

Roxbury Heritage State Park: Roxbury's People in Time and Place



PRELIMINARY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: HISTORY

CELEBRATE THE RICH AND DIVERSE HISTORY OF ROXBURY		A
STAKEHOLDER INPUT TO DATE	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/IDEAS	
<p>Tell the story of the Dillaway-Thomas House and site throughout history, including the people of Roxbury throughout time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell the history of Roxbury from the beginning to the present to inform the future.		
<p>Develop interactive exhibits at the Dillaway-Thomas House to interpret Roxbury's natural, cultural and social history.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involve community (including youth) in creating content for the exhibits• Dedicate space for Roxbury "now" for the community to re-invent and continually update itself• Keep exhibits fresh and design them so that they are flexible and self guided whenever possible (using technology, multi-media, cell apps, etc.)• Provide opportunities for visitors to feel as though they are actually a part of history, they can see themselves in it (e.g. wear costume, take a "selfie" with an historical backdrop)		
<p>Develop an archaeological conservation lab at the Dillaway-Thomas House to curate archaeological artifacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage area youth in a public archaeology program		

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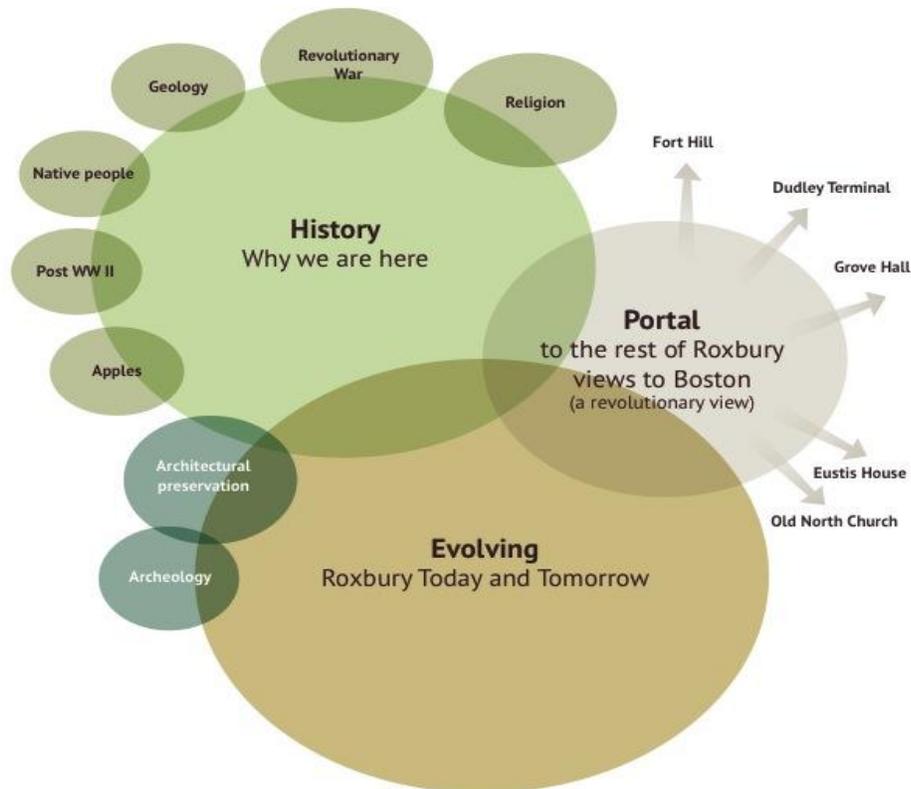


CELEBRATE THE RICH AND DIVERSE HISTORY OF ROXBURY

A

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Who are the five people throughout history who best represent the Roxbury you want everyone to know?
2. Where does your family like to go when it likes to explore history in Roxbury?
3. What do you think is the most defining event in the history of Roxbury?
4. What is your favorite thing about the Dillaway-Thomas House?
5. In your (and your family's) lifetime were there any important historic events in Roxbury that you would like an exhibit to commemorate?



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**PRELIMINARY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:
IMPROVE DILLAWAY-THOMAS HOUSE AS
COMMUNITY RESOURCE**

MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DILLAWAY-THOMAS HOUSE AND INCREASE ITS USE AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE	
STAKEHOLDER INPUT TO DATE	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/IDEAS
<p>Repair the Dillaway-Thomas House and make improvements to support more and more diverse programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide bathroom on first floor and/or easier access to existing bathrooms • Provide flexible spaces or multipurpose room(s) • Kitchen for large events • Roof over the patio for holding events in bad weather • Respond to the needs of people with disabilities and the elderly • Incorporate DCR maintenance, storage and services needs into the program 	
<p>Support a wide variety of programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider using the space for more community events, e.g. farmer's markets, bike fairs, etc. • Allow for use by community groups for events & meetings • Support educational programming (K-college) • Consider an archaeology lab with youth programming 	
<p>Minimize and mitigate disruption to programming during construction period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan for the artifacts during the construction period 	

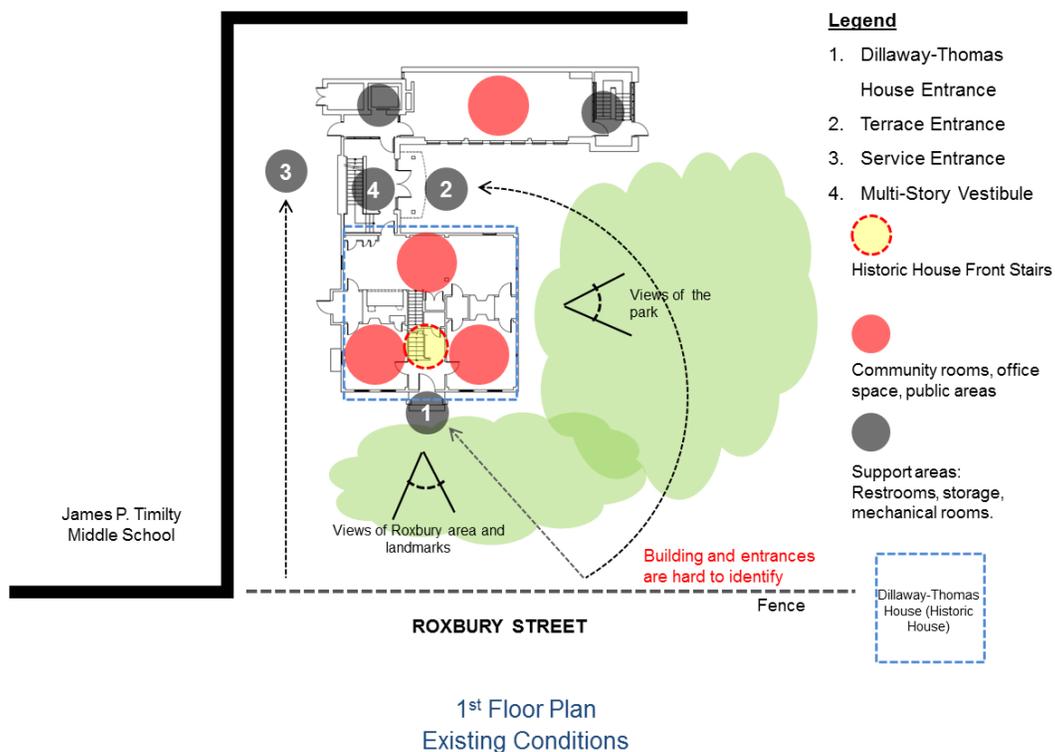
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MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DILLAWAY-THOMAS HOUSE AND INCREASE ITS USE AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE B

KEY QUESTIONS:

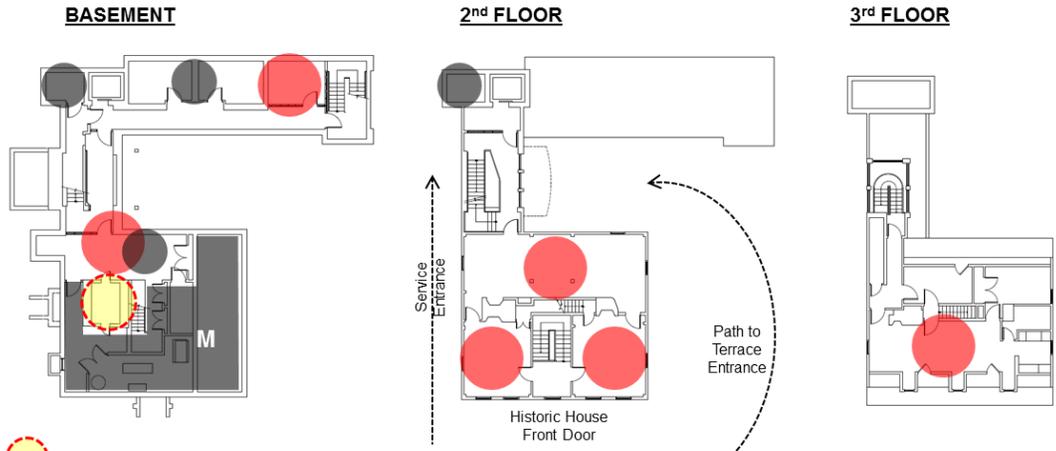
1. What changes/improvements do you think should be made to the building?



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-  Brick Vault at lower part of chimney
-  Community rooms, office space, public areas
-  Support areas: Restrooms, storage, mechanical rooms.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Use the preserved historic character and location of the house as a platform to speak of the history of Roxbury, its relation to the land and surrounding landmarks. The house itself is an exhibit.
- Building repairs and upgrades that significantly improve the indoor environment of the building and allow for more public uses would further attract area residents and visitors.
- Integrate the house, physically and programmatically, to the landscape and outdoor programs.
- Restore the 3rd floor residential use and incorporate it to the operations and program of the house.

CONSTRAINTS

- Modifications to the historic house are limited given the historic status of the house, the original residential use and age of the structure.
- The 3rd floor is not accessible to people with disabilities.
- The construction of the historic house building envelope, doors and windows allows for substantial heat loss, which has a direct impact on the life, maintenance and operating costs of the house.

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PRELIMINARY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

INCLUDE COMMUNITY IN ALL PHASES OF PROJECT

INCLUDE THE COMMUNITY DURING ALL PHASES OF PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION PROCESS	
STAKEHOLDER INPUT TO DATE	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/IDEAS
<p>Project should be “transformative,” that is, is should enhance and improve the site and the neighborhood overall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be an explicit intention that the improvements are for the benefit of the people who live in Roxbury now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve quality of life by providing opportunities for increased programming, awareness and pride of history and a more beautiful site <p>Include local residents in the planning, construction, maintenance and other aspects of the project beyond the planning phase: HOW?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create jobs for local residents with a commitment to monitor the hiring process); these set asides should exceed city and state-wide benchmarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use local craftsmen & media companies ○ Use the historic draw as an opportunity to attract tourists to Roxbury and encourage spill over investment (e.g. shopping, eating) in the community. 	<p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">C</p>

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STAKEHOLDER INPUT TO DATE	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/IDEAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cultivate partnerships to get youth involved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide local teens with summer jobs ▪ Reach out to youth organizations such as City School or Spontaneous Celebrations 	
<p>Provide opportunities for meaningful participation and that it is integrated into the process: HOW?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage youth in creating exhibits/signage • Reach out to residents for their stories/photos • Use Patriot's Day as an opportunity to raise awareness and solicit input • Provide opportunities for input throughout the process • Hold public meetings on a consistent schedule and advertise the schedule widely and ahead of time • Give people information • Follow through with actions • Hold meetings at different locations throughout Roxbury • Include questionnaires with advertisement of meetings (then have responses ready for the next meeting) 	
<p>Communicate goals and scope of project well and widely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the boundaries and scope of the project • Be mindful of potential need to mitigate impacts on neighborhood (e.g. noise, hours of work, traffic) 	

KEY QUESTION:

1. Who else should we engage and how? Specific suggestions are welcome. List so far include:

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth • Area organizations and associations • Civic and community groups • Non-profit partners • Cultural groups • Mass Housing Safety Task Force | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant Associations • Resident Services • Community Development Corporations • Boston Neighborhood Network • Roxbury Cultural Network |
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PRELIMINARY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: RESTORE & INTERPRET HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

RESTORE AND INTERPRET THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AT THE DILLAWAY-THOMAS HOUSE TO PROMOTE PUBLIC USE AND AWARENESS D

STAKEHOLDER INPUT TO DATE	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/IDEAS
<p>Increase awareness regarding archaeological, agricultural, and historical significance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate architectural structures/monuments from historical building in Roxbury that have been or will be demolished. • Showcase the three types of historical Roxbury fruit/apple trees on the site. • Incorporate signage/interpretation for all significant parts of the property (granite block, pudding stone, fruit trees, etc.) • Create an adaptive landscape that can be used as a site for temporary modern sculpture site. • Consider replanting native flowers/plantings. • Involve local schools in gardening 	
<p>Visually and emotionally connect the property to the surrounding neighborhood and to downtown Boston.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove invasive vegetation • Showcase puddingstone cliff along Malcolm X Street • Create a park-like environment within the landscape • Include way-finding sign(s) directing visitors to other parts of Roxbury that relate to the RHSP (e.g. museums, recreational facilities, etc.) 	

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STAKEHOLDER INPUT TO DATE	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/IDEAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a palette of materials to be used throughout the RHSP 	
<p>Improve and expand park amenities to make the landscape more inviting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider alternatives to the fence/gate • Develop/improve a community garden on site • Create a walking trail around the property • Create a stronger, more welcoming sense of arrival • Provide opportunities for children's dynamic play, through changing site features, in the landscape 	
<p>Provide support for additional programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more resources for area schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooperate with Roxbury Community College • Improve amphitheater, patio area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replace/upgrade the electrical box at the amphitheater ○ Raise the base of the amphitheater ○ Install a removable cover/shade for the amphitheater • Need staff to support programming • Explore seasonal programming possibilities • Explore food as a theme 	
<p>Ensure that contractors are supervised and educated so that the landscape is developed in a historically accurate manner.</p>	
<p>Retain public access for a variety of programming and events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently the site is a popular spot for wedding photos; continue to allow such access • Will need to obtain additional funding to keep the gates open more frequently 	

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RESTORE AND INTERPRET THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AT THE DILLAWAY-THOMAS HOUSE TO PROMOTE PUBLIC USE AND AWARENESS

D

KEY QUESTION:

What other types of activities/uses would draw visitors to this landscape?



Roxbury Heritage State Park Project Today: Existing Constraints

- Fence & locked gate are not welcoming
- Lack of clear signage results in a lack of information regarding what the RHSP is/can be used for
- Views of the Boston skyline are partially obstructed by overgrown vegetation
- Easement divides the space
- Space limitations constrain possibilities regarding exhibits and programming



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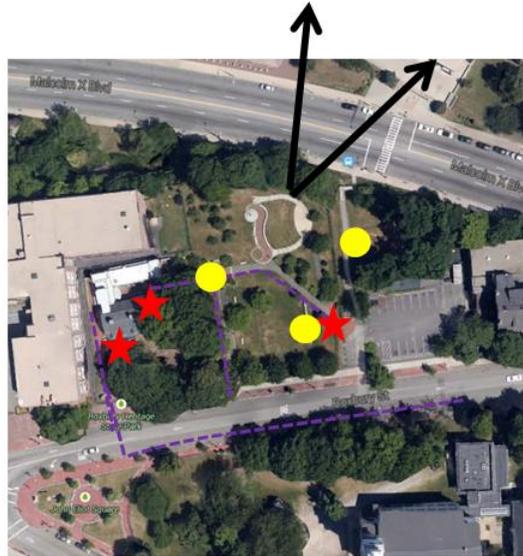
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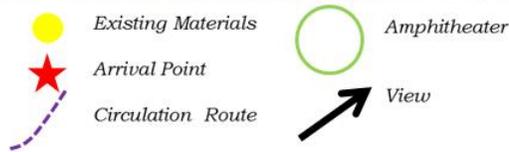


Roxbury Heritage State Park Project Future Opportunities

- Opportunities for learning and education
- Opportunities for fun!
- Create a more welcoming sense of arrival
- Provide an improved venue for performances/gatherings
- Open views to Boston from the park
- Improve circulation throughout



- Create more of a community resource
- Direct visitors to other related historic sites in Roxbury
- Create a changing sense of discovery for visitors (especially children)
- Create a historical narrative through details and amenities
- Provide opportunities to learn about various parts of Roxbury history in a variety of ways, included self-guided exhibits.



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LONG-TERM ASPIRATIONS:

ENHANCE A STRONG POSITIVE IMAGE FOR ROXBURY, AMPLIFY NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE AND REINFORCE COMMUNITY CHARACTER

STAKEHOLDER INPUT TO DATE	COMMENTS/IDEAS
<p>Raise profile and improve access to the Roxbury Heritage State Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote opportunities to bring more people to visit the park , with a particular emphasis on the residents of Roxbury • Increase awareness regarding the existence of the RSHP and the possibilities it offers, especially to the 40 years old and under crowd. • Provide, promote and encourage intergenerational activities 	
<p>Ensure local residents have access to the Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use transparent and user-friendly permitting process that accommodates manageable schedule • Build in a clear message that this is for the current residents of Roxbury 	
<p>Make decisions within the spirit of the original master plan and be mindful of the goal of connecting Roxbury's historic sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with City of Boston to care for and promote Roxbury's historic sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Graphic connection to other sites ○ Promote the fact that tours of Roxbury originate here • Use this project to promote Roxbury as a whole 	

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FOSTER A CULTURE OF STEWARDSHIP	
STAKEHOLDER INPUT TO DATE	COMMENTS/IDEAS
<p>Develop an appropriate model for HOW to oversee the long-term operation of the Roxbury Heritage State Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCR – community partnership 	
<p>Identify WHO would be involved in a stewardship plan for the long-term sustainability of the park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to former Advisory Board • Friends Group? • Reach out to the National Parks Service to explore possibilities for some sort of a partnership • Create a framework for a public-private partnership and include neighborhood organizations 	
<p>Obtain funding for future operational costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the City and community in developing partnerships to support artistic, cultural and festive elements 	
<p>Create a sense of local recognition and ownership of the Park; HOW?</p>	