

## Norton Waterbody Access Master Plan

Neighborhood Meeting #3

Newland and Plain Street - Canoe River Access Site

May 1st, 2021

### Summary

The Newland and Plain Street sites both provide access to the Canoe River. The Newland site is situated upstream from the Plain Street Site.

### Newland Street Site Vision (Canoe River North)

The Newland Street site is a good location for car-top water craft access, featuring approximately 5 parking spots along the site's Newland St. frontage. A short trail leading from parking spots to the water allows for easy riverine access. However, there appears to be a need for additional informational signage and kiosks that indicate the pathways from the sites to the water in order to avoid confusion with the water supply facility access. Additional pruning and removal of invasive species (multi-flora rose and bittersweet) and underbrush is necessary to make space for a stabilized riverbank access point. This site could feasibly and ideally be connected to the Plain Street site downstream by a trail system that would allow for portage. Due to no public participation on the date of SRPEDD's visit, information about known issues is limited.

### Newland Street Water Access (Canoe River North)

- Water access from this site is achieved through a 220 foot path from the parking area to the river. Additional signage is required to direct people towards this path, rather than an adjoining path which leads to the water supply facility. Additionally, the trail to the water requires additional clean up.
- The surface of the launch site needs to be stabilized, as there is no formal division between the riverine edge and the water to act as a stable launch point.
- There is a potential fishing spot located downstream of the launch site at an old bridge- however ensuring user safety while using the spot could require the installation of guard rails on the bridge's surface

### Newland Street Site Parking, Traffic, and Vehicular Circulation Issues

- There are three parking spots available along the street, provided that no cars block the gate access.



Path from parking area to river



The water access location does not feature a strong stable launch point



The bridge at Newland St. could continue to be a fishing spot if safety implementations are made.



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Informational signage at site could



The site does not have a parking lot, but three parked cars can fit along the street before the gated driveway without blocking the

### Newland Street Site Parking, Traffic, and Vehicular Circulation Issues Continued

- There is one driveway into the site leading from Newland Street, which is gated and reserved for the water treatment facility once past the gate. However, additional signage is required so visitors do not accidentally follow the driveway or another trail up to the supply facility, but instead remain on path to the water front.

### Newland Street Site Cleanliness Issues

- The trail down to the river has some litter and fallen underbrush, and requires some cleaning up.
- There are invasive species such as multi-flora Rose and Bittersweet which need to be removed.

### Newland Street Site Opportunities

- There is room for an informational kiosk inside of the gate on the way to the access point, which can feature recreational activity information, as well as information on the area's waterbodies and watersheds, especially related to water supply.
- The site could feasibly and ideally be connected to the Plain St. Site downstream by a trail system that would allow for portage.

### Plain Street Site Vision

The Plain Street Site's combination of ample parking, proximity to other open space amenities (the Town Forest), and good launching off point for water recreation make this site an ideal location for a variety of uses. Additional amenities such as benches, ground level signage describing area ecology, and a trail connecting upstream to the Newland St. Site would also benefit the site.



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There is some available road-side parking



The site features a stable launching off point with good water access.

### Plain Street Water Access (Canoe River South)

- Water access from this site is achieved through a 225-foot path from the parking area to the river, and is wide enough to allow for Canoes and Kayakers. The path is relatively clear and free of obstructions.
- The launching off point is situated close to the bridge over Plain Street, and it features a stable bank that is quite sunny during the day time.
- The water access point could feature expanded uses if a bench or other sitting area were installed.

### Plain Street Parking, Traffic, and Vehicular Circulation Issues

- There is no driveway directly into the site, and no parking lot directly at the site. There is sufficient parking for 5 cars along the side of the road between the site and the adjacent cemetery. There is also ample street-side parking across the road, at the Town Forest, but not directly at the site.

### Plain Street Opportunities

- Installing a bench at the water access location would expand the available activities at the site. When paired with increased signage and educational information, this could help attract a diversity of visitors.
- Tree pruning and site maintenance would assist this site in attracting visitors, particularly to the water access location where they can stay for a while.
- The site could feasibly and ideally be connected to the Newland St. site upstream by a trail system that would allow for portage.