AGENDA

7 – 7:45 PM
• Welcome
• Background:
  • History of Charlesgate
  • The Charlesgate Alliance and Emerald Necklace Conservancy partnership
• Brief overview of the design and process to date (including Dog Play Area)

7:45 – 9:00 PM
• Overview of initial play area design concepts and materials – 30 min
• Small group sessions – 30 min
• Report-out and notetaking - 15 min
• Closing – looking ahead
Naturalistic Urban Infrastructure
Climate and Flood Resiliency
Charlesgate: The “Critical Link” Connecting Olmsted’s Boston Linear Park System
In 1951, Storrow Drive blocked the flow of the Muddy River.
“One Kenmore” Hotel Project with “Fenway Center, Phase 2” in the Background
“One Kenmore” Hotel Project (Mark Development)
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Kenmore Redevelopment Project (Related Beal)
Kenmore Mall Redesign Project (Friends of the Public Garden)
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“Parcel 12” (Samuels and Associates)
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“Parcel 12” (Samuels and Associates)
2 Charlesgate West (Scape Boylston)
2 Charlesgate West (Scape Boylston)
Getting Things Right:

• Transit-Oriented Design
• Affordable Housing
• Attention to the Public Realm
• Revitalizing Olmsted’s Charlesgate Parkland
San Francisco’s Embarcadero Freeway: “critical infrastructure” built directly in front of the landmark Ferry Building.
San Francisco’s Embarcadero today: Cultural Hub and Major Tourist Attraction.
Seoul, South Korea:
The Cheonggyechon Highway before demolition.
Seoul, South Korea: the Cheonggyecheon Stream restored.
We’ve done here it in Boston too, with great success! Do you miss the elevated Central Artery?
The Rose Kennedy Greenway.
Upcoming Events

- March 10th - Community Meeting, Overview and Playground Focus
- March 31st - Dog Park Design Meeting
- April 14th - Emerald Necklace Conservancy Annual Meeting and Charlesgate Project Presentation at Boston Public Library, Rabb Hall
- April 25th - Muddy River Clean Up – Charlesgate Sites
- April 30th - Charlesgate in Bloom and Silent Auction
- May - Charlesgate Chairs set out again
- May 13th - Party in the Park Fundraiser, Charlesgate Project to Receive Proceeds
- September 17th - Charlesgate Movie Night - Movie TBD – Online Poll to determine
Improvements Underway or Completed

Olmsted rail replacement: Thank you DCR!

Lighting fixed: Thank you DCR!

Charlesegate Chairs, photo by Jules Milner-Brage

Charlesegate Movie Night, Thank you
Emerald Necklace Conservancy & Solomon Foundation!
Design Funding
Success to Date

$250,000 Earmark in 2019 Annual Budget
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Thanks to elected Representatives
Brownsberger, Livingstone, and Rushing!

$400,000 Boston Community
Preservation Act grant for design

DESIGN Funded and Underway
Fundraising for Implementation – In progress

Estimated Total Cost for Physical Improvements: $10,000,000
Estimated Cost of Maintenance Fund, to ensure high level of maintenance, TBD (estimated up to $2,500,000)

Emerald Necklace Conservancy and Charlesgate Alliance Fundraising now from various sources

- **Public /City** – Possible additional application to Community Preservation Act Committee
- **Public / Commonwealth (State)** – meeting with various departments and elected officials
- **Local Development Projects** – seeking support from local projects - $150K already committed
- **Foundations and Private Individuals** – some funds have been given for design process, we think more can come!
- **People like you!** – Donor Conversations Ongoing– please contact Karen Mauney-Brodek at the Conservancy if interested.

Developing Approved Donor Recognition Opportunities with DCR/Commonwealth
Project Status

• We are currently in the “Design Development” phase of the project

  • This is the phase where we develop the 2018 “Concept Plan” into a buildable set of construction documents, with full design and engineering

  • We are aiming to wrap up the Design Development process by the end of 2020

    • Timing will depend on agency review and approvals
    • Permitting is estimated to take between 7-15 months after documents are submitted

• There is funding to complete the Design Development process thanks to a generous Boston Community Preservation Act grant and 2019 annual budget earmark funding

• Funds for construction are not yet in hand

  • We are currently investigating public and private funding opportunities
  • We are updating our cost estimate based on further design and engineering
  • We are also studying phasing strategies based on different levels of construction funding
  • Significant public projects in the area which may include some improvements, will be determined in coming weeks and months to determine total non-public support needed
Overview of Design

New Boston and Charles River Basin, as proposed by Charles Davenport and drawn by Albert Coolidge (1875)
1963 Charlestown Park plans by Morice & Gary Landscape Architects.
Charlesgate Park today
Laydown and access
Laydown and access
Water quality issues at the Muddy River
Partially buried Olmsted Era bridge
DESIGN PRINCIPLES

IMPROVE MUDDY RIVER WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT
- manage storm water with landscape systems
- provide habitat-rich landscape design

RECONNECT BOSTON'S 3 PARK SYSTEMS & NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS CHARLESGATE
- add bike accommodations
- safe pedestrian connections
- open up views

CELEBRATE CHARLESGATE'S HISTORY
- incorporate significant built elements and flora
- develop a language that complements Charlesgate's design legacy

ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES
- provide amenity spaces that invite a variety of uses
- dog park!
- flexibility
Existing conditions at Charlesgate Park
The North Field: Fitness/Play area, rain gardens

The Grove: Plaza restoration, new seating, trees

The Patio: New crossings, trees, seating, rain gardens

The South Field: Dog Play area, rain gardens

Ped/Bike improvements to Charlesgate East/Newbury St area

The Bridge

Forthcoming MassDOT project
Existing: west edge of the Muddy, North Field
Proposed: west edge of the Muddy, North Field
Green storm water infrastructure
Existing: from Commonwealth Ave looking south
Proposed: from Commonwealth Ave looking south
Existing: looking south from Storrow EB ramp area
Proposed: looking south from Storrow EB ramp area
Existing: from Beacon St looking south
Proposed: from Beacon St looking south
Existing: looking south at South Field
Proposed: looking south at South Field
Dog Play Area Overview - areas

- CONCRETE RETAINING WALL
- TOTAL 20,500 SQ FT
- 17,500 SQ FT
- 3,000 SQ FT
- 4 FT TALL FENCE
- SOUND BARRIER

COMMONWEALTH AVE.
Dog Play Area Overview - areas
Dog Play Area Overview – shade/coverage

KEY
- UNCOVERED
- COVERED

60%  78%  22%
40%
Play Area Overview

KEY
- Poured Rubber
- Placed Stone
- Asphalt
- Concrete
- Upland Vegetation
- Wetland Vegetation

42" Tall Fence
Gate
Outline of Bowker Overpass Above
Play Area Design Considerations

• Inclusivity
  • Welcomes a wide spectrum of user experiences across ability, age, culture, and socio-economic status *(adapted from the Institute for Human Centered Design)*

• Play Value
  • Elements that are compelling, encourage development, and can be engaged in multiple ways

• Age Appropriateness
  • Considering developmental stage, physical abilities, and sizes of children in different age groups *(adapted from Superior Play.com)*

• Durability and Maintenance
  • Equipment that has lasting value and can be replaced or repaired if damaged

• Operations and Access
  • Accommodate access for overpass maintenance and repairs without damaging park elements
Playground Access

Children crossing over the Turnpike from Charlesgate to Mother’s Rest Playground
Playground Elements

Play Equipment
Ground Surfaces
Fencing

Furniture
Shade / Landscape
Play Equipment – age groups

Toddler: 6 – 23 months
Climbing equipment under 32”, ramps, single file step ladders, slides (short), spiral slides less than 360°, spring rockers, stairways, swings with full bucket seats

Preschool: 2 – 5 years
Certain climbers, Horizontal ladders less than or equal to 60” high for ages 4 and 5, Merry-go-rounds, Ramps, Rung ladders, Single file step ladders, Slides, Spiral slides up to 360°, Spring rockers, Stairways, Swings – belt, full bucket seat

Grade School: 5 – 12 years
Arch climbers, Chain or cable walks, Free standing climbing events with flexible parts, Fulcrum seesaws, Ladders – Horizontal, Rung, & Step, Overhead rings, Merry-go-rounds, Ramps, Ring treks, Slides, Spiral slides more than one 360° turn, Stairways, Swings – belt & rotating tire, Track rides, Vertical sliding poles

Playground Size

- Charlesgate
  - 14,000 sq ft

- Esplanade
  - Playground
  - 10,000 sq ft

- Stoneman
  - Playground
  - 6,000 sq ft

- Edgerly Rd
  - Playground
  - 5,500 sq ft

- Mother’s Rest
  - Playground
  - 6,100 sq ft

- Clarendon St
  - Playground
  - 13,000 sq ft
Playground Age Groups

- Charlesgate TBD
- Esplanade Playground 5-12 years
- Stoneman Playground 5-12 years
- Stoneman Playground 2-5 years
- Clarendon St Playground 2-12 years
- Mother’s Rest Playground 2-5 years 5-12 years
- Edgerly Rd Playground 5-12 years Tot spray area
Play Equipment - age groups

6-23 mos.

2-5 year

5-12 year

Swinging
Rocking
Spinning
Climbing
Swinging
Climbing
Climbing
Climbing
Swinging
Climbing
Climbing & Sliding
Climbing
Climbing & Sliding
Play Equipment - age groups

- 6-23 mos.
- 2-5 year
- 5-12 year

- Climbing
- Swinging
- Swinging
- Climbing
- Climbing & Sliding
- Swinging
- Climbing
- Climbing & Sliding
Play Equipment - age groups

- under 5 years
- 5 - 12 years

Activities:
- Rocking
- Swinging
- Climbing
- Climbing & Sliding
Play Equipment - age groups

- under 5 years
- 5 -12 year

Activities:
- Climbing
- Sliding
- Swinging
- Rocking
Play Equipment – materials

- Metal pipe and plastic
- Metal pole and net
- Timber

Fun issues to consider: play value, variability, inclusivity

Practical issues to consider: maintenance, durability, safety, replaceability
Ground Surfaces – loose fill

- Lower initial cost
- Easy to install
- Requires regular maintenance
  - Gets compacted, need to replenish every 2 years
  - Clean up loose material around edges
- Small dangerous or unsanitary objects can get hidden
- Children may pick up / eat
- Children can use material for play
Ground Surfaces – unitary

- DCR preferred playground surfacing material for this project
  - Accessible
  - More expensive up-front cost, but longer duration before maintenance is typically required
  - Easier to maintain
  - Many color options
Poured Rubber Options - color

PORT Park, Chelsea
Poured Rubber Options - ground as play surface

Mother’s Rest, Boston
Poured Rubber Options - ground as play surface

Chuckie Harris Park, Somerville
A herring run pathway?
Paved Access Path Options - as play feature

Hoyt Sullivan Playground, Somerville
Fencing – steel picket

- DCR preferred fence material
- Replaceable
- Most durable

Charles River Esplanade
Furniture - benches

Left: Central Park (klynchandsons.com), right: Charles River Esplanade (photo: Tom Klein)
Furniture - benches

Perimeter of benches

Central ‘spine’ of benches

Bench conversation clusters
Shade / Landscape

Clarendon St Playground, Boston
Shade / Landscape

KEY
- UNCOVERED
- COVERED
Small Group Sessions – 30 minutes

Questions:

1- What is your favorite, most fun playground experience?

2- What is missing from nearby playgrounds that you would like to see at Charlestown?

3- Please share any comments on playground elements:
   - bench configurations? play equipment- types? materials? age groups?

4- Brainstorm: What would you like to see as a play theme at Charlestown?
   Some ideas:
   - Fish and wildlife of the Muddy River
   - History of Charlestown Park

Table facilitators will take notes
Report back – 15 minutes

Share one exciting idea or key takeaway from each question to the larger group.

1- What is your favorite, most fun playground experience?

2- What is missing from nearby playgrounds that you would like to see at Charlesgate?

3- Please share any comments on playground elements:
   bench configurations? play equipment- types? materials? age groups?

4- Brainstorm: What would you like to see as a play theme at Charlesgate?
   Some ideas:
   • Fish and wildlife of the Muddy River
   • History of Charlesgate Park
There are several great ways you can get involved and support this effort:

1) Tell your neighbors about this process, ask them to join the Charlesgate Alliance.

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.

3) Follow us on social media:
   facebook.com/charlesgatealliance/
   @charlesgatealliance
   @CharlesgateAll1 on Twitter
   facebook.com/theemeraldnecklaceconservancy/
   @EmeraldNecklaceConservancy
   @EmNecklaceBos

4) Consider a tax deductible donation. Your company may also offer financial support.
   https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/charlesgate-alliance/

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

6) Come to our events and bring friends!
   See our calendar at charlesgatealliance.org
Send us feedback:

Email any comments to:
Charlesgatealliance@gmail.com

Visit:
Charlesgatealliance.org

Also:

Learn more about the Emerald Necklace!
Visit:
emeraldnecklace.org/

And visit the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, at the Shattuck Visitor Center at 125 The Fenway, open 7 days a week!