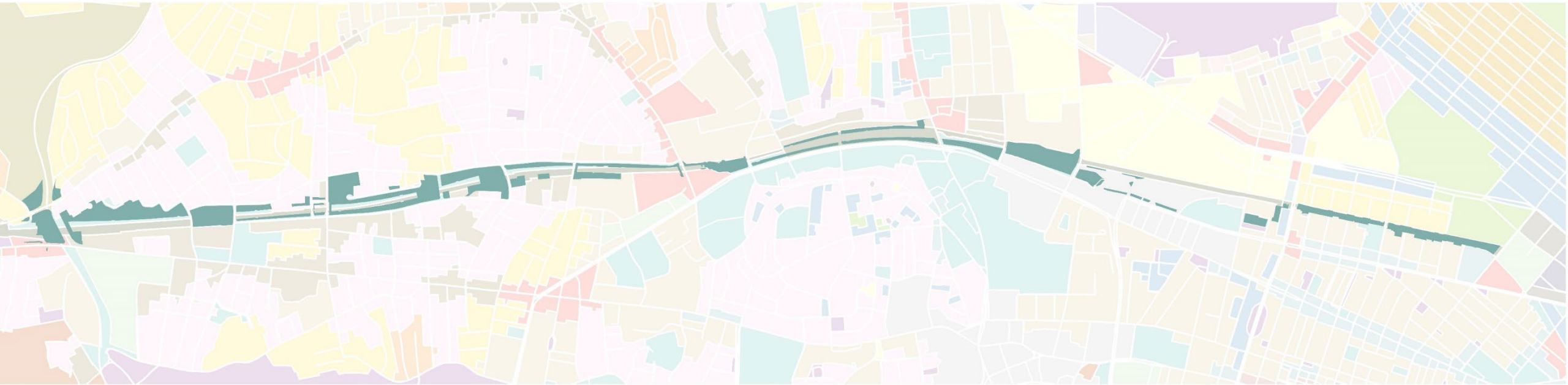


# SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PARK ACTION PLAN

Public Meeting #1

July 26, 2023





## **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Governor  
Maura Healey

Lieutenant Governor  
Kim Driscoll

Energy and Environmental Secretary  
Rebecca Tepper

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner  
Brian Arrigo

# MEETING LOGISTICS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### Interpretation

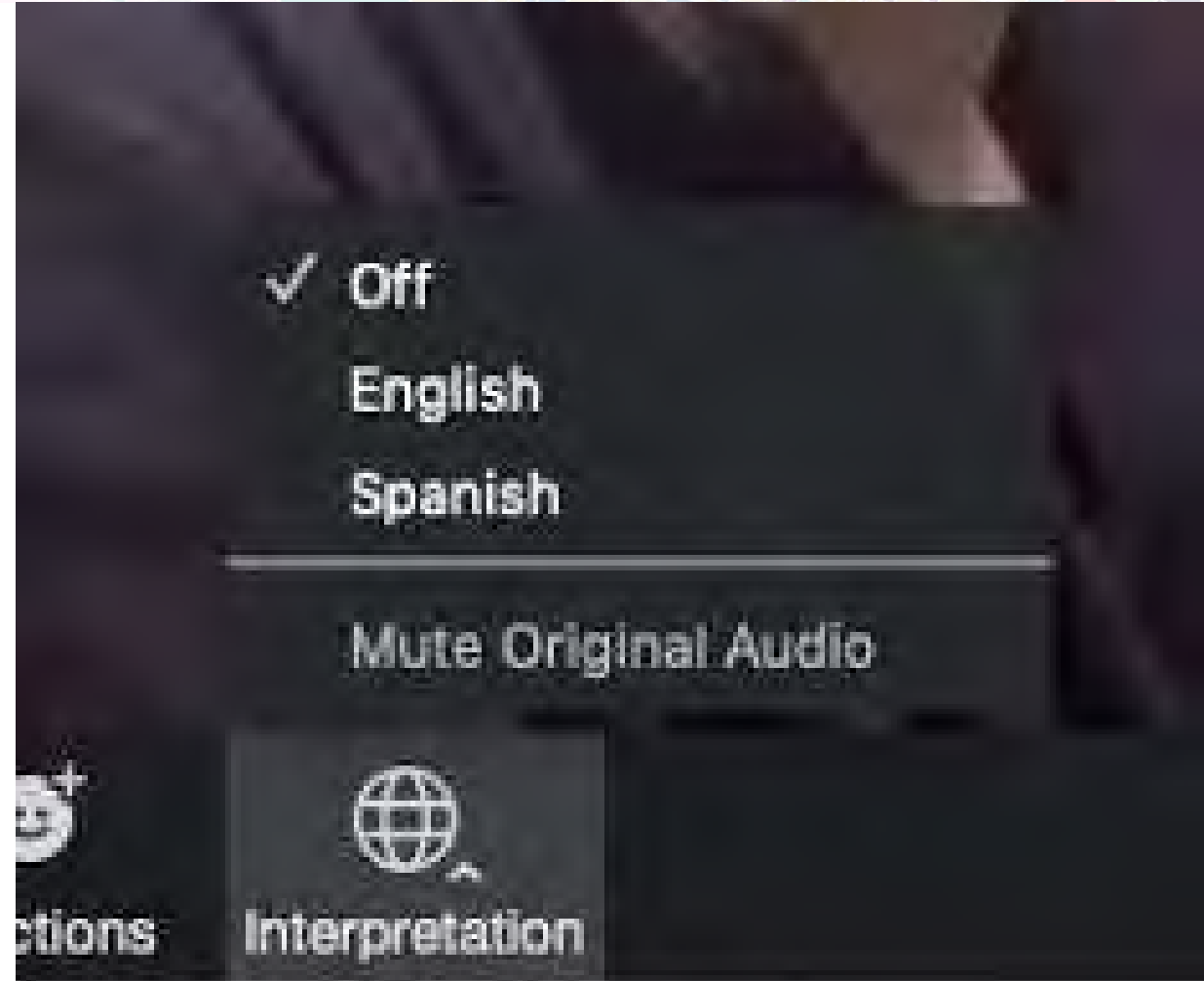
#### English

We offer interpretation during this meeting. In your meeting/webinar controls, click Interpretation (the small globe icon) and click the language that you would like to hear.

#### Spanish

Ofrecemos interpretación en español durante esta reunión. Para escoger el idioma haga clic en el botón de interpretación (con el ícono de globo terráqueo).

**Our Spanish Interpreter is: Emily Getchell**



# MEETING LOGISTICS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

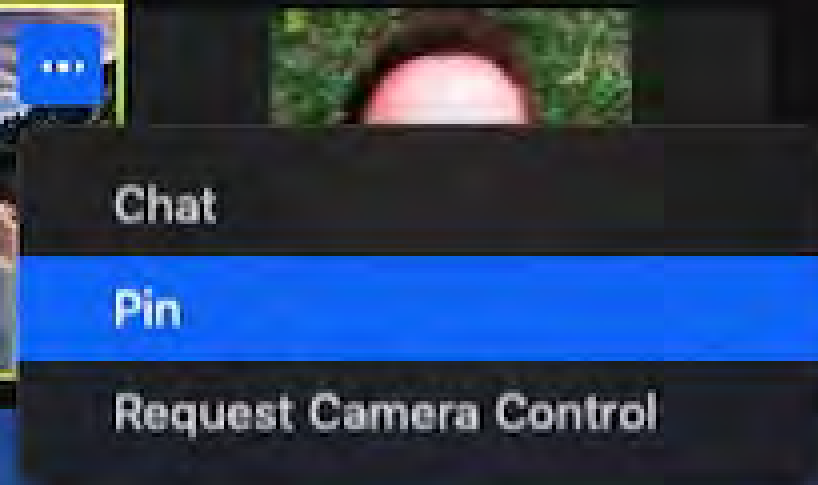
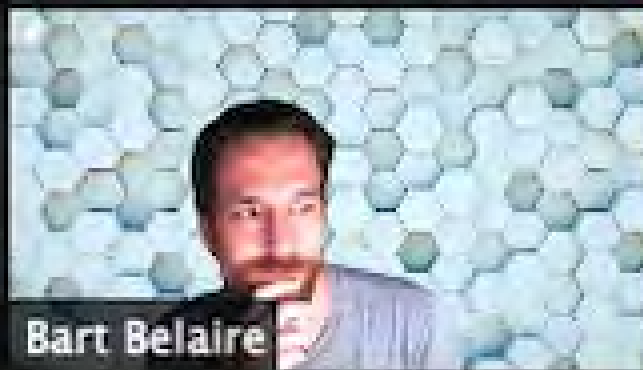
### ASL Interpretation

#### Our Interpreters are:

- Billy Sanders
- Aviva Levy

### ASL Interpretation Instructions

- Keep your view setting in “Gallery Mode”
- Our Interpreters are pinned, but if you do not see them
  - Click “...” in the top right corner of the Interpreter’s video and click “pin video”





# MEETING LOGISTICS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

**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](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings)

**You will have the opportunity to submit comments over the course of the next three weeks at DCR Public Comments:**

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

## ZOOM TIPS

Here is how you can participate during the question and answer part of the presentation.

### DURING THE PRESENTATION:



#### VIA WEB:

Turn video on / off.



To use these non-verbal options click on participants (bottom of screen); these options will pop up in side bar.

### DURING THE Q&A:



#### JOINING VIA PHONE?

Use \*9 to raise hand to ask for audio / video permission to ask questions or provide comments.



#### VIA WEB:

Chat to ask questions / comments or provide responses to poll questions



Raise hand to ask for audio / video permission to ask questions or provide comments.



# DCR MISSION

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### DCR Mission:

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





# AGENDA

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

Welcome and Introductions

[6:00 - 6:15]

Project Introduction

[6:15 - 6:25]

*Questions + Feedback*

[6:25 - 6:40]

Engagement Process and Key Themes

[6:40 - 6:50]

Existing Conditions and Interactive Maps

[6:50 - 7:00]

*Questions + Feedback*

[7:00 - 7:25]

Next Steps

[7:25 - 7:30]



# MEETING GOALS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

- **Introduce and raise awareness** of Southwest Corridor Park Action Plan
- Ensure common **understanding of the plan components**
- **Gather community feedback** on goals and challenges/opportunities of the plan



# BACKGROUND

## SWCP ACTION PLAN



Roxbury Community College across from Roxbury Crossing T Station



# BACKGROUND

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### 2023 PARK IMPROVEMENTS



Pavement repairs



Mission Hill Playground + Spray Deck



Coretta Scott and MLK Memorial



# PROJECT PROGRAM AND DESIGN GOALS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### **Create a visionary yet actionable plan for the future of the SWCP as well as the roadmap to implement it**

- Develop high-level cost estimates and timelines for suggested improvements

### **Prioritize repairs and enhancements**

- Repair pavement, planters; add trees, water fountains, picnic tables, benches, and bike racks
- Inform community-led efforts to make connections on underutilized MBTA-owned land

### **Ensure uses and facilities reflect community desires**

- Add/redesign/reallocate amenities such as playgrounds, athletic courts, fields, community gardens, dog parks, and other park spaces

### **Make the park cohesive**

- Propose signage, furniture, surface treatments, and public art that makes parts of the corridor feel distinct, but unified

### **Highlight the history of the park and local culture**

- Document and develop plan for interpreting these resources



# PROJECT PROGRAM AND DESIGN GOALS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### **Improve mobility and create a safe, welcoming, and accessible path system**

- Redesign and connect paths, while proposing safety improvements (e.g. street crossings\*)

### **Develop a collaborative and proactive approach to maintenance, stewardship, and programming**

- Develop new operations and maintenance plan
- Formalize partnerships between DCR and local organizations
- Suggest new community-based programming like concerts, events, and kiosks etc.

### **Adapt to climate change**

- Recommend plantings that combat increased heat, support habitat, and are designed for a changing climate.

### **Center equity and justice**

- Prioritize spaces that have been underinvested in first

\*Some of these proposals will involve City of Boston streets or MBTA station areas and would be implemented by those entities.

# WHAT THE PLAN CAN'T DO

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### **Build things in 2024**

- The plan will recommend big changes -- those will take some time to design, fund, and build. But, we can prioritize which ones to do first

### **Overcome limitations of a park built on transit**

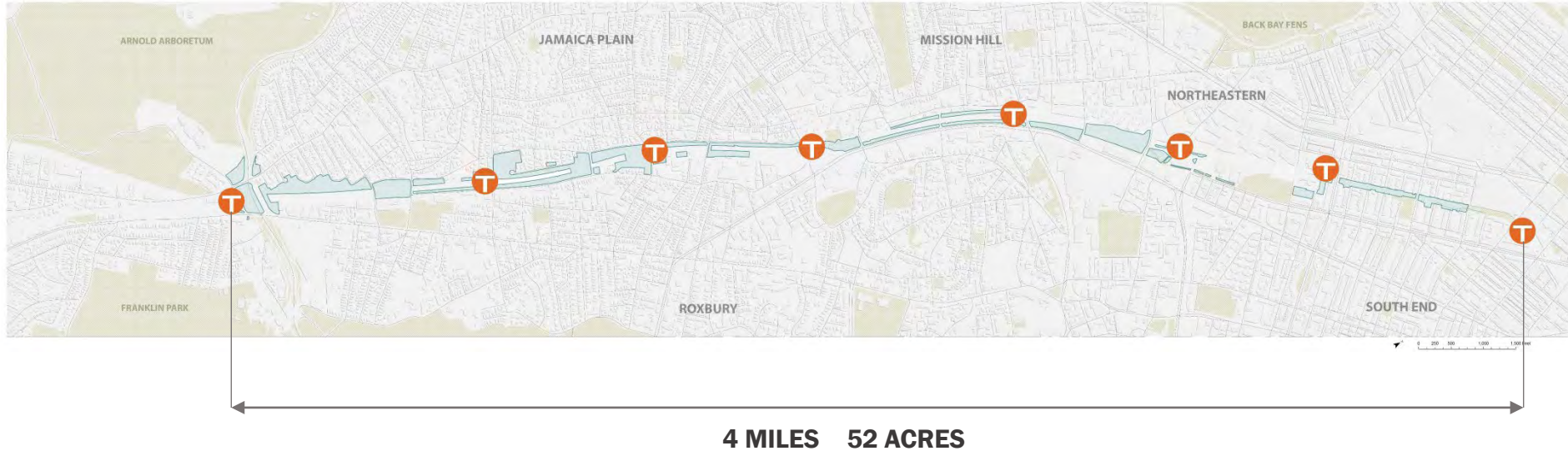
- Even where possible, building over the tracks would be very expensive
- Add a lot of trees -- train tracks and the tunnel cap make it difficult to plant trees, more soil is needed + tree canopy can't hang over tracks

### **Add large-scale amenities such as pools or regulation-size playing fields**

- The Southwest Corridor Park is long and narrow. It does not have the dimensions to accommodate these elements.

# PROJECT AREA

## SWCP ACTION PLAN



Playgrounds

Dog park

Gardens

Splash pads

Winter ice rink

Community gardens

Hard courts:  
basketball, tennis,  
street hockey

Fields: lawns, baseball

Shared-use path system

Transit stations

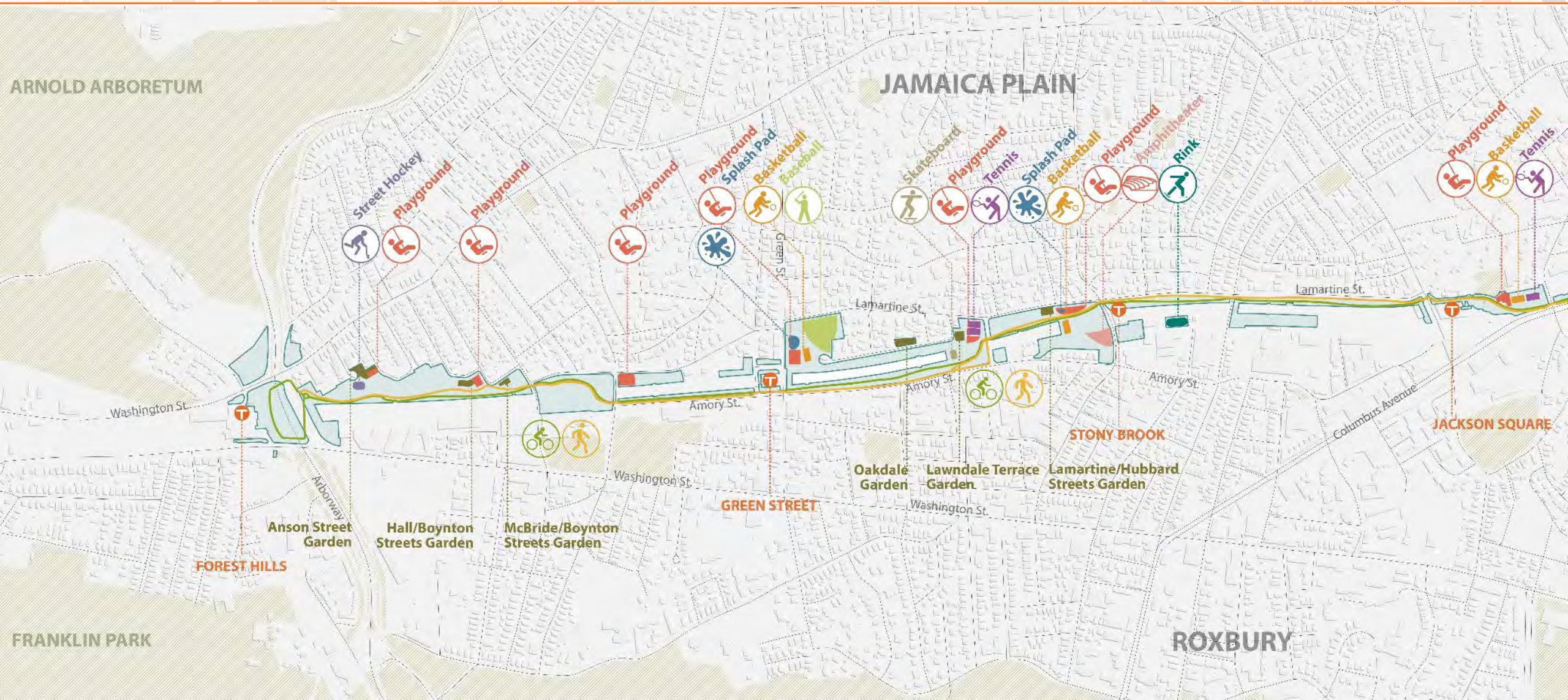
Skatepark

Amphitheaters



# PROJECT AREA

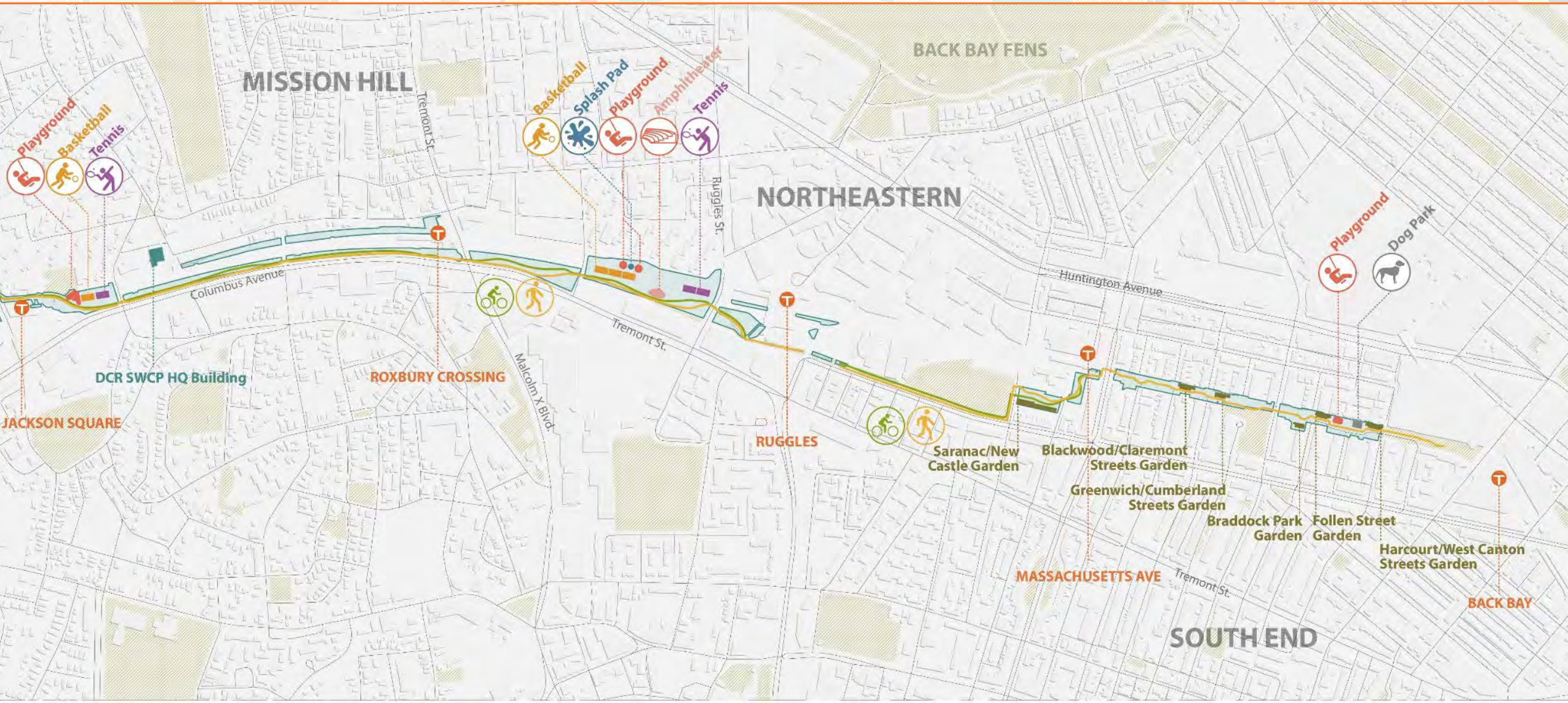
## SWCP ACTION PLAN 1 OF 2





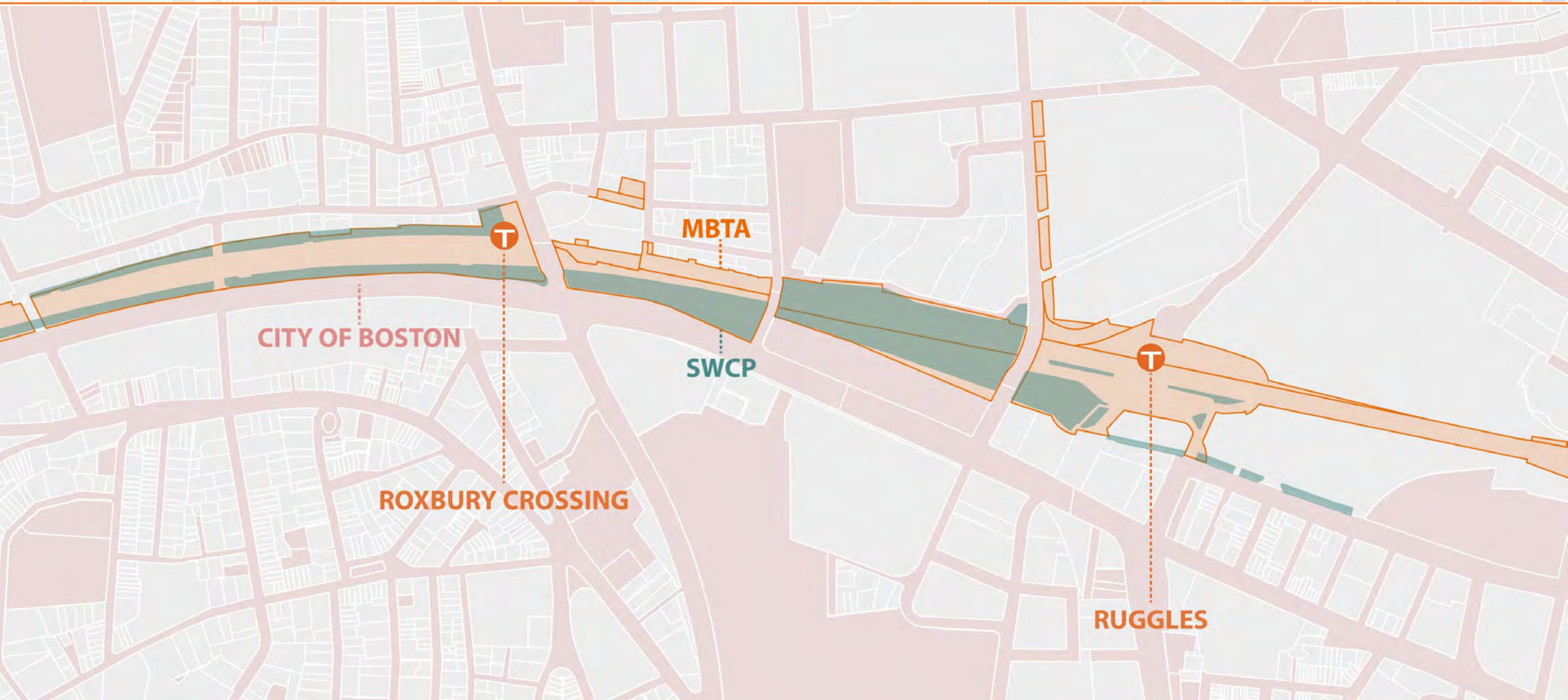
# PROJECT AREA

## SWCP ACTION PLAN 2 OF 2





# JURISDICTION





# SCHEDULE

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

MAY 2023

OCT. 2023

MAY 2024

JULY 2024

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ACTION PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION  
STRATEGY

PUBLIC MEETING #1  
JULY 2023

PUBLIC MEETING #2  
WINTER 2023/4

PUBLIC MEETING #3  
SPRING 2023/4

PUBLIC MEETING #4  
SUMMER 2024

**MASTER PLAN COMPLETE SUMMER 2024**

# CONSULTANT TEAM

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, Inc.

Boston, MA

Kyle Zick, ASLA - Project Manager

Danielle Desilets - Accessibility and History

Rob Barella - Design

Tracy Hudak, LEED GA - Land Use and GIS

Mike Doucette - Vegetation and GIS

Jae Lee - Site Furnishings

#### MOBILITY & URBAN PLANNING

##### Toole Design

Boston, MA

Stephanie Weyer, PLA

Taylor Dennerlein, PE, AICP

Wendell Joseph, Planner

#### CIVIL ENGINEER

##### Samiotes Consultants

Framingham, MA

Steven Garvin, PE

#### ENGAGEMENT

##### Livable Streets

Cambridge, MA

Abigail S. Jamel, AICP

Maha Aslam

Makayla Comas-Race

Michaela Grenier

#### TREE ASSESSMENT

##### Davey Resource Group

Shrewsbury, MA

Moriah Day

Greg Baldwin

#### GRAPHIC DESIGN

##### Roll Barresi & Associates

Cambridge, MA

Andrew Baressi

#### COST ESTIMATOR

##### Fennessy Consulting

Stoughton, MA

Seamus Fennessy



# What are your questions on the Action Plan's...

- goals
- purpose



# ENGAGEMENT

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### Engagement Values

This project will prioritize a process that is

- **Inclusive**
- **Interactive + Fun**
- **Conscious** of the **history** between public agencies and marginalized communities
- **Transparent** with the public around information collected and used





# ENGAGEMENT

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### Engagement Plan Overview

**4** public meetings

**3** community focus group meetings

**1 on 1 conversations** with community-based organizations to understand needs and use of the park

- We have a list of 100+ groups along the corridor.

**What groups should we talk to?**

Tell us in the chat!





# ENGAGEMENT

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### Community Focus Group Members

- Alice Taylor Tenants Association
- Boston Cyclist Union
- Carleton St Dog Park
- Friends of Kelly Rink
- Jackson Sq Housing Partners, JPND
- Urban Edge
- JP Skatepark
- Mildred Hailey Tenants Association
- Northeastern University
- Roxbury Community College
- RozzieBikes
- Southwest Corridor Park Alliance
- Southwest Corridor Park Conservancy
- Spontaneous Celebrations
- The American City Coalition

# ENGAGEMENT

## SWCP ACTION PLAN



## Engagement Plan Overview

- **In person surveying** along the corridor  
(Aug-Sept)
- **1 - 2** in person **events** per a month  
(Aug – Oct)
- **Interviews** with 2 Anti-Highway movement **elders**  
(ongoing)



# ENGAGEMENT

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### Engagement So Far...

#### 5 meetings

- MBTA & City of Boston
- Southwest Corridor Park Alliance
- Southwest Corridor Park Conservancy
- Community Focus Group

#### 2 events

- Wake Up the Earth + JP Open Streets

#### 250+ surveys

#### Community Visioning Board

- Polled JP community members about changes they'd like to see



# ENGAGEMENT

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### Themes We've Heard at These Events

Better lighting  
at night for  
safety

More space for  
dogs

Safer street  
crossings for  
walkers + bikers

Better walkways +  
distinction  
between bike and  
walk paths

More bathrooms

We love history  
of activism!



# THEMES

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### What's working

#### **Park is well-loved and well-used**

- Strong local, volunteer organizations caring for the park
- Trash is picked up
- Integrated into the fabric of the city as a recreation and transportation system
- Has a celebrated history of community activism

# THEMES

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### Key challenges

#### Maintenance

- DCR staffing reduced by more than half since creation of park while population density has increased
- Aging infrastructure and trees/shrubs

#### Safety

- Conflicts between people on foot, bikes, e-bikes/scooters along corridor and at intersections
- Poor visibility and inadequate lighting in portions of the park
- Lack of addresses for 911

#### Usability

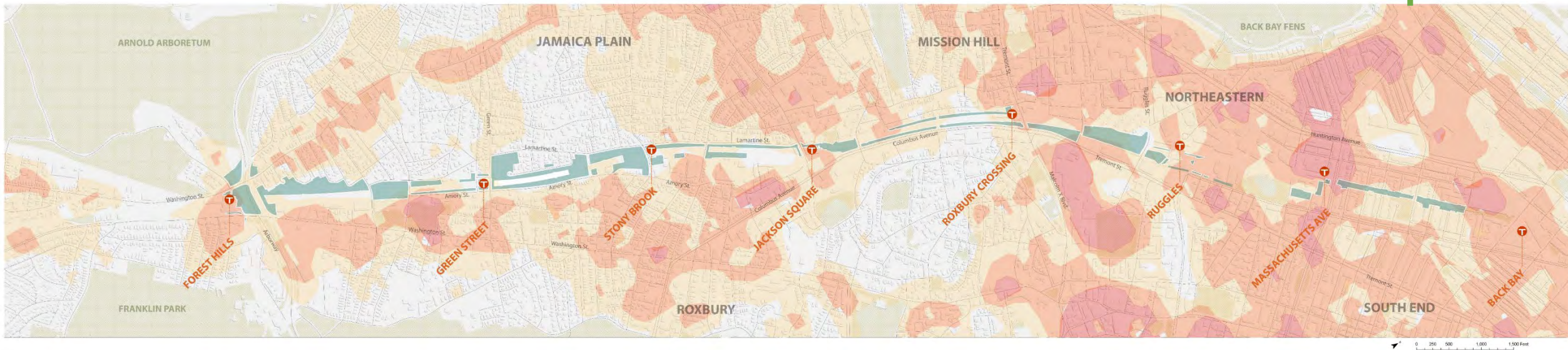
- Tripping hazards, uneven surfaces, and steep grades
- Some park amenities not being use as intended
- Sign clutter
- Corridor feels disconnected and is very narrow in some areas



# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### Surface Temperatures



### Also reviewing the following topics:

- Surface temperatures
- Tree canopy coverage
- Sun/shade
- Population density
- Environmental justice areas
- Flooding
- Land uses
- Cultural resources



# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### 1820 map overlaid with SWCP



Also have historic maps for the following time periods:

- 1770
- 1775
- 1820
- 1833
- 1852
- 1893
- 1920
- 1950



# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### LEGEND

- Lawn
- Tree Pit
- Tree+Understorylayer
- Shrub
- Shrub+Perennial
- Groundcover
- Community Garden
- Vine
- Hedge
- ★ Invasive Vegetation



## Site Inventory of Vegetation in the South End

Also have inventory for the following elements:

- Hardscape: Pavement, walls, stairs, ramps
- Landscapes: Trees, shrubs, lawns
- Site furnishings: benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, bollards
- Accessibility
- Utilities
- Lighting



# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN





# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN



### Assessment of Park Usage:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts
  - o Historic counts
  - o Collecting data
  - o Big Data

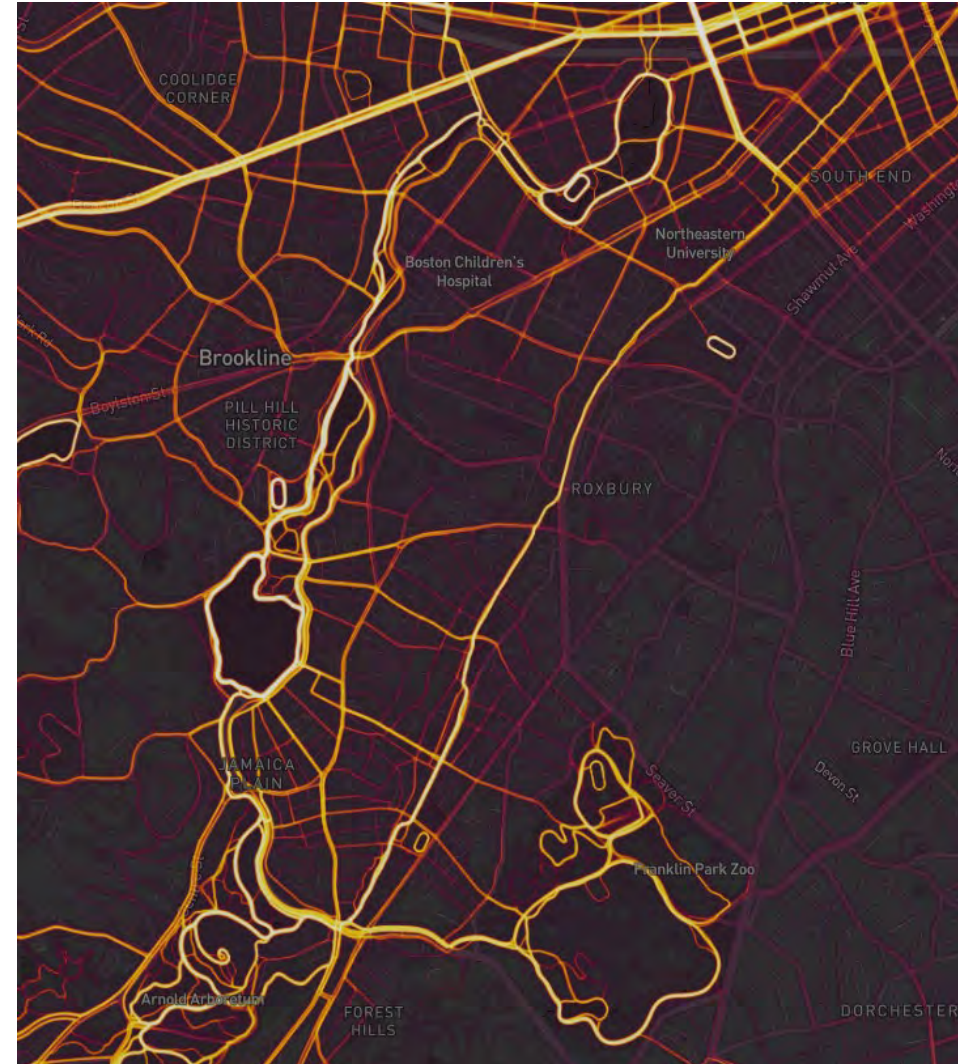


# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### Assessment of Park Usage:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Origins and Destinations
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Crash Data
- MBTA Boarding and Alighting Data
- BlueBikes Data
- Field Observations





# STORY MAP

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### Story Map will include:

- Project news
- Summary of progress
- Interactive map

dc  
SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PARK ACTION PLAN



*For more information on the project, to keep up to date on project milestones, and to provide your feedback, visit the project website by scanning the QR code*



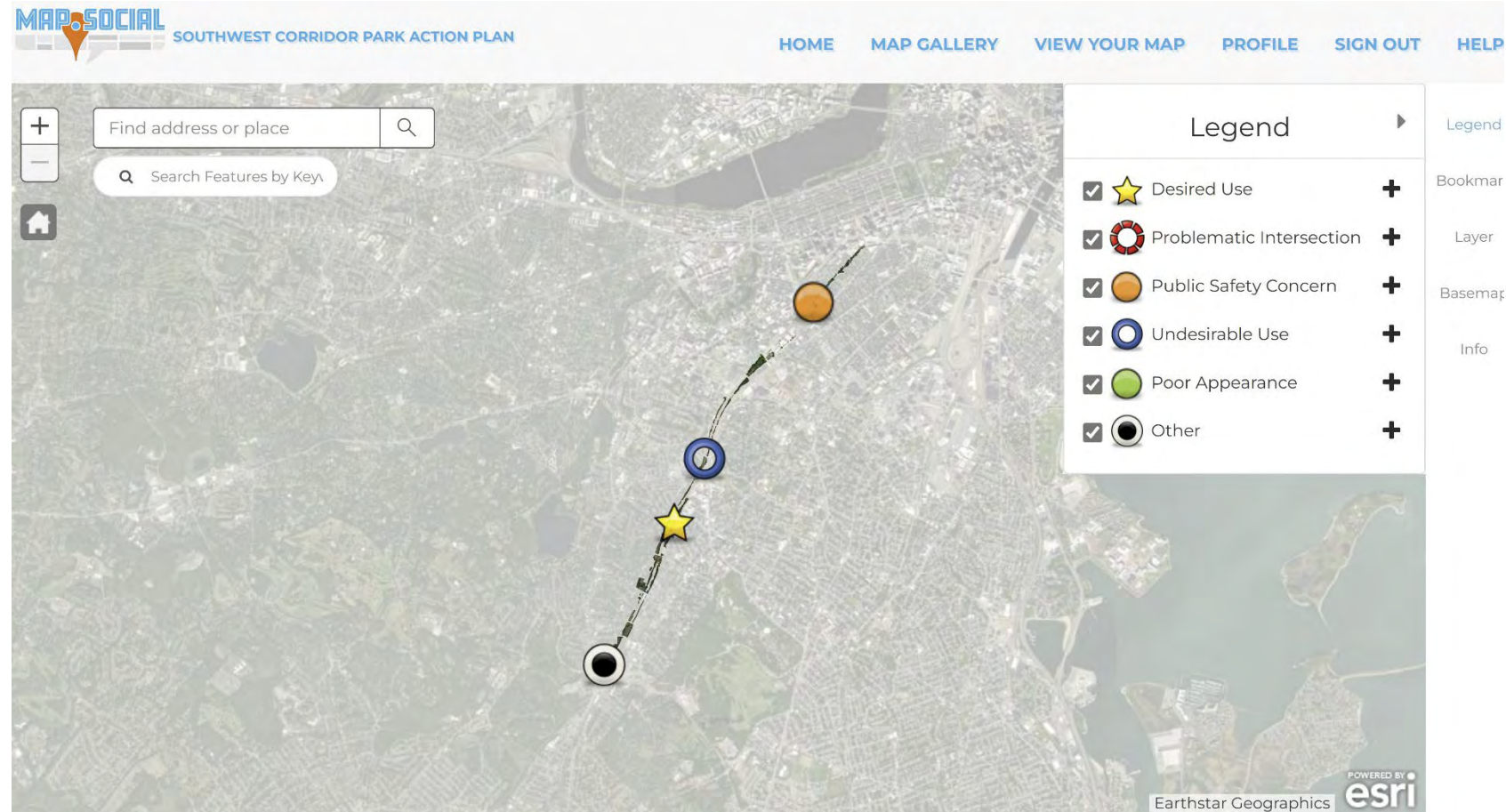
# INTERACTIVE MAP

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

- Interactive Map to allow site specific feedback
- Map can be accessed from project webpage
- Provide feedback by September 15, 2023



*For more information on the project, to keep up to date on project milestones, and to provide your feedback, visit the project website by scanning the QR code*





# ***Instructions for Discussion:***

- *Please keep your comments concise so we can hear from as many voices as possible.*
- *The chat is a valid / equal communication tool.*

# ***Friendly reminders:***

- *We're just getting started! - no decisions are being made tonight.*
- *This is not your only opportunity to express your ideas and opinions.*





**What are we getting right?**

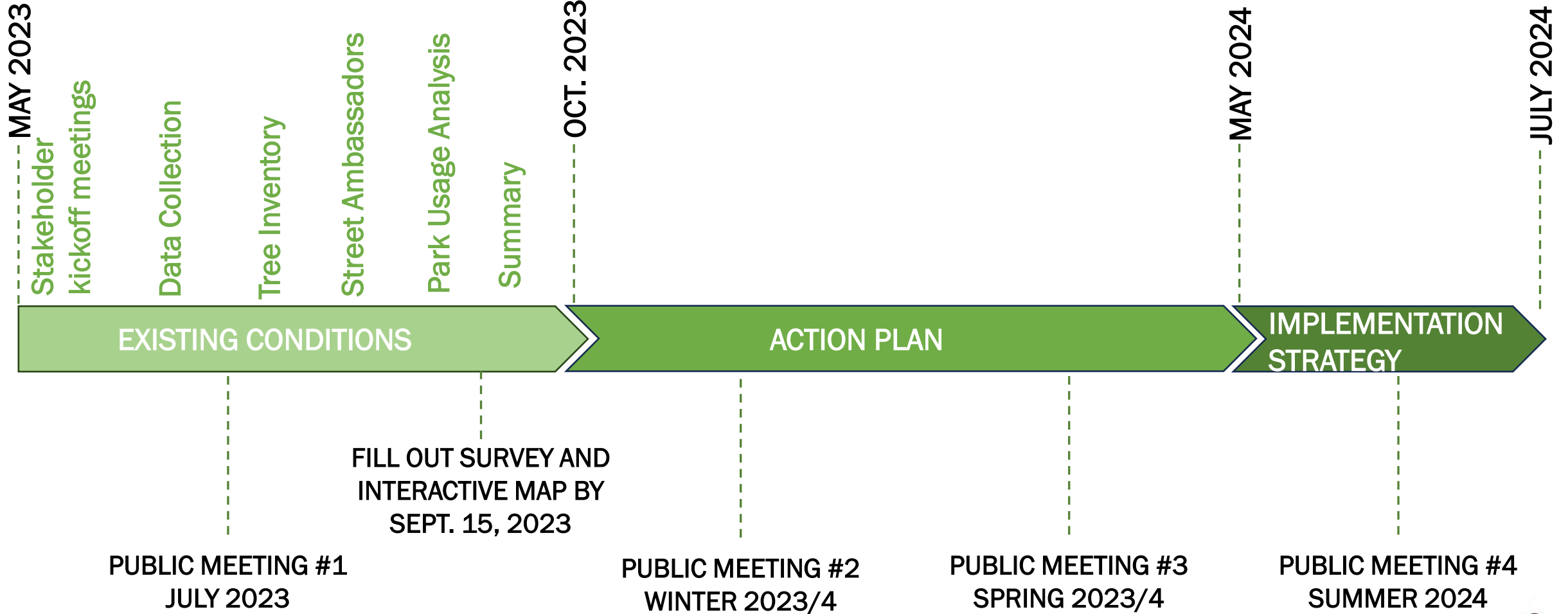
**Anything we're missing?**

**Other questions you have about the plan?**



# NEXT STEPS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN



# NEXT STEPS

## SWCP ACTION PLAN

### 4 ways to get involved...

1. Submit a public comment by August 16, 2023

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

2. Fill out our survey! (link in chat)

3. Add comments to the interactive map (found in Story Map on project webpage)

4. Scan the QR Code below to find project website + sign up for updates



*For more information on the project, to keep up to date on project milestones, and to provide your feedback, visit the project website by scanning the QR code*