



Connecting People and Parks and Conserving the Emerald Necklace

CHARLESGATE PARK • BACK BAY FENS • RIVERWAY • OLMSTED PARK • JAMAICA POND • ARNOLD ARBORETUM • FRANKLIN PARK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESGATE PARK PROJECT RECEIVES AWARD BY THE HOLCIM FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

Boston, MA December 01, 2021—The [Emerald Necklace Conservancy](#) is excited to share that the internationally renowned, Somerville-based architecture firm [Landing Studio](#), who is developing the revitalization plan for Charlesgate Park in Boston together with the Conservancy and Charlesgate Alliance, was recognized with a **Bronze Medal for North America by the Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction** for this transformational project.

Once completed, the [Charlesgate Park Revitalization](#) will bring major improvement for urban recreation, public health, and regional people-powered transit. This restored greenspace link will reconnect three key Boston park systems (the Emerald Necklace, Commonwealth Avenue Mall and Charles River Esplanade); restore to the surface the last 250 feet of the Muddy River at its confluence with the Charles River; and provide direct walking and cycling connections between locations as distant as Boston's North Station, Charlestown, Dorchester, Cambridge and Watertown, creating an essential regional link for bicyclists and pedestrians. The park's redesign, developed with significant community input, also includes a universally accessible children's play area, one of the largest dog parks in the city, new pathways and major green infrastructure improvements.

The Holcim Awards jury North America "was fascinated by the project's vision of a "re-discovered" symbiotic urban green infrastructure able to provide a multitude of social and environmental benefits to the city. The project is the result of a participatory design process that involved different stakeholders to find shared interests and offered an opportunity for a shared investment. This approach is a decisive strength of the proposal that enhances the project's economic viability since the requirements of multiple funding agencies and local communities are astutely considered. The jury acknowledged the impressive scientific work underpinning the proposal that makes the project highly realizable and its methodology replicable."

"From nearly 5,000 entries across the world, we are thrilled that the Charlesgate Park project was recognized with this important award, as a testament to the shared vision put forward by all of the public and private partners that have contributed to this process. The project will be transformative for the city by finally reconnecting Boston's park networks after being broken apart by highway-era projects for nearly seventy years," shared Dan Adams and Marie Law Adams, Founding Principals of Landing Studio.

"The Charlesgate section of the Emerald Necklace is so compromised today that most visitors who walk through it don't recognize it as parkland. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore this area to its original intent—a verdant, connected and highly visited park," said Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. "With so much current emphasis on the vital role of green infrastructure and sustainability in our cities, the timing is

perfect to restore 13 acres of Frederick Law Olmsted-designed parkland in the heart of a major metropolitan area. This recognition speaks volumes of Dan and Marie’s talent and foresight in planning for a climate-ready Boston.”

[The Holcim Foundation](#) was created in 2003 to promote thought leadership on a greener, smarter, circular and more inclusive built environment. Its international Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction is the world’s most significant competition for sustainable design and showcases the important role that architecture, engineering, urban planning and the building industry have in achieving a more sustainable future. **Named the “Emerald Gateway” for the competition by the Holcim Foundation, the awarded project is detailed on the Foundation’s website [here](#).**

About Landing Studio

Landing Studio is an architecture and urban design practice based in Somerville, founded by Dan Adams and Marie Law Adams. The work of Landing Studio is focused on improving infrastructure and the public realm through the design of landscapes, buildings, lighting, installations, events, and exhibitions. Landing Studio has been recognized with awards including a Progressive Architecture Award, the Architectural League Prize, AIA Institute Honor Awards, Waterfront Center Awards, and the Design Biennial Boston. Learn more at www.landing-studio.com.

About the Emerald Necklace Conservancy

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is a non-profit organization founded in 1998 to steward and champion the Emerald Necklace, Boston’s largest park system. The Conservancy protects, restores, helps maintain and promotes the Emerald Necklace’s seven distinct parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, and comprises 1,100 acres of meadows, woodlands and paths. In collaboration with its public partners, the Conservancy provides maintenance of the parks and capital restoration projects, free cultural events, visitor services and environmental education. The parks serve as a respite from the city, a valuable commuting connector and a community convener for more than one million residents and tourists each year and have taken on a special significance over the past 20 months as a safe and socially distanced destination for local residents and regional visitors. www.emeraldnecklace.org

MEDIA CONTACT:

Edwina A. Klünder

617.888.5859

eakluender@gmail.com