

MEMORANDUM TO: Joliet Catholic Academy

FROM: Michael A. Werthmann
Principal

DATE: October 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Preliminary Traffic and Parking Management Plan
Joliet Catholic Academy Proposed Stadium
Joliet, Illinois

Joliet Catholic Academy (JCA) is a co-educational high school located in the northeast corner of Larkin Avenue (IL 7) with Ingalls Avenue in Joliet, Illinois. While the academy currently has a multi-purpose field on the campus, it does not have a stadium to host football games, soccer games, and lacrosse games. JCA football games are currently held at Memorial Stadium, which is located at West Jefferson Street and 129th Infantry Drive just over two miles southwest of the JCA campus and is owned and operated by the Joliet Park District. Memorial Stadium has an approximately 10,000-seat capacity supported by two parking lots providing a total of approximately 1,093 parking spaces.

JCA is embarking on a multi-phase project to construct a stadium on the campus in order to host football games, soccer games, and lacrosse games. The proposed stadium will have bleacher seating for approximately 5,500 guests and will be located on the Our Lady of Angels Village property adjacent to the campus at the northwest corner of Ingalls Avenue with Wyoming Avenue. Other elements of the project include the relocation of the tennis courts, construction of a new softball field, improvements to the track and varsity baseball field, and construction of three new parking lots to expand the campus parking capacity by 94 percent from 481 spaces to approximately 933 spaces.

City of Joliet Parking Requirements

According to the officials at the City of Joliet, the stadium must provide one parking space for every six seats and one parking space for each employee to meet the City's parking requirements. The proposed stadium will have bleacher seating for approximately 5,500 guests and, according to school officials, a total of 10 to 15 employees will be working per game. As such, the JCA campus needs to provide a total of 926 to 931 parking spaces to meet the City's parking requirements. With a total of approximately 933 parking spaces, the proposed expanded JCA campus will generally meet the parking requirements of the City of Joliet.

Estimated Event Parking Demand

Football games are the largest events that will be held at the proposed stadium. JCA has four to eight home football games each year, typically occurring on Fridays at 7:00 P.M. In 2023 and 2024, JCA's home football games had an average attendance of approximately 3,300 guests per game. However, according to JCA officials, the average attendance at the football games is skewed due to the attendance of the game against Providence Catholic High School (attendance of 7,500 guests) and Morris High School (attendance of 5,310 guests). Home football games typically have an attendance of 1,500 to 3,100 guests, except the Providence Catholic High School and Morris High School football games. As such, except for one to two games a year, the average attendance of the home football games will be 3,100 guests or lower.

Based on the utilization of the Memorial Stadium parking lots during JCA football games as described to KLOA, Inc. by JCA staff, it is estimated that approximately 25 percent of the guests are dropped off/picked up, walk, or bike to the games and 75 percent of the guests drive and park. At an estimated auto occupancy of 3.5 guests per vehicle, the approximately 933 parking spaces to be provided on the JCA campus will accommodate an attendance of 4,350 to 4,400 guests.

The peak attendance at a JCA football game was 7,500 guests and occurred in 2023. While this number of guests was able to be accommodated at the 10,000-seat Memorial Stadium, it would not be possible at JCA's planned 5,500-seat stadium. Assuming a standing-room only crowd of 6,000 guests, the peak parking demand would be 1,286 parking spaces based on the same assumptions as above.

Purpose of Traffic and Parking Management Plan

A traffic and parking management plan is a tool used by event organizers to provide travel information to event attendees while moving traffic safely and efficiently to and from designated parking areas, minimizing conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians, reducing traffic impacts to other road users, and protecting adjoining residential communities from event traffic incursions. An organized traffic and parking management plan will be necessary for the four to eight home football games each year due to the volume of traffic likely to be generated. However, most games have an attendance of less than 3,000 guests and will only need to implement portions of the plans whereas larger attend games will need to implement additional measures/strategies to accommodate the increase in the number of guests. Soccer and lacrosse games only attract 200 to 300 guests, which generates a modest amount of traffic that can be self-regulated to and from the JCA campus parking lots without creating adverse impacts to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Event Traffic and Parking Management Strategies

The event traffic and parking management plan utilizes several strategies to achieve these goals.

1. Maximize On-Site Parking Utilization in JCA Campus Lots

To minimize parking incursions into the surrounding neighborhood, parking on the JCA campus should be fully utilized on event days. The campus improvements will increase the on-site parking capacity to approximately 933 spaces, which will accommodate 100 percent of the estimated parking demand for the average attendance of a football game in 2023 and 2024 and up to approximately 4,400 guests. Cones and/or portable signs should be used to block access to filled lots and guide motorists to the next available lots until all on-site lots are utilized.

2. Designate Proximate Off-Campus Locations for Overflow Parking Needs

Remote yet proximate off-campus parking will likely be needed to accommodate the parking demand for a football game, again to minimize parking incursions into the surrounding neighborhood. JCA has identified three nearby locations providing the potential for 456 additional event parking spaces. In total, these parking lots in combination with the on-campus parking spaces would provide 1,389 parking spaces, which accommodate approximately 6,400 to 6,500 guests which exceeds the estimated peak attendance. The following summarizes and **Figure 1** illustrates the three off-campus parking facilities:

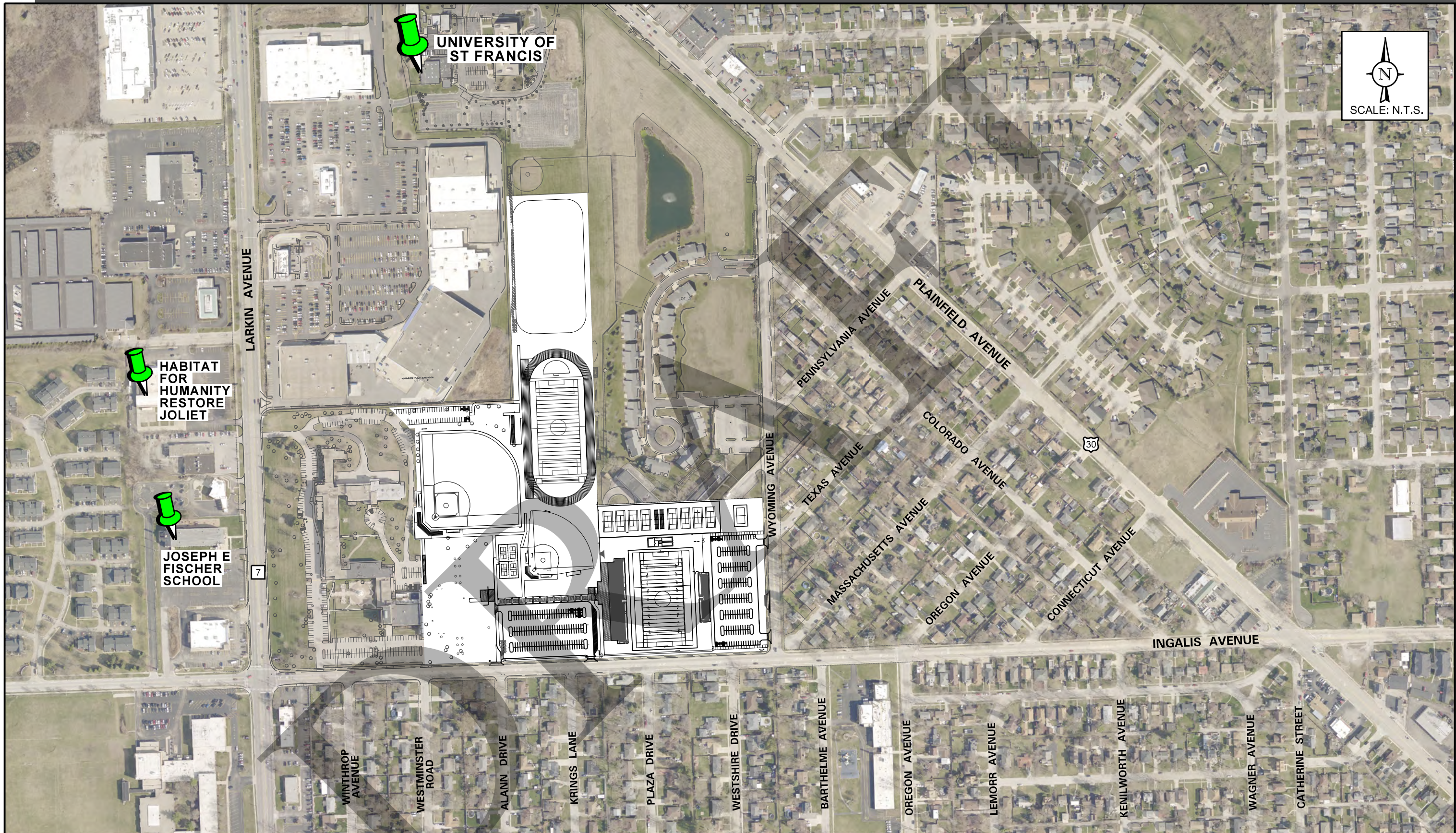
- JCA has a verbal agreement with *Will County Habitat for Humanity ReStore Joliet* to utilize the 99 parking spaces in its parking lot on the west side of Larkin Avenue across the road from the campus.
- JCA will explore the potential to utilize the 224 parking spaces in the *University of St. Francis* parking lot to the north of the campus. The campus development plan includes a sidewalk connection to this parking lot.
- JCA will explore the potential to utilize the 133 parking spaces in the *Joseph E. Fisher School* lot on the west side of Larkin Avenue across the road from the campus.

3. Well-Defined Parking Access Portals with Visible Motorist Information Signs

Traffic needs to move safely and efficiently from the major access roadways to the JCA campus parking lots, off-campus parking facilities, and drop-off/pick-up zones. To achieve this, advanced motorist information should be provided on the roadways serving the campus using portable changeable message boards and/or portable static wayfinding signs. Portable static sign types include minicades (sandwich boards) or signs atop orange cones, among others. The message on the signs could indicate “Event Parking” or “Football Game Parking” if that is the only event in which the signs would be used.



Orange Cone-Topped Signs



The messages on the digital boards can be changed, as necessary, to redirect motorists to the overflow parking lots when the primary lots are filled. The responsibilities for installing and removing the portable signage and orange cones at the JCA campus access driveways and within the JCA parking lots would be assigned to JCA staff. Signs should be installed at least two hours before kick-off time. It is recommended that portable event parking signage with directional arrows be installed at the following locations, at a minimum:

- JCA access drive opposite Alann Drive
- New JCA access drive between Krings Lane and Plaza Drive
- New north JCA parking lot drive on Wyoming Avenue
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore access drive on Larkin Avenue
- University of St. Francis access drive on Theodore Street (if remote parking arrangement is concluded)

Figure 2 shows the primary and secondary locations for variable message boards and static message boards.



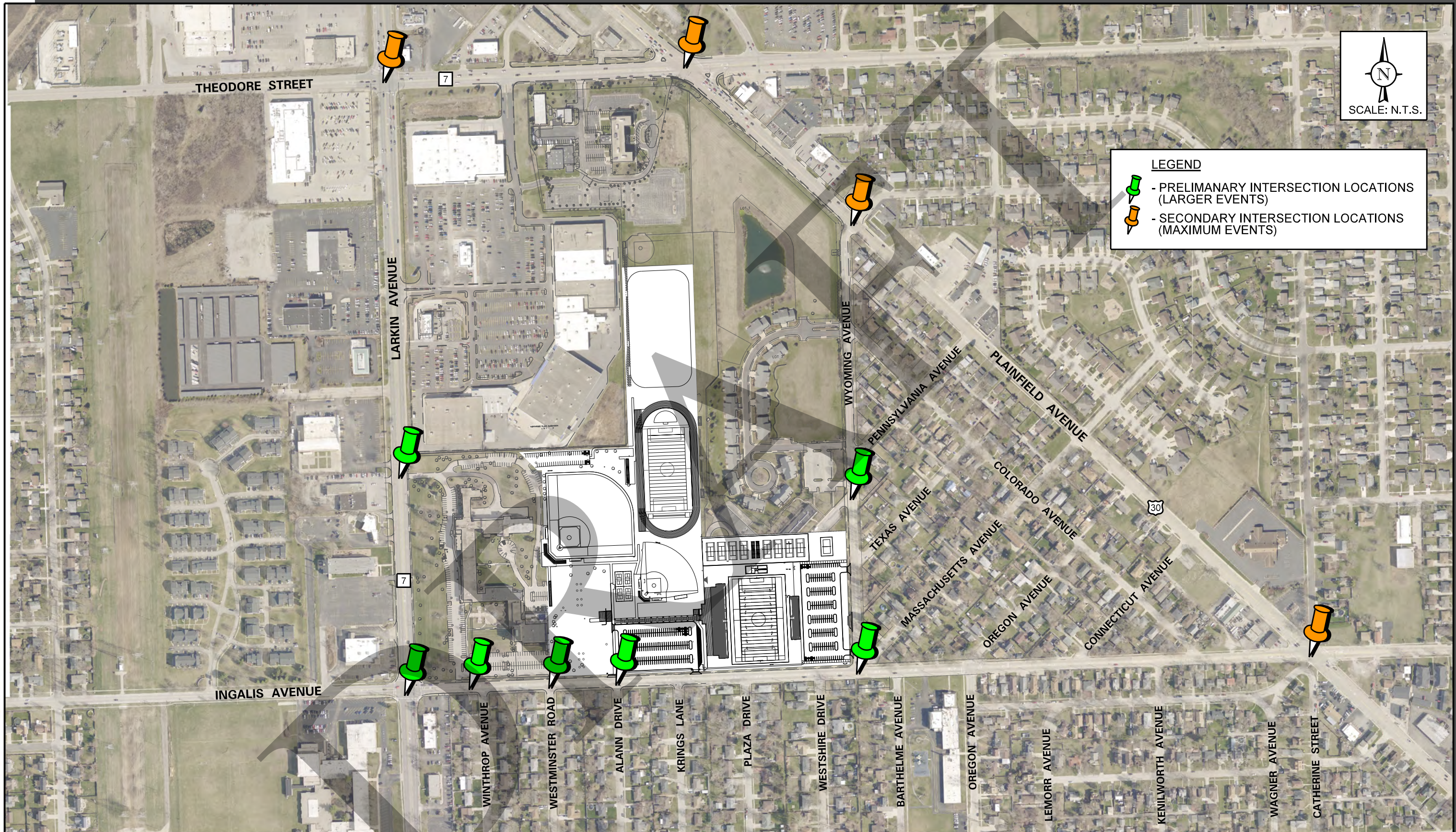
Portable Changeable Message Boards



Minicade Folding Signs

4. Manage Traffic Movements at Parking Egress Portals

Memorial Stadium has two large parking lots, one on each side of the stadium. The larger of the two lots, which is on the west side of the stadium, has a single access drive on Jefferson Street that is under traffic signal control. The smaller lot on the east side of the stadium has three unsignalized access drives, one on Jefferson Street and two on 129th Infantry Drive. Two or more police officers supplied by the City of Joliet are currently utilized at Memorial Stadium to manage outbound traffic at the conclusion of football games at no cost to JCA. These police officers are stationed at the intersection of Jefferson Street and the west parking lot access drive to guide outbound traffic at the conclusion of a game out of the parking lot and to manually override the traffic signal to control the traffic movements. No police officers are used for outbound traffic at the conclusion of a game from the east parking lot or for inbound traffic before a game to either of the lots.



JCA STADIUM
JOLIET, ILLINOIS

PROPOSED LOCATIONS OF VARIABLE MESSAGE BOARDS AND STATIC SIGNS



Job No: 25-146

Figure: 2

Ideally, the City would continue to supply the same number of police officers to assist JCA with managing the inbound and outbound traffic at before and after football games at no cost to the school. The traffic and parking management plan attempts to utilize these officers for similar traffic functions.

As proposed, the JCA campus will have significantly more access drives than currently exist at Memorial Stadium, including two access drives on Wyoming Avenue, four access drives on Ingalls Avenue, and one access drive on Larkin Avenue. The multiple access drives will minimize the impact of the event traffic as it allows traffic to be dispersed through multiple access drives on three different roads, which more efficiently distributes the traffic along the roadway system. To minimize traffic conflicts and maintain the same traffic control personnel needs from the City, consideration should be given to prohibiting outbound left-turn movements after a game at the Larkin Avenue access drive and the two western Ingalls Avenue access drives. The left-turn restrictions would be implemented through use of portable signage at the access drives and/or orange cones in the median or on the centerline of the roadways. The police officers should be utilized at the following intersections to control traffic movements and move traffic as quickly and safely as possible:

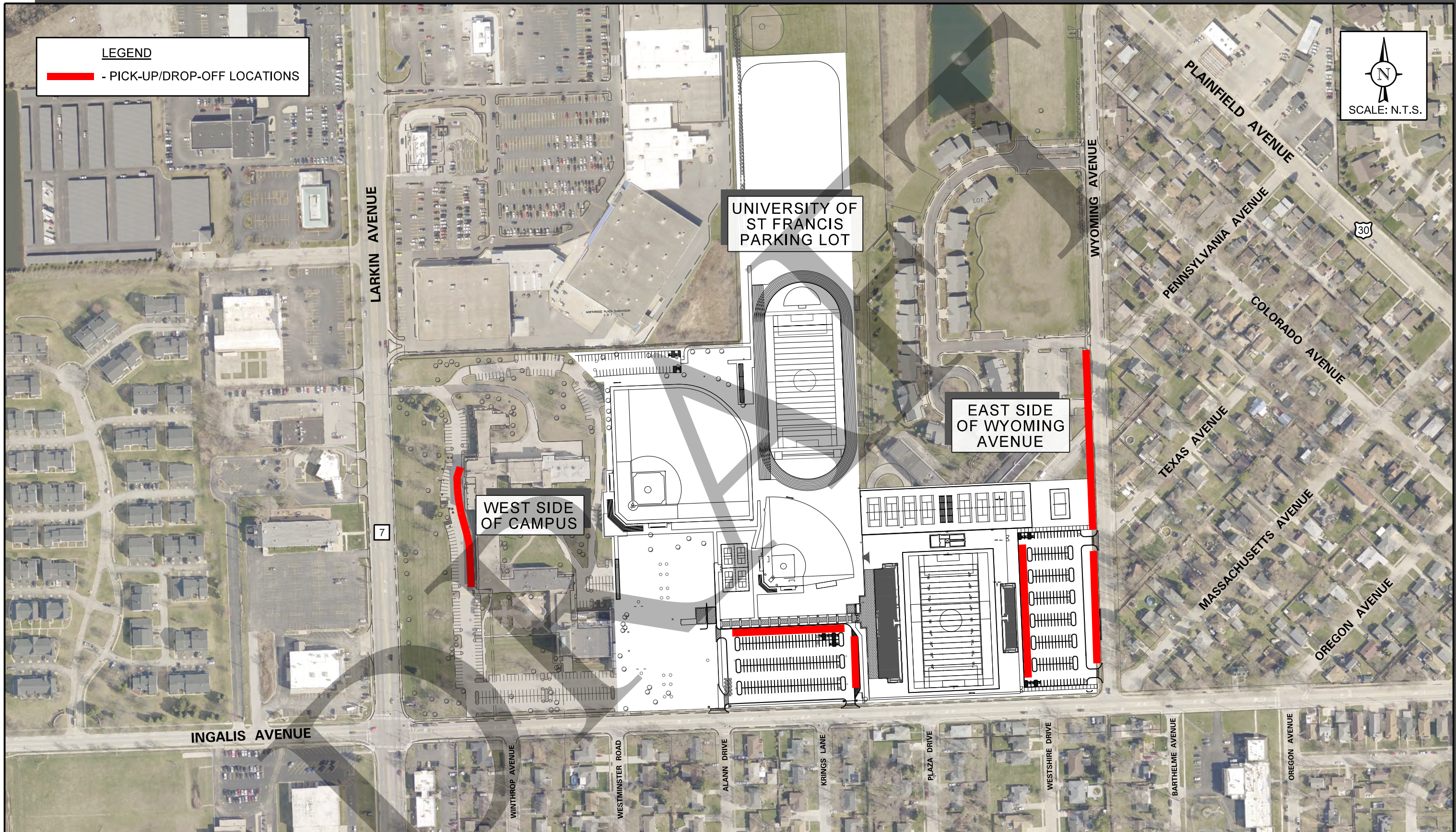
- Larkin Avenue/Ingalls Avenue
- Ingalls Avenue/Wyoming Avenue
- Plainfield Road/Wyoming Avenue

The restrictions at the access drives would not be required for the inbound traffic arriving before a game as the arriving traffic does not have the same surging characteristics as the departing traffic. The event parking signage discussed above would guide traffic into the JCA parking lots where JCA personnel would be located to guide the motorists to the nearest parking stalls, as discussed below.

5. Dedicate a Drop-Off/Pick-Up Location

Many of the football game guests will be dropped off and picked up from the JCA campus. The drop-off/pick-up vehicles should be separated from those seeking parking to minimize parking delays and congestion within the lots, enhance pedestrian safety, and avert the potential for neighborhood roads to be used for this function. Portable signage should also be installed by JCA staff to identify the designated drop-off/pick-up locations. Recommended drop-off/pick-up locations are listed below and shown in **Figure 3**.

- *Wyoming Avenue*. Currently, Wyoming Avenue has no parking regulations on this 36-foot wide, two-lane road. If the pavement markings on the road were modified to delineate a drop-off/pick-up lane along the west (campus) side of the road, over 40 vehicles would be able to stage along the curb for drop-off before a game and pick-up after the game. Coordination would be needed with the City of Joliet.



JCA STADIUM
JOLIET, ILLINOIS

POTENTIAL DROP-OFF/PICK-UP LOCATIONS

KLOA
Kenig, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc.

Job No: 25-146 Figure: 3

- *West side of JCA building facing Larkin Avenue.* The westernmost north-south drive aisle does not contain parking on the east side adjacent to most of the campus building. Up to 18 vehicles could be accommodated along the curbline of the building. Vehicles could enter the parking lot via Ingalls Avenue and exit the parking lot via Larkin Avenue to minimize conflicts with parking ingress and egress movements.
- *University of St. Francis parking lot.* If agreement is reached to utilize this lot for overflow parking, a portion of the lot could be marked off for drop-off/pick-up operations. The parking lot will be connected to the JCA campus and football stadium by a sidewalk connection.

To better direct and manage the drop-off/pick-up operations, it is recommended that the following signage be used at the various drop-off/pick-up areas:

- Utilize portable signage to guide traffic to the drop-off/pick-up location from the roadway system
- Utilize portable signage to identify the drop-off/pick-up zone
- Utilize “Pull Forward” signs to maximize the car loading/unloading capacity of the drop-off/pick-up zone



6. Manage Parking Lot Loading and Unloading

Parking attendants comprised of JCA staff should be utilized for the event arrival period to efficiently load the parking lots in a sequential manner, close the lots when full, and guide motorists to the next lot in the parking prioritization matrix. The parking attendants should be in wireless communication with each other or with an event parking supervisor. Further, the parking attendants can also be utilized at the conclusion of the games to assist in efficiently emptying the lots to the designated egress access drive by managing the traffic queues from the parking aisles.

- Utilize specific JCA access drives for inbound traffic to the parking lots, including:
 - JCA proposed north access drive serving the new JCA parking lot on Wyoming Avenue
 - JCA proposed access drive located on Ingalls Avenue between Krings Lane and Plaza Drive
 - JCA access drive on Ingalls Avenue located opposite Alann Drive

- Utilize portable “Event Parking” signs on these access drives and on the driveways of the overflow lots.
- *Wyoming Avenue Parking Lot.* Use the north access drive only for inbound and outbound access to this new 170-space lot on the east side of the stadium. Access to/from the south access drive should be prohibited via orange cones. During the arrival period, load the lot from south to north. When the lot is full, install orange cones across the north access drive and replace the event parking sign with a “Lot Full” minicade. After the game, direct motorists to exit the lot from the north access drive only.
- *JCA Access Drive on Ingalls Avenue between Krings Lane and Plaza Drive.* This proposed new JCA access drive should be used to first load the new 182-space parking lot on the west side of the stadium using the north access drive to the lot only. Access to the parking lot via the south access drive closest to Ingalls Avenue should be prohibited via the use of orange cones. When the lot is full, use orange cones to prohibit access to the north access drive and direct motorists to the parking lot just west of the 182-space lot (the lot located between the new JCA access drive and the existing access drive opposite Alann Drive). Access to this parking lot should be prohibited from the west using orange cones. Once this lot is full, use orange cones to prohibit access to the parking lot from the east and direct motorists to the back lot to the west of the pickleball courts. Once this lot is full, direct motorists to the lots on the north/northwest side of the varsity baseball diamond. Once these lots are full, direct any remaining traffic onto Larkin Avenue and towards the overflow lots and install orange cones across the JCA access drive on Ingalls Avenue to prevent further ingress.
- *JCA Access Drive on Ingalls Avenue opposite Alann Drive.* This JCA access drive should be used to first load the lot to the west along Ingalls Avenue. Once this lot is full, guide traffic into the north-south lot along the west side of the building which runs parallel to Larkin Avenue. Once full, direct any remaining traffic onto Larkin Avenue and towards the overflow lots and install orange cones across the Ingalls Avenue access drive to prevent further ingress.
- Utilize gates or orange cones to block ingress and egress on the easternmost driveway on Ingalls Avenue (closest to the stadium) and the westernmost driveway on Ingalls Avenue (closest to Larkin Avenue) to prevent pedestrian conflicts near the stadium and traffic conflicts near the Ingalls Avenue/Larkin Avenue intersection.

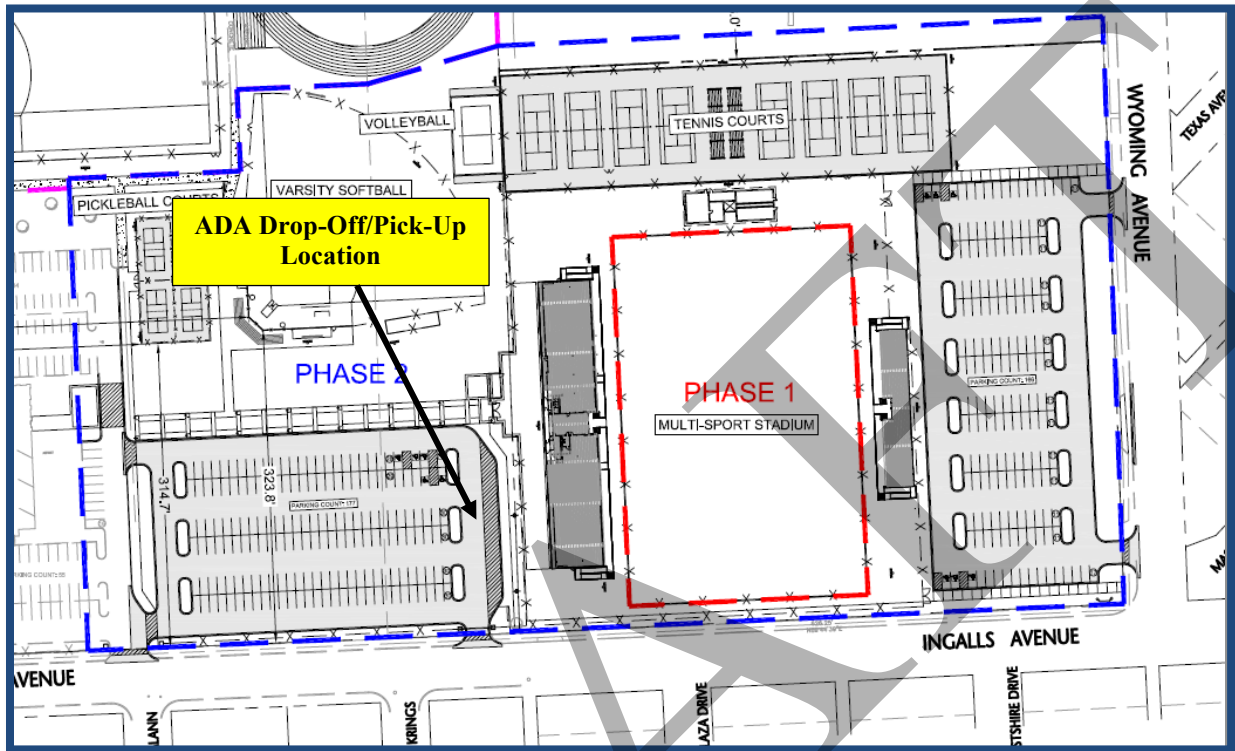
7. Specify an ADA Access Route

Drop-off/pick-up and parking accommodations for mobility-impaired individuals should be clearly marked, easy to find, and located close to the stadium entrance.

- Utilize the east end of the new 182-space parking lot on the west side of the stadium as an ADA drop-off/pick-up zone.
- ADA parking stalls are located in the same area of the lot.



- Utilize portable signs to guide mobility-impaired guests to the ADA drop-off/pick-up zone and ADA parking area from the new JCA access drive between Krings Lane and Plaza Drive.



8. Safe Pedestrian Crossings

Pedestrian movements to/from the stadium from remote off-campus parking lots should be directed to cross the surrounding major roadways at the safest, controlled locations. The intersection of Ingalls Avenue/Larkin Avenue is under traffic signal control with high-visibility crosswalks and countdown pedestrian signals on all approaches. The intersection of Ingalls Avenue/Oregon Avenue is under all-way stop sign control with high-visibility crosswalks across all approaches. The intersection of Ingalls Avenue/Wyoming Avenue is under stop sign control on Wyoming Avenue with a standard parallel-line crosswalk across Wyoming Avenue.

- For all remote parking lots on the west side of Larkin Avenue, a portable sign should be posted in the lots on game days directing parkers to cross Larkin Avenue at the traffic signal at Ingalls Avenue.
- For any remote parking lots on the east side of Larkin Avenue south of Ingalls Avenue, a portable sign should be posted in the lots on game days directing parkers to cross Ingalls Avenue at the traffic signal at Larkin Avenue.
- If Taft School is utilized as a remote parking lot, a portable sign should be posted in the lot on game days directing parkers to cross Ingalls Avenue at the all-way stop controlled intersection with Oregon Avenue.

- JCA staff should have the responsibility to install and remove these portable signs from the remote parking lots.

JCA should work with the City of Joliet to replace the standard crosswalk on Wyoming Avenue at Ingalls Avenue with a high-visibility crosswalk.

9. Pedestrian Lighting

During the autumn period when football games will be scheduled, the sky will be dark when games conclude after 9:00 P.M. As such, the pedestrian and bicycle pathways to the new stadium should be well lit to improve safety, prevent accidents, and provide a sense of security. At a minimum, pedestrian-scale lighting should be installed along the following pathways:

- North side of Ingalls Avenue between Larkin Avenue and Wyoming Avenue
- West side of Wyoming Avenue along the JCA frontage
- Pedestrian pathway through JCA campus to University of St. Francis parking lot

10. Prevention of Traffic Incursions into Adjoining Neighborhoods

To reduce traffic and parking impacts to the neighborhoods to the east (Kerwin Terrance Apartment) and south of the JCA campus, consideration should be given to implementing one or more of the following measures and/or strategies:

- Install “No JCA Event On-Street Parking” signs at each end of the residential roads on the blocks immediately east of Wyoming Avenue and south of Ingalls Avenue to restrict JCA staff and/or guests from parking on the residential roads.
- If residents along these blocks want the ability to park on their streets, institute a form of residential permit parking that is only enforced when peak events are occurring at the JCA campus.
- Install “No Through Traffic” or “No Event Traffic” signs at each end of the residential roads on the blocks immediately east of Wyoming Avenue and south of Ingalls Avenue to restrict traffic from traversing the residential roads.
- If necessary and approved by the area residents, install barricades along some of the residential roads directly south and east of the campus to prohibit access to the residential roads from Ingalls Avenue and Wyoming Avenue. The barricades would be installed two hours before kick-off time and/or after the game.

JCA should coordinate with the City to determine responsibilities as to who would supply and install the signs and who would install the barricades, barricade style/specifications, where the barricades would be stored, and who would install and remove the barricades. It is anticipated that the City would prefer for the Police Department or Public Works Department to manage the game day neighborhood traffic barricade plan. The neighborhood plan should be regularly monitored with neighborhood groups and the City to determine if modifications are necessary.

11. Personal Safety Equipment

Joliet police officers working traffic control duties, particularly at night, are used to wearing highly visible clothing and using hand-held lighting devices. Similarly, JCA traffic and parking attendants positioned within the campus parking areas and JCA security personnel also need to be seen and need to be in communication with each other.

- JCA traffic and parking attendants should wear fluorescent reflective safety vests, carry flashlights, and be in contact with each other via cell or radio communications.

12. Distribution of Event-Day Traffic and Parking Plan

To reduce delays and maximize circulation efficiency and safety, it is best to provide as much up-front information as possible to JCA event guests on travel routes, modal alternatives, and parking options. Traffic flow in particular moves better with less frustration if drivers have expectations on where they are headed.

- Post transportation information for JCA football games on the JCA website with maps showing travel routes, on-campus and off-campus parking locations, transit stops, pedestrian/bicycle pathways, street crossing locations, and bicycle parking facilities.
- Forward the event traffic and parking plan to the athletic departments of visiting schools for distribution within their community.
- JCA and the City of Joliet should collaborate with the residents of the Kerwin Terrance Apartment neighborhood to the east of Wyoming Avenue and the neighborhood to the south of Ingalls Avenue to gain consensus on a plan to protect the neighborhood roads from game-day traffic incursions using devices such as barricades, cones, portable signage, etc. The plan should be regularly monitored and reviewed with neighborhood residents.