

Connecting People and Parks and Conserving the Emerald Necklace

BACK BAY FENS * RIVERWAY * OLMSTED PARK * JAMAICA POND * ARNOLD ARBORETUM * FRANKLIN PARK

President
Julie Crockford

October 21, 2014

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The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing about a matter of urgency for all the residents, institutions and businesses in the watershed of the Muddy River in Boston and Brookline, Massachusetts. The 1996 flooding of the Muddy River resulted in \$70 million in damages to hospitals, cultural institutions, universities, public transit, businesses and homes. It was a call to action to restore a river which had not been dredged in decades and instead had been put into culverts in some places to make room for more parking. The flood storage capacity of the river had been severely compromised. Thanks to a unified approach by independent groups like the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, numerous institutions and four governmental bodies—Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Boston and Town of Brookline, and the Army Corps of Engineers—Phase One of the Muddy River Flood Control and Environmental Restoration Project broke ground on October 12, 2012. In 2016 a new park will feature a restored Muddy River on the site of a former Sears parking lot.

Today we respectfully request you to direct the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Jo-Ellen Darcy, to move the Muddy River Project forward as set forth in section 522 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 which directs the Army Corps of Engineers “to carry out the project for flood damage reduction and environmental restoration, Muddy River, Brookline and Boston Massachusetts, substantially in accordance with the plans, and subject to the conditions, described in the draft evaluation report of the New England District Engineer entitled “Phase I Muddy River Master Plan,” dated June 2000.

- This request is further supported by the recommendation of Major General Carl A. Strock, who at the time was the Director of Civil Works for the Army Corps of Engineers, to fully fund both the Flood Damage Reduction and Environmental Restoration portions of the project.
- The completion of both the flood and environmental portions of this project would be consistent with your laudable efforts on Climate Resiliency, such as the proposed “Climate Resiliency Fund”. The Muddy River Project is a strong example of a natural resource, in an urban environment, impacted by climate change.

PARK OVERSEERS

Arborway Coalition
Arnold Arboretum
Boston Committee of the
Garden Club of America
Boston Society of
Landscape Architects
Brookline Greenspace Alliance
Emerald Necklace
Greenway Project
The Fenway Alliance
Fenway Civic Association
Fenway CDC
Fenway Garden Society
Franklin Park Coalition
Franklin Park Zoo/
Zoo New England
Friends of Jamaica Pond
Friends of Leverett Pond
Friends of the Muddy River
Garden Club Federation of
Massachusetts
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Jamaica Hills Association
Jamaica Pond Association
MASCO
Museum of Fine Arts Boston



- Investments in the successful clean-up of the Charles River and Boston Harbor would be at risk from overtopping of the Muddy River if the project isn't completed in full.
- Funding is required to complete the environmental restoration components if the entire project is to stay on schedule and current construction related permits are to be maintained. This would enable design and construction of the project to include comprehensive dredging ensuring the longevity of the Muddy River's flood risk management and environmental protection goals – protecting the residences, medical district, public transit, businesses and institutions along the river, as well as the delicate urban ecosystem.

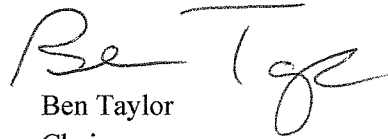
I am attaching a letter from Senators Markey and Warren, and Representatives Capuano, Lynch and Kennedy requesting your intervention on behalf of the full Muddy River project. We have come to you because Congress has not passed a budget since FY 2010 and without the budget process, our elected members of Congress no longer have the ability to assist in clarifying the scope of the project in the Army Corps of Engineers work plan by ensuring funding for both flood damage reduction and environmental restoration in the federal budget. We need your assistance to insure the implementation of both critical phases of this important project.

Mr. President, thank you in advance for your assistance in securing the completion of the Muddy River project for both flood damage reduction and environmental restoration.

Sincerely yours,



Julie Crockford
President



Ben Taylor
Chairman

Cc: Senator Edward M. Markey
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Representative Michael E. Capuano
Representative Stephen F. Lynch
Representative Joseph P. Kennedy
Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works
Lt. General Thomas P. Bostick, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers