



Memorandum

PLANNING DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOODS

To: Historic Landmark Commission

From: Katia Pace, Principal Planner

Date: October 26, 2016

Re: Liberty Park Improvements

The purpose of this briefing is for the Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands to get direction from the Historic Landmarks Commission on proposed improvements to Liberty Park. The improvements are generally located in the west-central area of the Park, in the vicinity of the concessions, amusement rides, Tracy Aviary, and park maintenance yard. The intent of the project is to improve pedestrian circulation and wayfinding to these amenities and the Park.

The concept plan presented at this time is not complete with details because Parks would like direction and input from the commission before additional work is allocated to this project. The commission is being asked to give comments, however, this is not a public hearing and a vote will not be required at this time.

Background

In 1998 Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands created a major scoping plan for the park, "Liberty Park Landscaping Scoping Project." The plan was created based on consensus from the community and Salt Lake City that Liberty Park should not be substantially changed, but that the physical infrastructure was in need of major maintenance. The Historic Landmark Commission echoed this view when the scoping plan was presented to the Commission in 1998.

Over the last years several projects have been constructed in this area of the park but the new improvements did not address circulation between the amenities. Here are some of the projects approved in the area:

1999 – Approval to replace World War I monument and relocate plaques.

2002 – Approval to rehabilitate the Chase Mill building and surrounding site

2005 – Approval to replace the concession building

2013 – Approval to exchange a portion of the underutilized site of the former children's garden with Tracy's Aviary Tropical Exhibit building

Proposed Improvements

Parks and Public Lands worked with a consultant to develop a concept plan (see Attachment A.) The concept plan includes proposed changes that would start construction in 2017 and other future improvements with construction dates to be determined. The improvements being presented constitute new paving to create a clear entry into the park from the parking lot to the Aviary and the Park Concessions. Planting to be used to enhance circulation patterns as well as buffer adjacent uses such as the maintenance facility. Improvements to clearly delineate main circulation routes as well as create spaces for seating and outdoor dining. New formal tree planting adjacent to the Park's central promenade buffers the central walkway from the adjacent amusement rides (see Attachment B for more detail.) The concept plan lists the improvement as follows:

1. **Enchanted Forest Experience** – take out asphalt walkway and intensify the forest experience.
2. **Signature Feature** – create a sculptural element that is interactive and adds seating space.
3. **Enhanced Outdoor Seating/Dinning Area** - New trees will be planted in the grass north of the concessions building in a formal pattern that respects the formal character of the central promenade.
4. **Align New Walk on Centerline with Monument** – replace asphalt with concrete. Paving layout will differentiate areas for outdoor seating versus circulation.
5. **Amusement/Event/Activity Plaza** - replace asphalt with concrete. Paving layout will define space for the amusement rides.
6. **Upgrade Entry Plaza/Service Entry** - new concrete paving no curb entry to the Park.
7. **New Seat Wall and Planting at Memorial** - new seat wall and raised planting bed will replace the existing concrete wall.

The following projects are listed as future improvements and not part of the 2016/2017 improvements:

8. Future Reconfigured Entry to Maintenance Yard
9. Future Reconfigured Service Maintenance Yard
10. Future Greenhouse Outdoor Patio
11. Future New Entrance Identity, Feature, Signage and Landscaping
12. Future Proposed Reconfigured Parking Lot/Green Infrastructure Pilot Program

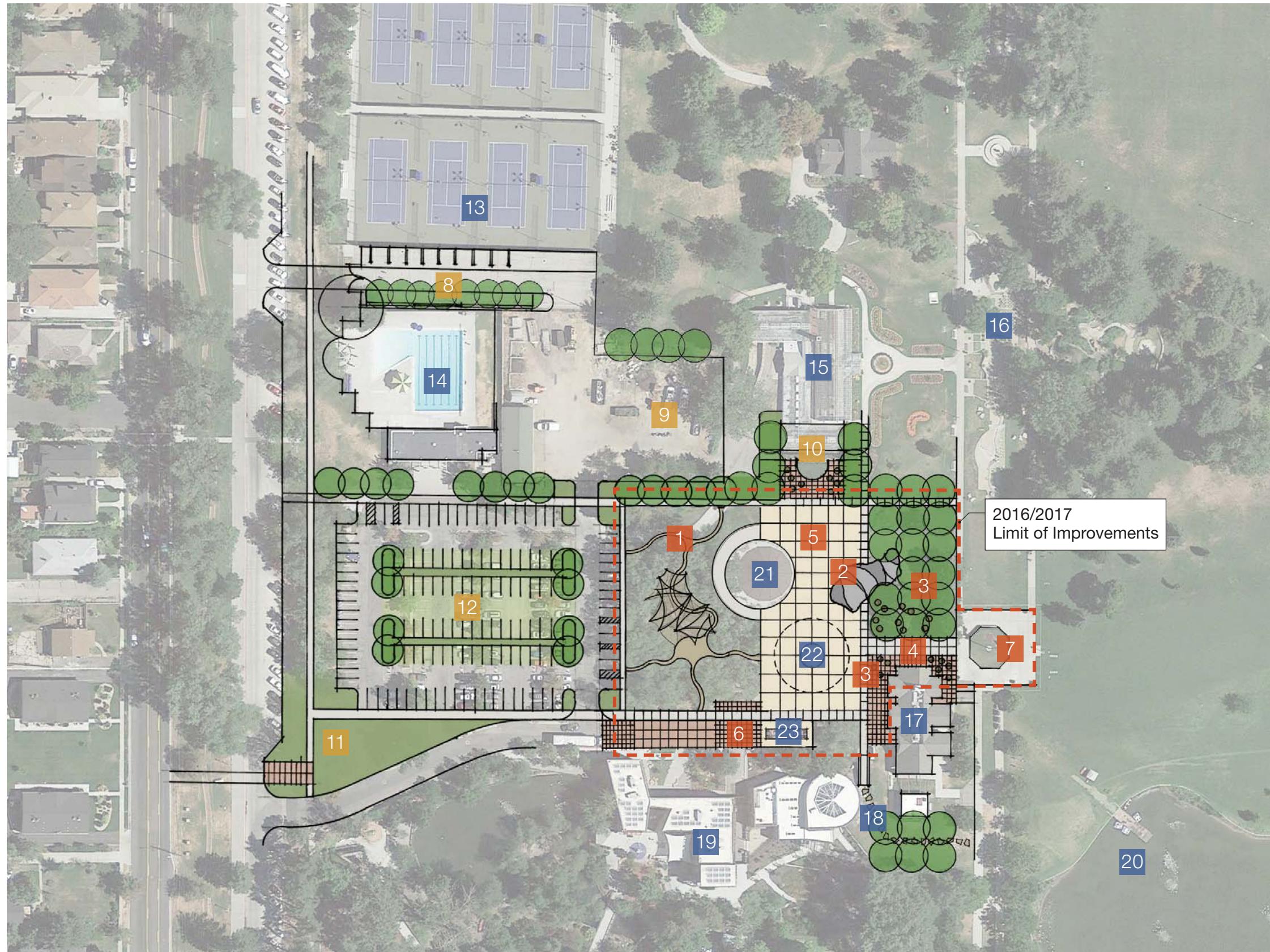
Next Step

Pending direction from the Historic Landmarks Commission, construction documents will be prepared during the winter of 2016-2017 with construction ensuing in 2017.

Attachments:

- A. Liberty Park 2016/2017 Improvements - Concept Plan Drawing
- B. Memo from Parks and Public Lands – Detailed Description
- C. Liberty Park Improvements – Photo Diagram

Attachment A
Liberty Park 2016/2017 Improvements
Concept Plan Drawing



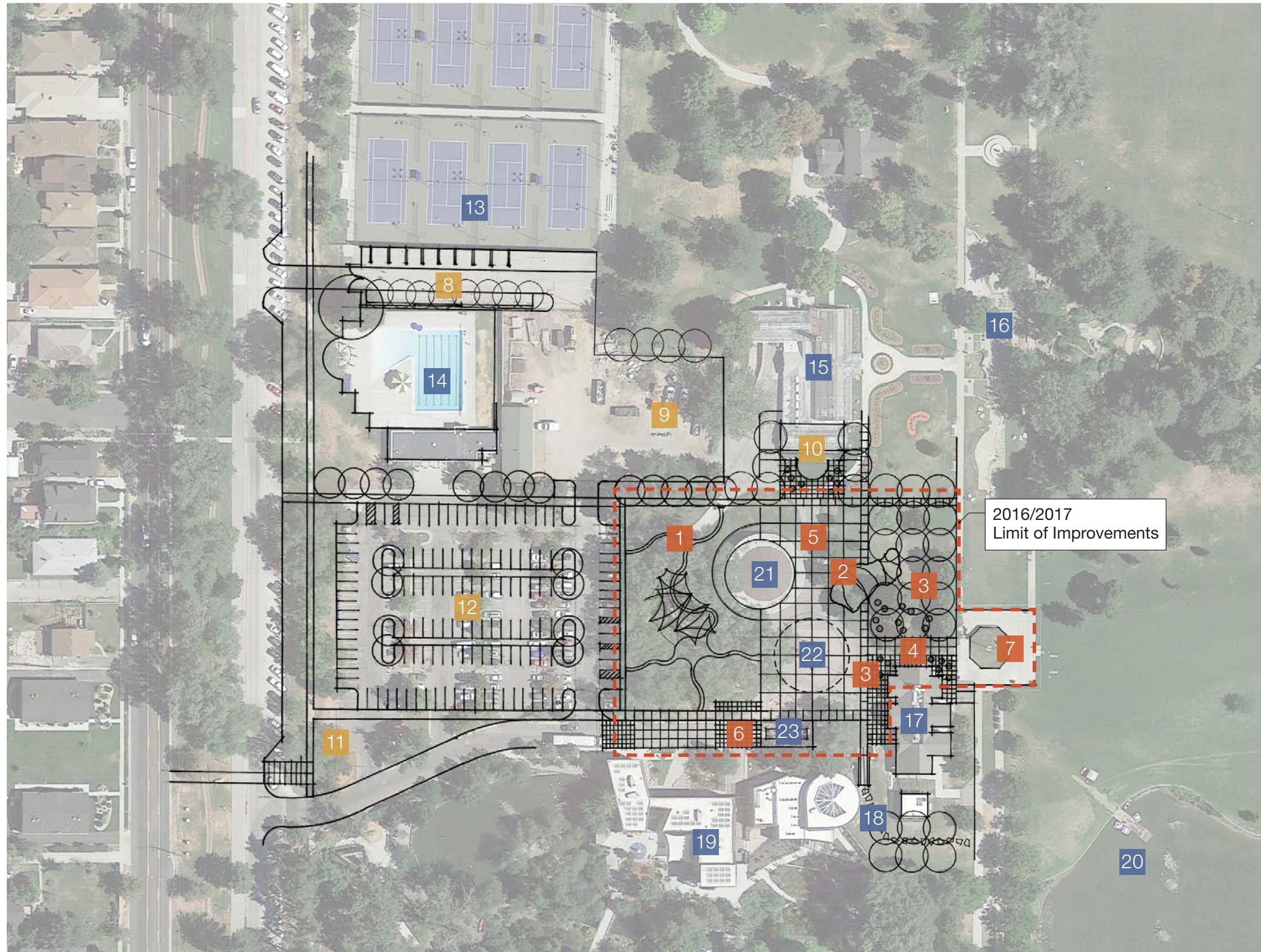
Legend Proposed

- 1 Enchanted Forest Experience
- 2 Signature Feature
- 3 Enhanced Outdoor Seating/Dining Area
- 4 Align New Walk on Centerline with Monument
- 5 Amusement/Event/Activity Plaza
- 6 Upgraded Entry Plaza/Service Entry
- 7 New Seat Wall and Planting at Memorial
- 8 Future Reconfigured Entry to Maintenance Yard
- 9 Future Reconfigured Service Maintenance Yard
- 10 Future Greenhouse Outdoor Patio
- 11 Future New Entrance Identity, Feature, Signage and Landscaping
- 12 Future Proposed Reconfigured Parking Lot/Green Infrastructure Pilot Program

Legend Existing

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 13 Tennis Courts | 21 Carousel |
| 14 Swimming Pool | 22 Swings Ride |
| 15 Greenhouse | 23 Ferris Wheel |
| 16 Seven Canyons Water Feature | |
| 17 Concessions Building | |
| 18 Stepping Stone Path | |
| 19 Tracy Aviary | |
| 20 Liberty Lake | |





Legend Proposed

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Attachment B
Memo from Parks and Public Lands
Detailed Description



Memorandum

To: Historic Landmarks Commission
Date: October 21, 2016
Project: Liberty Park Concessions Area Improvements
From: Nancy Monteith, PLA
Kristin Riker, Parks and Public Lands Director

Project Description:

The purpose of this memo is to inform the Historic Landmarks Commission of proposed improvements to Liberty Park. The improvements are generally located in the west-central area of the Park, in the vicinity of the concessions, amusement rides, Tracy Aviary, and park maintenance yard. The intent of the project is to improve pedestrian circulation and wayfinding to these amenities and the Park. Over the last decade several projects have been constructed in this area of the Park but the new improvements did not address circulation between the amenities. New paving and planting will connect the Park amenities and create a cohesive space.

Project Background:

In the early 2000's, Salt Lake City demolished the Children's Garden with the intent of replacing it with a new interactive area. A narrow concrete pedestrian bridge was protected on site and remains on-site. Several designs were proposed to redevelop the former Children's Garden site but were not implemented. The area remained undeveloped for several years.

In 2013, Tracy Aviary proposed a new building to occupy a portion of the underutilized site of the former children's garden. To solicit public input on the proposed site, Parks and Public Lands and the Tracy Aviary partnered to host a public workshop on October 24, 2014 on the Tracy Aviary expansion and adjacent areas in the Park. The goal of the workshop was to identify key ideas, public values and public priorities for redevelopment of the former children's garden site as well as nearby concessions and parking. Input from the workshop informed the siting of the new Tracy Aviary building, Treasures of the Rainforest, and provided additional public input on potential improvements around the west central gateway. The goals established with the workshop participants include:

- Goal 1: Encourage projects within the study area support the historic function and integrity of Liberty Park as a whole.
- Goal 2: Promote and appreciate balance of natural and developed park amenities in the study area
- Goal 3: Improve the safety of park visitors.
- Goal 4: Enhance and improve the functions and values of Liberty Park's concession area.

Since the workshop, the new Tracy Aviary building has been completed. Adjacent to the Aviary improvements, Parks and Public Lands constructed a small pump house for equipment related to a new secondary water system for the Park. This secondary water system utilizes water from Liberty Lake for all the Park's irrigation needs.

The current project proposes to further advance the goals articulated in the 2013 workshop by installing new paving and planting to create a unified space.

Proposed 2016-2017 improvements:

Parks and Public Lands worked with a consultant to develop a site improvement plan based on the goals established in the 2013 workshop. New paving will create a clear entry into the park from the parking lot to the Aviary and the Park Concessions. Planting will be used to enhance circulation patterns as well as buffer adjacent uses such as the maintenance facility. Improvements will clearly delineate main circulation routes as well as create spaces for seating and outdoor dining. New formal tree planting adjacent to the Park's central promenade buffers the central walkway from the adjacent amusement rides.

The proposed improvements are shown on Attachment A. A black and white line drawing over the existing conditions aerial illustrates proposed improvements and existing conditions of the site. A more detailed description of each of the areas follows below.

Upgraded Entry Plaza/ Service Entry (#6 on the Attachment A)

Existing: Circulation from the west central parking lot into the Park is unclear and confusing. The uneven paving is difficult to navigate for many park visitors. There is no clear sight line to the destinations and navigating through the amusement rides is difficult.



Proposed: A new upgraded Entry Plaza/ Service Entry will be the primary access from the parking lot to the Park. This new entry directs pedestrians to the Tracy Aviary entry and Liberty Park concessions area. The new concrete paving will be a smooth surface and curbless entry to the Park. Paving will be constructed to also allow needed service access to both the Aviary and the Park concessions. This will become the main pedestrian access replacing the existing asphalt path to the north.

Enchanted Forest Experience (#1 on the Attachment A)

Existing: Between the parking lot and the amusement area is a small, densely forested area. The trees are uniform in species and size. This area is currently underutilized and has the potential to be a unique space in the Park.



Proposed: The plan proposes to remove the asphalt walkway and route main pedestrian circulation north and south of the densely planted area. New concrete walkways will direct pedestrians to center of the park. The intent is to unify the forested spaces with new plantings that will increase species diversity and age class of the trees. Intimate, soft surface pathways will weave through the trees to create a place of discovery and exploration under the tree canopy. Trees will continue to be maintained to ensure visual access through the area for park safety. The forested space will be a quiet counterpoint to the lively amusement area nearby.

Amusement/ Event/Activity Plaza (#5 on Attachment A)

Existing: The paving under and around the amusement rides is deteriorating and uneven asphalt. The uneven surface is difficult to navigate for many park users. The edges are not defined and pedestrian circulation is unclear and confusing.



Proposed: New concrete paving will replace the existing degraded asphalt. The paving layout creates a defined space for the amusement rides. The rides will be moved to fill the space and accommodate the new circulation patterns. The signature feature called out as #2 on the attached plan is a sculptural

element that is interactive offering additional informal seating space. This feature will be implemented as budget allows.

Enhanced Outdoor Seating/ Dining Area (#4 on Attachment A)

Existing: Paving adjacent to the concessions building lacks delineation. Picnic tables are clustered under the trees on the grass. There is no defined space for park visitors who are purchasing food from the concessions and want to sit nearby.



Proposed: The existing asphalt will be replaced with concrete paving. Concrete scoring patterns and finish will add a higher level of design around the concessions area in order to differentiate areas for outdoor seating versus circulation. New trees will be planted in the grass north of the concessions building in a formal pattern that respects the formal character of the central promenade

New Seat Wall and Planting at Memorial (#7 on Attachment A)

Existing: A rectilinear concrete wall frames a small turf area. Two plaques are set in the wall.



Proposed: A new seat wall and raised planting bed will replace the existing concrete wall. The memorial plaques will be integrated into the seat wall. The flag pole will remain in its current location. The existing turf area will be replaced with a raised planting bed. The bed will be planted with perennials to create a

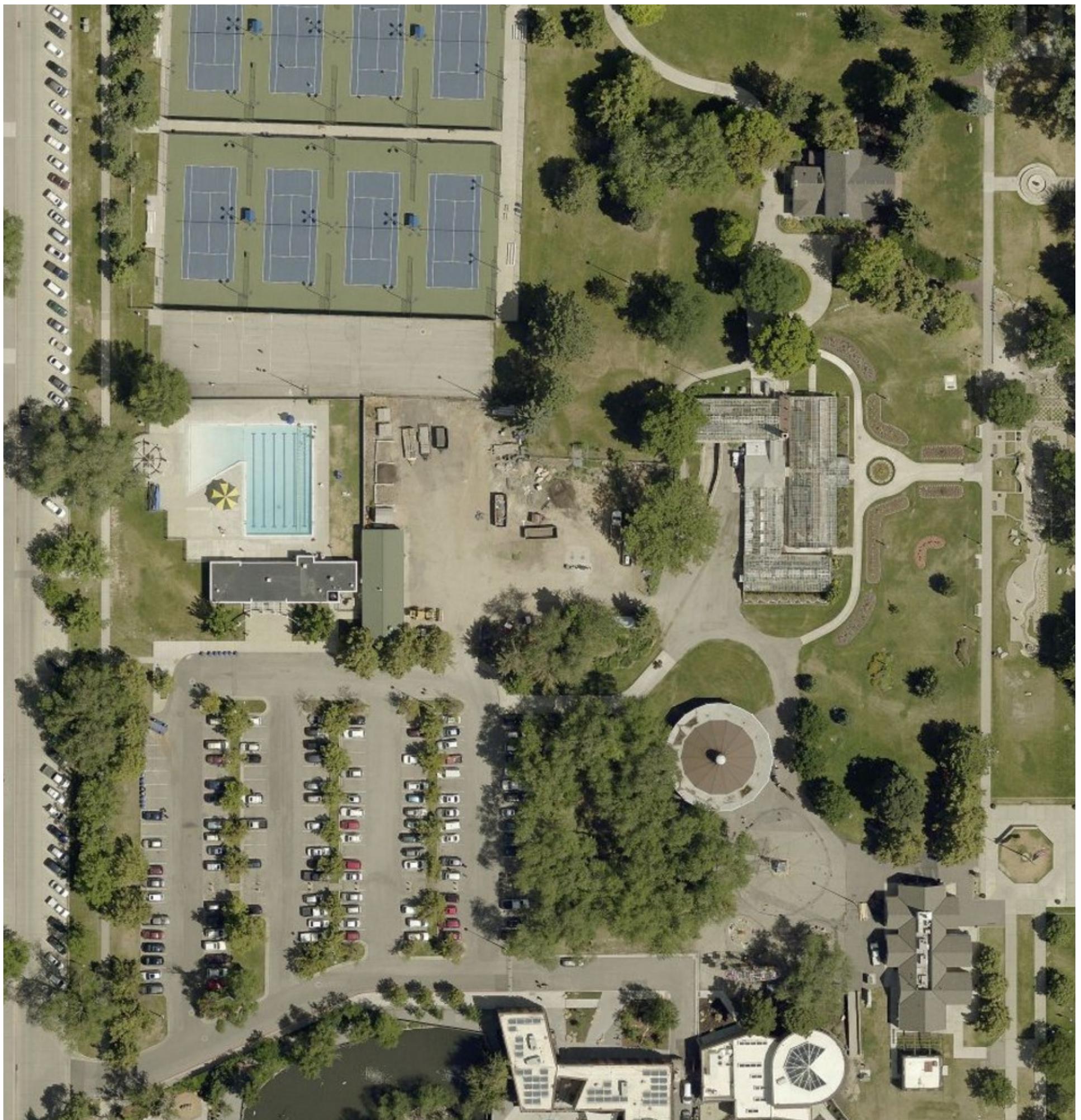
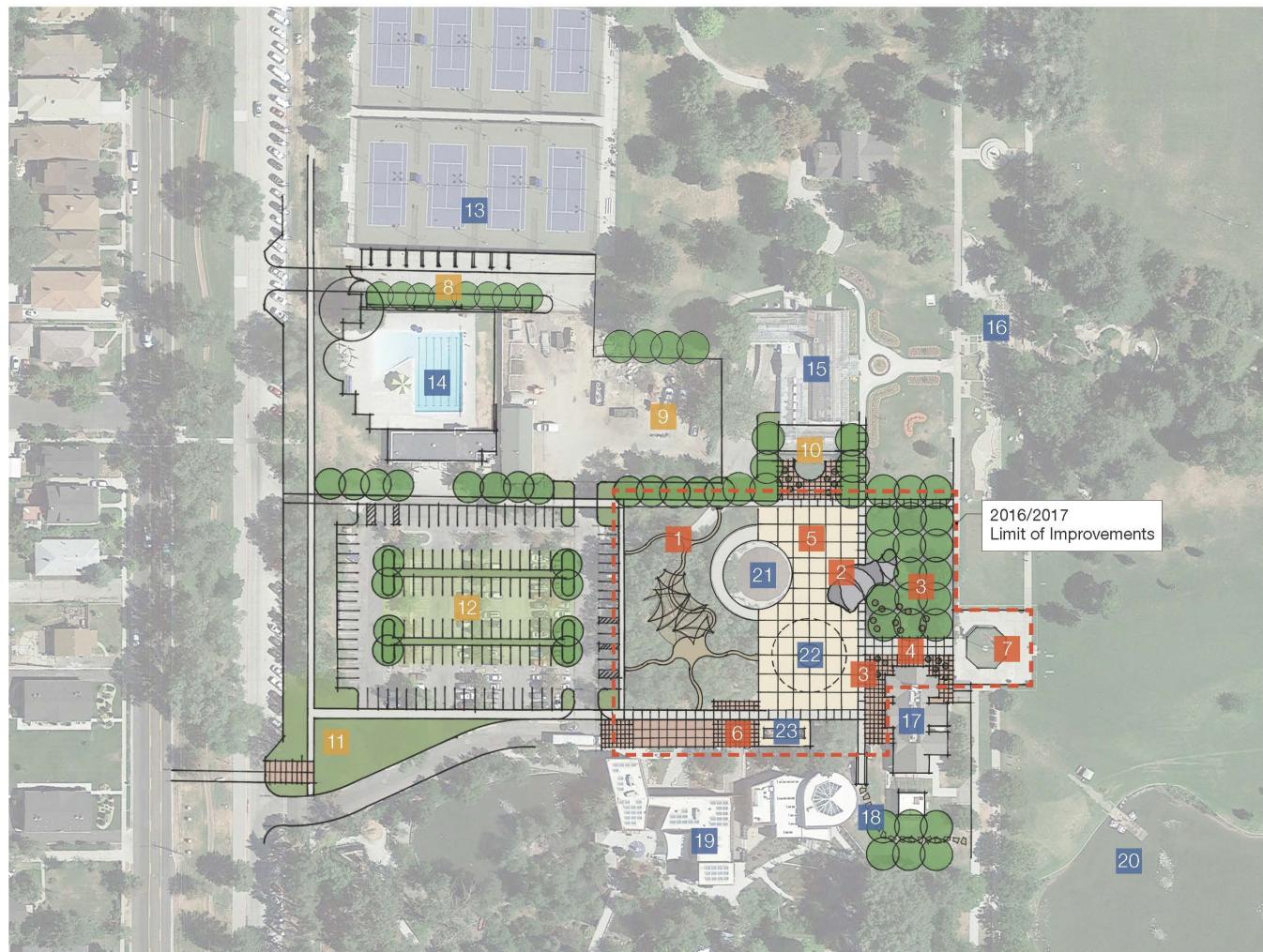
vibrant node along the promenade and compliment the nearby planting beds associated with the green house.

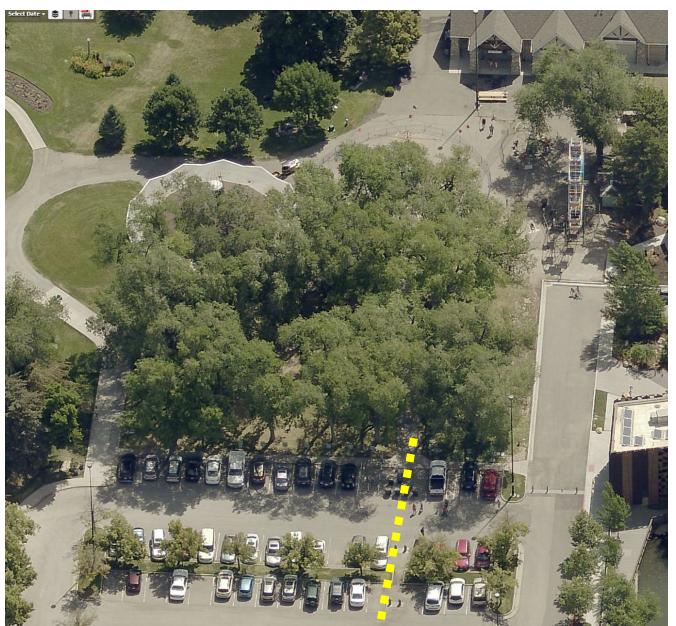
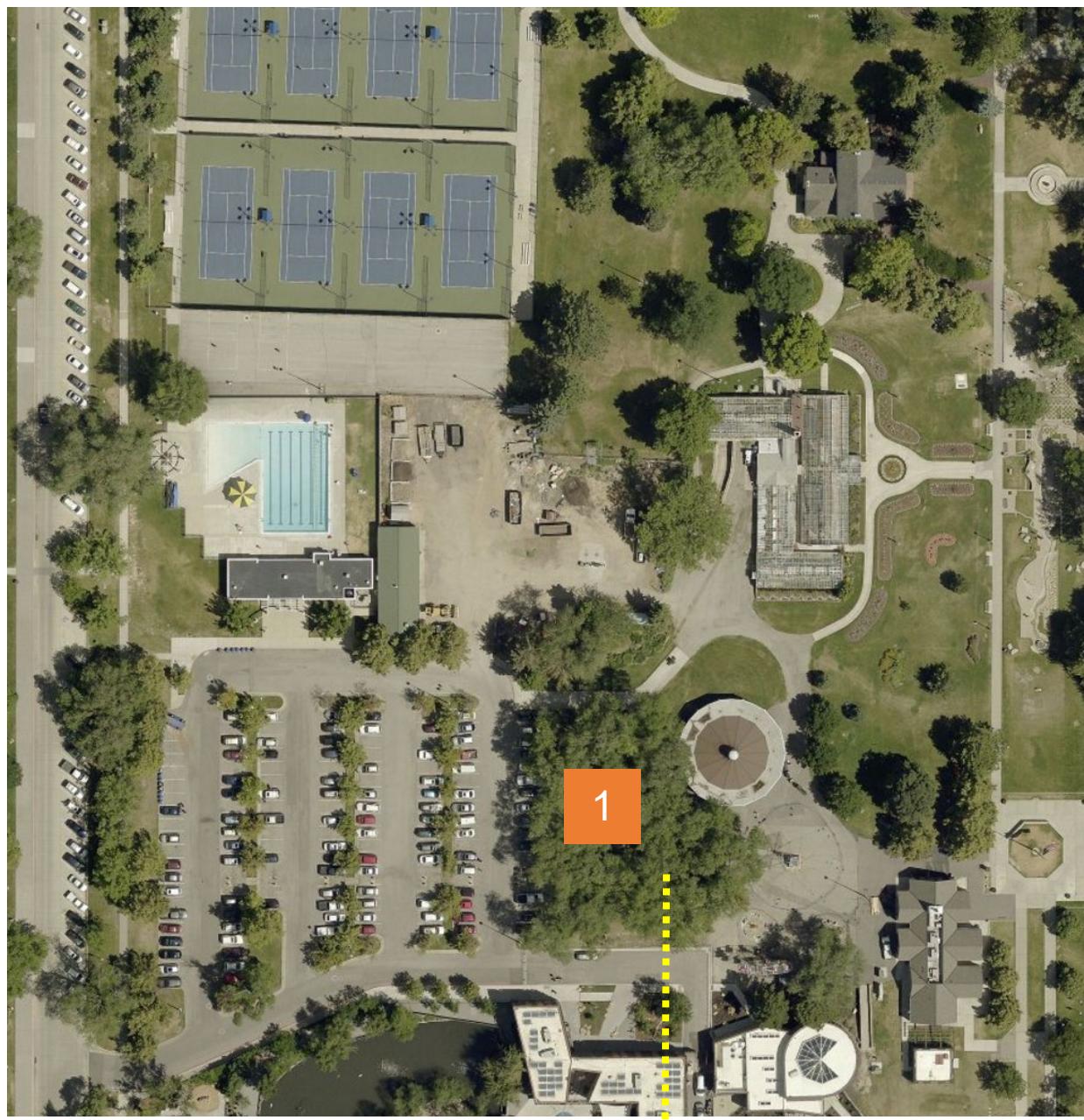
Project Implementation:

Parks and Public Lands will use current CIP funding totaling \$544,908 to plan, design and implement the proposed improvements described above. Pending direction from the Historic Landmarks Commission, construction documents will be prepared during the winter of 2016-2017 with construction ensuing in 2017.

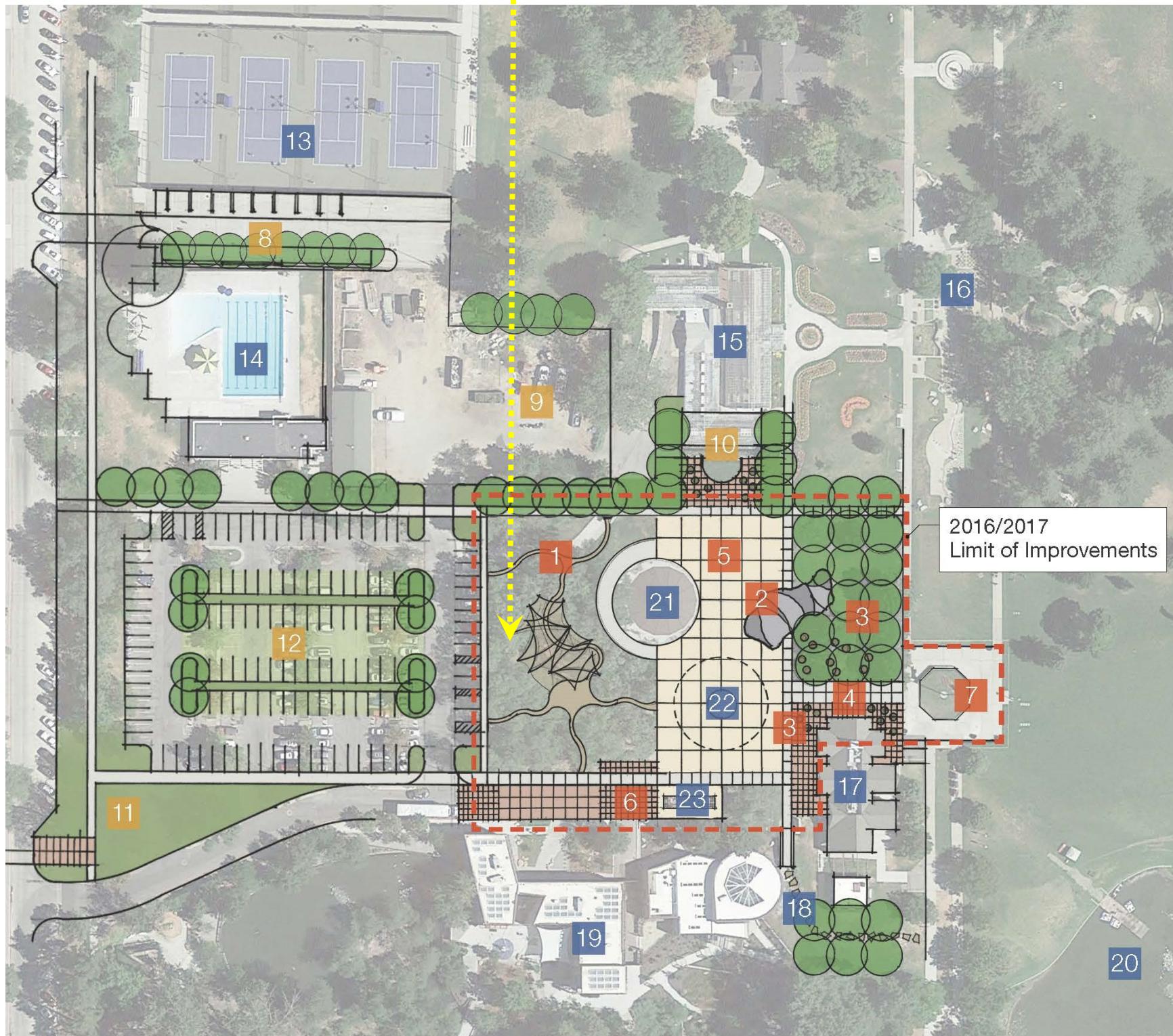
Proposed future improvements are shown as items 8-13 on site plan to anticipate connections from the central area to adjacent uses. Future funding requests will address new lighting, redevelopment of the parking lot and improved access to the maintenance yard (items 8-13 on the following plan)

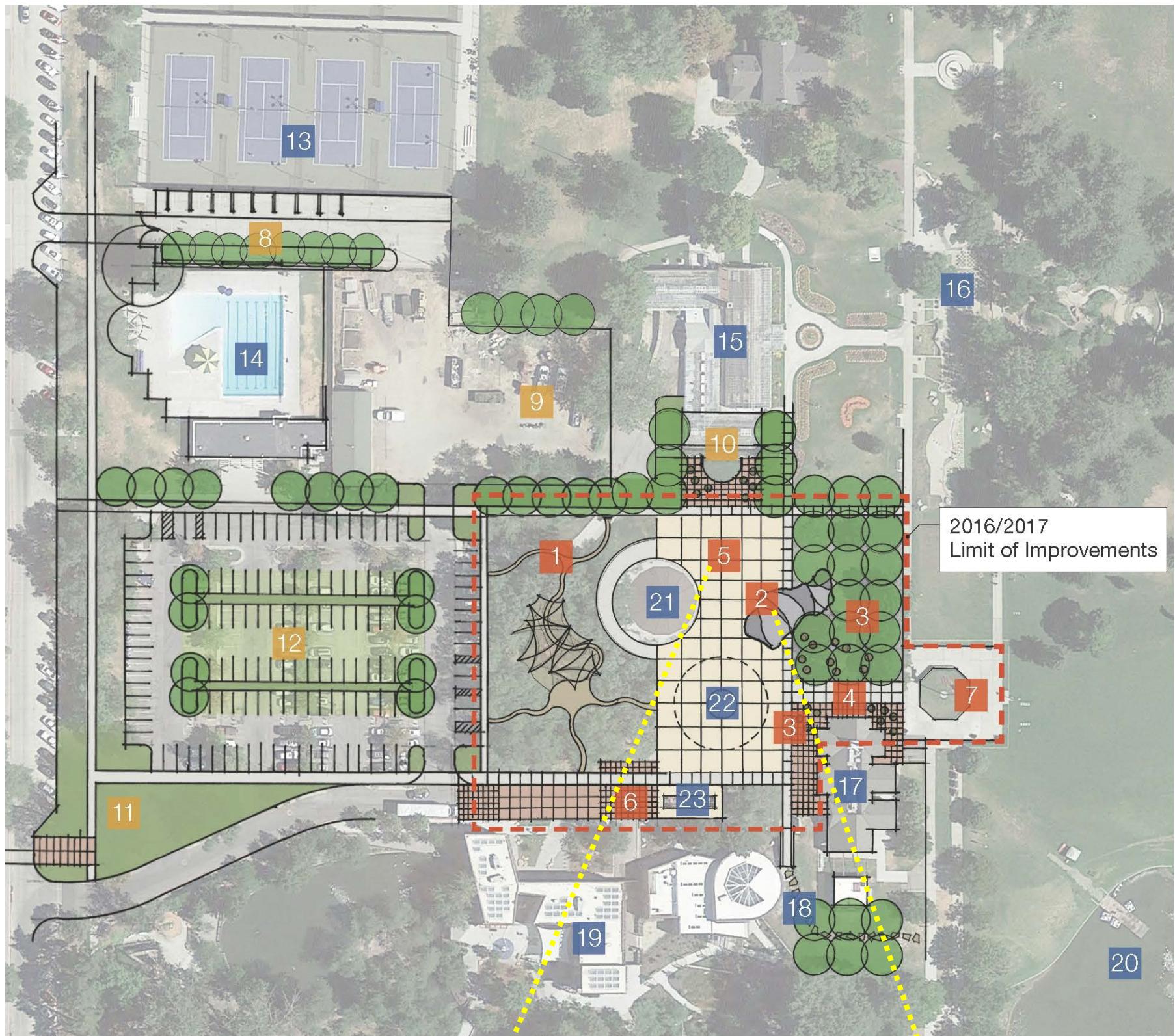
Attachment C
Liberty Park Improvements
Photo Diagram





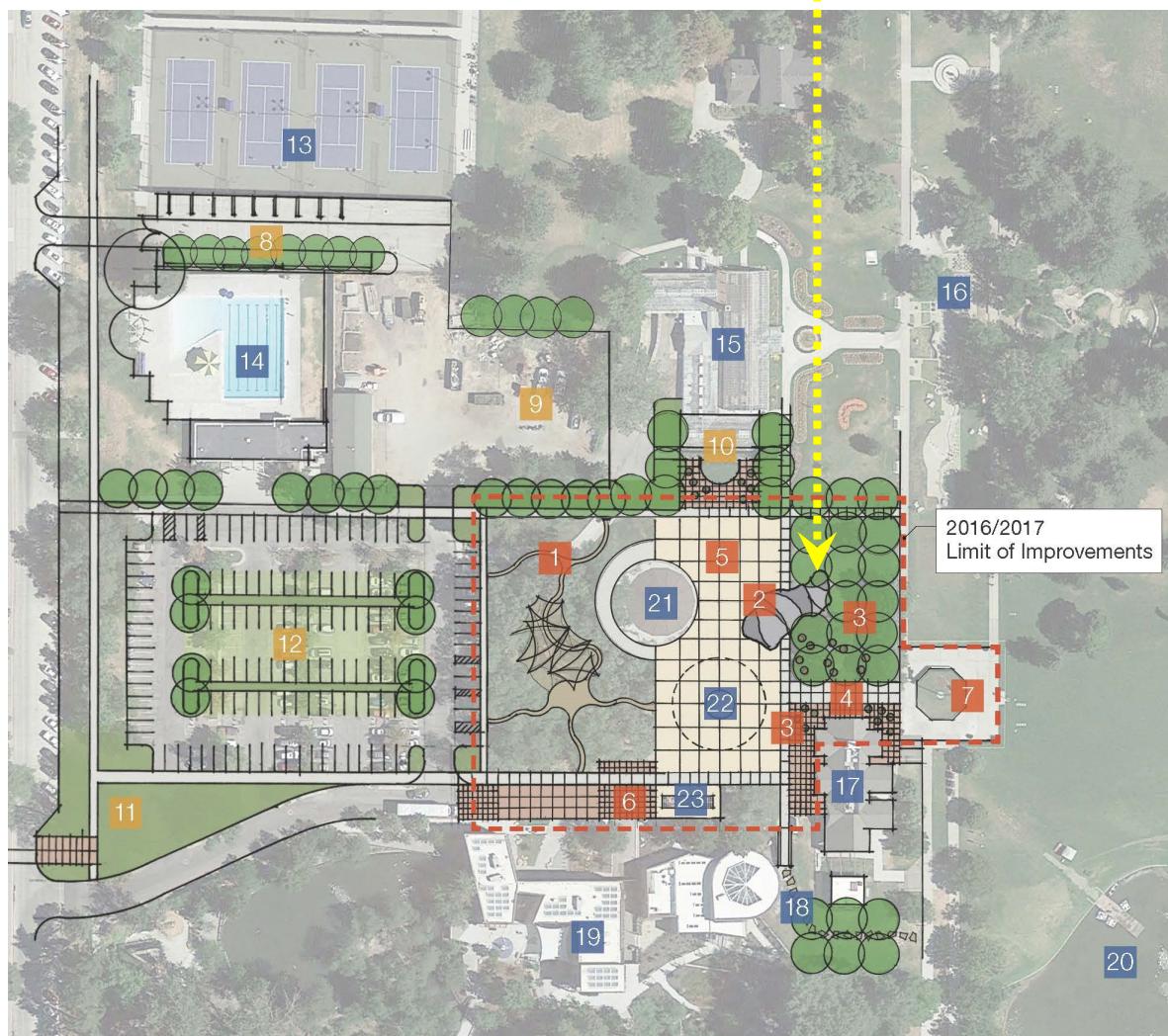
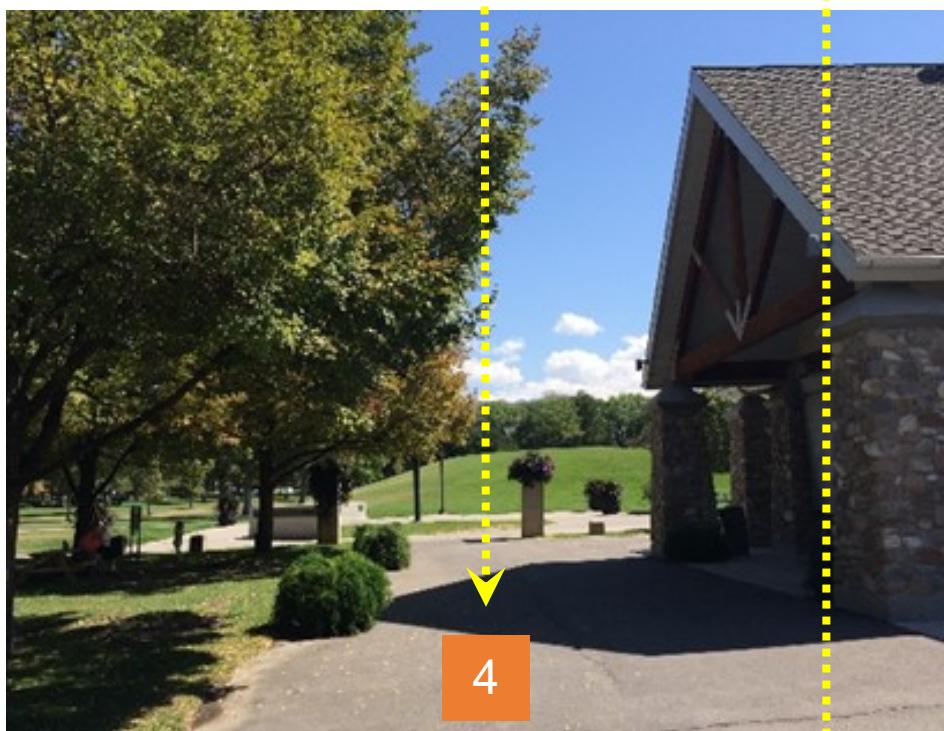
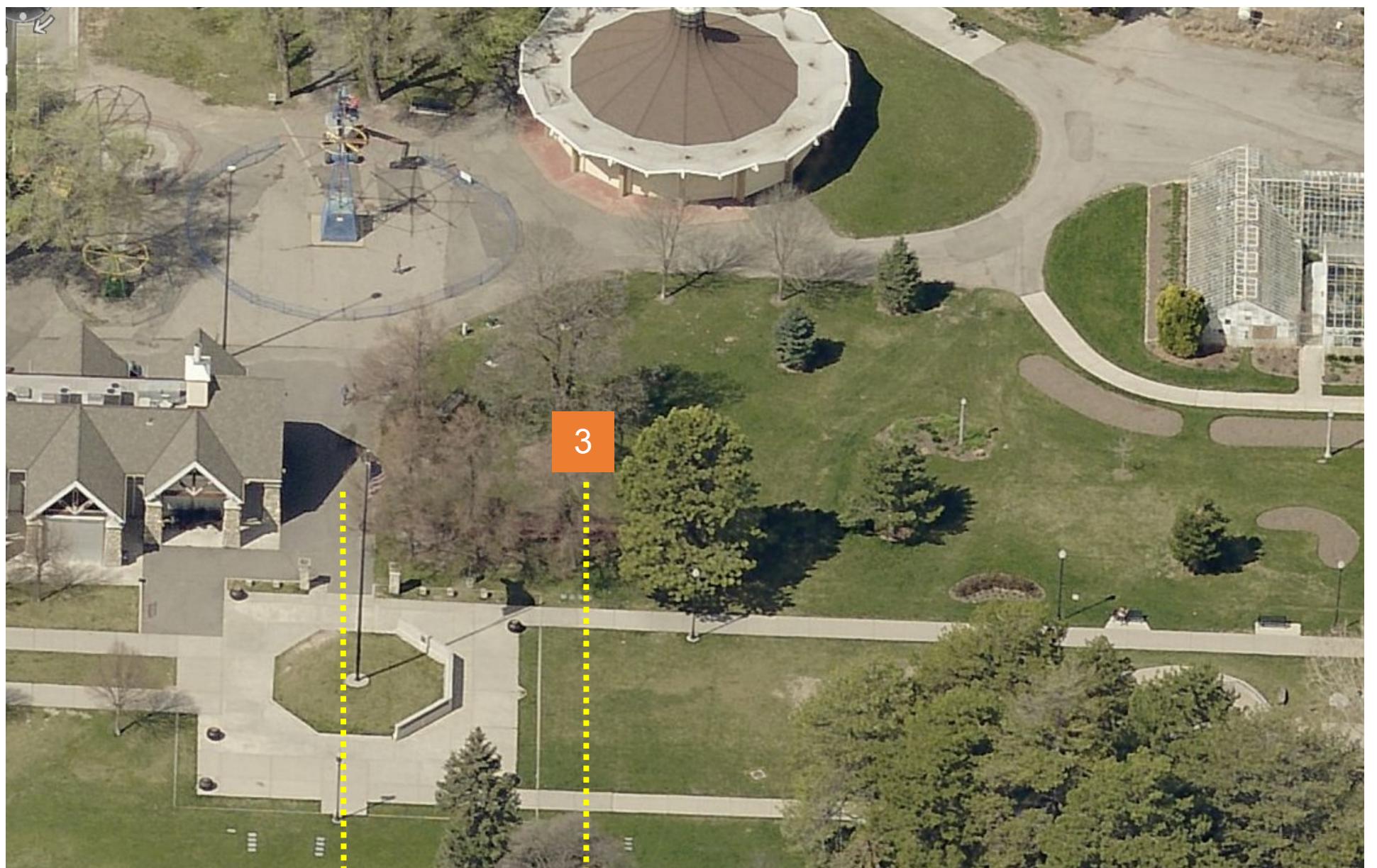
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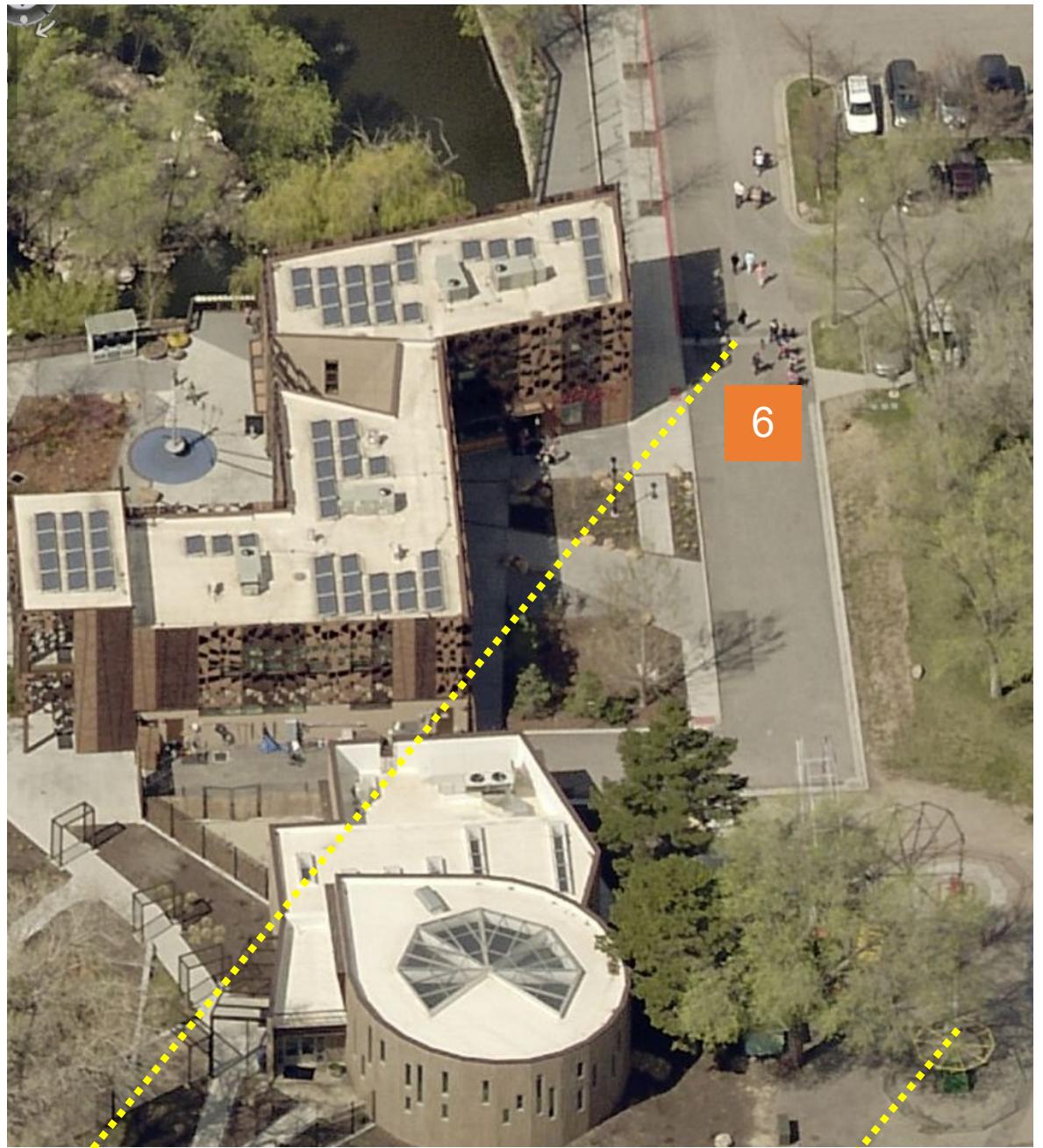
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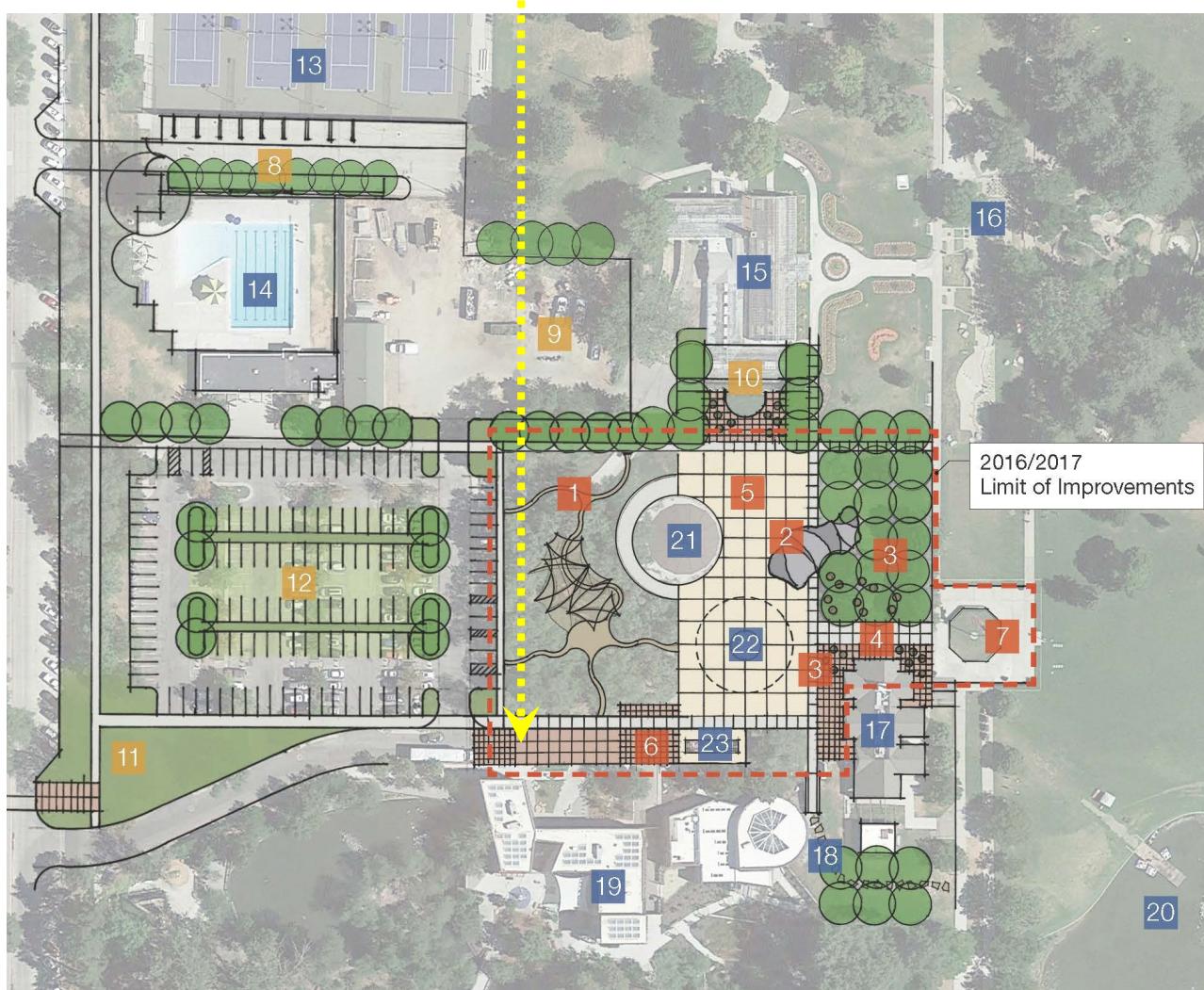
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A new upgraded Entry Plaza/ Service Entry will be the primary access from the parking lot to the Park. This new entry directs pedestrians to the Tracy Aviary entry and Liberty Park concessions area. The new concrete paving will be a smooth surface and curbless entry to the Park. Paving will be constructed to also allow needed service access to both the Aviary and the Park concessions. This will become the main pedestrian access replacing the existing asphalt path to the north.



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A new seat wall and raised planting bed will replace the existing concrete wall. The memorial plaques will be integrated into the seat wall. The flag pole will remain in its current location. The existing turf area will be replaced with a raised planting bed. The bed will be planted with perennials to create a vibrant node along the promenade and compliment the nearby planting beds associated with the green house.

