



# **Town of Andover**

## **Haggett's Pond Rail Trail**

### **Community Presentation**

Second Community Meeting

September 11, 2023



# Project History

- Town has an obligation under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act

*It requires that public entities give people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from and participate in their programs, services and activities*



Photo Credit: The Seattle Times



# Project History

**2017 Town began looking for an area/trail that could be improved to meet the accessibility obligations and requirements.**

**Because the their relatively flat nature, old rail beds offer some of the best opportunities for an accessible trail**

## **Review for Inclusive Design of City of Andover Rail Trail at Haggetts Pond**

September 22, 2016



January 2, 2017



200 Portland Street, First Floor  
Boston, MA 02114  
[www.IHCDesign.org](http://www.IHCDesign.org)



## Project History

- There are many State and regional efforts to create a network of multi-use paths and trails.
- Regional efforts to connect Bay Circuit Trail and other bike trails.



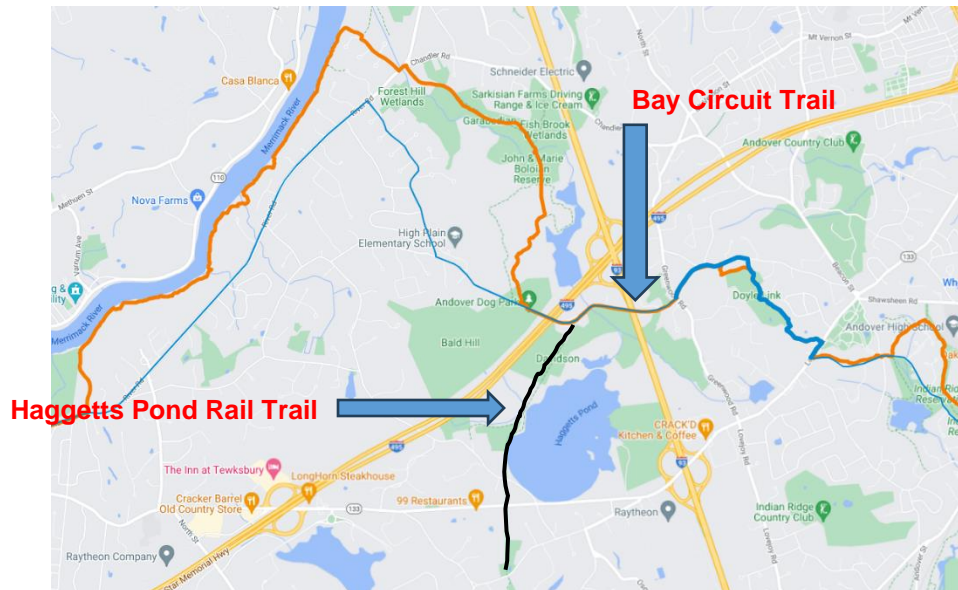
### OUR MISSION

At Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, we are building a nation connected by trails. We reimagine public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike and be active outdoors.



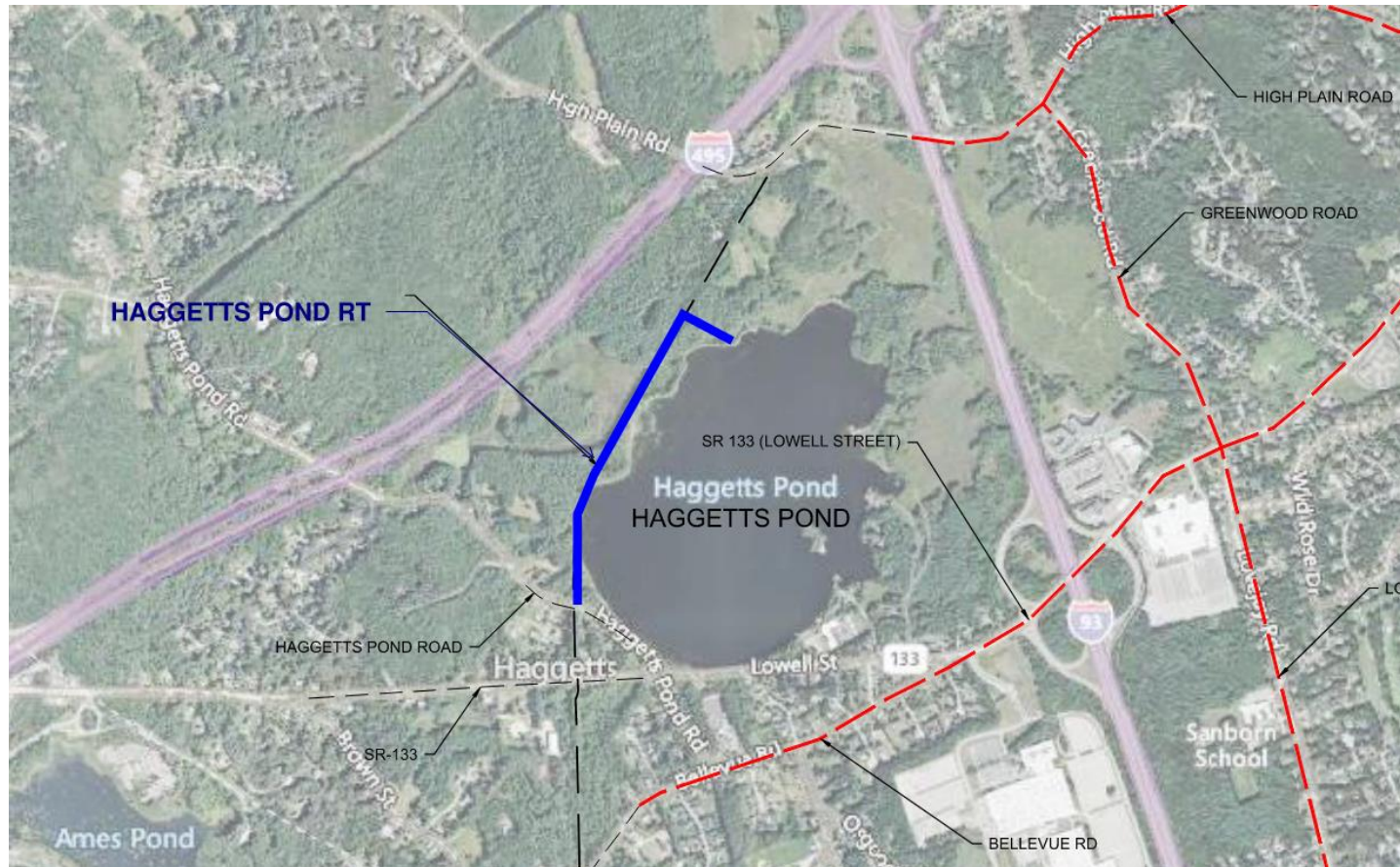
# Project History

Haggetts Pond Rail Trail  
provides connection to the  
Bay Circuit Trail



# Project History

June 2023 – Town received \$500,000 MassTrails Grant









## Project History

- **March 2022 – Town adapted ARPA Plan that provided funds for recreational improvements including rail trail.**
- **June 2023 – Town Receives MassTrails Grant**
- **June 2023 – Town engages BSC Group to perform Existing Conditions Survey and Wetlands Delineations.**
- **June 28, 2023 – Haggetts Pond Road Abutter Meeting**
- **July 11, 2023 – Town allocates additional \$750k of Federal ARPA funds to support extending the rail trail to High Plain Road and possibly to Bellevue Rd.**
- **July/August 2023 – BSC/Town develop trail and parking concept plans.**
- **August 16, 2023 – First Community Meeting**
- **August 28, 2023 – Haggetts Pond Rail Tail Community Site Walk**
- **September 11, 2023 – Second Community Meeting**





# Project Goals

- Improve existing trail to be more inclusive and accessible
- Improve trail parking
- Development a maintenance plan
- Protect Town's drinking water supply





# Community Input Design Modifications – What we heard

- Reduce paved portion of the rail trail from 10-ft to 8-ft
- Provide 4-ft gravel walking shoulder along the rail trail
- Improve the Haggetts Pond Road parking lots to split the parking on both sides of Haggetts Pond Road.
- Explore measures to reduce parking on Haggetts Pond Road shoulder.
- Design the parking areas to be porous pavement to reduce stormwater impacts.
- Design such that the project reduces clearing of trees.
- Provide tree replacement plan to replace any trees lost.
- Provide push button crosswalk lights for all street crossings.







# Community Input Design Modifications – What we heard

- **Provide measures to protect the Town drinking water supply**
  - **Post and rail fences were appropriate to discourage access off the trail.**
  - **Direct stormwater away from directly entering Haggetts Pond**
  - **Provide trash receptacles at all parking areas.**
  - **Develop a maintenance plan with Facilities and DPW**
  - **Work with the Police Department to increase patrolling and animal control**







## Asphalt vs Gravel/Stone Dust

Although it is true that well maintained, hard packed stone dust comply as an acceptable surface, most applications quickly come out of compliance due to weather conditions. The level of maintenance needed to maintain a gravel path is cost, and staff-prohibitive.





# Asphalt vs Gravel/Stone Dust

**Jeffrey L. Dougan, Assistant Director for Community Services,  
Massachusetts Office on Disability**

*“I agree that rail trails are much different then your standard nature trail. A paved surface would ensure compliance with the MAAB’s (Mass Architectural Access Board) strict surface requirements while keeping in line with other developed rail trails across the State.”*

*“While MAAB allows for ‘hard-packed or paved surfaces’ for accessible routes, the MAAB does not distinguish between what surfaces they would approve or allow for use.”*

*“I also agree that stone dust for a rail trail would be too much to maintain. If stone dust or some alternate surface is used and becomes non-compliant, Section 2.6 of the MAAB would require maintenance to be performed. Stone dust will last one or two rainstorms and then will need to be maintained. I not sure Andover can undertake that responsibility, so a more permanent surface being used, such as asphalt or cement, would make for much less maintenance over the life of the rail trail.”*



# Asphalt vs Gravel/Stone Dust

**Tom McCarthy, Landscape Architect**  
**Founder/Director of DCR's Universal Access Program**

*“Climate sustainability, We are seeing even the best stabilized surface being washed away in these extreme storm events across the State. Some of our best trails are waiting more than a year to get repaired after being damaged by storms. Without a robust maintenance staff and budget (I hate to say it) paving might be the best option.”*



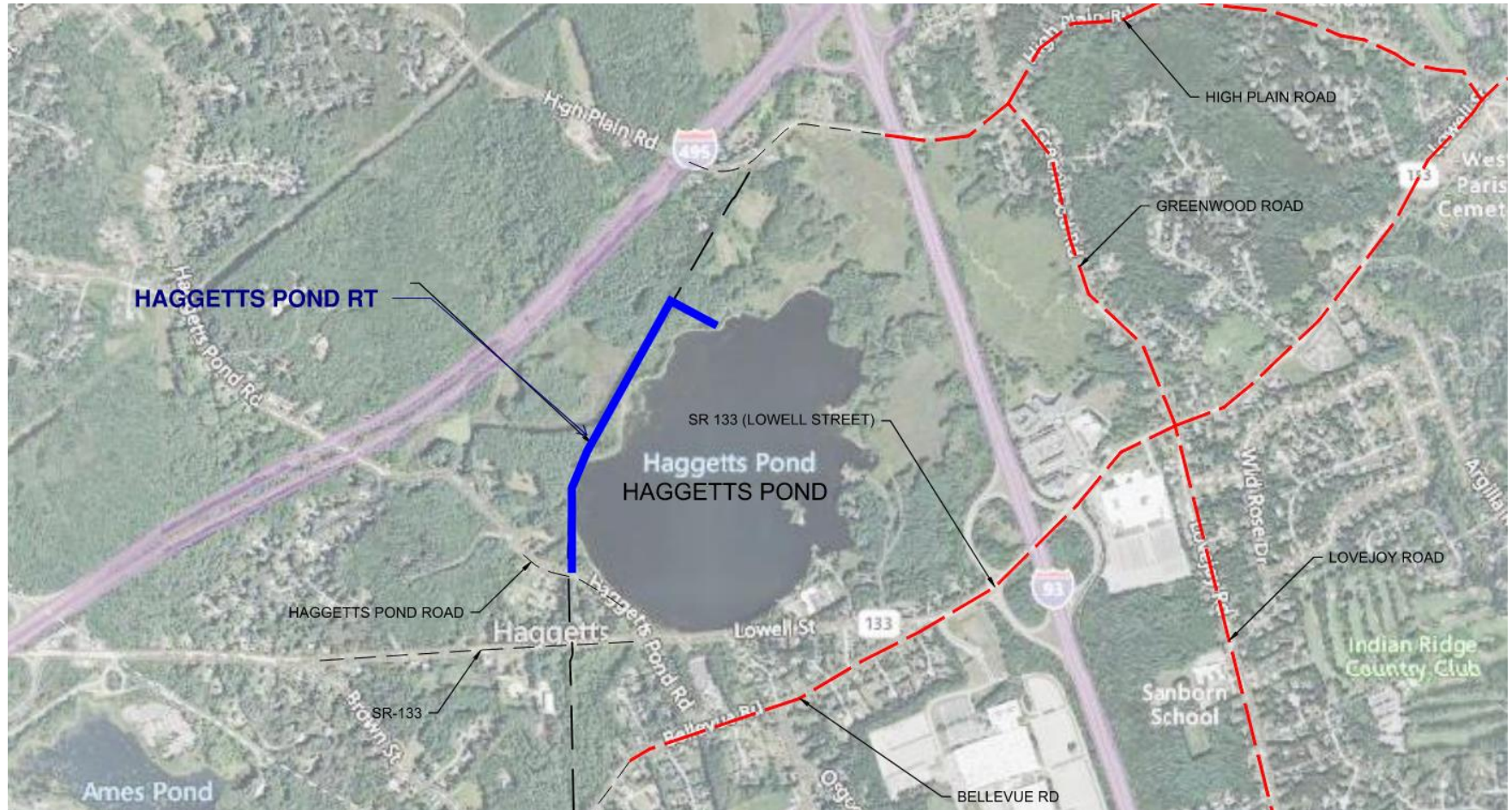


# What's Next - Conservation Commission Permitting

- **Public Hearings on the Project**
- **Reduce impacts.**
- **Follow Town and MassDEP Stormwater Management Standards**
  - **Maintain/reduce peak rates of stormwater runoff.**
  - **Provide stormwater runoff treatment as required by MassDEP Stormwater Standards**
  - **Provide no loss of groundwater recharge from the increase in impervious area.**
  - **Develop construction phase and long-term erosion control measures.**



# Phase I – MassTrails Grant Portion

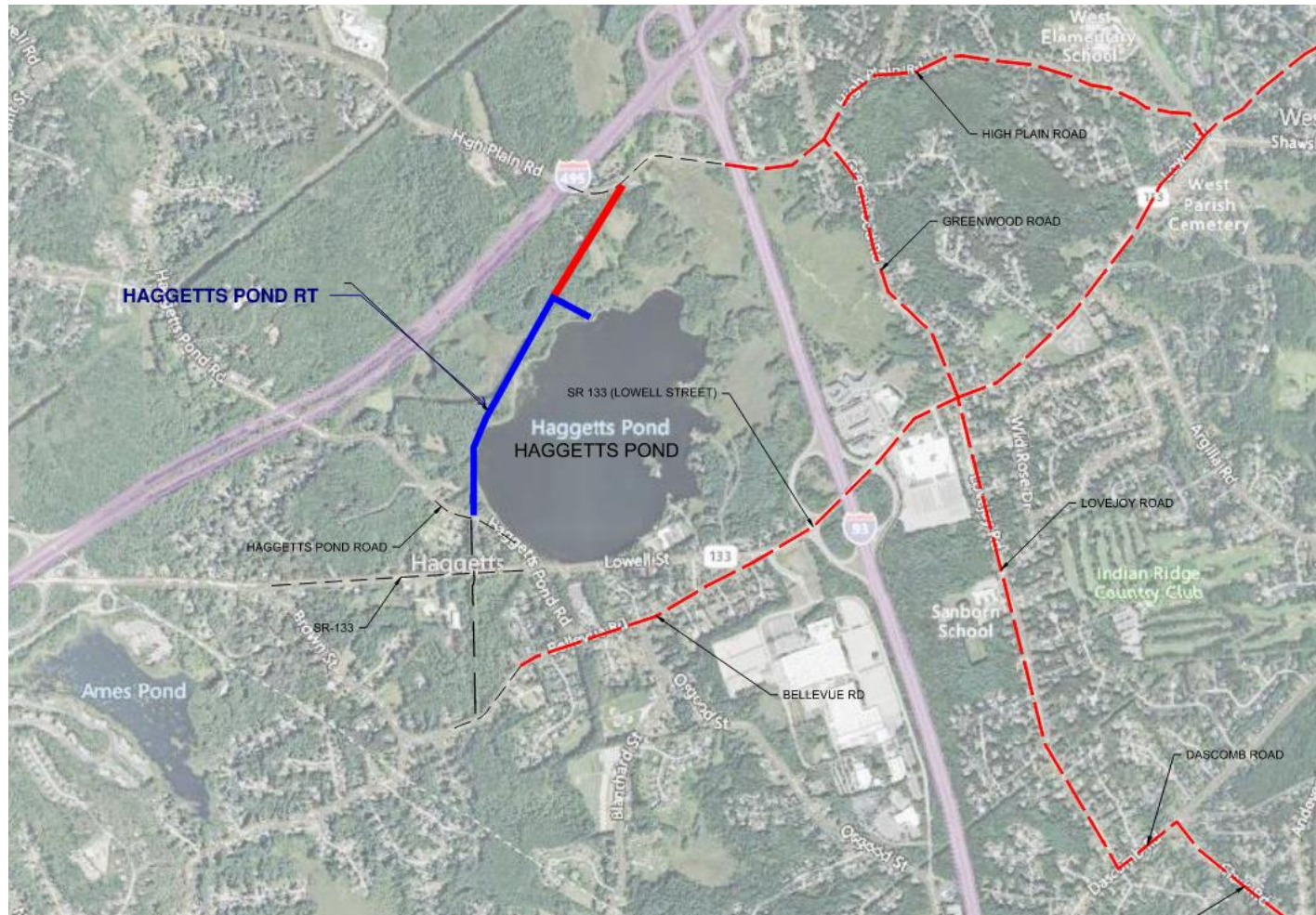




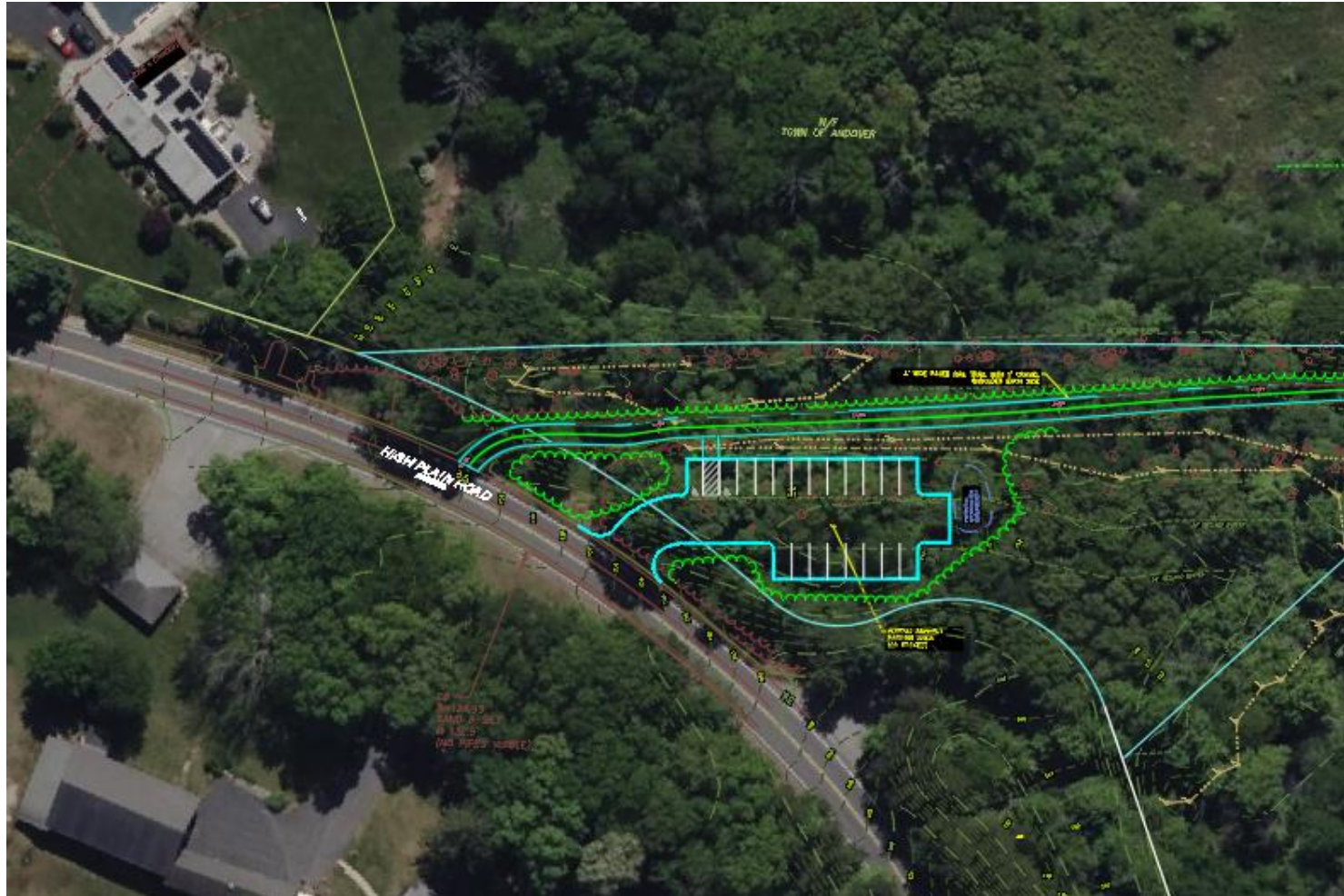




# Phase I– ARPA Grant Portion

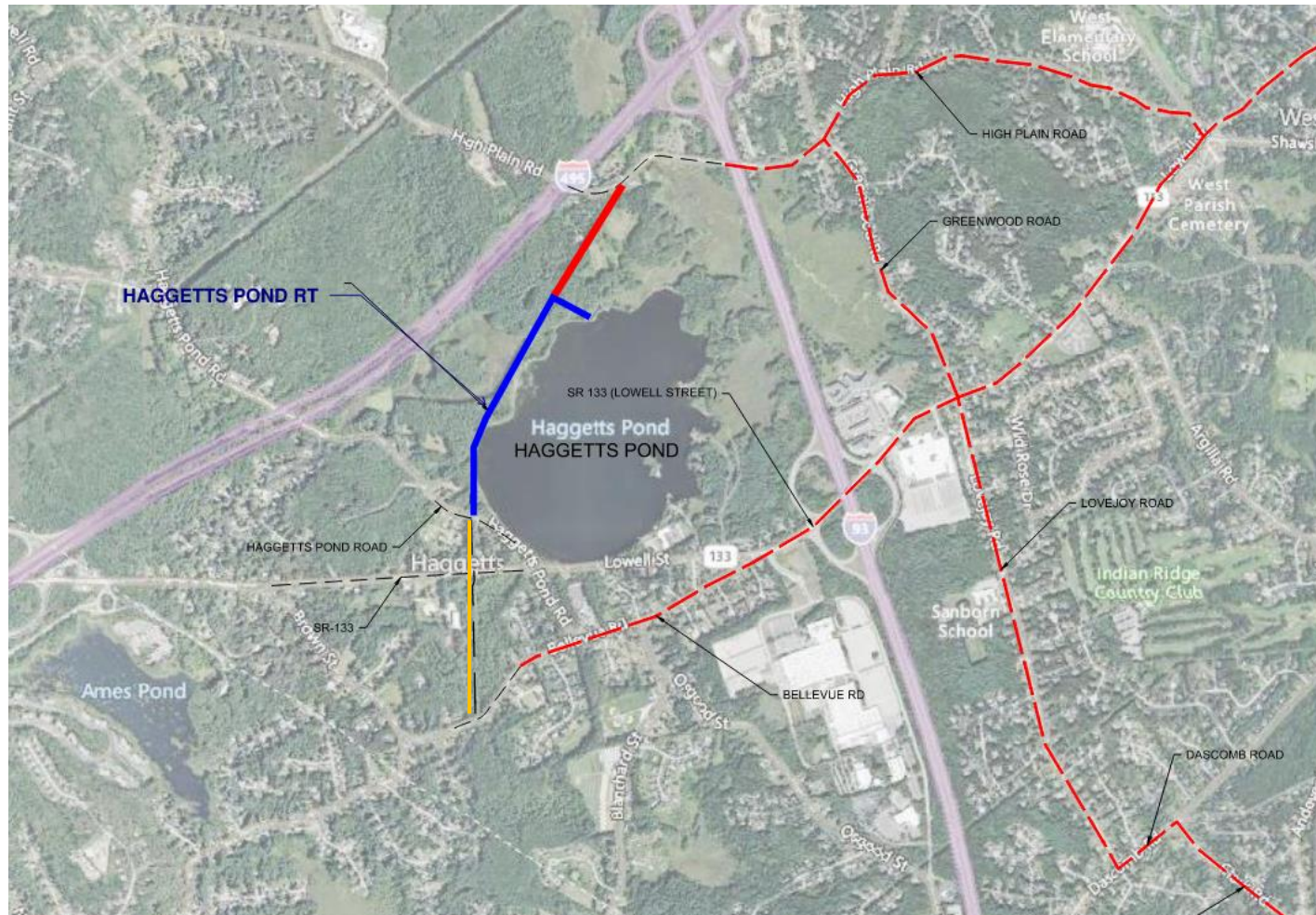


# High Plain Road Parking Concept



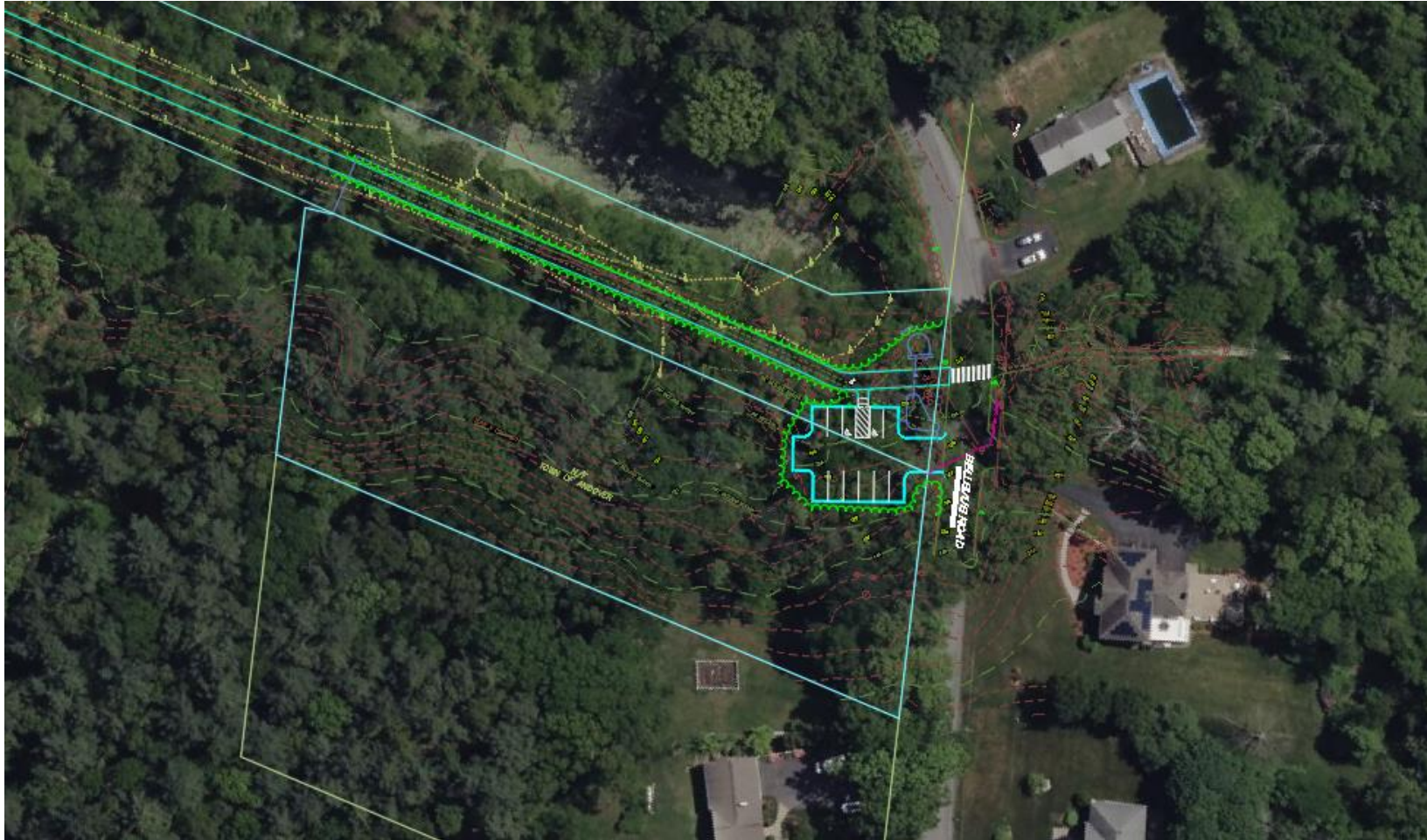


## Phase II– Rail Trail





# Bellevue Road Parking Concept





# Project Design Features







# Project Design Features







# Project Design Features

## Typical Roadway Crossing Examples

### Push Button LED Pedestrian Crossing Signs

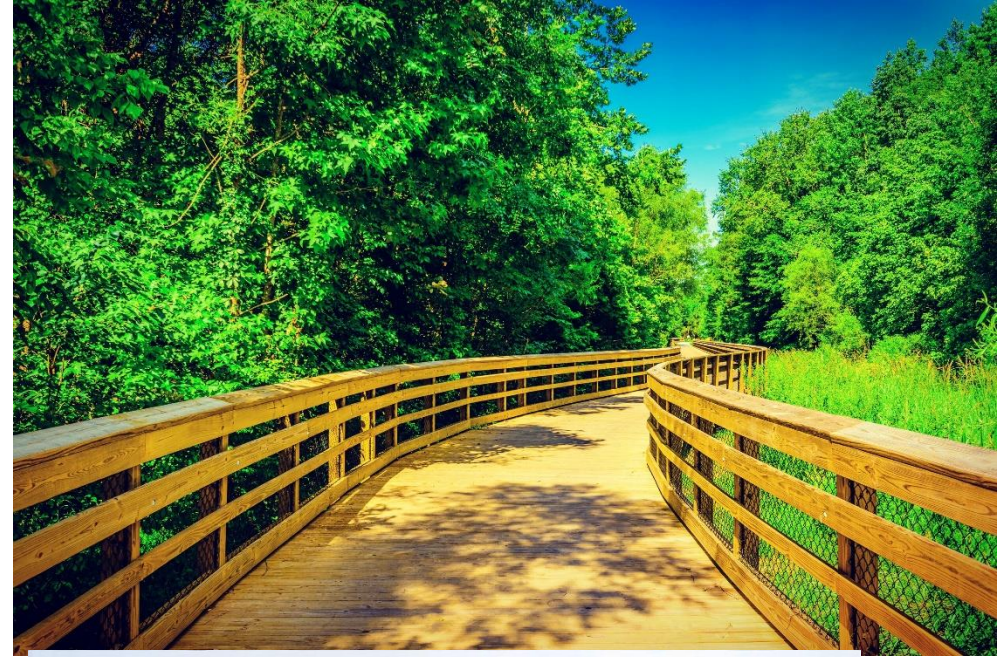






# Project Design Features

## Typical Boardwalk Examples





## Anticipated Project Schedule

- Summer 2023 - Community Input and Concepts
- Fall/Winter 2023 – Permitting with Conservation Commission
- Winter – Publicly Bid Project and Select Contractor
- June 30, 2024 – Construction Completed on MassTrails Grant Portion of Trail.
- Fall 2024 – Remaining Phase I Trail Completed





## **Questions and Comments**