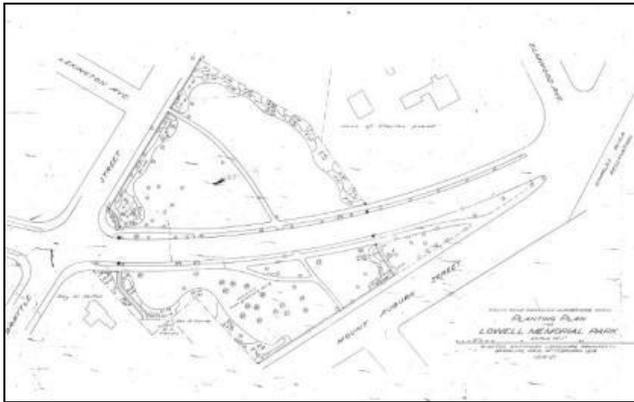


Lowell Memorial Park

Cultural Landscape Report and Wall Repair



DCR Public Meeting

November 12, 2014

7:00-8:30pm

New School of Music

25 Lowell Street

Cambridge, MA 02138





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Deval L. Patrick

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Maeve Vallely Bartlett

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

John P. Murray

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DCR Mission Statement

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

Property/Project History

- 2012 DCR listening session
- Public interest in improving park
 - Wall repair
 - Tree care
 - Benches
 - Maintenance (trash, litter, snow)
- DCR committed to
 - Cultural Landscape Report
 - Assessment of Historic Walls
 - Design documents for Wall Repair



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Public Meeting 9/23/14

- Circulation
- Pedestrian safety
- Traffic
- Tree removals and planting plan

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Purpose of Meeting

- Outline strategy for achieving preservation goals, taking into account public interests
- Update on traffic study
- Discuss potential for Friends of Lowell Memorial Park group



Cultural Landscape Report Lowell Memorial Park

Within the Charles River Reservation



August 2014

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bureau of Planning and Resource Protection
Office of Cultural Resources



What is Lowell Memorial Park?



Elmwood



Early Metropolitan Park



Olmsted Brothers design

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Preservation Treatment

- **Rehabilitation**
acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.



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Priority Recommendations

- Brick Walls and Posts
- Vegetation
- Circulation
- Site Amenities
- Management issues
- Interpretation



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Walls and Posts

- Repair historic walls
 - Bid documents complete this year
 - Estimated cost is \$300,000
 - Could phase work over 2 years
 - Funding not yet secured

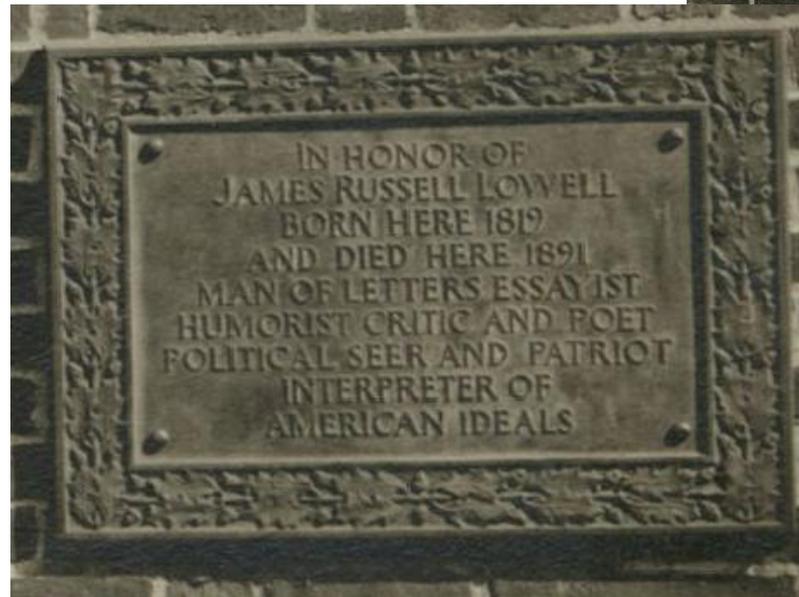


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Walls and Posts

- Restore bronze plaques



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Vegetation

- Tree removal and pruning
 - 32 Trees marked for removal
 - Hazard pruning
- Control invasives



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Vegetation

- Restore shrub border
- Rehabilitate turf
- Plan for replacement of ancient maple



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Circulation

- Rehabilitate pathways for ADA
- Widen Mount Auburn Street entrance gate by 8”



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Site Amenities

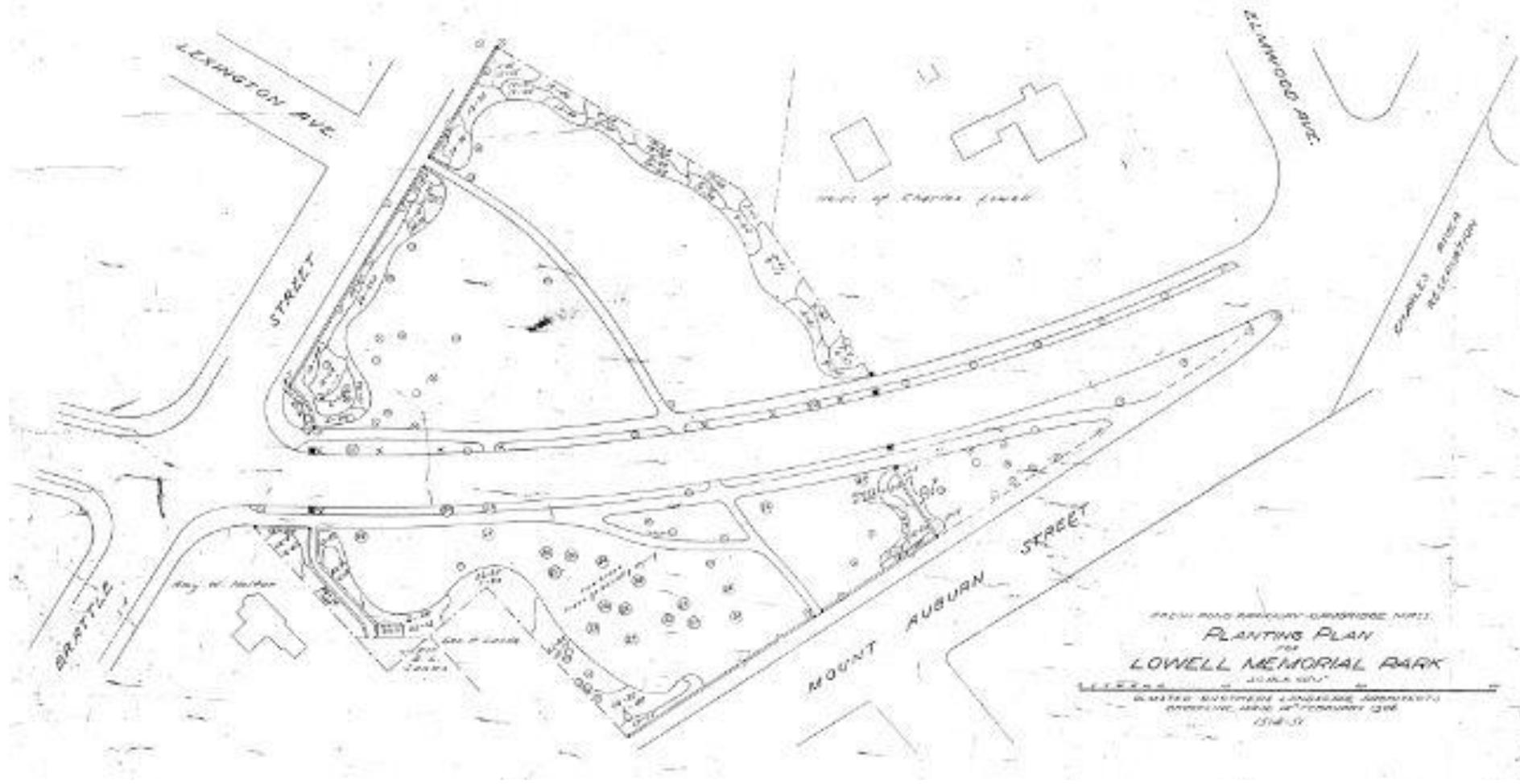
- Install appropriate signage
- Replace benches
- Replace light
- Interpretation



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1906 Olmsted Plan as a Guide



Rough Cost Estimate

• Wall Repair	\$300,000
• Tree removals/pruning	\$ 15,000
• Pathway upgrades	\$ 20,000
• Restore Plantings	\$150,000
• Interpretive panels	\$ 5,000
• Bronze plaques	\$ 3,000
• Entry signs	\$ 5,000
• Benches	\$ 10,000
• Lighting	\$ 25,000
TOTAL	\$533,000

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Fresh Pond Parkway/Mount Auburn Traffic Study

- High priority for DCR, Cities of Cambridge and Watertown, MassDOT and MBTA
- Multi year project (budget of \$500,000)
- Includes pedestrian safety analysis
- Next steps:
 - Define scope and limits
 - Hire consultant
 - Public process

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Next Steps

- Secure funding for wall repair project
- Carry out tree work
- Carry out wall repair
- Work with Friends group

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What is a Friends Group?



DCR Friends groups are organized groups of volunteers providing programming and hands-on volunteer activities to nurture and promote a favorite park, forest, beach or other resource under the purview of the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

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Why Do People Form Friends Groups?

- A passion for a special place
- To pursue a particular volunteer project
- To support DCR in accomplishing its core mission
- To meet people with shared interests
- To restore a treasured park feature

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What Do Friends Groups Do?

- Volunteer
- Promote public involvement and advocacy
- Organize educational and cultural activities
- Advocate alongside DCR for more resources and support
- Collaborate with DCR to support the Partnerships Matching Funds Program
- Build a sense of stewardship within younger generations
- Support scientific activities

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Volunteering

- Annual clean-ups, including Park Serve Day
- Supplement DCR's routine maintenance
- Trail ambassadors



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Programs and Events



- Nature walks
- Presentations on area history
- Concerts
- Recreational events
- Cultural events



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The only limit is your
imagination!

Matching Funds Program

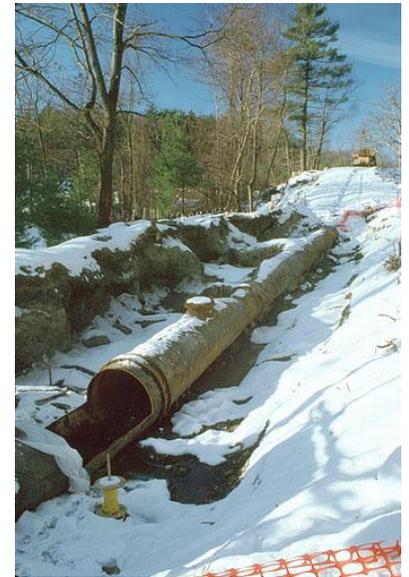
- Equipment
- Facility Restoration
- Maintenance Endowment

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Advocacy

- To DCR regarding capital investments and maintenance
- To legislators regarding funding and policy priorities
- To the public to support the park
- To abutting municipalities to ensure support for and protection of the park



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Working with DCR



- Regular communication
- Seek approval for activities at park
- Provide mutual assistance on a variety of fronts

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DCR Contacts

Friends Group Program

Conrad Crawford

DCR Director of External Affairs & Partnerships
617-626- 4974 or conrad.crawford@state.ma.us

Tom Reece

DCR Director of Partnerships

617-626-4989 or tom.reece@state.ma.us

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Discussion

- Feedback on Cultural Landscape Report
- Establishing a Friends Group, possible activities

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Additional Information

For more information:

- Web: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/>
- Cultural Landscape Report posted here: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/cultural-resources/>

If you have comments:

Email: dcr.updates@state.ma.us

Note “Lowell Memorial Park” in the subject line

Call: 617-626-4974

Write: Department of Conservation and Recreation, Office of Public Outreach,
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114

Note: Public comments submitted to DCR by email or letter may be posted on the DCR website in their entirety, and no content, including personal information, will be redacted.

If you have questions or concerns or would like to be added to an email list to receive DCR general announcements:



Email: MassParks@state.ma.us Call: 617-626-4973