

June 25, 2013

Thomas F. Broderick, P.E., Chief Engineer
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116
Attention: Roadway Project Management, Project File No. 604531

~~cc Acton~~
cc Acton BOS ✓
Roland B
7/10/13

RE: Assabet River Rail Trail Impact on Maplebrook Park

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Assabet River Rail Trail ("ARRT") at this early stage in the design process. On behalf of the Maynard Community Gardeners ("MCG"), I would like to express support for the ARRT. MCG has a long tradition of contributing to natural and recreational resource in Maynard. The ARRT will be an excellent addition to these resources and to the Town as a whole. MCG has participated in public hearings for the proposed ARRT over the past few years as well as the June 13, 2013 Public Hearing. MCG has contributed to the development process and identified potential impacts to Maplebrook Park from construction of the ARRT. MCG is concerned about this potential impact and offers the following information and comments.

Description of Maplebrook Park

Maplebrook Park is on a town owned parcel and is maintained by MCG. Maplebrook Park was created in the 90's by a joint community and Town effort lead by the Maple and Brooks Street neighborhoods. The Park is a perennial garden with walking trails and a sitting area that is open to the public. A plan of the Park is attached to this letter.

Maplebrook Park is a valuable resource to the community based on its prominent location adjacent to downtown and its natural beauty. Maplebrook Park serves all members of this community. Maplebrook Park is an educational resource, a playground and place for quiet contemplation.

Addition of Maplebrook Park to Design Plans, Project Narrative and Public Hearing Presentation

Maplebrook Park is not identified in the Design Plans, Project Narrative or in the Public Hearing Presentation. Maplebrook Park must be added to these public documents to allow full public comment that will ensure the MHD identifies all issues at this early stage of the design process.

Impacts to Maplebrook Park

Maplebrook Park is an approximately a 3,000 square foot park. Based on a review of the 25% design plans, approximately 1,000 square feet Maplebrook Park would be impacted by the ARRT. Several major trees and shrubs would be eliminated as well as dozens of small plants and ground cover. A plan of the park and the area that may be impacted outlined in blue is attached. Loss of one third of Maplebrook Park would be a significant impact that must be considered in the ongoing design process.

Design Alternatives

MCG requests that the MHD evaluate the following minor design alternatives to the ARRT in the vicinity of Maplebrook Park (approximately Station 76+00 to 77+00) to reduce the 10 foot disturbance of the Park:

- Reduce trail width from 12 feet to 8 feet
- Lower the final grade of the Trail
- Increase the side slopes from a 3:1 slope to a 2:1 slope
- A combination of these design alternatives

Public comments were made at the recent hearing on issues that were identified and resolved in the past. In an effort to avoid repeated discussion of these issues at future public hearings, MCG requests that MHD submit a letter to MCG that documents their analysis including descriptions, plans, methodology to assess impacts and conclusions.

Continued Collaboration

MCG's has been a responsible steward of Maplebrook Park for the benefit of this community for many years. MCG is available to meet with the MHD to provide any additional information on Maplebrook that may be require to address our concerns and to assist in the successful completion of the ARRT.

Sincerely,



Daniel Stuart, President
Maynard Community Gardeners

Attachments: Plan of Maplebrook Park

CC: ✓ Maynard Board of Selectmen
Action Board of Selectmen
Assabet River Rail Trail, Inc.

