

Roxbury Heritage State Park

Signature Park Project



DCR Community Planning Workshop #1

March 24, 2014, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 pm
Roxbury Community College, Roxbury, MA



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Deval L. Patrick

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

John P. Murray



DCR Mission Statement



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



Meeting Purpose

To invite the community to help create a vision and refine the project objectives for improvements to Roxbury Heritage State Park.



Project Goals



- Create a place where the community can learn and celebrate the rich and diverse history of Roxbury
- Create a welcoming outdoor passive recreation area and make the park more accessible, raise its profile, and engage more people in the process.



Project Scope

- Interactive exhibits in the Dillaway-Thomas House on Roxbury's rich natural, cultural, and social history
- Landscape restoration and overall improvements to the park
- Removal of the invasive vegetation that blocks the views of the Boston skyline
- Upgrades and renovations to the Dillaway-Thomas House as necessary
- Consider an archaeology lab for Roxbury youth



Roxbury Heritage State Park Project

Timeline

Collecting Community Input

February – end of May:

- 3 public workshops:
 - #1: *Tonight*:** Input into Goals, Objectives, strategies & ideas regarding developing program
 - #2: *April 24* :** Presentation of alternatives for public feedback
 - #3: *May 22*:** Presentation of Preferred Alternative for public feedback
- Targeted outreach & other opportunities for input.

Updates & Check-ins

June/July:

Finalizing design and preparation of RFPs to solicit construction contractors

July/August:

Bidding & construction contracts awarded

August/September:

Construction starts

End of December 2014:

Construction and exhibit & media installation complete

January 2015: *Ready for the public to enjoy!*



Roxbury Heritage State Park Signature Park Project First Steps

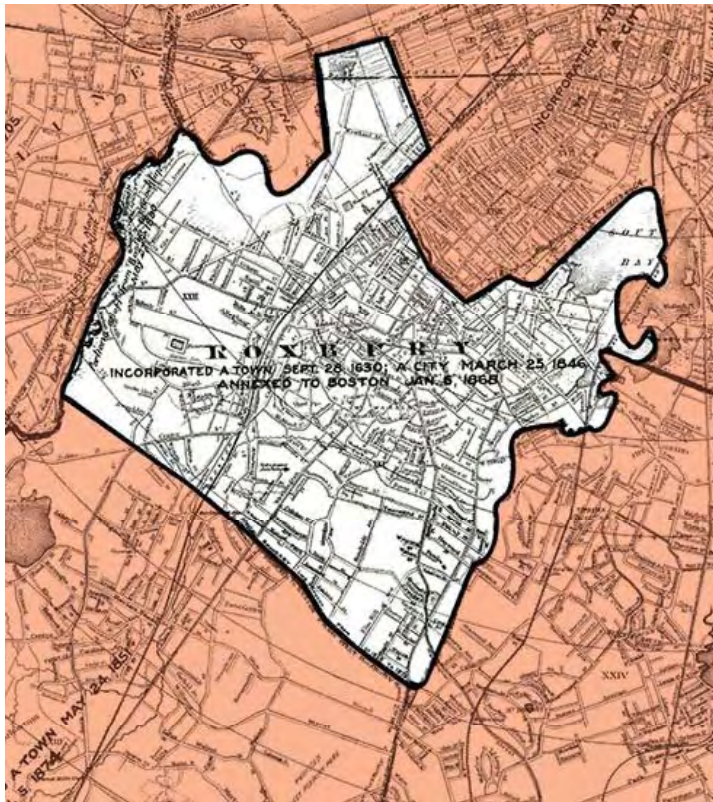
- Governor Deval Patrick announcement of \$2 million reinvestment in RHSP
- Research & assessment of existing conditions
- Outreach and multiple meetings with stakeholder groups
- Guided Tour of Roxbury
- Review of relevant previous documents, materials including 1987 RHSP Master Plan



Photo credit: Eric Haynes, Governors Office



Roxbury Heritage State Park Master Plan (1987)

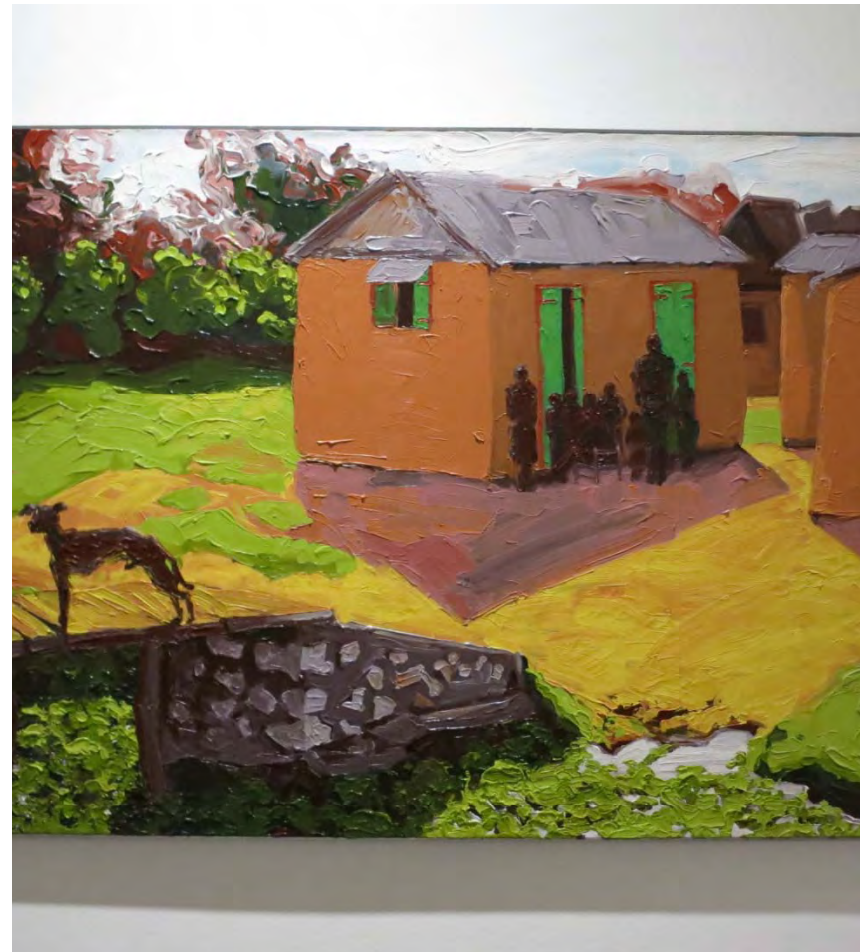


- Plan prepared by MA Dept. of Environmental Management with Members of Roxbury State Park Advisory Committee
- MA Heritage Park system conceived in 1978 by Governor Michael Dukakis
- **Theme: Roxbury – Its People in Time & Place**

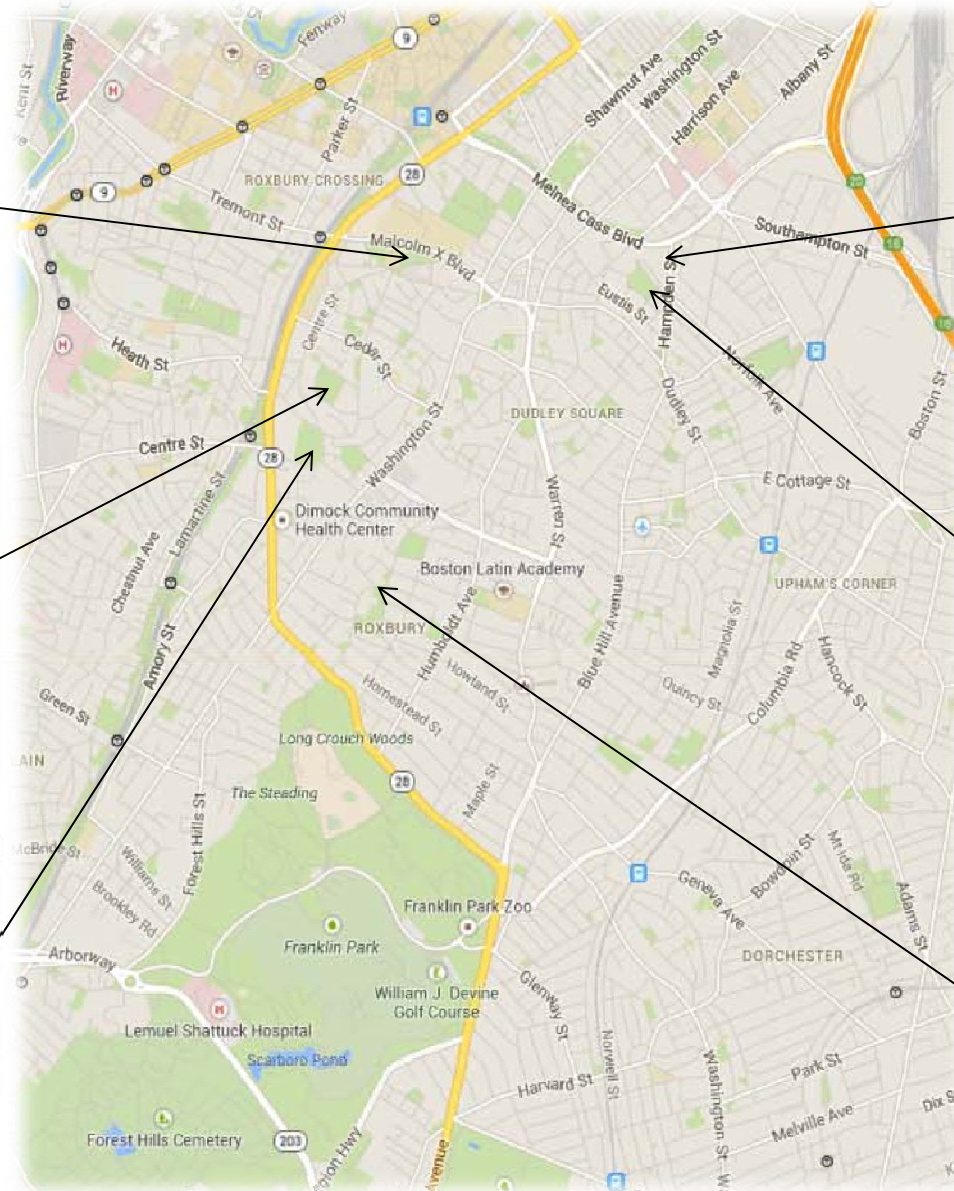


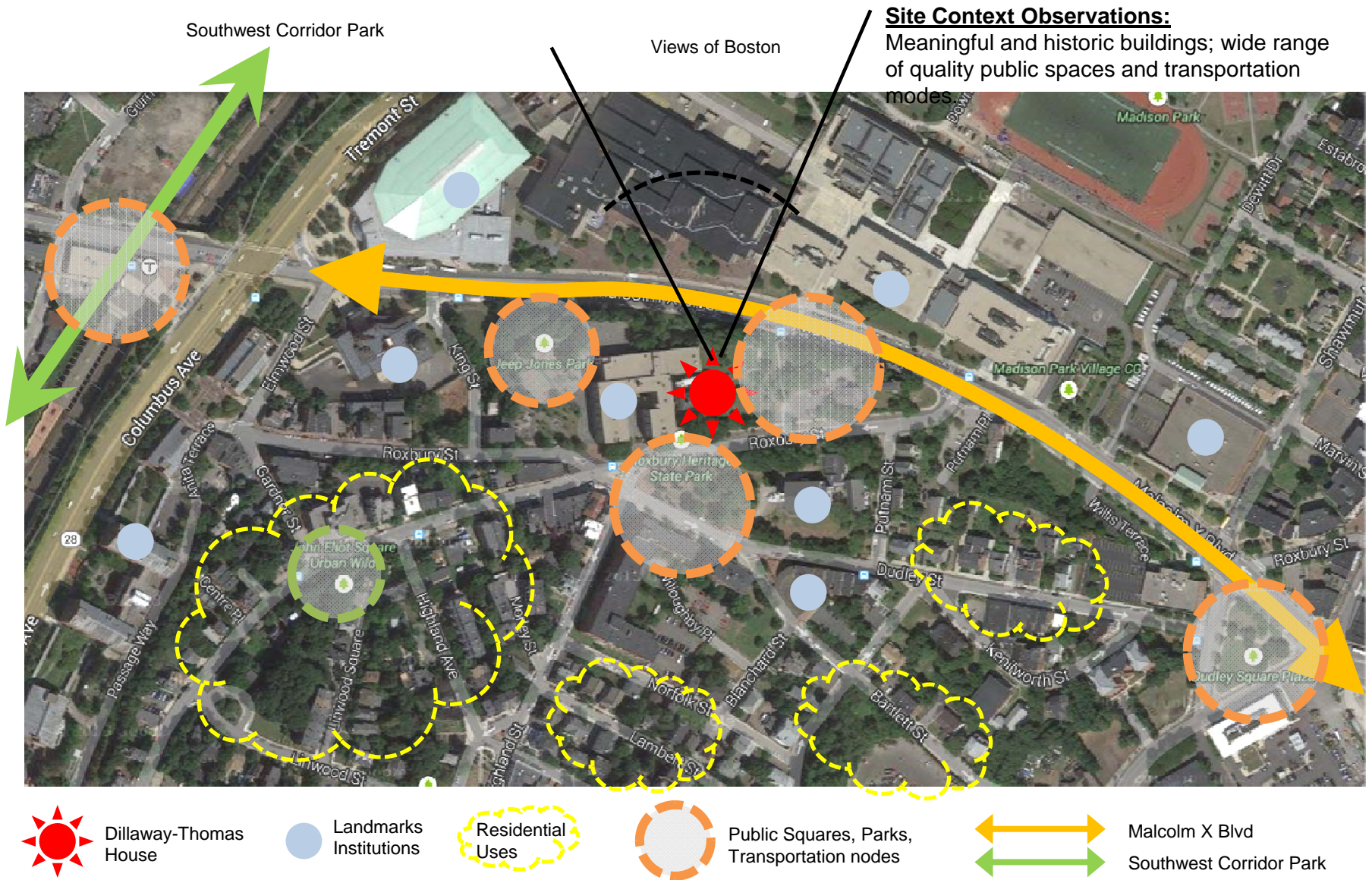
Roxbury Heritage State Park 1987 Master Plan Objectives

- To help define and **celebrate the rich, diverse history** of Roxbury's people and land.
- To **promote a strong, positive image for Roxbury** and instill a sense of pride and ownership among Roxbury residents.
- To **enhance the economic revitalization** of neighboring areas, and Roxbury as a whole.
- To **preserve Roxbury's historic buildings** and landmarks for the maximum use and benefit of the community.
- To **create employment, career, and educational opportunities** for Roxbury's young people.
- To **join with Roxbury's many other community institutions** to preserve and celebrate Roxbury's history and revitalize its economy, for its people.



Historic Roxbury Today





Clarendon Hill Consulting
Leonardi Aray Architects

DCR Roxbury Heritage State Park
Dillaway-Thomas House
Building Conditions Assessment

Site Analysis

03.17.14

Dillaway-Thomas House in History



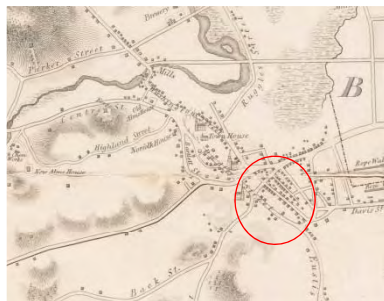
Boston & Roxbury ,1775



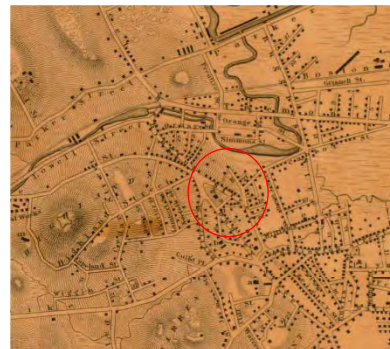
"Meeting House Hill" - 1790



"Meeting House Hill" - 1790



Roxbury,1832



Roxbury, 1843



Eliot Square, 1895



1910.



1930.



1941 (Historic American Building Survey).

Dillaway-Thomas House in History



Prior to 1989 restoration.



Today.

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Today: Existing Constraints

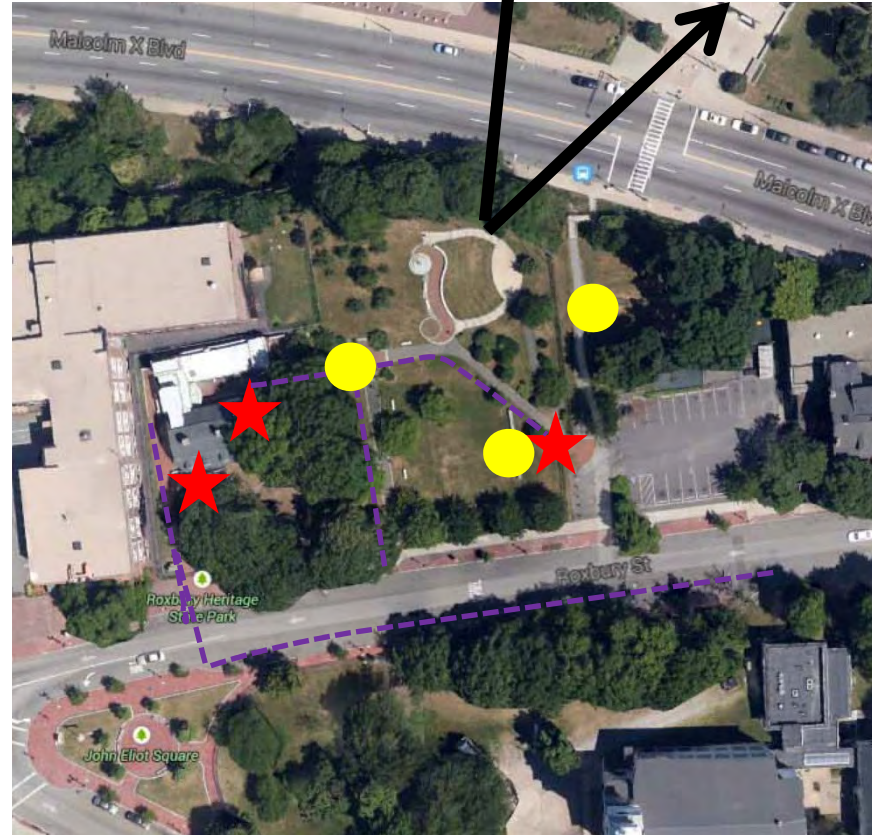
- Fence & locked gate are not welcoming
- Lack of clear signage results in a lack of information regarding what the RHSP is/can be used for
- Views of the Boston skyline are partially obstructed by overgrown vegetation
- Easement divides the space
- Space limitations constrain possibilities regarding exhibits and programming



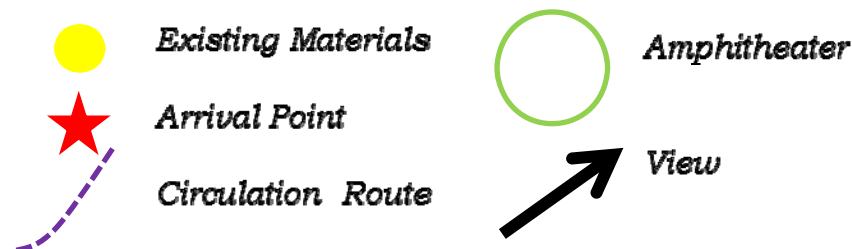
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Future Opportunities

- Opportunities for learning and education
- Opportunities for fun!
- Create a more welcoming sense of arrival
- Provide an improved venue for performances/gatherings
- Open views to Boston from the park
- Improve circulation throughout



- Create more of a community resource
- Direct visitors to other related historic sites in Roxbury
- Create a changing sense of discovery for visitors (especially children)
- Create a historical narrative through details and amenities
- Provide opportunities to learn about various parts of Roxbury history in a variety of ways, included self-guided exhibits.





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Preliminary Goals & Objectives

Based on on-going stakeholder input

- Celebrate rich and diverse history of Roxbury
- Make improvements to the Dillaway-Thomas House and increase its use by the community
- Include the community during all phases of planning and construction
- Restore and interpret the historic landscape



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Long-term Aspirations



- Project a strong positive image for Roxbury, amplify neighborhood pride, and reinforce community character
- Foster a culture of stewardship

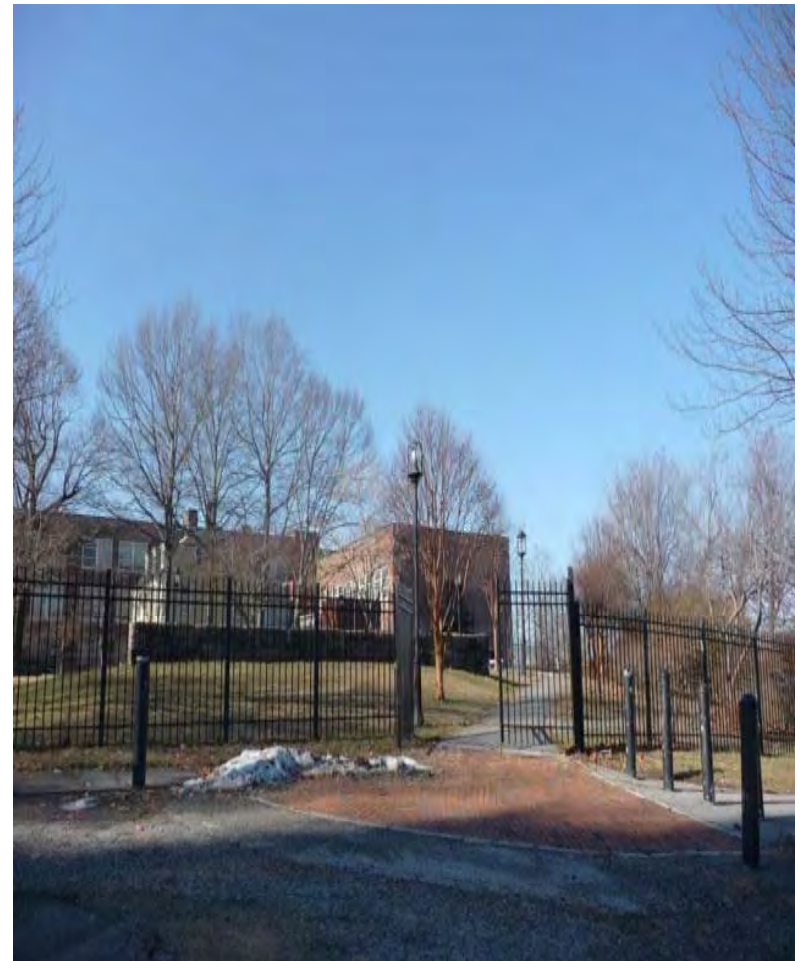


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Tonight: Let us begin...

Write your answers to the following questions:

- What are your favorite things about the RHSP?
- What are your least favorite things about the RHSP?
- What would your highest priorities be for improving the RHSP?
- What makes the RHSP unique?



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Tonight: Visit Goal Stations



At each goal station:

- Use post-it notes to add your comments
- Use dots to indicate priorities.

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Upcoming Public Workshop(s)

Please bring:

- **Photos of you & your family for us to scan**

Start thinking about...

- **Stories of you and your family to record on video (later in the process)**

These will be included in the archives and/or future exhibits

- **April 21, 2014**

Patriot's Day:
Display design
concepts and ask
for feedback

- **April 24, 2014**

Public Workshop #2
Public Feedback on
project alternatives



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Next Steps

- **April 21, 2014**, Patriot's Day: Display design concepts and ask for feedback
- **April 24, 2014**: Public Workshop #2
Public Feedback on project alternatives
- **May 29, 2014**: Public Workshop #3
Public feedback on preferred project alternatives
- **June 2014**: Final design begins
- **August 2014**: Project goes out to bid and construction begins
- **December**: *Project substantially complete and ribbon-cutting!*





Additional Information



If you have questions or comments—

Email: **dcr.updates@state.ma.us**

Call: **617-626-4974**

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

Note: Public comments submitted to DCR by email or letter will be posted on the DCR website in their entirety, and no content, including personal information, will be redacted.

If you would like to subscribe to a DCR project-related or general information listserv, please email dcr.updates@state.ma.us, noting in the subject line to which listserv you would like to subscribe.

For more information—

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