

Presentation to FPNA

Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project MEPA Environmental Review

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**boston planning &
development agency**

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Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project Overview



Project Purpose:

The Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project is a proposed green infrastructure project that will help reduce flood damage in Fort Point and adjacent neighborhoods, providing protection to nearby residents, infrastructure, utilities, and structures.

Fort Point Channel is a flood pathway into Boston that causes repetitive damage, and storms and resulting damage are expected to increase in frequency and severity as a result of climate change and future sea level rise. The project will consist of a mix of earthen berms and mitigation of existing floodwalls for a 2,100 linear foot stretch along the eastern edge of Fort Point Channel, as well as about 600 linear feet of interim flood protection solutions across four locations.

Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project Overview



Woods Hole Group, Inc. • A CLS Company



Figure D-3. Components of the Proposed Action including flood control Segments 1, 2, and 3 and interim flood control measures.

Project Progress to Date:

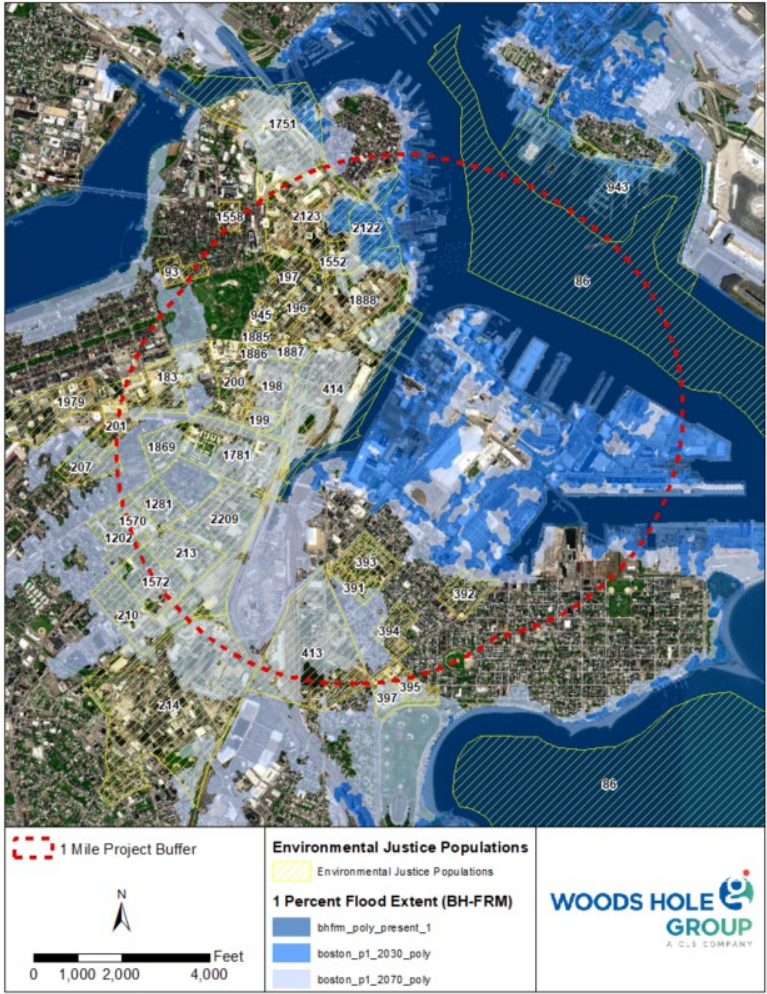
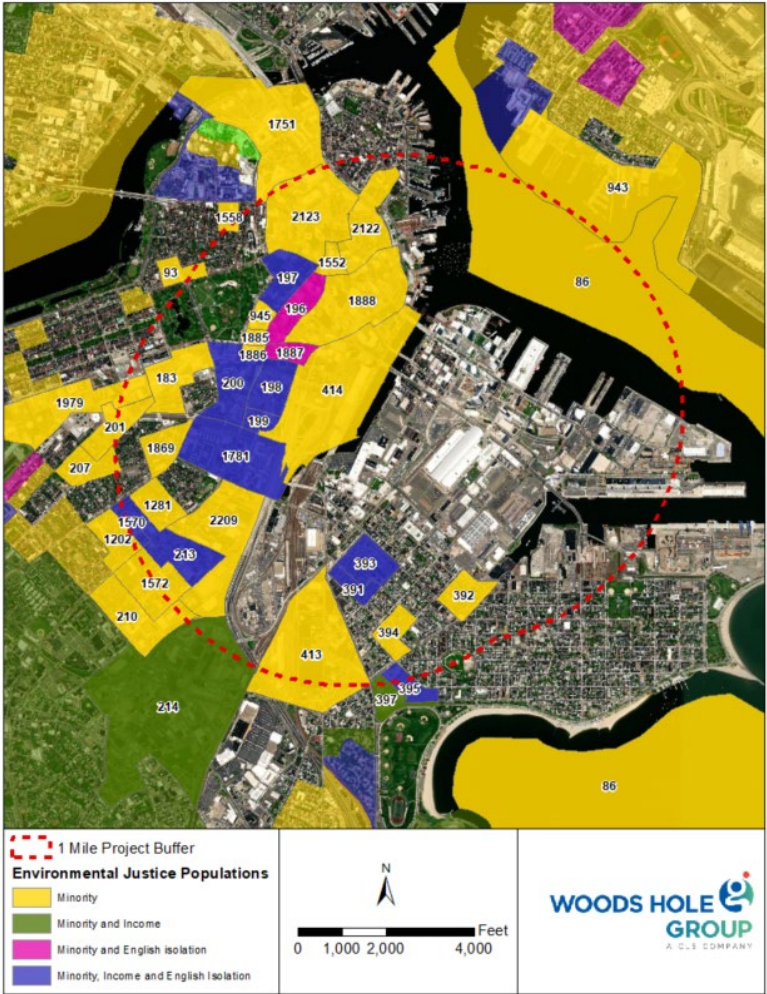
The project was first recommended in Coastal Resilience Solutions for South Boston (part of Climate Ready Boston) in 2018, as a result of the community-based planning process that went into developing that report. In January of 2019, the City of Boston, BPDA, and MEMA applied to FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program for \$10M in funding for the \$20.5M project, and the City's Budget department included \$10.5M in the Capital Budget.

- **October 2018**, Recommended in *Coastal Resilience Solutions for South Boston*
- **January 2019**, BPDA/City Submitted FEMA PDM 18 Application
- **June 2019**, Project "Identified for Further Review" by FEMA
- **August 2020**, Project Granted Approval to Move Forward to environmental review by FEMA
- **April 2021**, NEPA and MEPA environmental review processes began

Proposed Project Site Location

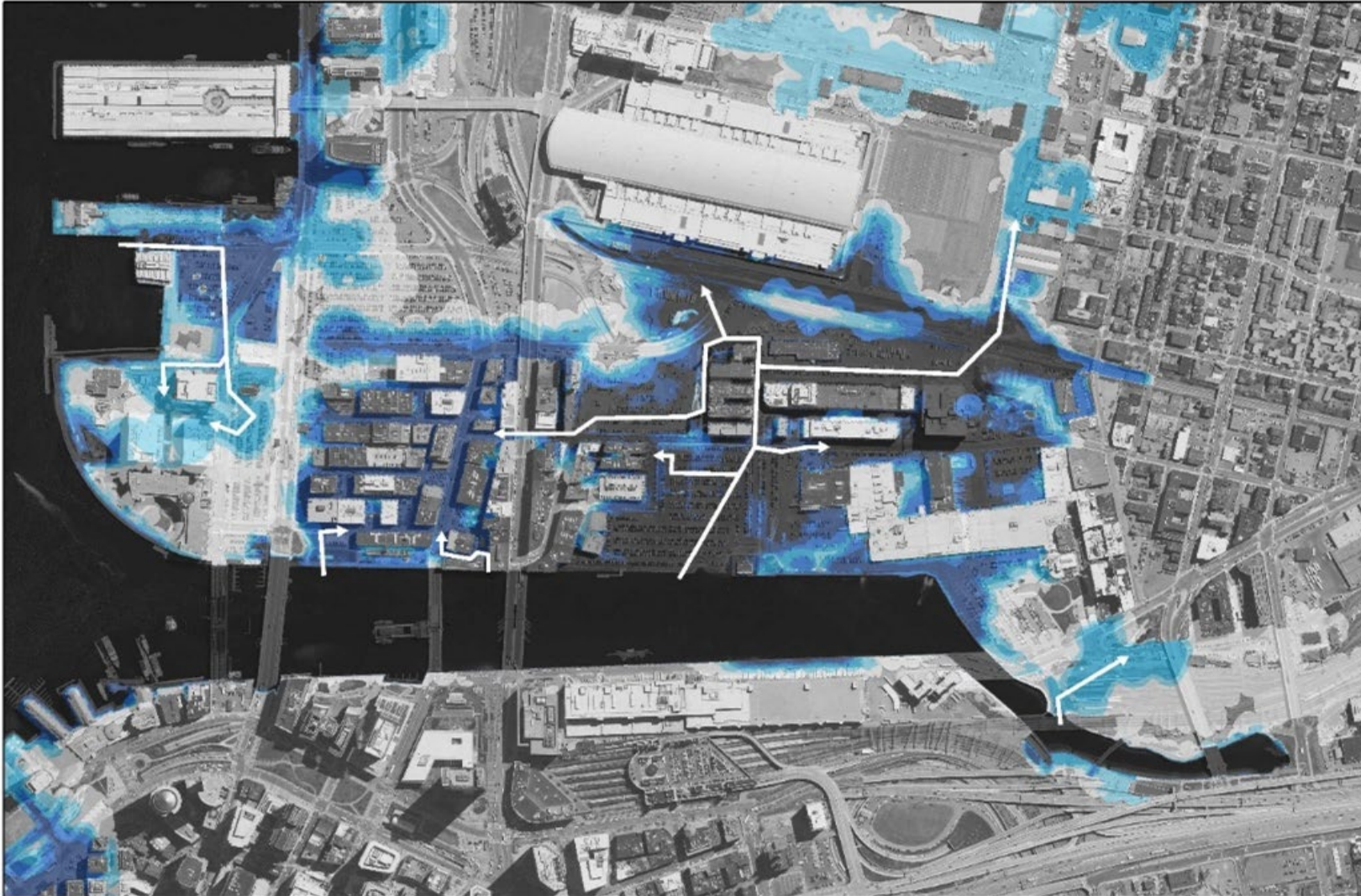


Proposed Project Site Location Details – EJ and Flooding



Flood Hazard Pathways That May Affect the Project Area

Fort Point Channel - Flood Pathway Analysis



“While there are some minor connections and fringe flooding areas that occur during the most extreme storm return period (1000-year), these connections are driven by water arriving from the Fort Point Channel flood entry points and not from other locations (e.g., Reserve Channel).”

- Kirk Bosma, PE, Woods Hole Group

Proposed Project Design – Resilient Boston Harbor



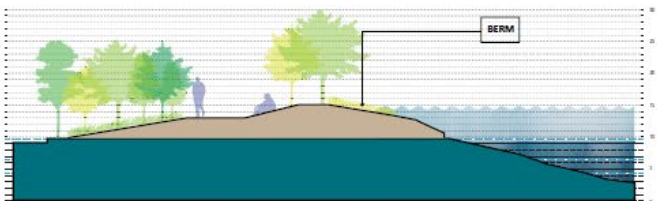
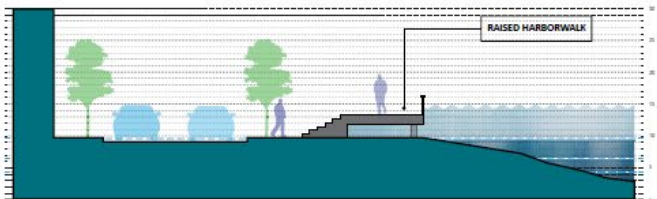
Proposed Project Design – Coastal Resilience Solutions for South Boston



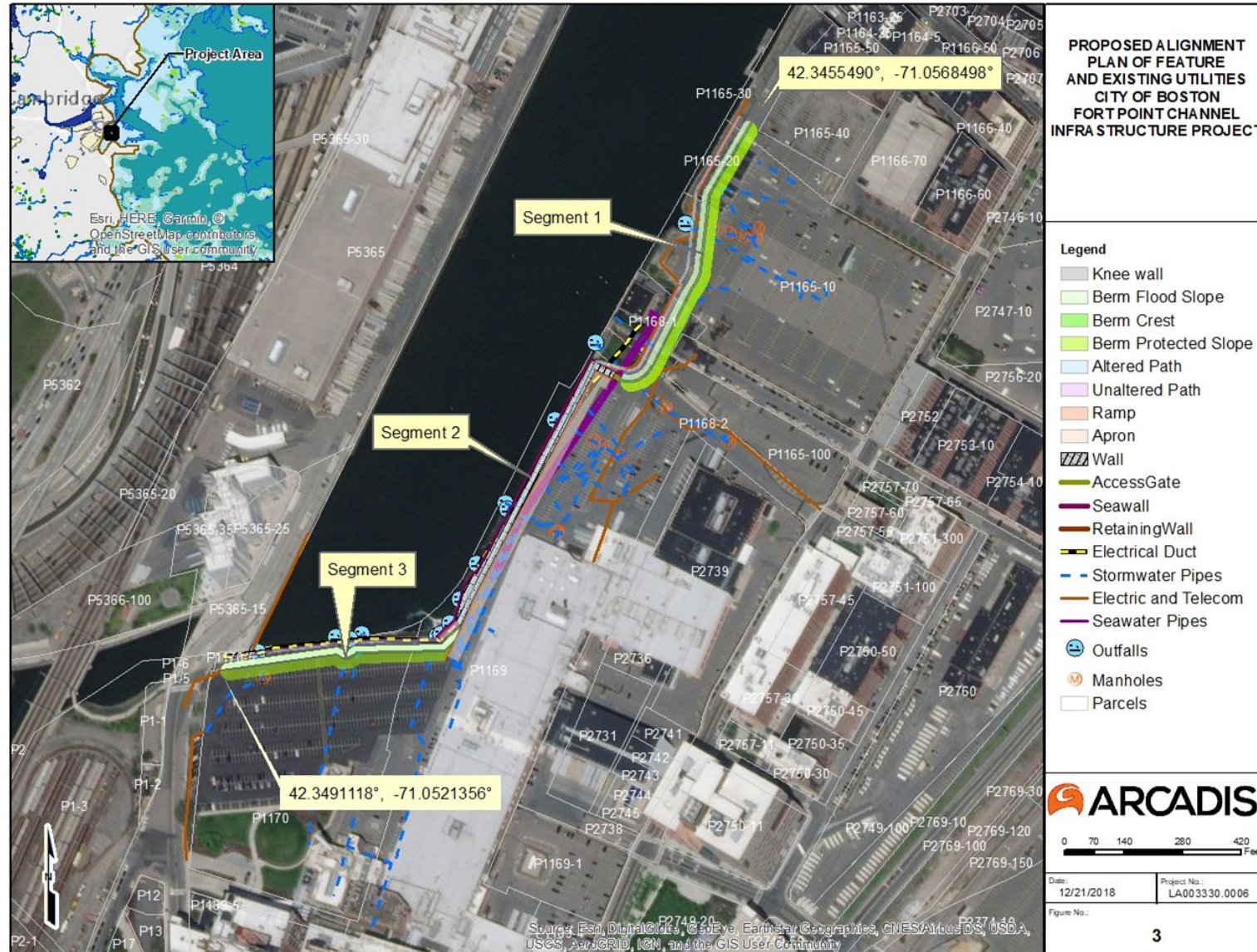
Proposed Project Design – Inspiration Images



RAISED HARBORWALK /
PARKSPACE



Proposed Project Design

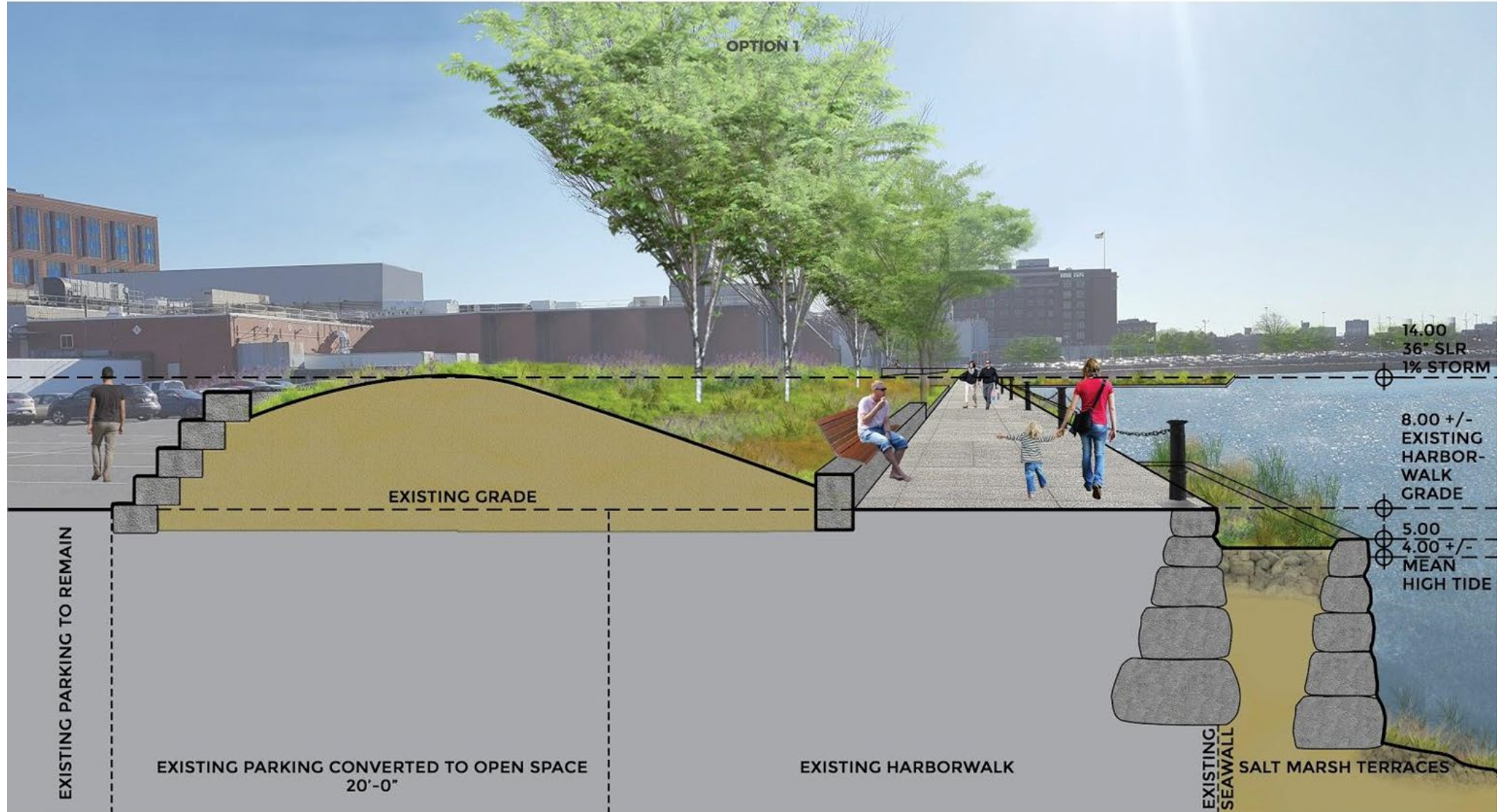


Proposed Project Design

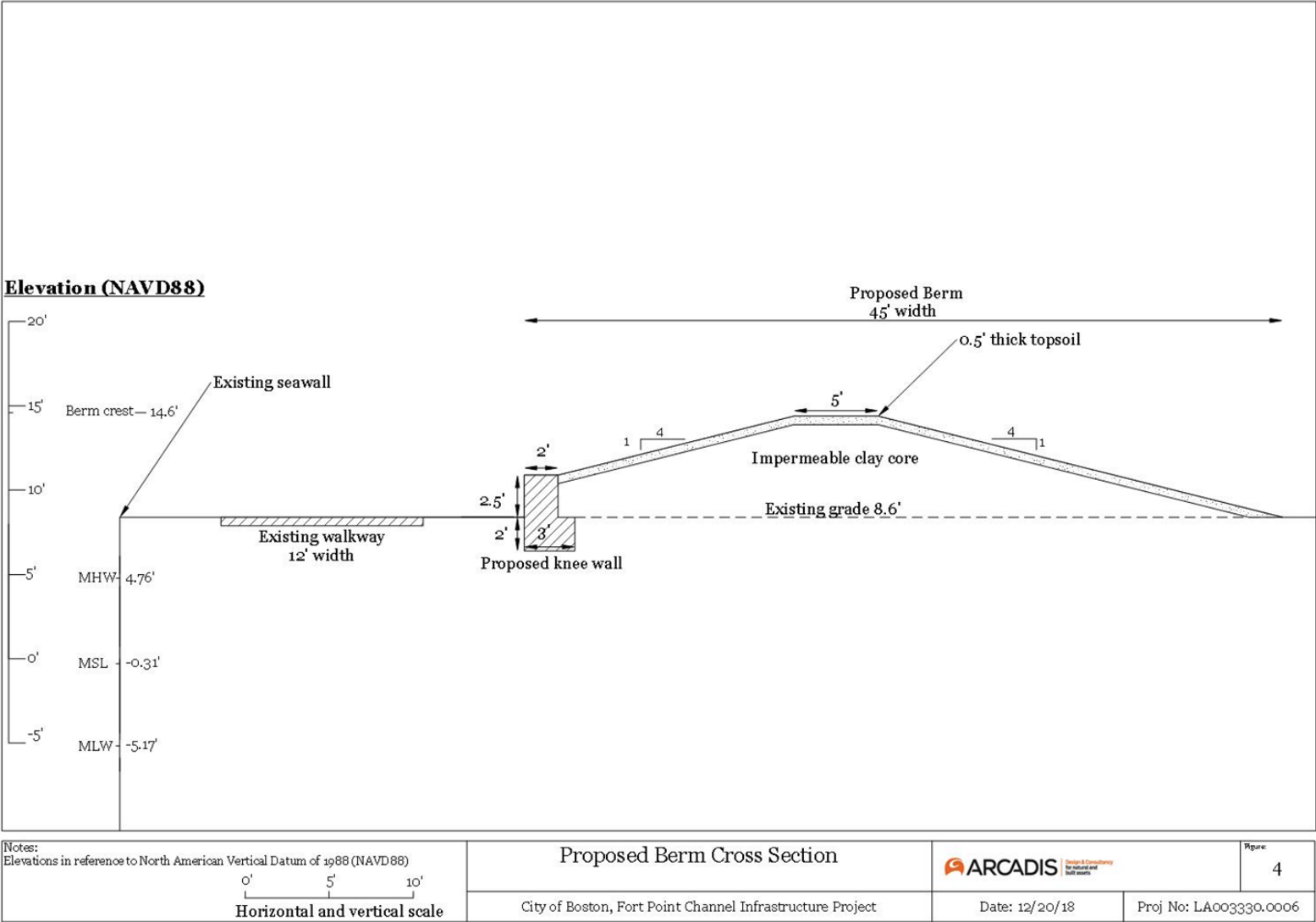


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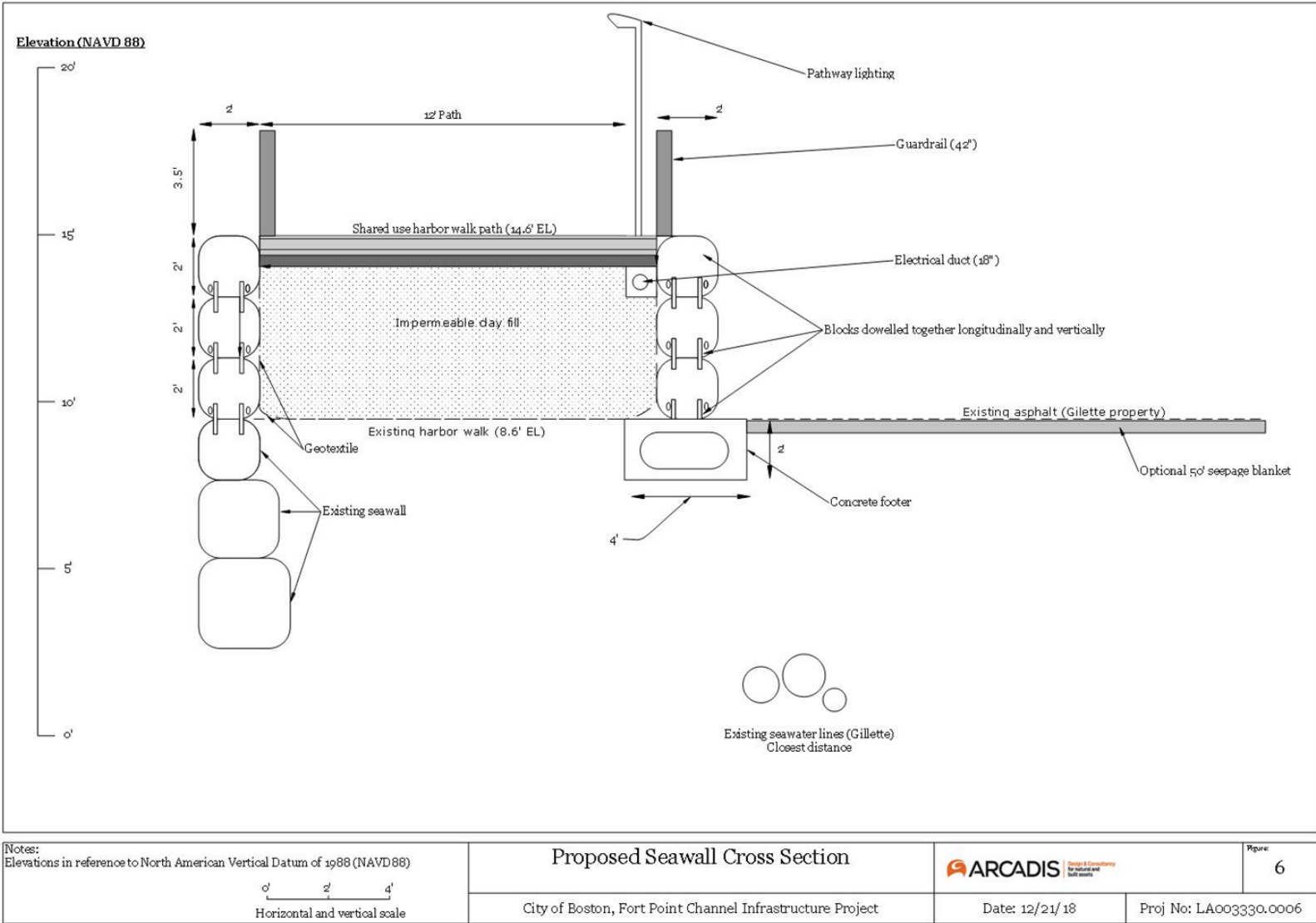
Proposed Project Design



Proposed Project Design



Proposed Project Design



Selection of Consultant for MEPA Environmental Review

Purpose of MEPA:

The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) requires that state agencies study the environmental consequences of their actions, including permitting and financial assistance. It also requires them to take all feasible measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate damage to the environment .

Environmental Review RFP Scope:

The Consultant will complete a MEPA environmental review for the Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project, producing an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), if required. MEPA review is required if a project requires a State Agency Action and meets or exceeds a MEPA review threshold, which is outlined at 301 CMR 11.03.

Summary of Proposal from Woods Hole Group:

The Woods Hole Group team has built a strong track record working on other similar projects, and brings substantial knowledge and expertise in environmental and historic preservation reviews; coastal climate resiliency planning and related infrastructure and open space design; and community and stakeholder engagement and facilitation.



MEPA Environmental Review Overview

Review Thresholds

- 11.03(3)(b)1.a – alteration of a coastal bank, requiring a permit
- 11.03(3)(b)1.f – alteration of one half or more acres of any other wetlands (Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage), requiring a permit
- Assumed FEMA funding, passed through MEMA, is State financial assistance

Resource Areas

- Coastal Bank
- Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage
- No Estimated or Priority Habitat – NHESP Letter
- National, State + Local Historic Districts
- Historic Structures

Environmental Justice Neighborhoods (1 mi.)

- Minority (26)
- Minority and English Isolation (2) – Chinese
- Minority and Income (2)
- Minority, Income, and English Isolation (10) – Chinese and Spanish/Spanish Creole

Local, State, and Federal Permitting

- Boston Conservation Commission - Order of Conditions
- Boston Landmarks Commission - Certificate of Design Approval
- Boston Public Improvement Commission - Specific Repairs License, Maintenance, and Indemnification agreement
- Mass DEP Waterways Division - Chapter 91 License or Amendment
- Mass Office of Coastal Zone Management - Federal Consistency Determination (if required)
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Mass Historic Commission - Section 106 Determination of Adverse Effect Concurrence
- US Army Corps of Engineers Permit (if required)
- US EPA for a Section 402 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit.

Climate Change Adaptation + Resiliency Strategies / RMA

- Sea Level Rise/Storm Surge (High Risk): Main purpose of this project, designing permanent berms/floodwall for 2050/2070 DFE, interim features for 2030 DFE
- Extreme Heat (High Risk): Converting 1.48 acres of impervious parking to green open space adjacent to public trail, drought tolerant plantings
- Extreme Precipitation – Urban Flooding (Moderate Risk): Modeling show no impact or benefits, designing outfall flap gates to prevent backflow, reducing impervious surfaces
- Extreme Precipitation – Riverine Flooding (Low Risk): Not relevant

Next Steps and Meeting Information

MEPA Meeting for Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project:

The BPDA, in partnership with Woods Hole Group and the State of Massachusetts MEPA Office, has scheduled a MEPA Meeting for Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project on Tuesday, February 1 at 1 pm. For more information, or to register for the meeting, please visit this link:

<https://www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/calendar/2022/02/01/mepa-meeting-for-resilient-fort-point-channel-infr>





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Q & A

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