

Mystic Lakes Path Improvement Project

Public Meeting #1
February 13, 2024

DESIGN TEAM

HALVORSON
Tighe&Bond STUDIO

 **CHRONICLE**
HERITAGE

 **KITTELSON**
& ASSOCIATES

Mystic River
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

ZOOM MEETING INFO AND TIPS

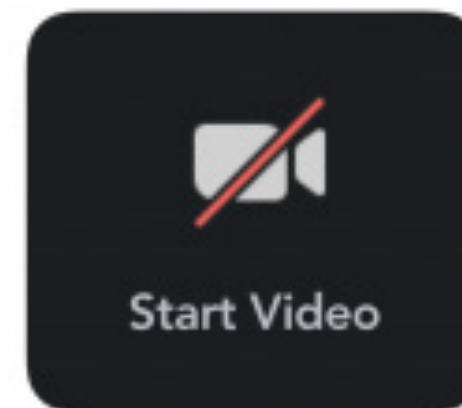
- MyWRA will be recording this meeting and posting it on our project webpage. If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.
- Zoom controls are available at the bottom of your screen. Clicking on these symbols activates different features.
- Use raise hand function (dial 9 followed by 6 if joining by phone) and wait to be called upon before asking your question or providing comment.
- We want to ensure that this conversation is a pleasant experience for all. Please remain muted during the presentation to avoid background noise.



Mute or
unmute



Raise hand to get in
line to ask a question or
provide comment



Turn Video
On or Off


AGENDA

1) INTRODUCTION

2) PROJECT OVERVIEW

3) VISIONING EXERCISE

4) NEXT STEPS

A scenic view of a lake with autumn foliage reflected in the water. The sky is blue with light clouds. The trees on the left are in full autumn colors, while the trees on the right are mostly green. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding landscape.

MyRWA wishes to honor and acknowledge the indigenous communities native to this region and its past, present, and future. The watershed is on the colonized lands of the Massachusetts, Nipmuc, and Pawtucket tribes.

As you explore the watershed, we encourage you to learn with us about its past and current indigenous heritage.

MYSTIC RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

OUR MISSION

To protect and restore the Mystic River and its tributaries.

MYSTIC GREENWAYS VISION

Connecting 25 miles of path, improve hundreds of acres of parklands and engage thousands of community members from Mystic Lakes to the Boston Harbor.



PROJECT TEAM

CLIENT

Mystic River Watershed Association

CONSULTANTS

Landscape Architecture

Halvorson | Tighe & Bond Studio

Environmental Science & GIS

Tighe & Bond

Transportation

Kittleson & Associates

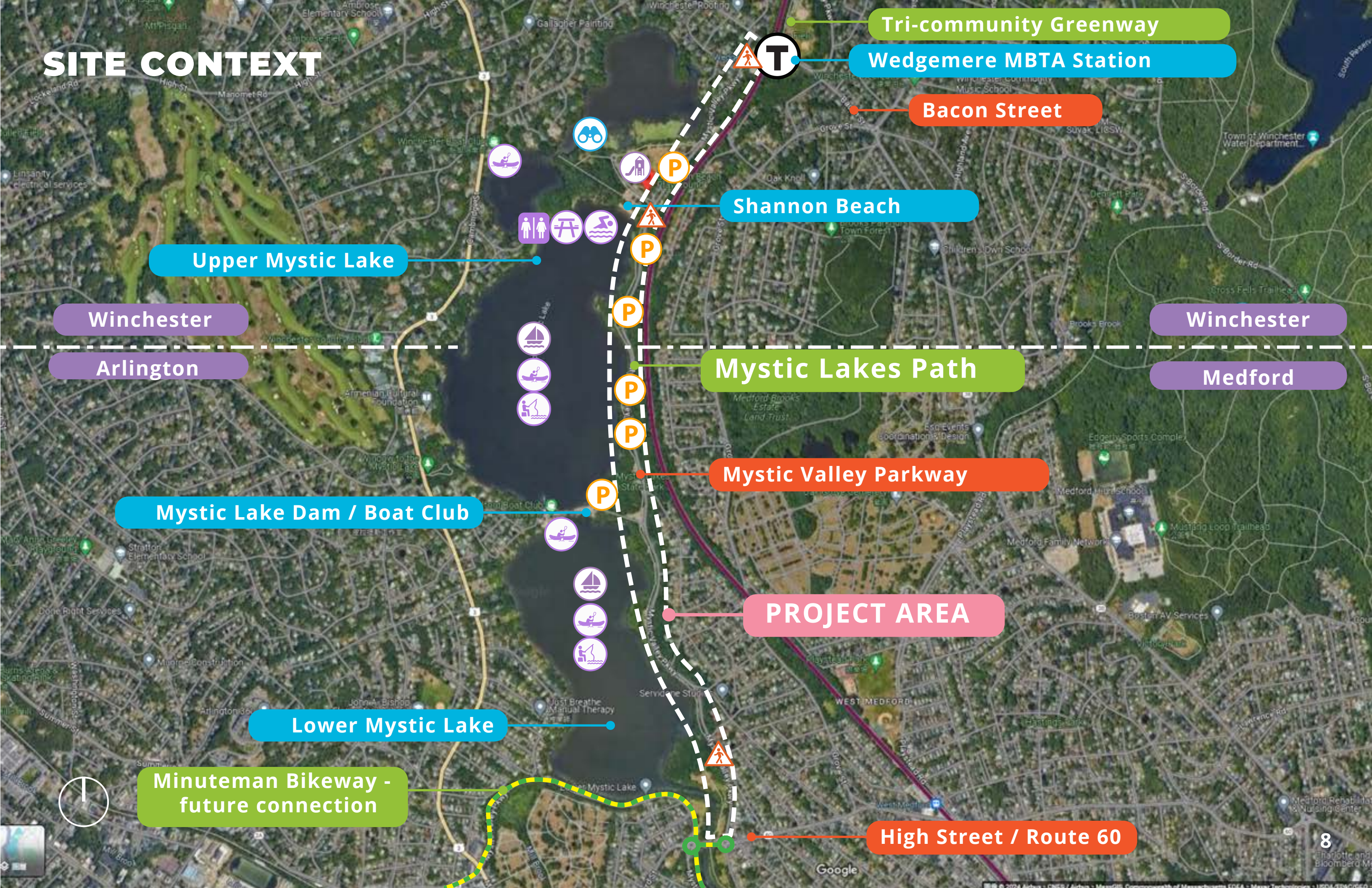
Cultural Resources

Chronicle Heritage

A scenic view of a lake surrounded by trees with autumn foliage. The text "PROJECT OVERVIEW" is overlaid in the center.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

SITE CONTEXT



Tri-community Greenway

Wedgemere MBTA Station

Bacon Street

Shannon Beach

Upper Mystic Lake

Winchester

Winchester

Arlington

Medford

Mystic Lakes Path

Mystic Valley Parkway

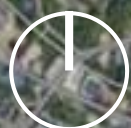
Mystic Lake Dam / Boat Club

PROJECT AREA

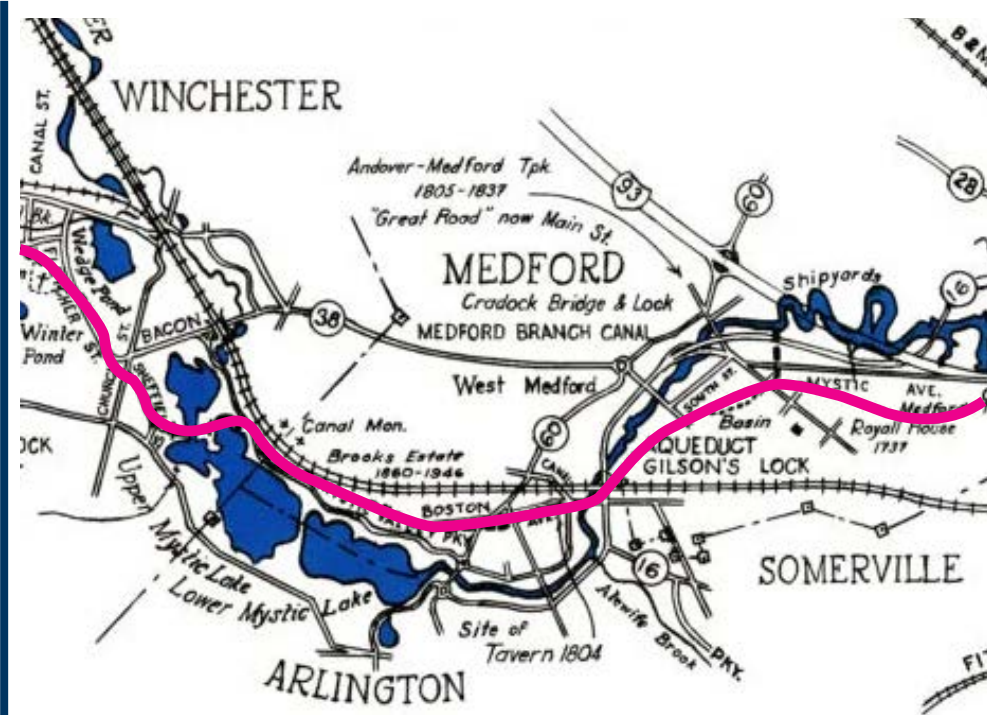
Lower Mystic Lake

Minuteman Bikeway - future connection

High Street / Route 60



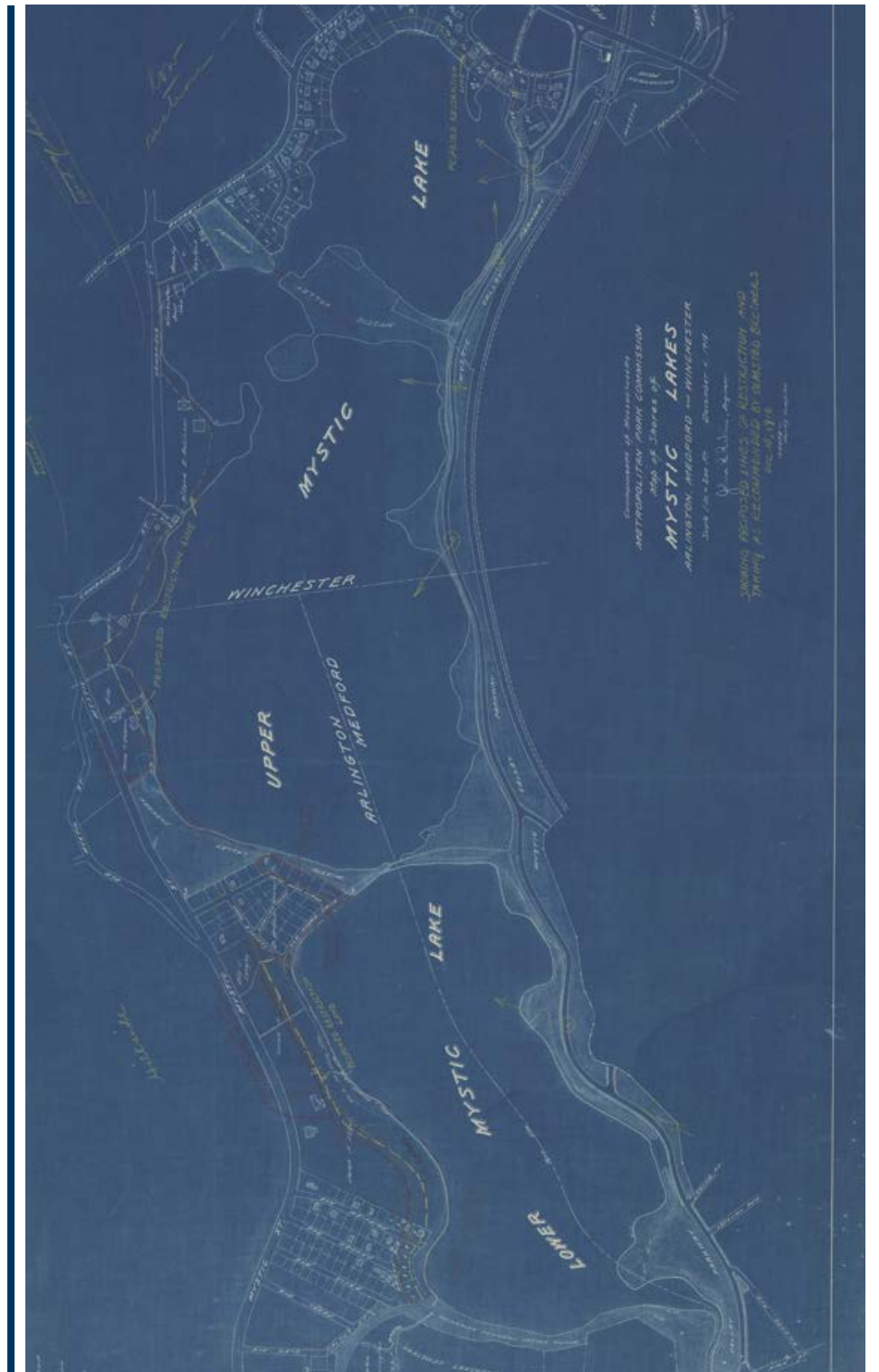
CULTURAL RESOURCES



MIDDLESEX CANAL
1803 - 1852



MYSTIC DAM
1865



MYSTIC VALLEY PARKWAY
1896, by Olmsted Brothers

PROJECT SCOPE

- Advance the development of a 2-mile shared use path along Mystic Lakes
- Enhance its quality, use and ecological value

PROJECT GOALS

- Improve safety & accessibility
- Enhance recreational experience
- Improve ecological health of the Mystic Lakes
- Promote active transportation within Mystic River Reservation Path network

PROJECT FUNDING

- Masstrails
- The Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Foundation

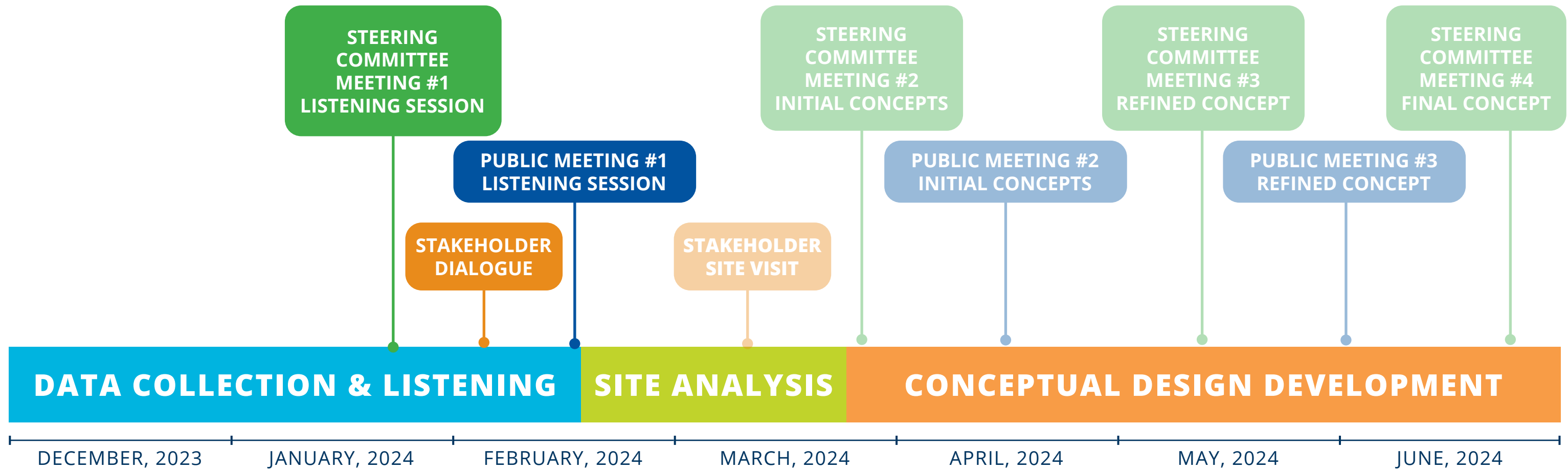
WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Land Survey
- Cultural Resources Assessment
- Ecological Resources Assessment
- Traffic Count and Analysis
- Conceptual Design for
 - Shared-use Path and Parkway Alignment
 - Parking Areas
 - Crossings
 - Stormwater Management,
 - Site Amenities: Overlook, Seating Areas, and Kayak Launch, etc.
 - Surface Type

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Construction-Level Design
- Permitting and Construction
- Site Area Beyond the Path
- Parking Management

SCHEDULE & PROCESS



Let's take a 'tour' of Mystic Lakes Path





Open Space



Mystic Lakes Dam and Boat Club



Shannon Beach



SOUTH PATH CHARACTER

- Dirt/granular path
- Limited curb along Parkway
- Street parking to the south
- Street lighting on utility pole
- Stormwater sheet flow toward Mystic lakes
- Residential abutter

NORTH PATH CHARACTER

- Paved path at roadway level
- Curb on both sides of Parkway
- Multiple parking lots
- DCR standard Parkway street lighting
- Stormwater drainage system
- MBTA ROW



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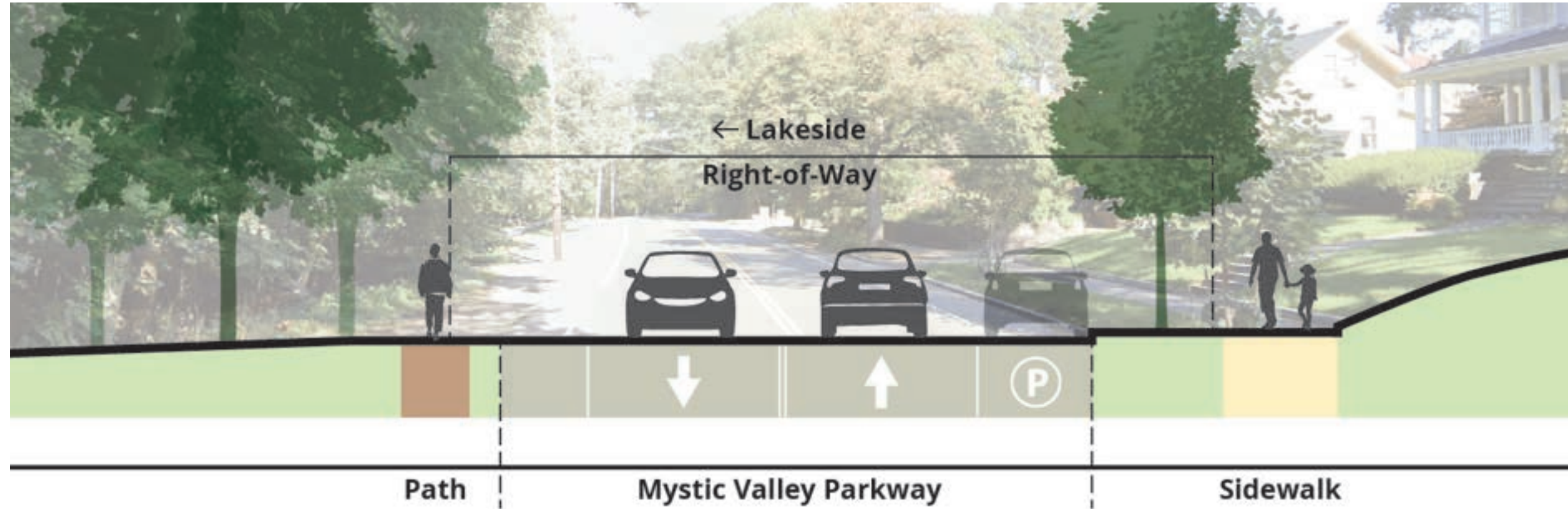
NORTH PATH CHARACTER

- Paved path at roadway level
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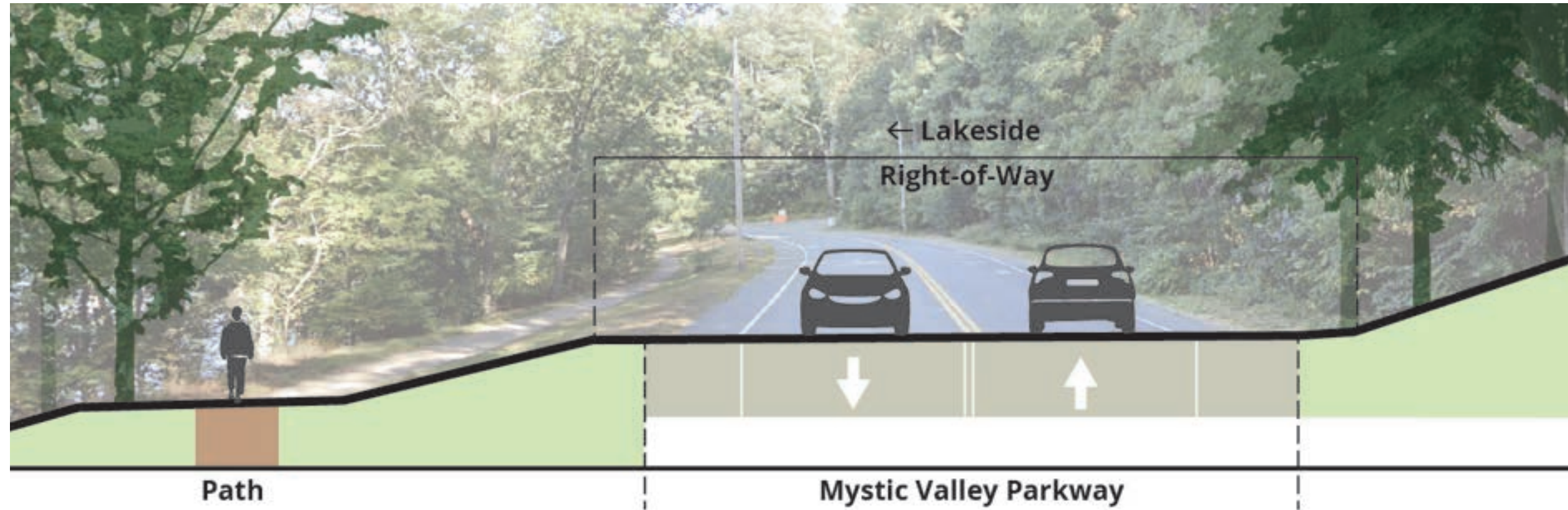
- Path at roadway level
- Buffer between path and roadway

- Buffer between path and lake
- Stormwater runoff toward the lake
- Parking on street at eastern side



- Path below roadway level
- Sloped buffer between path and roadway

- Steep slope between path and lake
- Stormwater runoff toward the lake



Looking north

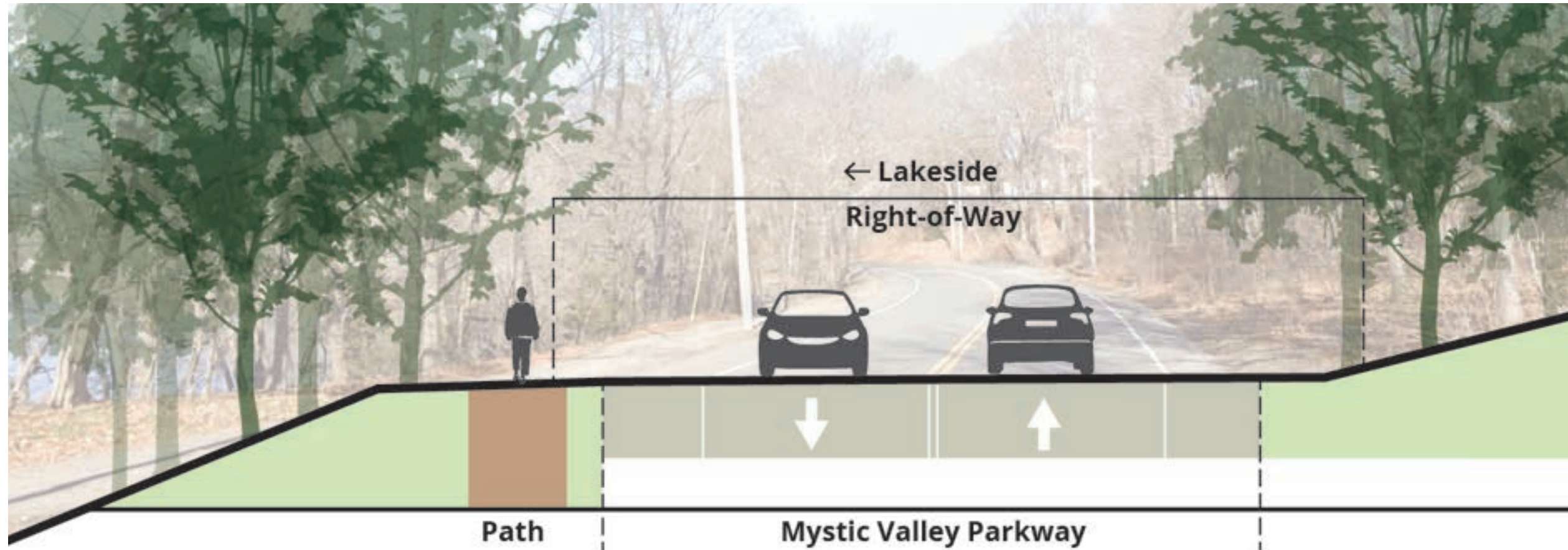


Looking south



- Path at roadway level
- Buffer between path and roadway

- Buffer between path and lake
- Stormwater runoff toward the lake



Looking north

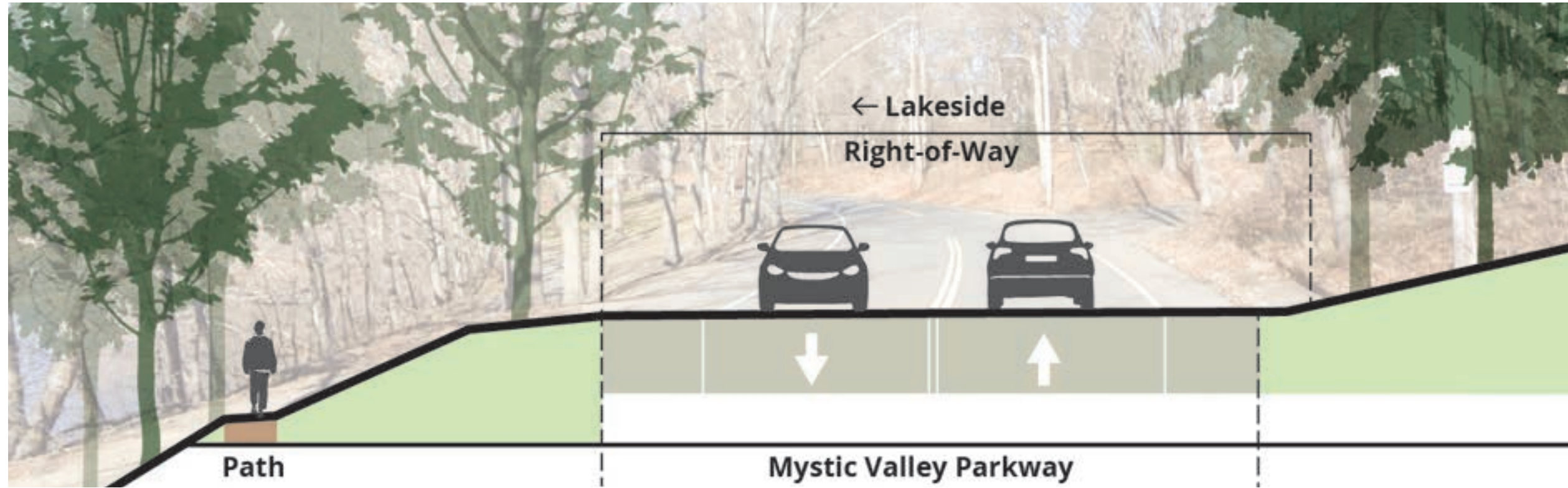


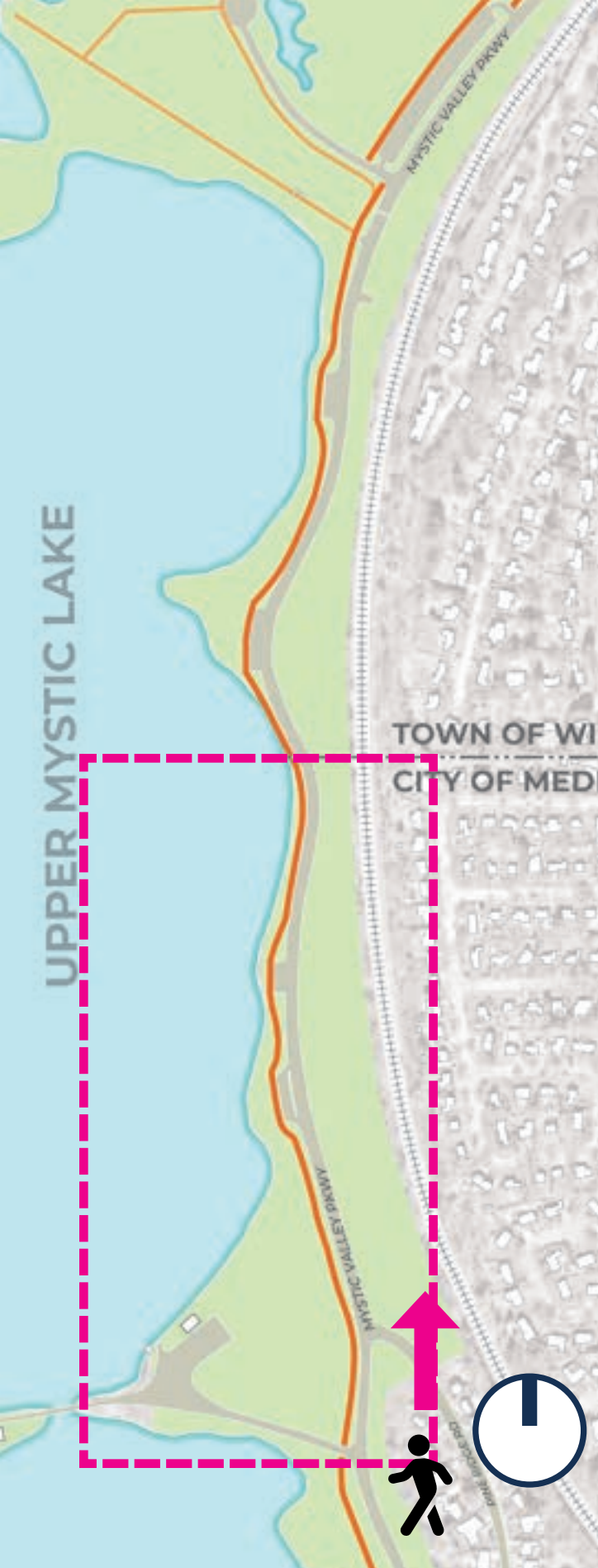
Looking south



- Path below roadway level
- Sloped buffer between path and roadway

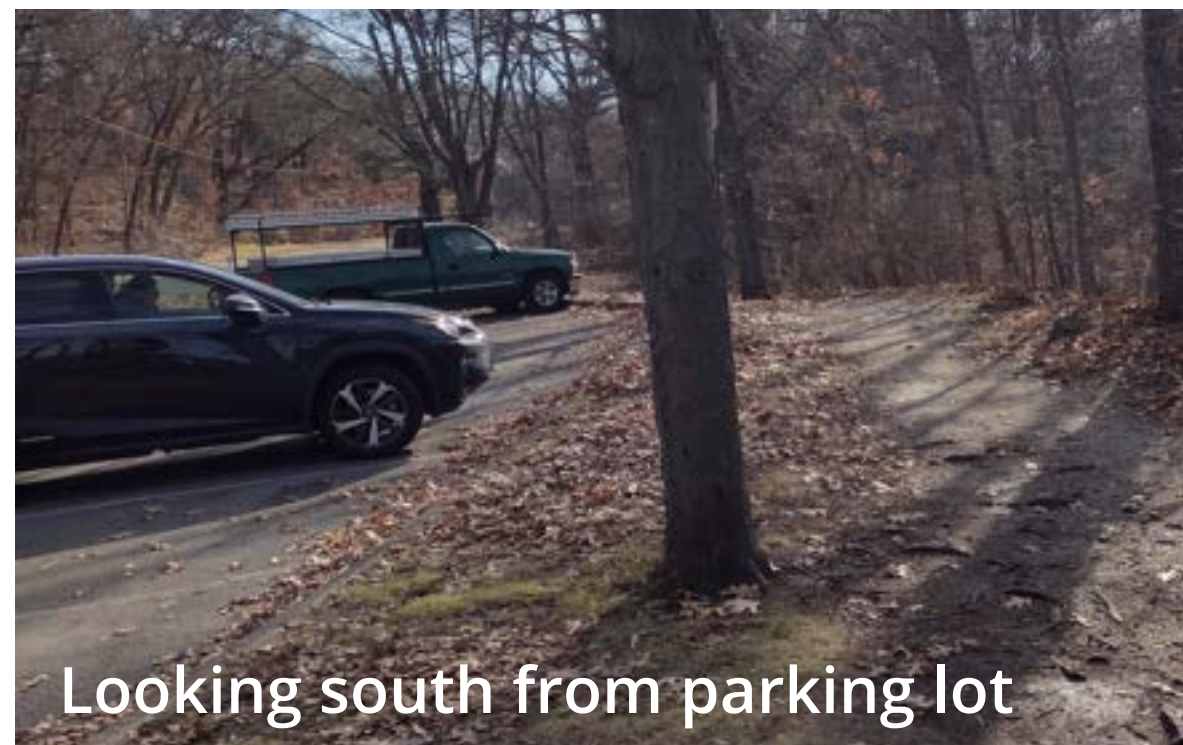
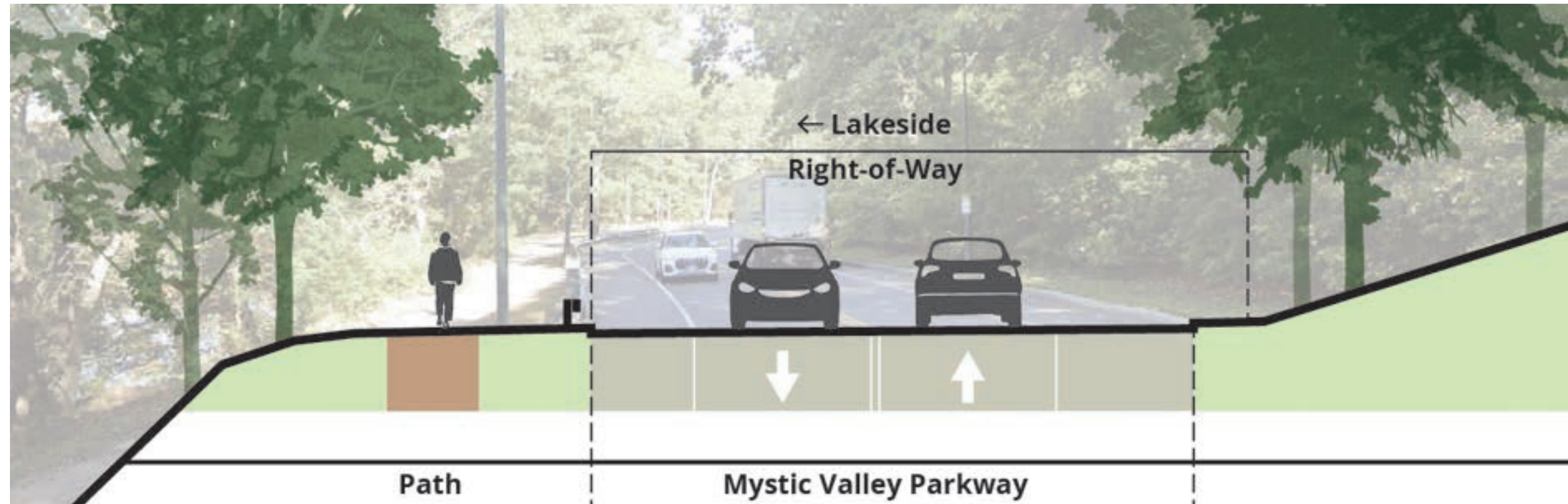
- Steep slope between path and lake
- Stormwater runoff toward the lake





- Path at roadway level
- Buffer between path and roadway

- Buffer between path and lake
- Stormwater runoff toward catch basin
- Parking lots

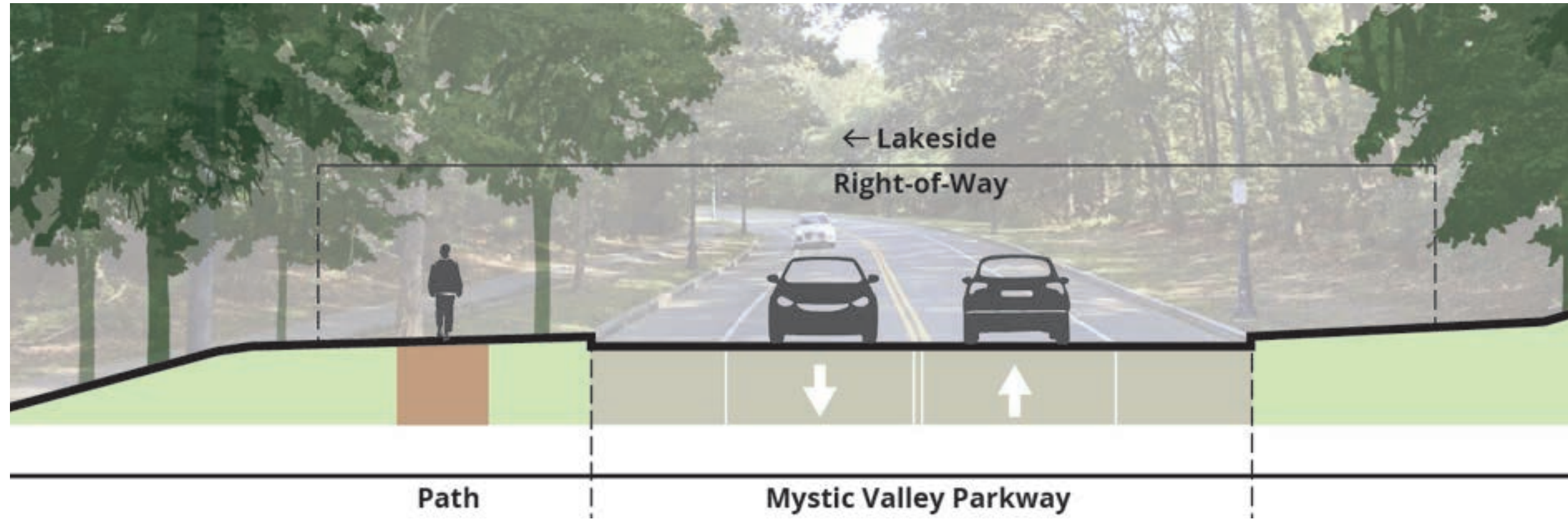


CHARACTER ZONE 5 - Mystic Lakes Dam to Town Line



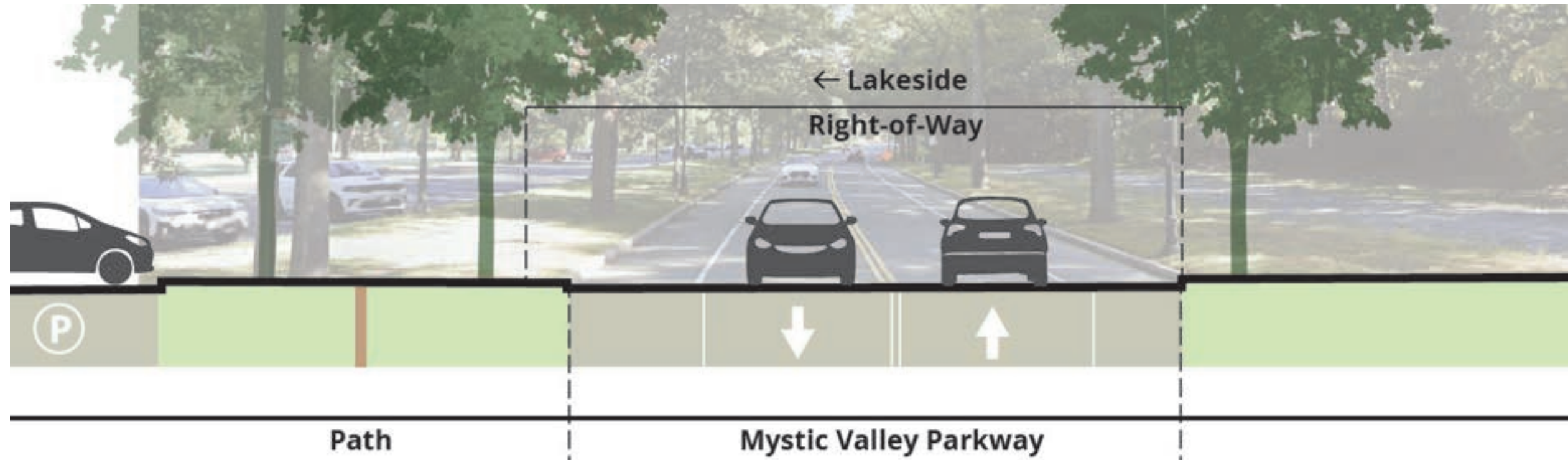
- Path at roadway level
- Buffer between path and roadway/curb

- Buffer between path and lake
- Stormwater runoff toward catch basin
- Parking lots

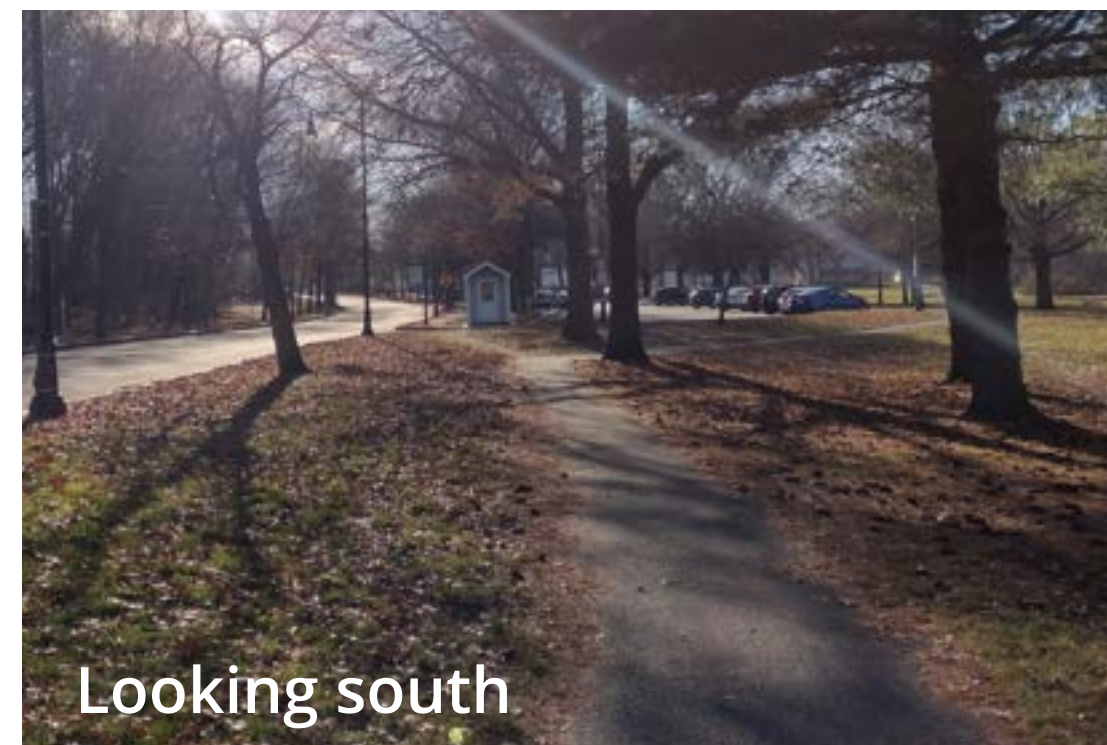


- Path at roadway level
- Buffer between path and roadway/curb

- Paved path to the west of the parking lot
- Stormwater runoff toward catch basin
- Parking lot



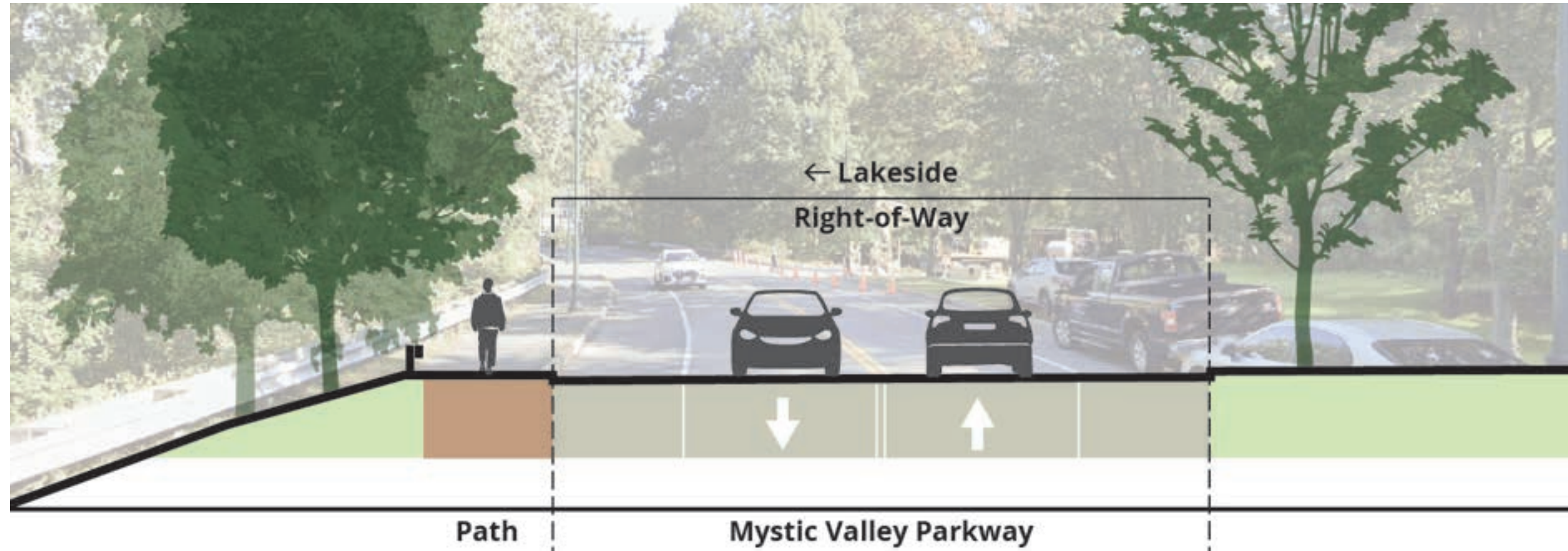
Looking south



Looking south

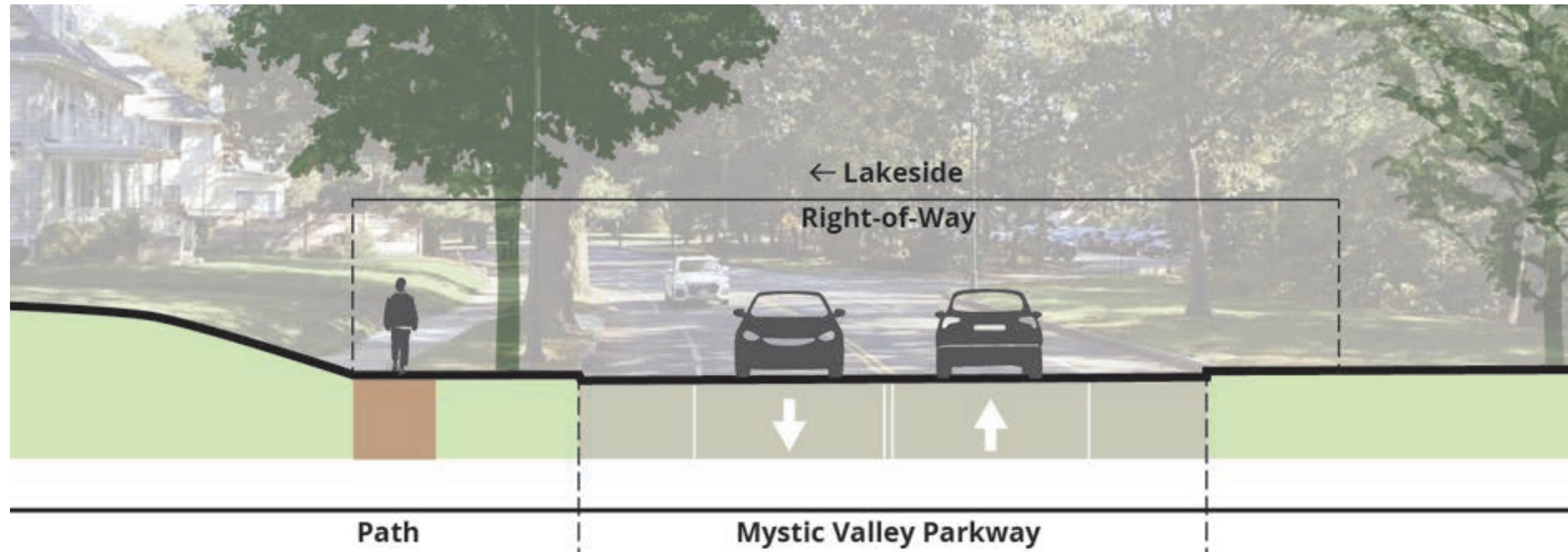
- Path at roadway level
- No buffer between path and roadway

- Steep slope between path and lake
- Stormwater runoff toward catch basin



- Path at roadway level
- No buffer between path and roadway

- Stormwater runoff toward catch basin



CHARACTER ZONE 9 - Aberjona Bridge to Wedgemere Station

VISIONING EXERCISE



VISIONING EXERCISE INSTRUCTIONS

Four Questions will appear on Zoom about the Project Area

- 1) *What do you currently like?*
- 2) *What do you currently not like?*
- 3) *What would you like to see that currently does not exist?*
- 4) *What do you think we should avoid?*

Tips

- Try to answer the question at-hand!
- Helpful information will be shared for each question
- Take time to answer questions fully before saving response
- Backup writing device
- Additional ways to submit responses will be shared

What do you currently like?

- Where do you feel safe or comfortable? Why?
- How do you access the path (walk/bike/drive) and where?
- What do you like to do here? Where?
- Do you prefer the natural or paved surface portion of the path?
- How/where do you like to interact with nature?



1) What do you currently like?

- *Where do you feel safe or comfortable? Why?*
- *How do you access the path (walk/bike/drive) and where?*
- *What do you like to do here? Where?*
- *Do you prefer the natural or paved surface portion of the path?*
- *How/where do you like to interact with nature?*



2) What do you currently not like?

- Where do you feel unsafe or uncomfortable? Why?
- Do you have any difficulty accessing the project area? Why?
- What experiences prevent you from enjoying certain activities?
- Are there any amenities in the project area that you feel aren't utilized?
- Do you dislike either the natural or paved surface portion of the path?
- Where do you feel disconnected from nature?



3) What would you like to see that currently does not exist?

- What features would make you feel safer and more comfortable? Why?
- Where would you like to see more crossings to access the path?
- What new features could help support the activities you like to do?
- What natural and environmental qualities could use improvements?
- What features could help you interact with nature more?
- What features could enhance the natural beauty of the site?



4) What do you think we should avoid?

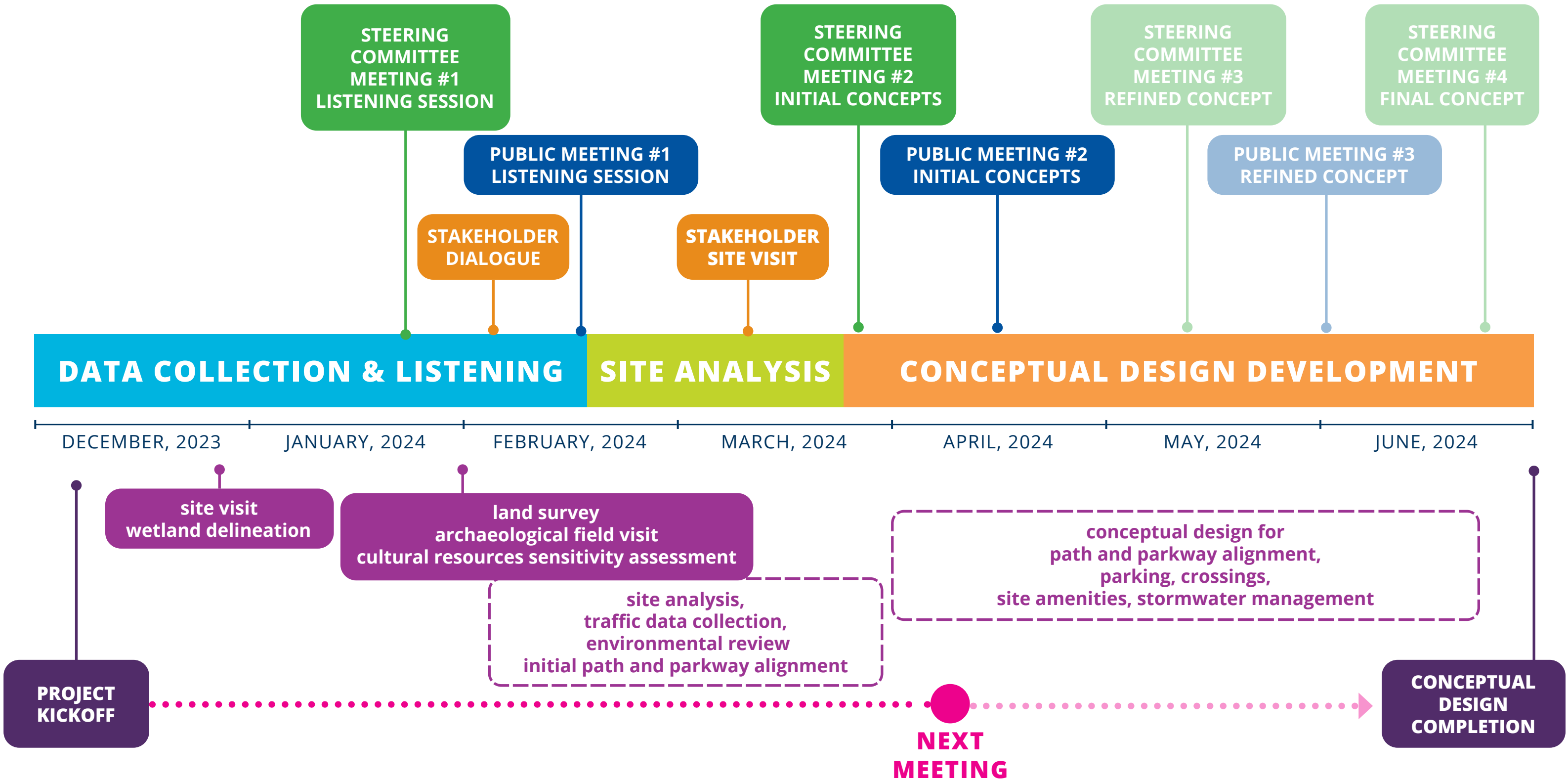
- What features should we avoid to improve safety?
- What features would impede access to the path?
- What surface type for the path would make you feel less comfortable while recreating?
- What features would obstruct the natural beauty of the site?
- What features would prevent you from being able to enjoy nature?



NEXT STEPS



LOOKING AHEAD SCHEDULE



NEXT STEPS

- **Online Survey & Resources at mysticriver.org/mysticlakespath**
- **Join our newsletter for updates at mysticriver.org**
- **Stay involved this Spring!**

Q&A / DISCUSSION

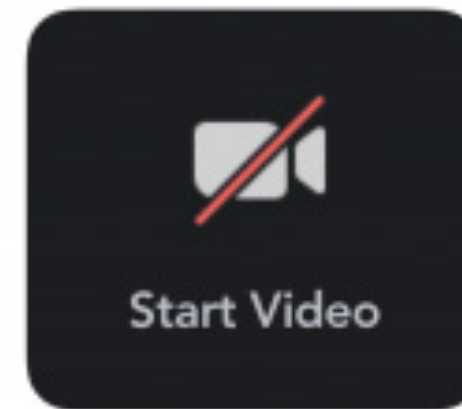
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A scenic view of a river with autumn foliage reflected in the water. The trees on the banks are in various stages of fall, with some showing vibrant reds and oranges, while others are still green. The water is calm, creating clear reflections of the trees and sky.

THANK YOU!

CONTACT

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