



Due to the inclement weather on both the originally scheduled date and the rain date, the outdoor meeting was changed to a virtual format. The virtual listening session was conducted on May 28, 2025.

The virtual listening session focused on discussing habitat enhancements and storm water improvements for Gerry Boyle Park, emphasizing community input and addressing safety, environmental concerns, and park amenities.

- The project includes flood risk reduction, green stormwater management, and habitat enhancements. Meeting participants were encouraged to share their thoughts, concerns, and ideas specific to the Gerry Boyle Park at Great Marsh area.
- Community input was sought on existing park features and potential habitat enhancements for water quality. The meeting emphasized collaboration with community members to address safety and environmental concerns in the park.
- Meeting participants discussed integrating fishing spots into park design alongside swim areas and restroom facilities. One participant indicated that fishing currently occurs from sunrise to sunset all over the park.
- Participants indicated that swimming access should be considered and maintained. Question about swimming access on west side which is where the living shoreline is located. One participant indicated they would need some area on that side for swimming access.
- One participant mentioned that various water quality alerts were sent last summer for this area. Alerts indicated that it was unsafe to swim, however residents observed kids and families swimming during these alert times. There was and is no signage posted.
- Some participants emphasized the need for permanent restrooms due to high event attendance and inadequate temporary facilities. During the discussion, other participants mentioned safety and security issues pertaining to public restrooms. Increased lighting was recommended. It was mentioned that restrooms have been discussed in the past, however issues were raised.
- Some meeting participants have concerns about noise control and regulations for events with amplified music in public spaces.
- Additionally, meeting participants that enough space is maintained for large events. Larry White indicated that the Make Cambridge Resilient Team has met with representatives from both the Ironman/Eagleman event and the CPBRA Regatta.
- One participant expressed placement and size of proposed stormwater ponds as a concern.
- Another concern was increasing mosquitos in the area due to proposed stormwater ponds installation.
- Questions about the height of the berm and the height of vegetation with living shoreline, concern about the viewshed.

- A highlighted item included ongoing flooding issues and the importance of flood mitigation projects in park planning.
- Participants asked about the radio station property. *Is the building being removed? Will the radio antennae be removed?
- A question was posed pertaining to project timeline. Larry white indicated that first permitting and FEMA approval would be completed. The eighteen months for construction. Therefore, looking at three-years from now for completion of the flood mitigation project.
- Questioned asked about continued maintenance following completion of the project. Discussed ideas for generating funds and earmarking those funds for maintenance.
- Finally, the necessity for public input in the design process to optimize park usage for various activities was mentioned and that the City of Cambridge is currently engaged in their Comprehensive Plan Update.

Follow-up items include:

- Information from the Listening Session will be shared with the Make Cambridge Resilient Project Team. This information will inform work completed under the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant and the FEMA funded Flood Mitigation Project.
- Larry White and Andrew Koslow will coordinate with the city to establish a notification system for unsafe swimming conditions at the park.
- Larry White will explore the possibility of creating a utility fee for maintenance funding of the park and its infrastructure.
- Virginia Smith will organize a follow-up public meeting in September for the Make Cambridge Resilient Team to present updates on the Gerry Boyle Park area.
- Kenny Rose will continue to work with the UMCES team to optimize habitat enhancement designs for the park.