



Middlebury
Bridge & Rail Project

Public Space Landscape Design Workshop

December 5, 2018



Middlebury Bridge and Rail Project

- Reconstruction of Main Street and Merchants Row Bridges
- Reconstruction of Railroad Corridor
- Village Green Park
- Reconstruction of Printer's Alley – Creation of Lazarus Park

Landscape Design Influences





Key Drivers of Landscape Design

- Allowable by Environmental Regulations/Permitting
- Incorporation of Public Input
- Incorporation of Town Government Input



Environmental Regulations

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969
 - Assessment of social, economic, and environmental impacts of a proposed action or project
- US Department of Transportation Act of 1966 - Section 4(f)
 - Prohibits use of public lands for transportation unless there are no feasible and prudent alternatives (includes parks, recreation areas, wildlife and water fowl refuges, or public and private historic properties)
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 – Section 106
 - Protects listed or eligible National Register Historic Places from adverse effects diminishing the integrity of the property



Environmental Regulations

- Section 4(f) – No permanent changes to decrease the size of the park will be allowed – no encroachment of curbs/parking
- Section 106 – No adverse effects to the Village Green Park will be allowed
 - The park must maintain its historic integrity and fit the context of the historic district
 - The fountain must remain in the park on the central axis
 - Provide contextual scale of grassed/green space and hardscape



Landscape Design Process

- Gather Site Information: Spring 2018
- Brainstorming/Ideas: June 2018 Public Meeting
- Develop Design Concepts: June – September 2018
- Public Input: September 2018 Public Meeting
- Refine Design Concepts: September – November 2018
- Selectboard/Planning Commission/Design Advisory Committee Input: November 2018
- Refine Design Concepts: November-December 2018
- ***Public Input: December 2018 Public Meeting***
- Develop Recommended Alternative – December 2018
- Present Recommended Alternative to Selectboard – December 11, 2018

Landscape Design Concepts





KEY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

- Flexibility of use as a public gathering space / plaza
- Connectivity of both parks to the Riverfront Park and Marble Works
- Connectivity to the existing Green
- Inclusion of the historic fountain
- Integration of the Church Memorial Garden concept

VILLAGE GREEN

- Park is graded as a level surface to provide maximum flexibility of use
- Hard surface plaza and large canopy street trees define the streetscape edge of the park, providing spatial enclosure and human scale. The scale of the hardscape plaza will be comfortable when lightly populated while accommodating larger gatherings
- Historic large ashlar stone blocks as seating and tree protection
- Historic fountain as focal point in hardscape plaza
- Large level lawn areas for casual seating and flexibility of use
- Ashlar seating blocks and small flowering trees provide a sense of privacy and enclosure for the Church Memorial Garden area.
- The smaller flowering trees allow views of the stone architecture of St Stephens Church to be the dominant visual element enclosing the park
- Connectivity to the existing Green is provided

PRINTERS ALLEY PARK

- Simple arcing path provides direct connection to Riverside Park and Marble Works area
- Open lawn seating area is defined by ashlar block seating wall. With the wall top held level, it will grow from flush with the lawn to 3 feet tall
- Circular hardscape seating area located at the bottom of the slope and is defined by the ashlar block seating wall
- Large canopy street trees and masses of plant material provide a backdrop for both seating areas
- Visibility into the Park space is provided from Printers Alley

Middlebury Parks Design Concept A



KEY DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

- Flexibility of use as a public gathering space / plaza
- Connectivity of both parks to the Riverfront Park and Marble Works
- Connectivity to the existing Green
- Inclusion of the historic fountain
- Integration of the Church Memorial Garden concept

VILLAGE GREEN

- Hard surface plaza and large canopy street trees define the streetscape edge of the park, providing spatial enclosure and human scale
- Historic large ashlar stone blocks as seating and tree protection
- Historic fountain is centered in a large hardscape plaza area. The scale of this hardscape area may not be as comfortable to use when lightly populated.
- Large level lawn areas for casual seating and flexibility of use
- Ashlar seating blocks and small flowering trees provide a sense of privacy and enclosure for the Church Memorial Garden area.
- The smaller flowering trees allow views of the stone architecture of St Stephens Church to be the dominant visual element enclosing the park
- Connectivity to the existing Green is provided

PRINTERS ALLEY PARK

- Simple arcing path provides direct connection to Riverside Park and Marble Works area
- One circular hardscape seating area is provided at the bottom of the slope and is defined by an ashlar block seating wall
- Large canopy street trees and masses of plant material provide a backdrop for the seating area
- Visibility into the Park space is provided from Printers Alley

Middlebury Parks Design Concept B



Landscape Design: Working Draft





Main Themes for Working Draft

- Increase hardscape in Village Green
- Increase flowers and plantings in Village Green
- Include pedestrian bump-outs at crosswalks
- Eliminate grassed areas in Lazarus Park
- ADA accessibility through Lazarus Park



Middlebury Parks Working Draft