



June 5, 2026

To the Executive Office of Health and Human Services,

The Olmsted Network calls on the Commonwealth to return the 13-acre Shattuck Hospital site to the communities surrounding Franklin Park.

With Shattuck Hospital slated for demolition and its services relocating elsewhere, this is a rare opportunity to restore 13-acres to one of Boston's most important public landscapes while ensuring that neighborhood voices guide the future of the site.

Franklin Park, designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, is regarded as the "Crown Jewel" of Boston's Emerald Necklace. For generations, it has provided recreation, respite, and connection for the primarily Black and Brown communities in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. Returning Shattuck with the park would strengthen a treasured public space for underserved nearby neighborhoods and all Bostonians.

Olmsted knew—and [research](#) continues to demonstrate—the profound public health benefits of parks and green spaces, including improved physical health and stronger community well-being. Expanding Franklin Park would also enhance climate resilience by reducing heat and increasing stormwater absorption. Returning this site to parkland would be more than a symbolic act; it would expand equitable access to nature, recreation, and community gathering space. At a time when cities nationwide are investing in park expansion and restoration, the Shattuck site offers Massachusetts an opportunity to strengthen one of the country's most significant historic urban parks.

As the national voice for Olmsted landscapes and values, we urge the Commonwealth to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity to return the Shattuck site to Franklin Park and ensure its future is shaped by the communities it serves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Breikopf".

Sue Breikopf
President, Olmsted Network