

A photograph of children playing in a water fountain at a park. The water is spraying upwards, creating a large, white, cloud-like shape. In the foreground, the backs of two young girls with braids are visible as they play. A boy is also visible, reaching out towards the water. In the background, there is a park bench and a metal structure with the letters 'dcr' on it. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

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Implementation

Implementation

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Implementation

The implementation of this action plan strives to prioritize projects, allocate funds appropriately, and ensure that improvements are made in a way that maximizes the park's potential. Guiding the implementation of an action plan involves a strategic and organized approach to ensure that recommendations are executed effectively and that the desired outcomes are achieved. Implementation planning should focus on setting priorities, project execution, developing a stewardship strategy, and tracking progress.

Setting Priorities

This Action Plan recommends a range of important park improvements. Given the scale of these enhancements, not all can be implemented simultaneously. Therefore, projects should be prioritized based on addressing safety, accessibility, equity, and community benefits first, while also considering factors such as cost, sequencing, resilience, readiness, and ownership.

Criteria for prioritizing improvements in the park include:

- **Safety:** Ensuring that proposed changes enhance the safety of park users, including addressing potential hazards and improving overall security.
- **Code/Regulations:** Compliance with current building

codes and regulations, including ADA requirements and environmental standards.

- **Accessibility:** Enhancing accessibility for all users, including those with disabilities, to ensure that everyone can fully enjoy the park's amenities.
- **Technical Feasibility:** Evaluating the practical aspects of implementing improvements, including the complexity of the work and the availability of necessary technologies or techniques.
- **Equity:** Addressing historical inequities and ensuring that improvements are distributed fairly across different communities, especially those that have been underserved.
- **Use:** Prioritizing improvements based on the level of usage and demand for specific park features, ensuring that high-use areas receive necessary updates.
- **Community Feedback:** Incorporating input from community members to align improvements with their needs and preferences.
- **Cost:** Assessing the financial implications of proposed changes, including both initial investment and long-term maintenance expenses.
- **Sequence:** Determining the logical order of implementing improvements to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Resilience:** Enhancing the park's ability to withstand and adapt to climate change impacts, such as

extreme weather and environmental stressors.

- **Readiness:** Considering the readiness of the park for specific improvements, including existing conditions and any preparatory work required.
- **Ownership:** Identifying the entities responsible for various aspects of the park and ensuring that improvements align with their roles and responsibilities.

Project Execution

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has already been active in several early action park improvement initiatives, including upgrading the Mission Hill playground and splash pad, renovating the Stony Brook playground, path repairs, and piloting path etiquette and safety measures. DCR is also currently designing improvements for enhancing Kelly Rink and improving Stony Brook and Amory Park.

Next Steps in the Action Plan

1. Projects Requiring Further Planning:

- Development of the interpretive plan. DCR to hire an interpretive planner to identify interpretive themes and approach for the park. Recommendations will influence implementation of interpretive signage, public art and other

features.

2. Projects Requiring Design and Engineering:

- Path improvements, bundled with path adjacent tree planting, drainage, signage, and entrance enhancements.
- Lawndale playground renovation and skatepark expansion.
- Combined Train Park playground renovation and dog park project.
- Anson/Boynton playground.
- Jackson Square playground and courts
- Mission Hill deck court and fitness areas
- Signage package
- Tree work (pruning and removals) package

This phase will focus on creating detailed design documents, including landscape architectural and engineering plans, that outline how the improvements will be implemented. This stage will also involve iterative design reviews and adjustments based on feedback and evolving requirements.

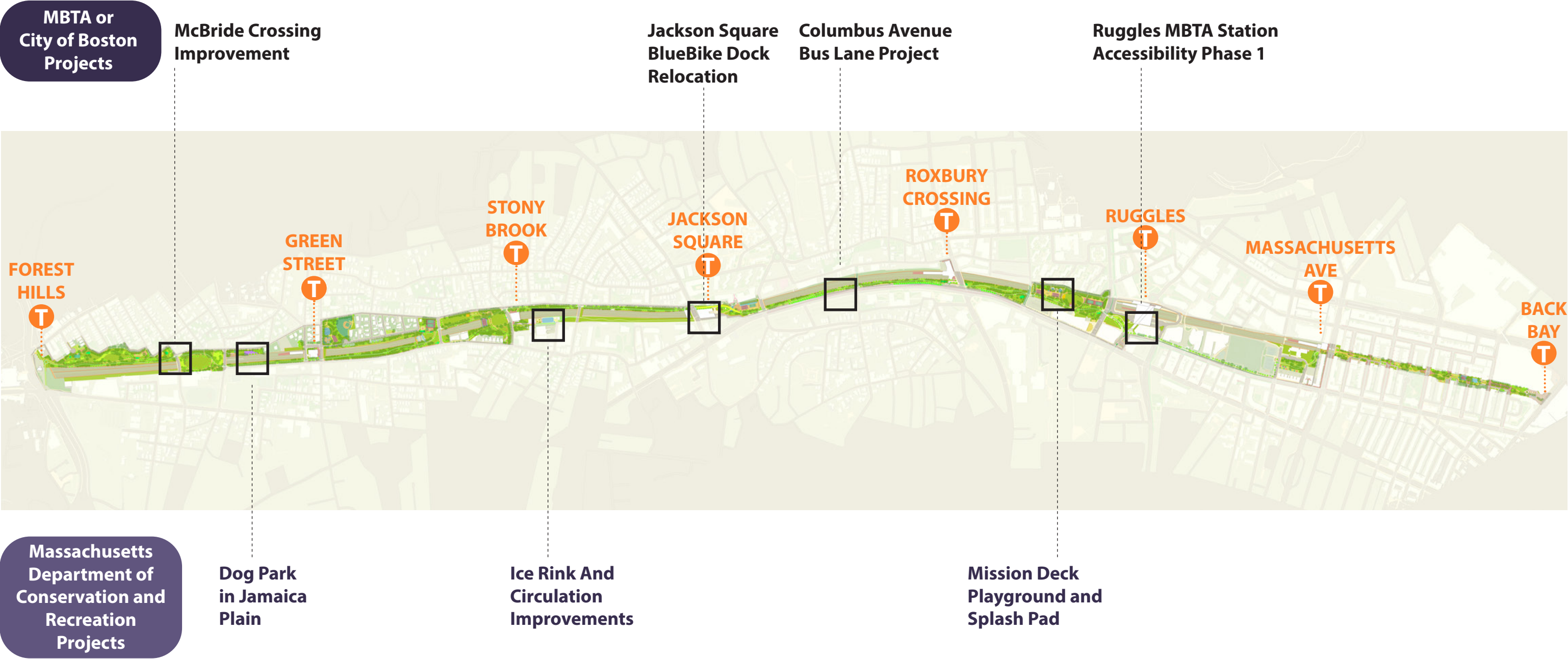
Coordination with MBTA and City of Boston Projects:

There are many recommended improvements that will greatly enhance the SWCP that require the MBTA or the City of Boston to implement because they own and

control the infrastructure. The MBTA is responsible for MBTA station plazas and station accessibility while the City of Boston is responsible for road crossings and the public sidewalk. DCR should continue to coordinate with these agencies as SWCP improvements are made.

These agencies have improvements already in design for McBride Street, Columbus Avenue bus lanes, Ruggles Station, and relocating Jackson Square's Bluebike stations.

Early Action Projects (1-3 years)



Project Execution

Project	Planning and Design Needs	Implementation Timeframe	
		Short Term Up To 5 Years	Long Term 5 Years+
Arborway to McBride			
McBride to Green			
New Minton to Atherton			
Atherton to Centre			
Centre to Cedar			
Cedar to Prentis			
Prentis to Ruggles			
Ruggles to Camden			
Camden to W. Newton			
W. Newton to Dartmouth			
Signage package			

Project Execution

Park and Recreation Facilities	Additional Planning/Design and Engineering	Short Term Up To 5 Years	Long Term 5 Years+
Playgrounds			
Renovate combined Anson St. & Boynton playground			
Renovate Train Park playground			
Renovate Lawndale playground			
Renovate Jackson Square playground			
Splash pad at Cosmopolitan playground			
Skateboard park expansion			
Everett Street Dog Park			
Hardcourts			
Lawndale			
Repaving of Stony Brook court			
Recoating of Jackson Square courts			
Repaving of Mission Deck courts			
Splash pad at Cosmopolitan playground			

Project Execution

Park and Recreation Facilities	Additional Planning/Design and Engineering	Short Term Up To 5 Years	Long Term 5 Years+
Community gardens			
Anson/Spaulding			
Hall/Boynton			
McBride/Boynton			
Oakdale			
Lawndale			
Lamartine/Hubbard			
Saranac/New Castle			
Blackwood/Claremont			
Greenwich/Cumberland			
Braddock			
Follen			
Harcourt/West Canton			
New garden at Mission Deck			

Project Execution

Natural Resources	Additional Planning/Design and Engineering	Short Term Up To 5 Years	Long Term 5 Years+
Tree removal (outside of pathway scope)			
Tree pruning (outside of pathway scope)			
Tree planting (outside of pathway scope)			
Planting beds (shrubs, perennials)			
Turf to meadow conversion			
Drainage modifications			
Rain gardens			
Cultural Resources			
Interpretive Plan			
Interpretive Signage			
Stewardship			
Improve park maintenance			
Increase park operations funding			
Increase park support			
Working group tracking progress			

Estimated Construction Costs

Mobility and Access

(includes path widening and repaving and associated tree work, tree planting, lawn repairs, furnishings and signage)

Arborway to McBride	\$1,457,383
McBride to Green	\$1,106,118
Green to New Minton	\$1,442,453
New Minton to Atherton	\$1,258,768
Atherton to Centre	\$711,938
Centre to Cedar	\$1,002,362
Cedar to Prentis	\$1,240,158
Prentis to Ruggles	\$1,393,539
Ruggles to Camden	\$567,773
Camden to W. Newton	\$1,104,712
W. Newton to Dartmouth	\$880,931

subtotal \$12,166,136

Park and Recreation Facilities

Playgrounds

Renovate combined Anson St. and Boynton playground	\$727,615
Renovate Train Park playground	\$481,210
Renovate Lawndale playground	\$480,780
Renovate Jackson Square playground	\$224,832
Splash pad at Cosmopolitan playground	\$68,438

subtotal \$1,982,874

Skateboard park expansion \$312,554

Everett Street Dog Park \$249,100

Hardcourts

Recoating Lawndale tennis courts	\$232,254
Repaving of Stony Brook court	\$360,845
Recoating of Jackson Square courts	\$496,869
Repaving of Mission Deck courts	\$767,058

subtotal \$1,624,772

Community gardens

Anson/Spaulding	\$202,229
Hall/Boynton	\$162,477
McBride/Boynton	\$132,597
Oakdale	\$205,553
Lawndale	\$173,086
Lamartine/Hubbard	\$159,739
Saranac/New Castle	\$392,803
Blackwood/Claremont	\$243,931
Greenwich/Cumberland	\$251,473
Braddock	\$200,129
Follen	\$212,979
Harcourt/West Canton	\$130,904
New garden at Mission Deck	\$250,000

subtotal \$2,717,900

Natural Resources

Tree removal (outside of pathway scope)	\$218,071
Tree pruning (outside of pathway scope)	\$82,450
Tree planting (outside of pathway scope)	\$197,416
Turf to meadow conversion	\$134,127

Drainage modifications \$83,611

Rain gardens \$341,292

subtotal \$1,056,967

TOTAL \$19,548,648

Note:

Costs are only construction costs and do not include design and permitting. Add 10-15% to construction costs for estimated design and permitting.

Stewardship Strategy

The Southwest Corridor Park is a vital green space for the communities it serves, yet its current stewardship staffing or budget does not reflect its significance or the high volume of use it receives. Unlike other prominent greenways in the Boston area—such as the Rose Kennedy Greenway, the Esplanade, and the Emerald Necklace—the SWCP lacks comparable financial support, well-established friends groups, and dedicated management. Given its importance, the SWCP should aspire to be a “world-class” park, characterized by exceptional maintenance, proactive management, and a strong, professional friends group.

In the current stewardship model, DCR funds operations and capital improvements. The Southwest Corridor Park Conservancy provides significant horticultural care by volunteers for the South End portion of the park, the Southwest Corridor Park Alliance helps with park stewardship, the Friends of the Carleton Court Dog Park manage the dog park, and the Friends of Kelly Rink support the ice rink operations.

This stewardship model should change to elevate the park conditions through diversifying funding sources, professionalizing the Friends Groups, and increasing DCR funding and oversight.

The following recommendations are outlined to enhance the stewardship of the SWCP and elevate it to the standard it deserves.

Improve park maintenance:

- Increase DCR operations staffing dedicated to the park in order to complete general park maintenance.
- Elevate the horticultural quality park wide by adding horticultural staff hired by the Friends Groups.

Increase park operations funding:

- DCR to contribute more financially (capital improvements and operating).
- DCR to match funds raised by Friends Groups annually.
- Leverage revenue opportunities from abutting development projects. DCR to request that the City of Boston request mitigation payments from corridor adjacent development with annual park contributions for 50 years.
- MBTA to make a contribution to care for the park.

Increase park support:

- Expand capacity of friends groups, empowering them to professionalize and potentially consolidate efforts.
- Friends Groups to hire a development consultant for grant writing and fundraising.

- Grow and make the Friends Groups more professional. Work toward being able to hire staff to support park horticultural care.
- Grow volunteer program to engage all of the surrounding communities, institutions, etc.
- Promote revenue-producing activities on the corridor.
- Assign a DCR staff person to the SWCP for a year to help manage the action plan implementation

Tracking Progress

To effectively monitor progress and ensure successful implementation of the Action Plan goals, a working group should meet every three months for the first year following completion of the action plan. During these meetings, the team will review the status of the plan, address any challenges, and adjust strategies as needed.

This working group should consist of the following staff members:

- Trails and Greenways Planner
- Arborist
- Playground Planner
- Engineer
- Operations Supervisor
- Conservancy Representative
- This collaborative team will be responsible for tracking progress and coordinating efforts.