



BACK BAY FENS PATHWAYS DESIGN MEETING

Conceptual Design

Evans Way Bridge, War Memorial,
O'Reilly Monument



April 13, 2023
Boston Parks and Recreation 

MEETING RECORDING



The Boston Parks and Recreation Department will be recording the meeting and posting to our project webpage for those who are unable to attend the Zoom meeting live.

It is possible that participants may also be recording the meeting with their phones cameras or other devices. If you do not wish to be recorded during this meeting, please keep your microphone muted and camera off.

Please share with your neighbors and friends,

WEB LINK:

boston.gov/fens-pathways

AGENDA

1 PROJECT TEAM

2 PROJECT STATUS/RECAP

3 WAR MEMORIAL PRESENTATION OF CONCEPTUAL
DESIGN & LISTENING

4 O'REILLY PRESENTATION OF CONCEPTUAL
DESIGN & LISTENING

5 EVANS WAY BRIDGE PRESENTATION OF CONCEPTUAL
DESIGN & LISTENING

6 CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

PROJECT TEAM

Lauren Bryant

Project Manager

lauren.bryant@boston.gov or 617-961-3019

Margaret Van Scoy

Office of Neighborhood Services:

margaret.vanscoy@boston.gov or 617-635-2679

Kyle Zick

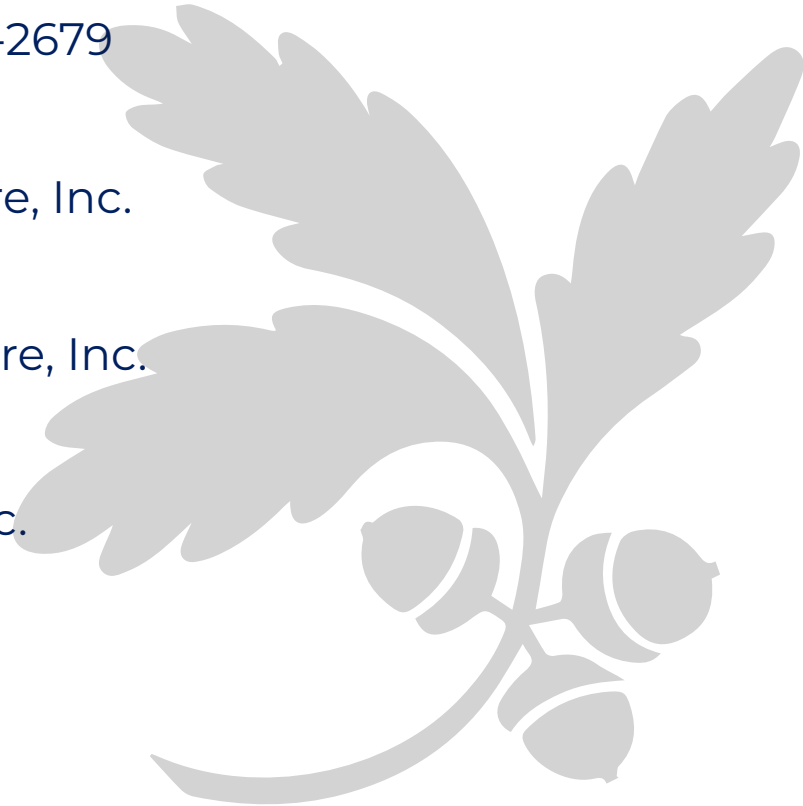
Principal, Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, Inc.

Jae Lee

Associate, Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, Inc.

Elena Saporta

Elena Saporta Landscape Architecture, Inc.





City of Boston
Priorities

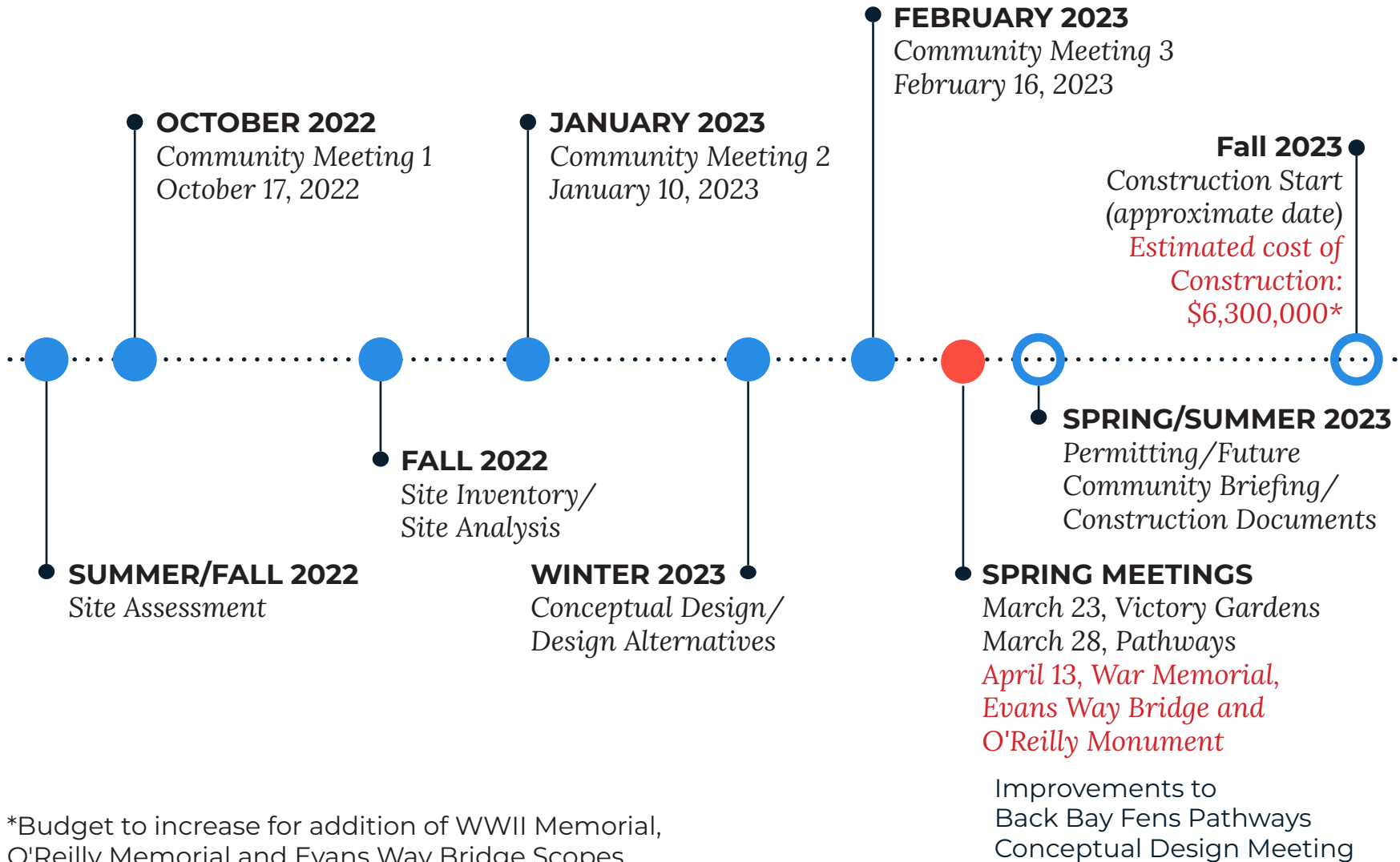
Safety Guidelines+
Regulatory
Guidelines

**PARK
DESIGN**

Parks + Recreation
Goals

Community
Input

PROJECT SCHEDULE & FUNDING



*Budget to increase for addition of WWII Memorial, O'Reilly Memorial and Evans Way Bridge Scopes

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

- **Emerald Necklace Conservancy**
- **Fenway Garden Society**
- **Fenway Civic Association**
- **Department of Conservation and Recreation**
- **Boston Transportation Department**
- **Boston Community Preservation**
- **Boston Arts Commission**
- **Boston Landmarks**
- **Boston Trust Office**
- **Army Corps of Engineers**
- **Boston Disabilities Commission**
- **Boston Conservation Commission**

CITY OF BOSTON PRIORITIES

- **Expanding walkable access to parks**
- **Addressing equity**
- **Climate resilience**
- **Health**
- **Housing and community building**



PARK & RECREATION GOALS

- **Accessible and available to all**
- **Diverse, balanced, and efficient mix of uses**
- **Meaningful and inclusive community engagement**
- **Adaptive and resilient landscapes**
- **Promote connections**



BACK BAY FENS PATHWAYS DESIGN SCOPE OF WORK

Review and amend pathways to improve:

- **Accessibility**
- **Desirability and uses**
- **Stormwater and runoff**
- **Materials**
- **Pathway longevity**



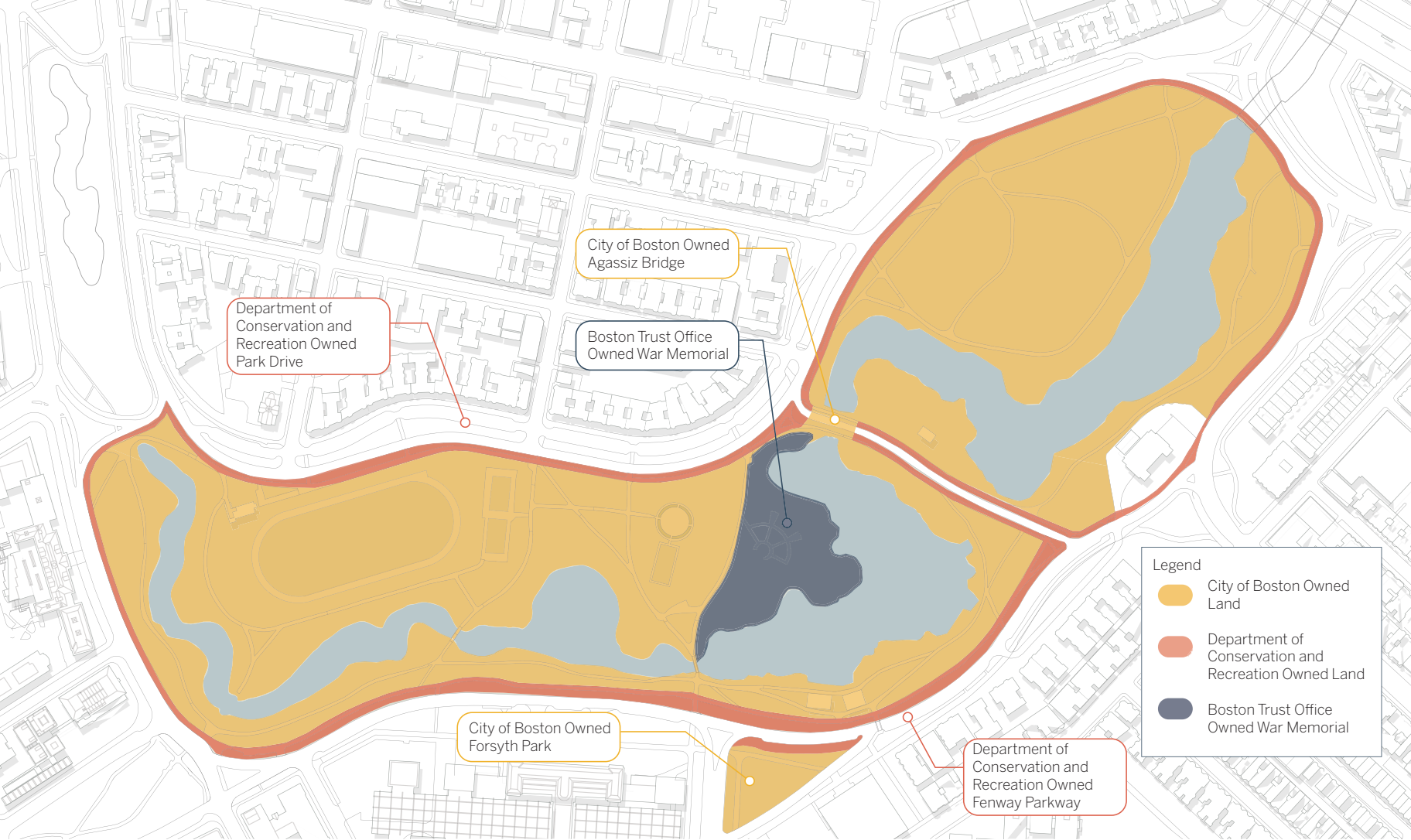
Legend

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Clemente Field | 10 | Fire Communication Building |
| 2 | Kelleher Rose Garden | 11 | Mothers Rest |
| 3 | Temple Bell | 12 | John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial |
| 4 | War Memorial | 13 | Park Drive |
| 5 | ENC Visitor Center | 14 | Fenway |
| 6 | Agassiz Road Duck House | 15 | Footbridge 1 |
| 7 | Agassiz Bridge | 16 | Footbridge 2 |
| 8 | Victory Gardens | 17 | Evans Way Bridge (Removed) |
| 9 | Robert Burns Statue | | |



BACK BAY FENS - LANDMARKS PLAN

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



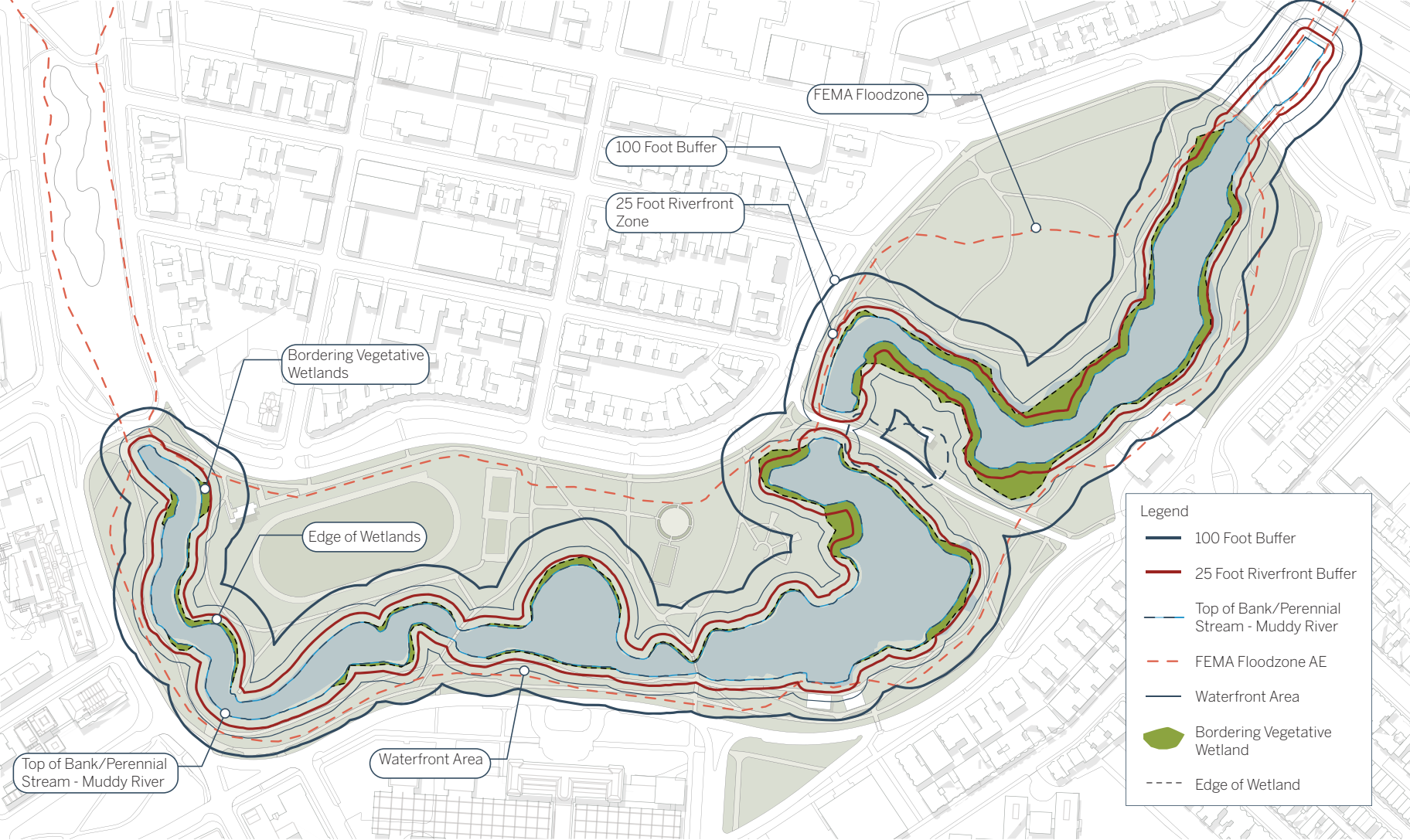
BACK BAY FENS - LAND OWNERSHIP

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - PATHWAY OWNERSHIP

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - WETLAND RESOURCES

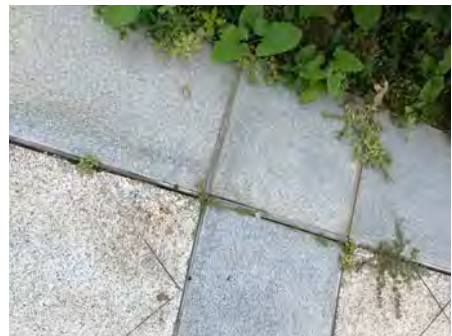
Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Existing Conditions

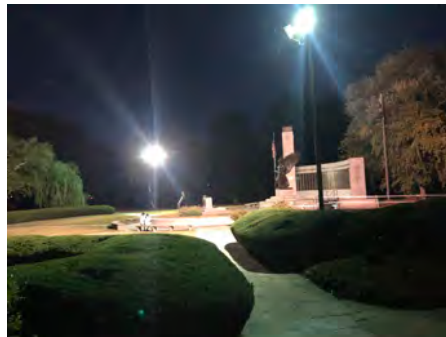
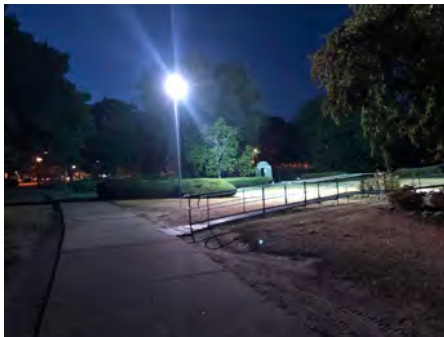
Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Existing Conditions

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Existing Conditions

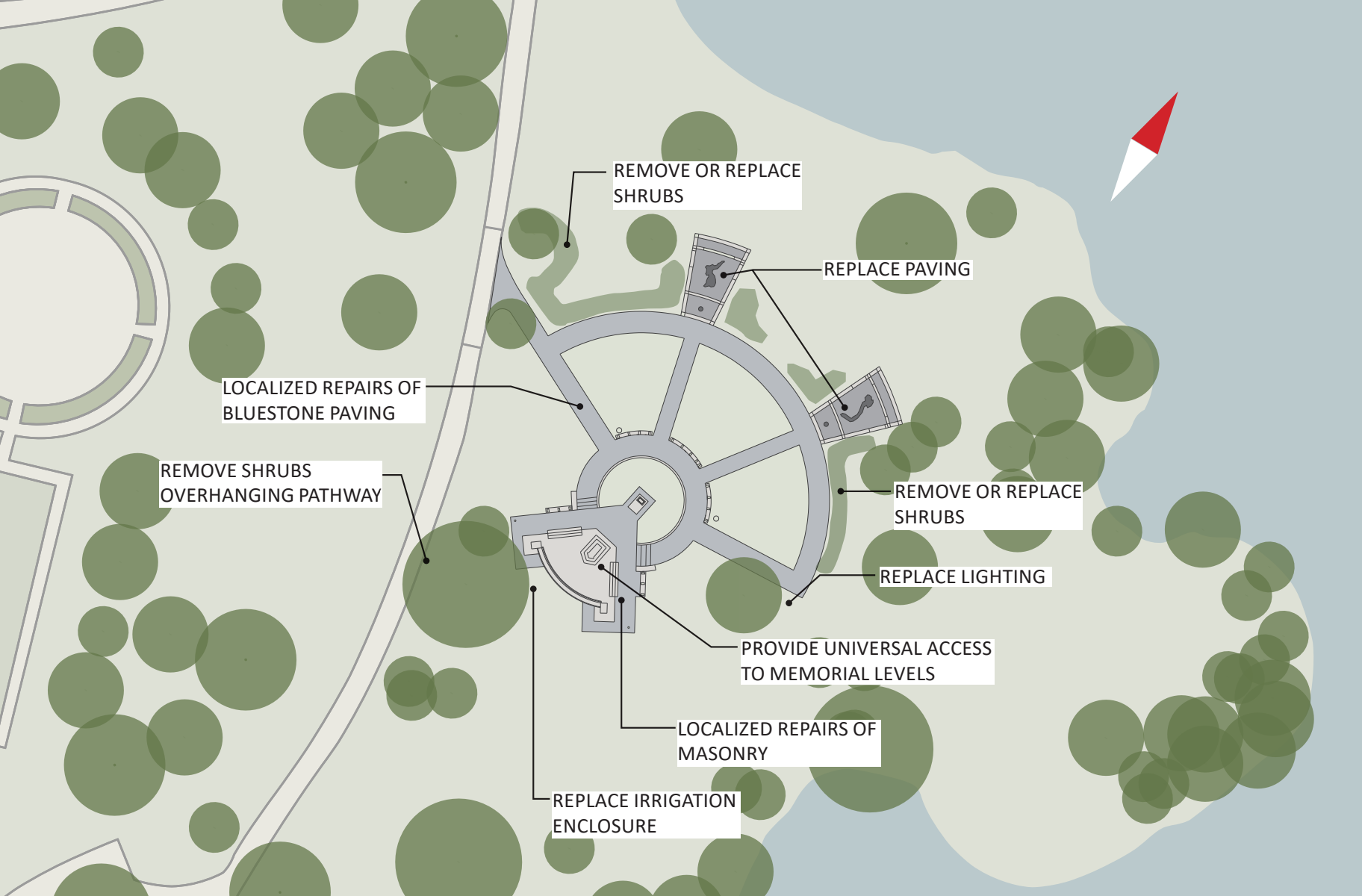
Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Existing Conditions

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Improvements

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

Option-1



Option-4



Option-7



Option-2



Option-5



Option-8



Option-3



Option-6



Option-9



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

**Accessibility
Options**

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



**BACK BAY FENS -
War Memorial**

Option-2

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-2

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-2

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-2

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-2

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



**BACK BAY FENS -
War Memorial**

Option-5

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-5

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-5

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-5

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-5

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-9

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-9

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-9

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-9

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-9

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Option-9

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



EXISTING CONDITION



PROPOSED OPTION-1



PROPOSED OPTION-3



PROPOSED OPTION-2

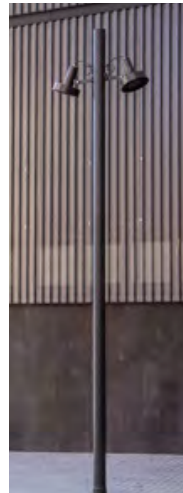


PROPOSED OPTION-4

BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

**Removal of Existing
Yews**

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



WWII NATIONAL MEMORIAL | WASHINGTON D.C.

ARNE LIGHTING | LANDSCAPE FORMS



FLAGPOLE LIGHTING | WASHINGTON D.C.

BACK BAY FENS - War Memorial

Lighting Options

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

A blurred photograph of a public meeting or community discussion. The scene is set in a room with a projector screen at the front. A person is standing near the screen, possibly presenting. The audience is seated in rows of chairs, facing the front of the room. The overall image has a blue tint.

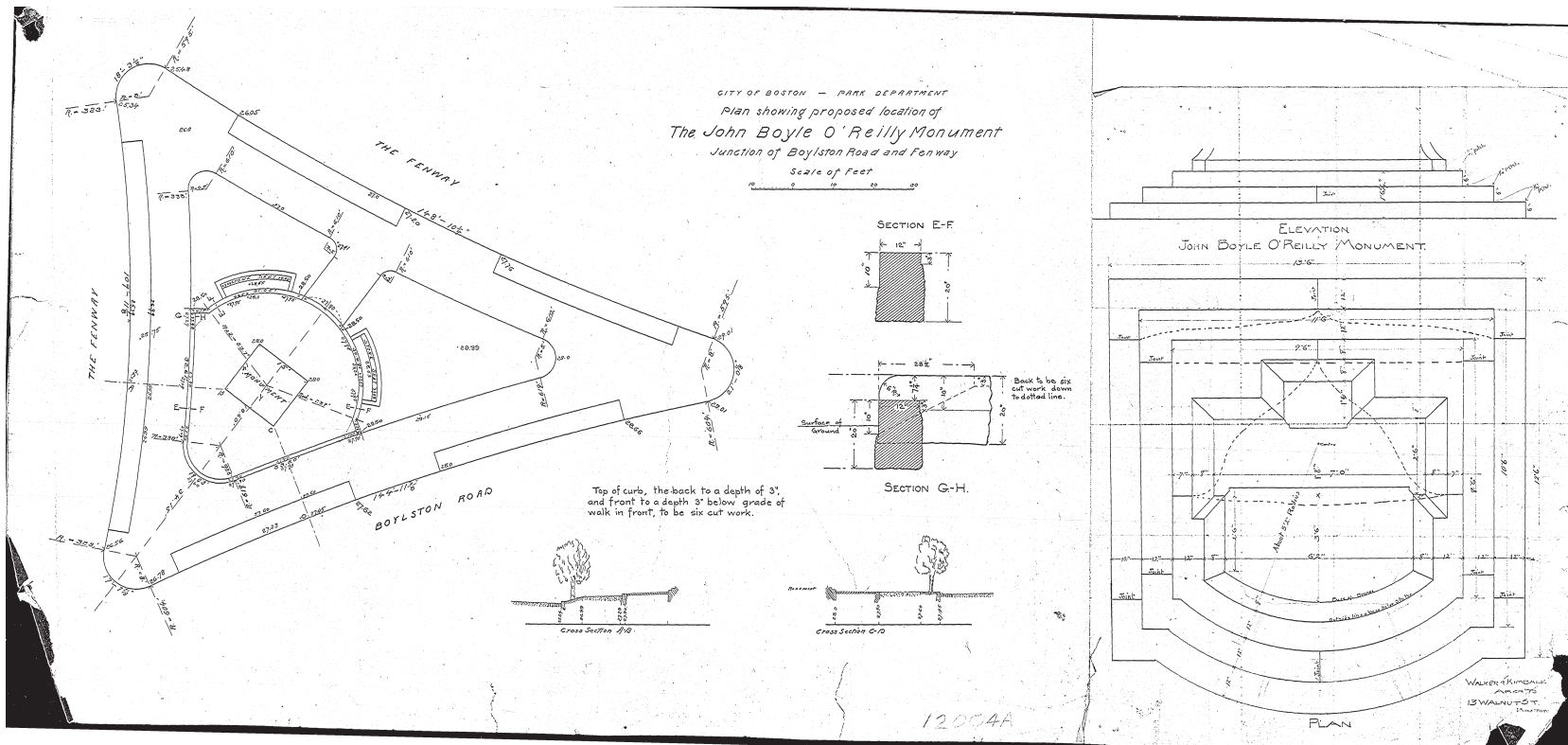
LISTENING & DISCUSSION

Help us build great parks.
Let us know what matters to you.



BACK BAY FENS - O'Reilly Monument

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



SOURCE: CITY OF BOSTON PARKS DEPARTMENT, CA. 1895

BACK BAY FENS - O'Reilly Monument

History

Improvements to
 Back Bay Fens Pathways
 Conceptual Design Meeting



JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY MONUMENT, BOSTON, MA
DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH, CA. 1910-1915

SOURCE: DIGITAL COMMONWEALTH, MASSACHUSETTS COLLECTIONS ONLINE,
WWW.DIGITALCOMMONWEALTH.ORG/SEARCH/COMMONWEALTH:6108Z204Q

BACK BAY FENS - O'Reilly Monument

History

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

MATERIALS:

- GRANITE PAVERS (11.5" X 12.25")
- GRANITE BAND (16.25" X 47.25")
- GRANITE CURBING
- CONCRETE PAVING (POOR)
- CONCRETE CURB RAMP WITH DETECTABLE WARNING SURFACE
- ASPHALT PATCH



BACK BAY FENS - O'Reilly Monument

Existing Conditions

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

6.5" REVEAL

5" REVEAL

4" REVEAL

2.5" REVEAL

FLUSH



BACK BAY FENS - O'Reilly Monument

Existing Conditions

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

BENCHES:

- MORTAR JOINTS ARE FAILING
- AREAS WHERE GRANITE IS CRACKED OR HAS BEEN PATCHED IN PREVIOUS REPAIRS
- STAINING ON GRANITE
- BENCHES ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE (CURB)



**BACK BAY FENS -
O'Reilly Monument**

Existing Conditions

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



GRANITE PAVER JOINTS
AREN'T ACCESSIBLE



CONCRETE PAVING SETTLED, CREATING
TRIP HAZARD AT BACK OF CURB



SOME CURBING HAS SMALL REVEALS
CREATING TRIPPING HAZARDS



EDGE OF GRANITE PAVING IS
A TRIPPING HAZARD



DETECTABLE WARNING HAS
LARGE VOIDS AT EDGES

BACK BAY FENS - O'Reilly Monument

Existing Conditions

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



DESIRE LINES AT CROSSWALK



POOR CONDITION CONCRETE PAVING



MATERIAL TRANSITIONS



GRADE CHANGE/STEP ISN'T CLEARLY DEFINED/SOCIAL TRAIL AND EROSION

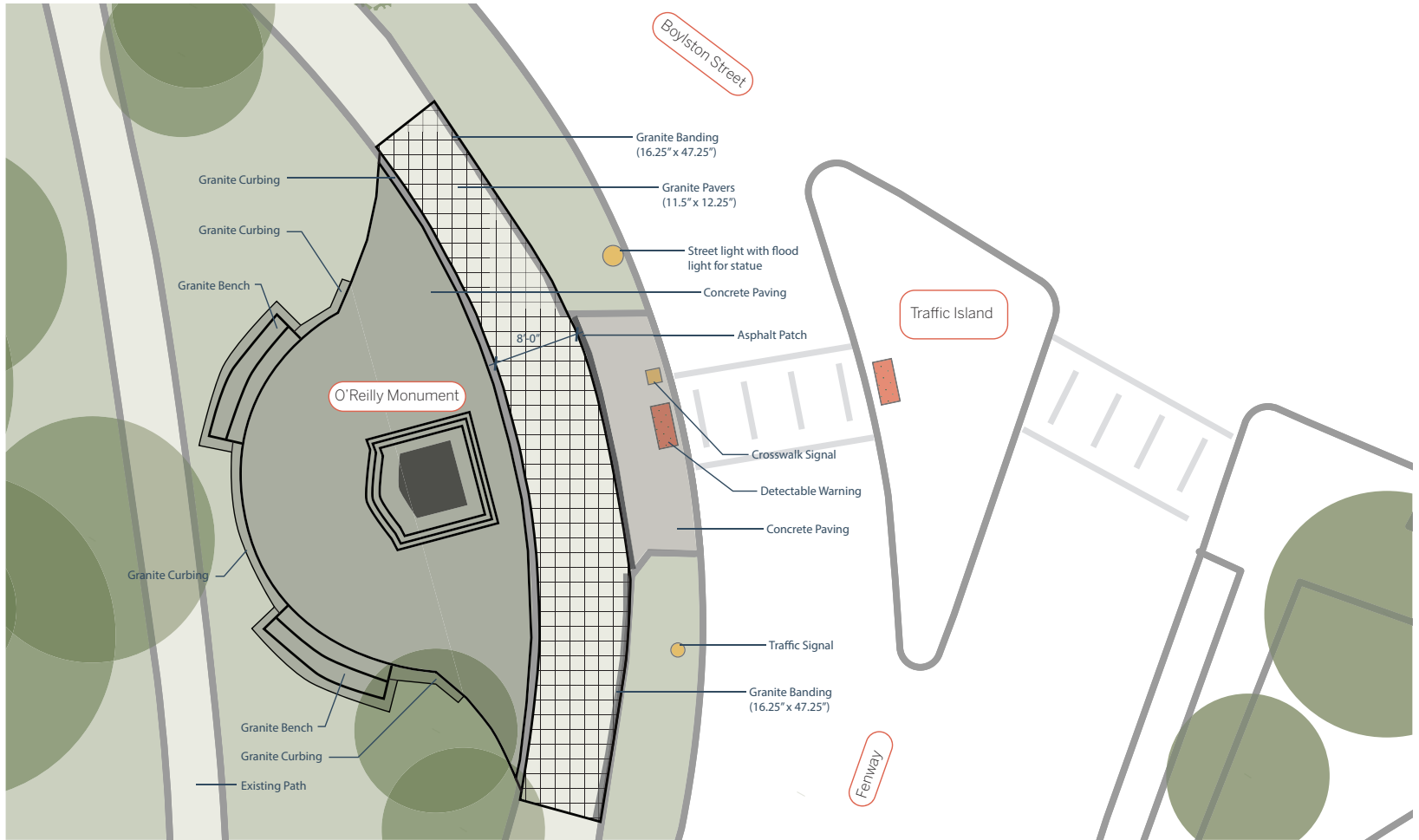


DESIRE LINES TO THE OUTSIDE OF PATH

BACK BAY FENS - O'Reilly Monument

Existing Conditions

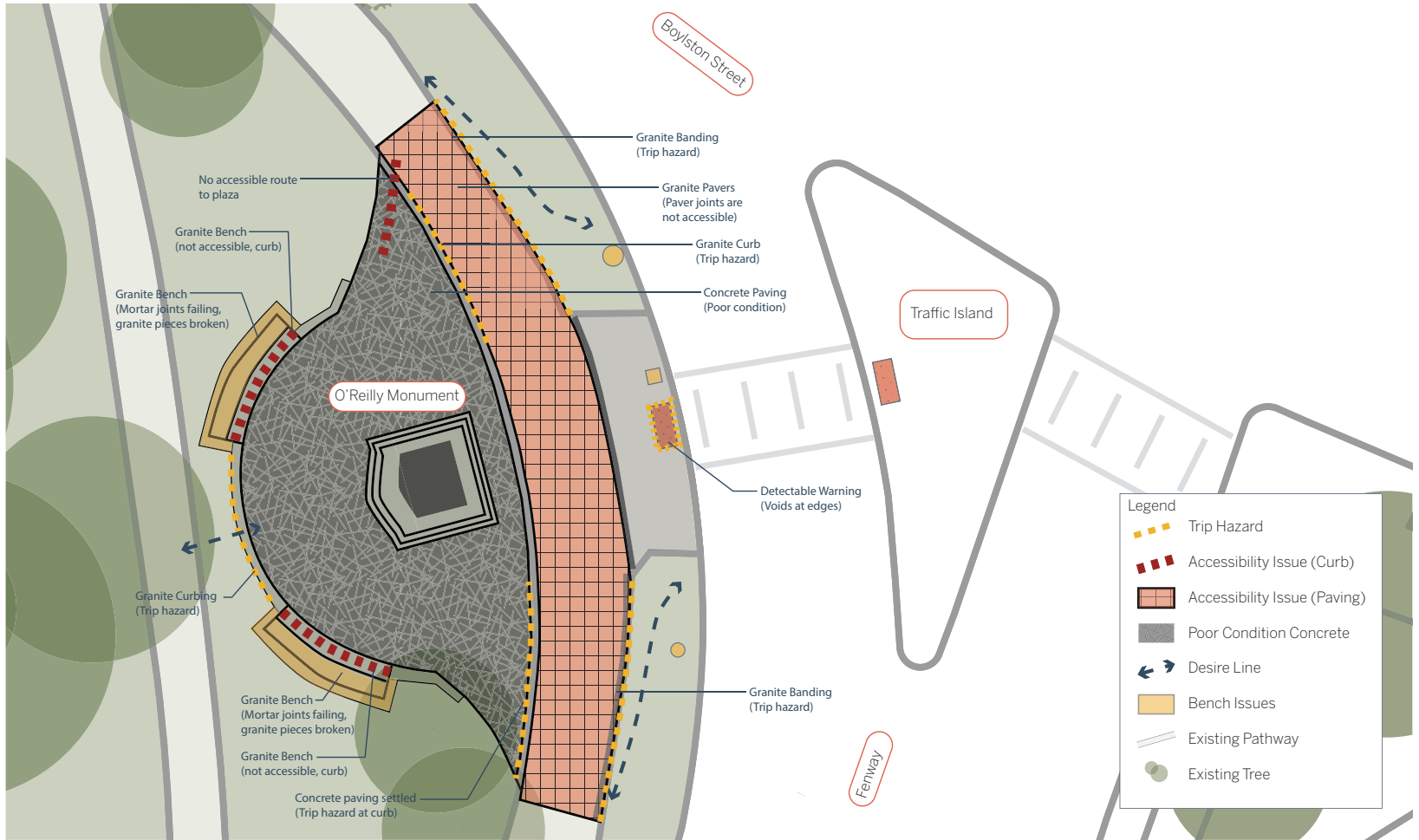
Improvements to Back Bay Fens Pathways Conceptual Design Meeting



BACK BAY FENS - O'Reilly Monument

Existing Conditions

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

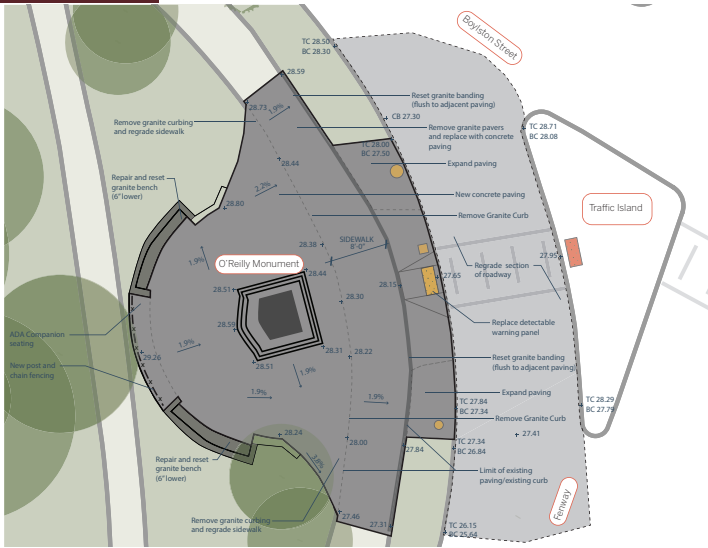


BACK BAY FENS - O'Reilly Monument

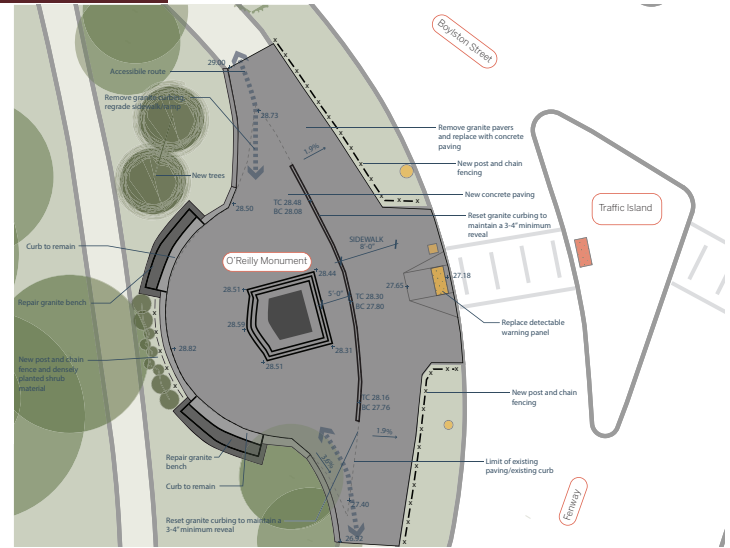
Existing Conditions -Issues & Challenges

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

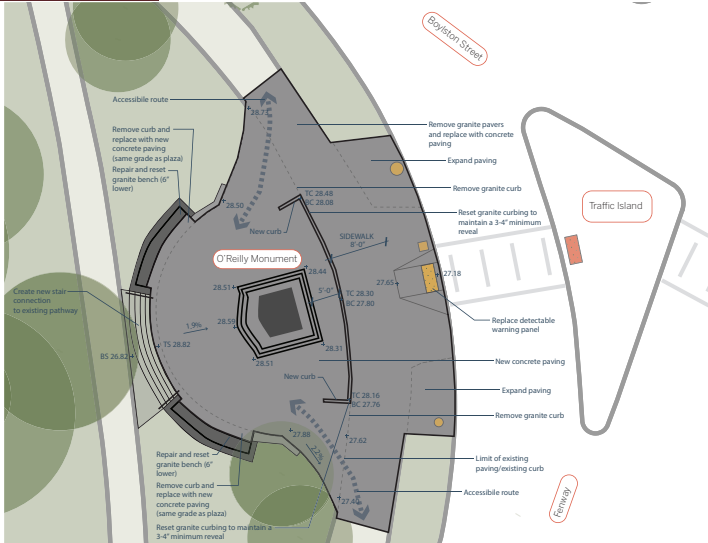
CONCEPT A



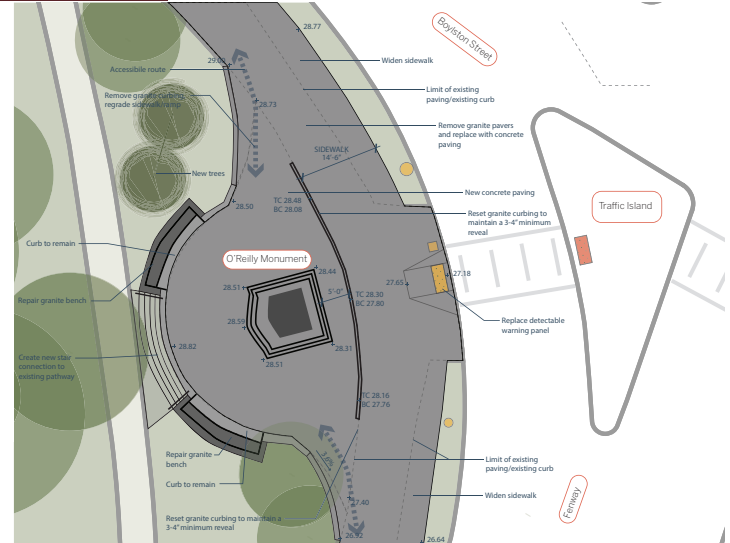
CONCEPT C



CONCEPT B



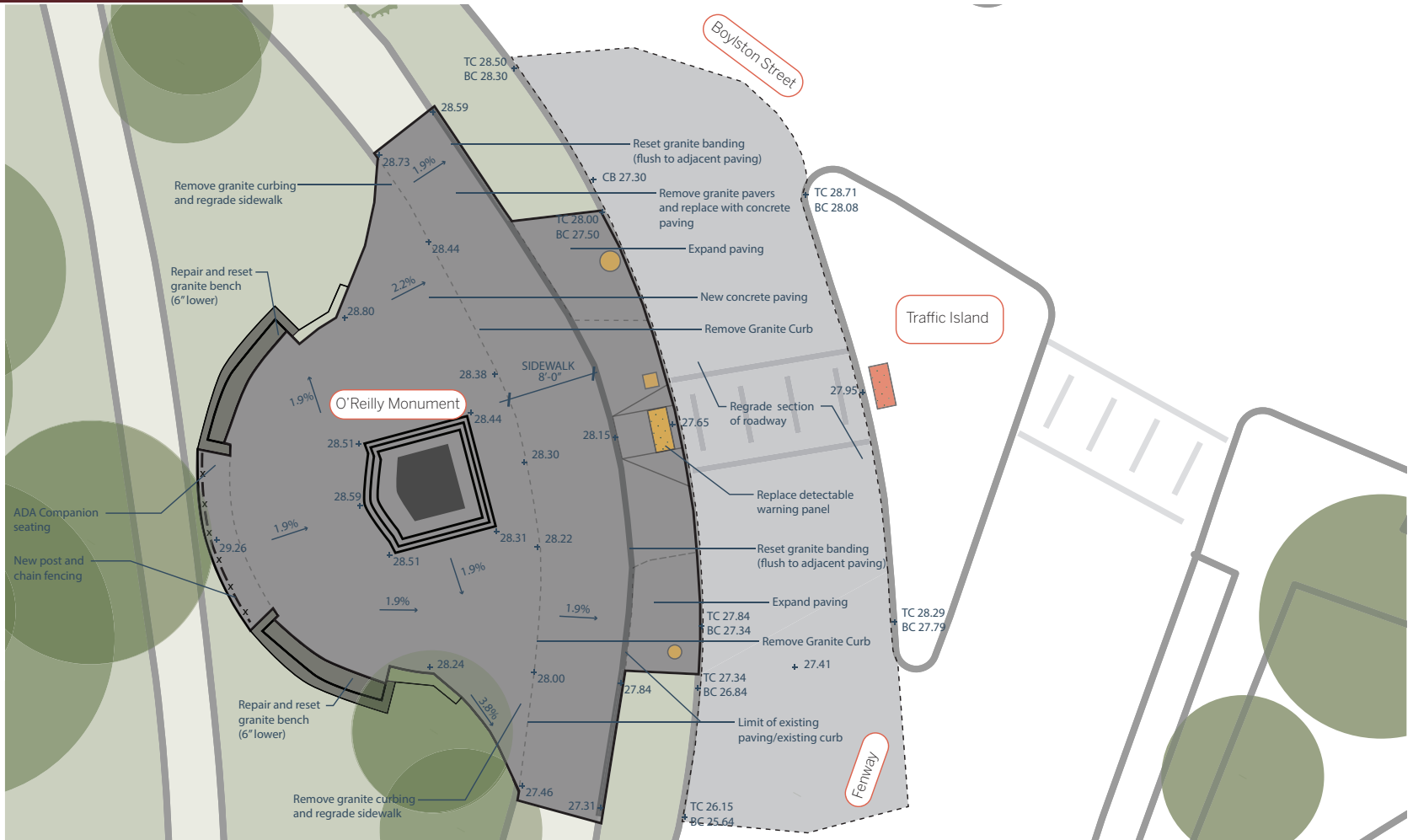
CONCEPT D



BACK BAY FENS - Proposed options O'Reilly Monument

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

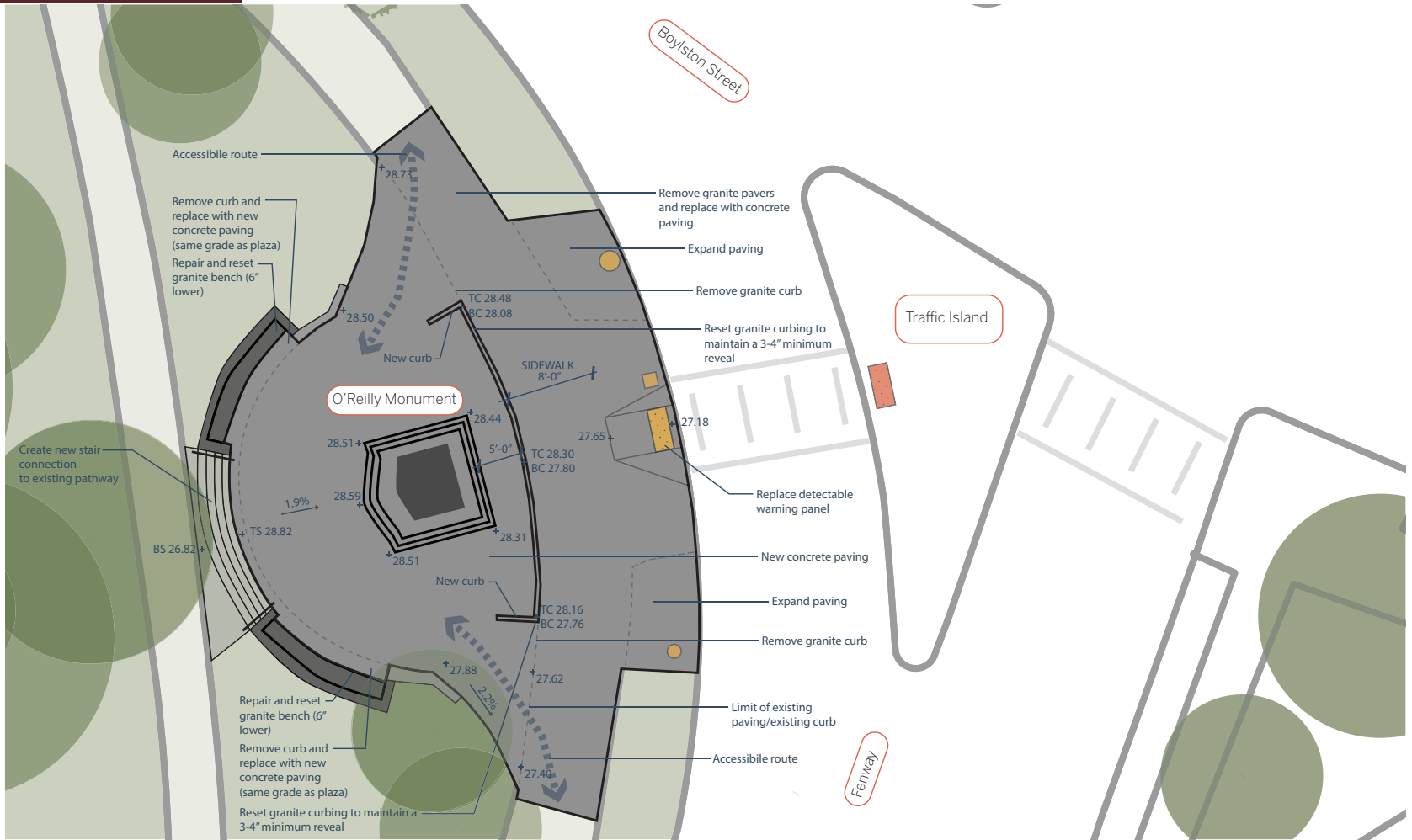
CONCEPT A



BACK BAY FENS - Proposed option O'Reilly Monument

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

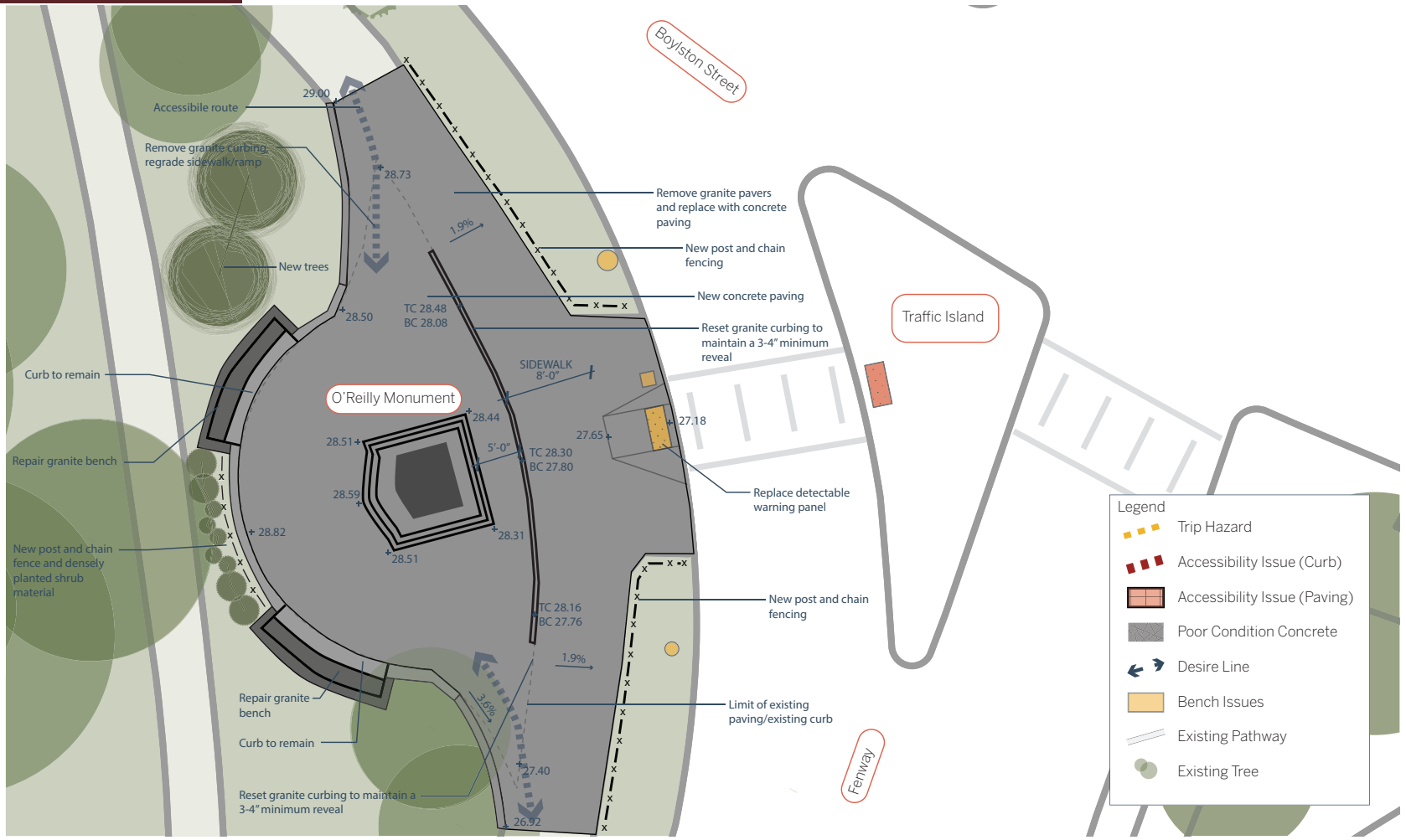
CONCEPT B



BACK BAY FENS - Proposed option O'Reilly Monument

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

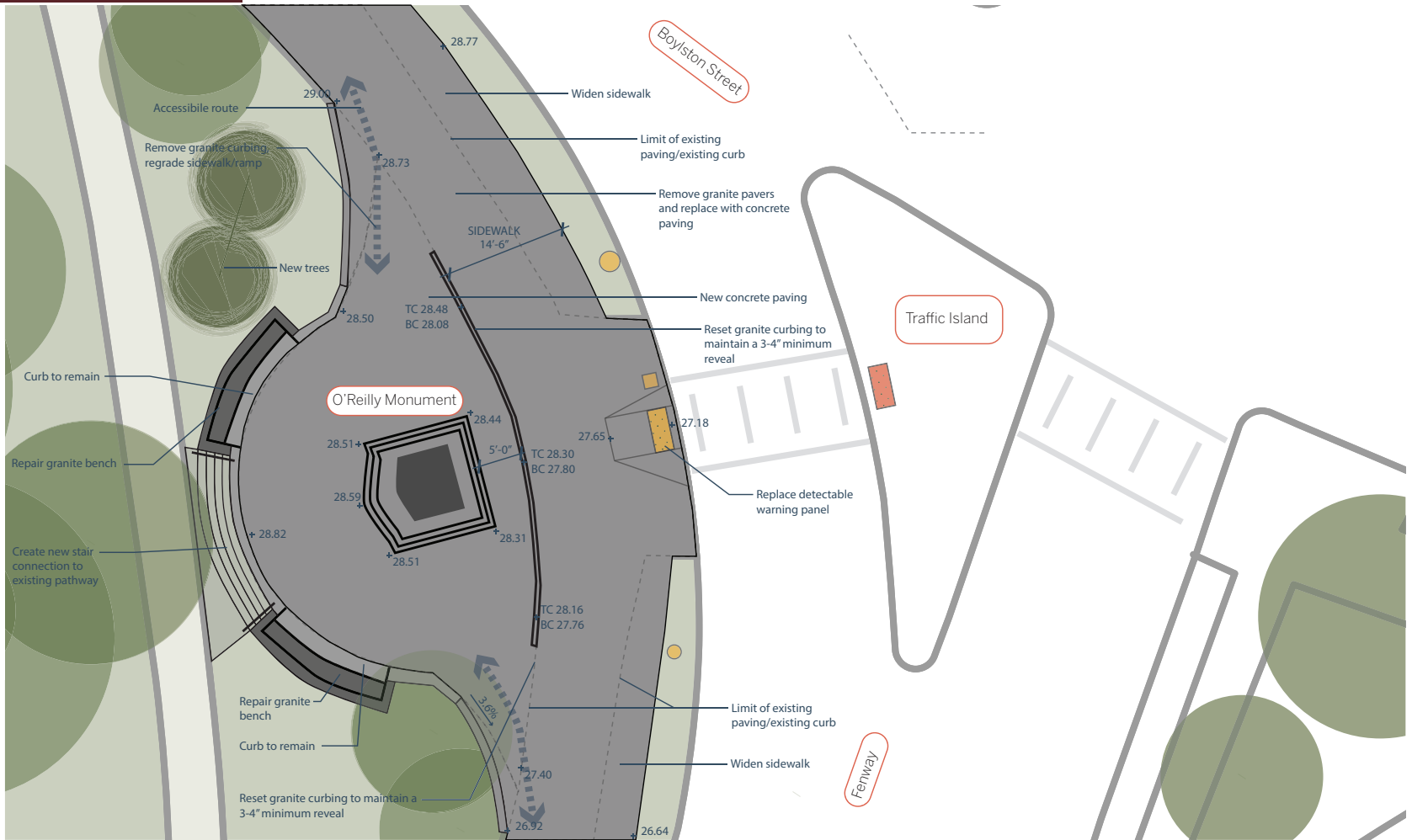
CONCEPT C



BACK BAY FENS - Proposed option O'Reilly Monument

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

CONCEPT D



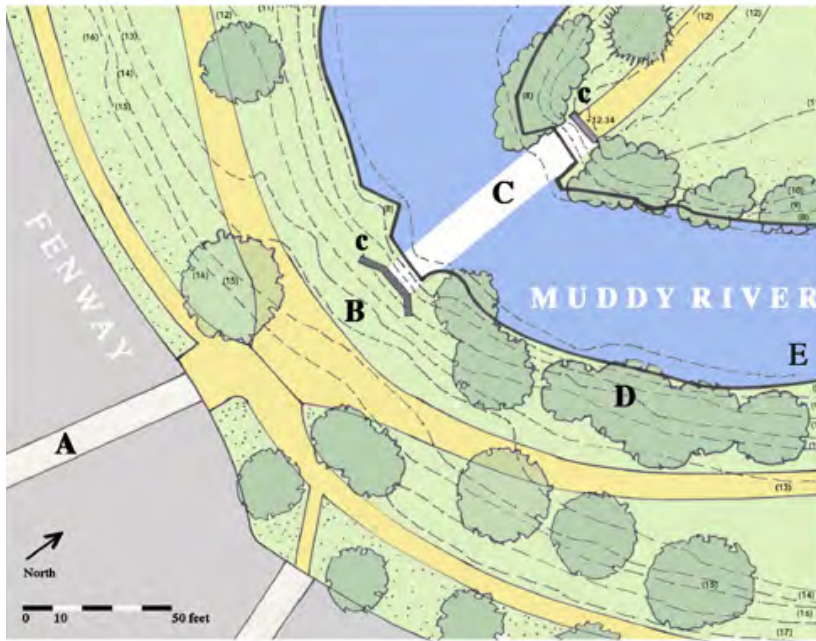
BACK BAY FENS - Proposed option O'Reilly Monument

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

A blurred photograph of a public meeting or community discussion. The scene is set in a room with a large projector screen at the front. A person is standing near the screen, likely presenting. The audience is seated in rows of chairs, facing the front of the room. The overall image has a blue tint.

LISTENING & DISCUSSION

Help us build great parks.
Let us know what matters to you.



- A** Cross-walk across the Fenway - aligns with the primary path through Evans Way Park
- B** Approximate .6 % grade between edge of path and deck elevation of original footbridge deck
- C** Site of missing footbridge
Original bridge dimensions: 10'- 0" X 81'- 0"
deck elevation: 13.45
- c** Original concrete bridge abutments :
- D** Existing vegetation - consists primarily of oaks and maples
- E** Average water level - elevation 8.0



1 Sycamore Allee



2 Specimen Ash tree



Site Context

BACK BAY FENS - Evans Way Bridge

Site Analysis

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

Concept A

- Precedents: Back Bay Fens Bridges by Carol Johnson - 1970's & Arthur Shurcliff
- Boston Esplanade Bridges - 1930's
- Masonry with simple steel railing
- Stone Coping



Concept B

- Based on the design vernacular of the historic Evans Way Bridge by Arthur Shurcliff using modern materials (steel in lieu of wood)



Concept C

- Contemporary steel beam bridge with Water-jet cut steel fence panels with foliage motif inspired by the vegetation in the Back Bay Fens



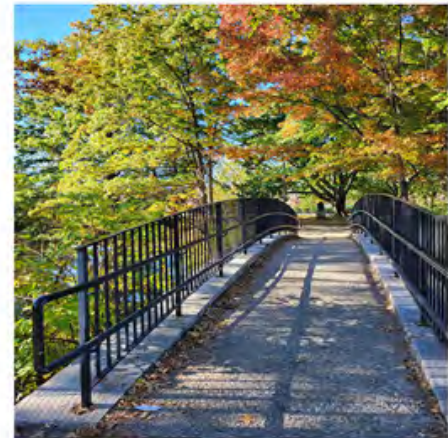
BACK BAY FENS - Evans Way Bridge

Bridge Concepts

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



Bridge on Boston Esplanade - Arthur Shurcliff

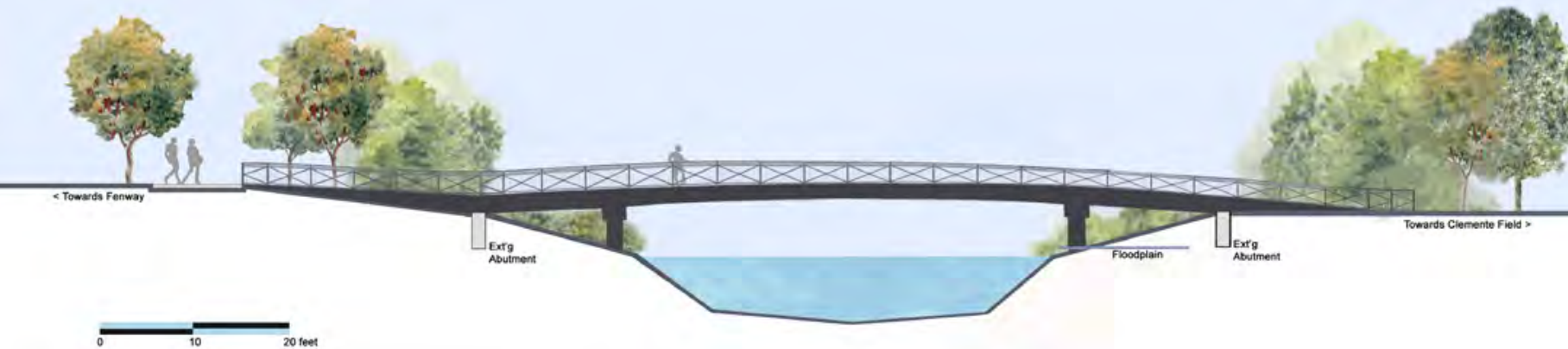


Back Bay Fens Bridge - Carol Johnson

BACK BAY FENS - Evans Way Bridge

Concept A

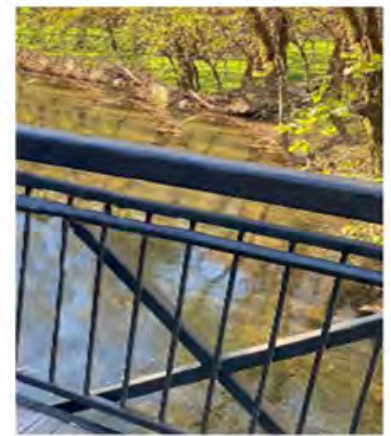
Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



Evans Way Bridge - Arthur Shurcliff



Remnants of Evans Way Bridge - 2018

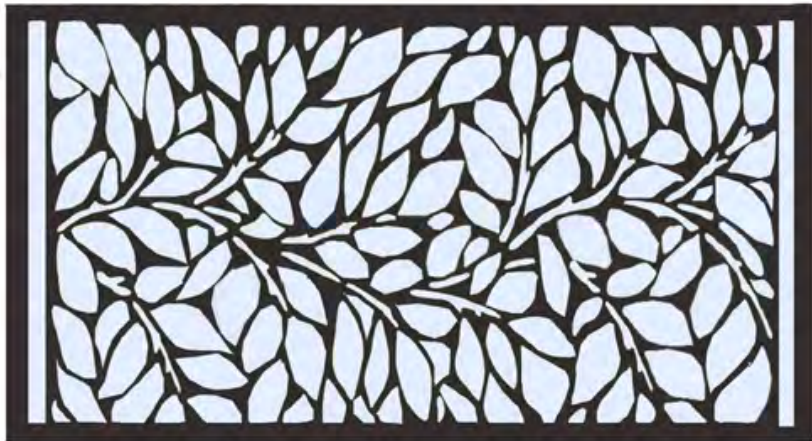
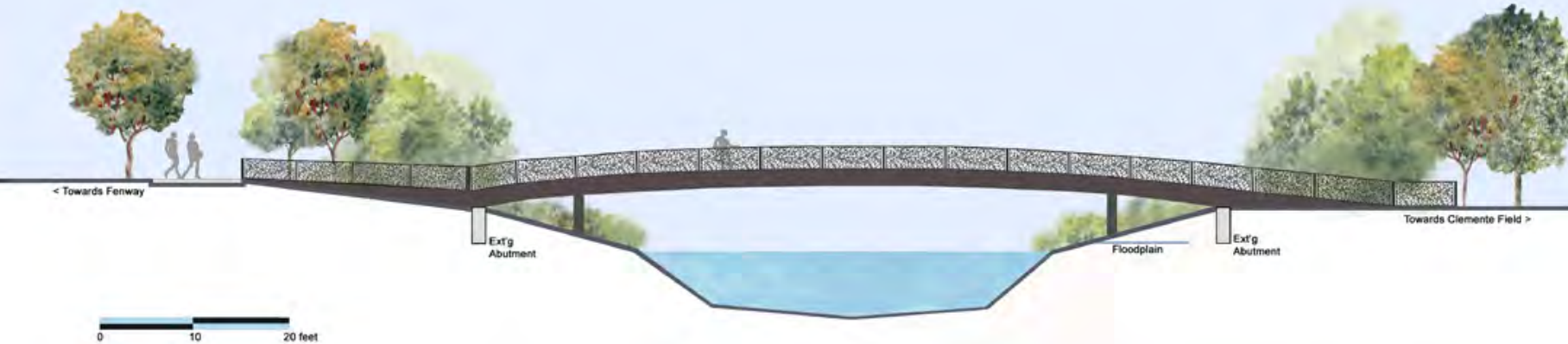


Bridge Railing Detail - Newton, MA

BACK BAY FENS - Evans Way Bridge

Concept B

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting



Fence Panel with Foliage Motif



Fence Panel with Swallow Motif - Ramler Park, Boston

BACK BAY FENS - Evans Way Bridge

Concept C

Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

A blurred photograph of a public meeting or community discussion. The scene is set in a room with a projector screen at the front. A person is standing near the screen, possibly presenting. The audience is seated in rows of chairs, facing the front of the room. The overall image has a blue tint.

LISTENING & DISCUSSION

Help us build great parks.
Let us know what matters to you.

NEXT STEPS

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING(S)

Community briefing to share the final direction of the work
-to be scheduled

VISIT PROJECT WEBSITE

WEB LINK:

boston.gov/fens-pathways

Scan me with your
phone's camera!



Improvements to
Back Bay Fens Pathways
Conceptual Design Meeting

A photograph of a park path. In the foreground, a paved path leads towards a fenced-in area. A person is walking away on the path. To the left, there are trees with white blossoms. In the background, there's a pond and more trees under a clear blue sky.

THANK YOU!

See the project website for future updates.



For questions, maintenance requests or concerns regarding any of our parks contact 311



April 13, 2023
Boston Parks and Recreation

