

Improvements to

Mary Ellen Welch Greenway

and

Coastal Resilience Updates



January 30, 2024
Boston Parks and Recreation



Zoom Interpretation Services



English: For interpretation in [____],

1. Go to the horizontal control bar at the bottom of your screen. Click on “Interpretation.”
2. Then click on the language that you would like to hear.
3. You are now accessing this meeting in [____]

Spanish: Para traducción en Español,

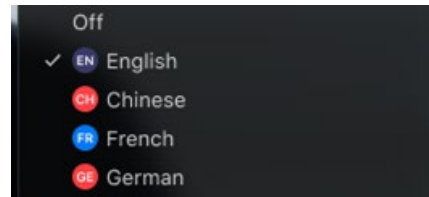
1. Vaya a la parte baja de la pantalla, en la barra horizontal, y presione la tecla “Interpretation”.
2. Luego seleccione el idioma que desea escuchar.
3. Después de seleccionar, usted entrará a la reunión en el idioma “Español”.

Arabic: للترجمة باللغة العربية

- ١- من خلال شريط التحكم الأفقي الموجود أسفل الشاشة انقر على خيار " Interpretation"
- ٢- ثم اختار اللغة التي تود الاستماع اليها .
- ٣- الآن يمكنك متابعة هذا الاجتماع باللغة العربية .

Brazilian Portuguese: Para interpretação int Português.

1. Vá para a barra de controle horizontal na parte inferior da tela. Clique em “Interpretation”.
2. Em seguida, clique no idioma que deseja ouvir.
3. Agora você está acessando esta reunião em Português



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MEETING RECORDING



The Boston Parks and Recreation Department will be recording the meeting and posting to our project webpage for those who are unable to attend the Zoom meeting live.

It is possible that participants may also be recording the meeting with their phones cameras or other devices. If you do not wish to be recorded during this meeting, please keep your microphone and camera off.

VIRTUAL MEETING ETIQUETTE

We want to ensure this conversation feels accessible to everyone and each one of you feels comfortable sharing your questions and comments.

Please be respectful and mindful of other's time when asking questions/ providing comments, so that all attendees are able to participate in the meeting.

Keep questions/ comments project-specific and not personal to yield a solution driven discussion.

You can always set up a conversation with Amy Linné, amy.linne@boston.gov to further discuss the project or process.

ZOOM TIPS

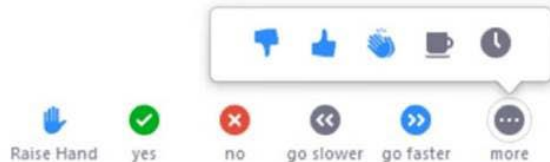
Here is how you can participate during the question and answer part of the presentation.

DURING THE PRESENTATION:



VIA WEB:

Turn video on / off.



To use these non-verbal options click on participants (bottom of screen); these options will pop up in side bar.

DURING THE Q&A:



JOINING VIA PHONE?

Use *9 to raise hand to ask for audio / video permission to ask questions or provide comments.



VIA WEB:

Chat to ask questions / comments or provide responses to poll questions



Raise hand to ask for audio / video permission to ask questions or provide comments.

AGENDA

1

PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTION

2

COASTAL RESILIENCE UPDATE

3

COASTAL RESILIENCE - LISTENING & DISCUSSION

4

GREENWAY PROJECT OVERVIEW

5

GREENWAY DESIGN PRESENTATION

6

GREENWAY - LISTENING & DISCUSSION

7

CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS

PROJECT TEAM

Rev. Mariama White-Hammond

Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space
Cabinet

Ryan Woods

Commissioner
Boston Parks & Recreation Department

Kwanna Wise

Director of Community Engagement
Environment, Energy and Open Space Cabinet

Amy Linné

MEW Greenway Project Manager
Boston Parks & Recreation Department
amy.linne@boston.gov

Manuela Villa Gomez

East Boston Neighborhood Liaison
Office of Neighborhood Services
manuela.villagomez@boston.gov

Weston & Sampson Design Team:

Cheri Ruane, FASLA, RLA

Practice Leader, Landscape Architecture

Farah Dakkak, RLA

Project Landscape Architect

Alison Brizius

Commissioner
Environment Department

Hannah Wagner

Climate Resilience Project Manager
Environment Department

Delaney Morris

Senior Climate and Coastal Resilience
Infrastructure Delivery Project Manager
BPDA

CITY POLICY PRIORITIES

- Family Friendly
- Green & Growing
- Healthy & Safe
- Delivering Exceptional City Services
- Closing the Racial Wealth Gap



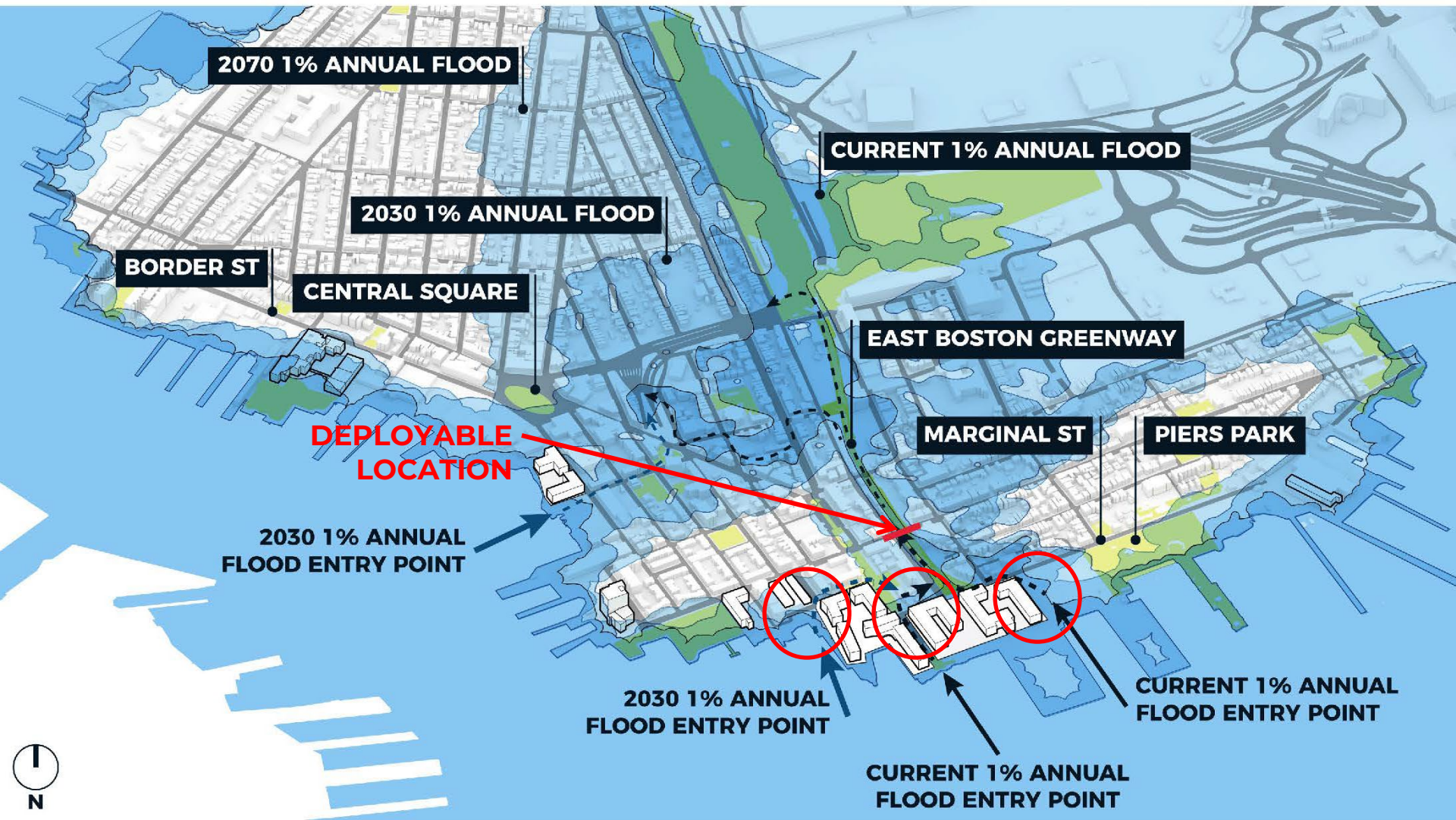
Coastal Resilience Updates

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COASTAL FLOODING IN EAST BOSTON



The gradations of blue in the map show how the 1% annual chance flood extent changes as sea levels rise. The colors do not indicate depth of flooding. The arrows show the flood entry points and pathways with current sea levels, 9 inches of sea level rise (2030s), and 36 inches of sea level rise (2070s).

COASTAL RESILIENCE

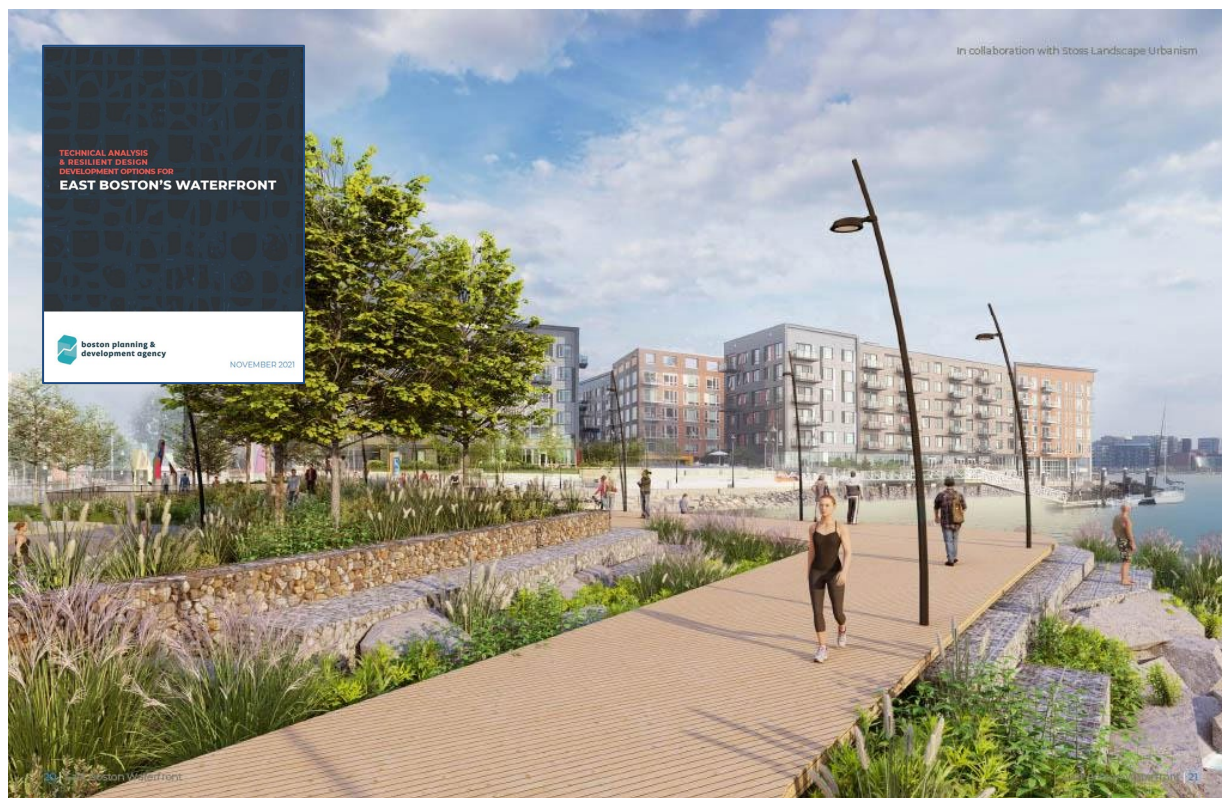
Resilient East Boston Waterfront Project at Carlton Wharf / Lewis Mall

Spring 2021 - BPDA completed 30% Schematic Design with grant funding from Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

December 2022 - BPDA applied for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to complete the design, permitting, & construction.

Contact for more details and questions:

Delaney Morris (*she/her*)
Boston Planning & Development Agency
Senior Climate & Coastal Resilience Infrastructure Delivery Project Manager
delaney.morris@boston.gov



Project Webpage: <https://www.bostonplans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/east-boston-resilient-waterfront-project>

DEPLOYABLE FLOOD BARRIER

The deployable flood barrier was identified by the **Coastal Resilience Solutions for East Boston and Charlestown Phase 1 (2017)** as an immediate flood resilience measure.

It would provide protection to **almost 4,300 residents, at least 70 businesses,** and critical infrastructure from the current 1% chance flood.

An **on-site storage solution** would greatly improve the logistics of and reduce the time needed for the flood barrier deployment, thus contributing to the overall safety of the East Boston community.



TEMPORARY DEPLOYABLE FLOOD BARRIER STORAGE



Coastal Resilience Updates QUESTION & COMMENTS



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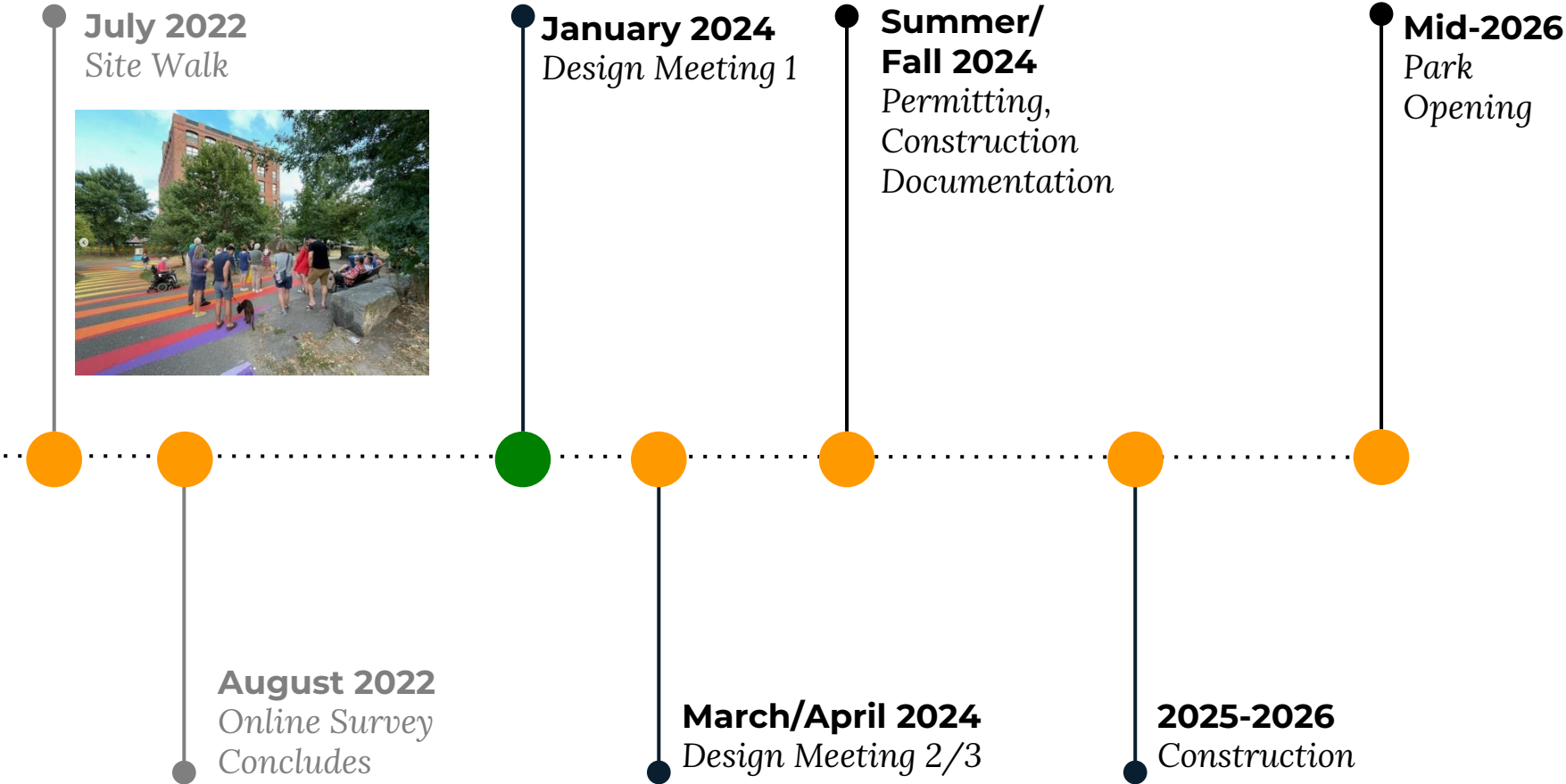
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MEW GREENWAY PROJECT SCHEDULE



July 2022
Site Walk



January 2024
Design Meeting 1

**Summer/
Fall 2024**
*Permitting,
Construction
Documentation*

Mid-2026
*Park
Opening*

August 2022
*Online Survey
Concludes*

March/April 2024
Design Meeting 2/3

2025-2026
Construction

MEETING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Re-engage with the Community on this project
- Discuss strategies for ensuring the Greenway is usable during and after storm events including stabilizing the greenway slopes
- Discuss design concepts for a new path alignment and amenities
- Gather updated input on how the community uses the Greenway and how they would like to use it in the future



PROJECT APPROACH

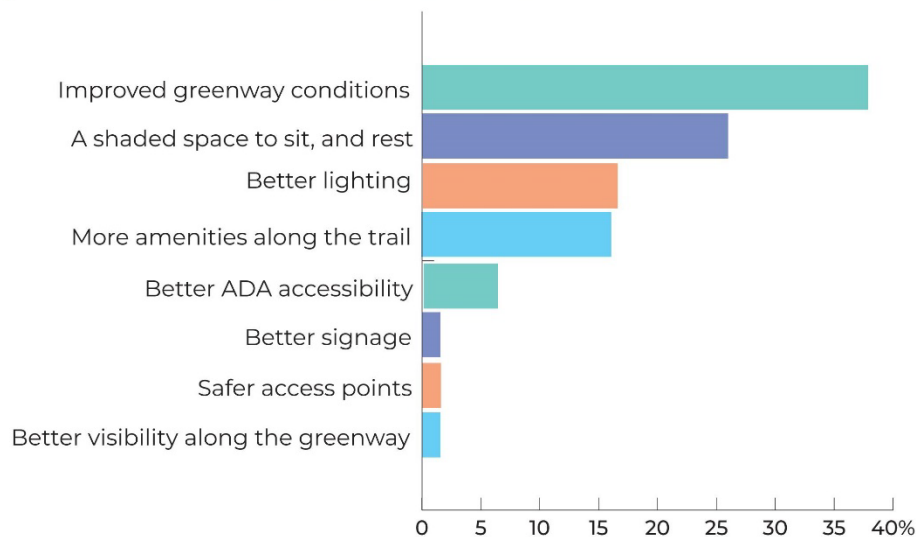


WHAT WE HEARD Online Survey Responses

July – August 2022

79 Responses

Which of the following would improve your experience of using the section between Porter Street and Marginal Street?



Rank the following in terms of importances to your experience of the greenway (not important, somewhat important, important, very important)? Please rank your answer.

1. Reduced flooding impacts on the greenway

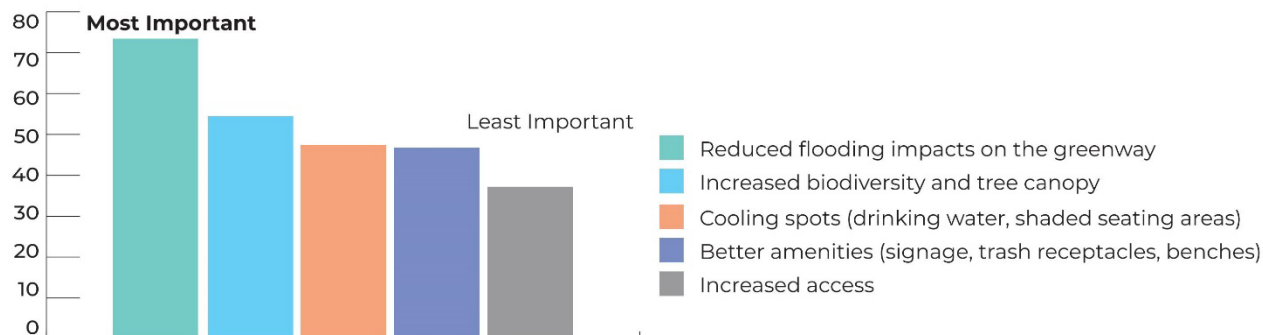
5. Increased Access

2. Better amenities (signage, trash receptacles, benches)

3. Increased biodiversity and tree canopy

4. Cooling spots (drinking water, shaded seating areas)

Rank the following in terms of importances to your experience of the greenway (not important, somewhat important, important, very important)? Please rank your answer.





How often do you visit the Greenway?

Very often/Daily



Often/Weekly



Sometimes/Monthly/Few times a month



Rarely/Few times a year



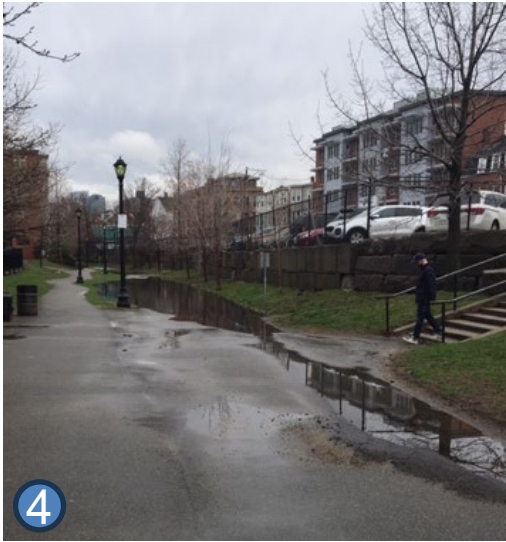
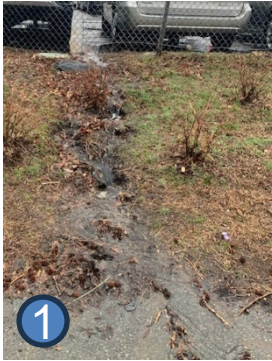
EXISTING CONDITIONS



SITE OBSERVATIONS



SITE OBSERVATIONS



FLOODING

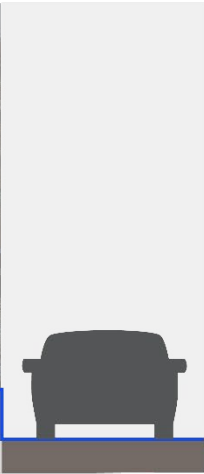
CAUSES OF STORMWATER FLOODING ON THE GREENWAY

- High water table
- Drainage pipes emptying into the Harbor (fill up at high tide)
- Low elevation of the Greenway
- Impervious surfaces on adjacent properties

SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESSING STORMWATER FLOODING

- Green infrastructure
- Tide gates (BWSC)
- Pump Station (BWSC)
- Decreased impervious surfaces

DRAINAGE & STORMWATER



DRAINAGE & STORMWATER





How do you currently use the Greenway?

Walk



Run



Bike



Rollerblade/Skate



Commute (Getting to a destination)

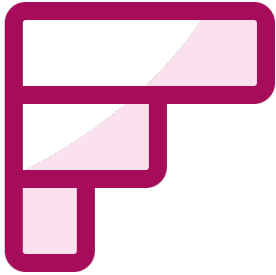


Sit/meditate

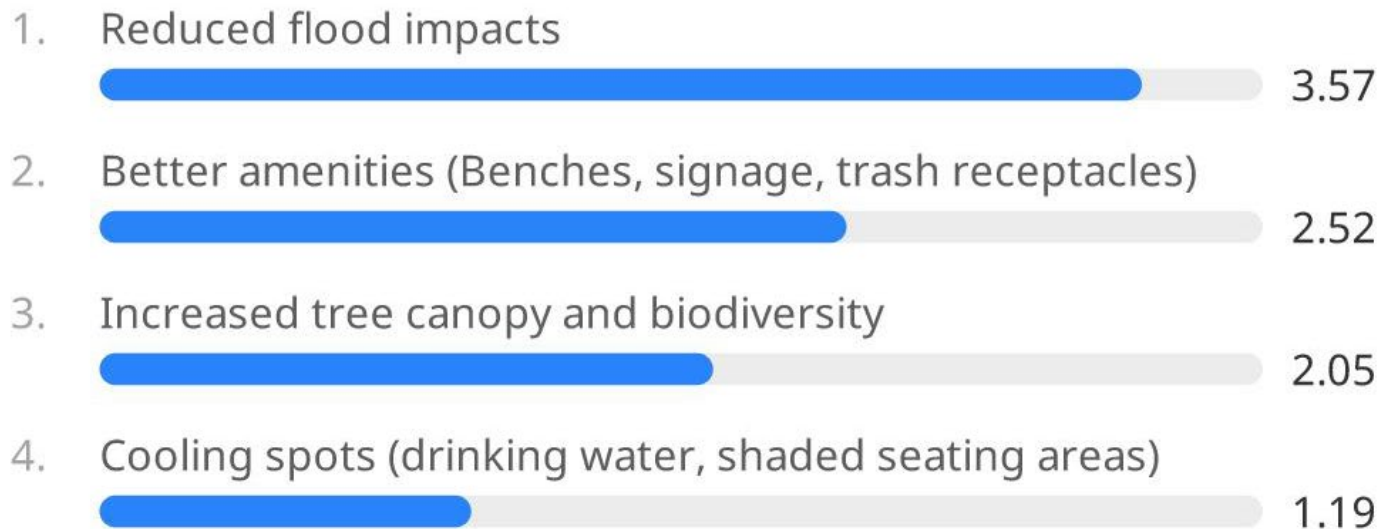


Attend events

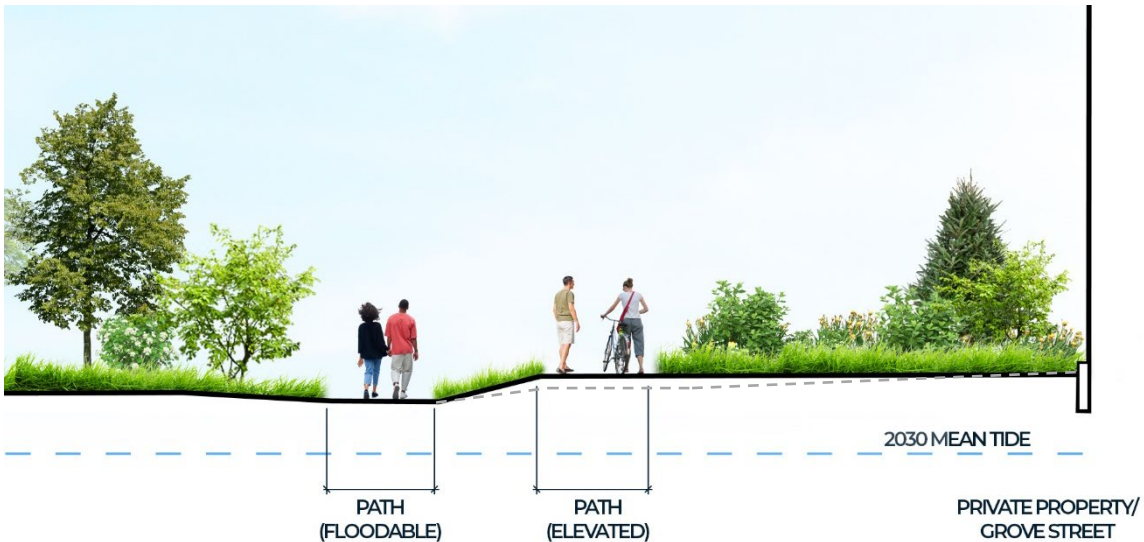




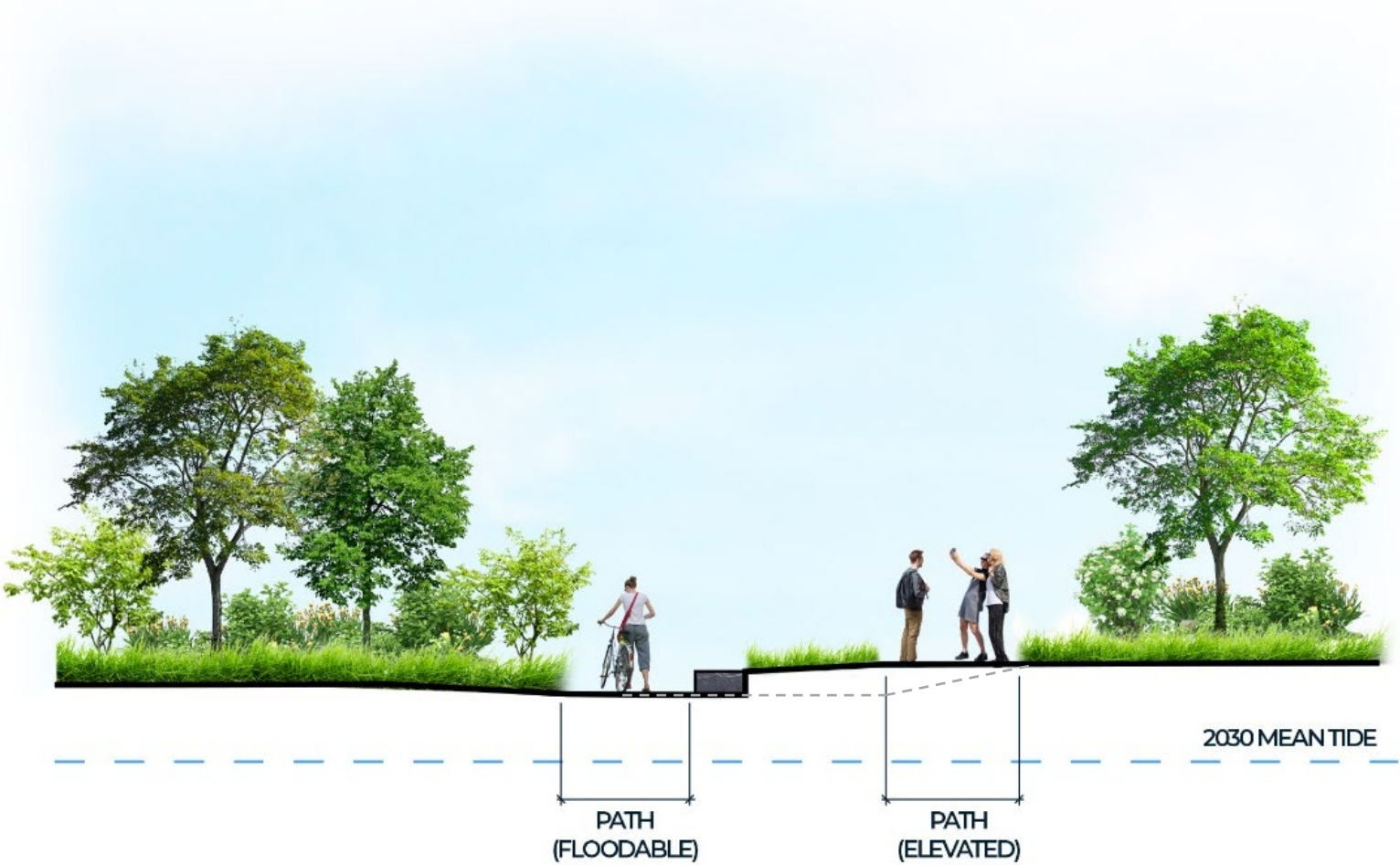
In your opinion, What improvements are most critical for a Greenway? (rank this 1 being most, 4 being least)



CONCEPT SECTION 1



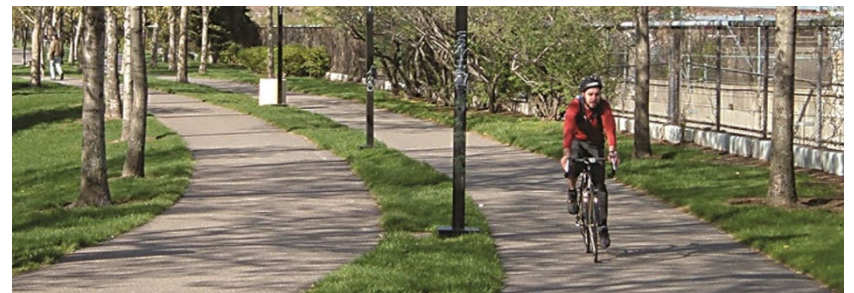
CONCEPT SECTION 2



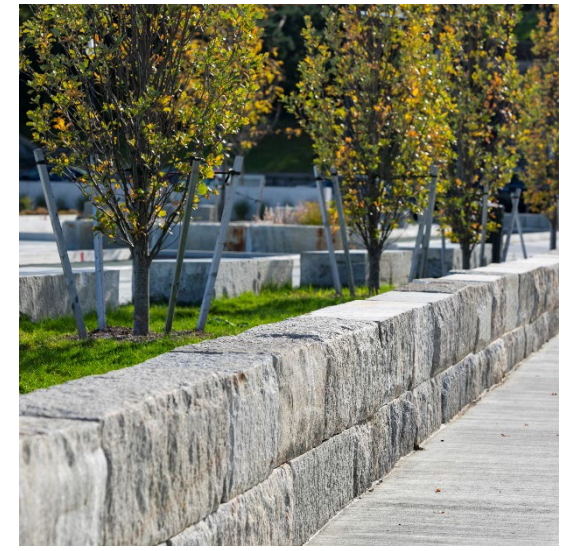
CONCEPT SECTION 3



CONCEPT PRECEDENTS

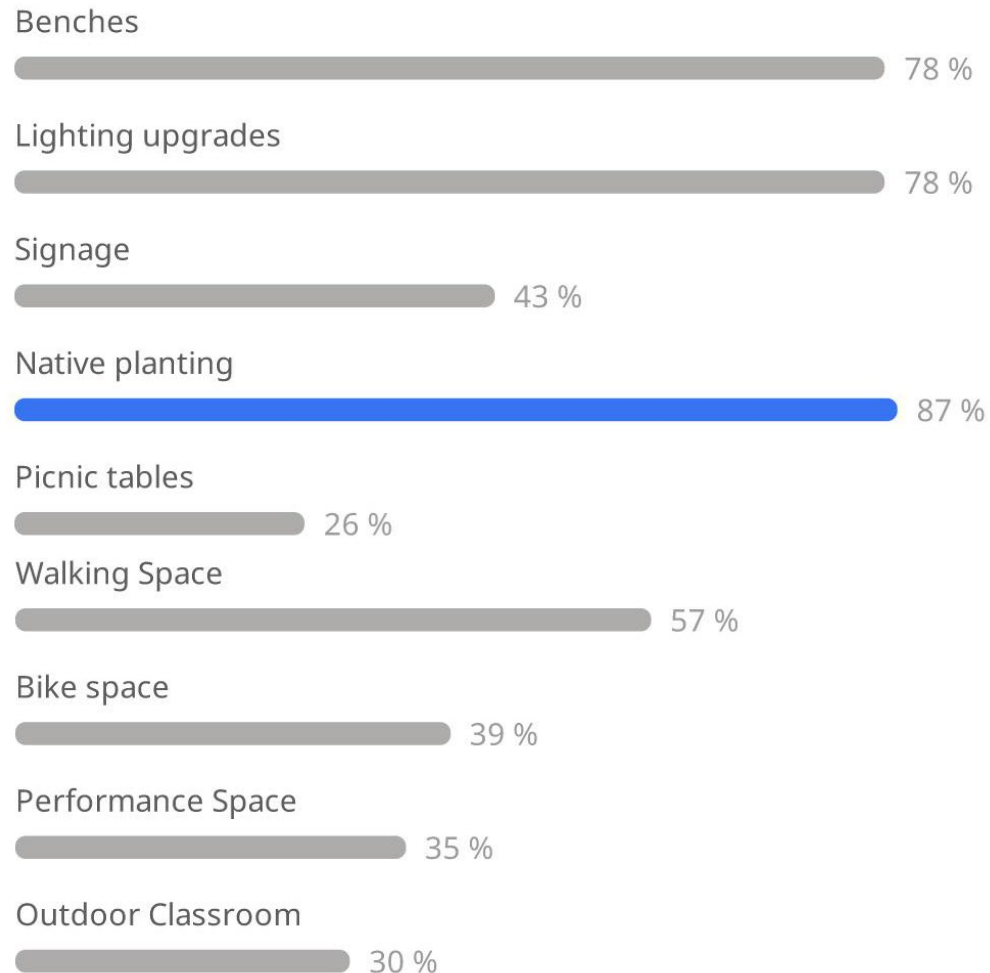


SITE FURNISHING & PLANTING IDEAS





What amenities would you most like to see at the Greenway?





What qualities/amenities would you like to see at the entry spaces?

Seating area



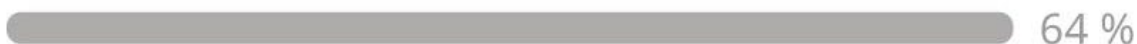
Signage



Planting



Water fountains

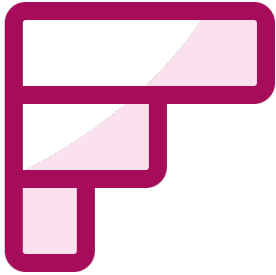


Bike racks

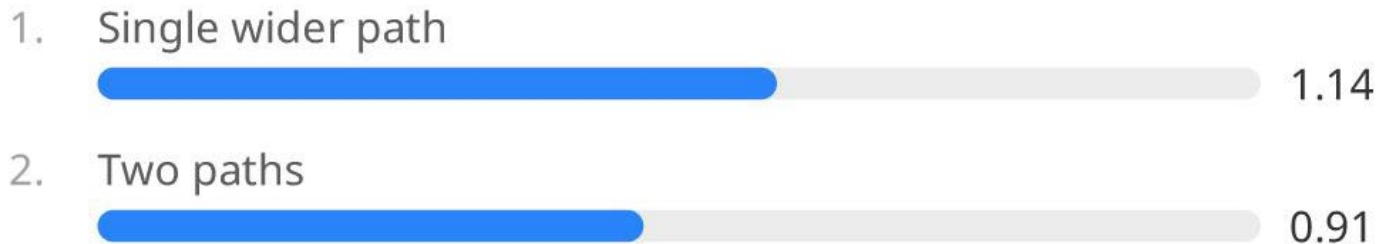


Specialty paving





Which would you prefer a single wider path (for pedestrian and bike traffic) or two paths separating the uses (existing condition)?





LISTENING & DISCUSSION

Help us build great parks.
Let us know what matters to you.



THANK YOU!

Meeting #2 TBD

For questions, maintenance requests or concerns regarding any of our parks contact 311



BOS:
311

www.boston.gov/welch-greenway

Amy Linné:
amy.linne@boston.gov

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and Improvements to
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