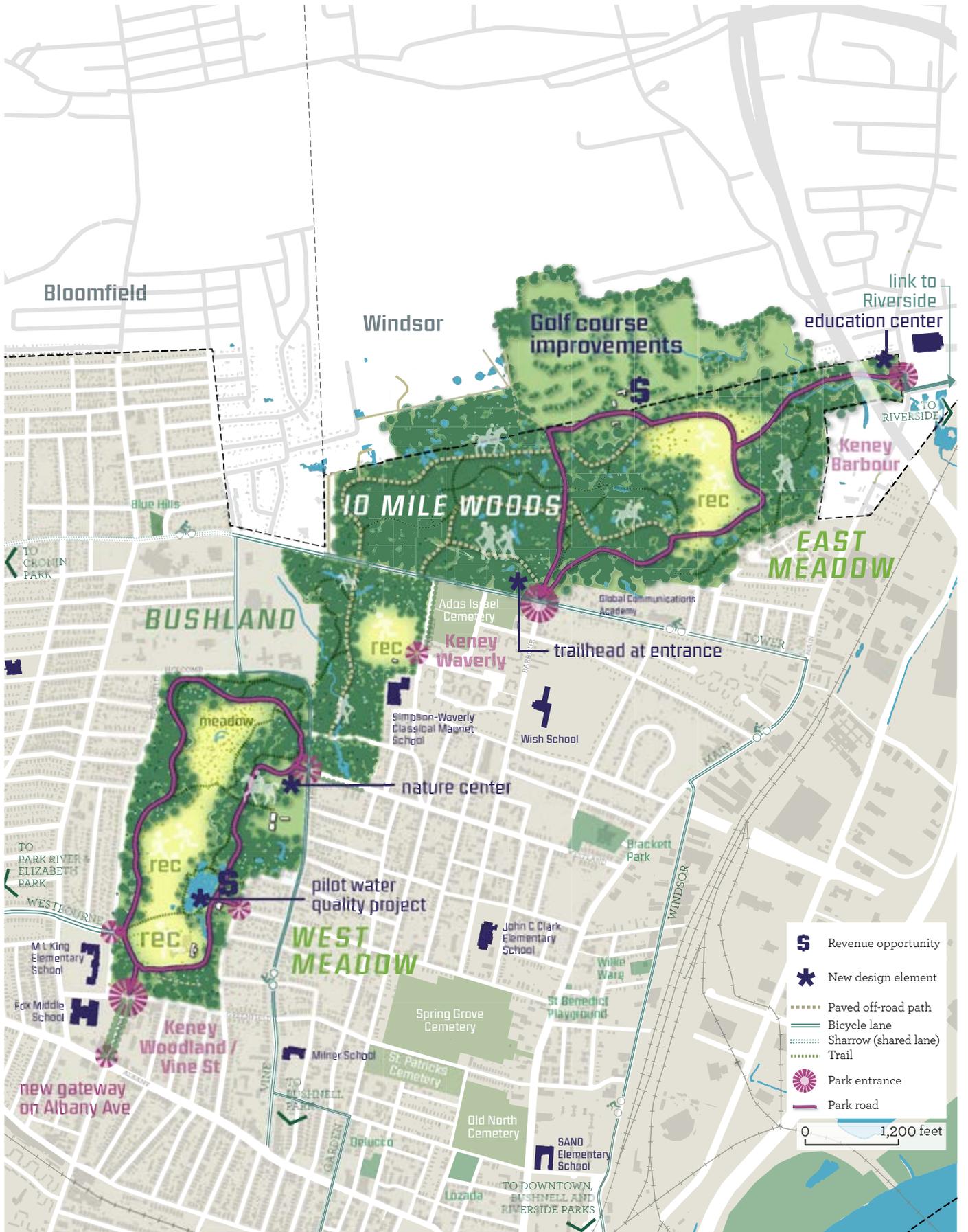


CAPITAL CITY PARKS

IDENTITY PARKS

Identity Parks are the major parks of the system, which are regional draws. They showcase the strong **historic legacy** of Hartford's park system, and today function as important **regional destinations, recreational assets, event spaces, and environmental resources**. As the foundation of the system, these parks should also **generate revenue** through concessions, rental opportunities, or specialized programs. Revenue generated from these parks will help support the system as a whole.



Keney Park Concept

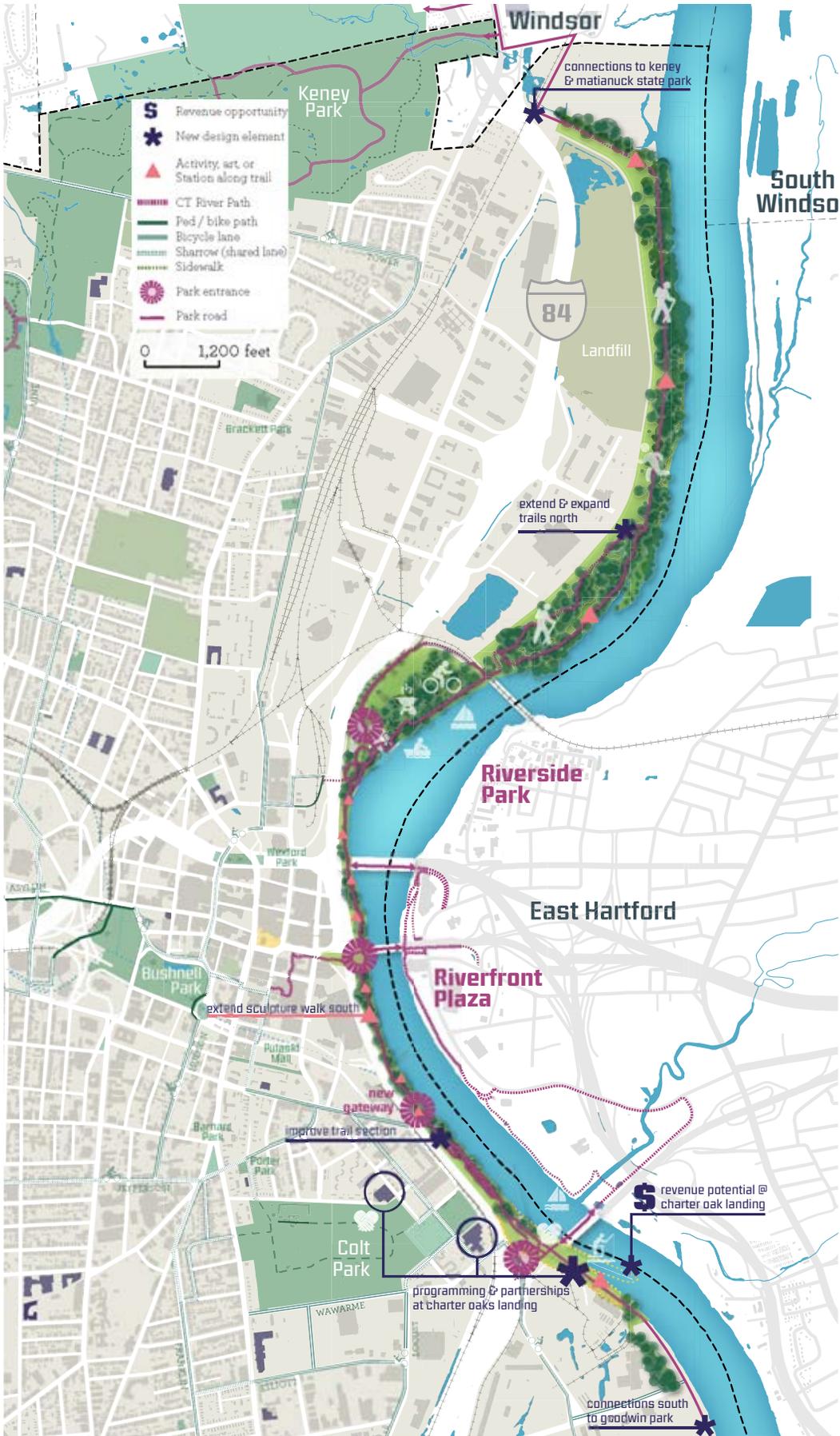


Concept Principles

1. Strengthen historic legacy
2. Restore Olmsted planting strategy
3. Reestablish the loop road. Physical improvements should be made in concert with management and security improvements.
4. Improve circulation in the park for all (cars, bicyclists, horseback riders, hikers, pedestrians)
5. Make entrances welcoming
6. Expand programming that builds on park history and natural setting
7. Identify revenue opportunities
8. Link the park to surroundings

Concept Elements

1. A Great Park Road
2. Restored hiking trails with new entrance elements
3. Wayfinding signage/maps
4. Opportunities to expand Ebony Horsewomen either on or off-site, if supported by a business plan
5. Implementation of Keney Park Sustainability project & Keney Trails Project
6. Clubhouse and golf course as revenue generation opportunities; golf course improvements
7. Additional trail links to neighborhood, especially in Keney Woodland
8. Address deferred maintenance on existing amenities



CT Riverfront Parks Concept

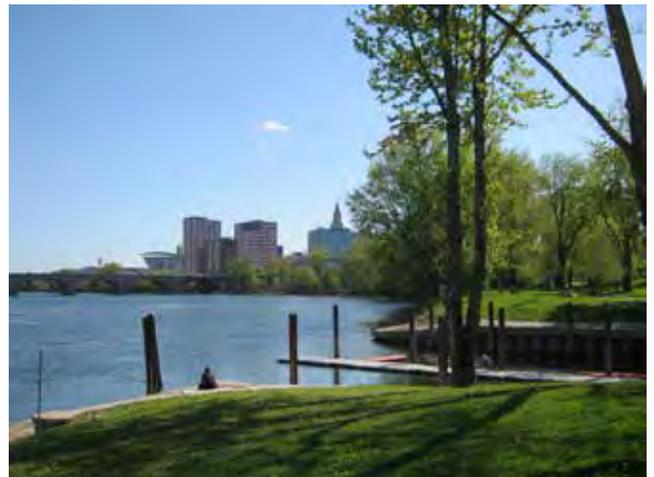
Concept Principles

1. Build on the existing successes
2. Extend Riverfront Trail north and south
3. Increase connectivity to city

Concept Elements

1. Improve existing trail between Riverfront Plaza and Charter Oak Landing (widen area near Van Dyke Ave; extend sculpture walk south)
2. Connect Riverside to Keney, and add northern gateway at north end of Riverside Park
3. Add underpass north of Colt Park
4. Improve trail along dike in Riverside Park
5. Enhance Charter Oak Landing as a waterfront event space (while keeping current uses)
6. Extend Riverfront trail north to Windsor and south to Wethersfield

Riverfront Recapture has been leading the revitalization of the riverfront parks for several decades, through planning, fundraising, and implementation. Their work has significantly improved these parks, and the Parks Guide coordinates and supports their efforts.





1. East End Activation

- upgrade Pump House as restaurant/event space
- build new park comfort station, water play area, and ice skating rink

2. Bushnell Gardens

including new park house

3. Realigned Gold St.

4. General park improvements:

lighting, pathways, trees, furniture, wayfinding

5. Shared use service paths

6. Reestablish link to State Capitol

7. Elm Street

- enliven with food trucks and other social elements

8. Improved gateway

9. Off-street bicycle path west of Pulaski Circle provides safe

passage around traffic circle

10. Off-street bicycle path on south side of Farmington / Asylum

11. Lafayette Place improvements

12. International Art Garden

13. Cafe Lafayette

14. Water-based design element to recall historic river

15. Main St Enhancements

16. East Coast Greenway Route

Bushnell Park Concept

iQuilt & Bushnell

The concept plan for Bushnell reflects the iQuilt plan, which seeks to create a connected series of public spaces through Downtown. Concept elements shown are included within the iQuilt Plan, but future planning will determine what is implemented.

The Hartford Parks Guide recommends prioritizing the East End activation. Upgrading the Pump House will create a new revenue opportunity. Next, basic upgrades to paths, lighting, park furnishings, and other elements are suggested. Renovating the play

area is also important. Implementing low-mow on less-used slopes and treed areas will reduce maintenance needs. Widening a few key paths and making them suitable for intermittent motorized vehicular access (service and emergency vehicles only) will help reduce the occurrence of vehicles driving and parking on lawns.

Other elements of iQuilt can occur later and should keep in mind potential future maintenance money. New elements should not significantly increase the amount of maintenance required.





-  New design element
-  Revenue opportunity
-  Mowed lawn
-  Low-mow area
-  Bicycle lane
-  Sharrows (shared lane)
-  Park entrance
-  Park road
-  Major path
-  Path

Elizabeth Park Concept

Concept Principles

1. Upgrade East End
2. Improve entrances, and improve connectivity between two parts of parks
3. Reduce maintenance needs for wooded areas of park

Concept Elements

1. Renovate eastern part of park. Upgrade playground and resurface basketball courts. Improve paths and implement other basic upgrades.
2. Implement low mow around park perimeter
3. Improve pedestrian crossing on Prospect Street between parks
4. Remove invasive species

The Elizabeth Park Conservancy has been working toward its mission to preserve, restore and promote the Rose Garden and Elizabeth Park for generations to come. They are guided by a strategic plan and raise funds to support the gardens, staff, events, supplies and facility improvement through private and public fund raising efforts. This Guide supports and coordinates with their efforts, and suggests additional ways to minimize maintenance and improve the eastern part of the park.

