

RIVERFRONT PARK AT SAINT STREET LOT

At Annual Town Meeting this coming May, Town Meeting members will vote on funding for the creation of a Riverfront Park at the Saint Street Lot - also known as Bernie Cooper Park - next to Eliot Park behind the Balch School.

The price tag is \$1,610,000 – what would we get?

Norwood Riverfront Park Final Concept

July 2021

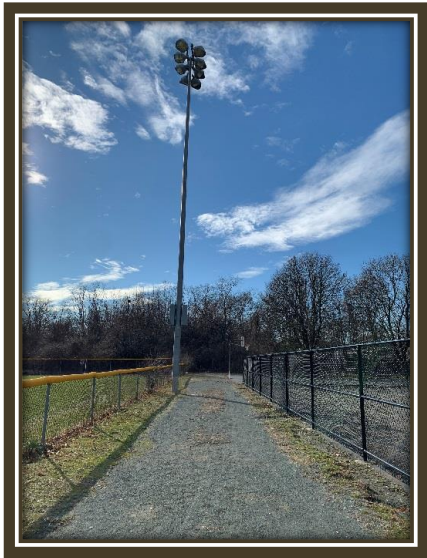


Plans include:

- ❖ Two small accessible parking areas made of permeable pavers
- ❖ Accessible, stabilized soil trails leading to wooden decks overlooking the Neponset River
- ❖ Nature play area and an outdoor classroom, easily accessible from the Balch and Coakley
- ❖ Nature-based stormwater management basins for the nearby streets
- ❖ Selective clearing and replanting with native species and a food forest
- ❖ Site elements like multi-lingual educational signage, benches, picnic tables, and bike racks

RIVERFRONT PARK FAQs

Where is the Saint Street Lot / Bernie Cooper Park?



The Saint Street Lot/Bernie Cooper Park is a nearly 7-acre parcel purchased by the Town in 2021 using Community Preservation Act Funds for open space purposes. The property is located directly adjacent to Eliot Field as shown on the photo on the left, and sits at the end of Saint Paul, Saint Joseph, and Saint John Avenues as shown on the photo on the right.

Where does the money come from?

Project Phase	Fiscal Year	Cost	Funding Source
Saint Street Lot – Land Acquisition	2020	\$286,770	CPA
Riverfront Park Design	2021 to 2022	\$29,594	CPA
Conservation Restriction (statutory requirement)	2022	\$9,898	CPA
Park Construction *	2023	\$1,610,000	CPA & Free Cash*
Ongoing Maintenance *	2024 +	?	General Fund*

* items marked with an asterisk are pending approval

As proposed, funding will be through a 50/50 split between the Community Preservation Fund and Free Cash. The \$1.6 million price tag is inclusive of a 25% contingency and does not account for cost savings that may be realized through the mobilization of volunteers to undertake certain aspects of the work.

Have you applied for any grants?

The Norwood Conservation Commission and Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Department submitted a Land & Water Conservation Fund grant application seeking \$715K. Awards are expected to be announced in early May. If this reimbursement grant is received, it will be returned in the same 50/50 ratio. The CPED department also applied for a MassTrails grant seeking a \$50k reimbursement.

Wouldn't it be easier to fund if we built it in phases? What about bonding it?

A significant cost of any project is the “mobilization” and “demobilization”—getting the big equipment out to the site. Doing it all at once is usually the most cost effective way to accomplish it. The CPC discussed bonding the project and determined that paying for it in one installment was most cost effective and would not drain any one CPC fund.

Who will be responsible for maintaining it? Our DPW is already doing a lot!

The Conservation Commission is the landowner and will work with the DPW as well as a “Friends of the Park” group of volunteers to do maintenance. The DPW will assist with tasks such as stormwater basin maintenance, keeping the trails smooth, and removing downed trees. The Conservation Commission will do special projects and pay for routine care like mowing. The Trails Committee and Neponset River Watershed Association have already pitched in with clean-up and invasive plant management workdays: it will take a true community effort.