

**74 Middlesex
Civic Application
Neighborhood Meeting Report**

The Proponent has worked diligently to listen and respond to the public comments received from the community, and City departments during production of the Development Review Application. The following section describes the key comments received on the 74 Middlesex Project during two neighborhood meetings held on April 8, 2021 and June 26, 2021. Generally, the comments were supportive of the Project and did not result in any substantial refinements to the Project.

Civic Space

- **Green Buffers**
 - **Comment:** Any efforts to accommodate green buffer elements will provide protection to the civic space and park from ultra-fine particles and pollution from I-93 and Middlesex Avenue.
 - **Response:** Green buffer strategies to shield the civic space and neighborhood park from surrounding pollutant sources was a key element of the overall landscape design including high value trees and planting at varied heights along the park's edges.
- **Low VOC Trees**
 - **Comment:** The Proponent should avoid trees that are the highest VOC emitters that can also increase pollution.
 - **Response:** Tree plantings within the proposed tree grove will utilize native low VOC emitting species that provide seasonal interest and make for a dynamic space year-round.
- **Native Species:**
 - **Comment:** Somerville has a requirement that a certain percentage of plantings within public areas must be native plant species.
 - **Response:** Understory plant material will consist of entirely native species and will include a diverse mix of perennials and shrubs. Pollinator-friendly plant species are proposed to provide a food source and habitat for pollinating insects and other wildlife. Recognizing that maintenance is a vital aspect to long term success of an outdoor space, low-maintenance plant materials are a priority in plant selection and implementation.
- **Self-Storage Community Room**
 - **Comment:** The Self-Storage building includes a community meeting room fronting the neighborhood park. I anticipate that the proposed landscape design will really humanize and increase use of that community space.
Response: The design team will continue to explore ways for the design to engage the existing community space. Adjustments were made between the neighborhood meetings to allow more connection points between the civic space, neighborhood park and existing self-storage plaza to allow the area to read as one as a cohesive element.