

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Norbert	Barrett-Moeller	It looks good but needs parking to be restricted to Allston Brighton Residents, and no overnight parking, otherwise it will be used by people working in the lab spaces that are being created. Also, this can not be a space lieu of the playground and splash pad opposite Telford St. In Allston.	Brighton	MA	02135
Austin	Smith	I would love to see a food forest area out into this plan, in collaboration with the City of Boston and the Boston Food Forest Coalition. There seems to be room on the south side of the project near the overflow parking (perhaps reducing the overflow parking). I think if a food forest is put in that area, it could be another way of activating the space for another group of community users.	Allston	MA	02122
Patricia	Nigro	Although in January 2023 I submitted comments on the proposed Brighton Recreation Facility, I did not receive notification of follow-up meetings so please add my email panigro29@gmail.com. The proposal set forth has entailed a lot of work and appears quite beautiful for use in the summer, but is not multi-functional for at least three seasons. I would not include any type of food vendors along the Charles River but would implement a "carry in and carry out one's own food and beverage" policy to limit trash. Property along the Charles River is unfortunately greatly overdeveloped. What are the plans for the Leo Birmingham Parkway-North Beacon Street-Soldiers Field Road proposed building project, and how will the proposed Brighton Recreation Facility interface and impact traffic? There's already too much congestion and overdevelopment in Brighton. Open park and walking areas need to be protected. Best regards, Patricia Nigro	Brighton	MA	02135

Joann	Lai	(Part 1 of comments) Dear Commissioner Arrigo, On behalf of the Charles River Conservancy (CRC), an organization with a twenty-three-year history of stewardship of the lower Charles, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Allston Brighton Recreation Facility Study. We applaud the goals of the study and are appreciative that the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has developed a plan to reclaim park and recreational spaces by reducing roadway near the river. As heat waves increase and intensify, it is more important than ever for residents to cool off in the summer. The pool and splash pad will be a welcoming addition for the neighborhood. Maximizing green space tree cover would help cool the site, too. We emphasize that the following components be considered to ensure the project reaches its full potential: •Use available tools to guarantee safe crossing at intersections. Even with realignment, the parkways in this area will still be very busy. Since it's a car-dominant area, crossings should be made as safe as possible with the appropriate combination of traffic signals, flashing lights, raised paving, and/or signage. •Plan for sustainable landscape management. We support the use of low-maintenance plant species, which will also support a visual and auditory buffer between the park and roadway, as mentioned at the May 25, 2023 Allston-Brighton Recreation Facility Study Public Meeting. Even low-maintenance plants require support to become established; therefore, the landscape plan should build in sufficient watering and care for the first few years to ensure the survival of new trees and planting. Native and drought-tolerant species should be used whenever possible, especially since this site has a lot of invasive species along the river's edge that need to be addressed. The CRC works at Hell's Half Acre and Magazine Beach to manage invasive species in collaboration with DCR and its	Cambridg	MA	02141
Joann	Lai	{Part 2 of 2 of comments} its Charles River Vegetation Management Plan (CRVMP). We encourage inclusion of CRVMP principles early in the planning stages for this project site, and we are happy to extend our support on this site in close coordination with DCR. •Reconsider parking infrastructure design option. We encourage the advancement of schemes which prioritize greenspace and planting over high-capacity parking lots. Please also create a system to ensure that parking is for park and pool users, and not for commuters that take over the spaces during the week. This issue is happening at Herter Park which discourage people to visit and use the park and we do not want this to happen at this project site as well. •Utilize infrastructure that supports the Charles River water quality. Due to the project's close proximity to the Charles River, impervious surfaces should be broken up by rain gardens and bioswales to minimize flooding and runoff into the Charles during heavy rain. We appreciate that stormwater bioswales are being considered and strongly encourage a design that includes infrastructure that mitigates stormwater runoff. •Create food access opportunities. We appreciate that the drop off area plan contemplates utilization by food trucks. One of the barriers to park utilization and enjoyment is the lack of food options nearby. Food availability will encourage folks to visit and spend their time at the project site without needing to leave the site and cross the busy road. Please consider how food access can be available for park and pool visitors. Thank you again for the opportunity to give input on a plan that will affect the health, wellness, and wellbeing of our communities along the Charles River. We look forward to our continued involvement in this important process, and we hope to continue our partnership.	Cambridg	MA	02141

		Thank you so much for this thoughtful plan!! I live with my family (kids 10, 7 and 4) nearby in Brighton - and though we love to bike it currently feels a little dangerous to get from our home across the busy streets to the bike paths by the river (i.e. no walk sign on the North Beacon st bridge, pedestrian route from the bottom of Parsons St is so close to a very busy street). The boulder splash pad option reminds me of the marvelous Beaver Brook splash pad - we love it! It will never look dated, whereas the colorful plastic and metal will.			
Becky	Zukauskas	Thanks for including vegetation to shield the recreational site from some of the noise of the roadway.	Brighton	MA	02135
		I am so happy that this project is moving forward. I have two main things I like about it: 1) getting a new pool to serve Allston/Brighton is amazing, especially to replace a facility that has been closed longer than I've been in Boston, and 2) redesigning the intersection to improve safety and enhance the bike/ped experience along the Charles River. I watched the recording of the meeting, and I would like to add that I think there is entirely too much parking for such a facility. I think there should be parking, ADA spots, and rideshare dropoff locations, but having two parking lots is a wasted opportunity, especially since a large focus of this project is reclaiming parkland. Reclaiming parkland from the highway just to put a parking lot seems to defeat the stated intent of the project. It wasn't 100% clear from the drawings(and I'm aware that this is a 25% design), but I want to make sure that the bike path is as easy to navigate and contiguous as possible when crossing North Beacon on the North side of the project area. I like the intersection design for the most part, but I ask that the corner radii of the intersections be as tight as possible, both to slow turning vehicles down and shorten crossing distances for those walking and rolling. I refute those in the meeting who ask for a pedestrian bridge, as that takes up space, and is really only exist to serve free-flowing vehicular access on the road. Full signal phasing, with generous pedestrian intervals is what is needed. Automated red light cameras would be amazing to add if that is within the scope of the project and Massachusetts law. Speed signs would also be good to discourage speeding along the corridor.			
Matthew	Dezii	Thank you so much for doing this, and I look forward the next meeting, and to cooling off in the pool!!!	Brighton	MA	02135
		Thank you for the presentation and all the work that has been done so far on this project. It looks very promising. I request a table with the square footage of the different elements of the proposed facility (pool, play, picnic, park). I think there should be a tally of available parking spaces in a half mile radius, because I believe that will show how unnecessary 77 parking spaces are. Overflow parking is not needed. The 64 bus runs through here and there are many nearby available spaces. I would like a maximized square footage of pool and the lap pool separated as much as possible from the wade/play pool. Ideally, I think the lap pool should be the overflow parking area and then the wade/play pool can be larger. Then families and adults can be separated and people swimming laps don't get splashed. There should be a sauna, which would make this area useful year-round. The Brooks St. underpass needs to be improved to make access to this area better. There should be a crosswalk near Oliva Rd. and the road should be shifted to eliminate the East sidewalk (nobody uses it because it is gross) and make the West sidewalk double wide with a bike path.			
Stefan	Poltorzycki		Brighton	MA	02135

		I appreciate the considerable care the DCR has devoted to the plans for the new pool. The project will be transformative in nature. I advance the following suggestions: •The DCR should further limit parking adjacent to the pool. This will allow for the creation of additional green space. Most of the parking should be made available on the site of the old pool. The DCR should keep in the mind that 14 parking spots already exist on the Watertown side of the Charles River near the pool site. •In designing the limited parking, the DCR should ensure that a food truck can have access to the site. •Since most of the parking will be located at the old pool site, care needs to be given to designing the crosswalks from the parking lot to the new pool. •Given our increasingly hot summers, the DCR should increase the number of shaded areas at the site, including the lawn between the pool and the playground. •The DCR should ensure the multiple water fountains are available and provide amply bike racks. •The DCR should design a pool that uses an alternative to chlorine, thus providing a more environmentally sound and healthier alternative for people using the pool. •The DCR should work with the City and the Mass Pike to improve pedestrian access to the pool site. Attention needs to be given to the 3 underpasses of the Mass Pike. In addition, care should be taken to improve pedestrian access to and from Faneuil Gardens, given the number of children who reside there. •Attention also needs to be devoted to the bridge crossing the Charles River at North Beacon Street. The sidewalks on the bridge are in very poor condition and need to be repaired. Currently, the location of the traffic lights at the crosswalk on the Boston side of the bridge are poorly placed in terms of visibility for pedestrians and bicyclists. •Working with local elected officials and the community, the DCR should advocate for increased frequency of the 64 bus. Cordially,			
Kevin	Carragee	Kevin M. Carragee	Brighton	MA	02135

Ellen	McCrave	06/08/23 To Whom It May Concern: This letter is in reference to the Allston Brighton Recreation Facility Study project. Here are my concerns: •Safe, efficient pedestrian access must be an absolute priority. Coordination between the DCR, City of Boston & Mass DOT is needed to achieve this goal. These agencies must work together to improve pedestrian access. The 3 underpasses of the Mass Pike (Brooks, Parsons, N. Beacon) are a nightmare with poor lighting, bird feces, peeling paint, speeding cars...) •Given the number of children who reside at Faneuil Gardens, extra attention is needed for safe pedestrian access to/from there. •The site is still too "car centric"- too many parking spots. The majority of the parking should be at the old pool site. 14 parking spots already exist on the Watertown side of the Charles River, just over the bridge from the pool site. The parking that IS available near the pool should allow for food truck access and rideshare drop-offs (in addition to emergency vehicles etc). •The pool should be chlorine free. •More shaded areas are needed at the site. •The site needs multiple water fountains- only one was shown in the open field area outside the pool itself. •Providing lots of bike racks may encourage biking to the site. (Blue Bikes too??) Thank you for the time and attention the DCR has given to the pool project to date. Sincerely, Ellen McCrave Brighton, MA 02135	Brighton	MA	02135
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