



Blue Hill River Rd

# Houghton's Pond Recreation Area Improvements

## Project Update

DCR Public Meeting

April 8, 2010 - 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Brookwood Farm



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

**Deval L. Patrick**

Lieutenant Governor

**Timothy Murray**

Energy and Environmental Secretary

**Ian A. Bowles**

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

**Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.**



## **DCR Mission Statement**

*To protect, promote and enhance our  
common wealth of natural, cultural and  
recreational resources.*



## Houghton's Pond Recreation Area Improvements

### **Public Benefits**

- *Improve public safety*
- *Provide enhanced recreation opportunities*
- *Protect natural resources*



## Agenda

- Scope of Work and Schedule
  - Facilities Assessment
  - Ballfield Renovation Plan / Phase I Construction
  - Future Improvements
- Comments and Questions

# Scope of Work and Schedule

## Step 1: Background and facilities assessment and program development June 2008 – September 2008

- Site survey and constraints mapping
- Facilities assessment report
- Stakeholder outreach and permit holder interviews
- Design program report

## Step 2: Schematic design and ballfield renovation plan September 2008 – December 2009

- Preliminary site layout plans
- Ballfield renovation plan
- Implementation strategy
- Public meeting – Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>
- Design development

## Step 3: 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of construction March 2010 – June 2010

- Permitting
- Construction begins April 2010

# Facilities Assessment

- \* Athletic field layout and condition
- \* Athlete and spectator facilities
- \* Vehicular circulation and parking



## Athletic Field Layout and Condition

- **Turf condition is generally poor:**

**this is to be expected given the soil type and high level of field use**

- **Youth Baseball / Adult Softball:**

**Fields #1 & #3 have good orientations, Field #2 does not**

- **Multi-Use Fields:**

**current layout significantly restricts simultaneous play on baseball and multi-use fields**

- **Tennis:**

**poor condition of surfacing, fencing and nets**

## Athlete and Recreation Amenities

- Bleacher seating recently installed
- Picnic Area equipped with tables, grills and trash containers
- Limited Bathroom Facilities
- No Drinking Fountain



## Vehicular Circulation and Parking

- **Poor Entry Experience**
- **Parking around the Ball Fields is limited.**
- **Overflow Parking occurs around the vehicular turnaround and along Blue Hill River Road**
- **Conflicts between cars, pedestrians and emergency vehicle access**



## BALLFIELD RENOVATION PLAN – Phase 1



## PHASE I

- Adjust Field #1 Alignment  
Little League  
11-12 year-old Youth League  
Adult Softball
- Irrigation Provided
- Selective Clearing of Existing Vegetation
- Reduce Impervious Surfaces /  
Provide Stormwater Infiltration

### Result

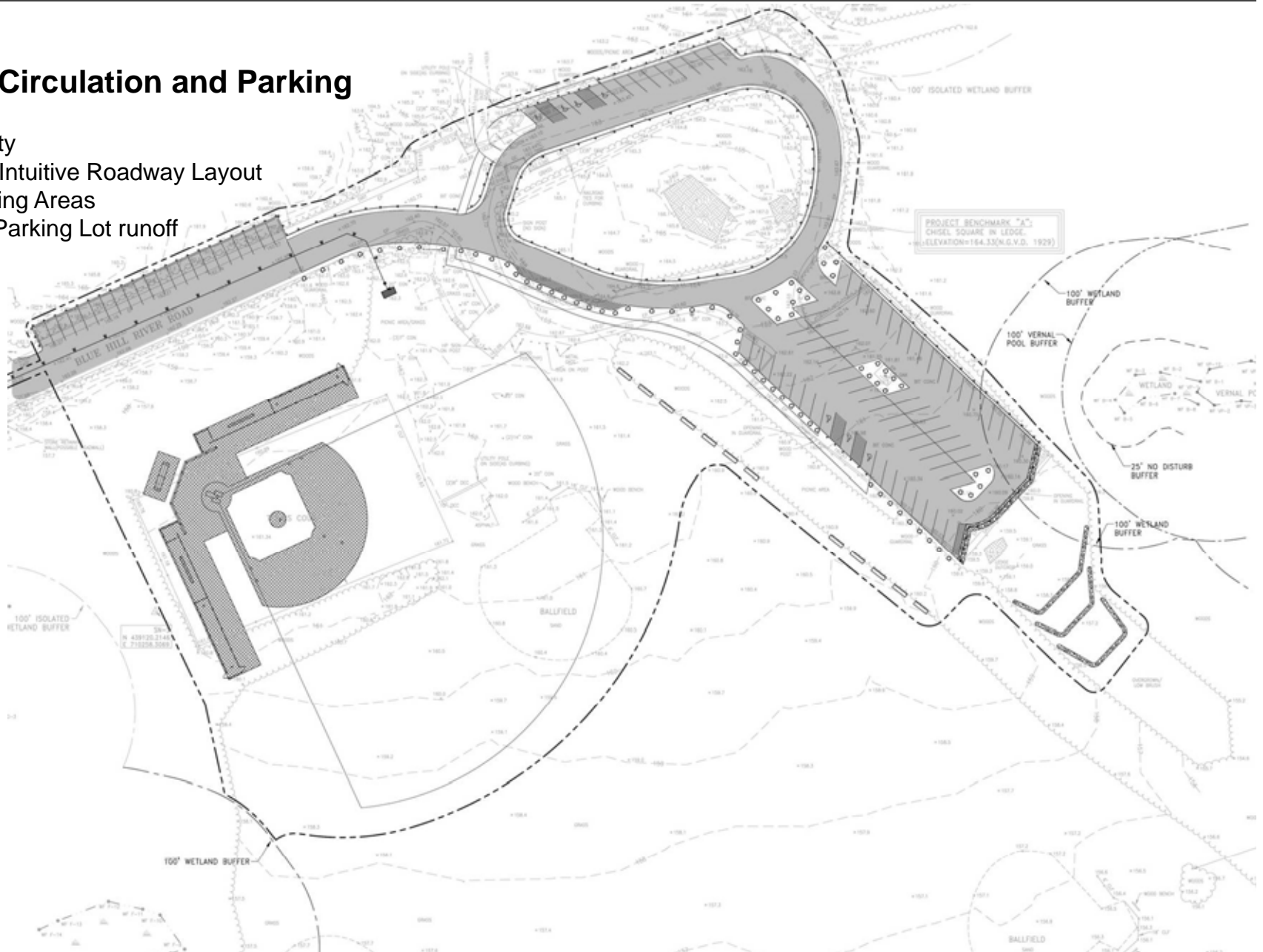
Significant Increase in Multi-Use Space

Reduced Impact on Natural Resources



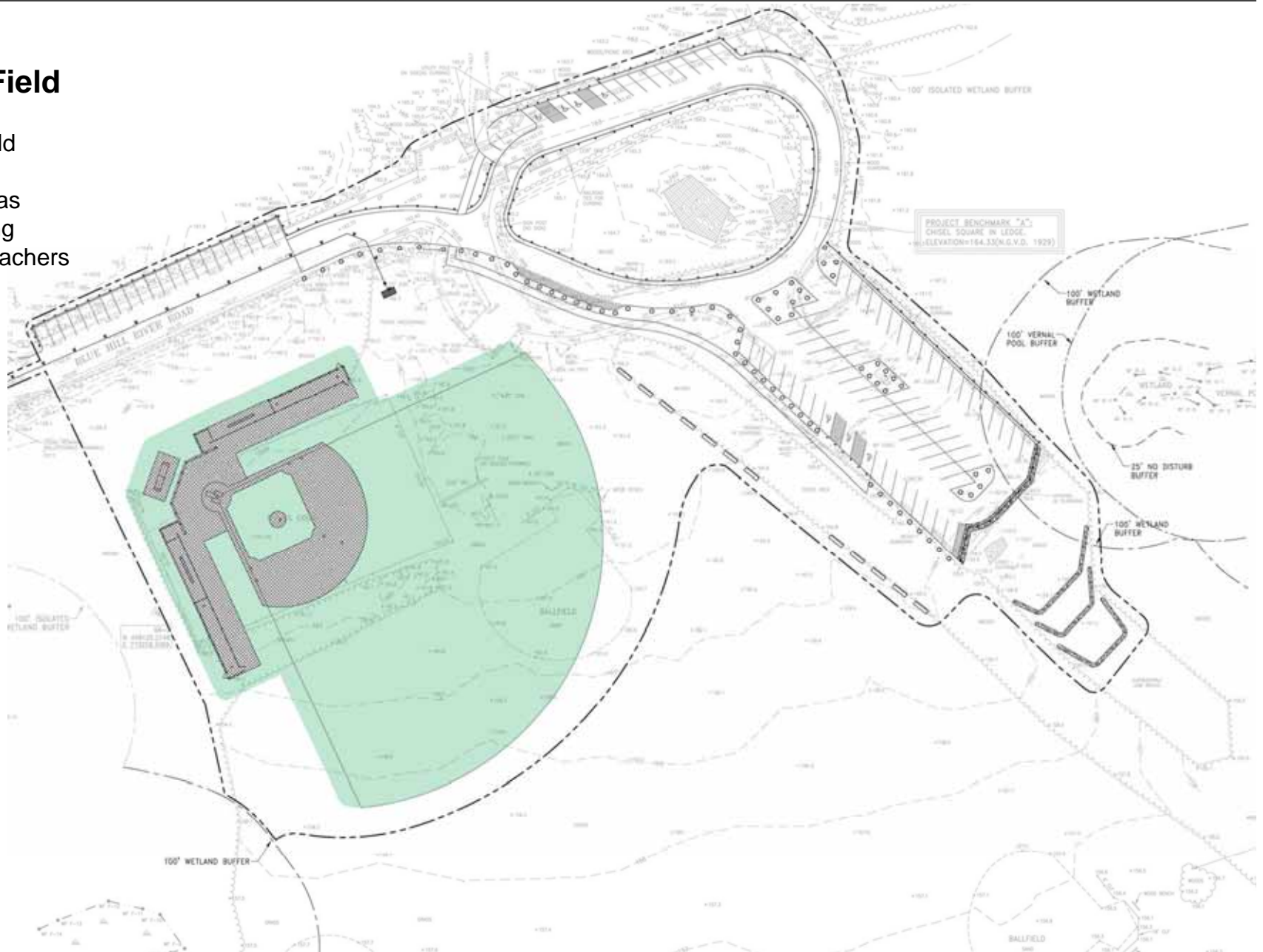
## Vehicular Circulation and Parking

- Improve Safety
- More Logical/Intuitive Roadway Layout
- Revised Parking Areas
- Infiltration of Parking Lot runoff
- Drop-off Area



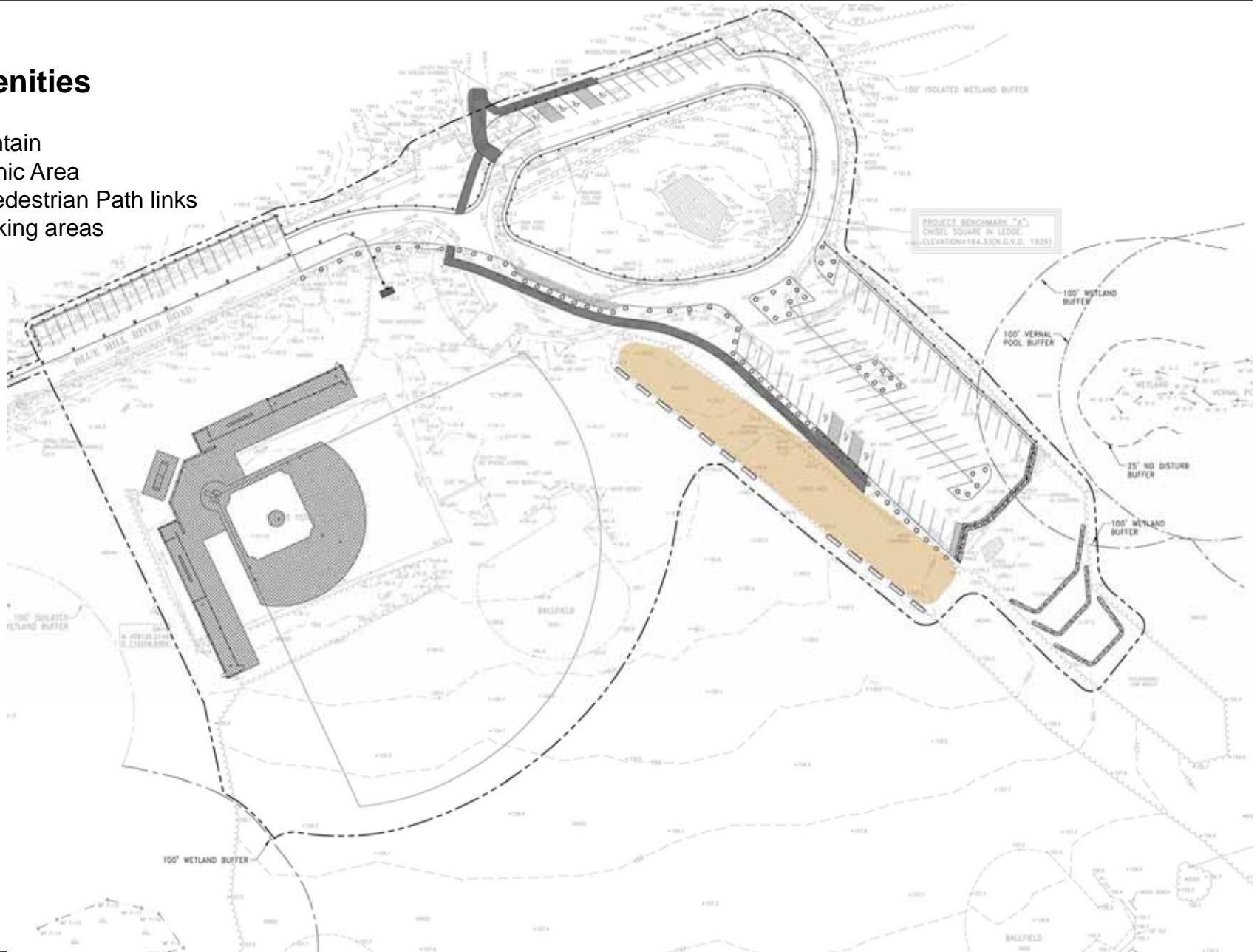
## Baseball Field

- Grassed Infield
- Team Areas
- 2 Bullpen areas
- Safety Fencing
- Spectator Bleachers



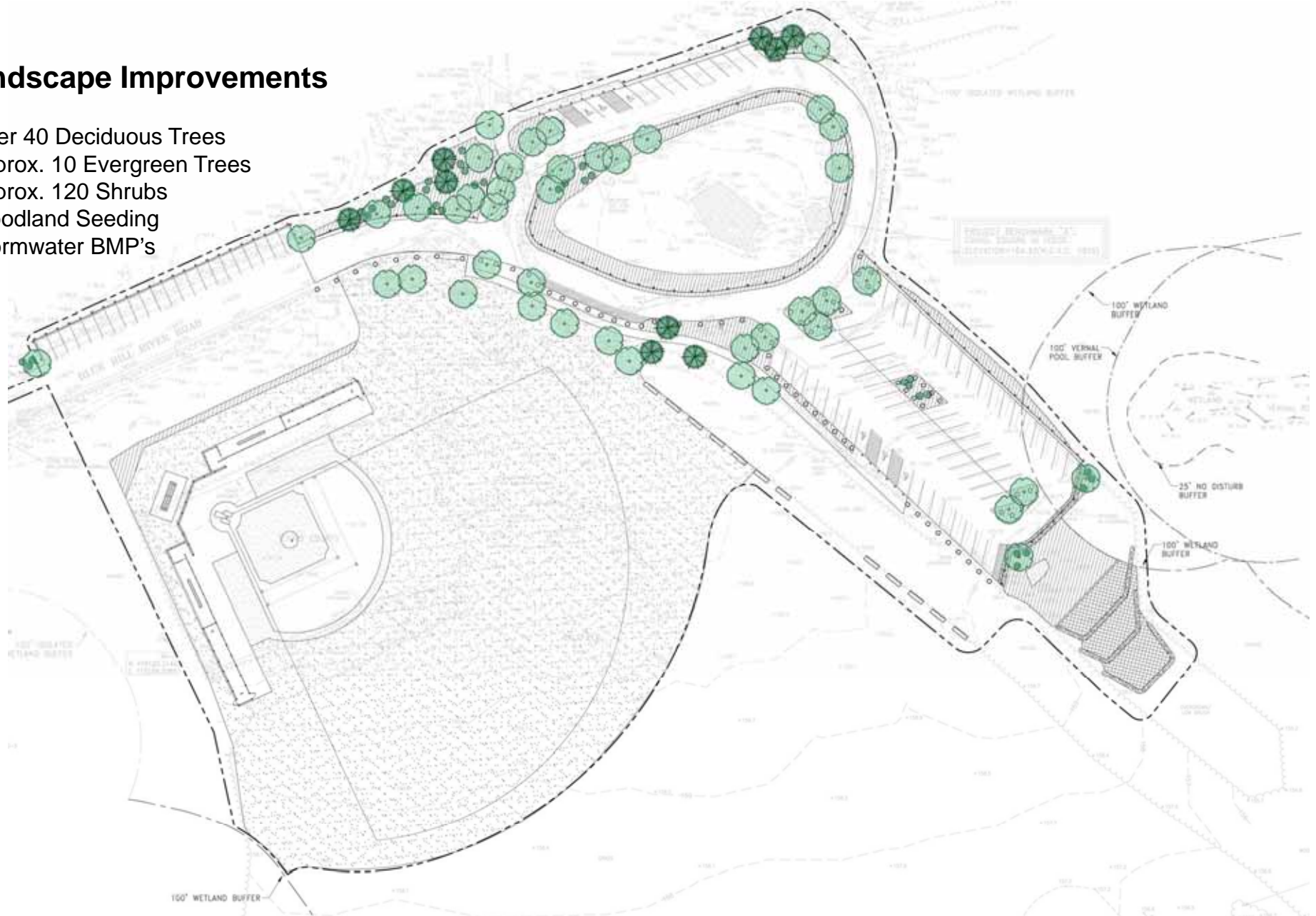
## Other Amenities

- Drinking Fountain
- Improved Picnic Area
- Accessible Pedestrian Path links picnic and parking areas



## Landscape Improvements

- Over 40 Deciduous Trees
- Approx. 10 Evergreen Trees
- Approx. 120 Shrubs
- Woodland Seeding
- Stormwater BMP's



## Timetable

- **Winter 2009:**

- Ball field renovation plan posted to DCR Website

- Project Bid – Awarded to Sequoia Construction – Whitman, MA

- **Early Spring 2010:**

- Phase I Construction Begins

- Master plan completed for site

- **Late Spring / Early Summer 2010:**

- Ball fields and road open to public July 1 (except new baseball field)

- Picnic sites 3 and 4 open for use in spring 2010. Access by main Houghton's Pond entrance

- Phase I Construction Ends by June 30th

- **Spring 2011:**

- New Baseball Field Open to Public

## Project Costs

Design of Renovation Plan and Phase I: \$241,560

Construction for Phase I: \$1,000,000

Project funded through DCR capital program in FY09 and FY10



**Possible future improvements to the recreation area based on master plan recommendations**

**Additional parking along Blue Hill River Road**

**Revise location/ alignment of the other two ball fields**

**Renovate grass fields**

**New bathroom facilities for ballfields**

**\* Subject to funding availability**



Q & A



## **Future work planned at the Houghton's Pond Recreation Area**

- Internal design work has begun to replace the Houghton's Pond bath house – estimated completion timetable 2012
- DCR will provide opportunity for public comment on this project in the future



**Houghton's Pond on a busy summer day**



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please email [DCR.Updates@state.ma.us](mailto:DCR.Updates@state.ma.us), noting “Houghtons Pond Ballfields” in the subject line, or call 617-626-4974.
- This presentation will be available for viewing on the DCR website at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/parklandspast.htm>