



MATTAHUNT WOODS URBAN WILD RESTORATION PROJECT

Community Open House #2
September 13, 2023

ZOOM TIPS - INTERPRETATION

Spanish and Haitian Creole interpretation is available for this meeting. Please select your preferred language option at the bottom of the screen by clicking on the globe symbol. Click “Mute Original Audio to silence other languages.”

NOTE: EVERYONE MUST SELECT A LANGUAGE. REMEMBER TO SPEAK SLOWLY!

Se dispone de interpretación en español y criollo haitiano para esta reunión. Seleccione la opción de idioma de preferencia en la parte inferior de la pantalla haciendo clic en el símbolo del globo terráqueo. Haga clic en “Silenciar audio original para silenciar otros idiomas”.

NOTA: TODOS DEBEN SELECCIONAR UN IDIOMA. ¡RECUERDE HABLAR LENTAMENTE!

Entèpretasyon va disponib pou lang panyòl ak kreyòl ayisyen nan reyinyon sa a. Tanpri chwazi opsyon lang prefere w pa anba ekran an pandan w ap klike sou senbòl (an ron) glòb la. Klike sou "Mute Original Audio" (Fèmen odyo lang orijinal yo) pou w pa tande lòt lang yo."

SONJE: TOUT MOUN DWE CHWAZI YON LANG. SONJE POU PALE TOU DOUSMAN!



ZOOM TIPS - MEETING PARTICIPATION

Here are some tips on using Zoom for first-time users. Your controls are at the bottom of the screen:



Participants will be muted during the presentation.

The host will unmute you during the discussion if you raise your hand and it is your turn to talk.



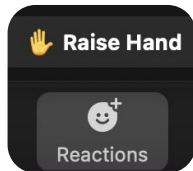
Click the video button to turn your video on/off.

If you experience connectivity or bandwidth issues, turning off your video can help.



Use the chat to type a comment or ask a question at any time.

Members of the Project Team will moderate the chat.



To raise your hand, click on “Reactions” at the bottom of your screen, and then choose “Raise Hand.”

Use *9 to raise your hand via phone.

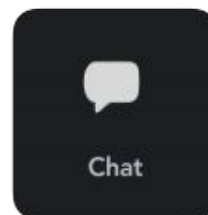
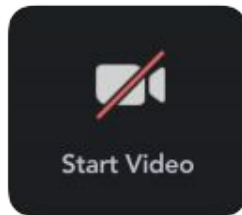
ZOOM TIPS - MEETING RECORDING

At the request of community members, this event will be recorded and posted on the project webpage for those who are unable to attend the Zoom event live:

boston.gov/improvements-mattahunt-woods

If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.

If your camera and microphone are off, you can still participate through the text chat feature.



MEETING AGENDA

- **Introductions**
- **Project Background and Timeline**
- **Community Engagement Summary**
- **Announcements**
- **Updated Project Design**
- **Discussion and Feedback**
- **Next Steps**



A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and branches. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

INTRODUCTIONS

PROJECT TEAM - CITY STAFF



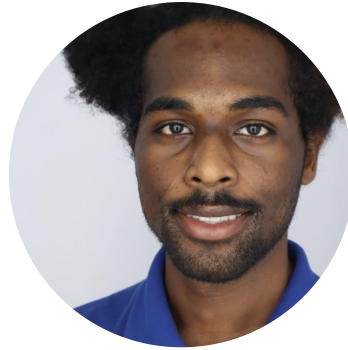
Cat McCandless

*Climate Resilience
Project Manager*



Elena Itameri

*Conservation Commission
Executive Director*



Christopher Edwards

*Conservation
Commission Fellow*



Paul Sutton

*Urban Wilds
Program Manager*



Nick Long

*Urban Wilds
Foreman*



City of Boston
Environment



City of Boston
Parks and Recreation

PROJECT TEAM - CROWLEY COTTRELL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Michelle Crowley

*Principal
Crowley Cottrell*



**Jean-Paul
Charboneau**

*Associate
Crowley Cottrell*



Anna Curtis-Heald

*Designer
Crowley Cottrell*



CROWLEY COTTRELL

Landscape Architecture

COORDINATION WITH OTHER CITY OF BOSTON DEPARTMENTS



Neighborhood Services



Schools



*Planning and
Development Agency*



*Boston Centers for
Youth and Families*



*Water and
Sewer Commission*

AGE+


Age Strong



Housing



Disabilities Commission

A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and covered with fallen leaves and branches, leading into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The text 'PROJECT BACKGROUND AND TIMELINE' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

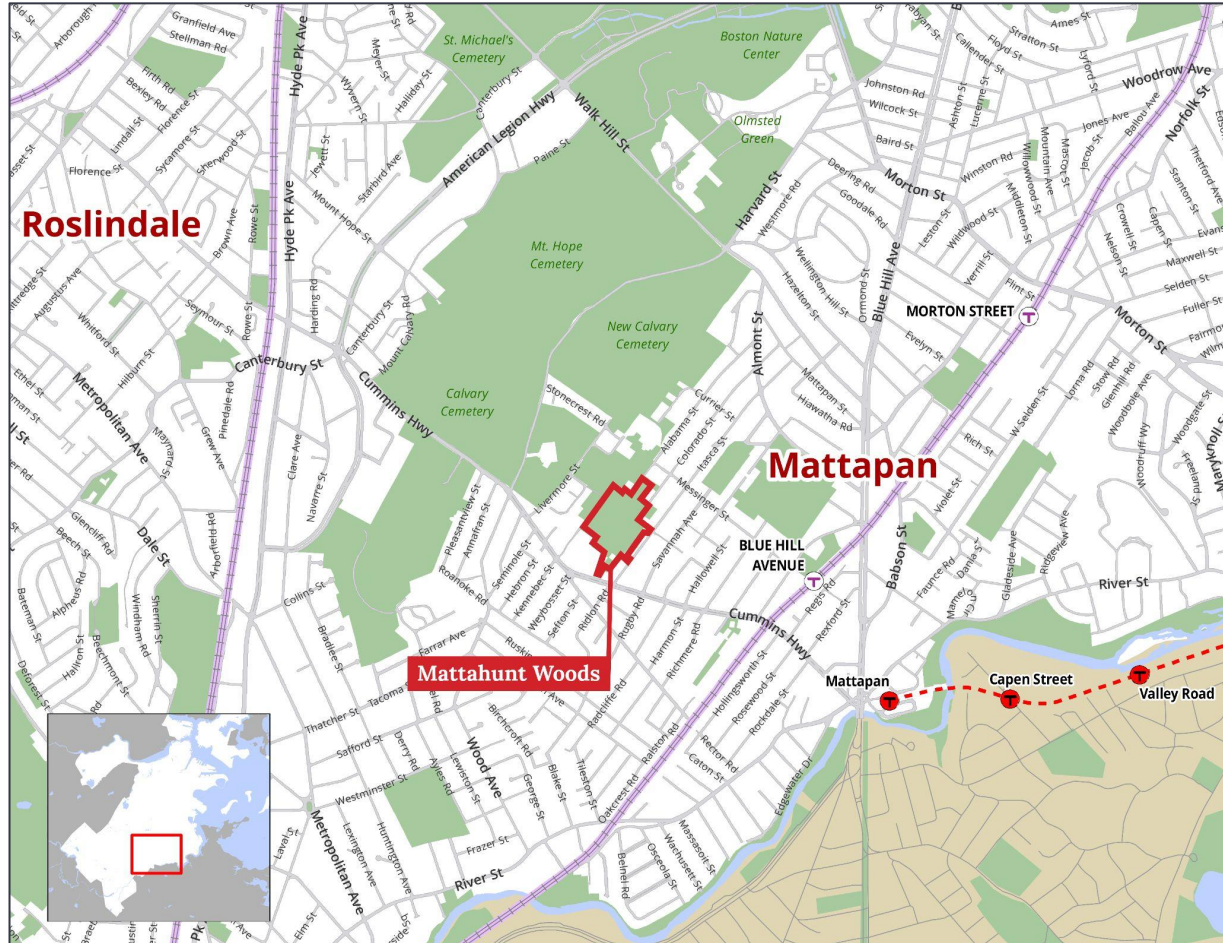
PROJECT BACKGROUND AND TIMELINE

MATTAHUNT WOODS URBAN WILD

The Mattahunt Woods Urban Wild was **permanently protected** in 2008 through a citizen petition.

Mattahunt Woods is comprised of 8 ¼ acres of secluded forested wetlands in Mattapan.

Today, portions of Mattahunt Woods contain construction debris, automobile parts, and invasive plants, but there are still healthy plant communities and wetlands.



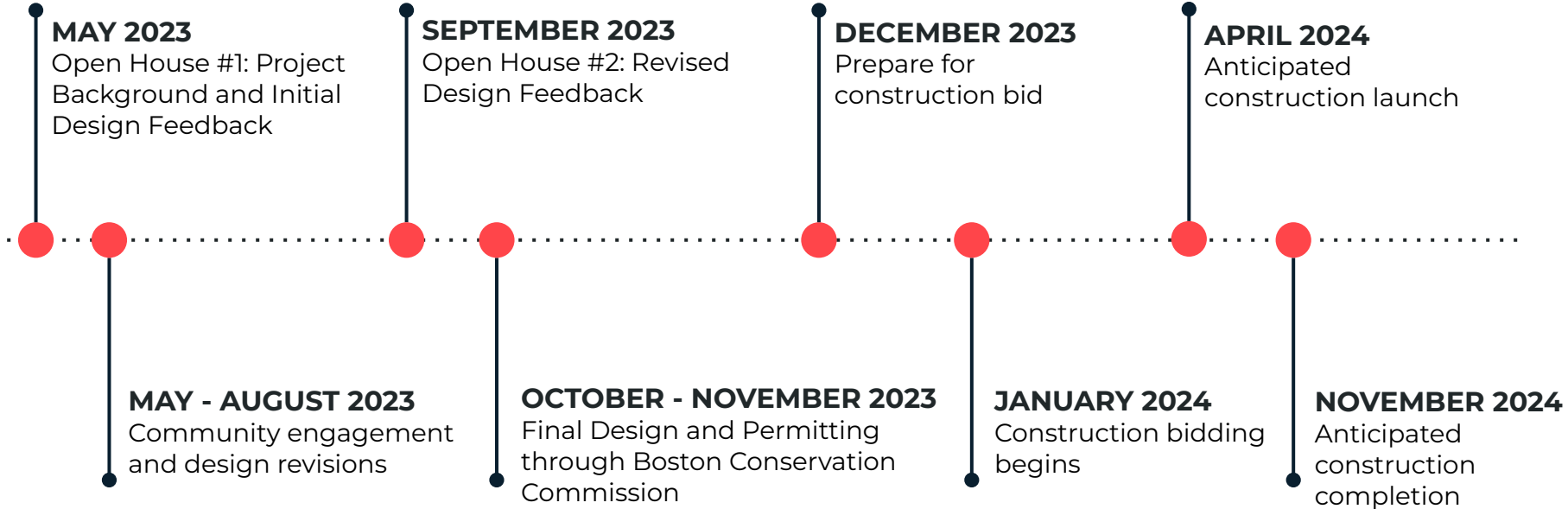
PROJECT GOALS

- Remove hazardous trees and invasive species
- Preserve and enhance on-site wetlands
- Create a trail system throughout the property
- Improve site access and wayfinding/signage
- Enhance the connection of the property to the nearby Mattahunt Elementary School



PROJECT TIMELINE

WE ARE HERE!



A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and covered with fallen leaves and branches, leading into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The text 'COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

- **Community Open House #1**
Tuesday, May 2
- **Virtual Office Hours**
Wednesday, May 10
- **Community Site Walk**
Saturday, May 20
- **Mayor Wu's Mattapan Coffee Hour**
Thursday, June 8



Project Team and residents during the May 20th site walk

WHAT DID WE HEAR: ECOSYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Remove invasive species so the property is navigable and **plant native vegetation** to support ecosystem health



WHAT DID WE HEAR: NEW ACCESSIBLE TRAILS

Build a new trail network consisting of boardwalks and pathways that **meet Forest Service Accessibility standards**

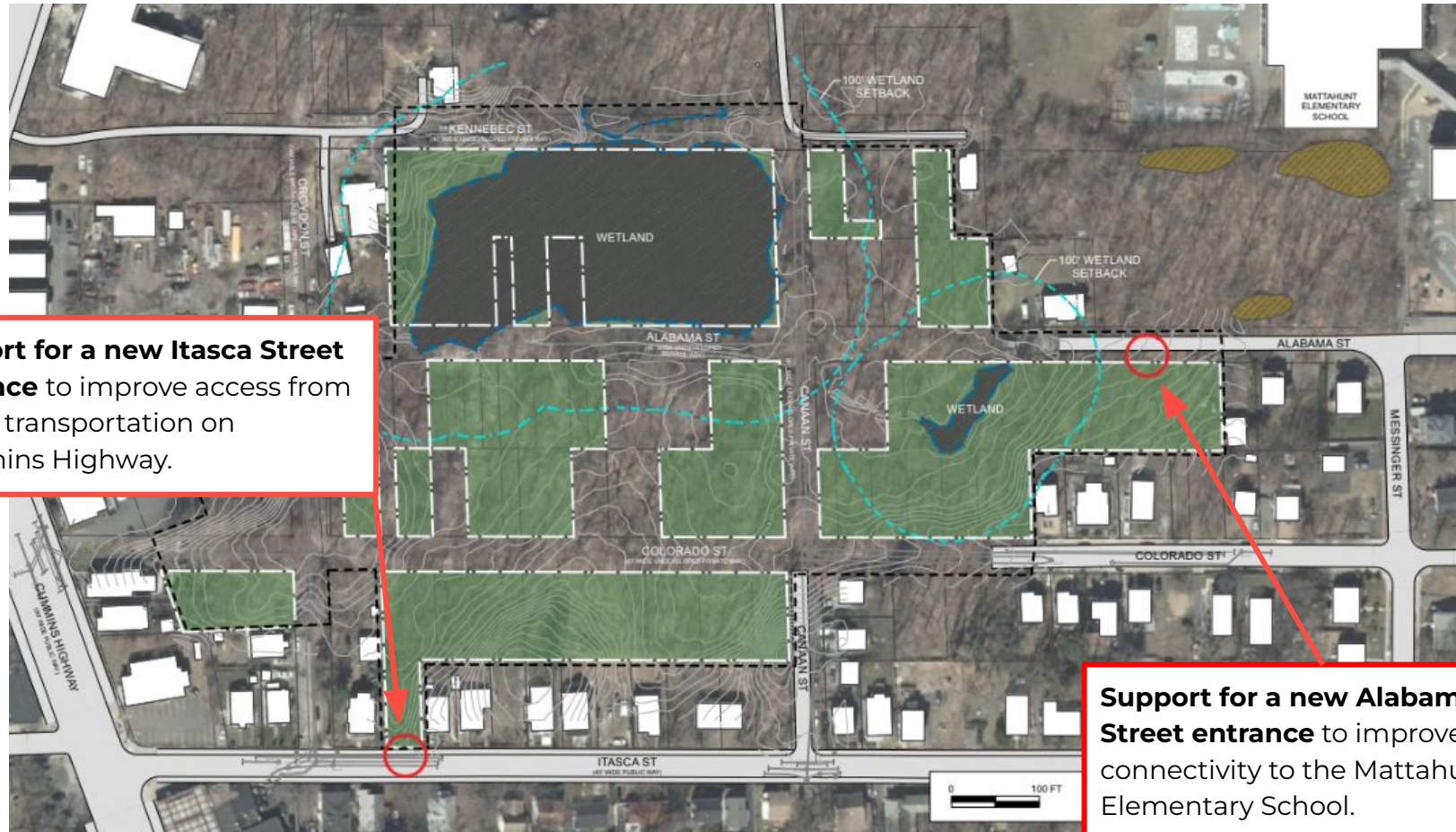


Gravel pathway in Allendale Woods Urban Wild



A wheelchair user explores the All Persons Trail at the Habitat Education Center in Belmont, MA
(Credit: MassAudubon)

WHAT DID WE HEAR: NEW ENTRANCES



Support for a new Itasca Street entrance to improve access from public transportation on Cummins Highway.

Support for a new Alabama Street entrance to improve connectivity to the Mattahunt Elementary School.

WHAT DID WE HEAR: ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS



Add benches at entrances and use bench materials that are durable (i.e. not wood) **but natural** (i.e. not metal); suggested using felled trees and benches with handles for persons with disabilities



Add bike racks at the Itasca Street entrance and Canaan Street West entrance to connect to PLAN: Mattapan's GreenLinks network



Evaluate existing lighting around the woods and **explore opportunities for solar-powered lights at certain entrances.**

WHAT DID WE HEAR: WAYFINDING AND EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

Include wayfinding and educational signage, such as site use rules, a trail map, a brief historical summary about the property, and information about wetlands and certain fauna and flora; use QR codes to access Spanish and Haitian Creole translations and more detailed information, and design signage for people of all ages and abilities



Example site rules sign at Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild



Example trail map at Sherrin Woods Urban Wild



Example wetlands education sign in Medfield, MA

A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and branches. The overall scene is serene and natural.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARCEL ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER



The Boston Conservation Commission is expected to vote at the **September 20th hearing** to accept the transfer of 6 parcels, consisting of 20,000 SF from the Mayor's Office of Housing to be preserved as part of Mattahunt Woods

SIGNAGE DESIGN PARTNERSHIP WITH BOSTON NATURE CENTER



A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and branches. The text "UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

MATTAHUNT WOODS URBAN WILD



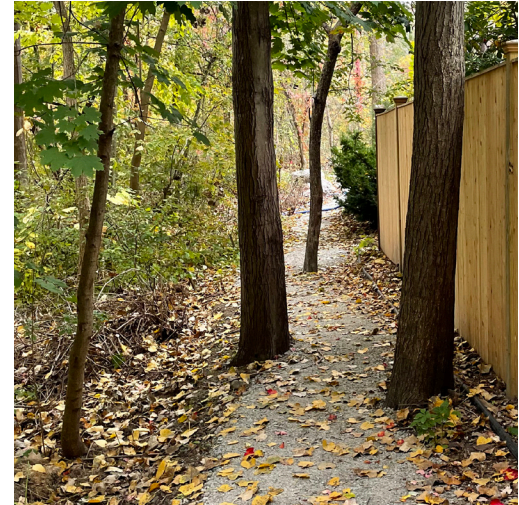
HOW DO YOU BUILD AN URBAN WILD?



1) Trail Design

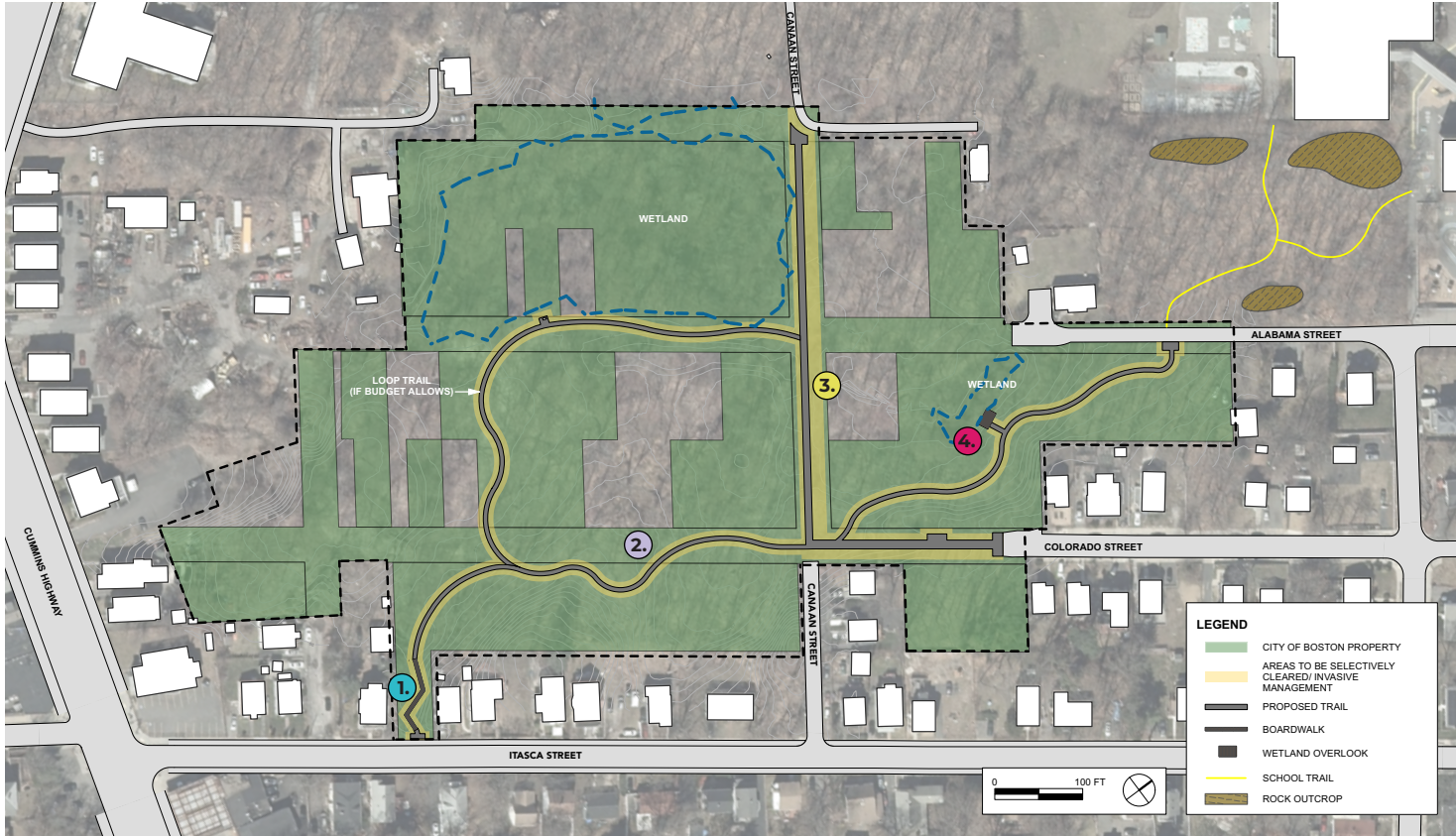


2) Layout Trails In the Field

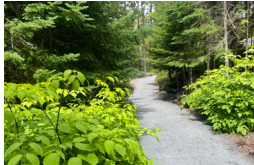


3) Adapt to Site Conditions

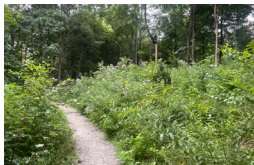
PROPOSED TRAIL DESIGN



1. Boardwalk



2. Trail through Woods

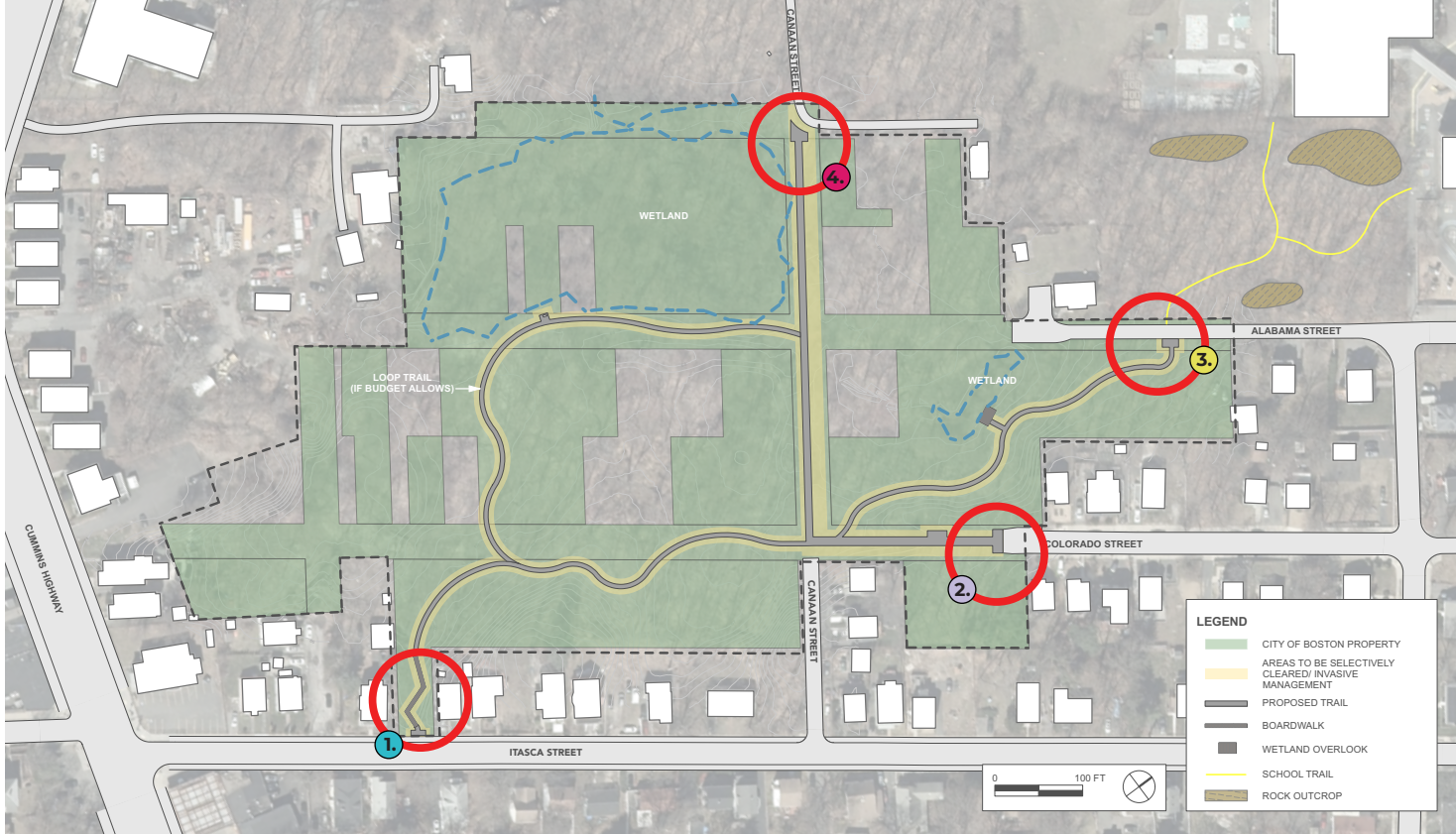


3. Improved Trail



4. Wetland Overlook

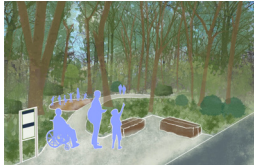
PROPOSED ENTRANCES



1. Itasca Street



2. Colorado Street

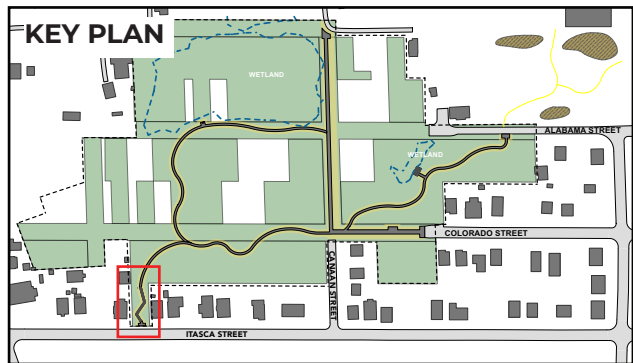


3. Alabama Street

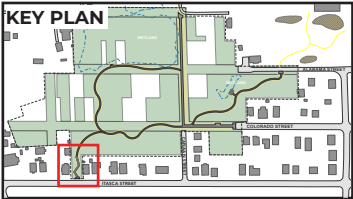


4. Canaan Street

ITASCA STREET ENTRY (EXISTING)



ITASCA STREET ENTRY



1. Bike Racks



2. Signage



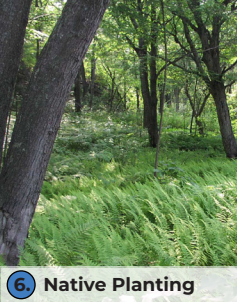
3. Property Fence



4. Wooden Boardwalk



5. Gravel Path

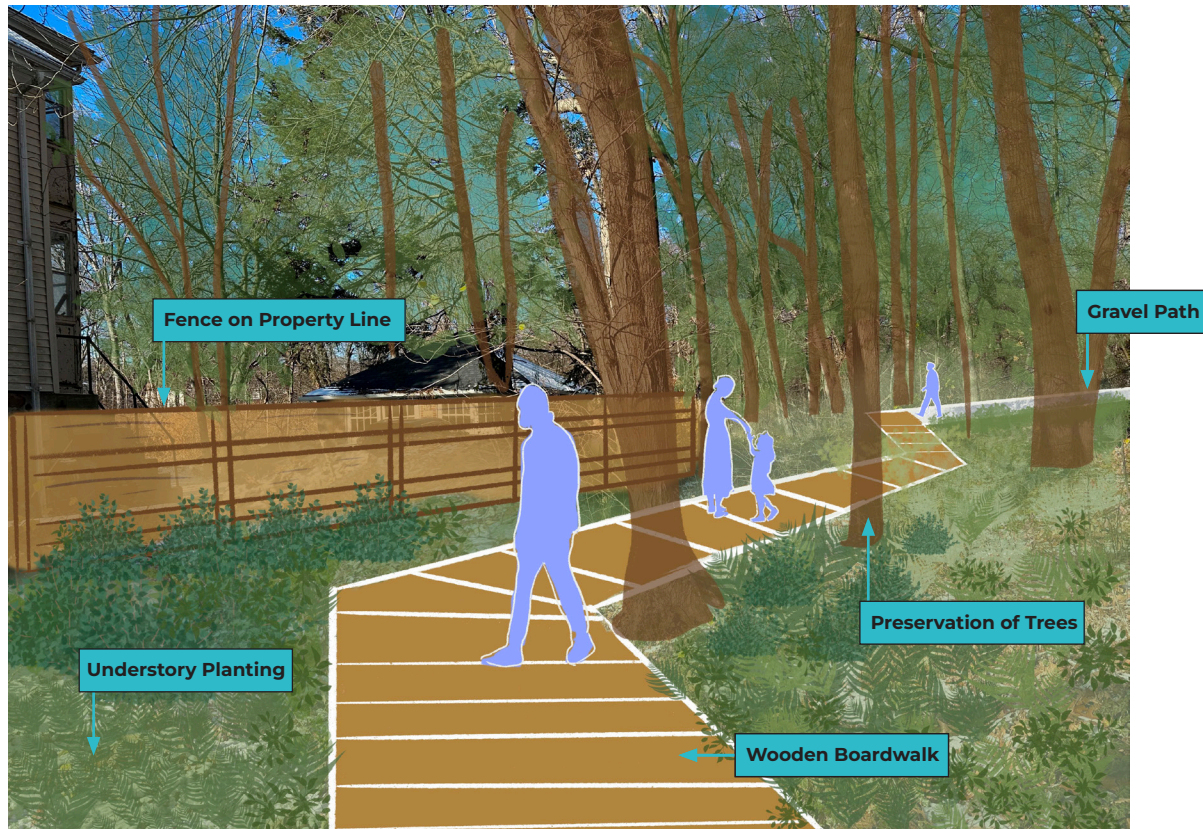


6. Native Planting

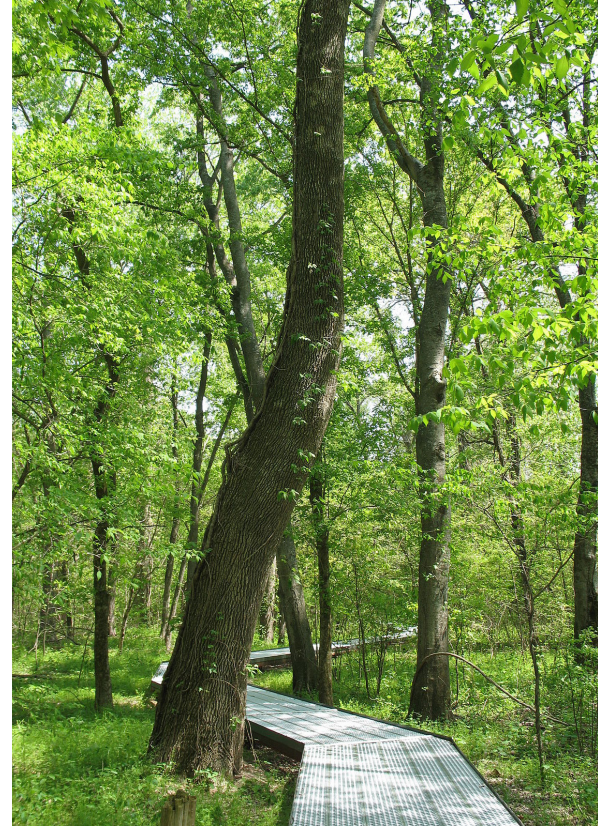
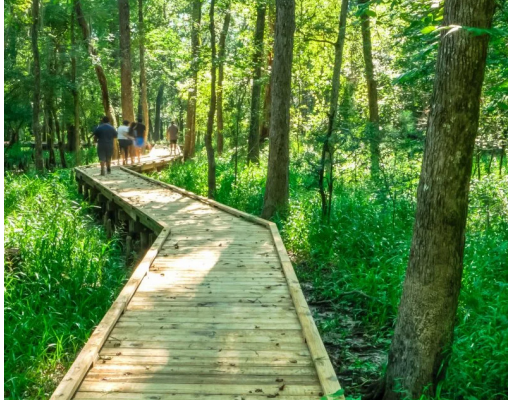
ITASCA STREET ENTRY - EXISTING VIEW



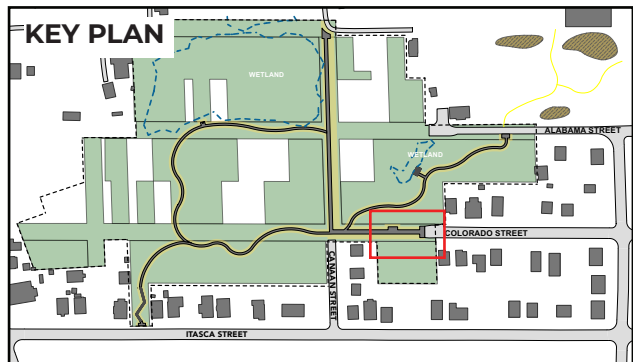
ITASCA STREET ENTRY - PROPOSED VIEW



ITASCA STREET ENTRY - CHARACTER INSPIRATION

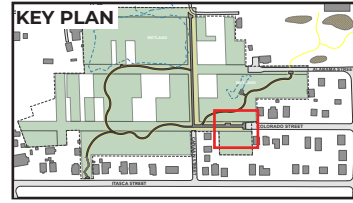
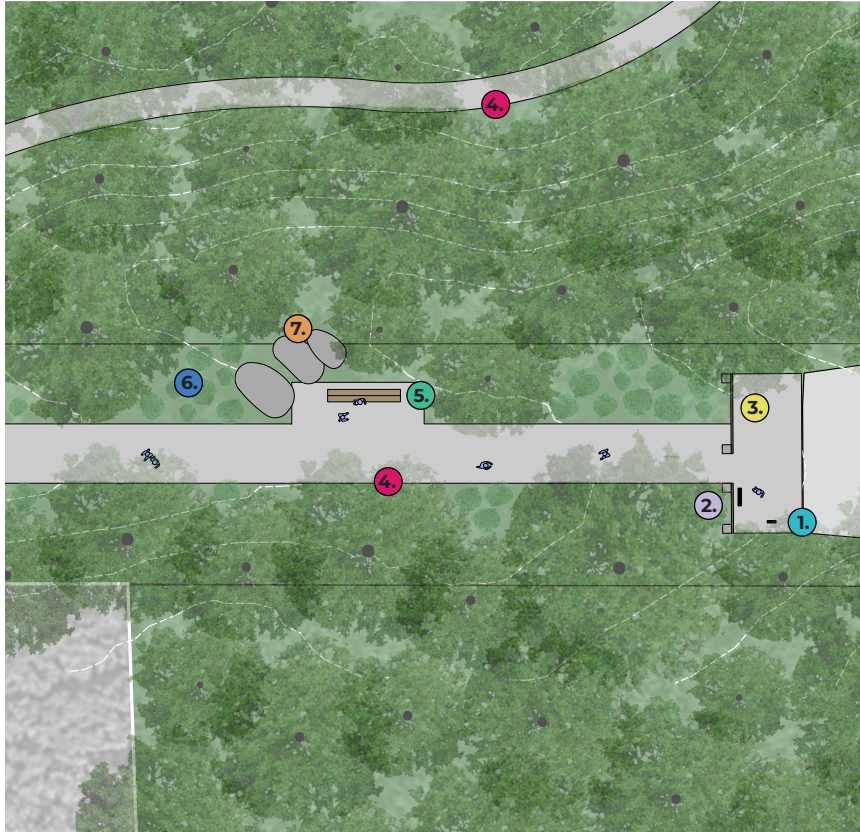


COLORADO STREET ENTRY (EXISTING)



View from the Urban Wild Looking Towards Colorado Street

COLORADO STREET ENTRY



1. Bike Rack



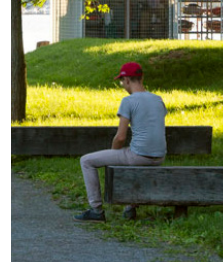
2. Signage



3. Wooden Gate



4. Gravel Path



5. Timber Bench



6. Native Flowering Shrubs

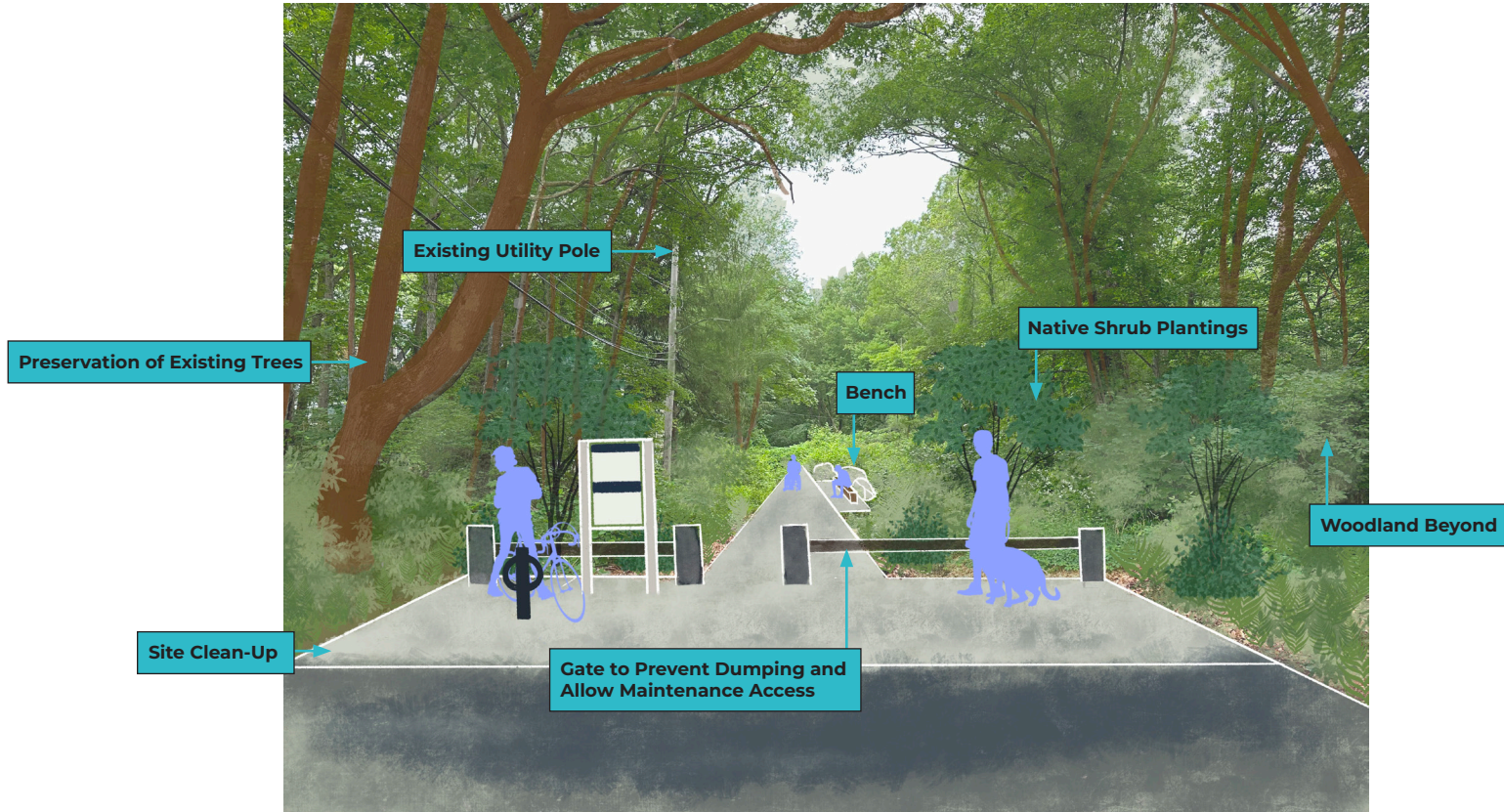


7. Existing Boulders to Remain

COLORADO STREET ENTRY (EXISTING)



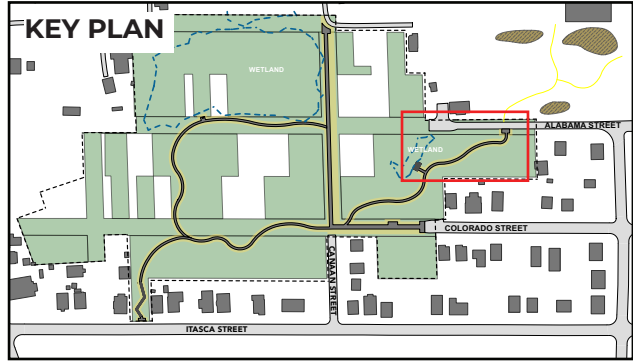
COLORADO STREET ENTRY (PROPOSED)



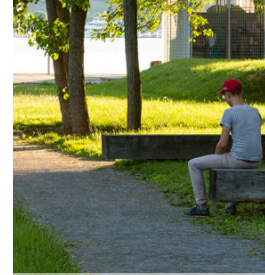
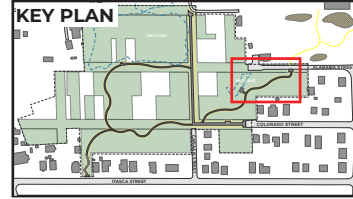
COLORADO STREET - CHARACTER INSPIRATION



ALABAMA STREET ENTRY (EXISTING)



ALABAMA STREET ENTRY



1. Timber Bench



2. Signage



3. Gravel Path



4. Cleared Understory for Nature Play

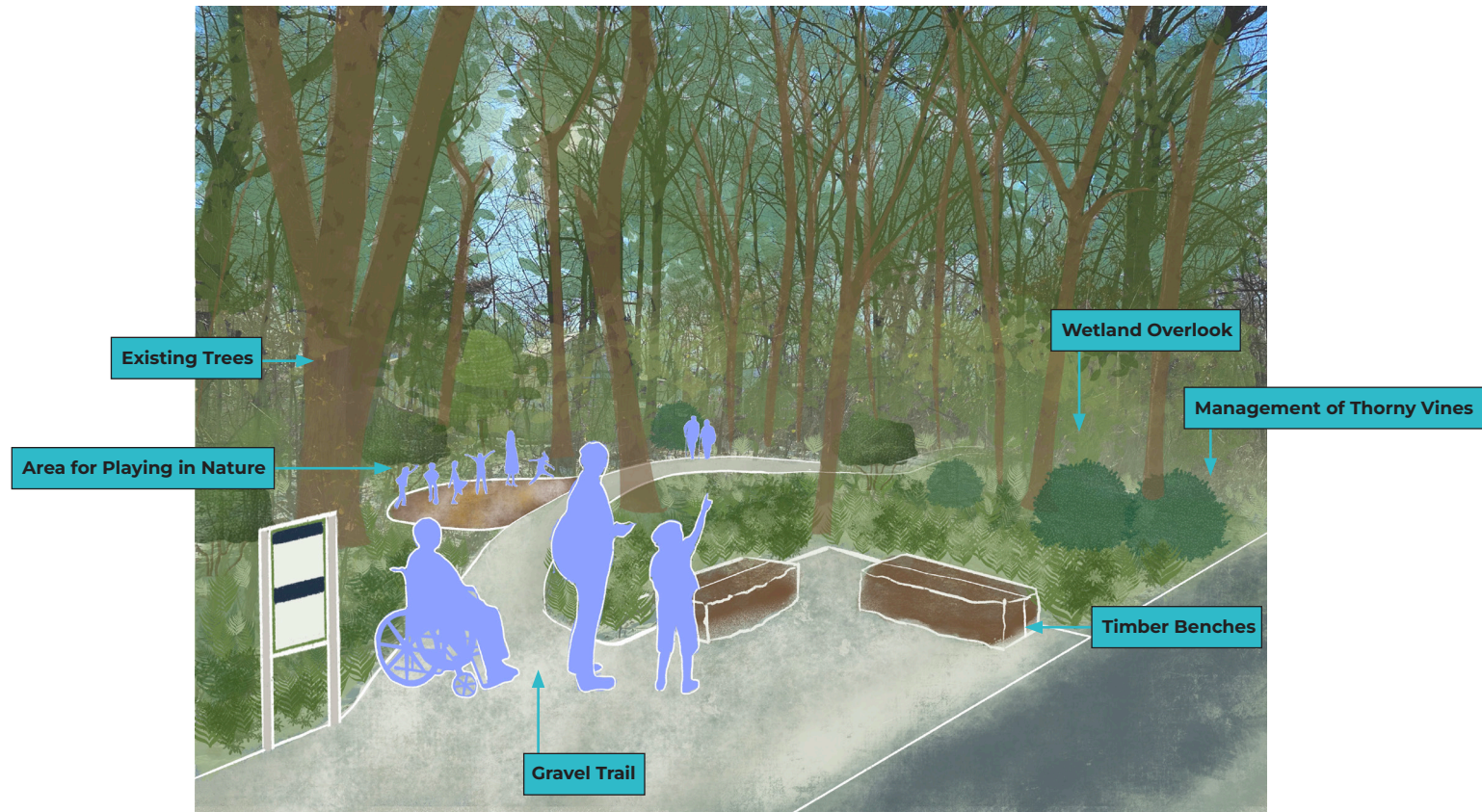


5. Wetland Overlook

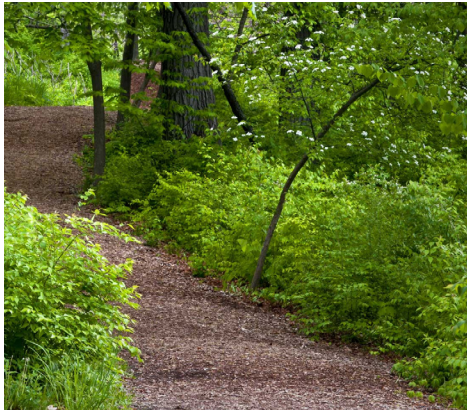
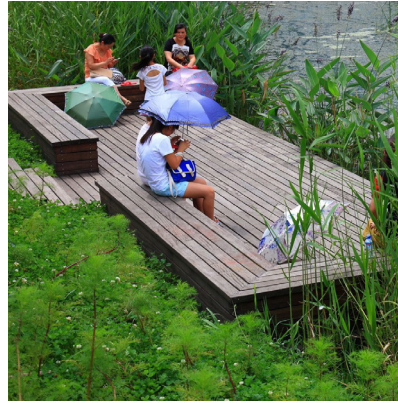
ALABAMA STREET ENTRY (EXISTING)



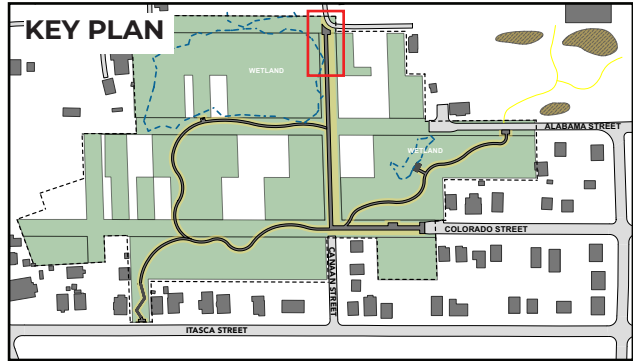
ALABAMA STREET ENTRY (PROPOSED)



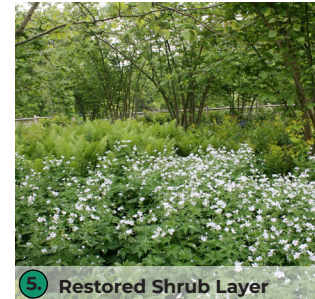
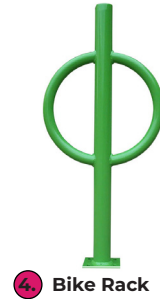
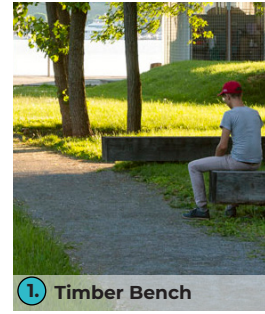
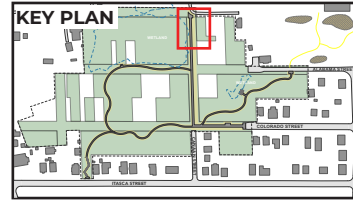
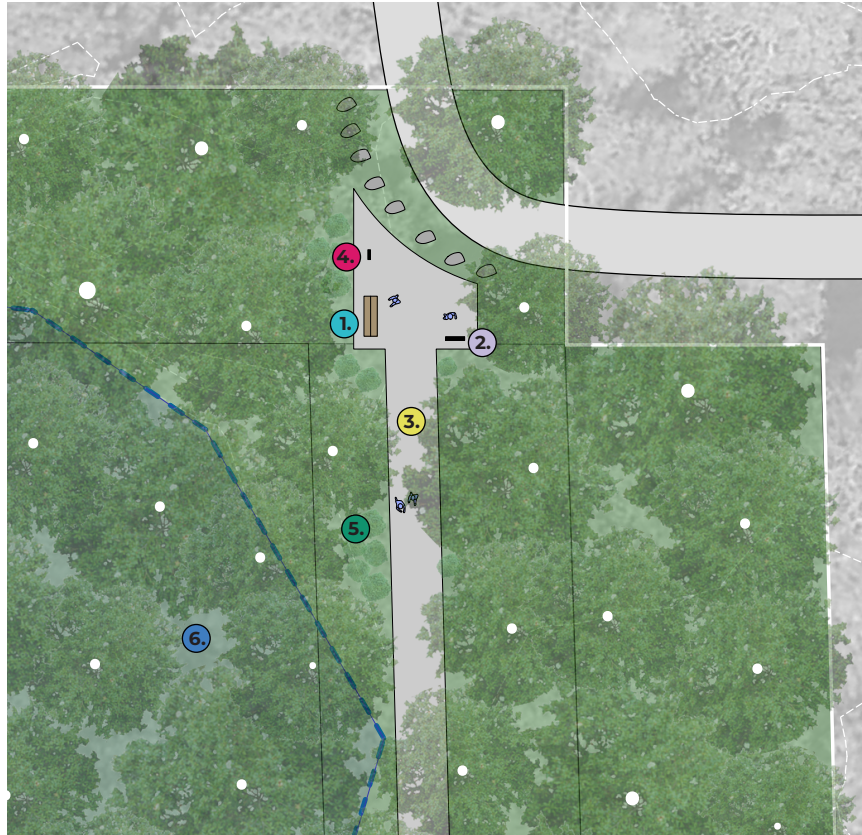
ALABAMA STREET ENTRY - CHARACTER INSPIRATION



CANAAN STREET WEST ENTRY (EXISTING)



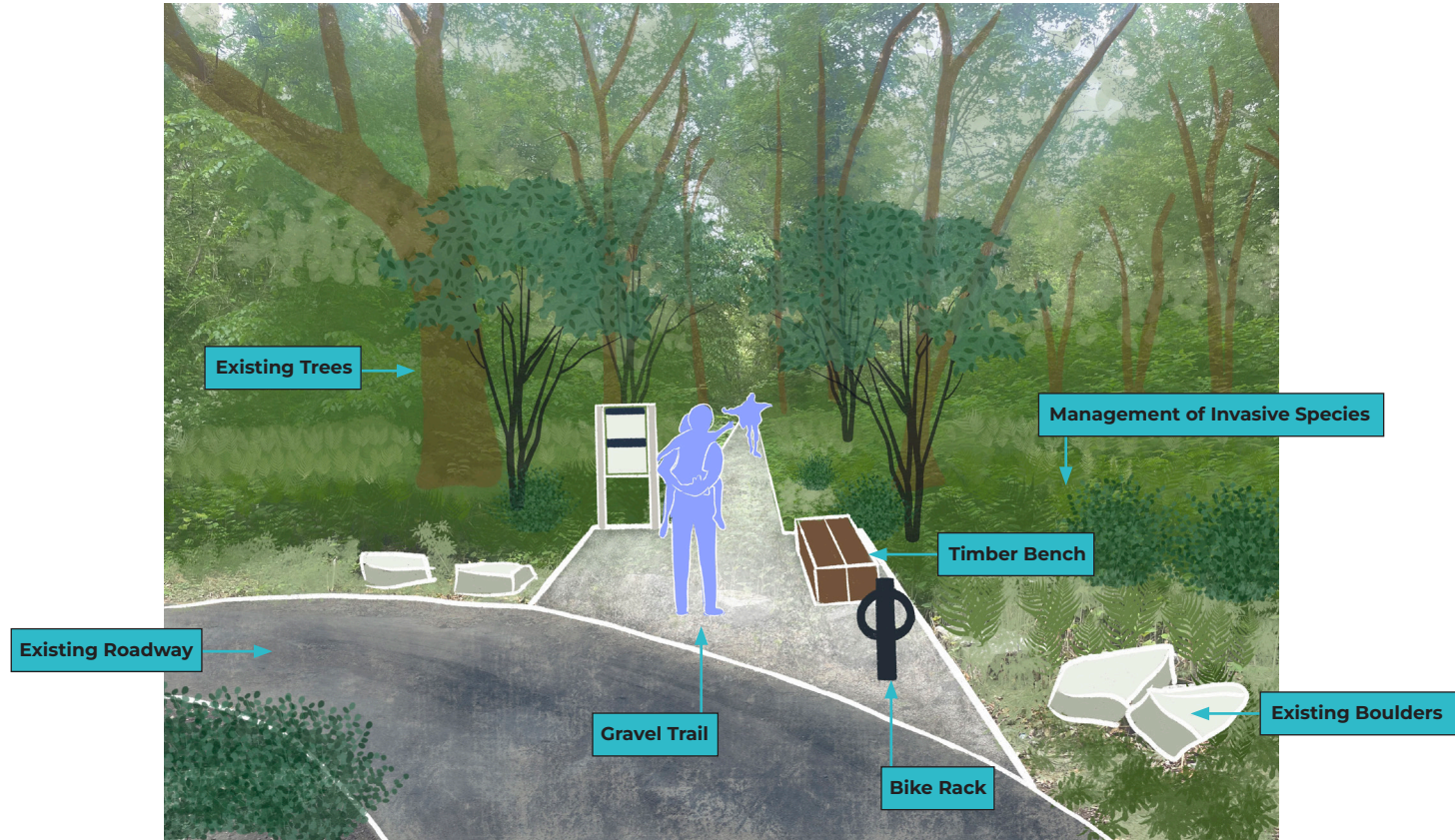
CANAAN STREET WEST ENTRY



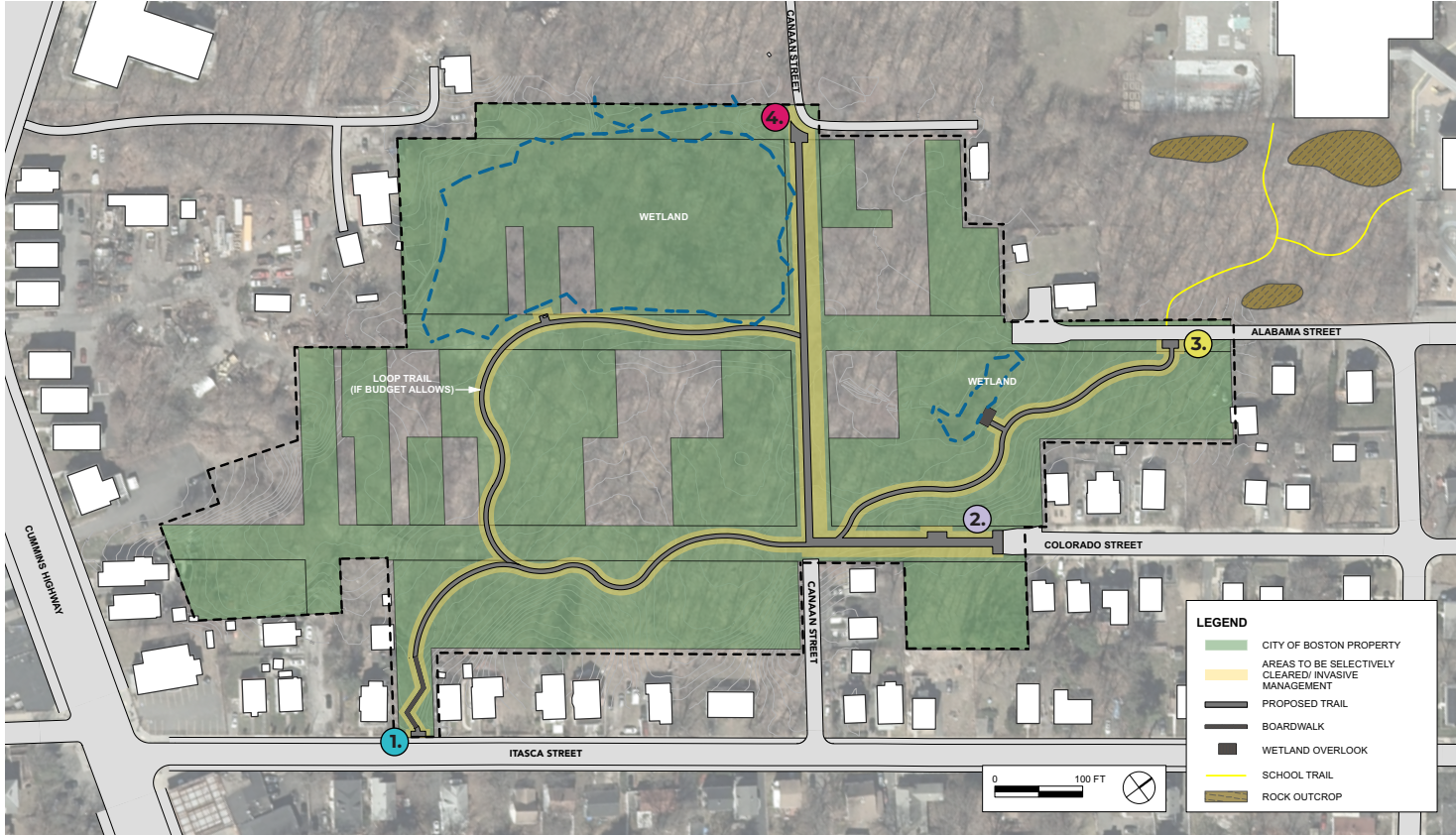
CANAAN STREET WEST ENTRY (EXISTING)



CANAAN STREET WEST ENTRY (PROPOSED)



PROPOSED TRAIL DESIGN



1. Itasca Street



2. Colorado Street



3. Alabama Street



4. Canaan Street

A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of trees with green foliage. The text "WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What did you like about the design for the entrances and trail system? What didn't you like?
- Do you have additional input that was not captured in the final design?
- What other questions do you have for the project team?

NEXT STEPS



MORE INFORMATION:

Visit boston.gov/improvements-mattahunt-woods to find project information. A recording of this meeting will be posted in the coming days, along with translated versions of this presentation.

Visit boston.gov/departments/environment#newsletter to sign up to receive updates.

Contact Catherine at catherine.mccandless2@boston.gov if you have any additional questions or comments!



A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in leaves and fallen branches. The text "THANK YOU!" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

THANK YOU!