

## Statement of Principles

### The Emerald Necklace Conservancy

The mission of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy is to restore and improve the Emerald Necklace for all.

The Conservancy connects people and parks and conserves the Emerald Necklace through projects and programs that enrich the visitor experience and restore and renew the landscape, waterways and parkways. To steward the Emerald Necklace's 1,100 acres of parkland extending from Boston's Back Bay through Brookline and Jamaica Plain to Franklin Park in Dorchester, the Conservancy collaborates with its partners on advocacy, maintenance and restoration, education and access and promoting park stewardship through volunteer and youth programs.

**A once-in-lifetime opportunity: the right community services and needed housing in the right location, and an opportunity to restore parkland to Franklin Park, a high growth area in a high-needs community.**

### **Background/Site History**

- The Shattuck Hospital was built on "Heathfield", originally designed as a large meadow with shade trees, after 13 acres of parkland were transferred from the City of Boston to the Commonwealth for the purpose of building a hospital in 1949.
- The Shattuck Hospital building has now reached the end of its useful life and is slated for demolition by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Most services are planned to relocate to the Newton Pavilion at Boston Medical Center in the South End. At the Shattuck site, HHS plans to build 75-100 units of housing for the formerly unhoused, along with a recovery and supportive services.
- Franklin Park has been a key open space for neighboring communities, providing a gathering

### **The Commonwealth's Nearby Arborway Yards: Superior alternate location in proximity to public transportation**

The 18-acre site is the largest underdeveloped area along the Emerald Necklace, offering space to provide the many requirements requested by the MBTA, the City of Boston, the community and HHS, including:

- 8 acres for community services, residential units, and affordable housing (as required by the 2001 MOU between the MBTA and the City of Boston).
- Mental health and addiction rehabilitation services and 75-100 units of housing for the formerly unhoused.
- Sufficient space for the MBTA to meet its bus related needs, including room for an electric bus facility and charging station.

- space for events, as well as a welcome respite from city life.
- The agency has not evaluated alternative options or sites for services not moving to the South End.
- The Emerald Necklace Conservancy and a consortium of other groups and stakeholders have been working with Northeastern to explore a superior nearby site, also largely under the control of the Commonwealth.
- Mixed-use services and recreational greenspace adjacent to public transportation.
- Supportive services and housing for the formally homeless adjacent to the Forest Hills T stop and public transportation. These services must be easily accessible to public transportation and fully integrated in the community, not isolated from essential community services.

**We, the undersigned, support the following:**

1. Returning and restoring the Shattuck Hospital site to public parkland
2. Building the proposed services and supportive housing in a less isolated setting, integrated into the community. The Arborway Yard site provides direct access to public transit, neighborhood amenities and job opportunities.
3. The 18-acre Arborway Yard site presents an opportunity to better accommodate all the populations that it will serve and fulfill prior commitments, including affordable housing and an environmentally friendly bus facility.

**Organizations**

*Arborway Coalition*

*ArborwayMatters*

*Authentic Caribbean Foundation*

*Boston Food Forest Coalition*

*Brookline GreenSpace Alliance*

*City Parks Alliance*

*Charlesgate Alliance*

*Emerald Necklace Conservancy*

*Fiduciary Wealth Partners*

*Franklin Park Tennis Association*

*Fenway Garden Society*

*Friends of Post Office Square*

*Friends of Ramler Park*

*Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association*

*Jamaica Hills Association*

*Massachusetts Conservation Voters*

*Muddy Water Initiative*

*National Association for Olmsted Parks*

*OLMSTED 2022*

*Speak for the Trees*

*Trustees Collaborative for*

*Parks and Open Space*

*The Trust for Public Land*

*USA Track & Field – New England*

*Zoo New England’s Franklin Park Zoo*

### **Individuals**

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