

Weir Village Riverfront Park, Taunton MA



The former F.B. Rogers Silver factory on the banks of the Taunton River before demolition (Picture above).

Who: The City of Taunton working with SRPEDD, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassDEP, and The Nature Conservancy.

What: The city demolished the old F.B. Rogers Silver factory on the banks of the Taunton River, cleaned up the soil, and is in the process of building a new city park and boat ramp. In partnership MassDEP and The Nature Conservancy, rain gardens will be constructed to protect the water quality in the Taunton River.

When: The abandoned silver factory was identified as a location for cleanup and park creation in Taunton's Open Space Plan of 2015. The Open Space Plan was prepared with technical help from SRPEDD and financial assistance from MassDOT through the South Coast Rail Technical Assistance Program. The city applied for and received two rounds of PARC (EEA's Office of Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities) grant funding to implement the park design recommended by the Open Space Plan. Soil clean-up and site preparation began in early 2016. The park should be completed by 2018.

Where: 414 West Water St, Taunton MA. This park will be on the bank of the Taunton River, in the Taunton River Watershed.

Why: The park will allow better access to the Taunton River for recreation and fishing, and the rain gardens will protect the river from stormwater pollution. This park will be an important re-purposing of formerly industrial area in Weir Village.

How: The City received two rounds of state PARC grants to turn the former factory site into a waterfront park based on Taunton's Open Space Plan. Money from MassDEP's Section 319 grant was used to construct raingardens throughout the new park that will drain impervious surfaces and management stormwater pollution to the river (See Fact Sheets #3 and #5).

Benefits

- Weir Village Riverfront Park will revitalize an area of Taunton that was industrial and is now largely unused. This will open a new part of the City to improve the conservation, open space, and recreation needs of the City of Taunton.
- The park will have a new boat ramp that can accommodate motorized boats.
- Picnic tables, benches, and an overlook will be added to the park.
- The parking lots and impervious surfaces in the park will be designed so that rain and snow melt drains into raingardens throughout the park (See Fact Sheets #3 and #5). *Raingarden Construction Cost estimated at \$22,500.*