

Introduction

The City of Madison's Urban Design Commission (UDC) has been created to:

- Encourage and promote high quality in the design of new buildings, developments, remodeling, and additions so as to maintain and improve the established standards of property values within the City.
- Foster civic pride in the beauty and nobler assets of the City, and in all other ways possible assure a functionally efficient and visually attractive City in the future.

Types of Approvals

There are three types of requests considered by the UDC:

- Informational Presentation. A request for an Informational Presentation to the UDC may be requested prior to seeking any approvals to obtain early feedback and direction before undertaking detailed design efforts. Applicants should provide details on the context of the site, design concept, site and building plans, and other relevant information to help the UDC understand the proposal and provide feedback. (Does not apply to CDR's or Signage Modification requests)
- Initial Approval. Applicants may, at their discretion, request Initial Approval of a proposal by presenting preliminary design information. As part of their review, the Commission will provide feedback on the design information that should be addressed at Final Approval stage.
- Final Approval. Applicants may request Final Approval of a proposal by presenting all final project details. Recommendations or concerns expressed by the UDC in the Initial Approval must be addressed at this time.

Presentations to the Commission

The Urban Design Commission meets virtually via Zoom, typically on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 4:30 p.m. Applicant presentations are strongly encouraged, although not required. Prior to the meeting, each individual speaker is required to complete an online registration form to speak at the meeting. A link to complete the online registration will be provided by staff prior to the meeting. Please note that individual presentations will be limited to a **maximum of three (3) minutes**. The pooling of time may be utilized to provide one speaker more time to present, however the additional time will be based on the number of registrants from the applicant team, i.e. two (2) applicant registrants = six (6) minutes for one (1) speaker.

Primarily, the UDC is interested in the appearance and design quality of projects. Emphasis should be given to the site plan, landscape plan, lighting plan, building elevations, exterior building materials, color scheme, and graphics. Please note that presentation slides, in a PDF file format, are required to be submitted **the Friday before** the UDC meeting.

URBAN DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PLANS CHECKLIST

The items listed below are minimum application requirements for the type of approval indicated. Please note that the UDC and/or staff may require additional information in order to have a complete understanding of the project.

1. Informational Presentation

- Locator Map
- Letter of Intent (If the project is within an Urban Design District, a summary of how the development proposal addresses the district criteria is required)
- Contextual site information, including photographs and layout of adjacent buildings/structures
- Site Plan
- Two-dimensional (2D) images of proposed buildings or structures.

Providing additional information beyond these minimums may generate a greater level of feedback from the Commission.

Requirements for All Plan Sheets

1. Title block
2. Sheet number
3. North arrow
4. Scale, both written and graphic
5. Date
6. Fully dimensioned plans, scaled at 1"= 40' or larger

*** All plans must be legible, including the full-sized landscape and lighting plans (if required)*

2. Initial Approval

- Locator Map
- Letter of Intent (If the project is within a Urban Design District, a summary of how the development proposal addresses the district criteria is required)
- Contextual site information, including photographs and layout of adjacent buildings/structures
- Site Plan showing location of existing and proposed buildings, walks, drives, bike lanes, bike parking, and existing trees over 18" diameter
- Landscape Plan and Plant List (*must be legible*)
- Building Elevations in **both** black & white and color for all building sides, including material and color callouts
- PD text and Letter of Intent (if applicable)

Providing additional information beyond these minimums may generate a greater level of feedback from the Commission.

3. Final Approval

All the requirements of the Initial Approval (see above), **plus**:

- Grading Plan
- Lighting Plan, including fixture cut sheets and photometrics plan (must be legible)
- Utility/HVAC equipment location and screening details (with a rooftop plan if roof-mounted)
- Site Plan showing site amenities, fencing, trash, bike parking, etc. (if applicable)
- PD text and Letter of Intent (if applicable)
- Samples of the exterior building materials
- Proposed sign areas and types (if applicable)

4. Signage Approval (*Comprehensive Design Review (CDR), Sign Modifications, and Sign Exceptions (per [Sec. 31.043\(3\)](#))*)

- Locator Map
- Letter of Intent (a summary of how the proposed signage is consistent with the CDR or Signage Modifications criteria is required)
- Contextual site information, including photographs of existing signage both on site and within proximity to the project site
- Site Plan showing the location of existing signage and proposed signage, dimensioned signage setbacks, sidewalks, driveways, and right-of-ways
- Proposed signage graphics (fully dimensioned, scaled drawings, including materials and colors, and night view)
- Perspective renderings (emphasis on pedestrian/automobile scale viewsheds)
- Illustration of the proposed signage that meets [Ch. 31, MGO](#) compared to what is being requested
- Graphic of the proposed signage as it relates to what the [Ch. 31, MGO](#) would permit

5. Required Submittal Materials

Application Form

- A completed application form is required for each UDC appearance. For projects also requiring Plan Commission approval, applicants must also have submitted an accepted application for Plan Commission consideration prior to obtaining any formal action (Initial or Final Approval) from the UDC.

Letter of Intent

- If the project is within an Urban Design District, a summary of how the development proposal addresses the district criteria is required.
- For signage applications, a summary of how the proposed signage is consistent with the applicable Comprehensive Design Review (CDR) or Signage Modification review criteria is required.

Development Plans (Refer to checklist on Page 4 for plan details)

Filing Fee (Refer to Section 7 (below) for a list of application fees by request type)

Electronic Submittal

- Complete electronic submittals must be received prior to the application deadline before an application will be scheduled for a UDC meeting. Late materials will not be accepted. All plans must be legible and scalable when reduced. Individual PDF files of each item submitted should be submitted via email to UDCapplications@cityofmadison.com. The email must include the project address, project name, and applicant name.
- Email Size Limits. Note that an individual email cannot exceed 20MB and it is the responsibility of the applicant to present files in a manner that can be accepted. Applicants who are unable to provide the materials electronically should contact the Planning Division at (608) 266-4635 for assistance.

Notification to the District Alder

- Please provide an email to the District Alder notifying them that you are filing this UDC application. Please send this as early in the process as possible and provide a copy of that email with the submitted application.

6. Applicant Declarations

1. Prior to submitting this application, the applicant is required to discuss the proposed project with Urban Design Commission staff. This application was discussed with DAT on April 23, 2026.
2. The applicant attests that all required materials are included in this submittal and understands that if any required information is not provided by the application deadline, the application will not be placed on an Urban Design Commission agenda for consideration.

Name of applicant Scott Chehak Relationship to property Owner

Authorizing signature of property owner Scott Chehak Date May 1, 2026

7. Application Filing Fees

Fee payments are due by the submittal date. Payments received after the submittal deadline may result in the submittal being scheduled for the next application review cycle. Fees may be paid in-person, via US Mail, or City drop box. If mailed, please mail to: *City of Madison Building Inspection, P.O. Box 2984, Madison, WI 53701-2984*. The City's drop box is located outside the Municipal Building at 215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. on the E Doty Street side of the building. Please make checks payable to *City Treasurer*, and include a completed application form or cover letter indicating the project location and applicant information with all checks mailed or submitted via the City's drop box.

Please consult the schedule below for the appropriate fee for your request:

- Urban Design Districts: \$350 (per [§33.24\(6\) MGO](#)).
- Minor Alteration in the Downtown Core District (DC) or Urban Mixed-Use District (UMX) : \$150 (per [§33.24\(6\)\(b\) MGO](#))
- Comprehensive Design Review: \$500 (per [§31.041\(3\)\(d\)\(1\)\(a\) MGO](#))
- Minor Alteration to a Comprehensive Sign Plan: \$100 (per [§31.041\(3\)\(d\)\(1\)\(c\) MGO](#))
- All other sign requests to the Urban Design Commission, including, but not limited to: appeals from the decisions of the Zoning Administrator, requests for Sign Modifications (of height, area, and setback), and additional sign code approvals: \$300 (per [§31.041\(3\)\(d\)\(2\) MGO](#))

A filing fee is not required for the following project applications if part of the combined application process involving both Urban Design Commission and Plan Commission:

- Project in the Downtown Core District (DC), Urban Mixed-Use District (UMX), or Mixed-Use Center District (MXC)
- Project in the Suburban Employment Center District (SEC), Campus Institutional District (CI), or Employment Campus District (EC)
- Planned Development (PD): General Development Plan (GDP) and/or Specific Implementation Plan (SIP)
- Planned Multi-Use Site or Residential Building Complex



Cedar Rapids

200 Fifth Avenue SE Ste. 201
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401
(319) 363-6018

Des Moines

100 Court Avenue Ste. 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
(515) 309-0722

Iowa City

24 ½ S. Clinton Street Ste. 1
Iowa City, Iowa 52240
(319) 363-6018

Madison

301 N. Broom Street Ste. 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 819-0260

Minneapolis

212 N 3rd Avenue, Ste. 312
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
(612) 355-7111

opnarchitects.com

May 14, 2026

Letter of Intent, UDC Informational Submittal

Proposed MMSD Akira Toki Middle School Orchard Ridge ES
5606 Russett Rd., Madison, WI 53711

Madison Metropolitan School District is proposing to construct a new combination Middle School and Elementary School on the existing site located at 5606 Russett Rd., Madison, WI 53711. The new school will be constructed in the Northwest portion of the site while the existing school remains in use. Upon completion of the new construction the existing building will then be demolished with new parking and green space constructed on the site to the south of the building. The School District anticipates submitting for UDC Initial-Final late June. It is the School District's objective to start site infrastructure construction early next year, with building completion set for August 2028.

The proposed combination School is 215,000gsf with a three story structure at the south for the middle school that will house sixth thru eighth grade and two story at the north for the elementary school that will house pre-K thru fifth grades. Functionally, the new school will operate the same as the existing school, with typical staffing levels of 165 people. The project is planning to pursue a conditional use to the existing ordinance which will allow the building height to be three story. Extending the middle school to three stories allows the proposed building footprint to fit within the northwest portion and not impact the Toki Forest.

The building is an important component of the community's school system, the site, building and the adjacent streets that flank the site require special considerations for access with safe and separate yellow bus and vehicle circulation that allows students to safely enter the site from all directions without having to cross onsite circulation. Within the site, the proposed layout provides access to the building from all directions without requiring students to cross circulation patterns. When extending beyond the school site and how it connects to the community, concerns were made from the community regarding student safety when navigating Whitney Way and Russett during the busiest times of the day. The District is working with the City of Madison regarding school safety at the adjacent city streets with ideas regarding narrowing the lanes along Whitney way and building in student crossing sections with lower speed limits. Along the south side, the district is interested in changing Russett Rd to be a one-way street that is closed to car traffic during school dismissal times.



Enclosed for review please find the proposed site plan and architectural plans and elevations. Please contact Susan Bowersox with OPN Architects or Scott Chehak with Madison Metropolitan School District if additional information is needed prior to the upcoming review meeting.

Akira Toki Middle School Orchard Ridge Elementary School

UDC Informational
5/4/2026



Locator Map



Site Context



View to Northeast from corner of Bartlett and S. Whitney Way



View to North from Corner of existing school

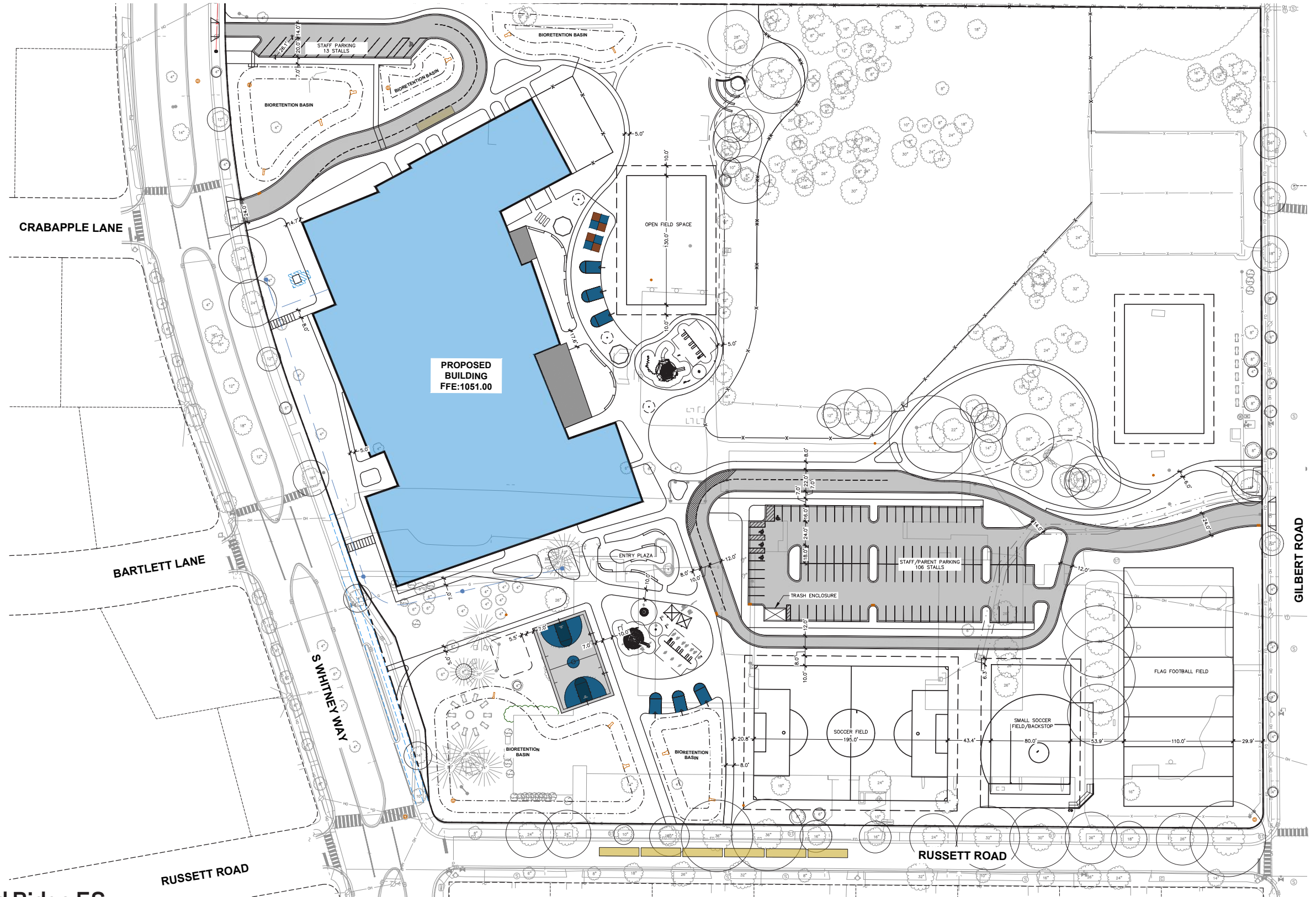


View to Southeast from Northeast corner of site

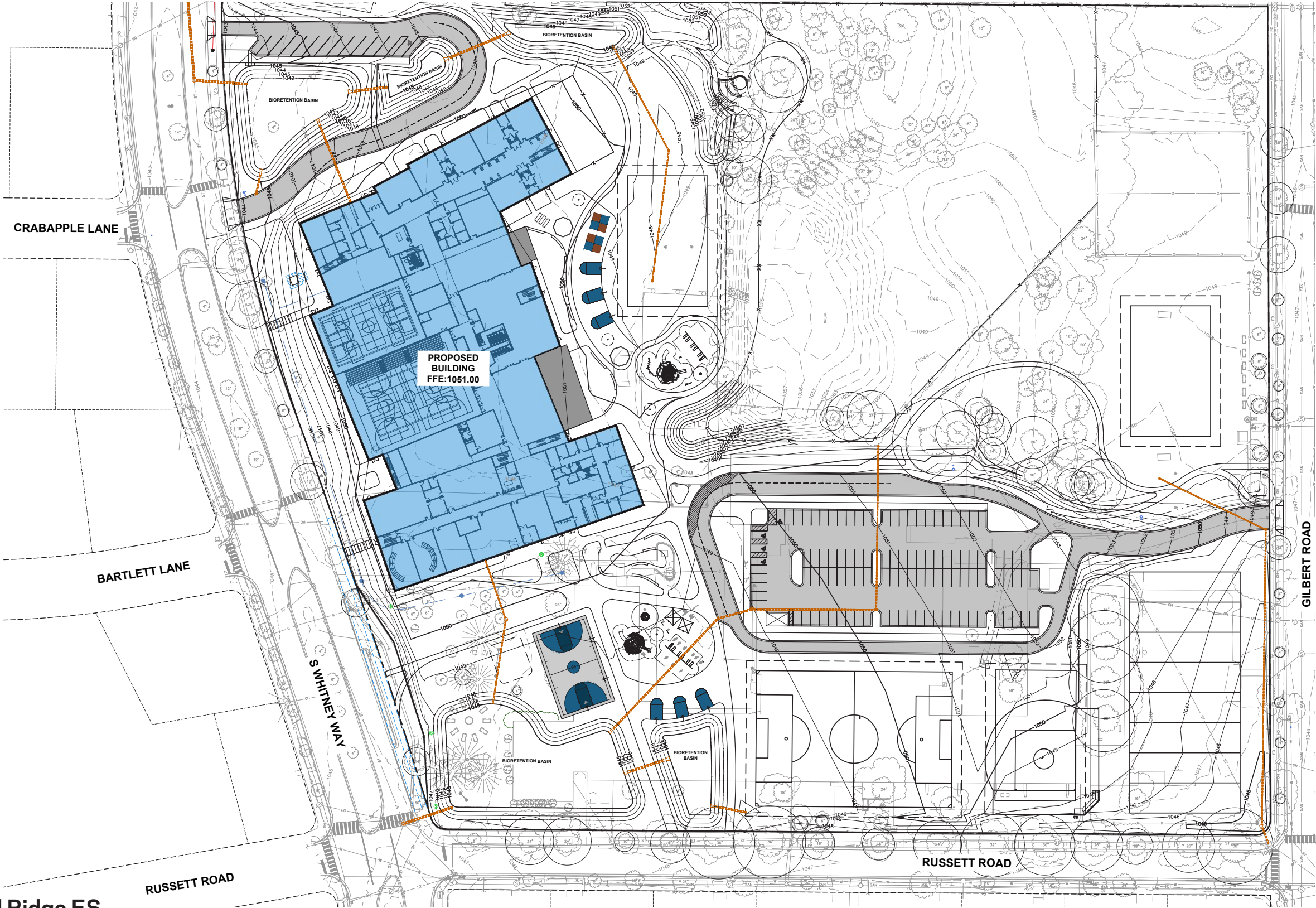


View to Southwest from S. Whitney Way

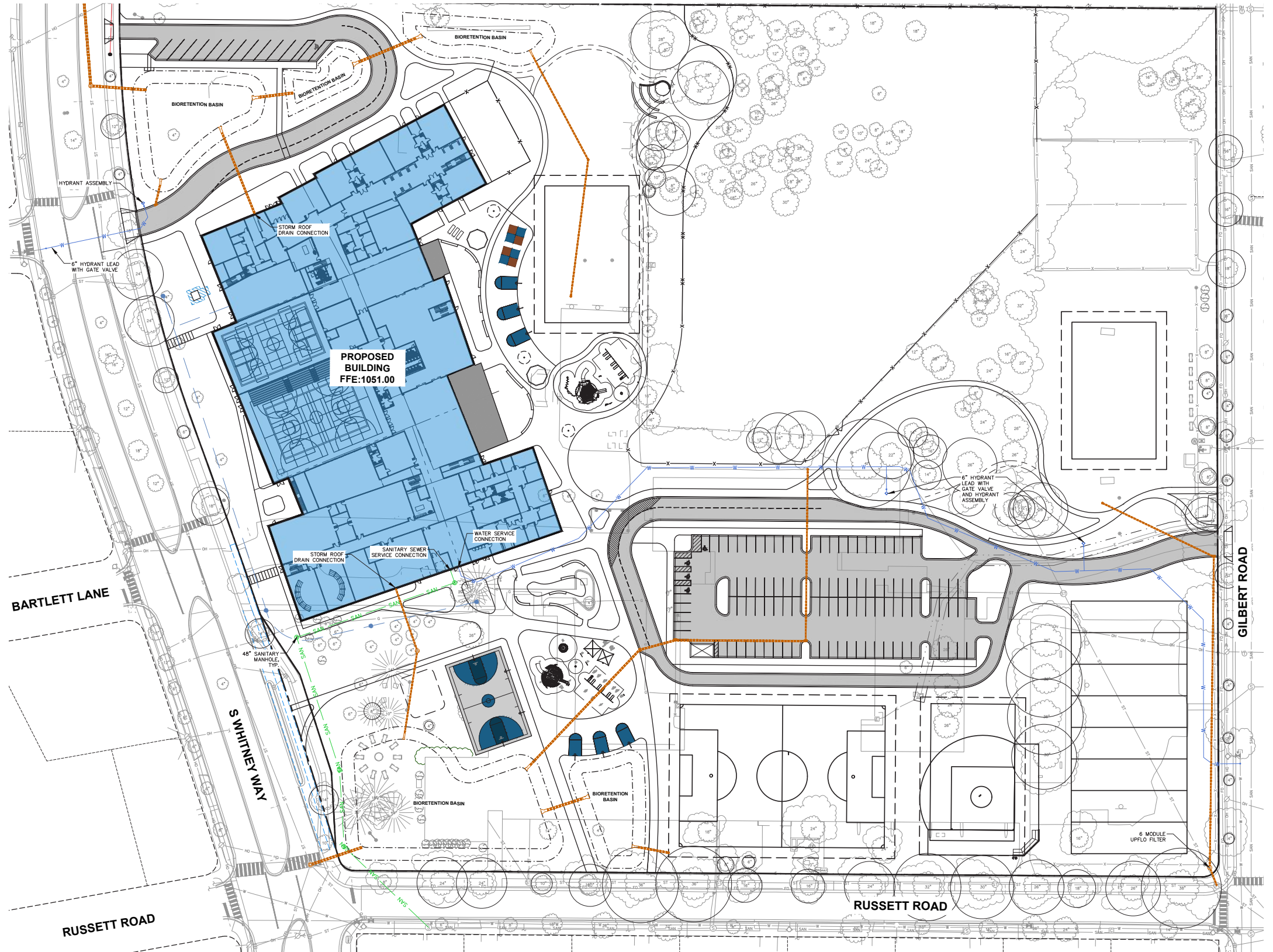
Site Plan



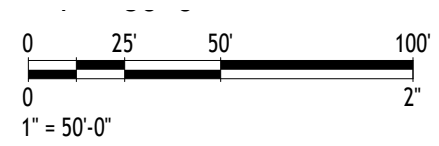
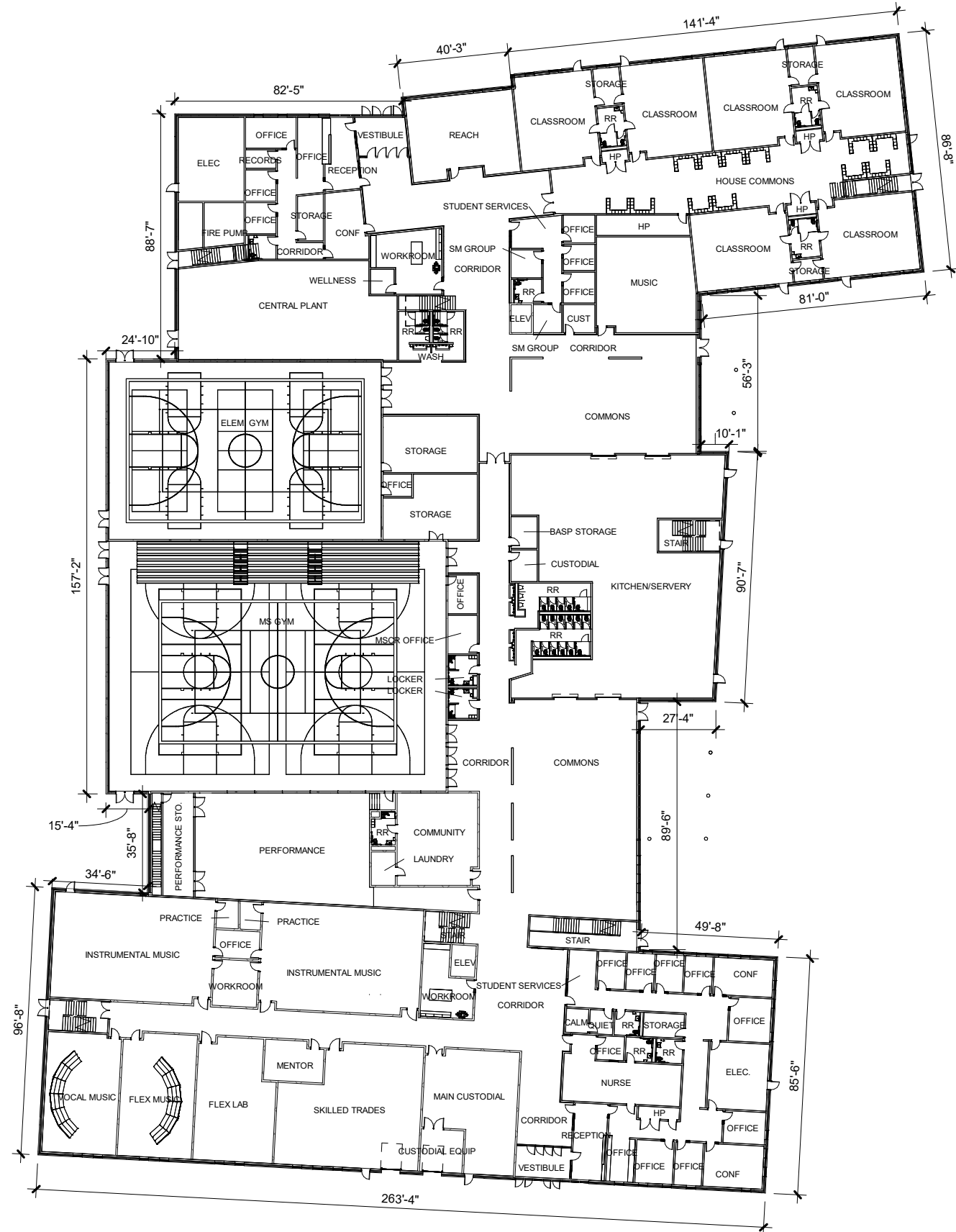
Grading



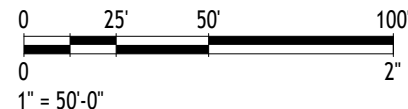
Utility Plan



Floor Plan - Level 1

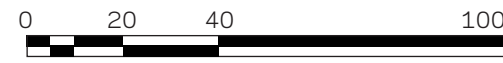


Floor Plan - Level 3



Elevation - S & W

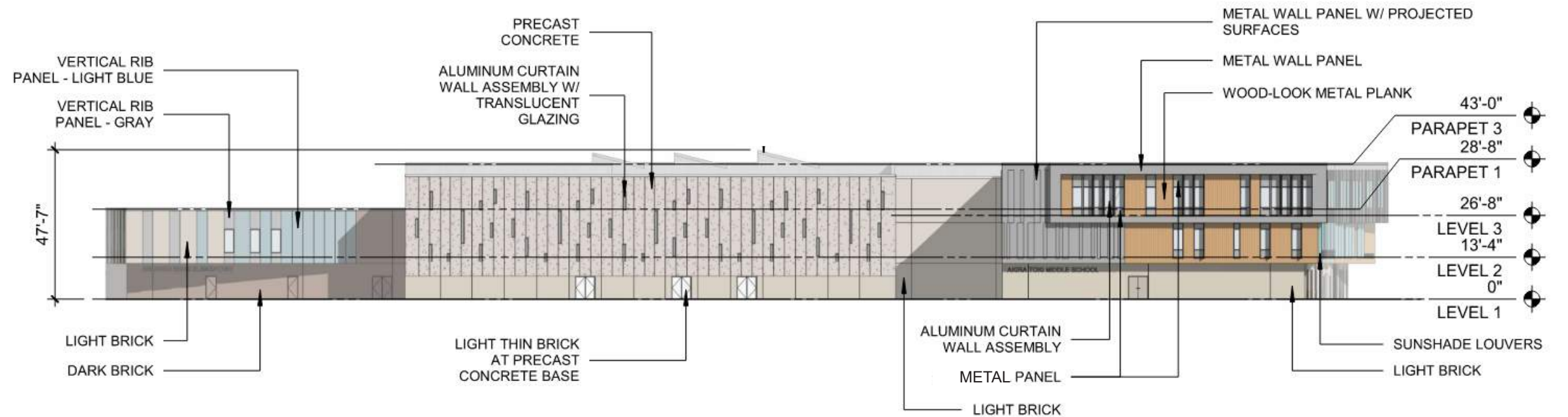
1" = 40'



South



West

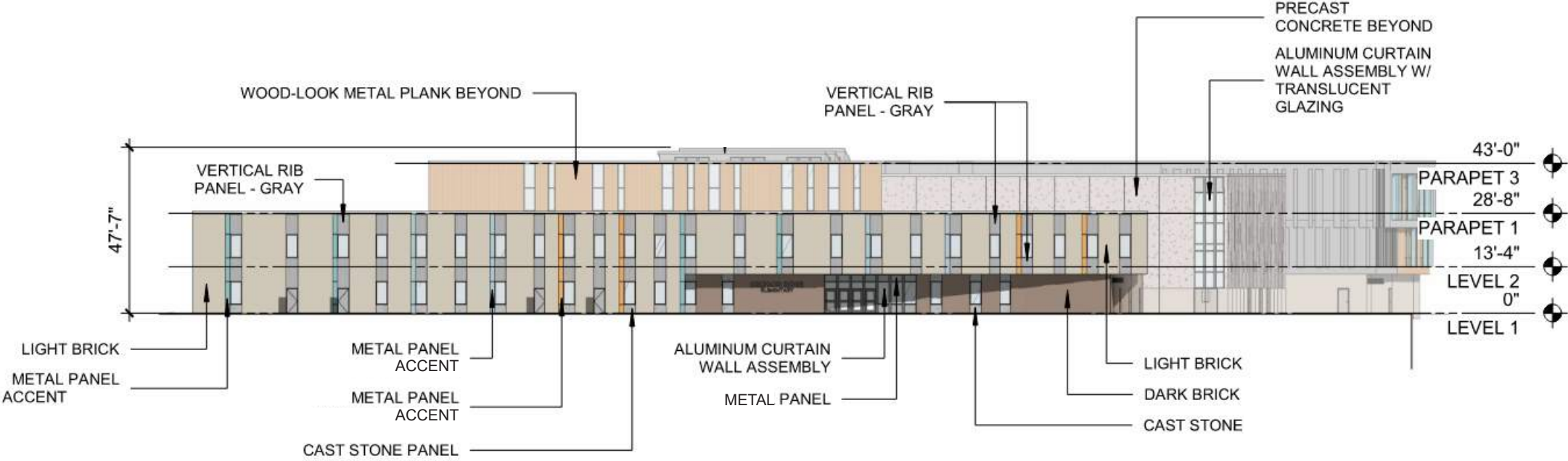


Elevation - N & E

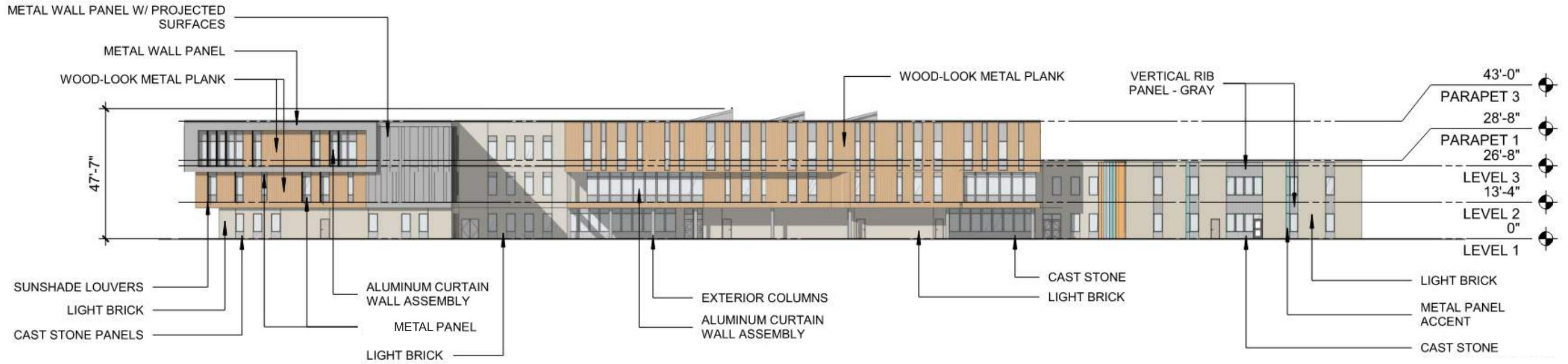
1" = 40'



North



East



Perspective - SE



Perspective - SW



Perspective - NW



Perspective - NE



Perspective - SW



AKIRA TOKI MIDDLE SCHOOL



Exterior Material Exploration



Light Brick - 4" x 12"



Dark Brick - 4" x 12"



Metal Wall Panel



Wood-Look Metal Plank



Precast Panels



Metal Wall Panel Color Accents



Cast Stone