

Item:	228 17th Ave NW, Charles M. Russell High School Multi-Purpose Practice Facility and STEM additions
Applicant:	Great Falls Public Schools, Owner
<b>Representative:</b>	Anthony Houtz- CTA, Inc.
Project Planner:	Brad Eatherly, Planner I, Planning and Community Development

#### **Recommendation:** Approve with Conditions

#### **Overall Project Description:**

The applicant is proposing two buildings for the Charles M. Russell High School. One is a new Multi-Purpose Practice Facility that will be 25,000 square feet. This would also be accompanied by improvements to the nearby outdoor track at the southeast corner of the property. The second would be a building addition of 5,200 square feet that would house new space for Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) education. The new Multi-Purpose Practice Facility would be located on the south central portion of the property closest to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, while the STEM addition would be located north of the existing main building. Landscaping, drainage/detention, sidewalk, and accessibility improvements are proposed for the southern portion of the property.

#### Background

- Legal Description: Sun Addition, Block 001, Section 02, Township 20 North, Range 3 East, P.M. MT
- Property Zoning: PLI Public Lands and Institutional
- Project Area:  $\pm 299,940$  square feet or  $\pm 6.89$  acres
- Project Structure: Multi-purpose = 25,000 square feet; STEM = 5,200 square feet

### Expansion: Exhibit 28-1 Standards and Guidelines for specific projects and buildings

The multi-purpose building utilizes several materials including fiber cement board, concrete masonry units (CMU), and corrugated metal siding. The main exterior for both this building and the STEM building addition will be a pewter color with shades of gold and green as highlights (See the material board attached in the Development Drawings). The multi-purpose facility is designed to allow students to move safely from the main gym to the new facility via a pedestrian enclosed bridgeway. It will be used primarily for freshman basketball and volleyball with a second floor wrestling gym.

The STEM building will be an addition to the Career and Technical Education building on the north side of the school.

The proposed building is an expansion and generally meets the standards and guidelines of Exhibit 28-1with two exceptions. First, Guideline #8 in the OCCGF notes that Building Expansions should demonstrate "Compatibility of exterior materials and finishes with surrounding buildings. Exterior materials should be compatible with those of surrounding buildings." On this guideline, staff has included photos of the existing building for the Board's consideration. The existing structures on the CM Russell campus are substantially different, both in terms of materiality and color, than the proposed multi-purpose practice facility and STEM building addition. It is not uncommon for additions to historic structures to be very modern in style and dissimilar in materials. The applicant's architect has also provided an explanation for why the buildings should be considered thematically compatible. However staff believes that compliance with Guideline #8 needs to be discussed specifically by the Board to determine whether the more modern approach is acceptable. (See building elevations in the attached Development Drawings).

The second Guideline that should be discussed relates to the southern exposure of the multipurpose practice facility. With the exception of the green banding and school logo prominently displayed on the façade along 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, the south face of the building is relatively blank and completely windowless. This view will eventually be mitigated by significant landscaping that will be added, but that landscaping will take some time to soften the building's appearance. Guideline #25 notes that Building Expansions should demonstrate a "Minimum proportion of doors and windows. At least 30 percent of the first floor façade facing a public street should consist of windows and doors. Windows should be distributed in a more or less even manner. The façade of building facing 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW and the outdoor track achieves this through the large usage of glass. The Board needs to determine if the façade facing 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW should be broken up by windows (if feasible), more vertical banding to create modules, or evergreen landscaping to simply screen the relatively blank façade.

### **Applicable Sections of Title 17**

The proposed project was evaluated by staff with the applicable sections of Title 17 - Land Development Code, of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF), including but not limited to zoning, setbacks, lot coverage, parking, lighting, and landscaping.

The site plan includes improvements along 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW with a proposed curb cut on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW to access the shopping facilities to the south. No new parking will be required because the proposed addition is a legal non-conforming site. The developer has proposed increased accessible parking in the two parking lots closest to the two proposed buildings in order to become more compliant with Title 17. The applicant has proposed six (6) foot sidewalks throughout the property for increased connectivity for pedestrians. A six (6) foot boulevard sidewalk has been proposed along 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW.

The applicant has provided an outdoor lighting plan which is in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 40 - Outdoor Lighting of the OCCGF. The proposed lighting plan provides lighting mounted on the building. The fixtures are full down cast to prevent light pollution into the surrounding areas.

The OCCGF Chapter 44 – Landscaping typically requires a minimum of fifteen percent of the gross property area to be designated as interior landscaping. The interior landscaping is to be inclusive of landscaping in vehicular use areas and foundation planting areas. Because the proposed design is on a legal non-conforming site, the proposed landscaping does not have to meet the required codes. The landscaping that is proposed will help bring the site closer to compliance with Title 17.

The exterior of the site is proposed to be softened by landscaping including replacing any damaged or dead boulevard trees on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW as well as new vegetation to be planted in the southern portion of the property to upgrade compliance between the proposed new multi-purpose building and the 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue right of way. The interior of the site consists of a mixture of textures including: paved or nonliving surfaces, a mix of plant materials and mulch in all landscape beds. The landscape plan has been submitted to the City Forester and any recommendations will be incorporated into the landscape plan revisions.

### **Recommendation:**

Staff supports this application and recommends the Design Review Board approve the submitted design with conditions.

#### **Suggested Motion:**

1. Board Member moves:

"I move that the Design Review Board (approve with conditions) the Design Review Application for the construction at 228 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW as shown in the conceptual development plans contained within this report and provided by the Applicant, subject to the following conditions:

- A. The proposed project shall be developed consistent with the conditions in this staff report, all codes and ordinances of the City of Great Falls, the State of Montana, and all other applicable regulatory agencies.
- B. If after the approval of the conceptual development plans as amended by this Board, the owner proposes to expand or modify the conceptual development plans, the Director of the Planning and Community Development Department shall determine in writing if such proposed change would alter the concept for one or more review criteria. If such proposed change would alter the plan, the proposal shall be resubmitted for review as a new application.
- 2. Chairman calls for a second, discussion, inquiries from the public, and calls the vote.
- CC Dave Dobbs, City Engineering Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood Council Coordinator Todd Seymanski, City Forester Anthony Houtz, CTA, Inc.—anthonyh@ctagroup.com

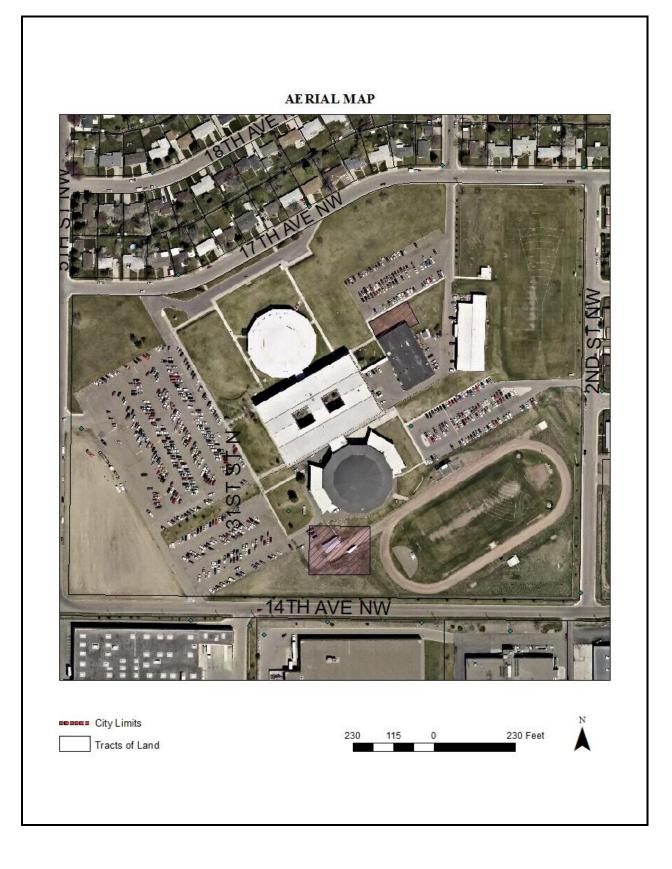
## EXHIBIT A - APPLICATION

	Date Stamp:
CITY OF GREAT FALLS Planning & Community Development Dept. P.o. Box 5021, Great Falls, MT, 59403- 406.455.8430 • www.greatfallsmt.net	5021
DESIGN REVIEW BOA	ARD APPLICATION
CMR Multipurpose Practice Facility an	d STEM additions
Name of Project / Proposed Use:	
Great Falls Public Schools c/o Mr. Bria	an Patrick
Owner Name:	
1100 4th Street South; Great Falls, MT	г
Mailing Address:	
268.6000	
Phone:	Email:
CTA, Inc. c/o Mr. Anthony Houtz, AIA	
Representative Name:	
219 2nd Avenue South; Great Falls, M	47
Mailing Address:	
Mailing Address: 452.3321	anthon yh@ctagroup.com
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## EXHIBIT B - PROJECT NARRATIVE

The project is an addition to a portion of the south main gymnasium at Charles M Russell High School, as well as an addition to the north CTE building. The south addition consists of a new gymnasium primarily for freshman basketball and volleyball activities, a fitness, cardio, and weight-lifting facility, and a second level wrestling area. The structure is primarily stand-alone but is connected to the upper level of the existing gym via a pedestrian enclosed bridgeway. Support services in the facility include restrooms and an elevator.

The STEM addition on the north of the school attaches directly to the existing CTE building and connects to its primary circulation corridor. The addition consists of 3 multipurpose educational rooms devoted to flexible Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math curricula, among others. Small storage areas are incorporated within. The ADA parking striping and layout in the north lot will be reconfigured to better accommodate ADA access (and meet current codes for access aisles) and will also help to better serve this facility specifically.



## EXHIBIT D - SITE PHOTOGRAPHS (JUNE 2017)



View Looking East From Student Parking Lot



View Looking North From 14 Ave NW

## EXHIBIT D - SITE PHOTOGRAPHS (CON'T) (JUNE 2017)



View Looking West



View Looking South

## EXHIBIT F - RENDERINGS (SOUTH AND EAST)



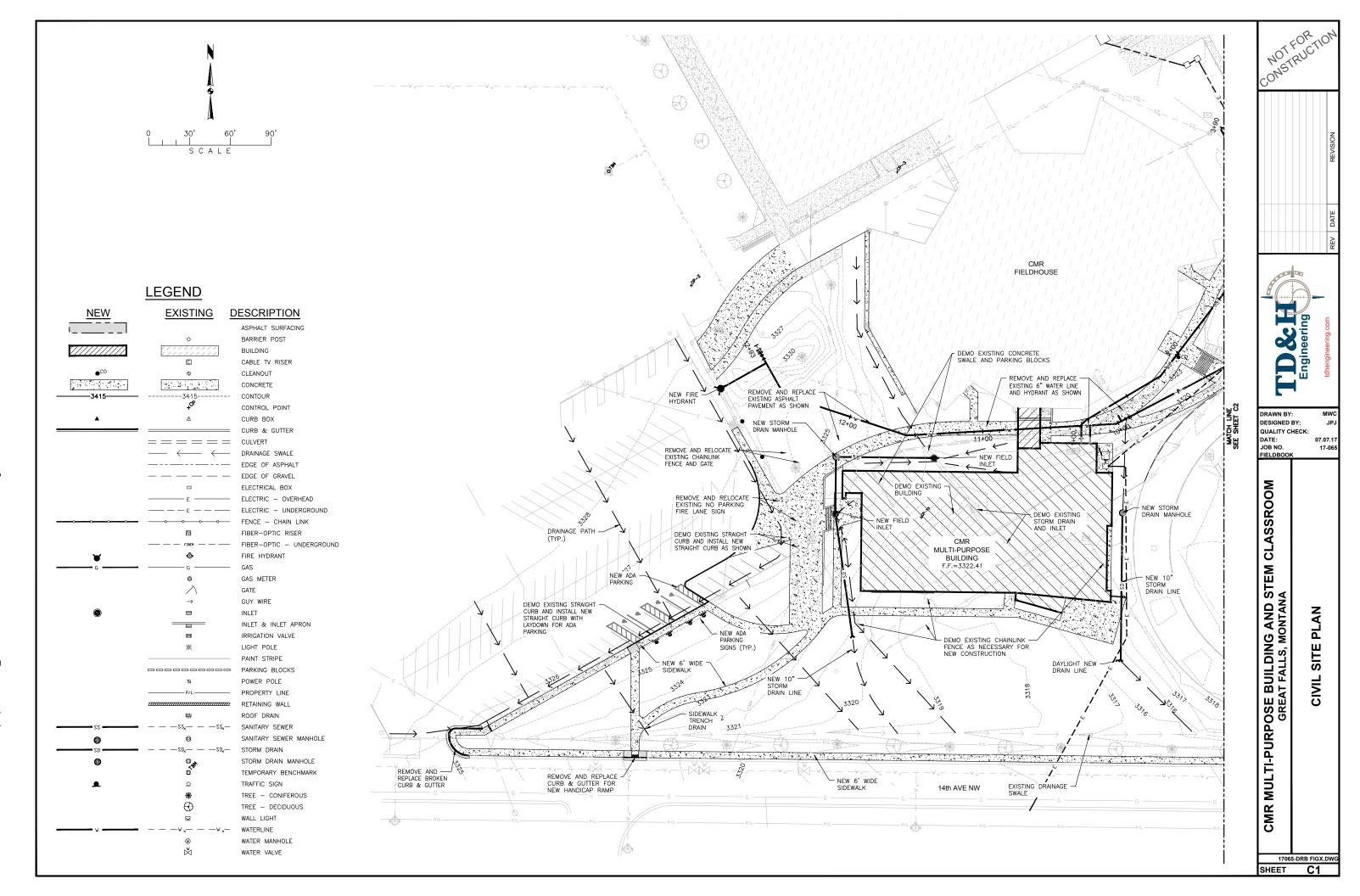
## EXHIBIT F - RENDERINGS (SOUTH AND WEST)

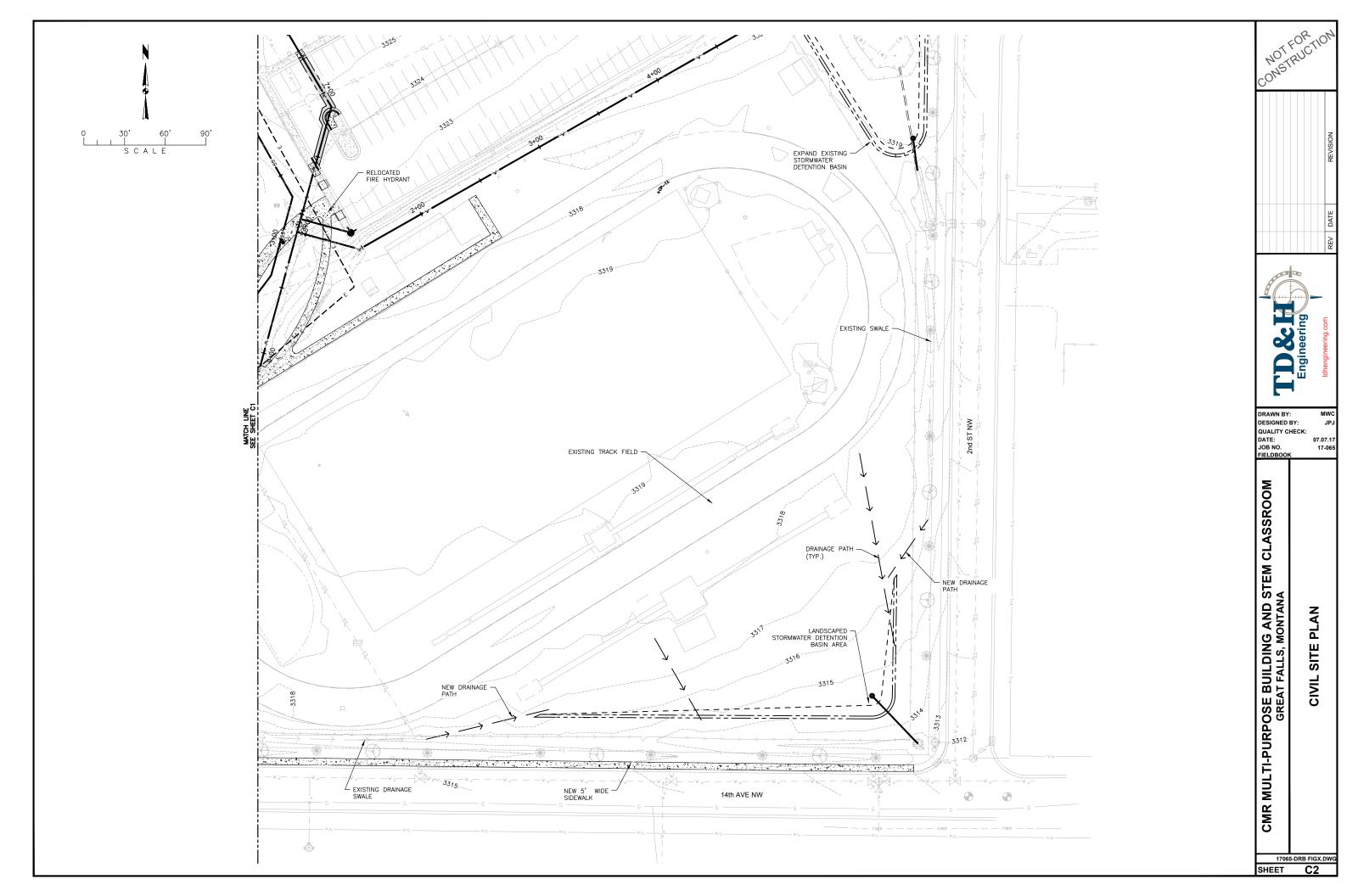


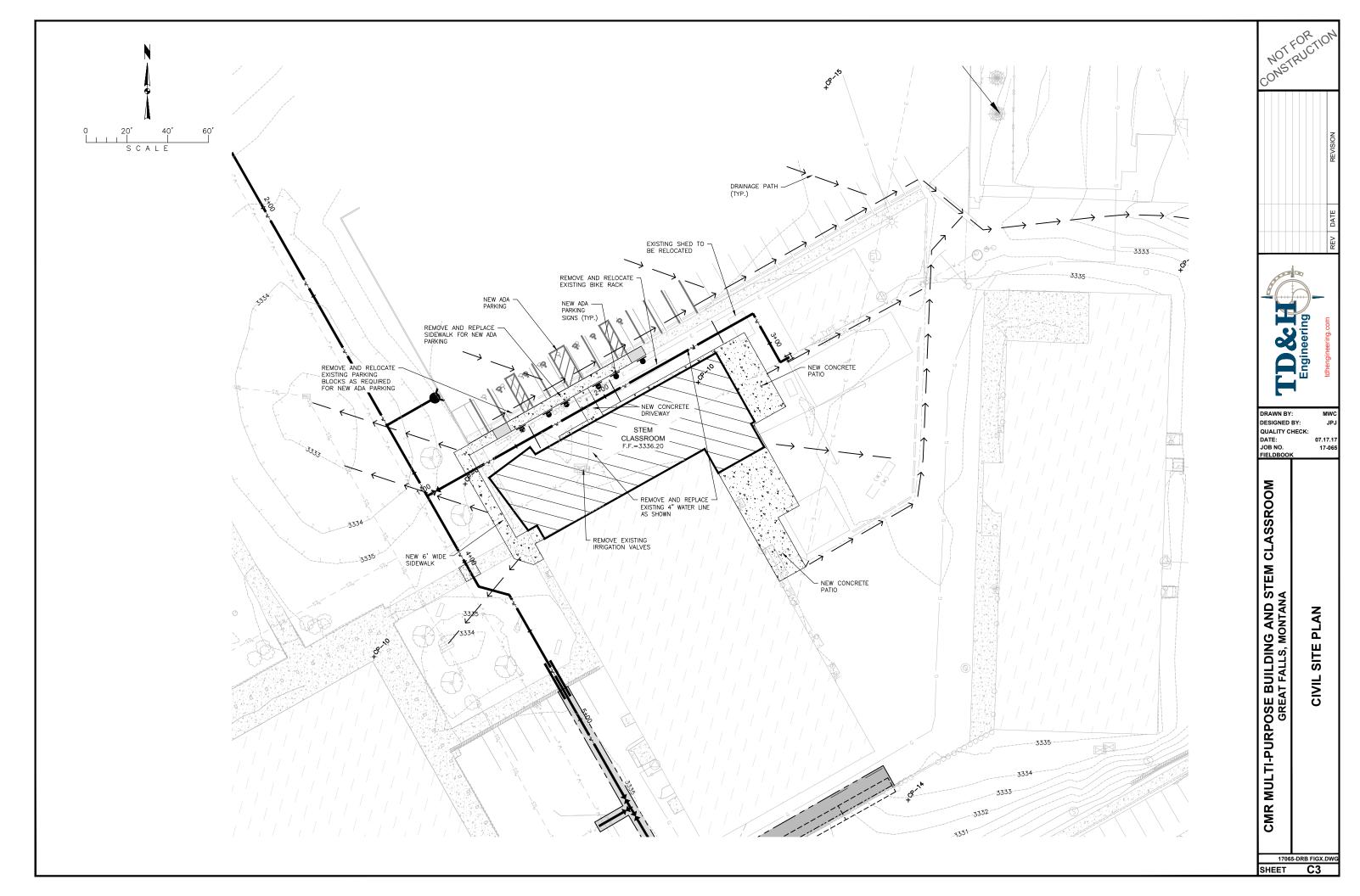
## EXHIBIT F - RENDERINGS (CON'T) (NORTH AND WEST)

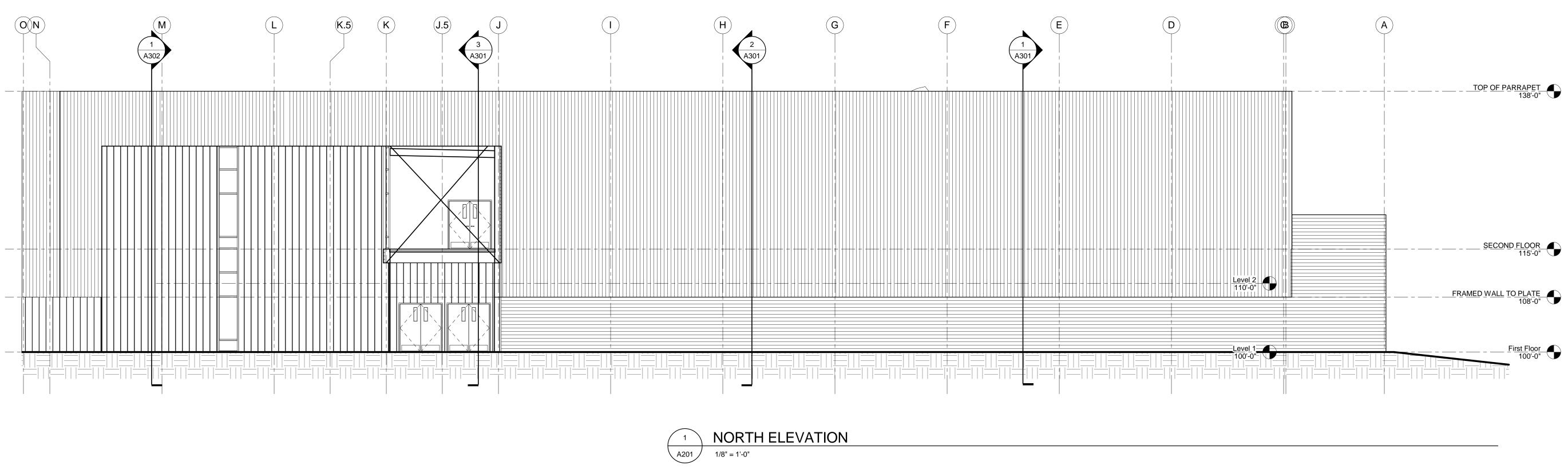


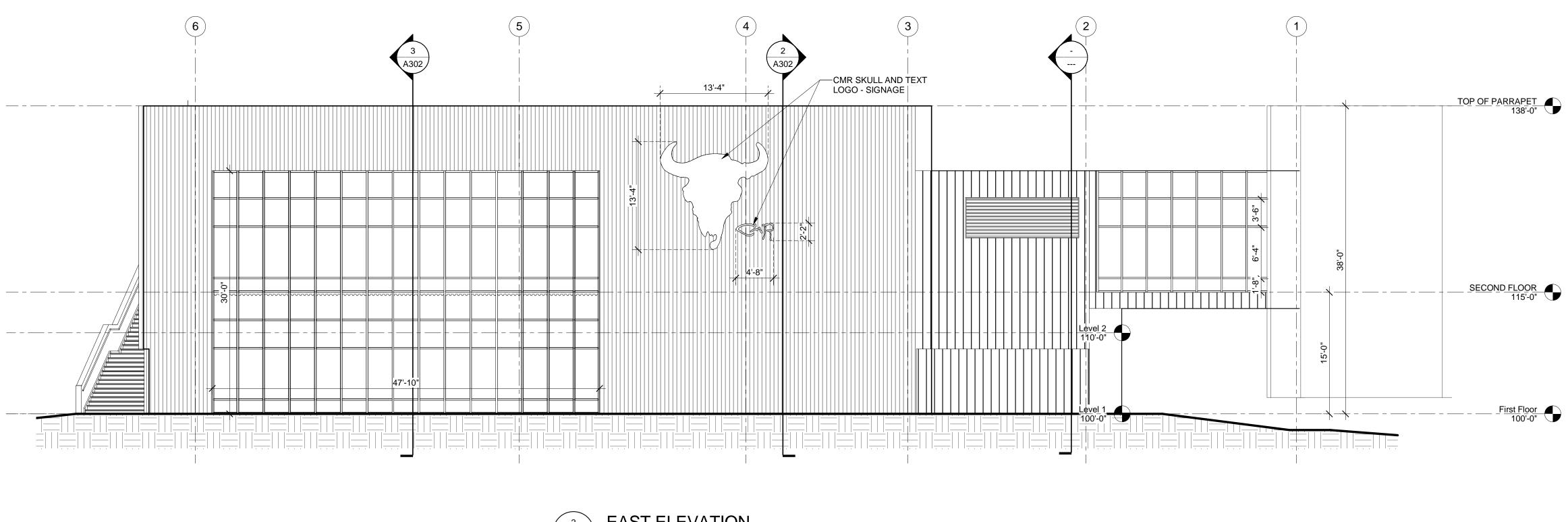
## DEVELOPMENT PLANS: Architectural Site Plan Building Elevations Material Board Lighting Plan Landscape Plan











EAST ELEVATION 2 \ A201 1/8" = 1'-0"



www.ctagroup.com 800.757.9522

\_ <u>First Floor</u> 100'-0"

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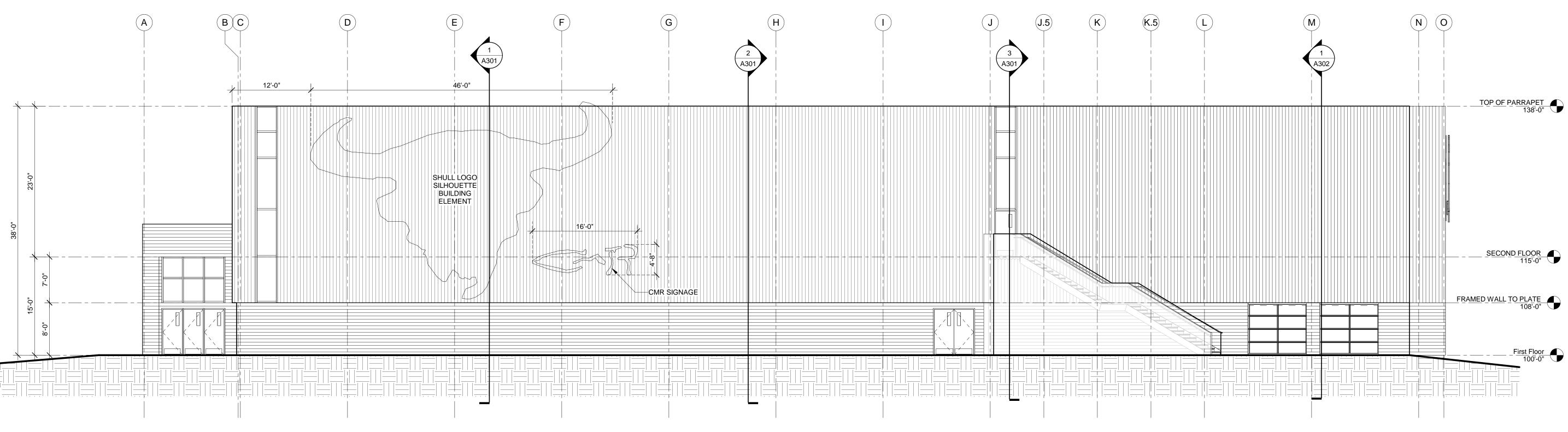
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ADDITION

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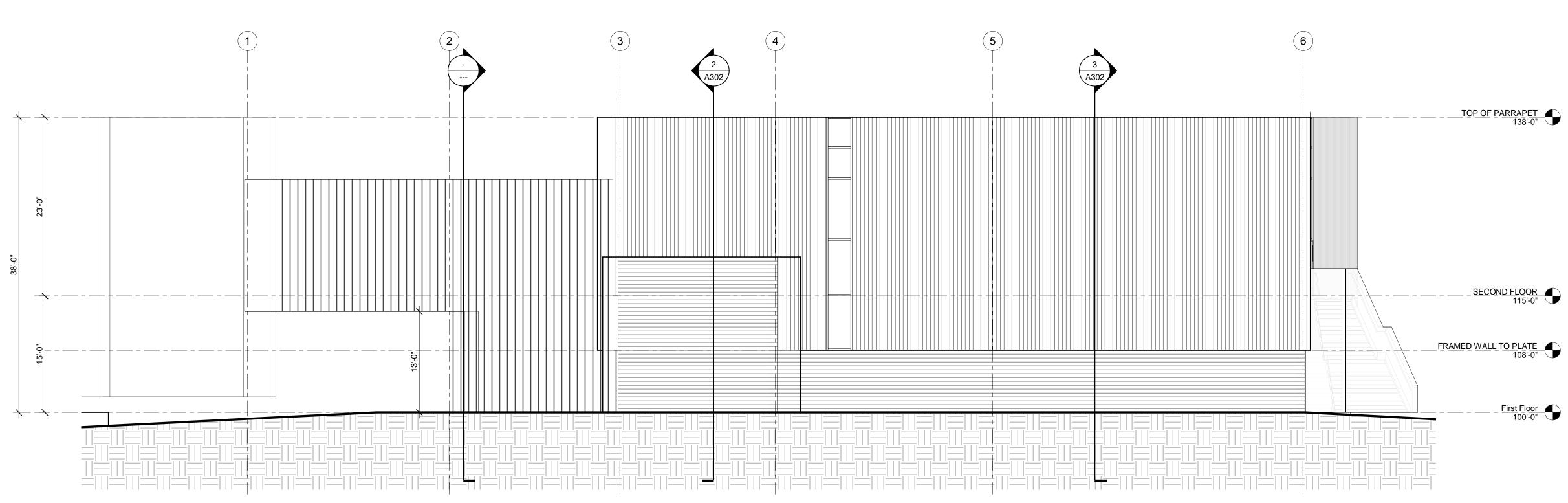


SOUTH ELEVATION

2 WEST ELEVATION A202 1/8" = 1'-0"

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A202 1/8" = 1'-0"





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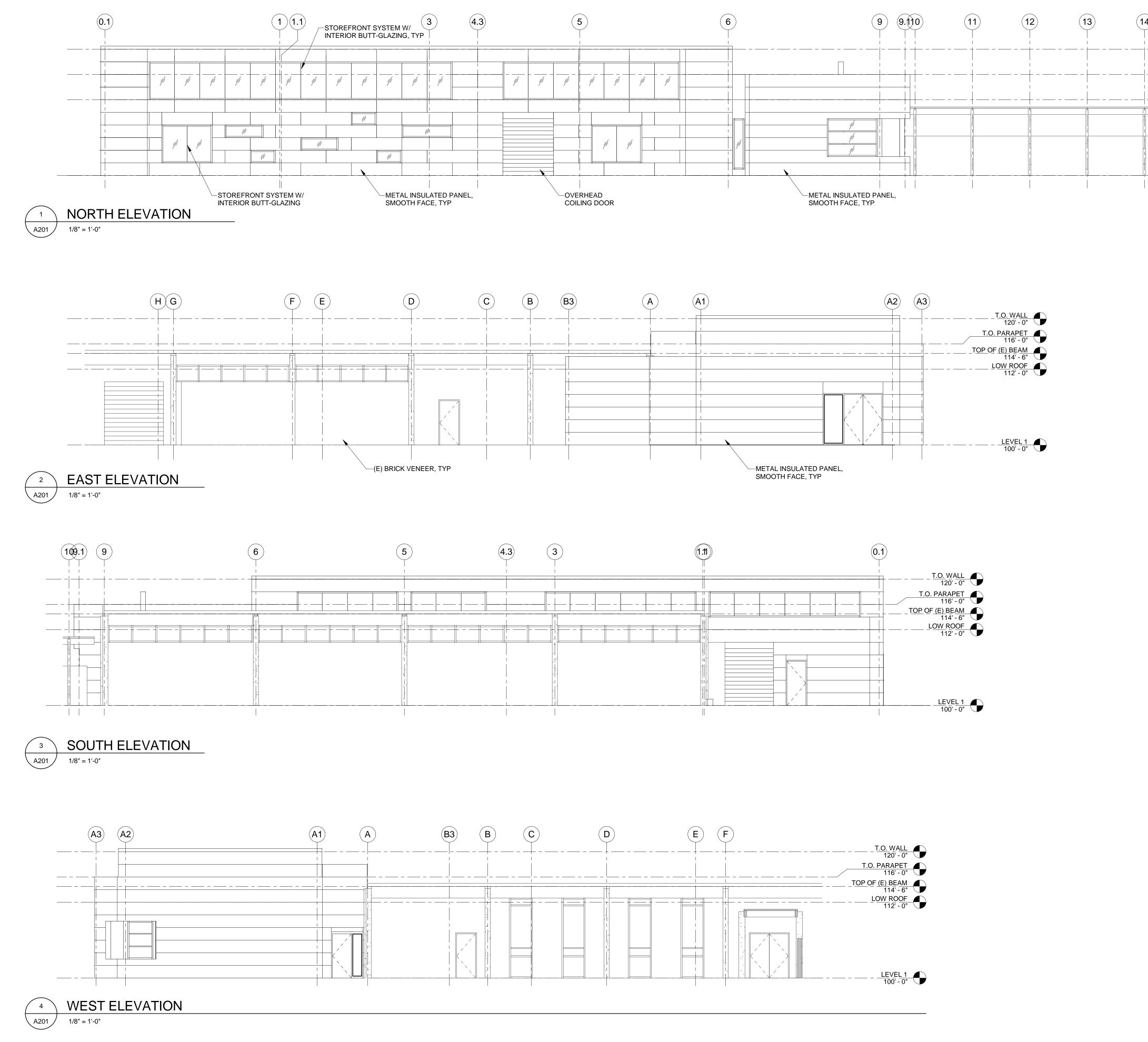
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- <u>First Floor</u> 100'-0"

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A201

SCHEMATIC DESIGN

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**HIGH SCHOOI** 

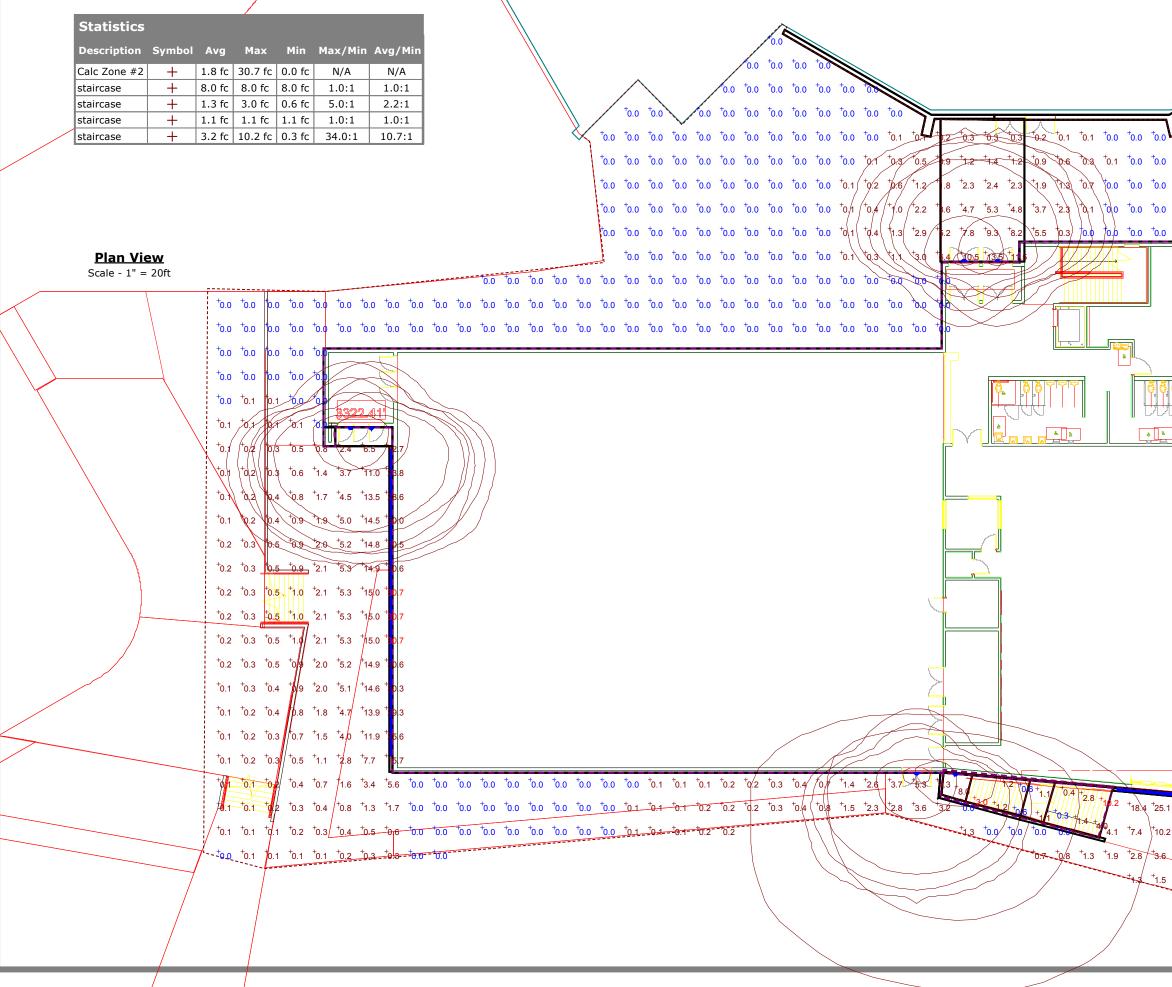
BLDG #4 STEM ADDITION **CM RUSSELL** 

### Sustainable Facade Products

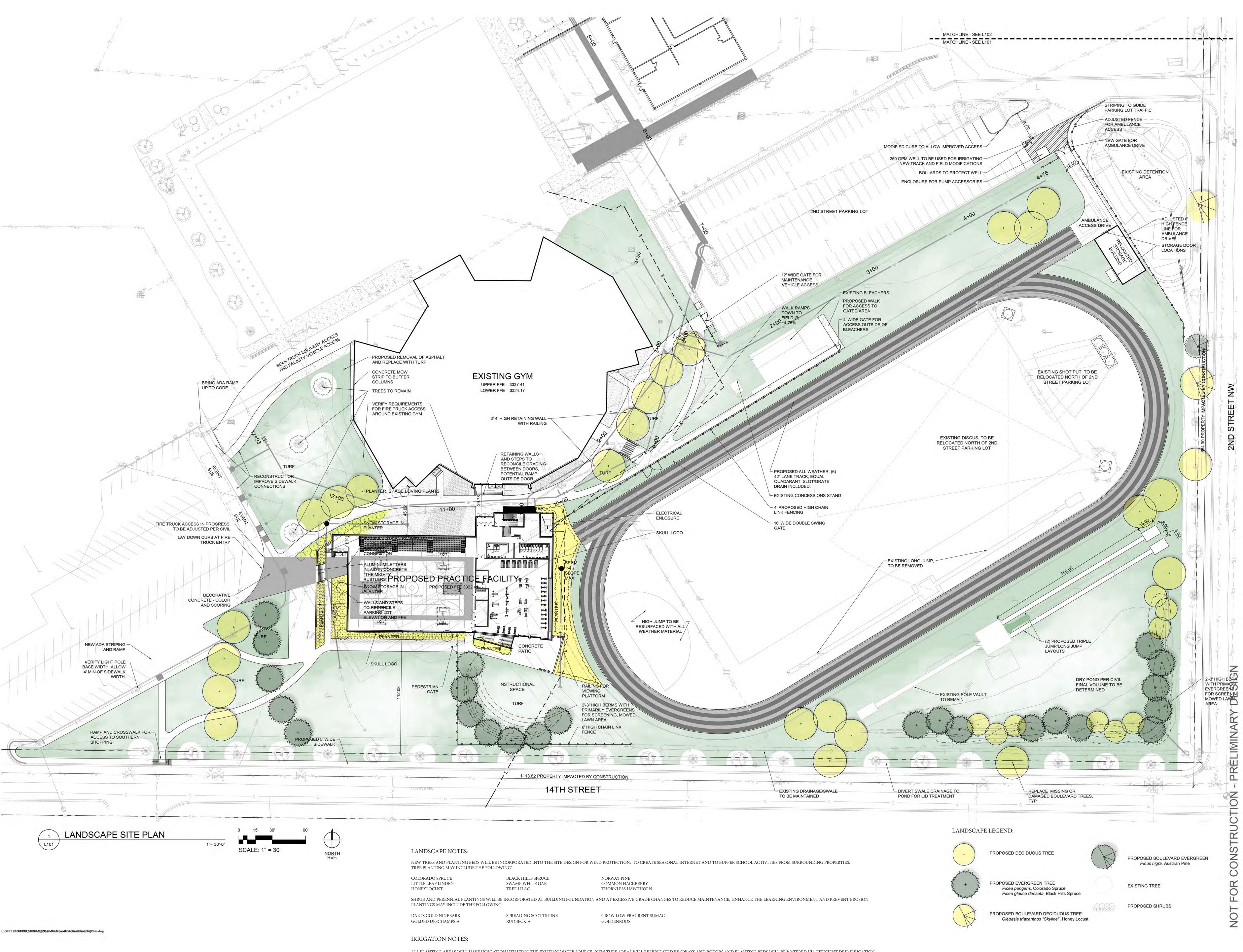
Benchmark Architectural Design Wall Series







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		<b>1 of 1</b>



ALL PLANTING AREAS WILL HAVE IRRIGATION UTILIZING THE EXISTING WATER SOURCE. NEW TURF AREAS WILL BE IRRIGATED BY SPRAYS AND ROTORS AND PLANTING BEDS WILL BE WATERED VIA EFFICIENT DRIP IRRIGATION THE NEW PLAY FIELD WILL HAVE NEW IRRIGATION

EXISTING PLANTING AREAS AND IRRIGATION WILL BE PRESERVED WHERE EVER POSSIBLE.

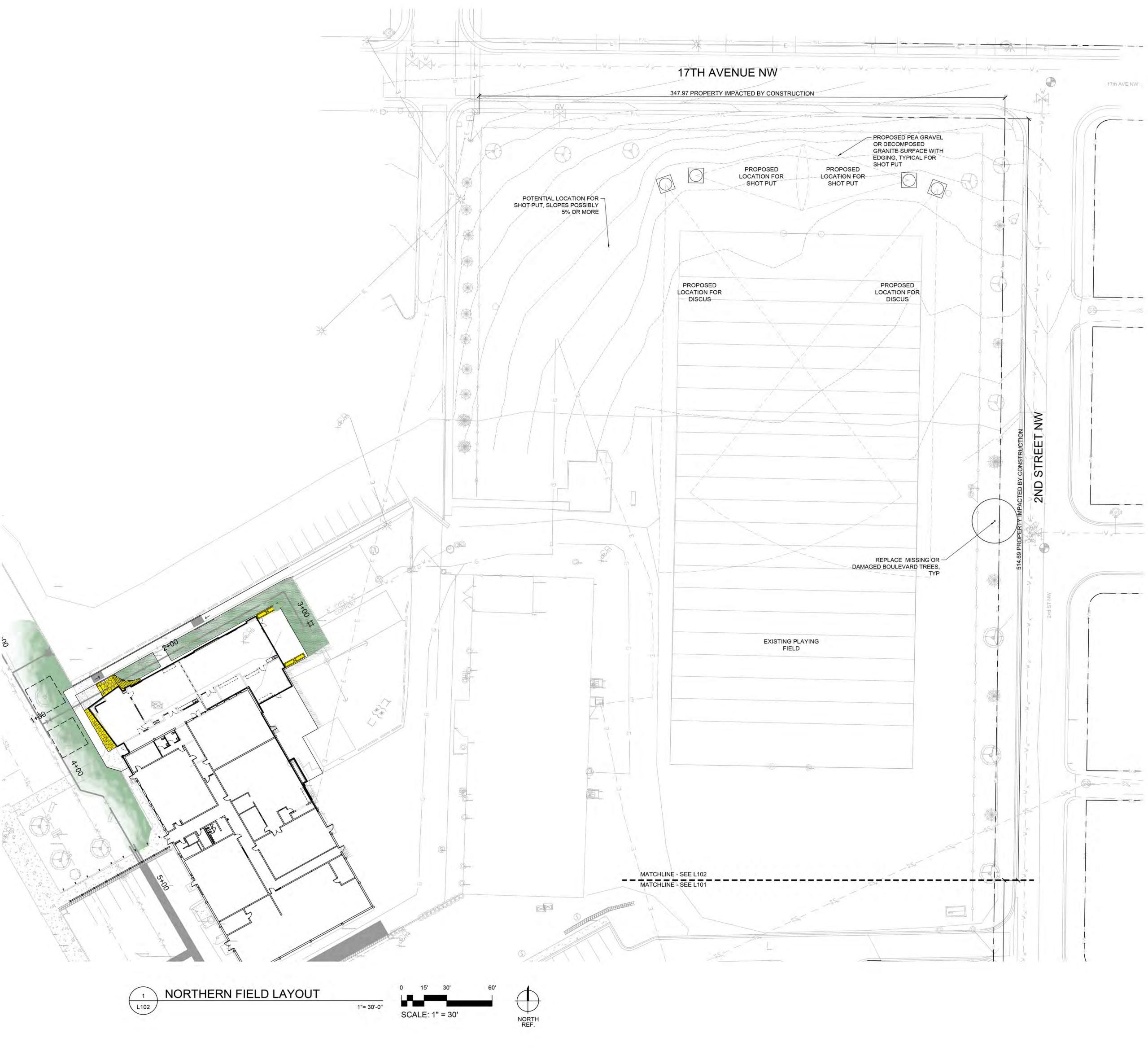


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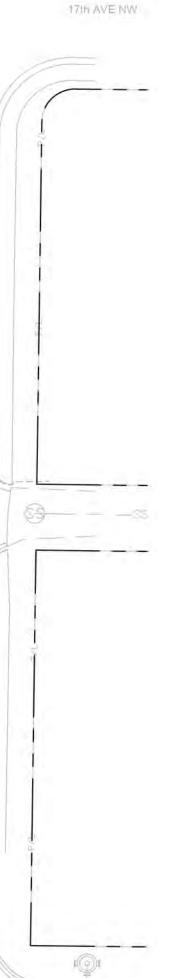
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LANDSCAPE NOTES:

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HONEYLOCUST

LITTLE LEAF LINDEN

NEW TREES AND PLANTING BEDS WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE SITE DESIGN FOR WIND PROTECTION, TO CREATE SEASONAL INTERNET AND TO BUFFER SCHOOL AC-TIVITIES FROM SURROUNDING PROPERTIES. TREE PLANTING MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING"

> BLACK HILLS SPRUCE SWAMP WHITE OAK TREE LILAC

NORWAY PINE COMMON HACKBERRY THORNLESS HAWTHORN

SHRUB AND PERENNIAL PLANTINGS WILL BE INCORPORATED AT BUILDING FOUNDATION AND AT EXCESSIVE GRADE CHANGES TO REDUCE MAINTENANCE, ENHANCE THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND PREVENT EROSION. PLANTINGS MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

> SPREADING SCOTTS PINE RUDBECKIA

GROW LOW FRAGRENT SUMAC GOLDENRODS

## **IRRIGATION NOTES:**

DARTS GOLD NINEBARK

GOLDED DESCHAMPSIA

ALL PLANTING AREAS WILL HAVE IRRIGATION UTILIZING THE EXISTING WATER SOURCE. NEW TURF AREAS WILL BE IRRIGATED BY SPRAYS AND ROTORS AND PLANTING BEDS WILL BE WATERED VIA EFFICIENT DRIP IRRIGATION THE NEW PLAY FIELD WILL HAVE NEW IRRIGATION

EXISTING PLANTING AREAS AND IRRIGATION WILL BE PRESERVED WHERE EVER POSSIBLE.



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