Malden River Greenway
Malden River Greenway Plan

Public Meeting #2 Agenda

- 6:00-6:30 Open House: Tufts Boathouse and Docks
- 6:30-6:50 Welcome
- 6:55-7:20 Presentation
- 7:25-8:00 Small Group Tables with Designs/Maps
- 8:00 Wrap Up

Attendees of Note
Mayor DeMaria, Burke and Christenson
MassDOT, DCR, DEP, National Grid
Organizational Chart

Mystic River Watershed Association

Core Stakeholders
- Bike to the Sea
- Friends of the Malden River
- Preotle, Lane & Assoc.
- Wynn Design & Development

Consultant Team
- Planning & Urban Design
  Utile, Inc.
- Landscape Design
  Bishop Land Design

Working Group
- Solomon Foundation
- City of Everett
- City of Malden
- City of Medford

Project Manager
Malden River Greenway Plan

Mystic River Greenways
Malden River Greenway Plan

Project Timeline and Scope

A Phase Two (July-August)

1 Master Plan for the Malden River Greenway
   - Production of Greenway Master Plan allowing for neighborhood connectivity, new path alignments and future uses along the Greenway.

2 Community Engagement
   - Presentation of Master Plan alternatives incorporating early community feedback and identifying key projects or connections
   - Riverwalk: Organize a community river walk to explore the future paths and points of access to the riverfront.
Project Timeline and Scope

A Phase Three (August-Sept)

1 Conceptual Area Plans
   - Detailed studies of focus areas recommending trail character, detailed alignments, bridges and community programming

2 Community Engagement
   - Final presentation of Malden River Master Plan and Focus Area Studies
Community Engagement Feedback
Community Engagement: Venues for Public Input

- Public Meeting and Realtime Feedback (70 attendees)
- Online Survey (145 respondents)
- Online Mapping Tool (36 respondents)
Community Engagement: Public Meeting

- Public Meeting and Realtime Feedback
  - Open house style meeting with activity boards
  - Presentation of the project, study area analysis, opportunities and constraints
  - Group breakout conversations and feedback
community and social gathering

public programming
Community Engagement: Public Meeting

KEY THEMES FROM PUBLIC MEETING JUNE 26, 2017

EXISTING RIVER USES
- Can’t get there! (except at River’s Edge, Comcast building, Medford St Bridge)
- Run (but broken path system makes it difficult)
- Bike (mostly Northern Strand which is disconnected from the river)
- Boating (mostly crew, but hard to view from the land)
- Nearby destinations (ie- Night Shift in Everett, but not connected to river)

CHARACTER OF THE MALDEN RIVER
- Channelized, invisible, urban, industrialized, paved over, connects two T stations
- Peaceful and quiet; provides access to nature (birds) and relief from the noise and traffic of the cities
- Connects three cities, a unifying element

NEEDS/DESIRE FOR IMPROVEMENT
- Clean-up the river, and keep it clean; (deal with trash and water quality/sediments)
- Improve connectivity for walking/biking and add a bridge across
- More wildlife habitat/natural areas
- More and better boating options
- Create programming (public art, markets, festivals, group exercise)
Community Engagement: Online Survey

What we heard!

- Phrases for vision statement
- Most important factors for vision:
  - Access
  - Community Uses
  - Connectivity
- Information about respondent
  - What they do on the riverfront
  - How they access the river
  - How they get to the river (drive, walk, bike, transit)
  - How often they visit the Malden River?
  - User Profile (age/gender/race)
- General Comments
Community Engagement: Online Survey

DO YOU LIVE, WORK, STUDY, OR PLAY NEAR THE MALDEN RIVER?

- **LIVE**: 45.4%
- **PLAY**: 33.7%
- **WORK OR STUDY**: 12.2%
- **OTHER**: 8.7%

"There's a Malden River?"

"I row on both the Mystic and the Malden and I appreciate that the shoreline is more natural, the views are less urban, and that the river is not immediately adjacent to a road or freeway."
Community Engagement: Online Survey

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
- MALDEN 55.7%
- MEDFORD 20.5%
- SOMERVILLE 5.7%
- CAMBRIDGE 4.1%
- EVERETT 4.1%
- OTHER 9.8%

FOR HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU LIVED HERE?
- OVER 10 63.9%
- 5-10 13.9%
- 3-5 8.2%
- UP TO 3 13.9%
Community Engagement: Online Survey

WHERE DO YOU WORK?

- EVERETT: 4.1%
- MALDEN: 15.9%
- MEDFORD: 9.8%
- BOSTON: 28.7%
- CAMBRIDGE: 9.8%
- SOMERVILLE: 3.3%
- RETIRED: 7.4%
- OTHER: 23.0%

RACIAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITY

- WHITE: 83.6%
- HISPANIC OR LATINO: 1.6%
- ASIAN: 1.6%
- BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN: 0.8%
- NATIVE AMERICAN: 0.8%
- OTHER: 9.0%
- PREFER NOT TO SAY: 1.6%
- MIXED RACE: 0.8%

AGE

- 35-64 YEARS: 73.8%
- 18-34 YEARS: 17.2%
- 65 YEARS+: 7.4%
- PREFER NOT TO SAY: 1.6%

GENDER

- FEMALE: 61.5%
- MALE: 35.0%
- PREFER NOT TO SAY: 2.5%
- DO NOT IDENTIFY: 0.9%
Community Engagement: Online Survey

“I have relatives in the old Bell Rock Cemetery and as I walk along the river I often wonder what their experience along the banks of the river was like in their time.”
Community Engagement: Online Survey

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE MALDEN RIVER TODAY, WHAT WORDS COME TO MIND?

- **"BEAUTIFUL"**
  - Positive phrases: 22.7%
- **"DIRTY"**
  - Negative phrases: 25.5%
- **"natural"**
- **"polluted"**
- **"community resource"**
- **"out of sight"**
- **"isolated"**
- **"HIDDEN" OR "INACCESSIBLE"**
  - 30.9%
- **"underground"**
- **"a work in progress"**
- **"under-utilized"**
- **"natural"**
- **"unattractive"**
- **"other"**
  - 4.5%
Community Engagement: Online Survey

Name a few things you love and would keep the same about the Malden River.

- Not sure, don’t know: 11.8%
- Nothing, change everything: 4.2%
- Other: 8.4%
- Activity and programming: 10.1%
- Green space: 30.3%
- Proximity: 25.2%
- Habitat and biodiversity: 10.1%

“We’re lucky to have a river, let’s take advantage of it!”
Community Engagement: Online Survey

NAME A FEW THINGS YOU DISLIKE AND WOULD CHANGE ABOUT THE MALDEN RIVER.

- ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY: 46.7%
- "I don't know how to access the river to enjoy it."
- CLEANLINESS, DEINDUSTRIALIZATION, WATER QUALITY: 33.3%
- "There are still areas with an industrial wasteland feel."
- OTHER: 7.4%
- DAYLIGHTING: 3.0%
- NEW AMENITIES: 3.0%
- NOT SURE, DON'T KNOW: 6.7%

"It's difficult to enjoy the actual river, even just from a scenic perspective."
Community Engagement: Online Survey

QUESTIONS

“I ENVISION THE MALDEN RIVER TO BE...”
(multiple responses allowed)

- a comfortable place for families to gather and children to play
- a regional destination with a rich variety of events and amenities
- a place that supports a healthy and active lifestyle
- a convenient path system for residents of Everett, Malden, and Medford with safe routes for pedestrians and bicyclists
- an urban greenscape with thriving biodiversity
- other
### Community Engagement: Online Survey

**WHICH OF THESE FEATURES WOULD YOU BE EXCITED TO SEE ALONG THE MALDEN RIVER?**

**MOST EXCITED**
- dedicated paths for walking and biking
- new parks or open space
- nature and wildlife

**EXCITED**
- seasonal programming (food trucks, screenings, weekend markets)
- water-related activities (boat rentals, swimming)
- boardwalks or docks
- connections across the Malden River

**LEAST EXCITED**
- athletic fields
- stores and restaurants
- public parking

"...a place where crew teams would draw spectators and revenue for the City"
Community Engagement: Online Survey

WHAT AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ALONG THE MALDEN RIVER?
MALDEN OPEN SPACE SURVEY DATA

- dedicated paths for walking and biking
- more or better seating
- water-related activities
- new parks or open space
- nature and wildlife
- Seasonal programming
- boardwalks or docks
- trash receptacles
- more or better lighting
- better connections to public transit
- safety features
- children’s play areas
- stores and restaurants
- athletic fields
- public parking

Responses are from the Malden Open Space Survey
Community Engagement: Mapping Survey

Tool ties responses to a point on the map

Places that people love…

“beautiful, well-maintained landscape - all waterfront parks should be like this one!”

Places that people would like to improve…

“remove tires and possibly submerged trucks”
Framework Plan
Opportunities

- New connections from the MBTA stations will provide multimodal connections for outside visitors
- Connecting the Northern Strand Trail to the Rivergreen Park will provide a direct connection to the river for local residents
- A land bridge over the Orange Line tracks will provide direct access for the Wellington neighborhood to the riverfront
- Underutilized or undeveloped sites should capture the value of waterfront access in future development.
Path Network: Existing, Planned, and Gaps

- The National Grid Site and the western edge of the river in Malden are two focus areas for connecting the greenway.
- Rivergreen will be constructing a full path to the water as part of the redevelopment plan.
- The Wellington Greenway is also in the planning stages and will connect under Revere Beach Parkway.
- The potential pedestrian bridge from the Wellington Neighborhood could be a significant link to draw residents to the river.
Framework Plan Design Objectives

**Planning and Design Objectives**

1. Design a safe, convenient and accessible path system (walking, running, biking) for local residents and visitors
2. Build an urban greenspace with thriving biodiversity
3. Promote a healthy lifestyle through active design and open space programming
4. Create a green open space network that provides a key link in a larger regional greenway system
Framework Plan Character Areas

Three Character Zones

The Malden River Greenway can be defined by three character zones that offer different waterfront and open space experiences.

This variety of conditions lends itself to

- Capturing unique natural conditions and the restoration of degraded areas,
- Evolving landscape concepts for each area,
- Programming alternatives and distinct recreational uses
- Creating a physical continuity in the greenway system, but with a consistent
Framework Plan Character Areas

Three Character Zones

Area 1: Malden Center to Little Creek
Urban edge condition with tree lined paths

Area 2: Little Creek to Revere Beach Pkwy
A more “porous” open space with an interwoven system of paths and natural landscape features

Area 3: The Malden River Basin
Broad open views towards a naturalized condition of wetlands on the east bank and an extended river trail on the west bank
Malden River Greenway Plan

Malden Center to Little Creek

Existing Character

• Largely inaccessible to the public and preexisting paths are disconnected from one another.

• Existing path system is not up to reasonable standards for a multi-use path system.

• The hard edge condition contributes to excess stormwater runoff into the river

• Currently, it lacks connection to Malden Center and the Northern Strand Trail
Malden River Greenway Plan

Area Conditions: Malden Center to Little Creek

- Parking lot at the edge of the river bank prohibits access.
- Trail ends abruptly at parking lot.
- Trail is narrow and not well maintained.
- Publicly Inaccessible riverfront.

Looking south from Medford St.
Malden Center to Little Creek

Future Character

- Harder tree lined edge with an “urban condition"
- Both a promenade and a pathway system

Lachine Canal, Montreal
Ship Canal, Seattle
Damme Canal, Belgium
River Seine, Paris
Malden River Greenway Plan

Malden Center to Little Creek

Future Character

- Harder tree lined edge with an “urban condition”
- Both a promenade and a pathway system

Lachine Canal, Montreal

Ship Canal, Seattle

Damme Canal, Belgium

River Seine, Paris

Provide connection to Malden Center

Connect directly to Northern Strand Trail

Plant an allee of trees to frame the path system and screen unappealing edges

Augment trail system with parks incrementally
Malden River Greenway Plan

Little Creek to Revere Pkwy

**Existing Character**

- The west side of the river from the Malden city line to Revere Beach Pkwy is complete or under construction
- The east side of the river in this area is largely underutilized and undeveloped
- The Rivergreen site will be redeveloped with future waterfront open space and new connections
Malden River Greenway Plan

Little Creek to Revere Pkwy

River's Edge, Medford

Little Rock, AR
Malden River Greenway Plan

Little Creek to Revere Pkwy

Future pedestrian bridge between River’s Edge and Rivergreen

Potential crossing at Malden/Medford line

New recreational open space/athletic fields

New parkway to connect Everett to the river

Boat launches

Wellington Connector: Pedestrian land bridge over the Orange Line tracks

Future development area

River’s Edge, Medford

Little Rock, AR
The Malden River Basin

Existing Character

- Broad open views towards a naturalized condition of wetlands on the east bank and an extended river trail on the west bank
- Gateway Center path feels disconnected from the rest of the river trail
- Wellington Greenway extension along the west bank should be a priority
Malden River Greenway Plan

The Malden River Basin

Capture the real estate value of the parking lots at the Wellington Station

Bring path system away from the parkway and through the marsh as an elevated boardwalk.

New pedestrian bridge across the Mystic from the Wynn Casino to Assembly Square
Public Meeting #2 Agenda

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Community Engagement: Project Page

The “official home” of the project: mysticriver.org/maldenrivergreenway
- Project summary and milestones
- Links to on-line mapping survey
- Links to project documents
- Event listings

Project Next Steps:
- Comment period on project website open until August 25th
- Malden River Walking Tour on September 1st
- Final Public Meeting – Late September