

Norton Park Committee: Project Plan

07.09.2020

The Norton Park Committee is recommending a town-wide public forum to present the current park proposal and obtain community feedback, gain community support, and promote fundraising opportunities. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we are currently reviewing our options on the time and format of the meeting, and will present those details at a later date. To facilitate the process and continue moving forward, we present to the Board of Selectmen for approval the latest Park Proposal and Phasing diagrams we intend to use in the presentation. These materials may also appear in other formats, including press releases and fundraising materials, to be presented at a later time.

Norton Park Proposal Brief

It is proposed that the Norton Park be constructed in two phases.

Phase I of the Norton Park project will include only the construction and park amenities necessary to provide basic functionality and open the park as soon as possible. These include:

- Provide final grading of Parcel 1 (Mill Property) with retaining walls, topsoil and grass seeding.
- Provide capstone for existing mill foundation walls remaining exposed to protect them from damage and weathering
- Provide a temporary gravel parking area
- Improve and grade Paper Mill Road for two way traffic
- Provide temporary or permanent fencing at the river side of the park as fall protection and to protect the riverbank.
- Provide stabilizing native perennial plantings at the riverbank to prevent erosion.
- Provide park identification signage on Rt 149, wayfinding signage on site, and warning signage as necessary.
- Clear the walking loop on Parcel II (northerly house property), river access trail, and provide continued maintenance of seeded areas and trails.
- Provide (1) accessible picnic table and (5) standard picnic tables on Parcel I

Phase II will provide additional functionality and refinement to the park, and provide more park amenities:

- Provide final grading of Parcel II with topsoil and seeding, if required.
- Provide new paved parking lot on Parcel I - Paving to be water permeable to reduce runoff.
- Pave Paper Mill Road from Rt. 149 to the new bridge with standard paving and runoff controls.

- New Norton Park entry signage
- Provide 3 informational signs/kiosks on the topics of:
 - The industrial History of North Westchester
 - The History of the Norton Paper Mill from 1886
 - The restoration of the Jeremy River Waterway and ecological impacts.
- Provide a patio and pavilion structure with historical paper mill artifacts and information. (design TBD)
- New walkways throughout with guardrails as needed
- Clearing of brush and invasive plant species on both Parcels.
- Planting of native ornamental species on Parcel I, including: trees, bushes, and perennial gardens.
- Planting of native perennials to create an educational nature trail, possibly in cooperation with Colchester Garden Club on Parcel II
- Additional clearing of Parcel II for open space activities.
- Bike rack
- Seasonal portable toilets at the parking area, similar to other Colchester recreational facilities.
- Additional picnic areas on Parcel II
- Improvements to walking paths on Parcel II to facilitate wayfinding and trail stabilization, ie: timber stairs at steep grades

Additional work along Rt 149 is proposed to link the nearest airline trail parking lot to the park via sidewalk extensions, crosswalk striping and signage. (Not shown on the diagrams)
This work may be completed as state permits and funding is obtained.

Please review the attached diagrams for approval as noted above.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patrick Reading

Norton Town Committee

July 9, 2020