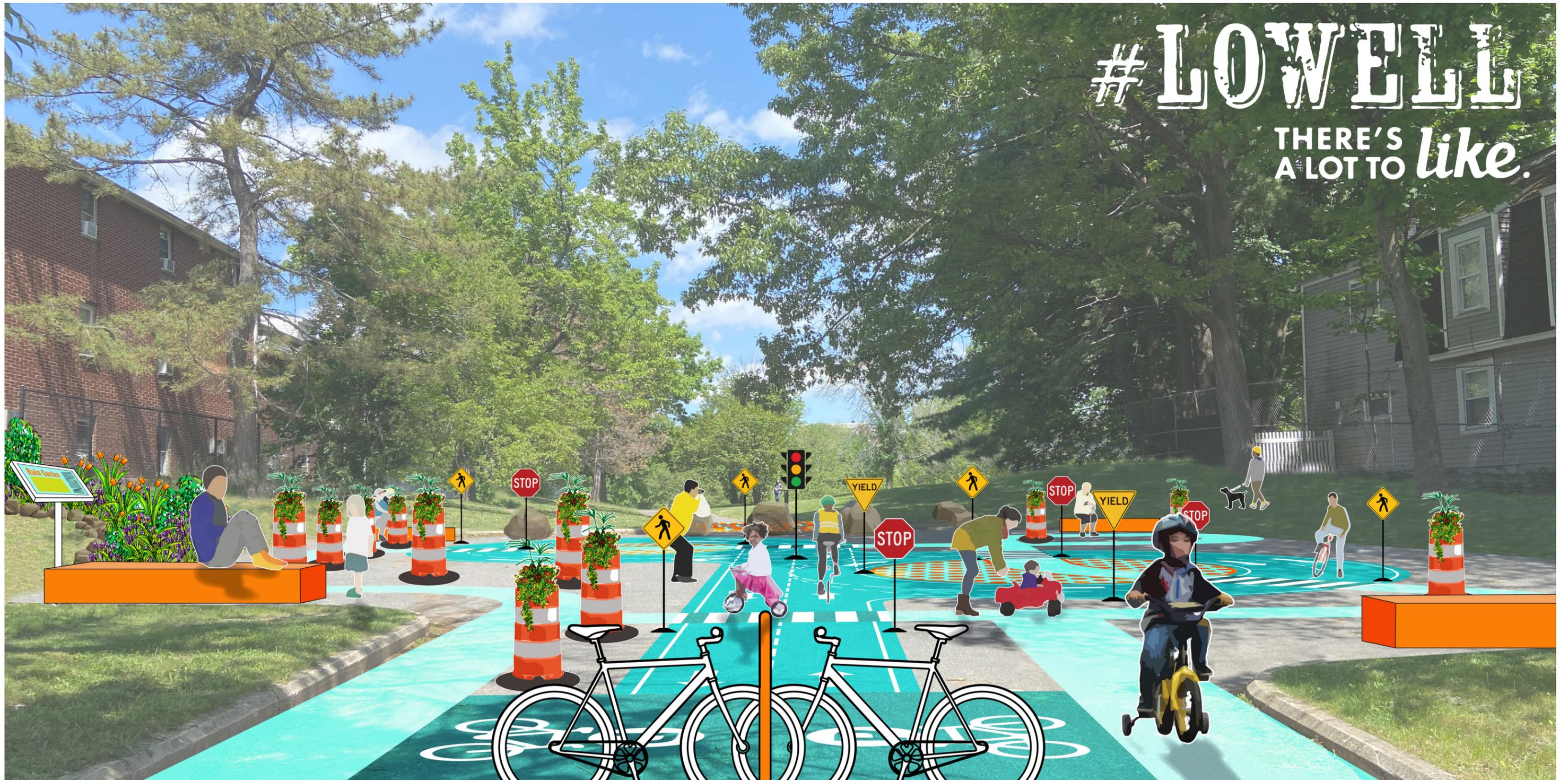


#LOWELL
THERE'S
A LOT TO *like.*



McPherson Park Traffic Garden

A Department of Planning and Development Proposal | July 2022

What is a Traffic Garden?

“A miniature network of streets that engages the imagination of children as they learn and have fun.”

A traffic garden is a small-scale network of connected streets with scaled-down traffic features and other roadway elements for educational programs, skills building and active engagement. Such networks are found in many places and may be known as *safety town*, *safety city*, *safety village*, *traffic park* or one of the many other regional names. They can be put together by constructing asphalt streets and concrete curbs on dedicated sites, marking paint striping and pavement markings on hard surfaces, or assembled with temporary materials and portable equipment on parking lots and playgrounds. What these facilities and installations all have in common is they create a small world to ride bicycles, steer scooters and act out pedestrian roles. Children navigate and practice using roadways, intersections and crossings in a safe environment free of motor vehicles. They learn while having fun and interacting with features and other users.

<https://www.trafficgardens.com/about>



Traffic Garden Case Study

White Center Bike Playground

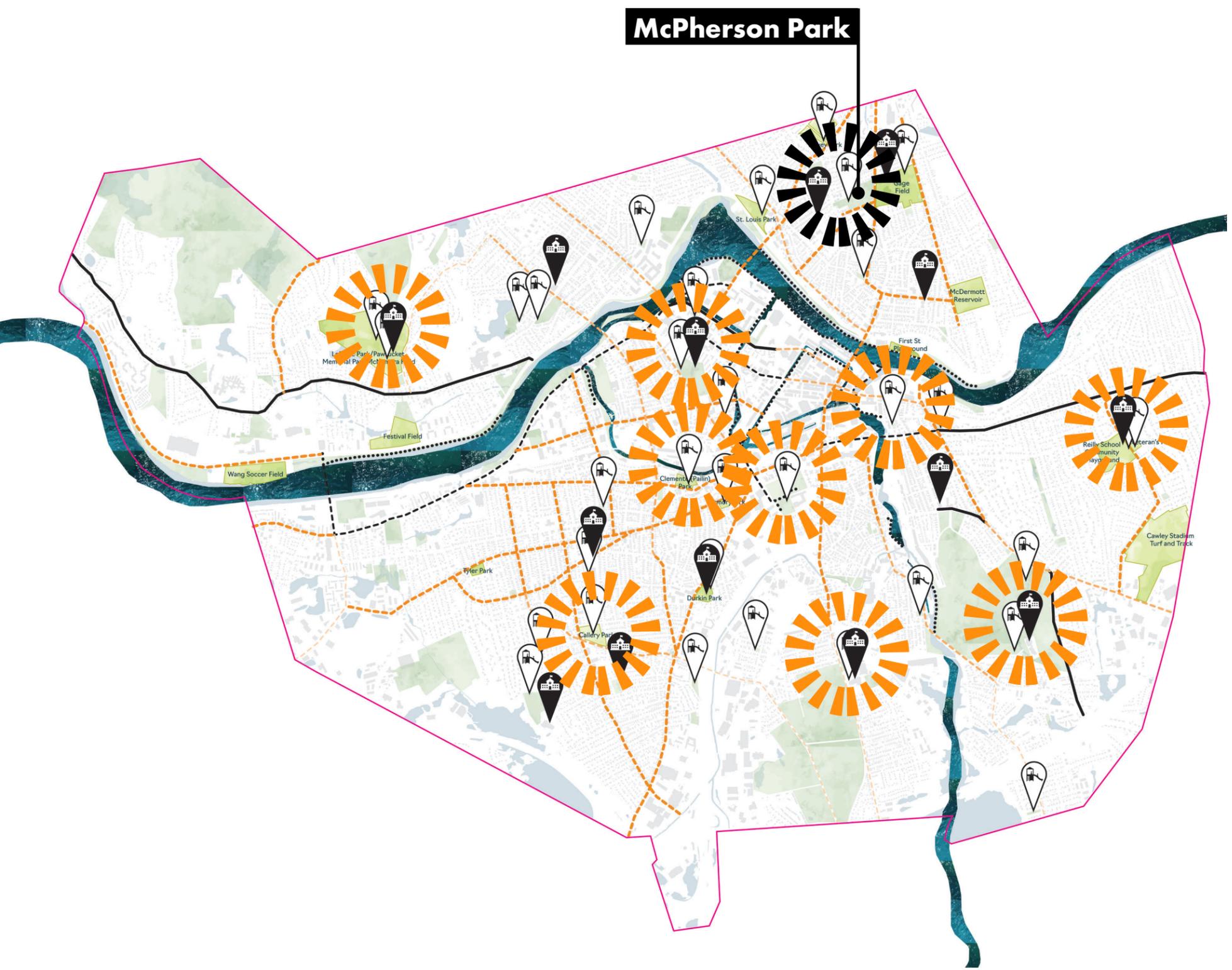
Seattle, WA

“The project replaced two unused tennis courts and turned them into a smartly designed streetscape complete with crosswalks, multi-lane roads, a roundabout, and more. The idea was to create a place where kids and adults can practice safe riding skills in a realistic environment away from the dangers posed by other road users.”

<https://bikeportland.org/2016/10/03/seattles-new-traffic-garden-is-the-perfect-place-to-learn-the-rules-of-the-road-192710>



Analysis of Suitable Traffic Garden Locations



Location Criteria:

- + Adjacency to existing or future bike route
- + Proximity to elementary school/s
- + Proximity to playground/s
- + Equitable Distribution among neighborhoods

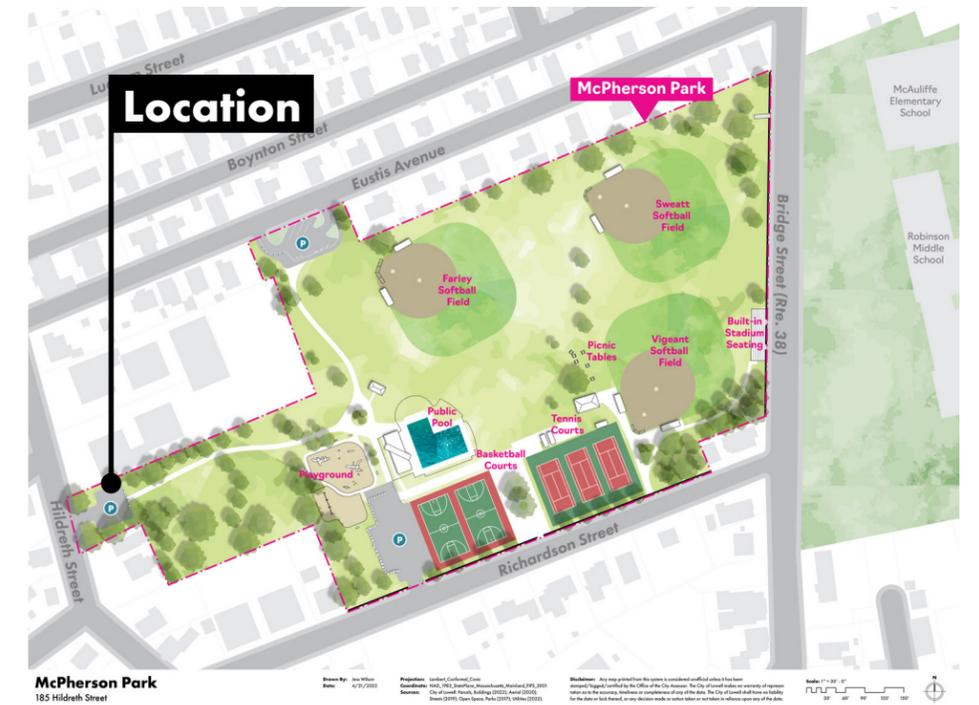
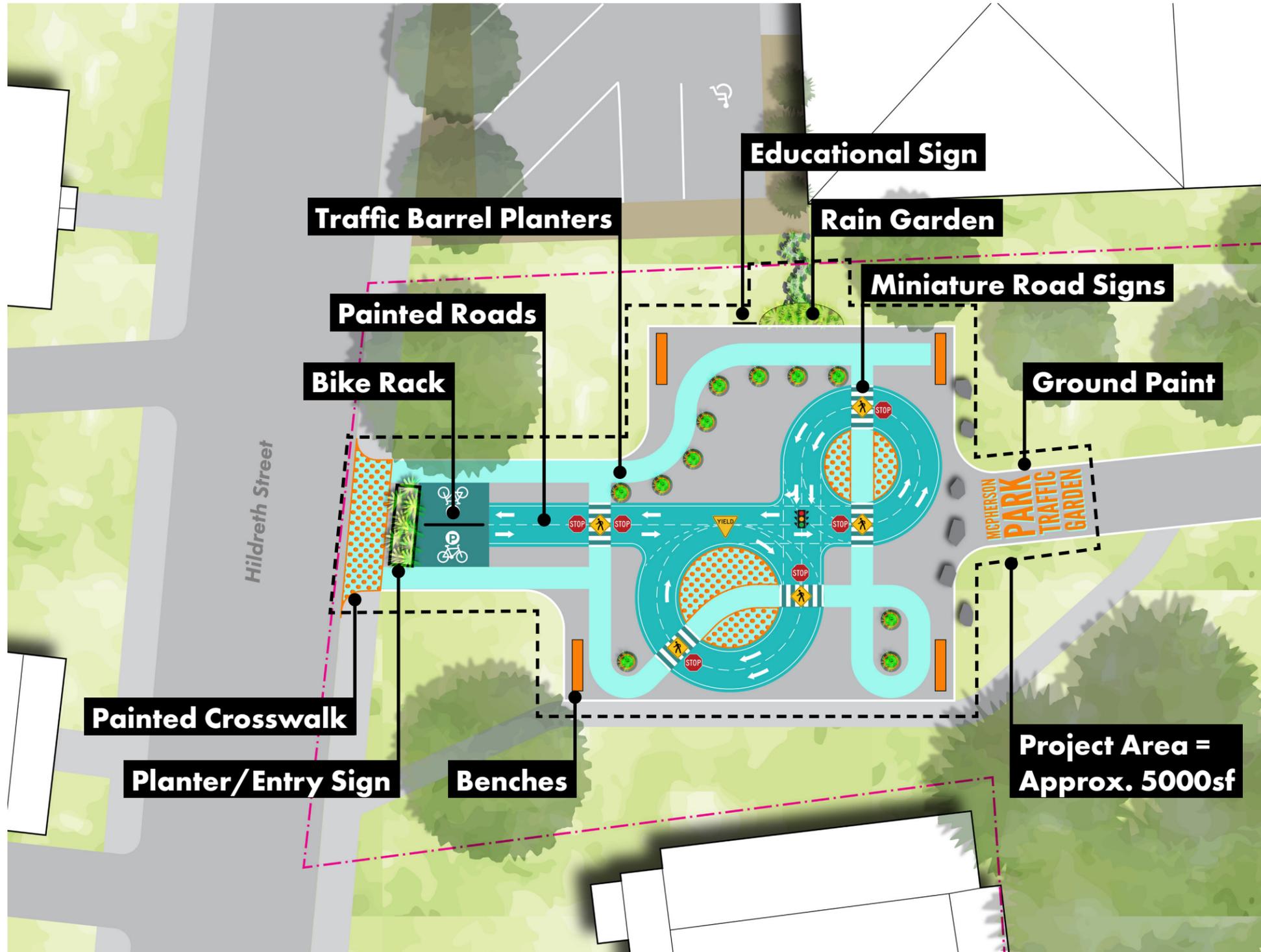
LEGEND

-  Elementary School
-  Playground
-  Existing Bike Lane
-  Existing Off-Road Trail
-  Planned Bike Route
-  Go Lowell Near-Term Priority Bike Route
-  Go Lowell Mid-Term Priority Bike Route
-  Go Lowell Long-Term Priority Bike Route

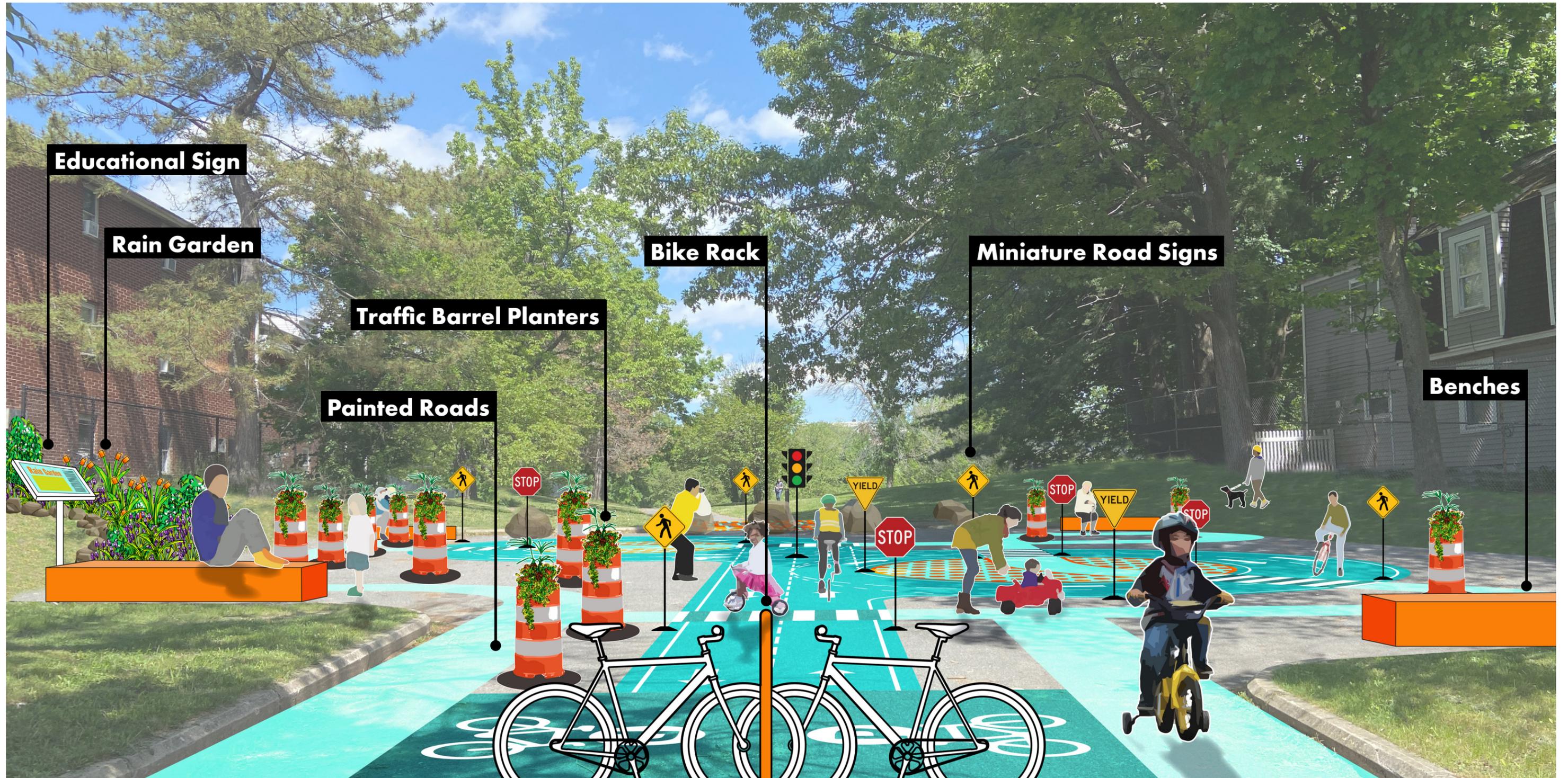
Proposed Traffic Garden Locations for Further Study

Park Name	Neighborhood	Acres	Nearby Elementary School/s	Nearby Playground/s	Bike Connection/s
McPherson Park	Centralville	10.55	Greenhalge School + McAuliffe School	McPherson Park Playground	Future Near-Term Priority Bike Route on Bridge Street
Roberto Clemente Park	Lower Highlands	3.02	Boys and Girls Club	Clemente Park Playground (*23-24 planned improvements)	Future Mid-Term Priority Bike Route on Middlesex Street
Donahoe Park	South Lowell	13.04	Pyne Arts School	Donahoe Park Playground (*23-24 planned improvements)	Existing Bike Route on Boylston Street; Future Mid-Term Priority Bike Route on Rogers Street
Kittredge Park	Belvidere	1.80	Moody Elementary School	Kittredge Park Playground (*22-23 planned improvements)	Existing Bike Route on Andover Street; Future Near-Term Priority Bike Route on Nesmith Street
Reilly School Community Playground	Belvidere	3.17	Reilly School	Reilly School Community Playground	Future Near-Term Priority Bike Route on Douglas Road
Callery Park	Highlands	5.50	Washington Elementary School	Callery Park Playground (*22-23 planned improvements)	Future Near-Term Priority Bike Route on Stevens Street; Future Mid-Term Priority Bike Route on Parker Street
Pawtucket Memorial Park	Pawtucketville	61.20	Pawtucketville Memorial School	Pawtucket Memorial Park Playground	Existing Bike Lane on Varnum Avenue; Future Long-Term Priority Bike Route on West Meadow Road
North Common	Acre	7.69	Murkland School	North Common Playgrounds	Future Mid-Term Priority Bike Route on Fletcher Street
O'Donnell Park	Sacred Heart	15.29	Shaughnessey School	O'Donnell Park Playground (*23-24 planned improvements)	Future Long-Term Priority Bike Route on Gorham Street
South Common	Back Central	20.31	STEM Academy at Edith Nourse Rogers School	South Common Park Playground	Separated Bike Lanes on Thorndike Street currently under construction

McPherson Park Traffic Garden Concept Plan



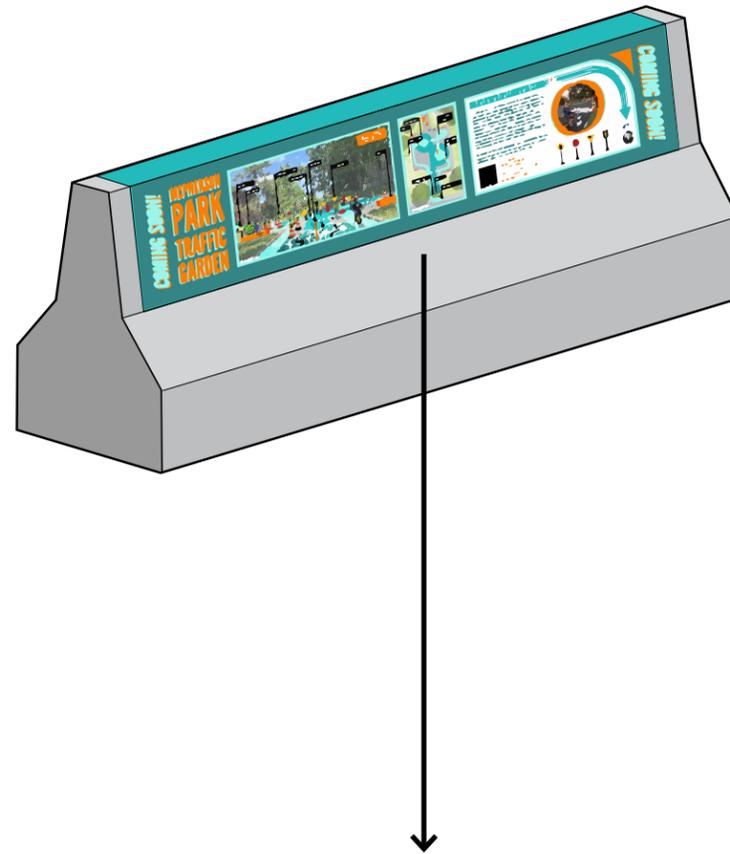
McPherson Park Traffic Garden Concept View



Project Phases

Short Term:

- + Temporarily Close lot with Jersey Barrier + Vinyl Sign
- + Facilitate a series of one-day "pop-up" traffic garden design workshops and youth-centered community engagement activities



Long Term:

- + Permanently Close lot with Planter / Entry Sign
- + Install permanent traffic garden and associated amenities



COMING SOON!

MCPHERSON PARK TRAFFIC GARDEN

These conceptual drawings are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent the final design.

What is a Traffic Garden?

A traffic garden is a small-scale network of connected streets with scaled-down traffic features and other roadway elements for educational programs, skills building and active engagement. Such networks are found in many places and may be known as safety town, safety city, safety village, traffic park, traffic playground or one of the many other regional names. Traffic Gardens create a small world to ride bicycles, steer scooters and act out pedestrian roles. Children navigate and practice using roadways, intersections and crossings in a safe environment free of motor vehicles. They learn while having fun and interacting with features and other users.

As Lowell works toward becoming a more bike-friendly City, it is important to provide spaces for younger community members to safely learn how to navigate the rules of the road.

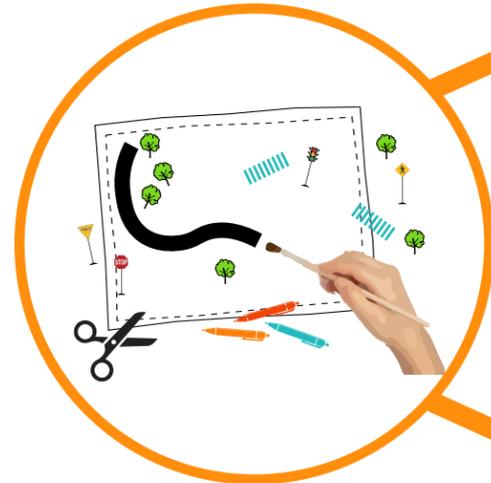
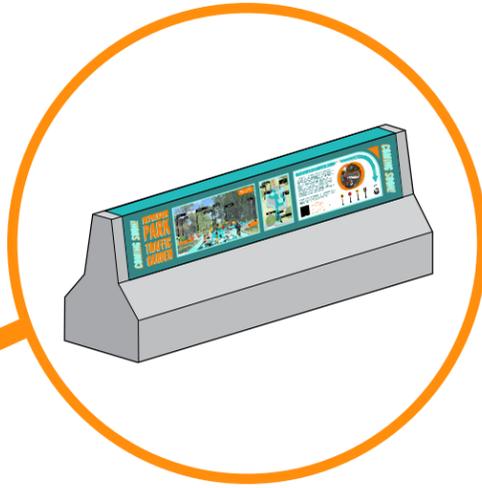
Scan the QR code, or visit <https://www.trafficgardens.com/about> to learn more about traffic gardens!

If you have any questions about this project, please reach out to: openspace@lowellma.gov.

COMING SOON!

Community Engagement

1 Close off the parking lot with a jersey barrier. Install a vinyl banner over the barrier informing visitors about plans for the traffic garden.



2 Facilitate design workshops at nearby elementary schools. Classroom activities include hands-on worksheets with scaled 2-D and 3-D elements for students to experiment with.

3 Facilitate a series of one-day traffic garden mock-ups at the McPherson Park lot. Mock-up materials include paper road signs, tape, chalk, and traffic cones.



Community Stakeholders:

- + Centralville Community Coalition (CCC)
- + Centralville Neighborhood Action Group (CNAG)
- + McAuliffe Elementary School
- + Greenhalge Elementary School
- + Robinson Middle School
- + CTI After School Program

Community Partners:

- + UMass Lowell Outdoor Center and Bike Shop
- + Lowell Bike Connector

Estimated Scope + Budget

Proposed Short-Term Scope of Work	Qty.	\$/Unit	Estimated Cost
Vinyl Sign for Jersey Barrier	1	\$2,000	\$300
Community Engagement Materials (Signs, Chalk, etc.)	N/A	\$10	\$200
TOTAL SHORT-TERM PROJECT BUDGET			\$500

Proposed Long-Term Scope of Work	Qty.	\$/Unit	Estimated Cost
Design Services (15% of construction budget)			\$12,765
Planter / Entry Sign	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
Ground Paint (painted crosswalk, roadways, etc.)	5000sf	\$10	\$50,000
Miniature Road Signs (18)	18	\$100	\$1,800
Bike Rack (1)	1	\$500	\$500
Traffic Barrel Planters (12)	12	\$150	\$1,800
Benches (4)	4	\$4,500	\$18,000
Rain Garden	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
Educational Sign for Rain Garden	1	\$1,000	\$1,000
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION BUDGET			\$85,100
Contingency (10% of construction budget)			\$8,510
TOTAL LONG-TERM PROJECT BUDGET			\$106,375

Proposed Ongoing Maintenance	Estimated Cost
Repaint (introduce new design) every 3-5 years + replace signs as needed	\$5,000/year
ANNUAL MAINTENANCE BUDGET	\$5,000

Funding Opportunities

Grant Source	Application Deadline	Max. Funding	Notes
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	December	None	
Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant	July	\$400,000 + min. 30% match	Projects involving renovations of the same type in multiple parks, such as resurfacing playgrounds or installation of basketball courts, may be packaged into one application.
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	January	\$750,000 + min. 50% match	Funds construction only, design would need to be funded separately or completed in-house.
Community Preservation Act (CPA) Funds	August	None	