

PUBLIC STREET PROJECT

WORKSHOP 04 REPORT

01.31.23 - Lifespan Health Institute

Visioning Meetings

On January 31, 2023, the Racial Environmental Justice Committee, South Providence Neighborhood Association, Providence Sustainability Department, and community members met at the Lifespan Health Institute - 355R Prairie Ave Providence, RI - to gather input to transform the Public Street Waterfront area into a safe and accessible space for the neighborhood residents.

Agenda

01 Welcome

- Introduction (Project + Team Members)
- Meeting Purpose + Community Agreements
- Land Acknowledgement

02 Project and Site Context

- Overview of Site Analysis
- Design Concepts

03 Community Discussion

- Breakout Tables
- Report Out

04 Debrief and Wrap Up



Public Street Community Workshop

Participants

City of Providence

Elder González Trejo - Sustainability Department

Kevin Proft - Sustainability Department

Design Team

Manuel Cordero Alvarado, RA, ALEP - CIVIC

Valeria Portillo - CIVIC

Adam Anderson - Design Under Sky

Community Representative

Monica Huertas - Racial and Environmental Justice
Committee & The People's Port Authority

Hosts

April Brown - Racial and Environmental Justice
Committee

Dwayne Keys - South Providence Neighborhood
Association

Community Members

(Based on sign-in sheet)

Corey Gerritt

Rochelle Lee

Paul Rubinoff

Kai Cameron

Kaytee Canfield

Wenley Ferguson

Carlos Cedeno

Chandelle Wilson

Alicia Pratt

Colleen Cronin

Grey Ohadoma

Adriana Hazelton

Chris Gaynor

Kevin Kessington

Enrique Sanchez

Michelle Rivera

Jesus Ayala

The Public Street Community Workshop included a diverse audience with a broad cross section of individuals : residents of South Providence, members of REJC, State Senators, visitors of Providence, community members of Washington Park, ect.

Activity 01 - Goals for Public Street

The **Goals Activity** recognized 16 goals for Public Street and encouraged participants to select their top three goals and why they are important. The goals that were included in the activity were taken from the results of a previous Public Street Community Engagement conducted in October 2021.



ACCESS



SAFETY + SECURITY



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN



PARKING



ART/CULTURE BASED
ENGAGEMENT



GREEN SPACE



SENSORY
EXPERIENCE



PLAY + EXERCISE



SEATING



HABITAT
RESTORATION



WATER QUALITY



PEDESTRIAN +
VEHICLE TRAFFIC



LIGHTING



EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES



SHADE



MAINTENANCE

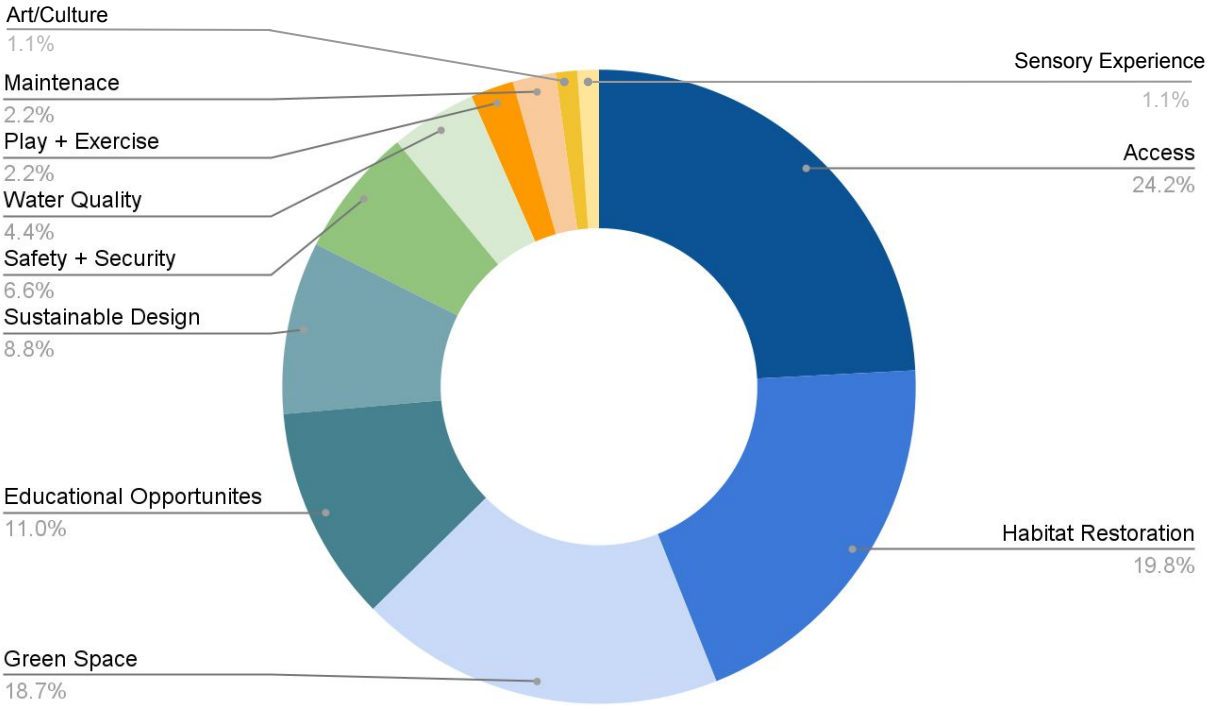


Activity 01 - Goals for Public Street

The participants expressed their vision for the future of Public Street and emphasized the importance of community input and action. This project could change the waterfront and according to the participants, there is currently not much to do in the area and they questioned how they could improve the space?

The pie charts documents the top goals for Public Street:

- 1. Access
- 2. Habitat Restoration
- 3. Green Space
- 4. Educational Opportunities
- 5. Sustainable Design



Activity 01 - Goals for Public Street

Access :



The design should extend elements onto Allens and Public Street to funnel people into the site.

This project could connect with other Allens Ave open areas including Collier Point, STB / J&W shoreline. Could be an opportunity to connect other waterfront projects and bridge together other green spaces (Roger Williams Park).

Restore the space to allow access to the water while also prioritizing pedestrian access and public transportation points.

Habitat Restoration:



Wildlife habitat that will attract nature and allows for observation. Opportunity to see the ecology change overtime.

Green Space :



Provide a green health space within South Providence's urban contaminated area.

Design with as much permeable (ideally green) surfaces as possible + soft edges.

Native trees that provide shade with a walking path that is surrounded by salt tolerant vegetation.

Activity 01 - Goals for Public Street

Education :



Provide historical education on how the waterfront has changed and the connection with the community. The historical, cultural, environmental, and ecological information can be accessed through a QR a code or integrated on the site (vandalism proof).

Outdoor classroom and gathering space available year round that contains paced educational opportunities for all ages.

Center for youth voices and their needs.

Safety :



Safe and effective lighting that is dark sky compliant, however should be cautious of “overlighting”. The high lit path should be welcoming to all people.

Provide a high canopy to keep views open.

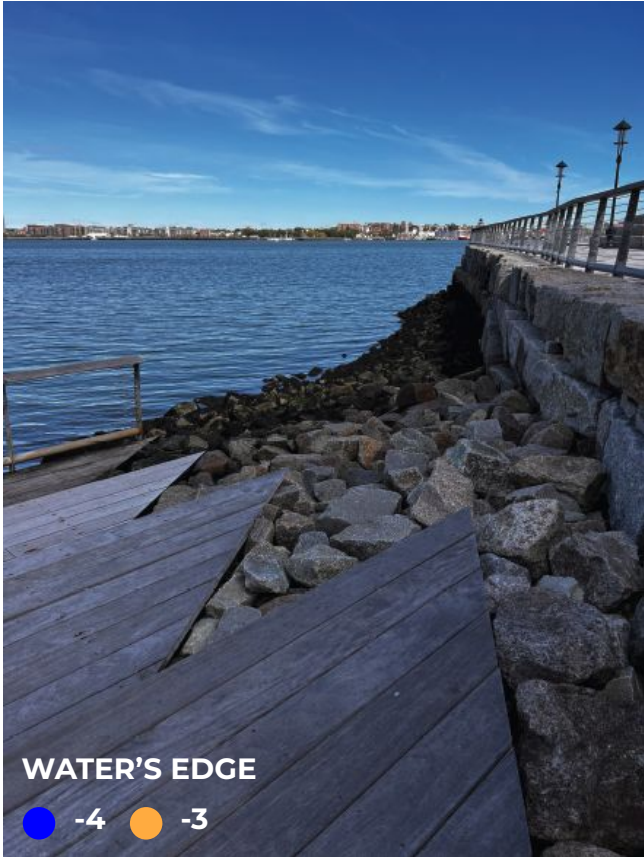
Maintenance / Cleaning :



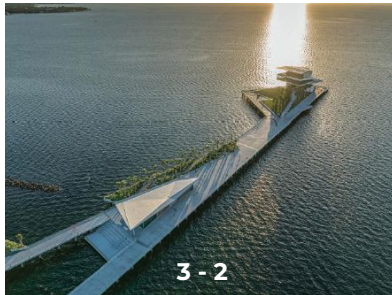
Cleaned up area and street that creates a usable clean space for residents.

Regenerative for area that has been polluted, with pier that blocks access to hazards.

Activity 02 - Top Priorities for Public Street



Secondary Priorities for Public Street



Design Comments:

[Greenery]

- Looking back at the historical images of the site, participants questioned the return of a natural-like green space
- Green and permeable surface
- Trees between sidewalk and street on Public Street

[Comfort + Aesthetic]

- Material used for different seasons hot/cold
- A great seat with a great view in the shade
- Design that integrates the industrial history and fabric

Opportunities for Public Street

Design Elements

[Signage]

- Clear signage or mural in diverse languages
- Big signage in multiple languages that welcomes people
- Small amount of information on staggered signs - less reading in anticipation of what is next
- Signage to spot birds
- Consistent and bold signage for pedestrians

[Qualities]

- Glass bottom deck
- Bamboo screen
- Place for kayaks
- Seating to enjoy pier

Art / Culture

[Art]

- Collaborate with RISD for sculptures or art
- Artwork as you arrive
- Signs and artwork as you approach the site
- Rotating art exhibits
- Street murals/ hand prints of the community members

[History]

- Preserve history
- History of prior uses and users

Access

[Connectivity]

- Lighting under overpass I-95 that directs to the space, possible light activation
- Mural through the underpass
- Distinguished walkway for people and vehicles.
- Pier to walk out over the water and extend space for access
- Visuals on Allens and Public St. for pedestrian access and safety

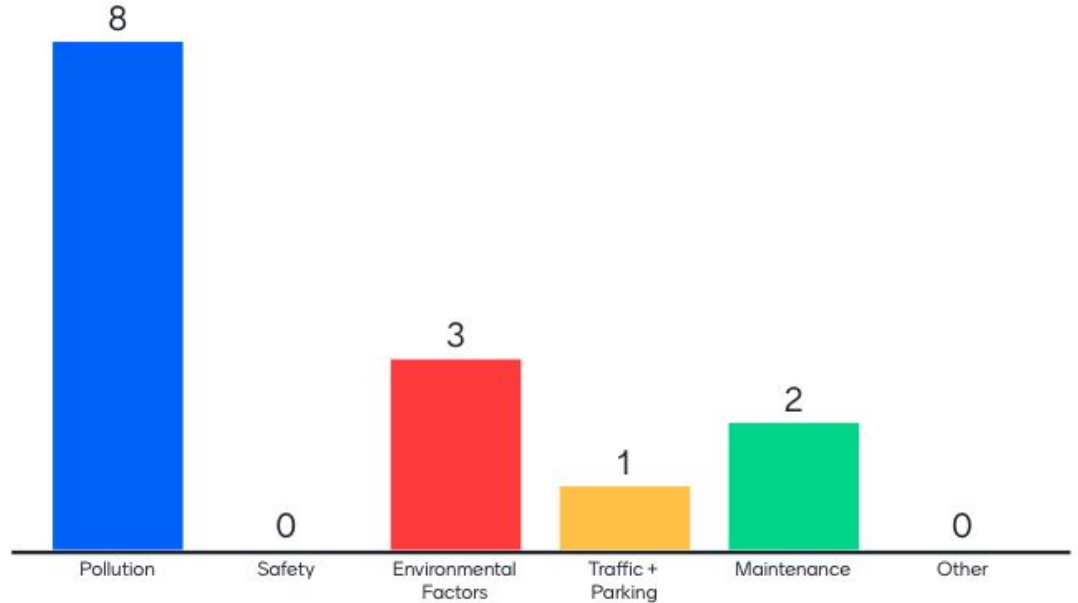
[Community]

- Work with Save the Bay to improve the area
- Include community institutions - school and churches

Challenges for Public Street

Pollution Concerns

- Businesses should take responsibility for pollution
- All of the polluters surrounding the site creating smells and sound disruptions, and they will continue to make the space unappealing
- Site Contamination at RI Energy Site
- Bordering properties have issues and cause contamination
- Increased exposure to noise, air, and water pollution when recreating the site
- Debris is stored including asphalt, salt pile, and smell



Challenges for Public Street

Location / Continuity

- Allens Ave feels very disconnected from the residential part of the neighborhood
- The highway is a barrier, imposing and intimidated. Could it be removed?
- Change the surrounding businesses
- "It has been difficult to envision and see the design when the surroundings are the way that they are."
- How to create a smooth transition from urban + high traffic/truck zone area vs a water + habitat + green space?

Access

- Conditions on Allens street that deter easy access to the site
- Access! How can we safely bring people to the space (on foot)?
- ADA Accessibility - not a walkable city, so what does it meant to invite more people to the space(parking and traffic)?

Water Concerns

- Elevation from Allens to water
- Storm drain end of the road in low elevation could be hazardous
- Concern for was pollution, hazards in water, and water contact
- Kayaking could be potentially dangerous on an active port
- Questioning the use of boat access. Is it necessary?

THANK YOU !