

MARTY SENDER GREENWAY RESTORATION PROJECT

Project Update:

Phase 1 is under construction and will be completed in July, 2022

Phase 2 We are please to note that the City of Newton has received Site surveying, reconnaissance, analysis and geotechnical explorations in progress.

Project Background and News:

Project News:

The City of Newton received this week a \$340,298 MassTrails Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to complete the second phase of the Marty Sender Greenway Restoration, a 3,700-foot section of the Blue Heron Trail along the Charles River in Auburndale, aptly referred to as the “Riverwalk.”

Phase 2 work will enhance the circulation of water between the Charles River and wetlands, expand wildlife habitat, and reestablish the natural ebb and flow within the flood plain behind Lyons field. The design and permitting process for this phase will begin this summer and go out to bid by the Spring of 2023.

A big thanks goes to the Newton Conservators and the Solomon Foundation for pledging \$10,000 each toward the design and engineering costs, and to Ted Chapman of the Riverside Greenway Working Group who helped write the grant application, and Ward 4

Councilors Chris Markiewicz, Lenny Gentile and Josh Krintzman for their advocacy on the restoration of the Greenway.

Background:

The Marty Sender Greenway is a 3700-foot-long section of the Blue Heron Trail, aptly referred to as the 'Riverwalk'. Named for the journalist and environmental activist Marty Sender, this exciting project will allow a heavily used section of the Blue Heron Trail along the Charles River to adapt to increasingly frequent flooding and allow universal access to numerous, multi-seasonal recreational opportunities and scenic vistas of the Charles to many Newtonians, residents of the Commonwealth and visitors from beyond. The current trail is generally level, with some areas requiring minor grading to ensure accessibility. Overall, grades within this project are appropriate to satisfy MAAB Regulations (521 CMR) with minimal regrading required. The existing trail is widely popular and loved by many residents of Newton and adjacent communities. However, the trail's popularity, coupled with changing hydrology, have rendered this portion of the riverfront trail inaccessible and impassible in some sections. It is the city's goal to convert the popular trail into a pathway network that is inclusive to all users. With the help of this MassTrails Grant, the city will be able to design and install a second phase of improvements along 1200 feet of the Marty Sender Greenway which will include a 550-foot-long, 12-foot wide, fully accessible boardwalk. This project will complement the Phase 1 work – 1320-feet of accessibility improvements on the northern end of the trail – to be completed by the city in the Spring of 2022.

Phase 1 of the Marty Sender Greenway Restoration Project, funded by the City of Newton in 2020 using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but has been publicly bid for construction and will be completed in the

Summer of 2022. Phase 1 will upgrade the existing degraded path by creating an average 10-foot-wide tread of stabilized stone dust with 1-foot-wide tactile shoulders. Phase 1 restoration construction bid came in at just over \$66,000 to make the primary Treadway and supporting wooded outlooks wheelchair accessible using stabilized stone dust. The city has designed and will manage construction for this phase.

Phase 2 of the Marty Sender Greenway Restoration Project will upgrade 1200-feet of the existing, degraded, shared-use path. The goal is to complete accessibility and safety improvements over the entirety of this 3700-foot-long section of the Blue Heron Trail that passes through parkland owned by the City of Newton. The phase 2 project will improve and enhance the hydrologic connection between the river and the wetlands within the park, expand wildlife habitat and vegetated wetland, and reestablish natural ebb and flow within the flood plain. The city is also planning to replace a sewer line through portions of the limit of work for Phase 2 in the Spring and Summer of 2022. The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department will be coordinating design of the boardwalk very closely with the city's DPW and their consultant to ensure both infrastructure and pathway can coexist.

Phase 3 of the trail timeframe is unknown and funding source has not been identified

Project Documents:

[Marty Sender Greenway _MassTrails Grant Application Proposal 05162022](#)