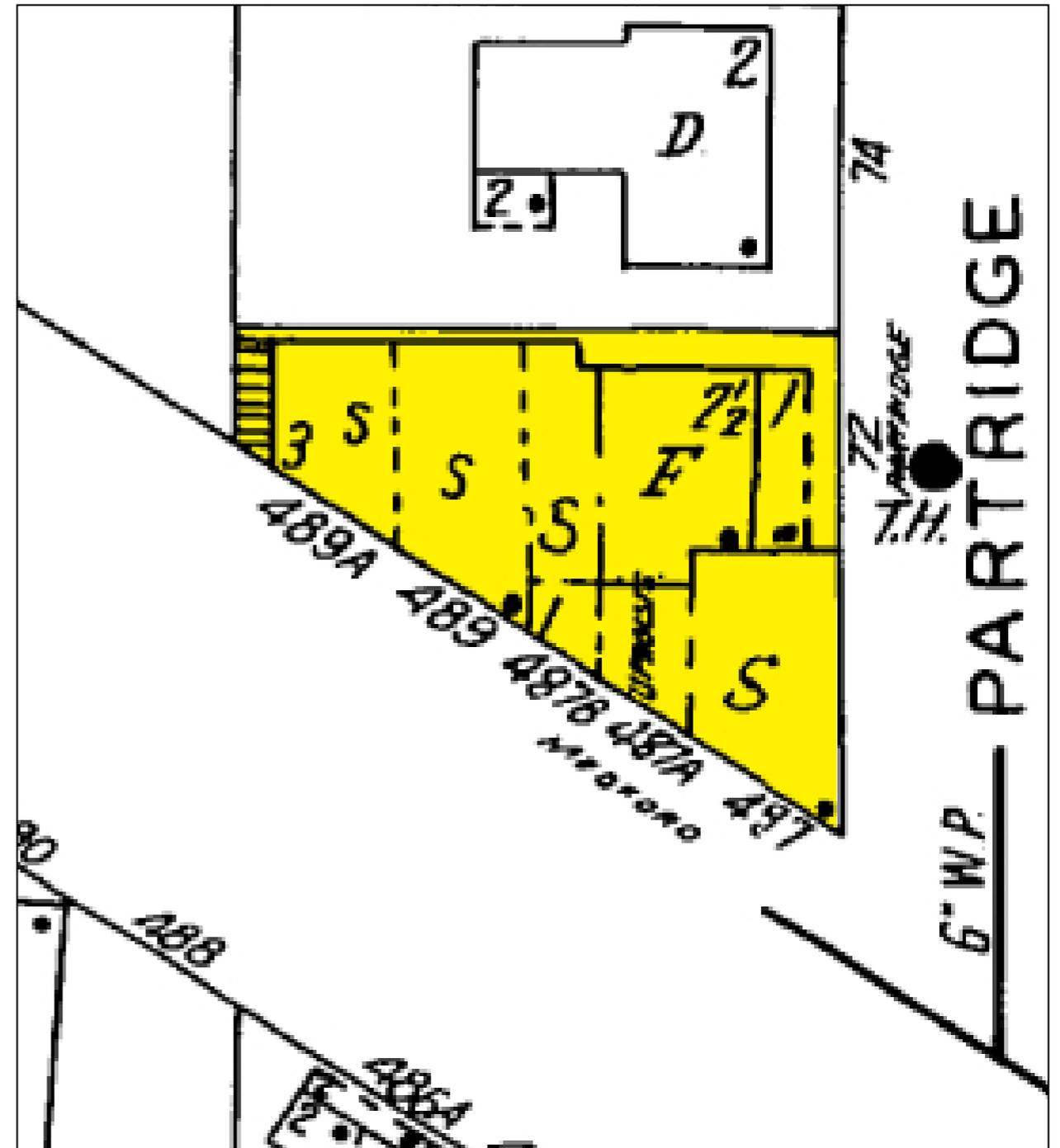
*As Sergeant, he was was one of six members of the combat patrol that climbed, captured, and helped raise the first of two US flags on top of Mt Suribachi on February 23, 1945.*

*The second flag raising happened shortly after on the same day. Though not featured in this famous photo by Joe Rosenthal, Hansen was there to witness this moment. He died in action during the Battle of Iwo Jima in WWII on March 1, 1945.*



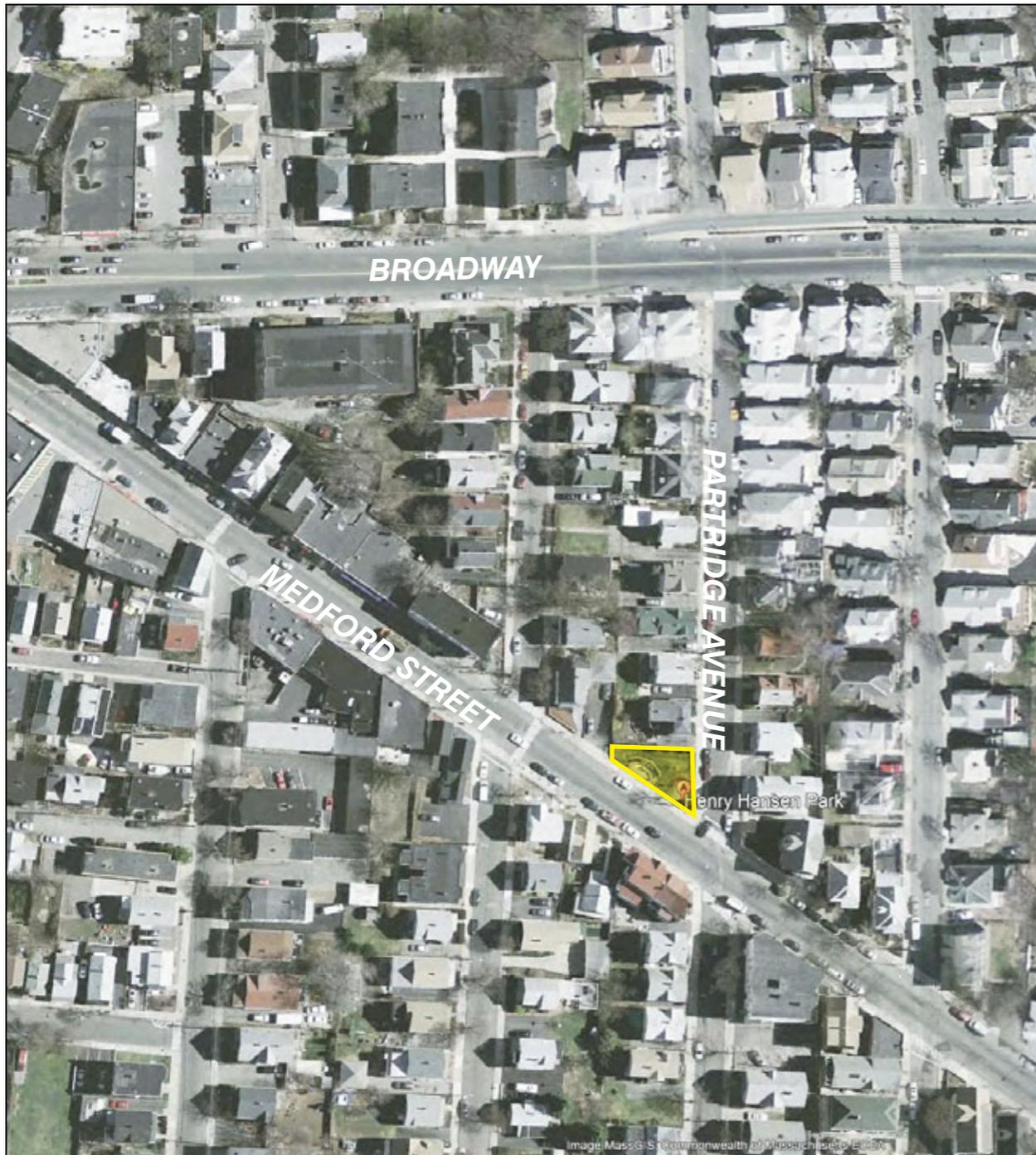
# 1900

*In 1900, the site was occupied by a residence facing Partridge Avenue at #72, with a low structure off the rear, possibly a home industry.*



# 1950

By 1950, the parcel was occupied by a retail block built out around the #72 Partridge Avenue House. (Retail has also developed further up Medford Street, forming the commercial core of Magoun Square).



**2005** *Henry Hansen Park was constructed, honoring a Somerville WWII veteran and serving as a place of pride for the Veterans community. It faced the home of H. Hansen's last remaining relative in the neighborhood.*

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# **EXISTING CONDITIONS & SITE ANALYSIS**



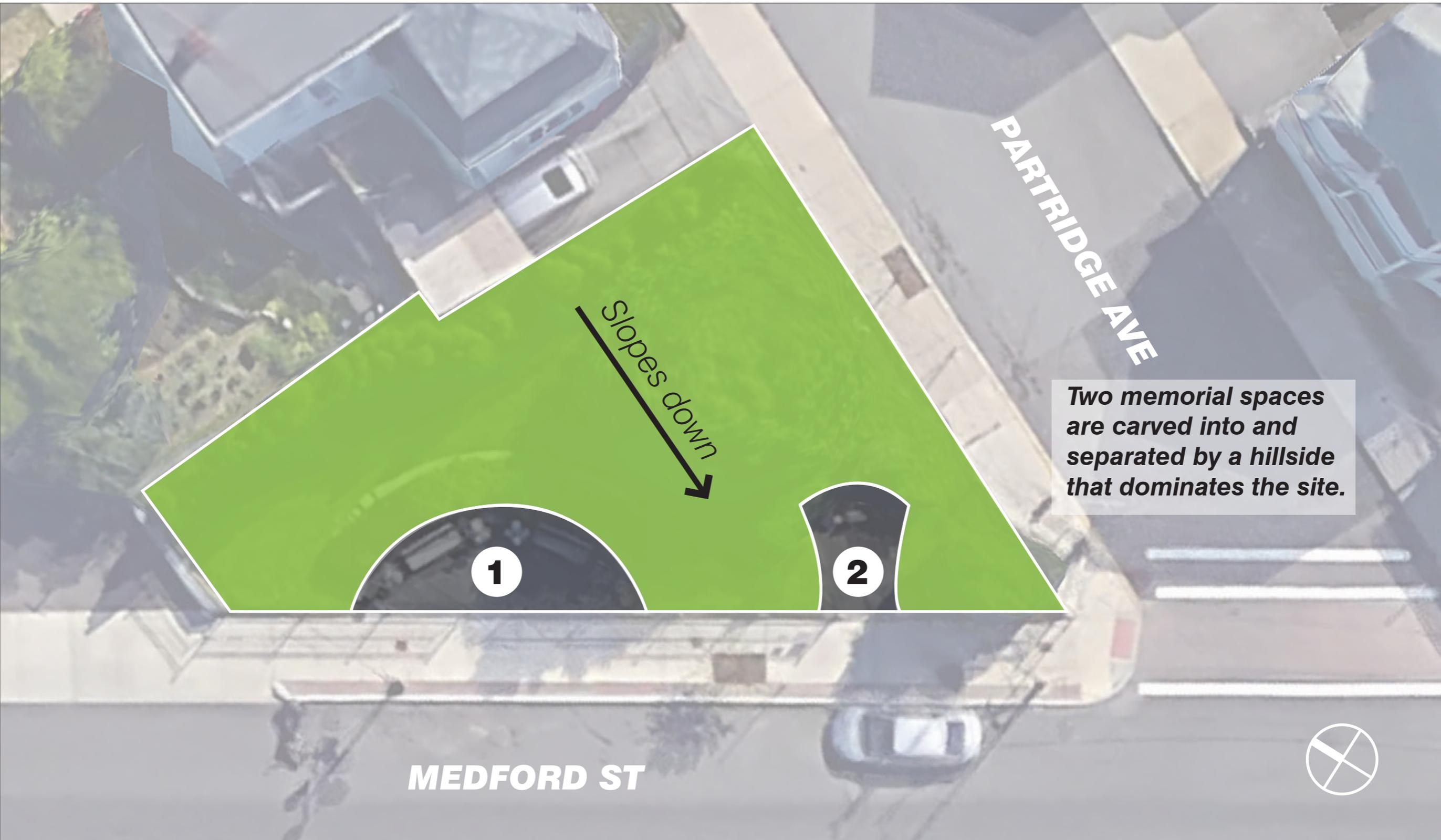


**PARTRIDGE AVE**

**MEDFORD ST**

*The existing park was built on limited resources with volunteer contributions, and was always viewed and intended by the City as a temporary first step.*



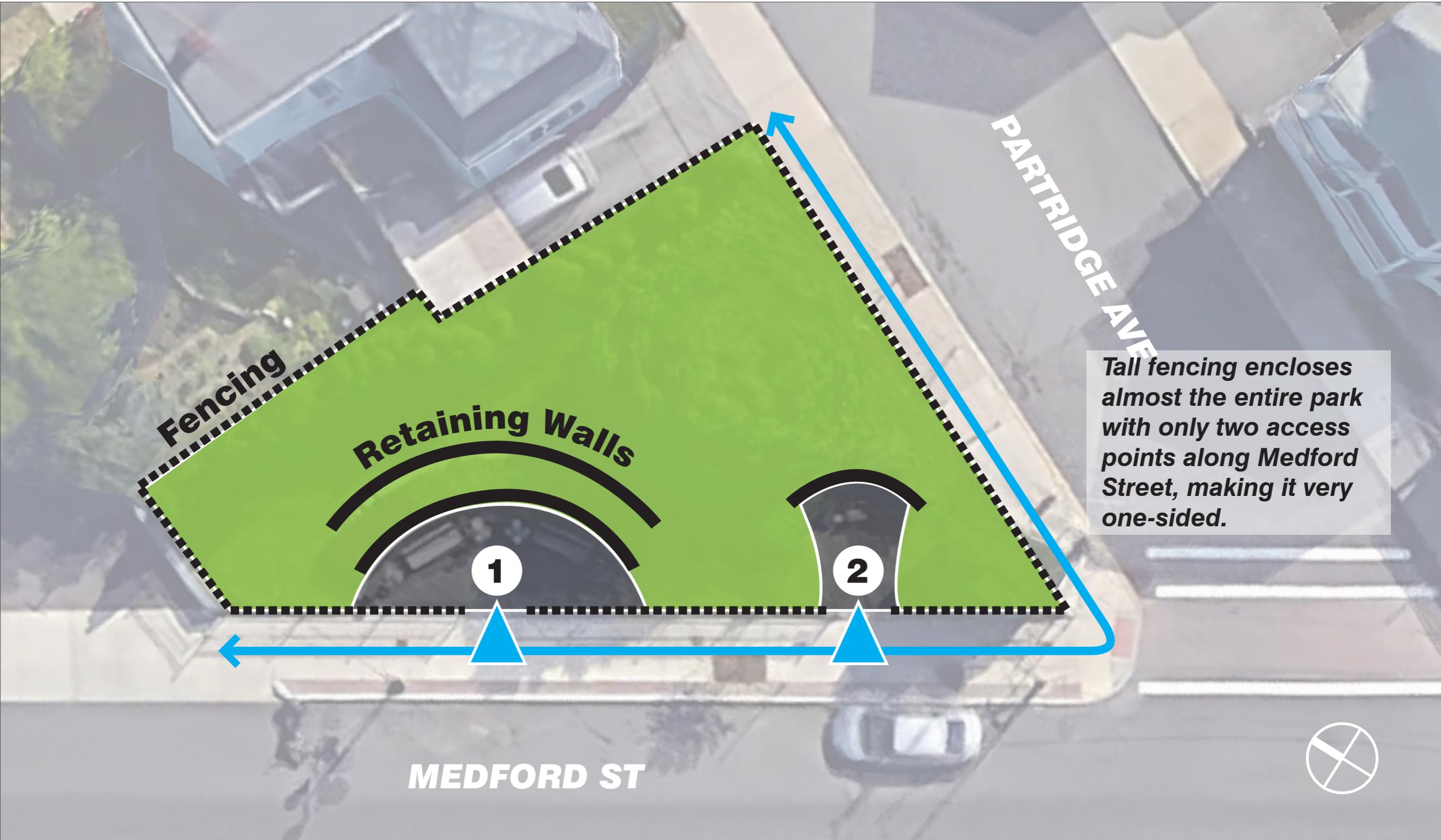




*From across Medford St, the spaces appear lost in the hillside. The fencing and street parking become additional visual barriers.*



*Utilizing the hillside could open opportunities for increasing visibility to the park...terracing, vertical elements/landmarks...*



*Tall fencing encloses almost the entire park with only two access points along Medford Street, making it very one-sided.*



*6' Ornamental Steel Fence encloses 3 sides of park*

*Chain-link Fence along Abutter's side*

*Uphill along Partridge St.*



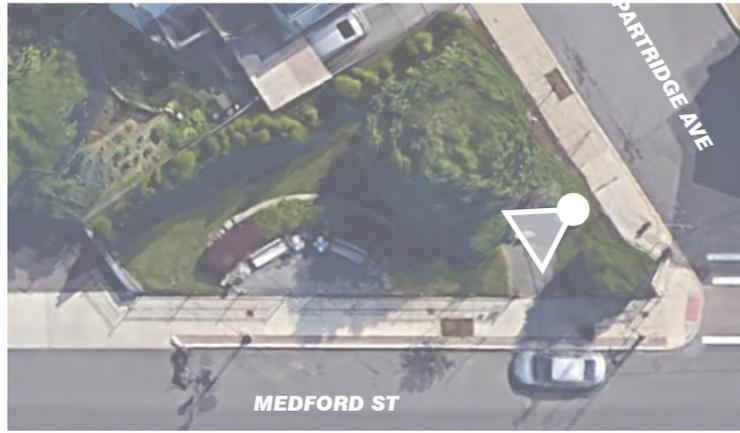
*Along Medford Street, facing eastwards; fencing seems more foreboding and appears to cage in the park, blocking spaces from view.*



non-ADA →

non-ADA →

**Along Medford Street, facing west: 2 separated points of entry**



*Inside southeast corner; spaces feel further enclosed by dense plantings.*

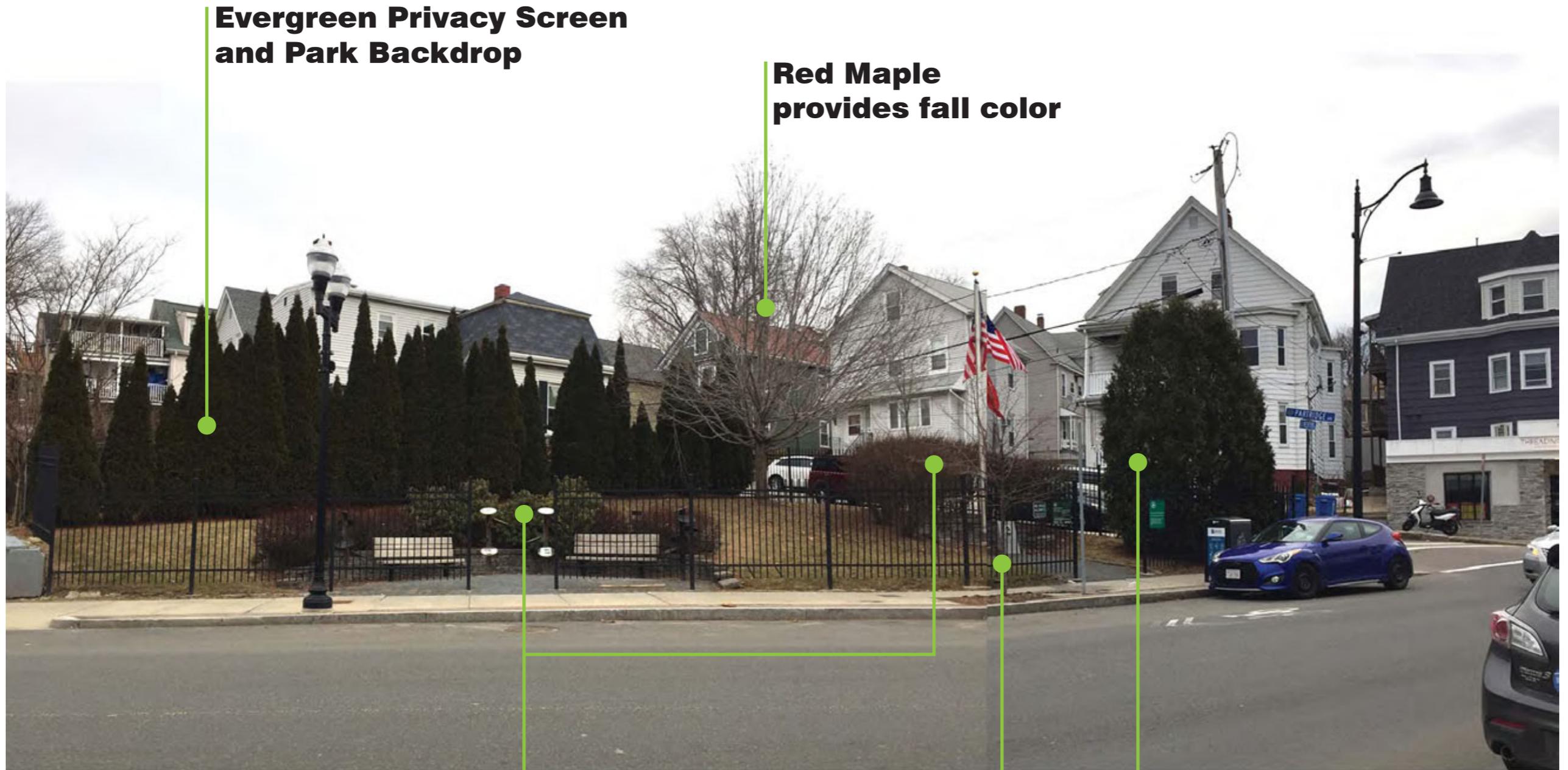


*Inside northwest corner of park.*

# PLANTINGS

# EXISTING CONDITIONS & SITE ANALYSIS





**Evergreen Privacy Screen  
and Park Backdrop**

**Red Maple  
provides fall color**

**Dense shrub borders  
feel oversized around  
Memorial Spaces**

**Street Tree**

**Large evergreen  
dominates this corner,  
blocking park spaces  
and elements from view**



*View from north corner of park, facing Medford St.*





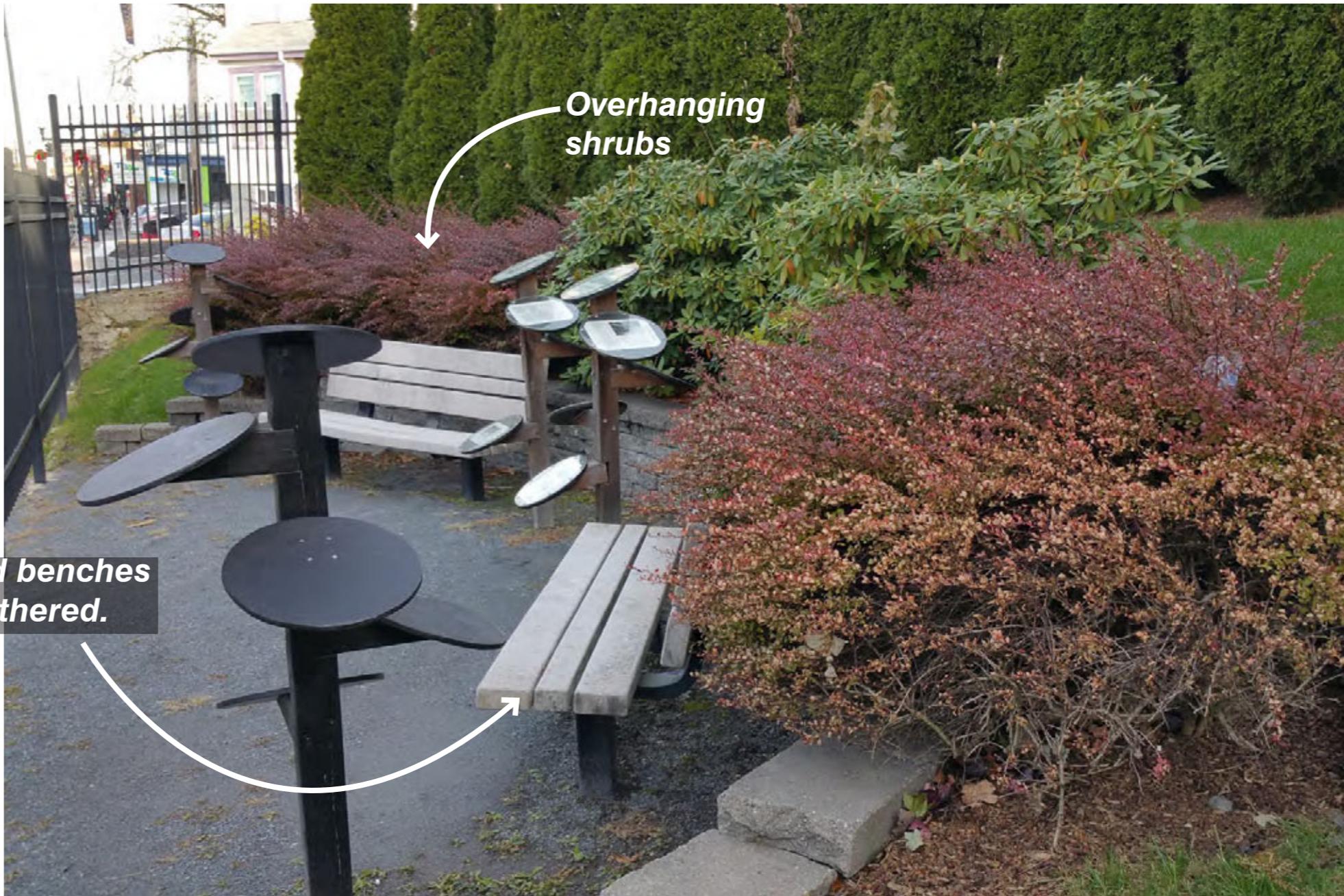
*Radial arrangement of info panels feels awkward as there is little room to circulate around them. Narrative also feels fragmented.*

*Blank Memorial*

*Walls and 2 benches face out to fence and sidewalk with little connection with the memorials.*



**Signs and benches have weathered.**



**Overhanging shrubs**



# MATERIALS

# EXISTING CONDITIONS & SITE ANALYSIS



*Stonedust Paving*



*Brick Paver Edging*



*Unit Block Walls*



*Metal Fencing in Asphalt*





*Hidden Bollard Light 1*



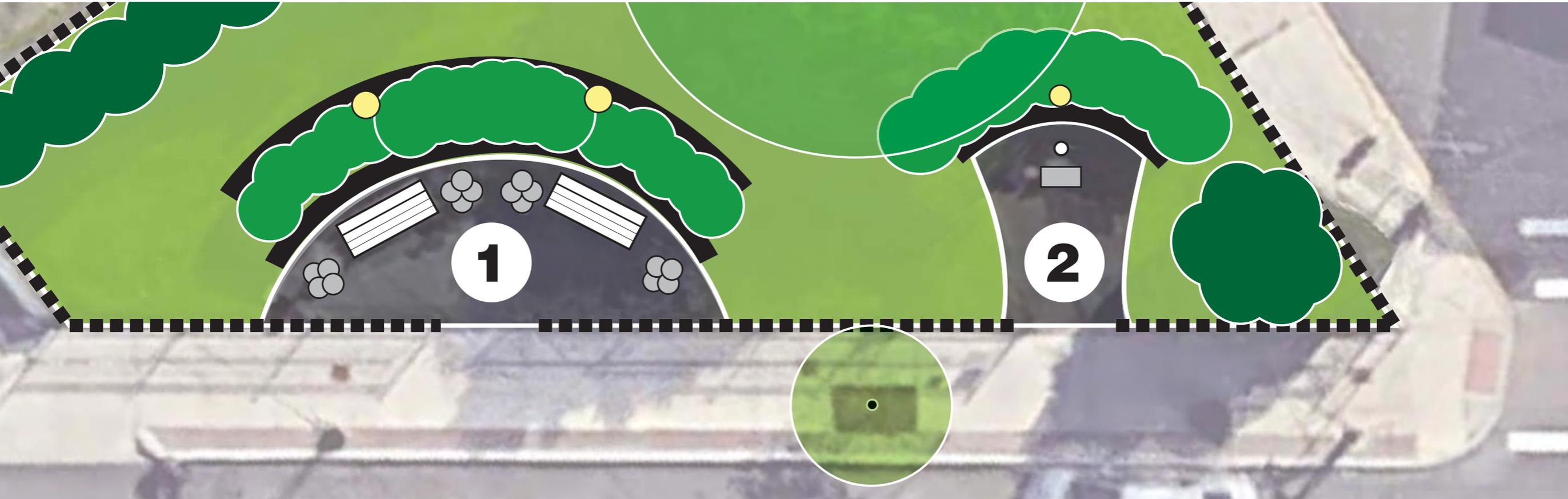
*Hidden Bollard Light 2*



*Uplight for Flag*



*Hidden Utility*





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# **POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS**

# FLAGPOLE INTEGRATION

# POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS



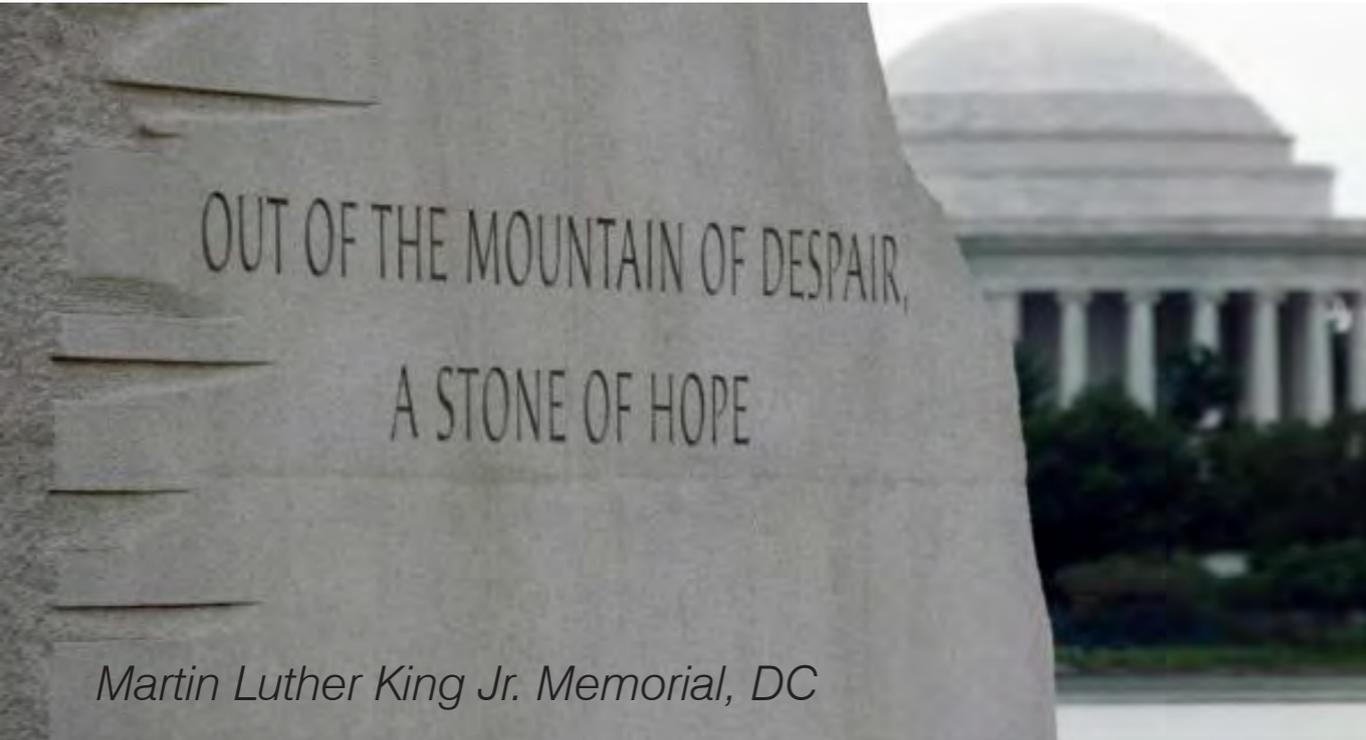
*Iwo Jima Memorial, DC*



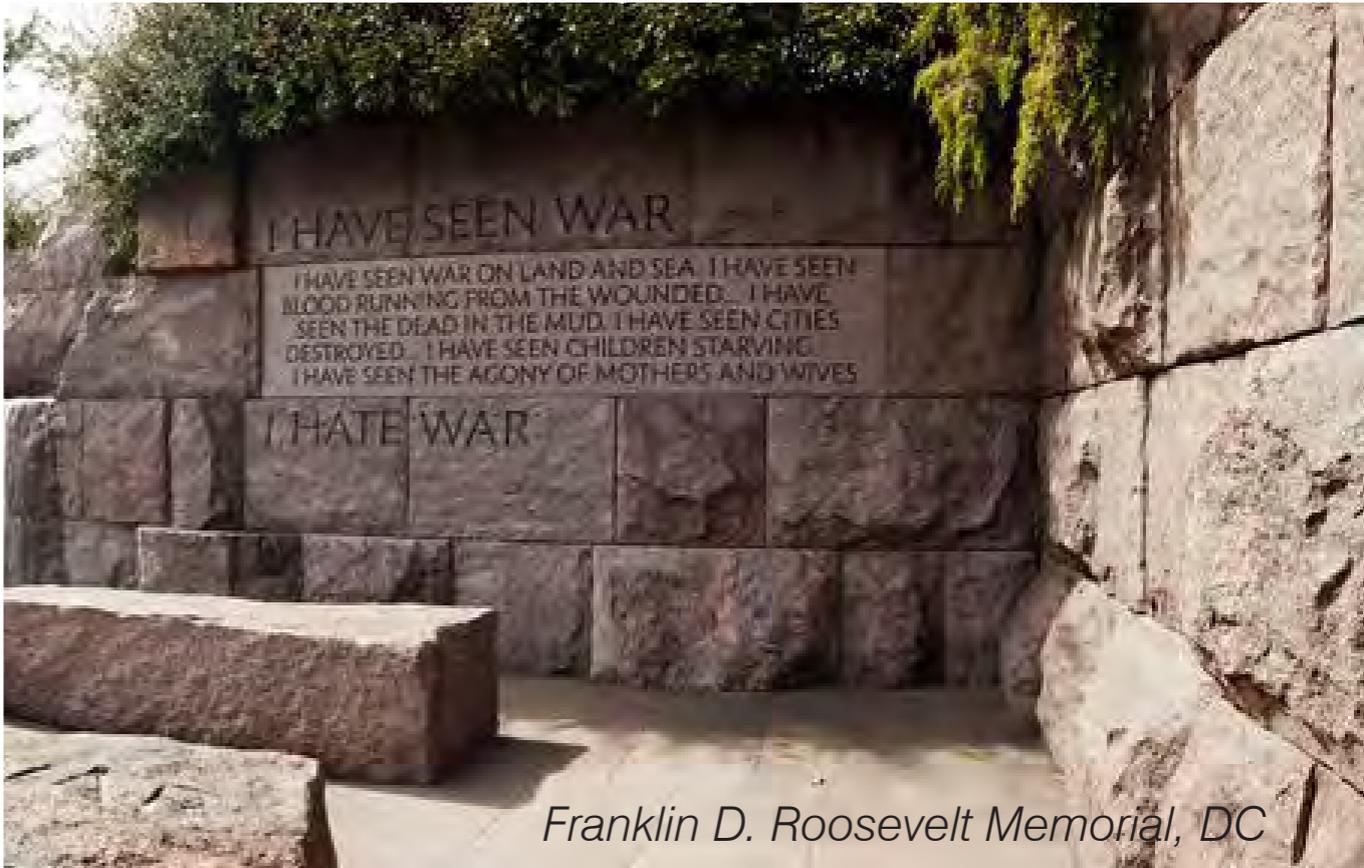
*War Memorial, Greenwich CT*

# WALLS AND STONE

# POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS



*Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, DC*



*Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, DC*



*Canadian Firefighter's Memorial, Ottawa*



*Korean War Veterans Memorial, DC*

# WALLS AND STONE

# POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS



*Fallen Firefighters & Emergency Paramedics Memorial, Arizona*



*9/11 Memorial, NYC*

# WALLS AND STONE

# POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS



*Roemer Plaza, Boston*



*FDR Memorial, DC*



*American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, DC*





*“Cloud” by Kumi Yamashita*



*Moving Memories Memorial, Phoenix AZ*

# LINEAR NARRATIVE

# POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS



*“Site Specific” by Scott Eunson & Marianne Loveink*

# SILHOUETTE CUTOUTS

# POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS



*Landsdowne Fence Streetscape  
by Scott Eunson & Marianne Loveink*



*Alto del Perdon (Mountain of Forgiveness), Spain*

# PORTRAITURE & FRAMING

# POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS



*John Ruiz Park, Chelsea MA*

**PHOTO-IMAGERY**

POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS



*Korean War Veterans Memorial, DC*



*Concrete Photo Engraving (by Reckli)*



*Canada Memorial - Green Park, London*



# WATER ELEMENT

# POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS



*Southeastern Louisiana State University - Hammond LA*



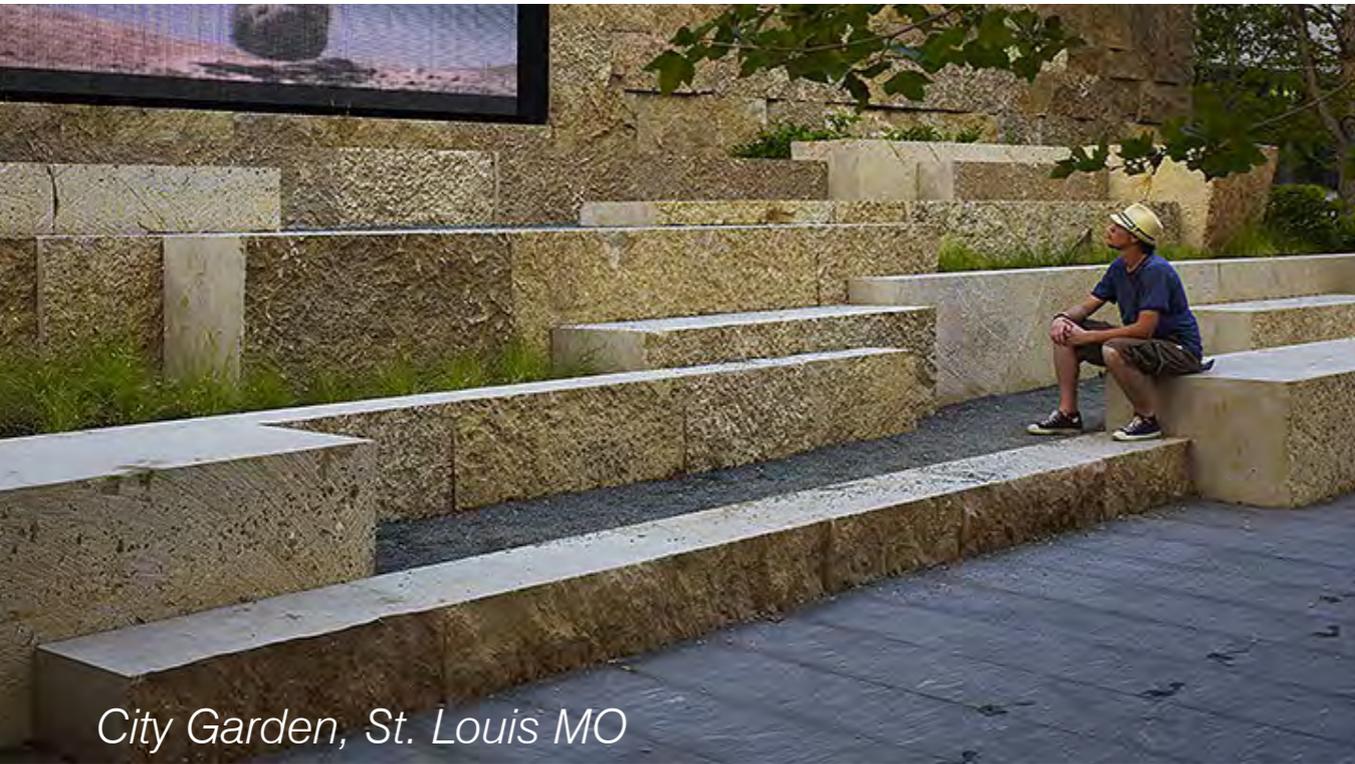
*Waterwall Feature*

# SPACES FOR REFLECTION

# POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS



*Garden of Remembrance, Germany*



*City Garden, St. Louis MO*



*Freeway Park, Seattle WA*

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# COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

- What concerns do you have about the site?
- What memorial features would you like for the site?
- What park elements would you like for the site?
- What elements or moments of the historical narrative do you feel are especially important to commemorate?

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# THANK YOU

Other questions, concerns, and ideas? Interested in attending future public meetings and sending more feedback? Please contact:

## **Bryan Bishop**

Commissioner of Veterans' Services, City of Somerville

Phone: (617) 625-6600 x 4700

email: [bbishop@somervillema.gov](mailto:bbishop@somervillema.gov)

Be sure to sign up for the project email list to receive updates and meeting notices, on the sign-in sheet at the meeting or by emailing Bryan!