

Little Mystic Channel Park Improvements

Initial Design Ideas

Public Meeting

December 9th, 2021

Agenda

- 5:30 pm Welcome & Project Overview
- 5:45 pm Design Presentation
- 6:05 pm Questions & Comments
- 6:15 pm Breakout Rooms for Feedback
- 6:45 pm Report Back & Close
- 7:00 pm Adjourn

Zoom Introduction

The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting interface. The main area is a grid of 20 video thumbnails, each with a name label below it. The names are: Rochelle Bluf..., Souad (Facilitat..., Melanie, host, Ryan O'Malley (...), Karen (Facilitat..., Xio (zoom lead), Amber, Zoom ..., Marie - zoom le..., emmanuel (faci..., Tanvi (zoom le..., kathy (Facilitat..., Marcia (Zoom L..., Evan (Zoom Le..., Anne (note-tak..., Nick - Notetake..., Philip (Facilitato..., Rich (note take..., Khalil Kaba (Zo..., Renee Note Ta..., Ramon (Zoom L..., barbara (facilit..., Naomi (Note ta..., calvin walker, Sammantha Do..., and Martha Bezzat. The bottom toolbar contains icons for Unmute, Stop Video, Participants (18), Chat, Share Screen, Record, Reactions, and Leave. On the right, a sidebar shows the 'Participants (18)' list with search and control options, and a 'Zoom Group Chat' section.

Participant Name	Role
Rochelle Bluf...	Participant
Souad (Facilitat...	Facilitator
Melanie, host	Host
Ryan O'Malley (...)	Participant
Karen (Facilitat...	Facilitator
Xio (zoom lead)	Participant
Amber, Zoom ...	Participant
Marie - zoom le...	Participant
emmanuel (faci...	Participant
Tanvi (zoom le...	Participant
kathy (Facilitat...	Facilitator
Marcia (Zoom L...	Participant
Evan (Zoom Le...	Participant
Anne (note-tak...	Participant
Nick - Notetake...	Participant
Philip (Facilitato...	Facilitator
Rich (note take...	Participant
Khalil Kaba (Zo...	Participant
Renee Note Ta...	Participant
Ramon (Zoom L...	Participant
barbara (facilit...	Facilitator
Naomi (Note ta...	Participant
calvin walker	Participant
Sammantha Do...	Participant
Martha Bezzat	Participant

Participants (18)

Find a participant

- AM Amber, Mystic River Waters... (Me) [Muted] [Video Off]
- Alice Brown (Host) [Muted] [Video Off]
- RM Richard McGuinness [Muted] [Video Off]
- NI Nick Iselin [Muted] [Video Off]
- AW Amy Whitesides [Muted] [Video Off]
- Brie Hensold [Muted] [Video Off]
- CB chari ruzne [Muted] [Video Off]

Invite Unmute Me **Raise Hand**

Zoom Group Chat

To: Everyone

Type message here...

Zoom Etiquette

1. Stay on mute when others are speaking
2. Use "Raise Hand" tool when you want to speak
3. Take space, make space
4. Keep the chat respectful

Project Overview

Who we are

Resident Steering Committee

Intiya Ambrogi-Isaza
John Benson
Victor Castro
Marius Gallitano
Ginaya Greene

Shamilia Lloyd
Kelliagh Moses
Lana Tager
Samuel Quintin
Yee Wong

Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA)

Amber Christoffersen, Greenways Director
Melanie Gárate, Climate Resilience Manager

Landing Studio —Design Firm

Marie Law Adams, Founding Principal
Dan Adams, Founding Principal
Christopher Weaver, Design Team



Other Planning Initiatives

PLAN: Charlestown:

Initiative led by Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) to produce a framework to shape the future of Charlestown

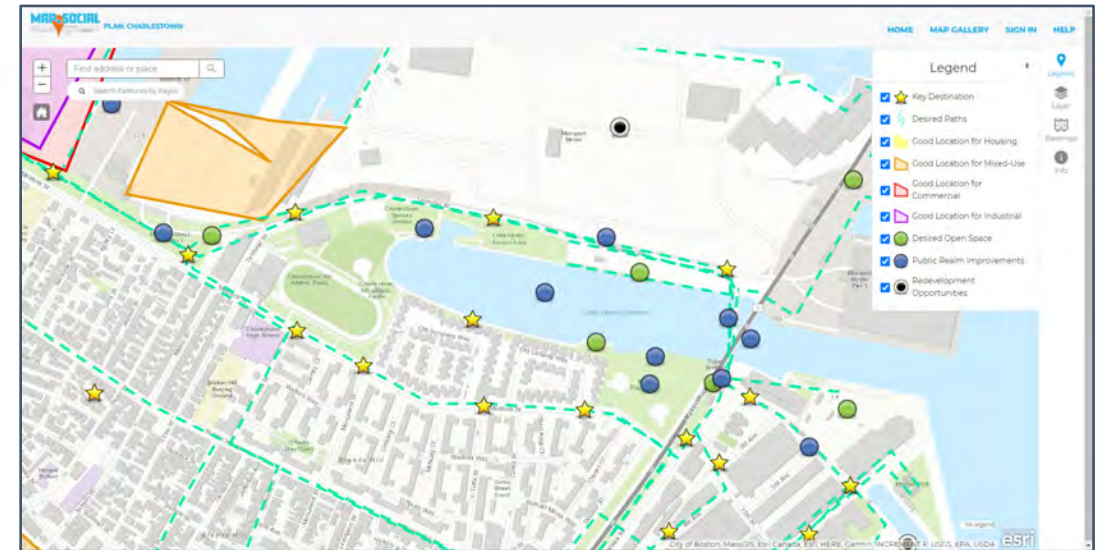
PLAN: CHARLESTOWN

During these meetings we heard hopes for:

- More parks, trees, and open space free of air, light, and noise pollution
- Safe and accessible connections to the waterfront, such as the Harborwalk, and existing open space
- A climate-ready Charlestown with improved flood resiliency
- New public spaces that foster a sense of community
- A dog park
- More active recreation space
- A green corridor



Summarized responses from 4/7 Land Use Through Time Part II Workshop and 5/26 Planning Places: Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square



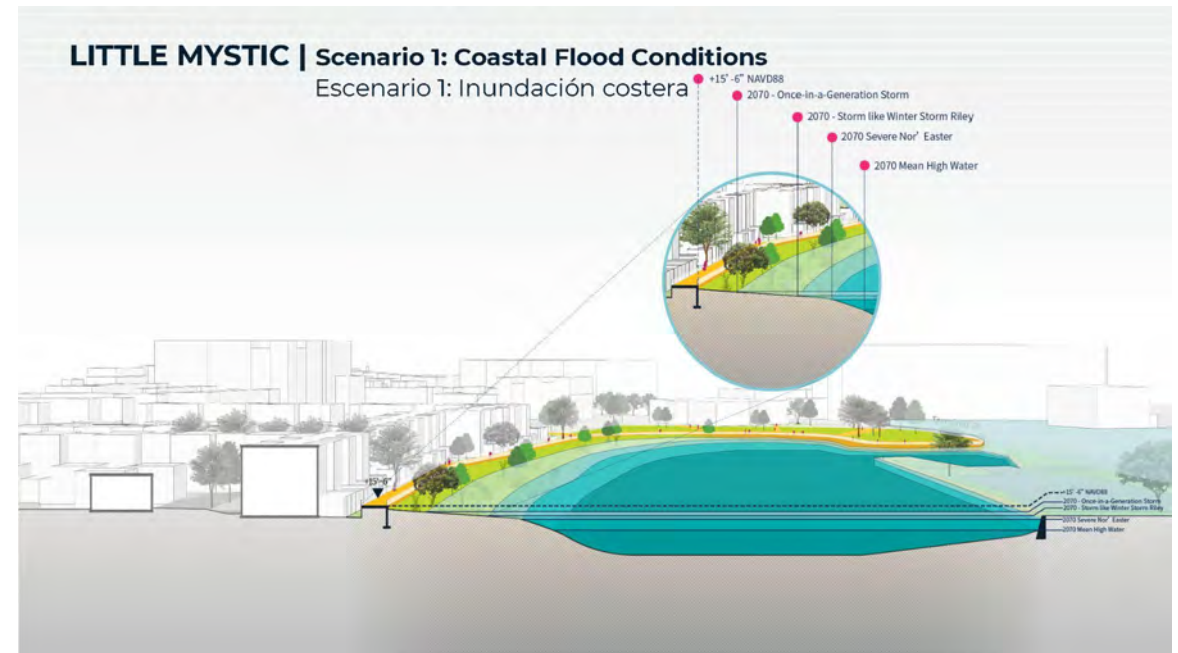
- Reclaim Open Space
- Rethink Channel for Climate Resilience
- Address Disrepair
- Possibility for New Activities?

Other Planning Initiatives

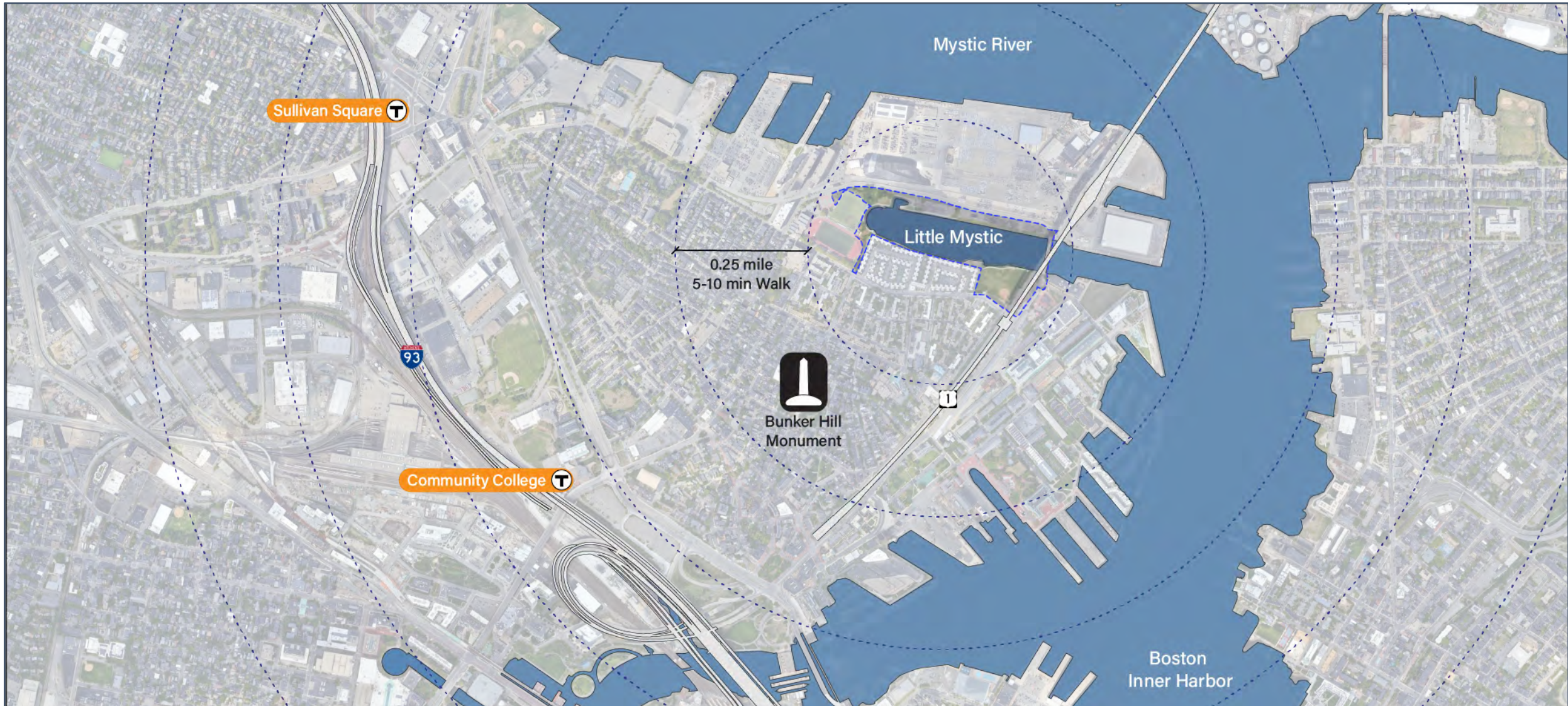
Climate Ready Charlestown:

A Climate Ready Boston program leading a study to understand risk and identify near- and long-term solutions for the neighborhood of Charlestown

FOCUS AREAS ÁREAS DE ENFOQUE



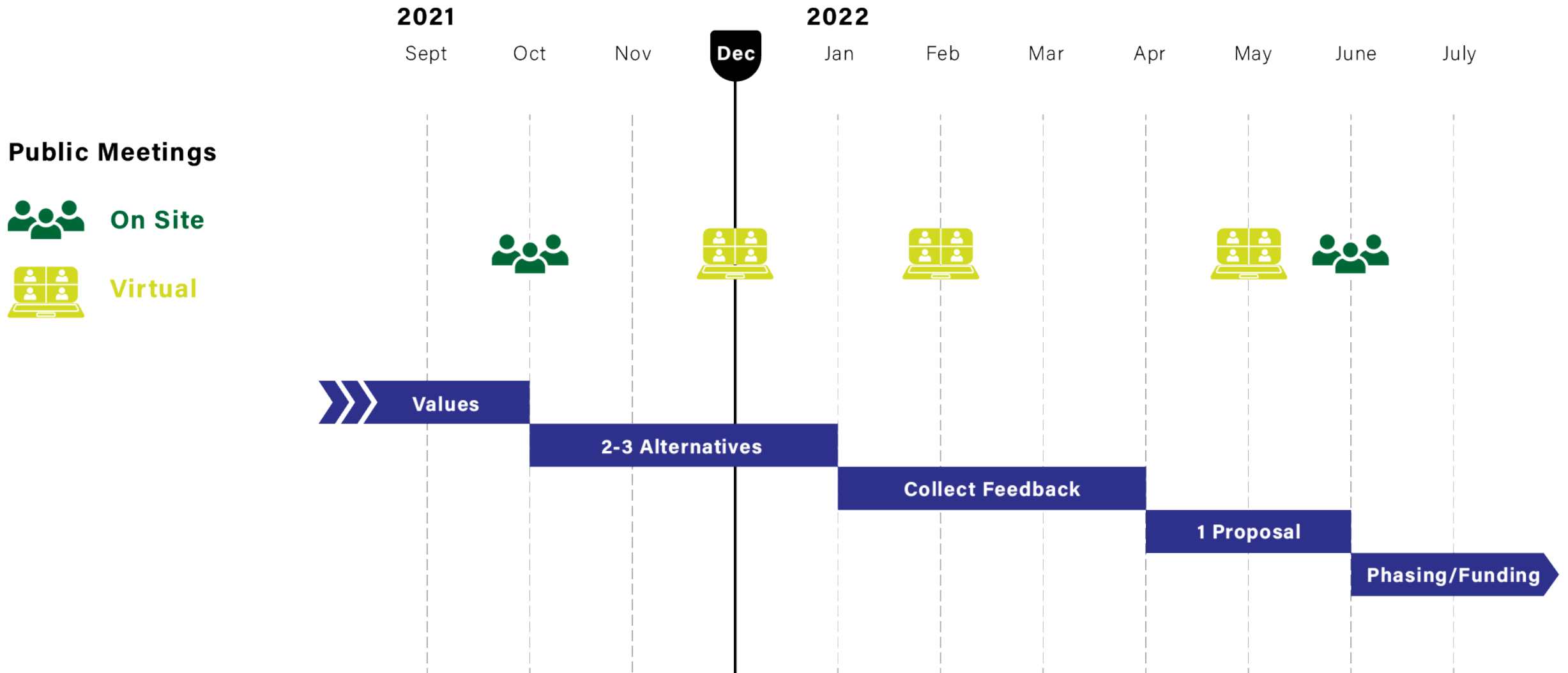
Project Location



Project Area



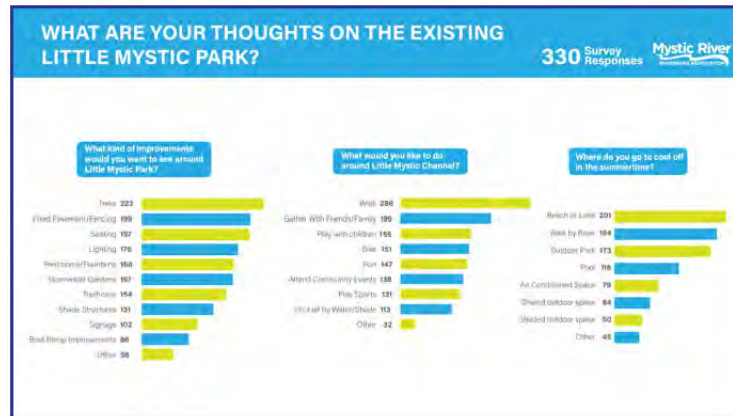
Schedule



Outreach to date

Summer 2020 Survey — 330 Responses

Autumn 2021 Open House

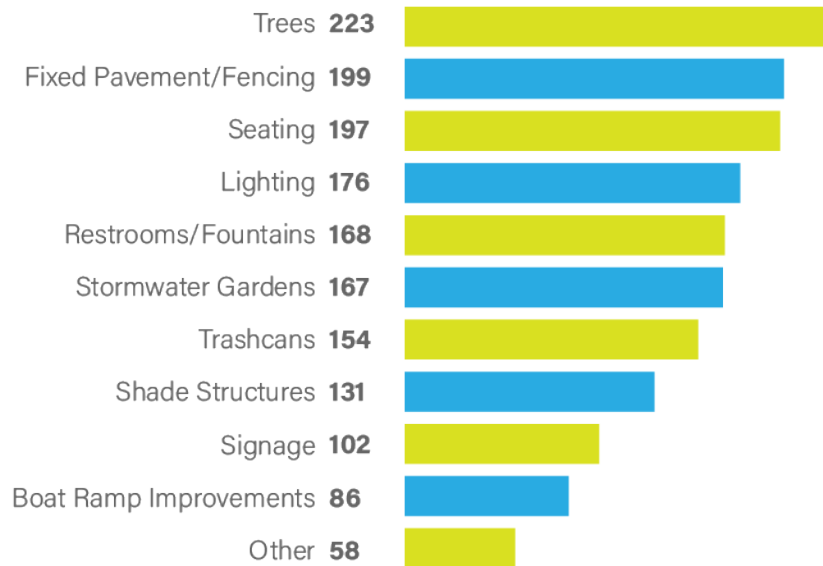


What Are Your Thoughts on the Existing Little Mystic Channel?

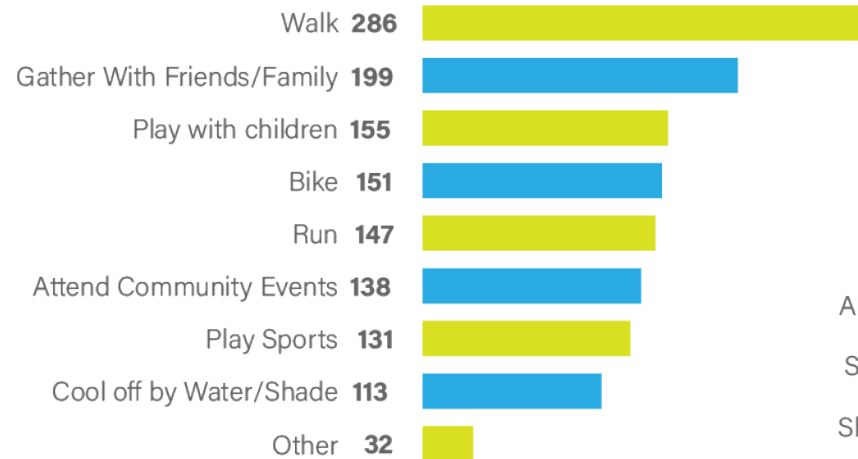
330 Survey Responses



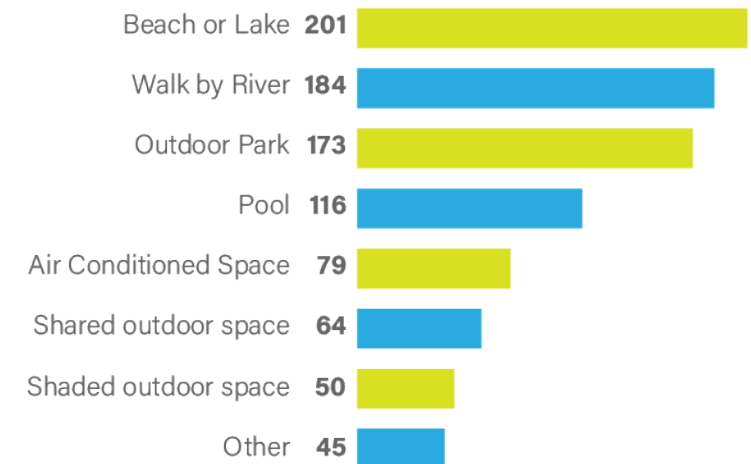
What kind of improvements would you want to see around Little Mystic Park?



What would you like to do around Little Mystic Channel?



Where do you go to cool off in the summertime?



Which Park Addition Are You Most Excited About?

330 Survey Responses

Mystic River
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



Autumn 2021 Open House

October 16th, 2021

30 Attendees



Best walking destination
in the neighborhood

Platforms for people to
fish and crab from

Lack of activities for
young adults

Street near the bridge has
no sidewalk

No lighting on weekends

Extend walking path along
water to bridge

Reduce size of parking lot
— never fully used

Beautiful view of water
and bridge

Extend walking path along
water to bridge

Needs more trees by the
parking lot

Exercise equipment
nearby a playground

Preliminary Values

1

Design for Climate Resilience to Reduce Flooding and Urban Heat

2

Connect Communities with the Water

3

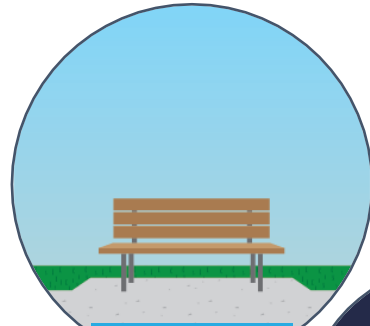
Welcome the Diverse Communities of Charlestown

What We Heard: Design Priorities

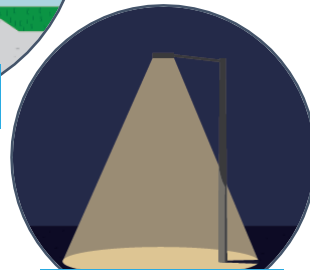
Channel-Wide Improvements



Trees



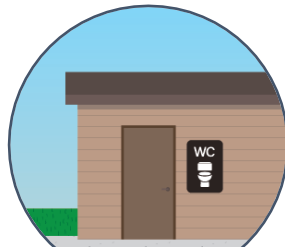
Seating



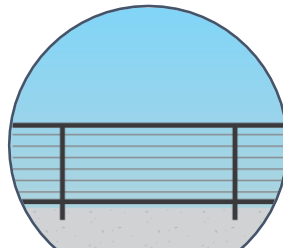
Lighting



Trash/Recycling



Restrooms



Path & Fence



Natural Space

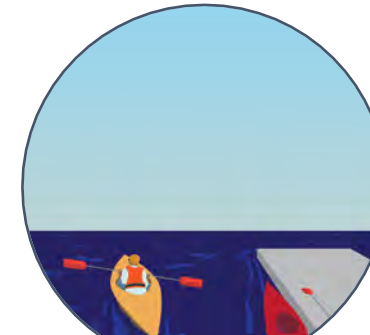
Additional New Uses



Continuous
Walking Loop



Dog Park



Paddle Boating

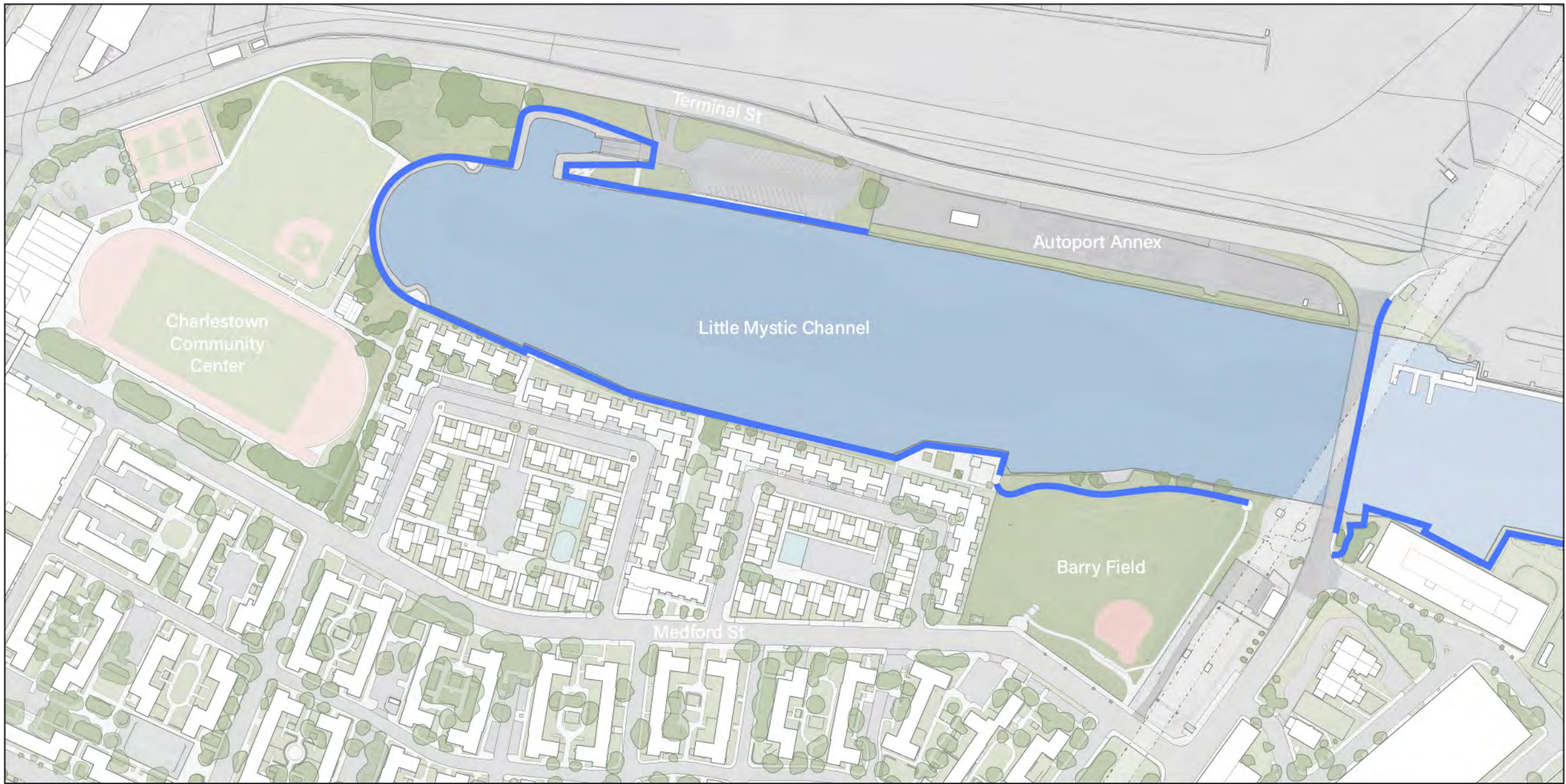


Playground


Channel-Wide Improvements



Little Mystic Channel Park Area



Harborwalk - Existing

Existing Path 

Design Priority



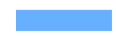
Continuous Walking Loop



- BPDA: Boston Planning & Development Agency
- BTD: Boston Transportation Department
- DPW: Department of Public Works
- MassDOT: Mass Department of Transportation
- Massport: Mass Port Authority
- MyRWA: Mystic River Watershed Association

Harborwalk - Future

BPDA - Climate Ready Boston
Proposed Elevated Harborwalk

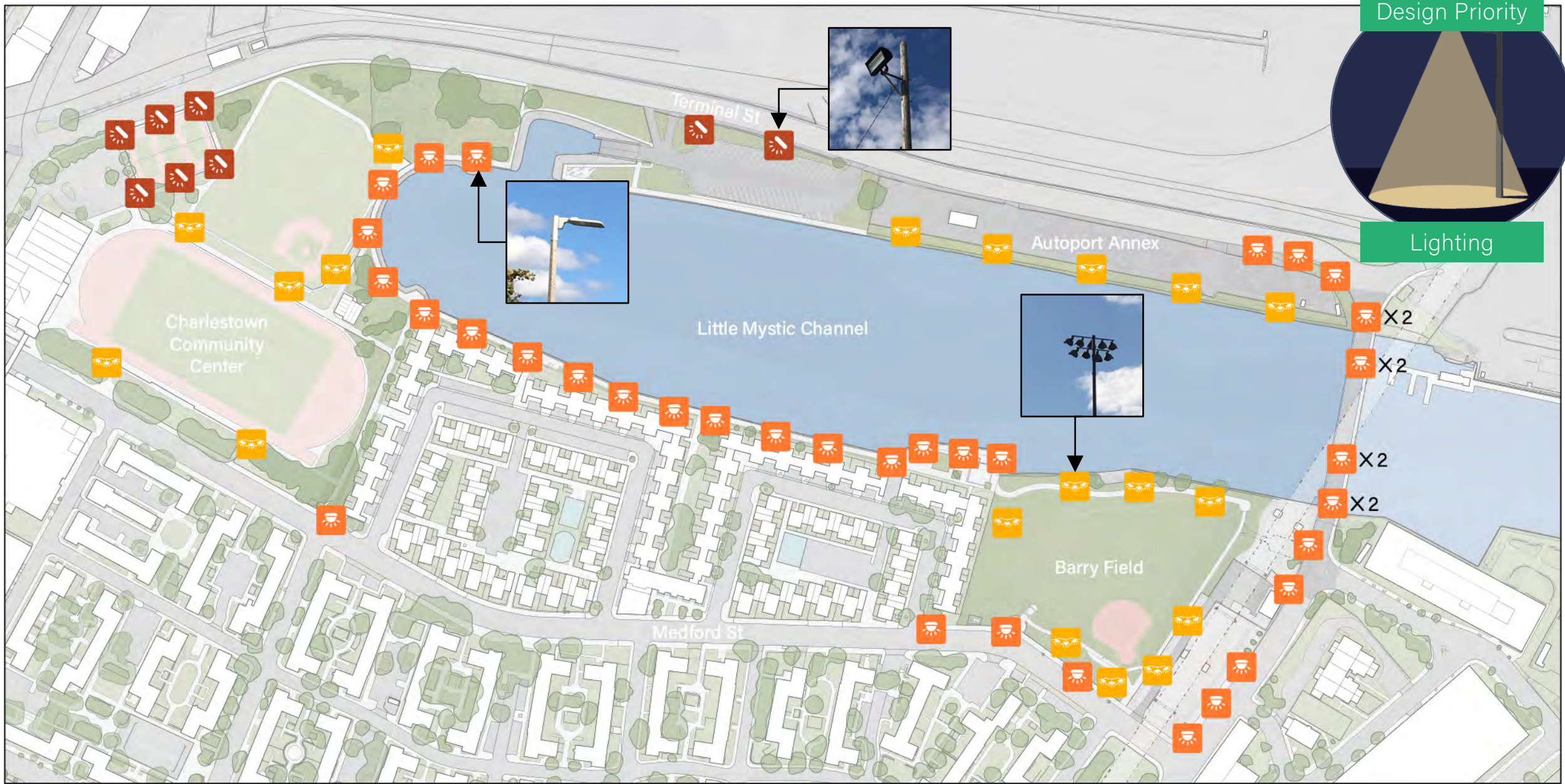


Future Path



Existing Path






Design Priority



Lighting

Lighting - Existing

High Mast Fixtures 

City Fixtures 

Flood Light 

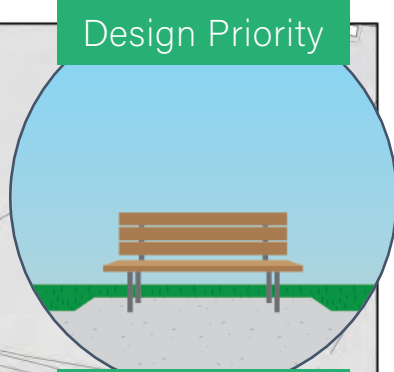


Lighting – Missing Areas

High Mast Fixtures 

City Fixtures 

Flood Light 



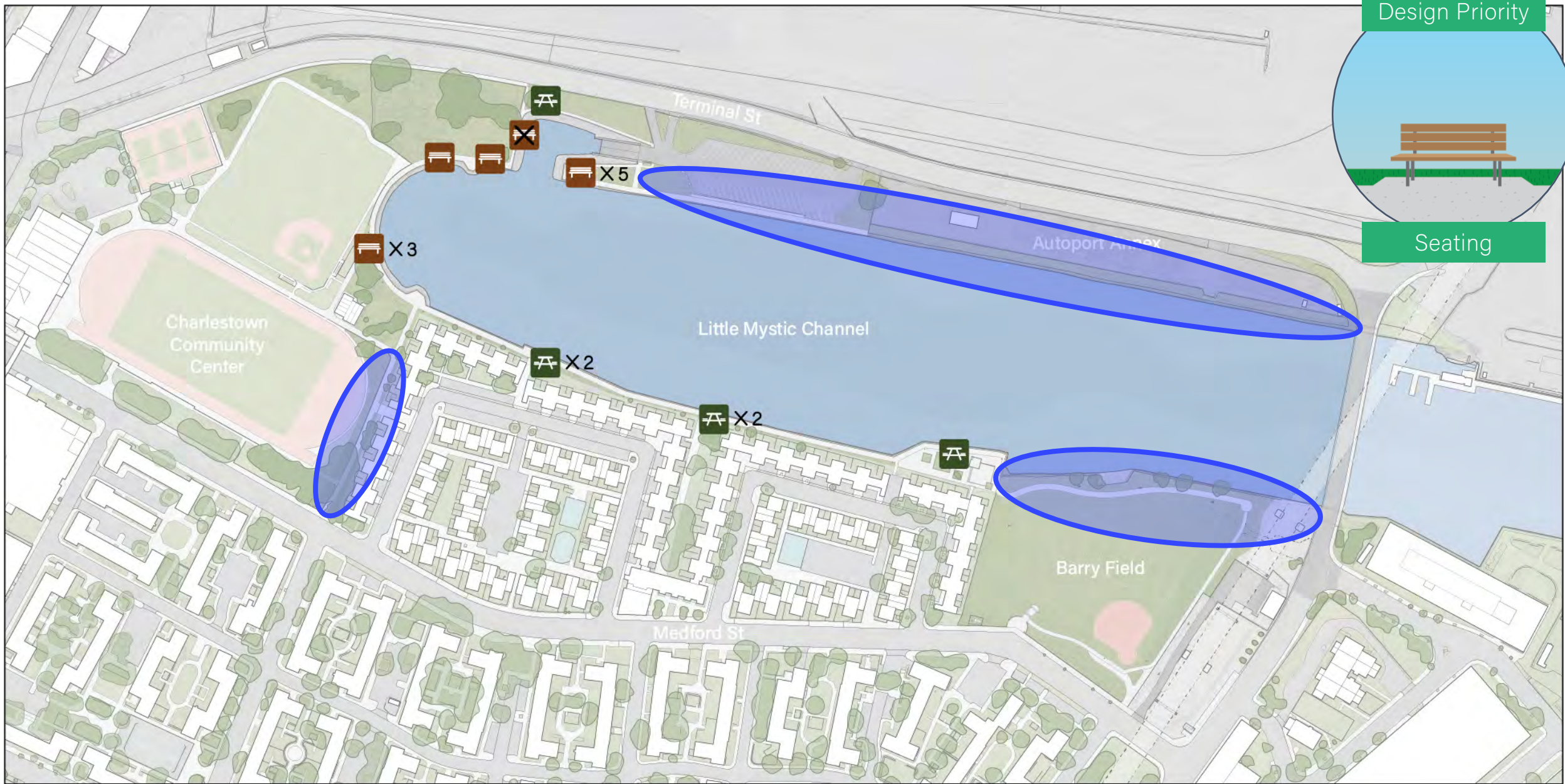
Seating

Seating - Existing

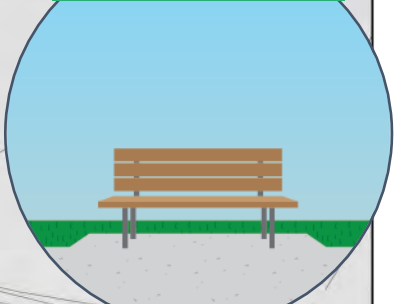
Bench 

Missing Bench 

Picnic Table 



Design Priority



Seating

Seating – Missing Areas

Bench 

Missing Bench 

Picnic Table 



Design Priority



Trash / Recycling

Design Priority



Restrooms

Hours During School-Year
 M-F: 11am - 9pm
 Sat: 9am - 5pm

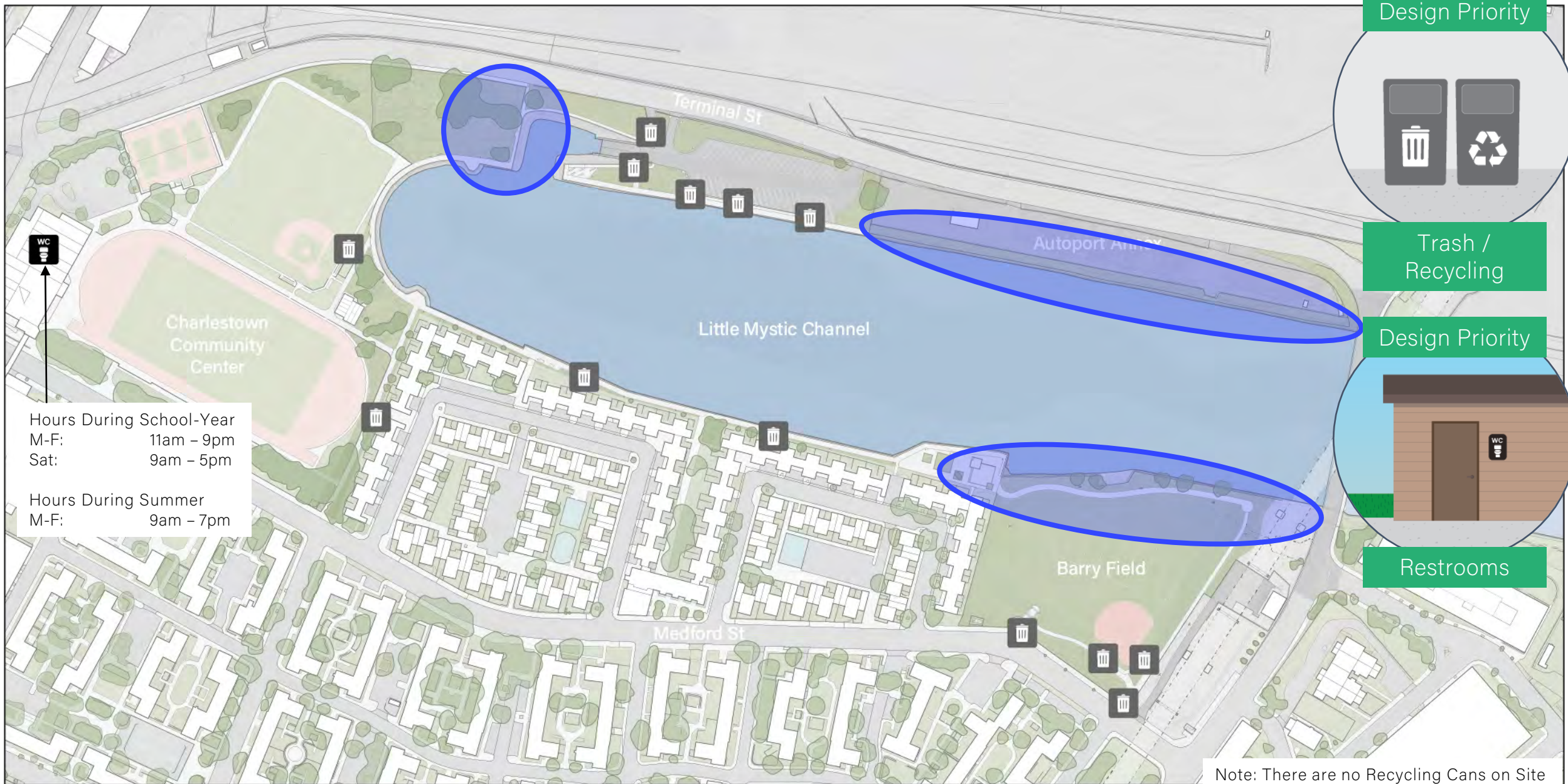
Hours During Summer
 M-F: 9am - 7pm

Note: There are no Recycling Cans on Site

Toilets & Trash - Existing

Public Restroom 

Trash Can 



Toilets & Trash – Missing Areas

Public Restroom 

Trash Can 




Design Priority



Trees

Tree Canopy - Existing

Existing Canopy 



Tree Canopy – Missing Areas

Existing Canopy 

Opportunity Areas for More Trees 



Fishing Spots - Existing

Existing



Potential Improvement

Lowered Rail Sections To Support Accessible Fishing



Fishing Spots

Additional New Uses



Project Focus Areas

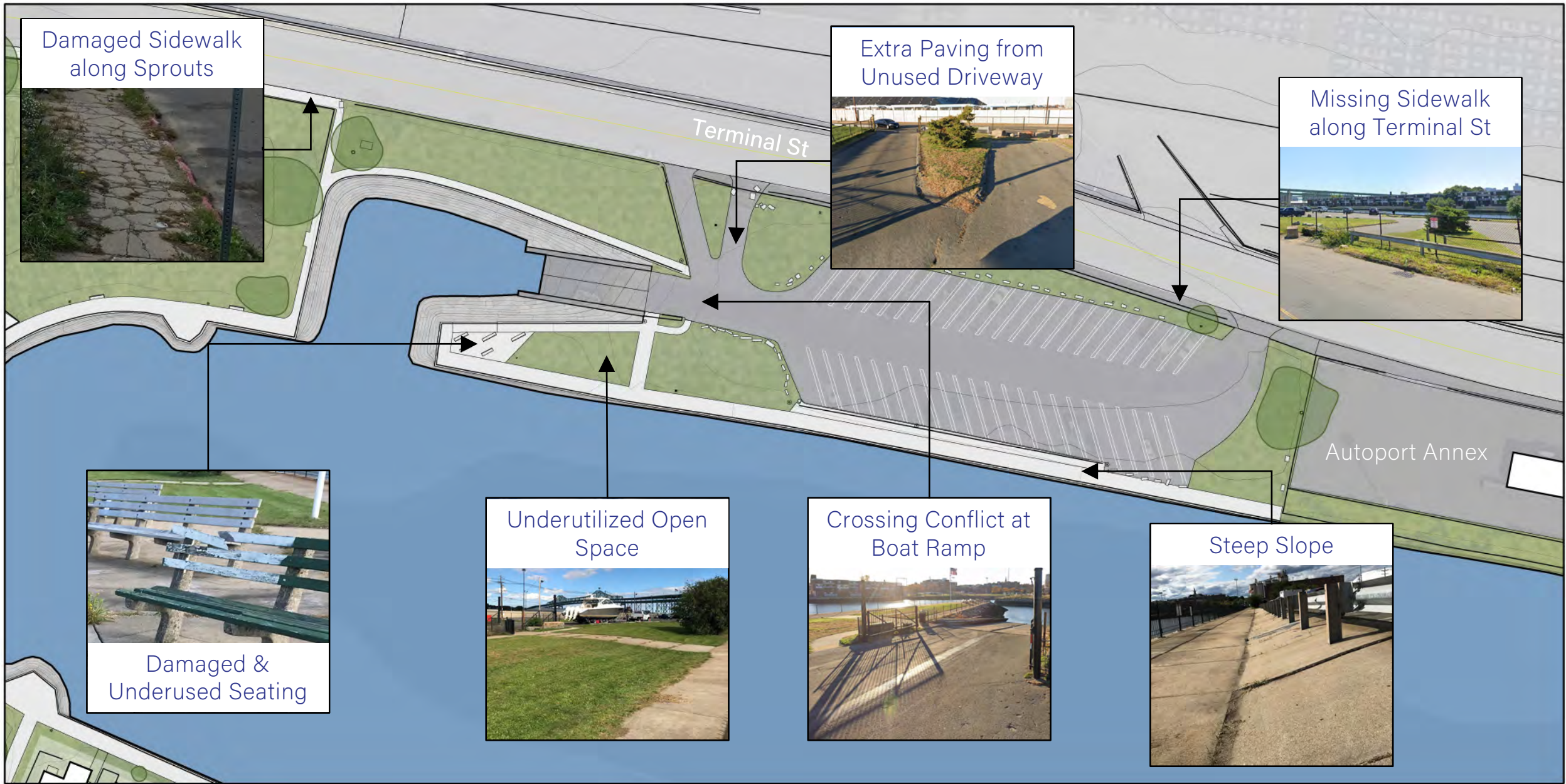
1 Boat Launch Area





Boat Launch Area - Existing

46 Trailer-Length Parking Spaces



Boat Launch Area - Existing

Boat Launch Parking Lot Usage Study

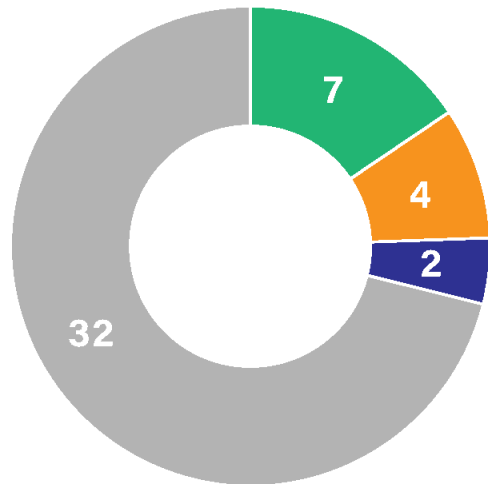
Proportion of Spaces Used

12 Sample Points

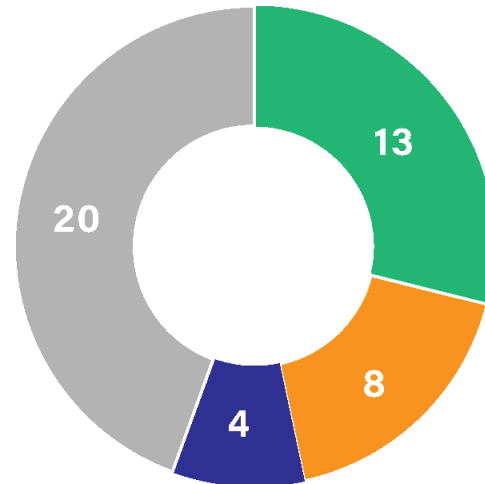


■ Vehicle W/ Trailer ■ Vehicle W/out Trailer ■ Trailers W/out Vehicle ■ Empty Spaces

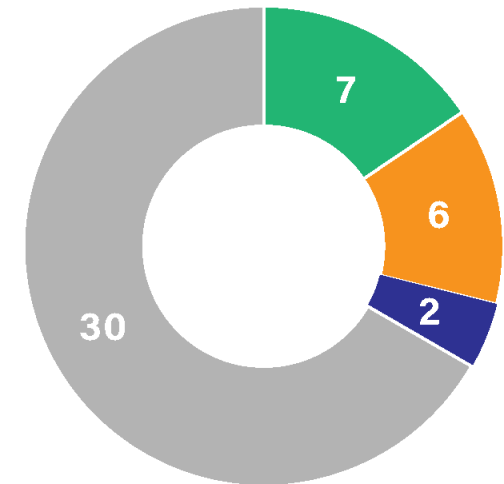
Average Usage

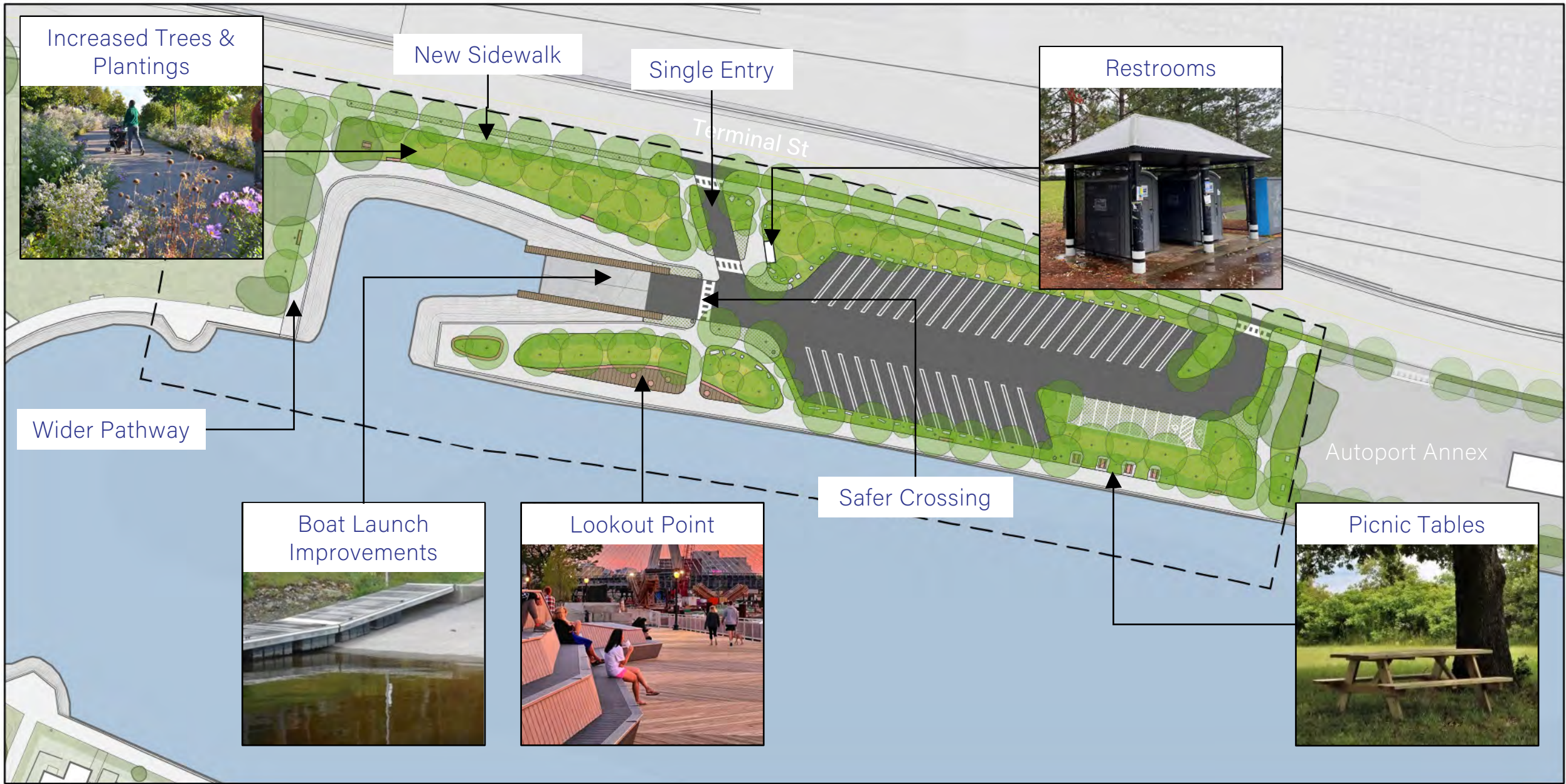


Max Observed Usage



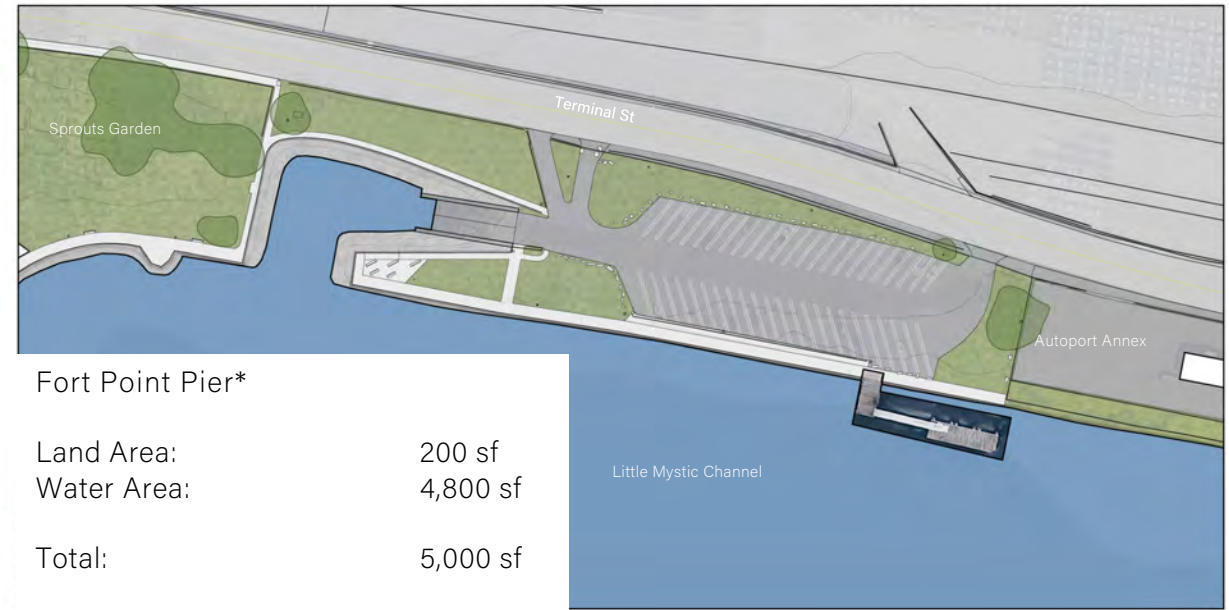
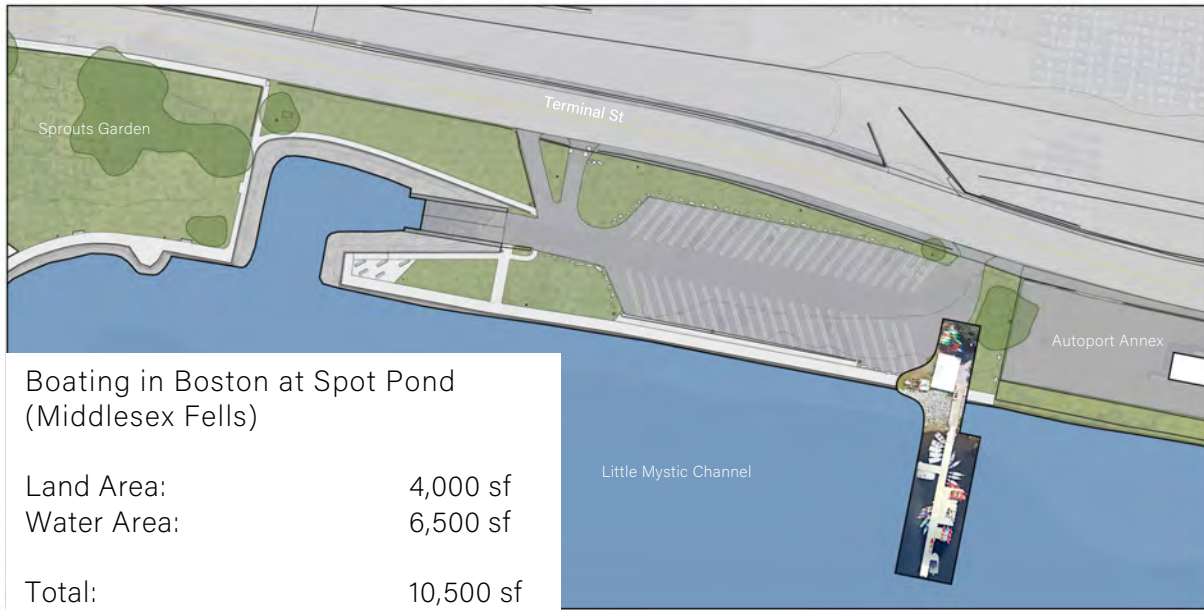
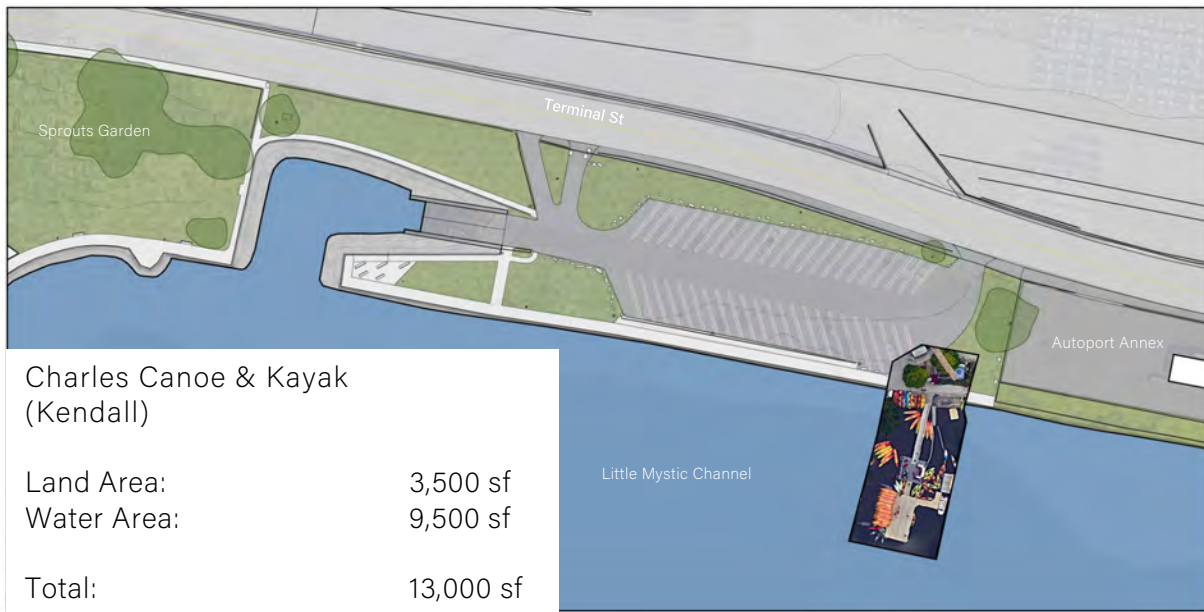
Average Fair Weather Usage (75-100 F)





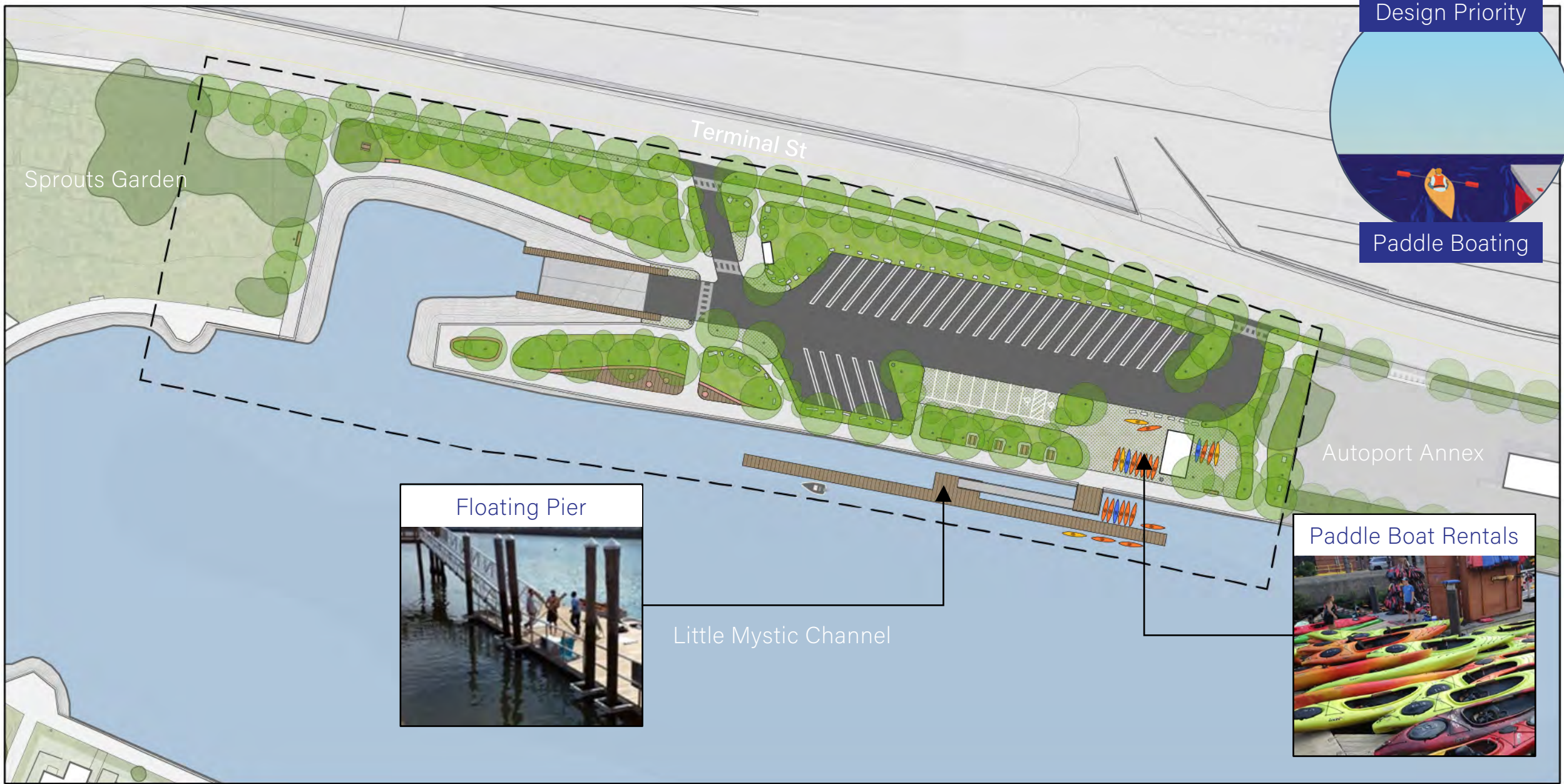
Boat Launch Area - Ideas

38 Trailer-Length Parking Spaces
 10 Vehicle-Length Parking Spaces



*No Rentals Available

Boat Launch Area + Paddle Boating Precedents



Boat Launch Area – Paddle Boating Ideas

29 Trailer-Length Parking Spaces
10 Vehicle-Length Parking Spaces

2 Overlook Lawn

&

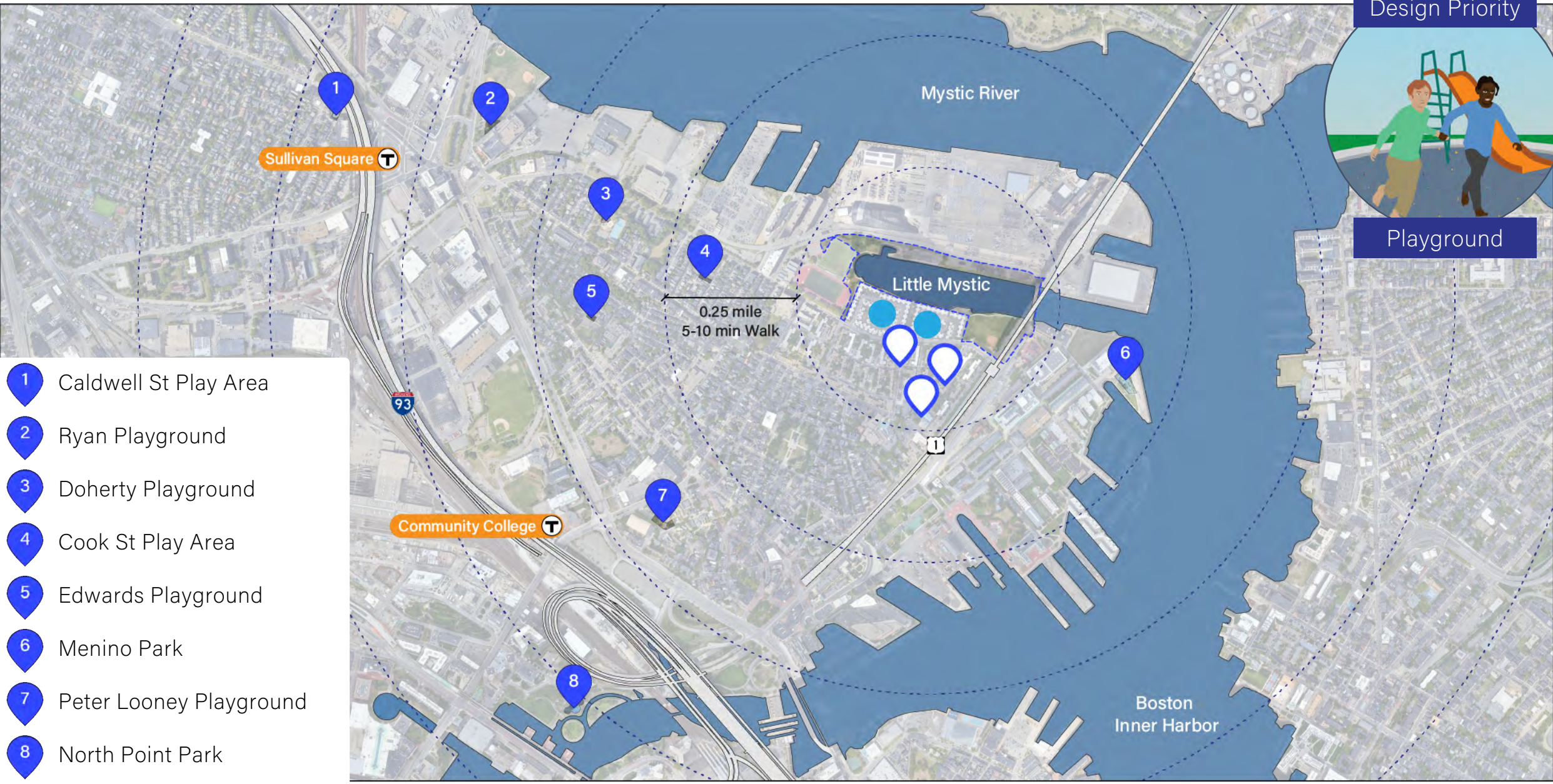
3 Charles Newtown Plaza



Design Priority




Playground




- 1 Caldwell St Play Area
- 2 Ryan Playground
- 3 Doherty Playground
- 4 Cook St Play Area
- 5 Edwards Playground
- 6 Menino Park
- 7 Peter Looney Playground
- 8 North Point Park

Nearby Playgrounds

Public Playground 

Future Planned Playground 

CharlesNewtown Playground 



Menino Park

Area: 19,000 sf
Ages: 2-12



North Point Park

Area: 11,000 sf
Ages: 2-12



Doherty Playground

Area: 3,000 sf
Ages: 5-12



Peter Looney Playground
(a.k.a Rutherford Union)

Area: 12,000 sf
Ages: 2-12



Cook St Play Area
(a.k.a. William "Zeke" Marsden)

Area: 4,000 sf
Ages: 2-12



Ryan Playground

Area: 8,000 sf
Ages: 2-12



Caldwell St Play Area

Area: 5,500 sf
Ages: 5-12



Edwards Playground

Area: 3,000 sf
Ages: 2-5

Nearby Playgrounds

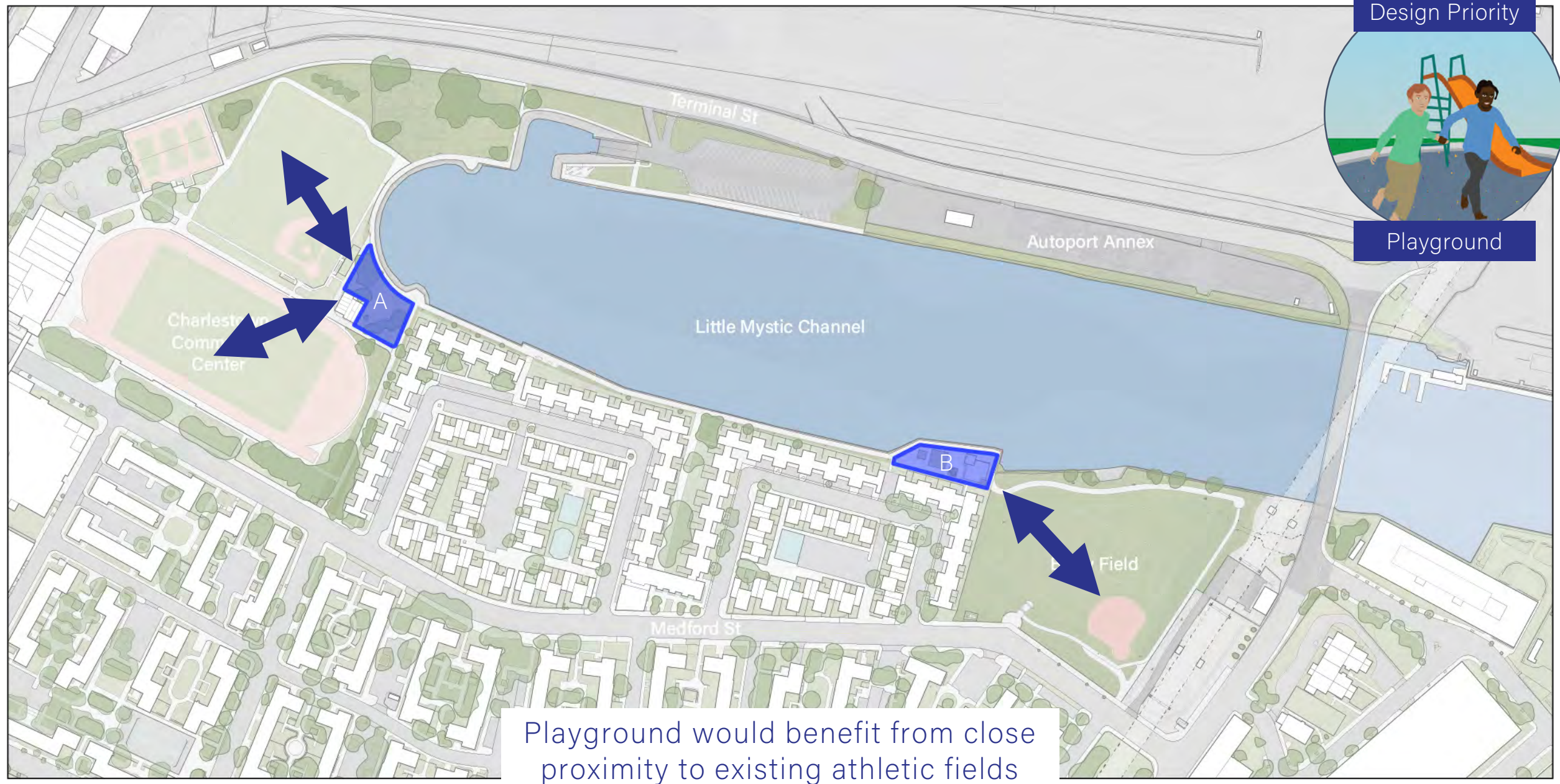


Playground – Precedent Overlay

Design Priority



Playground



Playground would benefit from close proximity to existing athletic fields

Playground - Potential Locations

- A. The Knoll 11,000 sf
- B. CharlesNewtown Plaza 9,000 sf



Menino Park
Boston, MA
Weston & Sampson



Salute Playground, Gorky Park
Moscow, Russia
AFA

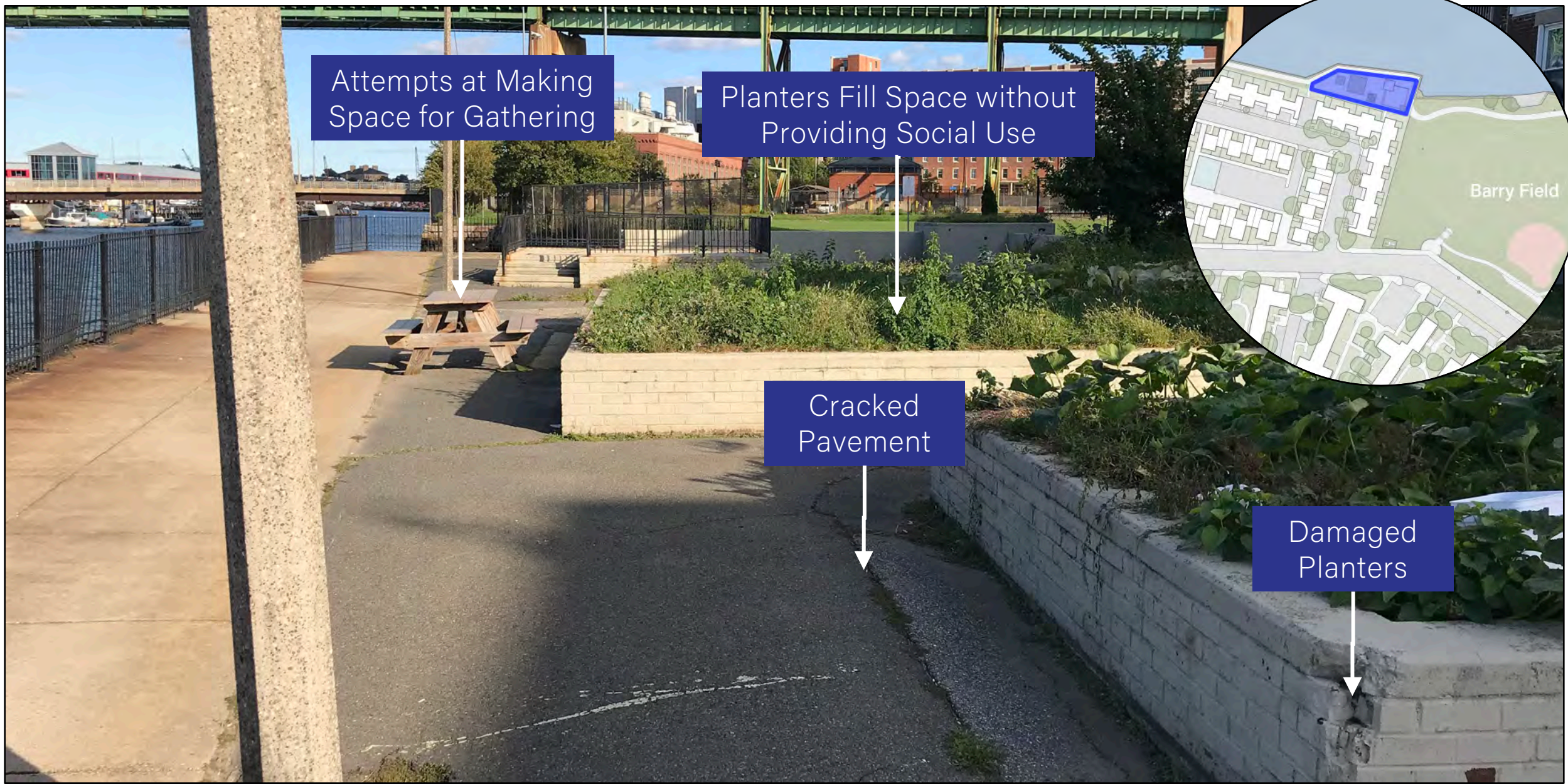


Toomey Park
Cambridge, MA
Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates

Playground Precedents

3 Charles Newtown Plaza





Attempts at Making Space for Gathering

Planters Fill Space without Providing Social Use

Cracked Pavement

Damaged Planters



Charles Newtown Plaza - Existing



Underutilized Raised Platform
Divides Space

Rust-Stained

Inaccessible



CharlesNewtown Plaza - Existing

Before



After



Precedent – Richardson Plaza

Before



After



Precedent – Richardson Plaza



Swing Time — Lawn on D
Boston, MA
Höweler + Yoon



Off Ground
Copenhagen, Denmark
Jair Straschnow & Gitte Nygaard

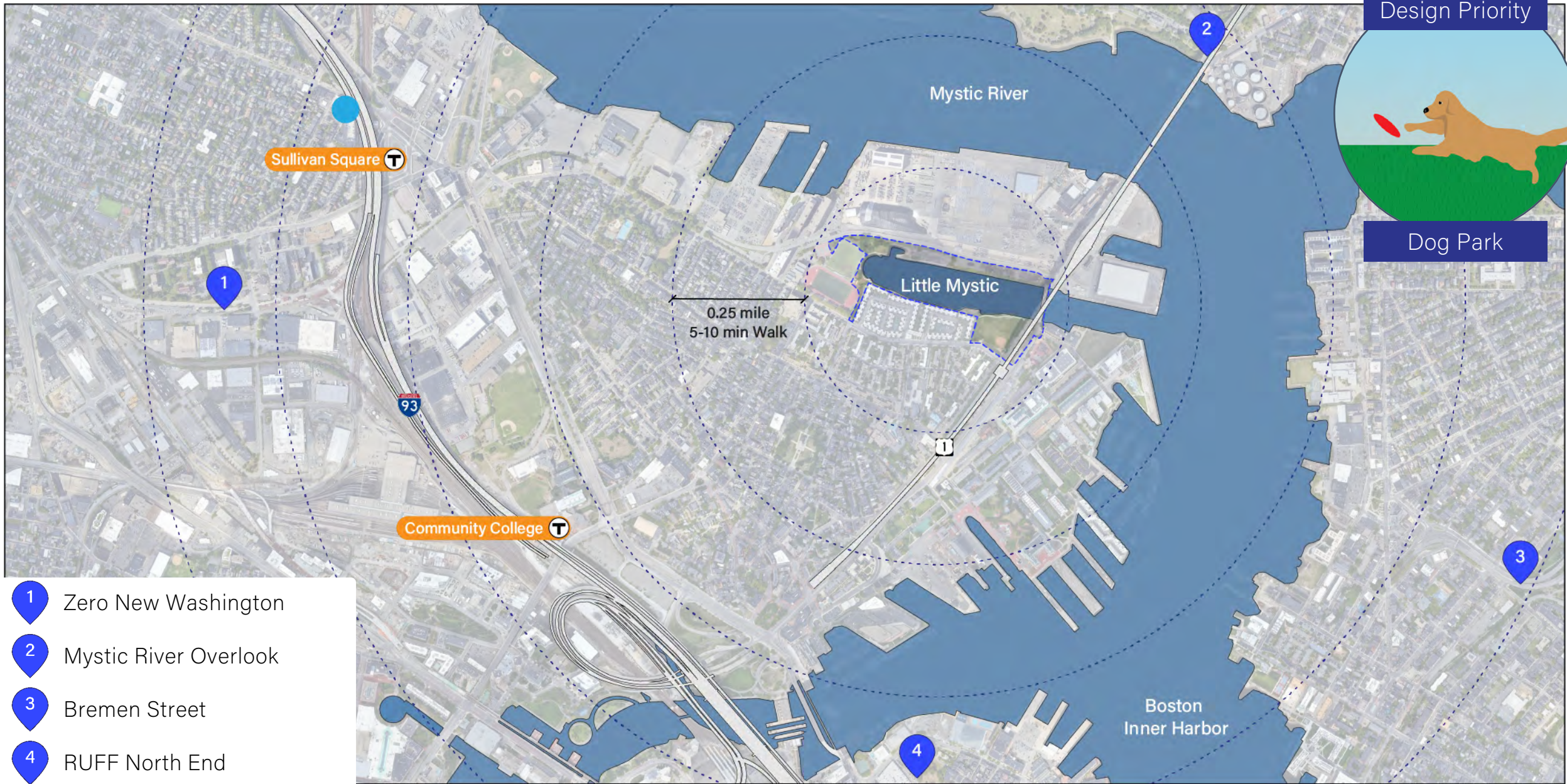


Hudson St Stoop: Storytell & Sway
Boston, MA
Gianna Works & Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC)

Precedent – Playful Social Seating

4 Under Tobin





Nearby Dog Parks

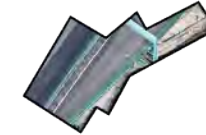
Public Dog Park 

Private Dog Park 



Zero New Washington

Area: 18,000 sf



Mystic River Overlook
(Under Tobin Bridge)

Area: 3,500 sf



RUFF North End

Area: 9,000 sf

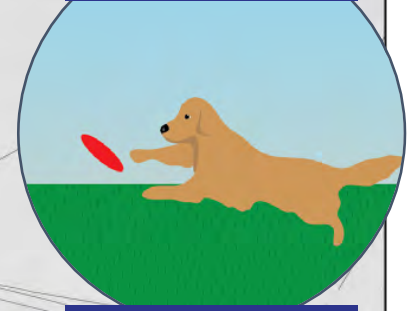


Bremen Street
(Under Route 1A)

Area: 23,000 sf

Nearby Dog Parks

Design Priority



Dog Park



MassDOT: Mass Department of Transportation
 Massport: Mass Port Authority
 MWRA: Mass Water Resources Authority

Dog Park - Potential Locations

- A. Under Tobin Waterfront 9,000 sf
- B. Under Tobin along Chelsea 24,000 sf



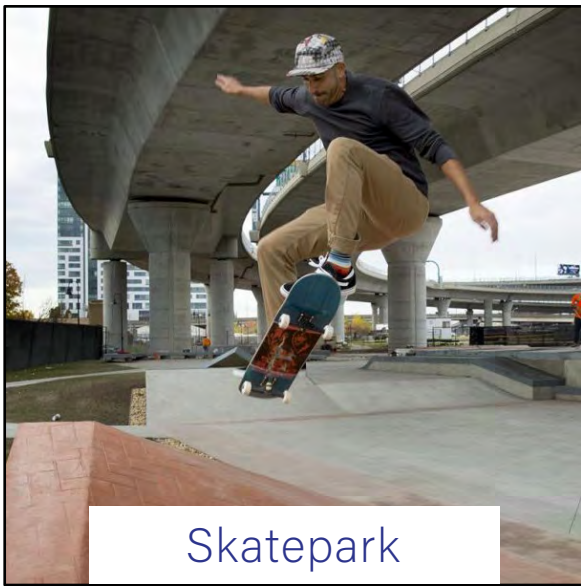
Design Priority



Dog Park

Bremen St Dog Park
23,000 sf

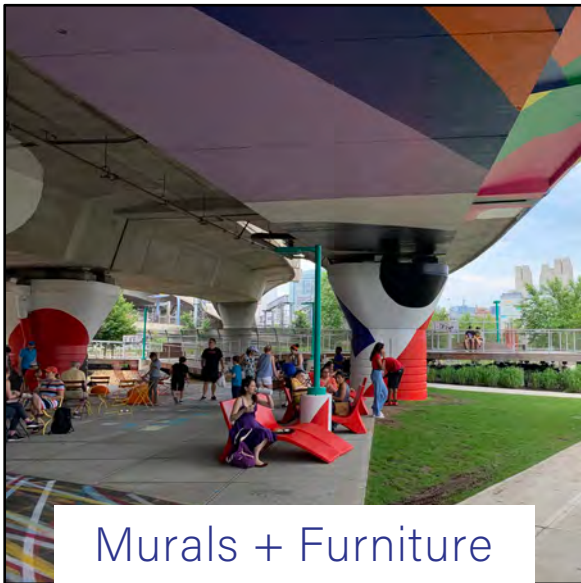
Dog Park – Precedent Overlay



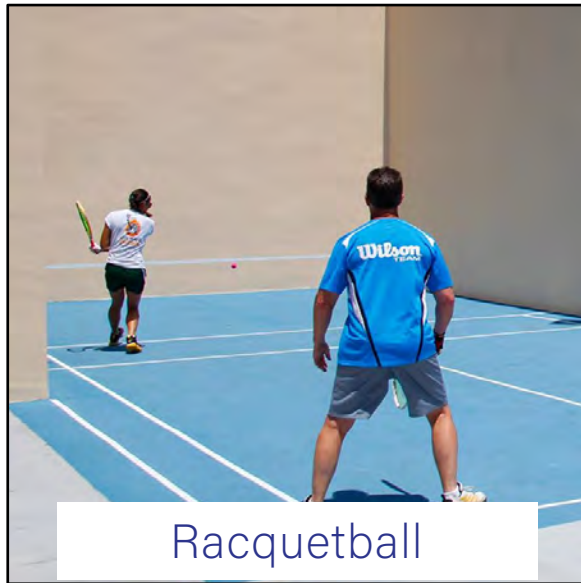
Skatepark



Halfcourt Basketball



Murals + Furniture



Racquetball



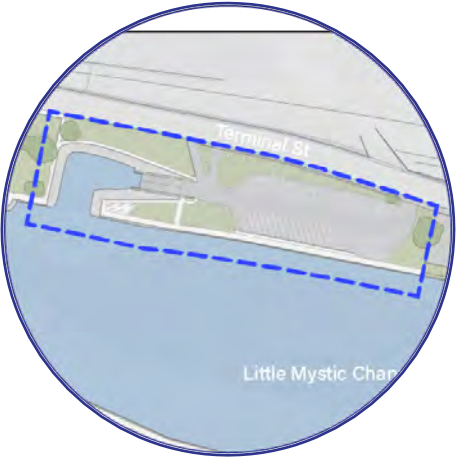
Under Tobin Waterfront

9,000 sf

Under Tobin – Other Ideas

Breakout Room 1

1 Boat Launch Area



Breakout Room 2

2 Overlook Lawn & 3 Charles Newtown Plaza



Breakout Room 3

4 Under Tobin



Thank you!