



Franklin Park Coalition Advocacy Brief on Shattuck Campus Planning

On Tuesday, June 25th at 6:30, the third and [final Shattuck Campus Planning Community meeting](#) will be held at the Golf Course Clubhouse, and we encourage Franklin Park Coalition members and park neighbors to attend. The Shattuck Campus is a 13-acre site that was transferred in the 1950s, from the City's park to the Commonwealth, to build a hospital. Due to the deteriorating condition of the hospital building, it will be moving to a new building the Commonwealth purchased from Boston Medical Center in the South End. Current vendors, exclusively providing substance use recovery and shelter services, were not given space in the new facility. A planning process to determine the best public health use of the property began in 2018.

Design & Program Development Requests & Feedback

We hope that any future users of the site feel welcome in the park. As participants in the Shattuck Campus Planning Community Advisory Board over the past year, the Franklin Park Coalition has sought creativity in the redesign and **a focus on the public health benefit of urban parks**. The plan at this stage is vague, which has impeded our ability to give detailed feedback prior to this final meeting. We are encouraged by the agreement to prioritize green design and participate in a further development review process ([Article 80](#)). However, on the program side, we seek more information to avoid any potential impacts on the park. Given the campus' remote location and our City's complicated [experience with concentrating recovery services](#), **we request a full review of best practices for addictions services programs design**. We also suggest that community members ask for the following ten items be included in the Plan and subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP):

1. Increase continuity and connection between the park and campus, and coordinate closely with the City of Boston's upcoming Franklin Park Master Planning effort.
2. As much open space as possible, by increasing potential building density (vs. sprawl/ parking lots), providing conservation easements or returning land where possible to the park- and determining this amount before issue an RFP.
3. As a good park neighbor, establish a high standard for site maintenance that creates and sustains a park-like environment where the park and site meet. During any construction, avoid disrupting park use.
4. Shift all vehicle access from the interior of the park to a new Morton Street vehicle entrance.
5. Increase the frequency of transit and shuttles. Improve the safety of bus stops, bike paths, and pedestrian routes.
6. Lease to supportive housing and public health vendors that benefit a diverse range of issues and bring people together in this space, as currently occurs at the Shattuck Hospital.
7. Create park amenities on the campus to leverage its unique public health benefits for both campus users and the general public (visitor center, exercise equipment, playgrounds, etc.).
8. Offer workforce development programming that connects to the special park environment and encourages supportive housing residents' connection to the community.
9. Maintain Dept. of Public Health police and security presence on the campus for new vendors.
10. Maintain the outpatient/temporary (i.e., methadone clinics) vs. inpatient (i.e., supportive housing/detox) ratios of the current Shattuck Hospital services, with a priority for inpatient services.

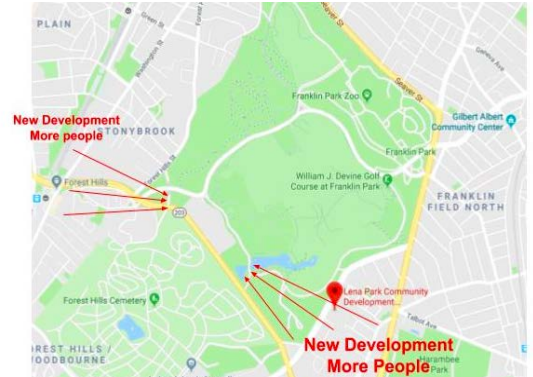


FRANKLIN PARK COALITION

Background Information on Program Development Requests & Feedback Requests

Open Space & Public Health

This process could be delayed to take advantage of the robust community process better. Franklin Park’s public open space has shrunk over time, at only over 57% of its original acreage. The Shattuck hospital move is an exceptional opportunity to correct past mistakes in urban design. Frederick Law Olmsted designed Franklin Park for a public health purpose. As the City grew in the late 1800s, access to nature and a respite from urban life were vital components of his designs. As the City is once again growing, that is as true now as it was then. New neighborhoods and housing on being built on both ends of this site, near Forest Hills and American Legion Highway, and those residents will seek more park amenities and use.



This land transfer occurred before a Massachusetts law called Article 97 was created, that protects parkland like Franklin Park and requires a vote of 2/3 of the legislature to change uses. It was intended to be a legislative ‘check’ to ensure that lands acquired for conservation purposes were not converted to other inconsistent uses. When the land was removed from Franklin Park, it also cut off access to scenic areas, and trails, degrading the surrounding park area.



Site Use Design & Transportation

The design scenarios presented at the January 2019 meeting could be significantly improved to meet community needs including; considerably reducing the 600,000 sq/ft of building space and parking/road facilities, changing the traffic flow to be directly from Morton Street and making the current bus stop safer. Improving the density and height of buildings would allow for more open space. The Shattuck currently provides free shuttle service to Forest Hills. The Bus 16 is infrequent and often delayed, which would isolate any permanent residents and could allow for loitering by outpatient visits.

- Entrances/Exits to Shattuck should be located on Morton Street.
- Open space should be public facing not internal
- Reduce number of buildings by building taller



More info: On May 20-WGBH aired and published [a good piece on the future of the Shattuck Campus](#), but this was before more information such as [RFI responses](#) were released.