

An Opportunity to Restore Greenspace to Franklin Park

Prepared by
the Emerald Necklace Conservancy



Location of the
Lemuel Shattuck
Hospital in
Franklin Park



Emerald Necklace



PARK FEATURES

- White Stadium**
- Overlook Shelter Ruins:** Originally a field house, it was one of the few structures omitted over designed. The site was the home to Eliza Loring's Regatta in the Park in the 1860s and 70s, and just green, including Duke Ellington, performed here.
- The Playstead:** A large, active sports area that accommodates basketball, tennis and many field sports.
- Franklin Park Zoo:** One of the oldest and largest 72-acre zoos in the world, offering a wide variety of animals and a good example of urban zoos.
- The 99 Steps:** A series of steps leading up to the top of the park, offering a scenic view of the city.
- Searsboro Pond and Hill**
- Peters Hill:** The highest point in the Emerald Necklace, offering a panoramic view of the city.
- The 99 Steps/Fine Arts Arch**
- Scarsboro Pond and Hill**
- Explorers Garden:** The area around the Chinese Path has long been used by researchers to test the hardness of new shoe polishes from around the world by their employees. Don't miss rare and unusual plants like the dove tree, ginkgo, magnolia, and Franklinia.
- Lars Anderson Bonsai Collection:** See the oldest and smallest trees at the Arboretum. Open mid-April to early November.
- Hunnewell Building:** This building houses administrative offices, a horticultural library, restrooms, and a visitor center with maps, seasonal exhibitions, and a variety of other services.
- Jamaica Pond Boat House/Boatstand:** Built in 1912, these historic structures add a rustic element to the pond. Visitors can rent sailboats or rowboats to enjoy serene views of the park or simply drift on the water. (www.jamaicapond.org) Boatstand is open Monday-Friday, 10:00am-4:45pm (47.522.1086).
- Parkman Memorial:** Daniel Chester French, Sculptor
- Pinebank Promontory:** A peaceful spot in this busy park, the promontory's stunning views across the Pond and cooling breezes through tall grass make it an attractive site for three successive winters in the 1880s. Today, a granite outline marks the location of the lost trees that stood here.
- Wagon's Pond:** This secluded pond is a glacial "hollow" formed at the end of the last ice age. A serene, heavily wooded area, the water finds a quiet wilderness, hiding a variety of plants and animals.
- Wildflower Meadows:** Once the site of an indoor ice skating rink, the meadow now offers unique habitat for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.
- Daisy Field:** Originally designed this as a large meadow surrounded by woods. Today, playing fields serve community groups for little league, softball, soccer and much more.
- Allerton Overlook:** This semi-circular walk, depends into the park and provides scenic views of the harbor and islands of Longwood.
- Leverett Pond:** Leverett Pond is a fine example of Olmsted's skill combining landscape, water, and structure into his designs. Islands were created to provide both visual interest and waterfowl breeding area.
- Bellevue Street Bridge**
- Chapel Street Bridge Area/Historic Bridge:** Parker Bridges played a key role in Olmsted's work, not only along rivers, but everywhere that he sought to separate different modes of transportation. The Chapel Street Bridge separated vehicles above from the bridge path below.
- Round House Shelter**
- Athletic Facilities:** The Joseph Lee Playground area features athletic scores, tennis, basketball, and a recreational running track. One of the diamonds is named in honor of Robert Clements—the first Latin American elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.
- Leverett Pond:** Leverett Pond is a fine example of landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff in the 1920s, this garden was restored by the City of Boston and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. Combining the best of old and new, today's garden includes over 1,000 plants representing 200 different varieties.
- War Memorials**
- Japanese Balls:** Found on a scrap heap in Yakuza, this beautiful bronze 17th-century temple bell was brought back by sailors on the USS Boston in 1945. In 1953, the Japanese government announced that the bell should remain in Boston as a gesture of peace.
- Shattuck Emerald Necklace Visitor Center:** Designed by H. H. Richardson in 1882, the building is one of a pair that honored the great artist to regulate the Scory Brook's flow into the Fens. This greenhouse, no longer in operation, was converted in 2010 to a visitor center and offices of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy.
- Samuel May Memorial Station:** This historic station and maritime historian was the Pulitzer-prize winning author of the "Oxford History of the United States" (1937) and "The Oxford History of the American People" (1965). President JFK's father.
- Fenway Victory Gardens:** Victory Gardens were cultivated during World War II to ease demand on wartime food supply. The Fenway gardens are among the few to remain in continuous cultivation. Today 500 plots are tended by community gardeners and feature a bounty of flowers and vegetables.
- Bayview Bridge:** Designed by prominent 19th-century architect H. H. Richardson, the bridge is constructed of Cast Iron. Projecting bays offer sweeping views across the Fens.
- Leif Erikson Statue**
- Boston Women's Memorial:** Honor Thomas M. Petro reserved the site for a women's memorial in 1992. The Boston Women's Commission selected Angel Adams, Larry Stone, and Paula Wheeler as exemplary figures.
- George Washington Statue:** Thorne Aul Sulzberger
- Swan Boats:** These iconic pedal boats first appeared on the Lagoon in 1877. Designed by Robert Page, they are still owned and operated by the Page Family.
- 9/11 Memorial**
- George Washington Statue:** Thorne Aul Sulzberger
- Swan Boats:** These iconic pedal boats first appeared on the Lagoon in 1877. Designed by Robert Page, they are still owned and operated by the Page Family.
- Make Way for Ducklings Sculpture:** Mr. Milard and his wife, Gail, were created as a tribute to Robert McCloskey, author of a children's book about ducks that first in the Public Garden's Lagoon. Nancy John, Sculptor.
- Central Burying Ground:** Purchased in 1756 and added to the Common in 1839, this is the final resting place for Revolutionary War soldiers and many other patriots.
- Soldiers and Sailors Civil War Monuments:** Martin Milmore, Sculptor
- Frog Ponds:** Site of 1867 "Water Celebration" inaugurating the city's public water system, only the pond serves as a reminder. The water and a aqueduct leading pool in the summer. The Balguy Playground is nearby.
- Shaw Memorial:** This honors the 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry Led by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw. The 54th was the first free black regiment in the Union. Honor led by Augustus Sanborn, Granite Fence and stones by Charles F. McMan.
- Brewer Fountain**
- Banger Station:** Maps, tourist information, and restrooms. This marks the start of the Freedom Trail. Hours: Monday-Saturday, 8:30 am-Sunday, 10am-6pm



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**



Community Outreach and Public Support

- Support from over 150 community members
- Support from over 35 organizations including:
 - Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association
 - Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council
 - Zoo New England's Franklin Park Zoo
 - Franklin Park Tennis Association
 - City Parks Alliance
 - Massachusetts Conservation Voters
 - National Association for Olmsted Parks
 - Jamaica Hills Association
 - Authentic Caribbean Foundation
 - North American Indian Center of Boston



Connecting People and Parks and Conserving the Emerald Necklace

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

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 space for events, as well as a welcome respite from city life.

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.
- Mixed-use services and recreational greenspace adjacent to public transportation.

Mailing Address: 350 Jamaica Way | Boston, Massachusetts 02130 | TEL: 617-522-2700 | FAX: 617-522-2770 | www.emeraldnecklace.org



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



Map of Franklin Park, outlining areas not freely accessible to the public
★ Location of 18-Acre Commonwealth-controlled "Arborway Yard" site

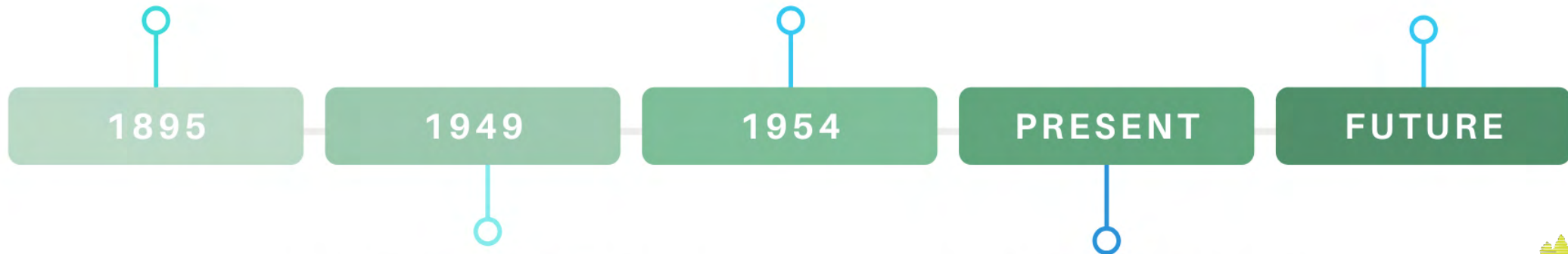
Site History



Frederick Law Olmsted designs Franklin Park



Possible restoration of greenspace



City transfers 13 acres of parkland to Commonwealth for a hospital

Lemuel Shattuck Hospital built on "Heathfield"

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

Current Approach by the Commonwealth



In 2018, the hospital was slated for demolition by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) **without** community input.



Most services are planned to be relocated to the Newton Pavilion at the Boston Medical Center in the South End

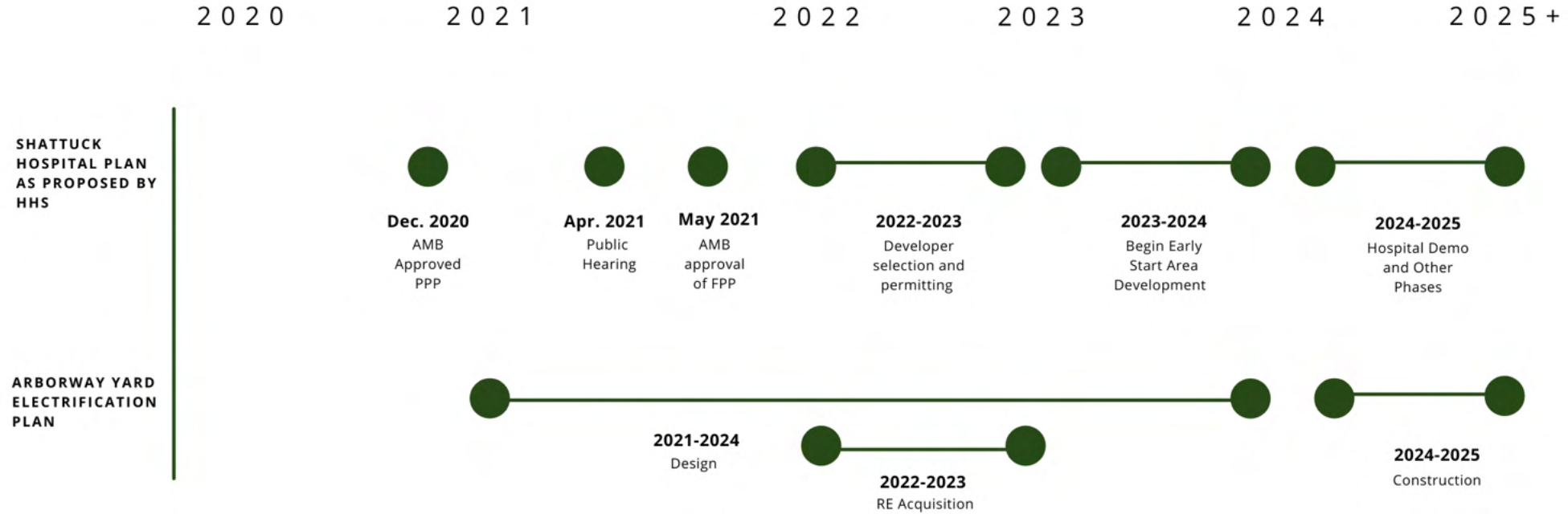


Plans for the site include 75-100 units of housing for the formerly unhoused through a **99-year lease to a private developer or entity**. The Commonwealth will provide no financial support.



The agency held a limited community process and did preform a feasibility analysis or evaluate alternative options/sites during the planning process.

SHATTUCK HOSPITAL PLAN AS PROPOSED BY THE COMMONWEALTH
 VS.
 MBTA'S PLAN FOR ARBORWAY ELECTRIFICATION



Collaboration with Northeastern University

Because alternate sites were not evaluated, the Conservancy collaborated with Northeastern University on the following four 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

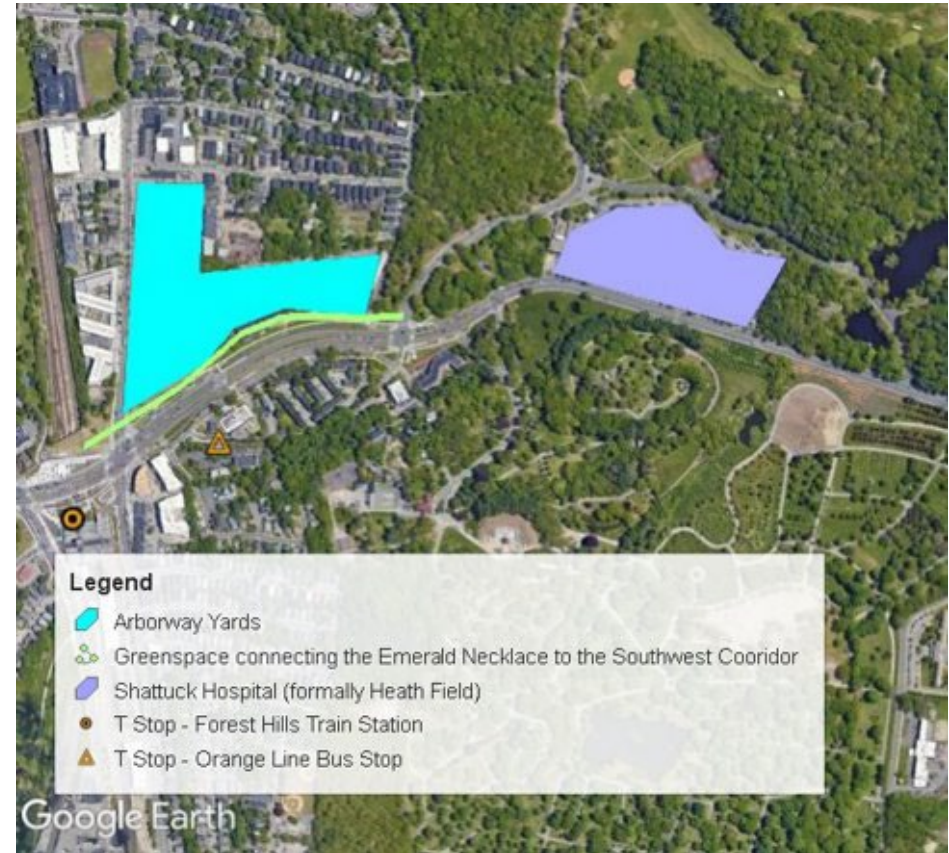
Development of concept designs for the Arborway Yard

Development of public engagement tools to promote design possibilities at the Arborway Yard and gather community feedback

Preferred Site for Consideration

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



How Big is the Arborway Yard?

18 Acres is...

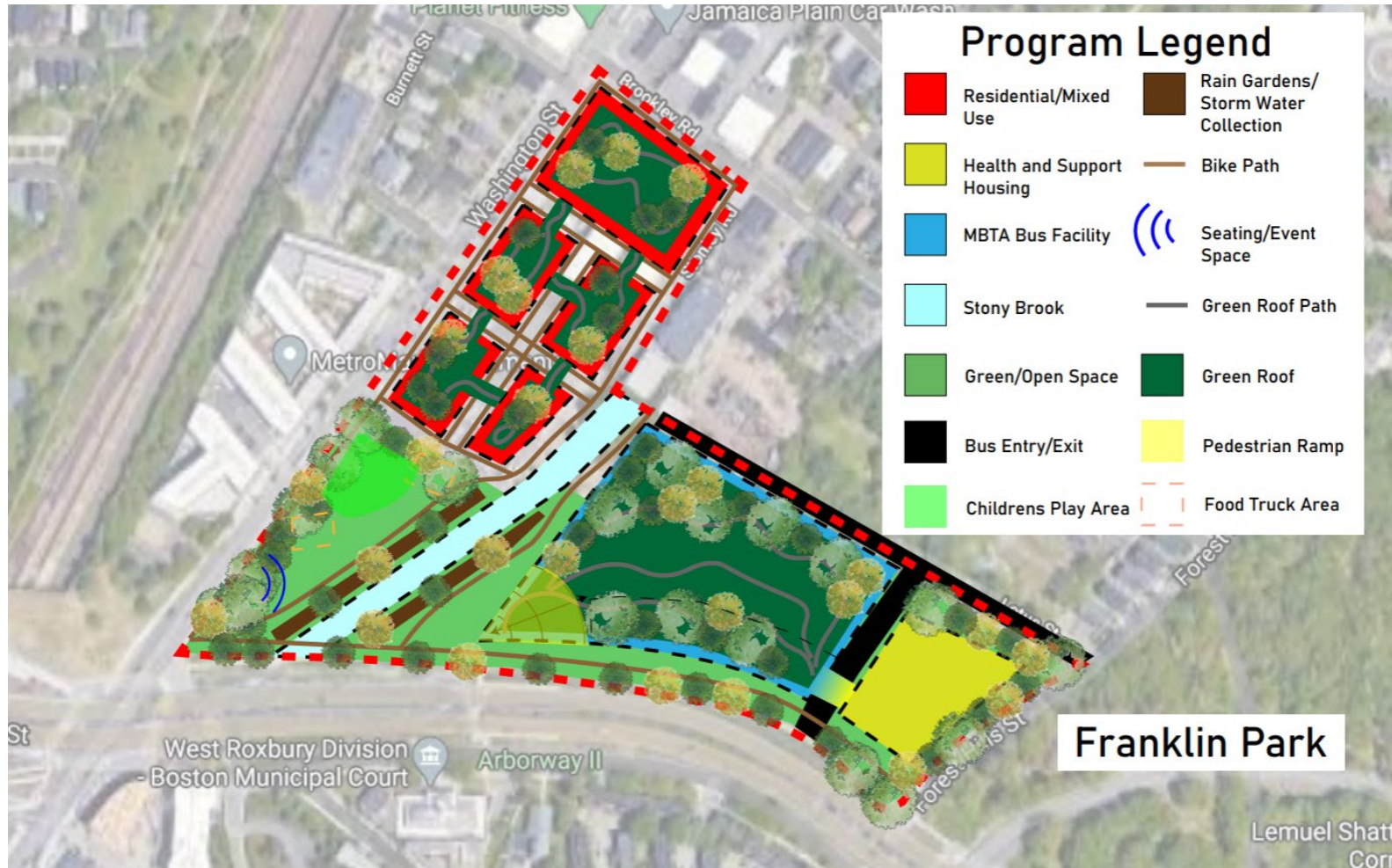
- About half as big as The Pentagon
- 150X as big as a Basketball Court
- 300X as big as a Tennis Court



If the Arborway Yard were in Back Bay:

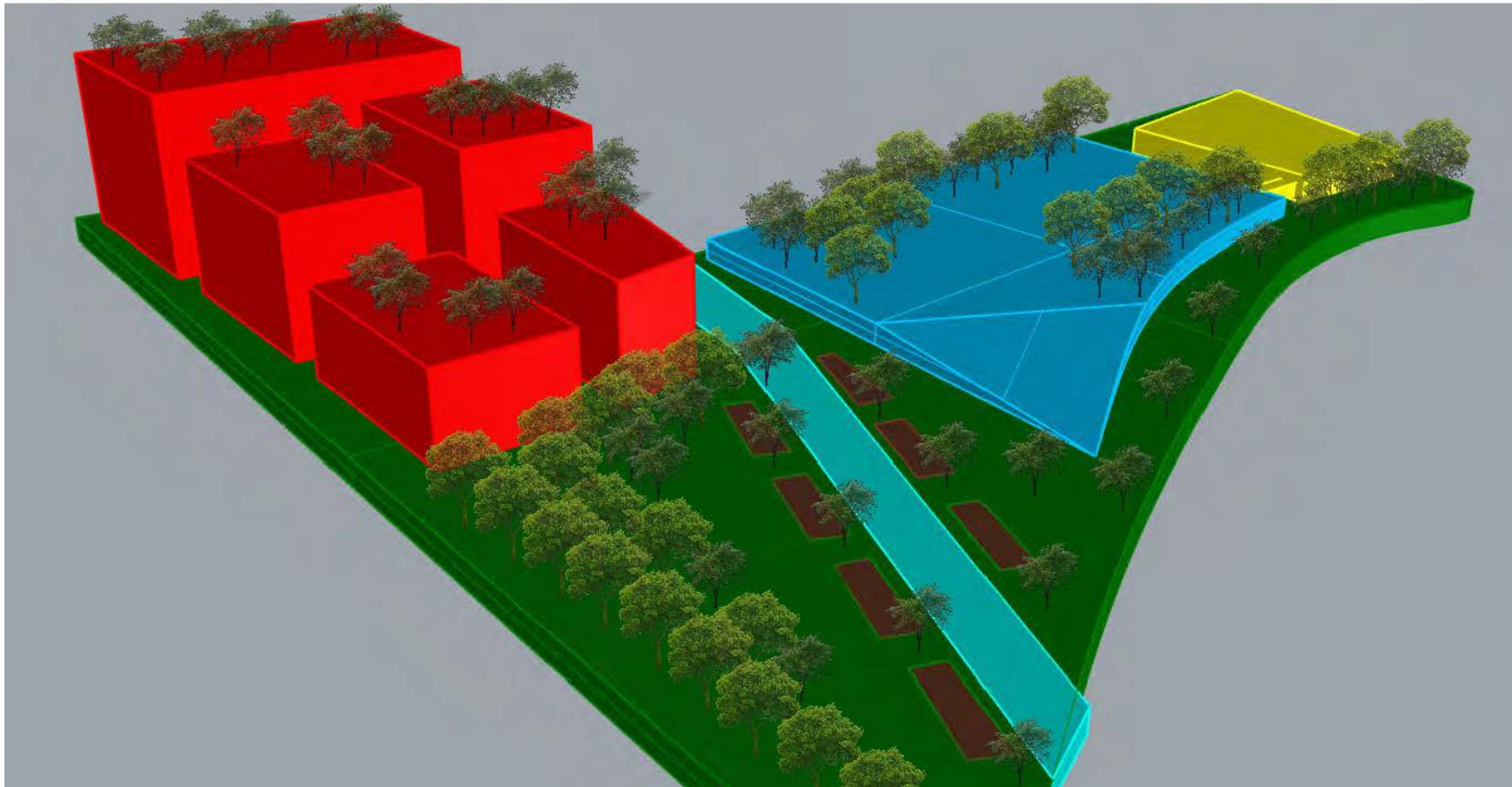
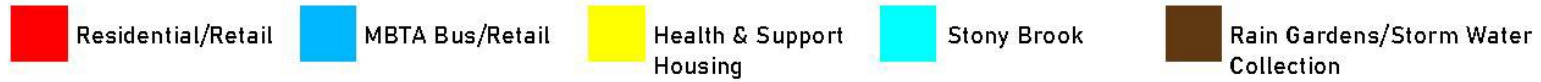


1 of 4 Potential Arborway Yard Concept Designs



1 of 4 Potential Arborway Yard Concept Designs

Massing Legend



1 of 4 Potential Arborway Yard Concept Designs



1 of 4 Potential Arborway Yard Concept Designs



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 Health Needs

Mental health and supportive rehabilitation services; 75-100 units of housing for the formerly unhoused

Meets Access Needs

Locates supportive services adjacent public transportation

Questions or Comments?

For more information, please
contact Jun Lee, Emerald
Necklace Conservancy
Engagement and Policy Manager

Email: jlee@emeraldnecklace.org

