

Alewife Corridor Resilience Symposium

Convening a cross-boundary resilience symposium

Topic: Panel overview

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Date: 01/11/2018

Overview of the Symposium

Tufts University and Earthos Institute invite you to a symposium on Alewife corridor collaborative resilience. The symposium will bring together the Alewife corridor communities of Belmont, Arlington, Cambridge, Somerville, Medford, and Winchester to look at the Alewife floodplain, in its entirety, and geographic context. We will explore collaborative scenarios for tackling issues of resiliency and climate adaptation. Together, we will engage **systems-based, multi-community, and cross-disciplinary** perspectives. We hope the symposium will **start a process** of building our collective capacity to understand the corridor system as a dynamic whole (human and ecological), integrating our efforts to optimize this system, in order to achieve resilience goals.

Post-symposium, we envision working together to **create task groups**—with representatives from multiple towns, universities, and nonprofits—to further develop inter-community scenarios/actions, and to seek funding to support and implement them. The symposium seeks to create a collaborative environment to understand and build adaptive resilience in this corridor.

Primary goals: Catalyze a conversation about 1) a collaborative vision for the Alewife corridor as an entire system 2) its potential as a system, and 3) possible next steps for resilience stewardship.

Website: www.alewiferesilience.org (a work in progress)

Panels

Goals of the panels:

"The goal is to build capacity in all of us in the conversation, see and understand the patterns of the system, so that we can evolve the system we're working with to its potential." —Jim Newman, expert in systems resiliency

Through topic-based panels, we are helping ourselves and the participants understand: **What is the potential of the system?** How does the system work? How do we optimize it? Together and individually?

Towards the symposium's goal of creating a vision for the Alewife Corridor system, **we are asking each panel to:**

- Frame the questions and issues of the panel topic, as part of the corridor system (eg biodiversity)
- Provide some initial thoughts, ideas, knowledge (via moderator and panelists)
- Facilitate a conversation which enables the room to participate and contribute to the goals (via inclusive discussion with a knowledgeable audience), and encourages diversity of constructive thought.

Panel Deliverables:

We are asking the panel sessions to create the following as artifacts to share with the broader group, and any initiatives developing out of the symposium.

1. Scribe answers on large white paper to share:

- What is a vision for a resilient corridor system that incorporates this topic? (panels and roundtables) How can this panel inform this vision?
 - What do we need to know?
 - What do we need to do?
 - What are some of the challenges?
 - What are some resources/levers?

2. Ask all participants to write the following on Index cards:

- What unanswered question do you have from this panel?
- What do you think is the most important collaborative action to address this topic?

Rationale for the panel topics:

The topics of the panels were inspired by The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Online Archive, facilitated by Alexander Felson at the Yale School of Forestry. The topic headings are intended to create a framework for thinking about the factual data that needs to inform the systems-based approach. By establishing a common vocabulary and understanding with this data, we aim to facilitate future communication and action around resiliency work in the corridor.

Panel time blocks

Date 1/20/18	Room TBD	Room TBD	Room TBD
Panel Session A 9:15am-10:30am	Water Quality	Biodiversity (local/site scale)	Emergency Preparedness/Transit
Panel Session B 10:45am-12pm	Hazardous Sites & Rising Watertable	Social Justice, Economy & Community Health	Flooding
Panel Session C 1:30pm-2:45pm	Collaborative Infrastructure	Climate Change	Biodiversity & Open Space

Suggested panelist presentation approach:

This symposium is a convening of people who are committed to a resilient Alewife corridor system. Everyone in the room brings something important to the table. In order to build understanding across knowledge and perceptual boundaries, please make your presentation simple and direct with clear take-aways. Support your suggestions and observations by referencing distilled explanations of your work and research. Even other resilience experts in other disciplines may not understand the technical details of your work. Make it clear how your experience and knowledge applies to the topic, and the goals of the conference. In other words, how can your experiences, reflections and work inform our path forward?

Presentation logistics:

- 10-12 minutes
- Use simple, easy to digest images and language (suggested)
- Bring your presentation on a thumb drive, if you choose to use this technology

Audience

The conference is open to the public. The audience is primarily self-selected community actors/activists, municipal and state staff and officials, researchers, practitioners (including landscape architects, architects, planners, community builders, engineers) and cross-disciplinary experts in the field. For the most part, this is a well-educated audience, many are involved in some way with resilience building. Audience members, however, are from different disciplines and sectors, and will have different perspectives, norms, language, needs, frames, etc.

Size of each panel audience

Approx 35+

Logistics**Panel (and roundtable) breakout rooms**

Classrooms with a laptop computer, projector, and screen

White board or blackboard

Chairs/desks/tables

Materials & resources

Large white paper with markers, pens, and post-it notes

Additionally, we are recruiting Tufts students to host the panel groups and scribe the session. If for some reason, your panel does not have a student host, please ask an audience member if they may be willing.

Moderators

The moderators introduce and guide the panel sessions, and hold space for constructive conversation.

1. Hold presentations to time allotted;
2. During the discussions, incorporate as many perspectives as possible;
3. Unearth and distill the following:
 1. Core questions and issues about the topic, in relation to the symposium goals of building adaptive, integrated, systems resilience in this corridor (see above).
 2. Possible actionable next steps for stakeholders.
4. Demonstrate need for integrated planning, and have audience and panels think about how this might happen;
5. Share your own work and perspectives as it is relevant, and facilitates the conversation.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:

1. Please register as a panelist! We do have limited space (150 in total!), and we are holding spots for panelists.
2. Email sarah-earthos@LDParch.com with your official name and affiliation to post on the conference website.
3. Email a .pdf of your presentation, if you have one. Please include a statement that we have your permission to post it on the conference website, or not (after the conference of course).