

# Androscoggin Greenway Plan: Maine's First Place-Based HIA



Maine Center for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
*An Office of the  
Department of Health and Human Services*

Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

# ASTHO Grant

- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
  - Primary goal - build capacity for HIA in Maine via training and performance of an HIA by collaborating with members of MeHi, a selected community, and other partners with an interest in HIA.
  - Primary interest - environmental health outcomes, but ASTHO allowed for the inclusion of those health outcomes of interest to the community chosen for the HIA because it was argued that the ways in which built environment is designed can provide opportunities to realize co-benefits among healthy behaviors, mental health, and environmental quality.
- The Maine Network of Healthy Communities applied for this funding opportunity in partnership with members of the Maine Health Impact Assessment Initiative (MeHi). Prominent among the partners was Maine CDC.

# Maine Health Impact Assessment Initiative (MeHi)

- Formed in 2010 and is convened by the Maine CDC to improve capacity for and promote the use of HIA in Maine. MeHi membership:
  - Comes from public and private public health organizations.
  - Received training on HIA from either the federal CDC or Health Resources in Action (based in Boston, MA).
  - Works together to increase knowledge and awareness of HIA in Maine and to promote its use.
- MeHi serves as a HIA incubator, disseminating information about HIA, training and funding opportunities. MeHi encourages members to pursue those opportunities individually or in partnerships to increase HIA in Maine.

# ALT Greenway Plan HIA Team

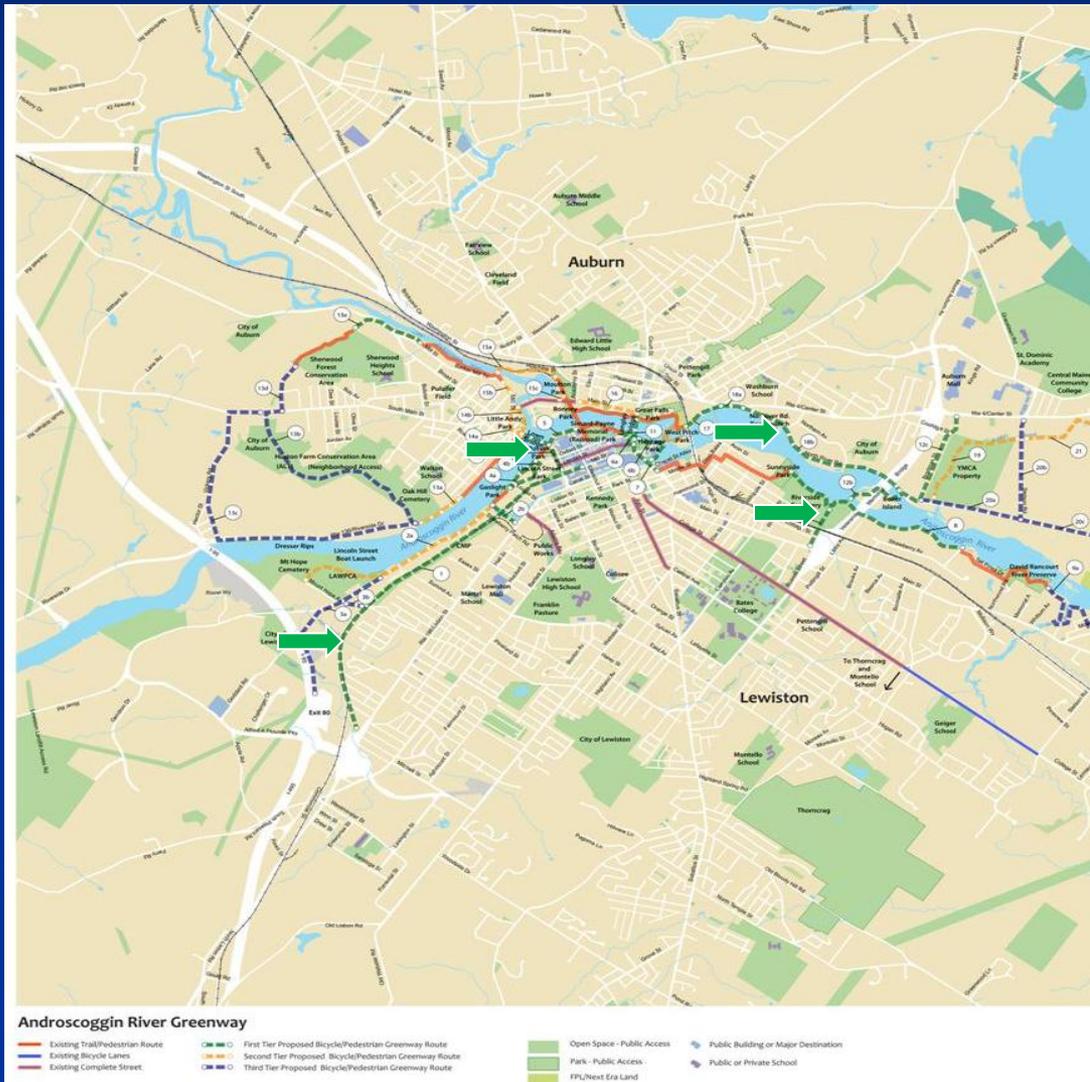
- Project Director & Lead Report Author - Rebecca Drewette-Card, MSPH, Public Health Partners, LLC
- Data Analysis - Sarah Levin Martin, PhD, DBA PEANUT (copyright 2004)
- Evaluation - Michelle Mitchell, MSocSc, Partnerships for Health, LLC
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- Communication - Doug Beck, BS, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- Team Member - Ashley Tetreault, BA, Partnerships for Health, LLC
- Team Member - Norman Anderson, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

# Rapid HIA

- Take anywhere from a couple of hours to a couple of weeks to complete.
- Usually use existing HIAs, literature, or data on the topic.
- Have limited community engagement - those who incorporate community engagement usually do so in the form of a one day workshop with multiple days of preparation and follow-up.
- Can be used as a brief assessment to determine if a more lengthy HIA is warranted for a particular policy, plan, project, or program.

# ALT Greenway Plan

Tier One projects are shown in green.



- Developed in the 1990's by ALT and the National Park Service's River and Trails Program in cooperation with several other organizations.
- Primary goal - "Preserve open space along the Androscoggin River and its tributaries; revitalize the urban waterfronts of Lewiston-Auburn and Lisbon; create access to the river and its tributaries for recreation and transportation; and provide a riverfront setting for community life."
- In January 2012, participants at a public workshop prioritized the Greenway work into three Tiers.
- Tier One was designated as the highest priority projects.
  - This HIA focused on these Tier 1 projects, dividing them into four sub projects.

# HIA Timeline

- May 2, 2012 – Project Finalized
- May 30, 2012 – Community workshop
  - Review of overall plan and four projects
  - Identification of health indicators
  - HIA Team formation/additions
  - Advisory Committee
- July 5, 2012 – Draft report review
  - Review preliminary findings with community stakeholders.
- August 30, 2012 – Final report to Androscoggin Land Trust
- HIA team meetings Thursdays from 1-3pm for project duration.

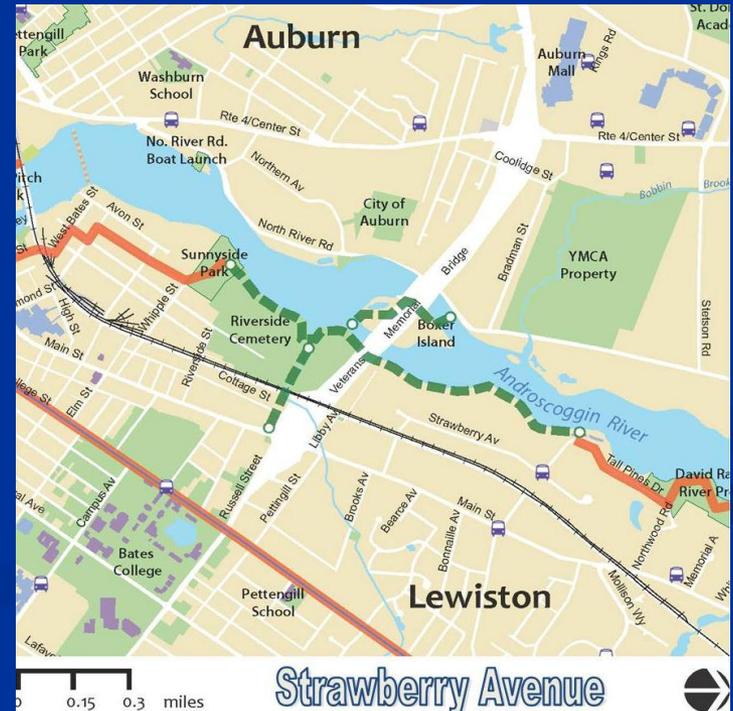
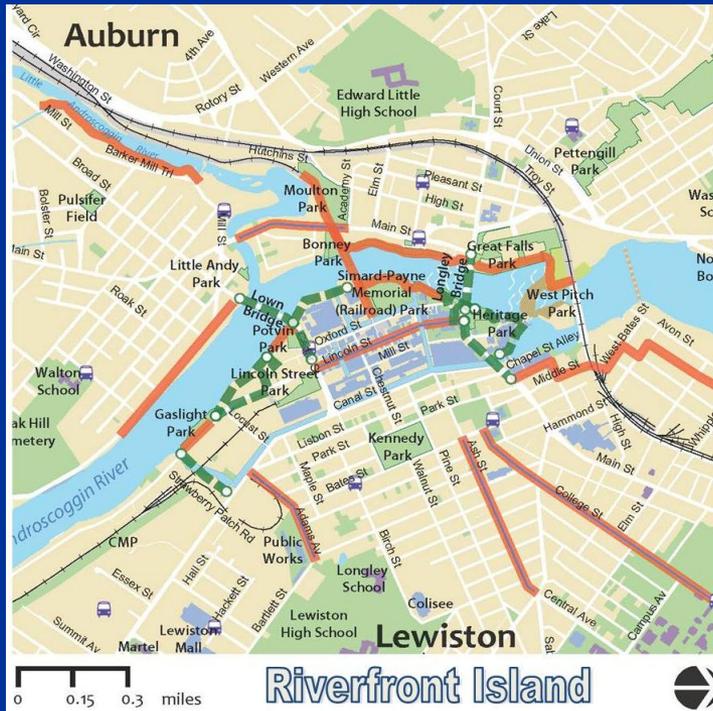


# Summary of Health Impacts

	STRAWBERRY AVENUE PROJECT	RIVERFRONT ISLAND PROJECT	NORTH RIVER ROAD PROJECT	EXIT 80 PROJECT
<b>Improved Access</b>				
Fruits and vegetables	+	+	0	0
Services	++	++	++	+
Parks	++	++	+	+
<b>Increased Trail Mileage</b>	+	+	++	++
<b>Increased Physical Activity</b>	++	++	++	++
Recreation	+	+	+	+
Active transportation	++	++	+	+
<b>Increased Nutrition</b>				
Fruit and vegetable intake	+	+	0	0
<b>Decreased Bike / Ped Injuries</b>	+	+	+	+
<b>Enhanced Social Capital</b>	+	+	+	+
Employment opportunities	+	+	+	+
Perceived safety	0	0	0	0

# Overall Recommendation

- Focus first on the development of the Riverfront Island project and the Strawberry Avenue project, rather than the Exit 80 project or the North River Road project.



# Additional Recommendations

## ■ Trail Access and Safety Recommendations

- Consider specific opportunities for improved pedestrian access to the proposed trails, which will lead to improved pedestrian safe access to the proposed trails and improved health by a greater proportion of the community. Two projects have particular access issues.
- Implement design standards for the trails which increase perceptions of safety and visibility and address user comfort and accommodation. Further, trails should be ADA-compliant where possible, particularly in those areas in close proximity to residential areas, and specifically near senior housing.

## ■ Trail Promotion Recommendations

- Use informational outreach to increase awareness of the Greenway among community members.
- Consider infrastructure and policies which allow for year-round bicycle and pedestrian use.
- Consider the social and cultural needs of all community members when promoting the trails.

## ■ Social Capital Recommendations

- Increase social capital and community pride by integrating natural and cultural history interpretation into the design of the trails.
- Increase community capital by implementing programs that create community ownership of the trails.

# Dissemination and Evaluation

- Dissemination Plan
  - In the final report for ALT consideration.
- Evaluation
  - Short Term - Focuses on tracking the decision making process and assessing the impact that the HIA had on the decisions.
    - Survey
  - Long Term – Assesses whether the anticipated positive effects on health, well-being and equity were enhanced.
    - Tracking indicators using existing data sources