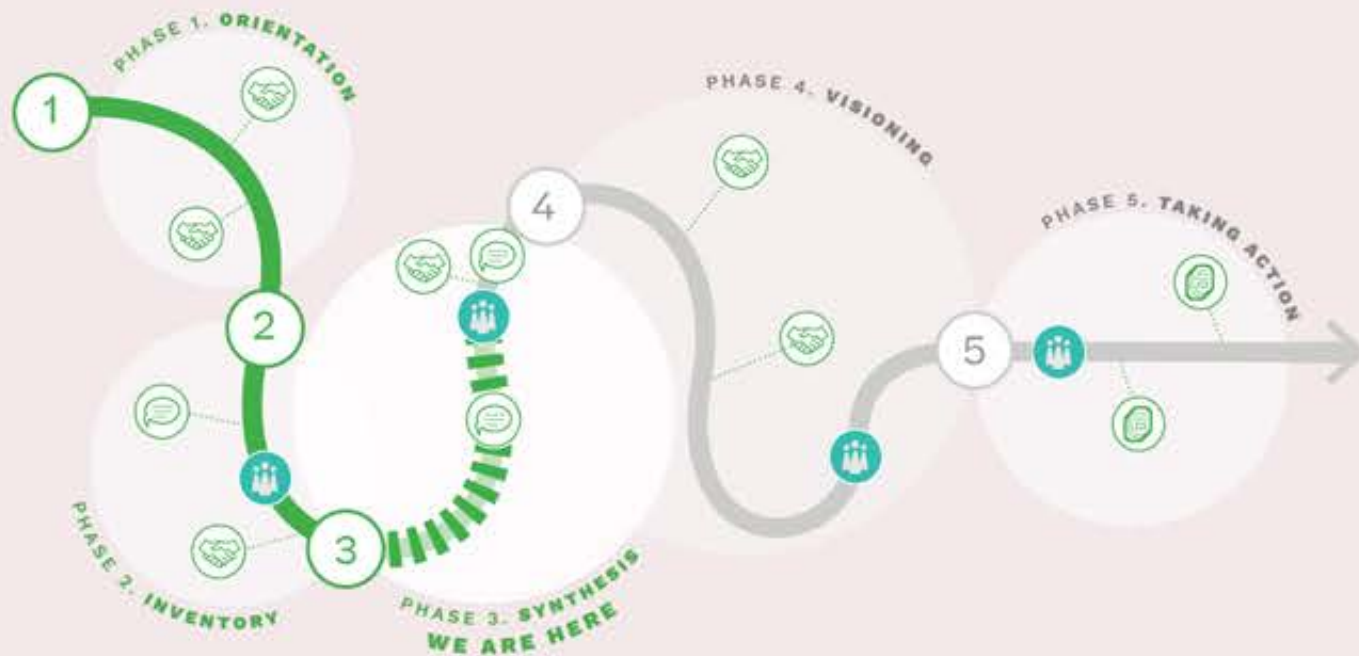


Dear Franklin Park neighbors and friends,

A Plan for Action

With \$28 million in funding from the City of Boston dedicated to improvements in the park (including \$5 million for a maintenance endowment), the purpose of the 18-month planning effort is to understand the plans that have come before it, what is working and isn't working in the park, and how surrounding neighborhoods want to make investments for its future. Ongoing community engagement is designed to enable park users and neighbors to become partners in creating a shared vision for the future and determining how that money is spent.

The following pages are a working draft of the Action Plan team's analysis of historic and existing conditions in Franklin Park. This draft is a preview of the work that will be discussed in the upcoming public workshop and engagement throughout the summer. For more information on upcoming engagement and feedback opportunities, visit the project website: www.FranklinParkActionPlan.com.



Created from your feedback

Beginning in November 2019, the Action Plan team reached out to the communities surrounding Franklin Park to understand how people use the park, hear favorite memories, and gather ideas for how their experiences could be improved through future investment. Community partners and neighbors have been instrumental in spreading the word and expanding our reach— thank you! We have connected with you through the following outreach efforts:

- Over 6,000 responses to the community survey
- 2,900 households by neighborhood canvassing
- Over 300 people by attending community and park events
- Nearly 300 people at community workshop #1
- ...and many others through park signage, comments sent through the project website, and the online mini-poll

Understanding the Park

These summaries capture our current understanding of the park's historic and existing conditions through four themes. We have separated the work for clarity, but each theme informs the other so you will find some overlap between the summaries. Below is a quick list of what you'll find highlighted in each theme as a starting point.

The Action Plan does not formally include all areas of the park (as shown on the map). However, it is important to understand the park as a whole. The work reflects the relationship between these elements to inform future decision making.



In the summaries, you will learn about:

History

- Pre-park history & the original character of the land
- The park's design intent & its relationship to the city
- How the park and the surrounding communities have evolved over time
- Key challenges and opportunities as we think about the park's next century

Communities

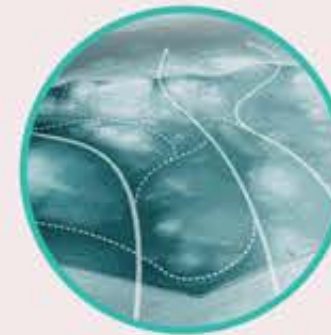
- Engagement and outreach to date
- Surrounding demographics and public health
- Community and park stewards
- Places, programs, park architecture, and utilities

Connections

- Regional and city open space systems
- Transit connectivity
- Park edges and entries
- Park circulation and parking
- Public awareness and wayfinding

Ecology

- Drainage and infrastructure
- The park's urban forest
- Ecological habitats and soils
- Heritage trees
- Park maintenance



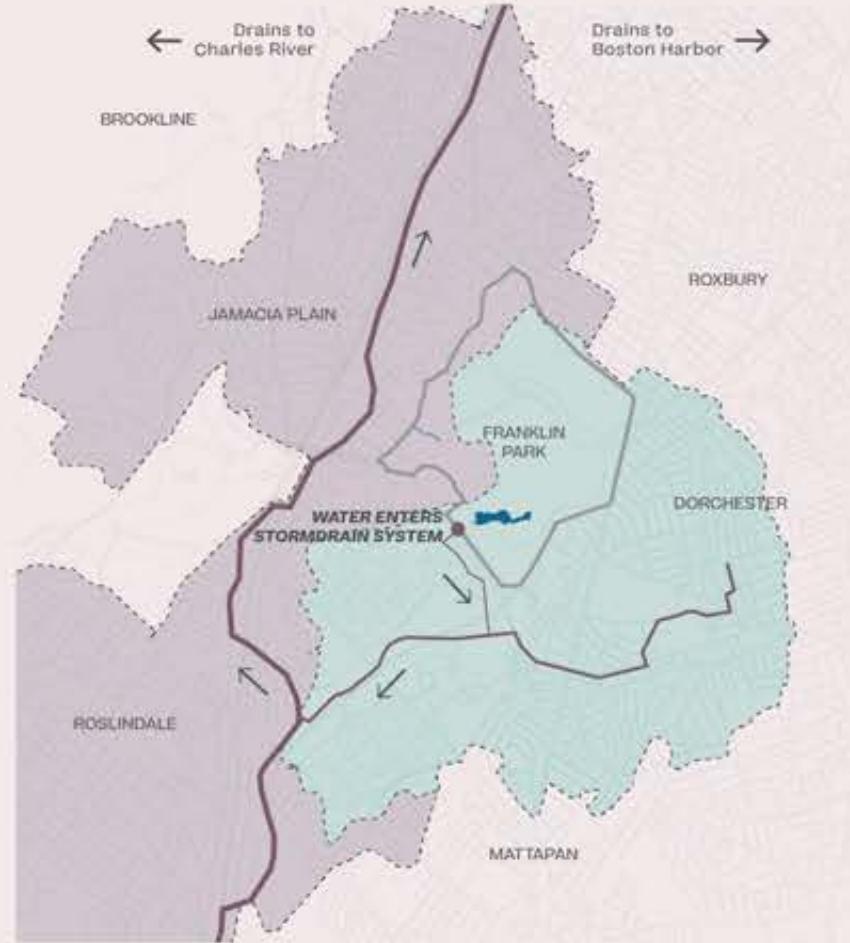
Ecology

Diversity Enhances Experience

Soaking it Up

Protect and Improve Downstream

The park spans two major watersheds, with much of its land falling within the Canterbury Brook Watershed. Runoff discharges to one of two main water bodies, Scarboro Pond, a manmade pond, or the Ellicott Arch Stream, before entering the Stony Brook Conduit System and eventually making its way to the Charles River. Because of the scale and location of the park within the watershed, it not only has the opportunity to manage its own stormwater, but also positively influence 'downstream' impacts by reducing urban flooding and improving water quality.



Regional Watersheds

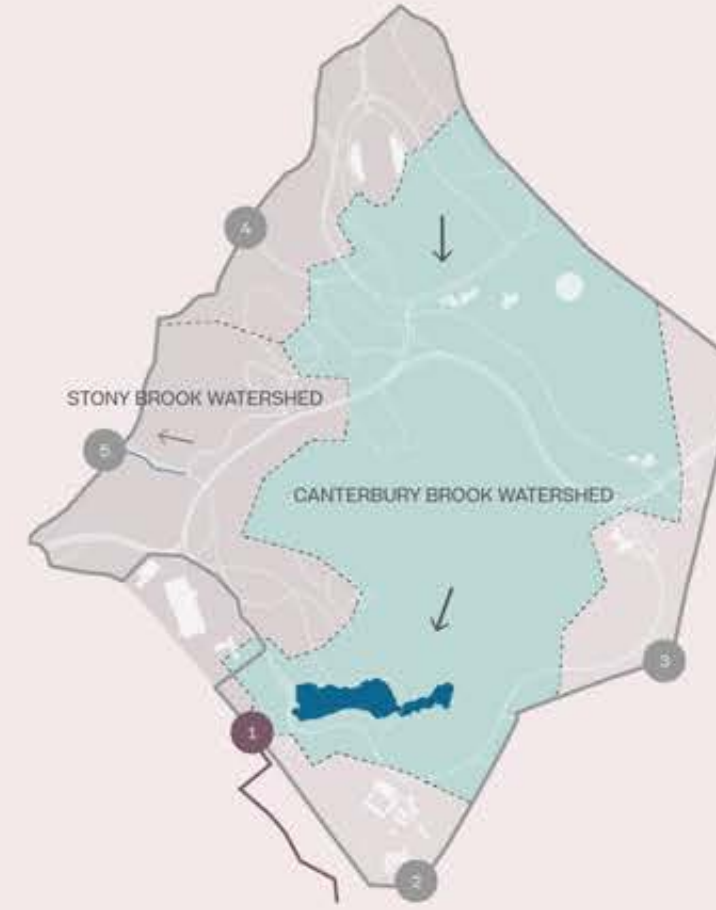


Aging Infrastructure

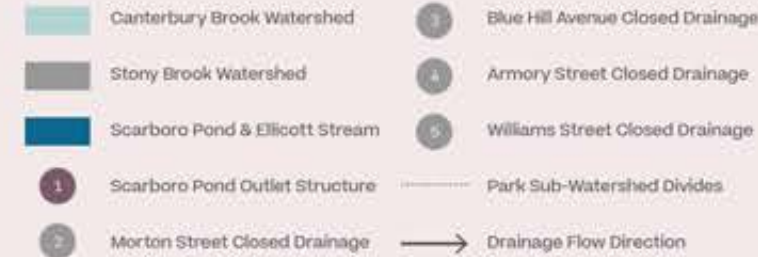
Dating back to the late 1880s, the Canterbury and Stony Brook Conduits were multi-decade infrastructure projects that spanned across the city to address urban flooding. In addition to constructing closed drainage systems beneath the streets, freshwater wetlands in and around the Park were filled to allow for expanding development. Aging and undersized for today's needs, this critical infrastructure is taxed by storm events occurring at an increasing frequency and intensity.

What is a watershed?

Also known as a drainage basin or catchment area, this is an area of land where all water drains to a central point. Watersheds are divided by ridges, or high points, which create boundaries between them. The speed that water drains depends on factors like soil type, paving material, and the slope of the terrain.



Park Sub-Watersheds



Scarboro Pond & Ellicott Stream

The majority of the park's runoff outlets into Scarboro Pond, carrying high nutrient loads from fertilizers and geese. Resulting algal blooms impact water quality and degrade the pond environment. Debris and sediment build-up necessitate frequent cleaning of the outlet structure to prevent flooding.

Ellicott Stream is fed by surface and ground water. Evidence of species, like salamanders, indicates safe water quality despite high nutrients.

Outdated and Undersized Drainage Infrastructure Poses Challenges

The park's drainage system includes vegetated and cobble swales, and closed drainage, which consists of piping for areas with no natural outlet. Because some of this infrastructure dates to original park construction, it is inadequate and undersized for today's needs, and often causes surcharging and localized drainage issues.

An aging drainage system leaves many of the park's high-traffic areas unusable during rain events. Runoff carrying debris and pollutants discharges directly into the pond or the city's drainage system, impacting both water quality and flooding downstream. The park's significant acreage offers opportunities for on-site "green" stormwater management.

Debris Build-Up Clogs the System

Cobble drainage swales collect leaves and debris, causing maintenance issues and clogging connections to the closed drainage system. While areas of build-up are more easily visible at the surface, drainage channels provide little mitigation to clean or slow stormwater runoff.



Pipe Restrictions Cause Surcharging

The subsurface drainage system within the golf course includes larger pipes discharging into smaller ones before entering Scarboro Pond. This causes surcharging within the system, resulting in manhole covers popping off along Circuit Drive.

Ponding in Low-Lying Areas

Localized drainage issues occur in isolated low spots around The Playstead, near White Stadium, along Circuit Drive and the cross country trail, and within the golf course, leaving high-traffic areas soggy and unusable. Mowers, other maintenance equipment, and cars avoiding roadway flooding further compact wet soils, making the issue worse.



Localized Drainage Issues

- Localized Drainage Issue
- Scarboro Pond & Ellicott Stream
- Drainage Infrastructure
- Drainage Outlet to City System

An Asset for All

Franklin Park as Living Infrastructure

Increasing temperatures and extreme weather events are just some of the impacts we are experiencing as result of climate change. Our urban canopy combats these changes by decreasing the heat island effect and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Half of the park is covered by canopy, making it a popular place to experience nature in the city, and an invaluable public health resource for its neighbors. Urban canopy combats climate change and improves our quality of life, by lowering temperatures, cleaning air and water, providing critical habitat, and improving our mental and physical health.



Canopy by the Numbers

27% Boston's Existing Canopy Coverage

50% Franklin Park's Existing Canopy Coverage

Shade & Cooling

Positive impacts from forest areas grow exponentially as they increase in size, making large, continuous canopies especially valuable in the city. Shade from trees produces:

- A reduction in heat island effect, glare, and reflection from pavement
- Cooler temperatures for people inside and out, resulting in a reduction in hospital visits during heat waves and energy conservation in buildings

Physical & Mental Well-Being

Visual and physical access to nearby green space can improve mood and physical health as well as outcomes for communities facing mental health challenges.

- Encourages physical activity and exercise
- Reduces stress and depression, slows heartbeats, lowers blood pressure, and relaxes brain waves

Clean Water

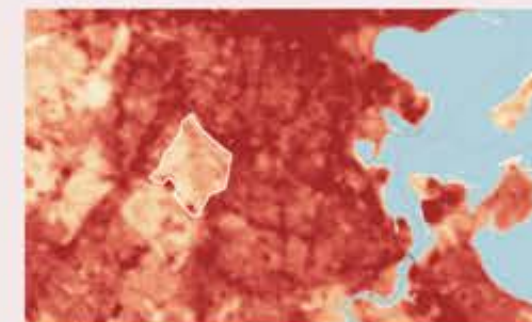
Trees and the soil they live in:

- Minimize impacts of urban flooding by reducing the rate and volume of runoff and recharging the groundwater supply
- Improve water quality by capturing and filtering out pollutants

Provide Habitat

The park's canopy provide benefits to birds, insects and mammals by:

- Providing nesting opportunities and food sources



Clean Air

Leaves filter air pollutants like particulate matter, ozone, NOx and So2 from car exhaust, chemicals, and smoke. They also sequester carbon, resulting in:

- Air quality improvements and reductions in related medical conditions

Reduce Noise

Leaves and branches absorb and block sound from traffic, construction sites, and other sources in the city to:

- Reduce noise pollution

*maps via Boston Area Research Institute

Living Network

Green Relationships Run Deep and Wide

Together, Franklin Park, the Arnold Arboretum, Forest Hills Cemetery, and Boston Nature Center are one of the largest contiguous open spaces within the city, providing valuable habitat and respite for many. Much of what we experience in the park is defined by the conditions underground - the soils. Soil is constantly working -- to support both plant life and programmed areas and to hold and filter stormwater. Healthy soils are critical to healthy places.

Its size alone - 500+ acres - makes the park a unique habitat within Boston's network of small neighborhood playgrounds and linear waterfronts. Within its bounds, the link between above and below ground defines and supports plant life and program, while performing important ecosystem services like stormwater management and groundwater recharge.



Open Space Network



What do soils tell us?

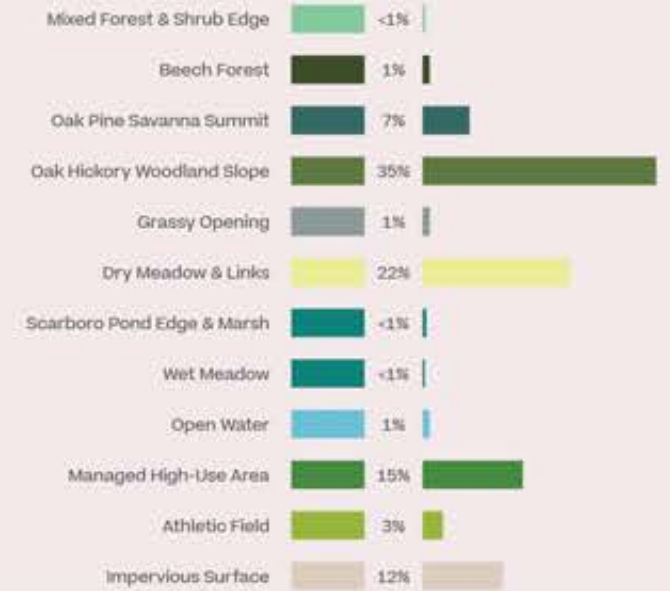
The soils in the park were shaped by glaciers and vary across elevations, with thin soils over bedrock on hills and deeper sands in valleys.

1. Soils in the woodlands, on slopes, and near rock outcrops are broadly shallow with a fine sand and silt composition. Due to their shallow depth, they are prone to very slow infiltration rates, but the presence of organic matter helps retain nutrients and water for plant growth.

2. Soils in open areas, like the golf course, are deeper with more coarse sands near the surface. This soil remains porous and promotes better drainage, while supporting frequent foot traffic and maintenance vehicles.



Ecological Types



Soil Types



Landscape Mosaic

The Potential for Health and Diversity Exists

The original character of the land was amplified by Olmsted's carefully calibrated design into a series of distinct landscapes -- from rocky savanna and wooded slopes to meadows and open water. While diverse characters and ecologies still exist, their health has been compromised by deferred maintenance, heavy use, and the emergence of invasive species and threatening pests. Tailored strategies can be employed to return these systems to health and create a resilient, and even more varied, park experience.

Woodland

Buffer

Oak Pine Savanna Summit & Grass Clearings



Oak Hickory Woodland Slope



Beech Forest



Mixed Forest & Shrub Edge



Open

Wet Meadow



Scarboro Pond Edge & Marsh



Dry Meadow & Links



Athletic Fields



Shallow Soils, Sunny Openings

Oak Pine Savanna & Grass Clearings

Oak pine savanna communities occur at the highest elevations in the park. Naturally dry and drought-prone, these areas are characterized by thin, low-nutrient, acidic soils and puddingstone rock outcrops with little horticultural planting. Canopy cover ranges from 10-50%, with high light levels. Removals of pitch pine and disturbance of the ground plane has resulted in the expansion of woody plants and a decrease in rich, flowering vegetation at the ground level that provides important food and habitat for small mammals and birds.

Overgrown and unmanaged canopy has reduced the amount of light that can reach the ground layer, depleting the savanna-like grasses that characterize this zone. Reintroducing evergreens would improve habitat for winter months and build diversity in a woodland dominated by oaks.

70%

of survey respondents identified **access to nature** as their most appreciated thing about the park



Hike in the Woods



Take in the City Views



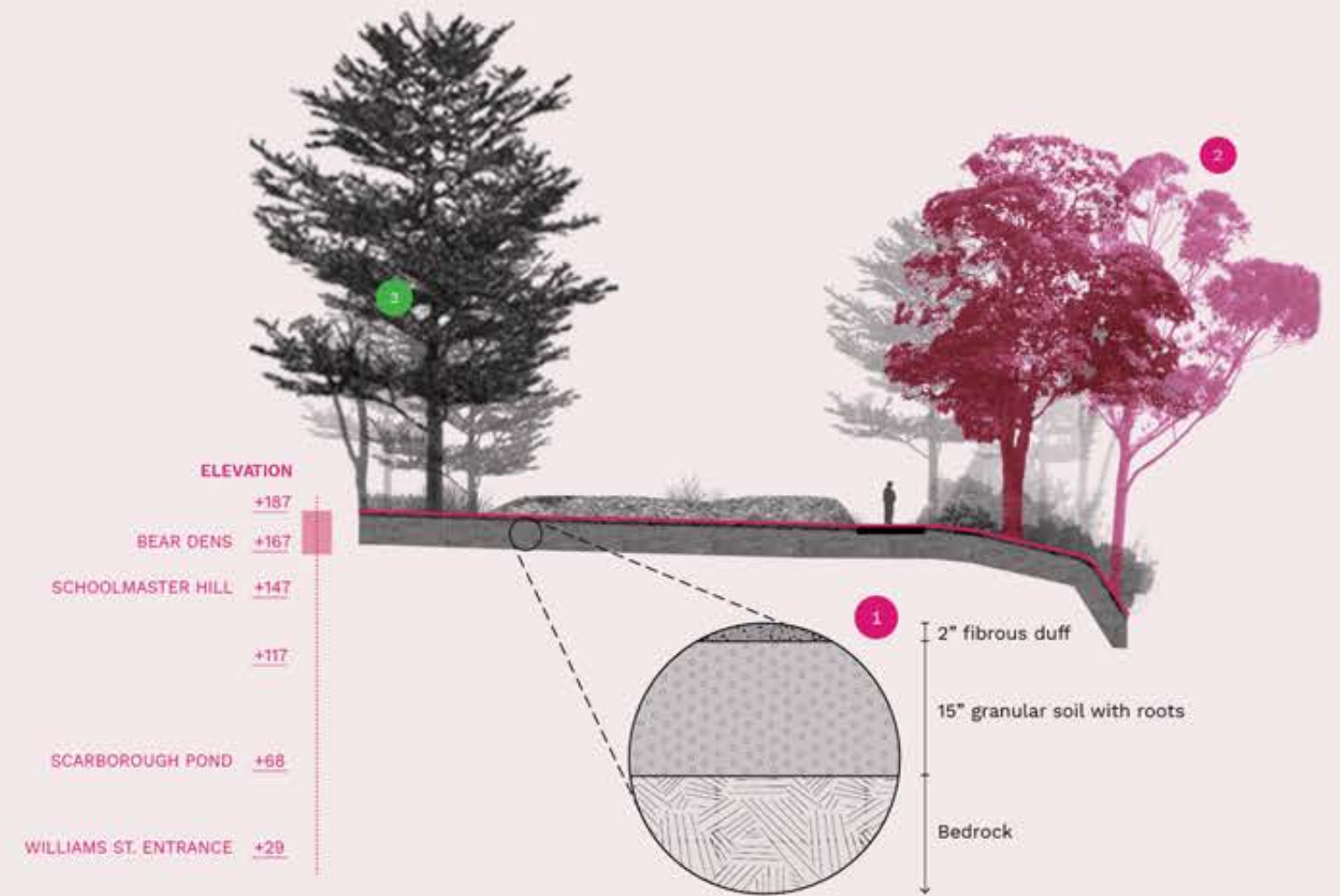
Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



Indigo Blunting



Slender Clearwing Sphinx Moth



Where are the challenges?

1 Thin soils
Thin, low-nutrient, acidic soils are present here. While they are indicative of soils typically found in rocky woodland landscapes, they do prevent planting larger specimens.



2 Dense Canopy
A overgrown and unmanaged canopy has reduced light levels on the ground layer, causing a loss of savanna-like grasses in this zone.



What are the possibilities?

3 Evergreen Habitat
Evergreen plants are critical for winter bird habitat but have declined in recent years in part due to pests like the hemlock woolly adelgid.



Aging Canopy, Invasive Understory

Oak Hickory Woodland Slope

Oak hickory woodland slopes occur at middle elevations and account for the majority of the woodland ecology in the park. Soils are typically only inches deep before hitting rock. There is some horticultural planting at overlooks and other key destinations, but overall native plant life is in competition with invasives like Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, periwinkle and other Eurasian plants, resulting in a loss of native flowering shrubs and reduced oak and hickory germination rates.

The park's woodlands are central to its design and experience, but their future is threatened. An unmanaged canopy and ground plane means that this single-age stand of trees does not have new saplings to take their place. Invasive species growth further stresses the forest, reducing diversity and blocking views, causing some visitors to feel unsafe.



Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



33%

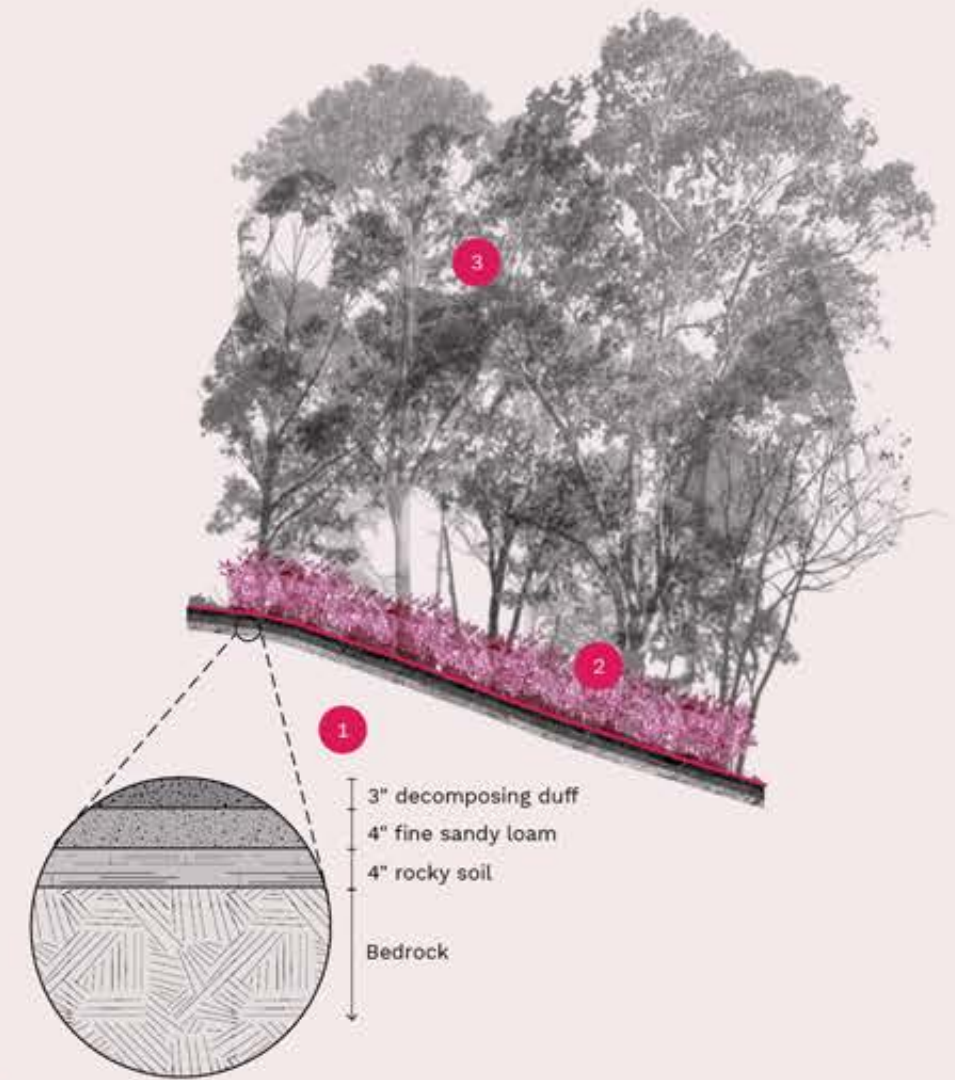
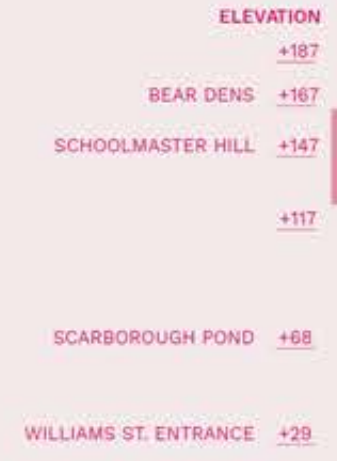
About 1/3rd of survey respondents listed **The Wilderness** as their most visited place in the park



Visit Park Ruins

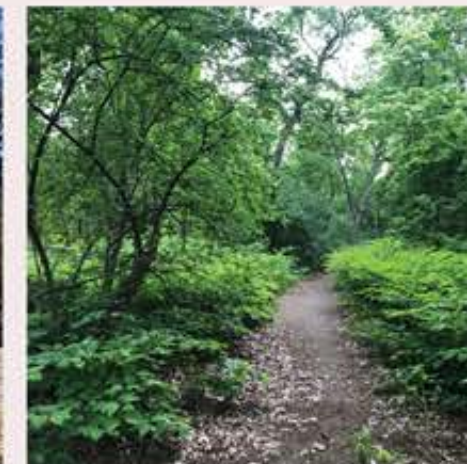
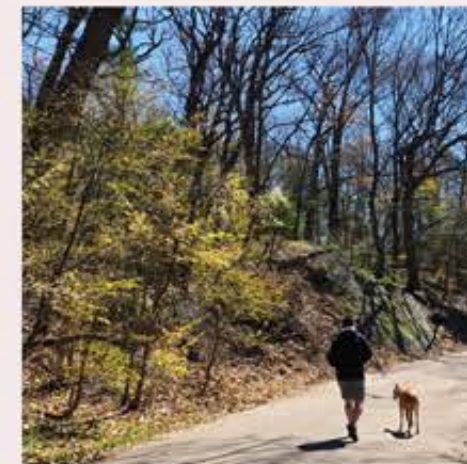


Walk, Run or Bike the Circuit Loop
(one of your favorite places in the park!)



Where are the challenges?

- 1 Thin soils**
Soil is only a few inches deep before hitting rock, making natural regeneration of oak seedlings the most sustainable way to ensure the next generation of the woodland canopy.
- 2 Invasive Species**
Glossy buckthorn, Japanese Knotweed, and Garlic Mustard are most prevalent in 6"- deep soils. Their presence competes with understory trees and shrubs. Circulation systems increase light corridors, which invasives follow to spread across the woodland.
- 3 Closed Canopy**
Mature canopy has been unmaintained, reducing light and inhibiting germination of new oak & hickory trees. Selective clearing, crown reduction pruning, and Buckthorn removal can encourage the next generation of drought-resistant trees that will thrive here.



Fragmented Transition, Limited Territory

Mixed Forest & Shrub Edge

Characterized by sandy, low-nutrient soil, with high infiltration rates, these lower-elevation forests of oak, hickory, black cherry, and white pine, are often out-competed by Norway Maple. Low ground-level diversity limits germination, making this the most damaged groundlayer in the forest. Shrub edges, between forests and grasslands, would typically have more extensive horticultural planting like highbush blueberry and sumac, but this ephemeral habitat has been over-colonized by trees, resulting in high contrast between wooded and open areas.

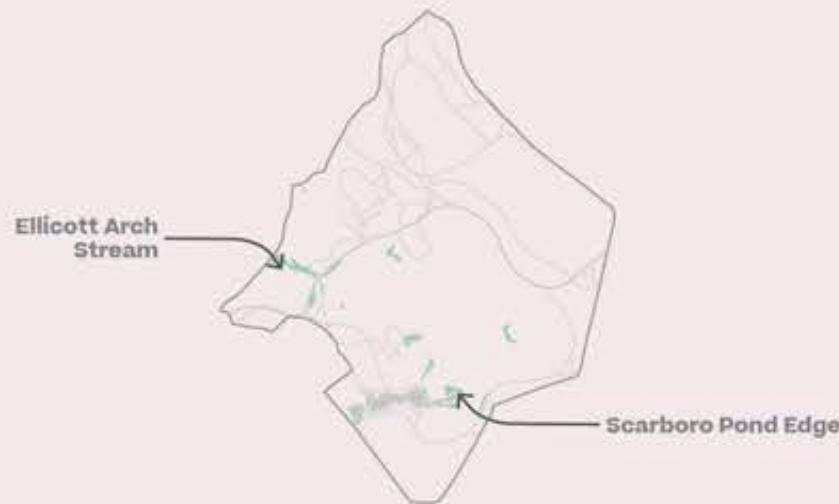
The stark contrast between woodland and open areas leave ecological habitats disjointed and visitors with an 'either/or' experience of the park. Increasing transitions and buffers between these zones would protect and connect important habitats across the park and provide visitors with a more exciting and diverse landscape to explore.



Picnic or BBQ with Friends and Family



Visit Playgrounds



Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



Song Sparrow



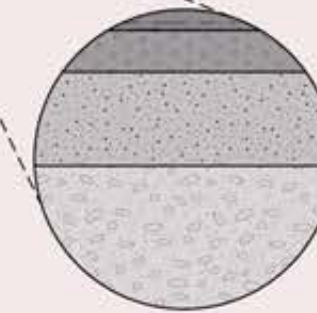
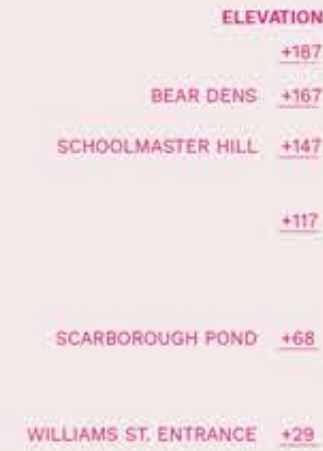
Brown Thrasher

Dream Big!

What is your hope for the future of Franklin Park?

"Connect urban residents with nature! Environmental education programming, citizen science initiatives, junior ranger programs, park cleanups..."

-Jamaica Plain Resident, Action Plan Survey



2" decomposing leaves
4" granular structure, some roots
9" fine sandy loam, some roots
14" gravelly fine sandy loam, few roots

Where are the challenges?

1 Transitional Habitat
Disturbance of the ground layer has resulted in a loss of flowering shrubs. The shrub edge is valuable for wildlife cover, food sources, and microclimates, but requires intervention to reduce competition.



2 Invasives Prevent Succession
Dense shade from Norway Maples eliminates ground layer growth and prevents forest succession.



What are the possibilities?

3 Past Plantings
Historic photos reveal planting character and species of the past, illustrating a transition zone largely missing in the park today.



Heritage Canopy, Threatened Conditions

Beech Groves

Small pockets of large European and American Beech live amongst oak, hickory, walnut, black cherry, and white pine woodlands, but are damaged by pests and threatened by thriving invasive species. Because the forest succession process is restricted due to lack of sunlight, this collection of specimen trees lives without a new generation to replace them. Not only are these groves significant as some of the original Olmsted plantings, they also provide excellent food supply for mammals and birds and represent a majestic moment in the landscape.

These heritage trees are some of the oldest groves in the park, likely dating back to original Olmsted-era planting. The grand stands represent distinctive and powerful moments in the woodland canopy, but without measures to increase successional growth and protect from pests, they could disappear from the park's landscape.



Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



Lowbush Blueberry



Witch Hazel



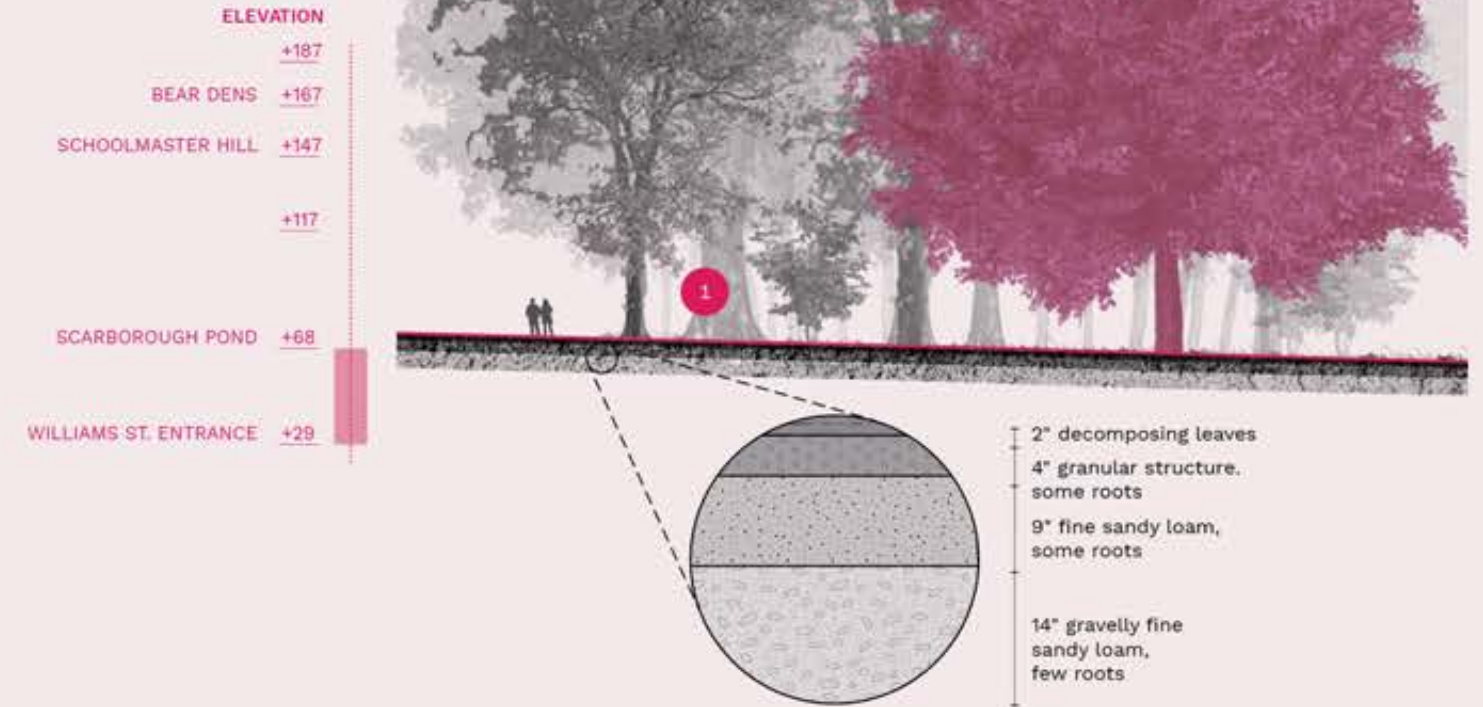
of survey respondents identified **mature trees** as their most appreciated thing about the park



Spend Time in Nature



survey respondents ranked this Imagine Boston 2030 goal 2nd: **Respect the historic and ecological environment.** The demands of park users and the diversity of park uses will be managed in a way that is compatible with the landscape's history and ecology.



Where are the challenges?

1 Bleeding Beech Canker
This fungal disease causes lesions on stems and major branches, opening trees to secondary pests. Modern treatments and preventions exist, including surface mulching with hardwood chips.

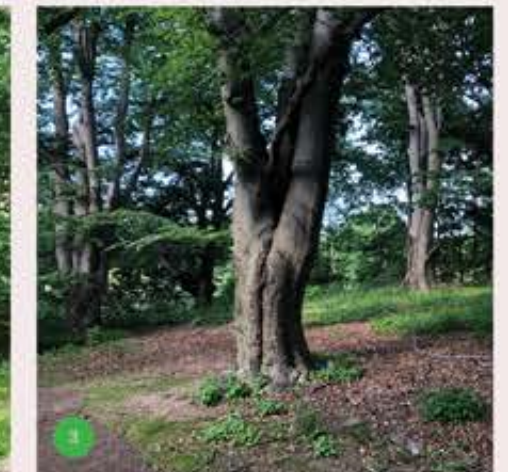


2 Dense & Aging Canopy
Low light levels prevent germination and growth of the next generation of Beech, as well as ground and understory plants that would increase diversity.



What are the possibilities?

3 Heritage Trees
The mature European Beech trees in the park are close to ___ years old and were originally planted as ___ size trees.



Low Diversity, Compacted Soils

Athletic Fields

Athletic fields occur at lower elevations in the park and are characterized by level ground and sandy, low-nutrient soils. Though their ecological diversity is low, these areas offer important places for flexible use and stormwater management. Today, permeability is compromised by compaction from heavy use and infill of fine particles in the soil. Compromised infiltration capacity and traditional turf maintenance methods mean that unwanted chemical nutrients are carried to the pond or transferred to groundwater during rainstorms.

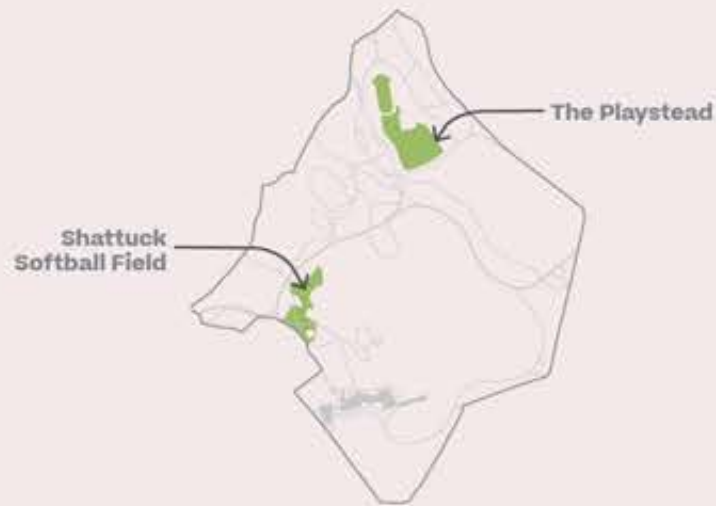
The athletic fields are some of the most frequently used areas of the park, hosting everything from festivals and events to team sports. Heavy use without remediation has undermined infiltration and surface resilience necessary to keep fields dry and useable for year-round programming.



Attend a Festival or Concert



Play Team Sports



Health Indicators



Healthy Soils & Aeration

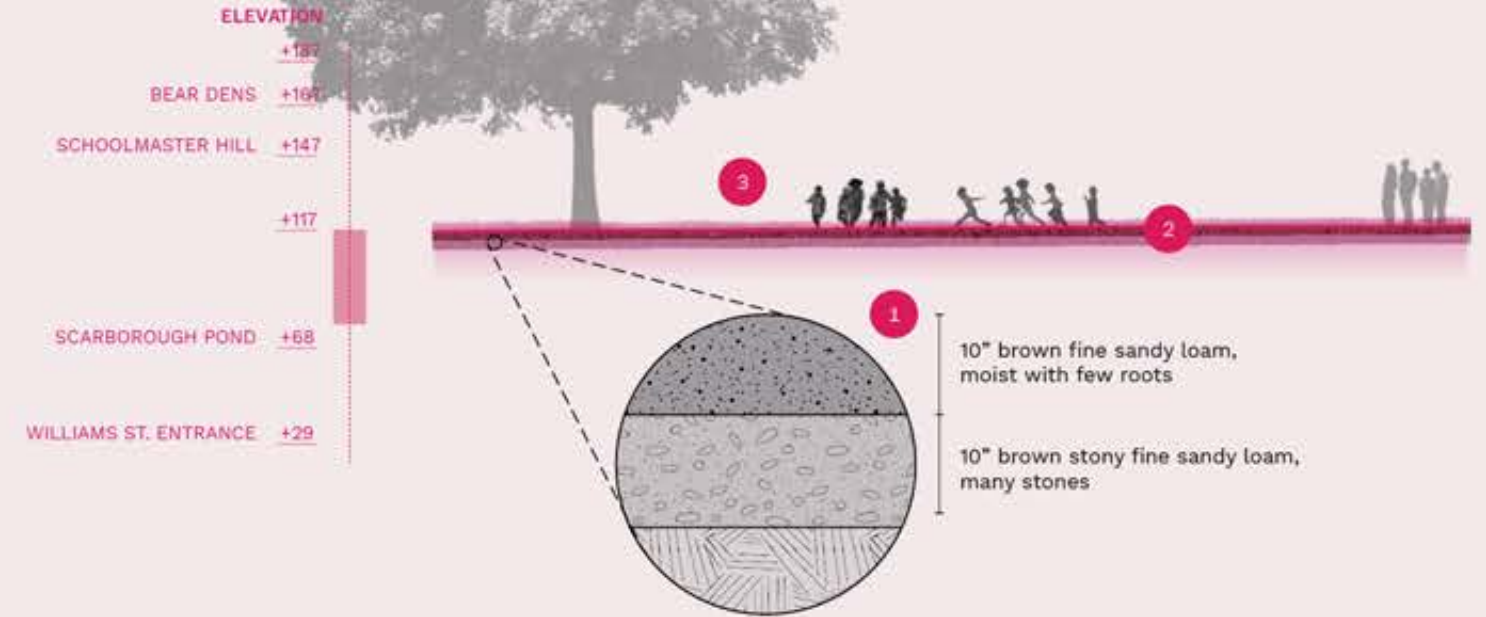


Water Infiltration

Dream Big!
What is your hope for the future of Franklin Park?

"That the community in the immediate facilities benefit from all improvements, upgrades, and that the Park's natural beauty shines through."

*-Mattapan Resident,
 Action Plan Survey*



Where are the challenges?

- 1 Compacted Soils**
 Heavy use over time has led to compaction, inhibiting drainage in these high-use areas.
- 2 Nutrient Loads**
 Turf areas export nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers via runoff and groundwater, which stimulate growth of undesirable plant life in open water.
- 3 Low Biodiversity**
 Mostly turf areas produces a monocultural habitat.



Low Diversity, Poor Drainage Dry Meadow & Links

The golf course is characterized by sandy, low-nutrient soil, high soil infiltration rates, and surface groundwater levels within a few to several feet of surface. The fairways and short roughs have low canopy cover and diversity and pose problems similar to the athletic fields, with nutrient export affecting water quality in the pond and groundwater. Taller roughs covered in little bluestem grass are generally out of play, making them opportune spaces to introduce forbs and flowering plants to support pollinators and birds.

The use has changed, but the concept of the Country Park has stayed the same: a large open meadow with sweeping park views. Runoff from the golf course has impacted water quality and the turf monoculture makes for poor habitat, but the large surface area and central location provides an opportunity to improve both without affecting play.



52%

the majority of survey respondents identified **views** as their most appreciated thing about the park



Play Golf



Take in Park Views

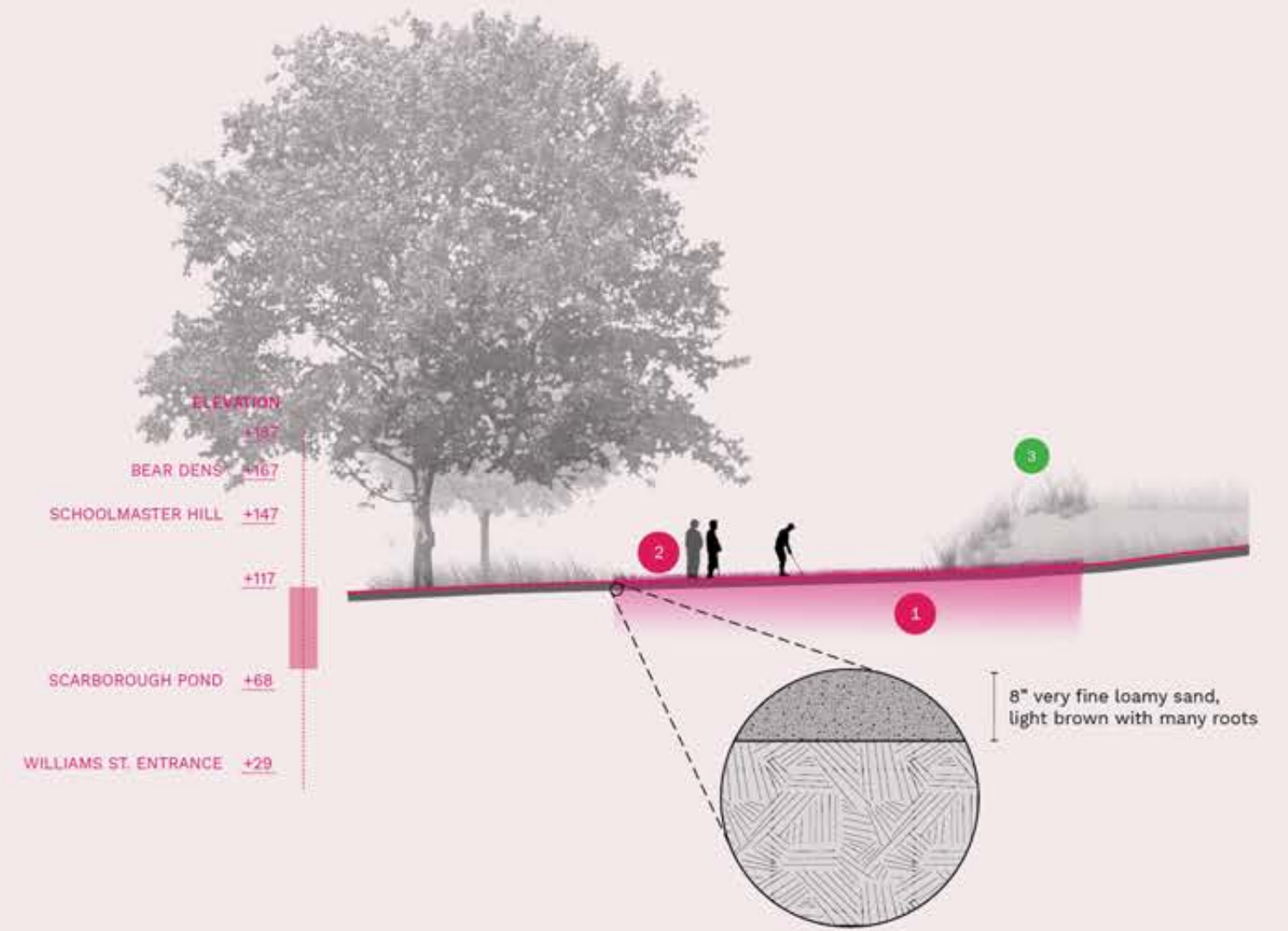
Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



Eastern Bluebird



Grasshopper



Where are the challenges?

1 Nutrient Loads
Turf areas export nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers, via runoff and ground water, which stimulate growth of undesirable plant life in open water.



2 Compacted Soils
Due to mowing, carts, and golfers, soil quality and infiltration rates have been impacted.



What are the possibilities?

3 Support Biodiversity
Expand and extend areas of flowering forbs and other meadow species in the rough to support pollinators without disturbing play.



Saturated Soils, Unique Habitat Wet Meadow & Woodland

Wet meadows and wet woodlands exist in depressions near the water table below the land surface, which create saturated soils. Low areas with sandy loam wetland soils that were filled to expand the golf course still receive large amounts of stormwater runoff due to natural drainage patterns. Minimal tree cover, and a dense growth of undesirable herbaceous plants has crowded out asters and sedges. Meanwhile, the dense canopy of wet wooded areas has encouraged invasive plants that now dominate these areas.

Small pockets of wet woodlands and meadow are dominated by invasive species, limiting habitat for birds and pollinators. The lower elevation and sandy soils make the wet meadow ideal for capturing and cleaning stormwater, but its current extent is limited. Increasing diversity would improve these functions, and provide an additional dimension of park beauty.



Watch Park Wildlife

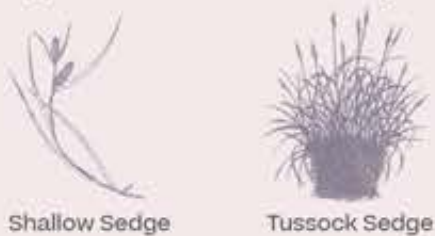


Dream Big! What is your hope for the future of Franklin Park?

"I want Franklin Park to be an oasis of nature in an urban setting - a respite where people can be refreshed by interaction with natural and wild spaces."

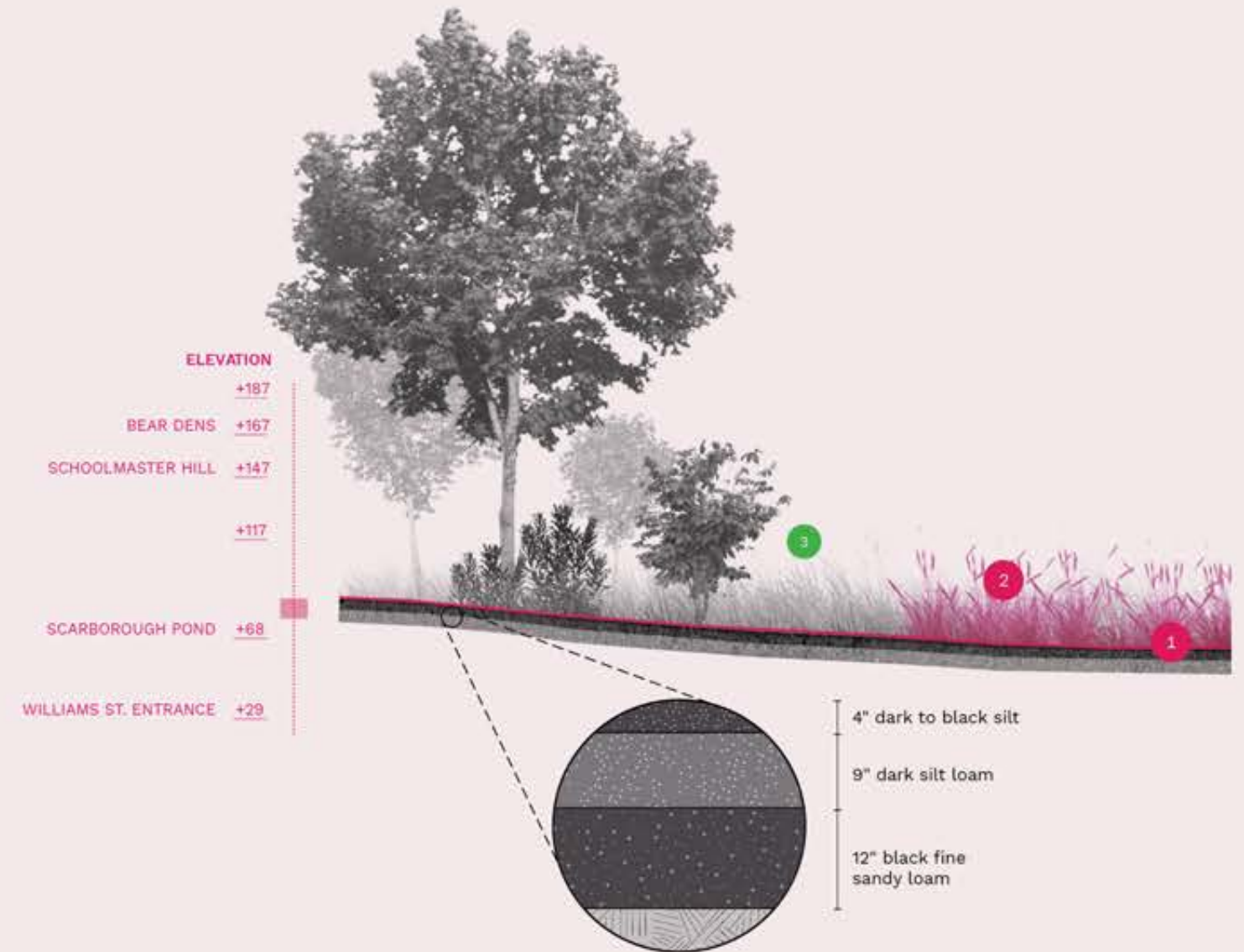
-Jamaica Plain Resident,
Action Plan Survey

Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



Shallow Sedge

Tussock Sedge



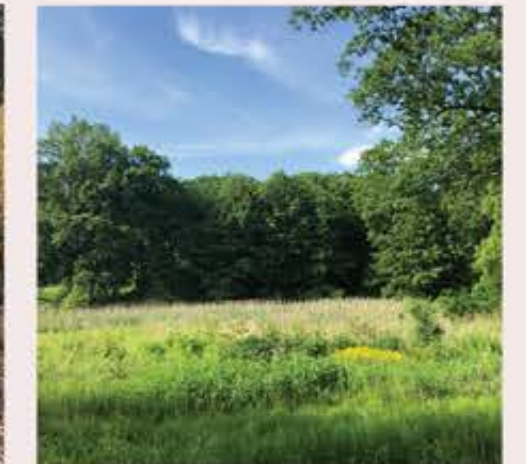
Where are the challenges?

1 Habitat Reduction
Filling of former wet meadows has greatly reduced one of the park's rare habitats and unique features.

2 Invasive Species
In the meadow, wet areas are dominated by reed canary grass, giant reed, and narrow-leaved cattail; in the woodland, by Japanese knotweed.

What are the possibilities?

3 Pollinator Habitat
Competition by invasives has decreased the number of flowering plants and food supply for pollinators.



Open Water, Degraded Conditions

Pond Edge & Marsh

Excavated early in construction, Scarboro Pond is the park's only large open waterbody. Fed by overland flow and drainage pipes, it experiences vigorous algae growth and reduced plant diversity due to concentrations of phosphorus at ten times natural levels. Herbaceous and shrubby vegetation should dominate the marsh between open water and upland elevations, with bulrush and other rushes, willow, sedges, arrowhead, and other aquatic plants typically present. Currently, these are limited by the narrow-leaf cattail invasion.

As the only open water body in the park, Scarboro Pond is a popular destination. Foot traffic causes erosion in some areas, while overgrown vegetation creates secluded and unsafe spaces in others. Runoff transfers pollutants and sediment, causing maintenance issues, degrading habitat, and impacting water quality in the pond and downstream.



Dream Big!

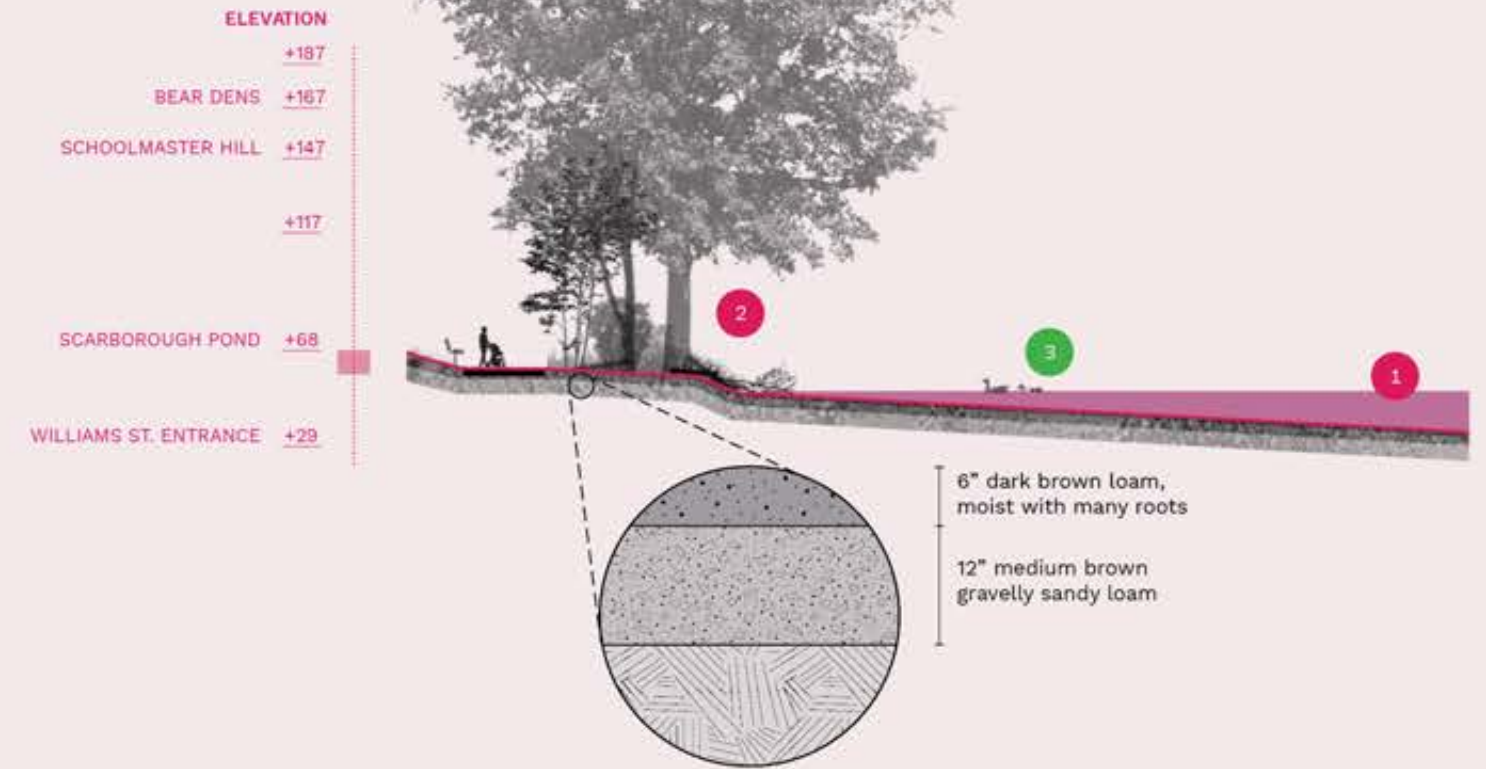
What is your hope for the future of Franklin Park?

"As a Kindergarten teacher in Dorchester the idea of an affordable field trip includes Franklin Park! ...some type of teachable Pond Habitat Guide offering would be awesome."

-Dorchester Resident,
Action Plan Survey



Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



Where are the challenges?

1 Excess Nutrients
Phosphorus and nitrogen from turf runoff, groundwater, and the goose population promote algae growth.

2 Edge Compaction & Invasive Species
Foot traffic around the pond results in compaction, affecting plant health, runoff, and bank erosion. The narrow-leaf cattail has the potential to behave as an invasive plant and exclude other species.

What are the possibilities?

3 Healthy Habitat
The pond habitat can support a wide range of plant and animal life that can be enjoyed by many with improved water quality and stabilization of the edge.

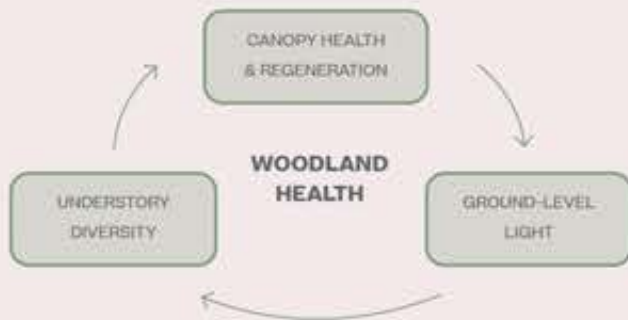


Find Stasis and Recognize Potential

Balance Ecology and Experience

Each of the park's ecological types will require different priorities and goals. Long-term health of the woodlands will require establishing a close to self-sustaining ecosystem to protect wildlife habitat cores. Open areas of higher impact must support more intensive human use. Views, safety, access, and events must be considered. Buffer zones transition woodlands to open areas. They protect and connect natural areas while allowing lighter human use, but are largely missing from the park's landscape today and result in a fragmented condition.

Today, ecologies in the park fall within three broad types, primarily composed of woodlands and open areas, with limited to no transition zone between the two. Balancing the park experience, activity and use, and ecological health is required to reach an equilibrium that meets all needs and maximizes their role and value within the park.



Woodlands Potential Value to the Park

Ecology

Woodlands account for almost half of the park's habitat, home to diverse plant and animal life.

Experience

The canopy is a character-defining feature of the park that was amplified through its design. It controls views, shapes space, and provides shade and separation from the city.

Use

Woodlands account for almost half of the park's habitat, home to diverse plant and animal life.



Open Space Potential Value to the Park

Ecology

Because these areas are primarily dominated by lawn, the biodiversity is low, though there are opportunities to improve habitat without impacting human activity and uses.

Experience

Large, expansive open space framed by woodlands is fundamental to the park's design and experience. Long views across and beyond the park give a sense of space beyond the confines of the city.

Use

Most of the park's programs and activities, including sports, festivals, informal gatherings take place here. Improving soil health will continue to support these activities, as well as improve stormwater function.

Buffers & Connectors Potential Value to the Park

Ecology

These areas not only increase habitat and biodiversity within the park, they help to support and connect habitats that already exist, improving the park ecosystem as a whole.

Experience

These areas would help to buffer and transition experience as visitors move from woodland to open spaces, as well as provide visual interest and diversity to the park's landscape.

Use

Program and use in these areas is relatively low, likely limited to walking paths and overlooks.

Protect Historic Specimens Heritage Trees

The park has many stately trees located on open fields, within complex woodlands, and along scenic paths. Important to habitat and integral to the character of significant places within the park, these important specimens contribute unique beauty, strengthen the spatial framework of the park and embody the park's cultural significance within the city. These trees, some of which date to the park's construction, merit protection.

Heritage trees are notable for their age, size, and species, but most importantly for the legacy and significance that they carry. Older than most visitors, these unique trees have witnessed the park's long history. Their circumstances require special attention to ensure their health and longevity, and guarantee a next generation.



Legacy & Heritage Trees

- Legacy Trees (48+ diameter)
- Heritage Trees (33+ diameter)
- # Distinctive Heritage Tree Area
- Park Canopy Cover

What is a heritage tree?

This term is used to describe a specimen that is typically a large individual tree or grouping of trees with unique value and is considered to be irreplaceable. Criteria for defining heritage trees includes age, rarity, size, aesthetic, and botanical, ecological, and historical value. Preservation of these specimens can mean stabilization of the tree itself, which may mean structural pruning or plant health care treatments, and/or removal of surrounding trees that are impacting a heritage tree's health or survival.

What is a caliper inch?

The standard unit for measuring trees is on caliper inches, which refers to the diameter of its trunk. Measuring at chest height is a standard way to compare the size of mature trees to one another.



- 1 Schoolmaster Hill**
Significant trees are wide ranging, including groupings of mature pines and oaks, and large individual specimens like a 31.5" Hornbeam. Dense overgrowth and invasives block views and crowd individual specimens.
- 2 Ellicottdale & Shattuck Picnic Grove**
Several trees in this area are noteworthy for their size, age, and species, including 43", 50" and 70" Oaks, and 48" and 55" Sugar Maples. Along paths bare soil conditions create compaction around trees and long lateral limbs near activity areas are safety threats.
- 3 Scarboro Hill**
Scarboro Hill features large Hemlocks and White Pine, important evergreen habitat that adds to the woodland diversity. Large groupings of significant but declining oaks could be improved with selective thinning and understory maintenance for extended longevity and opening views.
- 4 Scarboro Pond**
Two unique groves - one of Tupelos and the other Pin Oaks - around the pond are growing in compacted, bare soil, which is in need of remediation. These groves are further threatened by polluted water runoff.
- 5 Beech Groves**
Two beech groves, one of American Beech and the other of European Beech, are unique and significant trees within the park's canopy. Because of their age and susceptibility to disease, structural pruning, bracing, and treatment for insects and fungi should be prioritized.
- 6 Circuit Drive & Loop**
Many mature Red Maples, Red Oaks, and Swamp White Oaks dot the edge of Circuit Drive and the walking loop. Their prominent location means they are enjoyed by many, but compromised roots near paths and roads need attention for the long-term health of these trees.

Caring for the Park

Maintenance Practices

Maintenance sustains the health, diversity, and functionality of a park's habitats and program spaces. Visitors also feel welcomed and safe in a park that is routinely cared for. But regular upkeep is just one part of the job in a park of this size – crews must also accommodate events of varying scales and intensities. The maintenance demands for a park of this size are extensive, time-consuming, and require training. Improvements to the park should consider the level of continued care they will require.

Only three full-time staff members take care of Franklin Park. The scope and requirements of their daily work is demanding, only further challenged by limited equipment, failing infrastructure, and extra responsibilities brought on by large-scale events. An increase in programming must be carefully considered against the workload of the crew.

#5

Maintenance ranked fifth on a list of 35 improvements that people want to see in the park.

Routine & Seasonal Maintenance



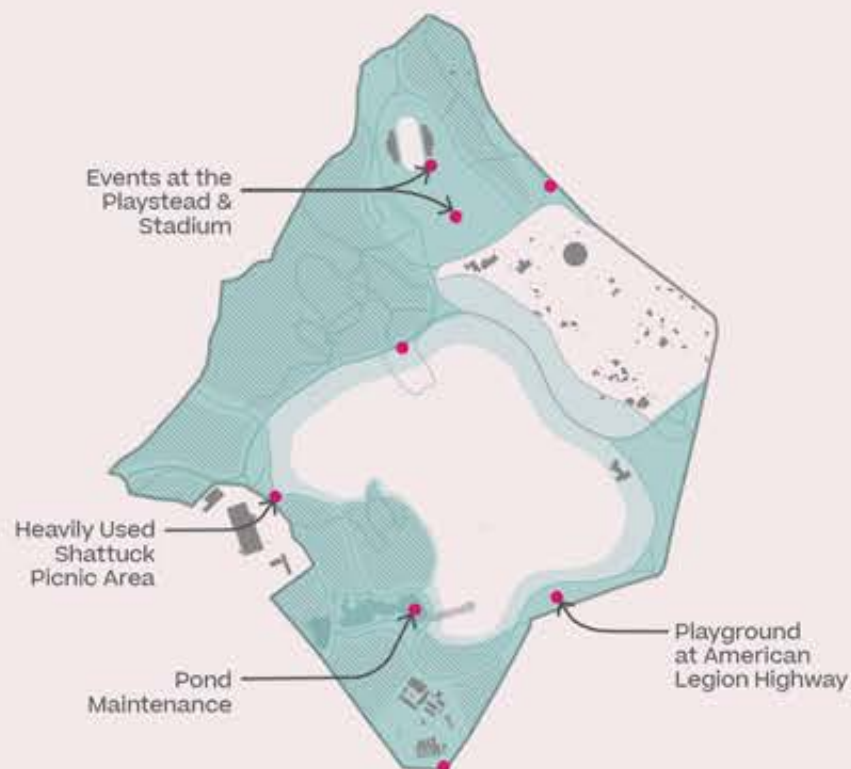
Routine & Seasonal Care

Tasks

- Regular maintenance takes place on frequented paths and highly used areas of the park, like the playstead, playgrounds, and the Circuit Loop.
- Activities include cutting and trimming grass; delimiting, cleaning, emptying trash; clearing drains; and leaf and snow removal.

Challenges

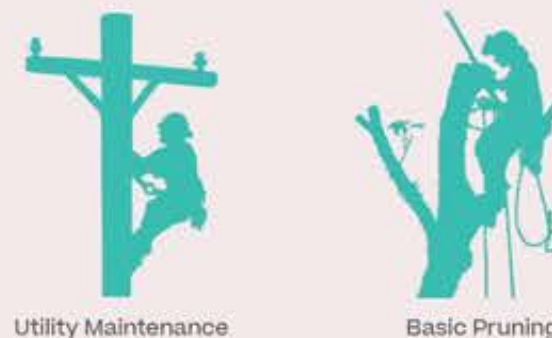
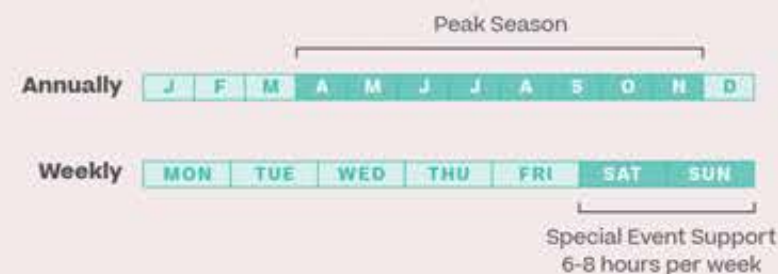
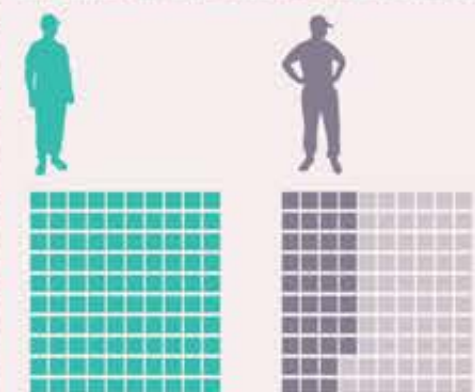
- Perimeter clean-up and trash removal requires considerable amount of work.
- Restrooms, drinking fountains, signage require regular repair.
- A lack of access to the tools and equipment needed to do the work; aging equipment requires frequent repairs, which have a slow turnaround time.
- Lack of man-power to cover everything that



■ BPRD Crew - Routine Maintenance ■ BPRD Crew - Limited Maintenance
■ Overlap between BPRD Crew & Adjacent Maintenance Crew (Golf Course or Zoo)
● Challenge Areas

Who maintains the park?

The maintenance crew consists of three full-time staff and one seasonal member.



Special Events

Tasks

- Preparation and event work includes putting out temporary trash reciprocals, cutting grass, and providing a safe environment. Post-event work includes trash pick-up, clearing, and repairs from damage.

Challenges

- The work is time consuming and takes energy away from regular park maintenance.
- Lack of coordination between events and events support means the maintenance crew

Periodic Special Projects

Tasks

- This work is usually contracted out but includes utility maintenance; basic pruning and canopy management for safety and emergencies.

Challenges

- Most work is reactionary.
- Limited scope, budgets, and policies means differing opinions on what is prioritized and