
Objective #2: Acushnet Riverwalk

Create a continuous Acushnet Riverwalk for public access along the river from Coggeshall Street to Tarkiln Hill Road. Work with the City and property owners to establish a continuous Riverwalk:

Short Term Actions

- Commission an engineering study to identify alternative a preferred alignment for the Riverwalk, taking into account factors such as shoreline conditions and Chapter 91 (Tidelands Act), Where existing conditions would prohibit development of the riverwalk, identify alternative solutions such as boardwalks, cantilevered walkways, through-building connections, etc. Identify potential Riverwalk segments for “early action” demonstration projects.

Lead Role..... Planning Department
Estimated Cost..... \$100,000

- Monitor development activity and property transactions along the Upper Acushnet. Where the City has leverage, strongly encourage property owners and/or developers to provide public access easements along the waterfront and, if feasible, additional funding for land acquisition and construction. The Commonwealth’s Chapter 91 regulations strongly encourage public access along the waterfront. The City should be sure to coordinate with regulators at Coastal Zone Management (CZM) to ensure that appropriate access is granted. The City’s priority should be on connecting the early action segments to each other.

Lead Role..... NBEDC and Planning Department
Estimated Cost..... N/A

- Seek out potential funding sources for design and construction, including PWED, CDAG, MORE Jobs, and I-Cubed funding through the Commonwealth.

Lead Role..... NBEDC and Planning Department
Estimated Cost..... N/A

Medium Term Actions

- Engage a multi-disciplinary team to design the Riverwalk in the preferred alignment, with the goal of creating a wide river promenade and associated amenities including viewing areas, open spaces, pavilions, natural shoreline plantings, etc. The design must be modular in order to accommodate interim conditions when access may not be available across all riverfront properties.

Lead Role..... Planning Department

Estimated Cost..... \$250,000

- Commence construction of “demonstration” segments of the Riverwalk, with the primary goal of providing for east-west public access across riverfront parcels, allowing the community to access the river in a safe manner.

Lead Role..... Planning Department & DPI

Estimated Cost..... Approx. \$1,000,000 (2,000 feet @ \$500/linear foot)

Long Term Actions

- Construct balance of Riverwalk (approximately three miles of paved right-of-way with amenities and electrical utilities) as the City secures appropriate easements.

Lead Role..... Planning Department & DPI

Estimated Cost..... Approx. \$7,500,000 (15,000 feet @ \$500/linear foot)

- Work with the Towns of Fairhaven and Acushnet to extend a Riverwalk loop to the other side of the river via Howland Road and Slocum Street.

Lead Role..... Mayor’s Office, Planning Department, Town of Fairhaven, Town of Acushnet

Estimated Cost..... TBD