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March 5, 2025

**Stop the Destruction of Franklin Park**

To Whom It May Concern,

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.

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

ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES