

MALDEN RIVER WORKS

FOR WATERFRONT EQUITY + RESILIENCE

January 30, 2020 Public Meeting



This project is made possible through a generous grant from the MIT Norman B. Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism, which has awarded the Malden River Works team with the first ever Norman B. Leventhal City Prize for equitable resilience.

DPW Site Location:
356 Commercial St.
Malden, MA

**Where can you
See the Malden River
from a road?**



View North from the Medford St. Bridge

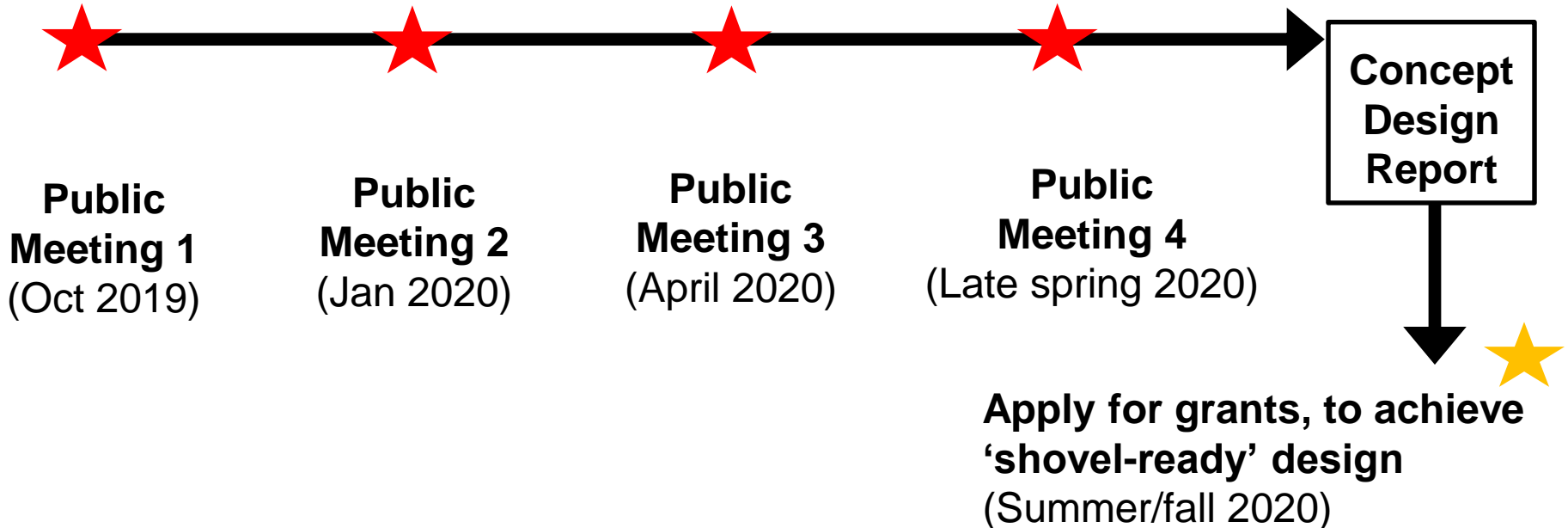


View from the River Bank at the DPW site....



Photo by Khalil Kaba

Concept Design + Outreach Process



Where we're headed

Tonight: **Share** 3 initial design concepts for a new park on the Malden River

Discuss during Table Activities and give **feedback** on the 3 concepts

After tonight: **Translate** what we heard into a **preferred design concept** to share again at the next public meeting in April

Our design process

Analyze what we heard from Malden communities (surveys, public meeting)

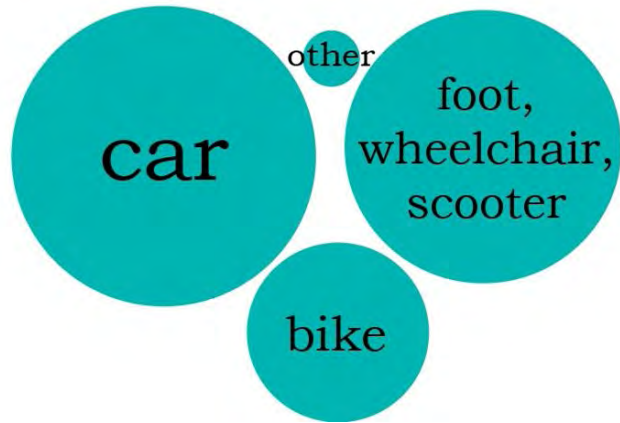
Learn about DPW activities to make room for safe and direct public access to the river

AND

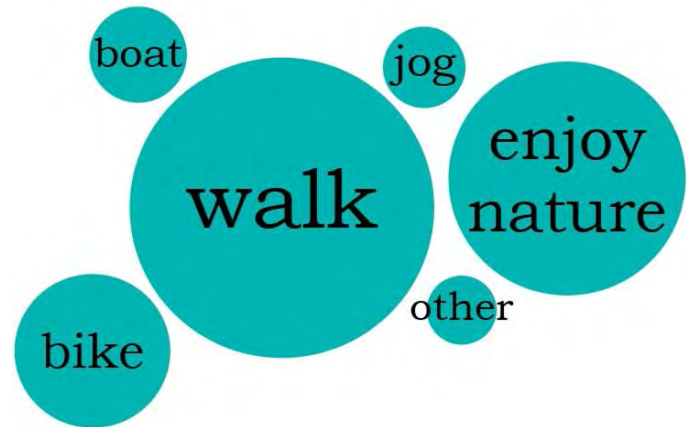
Translate what we heard and what we learned into 3 initial design concepts for a new park on the Malden River

What We Heard

How do you get to the Malden River?



What do you do along the Malden River?



What We Heard

Why don't you go to the Malden River?

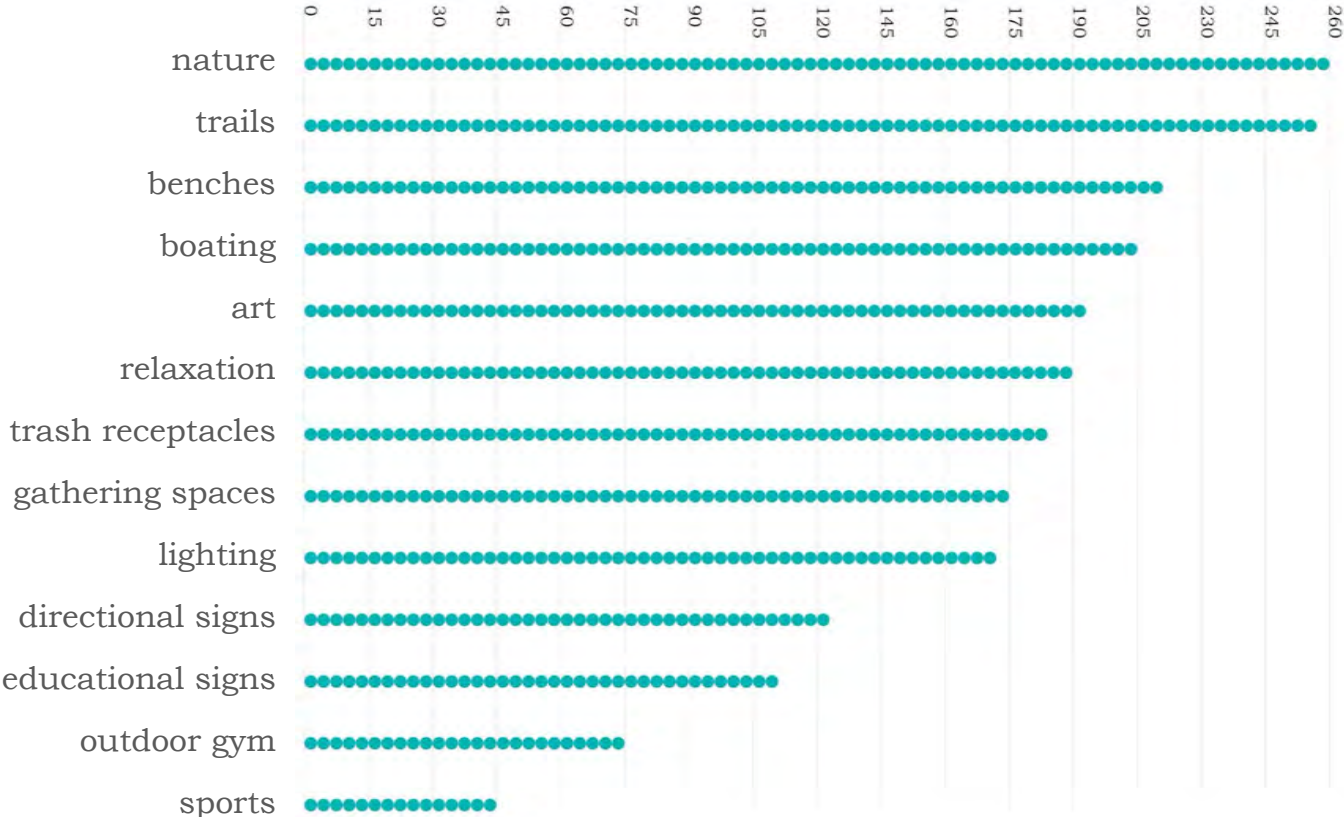
“No access, where there is **access**,
don't have anything to do”

“I never really knew **how to get there**,
nor did I know that anything could be
done on it, actually!”

“It's really **disgusting** and I haven't had
any desire to go”

What We Heard

What kind of features or amenities do you want to see on the Malden River?



Source: Survey responses from Oct. 21, 2019 through January 24, 2020

What We Heard

"make it more **visible and inviting** from the roads like Commercial St/Medford St"

"**Views** across the river"
"Visibility for racing"

"Safe **access to water**"

Gathering & event space-

"Outdoor stage"

"Space for small events"

"Concerts" "Outdoor movies"

"Gathering space"

"Pop-ups"

"**Cleaning** [the river] should be the first priority"

"Snapshot of nature,"
"**preserve wildlife** + create greenway," "river, tall grass, lily pads, **ecosystem** preserved"

What We Heard

Enhance Access and Awareness

- Lots of people were unaware that Malden has a river
- More points of access & more info. wanted about *where* to access the river

Address Trash and Contamination

Preserve and Enhance Nature

Source: Surveys and October public meeting table conversations



Breakout sessions for smaller discussions
Photo by Khalil Kaba

EXISTING SITE
AREAS

MVDC 'WEDGE'
Parcel
(.47 acres)

Department of
Public Works
(~4 acres)

Boat
House
(.42 acres)

COMMERCIAL STREET

MALDEN RIVER

North
↑



DPW (Department of Public Works) BUILDING



MATERIAL FROM STREET REPAIR WORK



WINTER ROAD SALT SUPPLY



EQUIPMENT STORAGE



BOAT HOUSE



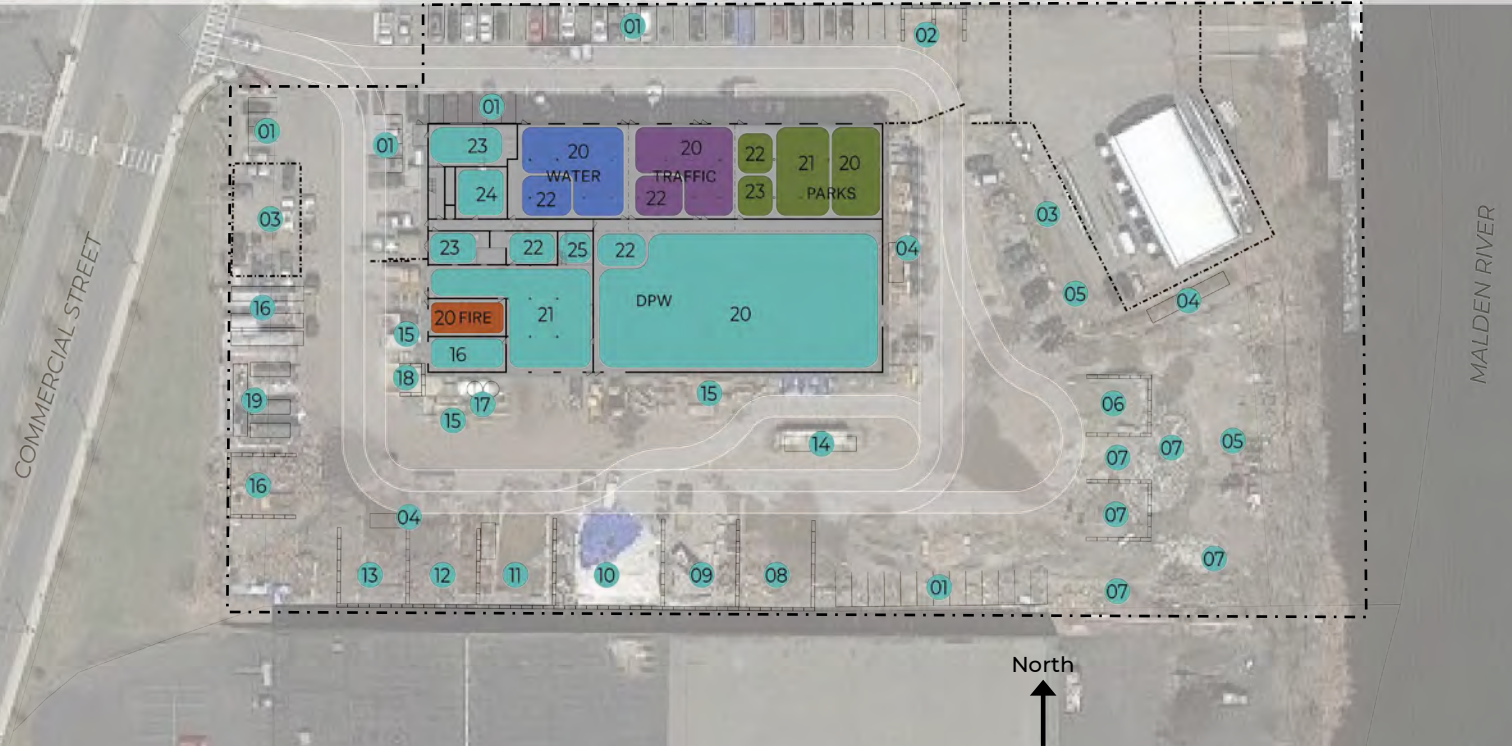
DOCK



Cruise in a Canoe event, Sept. 2019; photo by Khalil Kaba

DPW SITE ACTIVITIES

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01 Parking | 06 Clean fill | 11 Trash / empty | 16 Equipment Storage | 21 Garage (Maintenance) |
| 02 Topsoil | 07 Road repair debris | 12 Street sweeping | 17 Calcium chloride tanks | 22 Break Space / Lockers |
| 03 Impounded / junk vehicles | 08 Wood chips | 13 Catch basin debris | 18 Sand for oil spills | 23 Offices |
| 04 Dumpsters | 09 Tree waste | 14 Fueling station | 19 Recycling | 24 Bathrooms / Locker Rooms |
| 05 Misc. materials | 10 Salt | 15 Equipment | 20 Garage (Machine / Vehicle Storage) | 25 Tool Storage |



DPW REORGANIZATION OPPORTUNITIES

Public parking mixes with truck traffic

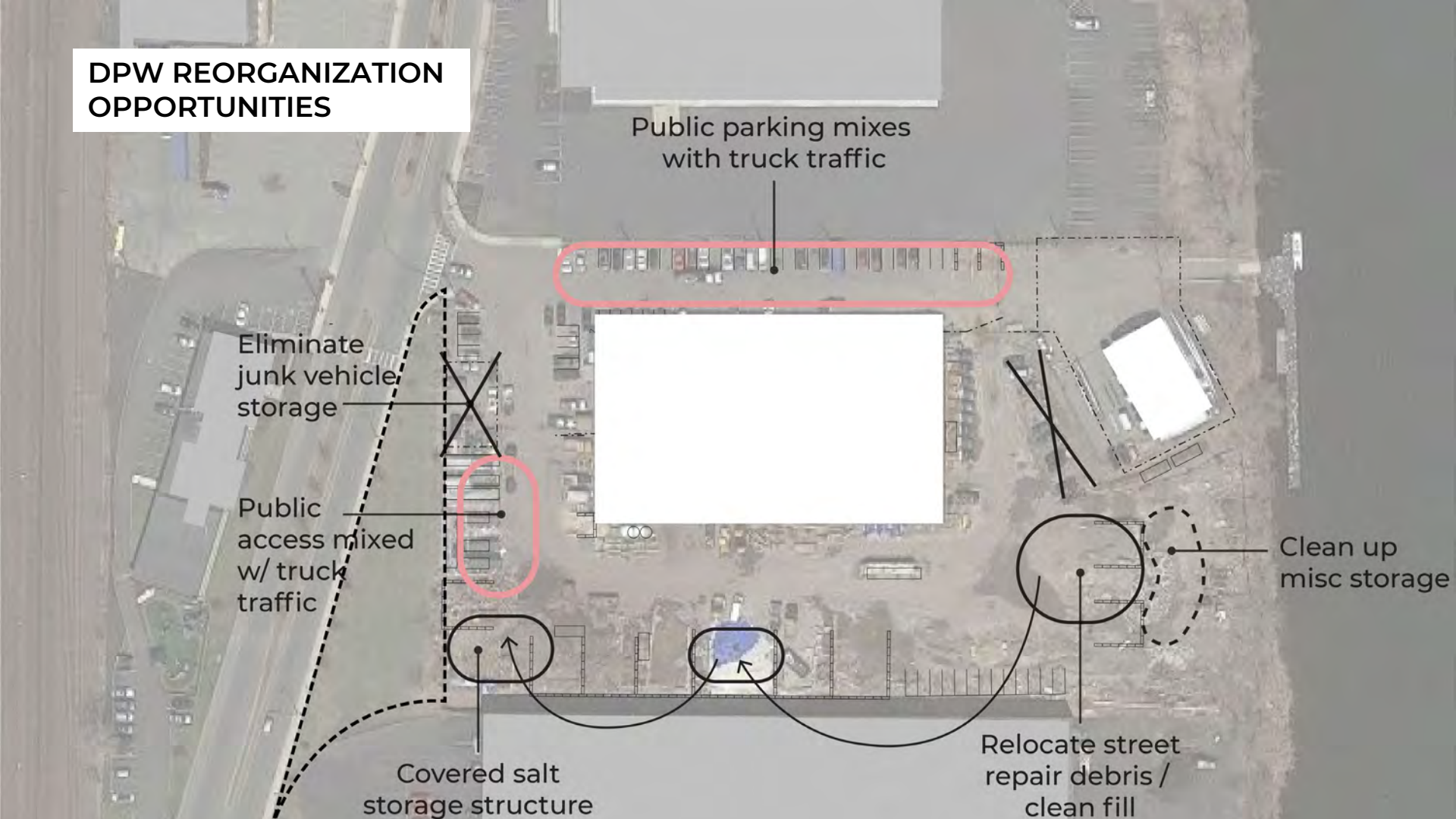
Eliminate junk vehicle storage

Public access mixed w/ truck traffic

Clean up misc storage

Covered salt storage structure

Relocate street repair debris / clean fill



**NEW TRAFFIC
STRATEGY + UTILIZE
'WEDGE' PARCEL**

Trucks

Public
Access /
Employees

New curb
cut



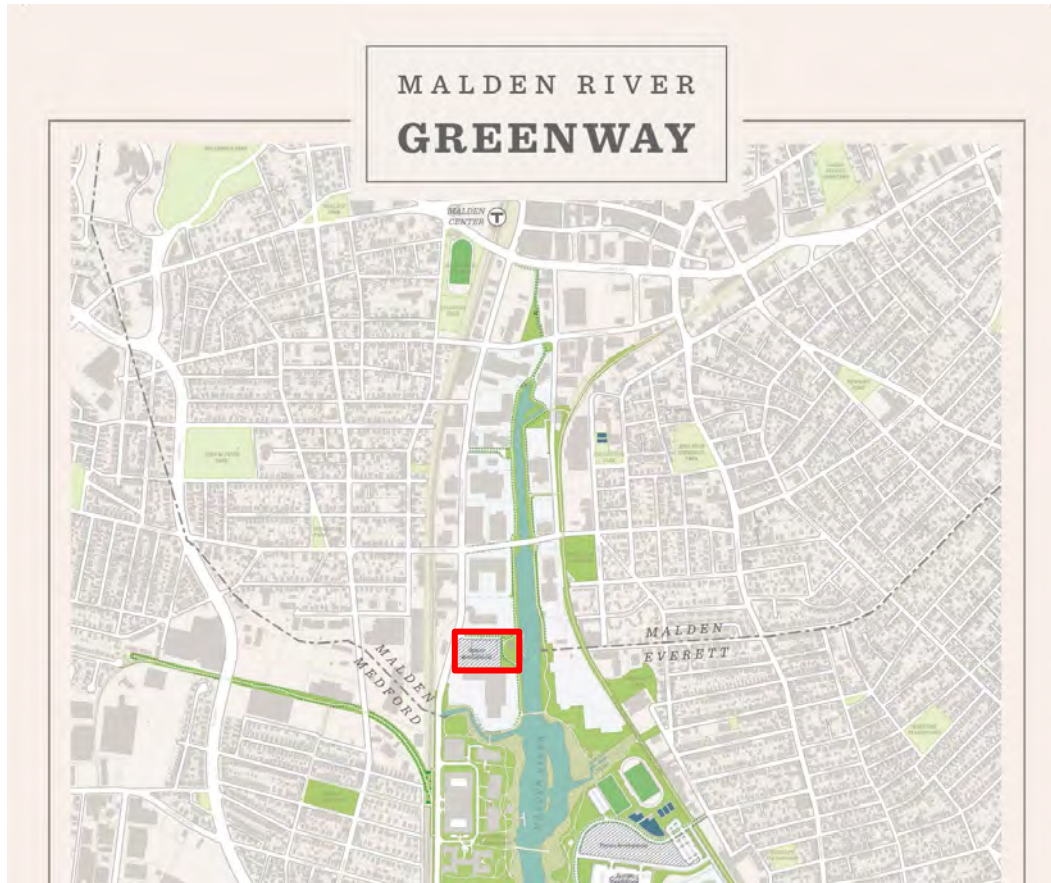
GREEN STORM WATER INFRASTRUCTURE – Swales and Retention Basins

Using natural processes (with plants and soils instead of pipes) to slow storm water runoff and treat pollutants before they enter waterways. Swales (left) convey and treat water, and basins (right) hold and treat water.

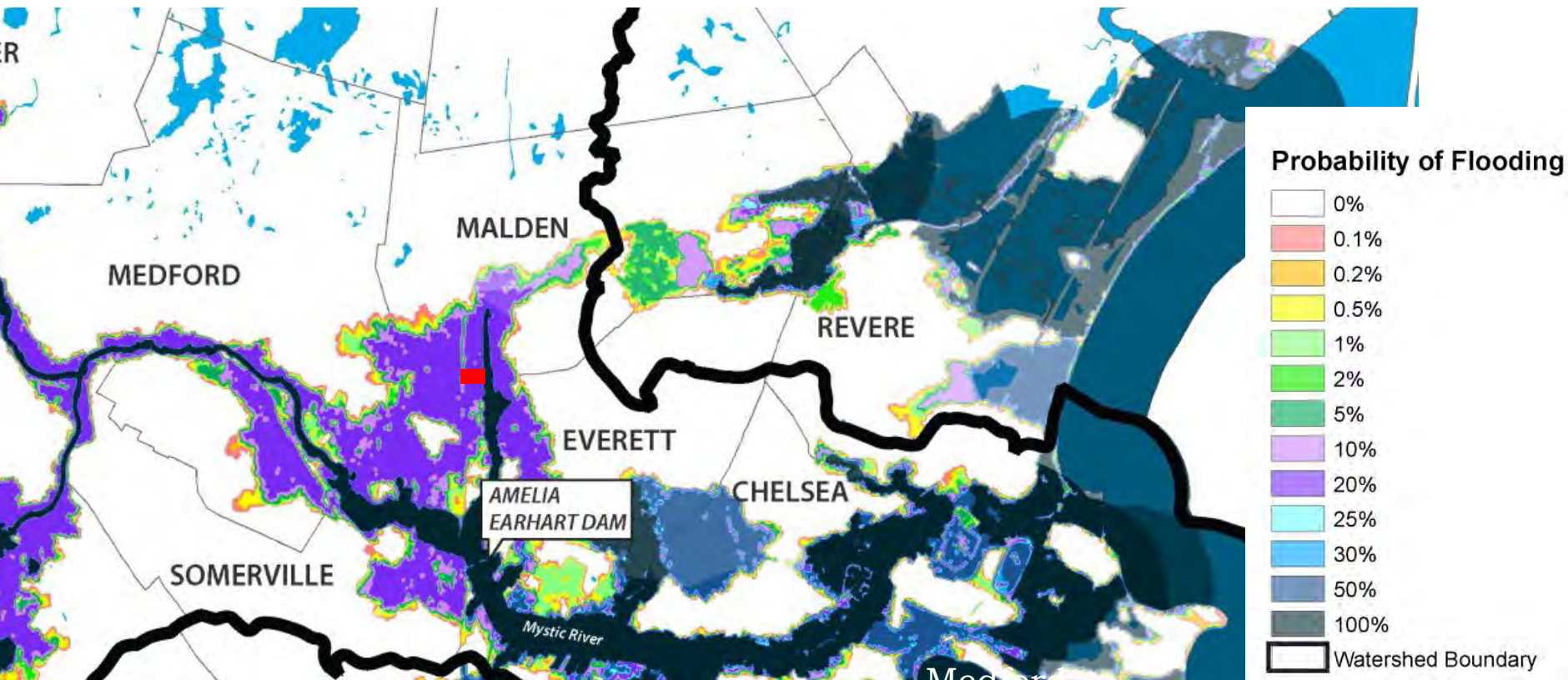


Left: Swale (Source: Watershed Council); Right: retention basin (Corktown Common, Toronto)

MALDEN RIVER GREENWAY PLAN



CLIMATE RESILIENCE - FLOODING



FLOOD RESILIENT GREENWAY

The Malden River Greenway path along the river can be built on a slight berm so it doubles as a flood barrier



Hunter's Point South (NYC) bermed walkways

NEW SITE FRAMEWORK

New bike / pedestrian access from commercial st

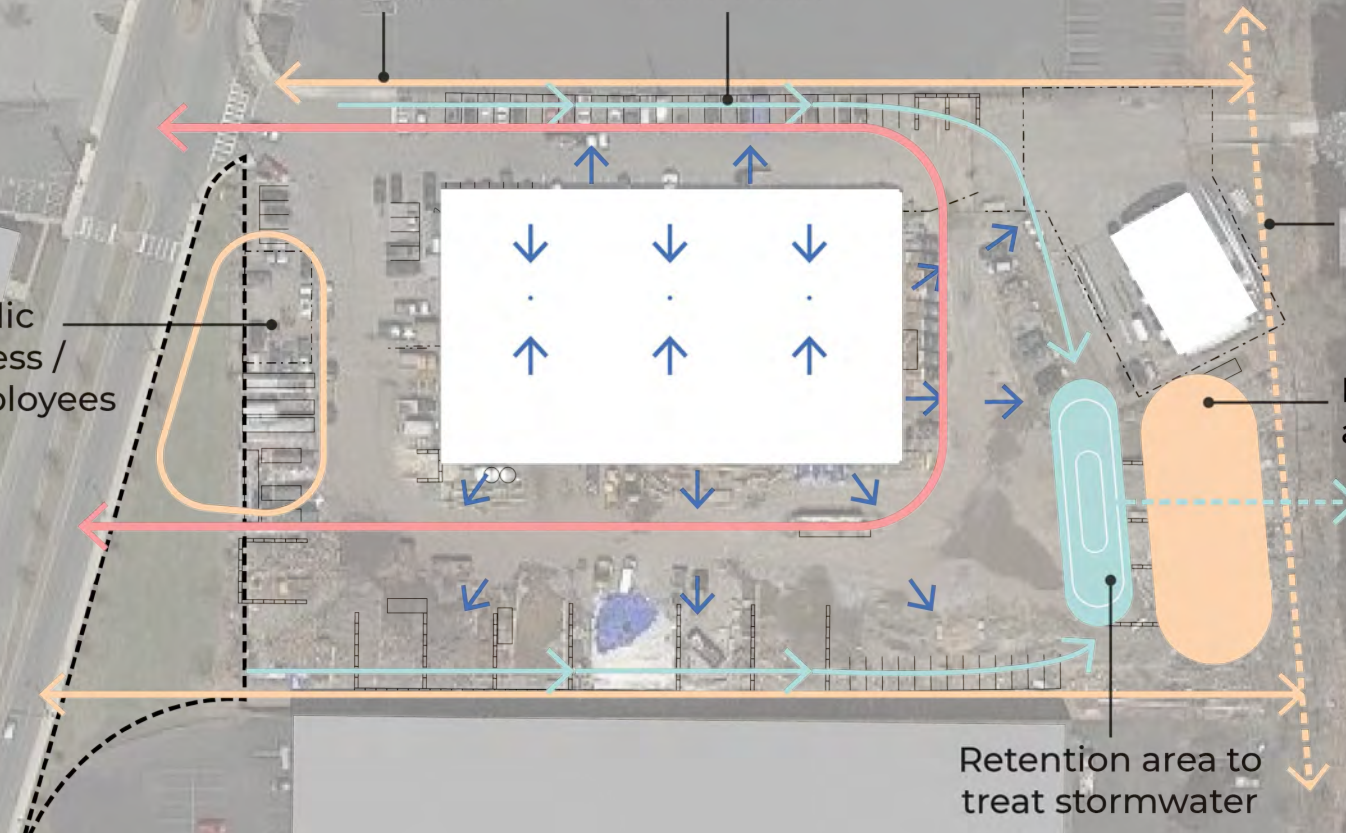
Swale to convey stormwater

Public Access / Employees

Flood resilient greenway

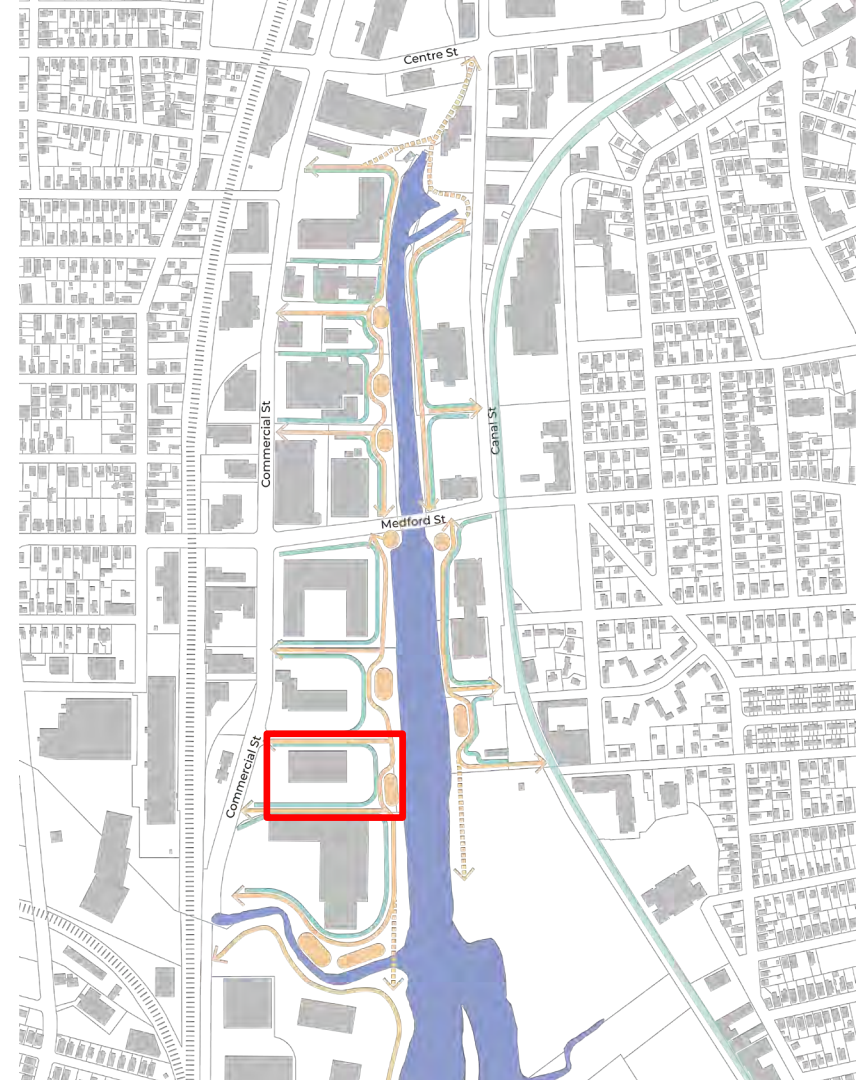
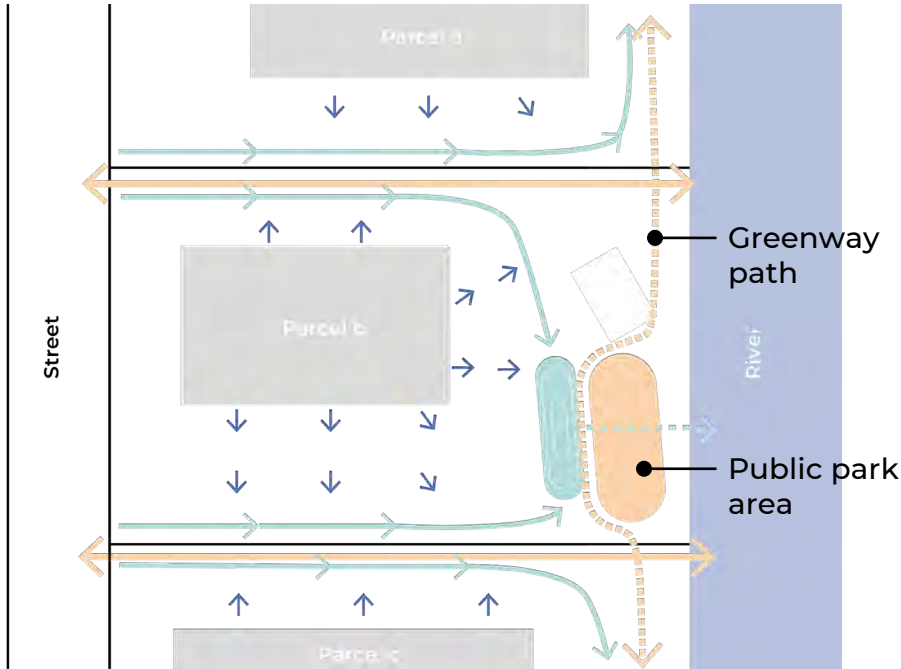
Public amenity

Retention area to treat stormwater



RESILIENT MALDEN RIVER GREENWAY

This site framework can be applied to most parcels along the river, creating **a system of small parks connected by the Malden River Greenway**



WAYFINDING & INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

History and storytelling through signage



In 1983, the federal and state governments discovered the dioxin in Newark, and began working on the cleanup.

What are you doing?

Vacuuming the sidewalk.

But why are you dressed like that?

IRON-BOUND

CL

CL

CL

CL

DIOXIN'S CHEMICAL STRUCTURE

SITE FRAMEWORK PLAN

Park signage at Commercial St

Public pathway
DPW Parking
Swale
Interpretive signage & lighting

Public Dock
Crew Teams Dock

Parking
(Public + DPW employees)

Existing DPW Building

New Boat House

Malden River Greenway

Materials storage

Retention basin

Retention basin

Public amenity area

COMMERCIAL STREET

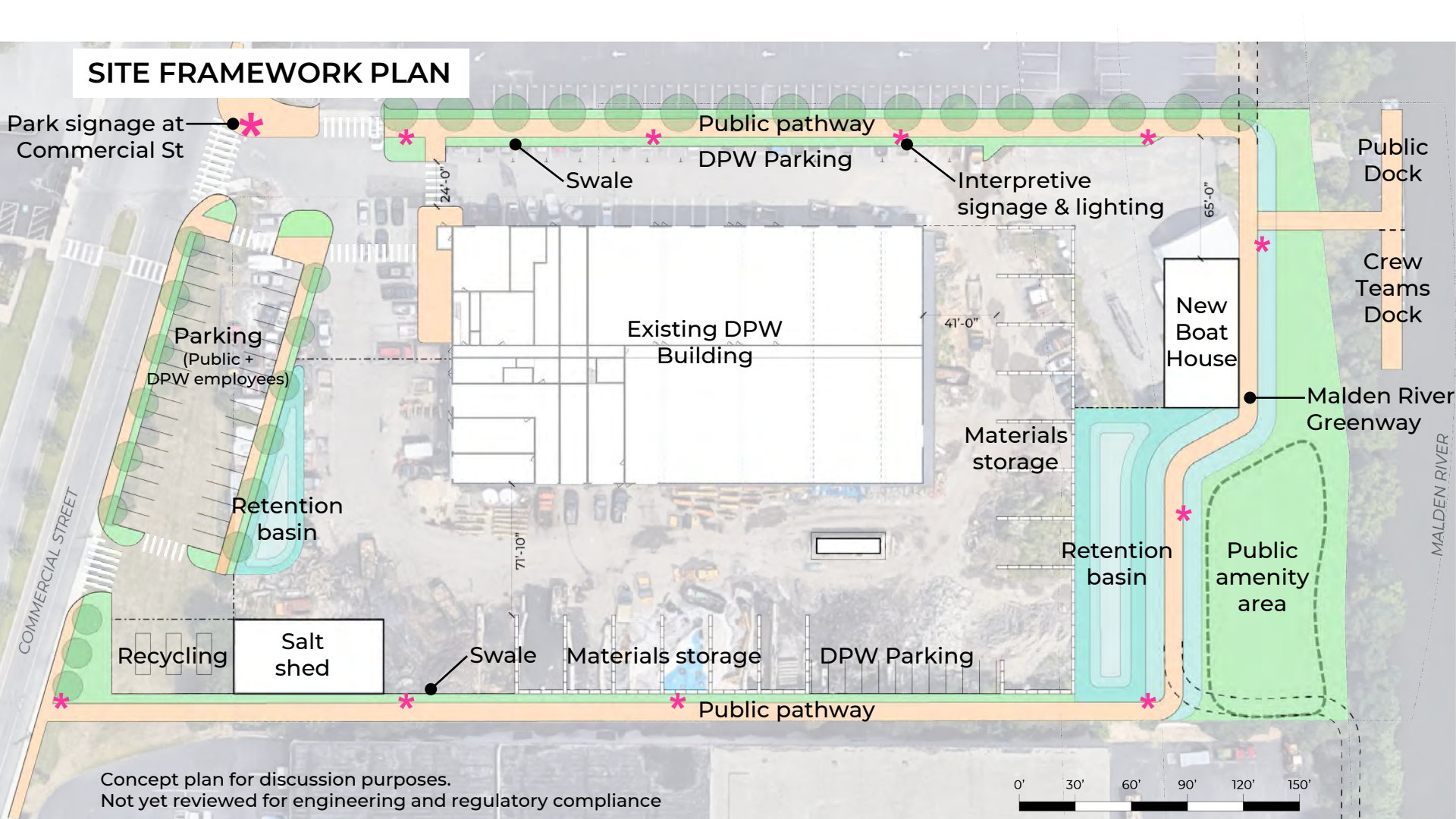
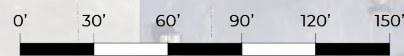
MALDEN RIVER

Recycling
Salt shed

Swale
Materials storage
DPW Parking

Public pathway

Concept plan for discussion purposes.
Not yet reviewed for engineering and regulatory compliance



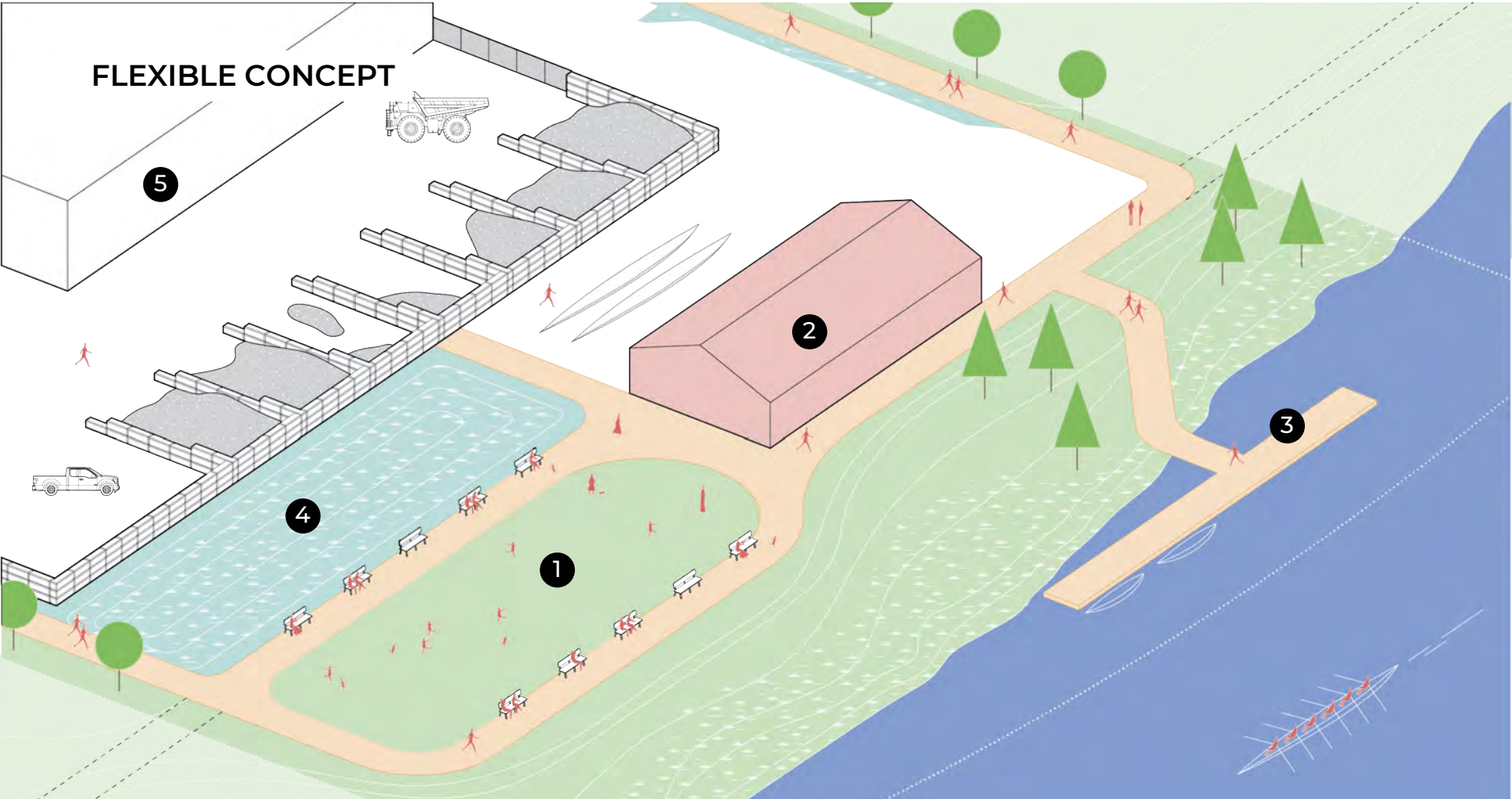
3 Initial Concepts

Flexible

River View

Enjoy Nature

FLEXIBLE CONCEPT



1 - Open Lawn | 2 - New Boat House | 3 - New Dock | 4 - Storm Water Landscape Area | 5 - Existing DPW Building

FLEXIBLE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Open lawn for play



Newark Riverfront Park, NJ

FLEXIBLE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Open lawn for special events



Source: rentaldepotonline.com

FLEXIBLE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Open lawn for group exercise



Source: flickr

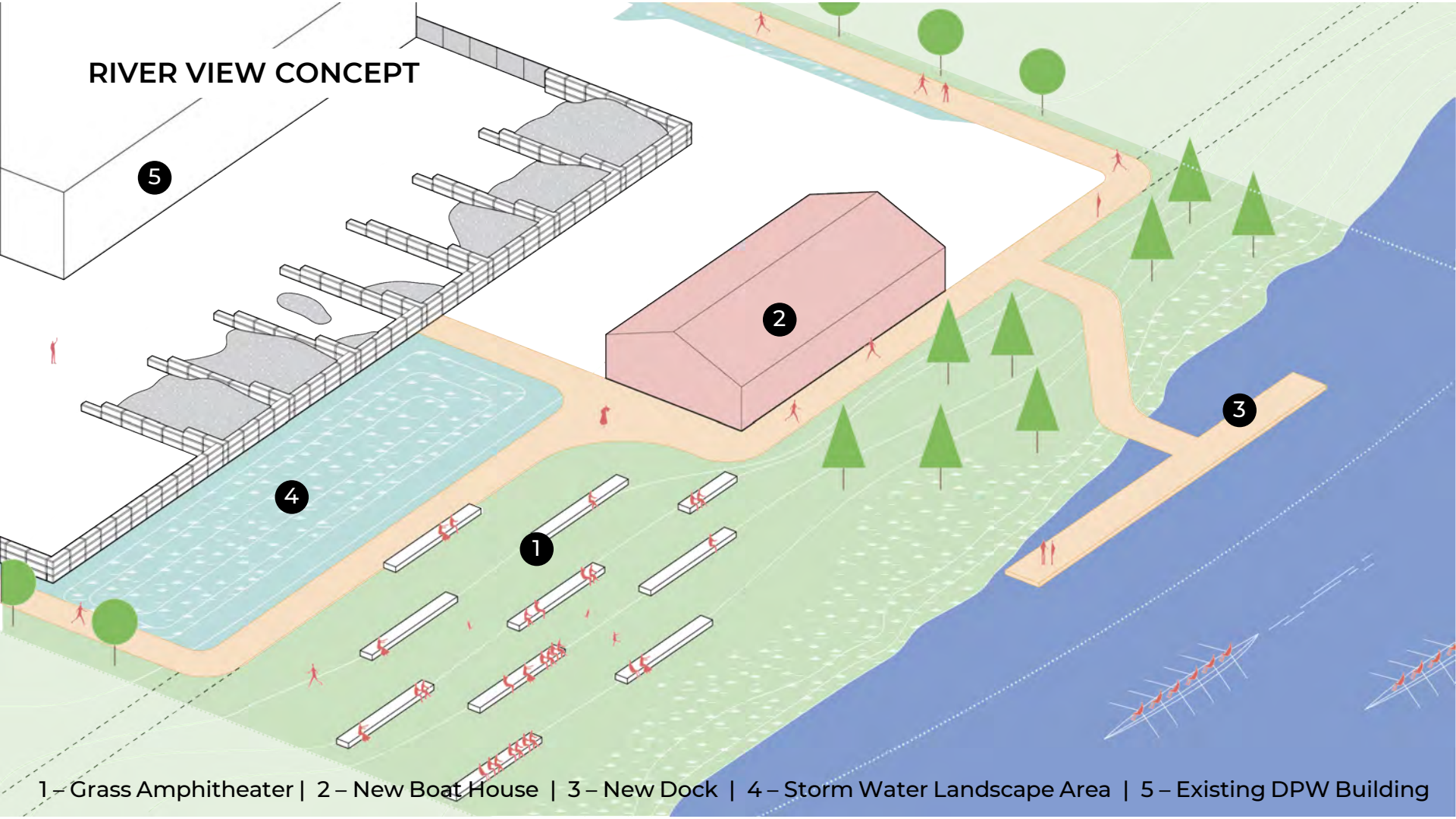
FLEXIBLE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Open lawn for relaxing and picnics



Brooklyn Bridge Park, NY

RIVER VIEW CONCEPT



1 - Grass Amphitheater | 2 - New Boat House | 3 - New Dock | 4 - Storm Water Landscape Area | 5 - Existing DPW Building

RIVER VIEW CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Grass amphitheater



Swarthmore College, PA

RIVER VIEW CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Grass amphitheater



PORT Park, Chelsea MA

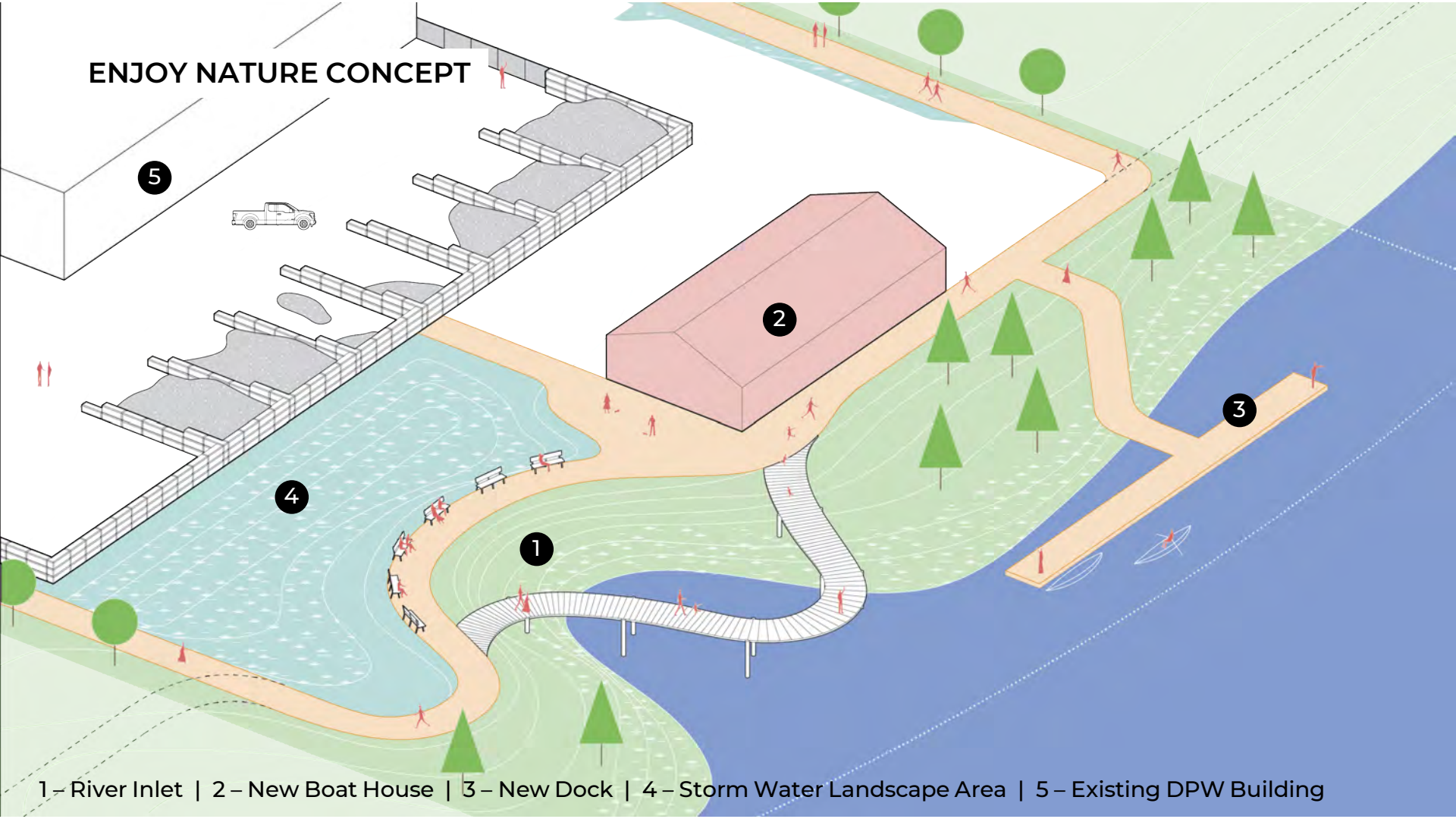
RIVER VIEW CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Amphitheater seating and lawn



Assembly Row, Somerville MA

ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT



1 – River Inlet | 2 – New Boat House | 3 – New Dock | 4 – Storm Water Landscape Area | 5 – Existing DPW Building

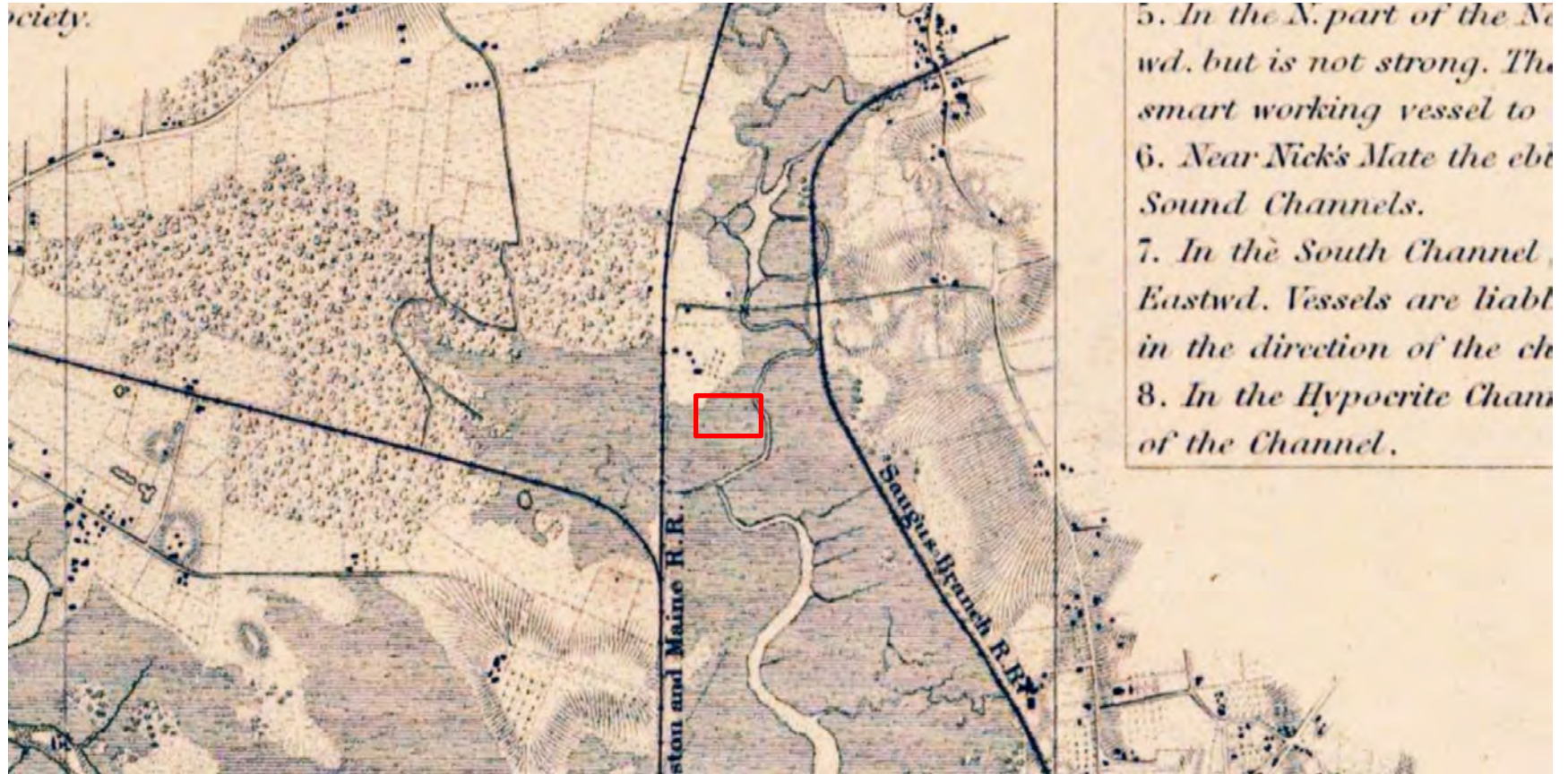
ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT

'Room for the river' – the Malden river TODAY



ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT

'Room for the river' – the Malden River in 1878



ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Wetland area boardwalk trail



West Stockbridge, MA

ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Walking trail



River's Edge, Medford MA

ENJOY NATURE CONCEPT – BRAINSTORMING EXAMPLES

Benches along a pathway




Queen Elizabeth Park, London

Questions before we start Table Activities?


Table Activity

MALDEN RIVER WORKS
FOR WATERFRONT EQUITY + RESILIENCE


Flexible




1. Lawn | 2. Boat House | 3. Boat Dock | 4. Bioswale | 5. DPW Main Building




Enjoy Nature




1. River Inlet | 2. Boat House | 3. Boat Dock | 4. Bioswale | 5. DPW Main Building



River View



1. Grass Amphitheater | 2. Boat House | 3. Boat Dock | 4. Bioswale | 5. DPW Main Building



+



Table Activity

1. What do you see that you like the most?

Write down one word on a **blue** post-it, and stick on the poster.
Then share with the group.

2. What would you like to see that is missing?

Write down one word on a **pink** post-it, and stick on the poster.
Then share with the group.