

Town of Reading Virtual Public Listening Session Tuesday, January 24, 2023 7:00pm







Project Team

Town of Reading

- Andrew MacNichol, Town Planner
- Alex Rozycki, Senior Civil Engineer
- Charles Tirone, Conservation Administrator

Horsley Witten

• Jennifer Relstab, PE, Project Manager, Senior Water Resources Engineer

Mystic River Watershed Assoc.

• Catherine Pedemonti, Project Manager

Welcome

Agenda :

- Introduction and Project Background
- Overview of Constructed Stormwater Wetlands
- Summary of the Project Design
- Questions and Comments

Reading MVP History

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program -Community Resilience Building

MVP Final Report and Designation: June 2020

Identified Hazards:

- 1. Changing Precipitation Patterns;
- 2. Extreme Temperatures;
- **3.** Snow and Blizzards;
- 4. Wind Related Hazards

Review of current strengths/assets and weaknesses in local Environment, Infrastructure and Societal

High and Moderate Priorities established



Designation allows for Action Grant applications!



Maillet, Sommes, Morgan Constructed Wetland project awarded **\$2.1 million** in Action Grant funding (FY23-24)



21 communities. One watershed.

We partner on climate challenges no single municipality can solve alone

FUNDING

Through Resilient Mystic Collaborative









Alewife Stormwater Wetland, the original inspiration

Resilient Mystic Collaborative Upper Mystic Working Group Overall goal: Manage precipitation-based flooding

- Modeling to better understand flooding
 Identify tools to manage regional flooding
 Zoom in on constructed wetlands as tool to manage regional flooding
 Identify potential sites 425 sites parrowed
- **4.** Identify potential sites. 425 sites narrowed to 6.
- **5.** Design and permit top 3 sites









Community Engagement to date Lunch and Learn (Spring 2021) Public Meeting (Spring 2021) Site Walk (Fall 2022) Public Forum (2023) Additional Site walks (TBD)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO DATE





Constructed Stormwater Wetlands

- Engineered nature-based systems that utilize shallow pools and native wetland vegetation to treat stormwater runoff.
- Benefits:
 - Supports wildlife and habitat
 - Enhances open spaces and provides color throughout the seasons
 - Provides opportunities for passive and active recreation and place-making
 - Improves water quality and provides flood mitigation benefits

Common Questions

- Will the wetland be wet or dry?
- Will the area be flooded during large rain events?
- What about mosquitoes?
- Are there impacts to existing habitats and wildlife?

What do they look like?





Project Design Priorities

- Create open space improvements and site amenities that harmonize with the existing environment
- Provide accessible pathways for pedestrians
- Restore native plant and tree species
- Implement nature-based heat mitigation strategies
- Provide management and treatment of stormwater













Trees and Plants

• Removing 56 total trees (greater than 6-inch DBH), including several invasives

Qty	Туре	Size	Approx. Height	Notes	
31	Deciduous Shade Tree	1-1.5" cal.	N/A	61 total roplacement trees	
7	Deciduous Shade Tree	8-10' ht.	8-10 feet tall		
16	Deciduous Shade Tree	5-8' ht.	5-8 feet tall	or lold replacement liees	
7	Evergreen	8-10' ht.	8-10 feet tall		
31	Shrub	#3 cont.	1-3 feet tall	90 total replacement	
59	Shrub	#5 cont.	2-4 feet tall	shrubs	
23,735	Perennial / Grass	Plug	N/A		







Design Questions

- What material is being used for the paths and boardwalks?
- Will the paths be accessible for users of all abilities and ages?
- How many parking spots will be available? What about overflow parking?
- Will there be access to the site during construction?
- What is the overall schedule for work?

Project Schedule

🧿 January 2023) April 20	23	Winter 20	23/	
Public Meeting (Virtual)	Construc Period St (Tentative	ttion Bid arts e)	Public Upd	ate	
•	•	•		•	
Site (On	Walkthrough site)	Construction Starts (Tentative)		Construction Ends	
o Ma	rch 2023 (ᅌ May 202	23	💍 Summe	ər 2024



Questions and Comments

Project Information and Updates

For More Information and/or to Sign-Up for future Email Updates please visit readingma.gov/msm

Or contact staff:

Alex Rozycki, Senior Engineer – arozycki@ci.reading.ma.us Chuck Tirone, Conservation Administrator – ctirone@ci.reading.ma.us Andrew MacNichol Community Development – amacnichol@ci.reading.ma



