

2.6 Tree strategy

Trees chosen for the site are either native to the UK or, if non-native, provide value for wildlife and visual interest throughout the year. Multistem forms (MS) create a woodland atmosphere, while larger feature standard form (SF) trees, such as *Acer campestre* (Field Maple), provide shade throughout the space. Trees will have a 2-meter clear stem (or raised stems on the multistem forms) to ensure visibility across the play area.

The mix of tree species has been agreed in accordance with Reading Borough Council's Natural Environment Officer.

Refer to the soft landscape GA for further details of the proposed tree planting.



○ *Acer campestre* (SF)



● *Cercis siliquastrum* (MS)



● *Ginkgo biloba* 'Tit' (SF)



● *Styphnolobium japonicum* 'Regent' (SF)

○ *Parrotia persica* 'Bella' (MS)

● *Tilia tomentosa* 'Brabant' (SF)

● *Syringa reticulata* (MS)



● *Malus* 'Evereste' (MS)



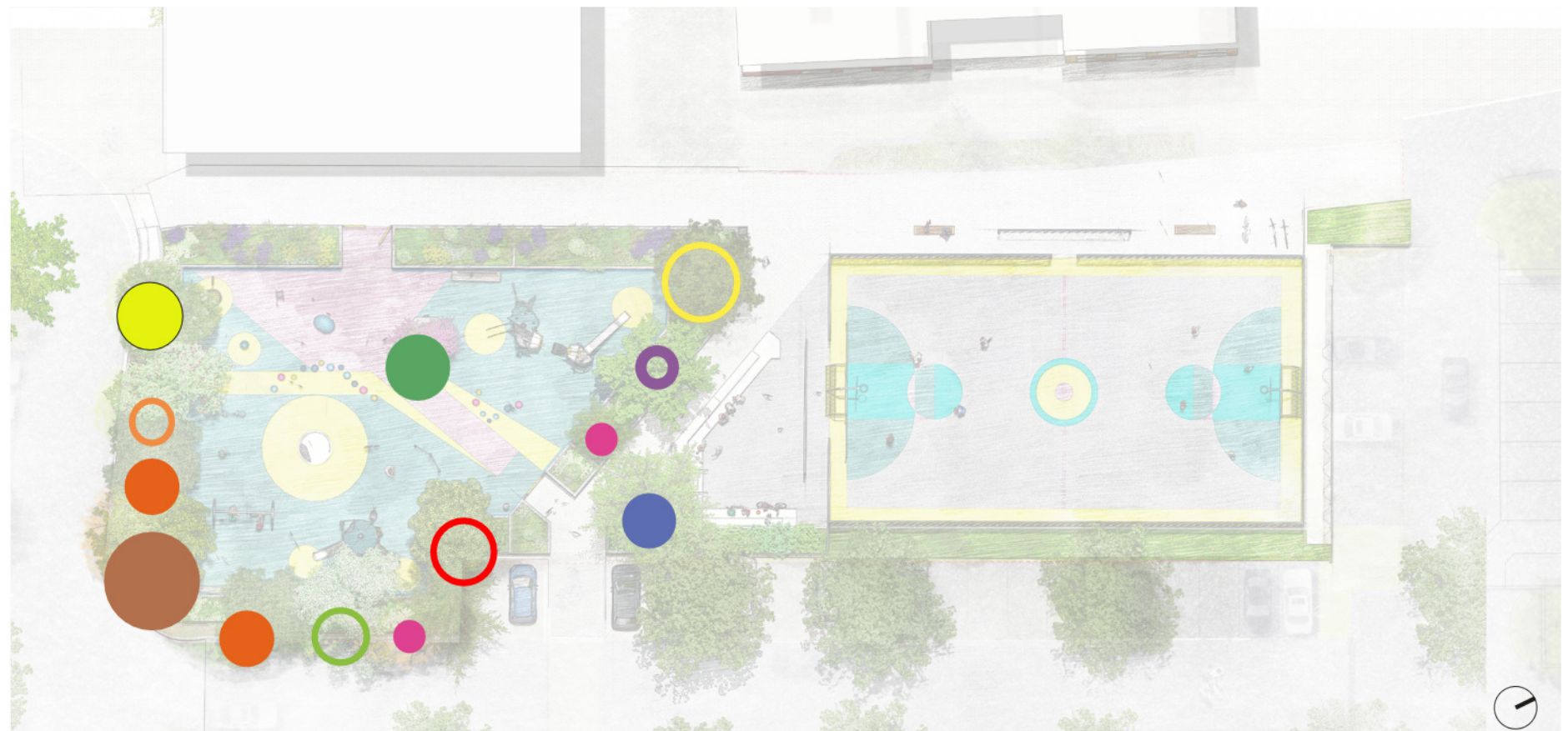
○ *Sorbus aucuparia* 'Sheerwater seedling' (SF)



○ *Acer monspessulatum* (SF)



○ *Crataegus monogyna* (SF)



Tree location plan

2.7 Planting strategy PL1

The proposed planting scheme embraces a woodland character, complementing the chosen tree selection.

Low-maintenance groundcover plants will be prioritized to create a verdant, carpet-like layer beneath the trees, with careful attention to texture, height, and seasonal interest. The planting list includes: *Asplenium scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Goldtau', *Pittosporum* 'Golf Ball', *Alchemilla mollis*, *Ajuga reptans* 'Caitlin's Giant', *Nepeta cataria*, *Liriope muscari*, and *Pulmonaria* 'Blue Ensign'.

Together, these species provide year-round structure, subtle variation in leaf form and color, and a gentle, naturalistic flow across the understorey. The selection supports understorey biodiversity by offering varied microhabitats for invertebrates and pollinators, while their low maintenance needs reduce input requirements.

The planting considers shade tolerance guidance to match varying light conditions under the canopy.

Refer to the soft landscape schedule for further details of the proposed planting.



Asplenium scolopendrium



Dryopteris filix-mas



Polystichum setiferum



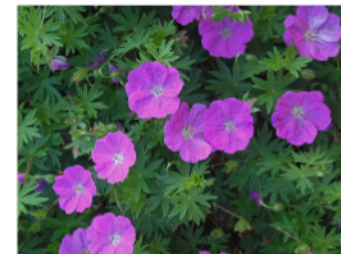
Deschampsia cespitosa
'Goldtau'



Alchemilla mollis



Pittosporum 'Golf ball'



Geranium sanguineum



Pulmonaria 'Blue Ensign'



Ajuga reptans 'Caitlin's Giant'



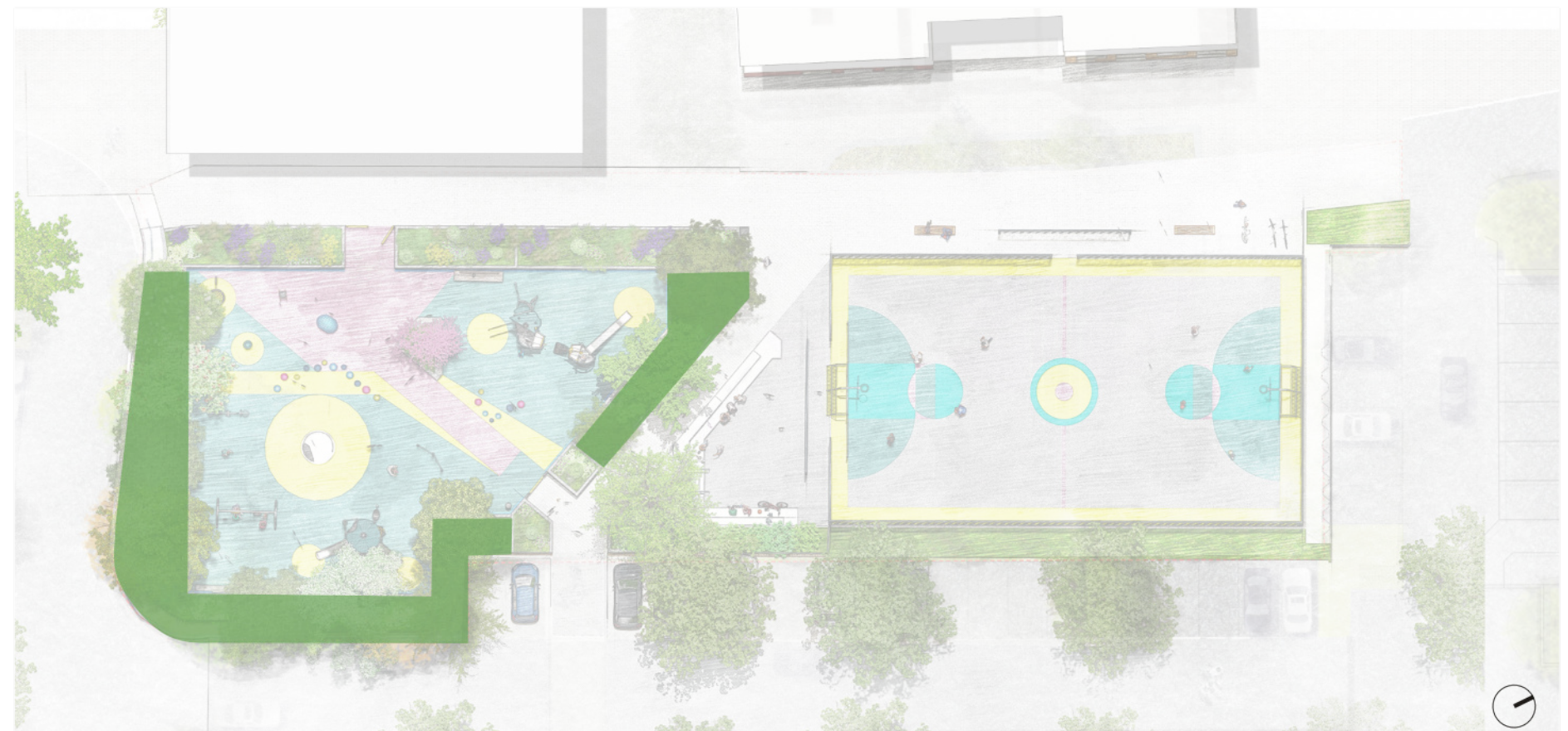
Nepeta cataria



Liriope muscari



Anemone x hybrida
'Honorine Jobert'



Planting strategy plan

2.7 Planting strategy PL2

This planting group delivers strong visual impact while enhancing pollinator value and drought resilience, and it is designed with no trees, ensuring good visibility and an open, legible space.

The mix combines airy, architectural grasses with compact groundcovers and shrubs to create year-round structure and movement. *Deschampsia* and *Stipa* provide delicate, waving plumes that catch light and create dynamic texture. *Alchemilla* offers soft rounded leaves that contrast with finer grasses, while *Achillea* adds bright, compact foliage and subtle floral interest.

Pittosporum contributes evergreen mass and a neat, rounded form for visual anchors, and *Geraniums* introduce seasonal color and ground-level drama.

Rosemary provides aromatic foliage and long-lasting flower stems that attract pollinators, complemented by *Nepeta* for additional nectar sources and a spreading habit.

Verbena adds verticality and bold floral display, further boosted by the nectar-rich blooms. Collectively, the group supports a diverse pollinator assemblage, is well adapted to drought conditions, and maintains high visibility across the space due to its open, non-intrusive growth habit.

Refer to the soft landscape schedule for further details of the proposed planting.



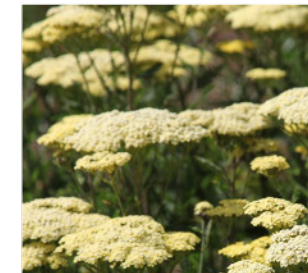
Deschampsia cepitosa 'Goldtau'



Alchemilla mollis



Stipa tenuissima



Achillea 'Credo'



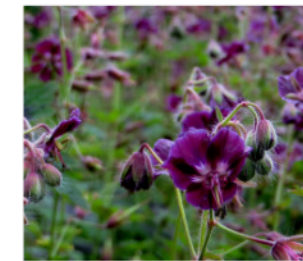
Pittosporum 'Golf ball'



Geranium sanguineum



Salvia nemorosa 'Ostfriesland'



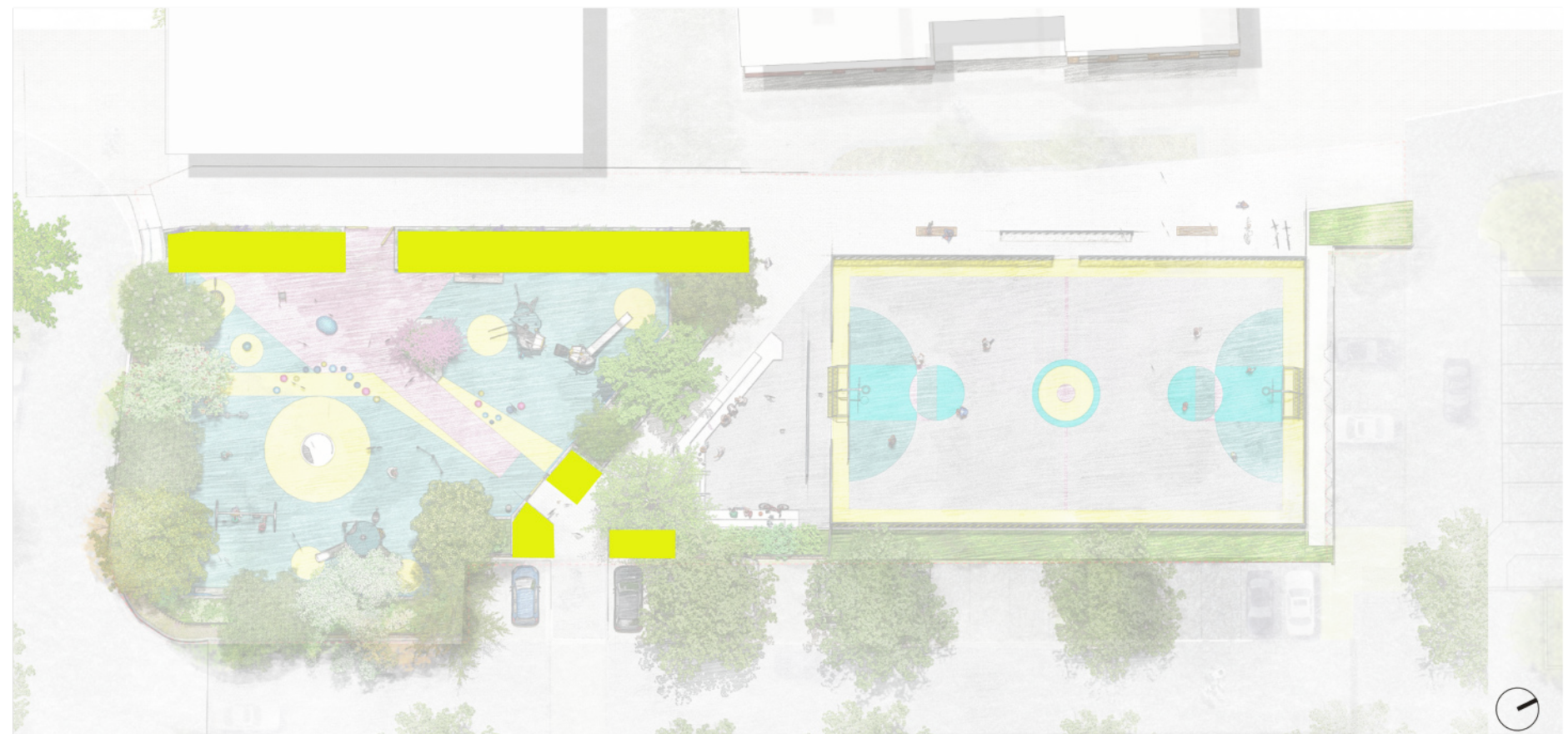
Geranium phaeum



Verbena bonariensis 'Lollipop'



Nepeta cataria



Planting strategy plan

2.7 Planting strategy PL3, PL4,

Planting chosen for the edge of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and the central planter is designed to be resilient, low maintenance, and evergreen.

Specifically, the selections prioritize robust, drought-tolerant species that can withstand foot traffic, compaction, and variable weather conditions typical of high-use recreational spaces.

The evergreen components ensure year-round structure and visual appeal, maintaining a consistent palette and reducing the need for seasonal replanting.

Refer to the soft landscape schedule for further details of the proposed planting.

PL3



Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau'



Hylotelephium spectabile 'Stardust'

PL4



Cotoneaster dameri 'Coral Beauty'



Lonicera pileata



Planting strategy plan

2.7 Planting strategy Bulbs

Spring bulbs offer a low-maintenance, high-impact enhancement to green spaces, delivering early- to late-spring color and architectural form.

They support biodiversity by providing early nectar for pollinators and adding habitat structure. Native or well-adapted species are proposed to minimize maintenance and boost resilience. The planting approach emphasizes proper planting depth, soil preparation, and a management plan that includes establishment, watering and foliage retention to nourish next year's blooms, with periodic division to maintain vigor.

Benefits include improved soil structure, moisture regulation, reduced weed pressure, and enhanced pollinator habitat.

Refer to the soft landscape schedule for further details of the proposed planting.

Bulbs



Anemone nemorosa



Fritillaria meleagris



Hyacinthoides non-scripta



Crocus



Narcissus pseudonarcissus



Galanthus nivalis



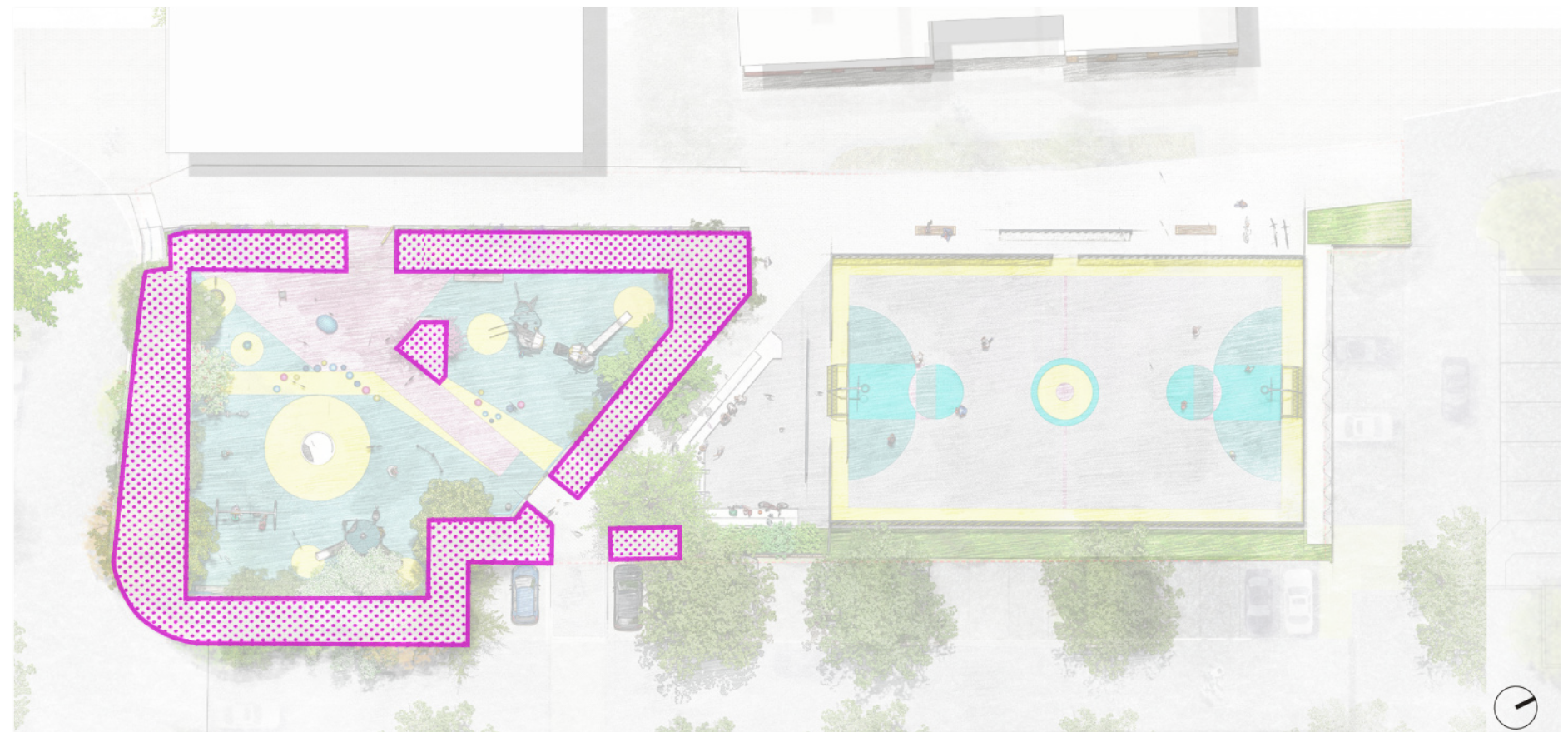
Allium ursinum



Cyclamen hederifolium



Bulbs



Planting strategy plan



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