

A blue-tinted photograph of a forest stream. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. There are several fallen logs and branches in the stream. The background is filled with dense trees and foliage. The overall scene is a lush, natural environment.

MATTAHUNT WOODS URBAN WILD RESTORATION PROJECT

Community Open House #1
May 2, 2023

ZOOM TIPS - INTERPRETATION

Spanish and Haitian Creole interpretation is available for this meeting. Please select your preferred language option at the bottom of the screen by clicking on the globe symbol. Click “Mute Original Audio to silence other languages.” Visit the project website to download the presentation in your preferred language!

NOTE: EVERYONE MUST SELECT A LANGUAGE. REMEMBER TO SPEAK SLOWLY!

Se dispone de interpretación en español y criollo haitiano para esta reunión. Seleccione la opción de idioma de preferencia en la parte inferior de la pantalla haciendo clic en el símbolo del globo terráqueo. Haga clic en “Silenciar audio original para silenciar otros idiomas”. Visite el sitio web del proyecto para descargar la presentación en su idioma de preferencia.

NOTA: TODOS DEBEN SELECCIONAR UN IDIOMA. ¡RECUERDE HABLAR LENTAMENTE!

Entèpretasyon va disponib pou lang panyòl ak kreyòl ayisyen nan reyinyon sa a. Tanpri chwazi opsyon lang prefere w pa anba ekran an pandan w ap klike sou senbòl (an ron) glòb la. Klike sou "Mute Original Audio" (Fèmen odyo lang orijinal yo) pou w pa tande lòt lang yo." Vizite sitwèb pwojè a pou telechaje prezantasyon an nan lang prefere w la!

SONJE: TOUT MOUN DWE CHWAZI YON LANG. SONJE POU PALE TOU DOUSMAN!



ZOOM TIPS - MEETING PARTICIPATION

Here are some tips on using Zoom for first-time users. Your controls are at the bottom of the screen:



Participants will be muted during the presentation.

The host will unmute you during the discussion if you raise your hand and it is your turn to talk.



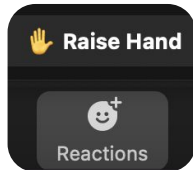
Click the video button to turn your video on/off.

If you experience connectivity or bandwidth issues, turning off your video can help.



Use the chat to type a comment or ask a question at any time.

Members of the Project Team will moderate the chat.



To raise your hand, click on “Reactions” at the bottom of your screen, and then choose “Raise Hand.”

Use *9 to raise your hand via phone.

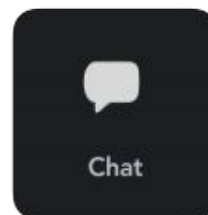
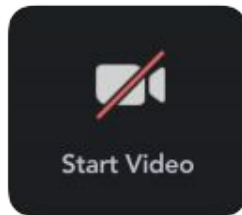
ZOOM TIPS - MEETING RECORDING

At the request of community members, this event will be recorded and posted on the project webpage for those who are unable to attend the Zoom event live:

boston.gov/improvements-mattahunt-woods

If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.

If your camera and microphone are off, you can still participate through the text chat feature.



MEETING AGENDA

- **Introductions**
- **Project Background**
- **Survey Results**
- **Existing Conditions**
- **Site Opportunities**
- **Discussion and Feedback**
- **Next Steps**



A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and some logs. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

INTRODUCTIONS

PROJECT TEAM - CITY STAFF



Cat McCandless



Elena Itameri



Christopher Edwards



Paul Sutton



Nick Long

*Climate Resilience
Project Manager*

*Conservation Commission
Executive Director*

*Conservation Commission
Fellow*

*Urban Wilds
Program Manager*

*Urban Wilds
Foreman*



City of Boston
Environment



City of Boston
Parks and Recreation

PROJECT TEAM - CROWLEY COTTRELL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Michelle Crowley

*Principal
Crowley Cottrell*



**Jean-Paul
Charboneau**

*Associate
Crowley Cottrell*



Anna Curtis-Heald

*Designer
Crowley Cottrell*



CROWLEY COTTRELL

Landscape Architecture

A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of trees with green foliage. The text "PROJECT BACKGROUND" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

URBAN WILDS PROGRAM

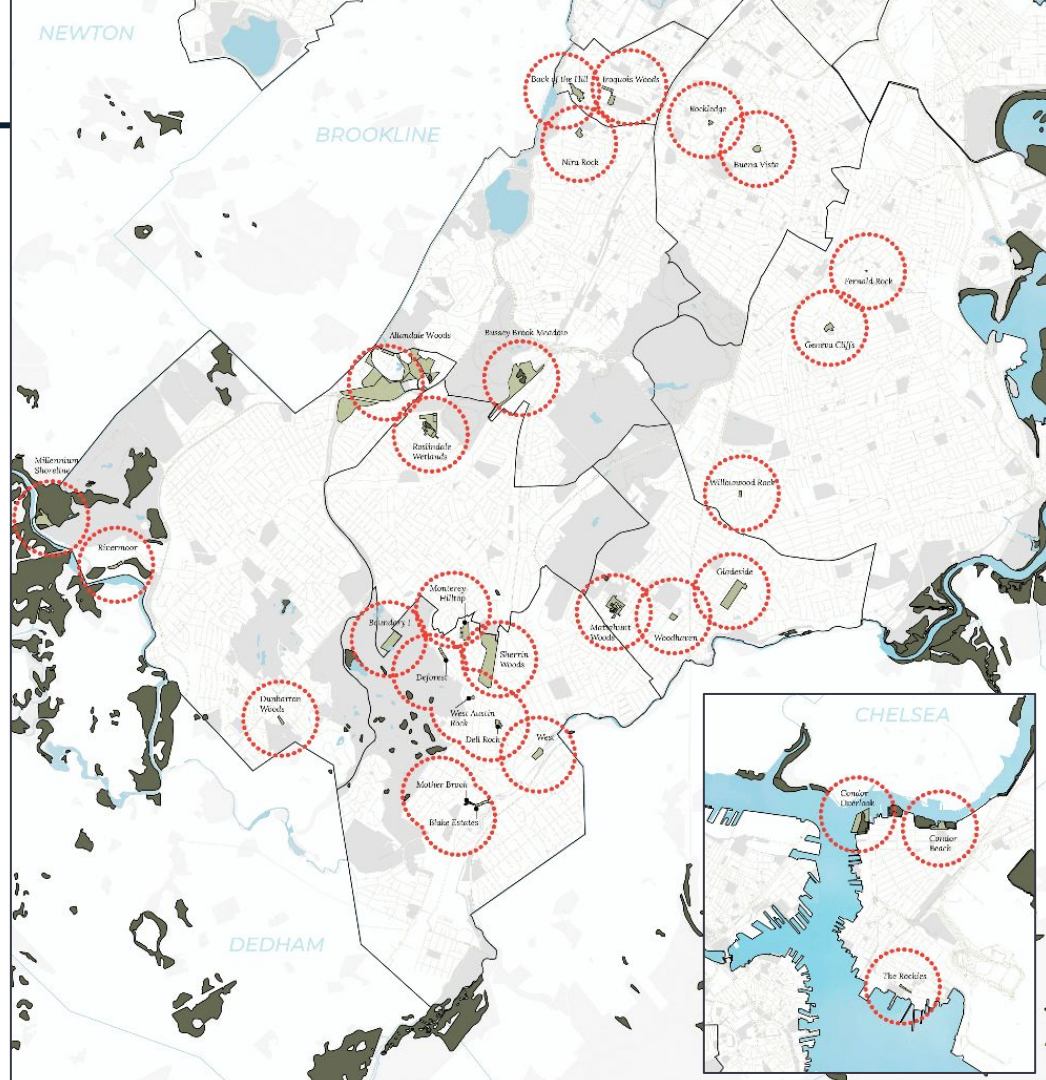
The City of Boston manages and takes care of **29 urban wilds** across Boston's neighborhoods comprised of **176 acres**.

The urban wilds are owned by the Boston Conservation Commission and maintained by the Parks Department's Urban Wilds Program.

These urban wilds offer natural space for passive recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for children and adults to learn about nature. They also provide habitat to native plants and animals.

Urban wilds provide many environmental benefits, such as:

- storing floodwater;
- filtering stormwater run-off;
- producing oxygen;
- improving air quality; and
- reducing the "urban heat island" effect.



HOW DOES AN URBAN WILD DIFFER FROM A PARK?

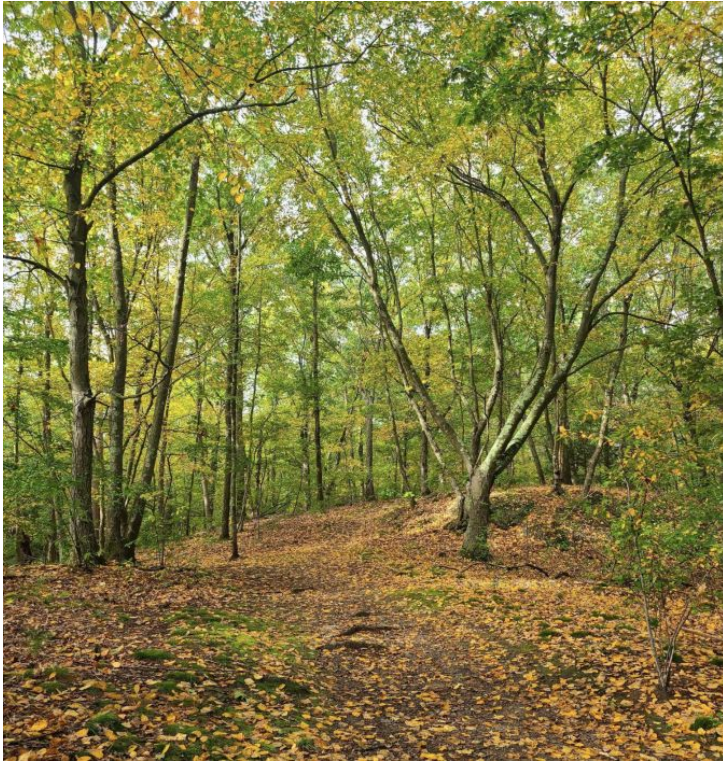


Example: Hunt Almont Park in Mattapan

Parks

- Can take many forms (active versus passive recreation)
- Can accommodate different types of uses (jogging courses, playgrounds, athletic fields, public squares, etc.)
- Can allow for a wide range of events and programs (fairs, cultural events, music, fitness programs, theater)
- Must comply with the American Disabilities Act standards for access and accessibility
- Can include electrical, plumbing, and irrigation systems

HOW DOES AN URBAN WILD DIFFER FROM A PARK?



Example: Allandale Woods Urban Wild in Jamaica Plain

Urban Wilds

- Showcase Boston's natural features such as rivers, ponds, woodlands, wetlands, meadows, and rock outcroppings, and support plants and wildlife habitat
- Allow only passive recreation (walking/hiking/nature observation), environmental education, and conservation uses
- Typically do not incorporate lighting and electricity

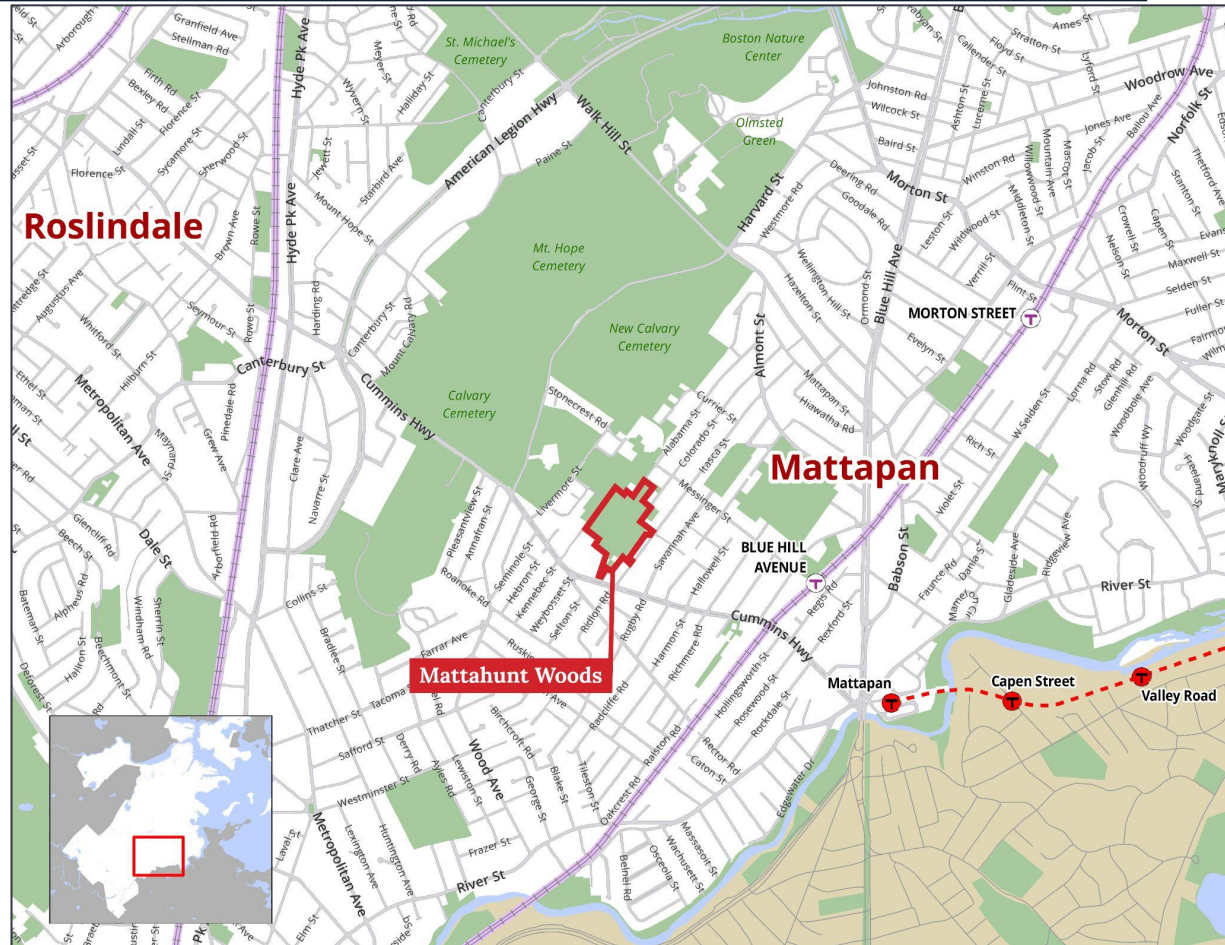
MATTAHUNT WOODS URBAN WILD HISTORY

The Mattahunt Woods Urban Wild was **permanently protected** in 2008 through a citizen petition.

Mattahunt Woods is comprised of 8 ¼ acres of secluded forested wetlands in Mattapan.

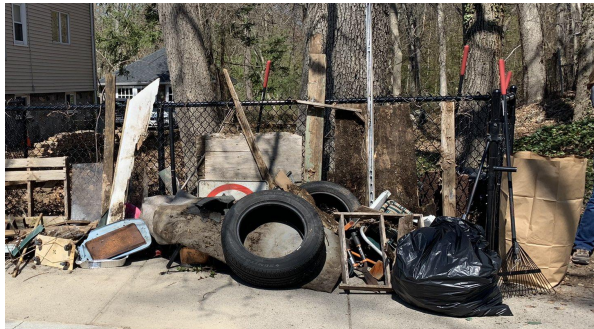
Clean-up projects took place in 2009 to remove construction debris.

In 2011, the Student Conservation Association created a trail linking Itasca Street with the intersection of Canaan and Colorado Street.



MATTAHUNT WOODS URBAN WILD TODAY

Today, portions of Mattahunt Woods contain construction debris, automobile parts, and invasive plants, but there are still healthy plant communities and wetlands.



PROJECT GOALS

- Remove hazardous trees and invasive species
- Preserve and enhance on-site wetlands
- Create a trail system throughout the property
- Improve site access and wayfinding/signage
- Enhance the connection of the property to the nearby Mattahunt Elementary School



PROJECT TIMELINE

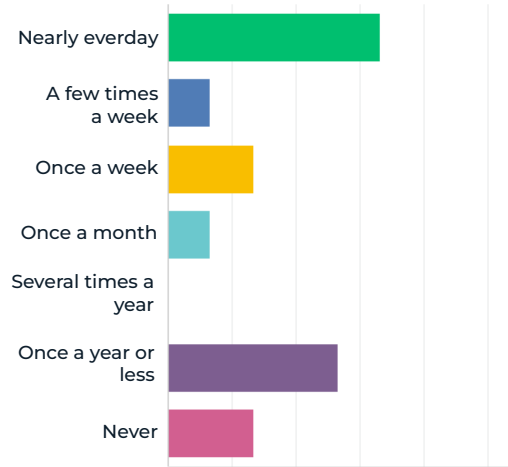


A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in leaves and fallen branches. The text 'SURVEY RESPONSES' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

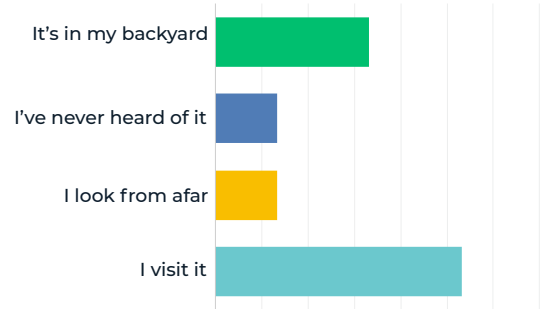
SURVEY RESPONSES

SURVEY RESPONSES

How often do you visit Mattahunt Woods?



What is your proximity to Mattahunt Woods?

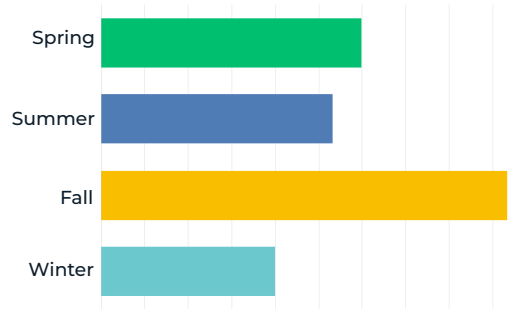


How close to Mattahunt Woods do you live?

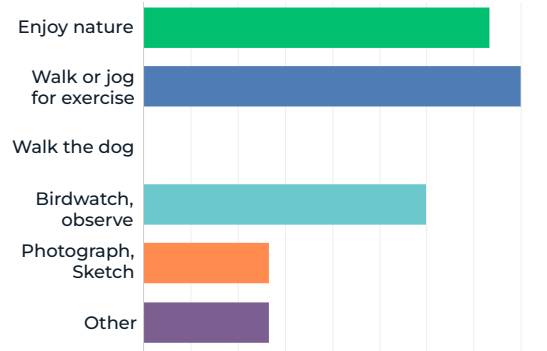


SURVEY RESPONSES

What time of year do you visit Mattahunt Woods?

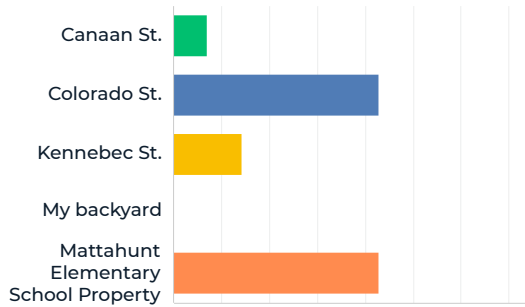


What do you do in Mattahunt Woods?

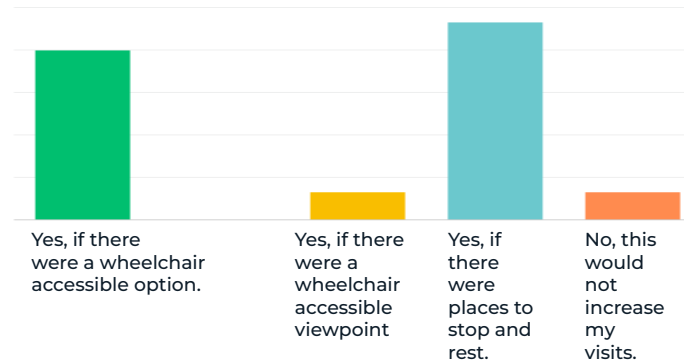


SURVEY RESPONSES

From where do you usually enter and exit Mattahunt Woods?



Would you or a family member visit the Urban Wild more often if it was accessible to wheelchairs and walkers?



SURVEY RESPONSES

What wildlife (flora or fauna) have you observed in Mattahunt Woods?



Squirrels



Turkeys



Coyotes



Deer



Blue Birds



Chipmunks



Trees & Shrubs

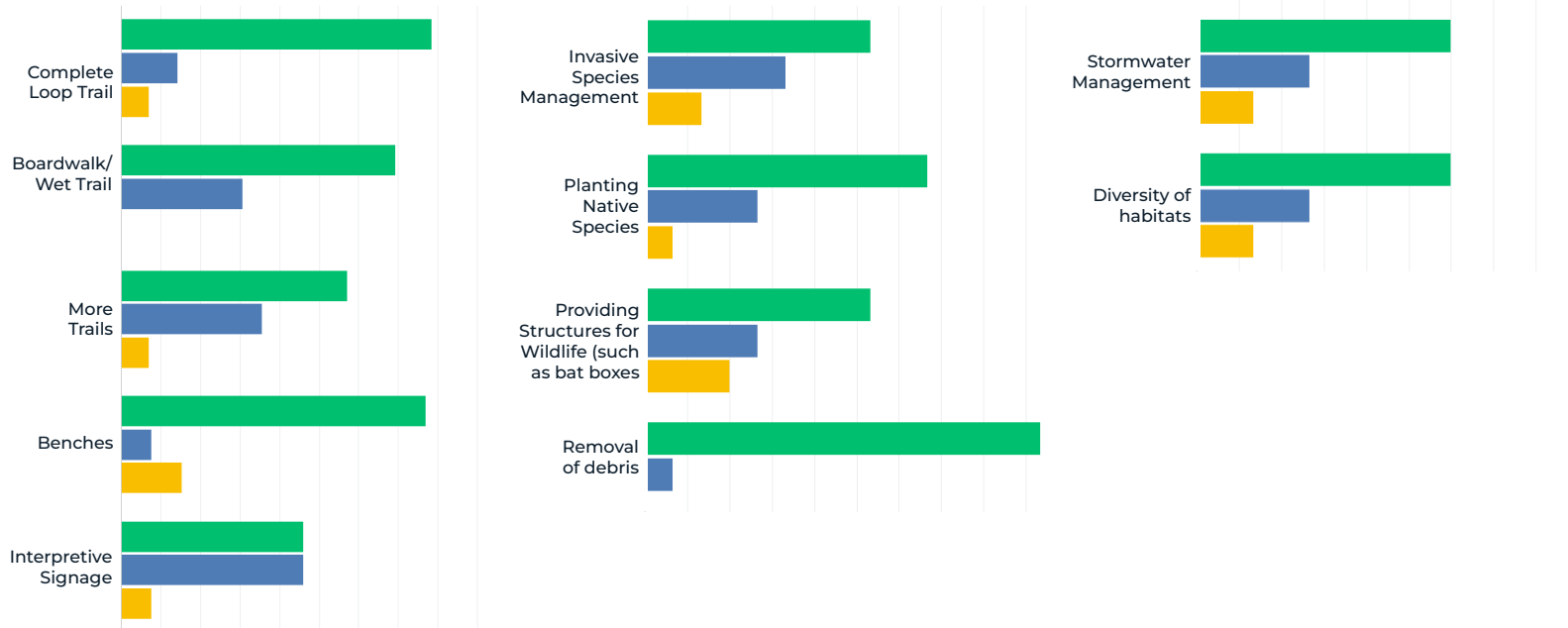


Racoons

SURVEY RESPONSES

What would improve your experience of the Urban Wild?

- Would greatly improve
- Would somewhat improve
- Would not improve



SURVEY RESPONSES

What is your favorite area of Mattahunt Woods?

Nature loop Trail
Natural Areas and Native Vegetation
Rocky Trail Trees

What value does Mattahunt Woods bring to your community?

great space for children
wind reduction nature
great place for students
appeal for visitors open space
critical woodland flooding, cooling, natural area
The lovely nature and scenery

What do you and your friends, neighbors, and family refer to the Urban Wild as?

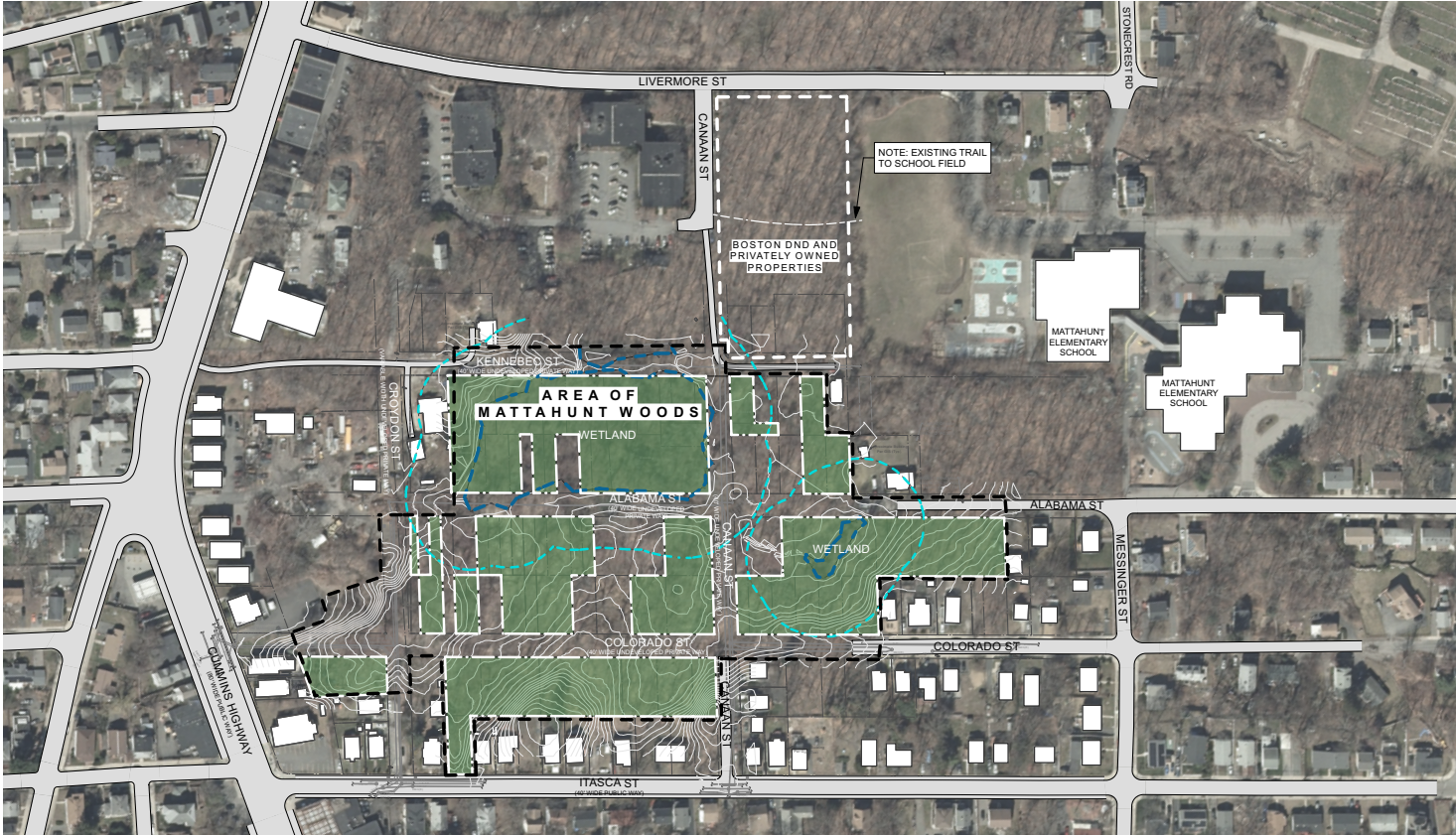
Mattahunt Woods the woods
Mattahunt Urban Wilds
the woods in the back of Mattahunt Elementary



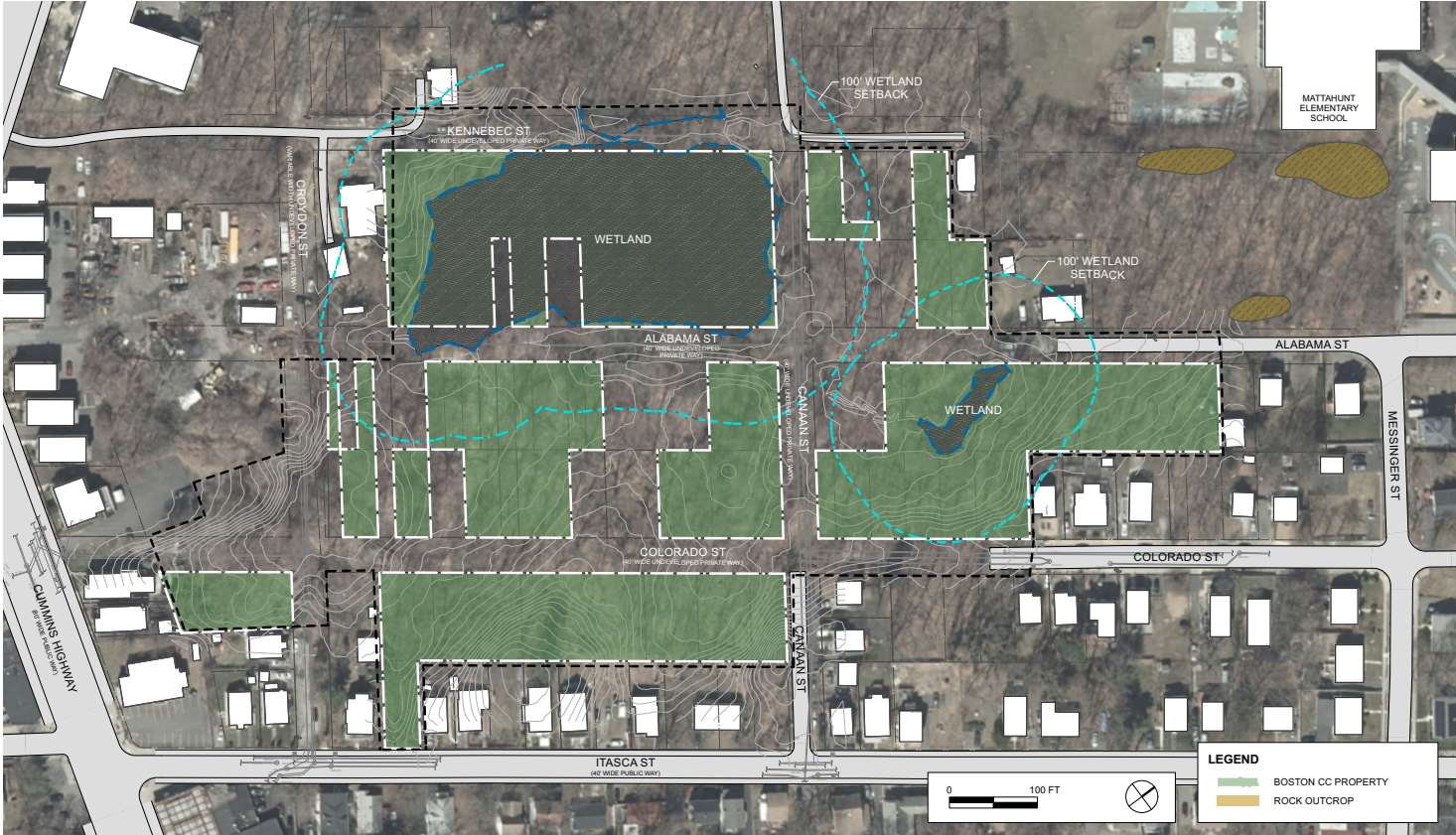
A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of trees with green foliage. The text "EXISTING CONDITIONS" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

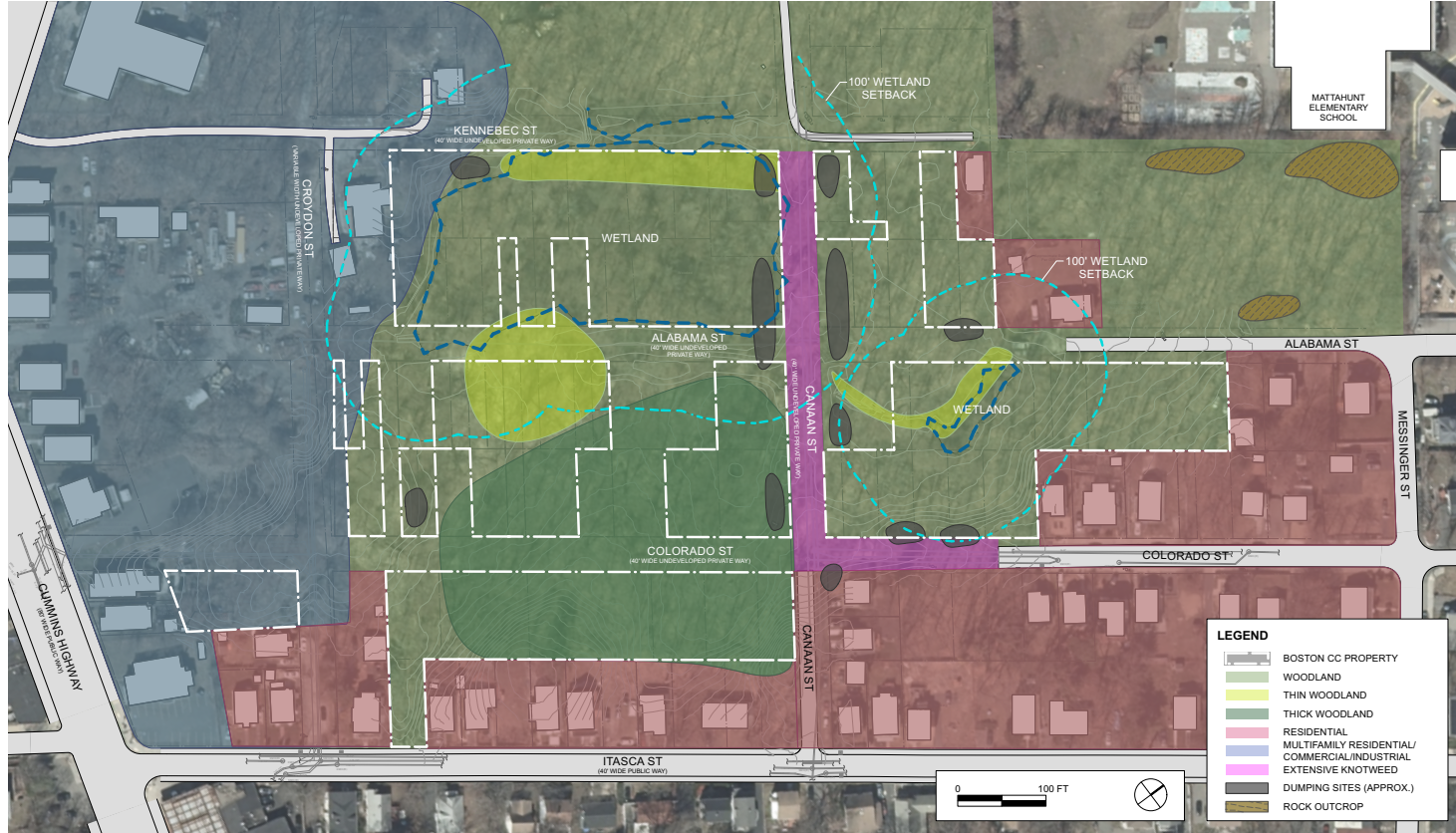
MATTAHUNT WOODS AND NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS



MATTAHUNT WOODS URBAN WILD



SITE CHARACTER



SITE CHARACTER TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE



Open Woodland



Micro-depressions



Rock Outcroppings



Pudding Stone



Pudding Stone



Wetland



Rocky Channel



Wetland

SITE DEBRIS TO BE REMOVED



NATIVE PLANTS TO SUPPORT



Clethra alnifolia - Summersweet



Arisaema triphyllum - Jack in the Pulpit



Cornus amomum - Silky Dogwood



Symplocarpus foetidus - Skunk Cabbage



Smilax rotundifolia - Round-Leaved Greenbrier



Parthenocissus quinquefolia - Virginia Creeper



Hamamelis virginiana - Witch Hazel

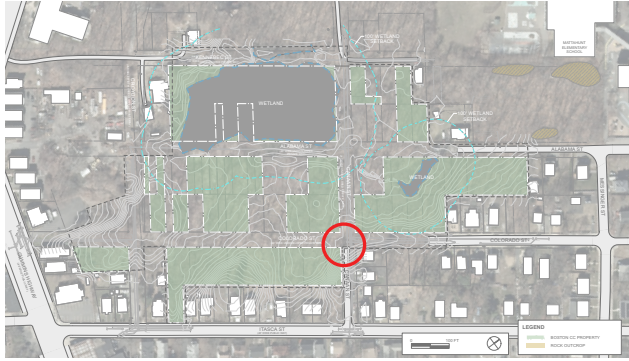


Sassafras albidum - Sassafras Tree

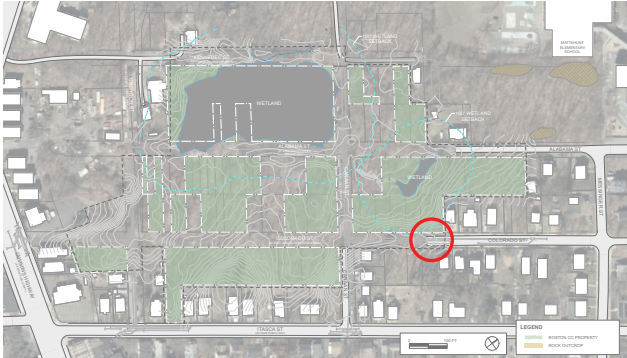
EXISTING SITE ACCESS



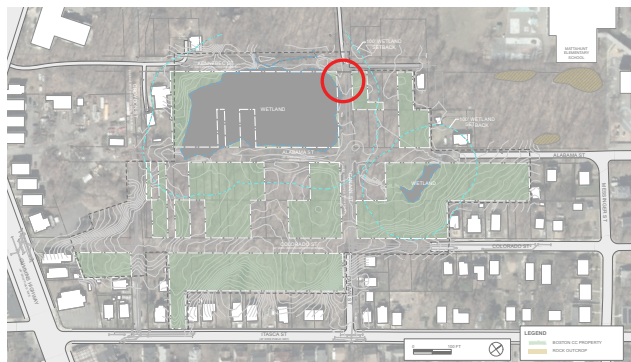
CANAAN STREET EAST ENTRY (EXISTING)



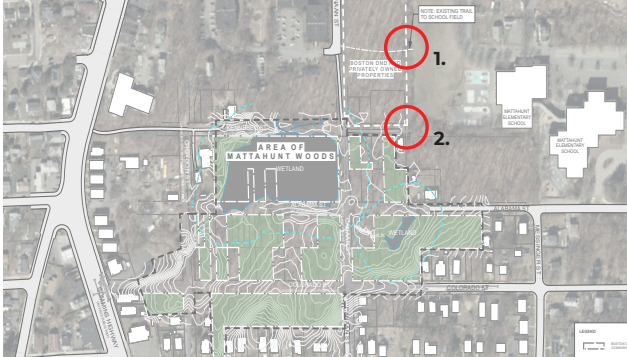
COLORADO STREET ENTRY (EXISTING)



CANAAN STREET WEST ENTRY (EXISTING)



MATTAHUNT ELEMENTARY ENTRY (EXISTING)



1.

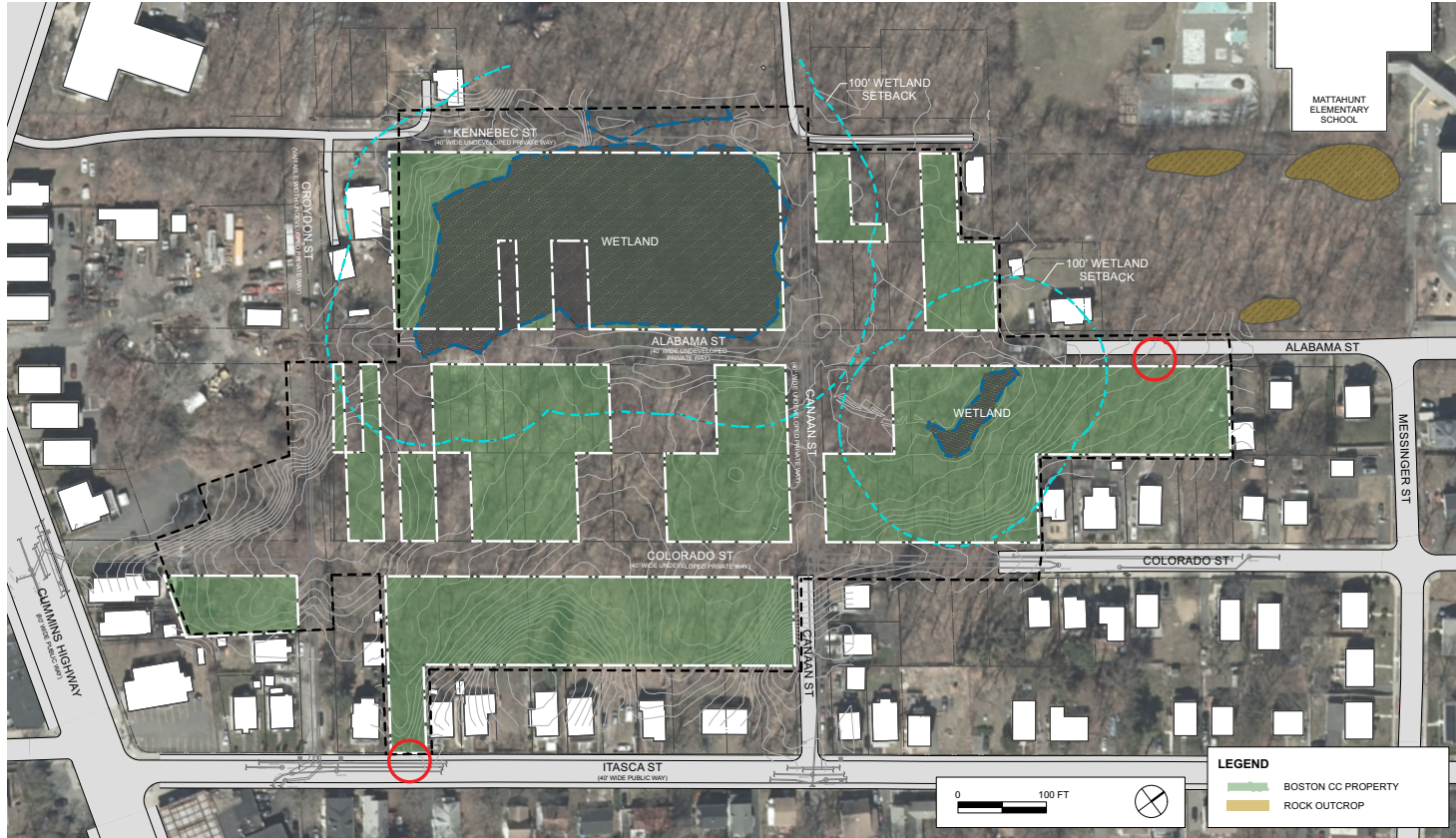


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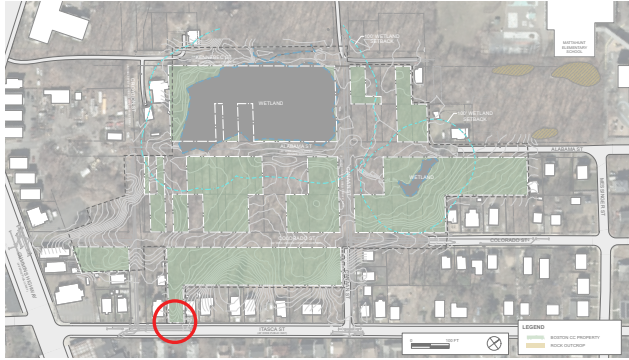
A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and covered with fallen leaves and branches, leading into a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment. The text 'SITE OPPORTUNITIES' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

SITE OPPORTUNITIES

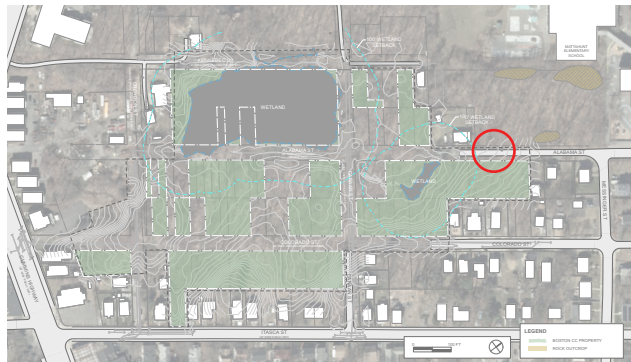
SITE ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES



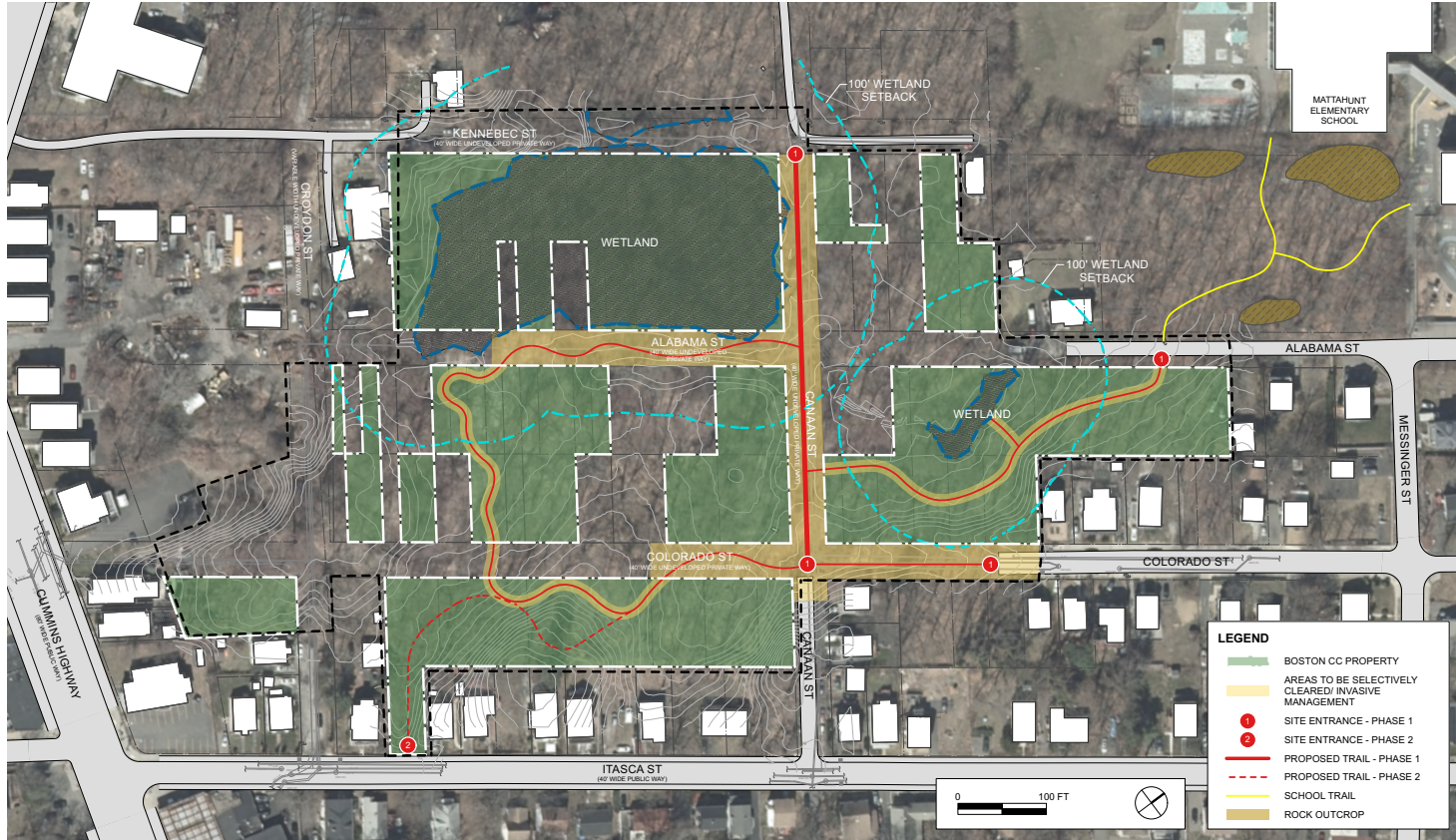
ITASCA STREET ENTRY (OPPORTUNITY)



ALABAMA STREET ENTRY (OPPORTUNITY)



TRAIL WORK OPPORTUNITIES



INSPIRATION IMAGES



New Trails



Welcoming Entries & Places to Sit



Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage



Bog Bridges



Wetland Overlook



Boardwalks



Native Plant Establishment



Habitat Restoration

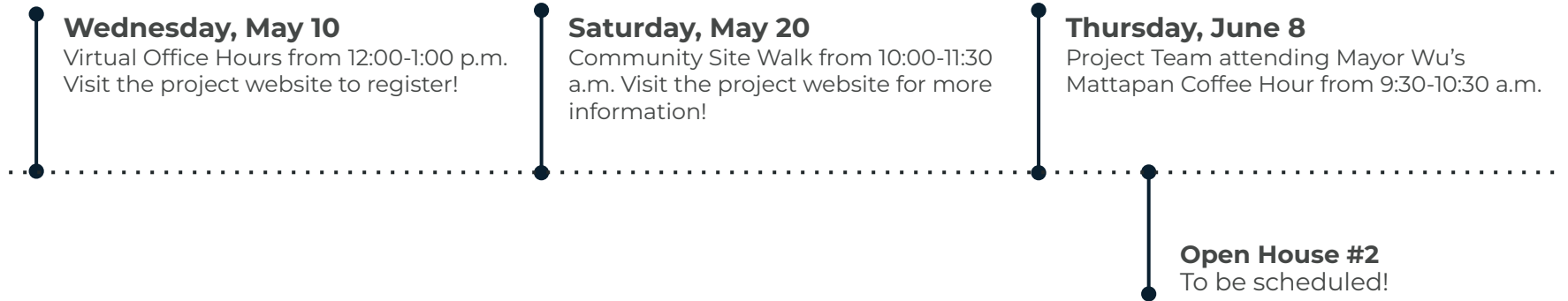
A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of tall, thin trees with green foliage. The text "WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What opportunities do you see for this restoration project?
- What concerns do you have about this restoration project?
- What did you like about the initial recommendations for a trail system? What didn't you like?
- How do you think access and signage into and through Mattahunt Woods could be improved?
- Do you have additional input that was not captured in the survey results that you want us to know?
- What other questions do you have for the project team?

NEXT STEPS



MORE INFORMATION:

Visit boston.gov/improvements-mattahunt-woods to download this presentation in your preferred language and find project information. A recording of this meeting will be posted in the coming days.

Visit boston.gov/departments/environment#newsletter to sign up to receive updates.

Contact Catherine at catherine.mccandless2@boston.gov if you have any additional questions or comments!



A blue-tinted photograph of a forest path. The path is dirt and leads into a dense forest of trees with green foliage. The text "THANK YOU!" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

THANK YOU!