**October 6, 2020**

**Watertown/Cambridge Greenway Phase 2 – Drainage Improvements and Additional Tree Removals**

The Watertown-Cambridge Greenway, a multi-use pathway along the former Boston & Maine Railroad Line in Watertown and Cambridge, is currently under construction. Once complete, this Greenway will extend from the Arlington St./Nichols Avenue/Crawford St. intersection in Watertown to the entrance of the Cambridge Water Department on Fresh Pond, for a total of 1.25 miles. The expected completion is now Summer 2021.

The purpose of this project is to enhance pedestrian and bicycle movement in Cambridge and Watertown, while providing an alternative travel option for commuters and recreational users. This multi-use Greenway will provide an important regional connection linking the Charles River Path System, the Minuteman Bikeway, the Alewife Greenway, and the Mystic River Reservation into an interconnected off-road pathway network.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) led the design and public engagement process and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is overseeing the construction. A complete description of project including but not limited to information on the public process can be found on this website <https://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/Transportation/watertowncambridgegreenway>.

Over the last several months, DCR’s design team has been working to develop **drainage modifications** to ensure that the path operates properly during frequent rain events. The new drainage design includes additional drainage swales along the side of the path to properly manage the stormwater; and shifting the alignment of the path to accommodate the swales.

**Tree removals on DCR Property in Cambridge** from Mount Auburn Street at Holworthy Street to Huron Avenue Underpass are scheduled to begin on **October 12th:**

* To create an access point at Holworthy Street a spur of the pathway is being constructed with accessibility standards including a retaining wall and railing. This spur requires approximately 400 feet of clearing on the west side of the proposed pathway. Approximately 10 trees will be removed in this area; 5 dead / hazardous trees and 5 in conflict with the pathway alignment.
* To accommodate the drainage modifications between Star Market and the Huron Avenue Underpass, approximately 30 trees will be removed in this area; 5 dead / hazardous and 25 in conflict with the drainage modifications. The pathway has been narrowed to 10’ in this section to eliminate the removal of an additional 10 trees.
* 126 new trees will be planted in this section of the project in addition to hundreds of understory plants.

Tree removals on Cambridge Property from Huron Avenue Underpass to the entrance of the Water Treatment Plan:

* Approximately 3 dead / hazardous trees have been identified within the Reservation near Huron Avenue.
* 69 new trees will be planted in this section of the project in addition to hundreds of understory plants and 2 large wetland plant areas.

This will complete the tree removals required for the path and allow the drainage modifications and path construction to proceed.