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Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 8:51 AM  
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Subject: Longwood Place (305 Brookline Avenue)

The Brookline GreenSpace Alliance is a nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization formed in 1987 to preserve, protect, and enhance the open spaces of Brookline, Massachusetts. We are a green umbrella organization of concerned citizens who support park enhancement, environmental health, and appreciation of green infrastructure. We are writing to comment on the proposed PDA Development Plan consisting of the redevelopment of the approximately 5.8 acre site located at 305 Brookline Avenue in the Longwood neighborhood of Boston. While we appreciate that the proposed PDA area will be organized around new open space, we are deeply concerned about the impact of this development on the historic Emerald Necklace Park system and write in opposition to the scale of the current project.

The Frederick Law Olmsted designed Emerald Necklace, on the National Register of Historic Places, is a unique park system. We in Boston and Brookline are the stewards of a park that is a major contributor to the health and beauty of our entire region stretching from Charlesgate to Franklin Park. The extreme shadows cast by the proposed development and their visual and physical negative impact on the health and safety of this narrow section of this linear park will put both the health of the park and the park experience of its users in jeopardy.

Shadows of buildings well above the tree line will extend across the Riverway and cover the full width of the Emerald Necklace in this most sensitive section of the Park. Laws regulating height adjacent to parkland were put into place to protect precious public resources that provide respite from urban living. Those laws should be upheld by our government agencies so that the public good is ensured. It should also be pointed out that significantly increased shadows on the park have a direct negative impact on public safety. Not only will shadowed, colder parkland where it is more difficult for plants to grow and water to provide habitat be much less welcoming; snow and ice which accumulates and melts more slowly will cause hazards to walkers and wheels.

For over 20 years the work of the Muddy River Restoration Project has been to restore the health and function of the parkland and water of this section of the Emerald Necklace. This, and every project approved by the BPDA in the Longwood section, should support, not detract, from this restoration which has included investment of millions of public dollars from the federal government, the Commonwealth and Brookline and Boston.

As guardians of a special and delicate park and water system, we all must prioritize the health and maintenance of the Emerald Necklace Park above other private needs. Brookline GreenSpace Alliance asks that you restrict the size of the project at 305 Brookline Avenue so that it can be a good neighbor to a most historically significant, heavily used public resource that plays a major role in Boston's

quality of life. Please provide the leadership necessary to prioritize this most important public Olmsted park.

Thank you for your attention,

Arlene Mattison  
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