Talk About DCR Charlesgate: The Third Meeting

Monday, April 9, 2017 | 7pm to 9pm
100 Bay State Road, Room 545

Join us as we continue to discuss possibilities that we see for improvement to DCR Charlesgate Area.

charlesgatealliance.org

April 28th Events

Charlesgate Cleanup
Saturday, April 28, 2018
9am-12pm: Meet at Charlesgate East and Beacon Street
SIGN UP COMPLETE

Charlesgate In Bloom Fundraiser
Saturday, April 28, 2018
5pm-7pm: The Ayer Mansion
395 Commonwealth Ave
RSVP ONLY | $75 Tickets
Charlesgate Community Meeting

The third meeting

Charlesgate Park Improvement Outreach Process and Concept Design
April 9th, 2018

Convening organizations: Charlesgate Alliance
Emerald Necklace Conservancy

Thanks to: Many, many community members for donations
The Solomon Foundation
The Barr Foundation

Agency involvement: Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation (MassDOT)

Designer: Landing Studio

Consultants: Inter-fluve, river restoration specialist
Agenda

PART 1 – 7:05-7:40PM

• Welcome, Introducing Charlesgate, and the process to date –
  Karen Mauney-Brodek, Emerald Necklace Conservancy
  Parker James, Charlesgate Alliance
• Past and upcoming events and fundraising
  • Wine and Cheese Tasting with Silent Auction, January 28th
  • Muddy River Cleanup, April 28th
  • Charlesgate In Bloom, April 28th
• Findings from December 4th, 2017 Talk About
• Design development update

PART 2 – 7:40-8:40PM
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK WORK TABLES

PART 3– 8:45-9PM
REPORTING BACK & NEXT STEPS
Fredrick Law Olmsted (1822 - 1903)
Olmsted designed Charlesgate Park as THE CRITICAL LINK In Boston’s Park System
Olmsted Designed the Emerald Necklace
To Serve MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS:
To Provide Drainage, Flood Control, & Transportation Infrastructure, as well as a beautiful urban Park.
Why was the Stony Brook Culverted?

- Flooding
- Industrial waste
- Human waste
- To create space for urban development
- To protect people from sewage related diseases
Hotel Braemore
466 Commonwealth Ave., at Charlesgate West — Boston, Mass.
In 1951, Storrow Drive blocked the flow of the Muddy River.
- The Bowker Overpass Was Constructed in 1965 -
In 1966, it became ILLEGAL to Use Federal Funds TO TAKE PUBLIC PARKS to Built Highways.
The Concept Design and Outreach Process

What we’ve done:

Outreach with local community
• Walk About – October 2017
• Talk About 1 – October 2017
• Talk About 2 – December 2017
• Talk About 3 – April 2018
• Monthly Charlestown Alliance Leadership Meetings

Coordination with agency partners
• DCR and MassDOT
  • November 2017
  • January 2018
  • March 2018
• Additional coordination on MassDOT’s future projects

Fundraising
• Silent Auction – January 2018 and upcoming events

Meetings with other stakeholders and experts
• Charles River Watershed Association
• MMOC for the Muddy River Restoration Project
• Boston Water and Sewer Commission for Green Infrastructure projects
The Concept Design and Outreach Process

Where we’re headed:

• Charlesgate Cleanup – 9am – 12pm on April 28, 2018

• Charlesgate in Bloom Spring Benefit – 5pm – 7pm on April 28, 2018

• Conclusion of the Concept Design and Outreach Process:
  • Talk About 4 – June 2018
  • Final report:
    • Concept design plans and perspectives
    • Order-of-magnitude cost estimate
    • Phasing recommendations for shorter term and longer term improvements

What comes next:

• Fundraising for:
  • Design and engineering development and permitting
    • Continuing to work with our agency partners and their review processes
    • Updates to the community as the design develops
  • Capital improvements
  • Maintenance
Charlestowne in Bloom

Cocktail Party
Come enjoy signature drinks, wine and hors d'oeuvres to benefit the Charlestowne Alliance

Saturday, April 28 | 5 - 7
The Ayer Mansion
395 Commonwealth Avenue

RSVP ONLY | Tickets $75

All proceeds to benefit the Charlestowne Alliance | charlesgatealliance.org
Past Events
WINE AND CHEESE TASTING WITH SILENT AUCTION JAN. 28
Past Events
WINE AND CHEESE TASTING WITH SILENT AUCTION JAN. 28
Upcoming Events
CHARLESGATE CLEANUP APRIL 28, 9AM – 12PM
Meet at Charlesgate East and Beacon Street
Upcoming Events

Charlesgate in Bloom

Cocktail Party
Come enjoy signature drinks, wine and hors d'oeuvres to benefit the Charlesgate Alliance

Saturday, April 28 | 5 - 7
The Ayer Mansion
395 Commonwealth Avenue

RSVP ONLY | Tickets $75

All proceeds to benefit the Charlesgate Alliance | charlesgatcalliance.org
Findings From December 4\textsuperscript{th} Meeting
PIN AT THE LOCATION OF YOUR HOME OR WORK NEAR CHARLESGATE
(IF YOUR HOME OR WORK IS OFF THE MAP, PLEASE WRITE IT ON THE ATTACHED SHEET)
Talk About Agenda

PART 1 - 5:45 PM
MEETING OPENING STATEMENT

- Welcome
- Event Sponsor, Essential Wellness Conservancy
- Presenter: Dr. Christopher Jones

PART 2 - 6:00 PM
SESSIONS OVERVIEW

- Event Agenda
- Talk about DCM Challenges and Cures
- Historical and clinical framework
- Workshop agenda

PART 3 - 7:00 PM
SPECIAL TOPIC SESSION

- Title: Gastrointestinal Injuries
- 750-HR Board 1
- 750-HR Board 2
- 750-HR Board and roundtable
Community Feedback: December 4th Meeting
Connectivity

- Getting from Fenway to EGP:
  - come down the w side of, may already be in the pan
  - charlesgate ramps are biggest issue for drivers
- biggest area to walk:
- conversations pro and con about additional on-street
- may way to get to the
  - walking distance for the entrance to the new bike path, Fenway, and an opening

- better flow through bike access to the main esplanade commuter path from Fenway
- west meds of park has more space for biking
- make it feel like a more continuous space like the vienna garden, fenway etc.

4. Who owns the sidewalks? Need to know for shoveling, snow problems last year, DCR owns some, City of Boston some, need to find out.

2. Bridge for bike path by Circles into South Field, can come out to Comm Ave by Charlesgate West Side.
- path crosses Comm, but twice Charlesgate West. Then connect with new bike path.
- back street dangerous to ride along, full of pot holes.
- back street dangerous to ride along, full of pot holes.
- pedestrian bridge from newbury st.
- pedestrian bridge to other part of newbury st that leads to
  - Brookline Ave, good for walking to Fenway Park
  - back bay, (i.e. connecting 3 parts of newbury street)

2. Traffic light on storrow drive so people can cross from "the gate" area to esplanade, stop light for pedestrian crossing.
Increasing water flow (mosquitoes)
Clogging. Large change in bed level.
Size of drain openings may be too small.
V. expensive to enlarge openings.
Clean drains more realistic.
Current expense should not be an obstacle
to future vision.
Erosion, sediment, gasoline from overpass all flow into
nutrients feed algae growth.
BWSL research discovering which drains from Bowker
go into basin. Once identified an address
solution. Landscape solutions plant.

Embankment
Abutments of overpass are impervious.
Sediment, trash carried into river.

Greenery along edge of river to filter run off
- appropriate vegetation
Shade from overpass

Greenery along edge of river to filter run off
Dog Park

- Recorder: please note how many participants are in this group for future reference.

- Materials:
  - Large printed existing conditions plan of Charlesgate Park area
  - Drawing: plan printed to show space types analysis at Charlesgate Park
  - Aerial cutouts of various dog parks to compare sizes/ scales
  - Printed list: example ‘rules’ for dog parks
  - Printed list: materials commonly used in dog parks

1. Where could a dog park be located at Charlesgate Park? The group can use the cut-outs to test sizes. Trace paper and markers can be used to sketch over plan drawings.

2. What are the most important considerations or elements to include in a dog park?

3. What should be included as amenities or features?
   - 4′, 5′, 6′ fence with double-gated entrances, wheelchair accessible
   - Waste management – scooper station, bags
   - Park rules
   - Shade
   - Benches, tables
   - Paths
   - Splash pad
   - Large dog/small/ frail dog areas
   - Dog drinking fountain
   - Agility area/equipment
   - Irrigation

4. What are some materials that work well in dog parks?
   - Some examples:
     - Turf designed for dogs
     - K-9 turf: plant-based materials and nylon make it durable. Allow for water to penetrate
     - Rubberized mulch pads
     - Stone dust
     - Pea stone or rice stone
     - Mulch and wood chips
     - Pebbles
     - Natural grass

5. What are some examples of really good dog parks?

6. What are examples of things to avoid or problems to consider?

7. Who would like to continue giving input as part of a working group on dog parks?

- Removal of N. Wall but reinstall sound barrier.
- Drainage in natural dog showers.
- Grant will support system.
- Paid membership.
- Electric outlets
- Size dogs, dog personality
- Rules (picking up, grooming)
- Message board
- Comment box
- Media input
- Shan removal?
Amenities & Recreation

- Giant chess / small chess
  - Checkers
- Pickleball / raquetball / tennis
  - Backboard
- Mini golf course
  - Bocce
  - Croquet
- Flexible netting for badminton or volleyball
- Scooter / slow bicycle lane

- Small play feature in circle patio
- See monster for climbing
- Splash Park
- Sound playground
- Seating locations

- Seating locations
Art

Art table

Curatorship

How much funding is available

Columns - not too busy, soft pastel?

Have to weigh what looks good in
day and at night

Doesn't have to be totally standardized

test out - do things work?

Don't want too "busy" a look

Could colleges of art be asked to

suggest? SMFA, Mass. College of Art, BU

Professors could help with curation

MIT, Westworth, IAC, etc. Northeastern

Mass Boston

Pastel lighting for pedestrians

The Grove should stay green

Create lighting that's impervious to vandalism

Create art work w/ the plantings

The Allée would be a good area for Storm King-like

sculpture - could handle wind sculpture that
could be seen from another place

too much graffiti would be disruptive

Zen Garden - peacefully concrete
Temporary Installations & Events

- Recorder: please note how many participants are in this group for Round 1 and Round 2.

- Materials:
  - Large printed existing conditions plan of Charlestown Park area
  - Drawing: plan printed to show 'space types' analysis at Charlestown Park
  - Digital images on monitor: axons of different ideas for events

1. What kinds of events would you like to see at Charlestown Park?
   Some examples:
   - Ornamental lighting - yes
   - Image projections - yes
   - Movie in the park - yes
   - Visions and activities: testing of the site (Urban Catalyst examples)
   - Temporary art installations - yes
   - Dog show
   - Youth dance party in the park

2. What kinds of events would be fun at Charlestown Park?

3. What are cultural groups or cultural organizations that might be interested in collaboration?
   Some examples:
   - Schools
   - Arts/Cultural organizations
   - Others?

4. What events already happen in or around Charlestown Park?
   Some examples:
   - Marathon
   - Red Sox games
   - Others?
Design Principles

• Improve the Muddy River water quality and habitat
  • Manage as much storm water as possible through landscape systems
  • Design habitat-rich landscapes
Design Principles

• Reconnect Boston’s 3 park systems and neighborhoods across Charlesgate Park
  • Bike lanes
  • Safe pedestrian connections
  • Open up views
Design Principles

• Celebrate Charlesgate Park’s history
  • Incorporate significant built elements and flora
  • Develop a language that complements Charlesgate Park’s design legacy
Design Principles

• **Activate the site with new uses**
  
  • Provide amenity spaces that support a variety of active and passive uses
  
  • Dog park
  
  • Flexibility
Design Principles

• Improve the Muddy River water quality and habitat

• Reconnect Bostons’ 3 park systems and neighborhoods across Charlesgate Park

• Celebrate Charlesgate Park’s history

• Activate the site with new uses
1963 (realized) Charlesgate Park plans by Morice & Gary Landscape Architects
- **Storm Drain**: underground; uncertain (observed from existing site documentation provided)
- **Storm Drain**: overhead; certain (confirmed location on site)

**CSO**
- **Catch Basins:**
  - On grade; certain (confirmed location on site)
- **Catch Basins:**
  - On grade; uncertain (observed from existing site documentation provided)
- **Catch Basins:**
  - On overpass; certain (confirmed location on site)
- **Storm Water Outlet:**
  - Uncertain (observed from existing site documentation provided)
Preservation:
historic structures and mature vegetation
Note: not yet reviewed for compliance with agency or engineering requirements
Proposed Connections:
walk paths and pedestrian bridges

Note: not yet reviewed for compliance with agency or engineering requirements
Proposed Dissipation Basins:
storm drain pipes are re-routed

Proposed Re-Grading

Proposed Connections:
walk paths and pedestrian bridges

Preservation:
historic structures and
mature vegetation

Proposed Amenity Areas:

Note: not yet reviewed for compliance with agency or engineering requirements
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Existing Cross Section at Muddy River
Proposed Cross Section at Muddy River
Dissipation Basins
Dissipation Basins
Dissipation Basins
Bridge over storm water landscape, Don River Park Toronto
Bicycle Accommodation Alternatives
Bicycle Accommodation Study
Alternative 2; New Marlborough Bridge Path

Note: not yet reviewed for compliance with agency or engineering requirements
The Bowl and Bridge

Area currently being studied by MassDOT

Note: not yet reviewed for compliance with agency or engineering requirements
The North Field and Patio

Note: not yet reviewed for compliance with agency or engineering requirements
The South Field

Note: not yet reviewed for compliance with agency or engineering requirements
Existing: from Commonwealth Ave looking south
Proposed: from Commonwealth Ave looking south
Existing: looking south at South Field
Proposed: looking south at South Field
Existing: from Beacon St looking south
Proposed: from Beacon St looking south
Existing: looking south from Storrow EB ramp area
Proposed: looking south from Storrow EB ramp area
Existing: west edge of the Muddy, North Field
Proposed: west edge of the Muddy, North Field
Maintenance Planning

• Funding source possibilities
  • Endowment fund
  • Green Improvement District
  • Public-Private partnerships
  • Revenues (food vendors, etc)
  • Volunteer efforts and fundraising
• Maintenance and operations plan
• Field checklists
• Tools/equipment
Maintenance Tasks – draft for discussion

(a preliminary list, based on Muddy River Restoration Project Maintenance Calendar for Charlesgate area)

- **Daily**
  - Trash and litter removal

- **Weekly**
  - Remove debris from watercourse
  - Sweep and remove debris from paths
  - Green storm water infrastructure inspections for functionality (no standing water over x hrs)
  - Weeding and pruning of plantings, including embankments and uplands
  - Mowing for any lawn areas

- **Seasonal or as needed**
  - Snow removal as needed
  - Leaf removal as needed
  - Remove invasive plant species
  - Plant replacement as needed
  - Seeding, soil testing
  - Repair damaged furniture and amenities (benches, trash barrels, light poles), trees
  - Remove fallen trees immediately
  - Irrigation systems repairs/seasonal shut-offs
  - Remove debris/clean sediment from storm water structures as needed
Designing for Agency Maintenance
Note: not yet reviewed for compliance with agency or engineering requirements
Note: not yet reviewed for compliance with agency or engineering requirements
Community Feedback Work Tables
7:45-8:40 PM

Please choose a recorder to take notes and report back to the group.

- South Field and the Circles
- North Field, the Grove, and the Patio
- The Bowl and Bridge
- Partnerships and Maintenance
- Bike Accommodations
- Priorities and Short Term Improvements
Reporting Back
8:45-9PM

- South Field and the Circles
- North Field, the Grove, and the Patio
- The Bowl and Bridge
- Partnerships and Maintenance
- Bike Accommodations
- Priorities and Short Term Improvements
Next Steps

Where we’re headed:

• Charlesgate Cleanup – 9am – 12pm on April 28, 2018

• Charlesgate in Bloom Spring Benefit – 5pm – 7pm on April 28, 2018

• Conclusion of the Concept Design and Outreach Process:
  • Join us for the 4th Talk About – June 2018 (date tbd)
  • Final report:
    • Concept design plans and perspectives
    • Order-of-magnitude cost estimate
    • Phasing recommendations for shorter term and longer term improvements

What comes next:

• Fundraising for:
  • Design and engineering development and permitting
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  • Capital improvements
  • Maintenance
There are several great ways you can get involved and support this effort:

1) Tell your neighbors about this process, ask them to join, and spread the word about the next meeting.

2) Join Charlesgate Alliance online:

   https://charlesgatealliance.org/join-us-2/

   You will then get an invitation to join our Google group to discuss Charlesgate Park and its adjoining neighborhoods.

3) Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:

   facebook.com/charlesgatealliance/

   @charlesgatealliance

4) Consider a donation. Your company may also offer financial support. Donations are tax deductible:

   https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/charlesgate-alliance/

5) Tell your elected representatives that this matters to you!

6) Come to our Summer meeting and bring friends.

   Visit charlesgatealliance.org
Send us feedback on the concept plan:

The concept plan will be posted soon on:
Charlesgatealliance.org

Email any comments to:
Charlesgatealliance@gmail.com

Please return comments by April 30, 2018 for incorporation in concept plan for the 4th Talk About.