

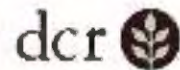


Taunton River Trail

Design Concept Public Meeting

Thursday, September 22, 2022

6:00pm to 7:30pm



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Charles D. Baker

Lieutenant Governor

Karyn E. Polito

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Bethany A. Card

Department of Conservation and Recreation Acting Commissioner

Douglas Rice



DCR MISSION

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

Meeting Logistics

- You will have the opportunity to submit comments over the course of the next two weeks at:
 - DCR Public Comments: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>
- Two ways to ask questions during the meeting
 - Use chat feature
 - Raise your hand using the Teams function, and you will be given permissions to unmute and speak.
- *Please note that this public meeting will be recorded; the recording will be a public record.*

Project Team

DCR

- **Gerald Autler**, *Director of Trails and Greenways*
- **Amber Christoffersen**, *Trails and Greenways Planner*
- **Daniel Cushing**, *Director of Public Engagement*

Horsley Witten Team

- **Jennifer Relstab**, PE, *Project Manager, Senior Water Resources Engineer at HW*
- **Nate Kelly**, AICP, *Community Engagement Lead, Principal at HW*



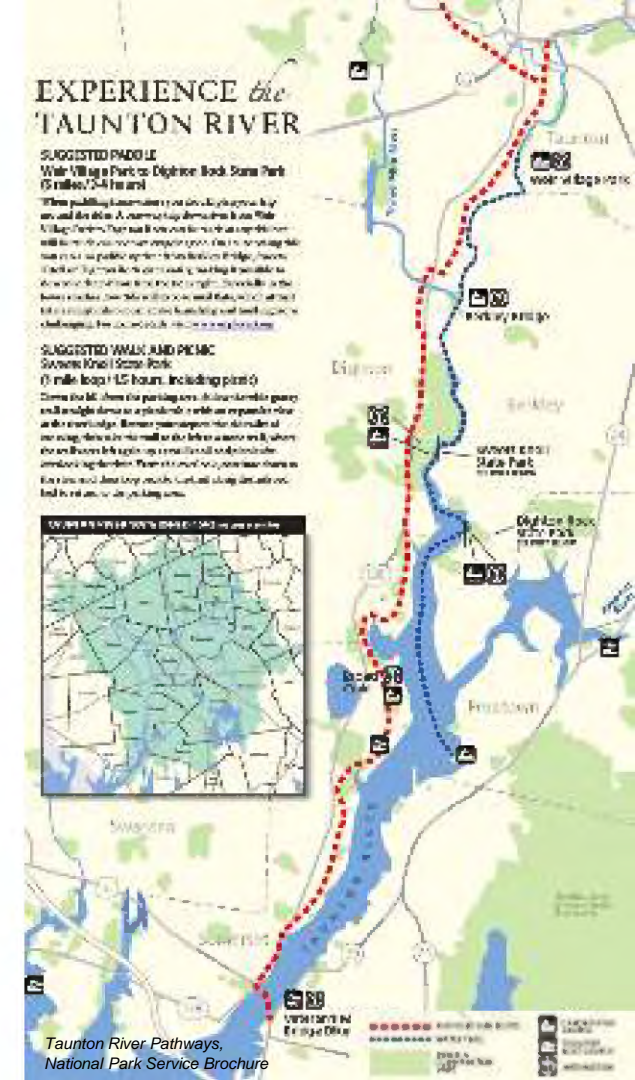
Welcome

Agenda :

- Project Background
- Project Goals
- Site Analysis (Key Findings)
- Concept Design
- Questions and Comments

Taunton River Trail

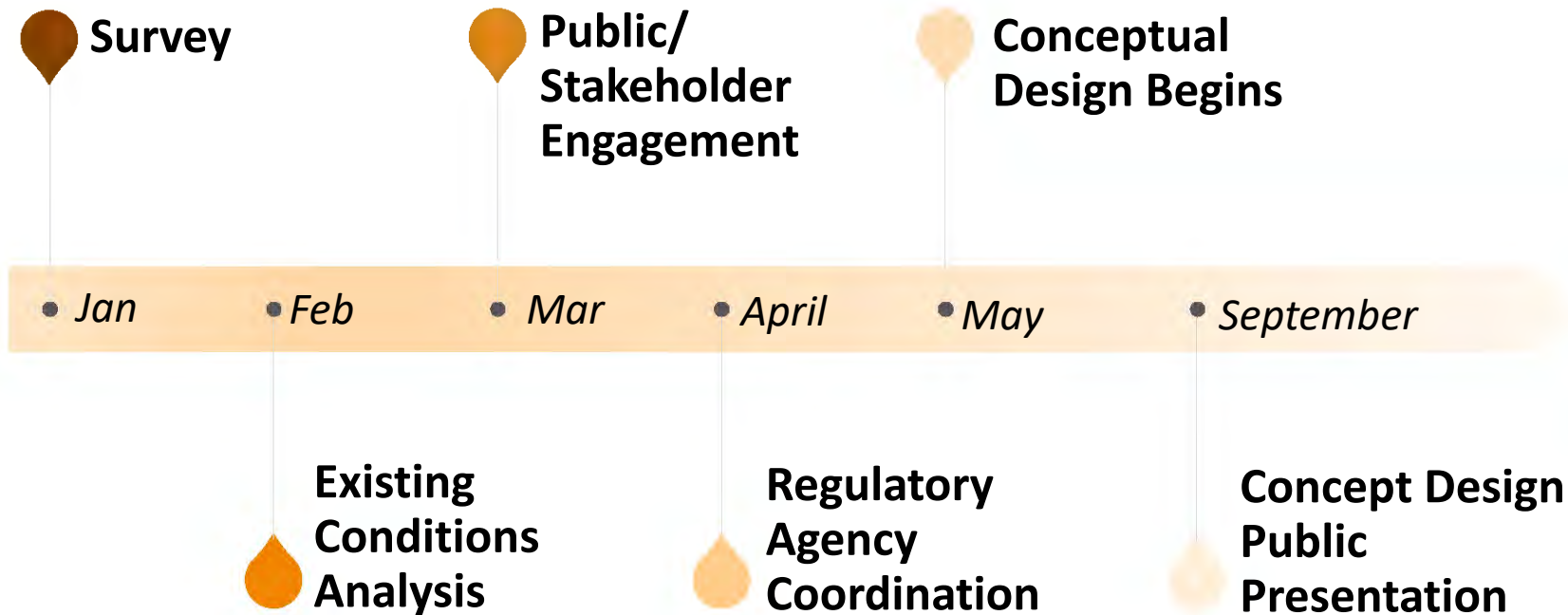
- Regional connection between Fall River, Somerset, Dighton, and Taunton
- Proposed 22-mile continuous network of on- and off-road trails to intersect with the South Coast Bikeway
- Opportunities to access Taunton River, parks, and open spaces, in addition to community connections



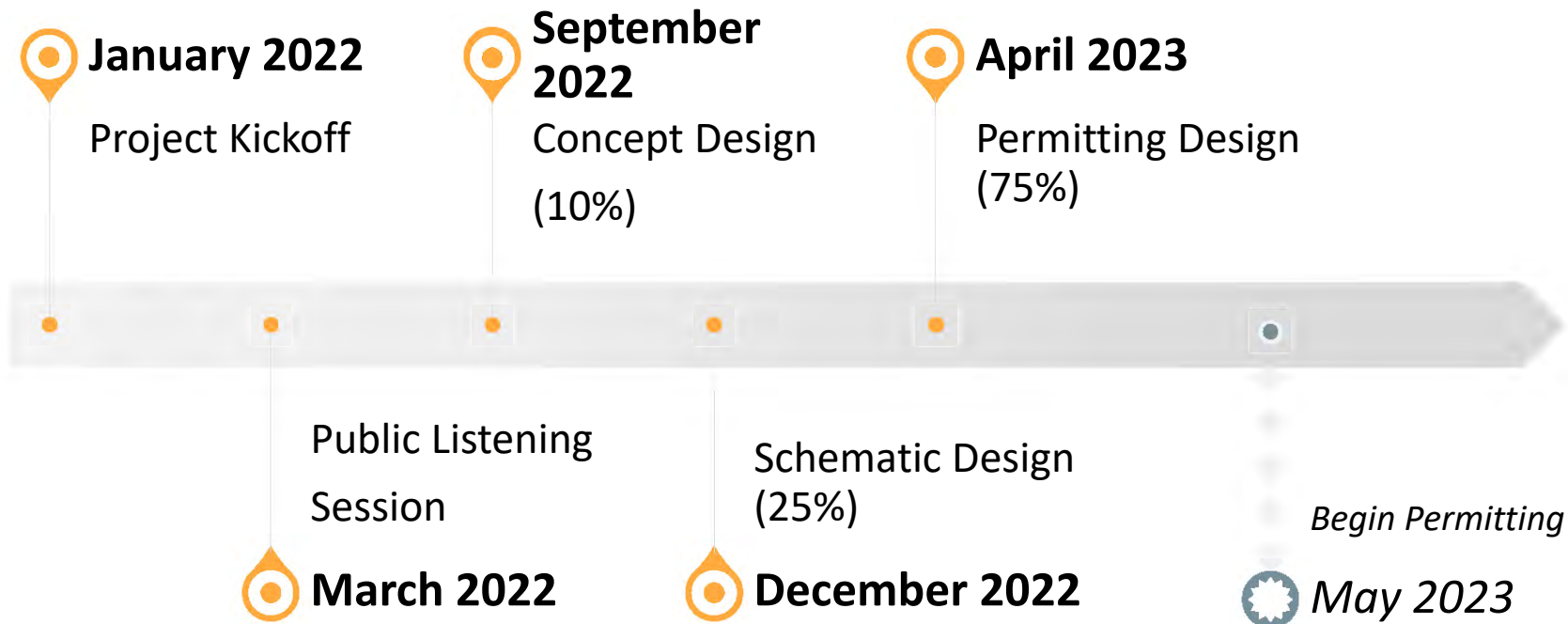
Project Goals

- Create a shared-use accessible path
- Protect environmental and cultural resource areas
- Improve local connectivity and accessibility
- Initiate design of trailheads
- Prioritize pedestrian access to Sweets Knoll State Park and Taunton River

Concept Design Schedule



Project Schedule



Site



➔ **Sandpiper Way Connection**

➔ **Spratt Park/ Town Hall Connection**

➔ **Center Street Crossing at Bristol Aggie**

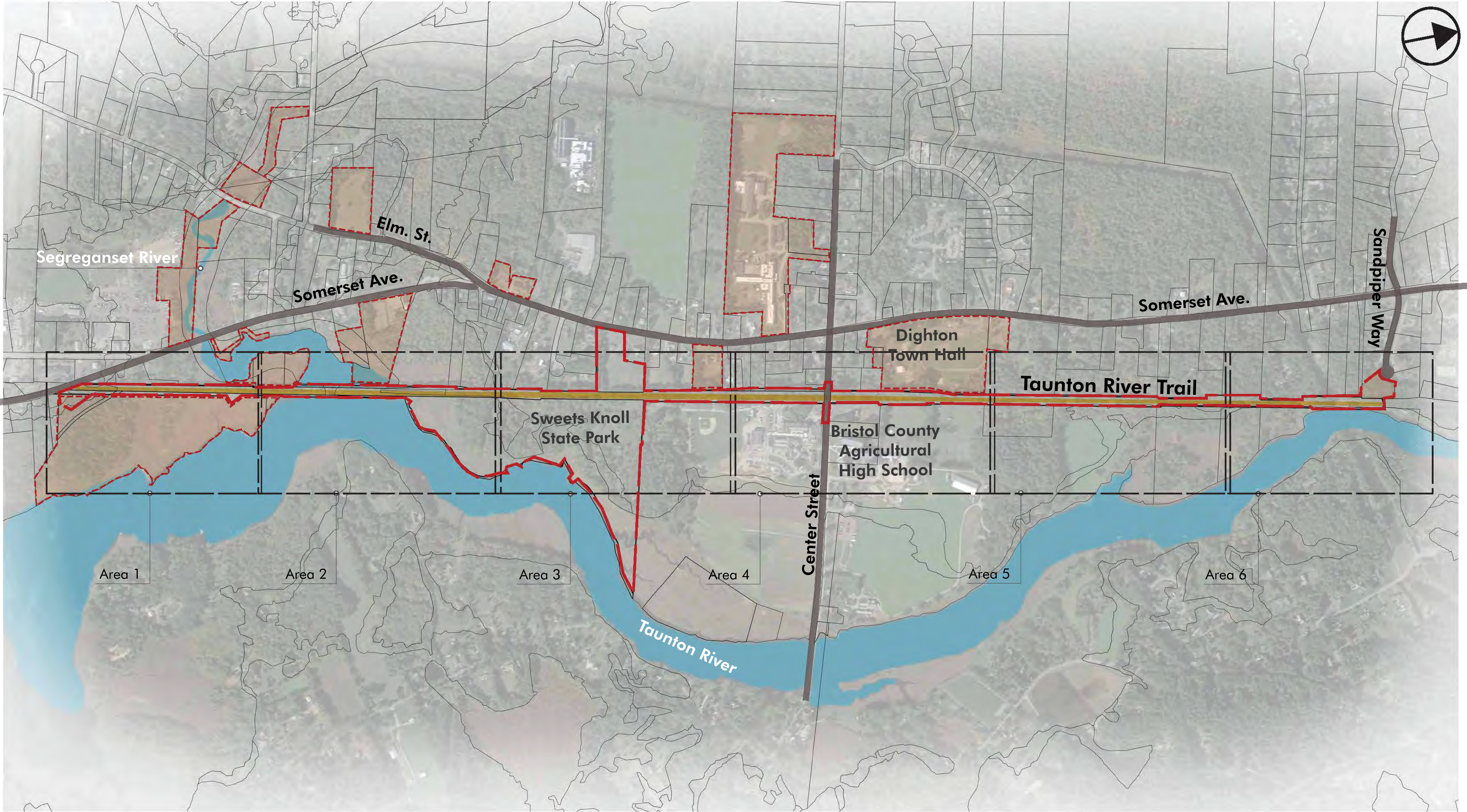
➔ **Sweets Knoll State Park**

➔ **Segreganset River Bridge Crossing**

➔ **South Trailhead/ Parking Area
at Somerset Avenue**

Site Analysis – Key Findings



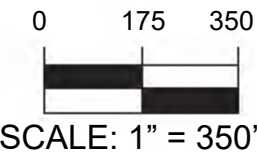


Legend

	Preliminary Project Extent		Taunton River Trail
	Property Lines		Open Water
	Roadway		
	Town Owned Parcel		

**Taunton River Trail
Location Map**

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May 2022



Site Analysis – Right-of-Way Conditions



Footpaths exist along most of the railroad right-of-way. Width varies along corridor.



Footpaths alongside rail bed.

Site Analysis – Accessibility



Need for ADA accessible connections to the future trail and Taunton River (Sweets Knoll State Park)



(Sandpiper Way connection)

Site Analysis – Town-owned Parcels



Need for ADA accessible trailheads on Town-owned parcels (Somerset Ave)



(Spratt Park/Town Hall)

Site Analysis – Town-owned Parcels



Potential additional access and connection (Spratt Park/Town Hall, Looking west)



(Looking east)

Site Analysis – Sweets Knoll State Park

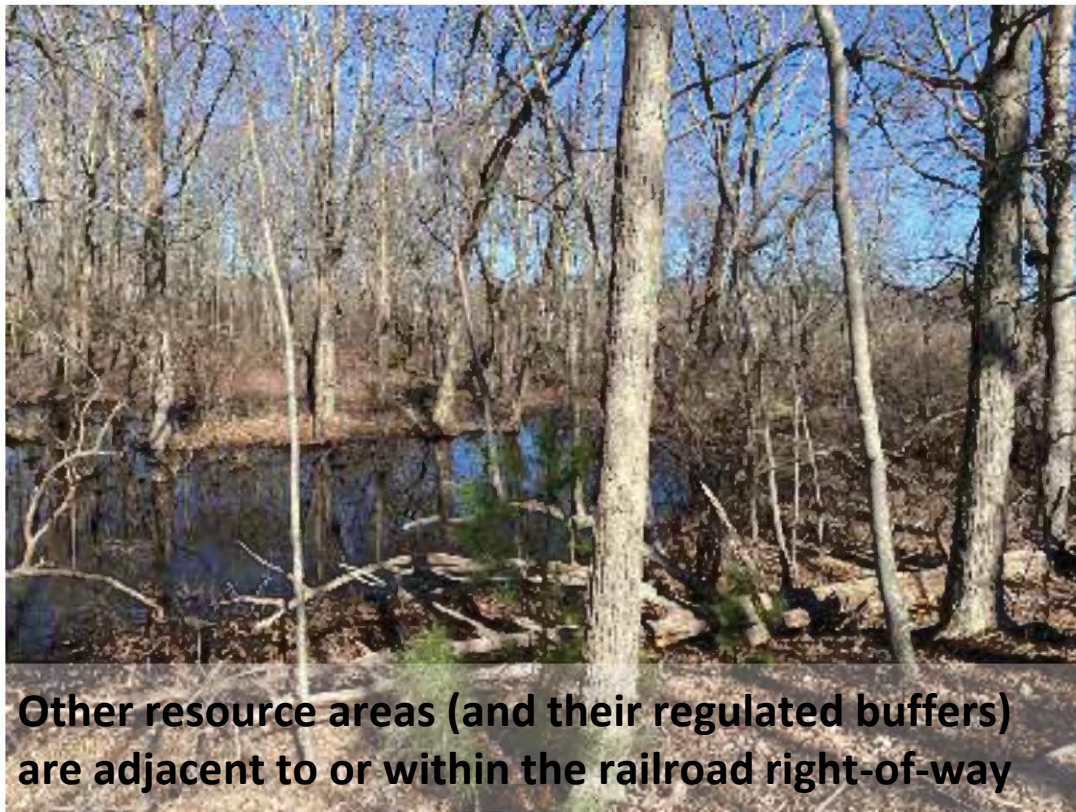


Need for ADA accessible parking and emergency access to future trail at Sweets Knoll State Park



Driveway and grass parking area

Site Analysis – Natural Resource Areas



Site Analysis – Historical/Cultural Resource Areas

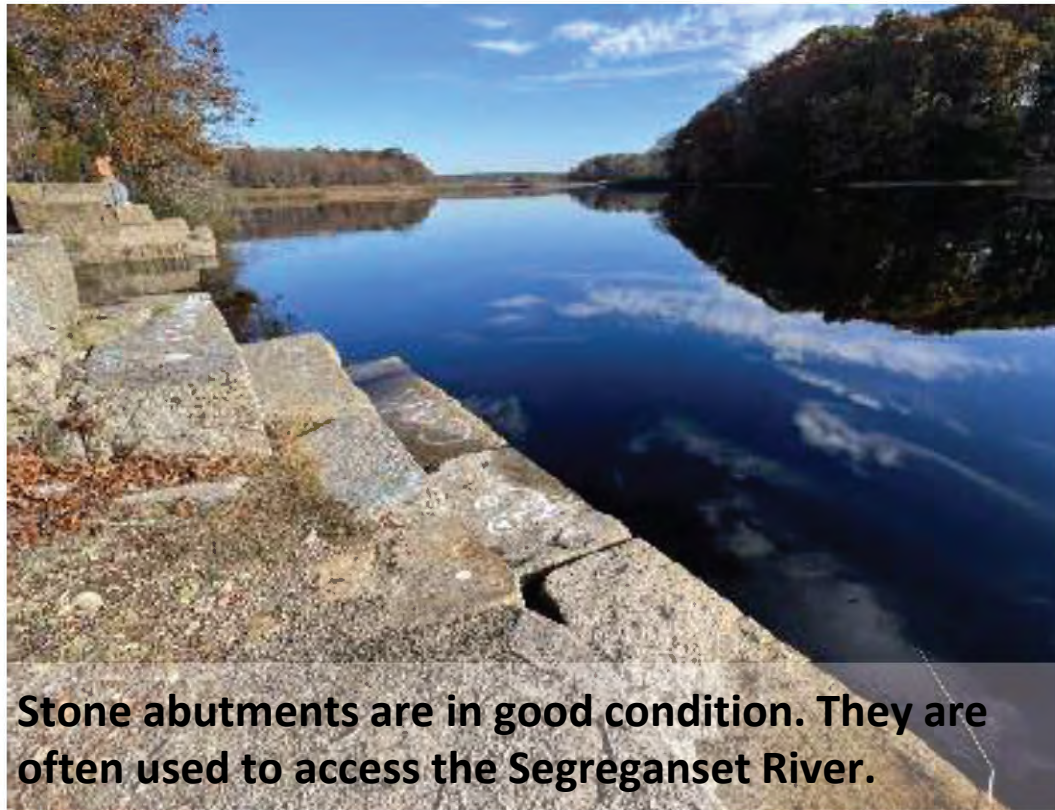


Historical railroad beds visible in several locations

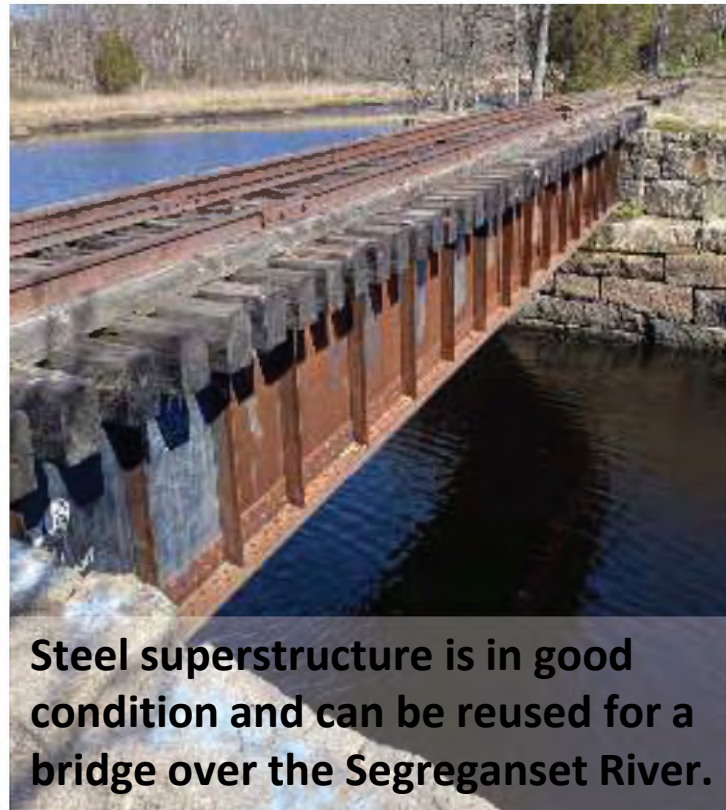


No visible bridge or stone abutments or station infrastructure at Center Street

Site Analysis – Segreganset River Bridge



Stone abutments are in good condition. They are often used to access the Segreganset River.



Steel superstructure is in good condition and can be reused for a bridge over the Segreganset River.

Site Analysis – Views



View of Segreganset River and marsh



View of Taunton River

Concept Design



Key Design Objectives

- Create accessible connections and paths that are inviting to people of all ages, abilities, and interests
- Maximize opportunities for users to view and be close to the Taunton and Segreganset Rivers
- Use nature-based solutions, including green stormwater infrastructure and restoration techniques, to protect and enhance existing resources
- Highlight cultural resources and provide educational signage
- Address the concerns of abutters while minimizing encroachment

Trail Materials



Asphalt Paving

Pros:

- ADA accessible
- Resilient to flooding, rain events
- Reduced long-term maintenance

Cons:

- Not pervious (requires additional stormwater management)
- Urban appearance



Aggregate Soils

Pros:

- Natural looking
- Pervious (can infiltrate runoff)
- Soft on joints

Cons:

- Soil binder and/or compaction needed to provide accessibility
- Vegetation encroachment at edges
- More frequent maintenance



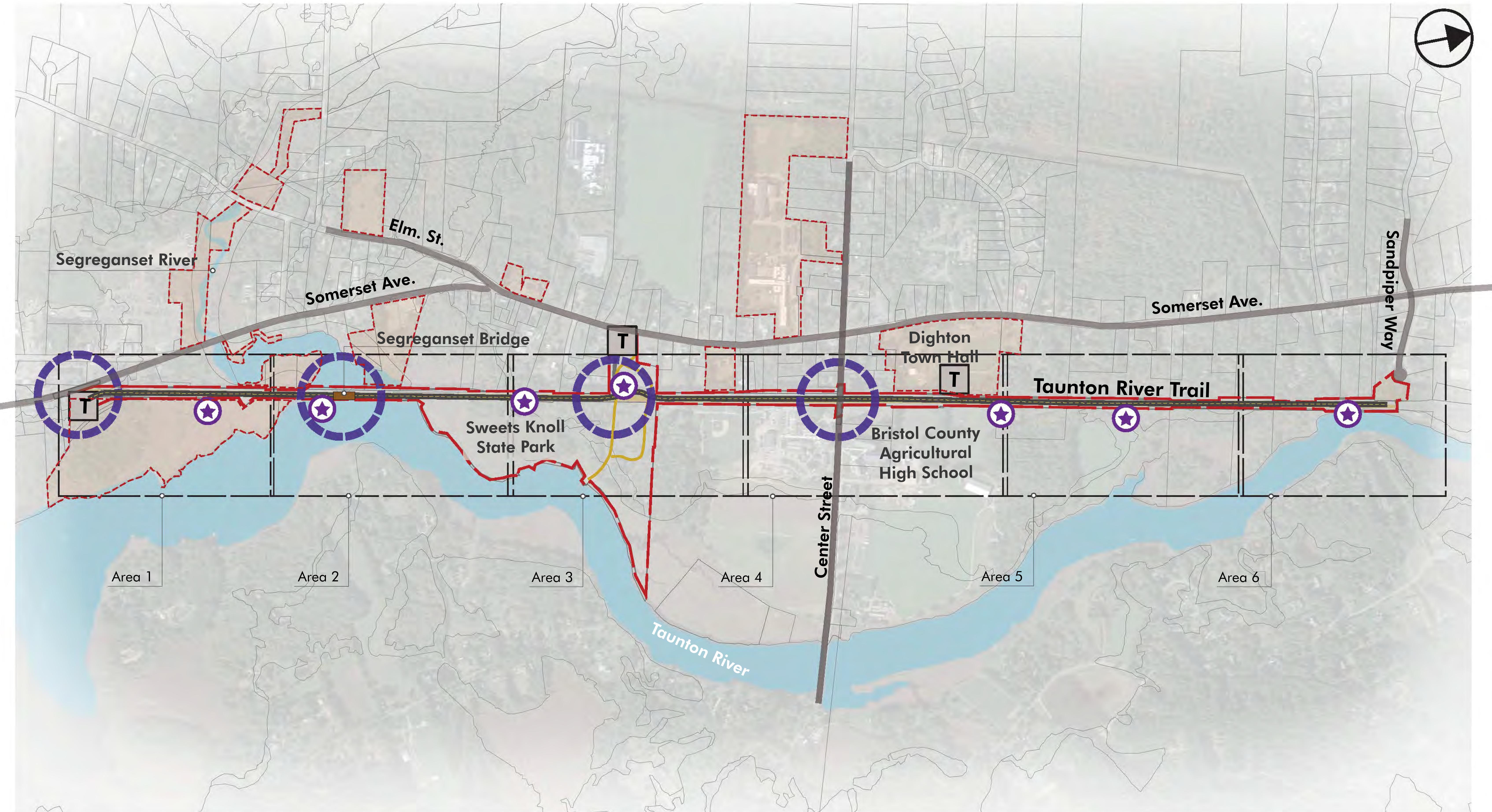
Wood Bridge

Pros:

- Consistent with DCR shared use paths
- Change in material to slow traffic
- Easier to manage rain/snow/debris

Cons:

- 'Lip' transitions at bridge edges
- Build up of organic material at deck edge can create rot/
- Slippery surface when wet



Legend

	Preliminary Project Extent		Open Water		Entry or Pause
	Property Lines		Taunton River Trail		Seating / Pull-off Area
	Roadway		Connecting Path		
	Town Owned Parcel		Trailhead		

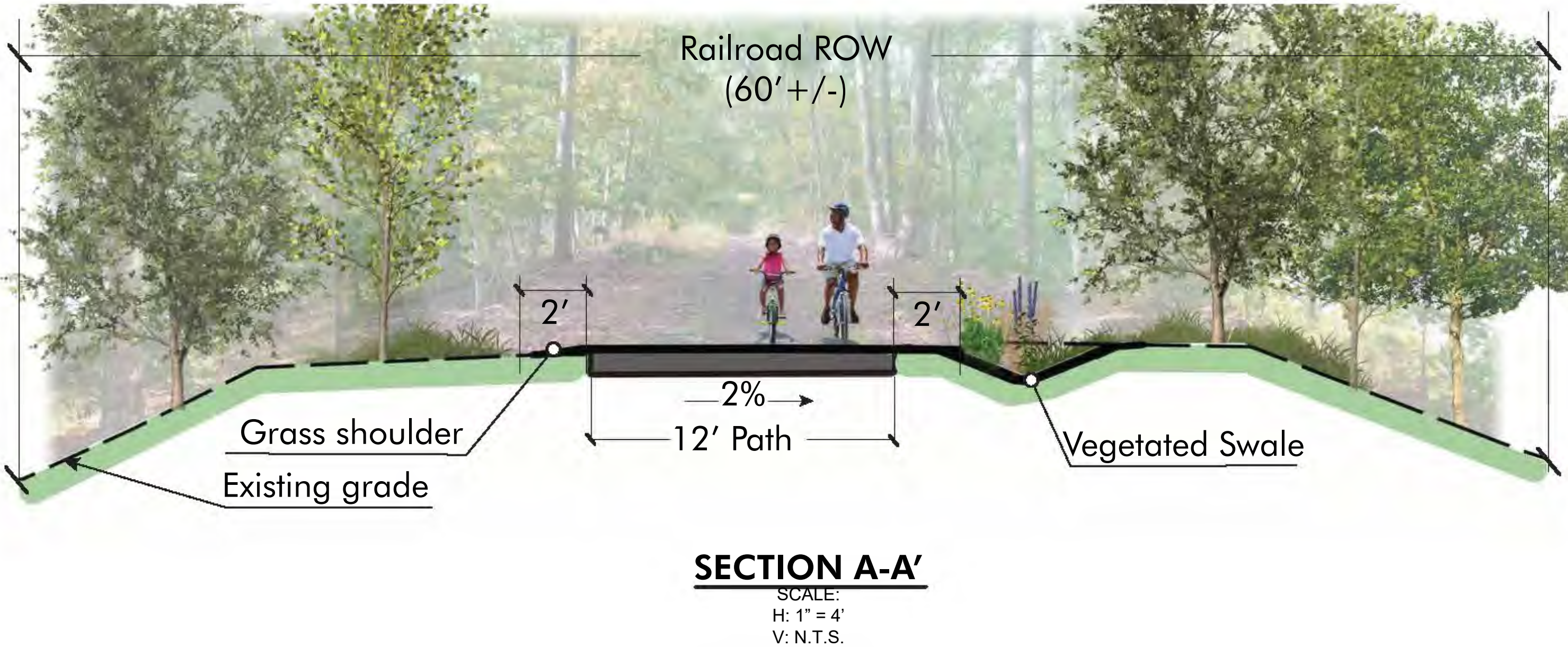
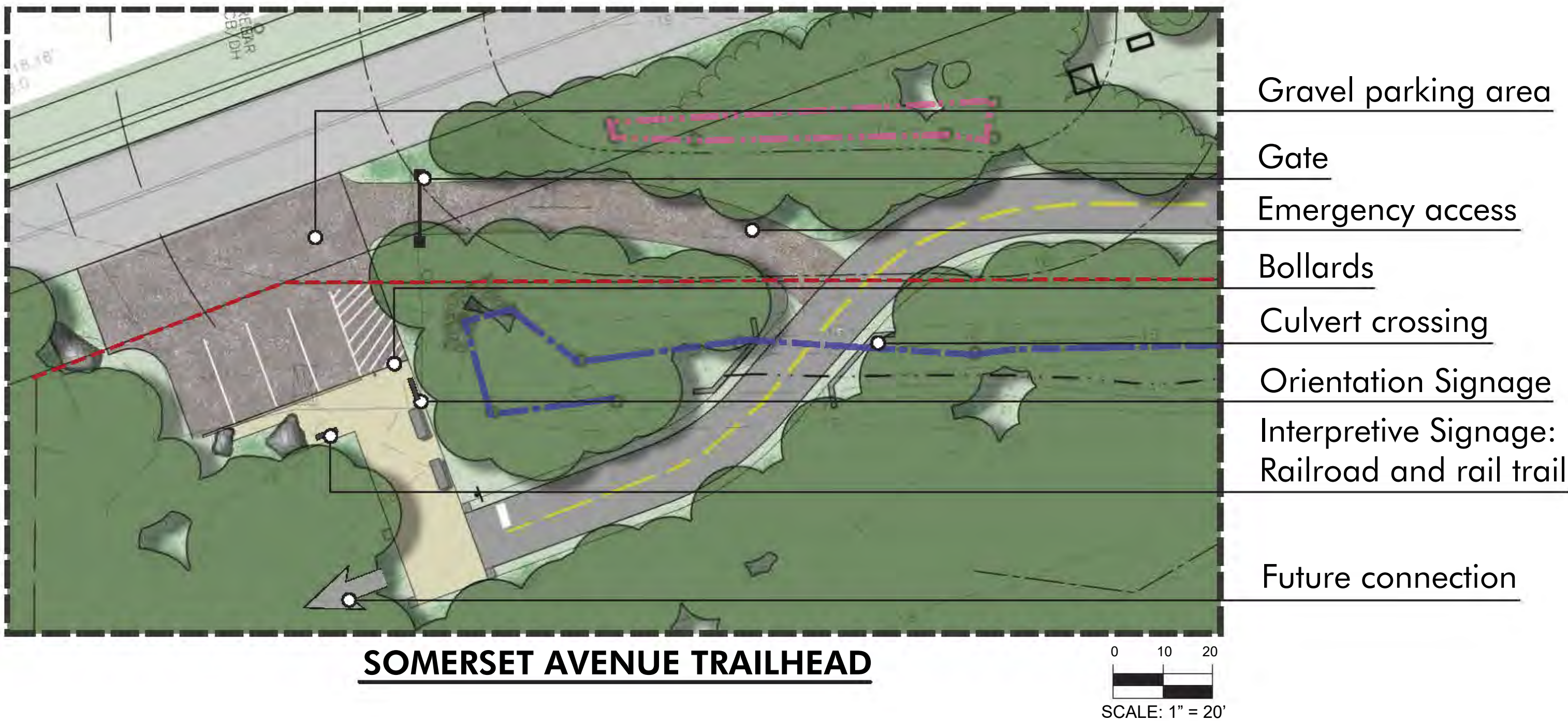
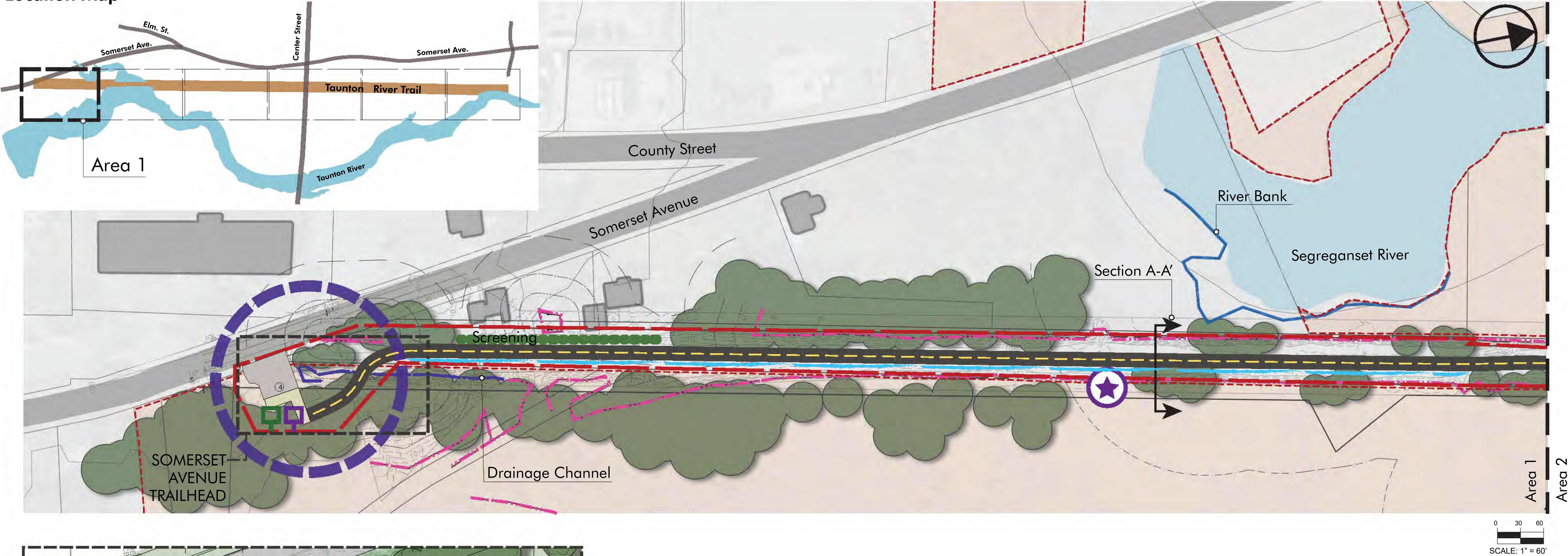
**Taunton River Trail
Concept Map**

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0 175 350
SCALE: 1" = 350'



Location Map



Legend

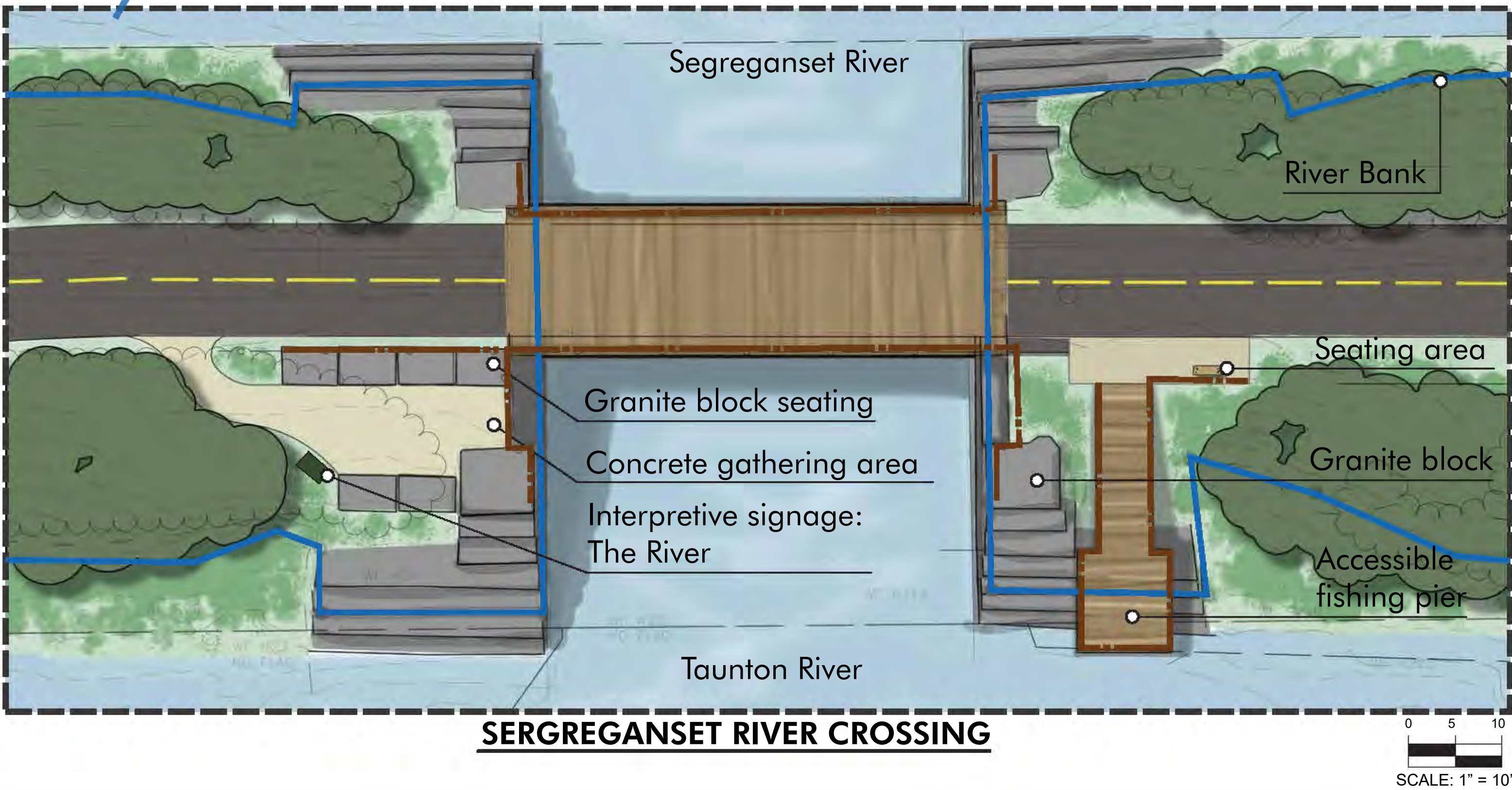
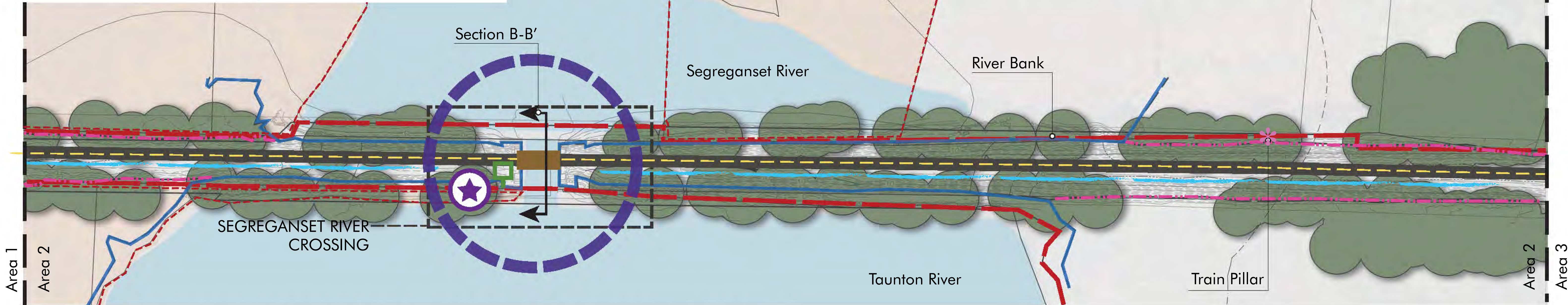
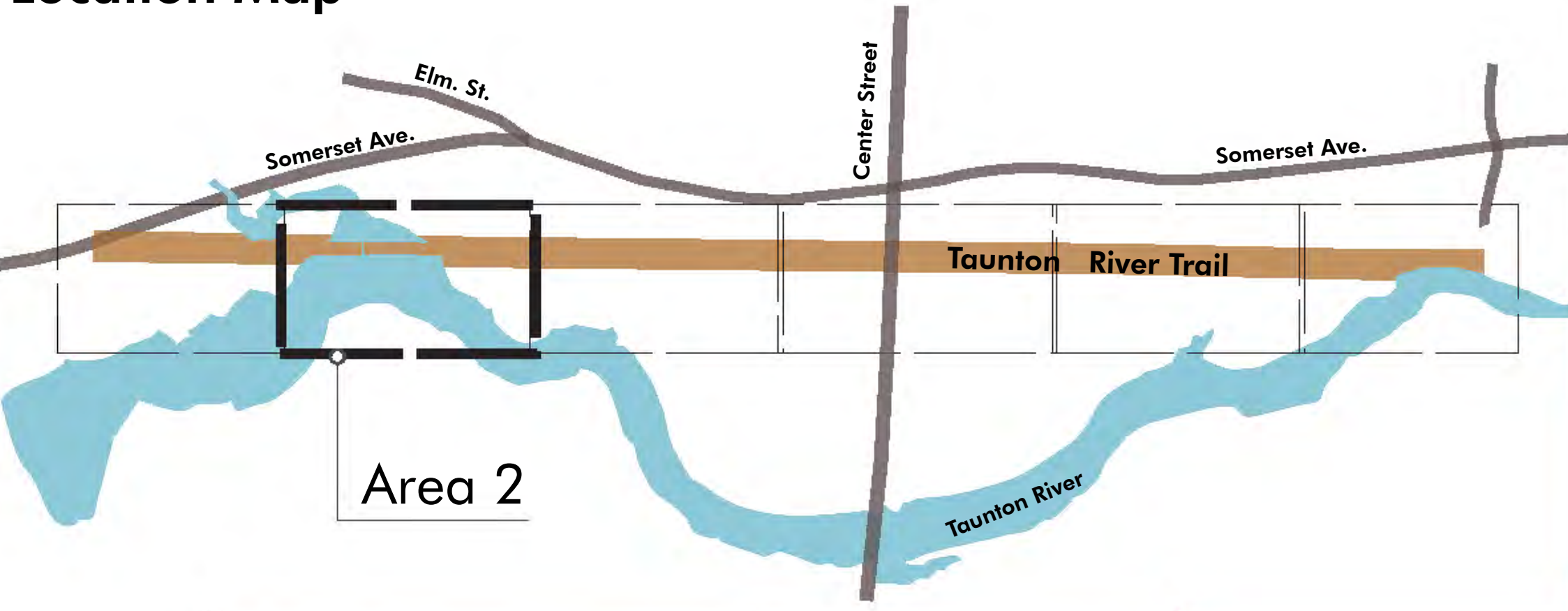
	Preliminary Project Extent		Wetland Boundary		Entry or Pause
	Property Lines		Multi-Use Trail, Asphalt		Seating / Pull-off Area
	Town Owned Property		Multi-Use Trail, Boardwalk		Signage, Educational
	Rail Lines to Remain		Stormwater Practice		Signage, Directional

Taunton River Trail
Area 1: Concept

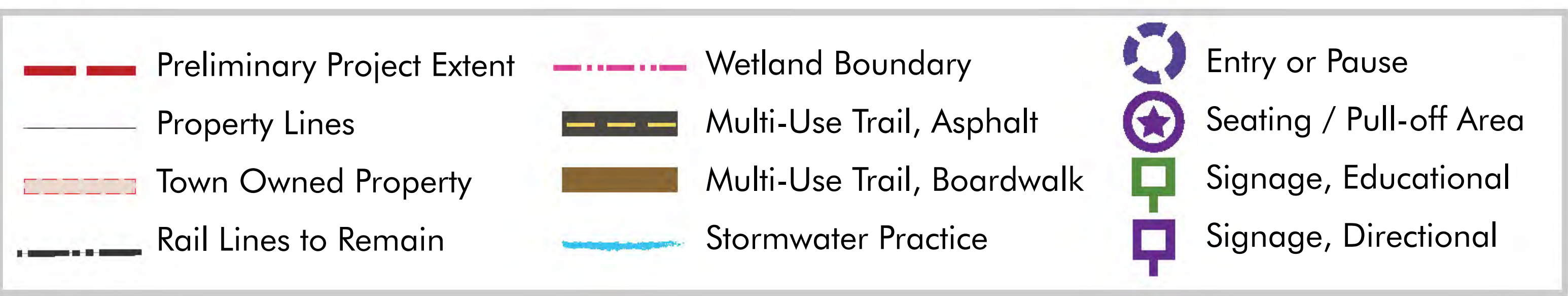
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Location Map



Legend

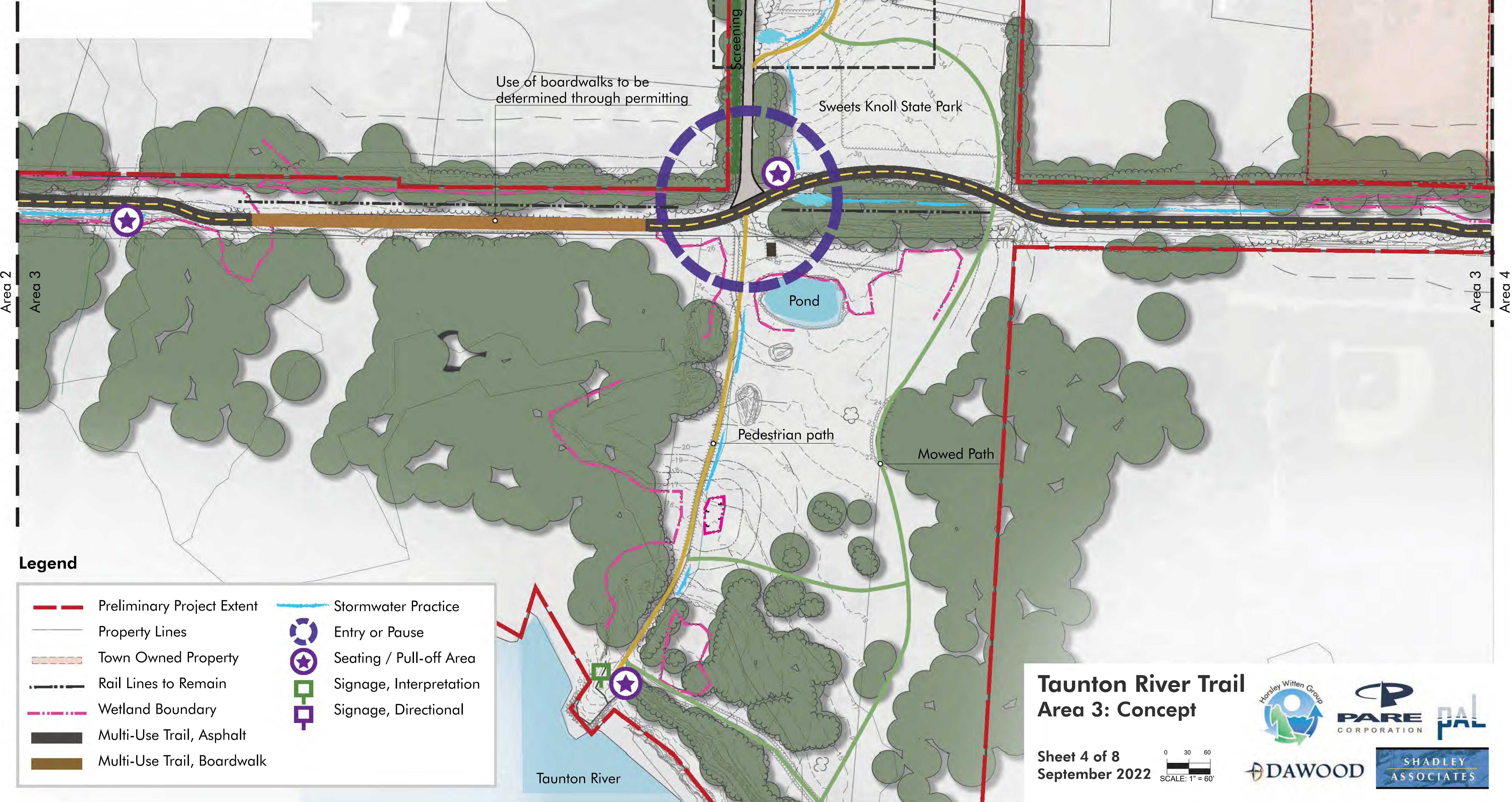
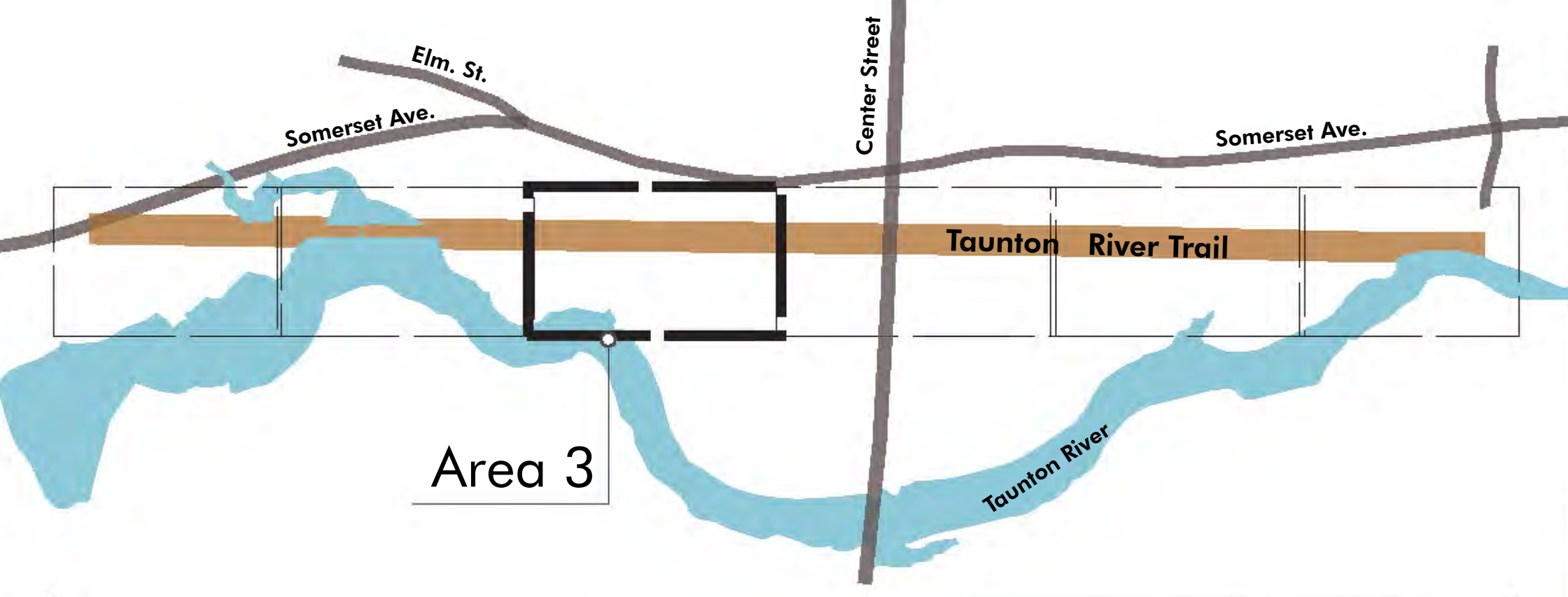


Taunton River Trail
Area 2: Concept

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Location Map



Legend

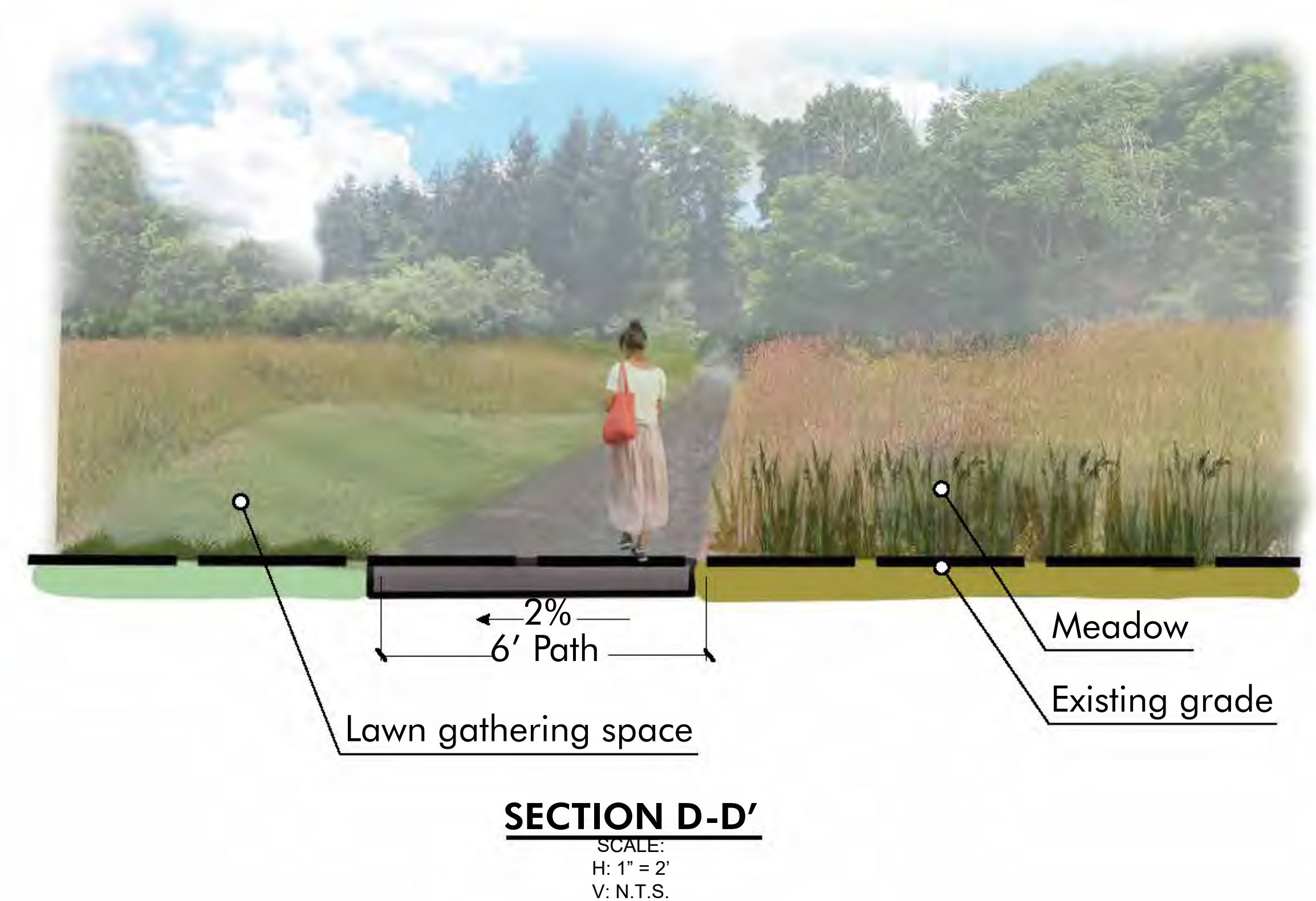
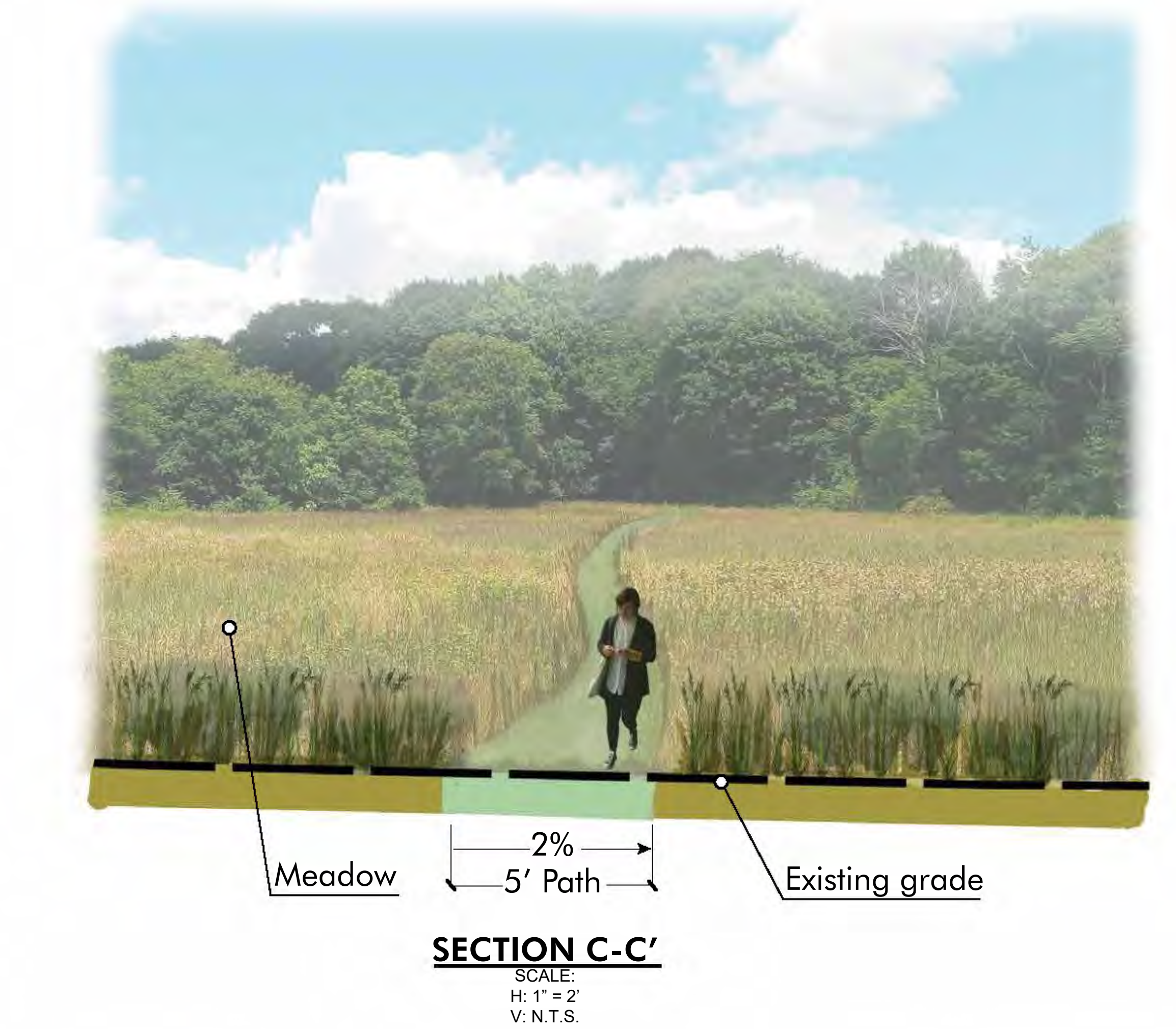
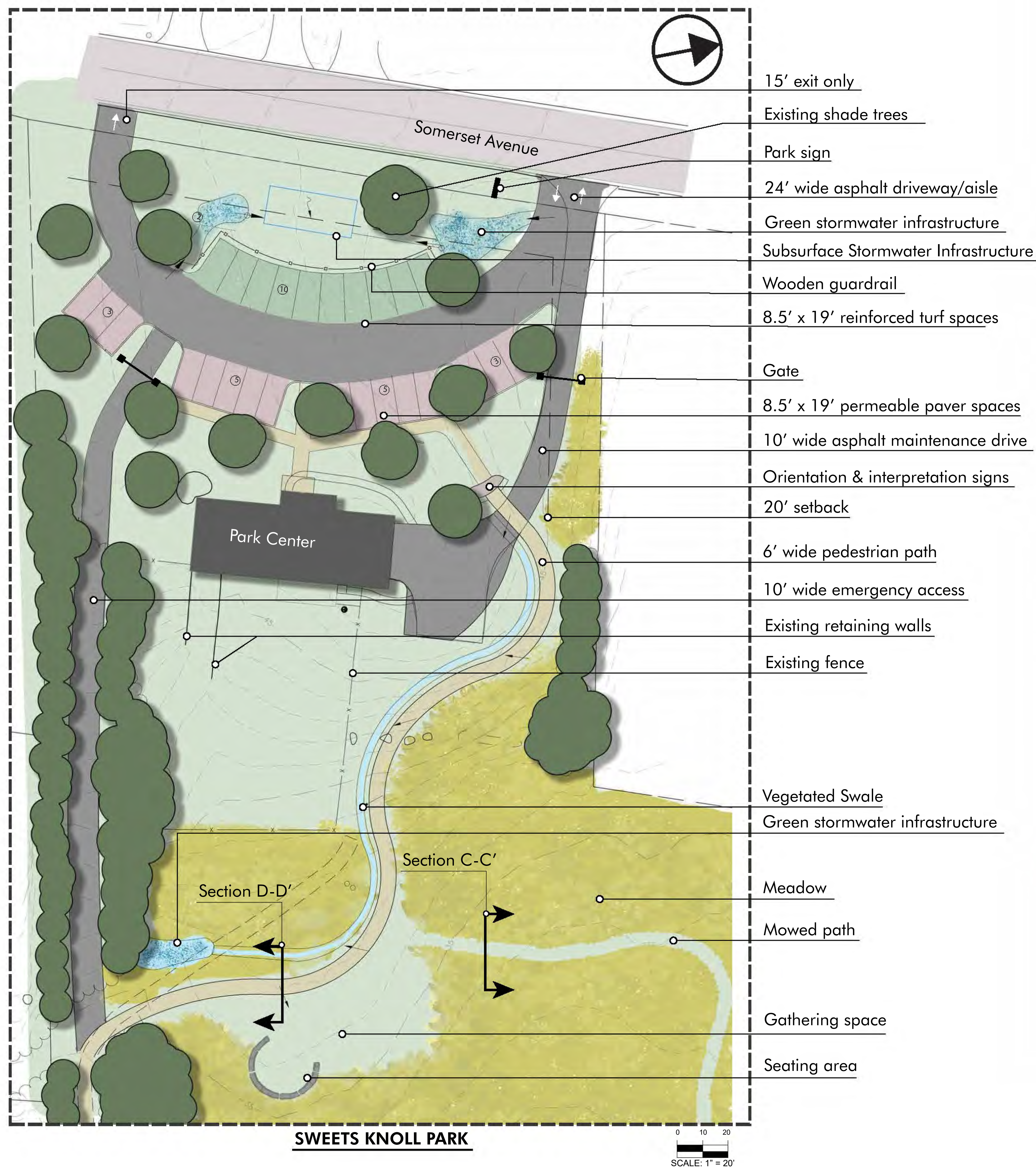
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|--|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | Preliminary Project Extent | | Stormwater Practice |
| | Property Lines | | Entry or Pause |
| | Town Owned Property | | Seating / Pull-off Area |
| | Rail Lines to Remain | | Signage, Interpretation |
| | Wetland Boundary | | Signage, Directional |
| | Multi-Use Trail, Asphalt | | |
| | Multi-Use Trail, Boardwalk | | |

Taunton River Trail
Area 3: Concept

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0 30 60
SCALE: 1" = 60'



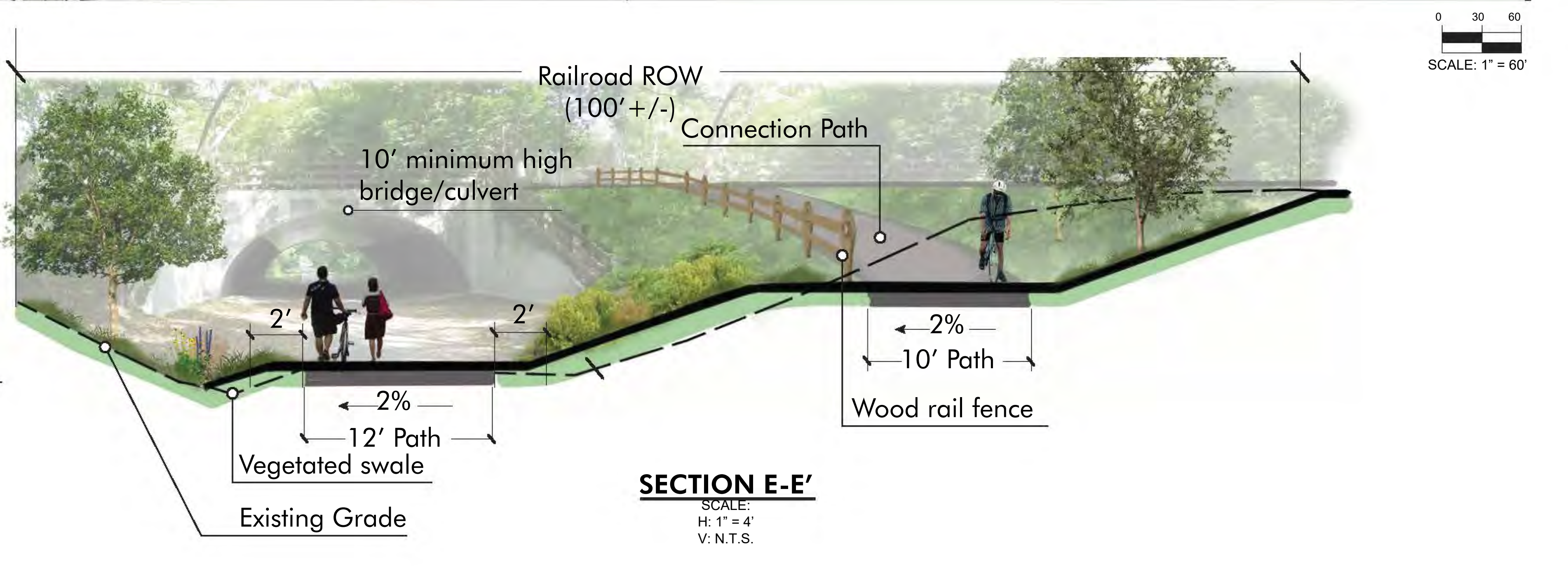
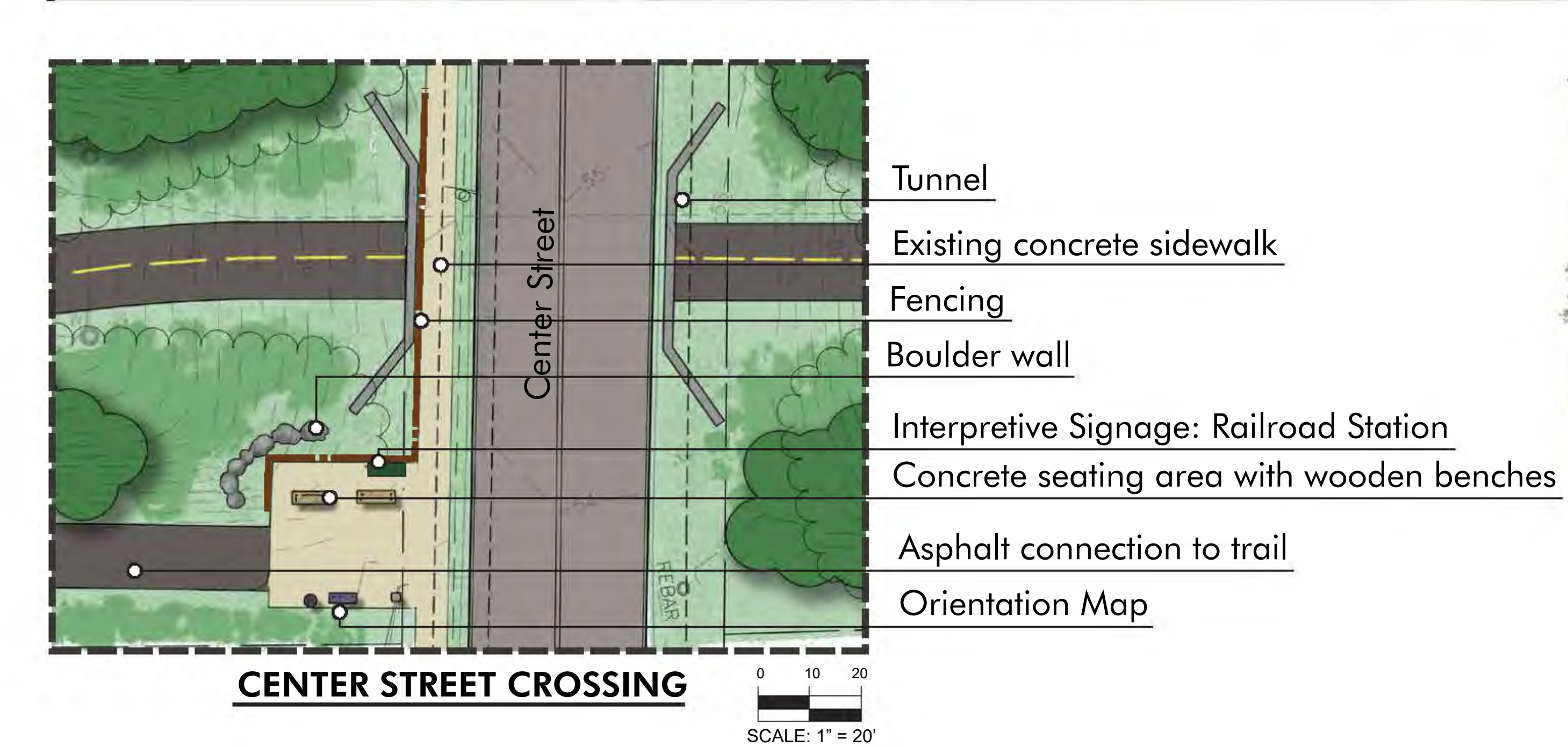
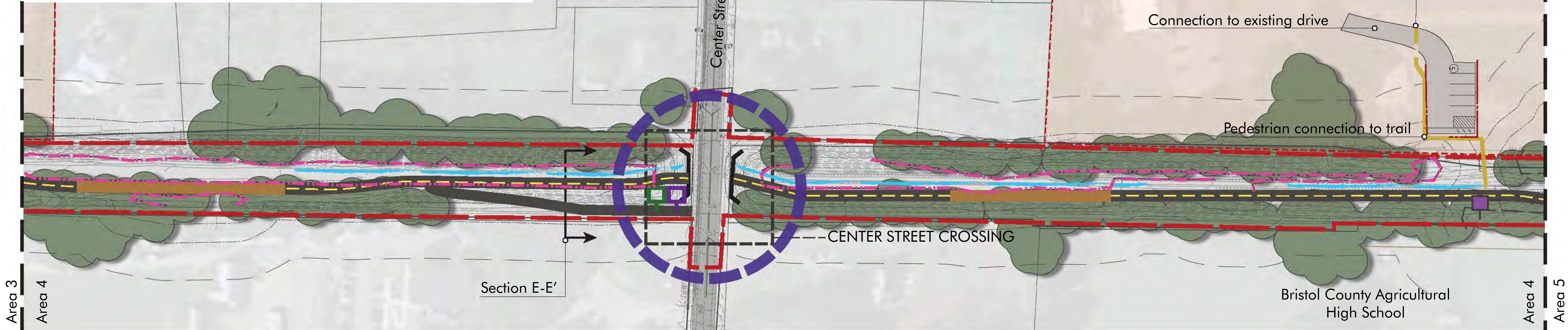
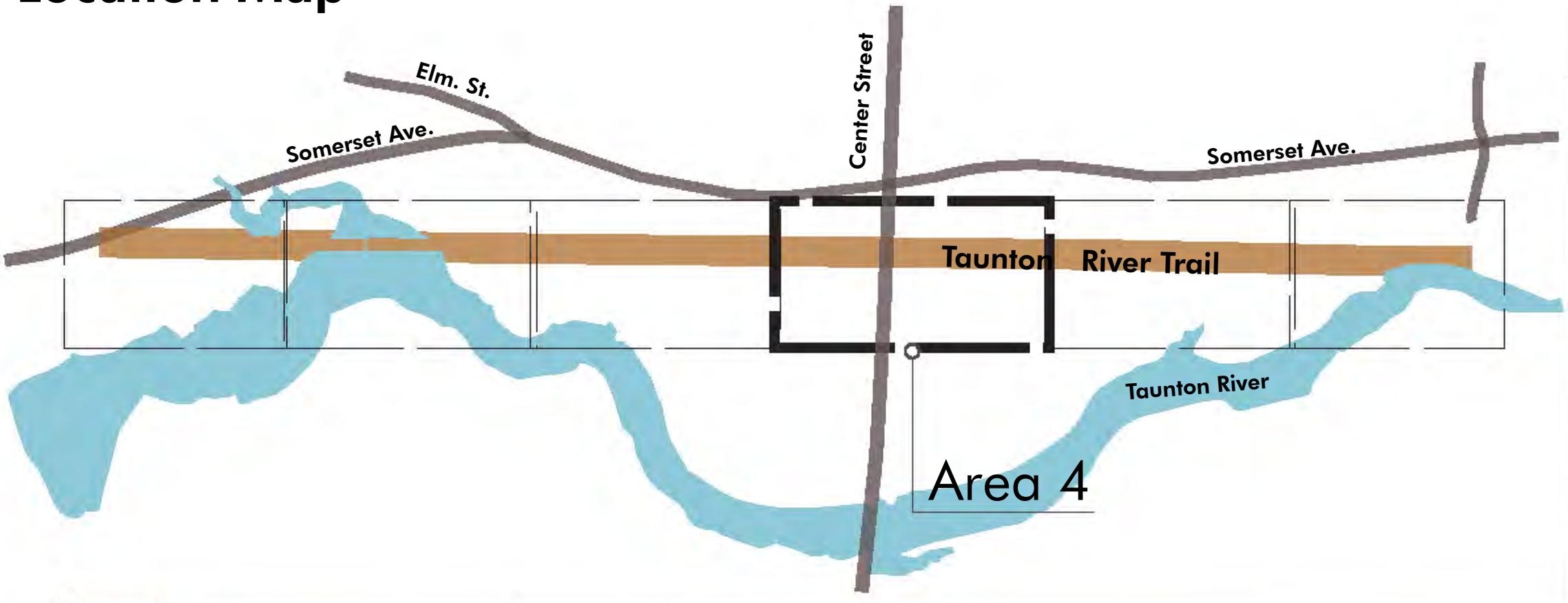


Taunton River Trail Area 3: Concept

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Location Map



Legend

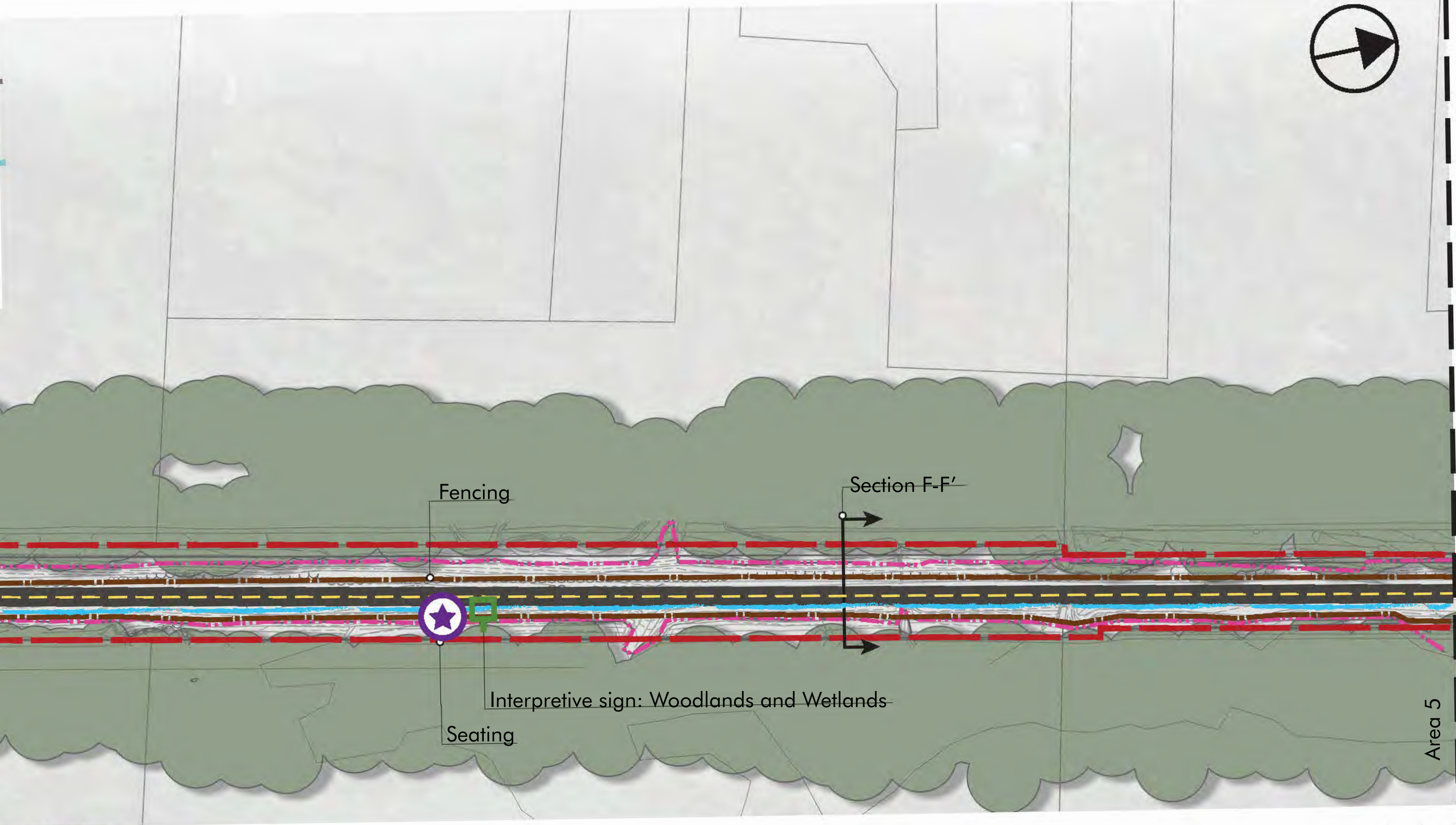
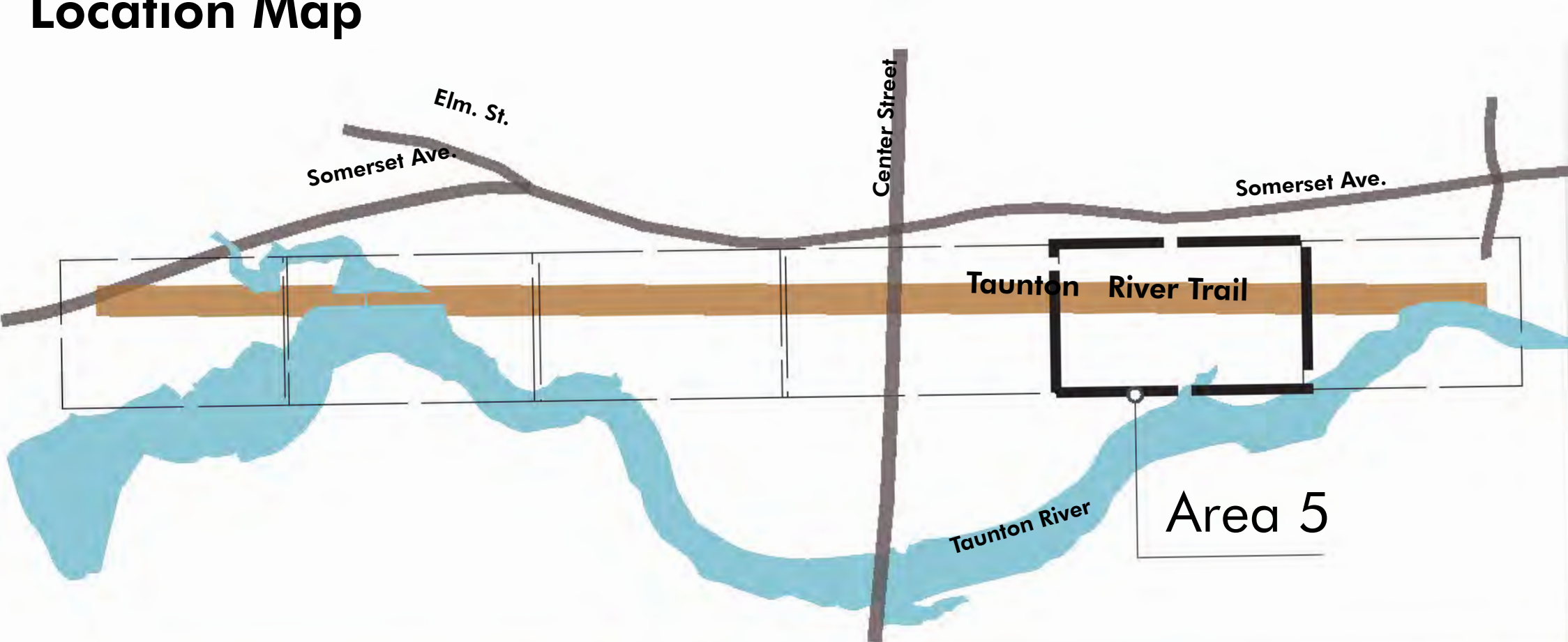


Taunton River Trail
Area 4: Concept

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Location Map



0 30 60
SCALE: 1" = 60'



SECTION F-F'
SCALE:
H: 1" = 4'
V: N.T.S.

Legend

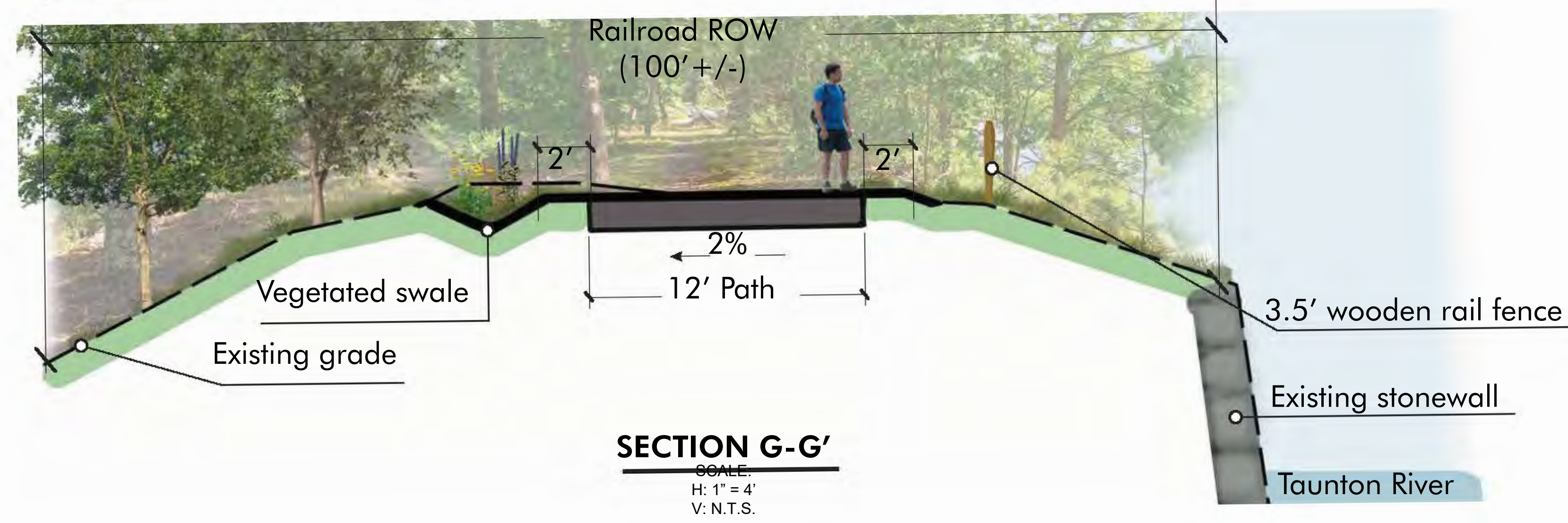
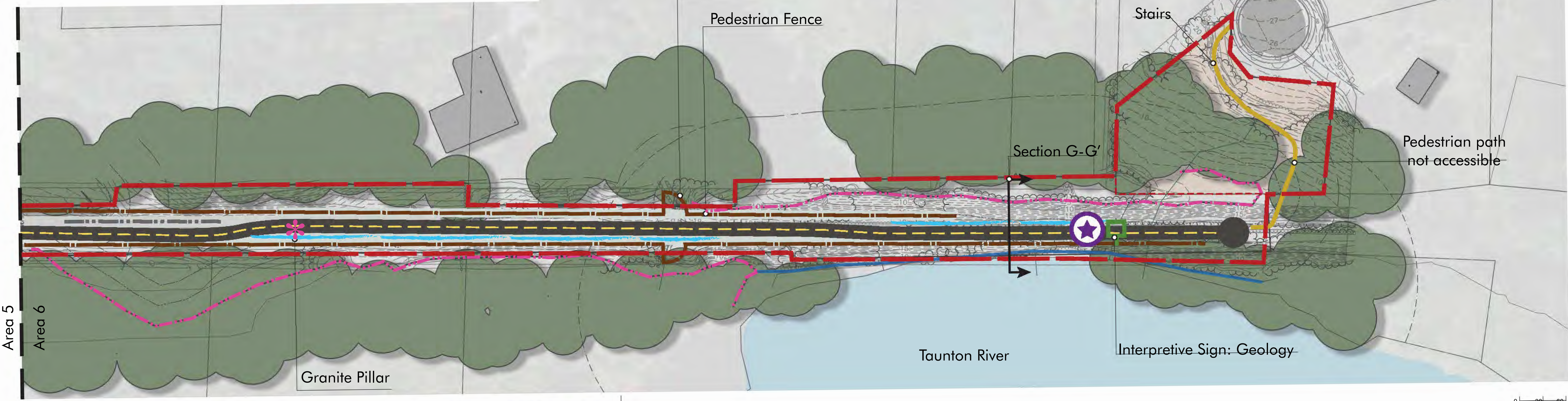
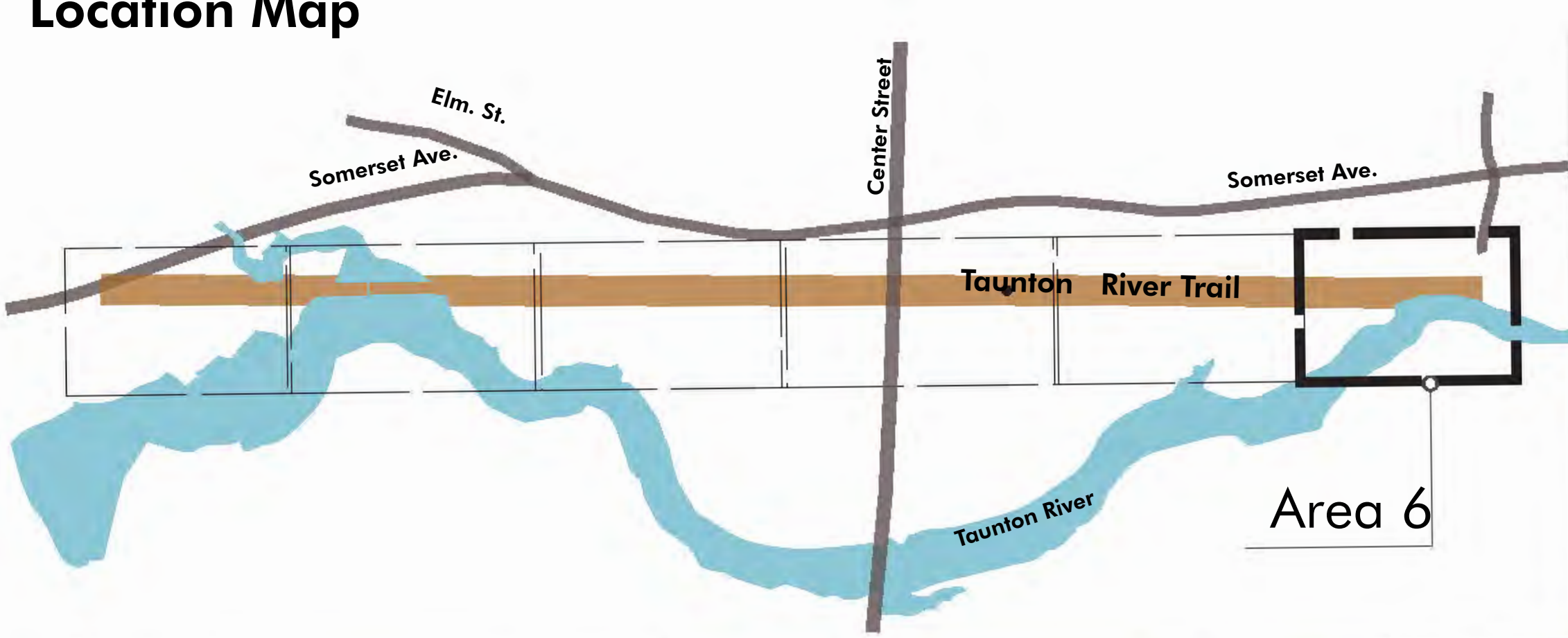
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|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Preliminary Project Extent | Wetland Boundary | Entry or Pause |
| Property Lines | Multi-Use Trail, Asphalt | Seating / Pull-off Area |
| Town Owned Property | Multi-Use Trail, Boardwalk | Signage, Educational |
| Rail Lines to Remain | Stormwater Practice | Signage, Directional |

Taunton River Trail
Area 5: Concept

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Location Map



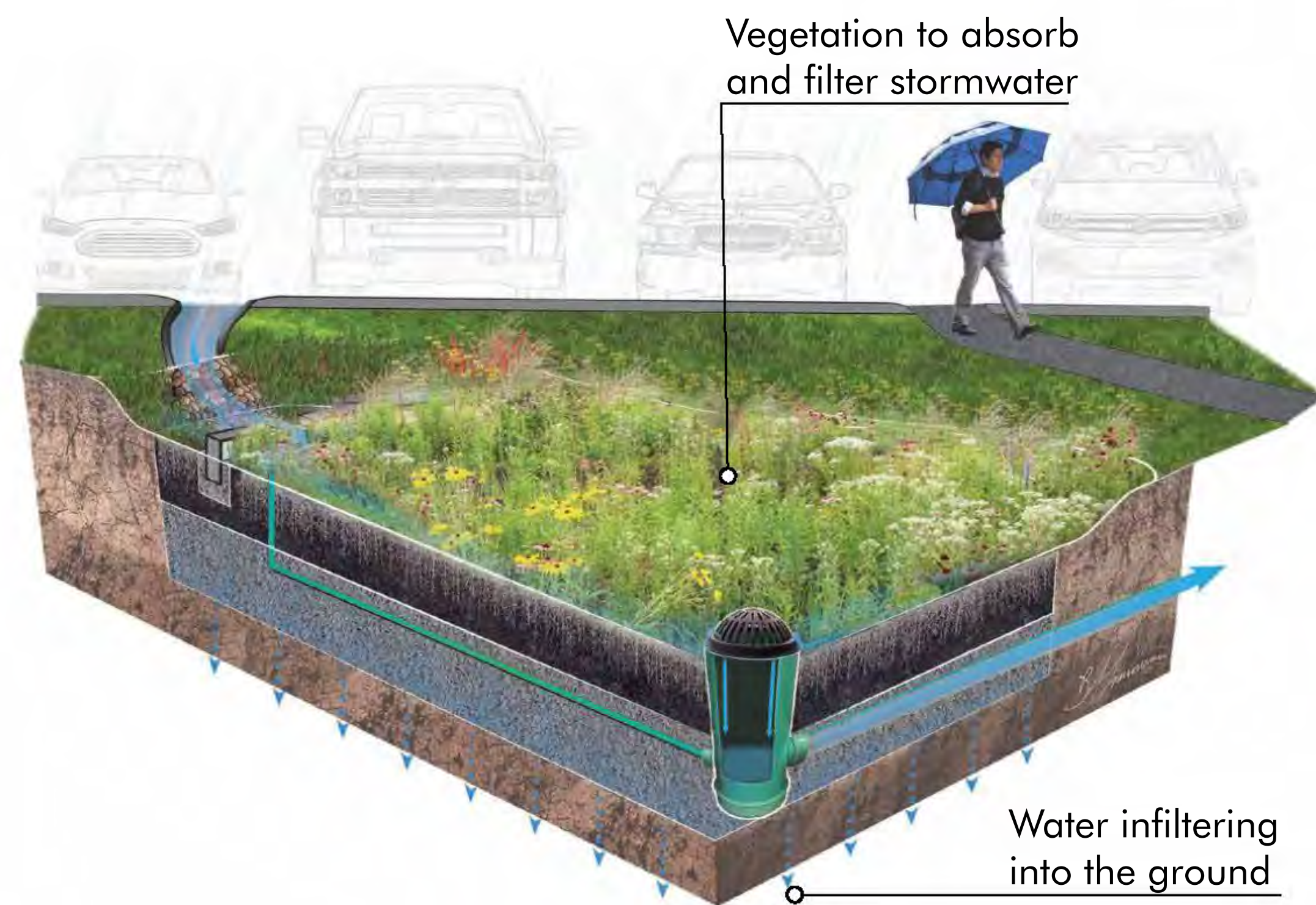
Legend



Taunton River Trail
Area 6: Concept

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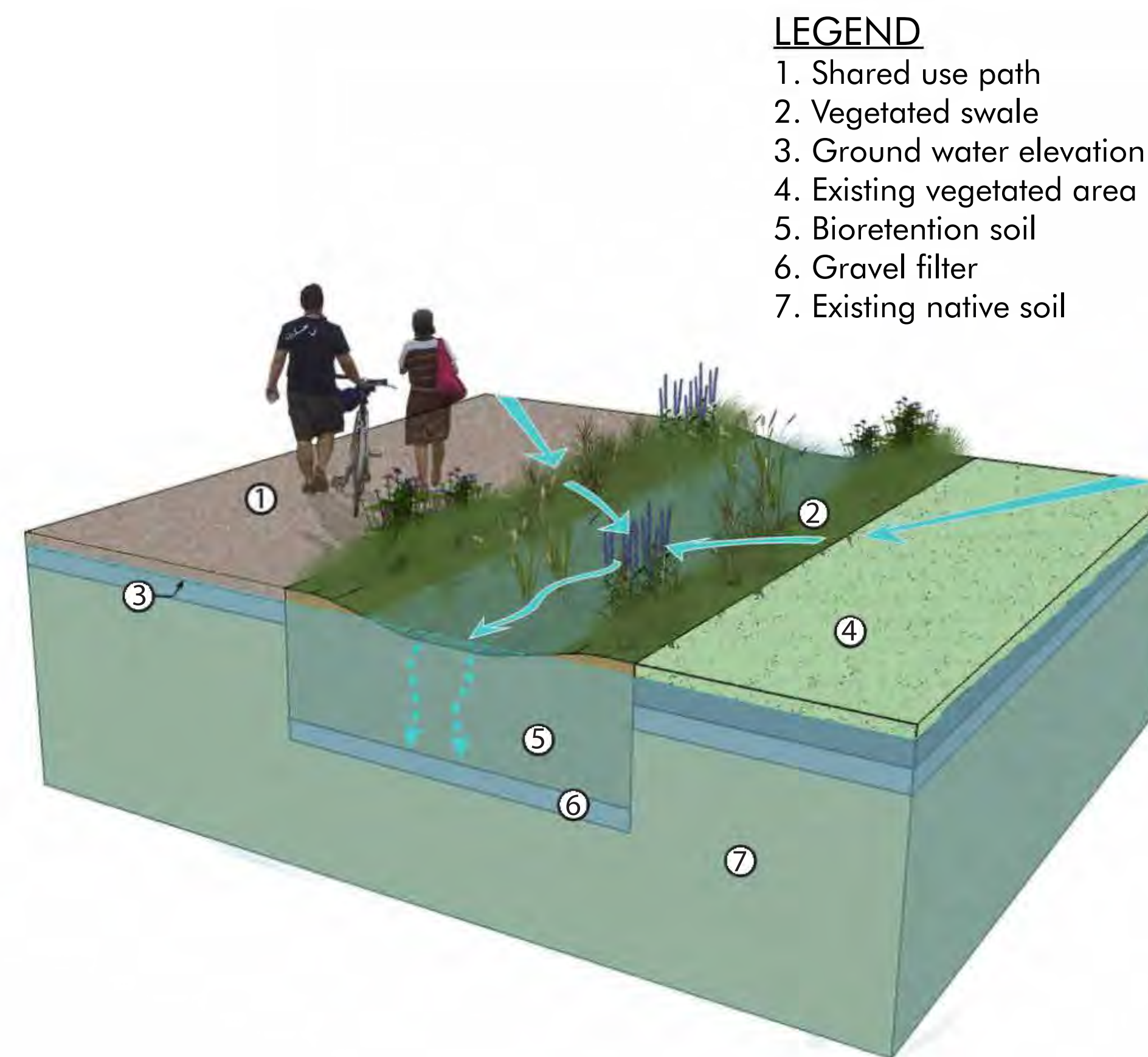




BIORETENTION



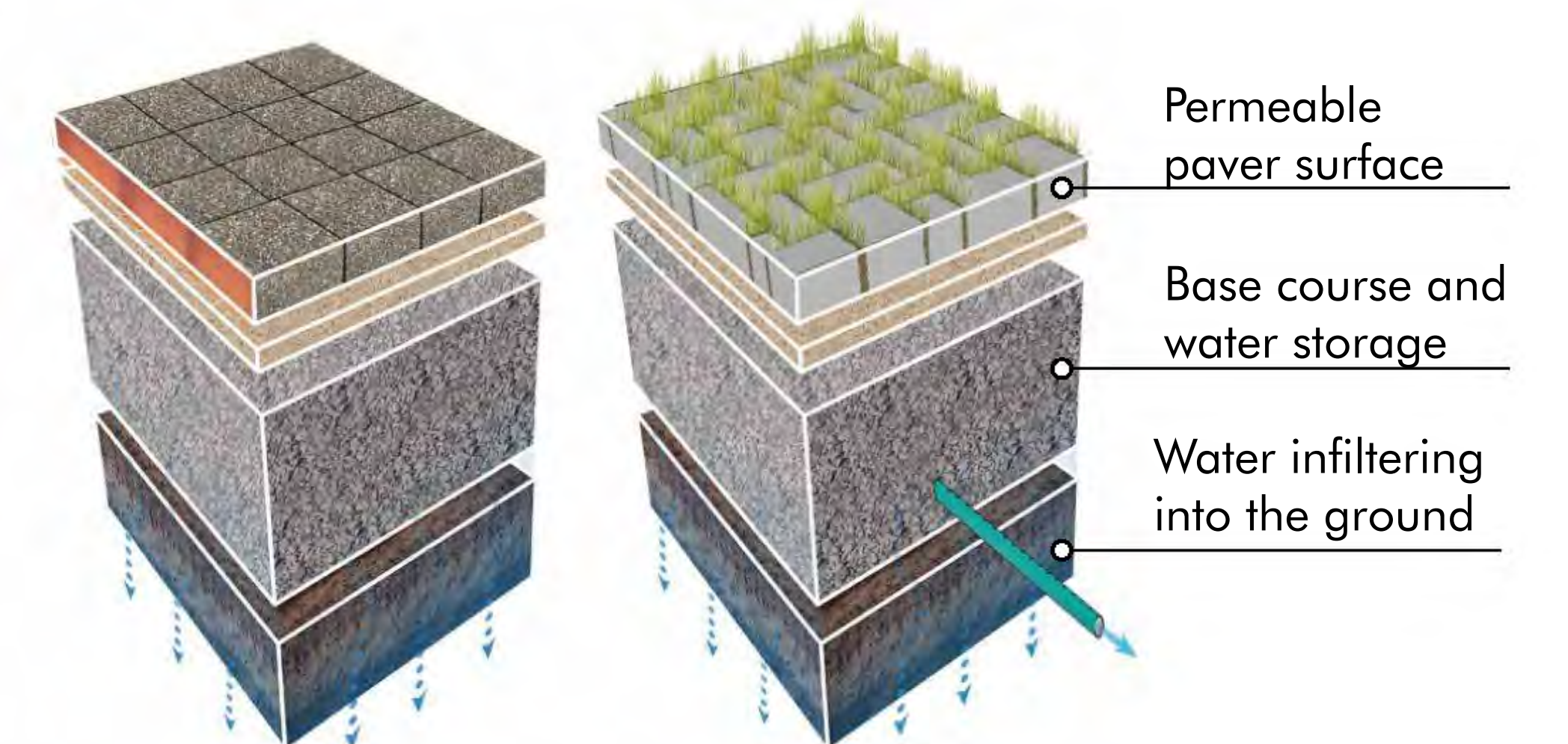
Sandwich Public Library (HWG)



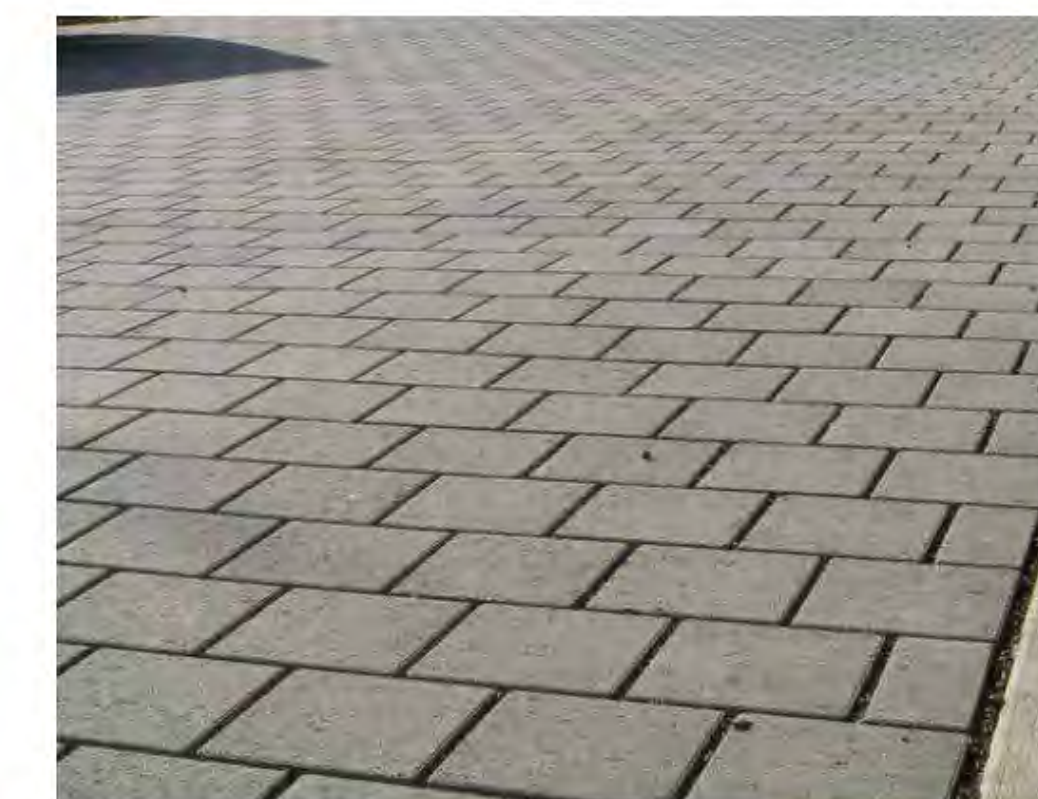
VEGETATED SWALE



Swale and Trail, Olympic Park ND



PERMEABLE PAVERS/GRASS PAVERS



Unilock



Taunton River Trail Stormwater Practices

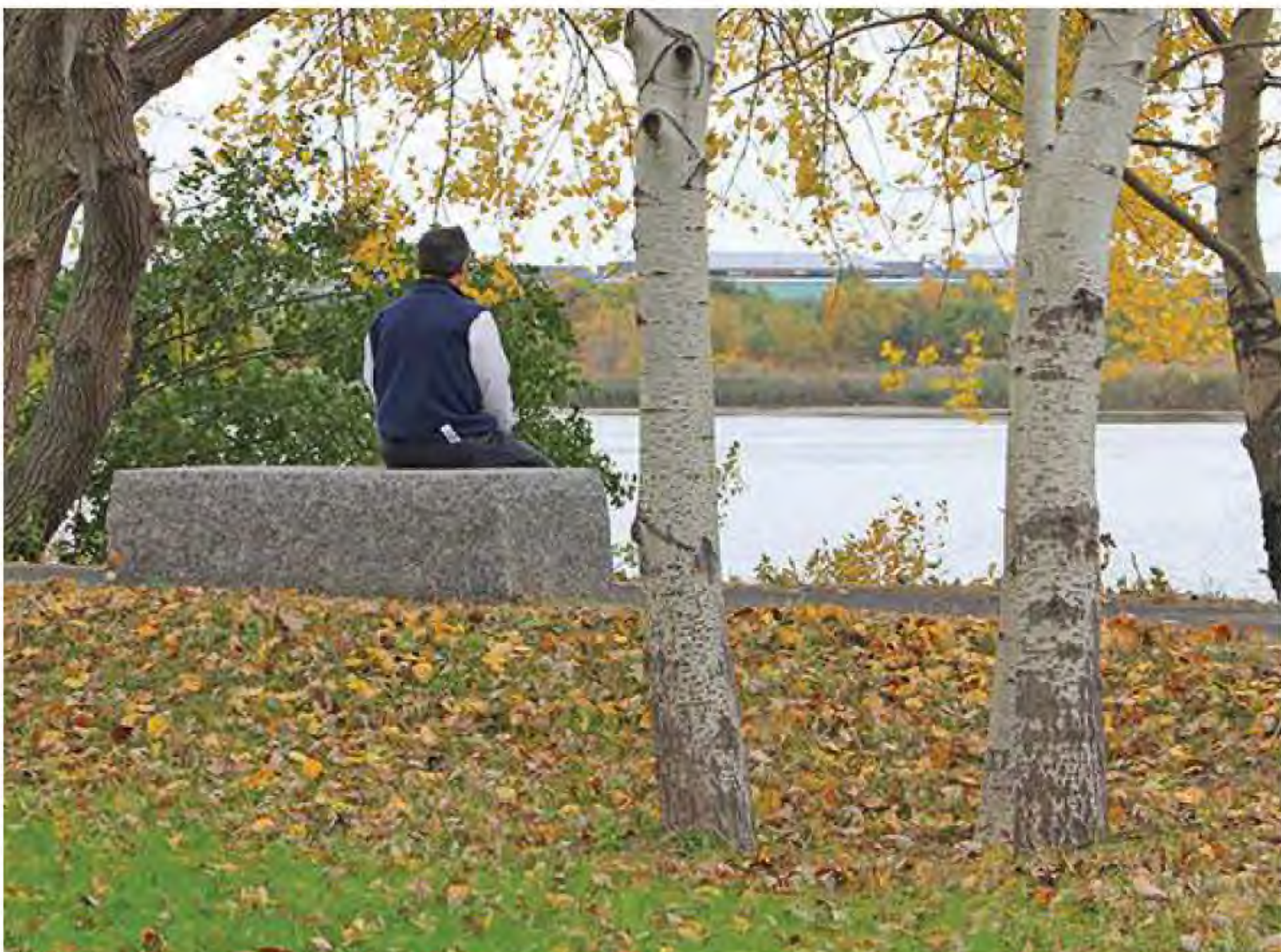
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Proposed Site Furnishings & Trailhead Amenities



Walden Bench - DCR Standard
(Could be adapted with wood timbers to mimic railroad)



Salvaged Granite Block Bench



Wood Rail Fence



Example of Granite Gateway Pier



Picnic Table



Salvaged Granite Block Bench



Example of Entrance Gathering Space with Signage and Seating
(For Sweets Knoll State Park)



Dero "Swerve" Bicycle Parking Post - DCR Standard



Vehicular Swing Gate

Proposed Wayfinding Signage



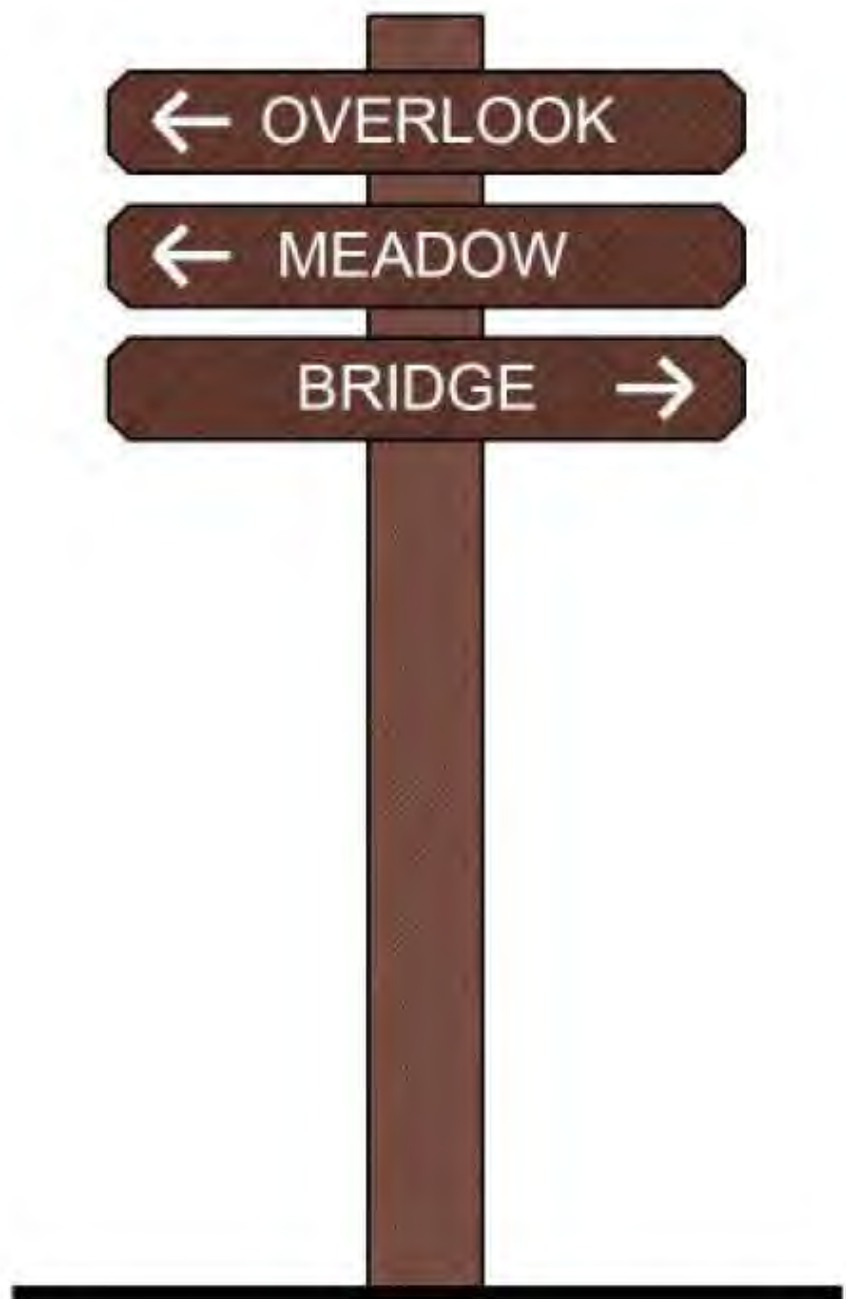
Main Park Entrance Sign - DCR Standard
(To be located at Sweets Knoll State Park entrance)



Trailhead Entrance Sign - DCR Standard



Trail Orientation Map



Internal Park Sign - DCR Standard



Regulations Sign - DCR Standard
(Sign content to be adapted to this site)



Taunton River Trail
Site Amenities



Additional Information

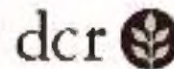
- Recording and tonight's slide deck will be available at:
 - www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings
- If you have comments on this project:
 - *Online DCR Public Comments:* www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment
 - *Deadline: Thursday, October 6, 2022*

Please note: the contents of comments submitted to DCR, including your name, town and zip code, will be posted on DCR's website. Additional contact information provided, notably email address, will only be used for outreach on future updates to the subject project or property.

- If you wish to subscribe to a DCR general information or project-related listserv: contact DCR's Office of Community Relations via email at mass.parks@mass.gov



Questions and Comments



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION