CHARLESGATE REVITALIZATION PROJECTS
PUBLIC MEETING

AGENDA
• Zoom Overview
• Welcome and Thank You’s
• Recent Meetings & Progress
• Design Updates
• Big Picture Vision
• Questions
Thank Yous
WE ARE WORKING AT 3 SCALES

• On the ground, day-to-day stewardship
• The park design
• Big picture vision
RECENT MEETINGS & PROGRESS

✓ March 10 Public Meeting
✓ March 11 City/State Police Convening
✓ April 7 Dog Park Meeting
✓ June 17 Emerald Necklace Conservancy Annual Meeting
✓ Ongoing Social Distancing Signage
✓ Ongoing Project Place Maintenance
✓ July 18 Awarded Fenway Park Demonstration Project Community Benefits Grant for new trees
✓ July/August - Briefings with 40 area organizations
✓ August 4 Charlesgate Alliance Contributed Funds to Muddy River water surface cleanup
✓ August 5 Water Goat Pilot Launched by our friends at the Muddy Water Initiative
✓ September DCR matching funds grant application
✓ November 16 DCR Muddy River water surface cleaning
RECENT MEETINGS & PROGRESS

✓ March 10 Public Meeting
✓ April 7 Dog Park Meeting
DOG PLAY AREA AND PLAYGROUND PUBLIC MEETINGS (MARCH/APRIL)

Dog Play Area Plan

Playground Plan
RECENT MEETINGS & PROGRESS

March 11 Homelessness Resources Meeting with City and State Officials
✓ June 17 Emerald Necklace Conservancy Annual Meeting
✓ Ongoing Project Place Maintenance
✓ Ongoing Social Distancing Signage
✓ July 18 Awarded Fenway Park Demonstration Project
Community Benefits Grant for new trees
✓ July/August – Series of Briefings with 40 area organizations
August 4 Charlesgate Alliance helps fund Muddy River water surface cleanup
✓ August 5 Water Goat Pilot Launched by our friends at the Muddy Water Initiative
✓ September Submitted DCR matching funds grant application
DCR MATCHING GRANT PROPOSAL FOR NON-STRUCTURAL WALL REMOVAL
DCR MATCHING GRANT PROPOSAL FOR NON-STRUCTURAL WALL REMOVAL

Proposed: from Beacon St looking south
✓ November 16 DCR Muddy River water surface cleaning
DESIGN PLAN

The South Field

The North Field

The Grove

The Circles

The Patio

The South Field
#1 - IMPROVE MUDDY RIVER WATER QUALITY & HABITAT
- manage storm water with landscape systems
- provide habitat-rich landscape design

#2 - ACTIVATE THE SITE WITH NEW USES
- provide amenity spaces that invite a variety of uses
- dog park!

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

#4 - DESIGN FOR MAINTENANCE
- make the park, the water, and the bridge easy to maintain

#5 - CELEBRATE CHARLESGATE'S HISTORY
- preserve significant built elements and flora
- restore Charlesgate’s function as a water park
GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE
AGENCY COORDINATION - GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

LEGEND

- DOT SCUPPER ABOVE
- DOT STORMWATER PIPE ABOVE
- DOT DRAIN LEADER
- DOT STORMWATER PIPE
- DOT CATCH BASIN
- DOT DRAINAGE MANHOLE
- DOT DRAINAGE AREA
- DOT BORETENTION
- DOT SURFACE GRAVEL FILTER
- DCR STORMWATER PIPE
- DCR CATCH BASIN
- DCR DRAINAGE MANHOLE
- DCR DRAINAGE AREA
- DCR BORETENTION
- DCR SURFACE GRAVEL FILTER
- MIXED DOT AND DCR STORMWATER PIPE
- MIXED DOT AND DCR CATCH BASIN
- MIXED DOT AND DCR DRAINAGE MANHOLE

ABBREVIATIONS

CB = CATCH BASIN
DMH = DRAIN MANHOLE
DL = DRAIN LEADER
SC = SCUPPERS ON BOXER OVERPASS
OUT = OUTFALL
NF = NORTH FIELD
SF = SOUTH FIELD
CW = COMMONWEALTH AVE. AREA

existing drain leader
proposed drain leader
proposed pretreatment (modIFIED DEEP SUMP CATCH BASIN)
proposed surface gravel filter
proposed boretention
SOIL MANAGEMENT - CONCEPTUAL STUDY
South Field
existing terrain
SOIL MANAGEMENT - CONCEPTUAL STUDY
South Field
volume removed in design
SOIL MANAGEMENT - CONCEPTUAL STUDY
South Field
volume added in design
SOIL MANAGEMENT - CONCEPTUAL STUDY
South Field
Soil volume managed on site
SOIL MANAGEMENT - CONCEPTUAL STUDY

North Field

existing terrain
SOIL MANAGEMENT - CONCEPTUAL STUDY
North Field
volume removed in design
SOIL MANAGEMENT - CONCEPTUAL STUDY
North Field
volume added in design
SOIL MANAGEMENT - CONCEPTUAL STUDY
North Field
Soil volume managed on site
Big Picture Vision
3 PROJECTS TO RESTORE THE CRITICAL LINK AT CHARLESgate:

1. MassDOT 606728 - Storrow EB Bridge Replacement Project
2. Emerald Necklace Conservancy & Charlesgate Alliance
3. MassDOT 606496 - Bowker Overpass over Mass Turnpike
MUDDY RIVER “DAYLIT”
(conceptual visualization commissioned by Charlesgate Alliance)
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(conceptual visualization commissioned by Charlesgate Alliance)
November 11, 2020

His Excellency Governor Charles D. Baker
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor, Room 240
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Support for the Charlestown Revitalization Projects, composed of:
#1 MassDOT project 668728: Storrow Toll Bridge Replacement
#2 Charlestown Park Revitalization Project, Central Zone
#3 MassDOT project 669496: Bowker Overpass Bridge #8B-16-092 over I-90 (Please see Figure A above, for an online of these three project areas)

Dear Governor Baker,

We are writing to express our collective support for the revitalization of Charlestown, including the three projects identified above. These projects, recently supported by Mayor Marty Walsh, are located at the historic point of connection between the Emerald Necklace and the Charles River Esplanade. We have been informed of these projects through presentations by MassDOT in April and October 2019 and in ongoing meetings convened by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy (ENC) and the Charlestown Alliance (CA).

Charlestown was built as the junction point connecting the Emerald Necklace park and parkway system with the Charles River Esplanade and Commonwealth Avenue Mall and as the meeting point of the Muddy River and Charles River esplanades. Together, these projects can dramatically improve environmental assets of the region, restore connectivity between several of the most heavily traveled people-powered transportation networks in the city and region, and significantly increase the amount of accessible and usable public open space in the city of Boston.

Simply put, we want to communicate that these three projects present a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore and fully realize the benefits of an interconnected parkway and river system designed by Frederick Law Olmsted over a century ago to serve the citizens of metropolitan Boston and the region at large.

As designs for the projects advance, we want to express our support for the best possible outcomes for the items outlined on the next pages:

Simply put, we want to communicate that these three projects present a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore and fully realize the benefits of an interconnected parkway and river system designed by Frederick Law Olmsted over a century ago to serve the citizens of metropolitan Boston and the region at large.

November 11, 2020, and follows a letter from Mayor Walsh, dated October 28, 2020, supporting these goals.
ADVOCA TE FOR BEST POSSIBLE PROJECT OUTCOMES

1. Reconnect People-Powered Transportation Routes
   • Create direct connections between the Emerald Necklace Fens, Charlesgate, the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, the Esplanade, and the Mass Ave Bridge
   • Create safest possible accommodations for people-powered transportation
   • Eliminate existing choke-points along Esplanade at Patterned Behavior mural and Mass Ave Bridge (see images next slide)
   • Create generous sidewalks and separated bike paths over the I-90 bridge
   • Create direct connections between the Mass Ave Bridge and Esplanade
   • Create universally accessible pathways throughout
ADVOCATE FOR BEST POSSIBLE PROJECT OUTCOMES – Eliminate pinch points

Esplanade near Patterned Behavior mural

Mass Ave Bridge connection to Esplanade
ADVOCAE FOR BEST POSSIBLE PROJECT OUTCOMES

2. Improve Ecology of the Muddy River and Charles River:
   • Fully daylight the Muddy River and eliminate culverts north of Beacon St to improve flood storage and storm resilience
   • Provide treatment for MassDOT stormwater runoff using green stormwater infrastructure
ADVOCATE FOR BEST POSSIBLE PROJECT OUTCOMES

3. Reclaim Open Space for Boston’s Largest Park Systems – The Emerald Necklace and the Charles River Esplanade
   • Maximize the amount of open green space for the public
   • Maximize public access to waterfront resources
   • Maximize tree planting and foliage cover throughout for climate resilience and to mitigate urban heat island effect
Together, these projects can transform the vehicle, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure in the region while also providing an opportunity to restore Charlestown to its historic environmental and cultural prominence.

This unique situation and our decisions here and now will be felt for generations.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

CC: Secretary Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Department of Transportation
   Secretary Kathleen Theoharides, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Thank you for your consideration of this important project. I hope that you will consider the diligent work that the Charlestown Alliance has done in collaboration with community members, and fully fund this proposal in the transportation budget, including “daylighting” the remaining covered portion of the Muddy River and eliminating the “pinch point” on the Esplanade. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to my office.

Sincerely,

Kenzie Bok, District 8

CC: Secretary Flood, Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Commissioner Jim Montgomery, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing these goals for these Charlestown Revitalization projects.

We look forward to meeting and working on this wonderful project with all our great partners in our neighborhood, our city, our watershed, and our great commonwealth.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Karen Mauzy, President, The Emerald Necklace Conservancy

[Signature]
Pam Beale, Co-Founder, Charlestown Alliance

H. Parker James, Co-Founder, Charlestown Alliance

Supporting Organizations:

- Back Bay Association
- Bay State Road Neighborhood Association
- Boston Cyclists Union
- Boston Harbor Now
- Boston Red Sox
- Brookline GreenSpace Alliance
- Charles River Conservancy
- Charles River Watershed Association
- Esplanade Association

Continued on next page

Supporting Organizations (Continued):

- Eastway Alliance
- Eastway Community Development Corporation
- Friends of the Public Garden
- Garden Club of the Back Bay
- High House
- Kenmore Association
- Kenmore Community & Economic Development Corporation
- Kenmore Residents Group
- Kingsley Montessori School
- The Learning Project
- LivableStreets Alliance
- Magazine Beach Partners
- Mark Development
- Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition
- Meredith Management Eastway Center
- Muddy Water Initiative
- Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
- North End Management Advisory Committee, Southwest Corridor Park
- Related Beal
- Samuels & Associates
- Solomon Foundation
- Speak for the Trees
- The Trust for Public Land
- WalkBoston
NEXT STEPS

• Find out about Matching Grants fund for wall removal
• Develop dog park and playground design
• MassDOT update
• Spring cleanups
• Spring 2021 Public Meeting with design update
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) Tell your elected representatives that this matters to you!

5) Come to our events and bring friends!
   - See our calendar at charlesgatealliance.org
THERE ARE SEVERAL GREAT WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED AND SUPPORT THIS EFFORT:

Consider a tax deductible donation. Your company may also offer financial support.

https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/charlesgate-alliance/
SEND US FEEDBACK:

Email any comments to:
Charlesgatealliance@gmail.com

Visit:
Charlesgatealliance.org

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

Photo by Randall Albright
Thank You

Photo by Randall Albright