

Herter Park Master Plan Public Comments

deadline extended 10/29/2021

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Eleanor	Jewett	<p>Importance of Place</p> <p>The individual characteristics of place are vital in determining quality of life.</p> <p>The Christian A Herter Garden, "Herter Garden," is on land close to, and with views of, the Charles River. While most community gardens are commonly found surrounded by apartments, schools, condominium building etc. The Herter Garden has a stunning location along the southern banks of the Charles River, among the trees, water, trails, and visitors.</p> <p>We take the beauty of our location and its place in the natural world seriously. Our relationship with Herter Garden goes beyond planting seeds and watching them grow. It is a privilege for us to keep the Herter gardening tradition and Herter historical connections alive by remaining in our current location.</p> <p>Pride of place matters. Sustaining a commitment to gardening in this location is important to us.</p> <p>We do not want to be removed and consolidated with another garden. We want to maintain our current circumstance of being integrated with the whole community.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140
eleanor	Jewett	<p>Historical Significance</p> <p>Our Garden and gardeners are connected to a long-standing, almost half a century, tradition of gardening in our current location.</p> <p>Herter Garden was established 45 years ago, in 1976, and located next to the Herter Center.</p> <p>It was one of the programs for community outreach offered through the Herter Center, developed by the daughter of Christian A Herter, Adele Seronde, then President of the Center.</p> <p>The Garden was started by people who were committed to community gardening during the Revival Program when dozens of other community gardens popped up to take back the land. Without Seronde and her philanthropic efforts, the Herter Garden would not exist.</p> <p>Historical connections have major significance, and are important to maintain.</p> <p>Removing the Garden will erase the historic footprint of the garden. It will take away both past and present gardeners' long-standing connection to working that particular land.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140

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Eleanor	Jewett	<p>Negative Impacts of Changing the Location</p> <p>Isolation & Exclusion from the Mainstream of the Park</p> <p>Herter gardeners currently integrate with people and activities in Herter Park, and as such, are an integral part of the Park.</p> <p>Gardeners want to be remain integrated with people and activities at Herter Park, and not separated and excluded from them.</p> <p>1. Separation of Gardeners from most Park Visitors and General Park Activities</p> <p>The proposed location is the farthest point west next to the woodlands. Moving Herter Garden and gardeners to the farthest west end of the park will ISOLATE gardeners, putting them out of sight of most Park users and separating them from most people using the park and the general activities of the Park.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140
Eleanor	Jewett	<p>2. Marginalization of Elders and All Herter Gardeners</p> <p>We have many 55+ gardeners. Your suggested proposal will take our elders out of site of most of the people and activities of the Herter Park adding to our elders marginalization, which occurs often in our society. This physical separation is a form of disempowerment and exclusion from the mainstream of the Park.</p> <p>To a different extent, the disempowerment and exclusion extends to all the Herter Gardeners.</p>	cambridge	MA	02140

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Eleanor	Jewett	<p>3. Negative Impact of Greatly Reduced Foot Traffic, and General Traffic</p> <p>The proposed relocation plot is so isolated that general Park visitors will no longer have an opportunity to find and stop by the garden. There will be many fewer people who pass by. We often find new gardeners this way. We often invite people in to see what we do and share the experience. We often have people visit with their children, and share stories and produce with them. These chance encounters with non-gardeners will not happen if we move to an area in the far western part of Herter Park.</p> <p>4. Safety Concerns</p> <p>With diminished foot traffic and traffic in-general, gardeners are less safe at dawn, dusk, and when gardening alone in the proposed location. The presence of adults and children on foot, bicyclists, skate boarders, amphitheater visitors, pop-up restaurant guests, racers, rowers, and others, makes gardeners safer, and discourages negative behavior.</p> <p>When I go to Herter Garden to work or pick up some herbs and vegetables in the early evening or early morning, there are always some people around. Let me underscore that this greatly enhances the experience of community gardening at our current location.</p>	cambridge	MA	02140
Eleanor	Jewett	<p>4. Safety Concerns</p> <p>With diminished foot traffic and traffic in-general, gardeners are less safe at dawn, dusk, and when gardening alone in the proposed location. The presence of adults and children on foot, bicyclists, skate boarders, amphitheater visitors, pop-up restaurant guests, racers, rowers, and others, makes gardeners safer, and discourages negative behavior.</p> <p>When I go to Herter Garden to work or pick up some herbs and vegetables in the early evening or early morning, there are always some people around. Let me underscore that this greatly enhances the experience of community gardening at our current location.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140

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Eleanor	Jewett	<p>5. Remote Parking Location The suggested new parking location is very remote, with no physical connection to the main parking lot, and the people in it. This adds to the further isolation and exclusion of gardeners from the mainstream of visitors and activities at Herter Park.</p> <p>6. Health Concern - Potentially more Mosquitos and Bugs from Woodland. Removing us from the main Park and isolating us at the farthest point possible next to the woodland has another negative effect. Potentially, there may be more mosquitos and other bugs than in our current garden, which is more open and less closed in by woodland.</p> <p>7. Aesthetics - Removing Visual Access to River We currently have a wonderful view of the Charles River. The suggested proposal will take away that view and replace it with one of Storrow Drive Extension.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140

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Damon	Krukowski	<p>The latest Herter Park master plan entirely displaces Herter Community Garden.</p> <p>Please understand that this garden has been ORGANIC FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS! You cannot replace that. You cannot buy that, for any amount of money. And you obviously cannot move it!</p> <p>Herter Community Garden was a part of the original plan for Herter Park, and it was way ahead of its time in promoting green energy and organic farming. It was designed with a windmill to pump well water, so that it would not use any electricity. The windmill is still there, in need of restoration, and the garden is thriving as it has been for generations now.</p> <p>WHY NOT RESTORE AND CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS GREEN IDEA SO FAR AHEAD OF ITS TIME?? It is precisely what we need more of now, not less!</p> <p>Please leave the garden where it is - we cannot move the soil that generations of gardeners have worked so hard to make fertile and lush.</p> <p>The garden is not only home to our extremely diverse community of gardeners, it is filled with bees, butterflies, birds, it is integral to the healthy life of the riverside and Herter park as a whole.</p> <p>YOU CANNOT MOVE A GARDEN! You can only move the gardeners - but what of the soil, the environment, the other fauna that have made a home here?</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY OUR ORGANIC GARDEN BY MOVING IT! PLEASE HELP US RESTORE AND CELEBRATE IT INSTEAD!</p>	Cambridge	MA	02138

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Naomi	Yang	<p>I am writing as a member of Herter Community Garden to object to the new master plan for Herter Park which moves the location of our garden.</p> <p>This is an organic garden -- the soil has been tilled organically for almost 50 years! This will not be the case in a new location!</p> <p>My garden plot is by the public walkway and every single time I am in my garden many people passing by -- from all different communities -- speak with me, admire the garden, and express gratitude for it being there. To move it to a more isolated location the community would lose this wondrous landscape of flowers, perennials, and vegetables that so many people enjoy.</p> <p>I think it would be a far more interesting and rich idea to make improvements/adjustments to Herter Community Garden where it is, and not replace it with a bland lawn.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Naomi Yang</p>	Cambridge	MA	02138
Christian	Simmon	I'm writing to bring awareness to the lack of due diligence that has been done in contacting the community garden about the possible impact. It looks like the first meeting in June had been brought to the attention of most every other organization involved with the park including the one weekend a year user such as the of the head of the Charles.	Beverly	MA	01915
christian	simmon	<p>In regards to the Community garden it appears the plan is replacing that with a space for a beer garden. The Night shift beer garden attracts noise and vagrants and limits the use of wholesome recreational activities. I don't believe gnat the DCR is in need of the 50 cents per cup profit that they supposedly receive from the beer company. Trying to place it close to a parking lot only promotes drinking and driving. The beer garden can go near the smaller parking lot like it was when they first put it in.</p> <p>The garden promotes plant life and eating vegetables and very diverse community. To replace a nearly 50 year old community organization with a profit motivated alcohol business does not align with what our public spaces were designed for.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02139
Eleanor	Jewett	<p>Lack of Community Outreach.</p> <p>DCR has not reached out to our many Herter Gardeners whose first language is not English. And they have not given the Planning Committee sufficient time to do this.</p>	cambridge	MA	02140

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Eleanor	Jewett	DCR has not reached out to Herter Gardeners who are not connected electronically. In fact, they have no way to send in comments. feedback	Cambridge	MA	02140
Eleanor	Jewett	DCR has not given the Herter Garden Planning Committee enough time to reach out to all of our gardeners. I Your time-line is too tight. If you want participation and feedback, you need to build in more time than 2 or 3 weeks for a diverse community to respond to a plan that involves them in a serious way.	Cambridge	MA	02140
IVI	GHOSH	Plz don't destroy this organic garden . I have been gardening here for a while. So I have some structure here . So I can't move them, I can't take out the soil and also the suggested new plots are far away from me and I have no vehicle	Allston	MA	02134
Jessica	Straus	I am strongly opposed to the proposed move of the Herter Gardens to the more isolated woodland space up river. Like most gardeners at Herter I was on the waitlist for many years before I finally received a plot, a space I have worked for years to bring it to its full potential . I nurtured the plot with organic soil I purchased and hauled in on my own. I pest-proofed my garden by building up raised beds and lining them with wire mesh. The fences around most of the gardens were build by one incredibly generous gardener for the benefit of ALL of us. All this represents years of work which would have to be done all over again if we were to be relocated. Many of us in the Herter Gardens are now senior citizens and would not be able to start afresh with the kind of intensive labor required to get our garden to the level we now have them. The proposed location for a new site is not nearly as well suited to vegetable gardening as the current site. The wood lot will be more mosquito infested, making it much more difficult to garden The soil will not be garden-ready. The proposed area is much more isolated, making it considerably less safe, for particularly the women gardeners and older folks. Our current location has much more visibility so we are not afraid to be there alone as we often find ourselves. We currently happily co-exist with picnickers, bike-riders, dog-walkers, the beer garden, people coming and going from the amphitheater. We are never alone, which is a great thing! And all these people who stroll, and dog walk and picnic around our garden love it. They bring their young children and their older companions to look at the gardens. They stop to chat and learn about gardening and inquire about having a plot. The Herter Gardens are like the United Nations of Community gardens. When I first took a garden there another gardener told me 22 countries were represented by the gardeners. Please don't destroy our uniquely community that we've worked so hard to build!	Somerville	MA	02143
Dianna	Margaryan	Please don't destroy my beautiful organic garden! My family and I depend on our garden. Thank you!	E Watertown	MA	02472

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Venkata	Sabbisetti	I strongly object this plan of replacing existing organic gardens with a lawn. There is enough lawn in that area. These gardens encourages families and kids passing by to encourage gardening and growing their own food organically. The flower plants in the gardens encourages bees and butterflies to flourish. This place supposed to be a family place and there is enough damage already has been done by bringing beer park there. I strongly object this plan.	Belmont	MA	02478
Shan	Wong	I had this garden over 10 years. Do not move the garden.	Allston	MA	02134
Kerry	Molloy	Please keep the organic community garden in your plans. There are so few opportunities for community gardens in the city. People care about these plots. Do not eliminate them!!!	ALLSTON	MA	02134
Rob	Massey	Loosing lanes from Soldiers Field Road will provide an unnoticeable increase in green space and add to the already horrendous traffic. How is this a good idea? Does that park really need to be something like 1/20 of 1 percent larger ? The river roads are one of the few ways to get anywhere efficiently. I love bike lanes, but they don't ALL have to at the expense of vehicle lanes, especially on such a large wide open area.	Cambridge	MA	02141
Dana	Safran	Please don't eliminate this wonderful public garden! This space is magnificent and gives such joy to the community. Having friends and neighbors growing and harvesting in this beautiful space brings great delight and a sense of community. This is part of how we thrive as a community. Do not take it away.	Newton	MA	02458
Shahjadi	Nurmohal	Please do not destroy our Herter Community Garden, don't even move it also because of moving the garden it's not easy to start over everything and we will lose our community, and we will be losing our money which amount we spent last too many years to make our plot ready.	Allston	MA	02134
Julia	Winer	My favorite activity is to walk along the Charles river. My walk first starts with walking past the Herter Garden. Even though I do not have a plot of land in the garden, I love walking past at the different times of the year and watching the beautiful garden grow. There is no need to destroy beautiful land.	Brighton	MA	02135
Cody	Scott	I regularly drive through the Eliot Bridge approach intersection for community, and I occasionally bike all along there. I fully support the proposed road diet concept.	Cambridge	MA	02139

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Peter	Wetherbee	<p>Hello, I am writing in support of the Herter Community Garden at Herter Park. I frequent the park for biking, and also for enjoying the dock along the river which is close by the garden. From this I have met several of the gardeners who are uniformly nice people and who all put a lot of time and effort into their gardens. This is not only to their benefit, but is a value added for everyone out enjoying the park. The garden needs to be maintained in any plan you have for Herter Park. The dock next to it likewise needs to be a part of any plans you are developing for the park.</p> <p>I don't know what you're considering doing to the park, but it is great the way it is. Please don't mess it up. Keep the garden, keep the dock, keep all the families having bbqs and gatherings. Keep the kiddie pool and play area. Keep the people fishing. Keep the beer garden, but reposition visiting food trucks away from the garden. Keep the amphitheatre, and keep the garden.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> <p>PETER WETHERBEE peterdohio@gmail.com 617-458-1937</p>	Watertown	MA	02472
Thomas	Egan	<p>I like this design and the idea of a road diet for soldiers field road. My question is, why are we only looking into a road diet for this stretch of the road? If the entire stretch was reduced to two lanes like this there would be massive benefits for the city and it's park space. Why is DCR insisting on four lanes for the Allston Multimodal Project when a mile down the road we recognize a need for a road diet?</p> <p>Give all of soldiers field road a diet and Storrow Drive too. Reverse the damage done to the city's waterfront and save money on the Allston Multimodal by doing it.</p>	Somerville	MA	02143
Patricia	Gould	<p>I became aware for the first time today, thanks to signs posted on the Herter Community Garden fence, of the plan to "consolidate" the Herter Community Gardens. I tried to find information regarding the plan on the mass.gov website but was only able to view powerpoint slides that lacked any specific details. I have a plot in the garden and am dismayed that this plan has not been announced more broadly. It is hard to adequately voice my opposition without having the benefit of knowing what s behind this proposal other than what I gather is placing rowing facilities before community gardening. Please advise regarding where and how I can access more details.</p>	Brighton	MA	02135
Chanty	Thsi	Please keep the Herter Public Garden. I enjoy it tremendously with my family	Lowell	MA	01852

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Susan	Bellows	<p>As a 25-year member of the Charles River Community Garden I was surprised to learn about the DCR's plan to "improve" our garden by relocating another community garden to the open field adjacent to us. How is it possible that the city has advanced a plan this far without contacting any members of the Charles River Community Garden board, or interviewing gardeners who, having spent decades gardening along the river, should be considered key constituents in any transformation of this area. We are a community of multi-generational, multi-ethnic gardeners representing a broad cross-section of Boston area neighborhoods and deserve to be consulted on the master plan just as much as the parents of Brookline HS and Boston Latin rowers.</p> <p>In your September 29 presentation a planner stated the "benefits of combining the gardens was obvious", but the garden is more than a plot of land awaiting improvement from someone who seems to have never set foot inside the Charles River Community Garden, walked among the fruit trees or beekeeping boxes.</p> <p>I fail to see how replacing the Herter Community Garden with a picnic area is an improvement. Who are you trying to cater to in removing a functioning, viable, diverse community?</p> <p>The eclectic energy of this particular stretch of the Charles River is remarkable and delightful. It is what urban areas should be all about. The variety of activities--African drumming circles, grandfathers teaching grandchildren how to fish, college students picnicking, families celebrating birthday parties--all of this creates a vital, energetic, extremely democratic space, used by young and old, rich and poor. The plans presented thus far do not seem to take this rich diversity into account.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02138
Nguyet	Tracy	I request you keep the Herter Public Garden. I really enjoy it with my family. We go there often.	Watertown	MA	02472
Rachel	Benichasa	<p>I am writing to say to NOT move the Christian Herter Community Garden.</p> <p>Why would you move it to just make more plain grass? How about making changes that actually improve the area instead of ruining an established community garden?</p> <p>The gardeners have garden beds that they have made themselves in these garden plots. They can't just be moved!</p> <p>Are you going to rebuild the garden beds and buy the soil for these gardeners to replace it? Move all of the perennials they have planted for them?</p> <p>If you go ahead with this plan, you need to add the cost of all that.</p>	Framingham	MA	01701
Petit	Pierre	<p>Please don't reduce Soldiers Field Road from 2 lanes to 1 with an unnecessary redundant bike lane. There's already a bike lane that's protected so this would cause traffic, and undue stress for no reason (which would lead to accidents and injury).</p> <p>Furthermore It's the only viable alternative to get into Boston from the west suburbs besides the Pike, and it's already busy during peak hours.</p>	Boston	MA	02118

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Aaron	Bickel	<p>Hi,</p> <p>Usually I am all for added bike infrastructure. In fact this must be the first time I have ever given input to a construction project to advocate removing planned bike lanes. But putting surface level bike lanes on Soldiers Field Road is a terrible, counterproductive idea and I would strongly urge you to reconsider.</p> <p>First, these lanes are dangerous. They are unprotected from high speed traffic, especially in the eastbound direction where there is not even any separation planned.</p> <p>Second, they are redundant. The best bike path in metro Boston is right on the other side of the road next to the river. Nobody will prefer to use these dangerous lanes when there is a better alternative.</p> <p>Third, these lanes in particular don't lead anywhere. Due to the geography of this area, Western Ave is a straight shot for bike traffic traveling to/from Central Square, Allston, and Watertown. Through bike traffic would only use the riverfront path if a cyclist is riding for pleasure, connecting long distance from Boston to points west on the path, or if their destination is Herter Park itself. In none of those cases would the bike lane on SFR even be an alternative worth considering.</p> <p>The only situation in which a cyclist would even want to use this SFR bike lane, even if it were safe to use (which it is not), would be to access one of the businesses on the south side of SFR. But even in this case Western Ave is a better and safer and more direct alternative.</p> <p>Furthermore, there will be no way to safely connect to this lane. Once cyclists get to the Eliot Bridge, they will have to somehow cross heavy traffic to get back to the river path where they could have been all along. It's a dead end.</p> <p>A road diet is great but why not use the additional space freed up to widen the river path that is already safe and appealing? And concentrate on improving the connection to Western Ave/Arsenal St which is an afterthought rather than putting in a dangerous and useless bike lane.</p>	Allston	MA	02134
Ricardo	Thomas	<p>I have a Garden at the Herter park that is like a life saver. Moving this garden would be terrible for many people. The garden have been a staple in the park for many people; Park Goers, Tourist, passer by and for organic gardeners. Many people walk by and visit the garden to learn about gardening, Plants, soil preparation, natural pest controls and all things about organic gardening.</p> <p>Moving to a new location with no organic soil, no social contact with passer byes and no proper sun light will be like going from 100 to 0.</p>	Brighton	MA	02135
Ron	Trial	I strongly object to the reduction (diet) of Storrow Drive as proposed. It should be apparent that four lanes of separated traffic converted to two lanes of opposed traffic is not a safe solution. This needs to be revisited.	Watertown	MA	02472

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Alexandra	Golby	The Herter community garden is a vital community resources as well as providing a refuge and pollination opportunities for birds butterflies and bees. Please do not destroy or alter this resource.	Boston	MA	02130
Donna	Fong	<p>Please do not remove the Herter Community Garden! We discovered the garden in 1981 when we walked the area with our newborn because I had fond memories of having family picnics in the area as a child. We have been walking or biking the area ever since. Our two daughters grew up learning about gardening through the gardeners we encountered, and now they bring their own children to walk and bike the area. It was the Community Gardens that inspired them to grow their own garden in our small backyard when they were children, and they now have gardens at their own homes. My husband and I still regularly walk the area, and also bring our grandchildren there to play at Artesani Park and to look at the variety of flowers and plants or say hello and talk to any gardeners who happen to be there.</p> <p>The Community Gardens serve a real purpose, not only for the people who garden there, but for the larger community because I am sure it has inspired other families as it did ours. The Garden also attracts bees, birds, butterflies, all necessary aspects of nature. We live in a cities that sorely need more gardens, not less. And green space doesn't mean just grass. We hope you will reconsider and keep the Herter Community Garden. Thank you.</p>	Belmont	MA	02478
Dave	Alexander	As much as I support bike and pedestrian lanes and access, this is one of the worst ideas imaginable. Eliminating two lanes of traffic along this corridor will make rush hour traffic significantly worse than it already is and increase pollution. There are already plenty of pedestrian / bicycle paths along the roadway and river that could be improved and renovated without eliminating auto traffic lanes. I would urge DCR to consider all other options first.	newton	MA	02458
Joseph	Poirier	I love the Herter Community Garden. Please keep a community garden space in that location, or nearby. It is a great benefit to the community and kids love to be able to see the fruits and vegetables growing.	CAMBRIDGE	MA	02140
Moshe	Waldoks	<p>I was so dismayed that the Herter Community Gardens are threatened. I walk by them almost everyday, often with my kids and my grandkids. We are enriched by seeing the gardens grow throughout the year, spring. summer and fall, The huge tree that is closet to the river is majestic and attests to the beautiful gathering of trees in this special place.</p> <p>I can't imagine what motivated folks to want to remove the gardens. Master Plans are dangerous- they often ignore the smaller individualized elements in favor of a "grand" vision that more often than not lacks sensitivity to those who enjoy things as they are. Be very cautious of the changes you want to make.</p> <p>The Herter Gardens are enjoyed by such a variety of people that come from many different parts of the Greater Boston area for a stroll and tranquility.</p> <p>Be careful!</p>	Newton	MA	02458

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Maren	Coniglione	<p>Hello, I am writing in regard to the Herter Community Garden. I am a Gardner and have had a plot for about 8 years. I think there are potential pros and cons to the plan to move and ultimately would like to see more information. A few notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New land with fresh soil could be good. However if would need to be tilled to garden use. Can we be guaranteed it is organic, can the soil be tested for contamination? 2. If a new space was built would the size be comparable? We have .035 acres now if I am correct? Smaller would be an issue. 3. This would be an opportunity to fence the exterior correctly, bunny and mole proof which would help address peoples concerns about rebuilding plots. If the exterior fence were animal proof the interior work would be mainly boundary marking and not labor intensive animal blocking. DCR here could really fix a major issue with a minor adjustment (you could add wire mesh to the bottom or construct a fence with no holes for major plus 4. Some of the plants have been established. For example there are many berry bushes that have grown for many years. They don't typically fruit the first year or two. When would we have time to transplant? Could DCR hire a consultant to help guide us on seasons and best ways to move certain things that people care about? 5. Many of our Gardners are seniors. Accessibly would need to be key. 6. Many Gardners feel safe among the hustle and bustle of park activity. I have enjoyed being able to send my family over to the playground while I garden, or have them play in the park. Being removed would change our dynamic with the community. 7. If the garden were to move could we get a bathroom? Or a designated spot for a portable toilet? That is a big pain in the current location, sort of behind the shed gross. 8. I have no sense of the timing of this work, when would we be moved? <p>Thank you for your consideration to the above points.</p> <p>Sincerely, Maren Coniglione, Part of the Garden Planning Committee</p>	Newton	MA	02458
Ummul	Momena	<p>As a Gardener it was shocking to hear that Herter Park Master Plan,Please Don't try to destroy and move our garden from here to another place,we are the member of this garden it's been long time and we spent a lot to improve our garden day by day,we spent to make our own plot fences,wood to make a trellis,Soil.These are not possible to move,and the new place is not ready to make a garden.Please save our Herter Community Garden and our Community.</p>	Allston	MA	02134
peter	ioannilli	<p>Leave the Community Garden alone. I have been enjoying walks around it for 25 years. You already stuck that grass killing beer garden eyesore next to it. That area is overrun every weekend by groups that leave overflowing trash bins, smoldering heaps of charcoal and dirty diapers thrown right in the parking lot. Instead of messing around with that beautiful little garden, how about getting more trash cans and having a few Park Rangers enforcing the open fire and littering rules ?</p>	brighton	MA	02135

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Brent	Whelan	<p>With respect to the DCR plan to move Herter Community Garden to another site, it should be noted that moving a garden is not possible. The garden consists of soil improved organically over many decades; perennial plantings; hardscape pathways, borders, fences, trellises; in short, some 70 plots, each lovingly designed by successive gardeners. 'Moving' this means destroying it and starting over in a new place. The loss for each current gardener would be incalculable.</p> <p>Furthermore many of the Herter gardeners are elderly , and would find the heavy labor involved in starting over and developing a new plot forbiddingly difficult. 'Moving' would be an emotional catastrophe for many of the most vulnerable among us.</p> <p>The Master Plan identifies this section of the riverway as an 'activity zone' anchored by Artesani playground and the Amphitheater. The conception makes sense but its designer may not realize what a hub of activity the Garden is. An outsider might think that only the 70 or so gardeners are actively involved, but in truth literally hundreds of others enjoy the Garden every day and actively 'participate' by walking around it, noticing plantings, instructing children on how things grow, engaging Herter gardeners in many, many conversations. The Garden is a community social space, a VERY active portion of the Reservation.</p> <p>The Garden is also a social space for its gardeners. The Herter Garden includes participants from dozens of countries speaking a plethora of languages and teaching each other gardening methods from all over the world. The Garden is a crucial support link for immigrant families, and a rare meeting ground for such a variety of cultures. The Master Plan would uproot not just the Garden but a delicately interconnected community.</p> <p>And for what? Another lawn? A river view where there is nothing but river view? I urge the DCR to take pride in this venerable Garden and recognize it as one of the great amenities of the Charles River Reservation.</p>	Allston	MA	02134
Ben	Piperno	Please do not reduce or take down the community garden! Not only is it beautiful but so essential to tying our community together! I've been so grateful during covid to walk through it and hope that i can someday get a spot too!	Allston	MA	02134
Joanie	Woodward	Please Save Herter Community Gardens!! I have been a regular walker along the river and so enjoy watching the gardens from early on in spring as they flourish through the summer with the beautiful vegetables and flower, into the autumn harvest, even into the bare winter. For us folks it adds so much to the cycle and hope of life, as well as adds so much to the Charles River experience. Please do not destroy this bit of peace and hope for our city, keep it going. Thank you ♡	Fall River	MA	02720

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deadline extended 10/29/2021

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Ann	Antonellis	<p>Please do not touch our beloved and Historic Herter Community Gardens!</p> <p>We like it as it is WHERE it is.</p> <p>I am not as mobile as i used to be but i love that i can drive to these gardens and walk along the river and peek over and chat with the gardeners about their season.</p> <p>It's really such a part of the entire area with the theater and the beer garden and the children's wading pool! I grew up in this area and have so many fond memories - please don't touch the gardens !</p> <p>Ann</p>	Boston	MA	02120
Nancy	Gold	<p>Hi Folks, Today I read a flyer I saw on the fence at the Herter Community Garden. You've probably seen it, but basically it asks people to contact the DCR, saying that the DCR "has plans to destroy" the garden.</p> <p>Is this possibly true?? I'm sure I'm only one of many many people who love that garden. Whenever I walk through the park, which is often part of a 6 mile walk I like to take, I make a point of detouring around the whole garden and peering in at all the great things people are growing in there. It's a wonderful place. It would be a terrible shame to get rid of it, especially since it's one of the nicest things in the park! It is enjoyed not just by the people who do the gardening, but also those of us who look at the products of their labor. I'm a 68 year old woman who knows what she's talking about! ;-)</p> <p>Please, PLEASE reconsider. Thank you!!</p>	Cambridge	MA	02139
Sasha	Albert	<p>I'm excited to see that the plan includes more and better crossings from Soldier's Field! I'm also excited to see that it preserves two community garden spaces. However if there is a way to maintain both gardens in their current locations, that would be minimally disruptive to the community; hopefully you'll consider that as an option.</p>	Allston	MA	02134

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Marjorie	Levin	<p>I am writing to oppose the plans to move and/or consolidate the Herter Community Garden with the other community garden on the Charles River.</p> <p>The reasons for my opposition are many and below are just a few:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have gardened at the Herter Community Garden for close to 25 years and have worked very hard over those years to cultivate perennial flowers and herbs in my plot, to nourish my soil with compost and rotational planting, to built and maintain a fence, to carefully weed to keep out invasive species, and to haul in bricks and pavers and wood to separate my subplots. I am a 65 year old woman who just had a hip replacement. It will be a great burden for me to start over in a new space. -the Herter Community Garden is a very unique multi- cultural and multi-generational "community". To consolidate us with another garden will destroy this community and the relationships, trust, and bonds that have formed over the years as we gardened together, managed our funds, developed our policies, and governed ourselves. - to relocate our garden will remove the almost 50 years of history our garden has had in its location and abolish the legacy left by the Herter family in establishing the garden. -our garden is integrated within the fabric of Herter Park and brings people together. The drummers, the picnickers, the cyclists, the families, the passerbys on their way to the amphitheater theatre or the outdoor beer garden - many stop to smell the flowers and share their memories of gardening or stop to ask questions about the various flowers and vegetables they see. Destroying our garden will destroy the opportunity for conversation and shared moments between people of diverse backgrounds that might never have come together for another reason. - moving us 'down the river' to a more remote location will jeopardize the safety of our members. We are in our gardens at sunrise and sunset. The proposed new location is remote, close to the road, and isolated. 	Brighton	MA	02135
Lauren	Sallis	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>As the head of the Early Education Program at the German International School of Boston, it saddens me to hear that the Pollinator Garden will no longer be available to us. We have worked with Beth and Miriam for two years now. This had allowed our "city kids" to gain a feel for the seasons and an appreciation of nature, something that many of them are rarely exposed to...unfortunately. We have looked at bugs, raked leaves, planted native bulbs, examined bees and relaxed in the grass and observed the clouds, all things children should do and need to do. Only because of the Pollinator Garden, however, were we able to offer these childhood experiences to our children. It is indeed a sad testimony to the times that this will no longer be possible. A picnic space is fine and dandy but one can picnic all along the Charles River. A clear garden space, set aside for native species and plants, will be a significant loss and I would appeal to those involved in the decision-making process to rethink this loss.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Lauren Sallis</p>	Boston	MA	02135

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Pollinator	Networks	<p>With grant funding from the Harvard Allston Public Realm Fund, we at Pollinator Networks created a pollinator garden at the Herter Community Garden two years ago. The funding that was used will not be available to move this garden and recreate it in a new space. So the garden will effectively be destroyed.</p> <p>This garden supports native pollinators -- bees, birds and butterflies and is the anchor for the Pollinator Network which continues up Everett St with gardens at Charlesview Residences, McNamara House, Everett Embankment and Union Square.</p> <p>A considerable amount of funding and community involvement have gone into creating this space. It is used by community groups including the German School students, who are using it as their outdoor science classroom, as well as adult education groups from BCAE. Children from an afterschool program at Charlesview Residences are planning to use the garden in the Spring for classes.</p> <p>The proposed merger of the two community gardens would destroy the Herter Pollinator Garden. Hive bees at the site are not compatible with solitary native bees--they dominate the available pollinator plants that native bees also depend on.</p> <p>We strongly oppose the proposal to merge these two gardens.</p> <p>Pollinator Networks</p>	jp	MA	02130
Ruth	Ristich	<p>I spent the afternoon today with a group of about 30 people enjoying the outdoor space in Christian Herter park. When I drove up I was so happy to see the Community Garden in all its Fall glory with many late flowers in bloom: cosmos, sunflowers, irises, even some beautiful Monkshood Delphiniums. I felt myself breathe more deeply and my body relax because I was entering a lush natural garden....the opposite of my urban neighborhood in Cambridgeport. As I unpacked my car I noticed a sign that a plan might be afoot to get rid of this old community garden, which made me very sad. We city dwellers need more gardens! More forests! More places to feel like we're still connected to nature. I hope the Community Garden will stay the vibrant beautiful place it is.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Ruth Ristich</p>	cambridge	MA	02139

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Cindy	Phillips	<p>I understand DCR has big plans to remove this garden which has been in the community since 1974. When I first moved to Boston after college, it gave me great comfort and delight to see so many culturally diverse gardeners working side by side to grow and make plants come alive. They get to know each other. It breaks down stereotypes and barriers which our neighborhoods construct. It is central to the goodwill this park brings to people. It is a place where there is finally enough parking, is near the children's playground, amphitheater, river, and boating not to mention wildlife. It is a place where people feel happy and peaceful and they share it with others.</p> <p>Today I saw little green birds in the drying sunflowers and wispy milkweed pods drifting with the breeze. You cannot just dig out almost 50 yeats of dense green, native growth, throw it in any soil and expect it to thrive somewhere else. Gardeners need the parking lot to bring their equipment and dirt, bulbs, and seedlings. Boston residents of all ethnic backgrounds need this place where they can grow plants, build memories, and a broader community near the beauty of the river.</p> <p>Please rethink this plan.</p> <p>Yours truly, Cindy Phillips</p>	Burlington	MA	01803
Herter	Garden	<p>Please watch this video, from the members of the Herter Community Garden:</p> <p>https://youtu.be/a2Sj-N0xpso</p> <p>The Christian A. Herter Intercommunity Garden is an organic garden that has been located in the Herter Park next to the Charles River since 1976. Today, it is composed of a diverse, multigenerational group of individuals and families representing at least 20 different countries. The DCR's current plan to move the Herter Garden will permanently change the makeup of our community. Re-establishing each individual plot in a new location will take time, energy, and money that will likely leave some members behind. It is also impossible to relocate the soil, the plants, the individual structures, and the nearly 50 years of labor that has gone into working this land organically.</p>	Allston/Brighton	MA	02135
David	Jones	I strongly support the plan, especially the road diet. The area today was designed around highway-style roads, and the new plan prioritizes parkland instead. Bravo!	Boston	MA	02108

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Ben	Sands	<p>I love the road diet and improved bike path in this project. Please extend the road diet of SFR through the "throat" section of Storrow Drive. In the Allston Mass Pike project, DCR has flat out refused to make any concessions on either lane count or lane width. The result of this stubbornness will be a Paul Dudley White path in the middle of the Charles River. After watching this, I am totally shocked to see DCR willingly removing lanes on a different section of SFR. Please bring the road diet to the throat area (where it counts the most!) in addition to the Herter Park area.</p> <p>Thank you for reading</p> <p>Ben Sands</p>	Somerville	MA	02144
Scott	Istvan	<p>As an occasional (probably monthly or bi-monthly) user of Herter Park, I love the new plans! I'm particularly excited about the widening of the multi-use path and the squaring off of the intersection going in to Elliot Bridge. The latter has always been a confusing a stressful area to drive through and to cross as a pedestrian & cyclist. Narrowing and slowing down Soldier's Field Road should also help reduce road noise for folks in the park, which should make the park more enjoyable for all.</p> <p>No critical feedback at this time, just wanted to share my excitement to see this happen!</p>	Somerville	MA	02145
Alexander	Frieden	Happy to see the changes. Widening the path to 12 feet and creating bike lanes on the road will allow for turning motions that are safe and visible. 12 feet wide path allows for more space for snow removal for winter cycling, walking, and pushing strollers.	SOMERVILLE	MA	02143
Edward	Orde	I think the proposal to reduce the vehicular travel lanes is fantastic and long overdue. Returning that land to it's original use of parkland is a great move that will encourage more bike commuting, reduce impervious surfaces near the river, and improve the park experience by reducing car noise.	Boston	MA	02115
Joshua	Tsuji	This looks beautiful, I would be so much more likely to visit that area or use my bike to travel places along the route!	Boston	MA	02215

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Philip	Maskell	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to you today based on signage posted by those who have a plot in the garden, as seen on the fence around the community garden stating that the DCR has plans to destroy it. I am surprised that there is any motion to remove it. For 45 years the community garden has provided those with a plot to grow their own food, flowers and plants outside of their home, which is likely a rented space that wouldn't allow for such an activity. It also provides the surrounding area with a lush oasis of beautiful flowers and vegetables for on lookers to enjoy, as well as birds and pollinators to find shelter or food.</p> <p>My only issue with the garden, is that I don't have a plot there myself! I would be honored to garden in a community plot such as the Herter garden, as well as many others, new or old, but that will not happen if the garden is destroyed.</p> <p>While this may read as a rant against change, I am all in for the DCR in upgrading accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists alike, and would love to see some positive changes to the surrounding park and it's paths. I don't understand how removing the garden would help further accessibility, and the park, any good.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your time and understanding, Philip</p>	Brighton	MA	02135
Aleksey	Kliger	<p>I support the proposed improvements to the safety of all users of the park and of Soldiers Field Road. In particular reducing the number of car travel lanes is a great start to reducing congestion, reducing speed and ultimately improving safety along this roadway. Definitely keep the reduced number of car lanes.</p> <p>However I do not believe that the on-street bike lanes provide adequate safety for people on bicycles of all ages and abilities. I would encourage you to modify the plan to include curb-separated bike lanes along Soldiers Field Road in both directions.</p> <p>Additionally, the shared pedestrian/bike path should be expanded to three lanes for a total of at least 18 feet in order to provide adequate separation between people on foot and on bicycles.</p>	Somerville	MA	02144
Alex	Twist	<p>Please help make this park a more enjoyable and accessible place for the community eliminating the many hazard points where cars interact with folks using the multipurpose paths. The jug handle at Everett St, the slip lanes at Arsenal Bridge, and the lack of road-level pedestrian infrastructure at Everett creat barriers and hazards to our neighborhood having access to park facilities. Please get cars out of and away from our parks so that people can use them.</p>	Boston	MA	02135
Samuel	Fell	<p>The road diet plan is phenomenal. As someone who often utilizes that parkland for running/biking as well as commuting by bike and for picnics/leisure I wholeheartedly support making more space for bikes as well as additional parkland. More of this type of thinking all around Greater Boston please!</p>	Cambridge	MA	02139

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Matthew	Dezii	<p>I am so glad you are considering a road diet on Soldier's Field Road. I am writing as both a driver and bike rider. This road is pleasant to drive on, but too many drivers consider this an alternative speedway to avoid the Pike, or to avoid driving through Allston-Brighton. As a driver, I don't like this road during peak hours. I appreciate it more this on a weekend morning, or late at night. I drive the speed limit, and at all hours of the day, I have someone riding my rear bumper. The roadway is wide with graceful curves that promote high-speed driving. This makes it dangerous for other drivers, but also dangerous for pedestrians and bike riders on the footpath adjacent to the road. The high speeds that driver do makes every driveway crossing a harrowing moment, as cars doing 10mph above the speed limit attempt to slow and make a merge into one of the parking areas. Do they see me? I'm never sure. Please reduce the number of lanes as you plan, and make all the turnings and crossings safer.</p> <p>The main way I use this route though, is as a bike rider. And even that, I experience two ways. I bike here with my wife because she isn't as comfortable riding on city streets. This parkway gives us a low-stress way to bike together, and any widening of the bike path, and the addition of the on-street bike lanes will give more space for bikes and pedestrians. When I'm out for a more athletic bike ride, I welcome the additional real estate for bikes so I can pedal a little faster, without bothering all the other people looking to enjoy their day.</p> <p>I also walk this path plenty, and I welcome the increased green space and decreased vehicular traffic. The road will be quieter, and the air quality more pleasant. The increased green space will also have the added benefit of increased storm water retention, which should help all sorts of other problems along the length of the river.</p>	Brighton	MA	02135
Keith	Kaminski	Use pinchpoints, not unprotected cycling lanes, to calm traffic. Or commit to fully protected cycling lanes that don't end where they are needed most, at intersections. The proposed design is redundant and does not meaningfully improve this route for cyclists.	Brighton	MA	02135
Patrick	Snyder	I love this concept! Would be amazing to see it extended to more of Soldiers Field Road and Metropolitan Parkways :)	Boston	MA	02132
KIM	DEANDRADE	I do not support a plant that turns pollinator friendly gardens into sterile lawns. I support converting lawns to life-affirming pollinator gardens. Please reconsider your plan.	MEDFORD	MA	02155
James	deMelo	<p>I love the idea of widening the bikepaths on the park side (heck I might widen them even more) and bike infrastructure in general, but I'm not sure what the purpose behind the bike lanes on soldier's field road itself are, especially if they are just unprotected lanes. If that will be the only section of the otherwise multi-lane thruway with bike infrastructure, merging on and off of that stretch will be troublesome if not dangerous. At the very least it will be sub-optimal when compared to the hopefully expanded bike path adjacent to Soldier's Field. It seems like it's using bike traffic to calm the roads which is dangerous for cyclists and won't produce the desired outcome.</p> <p>It also creates two potentially dangerous merge locations at Eliot Bridge and Leo Birmingham. I'm sure these are to be considered in the design process, but it may just be over complicating things. I'd rather see either a protected bike lane along this road (up on a curb with a safe merging on/off of it via those two disastrous intersections) or improvements to Western Ave between Leo Birmingham and North Harvard which is another disaster.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02139

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Deborah	Habib	I have recently become aware of a plan to eliminate the Herter Park Community Garden. As a long time proponent of community gardens it is clear that this garden exemplifies all that one can hope for in regards to both ecological practices, community building, and food production towards increased access and wellbeing. In these times, a garden such as this needs to be held up as a model that in fact meets many goals around equity, access, and connection with nature upheld by the DCR. I urge you to refrain from any acts that would destroy or negatively impact the Herter Park Community Garden. In fact the video created should be widely shown and something Boston area communities and the DCR should be well proud of sharing and replicating.	Orange	MA	01364
Doug	Cornelius	<p>I think the master plan is a fantastic improvement to the area. My comments are from my perspective as a cyclist who often rides to or through the area of the master plan.</p> <p>I appreciate making the bike path wider allowing for greater cycling capacity. This is a common route for cycling commuters like me.</p> <p>The one addition I would like to see is a bridge in the East Meadow area carrying pedestrians and bikes over roadway. Slide 32 in the presentation identifies an area as "2" and indicates new crosswalks. I fear this crosswalk may be intimidating to walkers and cyclists with drivers trying to take right turns or frustrated at no being able to go straight.</p> <p>I look at the remarkable success of the Appleton Bridge by MGH that does a fantastic job of linking the bike paths and pedestrian paths to the MGH intersection. I would ask that the master plan consider adding a similar bridge in that location rather than relying on an at-grade crosswalk.</p>	West Newton	MA	02465

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Paula	Jordan	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am writing to support that the Herter Community Garden stay as it is, a resource for families and individuals to grow food, connect, support pollinators, impact climate positively, gather and speak in the languages they feel most powerful in, and provide so many other tangibles and intangibles that are all positive to all of us as a community.</p> <p>A reconstruction of the area and making it a lawn is a very misguided step for this and so many other reasons.</p> <p>I work at a community garden space in Somerville, MA. Though not a typical community garden space like Herter, we have seen the positive impact of the green space on the mental health of community members, a place to learn to grow healthy food in an urban area(so many urban areas do not have safe places to grow healthy food), and as a space that supports and welcomes immigrant families and community members. There are several groups who visit our space who are immigrants and the ability to access fresh herbs for cooking, to reconnect with folks in the language they feel the most powerful is so vitally important to the health and wellbeing of a city and its inhabitants.</p> <p>Please don't make the mistake of going ahead without hearing the voices of the folks that your plan will impact.We cannot as a community separate space from access and equity in our designs and re/constructions.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Paula Jordan Lives in E Arlington MA Works in Somerville, MA 781-234-5311 Pronouns she/her/hers</p>	Arlington	MA	02474
Jason	Merkin	I'm strongly in favor of the road diet and bike lane expansion. I would be in favor of either program individually and love the fact that they're both being considered and (hopefully) done. That area is terrifying to drive through and the bike infrastructure needs improving. Please do all you can to improve both.	Watertown	MA	02472
Xavid	Pretzer	<p>I'd like to write in support of a road diet for Soldiers Field Road along Herter Park. This would improve safety for everyone by slowing traffic, encourage use of the park by pedestrians and cyclists, and correctly prioritize greenspace above asphalt in a lovely park and in a sensitive riverside area, better supporting water management and climate objectives.</p> <p>Sincerely, ~Xavid</p>	Arlington	MA	02476
George	Cole	Every step that improves cycling safety and that slows cars on this existing race track is a positive step forwars.	Newton	MA	02458

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Daniel	Fischer	I'd like to express my family's support for the plan to make Soldiers Field rd narrower and widen the bike path. I think this proposal will make both bikers and drivers safer in that area.	Boston	MA	02135
Tim	Russell	I support the road diet. I would like to see curb-separated bike lanes on the road and a separate bike/ped sidewalk so that the two modes do not have to mix. Thanks, -Tim	Cambridge	MA	02140
Molly	DeQuattro	it's fabulous that we are putting a priority on non-car-based transit. as a cyclist, however, i beg you to raise the bike lanes to sidewalk level or add a curb to separate vehicular traffic from bike traffic. cars simply go too fast on that stretch of road for cyclists to be safe. additionally debris and runoff will accumulate in the bike lane from car traffic, forcing cyclists away from the existing curb and into the vehicle lane. thank you,	Allston	MA	02134
Jack	Treanor	I am very excited by the prospect of a reduced Soldiers Field Rd. On the stretch by Herter Park cars go way too fast. It's dangerous and creates a unnecessary barrier between Allston and the park. Reducing the road and increasing the room for bikes and pedestrians is a great idea and will pay off in spades.	Somerville	MA	02143
Maria Isabel	Rosario	My is Maria Isabel Rosario. I am writing both as a concerned individual, but also as an active member of the Herter Garden community. My mother, Gloria M. Burnett and I have been gardening at Herter for three seasons now. Having a garden is much more than a hobby for us. We choose our yearly crops carefully and begin looking forward to the next growing season in November. Having our plot has changed our lives considerably, we plant to can, preserve, or freeze 85% of what we yield from our selected crops. Being able to access the food we planted in the spring and yielded in the late summer and fall has allowed to save a considerable amount of money during the winter months. Additionally, we have invested a great deal of time and money into enriching the soil in our plot and in designing our plot. Herter is a home away from home for us and many other members of this diverse and vibrant gardening community. It is the place we go to share recipes, swap seeds, and share in the abundance our plots have yielded. Our primary concern with the proposed relocation of the Herter Garden community is that many of our core gardeners will be left without the space necessary for them to plant the crops native to their cultures. We are also concerned about the proposed new location for our community. Removing us from the main Park and isolating us at the farthest point possible next to the woodland has many potential negative effects. Potentially, there may be more mosquitos and other bugs than in our current space. More bugs can and often does impact crop viability. Many of our gardeners are elderly and like to stay in their plots late into the evening during the peak summer months. The woodland area is isolated, and has been known to attract drifters during the warmer months, this presents a critical safety concern for our community. I short, I am vehemently opposed to the proposal to relocate the Herter Garden community.	Cambridge	MA	02139
Michael	Kinkema	This looks like a truly forward thinking project. Thank you!	Cambridge	MA	02140

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Zack	DeClerck	<p>This is a very exciting proposal for a family like ours, that mostly navigates the city via bike (yes, even with our young kids).</p> <p>Soldiers Field Road is over-built for the 21st century and our climate crisis. The proposed road diet and improved bike path would give us much safer access to one of the great parks along the Charles.</p> <p>More of this on DCR roads please.</p>	Boston	MA	02130
Radu	Nan	<p>I support the road diet option for SFR as a means to improve access from the neighborhood into the Herter Park and make biking along the park safer and more comfortable.</p> <p>Along those lines, please consider roundabouts at the newly reconfigured intersections. They provide better speed control for traffic, safer crossings and do not induce unnecessary delay for people walking or cars during the off peak hours. Roundabouts are much more consistent with the road diet idea for the street than new traffic signals.</p>	Boston	MA	02130
Michael	Boussy	<p>Good to see you addressing the need for bike lanes. I like that you are considering a family-friendly bike/walking path as well as dedicated bike lanes for commuters and faster cyclists. That said, cars and bikes NEED to be separated from each other with a physical barrier. A painted line is not enough. Do the right thing and protect cyclists. Decisions made now will save a life in the future.</p>	Dover	MA	02030

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Jacqueline	Mow	<p>Hello DCR,</p> <p>I have been a gardener at the Herter Community Gardener for 25 years. I began gardening when I first moved to Boston to work for WGBH. I would ride my bike back home via the garden. I didn't really know a lot of people when I first moved her so it was amazing to be among a diverse group of people. Eventually I decided to stay in Boston. When I got married my husband came to the plot to weed. And when my daughter was a baby she would lay in her car seat while we planted our tomatoes She is 16 years old now. For the first time, she grew her own tomato plants from seed. There are many families in this garden who have bringing their children for years!</p> <p>I am writing to you because recently the new DCR plan ended up in my email. I was surprised that the plan was so far along. And that no one had asked our opinion about moving. There are more than 75 gardeners at Herter Community Garden. We are of all ages and ethnicities. We come from Italy, Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Russia, Spain, Pakistan, India, etc. Many of our gardeners are elderly and it is their one opportunity to get out and mingle with their community. We love our garden. We love that people walk in and enjoy seeing what the gardeners are growing. They always seem so excited about it!</p> <p>Your plan is to move us down river. But did you take in to account that it is far from the parking lot and the location is more remote? Who would that benefit? Definitely not us! And who would help us move? Many of the gardeners have put up elaborate trellis to grow their vegetables. Some gardeners have already said they would not be able to make such a big move.</p> <p>Please listen to what our members have to say. We are passionate about our garden! Please let us stay and give us some help to beautify it.</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY OUR GARDEN, INSTEAD HELP US BEAUTIFY IT!!!</p> <p>Thank you! Jackie Mow</p>	CAMBRIDGE	MA	02139

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Dunabr	Carpenter	<p>Overall very good</p> <p>I especially appreciate all the additional crossings proposed for SFR, as Allston is unnecessarily cut-off from the Charles River. Additional crossing needed at W End before Arsenal Bridge. Also, pay attention to crossings safety design (e.g. use curb bump-outs, raised crossings, bollards, tight roadway turn radii, and good lighting. Pedestrian deaths are up and most occur on arterial roadways with poorly designed crossings.</p> <p>I also really appreciate the road diet and general re-orientation of SFR from a highway (DCR has a backlog of needed road diets so I hope you carry this forward with urgency e.g. on Memorial Drive, and SFR/Storrow downstream). The proposal is a vast improvement, but several points are important to consider further.</p> <p>First, experience tells us drivers will use any space given to them unless physical and perceptual barriers exist, so it's imperative that the SFR bike lanes have physical separation for safety reasons. Drivers will see the bike lane as a shoulder, pull-over area, and safety buffer encouraging them to speed. Ideally the bike lanes would be grade separated from the roadway; at least they need posts, preferably solid, as drivers regularly plow over flexposts which then need frequent replacement.</p> <p>Second, if the shared path is supposed to be considered the primary "safe" bike route, it needs to be wider, as pedestrian-bike conflicts will occur frequently with a 12' width (e.g. biker passing a dog-walker or another biker + pedestrian will have barely enough space). Proportional speed difference between bikes and pedestrians is similar to that between cars and bikes, so either separation or generous space is needed.</p> <p>Finally, access points to/from both the shared path and the bike lanes are important to consider, particularly in light of the existing design shortcomings e.g. if I'm a cyclist encountering a busy shared path it should be easy to access the bike lane.</p> <p>I prefer alternative 2 for the boathouse</p>	Somerville	MA	02143

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Sarah	Cohen	<p>Dear DCR,</p> <p>I am writing to ask that the Herter Garden remain in its current location in the park. It is a vital community of people from many different cultures and is enjoyed by both the gardeners and those that are visiting the park. I am a gardener and many many passersby have questions about this or that flower or vegetable or just stop to chat. The garden was founded many years ago with a mission and I hope it remains as a space for learning about sustainability and as a model of what a rich diverse community looks like.</p> <p>Thank you very much for considering our plea.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sarah Cohen Boston, MA</p>	Boston	MA	02128
Anphlo	Dubouloz	This community garden adds charm to this section of Charles River. Besides, it is a hub of connection for immigrant communities and people of color. In these times of food insecurity and climate change it is a disgrace to destroy such an old organic community garden that is bringing so much to the community at large. Please do not destroy! Thank you	lincoln	MA	01773
Julianne	Kloza	Please please please do not move this garden. It has been cultivating for over forty years- a strong and beautiful community has been built around this space and by uprooting and relocating it you risk completely destroying that community. Not to mention the soil has been enriched and all of the environmental impacts of starting a garden in a less than ideal location. You can still build out a lawn while keeping the garden intact! Please please reconsider this piece of the plan. Thank you.	Somerville	MA	02145
Catherine	Stabile	<p>Please keep Herter Community Garden where it is! Relocating a garden takes many years, assuming the new site is even comparable- soil must be developed and enriched, invasive plants constantly removed, and physical structures rebuilt. To undo the 45 years of work at the current location would be a disservice to all those who garden there and those, like myself, who admire the gardens.</p> <p>In addition to being a flat, sunny, established garden site, the current garden has plenty of nearby parking and a central location that invites passers-by to engage with the gardeners and gardens. The proposed location has a fraction of the parking. Would gardeners even be able to find a spot to park to tend their garden?</p> <p>Many of the gardeners are older, people of color and immigrants; all of the gardeners rely on what they are able to grow. It is socially unjust to take away what they have built and force them to start over. A better view is not a reason to alter how and what people are able to feed their families.</p> <p>Instead of eliminating the garden at its present location, find a way to treat it like the vibrant jewel that it is. Make it a centerpiece of your design and consider it an opportunity for increased community building and education.</p>	Newton	MA	02462

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Erika	Kim	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm writing to demand the DCR to not destroy the Herter Community Gardens as part of the Park master plan. Although I'm not a member and no longer a MA resident, these gardens provide a wonderful space for the people who are. Not only do they provide food, but they are a beautiful space to sit and observe. When I lived in Somerville, I very much enjoyed running, walking, and riding past the the Herter Community Garden. I took in the beauty and enjoyed watching the members tend their plots.</p> <p>The proposed plan would tear apart both the garden itself and the web of community and sociability that have characterized it for all these years. A lawn would not be as beneficial to the community as productive gardens. In a time of food insecurity and climate destabilization we should be expanding community gardens, not "consolidating" them.</p> <p>Leave the Herter Community Garden where it is!</p> <p>Thank you, Erika Kim</p>	Columbus	NE	68601
Corinne	Beaugard	<p>I am both an organic farmer and a doctoral candidate at BU School of Social Work. As I occupy these dual roles, I am bewildered by the plan to pursue gentrification over the community's needs. Food justice and food sovereignty are integral to the survival of a free and just society, which we prize here in MA. We are able to support a clean and safe environment for all citizens here and we are privileged in this opportunity, which should be a right.</p> <p>Community gardens have always offered the opportunity for safe social interaction AND in the era of COVID the socio-political safety is now extended to physical safety, which exists in fewer places than ever before.</p> <p>This small plot is worth more than its value in riverside beautification to the people who value their time working with their bodies to generate food and community. The DCR should also value what this plot of land means to its stewards.</p> <p>Additionally, as a community garden, this piece of urban land is contributing to biodiversity, food for pollinators, and does not require any of the chemical inputs used by city maintenance crews.</p> <p>Altogether this plan generates a net loss. I hope the DCR can acknowledge this and come to a more ethical and sound decision.</p> <p>Corinne Beaugard, MSW 201-739-6129</p>	West Newton	MA	02465

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Daniel	Hast	<p>I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed destruction of Herter Community Garden, a beautiful 45-year-old organic community garden that is the cornerstone of Herter Park and provides enormous, irreplaceable value to the community. As a longtime gardener and Allston-Brighton resident, I am horrified that such a reckless, destructive plan is even being considered.</p> <p>The plan claims it would "relocate" the garden to a site about a quarter mile away. This would be an utter disaster: An established organic garden cannot be "relocated". The garden has a thriving, fertile soil ecosystem that took decades of enrichment and cultivation to build up, all of which would be destroyed by the proposed "relocation". Established design features like fences, trellises, paths, and long-lived perennial plants are also not transferable. The impact of the proposal would not be to "relocate" the garden but to destroy it completely.</p> <p>The proposed relocation site is also completely unsuitable for a community garden. The site is sloped, wooded, filled with invasive plant species, and has poorly-draining, depleted soil. Who is going to want to take a plot in a "garden" where you'd struggle to grow anything but weeds? The proposal would destroy the beautiful, fruitful existing garden and effectively replace it with nothing.</p> <p>Third, the proposed destruction of Herter Community Garden poses serious issues of equity, racial justice, and language justice. Herter Community Garden is a community of mostly older residents, people of color, and immigrants. Many of the gardeners have limited English skills and only learned of this destructive plan a few days ago. They have not been adequately consulted on the proposed destruction of a longstanding, essential community space.</p> <p>Community gardens are crucial for addressing urban food insecurity, protecting pollinators, and maintaining livable cities in the face of climate disaster. Do not destroy what makes Herter Park unique and beautiful!</p>	Boston	MA	02134
Xin	Lo	Please please save Herter community garden !! Save our nature!!! 🙏🙏	Cambridge	MA	02139
Diana	Weiske	<p>Hello, as a long time resident of Brighton who has walked (and previously ridden bikes w/my young son) along the Charles - we've parked in that adjacent parking lot to the Herter community garden, I'm asking that the garden remain as it is - a community garden. We should be expanding community gardens, not eliminating them. The proposal statement "enhance the river views" is nonsense - there is a river view between the garden and the river itself. Please do not destroy this lovely community garden.</p> <p>Diana Weiske</p>	Brighton	MA	02135
James	Vander Poel	You're going to replace a producing, loved garden with lawn? Insane. The lawn will produce nothing, and require upkeep which will mean wasting fossil fuels and probably using toxic chemicals (I'll bet you'll want to use glyphosate on it, yes?). The whole idea is just counter-productive and ridiculous. Shame on you for acting like just another bunch of planet plunderers.	Northborough	MA	01532-1307
J	HawkOwl	DO NOT take away gardening and food producing land from the people. We do NOT need more lawns. We do need more personal and community gardens.	Sunderland	MA	01375

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Hilary	White	<p>I am a member of the Herter Intercommunity Garden, and I am writing to express my significant dismay at the proposed plan to move our garden space. The Herter Garden has been a part of the park for 45 years, representing a diverse, vibrant community committed to organic sustainable food systems and educating the public.</p> <p>As a garden, we have spent 45+ years investing in soil remediation and organic farming techniques, not to mention fencing, thousands of feet of water pipeline, well infrastructure, etc. Rebuilding the garden infrastructure in the new location will cost thousands of dollars and require hundreds of hours of physical labor - costs that our community will simply not be able to afford. We pride ourselves on keeping access open & affordable (annual membership is only \$40), and the move will cause undue hardship.</p> <p>The garden is an important safe community gathering space and place for education. From its spot at the entrance to the park, every visit I make to the garden prompts questions from folks walking past about what we are growing, what organic gardening entails, and why sustainable food systems / community gardens are important. We serve as educators in the Brighton community. Moreover, the garden serves as a safe outdoor social space during the on-going pandemic.</p> <p>It is deeply concerning that the Master Plan has gone forward without greater input from our garden community. Many of our members were not aware of the plan to move the garden until 2 weeks ago. Our members are diverse across age, race, economic background, and education level -- many with limited English skills and access to email, internet, etc. to learn about & comment on this plan. There have been few opportunities for these gardeners to let their voices be heard.</p>	Somerville	MA	02144

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Eric	Helmuth	<p>I strongly urge the DCR to preserve Herter Community Garden by amending the Herter Park Master Plan to incorporate, not obliterate, this important community resource where it is now located. The proposed relocation has many problems of access, soil health and sunlight. It is not in any way an acceptable solution.</p> <p>In the face of climate change, empowering our communities to grow their own food is ever more important. Our open space and recreation planning should embrace these elements, not seek to clear them for lawn space.</p> <p>In my town of Arlington, where I serve as an elected member of our Select Board, the community has welcome community food gardens in our parks in prominent locations. These gardens bring people together, teach adults and children about organic, local food production, and they are beautiful.</p> <p>I also serve on the board of Lexington Community Farm, where the community came together to persuade the town to valuable real estate for local, organic food production.</p> <p>These are the priorities of a great many Massachusetts residents. I urge you to listen and stay on the right side of history. Please find a way to incorporate Herter Community Garden where it now stands into the Master Plan.</p>	Arlington	MA	02476
Meghan	O'Connell	I strongly oppose any destruction or reduction of the Herter Community Garden. It is a beautiful and wonderful shared garden in Boston that deserves to have more space, not less! The Herter Garden is even used by young students from the nearby German School to learn valuable lessons about the human connection with the natural world. The garden as a whole is used by so many people of all backgrounds and ages. The garden provides food for critical pollinators and birds in our area, and gives many people the opportunity to be closer to nature and even grow their own food. Please protect the Herter Community Garden!	Watertown	MA	02472
Nancy	Stehfest	The importance of locally sourced everything could not have been made clearer by Covid. Rather than demolishing the garden use it to engage the community in healthy activity and food source.	South Hamilton	MA	01982
Diane	Redmond	Please save the Herter Community Garden! It has been a part of the landscape for over 20 years. It doesn't make any sense to relocate it to the garden area at the Northeastern Boathouse. Relocation would require cutting down several trees. Parking is limited so gardeners would have to haul their plantings and material to the gardens. Flowers bring pollinators that promote growth of plants. A garden helps to restore, renew and replenish the earth. With our country in a climate warming trend it makes sense to keep the garden where it is currently located.	Brighton	MA	02135

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Adlai	Gordon	<p>Save the Herter Park Garden! Save the Herter Park Garden! Save the Herter Park Garden! Save the Herter Park Garden!</p> <p>I have never been involved with the garden but I am a member of the community who walks by every day for 10 years and I love seeing the plants and community. The garden takes up a small amount of space but creates a rich denseness of beauty and community.</p> <p>Save the Herter Park Garden! Save the Herter Park Garden! Save the Herter Park Garden! Save the Herter Park Garden!</p>	Allston	MA	02134
Gail	Fleischaker	<p>Destroying a 45-year-old garden and replacing it with a lawn to "enhance river views" makes absolutely no sense! The garden is an enriched and enriching use of this park space -- it provides needed sustenance to its community and is itself an attraction that already brings park visitors to appreciate its river views.</p> <p>Destruction of an active and productive garden in order to plant a lawn is a travesty on so many levels!</p>	Shutesbury	MA	01072-9785
Gail	Fleischaker	I urge you NOT to destroy the Herter Park garden. It is an asset to the Park and necessary to the community that tends. Its arbitrary destruction would be cruel.	Shutesbury	MA	01072-9785
Rosemary	Malfi	I am submitting this comment on behalf of the Massachusetts Pollinator Network, a program housed within NOFA/Mass. The Massachusetts Pollinator Network is a statewide coalition of community groups and organizations working to protect pollinator health and biodiversity across the Commonwealth. Our network strongly supports members of the Herter Community Garden in their demand to keep the garden in its current location, where people have spent decades cultivating healthy soil, nutritious food, forage for pollinators, and community connections. The history associated with this location, its visibility and educational value to the public, and the work invested in generating fruitful growing conditions make it irreplaceable. We respectfully request that DCR reconsider its plan to "relocate" the community garden as part of the Herter Park redesign. Doing so would not serve the active stewards of this land; nor would it serve the pollinators that benefit from the resources the garden provides. Expanded pollinator habitat and community access to fresh food should take priority over aesthetic choices in the planning process.	Florence	MA	01062

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Carol	Harrington	<p>Dear DCR,</p> <p>Herter Community Garden is a precious resource for Brighton that I urge you to preserve and support. Charming and historic, it has provided organic food, nature, and connection to members of the community for over a half century!</p> <p>To destroy this jewel, would, IMO, be a crime against all the people DCR is supposed to serve. It would particularly impact Communities of Color and local immigrant immigrants who rely upon it. In this time of food insecurity and climate change, to destroy a community garden is, IMO, a thorough disgrace.</p> <p>I truly believe that you can find another way of proceeding.</p> <p>Sincerely, Carol Harrington</p>	Arlington	MA	02476
Janet	Jensen	<p>Lawns do not support birds, bees, butterflies and other caterpillars. They do not support the environment. This community garden is supporting communities of humans as well. It would be a travesty to tear this up and replace it with a lawn.</p>	Monterey	MA	01245
Sandra	Thompson	<p>i cannot envision a good reason to take the Herter garden away for the sole purpose of planting grass. It would be irresponsible environmentally and tragic for those people who have put years of work and dedication into their gardens. It has been a source of health, recreation, and food for the humans involved, and has served to enrich the earth and provide food for valuable pollinators.</p> <p>Why would you want to plant grass that, I'm sure, would be chemically fertilized, require mowing, and, of course need watering. For what purpose?</p> <p>Please, please reconsider this plan which would take something precious away. Relocating the garden is clearly not an alternative! I urge you to reconsider.</p>	Winchester	MA	01890
Louise	Shwartz	<p>While a view of the river is nice - it's just that... a view. A community garden is LIFE to a community (that's why it's called a community garden as it grows a lot more than just plants.). Think of the purpose of Herter Park and ask yourself if mowed grass fulfills the mission.</p>	S. Dartmouth	MA	02748

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Elizabeth	Flanagan	<p>I am submitting a comment to support the Herter Community Garden as an critical community asset that should not be moved. The chosen site will not be beneficial to the garden or the gardeners and will negate 45 years of organic farming practice and infrastructure that this community has built.</p> <p>I have had the privilege of participating in this community for only a short time as a gardener - I can't describe the joy of getting to garden for the first time in my life and the feeling you get when walking up to the fence literally bursting at the seams with an abundance of produce, flowers, and buzzing pollinators. As a park visitor, I have admired the colors and variety of plants. As a gardener, I have cultivated zinnias, tomatoes, and acquaintances of many and diverse backgrounds.</p> <p>The Herter garden provides interest and activity to the park. By all means, create a *new* community garden at the proposed site next to the Charles River Community Garden - there is certainly demand! - but do not destroy the existing unique community asset of Herter Community Garden. The community has put in too much work and love to be asked to start from scratch and I believe removing the existing garden will be to the detriment of all park users who benefit from the sights, smells, and sounds of the garden and chance encounters with gardeners happy to talk plants or share in their harvest. Please keep this garden intact and accessible to the gardeners and community as a whole.</p>	Arlington	MA	02474
Madison	Bishop	As a long time Brighton resident I wholeheartedly oppose the plan to demonish the community garden at Herter Park. The garden is a sustaining community space primarily cultivated by elderly residents of color, and for decades has provided space for local families to grow healthy food and learn about sustainable gardening practices. It would be a blow for Brighton at large to lose this valuable and longstanding resource, and the proposed relocation site is laughably insufficient.	Boston	MA	01035
Janice	Kahn	<p>I am writing in opposition to the planned destruction of the Herter Community Garden. For 45 years this garden has provided a source of nourishment, a sense of community and a measure of stability - ever so much more important these days as the fabric of communities across the Commonwealth has been damaged by the impacts of Covid-19. From an environmental standpoint, and given the current need to address the ongoing climate crisis, shifting this land from nutrient-rich productive acreage to a lawn which wastes water and often puts toxic chemicals into the groundwater makes no sense.</p> <p>I urge the Department to rethink the broader costs of this plan.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Janice Kahn, TMM P15, Brookline MA</p>	Brookline	MA	02467
Carol	Bedrosian	Please leave this organic community garden intact! We need to do everything we can to preserve in-person community life , and especially that which relates to healthy food. Organic gardening is by far the superior option for protecting the future of our planet and race. And protecting communities is sacred in this virtual age. Please leave the Herter Community garden intact. Thank you!	Uxbridge	MA	01569

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Art	Kreiger	<p>I understand that DCR is proposing to eliminate the existing community gardens and put a new one elsewhere in the park, primarily in the name of enhancing river views. As a long-time Belmont resident and environmental lawyer, I know that DCR is doing many good things, but this is a big step in exactly the wrong direction. Established food gardens can't be moved around like benches; we're finally learned that that's not how soil and microorganisms work. And moving this garden also would be inimical to the principles of environmental justice for the people who have been farming there for decades. DCR and Halvorson can and must be more creative to achieve their other objectives for the park without destroying this major community asset.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Art Kreiger</p>	Belmont	MA	02478
Tate	Sakiyama	<p>I have a client who lives in Allston who gets their vegetables from this park, and it's essential for the family to have access to this very important resource!</p> <p>Tate Sakiyama, LICSW Director of Person-Centered Services Advocates</p>	Framingham	MA	01701
Suzzanne	Cromwell	<p>Dear DCR Friends: As a member of a thriving community that is deeply entrenched in its own incredible local food system, it is truly heart breaking to see the possible loss of this inspiring growing space that is Herter Community Garden. In a time when socialization is critical, as well as mental and physical health, the destruction of this garden could bring catastrophic consequences to the families who depend on the wholesome food, physical and mental activity, and lifelong bonds that are all a part of the profound role Community Gardens play in communities the world over. To members of DCR who are hopefully reading these comments, PLEASE reconsider your plans to destroy this important social and environmental ecosystem. Countless families are depending on you to do the compassionate and right thing and preserve this lush space for decades to come. THANK YOU so much for your time.</p> <p>-- Suzzanne Cromwell, Lowell MA</p>	Lowell	MA	01852
Leah	Rumsey	<p>I'm was so surprised to learn that this project would displace a community garden, which seems to be preforming many of the things we would want a park to do - creating community, connecting people to local ecosystems in meaningful ways, and fostering healthy movement outdoors. I work in the Boston area and hope that it might be possible to consider ways to do this project without displacing/relocating a garden that seems to be an important use of park space.</p>	Westminster	MA	01473

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Margaret	Schultz	Community ORGANIC gardens represent a huge investment of time and energy on the part of the urban gardeners. In this case, the garden has been organized and running for 45 years!!! Doing anything to disrupt this particular garden is a blow to the vibrant community that has built it, to climate remediation it is providing, and to the network of immigrants and People of Color who are drawn to it. It is clear that whomever came up with the "brilliant" idea to move the garden has never been a gardener. To grow things successful in an organic manner requires untold hours of work to build up the soil...not to mention the infrastructure (paths, trellises, drainage, etc) that go along with it. This is one BAD idea at a time when we need GOOD ideas for getting MORE people growing things they can eat, and doing so organically. And this idea is because....? someone thinks a LAWN with "enhanced river views" is more desirable than a 45- year-old vegetable/flower garden with 70 plots managed largely by immigrants and people of color. I say, if that's the case, We the People need to look again at our moral values!!!!	Haydenville	MA	01039
Catherine	Vasilakis-Scaramozza	As a former Brighton resident, and long time Massachusetts resident, I am disappointed to see that DCR wants to rip out the 45-year-old organic Herter Community Gardens along the Charles River in Brighton, relocate them to a substandard sloped area, and replace them with a LAWN. Lawns should never go along a river, they don't absorb storm water, are often treated with chemicals, and don't support one single pollinator or feed a citizen. The health of the land, the river, and foremost, the communities should be a top priority for DCR and this proposal seems to disregard them all. I strongly urge DCR to reconsider their plan to move the Herter Community Gardens. Regards, Catherine Vasilakis-Scaramozza	Topsfield	MA	01983
Rebecca	Fellin	Providing healthy food opportunities that are affordable and bring communities together are rare in many cities. This community garden has been supplying healthy food for decades to gardeners and the community. Relocating it to anywhere else deprives the community of this healthy food source. It is impossible to replace over 40 years of soil enhancement, ease of public access from a convenient location with public transport nearby and all of the garden improvements. It would be a tragedy to remove all of these benefits and relocate the garden as it deprives the community of a food source as the alternative location is not equivalent in those aspects. Nutritional needs and community needs for healthy lifestyles should be heavily weighted in the decision making process. Green lawns with better views do not provide the community the same benefit as a garden supplying healthy food. Please do not deprive this community of their garden at a convenient location as it benefits the community more than any other land purpose. As a fellow gardener, I fully understand the importance of local, easily accessible gardening space to provide healthy food options. These opportunities should be increased in Massachusetts. Gardens should not be moved to undesirable gardening locations to accommodate other requests in Master Plans.	Natick	MA	01760

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Giovanni	Martines	<p>This DCR plan to destroy Herter Community Garden is unfair and heartbreaking.</p> <p>I am 75 yrs old; I have been in this garden for 16 years, working every day, to have our garden fully functional.</p> <p>We cannot accept, and strongly oppose to be evicted and moved to a place where there is no fence, no shed, no electricity, no water pump no water irrigation system.</p> <p>We cannot start all over again; it requires time, money and a lot of work that many of us cannot afford anymore.</p> <p>PLEASE STOP THIS PLAN; DON'T DESTROY OUR WORK; DON'T DESTROY OUR GARDEN.</p>	Medford	MA	02155
Katy	Allen	<p>There is such a huge need for urban gardens and food sustainability in this age of shifting climates and rampant environmental injustice. Preserving the organic gardens at Herter park helps bring greater food security to the families and the neighborhood. Let it survive!</p> <p>Rabbi Katy Allen Founder, Jewish Climate Action Network - MA</p>	Wayland	MA	01778
Daniel	Bollen	Please do not remove the community gardens. If anything, gardens should be expanded upon.	Allston	MA	02134
Susan	Ronstrom	Do not remove, destroy or change the Community garden as part of this plan. You are destroying a long-term community benefit that allows people who want to directly be involved in the growth of their own food and to bring the cohesion to the community overall. Community gardens has a huge positive social impact, lowers theft and illegal activity, builds cross-cultural bridges and far outweighs any generalizing to that small section of land. Please see the massive success of our recently built Healy Community Garden at Healy Field in Roslindale which was done working partnership with the City of Boston Parks Dept.	Boston	MA	02131

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Sheppard	Ferguson	<p>Please preserve the Herter Park Community Garden where it is. The master plan has at least two fallacies: 1. That a "lawn" will enhance the landscape/view - it will do little to change it. 2. That a lawn in a useful addition to the landscape - it is useless as a natural habitat and does nothing to enable native planting.</p> <p>While I think the community garden should be preserved. If it is replaced, a natural meadow should replace it, not a lawn.</p> <p>Throughout the growing season, my family and I find the the Community Garden an interesting as part of our regular walks along the Charles, frequently full of surprises.</p> <p>Sheppard Ferguson</p>	Watertown	MA	02472
Maurizio	Cattaneo	<p>Make me a champion of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love. Where there is injury your pardon Lord, Where there is doubt, true faith in You. Where there is despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness only light. Where there is sadness ever joy. Oh Master grant that I shall never seek, to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as love with all my soul. Please save Herter Community Garden.</p>	Quincy	MA	02169
William	Morales	<p>I'm saddened to learn about your plan to relocate Herter Garden.</p> <p>Herter garden belongs exactly where it has been since the very first year it was created, it's more than old people grown tomatoes, it's great place to learn, get to know your neighbors, and connect with the community.</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY HERTER GARDEN</p>	Boston	MA	02128
Syrah	McGivern	<p>Community gardens provide an opportunity for residents to connect to eachother and the environment. They are especially important at this moment where people need mental help from the effects of the pandemic - digging in the dirt helps people heal and they contribute to food security which is at an all time high. Please do not destroy the community garden. If there is an ecological problem with its location in the park please move the existing community garden to a more suitable spot in Herter Park.</p> <p>We need more community gardens in the Commonwealth, not less.</p>	medford	MA	02155

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Thomas	Crowley	<p>The Herter Community Garden should remain where it is. For years, it has provided nourishment of all kinds to its members, park users, and surrounding neighborhoods. The nourishment of the outdoors, of the food produced, the flowers that provide beauty. Above all, by bringing together a deeply diverse population, the garden has truly nourished a sense of community that crosses generations, ethnicity, race, and national origin. The tsunami of new construction on both sides of the Charles River is disorienting, remaking entire neighborhoods. DCR should not sweep away this garden oasis as well.</p> <p>This tract of land is part of the character of the river and parkland. Garden members have been devoted stewards to their plots, attentive to the adjacent land and water, and their work benefits all of us who enjoy this open space. Their very presence make the area safer and more welcoming.</p> <p>Finally, I note that the DCR allows a number of facilities to operate along the Charles River that provide scant access to the public. Boathouses affiliated with local universities or operated as private clubs take up far more space and impede more views.</p>	Brighton	MA	02135
Laura	Knott	I urge you, please, to reconsider your plan to move the Herter Community Garden. Failure to do so will not only cause irreparable harm to a community that is a model for the kinds of cooperation and care that are so urgently needed, but will also cause serious damage the DCR's reputation as a steward of the Commonwealth's natural resources. The Herter Garden community has spent decades doing what many more of us should be doing: cultivating relationships across ethnicities and with the land itself. Their long history of improving and managing the garden is irreplaceable. They deserve your support.	Brookline	MA	02446-2200
Wendy	Schwartz	<p>I am an Allston property owner and I am opposed to moving the Herter Community Garden. I feel it should remain where it is. When making planning decisions, authorities should take into account community involvement and should also change areas that are blighted, NOT areas that are productive, used by many, and appreciated by all. There are many other locations people can view the river. Please do not destroy something as valuable as the Herter Community Garden!</p> <p>Please re-think this plan!</p>	Allston	MA	02134-4562

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Stephanie Jo	Kent	<p>To DCR staff and Commonwealth policymakers,</p> <p>The Herter Community Garden is a stunningly beautiful example of what multicultural America can and should be.</p> <p>It's a travesty that the idea of destroying the garden has made it this far in the planning process. Please do not disregard the human beings by disrespecting their labor, time and energy in generating so much beauty, sustenance, intercultural relationships, joy, friendships, health and healing for the planet in these troubled times.</p> <p>Planners need to stop thinking about how to weather the short-term backlash and refuse to frame this kind of destruction as somehow incidental, 'too bad so sad.' We see you. Going forward with this part of the plan is disrespectful and inhumane. To destroy it would ignore and devalue all the best characteristics of human being.</p> <p>The river can be viewed from many places. This one particular spot is not critical. Whatever visions of use are being imagined for that lawn, they can never replace the vibrant spirit of humans, plants, pollinators, and all of the rich ecosystem of an active community garden.</p> <p>Be more creative, find another vision. Do not fail to protect such an outstanding example of human cooperation and striving. The members of Herter Community Garden, the gardeners and planters and waterers and all those who play among the plants or simply stroll by to admire the beauty and soak in the laughter -- they are living the American Dream!</p> <p>Choose decisively NOT to pile cynicism on top of sarcasm. Do not to let stereotypes or bias lessen your valuation of what true community is and can be. Stop contributing to the degradation of hope.</p> <p>sincerely, steph</p>	Belchertown	MA	01007
Devan	Ferreira	<p>Please update your plan to INCLUDE instead of MOVE the community garden at Herter.</p> <p>This existing community garden can enrich the landscape and FEED a community, a lawn cannot feed anyone.</p> <p>Re-imagine the master plan to accept and include the current garden-maybe invest in upgrades to make it more aesthetically pleasing to those who do not garden there.</p> <p>Relocating is not a solution.</p>	Haverhill	MA	01830

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Eddie	Smith	<p>In a time of escalating food prices and possible starvation, The Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) must be convinced that "enhanced river views" cannot be eaten but food can be eaten. Furthermore, the proposed "consolidated" garden area should be expanded, as an example of Boston's commitment and promotion that food and environment are foremost important and should be initiated throughout the nation.</p> <p>It is estimated that between 2% to 4% of the U.S. population produces food for the entire nation. During World War II, 40% of the U.S. food came from Victory Gardens and backyard gardens.</p> <p>After World War II, America was vastly modernized and food production became concentrated on to large industrial farms. These mono-crop farm products would then be flown across the nation and from overseas to big box stores. These stores utilize a just-in-time inventory approach to minimize storage costs of three days, so if trucks came to a halt, the shelves would be bare after three days. Just think of a New England blizzard and the bread, milk, and other essentials leave empty shelves in a day!</p> <p>To conclude, local gardens are FOOD INSURANCE! The momentum of a pandemic should be utilized to propel our efforts as a nation to re-balance our food supplies to be much more local. Furthermore, the gardeners of the U.S. are has grown more diverse; diversity in the gardens betters the chances of success, as gardeners, by nature, want all of gardeners to succeed.</p>	Newton	MA	02464
Carol	Koskelowski	Please do not move Herter Community Garden. The garden nurtures the soil and nurtures the local community. Moving it even a quarter mile will uproot members who have built the soil for years.	Medford	MA	02155

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Claire	Barker	<p>I am very concerned about DCR's proposal to move the community garden close to the moat. Having read your entire proposal, I urge DCR to listen closely to users of the garden and support the community-building that goes into the gardens.</p> <p>DCR's report gives short shrift to the community garden, noting in the June 2021 presentation that it is not a currently permitted use. The latest proposal says very little: "The two community gardens in the reservation are west of the island. One garden is poorly sited, crowds the edge of the moat, and takes up valuable land near the river. This public garden has a more cluttered appearance than some, such as those in the Southwest Corridor Park. New fences that should have given a sense of order and coherence to the site were not set back sufficiently to allow for a landscaped edge along public paths. Screening the visual clutter of garden sheds and equipment should be a priority. The gardening activity helps to animate this part of Herter Park, and provides a degree of public safety."</p> <p>DCR acknowledges the importance of community gardening at this part of the Herter Park site and that it located the fences inappropriately, but then proposes moving it. Why not fix the issues at the site and let the garden continue? Community gardening IS a valuable use of this land, especially for low income elders and communities of color who live nearby in these perilous times of economic uncertainty. The park should NOT be reconfigured without accommodating all the folks who now use it.</p> <p>If DCR ignores community input and goes ahead with moving the garden, DCR should guarantee a site with comparable access, sunlight and amenities, including a soil base prepared by DCR comparable to what is abandoned.</p>	Boston	MA	02130
Leilani	Roser	<p>I strongly oppose the plan to relocate the decades old community garden. Who does this plan even serve? I love seeing community gardens when I walk through the city, and this one is no different.</p> <p>Why is the DCR listening to anyone who would raze a fertile, productive plot of land that marginalized people have been tending for decades to replace it with boring lawns? It's by a park, a river, and a bike path - exactly the kind of space where you would expect to see a community garden.</p> <p>Who proposed this and why are they being prioritized over a community gardening food?</p>	Melrose	MA	02176
Laura	Davis	<p>Please reconsider moving these gardeners away from their sacred soils that grow their food.</p> <p>There must be another way.</p>	Hopkinton	MA	01748
Jasmine	Dhhar	<p>Please keep Herter community garden. It enhances the experience of passerbys and those involved in the garden.</p>	Allston	MA	02134

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Mary	Landale	<p>I don't nor have I ever had a community garden. I do however frequently take walks as well as attend programs at the amphitheater that have me passing by these gardens. Seeing the riot of flowers and food crops growing there has always been a pleasurable part of my experience. More lawn would not add in any aesthetic way to my experience. Nor would a lawn provide the same shelter and food for birds and insects that the garden does. Surely in these times of dwindling biodiversity we want to provide for our fellow creatures where we can. Lawns require maintenance and often chemicals to keep them looking good. The maintenance and any amendments added increase the costs to the city. The gardens are maintained by the gardeners. Lawns are not recommended if we are looking to have best ecological practices. There are plenty of lovely spaces for people to play or picnic there without adding more lawn. The gardens provide a way for urban dwellers to grow some of their own food as well as a wonderful way to build community. Please let the gardens stay and abandon this senseless idea of replacing the gardens with a lawn.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mary Landale</p>	Watertown	MA	02472
Andrew	Dixon	I love the Herter Gardens! It's a sacred space. Please don't demolish it.	Gloucester	MA	01930
Kate	O'Connor	Relocating a longstanding and successful public organic garden is a terrible plan. It takes years to create healthy carbon storing organic soils in a good location. We should be expanding public organic gardens, not relocating and consolidating them in poorer locations. Please reject this plan to turn a vibrant community resource into a green desert.	Florence	MA	01062
Julie	Abramson	Replacing the Herter Community Garden with lawn seems terribly misguided given that research has established the negative impact of lawns on the environment and the lack of contribution by lawns to the needs of pollinators and birds; community gardens contribute to both and also address food insecurity which is a major concern in the community. Please make a decision in the best interests of the community and the environment.	Northampton	MA	01060
Aditya	Nochur	Please preserve the Herter Community Garden at its current location as a valuable resource to the Allston and Greater Boston communities. Thank you.	Somerville	MA	02145
Emily	ONeil	<p>I live near the Herter Garden and ride my bike by it every day on my way to work. Brighton is a community of young people and renters but few of us can stay due to rent hikes and the lack of support and resources for young families in this area.</p> <p>The Herter Community Garden is one of the few places made for healthy living in this part of the city. It is a bright spot and a community resource in an increasingly built-up, paved over, and university-owned area. If anything, the Herter Garden should be a link in a chain of more community gardens aimed at keeping young people healthy, outdoors, and engaged in their surrounding community.</p>	Boston	MA	02135

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Donna	Cuipylo	<p>I have been a community garden member in Boston for about 11 years, and now, in Northampton, MA for the last two. My community garden membership is an essential part of my experience. Through my gardening membership I have found connection to my community. I have established import, diverse friendships. I learned to grow food, and to donate my surplus. I was part of a 'village' where the kids in our community were raised and educated. I learned about organics, about pest control, and about planting and cultivation.</p> <p>It would be a tragic loss to remove the Herter Community Garden - especially now, in the aftermath of the pandemic, with rising food costs and with the isolation so many people have felt this past 18 months. The destruction of the Garden Community would be just yet another blow at a time when we all need healing. A community garden is a place where folks of all political, religious, or socially distinct backgrounds and beliefs can find commonality in a peaceful setting.</p> <p>Please do not close the Herter Community Garden.</p>	Easthampton	MA	01027
Eric	Brown	Please don't move the garden. Thank you	Cambridge	MA	02139
Anne	Williamson	Are you insane? - A well cared for organic garden 45 years old to be replaced with grass in this time of pollinator extinction. Madness. All I can think of saying is shame on you. This garden could be part of a pollinator corridor - if we worked to make it so. Meanwhile, you will be destroying it to be replaced with grass which will likely need pesticides.	Plainfield	MA	01070
Martha	Teghtsoonian	I can think of few worse ideas than to destroy community gardens--places for pollinators, places for vegetables and flowers, places for people to relax and enjoy gardening--and replace them with lawn. A lawn is biologically a dead zone: It contributes nothing to the environment while at the same time requiring frequent maintenance. Please reconsider.	Florence	MA	01062
Michele	Pietras	I urge Mass DCR not to destroy the Herter Community Garden. In this time of quickly advancing repercussions from climate change, the destruction of this garden and replacement with a lawn is certainly counterproductive. A thing of beauty, sustenance, community, and sustainability is being replaced by a lawn! Please rethink this decision. This garden means so much to the garden community, surrounding community, the environment and the creatures that live here.	Granby	MA	01033
David	Marinelli	I support allowing the Herter Community Garden to remain where it is.	Longmeadow	MA	01106
Margaret	Rozek	I am writing respectfully to urge you to fulfill the "conservation" part of DCR and preserve the Herter Park community garden where it is currently located. I belong to a similar garden in Attleboro and can definitely state that community gardens are an asset to the entire community because I have seen it happen in my town. They provide food and community engagement. They are beautiful, peaceful places that are open for anyone to enjoy. They are places of learning for local youth and disability services organizations. They support pollinators and birds. Our community garden was established over 20 years ago after a racial incident to help bring the community together. It has succeeded in this goal-people of all ethnic backgrounds and income levels participate. I have personally experienced each of these benefits of a community garden. Moving the Herter Park garden would destroy its many positive assets to both current gardeners and the entire community. I strongly urge you to keep the garden where it is.	Attleboro	MA	02703

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Marcia	Holden	This organic community garden has a long and meaningful history to not just locals but garden enthusiasts as far away as Northampton. It is an inspiration to community gardeners, and our community has been positively influenced by it for years. In this world, continuity of local gardens, places that help people connect trumps lawn. Hope you agree.	Northampton	MA	01060
Jana	Chicoine	Can the state government find something better to do other than harassing people who are trying to grow a little food for themselves?	Northampton	MA	01061
Amy	Plovnick	I support the proposed road diet for Soldier's Field Road. Slowing down vehicle speeds on the road will make it safer for everyone - cars, pedestrians, cyclists, and people enjoying the riverfront park. I also think its critical to have at-grade crossings to allow more convenient and safer connections from Allston to the river path. I encourage DCR to also consider how people on foot and bikes will safely cross the river on Arsenal Street and the Elliot Bridge. Right now the sidewalk is very narrow and there is no bike lane, leading to safety concerns when trying to cross the bridge. I usually ride on the sidewalk because I don't feel comfortable on the road with high-speed traffic, but there is not enough space for bikes and pedestrians.	Watertown	MA	02472
Kevin	Simon	I am writing in opposition to the DCR mater plan which includes moving the Herter Part Intercommunity Garden. This richness of this garden is in its organic soil that has been cultivated in that spot for the last 45 years and the diversity of the community that will be unnecessarily challenged by relocating the garden and forcing its members to re-establish their plots in new soil. Given how little consideration that our community was given in the planning process, I doubt that we will be given the resources and consideration to successfully relocate our community. Given the industrial history of Boston and Cambridge, proper evaluation of the soil and possible contaminants would need to happen before I would consider relocating with the park. The history of the current location comes with the natural remediation associated with organic farming.	SOMERVILLE	MA	02144
Josh	Rosmarin	I'm writing in favor of the proposed road diet for Soldiers Field Road. Slowing down traffic will make the road safer for everyone, whether it's pedestrians, cyclists, or even drivers! I would also strongly encourage DCR to build better infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists looking to cross the river on Arsenal Street and the Eliot Bridge. Because of the lack of bike lane, I'm forced onto the sidewalk when I want to cross the bridge even when I'm on my bike, which is unsafe for both me and others looking to cross the river.	Watertown	MA	02472
John	McLachlan	You need to adjust your master plan to save this garden in its current location. You can't just 'move' a historic institution like this and expect to keep the history and community that this garden has, and that it brings to those of us who pass through the park.	Boston	MA	02118

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Dan	McKinley	<p>I strongly support the proposed road diet of Soldier's Field Road (SFR) within the project area. The road diet will re-balance road space between road users and provide a coherent and safe Paul Dudley White (PDW) path. The reclaimed roadway will greatly enhance the park.</p> <p>I would like to add the following specific comments on details of the design:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed on-road painted bike lanes do not appear to be compliant with MassDOT design standards. I understand that the lanes were likely included in the design to provide high speed bicyclists with an alternative to the mixed pedestrian/bike environment of the PDW path, however I believe these bicyclists would be more safely accommodated with an upgraded PDW path. Please consider bike and pedestrian separation of the PDW path within the project area. This could, for example, be a 10' bike path and a 5' sidewalk adjacent to one another. Note that regardless of path design it should include a striped center line and bike markings so that all users expect bikes and know to keep right. 2. North-South connections to the PDW path from Telford St and Everett St should follow the Massachusetts Separated Bike Lane design guide to provide safe, off road routes for bicyclists who wish to connect to the path. For example, the concept drawings show no way for a cyclist northbound on Everett St to connect to the PDW path without first traversing the intersection of SFR on the roadway. 3. Please consider upgrading the future pedestrian connection (#4 on concept slide 8) to a shared use path if space allows. 4. Please consider adding safe, separated bike facilities to the Arsenal St and Elliot bridges; both are bike/pedestrian choke points at present which limit the connectivity of the project site. 5. Please consider adding street lighting with dual arm designs to provide dedicated lights to both the PDW path and SFR. 	Watertown	MA	02472
Megan	Lim	<p>Please do Not relocate Herter Community Garden. It is a jewel For the park and the community and it should remain where it is!</p>	Watertown	MA	02472
Elisabeth	Carr-Jones	Community gardens provide a terribly important connection to the land, especially in an urban context. The Herter Community Garden is well established and well loved. Please celebrate it and make it a centerpiece of the Herter Park redesign project.	Arlington	MA	02476
JoAnn	Grigoli	Community gardens are the life blood of the city!! They are often the only space that city dwellers from all walks of life and a variety of ethnicities can come together and grow and share plants and vegetables that have played an important part in their family traditions. Do no destroy this treasure!	Charlestown	MA	02129
JoAnn	Grigoli	Community gardens are the life blood of the city!! They are often the only space that city dwellers from all walks of life and a variety of ethnicities can come together and grow and share plants and vegetables that have played an important part in their family traditions. Do no destroy this treasure!	Charlestown	MA	02129

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Anne	O'Connor	Bee Friendly Williamstown is a network of gardening and pollinator enthusiasts working to preserve pollinator biodiversity in our area of western Massachusetts. Our network strongly supports members of the Herter Community Garden in their demand to keep the garden in its current location. The Herter Garden has a legacy of connecting people to land, permitting them to grow their own food, develop healthy soil and climate resilience, provide forage for pollinators, and build a deep sense of community. The Garden's soil quality, history, visibility, community significance, and educational value to the public will all be lost with the unrealistic proposed "relocation." We respectfully request that DCR maintain Herter Community Garden in its present location as part of the Herter Park redesign. In particular, DCR's proposal to replace the garden with lawn is baffling, as even DCR's own "Growing Wild for Pollinators" program acknowledges that non-native grass lawns provide very little benefit to the ecology, climate and resilience of our natural landscapes. In today's era of climate crisis, DCR should not be destroying vital pollinator habitat, community agricultural benefits, and the carbon sequestered by healthy soils and plants in order to prioritize the aesthetics of a previous century.	Williamstown	MA	01267
Owen	Berson	My mother has a garden plot at Herter community garden which I've had the pleasure to visit. It's one of the oldest organic community gardens in the area with residents having spent years investing in the site, improving the plots and the soil. There is a vibrant multiracial, multilingual and multigenerational community of gardeners including seniors (like my mom), immigrants and people of color. My mom has made amazing friendships with other gardeners who help each other out and check on each other during the pandemic. We need spaces like this where people can grow their own culturally specific food, spend time connecting with the land and each other outside, and build community. There is already plenty of open grassy space in this park, so please do not demolish this garden. "Relocating" the garden is not possible and would be a great loss and setback. I urge you to preserve and support this important community garden in its current location.	Somerville	MA	02143
Anna	DiPerna	Please reconsider your plans to create a lawn along the river. Lawns should never go along a river - they don't absorb storm water, are often treated with chemicals, don't support pollinators or feed citizens.	Manchester	MA	01944
Jill	Eshelman	Community gardens as old as these should be considered as historical places eligible for historical preservation. The concept of changing one of the few biodiverse spaces in the neighborhood of Brighton into a lawn, which has substantially fewer ecological benefits (in fact, lawns are harmful for the environment) goes directly against any prioritization for turning Massachusetts into a greener, more climate resilient state. Furthermore, community gardens in Boston often have wait lists of several years. There are not nearly as many community gardens in Brighton as other parts of the city (such as the South End and Jamaica Plain), and removing the Herter garden would create an even greater disparity in community garden access between neighborhoods in Boston. Many gardeners rely on the crops they grow to access affordable food, meaning that the removal of the garden could also potentially mean that low income residents have substantially less access to fresh produce. Furthermore, the DCR should consider that having a community garden next to the Charles is a far more unique experience than having yet another lawn next to the Charles River. I would urge you to consider all of these factors and to leave the Herter Garden intact.	Quincy	MA	02171
James	Billman	Do not consolidate this garden. There is clear community opposition to the plan for consolidation of this garden. Listen to the community that has stewarded this land as a garden for nearly 50 years.	Brookline	MA	02446

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Phyllis	Benjamin	<p>The Herter Park Master Plan was a bad idea when it was conceived some 20 years ago, and it is still a bad idea. There is no urgent need for additional lawn space in its location; the community garden in its current location is surrounded by ample, beautiful lawn areas. Moving the garden would obliterate 50 years' worth of carefully nurtured organic soil; such a move would be in conflict with the garden's charter. In its current location, the garden is a resource to the entire community, which takes pleasure in viewing the garden plots and interacting with the gardeners. Moving the garden would effectively disenfranchise many of the gardeners, especially those who are elderly or disabled, for whom the proposed new location would be both dangerously isolated and impractically disconnected from the main parking lot.</p> <p>Please reconsider this unnecessary and ill-advised proposal. Thank you.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02139
Diane	Appel	<p>This beautiful garden is the best of what our city and state has to offer, it brings communities together, it contributes to the charm and beauty of this area of Charles river; like a part of the Emerald necklace.</p> <p>This garden is a hub of connection for many communities especially immigrants and people of color, it is a chance to uplift, to educate, to increase healthy living, healthy eating, reduce stress, reduce crime by building self esteem and self respect and the respect of others, with a sense of belonging; belonging to something natural and beautiful and good.</p> <p>Working in a garden together restores humanity, being kind to your neighbor, experiencing first hand what it is to contribute to society and be part of the earth and the community. To plant, to grow, to take care of and to enjoy. These are some of the most precious and uplifting of human experiences.</p> <p>Tending a garden and spending time in a beautiful garden like this, especially in the city, reduces depression, and increases mental health and well being.</p> <p>We need beautiful gardens like this. A place where people can come together and replenish, and be restored.</p> <p>This garden is a refuge and asset in these times of food insecurity and climate change</p> <p>Save this garden!</p>	Watertown	MA	02472

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Eileen	Houben	<p>Dear DCR staff and Halvorson Design planning group,</p> <p>The Herter Community Gardens have been there for over 45 years as (mainly or totally) organic gardens. Parts of it are pollinator gardens, including pollinator larvae...a great achievement. This is not moveable. Attracting pollinators to a new location cannot be guaranteed, especially enough to ensure reproduction.</p> <p>Establishing gardens takes years and lots of work in addition to annual prep and planting. Trying to move established gardens, in which community members have devoted up to 45+ years of hard, loving work, leaves behind soil improvement which would then have to start from scratch, and some perennial plants which can't be easily moved. (e.g. I tried to thin part of my raspberry patch at my home, and it's taken 2 years and is still not grown enough for fruit.)</p> <p>I'm fortunate enough to have room around my house for gardening, most existing residents of Allston -Brighton (not to mention all the potential residents for the ongoing development) do not. We need MORE community gardens added on to existing ones, not destruction & consolidation. Undoing even one to "move" it would be a great setback.</p> <p>If you want to remove invasive species near the boathouse, by all means ADD a garden, and those 2 can share resources. But don't undo a hard-won ecosystem for 'welcoming open space'.</p> <p>The community garden is a welcoming, healthy, complex green space (vs a relatively sterile open lawn maintained with carbon fuel tools)the kind we all need, and the kind DCR was supposed to protect, along with our waterways.</p> <p>Sincerely, Eileen Houben Corey Hill, Brighton</p>	Brighton	MA	02135

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Kathy	Gernhardt	I write to ask this garden remain where it is. The impact of this garden removal would be extensive. Current relationships, safe low cost activities, education, involvement in town life, building awareness of gardening and other cultures, exercise, mental health improvement, preservation of cultures, decrease in violence (community gardens proven to improve safety in neighborhoods), existing ecosystems, existing healthy topsoil, insects and animals, and organic food for many families -- all of these are threatened. The trickle down positive effects from this garden are vast. It would take years and years to restore the damage caused by it's removal. I manage a community garden in Hanson. A clearly vibrant one being threatened breaks my heart. I know what this means to these people. Our community garden saved my life a while ago when I was dealing with severe depression. The garden helped restore my mental health, gave me vegetables when I needed them, introduced me to a support group and got me involved in my town. I am now in two more town committees. I vote at town meetings. My point in saying this is, that when a place is removed that holds people together and that feeds them in so many ways, there is so much else that is destroyed. They don't have options to replace this in their lives. This garden sustains them. And to what cost to the town? What other virtually cost free town or state program provides these benefits and is self sustaining? Moving it really isn't an option either. Rebuilding would take years and a lot of money. They have been feeding and nurturing this soil for 45 years. Please allow this community and garden to remain at its current location and build upon what is there. Build upon the success that is currently there. Augment it and beautify it by creatively surrounding it with other gardens or structures that help support what is currently a success. Please let it stay. Thank you for reading this.	Hanson	MA	02341
Stephen	Gisselbrecht	I'm shocked to learn that there is a plan to remove a garden and replace it with a lawn. There is abundant lawn all around the Herter Community Garden. I live less than half a mile away and run through this park almost every week. There is never any competition for lawn space, while the garden is beloved and heavily used. I am a homeowner in Allston, I do not have one of the plots in the garden, and I am strongly opposed to the idea of getting rid of it.	Boston	MA	02134-1344

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Eric	Kelly	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Please reconsider any plans to demolish and move the Herter community garden to a new location. For 45 years not only has this garden been a staple in the community it is a well established system that would take years to properly rebuild not only the new site but the entire soil web that is found there. Moving this garden might fit in nicely to a plan on paper but it is detrimental to where we all need to be moving as a group and it is a deep personal attack on the community that works these plots.</p> <p>In these times of global food insecurity, community gardens and farms should be expanded upon, while resource hungry lawns and other unsustainable space(s) should be minimized. Gardens like this give people that don't have the land and or resources in general to farm their own food a solid space to work with. Many of these folks that belong to this garden have poured their life blood into their plots. And to ask them to rebuild these spaces at an older age is just not practical.</p> <p>It also provides a vital link to multigenerational learning that is quickly becoming privatized and sold for a profit. Even if DCR was to help on the ground level, it would take many seasons to build this all to the capacity it is running at now.</p> <p>This garden also provides critical habitat to insects and wildlife that does not exist within most of the city.</p> <p>From a business sense how many resources will it take to not only demo/move this garden and rebuild another raw space, but what are the financial costs of mowing and maintaining the proposed lawn? And what are the costs over a 5 year - 10 year period?</p> <p>This space is vital in many ways, please reconsider this plan.</p> <p>Thank You for reading this and considering my input,</p> <p>Eric Kelly</p>	Colrain	MA	01340

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Brittany	Overshiner	<p>I'm writing to ask that you please reconsider moving the Herter Community Garden, as proposed in this plan. I am an organic farmer who has been forced to move because of land access issues 3 times in the last ten years. When you grow food organically and intensively as so many of your garden members do, much of the effort you put into the garden is not realized in the first several years, as the soils grow and improved due to careful bed preparation and the addition of organic matter. Moving to a new location is not apples to apples, all soils are not the same, and established garden soils have incredible value to the grower.</p> <p>Above ground, gardeners have a passion for what they do, which they share with their community. A community garden is as necessary to a community as a post office or library.</p> <p>Please reconsider this move. Instead, consider expanding the garden, adding more plots so others can participate - everyone deserves the opportunity to grow their own food and engage with nature and their community through a garden.</p>	Pepperell	MA	01463
George	Kingston	Community gardens are important for many reasons. They not only provide food but promote and teach horticulture in general and promote community spirit. The garden at Herter Park is organic as opposed to the proposed lawn which will require chemical treatments as well as mowing. I recommend that the proposed Master Plan be revised to allow for the continuation of the community garden in Herter Park. George Kingston, Master Gardener.	East Longmeadow	MA	01028
Naomi	Leavitt	It is unconscionable to destroy this garden which gives back so much to the land and the community in order to create an ecologically useless and detrimental patch of grass. DO NOT DESTROY THE COMMUNITY GARDEN.	Arlington	MA	02476
Amy	Adams	Placing aesthetics over community is exactly what is wrong with this country. Let the garden be!	Wales	MA	01081
Anne	DeSimone	<p>The community garden should not be moved. It has changed and enriched lives for the better, is my understanding.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	Canton	MA	02021
Hilary	Emmons	<p>Herter is an established garden that feeds a diverse group that includes older residents, immigrants, and other vulnerable members of our community. Replacing it with an environmentally unsustainable monoculture lawn would be a terrible shame.</p> <p>The site suggested to move the garden to is insultingly inappropriate for growing food, and disrupting over four decades of work they've put into the soil and infrastructure of the space will cause real harm to these talented gardeners.</p> <p>As an Allston-Brighton resident, let me enjoy the view of thriving gardens and community that is already in place at Herter, not yet another bland, unnatural lawn.</p>	Allston	MA	02134
Carolyn	Guenther King	Keep the organic garden where it is!!!!!! Do not destroy Herter Garden.	Lenox	MA	01240
Emily	Stone	Please keep the organic community gardens!	Greensboro	VT	05841

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Sharon	Saunders	Please leave the Herter Community Garden intact, and design around it. More people are becoming aware of how important it is to have their own food sources. What better way to inform people about ways to grow food that is healthy for people, the soil and the environment than to see people tending their gardens and talking to them about gardening? You may think this doesn't fit in with neat landscaping, but neat landscaping and lawns are killing us (literally, by the use of toxic chemicals to treat lawns and by the destruction of native plants that are needed to support pollinators). Please accept that the standard of beauty we inherited from our English gardening ancestors is not the only standard of beauty, and it is definitely not in line with nature or health. Thank you	Waterville	ME	04901
Ruth	Parnall	What a shame! Hard to believe that DCR officials and professional design advisors think that removing a food security resource IN a neighborhood for the benefit of those passing THROUGH the neighborhood is a good idea! Surely creative minds could have managed to "enhance the view" of the garden as part of the riverway park, meanwhile preserving the human food source, the underserved community social network, and the wildlife value.	Conway	MA	01341
Ian	Tapscott	Community members, not a state body, should have ultimate say over how to steward the land where they live. Food sovereignty is increasingly necessary. The DCR needs to slow their role and respect community members' access to and stewardship of garden space. The state of Massachusetts, in all its self-righteous "do-good" attitude, continues to displace and disenfranchise communities of color, ultimately in the name of increasing leisure opportunities for those who maybe don't have to rely on sustenance gardening to be able to afford access to healthy food. STOP. This is just another form of colonization. STOP. Let people grow food. Stop stealing land. Leave Herter Community Garden alone!	Turners Falls	MA	01376
Jeri	Case	Our planet needs gardens like this more than anything else. There is literally no greater priority. Please change your plan.	Greenfield	MA	01301
Jennifer	Teig von Hoffman	Please don't demolish and consolidate the Herter Park Community Gardens! Especially in the midst of this pandemic and its associated financial hardships, these gardens provide essential food and community. I am a resident of Brighton Center and grateful that so many of my Boston neighbors can participate in the gardens. Please don't disrupt this important community, and source of food.	Brighton	MA	02135

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Gwendolyn	Forbes	<p>I've already signed the petition asking you to keep the Community Garden where it is. I'm not from Boston, though I've lived there in the past. I currently live in Vermont. I've sent the petition to a number of people who aren't Massachusetts residents. I hope you will consider our feedback. The Herter Community Garden is an early and ongoing model of what can and should be done everywhere to encourage people to grow their own food, to build resiliency, and to foster the building of community across diverse cultural groups. To ask people who have built these plots over many years, decades in many cases, to move them to another area makes no sense. It will take the heart out of many of them, especially the elderly for whom this has been a long-time labor of love, way to stay connected with others, and means to remain active and healthy. Moving it to a less visible, less accessible area also reduces interaction with the public which is so valuable, both as a community builder and as an educational opportunity.</p> <p>I hope that rather than moving the garden you will use the outpouring of support from non-local people as a suggestion to publicize it more and highlight all the ways it serves the region. It could be a model on a national scale along with other urban gardens across the country.</p>	Chelsea	VT	05038
LAURA	MCMURRY	<p>This short video (link below) proves the immense value of this organic garden space and shows the diversity and enthusiasm of the gardeners.</p> <p>If this amazing garden was not there, we'd want to create it!!</p> <p>Please, DCR, incorporate this wonderful gem into the Herter Park plans. Rather than destroying it.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2Sj-N0xpso</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	CAMBRIDGE	MA	02139
Anna	Leslie	<p>Community gardens are already in high demand and offer direct access for residents to fresh and healthy food. The benefits of community gardens to physical and mental health are well documented. The State's plans to remove this access point will reduce neighborhood food security and damage community health. Furthermore, the affected community members have not been properly notified or engaged in this proposal.</p>	Brighton	MA	02135

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Monica	Tecca	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I understand that the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) created a Master Plan for the for Herter Park which calls for the complete destruction of the Herter Community Garden. As you know, the Herter Community Garden, founded in 1976 with about 70 plots on about 1/3 acre, has been a hub of organic urban community gardening for almost half a century and is relied upon by local immigrant communities and Communities of Color. Destroying this garden would not only tear apart both the garden itself, but also the web of community that has characterized it for all these years. On a more tangible note, in a time of food insecurity and climate destabilization we should be expanding community gardens - which provide food and nourish the soil and improve our climate - not destroying them.</p> <p>The Herter Garden empowers gardeners to provide healthy food for themselves. Organic gardening practices improve soil health and feed pollinators, which is essential to combating climate change. Every square inch of soil dedicated to this purpose is critical.</p> <p>Please keep the Herter Community Garden in place.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	Marblehead	MA	01945
Eleanor	Jewett	<p>Middle Exit from Parking Lot</p> <p>Maintain Middle Exit in Main Parking Area</p> <p>Do not remove the middle exit from the Main Parking area, PLEASE!</p> <p>Maintain two exits from the Main Parking area.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The middle exit allows for easy access out of the Main Parking Lot in either direction (east or west).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">It also allows for access to Allston without having to drive east to Harvard Street (a busy intersection) or west to Arsenal Street and then having to go through two lights.</p> <p>Keeping the Middle Exit lessens backup in the parking lot.</p> <p>Keeping the Middle Exit decreases the time cars are on the road - better for the environment</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Eleanor	Jewett	<p>Maintain the two-U-TURNS on soldiers Field Road Extension (SFRE)These areexceptionally helpful in both directions. They streamline road traffic. They makeit easier for both local and out-of-town drivers. They decrease the time cars areon the road - better for the environment.</p> <p>Going WEST. Without the one going west, people will be forced to go downto Arsenal St, go through 2 lights, and turn back to SFRE or go down WesternAvenue. This can potentially increase the backup of traffic at that Arsenal exit,which is often very busy. It keeps driver on the road longer.</p> <p>Going WEST. Alternatively, they will stay on SFRE and have to go to therotary toward Newton, which will increase traffic, and leaves cars on the road muchlonger.Going EAST. Without the turnaround, drivers will have to takea longer route and end up on Harvard Street (more traffic and lights) or headinto Cambridge (more congestion and lights.)</p> <p>Let's not increase traffic backup. Let'smake it easier for drivers. Let's decrease the time cars are on the road -better for the environment.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Lynne	Boudreau	<p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>I respectfully ask whomever is considering the removal of the Community Garden at Herter Park to stop and take pause, perhaps go and visit the garden. Our world, our state (I am a native to Massachusetts), our cities and towns need gardens. We need people working the land in responsible and sustainable ways growing healthy food to put into our bodies. We need more connection to the land.</p> <p>These gardens have been a tradition. It is an historical site, in some ways. To destroy it for the purpose of planting grass so that people can view the river? How does that outweigh the benefits and gifts of this community garden?</p> <p>I would so much prefer, if I was a tourist in the city, to see the gardens at Herter Park. Perhaps read about the history and the longevity that the Herter Community Garden has. How is brings people and community together to engage in healthy and productive activities. Learning where food comes from, the best practices to grow the food and care for the land, the soul filling experience working in the garden brings to people.</p> <p>What a gift for people living in the city to be able to grow their own food. It could be such an opportunity for education. Expand on what is happening. there now! Don't tear it down and destroy the livelihood of so many people.</p> <p>In my mind, as a farmer and farm educator, it is not even a question of what is of more value: these gardens or a lawn with a view.</p> <p>We all have a responsibility, especially in these times of food insecurities, to do whatever we can to be growing more food in responsible ways that support people and the land.</p> <p>I hope you strongly consider what I, as well as many, have expressed in the importance of saving The Herter Park Community Gardens. It would be a shame and a disgrace to turn this land that is in purposeful use into lawn for river views.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>	Marlow,	NH	03456
Eleanor	Jewett	<p>Boat houses Why not consolidate the boathouses in one area near theNortheastern University boat house? This would leave more area for publicpicnics and other activities. Is there room in the woodland in the west?</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Dira	Johanif	<p>CRWA Comment #1</p> <p>On June 23, 2021, Charles River Watershed Association ("CRWA") provided comments to the Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR") on the Herter Park Master Plan, currently being prepared by DCR and Halvorson Design and associated subcontractors (collectively, the "Project Team"). We were pleased to see the Project Team reflect input from stakeholders and the public in the Fall 2021 presentations. We also appreciate that the planning work recognizes the importance of preserving the park's history (e.g., the amphitheater and the Herter Center as centerpieces) while planning for its future, including mitigation and managing impacts due to climate change (e.g., flooding, urban heat island). Our comments are in response to the content presented at the September 23, 2021, Stakeholder Meeting #2 and September 29, 2021, Public Meeting #2.</p> <p>CRWA support the following that were proposed in the September 2021 Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increased and improved safe access to the park by pedestrians, bikers, and vehicles- The "Diet Road Concept" and expanded parkland near the Eliot Bridge, both of which result in reduced impervious cover and increased vegetation- Inclusion of a new pollinator meadow- Removal of invasive species and plantings of native species (ecological restoration, restored woodlands)- View terraces to see the Charles River- Preservation of existing wooded areas- Additional access to Amphitheater from the opposite side as the current bridge- Addition of public restrooms	Boston	MA	02111

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Stephanie	Vasiliades	When I heard that the Herter Community Garden was slated to be destroyed, in favor of replacing it with lawn I was aghast! "Not In My Massachusetts" was all I could think! In a time when food insecurity all over the world, and yes, even in Massachusetts, how can this type of proposal even be under consideration? At a time when our planet is suffocating at the grips of burning fossil fuels, how could MY state even entertain such a destructive and deadly thought? Putting in a lawn would require constant use of petroleum powered machines to maintain, not to mention, budgeting monetary compensation for someone to maintain it. As a member of the Northampton Community Gardens for over 20 years, I can attest to the myriad benefits a community garden provides. Not only is it beneficial to our community, as it provides healthy fruits and vegetables to our local food pantries and survival centers but it also serves as a therapeutic venue for both the physical and mental health of those of us who carefully tend, maintain and delight in the fruitful bounties our gardens provide. Gardening our plots requires keeping the soil healthy at a strong microorganismic level all the way up to refortifying it with nutrients needed to keep the soil fertile to produce more vegetation, some of which aids in cleaning the air we breathe. Lastly, COMMUNITY Gardens bring members of a COMMUNITY together for the common purpose of caring for, respecting and enriching one of the cherished parts of our cities. Gardeners willingly and happily take on the responsibility of keeping the space from becoming a neglected eyesore or blot on our beautiful community. What a wonderful teaching experience this provides to the younger generations who accompany their grandparents, parents and caregivers to take care of and beautify our space. Youngsters learn about responsibility, being a member of a community, and even a little science. Please do not replace these positive opportunities with a grass lawn.	Easthampton	MA	01027

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Dira	Johanif	<p>CRWA Comment #2</p> <p>However, given the public presentations focused on particular content and did not address all public input, CRWA requests the project team revisit CRWA's June 23, 2021, comments (in particular, no concrete recommendations for stormwater and drainage as it relates to the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus and bacteria, and climate change were provided in the September 2021 updates), as well as consider the following additional comments based on the information provided during September 2021 by the Project Team.</p> <p>CRWA Comment #3</p> <p>Vehicular Circulation: Soldier's Field Road Diet</p> <p>We urge the Project Team to consider how this option will support various event needs. Can this reduced lane scenario be closed down temporarily for large events that need additional parking?</p> <p>CRWA Comment #4</p> <p>Herter Center Adaptive Reuse: High School Rowing</p> <p>We request that the Project Team produce a summary of the total existing and potential impervious and pervious cover for the two Adaptive Reuse concept alternatives. The park should maintain as many healthy trees as possible throughout the entire area, but specifically in relation to the Herter Center Adaptive Reuse. We request the Project Team compare the total trees and green space that will be removed by the Herter Center Adaptive Reuse. As part of considering alternatives, we request selection of the alternative that minimizes creation of impervious cover and reduces removal of healthy trees be prioritized.</p> <p>Has the team considered using a green roof on the new facility? If not, are there alternatives to reduce urban heat island that can be employed?</p> <p>Note that, as part of the permitting process, CRWA will have additional comments on any proposed addition of a dock.</p>	Boston	MA	02111

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Dira	Johanif	<p>CRWA Comment #5</p> <p>Community Garden Consolidation: Concept Plans</p> <p>We are aware the community has concerns about the plan to consolidate and relocate the gardens. What are the pros and cons of moving the garden? What will be in place of the garden planned to be moved - will it offer an area for stormwater management or is it merely planned to be grassed/lawn area? Is moving the garden necessary for the parking lot or wayfinding configurations? Will the same amount of space be offered in the new location? How, if it all, will plots be relocated? How many mature trees will be removed to make space for the garden move?</p> <p>CRWA Comment #6</p> <p>Moat Landscape: Reconstruction</p> <p>Regarding the moat, we strongly encourage DCR to consider converting the moat into a constructed stormwater wetland, rather than the planned dredging and replanting. Since there is no natural water flow in the moat, these 'restoration' efforts will need to be repeated every 5 years or so to maintain an open channel. We echo the concerns of the community around mosquitos and concerns about vector-borne illness. Converting the moat to a constructed wetland would relieve some of the anticipated maintenance, and improve drainage and water quality to the Charles River.</p> <p>CRWA Comment #7</p> <p>Park Concepts: Enlarged Plans</p> <p>Regarding the new lifeguard station, we request more information on the new lifeguard station, especially as it relates to total impervious cover and reduction of green space/trees.</p> <p>Regarding event/picnic laws, will any of these areas require the use of fertilizers? We would like to see the operation & maintenance program for these areas and hope that will be included in the Landscape Management Plan.</p> <p>As part of the permitting process, CRWA will have additional comments on any proposed docks and river access points.</p>	Boston	MA	02111
Dira	Johanif	<p>CRWA Comment #8</p> <p>Other Comments</p> <p>We request the Project Team include the following in the final Master Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A count of total anticipated trees that will be removed and total trees that will be added, including types, dimensions, etc. 2. Total existing impervious cover and total proposed impervious cover, with the park and the roadway, tallied separately. 3. A discussion on anticipated climate change in this area of Allston that is consistent with the Commonwealth's projections and the mitigation measures that are being included in the elements of the Master Plan. <p>Thank you for considering these comments. We look forward to seeing a full copy of the Herter Park Master Plan.</p>	Boston	MA	02111

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Katharine	Randel	<p>I worked at Harvard Business School for 32 years and Herter Community Gardens was a frequent destination during lunch and after-work hours. The gardens were beautiful and inspiring with the variety of growing plants and arrangements!</p> <p>The proposal to turn this incredible garden into lawn is ill-advised and heartless. It takes years to build quality organic soil. With the garden's 45-year history in this location, replicating the soil in a new location will be next-to-impossible.</p> <p>The garden is also in a perfect location to be enjoyed by children, families, runners, cyclists, and everyone else who uses Herter Park. More than once I have walked the perimeter of the garden with a young niece or nephew (now grand-niece or nephew) identifying plants, birds, and bees. Finding that kind of nature in the city is invaluable.</p> <p>Lastly, there is plenty of goose-poop-filled lawn in Herter Park. I can't understand why you would want to provide more space for the geese!</p> <p>Please leave the invaluable Herter Community Gardens alone!</p> <p>Best regards, Katharine</p>	Waltham	MA	02451
Nate	Deshmukh Towery	This master plan looks stunning. The proposed boathouse improvements and construction should be a great asset for everyone to use, and the improvements to transportation in the corridor should greatly enhance both the conservation and recreation aspects of DCR's mission. Additional safe space for those walking and bicycling in the master plan area is an excellent and most welcome improvement. thanks!	Boston	MA	02130
Julia	Mejia	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to offer my support for the Herter Intercommunity Garden in their fight to preserve their space in light of the upcoming decision on the Herter Park Master Plan. The Herter Intercommunity Garden, founded in 1976 with about 70 plots on ~1/3 acre, has been a hub of organic urban community gardening for almost half a century and is relied upon by local immigrant communities and communities of color. Our garden is an important part of the Boston community, serving as a source of education on organic gardening practices / importance of local, sustainable food systems, in addition to being a safe social space during the on-going pandemic. It is critical we preserve this intercommunity garden.</p>	Boston	MA	02201

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Andre	Compagna	<p>Very impressed with the plans and particularly the road diet. However, I do have concern over re-routing the DPDW bike path. Whereas cyclists had unfettered, uninterrupted passage from the Eliot bridge to the Arsenal bridge, this new route will unfortunately force cyclists to come into conflict with vehicles at each of the many parking lot access points along the route. Given current law, bicycles are required to yield the right of way at such vehicle conflict points (please follow link below). 1) will the original DPDW route still be available for those wishing to pursue a safer route? 2) do any of the current transportation bills in the legislature address this dissonance in the existing statute?</p> <p>https://bostoncyclistsunion.org/resources/beware-the-crosswalk</p> <p>snippet from the link: The situation is even worse for the cyclist on a bike path intersected by a regular road. Even though there may be white zebra stripe lines looking like a crosswalk, there is not yet any law that recognizes these crosswalks as bicycle crosswalks. What's worse, even though there may be a "warning bicycle crossing" or a "yield to bicyclists" sign, the cyclist likely has a stop sign or a yield sign as well.</p> <p>Since the cyclist has to follow the rules of the road, as a vehicle operator, it appears that the cyclist must come to a stop and yield to the motorist in the intersecting roadway. And there is a real danger there because bicyclists traveling swiftly down bike paths are often not easily noticeable to motorists on the intersecting roads, especially on paths like the Jamaica Way, where the path is hidden by greenery.</p>	Watertown	MA	02472
M	Scrim	<p>Please reconsider the current plan to disrupt the Herter Garden. This garden is SO unique and important to the gardeners and the community.</p> <p>If you think about it, the Herter Garden is SO much more than the sum of its plots! This garden cultivates the very qualities we need more of in our world: inclusion, learning, nurturing and greater understanding. We should not underestimate the heart and soul that blossoms in this garden.</p> <p>I truly believe it's possible for your designers to incorporate the existing Herter Garden into the Master plan. It may not be as easy as starting with a clean slate but creative minds accomplish great things.</p> <p>Please summon the courage to do the right thing. You won't regret it! Thank you.</p>	Newton	MA	02458

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Amanda	Maloney	<p>I want to present my strong opposition to moving the Herter Community Garden.</p> <p>It takes years to build good living soil and the move to a site with poor soil, drainage problems, lack of adequate sunlight, etc, will adversely affect the garden and the community of people that have tended it and benefitted from it for 45 years.</p> <p>A well tended organic garden provides habitat and food for many species in addition to humans and is a carbon sink benefitting the overall environment. A lawn is one of the most wasteful environmentally destructive "green" things there is and replacing this garden with a lawn would be a blow to sustainability.</p> <p>This garden is largely tended by immigrants and people of color who find solace and community in it as well as nutrition from what they have grown. Moving this garden would be a strike against this community and a blow to social justice.</p> <p>Sincerely, Amanda Maloney</p>	Woburn	MA	01801-2958
Allison	Lincoln	<p>Please don't destroy the community garden and replace it with a lawn. As an Accredited Organic Landscape Professional, I can tell you that a lawn offers nothing for our pollinators and we desperately need our pollinators because they are in serious decline. We need a diverse environment, not a monoculture. The people who are making this decision have no knowledge of horticulture. Do you know the origins of the great American lawn obsession? Do you remember Victory Garden on PBS?</p> <p>Then there is the community experience. It's a good thing to have people from all walks of life gathering in a community garden, not on a homogeneous lawn where people don't interact. Also, people are hungry and poor and need nutritional and affordable food.</p> <p>Why someone would want to destroy this garden is beyond me. I would guess that these people think it's an eye sore. Well, people need to get with the program. It's 2021 and climate change is real. Gardens also combat the heat and we have just had the hottest summer on record.</p> <p>Then there is the historical side of the garden. It would be a shame if this garden is destroyed and replaced with grass. The people making this decision need to be educated and I would be more than happy to come and meet with "these people" who are pushing for grass.</p> <p>Grass requires fertilizer which then seeps into our water systems and water tables and kills off animals and most likely gives people cancer and other horrible diseases. Why would you do that on purpose?</p> <p>Public opinion is changing towards lawns as people get educated about the environment. Diversity, just like in America, is key to progress. Please reconsider your plans to destroy this community garden!</p>	Norfolk	MA	02056

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Darya	Mattes	I was saddened to hear that the Herter Park Community Garden would be eliminated from the park in this new planning process. As a community gardener right across the river in Watertown, I know the value of growing food in community, close to home. And as a former gardener at the Southwest Corridor Community Farm in Jamaica Plain, a garden founded in the 1970s around the same time as the Herter Park garden, I know the feeling of stewarding land that has been cared for by the community for decades. Community gardens are a unique form of public space -- they allow city dwellers to tend their own small plots of land to increase food security, connections to the land and seasons, and to build hyper-local community in neighborhoods. They also benefit the broader community by creating a home for pollinators, increasing biodiversity, educating young people about where their food comes from, hosting events, and building a sense of community pride. It would be a shame and a loss to replace this vibrant space with a lawn. I ask DCR to please reconsider this aspect of the plan, and to allow Herter Park Community Garden to remain in its current location, which its members have cared for for decades.	Watertown	MA	02472
Patricia	Fabbri	Lawns are green deserts, especially in the way most, including DCR, manage them. Soil is alive. Green lawns are monocultures that are usually shocked with chemical fertilizers and then treated with pesticides that kill beneficial insects and micro organisms in the soil. This garden should be cherished and expanded. The Charles is a long river there are plenty of opportunities for Riverviews. This garden builds community. This garden provides opportunities for those who don't have space at their home to garden. This garden is a concept that should be expanded upon hello. Please leave the garden alone!	Lynnfield	MA	01940
Greg	Watson	I was involved with The Herter Community Garden years before my two tenures as Massachusetts Commissioner of Agriculture (1990-1993 and 2012-2014). Not having grown up on a farm, the Herter Center was one of the places where I gained first hand experience in the art and science of food production and how it contributes to community building. This garden is a multicultural gem of historical importance. It has much to offer to current and future generations about community, self reliance, cooperation, empowerment and our relationship to the natural world. I urge DCR to reconsider its plan (as well-intentioned as it may be) to destroy this invaluable resource.	Falmouth	MA	02540
Judith	Haran	I am writing to ask that Herter Community Garden be saved from the planned demolition. This would be a senseless act, and would be destructive to the community that exists around this garden.	Jefferson	MA	01522

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Zachary	Koehler	<p>Overall I think this a great design and is really forward thinking to reduce traffic speeds, help with congestion, and increase pedestrian and non-car traveling on this corridor.</p> <p>Only thing I would comment is that I don't see the need to have on road bike lanes when you are already planning to create a separated bike lane. Instead, I would either reduce the width of the road by a further 12 feet (10' for both bike lanes + the 2' buffer) or reduce it more but allow for road space for cars to pull over to let Emergency vehicles through or for breakdowns.</p> <p>I would also suggest adding to the side with the bidirectional bike path. Include some more width to allow bikes to easily pass each other AND I would add a separate path for pedestrians to walk. This would allow for a separation of walkers and bikers, reduce the chance of collisions. There looks to be plenty of space on that side to accommodate for that.</p> <p>I am not entirely certain if you plan to have cross walks to allow for pedestrians to get from one side of Soldiers Field Road to the other, but I think it would be a great idea to have them frequently spaced and raised. This would further help reduce car speeds on the road.</p>	Dover	NH	03820

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
McNamara	Rome	<p>I am writing with HUGE enthusiasm for the Herter Park Master Plan. I use this park with friends and family, and on solitary walks all year round. It is a source of happiness and connection with the city. I love to see the spontaneous gatherings, fishing, drum circles, sun bathing, gardeners, and family picnickers. To me, this plan largely reflects an appreciation of what makes this part of the river so special. Great job done by the planning team! Thank you! Many of the proposed changes are appropriate and thoughtful improvements while some will have an enormous positive impact.</p> <p>In particular the Soldiers field road diet and multiple at-grade crossings will transform access to the park, stitching back together the neighborhood from a resource that is stressful and challenging to access. Over the last two years I have often wheeled a stroller across all 4 lanes of highspeed traffic! The proposed road diet will make the river feel much closer and less cut-off from the city.</p> <p>I am writing to express my unhappiness with the garden consolidation. Having the Herter Community Garden where it is, contributes to the lively and unique character of the park. People of all ages are mixing and near each other, all with different reasons to be down near the river. All enjoying the excuse to be out of the house and people watching and in public. Please amend the Master plan to leave the Herter Community Garden where it is! This is a piece of the puzzle that already fits!</p> <p>A few comments on items I did not see (or missed) in the presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I love the idea of having a cafe in part of herter center. The first floor should also include a public bathroom. That would draw new people to the park, allow them to stay for longer and enhance existing uses.2. I like the view terraces but feel there is still room to add additional dock space for those who wish to sunbath and be a bit farther into the river and away from pedestrian circulation.3. volleyball -> Eastlawn	Boston	MA	02134

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Colleen	McKiernan	<p>At a time when sustainability and food access could not be more important, the DRC is proposing to displace a 45 year old community garden for a lawn for aesthetic reasons. This proposal makes no sense. When I am at the Fenway or Fresh Pond or the Waltham Field Station, the community gardens are far more beautiful and interesting than a lawn could ever be. By being closer to the parking lot, the community will have more opportunities to interact with the gardeners, and perhaps become inspired to learn more themselves.</p> <p>The members of the community garden have been investing in the soil for 45 years. To suggest that an equal size plot of land elsewhere is equivalent is wrong, and the DCR should know and understand that well. Do not displace these gardens for something that provides nothing to anyone.</p> <p>Respectfully, Colleen McKiernan</p>	Somerville	MA	02144
Hans	Heilman	<p>The benefits of having the Herter Community Garden continue to be a community garden are not only to the community members who have plots there, but to everyone who comes to Herter Park. All visitors are educated by being reminded where much of our food comes from -- that it comes from the ground -- and are uplifted by seeing how the growing plants change through the cycle of the seasons.</p> <p>The proposal to "move" this garden to another site makes no sense, especially where that site has so many problematic issues. Gardens aren't static things that you can just move. The richness and fertility of the soil underlying the garden has been developed over 45 years that is an investment which needs to be preserved. That can't be picked up and moved.</p> <p>There are already acres and acres of land along the Charles River which provide a "river view". Sacrificing this third of an acre to get an incremental improvement in "river view" at best, is the wrong trade-off to be making.</p>	Lexington	MA	02421

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Hazel	Ryerson	<p>Thank you for this terrific masterplan. I am very impressed by all the analysis and understanding of the issues and excellent ideas to improve this great resource. I live in Lower Allston and use this park nearly every day. I have the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am VERY much in support of the road diet on SFR. This is a terrific improvement. This will help connect the neighborhood and smith park to the river. The multiple safe at grade crossings will also be a huge improvement. The ability to let commuter bikes use a bike lane on SFR will help with congestion on the other paths. 2. It will be wonderful to have the Herter Center back in use. A cafe would be very popular. I think this would be a great location for YEAR ROUND PUBLIC BATHROOMS. 3. The Herter community garden does not need to move. It creates a nice variety of activities and makes the park feel very friendly and community-oriented. I think it can stay where it is as there is already lots of space for picnics. 4. Both ideas for the Boston Public School boat house seem very nice and a great amenity. 5. Is it possible to add another wooden dock? This is a very popular spot. 6. Is it possible to add another activity like volleyball? There are many people who use the East Lawn for volley ball. It is nice to be at a park with many different activities happening and attracting many different people. 7. I am not attached to the moat around Herter Amphitheater. I often go hear music there and the mosquito problem is very very bad and must be caused by the stagnant water in the moat. Consider removing the moat. 	Boston	MA	02134
Deborah	JACOBS	<p>Please reconsider destroying the community gardens at Herter Park. I have plots at the old Northampton State Hospital in Western Mass and know how valuable growing organic fruits and veggies are, particularly with the cost of gas and food constantly going up. It has given me a safe place to be outdoors in these unsettling days of COVID. It's good for your mental and spiritual health as well.</p> <p>I don't know if you're just mostly city folk and don't understand that replacing a community garden with the diversity of vegetation with a monoculture, a grass lawn that will have to be mowed at a time of climate change and the loss of pollinators is just a bad idea. No, it's a terrible idea.</p> <p>I know I'm not the only one making these points to you so I hope you will take the time and reconsider. There's no good reason that the Herter Park Master Plan can't include this 40+ year garden that gives pleasure to those who plant and weed in it and those who walk through and by it with appreciation. It's a great way to recreate.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration Deb Jacobs</p>	Leeds	MA	01053
Allison	Griggs	<p>Keep Herter as-is! It's been there for so long, it's historic. There is way more value in this garden than "views", and more grass which is destructive to the environment. Shame for this proposal to even make it to this point.</p>	Somerville	MA	02143

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Lindsey	Angione	<p>The Herter Community Garden, founded in 1976 with about 70 plots on about 1/3 acre, alongside the Charles River in Herter Park, Brighton, has been a hub of organic urban community gardening for almost half a century and is relied upon by local immigrant communities and communities of color.</p> <p>In June 2021, the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) unveiled a "Master Plan" for the whole stretch of Herter Park, which calls for the complete destruction of the Herter Garden, turning it into a lawn in order to "enhance the river views."</p> <p>The plan proposes "consolidating" or relocating the garden next to another community garden, about a quarter mile up river, to a site which is sloped, wooded, with poor drainage and depleted soil and rife with opportunistic (aka "invasive") plant species. The idea of 'moving' any established garden makes little sense--the 45 years of organic soil enrichment, and design features like fences, paths, and trellises are not transferable. The impediments to "consolidating" the garden into the highly problematic proposed site would provide a devastating blow to this vibrant community project.</p> <p>The present garden is quite central to the main parking area and walking paths, and thus forms a constant attraction for many park visitors who engage with the plantings and gardeners and learn about urban food resiliency and pollinator protection. In contrast, the proposed site is isolated, largely obscured, and remote from other activities.</p> <p>The Herter community gardeners are a vulnerable community of largely older gardeners, many of them immigrants and People of Color with limited English skills and few resources. These stakeholders were not adequately engaged in the planning process, many only becoming aware of the plan in recent days.</p> <p>The proposed plan would tear apart both the garden itself and the web of community and sociability that have characterized it for.</p> <p>Please do not destroy this garden.</p>	Waltham	MA	02453
Scott	Shurr	I am writing in support of the Herter Community Garden. As a founder of the Green Rows Of Waltham, another community garden, I understand how important the garden community is to its members. Some of our gardeners have spent years developing their plots. A community garden is not something which can be easily relocated. Please do not destroy the Herter gardening community.	Waltham	MA	02452
Beverly	Sky	<p>This is a travesty! Gardens are havens of beauty and nourishment for all of us whether we are onlookers or hardworking gardeners. What's next? Chopping down the trees cause the leaves are messy?</p> <p>Horrible.</p>	Boston	MA	02215

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McNamara	Buck	<p>I think the Herter Community Gardens should stay put. They offer so much to the gardeners, but also to the passerby. I love to walk my grandson, who lives close by along them. I love to walk along and peek at them myself as well as to cycle past.</p> <p>In addition I think it would be great to have a public rest room, as well as a cafe in the Herter Center. And how about Volley Ball court(s) on the east lawn?</p> <p>This is a place of so much vitality, so much pick up culture happening and the more activity the safer and more vibrant the whole thing becomes. This spot is a jewel for the entire area.</p> <p>McNamara Buck 18 Gold Star Road Cambridge MA</p>	Cambridge	MA	02140
Lily	Hartenstein	I reject the plan to relocate the Herter Community Garden! It directly works against food insecurity, and community gardens are an important space for sustainability and community building. It would be an absolute shame to disrupt.	Boston	MA	02114
Ivana	Toone	<p>I just read the fine print, specifying MORNING of the 20th. I hope I'm not too late. A caring friend (who knows my priorities) sent the petition to me this morning, and I thought I had to the end of the day. (It was my daughter's birthday.) If my words and intention have any meaning, I hope they will have weight. I live in an area with 3 community gardens. I am fortunate to have a plot of land that enables me to grow vegetables and flowers. But when I drive by the community gardens and see people working alongside each other, it is heartwarming. It is also the way of the future. Gardens-tending living plants-brings people together, sharing knowledge and experiences. Seventy-six years for a community garden to survive speaks volumes of the people and of the city. PLEASE don't take this away from those who can find meaning in working with the land. And rarer, still, land in the middle of civilization.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p>	Florence	MA	01062
Catherine	Weller	Eliminating this community garden is one of the worst ideas ever for one of the best uses of public land. Appalling!	Cambridge	MA	02138
Alexandra	Kepner	The Herter Community Garden is a lovely, productive spot where people grow food and build relationships with nature. I've always enjoyed watching the seasonal changes there during walks at Herter Park. There's plenty of grass at the park already-I can't imagine why anyone would want to remove such a vital growing space for a few more square feet of sod.	Cambridge	MA	02140
Carro	Halpin	Do not move the garden from its current home. Years and years of hard work will be erased in mere hours. It cannot simply be recreated elsewhere. The garden should continue to remain a prominent feature of the central area of the park for visitors to see and experience.	Boston	MA	02135

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Lynne	Man	<p>I'm writing to request that you abandon plans to demolish the Herter Community Garden along the Charles River in order to put in lawn. From an environmental perspective, it is wrong replace a carbon sink and pollinator habitat with a monoculture that requires pesticides, herbicides, large amounts of water and fossil fuel-powered equipment for the sake of someone else's "aesthetics."</p> <p>From a community perspective, this garden serves to bring diverse people together, to teach children about nature and food and to provide local, culturally appropriate, nutritious foods to families. If DCR goes through with this plan and destroys this community resource, it will greatly affect the people who use it, many of whom have been there for generations. But beyond that, it will signal to the public that yet again, DCR ignores and has no regard for local impacts or ecological consequences of their actions.</p> <p>I respectfully request DCR to withdraw this proposal.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Lynne Man</p>	Lunenburg	MA	01462
Russ	Shute	Keep the community garden. It better for the neighborhood than just grass. It has manage to survive for 45 years let it be. It will effect who I vote for.	Hingham	MA	02043

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Judith	Cmero	<p>Reasons to Save the Herter Community Garden</p> <p>Certainly everyone in the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation is aware of the drastic decline, due in large part to habitat loss, in the numbers of our native insects that not only pollinate our food crops and other native plants, but which are also the major food source for our native bird populations which have also dangerously declined due in large part to the decline in our native insect populations.</p> <p>To stop these declines, gardeners of all types are being urged to plant gardens that support our native pollinators; the organic and well-established Herter Community Garden has been doing just that for 45 years along with supplying food, recreation, and community to a population of immigrants and people of color that probably would not have access to these resources without their garden.</p> <p>Yet the DCR wants to destroy that rich resource and replace it with what ?- a lawn, the most sterile environment possible for native insects - to do what ? - provide better river views, probably for a well-to-do white population. Even if the current community garden were replaced, it would not match the rich organic soil that has been built up over the years or equal the emotional and community connection that its gardeners have to the current site.</p> <p>DCR stands for Department of Conservation and Recreation, the two goals that are already being met by the present garden. Why destroy what is already a success? Leave the Herter Community Garden where it is.</p>	Wilbraham	MA	01095
Tuyen	Yankama	<p>Why more lawn/grass space? There are plenty of lawn and grass area already. There are only 2 public garden areas to keep the park fun and inclusive. Please do not add more lawn/grass space in hope for renting the space out for commercial use (food truck, beer garden, etc), we love the garden. We are not even gardeners there but we appreciate their hard work and beautiful colors whenever we walk by.</p>	Allston	MA	02134
Pam	Phillips	<p>I have a community garden plot in Watertown. I have visited my neighbors across the Charles at the Herter Garden for plant sharing. It's an amazing place, an impressive community with many plots, and a sense of history.</p> <p>We have struggled in Watertown to make room for community gardens. Year after year, there is a waiting list for plots. So I hope you understand how discouraging it is to hear that such a large community garden is under threat.</p> <p>Please continue to make space for the Herter Community Gardens in your plans.</p>	Watertown	MA	02472

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Lisa	Reindorf	What better can the community garden at Herter Park be put to you than keeping it as a community garden? It is a meeting place for many and adds beauty and environmental diversity. As an architect and planner who bikes along the river I always appreciate the beauty of this place and the fact that neighbors in the adjoining city have a place to grow plants. Please do not change it	Newton	MA	02460
Vivian	Howell	Tearing down this garden is a senseless act. If anything be done, it should be to help those gardeners enhance what they are doing, and not to take away the fundamental ability to grow their own food.	Bedford	MA	01730
Julie	Miller	My first reaction was it had to be a joke...who in their right mind would destroy an organic community garden and replace it with grass? The grass that is there along the river doesn't even thrive! Then I found out it was true and am shocked. It is a inane plan and I truly believe that you all are not that type of government entity. don't be so cruel as to destroy a vital food source for many who are food insecure. Don't destroy an ecosystem which is vital to our river. Don't destroy a focal point for people using the river for recreation. Moving the garden isn't a solution either, the other area has a different terroir and has a different impact on the river and surrounding area. Each parcel along the river has small ecosystems and they rely on each other for balance - I assume DCR has ecologists who have studied this. The proposal is probably money driven, Harvard driven, development driven, which doesn't take in to consideration what is genuinely best for our community.	Brighton	MA	02135
Nick	Schmidt	<p>I am a Boston Planning & Development Agency employee but do not plan for Allston-Brighton. My comments represent my personal views as a Boston resident and occasional walker, cyclist, and driver accessing Herter Park.</p> <p>I am greatly in favor of the DCR's effort to expand parkland, calm traffic, and better connect walking and biking networks through the Soldiers Field Road (SFR) road diet concept. It will have a dramatic and immediate effect of increasing safety, minimizing runoff, and reducing noise pollution. I am in favor of realigning the Arsenal Street Bridge off-ramp and simplifying the Eliot Bridge intersection. The primary regional traffic route for SFR continues across the Eliot Bridge to Fresh Pond Parkway, and the proposed T intersection better reflects this network reality to the benefit of Herter Park. Thank you, truly, for being bold.</p> <p>Several issues remain that prevent this concept from achieving the benefits it seeks. Herter Park should be depaved. Reclaim parkland by removing all surface parking lots. Event loading/handicap parking may be warranted in the park, but large, general parking lots are inappropriate. Conventional bike lanes adjacent to a path is confusing and redundant. On-street parking should replace these bike lanes and all surface lots. Two SFR lanes plus one row of parking, with a left turn lane replacing parking where needed, works within the road diet and would better calm traffic. Use physically and materially separated parallel walking (concrete) and biking (asphalt) paths instead of a single shared path. There is ample space and park users want this. Please try walking on a shared use path with a young child. Parents can't relax. Keep the location, but widen, the existing bike path, far away from traffic. Folks can't socialize with others next to traffic noise. The concept already bends the path away at intersections. A Telford Street bridge wastes funds, is a maintenance burden, and sends the wrong message to drivers.</p>	Jamaica Plain	MA	02130

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Takako	Tokuoka	The community gardens not only feed our body and soul, but are also homes to many small animals and invertebrates. It's vital for their survival as much as ours, especially when so many pollinators have disappeared due to the use of pesticides. According to the recent report by the US Fish and Wildlife, US bumblebee population has dropped by 90% and are no longer found in neighboring New England states (NH, VT, ME, & RI). Our community garden is home to many bumblebees! It's our obligation to save the bumblebees by saving the community garden. Migratory birds and butterflies also count on our garden as a stop on their long journey. In addition, there's a rumor that the New England Cottontail, a critically endangered species, lives in Herter Community Garden. Thank you for considering to let us keep our garden!	Cambridge	MA	02141
Michael	DiBari	My wife and I have been growing our food at the Herter Community Garden for almost 15 years. During that time I have built and rebuilt many raised flower beds, hauled enormous amounts of soil, and have done my fair share of mowing and weed whacking to help keep the common areas healthy and looking their best. This garden is a valuable resource for growing as well as a much needed place for cultivating our minds and soul. During a typical day of gardening, many park goers will stop to admire the vegetables and all the hard work we've put in. I was once one of those passersby and as a result was able to get on the many years long waiting list. I'm delighted to say that I've been able to help many new gardeners do the same since I've been here. In the proposed new location, the garden will be isolated and the whole sense of being part of the community and being able to inspire the next generation of organic gardeners will be lost. The plan to "relocate" is in fact a plan to destroy the existing fertile soil that's taken years for nature to establish and countless hours of blood, sweat and tears from our community of gardeners to build. The task of starting from scratch at the new site is enormously underestimated, especially given many of us are senior citizens, and it's highly unlikely that anything comparable can ever be reestablished. The conditions at the proposed site are not favorable to say the least, and it seems apparent that little or no research has been done to support the viability of having a garden there... not to mention the disturbance to the ecosystem and wildlife from clear cutting the forest at the new location. I am strongly opposed to the move and urge the planning committee to at least hear the voices of the people who have a spent good portion of their lives gardening at Herter before moving forward. Thank you for your consideration!	Cambridge	MA	02141

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Debra	Poaster	I have been a gardener at the Herter Community Garden for 37 years. Since it began as part of an ambitious project involving a museum and a theater, the Garden has been perhaps the longest lived, most successful and sustained 'activating' initiative of that plan. Its internal community represents a multicultural and multigenerational group of just the sort planners should appreciate in this era of fractured societal relationships. To the external community, the Garden in its present central location is appreciated by hundreds of visitors and passersby who observe, photograph, sample and are educated by the daily activity in the Garden through at least three seasons. A landscape planner's vision may see water sheets, tree covered lawns, and an enhanced view of the river from an entering car -yes, all amenities-but has failed to see the interest for the public generated by familiar and unfamiliar flowers and vegetables, bees, birds, praying mantis, and caterpillars. If the DCR wants to construct ANOTHER Community Garden at the least visited end of the Park, all would welcome it--the wait list for Gardens is very long everywhere. But moving this existing Garden to that site and replacing it with a passive lawn would destroy it and its impact on the visiting public. Many cubic yards of compost and peat have been imported--there is no compacted soil here and we do not add to runoff as the extensive hardscape and recent storage of salt nearby has done. The elderly gardeners and many of our new immigrant families would probably not make the move. Preparing a safe, new site, with access to parking (we carry in a lot of equipment and bulky materials), providing water and electricity and appropriate fencing is an expensive proposition. Keeping this small area as the Herter Garden would not change the described plan for Herter Park and is cheaper. Keeping this Garden in place will only make the Park experience more varied and interesting. Not everyone runs marathons or rows	Allston	MA	02134
Emily	Merlino	Please do not destroy this community garden! Although it may seem like a small thing to move the garden a quarter mile, it isn't. A community has been built around this garden, it does not deserve to be destroyed to provide a picnic area which will serve to watch the regatta - this would be an example of a valuable service and asset for immigrants being destroyed to provide another leisure space for affluent people. Don't do it.	Sterling	MA	01564
Katherine	Whang	I implore the DCR to stop plans to destroy the community gardens to create a lawn. The gardens are a vital and important source of food, community building, and an invaluable resource for the area as an organic garden. An organic garden can not just be relocated. During this climate crisis, we need more gardens that provide so much for the environment and for food security, not a lawn that requires so much in resources to maintain without giving back to the community and to the environment the way that gardens do.	Arlington	MA	02474
Genevieve	Lawlor	I am writing to oppose the destruction of the Herter Community Gardens. The agricultural, ecological, cultural and recreational communities that have grown there for over 45 years cannot easily be replaced or relocated. The preservation of places such as Herter Community Gardens is precisely within the mission of DCR. Thank you.	Greenfield	MA	01301
Eliana	Willis	Please do not destroy this community garden. As a gardener in another community garden, I know that community gardens are a beautiful and essential part of a neighborhood. They make our city not just a place to reside, but a place to really live. To live with friendship, beauty, dignity, and rootedness. To have sovereignty over one's food. It is a sanctuary and a source of strength and comfort in difficult times.	BOSTON	MA	02130

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Catherine	Bekel	Please preserve this vital public resource that enhances access to healthy food and beautifies the neighborhood. This community garden space is an amazing resource for our community and should not be removed for a handful of one day community events. There are not many opportunities in the city of Boston for renters to engage with nature and grow their own foods or ornamental plants for their enjoyment. These resources are already too sparse in the city of Boston, the city should be focusing both on preserving these spaces and creating more spaces for community growing.	Allston	MA	02134
Clio	McClatchey	It is never in the public interest to replace a garden with a lawn. The site that was suggested for moving the garden to is not ideal for a garden and it does not make sense to uproot the garden itself or the community that relies upon it. The world does not need more lawns. We are all personally responsible for reducing lawn acreage and replacing with native and beneficial plants.	Melrose	MA	02176
Philip	Ballentine	I strongly oppose any changes to the Herter Community garden under any circumstances. I do not believe that you can simply "relocate" a garden that has been built up over decades.	Cambridge	MA	02138
Kate	Schell	The destruction of a producing community garden, to be replaced with grass strikes me as counterproductive. It deprives folks of the garden space, and creates a grass landscape that then needs to be maintained by the state. At a time when we're working toward a more sustainable future, this plan moves Massachusetts in the wrong direction,	Arlington	MA	02474
Jennifer	Gordon	Hi -- I'm a frequent walker in the Herter Park area, and while the Master Plan certainly seems to have some good points, I'm appalled that you're planning to move the community gardens. People put work into those, and established/repared the soil. It's ridiculous that you're planning to rearrange the whole park to make things a little nicer for the bike commuters who zip through willy-nilly of people with their kids, and you're setting up a high school boathouse for high school rowing (what high schools have rowing teams? not the Boston ones! so here we have a park in Boston, where there are few green spaces, and you're setting up a boat house for randoms from the suburbs to come to). Ok, fine -- but here's something gardened by people in Boston, and they've put work in and established something over many years, and you're going to just move it. Because your architects could come up with nothing better? Figure something else out. Do not destroy the community garden just to make things neater for people who don't even live around here.	Brighton	MA	02135
Robinlee	McGilvray	This is part of the joy the of river walk and enjoying the park the sprinkler and walking along the garden to view the growing season when one does not ha e a space of my own Please let do not relocate. Grass will grow any where a mature garden will not.	Brighton	MA	02135

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
J	Loui	<p>I have a few concerns.</p> <p>1) More people are walking and running now. There should be more space for people to walk and run as they outnumber the cyclist. The area is a growing neighborhood with more young professionals moving in because of the new New Balance HQ. Also an expanding town with more young families.</p> <p>Yes, I agree cyclist should have their bike lane, but it should not come at the expense of people who walk and run around the area. You can walk and run year run, but you cannot bike in the snow, rain, or storm.</p> <p>2) I am an Event Manager and use the space at Christian Herter Park all the time. The parking lot should GROW. Not to get smaller or stay the same in terms of parking spaces. More people are going outside for walks, runs, beer garden, picnic, walking the dog, enjoying the outdoors. There should be more parking space. People come from different parts of the city. Christian Herter Park is hard to get to; there is no easy public transportation located away from the train station.</p> <p>3) Storrow Drive is a major road/highway; it connects Boston to Allston to Newton to Watertown. The plan is to get people to drive less, but with limited space in Greater Boston and people driving to and from work or watching the Celtics or Red Sox. It won't force enough people to take the MBTA, PLUS in Newton, Watertown, Allston, Cambridge; many residents do not live near public transportation and have to either drive or take the bus to a train station.</p> <p>I think it's a great idea, but Storrow Drive is already two lanes and with traffic all the time now.</p> <p>My main concern is more space for walkers and runners. It's hard enough for walkers to enjoy the views and have a relaxing walk without being bumped into by runners to cyclists. And for Runners to not worry about cyclists running them over. Cyclists these days think they own the walking path. Families and little kids are walking on the walking path.</p>	Brookline	MA	02446
Sarah	Mamlet	The destruction of a community center, an organic farm, a source of food and support and community, is unthinkable. And in the name of what? Aesthetics? Grass? Please rethink this plan and save Herter Community Garden	Boston	MA	02128
Judith	Heichelbech	<p>Please do not destroy or move the organic community garden at Herter Park. We have too few spaces for community gardens, and it has been in operation since the 70's. It is not an eyesore, and I smile everytime I ride my bike past it on the path. We need gardens so so much, and we will be needing more in the future.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Jude Heichelbech</p>	Waltham	MA	02453

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Leslie	Kriebel	In times of climate crisis, what is needed most is planting and growing of foodstuffs in an environmentally healthy way. The gardens at Herter Park have been there since 1976, and individuals have used that land to grow food and develop the soil for generations. This is an important public space which gives urban dwellers not only a chance to grow fod but to be outdoors, meet each other on neutral shared ground. Dont take this cultural icon and legacy away. We need MORE such public gardens, and MORE such parks, not more lawns to keep artificially green with chemicals that are bad for eath and river, and more mowing that adds to carbon emissions. We are no longer in the 1950s, now we must heal the earth of the injuries of those decades of lawns and plant more yrees and native plants . Come on Boston DCR, we need to move on to a better healthier future and way of looking at public spaces.	Stow	MA	01775
Viv	Mullen	Since the beginning of lockdown folks living in the city have needed the outlet and grounding of community gardening more than ever. At this late stage of climate crisis and social instability it should be the highest priority of any organization that hosts community gardens to expand those offerings, and open up more opportunities for folks to be close to nature and their food sources. Gardening is slow motion art, it is nourishing your self, your community, and the earth. Removing any part of the community gardens in this city should be an absolute last resort. Please reconsider the decision, accessibility is important but I implore you to find a way to offer it that doesn't sacrifice an existing garden that has been bringing the community together for so many years.	Boston	MA	02135
Elizabeth	Martin	To destroy a 45-year-old organic garden in order to replace it with a lawn shows a stunning lack of understanding of what an organic garden is, and a total disregard for the community. For one thing, it takes years to establish suitable chemical-free soil. It's just one more crime of the rich against the poor.	Barre	MA	01005
Chloe	Mawn	This is an excellent opportunity for DCR to promote people's most connectted relationship to nature, through food and abundance. Please allow these people to continue their community garden and activly care for this land. Also this looks really bad on DCR's end to turn this into a lawn.	Northbridge	MA	01534
Michael	Dziedzic	Please keep the Herter Community Gardens to where they are. They are a pleasant attraction. Thank you.	Brighton	MA	02135
Lisa	Doremus	Shame on you. We need community gardens and more of them. I am disgusted by the thought of turning a thriving public space since 1976 into a lawn. I am going to contact as many people as I know to let them know what DCR is doing. Lisa Doremus	Westport	MA	02790

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Ellen	Krause-Grosman	I do not want the Herter Park community gardens moved. I love seeing what my neighbors are growing throughout the season as I walk by when I use the main area of the park. As a gardener I know that a garden is a living thing with its own ecosystem and requires investment of time and money and the outputs grow with the years. I used to work for the New Entry Sustainable Farming Program helping immigrants learn to farm in Massachusetts and the opportunity for diverse community members to grow the produce that is native to their cultures and to meet people from other cultures at the same time is an important existing community that needs to be protected and supported.	Brighton	MA	02135
Lisa	Doremus	<p>I am appalled and outraged at DCR's plan, under Jim Montgomery's leadership, to demolish Hester Community Garden a 1.3 acre 45 year old community garden and use that space for benches for people to sit and look at a river. How shameful- destroying a community's garden ultimately to be displaced by people who would sit on benches to "have a great view of the river" as DCR plans. This is an appalling example of gentrification and lack of community. Let's hire people who care about the people who live in Massachusetts and it's communities.</p> <p>Lisa Doremus</p>	Westport	MA	02790

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Jackie	Barnes	<p>The plan to take away the community garden from Herter Park and replace it with a lawn is unacceptable and needlessly cruel. Lawns are bad for the environment and bad for the ecology of an area. According to GoGreen(dot)org 'In order to keep lawns green, lots of water is used. Many lawn owners also use harmful pesticides and herbicides on their grass. These toxins can end up in our waterways (the Charles) and in our food. And lawn maintenance releases greenhouse gases, such as with the fuel needed for lawnmowers.'</p> <p>Lawns use more water and gas and produce NO beneficial food or sustaining pollen for local insect populations. (these populations are important!) Grass also does not have deep reaching roots to help maintain and sustain the land of an area and makes it easier to wash away in the event of a flood.</p> <p>Gardens help grow food for many people with no room for even a lawn as they live in an apartment and could otherwise never have access to a place to grow their own food inexpensively. Places like this keep community together, working toward goals that encourage sharing information and grown goods. Lawns are a blight on our community. We need gardens and many more of them.</p> <p>The need for a 'picnic' lawn is unproven. The dangers of a grass lawn are widely known. There is plenty of space that meet those needs. Should you need more with better views, I propose putting picnic tables on the boardwalk nearby. Better view there anyway! That place is SO nice to sit on and could use more accessible seating. (meaning seating that doesn't require bending down)</p> <p>To be clear, I do not have a plot here or at any garden. The waiting lists are YEARS long! I have tried! If anything this proposal should be to double or triple the size of the garden, there is more than enough space there. I will HAPPILY help VOLUNTEER my time to help keep this garden available to the community. Please don't get rid of this, I firmly believe our healthy future depends on places like this.</p>	Allston	MA	02134

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Chandler	Rosenberger	<p>I am writing to show my strong support for the DCR's excellent plans for Herter Park. I am especially excited to see that the outdoor theater will get substantial improvements in pedestrian access and landscaping. Although I know this is not a popular position, I also support plans to move the community gardens and hope that the DCR will help current gardeners settle into the new space.</p> <p>I have two concerns about the plans for the old ICA building, which will be converted into a multipurpose building. One is that I think there might be a missed opportunity to provide some kind of simple food retail here -- a small outpost of a local coffeeshop or bakery, such as Swissbakers. There's a real dearth of food along Herter Park, and a small coffee shop -- even if it were just a take-out window -- would be a useful addition for theater-goers and rowers alike.</p> <p>I would also like to know: will the large multipurpose room also be available to the theater, or is that just for indoor rowing (it looks a lot like a similar room at the Henry Parker Boathouse). If it's just for the rowers, then I would make the theater's dedicated room bigger. Productions will need to store a lot of materials (costumes, props, etc) while running a show.</p> <p>I am also very worried that the "road diet" plan is incompatible with plans for the office park being planned for 1170 Soldiers Field Road. This insanely large complex is planning to dump 700 cars onto Soldiers Field Road every night, all making right turns. Will they fit on a single lane road? Or -- better -- could the DCR please encourage the developers to scale back their plans?</p> <p>But overall, thank you so much for this excellent proposal. I moved to the neighborhood just south of the park 16 years ago and have been dreaming of something like this ever since.</p>	Allston	MA	02134
Susan	Redlich	<p>I strongly urge reconsideration of the proposal to relocate the Herter Garden. Reason: The vital role this food garden continues to play in fostering healthy diets, community friendships, education about food-raising techniques, and the visibility to passersby. Please protect this incredible example of community gardening in a diverse urban area. DCR has a responsibility to conserve the valuable resources of the Commonwealth.</p>	Cambridge	MA	01238
Marian	Ferro	<p>I think that moving the community garden is a bad idea. I live not far away in Watertown and frequently take walks in Herter Park. As I walk toward the river I enjoy passing the garden and seeing what people are growing. I think it's great to have gardens for urban residents. If the two gardens are combined, I wonder if it will make accessibility to the garden more difficult for some people because of the location. Urban gardens should be encouraged, not discouraged.</p>	WATERTOWN	MA	02472

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Lisa	Gold	<p>I heard about this community garden at risk of being dug up. I LOVE community gardens, and think they are incredibly beneficial to the community and neighborhoods. For these communities, these gardens provide more local access to fresh produce and flowers, which help to sustain families and others. These gardens are an opportunity for "outdoor educational spaces," where aspiring gardeners of all ages have opportunities to learn about gardening and farming in this already well-established area.</p> <p>Even with raised beds and parking, the proposed new location and new setup does not promote the same "community garden feel" that the already currently established garden has right now.</p> <p>Please don't destroy it!</p>	Brookline	MA	02445
Nora	Portillo	Quite frankly, it is a stupid idea to move the garden. It's not as simple as "relocating" it. And you would not only be ruining a mature garden that has taken years for it reach the state that it's in, but you would be messing with a community of people that are a part of Allston/Brighton.	Boston	MA	02134
Alyssa	Kariofyllis	The community garden at Herter Park should not be removed but rather expanded. There are already limited garden plots available throughout Brighton. Additionally, community gardens are an oasis of feeding opportunities for beneficial insects, which are necessary to combat climate change.	Brighton	MA	02135
Sarah	PUTNAM	Please DO NOT move the community garden! It is a unique space that, as others have said, would take years to recreate. A recreational space or lawn, is far easier to create anywhere. Why not replace a parking lot with a rec open space, not replace the garden.	Watertown	MA	02472

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Melanie	Wisner	I am not a gardener at the Herter Community Gardens, but I feel part of the cooperative, collaborative community of which it is a member. I am horrified at the proposed removal of the gardens. The view provided at the point of the gardens is impeded negligibly, being at the narrowest part of the garden. As for "green infrastructure" improvement, nothing impedes the view and proper drainage like parking lots (or fire-denuded hillsides in California, quite a similar environment where there are slide warnings currently). This removal also destroys an activity especially used by People of Color and older citizens, two populations still usually discriminated against as well as often suffering the effects of poverty. We are still under the influence of a pandemic, during which many discovered the great satisfaction of growing their own food. I am associated with the Arlington Community Garden where 99% of visitors thank us for this learning opportunity and express enjoyment at seeing a successful example of urban gardening. It has become its own DRAW for people in the park, very particularly children. The town supports the garden and has provided enhancements to make the garden more accessible by visitors, something these gardeners might consider. Climate change, in its aspect of flooding, feeds on paved surfaces; plantings, like marshland and forests, retain water and impede flooding, even on such a small space as these gardens. Relocating the gardens ruins the longtime investment of the gardeners, setting the effort back years--causing a break that will do irreparable damage to the community. During the break, there will surely be drop off in membership, which will provide evidence that the garden is not needed--a sly setup by DCR. Senior citizens may not be able to rejoin--again, a common but egregious form of ageism. As mentioned above, there may be steps the gardeners and DCR could take to better support the garden as a community resource.	Arlington	MA	02476
Peri	Bergquist	We live in a time of climate crisis, climate destabilization and it would be irresponsible to destroy an organic community garden and replace it with lawn. This is the opposite of what we need to be doing. We need to be increasing community gardens and healthy green spaces and minimizing lawn space. It is simply irresponsible to do otherwise.	Northampton	MA	01060
Eric	Brower	The Herter Park Community Garden is a staple to Allston and Brighton. Seeing the garden, the people who take great pride in tending to it, and the plants in the garden are great pleasures of visiting the park. Leave the garden where it is! There is plenty of picnic space in Herter Park and the Charles River Reservation as it is. There is absolutely no need to modify the garden.	Brighton	MA	02135
ARLEEN	FALLON	Please do not destroy the community garden. There is so little space left in Brighton left where people can share a common interest. it would be a shame to lose our gardens as every little patch of grass is being turned into buildings.	Brighton	MA	02135
Zoey	Werbin	Please do not demolish this beautiful community garden! It is such a special spot.	Boston	MA	02125
Ben	Hacker	Gardens are good. Lawns are bad. We are in a climate crisis. Gardens in low income areas help feed the community. These are some facts. As a former DCR employee who would look for DCR jobs again once I graduate, I would be very disappointed to work for an organization that is not promoting organic community gardens and instead wants to turn the space into a lawn. Gardens cannot be moved, especially organic gardens that are truly in tune with the Earth, as the systems take years to create. I urge you to reconsider this project and instead double the size of the garden or add more gardens on other DCR lawns. Thanks!	Beverly	MA	01915

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Jayson	Hreczuck	100% against moving or changing the garden in any way. We do not need more "lawn".	Brighton	MA	02135
Diane	Wisniewski	Please save the park from changes planned by the dcr. This was established and should remain a organic garden and public park.	lynn	MA	01902
David	Small	Community Gardens are an important part of developing a sense of community, Converting a vibrant community garden to a lawn is just sending the wrong message for an agency supposed to be at the forefront of environmental leadership	Athol	MA	01331
Lynne	Man	<p>Sierra Club MA requests that DCR reverse its intention to move the 45-year-old Herter Community Garden from its current location.</p> <p>The ability to raise one's own food has multiple benefits to individuals and communities. Participating in community gardening assists low-income people to achieve food security during the growing season, influences people to make healthier choices year-round, increases physical activity, and can decrease social isolation, a significant public health problem. Community gardens attract diverse groups of people to work cooperatively, to learn about each other's culture and to strengthen community cohesion. Many families that participate also have young children that learn about food, biology and collaboration while they get fresh air and exercise.</p> <p>Moving the garden to another location is shortsighted and unjust. Many participating families in this garden have been there for generations. It is close to their neighborhoods and moving it will prevent them from continuing to garden. Further, it will disrupt a close-knit group that currently stewards this land. This is an environmental justice issue.</p> <p>From an ecological perspective, consider the impact of changing a thriving garden that attracts pollinators and other beneficial insects, purifies air and encourages composting, into a lawn. Lawns of green grass aren't "green." Lawns are artificial monocultures, requiring pesticides, herbicides, large quantities of water and gasoline-powered equipment to maintain their "beauty." They typically produce more greenhouse gases than they absorb. and are biodiversity deserts. In a time of climate and biodiversity crisis, when we need to preserve both carbon sinks as well as insect populations, this is counterproductive.</p> <p>Destroying this garden is not in line with your own mission, "to protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all."</p> <p>Lynne Man MASC Team Leader</p>	Lunenburg	MA	01462

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Christina	Clamp	I have reviewed the proposed master plan. Most of what is proposed is consistent what I would like to see in the plan. However, I strongly object to the proposal to relocate the community gardens. The community gardens have been a wonderful anchor to the park. It takes years to establish a garden. It is also unfair to suggest that the location would be better suited for a pop up beer garden. This could readily be placed elsewhere. I also do not see why it is needed. Now that the Speedway site renovation is completed, people can go there if they want to enjoy a craft brew. Otherwise, why not put the beer business over by the boat rental site.	Brighton	MA	02135
Justin	Brown	Greetings DCR: I am writing to submit my opposition to the plan to move the Herter Park public gardens. Healthy soils are an essential part of a thriving ecosystem, and in an urban setting that has been subjected to decades if not centuries of commercial, recreational, and industrial use, healthy soils are rare. Additionally, the soils that form the foundation of the public garden have been created as the result of decades of care and dedication on the part of its users. Therefore, I strongly object to any plan that would seek to move the garden from where it currently stands. Many thanks, Justin Brown 116 Englewood Ave. Apt. 22 Brighton MA 02135	Brighton	MA	02135
Karen	Bidwell	I am opposed to moving the garden. The DCR plan to eliminate the Herter Community Garden from its present location near Artesani playground and the outdoor Amphitheater.. Since you can't 'move' a garden, especially one with a 45 year legacy of organic soil enrichment, and plot designs with pathways, perennial plantings, and trellises, this 'move' would effectively bring the Herter Garden to an end. It would also uproot the community of gardeners, many of them immigrants from dozens of countries, others who have gardened there for decades and would find it hard to start over in a new place. In short, a delicate community of gardening neighbors would be torn apart by this plan.	Brighton	MA	02135
Lena	Webb	This is incredible news and I am absolutely thrilled to see this design. I've been commuting from Somerville to Waltham for 10 years now, and when Greenough Boulevard got its road diet and expansion of green space in 2016 I actually cried with joy. It's just beautiful. I am very glad to see the DCR moving in the right direction in terms of implementing road diets, and I hope that drivers will appreciate how much safer it makes *them* and actually makes for a smoother commute. I hope that you are able to show data that travel times are NOT impacted by a lane reduction (even though drivers probably won't believe it). Overall I'm just a huge fan and I know everyone will end up loving it.	Somerville	MA	02144

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Mary Ellen	Schuster	<p>The Herter Garden is a beautiful spot on the river that community volunteers have created and maintained. The flowers and vegetables attract and sustain birds, bees, butterflies and other important pollinators.</p> <p>Converting the garden into "a lawn" would be a sin! Currently, the grassy areas along the river are full of trash and goose poop, so why add to an existing problem? The garden is not that big that it would create a significantly larger seating area so why destroy something that means so much to so many?!?</p>	Jamaica Plain	MA	02130
Xavid	Pretzer	<p>I'm writing to encourage you to keep the Herter Community Garden where it is. It's important to have community gardens in a variety of places to increase their accessibility, and the work that has gone into improving this garden is not relocatable. There are plenty of grassy lawns in Boston parks; we need more community gardens more places, not less. Another grassy lawn provides little or no benefit to the community. We need to prioritize community benefits, not what looks good on a postcard.</p> <p>Sincerely, ~Xavid Pretzer</p>	Arlington	MA	02476
Laura	Poulin	<p>I whole heartedly want to see the Herter community garden remain where it is. It is a highly accessible, vibrant part of the park in that location. I ride my bike and stop there often. I recently made a nice evening of stopping by the gardens before going to a concert at the performance space there. That small area turned into a picnic area for what purpose? There are plenty of areas for picnics in that exact location, as evidenced by the families who do exactly that every weekend. Please leave Herter community gardens as is. A location vital for all but especially immigrant families. Please don't move it.</p>	Charlestown	MA	02129

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Amy	Kelliher	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I was walking along the river today and was shocked to see signs about the proposed destruction of our community garden. I don't have a garden there now but my mother did for years through the 1980's. I live very near the river and am lucky to have a yard but many people have no opportunity to garden. This is the city. Some are without even access to a balcony. Every green space is precious and an opportunity to work in the soil is rare in the city.</p> <p>In this day and age, I cannot wrap my mind around any initiative to remove a community garden let alone one that is so well established and loved. It should instead be expanded! This garden brings people together. It literally feeds people! I'm trying to imagine a reason that would convince me that repurposing this space was anything less than ridiculous. I've heard it will be replaced by grass? Grass? To make it look neat? Is it to provide more space for tents for viewing the Regatta once a year? This is a community space and the Regatta is great but most of the spectators are visitors. What is going on here?</p> <p>A life long resident of Allston I grew up spending summers by the river at the playground and swimming in the pool. Our community has had to endure a crush of redevelopment. We are lucky to have this little strip of green along a beautiful river. The community is growing, the green space is not. Therefore we need more spaces like this not less! The location is not only important because the garden is so well established but also because of its accessibility to the community. It's perfect right where it is and it's doing everything one could wish a community space could do. It brings people together and benefits the environment. Please leave it be. At a time when we should be community building everywhere this is community busting. Trying to move it to a new location is like trying to relocate an old oak tree, it's impossible.</p> <p>Sincerely, Amy Kelliher</p>	BOSTON	MA	02134
Ashley	Flynn Romeo	<p>Please keep the community garden open! This was my first year after being on the waitlist for more than a decade. It's a highlight for community members, many of whom rely on their garden plot for growing vegetables, herbs, fruits etc which are then used to feed members of our local community.</p> <p>Visitors to the park enjoy walking thru and asking questions. Not to mention the butterflies and bees the garden encourages!</p> <p>Losing the garden after decades of public effort would be a travesty! The garden receives very little in terms of public funding, surely it isn't a great draw on public resources. It gives back far more than it takes from the community. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.</p>	Boston	MA	02114

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Amanda	Carrier	Herter Community Garden should not be relocated! Added to if accessibility is the issue, but gardens take years to form- to get the soil just right and the perennials matured and the people supportive. Don't take away all the progress made at Herter Community Garden, and let the garden stay where it is, expanding if necessary for accessibility. There are enough lawns in the world, but not nearly enough gardens.	Palmer	MA	01069
Gabriel	Bronk	Please keep the Herter Community Garden in place. As a neighbor, I walk past there almost every day. It is beautiful to look at and would be real loss to myself and all the neighbors who enjoy seeing it as part of our daily routine. The gardeners put so much passion into it. It builds community and adds something special to Allston/Brighton. With the garden already in place, fostering community and positively impacting the neighborhood, it would be very negative to remove the garden. Given how much space there is elsewhere, I expect the DCR can easily utilize any of the open fields for its needs rather than demolishing the garden. Thank you.	Boston	MA	02134
JOHANNA	BRONK	Why would you get rid of the community gardens? Don't get rid of the community gardens! They are beautiful, smell great during peak season, bring people together to chat in an increasingly isolating world, and provide a space for people to grow their own food. Additionally, gardening/digging in the dirt has been correlated with health improvement, reducing stress and alleviating depression. It would be a loss to the current members, future members excited to grow things, and the greater community for you to remove the community gardens. It seems there is ample other unused open space in Herter Park for development outside of the community gardens, if you need to add things to the park.	WEST NEWTON	MA	02465
Peter	Bronk	I support continued operation of the Community Garden at Herter Park. As a resident in an urban environment, gardens are a welcome addition to the urban landscape. They promote, and in fact require, active participation from people living in the area, which means visitors who are both active and invested in maintaining the area and provide watchful eyes on a continuing basis. Garden plantings attract many pollinator species and provide an interesting focal point for human visitors. We enjoy looking at the gardens during our visits throughout the year. They also encourage others in the community to utilize other urban green zones for cultivation of food and flowering plants. Herter Park has been exemplary in the mixed-use model developed during its existence, and the Garden should continue as one component into the future. Thank you.	Waltham	MA	02453
Susan	Axe-Bronk	As a farm educator, I strongly urge you not to remove the community gardens at Herter Park! In such an urban environment, community gardens enhance the collective experience and educate us re: our food sources and the natural world. It would be such a shame to lose this!	Waltham	MA	02453

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
MARIA	BARTLETT	<p>I serve on the Andover Green Advisory Board and although Herter Community Garden is not MY garden, it is part of the ecosystem in which I live. I know from research and many publications that lawn is a dead zone that does not support a broad ecological biodiversity at a time when insects, amphibians, birds and butterflies are decreasing drastically in numbers and kinds. A community garden that has existed for many decades where organics are emphasized contributes much more to the ecosystem than the lawn proposed to replace it. Apparently, this garden is used by many immigrant groups and that alone should speak to its continuation.</p> <p>Please so not replace this community garden! More and more we are finding out how importantly intertwined biodiversity is with resilience in the face of the climate crisis.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>	Andover	MA	01810
Nancy	Tame	<p>This community garden needs to remain, It represents all that is best in our nation. The people in this garden are from all walks of life, but come together to share their love of the land and interact with each other in ways they could never do in any other situation. We need to use this as a model and build MORE of these community gardens, not destroy them. Please rethink your plan to include this wonderful garden, even make it the focal point of your plan!</p>	Spencer	MA	01562
Benjamin	Danu	<p>Please keep the Herter Community Garden! As a neighbor, I spend a lot of time there.</p> <p>One of the few nice things of Allston.</p>	Boston	MA	02134
Jessica	Tame	<p>It is careless and reckless from all perspectives (social, environmental, etc) to remove the community gardens at Herter park and install an open grass lawn. Grass is a monoculture. The gardens provide sustenance for the community people and insects alike. Please leave the community gardens alone.</p> <p>Jessica tame</p>	Harvard	MA	01451

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Catherine	LeBlanc	<p>This "Master Plan" demolition of multi-generation EJ community center goes directly against protecting, promoting, enhancing the state's natural, cultural and recreational resources. I am beyond disgusted, when DCR doesn't have enough staff or funds to do repairs and maintenance of the existing facilities across the Commonwealth they are proposing ADDING costly maintenance of a lawn, DESTROYING a vibrant biodiverse ecosystem, CRUSHING human spirit in a pandemic and climate emergency, ANNIHILATING a thriving outdoor community center & organic food source for the gardeners, their extended families and neighbors.</p> <p>The gardeners maintain the gardens which are enjoyed additionally by people passing through the Park. Replacing this with lawn will detract significantly to the ambiance and aesthetics of the Park and reduce the biodiversity of the surrounding area all around the Park.</p> <p>I am in OPPOSITION to the plan. The historic garden should remain in perpetuity for future generations serving the community and the ecosystem especially in the Brighton environmental justice neighborhoods.</p> <p>If anything DCR should be using Herter as a model for other outdoor recreational community centers.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02139
Julie	Kenny	<p>Herter Park and the Gardens should stay where they are. There is ample parking when Harvard's employees and others from Western Ave are not taking over the lot. These gardeners from all cultures have put their sweat and blood into these gardens over the last 75 years and it is wonderful to be able to walk by there on a stroll and talk with the gardeners. I hope this is not a ploy to just get these people out of the way to give better views to those across the road in their new million dollar buildings. Talk about gentrification of an area. Moving the garden and the park area will certainly have an adverse effect on the area.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Julie Kenny Brighton, MA</p>	Brighton	MA	02135
Jessika	Brenin	Please do not displace the Herter Community Garden! This is an equity and food access issue!	Watertown	MA	02472
Seana	Parker-Dalton	I am writing to ask that you NOT destroy the historical, organic community garden that has been operating since 1976. There is enough green space, or spaces that can be converted from something less valuable, that a working garden space should not be destroyed. Food sovereignty is a very important issue, and the concept of valuing natural space, and food gardens over lawns is pretty well established at this point. There has got to be a plan that leaves this valuable space as-is.	Shrewsbury	MA	01545

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Jennifer	Pieszak	<p>I am in commenting in general support of the Herter Park Restoration. I do have a few comments.</p> <p>1. It is unclear why the existing community garden adjacent to the Amphitheater needs to be relocated for the creation of a lawn. It appears that the gardens users thoughts about the integrity of the existing garden have not been heard or addressed. Can an alternative plan be explored to address issues, aesthetic or configuration to see if the garden can be maintained in its existing location?</p> <p>2. The creation of the High School rowing pavilion is super exciting. These student athletes will thrive in real facilities that support their hard work. I recommend Alternative 2 with the protected courtyard created by the buildings. I am concerned that the 200 LF of dock seems overly large and its location well into the river just downstream of a bend in the Charles is problematic for rowers approaching from upstream. Please bear in mind that returning crews will need to travel upstream to spin to be able to return to the docks so they can maintain the Charles River traffic pattern</p> <p>http://www.charlesriverallianceofboaters.org/docs/CRAB_Rowing_Traffic_Pattern.pdf</p> <p>The Head of the Charles finish line should be shown on the plans for coordination of the boathouse location, as turning just downstream of the finish line can be hazardous. Location of the launches should be studied so that the dock does not need to protrude so far into the river. Please note that their current location downstream of Northeastern has a naturally protected cove to house launches and docks with a better turning situation just upstream from NEU's boathouse. Perhaps Alternative 3 should be studied. It is unclear if any CRAB / Charles River Association of Boaters representatives have been consulted on the location of the boathouses and docks. This really needs further study as the Charles River is intensely used by rowers and boaters. Thanks!</p>	Brookline	MA	02445
Julia	Tate	It would be such a shame to move and essentially destroy these established gardens. There are plenty of other areas that have great views, and a lawn with a view is no reason to displace dozens of plots that are often the only outdoor spaces that people have while living in Boston.	Brighton	MA	02135-1602
John	Herter	<p>I was lucky enough to be a member of the Herter garden for several years. I can't tell you how many random people came by and struck up conversations. The garden is a community hub - it's a place where kids and families can see gardening happening in the city. I encourage you not to move it aside - to relocate it where it's "out of the way." That's precisely part of the utility it serves - it should be conspicuous; it should be visible. Honestly, the best thing DCR could do is to make it better! If you think it's an eye sore - please consider what you could do to improve it!</p> <p>Best, John Herter</p>	Portland	ME	04102
Tom	Elliott	<p>I want to express my strong opposition to the DCR's plan to uproot the existing community garden. I live in Oak Square, Brighton, and my wife and I are frequent visitors to the Herter Park. We enjoy walking by the garden, seeing what is growing, talking to the gardeners.</p> <p>To replace all this vitality with an empty lawn seems very wrong and shortsighted. There are acres of lawn a couple of hundred yards downstream from the community garden. Surely that's enough.</p>	Brighton	MA	02135

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deadline extended 10/29/2021

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
William	Wood	Please don't relocate this garden! It is a great asset to the park and should be front and central. Community gardens send a great message to the wider community and should be highlighted! Make the garden the centerpiece of the park.	Jamaica Plain	MA	02130
Nina	Bhattacharya	<p>I'm writing to strongly discourage moving the Herter Park Community Garden, a 45-year-old garden that truly represents the heart of our Allston-Brighton community. In my work within public health and social work, we often discuss the intrinsic power of community in nurturing the health and wellbeing of people across all identities. The Herter Park Community Garden is just that: A space where individuals of all ages, from all backgrounds, all classes can come together to tend not only the soil, but also the connections that make a neighborhood a real home.</p> <p>Honestly, it's hard not to feel a little wonder and joy when walking past the garden on the way to the Herter Amphitheater or on a socially-distanced walk along the Charles. You can see how much care has gone into tending the plots -- gardens where so many communities of color who call Boston home have grown vegetables you can't find anywhere else. In moving the garden, it will erase this specific, tangible part of our community's history, one that can't be replicated or regrown just like that. And this is why so many folks -- community organizations, the Cambridge City Council, those of us who live in Allston-Brighton -- oppose the plan to move our garden.</p>	Boston	MA	02215
Amanda	Ott	Community building and investment are more important than ever. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it's the importance and necessity of having a strong community of support around you. Community gardens are a gateway into building connections and investing in the well-being of our land and neighbors.	Brighton	MA	02135
Showna	Chang	I've been a gardener for about 6 years and spent almost 3 years on the waiting list to get a plot. This just highlights how important having good community garden space really is in the Boston area. It is truly an achievement that the garden has been organic for 50 years; that type of sustainability cannot be underestimated. I also happen to have a plot along the fence and am always interacting with pedestrians that stop to admire, comment, and ask questions; something that would be drastically reduced down the road. I strongly encourage DCR to re-consider relocating the Herter garden to "combine" it with the other garden down Storrow Drive. It would be a tragedy to replace it for a "better view." Thank you.	Arlington	MA	02474
Bryan	Terrazas	I stand with the gardeners of the Herter Community Garden who are resisting the DCR's plan to turn this richly fertile space into a lawn. Lawns are ecologically and environmentally bad for native species and local ecosystems. The Herter Community Garden has been providing an essential service to the Boston community for decades by cultivating organic and sustainable practices that has promoted a rich and fertile soil. Turning this space into a lawn would destroy that soil and ecosystem. Bostonians deserve better, and this space can provide an important educational tool to show how important community gardens like these are for ecology and community building. Instead of turning this into a lawn, I urge DCR to think about how they can help Herter Community Garden promote educational services to the community, allow it to be as accessible as possible to the public, and encourage native plant growth and sustainability.	Somerville	MA	02143

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Toni Lee	de Lantsheere	I have lived near the garden for the last 13 years. Changing it to a "picnic lawn" is ridiculous. There is plenty of other space for a picnic nearby. The Head of the Charles is a once a year event that draws people to this area. The rest of the year, the use is much more sporadic and thin. I'm willing to bet that the Herter Garden has far more traffic and use from humans than any picnic area near this part of the river. The 45 years of the garden's life, the enrichment of the soil, the diverse community - that's not nothing and should be respected and supported. When people do come around to picnic, they enjoy the discovery of this beautiful garden. If anything, we need more garden space and less "picnic" area. Thank you - please do not demolish this precious resource!	Cambridge	MA	02138
Jaye	HEFNER	There is no compelling reason to uproot this very well established community space.	Charlestown	MA	02129
Korey	Mui	PLEASE PRESERVE THE HERTER COMMUNITY GARDENS. It is in integral part of the neighborhood and highlights the best of our multicultural and green community! DO NOT TAKE DOWN!	Auburndale	MA	02466
Cara	Bradley	Boston already suffers from a lack of green space, and preserving our already limited community gardens must be prioritized. Community gardens cannot be simply picked up and moved to new locations, and I am disturbed with the plans to close down the community gardens at Herter Park.	Charlestown	MA	02129
Maggie	McKee	Dear DCR officials, I am writing to urge you to keep the Herter Community Garden where it currently stands. The gardeners there have built a strong community, and I think it would send a terrible message to them and to the larger community to replace the garden with a lawn. It would also be environmentally irresponsible, as lawns consume water and energy (usually fossil-fuel-based) to grow and mow, while providing little benefit, or actual harm, to wildlife (https://www.nrdc.org/stories/more-sustainable-and-beautiful-alternatives-grass-lawn ; https://www.discovermagazine.com/environment/your-perfect-lawn-is-bad-for-the-environment-heres-what-to-do-instead). Meanwhile, community gardens can help address climate change, food insecurity, the heat island effect, and other growing problems (see https://www.sesync.org/the-underutilized-role-of-community-gardens-in-improving-cities%E2%80%99-adaptation-to-climate-change-a). Why not keep the Herter gardens where they are AND build more gardens in the place you were planning to move them to? We don't need more lawn in the world. Thank you for your consideration, Maggie McKee	QUINCY	MA	02170
Nikki	Ruiz	Please do not move this garden. What we have right now is in great thanks to YEARS of dedicated local gardener's. It is not fair to the people or to the plants to uproot things. Please. I never ever comment or complain but this is the 1 thing i will fight for. I am unable to make the meeting because i have to keep a roof over our heads, life is pretty tough in the city- please leave us our little bit of comfort and peace. The deadline, 10/29, is my birthday- please let me have my birthday wish to keep our garden. Thank you kindly.	Chelsea	MA	02150

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Robin	DiGiammarino	The access to green space in Allston should be enough reason to keep the community garden in place. Community gardens provide an opportunity to build relationships. Gardeners by work side by side with neighbors from different cultures, who speak different languages and celebrate different customs. Community gardeners learn about more than gardening, they learn about new foods grown by other gardeners and they learn gardening techniques. The access to fresh produce from a community garden has the potential individuals and families to independently improve their nutrition and lower their food costs. Please keep the Herter Garden and create a second/new community garden elsewhere in Allston.	CHARLESTOWN	MA	02129
Ellery	Klein	Please don't dismantle a community garden. While adjustments might need to be made, tearing apart a community gathering place/learning place/garden is counterintuitive to the name "Recreation."	Medford	MA	02155
Adele	Munger Mathieu	Please do not destroy this garden. Moving it will not achieve any good purpose except for how things look. It takes years to develop soil full of nutrients and beneficial insects and no invasive plants. The perennials which have been growing there for years will be diminished in the move, as well. I love that it is a resource within the community for education and community building. Moving it further away will make it more difficult for some people to get to the new spot and they may have to stop participating. There are many papers which detail the benefits to people from gardening. You will destroy the community resource which has developed over fifty years of growing. Change for the sake of change is not a good thing and people can still picnic beside the garden and watch the birds and butterflies come and go. Please heed the pleas of the community and leave good enough alone. Thank you for your attention to this issue.	Brookline	MA	02445
Zoe	Sherman	There are so many exciting things in this proposal! I'm happy to see plans for more pedestrian access points and for better landscaping and drainage (the mosquitos made the beer garden almost unusable this summer!). One thing I consider it important to preserve that the plan doesn't clearly protect is the community garden. Please do keep that.	Brighton	MA	02135
Gregory	Perkins	My opinion as a current garden member at the Gardens for Charlestown is that the Herter Park Master Plan as it stands now should be changed back to keep the Herter Community Gardens to where it is now. It is difficult to understand why the location should be moved to make the current location simply a passive lawn. Most open spaces have active uses such as playgrounds, sports facilities, concert venues and other areas where activities happen. The Herter community gardens is an active use, has been in place for 45 years, is a sunny location required for flowers and vegetables, and has been a safe and quiet place for years with no reports of misuse or violation of City laws as far as I am aware. Cities need to have active open space and gardens amidst all of the built up land use nearby despite the need for new development. Actually with the increased construction in Boston in recent years green space is even more important than it has ever been. Green space is in tune with need for an environmental future that mitigates the harmful climate change than new building can often bring. As a gardener in Charlestown I have seen how our gardens provide a vitally important resource to both garden members and the community at large. When a location has been in constant use for 45 years and has been a success there is no reason for change unless there are critical overriding public health or public safety issues. Gardens contribute to a lively community too where residents get to know their neighbors very well and changing that can undercut the cohesiveness of a neighborhood. Please reconsider the decision and include the garden in the plan without any change to the location.	Charlestown	MA	02129

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Judith	clark	<p>Please don't relocate the Herter Park Gardens.</p> <p>As a longtime member of a community garden in Brookline, I know the time, energy, devotion, and care that each gardener brings to their garden. Year after year, we nourish the soil, we tend our perennial plants, we plant new annual plants and we rotate our crops for the best yields and soil health. A garden is not simply a patch of dirt, it is a labor of love that is nurtured and tended thoughtfully every year. It is a long-term, multi-year commitment to the earth and to growing healthy food.</p> <p>We don't just roll out sod and mow it once a week. We compost (and keep food waste out of landfills), we remove invasive plants, we encourage local plants to feed the native bird population, and some of us grow flowers to feed butterflies and insect pollinators.</p> <p>And, although we might not like the voles and chipmunks that eat our vegetables, they are in turn food for our spectacular falcons and hawks.</p> <p>You can't simply move a garden. You cannot reproduce what these gardeners have created in another location. If you try to do that you will be destroying all the work and creativity that these gardeners have put into this fertile patch of the earth. And for what? A view? That is a very superficial reason to consider destroying this thriving community garden.</p>	Brookline	MA	02446
Margarita	Montero	<p>The Herter Community Garden is conveniently located next to the Parking lot. Can you please make the changes around the Herter Community Garden?</p> <p>With so many Housing/business developments in Allston and Brighton, we need open spaces for the taxpayers to enjoy.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>	Boston	MA	02135

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Donna	Kenny	<p>At this time of grave climate concerns it seems tone deaf at least and disrespectful certainly to uproot longtime gardeners and destroy the Herter Community Garden they have created in Allston.</p> <p>Since many of these gardeners also immigrated to the US and are first, or at best second, generation immigrants - many of them also older residents - to destroy the efforts of their sweat and toil conveys an unmitigated disrespect and arrogant ageism.</p> <p>More green urban environments desperately need to be created and preserved, not trampled and trounced upon.</p> <p>Let's leave these gardens to grow and thrive for everyone.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	Boston	MA	02129
Stacy	Diamond	<p>Hi please do not close the Herter Community garden; public gardens provide so many benefits for residents, for gardeners, for the public - and for migrating species (birds, butterflies and other pollinators) whose habitats are shrinking by the day. A garden is not only a place to grow fruits, vegetables and flowers; it's a place to meet our neighbors, to relax, to see a glimpse of nature amidst urban development. Public gardens are an oasis of greenery through which we can walk on a break from work, in which we can sit for a moment to rest our feet perhaps on the way home from the grocery store or office.</p> <p>Green spaces of every kind are infrequent enough in our lives, it would be far better to increase their number rather than close the few we have.</p>	Boston	MA	02115
Marshall	Sikowitz	<p>I am opposed to the shutting down and proposed relocation of the Herter Community Gardens. The gardens are an integral component of the landscape and offer much needed space to a wide diverse group of urban gardeners. Those plots have taken years to develop and the gardeners have invested thousands of hours to each of them. New plots take a very long time before they are productive and in addition the proposed area for relocation is not suitable. The action proposed would be cruel.</p> <p>Please do not destroy gardens for a lawn.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02139
Antonella	Guzzi	I am opposed to the destruction of the gardens. We need more community gardens not less. The relocation proposed is unworkable. Years of building up garden plots will be destroyed. Don't do this - listen to the community. More gardens less lawns.	Cambridge	MA	02139
Larry	Parnell	I strongly urge the DCR to reconsider its plan to relocate the Herter community garden. Seeing this garden as we commute to work and school is a pleasant sight. If the DCR wishes to create a picnic area, it should do that between the large parking lot at the spray pool and the river, effectively extending from the few picnic benches that are very near the playground and pool.	Cambridge	MA	02140
Xin	Li	Please save Herter community garden! Save nature!	Cambridge	MA	02139

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Lisa	McNulty	<p>Comment from Lisa McNulty & Bill Gonzalez</p> <p>As Allston residents for over 35 years our family has enjoyed Herter Park along the Charles for birding, biking, walking and picnicking. We are excited to hear about the plans to upgrade the area with a focus on the environment and making the area more accessible for the community. Unfortunately, we did not know about the zoom presentations and are late to the party.</p> <p>After reviewing the plans from a user perspective, it seems that traffic flow and the boat houses get the iron share of consideration in real estate and focus.</p> <p>Combining the Amphitheater with a boathouse seems forced. Building a boat house in the main grass area totally changes that area. We are at a loss as to why the garage that is being removed is not rebuilt to fit the Tufts boats? Their inability to store their larger boats should hardly be the major concern of the redesign. Additionally, would it not benefit both high school and college teams to be together to provide for mentoring programs, etc.We realize scheduling could present some challenges, but is this upgrade for the elite crewing community or the rest of us?</p> <p>Lack of clarity in the plans for the use of universal design for accessibility (ramps, connections to parking lots, transit?, toilets & play areas). It may be there, but not clear in the posted presentation.</p> <p>The most upsetting is the relocation of the Herter Community Garden; the HEART of the area. Both community gardens have provided a constant presence over the years and as other areas have not always been taken care of, the gardens have been the most consistently used areas. While we understand there may be some issues with fertilizer run off from the gardens to the Charles, we are curious as to why a plan that can move intersections, roadways, buildings and other structures can not address a way to keep both gardens safely in their current spots. (Continued by Bill Gonzalez)</p>	Allston	MA	02134

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Bill	Gonzalez	<p>(Continued from Lisa McNulty...)</p> <p>Both of these gardens offer so many benefits to the environment and to consolidate them at one end with way less parking and access seems like a penalty for those that have actually used and cared for this area for more than half of it's existence. As birders, the different types of items grown in both gardens attract so much more to the entire area than would be the case if they are consolidated together basically at the end of the trail.</p> <p>The limited parking for the community gardeners and the increased traffic by moving the boathouse centrally seems uneven. We hope the plan could be reworked to not only keep both community gardens in their current locations but also rework the garage to fit the Tufts boats and rework the vacant Herter Center building for use by the Amphitheater and other community programs.</p> <p>We realize some of our concerns may have been answered in the meetings, but from long time user perspectives it's hard to see how community use & needs are really driving this project and hope that you consider some of our suggestions to rework the plans.</p> <p>Thank you, Bill Gonzalez & Lisa McNulty</p>	Allston	MA	02134
Tiffany	Wilson	<p>Please leave the Herter Garden untouched! It's so difficult to establish a mature garden, and this one has been a vital part of the community for so long. Moving it will mean that gardeners will have to start from scratch, and try to recreate the growing conditions that they've created. It will take years for a new garden to be as productive. There have to be ways to work around the gardens; they might even become a feature without moving them.</p>	Brighton	MA	02135
Brianna	McHorse	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm a Cambridge resident and homeowner writing in support of maintaining the Herter Community Garden. Places like this garden - complex, nourishing (literally), with a long history, a nexus of community -- are what make cities a delightful place to live.</p> <p>Parks with a view and picnic tables are nice enough, but they have little character and far fewer benefits than a community gathering space that feeds its residents. They are certainly not worth displacing such a garden.</p> <p>I urge you to leave the Herter Community Garden intact in its current location, and to support it in the future.</p> <p>Brianna Mchorse</p>	Cambridge	MA	02138

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
GROW -	Green Rows of Waltham Community Garden	<p>Dear DCR:</p> <p>The Steering Committee of Green Rows of Waltham (a 26-year-old volunteer-run community garden) is writing to support the Herter Community Gardens' need to remain in its current location. In a populated area such as Brighton, forty-five-year old organic gardening soil is a unique and precious resource. Even if the soil were to be moved to the new location, the microorganisms that maintain the health of the soil would be destroyed thereby allowing disease and bacteria to flourish in the new garden.</p> <p>A community garden is more than its soil and plants. At GROW, as at Herter, gardeners from several cultures and of all ages and economic walks of life work side-by-side in their plots. Cross-cultural and intergenerational relationships are developed and food is shared, broadening everyone's understanding and appreciation of each other. Moving the Herter gardens will inevitably make the gardens inaccessible to some and sever some of those important connections,</p> <p>Developing and maintaining a garden takes much effort. Please support Herter Community Gardens' amazing success throughout the years and allow them to stay in their current location.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>GROW Steering Committee.</p>	Waltham	MA	02454
Carla	Procaskey	<p>Dear DCR,</p> <p>I am writing to oppose the plan to relocate the Herter community gardens. I am truly puzzled about why you want to remove the gardens from their current location. There are many grassy places along the Charles River for picnicing. You could improve one or more of those areas if you want to have a particularly nice picnic lawn.</p> <p>Community gardens are an extremely valuable resource. They provide people with a place to grow both food and flowers, nourishing both the body and spirit. For kids living in a city it can open up a whole world of learning about how plants grow and a chance to observe the interactions of plants and insects. The community gardens are also a great way to meet and interact with people from a wide variety of backgrounds, all of whom have a common interest in gardening.</p> <p>You seem to recognize the importance of the gardens since you plan to create a new garden area fairly near by. The current location has been farmed for over 40 years and the soil has been greatly improved by that farming. I'll admit I have not seen the new location, but it is apparently sloped, which is harder to garden. And the soil will surely need many years of tending to make it as fertile as the soil in the current location.</p> <p>. I think picnics on the Charles are a fine idea, just not in a location that already has a better use.</p>	Cambridge	MA	02138

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Alex	Villanueva	<p>AGAINST MOVING THE GARDEN</p> <p>The plan to move the garden - while filled with good intentions - does not seem to meet the needs of the community DCR and Herter Park serves. As an avid visitor to the park - I am not a gardener - I think the garden as is is a beautiful feature. Replacing it with a simple lawn does not make sense. The garden does little to obstruct views and access to the Charles, and there is a great deal of open space, some lightly wooded already around the park.</p> <p>Further, those gardeners form the bedrock of the park community - they are there sometimes daily in good and bad weather, their considerations should have been taken more into account. Moving DECADES of work on those plots would cause an undue and unfair burden on the gardeners, many of whom are senior and have poured more love into those plots than any bystanders can imagine.</p> <p>Lastly, the garden where it stands adds a great deal of value to visitors - it offers guests an opportunity to engage with gardeners, appreciate their work, and appreciate all of the postive attributes of the garden - including its place as a melting pot of sorts.</p> <p>It would be a shame if DCR tore it up.</p>	Brookline	MA	02445
Kevin	Dacey	<p>Hello! There is no reason to displace this amazing, historic community garden. It is a vital part of the Charles River experience. Without it the community will take a huge loss. In a city that's losing more and more of its green space every year, it makes no sense to get rid of it. Gardens like this are inspiration to all with their commitment to growing their own food and natural beauty. It is shame it is even a question to get rid of this gorgeous place that isn't just home to plants but many insects and animals. We will not let this happen.</p>	Medford	MA	02155
Matthew	Cassie	<p>Regarding the proposed changes to the Central Area of the park, namely relocating the Herter Community Garden upstream and adjacent to the existing Charles River section, DCR would do well to ponder the consequences to the local and diverse community of individuals and families who have cultivated that small section of land for decades. Mature gardens like the one in question are not so easily and casually replaceable as a planner might hope, as local reporting has shown that the produce that our community grows represent the rich diversity of the neighborhood it came from. For the sake of the stakeholders involved I dearly hope this decision will be reconsidered.</p> <p>To the extent that DCR wishes to offer more picnic or event space, it would be a more sensible option to leave the Central Area with the garden intact and concentrate on the East Lawn & East Meadow areas. The lack of tall growing vegetation and upstream views offer more desirable leisure spots than points further southwest, in my view. However, the space available on the eastern end of the park would seem to be more low-lying and often has standing water after large rain events, which attracts nuisance wildlife (mostly geese) and the waste they produce. Without proper drainage this space goes unusable for much of the year so I encourage DCR to scrutinize this part of the site more thoroughly.</p>	Brighton	MA	02135

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
Donald	Gianniny	<p>While there are numerous parts of the Herter Park Master Plan which will improve safety and access to the park there are two things that I question:</p> <p>1. The moving of the community garden near the theatre should not be done because, it is a reminder of our tie to this Earth. The process of growing healthy food, and sharing that process with people connects us to our food in a way that packaged vegetables in a super market never can. IS a concern of planners is that it's unsightly, and not what they want special event goers to have to see in making upscale plans for the theatre. People have worked those gardens for 45 years and are connected to them. If planners would like to expand the gardens at the other site, that would be a benefit to the community, but it should be done without closing down the gardens near the theatre.</p> <p>While I understand the idea that consolidating the gardens could make sense to eliminate some duplicate of needs at the two sites, this is a very visceral issue for people of the community who have gardened here for years. I understand that the area could be used to make a more bucolic entrance and gathering ares near the theatre entrance, but it is not the right way to treat the gardeners of our community. If they had approached you as a group, and asked for this specific change that would be one thing, but that isn't the case.</p> <p>2. The boathouse for high schools would be a much better place for the high school rowers, having bathrooms and proper storage facilities is great. But in this age of looking at equity, one has to ask which high schools and high schoolers would benefit, and who would be excluded because their schools don't have the funding, or parents with deep enough pockets, to offer rowing? Is it a facility for the already entitled at elite schools, or is it to be a facility truly available for all the high schoolers of the Boston area? This ethical question cannot be dodged, and must be considered as this goes forward.</p>	Brighton	MA	02135
Nikhil	Nadkarni	<p>Thank you for presenting the proposed updates to Herter Park. I often use Herter Park for a wide range of activities: attending events at the amphitheater, biking through, and canoeing from the Paddle Boston rental location. I fully support the changes that DCR is proposing, and in particular support the road diet being proposed for Soldiers Field Road. This road diet and the increased availability of crossings will dramatically improve access not only to Allston residents, but also for anyone arriving to the area by public transit. Right now, taking the 86 or 70 bus to Herter Park means carefully finding one of the few crossing points to reach Herter Park from Western Ave. I also support the T intersection at the Eliot Bridge, and in particular the improved connection for the Paul Dudley White Path that will make for a safer cycling experience.</p>	Somerville	MA	02143

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Name (First)	Name (Last)	Comment	City	State	Zip
William	Brownsberger	Greetings, I am excited about DCR's initiative at Herter Park. I wish to weigh in with concern about one feature of it: The displacement of the garden plots. I am sympathetic to the concerns of gardners who have made huge investments of personal effort in creating their gardens. I also feel that it would be a loss to the Herter park experience to move the gardens to a less visible area. The location of the gardens immediately adjacent to the main Artesani parking area exposes them to public view and encourages public interaction with the gardeners. I hope that the master plan can move forward with minimal disruption to the gardens. Thank you for your consdieration.	Belmont	MA	02478

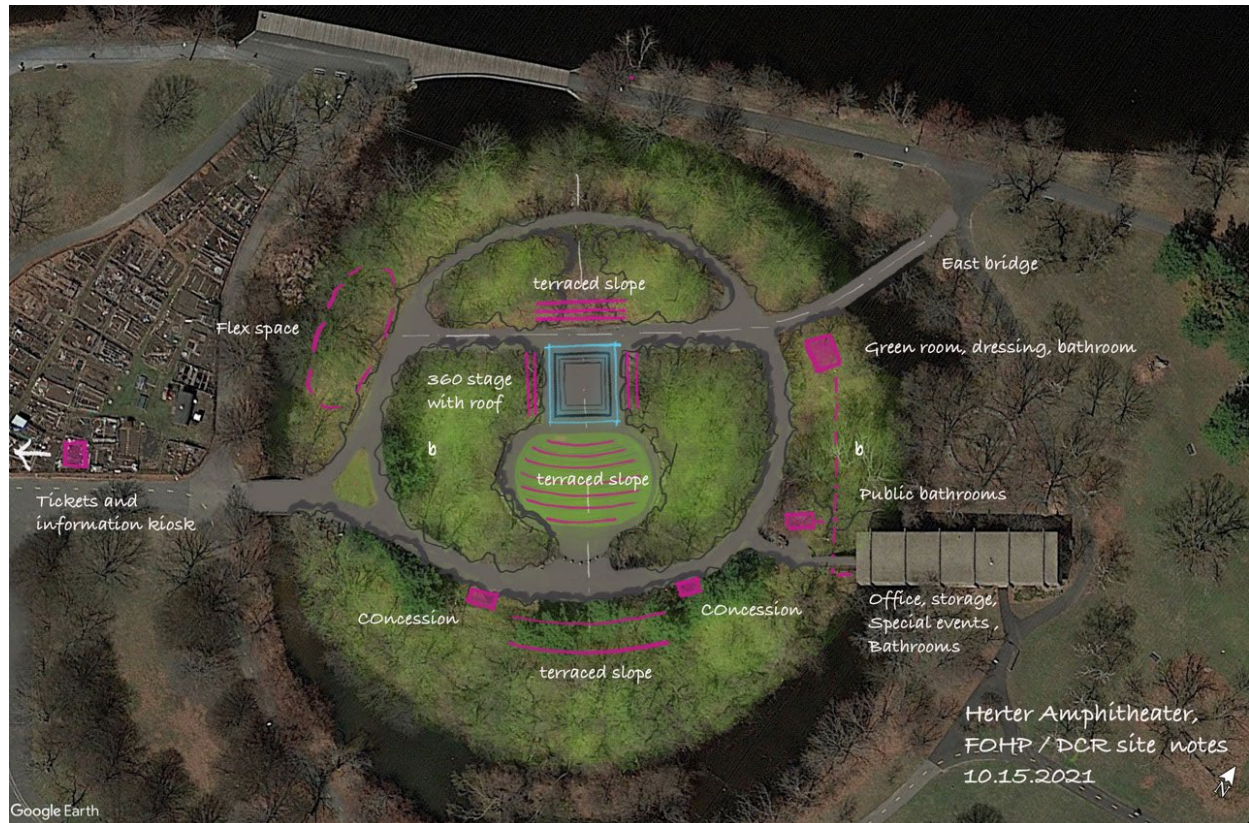
From: Herb Nolan
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Norwood, Jennifer (DCR) <jennifer.norwood@mass.gov>
Subject: Input on the Herter Park master plan Concept Proposals

Hi Jenny,

While I am on the board of the Friends of Herter Park I think it important to submit my own input on the master plan independently. There will be a lot of overlap but you'll get a lot more context from my comments.

Also attached is a plan diagram that summarizes our wonderful conversation with Ginna.

Herb



Herbert Nolan
Executive Director
Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Foundation

memo

Date October 20, 2021
To Department of Conservation and Recreation
From Herb Nolan, Solomon Foundation
Re **Herter Park Master Plan - Concept Proposals**

These notes reflect my personal thoughts on the extraordinary master plan that the DCR rolled out at the public meeting on September 29th. It is visionary plan that takes some very necessary risks. Kudos to the senior DCR team and the design consultants. Thanks to Ginna Johnson who listened to FOHP requests and came for a site visit a week later. We learned a lot together and look forward to further discussions. Detailed comments on the amphitheater program and layout will be forthcoming from the FOHP as they learn more and move through the design process.

I believe a reimagined amphitheater and performing arts program is as important to the future of Herter Park as any of the other bold ideas embedded in this imaginative plan. A reinvented amphitheater will help attract top notch performers. With a robust organization to bring it to life the amphitheater will in time become the jewel in the crown of a revitalized Herter Park.

Feedback on the draft master plan as it relates to the amphitheater

Visibility

- The reconfigured and more sustainable parking lot is a wonderful idea, however, it further isolates the amphitheater entrance making a hidden asset potentially more invisible. If true this would be a real liability for the performing arts on the site. The amphitheater and its programming should have a visual presence at the Everett Street entrance to the park. Large-scale information displays on upcoming shows and a ticketing kiosk could be accommodated here. Having a banner system at the edge of Soldeirs Field Road for day-of-performances as is done in Europe would help. Further study is needed.

Access

- The addition of a second pedestrian bridge will integrate the amphitheater into the park as a whole which vitally important. During vast majority of time when the amphitheater is not being used for performances the island should be open to public access and support spontaneous gatherings.
- Introducing the second bridge will deliver people to the back side of the existing stage where back-of-house equipment and containers are currently stored in a very ad hoc manner. We need fresh thinking on how to resolve this awkward front/back situation and accommodate the programatic needs of any active performance venue. A key goal should be to integrate the amphitheater into the life of the park as a whole.

Moat

- The commitment to dredging the moat and landscaping the eroding banks, while expensive, is important. Doing so will help in some measure eliminate the stagnate water and avoid

future public health problems. With global warming and mosquito born diseases such as West Nile on the rise we need to get ahead of potential problems. Sequencing this necessary dredging in advance of future park construction in order to accommodate the extensive processing of materials will avoid future disruptions to the park. (Note: An alternative approach to the canal could be to convert it to a bioswale for the treatment of stormwater run off from the island and surrounding land including the parking lot. While visitors love the idea of crossing over water to get to the island, a vegetated “moat” would eliminate stagnant water which breeds mosquitoes and would not require periodic dredging.)

Herter Center

- The use of the ground floor of the Herter Center to support High School rowing as well as public restrooms accessible 24/7 is a good use of this facility. Would it be possible to use the indoor space in a flexible manner to support outdoor public events on occasion?
- If the amphitheater is to survive and thrive, the FOHP or their successor will need more access to the second floor of the Herter Center than currently shown. The modest office, bathrooms, and support space are much needed but control over all or part of the multi-purpose room for special events will be essential. Private events in the amphitheater on occasion may become an important revenue stream to sustain a non-profit producing organization. Having the second floor as an attractive and flexible space may prove essential.
- Due to its location the Herter Center is far from ideal as a greenroom and changing facility for performers who need easy access to the stage. Further Study is needed to understand the operation and programmatic needs of a fully successful amphitheater.

Feedback on the master plan as a whole

Soldiers Field Road

- For decades the Allston/Brighton community has asked that something be done to make Soldiers Field Road safer to cross and less of a barrier to the Park. This plan with its narrowed two-lane roadway and its four at-grade crossings exceeds our expectations. Given the slower speeds, narrow width and four light controlled pedestrian crossings, expensive pedestrian bridges or tunnels are likely no longer necessary. Further study is needed to confirm this.
- Reducing the capacity of SFR may induce more people to take public transportation and walk or bike to get where they need to go. The long term success of this road diet is tied to the provision of better regional public transit and dedicated paths for active transportation.
- A fifth pedestrian crossing of SFR further west and closer to the reclaimed Speedway Headquarters may be worth considering.

High School Rowing

- Dropping new structures into an existing park should always be done as a last resort. I think the DCR has made a convincing case for this new facility but I have a number of design and operational concerns. In return for access to state land we should have high expectations
- Critically important is the case for equitable public access to the high school rowing program. What ongoing and well funded efforts will be made to ensure that rowing as a sport is made more accessible to all?
- The rowing facility should be large enough to accommodate the projected High School rowing programs from the start without boats and equipment encroaching onto park land or the facility sprawling in future years. How can this be assured? Note: Alt. 2 is considerably smaller than Alt 1, is further from the water, and has somewhat awkward circulation for crews carrying shells. Alt. 1 appears to have twice as much space as Alt 2 and is screened with planted mound which preserves the Shady Grove to some extent.

- What is to prevent this facility from sprawling in the future. Can proper design limit that potential?
- The 200 foot long timber landing for the rowing program is a public asset that should benefit other users at certain times of day or week. It should be available for occasional ferry service to the amphitheater's east entrance for instance. Will it be gated and locked or will it be accessible to the general public as is the case with the Community Rowing docks?

West End

- Consolidation of the community gardens at the west end of the park with new and improved support facilities for the gardeners is an essential move. The gardeners should be involved in its design. Direct access by car to the plots and better support facilities such as water and composting facilities are a big improvement over the current location. It may be possible to stockpile the existing top soil from the existing plots and transport it to the new location. I would love to see some commitment to public programming at the community gardens with educational displays and demonstration plots for example. Given that this is public land, equitable access to garden plots should be assured for all potential gardeners - old and new alike.
- The small isolated parking lot near the shore may be unsafe to enter and exit given the geometry of SFR. Consider consolidating parking at the Community Garden parking lot and requiring visitors to walk to the shore.
- The existing degraded woodland may not be worth attempting to reclaim. It grew up on a heavily disturbed work site and as a result has large amounts of invasive plant materials throughout. Consider starting with a blank slate by removing construction debris and importing quality soil, re-grading the site, and replanting with native plants. Further assessment is needed

Central Area

- The current location of the community gardens is problematic for a number of reasons and should be consolidated to the west end. Challenges include:
 - It is essentially a private use of public land at the heart of Herter Park. this is a very congested part of the park and should be dedicated to open and equitable public use.
 - It is difficult to access from the parking lot for older gardeners resulting in cars being parked illegally on the public path from time to time.
 - Though in a high visibility location at the entrance to the Herter Amphitheater it is very unkept in appearance and blocks views to the Charles River.
 - It is directly adjacent to the canal with likely impacts to water quality from fertilizers
- We support the reconfigurations and reduction in pavement for the Artisan parking lot. A combination of best practices (pervious pavement, extensive tree cover, and well maintained bioswales) should be part of the design since this large lot drains directly to the river. Note: The parking lot should be managed so that park visitors have priority and commuters pay market rate for storing their vehicles during the day. Any revenue stream from parking fees or other private uses should support public programming in the park as managed by non-profit organizations.
- We support multiple (10+) "view terraces" that allow visitors to be lower down the embankment and directly adjacent to the river. This kind of direct experience of the water is rare along the Charles River.
- *Amphitheater improvements (see separate statement from the FOHP)*

East Lawn

- The formal oval and the natural amphitheater looking west up river are wonderful idea. These will become natural gathering places for the public.
- Holding the river path back from the edge of the river and creating what looks like a wet meadow is an ecologically sound idea. How wet will that meadow be and how will it be maintained by the DCR maintenance crew? What is to prevent walkers and runners from wearing a desire line along the edge of the bank especially during big events like Head of the Charles? Will an informal path be inevitable and, if so, does it make sense to show a secondary softer surface path system closer to the bank?

East Meadow

- The substantial new open space created on the north side of Elliot Bridge will become a brand new “park within the park” for the Charles River reservation. Fabulous.
- The distinction between formal lawns, informal lawns, dry meadows and wet meadows is wonderful to see.

Park maintenance and operations

- Can operations step up to the level of care suggested by this complex master plan? I see several landscape types including formal lawns, informal lawn, bioswales, upland meadows, wet meadows, and woodlands
- What level of training, staff and equipment would it take to steward this new park? Is a maintenance plan and schedule part of the scope for the master plan?
- Would a crew with specialized skill be needed and could they be housed onsite or nearby?
- Could a sustainability fund be established and managed by a non-profit in order to deploy a maintenance crew dedicated to Herter Park?

Mr. Cushing,
Charles River Watershed Association ("CRWA") submitted the attached comments on the Herter Park Master Plan through DCR's [public comments portal online](#). However, we are also providing a single PDF so that DCR has a complete copy of all of our comments in one document and we have a record of what was submitted. Our comments are in response to the content presented at the September 29, 2021 Public Meeting. We have organized our comments to match the presentation topics.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dira

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Dira Johanif, MSc

Program Associate for Community Resilience
Charles River Watershed Association

Boston, MA 02111

Pronouns She/Her

October 20, 2021

Via Form on website [DCR Public Comments | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/public-comments-dcr)

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Office of Public Outreach
251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Herter Park Master Plan

CRWA Comment #1

On June 23, 2021, Charles River Watershed Association (“CRWA”) provided comments to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (“DCR”) on the Herter Park Master Plan, currently being prepared by DCR and Halvorson Design and associated subcontractors (collectively, the “Project Team”). We were pleased to see the Project Team reflect input from stakeholders and the public in the Fall 2021 presentations. We also appreciate that the planning work recognizes the importance of preserving the park’s history (e.g., the amphitheater and the Herter Center as centerpieces) while planning for its future, including mitigation and managing impacts due to climate change (e.g., flooding, urban heat island). Our comments are in response to the content presented at the September 23, 2021, Stakeholder Meeting #2 and September 29, 2021, Public Meeting #2.

CRWA support the following that were proposed in the September 2021 Meetings:

- Increased and improved safe access to the park by pedestrians, bikers, and vehicles
- The “Diet Road Concept” and expanded parkland near the Eliot Bridge, both of which result in reduced impervious cover and increased vegetation
- Inclusion of a new pollinator meadow
- Removal of invasive species and plantings of native species (ecological restoration, restored woodlands)
- View terraces to see the Charles River
- Preservation of existing wooded areas
- Additional access to Amphitheater from the opposite side as the current bridge
- Addition of public restrooms

CRWA Comment #2

However, given the public presentations focused on particular content and did not address all public input, CRWA requests the project team revisit CRWA’s June 23, 2021, comments (in particular, no concrete recommendations for stormwater and drainage as it relates to the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus and bacteria, and climate change were provided in the September 2021 updates), as well as consider the following additional comments based on the information provided during September 2021 by the Project Team.

CRWA Comment #3

Vehicular Circulation: Soldier’s Field Road Diet

We urge the Project Team to consider how this option will support various event needs. Can this reduced lane scenario be closed down temporarily for large events that need additional parking?

CRWA Comment #4

Herter Center Adaptive Reuse: High School Rowing

We request that the Project Team produce a summary of the total existing and potential impervious and pervious cover for the two Adaptive Reuse concept alternatives. The park should maintain as many healthy trees as possible throughout the entire area, but specifically in relation to the Herter Center Adaptive Reuse. We request the Project Team compare the total trees and green space that will be removed by the Herter Center Adaptive Reuse. As part of considering alternatives, we request selection of the alternative that minimizes creation of impervious cover and reduces removal of healthy trees be prioritized.

Has the team considered using a green roof on the new facility? If not, are there alternatives to reduce urban heat island that can be employed?

Note that, as part of the permitting process, CRWA will have additional comments on any proposed addition of a dock.

CRWA Comment #5

Community Garden Consolidation: Concept Plans

We are aware the community has concerns about the plan to consolidate and relocate the gardens. What are the pros and cons of moving the garden? What will be in place of the garden planned to be moved - will it offer an area for stormwater management or is it merely planned to be grassed/lawn area? Is moving the garden necessary for the parking lot or wayfinding configurations? Will the same amount of space be offered in the new location? How, if it all, will plots be relocated? How many mature trees will be removed to make space for the garden move?

CRWA Comment #6

Moat Landscape: Reconstruction

Regarding the moat, we strongly encourage DCR to consider converting the moat into a constructed stormwater wetland, rather than the planned dredging and replanting. Since there is no natural water flow in the moat, these 'restoration' efforts will need to be repeated every 5 years or so to maintain an open channel. We echo the concerns of the community around mosquitos and concerns about vector-borne illness. Converting the moat to a constructed wetland would relieve some of the anticipated maintenance, and improve drainage and water quality to the Charles River.

CRWA Comment #7

Park Concepts: Enlarged Plans

Regarding the new lifeguard station, we request more information on the new lifeguard station, especially as it relates to total impervious cover and reduction of green space/trees.

Regarding event/picnic laws, will any of these areas require the use of fertilizers? We would like to see the operation & maintenance program for these areas and hope that will be included in the Landscape Management Plan.

As part of the permitting process, CRWA will have additional comments on any proposed docks and river access points.

CRWA Comment #8

Other Comments

We request the Project Team include the following in the final Master Plan:

1. A count of total anticipated trees that will be removed and total trees that will be added, including types, dimensions, etc.
2. Total existing impervious cover and total proposed impervious cover, with the park and the roadway, tallied separately.
3. A discussion on anticipated climate change in this area of Allston that is consistent with the Commonwealth's projections and the mitigation measures that are being included in the elements of the Master Plan.

Thank you for considering these comments. We look forward to seeing a full copy of the Herter Park Master Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dira Johanif". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dira" and last name "Johanif" clearly distinguishable.

Dira Johanif,
Program Associate for Community Resilience

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennie S. A. Moonan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennie" and last name "Moonan" clearly distinguishable.

Jennie Moonan, PE
Stormwater Program Director



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Mr. Jim Montgomery
Interim Commissioner
Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

October 20, 2021

Dear Commissioner Montgomery,

On behalf of the Charles River Conservancy, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Herter Park Master Plan. We are appreciative and excited that the Department of Conservation and Recreation has developed such a comprehensive master plan for Herter Park, one of the parks in which the CRC is highly invested.

Our recommendations to leverage the resources of DCR and their nonprofit partners to enhance the future of Herter Park are based on our 20+ year history of service to this public space. We believe many of the suggestions from our December 20, 2019 letter regarding the Herter Park master plan (attached) were taken into account which we greatly appreciate. To build on that, after speaking with agency partners similarly invested in the plan, we have developed additional recommendations about the master plan that center on public access, the amphitheater, and the long-term health and resilience of the park.

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHRISTIAN A. HERTER PARK MASTER PLAN

Prioritize public access in all areas of the master plan. Herter Park brings diverse communities together to enjoy natural spaces and reap the benefits of outdoor recreation. In order to ensure people of all backgrounds can participate in those benefits, DCR should prioritize accessibility to the public when designing and updating park plans.

- **Road Diet and Entry:** We were impressed by the proposed road diet and its narrowing of lanes and addition of multiple street crossings which will increase public access to the park. The at grade crossing elements will increase potential for road calming. We encourage DCR to thoughtfully align crossings and design entryways to welcome the neighboring Allston community.

- **Public dock:** Public docks are scarce along the lower Charles, and the ones that do exist are often popular and busy. DCR should make all new docks open to the public, marked by clear signage.
- **Community gardens:** Regardless of where the community gardens are located, they should be treated as an opportunity to further engage the public. Public gardens have potential for a demonstration element that can be used as an educational and community engagement tool, an effort on which the CRC would be happy to partner on with DCR and the plot holders. It is also imperative for DCR to work closely with garden plot holders on any alterations and improvements to the gardens to ensure years of work on the structure and soil is preserved and that the plots are accessible for all users.
- **Amenities:** Basic amenities, such as water fountains and bathrooms, are critically important for all who use the park, especially families and seniors. We support the addition of public bathrooms and water fountains in the Herter Center. We also encourage DCR to include these important amenities at other locations throughout the park and ensure these amenities are available and operational year-round.
- **Public High School Rowing Program:** The CRC supports programs that truly increase access to rowing and the river in Herter Park. We would like to see plans from Boston Latin School that outline how they will accomplish increasing public access and serving the needs of rowers with diverse race and socioeconomic status. We look forward to engaging with the program proponents as they engage stakeholders, community members, and funders throughout the project.

Include upgrades to the amphitheater and provide additional, proximate support space in the Herter Center. Since its revitalization in 2016, the amphitheater has been one of the premier attractions in Herter Park, one with incredible potential to continue to engage diverse park visitors and serve as a multi-use venue for multiple organizations, individuals, and entities. Therefore, updates to the amphitheater should be included in the master plan to support it and its programs. As stated in our previous comment letter, the seating, utilities, and shade and rain protection should be updated to reinforce the advancement of the amphitheater's programming. Overall, the Herter Center should increase the capacity of the amphitheater's programming and include complementary uses, such as community meeting and café space. . Specific recommendations for both the Herter Center's ability to support the amphitheater and for the amphitheater itself are detailed in the comment letter by Friends of Herter Park.

Expand the plan to include green infrastructure to support the park's long-term health and resilience. DCR has a responsibility to consider future implications of our changing climate and continue to act as an example for generations to come. The plan should include strategies to expect and prepare for changes in weather and climate.

- **Parking lot:** Designs for the parking lot should include green infrastructure to address its impermeability in order to mitigate flooding as the park experiences effects of climate change. Specifically, pavement and other impervious surfaces should be broken up to aid proper drainage and avoid pooling and flooding. To avoid chloride and sodium impacts on soil, the watershed, and wildlife, the salt storage should be removed from the main parking lot.
- **Lawns:** Inevitable flooding should be planned for by including plans for decompaction of existing lawns so that the park is prepared for its intended flood capacity and to secure its future health and resilience. Investing in subgrade design is necessary to strengthen the storm preparedness and infrastructure of the park.
- **Tree Canopy:** As we stated in our last letter, maximizing green space tree cover needs to be prioritized to cool Herter Park and add to the natural aesthetic of the park. Cooling the park will benefit neighboring areas as the neighborhoods increase in density and create/intensify urban heat islands. Both the protection of existing, healthy trees during construction and park events and the planting and care of new trees are needed to produce the highest cooling potential. Best practices must be used with regard to tree species,

soil selection, planting, and maintenance. The CRC is happy to support the planting of new trees, maintenance of existing, healthy trees, and the removal of rotting trees that cause safety hazards to park goers.

- **Maintenance:** A comprehensive landscape maintenance plan is necessary to ensure the success of the planned diverse landscapes in Herter Park. In addition to extra maintenance capacity from DCR, support and partnerships with groups like the CRC will likely be needed. We are happy to work with DCR to plan for future maintenance needs in the park.

Lastly, we request information on how **implementation of the master plan** will be phased so that we can prepare for its execution. As we frequently work in Herter Park, knowing how DCR will prioritize and phase implementation will affect our plans and programming. We also recommend that DCR supports and facilitates ongoing conversation among the current and future organizations that call Herter Park “home” to ensure collaborative solutions to the design challenges ahead.

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 are excited to see the landscape management plan, learn how DCR will maintain planned diverse landscapes, and collaborate on the future of those landscapes. The CRC is looking forward to our continued involvement in this important process, and we hope to continue our partnership in the care of Herter Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Laura Jasinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" and last name "Jasinski" clearly distinguishable.

Laura Jasinski
Executive Director
The Charles River Conservancy

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Attention: Dan Cushing, DCR Director of Public Engagement
Office of Public Outreach
251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Public Comment Letter on DCR Herter Park Master Plan

October 19, 2021

Hello DCR Leadership,

On behalf of Friends of Boston Latin School Crew and Friends of Brookline Rowing, we wanted to let you know how excited we are about the draft concept plan for Herter Park that was shared with the community on September 29th. We recognize the enormous amount of effort that has gone into this planning process (in a relatively short period of time) and we are excited that the master plan appropriately features public high school rowing as a critical component of this riverfront revitalization.

As you know from our prior discussions, we presently have over 250 public high school students from Brookline and Boston using our current facility to row on the river six days/week, nine months/year. Our current site lacks electricity/lighting, running water, drainage, safe storage and many other basic conveniences. With 12 of the 13 rowing-focused boathouses on the Charles River owned by private clubs, private schools and private universities (and Community Rowing Inc. bursting at the seams with activity) we are excited that DCR sees the need and opportunity to facilitate access to the river for the public school rowing community.

With that in mind, the prospect of building a proper facility for use by the current high school rowing programs -- and as a way to newly engage a more diverse population of local public high school students in rowing -- is incredibly compelling. In short, both of our organizations are excited to work together with DCR on the next phase of this process, and wanted to highlight four specific questions for further discussion.

1. Program capacity and design process for public high school rowing facility

Given the popularity of the sport, the opportunity to reach out to a more racially and socio-economically diverse population of students, and the impact that rowing can have on the lives of young people, we encourage DCR leadership to think big about the scale of this facility. Whether that means expanding the scale of the buildings, or planning from the outset to add capacity in the future, we think this is an important issue to address from the start. To advise in this process, we suggest

that DCR consider working with Jeff Peterson at Peterson Architects, a Cambridge-based architecture firm that is the national leader in design of rowing facilities. We would like to be an active stakeholder in the long-term planning for the facility, both with regard to design and programming.

2. How the public high school rowing facility will be paid for

We are eager to understand how DCR is thinking about funding this project. We believe that this is an attractive project for private funders who would view the development of this facility (and a commitment by DCR to engage less privileged communities of athletes from Boston Public Schools) as consistent with their strategic initiatives around diversity, equity and inclusion. We also believe that through our relationships and experience we can lead efforts to engage local and national rowing leaders to provide support for this facility and its programs, perhaps creating a model program in Boston for other cities to follow.

3. Transition from current public high school rowing site to new site

We recognize that this is only the planning phase of the Herter Park project, and we understand that there will be many phases before the full vision of the project is realized. We would like to understand how DCR is envisioning these phases and how the work would impact our current rowing programs. We would also like to be an active stakeholder in planning the multi-phase transition.

4. Public high school rowing boathouse operations and governance

Leaders within our organizations have worked and coached in other rowing facilities in Massachusetts and around the country. As part of our proposal to DCR during the master planning process we conducted research to benchmark other facilities, with a particular focus on the governance structure necessary to make a public school rowing facility successful. We would like to engage with DCR to discuss these success factors and understand how DCR leaders are thinking about how this facility would be operated, sharing our own perspective and experience as well.

As noted above, we are excited about the concepts and priorities for Herter Park shared by the planning team. We look forward to working together to engage in discussion around these (and other) important strategic questions related to the development of a public high school rowing facility and its successful long-term operation.

Sincerely,

Alexander Packard, President
Friends of Brookline Rowing

Audrey Richardson, Vice President
Friends of Boston Latin School Crew



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

October 29, 2021

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Office of Public Outreach
251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

SENT VIA EMAIL

RE: Herter Park Master Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of comment on the design concepts presented by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Halvorson Design for Herter Park in a public meeting held on September 29, 2021. I wish to thank the DCR for its ongoing attention to this project.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

I strongly oppose any relocation of the Herter Community Garden, as is currently proposed in the Herter Park Master Plan. The garden, which has been in its current location since 1976, is a vital resource for local community members, including Allston and Brighton residents. Removal of this garden will result in the loss of over 50 years of community labor. I urge the DCR to keep the Herter Community Garden in its current location.

In addition, I ask the DCR to note the following comments in regards to the community gardens located within Herter Park:

- There is great demand for space in community gardens, as evidenced by the four-year waitlist for a plot in the Herter Community Garden. I urge the DCR to both retain Herter Community Garden in its current location and develop a new community garden in the space proposed for the relocated Herter Community Garden.
- As the DCR moves forward with the Herter Park Master Planning process, I ask the DCR to work with stakeholders from both the Charles River Community Garden and the Herter Community Garden to determine what, if any, improvements are needed to help support the gardens' futures. The DCR must ensure that these improvements are co-determined with community stakeholders.

SOLDIERS FIELD ROAD

I write in strong support of the road diet concept proposed for the section of Soldiers Field Road adjacent to Herter Park. In its current condition, Soldiers Field Road is a barrier that serves to block safe access to the Charles River for Allston and Brighton residents. With appropriate provision of crossings, this concept will be a transformative project for the neighborhood that will help to reconnect Allston and Brighton to the River.

Please note the following questions and concerns in regards to this concept:

- Will the proposed road diet concept be extended to those portions of Soldiers Field Road included in the Allston Multimodal Project and the Birmingham Parkway Feasibility Study?
- I appreciate both the additional bicycle infrastructure and the extended parkland that the proposed diet concept will provide. I am concerned, however, about the safety of the bicycle lane currently proposed to run immediately adjacent to Soldiers Field Road. If feasible, I ask the DCR to ensure that these bike lanes are physically separated from vehicles traveling on Soldiers Field Road.
- I appreciate that the DCR has proposed the addition of several new pedestrian crossings that will better connect North Brighton and Lower Allston to Herter Park. To clarify:
 - Will the proposed crossings at Telford Street and Smith Playground be signalized?
 - Given the addition of a new at-grade crossing at Telford Street, is the reconstruction of the Telford Street pedestrian bridge the preferred option?

I ask the DCR to take every precaution necessary to ensure that road crossings in the study area are safe for all users, including both pedestrians and bicyclists.

- Please clarify how the realigned Dr. Paul Dudley White Greenway will interact with the Eliot Bridge Approach Intersection. Will bicyclists using the DPDW heading eastbound be routed under the Eliot Bridge or over the Bridge via the newly proposed crossing?

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

I wish to express my serious concern in regards to the lack of focus on climate adaptation and mitigation measures in the Herter Park Master Planning process thus far. Due to climate change, Allston and Brighton will be increasingly impacted by coastal, riverine, and stormwater flooding, particularly in Herter Park and the Lower Allston area. The DCR must plan for this future, and must design Herter Park so that it may serve as green infrastructure for Allston, Brighton, and Boston. I urge the DCR to work with the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) and other such organizations to address this issue before moving forward with this plan.

I would like to thank the DCR for the opportunity to comment on this planning process. I look forward to working with both the DCR and Halvorson as this project moves forward.

Sincerely,



Liz Breadon
Boston City Councilor
District 9- Allston-Brighton



City of Cambridge

R-10
FIRST IN COUNCIL
October 25, 2021

COUNCILLOR NOLAN
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COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that the Herter Community Garden, founded in 1976, is a 45-year-old community garden situated along the Charles River that has provided organic, urban community gathering for decades, including providing 13 current Cambridge residents with a garden plot; and
- WHEREAS: Gardeners in the community garden are largely older, immigrants, and people of color who rely on the gardening community for both sociability and food security, and provide a true community of well-being and support for each other; and
- WHEREAS: The Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) unveiled a plan to remove the garden and replace it with a “picnic lawn” on September 29, 2021; and
- WHEREAS: An outpouring of opposition to the DCR plan emerged, with a petition to save the Herter Community Garden gathering over 2000 signatures; and
- WHEREAS: The DCR proposed solution of moving the garden to a different spot along the river has been characterized as impossible by experts - 45 years of soil enrichment and features such as trellises and paths are not transferable; and
- WHEREAS: The new proposed site is sloped, filled with invasive vegetation, and contains depleted soil with poor drainage; and
- WHEREAS: Removal of the Herter garden and construction of an inadequate garden elsewhere would decrease accessibility and equity for the vulnerable communities which rely on it; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record strongly opposing the DCR plan to remove the Herter Community Garden and stands behind the Herter Community Gardeners; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution as soon as possible to the leadership of DCR, to the Cambridge delegation, and to the organizers of the “Save Herter Community Garden” petition on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council October 25, 2021.

Adopted as amended by a ye and nay vote:-

Yeas 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Attest:- Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony I. Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" and last name "Wilson" clearly distinguishable.

ATTEST:-

Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk

Good afternoon,

I am writing to support that the Herter Community Garden stay as it is, a resource for families and individuals to grow food, connect, support pollinators, impact climate positively, gather and speak in the languages they feel most powerful in, and provide so many other tangibles and intangibles that are all positive to all of us as a community.

A reconstruction of the area and making it a lawn is a very misguided step for this and so many other reasons.

I work at a community garden space in Somerville, MA. Though not a typical community garden space like Herter, we have seen the positive impact of the green space on the mental health of community members, a place to learn to grow healthy food in an urban area (so many urban areas do not have safe places to grow healthy food), and as a space that supports and welcomes immigrant families and community members. There are several groups who visit our space who are immigrants and the ability to access fresh herbs for cooking, to reconnect with folks in the language they feel the most powerful is so vitally important to the health and wellbeing of a city and its inhabitants.

Please don't make the mistake of going ahead without hearing the voices of the folks that your plan will impact. We cannot as a community separate space from access and equity in our designs and re/constructions.

Regards,

Paula Jordan
Lives in E Arlington MA
Works in Somerville, MA
Pronouns she/her/hers

From: Tribal Scribal

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 3:53 PM

To: Mass Parks (DCR) <mass.parks@mass.gov>

Subject: Leave Herter Community Garden Alone

We are writing to you in regard to your agency's ill-conceived plan to destroy the Herter Community Garden in Herter Park, Brighton.

As you no doubt know by now, "Herter community gardeners are a vulnerable community of largely older gardeners, many of them immigrants and People of Color with limited English skills and few resources." (1) Hence, the Herter Community Garden is an environmental justice community as well as a climate justice community.

As you know, such communities are given special protection in our state.

Given that the work of gardeners in the organic plots results in less impact on both the environment and the climate than conventional food production, removing the garden would be detrimental to both the community and your agency. The Department of CONSERVATION and Recreation would do well to be supportive of the Herter Community Garden rather than work against the goals and accomplishments the gardeners have made to the community and the city.

The reputation of DCR will be immeasurably diminished should the agency continue in its plan to destroy the gardens and no insufficient "relocation" will do anything to lessen that stain on DCR's legacy. We will be making that point in future broadcasts.

Don Ogden, Producer/Co-host

The Enviro Show

WXOJ/WMCB/WMNB

(1) Brent Whelan, Herter Community Garden, member
Martin Dagoberto L. Driggs, NOFA/Mass, Policy Director

From: ellenmenounos@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:55 PM

To: Mass Parks (DCR) <mass.parks@mass.gov>

Cc: marty@nofamass.org

Subject: Please preserve the Herter Community Garden in Brighton!

Dear Friends at Massachusetts DCR,

The Herter Community Garden has been in continuous operation for over 40 years. This video is a testimonial to the special community that has been built there:

[Save Herter Community Garden! - YouTube](#)

This garden can be thought of as a workshop or laboratory for healthy living. It is a space where our diverse populations connect and support each other to practice environmental learning and social resilience. It should be celebrated, studied, and used as a model, NOT destroyed or moved.

Building life in the soil takes years. Just as a century old tree cannot be substituted with several smaller trees, when a garden is moved, mature root systems, seed banks, and soil biology are reset to zero.

Please preserve the Herter Community Garden in Brighton in it's current location.

Respectfully,

Ellen Menounos
Watertown, MA

From DCR mission statement:

"To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all.

...to improve the vital connection between people and the environment."

From: Lisa Evans

Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:06 PM

To: Mass Parks (DCR) <mass.parks@mass.gov>;

Subject: Save the Herter Community Garden

Dear DCR

:

During the Pandemic the Food Supply chain broke down. It is vitally important that food is grown right within the City limits. Being able to grow culturally sensitive crops is important too so that people can get the vital nutrients that they need in their diets to stay healthy.

Community gardens bring friendships and vibrance to the community. How about helping them out by providing them with fresh soil and pots and seeds instead of removing the garden?

Thanks,

Lisa Evans

Lisa Evans and Tim Smith

We Grow Microgreens, LLC

From: Richard Sidy
Date: October 21, 2021 at 5:27:57 PM EDT
To: mass.parks@mass.gov
Subject: Herter Community Garden

TO: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
FROM: Richard Sidy, President, Gardens for Humanity

RE: The Herter Community Garden needs to be preserved as an example of how Conservation and Recreation can partner to produce health, food, and community.

The legacy of the Herter Community Garden has extended to Arizona where Adele Herter Seronde started our organization, Gardens for Humanity. The Herter Community Garden has been a model of building community through gardens. Forty-five years later the concept is even more relevant. How can you even think of erasing a visionary and pioneering effort that many communities are just now struggling to emulate? In the context of the current pandemics of climate change, food insecurity, COVID, unemployment, and racism, you have an oasis in the middle of your city, that demonstrates the solution to all of these. The impact of the Herter Garden extends beyond the garden into the hearts and aspirations of many across our nation. This garden deserves to be celebrated, not destroyed!

Sincerely,

Richard Sidy

Richard Sidy, M.Ed.
President, Gardens for Humanity
Founding member, Sustainability Alliance
Member, Verde Valley Food Policy Council

*Gardens for Humanity's mission is to develop and share our relationships with
Humanity and Nature through gardening, art, and education.*

From: Eileen Houben
Date: October 20, 2021 at 12:54:16 AM EDT
To: mass.parks@mass.gov, mass.parks@mass.gov
Subject: Herter Community Garden

Dear DCR staff and Halvorson Design planning group,

The Herter Community Gardens have been there for over 45 years as (mainly or totally) organic gardens. Parts of it are pollinator gardens, including pollinator larvae...a great achievement. This is not moveable. Attracting pollinators to a new location cannot be guaranteed, especially enough to ensure reproduction.

Establishing gardens takes years and lots of work in addition to annual prep and planting. Trying to move established gardens, in which community members have devoted up to 45+ years of hard, loving work, leaves behind soil improvement which would then have to start from scratch, individual touches which don't move well, and some perennial plants which can't be easily moved, (e.g. I tried to thin part of my raspberry patch at my home, and it's taken 2 years and is still not grown enough for fruit.)

I'm fortunate enough to have room around my house for gardening, most existing residents of Allston -Brighton (not to mention all the potential residents for the ongoing development) do not.

We need MORE community gardens added on to existing ones, not destruction & consolidation.
Undoing even one to "move" it would be a great setback.

If you want to remove invasive species near the boathouse, by all means ADD a garden, and those 2 can share resources. But don't undo a hardwon ecosystem for 'welcoming open space'.
The community garden *is* a welcoming, healthy, complex green space (vs a relatively sterile open lawn maintained with carbon fuel tools)

....the kind we all need,

and the kind DCR was supposed to protect, along with our waterways.

Sincerely,
Eileen Houben
Corey Hill, Brighton

From: Mary Jo Child's
Date: October 20, 2021 at 10:10:33 AM EDT
To: mass.parks@mass.gov
Subject: HERTER Community Garden

Hi again,

I just wanted to make sure you got my email and did not disregard it because Autocorrect chose to call the garden by a different name in my Subject line.

The Herter Community Garden is a strong COMMUNITY ASSET which was apparently ignored in the planning process after it was listed as a “Non-permitted” use. Shame on the city planners and landscape designers for not recognizing the great value this garden has to those who use it as well as those who visit it or pass by on a daily basis. It teaches the public about where their food comes from, that anyone can learn to grow their own food, that biological diversity (and community interaction) is enhanced by luring insects, birds, etc. into a space that otherwise would be just lawn. Society needs spaces like this community garden and the Boston area will be poorer for its loss.

As a landscape designer, I suspect that the “messiness” violates the landscape architect’s aesthetic sensibilities and they would prefer a tidy and/or Disneyfied landscape element here instead. If the designers and city planners truly care about the health and welfare of community members, then WORK WITH WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE and redesign the garden to make it more tidy with the cooperation of those who have nurtured this space for decades (e.g., more elegant perimeter, internal paths which keep weeds down, etc.)

Our society has become too far removed from the roots of our existence and we are destroying the earth because we don’t appreciate it. This garden provides connection to the land for users and visitors alike and must remain the teaching and learning asset that it is. Pretty it up if you must, but DON’T MOVE IT.

Mary Jo Childs
MJ Childs Landscape Design

From: Vanessa LeFevre
Date: October 19, 2021 at 9:59:09 AM EDT
To: mass.parks@mass.gov
Subject: Herter Community Garden

The Herter Community Garden, founded in 1976 with about 70 plots on about 1/3 acre, has been a hub of organic urban community gardening for almost half a century and is relied upon by local immigrant communities and Communities of Color. Please do not close this community garden.

From: Jennifer Coverdale

Date: October 20, 2021 at 10:26:41 PM EDT

To: mass.parks@mass.gov

Subject: Herter park comments

Hello,

I'm writing to you as a concerned citizen and as a professional in the urban agriculture sector. I'm concerned about the plans to develop Herter park and displace the long-standing community garden there, specifically as it serves folks who are primarily immigrants to this country and people of color.

Having worked in community gardens for years in the city of Lynn, I've seen firsthand how access to growing space can be a matter of food security for those who need it most, as well as a way to preserve culture and traditional food ways for families who have had to leave their home countries.

The garden as it exists is both green space and provides a wealth of biodiversity and forage for pollinators. Please reconsider the decision to remove a space that is such an asset to some of the most vulnerable members to our community, and to the public at large.

Sincerely,
Jenn Coverdale

--

Jenn Coverdale

(she/her/hers)

Lynn Urban Agriculture Manager

From: Adam Davenport
Date: October 18, 2021 at 11:18:38 PM EDT
To: mass.parks@mass.gov
Subject: Herter Park Community Garden Public Comment

In regards to the plans for the Herter Park Community Garden, removing a space where decades of community, culture and ecology was built seems to be a short sighted vision for the best use of a property.

Community gardens like this are of more value than food growing space. This type of social infrastructure takes decades to build, and can be an invaluable resource for a community. The sharing of information, education and relationships happens in gardens like these. This is invaluable, especially during times like these.

To have a space like this in which the diversity of ecology and community is replaced with a monoculture seems to be the antithesis of what the Department of Conservation & Recreation should be aiming for.

As a Massachusetts resident, I am extremely disappointed to see an issue like this being considered. It shows a disrespect for the community and culture of Boston, and a lack of leadership in Massachusetts. Please reconsider the importance of both diversity of community and ecology in this design process.

Adam Davenport
Westport
02790

--

Adam Davenport
Grow Education Program Manager

he/him/his

Marion Institute
Marion, MA 02738

From: Joy Campbell Personal
Date: October 19, 2021 at 10:16:02 AM EDT
To: mass.parks@mass.gov
Subject: Herter Park Master Plan

Good morning,

I received a notification from NOFA/Mass regarding the proposal to remove the Herter Park Community Garden as part of a master plan for redeveloping the area.

I have participated in Community gardens at various points in my life, and can attest that these are magical places where community is made and established. No lawn or manicured plot holds a fraction of the value to the land and community as a community garden. You NAME is Conservation and Resources. How is destroying a legacy conserving resources? Once this garden is gone, it is gone forever. Is that the legacy you want? Pulling up a garden that feeds people literally and spiritually, and replacing it with a lawn, which does nothing but suck inputs?

There are enough lawns. There are enough manicured spaces. Relocating this garden is not a solution, because a garden evolves over time. You can never replace the evolution of 50 years' of care.

Joy Campbell

Subject: Herter Park Master Plan: Objection to Garden Consolidation

To whom it may concern:

I am writing regarding the DCR's Herter Park Master Plan, and specifically, to express great concern regarding the "community garden consolidation" which would uproot and relocate the established, deeply loved, and well used organic Herter Community Garden to replace it with lawns.

I am a Massachusetts resident and the Executive Director of Equity Trust, Inc. a Massachusetts-based nonprofit that works nationally to promote equity by changing the way people think about and hold property. A central aspect of Equity Trust's work for the past three decades has been to facilitate and support access to land for food production that serves local communities. As I have led this work for the past twelve years, I have always seen Massachusetts as providing examples of good public policy: from the ground breaking APR program for farmland preservation to strong support for urban farming and gardening, Massachusetts has been a leader in developing policies that support the wise use of land for community benefit. This experience makes the current DCR proposal to uproot and "relocate" the Herter Community Garden particularly surprising and disturbing.

The Master Plan shows no appreciation for the harm such relocation would

cause. As someone who works closely with organic farmers, I assure you that an established organic farming system, which is what the Herter Community Garden is, cannot simply be moved. The 45 years of organic soil enrichment and the established microfauna are not transferable, nor are design features like fences, paths, and trellises. Even without the significant problems at the proposed site of relocation--sloped, wooded land with poor drainage, depleted soil, and invasive plant species--relocation would destroy the complex natural ecosystem that the community gardeners have nurtured for decades.

This proposal seems completely antithetical to the DCR mission "To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all." Rather than "improving outdoor recreational opportunities and natural resource conservation," the plan would severely undermine the established and richly rewarding activity of community gardening on the site--an activity that promotes environmental awareness, interest in the natural world, healthy eating, and love of the outdoors. And it would remove the complex natural ecosystems of an established organic garden, with all the insects, soil organisms, and other associated life, to replace it with a mono-crop--a mowed lawn.

On behalf of Equity Trust, I ask you to please reconsider this aspect of the Master Plan and allow the Herter Community Garden to remain at its current location. Neither a lawn for "picnics and events" nor "improved views" (where improvement is a very subjective concept) can justify the loss of such outdoor recreational resource and the natural systems that support it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jim Oldham
Director
Equity Trust, Inc.
Amherst, MA 01004-0746

From: Jeanne Sargent
Date: October 19, 2021 at 9:25:14 AM EDT
To: mass.parks@mass.gov
Subject: SAVE HERTER COMMUNITY GARDEN

To Whom It May Concern,

Food insecurity is a growing problem that will get worse with the impact of climate change and inflation. PLEASE do not destroy a community garden that provides nourishment to those in greatest need. Whatever else you had in mind for that small plot of land could not in any way begin to measure up to the benefits derived from not only the food but the sense of community that comes with a community garden. WE need to be building relationships, not tearing them down. Thank you for listening and doing the right thing. As a founder of 3 community gardens,I speak from 50 years of experience watching what a community can do for its participants.

JEANNE SARGENT

From: Virginia Williams
Date: October 20, 2021 at 8:42:35 AM EDT
To: mass.parks@mass.gov
Subject: Save Herter Park community garden

My daughter just moved to Allston and she's within walking distance of this spot. As a community gardener in Chelmsford for 12 years, I understand how important it is to preserve the Herter Park community garden in its current location. I've invested so much time and money in building up the soil of my plot: adding compost and nutrients, soil testing, using no-till practices, mulching, rotating crops and keeping records. All these efforts encourage the growth of microorganisms in the soil, which are key to a healthy, sustainable garden. To move to another location and have to start all over again would be so demoralizing and truly devastating.

Please understand the impact of re-locating the Herter garden on all the people who built it and tend it. Respect the effort it took to create this beautiful, healthy garden and the soil underneath. Rather than moving the garden "out of the way", appreciate its value to the gardeners where it is. Keeping the garden near the center of the park allows everyone to enjoy it. People walking by can observe nature, talk with gardeners, and become inspired to grow their own food. I hope my daughter can enjoy it for years to come. The Herter Park community garden is a jewel in this park. Don't destroy it!

Thank you,

Virginia Williams
Chelmsford MA

From: Virginia Williams
Date: October 20, 2021 at 8:44:02 AM EDT
To: mass.parks@mass.gov
Subject: Save Herter Park community garden

As a fellow community gardener in Chelmsford for 12 years, I understand how important it is to preserve the Herter Park community garden in its current location. I've invested so much time and money in building up the soil of my plot: adding compost and organic nutrients, soil testing, using no-till practices, mulching, rotating crops and keeping records. All these efforts encourage the growth of microorganisms in the soil, which are key to a healthy, sustainable garden. To move to another location and have to start all over again would be so demoralizing and truly devastating.

Please understand the impact of re-locating the Herter garden on all the people who built it and tend it. Respect the effort it took to create this beautiful, healthy garden and the soil underneath. Rather than moving the garden "out of the way", appreciate its value to the gardeners where it is. Keeping the garden near the center of the park allows everyone to enjoy it. People walking by can observe nature, talk with gardeners, and become inspired to grow their own food.

My daughter just moved to Allston and she's within walking distance of this community garden. She says it's very pretty and would be so sad to see it go. I hope she can enjoy it for years to come. The Herter Park community garden is a jewel in this park. Don't destroy it!

Thank you,

Virginia Williams
Chelmsford MA

I am writing in support of the Herter Community Garden. We struggle to provide good places for people to raise food and flowers in the city. This is a community garden that brings people together. And with its long tradition of organic gardening it is a unique resource for healthy food as well as support for local pollinators. We don't need more lawns, we do need organic gardens.

Please leave the garden where it is.
Thank you,

Rick Lent
[Elders Climate Action](#)

Dear Sir or Madam,

After hearing about the master plan to destroy the Herter Community Garden that has been in existence since 1976, I felt I need to add my voice in protest. I am extremely disturbed that you would destroy this garden, & replace it with a LAWN? This garden is beneficial to the community at large for so many reasons, it is also beneficial to the dying pollinators (that are quickly becoming extinct from insecticides that lawns use to maintain them) that feed on the organic garden. Why would you EVER do such a thing?

We need more organic community gardens, not lawns or grass which pollute the rivers & streams with weed killers & fertilizers. That take clean water, and give nothing in return. This practice must not be allowed to proceed. I am asking you to NOT replace this garden.

Please keep me informed as to what you plan to do.

Sincerely
Dorothy Veith

Hi, Daniel,

Note: I have a visual issue right now, and the slides are difficult to read - Not the text, but the images. I'll do my best.

TX Eleanor

Boat houses

Why not consolidate the boathouses in one area near the Northeastern University boat house? This would leave more area for public picnics and other activities. Is there room in the woodland in the west?

Hi, Daniel,

Note: I have a visual issue right now, and the slides are difficult to read - Not the text, but the images. I'll do my best.

TX Eleanor

Maintain Middle Exit in Main Parking Area

Do not remove the middle exit from the Main Parking area, PLEASE!

Maintain two exits from the Main Parking area.

The middle exit allows for easy access out of the Main Parking Lot in either direction (east or west).

It also allows for access to Allston without having to drive east to Harvard Street (a busy intersection) or west to Arsenal Street and then having to go through two lights.

Keeping the Middle Exit lessens backup in the parking lot.

Keeping the Middle Exit decreases the time cars are on the road – better for the environment

Daniel,

Note: I have a visual issue right now, and the slides are difficult to read - Not the text, but the images. I'll do my best.

TX Eleanor

Maintain the two-U-TURNS on soldiers Field Road Extension (SFRE)

These are exceptionally helpful in both directions. They streamline road traffic. They make it easier for both local and out-of-town drivers. They decrease the time cars are on the road – better for the environment.

Going WEST. Without the one going west, people will be forced to go down to Arsenal St, go through 2 lights, and turn back to SFRE or go down Western Avenue. This can potentially increase the backup of traffic at that Arsenal exit, which is often very busy. It keeps driver on the road longer.

Going WEST. Alternatively, they will stay on SFRE and have to go to the rotary toward Newton, which will increase traffic, and leaves cars on the road much longer.

Going EAST. Without the turnaround, drivers will have to take a longer route and end up on Harvard Street (more traffic and lights) or head into Cambridge (more congestion and lights.)

Let's not increase traffic backup. Let's make it easier for drivers. Let's decrease the time cars are on the road – better for the environment.

Hi, Daniel,

I wasn't sure if all my comments made it into the Feedback Form.

I am attaching a document that has them to be sure that you have received them all.

Thank you.

Eleanor Jewett

DCR Liaison, Christian A. Herter Community Garden

Master Plan (9/23/2021) Feedback

TO: DCR, Daniel.cushing@mass.gov
FR: Christian A. Herter Community Garden “Herter Garden” - Planning Committee Member,
DCR Liaison, Eleanor Jewett
DT: October 5, 2021
RE: FEEDBACK — REMAIN IN OUR CURRENT HERTER GARDEN LOCATION
Do Not Remove, Relocate/Consolidate, or Isolate
Do not take the “community” out of our community garden

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[Herter Park Master Plan Public Meeting #2 | Mass.gov](#)

Links to a copy of the slide deck and recording, in the section titled "Additional Resources. is the form for Public Comments. comment period will be open until October 20th.

[DCR Public Comments | Mass.gov](#)

Link to Public Comments form. Comment period will be open until October 20th.

For questions and concerns please reach out by email to: Daniel.cushing@mass.gov

Introduction

Our Current Location integrates Herter Gardeners with people and activities in all of Herter Park and has important location and historical significance associated with Herter Park and Herter Center, and Herter Theater.

We do not want to be removed from our current historically-significant Herter Garden location. We do not want to be relocated to a consolidated area, farthest west near the woodland. We do not want to be isolated within Herter Park; we want to remain integrated with visitors and activities.

Importance of Place

The individual characteristics of place are vital in determining quality of life.

The Christian A Herter Garden, “Herter Garden,” is on land close to, and with views of, the Charles River. While most community gardens are commonly found surrounded by apartments, schools, condominium building etc. The Herter Garden has a stunning location along the southern banks of the Charles River, among the trees, water, trails, and visitors.

We take the beauty of our location and its place in the natural world seriously. Our relationship with Herter Garden goes beyond planting seeds and watching them grow. **It is a privilege for us to keep the Herter gardening tradition and Herter historical connections alive by remaining in our current location.**

Pride of place matters. Sustaining a commitment to gardening in this location is important to us. We do not want to be removed and consolidated with another garden. We want to maintain our current circumstance of being integrated with the whole community.

Historical Significance

Our Garden and gardeners are connected to a long-standing, almost half a century, tradition of gardening in our current location.

Herter Garden was established 45 years ago, in 1976, and located next to the Herter Center. It was one of the programs for community outreach offered through the Herter Center, developed by the daughter of Christian A Herter, Adele Seronde, then President of the Center.

The Garden was started by people who were committed to community gardening during the Revival Program when dozens of other community gardens popped up to take back the land. Without Seronde and her philanthropic efforts, the Herter Garden would not exist.

Historical connections have major significance, and are important to maintain.

Removing the Garden will erase the historic footprint of the garden. It will take away both past and present gardeners’ long-standing connection to working that particular land.

Negative Impacts of Changing the Location

Isolation & Exclusion from the Mainstream of the Park

Herter gardeners currently integrate with people and activities in Herter Park, and as such, are an integral part of the Park.

Gardeners want to be remain integrated with people and activities at Herter Park, and not separated and excluded from them.

1. Separation of Gardeners from most Park Visitors and General Park Activities

The proposed location is the farthest point west next to the woodlands. Moving Herter Garden and gardeners to the farthest west end of the park will **ISOLATE** gardeners, **putting them out of sight** of most Park users and **separating them from most people using the park and the general activities of the Park.**

2. Marginalization of Elders and All Herter Gardeners

We have many 55+ gardeners. Your suggested proposal will take our elders out of site of most of the people and activities of the Herter Park adding to our elders marginalization, which occurs often in our society. **This physical separation is a form of disempowerment and exclusion from the mainstream of the Park.**

To a different extent, the disempowerment and exclusion extends to all the Herter Gardeners.

3. Negative Impact of Greatly Reduced Foot Traffic, and General Traffic

The proposed relocation plot is so isolated that general Park visitors will no longer have an opportunity to find and stop by the garden. There will be many fewer people who pass by. We often find new gardeners this way. We often invite people in to see what we do and share the experience. We often have people visit with their children, and share stories and produce with them. **These chance encounters with non-gardeners will not happen if we move to an area in the far western part of Herter Park.**

4. Safety Concerns

With diminished foot traffic and traffic in-general, gardeners are **less safe at dawn, dusk, and when gardening alone in the proposed location.** The presence of adults and children on foot, bicyclists, skate boarders, amphitheater visitors, pop-up restaurant guests, racers, rowers, and others, makes gardeners safer, and discourages negative behavior.

When I go to Herter Garden to work or pick up some herbs and vegetables in the early evening or early morning, there are always some people around. Let me underscore that **this greatly enhances the experience of community gardening at our current location.**

5. Remote Parking Location

The suggested new parking location is very remote, with no physical connection to the main parking lot, and the people in it. This adds to the further isolation and exclusion of gardeners from the mainstream of visitors and activities at Herter Park.

6. Health Concern - Potentially more Mosquitos and Bugs from Woodland.

Removing us from the main Park and isolating us at the farthest point possible next to the woodland has another negative effect. Potentially, there may be more mosquitos and other bugs than in our current garden, which is more open and less closed in by woodland.

7. Aesthetics – Removing Visual Access to River

We currently have a wonderful view of the Charles River. The suggested proposal will take away that view and replace it with one of Storrow Drive Extension.

To whom this may concern,

Why on earth would anyone not make it public that this was indeed in a plan.

Destroying a garden. A garden that feeds residents and the community. This is awful and uncalled for.

Please don't partake in this plan to destroy a place of peace and deliciousness.

There is a sense of community and culture in this garden.

Why would anyone want to take this away from us? It brings together people and education from all over the world. It is not right to take this place away from us.

I have the opportunity in my own home to have space for a garden but not everyone has that space in their living situation. This is people's livelihood and they don't deserve for it to be taken away.

There is no reason to demolish this garden.

What a sacred place for the agricultural, residents, community, healthy food, educating one another, growing together, learning, making new friends.

You can not possibly think that getting rid of this garden is a good idea.

Please. Do not.

Thank you
Megan Witter

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City of Revere, Food Distribution Co-Manager
200 Winthrop Avenue, Revere, MA 02151

Dear Jennifer,

I do not believe you can move a garden - you can move gardeners, but the soil, the structures, the history, the collective labor of 45 years does not move. That is why our gardeners feel that this most recent plan would in fact destroy our garden.

It would also destroy our community. Many of our gardeners are seniors, and would not/could not move and start again.

About communication: we are there all the time in the summer. We all speak to many people in the park every day. No one from the DCR has come to meet us and talk to us.

In fact, we only learned about this plan to destroy our garden because Eleanor attended the zoom meeting on September 29. As best we understand, here is the moment in the DCR public meeting on Sept 29, when the “consolidation of community gardens” and “removal of existing garden” was first introduced:

<https://youtu.be/DZjm-T7FVbI?t=1687>

It lasts all of two minutes.

This is not a “win/win,” as is said in the two-minute presentation - it would be a massive loss for our community, and we believe for the park as a whole.

I suggest you watch this video we made this past weekend at the garden. These are the gardeners you haven’t met or consulted:

<https://youtu.be/a2Sj-N0xps0>

Sincerely,

Damon Krukowski

The Christian Herter Garden MUST not be eliminated

The Christian Herter Garden is one of Boston's oldest, most well-run community-gardens in the entire metropolitan Boston area. It truly represents the best in community gardens in providing a place for a diverse community to grow food and realize the many benefits of community gardening. I am the former director of Garden Futures which provided support services to all Boston area community gardens in the early 2000's (later merged with Boston Natural Area Network and now the Trustee of Reservations) and the former director of the national American Community Gardening Association. I often brought folks to see the Herter Garden because of how well it operated and served the community (on both sides of the River.) Please do not replace this Boston treasure!

Betsy Johnson
