



RIVERSIDE PRESS SITE (5N)

Memorial Drive between River Street Bridge and Western Avenue Bridge

KEY RESOURCES

- *Seawall (1914)*
- *Memorial Drive (1914)*
- *Western Avenue Bridge (1924)*
- *River Street Bridge (1926)*

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

The Riverside Press was established here in 1852 and built a series of new structures on the site beginning in 1867. Because the buildings were close to the river, a seawall was required to allow parkway construction. If not for this industrial site, Memorial Drive would have been set further back from the river and the bank graded out gradually, as it is upstream.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ISSUES

This stretch of the reservation is a simple path and narrow green space along Memorial Drive. One existing shortcoming resulted from tree removal for a 1978 sewer construction project. The trees were not replaced, and the landscape remains barren. This segment is adjacent to Riverside Press Park, built in 1974, which provides active recreation opportunities for area residents and park users. The traffic signals at the intersections of Memorial Drive with River Street and Western Avenue have no pedestrian phases, making safe crossings difficult.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Plant new parkway trees for shade and continuity.**
- **Add interpretive elements that speak to the history of the former Riverside Press.**
- **Improve pathway border with new benches and new turf. Experiment with hardy turf grasses to see how they withstand traffic dirt, salt, and sand.**
- **Add pedestrian phases to the existing signals at the intersections of Memorial Drive and River Street and Western Avenue.**