

# George C. Sullivan Park

A Public Park Focused on our Community's Seniors



**DCR Virtual Public Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 1, 2020**

**Design Presentation Prepared for Online Viewing**



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

**Charles D. Baker**

Lieutenant Governor

**Karyn E. Polito**

Energy and Environmental Secretary

**Kathleen Theoharides**

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

**Jim Montgomery**



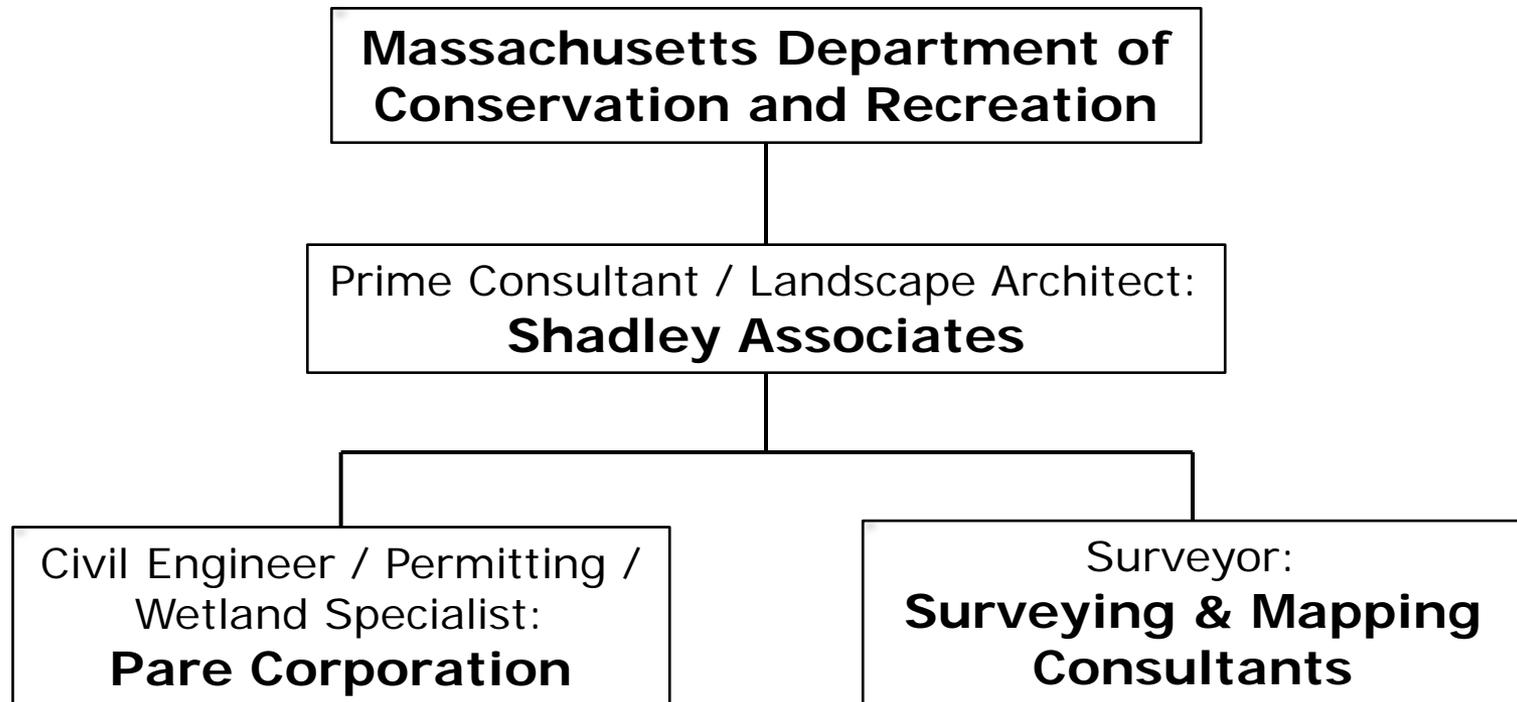
## **DCR Mission Statement**

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

# Purpose of Presentation

*To present two park concept alternatives  
and solicit public comments for  
improvements at  
George C. Sullivan Park in Revere, MA.*

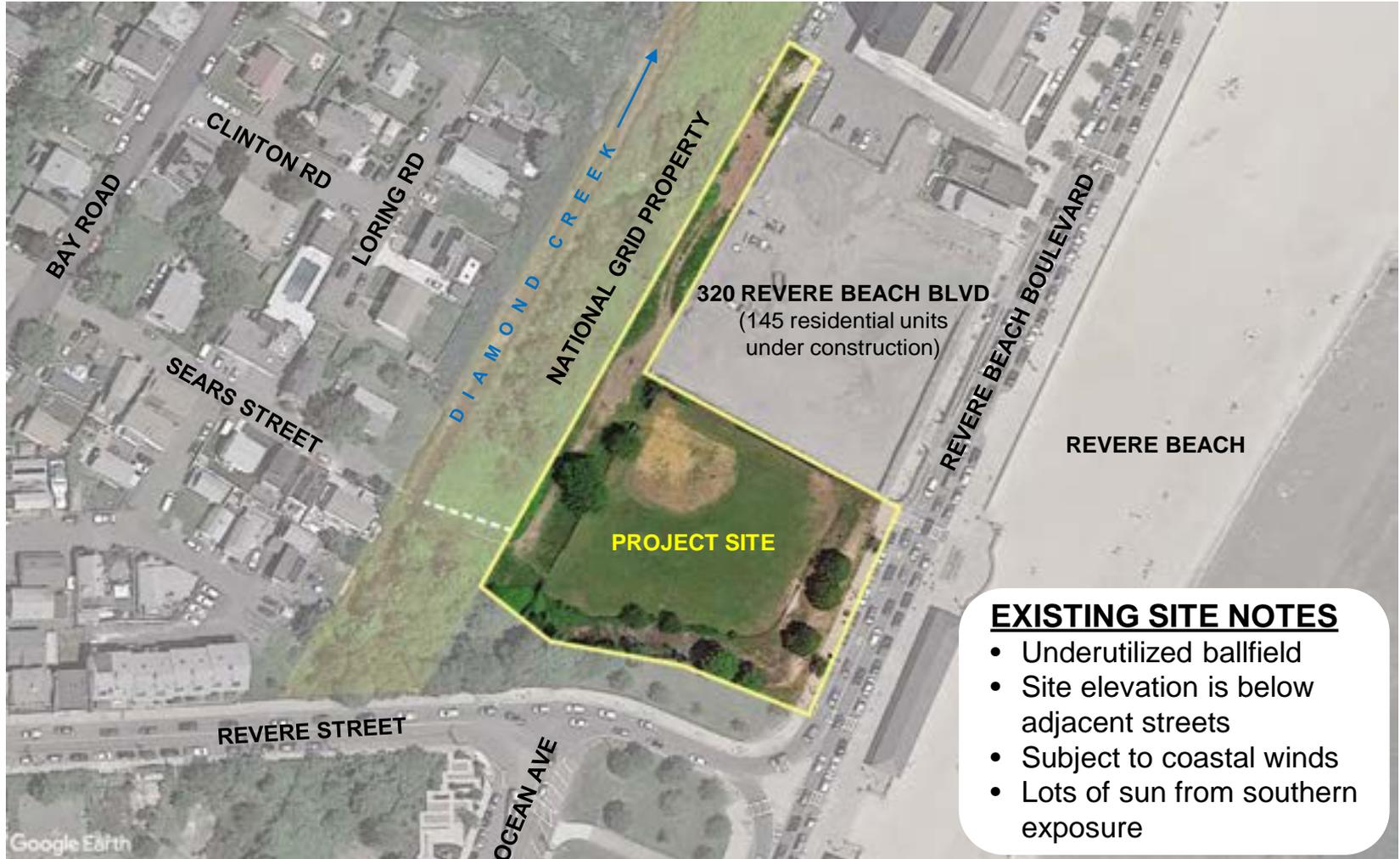
# Project Team



# Site Context



# Project Site



# Existing Conditions



# Existing Conditions



# Existing Conditions



# Project Goals

- Create a “Community Park” especially focused on Senior Citizens
- Provide connections with public sidewalks and nearby neighborhoods
- Create a “universally accessible” park, compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Provide a wide variety of activity choices
- Encourage physical exercise and movement
- Accommodate social interaction in a variety of spaces
- Re-introduce native vegetation for shade, habitat, and climate resiliency

# Research

The design team researched the following questions to inform the park concept design alternatives:

- What are the typical characteristics of aging?
- How do we encourage seniors to use public open spaces?
- What are some design considerations associated with creating comfortable and enjoyable outdoor spaces for seniors?



# Research

## CHARACTERISTICS OF AGING

Normal changes and gradual impairment associated with the aging process

- **Cardiovascular System & Weight**  
Reduced mobility
- **Bones, Muscles & Joints**  
Higher injury risk
- **Memory and Cognitive Skills**  
Reduced capacities; increased sensitivity to perception of safety
- **Eyes & Ears**  
Reduced sensitivity
- **Skin**  
Increased sensitivity to weather and objects
- **Digestive & Urinary Systems**

## DESIGN GOALS

Encourage use of public open space by seniors

- **Encourage Physical Activity**  
Multiple types and engagement levels for individuals and groups
- **Encourage Strength Building**
- **Encourage Social Interaction**  
Small groups, large groups, programs, games
- **Create Comfortable Environments**  
Maximize feeling of safety, visibility  
Provide diverse seating
- **Provide Durable, Multi-Season Amenities**
- **Encourage Interaction with Nature**

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

General design considerations to ensure project design goals are achieved

- **Universally Accessible Walkways**  
Spacious walkways for ample maneuvering  
Connections with neighborhood
- **Safe Large & Small Activity Areas**  
Clearly defined non-slip surfaces with noticeable material changes  
High levels of visibility
- **Multiple Accessible Seating Options**  
Different configurations for options  
Large & small group seating areas
- **Buffering & Screening**  
Planting to buffer undesirable sights & sounds  
Create internal sensory interest
- **Shade & Protection from the Elements**  
Shade trees & covered structure(s)
- **Restrooms & drinking water facilities**

# Research

## PROGRAM ELEMENTS: PASSIVE

Program recommendations to provide passive recreation that meet the needs of an aging population

- **Accessible Walkways, Trails, Loop Walks**
  - ADA / MAAB compliance
  - Handrails and guardrails for elevation changes
  - Discourage bicycles
- **Multi-Purpose Open Spaces**
  - Ability to provide varying experiences
  - Classes, entertainment or small groups
  - Paved and unpaved
  - Scales to discourage active team sports
- **Seating** (*high capacity, multiple options*)
  - Provide diverse resting areas & gathering spaces
  - Provide armrests and seatbacks; tables for activities
- **Sculpture / Public Art**
  - Landmark or point of conversation
- **Planting**
  - Engagement with nature & wildlife in a controlled space
  - Promote sensory plants (sight, sound, touch, smell)
  - Protection from weather and buffer

## PROGRAM ELEMENTS: ACTIVE

More structured recreational activities that provide opportunities for physical activity and social interaction to an aging population

- **Table Games** (*pairs or groups*)
  - Chess, Checkers, Backgammon
  - Card Games, Puzzles
- **Active Games** (*pairs or groups*)
  - Bocce
  - Shuffleboard
  - Cornhole
  - Horseshoe Pits
  - Table Tennis
  - Putting Greens
  - Pickleball
- **Exercise Facilities** (*individual or groups*)
  - Fitness equipment
  - Exercise group space (yoga, meditation)
  - Physical Therapy
- **Gardening** (*individual or groups*)
  - Raised beds for vegetable, fruit & herb gardening  
(*requires potable water source*)

# Design

- Research informed the design work
- Two Concept Design Alternatives
  - Intentionally different to gain public feedback
  - Different layout of walkways
  - Alternative arrangement of activities / spaces
  - Different activities or different scale of each activity
- Which of the following designs do you like?
- Which elements of each design do you like?



# Concept 1

- Large plaza at street level with trees, tables, and benches with views into the park below
- Water feature at plaza
- Bocce court terrace with seating
- Open middle lawn for flexible activities
- Shade shelter for seating or activities
- Small fitness area
- Accessible loop walks
- Possible connection to City bridge at Sears St.
- Possible path connection to the north



GEORGE C. SULLIVAN PARK

# Concept 1: Main Park Area



GEORGE C. SULLIVAN PARK

# Concept 1: Enlargement of Plaza & Bocce Terrace



*Shaded plaza for activities*



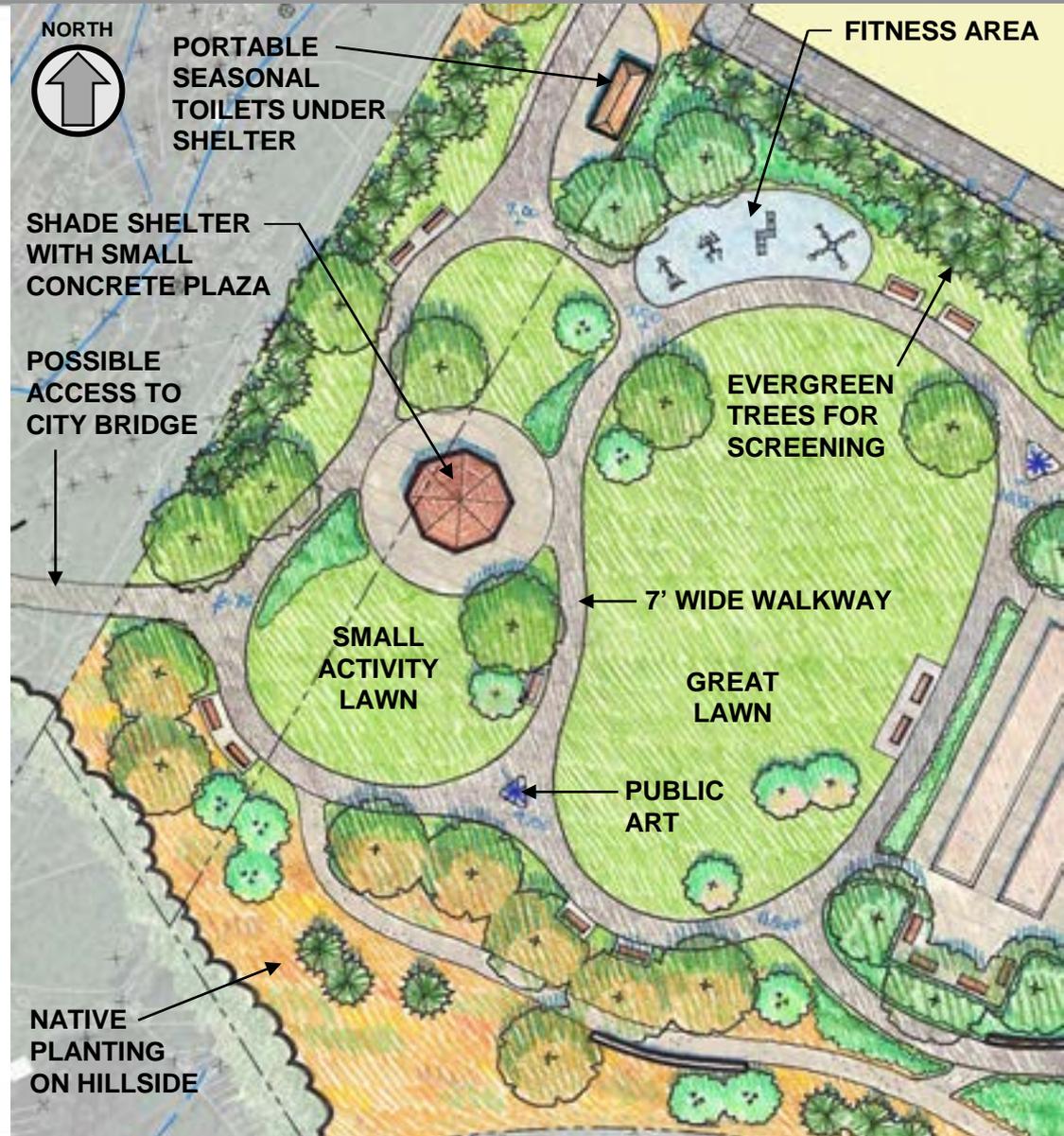
*Bocce courts with seating & accessible pavement*



# Concept 1: Great Lawn & Shade Shelter Plaza



*Shade shelter with small concrete plaza for flexible use*



# Concept 1 – Material Images



*Entry granite walls to match Reservation (Doris Park)*



*Drinking fountain*



*Example of sculptural water feature*



*Railing and seating to match Reservation*



*Alternative benches with seat extensions and interim armrests*



*Example of sculptural water feature*

# Concept 1 – Material Images



*Public art for interest and wayfinding*



*Individual fitness equipment*



*Group fitness equipment*



*Public art*



*Sloped accessible walkway with planting & seating*

## Concept 2

- Long central lawn for flexible activities
- Wide loop walkway with smaller secondary paths
- Large fitness area
- Bocce courts along main walkway
- Small shade shelters with seating along walk
- Overlook terrace near Revere Street with views into the park
- Accessible path from Overlook into park
- Possible connection to City bridge at Sears St.
- Possible path connection to the north



GEORGE C. SULLIVAN PARK

# Concept 2: Main Park Area



GEORGE C. SULLIVAN PARK

# Concept 2: Enlargement of Entries & Fitness Area



Large fitness area with different activities



Accessible fitness equipment



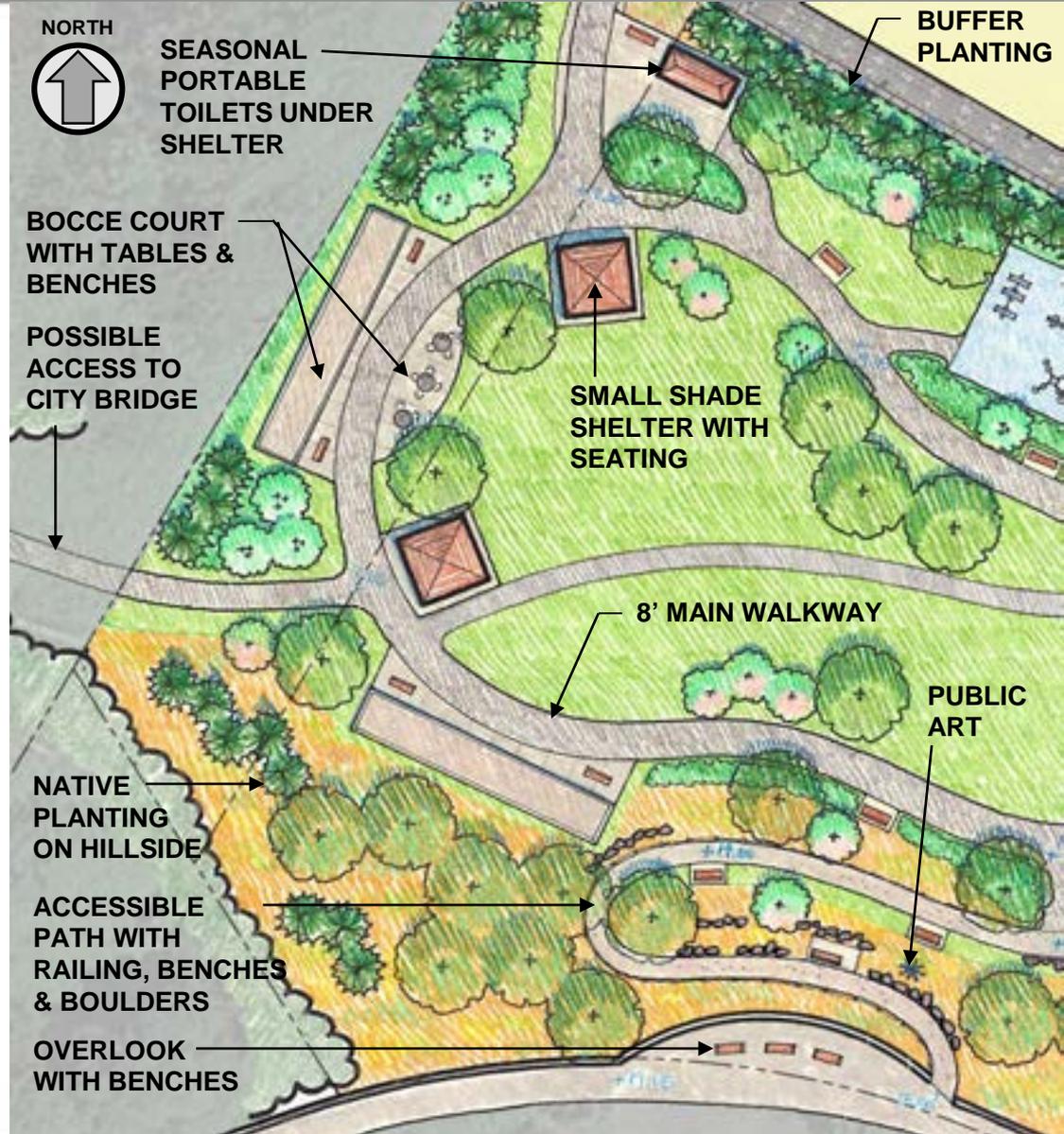
# Concept 2: Great Lawn & Bocce Courts



*Bocce courts (accessible)*



*Small shade shelters with seating*



## Concept 2 – Material Images



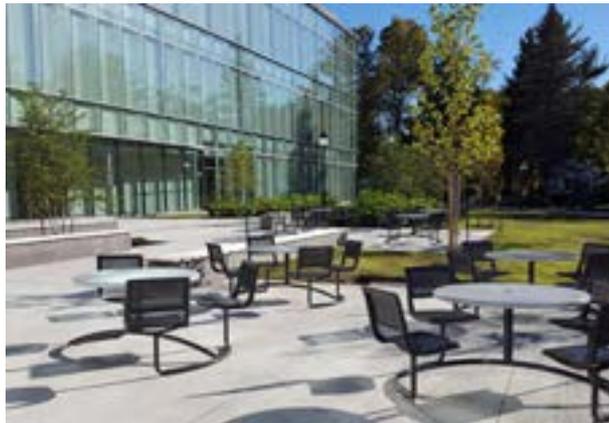
*Revere Street Overlook wall to match Reservation*



*Drinking fountain*



*Stormwater management area with planting*



*Tables for group seating*



*Bench with walker or wheelchair space*



*Public Art*

# Next Steps

- We need your comments!
  - Which Concept Option do you prefer?
  - What activities / elements do you like?
  - Are there other activities / elements you would like that aren't shown in the concepts?
  - What do you prefer for benches, tables & covered seating?
  - Are you interested in a connection to the City's bridge at Diamond Creek?
- We will create a Preferred Site Plan based on your comments.
- The DCR will hold a public presentation.

# Comments and Feedback

# Concept 1



# Concept 2



# Preliminary Schedule

Public Comment Period:	July 1 – July 15, 2020
Preferred Site Plan:	August 2020
Public Meeting:	September 2020
Permitting:	September 2020
Final Bid Documents:	November 2020
Construction:	<i>When funding becomes available</i>

# Additional Information

## For more information:

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

## If you have comments or suggestions on this project:

*Submit online:*

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment>

*Or email:*

[jennifer.norwood@mass.gov](mailto:jennifer.norwood@mass.gov) with Subject: Sullivan Park Improvements

**Deadline: Wednesday, July 15, 2020**

*Note: Public comments submitted to DCR may be posted on the DCR website in their entirety, and no information, including contact information, will be redacted.*

## If you have questions or concerns or 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](mailto:Mass.Parks@state.ma.us).