

VISION

Hartford has it!

How do we celebrate our
diverse assets?



How do we renew Hartford's parks as a world-class system?



What have we missed?

What do you think?



Strategies:

1. **Improve Marketing**
2. **Renew the Legacy**
3. **Enhance Programming**
4. **Generate Revenue**
5. **Improve Connectivity**
(multimodal connections for people & ecological links for wildlife)
6. **Build Partnerships**

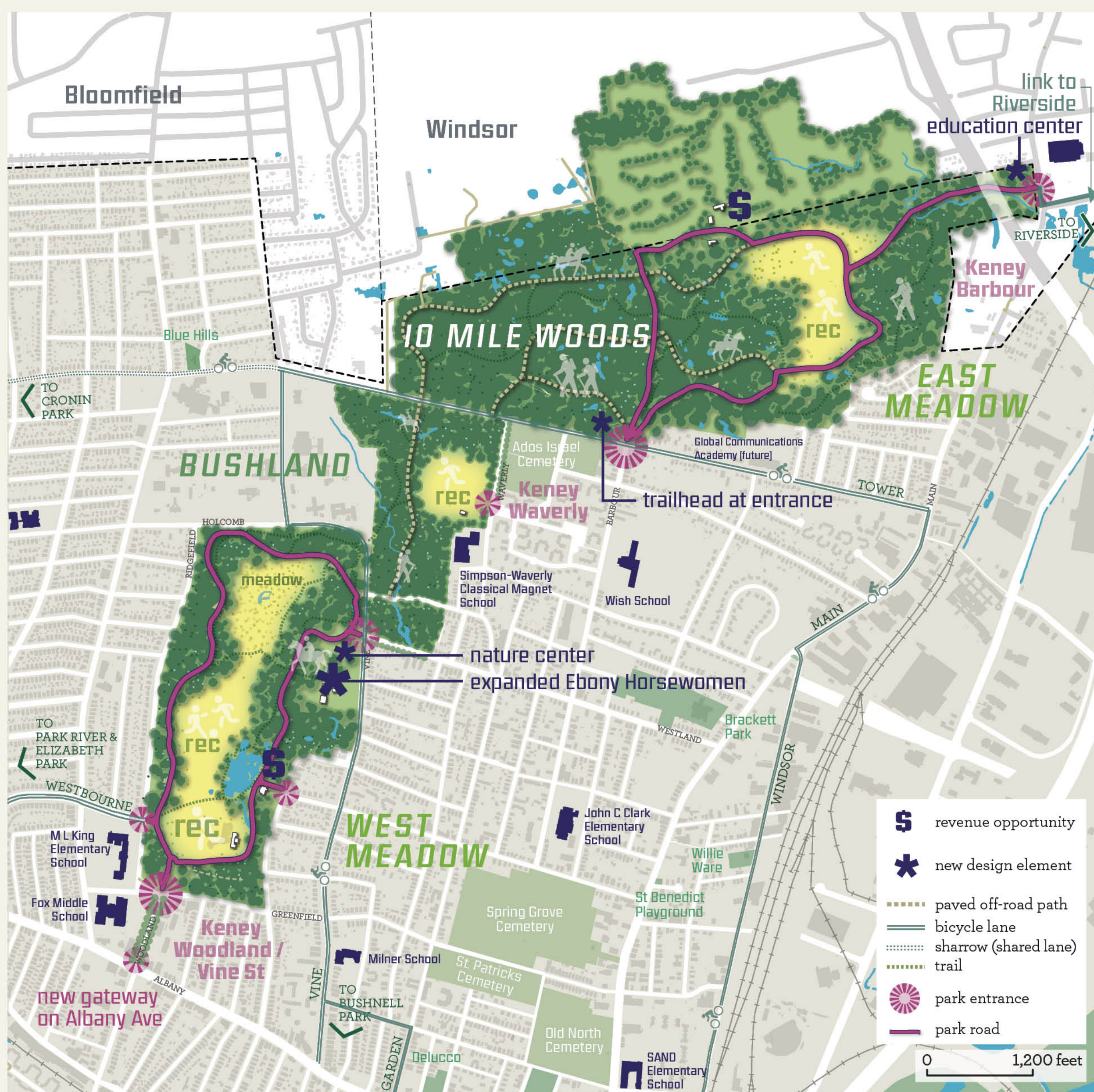
KENEY PARK



Existing Conditions



Draft Concept



What have we missed?

Concept Principles

1. Strengthen historic legacy
 - restore Olmsted planting strategy
 - reestablish the loop road
2. Improve circulation in the park for all (cars, bicyclists, horseback riders, hikers, pedestrians)
3. Make entrances welcoming
4. Expand programming that builds on park history and natural setting
5. Identify revenue opportunities
6. Link the park to surroundings

What do you think?



Concept Elements

1. A Great Park Road
2. Restored hiking trails with new entrance elements
3. Wayfinding signage/maps
4. Opportunities to expand Ebony Horsewomen
5. Implementation of Keney Park Sustainability Project & Keney Trails Project
6. Clubhouse and golf course as revenue generation opportunities
7. Additional trail links to neighborhood, especially in Keney Woodland

BUSHNELL PARK



Existing Conditions



Draft Concept



What's most important to you?



iQuilt Principles for Bushnell

1. Respect Park's History
2. Integrate Park with Downtown
3. Enliven Park
4. Engage Nature
5. Enhance Sustainability (including fiscal)

Concept Elements

(based on iQuilt)

1. Activate / program the East End
2. Extend Bushnell Park to Main Street via Bushnell Gardens
3. Reintroduce water in pools with new footbridges or stormwater features along northern edge
4. Upgrade pathways, lighting, and furniture, and plant more trees
5. Enhance wayfinding
6. Reorganize walkways to strengthen link to adjacent districts
7. Excavate and restore Trinity Street Bridge
8. Preserve and enhance historic trees
9. Suggest improving Tower Square
10. Retrofit Connecticut Square as multipurpose green parking plaza

GOODWIN PARK



Existing Conditions



Draft Concept



Concept Principles

1. Provide activities for non-golfers so they feel welcome throughout the park
2. Improve park circulation
3. Strengthen connections to surrounding neighborhoods

Concept Elements

1. Re-connect the internal circulation path
2. Park loop exercise circuit: expand existing fitness trail by adding additional stations along connected park loop
3. Add paths to increase access from surrounding neighborhoods
4. Maximize golf course revenue

What have we missed?

What do you think?



COLT PARK



Existing Conditions



What have we missed?

Concept Principles

1. Enhance sports capacity
2. Improve opportunities for viewing, picnicking, and non-active uses
3. Improve park circulation and parking lot character
4. Improve visibility along Wethersfield Ave and neighborhood connections

What do you think?



Draft Concept



Concept Elements

1. Optimize field layout
2. Relocate major path to outside edge of fields, allowing more space for fields
3. Use grassy terraces on western edge of park to overlook sports fields
4. Wrap perimeter of park with botanical garden elements
5. Upgrade Dillon Stadium
6. Enhance Wethersfield gateway
7. Improve connectivity along Stonington Street by adding drop-off area near pool

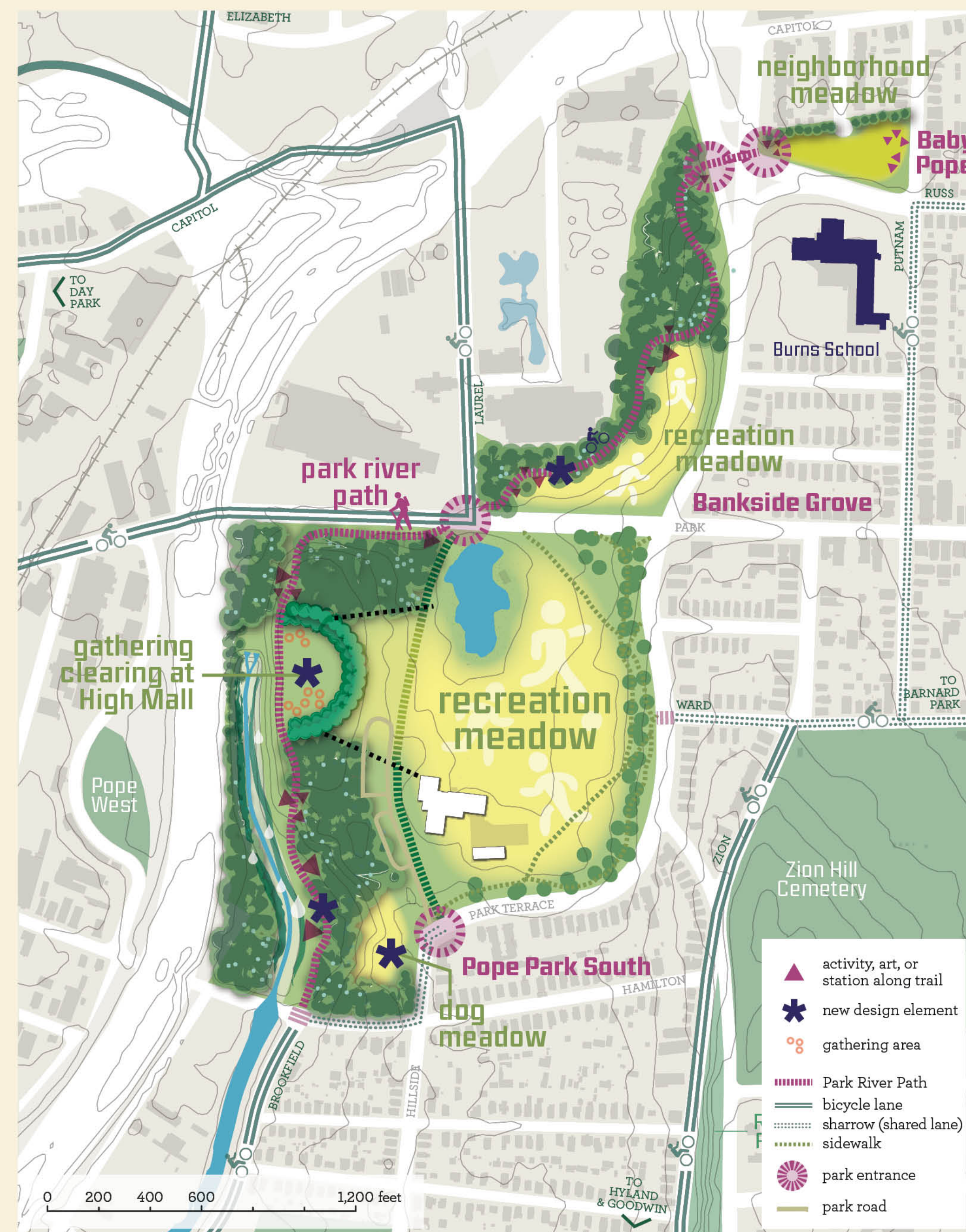
POPE PARK



Existing Conditions



Draft Concept



Concept Principles

1. Improve links between 3 Pope parks
2. Reconnect Pope Park to the Park River
3. Expand recreation capacity
4. Improve river and pond health

Concept Elements

1. Add trail along Park River
2. Improve or restore river channel
3. Restore historic "High Mall" area. Add seating and game opportunities
4. Add sports fields or other active recreation elements to the flat area of "Bankside Grove"
5. Add a dog-park to southern edge of Pope Park

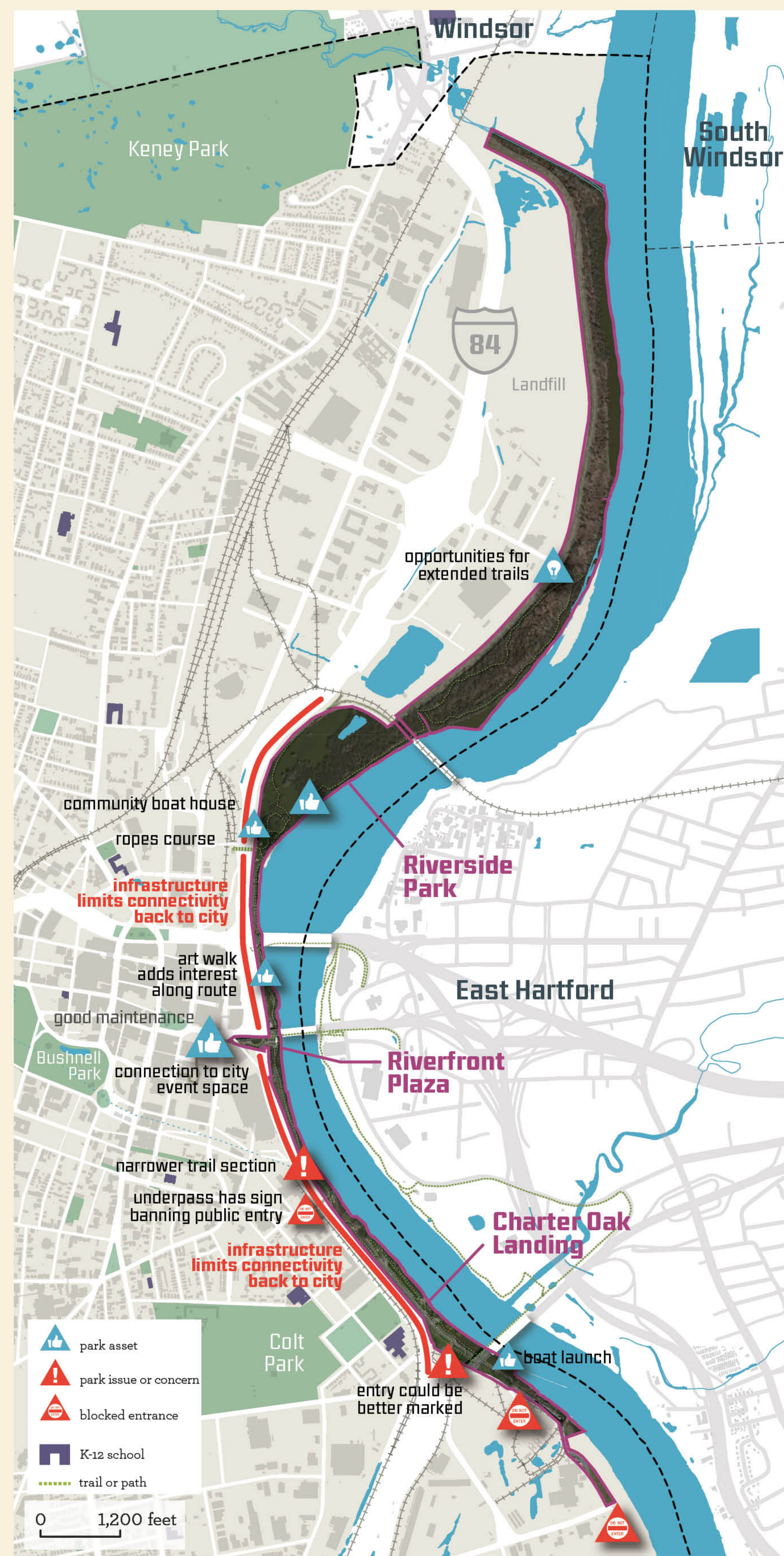
What have we missed?

What do you think?



RIVERFRONT PARKS

Existing Conditions



Draft Concept



Concept Principles

1. Build on the existing successes
2. Extend Riverfront Trail north and south
3. Increase connectivity to city

Concept Elements

1. Improve existing trail between Riverfront Plaza and Charter Oak Landing (widen area near Van Dyke Ave; extend sculpture walk south)
2. Connect Riverside to Keney, and add northern gateway at north end of Riverside Park
3. Add underpass north of Colt Park
4. Improve trail along dike in Riverside Park
5. Enhance Charter Oak Landing as a waterfront event space (while keeping current uses)
6. Extend Riverfront trail north to Windsor and south to Wethersfield

What have we missed?

What do you think?



LOZADA PARK & DELUCCO PLAYGROUND



Existing Conditions



Draft Concept



Concept Principles

1. Great neighborhood streets
2. Increase opportunities within neighborhood for fresh food access and exercise
3. Network neighborhood to city-wide destinations

Concept Elements

1. Add crosswalks and improve neighborhood streetscapes (more street trees and improving lighting)
2. Utilize city-owned vacant lots for more community garden sites
3. Provide new bike lanes connecting to destinations outside neighborhood (like Downtown and Keney Park)
4. Expand opportunities for adult exercise and gathering at parks
5. Improve field condition at Lozada

What have we missed?

What do you think?



CRONIN & PARK RIVER DISTRICT



Existing Conditions



Draft Concept



Concept Principles

1. Consider the area as a district and improve links between the park and river
2. Respect the Park River
3. Provide educational opportunities
4. Link to educational institutions

Concept Elements

1. Foster partnerships with adjacent educational institutions to create an educational and recreational corridor
2. Add educational signage along East Coast Greenway
3. Keep East Coast Greenway close to the road along Mark Twain Dr.
4. If rail line becomes inactive in future, convert to pedestrian / bike path

What have we missed?

What do you think?



CONNECTIVITY

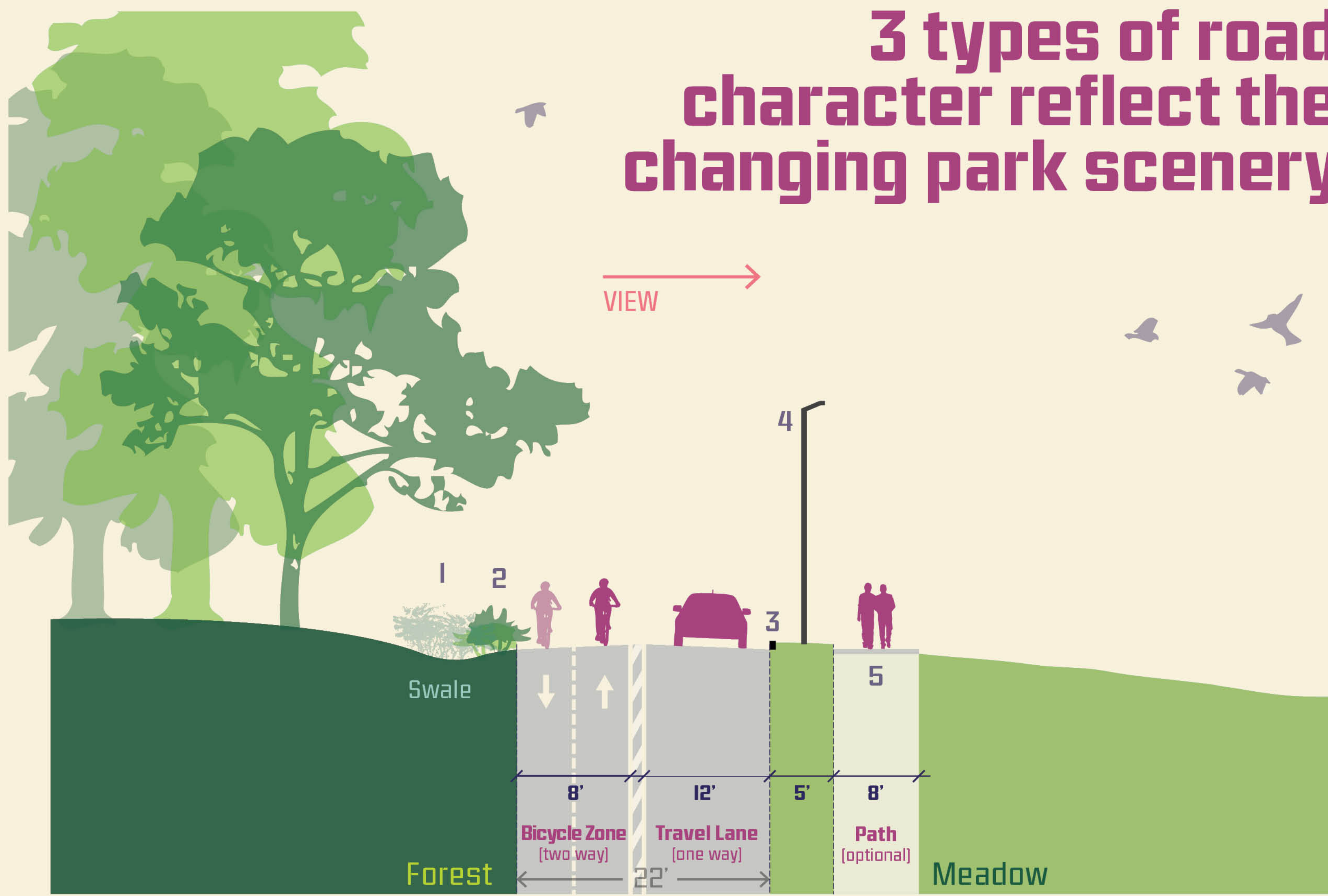
How do we better connect our parks?



A Great Park Road: Character

3 types of road character reflect the changing park scenery

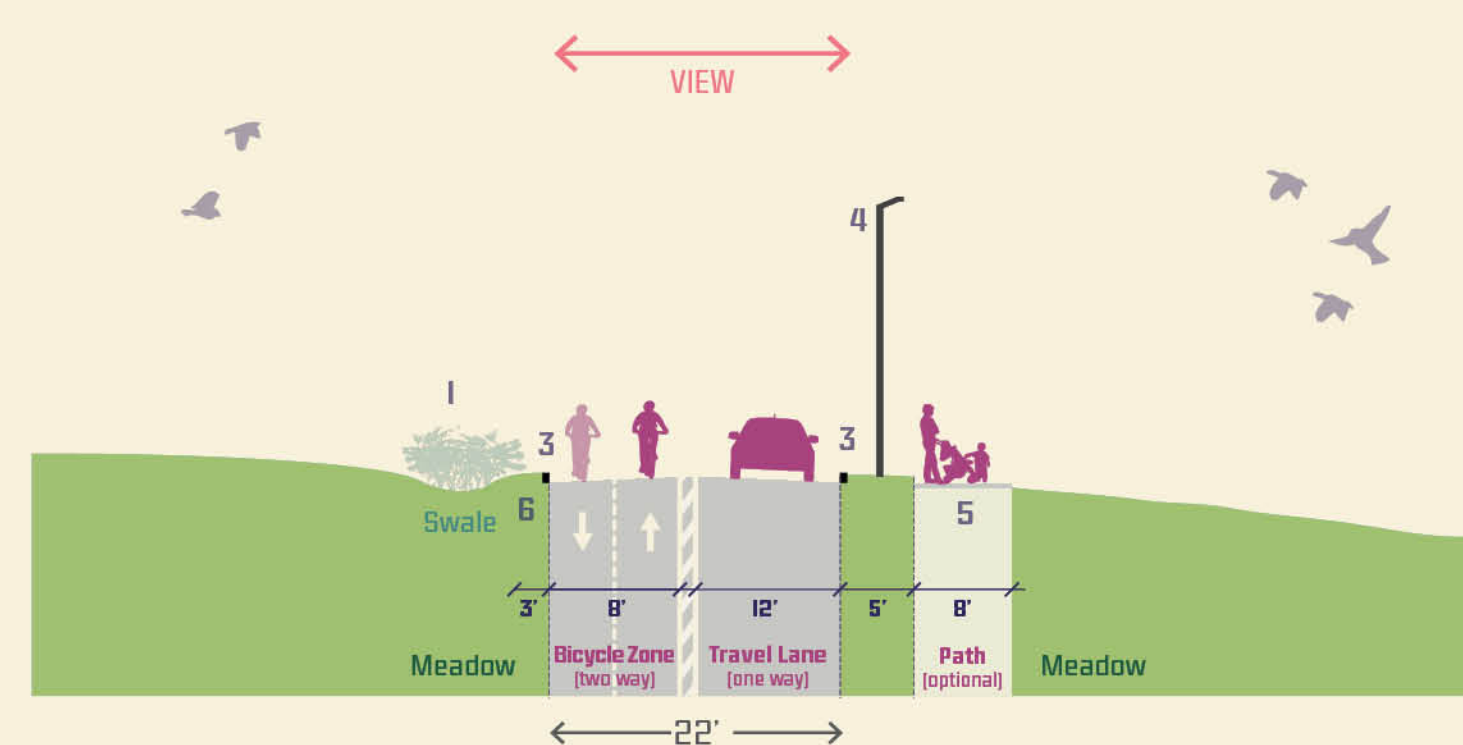
What do you think?



1. Threshold Road



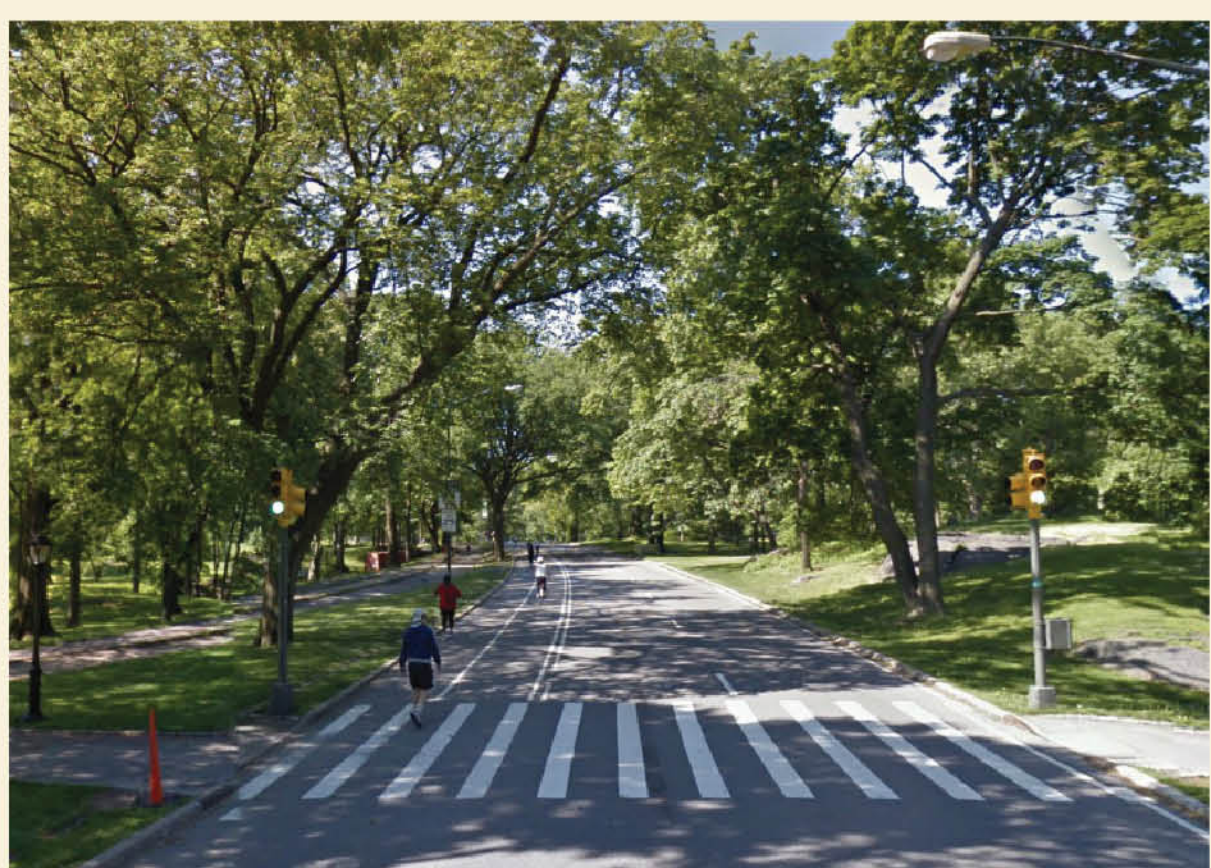
2. Forest Road



3. Meadow Road

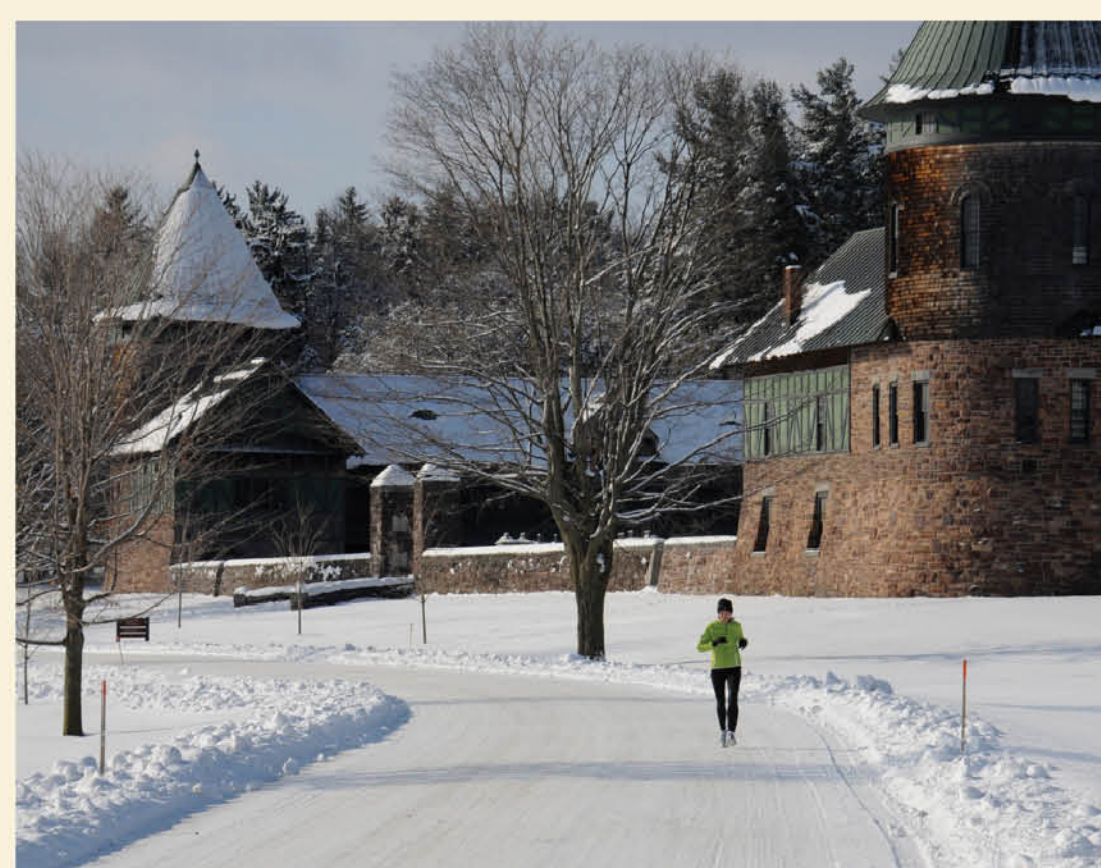
1. Swales on slopes draining toward road
2. Dense, low planting along forested edges discourage parking
3. Curbs on open edge
4. Dark sky lighting
5. Paths sited along open edge
6. Swales are set back from curb to reduce erosion behind curb

More great park roads



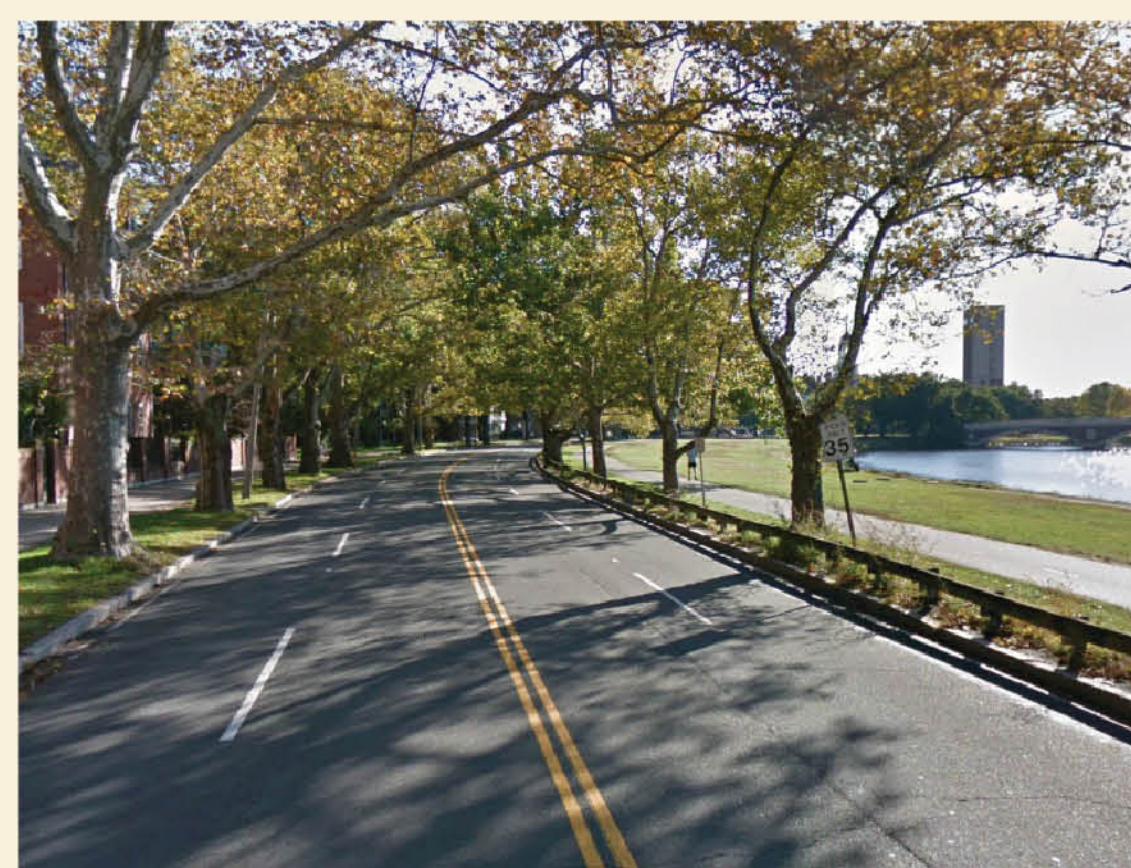
Central Park, New York, NY

Bicycling and jogging lanes integrated with one-way park road; separate path parallels street.



Shelburne Farms, Shelburne, VT

Rural road changes with the seasons.



Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA

A shared use pathway runs between this four-lane road and the Charles River. Memorial Drive is closed to car traffic on Sundays during warmer weather.



Codes Cove, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN

Cars and bicyclists usually share the 11 mile, one-way loop road, but on weekend mornings, the road is only open to non-motorized visitors.



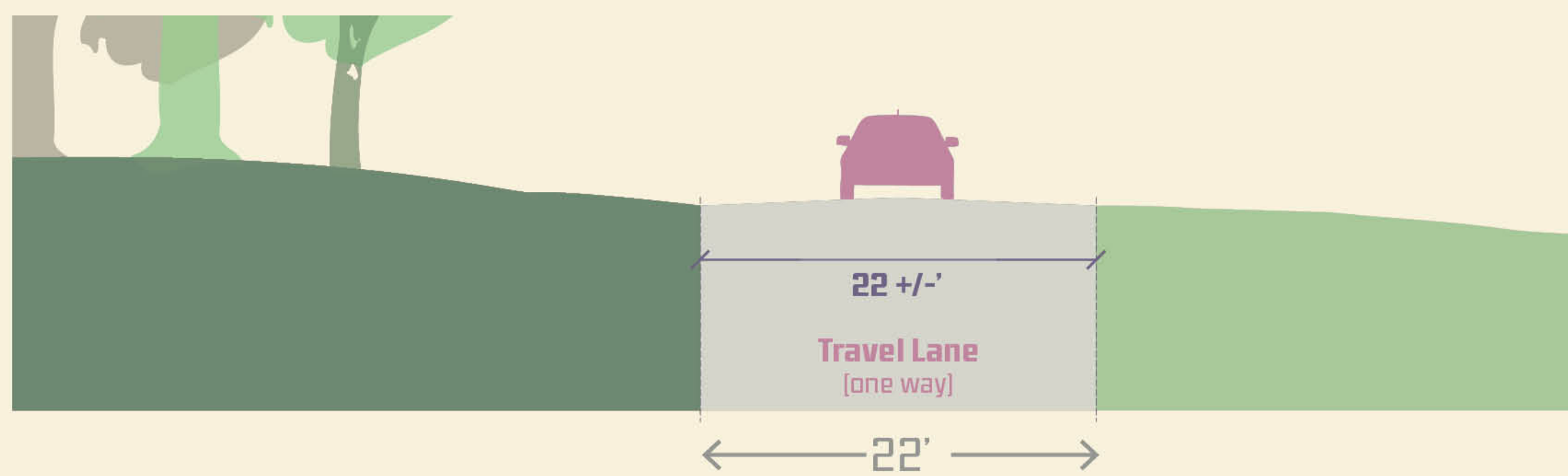
Carriage Roads, Acadia National Park, ME

Gravel carriage roads are open to horseback riders, joggers, walkers, and bicyclists. A separate park loop road allows vehicular circulation.

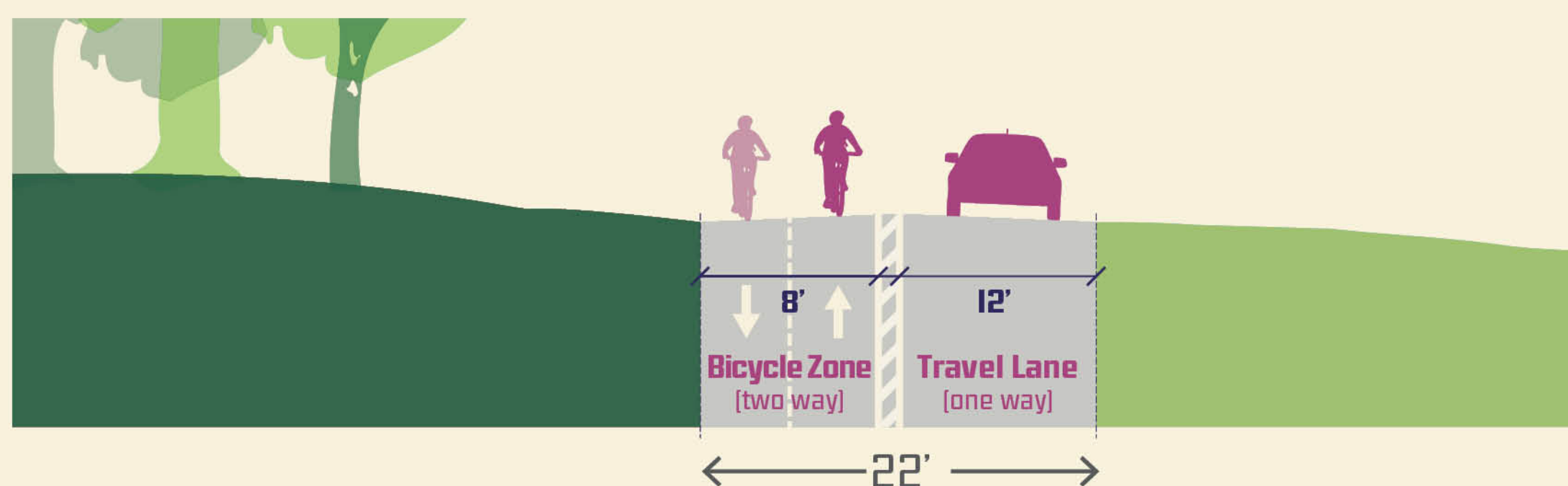
A Great Park Road: Circulation

Circulation Options for Park Roads

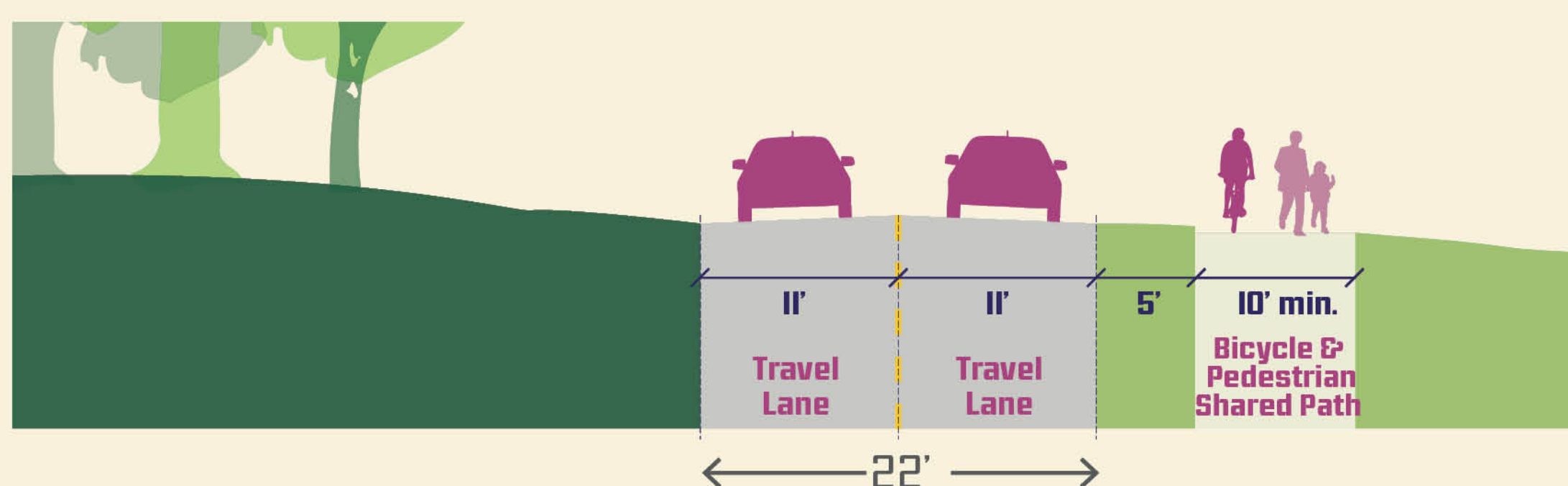
What do you think?



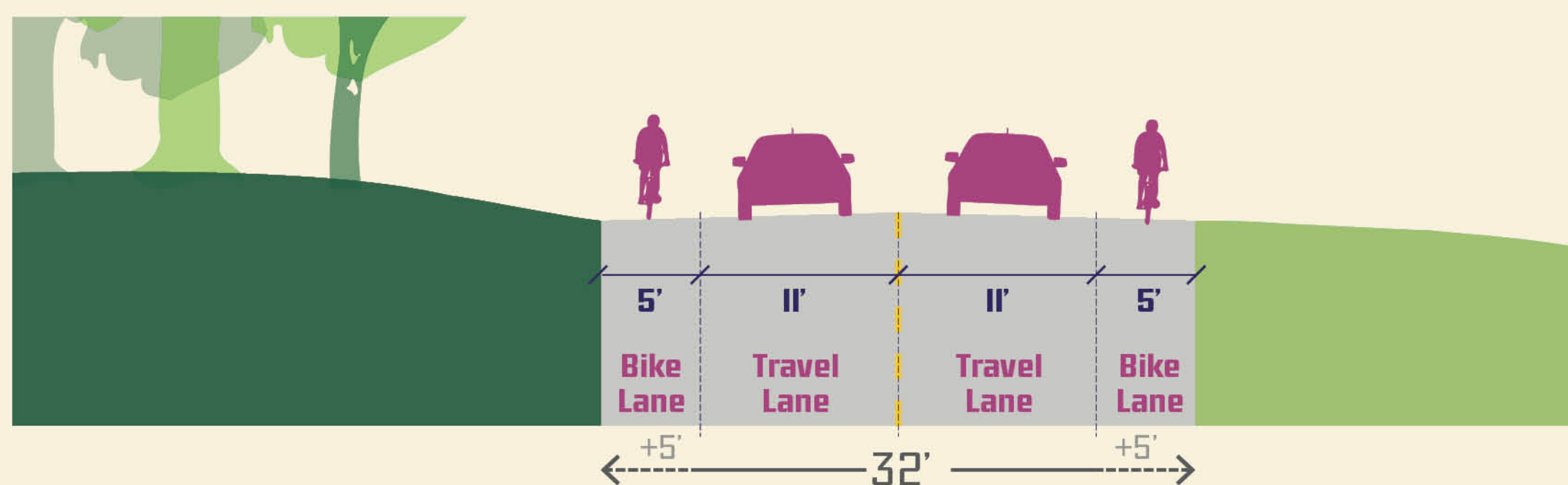
Existing: Road is currently one-way



Option 1: Keep existing width and one-way car circulation; add two-way bicycle lanes

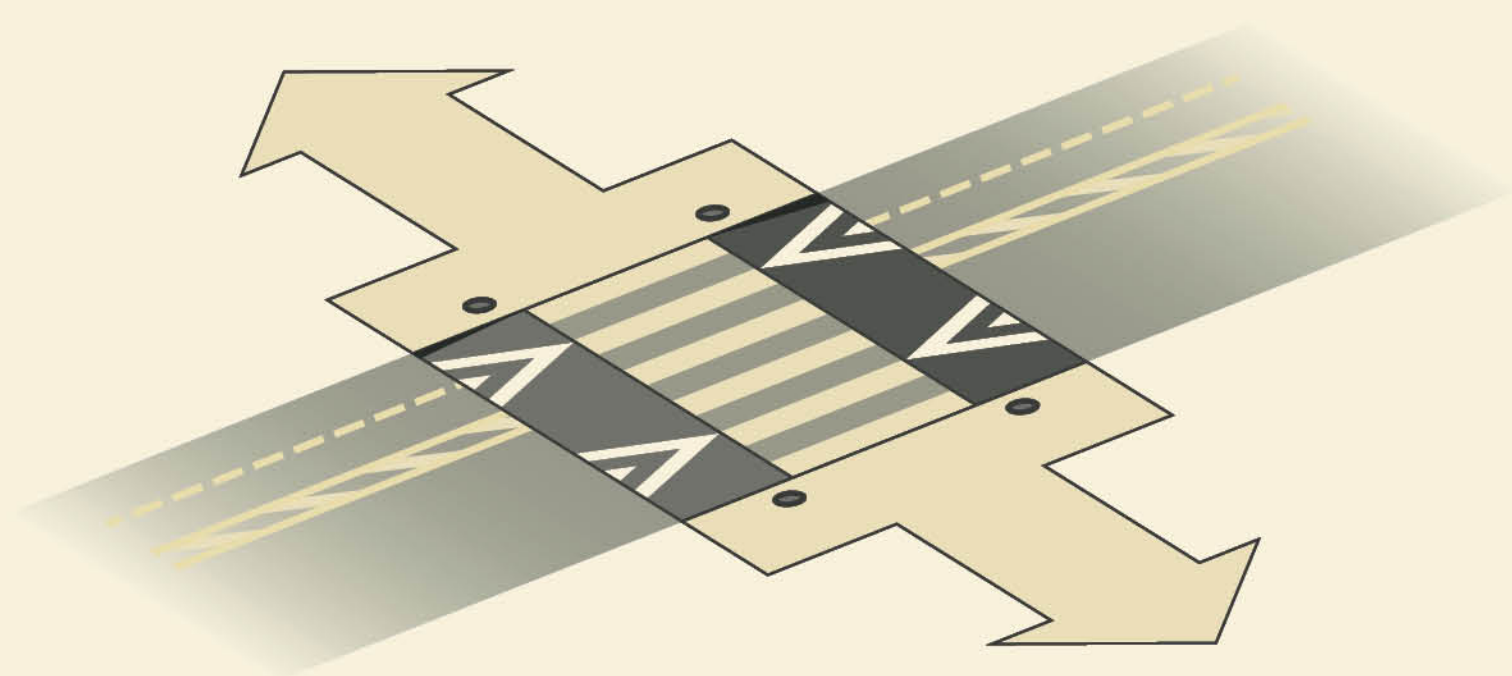


Option 2: Keep existing road width & add two-way car travel; add off-road pedestrian/bike path



Option 3: Widen road to allow two-way car circulation and bicycle lanes

Raised Crosswalks increase safety where trails or paths cross road



Crossings should be clearly marked. Raised crossings slow traffic and increase safety for pedestrians.

Park Gateways



Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA



Millennium Park, Chicago, IL



Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY



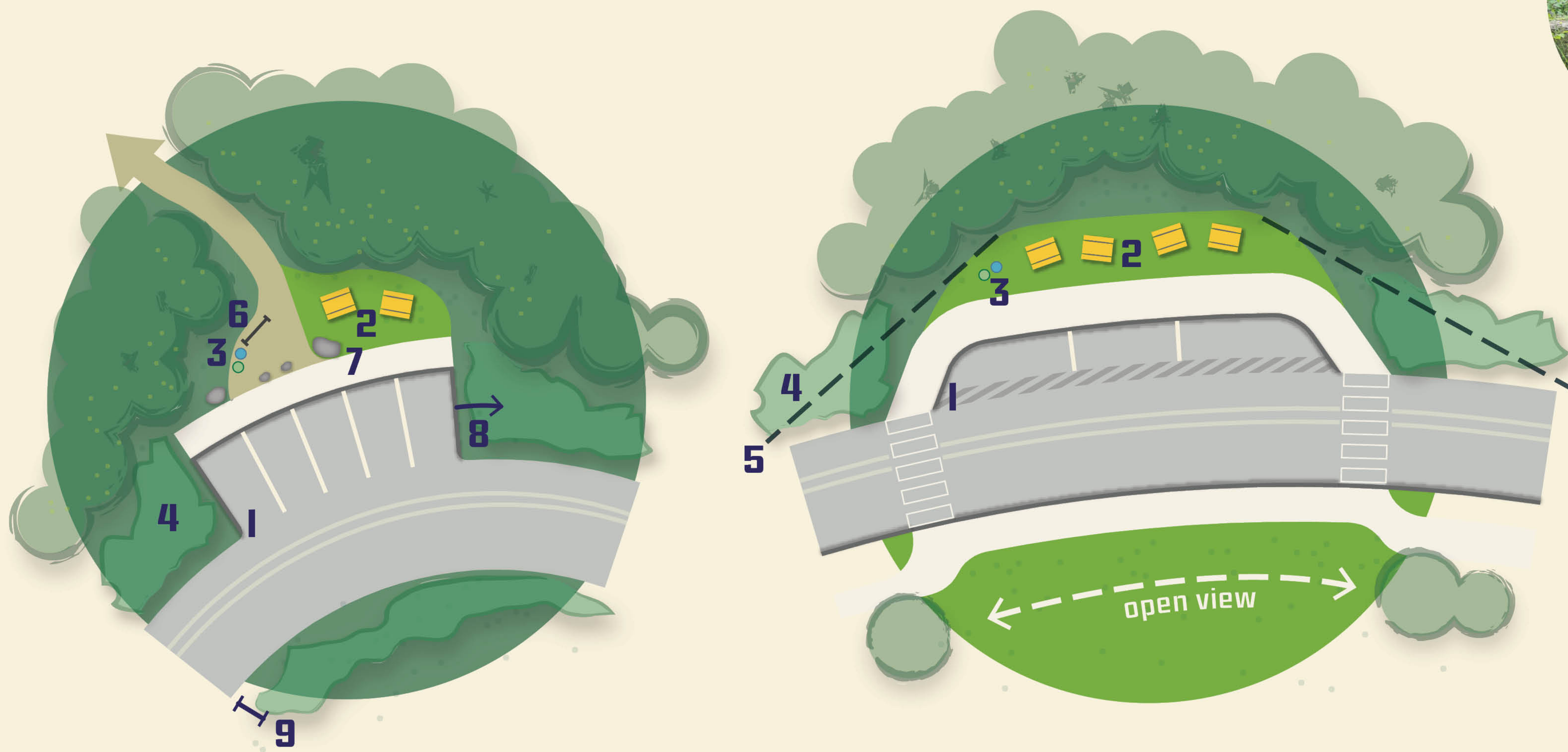
Examples of entrances in Hartford

A Great Park Road: Social Spaces

Social spaces coupled with designated parking



Currently, barriers block many trail entrances



1. Curbs line the parking area
2. Picnic tables create social spaces
3. Trash and recycle bins
4. Low, dense planting discourages parking in non-designated area
5. Sightline to road maintained
6. Trail entrance marked by a map and signage
7. Stones or bollards prevent motorized vehicles from accessing trail
8. Additional parking can be added as needed
9. "Trailhead Ahead" Sign

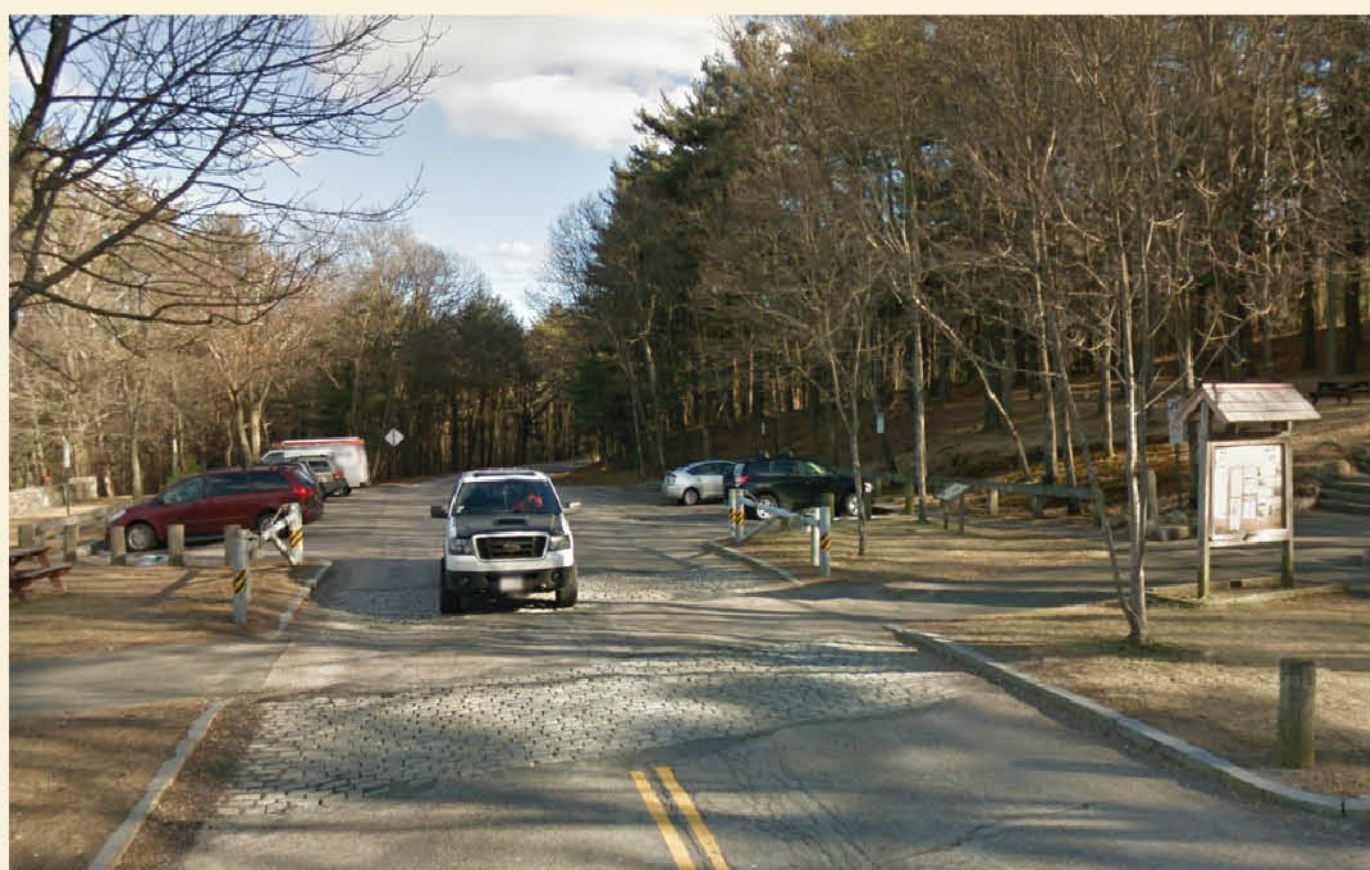
Trailhead, Medium Capacity

Scenic Pull-Out & Picnic Area

What do you think?

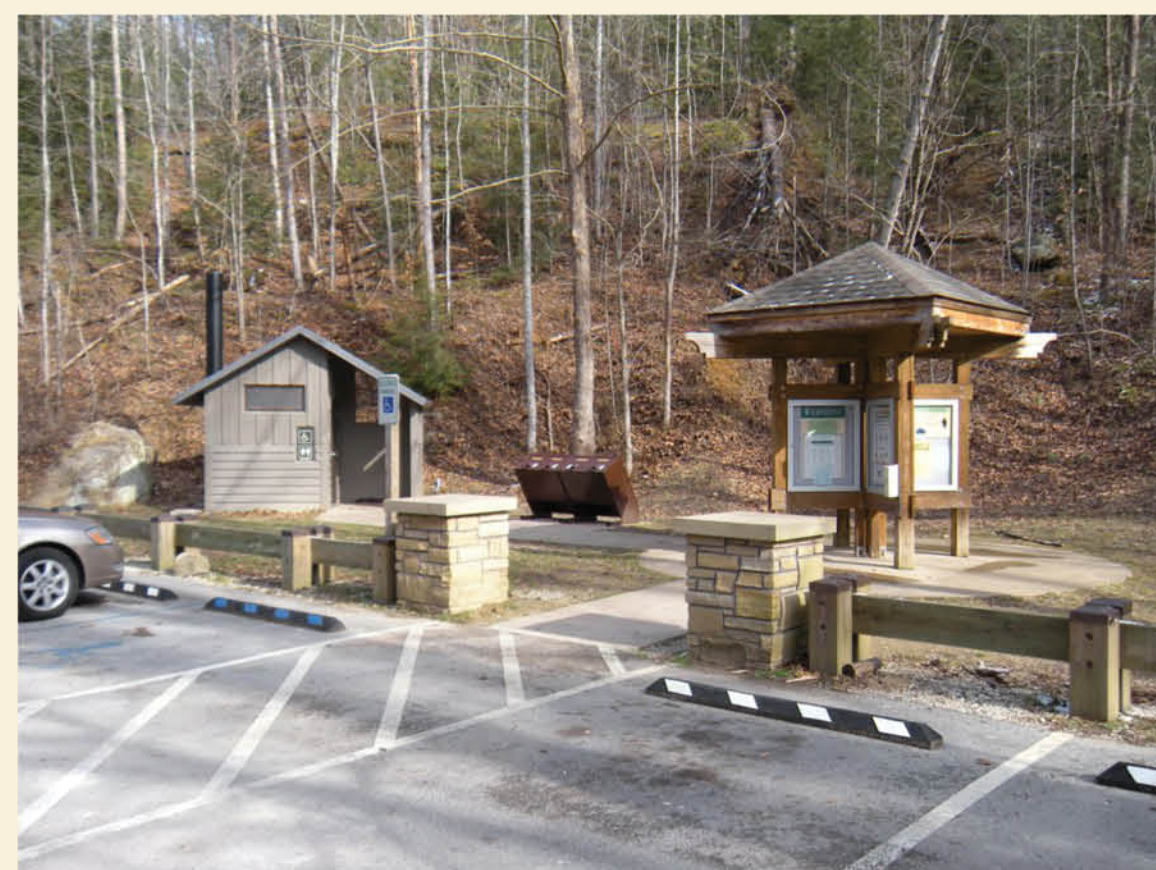


Integrating designated parking areas



Blue Hills Reservation, Milton, MA

Trailhead includes parking, designated crosswalk, signage, and picnic tables.



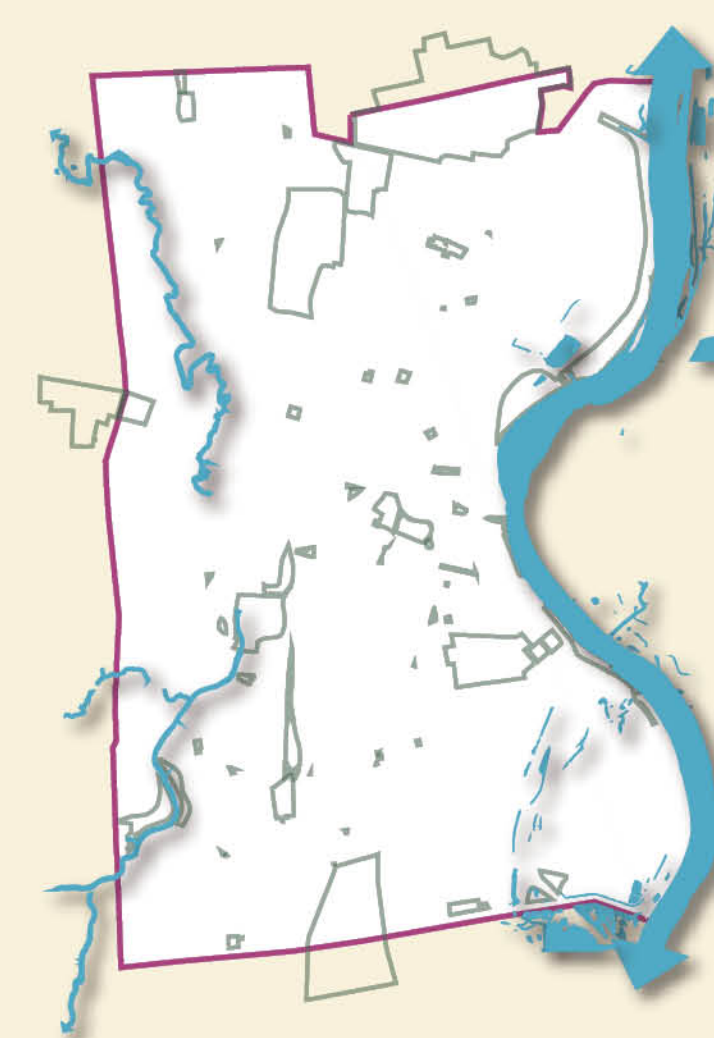
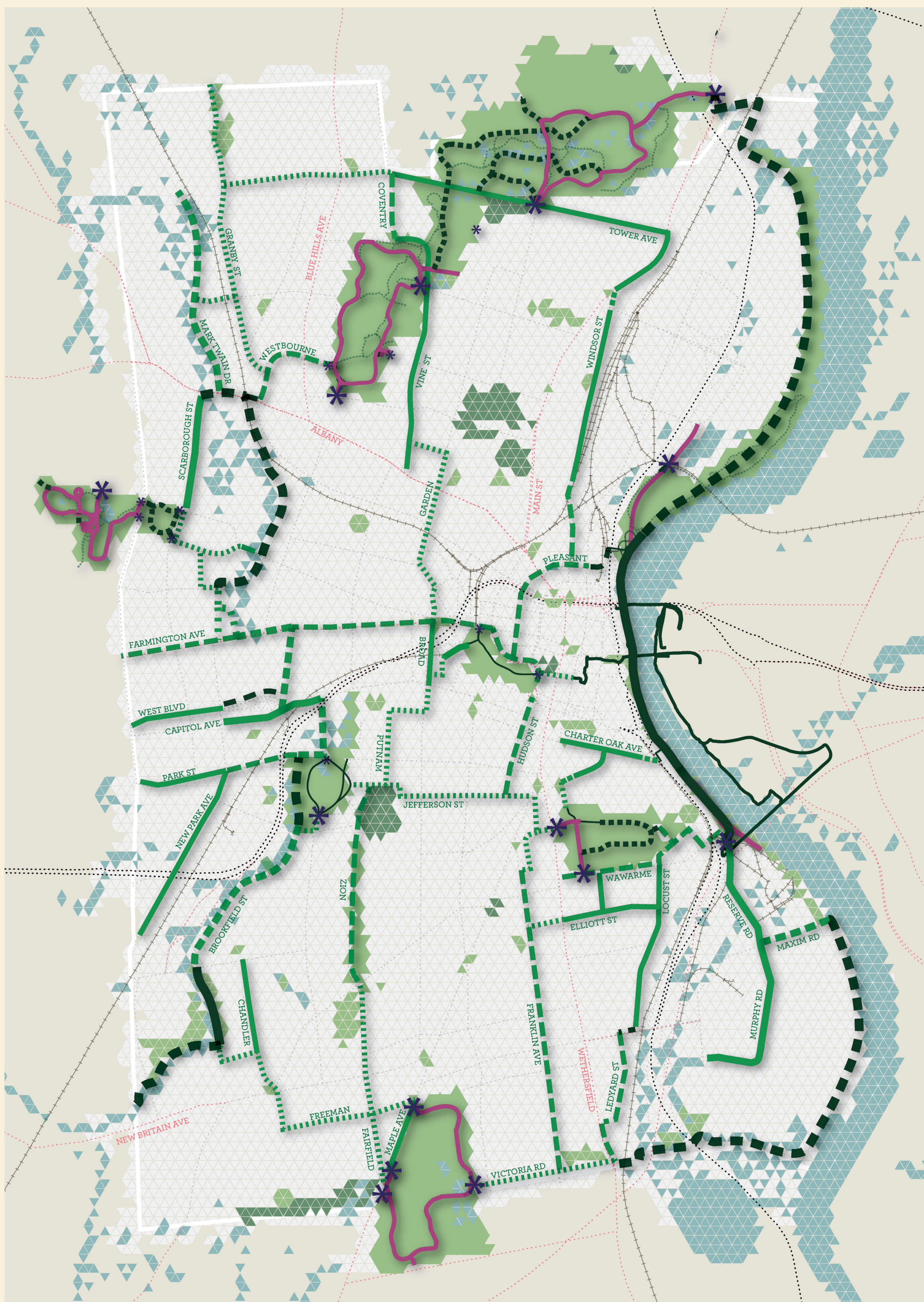
Osborne Bend Trailhead, Clifty Wilderness, near Stanton, KY

Trailhead includes parking, designated crosswalk, signage, restroom, and trash/recycling bins. Curb stops and low fences prevent cars from pulling forward.

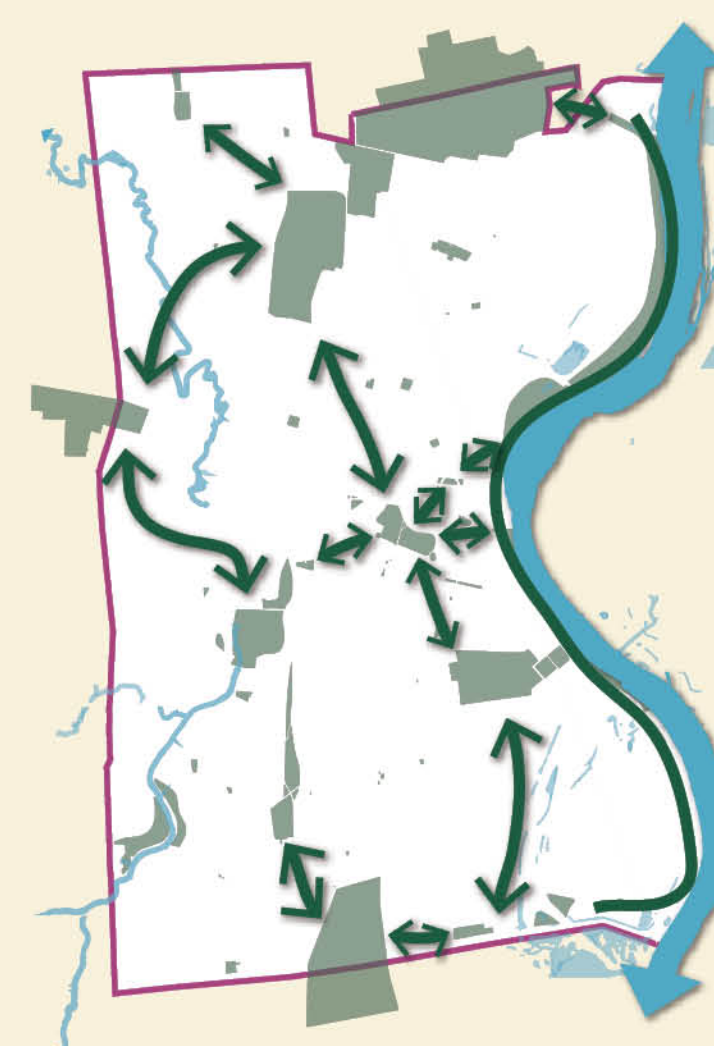


Permeable Parking Options

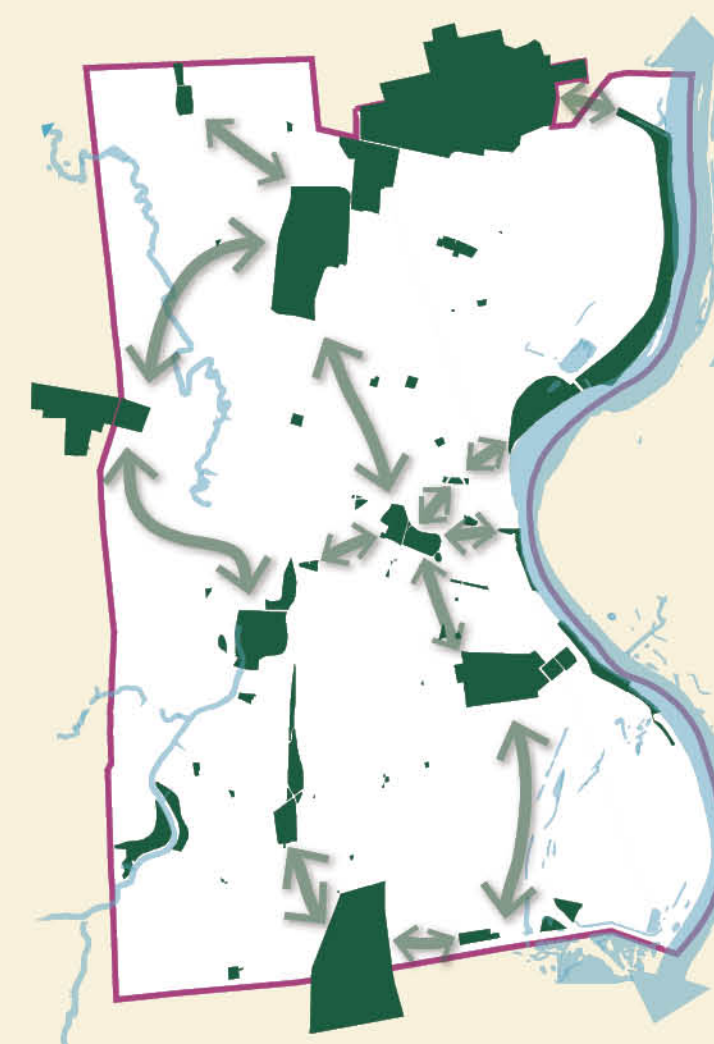
A Connected System of Parks & Greenways







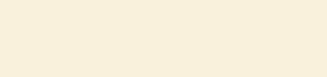
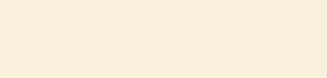




1. Connect along the Connecticut & Park Rivers



2. Connect parks with neighborhoods & one another



3. Improve connectivity within parks

-  Park Road
-  Park Path / Sidewalk
-  Shared Use Pathway - Existing
-  Shared Use Pathway - Proposed
-  Trail
-  Bicycle lane - existing
-  Bicycle lane - proposed
-  Sharrow - proposed
-  Entrances - major
-  Entrances - minor

What have we missed?

What do you think?



FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

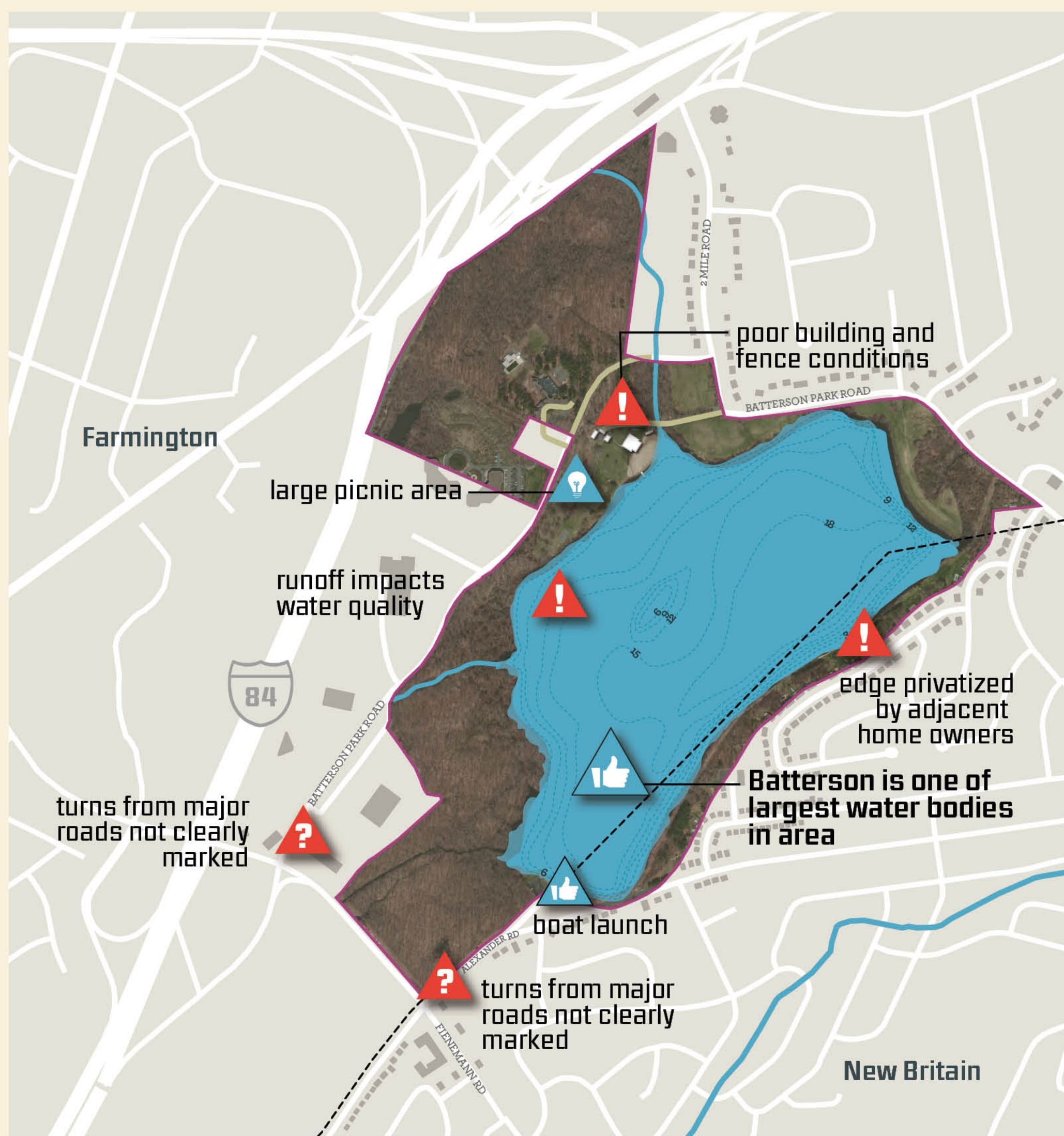
How can we improve our park system?





BATTERSON

Existing Conditions

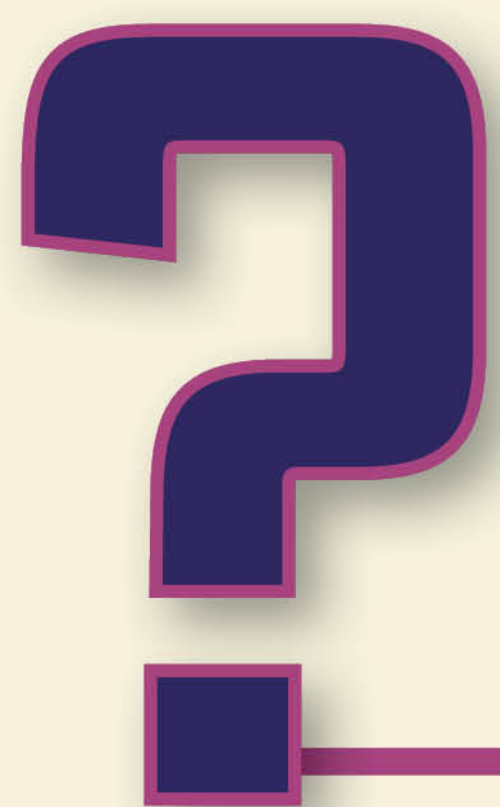


Batterson Beach today

What do you think?



Examples of possible options



Future Concept

No change

- Maintain Batterson Park the same in the future as today
- Same maintenance costs
- No additional revenue

Amp Up Revenue Potential?

- New potential for sustained source of additional revenue
- Requires up-front investment and sustained maintenance

Naturalize?

- Less maintenance cost and time required
- Areas for naturalization vs. public use should be carefully considered

Convert To State Park?

- No city maintenance required
- Lost acreage for the park system

Revenue Opportunities

Would this work in Hartford?



Would you participate?



Keney Club House



Yoga in the Park (Free) Aug - Oct.
Additional classes and times could be offered for a fee.



Closed concession stand at Cronin Park



Canoe & kayak rental, Charles River, Boston



Dillon Stadium



Elizabeth Park . Photo by Kris Rae Photography
<http://www.kisrae.com/2012/07/12/new-england-wedding-photographers-hartford-ct-elizabeth-park/>



Goodwin Golf Course



Foot Golf
<http://www.footgolfnet/footgolf-usa.html>

Special Fee-based Programs

- A national trend is to offer programming in parks such as yoga and exercise classes. Some systems charge instructors a percentage of gross revenues for programs.
- Other revenue-generating programming opportunities:
 - » Outdoor Fitness Programming (P90x, Insanity, Rushfit)
 - » Climbing Walls
 - » Aquatic fitness
 - » Wine tasting events
 - » Culture-specific programming
 - » Sports leagues with unusual rules (lower basketball hoops, shorten base paths, play 3 on 3, etc.)

Outdoor Activities / Rental Equipment

- Nature-based recreation
- Kayaking and canoeing
- Bike sharing and rental programs

Rental Spaces

- Build pavilion structures or set up tents for rental income from non-profits, businesses, individuals
- Keney Club House
- Host meeting space for groups from meetup.com
- Community garage sale at a facility and charge per space
- Music lessons in unused rooms

Other Income Opportunities

- Consider charging fees for some recreation services
- Develop cooperative agreements with surrounding agencies, school districts, or other businesses
- Corporate/unique sponsorships with local businesses
- Supporting vendors for Dillon Stadium
- Packaged wedding venue at a park location
- Food trucks and lease agreements for food vendor/café
- Develop Colt Park into a sports tournament facility for sports tourism

Golf Course Revenue Ideas

- Charge by the hour, not by the round
- Have one fee, regardless of the number of holes played
- Partner with a local fitness club
- Partner with nearby hotels for discounts for hotel guests
- Offer Foot Golf (playing golf with a soccer ball; American FootGolf League oversees the sport)

Other ideas?

Partnership Opportunities

What do you think?



- City Agencies and Departments
 - » Hartford Housing Authority
 - » Board of Education
 - » Marketing, Events & Cultural Affairs
- Knox Parks Foundation
- Friends Groups
- NRZs
- Corporate partners
- Local businesses
- Local institutions:
 - » Trinity College
 - » University of Hartford
 - » Hartford Hospital
 - » Other institutions
- Nonprofit organizations

Other Partners?

How could partners help?