



TOWN OF BROOKLINE
Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Erin Chute Gallentine
Commissioner

January 26, 2021

**Re: Muddy River Flood Risk Management Construction Project: Phase 2
Carlton Street Footbridge**

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Muddy River,

We are thrilled to announce that work on Phase 2 of the Muddy River Flood Risk Management project is underway in both Boston and Brookline. This construction project has been in the works for over 20-years. The overall project objective is to increase flood control through improvements to restrictive drainage culverts and by dredging accumulated sediment and removing invasive vegetation that is constricting flow. Positive ancillary benefits include improved water quality and enhanced aquatic/riparian habitat within the Muddy River; bank stabilization; landscape restoration guided by Frederick Law Olmsted's nationally significant "Emerald Necklace" design plans; and enhanced recreational use of the parklands. Charter Contracting Company, LLC was awarded the contract and has been working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, and the non-Federal project sponsors (Commonwealth of Massachusetts, City of Boston, and Town of Brookline) to organize and meticulously plan and execute the proposed work.

Phase 1 of the Muddy River Flood Risk Management project, completed in 2016, consisted of the major structural features of the flood damage reduction improvements: the installation of two culverts (one under the Riverway and the other under Brookline Avenue); and daylighting of two sections of the Muddy River at the Former Sears Parking area and at Upper Fens Pond. It also included bank restoration, planting emergent wetland plants and restoring riparian vegetation in upland areas by planting trees and shrubs.

Phase 2, the *final* phase of work for the project, stretches from Olmsted Park to the Back Bay Fens and is anticipated to be completed in approximately 36 months. Charter Contracting Company has set up the work zone in Olmsted Park in Brookline and is now moving to the Netherlands Road Island Area and the Riverway in Brookline. Approximately 1 to 4 feet of sediment from the bottom of the river will be dredged, at designated areas, for flow conveyance. Additional work will include restoration of wetland and riparian vegetation; habitat creation for fish, turtles and amphibians; pedestrian and vehicular traffic control; pedestrian management; protection of historic structures and landscape features to remain; invasive species control and selective clearing of vegetation; and maintenance of all restored areas with the limit of work.

Due to the urban setting of the project location, extensive management of pedestrian and vehicular traffic at construction access points, and at each work area, will be required to minimize impacts to roadways and parkland systems, and to ensure public safety. At least one pathway will remain open at all times for shared pedestrian/bicycle access. Signs will be posted on the construction fencing indicating the limit of work and alternate pedestrian/bicycle routes as appropriate.

Work site mobilization and preparations for the removal of accumulated sediments from the Netherlands Road area and portions of the Riverway will commence with the installation of construction fencing to demarcate the area of activity. Work is expected to be completed over the next 16 months on this section of the river. Upon completion of the work the landscape and pathways will be restored to their pre-construction condition. For more information regarding USACE Project activities please visit: www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Muddy-River/ Descriptions of Phase 2 construction activities for the next 90 days can be found in the menu bar on the right hand side of the page.

In addition, the Carlton Street Footbridge Rehabilitation project was re-advertised by MassDOT Highway this fall. Five bids were received, and the successful low bid of \$3,955,053.50 was submitted by Aetna Bridge Company out of Rhode Island. MassDOT, the primary funding and contract administrative agent for the project, held a Pre-construction Conference on Friday, December 18, 2020. A proposed construction schedule and approach to dismantling and removing the existing footbridge is being developed by the Contractor, in close coordination with the MBTA, Boston Parks, Charter Contracting and Brookline DPW. It is anticipated that the site preparation and mobilization, including tree removals, will commence in the winter 2021, with the project reaching substantial completion in spring 2022.

We recognize the disturbance that any construction project entails, and sincerely thank you for your patience and cooperation throughout this process. There will be temporary periods when pedestrian and bicycle traffic through the park is diverted to the Boston side and vice versa while different phases of the Muddy River Flood Control Project or Carlton Street Footbridge Rehabilitation Project are underway. We look forward to completing these two significant projects, and improving the condition of the Muddy River to ensure its preservation for generations to come.

Very truly yours,



Erin Gallentine
Commissioner of Public Works



Thomas D. Brady, MCA
Conservation Administrator | Town Arborist

cc: Mel Kleckner, Town Administrator
Brookline Select Board
Park and Recreation Commission
Conservation Commission