An Opportunity to Restore Greenspace to Franklin Park

Prepared by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy

Location of the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital in Franklin Park
What is the Emerald Necklace?

• Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted as *Boston’s first form of green infrastructure and stormwater management*
• **5-mile** linear park, from Charlesgate to Franklin Park
• **1,100 acres** (roughly half of all parkland in City of Boston)
• **7 parks:** Charlesgate Park, Back Bay Fens, Riverway, Olmsted Park, Jamaica Pond, Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park
• Connects **13 historic neighborhoods**
Who is the Emerald Necklace Conservancy?

Representing Communities Along the Necklace

Arboretum Park Conservancy
Arborway Coalition
Arnold Arboretum
Boston Committee of the Garden Club of America
Boston Society of Landscape Architects
Brookline GreenSpace Alliance
Charlesgate 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 the Boston Park Rangers Mounted Unit
Friends of Jamaica Pond
Friends of Leverett Pond
Friends of the Muddy River
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Jamaica Hills Association
Jamaica Pond Association
MASCO
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
A Variety of Uses

• For decades, Franklin Park has been a key open space for neighboring high-needs communities, providing a gathering space for events, as well as a welcome respite from city life

• Over time, land use in the park has changed, including the addition of:
  • Franklin Park Zoo
  • William J. Devine Golf Course
  • Expanded City Parks Maintenance Yard
  • Shattuck Hospital (built on Heathfield)

• Today, over 200 acres of parkland are not freely accessible to the public
Site History

1895
Frederick Law Olmsted designs Franklin Park

1949
City transfers 13 acres of parkland to Commonwealth for a hospital

1954
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital built on "Heathfield"

PRESENT
Less than 60% of Franklin Park is available for free, public use

FUTURE
Possible restoration of greenspace
Current Plan Proposed by the Commonwealth

- The hospital is slated for demolition by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- Most services are planned to be relocated to the Newton Pavilion at the Boston Medical Center in the South End.
- Plans for the site include at least 75-100 units of housing for the formerly unhoused, along with a recovery campus with out-patient services.
- While the agency held a community process, they have not evaluated alternative options or sites.
Collaboration with Northeastern University

Because alternate sites were not evaluated, the Conservancy collaborated with Northeastern University on the following three studies, focusing on nearby, underdeveloped properties also owned by the Commonwealth:

- Alternative site review for Shattuck services
- Analysis of the Arborway Yard (largely Commonwealth-controlled) preferred site identified in first study
- Development of concept designs for the Arborway Yard
The Commonwealth's Arborway Yard Bus Facility:

- 18 acres, the largest underdeveloped area along the Necklace
- Superior access to public transportation and improved access to city services
- Offers the opportunity to provide:
  - space for the T’s growing electric bus fleet
  - affordable housing
  - housing for the formerly unhoused
  - recovery services

Preferred Site for Consideration
1 of 4 Potential Arborway Yard Concept Designs

Massing Legend

- Residential/Retail
- MBTA Bus/Retail
- Health & Support Housing
- Stony Brook
- Rain Gardens/Storm Water Collection

Northeastern University
College of Arts, Media and Design
Architecture

Brian Contois, Evan Maras
1 of 4 Potential Arborway Yard Concept Designs
1 of 4 Potential Arborway Yard Concept Designs

Katie-Li Walker, Rachel Berman, Marissa Eklund
Build Back Better

Current and upcoming federal stimulus money related to:

- Climate resilient transit
- Electric bus technology
- Multi-modal access
- Housing
- Other community services
Arborway Yard – A Holistic Solution

Meets Transportation Needs
Space for electric bus facility

Meets Housing & Community Needs
8 acres for mixed-use services, affordable housing, and recreational greenspace

Meets Access Needs
Locates supportive services adjacent public transportation

Meets Health Needs
Mental health and supportive rehabilitation services; 75-100 units of housing for the formerly unhoused
Community Outreach and Public Support

- Support from nearly 100 community members
- Support from over 20 organizations including:
  - Franklin Park Tennis Association
  - Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association
  - Zoo New England’s Franklin Park Zoo
  - City Parks Alliance
  - Massachusetts Conservation Voters
  - National Association for Olmsted Parks
  - Boston Cyclists Union
  - Jamaica Hills Association
Ways to Engage

Submit a public comment to DCAMM

Sign onto our Statement of Principles**

Encourage city and state officials to restore the park

*Email comments to loryn.sheffner@mass.gov  **Sign our Statement of Principles HERE
Questions or Comments?

For more information, please contact Julia Damiano, Emerald Necklace Conservancy Volunteer Engagement and Policy Coordinator

Email: jdamiano@emeraldnecklace.org