



Boston College Neighborhood Improvement Fund for Brighton and Allston **2016 Grant Cycle Application**



SUBMITTED BY

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation on behalf of the **Chestnut Hill Reservation and Reservoir** and the community it serves.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/dcr



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lt. Governor

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary, Executive
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Leo Roy, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) would like to acknowledge the support of Senator William Brownsberger and Representative Michael Moran for their support and leadership on this project. Thanks to the dozens of community members who have provided their input about what matter most to them when visiting the Chestnut Hill Reservation/Reservoir (CHR). Recognition of Gerald Autler for his courtesy and assistance and to Eva Webster, Sharman Andersen and the Friends of Chestnut Hill Reservation for years of commitment to this invaluable, historic and precious resource.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Chestnut Hill Reservation and Reservoir (CHR) is a historic and aesthetically robust natural resource for Boston College students, Cleveland Circle/Brighton residents, as well as an enhancement to attracting businesses and visitors. Additionally, with the creation of the circuitous path, it has become more than a passive, open space park, but a destination that provides for physical activity and health benefits—at no cost to visitors.

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Beauty, open air, history, green space, water views and off-road physical activity space all tucked into the middle of a bustling MBTA and traffic hub is an incredibly unique resource for a major metropolitan area and Boston College is perhaps its closest neighbor.

Like all such resources, it needs care and feeding. As a publicly-owned property it is the duty of DCR to maintain the park and provide for its routine maintenance and care. However, enhancing this resource takes more than our tax-payer budget allows.

DCR recognizes we are coming up upon the tenth anniversary of the completion of the park's Resource Management Plan—just under one hundred pages of directives brought in through community involvement at all levels.

The plan recommended changes, improvements and/or enhancements, many of which have been implemented and others are part of this 2016 Boston College Neighborhood Improvement Fund (BCNIF) Application.

DCR is grateful to have gained the trust of BCNIF Task Force over years of work in the community to have been awarded \$25,000 in this public-private partnership for the inaugural 2015 round. DCR humbly asks for favorable consideration of the "large" request described in the pages to follow.

ENHANCING THE RESOURCE FOR TOMORROW

The CHR and Resource Management Plan have been so successful that park use has increased by approximately two thirds, helping DCR meeting two key elements of its mission:

- *Improving outdoor recreational opportunities and natural resource conservation, and*
- *The health and happiness of people across Massachusetts depend on the accessibility and quality of our green infrastructure - our natural resources, recreational facilities, and great historic landscapes. The DCR continues to improve the vital connection between people and the environment.*

These requests can be found in the CHR Resource Management Plan.

That success however has taken its toll on this fragile ecosystem. Maintenance is a daily matter, but raising the standard to keep up with the needs of today's active park visitors takes a kick-start and the BCNIF would be a perfect fit to enable DCR to meet the reasonably modest upgrades requested.

DCR Requests:

1. Build a newly paved sloping path with granite steps where a "visitor created" hazardous, steep trail now exists on Commonwealth Avenue side. DCR already built an ADA accessible path, but it is a longer, semi-circle way around to the path at the water's edge. \$26,000
2. Add chip seal on steeped path to extend existing trail loop on Commonwealth Avenue side—restoration for over erosion, to coincide with similar interior loop paths, beautification and overall resource protection. \$8,000
3. Procure sufficient amount of stone dust for park staff to fill acute, dangerous, eroded gaps posing safety hazards. This will also smoothen out and beautify the circuitous route and protect the resource (100 cubic yards of stone dust). \$3,000
4. Engage a landscape contractor to install vegetation along Beacon Street side to act as future shade and redirect foot traffic back to desired trail; also add vegetation along St. Thomas Moore Road side to replace trees, and add new. DCR retains maintenance. Specific species are noted in the document called, "Appendix C – Recommended Plant Species " to beautify this historic landmark and create a healthier ecosystem within this urban community.. \$22,000.

Total grant request is \$59,000.

READY, SET, GO!

DCR conducted a top to bottom management review of priorities for the CHR. Certainly much more is needed, however DCR has triaged only the most salient for this grant period. Each piece touches on a grant priority: enhances the aesthetic, expresses visual cohesion throughout the park, meets articulated needs of community members and has received the support of elected officials.

Lawrence Lynch Corp. of Falmouth is a DCR “on call” contractor who has been engaged and is ready to begin immediately to bring these projects to completion well-before the required one-year grant protocol. Number three will require up front DCR staff to fulfill and can be done so within weeks. Vegetation plantings will take place in the appropriate season.

Vegetation maintenance provides an opportunity for community involvement. The Friends of Chestnut Hill could take the lead in identifying and inviting new, interested parties to help in routine watering—as this is a manual labor task performed by DCR staff. In this manner, the benefits of adding this

The natural beauty, carbon-dioxide eating and oxygen-producing properties of more vegetation in a thriving and growing Brighton and Cleveland Circle is ever more necessary...and fruitful!

vegetation really become two-fold. Consider the delight of caring individuals routinely coming together for a common purpose to build livable communities, new relationships and friendly neighborhoods.

It seem obvious, but the natural beauty, carbon-dioxide eating and oxygen-producing properties of more vegetation in a thriving and growing Brighton and Cleveland Circle is ever more necessary...*and fruitful!*

Attached for your reference are images of the areas of referenced for consideration.

Example of paved sloping granite steps already in CHR



To replace high-grade, dangerous, "visitor-made" path



Existing ADA-compliant semi-circle path adjacent to "visitor-made" path



This visitor took the dangerous path instead of the semi-circle above



Appendix C

Recommended Plant Species

The following pages contain a listing of plant species recommended for new and replacement plants throughout the Reservation. The recommended Management Area for each plant is included. This list is meant to serve only as a guide and other plants should be considered based upon the conditions at the time of site design. Outside of Management Area B, a mostly native plant palette should be used.

The term “native plant” can be defined in many ways based on how it is applied. According to the Federal Native Plant Conservation Committee, a native plant is one “that occurs naturally in a particular region, state, ecosystem, and habitat without direct or indirect human actions¹.” Native species have evolved along with competing species, predators, and disease and tend to be in ecological balance with other native species². Thus they are adapted to and able to survive in their native environment and will not tend to spread or out compete with other native species. Any non-natives selected for use in the Reservation should not be listed in the most current Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List published by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

Many of these plants have a number of cultivars. Final plant selection should be based on the particular design situation, the planting area’s cultural and site conditions, desired plant form, and disease and pest resistance.

¹ Federal Native Plant Conservation Committee Memorandum of Understanding, 1994.

², Morse, Larry E, Jil M. Swearington, and John M. Randall. Roadside Use of Native Plants, Defining What is Native. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Exposure	Flower Time	Flower Color	Mature Size	Spacing	Management Area
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	Sun	-	-	60-75'	-	A,B,C,E,F,G,H,I,J
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	Sun	-	-	60-75'	-	A,B,C,E,F,G,H,I,J
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Shadblow Serviceberry	Sun or Shade	March	White	18-25'	-	A,G,H,I
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda dogwood	Sun	May-June	White	20-30'	-	A,G,H,I
<i>Crataegus crusgalli</i>	Cockspur Hawthorn	Part Shade to Sun	June	White	25-30'	-	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	Sun	-	-	75-100'	-	A,B,G,H,I
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash	Sun	April	Green to reddish	50-60'	-	B,E,F,G,H,I,J
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	Sun to Part Shade	May	Dull white	40-50'	-	A,B,G,H,I
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Redcedar	Sun	-	-	40-50'	-	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine	Sun to Part Shade	-	-	50-80'	-	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet Oak	Sun to Part Shade	-	-	70-75'	-	A,B,C,E,F,G,H,I,J
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	Sun	-	-	80-100'	-	A,B,C,E,F,G,H,I,J
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak	Sun	-	-	60-70'	-	A,B,C,E,F,G,H,I,J
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood	Sun to Part Shade	June	Pale yellow	60-80'	-	A,B,C,E,F,G,H,I,J

Shrubs and Groundcovers

Scientific Name	Common Name	Exposure	Flower Time	Flower Color	Mature Size	Spacing	Management Area
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	Sun to Part Shade	April-May	White	6-10'	4'	A,E,G,H,I
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Common Sweetshrub	Sun to Shade	June-July	Maroon	6-9'	4'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet Clethra	Sun to Shade	July-August	White	3-8'	4'	A,B,E,FG,H,I
<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	Sweetfern	Part Shade to Sun	April-May	Yellow-green	2-5'	18"	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	Sun to Shade	May-June	Yellowish white	6-10'	5'	A,B,E,G,H,I
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	Sun to Shade	May-June	Whitish	10-15'	5'	A,B,E,G,H,I
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common Witchhazel	Part Shade to Sun	November	Yellow	15' (20-30')	6'	A,B,E,G,H,I
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry	Sun to Shade	May-June	Cream	6-8'	3'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Common Winterberry	Sun to Part Shade	June	White	6-10'	4'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	Creeping Juniper	Sun	-	-	varies	varies	B
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel	Part Shade to Shade	June	white to pink	6-20'	4'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	Part Shade to Sun	April	Yellow	6-12'	5'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Northern Bayberry	Sun to Part Shade	-	-	5-12'	4'	B,E,F
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Bush Cinquefoil	Sun to Part Shade	June- frost	Yellow	1-4'	3'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I

Scientific Name	Common Name	Exposure	Flower Time	Flower Color	Mature Size	Spacing	Management Area
Rhododendron calendulaceum	Flame Azalea	Part Shade to Sun	May-June	varies	4-10'	4'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
Rhododendron maximum	Rosebay Rhododendron	Part Shade	June-July	Pinkish	15-30'	5'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
Rhododendron periclymenoides	Pinxterbloom Azalea	Part Shade to Sun	April-May	varies	4-6'	4'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
Rhododendron viscosum	Swamp Azalea	Sun to Shade	July	White	6-12'	4'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac	Part Shade to Sun	March-April	Yellowish	2-6'	4'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
Symphoricarpos albus	Common Snowberry	Sun to Shade	June	Pinkish	3-6'	4'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
Vaccinium angustifolium	Lowbush Blueberry	Sun to Part Shade	-	-	18"	-	A,B,E,G,H
Viburnum acerifolium	Mapleleaf Viburnum	Part Shade to Shade	June	Yellowish white	3-6'	4'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
Viburnum cassinoides	Witherod	Part Shade to Shade	June	White	6-12'	4'	A,B,E,F,G,H
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood Viburnum	Sun to Shade	May-June	White	6-12'	5'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
Viburnum prunifolium	Blackhaw Viburnum	Sun to Shade	May	White	12-15'	6'	A,B,E,F,G,H
Viburnum trilobum	American Cranberrybush Viburnum	Sun to Shade	May-June	White	6-12'	5'	A,B,E,F,G,H,I
Xanthoriza simplicissima	Yellowroot	Sun to Shade	March-April	Brownish purple	2-3'	30"	A,B,E,F,G,H,I

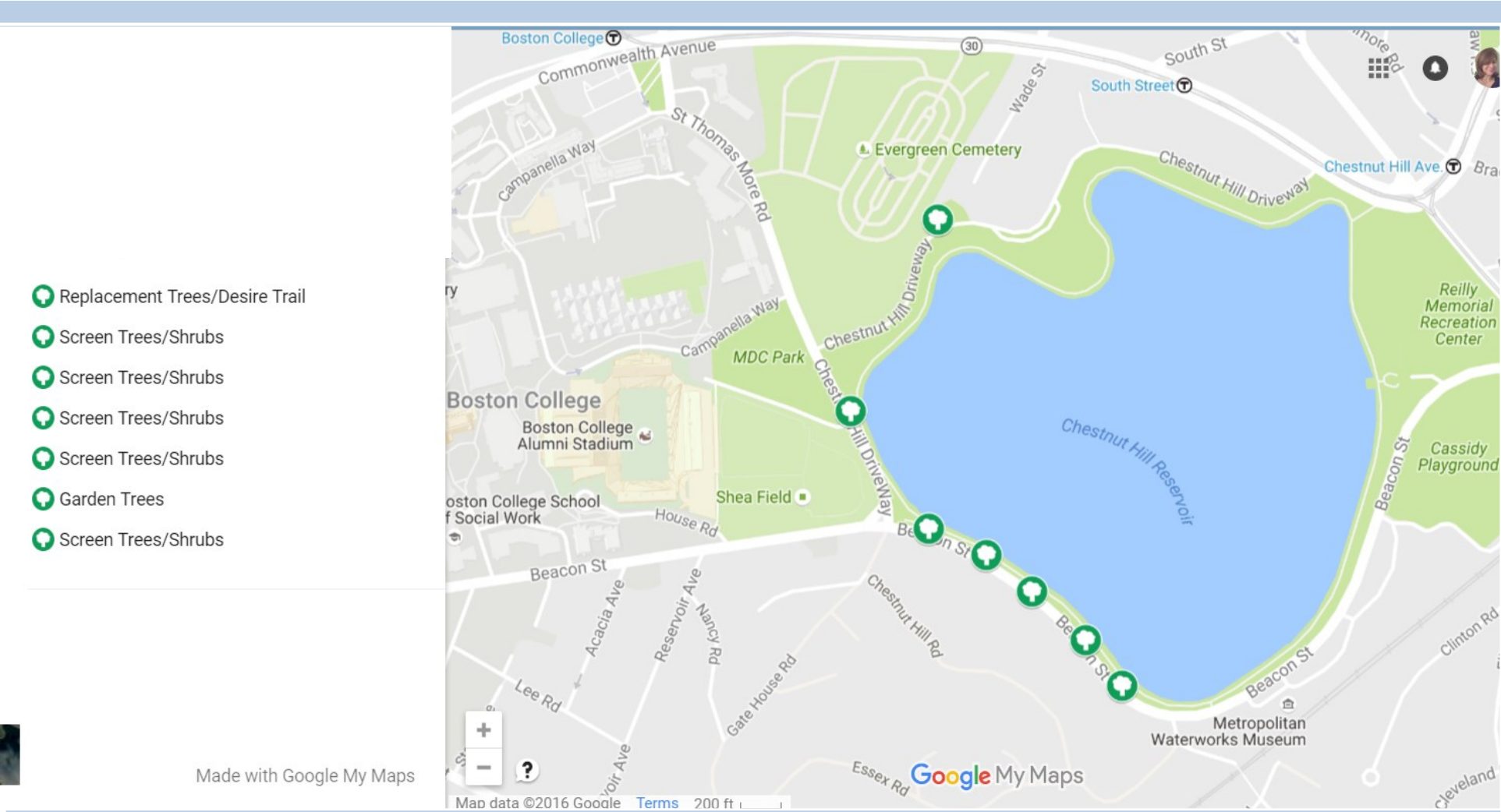
Ferns

Scientific Name	Common Name	Exposure	Flower Time	Flower Color	Mature Size	Spacing	Management Area
Dryopteris marginalis	Marginal Wood Fern	Shade	-	-	1-2'	2'	A,G,H
Onoclea sensibilis	Sensitive Fern	Sun to Part Shade	-	-	18-24"	18"	A,G,H
Osmunda cinnamomea	Cinnamon Fern	Part Shade to Shade	-	-	2-3'	2'	A,G,H
Polystichum acrostichoides	Christmas Fern	Sun to Part Shade	-	-	2-3'	1'	A,G,H

Perennials

Scientific Name	Common Name	Exposure	Flower Time	Flower Color	Mature Size	Spacing	Management Area
Anemone quinquefolia	Wood Anemone	Shade	April-June	white	4-8"	8"	A,G,H
Aquilegia canadensis	Wild Red Columbine	Sun to Part Shade	April-July	red and yellow	1-2'	1'	A,G,H
Aster cordifolius	Heart-leaved Aster	Sun to Shade	Aug-Nov	blue purple	1-4'	18"	A,G,H
Aster divaricatus	White Wood Aster	Part Shade to Shade	Aug-Oct	white	1-3'	18"	A,G,H
Geranium maculatum	Wild Geranium	Part Shade	April-June	lavender	1-2'	18"	A,G,H
Polygonatum pubescens	Solomons Seal	Shade	May-June	yellow-green	1-3'	1'	A,G,H

Proposed Vegetation Site Locations



All vegetation proposals follow directives from the Chestnut Hill Reservation Resource Management Plan



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

August 25, 2016

Jeanne Levesque
Director, Governmental Relations
Boston College
Hopkins House
116 College Road
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Dear Ms. Levesque,

We are writing in support of the application of the Department of Conservation and Recreation for a grant for improvements to the Chestnut Hill Reservation.

The sad reality is that the resources that the legislature has been able to allocate to the department are unequal to the needs of the department's parks. All across the state, many state park facilities are under-maintained.

The best maintained parks in the park system benefit from strong friends groups that donate money and volunteer time to their maintenance.

The Chestnut Hill Reservation is a spectacular and centrally located property and deserves to be better maintained. We hope that Boston College will be able to see this grant as part of a long term effort to build more private support for the reservation, including, in future years, an expanded and continuing effort to improve the trees and landscaping of the reservation.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,


William N. Brownsberger
STATE SENATOR


Michael J. Moran
STATE REPRESENTATIVE