

April 27, 2023

Mr. Jason Ruggiero, Community Engagement Manager
Boston Planning and Development Agency
One City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201
jason.ruggiero@boston.gov

Dear Mr. Ruggiero,

I'm writing on behalf of the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), whose mission is to protect and restore the Mystic River. Our vision is a vibrant, healthy and resilient Mystic River Watershed for the benefit of all our community members. MyRWA is working with residents in Charlestown and East Boston to protect water quality, restore important habitats, build climate resilience, transform parks and paths, inspire youth and grow community. Our work along the Little Mystic Channel is empowering Charlestown residents to lead the design of a revitalized waterfront that will provide better opportunities for recreation, access to nature, social gatherings and climate resiliency.

We would like to applaud the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) for their continued efforts to promote sustainable growth through its PLAN: Charlestown process, and believe the latest scenario draft for the future of Charlestown's Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square areas work well to both enhance the region's greenways networks and introduce new open space in the neighborhood.

In particular, we appreciate inclusion of the following:

- The Harborwalk Extension and Boat Ramp Parcel as areas for new open space (see p.32), which are signature components of our work to revitalize the Little Mystic Channel.
- A new "Green Loop" for the neighborhood, including the Lower Mystic Greenway and Green Boulevard. Additional linear open space along Rutherford Ave will also be a welcome addition to the regional greenways network.
- The inclusion of a shared use path on Terminal Street between the Lower Mystic Greenway and the Little Mystic Channel.

We would also greatly appreciate consideration for the inclusion of the following:

- This year, we are using CPA funds to redesign and complete improvements to the plaza immediately northwest of Barry Field to the benefit of residents, particularly those at CharlesNewtown. It would be greatly appreciated if you are able to include the plaza as "new open space" (see p.32).
- Per p.44, the redesign of Rutherford Ave presents a once-in-a generation opportunity for the City of Boston to improve pedestrian and bicycle crossings along this auto-dominant corridor. Including an "improved crossing" between the Draw 7 Seawall Path and Ryan Playground, two stellar and recent public open space investments, will make good on bringing a fully contiguous Boston Harborwalk to Charlestown residents and visitors to the region. It will also improve bicycle and pedestrian conditions on a stretch of road with

limited crossings where a pedestrian was killed in 2019. Although the envisioned crossing is already included in regional greenways plans, including our Mystic Greenways, MAPC Landline, Livable Streets Alliance's Emerald Network, and the East Coast Greenway, we do hope the City will incorporate it into their own planning efforts.

We look forward to engaging the City as plans for all of these exciting projects advance, and appreciate the BPDA's continued efforts to center community engagement in the planning process.

Thank you for your continued dedicated work and partnership,

Karl Alexander

Karl Alexander
Greenways Program Manager