



# Civic Athletic Complex Open House

November 6, 2024



# WELCOME

We acknowledge that we gather on territory that has been the traditional and ancestral homeland to the Lummi and the Nooksack people, and other Coast Salish tribes of this region since time immemorial. We honor our shared responsibility to this land and these waters, we commit to learning from Indigenous wisdom, and we strive to repair and deepen our relationships as neighbors and friends.



# WHY NOW?



The Civic Athletic Complex Master Plan has not been updated **since the 1980s**. Though existing facilities are well-loved, the community's recreational and civic needs have continued to evolve with calls for expanded recreation opportunities, both indoors and outdoors.



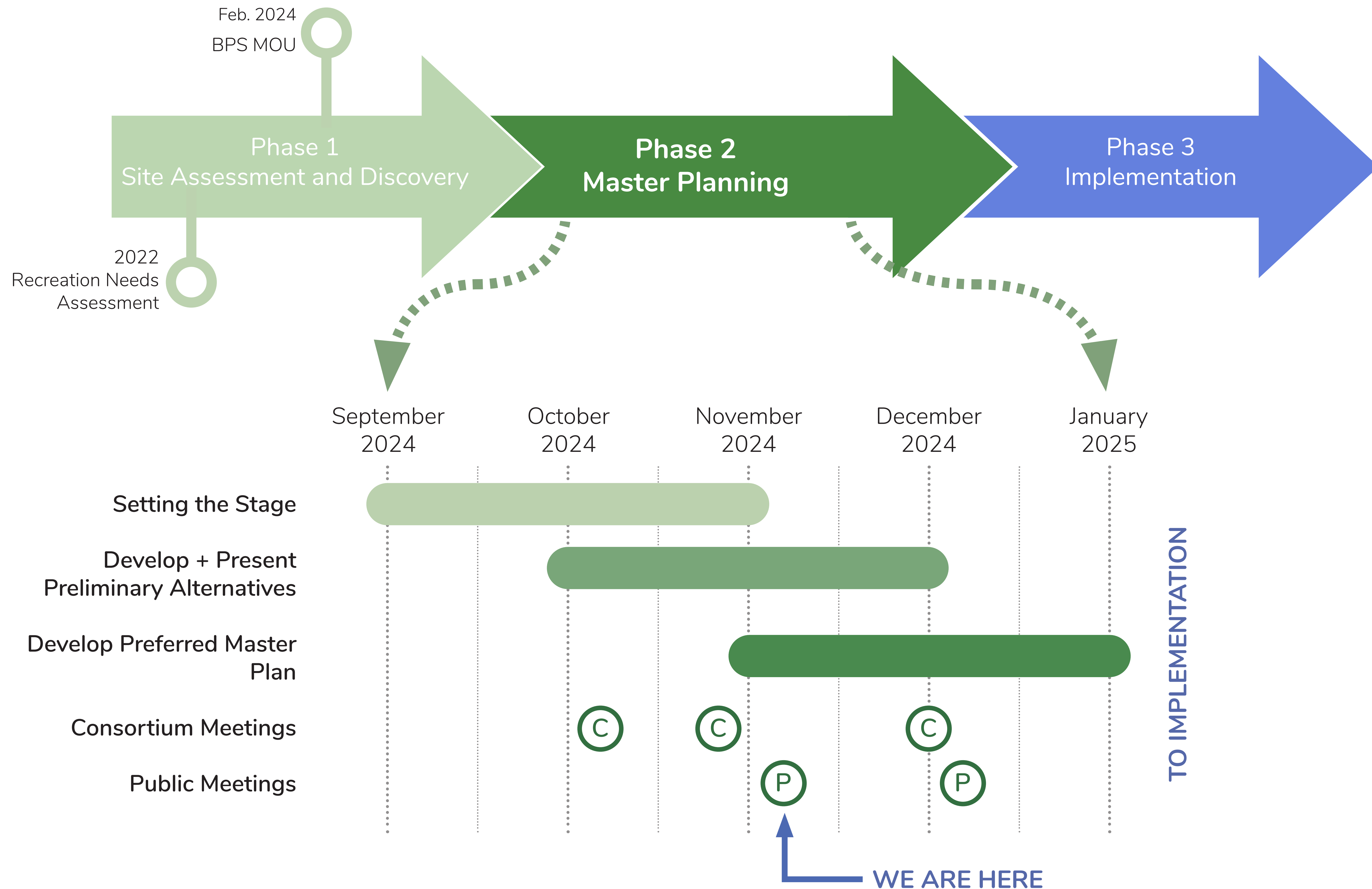
We are also at a moment where the Bellingham School District's Carl Cozier Elementary is near the end of its useful life and are exploring the opportunities **to build community consensus around Civic's future, including the existing Carl Cozier site, for the benefit of all the people of Bellingham.**



Finally, while the park serves Citywide needs, we are also keenly aware that there are likely opportunities to improve **how the park integrates and serves the surrounding neighborhoods** and will use this process to better understand how playgrounds, a potential community recreation center, and improved access might help serve the surrounding community.



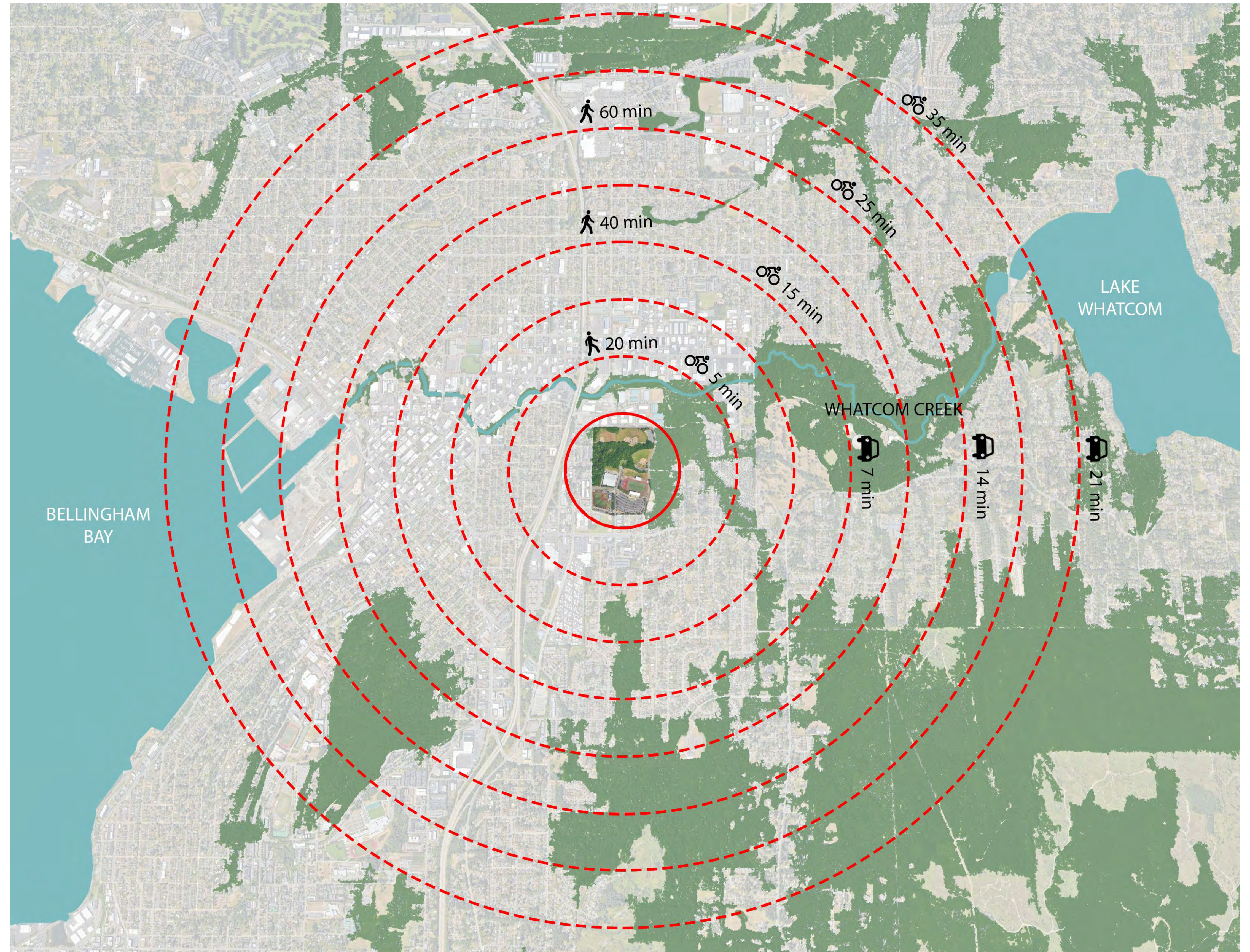
# TIMELINE





# CONTEXT

## CLOSE TO EVERYTHING – NEIGHBORHOOD PROXIMITY



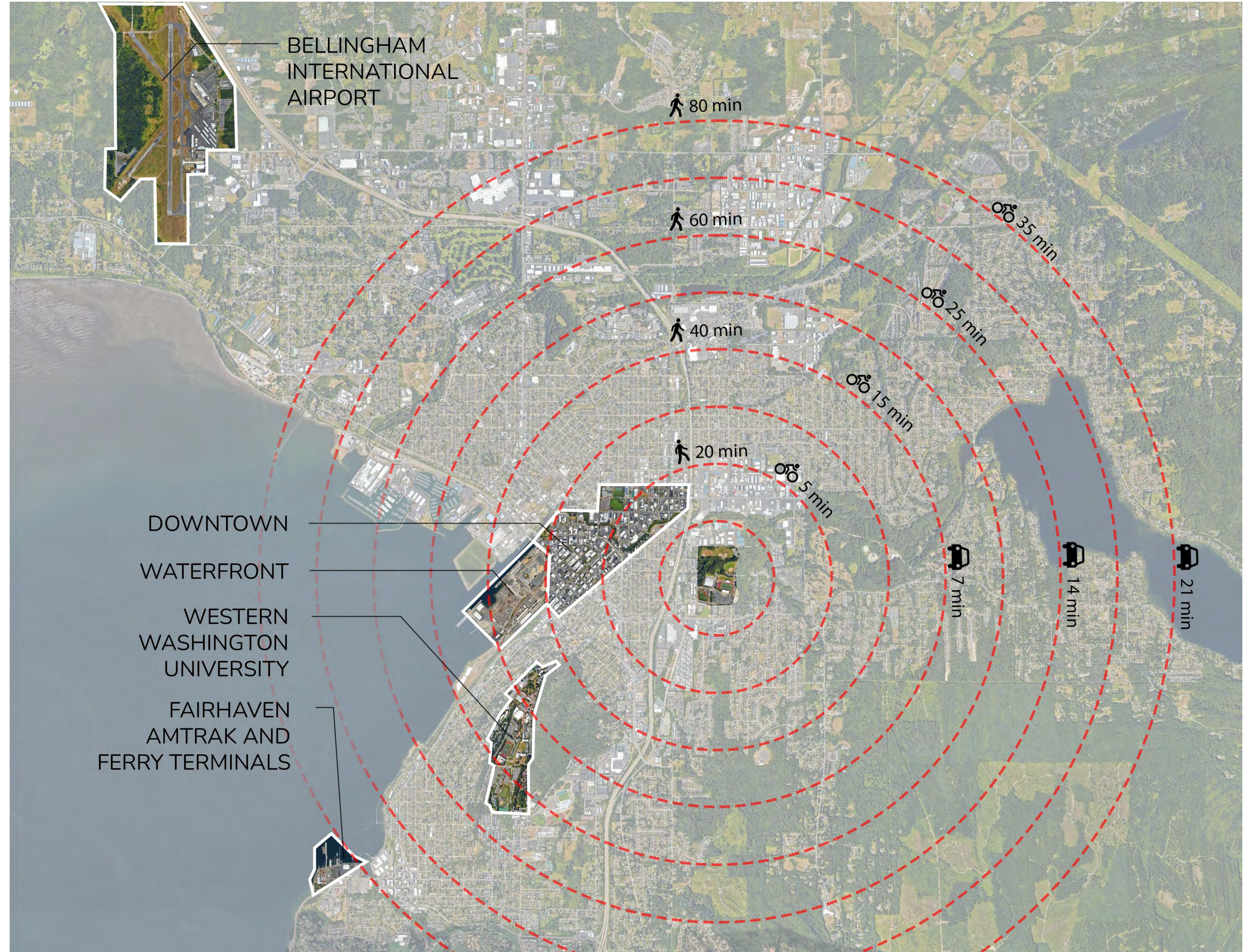
NEIGHBORHOOD PROXIMITY

CIVIC ATHLETIC COMPLEX



# CONTEXT

## CLOSE TO EVERYTHING – CITY PROXIMITY



CITY PROXIMITY

CIVIC ATHLETIC COMPLEX

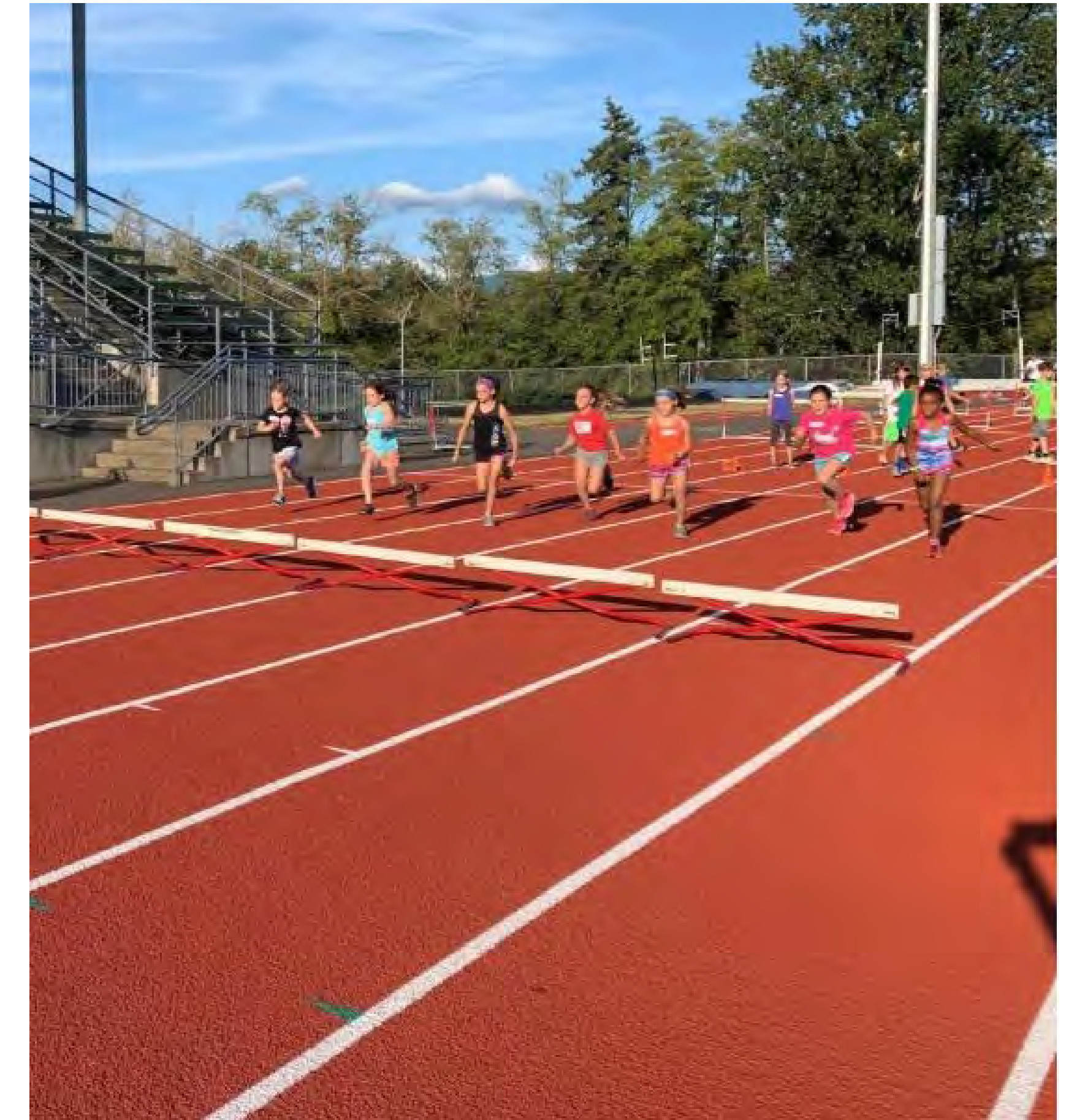


# PHASE 1 FINDINGS

WELL-LOVED, WELL-USED + VARIETY OF USER GROUPS.



Civic Athletic Complex is well-used and heavily programmed throughout the year (628 reservation requests annually). It is **the most visited park** in Bellingham's Park system with over 72,000 visitors per month. Almost twice Lake Padden and Boulevard Parks combined. The Recreation Needs Assessment (2022) notes that Civic is the premier destination for sports.



Despite its popularity, Civic is **still not meeting the community's needs** in terms of: Community recreation center, Expanded aquatics facilities, More covered recreation spaces, Athletic fields, Improved or expanded ice skating and hockey facilities.

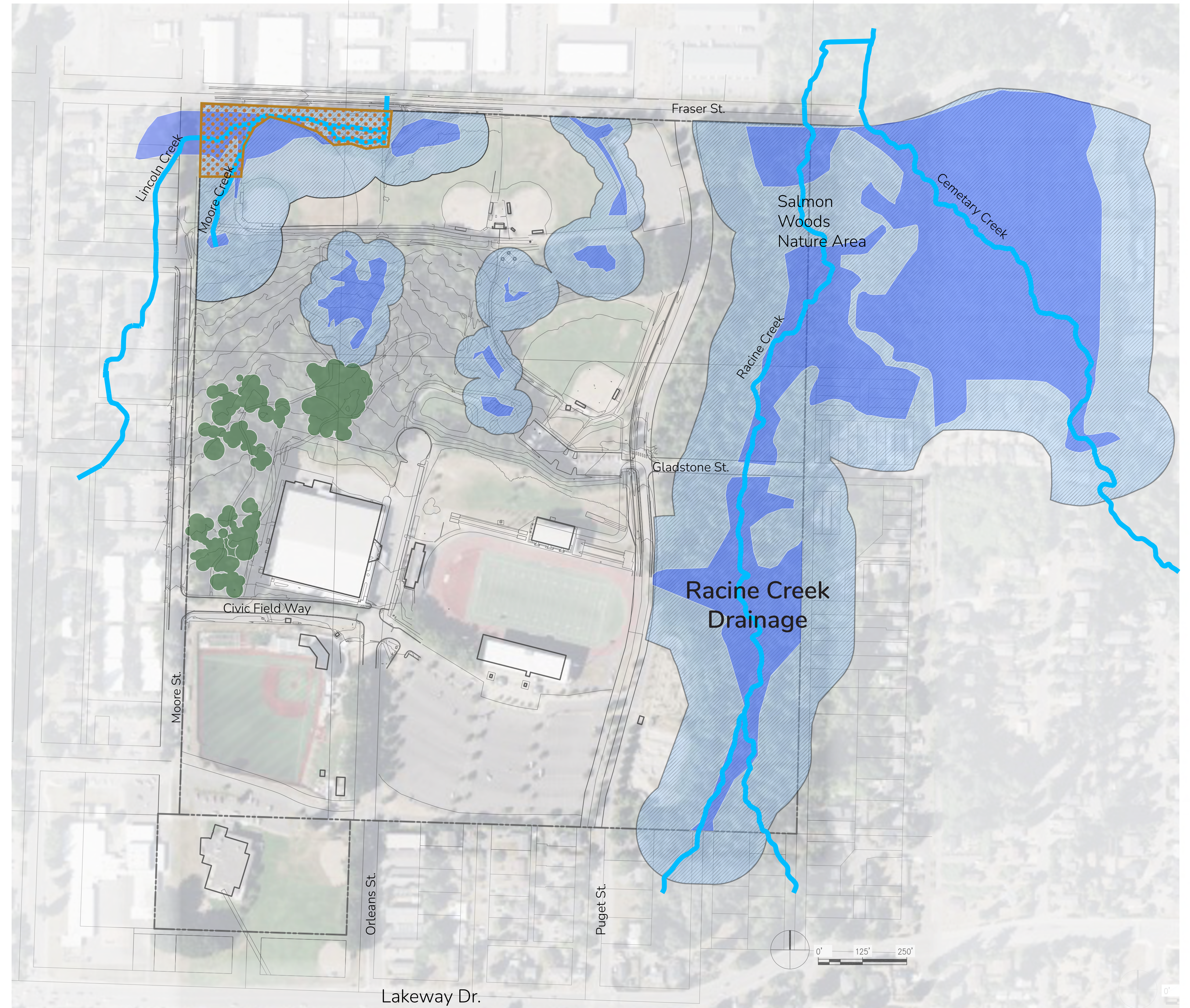


# PHASE 1 FINDINGS

## NATURAL AREAS

- Racine Creek in forested area to the east.
- Northwest corner of Civic's two Whatcom Creek tributaries: Lincoln Creek and Moore Creek
- Several wetlands located on site, west of Puget Street and north of Civic Stadium
- Extensive forest with several protected landmark trees

- City of Bellingham Mitigation Site 
- Wetland Areas 
- Wetland Buffer Zones 
- Protected Landmark Trees 
- Streams 





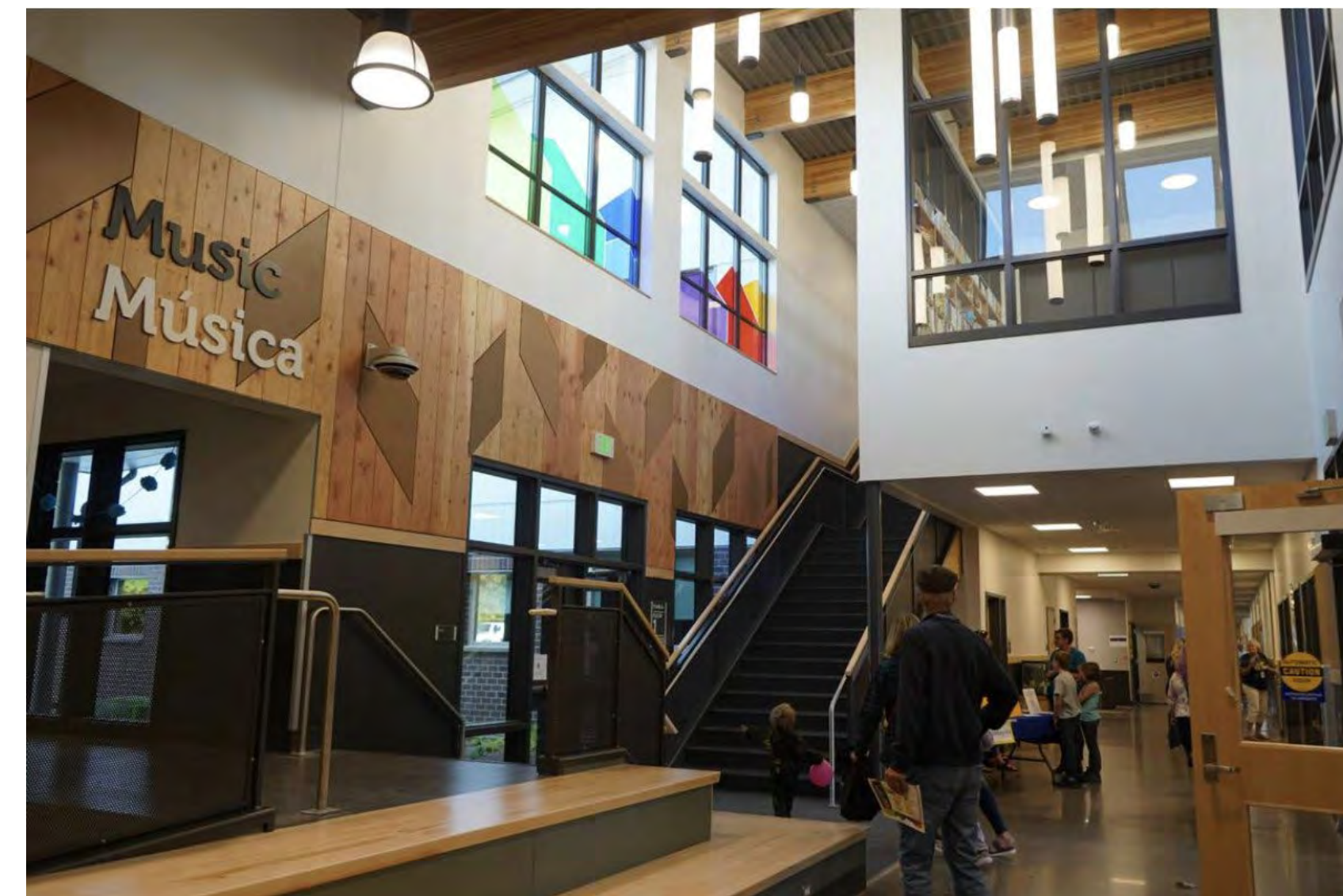
# PHASE 1 FINDINGS SUMMARY

- Every existing facility, including parking lots, are well used and occasionally maximize their capacity.
- The funding for some past improvements limits how much we can change their current uses.
- Various indoor and outdoor facilities are older and require some level of rehabilitatory maintenance for them to continue to function for the community.
- Athletics facilities are generally very well used with growing constituencies.
- Opportunity to define achieve long-standing community goals.
- Opportunity to generally improve the experience and positioning of Civic both in Bellingham and the region.





# SCHOOL PARAMETERS



Approximately 5 acres; average 8 acres

Build for 450 students:

- Building: approximately 70,000 SF
- Outdoor play & garden: ~ 50,000 SF
- Security: fenced perimeter & single entry/exit point
- Circulation: separation of bus and non-bus traffic; accessible parking per parking study
- Sustainable design elements, including energy reduction & stormwater management
- Swing school

Mutual benefit:

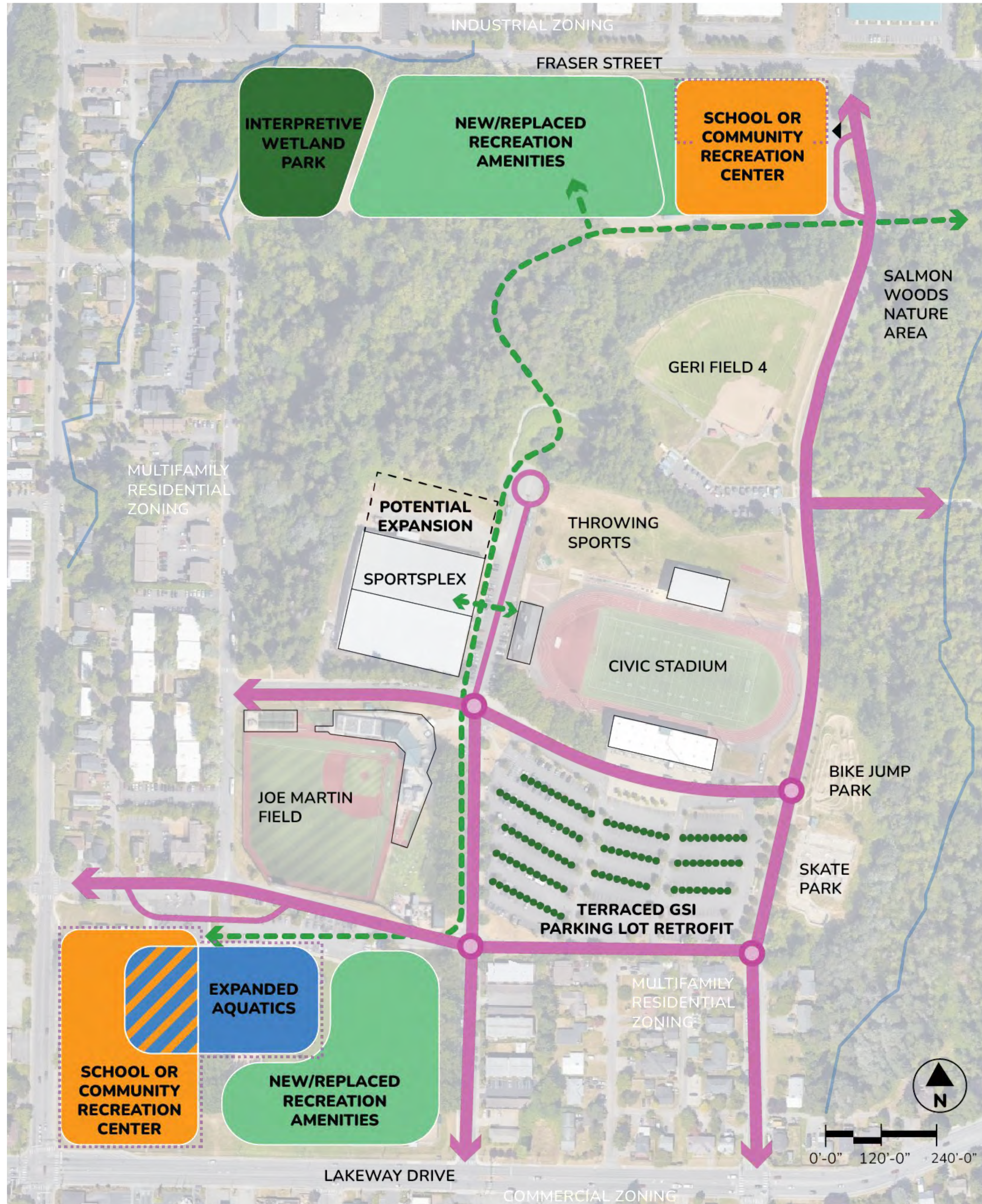
- Civic offers co-benefits for BPS families to access broader recreational amenities and services while offering cost efficiencies for taxpayers
- A new school on Civic's campus offers outdoor play, outdoor turf, indoor gym for the community to access outside of school hours

Inflection point opportunity for Civic



# OPTION 1










## FRAMING THE PARK PERIMETER



### Key Considerations:

- Defines north/south edges
- Future expansion opportunity for the Sportsplex
- Future buffered bike lane and street trees on Lakeway offer some mitigation

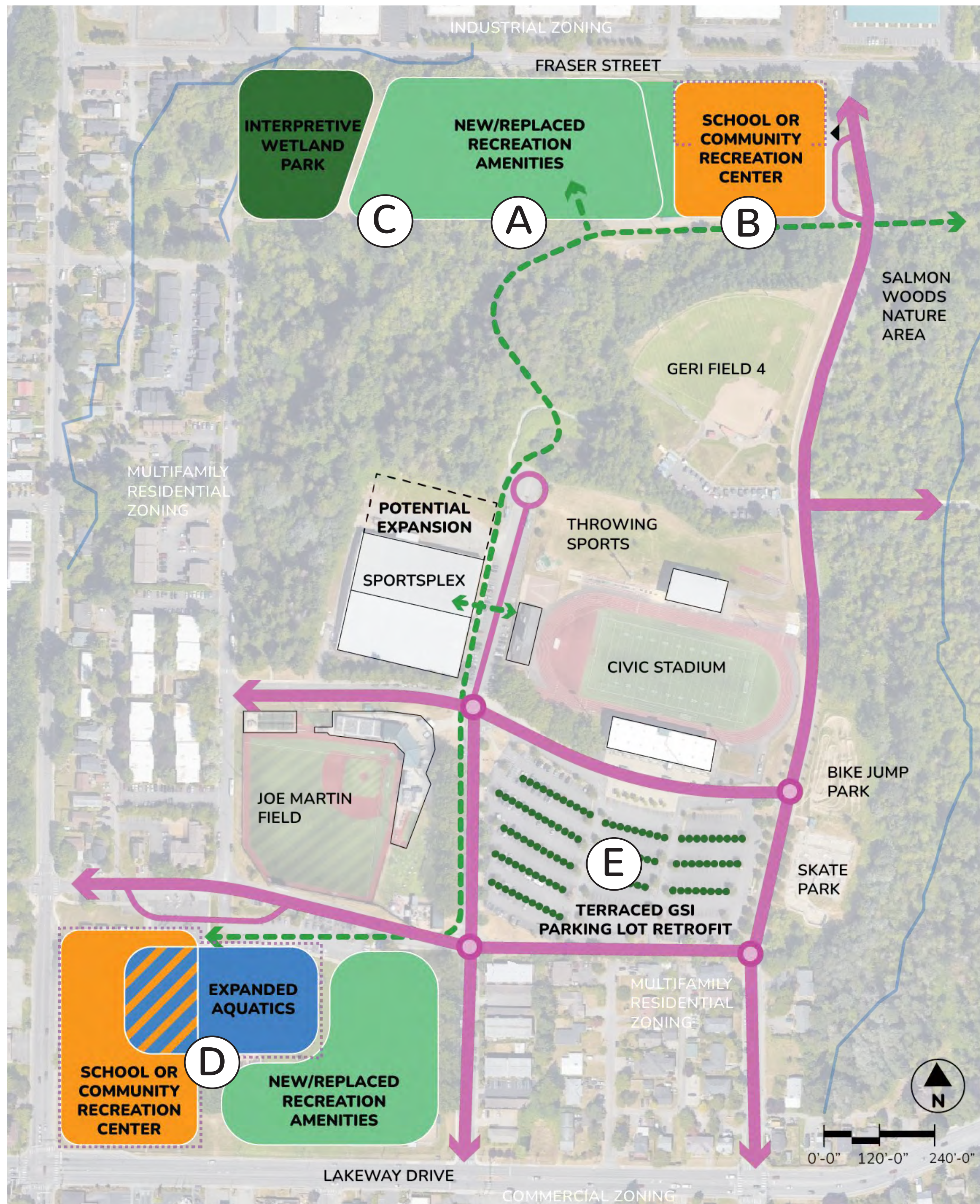
### LEGEND

-  PRIMARY VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
-  LOCAL VEHICULAR ACCESS
-  ROUNDABOUT
-  TUCK-UNDER STRUCTURED PARKING
-  STRUCTURED PARKING ENTRANCE
-  PRIMARY PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
-  PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE
-  PLAZA
-  SHARED SPACE/WOONERF



# OPTION 1

## FRAMING THE PARK PERIMETER – PRECEDENT INSPIRATION



MULTI-PURPOSE TURF FIELD - BRIGHTON PLAYFIELD



TUCK-UNDER PARKING UNDER A



OBSERVATION DECK AT A STORMWATER PARK



PATHS AND WETLAND CELLS AT A STORMWATER PARK



GSI PARKING LOT RETROFITS

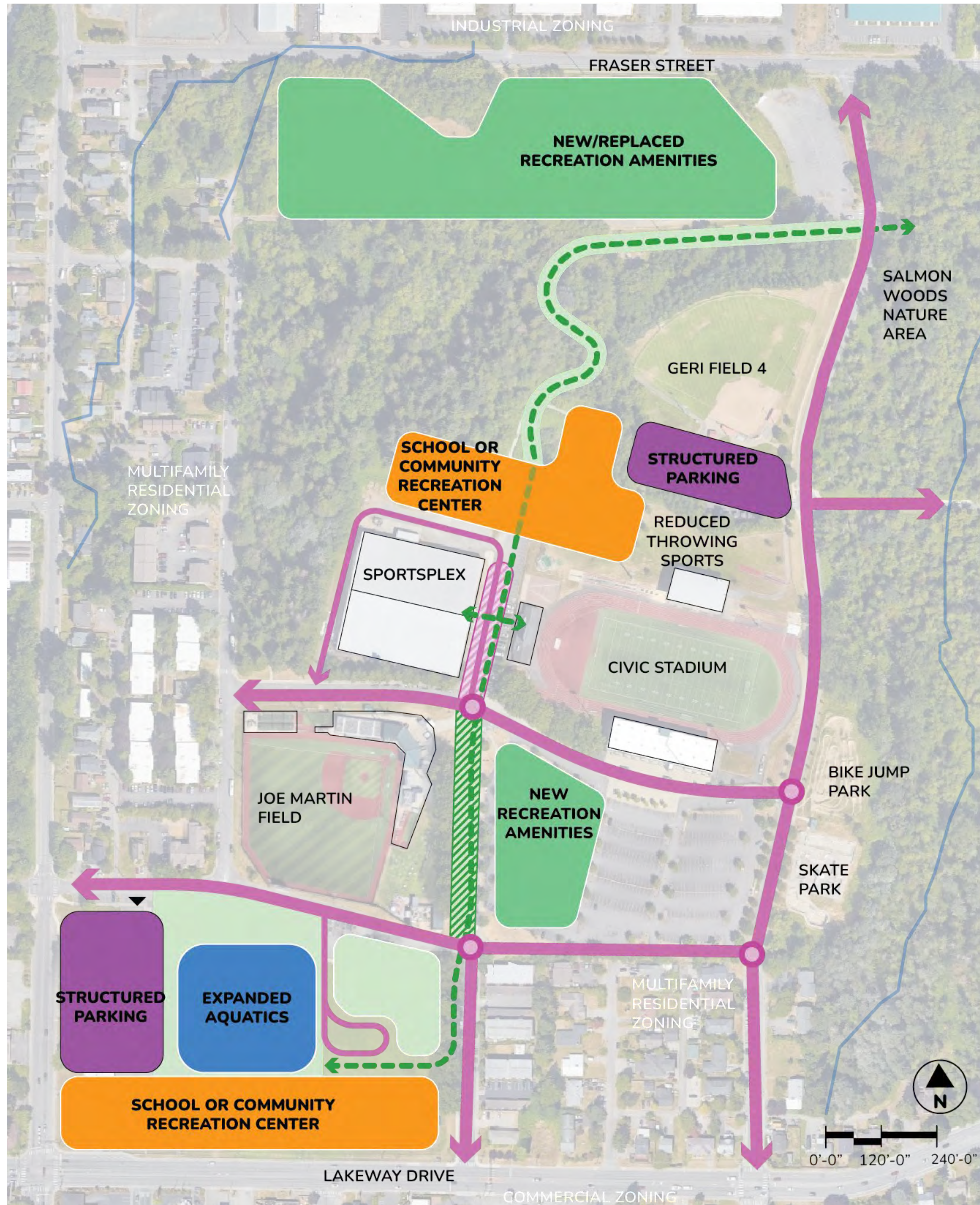


A HIGH QUALITY COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER



# OPTION 2








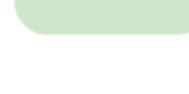

## COMMUNITY CENTERED



### Key Considerations:

- Don't want to cut off north and south campus; could central building be a gateway?
- Pedestrian promenade becomes a connective spine
- May limit expansion at Sportsplex

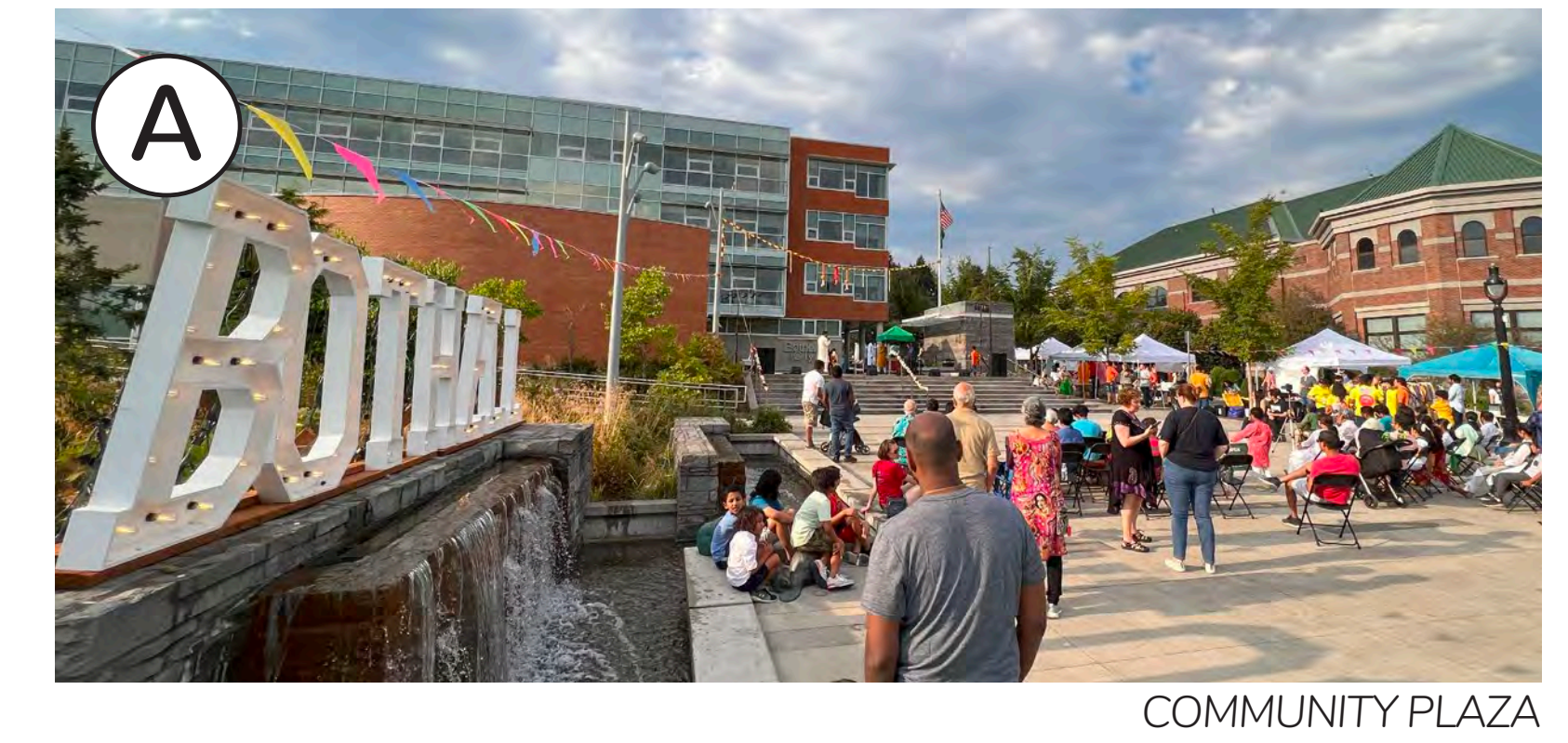
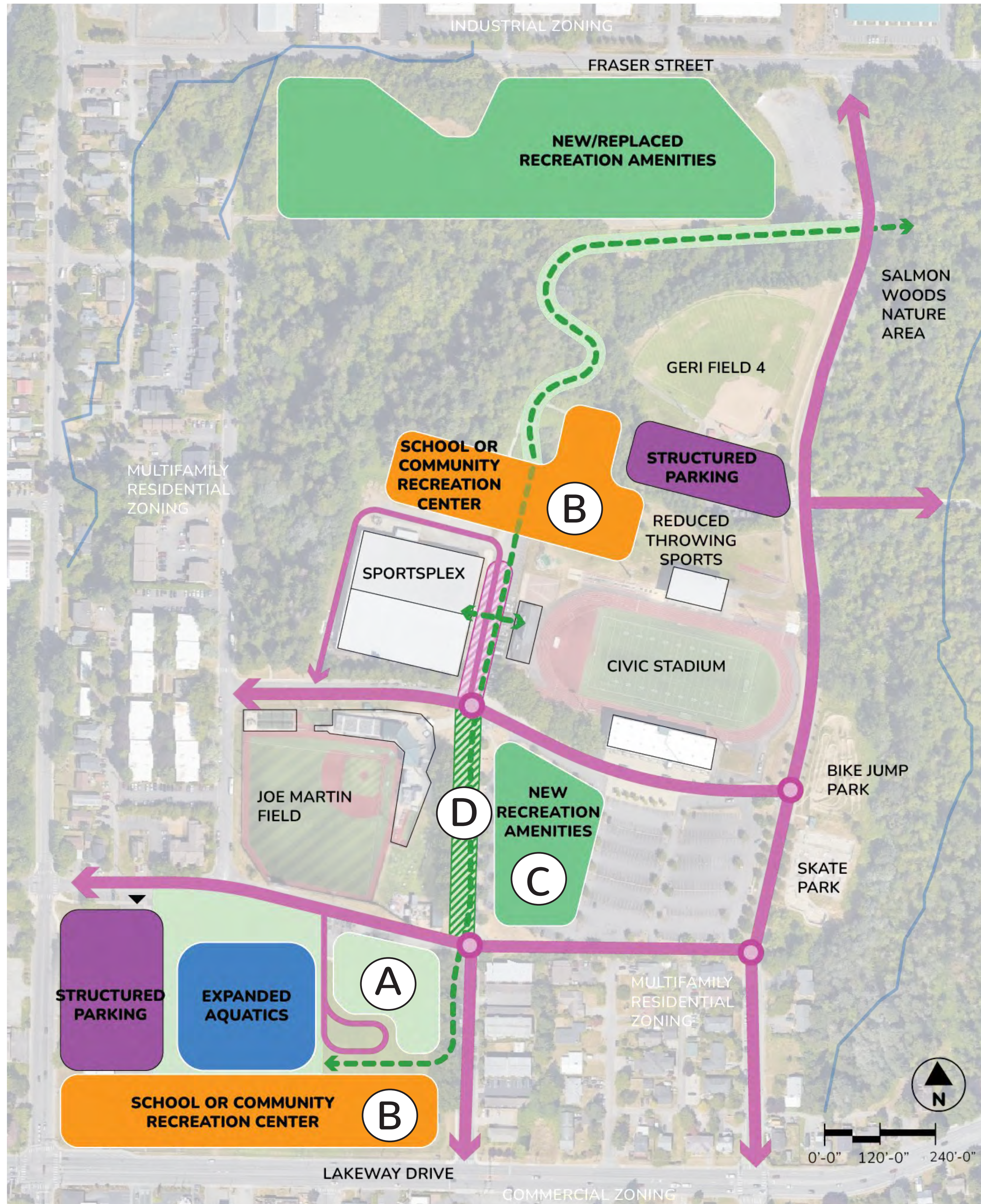
### LEGEND

-  PRIMARY VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
-  LOCAL VEHICULAR ACCESS
-  ROUNDABOUT
-  TUCK-UNDER STRUCTURED PARKING
-  STRUCTURED PARKING ENTRANCE
-  PRIMARY PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
-  PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE
-  PLAZA
-  SHARED SPACE/WOONERF



# OPTION 2

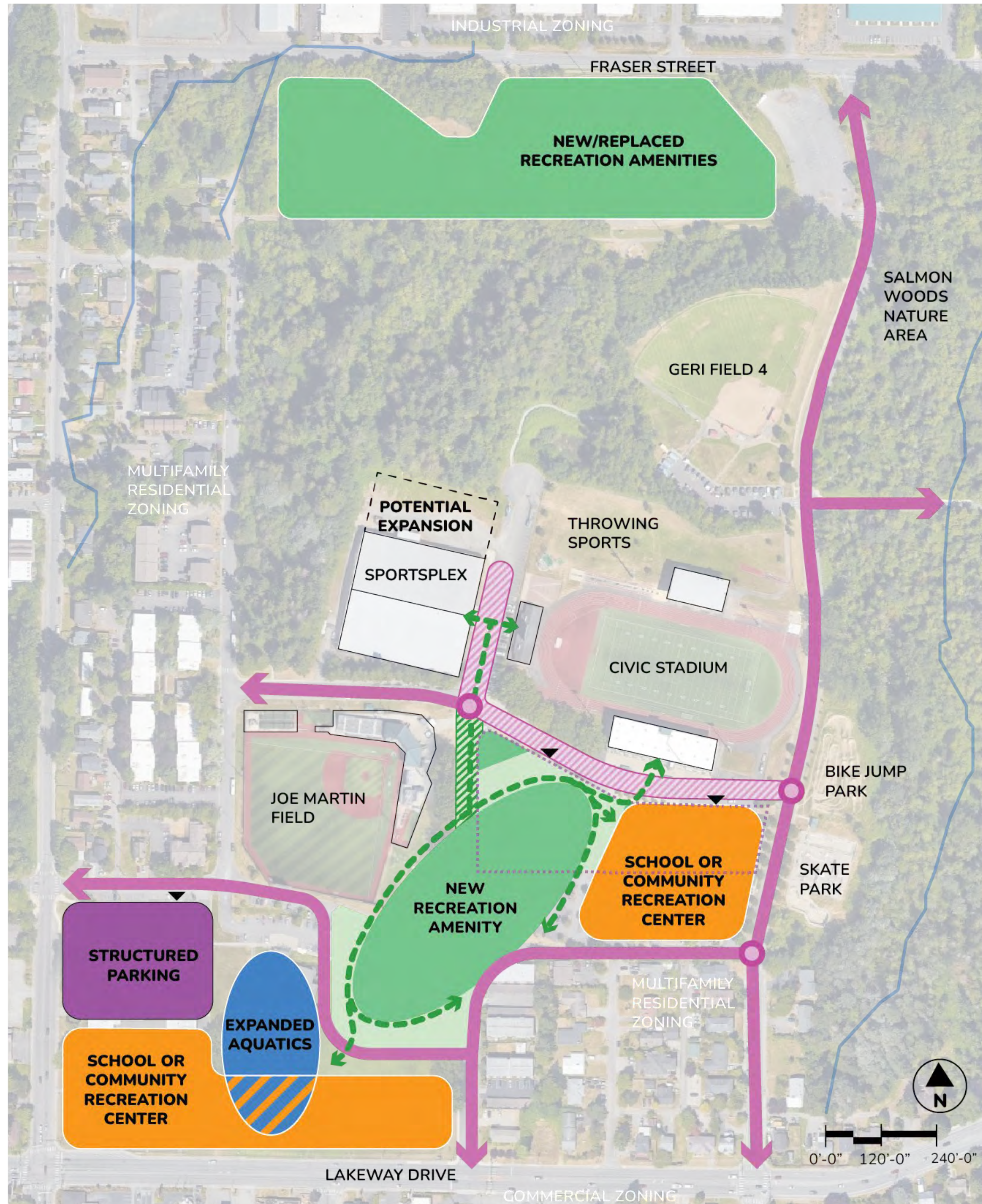
## COMMUNITY CENTERED - PRECEDENT INSPIRATION





# OPTION 3

## THE CONNECTED CAMPUS



### Key Considerations:

- Creates a central open space, giving an obvious and dramatic “there there”
- Tuck-under and structured parking
- Preserves future expansion opportunity for the Sportsplex
- Future buffered bike lane and street trees on Lakeway offer some mitigation

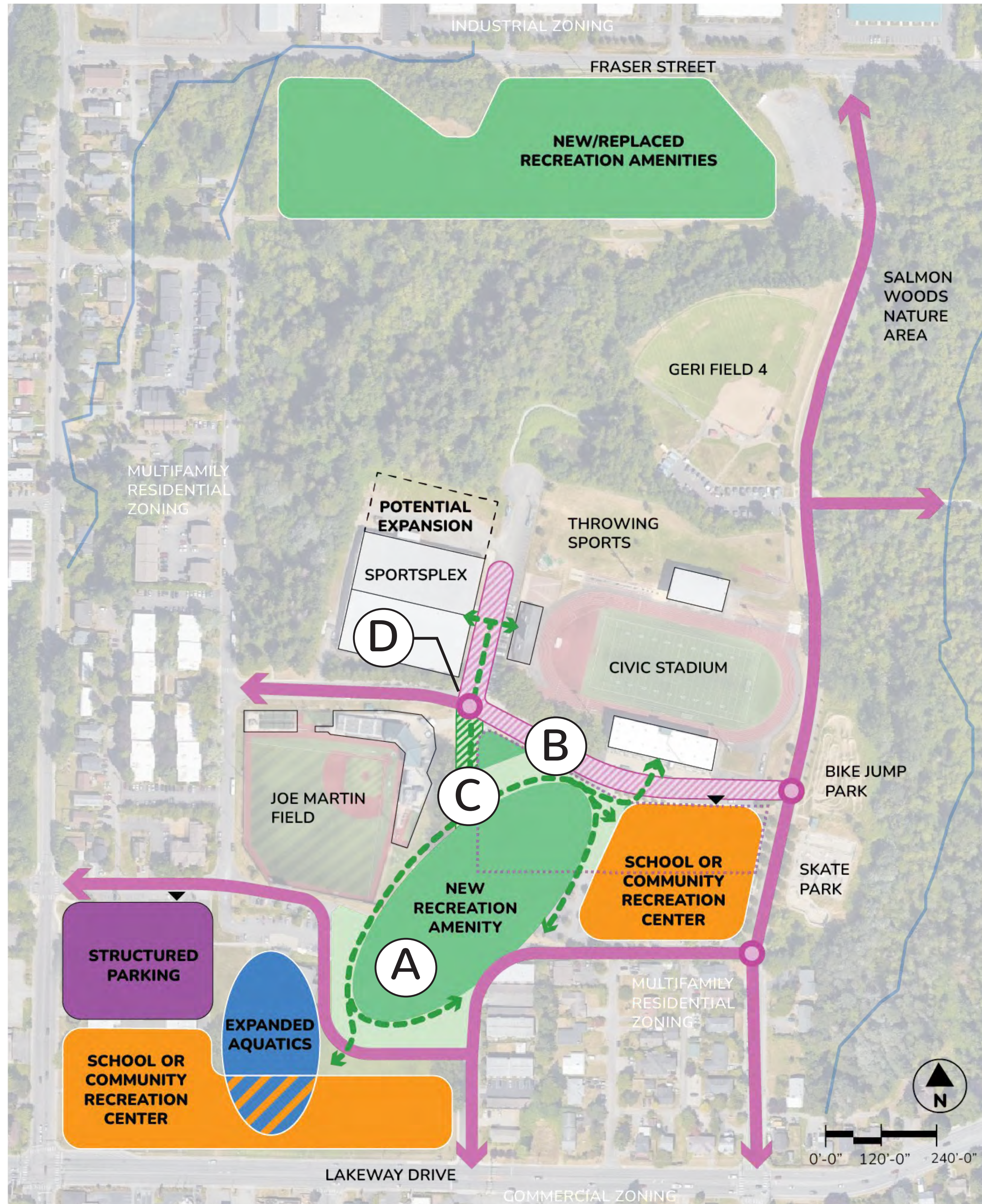
### LEGEND

- PRIMARY VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
- LOCAL VEHICULAR ACCESS
- ROUNDABOUT
- TUCK-UNDER STRUCTURED PARKING
- STRUCTURED PARKING ENTRANCE
- PRIMARY PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
- PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE
- PLAZA
- SHARED SPACE/WOONERF



# OPTION 3

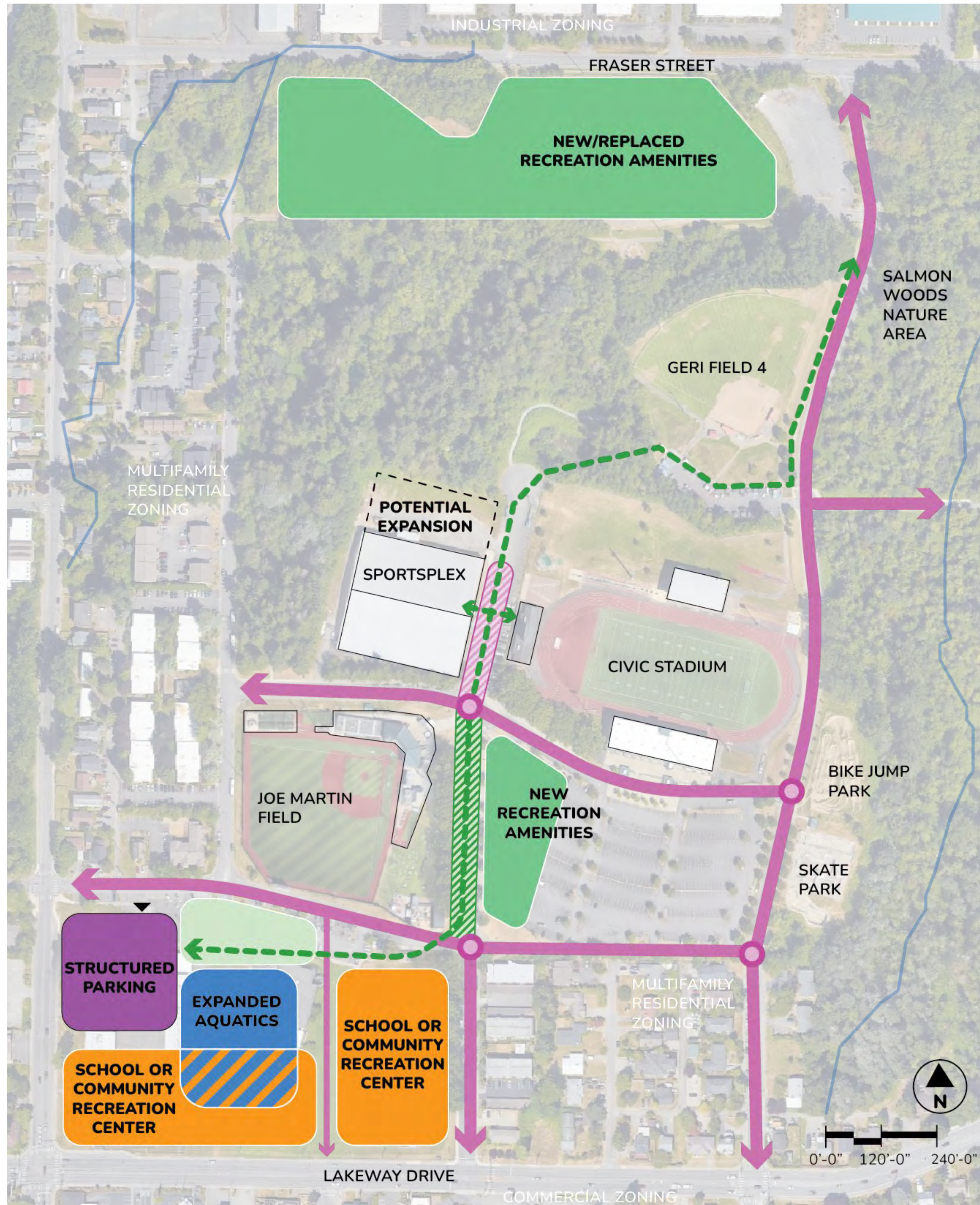
## THE CONNECTED CAMPUS – PRECEDENT INSPIRATION





# OPTION 4








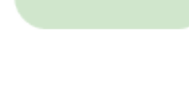

## THE LAKEWAY HUB



### Key Considerations:

- Preserves future expansion opportunity for the Sportsplex
- Pedestrian promenade and woonerf becomes a connective spine
- Relatively straightforward permitting

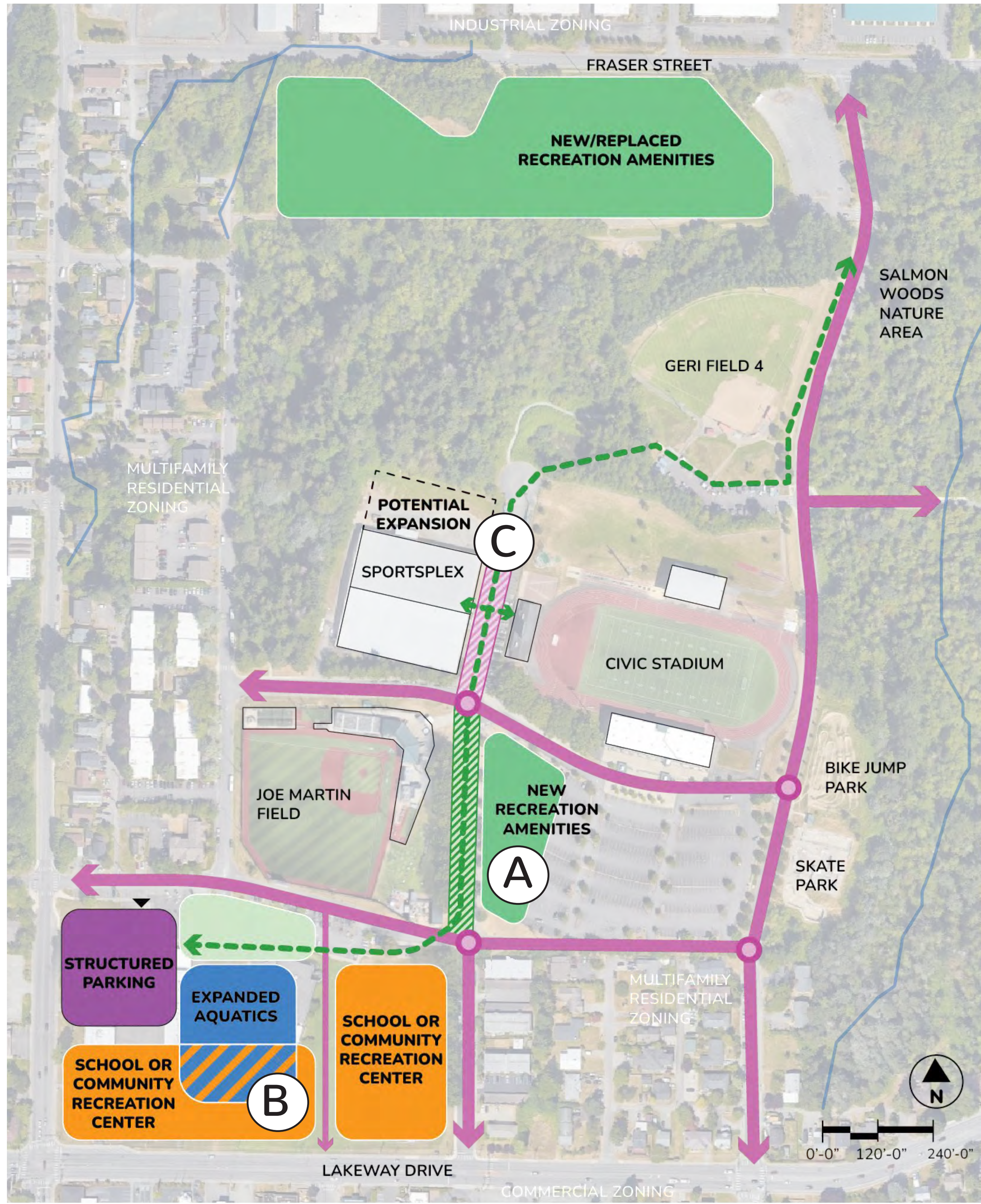
### LEGEND

-  PRIMARY VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
-  LOCAL VEHICULAR ACCESS
-  ROUNDABOUT
-  TUCK-UNDER STRUCTURED PARKING
-  STRUCTURED PARKING ENTRANCE
-  PRIMARY PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
-  PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE
-  PLAZA
-  SHARED SPACE/WOONERF



# OPTION 4

## THE LAKEWAY HUB – PRECEDENT INSPIRATION



SOLAR PICNIC SHELTER



COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND



SPRAY PARK IN ROCKVILLE, MD



SHARED SPACE WOONERF



PICKLEBALL



AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (LEFT) CO-LOCATED WITH A COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER AND POOL (CENTER)



# HOW WELL DOES OPTION 4 ...

...provide good long-term value to the community by minimizing undue costs and permitting burdens, inviting potential partnership, and promoting tourism and economic development?

...respond to the entire Bellingham community: all ages, abilities, languages, genders, cultures, and income levels?

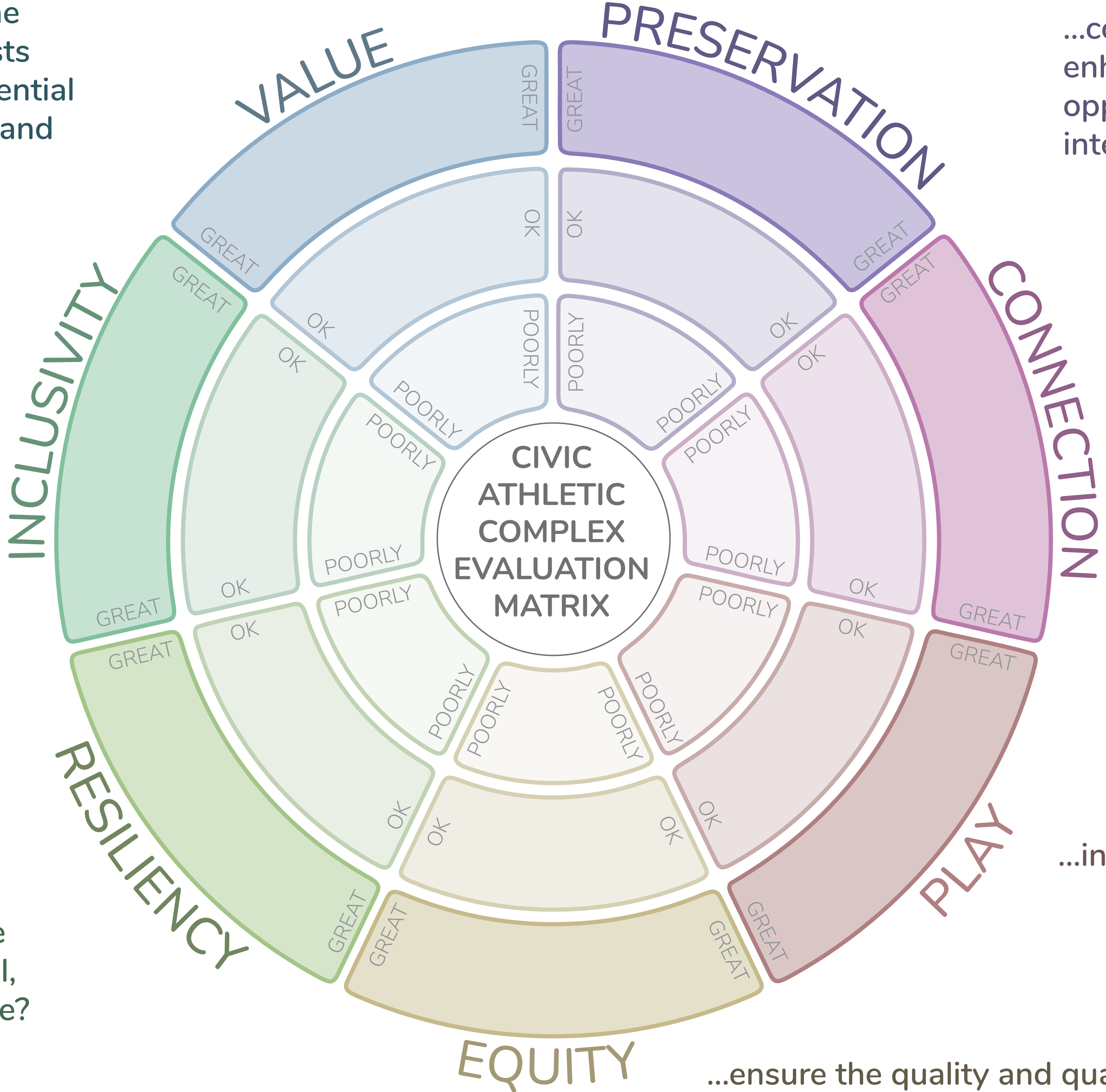
...steward a long-term park system that helps reduce the impact of climate change and supports flexible spaces that accommodate traditional, emerging, and future recreational use?

...conserve habitat and open space, enhance native species and create opportunities to learn about and interact with nature?

...support community connection through enhanced trail corridors, protecting wildlife habitat and improving physical, mental and emotional health?

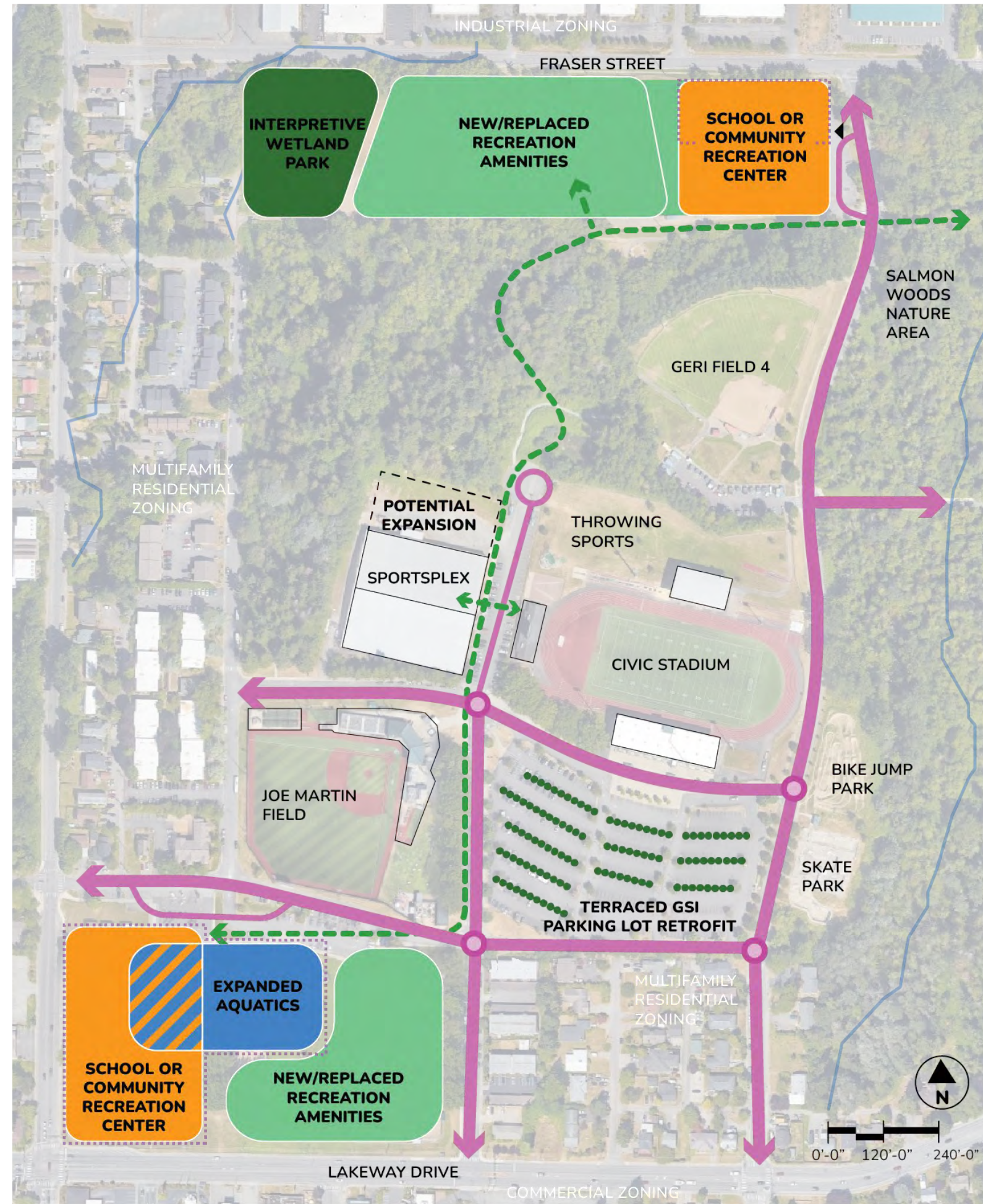
...inspire imagination and joy?

...ensure the quality and quantity of amenities are equitably distributed, easy to safely use year round and accessible by all modes of travel?

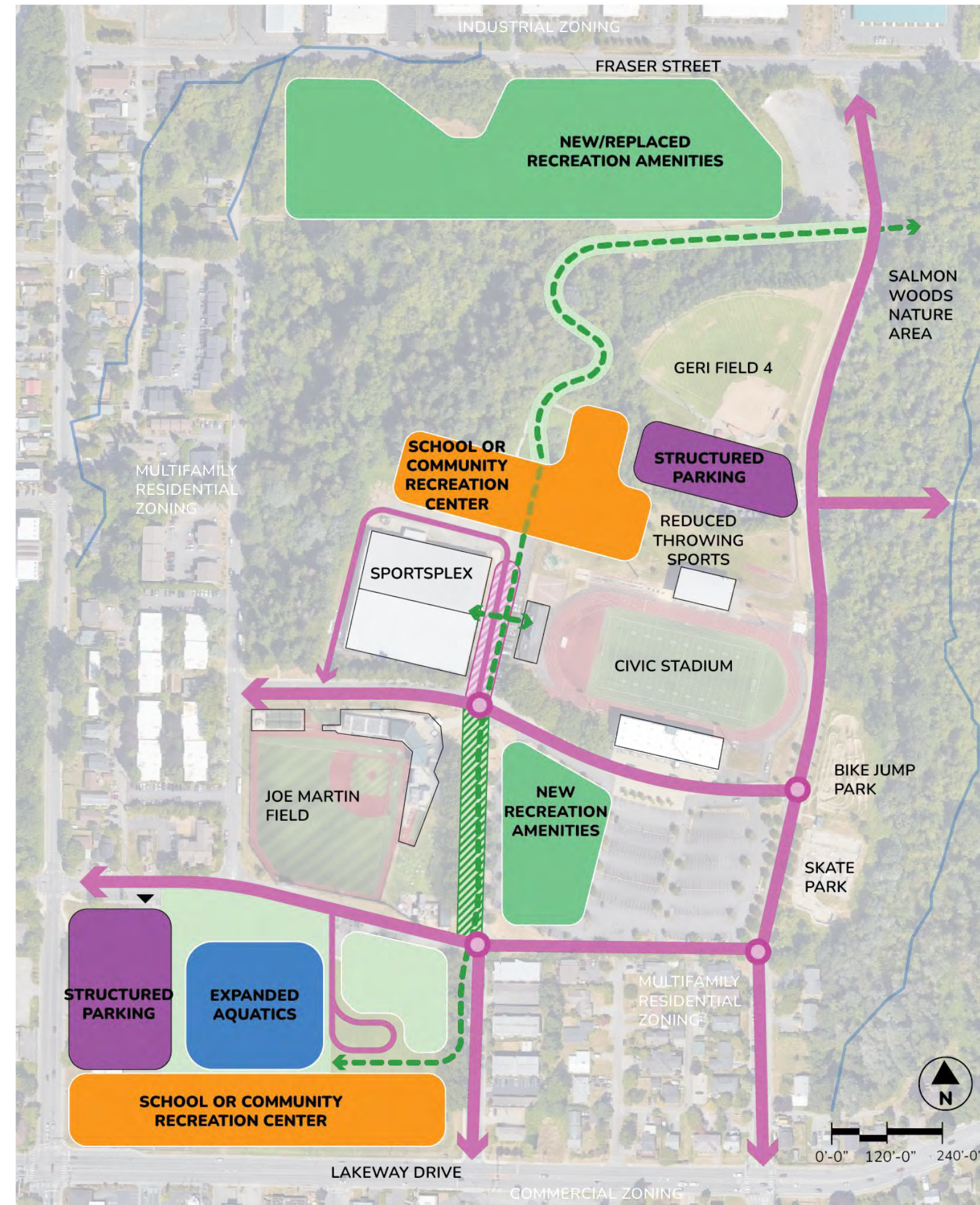




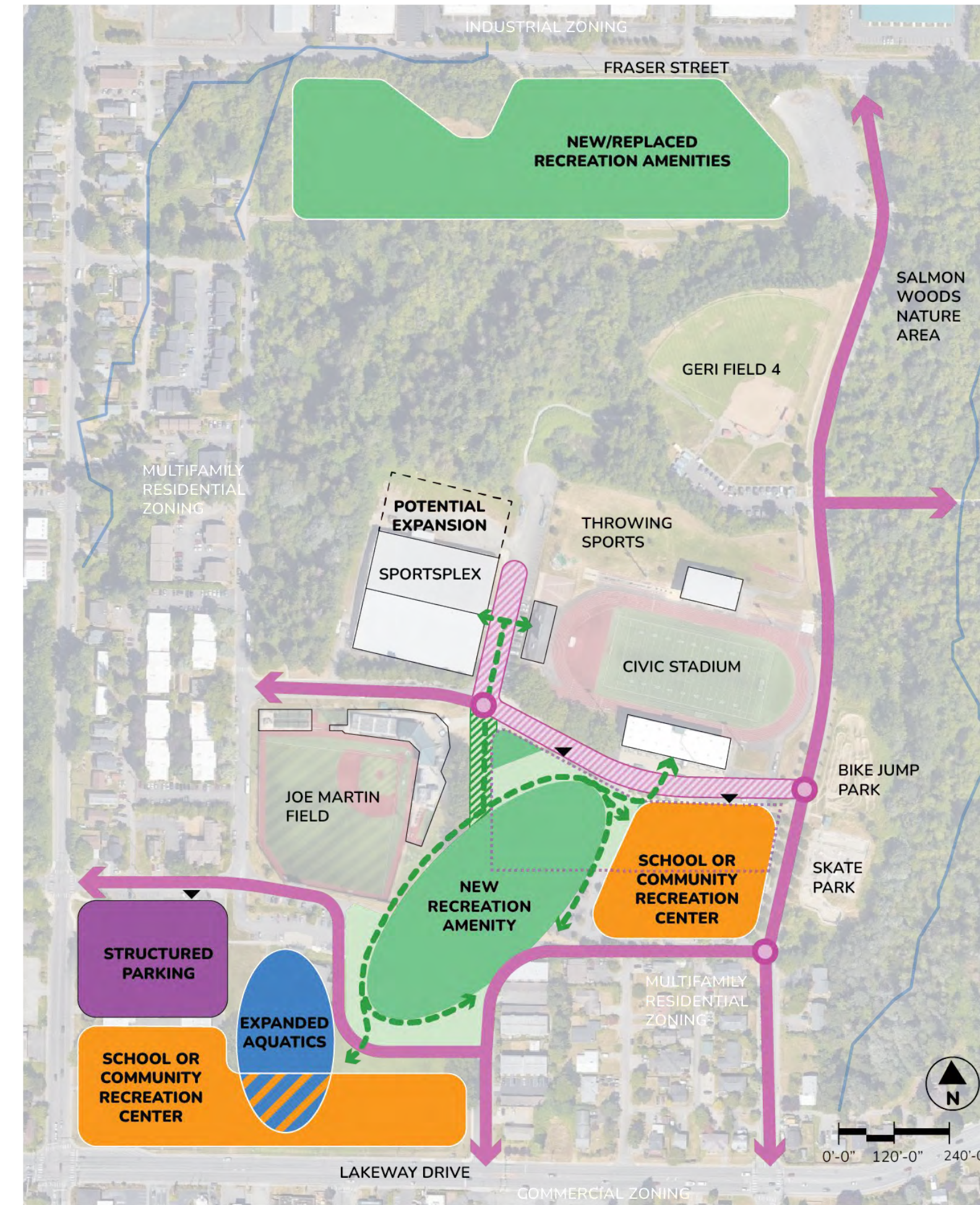
# WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR FEEDBACK



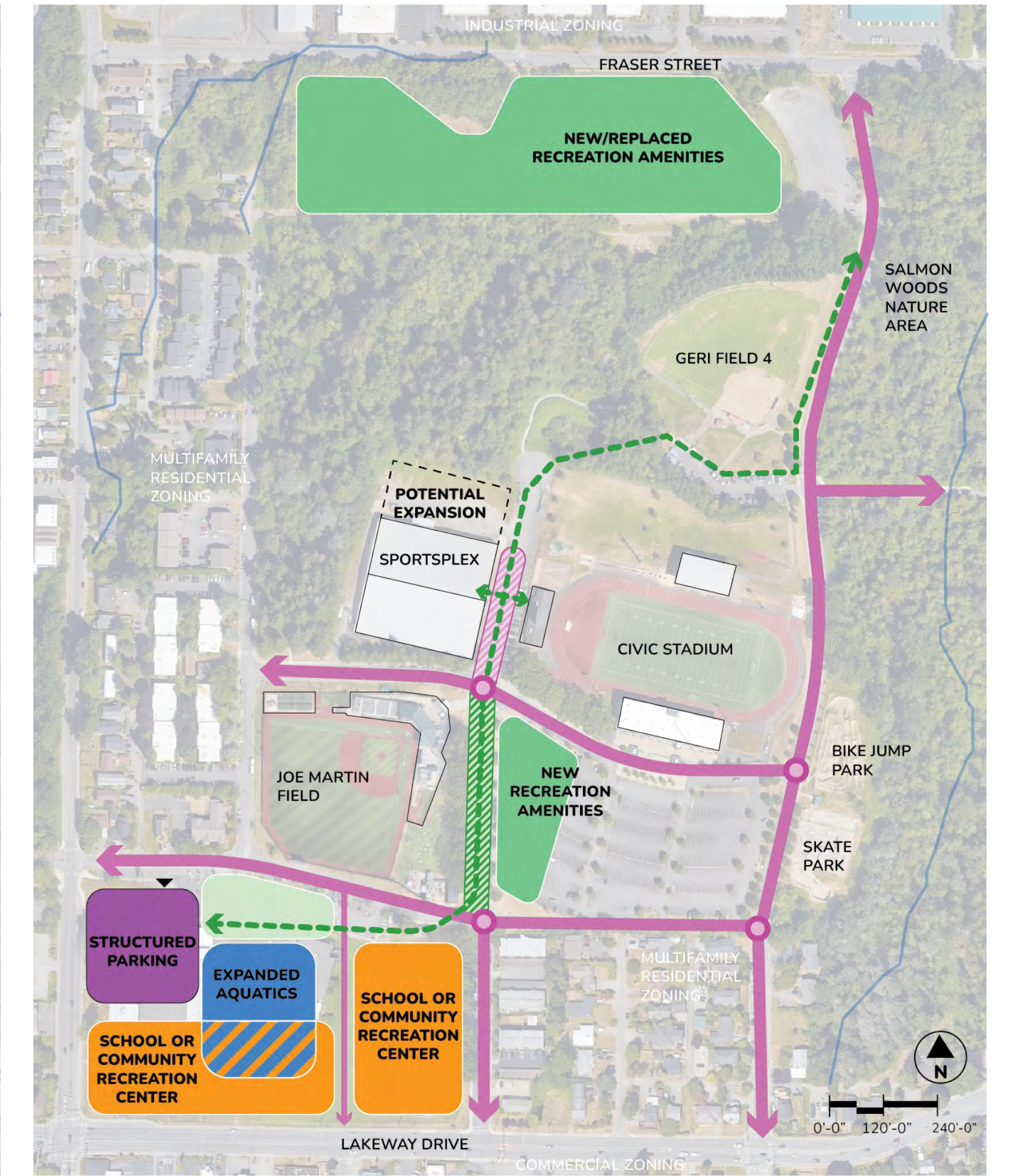
OPTION 1  
FRAMING THE PARK PERIMETER



OPTION 2  
COMMUNITY CENTERED



OPTION 3  
THE CONNECTED CAMPUS



OPTION 4  
THE LAKEWAY HUB