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

**1949**
Frederick Law Olmsted designs Franklin Park

**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
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 perform 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

2020  2021  2022  2023  2024  2025+

SHATTUCK HOSPITAL PLAN AS PROPOSED BY HHS

Dec. 2020
AMB Approved PPP

Apr. 2021
Public Hearing

May 2021
AMB approval of PPP

2022-2023
Developer selection and permitting

2023-2024
Begin Early Start Area Development

2024-2025
Hospital Demo and Other Phases

ARBORWAY YARD ELECTRIFICATION PLAN

2021-2024
Design

2022-2023
RE Acquisition

2024-2025
Construction
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
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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 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
Questions or Comments?

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