



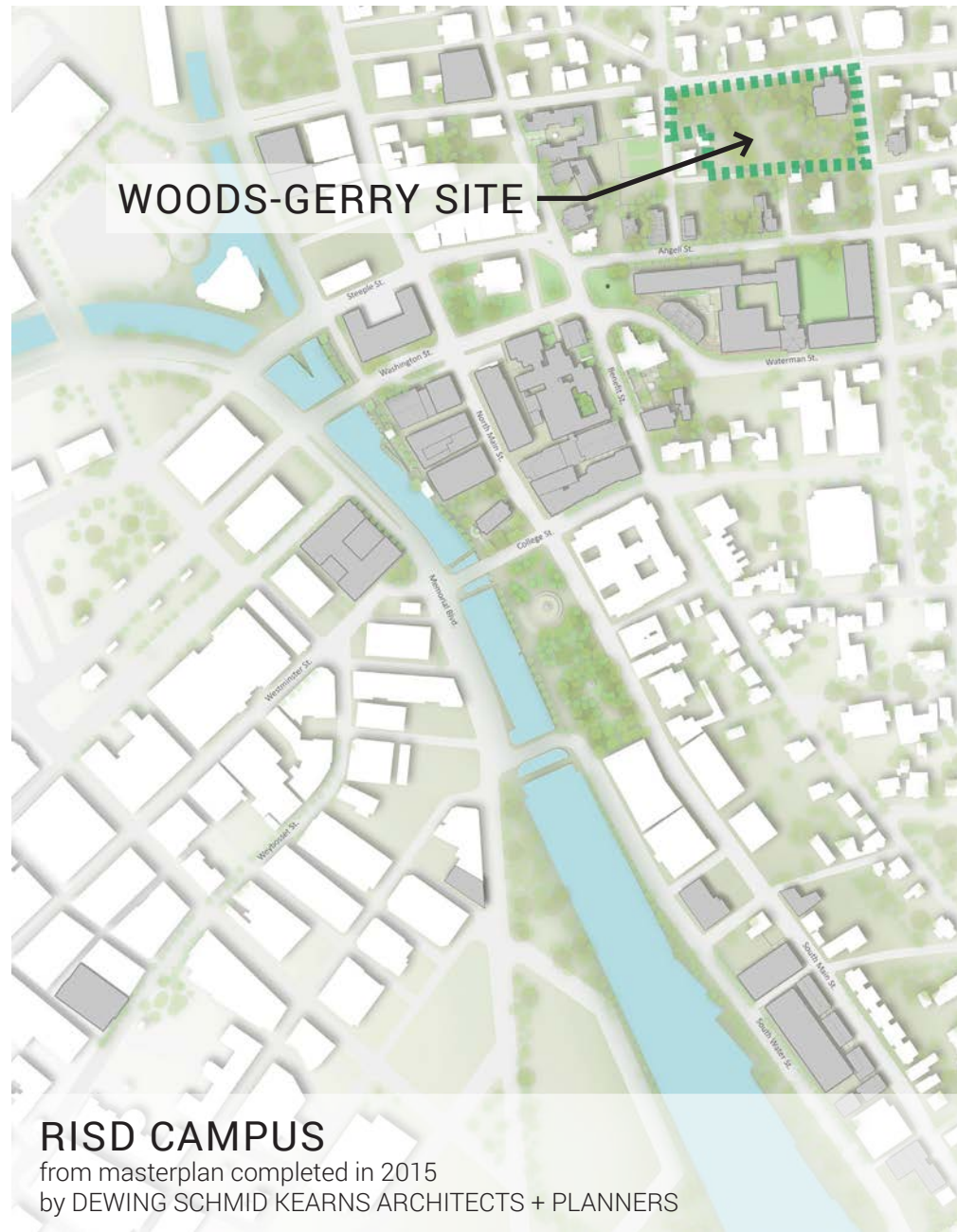
WOOD GERRY HOUSE
62 PROSPECT ST., PROVIDENCE, RI 02906

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN

NOVEMBER 16, 2015





GOALS FOR RISD'S CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

The guiding principles set out in the 2015 Campus Master Plan completed by Dewing Schmid Kearns Architects + Planners have informed the work of the Master Plan for this site. The goals for the campus are as follows:

ADAPTABLE AND SHARED RISD will support academic and research excellence through the development of adaptable, high-performance "long-life" spaces across the campus. New types of space and new ways of using and managing space will be created to encourage development of shared resources and interdisciplinary activities.

A SENSE OF PLACE RISD will promote creative exchange internally and externally with high-visibility, open and shared environments. Spaces at street level will be occupied by public-facing dynamic programs as well as student and faculty work whenever possible.

EFFECTIVE AND INTENTIONAL RISD will advance the campus, over time, in an intentional way. This will include identifying potential affinities leading to productive adjacencies and new models for collaboration and efficiency.

COMMUNAL AND SOCIALLY ENGAGED RISD will support a community of active and engaged artists, designers and scholars. The physical campus environment will support students and faculty coming together at a variety of scales, across a range of activities including academic work, co-curricular activities and student organizations.

HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE RISD will provide healthy, safe accessible environments for all community members, across all space types.

SUSTAINABLE AND HISTORIC RISD will be a good steward of its historic fabric and carefully use its campus resources.

HISTORY OF SITE Woods Gerry was built between 1860-1863 by architect Richard Upjohn. It is the largest freestanding rectangular town house in Providence. It is a brick structure with wood and sandstone trim and a slate roof. Its main structure is 65' wide north to south and 75' deep. The house is situated close to the street on its east and north sides, with steep slopes down from the house on the south and particularly the west sides. The house was first owned by the Woods family, and in 1931 became property of the Gerry family. Then in 1959 the Rhode Island School of Design acquired the property. In 1970, RISD began a complete rehabilitation of the house to create exhibition-gallery space on the first floor and administrative and other accommodations on the second and third floors. There have not been any other major renovations to the house since this time.

OUR APPROACH Woods Gerry grounds account for 28% of RISD's open green space. The site is a hugely underused asset of the campus and surrounding community. Using the CMP's guiding principles we set about to uncover areas where this potential could be met and to make a priority list in order to address the most important.

PRIORITIES Woods Gerry must be made a safe and enjoyable asset for the RISD community. It needs to be safe, accessible to all, and maintainable.

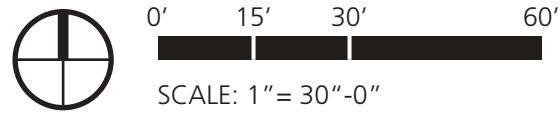


THE NUMBERS

71,040 sf Woods Gerry grounds excluding parking lots

254,159 sf RISD campus total grounds excluding parking lots

28% WOODS GERRY GREEN SPACE AS PERCENTAGE OF ENTIRE RISD CAMPUS GREEN SPACE



OVERALL EXISTING CONDITIONS

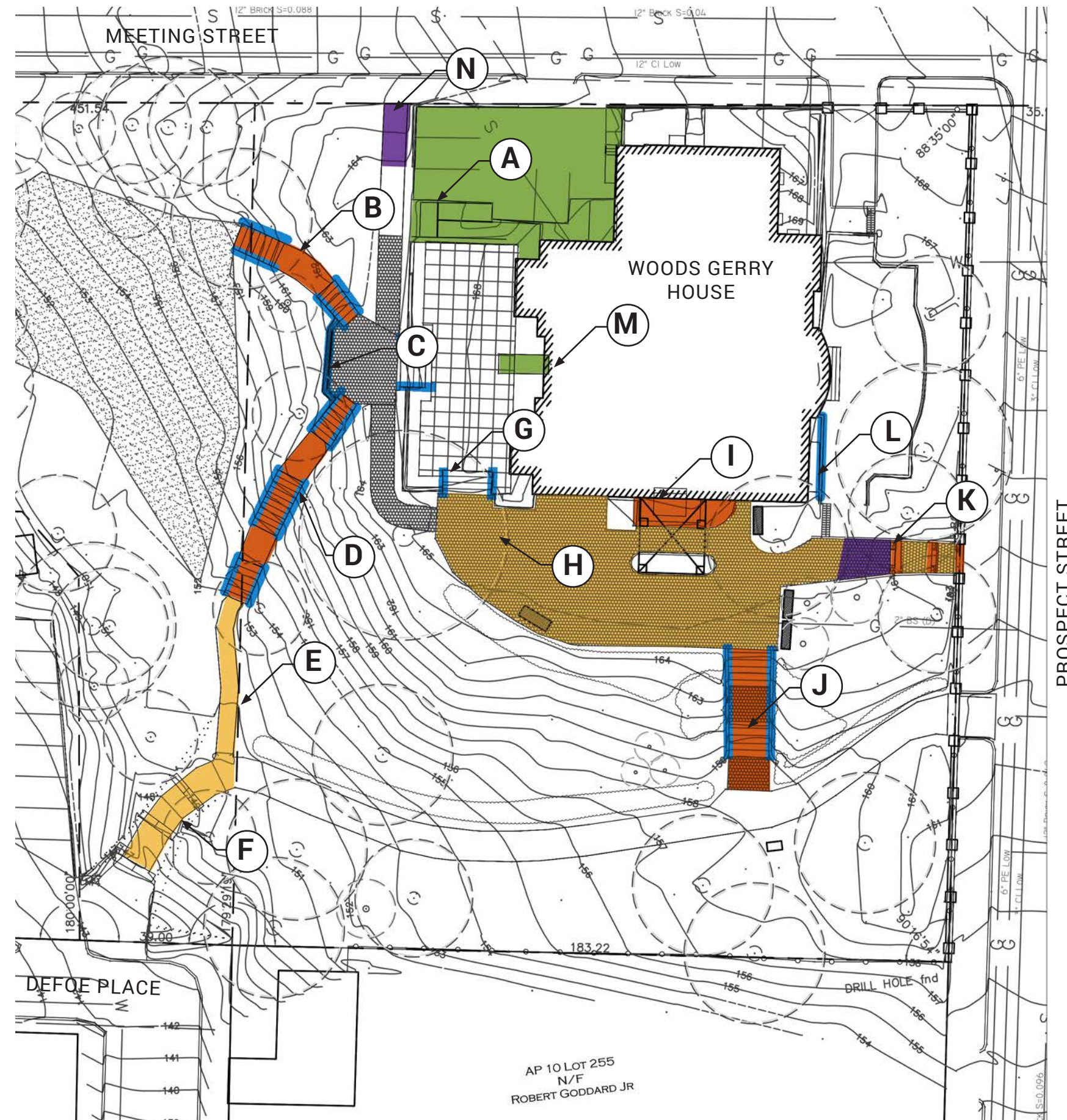


LEGEND

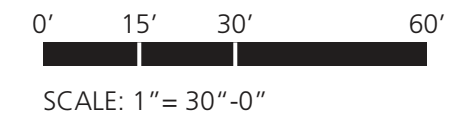
- UNEVEN PAVING SURFACE POSES A TRIPPING HAZARD
- UNSAFE STAIRCASE OR STEPS
- MISSING HANDRAIL OR GUARDRAIL
- TOO STEEP
- NOT ADA COMPLIANT

ISSUES

- (A)** Handicap Ramp not ADA compliant. Edge protection insufficient. No guardrail protecting landing from drop off. Inadequate parking lot striping and arrangement.
- (B)** Stairs do not have handrails. Concrete is deteriorating.
- (C)** Existing guardrail does not meet code for height or bar spacing.
- (D)** Stairs do not have handrails. Concrete is deteriorating. Dangerous edge condition on downhill side.
- (E)** Gravel is eroding around bluestone stepping stones creating a tripping hazard.
- (F)** Asphalt is sunken against the granite steps creating a tripping hazard.
- (G)** Stairs do not have handrails.
- (H)** Bluestone and brick paving is uneven and needs to be reset.
- (I)** Entry stairs uneven and do not meet code.
- (J)** Brownstone stairs are deteriorating, have inconsistent risers and do not have a handrail. Cheek walls are failing.
- (K)** Small, uneven stairs pose tripping hazard. Walkway above stair is too steep.
- (L)** No handrail.
- (M)** Door has no exterior handle. No edge protection on ramp. No exterior landing outside of door.
- (N)** Newer concrete walk exceeds ADA ramp slopes.



PHYSICAL SAFETY ISSUES





A Handicap Ramp not ADA compliant



B+G+L Stairs do not have handrails.



C Existing guardrail does not meet code



D Dangerous edge condition.



E Gravel is eroding around granite



F Asphalt is sunken against granite



H Bluestone and brick paving is uneven



I Entry stairs are uneven



J Brownstone stairs are deteriorating



K Small uneven stairs pose tripping hazard. Too steep at top.



M Not ADA compliant.








N Slopes are too steep.

PHYSICAL SAFETY ISSUES - IMAGES



LEGEND

-  NO LIGHTING ALONG PATHWAYS
-  LOW LEVEL LIGHTING
-  INAPPROPRIATE LIGHTING
-  BLOCKED SIGHT LINES CREATE SAFETY HAZARD
-  BLINDING LIGHT

ISSUES

- A** Lighting in trees creates maintenance and safety problem. Lighting is too high.
- B** No lighting on stairs. Parking lot light is blinding as you approach second set of stairs from the top.
- C** No lighting along path.
- D** Existing lighting in trees is broken. Parking lot light is blinding.
- E** Lighting in trees creates maintenance and safety problem. Lighting is too high.
- F** No lighting on pathway.
- G** No lighting on stairs.
- H** Lighting levels are inadequate. No sense of entrance or destination.
- I** When windows are shuttered there is very little light on terrace and no light on handicap ramp.
- J** No lighting except historic sconce.





1 Blocked sight lines create dangerous hiding areas.



2 Blocked sight lines create dangerous hiding areas.



3 Blocked sight lines create dangerous hiding areas.



A Lighting in trees creates maintenance and safety problem. Too high.



B No lighting on stairs. Parking lot light is blinding as you approach.



C+D No lighting along path. Existing lighting in trees is broken.



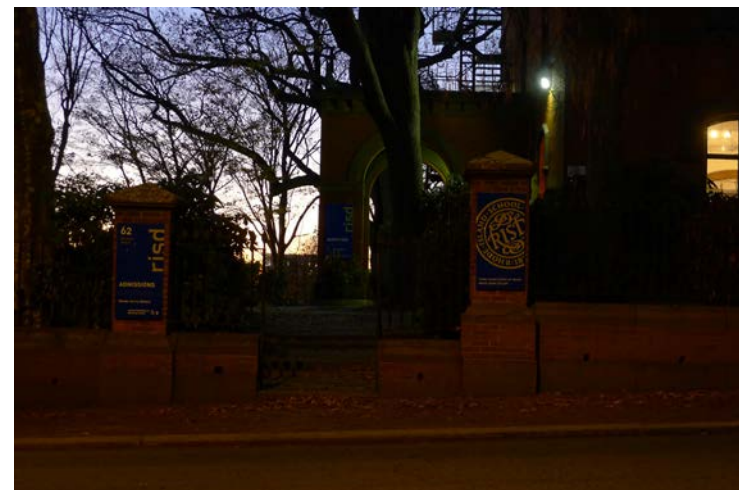
E Lighting in trees creates maintenance and safety problem. Lighting is too high.



F Insufficient lighting along pathway.



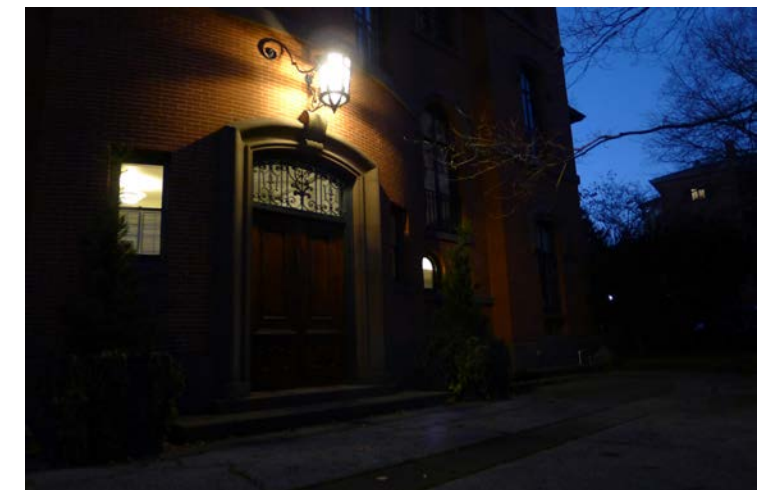
G No lighting on stairs.



H Lighting levels are inadequate. No sense of entrance or destination.



I When windows shuttered: little light on terrace, no light on handicap ramp






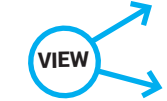


J No lighting except historic scone.

PERSONAL SAFETY ISSUES - IMAGES

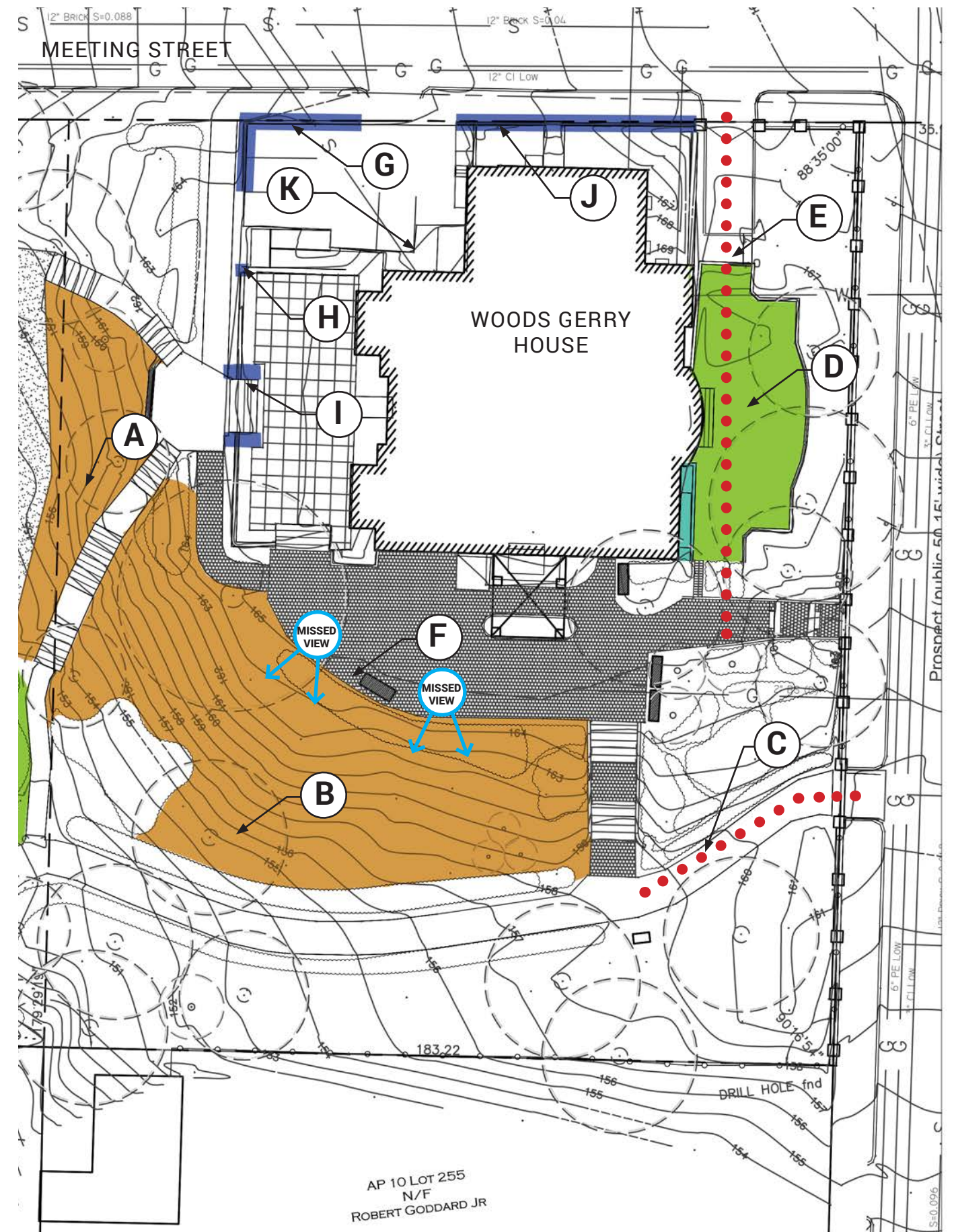


LEGEND

-  EROSION ISSUES NO GROUNDCOVER OR UNDERSTORY PLANTING
-  UNDERUTILIZED AREA
-  DRAINAGE ISSUE
-  MISSED OPPORTUNITY FOR CIRCULATION
-  DETERIORATING WALL/CAP
-  BLOCKED BEAUTIFUL VIEWS

ISSUES

- A** Soil erosion against stairs is creating a hazard and causing deterioration of stairs. Eucalyptus damaging tree.
- B** Lack of any planting on slope is creating soil erosion issues.
- C** Closed gate limits an additional circulation route that might bring more people into the space.
- D** Plaza underutilized as a space. Asphalt inappropriate material.
- E** Plaza is cut off from site and sidewalk. Reestablishing original drive would create open area for outdoor use.
- F** Spectacular views of the city are cut off by overgrown yew hedge.
- G** Cap mortar has eroded and cracks in wall have become substantial
- H** Concrete cap on pillar has completely eroded.
- I** Cheek wall on stairs have cracks and previous repair in failing.
- J** North brick wall needs cleaning and repointing
- K** HC parking needs to be reconfigured.





A Erosion against stair edge. Euonymus damaging trees.



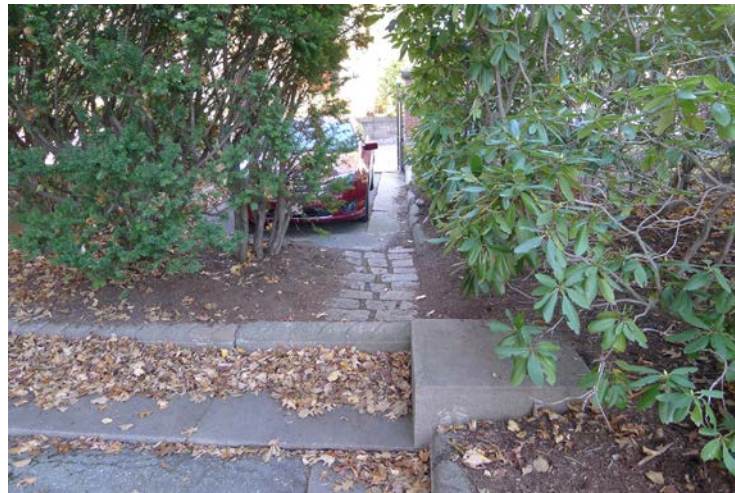
B Bare soil creates erosion issues.



C Gate often closed and connection lost.



D Plaza underutilized and disconnected.



E Connection lost due to planting and lack of paving



F Better view blocked by yew hedge



G Eroded mortar on cap



H Cracks in brick wall



I Pillar cap eroded



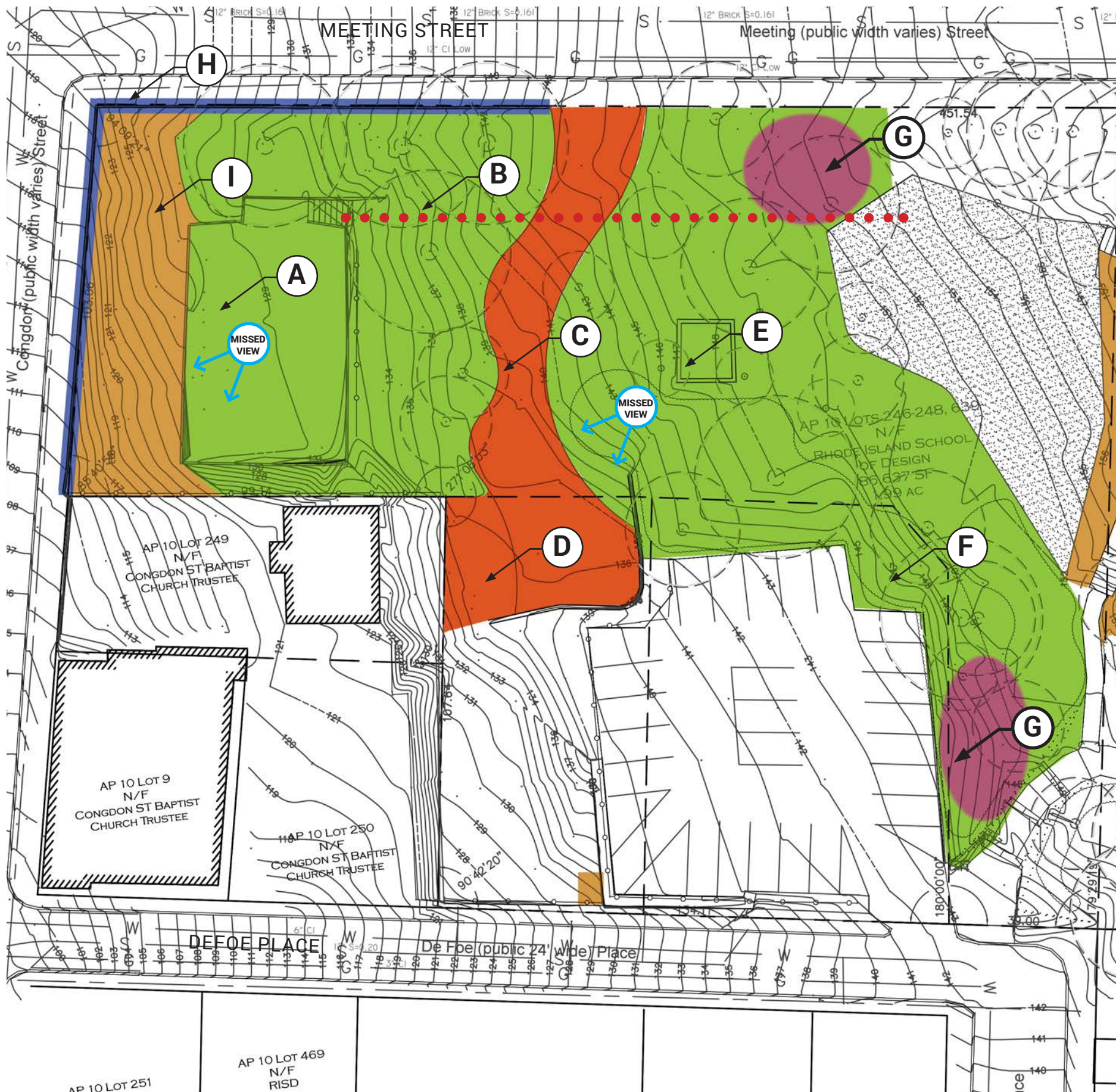
J Cheek walls on both sides of stair cracked.



K Moss needs to be cleaned off wall and repointing as needed.



L HC parking needs to be reconfigured.



LEGEND

- MAINTENANCE ROAD
- UNDERUTILIZED AREA
- EROSION
- INVASIVE PLANTS
- CONNECTION
- MISSED VIEW BLOCKED SIGHT LINES/MISSED BEAUTIFUL VIEW

ISSUES

- A Terrace disconnected from the rest of the site and in poor condition
- B Soil and leaf filling on trees. Stockpiling of materials on roots of trees
- C Road bisects and cuts off site, encourages fill and dumping
- D Snow and mulch storage
- E Overgrown yews and broken stones creating unsafe conditions for informal patio
- F Salt Storage
- G Invasive Japanese Knotweed
- H Timber wall in poor condition and sharp steel posts creating unsafe conditions.
- I Erosion caused by unvegetated, steep slope.



A Terrace disconnected from site and in poor condition



B Soil and leaf filling on trees. Stockpiling on roots of trees.



C Road bisects and cuts off site.



D Snow and mulch storage



E Overgrown yews and broken stones create unsafe conditions for patio



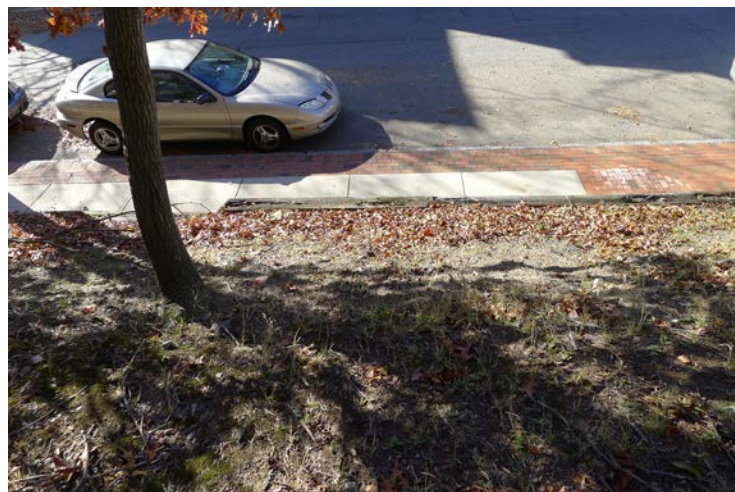
F Salt storage



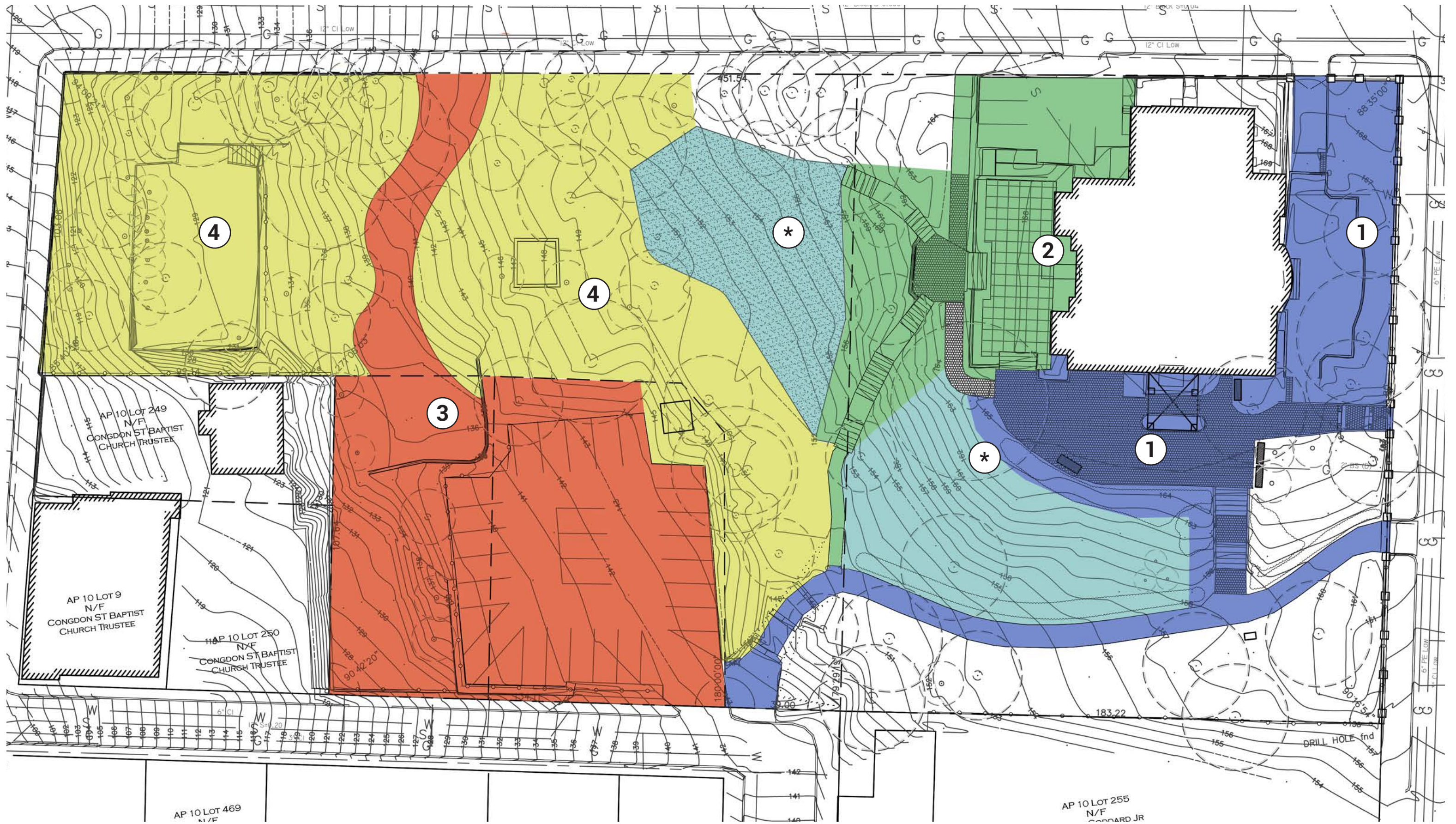
G Invasive Japanese knotweed




H Timber wall in poor condition. Steel posts cause safety hazard.





I Erosion from steep slope and lack of vegetation.





PHASING/PRIORITIES

1  **ARRIVAL AND ENTRANCE** Create a sense of arrival. Entrance path steps, terrace and building steps to be done in conjunction with porte cochere restoration. Prospect Street terrace could be done as a separate phase. Connection steps linking the terrace to the lower path could be done with porte cochere work or separate. Lighting should be addressed at the entry to create a sense of arrival, and along the lower path for safety issues. Revised planting should occur to reduce sight line issues and repair construction disturbance.

2  **OVERLOOK TERRACE AND PARKING** The ability for a disabled person to park and access the site needs addressed. Specifically a functioning ADA route needs to be provided to an accessible entrance. The layout of the parking and the connection to a non-compliant handicap ramp needs to be addressed. Lighting on the terrace needs to be sufficient after shutters of the gallery are closed. Stairs leading down into the site need to be repaired or replaced. Lighting issues on the stairs need to be resolved. Planting should be replaced in these areas to repair construction disturbance and remove invasive plants.

3  **MAINTENANCE** Overall issues of maintenance storage need to be addressed, and space provided for equipment and materials that do not negatively impact the Wood Gerry site. Snow storage needs to be addressed in a more environmentally responsible way. As the salt in the snow stockpile melts the salt dissolves and is split into sodium and chloride ions—it gets carried away via runoff and deposited into both surface water (streams, lakes and rivers) and the groundwater under our feet. These chemicals are undoubtedly affecting the property to the west as well as the rest of the lower site. Planting should occur to rejuvenate the forest understory and screen maintenance from neighbors.

4  **CONNECTION & STEWARDSHIP** Creating a connection to the lower terrace and enlivening the site will help RISD maximize the use of the unique woodland space, as well as increase security. This is RISD's largest green space on campus, (28% of all green space on campus) and is sorely in need of life, activity and planting.

*****  **ENHANCEMENT** These projects could happen at anytime and are not phase dependent. Planting these areas will help to stabilize the soil and help bring diversity and habitat to this woodland garden. The lawn areas should be rejuvenated to create a usable space for short term installations or functions.

BY THE NUMBERS

Total RISD CAMPUS	788,436 sf	18.1 acres
Total WOOD GERRY (including building and parking lots)	86,637sf	1.99 acres 11% of campus
Total RISD GROUNDS (excluding buildings)	453,975sf	10.42 acres
Total RISD GREEN SPACE (excluding parking)	254,159sf	5.83 acres
Total WOOD GERRY GREEN (excluding parking)	71,040sf	1.63 acres 28% of grounds

Other considerations:

When the new quad housing goes in there is a potential to lose 40,000 sf of green space. After this, Woods Gerry would account for 33.17% of all the green space on campus.

After the quad, the next largest parcel is Farnum Park. While it does provide a great view of the city it doesn't have the quiet natural setting of Woods Gerry.

The President's House is close to Farnum Park in size, but is not accessible to students.

All other parcels are smaller than 7,000 sf, and while they provide important patches of nature in the city, they do not have the same value as Woods Gerry because they simply are not large enough.