



The West Concord Greenway

An idea from the West Concord
Advisory Committee
April 2025

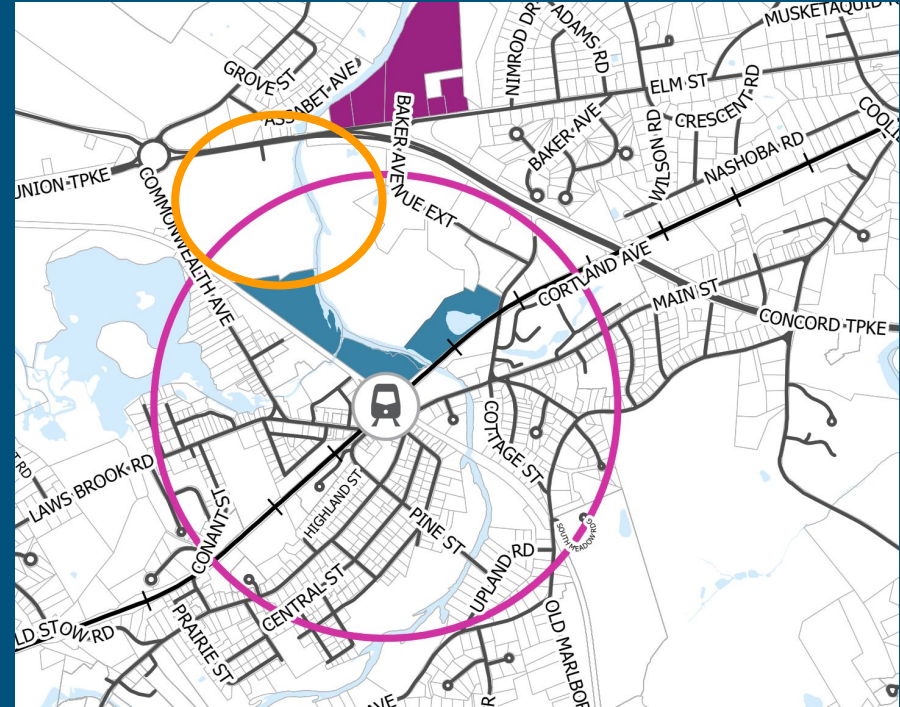


Change is ahead for West Concord:

Our population density is going to increase:

- Passage of the [MBTA Communities Act](#)
- Plans for Novo Riverside Commons on Baker Ave.
- Development of MCI land

As these changes impact the area, we want to preserve and promote our green and blue (water) spaces.



We know that Concord residents care about outdoor spaces:

October 2017 Envision Concord Community Survey

- Open space and natural resources such as ponds, parks, and trails were considered the #1 category contributing to quality of life and the health of Concord citizens.
- Open space and recreational opportunities were/are a major reason people move to Concord.

Envision Concord, Bridge to 2030 Long-term planning analysis:

Residents regularly use Concord's parks and trails: 40% claimed to visit multiple times per week.

Connectivity between MCI and West Concord:

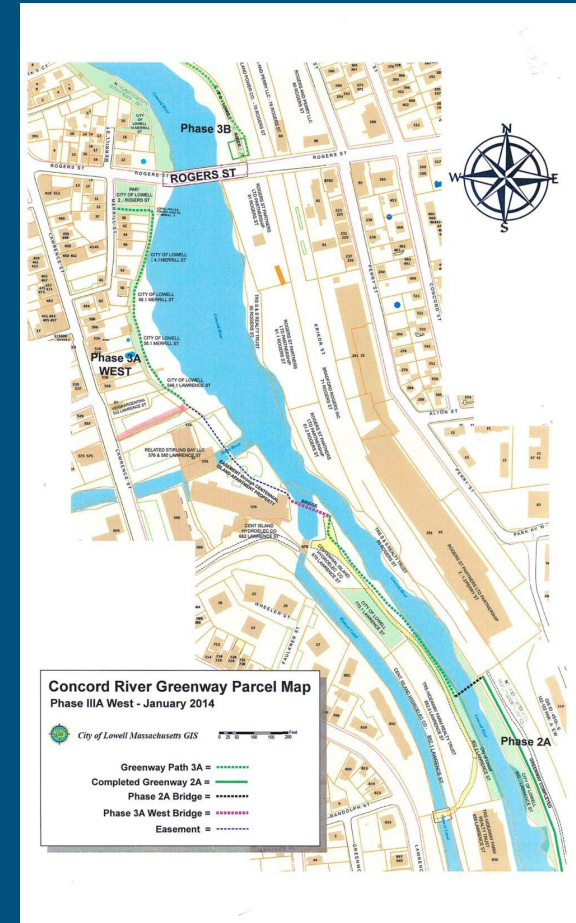
An important goal of the WCAC is to improve connectivity, walkability, and bikeability of West Concord.

As MCI is developed, we want it to be integrated into West Concord, not two separate developments that people drive between by car.

A Greenway along the BFRT could be critical to creating this connection (in addition to other planning), by linking all the natural spaces so that people can move through them on foot or bicycle and transition smoothly between the two areas.

Many cities and towns have Greenways: large or small

- The Emerald Necklace (Boston and Brookline)
- Rose Kennedy Greenway (Boston)
- Lawrence's Spicket River Greenway
- Peabody's Independence Greenway
- Lowell's Concord River Greenway (right panel)



We have all the components of an excellent Greenway in West Concord:

- A variety of different blue and green spaces: Ponds, rivers, brooks, woodland trails, and parks
- Many are accessible from the center of West Concord WITHOUT a car (especially important for older people and children/teens)
- Most are very close to (or directly on) the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

We believe these blue and green spaces considered together as a unified system would be more extensively used and hold greater value than each individual space alone, and pulling them together would help protect them as the area is developed.

We could connect these blue and green spaces to natural spaces within or adjacent to the MCI land to maximize connectivity throughout West Concord.

What are the components we have in West Concord now?

- Gerow Recreation Area
- Warner's Pond, its islands and abundant wildlife, and the pier/boardwalk that is planned at Gerow (phase 2)
- Electric pontoon boat for accessible summer rides on the pond?



Electric pontoon boat tours/rides?

Older adults have commented that they can't get out on the water anymore, but would love to.

Electric pontoon rides around Warner's Pond and its islands would provide an accessible, safe way to experience the expansiveness of the open water for :

- Older adults
- Those with mobility issues
- Families with young children

Would provide:

- An excellent day trip when combined with a picnic at Gerow.
- A great job (tour guide) for a retired resident with memories of the pond, or a friendly teen.



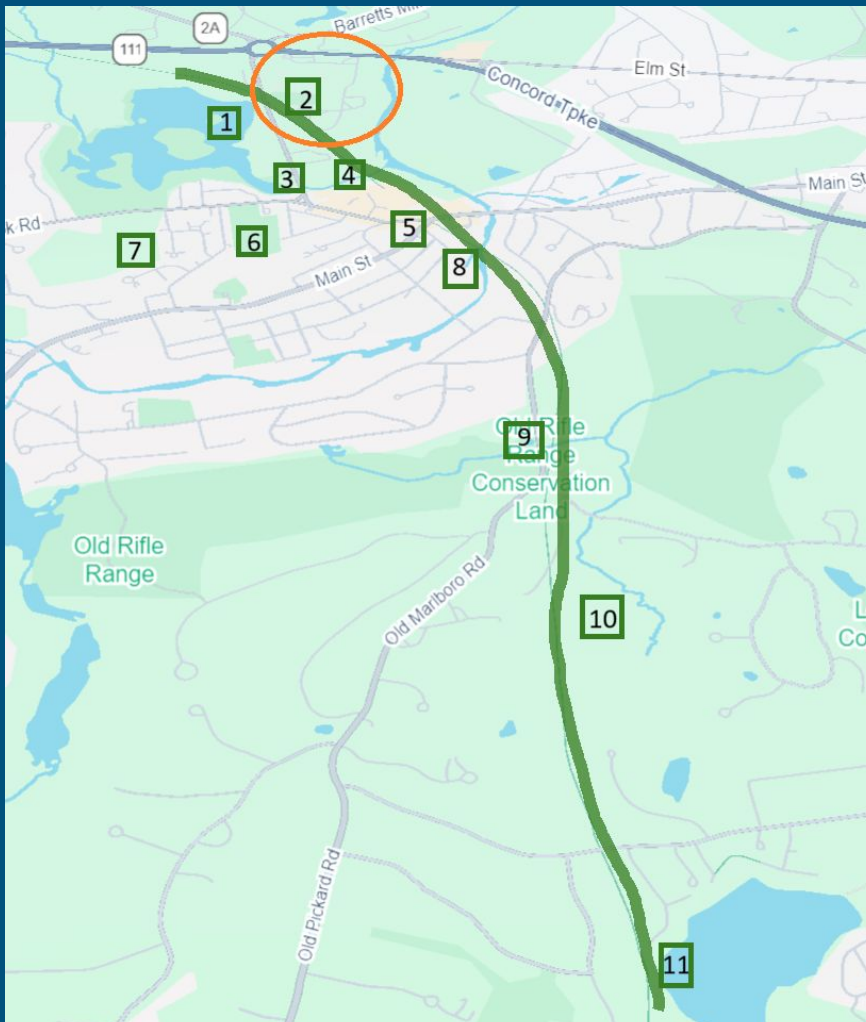
Moving down Comm Avenue:

- Boat launch midway down Commonwealth Ave (add a small self-serve canoe/kayak rental like at Bare Hill Pond in Harvard?)
- Warner's pond dam and its pocket park: could be **expanded** to connect to Kenny Dunn Square and made safer to access and host memorial events.
- If Talbot Mills dam comes down and the migrating fish make it here some day, we could have a **fish run on the spillway and hold herring festivals in the spring, as they do in other towns.**



Other existing WC blue and green spaces

- Kenny Dunn square - if we remove the dangerous Y junction, could enlarge Kenny Dunn and connect to Warner's Pond dam pocket park- A lovely lunch park, place for memorial events.
- Nashoba Brook running through town with bridge - great for lunch
- Junction Village open space, BFRT bridge over Nashoba with benches
- Pedestrian bridge overlooking the Assabet (planned)
- Junction Park and the gardens tucked in the center of West Concord
- Rideout Park
- West Concord Park and woodland trails (aka Pidgeon Hill) - walking for people and dogs



The West Concord Greenway

1. Gerow park and Warner's Pond
2. MCI land and all that will be...
3. Kenny Dunn/ Warner's Pond dam pocket park/Nashoba Brook running through town with bridge
4. Junction Village open space, bridge over Nashoba, Pedestrian bridge overlooking the Assabet if built
5. Junction Park and the gardens tucked in the center of WC
6. Rideout Park
7. West Concord Park and woodland trails (aka Pidgeon Hill)
8. The Assabet River and Assabet Bluff Trail
9. The Old Rifle Range and Harrington Park (accessed through the Rifle Range)
10. New wetland surrounding Jenny Dugan Brook
11. White Pond

The MCI parcel has wonderful potential:

Hopefully there will be a plan for a featured riverside park - could be a jewel of the development.

There may be smaller spaces scattered throughout that could host various types of gardens and parks:

Garden options:

- Community gardens
- Pollinator gardens

Park options:

- Ball parks
- Dog parks
- Water parks
- Shade parks
- Pocket parks
- Tiny picnic spots

This could be relatively low-tech, low-cost:

- Simply name all of the green and blue spaces accessible from WC village collectively the West Concord Greenway.
- Create brochures challenging people to explore all the different spaces and giving a short history of each.
- Add cohesive signage along the BFRT and at the entrances to each site to help people find the different areas

Summary: We are very fortunate

We have so many different natural spaces close to town: each offers something different

Accessible and free to gather, relax, and exercise

BFRT runs through the center

However:

Many people only know about a handful of them.

If we don't protect them, we could lose them as the area becomes more developed.

So let's make them a permanent part of our community by collecting them together as the West Concord Greenway, extending that into the MCI land, and creating something wonderful for generations to come.

Thank you