



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Charles River



Allston-Brighton Recreation Facility Study

Public Meeting

Thursday, May 25, 2023

6:00pm



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Maura T. Healey

Lieutenant Governor

Kimberly Driscoll

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Rebecca L. Tepper

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

Brian Arrigo



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

DCR MISSION

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

5/25/2023

3

3

Meeting Logistics

- Our speakers will go through the presentation, asking everyone else to be muted.
- Two ways to ask questions during the meeting:
 - Raise your hand using the Zoom function
 - Use the chat function
- Tonight's meeting will be recorded.
 - The recording and slide deck will be available shortly after the meeting at: www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings
- You will have the opportunity to submit comments over the course of the next two weeks at DCR Public Comments:.

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>

Agenda

- Update on Birmingham Parkway Reconstruction Design
- Introduction and Project Goals
- Overview of Project Scope and Timeline
- Existing Conditions Analysis
- Review of Preferred Alternative
- Next Steps
- Questions & Comments

Birmingham Parkway Reconstruction Design

- DCR completed a feasibility study for Birmingham Parkway between Market Street and the pool site in June 2021 (including the rotary)
 - Five concepts shown for rotary
 - Three concepts shown for parkway
 - Public Meeting March 2021
- Project limits divided into parkway and rotary sections
 - Parkway section is under design
 - Pre-25% presented to public in February 2023
 - 25% Design expected in June 2023
 - Intersection redesign RFP is underway and expected to be awarded in the Summer 2023

Recreation Facility Study Goals

- Reclaim and re-envision parkland
- Engage the public and community
- Create a destination recreational facility with a pool
- Integrate a new facility into the surrounding Charles River Reservation & bike path
- Protect and enhance Charles River water quality
- Meet Executive Order 594 Leading by Example: Decarbonizing and Minimizing Environmental Impacts of State Government.

Project Scope and Timeline

- ✓ Procurement / Consultant Selection – March 2022
- ✓ Site Survey
- ✓ Existing Conditions Analysis
- ✓ Allston-Brighton Task Force Meetings: May 2021 and June 2022
- ✓ Public Meeting: December 2022
- ✓ Selection of Preferred Conceptual Alternative
- ☐ Study completion – Summer 2023

Consultant Team

MARYANN THOMPSON ARCHITECTS

www.maryannthompson.com

Maryann Thompson, FAIA
Principal

Zac Cardwell AIA, LEED AP
Project Manager



Civil Engineering, Surveying, Traffic Consultant

Fort Point Associates, Inc.

Urban Planning Environmental Consulting Project Permitting

Environmental Permitting Consultant



Cost Estimator



Katya Podsiadlo, ASLA
Principal

Natalie Adams, ASLA
Senior Landscape Architect



INVENTORY + ANALYSIS

Allston Brighton Recreation Facility
Allston/Brighton, Ma

Department of Conservation
and Recreation

May 25, 2023

MARYANN THOMPSON ARCHITECTS
www.maryannthompson.com

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NEARBY RECREATIONAL VENUES

- 1 - Hobart Park: Playground, Splash Pad + Basketball Court
- 2- Turnpike Overlook: Overgrown, former park to view Route 90?
- 3- Community Rowing, Inc.: Rowing Facility, Boat Launch
- 4- Daly Ice Rink + Fields: Ice Skating, Tennis Courts, Soccer/Football/Lacrosse Field, Softball/Fieldhockey Field
- 5- Squibnocket Park: 5 acre greenspace with .3 mi of public trails, benches, riverfront access

- 6- Arsenal Playground, Park + Skate Park: Playground, Picnic Area, Pathways, Skate Park, Soccer Field, Basketball Court,
- 7- Christian Herter Park - West: Charles Riverfront greenscape, Dr. Paul Dudley White Path and associated amenities including Woods, Community Gardens, Paths/Trails
- 8- Christian Herter Park + Artesani Playground Wading Pool and Spray Deck: Splash Pad, Playgrounds, Picnic Areas, Paths, Amphitheater, Gardens
- 9- Portsmouth Street Playground: Murray Field, Baseball, Playground, Paths, Benches, Basketball,
- 10- McKinney Playground: Playgrounds, Paths, Soccer Baseball + Softball Fields, Basketball, Street Hockey Rink

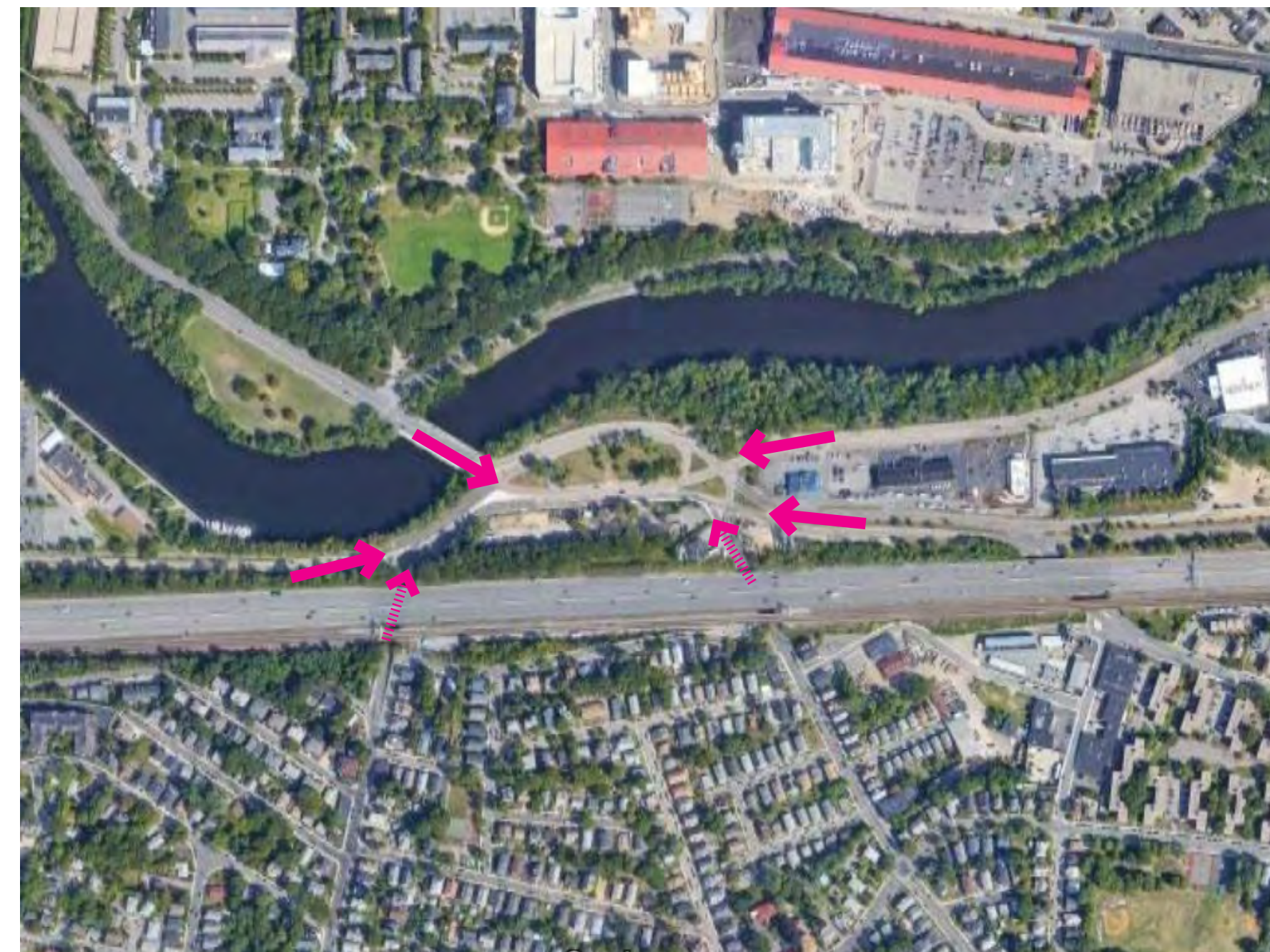
- 11- Oak Square YMCA: Indoor Pool + Gym Facilities
- 12- Hardiman Playground: Playground, Basketball + Baseball Field
- 13- Hunnewell Playground: 4.6 acres, Neighborhood Park, Softball Field, Soccer/Lacrosse Field, Pre-school Area with Swings, Off-Leash Dog Park, Not ADA accessible
- 14- Newton Yacht Club
- 15- Watertown Yacht Club
- 16- Watertown Riverfront Park + Braille Trail: 1/2 mi. Braille Trail, Paths, Basketball, Playground, Benches



FROM WATERTOWN



FROM NORTH BRIGHTON



ENTRY TO THE EYE

- Car-Centric, Traffic-Heavy
 - Major Confluence Of Roadways
 - Illegible Navigation
 - Lacking Signage
- Interstate 90 And Charles River Bisect The Area From Surrounding Neighborhoods
- Lacks Complete Streets Design



FROM NEWTON



FROM BRIGHTON



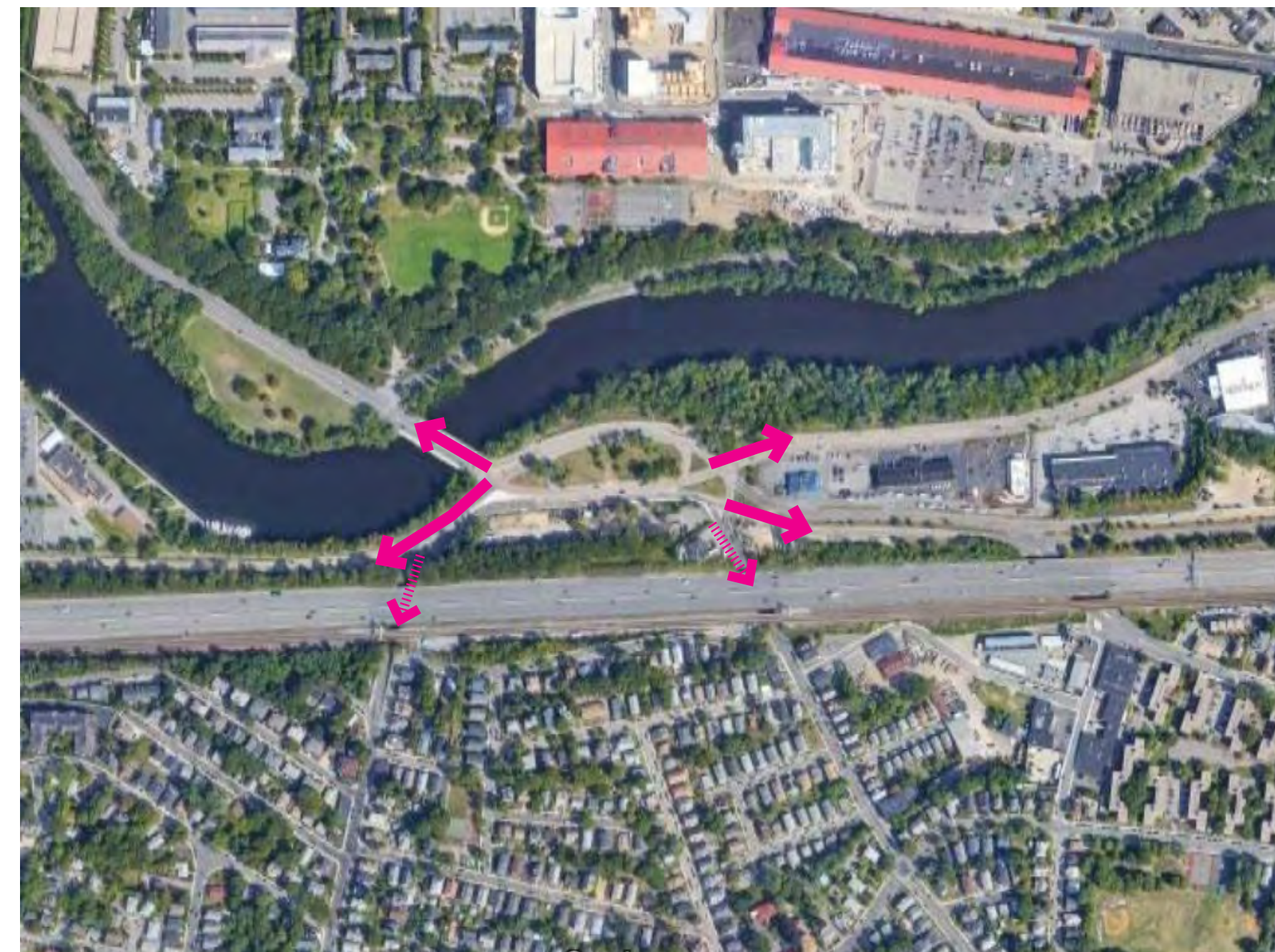
FROM ALLSTON/BOSTON



TO WATERTOWN



TO NORTH BRIGHTON



LEAVING THE EYE

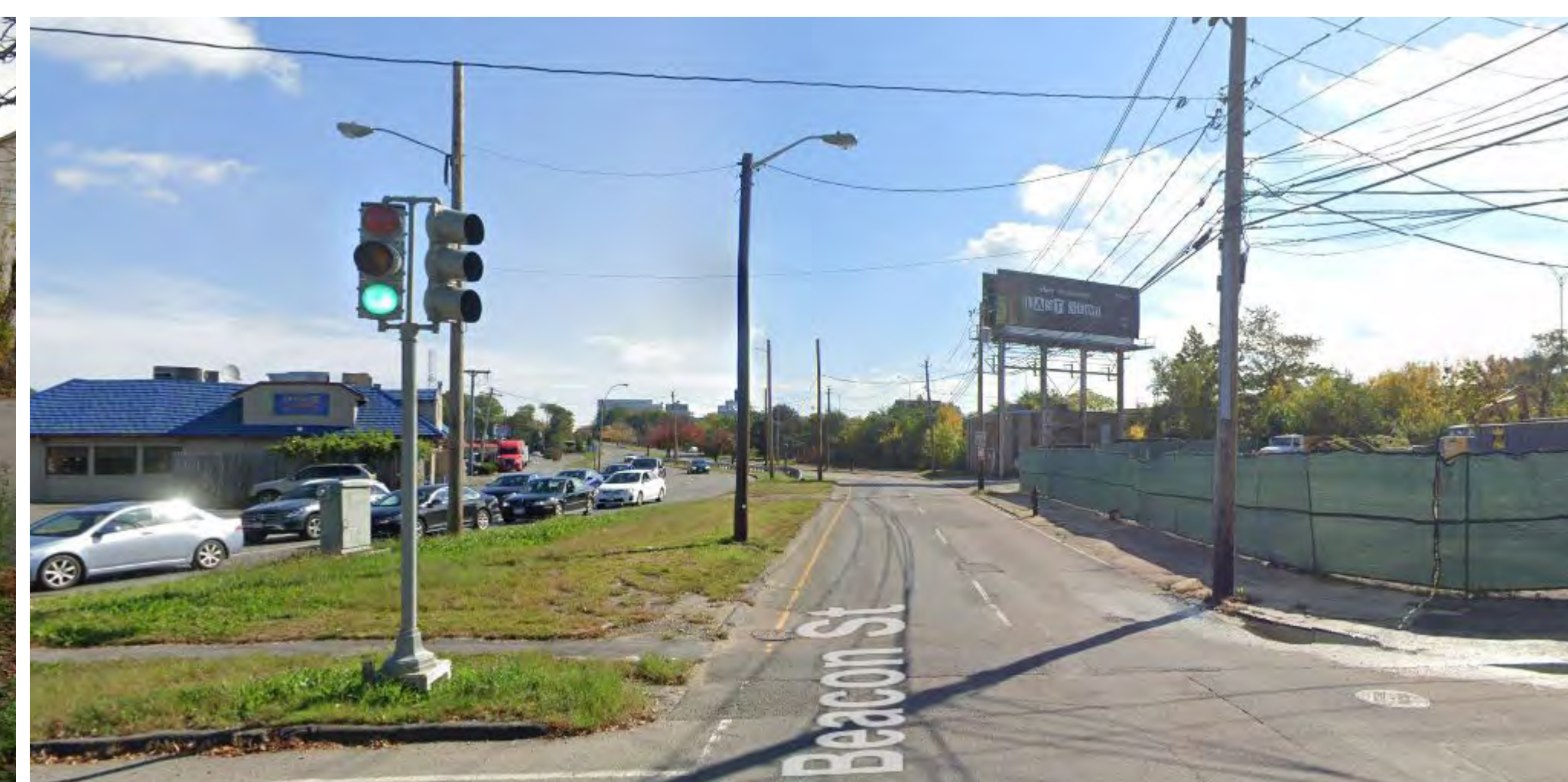
- Car-Centric, Boulevard Design
- Bridge/Tunnels
- Lacks Complete Streets Design



TO NEWTON



TO BRIGHTON



TO ALLSTON/BOSTON



THE EYE AND PEDESTRIAN/BIKE ACCESS

- Primary Connections East-West Not North-South
- Lacking In Pedestrian And Bicycle Infrastructure
- Difficult, Inefficient, Insufficient Crossings
- Dr. Paul Dudley White Trail Lacks Amenities, Just A Pass-Through
- Single Bench Is Aging, Not Accessible

- Pedestrian Sidewalks + Crossings
- Dr. Paul Dudley White Path (10' Asphalt)





DECAYING BARK



LEANING TRUNK



ROW OF GREEN ASH
CIRCA 1972



BLACK PINE IN DECLINE
CIRCA 1972



AGING GREEN ASH +
ASIAN CHERRY - CIRCA 1972



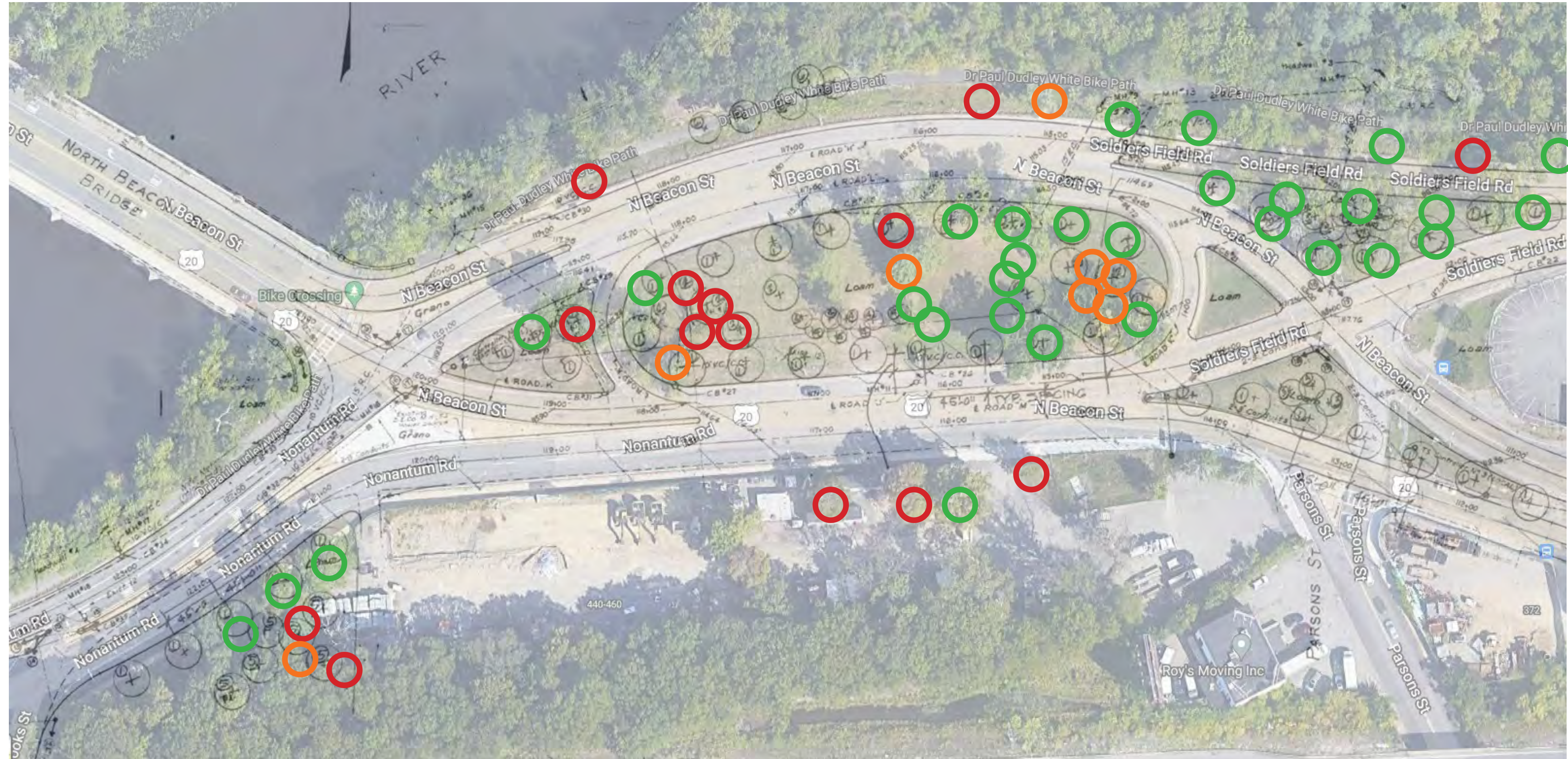
AGING ASIAN CHERRY
CIRCA 1972



GREEN ASH
CIRCA 1972



OAK WITH DECAY AT BASE



VEGETATION

ALONG RIVER BANK:

- Birch
- Oak
- Cherry
- Boxelder
- Numerous Invasive Species:
 - Japanese Knotweed: Difficult Removal
 - Buckthorn

WITHIN THE EYE:

- Aging Trees, Require Maintenance:
 - Pruning
 - Removal
 - Replacement

FORMER REC SITE:

- Several Large Shade Trees
- Oak
- Norway Maple
- Sugar Maple

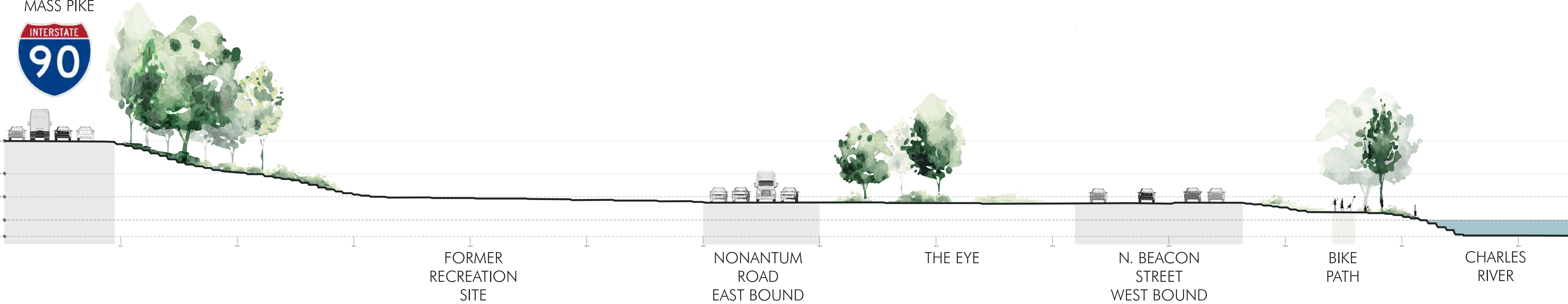
INTERSTATE 90 EMBANKMENT:

- Norway Maple
- Oak

	POOR - FAIR CONDITION	PROPOSED REMOVAL
	FAIR - GOOD CONDITION	PROPOSED REMOVAL
	GOOD CONDITION	PRESERVE + PROTECT unless otherwise required



MASS PIKE



INTERSTATE ROUTE 90 is elevated +20 feet. Traffic Noise from Route 90 is not overwhelming due to topography

THE EYE roadways are basically flat. Traffic is unorganized, lacking traffic signage (yield signs!?) and Noisy.

DR. PAUL DUDLEY WHITE PATH is +/- 4 feet below THE EYE. This helps create a sense of separation from traffic.

CHARLES RIVER is +/- 5 feet or more below the PATH. No apparent, gradual flood plain. Edge of bank is prone to erosion as a result.

An aerial photograph of the Allston/Brighton area in Boston, Massachusetts. The image shows a dense urban landscape with a grid of streets, numerous buildings, and several bodies of water, including the Charles River and various ponds. The overall tone is dark and monochromatic.

RECAP OF ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC MEETING (12.15.2022)

Allston Brighton Recreation Facility
Allston/Brighton, Ma

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