



Date: October 27, 2023  
To: City Council  
From: Councilors Deborah J. Crossley and Holly Ryan  
Re: 10/25/23 Northland Liaison Committee Meeting

Splash Park is moving ahead of schedule!

Designs are complete for the Splash Park along the Greenway and the abutting “Community Park” (playground) which is on Northland property. Designs have been reviewed with the Parks & Rec. Department and the community. The building permit will be filed this year.

The contiguous park areas will be built simultaneously in 2024 and will be open to the public in the fall of 2024. The Parks Dept. will be extending stone dust paths to the new park areas from the Greenway to two access points. Decorated construction fencing will protect users from the ongoing construction site. Invasive species will be removed from the vegetated areas between the Greenway path and the park, including a few trees that must be removed at the two access points. The Tree Warden is reviewing the plan.

Building Permits for the first few buildings closest to oak Street, will be filed in early 2024.

Meanwhile, work continues underground...

### **South Meadow Brook Culvert**

The massive concrete culvert is under streets only, not buildings. The layout purposely avoided the culverts. Because it is over 100 years old, and to be very safe, Northland engineers will protect and isolate the culvert along its entire length, by building another structure over it to support earth loads. Steel columns and plates form the walls, and a reinforced concrete cap will go over the top. The interior dimensions of the culvert at the inlet are 6’high x 9’wide, which expands to create reservoirs to manage dumping too much water too fast into the Charles. During recent heavy rains, there has been no problem with flow; the open brook has only been 1/3 full.

### **Offsite Electrical and Telecom Utility Work: Needham Street**

Northland will be done with all underground manholes and pipe utilities crossing Needham street and on their property along Needham St. before Thanksgiving. Eversource has completed its underground infrastructure work; Telecom needs a couple more weeks to complete their underground infrastructure work. Coordination with DOT has been ongoing and is on schedule.

Continuation of similar underground infrastructure will occur on Oak Street, Tower Road, Charlemont Street and Christina Street in 2024. Installation of new cabling in the new underground infrastructure is scheduled for 2025 and later. Removal of overhead wires is anticipated for 2026 and later.

Coordinate with city for the new city roadway. Poles are owned by Verizon. Any pole that has a city streetlight or another customer of Verizon (such as an AT&T micro cell) is scheduled to remain. DOT plans show all new pole locations. If nothing remains on a pole it will be removed by Verizon. A light remaining on an existing pole will be moved to the new pole; that pole would not be removed.

Deb will discuss with the city installing light poles that meet city standards along Needham Street and Oak, which are not in the state or Northland budget) so that Verizon can remove the remaining poles.

Sincerely,

Councilors Deb Crossley & Holly Ryan, liaison committee members