



# MacDonald Park

Medford, MA



**Welcome!**

## MacDonald Park Improvements

**DCR Public Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016**

**6:30 – 8:00pm**

**River's Edge, Great Lawn Room**

**200 River's Edge Drive**

**Medford, MA**



# MacDonald Park

Medford, MA



## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

**Charles D. Baker**

Lieutenant Governor

**Karyn E. Polito**

Energy and Environmental Secretary

**Matthew A. Beaton**

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Commissioner

**Leo Roy**



# MacDonald Park

Medford, MA



## The Consultant Team:

**Shadley Associates**  
Landscape Architects  
Prime Consultant

**GZA GeoEnvironmental**  
Resource Delineation  
Environmental Design

**Tree Tech**  
Arborists

**Pare Corporation**  
Civil Engineers  
Structural Engineers  
Environmental Permitting

**SMC**  
Project Surveyors



# MacDonald Park

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## DCR Mission Statement

*To protect, promote and enhance our  
common wealth of natural, cultural  
and recreational resources  
for the well-being of all.*



# MacDonald Park

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## **DCR Would Like to Thank:**

**State Representative Paul Donato**

**State Senator Ken Donnelly**

**State Senator Patricia Jehlen**

**Mystic River Watershed Assoc.**

**Mayor Stephanie M. Burke**

**Medford Conservation Commission**

*Project Funding to Date:*

*Legislative Earmark - \$250,000*

*Partnership - \$150,000 from donor*

*DCR Capital Budget- \$150,000 (donor match)*



# MacDonald Park

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## Agenda

### Tonight's Meeting - Purpose

To present information and solicit feedback on:

- **Upcoming Park Restoration**
- **Proposed Future Park Improvements**
- **Overall Schedule for this Work**



# MacDonald Park

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## Project Area





# MacDonald Park

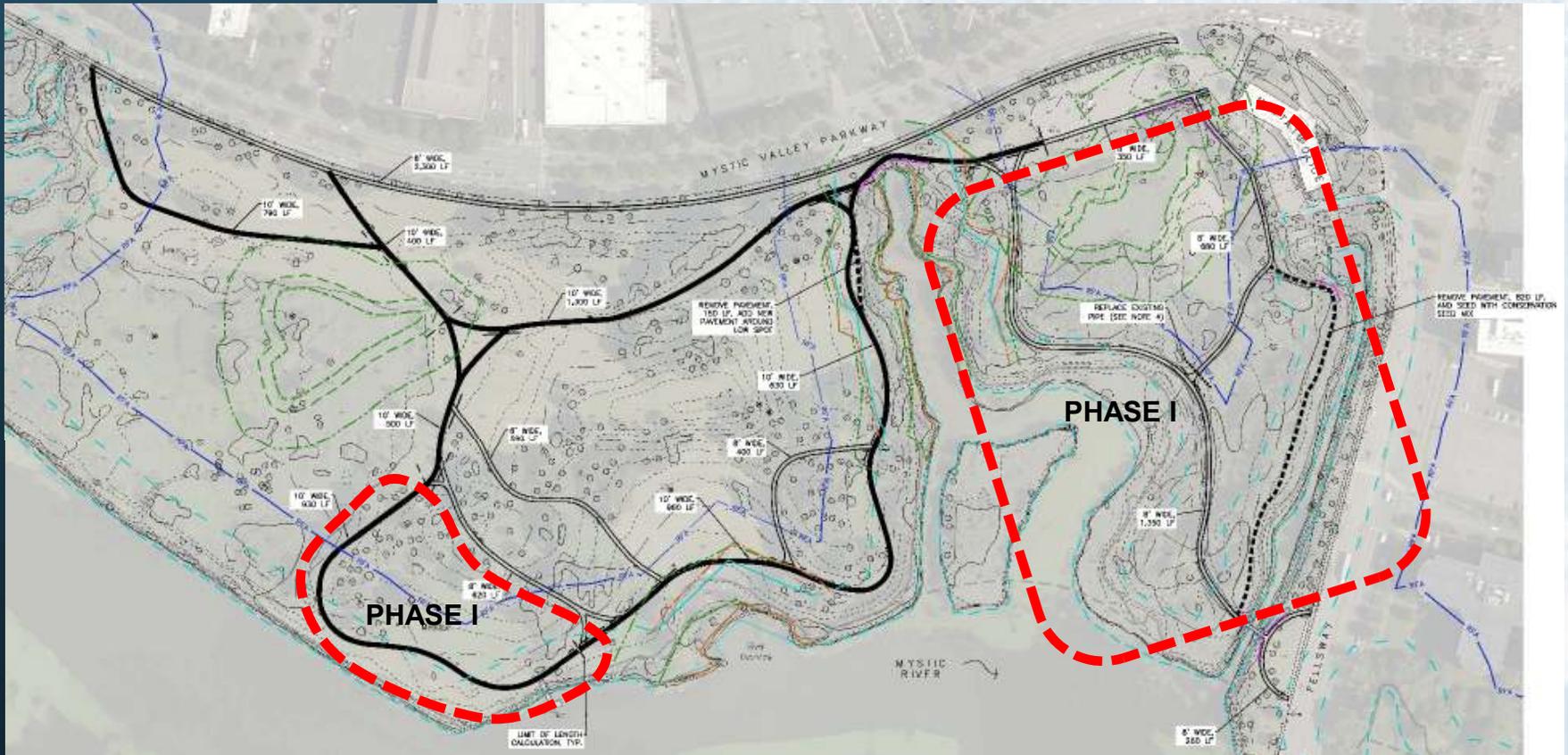
Medford, MA



## Upcoming Park Restoration

### Pavement Replacement

- Asphalt walkways, 8'-10' wide to match existing
- Phased over several years, Phase I complete by June 30, 2016
- Approved by Medford Conservation Commission





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## Upcoming Park Restoration

### Removal of Invasive Plant Species

- Phragmites on Land (shown below), beginning late Summer 2016
- Aquatic Species (ongoing from previous years)





# MacDonald Park

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## Proposed Park Improvements

### Multi-Year Plan:

- River Overview
- Park Entry
- Playground
- Pollinator Meadow
- Labyrinth
- Wayfinding Signage
- Removal of Additional Invasive Plants



# MacDonald Park

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## Proposed Park Improvements

## Overall Park Plan

PLUS:  
New Wayfinding Signage  
Throughout the Park

Bittersweet and Knotweed  
Removal Throughout  
The Park





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## Proposed Park Improvements



LOCUS PLAN

## River Overview

- Existing Conditions





# MacDonald Park

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## Proposed Park Improvements

### River Overview

- Universal access to the water
- Construction Goal: Fall 2016

GATHERING SPACE WITH GRANITE SEATWALL AND CONCRETE PAVEMENT

RAIN GARDEN

BICYCLE PARKING

ASPHALT WALKWAY TO WATER ACCESS AREA

10' WIDE ASPHALT WALKWAY

PICNIC AREA

RAIN GARDEN

MYSTIC RIVER





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## Proposed Park Improvements

### River Overview

- Accessible design with access to the water
- Construction Goal: Fall 2016





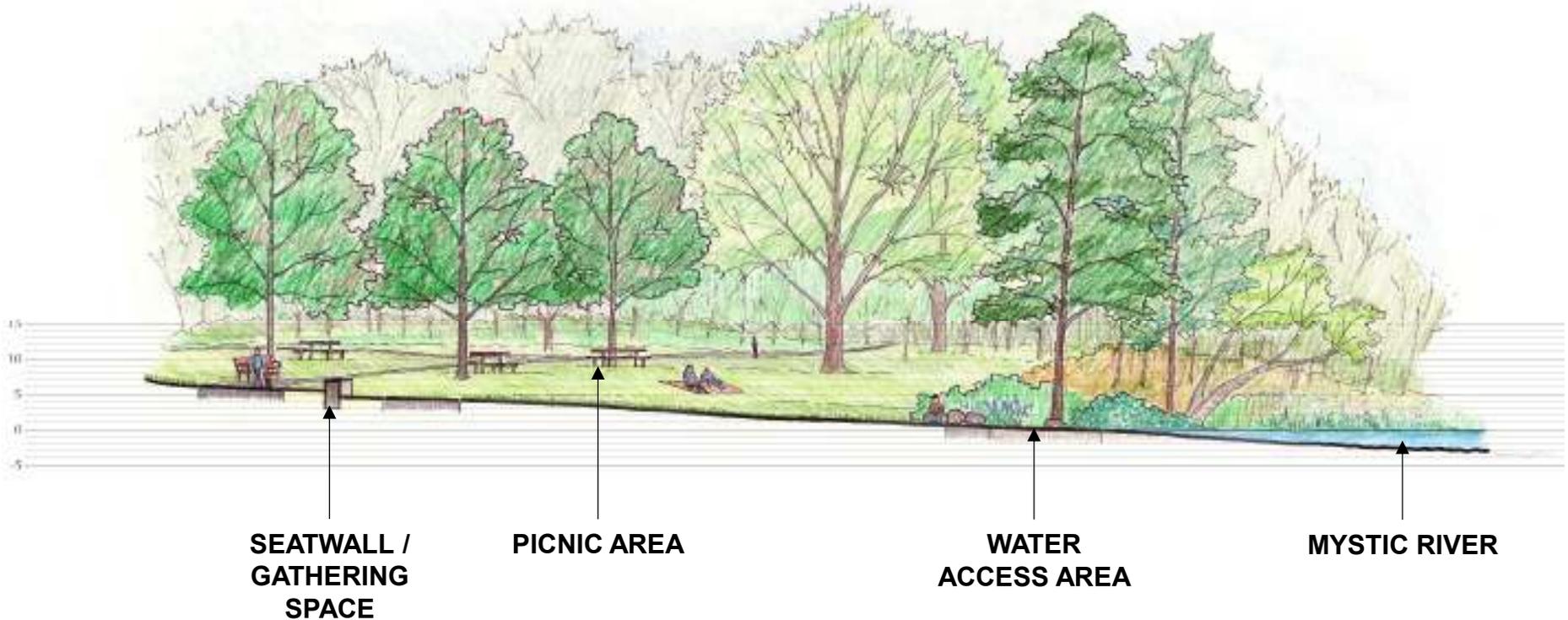
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## Proposed Park Improvements

## River Overview Section



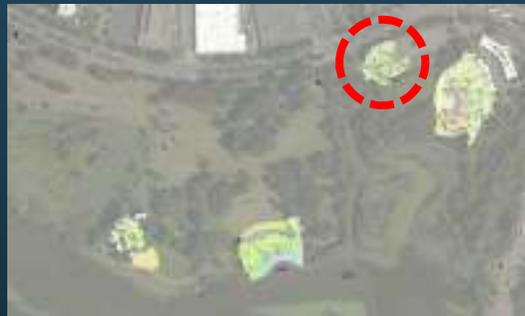


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## Proposed Park Improvements



LOCUS PLAN

## Park Entry

- Existing Conditions





# MacDonald Park

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## Proposed Park Improvements

### Park Entry

- Welcoming pedestrian entry to the park
- Gathering space with bicycle parking
- To be implemented in coming years

GATHERING SPACE WITH CONCRETE PAVEMENT, GRANITE SEATWALL, BENCHES, AND KIOSK

NEW HC PARKING SPACES AND SIDEWALK

BICYCLE PARKING

RAIN GARDEN

10' WIDE ASPHALT WALKWAY





# MacDonald Park

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## Proposed Park Improvements

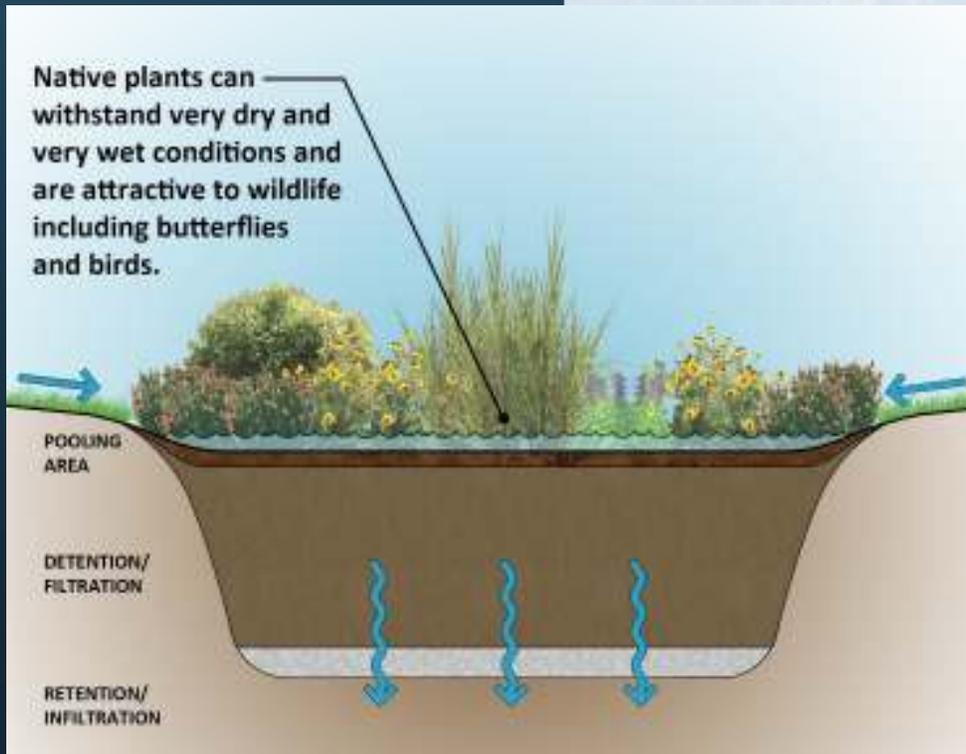
## Park Entry



## Planned Park Improvements

### Rain Gardens

- Collect and filter stormwater
- Protect natural resources and stormwater systems
- Can be attractive planted areas
- Feasibility is based on existing soils and ground water elevation





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## Proposed Park Improvements

### Playground

- Existing Conditions



LOCUS PLAN



## Proposed Park Improvements



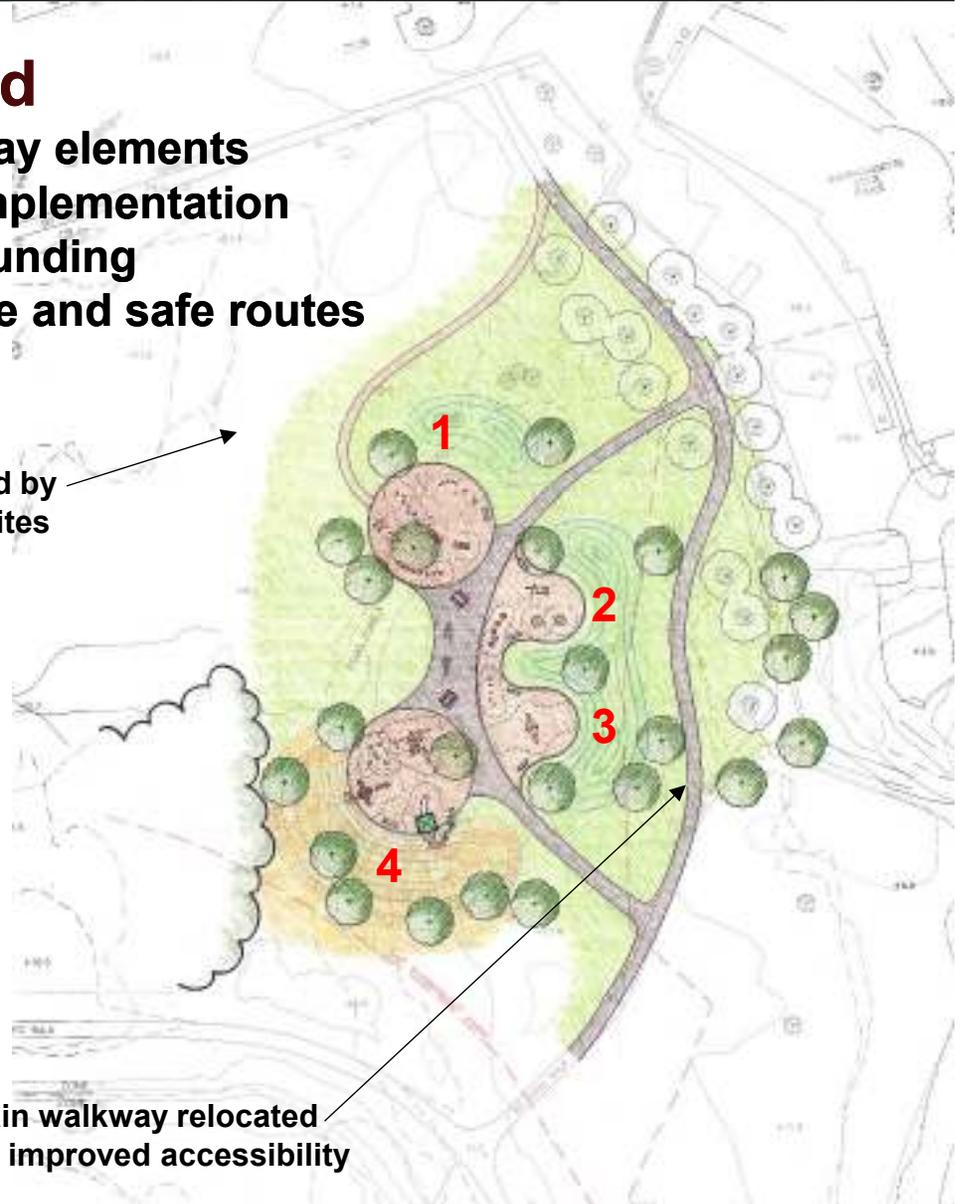
LOCUS PLAN

### Playground

- Natural play elements
- Phased implementation pending funding
- Accessible and safe routes

Open space created by removal of phragmites

Main walkway relocated for improved accessibility



## Proposed Park Improvements

## Playground – Area 1 Enlargement



A



B



C



D



E



F



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## Proposed Park Improvements

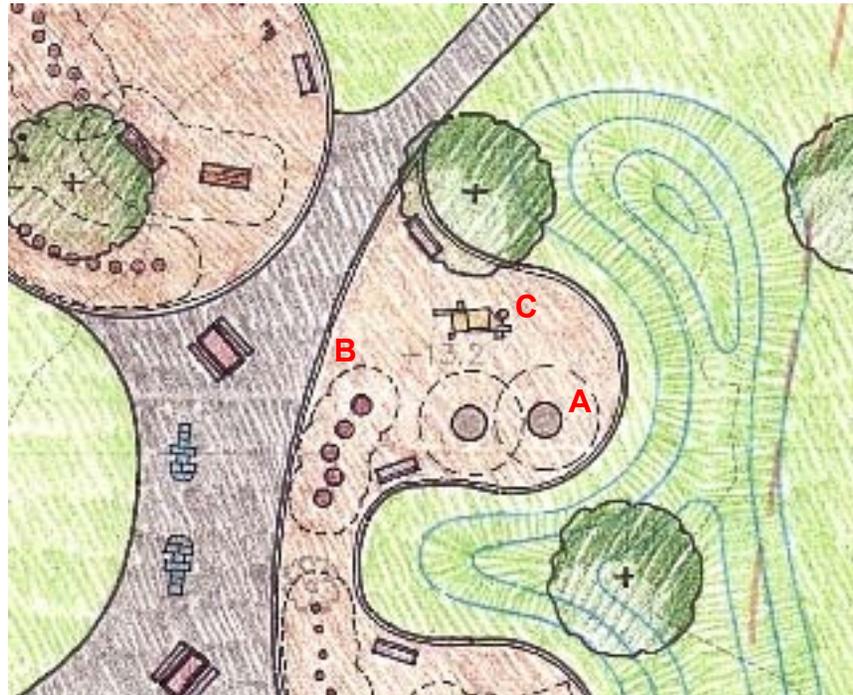
## Playground – Area 2 Enlargement



A



B



C



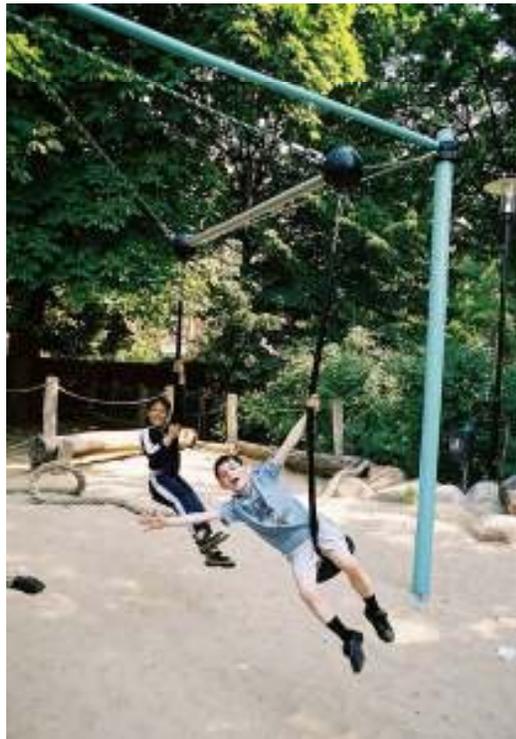
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## Proposed Park Improvements

## Playground – Area 3 Enlargement



A



B

## Proposed Park Improvements

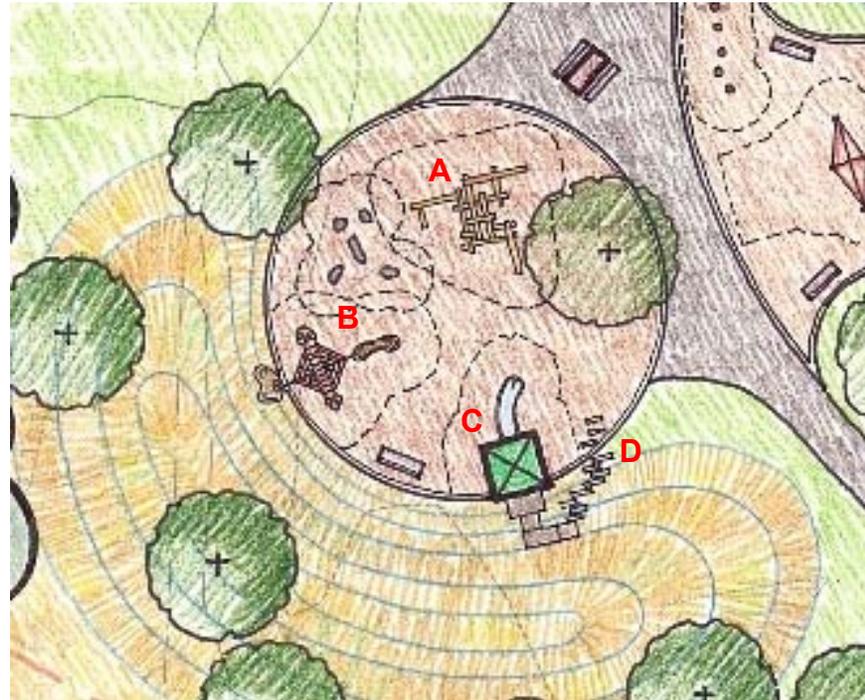
## Playground – Area 4 Enlargement



A



B



C



D



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## Proposed Park Improvements

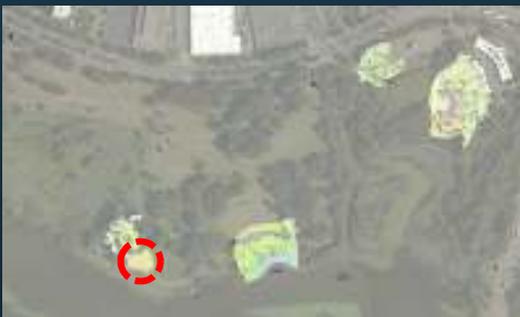


LOCUS PLAN

## Playground



## Proposed Park Improvements



LOCUS PLAN

## Pollinator Meadow

- Southern, full sun exposure
- Near river and trees for protection
- Identified and protected by short fence



## Proposed Park Improvements

### Labyrinth

- 50' Diameter within planted area
- Accessible, 3' wide concrete pathways
- Overlooks river



LOCUS PLAN





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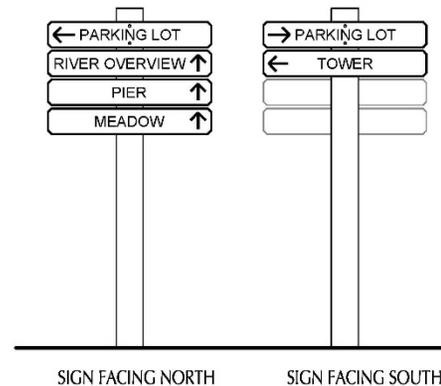


## Proposed Park Improvements

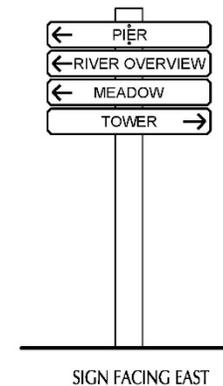


## Wayfinding Signage

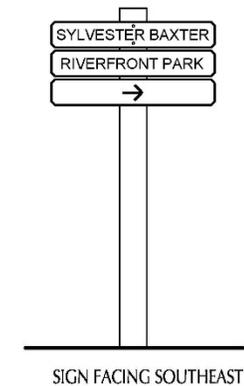
- Uses DCR standards
- Phased over several years
- Can be added to in the future



D: DOUBLE-SIDED SIGN



E: SINGLE-SIDED SIGN



F: SINGLE-SIDED SIGN

## Proposed Park Improvements

### Invasive Species Control: *Japanese Knotweed*

#### Problem

- Perennial plant
- Spreads by underground rhizomes, overtakes other plants

#### Proposed Control Strategy

- Multiple year effort
- Hand cut (or mow) once a week late May-early June (slows spread and reduces vigor)
- Apply foliar treatment of glyphosate in early August when it is flowering
- Must remove live plants and seeds to be effective



## Proposed Park Improvements



## Invasive Species Control: *Oriental Bittersweet*

### Problem

- Fast-growing invasive vine
- Wraps around trees and shrubs
- Eventual death of the host plant

### Proposed Control Strategy

- First cut high on the main branch
- Treat the cut main stem with triclopyr or glyphosate
- If vegetation present next season, cut again and treat with same systemic herbicide as previously



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## Proposed Park Improvements

## Overall Park Plan

PLUS:  
New Wayfinding Signage  
Throughout the Park

Bittersweet and Knotweed  
Removal Throughout  
The Park



## Proposed Park Improvements

### Structural Assessments

- Tower
- Pier
- Pedestrian Bridge



*Assessments are currently underway and will be used to evaluate future options*

## Proposed Park Improvements



## Vegetation Management Plan

### Vegetation Goals for the Park:

- Eradicate invasive plant species and encourage native plants
- Remove diseased or dead trees, and trees that pose a public safety hazard
- Protect & maintain mature trees in good condition
- Plant new trees that increase plant biodiversity and are not currently susceptible to local diseases and insect infestations



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## Schedule

### **Restoration: 2016**

- **Pavement Restoration**
- **Removal of invasive species**
  - Phragmites: Fall 2016**
  - Aquatic: Ongoing**

### **Proposed: Multi-Year, beginning 2016**

*(Requires Conservation Commission Approval)*

- **River Overview** *(funded for 2016)*
- **Parking Entry**
- **Playground**
- **Pollinator Meadow**
- **Labyrinth**
- **Wayfinding Signage**
- **Removal of Additional Invasive Plants**

**Next Public Meeting: Fall 2016**



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## Proposed Park Improvements

## Questions or Comments?

PLUS:  
New Wayfinding Signage  
Throughout the Park

Vegetation Management:  
Bittersweet and Knotweed  
Removal Throughout  
The Park;  
New Planting





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## Additional Information

### For more information:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/>

### If you have comments or suggestions on this project:

*Submit online:*

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/submit-public-comments/>

*Write:* Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Office of Public Outreach  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston, MA 02114

*Deadline:* **Wednesday, May 26, 2016**

*Note:* Public comments submitted to DCR may be posted on the DCR website in their entirety.

**If you have questions or concerns or wish to subscribe to a DCR general information or project-related listserv:** contact DCR's Office of Community Relations at 617-626-4973 or [Mass.Parks@state.ma.us](mailto:Mass.Parks@state.ma.us).