

# REIMAGINING THE YOUTH CENTER & REC FIELD

Woodstock's Third Space

9/17/24

# **Town Board Presentation**

- 1. Introduction of task force and mission**
- 2. Presentation of rationale and approach**
- 3. Introduction of EDR**
- 4. History**
- 5. Current state of the Youth Center and Rec Field**
- 6. Public input gathered**
- 7. Master Plan**
- 8. We are making progress! - next steps and three priorities**
- 9. Costs and financing**
- 10. Final remarks**

# Who We Are: Youth Center Task Force

Patrick Acker

Joseph Appel

Peter Cantine

Josie Diels

Jason Glaser

Jacque Manganaro

Laurie Osmond

Ben Schachter

# Why We Should Do This?

# Health & Economic Benefits

- **Creating a space for community** - multigenerational and age-friendly communities create a vehicle to bring generations together: reduce age segregation and ageism, decrease social isolation, depression, and loneliness, improve community infrastructure and facilities
- **Attracting Families** - Make Woodstock an attractive option for raising families
- **Safety** - Drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Wellness** - Swimming and activity has the potential to circumvent many of the barriers to exercise encountered by older adults
- **Senior Support** - The need for local governments to support their senior populations with additional resources and activities is about to increase. By 2030...one in every five residents will be retirement age
- **Permanent farmers' market structures and multi-use pavilions can serve as sources of community and economic development.** Farmers' markets serve as powerful engines of economic and communal activity

# Task Force Rationale and Approach

- Appointed in mid 2023 by the Town Supervisor
- All volunteers
- Meet weekly
- Focused on improving the youth center and rec field for all
- Started with broad ideas of what can be...
- Only two sacred cows (Community Center/Elm Tree)
- Met with various town constituents/stakeholder groups to gather input on needs and desires
- “Shoot for the stars” approach
- Hired master planning firm

# Brief Overview of the History of Youth Center and Rec Field

Prior to 1790 - Lenape hunting grounds

1790s-1920s - farmland

1832 - Cemetery founded

Early 1920s - Fish & Game club acquired land, Baseball diamond built by volunteers

1921-1922 - St. Joan's church built

1948 - Fish & Game club donate land to town as a "living war memorial"

1950s - pool donated to the Town, Little League begins

1956 - Local teen Andy Lee killed in tragic hunting accident; local teens petition to have Rec Field renamed after Andy Lee

1974 - Town acquires St. Joan's church and Youth Center building

1990 - basketball court added

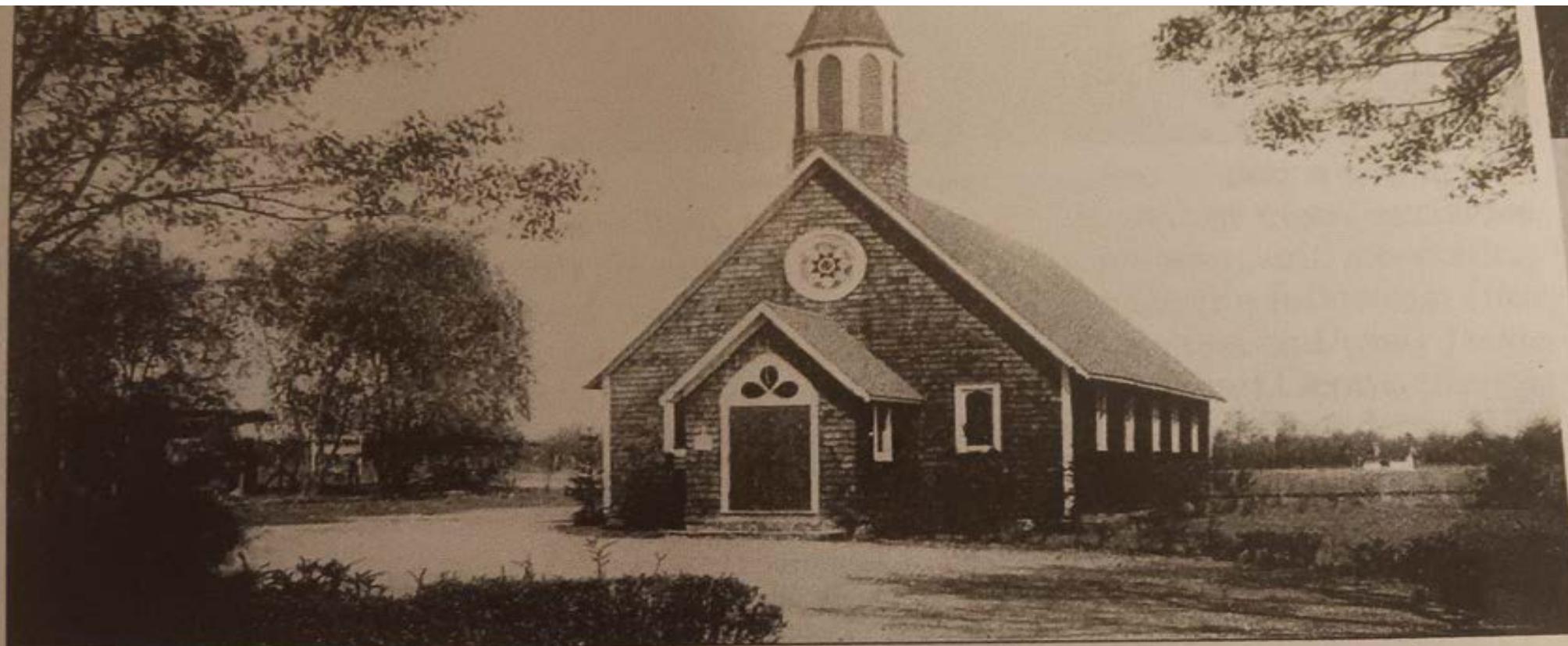
Early 2000s - community garden founded

#### Andy Lee

About halfway up Rock City Road lies the Woodstock recreation field named in honor of Andy Lee. And yet not many Woodstockers know why it bears the name it does or who Andy Lee was. Andy Lee was the type of teenager who would make any town proud. An excellent student, Lee also participated in a wide variety of extracurricular activities while attending Kingston High School (as Woodstock students did during the 1950s). He served as vice president of the student council and treasurer of the junior class. Lee also excelled at football, having been selected as a member of Kingston's varsity team as a sophomore. Well-loved by his fellow students, Andy Lee was selected as both the best athlete and most popular boy by the junior class. Andy Lee's life came to a tragic end on a cold January day in 1956. While hunting with two friends, one member of the group, according to press accounts, slipped as he was about to fire upon partridges that had just taken flight. Lee was struck in the chest by the wayward round from his friend's 12-gauge shotgun. Andy Lee died before he could be taken to the hospital and was laid to rest in the Woodstock Cemetery next to the field that now bears his name.



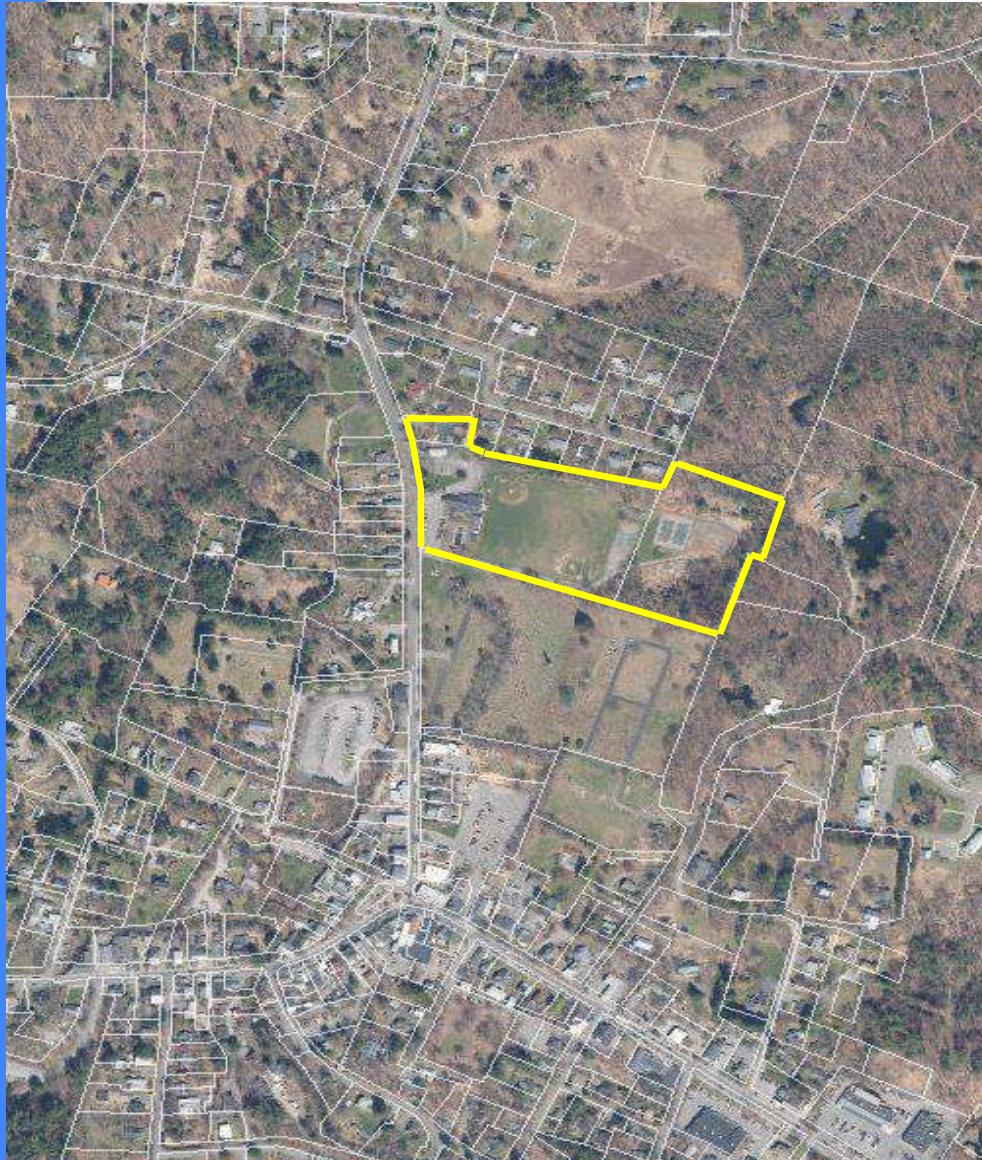
THE ANDY LEE MEMORIAL FIELD. The Andy Lee Memorial Field was named after a young man killed in a shooting accident. Once part of a farm, the field is now the site of many activities, including Little League, adult softball, family picnics, the town recreation program, and ice-skating. Shown are members of the 1957 Woodstock Yankees. From left to right are the following: (first row) Stan Longyear, Ross VanWagenen, John Mower, and ? McClocklan; (second row) Jackie Wilber, Roger Graham, Bob Gordon, Lloyd Gibson, and Roger Phelps; (third row) Dennis Shultz, Jay VanWagenen, Alex Sharpe, Jim Kinns, and Rowan Dordick; (fourth row) ? Di Benedetto, Rudi H. [unclear], and [unclear].



**ST. JOAN D'ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH.** Just past the main cemetery, within the compound known as the Andy Lee Memorial Field, is the building that was once home to the local Catholic parish. Construction on St. Joan d'Arc Catholic Church began in 1921, and Peter Spellman said the first Mass on June 25, 1922. (Author's collection.)

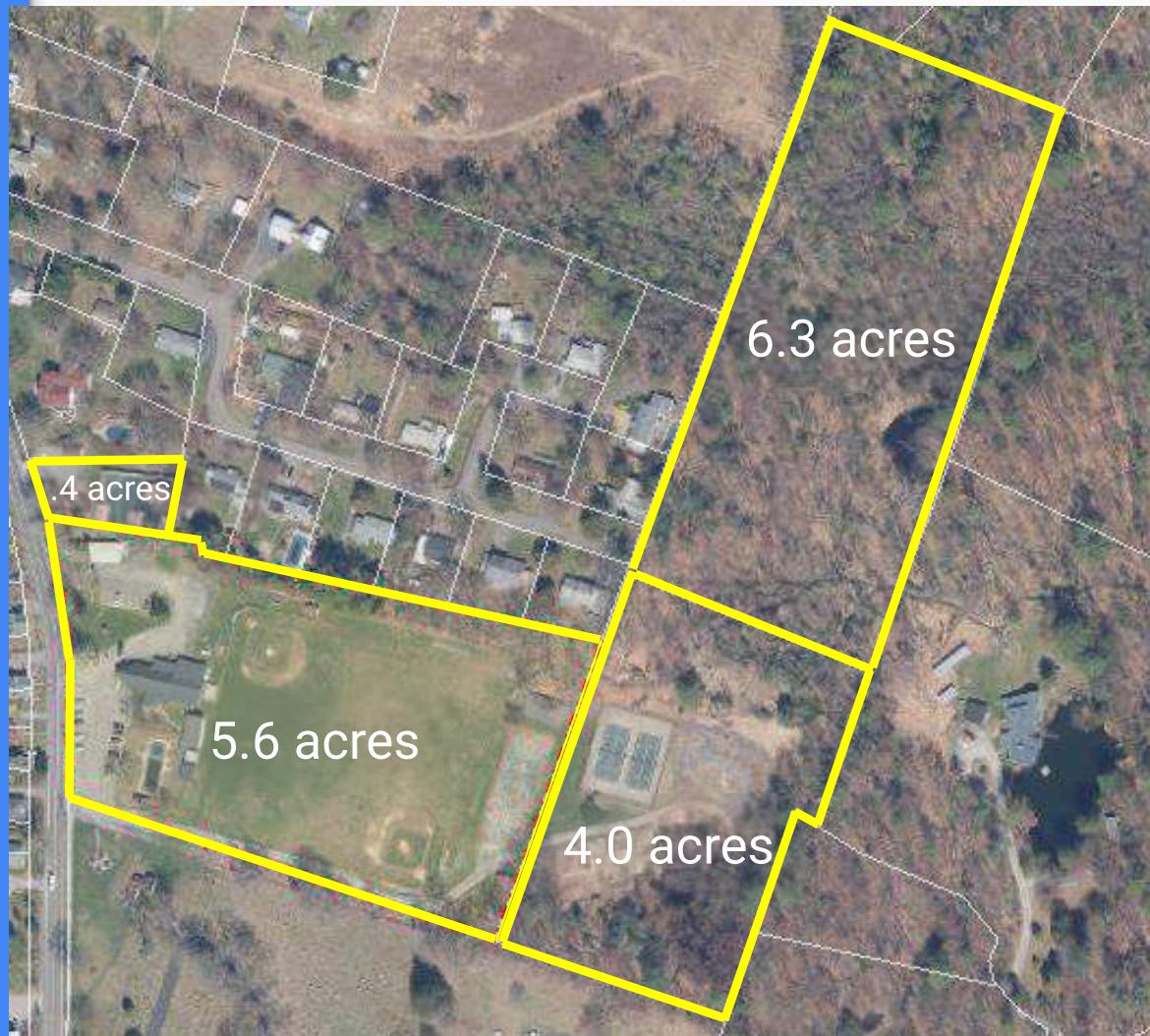
# Today's Youth Center & Rec Field

The Heart of Woodstock



## Actually Four Parcels Owned by Woodstock

1. Current Skate Park
2. Buildings and Field
3. Tennis Courts and  
Community Garden
4. Other Area



# Current State of Youth Center Building

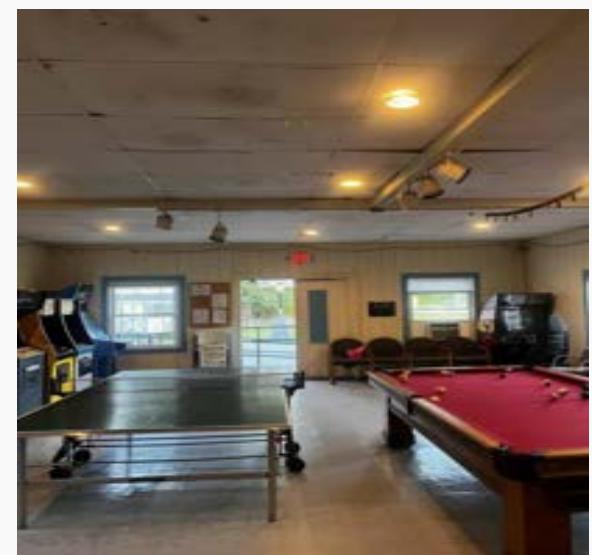
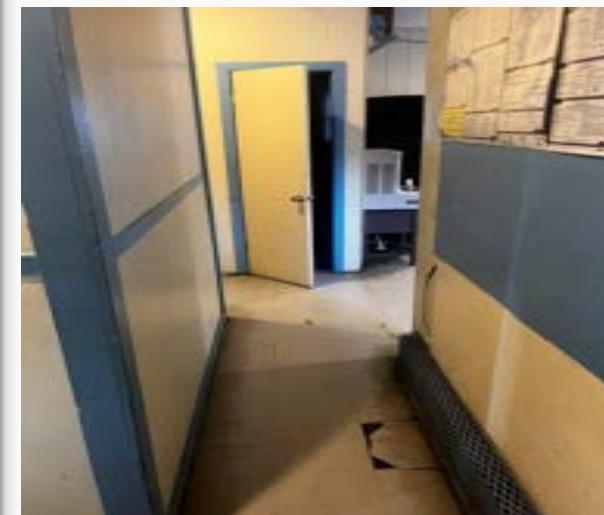


- **History of the Woodstock Youth Center Building**
  - The Woodstock Youth Center is a 1½ story building converted from a 2-story home that had an extension built on.
- **Youth Attendance is Increasing**
  - Average daily visits up about 25-30% versus last year
  - Overall visits up 6,202 sign-ins in 2022 and now 8,391 in 2023 vs 2022
- **Current Offerings** - various programs and equipment including tutoring, computers, video games, a single basketball hoop, skate park, etc..
- **More Space is Needed**
- **Building in Need of Repairs or Replaced** - size, layout, facilities, issues that are covered under the WEC report if anyone is interested in reading it
- **Proximity to Road/Lines of Sight are Issues** - Potential for accidents – ie people entering parking area through an area marked One Way
- **Indoor Sporting Facilities Needed** - (Covered skatepark, Indoor gymnasium, etc..)

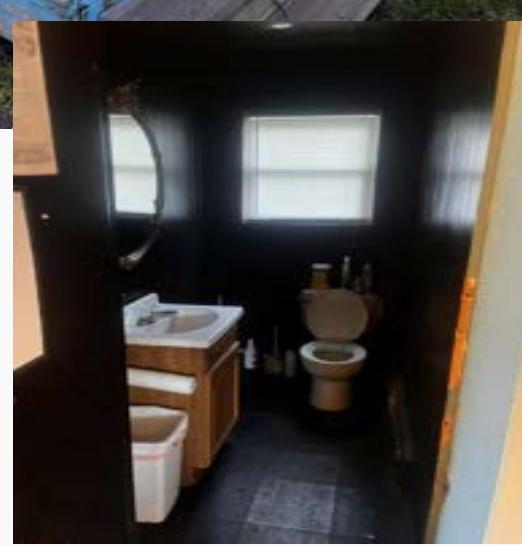
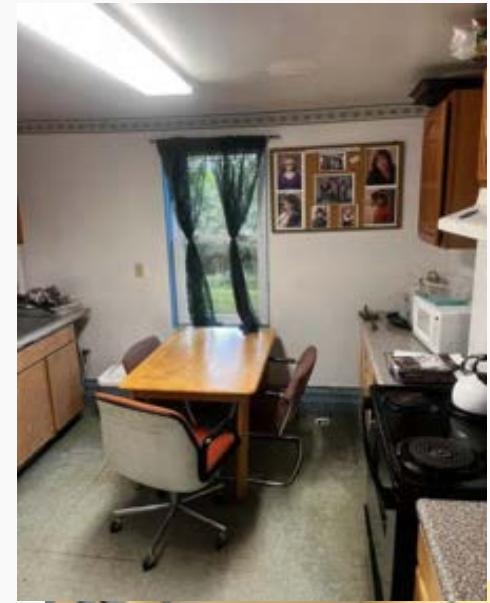
# Current State of Youth Center



# Current State of Youth Center



# Current State of Youth Center



## Current State of Youth Center



# Current State of Youth Center



What Does  
The Community Want?  
We Asked.

# Focus on Comprehensive Public Input: Stakeholders

- Mailed survey to approximately 5000 Woodstock residents
- Interviewed youth, aged 7-19
- Parents
- Sunday Rec Field Softball Players
- Woodstock Farm Fest
- Rotary Club
- Historical Society of Woodstock
- Woodstock Public Library
- Town Board Members
- Onteora School Board Member
- Woodstock Day School student meeting
- The Housing Task Force and the Housing Committee
- Woodstock Summer Rec Program
- Other Woodstock residents
- Conducted two-day focus groups with planning firm EDR
- Public Be Heard meetings 1/17/24, 2/6/24, 6/6/24, 7/25/24, 9/5/24

# Survey Data

## Word frequency cloud:

Open ended responses on programming and other suggestions

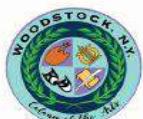
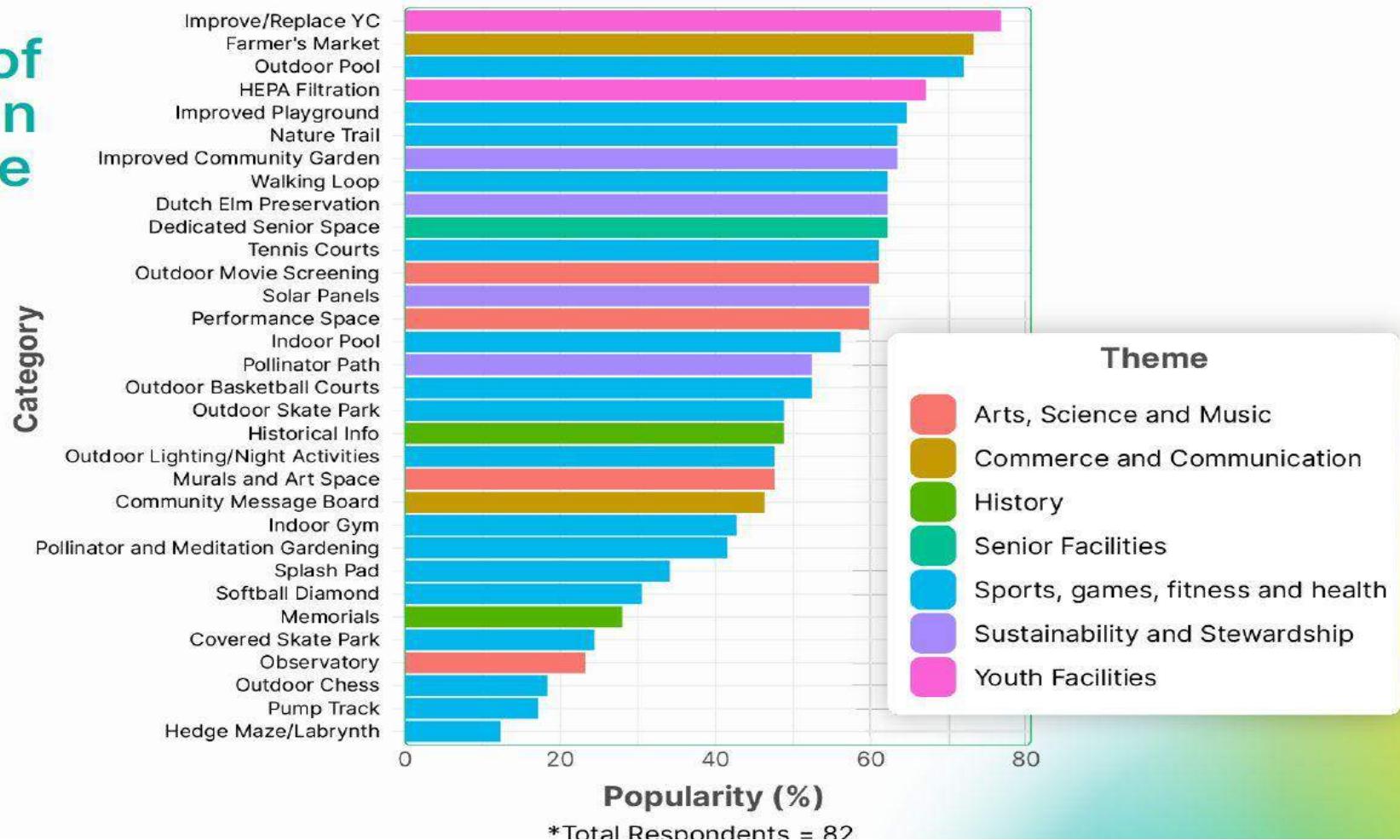
nights summer  
classes  
**programs**  
music art night  
pool kids center  
event youth camp crafts  
senior school events  
outdoor movie  
tutoring

comment  
public summer  
**playground**  
round run facilities feel  
town pool bike  
station center indoor happy events  
youth access  
seniors space



# Survey Data

## Popularity of Items Within Each Theme



# Accessibility

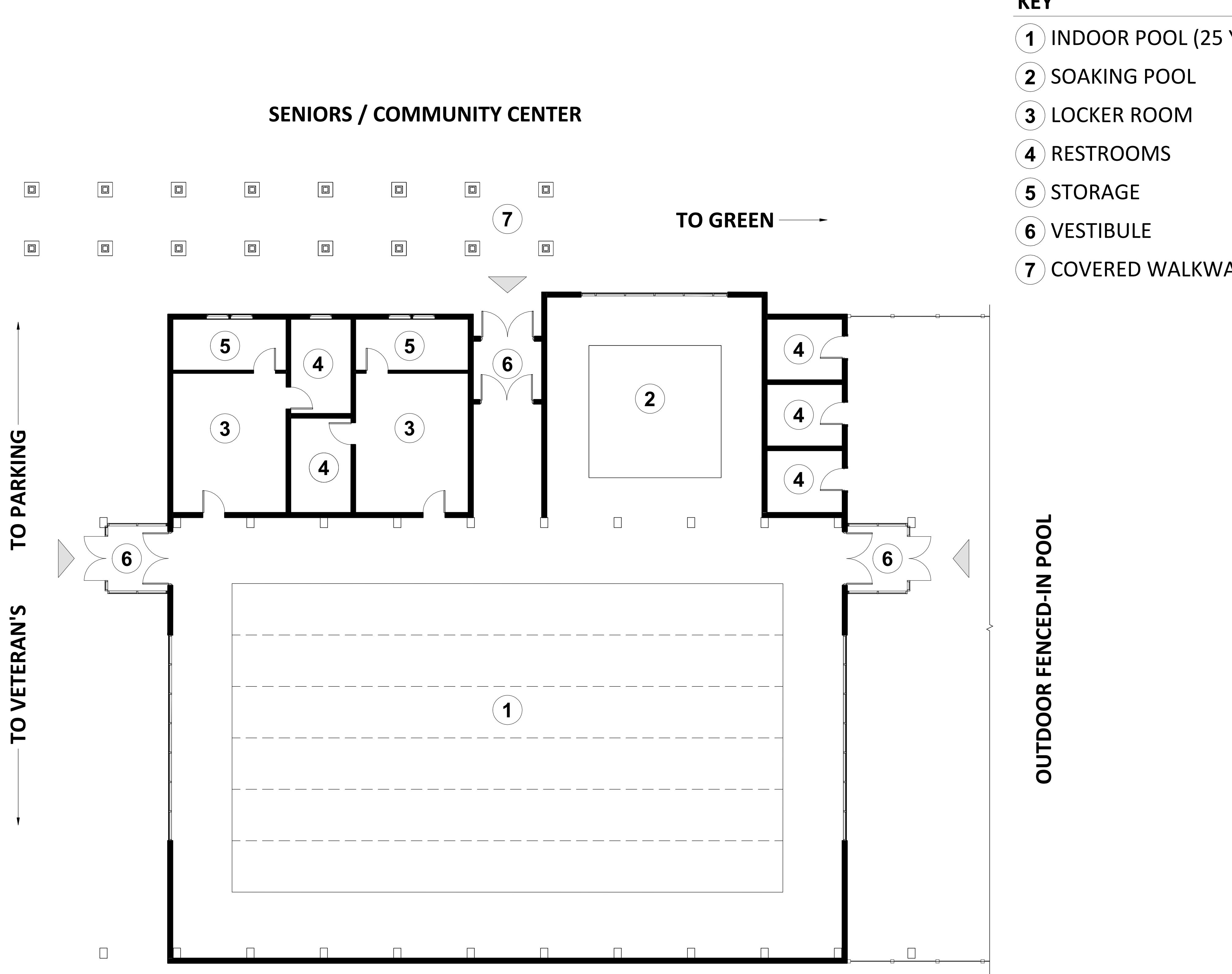
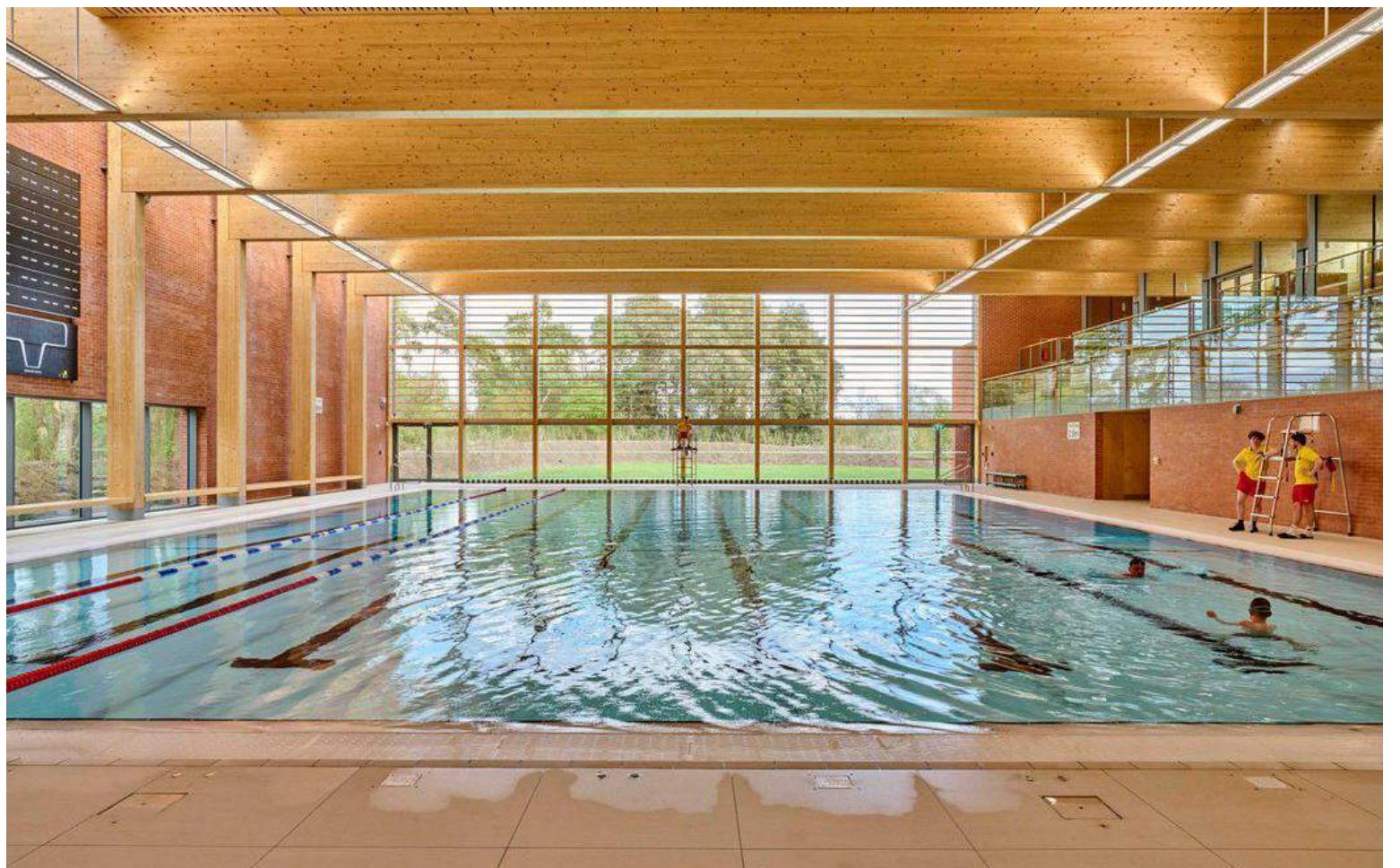
**Refers to a site, facility, work environment, service, or program that is easy to approach, enter, operate, participate in, and/or use safely and with dignity by a person with a disability.**



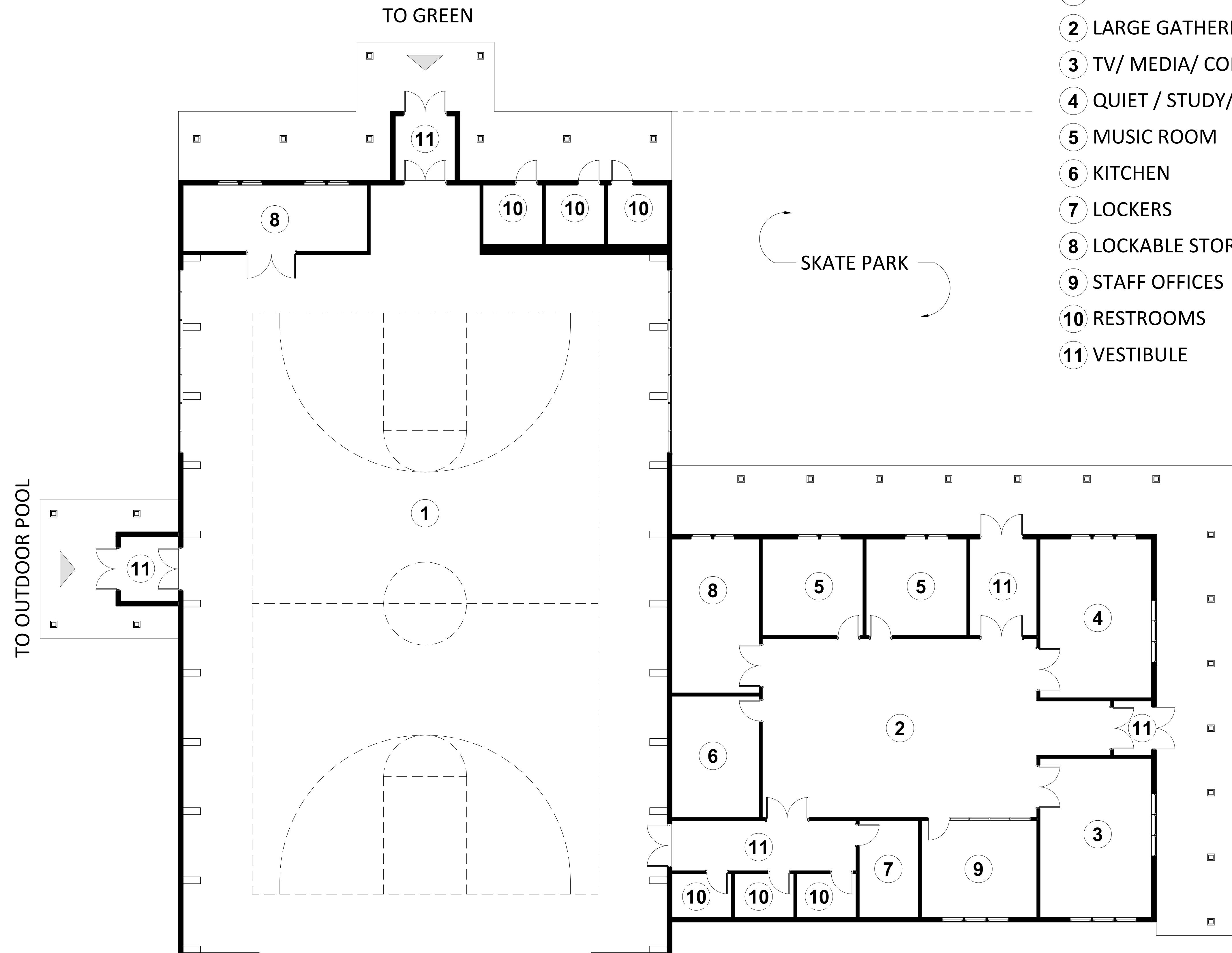
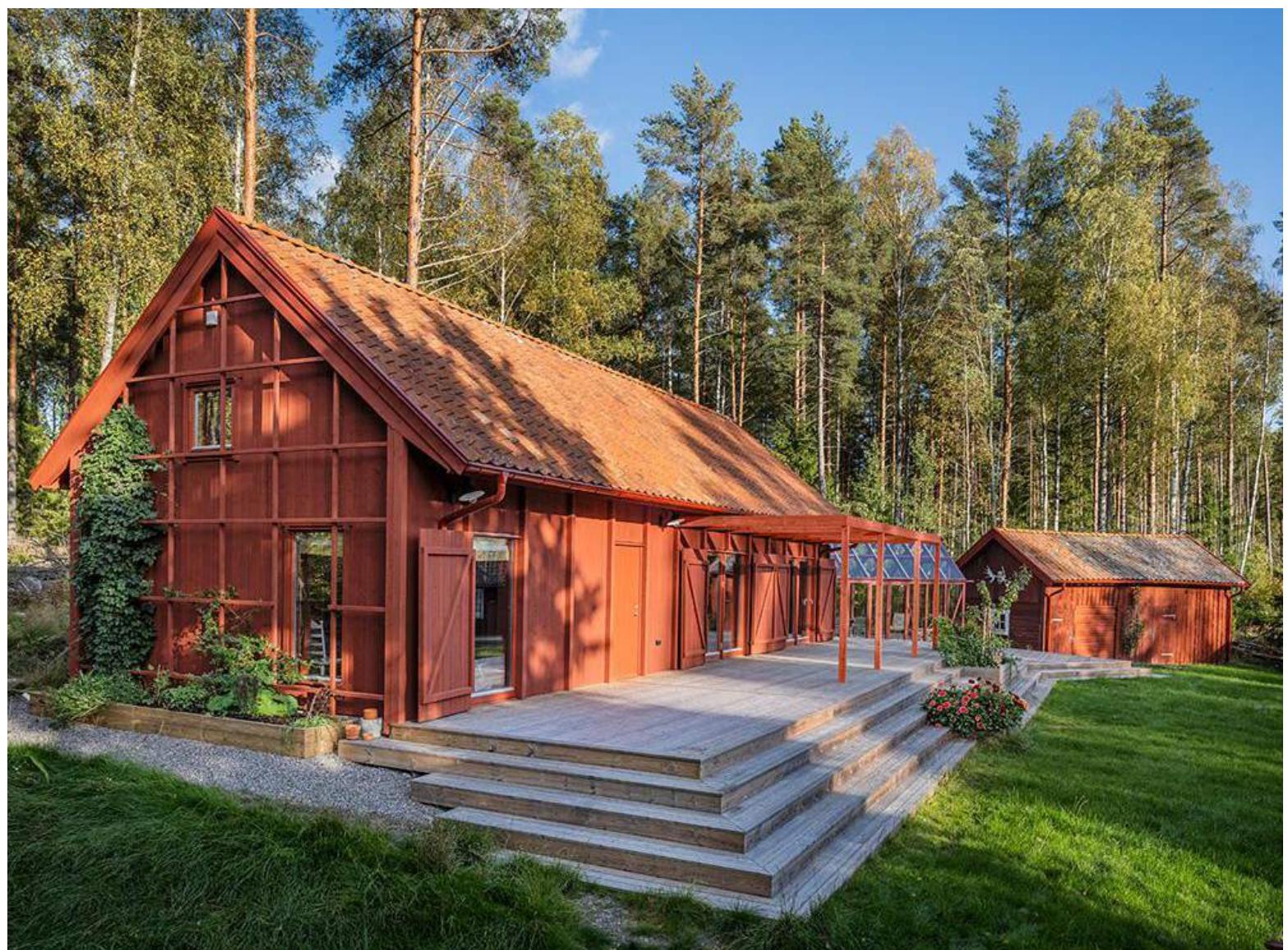
# Imagine What Could Be!











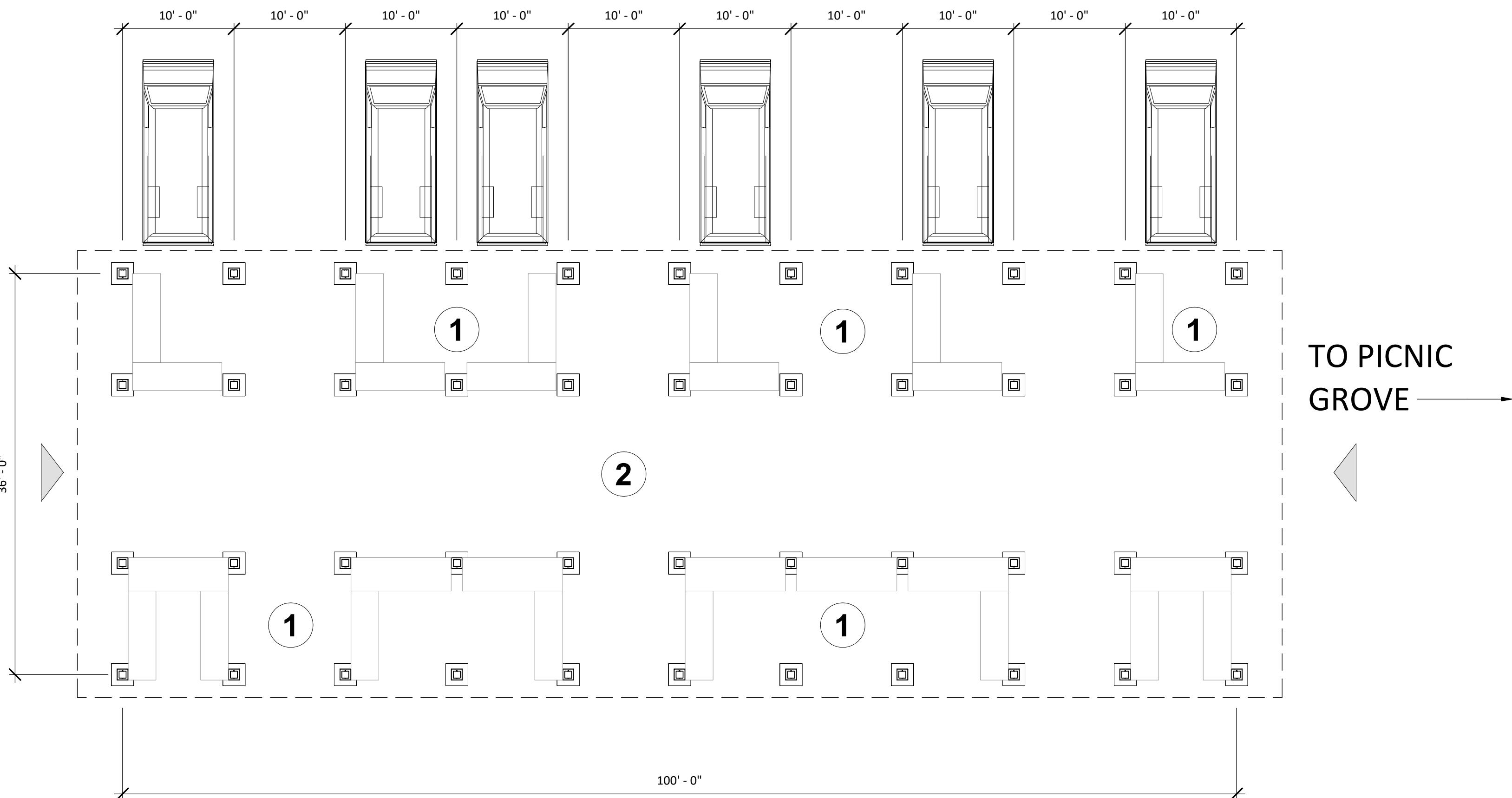


TO PARKING

TO THE GREEN

TO PICNIC  
GROVE

PULL-IN TRUCK LOADING



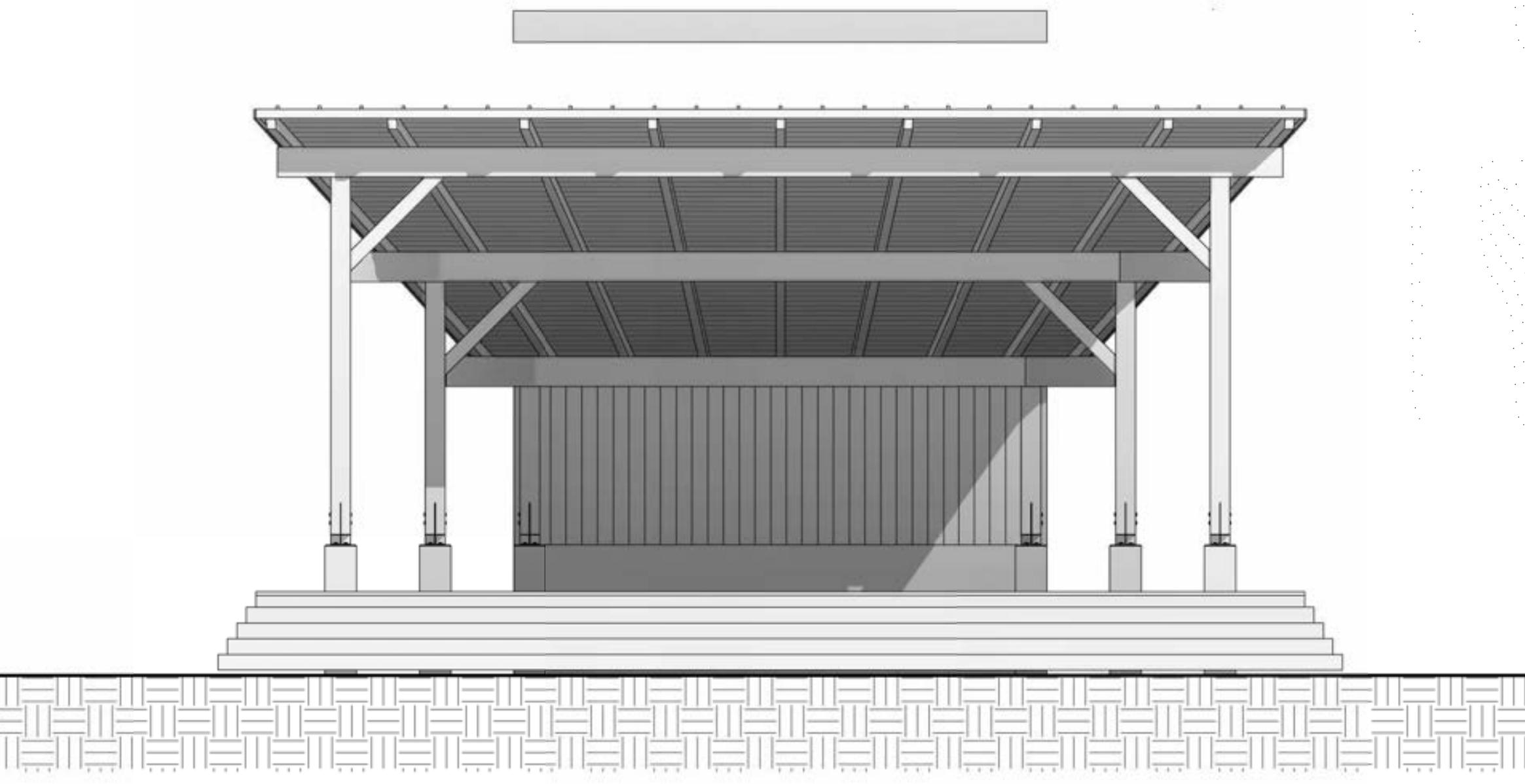
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12 x 18: 1/16" = 1'  
0 2 4 8 16

SHEET #:

A5

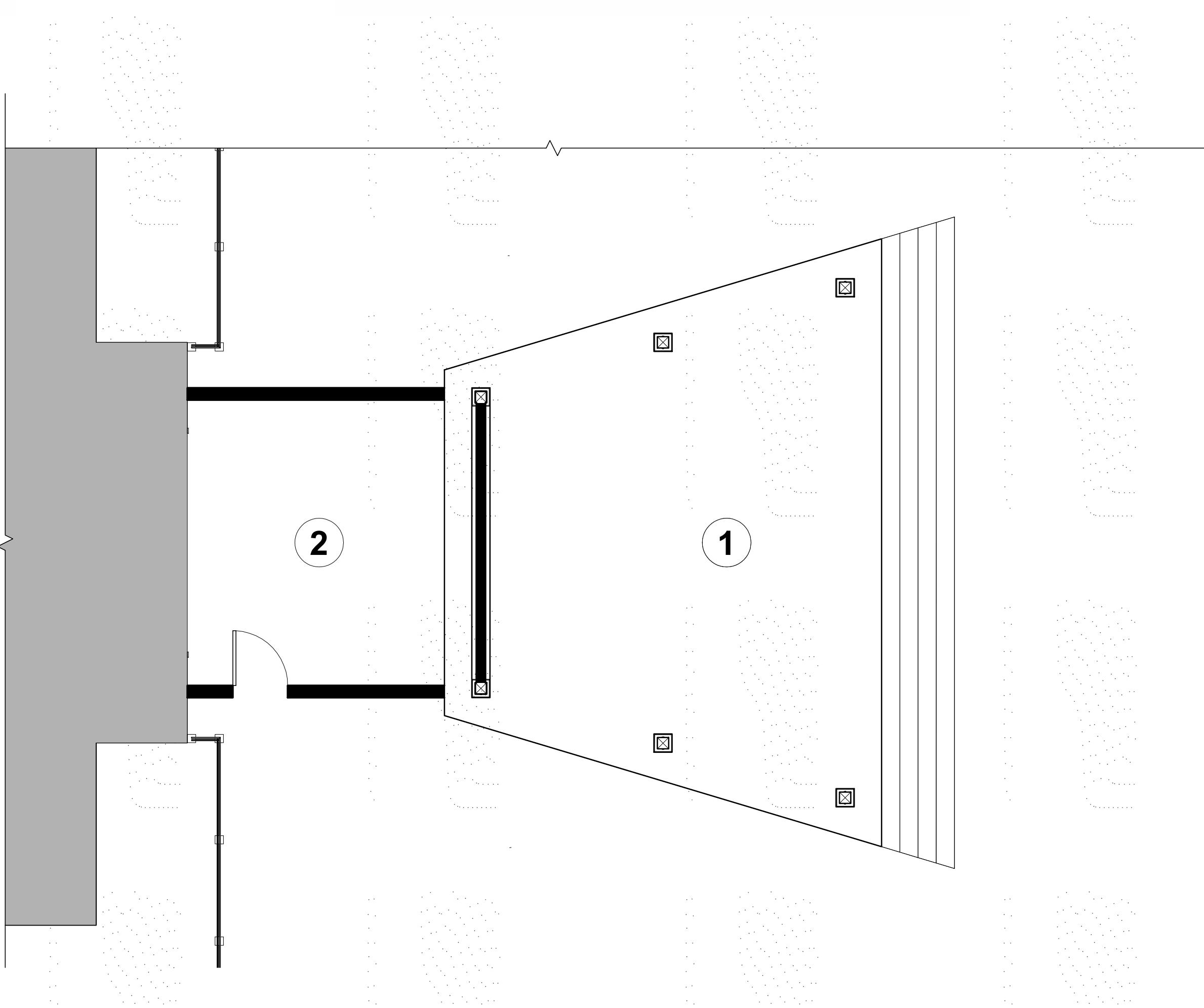


# WOODSTOCK RECREATIONAL CAMPUS MASTER PLAN



## KEY

- 1 BAND STAND
- 2 BACK STAGE GREEN ROOM















# Three Priorities

- 1. Youth Center and Senior Center - Top Priority**
  - Focus on having this done above all else
  - New structures
  - Better designed to serve the youth and seniors of Woodstock
  - Improved safety
- 2. Woodstock Farm Festival/Multi-Use Pavilion and Fields**
  - Improve the campus for all Woodstockers
  - Create more opportunities for community interactions
- 3. Indoor/Outdoor Pool**
  - Single most requested feature, to benefit all

# Financial Support

## Four sources of government and public funding:

- Local
- County
- State
- Federal

## Private Fundraising

- From Muffins to Millions

# Next Steps

1. Move to pre-referendum planning and due diligence
2. Continued public input
3. Create advisory sub-groups focusing on specific areas or buildings
4. Voter referendum

# Thanks!

Contact Us:

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