



March 12, 2025

The Honorable Ruthzee Louijeune  
Boston City Council President  
1 City Hall Square Room 550  
Boston, MA  
02201-2043

Sent via email  
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[city.council@boston.gov](mailto:city.council@boston.gov)

### Stop the Destruction of Franklin Park

Dear Council President Louijeune,

Franklin Park is both a local landmark and a national treasure. It is the last great “rural” park designed by famed social reformer and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and was designated a Boston Landmark in 1980. Often called “the jewel of the Emerald Necklace,” Franklin Park has provided city dwellers and tourists with the restorative benefits of a country park for decades.

Right now, this park is threatened by a proposed \$200 million professional sports and entertainment complex. If allowed to proceed, the Franklin Park/White Stadium plans will result in a massive new structure and building envelope— with professional locker rooms, a jumbotron, corporate suites and more. The complex will usurp additional acreage from the public and demolish the existing White Stadium. It will result in new and higher fees and limited access for nearby students and the community. It will end the use of the park by ALL people and undermine the integrity of this historic landscape.

### Stop this assault.

From across the United States, we call upon you to protect this National Historic Landmark. We are the Olmsted Network, the national champion for Olmsted parks since 1980, as well as members of the park-loving public. We ask you to stop the ongoing cutting of over 100 mature trees— a thoughtless attack on the quality of the urban environment— and we urgently call on you to oppose this project that will privatize a public asset and limit the accessibility of the PEOPLE to their beloved PUBLIC green space.

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The city has failed to adequately assess the adverse impacts of this massive development on this historic landmark. It has ignored the recently completed and approved Franklin Park Action Plan that sets out a framework for all future improvements and calls for the preservation of the Park as a vital community resource. It has failed to engage the neighboring communities most affected in genuine consultation. And, it is subject of an upcoming lawsuit in front of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Superior Court.

To allow construction to proceed will set a disastrous precedent not only for this park but for the nation's public parks. As Olmsted understood, access to parks and green space for all people is a critical issue of equity and social justice.

For all these reasons, we urgently call on you to stop the destruction of Franklin Park.

Sincerely,



**Philip Schultz & William Bell**  
**Board Chairs,**  
**Olmsted Network**

Wyman Winston  
Milwaukee, WI

It takes a lifetime to grow, seconds to destroy a tree. The lungs to our environment, lands, and our cities!

Richard Buckley  
Eliot, ME

Beth Worell  
Jamaica Plain, MA

I am totally against the proposed stadium. The city of Boston should spend the money fixing up the stadium for Boston Public School kids alone, not to a private enterprise. No part of this gem of the Emerald Necklace should be privatized.

Chelsea Miller  
Chicago, IL

Please Halt the destruction of mature trees and the demolition of the stadium. Olmsted spaces are historic spaces. Please value Franklin Park.

Mary Page Michel  
Baltimore, MD

Melissa Hamel  
Jamaica Plain, MA

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Peter Keating  
Weston, MA

Pamela Jones  
Mattapan, MA

Ethan Carr  
Amherst, MA

Beth Abelow  
Jamaica Plain, MA

Renee Stacey Welch  
Roxbury, MA

Wendy Machmuller  
Brookline, MA

As a board member of the Friends of Fairsted, and an advocate for preserving green and open spaces for public enjoyment, I am opposed to the quasi-private development of White Stadium. In addition to the loss of public open space, the proposed use will have a detrimental impact on the quality of life for the surrounding neighborhoods. I urge the city of Boston to reconsider this project.

Alyx Britton  
Boston, MA

Giulia Prestia  
Brooklyn, NY

Patricia Miller  
Flemington, NJ

Please don't cut down mature trees nor demolish White Stadium. These are important elements of Olmsted's design for Franklin Park that should be preserved for Boston's citizens. Thank you.

Kathleen Kean  
Shorewood, WI

Franklin Park is an amazing natural resource that continues to serve young and old with irreplaceable access to nature and should remain a democratic public space with access to all income levels. Sports complexes also have a place in our society but must not usurp such a one-of-a-kind treasure that can't be reproduced. It belongs to the neighborhoods and the people and should be respected. Live up to the respect Boston has had for being one of the country's

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fortunate spaces to have such a national treasure as Olmsted's Emerald Necklace and Franklin Park.

Patricia Clifford  
Jamaica Plain, MA  
Please keep the stadium 100% public

Daniel Murphy  
Riverside, IL  
As President of Olmsted Society of Riverside (Illinois), I am concerned about the loss of Olmsted-designed park land anywhere it is located. A loss in Boston represents a loss of us all. Please preserve for Franklin Park and its trees for the public.

Elizabeth Blasi  
Roslindale, MA  
I am totally opposed to park land being turned over to for profit business. Of particular importance is protection for the trees in that park that provide clean air in that dense neighborhood  
Eugene Radwin  
Roslindale, MA

Connie MacDonald  
Stoneham, MA

Laurel Radwin  
Roslindale, MA

Carsten Davies  
New York, NY

Lora Wyman  
Calgary, Alberta  
Too often, cities and developers neglect to preserve heritage areas and cultural landscapes. We need to cherish and value these areas instead of rush to demolish them. Please change course and help to protect the history of Olmsted designs.

Virginia Harkey  
Providence, RI

Kathryn Brown  
Alstead, NH

James Gordon  
Buffalo, NY  
Keep at it!

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Sarah Freeman  
Jamaica Plain, MA

There's an alternative plan that is much lower impact to trees & surrounding community— and lowercost. The City of Boston could have waited for the Court case.

Carol Ann Petruccelli  
Boston, MA  
Keep our park

Nathalie Gagnon  
Outremont, Canada

I think that those Parks, landscapes and the work of Mr. Olmsted are important and beautiful. I wish that everything will be for the better for the charming city of Boston that I had a chance to visit many times.

Laetitia Mead  
Chestnut Hill, MA

Climate and humans need the trees and the space that was designated for community Keep stadium within bounds!!

Lisa Fiore  
Belmont, MA  
Please prioritize green spaces, climate, and community!

Benjamin Alexander  
Washington, DC

Put the long term community fabric and broader natural and cultural resource interests ahead of the singular economic outcome. When it's gone; you can't bring it back.

Jennifer Goldfrank  
Newburgh, NY

A resident of the Downing Park neighborhood in Newburgh, NY, I know firsthand why it is critical to defend public parks. Olmsted parks are gorgeous, historical and an asset to the residents of cities of all sizes and constituencies. The mature trees and original structures in these parks need conservation and care, and should not be eradicated as this destroys integrity of the Park as a whole. Please consider conservation strategies as the only alternative.

Judith Tankard  
Westwood, MA  
Preserve Franklin Park!

Donna Olmstead  
Ransom Canyon, TX

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I appreciate your attention to this matter. Thank you for considering alternatives to cutting down mature trees.

Tim Glover  
FL

Martha de Weese  
Portland, OR  
Save Olmsted's Franklin Park

Paige Churchman  
Brooklyn, NY

Ilene Pincus  
Newton, MA

I understand that public land cannot be transformed with a status change unless the governing body/ies in MA discuss and vote with regard to its new use. Taking the use during the day by the Boston Public Schools and during the summer for soccer games is not what Mr. White had in mind. He wanted the public to benefit from this site.

Barbara Dailey  
Boston, MA

Please stop damaging Franklin Park. Please leave White Stadium for the use of all Boston school children. and please stop the Shattuck Hospital and Boston City Hospital from expanding in the park. From a lifelong resident of Jamaica Plain, MA.

Deborah Barton  
Hanover, MD

Linda Pehlke  
Brookline, MA

These park lands belong to the people, and we should not be privatizing their use at all. Save Olmsted Park!

Pamela Allara  
Brookline, MA

The proposed new stadium is a bad idea

Nancy Brown, FASLA  
Arlington, MA

As a historic preservationist, saving the ground-breaking work of Frederick Law Olmsted is essential to understanding our landscape history. Furthermore, open space and mature trees are critical to our current quality of life and to limiting the environmental damage we face due to the climate change crisis.

Molly McCarty

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Appleton, WI

Olmsted's Franklin Park in the City of Boston provides grace and an unfettered beauty just the way it is. Any further consideration must allow for the furtherance of mature trees and preservation of White Stadium. Thank you for considerations that these intact structures stay that way.

Yvonne Groseil  
New York, NY

Haven Kiers  
Davis, CA

Sherley Smith  
Boston, MA

The Park is private property and it is wrong for the City to take possession. Open green space with trees and shrubbery is essential to our well-being and should not be taken for a sports stadium, or any other use that replaces the natural environment.

Margaret Pokorny  
Boston, MA

Evander Baker Jr  
New Bern, NC

Hard to imagine a city that would cut out and discard it's soul with so much to lose and so little to gain.

Jackie Smith  
Dorchester, MA

White stadium has been a public place used by constituents who live in Dorchester, Mattapan, Jp, and Roxbury etc for longer than I've been alive. It would really be ashamed to tear the space down and privatize it considering the minimal amount of green spaces we have in this area. How is this promoting equity, how is this promoting health, and harmony?

Betsy Shure Gross  
Davis, CA

Robin Karson  
Conway, MA

This battle reflects longstanding racism on the part of the City. It's time to do the right thing—follow through on the Action Plan.

Karen Falb  
Cambridge, MA

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The loss of public park land is a loss for everyone - it will be lost land to the public.

Kimberly Monti  
Atlanta, GA

I live near Olmsted's linear parks in Atlanta. I would fight tooth and nail if a proposal like the White Stadium proposal was planned for the Atlanta parks. The stadium should not be privatized.

Jen Lowe  
Boston, MA

Our nature and peace our sacred. We do not need another concrete sports Arena.

Louise Miller  
West Roxbury, MA

Arleyn Levee  
Watertown, MA

Kristin Dwan  
Boston, MA

Caroline Cunningham  
Washington, DC

This project needs to pause while meaningful input from the community is taken into account.

Marcia Peters  
Boston, MA

For the amount the city plans to put into this deal, the city could do a fine job by itself and have some left for an endowment.

JoAnn Grigoli  
Charlestown, MA  
Stop the demolition of white Stadium!

Lois Y  
MA

Fredericka Veikley  
Boston, MA

A private commercial entertainment center in a public park, especially a century old beautifully created gift to the people that can never be replicated, is contrary to the spirit and the laws that are supposed to protect us from such takings. This corporate soccer stadium must not be allowed to proceed.

Eli Cronin  
Dover, MA

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NO DEVELOPMENT. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Victoria Vanhuss  
Atlanta, GA

Mark Roessler  
Northampton, MA

Sacrificing a public park—an historic landmark beloved by its neighbors—for the short-term gain of a few developers and a private soccer team is a betrayal of the public trust and sabotages the fabric of our democracy. It should be seen as an act of piracy, not politics.

Alida Silverman  
Atlanta, GA

This is public parkland. This Playstead section of Franklin Park should be restored for the use of children and families as intended. Boston knows better than to privatize public parkland.

Allan Ihrer  
Jamaica Plain, MA

The Mayor's privatized pro-soccer White Stadium is a Bag Job and a Raw Deal. It's a travesty for this public park. The Mayor made a secret holiday deal with private equity and has wasted millions jamming it down our throats, as we've cried NO NO NO STOP! 5,000 grandstand seats have NO sightline to the high school track below. 4,000 seats are dragged out onto the high school's track for private equity's benefit. BPS only needs 1,200 seats! The stadium will be a way too costly crappy high school facility and a crappy undersized pro-soccer facility. When private equity and its pro-soccer team leaves, BPS will be left with a shitty situation; a stupidly expensive oversized phenomenally costly to maintain rotting Franken-Stadium. The transportation plans are a boldface lie and place the great burden on surrounding neighborhoods. The Zoo and its visitors get screwed. The students get the hot sunny side of the stadium instead of the cool shady side. Private equity takes precedent over students' health, welfare, and comfort. The students will learn that money talks. The community has cheaper better alternatives that improve the park rather than damaging it, but the Mayor's Bag Job secret holiday deal with private equity didn't allow for community input. Shame on Wu.

Sheroneik Huggins  
Boston, MA

We should not be tearing down mature trees in Franklin Park around White Stadium and let's keep the stadium for students and no professional leagues at all!

Sarah Baker  
Dorchester, MA

we need mature trees for beauty, health, and desperately needed natural cooling in an increasingly hotter world (and parts of the city that are disproportionately hotter like the surrounding neighborhoods by white stadium/franklin park)!!

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Susan Ashbrook  
Boston, MA

Jennifer Uhrhane  
Jamaica Plain, MA

I live two blocks from Franklin Park and support a completely public renovation of White Stadium for the Boston public school students and residents, that maintains free and public access to all of the parkland with no additional structures built upon what is supposed to remain public green space.

Timothy Baird  
State College, PA

This historic and invaluable asset for the people of Boston should be preserved without the proposed development. Like most cities in the Northeast and New England, there are many acres of vacant post-industrial land that is much more appropriate for this kind of project.

Jacob Jasper  
Boston, MA

Don Sadowski  
Leyden, MA

Former resident of Jamaica Plain, frequently visited Franklin Park. It's a gem that should not be sacrificed for profit.

Bennett Rogers  
Boston, MA

Public green spaces are the heart of what makes Boston the most beautiful city in the country. Spoiling a green space for commercial interest in this way should be completely unacceptable in any city, especially in Boston.

Sally Rogers  
Boston, MA

Tracey Flaherty  
Boston, MA

I do not support the development of White Stadium for a professional team. The Stadium should be refurbished for the BPS students who are and have been in desperate need of decent athletic facilities.

Susan Ayres  
Wayne, PA

I am a native of the Boston area and interested in the historic parks which Olmstead designed. These are important historic resources. Public green spaces with lots of trees are important for the health of the ecosystem, our climate resiliency and the health of the residents who live there.

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James Mealey  
Boston, MA

Brittany Gravely  
Jamaica Plain, MA

This whole process has never been fair or transparent. Please let the community have their day in court before further permanent damage is done.

Holly Bailey  
Mt. Sidney, VA

Bill Nigreen,  
Boston, MA

Mary Lou McGanney  
NY

Kate Phelps  
Boston MA

Stop the destruction of our beautiful sanctuary. Keep it a breathing space for the public, rather than a riotous money maker for the rich.

Jan Collins  
Somers, CT

Carolyn J Adams  
Philadelphia, PA

Please protect this historic urban park from this unplanned development and use by a for profit professional sports team. This will prevent neighborhood children from access to healthy exercise spaces during peak usage times. Plus, the traffic that comes to such a sports events are not in keeping with neighborhoods adjacent to the precious open space

Pamela Breeman  
Tuxedo Park, NY

There is real tragedy in the fact that PARKS are not recognized for all they contribute to communities but are looked upon as available real estate for development.

Loïc MASSIAS  
Paris, France

Hugh Mattison  
Brookline, MA

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Taking public parkland and linking it to private profit-making use is a violation of MA General Laws Ch. 97 and will violate the original intent of the George Robert White Fund. This will negatively transform passive parkland into a potentially undersized sports facility with inadequate transportation access.

William Bell  
New York, NY

This is a land grab by monied privileged interests against the community and the idea of public parks for all people.

Daniel Toner  
Somerville, MA

Kenneth Dietz  
Jamaica Plain, MA

I'm in agreement with the Olmsted Network and Emerald Necklace society stand against privatization of public park land and especially White Stadium. A fully renovated complex can be built for BPS and community use, on same footprint and a quarter of the tax dollars!

Annie Braudy  
Brookline, MA

Frances Shedd-Fisher  
Brookline, MA

This intrusive development is in violation of Article 97 of the Massachusetts constitution, an article added to prevent this kind of taking of public park lands. This intrusive development will be detrimental to the dominant minority Franklin Park neighborhoods, as well as to the historic Franklin Park. Sadly, this is not the first time Franklin Park and its nearby neighborhoods have been intruded upon by governments whose responsibility is the welfare of its constituents. This time the insult affects not only all the lovers and users of the park - so essential to health in an urban setting, but all taxpayers in the city of Boston: the city's contribution to the professional sports development is anticipated to be \$50 million, more than twice the cost of replacing White Stadium for Boston school children according to experts in stadium construction. If Article 97 weren't enough to halt this destructive process - already underway! - simple equity should convince the court of this irredeemable error of judgement and governmental overreach.

Yvonne Laube  
Poughkeepsie, NY

Andrea Burns  
Boston, MA

Alma Brown  
Buffalo, NY

Keith Morgan

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Boston, MA

Stop the privatization of public land and the destruction of a Boston City Landmark also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Boston Landmarks Commission and the Boston Parks Commission should never have allowed this to proceed!

Jane Kelley  
Boston, MA

Joseph McCabe  
Needham, MA

Cleopatra Pappas  
Bel Air, MD

Elena Saporta  
Cambridge, MA

Claudia Lee  
Buffalo, NY

Please protect Franklin Park. Besides being a lover of parks and a believer that parks should be for the public, I do historical and architectural tours in Buffalo about land designed by Olmsted. Franklin Park is a historical treasure that has to be protected.

Beverly Merz  
Boston, MA

Raymond Bahr  
Baltimore MD

Great Panel Discussion. Be Strong. You are on the right side. Frederick Law Olmsted was all about "d"emocracy for all to enjoy public space.

Marilyn Ray Smith  
Brookline, MA

I live not far from Franklin Park. It is most precious jewel of the Emerald Necklace, with its forest, its lawns, its walks, its bike paths, but above all, its peace. Please preserve this park for future generations, as those who came before saved it for to treasure. This should be the legacy of Major Wu, not that she turned parts of Franklin Park over to a professional soccer team!

Fouad Elgharabli  
Portland, Oregon

Iñigo Agirre  
San Sebastián, Puerto Rico

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Mitchell Rosen  
Boston, MA

We mourn the trees already killed, we demand environmental impact and traffic studies be performed and used to inform plans going forward, we stand behind the Emerald Necklace proposal for a modest, affordable, maintainable stadium for the school children of Boston and not for private takings.

Molly Boren  
Ann Arbor, MI

Neglecting this park (in a lower-income area) does not give government the right to take it over. We hope the city will uphold the multiple laws currently being broken and use the new plan for the good of the community, and that the team will find a more appropriate location.

Melissa Paul-Leto  
Key West, FL

Josie Patterson  
MA

Alma Balonon-Rosen  
Boston, MA

Joyce Gray  
Accokeek, MD  
Franklin Park should always be a place that's fully accessible to the public as Olmsted intended it to be.

Cynthia Williams  
Somerville, MA  
The lawsuit should go forward and be resolved before these private entities continue their highly questionable process, at their own risk. The mature trees are being prematurely destroyed, and the entities involved should be ashamed.

Susan Ayres  
Wayne, PA  
Public parks/green spaces are essential to the health and vitality of urban communities and its residents.

Clinton Brown FAIA  
Buffalo, NY

Carlen Singmaster  
Boston, MA  
We need to stop this.

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Jennifer Hanna  
Hingham, MA

Payne Alexander  
San Francisco, CA  
BU alum - don't degrade what makes Boston so charming

James Olmsted  
Eugene, OR  
Please don't destroy the legacy of Olmsted parks. Olmsted parks are for the people, all of the people. They are part of our American heritage. They are irreplaceable. Please preserve them as a legacy for all future generations.

Becky Alexander  
Washington, DC

Maureen Roos  
Cheektowaga, NY

Brigid Hogan  
Cambridge, MA

Antonio Ortiz  
East Boston, MA

Denise Britton  
Dennis, MA