Talk About DCR Charlestown Park
Tuesday, October 10, 2017 | 7pm to 9pm
91 Bay State Road, Common Lounge, First Floor

Join us as we discuss possibilities that we see for improvement to DCR Charlestone Park, based on our September 16th walk, for those who could make it, as well as for others who can join us that evening.

charlesgatealliance.org
Talk About DCR Charlesgate Park

Charlesgate Park Improvement Outreach Process and Concept Design
Oct. 10, 2017

Convening organizations:  
- Charlesgate Alliance
- Emerald Necklace Conservancy

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

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

Designer:  
- Landing Studio

Consultants:  
- Interfluve, river restoration specialist
Talk About Agenda

PART 1 - 7:10-8PM
INTRODUCTIONS, GOALS, AND INITIAL OBSERVATIONS
- Welcome
- Introduction
- Background and approach
- Initial observations about Charlesgate
- Design precedents

PART 2 - 8:05-9PM
GROUP VISIONING
- Guidelines/questions
- Small group discussions
- Report back and record
Background and approach: Combining infrastructure, landscape, and urbanism
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Background and approach: Designing for the short-term and longer-term

Temporary light projections on the underside of the I-93 viaduct in Boston at the beginning of the Underground at Ink Block process, 2014
Background and approach: Designing for the short-term and longer-term

‘Rain hats’ fabricated for temporary lights.
Background and approach: Designing for the short-term and longer-term
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The Lumen film and performance art festival at an active salt dock, 2012. Landing Studio worked with salt dock operators to construct salt pile landscapes.
Background and approach: Designing for the short-term and longer-term
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Projection surface. Artist: Marco Brambilla
Background and approach: Designing for the short-term and longer-term
Temporary light projections on the Coastal Oil tanks along Chelsea Creek during demolition. Letters disappeared as tanks were demolished over 1 month.
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- This process will be organized along ‘parallel tracks’
  - Track 1: Develop design options
  - Track 2: Implement 1 to 2 short-term installations, improvements, or events at Charlesgate Park during the process

- 2 more community meetings
  - November/December – date TBD
  - February/March – date TBD

- Final report with design options: March 2018
Initial observations: September 16 Walkaround
Initial observations: September 16 Walkaround

Photos: Charlesgatealliance.org
Initial observations: **Critical Link**

*New Boston and Charles River Basin, as proposed by Charles Davenport and drawn by Albert Coolidge (1875); courtesy of the Boston Athenaeum via *Inventing The Charles River* by Karl Haglund*
Initial observations: Critical Link
Initial observations: **Critical Link**

Heading to a Saturday game at Fenway
Initial observations: Critical Link
Initial observations: **Fragmented Spaces**
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Someone finds a quiet moment along the Muddy River.
Initial observations: **Fragmented Spaces**

Roadway fragmentation: at grade and overhead
Initial observations: **Fragmented Spaces**
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Initial observations: **Fragmented Spaces**

- 0.7 acres
- 5.6 acres
- 2.1 acres
- 0.6 acres
- 1.9 acres
Initial observations: **Fragmented Spaces**

12.7 acres
Initial observations: **Fragmented Spaces**

- **Charlesgate:** 9.7 acres
- **Christian Science Plaza:** 7.5 acres
  (0.8 Charlesgates)
- **Fenway Ball Park:** 3.0 acres
  (0.3 Charlesgates)
- **BPL + Copley Plaza:** 7.8 acres
  (0.8 Charlesgates)
Initial observations: **Fragmented Spaces**
Initial observations: **Fragmented Spaces**
Initial observations: **Layers of History**
Initial observations: **Layers of History**

- **1966**
- **Shurcliff, 1926?**
- **Olmsted, 1880’s**
Initial observations: **Layers of History**

Partially buried bridge
Initial observations: **Water Systems**

Direct storm water discharge
Initial observations: Water Systems
Initial observations: **Water Systems**

*Stagnation*
Initial observations: Water Systems

Duckweed
Initial observations: **Water Systems**

- Muddy River, Stony Brook, and Charles River watersheds
Initial observations: Water Systems

The confluence of Stony Brook, Muddy River and the Charles River as it existed in the early 19th century, and the subsequently constructed area of the Back Bay Fens about 1903. (Freeman, 1903)
Precedents: **Underground at Ink Block**
Precedents: **Underground at Ink Block**

Storm water catchment areas
Subterranean storm water system

Precedents: Underground at Ink Block
Stone filled ‘dissipation basins’ distribute runoff into the filtration and retention landscape
Stone filled ‘dissipation basins’ distribute runoff into the filtration and retention landscape

Precedents: Underground at Ink Block
Precedents: **Underground at Ink Block**
Precedents: **Underground at Ink Block**

3d model analysis
Precedents: *Underground at Ink Block*
Precedents: Underground at Ink Block

Daylight through the viaduct
Precedents: **Underground at Ink Block**
Precedents: Underground at Ink Block
Precedents: Charlesgate Park

Built layers of history are trapped and hidden away from public access near the terminus of the Muddy River.
Precedents: Charlesgate Park
Precedents: Charlesgate Park

Stone bridge by HH Richardson.
Group Visioning

8:05PM-8:35PM

1. Please divide into groups of up to 8 people at tables with a member of the Charlesgate leadership committee at each table.

2. Please select a Recorder and Reporter for your group.
   
   Recorder: to record the findings of the group in writing (on site plans and blank sheets).
   
   Reporter: to verbally report the findings of the group.

3. You will find the following drawings on the tables:
   
   a- Site plan of Charlesgate from **above** the Bowker Overpass
   b- Site plan of Charlesgate from **below** the Bowker Overpass
   c- Photographs of each ‘area’ of Charlesgate
   d- Blank sheets of paper and pencils for recording
Group Visioning
8:05PM-8:35PM

Please respond to these general questions:

1. What is your favorite park? What makes it great?
2. What would you like to be able to do in the Charlesgate neighborhood? What is missing?

Please respond to these questions for each ‘area’ (0-4) of Charlesgate:

1. How would you envision spending time in this area of Charlesgate?
2. What is the most/least desirable quality of this area?

Please write and sketch on the site plans and photos: let us know about things that are needed: crosswalks, benches, trees, trash cans, etc! We will collect the notes and sketches.
Thank you!

Charlesgatealliance.org

Thoughts? Questions?
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