

Roxbury Heritage State Park Project



DCR Public Meeting

January 19, 2017, 6:30pm Roxbury Community College



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 P. Roy



for the well-being of all.

DCR - Cultural Resource Stewards

- Over 2,000 historic sites within DCR's 450,000 acres
- Over 100 are listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- 12 National Historic Landmarks



DCR - Cultural Resource Stewards

- Responsible for the protection of cultural resources representing over 12,000 years of history
- Buildings, structures, landscapes, archaeological sites and archival resources





Meeting Purpose

- Provide an update on project design and construction, including schedule and logistics
- Discuss ongoing community participation moving forward
- Respond to questions and community concerns about the project





Roxbury Heritage State Park: Important Community Resource

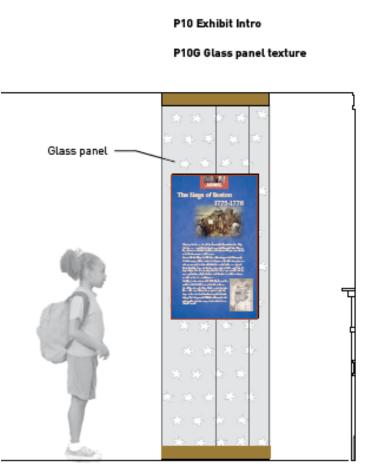
- Site has been used for thousands of years.
- The Dillaway Thomas House, built in the 1750s, stands as a witness to the changes in Roxbury over time.
- DCR recognizes that the property is an important community landmark and serves a symbol of Roxbury's enduring spirit.





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 Background

- Roxbury Heritage SP founded in 1984
- Opened to public in 1992 last HSP
- Original Master Plan never fully realized
- Current Project Kick-off in 2014
- Initial Scope
 - Minor cosmetic improvements to the Dillaway Thomas House
 - Rehabilitate the park landscape
 - o Installation of exhibits
- Original Budget \$ 2million for design and construction

Public Process = Better Project

- Three public workshops
- Numerous targeted stakeholder meetings
- Public process resulted in improving project scope including additional restrooms, improved entrance, expanded program space, community gallery space, a more welcoming and flexible outdoor space and more robust exhibits.





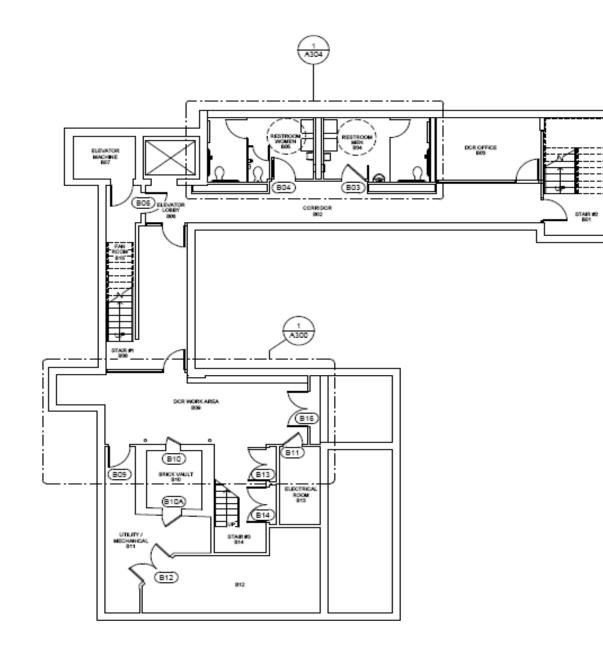
Project Delays

- Expansion of scope triggered the need for a new design contract
- Coordination with other agencies
- Additional permits
- Identify additional funding

Early Action Projects

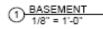
- New roof, chimney repointing, gutters and downspouts
- New boiler and heating distribution system
- Selective demolition to remove abandoned HVAC ductwork

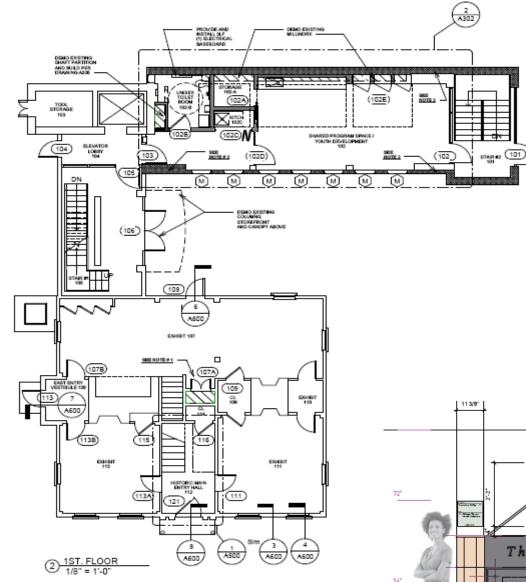
Investment by DCR: \$250,000



Final Design-Basement Improvements

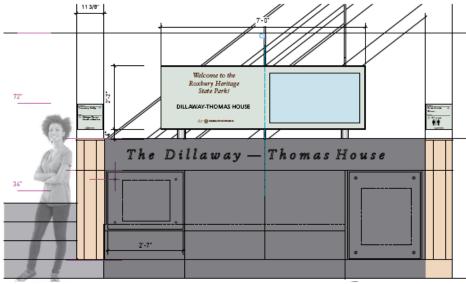
- Rehabilitation of restrooms
- Improved workshop space for staff

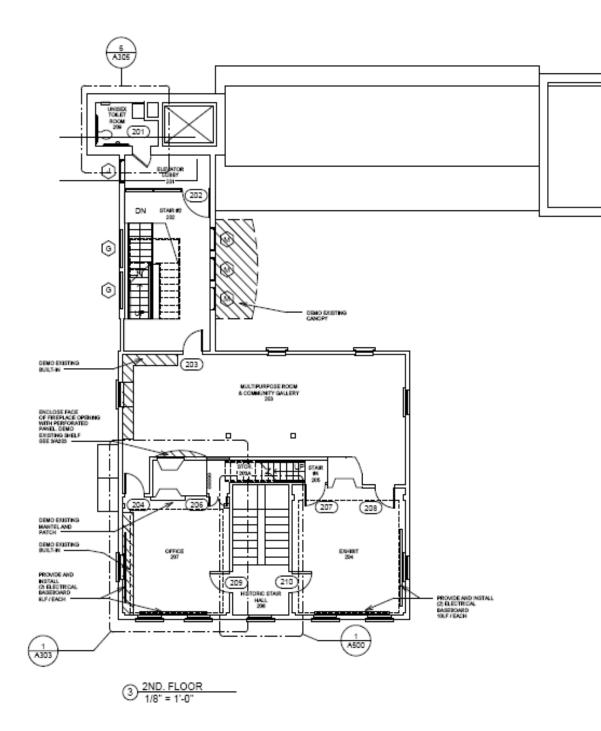




Final Design-1st Floor Improvements

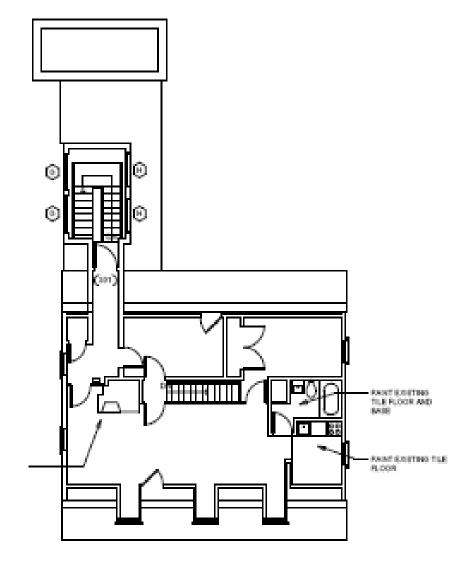
- More welcoming entrance
- Shared program space: new unisex toilet, kitchenette, exhibit space and audio visual upgrades
- New finishes throughout-flooring, painting, light fixtures and electrical service
- Expanded exhibit space in historic house





Final Design-2nd Floor Improvements

- New unisex bathroom
- Community gallery
- Expanded exhibit space
- Audio visual upgrades



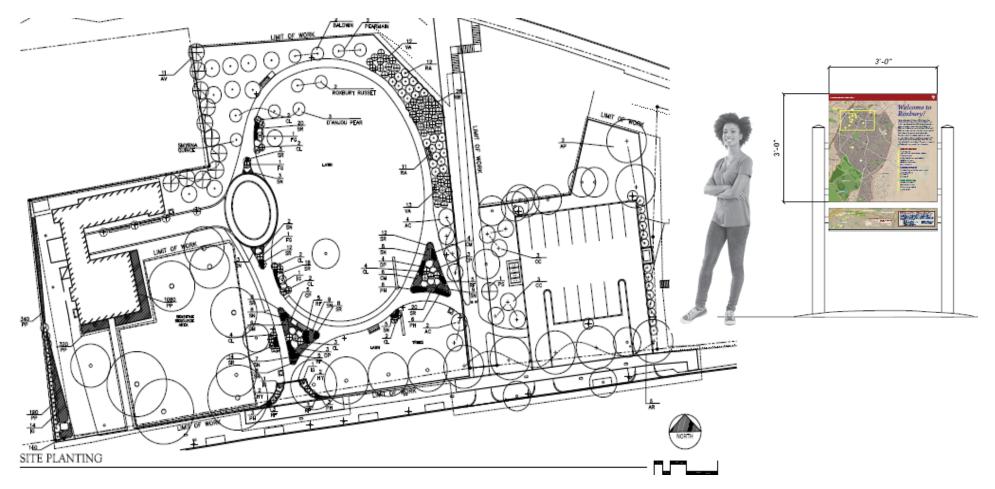
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Final Design-3rd Floor Improvements

• Upgrading finishes

Exterior Improvements

- Carpentry Repairs
- Masonry repointing
- Exterior painting

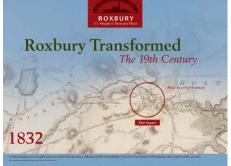


Final Design- Site Plan

- Welcoming entrance: new fence and gate, signage, and orientation kiosk
- Central gathering and performance space; improved walkways
- Expansion of orchard
- New site furnishings, lighting and outdoor exhibits
- Reorganized and improved parking lot

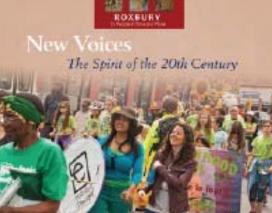
Status of Exhibit Design

- Construction bid package being prepared
- Final graphic design underway
- Final text under review



During the 1800s, Roxbury grew to become a small but thriving city. Through enormous engineering projects, the tidal marshes surrounding Boston were gradually filled in. As Boston grew, Roxbury grew, and the changes meant more industry, more opportunities for business, more jobs for immigrants, and more housing for the ever-increasing population. Roxbury became a divided community: old families and new immigrants students and child laborers; carefully tended orchards high on a hill, with smelly tanneries, slaughterhouses and a rubber factory below. In their comfortable houses, ladles sipped tea and chatted with distinguished guests. In crowded apartments, workers headed out each morning to climb onto streetcars, heading for jobs in other parts of Boston. All of these made up the new texture of Roxbury.



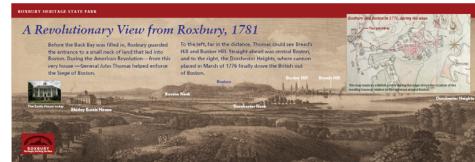


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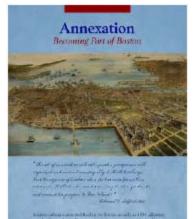
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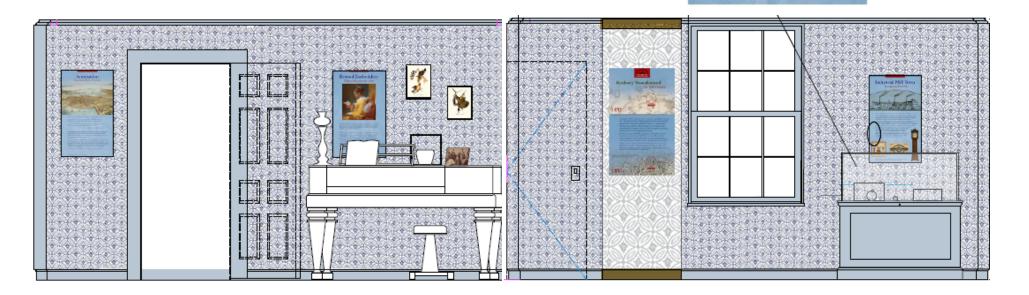


Status of Exhibit Design

- Northern Light Productions (media consultant) is under contract to produce interactive maps, audio and video components.
- Installation will be coordinated with the completion of interior rehabilitation of the house – May 2017



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Project Construction

- Project went out to bid in August
- Bids received at the end of September
- Contract awarded to Campbell Construction Group, LLC
- Contract Value \$2.59 million
- Construction period February 2017-August 2017



Campbell Construction Group, LLC

- General contracting firm specializing in restoration of historic structures throughout New England, NY and NJ
- Over 50 structures on the National Register of Historic Places
- Preservation Awards for work on Northbridge Town Hall and Gloucester City Hall; recently nominated for an award for work on Theodore Roosevelt's birthplace
- Nearby projects include:
 - Repairs to the Hillside Stable Blue Hills
 - Restoration of the Sallyport Doors Ft Independence, Castle Island
 - o United First Parish Church Cupola Repairs, Quincy
 - Rehabilitation of Magazine Beach Powder House, Cambridge



Campbell Construction Group, LLC









Construction Logistics

- Hours of work: 7:00 AM 3:00PM, Monday through Friday (no weekends anticipated)
- Contractor parking: limited to existing DCR lot
- No construction trailer 3rd floor of house will be used for construction office
- Construction fence securing site
- All staging will be within the construction fence
- Periodic impacts to pedestrian access through site (Gay Street)
- Portable toilets on site, but out of sight



Construction Sequence

- Mobilization, secure construction site *February 2017*
 - Temp fence phase 1
 - Safety measures for job site and community
- Begin interior restoration efforts *February 2017*
 - Demo, and new construction interiors
- Begin Site Work *March 2017* (weather depending)
 - Temp fence phase 2
 - Sidewalk and street closure (short period of time, 1-3 days anticipated)
 - Site demolition, exterior renovations
- Begin Site Landscaping *April/May 2017*
 - Walkways, sidewalks, outside lighting, finishes, plantings
- Complete Interior Restoration *May/June 2017*
 - Coordinate installation of exhibits
- Complete Site design *end of July 2017*

Commonwealth's Investment

Financial Commitment through EEA's Gateways Cities Program:

- Design and permitting \$500,000
- Early action projects \$250,0000
- o Construction \$2.59 million
- o Exhibits \$400,000

Total investment \$3.74 million



Next Steps

- Finalizing exhibit materials
- Initiating a planning process with partners for programming



Community Engagement - How you can stay involved and informed

- Project Website
 - o DCR will post general project updates

Regular Construction Updates

 Two week look-aheads will be sent out to our project mailing list and will be posted on project website

Progress meetings

- o March Exhibits
- May Update on house construction
- July Update on landscape construction



Questions and Conversation



Additional Information

For more information:

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

If you have questions on this project or if you 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.