

Appendix

Appendix A: Findings: Conceptual Design

The project included an inclusive and robust community-driven design process with public design workshops, neighborhood meetings, and coordination with Town departments, particularly the Engineering Department, to create a feasible design concept. It's important to stress that the designs presented in this report are conceptual: these are not construction drawings, and if the Select Board and Town Meeting determine to go ahead with this project, final construction could vary from these images depending on intentional changes or below ground conditions which could influence the placement of lighting, water lines, etc.

Design elements include flexible space for community activities, multiple forms of seating, an interactive water feature, a community "front porch," public art, pedestrian safety improvements, and linkages to the existing open space network. Careful consideration was given to the wide range of potential users to ensure that the park can be enjoyed by all Dedham residents, of all ages and abilities, and in all seasons. Public safety improvements are discussed in detail in the next section. Many of the recommended elements are described below. Photographs are included to give an idea of what these could look like but should be considered as conceptual rather than a proposed style.

Design Features of the Dedham Town Green

Designed for Flexibility

- The space has a balance of lawn and hardscape to allow for multiple types of use.
- The lawn and hardscape areas are designed to accommodate small and large events. A portion of Church Street could be closed down for public events, increasing the capacity of the space
- The design includes a variety of seating styles and arrangements, including many benches with built-in back support, seating conducive for solitary endeavors such as reading a book, and tables and chairs for eating or games with multiple people.
- Features have been included to make the space inclusive and friendly for people of all ages. For example, two or three rows of tiered seating against the Verizon wall would provide seating for eating, meeting up with friends, or watching an event, and while also providing an interesting element for children to explore. Likewise, a small hill at the western edge of the park could provide an area for kids to play without making the park itself feel like a children's playground, which would be less inviting to older members of the community.



A Community Front Porch for All of Dedham

- This would be an iconic landmark feature of Dedham’s Town Green, providing flexible use and designed to promote community.
- A pavilion would provide a shaded area that is protected from the elements.
 - For daily use, this could house chairs and tables and provide a protected space for eating, reading, playing games, and socializing.
 - For concerts and events, this could serve as a stage/performance space looking out onto the lawn. The base of the pavilion would be elevated approximately 18 inches to delineate it from the plaza and create visual appeal.
- The porch would be a hub for community activities, with the potential to include a community bulletin board, a Wi-Fi hot spot, and phone charging, all of which are features requested at community events.
- The roof of the pavilion could hold solar panels which would help power the lights, Wi-Fi, and other electrical needs in the park.

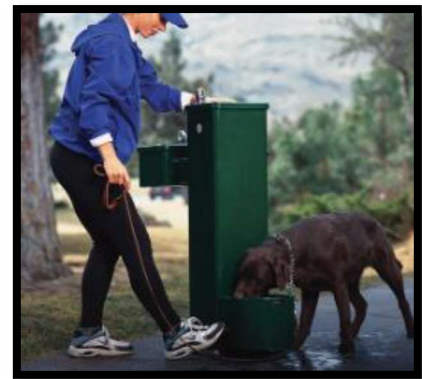


The concept design also includes:

- A pergola with vines on the west side, to provide a sense of enclosure while keeping the view of the historic building housing the Dedham Historical Society & Museum. Canvas shade panels could be added to provide shade and rain protection if this space were used for market stalls. This wooden structure could be built in partnership with Blue Hills Technical School students, providing a lasting element for students and the entire community to be proud of.
- An Interactive water feature would help mitigate some of the street noise and provide an interesting focal point.
 - The committee discussed multiple types of water features: a standard fountain with jets and a central sculptural object, similar to what is often seen in public parks, a plaza style fountain in which jets of water can be triggered to spray from the ground, and a simple fountain such as which is pictured below
 - A standard fountain style was generally considered to be inappropriate for this space, based on size and climate. Many committee members and members of the public were concerned about maintenance and how the fountain would look during winter months when it would be empty.



- The DSPC priced out the plaza jets and the interactive feature. While the plaza jets are less expensive, in the end, committee members felt the Town Green was not the best location for this type of feature given the proximity to busy streets and a concern that it would make the park too much of a child-focused splash pad.
 - It was clear, though, that there is a big demand from parents in the community for a splash pad park in Dedham, and the DSPC would happily collaborate with the Select Board and Parks and Recreation Department by sharing cost information and potential grant sources for a potential project.
 - Ultimately, the DSPC agreed if there were to be a water feature on the site, it should be relatively small, integrated with plantings, and be attractive even when not filled with water during winter months.
- Drinking fountain, with options for dog bowls and or misting stations, incorporated
 - Bike rack, with potential for electric bike charging
 - Rain garden with native plantings to collect stormwater
 - A Mural on the Verizon building facade
 - A mix of 22 trees, planted with sufficient underground room to establish strong roots and grow large over time.
 - Boulders and a grass mound/play hill for children
 - Raised stone seat walls, tiered seating, traditional benches, and tables and chairs
 - Light fixtures - town standard streetlights and catenary lights
 - Educational and historical signs explaining the history of the site, providing environmental education, offering wayfinding to civic attractions, and acknowledging the land's original inhabitants have all been suggested by members of the public
 - *Example of a land acknowledgement, from the American Visionary Art Museum, in Baltimore, MD*
 - Two “porch swings,” example pictured at right
 - New parallel parking on High Street (4 spaces)
 - Natural stone plaza in an area with most foot traffic, to provide durability
 - Decomposed granite ADA accessible paths to reduce impervious surface



STREET LEVEL EXPERIENCE



*These images provide a general sense of the street level experience a Town Green would create. They do not show an exact rendering of the final concept design.