Virtual Public Meeting
for
EVERETT RIVERFRONT PLAN
Thursday, May 13, 2021
7:00pm
Questions during the presentation?

Use the “Q&A” button at the bottom of the screen and type your question.

The Hosts will answer questions at the end of the presentation.

There will also be breakout rooms for smaller group discussion.
MEETING AGENDA

7:00pm   Welcome by MyRWA and Mayor Carlo DeMaria
7:15     Presentation
7:45     Full Meeting Clarification Questions
7:55     Breakout Rooms
8:15     Groups Report Back
8:25     Next Steps
8:30     Adjourn
Our vision is a vibrant, healthy and resilient Mystic River watershed for the benefit of all our community members.
Welcome by Mayor Carlo DeMaria

- Everett’s riverfront was invisible, inaccessible and polluted.
- Goals are improved access, recreation, transportation and economic development.
- Ongoing work on many sites includes public improvements and environmental cleanup.
- Thank you to John Preotle for River’s Edge, and to Encore Boston Harbor, for starting the riverfront restoration!
PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Consultant Team
City’s Recent Riverfront Improvements & Planning Work
Riverfront Plan Overview & Details
Discussion & Breakout Rooms
Next Steps
CONSULTANT DESIGN TEAM

PRIME CONSULTANT & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
Shadley Associates, P.C.

MARINE ENGINEER
GEI Consultants

LICENSED SITE PROFESSIONAL
The Vertex Companies

CITY OF EVERETT PARTNERS
EVERETT RIVERFRONT PLAN

Context Map and Project Site

PROJECT SITE

SOMERVILLE

MEDFORD

Malden

NORTHERN STRAND COMMUNITY TRAIL

RIVERGREEN

ROUTE 16

MBTA WELLINGTON STATION

GATEWAY CENTER

ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR

MYSTIC RIVER

ROUTE 28

CONNECTOR TRAIL

NORTH

CITY OF EVERETT, MA

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SHADLEY ASSOCIATES
EVERETT RIVERFRONT PLAN

Project Site

RIVERGREEN (PUBLIC)
BERBERIAN PROPERTY (PRIVATE)
VILLAGE LANDING PARK (PUBLIC)
SANTILLI CIRCLE
GATEWAY CENTER
COSTCO
TARGET
MBTA WELLINGTON STATION
GATEWAY PARK (PUBLIC)

MALDEN RIVER
MYSTIC RIVER

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Summary of the City’s Recent Riverfront Improvements & Planning Work

- City’s Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Northern Strand Community Trail Extension
- Rivergreen Riverwalk and Park
- Rivergreen Temporary Boathouse and Boat Access
- Rivergreen Shoreline Restoration Projects
- Everett Riverfront District Master Plan
- Gateway Park Improvements & Invasive Vegetation Removal
- Encore Boston Harbor & Connector Trail
Recent Riverfront Improvements & Planning Work

Everett - DRAFT Open Space and Recreation Plan (2019):

“The Waterfront is critical open space in this Environmental Justice and Equity community”
Northern Strand Community Trail
Everett extension to be completed by end of 2022
Rivergreen Riverwalk and Park
Riverwalk (.75-mile) completed in two phases from 2017-2019
Park completed in 2019 (turf field, playground, splash pad, basketball, hockey)
Rivergreen Temporary Boathouse & Boat Access

Temporary Boathouse:
- Temporary tent structure
- Floating dock with gangway
- Currently in permitting
- Tentative opening in Fall 2021

Boat Access completed in 2020

Approximate Tent Location (50’x100’)

Recent Riverfront Improvements & Planning Work
Rivergreen Restoration Projects:
South Creek, North Creek and Malden River Shoreline
To reduce flood risk, provide additional wildlife habitat, open river views, and enhance public access.
Rivergreen Restoration Projects: Malden River Shoreline

Restoring Ecological Function and Enhancing Habitat at Rivergreen Park

What are Nature-based Solutions?
Nature-based actions protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

Benefits
- Supporting Fish, wildlife & pollinator habitat
- Water Quality Improvement
- Creating recreational opportunities
- Reducing Urban Heat Island Effect
- Reducing Pollution

Opportunities to Incorporate Nature-based Solutions at Rivergreen Park

- **Thicket**: Bush piles form loose thickets creating a quiet protective home to many creatures including pollinators. Some nest in widely stems, while others rest in dense, temperature regulated places to hang a pupa or hide a pupa. Some birds, reptiles, amphibians, and small predators rely on these shelters while below ground fungal and soil building creatures rejuvenate the land.

- **Hibernacula**: Mounds of woody debris and stone, retain the heat of fallen trees. The exposed soil, rotting wood, and collected debris become habitat. Replicating this "Old Growth" forest characteristic helps to jump-start the natural process of forest recovery from successional

Innovative ideas for community driven Nature-based Solutions

- **Invasive-control**: Invasive species thrive in the damaged landscapes that result from development. They lack predators and are easier to keep under control, but may also lack beneficial companions. Rather than pushing these back and hoping for the best, we build complex high value plants, soil, and animal communities that can effectively restore order to the recovering landscape.

- **Bee-nest**: Bumblebees and other ground nesting bees provide more pollination than the agricultural bees we work so hard to restore every year. Our bumblebee nests provide vital quarters for bumblebees and are built to be safe from egg predators, and attracting aggressive predatory ground wasps who want room for a massive swarm.

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Everett Riverfront District Master Plan
Developed by another consultant team in 2020

Master Plan goals include:

• Create a transportation network for better access and development potential
• Reconnect the public with the Malden River
• Encourage economic development
• Create a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood
• Phased implementation
Mystic River Reservation at Gateway Park (20± acres)
- Removal of invasive plants along shoreline
- New signage
- Cleanup and repair
Encore Boston Harbor & Connector Trail

Encore Boston Harbor (completed in 2019)
- Public waterfront walkway with connection to Lower Broadway

Connector Trail (completed in 2019)
- Connection between Gateway Park and Encore Boston Harbor
- Access to Northern Strand extension (to be completed in 2022)
The Riverfront Plan Overview
Top Answers
Walk
Boat (canoe, kayak, row)
Bicycle
Run

Also...
Fishing
Using a wheelchair
Watching Rowing
Parkour
Doing cleanups
Walking dogs
Painting
Spending time with family

What’s your favorite thing to do on the riverfront?
Overall Design Goals

- Connect destinations, parks, and bike paths
- 10-foot wide walkway for two-way travel for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Overlooks with seating and shade structures at important views
- Location for accessible canoe/kayak launch
- Abundant seating and bicycle parking along the riverfront
- Educational and interpretive elements and identity/wayfinding signage
- Lighting along main walkways for security and extended use
- Remove invasive vegetation to open views
- New native planting for erosion control, shade and wildlife habitat
The Riverfront Plan Overview

Site Opportunities & Constraints
Overall Concept Plan

Project Site divided into six areas for further detail
Gateway Park South
Gateway Park South – Existing Conditions
Riverfront Plan Details

Gateway Park South – Enlarged Plan

- Existing Gateway Park Parking (40 spaces)
- Painted bike lanes
- Accessible ramps from road to walkway
- Mystic View Road
- Existing guardrail and retaining wall
- Overlook pier
- Thin vegetation for views with conservation seed mix along shoreline
- Seating plaza with public art and planting at promontory
- Access road to Amelia Earhart Dam
- Malde River
Riverfront Plan Details

Gateway Park South – Overlook Pier

Plan 1
Gateway Park Central – Existing Conditions
Gateway Park Central – Enlarged Plan
Riverfront Plan Details

Gateway Park Central – Canoe / Kayak Launch

RECENTLY COMPLETED CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH AT MACDONALD PARK IN MEDFORD
Riverfront Plan Details

Planning for Possible Boat Moorings
- Intended to serve Everett Residents, maximum 25' boat length
- Quantity will be based on demand and other river uses
- Maintain federal navigation channel
Water Quality

“The sediments do not pose a health risk that should prevent people from boating on the Malden River.”

– Malden River Human Health Risk Study for Boating 2018

Spoiler alert:
The news is favorable for boating!
Boating Advisory – Be Safe!
www.mysticriver.org/boatingadvisory
Twitter: @safemystic

MYSTIC DAILY BOATING ADVISORY

How safe is it to boat today?
These estimates of water quality conditions are generated by an automated bacteria prediction model and by additional cyanobacteria testing during boating season. For more on what the estimates mean and how they are arrived at, see the questions below.

Mystic River
MYSTIC VALLEY PARKWAY (RT 16)

Malden River
REVERE BEACH PARKWAY (RT 16)

Upper Mystic Lake
SHANON BEACH

Status: Good
Low probability of elevated bacteria levels.

Status: Advisory
High probability of elevated bacteria levels.

What do the categories mean?

GOOD
Boating is probably safe! The chances that E. coli bacteria levels exceed state recreational standards are low, and there is no evidence of a cyanobacteria bloom.

ADVISORY
The chances that E. coli bacteria levels exceed state recreational standards are high, or there is evidence of a cyanobacteria bloom with concentrations exceeding state safety guidelines.

UNCERTAIN
There is no evidence of elevated bacteria levels, but screening values
Riverfront Plan Details

Gateway Park North
Gateway Park North – Existing Conditions
Gateway Park North - Boardwalk

Riverfront Plan Details
Village Landing Park
Village Landing Park – Existing Conditions
Riverfront Plan Details

Village Landing Park

- Overlook Plaza with Shade Shelter, Tables, Steps & Seatwalls
- Boardwalk
- Conservation Seed Mix
- Existing Bioretention Area
- Entry Plaza with Signage
- Preserve Existing Willow Trees

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Everett Riverfront Plan

Berberian Property

Riverfront Plan Details

Berberian Property

City of Everett

Revere Beach Parkway

Malden River

Gateway Center

Gateway Park
Riverfront Plan Details

Berberian Property – Existing Conditions
Riverfront Plan Details

Berberian Property

Existent River Green Riverwalk

Possible future pedestrian corridor through development

Landscape berm with planting

Retaining wall with fence

Bridge across creek

Thin vegetation for views

South Creek

Boardwalk

Malden River

Plan 5
Rivergreen – Existing Conditions
Riverfront Plan Details

Rivergreen – Permanent Boathouse
Full Meeting Clarification Questions

• How does the Riverfront Plan connect with other bike/walking trails?
  It will connect to other trails wherever possible! There is already a ped/bike underpass at Route 16, the Northern Strand Community Trail is under construction behind Gateway Plaza, and planning and funding are underway for a ped/bike bridge over the Mystic River just south of the dam.

• Will the Riverfront be open and free to the public?
  Yes, the Riverfront will be fully open and free to the public.

• What is the width of the Riverfront Walkway and what will it accommodate?
  The Riverfront Plan calls for a 10’ width clear on the main route and boardwalks. This can be re-evaluated in final design phases as the project moves forward.

• Can you please explain the proposed mooring plan in more detail, and describe the City’s and MyRWA’s position on it?
  The plan for the moorings in the river is a CONCEPT, a VISION. The plan will evolve with discussions with groups, abutters, and boaters, as the river is a shared resource.
Discussion & Breakout Rooms

• Do you have questions about the plan?
• What do you like most about the plan? What do you like the least?
  • Boardwalk through wetland at Gateway Park
  • Canoe/kayak launch at Gateway Park
  • Boathouse at Rivergreen
  • Pavilion and picnic area at Village Landing Park
  • Overlook pier at Gateway Park
  • Multi-use path
  • Plaza with public art
  • Environmental restoration
  • Boat moorings

• What do you think is missing from the plan?
• What are the biggest issues/challenges you see?
Next Steps

- Continue to develop individual projects that improve the riverfront and the environment (Rivergreen boathouse, environmental work, public involvement).
- Identify and obtain funding for phased construction.
- For the funded areas: prepare field survey, perform final design, obtain all permits, bid and construct.

THE CREATION OF THE RIVERFRONT IS A MULTI-YEAR PROJECT THAT WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.
Thank you for participating!

The City and MyRWA want to hear more from you about the Riverfront.
Please participate in the survey below:

https://forms.gle/fdNJuCvwrhngqzWRFA

Or submit your additional comments to:

Tom Philbin, City of Everett
tom.philbin@ci.everett.ma.us

Project information can be found at:

www.ci.everett.ma.us

Comments will be received until June 4, 2021