

95R Thornton Street

April 10, 2024





OVERVIEW

- **Introductions**
- **About the Grassroots Program**
- **About HPPRC**
- **MOH Land Disposition Process**
- **Site Details**
- **Discussion: Comments and Q+A**
- **Next Steps**

INTRODUCTIONS

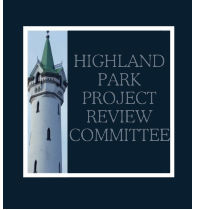
- **MOH/GrowBoston staff**
- **HPPRC members**
- **Elected officials**



Edgewater Food Forest, Mattapan

GROWBOSTON

Office of Urban Agriculture



The Food Project - East Cottage Farm

- **GrowBoston's goal is to increase food production and support local food producers in Boston, including gardeners, farmers, beekeepers, and more.**
 - *Support for innovative food production strategies*
 - *Technical assistance to farms and gardens*
 - *Educational resources*
 - *And more!*
- **Part of the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH)**

GRASSROOTS PROGRAM

Program of GrowBoston



Savin Hill Wildlife Garden

- **Provides City-owned land, grant funds, and technical assistance to neighborhood groups and non-profit organizations for:**
 - Community gardens
 - Urban farms
 - Other open space uses



About the Highland Park Project Review Committee

HIGHLAND PARK PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Office of Urban Agriculture



The Food Project - East Cottage Farm

- The PRC was initiated in Highland Park in the late 1990s
- The PRC process was solidified in the 2004 Roxbury Strategic Master
- A parcel planning and disposition partnership with the MOH was established through the 2016 MOU



MOH Land Disposition Process

MOH PROCUREMENT PROCESS

Under Chapter 30B



- [M.G.L. c. 30B \(Chapter 30B\)](#) establishes an advertised proposal process that COB must follow in acquiring and disposing real estate property by purchase, sale or rental with a value greater than \$35,000.
- **Under Chapter 30B**, MOH is required to conduct an **open and fair competitive process** that places all proposers on common footing, solicit information that will allow **manageable and meaningful comparisons of offers** and base decisions solely on the information solicited (what we've heard from the community).

MOH LAND DISPOSITION PROCESS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Community feedback prior to RFP release**
 - Develop community vision for the future of the site to inform the development guidelines in a future RFP
 - Highland Park PRC and community conversations about City-owned land in Highland Park
 - Community meeting(s) and public comment periods for specific sites
- **RFP release**
 - Incorporating community feedback and reviewed by HPPRC prior to release
- **RFP evaluation**
 - MOH evaluates proposals received against the minimum eligibility criteria
 - Eligible proposers give a developer presentation of their proposal to community members, followed by public comment period
 - Evaluation committee reviews eligible proposals against evaluation criteria outlined in the RFP and incorporates community feedback into developer recommendation

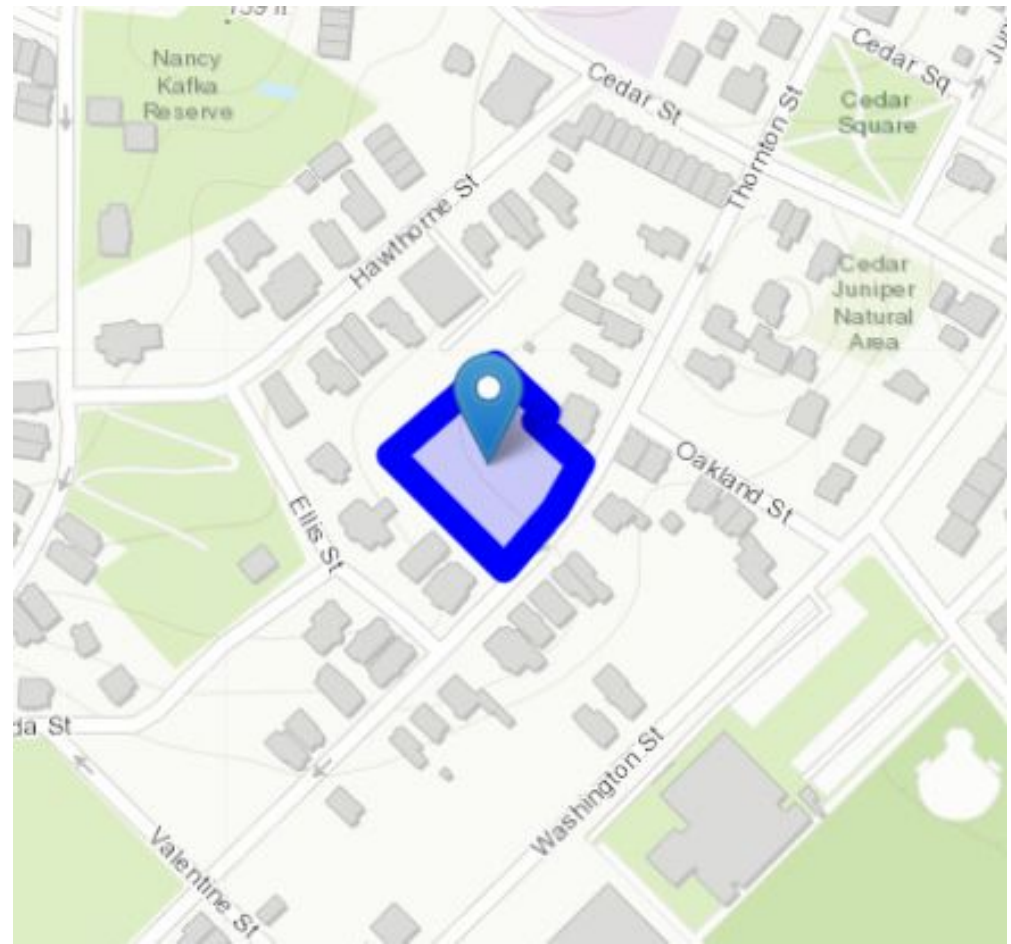


About the Site



SITE DESCRIPTION AND MAP

- **95R Thornton St, Roxbury**
- **Total Size: 29,087 sq ft**
- **1 parcel**



SATELLITE MAP



SITE PHOTO



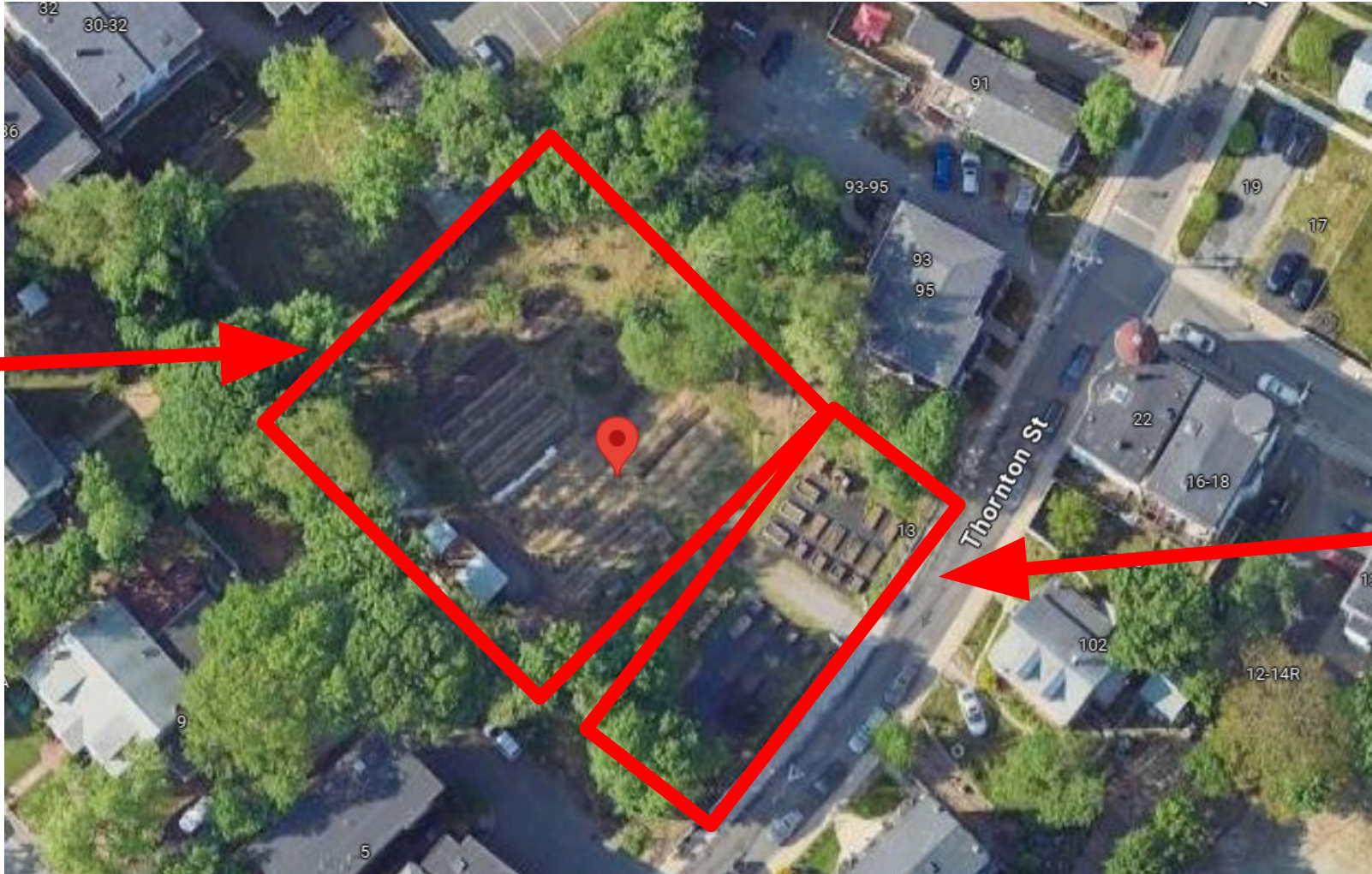
SITE HISTORY



- 1979 - City of Boston takes ownership via tax foreclosure
- Community members begin using site for urban agriculture
- License issued for use of the site for urban agriculture
- 2023 - MOH begins conversations with current PRC about this and other sites in Highland Park
 - *Neighborhood walkthrough on 11/4/23 included 95R Thornton St.*

CURRENT CONDITIONS

**URBAN
FARM
AREA**



**COMMUNITY
GARDEN
BEDS**

A photograph of a residential garden area. In the foreground, a gravel path leads through a white picket fence. To the left of the path is a white utility box with some papers attached. To the right is a large green bush. In the background, there are several raised garden beds with various plants, a white pickup truck parked on a lawn, and several houses and trees under a clear sky.

Discussion: Comments and Q+A

PROPOSED FUTURE USE



- Preservation of the site for urban agriculture
- Ongoing use as urban farm with public access
- Maintain community garden beds

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



- Do you have any questions or concerns regarding the possible permanent use of this site for **an urban farm and community garden**?
- Do you want to see this space preserved as open space into the future?
- Is there anything you would NOT want to see on this site?
- Any other comments, questions, or concerns?



Next Steps



MOH CONTACT INFORMATION

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