



CoolPockets Come To Worcester

Pallavi Kalia Mande,
Director of Climate Resilient Design,
BSC Group

Resilience Summit | May 11th, 2024

**GREEN
WORCESTER
SUMMIT**

Building Resilience, Together



**GREEN
WORCESTER**
COMMUNITY | RESILIENCE | SUSTAINABILITY



CoolPockets Come to Worcester

Agenda:

- What are CoolPockets and why do they matter?
- What is their role in helping cities adapt to the effects of climate change?
- CoolPocket Pilot Projects in Worcester
- Design of CoolPocket in Columbus Park Elementary School
- Design of Vernon Hill CoolPocket Design Workshop



CoolPockets Come to Worcester

- What are CoolPockets and why do they matter?

CoolPockets are public spaces that provide shaded areas to gather, relax and find respite from the heat island effect caused by concentration of buildings, concrete sidewalks, and asphalt.



CoolPockets Come to Worcester

- What is their role in helping cities adapt to the effects of climate change?

CoolPockets provide shade through increasing tree canopy, reducing impervious surfaces that absorb heat, and use cooling features like water misters and green infrastructure to reduce the heat island effect in urban neighborhoods.



CoolPockets Come to Worcester

- C-heat Project in Chelsea and East Boston



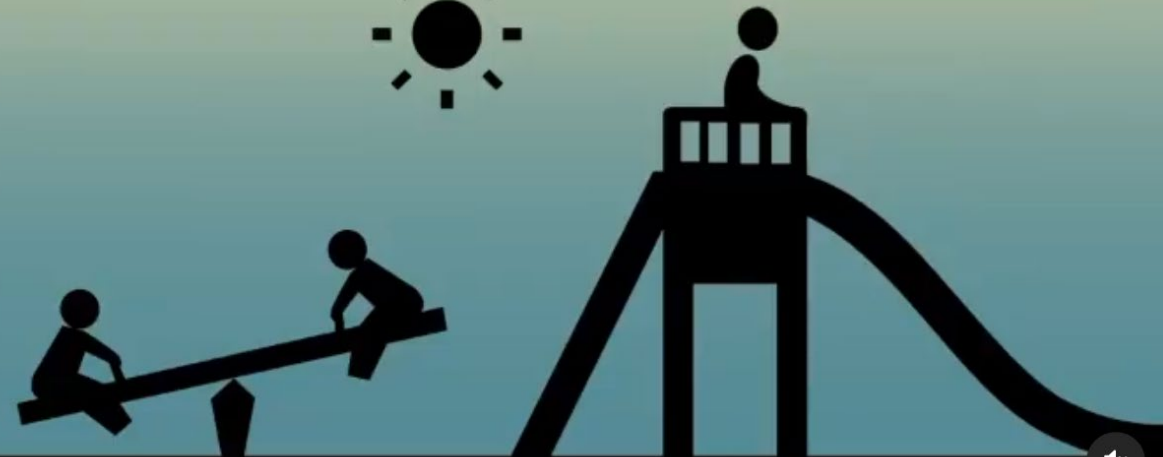
The Chelsea and East Boston Heat Study

HEAT AND HEALTH SERIES: PLAYGROUNDS



Heat Issues/Problemas de Calor

- Hot surfaces
- Impermeable surfaces
- Amount of trees and shade
- Access to water
- Access to drinking fountains
- Superficies calientes
- Superfices impermeables
- La cantidad de árboles
- Acceso al agua
- Acceso a fuentes de agua potable



CoolPockets Come to Worcester

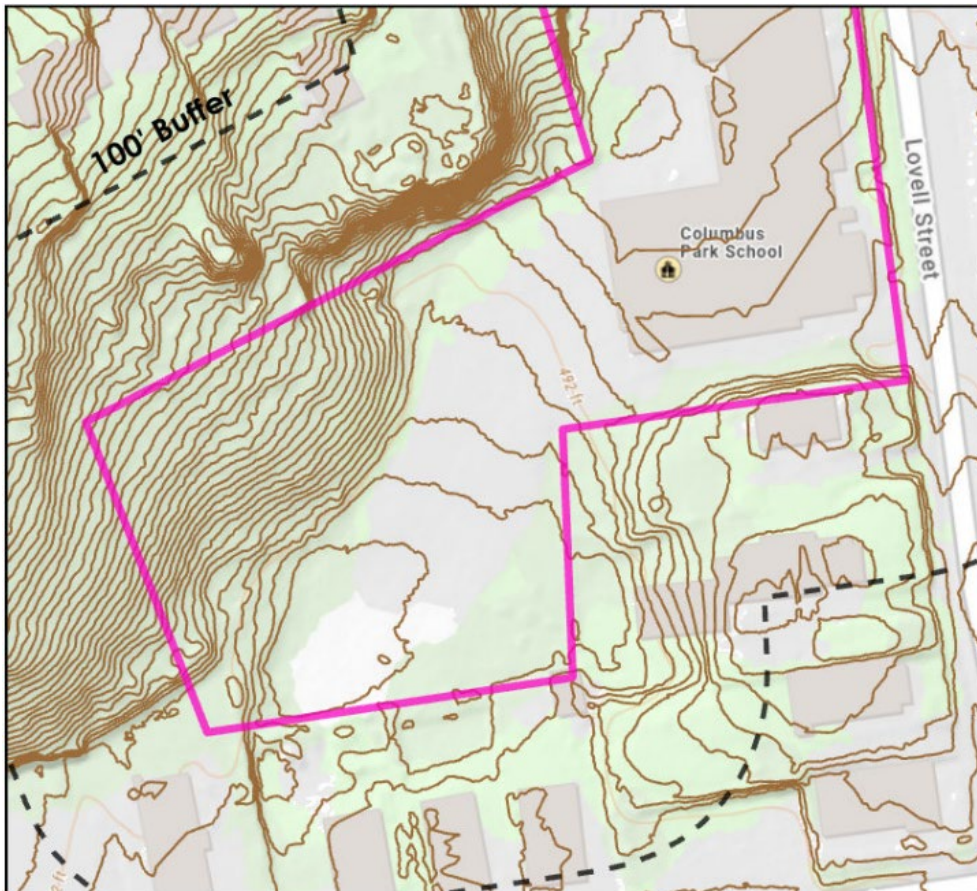
BSC GROUP 

- C-heat Project in Chelsea (Cool Block Pilot Project)

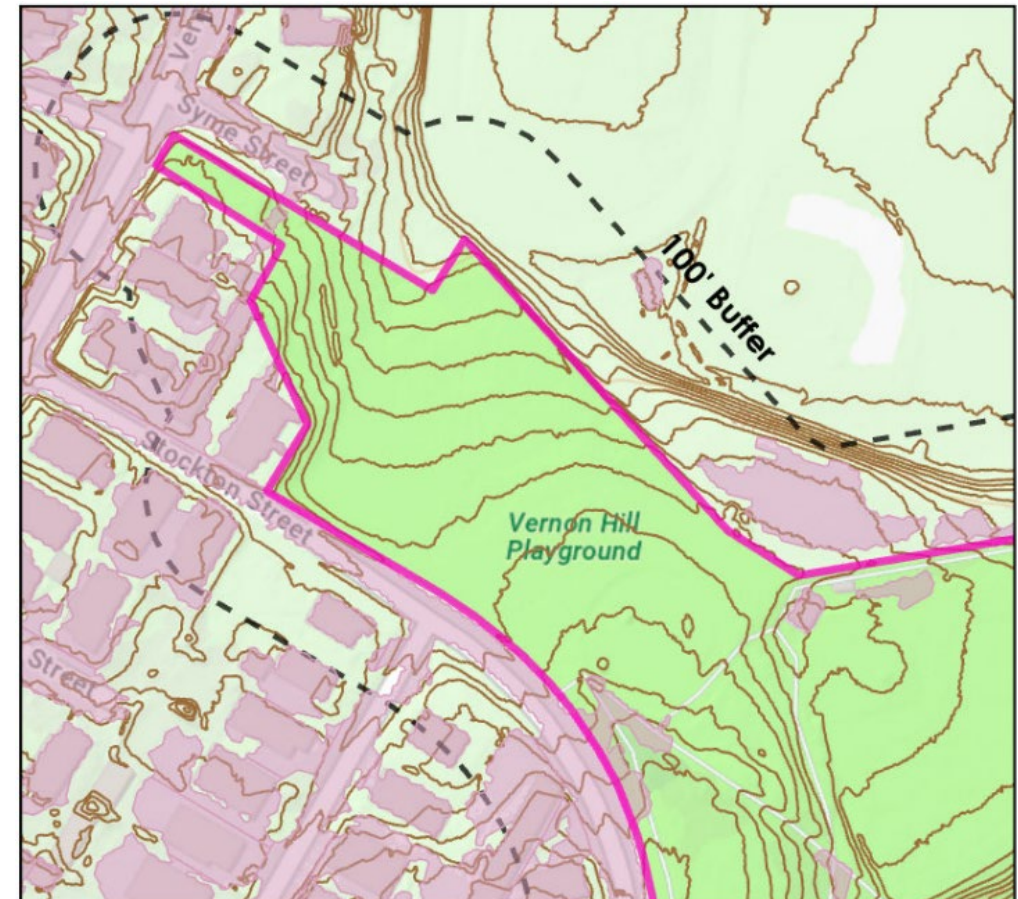


CoolPockets Come to Worcester

- CoolPockets Pilot Projects in Worcester



1 Columbus Park School Site



3 Vernon Hill Playground Site

CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

Columbus Park Elementary School Site

- The CoolPocket design will be for the play area yard behind Columbus Park Elementary School, adjacent to the parking lot.
- The existing site could benefit from alternatives to asphalt for the play areas, with enhanced shade tree plantings, shade structures, and cooling surfaces integrated throughout the site.



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP

Columbus Park Elementary School CoolPocket Design Workshop

We worked with the school administration to design a class activity – a workshop - for 6th grade students. This workshop gave students the chance to share their ideas on various green infrastructure elements they'd like to see incorporated into the CoolPocket design at the school. Students worked in groups to design their own CoolPockets using cut out images of landscape elements.



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP

Another activity at the workshop was a dot voting exercise. Students voted for their favorite design elements by placing sticker dots next to them. The results included:

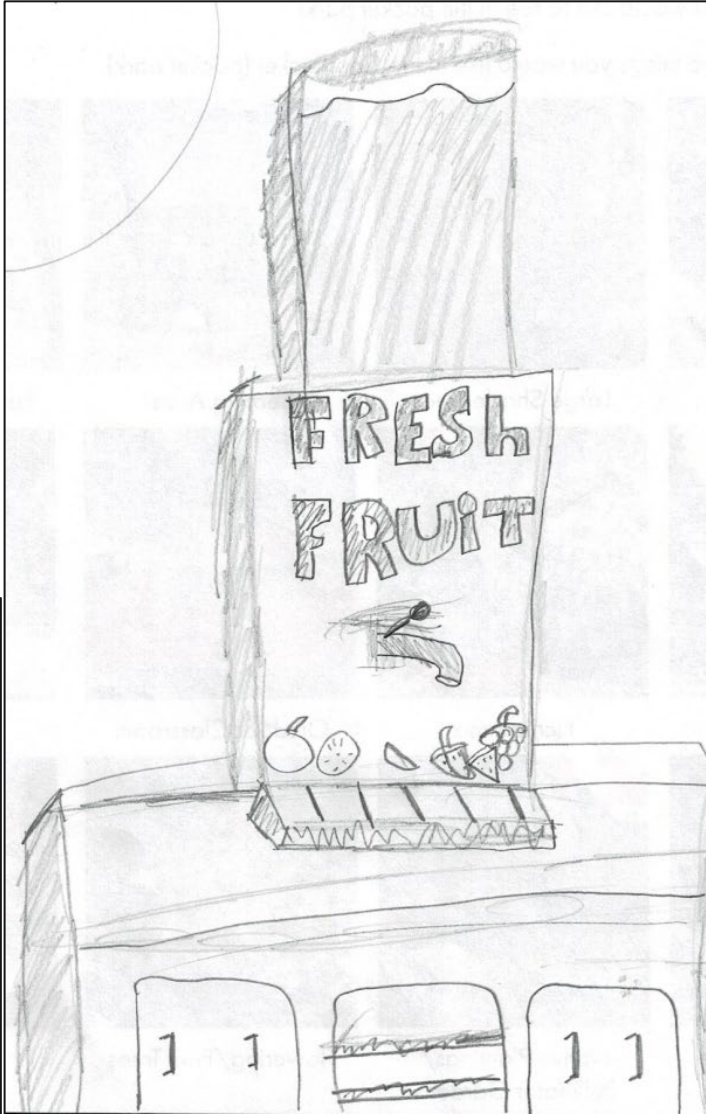
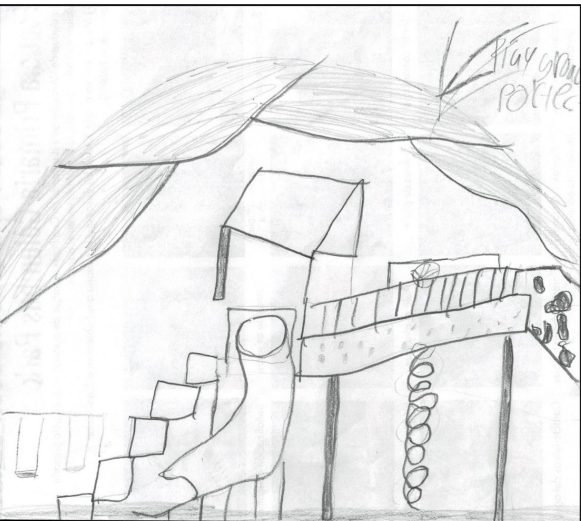
- Shade Structures (53)
- Picnic Area (20)
- Nature Plan (17)
- Water Feature (17)
- Large Trees (16)
- Outdoor Classroom (13)
- Fruit/Flowering Trees (11)
- Community Garden (6)
- Seating (6)
- Green Infrastructure (5)
- Native Plantings/Pollinator Garden (3)
- Educational Signage (3)

GREEN WORCESTER COOLPOCKET **Worcester Area Regional School District** **Columbus Park Elementary School** **VOTE FOR LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS YOU LIKE BEST** **MVP**

Element	Number of Votes
Shade Structure	53
Large Shade Trees	16
Seating Areas	6
Educational Signage	3
Community Garden	6
Picnic Area	20
Outdoor Classroom	13
Nature Play	5
Green Infrastructure	5
Native Plantings	3
Flowering/Fruit Trees	11
Water Features	17

CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

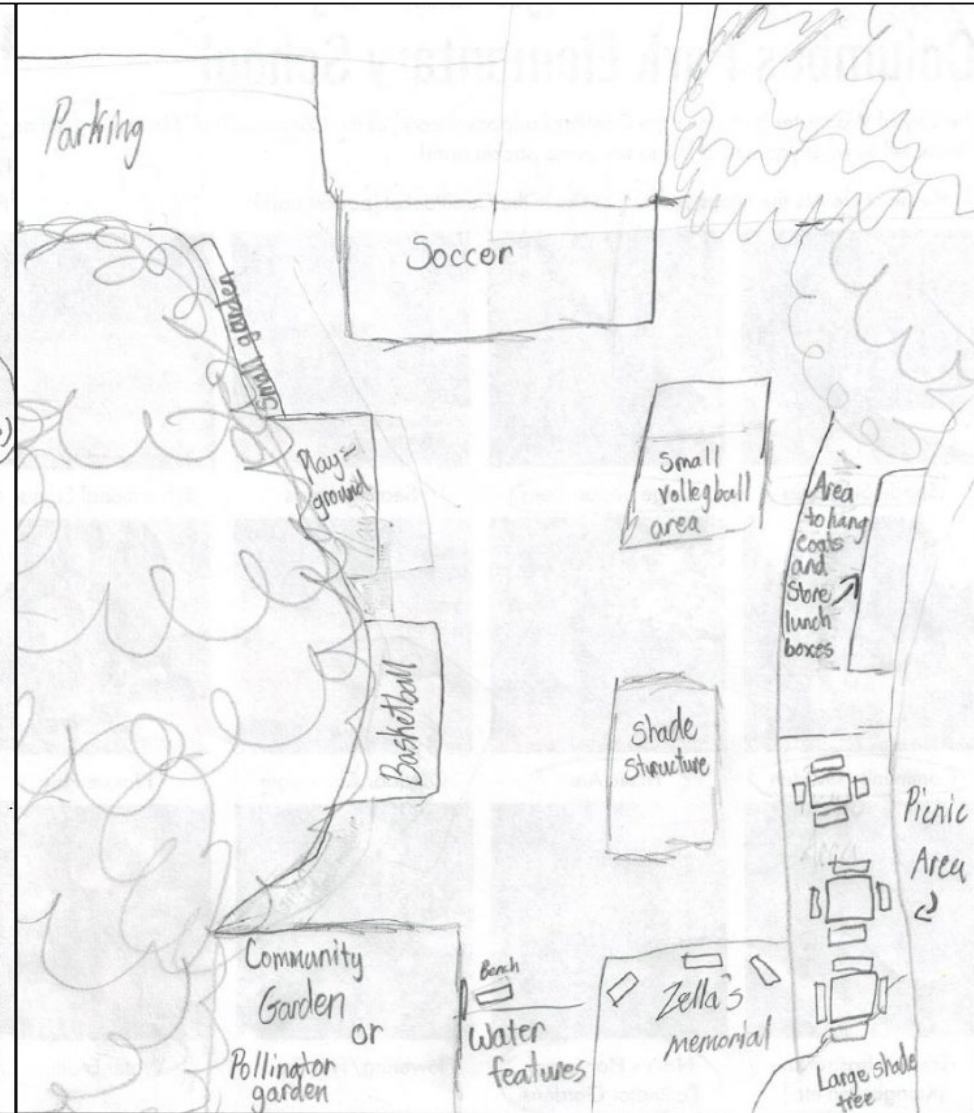
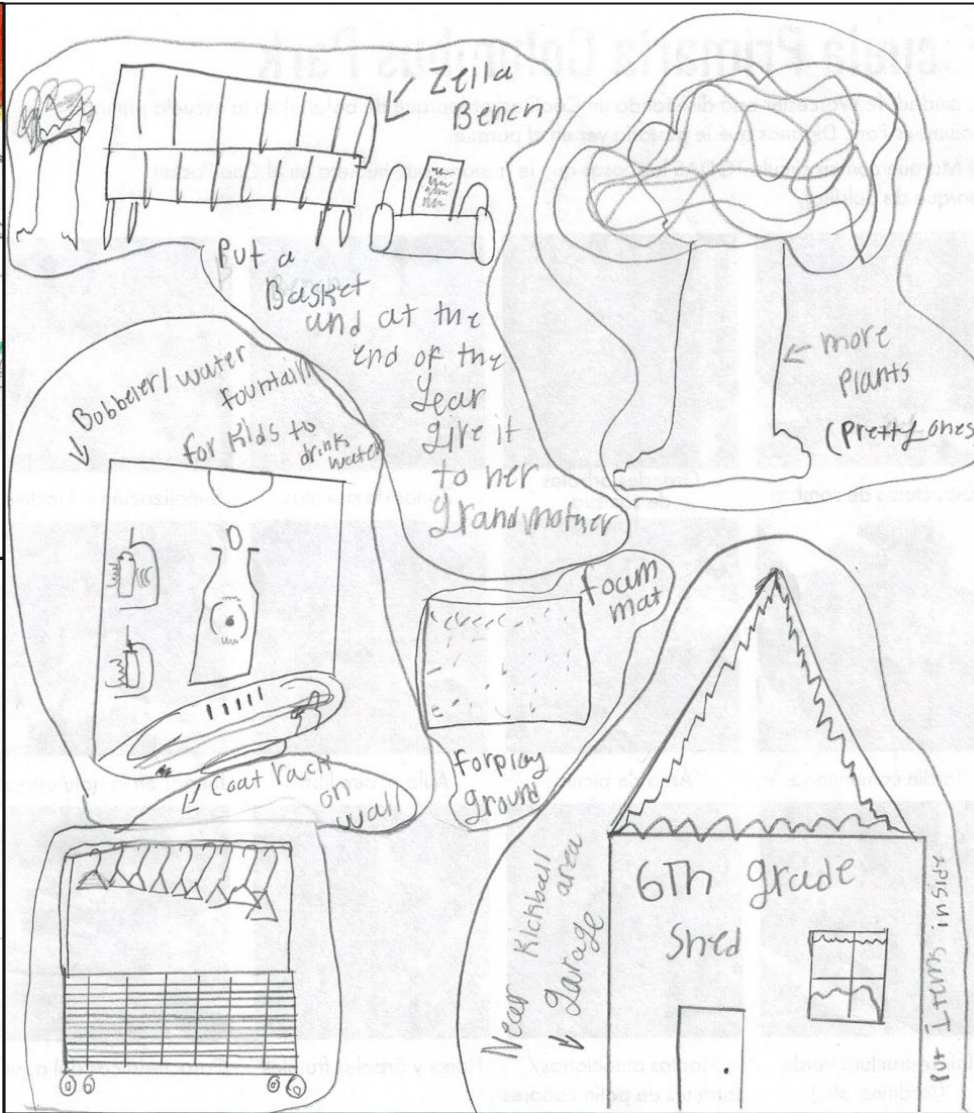
Students were also asked to draw and share other ideas for the CoolPocket as homework. Parents were encouraged to participate in the design process by helping their 6th graders.



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark



Awash Sharma



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

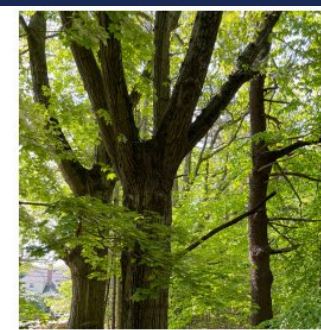
Columbus Park Elementary School Concept Design

The Columbus Park Elementary School Concept Design incorporates several ideas from the workshop, including:

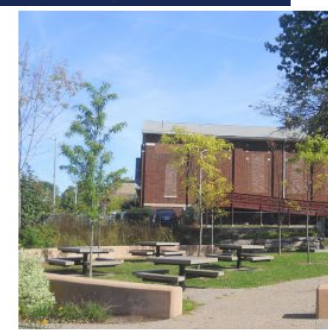
- Backpack and Coat Hangers
- Turf Soccer Field
- Memorial Tree
- Pervious Paving for Sports Play Areas (e.g. basketball court, volleyball court)
- Shade Structures
- Rain Garden and Bioswales
- Nature Play
- Informal Play with Paint Markings (e.g. hopscotch)
- Shaded Picnic Areas
- Community Garden
- Outdoor Classroom with a Pollinator Garden



Shade Structures



Large Shade Trees



Seating Areas



Educational Signage



Community Garden



Picnic Area



Outdoor Classroom



Nature Play



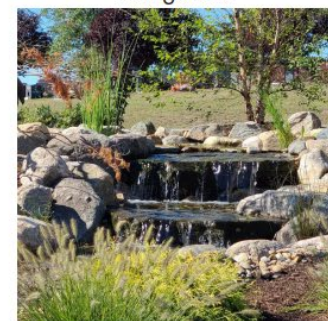
Raingarden



Native Plantings



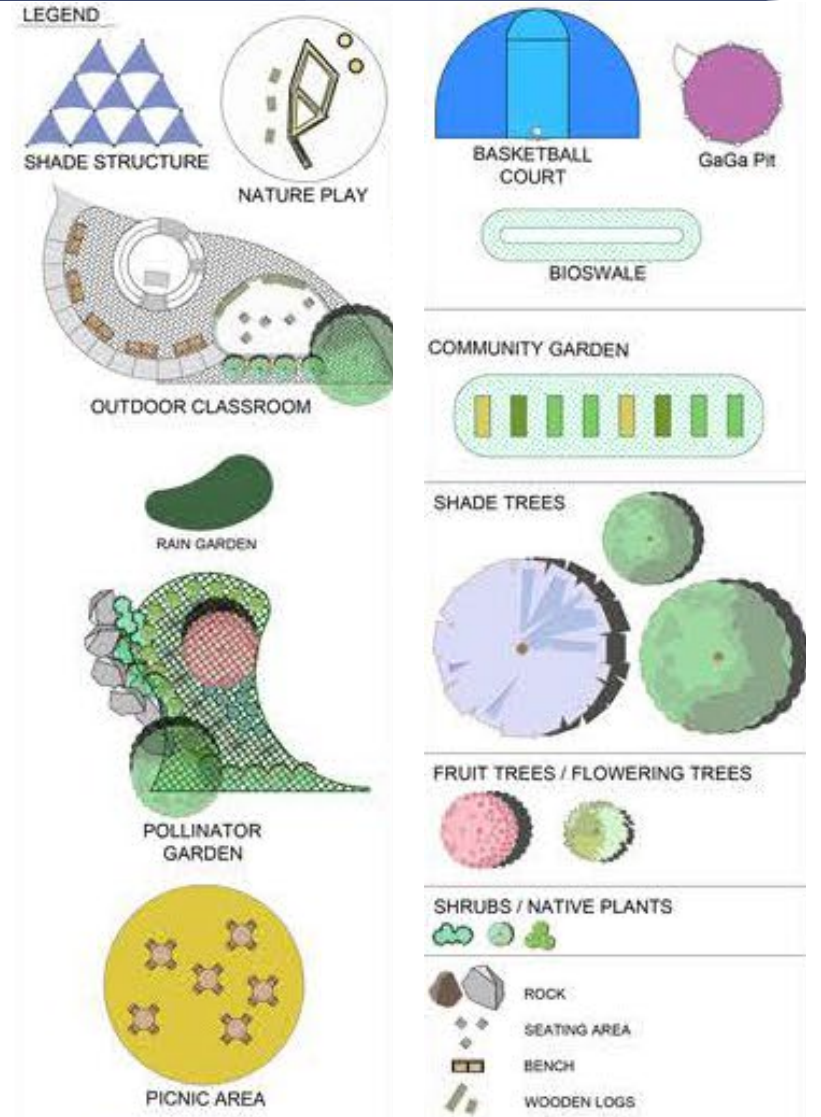
Flowering/Fruit Trees



Water Features

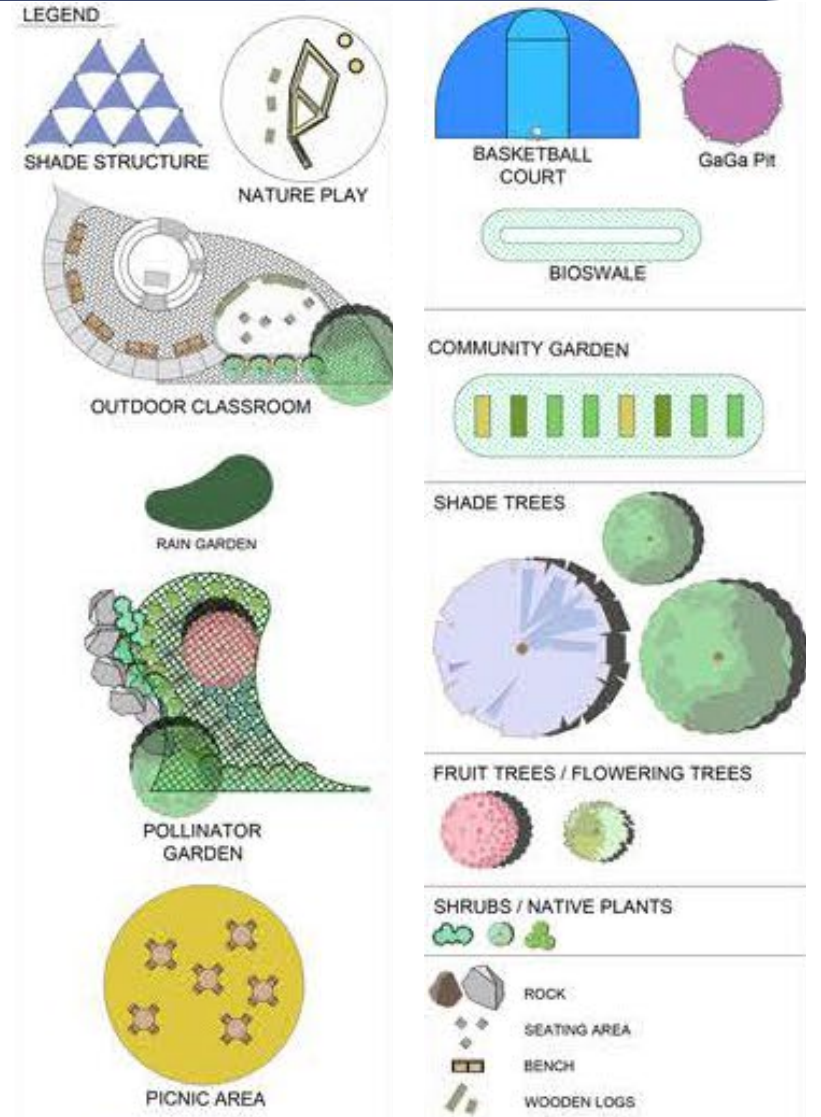
CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



Educational Signage



Community Garden



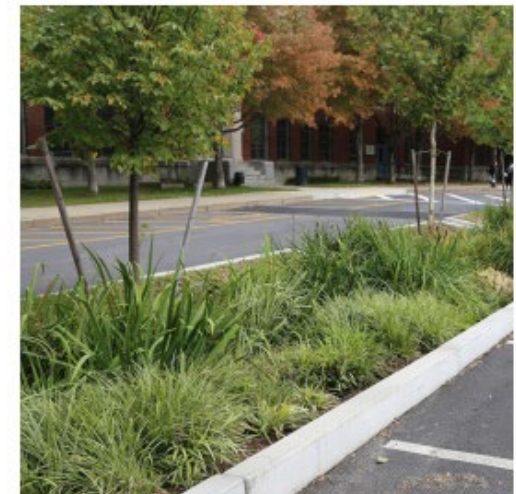
Picnic Area



Outdoor Classroom



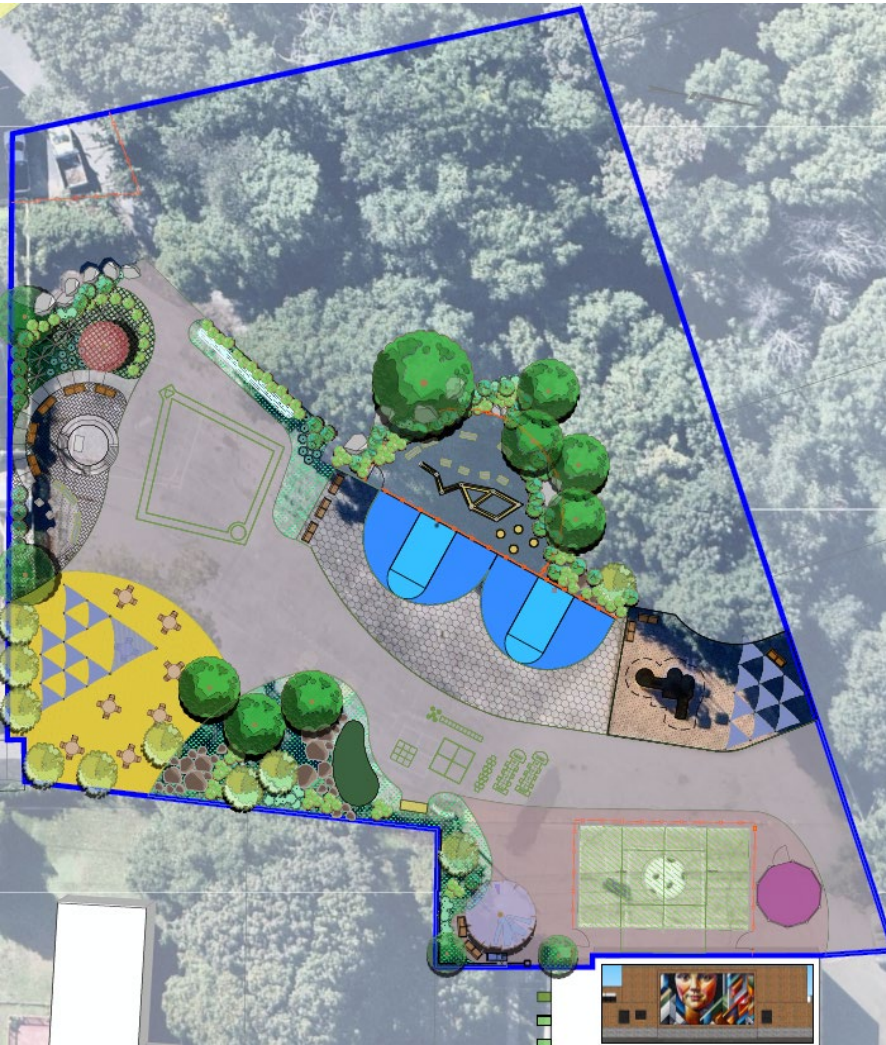
Nature Play



Raingarden

CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



Shade Structures



Large Shade Trees



Seating Areas



Native Plantings



Flowering/Fruit Trees



Water Features

CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



Pervious Tile Basketball Court



Permeable Turf Field in Park



Pervious Pavers with Grass



Permeable Turf for Soccer Field



Permeable Turf for Play Structure



Permeable Turf w/ Water Feature

CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



Bioswale for Stormwater Runoff



Bioswale for Stormwater Runoff



Shade Canopy for Play Structure



Rain Garden for Stormwater Runoff



Shade Canopy for Seating Area



Shade Canopy for Play Structure

CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



Structure for Water Mist Spray



Structure for Water Mist Spray



Water Fountain with Bottle Filler



Splash Pad with Water Spray



Structure for Water Mist Spray



Water Fountain with Dog Bowl

CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP 



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP 



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP 



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP 



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP 



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP 



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



CoolPockets at ColumbusPark

BSC GROUP



TALLER DE DISEÑO DE ESPACIOS COMUNITARIOS

Jueves, 23 de mayo de 2024, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
 Worcester Senior Center
 128 Providence St.



¡Inscríbese para participar!

¿No puede venir?
 Rellene nuestra encuesta.



¿Qué es un taller de diseño de espacios comunitarios?

Este evento le da la oportunidad de compartir sus ideas y preferencias sobre los elementos de diseño de un CoolPocket, así como otras características resistentes al clima en Vernon Hill Park. A través de este evento práctico, podrá imaginar y explorar nuevas ideas para complementar los usos recreativos existentes en su parque.

¿Qué es un CoolPocket?

Un CoolPocket es un pequeño parque para que vecinos y amigos se reúnan, se relajen y encuentren un respiro del calor extremo. Puede incluir elementos acuáticos, hábitats para aves, jardines para polinizadores, árboles y otras infraestructuras verdes, ¡y mucho más!

¿Dónde estará el CoolPocket? ★

Las estrellas blancas de abajo muestran dónde se pueden colocar las características de diseño CoolPocket.



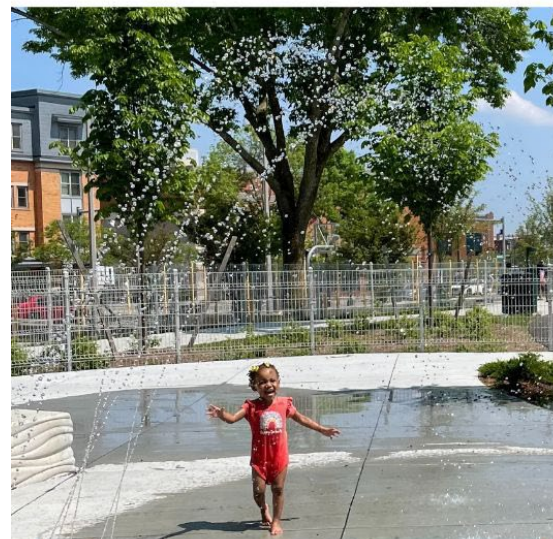
Este proyecto forma parte de una iniciativa más amplia de resiliencia climática de la ciudad. Para más información y para confirmar su asistencia al taller de diseño de CoolPocket y a otros actos relacionados: tinyurl.com/CoolPockets.

CoolPockets Come to Worcester

The city will be looking for funding to do implementation of these community-driven designs



JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY SPACE DESIGN WORKSHOP FOR VERNON HILL PARK



Come share your ideas and preferences for design elements of a CoolPocket as well as other climate resilient features at Vernon Hill Park. Through this hands-on event, you'll be able to imagine and explore new ideas to complement existing recreational uses at your park!

REGISTER TO ATTEND:
tinyurl.com/CoolPockets

Thurs, May 23, 2024
 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
 Worcester Senior Center
 128 Providence St.
 Refreshments will be provided

Check out proposed locations >>>

**GREEN
WORCESTER
SUMMIT**
Building Resilience, Together



CoolPockets Come to Worcester