This project is made possible through a generous grant from the MIT Norman B. Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism, which has awarded the Malden River Works team with the first ever Norman B. Leventhal City Prize for equitable resilience.
DPW Site Location: 356 Commercial St.  Malden, MA

Where can you see the Malden River from a road?
View North from the Medford St. Bridge
View from the River Bank at the DPW site....
Apply for grants, to achieve ‘shovel-ready’ design (Summer/fall 2020)
Where we’re headed

Tonight: Share 3 initial design concepts for a new park on the Malden River

Discuss during Table Activities and give feedback on the 3 concepts

After tonight: Translate what we heard into a preferred design concept to share again at the next public meeting in April
Our design process

Analyze what we heard from Malden communities (surveys, public meeting)

Learn about DPW activities to make room for safe and direct public access to the river

AND

Translate what we heard and what we learned into 3 initial design concepts for a new park on the Malden River
What We Heard

How do you get to the Malden River?
- car
- bike
- foot, wheelchair, scooter
- other

What do you do along the Malden River?
- walk
- enjoy nature
- boat
- jog
- bike
- other

Source: Survey responses from Oct. 21, 2019 through January 24, 2020
What We Heard

Why don’t you go to the Malden River?

“No access, where there is access, don’t have anything to do”

“I never really knew how to get there, nor did I know that anything could be done on it, actually!”

“It’s really disgusting and I haven’t had any desire to go”

Source: Survey responses from Oct. 21, 2019 through January 24, 2020
What We Heard

What kind of features or amenities do you want to see on the Malden River?

Source: Survey responses from Oct. 21, 2019 through January 24, 2020
What We Heard

"make it more visible and inviting from the roads like Commercial St/Medford St"

Gathering & event space-
  “Outdoor stage”
  “Space for small events”
  “Concerts” “Outdoor movies”
  “Gathering space”
  “Pop-ups”

“Views across the river”
“Visibility for racing”

“Safe access to water”

“Cleaning [the river] should be the first priority”

“Snapshot of nature,”
“preserve wildlife + create greenway,” “river, tall grass, lily pads,
ecosystem preserved”

Source: October public meeting table conversations and survey responses from Oct. 21, 2019 through January 24, 2020
What We Heard

Enhance Access and Awareness

- Lots of people were unaware that Malden has a river
- More points of access & more info. wanted about *where* to access the river

Address Trash and Contamination

Preserve and Enhance Nature

Source: Surveys and October public meeting table conversations

Photo by Khalil Kaba
EXISTING SITE AREAS

- MVDC ‘WEDGE’ Parcel (47 acres)
- Department of Public Works (~4 acres)
- Boat House (.42 acres)
DPW (Department of Public Works) BUILDING
EXISTING SITE AREAS

MATERIAL FROM STREET REPAIR WORK
EXISTING SITE

WINTER ROAD SALT SUPPLY
EXISTING SITE

AREAS

WINTER ROAD SALT SUPPLY

EQUIPMENT STORAGE
DOCK

Cruise in a Canoe event, Sept. 2019; photo by Khalil Kaba
DPW SITE ACTIVITIES

1. Parking
2. Topsoil
3. Impounded / junk vehicles
4. Dumpsters
5. Misc. materials
6. Clean fill
7. Road repair debris
8. Wood chips
9. Tree waste
10. Salt
11. Trash / empty
12. Street sweeping
13. Catch basin debris
14. Fueling station
15. Equipment
16. Equipment Storage
17. Calcium chloride tanks
18. Sand for oil spills
19. Recycling
20. Garage (Machine / Vehicle Storage)
21. Garage (Maintenance)
22. Break Space / Lockers
23. Offices
24. Bathrooms / Locker Rooms
25. Tool Storage
NEW TRAFFIC STRATEGY + UTILIZE ‘WEDGE’ PARCEL

Public Access / Employees

New curb cut

Trucks
GREEN STORM WATER INFRASTRUCTURE – Swales and Retention Basins

Using natural processes (with plants and soils instead of pipes) to slow storm water runoff and treat pollutants before they enter waterways. Swales (left) convey and treat water, and basins (right) hold and treat water.

Left: Swale (Source: Watershed Council); Right: retention basin (Corktown Common, Toronto)
MALDEN RIVER GREENWAY PLAN

Mystic River Watershed Association website
CLIMATE RESILIENCE - FLOODING

Mystic River Watershed Association website
FLOOD RESILIENT GREENWAY

The Malden River Greenway path along the river can be built on a slight berm so it doubles as a flood barrier.
RESILIENT MALDEN RIVER GREENWAY
This site framework can be applied to most parcels along the river, creating a **system of small parks connected by the Malden River Greenway**.
WAYFINDING & INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Park signage – announces entry, informative

Source: MTWTF
WAYFINDING & INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

History and storytelling through signage

In 1983, the federal and state governments discovered the dioxin in Newark, and began working on the cleanup.

What are you doing?
Vacuuming the sidewalk.
But why are you dressed like that?

DIOXIN'S CHEMICAL STRUCTURE
SITE FRAMEWORK PLAN

- Parking (Public + DPW employees)
- Salt shed
- Recycling
- Existing DPW Building
- New Boat House
- Materials storage
- Public pathway
- Swale
- Interpretive signage & lighting
- Park signage at Commercial St
- Crew Teams Dock
- Malden River Greenway
- Public amenity area

Concept plan for discussion purposes. Not yet reviewed for engineering and regulatory compliance.
3 Initial Concepts

Flexible

River View

Enjoy Nature
1 - Open Lawn | 2 – New Boat House | 3 – New Dock | 4 – Storm Water Landscape Area | 5 – Existing DPW Building
FLEXIBLE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Open lawn for play

Newark Riverfront Park, NJ
FLEXIBLE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Open lawn for special events

Source: rentaldepotonline.com
FLEXIBLE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES
Open lawn for group exercise

Source: flickr
FLEXIBLE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES
Open lawn for relaxing and picnics

Brooklyn Bridge Park, NY
1 – Grass Amphitheater | 2 – New Boat House | 3 – New Dock | 4 – Storm Water Landscape Area | 5 – Existing DPW Building
RIVER VIEW CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Grass amphitheater

Swarthmore College, PA
RIVER VIEW CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES
Grass amphitheater
RIVER VIEW CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES
Amphitheater seating and lawn

Assembly Row, Somerville MA
ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT

1 – River Inlet | 2 – New Boat House | 3 – New Dock | 4 – Storm Water Landscape Area | 5 – Existing DPW Building
ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT
‘Room for the river’ – the Malden river TODAY
ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT
‘Room for the river’ – the Malden River in 1878
ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Wetland area boardwalk trail

West Stockbridge, MA
ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Walking trail

River's Edge, Medford MA
ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Benches along a pathway

Queen Elizabeth Park, London
Questions before we start Table Activities?
Table Activity
Table Activity

1. What do you see that you like the most?
Write down one word on a blue post-it, and stick on the poster. Then share with the group.

2. What would you like to see that is missing?
Write down one word on a pink post-it, and stick on the poster. Then share with the group.