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4.1 | Landscape Management Plan

Introduction

Herter Park is one of the most heavily used and programmed park in the DCR system - an invaluable green open space and recreation resource, and a focal point of various events. The wear and tear of its high usage is compounded with climate change impacts. An adequate level of landscape management is a critical need for the park’s sustained day-to-day use and long term sustainability.

The Landscape Management Plan (LMP) for Herter Park will help the DCR allocate its resources to achieve the desired maintenance standards, which should be consistent with other DCR reservations and properties. The Herter Park LMP complies with the Charles River Vegetation Management Plan (CRVMP).

Responsibilities

There are four entities that share responsibilities for the LMP implementation: DCR operations staff, DCR contractors, partner organizations, and long-term permit holders. Note that the Operation and Maintenance Plans (O&M Plans) for the park facilities are not part of the LMP.

- **DCR Operations Staff** has the primarily responsibility for lawn mowing and tree pruning. All leaf litter and trimmings to be removed per TMDL (*Total Maximum Daily Load for Nutrients In the Lower Charles River Basin, Massachusetts*) guidelines.
- **DCR Contractors** are engaged to perform more specialized tasks, such as special events trimming, invasive species removal, planting, hazard tree removal and pruning, green infrastructure maintenance, and bank stabilization.
- **Partner Organizations** such as the Charles River Conservancy provide volunteer assistance in manual and mechanical invasive management, planting, tree watering, tree management, litter removal and clean-ups.
- **Permit Holders**, such as the Northeastern University, Paddle Boston, and the Friends of Herter Park, perform tasks within their permit area per the executed MOU.

LMP Components

- LMP Diagrams, which define the limits of landscape management areas, as defined in the CRVMP.
- LMP Implementation Schedule, which documents routine activities, calendar by season and month, and division of responsibilities.

For recommended plant lists and seed mixes for different habitats / landscape types, reference the CRVMP.

LMP Diagrams with Landscape Management Areas

Herter Park is divided in four management areas: West, Central, East, and Eliot Bridge - see the ‘Management Areas Key Plan’ on the following pages.

Each of the four Management Area Diagrams shows the outlines of the CRVMP landscape areas mapped over an aerial photo of the area. The CRVMP defines Landscape Areas as “*stretches of riverbank and parkland with similar ecologic conditions and similar management needs*”. For more detail on the specific characteristics of the landscape areas and typical character images, see *Chapter 2.9: Landscape and Vegetation*.

CRVMP Landscape Areas

- L - Lawn: Mowed turf, including athletic fields, day use areas
- LA - Landscaped Areas: Maintained areas, including cultural landscapes, plant beds, community gardens, vistas, etc.
- CI - Circulation: Pathways, roads, bridges
- GI - Green Infrastructure: Nature-based stormwater management facilities; Follow OPM
- S - Structures: Buildings, gates, fences, shoreline infrastructure, utility infrastructure, etc.
- W - Wetland: No management; Requires permit for each project.
- T - Wooded: Mature canopy trees or shrubs with woodland ground plane
- M - Meadow: All meadows including upland and wet
- RE - River’s Edge: Riverbank

LMP Implementation Schedule

The Implementation Schedule Chart is a companion to the Management Area Diagrams. The intent of the chart and the diagrams are to provide a clear graphic reference to the persons implementing the maintenance in the field. For each of the Landscape Areas, identified with symbols that correspond to the Diagram, the chart includes:

- List of maintenance activities relating to that area, with noted key requirements such as frequency of implementation and basic requirements (e.g. height of mowing, depth of mulch)
- Calendar of implementation by month and season
- Responsibilities chart, including DCR Operations staff, outside contractors, stewardship organizations, and permit holders.

Landscape Management Areas Key Plan

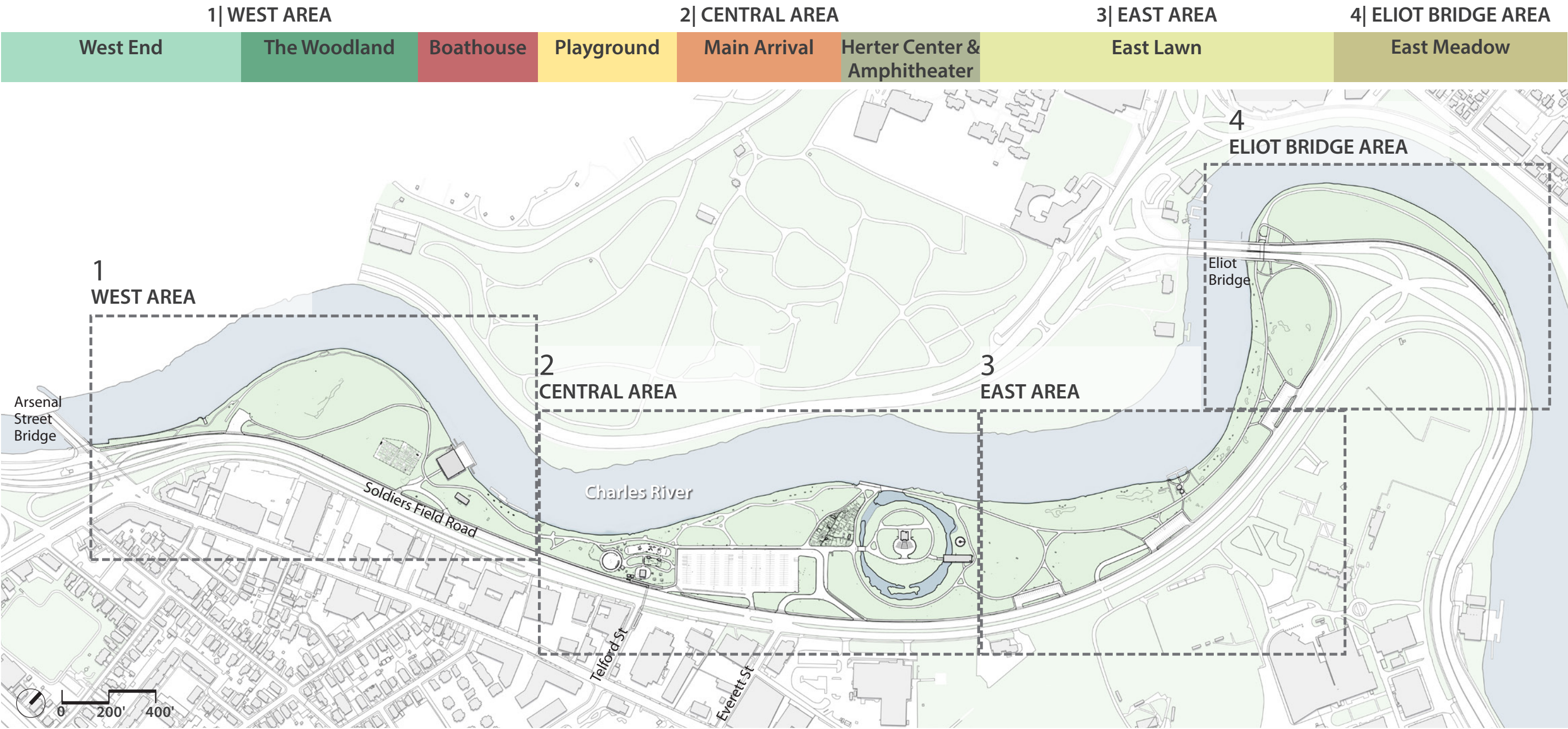


Figure 4-1. Management Areas Key Plan.

1 | WEST Management Area Diagram



Figure 4-2. Landscape Management Areas Key Plan

2 | CENTRAL Management Area Diagram

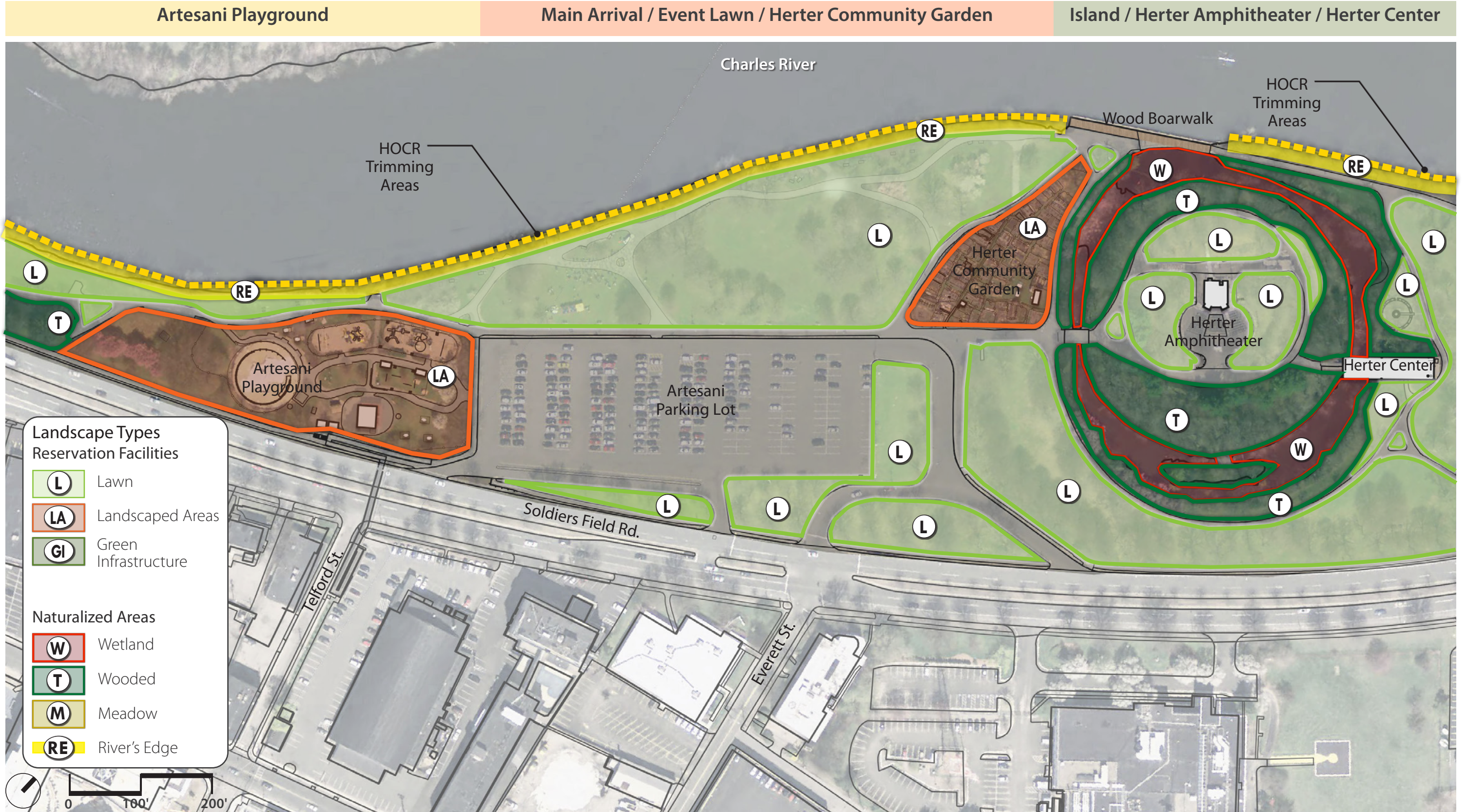


Figure 4-3. Central Area Management Area Diagram

3 | EAST Management Area Diagram

Island / Amphi. / Herter Center

East Lawn



East Area Management Area Diagram

4 | ELIOT BRIDGE Management Area Diagram



Figure 4-4. Eliot Bridge Area Management Area Diagram

Herter Park Landscape Management Plan: Implementation Schedule

Last Updated: 9/15/2022

Landscape Area Symbol	Tasks	Frequency/ Notes	Location	Spring Cleanup		Growing Season					Fall Cleanup		Winter Activities			Responsibility			
				MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	DCR Ops	DCR Contracts	DCR Partners	Permit Holders
L	Lawn																		
	Lawn Mowing	Frequency: 2 times monthly during March to November as required Height: 4 inches. Remove litter prior to mowing. Mow no more than 1/3 of the leaf blade off, mowing with sharp blades at a slow enough ground speed so as to actually cut the leaf rather than tear or rip it. Sharpen mower blades as soon as grass tips appear jagged or brown when cut.	All Areas																Within pertinent MOU areas
	Sweep clippings	Sweep any grass clippings that land on a paved surface to the lawn	Paths																—/—
	Lawn Seeding and Topdressing	Early fall preferred	All Areas																—/—
	Lawn Aerating	Early fall preferred	High-use areas, along path edges, compacted areas																—/—
	Litter Removal	Weekly or as needed	All Areas																—/—
	Special Event Site Preparation		Central Area, East Area									★							
	Special Event Restoration		Central Area, East Area									★							
LA	Landscaped Areas																		
	Seasonal Cleanup	Frequency: 2 times a year, early Spring and late Fall Raking, clearing away of plant debris , road salt, and other fallen matter after seasonal storm events	Artesani Playground, Herter Community Garden, C. River Community Garden, Canoe & Kayak Plant Bed																—/—
	Planting	Frequency: as required from April through June and September through October	Artesani Playground, Herter Community Garden, C.River Community Garden, Canoe & Kayak Plant Bed																—/—
GI	Green Infrastructure (Currently N/A)																		
	GI Maintenance and Debris Removal																		
	Mowing																		
	Invasive Plants Removal																		
	Silt Clean Out																		
	Circulation /Paths																		
	Cutting and Trimming	Trails: 5 feet - buffer width Bridges, Buildings: 10 feet - buffer width																	
	Mowing	Frequency: 2 times monthly during March to November as required Height: 4 inches Trails: 5 feet - buffer width Bridges, Buildings: 10 feet - buffer width																	
	Grafitti Removal	as-needed																	
M	Meadows																		
	Mowing	Frequency: 1 time per year, annual cut should be done when the soil surface is dry, and equipment can safely be brought on-site in early Spring during March to May. Height: 4" inches																	
	Overseeding	Frequency: 1 time per year or as required; March to April or August to November. Meadow seed mix: shall be specified by DCR																	
	Plug Planting																		
	Weed Control / Invasives Removal	Regular weed control to be done months throughout May to August																	
	Litter Removal																		
W	Wetlands																		
	Invasive Removals	All work to be coordinated by DCR Natural Resources																	
	Litter Removal	All work to be coordinated by DCR Natural Resources																	
T	Woodlands																		
	Pruning	All work to be coordinated by DCR Natural Resources																	
	Invasives Removal	All work to be coordinated by DCR Natural Resources																	
	Litter Removal																		
RE	River's Edge Special Events																		
	Cutting and Trimming	All work to be coordinated by DCR Natural Resources																	
	Litter Removal	All work to be coordinated by DCR Natural Resources																	

NOTES:

Figure 4-5. Herter Park Landscape Management Plan: Implementation Schedule.