Tri-City River Trail: Watertown Riverfront

The mile-long multi path restoration project presented here will dramatically increase access to the shore of the Charles River just below Watertown Square. It is the first phase of a five kilometer Tri City River Trail serving Boston, Newton, and Watertown – a critical link in the regional trail system.

A public private partnership of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the City of Watertown, the Perkins School for the Blind, and the Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Fund hired Sasaki Associate, one of the leading design firms in the country, to produce this design. After two years and hundreds of hours of community effort a final design has been approved by the DCR and will be ready for bid this spring. Funding is now being sought to implement this project.
Charles River Basin
Partnership roles: steps one and two complete
A Tri City River Trail

Newton

Watertown

Boston
Phase One: The Watertown riverfront
Users of the park
Bicycle access
Barriers to use
The conditions on the ground
The conditions on the ground
Severe Erosion
The hidden river
Open vistas along a stone clad shore
NEIGHBORHOOD TO RIVER
RECONNECTING RIVERFRONT PARK TO ITS COMMUNITY
WHAT IS RIVERFRONT PARK?
WHAT IS THE PARK?

PARKWAY

PLAYGROUND
WHAT IS THE PARK?

PARKWAY

PLAYGROUND

PATHWAY
with river access
WHAT IS THE PARK?

ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR
DESIGN ELEMENTS

- Parkway
- Entrance / Transition zones
- Pathways
- Visual or direct access to water
PARKWAY & SIDEWALK - Existing Conditions

Gap in walkway
PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION - Proposed

- Concrete Sidewalk - 5-8'
- Soft Path – 6 to 8'
- Braille Trail
- Hiking Trail - 3'
RIVER ACCESS + BANK STABILIZATION

- Key points of access
RIVER ACCESS TYPE + BANK STABILITY

RIPARIAN WOODLAND
PED. PATH
OVERLOOK
CHARLES RIVER

PLAYFIELD
PROMENADE
RESTORED EXISTING WALL
CHARLES RIVER

OVERLOOK
RIVER ACCESS TYPE + BANK STABILITY

GRANITE STAIRS

FISHING STONES
RIVER ACCESS TYPE + BANK STABILITY

CANOE + KAYAK LAUNCH

BEACH
PARK ENTRANCE + TRANSITION ZONES

Entrance @ Irving St.

Entrance @ Paul St.

Transition @ Founder's Monument

Transition @ Perkins Hill

Entrance @ Irving St.
PARK ENTRANCE @ PAUL STREET

PARK ACCESS
- Yield sign
- Crosswalks
- Curb ramps
- Entry sign
- 5% slope max into park
- Views to the water
PAUL STREET

- Re-establish Street Tree Plantings @ 30' O.C.
- New Crosswalk and Curb Ramps
- Maintain Views & Access
- Maintain View to Yatch Club and Beyond
- Wide trail
- 6' Wide trail
- Granite Steps
- Entry Sign
- +9.5
- +8
- +13.5
PAUL STREET

ENTRY POST

SOFT PATHWAY

RIVER ACCESS
GRANITE STAIRS
Founders of Watertown Memorial
PARK ENTRANCE @ IRVING STREET

ACCESS
- Pedestrian light
- Crosswalks
- Curb ramps
- Entry sign
- 5% slope max into park
- River view

PROGRAM
- Basketball court + playground to be redesigned and improved
- Braille Trail added
- Expanded playfields
- Access to water
IRVING ENTRANCE AND PLAYGROUND
IRVING STREET

OVERLOOK

SOFT PATHWAY

BRaille TRAIL

ENTRY POST
SENSORY TRAIL- Wayfinding and interpretation
Sensory play
Vessel

DETAIL OF “MISHOON”

DRY RIVER BED
CRUSHED STONE AGGREGATE
COMPACTED AGGREGATE BASE
UNDISTURBED SOIL

DRY RIVER BED
CRUSHED STONE
COMPACTED AGGREGATE BASE
UNDISTURBED SOIL

MR 7/11/12
SENSORY TRAIL

Sweet Bay Magnolia

Witch Hazel
COSTS

• **1.9 million dollars** for full implementation
• Possible savings through the donation of granite
• The full costs of planning, design, permitting and administration are being covered by the Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Fund
• Enhanced maintenance to be supported through a volunteer organization with assistance from CRC, TTOR, and the Watertown Community Foundation.
Project timeline

**2006 - completed**
DCR / Solomon partnership started
Watertown Stewardship group formed
First public meeting – **VISION**
Program statement and RFP drafted

**2007 - completed**
Sasaki Associates hired
Second Public meeting – **DESIGN**
Friends of Watertown Riverfront formed

**2008 - completed**
Design development package complete
Friends application for
   founders memorial accepted
First Friends volunteer work day
Project timeline

2008 - completed
DCR review of design package
Brief representatives
Funding requests in
Sasaki completes contract documents and permits
Founders memorial restoration completed

2009 - completed
Founders Memorial celebration - June
Funding request for phase one
Restoration to start contingent on funding

2012
Bioengineering joins design team
Mitch Ryerson joins design team
Sensory play space added
Working drawings and permits updated
STEWARDSHIP

- **Friends of the Watertown Riverfront**
- Organized numerous volunteer days last year and had lots of fun doing it.
- TTOR and CRC advising and leading efforts
- Long term commitment to sustainability
The Planning Partnership

The Department of Conservation and Recreation
The Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Fund
The Town of Watertown
Perkins School for the Blind
Interested citizens
Designers
Sasaki Associates
Bioengineering
Mitch Ryerson
Stewardship partners to DCR
Friends of the Watertown Waterfront
Trustees of Reservations
Charles River Conservancy