

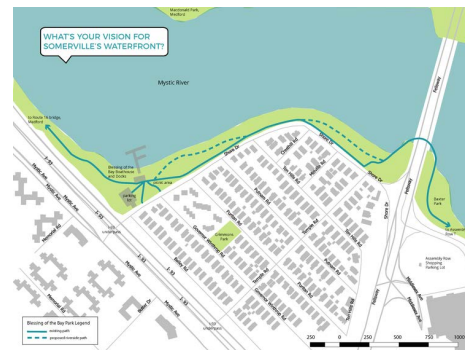
C) Blessing of the Bay Park, along Shore Drive.

The Mystic River Watershed Association, in partnership with the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Groundwork Somerville, is leading a comprehensive, community-driven plan and design for Blessing of the Bay Park. With the input of local residents and stakeholders, the revitalization plan will identify the physical features, natural areas, programming and amenities needed to transform this park into one that supports recreation, active transportation, social cohesion and ecological health.

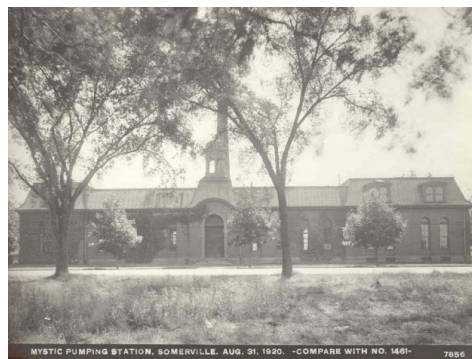
Blessing of the Bay Park and Boathouse is one of the few waterfront parks in Somerville and the location of the City's annual Herring Run and Paddle Race. It's also Paddle Boston's newest kayak .

and canoe rental site, and the only public boat rental on the Mystic River.

(<https://mysticriver.org/blessingofthebay>)



WEST SOMERVILLE



D) Mystic Waterworks Senior Housing Complex, Somerville Housing Authority Residences. 485 Mystic Valley Parkway.

Former Use: Mystic Water Works/Pumping Station (1862-1864)

This previous utility site was converted to housing for 25 senior or handicapped individuals and opened December 2017. The project was made possible through funding from local, state, and federal sources. The Romanesque Revival building was originally built in 1864 as a pumping station for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Additional wings were added in 1870 and 1895. During World War I it was renovated to become office and research space, and then again in 1921 for use as maintenance shops. It recently won a 2018 Preservation Award from the Somerville HPC.

(www.sha-web.org)

END:



L) Bow Market, off Somerville Ave., Union Square.

Former Use: Cement block storage building and parking lot.

Bow Market recently opened in May 2018, turning a little patch off Somerville Avenue into a new urban marketplace that will ultimately feature over 30 micro-sized retail spaces overlooking a courtyard with outdoor seating and trees. The many aspiring food vendors, retailers, and artists will also benefit from the common public courtyard in the heart of Union Square that is perfect for sponsoring such community events as yoga and themed workshops. The Market was developed by two young entrepreneurs, Matthew Boyes-Watson and Zach Baum, who have enticed a host of established vendors like The Comedy Studio, as well as new ones like Remnant Brewing, a coffee shop-by-day and a brewery-by-night, enhanced by an outdoor beer garden.

(<http://www.bowmarketsomerville.com/>)

To learn more about the multifaceted work undertaken by both the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission and the Somerville Bike Committee visit www.somervillebikes.org and www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation or contact Brandon Wilson via bwilson@somervillema.gov.

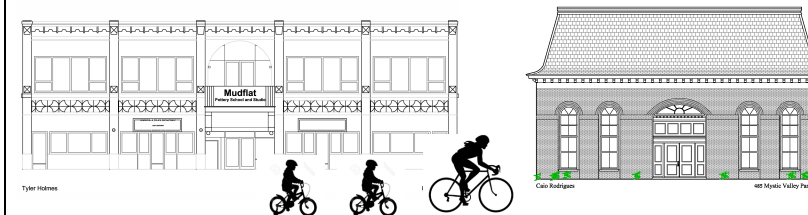
Thank you for participating in this Bike Ride!

Brochure Credits: Logan Capone & Brandon Wilson; Route Map and Cue Sheet: Alex Anderson; Police Coordination: Enid Kumin (SBC); and the Somerville Police Dept. for enthusiastically escorting us.



"EXPLORING SOMERVILLE: NEW FACES OF ENDURING PLACES"

Sunday, June 17th, 2018



Sponsored by the Somerville Bicycle Committee (SBC) and the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC).

Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor

Welcome to our 17th Annual Historic Bike Ride! **

The theme this year was chosen in recognition of the various creative and innovative uses that more and more Somerville buildings are experiencing over the past few decades. The definition of adaptive reuse is the process of transforming a site or building to a purpose other than which it was originally designed. Adaptive reuse is highly advantageous as it saves buildings from being overfull landfills, and it preserves the familiar character that a well-loved landmark serves in a neighborhood. It also creates a new life and use for a building, giving it a renewed vitality that often catalyzes new energy and development in an area.

The selected examples represent a range of new uses and styles that have typically required collaboration between residents, business owners, city officials and teams of developers, architects, and planners. All of the projects in some way preserve the architectural value of the building while enabling it to continue being useful in the 21st century.

This Historic Bike Ride will take us from the center of Somerville, through most other neighborhoods, from the East to the West, stopping periodically to learn how our community is benefiting from adaptive reuse projects. Today, we will only pass or go inside a sampling of the re-purposed projects in the City, but hopefully enough to appreciate how Somerville is making great strides to honor its past, enhance its present landscape, and look toward a more sustainable future. Let's get going!

CENTRAL HILL

START:



A) City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue.*

Former Use: Library & High School.

City Hall first served as the community's high school until town offices were relocated from Union Square to the 2nd floor in 1867. Somerville incorporated as a City in 1872 and various additions were made to the building in 1896 and 1902. A more substantial enlargement in 1923-24 led to its present configuration. Now housing a mix of municipal departments on 4 levels, this is where many great ideas begin to percolate and are supported wherever possible. (www.somervillema.gov)

EAST SOMERVILLE

B) Mudflat Studios, 79-83 Broadway.

Former Use: Neighborhood Movie Theater.

The original structure was built in 1915. By the late 1920s, Somerville had as many as six theatres. Today, there is only one still in operation as a theatrical venue, at the Somerville Theatre in Davis Square.



The former theatre had a capacity of 1,850 seats and continued operation until the late 1940s. The building was totally renovated in 2011 to accommodate the current Mudflat Studios, first organized in East Cambridge in 1971. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing space and instruction for adults and children to produce pottery. Mudflat serves as an important community resource whose classes draw people from throughout the Greater Boston Area to East Somerville. (<http://mudflat.org/>)

* **Historic-designated sites**

** **A full map and turn-by-turn cue sheet are printed on a separate sheet.**

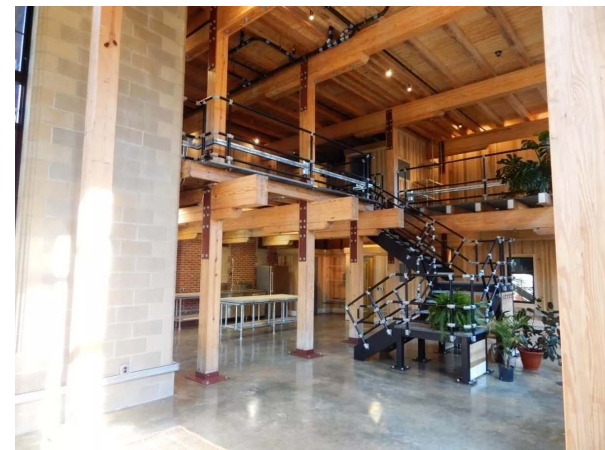
DAVIS SQUARE



E) Powderhouse Studios Innovation School, 1060 Broadway.

Former Use: Somerville Public Elementary School, Powderhouse Community School, built 1970s.

Powderhouse Studios is a small, new high school scheduled to open in 2019. It is designed to optimize students' learning by working on projects of their individual interests outside of traditional, subject-based classes. School days are organized into 3 chunks, from 10am-5pm daily, working with cross-functional teams of mixed ages. It will start with about 40 students ages 13-15 working in small groups with 4 consistent staff members. The plan for the school was developed in collaboration with the Somerville Public Schools, Mass Department of Education and many innovators since 2012. (<https://powderhouse.org/>)



F) Davis Square Lofts, 20-70 Howard Street.

Former Use: M.W. Carr Co. of Metal goods manufacturing factory (1900)

This group of Italianate brick buildings were originally constructed in 1894 by founder Martin W. Carr for manufacturing jewelry, picture frames, and novelties for a century. Offshore competition forced its closure in 1995. The developer Davis Design converted it in multiple phases starting in the late 1990s to create 29 units to date. The condominiums offer high ceilings, exposed brick walls and beams, concrete flooring with a built-in radiant heating system, an open concept floor plan, a kitchen outfitted with industrial appliances, outdoor space, and massive windows that open for ventilation in the warmer months. Some of the buildings also incorporate green roof design. (<http://www.davissquareloft.com>)

G) Parroquia de los Sueños (AKA The Small Parish of Dreams), mixed use development, 76 School Street.

Former Use: MBTA Power Switching Station.

This former Boston MBTA Elevated Substation was built in 1918 as one of many to convert electricity from AC to DC for use by the electric trolley cars running throughout the Boston metropolitan area. Years of water infiltration and deferred maintenance left the structure in a very deteriorated condition. In 2015, the MBTA sold the building to the developer, Sebastian Mariscal Studio, who is in the final stages of rehabilitating and transforming the building into three luxury units, as well as their own architectural office in the basement. Benefitting from the Mass. Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, they are maintaining many of the property's interior and exterior architectural features.

The rental units will enjoy multi-level living, high ceilings, an open floor plan, and on-site parking and outdoor space.



SPRING HILL



H) Martin W. Carr Schoolhouse, 25 Atherton Street.*

Former Use: Somerville Public Elementary School K-8.

The original building was constructed in 1898 in the Colonial and Renaissance Revival architectural style. It is one of the few known surviving examples of local architect Aaron Gould's work. The School was named in honor of Martin S. Carr, a leading manufacturer active in City government, who over the years served as an Alderman and member of the School Committee. It served as an elementary school of the lower grades until 1980, when it was declared surplus, along with four other schools, due to declining enrollments and budget challenges. The building was ultimately sold to a developer in 1982 who converted it to 15 rental units, taking advantage of historic tax credits when it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The former classrooms were later converted to 20 condominiums of different sizes, incorporating high ceilings, large windows, original hardwood floors and some blackboards, and even a grand staircase within one of the largest units.

UNION SQUARE



I) Greentown Labs New Headquarters. - 444 Somerville Avenue.

Former Use: American Tube Works manufacturing/ MAACO- auto repair and painting.

American Tube Works was founded in 1851 and is credited as being the first company in America to manufacture seamless tubes for domestic uses. The complex manufactured seamless tubes until the Great Depression halted production in 1933. The building in the American Tube Works Complex that Greentown Labs now occupies was previously the Drawing Mill, and is 1 of 5 remaining structures. Greentown Labs is the largest clean technology incubator in the United States located in Union Square. They foster a sense of community and collaboration by providing a co-located prototyping, office, and event space to serve the needs of cleantech entrepreneurs that need to build physical products while also growing their business. Today, it is the home of over 60 startup companies that collectively employ more than 500 people working to solve the world's biggest energy and environmental challenges. At Greentown Labs, startups have access to a variety of resources that encourage growth such as a network of entrepreneurs and investors, classes & events, a machine shop, software, and sponsored legal, marketing, insurance, and real estate services. (<https://www.greentownlabs.com/>)

J) Ricky's Flower Market, 238 Washington Street.

Former Use: Citgo Gas station.

Ricky's opened in May of 1990 and has become a unique fixture in Union Square, offering a wealth of plants, flowers, trees, and garden décor to purchase, plus advice for their care and maintenance. Anthony Richard DiGiovanni III, simply known as "Ricky", opened the market when his landscape construction business declined. For many years, his immediate family worked here, while now more are local folks who, like his customers, are very loyal to the business. Ricky's has earned a reputation for quality garden products, personalized service, and reasonable prices. See the next panel for before and after images of the gas station transformed into an open air flower market. (<http://rickysflowermarket.com/>)

circa 1990



circa 2018



K) Bloc Cafe, 11 Bow Street, Union Square.

Former Use: Bank.

Bloc Cafe opened its doors in 2007 and has become a staple of the Union Square community. Davis Square Architects transformed this former bank building into a cozy coffee shop by adaptively reusing many key elements of the original architecture, including fixed seating in the vault and old safety deposit boxes, and retaining its overall industrial vibe. This is one of the three cafes founded by the two female owners in Somerville –also the Diesel Café in Davis Square and the more recent Forge Baking Company near Porter Square.

Each café features a distinct look and all are known for their fair trade coffee, sandwiches and salads sourced from local ingredients,

fresh baked goods, and creative incorporation of outdoor space for their patrons' enjoyment. They also pride themselves on their sustainable environmental practices in many aspects of operating the business. (<http://bloksomerville.com/>)

