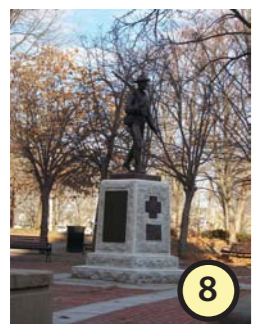
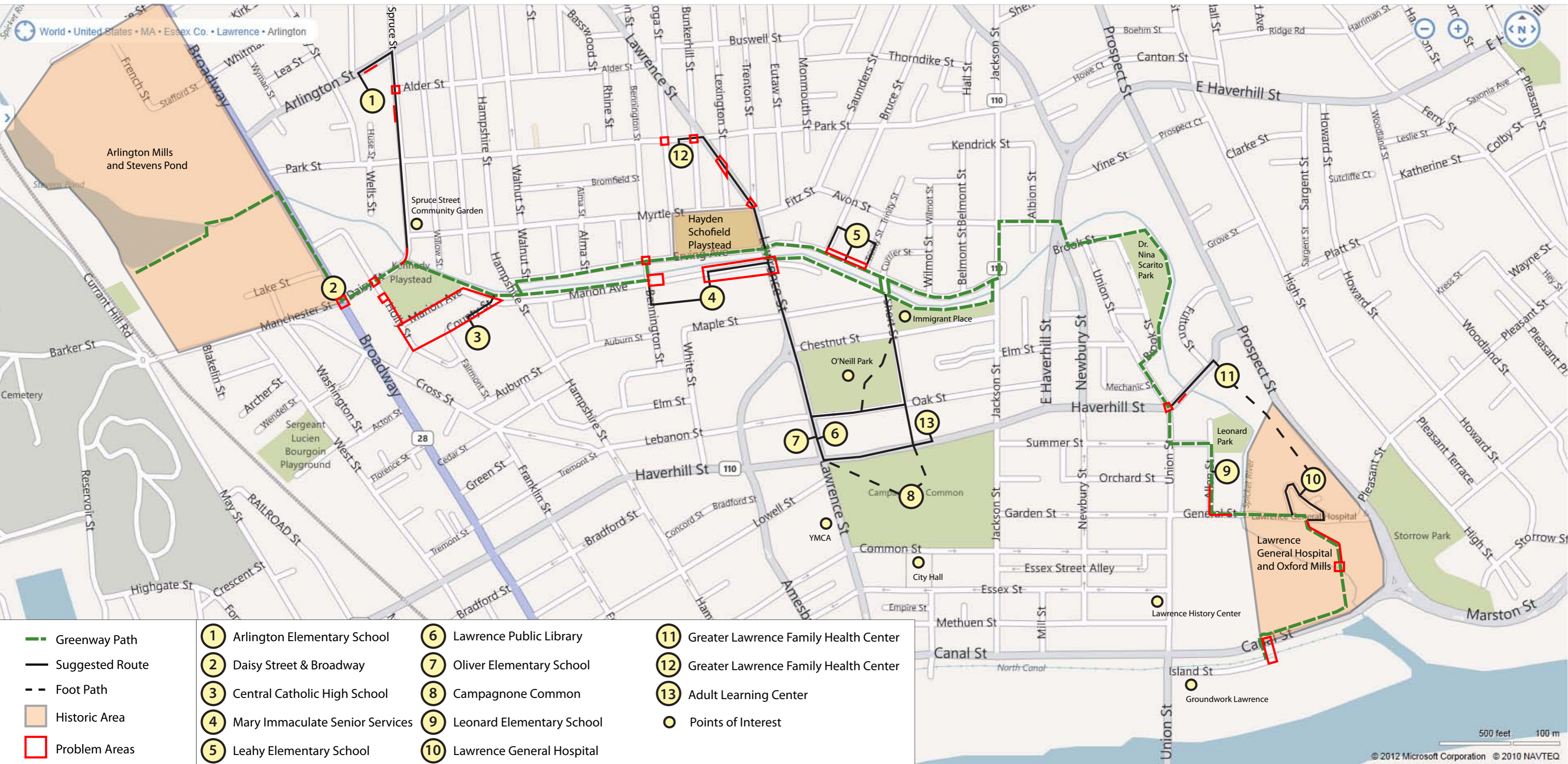
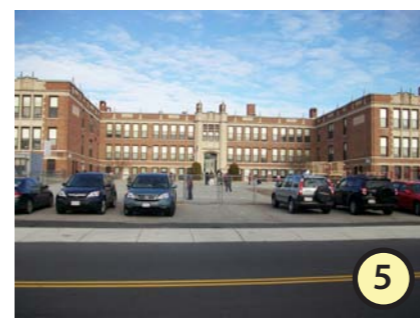


Getting to the Greenway:
A Walking Assessment for
WalkBoston and Groundwork Lawrence
Lawrence, MA

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January 31, 2012



Introduction

After four visits to Lawrence, Massachusetts it became clear to us that Lawrence is a very walkable city. The manageable size of the city makes walking along the Spicket River Greenway from one corner to the other a possible and pleasant task.

From both our walking assessments and the research we conducted on historical sites in Lawrence, we have a better understanding of the significance of Lawrence and the importance of its development. The Spicket River Greenway will be an excellent tool to encourage residents and visitors to explore natural resources, to learn about the city's history, and to enhance the pedestrian environment.

1. Arlington Elementary School

Best Route to the Greenway

The best route from Arlington Elementary School to the Greenway is to walk south along Spruce Street. Arlington Elementary has several entrances, but the main entrance is likely the one on Arlington Street (1A). The paved school yard and sidewalk in front of this entrance provides easy pedestrian access. There is a short stretch along the sidewalk that is designated for car pick-up and drop-off. The intersection of Arlington Street and Spruce Street, at the northeast corner of the school, also has the necessary marked crosswalks to allow students to safely cross the street (1B). Students who do not need to cross the street seem to use a shortcut around the corner as evidenced by a well trodden foot path (1C). This foot path also indicates that Spruce Street will likely be heavily used by students who want to access the Greenway from school. Another school entrance on Spruce Street leads directly to the recommended route (1D). The school entrance on the south side of the building leads to a school yard and playground and connects to Spruce Street via Alder Street (1E), though this road is primarily for cars.

Existing Conditions around Arlington School

A marked crosswalk connects the main school entrance to the other side of Arlington Street where there is a corner grocery store and more sidewalk that is in good condition (1F). A portion of the sidewalk outside of the Arlington Street school entrance is badly damaged (1G). The west side of the school faces Tenney Street which seems much less traveled and would not provide an adequate route to the Greenway since the street dead ends at Park Street.

Based on the condition of the sidewalk and the



Arlington Elementary School (1A)



Arlington and Spruce Intersection (1B)



Arlington and Spruce Corner Shortcut (1C)



Arlington Elementary Entrance on Spruce Street (1D)



Arlington Elementary from Alder Street (1E)



Arlington Street (1F)



Arlington Street Cracked Sidewalk (1G)

adjacent properties, the route along Spruce Street could also use improvement. Some of the sidewalk is damaged (1H) and there are no marked crosswalks between blocks. There are also frequent curb cuts in the sidewalk for driveways.

The Spruce Street Community Garden is a positive addition to the street (1J). Located on Spruce Street and Myrtle Street, the Community Garden includes newly paved sidewalks and new fencing, and it provides an aesthetically pleasing point of interest for the route to the Greenway.

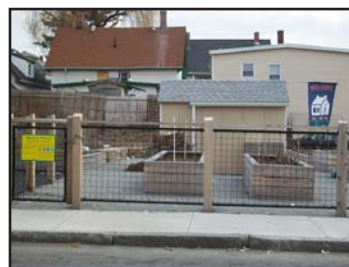
The biggest obstacle in reaching the Greenway from Arlington Elementary School is the bend in the road where Spruce Street meets and turns into Daisy Street (1K). This area is not safe for pedestrians to cross if they want to continue on the Greenway heading east along the Spicket River. There is neither a marked crosswalk nor a pedestrian traffic light. Furthermore, it is difficult to see cars turning around the corner.

Recommendations

1. Create a safe pedestrian crossing at the bend where Spruce and Daisy Streets meet
2. Repair damaged sidewalk on Arlington and Spruce Streets
3. Install marked crosswalks along Spruce Street
4. Include the location of the Community Garden on the Walking Map



Spruce Street Sidewalk (1H)



Spruce Street Community Garden (1J)



Spruce Street Bend from Daisy Street (1K)

2. Broadway and Daisy Intersection

Best Route to the Greenway

The best route from the intersection of Broadway and Daisy Street to the Greenway is along Daisy Street. Though this route is on the Greenway path, much improvement is required before the street will feel like part of the Greenway.

Existing Conditions at the Intersection

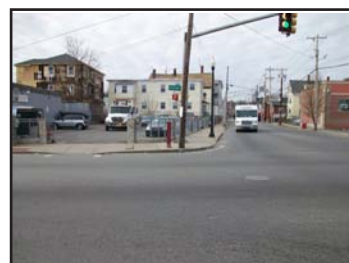
The intersection is clearly meant primarily to serve cars. There are pedestrian traffic signals and buttons. However, the crosswalk markings have been rubbed away, and three of the four corners contain parking lots that limit the pedestrian experience (2A-2D). The wide streets and lack of storefronts rob the intersection of a pedestrian scale, and the intersections is dominated by automobile traffic.



Map Image: Broadway and Daisy North Corner (2A)



Broadway and Daisy West Corner (2B)



Broadway and Daisy South Corner (2C)



Broadway and Daisy East Corner (2D)

While the sidewalks on Daisy Street are in reasonable condition, there is no indication that the Greenway continues along Daisy Street. The view looking west on Daisy Street (2E) includes the edge of William Kennedy Playstead. The view looking east on Daisy Street (2F), however, does not feel like part of the Greenway and requires some indication of the path. The intersection of Daisy Street and Holly Street does not have a marked crosswalk (2G). A crosswalk seems particularly appropriate because of the entrance to William Kennedy Playstead at the corner. The edge of the playstead along Daisy Street has a newly paved waving sidewalk that is very pleasant and is lined with red streetlights. However, the sidewalk on the outer edge of the playstead is in disrepair (2H). The marked edge of the playstead limits the inclusion of Daisy Street in the Greenway. There is also a marked difference in the streetscape when the playstead edge ends at Holly Street and the Greenway continues toward the Broadway/Daisy intersection.

Recommendations

1. Create a continuous indication that Daisy Street and Broadway are parts of the Greenway
2. Install a marked crosswalk at the intersection of Daisy and Holly Streets
3. Repair the sidewalk on Daisy Street at the edge of William Kennedy Playstead
4. Make the Daisy and Broadway intersection more pedestrian in scope

3. Central Catholic High School

Best Route to the Greenway

The best route to the Greenway from Central Catholic High School is through the north corner of the school parking lot near the intersection of County and Hampshire Streets. The Greenway is also accessible through William Kennedy Playstead, but there is a large parking lot between the school entrance and the playstead that makes it difficult for pedestrians to reach the Greenway (3A). The main school entrances are on the northwest facade of the building along a wide road with designated lanes for bus and thru traffic (3B). This road has marked crosswalks for pedestrians, but the crosswalks lead to a narrow sidewalk adjacent to parking spaces without another pedestrian path to follow (3C). Rather than crossing over to the



Daisy Street Toward Broadway (2E)



Daisy Street Toward Greenway (2F)



Daisy Street and Holly Intersection (2G)



Daisy Street Sidewalk (2H)



Central Catholic High School Parking Lot (3A)



Central Catholic bus lanes and sidewalk (3B)



Central Catholic Crosswalk (3C)

parking lot, pedestrians can head northeast along the sidewalk of County Street toward Hampshire Street where the parking lot becomes narrower and the Greenway path merges into Marion Avenue (3D).

Existing Conditions around Central Catholic

The parking lot presents a large obstacle for pedestrians. On the western side of the parking lot the pedestrian entrance lacks a marked crosswalk to connect to the other side of Holly Street (3E). Holly Street also has a portion of the sidewalk that is missing and other portions that are damaged (3F). The northern side of the parking lot that abuts Williams Kennedy Playstead does not provide an adequate transition to the park; the paved parking lot simply meets the grass without a barrier between cars and open space (3G). The sidewalks along County Street in front of the school are in good condition, and the fencing around the parking lot is new. Steeply sloped Fairmont Street on the school’s southwestern side is likely used for school buses and car traffic, making it inappropriate for pedestrians to use as an access point to the school.

The southeast facade of the school faces Auburn Street and is also surrounded by a parking lot. On this side the sidewalk is newly paved and the streetscape is appropriate for pedestrians (3H). Pedestrians can access the Greenway from Auburn Street by walking north on Hampshire Street.

Recommendations

1. Create a better transition from the parking lot to William Kennedy Playstead
2. Create sidewalks or a designated path for students to cross the parking lot
3. Install a marked crosswalk on Holly Street

4. Mary Immaculate Senior Services

Best Route to the Greenway

The best route to the Greenway from Mary Immaculate is via Lawrence Street. The property abuts the south side of the Greenway, but the fencing and restricted access seem appropriate for the senior services center (4A). Heading north on Lawrence Street leads directly to the Greenway. The western side of Mary Immaculate also opens onto Bennington Street, and the Greenway



Central Catholic toward Hampshire Street (3D)



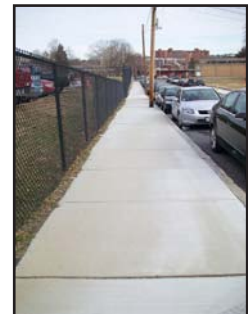
No Crosswalk on Holly Street (3E)



No sidewalk on Holly Street (3F)



Central Catholic Parking Lot (3G)



Central Catholic on Auburn Street (3H)



Mary Immaculate Greenway Border (4A)



Mary Immaculate on Bennington Street (4B)

can be accessed by walking north (4B).

Existing Conditions around Mary Immaculate

The property is fenced off to the north, creating a barrier to the Greenway but also a necessary safety precaution. The Bennington Street side of the building has the necessary sidewalks for pedestrians. The fencing around the property at Bennington Street and Marion Avenue, however, is in bad repair (4C). Furthermore, the intersection of Bennington Street and Erving Avenue on the other side of the Greenway does not have marked crosswalks (4D).

The side of Mary Immaculate that leads to Lawrence Street is surrounded first by a parking lot that does not include a dedicated path for pedestrians. While this side of the building is an important access point to the Greenway, the parking lot presents an obstacle for pedestrians (4E).

Recommendations

1. Keep the fencing but improve and repair it
2. Create the necessary pedestrian access to Lawrence Street
3. Install a marked crosswalk at the intersection of Bennington Street and Erving Avenue

5. Leahy Elementary School

Best Route to the Greenway

The best route to the Greenway is through the front school yard on Erving Avenue (5A). The side entrances on Bruce and Trinity Streets also lead to Erving Avenue and the Greenway (5B).

Existing Conditions around Leahy

The school is easily accessible to the Greenway and the sidewalks around the small campus are all newly paved. However, the front school yard is surrounded by a barrier of parked cars which make the Greenway accessible only through the front gate (5C). The parking lot also makes it dangerous for students to cross the road when cars are pulling out. Furthermore, there are no marked crosswalks along Erving Avenue (5D). There is a School Crossing sign, but otherwise, there are no designated safe ways to cross the street and access the Greenway.



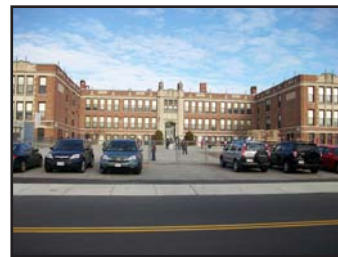
Mary Immaculate Fencing (4C)



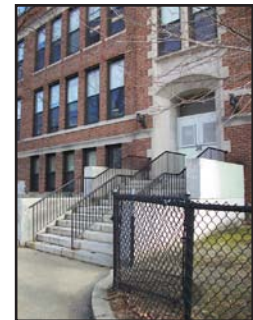
Erving and Bennington Intersection (4D)



Mary Immaculate from Lawrence Street (4E)



Leahy Elementary School (5A)



Leahy School Side Entrance (5B)



Leahy School Parking Barrier (5C)



No Crosswalks on Erving Avenue (5D)

Recommendations

1. Install designated crosswalks or other traffic signals to allow students to access the Greenway across Erving Avenue.
2. Enhance the pedestrian environment around the school yard

6. Lawrence Main Public Library

Best Route to the Greenway

There are several routes to access the Greenway from the main Public Library (6A). The most direct route is to head north along Lawrence Street until it intersects with the Greenway. There are also a couple more scenic options to the Greenway. One scenic route would be to head north on Lawrence, take a right on Oak St., cut through O'Neill Park or continue and take a left on Short Street to the Greenway. Another option on a quieter path would be to head east on Haverhill and take a left on Cardillo Way. This turns into Short Street which leads directly to the Greenway.

Existing Conditions around Lawrence Library

The crosswalks along Haverhill and Lawrence St. are clearly marked and defined with functioning crossing lights. The sidewalks are in fairly good condition with reasonable access for all pedestrians (6B).

Oliver Elementary is located on Lawrence Street, a main arterial street (7A). During lunch hour there are crossing guards to assist elementary students crossing Lawrence Street (7B). The library also sits kitty corner to the Campagnone Commons.

Recommendations

- 1.) If it is possible to exit the library through a back entrance directly onto Oak St., we recommend creating a clear connection to O'Neill Park
- 2.) Wayfinding could be further facilitated with signage to and from the Greenway along Oak St. and in O'Neill Park

7. Oliver Elementary School

Best Route to the Greenway

Since it is located directly across the street from the main public library (6A), the suggested routes are virtually identical. [See Best Routes in Law-



Lawrence Public Library (6A)



Sidewalk outside Lawrence Public Library (6B)



Library u-drive drop off and drive way along Lawrence Street (6C)



Oliver School (7A)

rence Public Library.] Another option on a less trafficked path would be to head east on Haverhill and take a left on Cardillo Way which turns into Short Street, leading directly to the Greenway (8C).

Existing Conditions around Oliver

Oliver Elementary is located on Lawrence Street, a main arterial street (7A). During lunch hour there are crossing guards to assist elementary students crossing Lawrence Street (7B). Additionally, the crosswalks along Haverhill and Lawrence St. are clearly marked and defined with functioning crossing lights (7C). The sidewalks appear to be in reasonable condition with decent access for pedestrians (7C).

Oliver Elementary sits directly opposite the Lawrence Public Library and kitty corner to the Campagnone Commons.

Recommendations

1.) Continue having a crossing guard on Lawrence Street. At this time we do not know whether or not the crossing guards are also there at the start and end of each school day. As the students are young and Lawrence Street busy, the crossing guard is a critical component of good, pedestrian safety in this area.

8. Campagnone Commons

Best Route to the Greenway

The most direct route is to cut through the Campagnone Commons. All paths eventually lead to the center of the Commons, from which pedestrians can head directly north towards Haverhill Street (8A, 8B, 8C). Once heading up the center of the park towards Haverhill, cross Haverhill at the crosswalk and continue straight through Cardillo Way. This becomes Short Street which leads directly to the Greenway.

Staying on official roads, one would head north on Lawrence, take a right on Oak Street and a left on Short Street to the Greenway. Or simply head north along Lawrence Street until it intersects with the Greenway.

Existing Conditions around the Commons

The Commons runs along beautiful historic downtown Lawrence. The streets that form the pe-



Lawrence St Crossing Guard outside Oliver Elementary (7B)



Oliver school at Haverhill and Lawrence Street intersection (7C)



Crosswalk linking Cardillo Way to Commons via Haverhill Street (8B)



Footpaths in the Commons (8A)

rimeter of the park (Common St., Lawrence St., Haverhill St., Jackson St.) have sidewalks that are in reasonable condition with decent access. While there are some areas that need attention due to crumbling and cracked surfaces, overall the condition is ok (8D, 8E). More importantly sidewalks are wide, encouraging high pedestrian use. At each corner of the park there are traffic signals which host functioning crossing lights. The crosswalks on the corners of Common Street and Lawrence Street, and Haverhill and Jackson Street could use a new paint job.

Inside the park, the Commons pathway system is varied with some repaired areas and some patches that need a little attention (8E).

Recommendations

1.) Institutionalize Cardillo Way which connects Haverhill and Short Street. At this time it is an undefined alleyway/driveway. Make this an official pedestrian path with clear signage. If residents along the alleyway have concerns, close it when the park officially closes too as there is already a gate along this alleyway/driveway that can be locked.

2.) Create signage along and inside the Commons that assists with Greenway wayfinding

3.) On the park-side of Common Street there is a dilapidated street light that looks endanger of toppling over. It needs to be removed. (8F)

9. Leonard Elementary School

Best Route to the Greenway

Leonard Elementary is situated directly along the Greenway on Allen Street (9A).

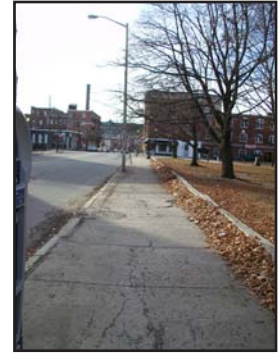
Existing Conditions around Leonard

Leonard Elementary sits on the corner of General and Allen Streets. General is a main road with Allen Street as a quieter side street. The school is buffered by the parking lot which lines the school along General St. and the main entrance on Allen Street (9B).

The sidewalks on Allen Street are in complete disrepair, with uneven and cracked surfaces and some areas lacking curbs (9C, 9D, 9E). Where Al-



Cardillo Way: the alley way linking to Short Street and the Commons via Haverhill Street (8C)



Sidewalk along east-side of Campagnone Commons (8D)



Footpaths in Commons from northeast corner (8E)



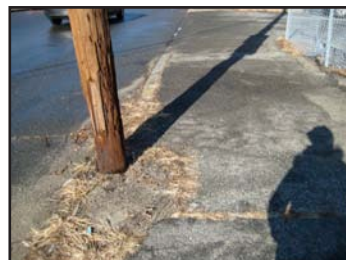
Damaged streetlight (8F)



Leonard Elementary School (9A)



Leonard School Parking Lot bordering Union Street and General St (9B)



Cracked Sidewalk, missing curb on Allen Street (9C)



Corner on General and Allen Street with faint crosswalk (9D)

len and General Street intersect, the crosswalks are faded and the curbs non-existent. This area is not accessible for the disabled and is not safe for young students.

Walking down Allen Street (away from General), it becomes a quiet road with a recreational student park right next to Leonard Elementary (9F). The Spicket River runs directly behind the school and the park (10F).



Leveled curb along Allen St (9E)



Park next to Leonard School (9F)

Recommendations

- 1.) Redefine curb and sidewalk on Allen Street, especially at the intersection of Allen and General St.
- 2.) Repaint crosswalks
- 3.) Place neon pedestrian crossing signs, School Zone signage at the General and Allen Street intersections
- 4.) Place neon pedestrian crossing signage in the middle of crosswalk on General Street

10. Lawrence General Hospital

Best Route to the Greenway

The Greenway runs along General Street directly in front of Lawrence General Hospital (LGH) . The LGH's main entrance is on General Street (10A). While the path is still under construction, the Greenway will cross General Street directly in front of LGH to enter through the former Oxford Paper Mill area (10B, 10C).



Lawrence General Hospital (10A)



General Street sidewalk (and Greenway) leading to LGH (10B)

Existing Conditions around Lawrence General Hospital

The sidewalk along General Street is cracked and broken, especially on the LGH side of street (10B). It's not unmanageable or inaccessible, but for wheelchair access or elderly it could be dangerous. There are crosswalks between LGH and the Oxford Paper Mill parking area, but they should be repainted (10C).



Crosswalk along General St to LGH from parking lot (10C)



Parking lot connecting upcoming Greenway entrance to Oxford Paper Mill Park (10D)

There is a recreational trail on the hillside along Prospect Street, just above LGH.

Recommendations

- 1.) Once the Greenway approaches the Oxford Paper Mill Park area, create a defined path through the parking lot and/or signage for the back entrance to the Oxford Park area.



Soon-to-be back entrance to Oxford Paper Mill Park along Greenway (10E)



Spicket along General Street with Leonard Elementary on left side of photo (10F)

2.) The crosswalk to LGH and the parking lot next to the Oxford Paper Mill (Park) needs to be repainted and reinforced.

3.) The Greenway might consider staying on the LGH side of the street as cars will be coming in and out of the large parking lot on the opposite side and could pose pedestrian problems

11. Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

Best Route to the Greenway

The Greater Lawrence Family Health Center lies tucked away on the far east side of Haverhill Street, just under Prospect Street (11A). As the Greenway runs along Union Street, intersecting Haverhill Street, the most efficient route would be to continue along Haverhill (1-2 blocks) until it meets with the Greenway.

Existing Conditions around Health Center

The Greater Lawrence Family Health Center sits in a quasi-residential area, directly next to the Spicket River. The sidewalks along Haverhill Street-- from the intersection of Prospect St. to Union-- are in disrepair. The sidewalks are cracked, broken and water logged, especially along the bridge crossing the Spicket (11B). The disabled and elderly would have a difficult time using this sidewalk. From the Health Center to Prospect St., Haverhill runs up a very steep hill. The sidewalk is especially bad here (11C).

While one must drive along Haverhill and up to Prospect Street to get to the LGH, there is a small pedestrian path at the back of the Health Center's parking lot that connects the two institutions (11D).

Recommendations

- 1.) Fix the sidewalks so all people can access and use them
- 2.) Publicize the walkway connecting the Health Center to the LGH with better signage
- 3.) Include this site as a Point of Interest on the Walking Map



Family Health Center (Haverhill, 11A)



Sidewalk on Haverhill near Center (11B)



Sidewalk on Haverhill near Health Clinic (11C)



Pedestrian walkway linking LGH with Haverhill Health Clinic (11D)

12. Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (Lawrence Street)

Best Route to the Greenway

The best route to the Greenway is down Lawrence Street which is more populated and busy than the alternative Saratoga Street. Lawrence Street eventually meets Hayden Schofield Playstead and leads directly to the Greenway.



Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (12A)

Existing Conditions around Health Center

The Health Center has a parking lot and a sidewalk that leads around the building to the entrance. The sidewalk and pavement are in good condition. However, the intersections around the Health Center and along Lawrence Street lack marked crosswalks (12A).

Recommendations

- 1) Include this location as a Point of Interest on the walking map
- 2) Install marked crosswalks at the intersections around the Health Center

13. Adult Learning Center

Best Route to the Greenway

The Adult Learning Center is in the old Oliver School building, across Haverhill Street from the Campagnone Common. As the Adult Learning Center sits a mere half block east of the Lawrence Public Library, the recommended routes are pretty much the same. [See Lawrence Public Library.] However, the most direct route is to head east along Haverhill Street, make a left on Cardillo Way and continue along Short Street until the Greenway.



Adult Learning Center (13A)

Existing Conditions around the Adult Learning Center

The sidewalks are in good condition. [See Lawrence Public Library.]

Recommendations

- 1) Institutionalize Cardillo Way as an official pedestrian route connecting to the Greenway. [See Commons Recommendation, 1]
- 2) Include this site as a Point of Interest on the map

Overall Suggestions

- 1.) To assist with “wayfinding,” especially through the busier commercial areas, we reiterate the need for a painted line that marks the path of the Greenway. Wayfinding signage with points of interest, walking times, and information about the Greenway could also be a valuable resource for users.
- 2.) If research shows people will continue to use the Greenway path system at night, Groundwork Lawrence should add proper lighting facilities.
- 3.) Historical signage along the Greenway might also include directional signage for new or unfamiliar users. This directional signage might lead to Points of Interest, provide street name directions or include a compass showing North for orientation.



Spicket River in winter