



December 17, 2024

Dear Mayor Wu,

The Olmsted Network supports the sharing of one professional soccer stadium between New England's men's and women's teams at the recently approved Everett Stadium. One stadium, located in a predominantly industrial area, offers great financial and quality of life benefits to Boston residents.

The current proposal to rebuild Franklin Park's White Stadium with Boston Unity Soccer Partners (BUSP), a private for-profit entity, is alarming. This proposal would negatively impact access for the Boston Public school children who would no longer be allowed to play football except in November. This plan is also deeply troubling because of its adverse impact on the surrounding environmental justice communities, whose community events will be limited to every Saturday from April to October.

Franklin Park is historically significant— the last great country park designed by reformer and famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. It was designed to be a park for ALL PEOPLE. Limiting access and community involvement is contrary to Olmsted's vision of social justice and it is just too expensive. The most recent proposal suggests up to \$90 million in taxpayer funds will be needed to help build the massive stadium for the BUSP, including VIP boxes, stores and beer gardens.

We implore the City of Boston to rethink the decision to partner with the BUSP and instead renovate White Stadium for the sole use of the schoolchildren and the surrounding communities who cherish Franklin Park. Boston does not need more than one stadium to accommodate its two cherished soccer teams. A development in Everett— consolidating both stadiums— would be a more suitable way to cater to the growing soccer popularity in Boston without compromising the Franklin Park design and community access to public resources. An income share approach could and should be negotiated, allowing both parties to use the stadium equitably.

Please support a consolidated stadium operation in Everett to ensure equity, fairness and community engagement and to protect Franklin Park.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Neal Petri". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anne" being the most prominent.

Anne Neal Petri
President and CEO
Olmsted Network

Based in Washington, DC, the Olmsted Network is the national champion for Olmsted parks and landscapes. Our network consists of Olmsted parks and landscapes across the country including the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Biltmore, Bok Tower Gardens, Lake Park, Milwaukee, Trinity College, Hartford, Central Park Conservancy and Olmsted Parks Conservancy, Louisville. To learn more, www.olmsted.org.