



Legacy Project: Independence Park Refresh

Community Meeting 1
May 7, 2025





Agenda

1. Background on Bev400+
2. Goals of the Legacy / Independence Park Project
3. Proposed Design
4. Comments and Questions
5. Next Steps

The goal of tonight's meeting is to capture participants' comments, so they may be considered in the next version of the plan. We are recording the meeting, including the chats.

Beverly 400+



- Non-profit volunteer organization, formed to celebrate Beverly's birthday in 2026
- Planning new events and programs throughout the year
 - Re-enactment of the Hannah vs Nautilus battle
 - Vietnam Wall traveling exhibit
 - Stories project
 - Indigenous Peoples Day, Night Circus, Porchfest, Road Race, etc
- Funded thru private donations, state and city grants, Community Preservation Act, ticket sales (most events are free)
- The “+” is recognition that the land currently occupied is the ancestral land of the Naumkeag people

Board Members



Todd Rotondo - President

Medley Long III – Vice President

Julie DeSilva – Secretary

Bill Alpine – Treasurer

Barbara Broudo

Vickie Caldwell

Karen Fogarty ←

Martha Gavin

Jonathan Schuster

Heather Wolsey

Lindsay Barth (Arts)

Heather Beaulieu

Rob Chapman

Brandi Johnson

Martha Lewis

Betty Spak (Marketing)

Al Temkin

Sydney Sweeney (Events)

Lorinda Visnick

Gin Wallace (History)

Mayor Mike Cahill, Ex Officio

What's Our Legacy?

- Refresh Independence Park – it needs some love!
- One of the most historic spots in Beverly, but few know why





Goals of the Project

1. Make the park accessible for all
2. Tell the stories of what happened at the park with new signage

In doing this, we'll also upgrade the look of the park, improve safety and create opportunities to use the park in new ways.



Project Details

- Original ideas came from Friends of Independence Park
- Working with Halvorson, a division of Tighe & Bond Studio
- Received \$125,000 from the CPC to complete Phase 1
 - Design through to bid documents (incl necessary approvals)
 - Phase 1 complete August/Sept
- City expects to complete installation mid-2026
- Note that CPC grant does not include signage, which we will fund with other means; Halvorson has designed the plan to allow room for the signage



Notes before the Reveal

- The area of work is from the sidewalk down to the main path; Bev Dept of Public Services has directed us not to work below it as that area is included in the city's Beach Management Project
- Earlier version of the plan shows only the plaque and not the large rock it sits on; given new information about the history of the rock, the plan now references both the rock and the plaque together ("DAR Monument"); new location is tbd
- Materials have not yet been addressed; that will happen once the design is finalized and we have a handle on available funding
- Written comments are due by 9am Monday, May 10; send to legacy@beverly400.org

HALVORSON

Tighe&Bond STUDIO



Next Steps

- Comments due by 9am on Monday, May 10
- Review all the comments received
- Modify the 1st draft
- Schedule a 2nd community meeting (2-3 weeks from now)



Thank you!

