



Prescott Park Master Plan

City of Portsmouth

Weston & Sampson's Design Studio

Gene Bolinger, RLA

Cheri Ruane, RLA



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June 22, 2016

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blue ribbon committee

- Councilor **Chris Dwyer**, Chair
- Mayor **Jack Blalock**
- Councilor **Nancy Pearson**
- **Stefany Shaheen**, resident representative
- **Phyllis Eldridge**, Trustee of Trust Funds
- **Dana Levenson**, Trustee of Trust Funds
- **Thomas Watson**, Trustee of Trust Funds







presentation outline

- Next Steps & Timeline
- Project Understanding & What We've Been Up To
- Existing Conditions & What We've Heard So Far
- Design Opportunities
- Project Schedule



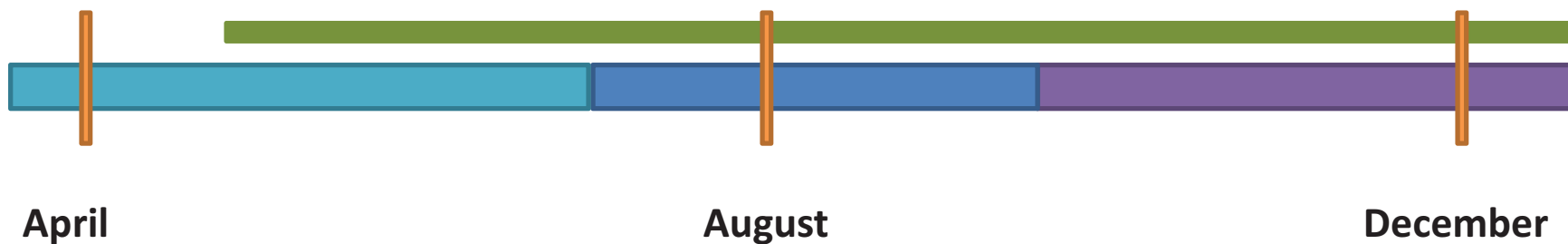
Project Phases / Scope of Work

Next Steps

-  Site Analysis
-  Public Input & Participation
-  Conceptual Design
-  Master Plan & Facilities Plan

Timeline

- Spring / Summer
- Project Duration
- Summer
- Fall / Winter



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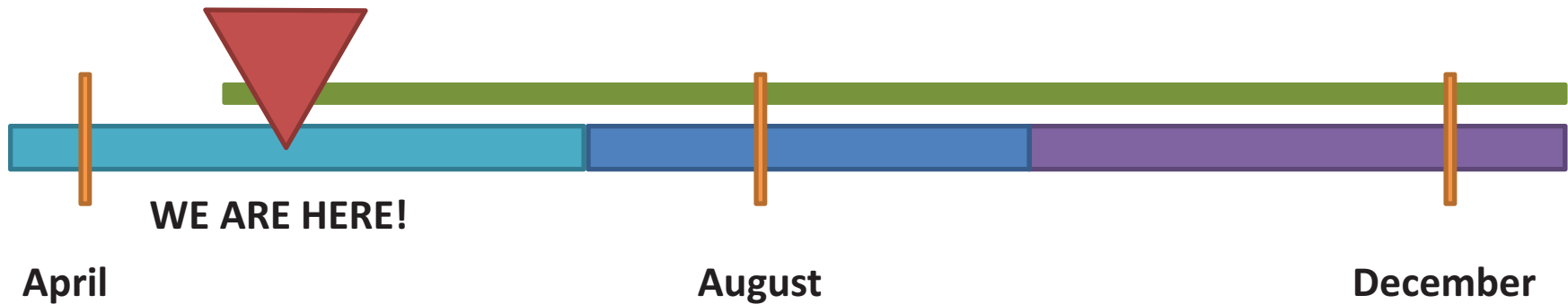
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project understanding



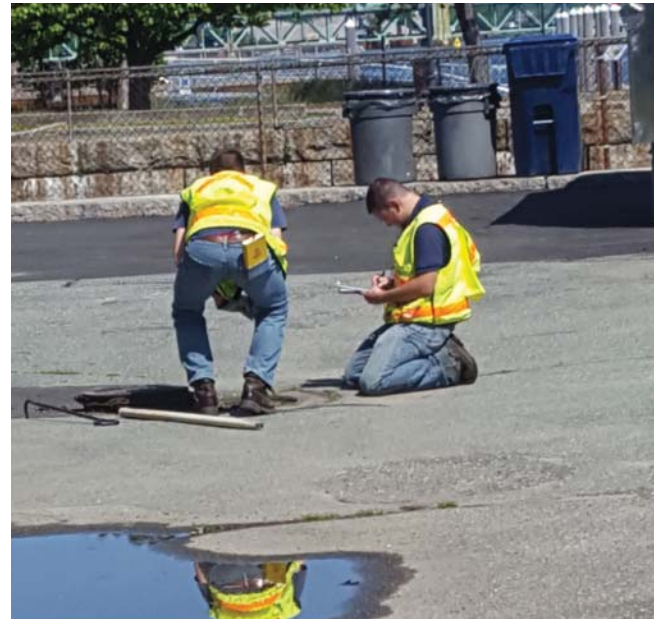
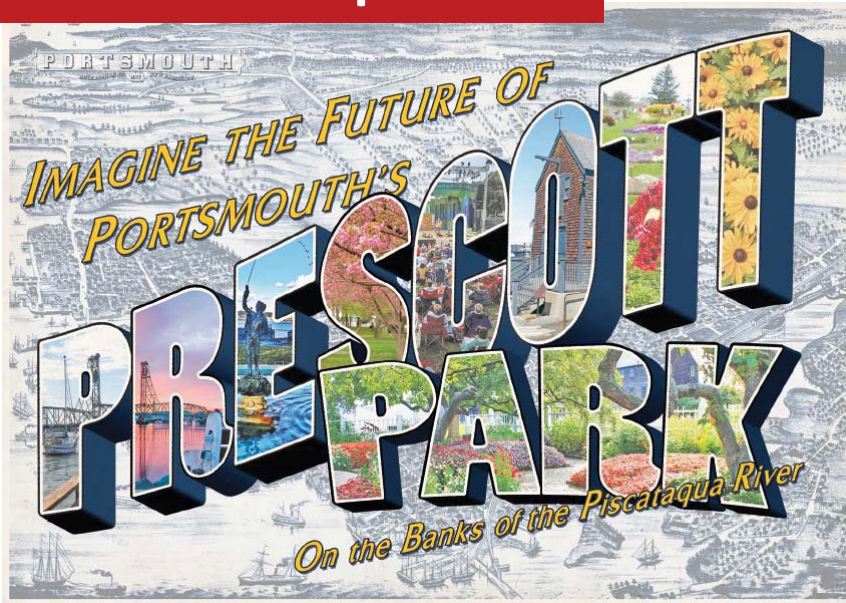
- **Most important** project of this generation
- Legacy undertaking that continues the rich history of access to public open space established by Prescott sisters
- Master planning process of a wildly **successful place**
- **Breakthrough possibilities**



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What we've been up to...



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Community & Park Events



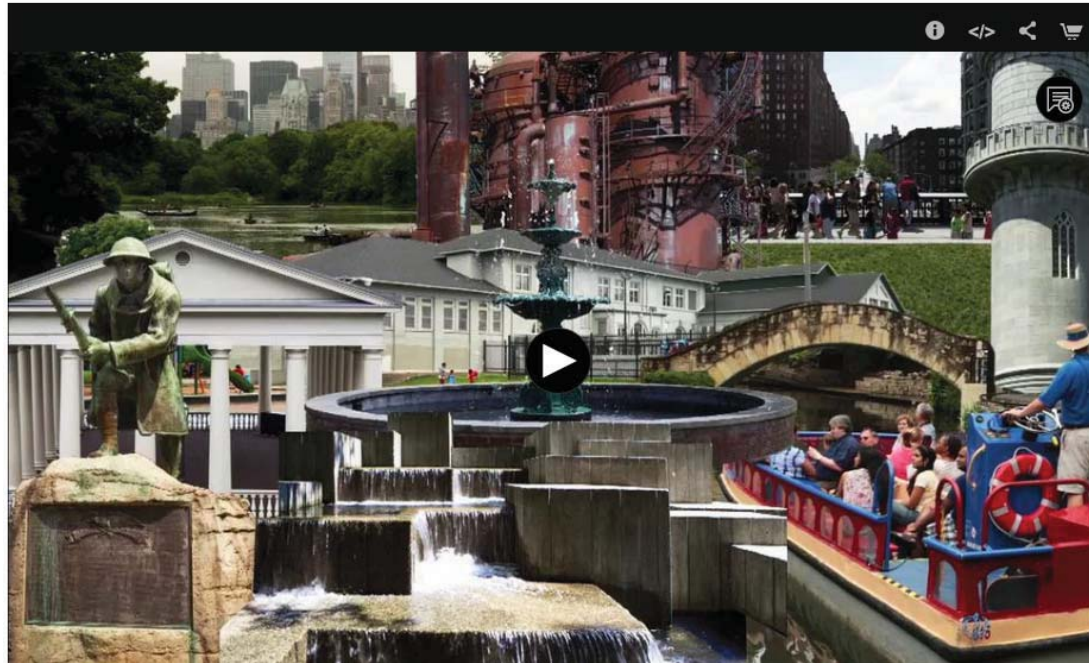
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what makes a great park?



This program is available on the PBS website and will be screened at the Portsmouth Public Library **August 9th at 6:30 p.m.**



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what makes a great park?



Central Park, New York City



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what makes a great park?



Savannah, Georgia



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what makes a great park?



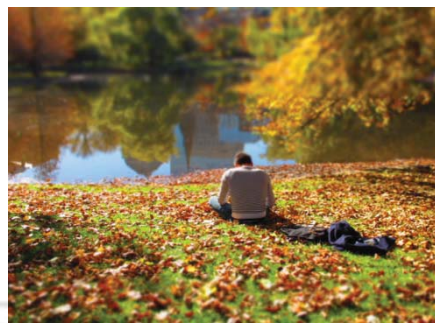
Boston Common and Public Garden, Boston



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variety of experience



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opportunities to play

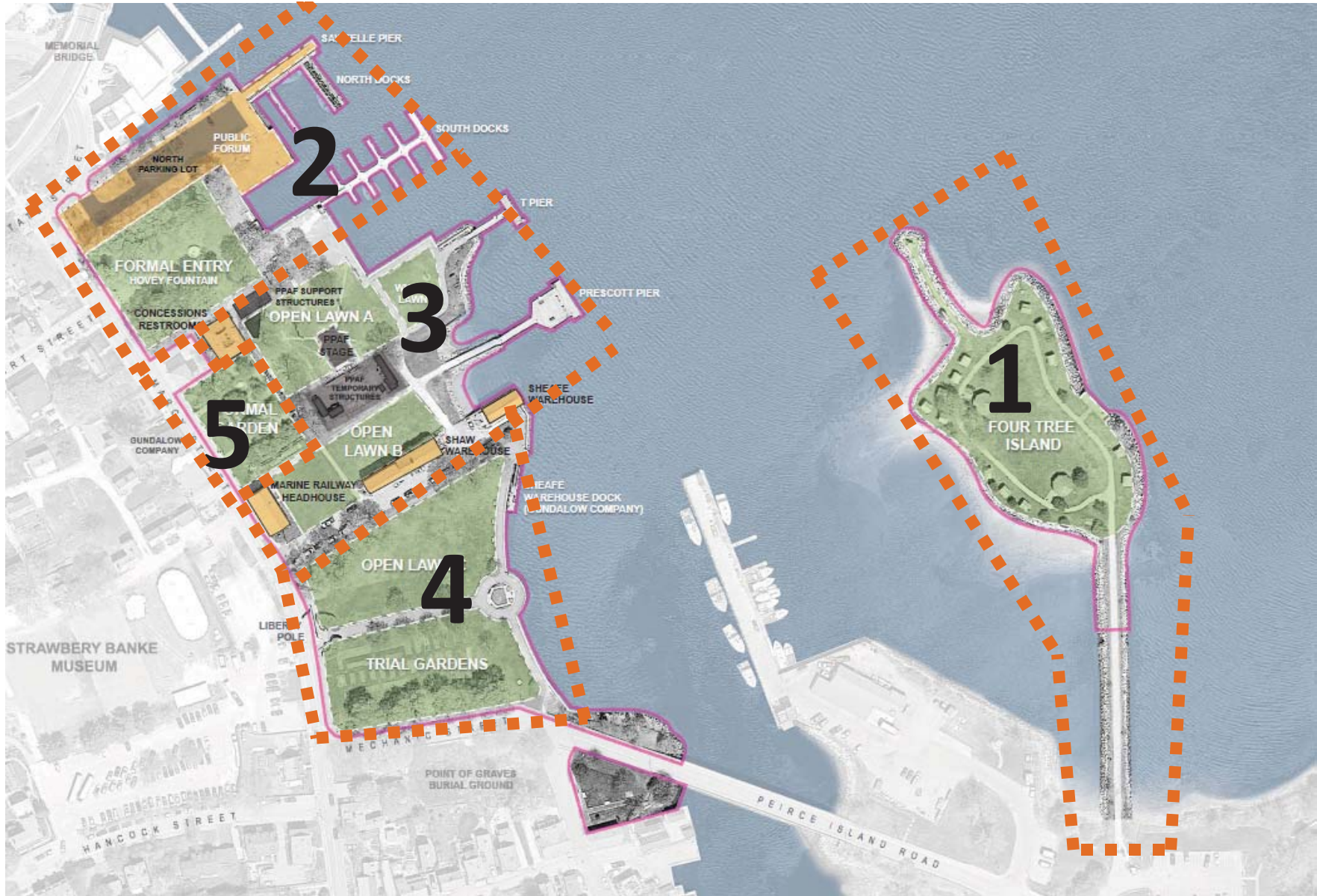


connections to water



connections to water





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existing conditions



AREA 1: Four Tree Island



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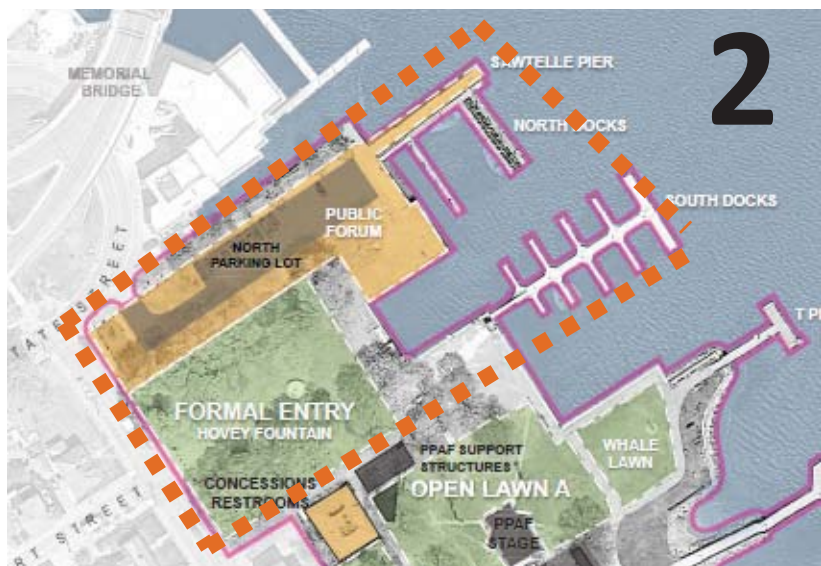
AREA 1 - WHAT WE'VE HEARD

- Improve the entrance to be more obvious and a welcoming gateway with better signage.
- Consider beach access or viewing for tide pooling.
- Boardwalks in key locations to get closer to the water in an accessible way.
- More seating along the walkways and at the sculpture.
- Improve pedestrian walkways across the entire island.
- Add stuff to look at and do along the walkway from gate to picnic area. Maybe interpretive moments that tell the story of the place.
- It would be really cool if there were actually Four Trees here, or at least four "focal" trees. Once upon a time, this was the case.



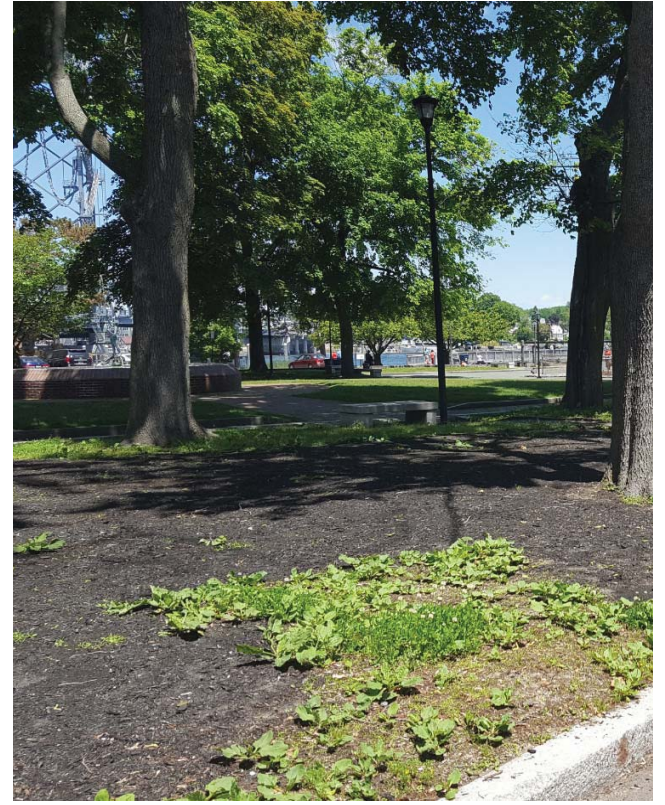
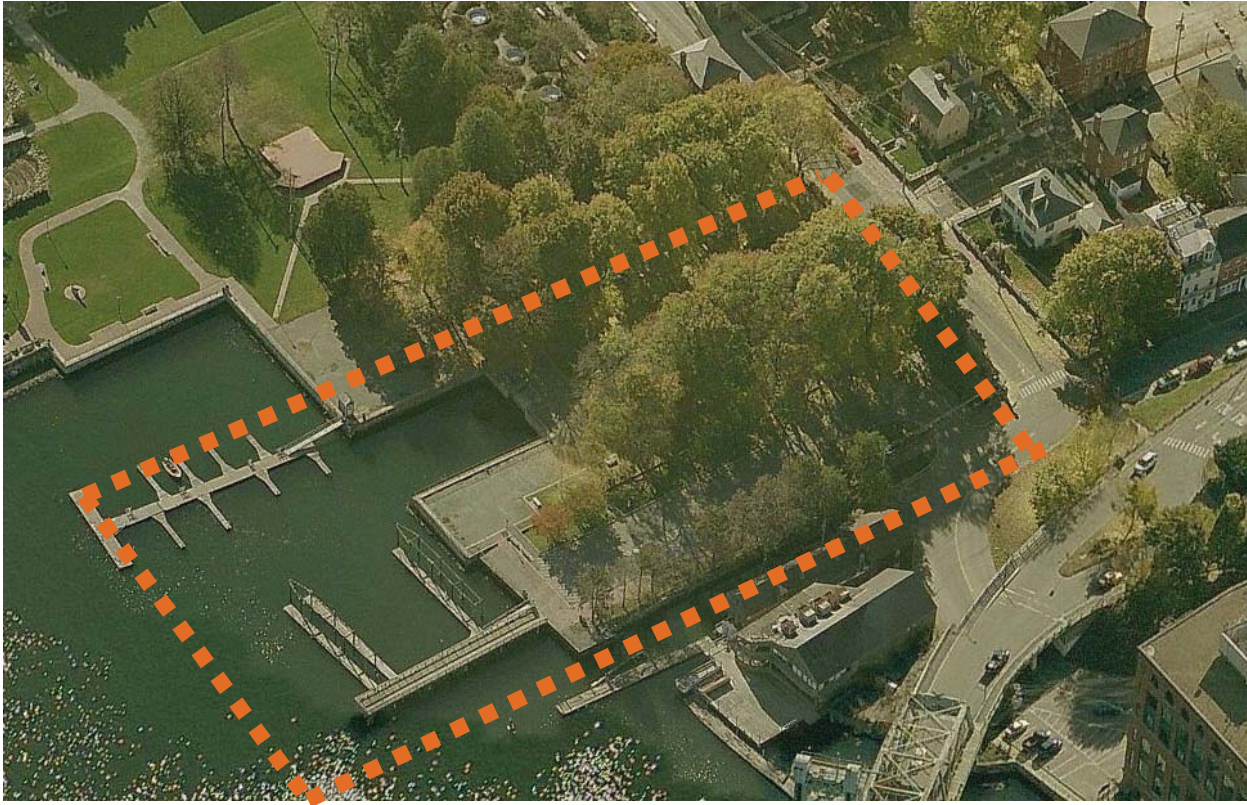
existing conditions

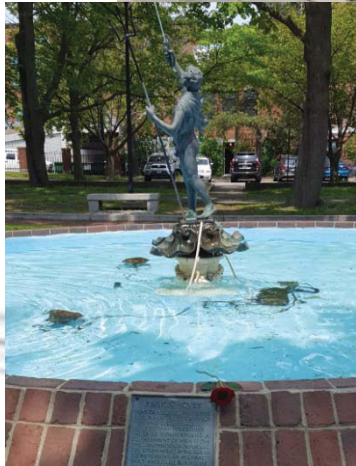
AREA 2: Formal Entry / North Parking Lot / Public Forum / North and South Docks



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AREA 2 - WHAT WE'VE HEARD

- Pedestrian circulation is not intuitive and pathways are failing.
- North Pier is aging rapidly.
- Improve access to water while keeping public safety in mind.
- Innovative site furnishing strategy (lighting, benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.) including charging stations.
- Integrate public art, including temporary installations.
- Less pavement, more green space (parking lot, public forum, etc.)
- Relocate the dumpsters.

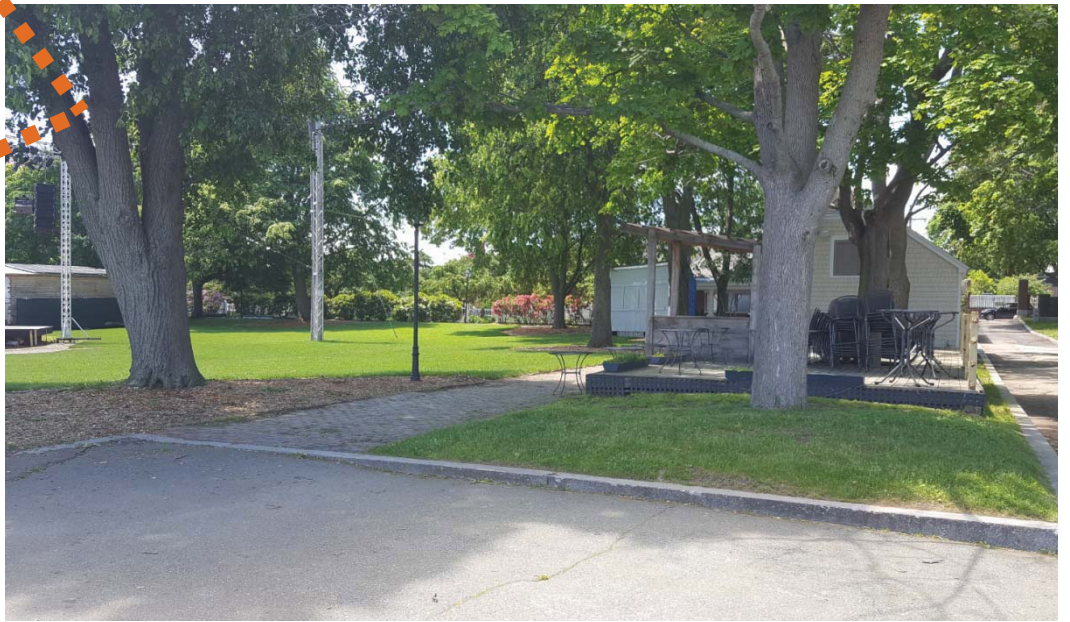
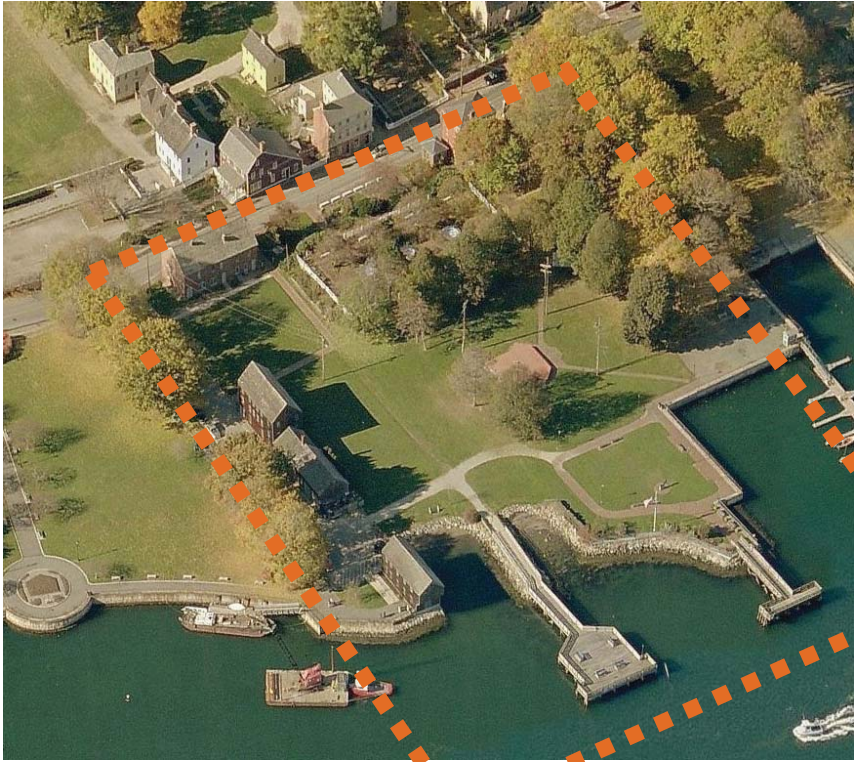


existing conditions

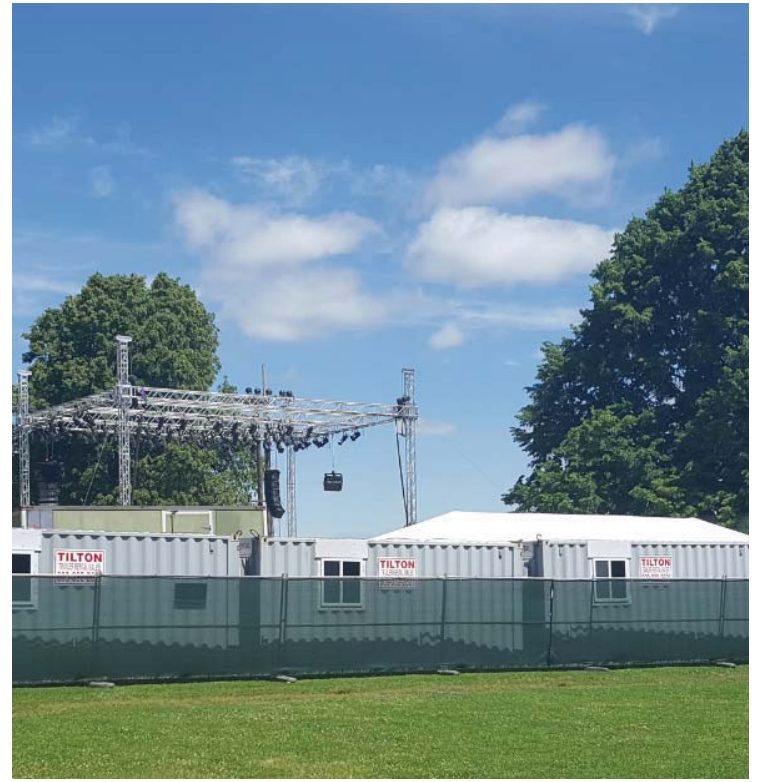


AREA 3: Open Lawn A / PPAF Stage and Support Structures / Whale Lawn / Prescott and T Pier / Open Lawn B / Sheafe and Shaw Warehouse and Marine Railway Headhouse











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AREA 3 - WHAT WE'VE HEARD

- Don't change a thing!
- Change everything!
- Better pathway layout and materials are needed.
- Introduce a children's play area.
- Improve access to water while keeping public safety in mind.
- Tell the story of the Prescott Sisters.
- Make this a four-season public resource.
- Consider integrating public art, including temporarily installations.
- Open the Shaw and Sheafe Warehouses up for public use.
- Expand food sales to better support the general park user.



WHAT WE'VE HEARD - continued

Prescott Park Arts Festival

PROGRAMMING:

- Keep the arts programming as it is.
- Cap the usage at a level to be determined to better protect the park and limit the impacts of the festival.
- Expand the programming of the Arts Festival.
- The Arts Festival belongs somewhere else.

PHYSICAL PRESENCE:

- Make the stage and support structures more efficient.
- Consider the use of a permanent structure.
- Create a new stage that is less intrusive during the off season, multi-functional, and better facilitates the performances.



existing conditions

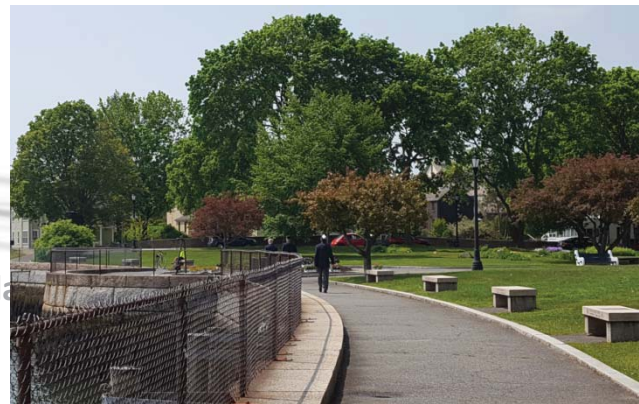


4 . AREA 4: Open Lawn C / Gundalow Dock / Liberty Pole / Trial Gardens / Anchor Garden



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existing conditions



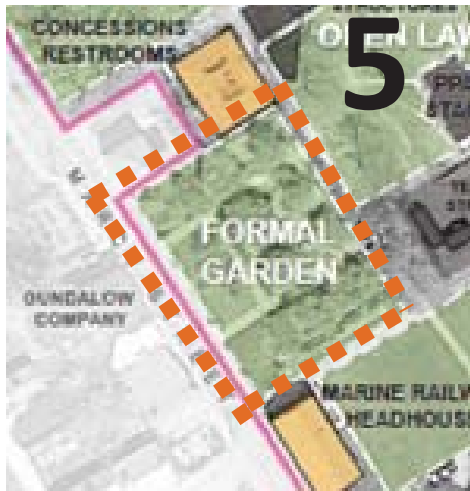
AREA 4 - WHAT WE'VE HEARD

- Keep open lawn areas for informal uses.
- Consider a children's play area.
- Improve access to water while keeping public safety in mind.
- Allow Gundalow Company to have more of a presence in the park.
- Reconsider Trial Gardens shape, size and location.
- Review the 1964 Master Plan for this area.
- Historical interpretation and connections to Strawberry Banke.
- Improved site furnishing strategy including charging stations.
- Make this a four-season public resource.
- Consider integrating public art, including temporarily installations.



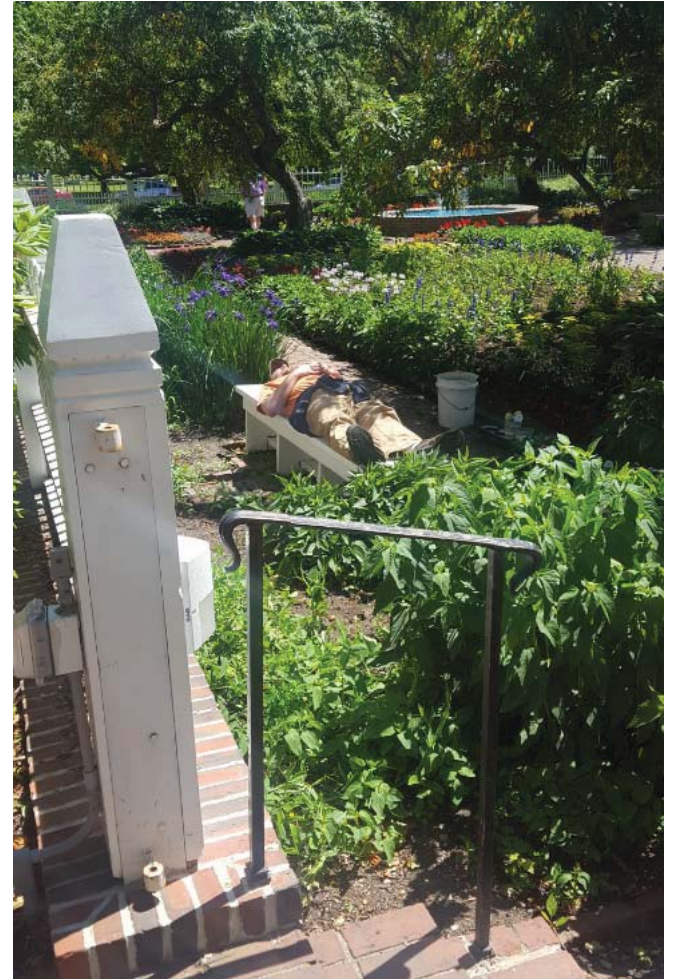
existing conditions

AREA 5: Formal Garden



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AREA 5 - WHAT WE'VE HEARD

- Don't change a thing!
- Historical interpretation references to the Prescott Sisters.



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existing conditions & uses



existing conditions & uses



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existing conditions & uses



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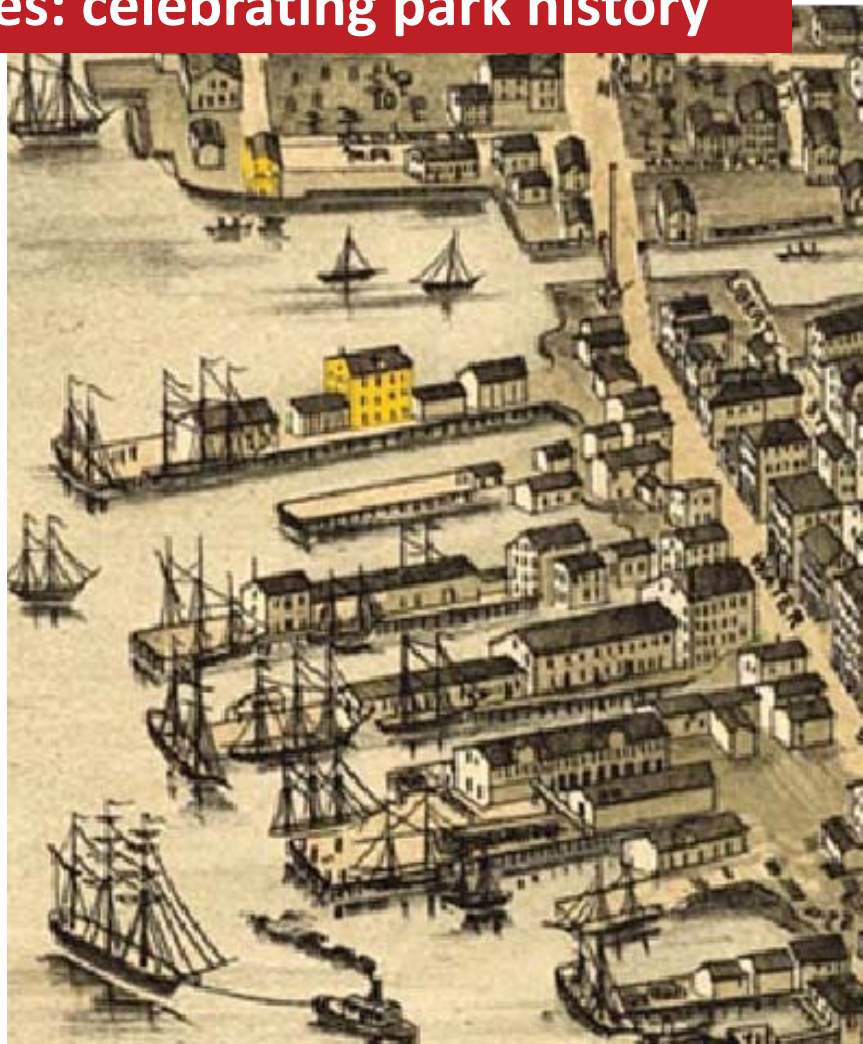
design opportunities: celebrating park history



- Mary and Josie Prescott
- The trust states that the property donated to the City be used for "park and recreational purposes".



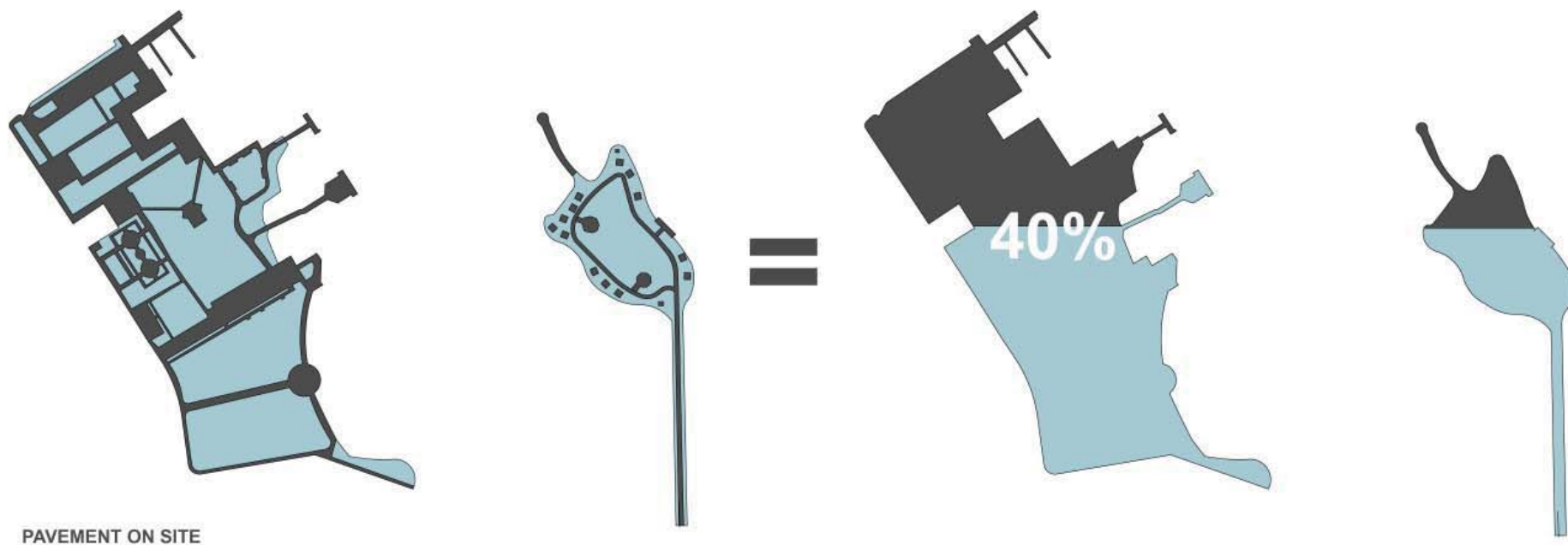
design opportunities: celebrating park history



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design opportunities: optimize green space



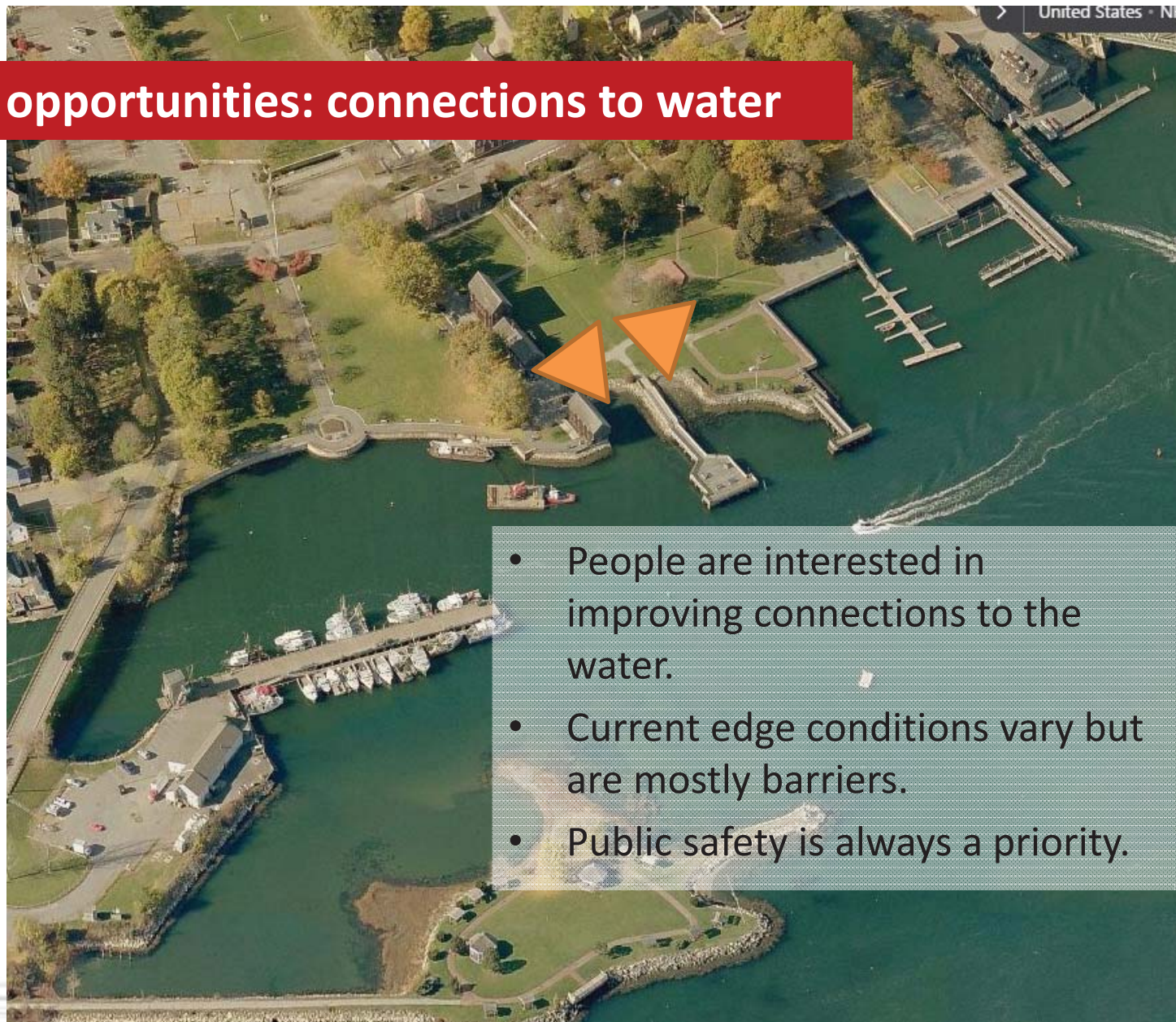
PAVEMENT ON SITE



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design opportunities: connections to water



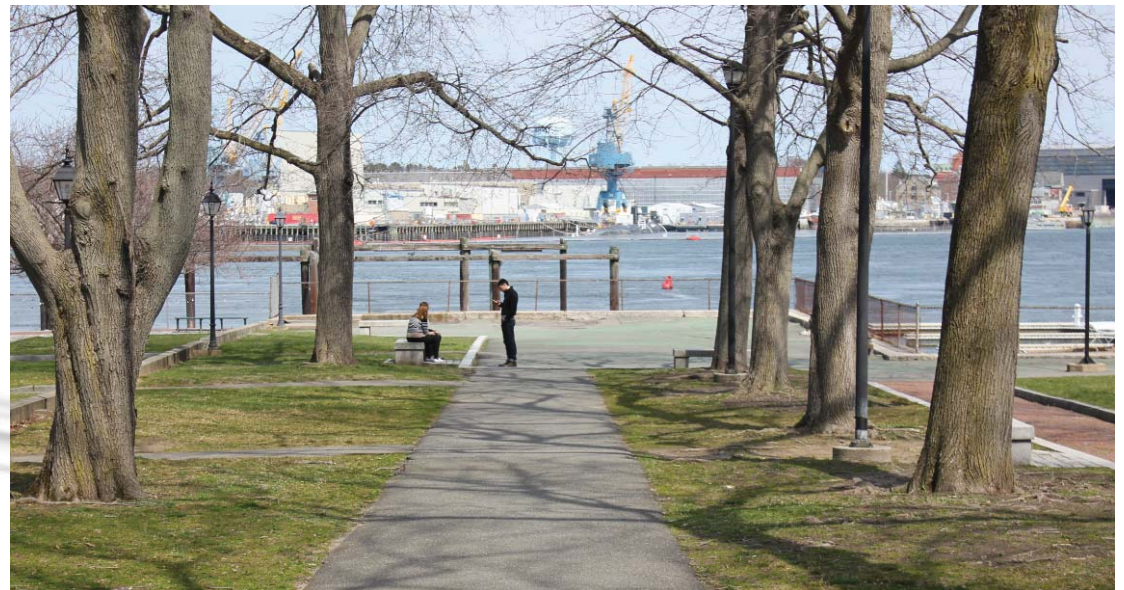
- People are interested in improving connections to the water.
- Current edge conditions vary but are mostly barriers.
- Public safety is always a priority.



improvement costs



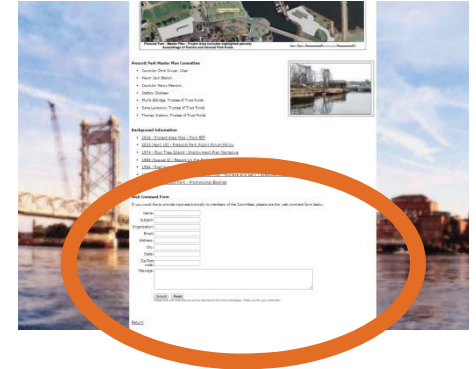
- Considerations on cost, phasing and the importance of capital investment in public open space / waterfront infrastructure.



What We Need From You



- Site Observations
the good, the bad, and the rest
- Ideas for Improvement
- Features to Remain
- Locations in Need of Repair
- Fondest Memories



Opportunities to Provide Feedback



- **Walkabout Guide***
- **Email images with captions:**
prescottpark@wseinc.com
- **Website Comment Form**
see postcards for address

*leave them with us / mail to City Hall / scan them to the email address / leave responses in the web form



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Public Input

Public Input & Participation

- Weekend Design Workshop
- Community Information & Listening Session
- Park Presence Day
- CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PHASE
- Community Conceptual Design Presentation
- Community Preferred Master Plan Presentation
- Design Forensics Site Walk with DPW and Site Staff

Schedule

- June 12, 2016
- June 22, 2016
- June 25, 2016
- Summer 2016
- September 2016
- October / November 2016

- November 2016



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