



**CJ Lammers, Assistant to the
Executive Director**

the Conway School

Graduate Program in Sustainable Landscape Planning + Design

The Conway School

Northampton, MA

Established 1972

Overview

- **Who we are and what we do**
- **Project types: fall, winter, spring**
- **Why choose Conway?**
- **Project process**
- **Client responsibilities**

The Conway School

Northampton, MA

Established 1972

- Sustainable planning and ecological design graduate program
- Seek projects that support social and environmental justice
- Faculty are current or former working professionals
- Non-profit, accredited



The Conway School

Northampton, MA

Established 1972

- **Class sizes are small (16-18 students graduate each year)**
- **Some tuition assistance is available**
- **New location provides students access to more affordable housing and transportation alternatives**



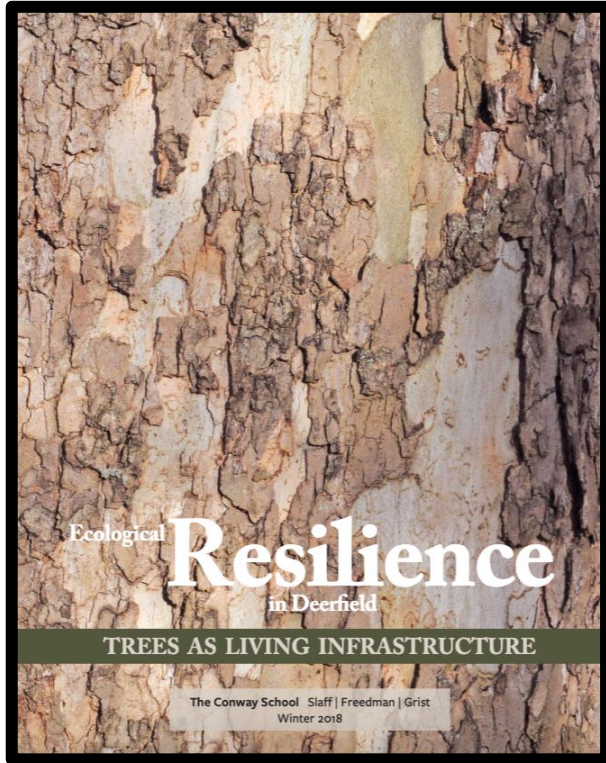
Fall Projects: Small Scale



**Bement School
Pine Hill Education
Center**

- One student works with a single client; project is close to campus
- Students complete in-depth site analyses
- Work products are design concepts that can lead to permit documents
- Fee is \$650 to \$1300 sliding scale

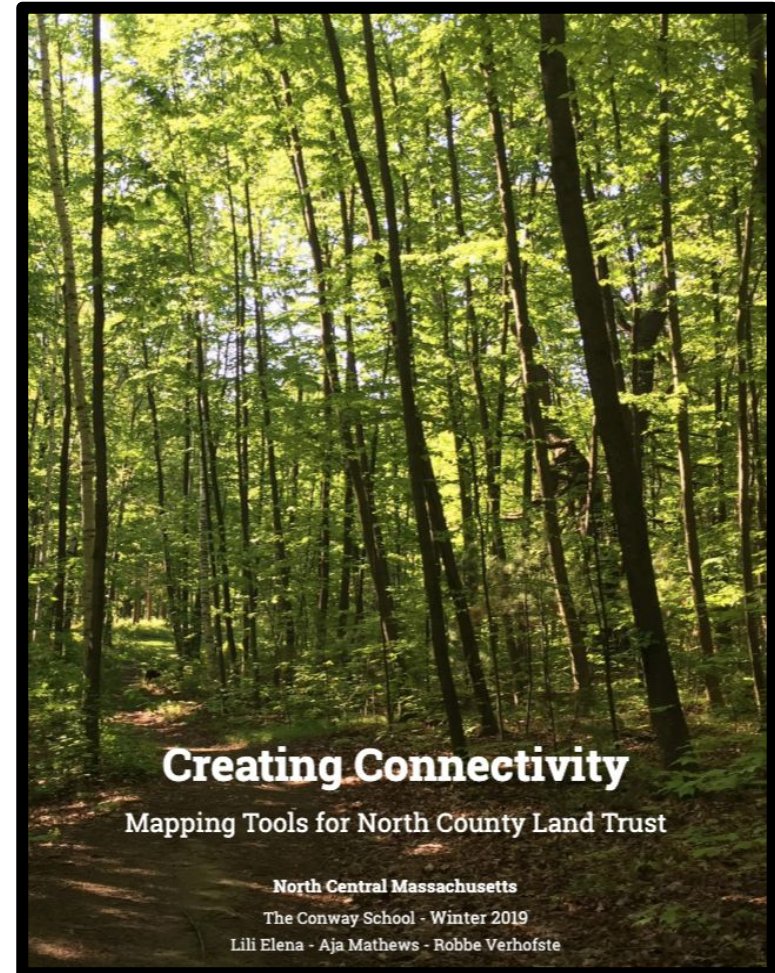
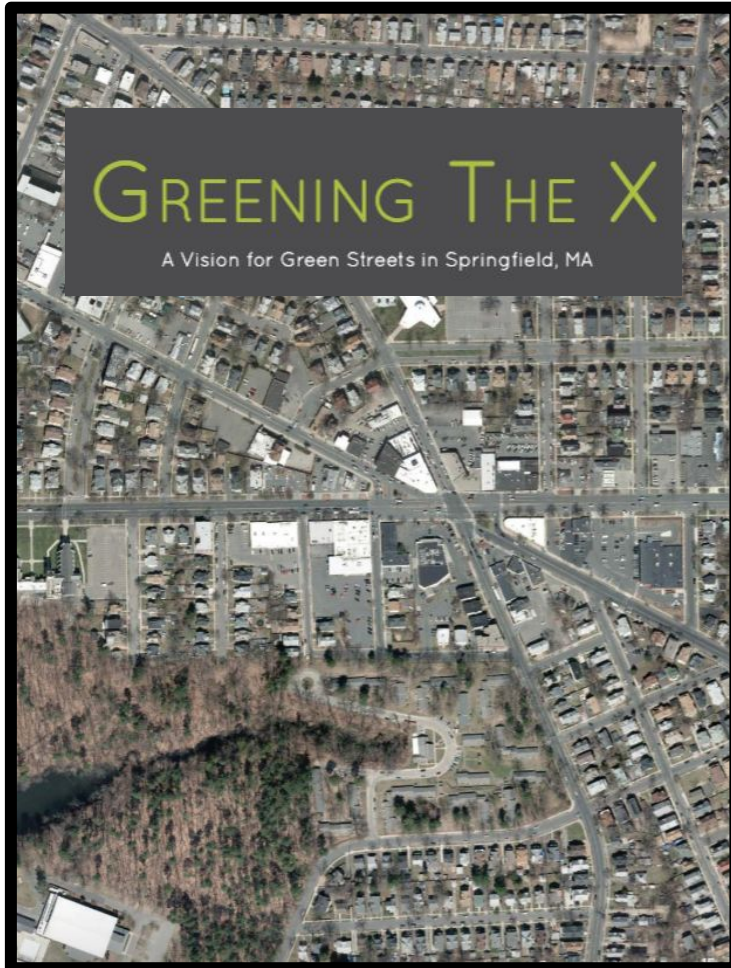
Winter Projects: Planning



Deerfield River Resilience Plan, Deerfield, MA

- Large-scale projects covering a large geographic area
- Student teams are assigned (2 or 3 students per team)
- Planning is the focus
- Work products are a plan, such as a food system study, watershed plan, climate resilience plan or town “master” plan (community plan)

Examples of Winter Projects



Spring Projects: Design



**Snow Farm
Williamsburg, MA**

- Projects for a single site such as a farm or park
- Student teams are assigned (2 or 3 students per team)
- Design is the focus
- Work products are designs that can be developed into construction documents

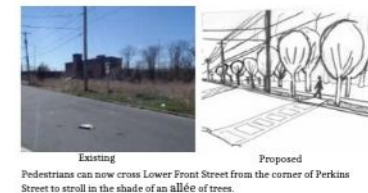
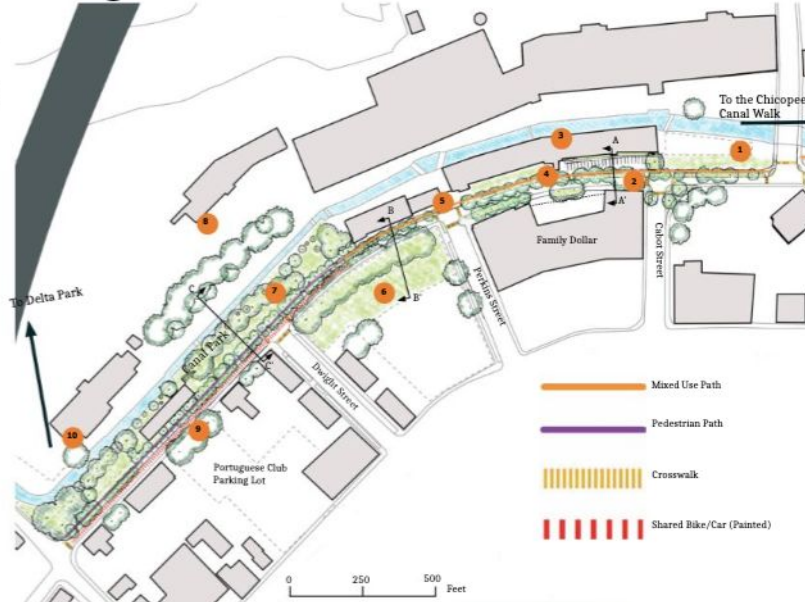
Example of Spring Projects

Design Phase I - Green Integration

The first design phase reconfigures the street to accommodate two-way vehicular traffic and safer pedestrian access. Many of the strategies that improve traffic patterns also provide opportunities to implement green infrastructure.

The street becomes more porous and planted with street trees. Asphalt is removed and curbs extended along the street's north side to create bioretention basins that collect water from the street and building roofs. This design of Lower Front Street applies the strategies developed for Dwight and Perkins Streets in the 2017 Chicopee Green Streets plan (Cohen & Kristiansen).

- 1 The street width is reduced to 22 feet from the eastern entrance of the site to Dwight Street. At this width, buses can still travel on the street and there is now adequate room for a mixed-use path and tree-lined bioretention basins on the north side. The curb extends to accommodate a north-south pedestrian crossing and an east-west crossing, which links back to the Chicopee Canal Walk.
- 2 Sidewalks on all sides of the Cabot Street intersection are widened into the streets to reduce the distance to cross the streets and give pedestrians a safe waiting position visible to cars. In addition, narrowing the street helps reduce vehicle speed. Bioretention basins in the curb extensions infiltrate stormwater and create an inviting pedestrian experience.
- 3 Single-loaded parking replaces street parking along the front of the mill businesses.
- 4 The sidewalk behind Family Dollar plaza is pulled back to create space for an infiltration basin, which softens the edge of this asphalt expanse. A fence in the back of the plaza distinguishes private property and can open to allow trucks to access the loading dock.
- 5 The corner curbs at Perkins Street are extended to make room for bioretention basins that collect runoff from the roof of the Family Dollar building, reducing the amount of water entering the combined sewer system.
- 6 The asphalt parking lot is replaced with turf to provide a porous space that allows for temporary events and space to play.
- 7 Two new crosswalks lead from Dwight Street to Canal Park. This new park fills the gap between buildings on the north side of the street. Canal Park provides space for shaded play and relaxation (see Sheet 16).
- 8 Trees and understory vegetation along the southern edge of the urban wild stabilize the steep slope while extending habitat for wildlife.
- 9 Large trees along the northern edge of the Portuguese Club parking lot shade the sidewalk and new on-street parking spots on the north side of the street while intercepting stormwater.
- 10 London plane trees planted at the corner of Depot Street intercept rainwater and create a grand entry to the green corridor of Lower Front Street



Existing
Proposed
Pedestrians can now cross Lower Front Street from the corner of Perkins Street to stroll in the shade of an allée of trees.

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DESIGN PHASE I

PREPARED BY BEN COVINO AND CATIE DWYER-HUPPERT

RENEWING AN URBAN EDGE
CITY OF CHICOPEE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

10/17

Renewing An Urban Edge, Chicopee, MA

Community Project Process

- Winter projects are January thru March and spring projects are April thru June
- Two public engagement opportunities are provided
- Preliminary agreements are signed prior to project start; student team finalizes the contract
- Invoices are sent for half at the beginning and half at the end; possible additional fees include grant writing and travel reimbursement



Why Choose Conway?

- Graduate student teams are well prepared
- Teams are supported by experienced faculty
- Two public outreach sessions provide meaningful community input
- Work products can spark interest in other projects and funding
- Projects are an affordable alternative to commercial planning and design



Client Responsibilities

- **Sign Preliminary Agreement**
- **Prepare stakeholder lists**
- **Identify the primary contact and a core team**
- **Set-up for public meetings**
 - **Location and refreshments**
 - **Press releases**
 - **Formal invitations as needed**
 - **Generating excitement**
- **Providing feedback when requested**
- **Attending formal presentations**





THANK YOU!
Website: www.CSLD.edu

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413-270-2372**

Links to sample projects available upon request.

the Conway School

Graduate Program in Sustainable Landscape Planning + Design

Plainfield Community Plan

Conway Project

- Goals, policies, and vision (1)
- Land use element (2)
- Housing element (3)
- Economic development (4)
- Natural and cultural resources (5)
- Open space and recreation (6)
- Implementation (9)

Town Elements

- Housing element (3)
- Economic development (4)
- Services and public facilities (7)
- Transportation (8)