



## DIRECTIONS

**Hyde Park Community Center,**  
1179 River Street, Hyde Park, MA 02136

The Hyde Park Community Center is located on River Street between Hyde Park Cooperative Bank and Hyde Park Savings Bank and is within walking distance of the Fairmount Station (commuter rail).

There is parking available on River Street and in the municipal lot off Winthrop Street between Hyde Park Avenue and Harvard Avenue across from the Police Station (exit by the library to walk to the Community Center). There is also a municipal lot behind the Hyde Park Savings Bank.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, or to add your name to the mailing list, contact Cathy Garnett, Neponset Project Manager/  
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Stephen H. Burdington  
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Lt. Governor



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# NEPONSET RIVER RESERVATION

Spring 2006

Master Plan Phase II

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) began work in February on a phase II master plan for a major section of the Neponset River Reservation from Central Avenue in Milton to Paul's Bridge in Hyde Park and Milton. This area is approximately 125 acres in size with over 11 miles of river banks. Guiding principles in developing the plan include the protection and enhancement of the ecological systems along and in the Neponset River, enhancement of recreation opportunities, and protection and enhancement of the river as a living system. The master plan will reflect public participation and input received throughout the planning process. The plan also will include recommendations for property acquisitions, management, operations and public and private funding sources.

## Project Open House Draws Large Crowd

The first of three public meetings for the Neponset River Reservation Master Plan, held on March 8, 2006, drew a crowd of approximately 120 people. Display boards, arrayed around the room, provided information on property ownership, surrounding land use, important views, [Continued on Page 3 >](#)

## Consultant Team Canoes the River

To gain a better understanding of the river, scenic areas and potential access points, the consultant team, led by DCR Reservation Manager John Kovitch, canoed the river from Paul's Bridge to Central Avenue. The early spring timing of the trip provided the team with a clear view of all of the river banks, unobstructed by leafy vegetation. The team also gained a greater appreciation for the importance of providing facilities for canoeists, including ramps and adjacent parking areas.



## COMMUNITY MEETING

PLEASE JOIN US  
for the project's second open house.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2006

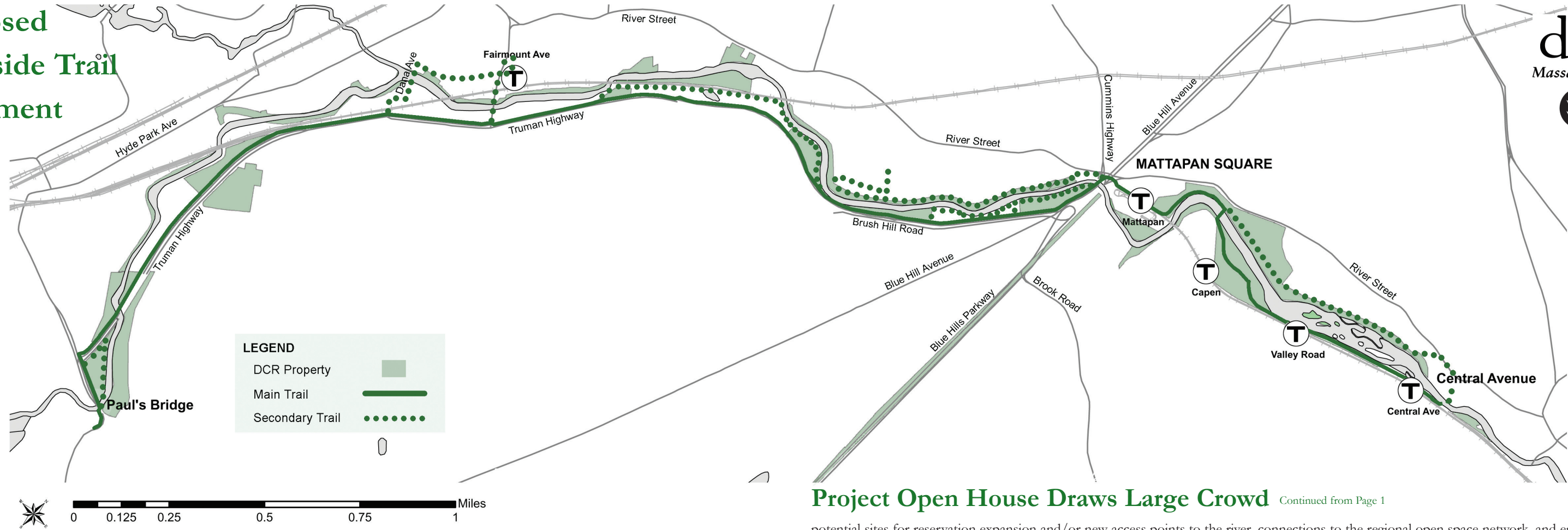
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.\*

AT THE HYDE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

\* Stations will be set up illustrating the plan alternatives, with Project Team Members available to talk with attendees. A brief presentation at 7:30 p.m. will be followed by a Question and Answer period. (Map of meeting location on back page)



## Proposed Riverside Trail Alignment



The map above illustrates an alternative proposed alignment for a riverside trail. The solid line indicates the main trail; dotted lines indicate potential more casual, secondary trails. Key criteria for developing the alignment included:

- ▷ Providing a continuous path from Central Avenue to Paul's Bridge
- ▷ Providing numerous access points from both sides of the river
- ▷ Providing loop trails for those wishing to take shorter hikes

Another alternative to be discussed at the meeting will be focused more heavily on conservation, which would limit the development of secondary trails in an effort to preserve natural areas. In addition, the alternative will include measures for creating a "conservation corridor," including plantings specifically designed to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife.

An option for a trail staying entirely on existing roads, maximizing conservation and limiting intrusions into natural areas will also be presented. The route follows Eliot and River Streets from Central Avenue to Mattapan Square and then follows Truman Parkway to Neponset Valley Parkway and Paul's Bridge. This route provides a much more "urban" experience and greatly limits opportunities for viewing the river.



Existing multi-use trail at Central Avenue

### Next Steps

Based on input from the public meeting, a Recommended Master Plan, including a maintenance and operations plan, will be developed and presented at a public meeting in mid June.

## Project Open House Draws Large Crowd Continued from Page 1

potential sites for reservation expansion and/or new access points to the river, connections to the regional open space network, and environmental features. Following a brief presentation of the project history, scope and goals, attendees broke up into smaller groups. Each group responded to a series of six questions and annotated maps to illustrate their ideas for the Master Plan. These responses provided valuable guidance for the project team. Following the smaller group discussions, each group presented a summary of their discussion to the entire audience.

### Key recommendations for focus areas included:

- ▷ Continuous riverfront path system
- ▷ Safety and security
- ▷ Enhanced views for pedestrians, drivers, MBTA riders
- ▷ Signage – for activities as well as vegetation and other natural features
- ▷ Connections to Blue Hills Reservation, Stonybrook Reservation, Mother Brook, Pine Tree Brook, Reservation Road Park, Fowl Meadow
- ▷ Pocket parks to attract neighborhood residents
- ▷ Biking along Truman Parkway and connections to existing bike trails
- ▷ Clean-up of the riverfront
- ▷ Protection of natural areas
- ▷ Provision of canoe rental, bathrooms, benches, picnic tables

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

**March 8, 2006**  
Public Meeting Held to Discuss Existing Conditions Inventory & Analysis

**April 26, 2006**  
Public Meeting to Discuss Master Plan Alternatives

**Mid June 2006**  
Public Meeting to Discuss Recommended Master Plan