The Mystic River Greenway

A greenway is a *regional* network that connects:

• **Open Space**
  Visibility, identity, easy passage

• **Ecology**
  Clean river, diverse landscape/habitat

• **People**
  Residents, businesses, institutions

• **Recreation**
  Diverse active and passive activities

• **Transportation**
  Biking, boating, public transport

• **Time**
  Past, present, and future
Context

Minuteman Path

Tufts

Alewife Brook

Commercial Zone

Wellington

Alewife

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Review of Goals

• Enhance physical and psychological **connections** to the river

• Establish **identity** to reflect unique history, environment, and character

• Restore **ecological integrity**

• **Engage community** in shaping and building the greenway
Objectives

- Propose connections for continuous recreational/commuter path
- Locate opportunities for views, uses, and river access
- Suggest approach for signage system
- Recommend interventions to restore ecology
- Identify models for community partnership and non-profit collaboration
General Recommendations: Solidify Connections

- Collaborate with DCR
- Mystic River Master Plan (June 2007)
General Recommendations: Views, Access, and Uses

• Restore and maintain views to and from river

• Create physical access for water-based activities

• Involve community in programming uses
  • Playgrounds
  • Picnic areas
  • Gardens
  • Fishing docks
  • Boat launches
  • Cultural events
General Recommendations: Signage System

• Purpose
  • Identity
  • Navigation
  • Education
  • Stewardship

• Process
  • Coordinate with DCR
  • Involve residents, businesses, and organizations
  • Design for low maintenance
  • Consider users

• Content
  • Do not overwhelm with information
  • Consistent and unique image
General Recommendations: Ecology

- **Process**
  - Regional coordination
  - Multi-disciplinary team
  - Involve and educate

- **Goals**
  - Reduce maintenance
  - Wildlife habitat
  - Control erosion
  - Filter storm water and CSO pollution
  - Moderate flooding

- **Diversify landscape**
  - Widen and restore riverbank
  - Restore wetlands
  - Replace lawn with meadow
  - Control invasive species
  - Utilize educational/artistic interventions
General Recommendations: Community Partnerships

- **Structure**
  - Public-private partnership

- **Model**
  - Emerald Necklace Conservancy

- **Potential Partners**
  - Adjacent municipalities
  - DCR
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - Meadow Glen Mall
  - Tufts
  - Medford Public Schools
  - Medford Historical Society
  - Mystic River Watershed Association
  - Local community groups

- **Roles**
  - Fundraising
  - Visioning and planning
  - Maintenance
  - Education
Selected Interventions:
Auburn Street to Winthrop Street
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- Formalize path, signage
- Diversify landscape and reduce maintenance
- Riverbank restoration and views
- 1-2 neighborhood uses
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Selected Interventions:
Winthrop St to Medford Square
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- Maintain pathway
- Wetlands
- Parking lot and canoe launch
- Alleys
- Views and signs
- Neighborhood use
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Selected Interventions: Clippership Drive
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- New 1.5 acre formal park
- Extend civic life of Square to River
  - Public Art
  - Historical and environmental education
  - Medford Historical Society
  - Cafes and shops
- Public-private partnership
  - DCR conservation easements
Selected Interventions:
I-93 and the Yacht Club
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- Short-term route
- Long-term route
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- Long-term route
Selected Interventions: Riverbend Park
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- Improve signage and wayfinding
Selected Interventions:
Mystic River Reservation
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- Reduce lawn maintenance
- Restore dock
- Enhance views
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Next Steps...

• Collaborate with DCR on Mystic River master plan
  • Concept due for completion by June 2007

• Form Medford Greenway Committee
  • Citizens, Municipal officials, Institutions, Businesses, Community groups

• Tasks
  • Continue ongoing dialogue with DCR
  • Investigate funding sources
  • Develop public-private partnership organization