

Name (First Name (Last Name (Initials) Comment			Address (City Address State Address (Zip)		
Alex	Twist	<p>There is a lot of redundant space here that could be eliminated to increase parking (such as the jug handle turn at Everett).</p> <p>We also need to make it easier and safer for people walking and biking to cross the entrances along the parking lot - cars enter and exit at high speed.</p> <p>We need to be more efficient with how we use the space so we can fit in the same amount of cars and turn saved space back over to park area - tear up the asphalt and bring back more park yard space.</p>	Boston	MA	02134

Joann	Lai	<p>Dear Commissioner Arrigo,</p> <p>On behalf of the Charles River Conservancy (CRC), thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Artesani Parking Lot Improvements Project. The CRC has been invested in the health and vitality of Herter Park throughout the organization's 23-year history and played a key role in the 2018 revitalization of the Herter Park Amphitheater. We work with hundreds of volunteers throughout the year at Herter Park and have received feedback from community members on ways that the park can be improved. The Artesani lot is an incredibly important gateway to Heter Park, the Paul Dudley White Path and the Charles River Reservation. As such, we request the following components be considered to ensure the project reaches its full potential:</p> <p>Prioritize pedestrians and cyclists with a welcoming and safe entry to Herter Park. The current design remains car-centric. Instead, it needs to be designed to emphasize safe and efficient entry points for all users, especially for non-motorists. This includes providing a landmark or gateway feature at a human scale, clear signage, and other visual cues of entry, a path that meets or exceeds the recommended width for a multi-use path, raised crossings, and signals timed to prioritize pedestrians and cyclists. Ultimately, the success of this intersection will depend on changing the character of Soldiers Field Road from a high-speed, four lane highway to a true parkway. This will require lane reductions, additional at-grade crossings, and more. We urge DCR to continue to pursue the Soldiers Field Road redesign as initiated in the Herter Park Master Plan to ensure that all visitors can safely access this important community resource.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02141
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Joann	Lai	<p>Create a system to ensure that the Artesani Parking Lot is available for park users. The CRC has observed a wide demand for parking space, leaving park users discouraged from visiting Herter Park. We have observed first hand and heard frustration from community members that parking spaces are largely absorbed by students and commuters rather than park users. This inappropriate use of parking has become so accepted that a bus from a nearby high school has organized pick-up from the lot. This issue needs to be corrected, and a robust system must be enforced to assure park users have access to the amenities of Herter Park. Implementing and enforcing a 3-hour parking limit is crucial to achieving this goal to ensure proper use of parking space.</p> <p>Reduce impervious surfaces to mitigate polluted stormwater runoff. The CRC is in favor of the proposed design that breaks up pavements and adds bioswales to aid proper drainage and avoid flooding during heavy rain, especially since the area is prone to flooding. Wherever possible, permeable materials should be used to allow water to infiltrate the ground and reduce polluted stormwater runoff from entering the river. By considering stormwater infrastructure as a strategy to enhance water quality, the design can positively impact its adjacent waterbody, contributing to the overall health of the Charles River.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02141
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Joann	Lai	<p>Ensure vegetation health by appropriate plant selection and maintenance plan. The CRC urges DCR to select tree and shrub species that can withstand road salt for roadside planting, given that the application of de-icing salts for winter road maintenance is a major contributor to the decline of tree health. Additionally, DCR needs to develop a maintenance plan to support the growth and maturity of new plantings. Our experience working in the parks in the Charles River Basin has highlighted the challenges faced by new plantings, especially young trees, struggling to establish and thrive due to the constraints of nearby paved surfaces, inadequate watering, and overall care. To maximize the positive impact of this improvement project, we encourage the DCR to develop (at least) a three-year maintenance plan that outlines necessary care and maintenance activities. The CRC would be happy to collaborate with DCR to support the planning and implementation of tree care.</p> <p>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 in the care of Herter Park.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02141
Sarah	Perks	Thought the improvements looked good. Loved the EV stations and safer crosswalk into the park.	Brighton	MA	02135
Bruce	Kline	It would be beneficial to consider making the walking/bicycle paths wider and .constructed with permeable materials.	brighton	MA	02135

Ed	Consider	<p>I'm concerned about the current use of the Artesani parking lot by private school students (BB&N). I hope that the DCR in its new vision of the parking area, revisits its permissions that allow private schools to use the public lot for their students and busses.</p>	Brighton	MA	02135
Eleanor	Jewett	<p>1. Herter Garden: Designated Parking Spaces for Herter Gardeners</p> <p>When DCR asked Herter Gardeners to move our former parking spaces, which were close to Herter Garden, they said they would supply us with designated spaces for gardeners in the larger lot, similar to spaces that bicyclists were given. This never happened.</p> <p>In the new design, we requested, and still need designated parking spaces for Herter Gardeners in the smaller lot that is close to our garden. Among other things, we bring in bags of soil, plants, tools, wood for wood and metal for fences, etc. and we carry out our trash. Having our cars in close proximity to the garden is essential for our gardeners.</p> <p>2. Herter Garden: Short-term Parking for Gardeners</p> <p>Develop short-term parking on the side of the entry road close to Herter Garden for Off-loading and On-loading Garden Items. Among other things, gardeners bring in bags of soil, plants, tools, wood for fences, etc. and we carry out our trash. When gardeners are walking and carrying items, we need the shortest, safest, accessible route to our garden entrances.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140

		<p>3. Herter Garden would like to Develop a More Accessible Garden with the Help of DCR. Last year we spoke with DCR about creating a wider entry way and path into our garden that was ADA accessible. We would welcome further discussions and resources with DCR and the design team about how to make this possible.</p> <p>4. Herter Garden: Flood Mitigation When there is significant rainfall that results in flooding there are at least 4 plots in Herter Garden that are impacted by being underwater fully or partially. This gets worse each year and needs to be addressed in the stormwater management plan</p> <p>5. Herter Garden: Access for a Truck to Make Deliveries Herter Garden has deliveries of compost, etc. that require a truck to have access to one of our two large gates. I couldn't tell on the diagram if this is part of the current design. We need to accommodate deliveries without having trucks driving on the grass or on a walking or bicycling path</p>			
Eleanor	jewett		Cambridge	MA	02140

Eleanor	Jewett	<p>6. Herter Garden: Maintain Square Footage Herter Garden space may be needed to grade the public pathway between the garden toolshed and the moat. If the space is need by DCR, it reduces our overall footprint. We would like you to expand the space of our garden on the side toward the street -aide to make up for the lost space so we can maintain our square footage.</p> <p>7. Herter Garden: Placement of Electricity Underground Be sure to include Herter Garden in your plans for underground electricity. Electricity provides our shed with light inside and is needed for our water pump.</p> <p>8. Herter Garden: Do Not Directly Light Herter Park. It is very necessary to light the paths. However, many plants need darkness to grow well. Do not directly light up Herter Garden. Tilt the lights on the paths away from the garden to facilitate this.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140
Eleanor	Jewett	<p>9. Herter Park Lighting It is great that you are redesigning the lights for the Herter Parking Lot. In Cambridge, the City dims the street lights at around 11pm. If this is not already in your plan, I suggest you do the same. However, it is important to check with the Herter Theater people to be sure they are accommodated after events.</p> <p>10. Herter Park: Develop Alternative Parking If you do not want to accommodate contractors and other workers, who might park in the lot, it is time to develop parking alternatives outside of Herter Park. Contractors and others who work in the city add value - they contribute to the development of our city, purchase items during the day, and improve our economy. Make it easier for them to find parking. Create additional parking spaces in the area for people working in our community. Perhaps Harvard or another benefactor could be approached to help with this.</p>	c	MA	02140

Eleanor	Jewett	<p>11. Create a Pedestrian-only Walkway from the Smaller Parking Lot to the Path in front of Herter Garden and Herter Theater. A walking path is needed for pedestrians from the Smaller Parking Lot to Herter Garden, to Herter Theater, and to the Park at-large.</p> <p>A wide path for pedestrians only would create an easier and safer way to enter the Park from the parking lot. It would allow DCR to accommodate people on foot , and to accommodate people in wheelchairs and with ambulatory challenges. It would be wonderful if this path could be developed with consideration for the visually-impaired as well.</p> <p>12. 12.Herter Park: Create Drop-off / Pick-up Short-term Parking to Increase Accessibility Create at least two areas for cars and vans for drop-off and pick-up to accommodate people with disabilities, challenges, and seniors. These should provide short, safe, accessible routes of travel to accessible entrances to Herter Theater, Herter Garden and Herter Park.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140
Lauri	Johnsor	<p>We need dedicated parking spaces for gardeners at the Herter Park Community Garden. I visit the garden every other day from April through early November and several times have not been able to find parking near the garden. I have serious arthritis and need to park close to carry plants and bags of soil.</p> <p>During the weekdays all the parking slots are often filled, perhaps because workmen in the area are using them for free parking?</p>	Boston	MA	02135

Juliet	Stone	<p>As a long time community gardener now nearing her 80's, I request with others of my age and diminishing ability , for you to consider an area fir gardeners parking as you redraw the parking area</p> <p>5 spaces would be good including a drop off area if for gardeners to unload their tools and plants and heavy soil amendments</p> <p>I was surprised to see an area for bike riders and no spaces for gardeners</p> <p>We have a number of elderly gardeners and sadly some have had to stop returning to the garden given the parking situation</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>With respect</p> <p>Juliet Stone</p> <p>A friend of Adèle Herter Seronde who founded the garden and whose father the park was named after</p> <p>Gov Christian Herter</p>	Cambridge	MA	02139
Baolian	Kuang	<p>I am a Brighton resident and as Herter Garden's gardener.</p> <p>1. Since there are a lot of new developments around this neighborhood. And the train station is not far from here. Some people park here all day to take the T to the downtown to work. Or some construction workers park their cars here for all day. Instead, people who want to come to the park and our gardeners can't find a place to park.</p> <p>It is proposed that the parking lot can have time limits in the future, with a 3 or 4hour limit and towing if the time is exceeded.</p> <p>2. the road near our garden will accumulate water when it rains, Pedestrians were unable to pass due to flooding. and causing a lot of mosquitoes.</p> <p>3. No matter what, DCR must keep our Herter Garden permanently.</p>	Brighton	MA	02135

Farhana	Safi	<p>I have a garden over there, we get to spend good time with our friends and kids play in the playground. But recently when ever we go there no parking available over there and we have to come back or park somewhere else far away from the park .</p> <p>Hopefully we will get available parking over there.</p>	Allston	MA	02134
Jessica	Straus	<p>The Artesani parking lot is currently mainly serving as a parking lot for commuters, DPW staging area, and Buckingham Brown and Nichols students. Since COVID there are NEVER parking spots available for park users after the morning rush hour.</p> <p>It is impossible to garden if one cannot bring supplies to the garden and park nearby. The Herter Garden needs a specially designated, permitted parking spot for at least four cars near the gate of the garden.</p> <p>The plan that I saw earlier for redesign of the parking lot eliminates one of the entrances and exits. I cannot imagine that this crowded parking lot could safely be evacuated in an emergency with fewer exits than already exist.</p>	Newton	MA	02461

Juliet	Stone	<p>I am concerned about the proposed addition of sidewalks within the garden and the design and number of raised beds that will eliminate existing garden beds</p> <p>Please schedule an opportunity to discuss these plans with the gardeners prior to the final design</p> <p>It will be seriously disruptive to the membership</p> <p>A small number of accessible beds could be added to the area adjacent or behind the shed to be entered thru a widened gate</p> <p>We also need a truck gate to have compost delivered where a large truck can turn and dump into the garden</p> <p>We will need several solar powered light</p> <p>The flood zone extends to the right of the existing garden entrance and within the garden</p> <p>This is not shown in your plans</p> <p>Please adjust and create a storm water reuse system to use to water the plantings inside and outside the garden- irrigation</p> <p>The flooding is a serious issue that will get worse and makes several plots compromised after heavy rains</p> <p>The garden is both a critical recreational opportunity and has a long cultural history</p> <p>It serves as a supplementary and critical food source for many of the gardeners including access to food from countries of origin from many members from China Bangladesh, Russia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Bulgaria and India and South America and Jamaica to name some of the current gardeners</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Please let me know you received this and if the garden changes are included in this phase</p> <p>Juliet stone</p>	Cambridge	MA	02139
Naomi	Yang	<p>I find the new entrance to a split parking lot to be impractical. When there is heavy use of the parking lot won't there be a lot of traffic to get in an out with only one entrance and exit?</p> <p>Please account for the needs of Herter Community Garden for parking for the garden -- maybe it could be seasonal spaces that are Herter Garden only?</p>	Cambridge	MA	02138

		<p>We are long-time (40 year)residents of North Allston. We garden at Herter Community Garden and make frequent use of the greenway for biking and walking. The Charles River and Herter Park mean a lot to us, as to our many neighbors who are submitting comments about this project.</p> <p>Of the many details worth commenting on, we would like to comment on two issues of particular urgency for us. First, we would like to insist that the Telford St. pedestrian bridge be included in the project. As elderly people with limited vision, we would find it much safer and more secure to use the bridge rather than the surface crossing. Parents pushing carriages or with young children in tow will feel the same. We have been waiting for 10 years after securing community benefit funds for this improvement, which was a high priority for neighbors in the IMP benefits negotiations with Harvard and the BPDA. We have waited long enough for a renewed, safe and attractive elevated crossing.</p> <p>Secondly we urge DCR to design strictly enforced parking regulations to ensure access by recreational users of the parklands and prevent the parking from filling up with all-day commuter users as is now the e case.</p> <p>Brent Whelan and Debra Poaster</p> <p>Secondly, we wouldl urge the DCRto endure accewss fir recreatuibak users ti a parking lot that is often fillled with commmuters and workers from nearvby construction sites, as well as teachers ad students frinn the BBNSchool, which uses the parking lot for satelite parking. This is misude of this precious amenity. Regulaatioin of parking for recreational use will require vigorous enforcemeneet as the free all-eeay parking system is sadly entrehched by this time. Note that the constructdion that brings workers to use the parkingn lot is slated tocontinue along Western Ave. for many years to coe.</p>			
Brent	Whelan		Allston	MA	02134
Abby	Jamiel	<p>Please see letter sent to mass.parks@mass.gov from LivableStreets Alliance, WalkMassachusetts, and the Allston-Brighton Health Collaborative.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02139

Mason	Cox	<p>Dear Commissioner Arrigo -</p> <p>The Head Of The Charles Regatta is pleased to submit comments regarding the Artesani Parking Lot & Everett Street Intersection. As the world's largest three-day rowing event, we are incredibly proud to take place on DCR property and have an extraordinary partner in the DCR.</p> <p>The Head Of The Charles is a major economic driver in Greater Boston, generating over \$88M in economic impact annually over the three-day event. The Artesani Parking Lot in its current configuration allows us to park 75 boat trailers - all of which contain boats for multiple programs. Each truck and boat trailer combined measures approximately 60 feet in length and we currently are able to park the 75 trailers in 2 rows with the current configuration of the lot (~500x150ft). A significant permanent reduction in parking lot space would impact our ability to host this event at its current scale or increase the number of trailers parked on grass during regatta weekend.</p> <p>We strongly support the Department in its endeavor to improve Herter Park. However, reviewing the redesign plans for the Artesani Parking Lot, we would urge the DCR to prioritize permanent vegetation along the periphery of the parking lot, while considering the use of mobile or semi-permanent planters for vegetation in the interior of the lot. This would allow for climate mitigation benefits during the hottest months, while creating more mobility in the lot during the fall season. The Head Of The Charles has long valued our partnership and as such we are committed to helping find a solution that works for all park users.</p> <p>We appreciate your consideration of our comments and look forward to working with to improve Herter Park and the Artesani Parking Lot. We would be happy to answer any questions or provide further details.</p> <p>Best, Mason Cox, Chief Commercial Officer Brendan Mulvey, Race Director Head Of The Charles Re</p>	Cambridge	MA	02238
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Eleanor	Jewett	<p>Herter Park: Entrances & Exits</p> <p>Do not decrease the number of entrances and exits in the parking lot. Although they may need a re-design, two entrances and two exits work, add value, and contribute to the positive experience of visitors.</p> <p>Redesigning the entrances and exits with only one entrance and one exit is shortsighted.</p> <p>Entrance:</p> <p>Reducing the number of entrances to one, is going to cause major congestion and backups. Forcing everyone to converge to one spot on the roadway to enter is not a great idea. At its worst it will cause bicyclists and motorists to be fully stopped for long periods of time - a traffic jam. It will ruin the flow-through on Soldiers Field Road Extension for bicyclists and motorists not going to the Park.</p> <p>Exits:</p> <p>Currently, there are two exits - one exit on one end going toward Watertown/Newton, and one exit on the other end going toward Cambridge or Allston. Creating only one means of exiting will create longer lines and more idling in the Park, and valuable visitor time. At large events this is going to be problematic.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140
Eleanor	Jewett	<p>Herter Park: U-turns: Maintain the U-turns</p> <p>The original designers included U-turns, which are exceptionally helpful in both directions.</p> <p>Having U-turns on Soldiers Field Road Extension streamlines the flow of traffic for bicyclists and motorists, saves people from joining a heavily trafficked area that they don't want to join, easily sends them in a direction they want to go in, reduces the time in traffic, and is an elegant way to change direction.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140

Marjorie	Levin	DCR's plan is to expand and/or increase the width of walkways in and beside the Herter Community Garden. These changes will reduce the garden's square footage and the space taken should be added back to the garden in other sections so that the overall square footage of growing space in the garden remains the same. Also, DCR is ignoring a very important issue in their plans for the parking lot. The parking lot is filled over capacity every weekday by contractors & construction workers working on the new development on Western Ave. As a result, community residents and families for whom the park is intended are unable to visit the park by car from approx 7am until 3pm every weekday because there is no available parking. The lot is full and yet the park is empty. Why isn't DCR addressing this problem?	Brighton	MA	02135
Doug	Cubell	What will the proposed plan due to the total number of parking spaces? If it will change it, by how many?	Brighton	MA	02135