

The Heights Building Phase 2

PFRC Meeting – April 14, 2022
Parks and Rec Commission – April 19, 2022

INCLUSION * EXCELLENCE * INNOVATION

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Summary

- Since its opening in September 2019, The Heights Building has operated under an interim site plan condition.
- The final site plan condition was deferred due to the selection of the APS site to temporarily house Arlington County Fire Station 10 during construction of its permanent home.
- The Heights Phase 2 project will complete the project with improvements to building access, accessible parking, bicycle infrastructure, athletic facilities, and overall school operations. The project is included in the School Board Adopted FY 2022-24 CIP.
- The project's [Multimodal Transportation Assessment \(MMTA\)](#) concludes that that project will not have a detrimental impact on the surrounding multimodal transportation network and will significantly improve existing transportation issues.
- Construction is expected to begin Fall 2022 and extend through 2023.

Project Background

- **June 2014**
 - Project included in [FY 2015-24 CIP](#) as part of 1,300 secondary seats
 - County-led [Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study \(WRAPS\)](#) begins
- **September 2014** – School Board action on architecture/engineering contracts for secondary seat studies at Heights, Hamm, and Reed sites
- **December 2014** – [School Board direction](#) to divide 1,300 secondary seats into two projects: (1) The Heights Building and (2) Hamm Middle School
- **April 2015** – Concept Design begins with [first BLPC meeting](#)
- **July 2015** – County Board adopts the [WRAPS Area Plan](#)
- **December 2015** – School Board approves [Concept Design](#)

- **July 2016**
 - School Board [motion](#) approves [Schematic Design](#) that includes a garage
 - County and School Boards approve a [license agreement](#) permitting a temporary fire station on APS property and delaying construction of a field/garage
- **September 2016** – County Board approves [Rosslyn Highlands Park + Coordinated Open Spaces Plan](#)
- **February 2017**
 - County Board approves WRAPS developments, including Heights Use Permit and Penzance and Queens Court site plans. **County Board deferred consideration of the proposed 93 space parking garage until removal of the temporary fire station.**
 - School Board approves demolition contract and construction begins
- **January 2018** – School Board approves [Final Design](#) and Construction Contract
- **September 2019** – Heights Building opens

Project Background (continued)

- **August 2020** – School Board Work Session, The Heights Building Accessibility and Capital Project Planning [presentation](#) (includes details associated with the interim condition, including its challenges, and several options for Phase 2)
- **May 2021** – School Board Work Session #1, Superintendent’s Proposed FY 2022-24 CIP [presentation](#) (includes the Phase 2 options considered)
- **June 2021**
 - Heights Phase 2 "Option A" discussed at the [Joint CIP Work Session with the County Board](#)
 - Heights Phase 2 "Option A" approved in the [School Board Adopted FY 2022-24 Capital Improvement Plan](#)
- **November 2021** – Temporary fire station removed from APS site
- **December 2021** – completed data collection for the Multimodal Transportation Assessment (MMTA)
- **January 2022** – Rosslyn Highlands Park completed
- **February 2022** – APS submits application for a Use Permit Amendment

Proposed Design

Existing Condition Photos (April 2022)

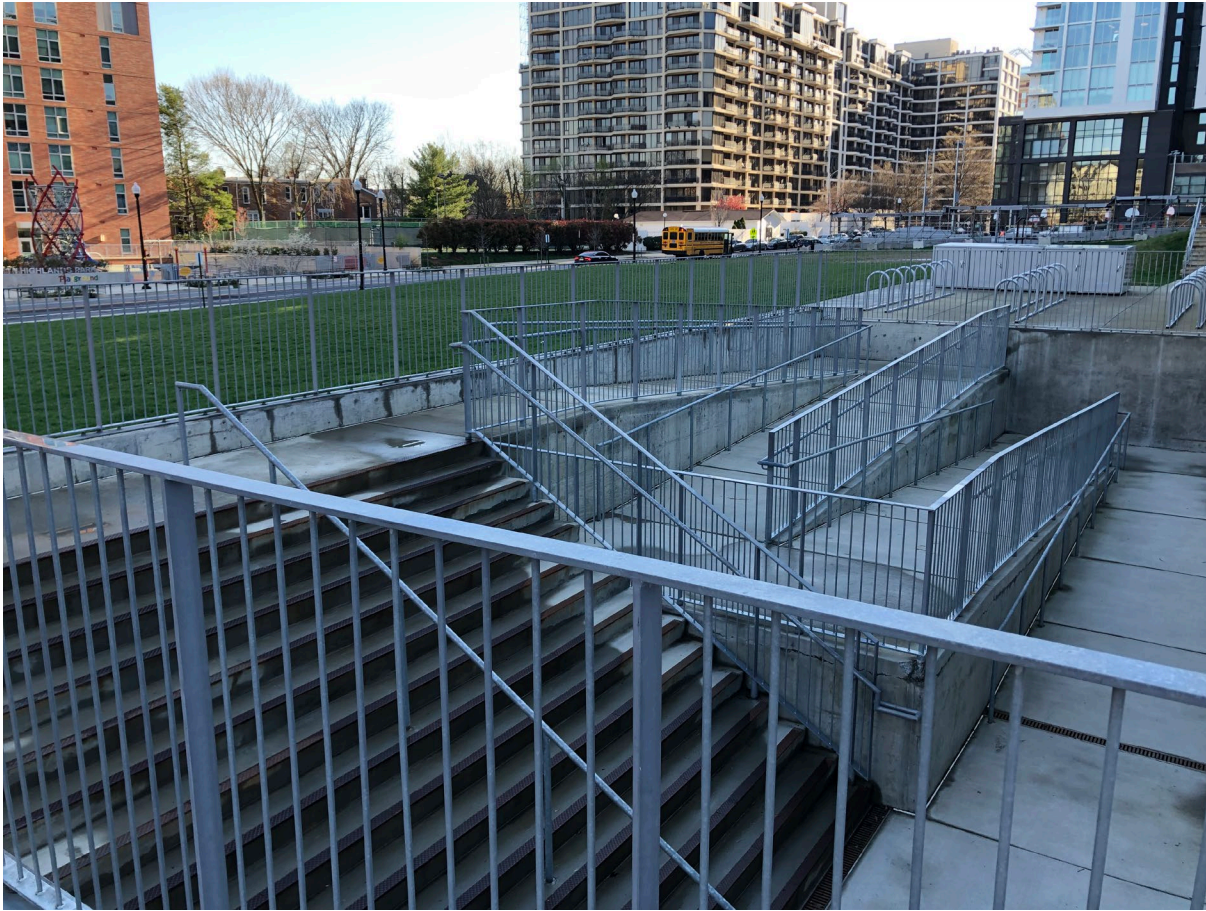


18th St N at Rosslyn Highland Park Looking West Toward N Quinn St

Existing Condition Photos (April 2022)



**Stair Access from Heights Building Level 1 to Temporary Field
(Accessible Route via Rosslyn Highlands Park or 18th St N)**



**Temporary Stair and Ramp to Heights Building G1 Level
(Shriver Administrative Area)**

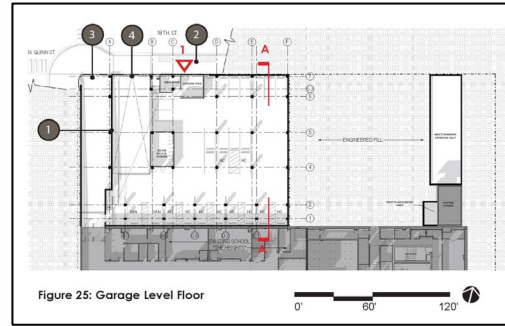
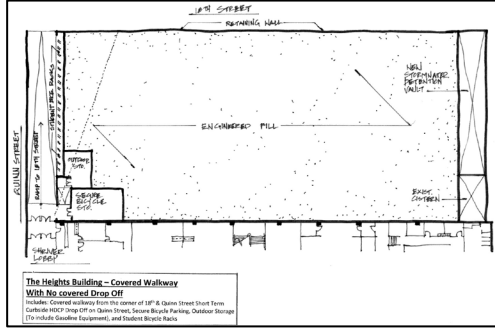


View of Temporary Field Looking Toward Rosslyn Highlands Park

Features of the Proposed Design

- Principle features of the project include:
 - An inviting and universally accessible path to a main entrance adjacent to the Shriver Program administrative area;
 - Covered, off-street area for student pick-up and drop-off for those with differing abilities;
 - Convenient handicap parking for staff and visitors, immediately adjacent to a building entrance; and
 - The largest possible lighted synthetic turf field for school and community use.
- Other features include:
 - Required stormwater management infrastructure;
 - Enhanced, covered bicycle facilities for students and visitors that exceed the minimum required;
 - Secure bicycle facilities for staff that exceed the minimum required;
 - Outdoor equipment storage; and
 - The only on-site parking spaces within the exclusive control and operation of APS.

Alternatives Considered But Dismissed



Option B	Option C	Option D1	Option D1
<p>Turf field over covered entrance to Heights G1 level.</p>	<p>Turf field over partial below-grade structure about half the width of the field.</p>	<p>Natural grass field with covered entrance to Heights G1 level.</p>	<p>Combination natural grass field and surface parking with covered entrance to Heights G1 level.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required significant capital investment. Does not address the most pressing on-site transportation needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided less value being a similar capital investment with significantly less features. Approx. \$2.7M cost savings from proposed design. Egress out of the structure would likely result in compromises to the field size/function. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required significant capital investment. Field areas would be disjointed and sloped. No lighted artificial turf field. Does not address the most pressing on-site transportation needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required significant capital investment. Inadequate and sloped field area. No lighted artificial turf field.

Sources: [August 18, 2020 Heights Phase 2 Work Session](#), [May 11, 2021 CIP Work Session](#)

Comparing the 2017 and 2022 Proposals

- In general, the 2022 proposal is developed to a higher level of detail than what was available in 2017.

	2017 Proposal	2022 Proposal
Field Elevation	175' elevation , at-grade alignment with Rosslyn Highlands Park at middle of field	180' elevation , at-grade alignment with Heights Building Level 1 and Rosslyn Highlands Park at corner of field
18th Street Along APS Frontage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14' sidewalk (10' clear sidewalk and 4' tree zone) Parking lane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22'-8" sidewalk (10' clear sidewalk, 5' tree zone, and 7'-8" boarding/alighting) No parking lane
Parking	93 spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific uses not defined 	61 spaces , preliminary designations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 ADA Accessible 2 ADA Accessible (Van) 14 Visitor 30 Long-term staff 2 Staff loading/unloading 6 Maintenance and parcel
Field Egress	Identified 2 total , not fully resolved	4 total (2 accessible) to align with what is required by the building code

- APS intended to use the 2020 APSGo! survey results to monitor transportation demand management (TDM) and inform the project.
- Unfortunately, the survey was launched in March 2020 shortly before the pandemic began. Preliminary response rates were very low and the survey was ultimately being canceled due to the pandemic.
- On March 20, 2021, the County Board approved amendments to 33 school Use Permits, including Heights, to standardize TDM requirements and align data collection and reporting with the APSGo! Survey.
- The next division-wide APSGo! survey is not yet scheduled.
- APS completed a detailed [Multimodal Transportation Assessment \(MMTA\)](#) which concluded that the project will not have a detrimental impact on the surrounding multimodal transportation network and will significantly improve observed existing transportation challenges.

2017 Proposal

- Included a **14' sidewalk** (10' clear sidewalk and 4' tree zone) and a parking lane.
- Based on arrival/dismissal observations, this design would be insufficient to support all the expected activities.

2022 Proposal

- Includes a **22'-8" sidewalk** (10' clear sidewalk, 5' tree zone, and 7'-8" boarding/alighting) and no parking lane.
- Sufficient space for students to queue during arrival and dismissal.
- Adequate sidewalk widths to allow typical pedestrian activity to take place concurrently with arrival and dismissal.
- Ability for Shriver school buses to load and unload wheelchairs directly on the sidewalk, without conflicting with queueing or circulation.
- Ability to meet APS and County goals for street tree planting and increase the likelihood of tree survival.
- Eliminates the possibility of illegally parked cars along the school frontage that would conflict with arrival and dismissal.
- The temporary field is currently used to support queueing and pedestrian activity, however, this will no longer be possible at the conclusion of Phase 2.

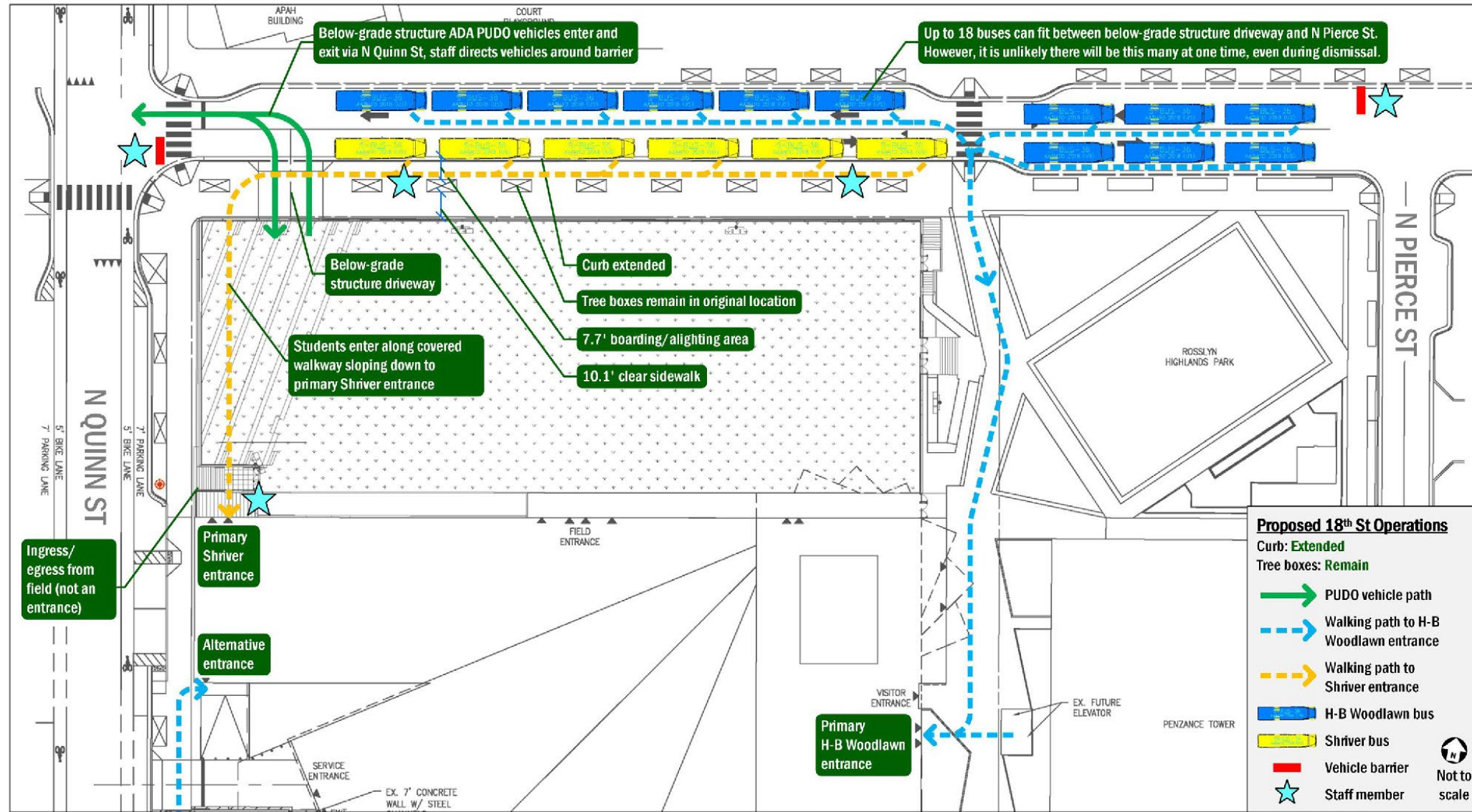
Proposed 18th Street Operations

Similar to the existing condition, 18th St N will be closed to public traffic and one-way between N Quinn and N Pierce during arrival and dismissal.

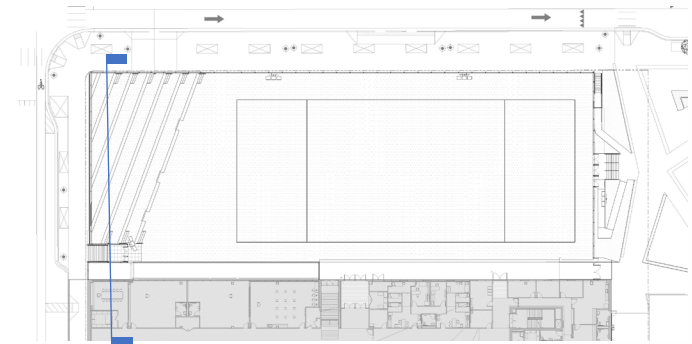
Based on observations buses occupy the street from: 8:45-9:25am and 3:40-4:30pm.

During street closure access to the below-grade structure will be limited to qualifying Pick-up Drop-off (PUDO) vehicles.

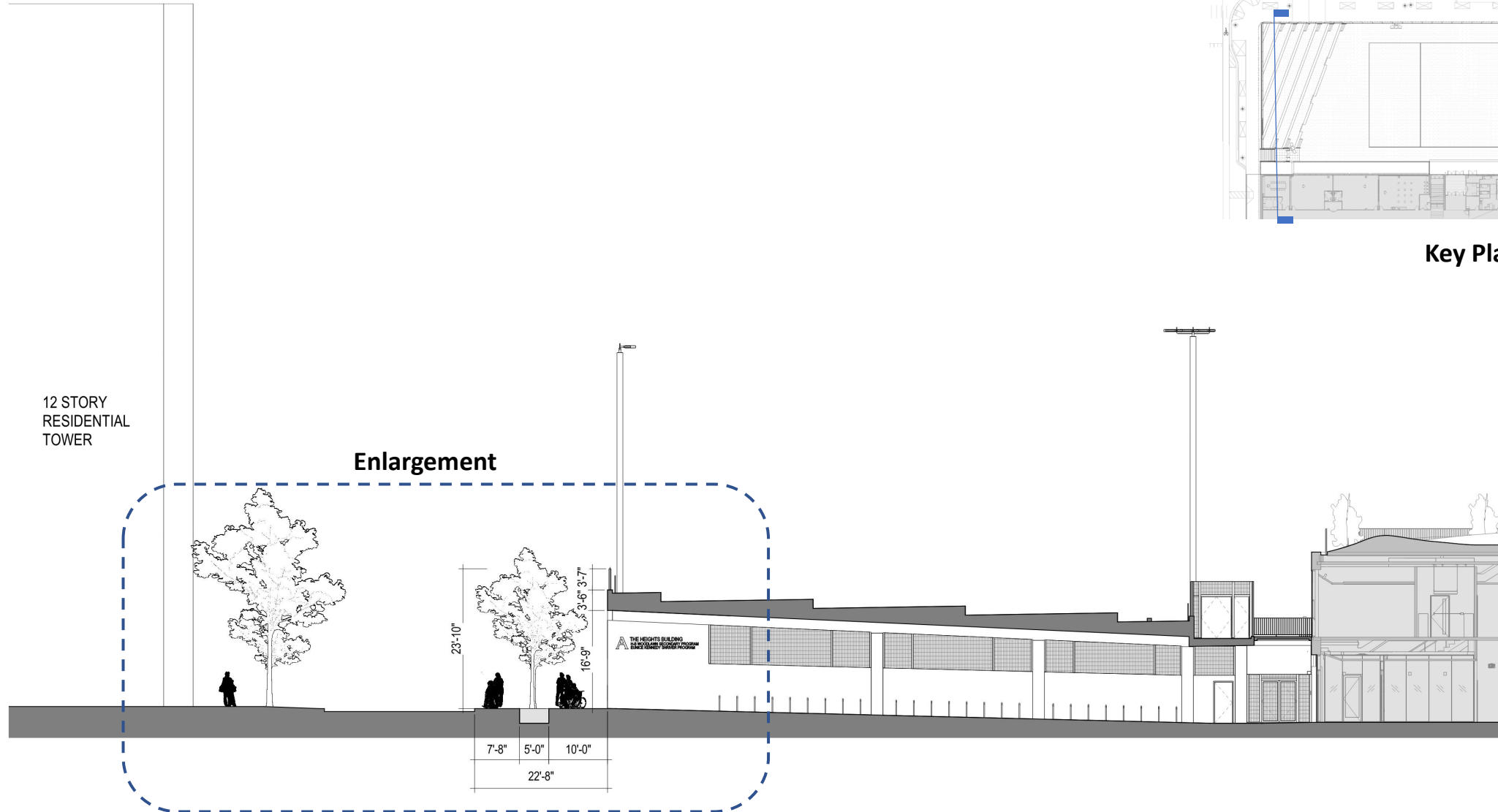
Source: [MMTA](#)



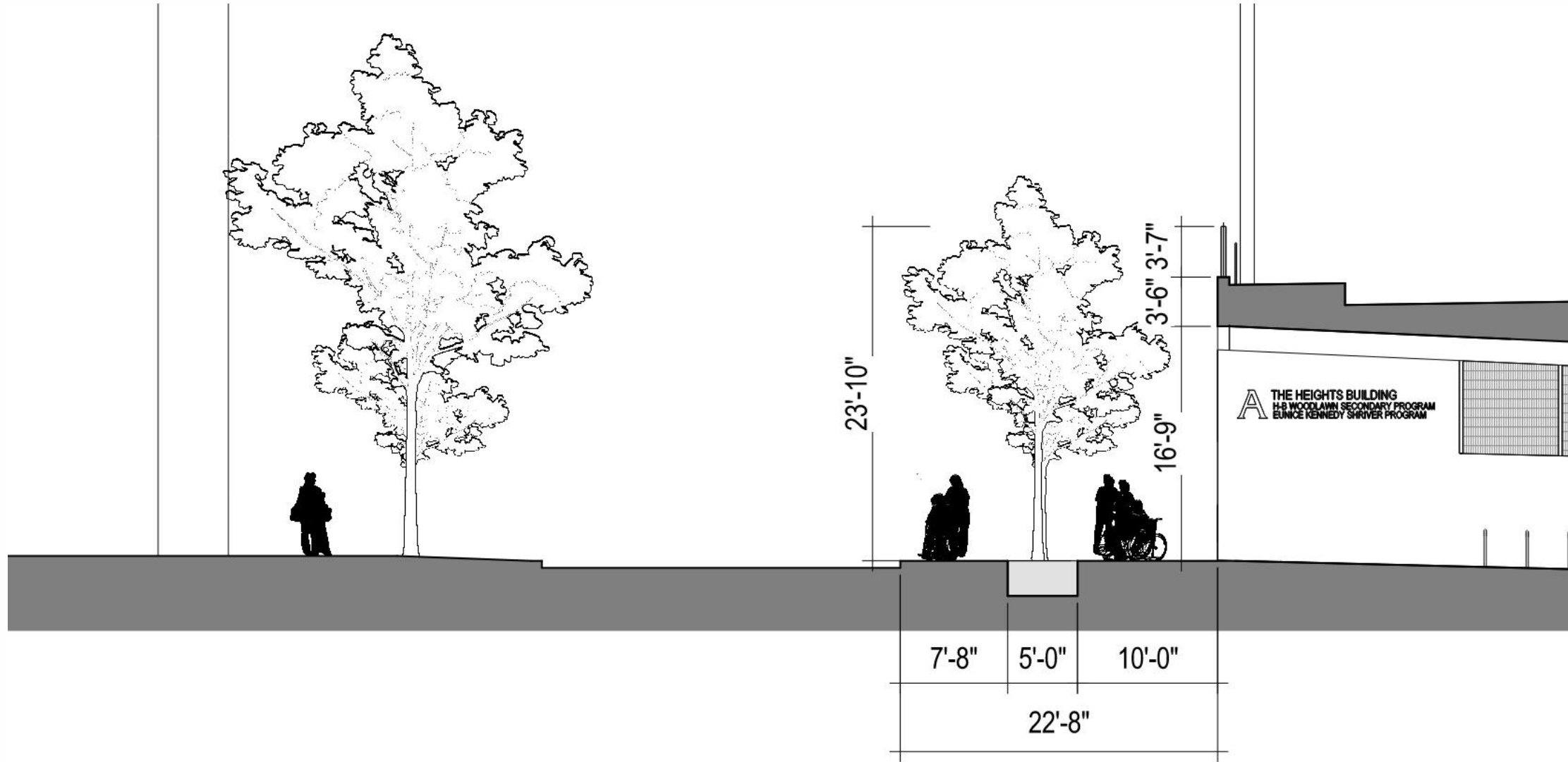
Site Section at 18th St N & N Quinn St



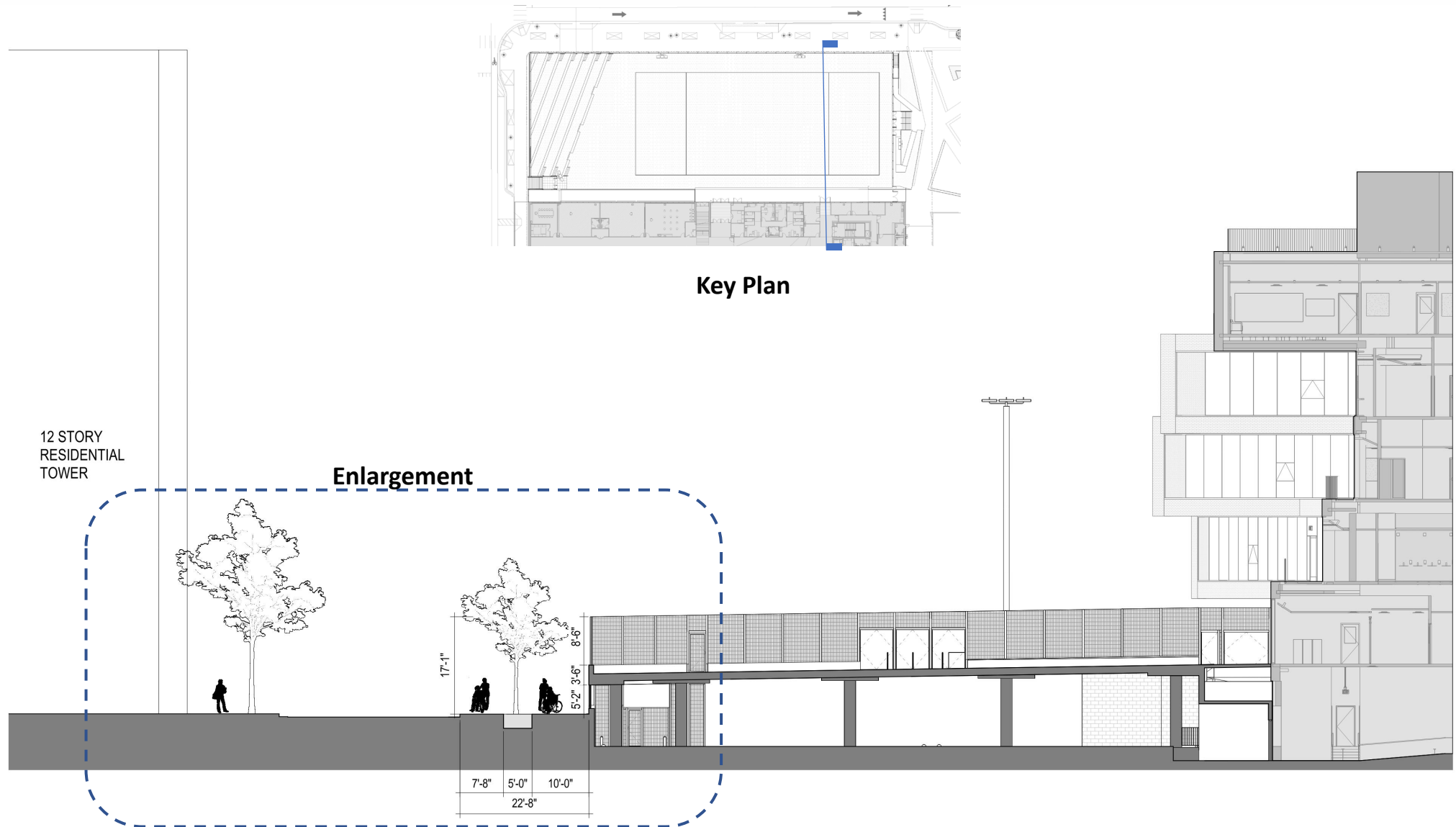
Key Plan



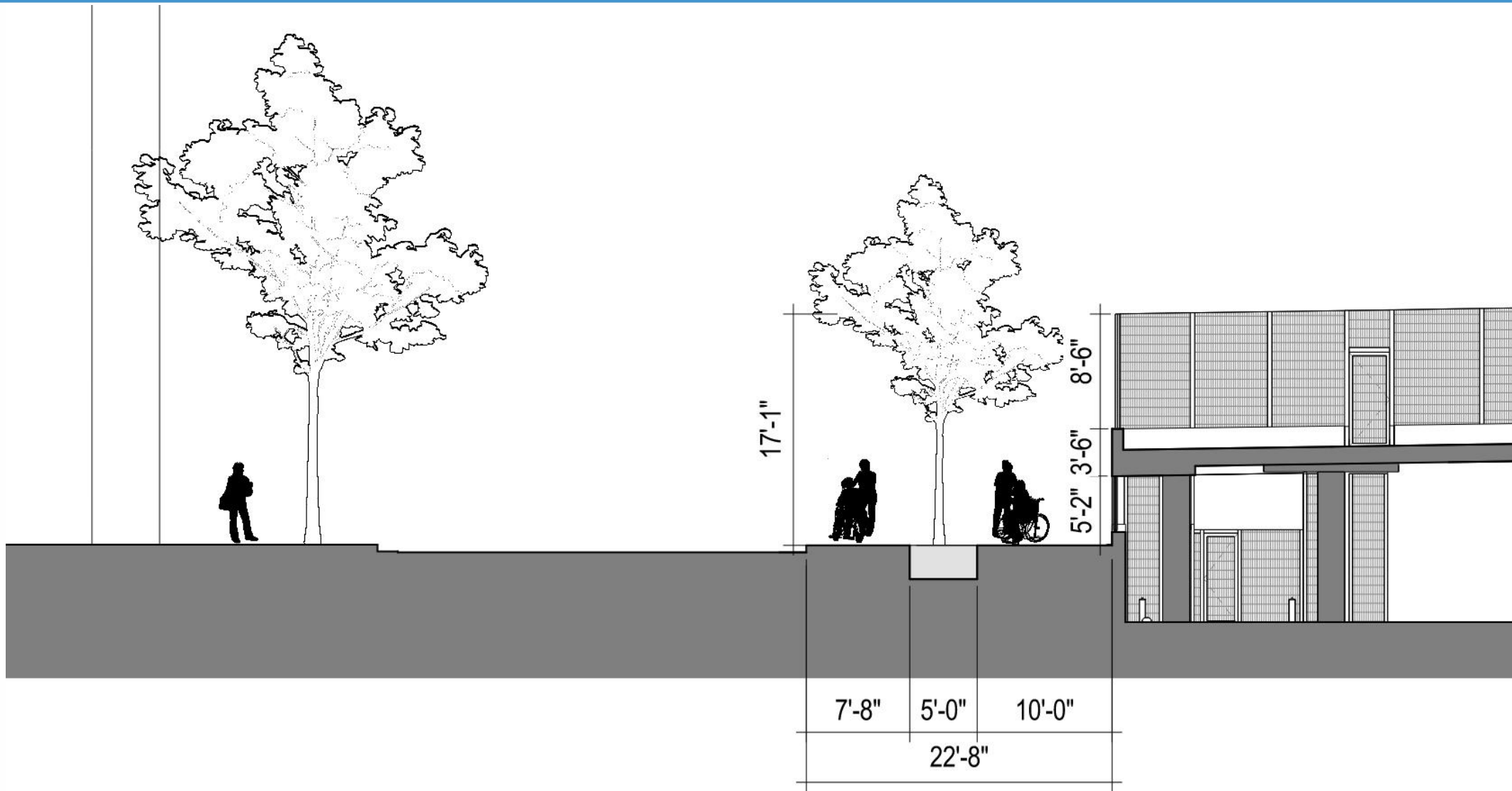
Enlarged Site Section at 18th St N & N Quinn St



Site Section at 18th St. Near Park



Enlarged Site Section at 18th St. Near Park



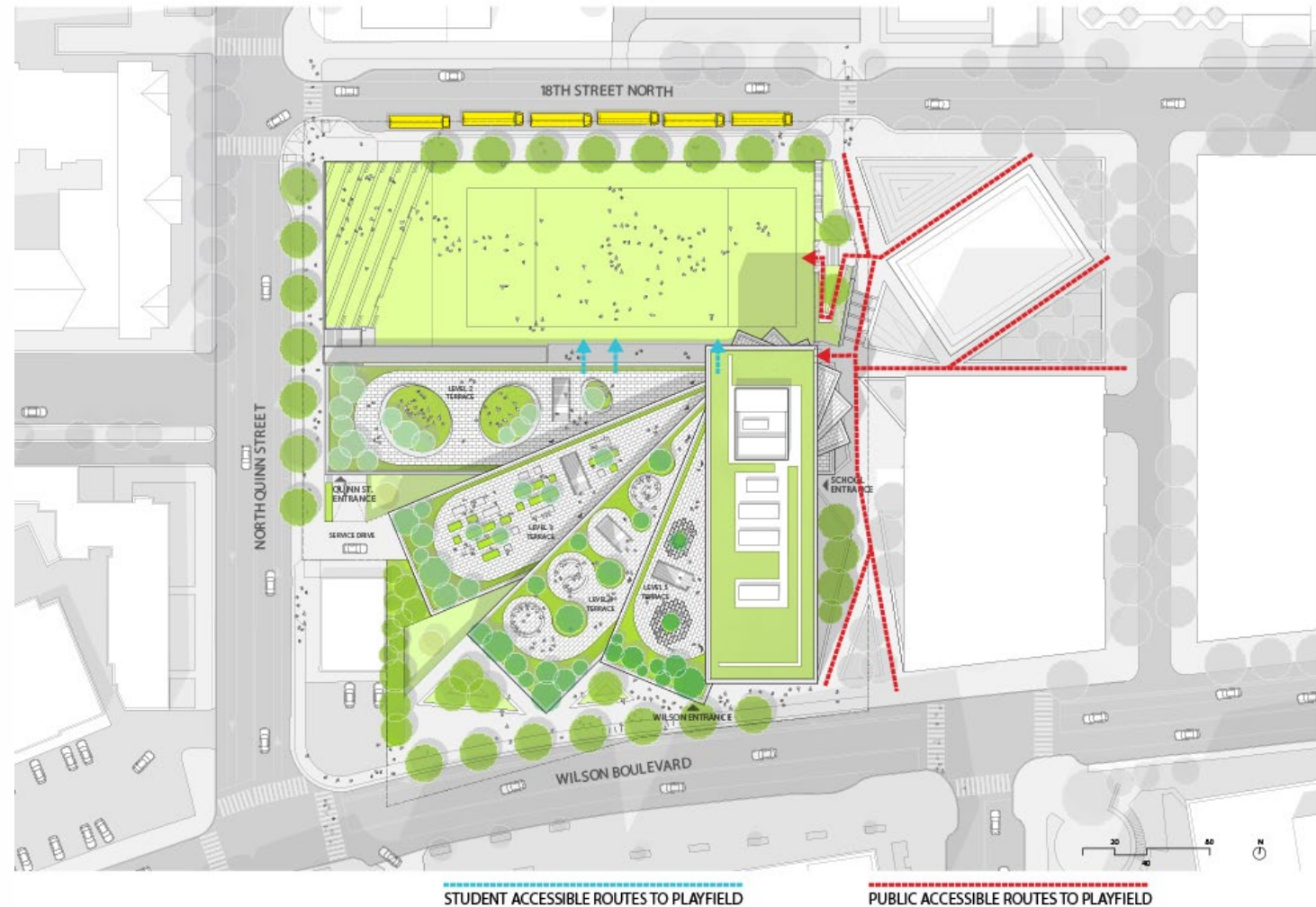
Revision to Field Elevation

2017 Proposal

- Identified the field elevation at **175'** and required indirect access from the building to the field by ramps and stairs.
- Solution does not align with current APS goals of inclusion and universal design.

2022 Proposal


- Identifies the field elevation at **180'** permitting direct access from the building to the field, better supporting the intended use.
- Useable field size increased because area for ramps and stairs is not required.
- Two accessible routes from Rosslyn Highlands Park to the field are maintained, at the middle and corner of the field.



Proposed Design – Student and Public Accessible Routes

Plan View: Field (Heights Level 1)

Features:

- 1 Artificial Lighted Turf Field
(Striped at 195' x 82' non-standard size, with 10' runoff minimum)
 - 2 Door to Heights Building Level 1
 - 3 Seating/Passive recreation
 - 4 Required means of field egress
(4 total required, minimum 2 accessible)
 - 5 Rosslyn Highlands Park
 - 6 Access for field maintenance
-  Approx. Elevation



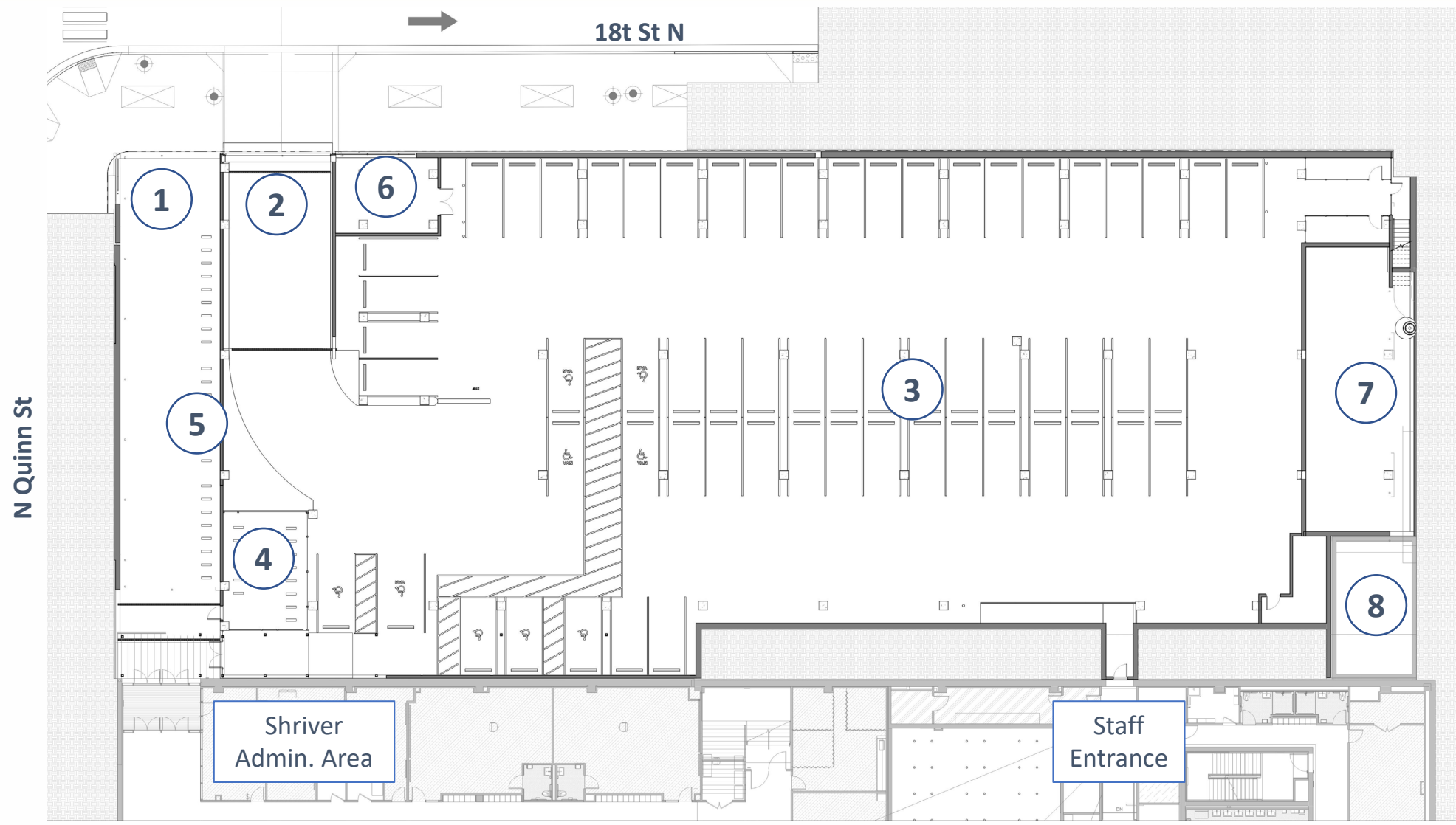
Improvements Provided with the Below-grade Structure

Component	Existing Condition	Proposed in Below-grade Structure
Shriver Pick-up Drop-off (PU/DO)	Functions poorly, relies on 3 signed on-street spaces which are often occupied by other vehicles. Number of spaces insufficient for demand.	9 ADA spaces provided (2 van sized) which should accommodate all demand. Provides covered area for PU/DO directly adjacent to a main entrance.
ADA parking	Relies on 4 ADA spaces (1 van sized) in Aubrey garage and 2 signed ADA spaces on Wilson/Quinn. Spaces not always available and are a considerable distance from the Shriver areas.	9 ADA spaces provided (2 van sized) which should accommodate all demand. Provides covered area directly adjacent to a main entrance.
Long-term staff parking	Accommodated through 90 spaces in Aubrey garage, plus an additional 30 leased at 1776 Wilson	30 spaces provided eliminates the need for APS to lease and manage off-site parking (except at Aubrey garage)
Staff parking loading/unloading	Short-term staff parking relies on on-street parking and often conflicts with other uses	2 spaces provided, eliminates conflicts
Visitor parking	10 spaces provided in Aubrey garage, validated by APS	14 spaces provided, the need for validation is removed. The 10 in the Aubrey garage become available for staff parking.
Maintenance and parcel parking	None designated, often conflicts with other uses	6 spaces provided, eliminates conflicts
Event parking	Relies on nearby on-street parking and garages	Spaces provided reduces the need for validation with parking needs for small/moderate events fully accommodated

Plan View: Entrance & Parking (Heights Level G1)

Features:

- ① Covered walkway to Heights Level G1
- ② Vehicle entrance from 18th St N
- ③ 61 spaces (9 ADA spaces)
- ④ 28-Class I bicycle spaces (staff)
- ⑤ 50-Class II bicycle spaces (visitors & students)
- ⑥ Equipment storage
- ⑦ Stormwater vault
- ⑧ Existing cistern



Aerial View from N Quinn St/18th St N



Street View from N Quinn St/18th St N



Aerial View from Rosslyn Highlands Park/18th St N



Street View from Rosslyn Highland Park/18th St N



View from Rosslyn Highland Park



Aerial View from N Quinn St



Construction Phase

- Separating completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 increased construction cost and complexity.
- The Heights Building will remain in operation during construction, except for APS breaks and holidays.
- Construction is expected to begin in Fall 2022 and extend through 2023.

Next Steps

- April 14, 2022 – Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) Meeting
- April 19, 2022 – Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) Meeting
- April 28, 2022 – Transportation Commission Meeting
- May 2/4, 2022 – Planning Commission Meeting
- May 14/17, 2022 – County Board Use Permit Hearing

