

The Facts about Accessibility: What you Need to Know

NHLTA

May 1, 2025

**FINE GOLD
ALEXANDER**
ARCHITECTS



Presenters



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FA Energy Manager



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Architect, ALEP

1. What is accessibility

It's more than...



It's About the Patron Experience & Comfort

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



FINEGOLD ALEXANDER ARCHITECTS

Inclusive Design

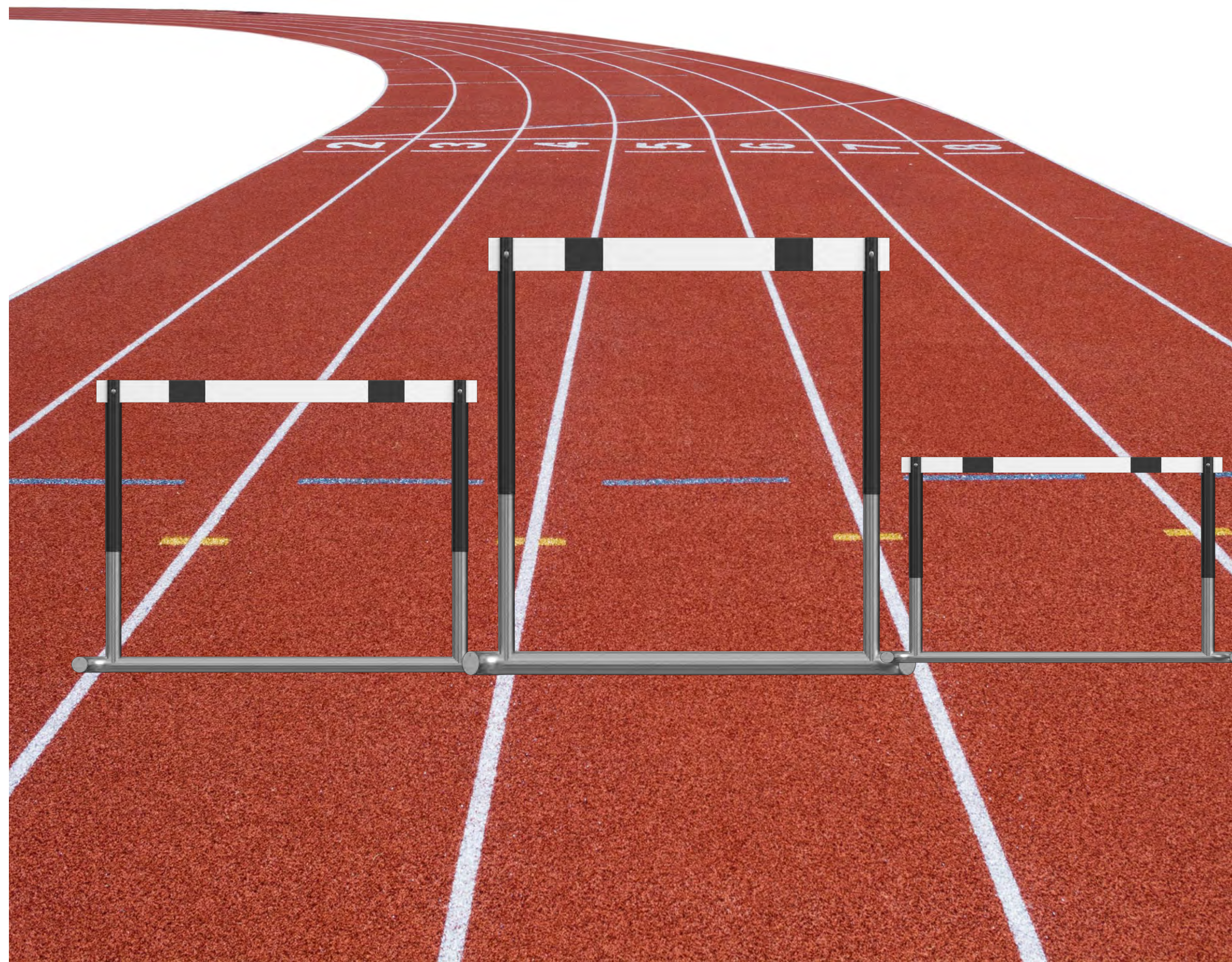
Autonomy + Dignity

“Thoughtful and inclusive design of physical spaces not only promotes independence and social connectedness, but makes all public spaces more enjoyable and accessible to **everyone.**”



Diversity of Impairments

- ▶ Cognitive
- ▶ Mobility
- ▶ Hearing
- ▶ Vision
- ▶ Self-Care
- ▶ Sensory



2. What is your biggest challenge?

Indoor Environments

WHICH FEATURE RESONATES MOST?

- ▶ Sounds
- ▶ Lighting
- ▶ Access to Equipment
- ▶ Materiality
- ▶ Flexible Seating
- ▶ Perimeter Seating





Stoughton Library



Christa McAuliffe Library



Christa McAuliffe Library

CHECKOUT



Wayfinding

WHICH IS YOUR BIGGEST OBSTACLE?

- ▶ Multiple Languages
- ▶ Clear signage
- ▶ Materiality –
Patterns/colors
- ▶ Height/Placement





Ask Me
Pregúntame

Holyoke Library



Westwood Public Library

Designing for All Ages

IS YOUR LIBRARY ALL-ACCOMMODATING?

- ▶ Natural Light
- ▶ Children's Areas / Safe throughout
- ▶ Navigation
- ▶ Self-Check Out
- ▶ Front Desk





Ask!

Discover

EXIT

LIBRARY & HISTORY

EXIT

Book Sale

Gallery

Crafty Kids

FAN FAVORITES

HEY, I JUST
AND THE
BUT HE
CALL
SO READ



Kimball Library

The library has a lot to offer
Children's Library





Christa McAuliffe Library

Outdoor Spaces

WHICH IS YOUR PRIORITY?

- ▶ Surfaces
- ▶ Tripping Hazards
- ▶ Accessible Routes
- ▶ Seating
- ▶ Event Spaces





Christa McAuliffe Library



Fletcher Free Library



Holyoke Public Library





Jones Public Library



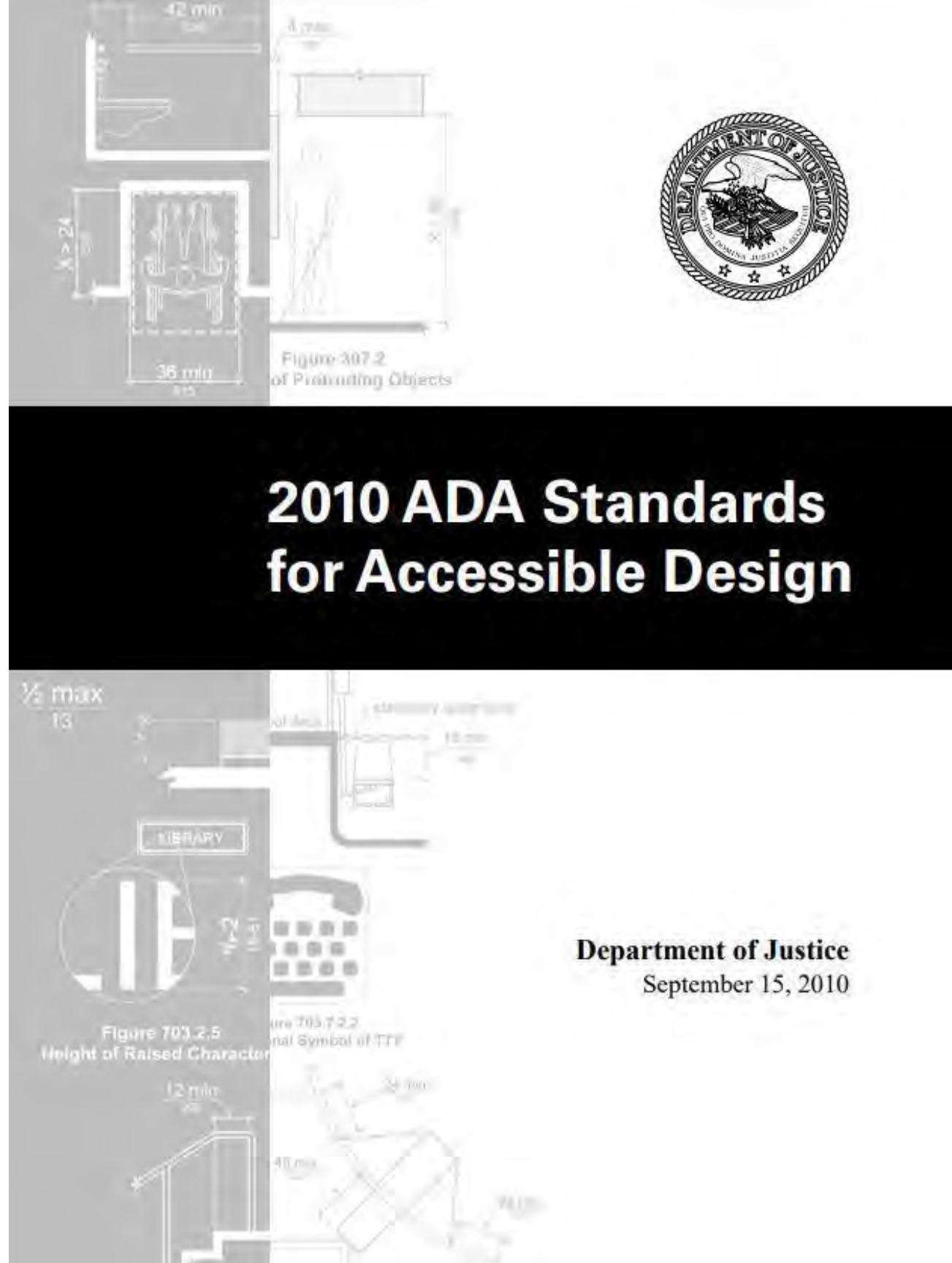
Hingham Public Library

3. It's the Policy...It's the law

ADA 2010 (1990)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

- ▶ Physical Impairment
- ▶ Mental Impairment
- ▶ Impairment History
- ▶ Impairment Evidence



ADA 2010 (1990)

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The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in....

everyday activities.

The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability just as other civil rights laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion.

The ADA guarantees that people with disabilities have the same **opportunities as everyone else to enjoy** employment opportunities, purchase goods and services, and participate in state and local government programs.

ADA 2010 (1990)

ENFORCED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES

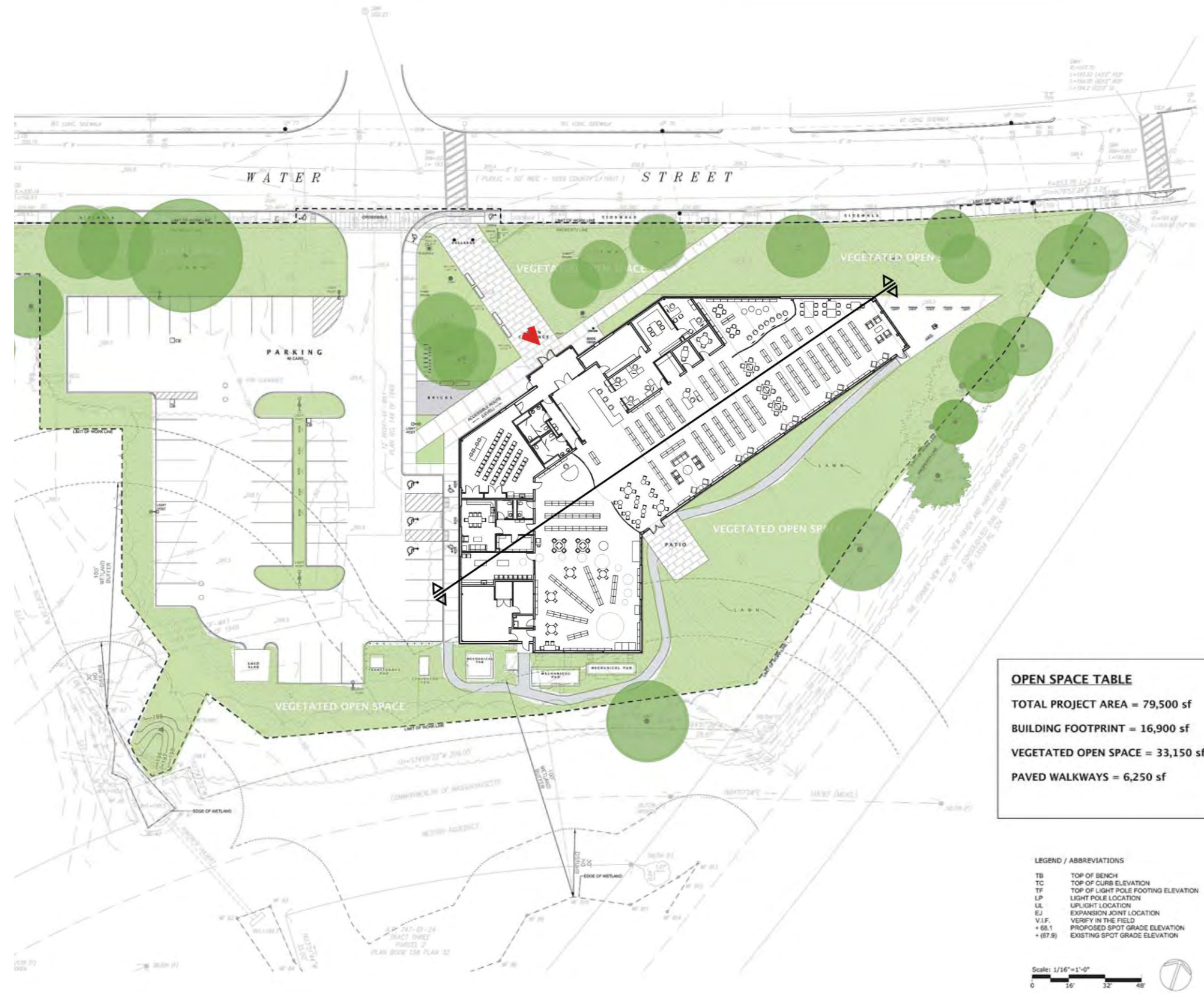
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Governmental Services
- ▶ Businesses Open to Public
- ▶ Telecommunications



It's the whole site

From Curb to Chair

- ▶ Distance from Parking to Front Door
- ▶ Seating near entrance
- ▶ Surface materials
- ▶ Wayfinding



Thank you!

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ALEXANDER
ARCHITECTS