

Charles River Meadowlands Initiative

Public Access and Management Strategies
in Bellingham, Franklin and Medway

Prepared for Franklin Planning and Community Development
April 29, 2019



Tonight's Agenda

- Informal Viewing of Maps 6:30-7:00 PM
- Introduction by The Meadowlands Initiative
- Presentation of Maps by BETA Group, Inc.
 - Regional
 - Trail Maps: Bellingham, Medway, Franklin, Trail Design: Precedent/Inspirational Images
- Questions and Answers, Informal Discussion

Charles River Meadowlands Initiative

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The towns of Bellingham, Franklin, and Medway are host to more than 500 acres of land protected by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as part of the Charles River Natural Valley flood control project.

Charles River Meadowlands Initiative is an effort among citizens and local officials to work together and to work with Federal and State officials, to improve access to and management of this beautiful natural resource.

<https://www.charlesrivermeadowlands.org>

Purpose of this Effort

To increase public environmental awareness and provide opportunities for connectivity and passive recreation within the area.

Scope includes :

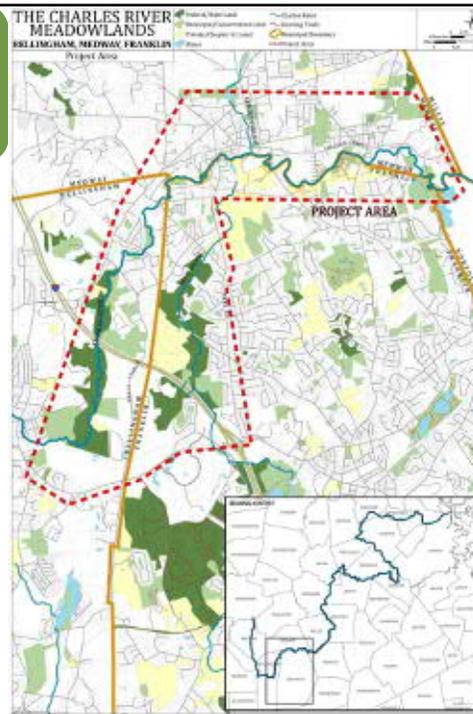
- Assess USACE, Municipal, Conservation and Private lands environmental and recreational resources
- Assess access and linkages within the site and to Town features
- Provide concepts for potential trails including visual images of trail and boardwalk materials, signage and amenities
- Provide phased priority for feasible improvements
- Public meetings, one in each town. Recorded and incorporated comments
- Provided a final Summary Report

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Project Area Map

- Federal and State Land
- Municipal and Conservation Land
- Private Land
- River
- Town Boundary

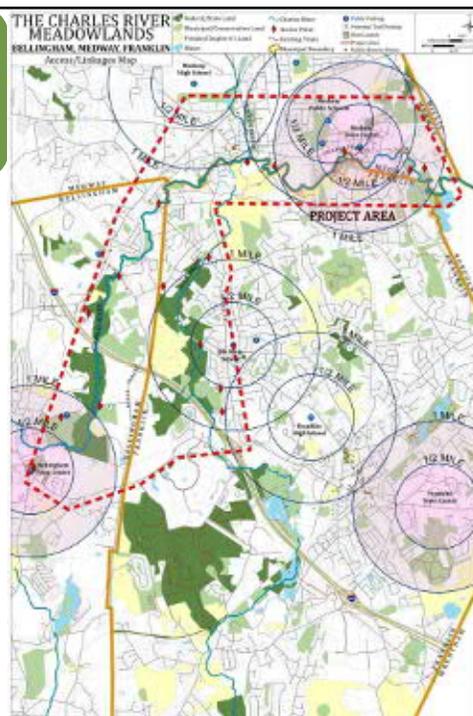
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Access and Linkages

- Access Points
- Public Parking
- Potential Parking
- Existing Kayak Launch
- Historic Points
- Town Centers
- Schools

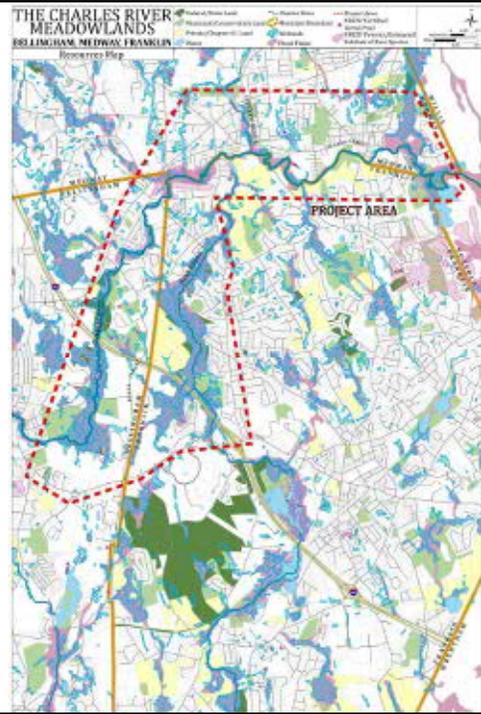
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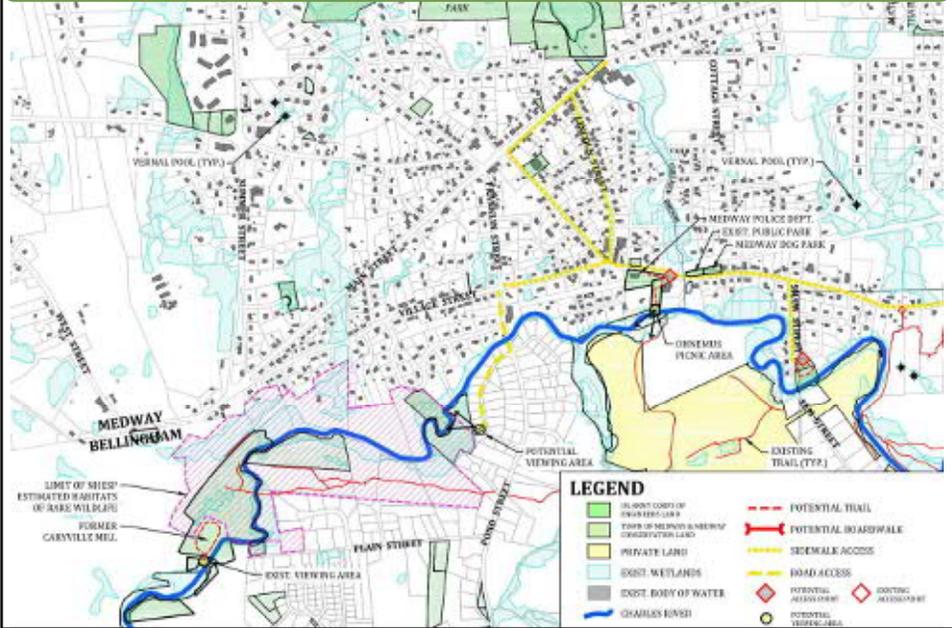
Resource Mapping

- Wetlands
- Flood Plains
- Vernal Pool
- Rare Species Habitat

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Medway Trail Map I



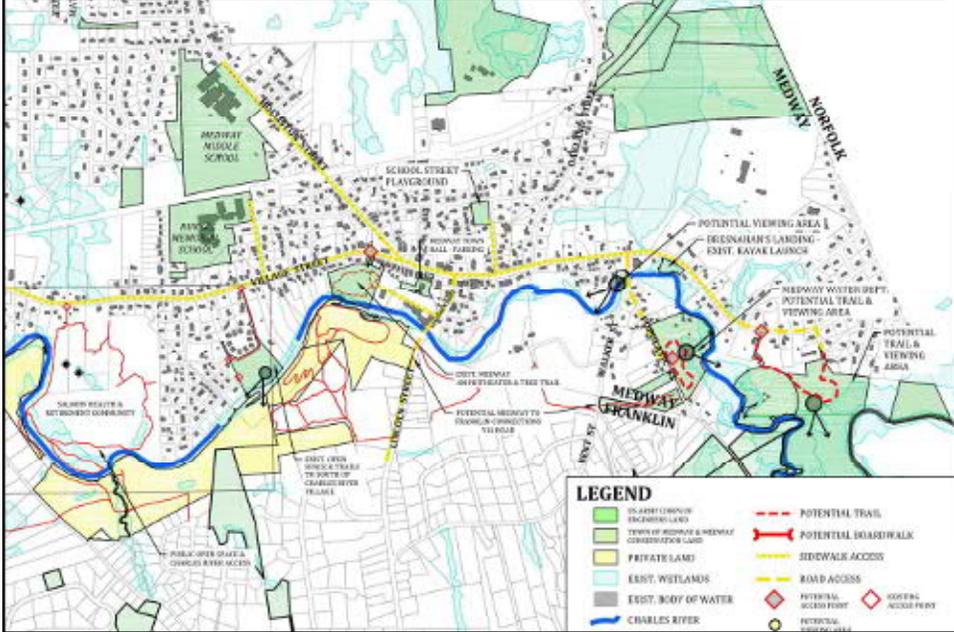
Medway Trail Map I Area Photos



- Improve access to Ohnemus picnic area
- Access and trail at Shaw Street



Medway Trail Map II





Medway Trail Map II Area Photos

Town land at Village St.

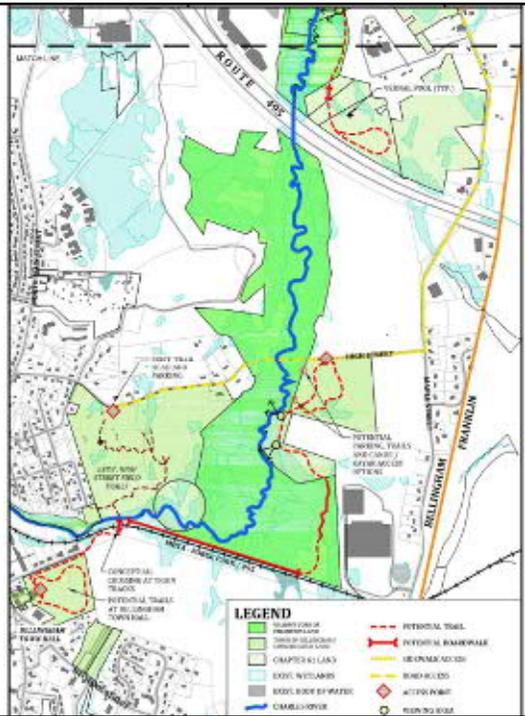


Town land at Populatic St.

Bellingham Trail Map I

Mechanic St. to I-495

- Access and trail at Town Hall
- Crossing at MBTA
- Crossing at Charles River
- Connect to High St. Field Trails
- Continue adjacent to MBTA
- Connect north to Conservation land at High Street
- Access at High St.
- Potential parking and Kayak Access at High St.



Bellingham Trail Map I Photos



Town Hall potential trail and connections



Potential connections to High Street Fields

Bellingham Trail Map I Photos

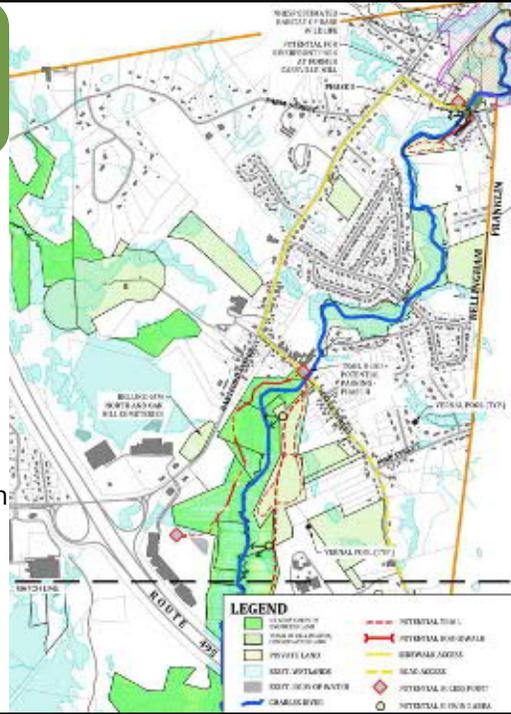
Conservation land at High street.
Possible Phase I.



Bellingham Trail Map II

I-495 to Pearl Street

- Trail on Conservation Land with access at Maple Street
- Trail between Mall and Maple Street
- Access and trail at Caryville Mill site. Opportunity for interpretation and riverfront trail or park.
- Note habitat of rare wildlife zone



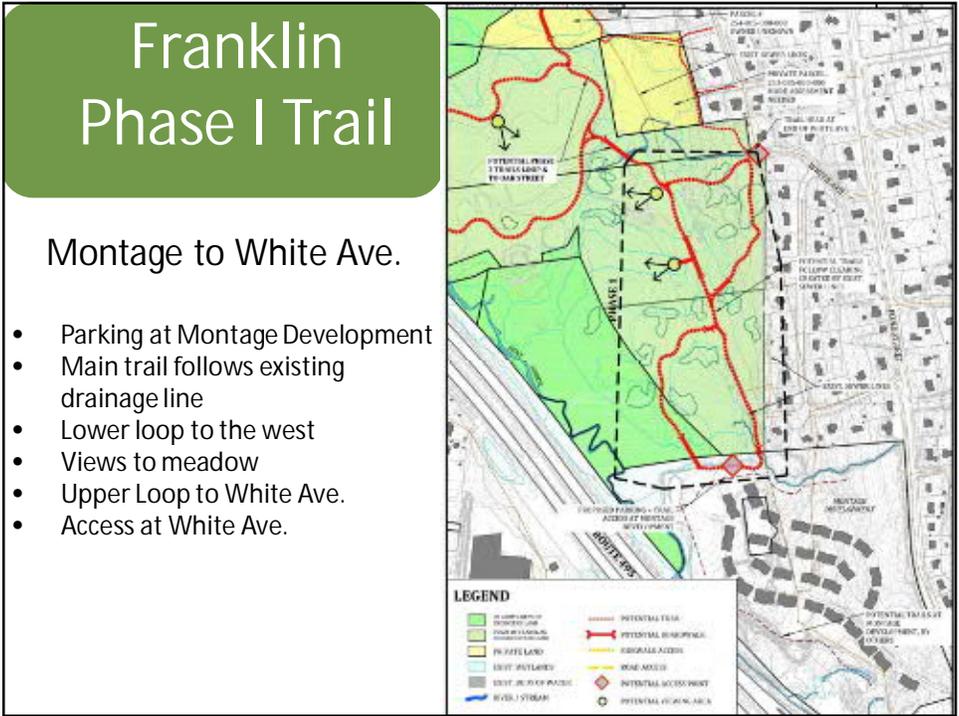
Bellingham Trail Map II Photos



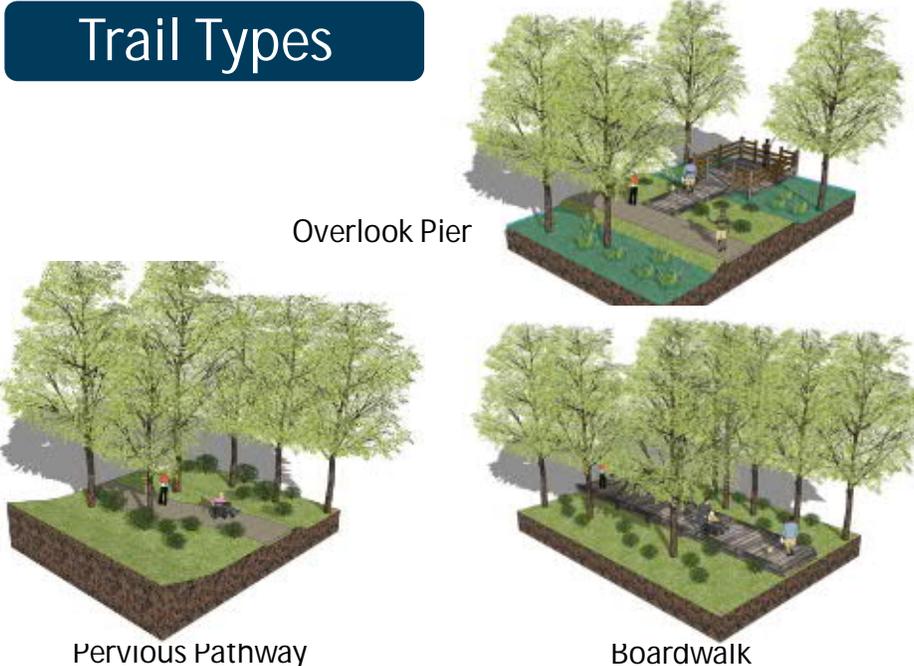
Potential Maple Street Access and trail connections east and west of Mine Brook







Trail Types



Overlook Pier

Pervious Pathway

Boardwalk

The image displays three 3D isometric renderings of different trail types. The 'Overlook Pier' shows a wooden platform with a railing and a bench, surrounded by trees. The 'Pervious Pathway' shows a simple dirt path with a bench and trees. The 'Boardwalk' shows a wooden boardwalk path with a bench and trees.

Trail Layout



- Follow Existing Trails when possible
- Various Widths
- Layout based on existing trees, wetland resources, grades, etc.

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The image shows a photograph of a dirt trail winding through a lush green forest. The trail is surrounded by tall trees and dense foliage. To the right of the photograph is a list of three bullet points: 'Follow Existing Trails when possible', 'Various Widths', and 'Layout based on existing trees, wetland resources, grades, etc.'. Below the photograph and list is the text 'Charles River Meadowlands Initiative'.

Trail Materials



Dense Graded Crushed Stone
ADA Compliant



Mown native grasses



Woodland path (pine)

Boardwalk

Boardwalk where cross wetlands



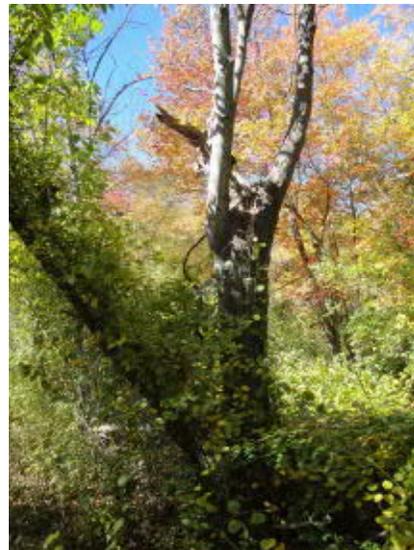


Habitat



Maintenance and Management

- Trash, trail maintenance, policing, manage invasive/ unwanted vegetation
- Management Plan -
 - Required for projects on USACE lands
 - Work with each town for municipal and conservation properties
- Look at precedent examples for management strategies that work



Community Forum Dates

- Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 6:30 PM
Franklin Fire Department, 600 King St.
- Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 6:30 PM
Bellingham Town Hall, 10 Mechanic Street
- Monday, April 29, 2019 at 6:30 PM
Thayer Homestead, 2B Oak Street, Medway

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What's Next?

- Meet with USACE and Fish and Wildlife
- Update maps based on comments from meetings
- Identify potential trails to pursue as projects
- Summary Report
- Seek funds and grants
 - Community Preservation Act (CPA) Funding
 - Parc Grant Program
 - Mass DEP Section 319 Grant collaboration
 - Mass Trails Program

