

# BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

Climate Adaptation Plan for Downtown Fitchburg

## COMMUNITY MEETING

JUNE 5, 2025



Municipal Vulnerability  
Preparedness



FEMA

**FUSS &  
O'NEILL**

# PROJECT TEAM & PARTNERS

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

## PROJECT TEAM

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

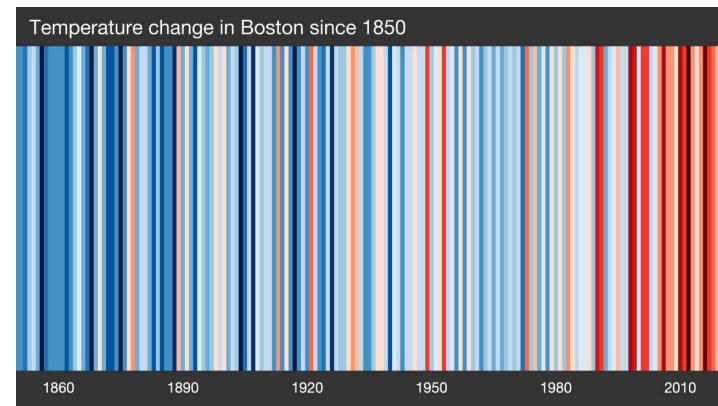
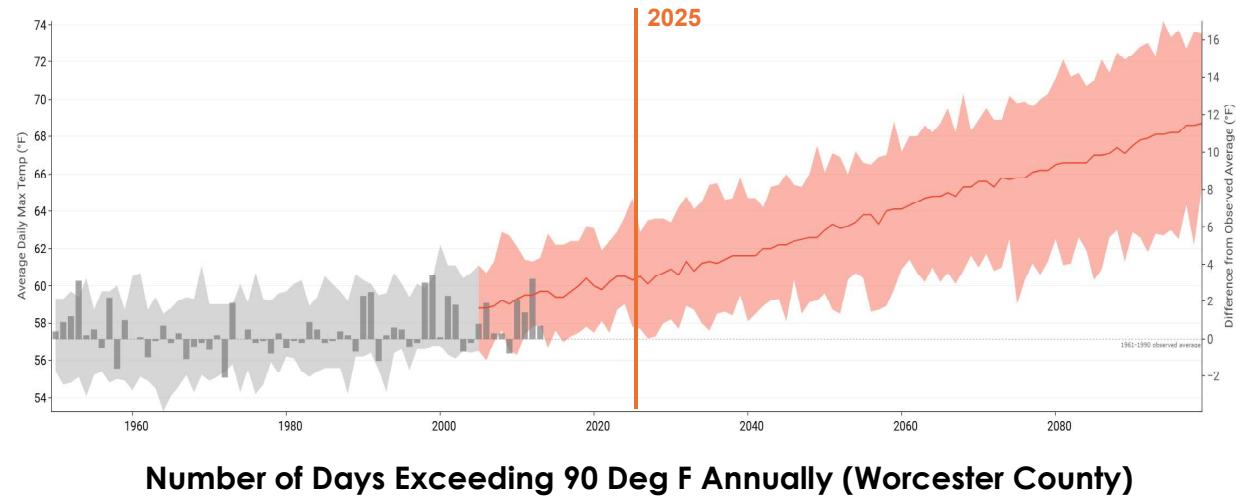


FITCHBURG, MA (WCVB/CHRIS GAUTHIER)

## 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.



# 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?

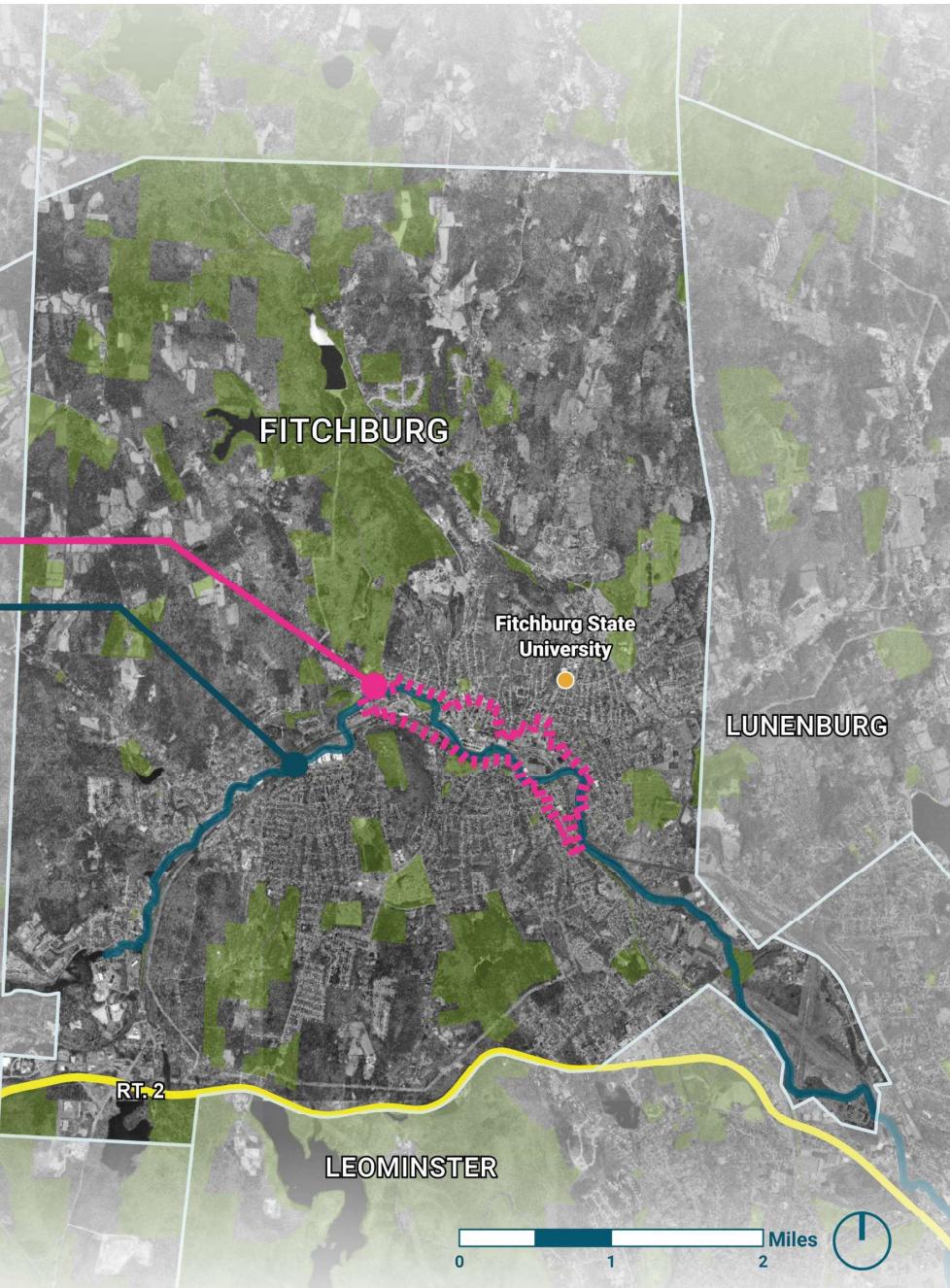
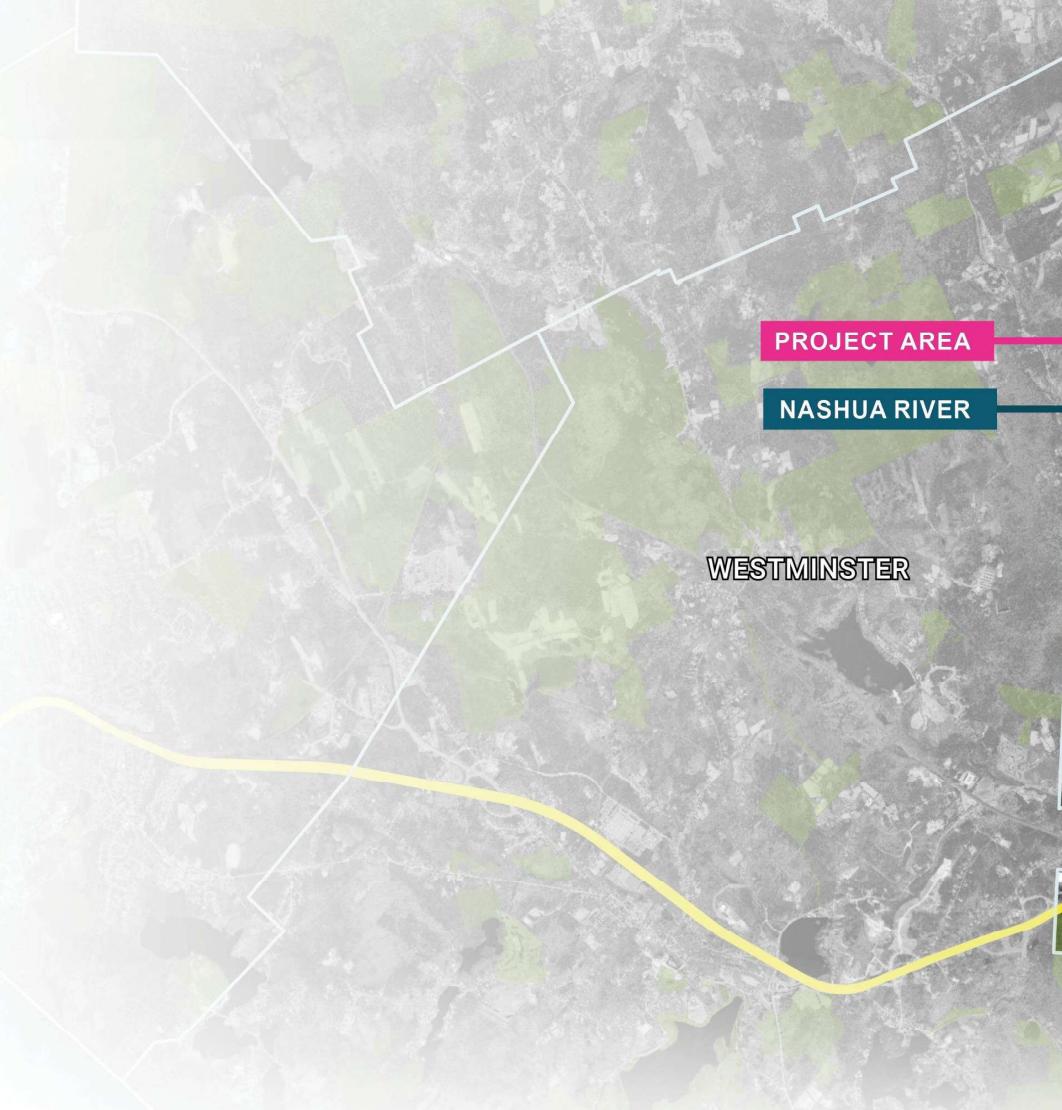
- Nature based solutions to adapt to flooding and heat
- Policy solutions to shape future development and maintenance
- Recommendations for adaptation at 3 locations in Downtown



# CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT

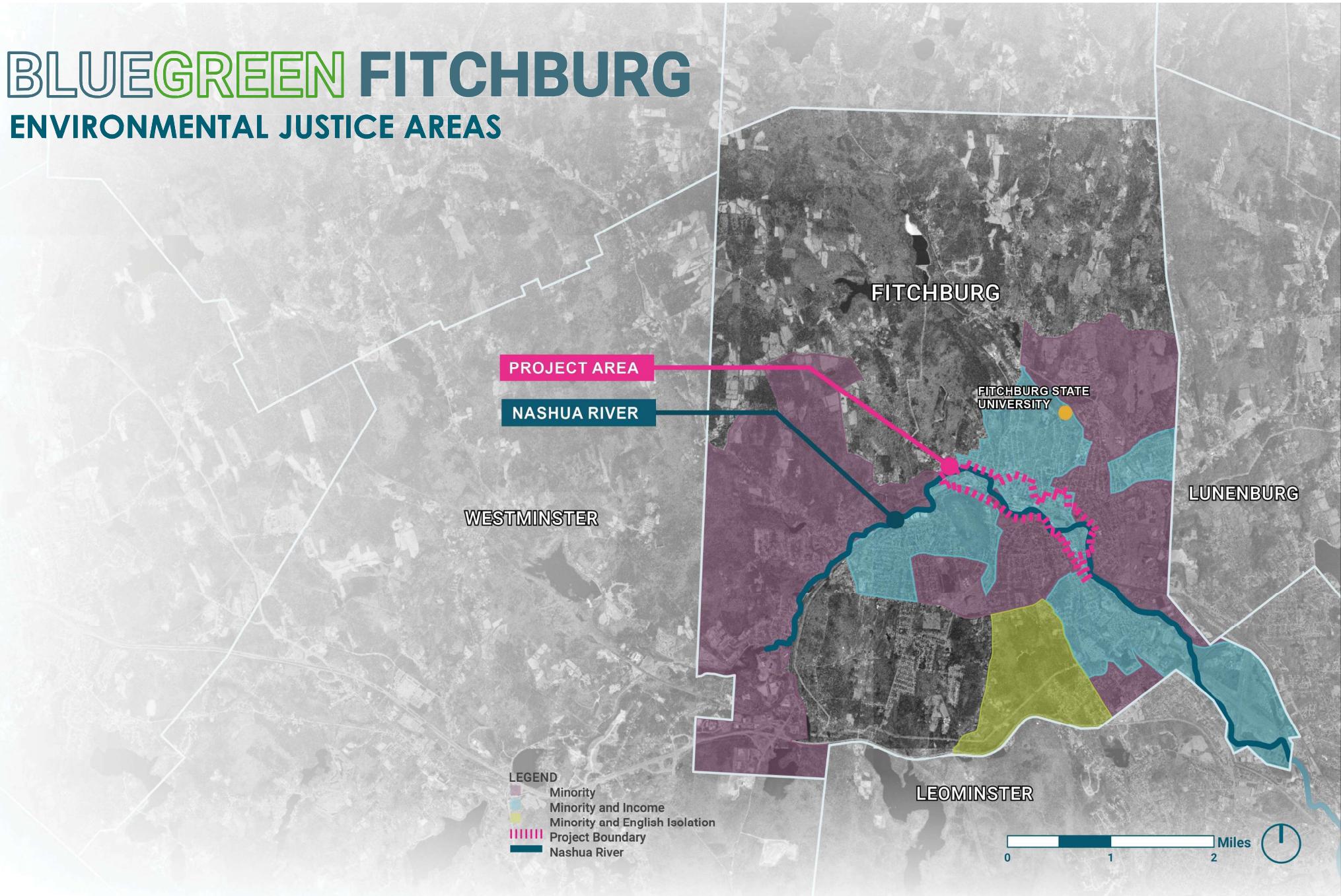
# BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

## CONTEXT + PROJECT GOALS



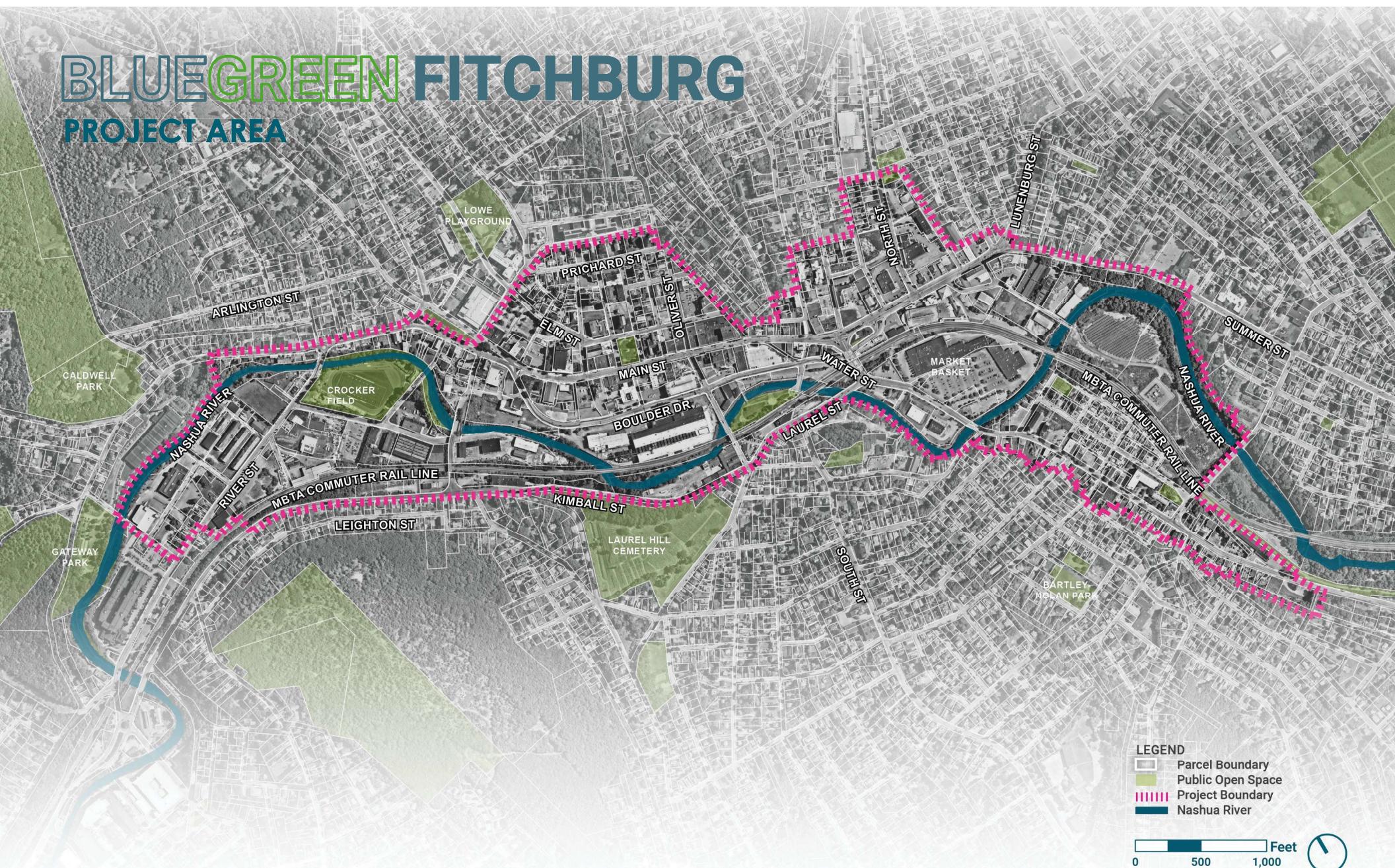
# BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREAS



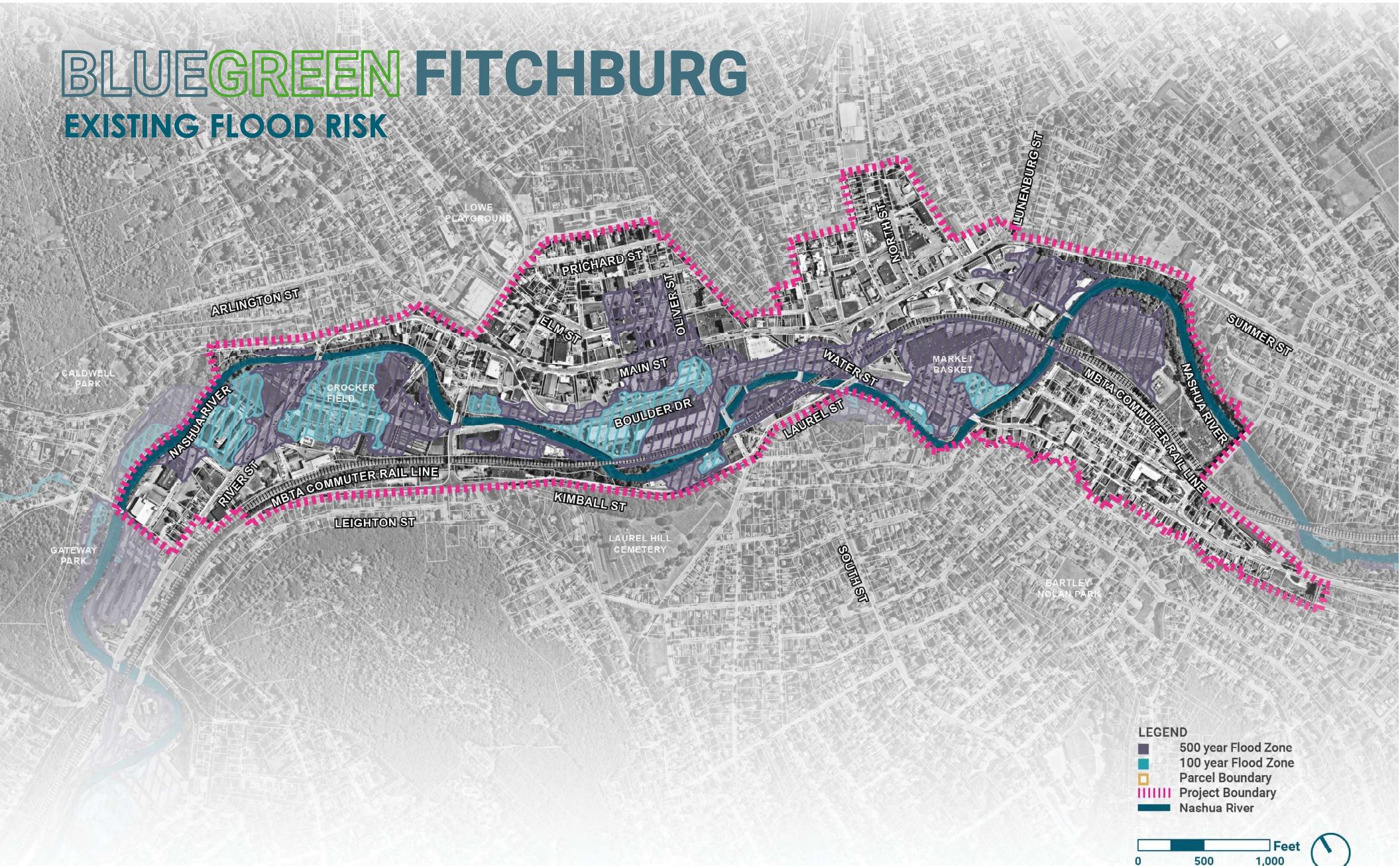
# BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

## PROJECT AREA



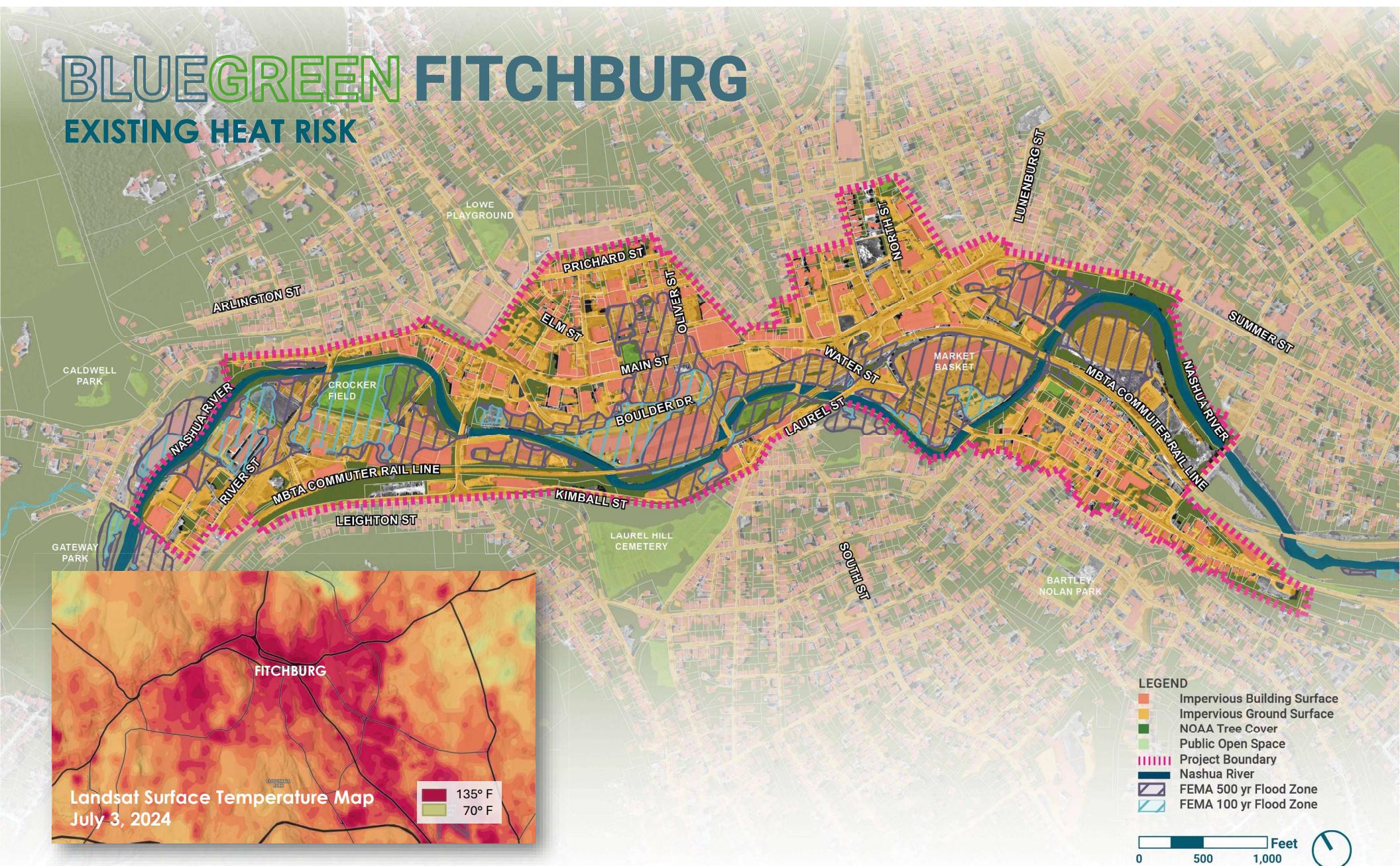
# BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

## EXISTING FLOOD RISK



# BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

## EXISTING HEAT RISK



# BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

## CRITICAL COMMUNITY ASSETS



# BLUEGREEN FITCHBURG

## TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS





# 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*

**HEAT | CALOR**

Where do you go when it's hot to get some relief from the heat? | ¿A dónde vas cuando hace calor para aliviar el calor? (1)

1 +

Heat Relief Areas | Áreas de alivio de calor

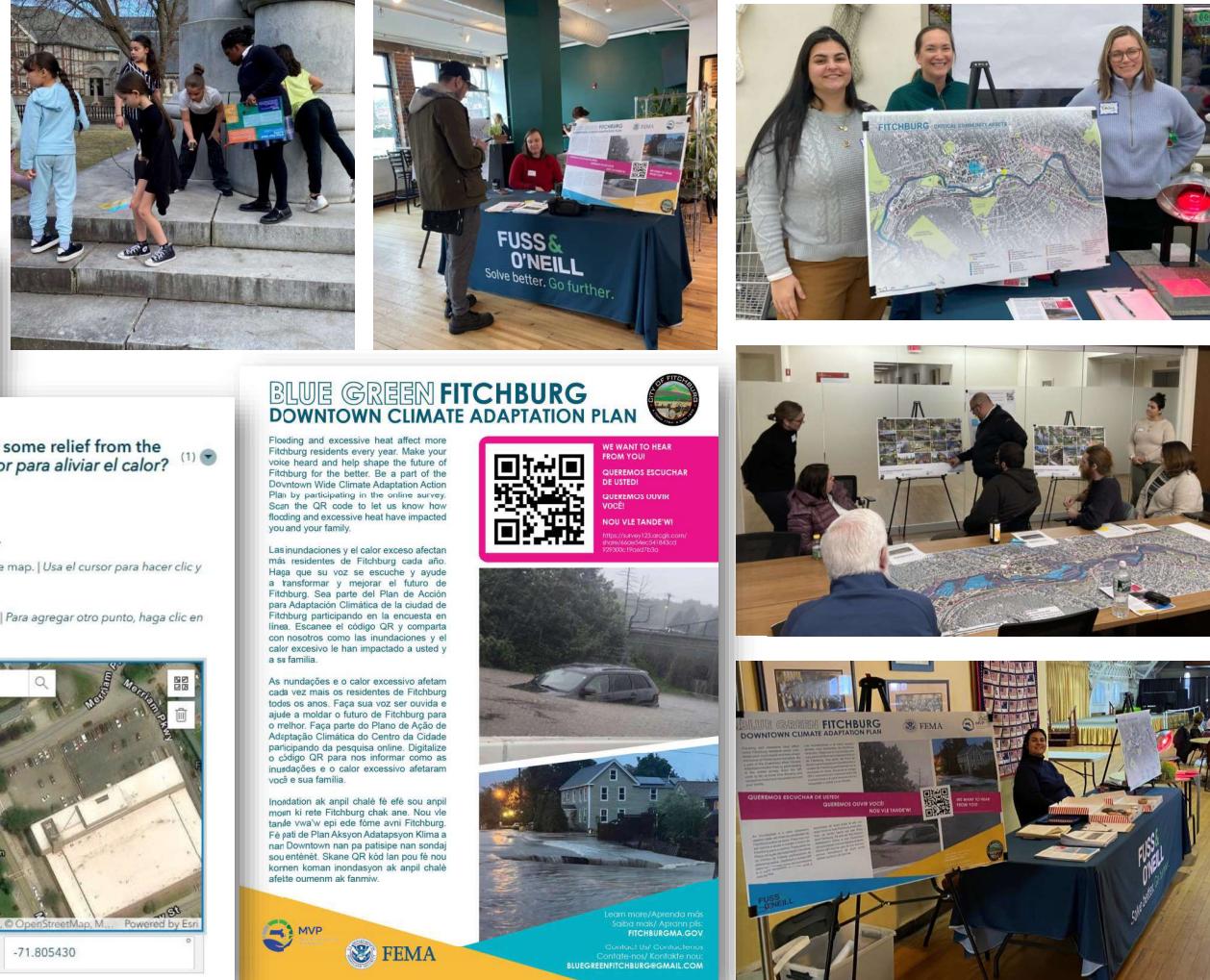
1. Use your cursor to click and select a point on the map. | Usa el cursor para hacer clic y seleccionar un punto en el mapa.

2. To add another point, click the plus sign above. | Para agregar otro punto, haga clic en el signo más arriba.

Which of the following best describe **mejor**? (select all that apply) | (seleccione

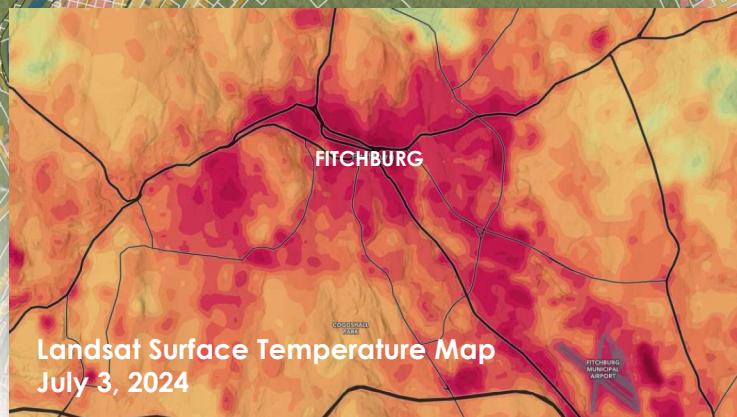
- Resident | Residente
- Work in Fitchburg | Trabajador
- Own Property in Fitchburg
- Other | Otro

BlueGreen Fitchburg developing adaptation plans to address flooding and flooding induced flooding



# BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG HEAT RISK

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



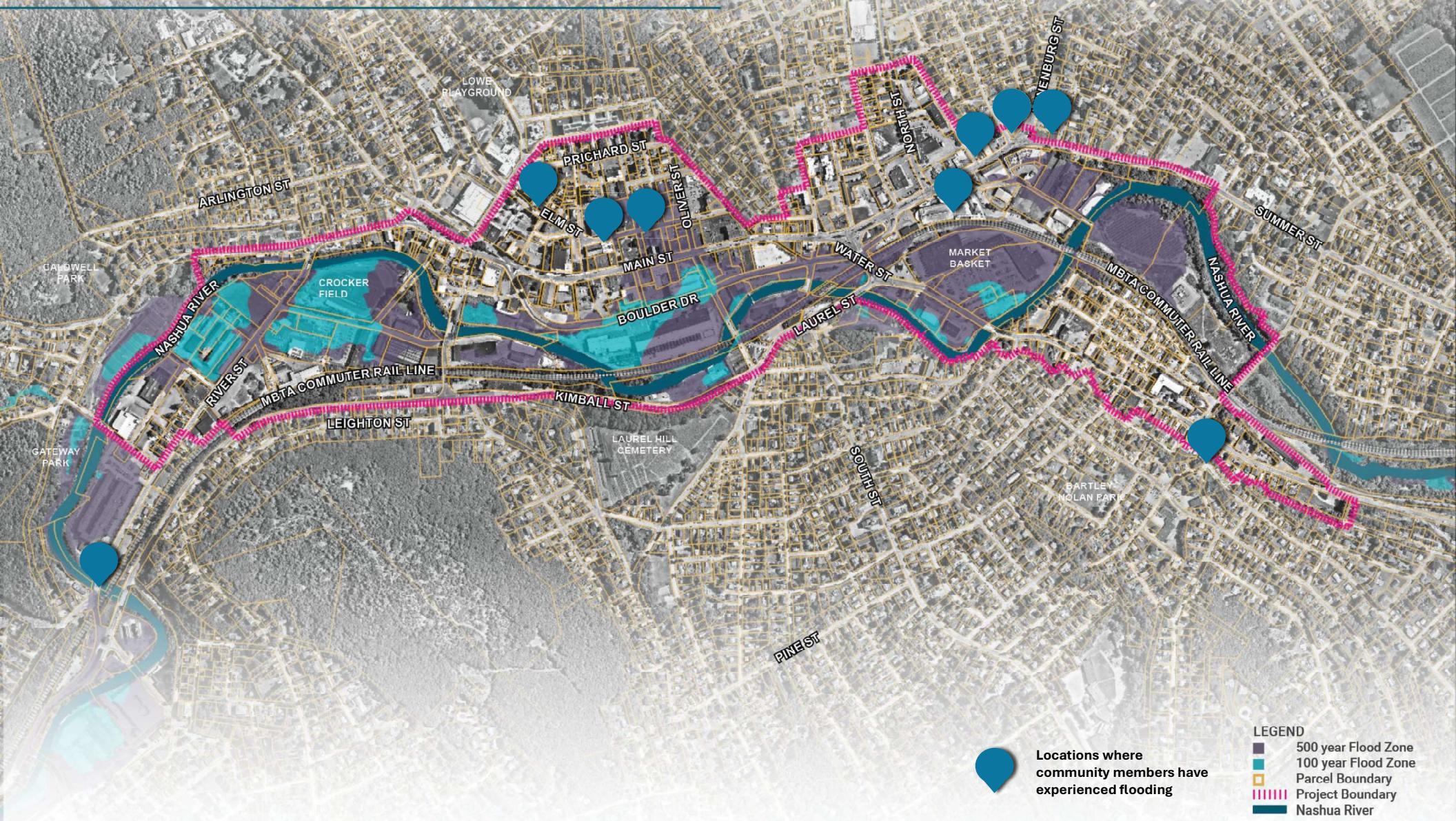
Locations where people have experienced extreme heat

Locations where people go to get relief from heat

# BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG

## EXISTING FLOOD RISK

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet



Locations where  
community members have  
experienced flooding

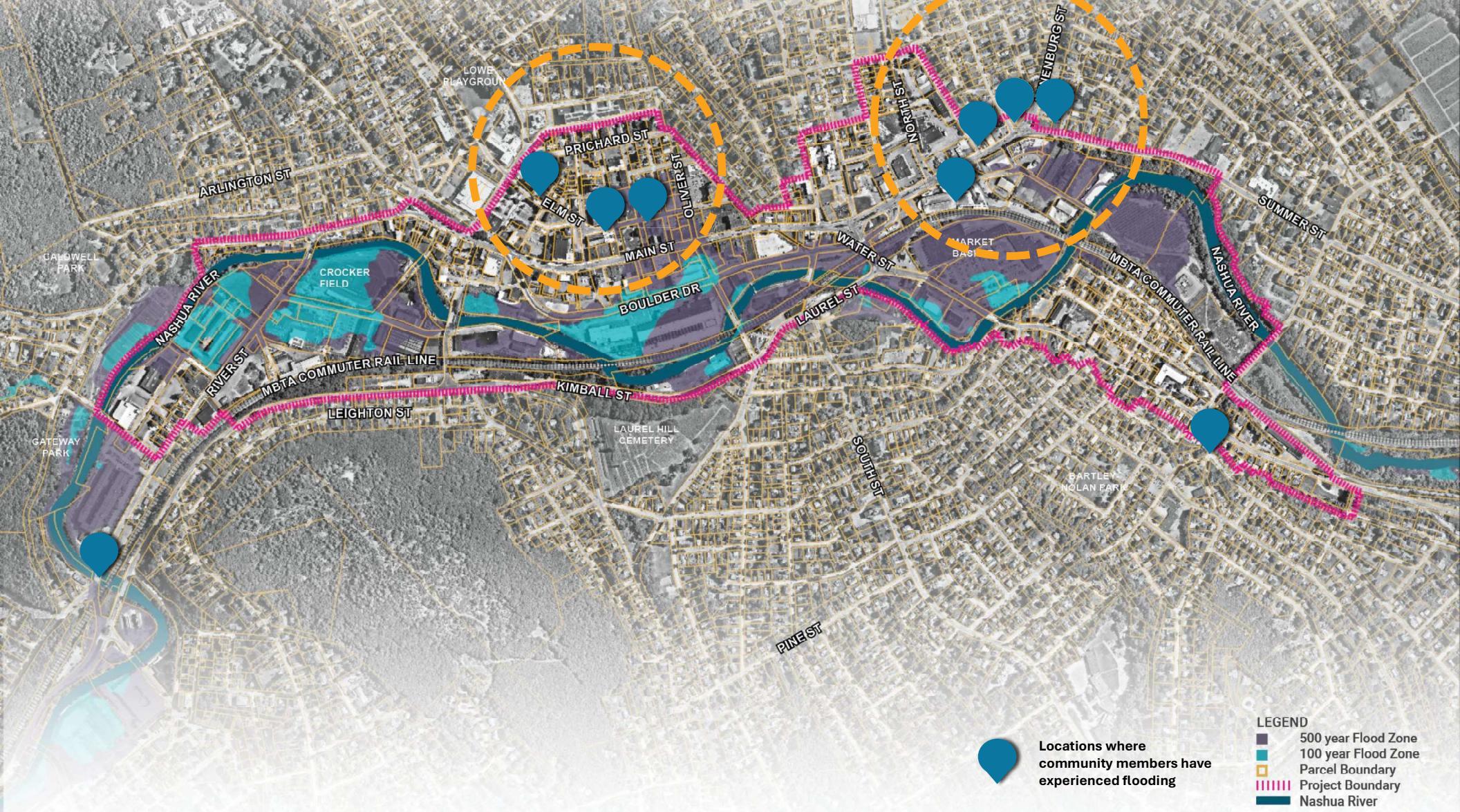
LEGEND

- 500 year Flood Zone
- 100 year Flood Zone
- Parcel Boundary
- Project Boundary
- Nashua River

# BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG

## EXISTING FLOOD RISK

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet





# 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

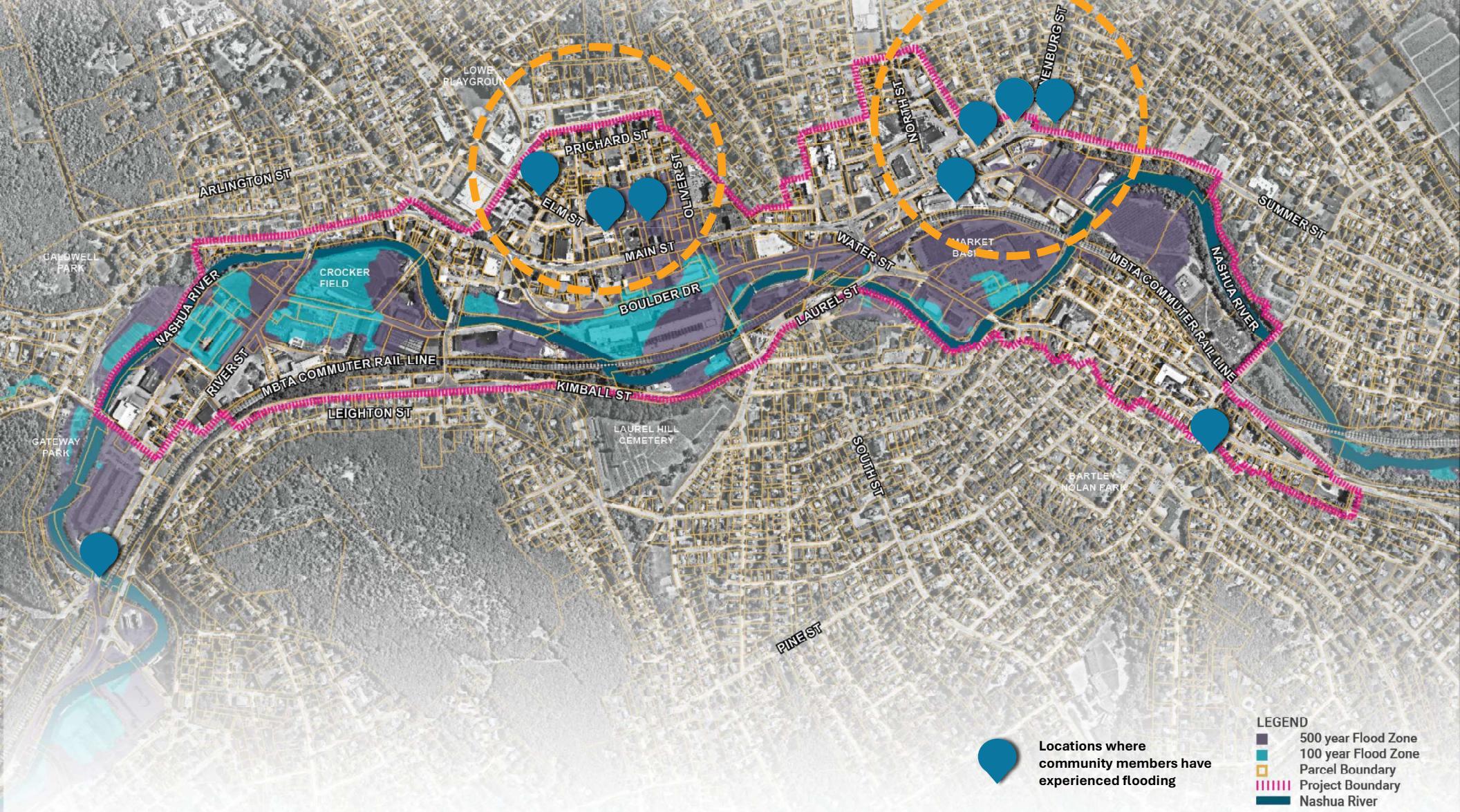


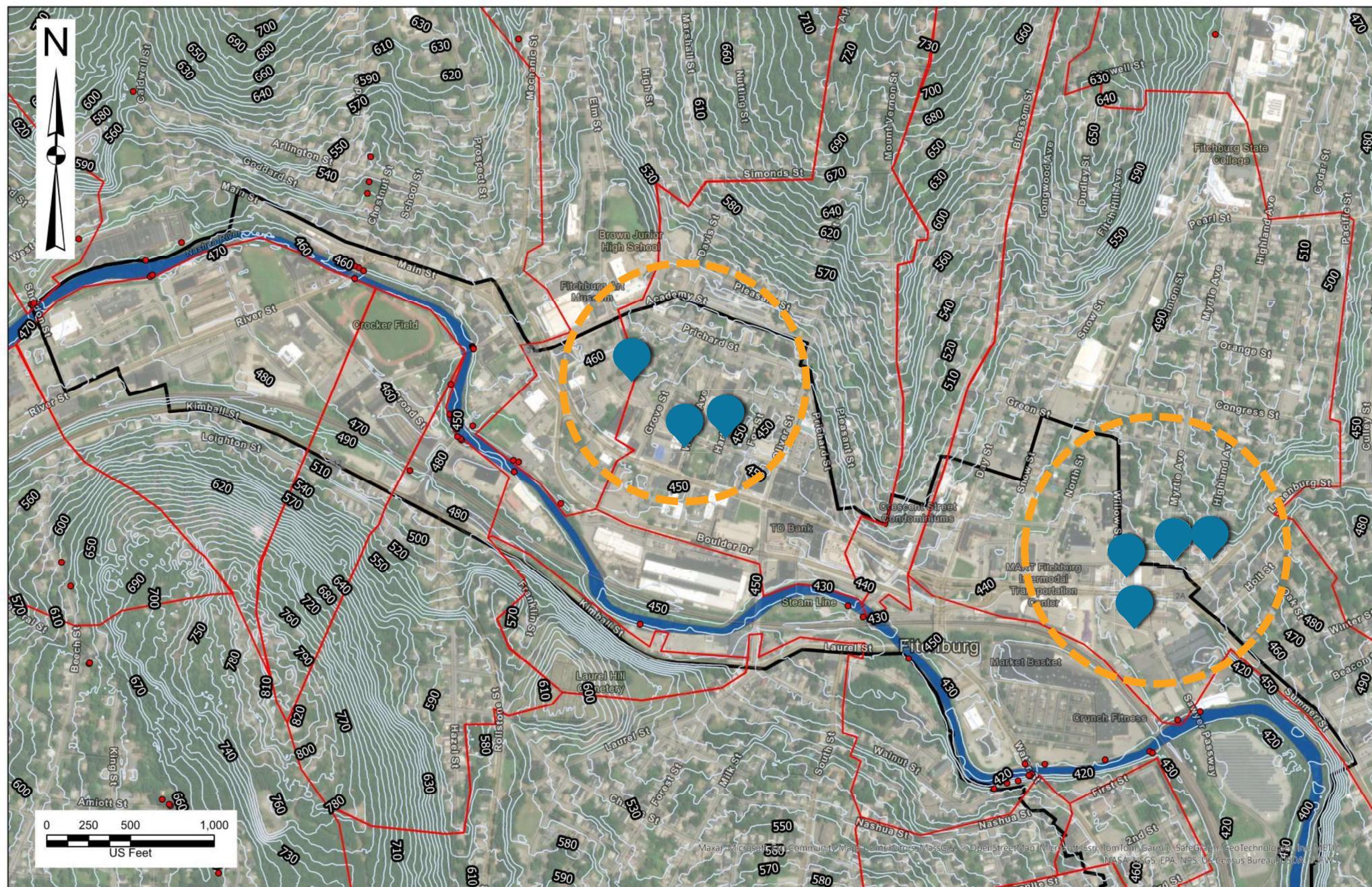
# FOCUS AREA DESIGN CONCEPTS

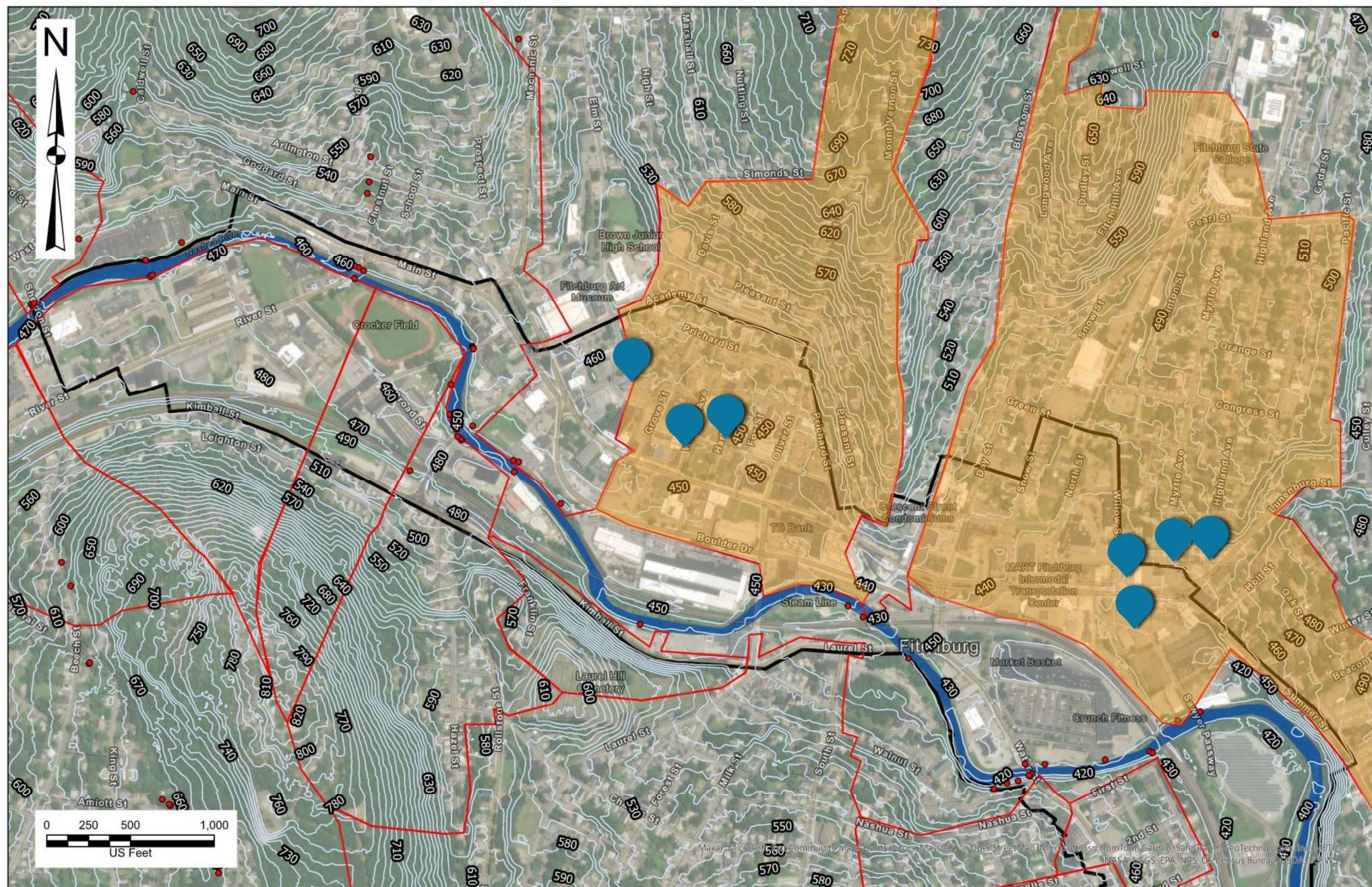
# BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG

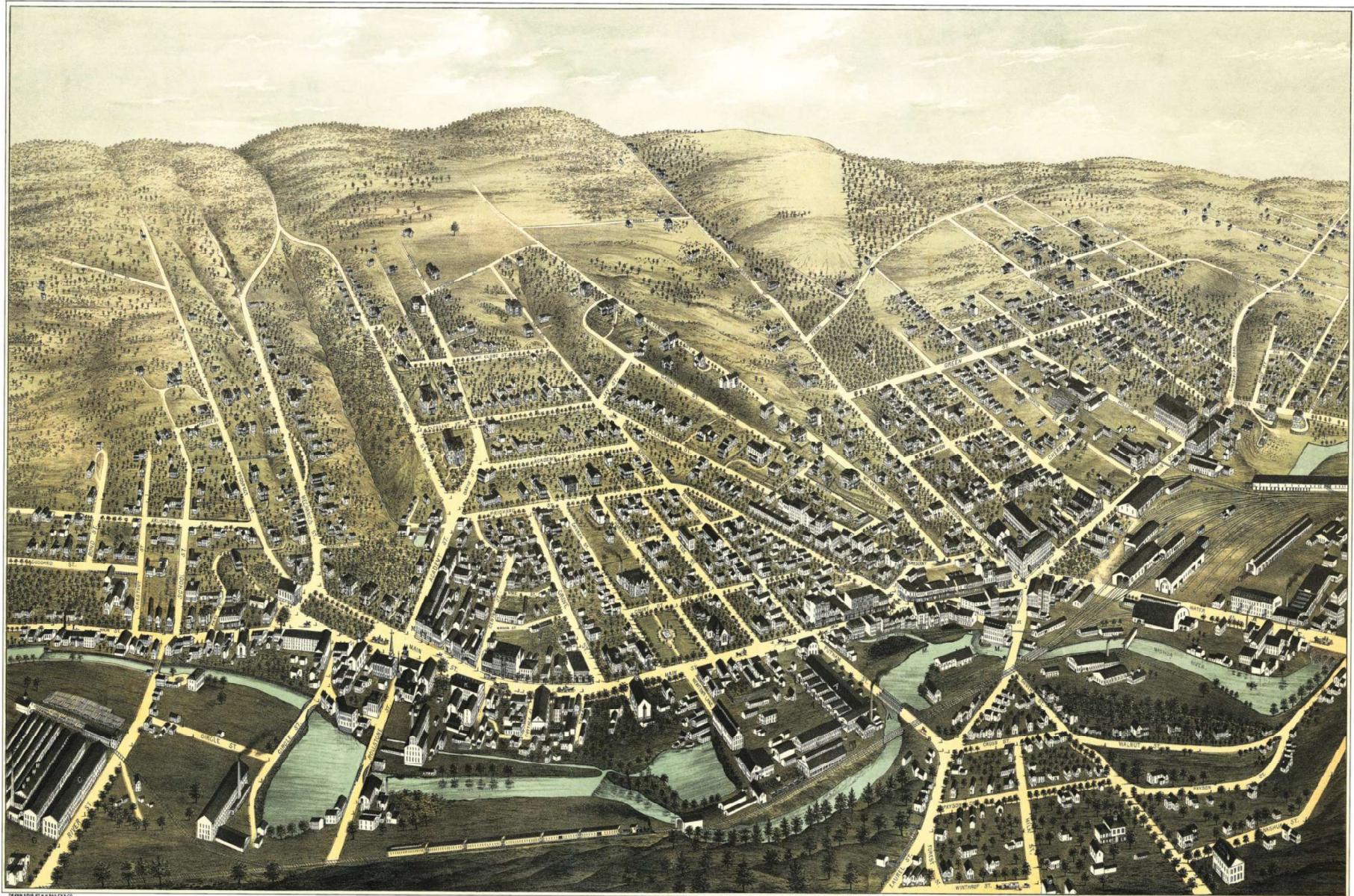
## EXISTING FLOOD RISK

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet





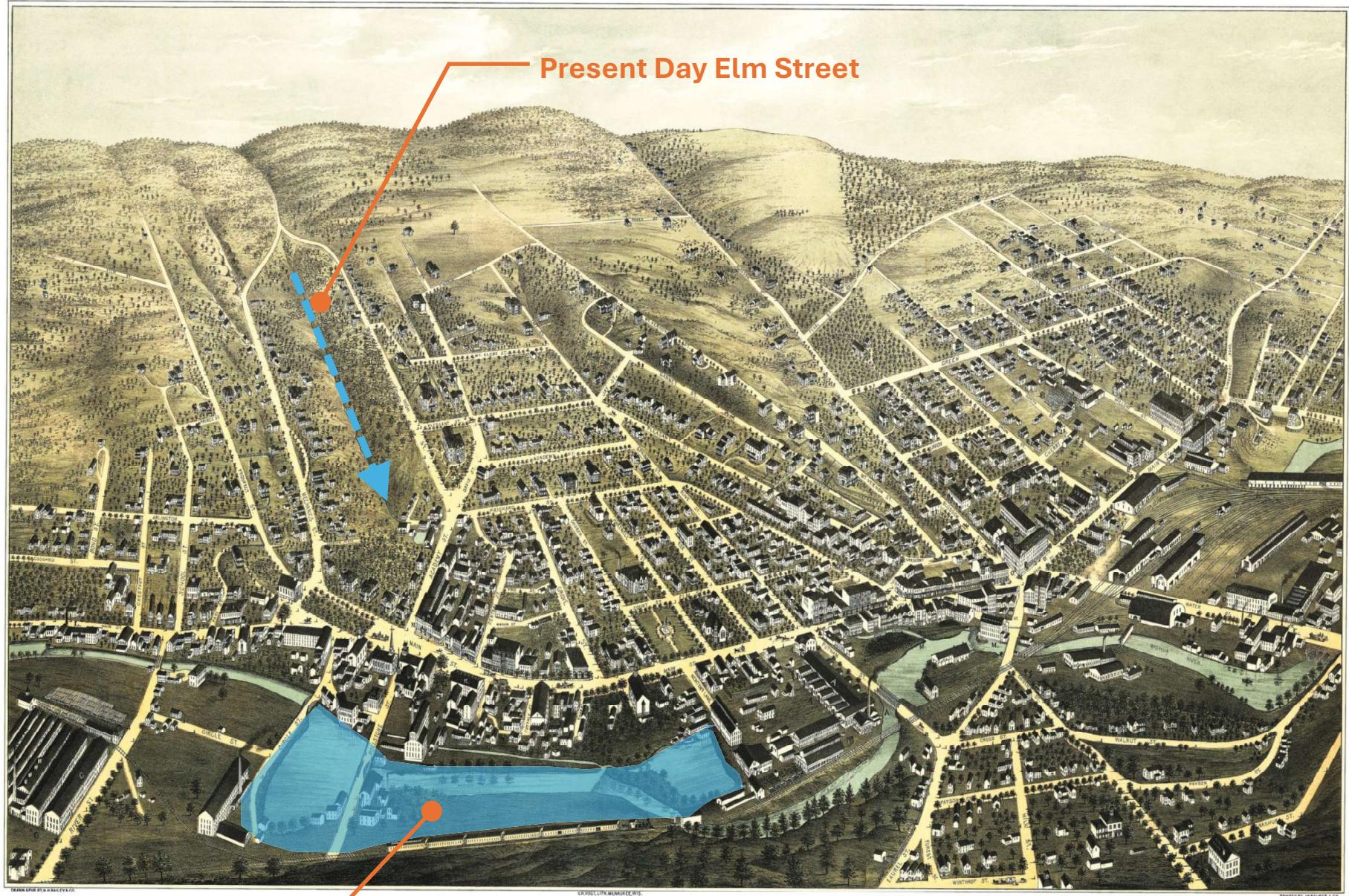




BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF,  
**FITCHBURG, MASS.**

A. *Pulnam Machine Company*  
 B. *Simonds Manufacturing Company*  
 C. *W. Haymond Chair* *Do.*  
 D. *Hosking Engine* *Do.*  
 E. *Unter Machine* *Do.*  
 F. *C. H. Brown & Co. Manufacturers of Steam Engines*  
 G. *L. Barber Lumber Yard*  
 H. *M. F. Morse & Co. Manufacturers of Picture Frames, and Cabinet Ware*

J. Herbert N. Pugg, Manufacturer & Wholesale Dealer in  
 French & American Confectionery.  
 K. Herbert O'Meara, Dealer in Stationery & Pictures,  
 Picture Framing a specialty.  
 L. Mrs. Catharine C. Pugh, Dress Goods.  
 M. J. Cushing, Flouring Mill & Coal Dealer.  
 N. Hollister House, Whr' F. Day, Prop't'r.  
 O. American Dr. Co., E. H. Webb & Co., Prop't's.  
 P. Court House.  
 Q. Public & High Schools.



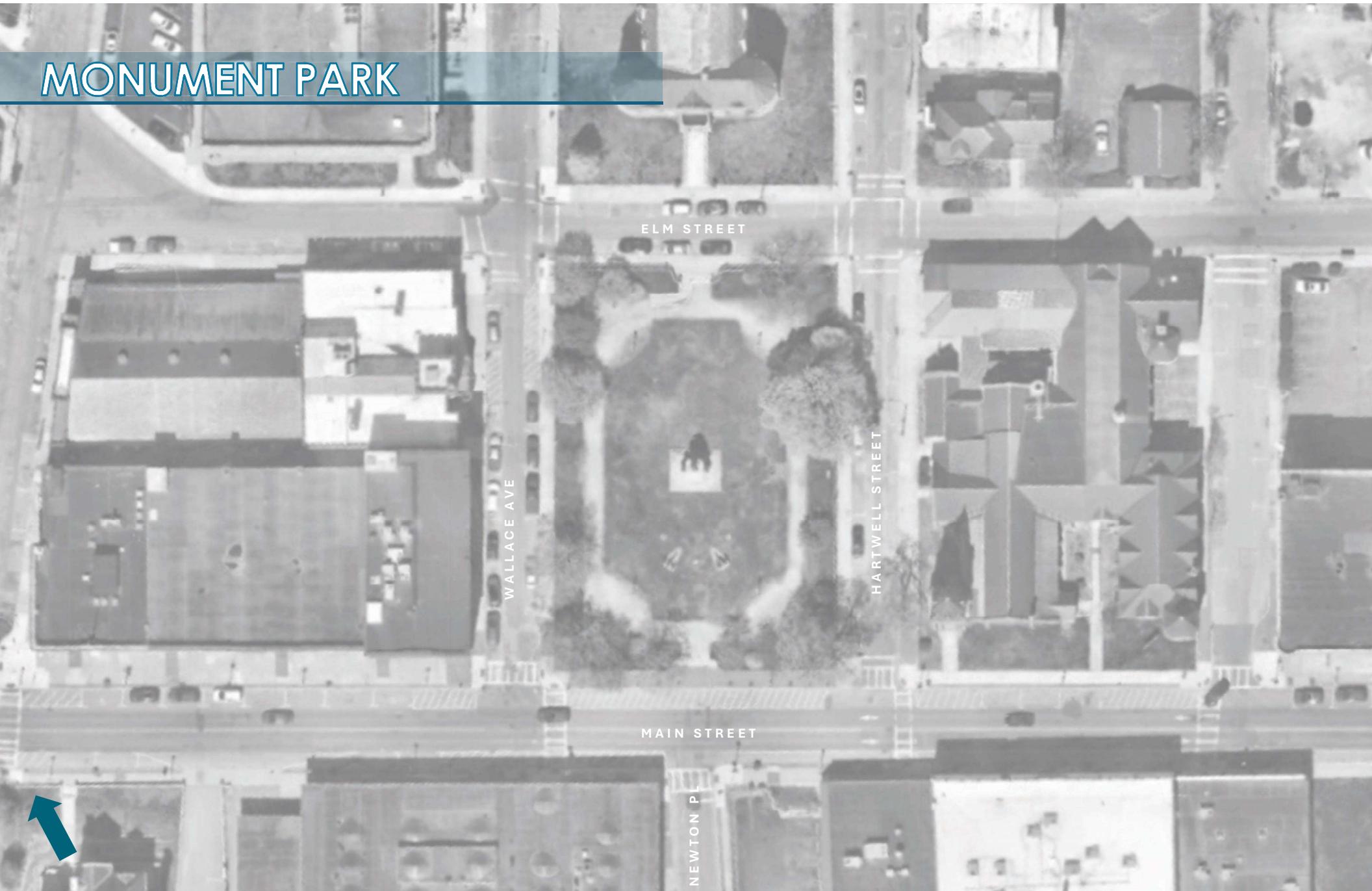
BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF,  
**FITCHBURG, MASS.**  
1875.

J. Heribert M'Nug, Manufacturer of American Desirous  
Prints, American Color Lithography,  
K. Heribert O' Meara, Dealer in Stationery & Pictures,  
L. J. A. Collier, Picture Framing & Gilding,  
M. J. Young, Flowering Mill & Coal Depot,  
N. D. Johnson, Druggist, Dr. P. D. Jr.,  
O. American, Dr. E. De Wolfe, & Co., Prop'ts,  
P. Court House,  
R. Public High Schools.

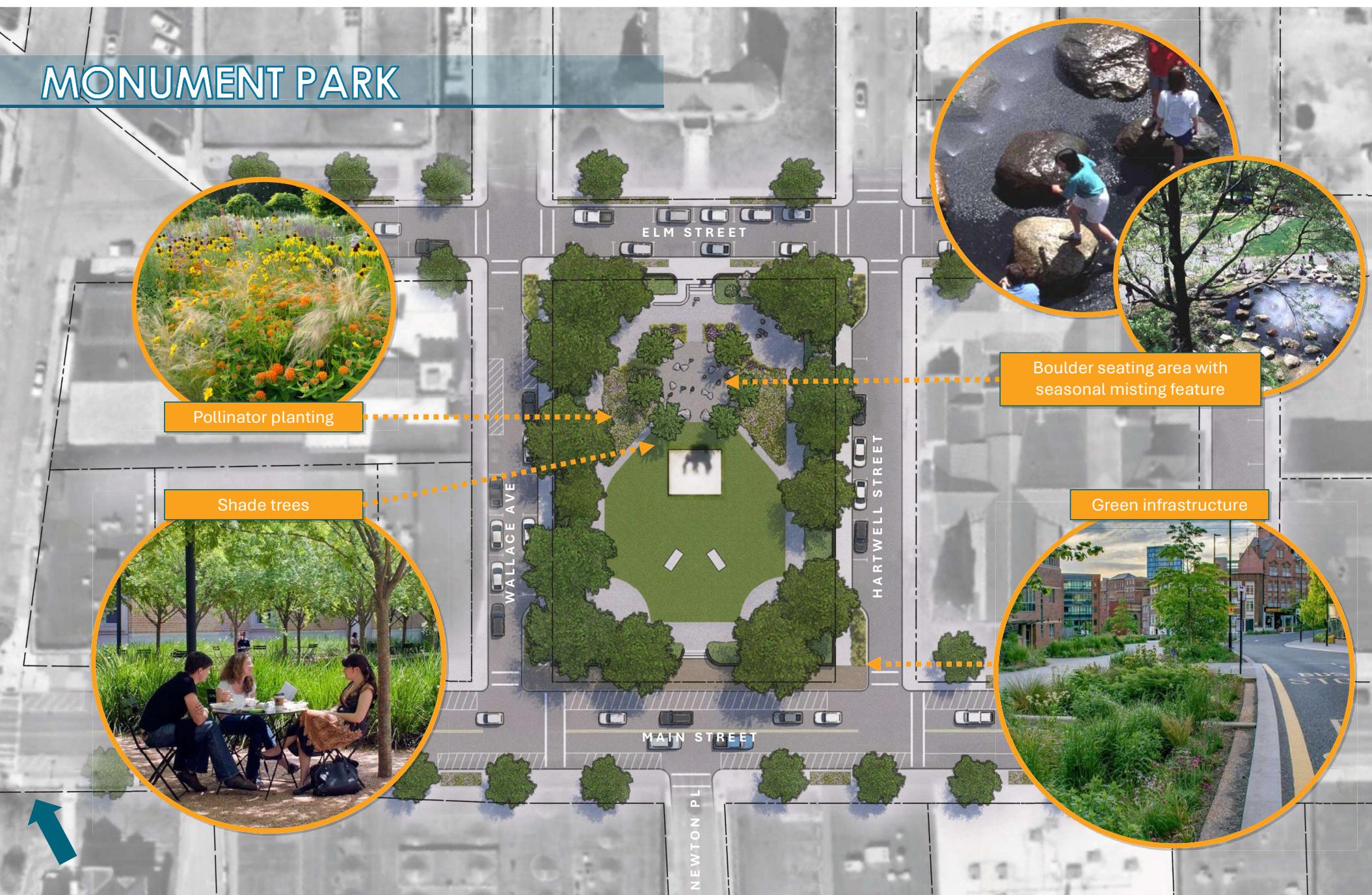
# BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG 2030



# MONUMENT PARK



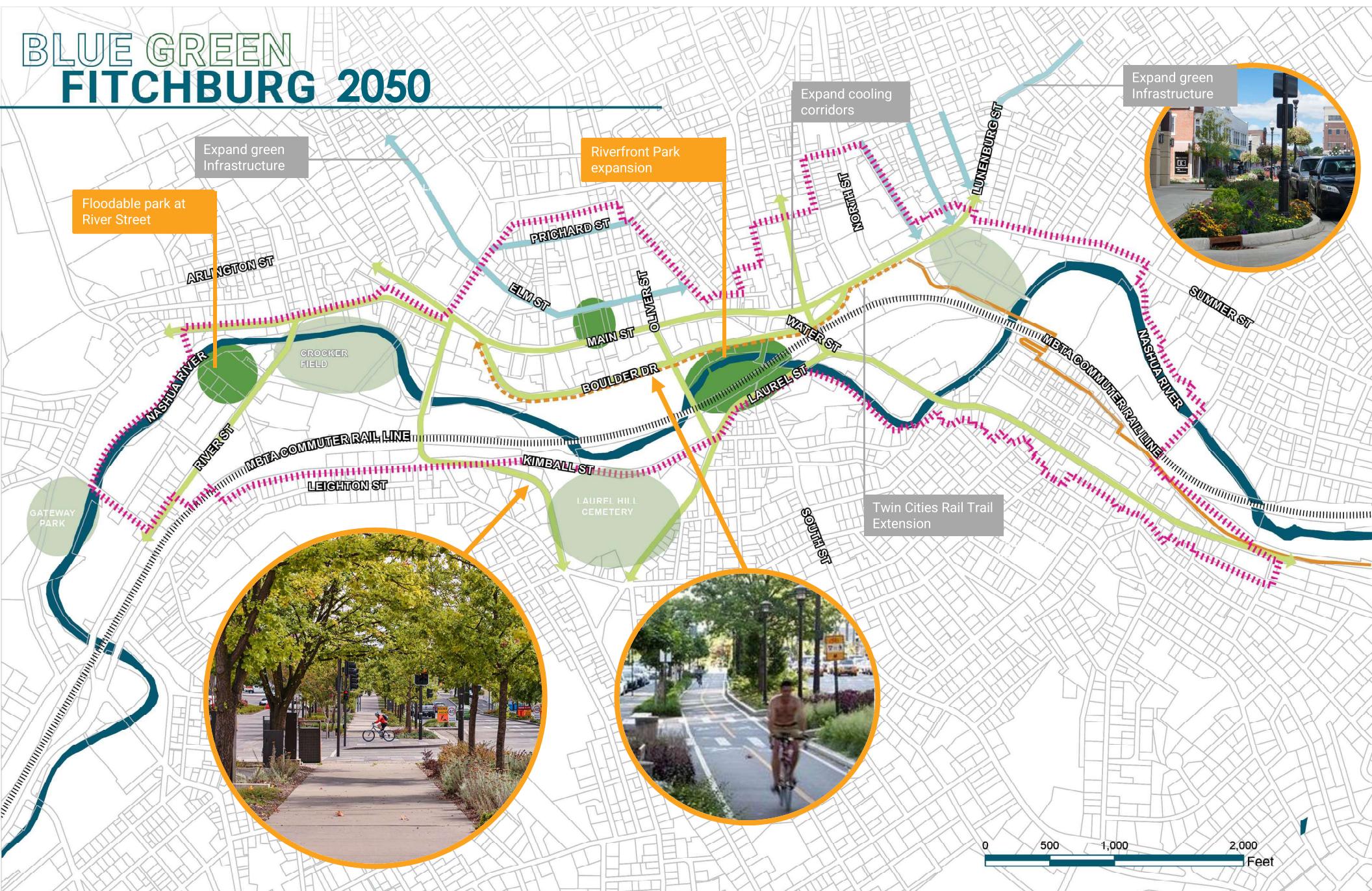
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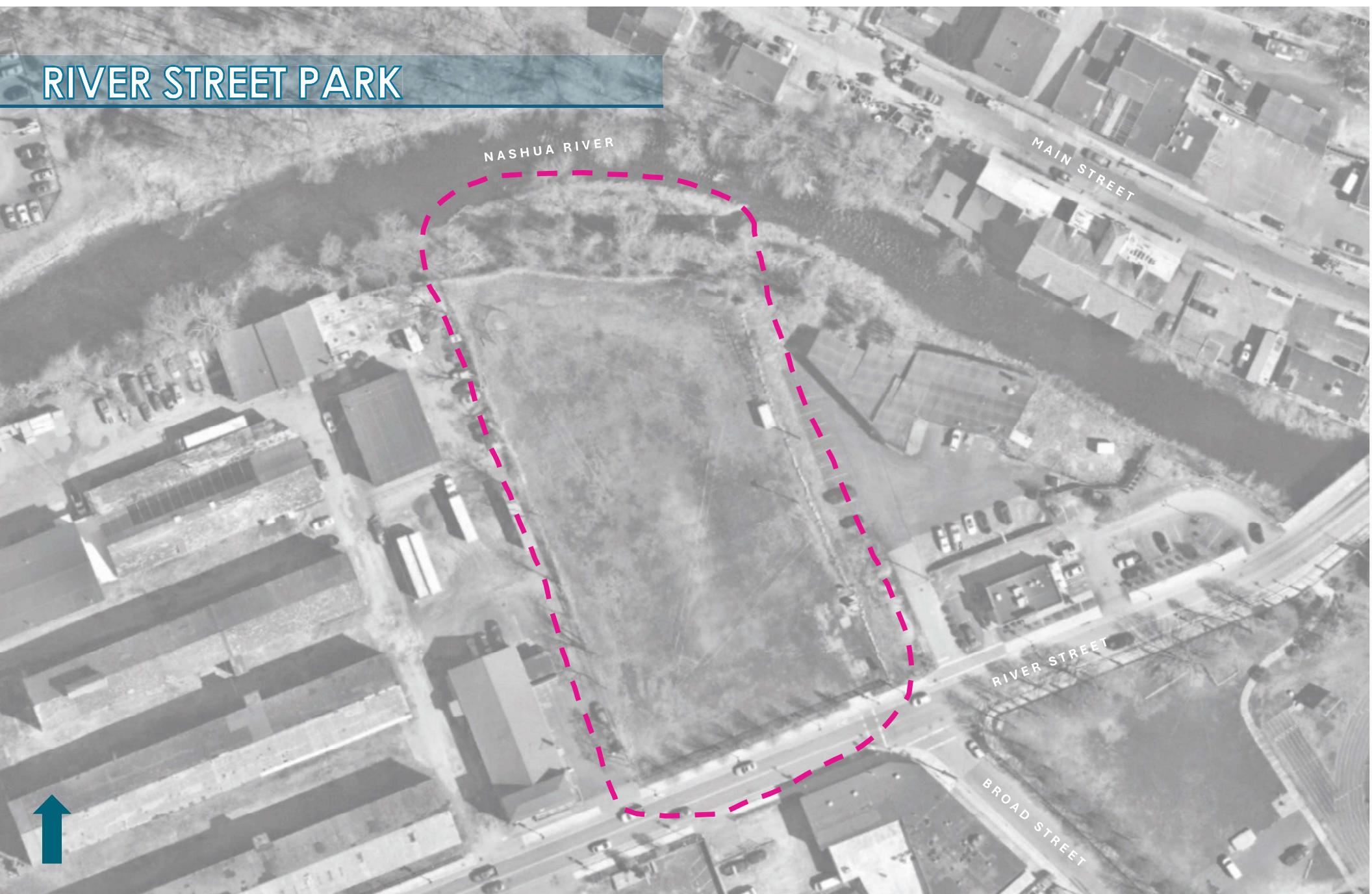
# MONUMENT PARK



# BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG 2050



# RIVER STREET PARK



# RIVER STREET PARK



# RIVER STREET PARK



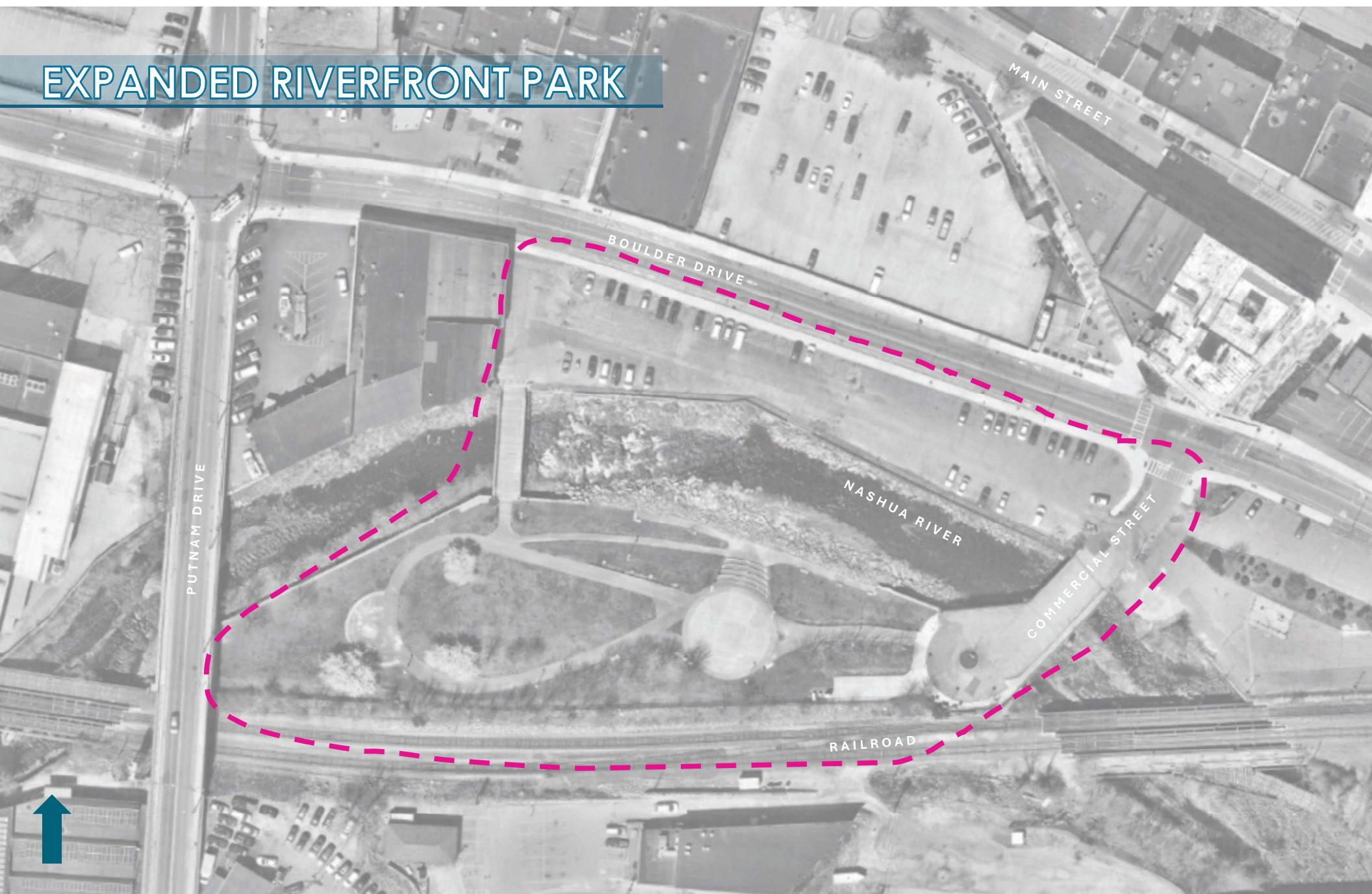
# RIVER STREET PARK



# RIVER STREET PARK



# EXPANDED RIVERFRONT PARK



# EXPANDED RIVERFRONT PARK



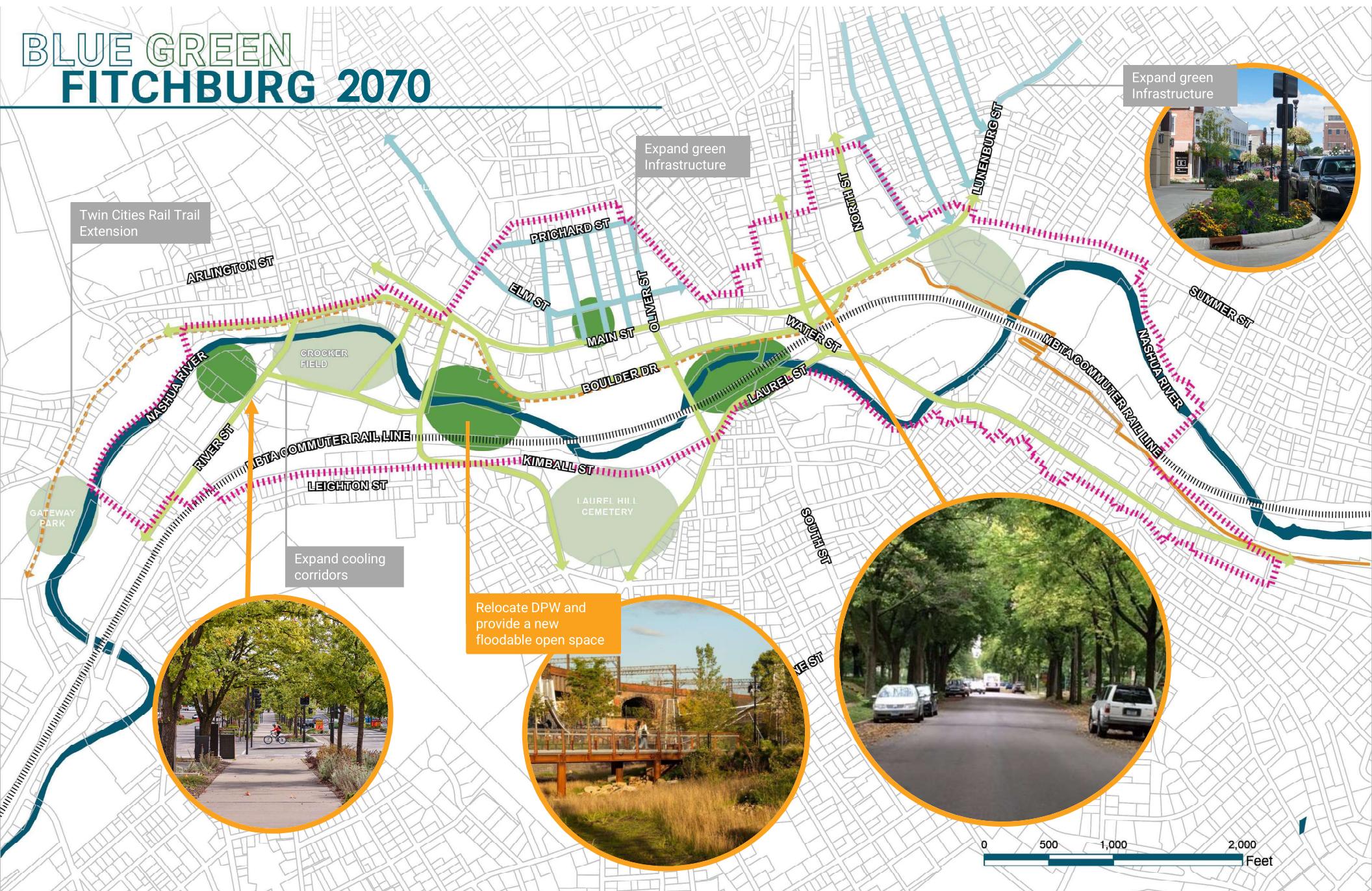
## EXPANDED RIVERFRONT PARK



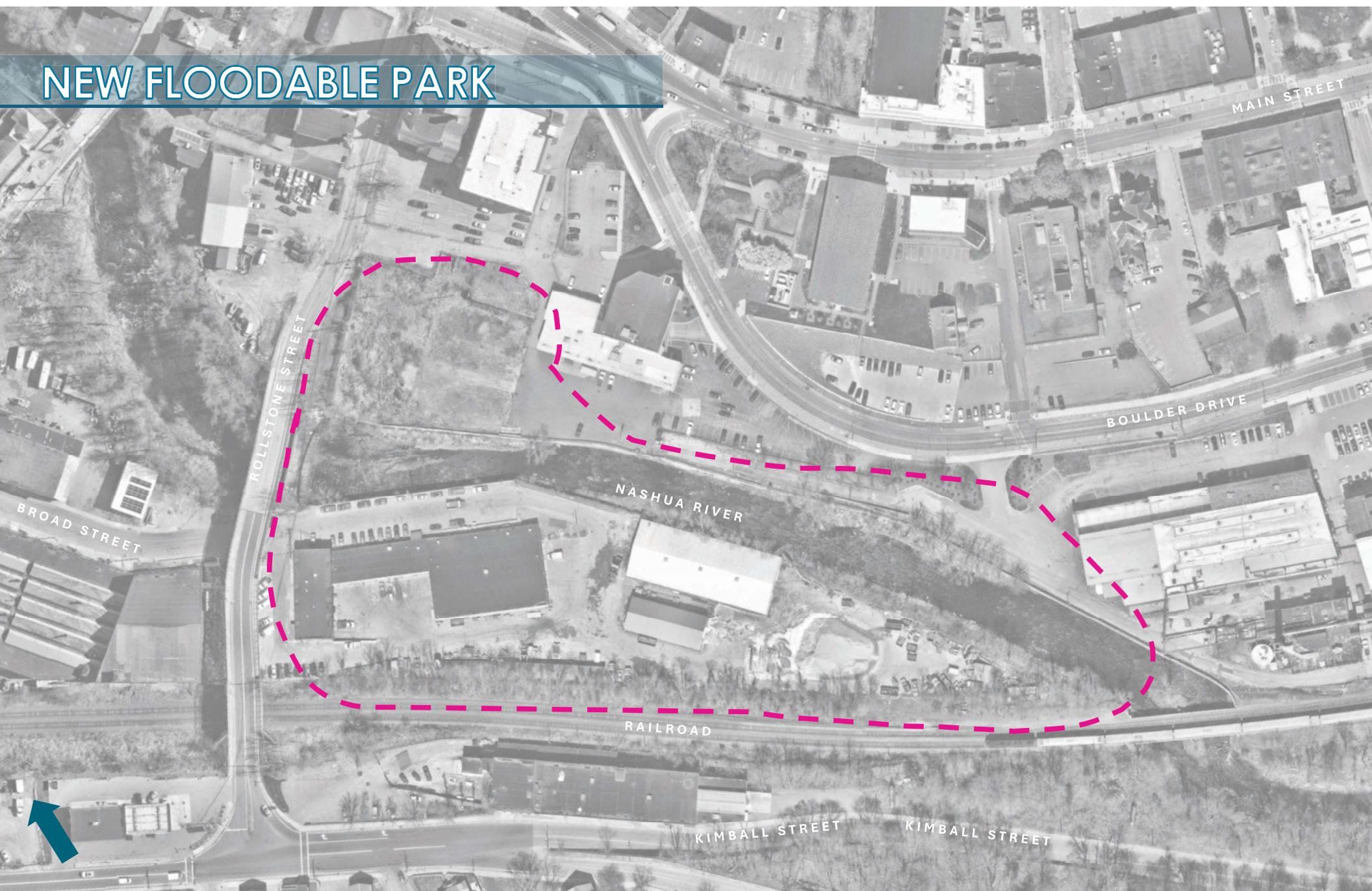
# EXPANDED RIVERFRONT PARK



# BLUE GREEN FITCHBURG 2070



# NEW FLOODABLE PARK



# NEW FLOODABLE PARK



## NEW FLOODABLE PARK

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# NEW FLOODABLE PARK

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A black and white photograph of a city skyline with a church steeple in the background, and a foreground of rocks and grass.

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