The Mystic River Greenway

City of Medford
November 30, 2006
MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning
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
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
Selected Interventions: Auburn Street to Winthrop Street

- Formalize path, signage
- Diversify landscape and reduce maintenance
- Riverbank restoration and views
- 1-2 neighborhood uses
Selected Interventions: Auburn Street to Winthrop Street

- Formalize path, signage
- Diversify landscape and reduce maintenance
- Riverbank restoration and views
- 1-2 neighborhood uses
Selected Interventions: Auburn Street to Winthrop Street

- Formalize path, signage
- Diversify landscape and reduce maintenance
- Riverbank restoration and views
- 1-2 neighborhood uses
Selected Interventions: Auburn Street to Winthrop Street

- Formalize path, signage
- Diversify landscape and reduce maintenance
- Riverbank restoration and views
- 1-2 neighborhood uses
Selected Interventions: Winthrop St to Medford Square
Selected Interventions: Winthrop St to Medford Square

- Maintain pathway
- Wetlands
- Parking lot and canoe launch
- Alleys
- Views and signs
- Neighborhood use
Selected Interventions: Winthrop St to Medford Square

- Maintain pathway
- Wetlands
- Parking lot and canoe launch
- Alleys
- Views and signs
- Neighborhood use
Selected Interventions:
Winthrop St to Medford Square

- Maintain pathway
- Wetlands
- Parking lot and canoe launch
- Alleys
- Views and signs
- Neighborhood use
Selected Interventions: Winthrop St to Medford Square

- Maintain pathway
- Wetlands
- Parking lot and canoe launch
- Alleys
- Views and signs
- Neighborhood use
Selected Interventions: Winthrop St to Medford Square

- Maintain pathway
- Wetlands
- Parking lot and canoe launch
- Alleys
- Views and signs
- Neighborhood use
Selected Interventions: Winthrop St to Medford Square

- Maintain pathway
- Wetlands
- Parking lot and canoe launch
- Alleys
- Views and signs
- Neighborhood use
Selected Interventions:
Clippership Drive
Selected Interventions: Clippership Drive

- 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
Selected Interventions: I-93 and the Yacht Club

- Short-term route
- Long-term route
Selected Interventions: I-93 and the Yacht Club

- Short-term route
- Long-term route
Selected Interventions: I-93 and the Yacht Club

- Short-term route
- Long-term route
Selected Interventions: I-93 and the Yacht Club

- Short-term route
- Long-term route
Selected Interventions: I-93 and the Yacht Club

- Short-term route
- Long-term route
Selected Interventions: I-93 and the Yacht Club

- Short-term route
- Long-term route
Selected Interventions: Riverbend Park
Selected Interventions: Riverbend Park

- Improve signage and wayfinding
Selected Interventions: Mystic River Reservation
Selected Interventions: Mystic River Reservation

- Improve signage and wayfinding
- Reduce lawn maintenance
- Restore dock
- Enhance views
Selected Interventions: Mystic River Reservation

- Improve signage and wayfinding
- Reduce lawn maintenance
- Restore dock
- Enhance views
Selected Interventions:
Mystic River Reservation

- Improve signage and wayfinding
- Reduce lawn maintenance
- Restore dock
- Enhance views
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