

**OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY**



## **CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL**

### **ORDER FOR A HEARING ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION OF BOSTON'S HISTORICAL PARKS AND GREEN SPACES.**

**WHEREAS**, Boston is home to a diverse network of parks, green spaces, and natural landscapes that provide environmental, recreational, and cultural benefits to residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, Many of these spaces, including the Emerald Necklace designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Franklin Park, the Public Garden, the Boston Common, and neighborhood parks throughout the city, serve as vital public resources that require thoughtful stewardship and protection; and

**WHEREAS**, Recent development proposals, such as the planned redevelopment of White Stadium in Franklin Park, have raised concerns among residents and environmental advocates about the potential long-term impacts of public-private partnerships on Boston's green spaces; and

**WHEREAS**, The loss of mature trees, increased infrastructure expansion, and changes to park accessibility could have lasting environmental consequences, including reduced air quality, increased urban heat, and disrupted ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Boston has committed to sustainability, climate resilience, and environmental justice, and must ensure that future development aligns with these goals while preserving the character and accessibility of its public parks; and

**WHEREAS**, It is critical to examine policies that protect Boston's parks and green spaces from encroachment, privatization, and environmental degradation, ensuring that they remain public assets for future generations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED**, That the Boston City Council hold a public hearing to:

- 1. Assess the Environmental Impact of Development in Public Parks:**
  - Examine the ecological consequences of recent and proposed development projects in Boston's green spaces, including tree removal, habitat disruption, and changes to the natural landscape.
- 2. Review Current Policies for Park Preservation:**
  - Evaluate existing zoning laws, conservation guidelines, and city policies that govern the use and protection of public green spaces.

**3. Ensure Transparency and Public Engagement in Development Decisions:**

- Provide a platform for community members, environmental advocates, and experts to voice concerns and recommendations regarding the stewardship of Boston's parks.

**4. Explore Sustainable Alternatives to Public-Private Partnerships:**

- Investigate alternative funding and investment strategies that prioritize public ownership and long-term environmental sustainability.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED,** That representatives from the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, the Environment, Energy, and Open Space Cabinet (EEOS), the Chief Climate Officer, community organizations, and relevant stakeholders be invited to provide testimony at this hearing to ensure a comprehensive discussion on the future of Boston's parks and green spaces.

Filed on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.