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DETERMINATION OF NATURAL RESOURCE VALUE

PROJECT: Proposed Reconfiguration of Joslin Park in Boston for Roadway Improvement Purposes
MUNICIPALITY: Boston
EEA FILE NUMBER: A97_026_035
PROJECT PROPONENT: City of Boston
DATE: March 11, 2026

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 3, § 5A, in order to use for another purpose or otherwise dispose of land or an interest in land subject to Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“Article 97”), a public entity must, *inter alia*, “identify replacement land or an interest in land, which is not already subject to said Article XCVII, in a comparable location and *that is of equal or greater natural resource value, as determined by the secretary of energy and environmental affairs . . .*” (emphasis added). This document provides the required determination of natural resource value as to the above-referenced proposal (“Project”).

This determination constitutes solely a determination of natural resource value pursuant to M.G.L. c. 3, § 5A(a)(ii) and does not indicate that the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs takes any position on the Project or on whether it complies with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (“EEA”) Article 97 Land Disposition Policy. This determination reflects the independent analysis of EEA for advisory purposes and does not create any right, benefit, or duty, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by any party in any judicial or administrative matter.

Project Description

The Project proposed by the City of Boston involves the transfer of approximately 3,639 square feet of land (“Impacted Land”), being part of Joslin Park, from the care and custody of the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department to the City of Boston for the purposes of facilitating a new roadway layout deemed necessary for vehicular and pedestrian safety in a highly traveled area of the City.

As part of the Project, the City of Boston will be dedicating approximately 4,989 square feet of land to park purposes, under the care and control of the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department,

including approximately 3,927 square feet which is currently part of the City of Boston Right of Way and approximately 1,062 square feet which is currently under private ownership.

The result of the transfers described above will be a reconfiguration of Joslin Park which will be designed to enhance the current conditions of the park, including the construction of a shared use path intended to improve the accessibility of the park. The Impacted Land's Natural Resource Value can most appropriately be characterized as access to open space and passive recreation. The reconfigured park, which will include the Replacement Land, will have Natural Resource Value consistent with the existing conditions, i.e., access to open space and passive recreation.

The Project is described in more detail in the Alternatives Analysis and Supplemental Materials which are posted on EEA's website¹.

Information Considered

This determination is based on a review of the Alternatives Analysis, other materials submitted, and EEA's independent analysis.

Determination

The Replacement Land is of equal or greater Natural Resource Value as compared to the Impacted Land. The Impacted Land and Replacement Land share similar natural resource values and Article 97 purposes, most notably access to open space and passive recreation. The Replacement Land is larger in area as compared to the Impacted Land, resulting in a larger area (approximately 1300 square feet) of open space. The reconfigured park will be enhanced to provide for improved accessibility and will include a new shared use path.

¹ [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/article-97-an-act-preserving-open-space-in-the-commonwealth-mgl-c-3-ss-5a#:~:text=97\)%20establishes%20a%20right%20to,or%20easements%20subject%20to%20Art.](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/article-97-an-act-preserving-open-space-in-the-commonwealth-mgl-c-3-ss-5a#:~:text=97)%20establishes%20a%20right%20to,or%20easements%20subject%20to%20Art.)