

# **PUBLIC STREET WATERFRONT ACCESS**

## **PROJECT UPDATE**

**July 15, 2024 - Sustainability Commission**

## City of Providence

Kevin Proft - Sustainability Department  
Priscilla De La Cruz - Sustainability Department  
Sophie Worsh-Farnum - Sustainability Department

## Design Team

Beth Kirmmse - Fuss & O'Neill  
Patrick Dowling - Fuss & O'Neill  
Manuel Cordero Alvarado - CIVIC  
Adam Anderson - Design Under Sky

## Community Representatives

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



PROJECT TEAM



DESIGN UNDER SKY  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

CIVIC

CONNECTING COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TO DESIGN

# Engagement Meetings

The goal of the Public Street Waterfront Project is to transform the area into a safe and accessible space for the neighborhood residents. In recognition of the importance of understanding how the site is currently being used and to develop a shared vision for the site's future, the Steering Committee organized a series of in-person meetings, a virtual meeting, and a survey to gather community input.

## STUDENT VISIONING WORKSHOP - 01

November 18, 2022  
360 High School

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP - 02

December 13, 2022  
MET School - 325 Public Street

## WPNA / PPA WORKSHOP - 03

January 12, 2023  
Washington Park Library

## REJC / SPNA WORKSHOP - 04

January 31, 2023  
Lifespan Community Center - Prairie Ave.

## VIRTUAL MEETING - 05

February 23, 2023  
Via Zoom

## ONLINE SURVEY



Public Street - MET School Community Workshop

# 1. Access - Overview

Included here are some highlights of feedback for each of the top goal categories.

## ACCESS

The South Providence waterfront is sealed off from the citizens; the community needs a space that allows everyone to capture the benefits of the views, nature, and connection to the water.



**CONNECTION TO THE WATER**

**FAMILY ORIENTED**

Need more spaces that welcome the community access to the river. May expand beyond just the end of the street, both along the shore and into the river.

**CONNECTIVITY**



**SCOOTER/ BIKE STATIONS**



**DEFINED PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY**



**CONNECT TO EXISTING BIKE PATHS**

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

**BRIDGE TOGETHER**



**POINTS - PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

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

**EXTEND DESIGN**



**RESTORE I-95 UNDERPASS**

### 3. Habitat Restoration - 4. Education Overview

Included here are some highlights of feedback for each of the top goal categories.

## HABITAT RESTORATION

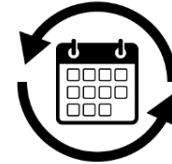
The river needs to be cleaned for the health of the rest of the Bay, to preserve existing wildlife and all that is connected.



Wildlife habitat that will attract nature and allow for observation throughout the site (birds, aquaculture).

## EDUCATION

Create an opportunity for persons of all ages to be familiarized with the natural world in which they occupy.



Provide historical, cultural, environmental, ecological information, and how the waterfront has changed (QR code/ vandalism proof).

#### HEALTH

#### ECOLOGICAL CHANGE OVER TIME

#### ATTRACT

#### ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS

#### YEAR ROUND

#### ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION



Can the current environment we occupy sustain us if our system could not provide? By restoring habitat, there is an increase ability to create food source space.



Gathering space containing paced educational opportunities. Possibility of supporting field trips (K-12) and research site (college + universities)



#### RESTORE THE ENVIRONMENT

#### FOOD SOURCE

#### PRESERVATION + RECLAIM HABITAT

#### CENTER FOR YOUTH VOICES

#### OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

#### GARDENING COURSES



# Priorities for Public Street



## Design Elements:

**Signage** - Clear, provide diverse languages, consistent and **bold, large signage** at the entrance, staggered signs with small amount of information, sign located at the corner of Allens and Public St to preview the site

**Aesthetic** - Preference of old industrial, cobblestone stamped surfaces, **integration of the rich history including indigenous**, less of a modern/sleek design

**Greenery** - Wetland plants, creative gardening, less asphalt based and more soil based, asymmetrical contours of trees and rocks, native meadows and mowed path, habitat creating barrier islands, **permeable and planted areas**

**Materials** - **Comfortable materials** that can be used throughout the year and at different seasons, bamboo screen, pavers, glass bottom deck, stone path

**Lighting** - Solar power lights, **decorative lighting** with name of the street

**Features** - **Painted super graphic**, allow for creativity and color, Avenue concept art, amphitheater, benches and wooden seating, place for kayaks, **seating at water's edge** (with viewing windows), winding path to the water, bold design features/text, minimal fencing

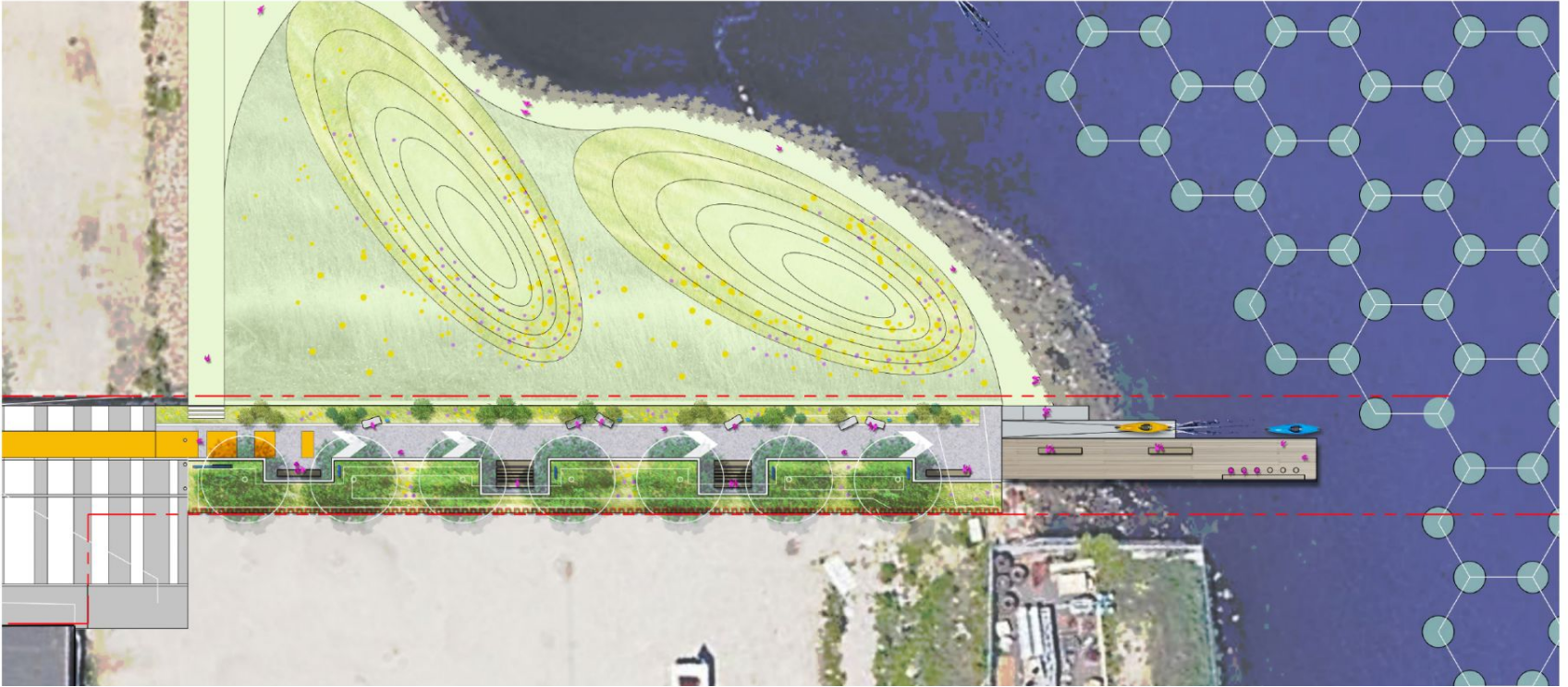
30% DESIGN



















# Community Meeting Summary

## PUBLIC STREET PROJECT

June 25, 2024



The Public Street Waterfront Access Project community meeting was held on June 25, 2024 at the Lifespan Community Health Center at 335R Prairie Ave. The meeting was open to all members of the public and local community. Turnout was around 25+ community members, not including presenting staff and stakeholders.

## Agenda

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### 01 Welcome

- Introduction
- 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







The project was presented by Adam Anderson from Design Under Sky and Manuel Cordero from CIVIC. The presentation included an overview of engagement that connected community priorities to design features.

The design presentation included the scopes of work currently in development, as well as possible future stages that aligned with the community's aspirations for the waterfront.



# DESIGN PRESENTATION

The community feedback can be organized into the following categories:

### **Environment**

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Pollution & Contamination
- Vegetation

### **Planning + Community**

- Stakeholders & community engagement
- City & Community
- Accountability of local polluters

### **Infrastructure + Space**

- Aesthetics
- Relationship to surrounding waterfront & properties
- Access

## Water

- + Concern for **water pollution** and **contamination**.
- + Concern for stormwater / **rising sea levels**
- + A desire for a **sybiotic** and **accessible relationship** between the water and the site.

## Air

- + Concern for **air quality** of the site.
- + Should there be **active monitoring** and enforcement?

## Habitat + Vegetation

- + Suggestions of **natural ecologies** like marshland, plots, seeds, vegetation, and sand.
- + Vegetation acting as **water filtration** and regulating agents.
- + Interest in **floating islands idea**.



*“Could there be a dock with a boat launch?”*



*“Are these going to be the colors? I like how they pop out!”*

## Aesthetics

- + **Lively discussion** about **color choices**.
- + **General support** for **site design**.
- + Support for public art and **more wayfinding** designs.

## Access

- + Strong desire to **grow project boundaries** in the future; perhaps current extent is not enough.
- + Is it possible to **increase access to water** from site?
- + **Concern about pedestrian movement** around site with industrial vehicles.
- + Desire for **ease of car and bike access**.

## Infrastructure

- + Will **unused infrastructure** around site be **repaired/reused/demolished**?

## Community Participation

- + Suggestions of **community taskforce and youth engagement**; collective leadership.
- + Highlight voices of historic underrepresented community members.
- + **Ideas for Community Events** / Art / Garden.

## City & Stakeholders

- + Frustration about **lack of urgency from public agencies**.
- + Questions about city's vision and future goals.

## Neighbors

- + Will **local polluters** be held accountable?
- + Will community members be given **a seat at the decision-making table**?
- + Will abutting businesses contribute to project progress?



*“If the Providence waterfront is kept as an industrial zone - how does this impact other areas?”*

## Community and Stakeholder Engagement Milestones

- November 2023
  - Sustainability Commission
- April 2024
  - Washington Park Association - Monthly Meeting
- June 2024
  - NOAA Shoreline Resiliency Cohort
  - Public Workshop
- July 2024
  - Sustainability Commission
  - Abutter Meetings
  - Mayor's Administration Meeting
  - Youth Engagement (DownCity Design)



CONTINUING ENGAGEMENT





THANK YOU!