



CHARLES AND WANSKUCK NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN MAP

January 2010



On May 31, 2006, Mayor Cicilline and the City Council announced the creation of Providence Tomorrow- an innovative and inclusive planning process designed to create a framework for growth and preservation of Providence neighborhoods. Since then, the City Council adopted a new Comprehensive Plan, and the Department of Planning and Development has begun detailed planning studies in each of the city's neighborhoods.

Providence has 25 distinct neighborhoods, each with unique character and identity. While neighborhoods share many features, each has its own set of planning challenges and concerns. An important part of Providence Tomorrow is the in-depth, detailed planning studies that were conducted at the neighborhood level. The neighborhoods were grouped together so that there were ten neighborhood charrettes, or planning studies, conducted from 2007 to 2009.

The Charles and Wanskuck Neighborhood Charrette was held July 13-16, 2009. Sessions were held at the DaVinci Center for Community Progress at 470 Charles Street. Approximately 30 people participated in the charrette, voicing their opinions on how to improve parks and other public spaces in their neighborhoods, where and how they would like to see redevelopment in the future, and where traffic and circulation problems currently exist, among other issues. The planning team collected all of the information from the week, and drafted an action plan that was presented at a follow-up meeting in October 2009.

This map is a summary of the information that was collected from residents, business owners and neighborhood youth over the course of an intensive week of many public meetings. The Plan summarizes neighborhood history and demographics, illustrates the existing character of the neighborhoods through photos and typologies of buildings types, and identifies key issues and neighborhood priorities. The Action Plan identifies goals and objectives for the neighborhoods, and the parties who will lead each effort. The Plan will be used to guide the review of development projects in these neighborhoods by the city's boards and commissions, help the City prioritize funding for projects and infrastructure improvements, and provide a guide for redevelopment efforts.



The Steere Mill complex was established as a worst-textile factory in 1862 by Stephen Olney and Jesse Metcalf. In 1957, the site was vacated, and served several uses until the 1980s when American Tourister took over the facility. In 2000, the American Tourister warehouse was destroyed by fire. As one of the largest redevelopment opportunities in the City, the 25-acre American Tourister/Steere Mill site has tremendous potential to benefit the Wanskuck neighborhood and the City's tax base.

Redevelop the former Steere Mill/American Tourister Site into a beneficial use to the neighborhood and the City.

- Encourage potential uses such as senior assisted living, commercial, or industrial development.
- Through the redevelopment process, ensure the preservation of a portion of the site, including Whipple Pond, as open space with a walking path and easy neighborhood access.

Improve access to and increase opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of open space at Wanskuck Park.

- Examine the feasibility of installing a playground within the park.
- Upgrade benches and trash cans at Wanskuck Park.
- Consider the installation of an enclosed off-leash dog area within the park.



Canada Pond, a 20-acre man-made pond, once supplied water for the nearby mills but is now a wildlife conservation and recreation area.

Recognize Canada Pond as a valuable neighborhood resource; work with RIDEM to improve water quality, restore its beach if feasible, schedule area clean-ups, and improve access to the pond and its surrounding for neighborhood residents.

Establish an opening and closing schedule for the park adjacent to St. Ann's Church.

Improve access to and increase opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of open space at Hopkins Square.

- Repair broken lights in Hopkins Square and evaluate lighting to ensure safety in the evening hours.
- Examine the possibility of a seasonal farmers market at Hopkins Square.
- Work with RIPTA to install signature bus shelters at Hopkins Square.

Upgrade the lighting and plant additional trees at Lola French Park.

Redevelop the former auto body shop on the west side of Douglas Avenue between Lancashire and Columbus streets with a neighborhood-serving commercial development.

Improve access to and increase opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of open space at Corliss Park.

- Evaluate the programming in the park and upgrade facilities to fit current neighborhood needs.
- Consider the installation of an enclosed off-leash dog park area within the park.
- Work with the Parks Department to relocate benches from Hopkins Square to Corliss Park when the Hopkins Square benches are replaced by the Charles Street Business Association.
- Examine the feasibility of installing a spray park at Corliss Park.



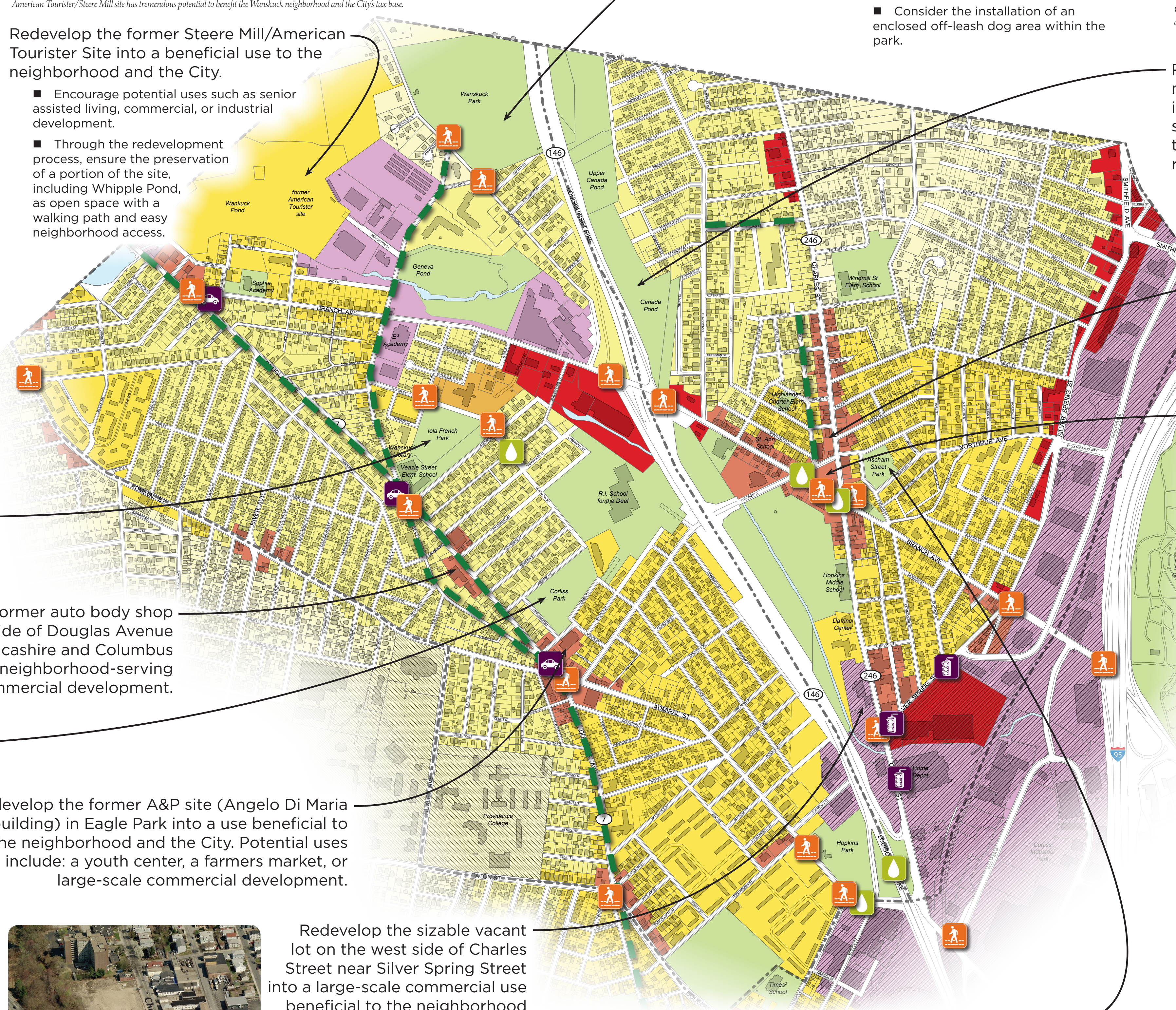
Redevelop the former A&P site (Angelo Di Maria building) in Eagle Park into a use beneficial to the neighborhood and the City. Potential uses include: a youth center, a farmers market, or large-scale commercial development.



Redevelop the sizable vacant lot on the west side of Charles Street near Silver Spring Street into a large-scale commercial use beneficial to the neighborhood and the City.

Improve access to and increase opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of open space at Ascham Street Playground.

- Evaluate the feasibility of re-designing the playground to make it more appealing to neighborhood residents.
- Evaluate programming.
- Remove graffiti.
- Upgrade lighting to make the playground more inviting.



Legend

Single Family Residential	Neighborhood Commercial
Low Density Residential	General Commercial
Medium Density Residential	Downtown/Mixed Use
High Density Residential	Business/Mixed Use
Waterfront Mixed Use/Nbrhd	Public Space/Open Space
Waterfront Mixed Use/General	Institutional District
Waterfront/Port	Jobs Only District
Recommended shared bike lanes	Possible gateway location
Recommended on-street bike lanes	Recommended streetscape improvements
Possible transit connection	Recommended landscape buffer
Recommended pedestrian improvements	Possible greenway
Possible multi-use trail	Discourage commercial expansion beyond boundary
Recreation opportunity	Recommended drainage improvements
Community garden opportunity	Recommended traffic/intersection improvements
Playground opportunity	Recommended traffic signal improvements
	Goal/action completed

1/4 mile 1/2 mile
1/4 km 1/2 km