Malden River Greenway
Public Meeting #3 Agenda

- **6:35:** Welcome - Patrick Herron, Mystic River Watershed Association
- **6:40:** Opening Remarks - Mayor DeMaria
- **6:50:** Agency/Elected Official Remarks
- **6:55:** Presentation of Final Greenway Plan
- **7:15:** Open House Celebration - Mingling, Plan Feedback, Band
- **8:00:** Closing Remarks
Malden River Greenway Plan

Malden River Greenway could fill the gap in a Lynn to Arlington Link
Community Engagement Feedback
Community Engagement: Venues for Public Input

- Public Meeting and Realtime Feedback (120 attendees)
- Online Survey (145 respondents)
- Online Mapping Tool (71 respondents)
Malden River Greenway Plan

Community Engagement: Public Meeting #1

- 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

Public Meeting at the Malden Library
community and social gathering

Malden River Greenway

Recreation and Mobility

Place a dot on the amenities that appeal to you most.

public programming
Community Engagement: Public Meeting #1 Takeaways

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/DESIRES 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: Public Meeting #2

- Representatives from all three surrounding cities attended
- **Over 80 people participated in the workshop**, sharing their reflections on the initial concepts
- Attendees offered input on future opportunities for recreation, open space and community programming along the river.
- Breakout groups made certain that each person at the meeting had an opportunity to participate
Community Engagement: Public Meeting #2
Malden River Greenway Plan

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

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

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

NAME A FEW THINGS YOU LOVE AND WOULD KEEP THE SAME ABOUT THE MALDEN RIVER.

- PROXIMITY: 25.2%
- HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY: 10.1%
- ACTIVITY AND PROGRAMMING: 10.1%
- GREEN SPACE: 30.3%
- OTHER: 8.4%
- NOTHING, CHANGE EVERYTHING: 4.2%
- NOT SURE, DON'T KNOW: 11.8%

“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.

- NOT SURE, DON’T KNOW 6.7%
- OTHER 7.4%
- DAYLIGHTING 3.0%
- NEW AMENITIES 3.0%

"I don't know how to access the river to enjoy it."

"There are still areas with an industrial wasteland feel."

CLEANLINESS, DEINDUSTRIALIZATION, WATER QUALITY 33.3%

"It’s difficult to enjoy the actual river, even just from a scenic perspective."
## 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

...a resource that is respected and appreciated by the community!
Malden River Greenway Plan

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
Framework Plan Design

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
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 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 Design

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
Malden Center to Little Creek
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 Center to Little Creek: Area Conditions

- 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
Malden Center to Little Creek
Malden River Greenway Plan

Project Opportunity: National Grid Site

- A combination of hard and natural shoreline conditions
- Direct access from Medford Street bridge and Northern Strand Trail
- Key missing link between Rivergreen and Malden River Walk north of Medford St

Aerial photo of National Grid site
Malden River Greenway Plan

National Grid Path: Existing Conditions

- At the northern end of the property the shoreline is adjacent to the National Grid facilities
- At the southern end, there is more distance between the facilities and the river, creating a naturalized condition paired with existing wetlands

National Grid property and fencing ends abruptly at the shoreline

Access to the river is blocked by security fencing that could be moved

Wetland areas provide natural buffer between the shore and National Grid
National Grid Edge Conditions

Inaccessible Riverfront with Dense Vegetation – National Grid
National Grid Path

- Creates a unique, curated wetland experience
- Lower cost to manage invasive species
- Directs trail away from secured areas
- Connects across North Creek to Rivergreen site
- However, there is additional cost for bridges through wetlands and more mitigation is required
Little Creek to Revere Parkway
**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

- Potential crossing at Malden/Medford line
- Future pedestrian bridge between River’s Edge and Rivergreen
- New recreational open space/athletic fields
- Future development area
- New parkway to connect Everett to the river
- Wellington Connector: Pedestrian land bridge over the Orange Line tracks
- Boat launches

River’s Edge, Medford

Little Rock, AR
Wellington Connector

EXISTING CONDITIONS: AERIAL

WELLINGTON CONNECTOR
Wellington Connector

Rail line looking north at platform

Rail spur capped over the MBTA line

Sound wall and future access to rail park
Wellington Connector: Neighborhood Context

- Provides a direct, green and off-street path to the river from Malden and Medford neighborhoods
- Opens access to the river that currently does not exist from Medford St to Revere Beach Pkwy
- Provides a new neighborhood open space and recreational path
Wellington Connector: Precedent Projects

Somerville Community Path: Somerville, MA (top and bottom)
The 606: Chicago, IL (top and bottom)
The Rail Park: Philadelphia, PA (top and bottom)
Wellington Connector: Neighborhood connections

- Convert Second Street and Bradbury Avenue to bike boulevards (slow neighborhood streets)
- Provides direct connections to Harris Playground along Second Street.
- Potential for additional access point through BJ’s parking lot
Wellington Connector: Platform

- Ramp and stairs from Second Street provides access to the platform park
- Sound barriers wrap tunnel opening to mitigate removal of portion of existing wall
- Additional street trees along Craddock Avenue protect privacy of immediate neighbors and soften wall edge condition
- The width of travels lanes on River’s Edge Drive are reduced, allowing for an in-road cycle track or buffered bike lanes.
Malden River Greenway Plan

Rivergreen
Rivergreen Site: Existing Conditions

Rivergreen – Current Riverwalk Site Plan

Rivergreen existing conditions looking towards the river
Rivergreen Parkway plan

- Almost 2,000 feet of public park frontage
- A connection to Prescott Street and extensions to Waters Avenue and Santilli Highway integrate the area into the existing street network
- Parkway meets the Northern Strand Trail at two locations
- Creates a park promenade with direct access to the Malden River
- Maintains developable area internal to the new riverfront drive.
Malden River Greenway Plan

Rivergreen: Local Riverfront Precedents

Memorial Drive at John Weeks Bridge – Cambridge, MA

Memorial Drive during River Festival – Cambridge, MA

Assembly Row Sylvester Baxter Riverfront Park – Somerville, MA

Magazine Beach – Cambridge, MA

The Esplanade Park – Boston, MA

Storrow Drive along The Esplanade – Boston, MA
Rivergreen to River’s Edge Open Space Network
The Malden River Basin
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 closer to the river and through the marsh as an elevated boardwalk.

New pedestrian bridge across the Mystic from the Wynn Casino to Assembly Square

Limerick, Ireland

Jekyll Island, GA

Little Rock, AR

Neponset Greenway - Milton, MA
Recreational Opportunities
Recreational opportunities

Boat Club

- Membership-style operation, people can store boats there, attracts more experienced boaters
Recreational opportunities

Boat Rental

- Walk-in canoe/kayak rental, need good staging area for people to get in and out and avoid rowers

Boathouse

- Largest investment/space needed; can hold better boats than a typical rental space; can host other community activities

Tufts Boathouse – Medford, MA
Recreational opportunities

Boat Launch/Ramp (with parking)

- Ramp serves motor boats, needs space for trailers (motor not recommended unless at the mouth of the Malden)

Boat Launch/Ramp (no parking)

- Area for people to launch their own boats; needs the least infrastructure
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:

- Continue to provide your thoughts and ideas about the Malden River Greenway!
Public Bench Launch... (don't drink the water)

Not aiming high enough:
- Urban access
- Coffee shop on River

Access from I-93 to I-95; Waltham center to Everett.

Provide tools to advocate for rooftop/for vertical residents.

Access to Northern Strand.

Public Art sculpture...