

An aerial photograph of Birch Meadow Park in Reading, Massachusetts. The image shows a large complex of buildings, including a prominent red-roofed structure, surrounded by green fields, trees, and residential areas. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent reddish-orange filter.

TOWN OF READING

Birch Meadow Park - Phase I | RAAC Committee Meeting

June 15, 2022



PROJECT HISTORY / TIMELINE

- 2 0 0 7 The Reading Select Board formed the Birch Meadow Master Plan Subcommittee. The plan has been revisited and reviewed multiple times in the capital planning process (2007 – 2009 and 2014 – 2015).
- 2 0 1 8 The Reading Recreation Committee appointed a new Birch Meadow Master Plan Working Group to review the pre-existing Master plan for the Birch Meadow Complex and make recommendations based on recreational trends and community input. A community survey was sent out in December of 2018 and in excess of 1,000 responses were received in 2019.
- 2 0 2 0 -
2 0 2 1 Activitas Inc. was retained by the Town of Reading to update the Master Plan for Birch Meadow. Working with the Birch Meadow Master Plan Working Group, the mission of the Master Plan update is to create a community-based recreation and open space plan for the acres of land within the Birch Meadow footprint.
- 2 0 2 2 Activitas Inc. starts work with the Town of Reading on Phase I Design for Birch Meadow Park



2019 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Top Desired Improvements:

- **Restrooms**
- **Passive Recreation Paths**

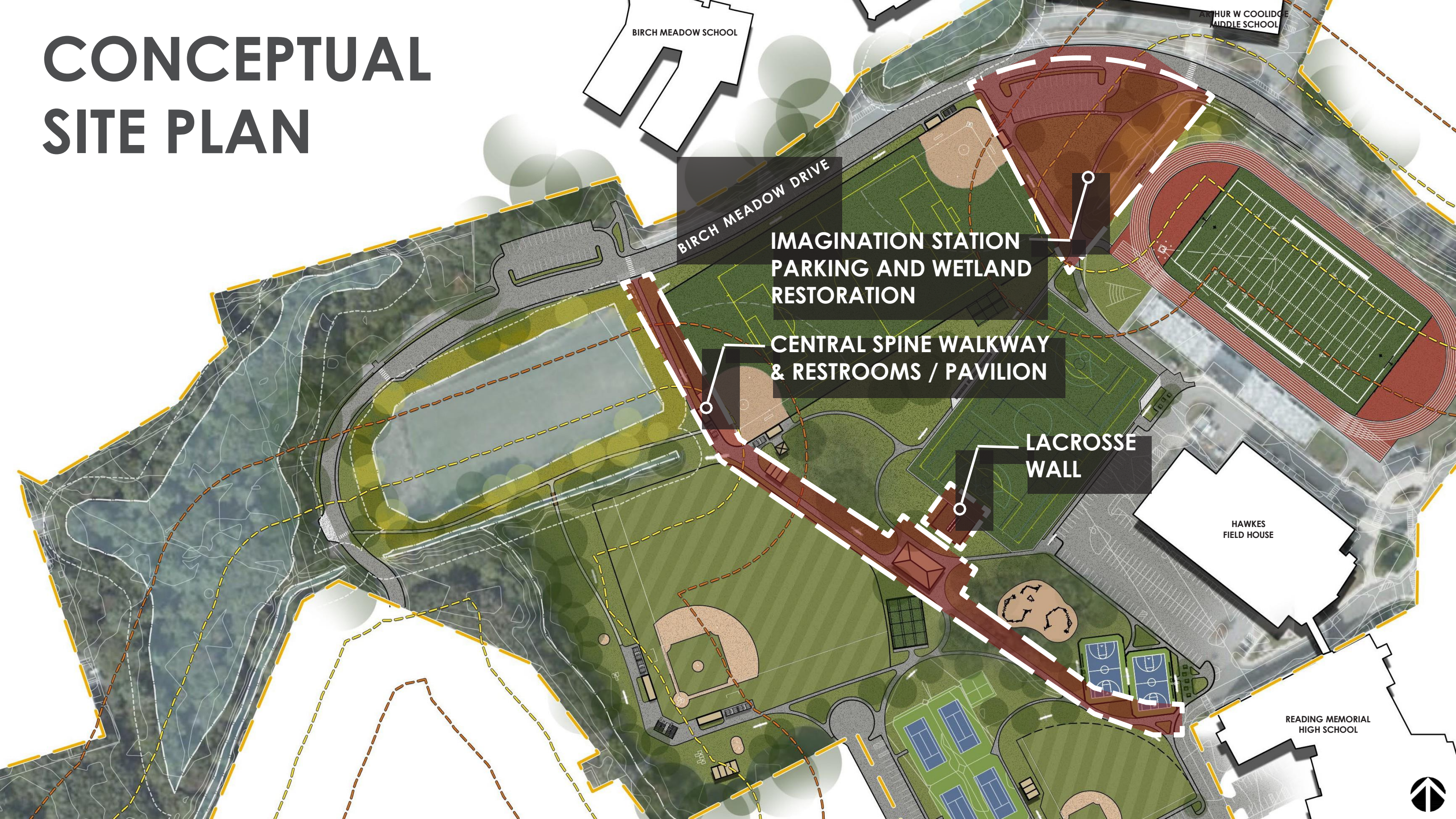
2020-2021 STAKEHOLDER AND USER GROUP INTERVIEW RESULTS

largely reinforced the desires expressed in the 2019 community survey

The top reoccurring focus areas were:

- **Lighting** (more lighting at fields and walkways)
- **More Passive Recreation Opportunities** (walkways, path and unprogrammed space)
- **Restrooms/Pavilion Building**
- **More Parking**

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN



BIRCH MEADOW SCHOOL

ARTHUR W COOLIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

BIRCH MEADOW DRIVE

IMAGINATION STATION
PARKING AND WETLAND
RESTORATION

CENTRAL SPINE WALKWAY
& RESTROOMS / PAVILION

LACROSSE
WALL

HAWKES
FIELD HOUSE

READING MEMORIAL
HIGH SCHOOL



RECREATION BENEFITS ALL DEMOGRAPHICS

- Research shows that since Covid half of adults from across the United States now participate in outdoor recreation on at least a monthly basis, and approximately 20% may be new to outdoor recreation during the pandemic.
- Participation in outdoor recreation carries both psychological and physiological benefits.
- Outdoor recreation helps to release stress and restore people's senses of well-being. Research has linked stress to a wide range of health issues, including heart disease, depression, obesity, irritability, headaches, anxiety, and relationship troubles.

APPROXIMATE COST ESTIMATES

CENTRAL SPINE WALKWAY & RESTROOMS/PAVILION	<i>\$800K</i>
LACROSSE WALL	<i>\$150K</i>
IMAGINATION STATION PARKING LOT	<i>\$550k</i>
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	<i>\$1.5m</i>

CENTRAL SPINE WALKWAY & RESTROOMS/PAVILION

BIRCH MEADOW SCHOOL

\$800K

ARTHUR W COOLIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL



BIRCH MEADOW DRIVE

CENTRAL SPINE WALKWAY & RESTROOMS / PAVILION



READING MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

- Indoor Restrooms
- Indoor Storage
- Outside Picnic Area/Gathering space/Can be used for outdoor Lunch area for RMHS
- Will be a safe walking area with low level pedestrian lighting. Many walk or bike to and from sporting events, school, etc. through the BM complex
- Most current OSRP study shows same feedback from community for more areas for walking and biking
- Approx. quarter of a mile and ADA compliant.

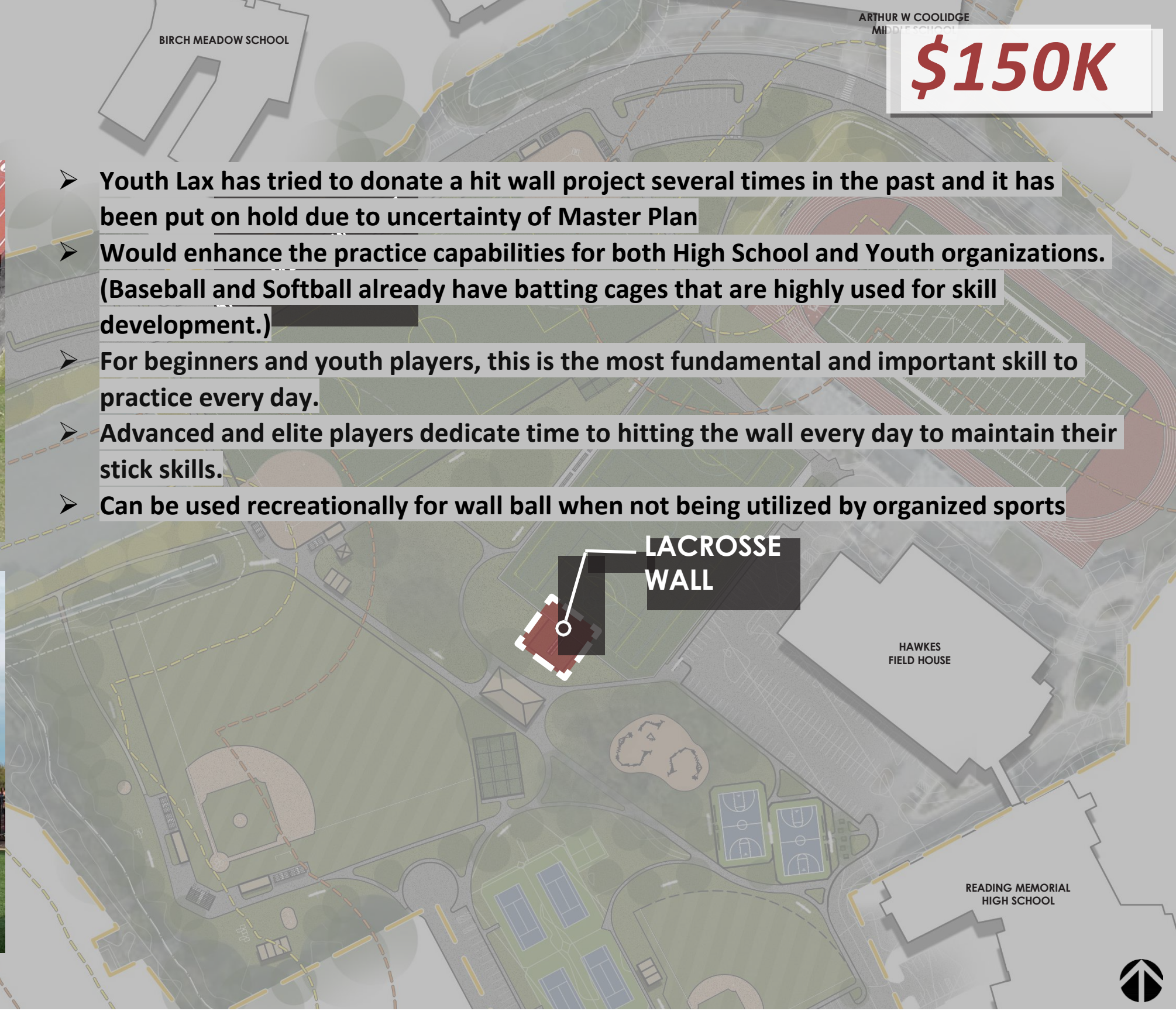


LACROSSE WALL

\$150K



- Youth Lax has tried to donate a hit wall project several times in the past and it has been put on hold due to uncertainty of Master Plan
- Would enhance the practice capabilities for both High School and Youth organizations. (Baseball and Softball already have batting cages that are highly used for skill development.)
- For beginners and youth players, this is the most fundamental and important skill to practice every day.
- Advanced and elite players dedicate time to hitting the wall every day to maintain their stick skills.
- Can be used recreationally for wall ball when not being utilized by organized sports



IMAGINATION STATION PARKING LOT

BIRCH MEADOW SCHOOL

ARTHUR W COOLIDGE
MIDDLE SCHOOL

\$550k

BIRCH MEADOW DRIVE

IMAGINATION STATION
PARKING AND WETLAND
RESTORATION



- Considered a critical infrastructure item
- Safety Lighting
- Delineated lined parking spots
- Designated entrance and exit
- ADA Compliant
- Environmental improvements

- storm water management/drainage from lot as well as birch meadow field

- conservation preservation

- electrical charging stations

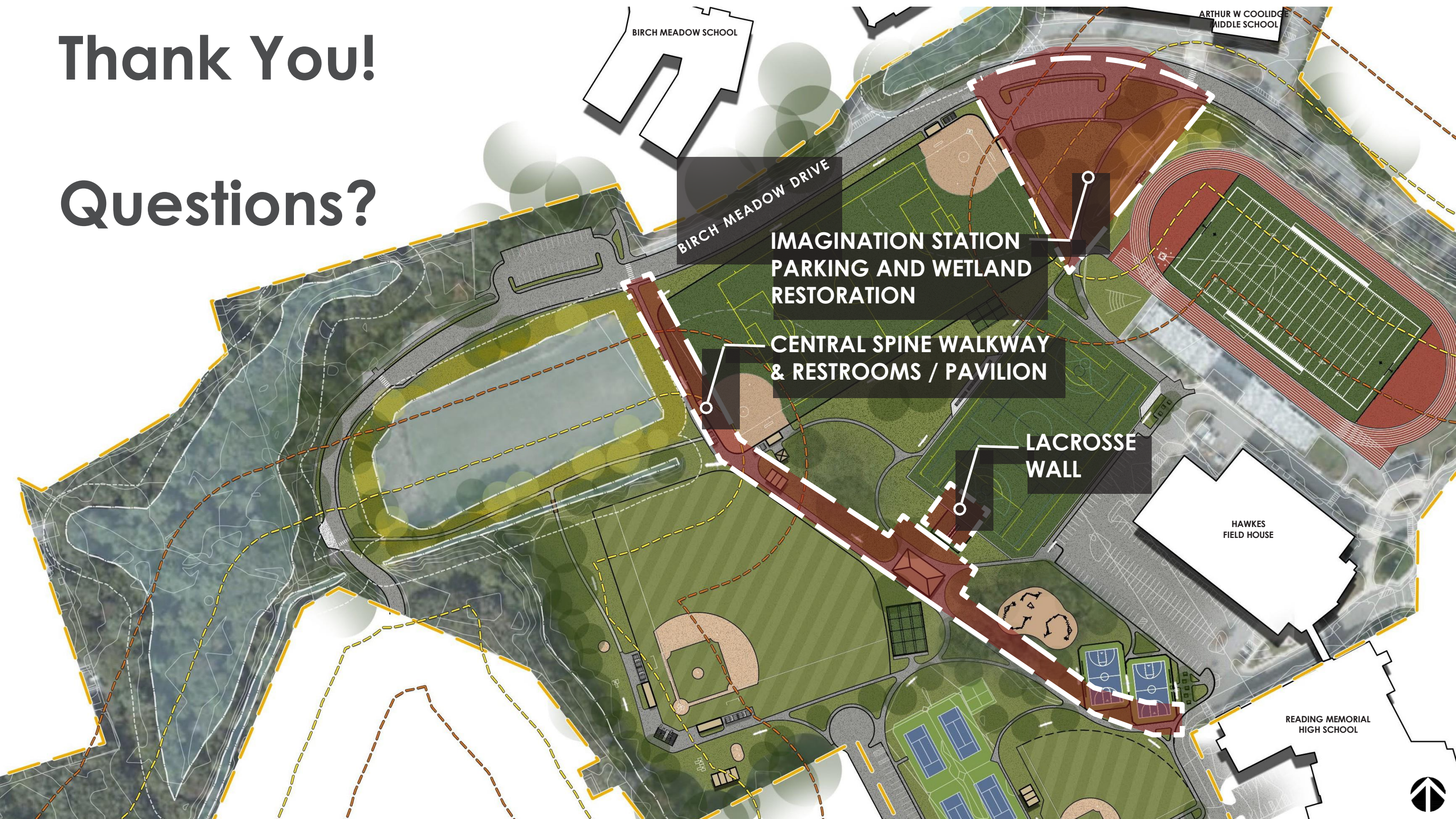
➤ There will be a total of about 38 parking spaces. (Upon the completion of the whole Master Plan, the total amount of spots gained will be about 87.)

➤ Creates potential bus drop off areas for games



Thank You!

Questions?



BIRCH MEADOW SCHOOL

ARTHUR W COOLIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

BIRCH MEADOW DRIVE

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PARKING AND WETLAND
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