

BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

Climate Adaptation Plan for Downtown Fitchburg

COMMUNITY MEETING

JUNE 5, 2025



FEMA

**FUSS &
O'NEILL**

PROJECT TEAM & PARTNERS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nick Erickson, PE	Commissioner of Public Works and City Engineer
Liz Murphy	Executive Director of Community Development & Planning
Roy Nascimento	President & CEO, Chamber of Commerce
Travis Condon	Public Affairs Manager, Chamber of Commerce
Amy LeBlanc	Senior Project Manager, Community Development
Herlin Jaime	Conservation Agent, Conservation Commission
Amanda Koeck	Executive Director, Council on Aging
Jessie Olson	Executive Director, Fitchburg Cultural Alliance
Kim Gordon	Business Owner, Fitchburg Public Market
Matthew Bruun	Executive Director of Communications & Public Affairs, Fitchburg State University
Tina Ramirez	Business Owner, Lavish Beauty Lounge
Bruno Fisher	Administrator/CEO, MART
Scott Rich	Assistant Administrator, MART
Francisco Ramos	Director of Community Organizing, NewVue Communities
James Bunnell	Recreation Director, Parks & Recreation
Meagen Donoghue	Executive Director, Redevelopment Authority
Ryan Hennrikus	Sr. Land & Climate Associate, Nashua River Watershed Association

PROJECT TEAM

Lara Sup, PE	Senior Project Manager, Senior Resilience Engineer
Leah Cromer, EIT	Water Resources Engineer
Chelsea Zakas, AICP, NCI	Environmental Planner
Ian Concannon	Environmental Planner
Andy Bohne, RLA	Associate, Senior Project Manager
Emily Wright, RLA	Senior Project Manager
Camilla Novo	Landscape Designer
Allyson Fairweather	Landscape Designer

AGENDA

TEAM PRESENTATION (15-20 minutes)

- Why is Climate Resilience Important in Fitchburg?
- Project goals & next steps
- Climate risk assessment
- Community feedback
- Climate adaptation toolkit
- Focus area design concepts

GALLERY (60 minutes)

SUMMARY (10 MINUTES)

WHY IS CLIMATE RESILIENCE IMPORTANT IN FITCHBURG?

FLOODING

- Extreme precipitation across the Northeast has increased by 60% and is expected to increase in the future (NOAA)
- Urban areas with extensive impervious surfaces and areas near rivers with dams are most susceptible to flooding (NOAA)

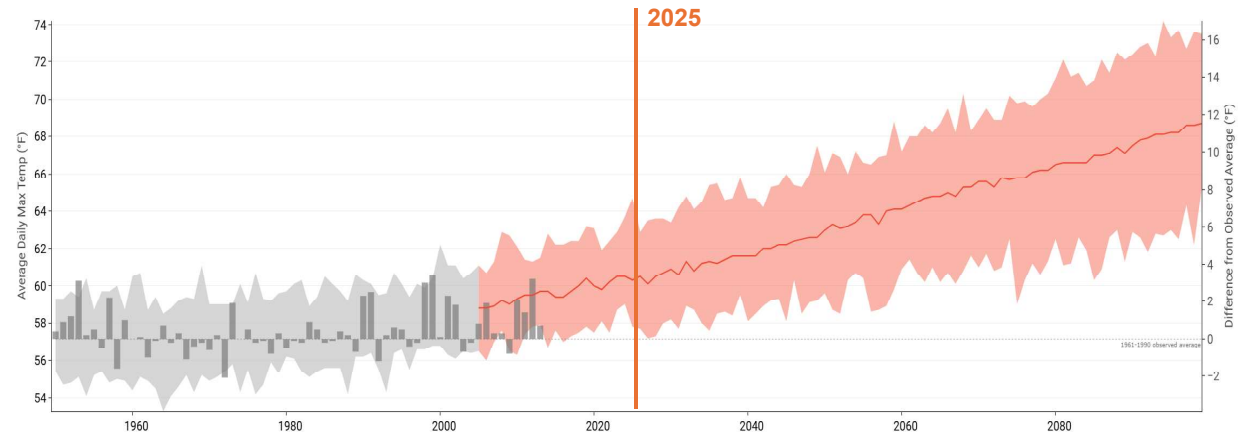


FITCHBURG, MA (WCVB/CHRIS GAUTHIER)

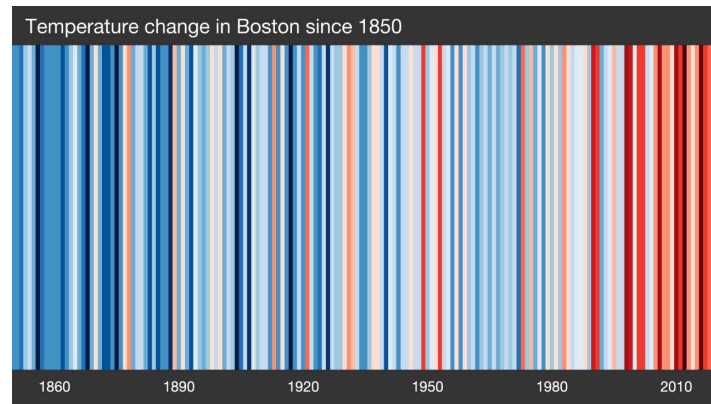
WHY IS CLIMATE RESILIENCE IMPORTANT IN FITCHBURG?

HEAT

- Heat waves are expected to increase in intensity and occur more frequently
- The annual number of days over 90 degrees is expected to increase.
- Increased heat contributes to health problems and decreases air quality.



Number of Days Exceeding 90 Deg F Annually (Worcester County)



GOALS & NEXT STEPS

WE ARE HERE!

2024				2025					
Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June



LATE JUNE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

LATE SUMMER
FINAL REPORT

- What does future flooding look like in Fitchburg?
- How can proposed design changes help to alleviate flooding and extreme heat?
- Nature based solutions to adapt to flooding and heat
- Policy solutions to shape future development and maintenance
- Recommendations for adaptation at 3 locations in Downtown

A blue-tinted photograph of a city park. In the foreground, a stream flows over a bed of large, dark rocks. The banks are covered in dense, low-lying vegetation. In the background, several multi-story buildings are visible, including one with a prominent spire. To the right, there is a paved area with benches and trees. A faint rainbow is visible in the sky on the right side of the image.

CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT

BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

CONTEXT + PROJECT GOALS

FITCHBURG

PROJECT AREA

NASHUA RIVER

Fitchburg State
University

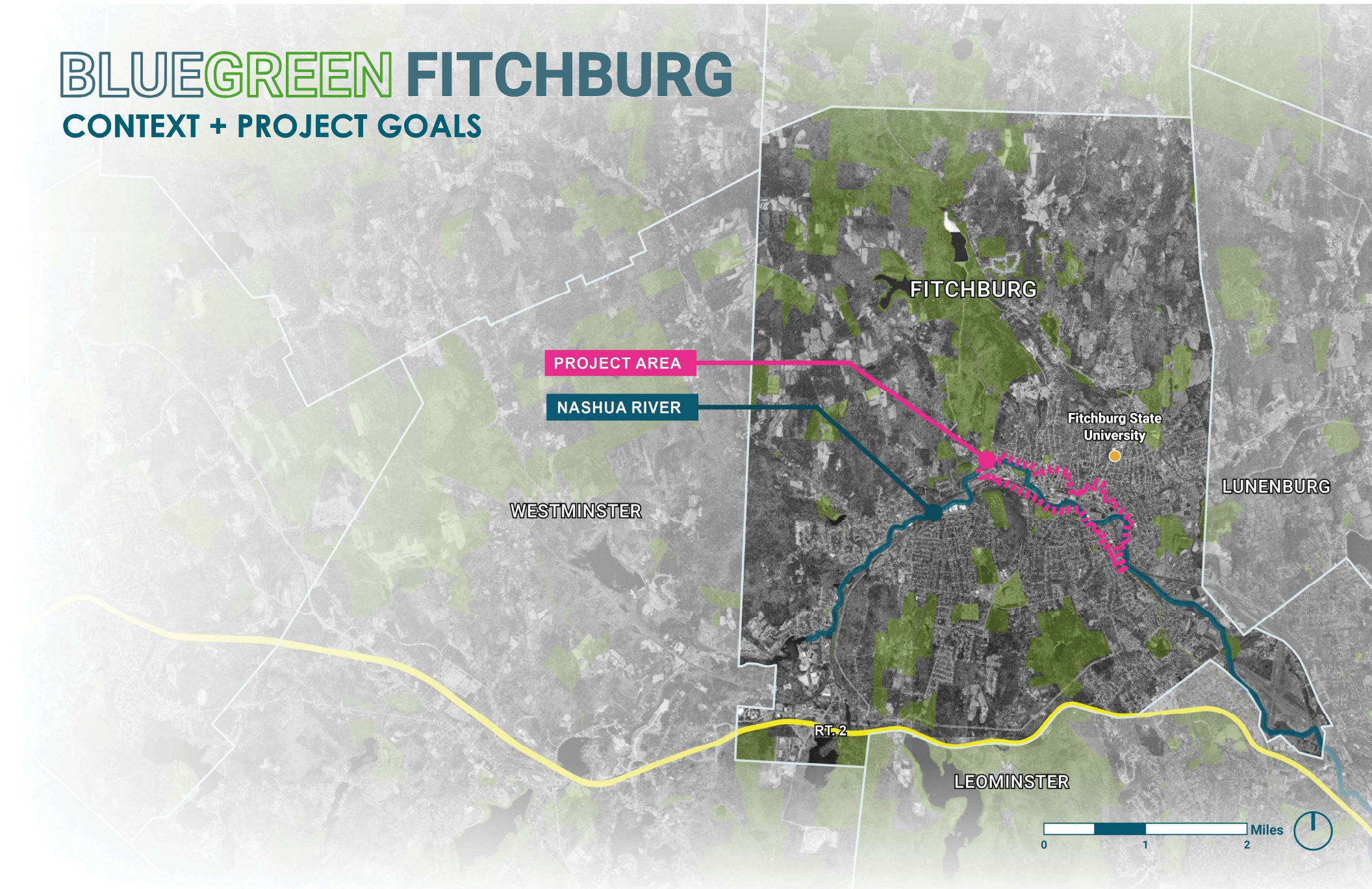
LUNENBURG

WESTMINSTER

RT-2

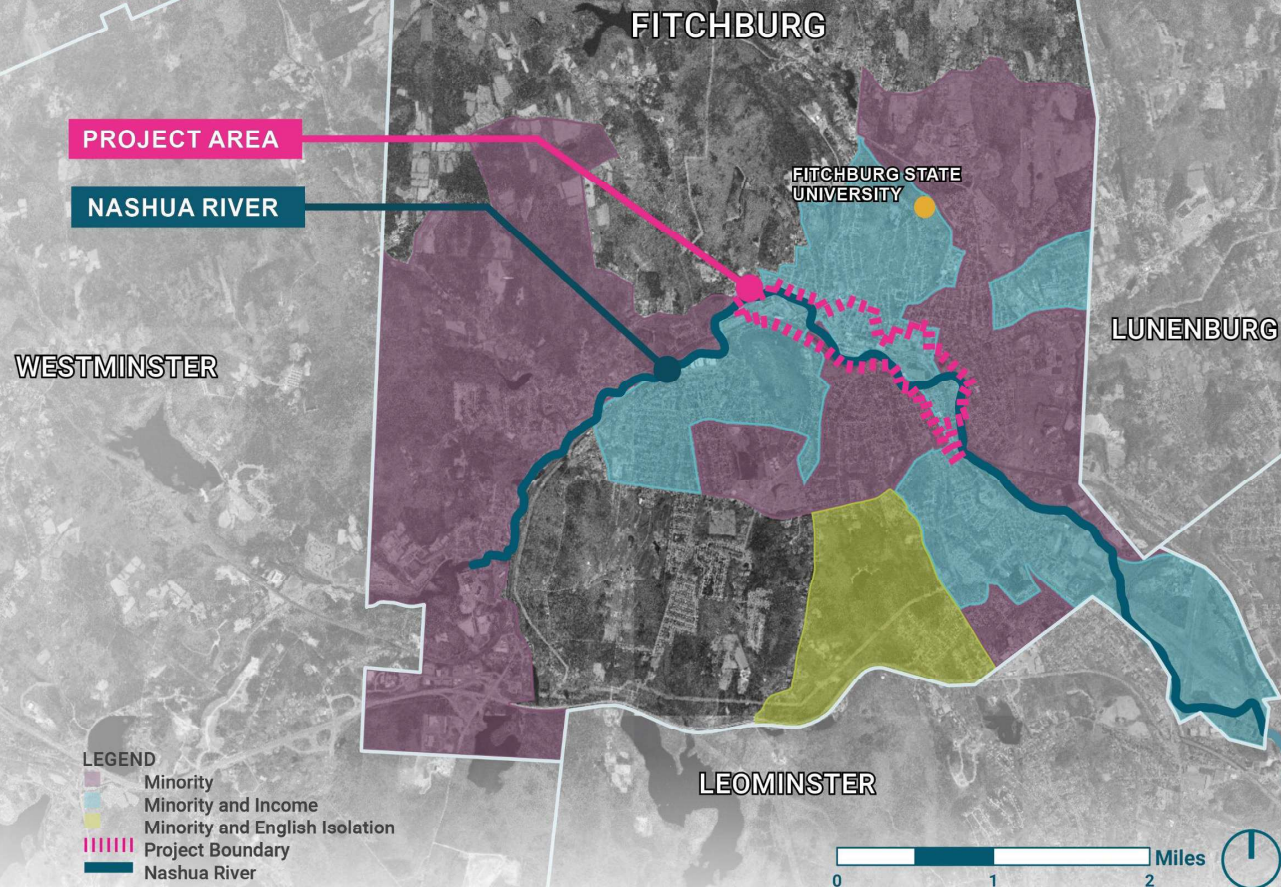
LEOMINSTER

0 1 2 Miles



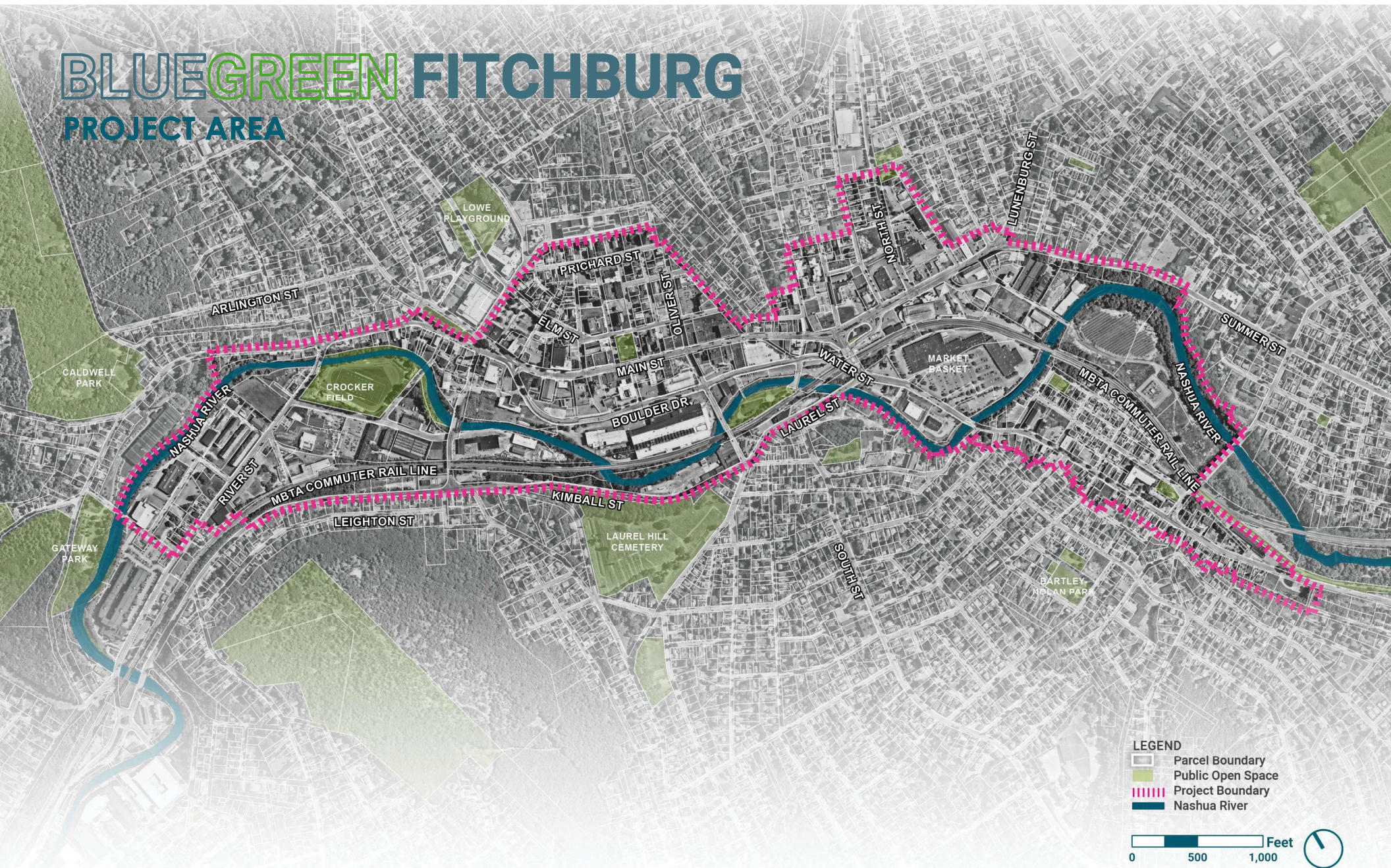
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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREAS



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PROJECT AREA



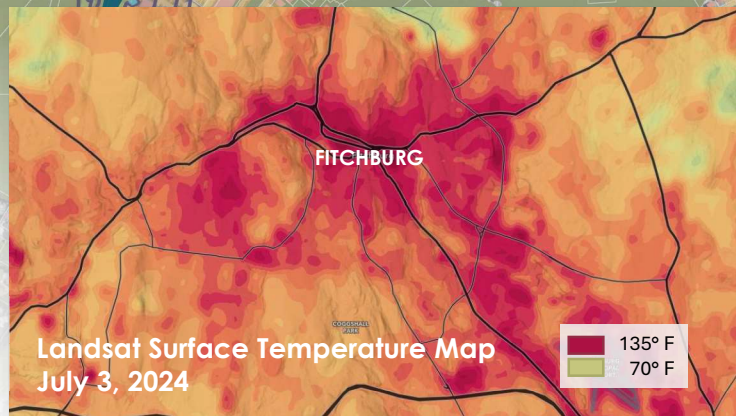
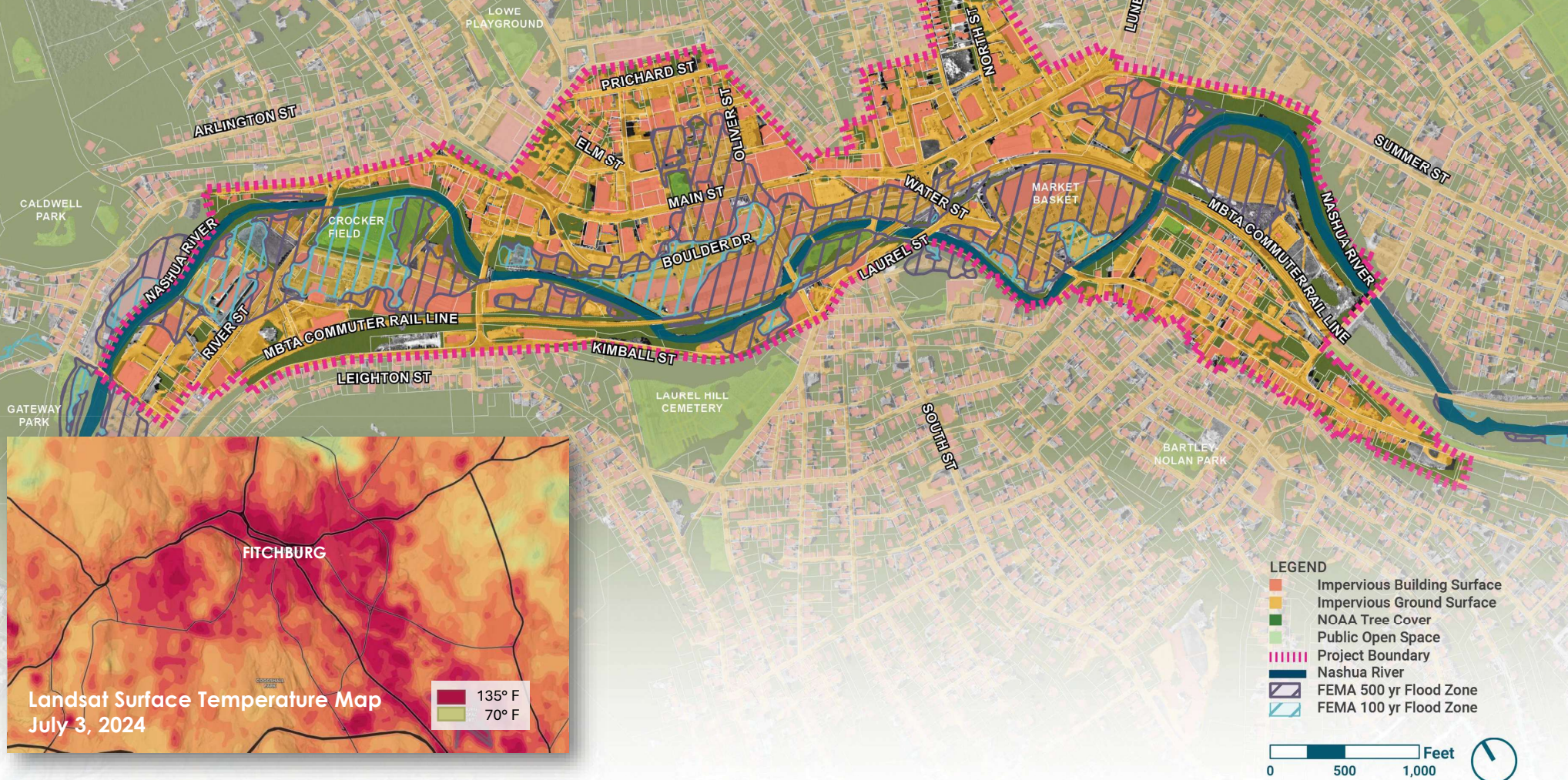
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EXISTING FLOOD RISK



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EXISTING HEAT RISK



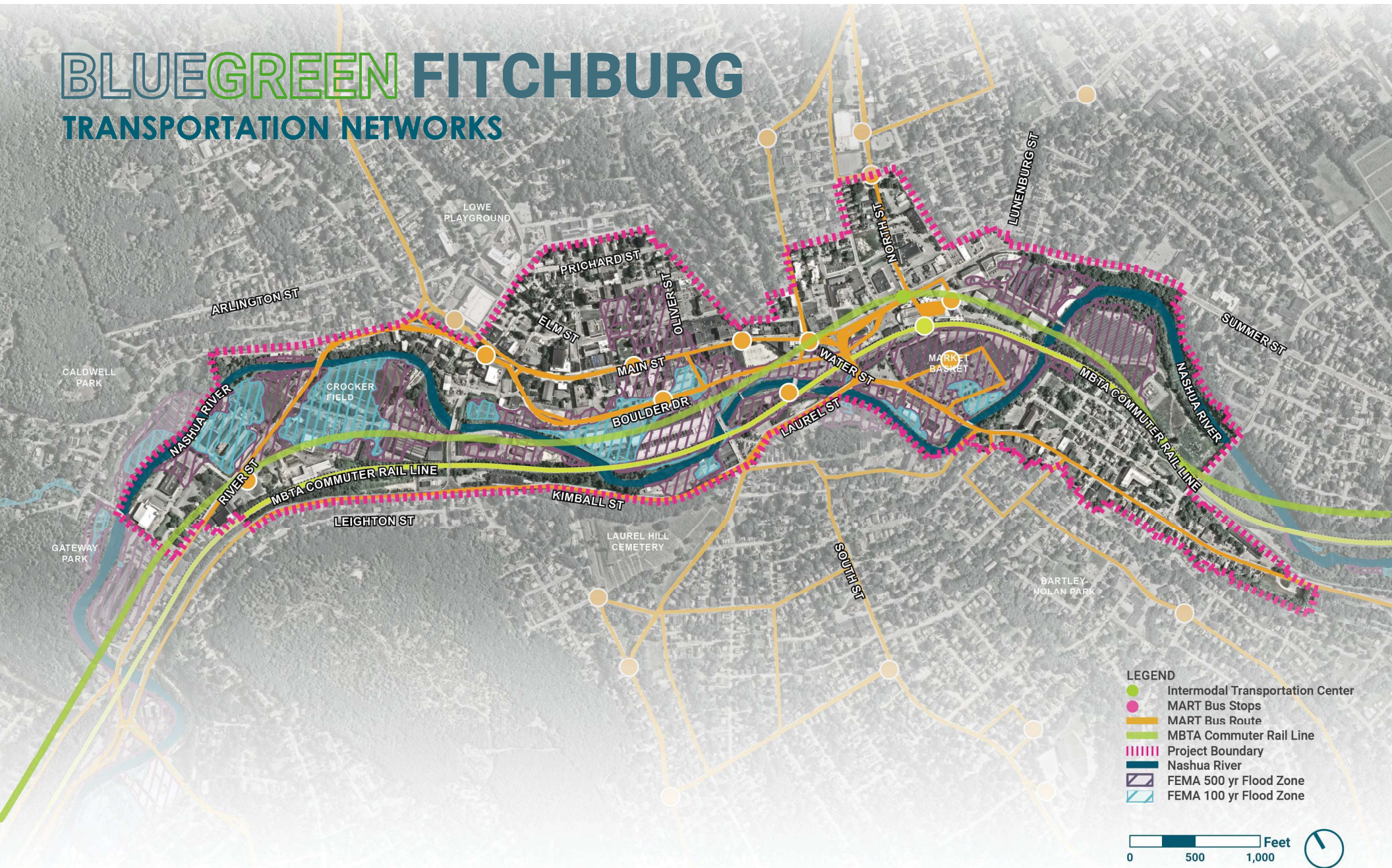
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CRITICAL COMMUNITY ASSETS



BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS



A blue-tinted photograph of a city park. In the foreground, a rocky stream flows through a grassy area. In the background, there are several multi-story buildings, a bridge, and a park with trees and benches. The text "COMMUNITY FEEDBACK" is overlaid in the center.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK UPDATE

BlueGreen Fitchburg - Community Survey

BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

ABOUT YOU | ACERCA DE TI

The ABOUT YOU section is entirely optional. If you are not comfortable sharing this information, please proceed to the next section. The information in this section helps us get a better understanding of who is providing this feedback, your relationship to Fitchburg, and helps us understand some of the critical elements related to potential risks exacerbated by changing

La sección ACERCA DE US con la siguiente sección si información. La información mejor quién proporciona e nos ayuda a comprender a con los riesgos potenciales cambiantes.

Which of the following best describe mejor?

(select all that apply) | (seleccione)

- ☐ Resident | Residente
- ☐ Work in Fitchburg | Trabajo en Fitchburg
- ☐ Own Property in Fitchburg | Propiedad en Fitchburg
- ☐ Other | Otro



BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG DOWNTOWN CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN

Flooding and excessive heat affect more Fitchburg residents every year. Make your voice heard and help shape the future of Fitchburg for the better. Be a part of the Downtown Wide Climate Adaptation Action Plan by participating in the online survey. Scan the QR code to let us know how flooding and excessive heat have impacted you and your family.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
QUEREMOS ESCUCHAR DE USTEDI
QUEREMOS OUVIR VOCE
NOU VLE TANDE'NI

<https://www123.org/survey/2022/04/20/2022-04-20-2022-04-20-2022-04-20>

Las inundaciones y el calor excesivo afectan más residentes de Fitchburg cada año. Haga que su voz se escuche y ayude a transformar y mejorar el futuro de Fitchburg. Sea parte del Plan de Acción para Adaptación Climática de la ciudad de Fitchburg participando en la encuesta en línea. Escanee el código QR y comparta con nosotros como las inundaciones y el calor excesivo le han impactado a usted y a su familia.

As inundações e o calor excessivo afetam cada vez mais os residentes de Fitchburg todos os anos. Faça sua voz ser ouvida e ajude a moldar o futuro de Fitchburg para o melhor. Faça parte do Plano de Ação de Adaptação Climática do Centro da Cidade participando da pesquisa online. Digitalize o código QR para nos informar como as inundações e o calor excessivo afetaram você e sua família.

Inondation ak anpil chate fè efè sou anpil moun ki rete Fitchburg chak ane. Nou vle tanke vwa'w epi ede fòme avni Fitchburg. Fè pati de Plan Aksyon Adaptasyon Klima a nan Downtown nan pa patipase nan sondaj sou entènèt. Skane QR kòd lan pou fè nou konnen koman inondasyon ak anpil chate afekte oumenm ak fanmiw.

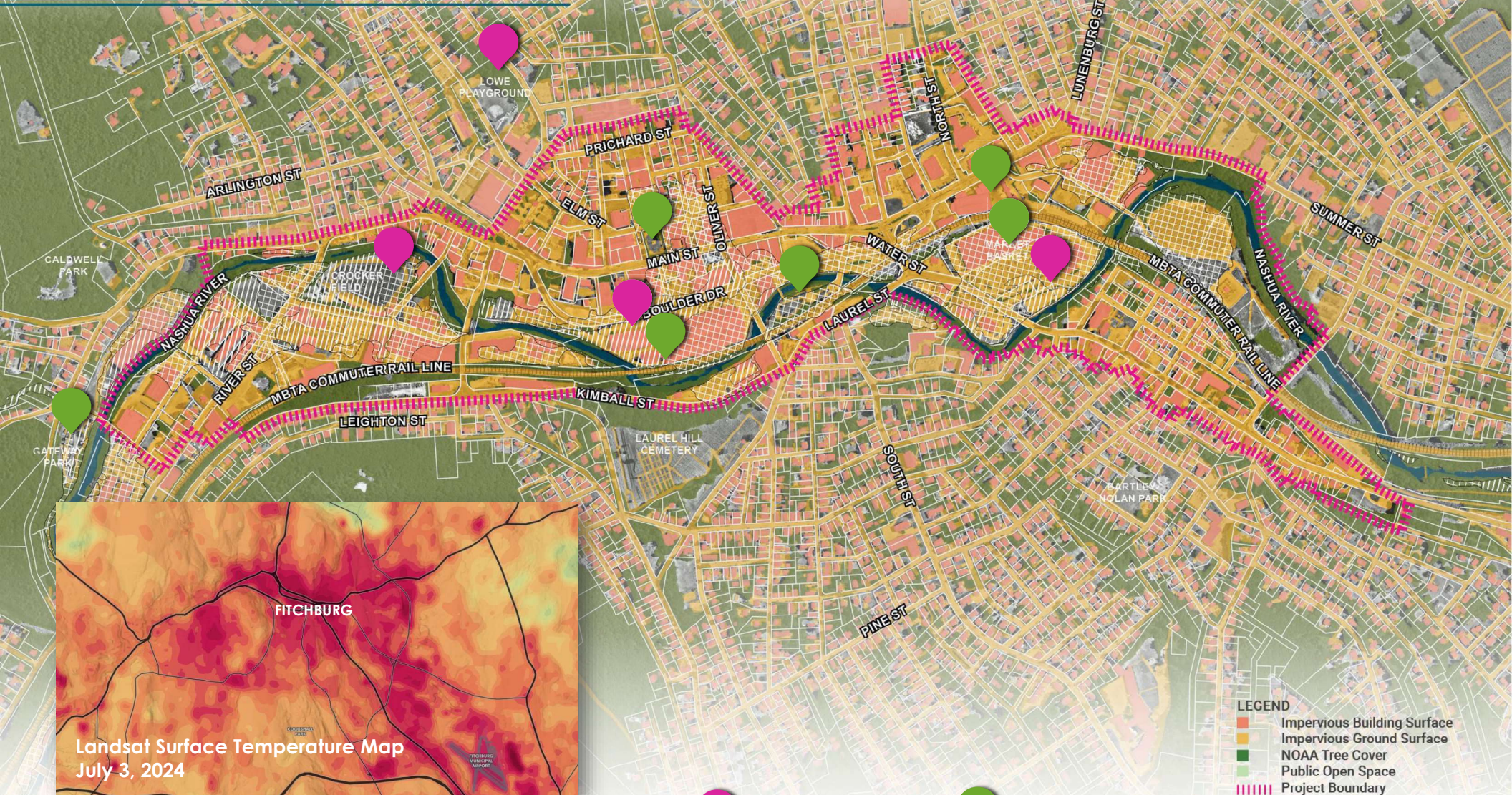


Learn more/Aprenda más:
Visite [www123.org/survey/2022/04/20/2022-04-20-2022-04-20-2022-04-20](https://www123.org/survey/2022/04/20/2022-04-20-2022-04-20)
FITCHBURG.GOV
Contacte nos/Contáctenos:
BLUEGREENFITCHBURG@GMAIL.COM



BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG HEAT RISK

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



Landsat Surface Temperature Map
July 3, 2024



Locations where people
have experienced extreme
heat



Locations where people go
to get relief from heat

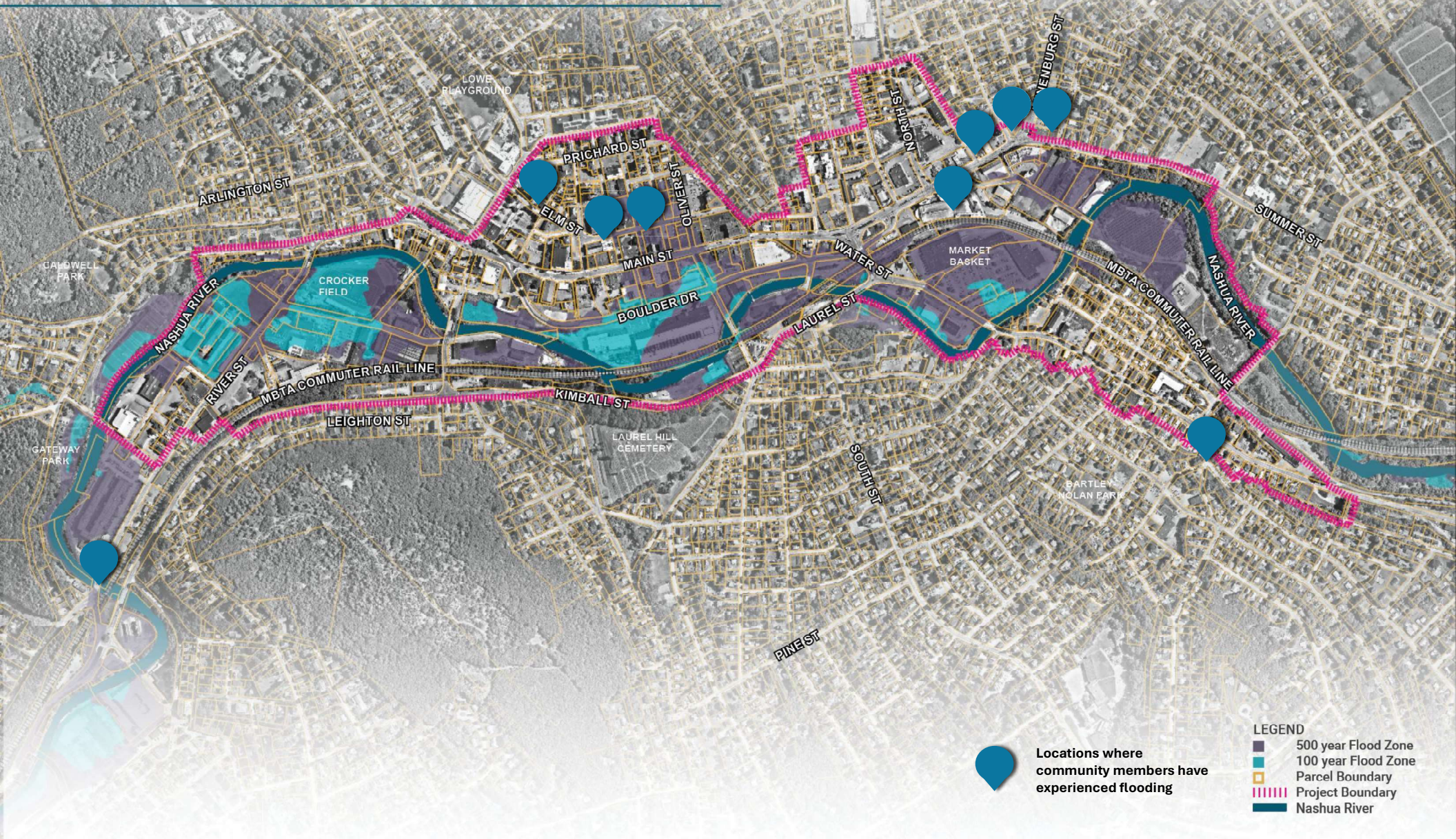
LEGEND

- Impervious Building Surface
- Impervious Ground Surface
- NOAA Tree Cover
- Public Open Space
- Project Boundary
- Nashua River
- FEMA 500 yr Flood Zone
- FEMA 100 yr Flood Zone

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EXISTING FLOOD RISK

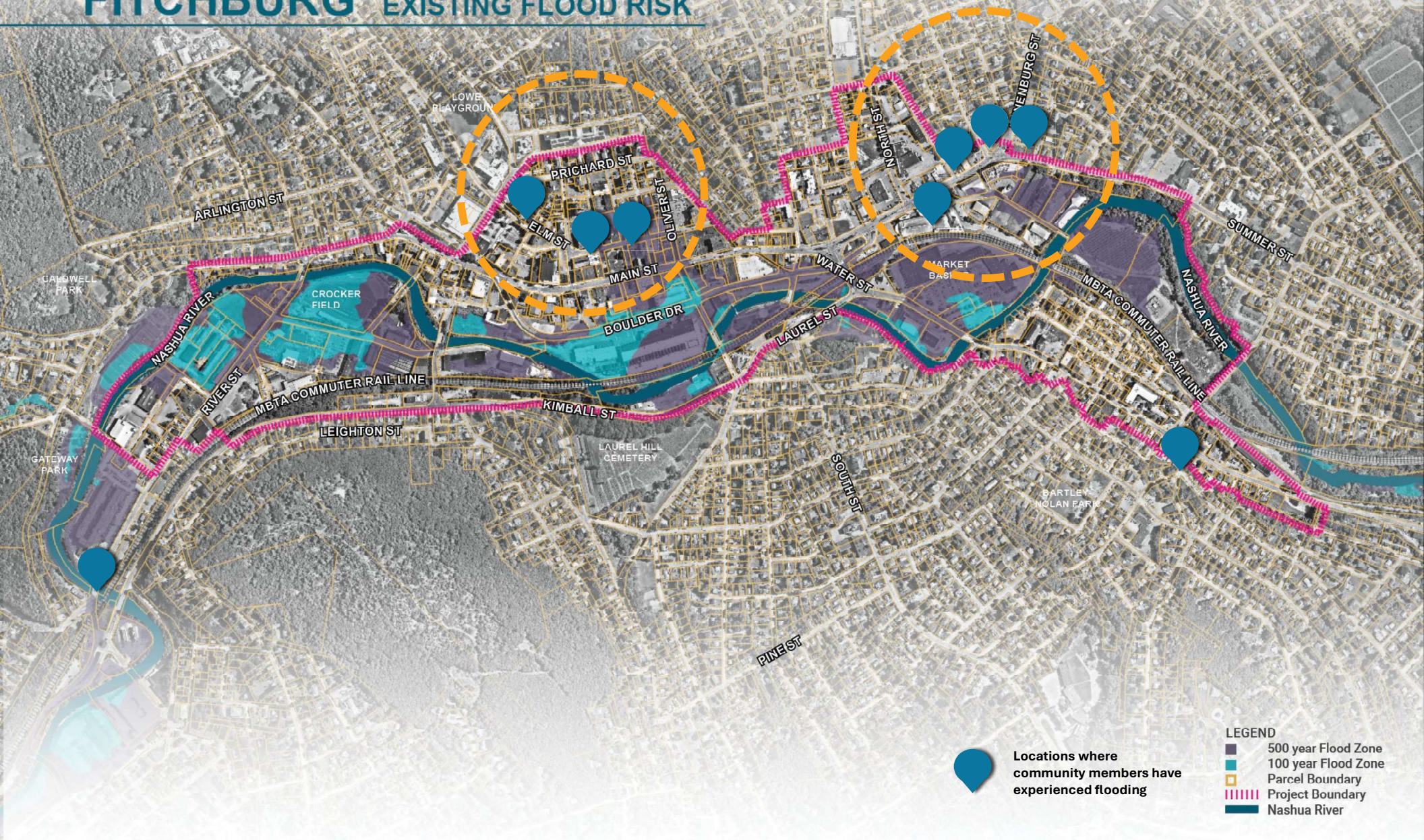
0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG

EXISTING FLOOD RISK

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



A blue-tinted photograph of a city park. In the foreground, a stream flows over a bed of large, dark rocks. The stream is bordered by dense, leafy vegetation on both sides. In the background, several multi-story buildings are visible, including one with a prominent spire. To the right, there is a paved area with benches and trees. A faint rainbow is visible in the sky on the right side of the image.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION TOOLKIT IDEAS

CLIMATE ADAPTATION TOOLKIT

Policy Tools

- Focus development in low risk areas
- Purchase flood zone properties over time
- Grow DPW staff to maintain green infrastructure
- Open space conservation

Zoning Tools

- Create green infrastructure overlay district
- Reducing parking requirements

Green Infrastructure

- Cooling Corridors
- Urban forest
- Bioretention areas
- Permeable pavers
- Streambank restoration and invasive species removal

Structural Tools

- Elevating critical systems
- Green roofs

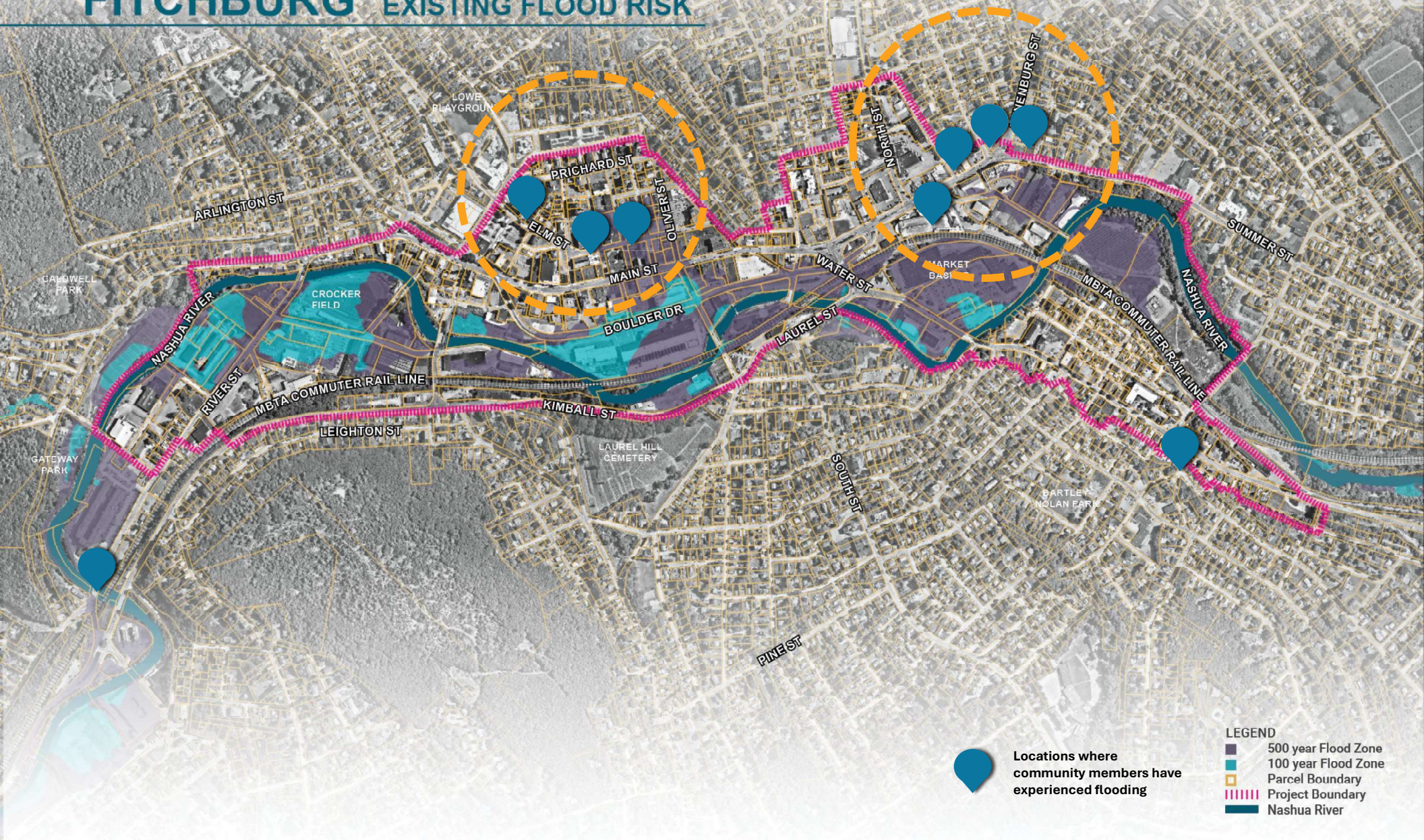


FOCUS AREA DESIGN CONCEPTS

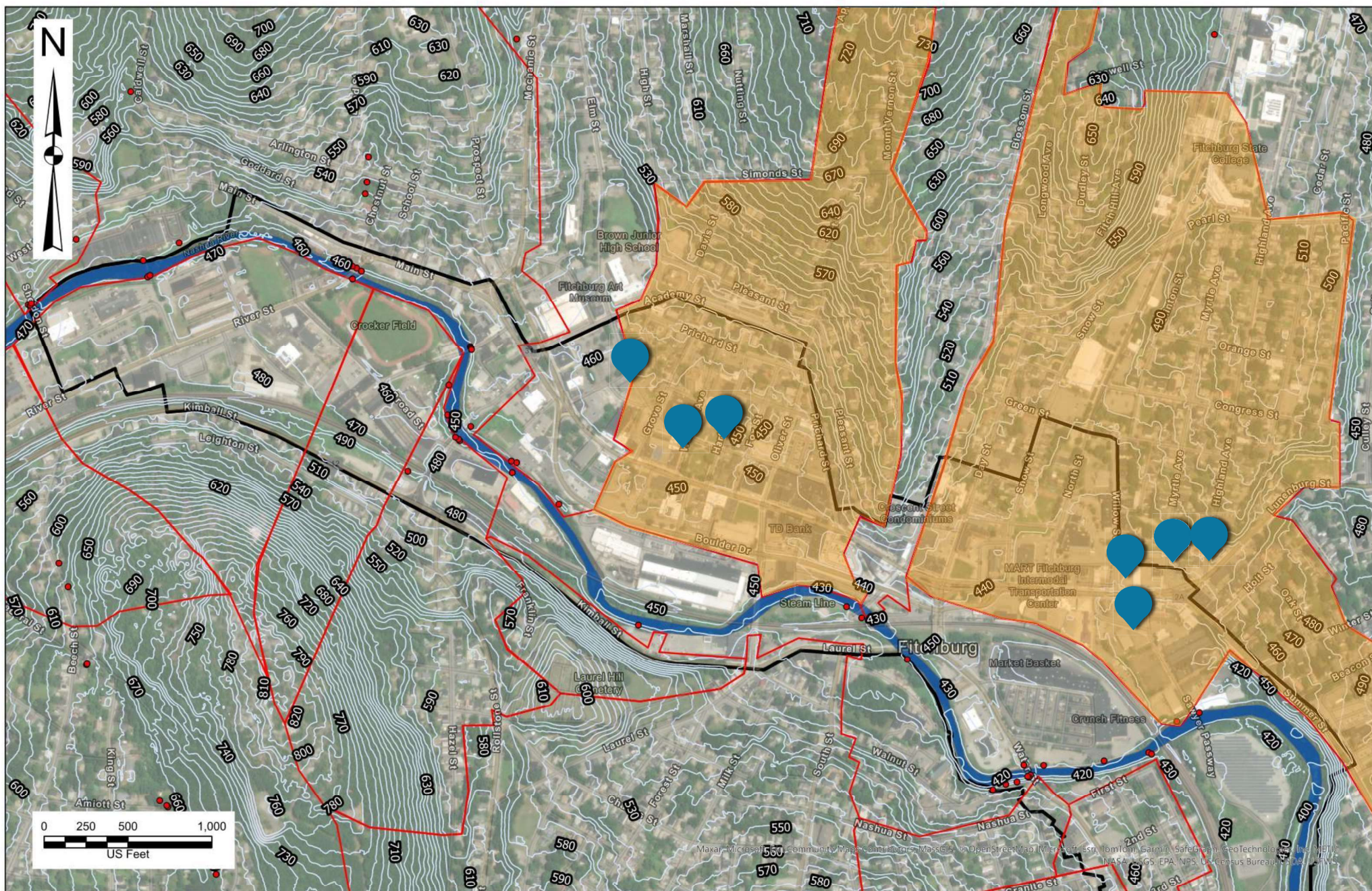
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EXISTING FLOOD RISK

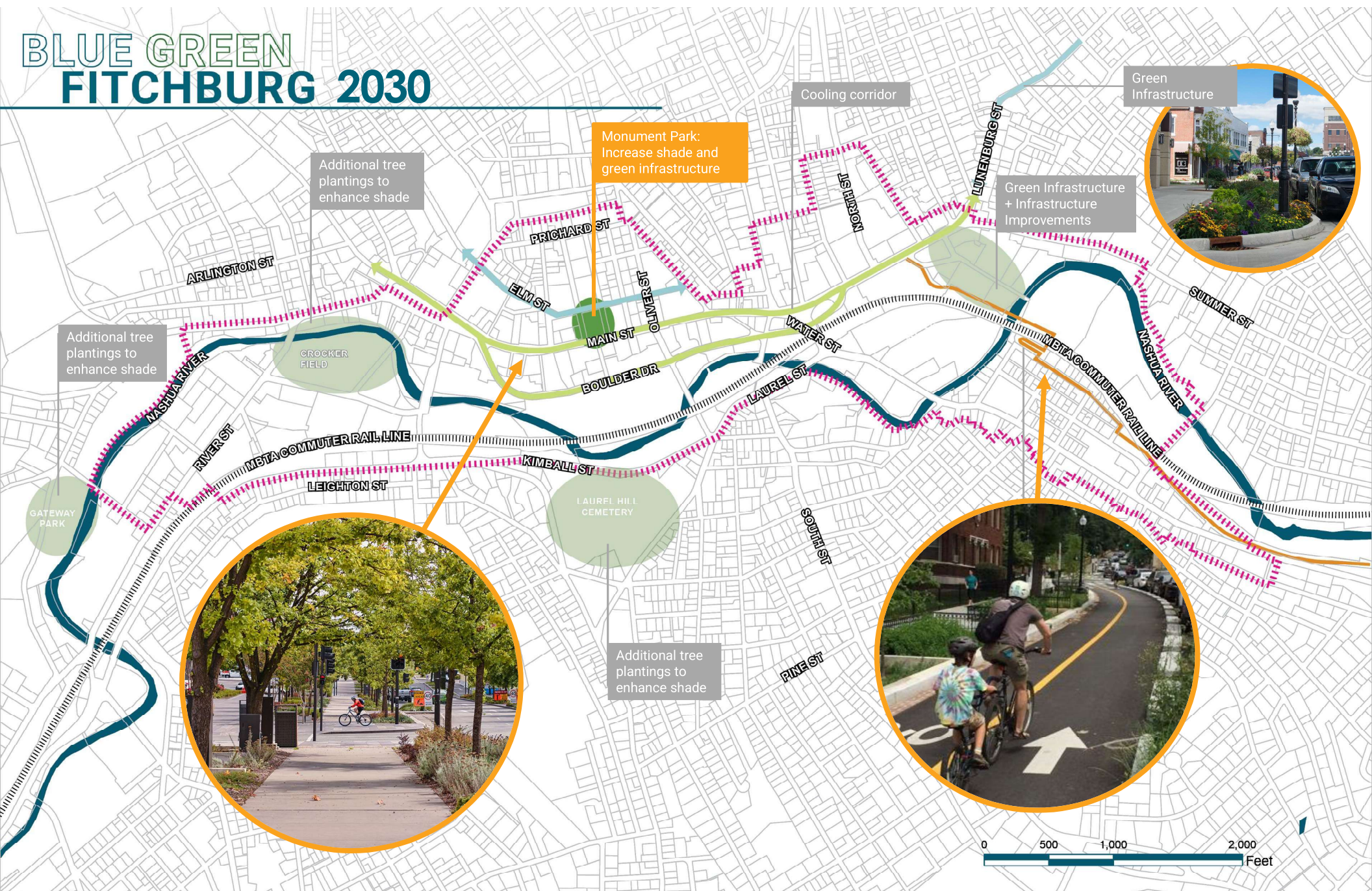
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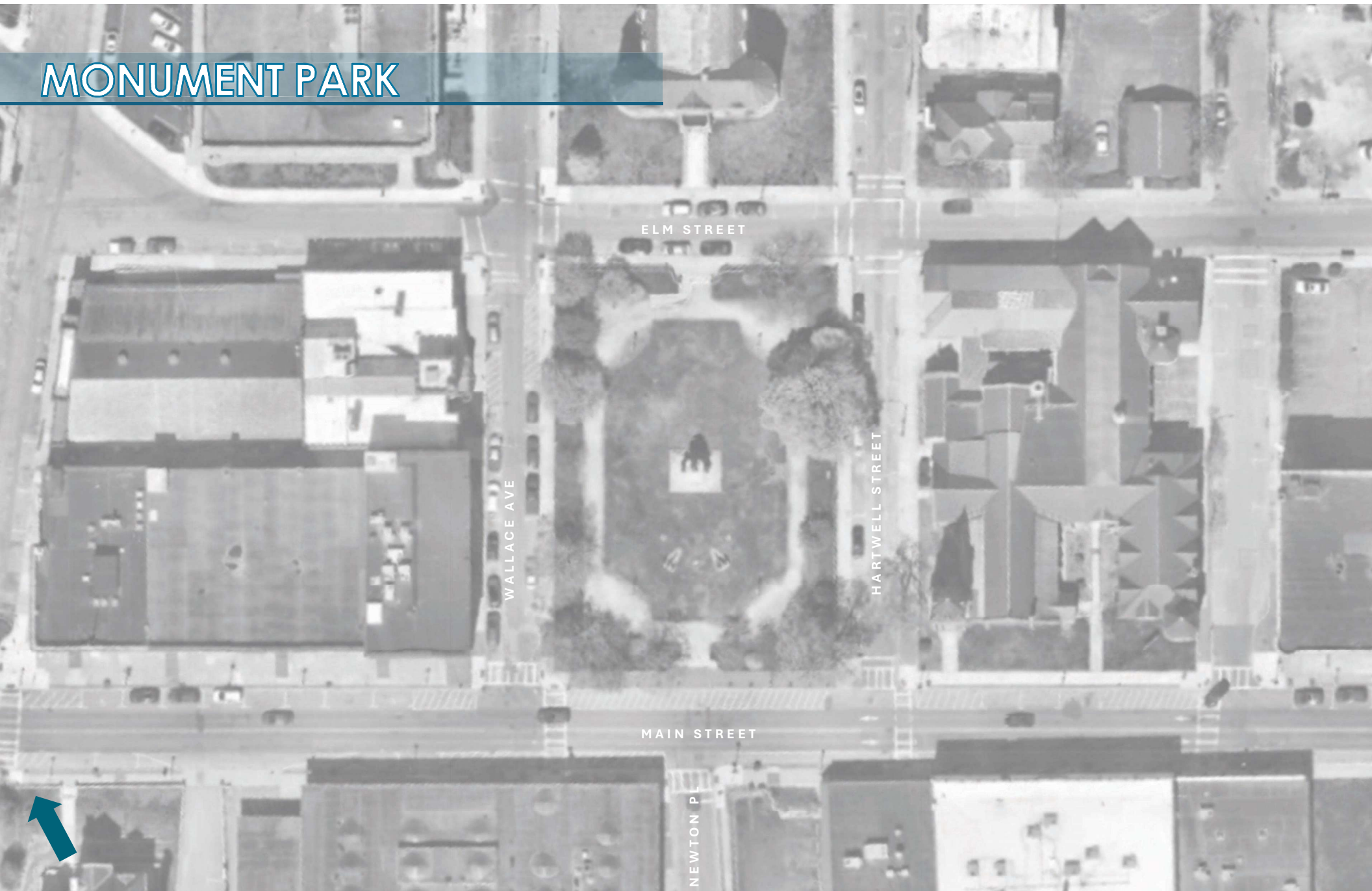




BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG 2030



MONUMENT PARK



ELM STREET

WALLACE AVE

HARTWELL STREET

MAIN STREET

NEWTON PL

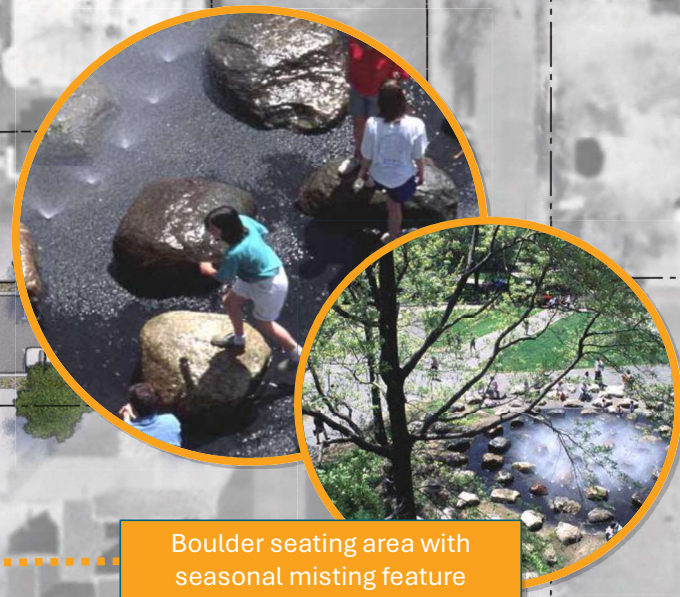
MONUMENT PARK



Pollinator planting



Shade trees



Boulder seating area with seasonal misting feature



Green infrastructure



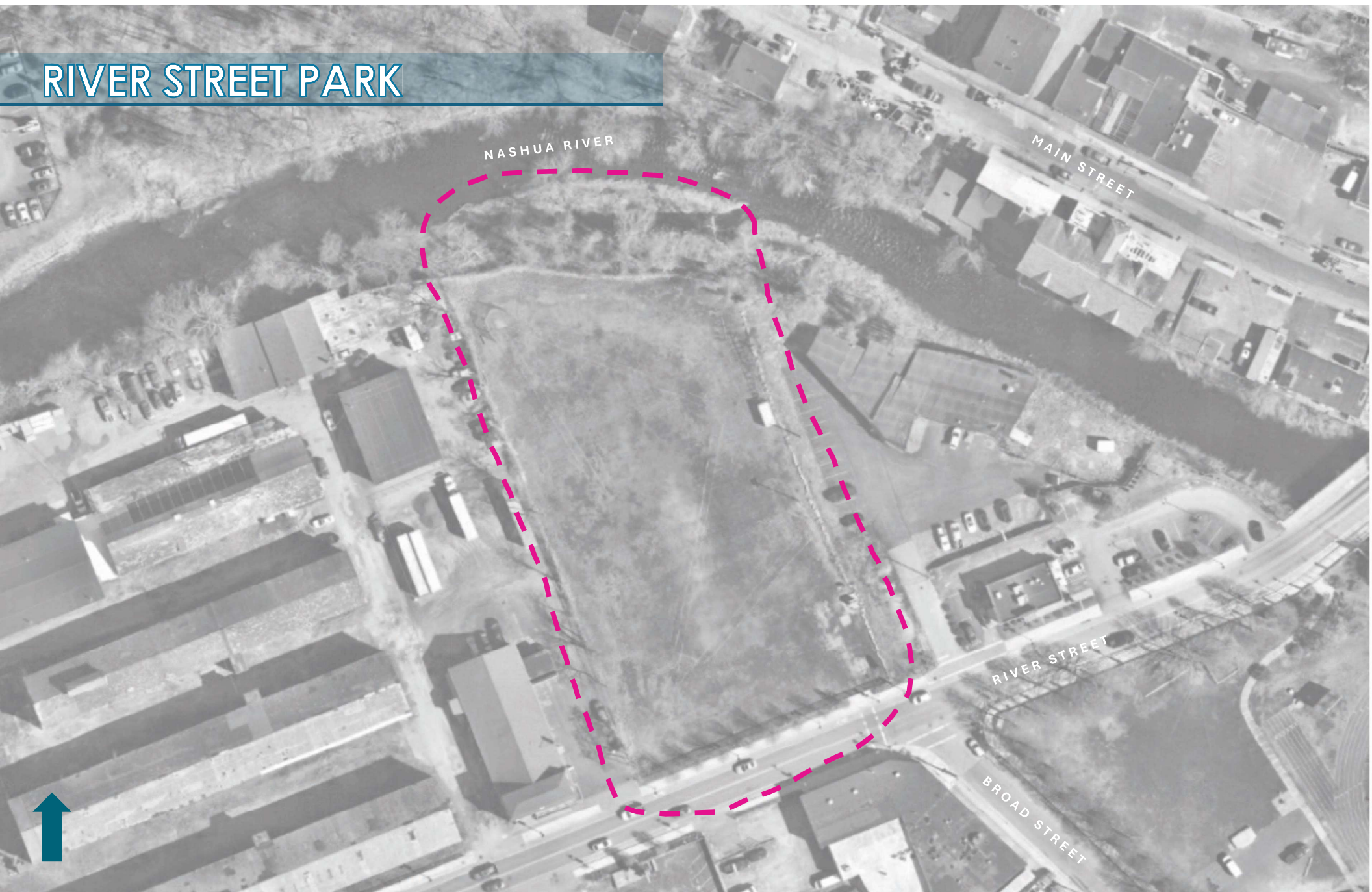
MONUMENT PARK



BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG 2050



RIVER STREET PARK



RIVER STREET PARK



Riverfront access



Open space



Riverfront trail



RIVER STREET PARK



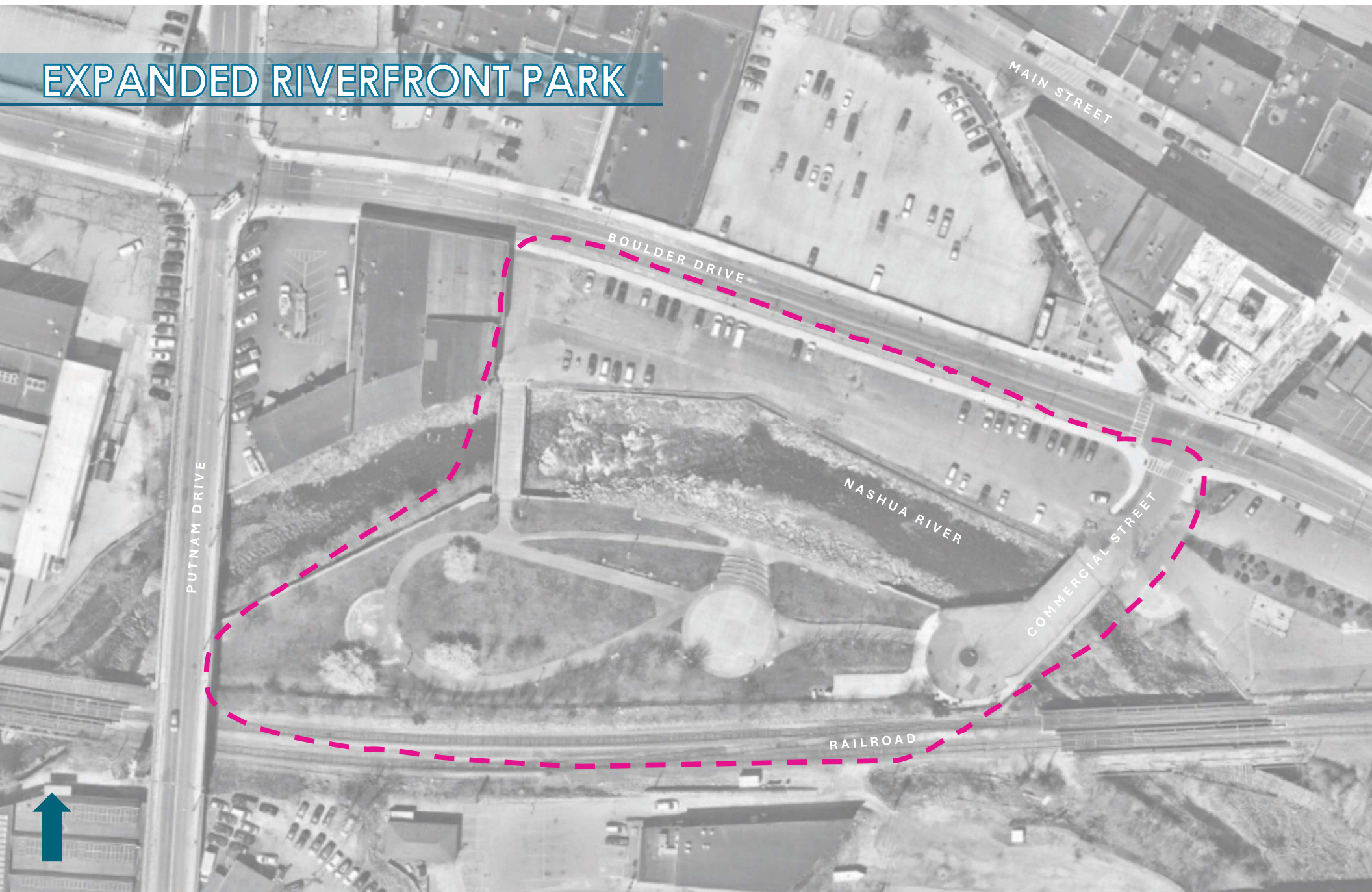
RIVER STREET PARK



RIVER STREET PARK



EXPANDED RIVERFRONT PARK



PUTNAM DRIVE

BOULDER DRIVE

MAIN STREET

NASHUA RIVER

COMMERCIAL STREET

RAILROAD



EXPANDED RIVERFRONT PARK

Stepped boulders at river access

Cooling corridor

Green infrastructure

Pollinator planting

Shade trees

Shade canopy

Re-naturalization of riverfront



EXPANDED RIVERFRONT PARK



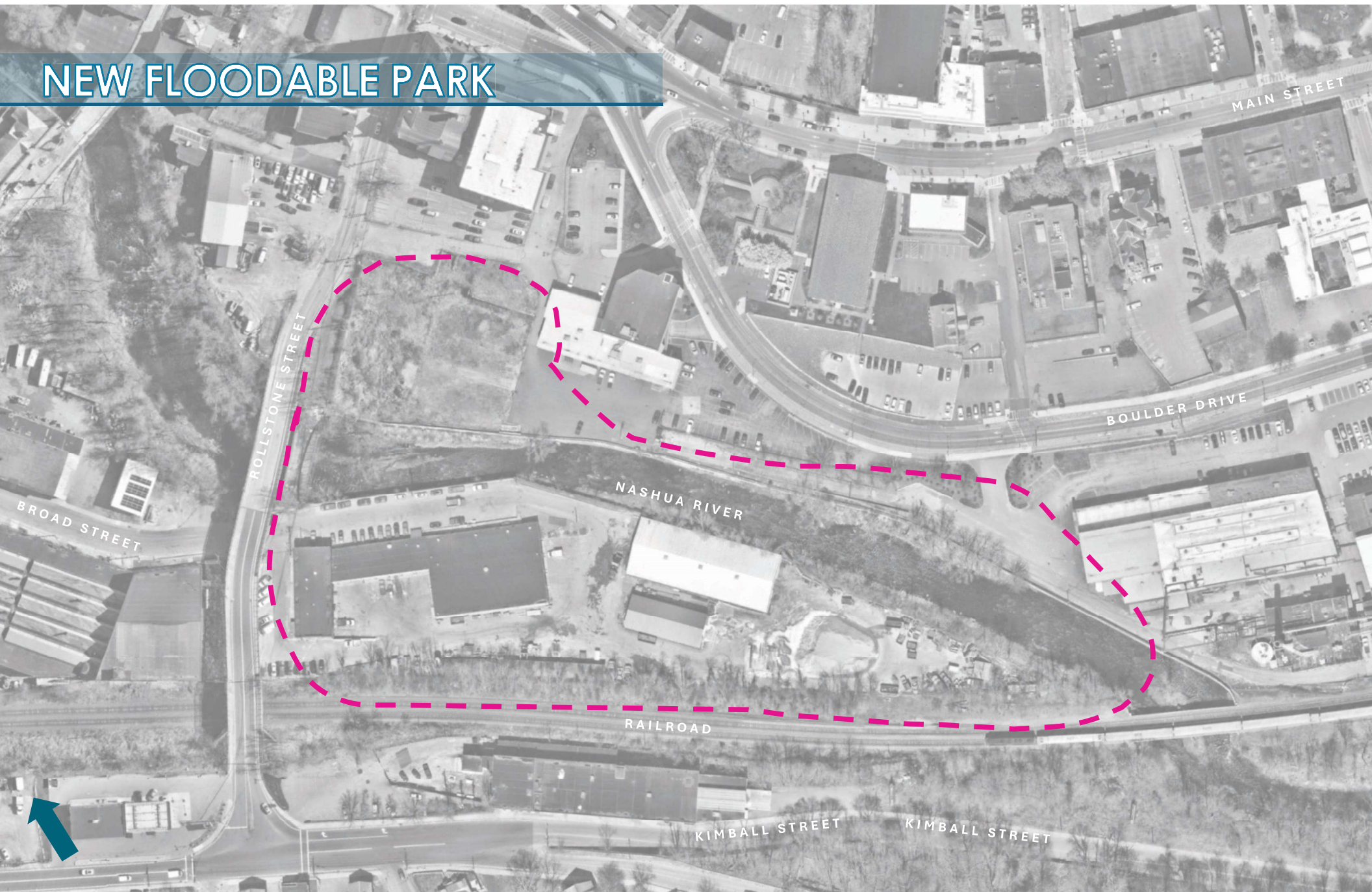
EXPANDED RIVERFRONT PARK



BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG 2070



NEW FLOODABLE PARK



NEW FLOODABLE PARK



Play area
& open space



Restored pedestrian crossing &
re-naturalization of riverfront



Cooling corridor
connection to downtown



Parking with green infrastructure



Re-naturalization of riverfront



NEW FLOODABLE PARK



NEW FLOODABLE PARK



The background image is a photograph of a city park. In the foreground, there is a small stream or creek with many large, dark rocks scattered throughout it. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding environment. To the left of the stream, there is a steep, grassy bank. In the background, several multi-story buildings are visible, including one with a prominent steeple. The sky is overcast and grey. The entire image has a blue-grey tint, and the text is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

**Thank you for participating!
Please join us for the Gallery
portion of the meeting to give
your feedback.**