

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Library of American Landscape History and  
the Emerald Necklace Conservancy Present the Film Premiere of  
"Boston's Franklin Park: Olmsted, Recreation, and the Modern City"*

*Panel Discussion Following Showing of New Film by Ian Forster*



*A behind-the-scenes look with Dr. Jean McGuire in Franklin Park at the filming of "Boston's Franklin Park: Olmsted, Recreation, and the Modern City," a short documentary by the Library of American Landscape History.*

**Boston, MA September 4, 2024 – *Boston's Franklin Park: Olmsted, Recreation, and the Modern City*, a new short film from the Library of American Landscape History by filmmaker Ian Forster, focuses on the great urban park Frederick Law Olmsted designed in 1885 as the centerpiece of a unique municipal park system known as the Emerald Necklace. The event, known as "Franklin Park – Boston's Imperiled Public Landscape" will be held on **Tuesday, October 8 from 6pm to 8pm at Hibernian Hall in Roxbury, and is free and open to the public.****

The new film is based on Ethan Carr's award winning book [\*Boston's Franklin Park: Olmsted, Recreation, and the Modern City\*](#). Weaving together interviews with the author, park advocates and park users, the film traces Franklin Park's decline and the heroic efforts of local residents to save it from ruin. Now, as the city is poised to spend millions of dollars to improve the park, the film describes an important crossroads: "As we look forward to the city—finally, after decades of official neglect—investing major amounts of money in Franklin Park, the question is how should the city move forward?"

Following the film premiere is a panel discussion on the future of Franklin Park with an introduction by Keith N. Morgan, President of the Library of American Landscape History. Panelists include:

- Ethan Carr, FASLA, professor of landscape architecture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and an international authority on America's public landscapes. He is author of *Wilderness by Design: Landscape Architecture and the National Park Service*, [\*Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma\*](#), [\*The Greatest Beach: A History of Cape Cod National Seashore\*](#), [\*Boston's Franklin Park: Olmsted, Recreation, and the Modern City\*](#), and co-author of [\*Olmsted and Yosemite: Civil War, Abolition, and the National Park Idea\*](#);
- Louis Elisa, President, Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association, founding member of the Franklin Park Coalition, and community advocate;
- Renee Stacy Welch, Jamaica Plain resident, community advocate, and member of the Franklin Park Defenders;
- Karen Mauney-Brodek, President, Emerald Necklace Conservancy.

Attendance to the "Franklin Park – Boston's Imperiled Public Landscape" event is free, but it will be necessary to RSVP by visiting <http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/bostons-franklin-park-film>.

**NOTE TO MEDIA:** A preview of *Boston's Franklin Park: Olmsted, Recreation, and the Modern City* documentary is available upon request.

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#### **About Library of American Landscape History, Amherst, MA**

LALH is the leading publisher of books that advance the study and practice of American landscape architecture—from gardens and parks to city plans. LALH books and films educate the public, motivating stewardship of significant places and the environment, and they inspire new designs that connect people with nature. LALH's award-winning books are written by the foremost historians in the field. Richly illustrated, they appeal to general readers as well as

specialists. LALH documentary films are shown in university classrooms throughout the United States, screened at special events, and used at public landscapes to educate visitors. To learn more, visit [lalh.org](http://lalh.org).

### **About Forster Films, Brooklyn, NY**

Ian Forster is the senior producer at [Art21](http://Art21), a long-running and celebrated non-profit that produces documentaries about contemporary art. He has worked on six seasons of Art21's PBS series *Art in the Twenty-First Century*. Most recently, he directed its "[Everyday Icons](#)" episode, which premiered nationally on PBS in April 2023. He also oversees Art21's ongoing digital series [Extended Play](#), which has garnered two prestigious Vimeo Staff Pick honors and has twice been recognized by the Webby Awards. Forster directed LALH's short documentary based on William E. O'Brien's [Landscapes of Exclusion: State Parks and Jim Crow in the American South](#). The film underscores the profound inequalities that persisted for decades in state park spaces available for Black visitors across the South and had premiered in 2023.

### **About Emerald Necklace Conservancy**

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is a non-profit organization founded in 1997 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 year as a safe and socially distanced destination for local residents and regional visitors. [www.emeraldnecklace.org](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org)

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