

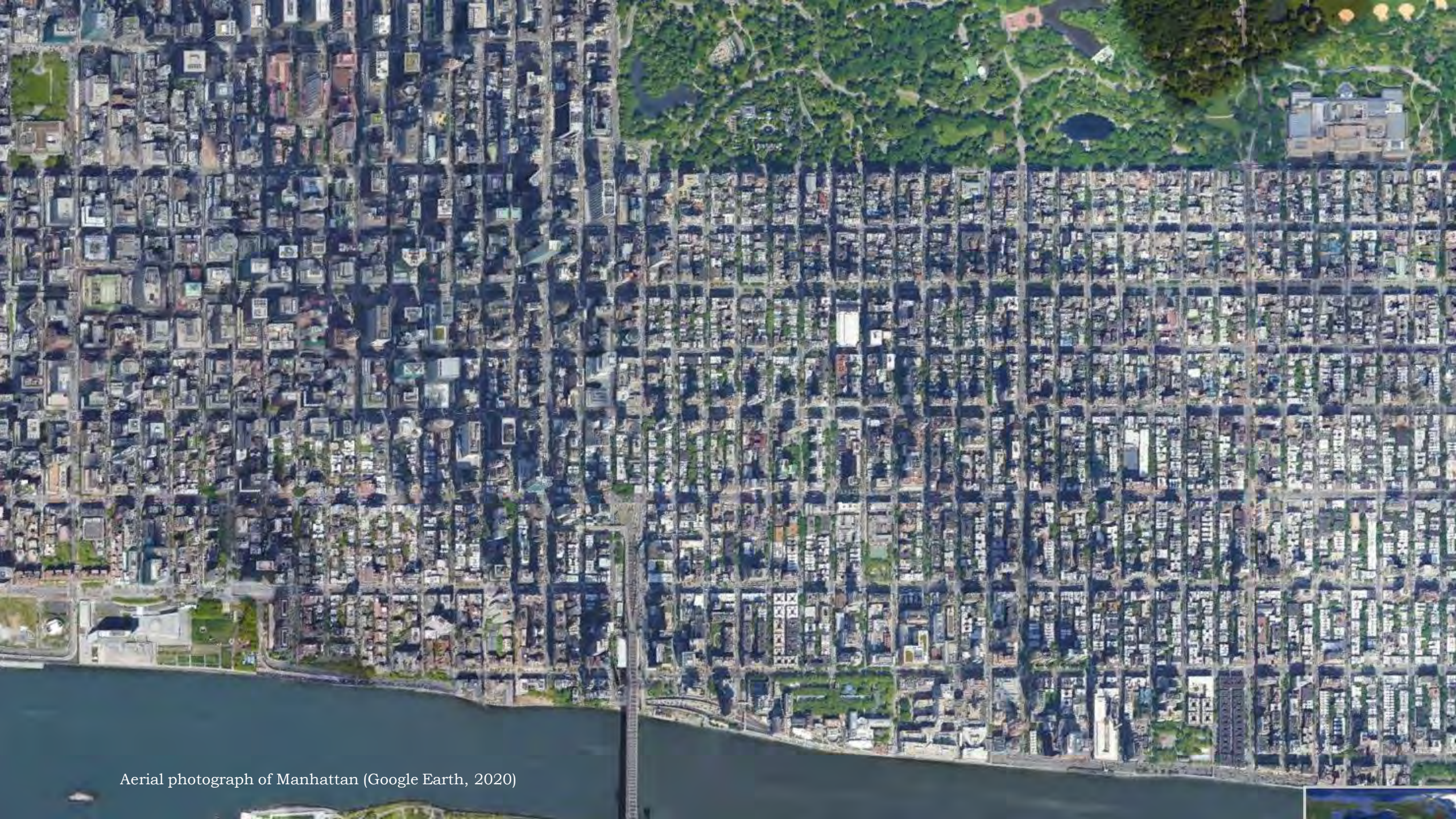
Where is Charlesgate today?

Today, under the Bowker



Sanitary & Topographical Map of the City and Island of New York, (the Viele Map, Egbert Viele, 1865)





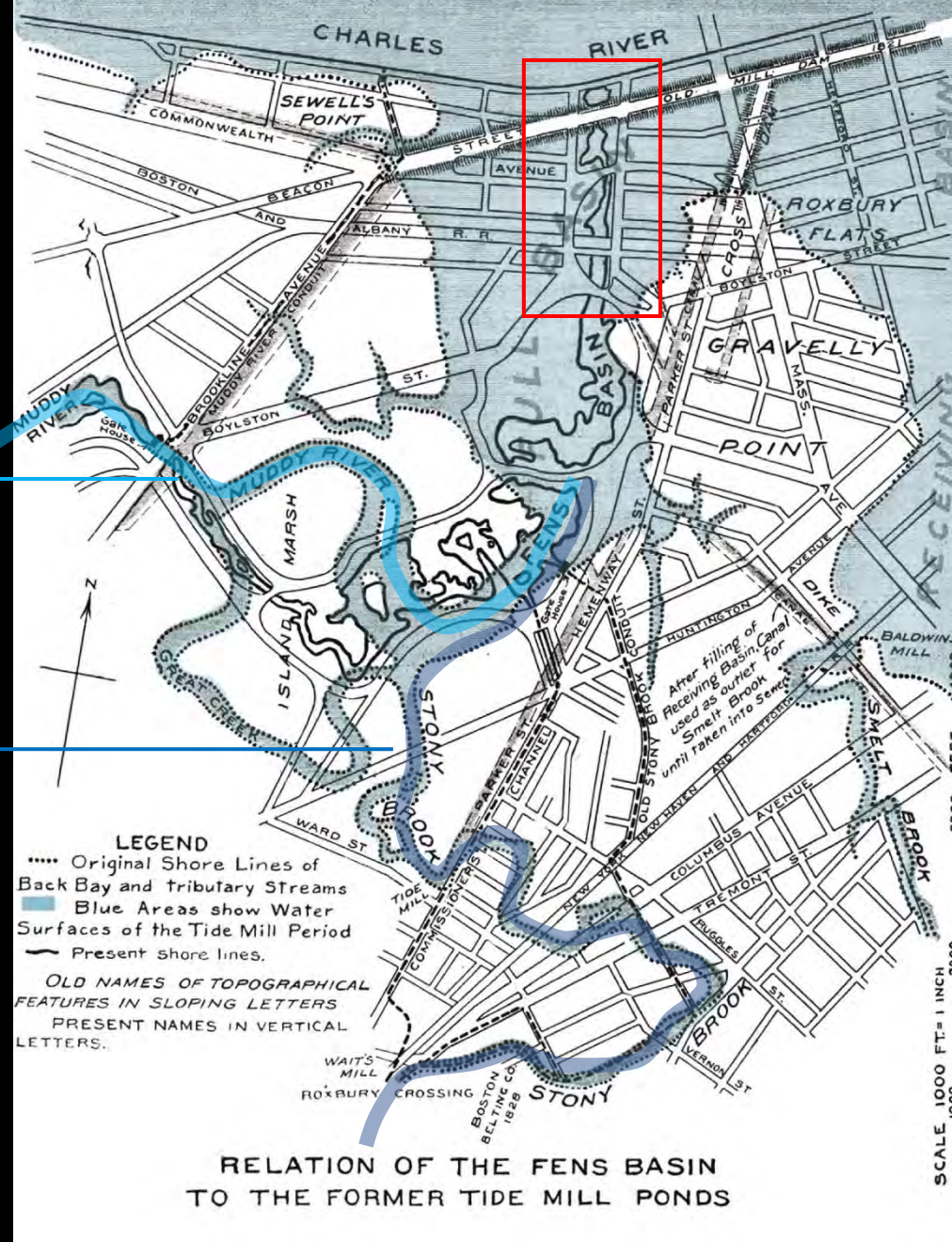
Aerial photograph of Manhattan (Google Earth, 2020)



Carte particuliere du havre de Boston, 1780

MUDDY RIVER

STONY BROOK



The confluence of Stony Brook, Muddy River and the Charles River as it existed in the early 19th century, and the subsequently constructed area of the Back Bay Fens about 1903. (Freeman, 1903)

Integration



Back Bay and the Beacon Street Entrance at Charlesgate



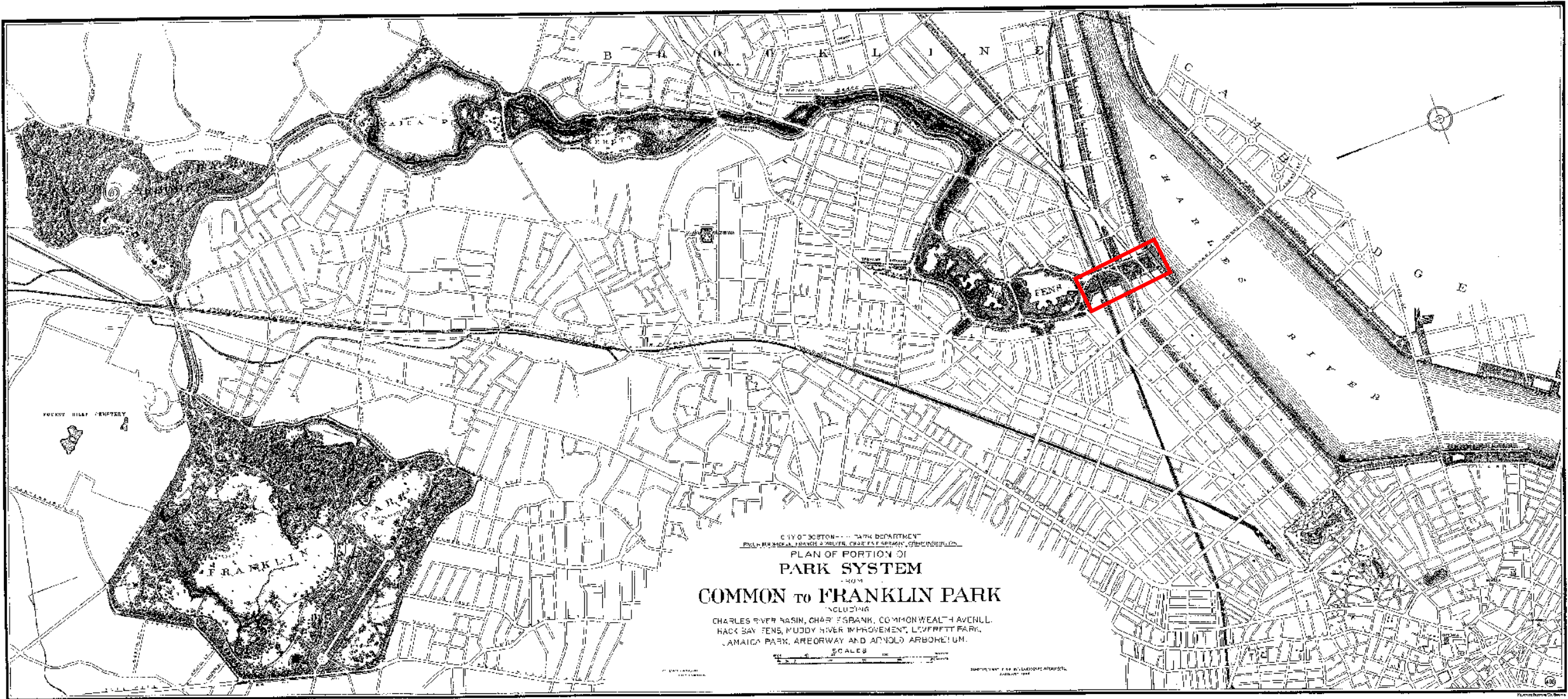
Charlesgate circa 1890-1901 (courtesy H. Parker James)



Charlesgate Park around the turn of the century, postcard collection of H Parker James



Charlesgate circa 1930 (courtesy H. Parker James)

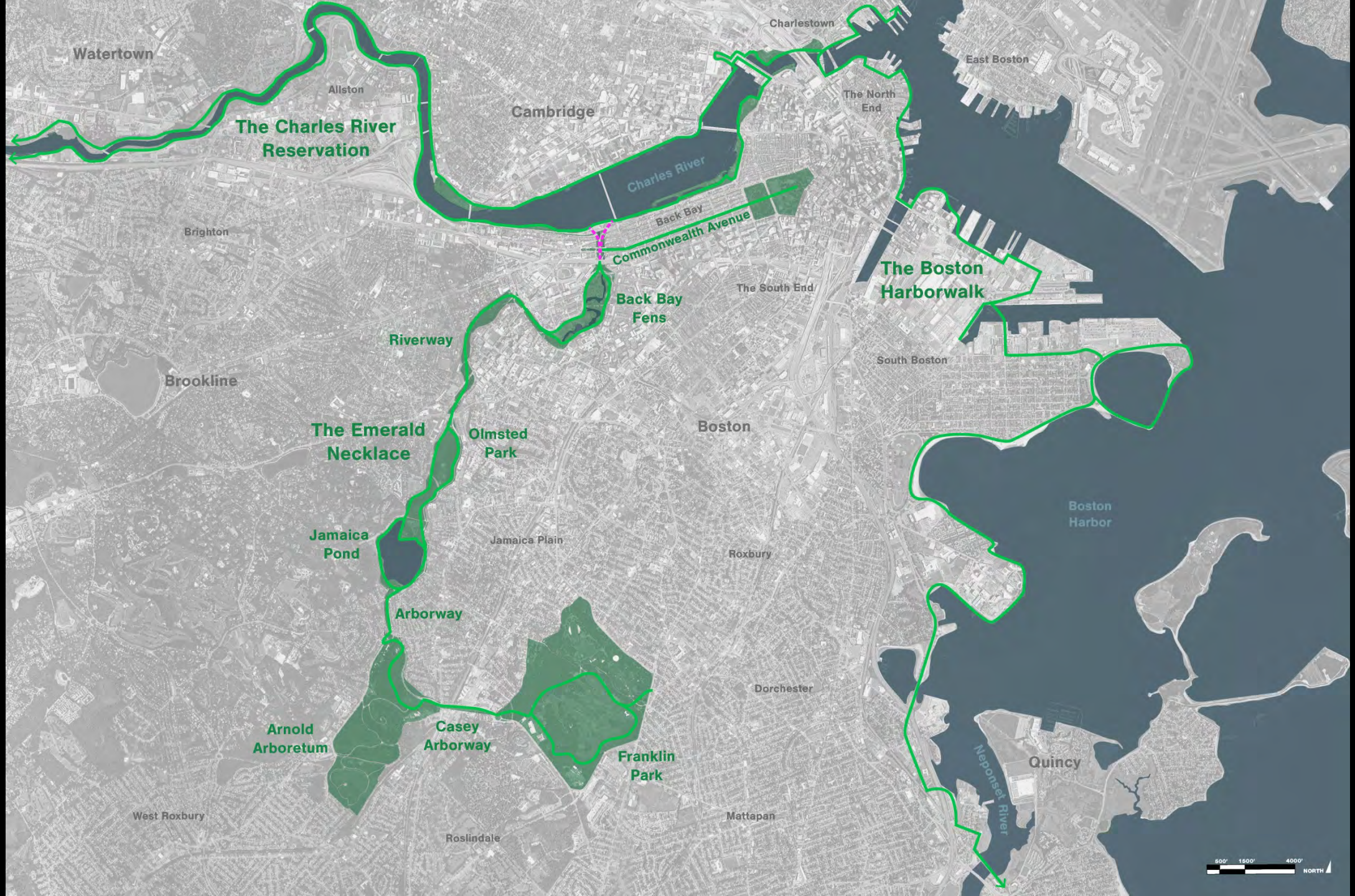


National Park Service Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

OLMSTED ARCHIVES

99 Warren Street Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

Re-think the River as Infrastructure



Where is Charlesgate today?

Today, under the Bowker

Tobin Bridge, 1948-50

Central Artery, 1951-59

West End demolition, 1959-64

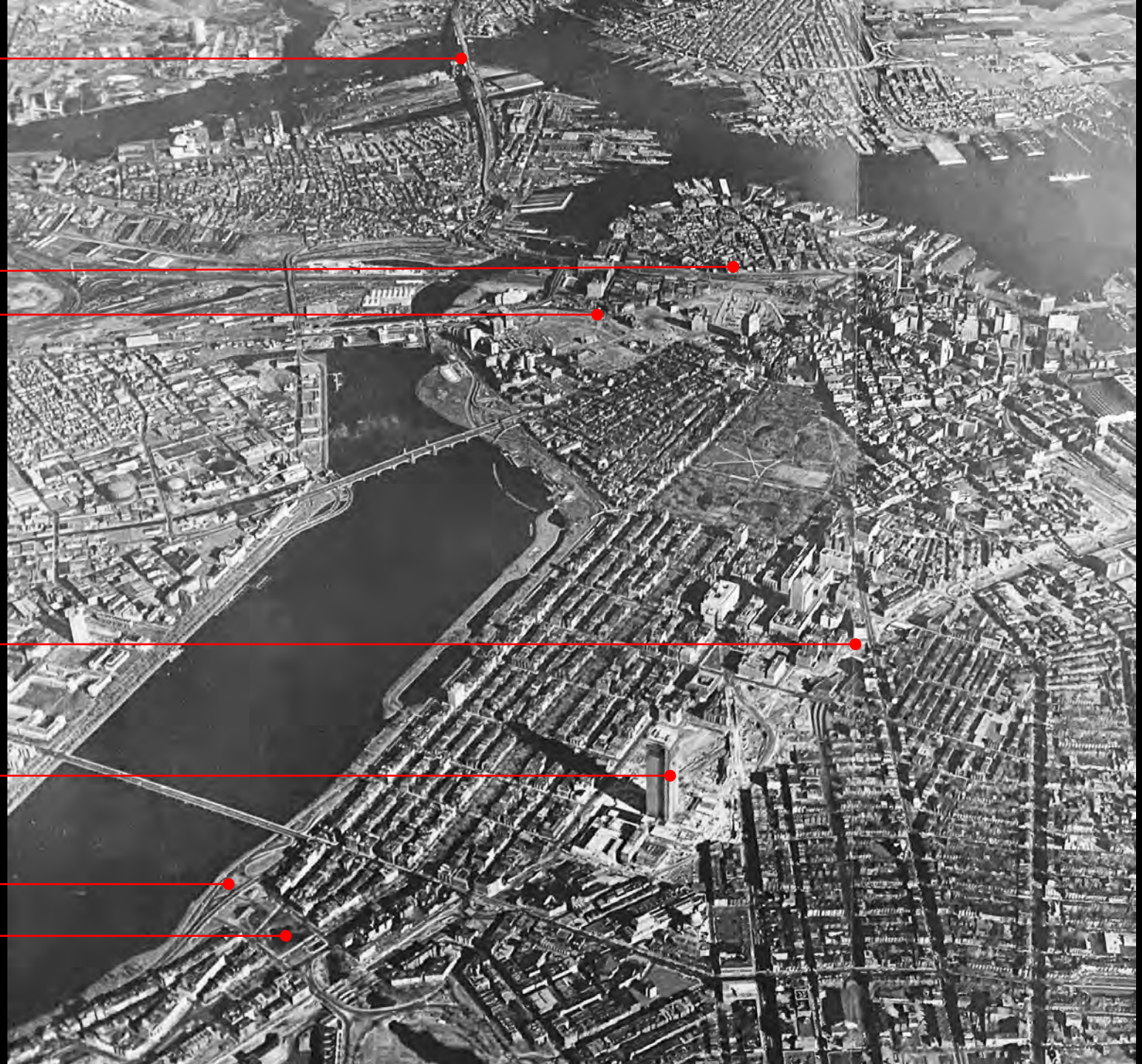
The Destructive Era of Urban Renewal In Boston 1948-1969

I-90, 1961-65

Prudential Center, 1960-64

Storrow Drive, 1950-51

Bowker Overpass, 1967-69
(Not constructed yet)



Land

Section of New Highway in the Back Bay, Boston, Mass.

65



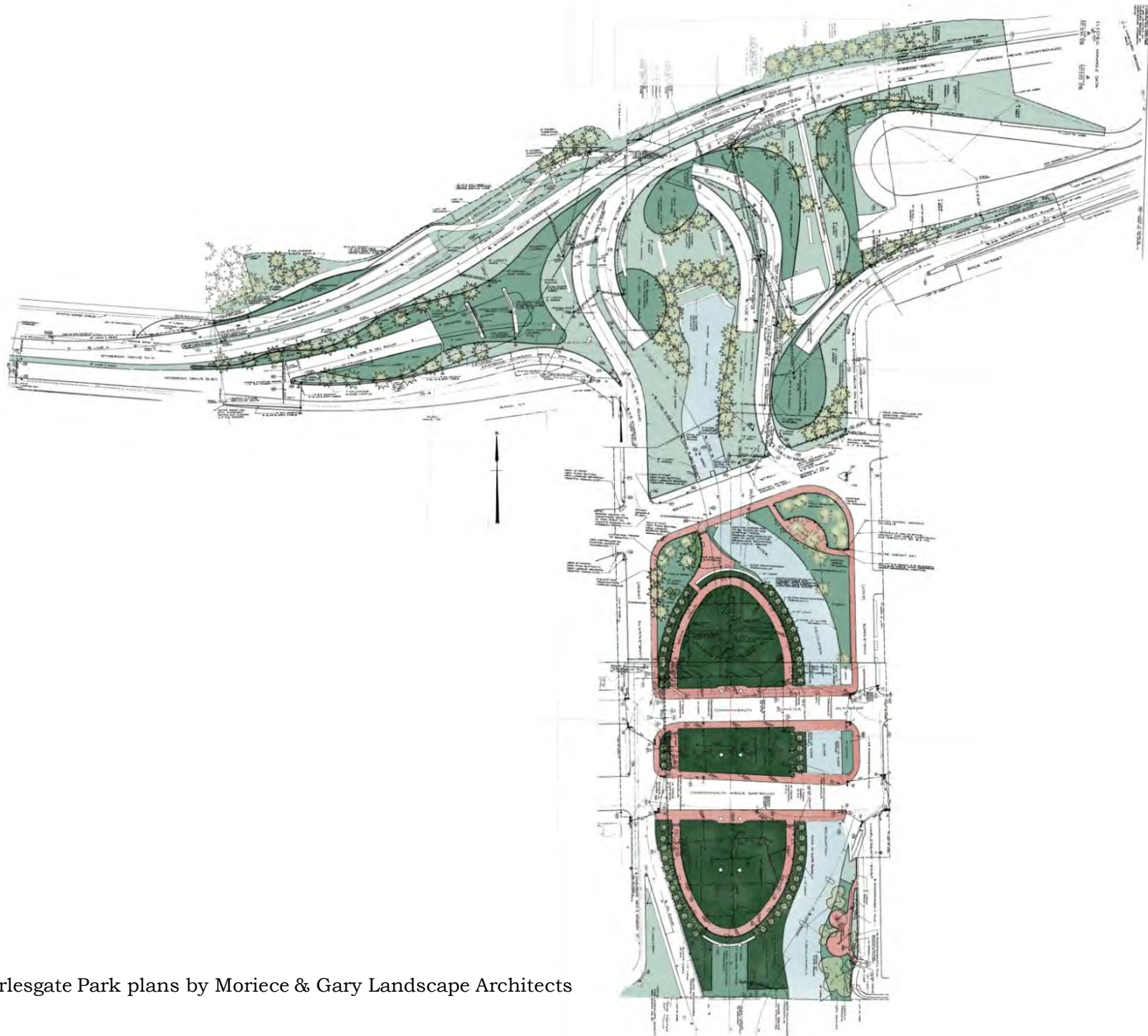
Storrow Drive at Charlesgate, Image: H Parker James, Charlesgate Alliance



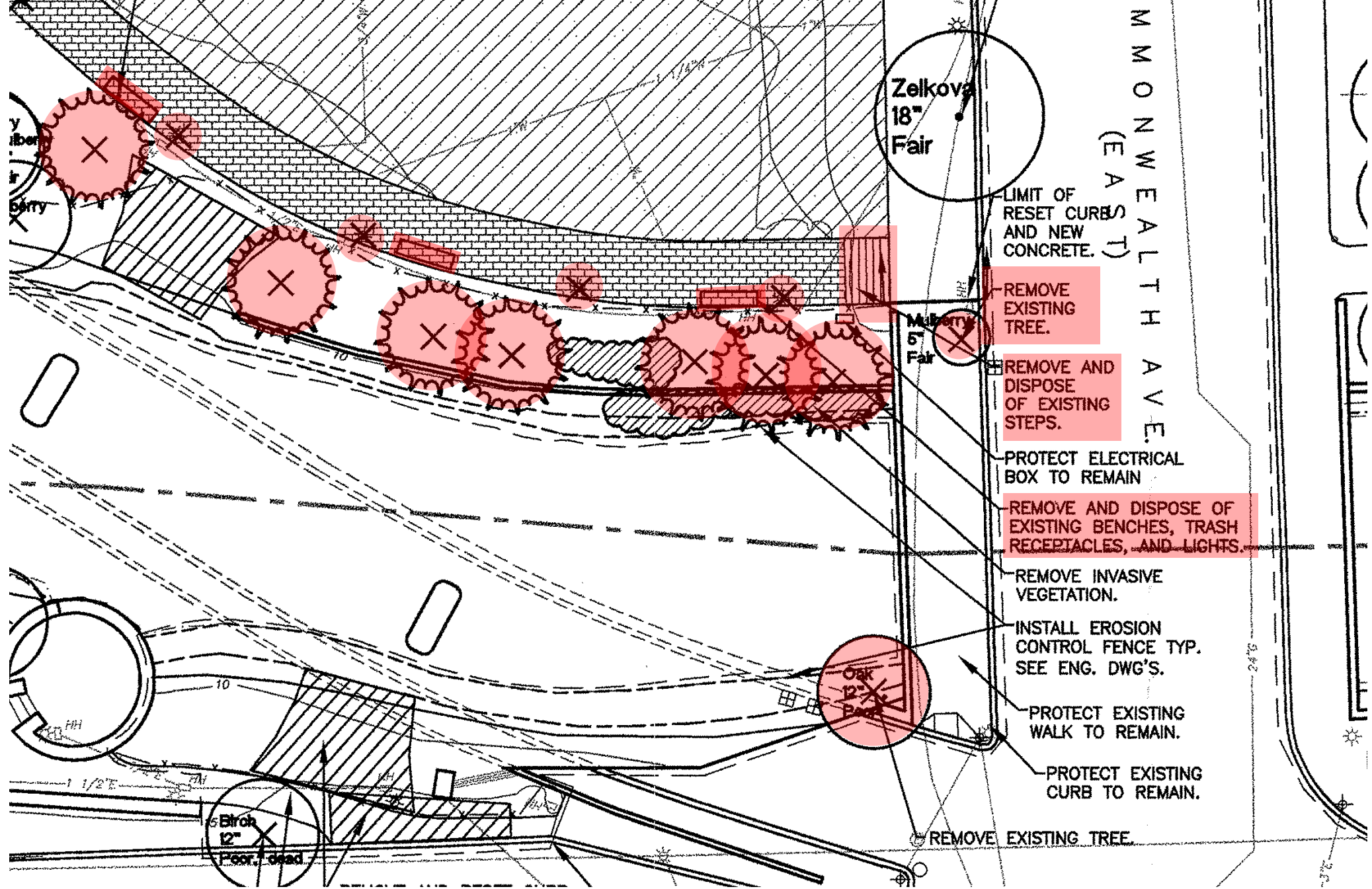
Bowker Overpass under construction, 1967



Charlesgate and Hotel Braemore, circa 1890-1901 (courtesy H. Parker James)



1963 (realized) Charlesgate Park plans by Moriece & Gary Landscape Architects



2002, Muddy River Restoration demolition and staging plan

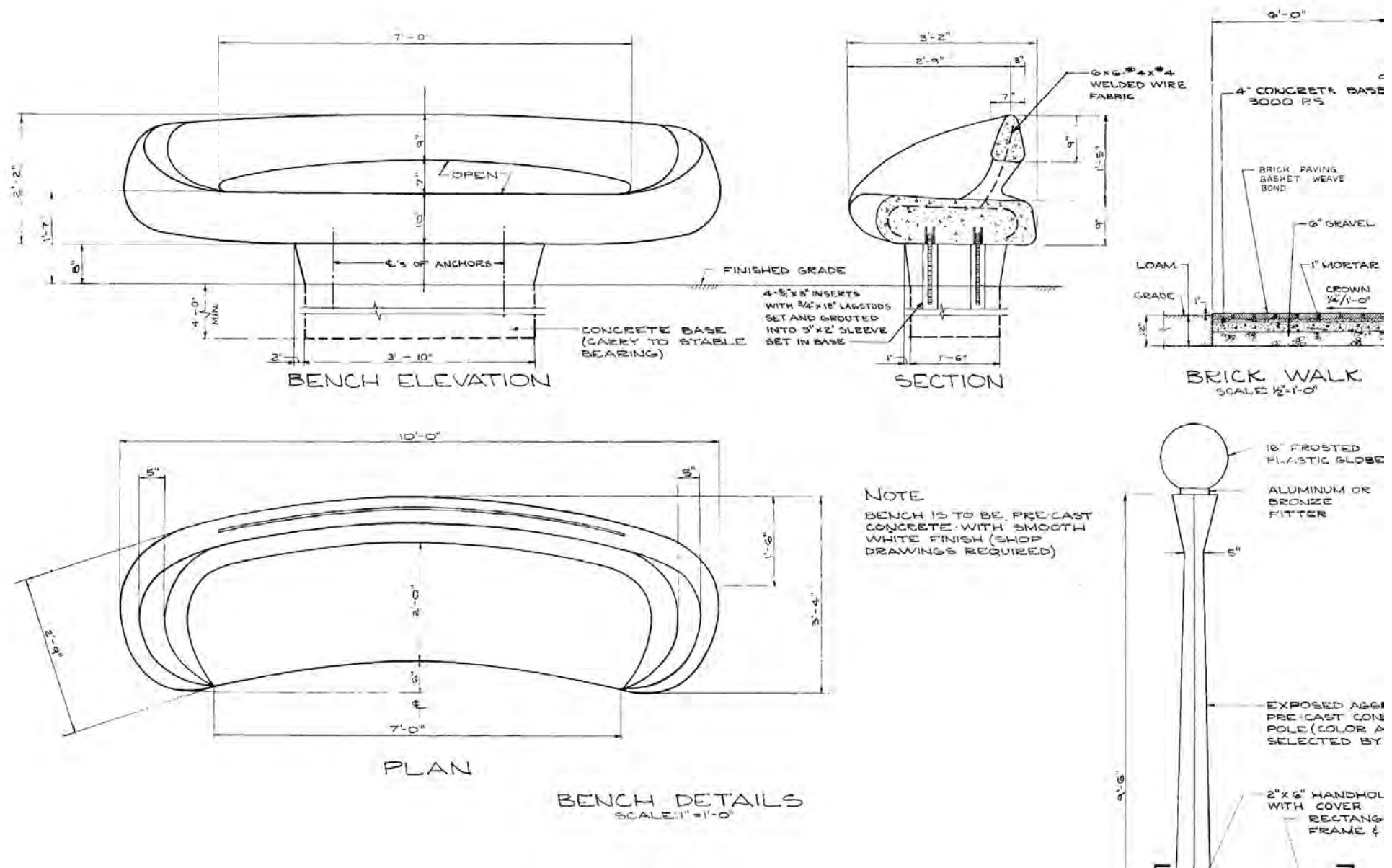




Figure 104: Back Bay Fens - Park area below the Bowker Interchange at Charlesgate (Jon Crispin Photography, 1999).

1999



2011



Water sheet cleanup, fall 2018



Today, under the Bowker

Water



Today, under the Bowker



armored shore

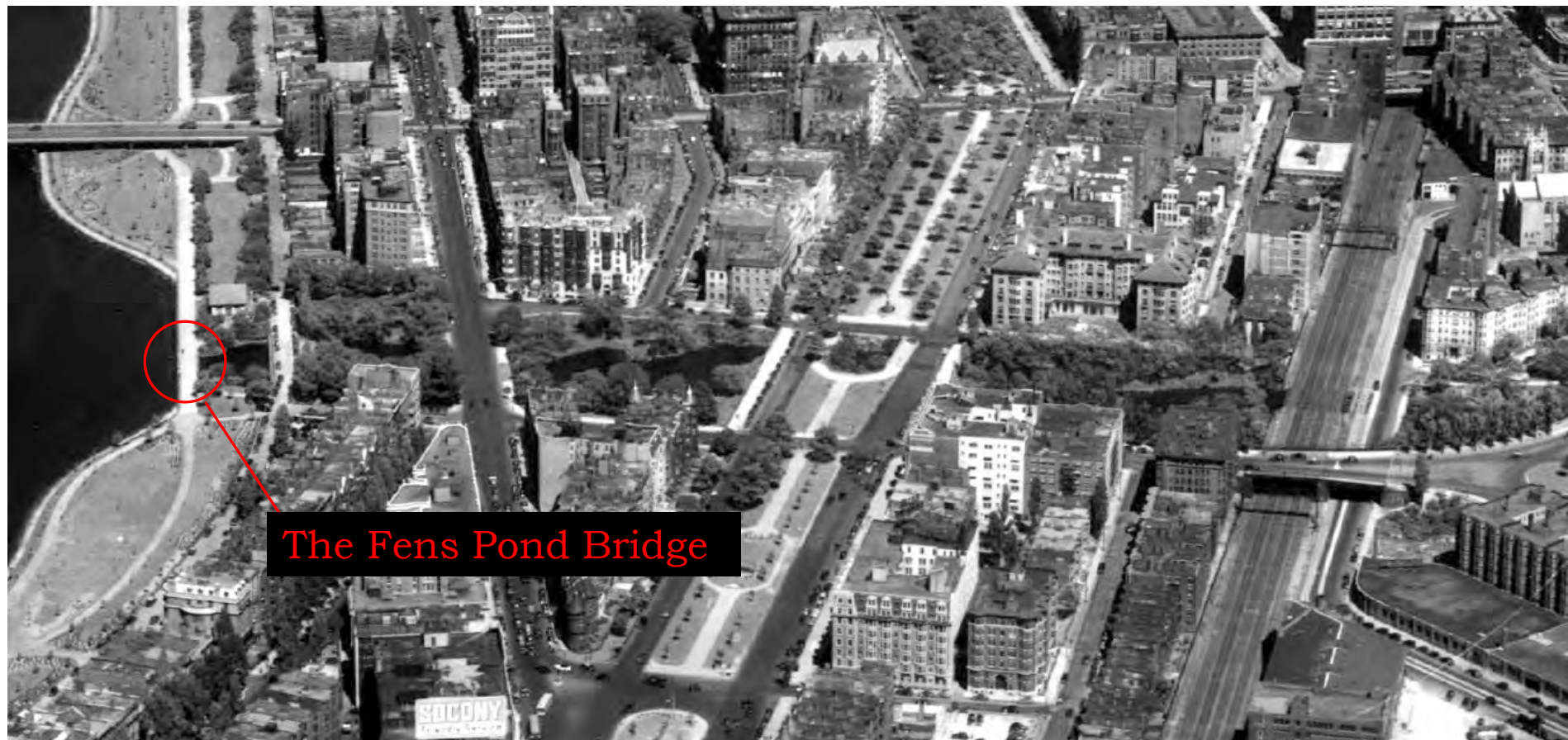
storm water
from street



← untreated
drainage
from Bowker

bottles, debris
in the water

duckweed bloom
= pollution indicator



1949: The Emerald Necklace continues to the Charles River under the Fens Pond Bridge



DAYLIT MUDDY RIVER

CULVERTED MUDDY RIVER



The Charles River

The Muddy River

Fens Pond Bridge before 1950



The Muddy River

The Charles River

The meeting of the Muddy River and the Charles River Today



People

Under • the • Overpass

A Day of Visions for a Sad Landscape

Under • the • Overpass

A Day of Visions for a Sad Landscape

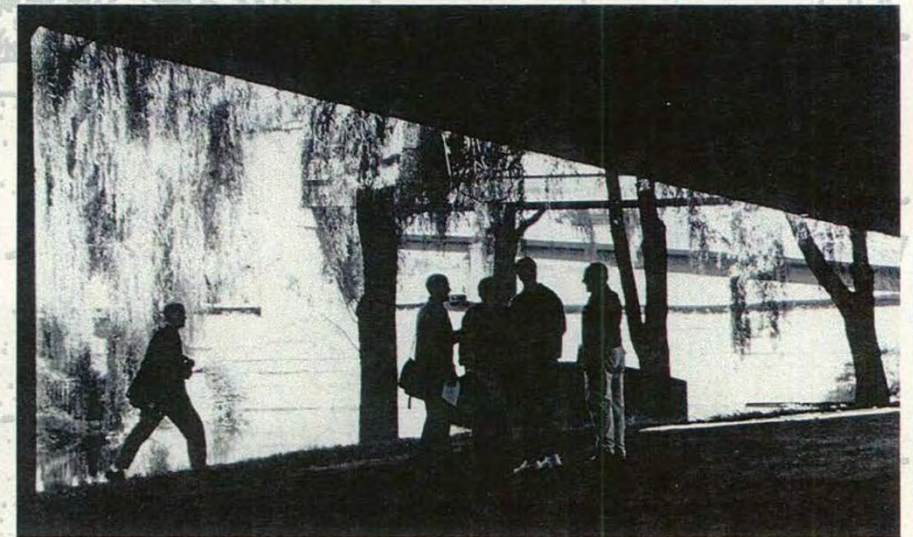
Table of Contents

3	About the Charrette
4	Existing Conditions
6	History of the Site
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12	Team Three - Water Plan
14	Team Three - Charlesgate Gym
15	Team Three - Memories
16	Team Four
18	Team Five
20	Team Six
22	Summary
23	Acknowledgments
24	About COG

The Charlesgate Interchange Park Charrette

sponsored by
Community Outreach Group, Inc.
Metropolitan District Commission
Boston Society of Landscape Architects/Radcliffe Chapter

October 17, 1998
Kenmore Abbey, Boston



The Charlesgate Interchange Park Charrette



Friends of the Charlesgate

@cgatepark · Community Organization

Send Message

Home

About

Photos

Community

Like



About

[See All](#)

The Friends of the Charlesgate is a group of concerned residents, businesses and institutions living and working in the environs of the historic Charlesgate Park in the Back Bay/Kenmore neighborhoods of Boston.

57 people like this

58 people follow this

<http://cgatepark.com/>

[Send Message](#)

cgatepark@gmail.com

Community Organization



Create Post



Photo/Video



Check in



Tag Friends



Friends of the Charlesgate

June 11, 2012 ·

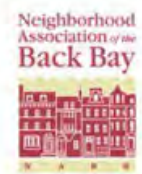


We strongly encourage you to attend tomorrow's DOT meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Boston Public Library – Mezzanine Conference Room on 700 Boylston Street, Copley Square, Boston, MA 02116 to show your support.

Decisions could be made there that will determine the long-term fate of both the Bowker and the Charlesgate which could impact the quality of life in the city of Boston for many years to come.

2

1 Comment 1 Share



3 YEARS OF CONTINUED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



October 2017



December 2017



April 2018



June 2018



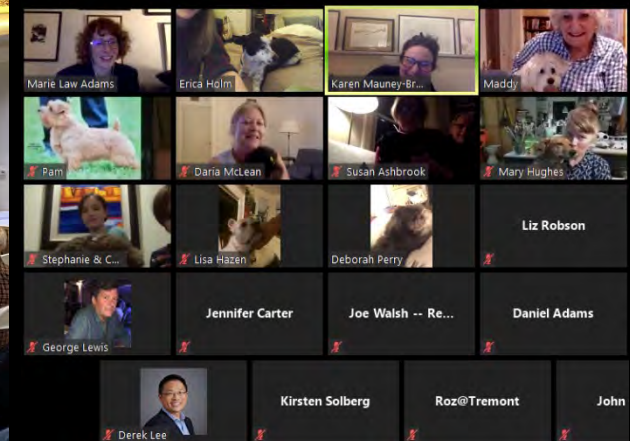
November 2018



October 2019



March 2020



April 2020

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

#1 - IMPROVE MUDDY RIVER WATER QUALITY & HABITAT

- manage storm water with landscape systems
- provide habitat-rich landscape design

#2 - ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES

- provide amenity spaces that invite a variety of uses
- dog park!

#3 - RECONNECT BOSTON'S 3 PARK SYSTEMS & NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS CHARLESGATE

- add bike accommodations
- safe pedestrian connections
- open up views

#4 - DESIGN FOR MAINTENANCE

- make the park, the water, and the bridge easy to maintain

#5 - CELEBRATE CHARLESGATE'S HISTORY

- preserve significant built elements and flora
- restore Charlesgate's function as a water park



SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS



2019 Olmsted rail replacement:
Thank you DCR!



2018 & 2019 Charlesgate Chairs, with
support from the Solomon Foundation,
photo by Jules Milner-Brage



2019 Lighting fixed:
Thank you DCR!



2019 Charlesgate Movie Night,
with support from the Solomon Foundation!



2019 Tree pruning, supported by a
Fenway Park Demonstration Grant



2019 & 2020 Charlesgate Alliance hires
Project Place for ongoing cleanups,
photo by Randall Albright

LONGER-TERM PLANNING MILESTONES

**INITIAL MATCHING FUND FOR CONCEPT
DESIGN, SOLOMON FOUNDATION**

**\$250,000 IN 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Thanks to elected Representatives Brownsberger,
Livingstone, Rushing and Santiago!

**\$400,000 BOSTON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION
ACT GRANT FOR DESIGN**

FUNDRAISING UNDERWAY !



6/2017

3 PROJECTS TO RESTORE THE CRITICAL LINK AT CHARLESGATE:

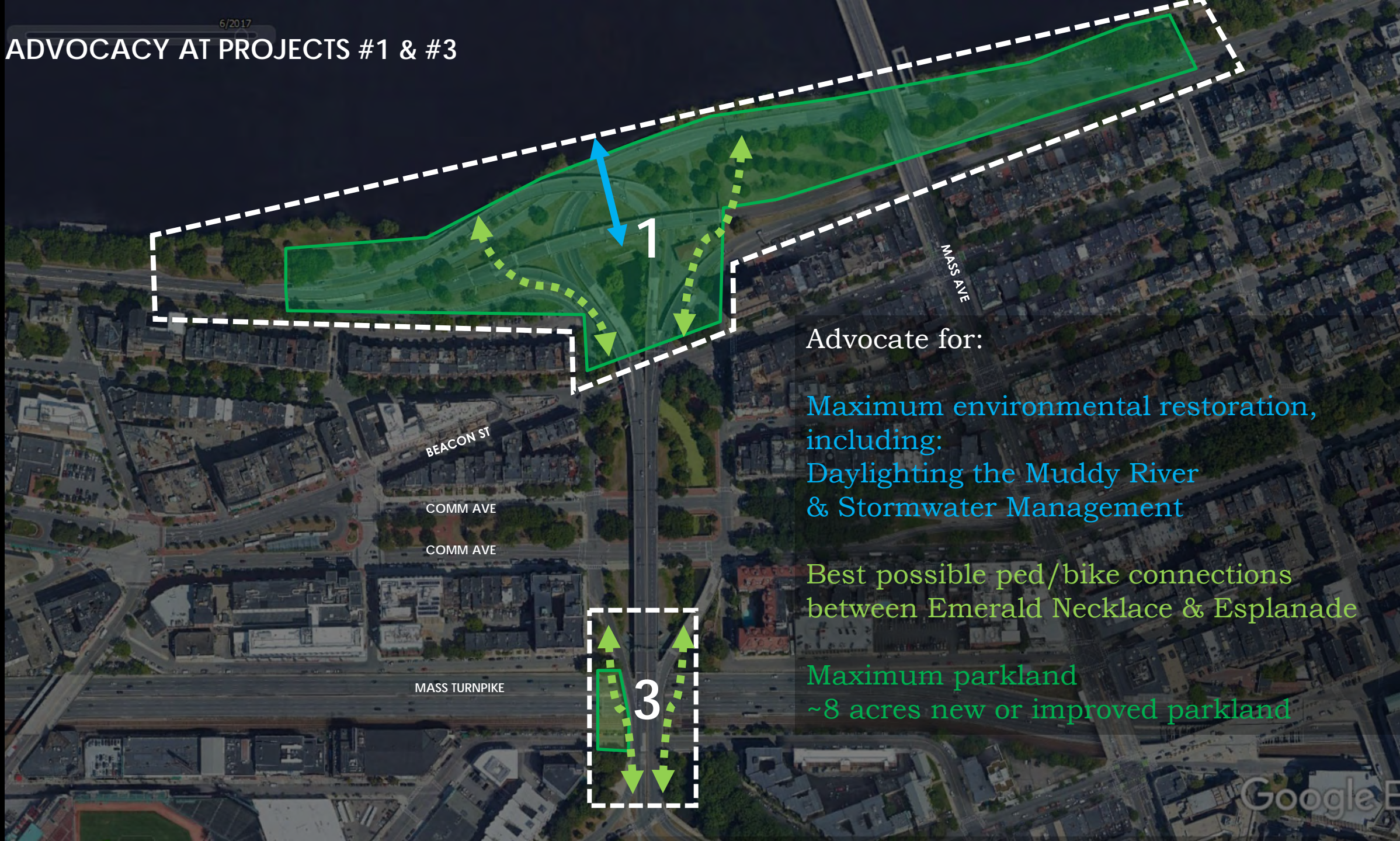
#1 MassDOT 606728 - Storrow EB Bridge Replacement Project
ADVOCATE

#2 Emerald Necklace Conservancy & Charlesgate Alliance
LEAD DESIGN
FUNDRAISING
SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

#3 MassDOT 606496 - Bowker Overpass over Mass Turnpike
ADVOCATE

Google E

ADVOCACY AT PROJECTS #1 & #3



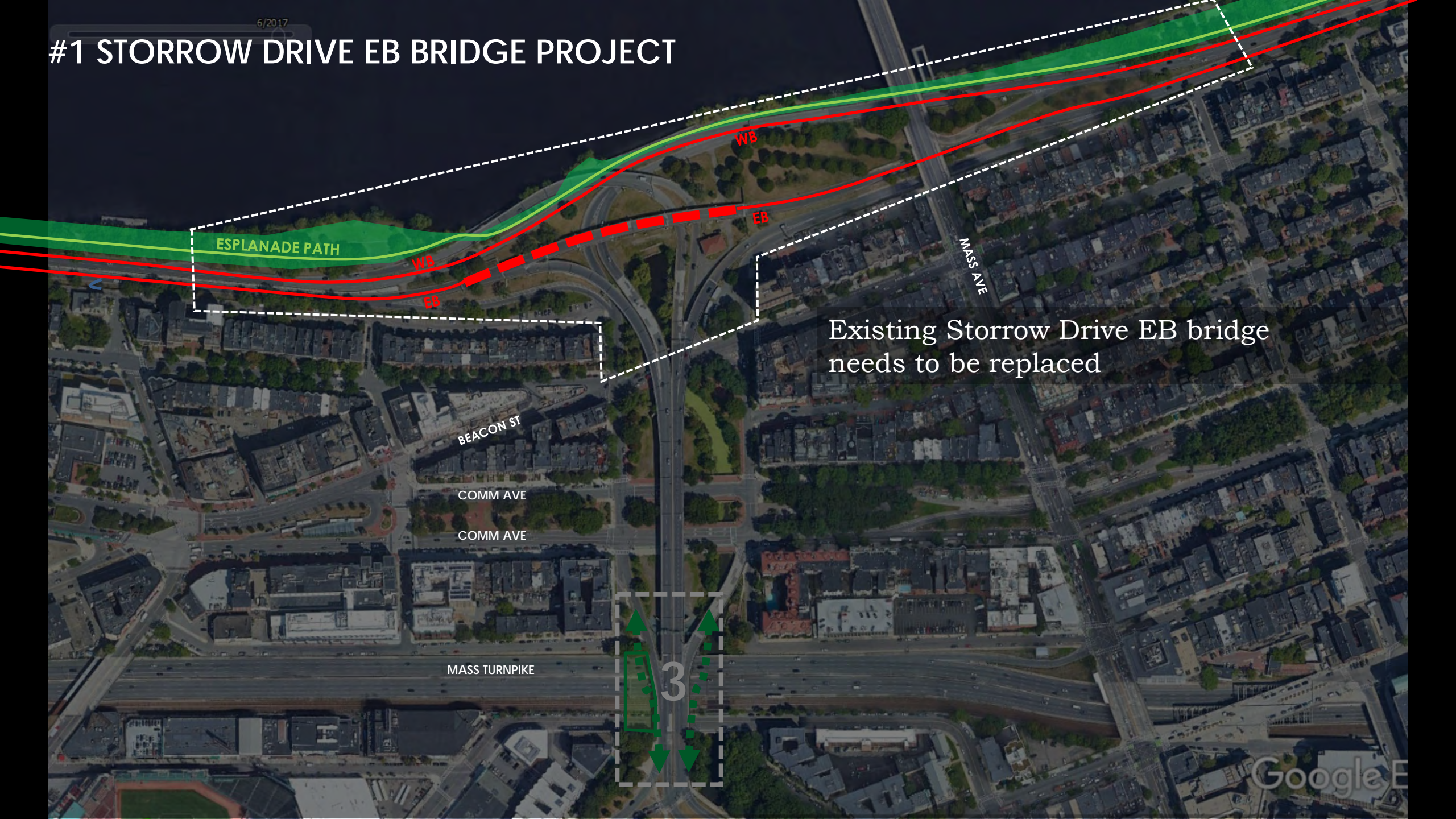
Advocate for:

Maximum environmental restoration,
including:
Daylighting the Muddy River
& Stormwater Management

Best possible ped/bike connections
between Emerald Necklace & Esplanade

Maximum parkland
~8 acres new or improved parkland

#1 STORROW DRIVE EB BRIDGE PROJECT



Existing Storrow Drive EB bridge
needs to be replaced

3

#1

6/2017

ESPLANADE PATH

WB

EB

WB

EB

MASS AVE

BEACON ST

COMM AVE

COMM AVE

MASS TURNPIKE

3

Typically a temporary bridge would be built and traffic would be diverted onto this temporary bridge during construction of new bridge

Google E

#1

6/2017

ESPLANADE PATH

WB

EB

WB

EB

MASS AVE

BEACON ST

COMM AVE

COMM AVE

MASS TURNPIKE

3

But what if two new bridges were built instead of building a temporary bridge?

Google E

#1

6/2017

ESPLANADE PATH

WB

EB

WB

EB

MASS AVE

BEACON ST

COMM AVE

COMM AVE

MASS TURNPIKE

3

Then, Storrow Drive WB could be elevated on this new bridge and moved alongside Storrow Drive EB

The parkland on the Esplanade can be increased significantly

Google E

#1

6/2017

ESPLANADE PATH

WB

EB

WB

EB

MASS AVE

BEACON ST

COMM AVE

COMM AVE

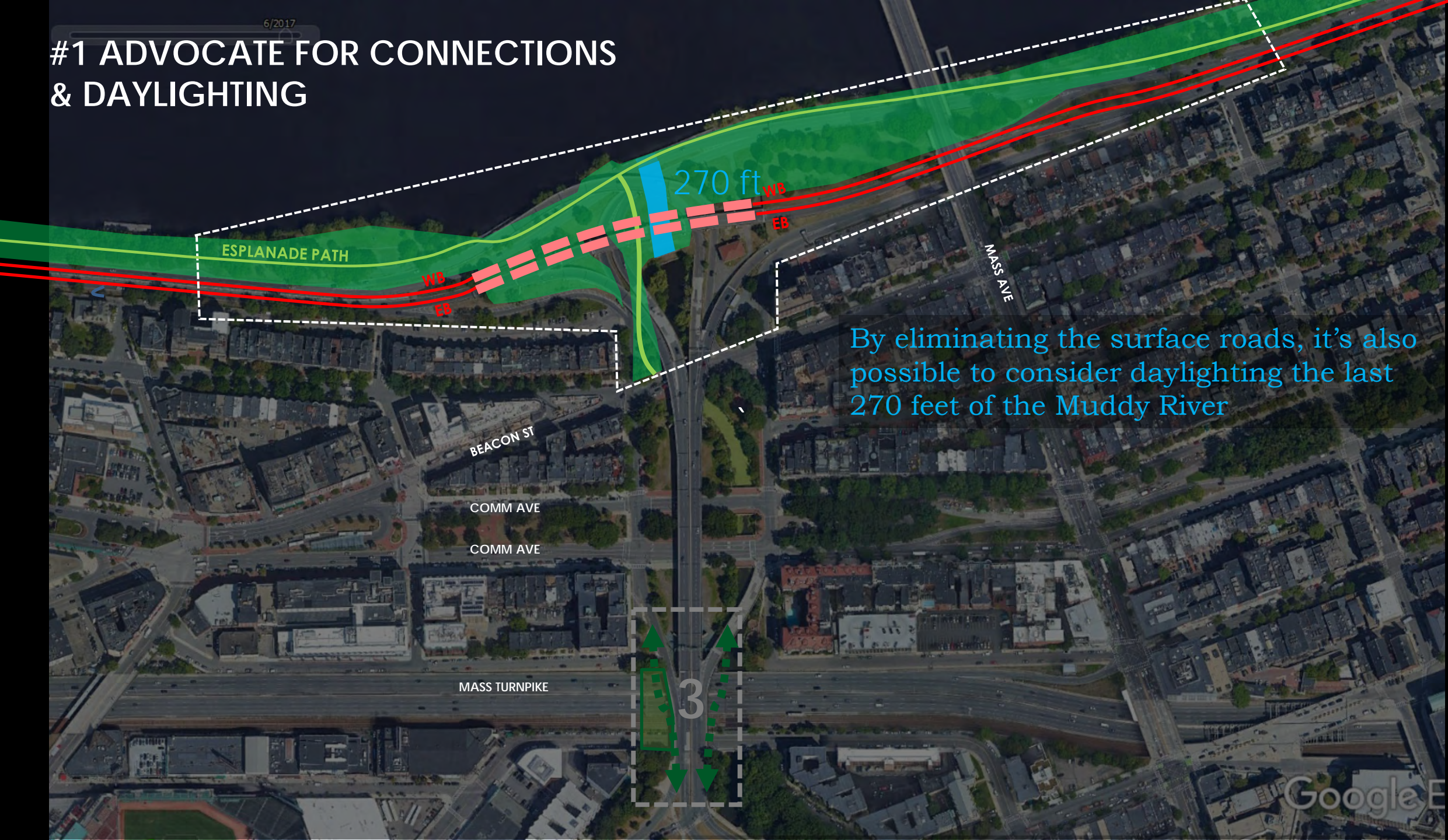
MASS TURNPIKE

3

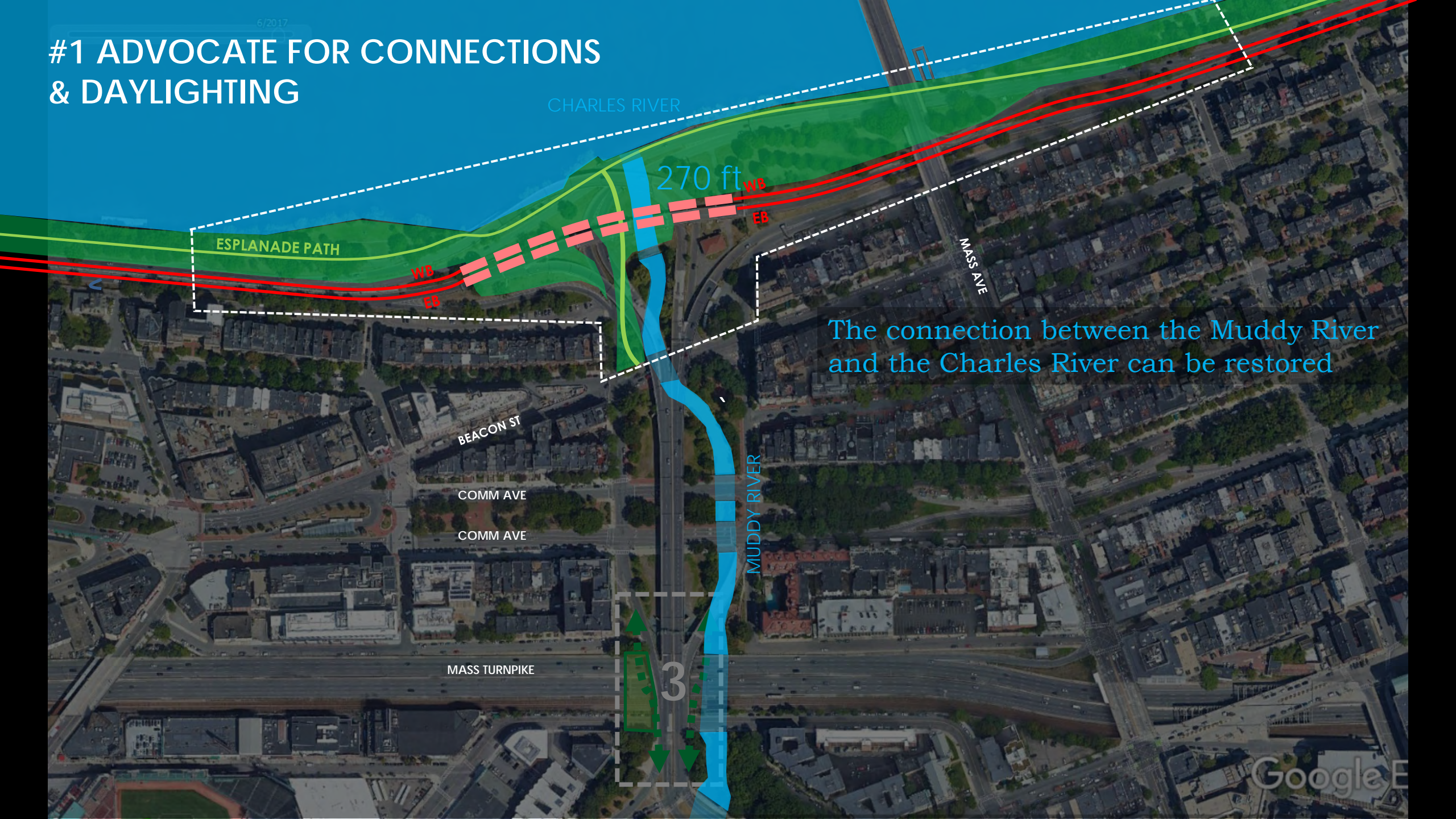
A new connection can be built between the Esplanade and the Emerald Necklace, passing under the new bridges

Google E

#1 ADVOCATE FOR CONNECTIONS & DAYLIGHTING



#1 ADVOCATE FOR CONNECTIONS & DAYLIGHTING



CHARLES RIVER

270 ft

ESPLANADE PATH

WB

EB

WB

EB

MASS AVE

BEACON ST

COMM AVE

COMM AVE

MASS TURNPIKE

MUDDY RIVER

3

The connection between the Muddy River and the Charles River can be restored

#1

CHARLES RIVER

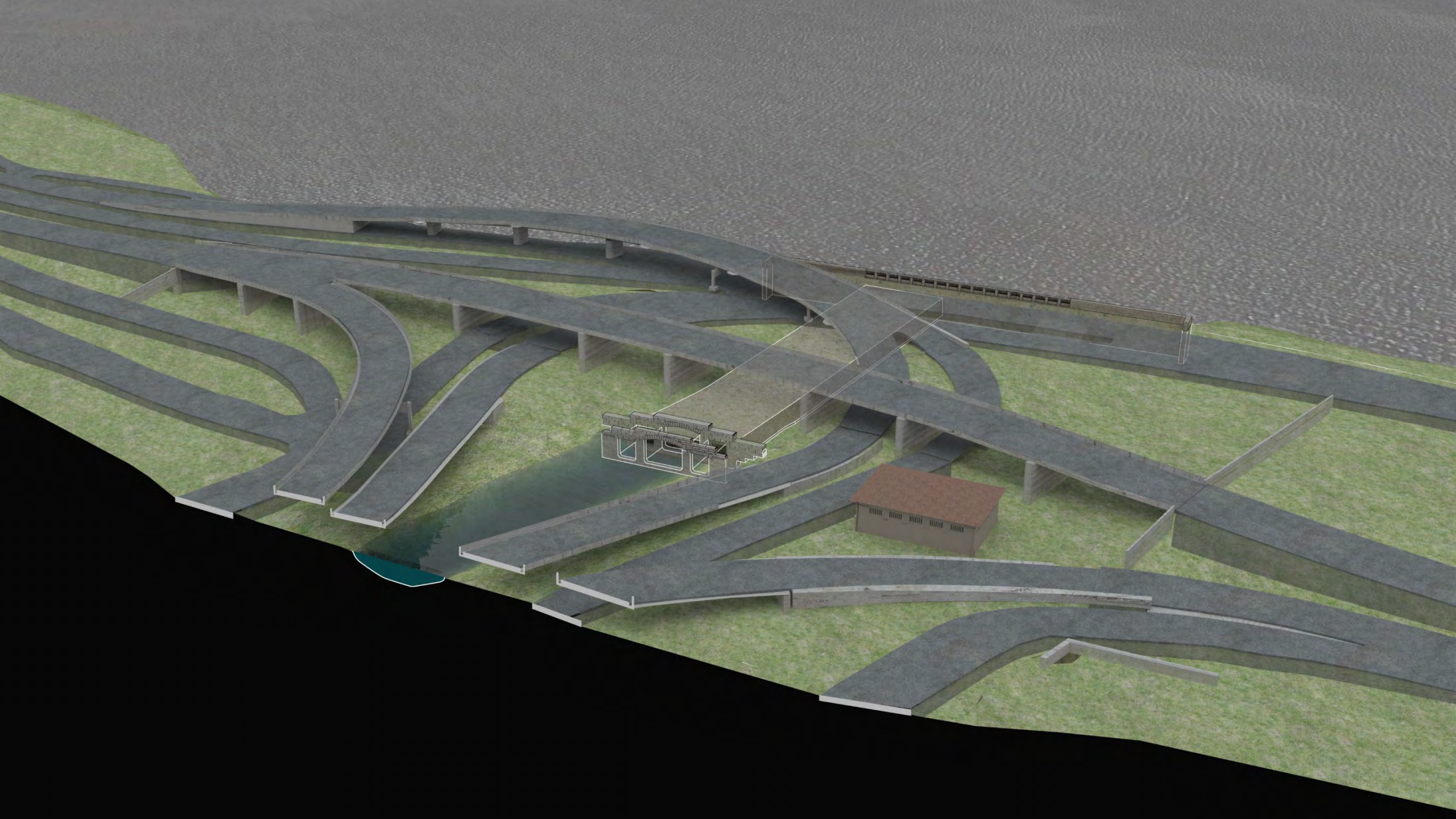
MUDDY RIVER

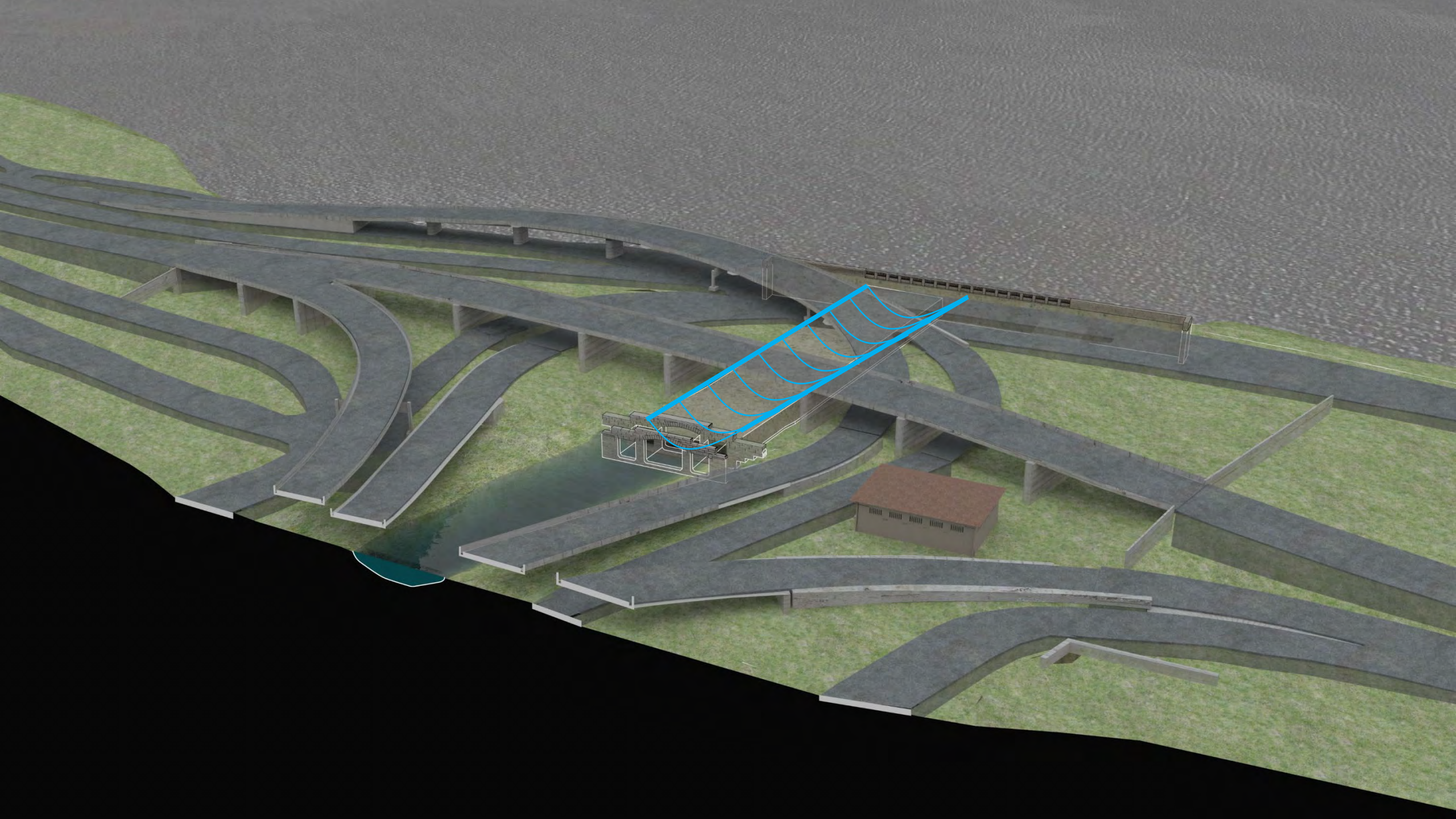
=
4 miles

Daylighting 270 ft of the river restores:

Water Quality
&
Habitat Value
&
Flood Management

Of the full 4 mile length of the Muddy River



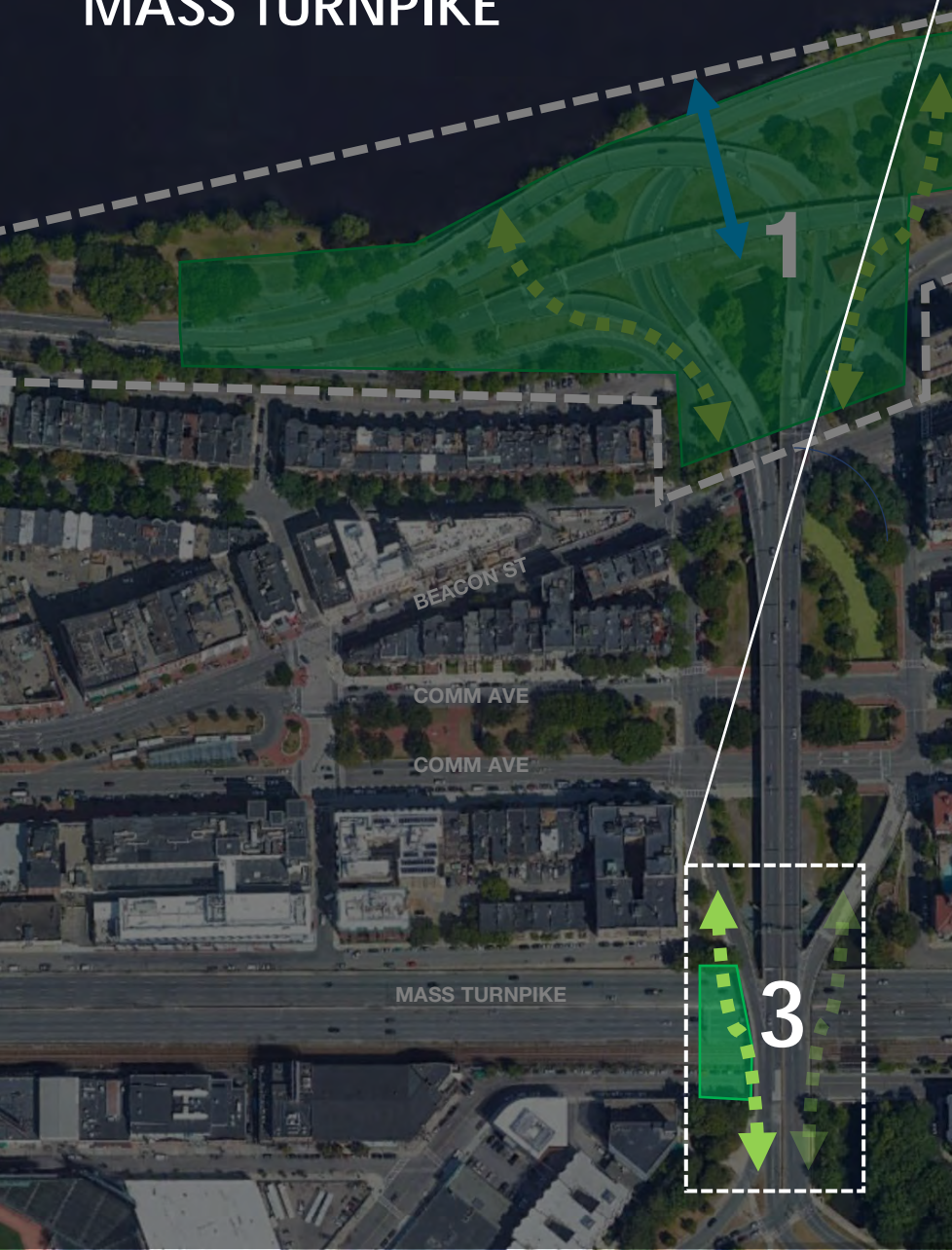


#3: BOWKER OVERPASS OVER MASS TURNPIKE



Existing bad connection on west side

#3: BOWKER OVERPASS OVER MASS TURNPIKE




Existing bad connection on west side

#3: BOWKER OVERPASS OVER MASS TURNPIKE



Existing bad connection on east side

Google E



#1 MassDOT 606728 - Storrow EB Bridge Replacement Project
ADVOCATE

#2 Emerald Necklace Conservancy & Charlesgate Alliance
LEAD DESIGN
FUNDRAISING
SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

#3 MassDOT 606496 - Bowker Overpass over Mass Turnpike
ADVOCATE

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PRINCIPLE #1 IMPROVE MUDDY RIVER WATER QUALITY & HABITAT

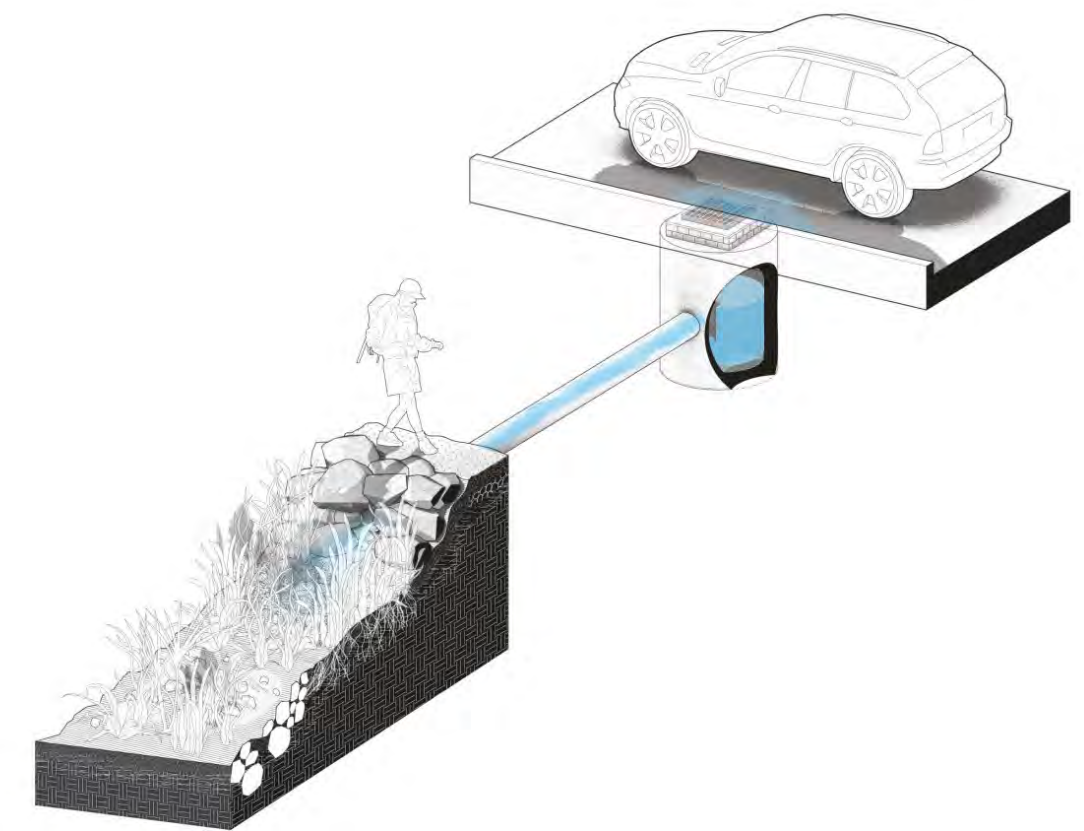
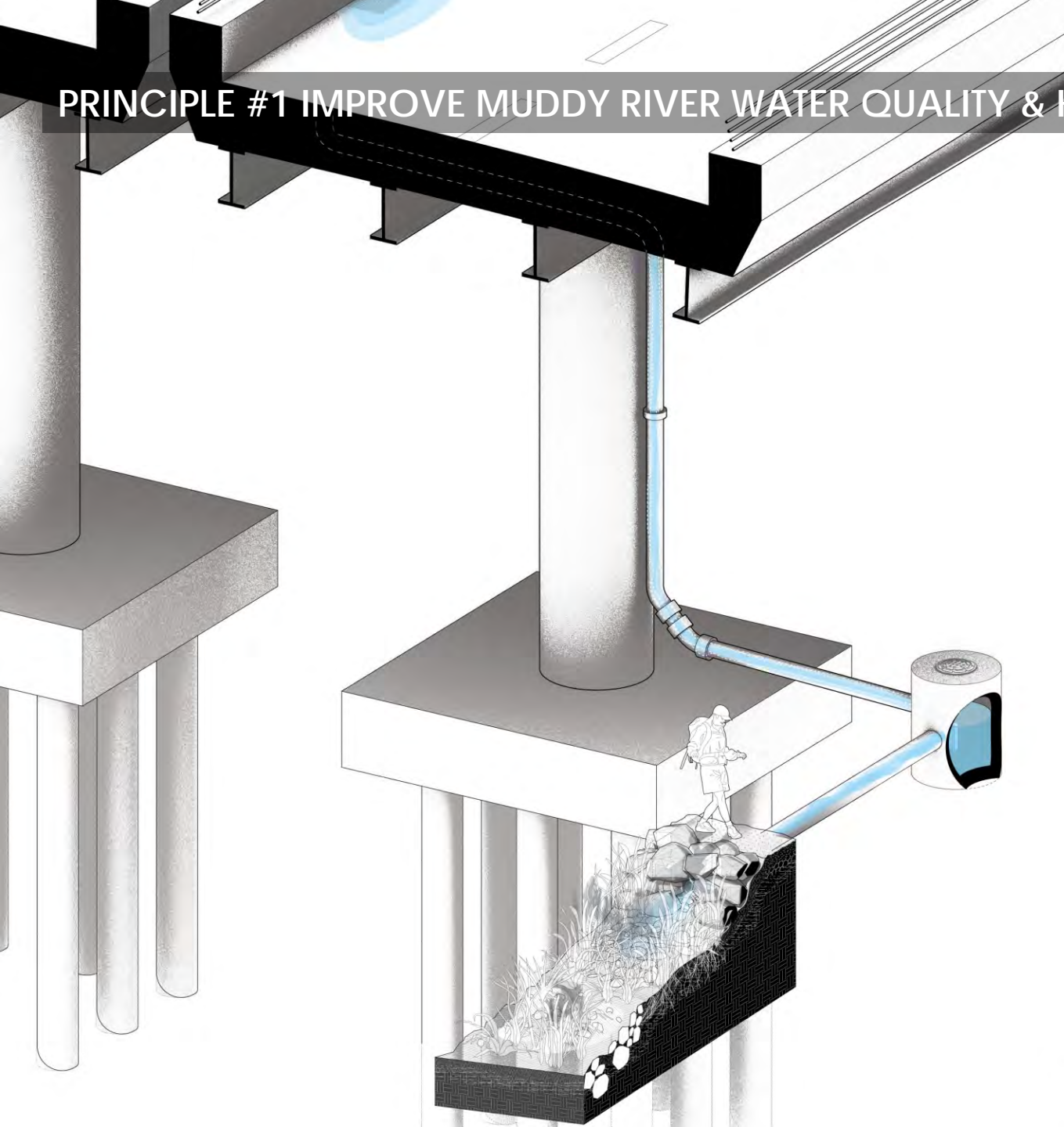
Existing: west edge of the Muddy, North Field

A photograph of a river with white line-art overlays. In the top left, a person is shown from the back, looking at the river. In the top right, three ducks are swimming. In the bottom center, a dragonfly is perched on a rock, with a hand reaching out towards it. The river is surrounded by lush green vegetation and rocks.

PRINCIPLE #1 IMPROVE MUDDY RIVER WATER QUALITY & HABITAT

Proposed: west edge of the Muddy, North Field

PRINCIPLE #1 IMPROVE MUDDY RIVER WATER QUALITY & HABITAT



PRINCIPLE #1 IMPROVE MUDDY RIVER WATER QUALITY & HABITAT

LEGEND

- ▲ DOT SCUPPER ABOVE
- DOT STORMWATER PIPE ABOVE
- DOT DRAIN LEADER
- DOT STORMWATER PIPE
- DOT CATCH BASIN
- DOT DRAINAGE MAN HOLE
- DOT DRAINAGE AREA
- DOT BIORETENTION
- DOT SURFACE GRAVEL FILTER
- DCR STORMWATER PIPE
- DCR CATCH BASIN
- DCR DRAINAGE MAN HOLE
- DCR DRAINAGE AREA
- POSSIBLE DCR DRAINAGE AREA
- DCR BIORETENTION
- DCR SURFACE GRAVEL FILTER
- MIXED DOT AND DCR STORMWATER PIPE
- MIXED DOT AND DCR CATCH BASIN
- MIXED DOT AND DCR DRAINAGE MAN HOLE

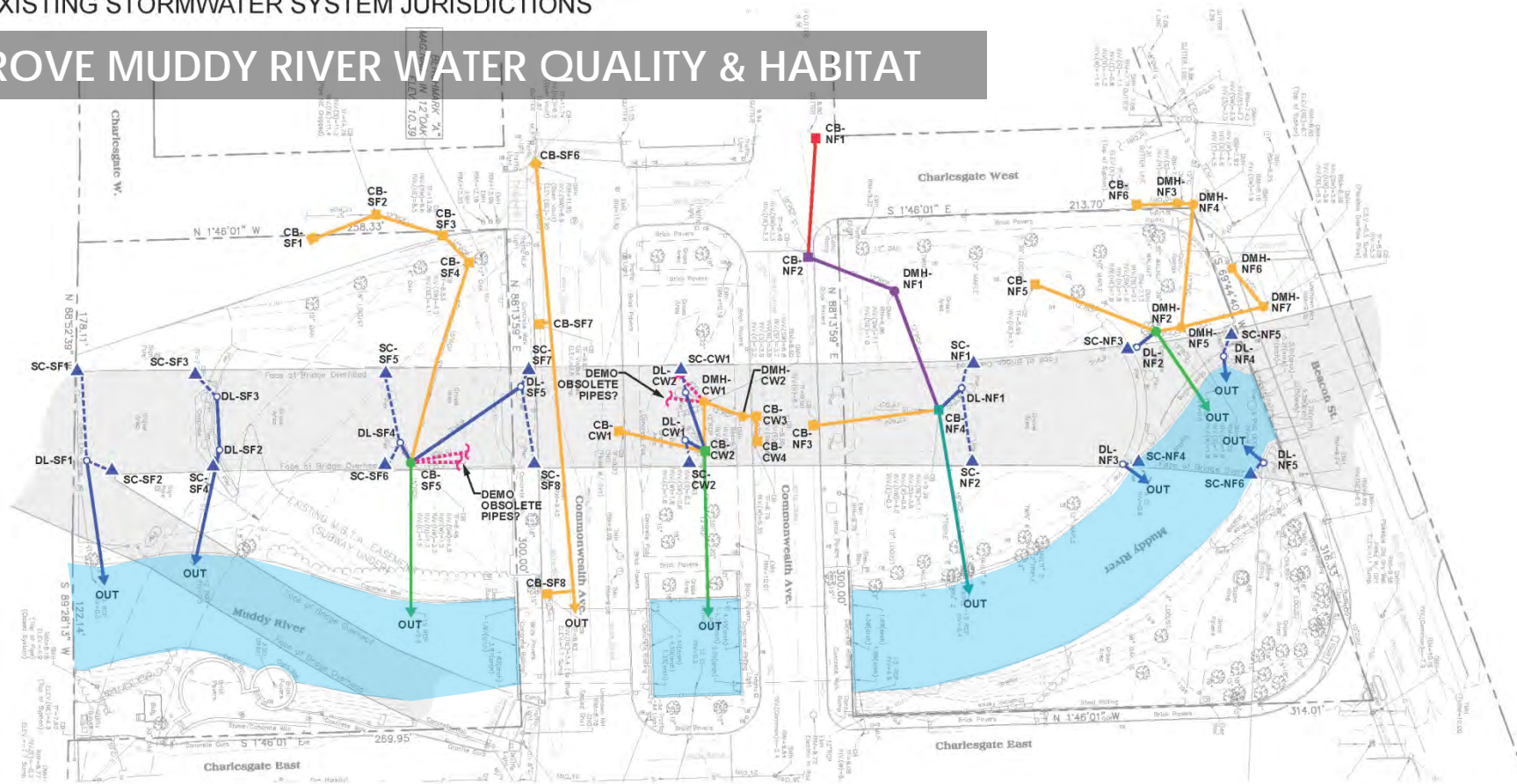
- BWSC STORMWATER PIPE
- BWSC CATCH BASIN
- BWSC DRAINAGE MAN HOLE
- BWSC SURFACE GRAVEL FILTER
- BWSC DRAINAGE AREA
- POSSIBLE BWSC DRAINAGE AREA
- MIXED DCR AND BWSC STORMWATER PIPE
- MIXED DCR AND BWSC CATCH BASIN
- MIXED DCR AND BWSC DRAINAGE MAN HOLE
- MIXED DOT AND DCR AND BWSC STORMWATER PIPE
- MIXED DOT AND DCR AND BWSC CATCH BASIN
- MIXED DOT AND DCR AND BWSC DRAINAGE MAN HOLE
- PIPE W/ UNKNOWN CONNECTION

ABBREVIATIONS

- CB = CATCH BASIN
- DMH = DRAIN MAN HOLE
- DL = DRAIN LEADER
- SC = SCUPPERS ON BOWKER OVERPASS
- OUT = OUTFALL
























- NF = NORTH FIELD
- SF = SOUTH FIELD
- CW = COMMONWEALTH AVE. AREA

- DL-SF1 = EXISTING DRAINLEADER
- DL-SF3 = PROPOSED DRAINLEADER
- PRE-CB-SF1 = PROPOSED PRETREATMENT (HOODED DEEP SUMP CATCH BASIN)
- SGF-SF1 = PROPOSED SURFACE GRAVEL FILTER
- BR-SF1 = PROPOSED BIORETENTION



PRINCIPLE #1 IMPROVE MUDDY RIVER WATER QUALITY & HABITAT

LEGEND

	DOT SCUPPER ABOVE		BWSC STORMWATER PIPE
	DOT STORMWATER PIPE ABOVE		BWSC CATCH BASIN
	DOT DRAIN LEADER		BWSC DRAINAGE MAN HOLE
	DOT STORMWATER PIPE		BWSC SURFACE GRAVEL FILTER
	DOT CATCH BASIN		BWSC DRAINAGE AREA
	DOT DRAINAGE MAN HOLE		POSSIBLE BWSC DRAINAGE AREA
	DOT DRAINAGE AREA		MIXED DCR AND BWSC STORMWATER PIPE
	DOT BIORETENTION		MIXED DCR AND BWSC CATCH BASIN
	DOT SURFACE GRAVEL FILTER		MIXED DCR AND BWSC DRAINAGE MAN HOLE
	DCR STORMWATER PIPE		MIXED DOT AND DCR AND BWSC STORMWATER PIPE
	DCR CATCH BASIN		MIXED DOT AND DCR AND BWSC CATCH BASIN
	DCR DRAINAGE MAN HOLE		MIXED DOT AND DCR AND BWSC DRAINAGE MAN HOLE
	DCR DRAINAGE AREA		PIPE W/ UNKNOWN CONNECTION
	POSSIBLE DCR DRAINAGE AREA		
	DCR BIORETENTION		
	DCR SURFACE GRAVEL FILTER		
	MIXED DOT AND DCR STORMWATER PIPE		
	MIXED DOT AND DCR CATCH BASIN		
	MIXED DOT AND DCR DRAINAGE MAN HOLE		

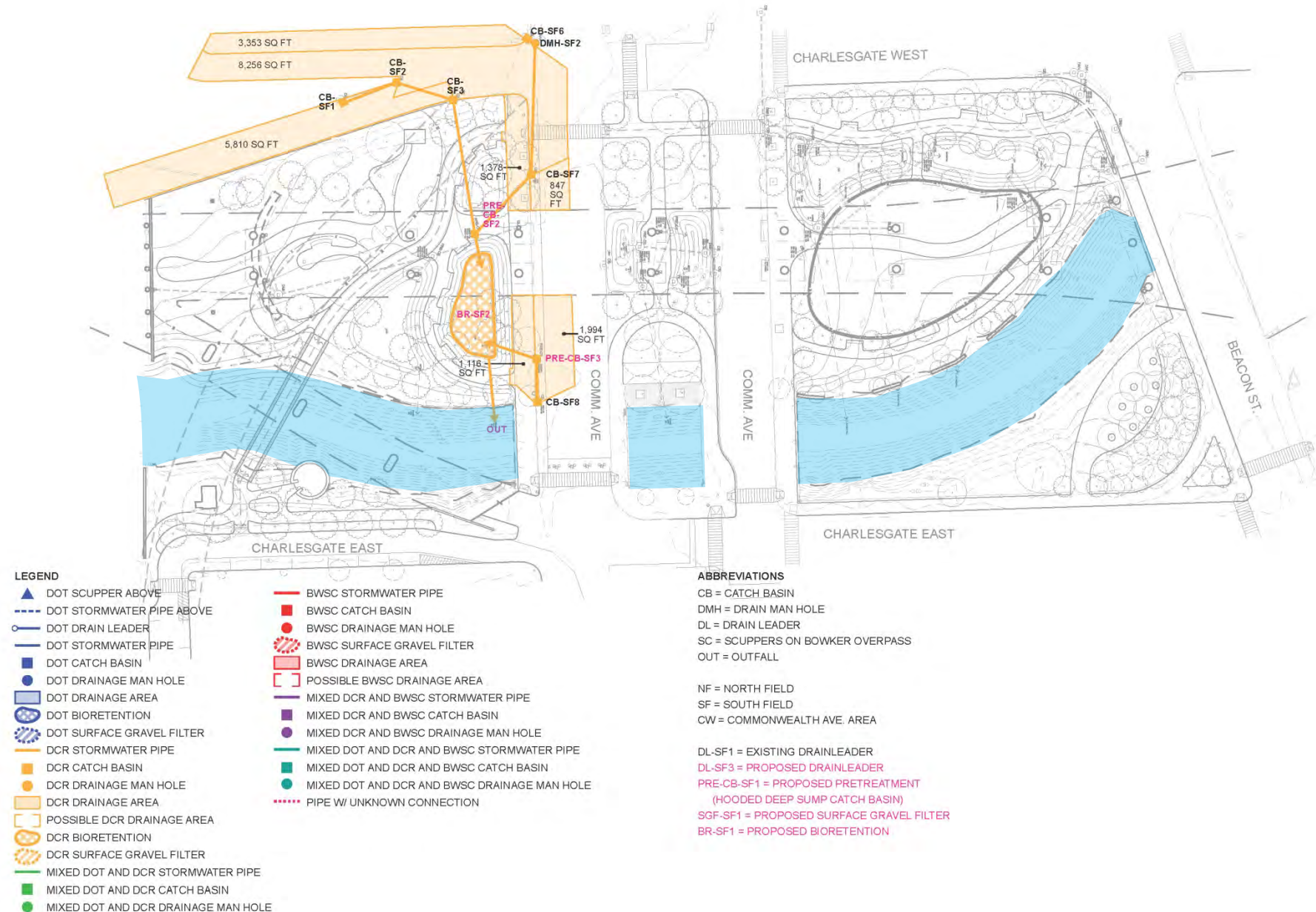
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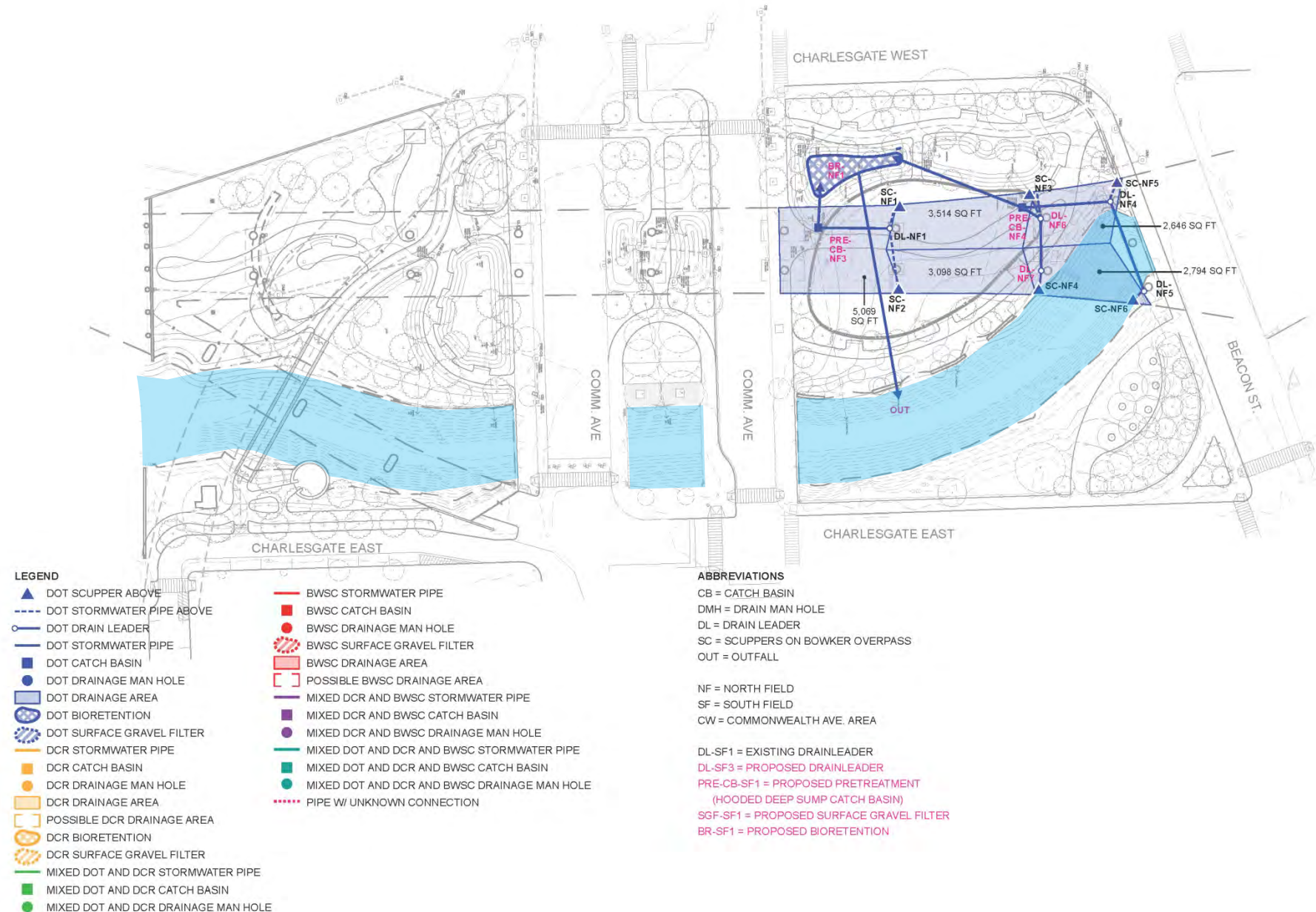
⊕ N DRAINAGE AREA: BR-SF2

DRAINAGE AREA APPROX. 22,800 SQ. FT. (.52 ACRES)

PRINCIPLE #1 IMPROVE MUDDY RIVER WATER QUALITY & HABITAT



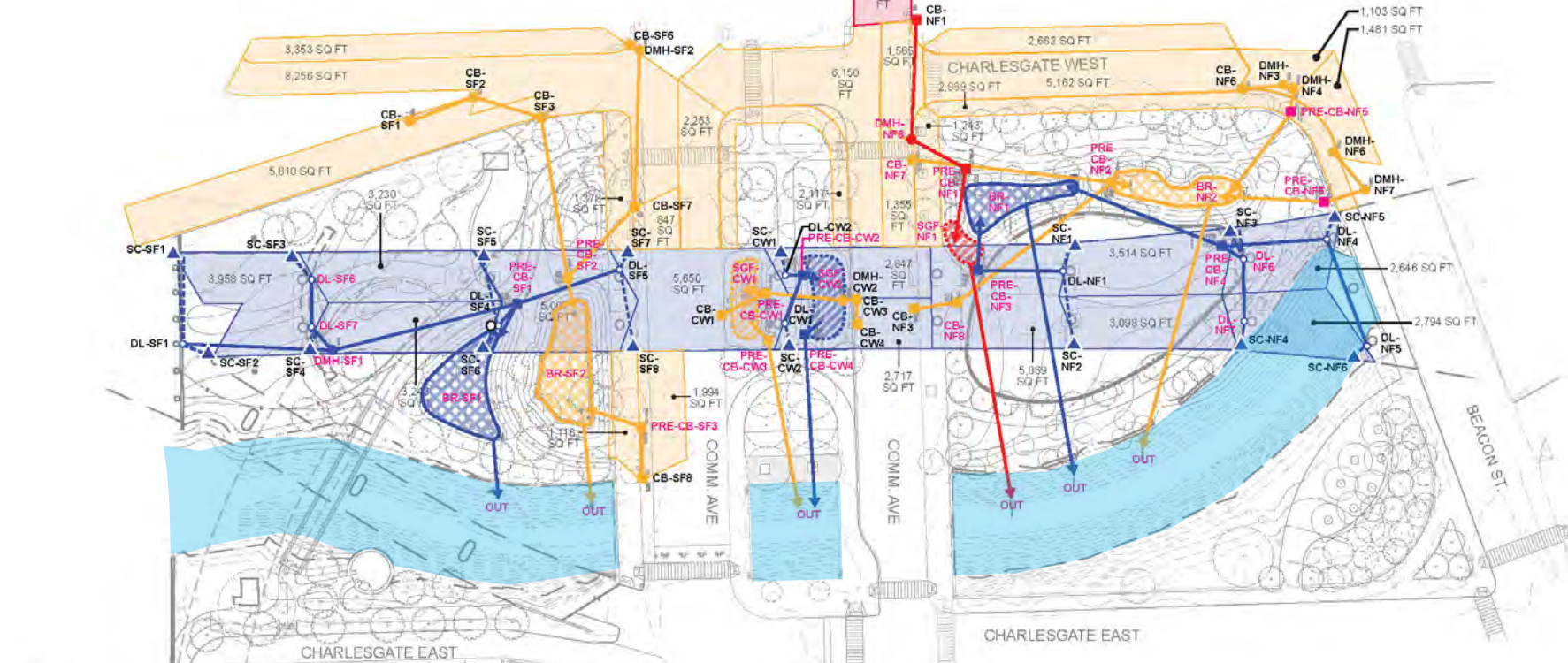
PRINCIPLE #1 IMPROVE MUDDY RIVER WATER QUALITY & HABITAT



PRINCIPLE #1 IMPROVE MUDDY RIVER WATER QUALITY & HABITAT

⊕N DRAINAGE AREA: ALL

DRAINAGE AREA APPROX. 99,400 SQ. FT. (2.28 ACRES)



LEGEND

- ▲ DOT SCUPPER ABOVE
- DOT STORMWATER PIPE ABOVE
- DOT DRAIN LEADER
- DOT STORMWATER PIPE
- DOT CATCH BASIN
- DOT DRAINAGE MAN HOLE
- DOT DRAINAGE AREA
- DOT BIORETENTION
- DOT SURFACE GRAVEL FILTER
- DCR STORMWATER PIPE
- DCR CATCH BASIN
- DCR DRAINAGE MAN HOLE
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- BWSC STORMWATER PIPE
- BWSC CATCH BASIN
- BWSC DRAINAGE MAN HOLE
- BWSC SURFACE GRAVEL FILTER
- BWSC DRAINAGE AREA
- POSSIBLE BWSC DRAINAGE AREA
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- BR-SF1 = PROPOSED BIORETENTION

PRINCIPLE #2 ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES



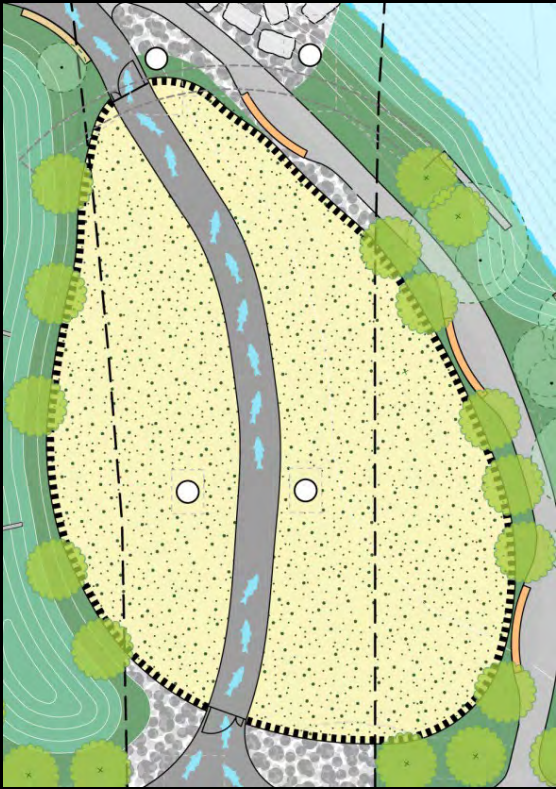
PRINCIPLE #2 ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES PLAYGROUND

KEY

- POURED RUBBER
- PLACED STONE
- ASPHALT
- CONCRETE
- UPLAND VEGETATION
- WETLAND VEGETATION



PRINCIPLE #2 ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES
PLAYGROUND



Charlesgate
14,000 sq ft



Esplanade
Playground
10,000 sq ft



Stoneman
Playground
6,000 sq ft



Stoneman
Playground
6,000 sq ft



Edgerly Rd
Playground
5,500 sq ft



Clarendon St
Playground
13,000 sq ft



Mother's Rest
Playground
6,100 sq ft

PRINCIPLE #2 ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES
PLAYGROUND



Existing: from Beacon St looking south

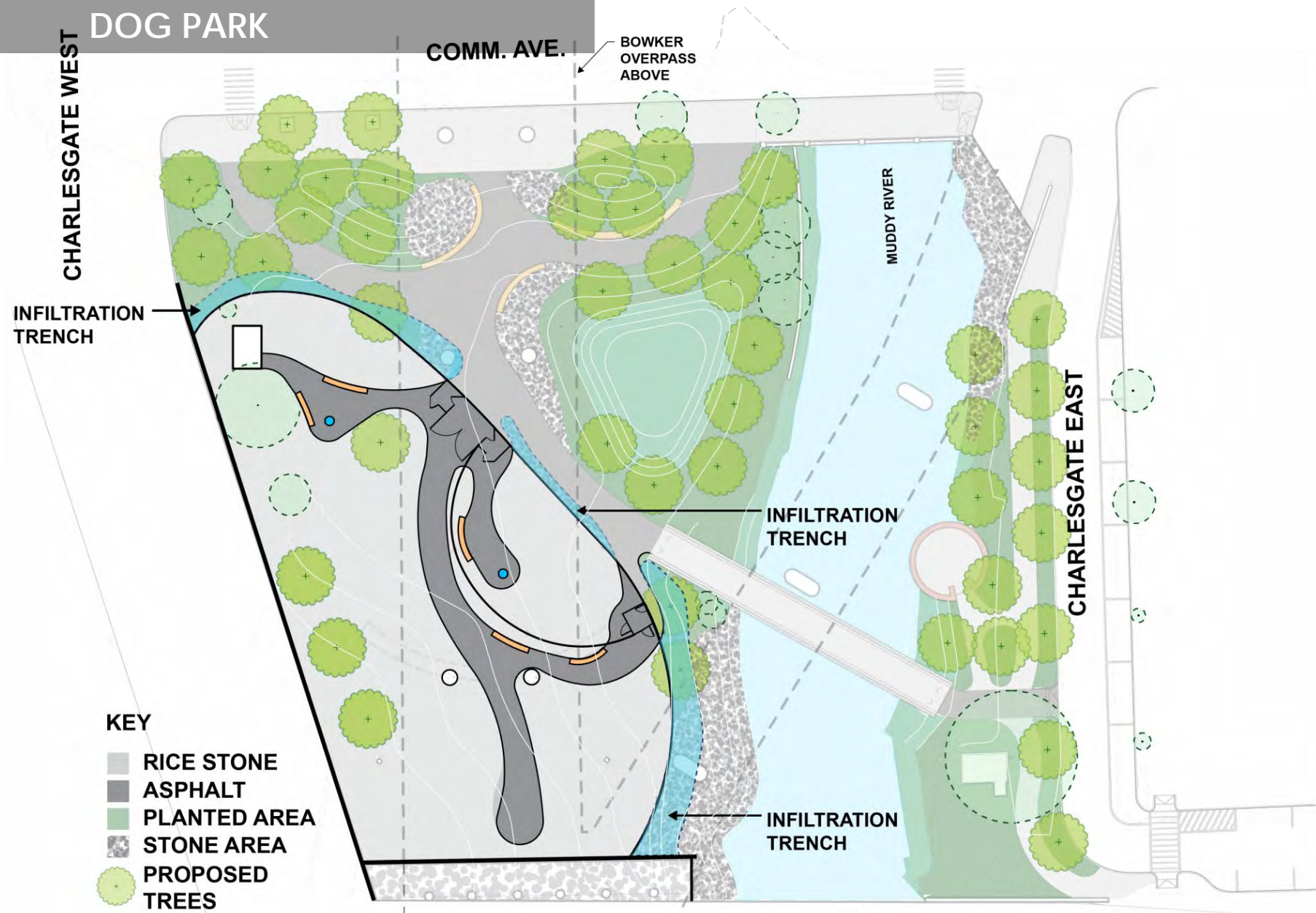
PRINCIPLE #2 ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES
PLAYGROUND



Proposed: from Beacon St looking south

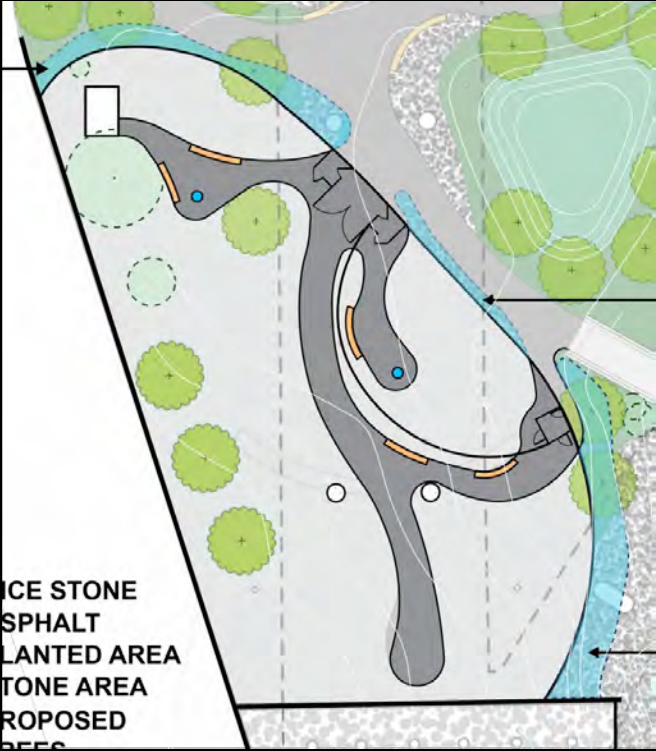
PRINCIPLE #2 ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES

DOG PARK



PRINCIPLE #2 ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES

DOG PARK



The South Field
Charlesgate Park
Boston



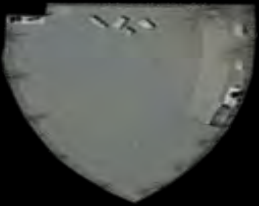
Zero New Washington Dog Park
Somerville



Carleton Dog Park
Southwest Corridor
Boston



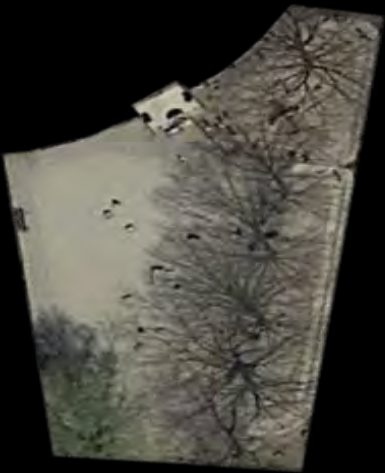
Dog Park
Underground at Ink Block
Boston



Dog Park
South Boston



Danehy Dog Park
Danehy Park
Cambridge



Dog Run
Peter's Park
Boston

PRINCIPLE #2 ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES
DOG PARK



Existing: looking south from Commonwealth Avenue

PRINCIPLE #2 ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES

DOG PARK



Proposed from Commonwealth Avenue

PRINCIPLE #3
RESTORE
CONNECTIVITY OF
LANDSCAPE

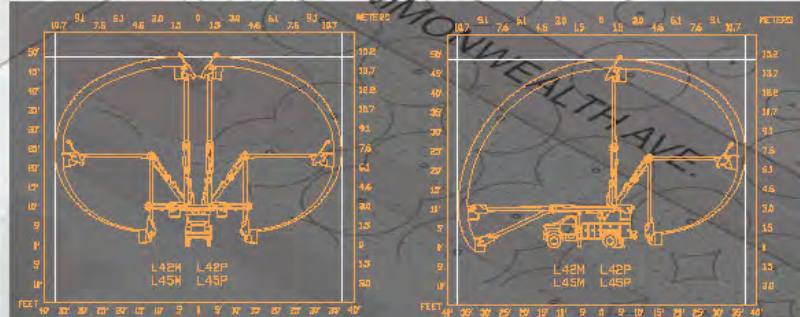
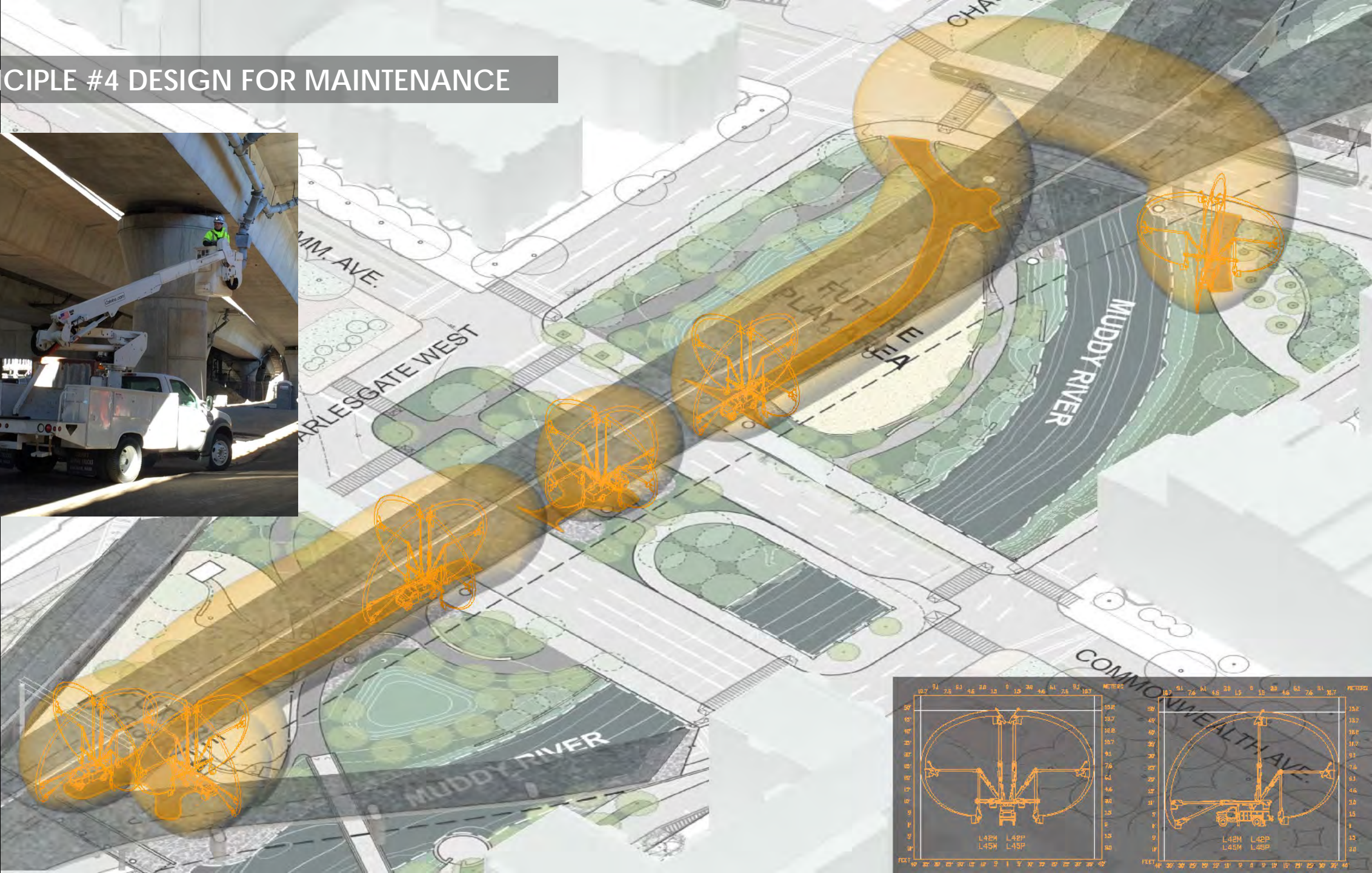


PRINCIPLE #3
RESTORE
CONNECTIVITY OF
LANDSCAPE



RESTORE TREE CANOPY OF COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

PRINCIPLE #4 DESIGN FOR MAINTENANCE



PRINCIPLE #5 CELEBRATE CHARLESGATE
HISTORY

Shurcliff, 1920's

Olmsted, 1880's



PRINCIPLE #5 CELEBRATE CHARLESGATE HISTORY



Fens Pond Bridge, before 1950



Fens Pond Bridge, 2019

PRINCIPLE #5 CELEBRATE CHARLESGATE HISTORY

KEY
— SHARED-USE PATHWAY

