

Improvements to Olmsted Park



1

PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTION

2

PROJECT OVERVIEW

3

PRESENTATION

4

LISTENING & DISCUSSION

5

CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS

PROJECT TEAM

Margaret Dyson

Director of Historic Parks

Margaret.Dyson@boston.gov or 617-961-3028

Marchelle Jacques-Yarde

Outreach Coordinator, External Affairs

marchelle.jacques-yarde@boston.gov or 617-961-3006

Consultant Name

Marion Pressley, Pressely Associates

Barbara Keene Briggs, Tree Specialists, Inc.

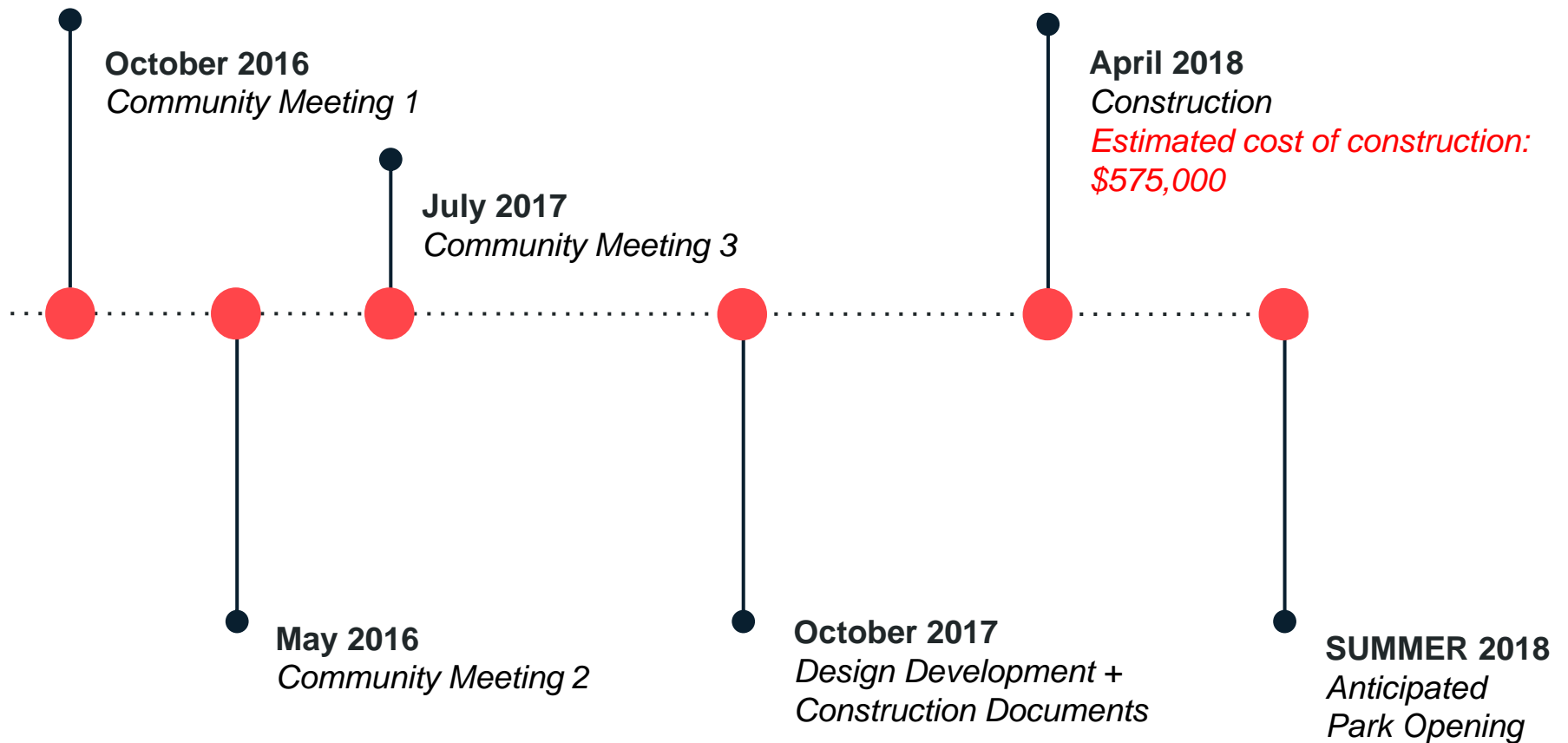
Alexandra Valdez

Office of Neighborhood Services

Alexandra.Valdez@boston.gov or 617-635-2185



PROJECT SCHEDULE & FUNDING





CITY OF BOSTON PRIORITIES

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



PARK & RECREATION GOALS

- **Preserve And Protect Existing Trees**
- **Expand Usable Park Area**
- **Improve Universal Access**
- **Enhance Park Visibility**
- **Improve Access to Parks**
- **Design Flexible, Multi-functional Park Spaces**



Meeting Agenda

- **Project Goals**
- **Review Project Alternatives from Meeting #2**
- **Landscape Rehabilitation and Improvements Preferred Alternative**
- **Discussion of Preferred Alternative**
- **Next Steps**



PROJECT AREA



PROJECT GOALS

- Take a landscape rehabilitation approach to address several key issues in the Ward's Pond and Nickerson Hill area of Olmsted Park (Project Site)
- Understand the historic design intent and landscape evolution of the project site in order to preserve and bring historic integrity back to the Project Site.
- Identify and implement opportunities to combine landscape preservation and environmental enhancement.
- As a pilot project, apply principles and lessons learned to future Emerald Necklace park improvement projects.

HISTORIC CONSIDERATIONS

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

Preservation: the act or process of applying measures necessary to **sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a historic property**, which includes initial stabilization work, where necessary, as well as ongoing preservation maintenance and repair of historic materials and features.

Rehabilitation: the act or process of **making possible a compatible use for a property** through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features, which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration: the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a **property as it appeared at a particular period of time** by removing features from other periods in its history and reconstructing missing features from the restoration period.

Reconstruction: the act or process of **depicting, by means of new construction**, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

WORK COMPLETED TO DATE

- Site Survey
- Tree Assessment
- Invasive Plant Assessment
- Review of Built Features
- Community Meeting #1
- Alternatives Analysis
- Community Meeting #2

KEY PROJECT ISSUES

- **Park Maintenance and Management**

Irregular site maintenance mainly performed for either emergency measures or by public/private partnerships with no guiding principles.

- **Landscape Rehabilitation**

Woodland has been allowed to naturally grow/regenerate without regard to historic integrity.

Tree pruning/removals

Many trees need both emergency and structural pruning.

Some trees may need to be removed due to hazard conditions.

Invasive vegetation

Understory dominated by variety of invasive plants.

Invasive tree species in canopy.

Invasive plant removal/maintenance program necessary

Lack of new plantings and general woodlands improvements.

Slope stabilization needed in eroded areas of hillside and along paths

Site planting - Understory planting needed to both stabilize slopes and replace invasive plants.

- **Views**

Many of the historic internal and external views have been lost and blocked by dense vegetation.

Need to determine if any large trees or shrub overgrowth should be removed to open historic views.

- **Historic Stair Rehabilitation**

Most stairways require granite resetting and replacement.

Must be reset for long-term stabilization

- **Site Circulation**

Entrances not well defined.

Most paths are in fair to poor condition (path erosion; lack of edge definition; no maintenance of trail surfaces).

Desire line trails have turned into well-used trails (some are steep with major erosion issues).

Vegetation encroaching along edge of paths reducing path widths.

KEY QUESTION

What are the most sustainable solutions to ensure continued landscape integrity?



REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENTS ALTERNATIVES

COMMUNITY MEETING #2

Site Rehabilitation Alternative A

High priority tree pruning

Priority 2 tree pruning

Focus on removal of invasive trees

Infrastructure improvements based on remaining budget

Site Rehabilitation Alternative B

High priority tree pruning

Total removal of all invasive trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants

New understory/tree plantings and slope stabilization in areas of invasive plant removals

Infrastructure improvements based on remaining budget

Site Rehabilitation Alternative C

High priority tree pruning

Significant focus on infrastructure improvements



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

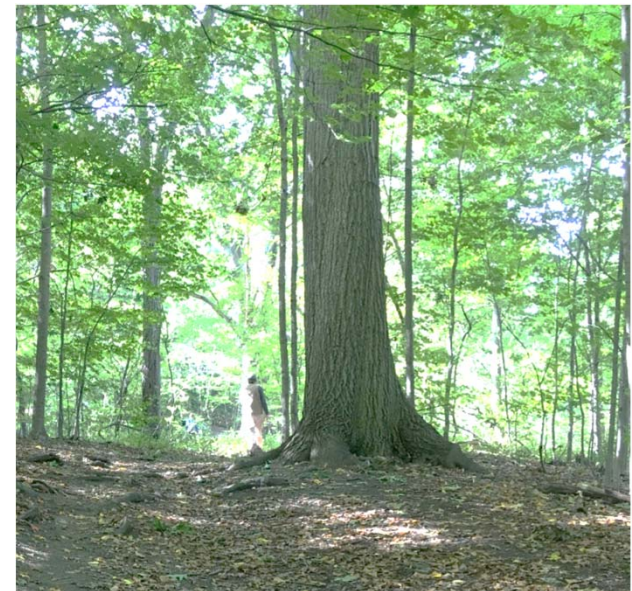
- **High Priority Tree Pruning**
- **Infrastructure Improvements**
 - Granite Step Resetting/Replacing
 - Crushed Stone Pathway Paving
Accessibility Improvements
 - Perkins Street/Jamaicaway Entrance Improvements
 - Closure of desire line paths on Nickerson Hill
- **Landscape Improvements**
 - Invasive Plant Management
 - Slope Stabilization
 - New Tree and Shrub Plantings
Restore areas of invasive plant removal and at infrastructure improvements



HIGH PRIORITY TREE PRUNING

- **Safety and Risk Reduction**
- **Preservation and Stabilization**
- **Pruning Methods**
 - Crown Cleaning - removal of dead, dying, and structurally compromised limbs and stems
 - Crown Reduction – removal of live and healthy limbs to reduce weight and strain on weak portions of tree

Total of 117 trees included in High Priority Tree Pruning (2 recommended for removal)



Site Rehabilitation – Infrastructure – Path Accessibility

**Massachusetts DCR Universal Access Program's
SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES FOR ACCESSIBLE TRAILS**
(Based on Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines, May, 2006)
This chart should be used as a guide only. Contact DCR's Universal Access Program for assistance in evaluating, designing and developing new or altered trails.

ACCESSIBLE TRAIL STANDARDS

Trail Grade (max) (*1)		w/ resting intervals (*2)	Cross Slope (max)	Obstacle Height (max)	Trail Tread
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% max. for any distance • 8.3% for 200' max. • 10% for 30' max. • 12.5% for 10' max. 		N/A, not required @ 200' max. @ 30' max. @ 10' max.	5% (*2)	2" height max.	Firm & stable
Clear Width	Openings	Passing Space Interval	Edge Protection	Protruding Objects	Signs
36" (*3)	½" max. diameter	Every 1000' when clear width less than 60". 60"x60" min. or T-shape min. 48"	3" min. height (where edge protection provided)	80" min. clear head space (or provide barrier to warn blind)	At trailhead; identify total length of trail & first point of departure

*1 No more than 30% of the trail shall exceed 8.3%
 *2 Resting interval: 60" minimum in length by minimum width of trail width, 3% max. grade. For routes: 5% max. cross slope allowed for proper drainage.
 *3 May be reduced to 32" or less with allowable exceptions.
 *4 May be no less than 32" for a distance of 24" max. with one of four conditions



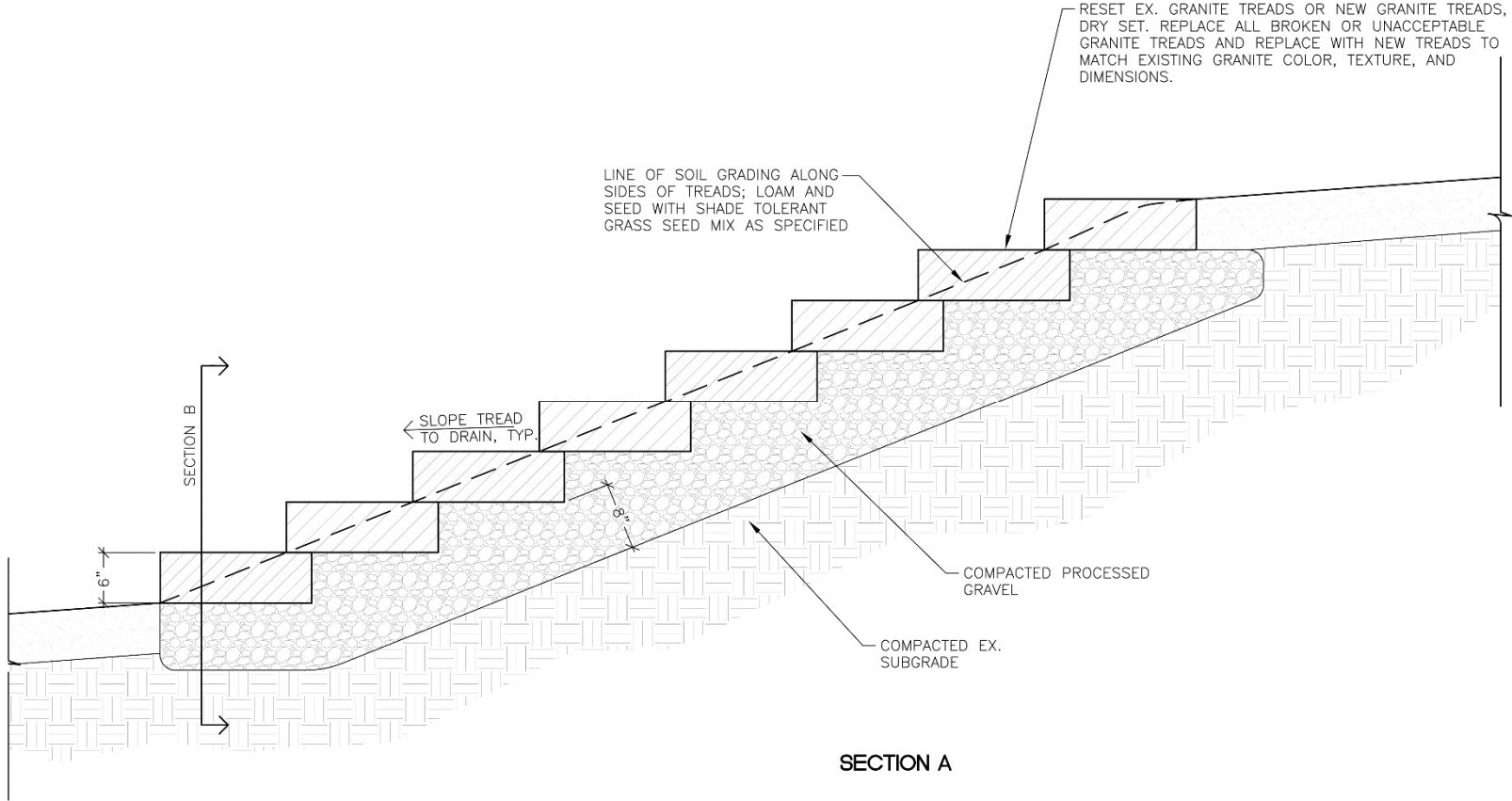
Granite Steps Resetting



Granite Steps Resetting



Granite Steps Resetting



Granite Step Resetting - Section




Pathway Grading and Crushed Stone Paving



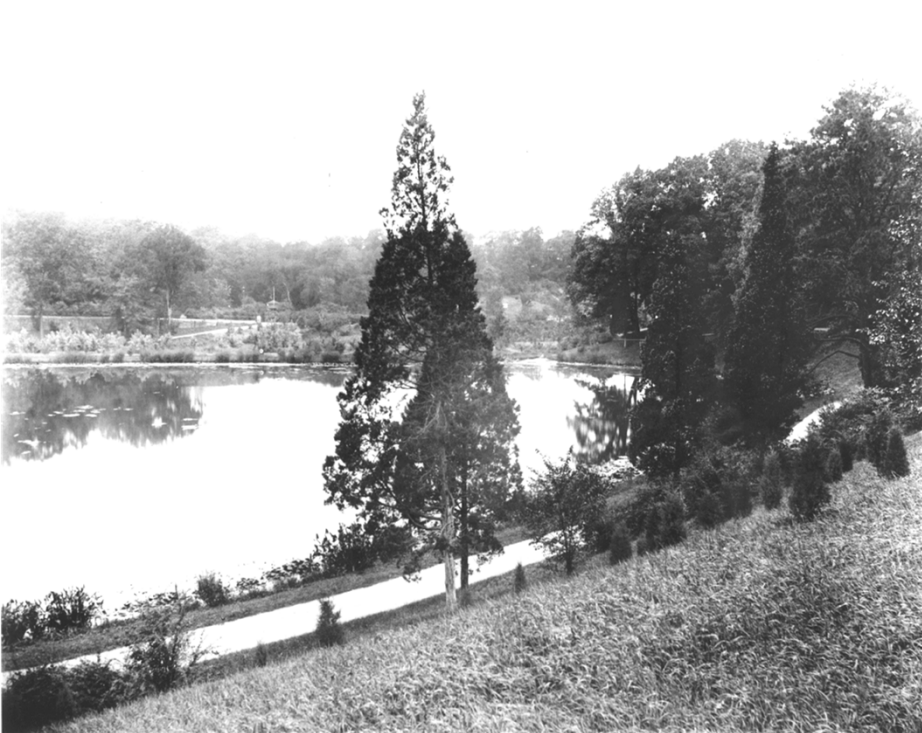
Pathway Grading and Crushed Stone Paving



 Path to be graded for accessibility



Pathway Grading and Crushed Stone Paving



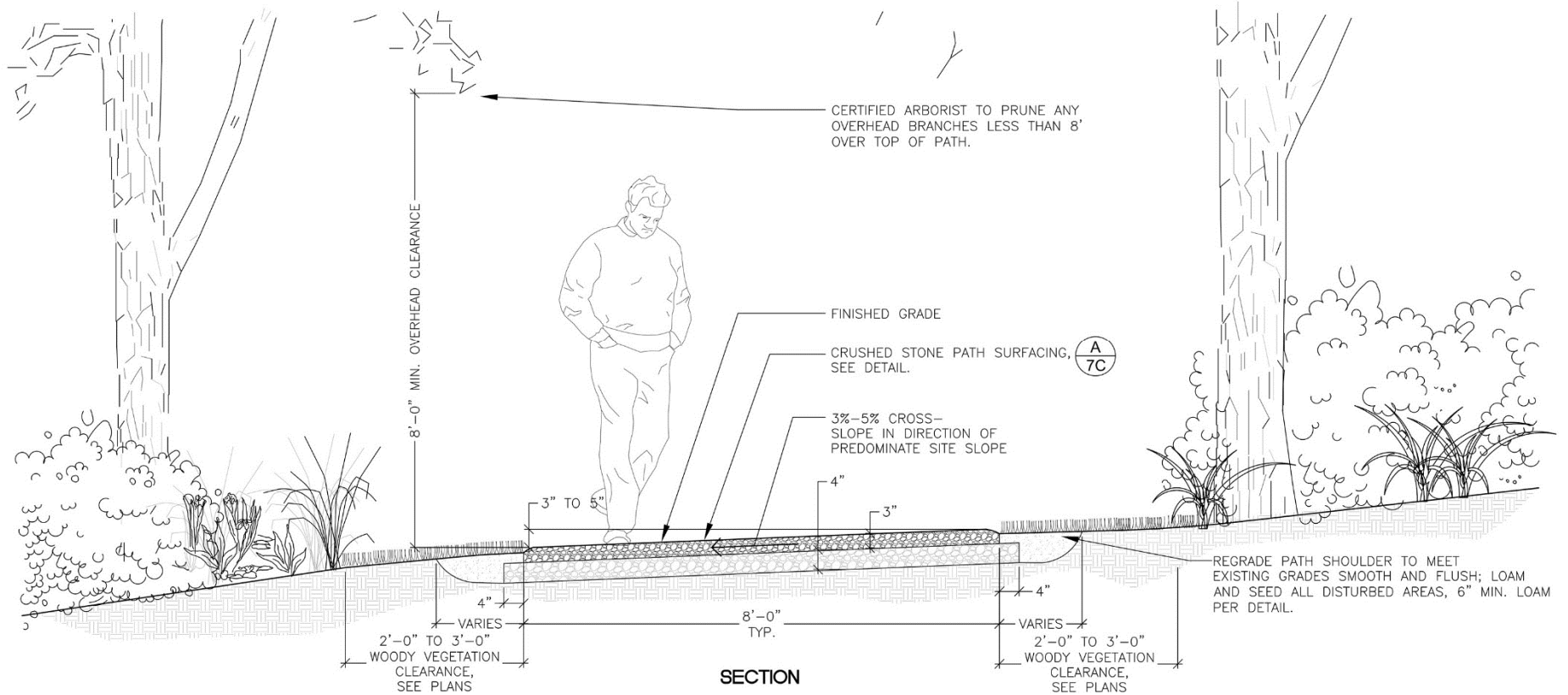
Wards Pond View from Jamaica Way 1901 (6 yrs. after FLO)



Ward's Pond looking down stairs from Perkins Street
Abdalian, Leon H. 1913-06-14 BPL (18 yrs. after FLO)

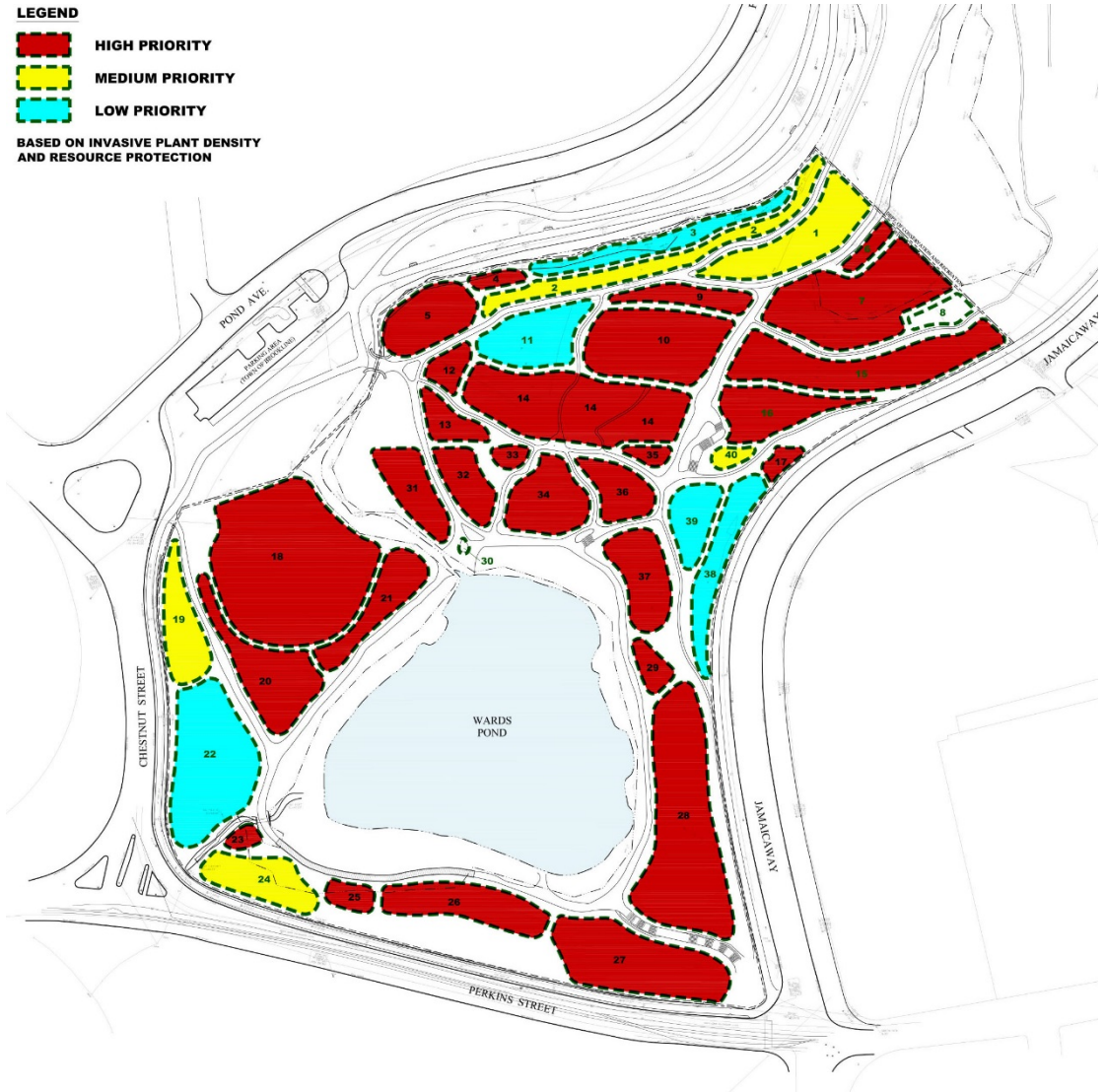


Pathway Grading and Crushed Stone Paving



Invasive Plant Management

LEGEND
HIGH PRIORITY
MEDIUM PRIORITY
LOW PRIORITY
BASED ON INVASIVE PLANT DENSITY AND RESOURCE PROTECTION



Invasive Plant Management

Norway Maple
Acer platanoides



Oriental Bittersweet
Celastrus orbiculatus



Tree of Heaven
Ailanthus altissima



Burning Bush
Euonymus alatus



Amur Corktree
Phellodendron amurense



Knotweed
Fallopia japonica



Invasive Plant Management

Japanese Barberry
Berberis thunbergii



Multiflora Rose
Rosa multiflora



Honeysuckles
Lonicera sp.



Garlic Mustard
Alliaria petiolata



Common and Glossy Buckthorn
Rhamnus cathartica
& *R. frangula*



Poison Ivy
Toxicodendron radicans



Invasive Plants Management Strategies

Manual Control Methods

- Hand pulling (less than 1" stem); small tree saplings, most woody shrubs, and garlic mustard
- Cutting followed by Buckthorn Baggie installation

Mechanical Control Methods

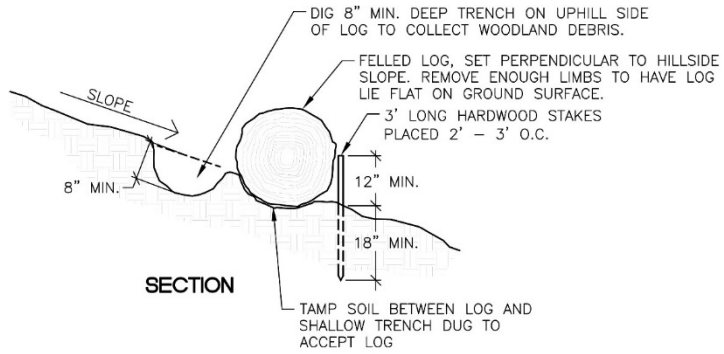
- Uprooter - Small tree saplings and most woody shrubs (less than 2.5" stems); not recommended on steep hillsides
- Repeated mowing

Chemical Control Methods

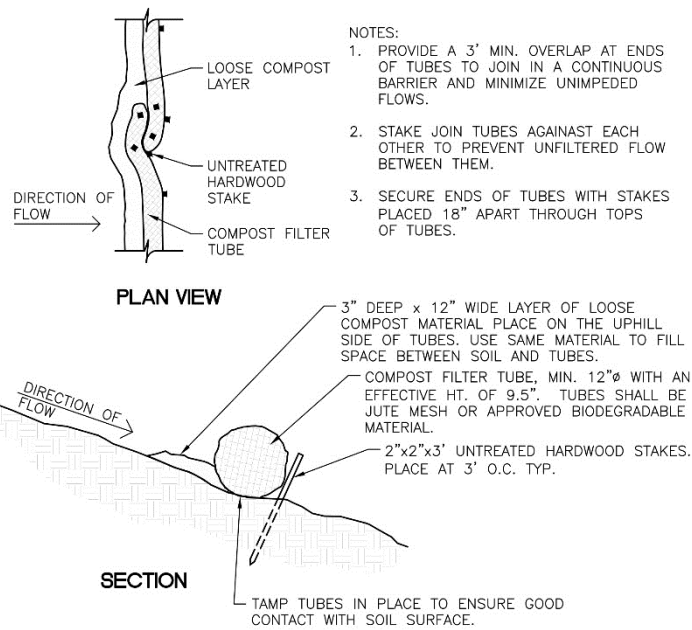
- Cut and swipe method (systemic herbicide); larger stemmed woody trees and shrubs
- Only effective treatment for knotweed
- Chemicals rated for use around wetlands



Slope Stabilization



Contour Log Placement



Compost Tubes



Site Plantings



Shadblow Serviceberry



Pagoda Dogwood



Witchhazel



Red Chokeberry



Gray Dogwood



Nannyberry



Site Plantings



Winterberry



Witherod Viburnum



Smooth Sumac



Yellowroot



Summersweet



Sweetfern





NEXT STEPS

Regulatory agency filings

Boston Landmarks Commission

Boston Conservation Commission

Finalize plans and cost estimates

Prepare and issue Bid Package

Site construction

A photograph of a gravel path winding through a dense, green forest. The path is made of small grey stones and is scattered with fallen brown leaves. The trees are tall and leafy, creating a canopy overhead. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

LISTENING & DISCUSSION

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



THANK YOU!

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



A white letter "B" on a black square background with a red horizontal bar at the bottom.

Boston Parks and Recreation

